
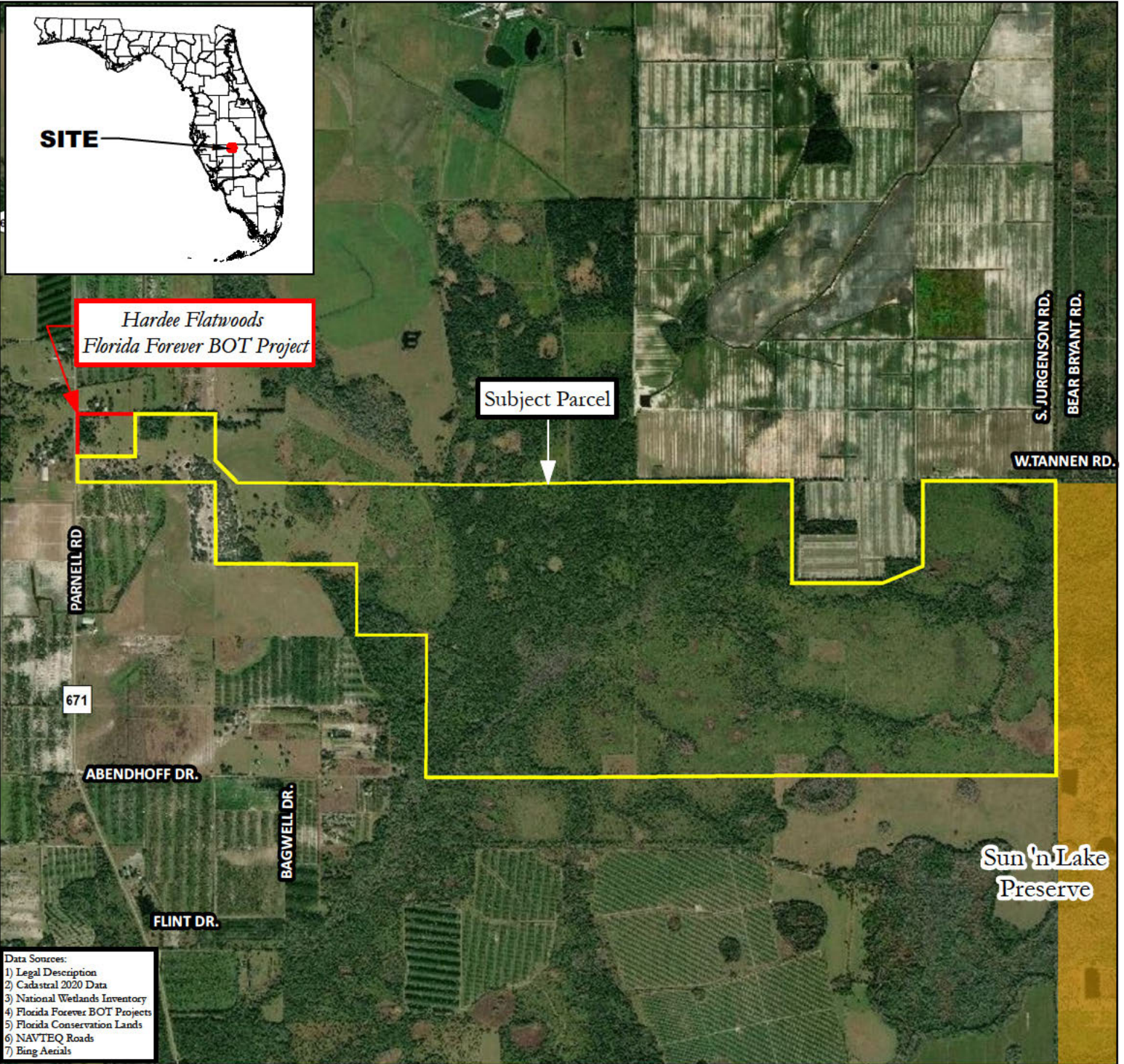


Data Sources:
 1) Legal Description
 2) National Wetlands Inventory
 3) Florida Forever BOT Projects
 4) Florida Conservation Lands
 5) World Street Map

-  Subject Parcel
-  Florida Forever Project Boundaries
-  State Managed Conservation Lands
-  City/County Managed Conservation Lands
-  Private Managed Conservation Lands

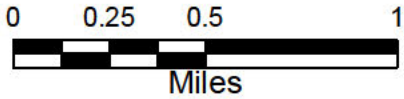


Hardee Flatwoods
 Owner: Walco Leasing, LLC.
 Hardee County, Florida



Data Sources:
 1) Legal Description
 2) Cadastral 2020 Data
 3) National Wetlands Inventory
 4) Florida Forever BOT Projects
 5) Florida Conservation Lands
 6) NAVTEQ Roads
 7) Bing Aerials

- Subject Parcel
- Florida Forever Project Boundaries
- City/County Managed Conservation Lands



Hardee Flatwoods
 Owner: Walco Leasing, LLC.
 Hardee County, Florida

Project: Hardee Flatwoods
Parcel #: 01-34-27-0000-01000-0000; 02-34-27-0000-06250-0000;
02-34-27-0000-10020-0000; 03-34-27-0000-09950-0000;
33-33-27-0000-02900-0000; 34-33-27-0000-00500-0000

Approved for agenda purposes only:

By: Makell Hunt

Date: JULY 12, 2021

OPTION AGREEMENT FOR SALE AND PURCHASE

WHEREAS, WALCO LEASING, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, owns in fee simple absolute, or as to a certain portion of the Property, WALCO LEASING, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, intends to acquire said portion from its related entity that owns in fee simple absolute, certain lands in Hardee County, Florida, more particularly described below; and

WHEREAS, the owner(s) intend(s) that the conservation values of the referenced property be preserved and maintained by the continuation of land use patterns existing at the time of this grant that do not significantly impair or interfere with the property's conservation values; and

WHEREAS, the owner(s) further intend(s), as owner(s) of the property described in this Option Agreement, to convey to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida the right to preserve and protect the conservation values of the referenced property in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida is authorized to acquire conservation easements for the purpose of protecting natural, scenic or open space values of real property, assuring its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational or open space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water quality, or preserving sites or properties of historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida desires to honor the intentions of the owners to preserve and protect in perpetuity the conservation values of the property for the benefit of this generation, the generations to come and the people of the State of Florida, pursuant to section 704.06, Florida Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE:

THIS AGREEMENT is made this _____ day of July, 2021, between WALCO LEASING, LLC, a Florida limited liability company whose address is 1943 Maravilla Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida, 33901, as "Seller" and the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ("Trustees"), whose address is Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 115, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-3000, as "Buyer". Buyer's agent in all matters shall be the Division of State Lands of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("DSL").

1. **GRANT OF OPTION.** Seller hereby grants to Buyer the exclusive option to purchase a perpetual conservation easement (the "Easement") in the real property located in Hardee County, Florida, described in Exhibit "A", (the "Property"), in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. This Option Agreement becomes legally binding on execution of this Agreement, but exercise of the option is subject to approval by Buyer and is effective only if DSL gives written notice of exercise to Seller.

2. **OPTION TERMS.** The consideration for the option granted by this Agreement is \$100.00 ("Option Payment"). Upon execution of this Option Agreement by DSL, DSL will apply to the Chief Financial Officer for a state warrant in the amount of the Option Payment, which, will be forwarded to the escrow agent to hold for the benefit of Seller. The Option Payment is non-refundable such that Seller shall be entitled to retain the Option Payment regardless of whether Buyer exercises the Option; Provided, however, the Option Payment shall be credited toward the purchase price at closing if Buyer timely exercises the option as discussed below. The option may be exercised during the period beginning with Buyer's approval of this Agreement at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Trustees, and ending 120 days after Buyer's approval of this Agreement ("Option Expiration Date"), unless extended by other provisions of this Agreement. If Buyer's funds in the amount of the purchase price (as hereinafter defined in paragraph 3.A.) are not available by the Option Expiration Date the period of exercise of the option may be extended until such funds become available, not to exceed 60 days after the Option Expiration Date, by written notice to Seller. If Buyer's funds are not available at the end of the 60-day extension then this Agreement

shall terminate and neither party shall have further obligations under the provisions of this Agreement. If Buyer does not exercise its option by the Option Expiration Date, as extended if applicable, then the escrow agent is directed to release and disburse the Option Payment to Seller the following day. If Buyer does timely exercise its option, then escrow agent shall credit the Option Payment toward the purchase price paid by Buyer at closing.

3.A. PURCHASE PRICE. The purchase price for the Easement is FOUR MILLION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$4,125,000.00) ("Initial Purchase Price") which, after credit for the Option Payment, will be paid at closing. Seller hereby authorizes Buyer to issue a state warrant for the Purchase Price directly to an escrow agent who is authorized by law to receive such payment, and who is acceptable to Buyer, and to require the escrow agent to pay Seller's expenses of sale. The Initial Purchase Price is subject to adjustment in accordance with paragraph 3.B. This Agreement is contingent upon approval of the Final Adjusted Purchase Price, hereinafter defined, by Buyer and upon confirmation that the Final Adjusted Purchase Price is not in excess of the maximum value of the Easement as determined in accordance with Section 253.025, Florida Statutes ("DSL Approved Value"). The determination of the DSL Approved Value and the Final Adjusted Purchase Price can only be made after the completion and DSL's approval of the survey required in paragraph 5.

3.B. ADJUSTMENT OF PURCHASE PRICE. If, prior to closing, DSL determines that the Initial Purchase Price exceeds the DSL Approved Value of the Easement, the Initial Purchase Price will be reduced to the DSL Approved Value of the Easement (herein the "Final Adjusted Purchase Price"). If the Final Adjusted Purchase Price is less than 98% of the Initial Purchase Price because of the adjustment provided for in this paragraph 3.B., Seller shall, in Seller's sole discretion, have the right to terminate this Agreement and neither party shall have any further obligations under this Agreement. If Seller elects to terminate this Agreement, Seller shall provide written notice to DSL of Seller's election to terminate this Agreement within 10 days after Seller's receipt of written notice from DSL of the Final Adjusted Purchase Price. If Seller fails to give Buyer a written notice of termination within the aforesaid time period from receipt of DSL's written notice, then Seller shall be deemed to have waived any right to terminate this Agreement based upon a reduction in the Initial Purchase Price pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph 3.B. The Final Adjusted Purchase Price as calculated in this paragraph 3.B. is subject to further adjustment in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. The Initial Purchase Price and the Final Adjusted Purchase Price, whichever is applicable depending on whether or not an adjustment has occurred under the provisions of this paragraph 3.B. are hereinafter referred to as the "Purchase Price".

4.A. ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT. Buyer, prior to the exercise of the option and at its sole cost and expense, may conduct an environmental site assessment of the Property to determine the existence and extent, if any, of any Hazardous Materials on the Property. If further investigations, testing, monitoring or environmental site assessments are required by DSL to determine the existence or extent of Hazardous Materials on the Property, Buyer, at its sole option may elect to extend the Option Expiration Date to conduct such procedures at the Buyer's sole cost and expense. For purposes of this Agreement "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 (as hereinafter defined in paragraph 4.B.).

4.B. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. If the environmental site assessment provided for in paragraph 4.A. confirms the presence of Hazardous Materials on the Property, either party, at its sole option, may elect to terminate this Agreement and neither party shall have any further obligations under this Agreement. Should neither party elect to terminate this Agreement, Seller shall, at Seller's sole cost and expense and prior to the exercise of the option and closing, promptly commence and diligently pursue any assessment, clean up and monitoring of the Property necessary to bring the Property into full compliance with Environmental Law to DSL's satisfaction in its sole discretion. "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, solid waste, hazardous waste, pollutant, irritant, petroleum product, waste product, radioactive material, flammable or corrosive substance, carcinogen, 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 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, 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. However, should the estimated cost to Seller of clean up of Hazardous Materials exceed a sum which is equal to 2% of the Initial Purchase Price as stated

in paragraph 3.A. Seller may elect to terminate this Agreement and neither party shall have any further obligations under this Agreement. If Hazardous Materials placed on the Property during Seller's ownership of the Property are discovered after closing, Seller shall remain obligated hereunder, with such obligation to survive the closing, delivery, and recording of the easement described in paragraph 8 of this Agreement, to diligently pursue and accomplish the clean up of Hazardous Materials in a manner consistent with all applicable Environmental Laws and at Seller's sole cost and expense.

Further, if neither party elects to terminate this Agreement as provided above, Seller shall, for a period of two years after the closing described in paragraph 13 herein, indemnify and save harmless and defend Buyer, its officers, servants, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, damages, liabilities, expenditures or causes of action of whatsoever kind arising from Hazardous Materials. Seller shall defend, at Seller's sole cost and expense for a period of two years after the closing described in paragraph 13 herein, any legal action, claim or proceeding instituted by any person against Buyer as a result of any claim, suit, or cause of action for injuries to body, life, limb or property for which Hazardous Materials are alleged to be a contributing legal cause. Seller shall save Buyer harmless, for a period of two years after the closing described in paragraph 13 herein, from and against all judgments, orders, decrees, attorney's fees, 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.

Any limitation herein on Seller's contractual obligation to indemnify Buyer as specified in this paragraph 4.B. shall not be construed to limit Seller's legal liability under any Environmental Law for Hazardous Materials located on the Property or to limit Buyer's legal and equitable remedies against Seller under any Environmental Law for Hazardous Materials located on the Property.

5. SURVEY. Buyer may have the Property surveyed at its expense. If the survey ("Survey"), certified by professional surveyor and mapper licensed by the State of Florida, shows any reduction in acreage from the appraised acreage to the surveyed acreage, any encroachment on the Property or that improvements intended to be located on the Property encroach on the land of others, the same shall be treated as a title defect unless waived by Buyer.

6. TITLE INSURANCE. Buyer may provide a marketable title insurance commitment, to be followed by an owner's marketable title insurance policy (ALTA Form "B" with Florida revisions) from a title insurance company approved by DSL, insuring marketable title to the Property in the amount of the Purchase Price at Buyer's expense.

7. DEFECTS IN TITLE. If the title insurance commitment or Survey furnished pursuant to this Agreement discloses any defects in title which are not acceptable to Buyer, Seller shall, within 90 days after notice from Buyer, remove said defects in title. Seller agrees to use diligent effort to correct the defects in title within the time provided therefor, provided, however, Seller shall not be required to bring any lawsuits necessary to correct defects in title. Defects arising from liens against the Property shall be satisfied at closing from Seller's proceeds. If Seller is unsuccessful in removing the title defects within said time, Buyer shall have the option to either: (a) accept the title as it then is with a reduction in the Purchase Price by an amount mutually agreed upon by the parties, (b) accept the title as it then is with no reduction in the Purchase Price, (c) extend the amount of time Seller has to remove the defects in title, (d) cut out the affected portion of the Property and reduce the Purchase Price by an amount equal to the product of the Purchase Price per acre for the acres being cut out, multiplied by the acreage cut out, or (e) terminate this Agreement, thereupon releasing Buyer and Seller from all further obligations under this Agreement. If Seller fails to make a diligent effort to remove the title defects, Seller shall be in default and the provisions of paragraph 17 of this Agreement shall apply.

8. INTEREST CONVEYED. At closing, Seller shall execute and deliver to Buyer a perpetual, enforceable conservation easement in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit "B", free and clear of all liens, reservations, restrictions, easements, leases, tenancies and other encumbrances, except for those that are acceptable encumbrances in the sole discretion of Buyer and do not impair the marketability of the title to the Easement, and the lien of ad valorem taxes for the year of closing that are not yet due and payable.

8.1 SUBORDINATION. If at the time of conveyance of the Easement, the Property is subject to a mortgage or other liens and encumbrances not accepted by Buyer and Seller elects to subordinate the such encumbrances rather than satisfy them at closing, Seller shall obtain the agreement of the holder of such encumbrances, by separate instrument that will be recorded immediately after the Easement, to subordinate its rights in the Property to the Easement to the extent necessary to permit the Buyer to enforce the purpose of the Easement in perpetuity and to prevent any modification or extinguishment of the Easement by the exercise of any superior rights of the holder. The priority of any existing mortgage with respect to any valid claim on the part of the mortgage holder to the proceeds of

any sale, condemnation proceedings, or insurance or to the leases, rents, and profits of the Property shall not be affected by the Easement, and any lien that may be created by Buyer's exercise of any of its rights under this Option Agreement or by Buyer's rights under the provisions of the Easement shall be junior to any such existing mortgage. Upon request, Buyer agrees to subordinate its rights under this Option Agreement and the Easement to the rights of any future mortgage holders or beneficiaries of deeds of trust to the proceeds, leases, rents, and profits described above and likewise to subordinate its rights under any lien and to execute any documents required with respect to such subordination, except that the priority of any lien created by Buyer's exercise of any of its rights under this Option Agreement or Buyer's rights under the provisions of the Easement prior to the creation of a mortgage or deed of trust shall not be affected thereby, nor shall this Option Agreement or the Easement be subordinated in any other respect.

9. **PREPARATION OF CLOSING DOCUMENTS.** Upon execution of this Agreement, Seller shall submit to Buyer a properly completed and executed beneficial interest affidavit and disclosure statement as required by Sections 286.23, 375.031(1) and 380.08(2), Florida Statutes. Buyer shall prepare the easement described in paragraph 8 of this Agreement, Buyer's and Seller's closing statements and the title, possession and lien affidavit certified to Buyer and title insurer and an environmental affidavit on DSL forms provided by DSL.

9.1 **BASELINE DOCUMENTATION.** Buyer shall prepare baseline documentation adequately documenting the condition of the Property at the date of closing. Seller shall have an opportunity to review and comment on the baseline documentation. The cost of the baseline documentation shall be borne by Buyer. If the form of conservation easement provides for use of a management plan, the management plan shall be prepared as a part of the baseline documentation and the cost therefor absorbed in the same manner the cost of the baseline documentation is absorbed.

10. **DSL REVIEW FOR CLOSING.** DSL will approve or reject each item required for closing under this Agreement. If DSL rejects an item for closing which was submitted by the Seller, Seller will have 30 days thereafter to remove and resubmit any rejected item. If Seller fails to timely deliver any items required of Seller, or DSL rejects any item after delivery, the Option Expiration Date shall be extended until DSL approves Seller's documents or until Buyer elects to terminate the Agreement.

11. **EXPENSES.** Seller will pay the documentary revenue stamp tax and all other taxes or costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of recording the Easement described in paragraph 8. of this Agreement and any other recordable instruments that DSL deems necessary to assure good and marketable title to the Easement.

12. **TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS.** At closing, Seller shall satisfy all real estate taxes and assessments that are a lien against the Property. Ad valorem taxes on the Property and any assessments on the Property for the year of closing and for all subsequent years shall be and remain the expense of Seller.

13. **CLOSING PLACE AND DATE.** The closing shall be on or before 15 days after Buyer exercises the option; provided, however, that if a defect exists in the title to the Property, title commitment, Survey, environmental site assessment, or any documents required to be provided or completed and executed, the closing shall occur either on the original closing date or within 30 days after receipt of documentation removing the defects, whichever is later. Buyer shall set the date, time and place of closing with the consent of the Seller.

14. **RISK OF LOSS AND CONDITION OF PROPERTY.** Seller assumes all risk of loss or damage to the Property and warrants that the conservation easement shall be transferred and conveyed to Buyer in the same or essentially the same condition as of the date of Seller's execution of this Agreement, ordinary wear and tear excepted. If the condition of the Property is altered, by an act of God or other natural force beyond the control of Seller, however, Buyer may elect, at its sole option, to terminate this Agreement and neither party shall have any further obligations under this Agreement. Seller represents and warrants that there are no parties other than Seller in occupancy or possession of any part of the Property. Seller warrants that there are no facts known to Seller materially affecting the value of the conservation easement or the Property that are not readily observable by Buyer or which have not been disclosed to Buyer. Seller warrants that any billboards on the property shall be removed prior to closing.

Seller agrees to clean up and remove all abandoned personal property, refuse, garbage, junk, rubbish, trash and debris (hereafter, "trash and debris") from the Property to the satisfaction of DSL prior to the exercise of the option by Buyer. If the Seller does not remove all trash and debris from the Property prior to closing, Buyer at its sole option, may elect to: (a) deduct the expense necessary to remove trash and debris from the Seller's proceeds of sale up to but not to exceed 1% of the Initial Purchase Price and proceed to close, with the Buyer incurring any additional expenses necessary to remove all trash and debris and clean up the Property subsequent to closing, (b) extend the amount of

time the Seller has to remove all trash and debris from the Property, (c) terminate this Agreement, and neither party shall have any further obligations under the Agreement.

15. RIGHT TO ENTER PROPERTY AND POSSESSION. Seller agrees that from the date this Agreement is executed by Seller, Buyer and its agents, upon reasonable notice, shall have the right to enter the Property for all lawful purposes in connection with this Agreement.

16. ACCESS. Seller warrants that there is legal and practical ingress and egress for the Property over public roads or valid, recorded easements for the use and benefit of and as an appurtenance to the Property.

17. DEFAULT. If either party defaults under this Agreement, the non-defaulting party may waive the default and proceed to closing, or may seek any other remedy permitted by law or in equity against the defaulting party.

18. BROKERS. Seller warrants that no persons, firms, corporations or other entities are entitled to a real estate commission or other fees as a result of this Agreement or subsequent closing, except as accurately disclosed on the disclosure statement required in paragraph 9. Seller shall indemnify and hold Buyer harmless from any and all such claims, whether disclosed or undisclosed.

19. RECORDING. Buyer may record this Agreement, or notice of it, in the appropriate county or counties. If this transaction does not close and Buyer has recorded said Agreement, then Buyer will execute and deliver an instrument that can be recorded in the public records to Seller which releases all Buyer's interest in the Property.

20. ASSIGNMENT. This Agreement may be assigned by Buyer, in which event Buyer will provide written notice of assignment to Seller. Seller may not assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of Buyer.

21. TIME. Time is of essence with regard to all dates or times set forth in this Agreement.

22. SEVERABILITY. If any of the provisions of this Agreement are deemed to be unenforceable and the unenforceability of said provisions does not adversely affect the purpose and intent of this Agreement, in Buyer's sole discretion, the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected.

23. SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST. This Agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of Seller and Buyer and their respective heirs, legal representatives and successors. Whenever used, the singular shall include the plural and one gender shall include all genders.

24. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter contained in it and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements, representations and understandings of the parties. No supplement, modification or amendment to this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by the parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties acknowledge that the legal description contained in Exhibit "A" was prepared based upon historic chain of title information, without the benefit of a current survey of the Property. The parties agree that if, in the opinion of DSL, it becomes necessary to amend the legal description of the Property to correct errors, to more properly describe the Property, to cut out portions of the Property affected by title defects unacceptable to Buyer or which cannot be timely cured by the Seller, or to otherwise revise the legal description of the Property, the legal description to be used in the Survey (if any) and in the closing instruments required by this Agreement shall be revised by or at the direction of DSL, and shall be subject to the final approval of DSL. Anything to the contrary hereinabove notwithstanding, such a revision of the legal description of the Property shall not require a written amendment to this Agreement. In such event, the Seller's execution and delivery of the closing instruments containing the revised legal description and the Buyer's acceptance of said instruments and of the final Survey (if any) containing the revised legal description shall constitute a full and complete ratification and acceptance of the revised legal description of the Property by the parties.

Seller acknowledges that the Trustees have made various delegations of power for the purpose of land acquisition, and not all representatives of the Trustees or the DSL have authority to act in all situations. Consequently, this Agreement may be terminated by the Trustees pursuant to any provision therefor contained in this Agreement only in writing signed by the person or persons who signed this Agreement on behalf of the Trustees or that person's successor.

25. WAIVER. Failure of Buyer to insist upon strict performance of any covenant or condition of this Agreement, or to exercise any right herein contained, shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment for the future of any such covenant, condition or right; but the same shall remain in full force and effect.

26. AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE. This Agreement or any modification, amendment or alteration thereto, shall not be effective or binding upon any of the parties hereto until it has been executed by all of the parties hereto and approved by or on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida.

27. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, but all such counterparts, when duly executed, shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

28. ADDENDUM. Any addendum attached hereto that is signed by the parties shall be deemed a part of this Agreement.

29. NOTICE. Whenever either party desires or is required to give notice unto the other, it must be given by written notice, and either delivered personally, transmitted via facsimile transmission, mailed postage prepaid, or sent by overnight courier to the appropriate address indicated on the first page of this Agreement, or such other address as is designated in writing by a party to this Agreement.

30. CERTIFICATION REGARDING TERRORISM. Seller hereby certifies that to the best of Seller's knowledge, after making all appropriate inquiries, Seller is in compliance with, and shall use all funds derived from the sale of the Property in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorism laws, regulations, rules and executive orders, including but not limited to, the USA Patriot Act of 2001, 18 U.S.C. sections 2339A-C, and U.S. Presidential Executive Orders 12947 and 13224.

31. SURVIVAL. The covenants, warranties, representations, indemnities and undertakings of Seller set forth in this Agreement shall survive the closing and the delivery and recording of the easement described in paragraph 8. of this Agreement.

32. LIKE KIND EXCHANGE. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, it is understood between the parties that it is Seller's intent to exchange some portion or all of the proceeds from the sale of the Property to Buyer for other properties of like kind in a manner which will cause such transaction to qualify as a like kind exchange under the provisions of Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, and that Seller would not enter into this Agreement but for the contemplated like kind exchange. If the Seller is unable to close on the like kind replacement properties at the time of the purchase hereunder, then the Buyer agrees to cooperate with Seller in structuring the purchase of the Property as a like kind exchange, whether simultaneous or deferred. The Buyer's cooperation shall be limited to paying a portion or all of the proceeds into an escrow account until the Seller can identify and contract for like kind replacement properties. Seller acknowledges that Buyer's sole obligation under this paragraph shall be to cooperate with Seller at no additional cost, expense, obligation or liability to Buyer in accommodating Seller's intent to effect a like kind exchange. Seller further acknowledges that Buyer has made no representations or warranties concerning the tax consequences or effect of the exchange contemplated hereunder. Seller agrees to indemnify and hold Buyer harmless from any loss, cost, damage or expense not otherwise contemplated in this Agreement, incurred by Buyer by reason of Buyer's cooperation with Seller in coordinating the like kind exchange contemplated hereunder.

IF THIS INSTRUMENT IS NOT EXECUTED BY THE SELLER, ON OR BEFORE JULY 16, 2021 BUYER SHALL BE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT THIS INSTRUMENT. BUYER'S EXECUTION OF THIS INSTRUMENT IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THE EXERCISE OF THE OPTION PROVIDED FOR HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO: (1) CONFIRMATION THAT THE PURCHASE PRICE IS NOT IN EXCESS OF THE DSL APPROVED VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, AND (2) DSL APPROVAL OF ALL DOCUMENTS TO BE FURNISHED HEREUNDER. THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S PERFORMANCE AND OBLIGATION TO PAY UNDER THIS AGREEMENT IS CONTINGENT UPON AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE AND UPON THE FUNDING OF THE APPROPRIATION THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF FLORIDA FOREVER REVENUE BONDS BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA OR OTHER FUNDING AS PROVIDED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT WHEN DULY EXECUTED. IF NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD, SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY PRIOR TO SIGNING.

SELLER

[Signature]
Witness as to Seller

[Signature]
Witness as to Seller

WALCO LEASING, LLC, a Florida liability company

[Signature]
By: Walter Lee Johnson, Manager

7/9/2021
Date signed by Seller

Phone No. [Redacted]
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

STATE OF Florida
COUNTY OF Hardee

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence or online notarization this 9th day of July, 2021 by Walter Lee Johnson, Manager of Walco Leasing, LLC, a Florida limited liability company. Such person(s) (Notary Public must check applicable box):

- is/are personally known to me.
- produced a current driver license(s).
- produced _____ as identification.

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)

[Signature]
Notary Public

(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of Notary Public)
Notary Public State of Florida
Millie Carlton Bolin
My Commission GG 363736
Commission No.: Expires 12/04/2023

My Commission Expires: _____

BUYER

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

BY DIVISION OF STATE LANDS OF THE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Witness as to Buyer

BY: _____
NAME: Callie DeHaven
AS ITS: Director, Division of State Lands

Witness as to Buyer

Date signed by Buyer

Approved as to Form and Legality

By: _____

Date: _____

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 Callie DeHaven, Director, Division of State Lands, the 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. She is personally known to me.

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)

Notary Public

(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of
Notary Public)

Commission No.: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

EXHIBIT "A"
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

From the POINT OF BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of Section 2, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, run Easterly 864 feet along the Southerly of said Section 2; thence run Northerly to a point on the North boundary of said Section 2 that is 869 feet Easterly of the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Westerly along the Northerly boundary of said Section 2 to the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Southerly along the Westerly boundary of said Section 2 to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND

The East $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$; the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$; and the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida.

AND

A triangular parcel lying in the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 33 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the Southwest corner of said Section 34; thence run South $89^{\circ}43'13''$ East along the South line of said Section 34, a distance of 417.42 feet; thence North $44^{\circ}31'35''$ West, a distance of 588.33 feet to a point located on the West line of said Section 34; thence South $00^{\circ}40'04''$ West along the West line of said Section 34, a distance of 417.42 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND

The South $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 33 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, less right of way for State Road 671 (Parnell Road).

AND

The North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 1, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, less and except the following "Grove Parcel";

BSM APPROVED
BY AT
DATE 7/2/21

EXHIBIT "A"
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Commence at the Northwest corner of Section 1, Township 34 South, Range 27 East; thence run South 89°44'28" East along the North line of said Section 1, a distance of 372.80 feet for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South 89°44'28" East along said North line, 2278.36 feet to the North ¼ corner of said Section 1; thence South 89°43'35" East still along said North Line of said Section 1, a distance 186.51 feet to a point 25 feet East of and existing fence; thence in a clockwise direction and 25 feet left of and parallel to said existing fence line for the next 4 calls; South 00°37'05" West, a distance of 1620.54 feet; thence South 67°39'12" West, 819.22 feet; thence North 89°36'06" West, 1705.16 feet; thence North 0°27'30" East. 1931.31 feet to the POINT OF BEGGINING (the "Grove Parcel").

AND

The Northeast ¼ of Section 2, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida.

AND

The South ½ Section 1, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida.

Section 2, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, less and except the following:

The Northeast ¼ of said section 2; and

From the POINT OF BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of Section 2, Township 34, South, Range 27 East, run Easterly 864 feet along the Southerly boundary of said Section 2; thence run Northerly to a point on the North boundary of said Section 2 that is 869 feet Easterly of the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Westerly along the Northerly boundary of said Section 2 to the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Southerly along the Westerly boundary of said Section 2 to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

LESS AND EXEPT:

20 acres in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 33, Township 33 South, Range 27 East.

NOTE: This legal is for contract purposes. There may be revisions based on a boundary survey and title insurance commitment of the property.

BSM APPROVED
BY MJ
DATE 7/2/21

Project Name: Hardee Flatwoods FF

This instrument prepared by and returned to:
Diane McKenzie
Division of State Lands
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 115
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THIS GRANT OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT is made this ___ day of _____, 20___, by Walco Leasing, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, whose address is 1943 Maravilla Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 ("Grantor"), in favor of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ("Trustees"), whose address is Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 115, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, ("Grantee").

The terms "Grantor" and "Grantee" shall include the singular and the plural, and the heirs, successors and assigns of Grantor and Grantee, and the provisions of this easement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Grantor, Grantee and their heirs, successors and assigns.

RECITALS

A. Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain real property in Hardee County, Florida, more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated by reference (hereinafter, the "Property").

B. Grantor and the Grantee mutually recognize the special character of the Property and have the common purpose of conserving certain values and character of the Property by conveyance to the Grantee of a perpetual conservation easement on, under, over, and across the Property, to conserve the character of the Property, continue certain land use patterns that do not significantly impair the character of the Property, and prohibit certain further development activity on the Property.

C. The specific conservation values of the Property are documented in the "Baseline Inventory Report for the Hardee Flatwoods Conservation Easement Tract in Hardee County, Florida", dated _____ ("Baseline Documentation"), which consists of reports, maps, photographs, and other documentation that the parties agree provide, collectively, an accurate representation of the Property at the time of this grant, and which is intended to serve as an objective information baseline for monitoring compliance with the terms of this grant. The Baseline Documentation is maintained in the offices of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and is incorporated in this Easement by this reference. A copy of the Baseline Documentation is available from the Department on request.

D. Grantee is an agency authorized under the provisions of §704.06, Florida Statutes, to hold conservation easements for the preservation and protection of land in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, forested, or open space condition.

E. Grantee agrees by accepting this grant to honor the intentions of Grantor stated herein and to preserve and protect in perpetuity the conservation values of the Property for the benefit of this generation and the generations to come.

F. The fact that any use of the Property that is expressly prohibited by the terms of this Easement may become greatly more economically valuable than uses allowed by the terms of this Easement, or that neighboring properties may, in the future, be put entirely to uses that are not allowed by this Easement has been considered by Grantor in granting this Easement and by Grantee in accepting it.

To achieve these purposes, and in consideration of \$10.00 and other good and valuable consideration, including but not limited to the above recitals, which are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference, and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, and pursuant to the laws of Florida, and in particular §704.06, Florida Statutes, but without intending

the validity of this Easement to be dependent on the continuing existence of such laws, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys to Grantee a conservation easement in perpetuity over the Property of the nature and character and to the extent hereinafter set forth ("Easement").

ARTICLE I. DURATION OF EASEMENT

This Conservation Easement shall be perpetual. It is an easement in gross, runs with the land, and is enforceable by Grantee against Grantor, Grantor's personal representatives, heirs, successors and assigns, lessees, agents, and licensees.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE OF EASEMENT

It is the purpose of this Easement to assure that the Property will be retained forever in its natural, scenic, wooded condition to provide a relatively natural habitat for fish, wildlife, plants or similar ecosystems, and to preserve portions of the Property as productive farmland and forest land that sustains for the long term both the economic and conservation values of the Property and its environs, through management guided by the following principles:

- Protection of scenic and other distinctive rural character of the landscape;
- Maintenance of soil productivity and control of soil erosion;
- Maintenance and enhancement of wildlife and game habitat;
- Protection of unique and fragile natural areas and rare species habitats;
- Maintenance or creation of a healthy balance of uneven aged timber classes;
- Maintenance or improvement of the overall quality of the timber resource;
- Maintenance of the value of the resource in avoiding land fragmentation;
- Protection of surface water quality, the Floridan Aquifer, wetlands, and riparian areas;
- Maintenance of economically viable agricultural practices that protect the landscape as a working enterprise in harmony with the open space and scenic qualities of the Property.

The above purposes are hereinafter sometimes referred to as "the Conservation Purposes". Grantor intends that this Easement will confine the use of the Property to such activities as are consistent with the Conservation Purposes of this Easement.

ARTICLE III. RIGHTS GRANTED TO THE GRANTEE

To accomplish the Conservation Purposes of this Easement the following rights are conveyed to Grantee by this Easement:

A. The right to enforce protection of the conservation values of the Property;

B. All future residential, commercial, industrial and incidental development rights that are now or hereafter allocated to, implied, reserved, or inherent in the Property except as may be specifically reserved to Grantor in this Easement. The parties agree that such rights are hereby terminated and extinguished and may not be used on or transferred to other property. Neither the Property nor any portion thereof may be included as part of the gross area of other property not subject to this Easement for the purposes of determining density, lot coverage, or open space requirements, under otherwise applicable laws, regulations or ordinances controlling land use and building density. No development rights that have been encumbered or extinguished by this Easement shall be transferred to any other lands pursuant to a transferable development rights scheme or cluster development arrangement or otherwise. Nor shall any development rights or density credits be transferred onto the Property from other property.

C. The right of entry and the right of ingress and egress within the Property at reasonable times in order to monitor compliance with and otherwise enforce the terms of this Easement; provided that such entry shall be upon prior reasonable notice to Grantor, and Grantee shall not unreasonably interfere with Grantor's use and quiet enjoyment of the Property.

D. The right to prevent any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with the Conservation Purposes or provisions of this Easement and to require the restoration of or to restore such areas or features of the

Property that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use at Grantor's cost.

E. The right to have the ad valorem taxes, assessments and any other charges on the Property paid by Grantor.

F. A right to notice of intent to sell. The terms of this right are such that if Grantor intends to sell the Property, or any interest therein or portion thereof, Grantor shall deliver to Grantee notice of such intent, and shall, in good faith, afford Grantee an opportunity to negotiate the acquisition of the Property, or such portion thereof or interest therein that Grantor intends to sell. If Grantee desires to negotiate the acquisition of the Property, or such portion thereof or interest therein, Grantee shall so notify Grantor within 30 days after receipt of Grantor's notice of intent. If Grantor and Grantee are unable, in good faith to agree to terms of an acquisition of the Property, or such interest therein or portion thereof as applicable, within 120 days of Grantee's notice of intent to negotiate, then Grantor may sell the Property free of the right granted herein. If the Property, or such portion thereof or interest therein as is applicable, has not sold within one year after Grantee's failure to provide notice to Grantor that Grantee intends to negotiate acquisition of the property or within one year after failure to reach agreement to terms of an acquisition, whichever date is later, then any intent to sell the Property thereafter shall require renewed notice to Grantee. This right to notice shall not be triggered by sales or transfers between Grantor and lineal descendants, members, shareholders, or partners of Grantor or entities in which Grantor owns a majority of the controlling interests. The right to notice granted herein applies to the original Grantor and to said original Grantor's, heirs, successors and assigns.

G. The right to be indemnified by Grantor for any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, judgment or claim (including a claim for attorney fees) arising out of any negligent or willful action or activity resulting from the Grantor's use and ownership of or activities on the Property or the use of or activities of Grantor's agents, guests, lessees or invitees on the Property.

H. The right to be indemnified by Grantor for any liability for injury or property damage to persons on the Property arising out of any condition of the Property known to the Grantor to the best of Grantor's knowledge.

I. The right to have the Property maintained as reflected on the Baseline Documentation, as the Property may develop through the forces of nature hereafter, subject only to the exercise of Grantor's Reserved Rights, and the Rights Granted to the Grantee, as described in this Easement.

J. If Grantor fails to cut and remove timber damaged by natural disaster, fire, infestation or the like within sixty (60) days after written notice from Grantee, then Grantee shall have the right, but not the duty, in its sole discretion to cut and remove said timber. Any such cutting and removal by Grantee shall be at the expense of Grantee and all proceeds from the sale of any such timber shall inure to the benefit of Grantee.

ARTICLE IV. PROHIBITED USES

The Property shall be maintained to preserve the Conservation Purposes of this Easement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Grantor agrees that the following uses and practices, though not an exhaustive recital of inconsistent uses and practices, are expressly prohibited or restricted, except for those rights and practices reserved by Grantor in this Conservation Easement:

A. No soil, trash, liquid or solid waste (including sludge), or unsightly, offensive, or hazardous materials, wastes or substances, toxic wastes or substances, pollutants or contaminants, including, but not limited to, those as now or hereafter defined by federal or Florida law defining hazardous materials, wastes or substances, toxic wastes or substances, pollutants or contaminants shall be dumped or placed on the Property. This prohibition shall not be construed to include reasonable amounts of waste generated as a result of allowed activities pursuant to this easement.

B. The exploration for and extraction of oil, gas, minerals, dolostone, peat, muck, marl, limestone, limerock, kaolin, fuller's earth, phosphate, common clays, gravel, shell, sand and similar substances either directly or indirectly by Grantor or on Grantor's behalf or with the joinder or consent of Grantor in any application for a permit so to do, under and by virtue of the authority of a grant or reservation or other form of ownership of or interest in or control over or right to such substances, except as reasonably necessary to combat erosion or flooding, or except as necessary and lawfully allowed for the conduct of allowed activities pursuant to this easement.

C. Activities that will be detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil

conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation unless otherwise provided in this Easement. There shall be no dredging of new canals, construction of new dikes, manipulation of natural water courses, or disruption, alteration, pollution, depletion, or extraction on the Property of existing surface or subsurface water flow or natural water sources, fresh water lakes, ponds and pond shores, marshes, creeks or any other water bodies, nor any activities or uses conducted on the Property that would be detrimental to water purity or that could alter natural water level or flow in or over the Property. Provided, however, Grantor may continue to operate, maintain, or replace existing ground water wells incident to allowed uses on the Property, subject to legally required permits and regulations. Notwithstanding this restriction, Grantor may continue to operate, maintain, or replace existing watering holes or dig new watering holes for cattle, so long as the excavation does not exceed one percent (1%) of the improved pasture area as defined or depicted on the Baseline Documentation (the "Improved Pasture Areas").

D. Acts or uses detrimental to the preservation of the structural integrity or physical appearance of any portions of the Property having historical or archaeological significance. Grantor shall notify the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources or its successor ("FDHR") if historical, archaeological or cultural sites are discovered on the Property, and any sites deemed to be of historical or archaeological significance shall be afforded the same protections as significant sites known to exist at the time of entering into this easement. Grantor will follow the Best Management Practices of the FDHR, as amended from time to time.

E. The removal, destruction, cutting, trimming, mowing, alteration or spraying with biocides of trees, shrubs or other natural vegetation, including but not limited to cypress trees, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Easement.

F. There shall be no planting of nuisance exotic or non-native plants as listed by the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC) or its successor. Except for domestic pasture grasses needed to support allowed cattle grazing activity and approved by the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, no other exotic or non-native plants may be planted on the Property. The Grantor shall, to the extent practical, control and prevent the spread of nuisance exotics or non-native plants on the Property. Grantor hereby grants to Grantee the right, in Grantee's sole discretion and at Grantee's expense, to develop and implement an exotic plant removal plan for the eradication of exotics or non-native plants on the Property. Under no circumstances shall this right conveyed to Grantee be construed to diminish Grantor's responsibilities under this paragraph or as an obligation of the Grantee.

G. Commercial or industrial activity, or ingress, egress or other passage across or upon the Property in conjunction with any commercial or industrial activity including but not limited to swine, dairy, and poultry operations and confined animal feedlot operations.

H. New construction or placing of temporary or permanent buildings, mobile homes or other structures in, on or above the ground of the Property except as may be necessary by Grantor for maintenance or normal operations of the Property or during emergency situations or as may otherwise be specifically provided for hereinafter. For purposes of this paragraph the term "emergency" shall mean those situations that will have an immediate and irreparable adverse impact on the Conservation Purposes.

I. The construction or creation of new roads or jeep trails, except in areas reserved for agricultural or silvicultural use as depicted in the Baseline Documentation.

J. There shall be no operation of motorized vehicles except on established trails and roads or in areas designated as agricultural in the Baseline Documentation unless necessary: (i) to protect or enhance the Conservation Purposes of this Easement, (ii) for emergency purposes, (iii) for cattle ranching purposes or silviculture purposes, and (iv) to access, hunt and retrieve game that has been hunted legally.

K. Areas currently improved for agricultural activities as established by the Baseline Documentation may continue to be used for those activities. Areas that are currently in improved pasture as depicted in the Baseline Documentation shall not be converted to more intense agricultural use. Lands that are depicted in the Baseline Documentation as being natural areas shall remain natural areas.

L. If the Property is in a spring recharge area, fertilizer use for agriculture activities shall be in accordance with agricultural best management practices recommended therefor by the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, whichever is more stringent, as those best management practices may be amended from time to time. No agricultural activities shall occur within a 100-foot buffer around sinkholes and other karst features that are connected to spring conduits.

M. Actions or activities that may reasonably be expected to adversely affect threatened or endangered species.

N. Any subdivision of the land except as may otherwise be provided in this Easement.

O. There shall be no signs, billboards, or outdoor advertising of any kind erected or displayed on the Property, except that Grantee may erect and maintain signs designating the Property as land under the protection of Grantee.

P. There shall be no commercial water wells on the Property.

Q. There shall be no commercial timber harvesting on the Property.

R. There shall be no mitigation bank established pursuant to sections 373.4135 et seq. Florida Statutes, on the Property.

ARTICLE V. GRANTOR'S RESERVED RIGHTS

Grantor reserves to Grantor, and to Grantor's personal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, the following specified rights, which are deemed to be consistent with the Conservation Purposes of this Easement. The exercise of the Reserved Rights shall be in full accordance with all applicable local, state and federal law, as amended from time to time, as well as in accordance with the Conservation Purposes of this Easement:

A. The right to observe, maintain, photograph, introduce and stock fish or wildlife, native to the state of Florida on the Property; to use the Property for non-commercial hiking, camping, and horseback riding, so long as the same do not constitute a danger to Grantee's employees, agents, officers, directors and invitees, and so long as such activities do not violate any of the prohibitions applicable to the Property or Grantee's rights, as stated above. Grantor reserves, and shall continue to own, the hunting and fishing rights on, or related to, the Property, including the right to construct, locate and maintain temporary structures typically used for hunting that result in no surface alteration, so long as said structures do not cause impact adverse to the conservation values of the property and Grantor may lease and sell privileges of such rights.

B. The right to conduct controlled or prescribed burning on the Property; provided, however, that Grantor shall obtain and comply with a prescribed fire authorization from the local and state regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over controlled or prescribed burning.

C. The right to mortgage the Property; provided, however, that the Mortgagee's lien shall be inferior to and lower in priority than this Easement.

D. The right to contest tax appraisals, assessments, taxes and other charges on the Property.

E. The right to continue to use, maintain, repair, and reconstruct, but not to relocate, all existing buildings, barns, dog pens, outbuildings, fences, roads, ponds, drainage ditches and such other facilities on the Property as depicted in the Baseline Documentation. If any of the now existing facilities on the property requires construction or replacement due to depreciation, obsolescence, destruction or severe damage, the replacement structures may be increased in size no larger than one hundred and twenty five percent (125%) of the size of the original structure it replaces as such size is documented in the Baseline Documentation, and shall be situated at the same site.

F. The right to exclusive use of the improvements depicted in the Baseline Documentation and as otherwise allowed in this Easement.

G. The right to continue existing agricultural practices as depicted in the Baseline Documentation. Grantor may use commonly accepted fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, so long as Grantor uses agricultural best management practices as may be adopted from time to time by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ("FDACS") or its successor.

- H. The right to host on the Property relocated endangered or threatened species or species of special concern that are native to the State of Florida.
- I. The right to maintain a hunting camp on the property ("Camp Area"). The Camp Area shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary manner. The Camp Area may have non-permanent structures, which shall provide primitive camp sites for temporary overnight use. The Camp Area shall not exceed three (3) acres in size as designated in the Baseline Documentation. Further, not more than ten (10) motor vehicles per day may occupy the Camp Area and there shall be no cutting of trees within the Camp Area. The Camp Area shall be for the use of Grantor or any lessees for the Property pursuant to paragraph V.A.
- J. The right to sell, devise or otherwise transfer ownership of the Property to a third party.
- K. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph IV.E., Grantor reserves the right to continue historical brush management practices such as mowing, roller-chopping or aeration in agricultural or silvicultural areas as designated in the Baseline Documentation provided such activity is conducted in a manner consistent with the Conservation Purposes of this Easement and any best management practices or practice guidelines published by any agency for such management activity. Brush management in wetlands, or use to convert habitat or alter natural communities is prohibited.
- L. The right to maintain Grantor's commercial cattle operation. The cattle operation shall be conducted in accordance with best management practices for cow/calf operations published by FDACS, as amended from time to time.
- M. Grantor reserves the right in the silvicultural or agricultural areas as depicted in the Baseline Documentation, to construct such additional agricultural structures as may be required for its cattle operation, such as cattle pens constructed for temporary and periodic use by cattle, stables, equipment barns, and tool sheds so long as such structures do not significantly impair the conservation values of the Property and do not exceed 20,000 cumulative square feet.
- N. The right to maintain existing firebreaks as depicted on the Baseline Documentation through disking or mowing, but by no other means.
- O. The right to construct new firebreaks only after consultation with and approval by FDACS' Florida Forest Service.
- P. The right to maintain existing food plots for game as indicated on the Baseline Documentation Report.
- Q. The right to engage in silviculture only within those areas depicted on the Baseline Documentation as silvicultural, in accordance with the best management practices of the FDACS' Florida Forest Service or its successor; provided, however, that there shall be no harvesting of trees in any areas designated as wetlands in the Baseline Documentation.
- R. The right to maintain and construct perimeter fencing of the Property to protect the Property from trespassing and Grantor may add new fencing and cross fencing pens to established commercial cattle operations in improved pasture areas for the management of the Grantor's cattle operation, so long as fencing does not adversely affect the Conservation Purposes of this Easement.
- S. The right to cultivate forage for cattle and harvest hay from the existing pasture or hay areas as depicted on the Baseline Documentation Report; provided, however, at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the improved pasture or hay area shall remain unharvested in any one calendar year.
- T. The right to construct up to three (3) watering structures for commercial cattle operations, subject to legally required permits and regulations. Such structures may include ancillary wells, pumps and solar or wind utilities necessary to power pumps, provided each such watering structure and its ancillary structures are located within a footprint not exceeding 1,000 square feet.

ARTICLE VI. GRANTEE'S REMEDIES

A. **Remedies.** If Grantee determines that Grantor is in violation of the terms of this Easement or that a violation is threatened, Grantee shall give written notice to Grantor of such violation and demand corrective action sufficient to cure the violation and, where the violation involves injury to the Property resulting from any use or activity inconsistent with the Conservation Purposes of this Easement, to restore the portion of the Property so injured. If Grantor fails to cure the violation within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice thereof from Grantee, or under circumstances where the violation cannot reasonably be cured within a 30-day period, fails to begin curing such violation within the 30-day period, or fails to continue diligently to cure such violation until finally cured, Grantee may bring an action at law or in equity in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Easement, to enjoin the violation, *ex parte* as necessary, by temporary or permanent injunction, to recover any damages to which it may be entitled for violation of the terms of this Easement or injury to any conservation values protected by this Easement, including damages for the loss of scenic, aesthetic, or environmental values, and to require the restoration of the Property to the condition that existed prior to any such injury. Without limiting Grantor's liability therefor, Grantee, in its sole discretion, may apply any damages recovered to the cost of undertaking any corrective action on the Property. If Grantee, in its sole discretion, determines that circumstances require immediate action to prevent or mitigate significant damage to the conservation values of the Property, Grantee may pursue its remedies under this paragraph without prior notice to Grantor or without waiting for the period provided for cure to expire. Grantee's rights under this paragraph apply equally in the event of either actual or threatened violations of the terms of this Easement, and Grantor agrees that Grantee's remedies at law for any violation of the terms of this Easement are inadequate and that Grantee shall be entitled to the injunctive relief described in this paragraph, both prohibitive and mandatory, in addition to such other relief to which Grantee may be entitled, including specific performance of the terms of this Easement, without the necessity of proving either actual damages or the inadequacy of otherwise available legal remedies. Grantee's remedies described in this paragraph shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to all remedies now or hereafter existing at law or in equity.

B. **Grantee's Discretion.** Enforcement of the terms of this Easement shall be at the discretion of Grantee, and any forbearance by Grantee to exercise its rights under this Easement in the event of any breach of any term of this Easement by Grantor shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver by Grantee of such term or of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term of this Easement or of any of Grantee's rights under this Easement. No delay or omission by Grantee in the exercise of any right or remedy upon any breach by Grantor shall impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver.

C. **Waiver of Certain Defenses.** Grantor hereby waives any defense of estoppel, adverse possession or prescription.

D. **Acts Beyond Grantor's Control.** Nothing contained in this Easement shall be construed to entitle Grantee to bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the Property resulting from causes beyond Grantor's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and earth movement, or from any prudent action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to the Property resulting from such causes.

E. **Hold Harmless.** Grantor shall hold harmless, indemnify, and defend Grantee and its members, directors, officers, employees, agents, and contractors and the heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns of each of them (collectively "Indemnified Parties") from and against all liabilities, penalties, costs, losses, damages, expenses, causes of action, claims, demands, or judgments, including, without limitation, reasonable attorney fees, arising from or in any way connected with: (1) injury to or the death of any person, or physical damage to any property, resulting from any act, omission, condition, or other matter related to or occurring on or about the Property, regardless of cause, unless due solely to the negligence of any of the Indemnified Parties; (2) the obligations specified in paragraph VIII.A. and VIII.B.; and (3) the existence or administration of this Easement.

ARTICLE VII. NO PUBLIC ACCESS

The granting of this Easement does not convey to the public the right to enter the Property for any purpose whatsoever, and Grantee will cooperate with Grantor in the enforcement of this prohibition.

ARTICLE VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

A. **Costs and Liabilities.** Grantor retains all responsibilities and shall bear all costs and liabilities of any kind related to the ownership, operation, upkeep, and maintenance of the Property, including the maintenance of adequate comprehensive general liability coverage. Grantor shall keep the Property free of any liens arising out of any work performed for, materials furnished to, or obligations incurred by Grantor.

B. **Taxes.** Grantor shall pay before delinquency all taxes, assessments, fees, and charges of whatever description levied on or assessed against the Property by competent authority (collectively "taxes"), including any taxes imposed upon, or incurred as a result of, this Easement, and shall furnish Grantee with satisfactory evidence of payment upon request. Grantee is authorized but in no event obligated to make or advance any payment of taxes, upon three (3) days prior written notice to Grantor, in accordance with any bill, statement, or estimate procured from the appropriate authority, without inquiry into the validity of the taxes or the accuracy of the bill, statement, or estimate, and the obligation created by such payment shall bear interest until paid by Grantor at the maximum rate allowed by law.

C. **Extinguishment.** If circumstances arise in the future such as render the Conservation Purposes of this Easement impossible to accomplish, this Easement can only be terminated or extinguished, whether in whole or in part, by judicial proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction, and the amount of the proceeds to which Grantee shall be entitled, after the satisfaction of prior claims, from any sale, exchange, or involuntary conversion of all or any portion of the Property subsequent to such termination or extinguishment, shall be determined, unless otherwise provided by Florida law at the time, in accordance with paragraph VIII.D. Grantee shall use all such proceeds in a manner consistent with the Conservation Purposes of this grant or the purposes of the bond or statutory program under which Grantee obtained the purchase money for this Easement. Grantor believes that any changes in the use of neighboring properties will increase the benefit to the public of the continuation of this Easement, and Grantor and Grantee intend that any such changes shall not be deemed to be circumstances justifying the termination or extinguishment of this Easement. In addition, the inability of Grantor to conduct or implement any or all of the uses allowed under the terms of this Easement, or the unprofitability of doing so, shall not impair the validity of this Easement or be considered grounds for its termination or extinguishment.

D. **Proceeds.** This Easement constitutes a real property interest immediately vested in Grantee, which, for the purposes of paragraph VIII.C., the parties stipulate to have a fair market value determined by multiplying the fair market value of the Property unencumbered by the Easement (minus any increase in value after the date of this grant attributable to improvements) by the ratio of the value of the Easement at the time of this grant to the value of the Property, without deduction for the value of the Easement, at the time of this grant. For the purposes of this paragraph, the ratio of the value of the Easement to the value of the Property unencumbered by the Easement shall remain constant.

E. **Condemnation.** If the Easement is taken, in whole or in part, by exercise of the power of eminent domain, Grantee shall be entitled to compensation in accordance with applicable law.

F. **Assignment.** This Easement is transferable, but Grantee may assign its rights and obligations under this Easement only to allowed entities under §193.501, Florida Statutes, and §704.06, Florida Statutes, whose purposes include the conservation of land or water areas or the preservation of sites or properties. As a condition of such transfer, Grantee shall require that the Conservation Purposes that this grant is intended to advance continue to be carried out. Additionally, Grantee acknowledges that releases or conveyance of certain rights under this Easement is subject to §193.501, Florida Statutes, and Grantee shall comply with the provision of §193.501, Florida Statutes, to the extent it is applicable to this Easement.

G. **Subsequent Transfers.** Grantor agrees to incorporate the terms of this Easement in any deed or other legal instrument by which Grantor divests any interest in all or a portion of the Property, including, without limitation, a leasehold interest. Grantor further agrees to give written notice to Grantee of the transfer of any interest at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of such transfer. The failure of Grantor to perform any act required by this paragraph shall not impair the validity or priority of this Easement or limit its enforceability in any way.

H. **Notices.** Any notice, demand, request, consent, approval, or communication that either party desires or is required to give to the other shall be in writing and either i) delivered personally, ii) sent by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties as set forth above, or to such other addresses such party may establish in writing to the other, or iii) delivered by email with receipt confirmation.

I. **Recordation.** Grantee shall record this instrument and any amendments in timely fashion in the official records of Hardee County, Florida, and may re-record it at any time as may be required to preserve its rights in this Easement.

J. **Non-Homestead Certification.** Grantor hereby certifies that if a Grantor who is married signs this Easement without the joinder of his or her spouse, the Property is neither the homestead of Grantor nor the primary physical residence of Grantor, nor is the Property contiguous to the homestead or primary physical residence of Grantor.

K. **Amendments.** The terms and provisions of this Easement may be amended by the mutual consent of the parties hereto. No amendment shall be effective until executed with the formality of a deed and recorded in the public records. The Grantor acknowledges that amendments that release or convey certain rights under this Easement may be subject to §193,501, Florida Statutes, and any such amendments shall comply with the provisions of §193.501, Florida Statutes, to the extent it is applicable to such amendment.

L. **Controlling Law.** The laws of the State of Florida shall govern the interpretation and performance of this Easement.

M. **Liberal Construction.** Any general rule of construction to the contrary notwithstanding, this Easement shall be liberally construed in favor of the grant to effect the Conservation Purposes of this Easement and the policy and purpose of §704.06, Florida Statutes. If any provision in this instrument is found to be ambiguous, an interpretation consistent with the Conservation Purposes of this Easement that would render the provision valid shall be favored over any interpretation that would render it invalid.

N. **Severability.** If any provision of this Easement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Easement, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is found to be invalid, as the case may be, shall not be affected thereby.

O. **No Forfeiture.** Nothing contained herein will result in a forfeiture or reversion of Grantor's title in any respect.

P. **Joint Obligation.** The obligations imposed by this Easement upon Grantor shall be joint and several.

Q. **Successors.** The covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions of this Easement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the parties hereto and their respective personal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns and shall continue as a servitude running in perpetuity with the Property.

R. **Termination of Rights and Obligations.** A party's rights and obligations under this Easement terminate upon transfer of the party's interest in the Easement or Property, except that liability for acts or omissions occurring prior to transfer shall survive transfer.

S. **Captions.** The captions in this instrument have been inserted solely for convenience of reference and are not a part of this instrument and shall have no effect upon construction or interpretation.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto Grantee, its successors, and assigns forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF Grantor and Grantee have set their hands on the day and year first above written.

[Signatures on the following page]

THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT WHEN DULY EXECUTED. IF NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD, SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY PRIOR TO SIGNING.

GRANTOR

WALCO LEASING, LLC, a Florida limited liability company

Witness as to Grantor

By: Walter Lee Johnson, Manager

Printed Name of Witness

Date signed by Seller

Witness as to Grantor

Phone No. _____
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Printed Name of Witness

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF _____)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence or online notarization; this ____ day of _____, 20__ by Walter Lee Johnson, as Manager of and on behalf of Walco Leasing, LLC, a Florida limited liability company. Such person(s) (Notary Public must check applicable box):

- is/are personally known to me.
- produced a current driver license(s).
- produced _____ as identification.

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)

Notary Public

(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of Notary Public)

Commission No.: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

GRANTEE

GRANTEE

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

BY DIVISION OF STATE LANDS OF THE STATE
OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Witness as to Grantee

Printed Name of Grantee

Witness as to Grantee

Printed Name of Grantee

Approved as to Form and Legality

By: _____

Date: _____

BY: _____
NAME: Callie DeHaven
AS ITS: Director, Division of State Lands

Date signed by Grantee

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 Callie DeHaven, Director, 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. She is personally known to me.

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)

Notary Public

(Printed, Typed or Stamped Name of
Notary Public)

Commission No.: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

EXHIBIT "A"
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

From the POINT OF BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of Section 2, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, run Easterly 864 feet along the Southerly of said Section 2; thence run Northerly to a point on the North boundary of said Section 2 that is 869 feet Easterly of the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Westerly along the Northerly boundary of said Section 2 to the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Southerly along the Westerly boundary of said Section 2 to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND

The East $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$; the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$; and the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida.

AND

A triangular parcel lying in the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 33 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the Southwest corner of said Section 34; thence run South $89^{\circ}43'13''$ East along the South line of said Section 34, a distance of 417.42 feet; thence North $44^{\circ}31'35''$ West, a distance of 588.33 feet to a point located on the West line of said Section 34; thence South $00^{\circ}40'04''$ West along the West line of said Section 34, a distance of 417.42 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND

The South $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 33 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, less right of way for State Road 671 (Parnell Road).

AND

The North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 1, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, less and except the following "Grove Parcel";

BSM APPROVED
BY AT
DATE 7/2/21

EXHIBIT "A"
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Commence at the Northwest corner of Section 1, Township 34 South, Range 27 East; thence run South 89°44'28" East along the North line of said Section 1, a distance of 372.80 feet for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South 89°44'28" East along said North line, 2278.36 feet to the North ¼ corner of said Section 1; thence South 89°43'35" East still along said North Line of said Section 1, a distance 186.51 feet to a point 25 feet East of and existing fence; thence in a clockwise direction and 25 feet left of and parallel to said existing fence line for the next 4 calls; South 00°37'05" West, a distance of 1620.54 feet; thence South 67°39'12" West, 819.22 feet; thence North 89°36'06" West, 1705.16 feet; thence North 0°27'30" East. 1931.31 feet to the POINT OF BEGGINING (the "Grove Parcel").

AND

The Northeast ¼ of Section 2, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida.

AND

The South ½ Section 1, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida.

Section 2, Township 34 South, Range 27 East, Hardee County, Florida, less and except the following:

The Northeast ¼ of said section 2; and

From the POINT OF BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of Section 2, Township 34, South, Range 27 East, run Easterly 864 feet along the Southerly boundary of said Section 2; thence run Northerly to a point on the North boundary of said Section 2 that is 869 feet Easterly of the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Westerly along the Northerly boundary of said Section 2 to the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence run Southerly along the Westerly boundary of said Section 2 to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

LESS AND EXEPT:

20 acres in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 33, Township 33 South, Range 27 East.

NOTE: This legal is for contract purposes. There may be revisions based on a boundary survey and title insurance commitment of the property.

BSM APPROVED
BY MJ
DATE 7/2/21

ADDENDUM
BENEFICIAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSURE AFFIDAVIT
(OTHER)

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Walter Lee Johnson ("affiant"), this 9 day of July, 2021, who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1) That affiant is the Manager of Walco Leasing, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, as "Seller", whose address is 1943 Maravilla Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida, 33901, and in such capacity has personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein and has been duly authorized by Seller to make this affidavit on Seller's behalf. That Seller or its related entity is the record owner of the Property. As required by Section 286.23, Florida Statutes, and subject to the penalties prescribed for perjury, the following is a list of every "person" (as defined in Section 1.01(3), Florida Statutes) holding 5% or more of the beneficial interest in the disclosing entity: (if more space is needed, attach separate sheet)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Joanna L. Callahan	15071 N. Pebble Lane Fort Myers, FL 33912	49.5%
Cathleen C. Wheeler	10060 San Pablo Fort Myers, FL 33919	49.5%

2) That to the best of the affiant's knowledge, all persons who have a financial interest in this real estate transaction or who have received or will receive real estate commissions, attorney's or consultant's fees or any other fees, costs, or other benefits incident to the sale of the Property are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Crosby and Associates	141 Fifth St. NW, #201 Winter Haven, FL 33881	Broker's commission	TBD
Victor Smith Law Group, P.A.	55 Fifth St. NW Winter Haven, FL 33881	Attorney's fees	TBD
Keith Fountain Law, PLLC	PO Box 845 DeLand, FL 32721	Attorney's fees	TBD

3) That, to the best of the affiant's knowledge, the following is a true history of all financial transactions (including any existing option or purchase agreement in favor of affiant) concerning the Property which have taken place or will take place during the last five years prior to the conveyance of title to the State of Florida: **(if non-applicable, please indicate "None" or "Non-Applicable")**

<u>Name and Address of Parties Involved</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Transaction</u>	<u>Amount of Transaction</u>
CRS Cattle Company, LLC 652 Parcell Road Zolfo Springs, FL 33890	4/29/2019	Grazing lease	\$17, 900
Romano Basile 911 Hearty St. North Fort Myers, FL 33903	8/1/2019	Hunting lease	\$40,000

This affidavit is given in compliance with the provisions of Sections 286.23, 375.031(1), and 380.08(2), Florida Statutes.

AND FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

AFFIANT

Walter Lee Johnson
Walter Lee Johnson

STATE OF *Florida*)

COUNTY OF *Hardee*)

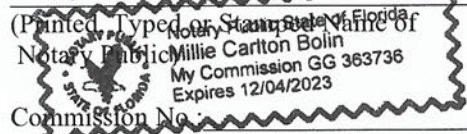
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence or online notarization this ____ day of July, 2021 by Walter Lee Johnson, Manager of Walco Leasing, LLC a Florida limited liability company. Such person(s) (Notary Public must check applicable box):

Such person(s) (Notary Public must check applicable box):

- is/are personally known to me.
- produced a current driver license(s).
- produced _____ as identification.

(NOTARY PUBLIC SEAL)

Millie Carlton Bolin
Notary Public



My Commission Expires: _____

ADDENDUM
(LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY/FLORIDA)

A. At the same time that Seller submits the closing documents required by paragraph 9. of this Agreement, Seller shall also submit the following to DSL:

1. Copies of the articles of organization and operating agreement and all amendments thereto,
2. Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State of the State of Florida,
3. All certificates, affidavits, resolutions or other documents as may be required by DSL or the title insurer, which authorize the sale of the Property to Purchaser in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and evidence the authority of one or more of the members of Seller to execute this Agreement and all other documents required by this Agreement, and

B. As a material inducement to Purchaser entering into this Agreement and to consummate the transaction contemplated herein, Seller covenants, represents and warrants to Purchaser as follows:

1. The execution of this Agreement and the performance by it of the various terms and conditions hereof, including, without limitation, the execution of all agreements, notices and other documents hereunder, have been duly authorized by the requisite authority of Seller.
2. Seller is a limited liability company duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Florida and is duly qualified to own real property in the State of Florida.
3. This Agreement, when executed and delivered, will be valid and legally binding upon Seller and enforceable in accordance with its terms and neither the execution of this Agreement and the other instruments to be executed hereunder by Seller, nor the performance by it of the various terms and conditions hereto will violate the Articles of Organization or Operating Agreement of Seller, any provisions of applicable law or any applicable order or regulation of any court or governmental agency, nor will they constitute a breach or default by Seller under any agreement, indenture or other instrument to which Seller is a party or by which Seller is bound.

SELLER

BUYER

Walco Leasing, LLC, a Florida limited company

BY: 

NAME: Walter Lee Johnson
AS ITS: Manager

7/9/2021
Date Signed by Seller

Phone No. 

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

BY DIVISION OF STATE LANDS OF THE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

BY: _____
NAME: Callie DeHaven
AS ITS: Director

Date signed by Buyer
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Interim Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marjorie Karter, Senior Management Analyst Supervisor
FROM: WAYNE GRIFFIN, Senior Appraiser, Bureau of Appraisal
APPROVED BY: Jay Scott, Chief, Bureau of Appraisal
SUBJECT: Appraisal Approval Memorandum
DATE: June 18, 2021

Project: Hardee Flatwoods (Walco Enterprises)
B/A File No.: 21-8289
County: Hardee

Fee Appraisers: (1) Craig Clayton, MAI Date of Value: May 4, 2021
(2) Joseph String, MAI Date of Value: May 4, 2021

Review Appraiser: Thomas Richards, MAI Date of Review: June 17, 2021

Owner	Land Size (Acres)	Appraised Values		Maximum Value	Divergence
		(1)	(2)		
Walco Enterprises	1,661.15	(1)	\$4,983,450	\$4,983,450	6.03%
		(2)	\$4,700,000		

COMMENTS ON DIVERGENCE:

The divergence in value falls within the acceptable range as indicated in 18-1.006, Florida Administrative Code.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS:

An administrative review of the appraisals and the attached appraisal review memorandum performed for the above referenced property has been conducted.

The contract review appraiser conducted a "technical review" which is a detailed review of the appraisals of the above referenced property. In the technical review, the review appraiser provides a certification indicating that the appraisal reports and the appraisal review were performed in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice as well as with the current edition of the Supplemental Appraisal Standards for the Board of Trustees.

The review appraiser's memorandum and comments as to the content and appropriateness of the methods, techniques and data are accepted. The review appraiser states that the appraisal reports comply with the required standards and are approved as reviewed.

Wayne Griffin
Digitally signed by Wayne Griffin
Date: 2021.06.21 08:59:04 -04'00'

Staff Appraiser

Jay F. Scott
Digitally signed by Jay F. Scott
Date: 2021.06.21 09:52:13 -04'00'

Chief Appraiser

APPRAISAL REVIEW
HARDEE FLATWOODS
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BUREAU OF APPRAISAL FILE 21-8289

Prepared by
Thomas G. Richards, MAI
Richards Appraisal Service, Inc.

Appraisal Review Memorandum

To: Wayne Griffin, Sr. Appraiser
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Appraisal

Client of Review: Bureau of Appraisal, Division of State Lands of the Florida
Department of Environmental Protection.

Intended User of Review: The State of Florida, Bureau of Appraisal, Division of State
Lands of the Florida Department of Environmental
Protection.

Intended Use of Review Compliance with USPAP & SASBOT

From: Thomas G. Richards, MAI
Richards Appraisal Service, Inc.

Date: June 17, 2021

Project Information:

BA File Number	<u>21-8289</u>
Parcel Name	<u>Hardee Flatwoods -Walco Enterprises</u>
Project Name	<u>Hardee Flatwoods Conservation Easement</u>
Location	<u>Hardee County, Florida</u>
Effective Date of Appraisals	<u>May 4, 2021</u>

Summary of Review

Pursuant to your request, I have reviewed two individual appraisal reports on the Hardee Flatwoods Conservation Easement parcel located in Hardee County, Florida. One appraisal report was prepared by Mr. Joseph S. String, MAI of String Appraisal Services, Inc. The other report was prepared by Mr. Craig H. Clayton, MAI of Clayton, Roper & Marshall, Inc. I have determined after review of the reports and some minor changes to each appraisal that they are acceptable as submitted.

The String report is dated June 17, 2021. The Clayton report is also dated June 17, 2021. Both appraisals have a valuation date of May 4, 2021. The value indications for the proposed conservation easement reflected by each appraiser were:

(1) Joseph S. String, MAI	\$4,700,000
(2) Craig H. Clayton, MAI	\$4,983,450

In the reviewer's opinion the appraisal reports were completed substantially in conformance with USPAP, were well documented, and reflected a reasonable value indication for the subject property. Both firms submitting appraisals consider their report to be complete appraisal reports according to USPAP. Both appraisals are considered sufficient to satisfy the requirements of Standard 2 of USPAP as it is applied to this type of report. The appraisals are also in substantial conformance with the Supplemental Appraisal Standards for the Board of Trustees, Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, March 2, 2016.

The intended users of this appraisal assignment are the Board of Trustees, Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The intended use is for DEP and any other specific organization or entity that may be involved in the specific transaction or for consideration in determining the effect on value of the proposed conservation easement on the subject property.

Both Mr. String and Mr. Clayton utilized the Sales Comparison technique to estimate the value of the subject tract which is essentially vacant ranch land utilizing the "before and after" technique which is deemed by the reviewer to be the most appropriate method. The appraisers utilized meaningful data, appropriate adjustment procedures and therefore, the resultant conclusions are well supported.

It is important to note that the Hypothetical Condition is made by the appraisers in assuming that the proposed conservation easement is in place on the date of the appraisal. Hypothetical Condition is defined as that which is contrary to what exists but is assumed for appraisal purposes. Uniform Standards dictate that these type assumptions are prominently disclosed. This Hypothetical Condition is prominently disclosed and treated appropriately by both appraisers and are necessary for a credible assignment result. An **Extraordinary Assumption** was made by the appraisers regarding relying upon the "Draft Copy" of the easement which is not yet executed by the parties. The appraiser's each stress the importance of the final agreement being exactly like the draft. This is also a common and reasonable procedure for this property type.

The appraisers and the reviewer are in agreement that the highest and best use for the subject parcel is for continued agriculture and recreational use for the foreseeable future. More details regarding the highest and best use is included in a later section of this review report.

The valuation problem consists of estimating the impact on value of a proposed "Conservation Easement" which will encumber the subject property. The significance of the conservation easement is that it is proposed to assure that the property will be retained forever in its natural, scenic, wooded condition to provide a relatively natural habitat for fish, wildlife, plants or similar ecosystems and to preserve portions of the property as productive farmland and forest land that sustains for the long term both the economic and conservation values of the property and its environs, through management.

In order to value the subject property, the appraisers have applied the traditional appraisal methods and have arrived at a supportable opinion of the impact on Market Value of the proposed conservation easement.

Statement of Ownership and Property History

The subject is currently titled as Walco Leasing, LLC and Waltco Enterprises, Inc. on the date of value. Both entities are commonly owned. They both have a mailing address of 1943 Maravilla Ave., Ft. Myers, Florida. The property has been owned by these entities, same principle, for numerous years and the property has not been marketed for sale.

Property Description

This appraisal assignment encompasses 1,661.15 acres of a 1,681.15 acre ranch located on the east side of Parnell Road, approximately 1 mile south of State Road 64, west of Avon Park in a rural area of Northeast Hardee County, Florida. The appraisal problem encompasses estimating the impact on value of a proposed conservation easement on 1,661.15 acres of the subject ranch holding of 1,681.15 acres. According to mapping provided by the client, the subject contains approximately 1,263.23 acres of uplands (76%) and approximately 397.92 acres of wetlands (24%). Otherwise, the ranch contains a mosaic of improved pasture areas, pine flatwoods, oak and cabbage hammocks along with intermittent wetland sloughs, native creeks, hardwood and forested wetlands.

The surrounding area is typically comprised of larger cattle ranches and/or recreational tracts and large government land holdings. Residential development is rural and very limited in the immediate area and typically only in support of larger agricultural holdings.

The ranch is accessed by virtue of the 500 feet of frontage along the east right of way of Parnell Road, which is a two-laned asphalt paved county-maintained road. The subject parcel has a reasonably level topography as is common in this area of Hardee County Florida with elevations ranging from about 70 to 90 feet above sea level.

The title insurance policies were silent on oil, gas and mineral rights leading the appraisers and the reviewer to believe that these rights are intact on this parcel.

The subject property is found on Hardee County FEMA Flood Maps 112049C230D, and 112049C0240D dated November 11, 2013. According to these maps most of the subject property, approximately 75% are located within Flood Zone A which is considered to be an area within the 100-year flood plain. The remaining land areas are designated as Flood Zone X which is an area determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. The wetlands generally are located within Flood Zone A.

The subject ranch is improved with typical ranching improvements such as fencing, cross-fencing, gates, ditches, culverts, ranch roads, pole barns, sheds/barns and a set of working cattle pens. The property is also improved with a hunting camp area which is comprised of a shallow well and numerous camper trailers which are considered personal

property for the hunt club members leasing the hunting rights on the subject property. The current hunting lease is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2021. An existing cattle lease on the property runs through April 30, 2024 and has a 60 day cancellation clause in the event of sale.

While electrical and telephone services are readily available to the area a municipal source for potable water or sewage disposal is not. Wells and septic systems are typical in the region.

The subject has an Agricultural zoning and future land use classification by Hardee County. These classifications are generally associated with rural areas of the county and are typically committed to open space and agricultural activities. The permitted residential density is one dwelling unit per five acres of land area in Hardee County.

Highest and Best Use

Highest and best use is defined as the reasonably probable and legal use of vacant land or an improved property which is physically possible, appropriately supported, financially feasible, and that results in the highest value. The four criteria the highest and best use must meet are legal permissibility, physical possibility, financial feasibility, and maximum profitability.

Before

Mr. String concluded that the Highest and Best Use for the subject would be for continued agriculture and recreation, with future potential for rural residential.

Mr. Clayton concluded that the Highest and Best Use for the subject would be for recreational, agriculture, ranching and rural residential use.

After

Mr. String concluded that the Highest and Best Use for the subject, as encumbered, would be essentially limited to agricultural and recreational uses subject to the conservation easement limitations.

Mr. Clayton concluded that the Highest and Best Use for the subject would be continued agricultural and recreational.

Both appraisers recognize the limited development potential of the property in the before scenario. The two most significantly impacting criteria of the proposed conservation easement are the loss of development rights and/or the rights to subdivide the property.

Overall, the highest and best use conclusions of both appraisers are reasonably similar. Each has made a convincing argument and has provided adequate market evidence to support these conclusions. Each of the appraisers have adequately addressed the issue of

highest and best use for the subject property and more importantly the reviewer is convinced that the sales data utilized is that of a basically similar highest and best use.

Reviewer Comments

The reviewer found the reports to be very comprehensive and informative as to the relative components of a typical appraisal report. The physical characteristics and site descriptions were also found to be typical as were the details and documentation of the comparable sales expected in an appraisal for this property type. The reports have also conformed to the reporting standards expected by FDEP and are substantially in conformance with the Uniform Standards of Appraisal Practice (USPAP).

In the valuation of the Subject property the appraisers have applied the sales comparison approach to value which is deemed to be the traditional and most appropriate method to value a vacant agricultural parcel. Considering that the subject of the appraisal is to estimate the impact on value of the proposed conservation easement it was necessary to apply the before and after methodology.

In the before scenario the appraisers contrasted the subject property to a set of unencumbered comparable sales within the subject market area. In estimating the value for the subject, the appraisers analyzed sales of agricultural properties offering similar locational attributes and highest and best use characteristics. Mr. String analyzed five comparable sales in his effort and Mr. Clayton also analyzed five comparable sales to contrast to the subject. The appraisers had two commonly utilized sales in this effort.

In the after scenario the appraisers contrasted the subject property to a set of comparable sales encumbered with conservation easements. Due to the limited number of sales meeting these criteria the sale search had to be expanded for this property type. In estimating the value for the subject as encumbered the appraisers analyzed sales of agricultural properties offering similar locational attributes and highest and best use characteristics similarly encumbered by conservation easements. Mr. String analyzed four comparable sales in his effort and Mr. Clayton also analyzed four comparable sales to contrast to the subject. The appraisers had three commonly utilized sales in this effort.

The appraisers demonstrated a very thorough analysis of the comparable data and adapted a very straightforward and reasonable valuation process. Both Mr. String and Mr. Clayton utilized a qualitative adjustment process to contrast the sale properties to the subject. This method is widely accepted, well supported and reasonable.

Analysis of Appraisers' Sales

String Appraisal

The following sales were utilized by Mr. String in the valuation of the subject before the proposed conservation easement.

Sale No.	Subject	Sale 1	Sale 2	Sale 3	Sale 4	Sale 5
County	Hardee	Hardee	St. Lucie	Indian River	Okeechobee	Manatee Hardee
Sale Date	N/A	1/21 3/21	11/19	6/20	10/20	6/18
Price/Ac	N/A	\$4,204	\$4,569	\$4,774	\$3,733	\$4,015
Size/Ac	1,661.15	743.30	820.00	1,094.07	1,111.62	1,856.57
Upland %	76%	23%	75%	70%	73%	90%
Overall Rating	N/A	Similar	Superior	Superior	Similar	Slightly Inferior

Mr. String analyzed the five tabulated sales above for the purpose of estimating the value of the subject before placing the conservation easement on the property. The sales are located in Hardee, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee and Manatee Counties in Florida.

The sales analyzed for the subject parcel have sale dates ranging from June 2018 to March 2021. The comparables selected are all agricultural properties with similar highest and best use characteristics. The comparable sales selected and analyzed by Mr. String are considered to be good indicators of value for the subject. These sales reflect a range from \$3,733 to \$4,774 per gross acre.

Mr. String has elected to apply a qualitative adjustment process to the comparable sales for comparable factors such as Condition of Sale, Financing, Motivation, Market Conditions, Location, Access, Size, Upland Percentage, Density and improvements. Overall, the entire process of contrasting the sales to the subject property seems reasonable. The appraiser utilized sound logic and reasoning in contrasting the comparable sales to the subject property and, overall, the analyses and qualitative adjustment process is well supported and adequately discussed.

In his final analysis Mr. String recognizes a more refined range of from \$4,015 to \$4,569 per gross acre as indicated by the overall slightly inferior indication from sale 5 and the overall superior indication from sale 2. Mr. String concludes at a value of \$4,200 per gross acre times 1,661.15 acres; or \$6,976,830 which is rounded to \$6,950,000.

The following sales were utilized by Mr. String in the valuation of the subject after the proposed conservation easement.

Sale No.	Subject	Sale 1	Sale 2	Sale 3	Sale 4
County	Hardee	Okeechobee	Okeechobee	DeSoto	Osceola
Sale Date	N/A	3/18	9/18	9/19	7/20
Price/Acre	N/A	\$2,055	\$1,967	\$1,450	\$855
Size/Acres	1,661.15	2,604.00	1,296.74	3,716.25	1,287.33
Overall Rating	N/A	Slightly Superior	Slightly Superior	Similar	Inferior

Mr. String analyzed the four tabulated sales above for the purpose of estimating the value of the subject after placing the conservation easement on the property. The comparables are located in Okeechobee, DeSoto and Osceola Counties in Florida.

The sales analyzed for the subject parcel have sale dates ranging from March 2018 to July 2020. The sales selected are all agricultural properties with similar highest and best use characteristics and encumbered by perpetual conservation easements. The comparable sales selected and analyzed by Mr. String are considered to be reasonably good indicators of value for the subject. These sales reflect a range from \$855 to \$2,055 per gross acre.

Mr. String has elected to apply a qualitative adjustment process to the comparable sales for comparable factors such as Condition of Sale, Financing, Motivation, Market Conditions, Location, Size, Upland Percentage, improvements and Conservation Easement. Overall, the entire process of contrasting the sales to the subject property seems reasonable. The appraiser utilized sound logic and reasoning in contrasting the comparable sales to the subject property and, overall, the analyses and qualitative adjustment process is well supported and adequately discussed.

In his final analysis Mr. String recognizes a more refined range of from around \$1,100 to \$1,700 per gross acre (average of \$1,400). He reconciles at a value indication of \$1,350 per gross acre recognizing more reason to believe it's near the lower end of the range than the higher end of the range due to the lack of any entitlements. Mr. String concludes at a value of \$1,350 per gross acre times 1,661.15 acres; or \$2,242,553 which is rounded to \$2,250,000.

Mr. String's value estimate for the conservation easement is the difference between the value of the property before, minus the value of the property as encumbered. This summary follows:

Total Value Before	\$6,950,000
Total Value After	<u>\$2,250,000</u>
Value of Easement	\$4,700,000

Clayton Appraisal

The following sales were utilized by Mr. Clayton in the valuation of the subject before the proposed conservation easement.

Sale No.	Subject	Sale 1	Sale 2	Sale 3	Sale 4	Sale 5
County	Hardee	DeSoto	Indian River	Highlands	Okeechobee	Osceola
Sale Date	N/A	9/20	6/20	2/20	10/20	3/19
Price/Ac	N/A	\$4,002	\$4,774	\$4,200	\$3,733	\$4,598
Size/Ac	1,661.15	1,375	1,094*	1,249	1,112*	446
Upland %	76%	83%	70%	94%	73%	73%
Overall Rating	N/A	Similar	Superior	Similar	Slightly Inferior	Superior

*There are slight variations in acreage for the two commonly utilized sales as Mr. Clayton has rounded them to the nearest acre. This does not impact final value conclusions.

Mr. Clayton analyzed the five tabulated sales above for the purpose of estimating the value of the subject before placing the conservation easement on the property. The comparables are located in DeSoto, Indian River, Highlands, Okeechobee and Osceola Counties, Florida.

The sales analyzed for the subject parcel have sale dates ranging from March 2019 to October 2020. The comparables selected are all agricultural properties with similar highest and best use characteristics. The comparable sales selected and analyzed by Mr. Clayton are considered to be good indicators of value for the subject. These sales reflect a range from \$3,733 to \$4,774 per gross acre.

Mr. Clayton has elected to apply a qualitative adjustment process to the comparable sales for comparable factors such as conditions of sale, market conditions, location, size/shape, access/exposure, topography and site improvements, utilities and improvements. Overall, the entire process of contrasting the sales to the subject property seems reasonable. The appraiser utilized sound logic and reasoning in contrasting the comparable sales to the subject property and, overall, the analyses and qualitative adjustment process is well supported and adequately discussed.

In his final analysis Mr. Clayton brackets the subject between the indications from slightly inferior rated Sale 4 at \$3,733 per gross acre and superior rated Sale 2 at \$4,774 per gross acre. As such, a conclusion is reached at \$4,200 per gross acre. This equates to a final indication of 1,661.15 acres times \$4,200 per acre; or \$6,976,830 which is not further rounded.

The following sales were utilized by Mr. Clayton in the valuation of the subject after the proposed conservation easement.

Sale #	Subject	Sale 1	Sale 2	Sale 3	Sale 4
County	Hardee	Osceola	DeSoto	Okeechobee	Clay
Sale Date	N/A	7/20	9/19	9/18	10/18
Price/Ac	N/A	\$854	\$1,450	\$1,966	\$1,300
Size/Ac	1,661.15	1,287.33	3,716.25	1,296.74	2,607.70
Overall Rating	N/A	Inferior	Superior	Superior	Superior

Mr. Clayton analyzed the four tabulated sales above for the purpose of estimating the value of the subject after placing the conservation easement on the property. The sales are located in Osceola, Okeechobee, Clay and DeSoto Counties in Florida.

The sales analyzed for the subject parcel have sale dates ranging from September 2018 to July 2020. The comparables selected are all agricultural properties with similar highest and best use characteristics and all sales are actually encumbered by perpetual conservation easements. The comparable sales selected and analyzed by Mr. Clayton are considered to be good indicators of value for the subject. These sales reflect a range from \$854 to \$1,966 per gross acre.

Mr. Clayton has elected to apply a qualitative adjustment process to the comparable sales for comparable factors such as conditions of sale, market conditions, location, size/shape, access/exposure, topography and site improvements, utilities and improvements. Overall, the entire process of contrasting the sales to the subject property seems reasonable. The appraiser utilized sound logic and reasoning in contrasting the comparable sales to the subject property and, overall, the analyses and qualitative adjustment process is well supported and adequately discussed.

In his final analysis Mr. Clayton reflects on the range of indications of from \$854 to \$1,966 per gross acre. He concludes at a final value of \$1,200 per gross acre. This equates to a final indication of 1,661.15 acres times \$1,200 per acre; or \$1,993,380 which is not further rounded.

Mr. Clayton's value estimate for the conservation easement is the difference between the value of the property before, minus the value of the property as encumbered. This summary follows:

Total Value Before	\$6,976,830
Total Value After	<u>\$1,993,380</u>
Value of Easement	\$4,983,450

Conclusions

Overall, the reviewer found both reports to be well supported and reasonable leading the reader to similar conclusions. The reports reflected a reasonable range of conclusions to value offering a minimal variance of only 6.03%. The appraisers both arrived at similar conclusions regarding the highest and best use of the subject in both the before and after scenario. Each has adequately analyzed and assessed the impact of the proposed conservation easement on the subject. As such, both reports are considered acceptable and approvable as amended.

The **purpose of the appraisals** was to estimate the market value of the subject property before and after acquisition of the proposed conservation easement to be placed on the subject property to estimate its impact on value. The intended use of the appraisals was to serve as a basis for potential acquisition of a conservation easement by the State of Florida, Bureau of Appraisal, Division of State Lands of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The reviewer has completed a **field review** of the above referenced appraisals. The Purpose of the Review is to form an opinion as to the completeness and appropriateness of the methodology and techniques utilized to form an opinion as to the value of the subject property.

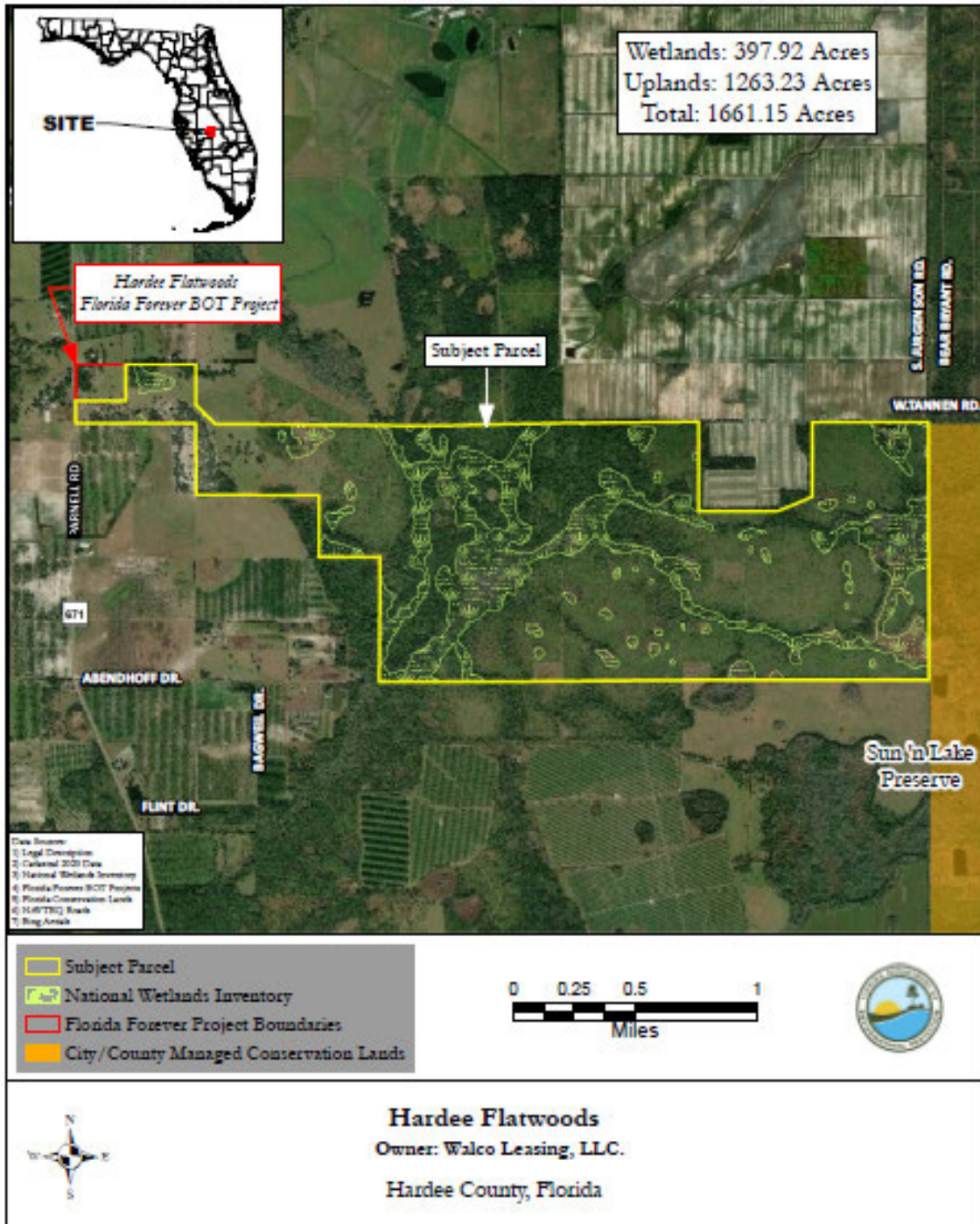
The **Scope of the Review** involved a field review of each of the appraisal reports prepared on the subject property. The reviewer inspected the subject of these appraisals and is familiar with all of the data contained within the reports. The reviewer has not researched the marketplace to confirm reported data or to reveal data which may have been more appropriate to include in the appraisal report. As part of the review assignment the reviewer has asked the appraisers to address issues deemed relevant to the assignment. I have also analyzed the reports for conformity with and adherence to the *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice* (USPAP) as promulgated by the Appraisal Foundation and that of the Appraisal Institute as well as the Supplemental Appraisal Standards for the Board of Trustees, Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, March 2, 2016.

Acceptance of Appraisals

The appraisal reports referenced herein are considered acceptable and approvable by the signed reviewer subject to the attached certification.

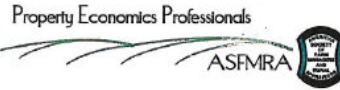
Aerial Map

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: Y:\P\ERP\Main\July_2016\F\5\0505\Hardee Flatwoods\Walco Leasing\GIS\Appdata_Aerials\Hardee_Flatwoods_Walco_Leasing_Coverage.mxd
Data Source: 4-4-2016 11:44:07 AM
Map Created By: Kim Peters

Documentation of Competence



Certificate of Completion

Thomas G. Richards, MAI

has successfully completed the

Valuation of Conservation Easements Certificate Program

on January 18, 2008 .

Handwritten signature of Terry R. Dunkin.

Terry R. Dunkin, MAI, SRA, 2007 President,
Appraisal Institute

Handwritten signature of Ray L. Brownfield.

Ray L. Brownfield, AFM, ARA, President,
ASFMR

Handwritten signature of John D. Willey.

John D. Willey, FASA, President, ASA

THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION DOES NOT PROVIDE CERTIFICATION OF ANY KIND,
NOR DOES IT ATTEST TO THE COMPETENCY OF THE PARTICIPANTS.



This program was developed with the approval of the Land Trust Alliance.

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. The facts and data reported by the review appraiser and used in the review process are true and correct.
2. The analyses, opinions, and conclusions in this review report are limited only by the assumptions and limiting conditions stated in this review report, and are my personal, unbiased professional analyses, opinions and conclusions.
3. I have no present or prospective interest in the property that is the subject of this review and I have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved.
4. My compensation is not contingent on an action or event resulting from the analyses, opinions, or conclusions in, or the use of this review report.
5. My analyses, opinion, and conclusions are developed and this review report was prepared in conformity with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.
6. My analyses, opinion, and conclusions are developed and this review report was prepared in conformity with the Code of Professional Ethics and Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice of the Appraisal Institute and with the Supplemental Standards for the Board of Trustees Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, March 2016.
7. The appraisals reviewed are in substantial compliance with USPAP, SASBOT, as well as Rule 18-1.006, Florida Administrative Code (FAC).
8. I did personally inspect the subject property.
9. No one provided significant professional assistance to the person signing this review report.
10. As of the date of this report, Thomas G. Richards, MAI has completed the requirements of the continuing education program of the Appraisal Institute.
11. The use of this report is subject to the requirements of the Appraisal Institute relating to review by its duly authorized representatives.
12. I have not appraised or performed any other services for any other party in regard to this property.



Thomas G. Richards, MAI
St. Cert. Gen. Appraiser RZ 574

June 17, 2021
Date



Northwest Florida Office
1294 Avondale Way | Tallahassee, Florida 32317-8451 | tel 850.528.5261
www.defenders.org

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis
The Honorable Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried
The Honorable Attorney General Ashley Moody
The Honorable Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis

Via: Robbie.Parrish@floridadep.gov

RE: Defenders of Wildlife's Letter of Support for the Hardee Flatwoods and Wedgworth Farms Florida Forever Projects

Dear Governor DeSantis and the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund:

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders), we are pleased to support the Hardee Flatwoods and Wedgworth Farms Florida Forever projects. Founded in 1947, Defenders is a national non-profit conservation organization focused solely on wildlife and habitat conservation and the safeguarding of biodiversity. Defenders has more than 124,000 members and supporters in Florida.

Defenders supports acquisition of the 1,661-acre Hardee Flatwoods conservation easement and the 6,665-acre Wedgworth Farms conservation easement both of which contribute to protecting Priority 1 gaps within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Acquisition of these conservation easements will conserve the habitat several for several species. The Hardee Flatwoods project area provides habitat for the Florida black bear, Southeastern fox squirrel and gopher tortoise while the Wedgworth Farms project area provides habitat for the Florida sandhill crane, gopher tortoise, wood stork and the Crested caracara.

These acquisitions also further the goals of the Avon Park Sentinel Landscape as they prevent conversion of working lands to land uses that may be incompatible with the military mission of the Avon Park Air Force Range. Wedgworth Farm is within the eastern portion of Avon Park Sentinel Landscape area. Hardee Flatwoods lies adjacent to other conservation lands within the western portion of sentinel landscape. Acquisition of these conservation easements will conserve biodiversity, protect military missions and maintain clean water.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these conservation projects important to protecting Priority 1 areas of the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Sincerely,

Kent L. Wimmer, AICP
Senior Representative, Northwest Florida
kwimmer@defenders.org / 850-528-5261



Robbie Parrish
Division of State Lands
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS `00
Tallahassee Florida 32399

Dear Mr. Parrish,

Please consider this a letter of support for the acquisition of a conservation easement over Hardee Flatwoods.

The Hardee Flatwoods project is a single contiguous tract of land located in eastern Hardee County that borders the Highlands County line. The property contains a mixture of mesic flatwoods, hydric hammock and improved pasture, with various wetlands components throughout. This area contributes to habitat connectivity that is necessary for bears and other wide-ranging species, given its location within a mosaic of conservation lands and private ranches. The project lies within a Critical Linkage wildlife corridor in the Florida Ecological Greenways Network and is part of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, which means it is an important part of a statewide network of ecological connected lands important for biodiversity and water resource protection.

The 1,661-acre property has a small cow/calf operation of approximately 130 head of cattle on the improved pasture in the western portion of the property and is used by the family for recreational purposes. It shares its eastern boundary with Highland County's Sun 'n Lake Preserve and provides a potential smokedshed buffer for these adjacent lands that require prescribed burns. The property includes most of the headwaters of Bee Branch, a tributary of Charlie Creek, which itself is a principal headwater of the Peace River. There is very little protected land along the significant tributaries to the Peace River and none in the vicinity of the property and protecting Peace Rivers headwaters is important part of efforts to protect and restore the water resources of this watershed. Acquiring less-than-fee protection over the property will help protect the water quality of the Peace River, which is the main source of fresh water for Charlotte Harbor.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this acquisition; please don't hesitate to call me at (941) 234-7201 for further information.

With kindest regards,

Julie Morris

Julie Morris
Florida Conservation Group