# **OCHLOCKONEE RIVER STATE PARK**

Management Plan

# APPROVED

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks

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INTRODUCTION	1
PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF PLAN	1
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW	4
Management Authority and Responsibility	4
Park Management Accomplishments	5
Park Goals and Objectives	7
Management Coordination	9
Public Participation	
Other Designations	
<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONEN</b>	ЛТ
INTRODUCTION	11
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	11
Natural Resources	
Cultural Resources	
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	20
Special Management Considerations	20
Management Needs and Problems	22
Management Objectives	
Management Measures For Natural Resources	
Management Measures For Cultural Resources	25
Research Needs	
Resource Management Schedule	27
Land Management Review	27

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# LAND USE COMPONENT

INTRODUCTION	29
EXTERNAL CONDITIONS	29
Existing Use of Adjacent Lands	29
Planned Use of Adjacent Lands	30
PROPERTY ANALYSIS	30
Recreation Resource Elements	30
Assessment of Use	32
Existing Facilities	34
CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN	34
Site Planning and Design Process	36
Potential Uses and Proposed Facilities	36
Facilities Development	
Existing Use and Optimum Carrying Capacity	39
Optimum Boundary	

# TABLE

TABLE 1	- Existing	Use and	Optimum	Carrying	Capacity	
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# LIST OF ADDENDA

#### ADDENDUM 1

Acquisition History and Advisory Group Staff Report	A	1	-	1
ADDENDUM 2				
References Cited	A	2	-	1
ADDENDUM 3				
Soil Descriptions	A	3	-	1

# ADDENDUM 4

Plant And Animal List	А	4	-	1
ADDENDUM 5				
Designated Species List	А	5	-	1
ADDENDUM 6				
Priority Schedule and Cost Estimates	А	6	-	1

# MAPS

Vicinity Map	2
Potoronco Man	3
Reference Map	
Soils Map	13
Natural Communities Map	15
Base Map	
Conceptual Land Use Plan	35
Optimum Boundary Map	41

#### INTRODUCTION

Ochlockonee River State Park is located in Wakulla County, approximately 3 miles south of the incorporated area of Sopchoppy (see Vicinity Map). The park is comprised of two disjunct parcels, one of which fronts on U.S. Highway 319 and the other situated at the confluence of the Ochlockonee and Dead Rivers. Access to the park is from U.S. Highway 319 (see Reference Map).

At Ochlockonee River State Park, public outdoor recreation and conservation is the designated single use of the property. There are no legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of this property. The park was acquired on May 14, 1970 under a land exchange with the U.S. Department of the Interior (see Addendum 1). The park contains of 543.50 acres and jointly administered with Bald Point State Park.

The park is comprised of a mosaic of upland and wetland communities, dominated by mesic flatwoods. The park has benefited from decades of ecological burning and provides an excellent example of longleaf pine flatwoods management within the Florida Park Service. Despite its small size, the park provides habitat for a surprising number of listed, threatened or endangered species, including black bears, gopher tortoises, flatwoods salamanders and red-cockaded woodpeckers. The park's scenic location and water frontage serves as a major draw for recreational users. The park is also an important component of a regional network of conservation lands, sharing boundaries with the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and in close proximity to the Apalachicola National Forest. These federal and state lands combine to protect over 632,000 acres in Liberty, Franklin, Wakulla, Taylor and Jefferson Counties.

#### PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

This plan serves as the basic statement of policy and direction for the management of Ochlockonee River State Park as a unit of Florida's state park system. It identifies the objectives, criteria and standards that guide each aspect of park administration, and sets forth the specific measures that will be implemented to meet management objectives. The plan is intended to meet the requirements of Sections 253.034 and 259.032, Florida Statutes, Chapter 18-2, Florida Administrative Code, and intended to be consistent with the State Lands Management Plan. With approval, this management plan will replace the July 2001 approved plan. All development and resource alteration encompassed in this plan is subject to the granting of appropriate permits; easements, licenses, and other required legal instruments. Approval of the management plan does not constitute an exemption from complying with the appropriate local, state or federal agencies. This plan is also intended to meet the requirements for beach and shore preservation, as defined in Chapter 161, Florida Statutes and Chapters 62B-33, 62B-36 and 62R-49, Florida Administrative Code.

The plan consists of two interrelated components. Each component corresponds to a





particular aspect of the administration of the park. The resource management component provides a detailed inventory and assessment of the natural and cultural resources of the park. Resource management problems and needs are identified, and specific management objectives are established for each resource type. This component provides guidance on the application of such measures as prescribed burning, exotic species removal, and restoration of natural conditions.

The land use component is the recreational resource allocation plan for the unit. Based on considerations such as access, population, and adjacent land uses, an optimum allocation of the physical space of the park is made, locating use areas and proposing types of facilities and volume of use to be provided.

In the development of this plan, the potential of the park to accommodate secondary management purposes ("multiple uses") was analyzed. These secondary purposes were considered within the context of the Division's statutory responsibilities and an analysis of the resource needs and values of the park. This analysis considered the park natural and cultural resources, management needs, aesthetic values, visitation and visitor experiences. For this park, it was determined that no secondary purposes could be accommodated in a manner that would not interfere with the primary purpose of resource-based outdoor recreation and conservation. Uses such as, water resource development projects, water supply projects, stormwater management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry (other than those forest management activities specifically identified in this plan) are not consistent with this plan or the management purposes of the park.

The potential for generating revenue to enhance management was also analyzed. Visitor fees and charges are the principal source of revenue generated by the park. It was determined that multiple-use management activities would not be appropriate as a means of generating revenues for land management. Instead, techniques such as entrance fees, concessions and similar measures will be employed on a case-by-case basis as a means of supplementing park management funding.

#### MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

#### Management Authority and Responsibility

In accordance with Chapter 258, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 62D-2, Florida Administrative Code, the Division of Recreation and Parks (Division) is charged with the responsibility of developing and operating Florida's recreation and parks system. These are administered in accordance with the following policy:

It shall be the policy of the Division of Recreation and Parks to promote the state park system for the use, enjoyment, and benefit of the people of Florida and visitors; to acquire typical portions of the original domain of the state which will be accessible to all of the people, and of such character as to emblemize the state's natural values; conserve these natural values for all time; administer the development, use and maintenance of these lands and render such public service in so doing, in such a manner as to enable the people of Florida and visitors to enjoy these values without depleting them; to contribute materially to the development of a strong mental, moral, and physical fiber in the people; to provide for perpetual preservation of historic sites and memorials of statewide significance and interpretation of their history to the people; to contribute to the tourist appeal of Florida.

The Trustees have also granted management authority of certain sovereign submerged lands to the Division under Management Agreement MA 68-086 (as amended January 19, 1988). The management area includes a 400-foot zone from the edge of mean high water where a park boundary borders sovereign submerged lands fronting beaches, bays, estuarine areas, rivers or streams. Where emergent wetland vegetation exists, the zone extends waterward 400 feet beyond the vegetation. The agreement is intended to provide additional protection to resources of the park and nearshore areas and to provide authority to manage activities that could adversely impact public recreational uses.

Many operating procedures are standard system wide and are set by policy. These procedures are outlined in the Division Operations Manual (OM) that covers such areas as personnel management, uniforms and personal appearance, training, signs, communications, fiscal procedures, interpretation, concessions, camping regulations, resource management, law enforcement, protection, safety and maintenance.

In the management of Ochlockonee River State Park, a balance is sought between the goals of maintaining and enhancing natural conditions and providing various recreational opportunities. Natural resource management activities are aimed at management of natural systems. Emphasis of use is placed on recreational enjoyment through such activities as natural scenery appreciation, nature study and picnicking, and such fully compatible active pursuits as hiking, camping, swimming, boating and fishing. Development in the park is directed toward providing convenient public access to and within the park, but respecting the more sensitive or fragile natural areas, and to the provision of interpretive and related convenience and safety facilities. Program emphasis is on interpretation and appreciation of the park's natural attributes-aesthetic, educational and scientific.

#### Park Management Accomplishments

Since the 2001 approved plan, significant work has been accomplished and progress made towards meeting the Division's management objectives for the park. The following is a summary of activity since the last plan update related to resource management, protection, maintenance and visitor services.

#### **Resource Management**

> Treated and improved 775 acres using prescribed fire.

- Collected wiregrass and native ground cover seed for uplands restoration at Bald Point State Park.
- Maintained coordination with the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge for management of the red-cockaded woodpecker.
- Regularly monitored rare orchid population and identified a new hybrid species: *Cleistes xochlockoneensis*.
- > Regularly monitored gopher tortoise population.
- > Treated and monitored populations of Japanese climbing fern and Chinese tallow.
- Pursued grant funding to stabilize bank erosion.

# **Interpretation and Programs**

- > Delivered two programs annually at the Wakulla Wildlife Festival.
- > Hosted the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association Sportsability event.
- > Delivered ranger guided walks and campfire programs during summer months.
- Provided K-4 teacher workshops on outdoor classroom techniques on Saturdays in November, January, February and March.
- Provided interpretive programs to school groups tied to statewide academic standards.
- > Provided outdoor skills and leadership training to scout groups.
- Maintained undergraduate internship program with Florida State University in environmental protection and restoration.
- Constructed interpretive kiosk to display information about red-cockaded woodpeckers.

# **Facility Improvements**

- > Added benches and cook shelter to the primitive group camp.
- Coordinated trail linkages with adjacent St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.
- Improved visitor safety by establishing a helicopter landing pad, gated vehicular access points to the swim area for emergency vehicle access and slow speed zone on the Dead River.
- > Added new playground equipment in picnic area.
- Split rail fencing added along River Nature Trail to address erosion of shoreline bank.
- > Constructed pond overlook.
- > Rerouted portion of nature trail to avoid area susceptible to flooding.
- > Trailhead with informational signage established for Pine Flatwoods Nature Trail.
- > Park was connected to the City of Sopchoppy water system.

# <u>Training</u>

Select staff attended a variety of training sessions including Engine Academy, Crew Boss Academy, S-131, District One Fire Academy and Archaeological Resource Management.

# <u>Volunteers</u>

Maintained strong volunteer support and currently developing a park Citizen Support Organization.

# <u>Acquisition</u>

> Added 158 acres to the park.

# Park Goals and Objectives

The following park goals and objectives express the Division's long-term intent in managing the state park. At the beginning of the process to update this management plan, the Division reviewed the goals and objectives of the previous plan to determine if they remain meaningful and practical and should be included in the updated plan. This process ensures that the goals and objectives for the park remain relevant over time.

Estimates are developed for the funding and staff resources needed to implement the management plan based on these goals, objectives and priority management activities. Funding priorities for all state park management and development activities are reviewed each year as part of the Division's legislative budget process. The Division prepares an annual legislative budget request based on the priorities established for the entire state park system. The Division also aggressively pursues a wide range of other funds and staffing resources, such as grants, volunteers and partnerships with agencies, local governments and the private sector, for supplementing normal legislative appropriations to address unmet needs. The ability of the Division to implement the specific goals, objectives and priority actions identified in this plan will be determined by the availability of funding resources for these purposes.

# Natural and Cultural Resources

- 1. Continue to implement natural systems management, whereby primary resource management emphasis is placed on restoring and maintaining the natural processes that shape the structure, function, and species composition of the park's natural communities.
  - **A.** Continue an active prescribed burn program. Shift emphasis to growing season burns as appropriate
  - **B.** Further coordination with St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge with regard to management of Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitat and population
  - **C.** Coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service to restock gopher tortoises in the park.
  - **D.** Improve the monitoring of listed species within the park. Improve the database and record keeping of occurrences. Conduct a comprehensive herpetological survey, with emphasis on flatwoods salamanders and striped newts.
  - E. Conduct a comprehensive plant survey for the park. Survey should include

fieldwork in each season. Several rare plants with very narrow flowering times are known and suspected to occur in the park. Fieldwork will need to be scheduled to include these windows.

- **F.** Continue removal of exotic plants and animals.
- **G.** Evaluate the progress and continue the natural restoration of the borrow pit.
- 2. Prevent and repair erosion within the park, particularly along the riverbank.
  - **A.** Seek assistance from law enforcement to enforce speed zone restrictions when and where appropriate.
  - **B.** Pursue installation of additional riprap or other measures to harden shoreline in areas experiencing significant erosion.
  - **C.** Monitor patterns of visitor use along river shoreline and institute additional management measures, such as fencing, boardwalks or closing access points, where appropriate.
  - **D.** Plant native vegetation in areas of the park to reduce the potential for erosion.
- 3. Identify, preserve and manage cultural resources.
  - **A.** Maintain, protect and interpret the existing archaeological site from vandalism, erosion, and other forms of encroachment.

#### **Recreation**

- **1.** Continue to provide quality resource based outdoor recreational and interpretive programs and facilities at the state park.
  - **A.** Provide a system of trails for hiking, biking and scenic driving.
  - **B.** Provide water access for boating, and shoreline fishing.
  - C. Provide opportunities for developed and primitive style camping.
  - **D.** Provide facilities for picnicking and swimming.
  - **E.** Maintain idle speed zone along the Dead River to ensure visitor safety.
  - **F.** Interpret park resources and promote responsible use through informational materials, signage and personal interpretive programs.
  - **G.** Provide outdoor classroom opportunities for local school groups.
- 2. Seek funding to expand recreational and interpretive opportunities through the improvement of programs and the development of new use areas and facilities, as outlined in this management plan.
  - **A.** Upgrade and expand picnic area facilities.
  - **B.** Replace swim area dock.
  - C. Improve the boat ramp facilities, including bulkhead and convenience dock, canoe/kayak launch, restrooms and parking.
  - **D.** Upgrade standard campground to improve electrical service, recreational vehicle access, universal accessibility and playground.
  - E. Construct restroom and shelter at primitive group camp.
  - **F.** Improve park's interpretive program through new static displays, written materials and programming partnerships with adjacent land managers.
  - **G.** Improve universal access to park programs and facilities in all public use areas.

#### Park Administration/Operations

- **1.** Pursue funding, education, training and partnership opportunities to support the management needs of the park.
  - **A.** Provide staff and volunteers with ongoing training opportunities in visitor services, resource management, operations, general maintenance and interpretation.
  - **B.** Recruit and maintain a cadre of volunteers to assist with management and interpretation of the park.
  - C. Pursue funding alternatives to the legislative budget appropriation process.
  - **D.** Actively educate the public and local governments about the natural resources, management activities, needs and problems and recreational opportunities of the park.
- 2. Provide convenient, safe and well-maintained public facilities.
  - **A.** Conduct regular inspections of use areas and facilities and correct deficiencies when necessary.
  - **B.** Provide clear, consistent park informational signage at primary public access points.
- **3.** Pursue measures to protect park resources, control access and maintain public health and safety.
  - **A.** Promote responsible use of adjacent waters through boater education and enforcement of boating regulations.
  - **B.** Maintain boundary fencing where necessary and feasible to delineate park property.
  - **C.** Coordinate with Florida Park Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and local governments to meet the law enforcement needs of the park.
- **4.** Support land use planning policies, regulations and acquisition initiatives that serve to enhance management and protection of park resources.
  - **A.** Network with other land and water management and regulatory entities to coordinate and enhance regional resource management and protection efforts.
  - **B.** Monitor proposed land use changes in the vicinity that may impact resource integrity, and engage in the land use planning process, when necessary, to advance the long-term interests of the park.
  - **C.** Pursue acquisition of areas deemed important to be managed as part of the park, including submerged lands along the park shoreline.

# **Management Coordination**

The park is managed in accordance with all applicable Florida Statutes and administrative rules. Agencies having a major or direct role in the management of the park are discussed in this plan.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (DOF), assists Division staff in the development of wildfire emergency plans and provides the

authorization required for prescribed burning. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), assists staff in the enforcement of state laws pertaining to wildlife, freshwater fish and other aquatic life existing within park boundaries. In addition, the FFWCC aids the Division with wildlife management programs, including the development and management of Watchable Wildlife programs. The Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) assists staff to assure protection of archaeological and historical sites. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) aids staff in aquatic preserves management programs. The DEP, Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems aids staff in planning and construction activities seaward of the Coastal Construction Line. In addition, the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems aids the staff in the development of erosion control projects. Emphasis is placed on protection of existing resources as well as the promotion of compatible outdoor recreational uses. The park coordinates red-cockaded woodpecker management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

#### **Public Participation**

The Division provided an opportunity for public input by conducting a public meeting and an advisory group meeting to present the draft management plan to the public. A public meeting was held on June 12, 2008. An Advisory Group meeting was held June 13, 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the Advisory Group members an opportunity to discuss the draft management plan.

#### **Other Designations**

Ochlockonee River State Park is not within an Area of Critical State Concern as defined in section 380.05, Florida Statutes and is not under study for such designation. The park is a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System and is the terminus of the Ochlockonee River State Canoe Trail. The park is also a designated stop on the Panhandle Section of the Great Florida Birding Trail.

As of 1994, all waters within the park have been designated as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW), pursuant to Chapter 62-302 Florida Administrative Code. In addition, the adjacent Ochlockonee River is designated a Special Water OFW. "Special Waters" are waters of the state that have exceptional recreational or ecological significance. Surface waters in this park are also classified as Class III waters by the DEP. The park is not within or adjacent to an aquatic preserve as designated under the Florida Aquatic Preserve Act of 1975 (section 258.35, Florida Statutes).

#### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT**

#### INTRODUCTION

The Division of Recreation and Parks has implemented resource management programs for preserving for all time the representative examples of natural and cultural resources of statewide significance under its administration. This component of the unit plan describes the natural and cultural resources of the park and identifies the methods that will be used to manage them. The stated management measures in this plan are consistent with the Department's overall mission in ecosystem management. Cited references are contained in Addendum 2.

The Division's philosophy of resource management is natural systems management. Primary emphasis is on restoring and maintaining, to the degree practicable, the natural processes that shape the structure, function and species composition of Florida's diverse natural communities as they occurred in the original domain. Single species management may be implemented when the recovery or persistence of a species is problematic provided it is compatible with natural systems management.

The management goal of cultural resources is to preserve sites and objects that represent all of Florida's cultural periods as well as significant historic events or persons. This goal may entail active measures to stabilize, reconstruct or restore resources, or to rehabilitate them for appropriate public use.

Because park units are often components of larger ecosystems, their proper management is often affected by conditions and occurrences beyond park boundaries. Ecosystem management is implemented through a resource management evaluation program (to assess resource conditions, evaluate management activities and refine management actions), review of local comprehensive plans and review of permit applications for park/ecosystem impacts.

#### **RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT**

#### Natural Resources

#### **Topography**

Ochlockonee River State Park occurs in the physiographic province known as the Ochlockonee River Valley Lowlands, a sub province of the Apalachicola Coastal Lowlands. The area is generally flat with occasional depressions. A significant portion of the park is between five and ten feet above mean sea level. Generally, the higher elevations are along the bank of the Ochlockonee River, and the lower elevations are located in the north and west areas of the park. One of the only significant man made topographical feature was the creation of a borrow pit. The pit is now a small pond and is being allowed to fill in and re-vegetate naturally. The sand taken from the pit was used in the construction of park service roads within the unit. The building of service roads in the park has caused at least some disruption of the natural hydrology. This is mainly seen in the slightly drier than normal natural communities. Overall, this disruption is deemed minimal, but care should be taken when any ground disturbance is undertaken.

# <u>Geology</u>

All of the Florida Panhandle is underlain by carbonate bedrock over which sands and other sediments have been deposited. Based on data from local wells, the underlying limestone found within the park is the fossil rich St. Marks formation occurring in the late Miocene. The St. Marks formation is the upper most unit of the Floridan Aquifer.

The overlying undifferentiated Holocene and Pleistocene terrace sands and alluvium were deposited either as a part of the Silver Bluff Terrace, which represents a postglacial marine advance of four to five thousand years ago, or the older Pamlico Terrace, which represents the last interglacial periods eight to nine thousand years ago. The deposits are usually indistinguishable since the park is near the interface of the terraces.

# <u>Soils</u>

There are eight soil types occurring at the park (see Soils Map). Mainly quartz sand, they are relatively clay free, clean, unconsolidated and acidic. The soils are permeable but due to low elevation, are poorly drained. Management activities will follow generally accepted best management practices established in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services *1993 Silviculture Best Management Practices* to prevent soil erosion and conserve soil and water resources on site.

The riverbanks of the park are continuing to experience significant erosion, due in part to wave action of boats and personal watercraft and human activity on the riverbank. Some erosion is due to visitor foot traffic along the banks. Recent activity from several hurricanes has caused additional erosion on all sections of the riverbanks.

# **Minerals**

There are no known mineral deposits of commercial value at this park.

# <u>Hydrology</u>

The Ochlockonee River basin drains approximately 5900 square kilometers of southeastern Georgia and the Florida Panhandle east of the Apalachicola River. 48 percent of the drainage basin is in Florida and 52 percent is in Georgia. In Florida, the Ochlockonee's main tributaries are the Little River and Telogia Creek entering from the west, while the Sopchoppy River enters from the east. The Crooked River, which joins the Ochlockonee approximately 2.4 kilometers west of the U.S. Highway 319 bridge, is also an important tributary.

The largest lake in the drainage is Lake Talquin. The lake was formed by the construction of the Jackson Bluff Hydro-electric dam causing inundation of the



surrounding floodplain forest in 1927.

The word "Ochlockonee" is reportedly a Native American term translated to mean "yellow water." This is thought to be a reference to the yellow to brown color of the water caused by tannins in the water as well as suspended sediments. Sediment loads have been increasing in the river drainage steadily since the 1950's as timberlands were converted to agricultural lands and mining operations. An estimated 1.5 million metric tons of soil is eroding into the Ochlockonee basin from croplands in Georgia and 160 thousand metric tons is eroding from croplands in Florida.

The entire length of the Ochlockonee River south of the Georgia/Florida line is classified as an Outstanding Florida Water. No discharge can degrade an OFW body below existing levels.

Wetland areas occur within the park as well. Some of these wet areas are seasonal and some stay wet year round. The flatwood areas contain most of these ephemeral wetlands.

### Natural Communities

The system of classifying natural communities employed in this plan was developed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). The premise of this system is that physical factors, such as climate, geology, soil, hydrology and fire frequency generally determine the species composition of an area, and that areas which are similar with respect to these factors will tend to have natural communities with similar species compositions. Obvious differences in species composition can occur, despite similar physical conditions. In other instances, physical factors are substantially different, yet the species compositions are quite similar. For example, coastal strand and scrub--two communities with similar species compositions--generally have quite different climatic environments, and these necessitate different management programs.

The park contains nine distinct natural communities (see Natural Communities Map) in addition to ruderal (disturbed) and developed areas. The Natural Communities Map is a graphic representation of the existing vegetative conditions in the park at the time this management plan was developed. Park specific assessments of the existing natural communities are provided in the narrative below. A list of plants and animals occurring in the unit is contained in Addendum 4.

**Mesic flatwoods.** The mesic flatwood community at the park is in excellent condition. Since 1998, a more intense and active prescribed burning program has been implemented which has resulted in a distinct improvement in the condition and species composition of this community. Subtle changes in elevation can demonstrate distinctly different vegetation types at this park. A recently described species of orchid, Eaton's ladies tresses, *Spiranthes eatonii*, has been identified in the mesic flatwoods of this park.



OCHLOCKONEE RIVER STATE PARK





#### LEGEND

- 8 Mesic Flatwoods-338.74 ac.
- 14 Sandhill-5.06 ac.
- 16 Scrubby Flatwoods-45.82 ac. 31 Depression Marsh-27.13 ac.
- . 32 Dome-4.28 ac.
- 43 Wet Flatwoods-85.00 ac.
- 48 Flatwood / Prairie Lake-3.03 ac.
- 54 Alluvial Stream-3.56 ac.
- 66 Estuarine Tidal Marsh-4.93 ac.
- 84 Ruderal-1.68 ac.
- 85 Developed-24.27 ac.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES MAP

The eastern section of the park, near the highway is also identified as mesic flatwoods, but is in much different condition than the examples on the older portion of the park. This area is not in as good condition as the mesic flatwoods on the older part of the park primarily due to a more frequent and consistent fire management program over a longer period of time in the older section. Prescribed fire will be used in the newer additions to 'catch up' to the better condition of the older sections of the park. The fire return interval will be relatively frequent. Details of the fire management program are included in the District's Annual Burn Program, available at the District 1 office. The details of the fire program are subject to annual revision thereby making a separate burn plan more efficient and applicable than the ten-year span of an approved management plan.

Throughout the park, small changes in elevation give the area a mosaic of mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods (with some sandhill), and wet flatwoods. Generally, the presence of saw palmetto gives a good indication of the presence of the mesic flatwoods.

**Sandhill.** The area of this community within the park is quite small. It is associated with the scrubby flatwoods and can be distinguished from it mainly by the presence of turkey oak. Many of the abandoned gopher tortoise burrows are in this community. Again, slight elevation increase above that of the scrubby flatwoods is enough to give a distinctly different vegetative component. Future potential gopher tortoise introductions will likely begin with this community.

**Scrubby flatwoods.** Associated with both mesic flatwoods and sandhill, this community is found intermediately between these communities in the park. The presence of scrubby flatwoods can be correlated with the elevation differences in the park. Those areas slightly less elevated than the sandhill, yet slightly more elevated than the mesic flatwoods will very likely fall into the category of scrubby flatwoods. These flatwoods can closely resemble the sandhill areas with a few notable exceptions. Turkey oaks are usually not present in the scrubby flatwoods nearly as much as it is in the sandhill areas. This community is in excellent condition.

**Depression marsh.** Dominated by sawgrass, the depression marshes in this park are somewhat isolated wetlands within the park. The hydrology of some of these areas has been altered in the past. Fill was used to raise a roadbed along the boundary that resulted in the placement of culverts. The depression marshes probably drain more quickly because of this action. Plans to use "low water" crossings to replace aging and collapsing culverts are currently being explored. It is expected that this will restore a more natural flow of surface water to the area. Even with the interrupted hydrology, the community seems to be in excellent condition. This community is extremely important as a foraging and breeding habitat for the flatwoods and tiger salamanders.

**Dome swamp.** The designation of this community within the park was arrived at through quite a bit of consultation with FNAI's Natural *Communities of Florida*. Although no cypress is present, many other vegetative components of dome swamp are. In any case, this atypical community does not readily fit any of the FNAI community descriptions. Where the formal description mentions dahoon, this area has myrtle leafed holly instead. The hydrology has likely been altered as well. Although relatively dry at the time of this writing, buttressing of the old slash pine and myrtle-leafed holly suggests a high water level in the past. The designation of this community type was chosen because it seems to fit the FNAI description better than any other does.

**Wet flatwoods.** These areas closely resemble mesic flatwoods with the notable exception of the absence of saw palmetto. This community is interspersed throughout the park. Bog buttons, butterworts, bladderworts, sundews and orchids are found in this area along with yellow-eyed grass and toothache grass among others. Pitcher plants, *S. flava* and *S. psitticina* were expected, but not found. Several botanists have wondered as to the absence of pitcher plants within the park. Overall, this community is in fair to good condition. As fire is properly applied in this area, it is expected that the wet flatwoods will continue to improve. It is thought that the striped newt (*Notopthalmus perstriatus*) may occur in the park. It is likely that if this salamander is found it will be in this community.

**Flatwoods lake.** Several isolated ponds occur within the park. Water generally remains in the lake throughout the year. There are fish in some of these small flatwoods lakes, which could have a negative impact on salamander larvae. The federally endangered flatwoods salamander is likely to breed in these ponds. Herpetological surveys will be conducted in the near future to ascertain the status of these rare salamanders within the park. It may be appropriate to remove fish within one of these ponds. "Pretty pond" was artificially stocked several years ago, and flood events may have added fish to the pond in recent times. These ponds often serve as reservoirs when drought conditions occur. The flatwoods lakes in this park are in excellent condition.

Alluvial stream. The Ochlockonee and Dead Rivers form two of the boundaries of the park. These alluvial streams have high tannic acid content. Originally, the Ochlockonee River was categorized as a blackwater stream. The character of the stream was probably more characteristic of a true alluvial stream prior to the placement of the dam. While the river is tannic and brown, the amount of sedimentation often associated with alluvial streams has been restricted by the presence of the dam. The river seems to take on more classic blackwater stream characteristics in its southern portions. The rivers bordering the park provide the bulk of the recreation at this park. Swimming, fishing and boating are the main activities. Manatees are occasionally spotted in the river. Erosion along the riverbank continues to be a challenge at this park. Since the 2000 edition of this unit management plan, the areas around the

riverbanks of the park have been posted as slow (no wake) areas. This should significantly reduce erosion of the banks and provide a more safe area for water recreation.

**Estuarine tidal marsh.** Extremely thin bands of needlerush along the banks of the blackwater streams form the bulk of this natural community in this park. The plants in this marshy band serve to protect the banks from erosion caused by boat wake and natural wave action. Occasional salt-water intrusion is one of the main constituents that maintain this community. The areas of vegetation are receding with increasing erosion along the riverbanks, but the community itself is in relatively good condition.

### **Designated Species**

Designated species are those that are listed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDA) as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Addendum 6 contains a list of the designated species and their designated status for this park. Management measures will be addressed later in this plan.

Ochlockonee River State Park is home to a surprising number of listed, threatened or endangered species, both animal and plant. Florida black bears have been sighted with increasing frequency over the last several years. As the park's natural system, restoration program continues we expect bear activity to increase. The bear is listed as threatened by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission throughout the state with the exception of Baker and Columbia Counties and the Apalachicola National Forest. The park will employ measures to minimize and avoid any conflict with bears by taking measures to "bear proof" the park. Care will be taken to avoid human-bear conflicts. Manatees are sighted from time to time in the rivers that bound most of the park. This is not a common event, but occasionally happens. Sightings from within the park are mostly in the summer months. Extra care should be taken to monitor for the presence of manatee during these months as they also are the months when boating and fishing are at their peak.

Listed reptiles and amphibians as occurring within the park include the gopher tortoise, alligator snapping turtle and Suwannee cooter. Flatwoods salamanders possibly occur in the park and are now federally listed. The status of the flatwoods salamander within the park is currently unknown and is being investigated. Indigo snakes are historically known to occur in the park but recent sightings have not been reported. Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes are present in the park, but little is known of their relative abundance. Habitat for all of the above reptiles and amphibians has improved significantly in recent years with the return of an active prescribed burn program. It is expected that the future will bring even better habitat conditions that should help conserve and protect these species. One species not known to inhabit the park, but is

likely to be present is the striped newt. This is a candidate species for listing by the USFWS. Its habitat needs are similar to that of the flatwoods and tiger salamanders.

The gopher tortoise is listed as a species of special concern within the state, but its plight in Ochlockonee State Park is direr. A 2003 GPS survey of gopher tortoise burrows within the park has revealed 67 burrows, of which only one was known to be active. No proven cause for this reduction in active burrows is known, but it is highly probable that the tortoises were "pulled" and used for food. A follow up survey of burrows was conducted in the spring of 2006. Two active burrows were mapped and each burrow was scoped with a camera. One large tortoise was observed inside one of the active burrows. A plan to restock tortoises in the park is currently being explored in cooperation with the comprehensive plan for the management and relocation of gopher tortoises currently under development by the FWC.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) are one of the rarer and more significant species on the park. Listed as endangered by the USFWS, the RCWs on the park are part of a larger colony that overlaps the borders of the park and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. The habitat has improved significantly in recent years and it is thought that the population is only limited from expanding more quickly primarily by the lack of useable nest cavities within the park. Recent data from the USFWS shows that perimeter clusters of RCW's are not as successful as clusters located more deeply within an established colony. Enhancement of nesting habitat (e.g. artificial inserts) is significantly improving the probability of continued nesting success and healthy RCW clusters within the park. Nest trees are marked and any prescribed burns in the area are performed with utmost care.

Bald eagles are seen in and around the park, although no nests occur within park boundaries at this time. Bald eagles have recently been delisted listed from the ESA's list of Threatened and Endangered Species.

At least two listed fish species, Gulf sturgeon and Suwannee Bass occur in the Ochlockonee River. The status of the Sturgeon in the Ochlockonee River is largely unknown.

There are listed plants that have been found that were previously unknown as occurring in the park. Wiregrass gentian, Scare-weed, Godfrey's blazing star, Southern twayblade, Pale green orchid, little ladiestresses, and cranefly orchid. An upcoming plant survey should confirm the presence of *Calopogon multiflorus*, the many flowered grasspink. One listed fern, Royal fern has been found recently. Telephus spurge, pine lily and cardinal flower have all been noted in the park in recent years. The prescribed burn program at the park has accomplished much in the way of habitat restoration and quality. The recently described Eaton's ladies tresses *Spiranthes eatonii* was found in the park in 1999. At the time of this writing, only two known populations are confirmed.

One of these is in Georgia, and the other is in Ochlockonee State Park. It is likely that more locations will be found in the future.

### Special Natural Features

There are no particular special natural features of this park except the park itself. The excellent quality habitats and high concentration of rare and listed species speak to the special nature of this area.

#### **Cultural Resources**

Evaluating the condition of cultural resources is accomplished using a three part evaluative scale, expressed as good, fair, and poor. These terms describe the present state of affairs, rather than comparing what exists against the ideal, a newly constructed component. Good describes a condition of structural stability and physical wholeness, where no obvious deterioration other than normal occurs. Fair describes a condition in which there is a discernible decline in condition between inspections, and the wholeness or physical integrity is and continues to be threatened by factors other than normal wear. A fair judgment is cause for concern. Poor describe an unstable condition where there is palpable, accelerating decline, and physical integrity is being compromised quickly. A resource in poor condition suffers obvious declines in physical integrity from year to year. A poor condition suggests immediate action to reestablish physical stability.

The Florida Master Site File lists one known archaeological site in the park. However, the area contains evidence of pre-contact habitation, including a shell midden near the primitive group camp that was identified by park staff as site WA00663.

The site is subject to erosive washing and weather, and visitors can access the midden easily. The site is assessed to be in poor condition. Because of its vulnerability to erosive washing, weather, and vandalism, efforts should be made to prevent site looting and to interpret the site, as well as to control erosion.

Numerous pines used to obtain turpentine occur on the park and the cat-faced pines are being mapped using GPS. Turpentine pots, tools, etc. are occasionally found. Photopoints have been established to monitor the condition of the cultural resources of the park.

# **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

# **Special Management Considerations**

# Timber Management Analysis

Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes, require an assessment of the feasibility of managing timber in land management plans for parcels greater than 1,000 acres if the lead agency determines that timber management is not in conflict with the primary

management objectives of the land. The feasibility of harvesting timber at this park during the period covered by this plan was considered in context of the Division's statutory responsibilities, and an analysis of the park's resource needs and values. The long-term management goal for forest communities in the state park system is to maintain or re-establish old-growth characteristics to the degree practicable, with the exception of early successional communities such as sand pine scrub and coastal strand.

A timber management analysis was not conducted for this park. The total acreage for the unit is below the 1,000-acre threshold established by Florida Statutes. Timber management will be reevaluated during the next revision of this management plan.

### Additional Considerations

As stated in other parts of this plan, erosion of the riverbank areas is of particular concern. Offering high quality water recreation facilities with control of erosion of the riverbank is particularly difficult to achieve at this park. Innovative measures to prevent erosion while still providing excellent and safe recreation opportunities will need to be explored and implemented immediately. Currently grant applications are in process that will help achieve the goal of reducing erosion along the riverbanks.

Portions of the scenic drive are prone to flooding during significant storm events and can damage or render the roads temporarily impassable. Historically culverts have been used to allow water to flow through the system, but have proven to be inadequate. Low water crossings to allow normal hydrological flow and preserve good road conditions should be installed.

The habitat available for red-cockaded woodpecker at this park is in good condition. In order to realize the full use of available habitat and provide optimum nesting potential, artificial nest cavities should be considered. Close coordination with St. Marks NWR, USFWS and FWC is recommended on any management actions concerning the woodpeckers. It is recommended that the area surrounding the core area of RCW nesting be considered for designation as a protected zone, particularly during nesting season.

Pet related impacts should be closely monitored. It is currently unknown how detrimental pet impacts would be to nesting red-cockaded woodpeckers, but the park should err on the side of caution and monitor activity closely.

In 1999, a recently described orchid species was found at the park. *Spiranthes eatonii*, or Eaton's ladies tresses occurs in relatively good numbers at the park. Its status state or region wide is largely unknown. It is known to respond well to prescribed fire in the late winter and late spring. Careful planning of prescribed burns in areas where this small orchid grows will help this plant to flourish. Anecdotal information up to 2004 indicates the population of this plant is increasing within the park, due largely to an

improved growing season prescribed burn program.

There is a small, disjunct parcel of parkland near U.S. Highway 319 that is surrounded by federal property. This small parcel was originally planned as an entrance station area. The park works cooperatively with the USFWS when the Refuge is undertaking management on the federal property surrounding the disjunct parcel.

#### **Management Needs and Problems**

Restoration of natural hydrological flow from the wetland areas to the river areas should pose a challenge. Access into the area requires roads that historically have had culverts installed to restore flow. Low water crossings provide less maintenance and, and better performance than culvert crossings. This should be considered as road maintenance is implemented.

Historically, poaching of deer, bear and gopher tortoise has occurred within the park. As restoration efforts continue, this may become an even greater problem. A higher presence of law enforcement should be sought to protect natural resources and promote safety of visitors.

Pets are currently allowed in Ochlockonee River State Park campgrounds overnight. Due to the number of threatened and endangered species in the park, e.g. Red-cockaded woodpeckers and Florida black bears, close monitoring of pet related impacts is needed and if warranted, restrictive measures to curtail negative impacts must be implemented immediately.

# **Management** Objectives

The resources administered by the Division are divided into two principal categories: natural resources and cultural resources. The Division primary objective in natural resource management is to maintain and restore, to the extent possible, to the conditions that existed before the ecological disruptions caused by man. The objective for managing cultural resources is to protect these resources from human-related and natural threats. This will arrest deterioration and help preserve the cultural resources for future generations to enjoy.

- 1. Remove fish from "Pretty pond" in the NW section of the park. This is a potentially very important breeding area for salamanders including the federally listed Flatwoods salamander.
- **2.** Install low water crossings in appropriate areas to replace failing culverts, promoting natural hydrological flow.
- **3.** Work with the ST Marks NWR to maximize the available nesting opportunities for red-cockaded woodpeckers in and around the park.
- **4.** Aggressively pursue opportunities to restock gopher tortoises to the park. Work with FWC and private landowners to become a recipient site for tortoises that will

be impacted by development nearby.

### **Management Measures for Natural Resources**

# <u>Hydrology</u>

The hydrology of the park was disturbed somewhat during the original development of the park. This disturbance is mainly in the form of unpaved roads. The raised roadbeds served to block the natural flow of surface water. Culverts were placed to allow for surface water flow, but the culverts are now broken and not functioning properly. Options for the restoration of surface water flow have been discussed. Low water crossings have been effective on other properties in the area with similar soil and surface water characteristics. It is recommended that when culverts are to be replaced, low water crossings are permitted and installed. This will help restore the surface water flow to more natural conditions.

### Prescribed Burning

The objectives of prescribed burning are to create those conditions that are most natural for a particular community, and to maintain ecological diversity within the unit's natural communities. To meet these objectives, the park is partitioned into burn zones, and burn prescriptions are implemented for each zone. The park burn plan is updated annually to meet current conditions. All prescribed burns are conducted with authorization from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (DOF). Wildfire suppression activities will be coordinated between the Division and the DOF.

The park has a very detailed prescribed burn plan that is updated annually. This plan can be obtained from the park or District office.

The prescribed burn program at Ochlockonee River State Park has significantly improved in recent years. Habitat restoration and improved quality is a result of the burn program. Gradually the program is going toward more growing season burns, with some early spring burns recommended as a management tool for rare plants when appropriate. Evaluation of the existing fire type communities is a continual process updated annually in the district burn plan. Specific burn zone information regarding species composition and management objectives can be referenced in the district plan. As prescribed burning continues at the park, community proportions may be adjusted. Special care should be taken when burning around RCW cavity trees. Prior to prescribed burns, all RCW cavity trees will have 4-foot areas raked around the base. Any ladder fuels or other threats to the survivability of the trees related to burns will be removed. All trees are marked by white paint rings and monitored for activity.

# **Designated Species Protection**

The welfare of designated species is an important concern of the Division. In many cases, these species will benefit most from proper management of their natural

communities. At times, however, additional management measures are needed because of the poor condition of some communities, or because of unusual circumstances that aggravate the particular problems of a species.

**Red-cockaded woodpecker.** Protective measures for RCW range from maintenance and enhancement of habitat, and protection from harassment or disturbance from park visitors primarily during the nesting season should be accomplished. According to USFWS guidelines, there is adequate habitat to support an additional cluster. Artificial nest inserts or drilled cavities should be installed in order to give the existing cluster room to expand or allow the establishment of a new cluster. Monitoring of birds will continue as a tool to gauge the condition of the clan. Ongoing coordination with St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is essential.

**Gopher tortoise.** Restocking of gopher tortoises to repopulate the habitat should be considered as part of the overall natural systems management philosophy. Protection in the form of habitat restoration and enhancement should be adequate.

**Wiregrass gentian.** Locations of individual plants, proper restoration techniques including prescribed fire, etc. will be implemented in order to protect and enhance habitat. Some individual plants in susceptible areas may need additional protection.

**Flatwoods salamander.** As with other listed species, habitat protection, restoration and enhancement should be adequate to protect this designated species. Surveys to confirm the presence of this salamander are to be conducted soon. During the 2005 storm season, most of the park was flooded, including small ponds that may be important breeding habitat for this salamander. As the floodwaters receded, some fish were left behind in these ponds, and some of the ponds have had fish in them from FWC stocking decades ago. Fish in these ponds may represent a significant threat to the larvae of any salamanders in the park. As surveys are conducted, it may become necessary to remove fish from these ponds to improve the larvae's chances of survival.

**Striped newt.** This species has not yet been confirmed to be in the park but upcoming surveys will likely solve this mystery. Appropriate management of the newt's habitat will likely benefit the newt itself.

**Gulf sturgeon.** Continued monitoring and reports of sturgeon sightings should be immediately passed on to the district and USFWS.

**Manatee.** Manatees are occasionally seen in the rivers adjacent to the park. Park staff should caution boaters to be aware of manatees in the river during those months when manatees are present. Observations of manatees in the river should be forwarded to district biological staff. Reduced watercraft speed limits and establishment of "idle speed" zones should be considered in certain areas such as Tide Creek. Manatee use

will be monitored and appropriate protection measures will be implemented in consultation with FWC.

**Round tailed muskrat.** There have not been any sightings of the round tailed muskrat in several years now. Ongoing and improving monitoring methods will reconfirm the presence of the muskrat in the park.

# **Exotic Species Control**

Exotic species are those plants or animals that are not native to Florida, but were introduced because of human-related activities. Exotics have fewer natural enemies and may have a higher survival rate than do native species, as well. They may also harbor diseases or parasites that significantly affect non-resistant native species. Therefore, the policy of the Division is to remove exotic species from native natural communities.

This park is one of the few in the state that is relatively free of exotic species. A very small area of Japanese climbing fern near the park entrance has been identified and is being eradicated. Fire ants, feral hogs, coyotes and the occasional feral cat are potential animal invaders. As these exotics become present, appropriate measures will be taken in accordance with Division policy.

# **Problem Species**

Problem species are defined as native species whose habits create specific management problems or concerns. Occasionally, problem species are also a designated species, such as alligators. The Division will consult and coordinate with appropriate federal, state and local agencies for management of designated species that are considered a threat or problem.

Alligators are present and usually do not pose a threat to visitors. Venomous snakes are present in the natural areas but are not frequently seen. Visitors are advised of potential dangers through signage, brochures and personal contact with park staff. Fire ants, yellow flies, mosquitoes and dog flies are some of the more irritating species. In the event problem species are encountered, Division policy will be followed.

# Management Measures for Cultural Resources

The management of cultural resources is often complicated because these resources are irreplaceable and extremely vulnerable to disturbances. The advice of historical and archaeological experts is required in this effort. Managers of state lands must coordinate any land clearing or ground disturbing activities with the Division to allow for review and comment on the proposed project. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to approval of the project as submitted, pre-testing of the project site by a certified archaeological monitor, cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects.

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

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

For the midden site, the main threats are looting and erosive washing. Sites that are subject to erosive washing should be visually inspected on a regular basis and monitored using photopoints.

Because of the particular vulnerability of the shell midden site to erosive washing, weather, and vandalism, efforts should be made to prevent site looting and to interpret the site, as well as to control shoreline erosion.

Because of the presence of midden material exposed by the river, the park is likely to accrue informational collections. Any such artifacts should be inventoried and catalogued, following division guidelines for collections management and be transferred to the DHR.

Vandalism should be discouraged with interpretive signage that includes warnings against collecting artifacts in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. This signage should be placed at access points or areas of high visitor concentration rather than at the sites themselves.

#### **Research Needs**

# Natural Resources

Any research or other activity that involves the collection of plant or animal species on park property requires a collecting permit from the Department of Environmental Protection. Additional permits from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may also be required.

1. A comprehensive plant survey conducted in all seasons, and during specific known flowering periods for rare plants, both listed and unlisted species, needs to be conducted by a biologist with strong botanical skills. Habitat requirements and management strategies should be implemented using information gleaned from this research. This may be an opportunity for outsourcing or OPS.

- 2. A full herpetological survey needs to be conducted. Federally listed species such as the flatwoods salamander and indigo snake are known to occur here, but abundance, health, habitat requirements, etc are not known. Again, outsourced or OPS biologists may be needed. Striped newts are not known to occur in the park, but the habitat is suitable and it is expected that they are present. This is a candidate for listing as an endangered species by the USFWS and its presence in the park needs to be ascertained. A comprehensive herpetological survey is greatly needed.
- **3.** As part of the proposed restocking of gopher tortoises in the park, research into the health of the restocked tortoises will be needed. Medical procedures for the testing of tortoises to determine presence of disease should be done before restocking is performed. Coordination with the FWC is essential. Park and district staff should coordinate with and assist researchers when feasible or needed.

### Cultural Resources

- 1. It is recommended that staff pursue funding for a Phase I survey to identify prehistoric settlement patterns (i.e. residential complexes associated with middens). A Phase I survey focuses on evaluating known resources, locating new resources and making some general statements about significance and recommendations for management.
- 2. Turpentining is known to have occurred in the area, as is evident by the presence of several cat-faced trees. Historical research is needed to document the area in the context of the turpentine industry in Florida.

#### **Resource Management Schedule**

A priority schedule for conducting all management activities that is based on the purposes for which these lands were acquired, and to enhance the resource values, is contained in Addendum 6. Cost estimates for conducting priority management activities are based on the most cost effective methods and recommendations currently available.

# Land Management Review

Section 259.036, Florida Statutes, established land management review teams to determine whether conservation, preservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with their approved land management plans. Ochlockonee River State Park was subject to a land management review on August 26, 1999. The review team made the following determinations:

- **1.** The land is being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired.
- 2. The actual management practices, including public access, complied with the management plan for this site.

### LAND USE COMPONENT

#### INTRODUCTION

Land use planning and park development decisions for the state park system are based on the dual responsibilities of the Division of Recreation and Parks. These responsibilities are to preserve representative examples of original natural Florida and its cultural resources, and to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for Florida's citizens and visitors.

The general planning and design process begins with an analysis of the natural and cultural resources of the unit, and then proceeds through the creation of a conceptual land use plan that culminates in the actual design and construction of park facilities. Input to the plan is provided by experts in environmental sciences, cultural resources, park operation and management, through public workshops, and environmental groups. With this approach, the Division objective is to provide quality development for resource-based recreation throughout the state with a high level of sensitivity to the natural and cultural resources at each park.

This component of the unit plan includes a brief inventory of the external conditions and the recreational potential of the unit. Existing uses, facilities, special conditions on use, and specific areas within the park that will be given special protection, are identified. The land use component then summarizes the current conceptual land use plan for the park, identifying the existing or proposed activities suited to the resource base of the park. Any new facilities needed to support the proposed activities are described and located in general terms.

#### **EXTERNAL CONDITIONS**

An assessment of the conditions that exist beyond the boundaries of the unit can identify any special development problems or opportunities that exist because of the unit's unique setting or environment. This also provides an opportunity to deal systematically with various planning issues such as location, regional demographics, adjacent land uses and park interaction with other facilities.

#### **Existing Use of Adjacent Lands**

Wakulla County maintains a high percentage of open space and conservation lands, with roughly sixty percent of the county in public ownership. The park is fortunate to be located in close proximity to other public lands that provide a buffer from potential incompatible uses, connectivity that benefits resource management and many opportunities for resource-based recreation (see Vicinity Map). Apalachicola National Forest lands are located a short distance across U.S. Highway 319 and protect over a half million acres north and west of the park. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge surrounds much of the park and stretches for miles north and east along the coastline of Apalachee Bay. Tate's Hell State Forest is located one mile due west and protects over

200,000 acres in Franklin and Liberty Counties.

U.S. Highway 319 is located along the western park boundary and provides access to the park entrance road. Private lands remain to the south, between the park and the Ochlockonee River and occupy frontage along U.S. Highway 319. Most of the adjacent private holdings are undeveloped. Limited residential development occurs along the U.S. Highway 319 corridor, with the nearest urban uses centered in Sopchoppy several miles to the north. The Dead River, an arm of the Sopchoppy River, and the Ochlockonee River form the east and south boundary of the original park property, respectively. Portions of the lower Ochlockonee River and Sopchoppy River are state designated canoe trails. The former ends at the park.

# Planned Use of Adjacent Lands

Development adjacent to the park could exacerbate exotic species control, limit opportunities for using prescribed fire, increase habitat fragmentation and alter existing patterns of hydrology.

In addition, as park boundaries become more populated incidents of unauthorized access, illegal uses and encroachments onto park lands may occur. Increased development adjacent to the park also has the potential to impact the visitor experience through increased noise, light pollution, traffic and a more visible built environment. Park staff will continue to monitor land use changes near the park and provide input, when necessary, on proposed development plans to local planning officials to ensure the protection of park resources.

The Florida Department of Transportation is coordinating development of the Gopher, Frog and Alligator Trail, a proposed trail linking Tallahassee to Carrabelle that follows the old G, F & A railroad corridor. A section of the trail is proposed to link Sopchoppy and the state park via Curtis Mill Road and has recently completed a PD&E study.

# PROPERTY ANALYSIS

Effective planning requires a thorough understanding of the unit's natural and cultural resources. This section describes the resource characteristics and existing uses of the property. The unit's recreation resource elements are examined to identify the opportunities and constraints they present for recreational development. Past and present uses are assessed for their effects on the property, compatibility with the site, and relation to the unit's classification.

# **Recreation Resource Elements**

This section assesses the unit's recreation resource elements; those physical qualities that, either singly or in certain combinations, supports the various resource-based recreation activities. Breaking down the property into such elements provides a means for measuring the property's capability to support individual recreation activities. This process also analyzes the existing spatial factors that either favor or limit the provision of each activity.

# Land Area

Despite a relatively small land base and extensive wetland and wet flatwoods communities, the park contains sufficient uplands adjacent to water to provide a highly favorable recreational setting. The park has benefited from years of ecological burning and contains a mosaic of high quality flatwoods dominated by park-like stands of long leaf pine. The well-spaced pine canopy and groundcover of grasses and flowers provides an attractive setting for hiking and nature observation. Twisted oaks and tall pines provide a pleasant shaded setting for existing use areas. Wetland communities, including several isolated ponds, add variety to the landscape and attract a diversity of wildlife.

# Water Area/Shoreline

The Dead and Ochlockonee Rivers are two of the most significant natural features of the park. These rivers provide over 1.5 miles of shoreline that supports the primary recreation uses at the park, namely boating, swimming and fishing. Shoreline bluffs at the confluence of these two rivers provide a pleasant vista from the picnic area of open water and adjacent lands free from evidence of human development. Adjacent waters are well suited for boating and fishing. The popularity of adjacent waters to motorized boat traffic makes the narrow, sheltered waters of Tide Creek and nearby Bear Creek more attractive for canoeing and kayaking. An idle speed zone is maintained along the section of Dead River that borders the park to maintain safe boat operation near the swim area.

# Significant Wildlife Habitat

The park's water features attract a variety of wildlife, including the occasional manatee. Wading birds are readily seen feeding along the shoreline and ospreys are highly visible, with nests commonly located in old cypress trees that line banks of adjacent rivers and creeks. The presence of rare plant and animal species adds an element of interest to park visitors. Although a reclusive visitor, black bears have been reported at the park and visitors may catch a glimpse of a gopher tortoise on park trails. As previously described, the park has an active colony of red-cockaded woodpeckers residing in the pine flatwoods. A cooperative management effort with the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge to enhance the nesting success of the colony using artificial nest cavities presents a unique opportunity to educate visitors to the plight of this federally endangered species. The park is an excellent location for birding enthusiasts and is a designated stop on the Panhandle Section of the Great Florida Birding Trail.

# Archaeological and Historical Features

Cultural resources with interpretive potential include a shell mound and the scattered cat-faced pines remaining from past turpentine activity. The shell mound presents an opportunity to educate visitors about the native inhabitants of the area. The cat-faced pines serve as living exhibits, providing opportunities to inform about the historic role

of this region with the naval stores industry.

#### Assessment of Use

All legal boundaries, significant natural features, structures, facilities, roads and trails existing in the unit are delineated on the base map (see Base Map). Specific uses made of the unit are briefly described in the following sections.

#### Past Uses

Logging and turpentining occurred extensively in this area altering the pine flatwoods by removing the larger trees from the forest and disturbing the groundcover. Prehistoric occupation of the area is evidenced by a midden site within the park boundary. A borrow pit was created within the park to supply sand for road construction.

# **Current Visitor Programs**

The park offers a variety of ranger-guided walks and campfire programs in the summer, workshops on outdoor classroom techniques for K-4 teachers, interpretive programs for school groups and youth group leadership and outdoor skills training upon request. The park also participates in the annual Wakulla Wildlife Festival and the Department of Health's Step Up, Florida! initiative. The latter event is part of the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association Sportsability event and highlights programs and services providing resource based recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities. The park collaborates with Florida State University to offer undergraduate semester internships in environmental protection and restoration. In February 2008, the park was the site of the Ochlockonee River Stone Age and Primitive Arts Festival. It is recommended that existing levels of programming be maintained and that additional opportunities to collaborate with adjacent land managers be explored to expand park programming during the current planning cycle.

# Protected Zones

A protected zone is an area of high sensitivity or outstanding character from which most types of development are excluded as a protective measure. Generally, facilities requiring extensive land alteration or resulting in intensive resource use, such as parking lots, camping areas, shops or maintenance areas, are not permitted in protected zones. Facilities with minimal resource impacts, such as trails, interpretive signs and boardwalks are generally allowed. All decisions involving the use of protected zones are made on a case-by-case basis after careful site planning and analysis.

At Ochlockonee River State Park the sandhill, wet flatwoods and all wetland communities (depression marsh, flatwood lakes, estuarine tidal marshes) have been designated as protected zones due to their environmental sensitivity and/or susceptibility to flooding (see the Natural Communities Map). In addition, appropriate buffers should be maintained around red-cockaded woodpecker cavity trees and


# recreation activity monitored so as not to disturb this protected species.

## **Existing Facilities**

#### **Recreational Facilities**

**Campground** 30 sites with full hookups Amphitheater

### Picnic and Swim Area

Picnic shelters (3) Scattered tables and grills Interpretive kiosk Restrooms Designated swimming area Bathhouse

Floating dock Outdoor shower Playground equipment Parking (52 paved + grass overflow lot)

### **Primitive Group Camp**

Scattered tables and grills Cook shelter

#### Trails

Flatwoods Nature Trail (6,200 LF) River Nature Trail (3,300 LF)

### **Boat Ramp**

Boat ramp Fish cleaning table Canoe rack (rentals) Scattered tables and grills

### **Support Facilities**

Small entrance station Shop building Equipment shelter Portable toilet

Outdoor shower

Flatwoods Scenic Drive (6,300 LF)

Restrooms Unimproved parking (approx. 35 vehicles with trailers)

Flammable storage building Park residences (1 standard + 1 mobile home)

#### CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN

The following narrative represents the current conceptual land use proposal for this park. As new information is provided regarding the environment of the park, cultural resources, recreational use, and as new land is acquired, the conceptual land use plan may be amended to address the new conditions (see Conceptual Land Use Plan). A detailed development plan for the park and a site plan for specific facilities will be developed based on this conceptual land use plan, as funding becomes available.



# Site Planning and Design Process

During the development of the unit management plan, the Division assesses potential impacts of proposed uses on the resources of the property. Uses that could result in unacceptable impacts are not included in the conceptual land use plan. Potential impacts are more thoroughly identified and assessed through the site planning process once funding is available for the development project. At that stage, design elements, such as sewage disposal and stormwater management, and design constraints, such as designated species or cultural site locations, are more thoroughly investigated. Advanced wastewater treatment or best available technology systems are applied for on-site sewage disposal. Stormwater management systems are designed to minimize impervious surfaces to the greatest extent feasible, and all facilities are designed and constructed using best management practices to avoid impacts and to mitigate those that cannot be avoided. Federal, state and local permit and regulatory requirements are met by the final design of the projects. This includes the design of all new park facilities consistent with the universal access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After new facilities are constructed, the park staff monitors conditions to ensure that impacts remain within acceptable levels. Natural community impacts have been minimized at this park by locating proposed improvements within existing disturbed or developed areas.

# **Potential Uses and Proposed Facilities**

Existing recreation uses are appropriate and should be maintained. While no new uses are proposed, improvements are recommended for the campground, primitive group camp, boat ramp area, picnic and swim area. Additional measures are proposed for upgrading existing support facilities. These recommendations are provided to improve the visitor recreational experience and park operations.

# **Recreational Facilities**

**Picnicking and swimming.** Additional shelters with electricity are recommended in the picnic area, one of which should be large enough for group rental. The existing restroom is quite old, needs to be renovated or replaced and should include a changing area for swimmers. The swim area dock is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. The new facility should be designed to maintain the existing swim area capacity. Parking stops are recommended in the overflow parking area to organize vehicles more efficiently.

A multi-panel interpretive kiosk is also recommended in this area to educate visitors about the Ochlockonee River, associated wildlife and resource management activities.

The river shoreline continues to experience erosion, particularly on the Ochlockonee River side of the picnic area. Wave action from boats, visitor use of the shoreline and natural processes all contribute to this problem. A portion of the shoreline has successfully been stabilized with limestone riprock. Additional stabilization measures are warranted yet require further study to determine the best approach. One suggestion is to use rip rap covered with soil and planted with native vegetation to stop the erosion from growing any larger. Whatever means of stabilization is pursued; public access of the river should be maintained from the picnic area and campground.

**Trails.** The existing Flatwoods Scenic Drive is open to vehicle traffic and affords opportunities for visitors to view red-cockaded woodpecker cavity trees. Traffic on this trail will continue to be monitored for impacts to RCWs and public access restricted, if necessary. It is recommended that a system of interpretive stops be established on the scenic drive and nature trails that could be interpreted using written materials, signage or other medium.

The park recently established a trail linkage with the adjacent St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Additional linkages with regional public lands should be encouraged by coordinating with adjacent land managers to identify opportunities to establish and maintain trail connections between the park, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and the Apalachicola National Forest.

**Camping.** It is recommended that at least three sites in the standard campground be reconfigured to accommodate larger recreational vehicles and that all sites be upgraded to current electrical service standards. To minimize road maintenance needs it is also recommended that the campground road be paved. The old playground equipment in the camping area has recently been removed and should be replaced with a new playground.

A permanent, composting restroom with outside showers is proposed at the group camp. A medium picnic shelter is also recommended for the group camp area to provide a protected area to gather.

**Boating.** Motorized boating is a popular and important recreational activity at the park. However, boating also contributes to shoreline erosion, presents a potential safety hazard and may detract from the experience of other visitors. The potential for accidents increases significantly during peak periods when the adjacent waters are crowded with water skiers, jet skis and other high-speed boat traffic. The park has worked with the FWC to establish an idle speed zone on the Dead River to improve safety around the swim area. In addition, Wakulla County Ordinance 95-27 mandates vessels travel in a counter-clockwise pattern in and around Chesley Island within the Ochlockonee River to promote safe boating operation adjacent to the park. The park will continue to maintain an idle speed zone on the Dead River, encourage boater safety through education and coordinate with state and local law enforcement personnel to enforce boater regulations in adjacent waters. Several improvements are needed at the boat ramp to upgrade facilities and improve access. The wooden bulkhead and convenience dock need to be replaced. It is recommended that the new facility be designed for universal accessibility and incorporate a canoe/kayak launch. A soft landing place, such as sand or grass, for launching canoes and kayaks is preferred. The existing restroom is also recommended to be replaced and the dirt parking area paved and organized to provide designated parking for up to 40 vehicles with trailers. Pervious materials will be considered in the design of this facility to minimize the need for stormwater facilities.

# **Support Facilities**

The park needs additional work and storage space for vehicles and equipment as well as additional office space. It is recommended that a new 3-bay shop building and 4-bay equipment shelter replace the old, existing shop facility in the same location.

The park connected to the City of Sopchoppy water system during the previous planning cycle. It is recommended that park facilities connect to central sewer lines in the future, if they are extended to the park. It is also recommended that all existing and future powerlines be buried to enhance the aesthetics of the park as well as improve the safety of the burn program.

# **Facilities Development**

Preliminary cost estimates for the following list of proposed facilities are provided in Addendum 6. These cost estimates are based on the most cost-effective construction standards available at this time. The preliminary estimates are provided to assist the Division in budgeting future park improvements, and may be revised as more information is collected through the planning and design processes.

# Picnicking and Swimming

e e	
Picnic shelters (1 large, 2 medium)	Interpretive kiosk
Replace swim area dock	Parking stops & ADA parking
Replace/renovate restroom	Stabilize shoreline
Universally accessible pathways	
Trails	
Interpretive stops	
Camping	
Reconfigure sites (3)	Group camp composting restroom
Upgrade electrical (28 sites)	Group camp shelter
Playground equipment	
Boating	
Replace bulkhead and convenience dock	Pave and organized parking (40-vehicle
Upgrade restroom	capacity)
Support Facilities	
3-bay shop building	4-bay equipment shelter

Connect to central wastewater (when available)

# Existing Use and Recreational Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity is an estimate of the number of users a recreation resource or facility can accommodate and still provide a high quality recreational experience and preserve the natural values of the site. Capacity of a unit is determined by identifying the land and water requirements for each recreation activity at the unit, and then applying these requirements to the unit's land and water base. Next, guidelines are applied which estimate the physical capacity of the unit's natural communities to withstand recreational uses without significant degradation. This analysis identifies a range within which the recreational carrying capacity most appropriate to the specific activity, the activity site and the unit's classification is selected (see Table 1).

The recreational carrying capacity for this park is a preliminary estimate of the number of users the unit could accommodate after the current conceptual development program has been implemented. When developed, the proposed new facilities would approximately increase the unit's carrying capacity.

	Exist Capa	ting city	Prop Additiona	osed I Capacity	Estim Recrea Capa	ated tional city
Activity/Facility	One Time	Daily	One Time	Daily	One Time	Daily
Boating	160	160			160	160
Swimming/picnicking	200	400			200	400
Trails	35	140			35	140
Shoreline Fishing	25	50			25	50
Camping					8	24
Standard	180	180			180	180
Primitive Group	60	60			60	60
TOTAL	660	990			668	1,014

#### Table 1--Existing Use And Recreational Carrying Capacity

### **Optimum Boundary**

The optimum boundary map reflects lands identified for direct management by the Division as part of the park. These parcels comprise approximately 350 acres and may include public as well as privately owned lands that improve the continuity of existing park lands, provide additional natural resource protection and/or allow for future expansion of recreational activities. At this time, no lands are considered surplus to the needs of the park.

Identification of lands on the optimum boundary map is solely for planning purposes and not for regulatory purposes. A property's identification on the optimum boundary map is not for use by any party or other government body to reduce or restrict the lawful right of private landowners. Identification on the map does not empower or require any government entity to impose additional or more restrictive environmental land use or zoning regulations. Identification is not to be used as the basis for permit denial or the imposition of permit conditions.

The park's optimum boundary (see Optimum Boundary Map) includes private parcels along the Ochlockonee River and the submerged lands of the Dead River adjacent to the park boundary. The private land is desirable as the only remaining area not in public ownership between existing conservation lands and the Ochlockonee River. The submerged lands of the Dead River would include the park swim area and assist with managing recreational use of this stretch of the river as well as provide protection for a known archaeological site. As additional needs are identified through park use, development, research, and as adjacent land uses change on private properties, modification of the unit's optimum boundary may occur for the enhancement of natural and cultural resources, recreational values and management efficiency.



Addendum 1 – Acquisition History and Advisory Group Staff Report

# **Purpose of Acquisition**

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida (Trustees) acquired Ochlockonee River State Park to use the property for public park and recreation purposes.

# **Sequence of Acquisition**

On May 14, 1970, the Trustees obtained title to a 385.46-acre property located in Wakulla County, which later became Ochlockonee River State Park. The Trustees acquired this property as a part of a land exchange between the Trustees along with the State Board of Education of the State of Florida (BOE) and the United States of America, Department of the Interior (USA). Through this land exchange, the Trustees and the BOE gave 3,175-acre water bottoms located in Lee County to USA and acquired 602.35acre lands in Pasco, Pinellas, Lee and Wakulla counties from USA. On June 24, 2004, the Trustees purchased a 158.04-acre property, which was later added to Ochlockonee River State Park under Amendment Number One to the park's lease. This purchase was funded under the Florida Forever land acquisition program.

# Lease Agreement

On October 12, 1970, the Trustees leased Ochlockonee River State Park to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks (Division), under Lease No. 2469 that is for a period of ninety-nine (99) years. This lease will expire on October 11, 2069.

According to the lease, the Division manages Ochlockonee River State Park to provide public outdoor recreation that is compatible with the conservation and protection of the property.

# **Title Interest**

The Trustees hold fee simple title to Ochlockonee River State Park.

# **Special Conditions on Use**

Ochlockonee River State Park is designated single-use to provide resource-based public outdoor recreation and other park related uses. Uses such as water resource development projects, water supply projects, stormwater management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry (other than those forest management activities specifically identified in this plan) are not consistent with this plan or the management purposes of the park.

# **Outstanding Reservations**

There are no outstanding rights, reservations or encumbrances that apply to Ochlockonee River State Park.

The Honorable Ed Brimner Chair Wakulla County Board of Commissioners P.O. Box 1263 Crawfordville, Florida 32326

The Honorable Robert Greener Mayor City of Sopchoppy P.O. Box 1219 Sopchoppy, Florida 32358

Kevin Patton, Park Manager Ochlockonee River State Park 429 State Park Road Sopchoppy, Florida 32358

Joseph Duggar Jr., Chair Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation District 963 Crawfordville Highway Crawfordville, Florida 32327

Paul Scharine, Conservation Biologist Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 5300 High Bridge Road Quincy, Florida 32351

Ken Weber, District Manager Florida Division of Forestry 865 Geddie Road Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Joe Reinman, Refuge Biologist St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 68 St. Marks, Florida 32355 Pam Portwood, Director Wakulla County Tourist Development Council 1184 Lower Bridge Road Crawfordville, Florida 32327

Linda Jamison, Chair Sierra Club - Big Bend Group Department of Oceanography – 4320 117 North Woodward Avenue Room 102-OSB Tallahassee, Florida 32306-4320

Ben Fusaro, President Apalachee Audubon Society 379 Rob Roy Trail Tallahassee, FL 32312-1467

Richard Graham, Chapter Chair Florida Trail Association 2228 Shirley Ann Court Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Ms. Cathy Briggs Apalachee Canoe and Kayak Club 1233 Talbot Avenue Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Mr. Justin Brooks Poor Guys Bass Club 1502 Nugent Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Don and Pam Ashley P.O. Box 430 Sopchoppy, Florida 32358 The Advisory Group meeting to review the proposed land management plan for Ochlockonee River State Park was held at the Sopchoppy City Hall on June 13, 2008 at 9am. Ken Weber (Florida Division of Forestry) was represented by Kawika Bailey. Joe Reinman (St. Mark National Wildlife Refuge) was represented by Michael Keys. Joseph Duggar (Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation District), Pam Portwood (Wakulla County Tourism Development Council), Cathy Briggs (Apalachee Canoe and Kayak Club), Justin Brooks (Poor Guys Bass Club) and Don and Pam Ashley (adjacent landowners) did not attend. All other appointed Advisory Group members were present. Attending staff from the Division of Recreation and Parks included Eric Kiefer, Harold Mitchell, Kevin Patton and Brian Burket.

Mr. Burket began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the Advisory Group and reviewing the meeting agenda. He provided a brief overview of the Division's planning process and summarized public comments received during the previous evening's public workshop. He then asked each member of the advisory group to express his or her comments on the plan.

# Summary of Advisory Group Comments

Kawika Bailey (Florida Division of Forestry) expressed support for the management plan and the park's prescribed fire program. He offered the assistance of the Division of Forestry with burning as well as timber management, if needed. He also mentioned that prescribed fire training is available for park staff.

Michael Keys (St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge) commented that St. Marks NWR has some of the most consistent populations of flatwoods salamanders; however, he is not aware of any within the boundary of the state park. He cautioned against using any radical management actions to benefit the salamander until they are known to be present within the park. He commented that the bald eagle has been federally delisted and should be removed from the Designated Species List in the plan. He recommended thinning the pines within the new addition along US 319 to help foraging red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Paul Scharine (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) said the plan looks great. He pointed out some inconsistencies between the Plant and Animal List and the Designated Species List found in Addendum 4 and 5, respectively. He commented that human/bear interaction could become a problem at the park in the future and suggested that steps be taken to minimize such conflicts. Kevin Patton replied that the park is being proactive and has plans to provide bear proof trashcans and educational signage. He also suggested that a hydrological assessment of the park might be beneficial.

Richard Graham (Florida Trail Association) remarked that the plan looked good. He

commented that trail expansion to the Florida National Scenic Trail would be very difficult due to the river and wetlands. He expressed support for additional interpretive signage along the existing trail system. He offered to supply the park with handouts promoting the FNST.

Ben Fusaro (Apalachee Audubon Society) complimented the policy language found in the Introduction as well as the discussion about "multiple uses." He commented that human/bear conflicts are actually "human problems" and not "bear problems." He asked for clarification regarding the Optimum Boundary Map. Brian Burket provided an explanation. Mr. Fusaro asked about the size of the cypress within the dome natural community. Kevin Patton replied that the cypress in this location is relatively small. Mr. Fusaro asked how gopher tortoises are sought for relocation to the park. Harold Mitchell explained that the staff follows FWC guidelines for tortoise restocking. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Fusaro provided a demonstration of a pervious material that could be used for roads and parking areas within the park.

Linda Jamison (Sierra Club - Big Bend Group) commented that she enjoyed the unpaved scenic drive during a recent visit. She expressed support for the annual special events held at the park and hope they will continue. She suggested that water pollution within the Ochlockonee River is probably coming from Georgia. She asked for clarification regarding a statement in the plan about the amount of soil eroding into the Ochlockonee basin from croplands in Georgia and Florida. She was excited to learn about the unique orchids that can be found in the park. She mentioned that she spoke with a RCW expert who agrees with the park's plan to manage the habitat. She recommended growing season burns every other year. She commented that dogs in the park should be monitored closely to determine their potential impact on the RCWs. She voiced support for efforts to eradicate Japanese climbing fern within the park. She recommended that a birding checklist be made available for park visitors with duplicate copies being left at the park. She asked if equestrian use is allowed in the park. Kevin Patton responded that equestrian use is allowed but not popular due to the short length of available trail. She complimented the park staff and the condition of the park resources.

Chairman Ed Brimner (Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners) remarked that recreation is equally as important as resource management at the park. He expressed appreciation for the family oriented outdoor recreation available at the park and congratulated the staff on their efforts to protect "Old Florida." He asked for clarification regarding flatwoods salamander management. Harold Mitchell discussed the potential management options that might be taken in the future, if warranted.

Mayor Robert Greener (City of Sopchoppy) stated that the park service does an outstanding job of balancing recreation and resource management at Ochlockonee River

State Park. He commented that the park is an asset to the City of Sopchoppy.

Kevin Patton (Ochlockonee River State Park) stated that he is proud of the park and appreciates the hard work of his predecessors who got the park in such great condition. He provided an update on the number of acres burned since the previous management plan was approved; 775 acres since 2001. He then thanked the advisory group for their comments and support of the park.

# Written Comments

Cathy Briggs (Apalachee Canoe and Kayak Club) suggested that consideration be given to providing a soft landing place for canoes and kayaks to load and unload from the river. She commented that concrete boat ramps are very hard on plastic or composite boats and either sand or grass area would be preferred. She stated that it would also have the advantage of keeping canoes and kayaks out of the way of the larger boats loading and unloading.

# **Staff Recommendations**

The staff recommends approval of the proposed management plan for Ochlockonee River State Park as presented with the following revisions.

- **1.** The list of designated species will be reviewed and updated.
- 2. A brief discussion will be added to the plan to address the potential for human/bear interaction within the park and what steps will be taken to minimize them.
- **3.** Consideration will be given to providing a soft landing area for canoes and kayaks adjacent to the boat ramp during the redesign of the wooden bulkhead and convenience dock.

Addendum 2–References Cited

Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Conservation Lands. Tallahassee, FL. 1998

- Florida Natural Areas Inventory and the Florida Department of Natural Resources, 1990. Guide to the natural communities of Florida. Tallahassee, FL. 111 pp.
- Petranka, James W, Salamanders of the United States and Canada. 1998. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington and London.
- U.S.D.A, Soil Conservation Service. Soil Survey of Wakulla County.1991.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1998. Strategy and Guidelines for the Recovery and Management of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and its Habitats on National Wildlife Refuges.
- Younker, D. K. 1999. Draft Resource Management Evaluation, Ochlockonee River State Park. FDEP, Division of Recreation and Parks. 9 pp. + appendices.

Addendum 3--Soil Descriptions

(17) Ortega sand - This soil is moderately well drained, rapidly permeable, slope of 0 – 5 percent on ridges of the uplands. It forms in thick sandy marine or wind deposits. The water table is generally from 60 – 72 inches below the surface, but is occasionally from 40 – 60 inches during heaving rainfall. Soil reaction is very strongly acid to slightly acid. Texture includes sand and fine sand.

(23) Leon sand - This soil is excessively drained, very rapidly permeable, nearly level on broad flatwood areas and, in some places, along drainage ways. It forms in thick beds of sandy marine sediments. Slopes are less than 2 percent. The water table is at a depth of 10 - 40 inches for more than 9 months and at a depth of less than 10 inches for 1 - 4 months during periods of high rainfall. Soil reaction ranges from extremely acid to strongly acid at all depths. Texture is sand or loamy sand.

(25) Mandarin fine sand - This soil is somewhat poorly drained, moderately permeable with a slope of 0 - 2 percent. It forms in thick sandy deposits on marine terraces. The water table is at a depth of 20 - 40 inches for 4 - 6 months, greater than 40 inches for 6 - 8 months and 10 - 20 inches for up to 2 weeks out of the year. Soil reaction ranges from extremely acid to mediumly acid. Texture is fine sand, loamy fine sand, to sand.

(35) Rutledge sand - This soil is very poorly drained, rapidly permeable, nearly level in shallow depressional areas and narrow natural drainage ways. It forms in deposits of sandy marine sediments. Slopes range from 0 - 2 percent. The water table is at or near the surface most of the year. Many areas are flooded frequently for brief periods. Soil reaction ranges from extremely acid to medium acid. Textures include sand, fine sand, loamy sand and loamy fine sand.

(38) Scranton sand - This soil is somewhat poorly drained, rapidly permeable, with slopes of less than 2 percent. It forms in deposits of sandy marine sediments. The water table is within 6 – 18 inches as much as 6 months most years. Soil reaction ranges form very strongly acid to slightly acid. Textures include loamy fine sand, loamy sand, fine sand or sand.

(52) Megget and Croatan Soils - These soils consist of nearly level, poorly drained soils that formed in marly and clayey marine sediment. These soils are on flood plains on the lower Coastal Plain and are frequently flooded. This flooding usually occurs in winter. The high water table is at or near the surface in winter and early spring. These soils are fine, mixed, therimic Albaqualfs.

(14) Ridgewood Fine Sand - This sand consists of nearly level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in thick deposits of sandy marine sediment. These soils are on low knolls, in the higher areas on flatwoods, and the uplands on the Coastal Plain. The seasonal high water table is at a depth of 24 to 42 inches for 2 to 4 months of the year and at a depth of 30 to 72 inches for the remainder of the year

**(54) Maurepas muck** - This nearly level, very poorly drained, organic soil is in broad, mixed tidal and freshwater marsh areas on the gulf coast. Slopes are smooth or slightly convex. Surface layer is a dark grayish brown, decomposed muck about five inches thick. Underlying organic material to a depth of 72 inches.

(52) Meggett & croatan soils, frequestnly flooded - These soils are very poorly to poorly drained, slowly permeable and found on slopes of 0 – 3 percent. The soils are formed in clayey marine sediment and alluvial materials or on highly decomposed organic matter underlain by loamy textures marine and fluvial sediment. The water table is at or near the surface. The soil is frequently flooded for 2 – 15 days and saturated for 8 – 10 months. Soil reaction ranges from very strongly acid to moderately alkaline. Textures include clay loam, loam, fine sandy loam, sandy loam and loamy sand.

**(54) Maurepas Muck, frequently flooded** - This soil is poorly to very poorly drained, rapidly permeable and found on slopes of 0 – 2 percent. The soil is formed in woody plant remains and is usually found in depressed swamps. The water table is within 6 inches of the surface. Soil reaction is medium acid to moderately alkaline. Texture is muck.

Addendum 4–Plants and Animals List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for designated species)
Algae		
Musk grass	Chara sp.	
Ferns and Fern Allies		
Ebony spleenwort	Asplenium platyneuron	
Southern grape fern	Botrychium biternatum	
Rattlesnake fern	Botrychium virginianum	
Sensitive fern	Onoclea sensibilis	
Royal fern	Osmunda regalis	
Resurrection fern	Polypodium polypoides	
Bracken fern	Pteridium aquilinum	
Wood fern	Thelypteris kunthii	
Virginia chain-fern	Woodwardia	
Gymnosperms		
Eastern red cedar	Juniperus virginiana	
Shortleaf pine	Pinus echinata	
Slash pine	Pinus elliotii	
Longleaf pine	Pinus palustris	
Loblolly pine	Pinus taeda	
Bald Cypress	Taxodium distichum	
Pond cypress	Taxodium ascendens	
Pond pine	Pinus serotina	
Angiosperms - Monocots		
Broomsedge	Andropogon virginicus	
Wiregrass	Aristida stricta	
Cane	Arundinaria gigantea	
0 1		

Cane	Arundinaria gigantea
Sedge	Carex albolutescens
Sedge	Carex amphibola
Sedge	Carex cherokeenis
Sedge	Carex comosa
Sedge	Carex floridana
Sedge	Carex joori
Sedge	Carex louisianica
Sedge	Carex lupulina
Sedge	Carex straitula
Sedge	Carex texax
Sedge	Carex tribuloides
Sedge	Carex willdenowii
Spikegrass	Chasmanthium nitidum

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for designated species)
Spikegrass	Chasmanthium sessiliflorum	
Davflower	Commelina erecta	
Swamp lily	Crinum americanum	
Swamp lily	Dichanthelium commutatum	
Swamp lily	Dichanthelium dichotomum	
Panic grass	Dichanthelium laxifolium	
Yam	Dioscorea villosa	
Greenfly orchid	Epidendrum canopseum	
Wiregrass gentian	Gentiana pennelliana	
Spider lily	Hymenocallis rotata	,
Swamp stargrass	Hvpoxis leptocarpa	
Rush	Iuncus coriaceus	
Shore rush	Iuncus marginatus	
Rush	Juncus polycephalus	
Duckweed	Lemna sp.	
Twavblade	Listera australis	
Southern naiad	Najas guadalupensis	
Wood grass	Oplismenus setarius	
Southern tuberclad orchid	Platanthera flava	
Annual bluegrass	Poa annua	
Shadow witch	Pontheiva racemosa	
Pickerelweed	Pontederia cordata	
Illinois pondweed	Potamogeton illinoensis	
Beakrush	Rhynchospora microcarpa	
Beakrush	Rhynchospora mixta	
Bluestem palmetto	Sabal minor	
Sabal palm	Sabal palmetto	
Strap-leaf sag	Sagittaria kurziana	
Arrowhead	Sagittaria lancifolia	
Bullrush	Scirpus lineatus	
Nutrush	Scleria triglomerata	
Saw palmetto	Serenoa repens	
Foxtail	Setaria geniculata	
Greenbriar	Smilax auriculata	
Catbrier	Smilax bona-nox	
Greenbriar	Smilax ecirrhata	
Wild sarsaparilla	Smilax glauca	
Bamboo vine	Smilax laurifolia	
Jackson briar	Smilax smallii	
Greenbriar	Smilax tamnoides	
Coral greenbriar	Smilax walteri	

# **Ochlockonee River State Park Plants**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for designated species)
Prairie wedgescal	Sphenopholis obtusata	
Eaton's ladies tresses	Spiranthes eatonii	
Little ladies tresses	Sprianthes tuberosa	
Black cat grass	Stipa avenacea	
Spanish moss	Tillandsia usneoides	
Crane-fly orchid	Tipularia discolor	
Tall redtop	Tridens flavus	
Cattail	<i>Typha</i> sp.	
Eel-grass	Vallisneria americana	
Weak leaf yucca	Yucca flaccida	

# **Ochlockonee River State Park Plants**

		Primary Habitat Codes
Common Name	Scientific Name	(for designated species)

# **Ochlockonee River State Park Animals**

		Primary Habitat Codes
Common Name	Scientific Name	(for all species)

# FISH

Sea catfish	.Arius felis	53
Gulf sturgeon	Acipenser oxyrhynchus	53
Bowfin	.Amia calva	53
Bay anchovy	.Anchoa mitchilli	53
American eel	.Anguilla rostrata5	53,63
Pirate perch	.Aphredoderus sayanus	53
Sea catfish	Arius felis5	53,63
Sheepshead	.Archosargus probatocephalus5	53,63
Largescale menhaden	.Brevoortia patronus	53
Crevalle jack	.Caranx hippos5	53,63
Spotted seatrout	.Cynoscion nebulosus5	53,63
Carp	.Cyprinus carpio	53
Atlantic stingray	.Dasyatis sabina	53
Threadfin shad	.Dorosoma petenense	53
Bluespotted sunfish	.Enneacanthus gloriosus	53
Redfin pickerel	.Esox americanus	53
Chain pickerel	.Esox niger	53
Golden topminnow	.Fundulus chrysotus	53
Gulf killifish	.Fundulus grandis	53
Starhead topminnow	.Fundulus notti	53
Mosquitofish	.Gambusia affinis	,53,63
Least killifish	.Heterandia formosa	53
Channel catfish	.Ictalurus punctatus5	53,63
White catfish	.Ictalurus catus5	53,63
Brook silverside	.Labidesthes sicculus	53
Pinfish	.Lagodon rhomboides	53
Spot	.Leiostomus xanthurus5	53,63
Longnose gar	.Lepisosteus osseus	53
Redbreast sunfish	.Lepomis auritus	53
Warmouth	.Lepomis gulosus	53
Bluegill	.Lepomis macrochirus	53
Dollar sunfish	.Lepomis marginatus	53
Redear sunfish	.Lepomis microlophus	53
Spotted sunfish	.Lepomis punctatus	53
Pygmy killifish	.Leptolucania ommata	53
Tidewater silverside	.Menidia beryllina	53
Suwannee bass	.Micropterus notius	53
Largemouth bass	.Micropterus salmoides	53
Striped mullet	.Mugil cephalus5	53,63

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
White mullet	Mugil curema	
Ironcolor shiner	Notropis chalybaeus	
Dusky shiner	Notropis cummingsae	
Taillight shiner	Notropis maculatus	
Coastal shiner	Notropis petersoni	
Weed shiner	Notropis texanus	
Golden shiner	Notemigonus crysoleucas	
Gulf flounder	Paralichthys albitgutta	
Southern flounder	Paralichthys lethostigma	
Sailfin molly	Poecilia latipinna	
Red drum	Sciaenops ocellatus	
Atlantic needlefish	Strongylura marina	
Gulf pipefish	Syngnathus scovelli	

# AMPHIBIANS

Southern cricket frog	Acris gryllus gryllus	
Flatwoods salamander	Ambystoma cingulatum	8
Mole salamander	Ambystoma talpoideum	8
Eastern tiger salamander	Ambystoma tigrinum	8,41
Two-toed amphiuma	Amphiuma means	29,63,46
Oak toad	Bufo quercicus	8
Southern toad	Bufo terrestris	8
Southern dusky salamander	Desmognathus auriculatus	8
Southern two lined salamander	Eurycea bislineata	8
Three lined salamander	Eurycea longicauda	8
Dwarf salamander	Eurycea quadridigitata	8
Eastern narrowmouthed toad	Gastrophryne carolinensis	8
Green treefrog	Hyla cinerea	8
Spring peeper	Hyla crucifer	8
Pinewoods treefrog	Hyla femoralis	8
Barking treefrog	Hyla gratiosa	8
Squirrel treefrog	Hyla squirella	8
Gray treefrog	Hyla versicolor	8
Little grass frog	Limnaeodus ocularis	8
Central Newt	Notopthalmus viridescens	
Southern chorus frog	Pseudacris nigrita	8
Ornate chorus frog	Psuedacris ornata	8
Slender dwarf siren	Pseudobranchus striatur	46
Florida gopher frog	Rana capito aesopus	15,29
Bullfrog	Rana catesbeiana	

\* Non-native Species
Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Bronze frog		
Pig frog	Rana grylio	
River frog	Rana hecksheri	
Southern leopard frog	Rana utricularia	
Eastern spadefoot toad	Scaphiopus holbrooki	
Lesser siren	Siren intermedia	
Greater siren	Siren lacertina	

## REPTILES

American alligator	Alligator mississippiensis	
Florida cottonmouth	Agkistrodon piscivorus	
Green anole	Anolis carolinensis	Throughout
Scarlet snake	Cemophora coccinea	
Snapping turtle	Chelydra serpentina	
Suwannee cooter	Chrysemys concinna	
Florida cooter	Chrysemys floridana	
Red bellied turtle	Chrysemys nelsoni	
Yellow bellied turtle	Chrysemys scripta	
Six-lined racerunner	Cnemidophorus sexlineatus	
Southern black racer	Coluber constrictor	most
E. diamondback rattlesnake	Crotalus adamanteus	
Corn snake	Elaphe guttata	varied
Gray rat snake	Elaphe obsoleta	
Yellow rat snake	Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata	
Southern coal skink	Eumeces anthracinus	
Northern mole skink	Eumeces egregius	
Five lined skink	Eumeces fasciatus	
S.E. five lined skink	Eumeces inexpectatus	
Broad headed skink	Eumeces laticeps	
Mud snake	Farancia abacura	
Rainbow snake	Farancia erythrogramma	
Gopher tortoise	Gopherus polyphemus	
Eastern hognose snake	Heterodon platyrhinos	
Southern hognose snake	Heterodon simus	
Eastern mud turtle	Kinosternon subrubrum	
Apalachicola king snake	Lampropeltis getulus	
Scarlet king snake	Lampropeltis triangulum	varied
Alligator snapping turtle	Macroclemys temmincki	
Eastern coachwhip	Masticophis flagellum	
Eastern coral snake	Micrurus fulvius	

\* Non-native Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Florida green water snake	Nerodia cyclopion	
Banded water snake	Nerodia fasciata	
Florida water snake	Nerodia fasciata pictiventris	
Brown water snake	Nerodia taxispilota	
Slender glass lizard	Ophisaurus attenuatus	
Eastern glass lizard	Ophisaurus ventralis	
Florida pine snake	Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus	
Pine woods snake	Rhadinaea flavilata	
Fence lizard	Sceloporus undulatus	
Ground skink	Scincella laterale	
Black swamp snake	Seminatrix pypaea	
Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake	Sistrurus miliarius barbouri	
Stinkpot	Sternotherus odoratus	
Loggerhead musk turtle	Sternotherus minor	
Brown snake	Storeria dekayi	
Red-bellied snake	Storeria occipitomaculata	
Florida box turtle	Terrapene carolina bauri	
Garter snake	Thamnophis sirtalis	
Ribbon snake	Thamnophis sauritus	
Florida softshell turtle	Trionyx ferox	
Gulf coast spiny softshell	Trionyx spiniferus	
Smooth earth snake	Virginia valeriae	
Rough earth snake	Virginia straitula	varied

# BIRDS

American White PelicanPelecanus erythrorhynchos53,63Brown PelicanPelecanus occidentalis53,63Double-crested CormorantPhalacrocorax auritus63AnhingaAnhinga anhinga53,63Great Blue HeronArdea herodias29,53,63Great EgretArdea alba29,53,63Snowy EgretEgretta thula29,53,63Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Green HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	53,63
Brown PelicanPelecanus occidentalis53,63Double-crested CormorantPhalacrocorax auritus63AnhingaAnhinga anhinga53,63Great Blue HeronArdea herodias29,53,63Great EgretArdea alba29,53,63Snowy EgretEgretta thula29,53,63Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Green HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	53,63
Double-crested CormorantPhalacrocorax auritus63AnhingaAnhinga anhinga53,63Great Blue HeronArdea herodias29,53,63Great EgretArdea alba29,53,63Snowy EgretEgretta thula29,53,63Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Tricolored HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	
AnhingaAnhinga anhinga53,63Great Blue HeronArdea herodias29,53,63Great EgretArdea alba29,53,63Snowy EgretEgretta thula29,53,63Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Tricolored HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Double-crested Cormorant	Phalacrocorax auritus	
Great Blue HeronArdea herodias29,53,63Great EgretArdea alba29,53,63Snowy EgretEgretta thula29,53,63Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Tricolored HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Anhinga	Anhinga anhinga	
Great EgretArdea alba29,53,63Snowy EgretEgretta thula29,53,63Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Tricolored HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	
Snowy Egret.Egretta thula29,53,63Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Tricolored HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Great Egret	Ardea alba	
Little Blue HeronEgretta caerulea29,53,63Tricolored HeronEgretta tricolor29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Snowy Egret	Egretta thula	
Tricolored Heron.Egretta tricolor.29,53,63Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax.29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus.8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura.8,15,8	Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea	
Green HeronButorides virescens29,63Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor	
Black-crowned Night-HeronNycticorax nycticorax29,63White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Green Heron	Butorides virescens	
White IbisEudocimus albus29,63Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	
Black VultureCoragyps atratus8,15,8Turkey VultureCathartes aura8,15,8	White Ibis	Eudocimus albus	
Turkey Vulture	Black Vulture	Coragyps atratus	
	Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	
Green-winged Teal	Anas crecca	
Ring-necked duck	Aythya affinis	
Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	
Swallow-tailed Kite	Elanoides forficatus	
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus'	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo lineatus	All
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	
Merlin	Falco columbarius	
Wild Turkey	Meleagris gallopavo	
Northern Bobwhite	Colinus virginianus	
Clapper Rail	Rallus longirostris	
Sora	Porzana carolina	
American Coot	Fulica americana	
Ring-billed Gull	Larus delawarensis	
Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia	
Royal Tern	Sterna maxima	
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	
Common Ground-Dove	Columbina passerina	
Barred Ow1	Strix varia	
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pelagica	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	
Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Melanerpes carolinus	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius	
Red-cockaded woodpecker	Picoides borealis	
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus	
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus virens	
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe	
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	
Purple Martin	Progne subis	
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	
American Crow	Corvus brachurhunchos	All
Fish Crow	Corvus ossifragus	
Carolina Chickadee	Parus carolinensis	
Tufted Titmouse	Parus bicolor	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Sitta pusilla	
Carolina Wren	Thrvothorus ludovicianus	
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	
Sedge Wren	Cistothorus platensis	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	
Blue-grav Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	
Grav Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum	
Cedar Waxwing	Bombucilla cedrorum	
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus	
White-eved Vireo	Vireo griseus	
Solitary Vireo	Vireo solitarius	
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons	
Red-eved Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	
Northern Parula	Parula americana	
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dendroica caerulescens	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata	
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	
Yellow-throated Warbler	Dendroica dominica	
Pine Warbler	Dendroica pinus	
Prairie Warbler	Dendroica discolor	
Palm Warbler	Dendroica palmarum	
Blackpoll Warbler	Dendroica striata	
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapillus	
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlupis trichas	
Hooded Warbler	Wilsonia citrina	
Summer Tanager	Piranga rubra	
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus ludovicianus	
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Habitat Codes (for all species)
Painted Bunting	Passerina ciris	
Eastern Towhee	Pipilo erythrophthalmus	
Henslow's sparrow	Ammodrammus henslowii	
Bachman's sparrow	Aimophila aestivalis	
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	
Field Sparrow	Spizella pusilla	
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula	8

## MAMMALS

Oldfield mouse	Peromyscus polionotus	
Florida mink	Mustela vison	
Red bat	Lasiurus borealis	8
Eastern pipistrel	Pipistrellus subflavus	flyover
Striped skunk	Mephitis mephitis	
Beaver	Castor canadensis	
Possum	Didelphis virginiana	most
Least shrew	Cryptotis parva	
Shorttailed shrew	Blarina brevicauda	
Eastern mole	Scalopus aquaticus	most
Nine-banded armadillo*	Dasypus novemcinctus	
Gray squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis	
Fox squirrel	Sciurus niger	
Southern flying squirrel	Glaucomys pinetis	8
Cotton mouse	Peromyscus gossypinus gossypinus	8
Hispid cotton rat	Sigmodon hispidus	8
Gray fox	Urocyon cinereoargenteus	8
Florida black bear	Ursus americanus floridanus	8
Raccoon	Procyon lotor	63
River otter	Lutra canadensis	53
Bobcat	Felis rufus	8
West Indian manatee	Trichechus manatus latirostris	
Wild pig*	Sus scrofa	8
White-tailed deer	Odocoileus virginianus	8,15,8

#### **Terrestrial**

- 1. Beach Dune
- 2. Bluff
- 3. Coastal Berm
- 4. Coastal Rock Barren
- 5. Coastal Strand
- 6. Dry Prairie
- 7. Maritime Hammock
- 8. Mesic Flatwoods
- 9. Mesic Hammock
- 10. Coastal Grasslands
- 11. Pine Rockland
- 12. Prairie Hammock
- **13.** Rockland Hammock
- 14. Sandhill
- 15. Scrub
- **16.** Scrubby Flatwoods
- **17.** Shell Mound
- 18. Sinkhole
- 19. Slope Forest
- 20. Upland Glade
- 21. Upland Hardwood Forest
- 22. Upland Mixed Forest
- **23.** Upland Pine Forest
- **24.** Xeric Hammock

#### **Palustrine**

- 25. Basin Marsh
- 26. Basin Swamp
- 27. Baygall
- **28.** Bog
- **29.** Bottomland Forest
- 30. Coastal Interdunal Swale
- **31.** Depression Marsh
- **32.** Dome
- 33. Floodplain Forest
- 34. Floodplain Marsh
- 35. Floodplain Swamp
- 36. Freshwater Tidal Swamp
- **37.** Hydric Hammock
- 38. Marl Prairie
- **39.** Seepage Slope
- 40. Slough
- **41.** Strand Swamp
- 42. Swale
- 43. Wet Flatwoods
- 44. Wet Prairie

#### Lacustrine

- 45. Clastic Upland Lake
- 46. Coastal Dune Lake
- 47. Coastal Rockland Lake

### **Lacustrine**

- 48. Flatwood/Prairie Lake
- 49. Marsh Lake
- 50. River Floodplain Lake
- 51. Sandhill Upland Lake
- 52. Sinkhole Lake
- 53. Swamp Lake

#### **Riverine**

- 54. Alluvial Stream
- 55. Blackwater Stream
- **56.** Seepage Stream
- 57. Spring-Run Stream

#### **Estuarine**

- **58.** Estuarine Algal Bed
- 59. Estuarine Composite Substrate
- 60. Estuarine Consolidated Substrate
- 61. Estuarine Coral Reef
- **62.** Estuarine Grass Bed
- 63. Estuarine Mollusk Reef
- 64. Estuarine Octocoral Bed
- 65. Estuarine Sponge Bed
- 66. Estuarine Tidal Marsh
- 67. Estuarine Tidal Swamp
- 68. Estuarine Unconsolidated Substrate
- 69. Estuarine Worm Reef

#### Marine

- 70. Marine Algal Bed
- 71. Marine Composite Substrate
- 72. Marine Consolidated Substrate
- 73. Marine Coral Reef
- 74. Marine Grass Bed
- **75.** Marine Mollusk Reef
- 76. Marine Octocoral Bed
- 77. Marine Sponge Bed
- 78. Marine Tidal Marsh
- 79. Marine Tidal Swamp
- 80. Marine Unconsolidated Substrate
- 81. Marine Worm Reef

#### Subterranean

- 82. Aquatic Cave
- 83. Terrestral Cave

### **Miscellaneous**

- 84. Ruderal
- 85. Developed
- MTC Many Types of Communities
- **OF** Over Flying

Addendum 5 – Designated Species List

The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program Network (of which FNAI is a part) define an <u>element</u> as any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave, or other ecological feature. An <u>element occurrence</u> (EO) is a single extant habitat that sustains or otherwise contributes to the survival of a population or a distinct, self-sustaining example of a particular element.

Using a ranking system developed by The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program Network, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory assigns two ranks to each element. The global rank is based on an element's worldwide status; the state rank is based on the status of the element in Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, the most important ones being estimated number of Element occurrences, estimated abundance (number of individuals for species; area for natural communities), range, estimated adequately protected EOs, relative threat of destruction, and ecological fragility.

Federal and State status information is from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (animals), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (plants), respectively.

#### FNAI GLOBAL RANK DEFINITIONS

G1	=	Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
G2	=	Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
G3	=	Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction of other factors.
G4	=	apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range)
G5	=	demonstrably secure globally
GH	=	of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)
GX	=	believed to be extinct throughout range
GXC	=	extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation
G#?	=	tentative rank (e.g.,G2?)
G#G#	=	range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3)
G#T#	=	rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers
		to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1)
G#Q	=	rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q)
G#T#Q	=	same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
GU	=	due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
G?	=	not yet ranked (temporary)
S1	=	Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S2	=	Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S3	=	Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction of other factors.
S4	=	apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range)
S5	=	demonstrably secure in Florida
SH	=	of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)

SX	=	believed to be extinct throughout range
SA	=	accidental in Florida, i.e., not part of the established biota
SE	=	an exotic species established in Florida may be native elsewhere in North America
SN	=	regularly occurring, but widely and unreliably distributed; sites for conservation hard to determine
SU	=	due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., SUT2).
S?	=	not yet ranked (temporary)
		LEGAL STATUS
Ν	=	Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing, by state or federal agencies.
<u>FEDERAL</u>	(Li	sted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - USFWS)
LE	=	Listed as Endangered Species in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Defined as any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
PE	=	Proposed for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants as
LT	=	Listed as Threatened Species. Defined as any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the near future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
PT	=	Proposed for listing as Threatened Species.
C	=	Candidate Species for addition to the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Defined as those species for which the USFWS currently has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened.
E(S/A)	=	Endangered due to similarity of appearance.
T(S/A)	=	Threatened due to similarity of appearance.
<u>STATE</u>		
<u>Animals</u>		(Listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - FFWCC)
LE	=	Listed as Endangered Species by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is so rare or depleted in number or so restricted in range of habitat due to any man-made or natural factors that it is in immediate danger of extinction or extirpation from the state, or which may attain such a status within the immediate future
LT	=	Listed as Threatened Species by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.
LS	=	Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species.

<u>STATE</u>		
<u>Plants</u>		(Listed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - FDACS)
LE	=	Listed as Endangered Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species of plants native to the state that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue, and includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
LT	=	Listed as Threatened Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in such number as to cause them to be endangered.

## Ochlockonee River State Park Designated Species—Plants

Common Name/		Designated Species Status	
Scientific Name	FDACS	USFWS	FNAI
Wiregrass gentian			
Gentiana pennelliana	LE		G3/S2
Yellow butterwort			
Pinguicula lutea	LE		G3/S2
Godfrey's blazing star			
Liatris provincialis	LE		G2/S2
Scare weed			
Baptisia simplicifolia	LT		G3/S3
Southern twayblade			
Listera australis			
Palegreen orchid			
Platanthera flava			
Silkgrass			
Pityopsis flexuosa			
Little ladiestresses			
Spiranthes tuberosa			
Yellow meadow beauty			
Rhexia lutea			
Cranefly orchid			
Tipularia discolor			
Yellow-eyed grass			
Xyris scabrifolia			

## Ochlockonee River State Park Designated Species—Plants

Common Name/		<b>Designated Species Status</b>	
Scientific Name	FDACS	USFWS	FNAI

Common Name/ Scientific Name	FFWCC	<u>Designated Species Status</u> USFWS	FNAI
	MOLLUS	SKS	
	FISH		
Suwannee bass Micropterus notius	LS		G2G3,S2S3
Acipenser oxyrichus desotoi		LT	G3T2/S2
	AMPHIBI	ANS	
Flatwoods salamander		τŢ	$C_{2}/S_{2}$
Eastern tiger salamander Ambystoma tigrinum			G2/32
	REPTIL	ES	
American alligator Alligator mississippiensis Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	LS	T(S/A)	G5,S4
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i> Eastern indigo snake			G5,S3
<i>Drymarchon corais cooperi</i> Gopher tortoise	LT	LT	G4T3,S3
Gopherus polyphemus	LS		G3,S3
Heterodon simus			G2,S?
Alligator snapping turtle Macroclemys temminckii	LS		G3G4,S3
Florida pine snake <i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	LS		G5T3?,S3
Suwannee cooter Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis	LS		G5T3,S3

## BIRDS

Bachman's warbler	
Aimophila aestivalis	G3/S3

## Ochlockonee River State Park Designated Species—Animals

Common Name/ Scientific Name	FFWCC	<u>Designated Species Status</u> USFWS	FNAI
Cooper's hawk			
Accipiter cooperii			G4,S3?
Great egret			
Ardea alba			G5,S4
Little blue heron			
Egretta caerulea	LS		G5,S4
Snowy egret			
Egretta thula	LS		G5,S4
Tricolored heron			
Egretta tricolor	LS		G5,S4
Swallow-tailed kite			
Elanoides forficatus			G4,S2S3
Merlin			
Falco columbarius			G4 <i>,</i> SU
Southern bald eagle			
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	LT	LT	G4,S3
Osprey			<u> </u>
Pandion haliaetus			G5,S3S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker			~ ~ ~
Picoides borealis	LT	LE	G3,52
Southern hairy woodpecker			
Picoides villosus			G5,S3?

# MAMMALS

Round-tailed muskrat			
Neofiber alleni	LS		G3 <i>,</i> S3
Sherman's fox squirrel			
Sciurus niger shermani	LS		G5T2,S2
Florida black bear			
Ursus americanus floridanus	LT		G5T2,S2
Manatee			
Trichechus manatus		LE	G2,S2

Addendum 6–Priority Schedule and Cost Estimates

Estimates are developed for the funding and staff resources needed to implement the management plan based on goals, objectives and priority management activities. Funding priorities for all state park management and development activities are reviewed each year as part of the Division's legislative budget process. The Division prepares an annual legislative budget request based on the priorities established for the entire state park system. The Division also aggressively pursues a wide range of other funds and staffing resources, such as grants, volunteers and partnerships with agencies, local governments and the private sector for supplementing normal legislative appropriations to address unmet needs. The ability of the Division to implement the specific goals, objectives and priority actions identified in this plan will be determined by the availability of funding resources for these purposes.

### **Resource Management**

- **1.** Seek adequate funding help address natural and cultural resource management at Ochlockonee and Bald Point. Estimated Cost: \$30,000 recurring annually.
- **2.** Conduct detailed floral and faunal surveys to build a more complete inventory for the Ochlockonee. Estimated Cost: \$25,000.
- **3.** Control exotic plant species occurring on the park, striving to achieve maintenance control levels. Estimated Cost: \$1000, plus \$1000 recurring annually.
- **4.** Restore ditches, culverts and sinkhole run-off hydrological alterations on park. Estimated Cost: \$20,000.
- 5. Conduct a Level I archaeological survey of the park. Estimated Cost: \$25,000.
- **6.** Purchase prescribed fire equipment and conduct burn activities. Estimated Cost: \$4,000.
- 7. Repair or restore areas of erosion on riverbank. Estimated Cost: \$300,000.
- 8. Conduct repairs to staff residence buildings. Estimated Cost: \$30,000.
- **9.** Purchase equipment such as digital cameras to carry out long term monitoring of resource management endeavors Estimated Cost: \$1,500.

Total Cost:.....\$716,500.00

### **Capital Improvements**

### **Development Area or Facilities**

### **Estimated** Cost

Picnicking and Swimming	\$415,000.00
Camping	\$282,600.00
Trails	\$1,500.00
Boating	\$362,000.00
Support Facilities	\$330,000.00
Total Cost with Contingency:	\$1,648,320.00