Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service Land Management Plan Amendment to the Blackwater River State Forest Ten-Year Land Management Plan

August 2021

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is requesting ARC approval of a Land Management Plan Amendment to the Blackwater River State Forest (BRSF) Ten-Year Land Management Plan (LMP) to reroute approximately 150 feet of a tertiary road off private property to maintain the current level of access for the public and FFS operations. The FFS-managed BRSF is an approximately 213,000-acre, multiple-use state forest, located in Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida (BOT) hold title to the affected portion of the state forest.

The reroute of the subject road, B90, is necessary to construct because a portion currently resides on private property. This reroute will maintain public access and allow the FFS to operate without having to traverse over private property. The project footprint consists of mostly pre-merchantable pines and will be approximately 150 feet in length by 12 feet in width with a total area of 1,800 square feet.

FFS staff and a certified archaeological resource monitor surveyed the proposed site area for threatened or endangered species and possible historical and/or archaeological evidence, and concluded no known archeological sites occur in the project area, as well as, no evidence of threatened or endangered species. FFS additionally consulted with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), the Division of Historic Resources (DHR) and the Northwest Florida Water Management District regarding the proposed activities; there are no resource conflicts reported. Consulting agency (FNAI, DHR, NWFWMD) response letters are included with this request, as are other applicable supporting documents.



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

To: Todd Knapp

From: Dan, Hipes, Director, FNAI

Date: May 13, 2021

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RE: Proposed Rerouting of Forest Road at Blackwater River State Forest

We have reviewed the materials for the proposed rerouting of road B-90 on Blackwater River State Forest. There are no records in the FNAI database for rare species within the foot-print of the project. The rerouting around private land is clearly necessary for access and management of the resources on the state forest. We see no conflicts with any resources of concern.

Thank you for the review request.



Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center

Institute of Science and Public Affairs

The Florida State University



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT Of STATE

RON DESANTIS

Governor

LAUREL M. LEE Secretary of State

May 17, 2021

Todd Knapp State Lands Supervisor Florida Forest Service 3125 Conner Boulevard Suite I-266, Mail Stop C-25 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2021-2757, Received by DHR: April 27, 2021 Project: Forest Road B-90 Rerouting Blackwater River State Forest, Okaloosa

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Our office reviewed the referenced project in accordance with Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, and implementing state regulations, for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value.

The proposed project includes rerouting a 150' section of Florida Forest Service road to avoid a private inholding. There are no cultural resources previously identified in this area. Based on the limited nature of the project and environmental characteristics suggesting the area has a low probability for archaeological sites, it is our opinion that the project will have no effect to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP. However, since there is some potential to encounter archaeological resources during the project, we request that ground disturbing activities be monitored by someone who has completed the Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) training program. Once the project is complete, the monitor should submit the appropriate monitoring forms to this agency. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at *Jason.Aldridge@dos.myflorida.com* or by telephone at 850-245-6344.

Sincerely.

Jason Aldridge Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Compliance and Review

Division of Historical Resources R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399 850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) • FLHeritage.com



Blackwater River State Forest MP Amendment



Northwest Florida Water Management District

700 U.S. Highway 331 South, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

Brett J. Cyphers Executive Director ERP: (850) 951-4660 • Fax: (850) 892-8007 Wells: (850) 951-4661

April 29, 2021

Mr. Todd Knapp State Lands Supervisor, Florida Forest Service Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services 3125 Conner Boulevard Suite I-266, Mail Stop C-25 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

RE: Rerouting a Forest Road (B-90) in the Blackwater River State Forest

Dear Mr. Knapp:

The Northwest Florida Water Management District staff have reviewed the Florida Forest Service's documentation for the rerouting of approximately 150 feet of forest road B-90 in the Blackwater River State Forest in Okaloosa County.

No significant impacts to water resources have been identified within the proposed road alignment. Based on the documentation provided, the proposed work appears to be exempt from state permitting requirements per Subsection 40A-44.051(1), F.A.C. and Section 373.406(2), F.S.

Sincerely,

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Terry Wells Chief, Bureau of Environmental Resource Permitting

GEORGE ROBERTS Chair Panama City

TED EVERETT

Chipley

JERRY PATE Vice Chair Pensacola

NICK PATRONIS Panama City Beach GUS ANDREWS DeFuniak Springs











