## Annual Land Management Review Team Report

## Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of State Lands Office of Environmental Services

Fiscal Year 2023-24



## **Table of Contents**

Introduction
Acronyms7
Management Planning
Conservation Lands Management Planning
Management Implementation 10
Conservation Lands Management Implementation 11
Cumulative Acreage Reviewed
Effect of Management
Overview of LMR site locations
Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve
Faver-Dykes State Park
Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park
Goethe State Forest
Manatee Springs State Park
Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park
Jennings State Forest
Jennings State Forest
Jennings State Forest
Jennings State Forest
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park48
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52Hontoon Island State Park55
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52Hontoon Island State Park55Blue Spring State Park.58
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52Hontoon Island State Park55Blue Spring State Park.58Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park.62
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52Hontoon Island State Park55Blue Spring State Park.58Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park.62Big Bend Wildlife Management Area66
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52Hontoon Island State Park55Blue Spring State Park.58Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park.62Big Bend Wildlife Management Area66Guana River Wildlife Management Area69
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52Hontoon Island State Park55Blue Spring State Park.58Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park.62Big Bend Wildlife Management Area66Guana River Wildlife Management Area69Talbot Islands State Parks.73
Jennings State Forest.38Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park.41Savannas Preserve State Park45Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.48Lake George State Forest.52Hontoon Island State Park55Blue Spring State Park.58Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park.62Big Bend Wildlife Management Area66Guana River Wildlife Management Area69Talbot Islands State Parks.73Plank Road State Forest77

St. Andrews State Park	91
Pine Log State Forest	94
Honeymoon Island State Park	98
Caladesi Island State Park	02
Myakka River State Park	05
Peace River State Forest	09
Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area1	13
Tiger Bay State Forest	17
Colt Creek State Park	20
Seminole State Forest	25
Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area 12	29
Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area1	34
Spirit of the Wild Wildlife Management Area 12	38
Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park 14	42
Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area (Yucca Pens Unit)14	46
Myakka State Forest	50
Appendix A. Scoring System Detail	53

#### Introduction

## INTRODUCTION TO LAND MANAGEMENT REVIEW TEAM REPORTS AND ANALYSES: REVIEWS CONDUCTED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Section 259.036, Florida Statutes, requires the Board of Trustees (BOT), acting through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to conduct land management reviews of select conservation, preservation and recreation lands titled to the BOT. The team assesses whether those lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired, and whether they are being managed in accordance with their adopted management plans.

The 2003 Florida Legislature amended section 259.036, F.S., to require that all conservation lands greater than 1,000 acres in size be reviewed at least every five years. The properties reviewed were selected from a database of BOT lands based on the following factors: size of the property, land management plan due dates, managing agency, previous land management review date, and geographic location.

Regional review team members were selected in accordance with legislation to include representatives of the following: (1) county or local community in which the parcel is located, (2) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), (3) Florida Forest Service (FFS), (4) Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), (5) the DEP regulatory district office, (6) private land manager, (7) local Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors or water management district, and (8) a conservation organization.

Participating state agencies, soil and water conservation districts, local governments, and conservation groups have had continual input into the development and ongoing evolution of the review process. The Division of State Lands (DSL) staff is engaged in the process of developing new, more objective methodology for reviewing conservation lands and management plans, while also developing more effective measures to provide uniform accountability. Additionally, DEP coordinates with representatives of the Water Management District (WMD) to integrate land management reviews where WMD lands are adjacent to BOT lands, and when the BOT has joint ownership of parcels with a WMD.

Thirty-seven reviews were conducted during Fiscal Year 2023-24, involving more than 610,000 acres of managed lands. Reports of the review team findings were provided to the managing agency and the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC). The management activities are scored on a range of 1-5. Applying the criteria that a score of 3.5 and up is considered excellent, a score of 2.5 to 3.49 is considered adequate, and a score of less than 2.5 is considered inadequate, the management review team provides the following:

- Public access: Public access was considered excellent on all of the sites visited.
- **Prescribed fire scope**: Prescribed burning is considered an appropriate management tool on 36 of the 37 sites reviewed. On five sites, over 30% of the fire dependent lands had been treated according to prescription. On 28 sites, over 60% of the fire dependent lands had been treated according to prescription.

#### Annual Land Management Review Team Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24

On three sites, less than 30% of the fire dependent lands had been treated according to prescription. One site had no fire dependent lands.

- **Prescribed fire frequency**: On 35 of the 36 sites requiring prescribed fire, the teams found the burn frequency adequate or excellent. On one site, the teams found the burn frequency to be inadequate.
- **Fire quality**: On all of the 36 sites where prescribed fire has been implemented, the teams found fire quality to be excellent or adequate.
- **Invasive species control**: Control of non-native, invasive species was a management issue on all lands reviewed. Control and maintenance measures were excellent on 35 of the sites reviewed.
- **Surface water quality**: Lands that have significant hydrological resources should be monitored to ensure protection. Twenty-four sites had plans that adequately covered testing for degradation of surface waters, and one site had inadequate plans. Twelve sites had no surface water testing needs.
- **Groundwater quality**: Twenty-three sites had adequate monitoring for groundwater quality and quantity. Fourteen sites had no groundwater monitoring needs.
- **Species protection**: Thirty-six sites were found to be excellent in actual management practices to protect listed plants and animals on site. The management plans were deemed excellent to ensure protection on 35 sites.
- Law enforcement: On all sites, law enforcement was adequate or excellent to protect the resources.
- **Public education and outreach**: All sites demonstrated adequate or excellent public education and outreach programs.

Many of the management challenges noted in the findings may be directly related to the following:

- **Staffing Levels**: On three sites the teams found that staffing levels were less than adequate to protect the resources, while on 32 sites the staffing levels were adequate or excellent.
- **Funding Levels**: On 29 sites the teams found funding levels were adequate or excellent for proper management of resources, while on six sites funding levels were less than what the review team thought was needed for proper management.
- Equipment: On 33 of 35 sites the team found adequate or excellent equipment to properly manage the property.

Pursuant to section 259.036, F.S., if the land management review team determines that (1) reviewed lands are not being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, or (2) actual management practices, including public access, were not found to be in compliance with the adopted management plan, DEP shall provide the review findings to the BOT. The managing agency must then report to the BOT its reasons for managing the lands as it has.

#### Annual Land Management Review Team Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24

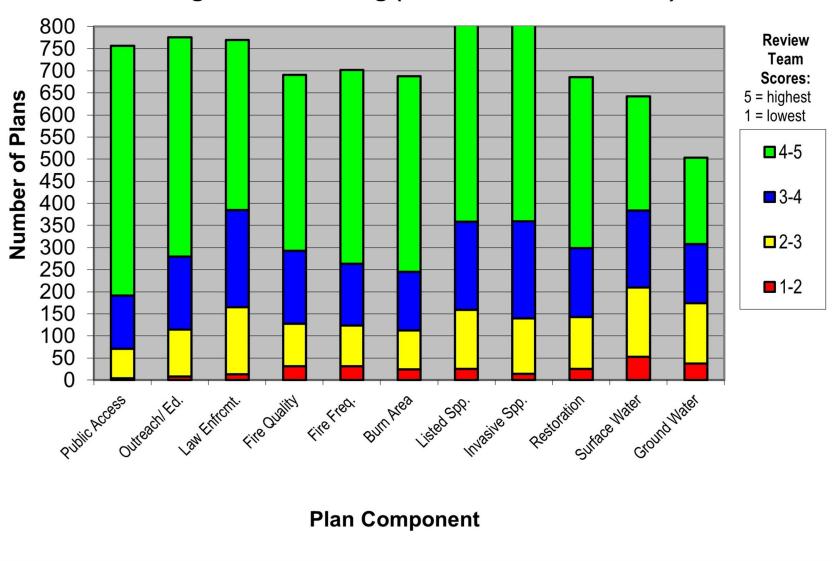
All properties reviewed were found to be managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation; and actual management practices, including public access, were found to be in compliance with the adopted management plans.

Reports of the management review team findings have been provided to the managing agency for their review and response, and to the ARC. Evaluations of management plans and management activities in the field over the last 26 years are presented here in addition to the review team reports.

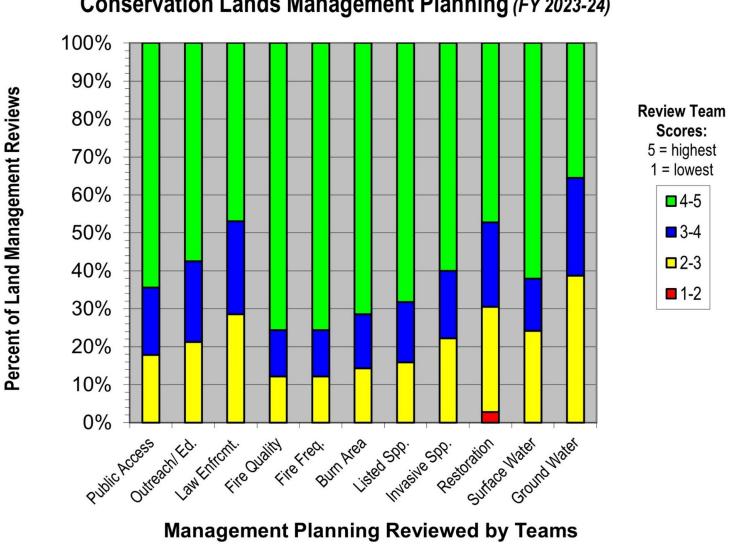
## Acronyms

ACOE	US Army Corps of Engineers
ARC	Acquisition and Restoration Council
ВОТ	Board of Trustees
CSO	Citizen Support Organization
DEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DHR	Division of Historical Resources, Department of State
DOT	Florida Department of Transportation
DRP	Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DSL	Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FFS	Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
FNPS	Florida Native Plant Society
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
IPM	Invasive Plant Management Section, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
NERR	National Estuarine Research Reserve
OES	Office of Environmental Services, Division of State Lands
RCP	Office of Resiliency and Coastal Protection, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
WEA	Wildlife and Environmental Area
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMD	Water Management District

#### Management Planning

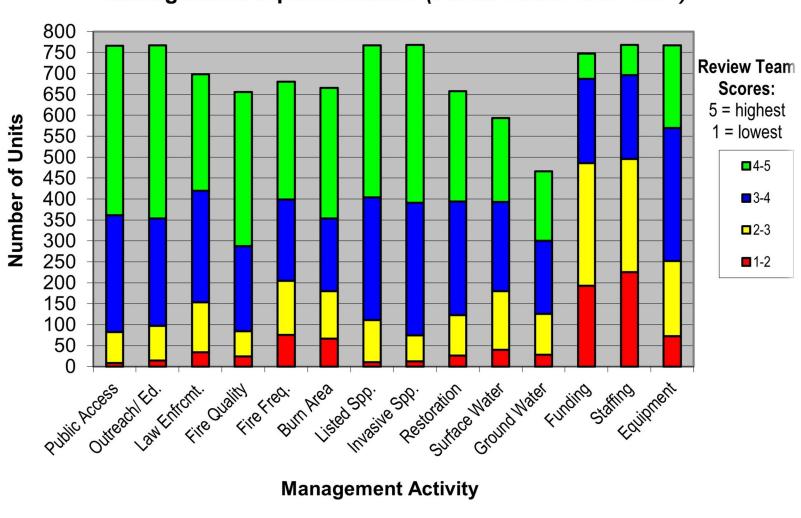


Management Planning (Fiscal Years 1997-2024)



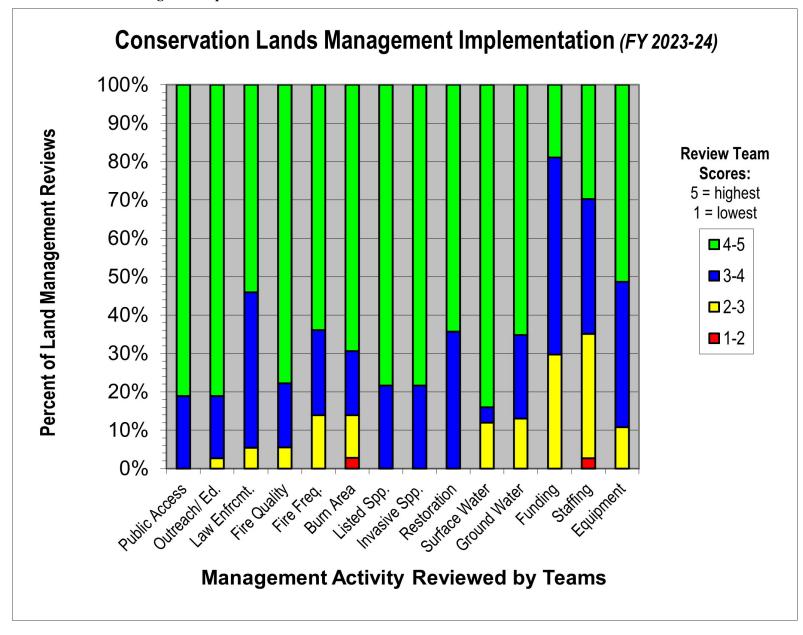
Conservation Lands Management Planning (FY 2023-24)

#### Management Implementation

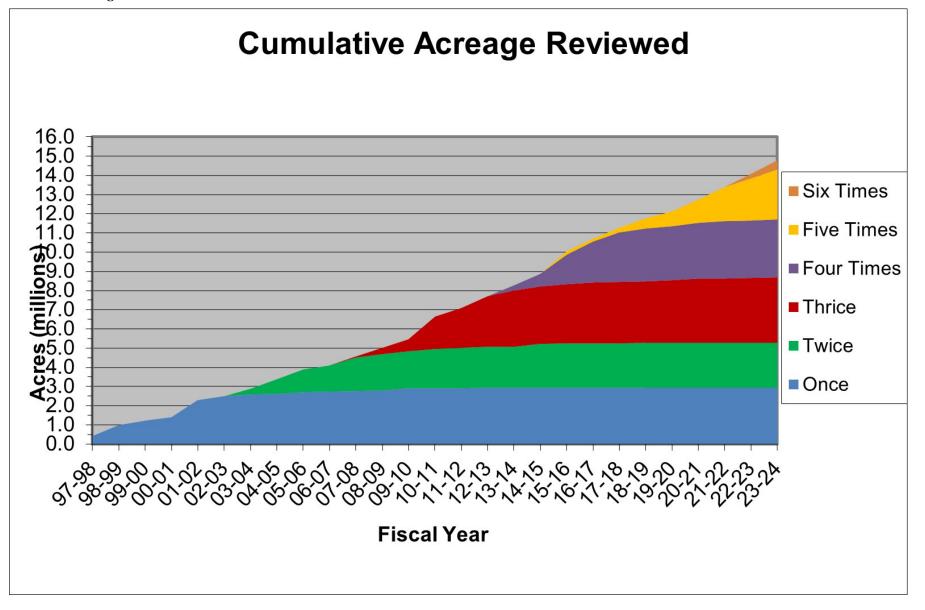


## Management Implementation (Fiscal Years 1997-2024)

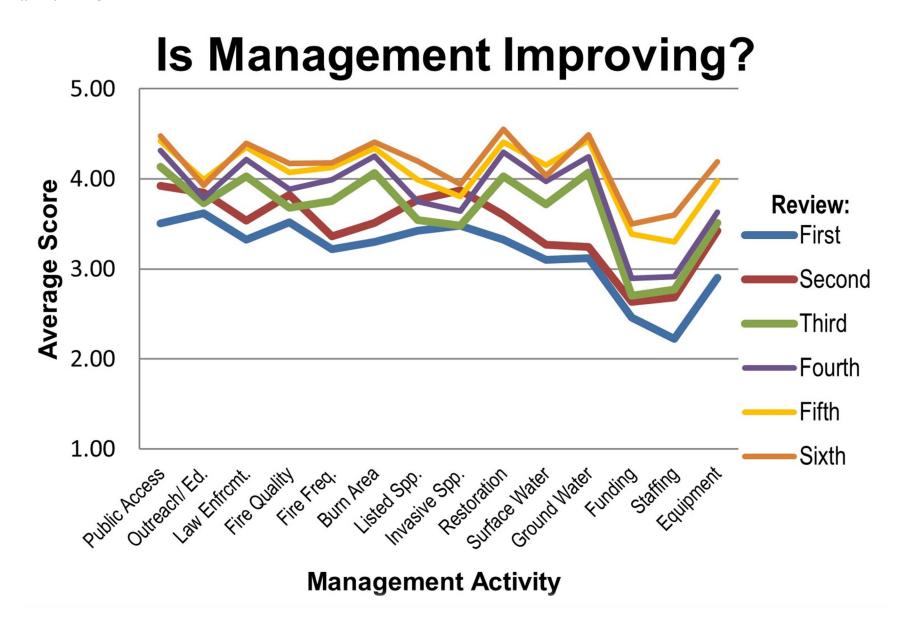
#### **Conservation Lands Management Implementation**



#### Cumulative Acreage Reviewed



#### Effect of Management



## **Overview of LMR site locations**



## Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve

 Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Resilience and Coastal Protection

 Acres: 2,981
 County: St. Johns

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): CARL/SOC
 Original Acquisition Date: 7/11/84

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

## Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Lia Sansom, Reserve Manager

**Review Team Members** (voting)

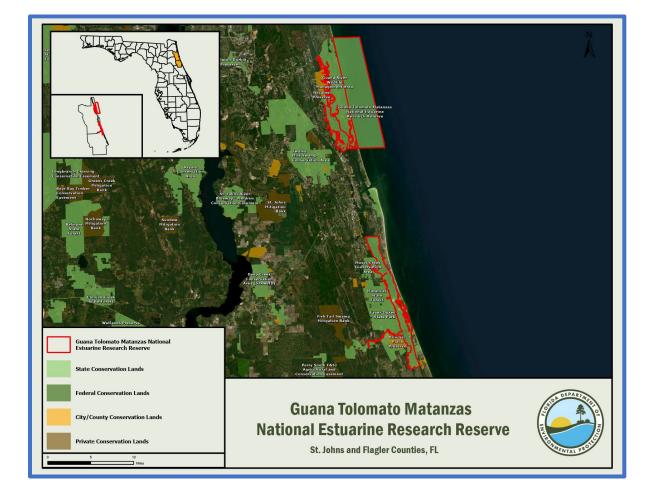
- DRP District, None
- Local Gov't., None
- Wade Brenner, FWC
- Hayley Springer, DEP District

## Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Matthew Norton, DEP/DSL
- Earl Pearson, DEP/RCP

Original Acquisition Date: 7/11/84 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 5/13/09 Review Date: 7/19/23

- Candace Killian, Resource Coordinator
- Andrew Usina, FFS
- Chris Kinslow, SJRWMD
- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None



## Property Map

#### **Overview of Land Management Review Results**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

#### Yes = 4, No = 0

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

#### Yes = 4, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

- 1. The team commends the staff on their invasive species management. (4+, 0-)
- 2. The team commends the staff for education and outreach efforts. (4+, 0-)
- and outreach efforts. (4+, 0-)

## 3. The team commends staff for providing excellent recreational opportunities to the public. (4+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends an archaeological resource survey of greater extent to describe in depth detail and interpretation of the cultural resources of the property. (4+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The managing agency concurs with this recommendation. Upon completing the cultural resources questionnaire, it has become apparent that the Reserve could benefit from a new site assessment. The Reserve conducted a site visit with BAR and archaeological researchers and will pursue funding and other support for surveys and research. Staff will continue to conduct routine monitoring of existing archaeological sites per BAR guidelines.

2. The team recommends shorter fire return intervals for fire dependent community types. (4+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The managing agency concurs with this recommendation. An updated prescribed fire plan has been added to the new draft management plan. With only two FTE positions allocated to resource management of the Reserve uplands, staff continue to rely on support from DRP, FWC, FFS, local burn crews, and contractors to fully implement the prescribed fire plan. The Reserve did not have a burn boss for 8 years but is now actively burning units containing communities requiring frequent fire as well as added units that have never had prescribed fire. The Reserve = intends to burn on the shorter end of the windows. For example, the depression marsh suggests a window of 2-25 years but the Reserve plans to burn it every 2-5 years.

Major Land Management	ajor Land Management Field	
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /	5	
Forest Management	3.77	3.19
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	3.89	3.43
Hydrology	4.29	3.66
Imperiled Species	4.55	4.32
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.46	4.04
Cultural Resources	4.50	4.38
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.60	4.28
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.96	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 1: Results at a glance.

## **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically xeric hammock, beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, shell mound, mesic flatwoods, salt marsh, marine unconsolidated substrate, mesic hammock, and hydric hammock.
- 2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically sea turtles, Anastasia Island beach mouse, and gopher tortoise.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Restoration, specifically salt marsh restoration, basin marsh, oyster reef restoration, and dune restoration.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pest/pathogens.
- 7. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, hydro-period alteration, and water level alteration.
- 8. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality and quantity.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, and gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
- 11. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, and buildings.

## **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically mesic hammock, and hydric hammock, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, GTMNERR

**Managing Agency Response:** The managing agency concurs with this recommendation. The maps in the current management plan do not show FNAI or Conservation Land Cover classifications for the managed portion of the Reserve (Lease 3462) and they will be added in the new management plan. Additionally, a short-term goal will be included in the management plan to assess the natural communities within managed areas of the Reserve to determine the maintenance condition and establish a longer-term plan.

2. Restoration, specifically oyster reef restoration, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether restoration is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** From 2014 to 2022, the Reserve held two to four collaborative meetings a year of the Oyster and Water Quality Task Force, which was comprised of representatives from FDEP, FWC, FDACS, SJRWMD, researchers, and shellfish harvesters. There is anecdotal evidence that the extent of oyster reefs has been reduced over the past century along the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW-Tolomato and Matanzas Rivers). However, given the altered structure and function of the ICWW, it is unlikely that restoration in these areas would be successful. Experimental designs for creating oyster habitat along this stretch have been tested but none have proven to be successful thus far due to the high energy nature of the ICWW. New treatments are under consideration and an objective regarding these activities will be included in the new management plan.

Additionally, research staff and visiting scientists at the Reserve continue to monitor existing oyster habitat condition throughout the Guana, Tolomato, and Matanzas estuaries, and research is being conducted via Cornell University to determine historical oyster body size and extent. Collaboration meetings on this subject continue to be held at least once per year.

3. Forest Management, specifically timber inventory, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether forest management is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** A timber inventory was done in 2009 and the letter can be found on page 163 of the management plan. An excerpt from the letter states "The pine flatwoods component, see letter dated 3-3-03, is extremely small and fragmented occurring in isolated pockets intermixed with the oak hammocks throughout the state park. Management options are very limited due to logistics which include the size and condition of interior roads and the position of the flatwoods component and oak hammocks. In my opinion it is in the best interest of the state to leave these areas intact."

The Reserve will reach out to the Florida Forestry Service for an updated assessment.

4. Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration, specifically river bank erosion, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether consideration of past and present hydrologic and geologic functions are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** The Guana peninsula functions as a barrier island within a bar-built estuary so it is expected to be a dynamic landform. Based on historic aerial imagery, the western edge of the Guana Peninsula has been eroding since at least the 1940's, which is approximately the time when the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW) was fully dredged. The ICWW allows large commercial and recreational vessels to traverse the eastern side of Florida without the hazards of the open ocean and those vessels create large wakes that increase erosion. Additionally, there have been multiple strong storms, tropical and nor'easters, that have caused erosion. Past installations and evaluations of revetment options have proven ineffective or excessively expensive. Staff continue to assess erosion mitigation options and objectives for these activities are included in the new management plan.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Faver-Dykes SP

#### **Faver-Dykes State Park**

 Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

 Acres: 6,046
 County: St. Johns

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): Donation/P2000/SOC/Florida Forever
 Original Acquisition Date: 12/28/50

 Area Reviewed: Entire Property
 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/20/17

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Renee Paolini, Park Manager
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Chris Matson, DRP District
  - Local Gov't., None
  - Anna Deyle, FWC
  - Hien Mai, DEP District

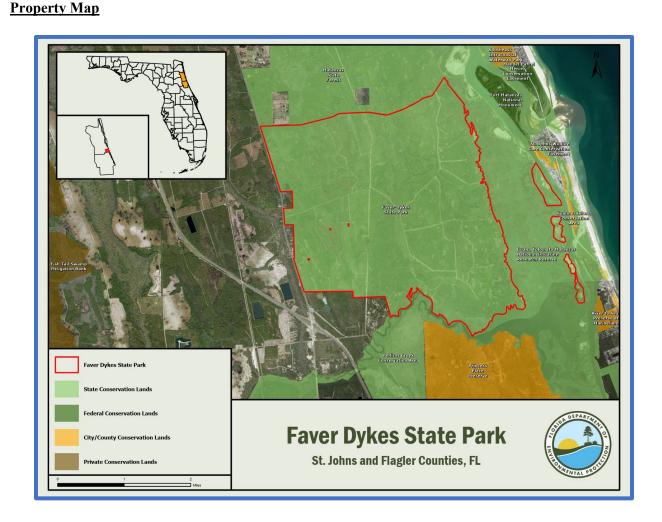
## Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Lia Sansom, DEP/RCP

- Joe Woodbury, PSS
- Andrew Usina, FFS
- Chris Kinslow, SJRWMD

**Review Date:** 7/21/23

- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None



#### **Overview of Land Management Review Results**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

#### Yes = 5, No = 0

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

#### Yes = 5, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

- 1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for their prescribed fire efforts. (5+, 0-)
- 2. The team commends DRP staff for their fine recreational opportunities. (5+, 0-)

Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.03	4.67
Hydrology	4.08	3.82
Imperiled Species	4.55	4.50
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.40	4.27
Cultural Resources	4.50	4.70
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.03	4.11
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.57	N/A
Color Code (See A		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 2: Results at a glance.

Field

Review

4.47

Management

**Plan Review** 

4.23

Major Land Management

Categories

Natural Communities /

Forest Management

- 3. The team commends DRP for pine tree thinnings that have taken place at the park. (5+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends staff for ensuring the known striped newt pond is properly managed with prescribed fire in the growing season. (5+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends staff for keeping the invasive plant populations in control at the park. (5+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FPS staff replant longleaf at at least a density of 400 trees per acre for restoration purposes. (5+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Restoration of natural communities requires site-specific planning and a prescription of season-specific management actions. Where we find suitable opportunities, we will follow this recommendation.

2. The team recommends that the FPS work with FWC herpetology staff to return to conducting annual striped newt and gopher frog surveys. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: As opportunity and staffing allow, we agree.

3. The team recommends that the FPS, based on striped newt and gopher frog survey results, ensure that ponds these species are documented in are prioritized for prescribed fire in the growing season. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: We agree.

## **Field Review Details**

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically maritime hammock, mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, mesic hammock, basin swamp, depression marsh, dome swamp, floodplain swamp, blackwater stream, salt marsh, seepage stream, and basin marsh.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically striped newt, and gopher tortoise.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically pine community restoration.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, and timber harvesting.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pest/pathogens.
- 9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, and erosion.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, and signage.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings/additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities.
- 16. Short-term goals, specifically hydrological preservation and restoration, exotic and invasive species maintenance and control, and cultural and historical resources.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Natural Resources Survey, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether survey and monitoring of the resources or their habitats are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** We agree to increase efforts to more frequently conduct listed species surveys, specifically herpetofauna.

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

**Managing Agency Response:** This information will be passed to those responsible for making such decisions. Additional staff can only be assigned to this or other park units if they are appropriated by the Legislature or reassigned from other units. Funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quantity, received a below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address surface water monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** The need to monitor surface water quantity in specific parts of the park will be determined for the next UMP update. Park and District staff will not be able to maintain a water quality monitoring program on their own. Instead, staff will attempt to enlist assistance of the Water Management District (or local Water Authority or local health department) to assist the park in regular water quality/quantity monitoring.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Waccasassa Bay Preserve SP

## Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service
Acres: 30,241
County: Levy
Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the
greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.
Acquisition Program(s): LATF/LWCF/CARL/P2000/Donation
Original Acquisition Date: 12/10/71
Area Reviewed: Entire Property
Last Management Plan Approval Date: 8/16/19
Review Date: 8/1/23

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

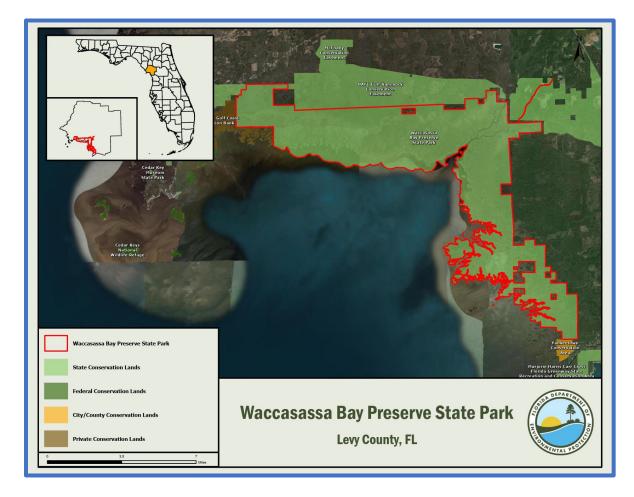
- Jeff Pettis, Park Manager
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Rick Owen, DRP District
    - Local Gov't., None
    - Simon Fitzwilliam, FWC
    - Aron Hamilton, DEP District

## Non-Team Members (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

## **Property Map**

- Kelly Hite, Park Ranger
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Wri Irby, SRWMD
- Athena Phillips, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



#### **Overview of Land Management Review Results**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

#### Yes = 6, No = 0

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

#### Yes = 6, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff on partnering with multiple local organizations and agencies to accomplish plan goals. (6+, 0-)

Major Land Management		Management	
Categories	Review	Plan Review	
Natural Communities /			
Forest Management	3.93	4.33	
Prescribed Fire / Habitat			
Restoration	2.67	4.50	
Hydrology	4.50	4.47	
Imperiled Species	4.33	4.50	
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.85	4.22	
Cultural Resources	3.67	4.50	
Public Access / Education /			
Law Enforcement	3.49	3.66	
Infrastructure / Equipment /			
Staffing	3.22	N/A	
Color Code (See Ap	Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor	

#### Table 3: Results at a glance.

2. The team commends staff on increasing species list with FNAI survey and iNaturalist, as well as the valuable spring survey. (6+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FPS increase the use of prescribed fire in the mesic flatwoods on an annual basis. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The Division recognizes the importance of frequent prescribed fire in mesic flatwoods and will work to increase the fire type acres burned in the park.

## **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin swamp, blackwater stream, estuarine composite substrate, and salt marsh.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically salt marsh vole.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically protection and preservation.
- 5. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically control of plants, and pests/pathogens.

- 7. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts.
- 8. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, specifically lime rock mine, and inholdings/additions.
- 11. Public access, specifically boat access.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically recreational opportunities.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The Division recognizes the importance of frequent prescribed fire in mesic flatwoods and will work to increase the fire type acres burned in the park.

2. Resource Management, Prescribed Fire, specifically area being burned, and frequency, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, to what degree prescribed fire is accomplished according to the objectives for prescribed fire management. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% accomplished, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The Division recognizes this need and will take steps to facilitate more frequent prescribed burning in the park.

3. Resource Protection, specifically signage, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether resources are sufficient to protect the property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Resource Protection signage will be more thoroughly addressed for this unit.

4. Public Access & Education, specifically interpretive facilities and signs, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether public access & education are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Environmental Education and Outreach including interpretive facilities and signs will be addressed as part of the on-going District-wide interpretive updates. Specifically, the management plan describes potential interpretive improvements to Jungle Trail. Additionally, the Division will coordinate with appropriate entities on the potential development of interpretive signage at the county managed Waccasassa Boat Ramp.

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

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Waccasassa Bay Preserve SP

**Managing Agency Response:** Division funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature and funds are allocated to the 175 state parks and trails according to priority needs.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# 1. Resource Protection, specifically signage, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address resource protection.

**Managing Agency Response:** Resource Protection, specifically gates and fencing, will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update.

#### **Goethe State Forest**

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service Acres: 51,312 County: Alachua and Levy

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

Acquisition Program(s): P2000/Florida Forever Area Reviewed: Entire Property

## Agency Manager and Key Staff:

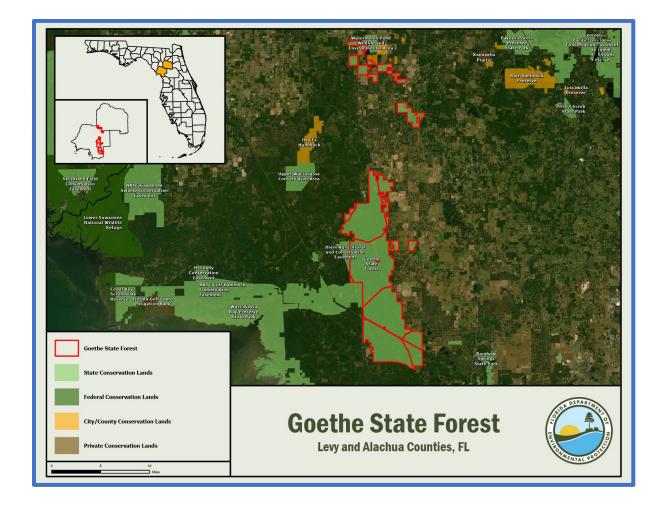
- Mark Larson, Manager
- Stephen Montgomery, FFS
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - John Kilmer, DRP District
  - Local Gov't., None
  - Rebecca Doane, FWC
  - Brandi Rickett, DEP District

## Non-Team Members (attending)

**Property Map** 

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

- Original Acquisition Date: 9/28/92 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 6/25/13 Review Date: 8/2/23
  - Charlie Pedersen, FFS
  - Vince Morris, FFS
  - Ryan Sims, SRWMD
  - Susan Carr, Conservation Org.
  - Private Land Manager, None



#### **Overview of Land Management Review Results**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

#### Yes = 5, No = 0

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

#### Yes = 5, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

 The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) staff at Goethe for proactivity and initiative to perform internal efforts of wetland restoration. (4+, 0-)

major cana management	Field	Management	
Categories	Review	Plan Review	
Natural Communities /	21.		
Forest Management	4.64	4.75	
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	i:		
Restoration	4.35	4.53	
Hydrology	4.62	3.96	
Imperiled Species	4.70	4.83	
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.54	4.34	
Cultural Resources	4.40	4.70	
Public Access / Education /			
Law Enforcement	4.66	4.65	
Infrastructure / Equipment /			
Staffing	4.50	N/A	
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)			
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor	

#### Table 4: Results at a glance.

Maior Land Management

- 2. The team commends the FFS staff for an excellent job of red-cockaded woodpecker management, and for reaching species population goals. (4+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the FFS for their invasive species control and management and mapping efforts at this forest. (4+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the FFS staff for their use of targeted timber sales and biomass reduction projects to meet their management goals. (4+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the staff for their job in maintaining woodpecker inhabited flatwoods in good condition. (4+, 0-)
- 6. The team commends the FFS staff for excellent road condition considering the wetland habitats where they occur. (4+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed: There were no consensus recommendations.

## Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. Natural communities, specifically dome swamp, sandhill, sandhill upland lake, floodplain swamp, depression marsh, wet flatwoods, hydric hammock, basin marsh, upland hardwood forest, xeric hammock, basin swamp, bottomland forest, sinkhole, upland mixed woodland, and wet prairie.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Goethe SF

- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically red-cockaded woodpecker.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically Watermelon Pond Site (Plantation to Sandhill), Wolf Arbor (Plantation to Sandhill), Wetland Restoration, and Groundcover Restoration.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals and pests/pathogens.
- 9. Hydrologic/geologic function hydro-alteration, roads and culverts, and ditches.
- 10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 12. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 13. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 14. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 15. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 16. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff, and funding.
- 17. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, public access and recreational opportunities, hydrological preservation and restoration, sustainable forest management, exotic and invasive species maintenance and control, capital facilities and infrastructure, cultural and historical resources, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

## **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Natural Communities, specifically upland mixed woodland, and wet prairie, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address current or desired condition and/or future management actions to protect or restore.

**Managing Agency Response:** The 2013 Goethe State Forest (GSF) 10-year Resource Management Plan did not identify wet prairie or upland mixed woodland as natural communities on GSF. Florida Forest

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Goethe SF

Service (FFS) plans are based on Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) surveys and in 2013, the most up to date survey was from 2007. This 2007 survey did not identify either wet prairie or upland mixed woodland as communities on the forest. These communities were eventually identified in the 2022 FNAI update to natural communities mapping on GSF and were not retroactively added to the 2013 plan due to the planned rewrite in 2023. Florida Forest Service staff are currently rewriting the GSF 10-year Resource Management Plan and it will reflect the most recent survey by FNAI, including the communities in question. In addition, the 2022 FNAI survey found that these communities combined represent <300 acres on GSF or around half a percent of the total land base.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Manatee Springs SP

#### **Manatee Springs State Park**

 Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

 Acres: 2,192
 County: Levy

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): LATF/P2000
 Original Acquisition Date: 1/6/49

 Area Reviewed: Entire Property
 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/19/18

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Mebane Corey-Ogden, Park Manager

- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Anne Barkdoll, DRP District
  - Local Gov't., None
  - Megan Ellis, FWC
  - Jason Neumann, DEP District

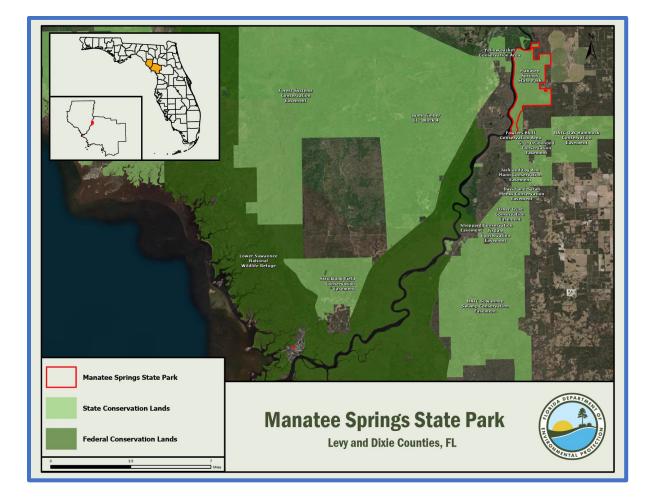
### Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Jennifer Eells, FWC
- Property Map

• Joleen Dudley, Assistant Park Manager

Review Date: 8/4/23

- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Bill McKinstry, SRWMD
- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None



## **Overview of Land Management Review Results**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

## Yes = 5, No = 0

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

## **Yes** = 5, **No** = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

- 1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for their protection of cultural resources. (5+, 0-)
- 2. The team commends staff for high quality recreational opportunities. (4+, 0-)

	recreationa	l opportunities. (4+, 0-)		
•	<b>TE1</b>	1	1.	 C1 1

- 3. The team commends staff for long-term approach to restoration of habitat. (4+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends staff for implementing the prescribed burn program, particularly quality of burns and the fire return frequency. (4+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends staff for prevention and control of invasive exotic plants. (5+, 0-)
- 6. The team commends staff for the conversion of Hickory Camping loop to tent camping and their control of erosion impacts. (4+, 0-)
- 7. The team commends staff for working with city/county to get sewer hook ups to park facilities to protect ground water quality. (4+, 0-)
- 8. The team commends staff for inclusion of educational and conservation-appropriate activities for people and their pets (dogs) at the park. (4+, 0-)
- 9. The team commends staff for their management of visitors and recreation facilities. (5+, 0-)

## **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends the exploration of ADA trail access and small children spring run access. (5+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response: Agree.** The Division of Recreation and Parks will continue to evaluate options for spring run access appropriate to children as well as ADA access.

2. The team recommends the replacement or improving of the interpretive facilities that have been removed. Add additional interpretive facilities when there is an opportunity or need. (5+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.54	4.41
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	8	
Restoration	4.13	4.67
Hydrology	4.90	4.80
Imperiled Species	4.53	4.67
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.70	4.53
Cultural Resources	4.70	4.80
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.68	4.44
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.75	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 5: Results at a glance.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Manatee Springs SP

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Environmental Education and Outreach including interpretive facilities and signs will be more thoroughly addressed in the next unit management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC in October 2018.

3. The team recommends FPS continue prescribed fire in the upland communities, however consider the use of chemical vegetation management or more mechanical vegetation management to further improve the upland communities and to help mitigate wildfire. (5+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The use mechanical and chemical vegetation management of upland communities will continue to be considered along with the use of prescribed fire which is a key tool in the management of upland communities.

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically sinkhole, xeric hammock, basin swamp, bottomland forest, depression marsh, alluvial forest, floodplain swamp, sinkhole lake, swamp lake, spring run stream, aquatic cave, mesic hammock, and blackwater stream.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically manatee.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically control of plants, and pests/pathogens.
- 7. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts.
- 8. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 9. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 11. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, nutrients from adjacent lands, and inholdings/additions.
- 12. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities.
- 15. Short-term goals, specifically public access and recreational opportunities, capital facilities and infrastructure, cultural and historical resources, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Manatee Springs SP

## **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Adjacent property concerns including discussion of potential surplus land determination will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, MRGHBSP

## Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service
Acres: 2,383
County: Clay
Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the
greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.
Acquisition Program(s): CARL/P2000/Florida Forever
Acquisition Date: 2/15/36
Area Reviewed: Entire Property
Last Management Plan Approval Date: 4/16/10

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Charlie Brown, Park Manager
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Dan Pearson, DRP District
  - Local Gov't., None
  - Rebecca Doane, FWC
  - Brandi Rickett, DEP District

#### Non-Team Members (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

## **Property Map**

- Sam Negaran, FFS
- Brent Bachelder, SJRWMD
- Jeffrey Graham, Conservation Org.

**Review Date:** 8/23/23

• Lori Carroll, Private Land Manager



## **Overview of Land Management Review Results**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

## Yes = 7, No = 0

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

## Yes = 7, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for working to remove fire shadows and reintroduce fire into ecotones. (7+, 0-)

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /	2	
Forest Management	4.75	4.69
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	5	
Restoration	4.93	4.79
Underslager	4.93	4.01
Hydrology	4.95	4.81
Imperiled Species	4.80	4.68
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.83	4.62
Cultural Resources	5.00	4.86
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.90	4.60
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.50	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

## Table 6: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends park staff for the impressive acres burned in the last fiscal year. (7+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends staff for efforts to protect the Gold Head Branch seepage stream and associated ravine forest from recreational impacts. (7+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends staff on taking proactive measures to provide quality wildlife habitat for imperiled species. (7+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends staff for large scale restoration of sandhill through biomass removal and seeding of groundcover species. (7+, 0-)
- 6. The team commends park staff for maintaining historical sites. (7+, 0-)

## Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

## There were no consensus recommendations.

## **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, sandhill, scrub, slope forest, xeric hammock, basin marsh, depression marsh, seepage slope, sandhill upland lake, sinkhole lake, and seepage stream.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically kestrel, gopher tortoise, scrub jay red cockaded woodpecker and hooded pitcher plants.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, MRGHBSP

- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically sandhill restoration/biomass removal.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, and ditches.
- 10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 12. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 13. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, and inholdings/additions.
- 14. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 15. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 16. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff, and funding.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

#### Jennings State Forest

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service Acres: 15,081 County: Clay

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

Acquisition Program(s): CARL/P2000/Florida Forever Original Acquisition Date: 2/11/92 Area Reviewed: Entire Property Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/19/18 Review Date: 8/24/23

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Frank Burley, Manager
- Sam Negaran, Resource Administrator

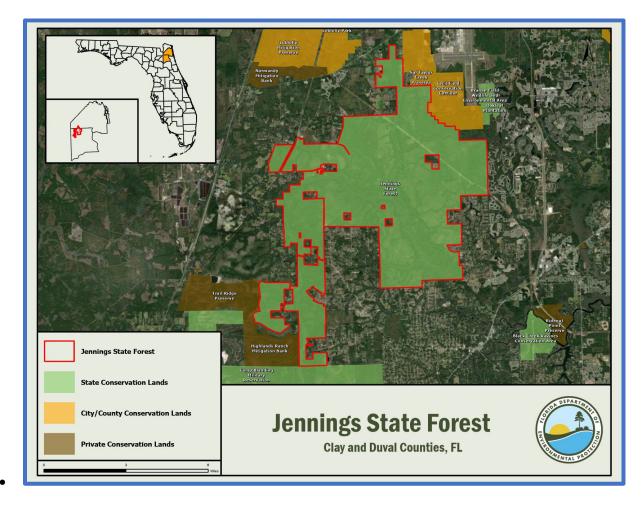
# Review Team Members (voting)

- Allison Conboy, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Rebecca Doane, FWC
- Hien Mai, DEP District

# Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Scotland Talley, FWC

- Andy Lamborn, District Manager
- Donald King, FFS
- Chris Kinslow, SJRWMD
- Jeffrey Graham, Conservation Org.
- Lori Carroll, Private Land Manager



# **Property Map**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

#### Yes = 7, No = 0

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

#### Yes = 7, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) staff on balancing the high demands and volume of recreational users with conservation goals and natural resource protection. (7+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /	4	
Forest Management	4.78	4.80
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	4.68	4.68
Hydrology	4.79	4.76
Imperiled Species	4.66	4.67
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.57	4.57
Cultural Resources	4.86	4.86
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.72	4.80
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.45	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 7: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends the FFS staff for an excellent job on quantity and quality of prescribed burning. (7+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the FFS for undertaking wetland ecotone restoration project in partnership with FWC. (7+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the FFS staff for efforts with providing disabled veterans recreational opportunities. (7+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the staff on recruiting and retaining quality local volunteers to help them accomplish recreational and resource goals throughout the forest. (7+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

#### There were no consensus recommendations.

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin swamp, baygall, blackwater stream, bottomland forest, dome swamp, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, successional hardwood forest, upland mixed woodland, wet flatwoods, and xeric hammock.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically gopher tortoise.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Jennings SF

- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project, and sandhill restoration.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, and animals.
- 9. Hydrologic/geologic function hydro-alteration, roads and culverts, and erosion.
- 10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 12. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 13. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
- 14. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 15. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 16. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.
- 17. Short-term goals, specifically public access and recreational opportunities.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Ft. Pierce Inlet SP

#### Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park

 Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

 Acres: 2,383
 County: St. Lucie

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): EEL/LATF/Donation

 Original Acquisition Date: 8/10/73

 Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- William Nash, Park Manager
- Review Team Members (voting)
  - Emily Harrington, DRP District
  - Jennifer McGee, Local Gov't.
  - Ricardo Zambrano, FWC
  - Abigail Davis, DEP District

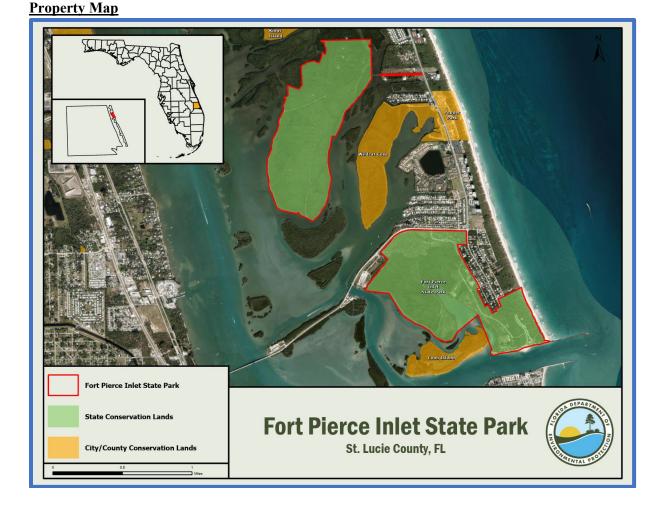
#### Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Ernie Cowan, DEP/DRP
- Matthew Anderson, DEP/RCP
- Brion Pauley, St. Lucie County

- Michael Edwards, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD

**Review Date:** 9/11/23

- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

#### Yes = 6, No = 0

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

#### Yes = 6, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for keeping up with facility maintenance. well maintained property. (6+, 0-)

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.61	4.79
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	1	(
Restoration	N/A	N/A
Hydrology	4.33	4.42
Imperiled Species	4.23	4.20
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.71	4.16
Cultural Resources	4.50	4.50
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.28	4.08
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.33	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 8: Results at a glance.

2. The team commends park staff for doing a great job in managing the park with limited resources and staff. (6+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FPS provide educational signs for shorebird/seabirds to reduce disturbance, including wintering species. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The protection and preservation of listed species, particularly shorebirds/seabirds, is an ongoing management priority at the Park. The need for and placement of educational signage is evaluated at the beginning of and throughout the season each year.

2. The team recommends that the FPS develop invasive treatment schedule for treatment of invasive grasses and other plants. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Non-native, invasive and problem species including grasses and other plants and control of plants and pests/pathogens will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan includes a treatment schedule for invasive species and was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

3. The team recommends that the FPS consider including conversion from septic to public sewer in the management plan. (6+, 0-)

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Ft. Pierce Inlet SP

Managing Agency Response: The Division will consider this recommendation during the next unit management plan revision.

4. The team recommends that the FPS partner with Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserve staff for monitoring seagrasses and oyster reefs. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** This monitoring is currently conducted by District and Park staff twice a year, in collaboration with Palm Beach Atlantic University. During our next scheduled monitoring, we will reach out to include the Indian River Aquatic Preserve staff.

5. The team recommends that the staff receive new vehicles and equipment for the operation and management of the park. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Division funding is appropriated annually by the Florida Legislature. This funding is allocated at the Division and District levels to best meet annual operational and resource management needs. Any deemed increase in Division Budget/equipment will follow the established legislative budget request process.

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, mangrove swamp, estuarine seagrass bed, estuarine unconsolidated substrate, and estuarine composite substrate.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically gopher tortoise, sea turtle, shorebirds/seabirds, beach star and prickly pear.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of pests/pathogens.
- 6. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, and ditches.
- 7. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage.
- 8. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, and inholdings/additions.
- 9. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 10. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 11. Management resources, specifically waste disposal.
- 12. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, public access and recreational opportunities, cultural and historical resources, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

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

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Ft. Pierce Inlet SP

**Managing Agency Response:** Division funding is appropriated annually by the Florida Legislature. This funding is allocated at the Division and District levels to best meet annual operational and resource management needs. Any deemed increase in Division Budget/staffing will follow the established legislative budget request process.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Savannas Preserve SP

#### Savannas Preserve State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park ServiceAcres: 6,876County: St. Lucie, MartinPurpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): EEL, LATF, P2000/CARLOriginal Acquisition Date: 4/25/77<br/>Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/20/17

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- David Dearth, Park Manager
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Miranda Cunningham, DRP District
  - Jennifer McGee, Local Gov't.
  - John Snow, FWC
  - Ariel Duhart, DEP District

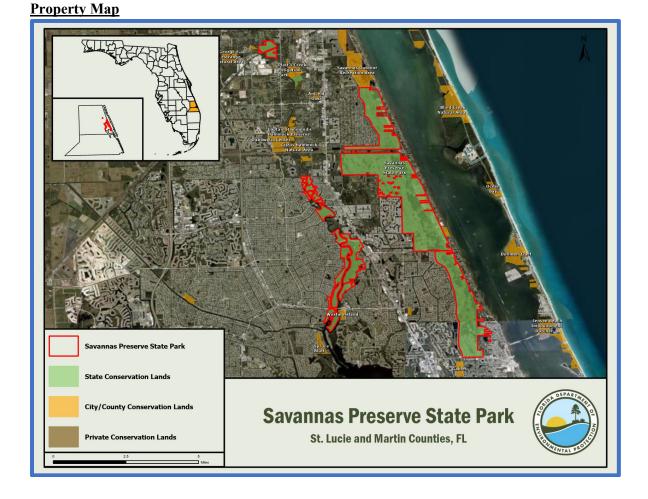
# Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Ernie Cowan, DEP/DRP
- Matthew Anderson, DEP/RCP
- Jackie Smith, FWC/IPM

• Ashley Kennedy, Park Biologist

**Review Date:** 9/13/23

- Michael Edwards, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD
- Carly Batts, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

# Yes = 7, No = 0

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

# Yes = 7, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

- 1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff on their prescribed burn program. (7+, 0-)
- 2. The team commends park staff on their invasive plant and animal prevention and control program. (7+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends park staff on their upkeep of listed species protection and preservation. (7+, 0-)

# Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FPS update the management plan to include recent weir completion and initiate a program to monitor its success. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Hydro-alteration including the recently completed weir and monitoring of the restored hydroperiod will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

# Field Review Checklist Findings

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, depression marsh, basin marsh, wet prairie, marsh lake, hydric hammock, slough, baygall, floodplain swamp, floodplain marsh, mangrove swamp, and unconsolidated substrate.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically wading birds, scrub jay, bald eagle, gopher tortoise, fragrant prickly apple cactus, four petal pawpaw, and savannas mint.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.61	4.79
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	N/A	N/A
Hydrology	4.33	4.42
Imperiled Species	4.23	4.20
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.71	4.16
Cultural Resources	4.50	4.50
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.28	4.08
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.33	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 9: Results at a glance.

- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 1. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 2. Restoration, specifically Evans Creek scrub.
- 3. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 4. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants and pests/pathogens, and control of animals.
- 5. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, and ditches, hydro-period alteration, and water level alteration.
- 6. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 7. Adjacent property concerns, specifically residential, road projects, AAF, and inholdings/additions.
- 8. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 9. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 10. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, and staff.
- 11. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, cultural and historical resources, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# 1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Adjacent property concerns including discussion of potential surplus land determination will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve SP

# Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park ServiceAcres: 53,738County: OkeechobeePurpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): P2000Original Acquisition Date: 3/14/97Area Reviewed: Entire PropertyLast Management Plan Approval Date: 10/19/18

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Alex Creager, Park Manager
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Jason DePue, DRP District
  - Denise Whitehead, Local Gov't.
  - Natalie Bergeron, FWC
  - Rachael Griffin, DEP District

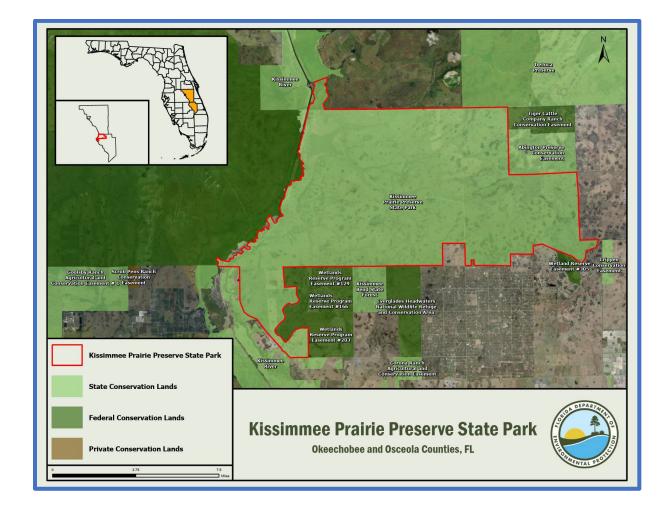
#### Non-Team Members (attending)

**Property Map** 

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Jackie Smith, FWC/IPM

- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Andrew West, SFWMD
- Paul Strauss, Conservation Org.
- Catie Welch, Private Land Manager

**Review Date:** 9/14/23



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

#### Yes = 8, No = 0

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

#### Yes = 8, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

- 1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) for the outstanding fire management program at the park. (8+, 0-)
- The team commends staff for the implementation of the world class astronomy program and the International Dark Sky park designation. (8+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the work and coordination with partners on management and protection of Florida grasshopper sparrow at this park. (8+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends park staff for the diligence of attracting outside funding for habitat and listed species management. (8+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

There were no consensus recommendations.

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically dry prairie, mesic flatwoods, prairie mesic hammock, scrubby flatwoods (xeric prairie), basing marsh, baygall, depression marsh, floodplain marsh, floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, slough/slough marsh, wet prairie, and blackwater stream.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically Florida grasshopper sparrow.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	3.75	4.48
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	<i></i>	
Restoration	4.51	4.72
Hydrology	4.34	4.66
Imperiled Species	4.69	4.78
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.66	4.93
Cultural Resources	3.06	4.88
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.72	4.73
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.31	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 10: Results at a glance.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve SP

- 4. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 5. Restoration, specifically canal restoration to sloughs, and plowline rehab/restoration.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically control of plants, and animals.
- 7. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration, water level alteration, and erosion.
- 8. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 9. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 11. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, intensification of ag. use, and inholdings/additions.
- 12. Public access, specifically roads and parking.
- 13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.
- 15. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, public access and recreational opportunities, hydrological preservation and restoration, exotic and invasive species maintenance and control, capital facilities and infrastructure, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Cultural Resources (Archaeological & Historic Sites), specifically cultural resource survey, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management of cultural resources is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Cultural resource survey and protection and preservation will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

# 2. Forest Management, specifically timber inventory, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether forest management is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** The current Unit Management Plan (approved 2018) states: "It was determined that the primary management objectives of the unit could be met without conducting timber management activities for this management plan cycle. A timber assessment for the unit therefore was not conducted, as timber management would conflict with the primary management objectives of the park. Timber management will be reevaluated during the next revision of the management plan." The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C. when it was approved by ARC.

# **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve SP

overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Lake George SF

#### Lake George State Forest

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service County: Volusia Acres: 21,186 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. **Original Acquisition Date: 5/27/93** 

Acquisition Program(s): CARL/P2000

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Lindsey Bessent, Manager
- Donald King •
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Dustin Allen, DRP District
  - Dean Gemeinhardt, Local Gov't.
  - Jess Rodriguez, FWC •
  - Mara Galvez Gonzalez, DEP District •

# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

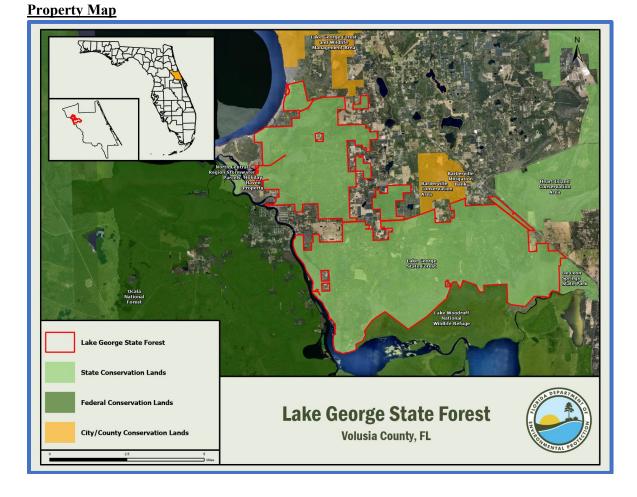
- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL •
- Caitlyn Crawford, FWC
- Kris Campbell, FWC

- Justina Jones
- Joe Bishop, FFS
- Chris Kinslow, SJRWMD
- Jeffrey Graham, Conservation Org.

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/16/16

**Review Date:** 10/4/23

Ben Williams, Private Land Manager •



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

# Yes = 7, No = 0

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

# Yes = 7, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) staff for their prescribed fire program particularly their fire return interval maintenance. (7+, 0-)

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /	2	
Forest Management	4.43	4.67
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	4.48	4.62
Hydrology	4.71	4.57
Imperiled Species	4.17	4.17
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.26	4.33
Cultural Resources	4.64	4.71
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.58	4.36
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.29	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 11: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends the FFS staff for the timber management program at this forest. (7+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the FFS for transitioning stands to longleaf pine where appropriate. (7+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the FFS staff for road improvements and maintaining hydrologic functions. (7+, 0-)

# Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FFS include additional growing season prescribed fires. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The FFS will continue to work toward adding growing season prescribed fires to the rotation as appropriate and as fuel, weather conditions, and staffing allow.

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, depression pond/marsh, floodplain marsh, basin marsh, baygall, dome swamp, floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, wet prairie, and xeric hammock.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.

- 6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydrologic/geologic function hydro-alteration, roads and culverts, and ditches.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, specifically ferneries, and inholdings and additions.
- 11. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, and staff.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically sandhill, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** The age of most of the timber and the stand structure in this relatively small community (173 historic acres) are contributing factors to the current condition. As the forest stands mature, restoration efforts including thinning, burning, mechanical fuel reduction, and removing off-site pine will be utilized as appropriate to improve the sandhills on Lake George State Forest.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Hontoon Island SP

#### **Hontoon Island State Park**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service Acres: 1,648 County: Volusia Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): P2000 **Original Acquisition Date:** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Devin Whitney, Park Manager •
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Jasmin Linkutis, DRP District •
  - Richard Harris, Local Gov't.
  - Aaron Johnson, FWC •
  - Charlie Nolan, DEP District

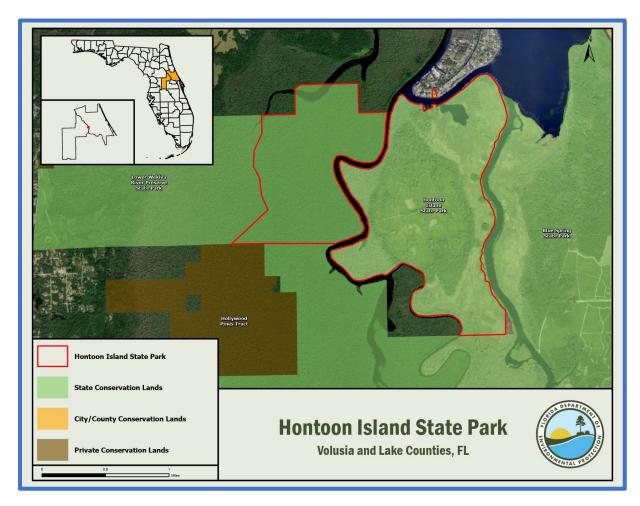
# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL •

# **Property Map**

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/14/22 **Review Date:** 10/5/23

- Jason DePue, District Biologist
- Donald King, FFS •
- Graham Williams, SJRWMD •
- John Guziejka, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None •



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

# Yes = 7, No = 0

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

**Yes** = 7, **No** = 
$$0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff on their efforts to maintain terrestrial invasive exotics infestations at low maintenance levels. (7+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /	inconcov	Thur the view
Forest Management	4.40	4.53
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	2	
Restoration	4.57	4.86
Hydrology	4.75	4.48
Imperiled Species	4.14	4.50
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.45	4.45
Cultural Resources	4.21	4.92
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.46	4.36
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.68	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 12: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends park staff on their efforts to maintain the park's upland natural communities with an appropriate prescribed fire regime. (7+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the park staff for their passion and desire to make their park the best it can be. (7+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that that future plan updates include a more detailed evaluation of long term planning for climate resiliency such as elevating park facility structures above flood levels. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The Division will consider these recommendations during the next unit management plan revision.

2. The team recommends further inventorying of species present to better inform management decisions. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Inventory and monitoring efforts must focus on species that require special management attention. All-species inventories generally must be a lower priority than active measures to manage natural habitats. As needed, costs for inventory will be included in the unit management plan but can only be allocated as funds become available on a statewide priority needs basis.

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, mesic hammock, shell mound, depression marsh, dome swamp, floodplain marsh, floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, river floodplain lake, and blackwater stream.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically gopher tortoise and plume polypody.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, and erosion.
- 9. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings/additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal.
- 16. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, public access and recreational opportunities, hydrological preservation and restoration, sustainable forest management, exotic and invasive species maintenance and control, capital facilities and infrastructure, cultural and historical resources, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** The Division will address adjacent property concerns and the determination of surplus lands in the update of the management plan.

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Blue Spring SP

#### **Blue Spring State Park**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service Acres: 2,644 **County:** Volusia Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): LATF/P2000/Donation **Original Acquisition Date: 8/14/72** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Dustin Allen, Park Manager
- Darrell Thomas, Assistant Park Manager
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Jason DePue, DRP District
  - Cynthia Venuti, Local Gov't.
  - Aaron Johnson, FWC •
  - Charlie Nolan, DEP District

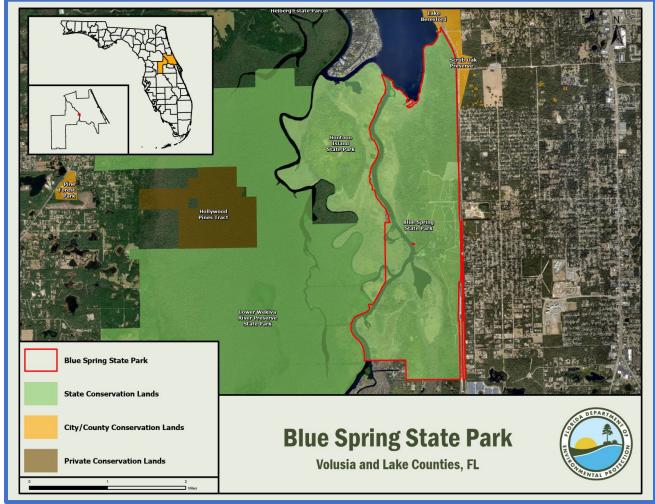
#### **Non-Team Members** (attending)

Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL •

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/14/05 **Review Date:** 10/6/23

- Jasmin Linkutis, District Biologist
- Peter Jensen, Park Service Specialist
- Donald King, FFS
- Brent Bachelder, SJRWMD
- John Guziejka, Conservation Org. •
- Private Land Manager, None





Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

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

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

- The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) for efforts to maintain effective partnerships and apply resources toward stabilization of spring run stream bank. (7+, 0-)
- 2. The team commends park staff for work performed in the scrub habitat and the care and conscientiousness given to the scrub jays. (5+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the park staff for the collaboration with entities and partners that help supplement the restoration work and management at the park. (5+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that FPS pursue appropriate actions to stabilize soils and improve boat ramp, parking, public safety, access, and security along French Avenue and at landing. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Short-term measures to stabilize soils will be evaluated by park staff. Longterm improvements to the boat ramp and parking area will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. Additional law enforcement presence will be addressed by the park by soliciting the assistance of law enforcement agencies as needed. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

0	
Field Review	Management Plan Review
4.54	4.12
<i>8</i>	
4.56	4.53
4.31	4.11
4.39	4.20
4.31	4.33
4.33	4.30
4.08	3.94
4.07	N/A
pendix A for deta	ail)
Below Average	Poor
	Review 4.54 4.56 4.31 4.39 4.31 4.33 4.08 4.08 4.07 pendix A for deta

#### Table 13: Results at a glance.

#### **Field Review Details**

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, scrub, shell mound, upland hardwood forest, baygall, depression marsh, floodplain swamp, floodplain marsh, hydric hammock, river floodplain lake, blackwater stream, spring-run stream, aquatic cave, wet flatwoods, and sinkhole.
- 2. Listed species, animals, and plants in general, and specifically scrub jay, manatee, silt snail, and gopher tortoise.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, and timber harvesting.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts.
- 9. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, and signage.
- 12. Public access, specifically parking.
- 13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, equipment, and staff.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Resource Protection, specifically law enforcement presence, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether resources are sufficient to protect the property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Additional law enforcement presence will be addressed by the park by soliciting the assistance of law enforcement agencies as needed. Resource Protection including boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

#### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Adjacent property concerns including discussion of potential surplus land determination will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

#### Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 2,123 County: Leon Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

#### **Acquisition Program(s):**

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

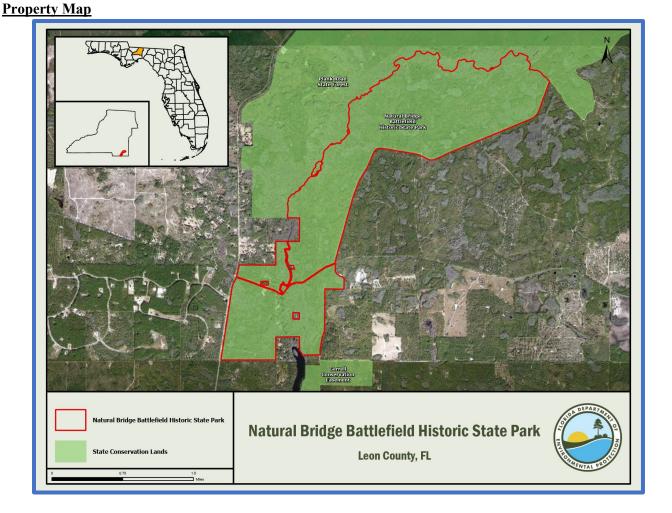
- Randy Rabon, Assistant Park Manager
- Danielle Terrell, Assistant Director
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Daryl Hatfield, DRP District
  - Chris Wilson, Local Gov't.
  - Lily Martin, FWC
  - Rick Abad, DEP District

# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Caitlyn Snyder, DEP/RCP

# Original Acquisition Date: 1/23/68 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/24/16 Review Date: 10/23/23

- Mark Stevenson, Park Service Specialist
- Brian Camposano, FFS
- Linda Chaisson, NWFWMD
- Lilly Anderson-Messec, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

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

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff on an excellent job of management with the resources available to them. (7+, 0-)

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.09	4.64
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		2
Restoration	3.40	4.29
Hydrology	4.54	4.11
Imperiled Species	3.72	4.76
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.60	4.64
Cultural Resources	4.57	4.86
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.55	4.45
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.33	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

#### Table 14: Results at a glance.

2. The team commends park staff for cultural resource education and outreach programming. (7+, 0-)

#### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that staff continue efforts to expand prescribed burning with the acquisition of the Horn Springs Parcel and should continue to pursue burn opportunities with partners whenever available. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree, the managing agency will strive to increase and expand prescribed burning. The agency is committed to planning and completing prescribed burns at this unit.

#### **Field Review Details**

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically blackwater stream, sinkhole lake, sinkhole, floodplain swamp, bottomland forest, alluvial forest, spring run stream, baygall, and dome swamp.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general.

- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 7. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, and ditches.
- 8. Surface water monitoring, specifically quantity.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings/additions.
- 11. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Listed species, specifically gopher tortoise, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether management actions are sufficient for protection and preservation of the species.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree, the managing agency will strive to increase efforts to effectively manage listed species, particularly gopher tortoises, and their associated natural communities.

2. Resource Management, Prescribed Fire, specifically area being burned, and frequency, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, to what degree prescribed fire is accomplished according to the objectives for prescribed fire management. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% accomplished, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree, the managing agency will strive to increase and improve prescribed burning activities.

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

**Managing Agency Response:** Additional staff can only be assigned to this or other park units if they are appropriated by the Legislature or reassigned from other units. Funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature.

#### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# 1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Adjacent property concerns including discussion of potential surplus land determination will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

# **Big Bend Wildlife Management Area**

Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation CommissionAcres: 69,112County: Taylor and DixiePurpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): CARL/P2000/Florida Forever/SOCOriginal Acquisition Date: 1984<br/>Last Management Plan Approval Date: 8/21/15<br/>Review Date: 10/27/23

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Mitch Haag, Area Manager
- Kyle Shepherd, Area Manager
- Cade Chaney, District Biologist
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Rick Owen, DRP District
    - Local Gov't., None
    - Rebecca Doane, FWC
    - Carmine Oliverio, DEP District

# Non-Team Members (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

- Matt Pollock, Regional Biologist
- Sharon Hester, Asst. Regional Biologist
- Vitor Aguiar, FFS
- WMD, None
- Lilly Anderson-Messec, Conservation Org.
- John Nash, Private Land Manager



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

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

# Yes = 6, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the staff for the extensive Hurricane Idalia cleanup in such short time and allowing all recreational user groups access back into the WMA. (6+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.77	4.74
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	i.	8
Restoration	4.72	4.81
Hydrology	4.67	4.52
Imperiled Species	4.83	4.67
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.69	4.58
Cultural Resources	4.80	4.83
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.72	4.75
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.48	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 15: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends the staff for collaboration with Tall Timbers concerning monitoring and additional seeding of sundial lupine and potential translocation of frosted elfin butterflies. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the staff for depression marsh restoration activities such as removing offsite woody vegetation and pine and for continuing to burn through these communities with prescribed fire when they are dry. (6+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the staff for an exceptional job at land management, including work on listed species, prescribed fire, cultural resources and recreation especially considering the recent extensive damage of Hurricane Idalia and difficulties with recent the mill closure and covid-19 complications. (6+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FWC staff communicate with Taylor Co and the City of Perry for potential collaboration to increase tourism and recreation in the area following the hurricane and paper mill closure impact to the local economy. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** FWC will share information about Big Bend WMA's wildlife and recreational opportunities with Taylor and Dixie counties and the City of Perry in an effort bolster ecotourism by drawing more visitors to the geographical area.

#### **Field Review Details**

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin marsh, basin swamp, baygall, depression marsh, dome swamp, floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, maritime hammock, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, sandhill, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, tidal creek, tidal marsh, unconsolidated substrate, wet flatwoods, and xeric hammock.
- 2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Restoration, specifically hydrological restoration, sandhill restoration, and scrub restoration.
- 6. Forest management, specifically, timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, and dams, reservoirs or other impoundments.
- 9. Ground water monitoring, specifically quantity.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, Four Rivers, and inholdings and additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff and funding.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# Guana River Wildlife Management Area

Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation CommissionAcres: 9,815County: St. JohnsPurpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): CARL/SOCOriginal Acquisition Date: 3/14/85<br/>Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/16/15

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Wade Brenner, Area Manager
- Justin Ellenberger

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Michael Watkins, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Jess Rodriguez, FWC
- Chrissy Sellers, DEP District

# Non-Team Members (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

**Property Map** 

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/16/15 Review Date: 11/15/23

- Matt Hortman, Regional Biologist
- Matt Vance
- Andrew Usina, FFS
- Patrick McCord, SJRWMD
- Lee Newsom, Conservation Org.
- Ben Williams, Private Land Manager



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

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

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the staff for their burn program maintaining actively

managed natural communities within

desired fire return intervals and targeting growing seasor	burns when feasible. (7+, 0-)
--	-------------------------------

- 2. The team commends the staff for offering a wide variety of recreation amenities. (7+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the staff for their careful attention to multiple stakeholder concerns. (7+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the staff for incorporating and implementing scrub management research recommendations. (7+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the staff for enhanced management of depression marshes and basin marshes using ignition strategies to allow fire to carry through wetland basins and treating encroaching shrubs and pines with mechanical techniques when not controlled with fire alone. (7+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FWC staff investigate the feasibility of installing a fishing pier to expand user opportunities and capacity. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** FWC will assess the appropriateness and feasibility of installing a fishing pier on Lake Ponte Vedra to expand user opportunities and capacity during the next management plan cycle.

2. The team recommends a new archaeological site survey carried out and more frequent monitoring of all sites, as much as possible. (7+, 0-)

U	
Field Review	Management Plan Review
2	
4.49	4.36
6	
5.00	4.71
4.37	4.31
4.75	4.24
4.40	4.31
4.21	4.36
4.62	4.43
4.64	N/A
pendix A for deta	ail)
Below Average	Poor
	Review           4.49           5.00           4.37           4.75           4.40           4.21           4.62           4.64

#### Table 16: Results at a glance.

**Managing Agency Response:** FWC will coordinate with the Florida Department of Historic Resources to determine the need for a new archaeological site survey on Guana River WMA. FWC staff will continue to monitor all archaeological sites at Guana River WMA per DHR recommendations.

#### **Field Review Details**

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin marsh, impounded marsh, salt marsh, dome swamp/basin swamp, mesic flatwoods, scrub, maritime hammock, mesic hammock, scrubby flatwoods, depression marsh, xeric hammock, marsh lake and wet flatwoods.
- 2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically gopher tortoise, and striped newt.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Forest management, specifically, timber inventory, and timber harvesting.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration, water level alteration, and dams, reservoirs or other impoundments.
- 9. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff and funding.

#### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Talbot Islands State Parks

# **Talbot Islands State Parks**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service Acres: 4,521 **County:** Duval and Nassau Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): LWCF/LATF **Original Acquisition Date: 3/31/66** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Michelle Waterman, Park Manager

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Dan Pearson, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None •
- Hailey Dedmon, FWC
- Hayley Springer, DEP District

# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL •

# **Property Map**

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 6/13/08 **Review Date:** 11/17/23

- Allison Conboy, Park Service Specialist
- Jon Johnson, FFS
- Chris Kinslow, SJRWMD
- Walter Bryant, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

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

#### Yes = 6, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

 The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for diligently working with the public on the importance of wildlife habitat and on imperiled species management. (6+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.83	4.60
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	3	
Restoration	4.44	4.33
Hydrology	4.22	4.44
Imperiled Species	4.86	4.89
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.69	4.64
Cultural Resources	5.00	5.00
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.71	4.61
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.86	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	iil)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 17: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends park staff on their protection and interpretation of cultural resources and their cooperation with DHR and the University of North Florida archaeologists. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the park staff on their use of volunteers and partnerships for imperiled species management and monitoring, including their partnership with the Turtle Survival Alliance on Team Terrapin. (6+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the park staff for their protection of the imperiled species, especially the Gonolobus suberosus in the Grand Shell Ring. (6+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the park staff on their use of mechanical treatments in the flatwoods natural communities. (6+, 0-)
- 6. The team commends the park staff on their management and protection of shorebirds and their nesting and resting areas, including several federal and state imperiled species. (6+, 0-)
- 7. The team commends the park staff for working diligently protecting cultural resources on the parks by maintaining updated records, consulting DHR Compliance & Review prior to ground disturbing activities and monitoring site conditions annually. (6+, 0-)
- 8. The team commends the park staff on the efforts to control visitor impacts by managing the capacity, particularly at Amelia Island State Park. (6+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Talbot Islands State Parks

1. The team recommends that staff not expand beach driving beyond current footprint, capacity limits and seasonal closure system. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The park will continue to manage beach driving to minimize impacts to imperiled species while providing necessary beach access.

# **Field Review Details**

#### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, scrubby flatwoods, coastal grassland, shell mound, coastal interdunal swale, depression marsh, estuarine composite substrate, salt marsh and marine unconsolidated substrate.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically marine turtles, nesting and migrating shorebirds, painted bunting, and gopher tortoise.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration, water level alteration, and erosion.
- 9. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, and inholdings/additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, and buildings.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

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

**Managing Agency Response: Agree.** Division funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature and equipment funds are allocated to the 175 state parks and trails according to priority needs.

# Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# 1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** The Division has addressed the determination of potential surplus lands in the update of the management plan currently under review by the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Plank Road State Forest

# **Plank Road State Forest**

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest ServiceAcres: 9,043.5County: Leon and JeffersonPurpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): Florida ForeverOriginal Acquisition Date: 5/23/17<br/>Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/14/20

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Caitlyn Peca, Manager
- Ryan Slyter

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Patricia Wilbur, DRP District
- Chris Wilson, Local Gov't.
- Diana Pepe, FWC
- Blakely Gill, DEP District

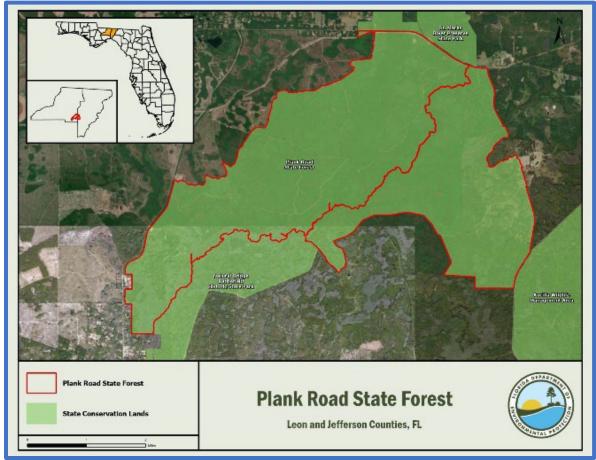
# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

- James Parker, DEP/DSL
- Katie Briley, DEP/DSL
- Caitlyn Snyder, FWDEP-ORCPC

- Chris Colburn
- Randy Gregory
- Todd Knapp, FFS
- Coakley Taylor, NWFWMD
- Lilly Anderson, Conservation Org.

**Review Date:** 12/12/23

• None, Private Land Manager



# **Property Map**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

### Yes = 7, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

- 1. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for the amount of restoration through prescribed fire, timber harvesting, and other practices accomplished in the short time since acquisition. (7+, 0-)
- 2. The team commends the FFS staff for an excellent job with the funding provided to restore and maintain the forest for recreation and preservation. (7+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

There were no consensus recommendations.

# **Field Review Details**

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin swamp, bottomland forest, dome swamp, floodplain swamp, shrub bog, sinkhole lake, upland hardwood forest, upland pine and wet flatwoods.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory and timber harvesting,

Major Land	Management	Field	Management
Cate	gories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Co	ommunities /		
Forest M	lanagement	4.56	4.93
Prescribed	Fire / Habitat	8	
Rest	oration	4.76	4.71
Hyd	rology	4.14	4.71
Imperil	ed Species	4.07	4.50
Exotic / Inv	asive Species	4.31	4.48
Cultural	Resources	4.29	4.43
Public Acces	s / Education /		
Law En	forcement	4.45	4.42
Infrastructur	e / Equipment /		
Sta	affing	4.20	N/A
	Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for det	ail)
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 18: Results at a glance.

- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydrologic/geologic function, specifically roads and culverts, and ditches.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development and inholdings and additions.
- 11. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, buildings, and equipment.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed: **The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the field.** 

# Land Management Plan Review Details

# **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Aucilla Wildlife Management Area

# Aucilla Wildlife Management Area

Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation CommissionAcres: 50,471County: Jefferson and TaylorPurpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): CARL/P2000/Florida ForeverOriginal Acquisition Date: 1988<br/>Last Management Plan Approval Date: 8/23/16

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Morgan Wilbur, Area Manager
- David Nicholson, District Biologist
- Review Team Members (voting)
  - Daryl Hatfield, DRP District
  - Tim Bemid, Local Gov't.
  - Diana Pepe, FWC
  - Brandi Rickett, DEP District

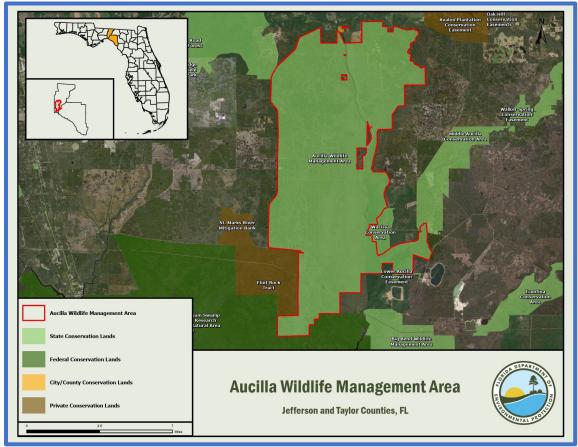
# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- George Frisby, DEP/DSL
- Kate Livingston, FFS
- Caitlin Snyder, DEP/RCP
- James Parker, DEP/DSL

# **Property Map**

# Last Management Plan Approval Date: 8/23/16 Review Date: 12/15/23

- Clint Peters, Regional Biologist
- Joe Davis, Biologist
- Vitor Aguiar, FFS
- WMD, None
- Sandy Cook, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

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

#### Yes = 6, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

 The team commends the staff on their dedication to documenting and protecting the cultural resources located within the Aucilla WMA. (6+, 0-)

Major Land	Management	Field	Management
Cate	gories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Co	mmunities /		
Forest Ma	anagement	4.64	4.47
Prescribed F	Fire / Habitat		
Resto	ration	4.61	4.64
Hydr	ology	4.81	4.61
Imperile	d Species	4.83	4.79
Exotic / Inva	asive Species	4.36	4.28
Cultural	Resources	4.92	5.00
	s / Education /	And the Art of	1000000
Law Enfo	orcement	4.59	4.48
Infrastructure	e / Equipment /		
Stat	ffing	4.57	N/A
C	olor Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 19: Results at a glance.

2. The team commends the staff on their efforts to maintain prescribed fire regimes at Aucilla WMA. (6+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

There were no consensus recommendations.

# **Field Review Details**

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin swamp, baygall, depression marsh, dome swamp, floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, scrubby flatwoods, sinkhole, spring-run stream, upland hardwood forest, wet flatwoods.
- 2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically gopher tortoise and wading birds.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.

- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically habitat restoration, hydrological restoration, and ephemeral pond restoration.
- 7. Forest management, specifically, timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, and ditches.
- 10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 12. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 13. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 14. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 15. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 16. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, buildings, equipment, staff and funding.
- 17. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, public access and recreational opportunities, hydrological preservation and restoration, sustainable forest management, exotic and invasive species maintenance and control, capital facilities and infrastructure, cultural and historical resources, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed: **The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.** 

# Land Management Plan Review Details

# **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Collier-Seminole SP

#### **Collier-Seminole State Park**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service Acres: 6,759 County: Collier Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. **Acquisition Program(s): Original Acquisition Date:** 3/8/1944 Area Reviewed: Entire Property

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Darren Flickinger, Park Manager

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

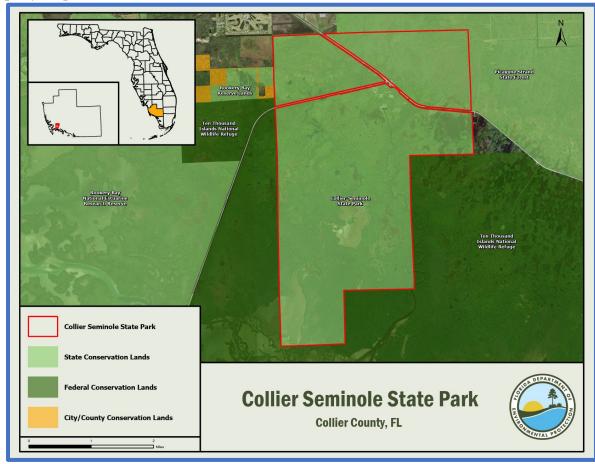
- Tracy Muzyczka, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Jessica Spickler, FWC
- Scarlett Heuett, DEP District

# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/6/04 **Review Date:** 1/24/24

- Maulik Patel, Environmental Specialist
- Clark Ryals, FFS •
- WMD, None
- Conservation Org., None •
- Liesa Priddy, Private Land Manager •



# **Property Map**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

# Yes = 4, No = 0

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

# Yes = 4, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for the fantastic job of prescribed fire management at the state park with limited staff and resources. (5+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /	8	
Forest Management	4.15	3.74
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		×.
Restoration	3.81	3.00
Hydrology	4.10	2.79
Imperiled Species	4.39	3.48
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.08	2.90
Cultural Resources	3.50	3.00
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.18	3.76
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.13	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 20: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends park biologist for his long-term commitment to restoration and maintenance of the site, specifically in relation to wet flatwoods and his involvement as a steering committee member with the Southwest Florida CISMA. (5+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the park staff for responding to park infrastructure needs after multiple major storm events. (5+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the park staff for working across boundaries to address invasive species issues and working in conjunction with partners to ensure coordination of response. (5+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the park staff install cameras for wildlife species monitoring in order to evaluate the health of the species living in the park. (5+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response**: Primary inventory and monitoring focus must be on species that require special management attention. All-species inventory generally must be a lower priority than conducting actions to manage habitats. DRP regularly works with wildlife-focused agencies and researchers to quantitatively evaluate the status of wildlife in state parks. Incidental wildlife observations are also recorded by park staff on a quarterly basis and compiled in a district-wide database.

2. The team recommends that the park work with DHR to arrange a visit to assist with documentation and monitoring. (5+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The park currently coordinates with DHR on monitoring required for construction projects and monitoring of known cultural sites at the park. The park will continue to coordinate with DHR and monitor known cultural sites annually.

3. The team recommends that the park staff explore the feasibility of doubling the monitoring of areas only accessible by boat. (5+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The park currently monitors areas only accessible by boat once every quarter due to tidal fluctuations. The park will endeavor to increase this monitoring an additional 1 -2 times per year as conditions allow.

# **Field Review Details**

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically coastal berm, mesic flatwoods, prairie hammock, rockland hammock, , marl prairie, slough, wet flatwoods, salt marsh, mangrove swamp, and marine unconsolidated substrate.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically bald eagle, manatee, bromeliads, orchids, and royal palm.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, and animals, and prevention of pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydrologic/geologic function Hydro alteration, specifically roads/culverts, and erosion.
- 9. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality.
- 10. Resource protection, specifically signage.
- 11. Adjacent property concerns, specifically Lipman Farms, US 41, and inholdings/additions.
- 12. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

# Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Listed species: Protection & Preservation, specifically orchids, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address protection and preservation of species.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The protection and preservation of listed plant and animal species will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

2. Natural Resources Survey, specifically other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether survey and monitoring of the resources or their habitats are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Natural resources surveying and monitoring of non-game species and their habitats, fire effects, other habitat management effects, and invasive species will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

3. Cultural Resources (Archaeological & Historic Sites), specifically cultural resource survey, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management of cultural resources is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Cultural resource survey and protection will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

4. Restoration, specifically agricultural field to wet flatwoods and agricultural field to marl prairie, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address restoration.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Restoration including agricultural fields to wet flatwoods and agricultural fields to marl prairie will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

5. Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species, specifically prevention and control of animals, and prevention of pest/pathogens, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, as well as overall management actions, whether prevention and control are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Non-native, invasive and problem species, including the prevention of pests/pathogens and control of plants and pests/pathogens, will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

# 6. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether surface water monitoring is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Surface water monitoring will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

# 7. Resource Protection, specifically law enforcement presence, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether resources are sufficient to protect the property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Additional law enforcement presence will be addressed by the park soliciting the assistance of law enforcement agencies as needed. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

# 8. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether adjacent property concerns are sufficiently addressed.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Adjacent property concerns including discussion of potential surplus land determination will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

# **Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Resilience and Coastal Protection Acres: 37,876 County: Collier Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): EEL/CARL/Donation **Original Acquisition Date: 1977** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Jeff Carter, Reserve Manager

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Cole Lutrell, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None •
- Jessica Spickler, FWC •

#### Sarah Marra, DEP District •

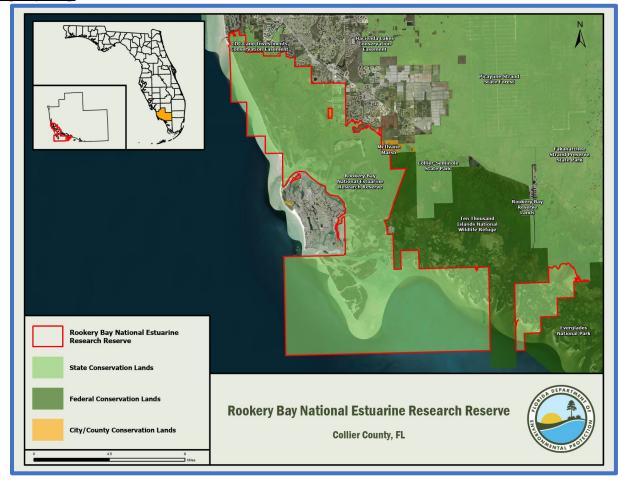
# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL •
- Earl Pearson, DEP/RCP •

**Property Map** 

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 5/13/09 **Review Date:** 1/26/24

- Jared Franklin, Resource Coordinator
- Clark Ryals, FFS
- WMD, None
- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

# Yes = 4, No = 0

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

# Yes = 4, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the stewardship coordinator and staff for a very organized and thorough presentation of the land

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.63	4.25
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	6	
Restoration	4.54	4.92
Hydrology	4.95	4.98
Imperiled Species	4.85	4.86
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.71	4.75
Cultural Resources	4.63	4.75
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.38	4.59
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.11	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 21: Results at a glance.

management activities occurring during the land management review period. (4+, 0-)

2. The team commends the staff on finding grants, funds, and partners for hydrological restoration projects throughout the watershed. (4+, 0-)

# Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends the staff increase prescribed fire management training for staff to better prioritize prescribed fire application in the Reserve in the face of challenges, including climate change, increased development, and personnel injury. i.e. emphasize training more staff to be certified burners and burn managers so more burn windows can be taken advantage of. (4+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** RBNERR is in the process of hiring an additional staff member who will work toward becoming a certified burn manager. The addition of this new staff member will increase the Reserve's capacity to plan and implement prescribed fires, as well as take advantage of more potential burn windows. In addition, five RBNERR staff outside of the Reserve's Stewardship team have been trained in prescribed fire, one staff member is in the process of being trained, and several others have expressed interest in beginning training. As part of the onboarding process for new staff, the Stewardship Coordinator will discuss the possibility of prescribed fire training and will work with the new hire to pursue training if the new hire is interested.

# **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods/wet flatwoods, coastal strand, coastal xeric scrub/scrubby flatwoods, mesic hammock, maritime hammock, open water, mangrove swamp, saltwater marsh, freshwater marsh, dome/strand swamp, seagrass, beach/interdunal swale, and shell mound.
- 2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically manatee, sea turtle, shorebirds, and crocodile.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically hydrologic restoration.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pest/pathogens.
- 9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration, water level alteration, and erosion.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, and gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

# Land Management Plan Review Details

# **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# **St. Andrews State Park**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service Acres: 1,167 **County:** Bay Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): P2000 **Original Acquisition Date:** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

Scott Robinson, Park Manager •

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Chris Whittle, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None •
- Thomas Kuhn, FWC •
- Mark Gillman, DEP District

# Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL •
- Lily Martin, FWC •

# **Property Map**

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 4/22/16 Review Date: 2/6/24

- Amber Rounseville, Asst. Park Manager
- Mike Klassen, FFS
- Ben Faure, NWFWMD
- Jody Wood-Putnam, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6$$
,  $No = 0$ 

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for achieving prescribed fire management goals at the park. (6+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.68	4.47
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	8	
Restoration	4.75	4.97
Hydrology	3.50	4.50
Imperiled Species	4.92	4.97
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.86	4.67
Cultural Resources	4.92	4.90
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.62	4.87
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.47	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 22: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends park staff for their focus on invasive species removal, including the Thursday invasive plant removal efforts. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the park staff for actively managing the park's recreational activities and balancing and protecting resources of the park. (6+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the park staff for their recovery efforts following Hurricane Michael. (6+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the FPS on the successful beach renourishment on the inlet lagoon area near the jetties, and along the gulf beach. (6+, 0-)
- 6. The team commends the park staff for identifying and implementing capital improvement projects at the park. (6+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the Department address erosion control along the St. Andrews inlet with the Army Corps of Engineers as a critical project which is quickly impacting the natural resources and infrastructure of the park. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The Park Service is in the ongoing process of addressing the erosion control of this area with the Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program of the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers. This is a critical project for the Park; we are actively looking for a long-term solution to protect all resources.

# **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically beach dune, maritime hammock, mesic flatwoods, scrub, basin marsh, coastal dune lake, salt marsh, marine unconsolidated substrate, coastal grassland, interdunal swale, estuarine seagrass bed, estuarine unconsolidated substrate, scrubby flatwoods, and wet flatwoods.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically sea turtles, shorebirds, beach mouse, and gopher tortoise.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically dune restoration/building removal.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings/additions.
- 11. Public access, specifically parking, and boat access.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff, and funding.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

#### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Pine Log SF

# Pine Log State Forest

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest ServiceAcres: 8,037County: Bay and WashingtonPurpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): Donation/DOT/Florida ForeverOriginal Acquisition Date: 1936<br/>Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/11/22

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Mike Klassen, Manager

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

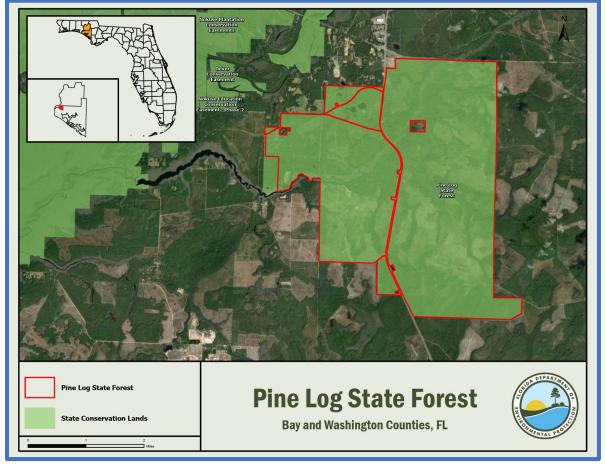
- Jordan Wingate, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Kimberly Chase, FWC
- Mark Gillman, DEP District

# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

- Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/11/22 Review Date: 2/8/24
  - Daniel Young
  - Craig Iversen, FFS
  - Eric Toole, NWFWMD
  - Jody Wood-Putnam, Conservation Org.
  - Private Land Manager, None





Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

2. The

0-)

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

 The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) staff for implementation of their effective prescribed fired program, particularly their success with growing season burnings (6+ 0.)

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.78	4.88
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	4.69	4.79
Hydrology	4.08	4.08
Imperiled Species	4.78	4.60
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.42	4.35
Cultural Resources	3.83	4.42
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.70	4.77
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.28	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 23: Results at a glance.

icularly their success with growing season burnings. (6+, 0-)
team commends the FFS for their growing support of the Operation Outdoor
team commends the FFS staff for successfully managing increased camping u

3. The team commends the FFS staff for successfully managing increased camping utilization of the forest with limited funding. (6+, 0-)

# Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FFS pursue funding for repairing the cypress boardwalk through the Faye and Dutch Loop. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The Faye and Dutch Loop Cypress Boardwalk is a central feature to Pine Log State Forest, often mentioned for its unique scenic views. Flooding after Hurricane Michael rendered the boardwalk unsafe for public use. The Florida Forest Service is committed to repairing the boardwalk and Pine Log State Forest has prioritized securing funding to replace this feature and will continue to do so until restoration is complete.

2. The team recommends that the FFS seek funding or partnerships for restoring the remnant wet prairie in the forest. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The Florida Forest Service is dedicated to preservation and restoration of all natural forest types on Pine Log State Forest. The forest implements a regular burning regime, restricts access to sensitive areas, and has seen positive results of initial wet prairie restoration efforts.

Freedom program. (6+,

Building upon current efforts, Pine Log State Forest staff plan to investigate the feasibility of limited herbicide application in these targeted areas. Recent successes at Point Washington State Forest will serve as a model for this type of work.

# **Field Review Details**

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically sandhill, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, basin swamp, bottomland forest/floodplain swamp, clastic upland lake, dome swamp, wet prairie, and baygall.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically gopher tortoise.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically sand pine to sandhill restoration, and pine plantation to wet prairie.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 9. Hydrologic/geologic function hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts.
- 10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, and staff.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

# Land Management Plan Review Details

# **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that

overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Honeymoon Island SP

# **Honeymoon Island State Park**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service Acres: 2,810 **County:** Pinellas Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. **Acquisition Program(s): Original Acquisition Date:** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

# Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Donald Bergeron, Park Manager

# **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Kate Smithson, DRP District
- Pam Leasure, Local Gov't.
- Nick Jennings, FWC
- Alle Myers, DEP District
- **Non-Team Members** (attending)
  - Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

# **Property Map**

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/11/22 **Review Date:** 2/28/24

- Daniel Larremore, Environmental Specialist
- Mike Edwards, FFS •
- WMD, None
- Jan Allyn, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for maintaining the Honeymoon Island State Park and its

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.54	4.62
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	5	
Restoration	4.44	4.83
Hydrology	4.72	4.54
Imperiled Species	4.69	4.81
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.54	4.76
Cultural Resources	4.58	4.75
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.63	4.66
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.64	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 24: Results at a glance.

visitors at a high level considering their current staffing and funding levels. (6+, 0-)

- 2. The team commends park staff for implementing Mobi mats to replace wood walkways to access the beach from the parking lot. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the park staff for the use of volunteers to assist with imperiled species monitoring. (6+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FPS place signs at the beach parking and visitor center describing and interpreting the natural process of beach and dune migration and sea level rise, and how it will affect visitor usage in the future. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The management plan is in the process of being updated and there will be an emphasis on improved interpretation with involvement from the communications team where this topic can be addressed.

# **Field Review Details**

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, mesic flatwoods, marine grass bed, marine mollusk reef, marine tidal marsh, marine tidal swamp, coastal grassland, and coastal interdunal swale.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically birds of prey, shorebirds, sea turtles, gopher tortoise, west coast dune sunflower, erect pricklypear, and inkberry.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically ruderal to coastal strand, and dune restoration.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, and T-Groins.
- 9. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality
- 10. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 11. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities.
- 14. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, and public access and recreational opportunities.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

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

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Additional staff can only be assigned to this or other park units if they are appropriated by the Legislature or reassigned from other units. Funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature.

# Land Management Plan Review Details

# **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. The Division will address adjacent property concerns and the determination of surplus lands in the update of the management plan.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Caladesi Island SP

# **Caladesi Island State Park**

 Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

 Acres: 2,470
 County: Pinellas

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.
 Original Acquisition Date:

 Acquisition Program(s):
 Original Acquisition Date:

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Donald Bergeron, Park Manager
- Todd Andrews, Asst. Park Manager

#### **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Tracy Muzyczka, DRP District
- Pam Leasure, Local Gov't.
- Rebecca Schneider, FWC
- Andrew Larson, DEP District

#### **Non-Team Members** (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

# **Property Map**

Original Acquisition Date: Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/11/22 Review Date: 3/1/24

- Daniel Larremore, Environmental Specialist
- Nathan Bartosek, FFS
- WMD, None
- Dave Perkey, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

# Yes = 6, No = 0

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

# Yes = 6, No = 0

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for excellent sea turtle and shorebird nest monitoring and management. (6+, 0-)

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.88	4.97
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	4.39	4.72
Hydrology	N/A	N/A
Imperiled Species	4.88	4.90
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.89	4.86
Cultural Resources	5.00	5.00
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.59	4.85
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.72	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 25: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends park staff for maintaining aging equipment in workable order despite the staffing level, budget deficits and harsh outdoor environment. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the park staff for the excellent interpretive and educational signage and taking every opportunity to turn enforcement into educational opportunities for guests. (6+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the park staff for their commitment to the preservation of the unique ecosystems of Florida's barrier islands at a highly visited site within a major populated area. (6+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the park staff for their aggressive treatment of exotic species at the park. (6+, 0-)
- 6. The team commends the park staff for maintaining a good working relationship with the adjacent land owner. (6+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FPS conduct forest inventory for monitoring of pine recruitment, more tree age class data, and discussion of reforestation practices in mesic flatwoods to maintain tree densities in the future. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. FPS will conduct forest inventories, monitoring pine recruitment and tree age class, as part of the post burn assessments of prescribed fire effort and exotic plant inventories.

# **Field Review Details**

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, mesic flatwoods, shell mound, marine grass bed, marine mollusk reef, marine tidal swamp, marine unconsolidated substrate, and coastal interdunal swale.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically sea turtles, shore birds/sea birds, wading birds, gopher tortoise, and giant air plant.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 7. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 8. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 9. Public access, specifically parking, and boat access.
- 10. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 11. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities.
- 12. Short-term goals, specifically public access and recreational opportunities.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

# The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

# Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

#### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Myakka River SP

# Myakka River State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park ServiceAcres: 37,199County: Manatee and SarasotaPurpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s):Original Acquisition Date: 4/5/50

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

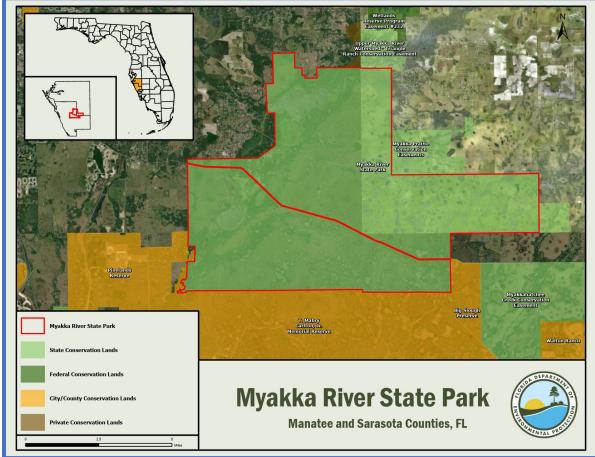
- Stephen Giguere, Park Manager
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Chris Oliver, DRP District
  - Chris Meyer, Local Gov't.
  - Hunter Folmar, FWC
  - Xenia Alonso, DEP District

# **Non-Team Members** (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Jono Miller, Observer
- Josiah Freese, FWC

Original Acquisition Date: 4/5/50 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 6/14/19 Review Date: 3/19/24

- Allison Callis, Park Biologist
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Mark Maggard, SWFWMD
- Sanford Siegel, Conservation Org.
- Andy Dodd, Private Land Manager



# Property Map

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 8, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 8, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

# Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff on improved prescribed burn program since the last LMR. (8+, 0-)

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /	2	
Forest Management	4.31	4.25
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	÷	
Restoration	4.51	4.81
Hydrology	4.25	4.14
Imperiled Species	4.25	4.55
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.96	3.60
Cultural Resources	4.81	4.69
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.27	3.90
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.40	N/A
Color Code (See App	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

# Table 26: Results at a glance.

2. The team commends park staff on continued treatment of invasive species in Myakka river marshes. (8+, 0-)

# **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that Notice of Proximity letters be included in all deeds and rental agreements of new developments. (8+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. Park and District staff will coordinate with local governments to establish a Notice of Proximity letters for new developments near Myakka River State Park.

# **Field Review Details**

# **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically dry prairie, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, scrubby flatwoods, basin swamp, baygall, depression marsh, dome swamp, floodplain marsh, hydric hammock, river floodplain lake, sinkhole lake, and blackwater stream.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically burrowing owl, caracara, manatee, and giant air plant.

- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically hydrological restoration, and mechanical treatments.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, and control of animals.
- 9. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and equipment.
- 16. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, public access and recreational opportunities, hydrological preservation and restoration, cultural and historical resources, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

# **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

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

**Managing Agency Response:** Division funding is appropriated annually by the Florida Legislature. This funding is allocated at the Division and District levels in order to best meet annual operational and resource management needs. Any deemed increase in Division Budget/staffing will follow the established legislative budget request process.

# Land Management Plan Review Details

# **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Adjacent property concerns including discussion of potential surplus land determination will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Peace River SF

### **Peace River State Forest**

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

 Acres: 4,195
 County: Desoto

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): Donation, Swamp & Overflow Lands
 Original Acquisition Date: 10/17/14

 Area Reviewed: Entire Property
 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 6/14/19

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Brandon Browning, Manager

### **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Karen Rogers, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Karch Chancellor, FWC
- Alexandria Martinez, DEP District

### Non-Team Members (attending)

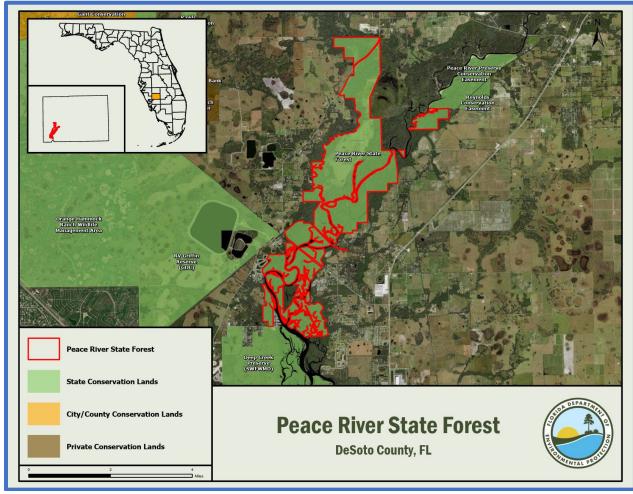
• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

- Ed Vuolo
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Mark Maggard, SWFWMD
- Sanford Siegel, Conservation Org.

**Review Date:** 3/21/24

• Andy Dodd, Private Land Manager

### **Property Map**



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 7, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

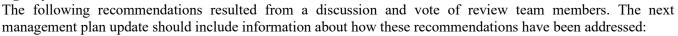
Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

There were no consensus commendations.

### Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency



1. The team recommends that the Peace River State Forest staff continue to evaluate opportunities for visitor hiking trails in other areas of the forest. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The Peace River State Forest (PRSF) staff will continue to evaluate opportunities for more hiking trails in other areas of the forest as appropriate.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin swamp, blackwater stream, depression marsh, dome swamp, and floodplain swamp.
- 2. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically fire effects monitoring.
- 3. Cultural resources, specifically protection and preservation.
- 4. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 5. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey.
- 6. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 7. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.
- 8. Short-term goals, specifically public access and recreational opportunities.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	3.80	4.32
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	1	
Restoration	3.43	3.62
Hydrology	3.40	3.75
Imperiled Species	3.02	3.52
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.29	3.61
Cultural Resources	4.21	4.43
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	3.49	3.72
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.71	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 27: Results at a glance.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Listed species, specifically plants, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether management actions are sufficient for protection and preservation of the species.

**Managing Agency Response:** PRSF staff will seek assistance with identifying listed plant species. In addition, PRSF staff will update newly identified listed plants and their locations into the forest geodatabase, which will better identify these plants and their populations prior to conducting management activities on the forest.

# 2. Public Access & Education, specifically wildlife, invasive species, and habitat management activities received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether public access & education are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response**: PRSF staff are planning on improving trailhead kiosks to provide more room for educational materials which may include posters for invasive species treatment projects, planting projects, and habitat restoration projects. PRSF staff will also seek opportunities within the local school district to establish opportunities for educating students on endangered plants and animals, as well as forestry practices.

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

**Managing Agency Response:** PRSF staff are planning to request an Other Personnel Services park ranger position. The district will continue to request additional personnel resources as needed in future years, as well as encourage additional volunteer assistance on the forest.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Listed Species protection and preservation, plants in general, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address protection and preservation of listed species.

**Managing Agency Response:** PRSF staff will seek assistance from professionals that are familiar with Florida's flora and fauna in conducting a site-specific survey to determine the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species, which includes requesting assistance from the FFS Plant Conservation Program. In addition, PRSF staff will update newly identified listed plants in the upcoming ten-year management plan table of endangered, threatened, or rare species documented on PRSF.

2. Restoration, specifically flatwoods restoration (pine planting), received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether restoration efforts are adequate.

**Managing Agency Response:** The next plan update for PRSF will include a more robust discussion of flatwoods restoration activities planned for or completed on the forest. PRSF staff will continue to seek opportunities to restore native flatwoods on the forest where these communities historically existed. Additional mechanical midstory work and tree planting activities are planned for flatwoods communities. The prescribed fire plan will also be adjusted to improve habitat in these specific communities to enhance native groundcover.

3. Public Access, Environmental Education & Outreach, specifically wildlife, and invasive species, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address public access and education.

**Managing Agency Response:** The next plan update for PRSF will contain a more robust discussion on environmental education specifically related to invasive species and wildlife. In the meantime, PRSF staff are planning on improving trailhead kiosks to provide more room for educational materials which may include posters for invasive species treatment projects, planting projects, and habitat restoration projects. PRSF staff will also seek opportunities within the local school district to establish opportunities for educating students on endangered plants and animals, as well as forestry practices.

### **Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area**

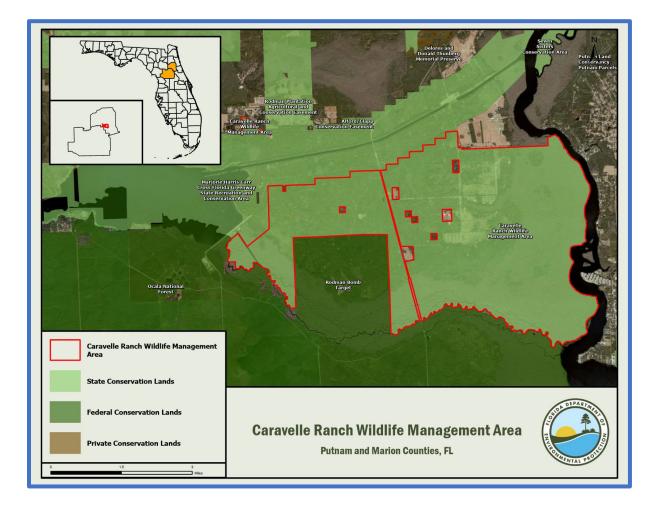
Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Acres: 10,450 County: Putnam Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): CARL/SOR **Original Acquisition Date: 5/27/93** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Jason Slater, Area Biologist •
- Storm Wittenberg, Assistant Biologist
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Adele Mills, DRP District
  - Local Gov't., None
  - Jess Rodriguez, FWC
  - Callie Ingram, DEP District
- **Non-Team Members** (attending)
  - Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/10/21 **Review Date:** 4/9/24

- Matthew Hortman, Regional Biologist
- Justin Ellenberger, District Biologist
- Aaron Levine, FFS
- Amy Copeland, SJRWMD
- Cherice Smithers, Conservation Org.
- Ben Williams, Private Land Manager



### **Property Map**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 7, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 7$$
,  $No = 0$ 

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

### Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the staff for being adaptive with natural community management incorporating information

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.40	4.52
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	4.26	4.55
Hydrology	4.51	4.64
Imperiled Species	4.42	4.83
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.28	4.40
Cultural Resources	4.79	5.00
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.55	4.68
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.69	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for det	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 28: Results at a glance.

from surveys (OBVM, wetland assessments, wildlife) to adapt management to enhance ecological conditions of communities and improve habitat quality for wildlife. (5+, 0-)

- 2. The team commends the staff on their progress of their prescribed fire program. (5+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the staff for their efforts to begin hydrological restorations as guided by the new hydrological report. (5+, 0-)

### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FWC explore possibilities of partnerships with NGOs, federal organizations, etc., to prioritize the acquisition of inholdings to prevent subdivided properties within the WMA. (5+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Per Florida Administrative Code 18-2.021, the FWC identifies parcels located directly in or adjacent to WMAs which can be recommended for acquisition through the FWC Additions and Inholdings Acquisition program. Consistent with Florida Forever program criteria, parcels on the list are prioritized. The FWC will continue to partner with NGOs, federal organizations, and others as appropriate to acquire inholdings and adjacent lands.

2. The team recommends that the staff pursue permanent, light activated smoke signs on S.R. 19 to enhance roadway safety during and after burns in the future. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: FWC will coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation to determine the feasibility of installing permanent signage at the northern and southern extents of the State

Road 19 interface with Caravelle Ranch WMA to inform vehicle operators of potential smoke on the road prior to, during, and following prescribed burns to enhance safety on the road.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin swamp, baygall, blackwater stream, depression marsh, dome swamp, floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, restoration mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, wet flatwoods, wet prairie, and xeric hammock.
- 2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general.
- **3.** Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically blackwater creek restoration.
- 7. Forest management, specifically, timber inventory.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, and animals, and prevention of pests/pathogens.
- 9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, and hydro-period alteration.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, issues with inholdings, and inholdings and additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, habitat management activities, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff and funding.
- 16. Short-term goals, specifically habitat restoration and improvement, public access and recreational opportunities, hydrological preservation and restoration, and imperiled species habitat maintenance.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that

overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

### **Tiger Bay State Forest**

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service Acres: 27,396 County: Volusia Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): EEL/SOR/CARL/P2000/Florida Forever Original Acquisition Date: 3/5/79 Area Reviewed: Entire Property Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/14/22

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Justina Jones, Manager
- Samuel Kergel

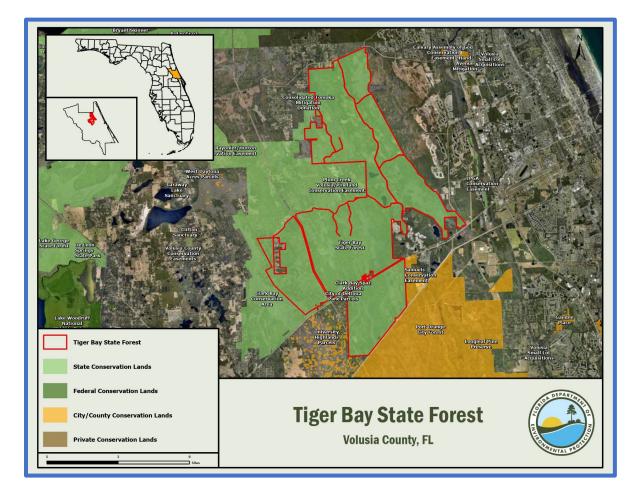
### Review Team Members (voting)

- DRP District, None
- Dean Gemeinhardt, Local Gov't.
- Jess Rodriguez, FWC
- Adam Mirajkar, DEP District
- Non-Team Members (attending)
  - Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
  - Caitlyn Crawford, FWC

- Donald King
- Joe Bishop, FFS
- Chris Kinslow, SJRWMD
- Kate Muldoon, Conservation Org.

**Review Date:** 4/11/24

• Private Land Manager, None



### <u>Property Map</u>

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) staff for the development of wider pine planting spacing on the Woody

Loop area to facilitate equipment operability in an area where prescribed fire is not highly feasible. (6+, 0-)

- 2. The team commends the staff for non-native plant control throughout the forest. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the staff for juggling strategies, approaches, and few resources to accomplish management goals. (6+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the staff on their efforts to begin the restoration of the mesic flatwoods community. (6+, 0-)

### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends the implementation of a day use access system for accessing the roads within Tiger Bay SF to conserve resources and enhance visitor experience. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** FFS will continue to review the feasibility of implementing a day use access system for accessing the roads within Tiger Bay SF.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.41	4.70
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	6	
Restoration	4.02	4.54
Hydrology	4.53	4.51
Imperiled Species	4.21	4.46
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.39	4.58
Cultural Resources	4.67	5.00
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.43	4.56
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	4.19	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 29: Results at a glance.

- 1. Natural communities, specifically basin marsh, basin swamp, baygall, depression marsh, dome swamp, scrubby flatwoods, swamp lake, and xeric hammock.
- 2. Listed species, animals in general, and specifically gopher tortoise, and Rugel's pawpaw.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically scrub restoration, and mesic flatwoods restoration.
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration, and water level alteration.
- 10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 12. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 13. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, well fields, and inholdings and additions.
- 14. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 15. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 16. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, and staff.
- 17. Short-term goals, specifically public access and recreational opportunities, and hydrological preservation and restoration.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvement actions in the field.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

### The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

### **Colt Creek State Park**

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 5,067

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

Acquisition Program(s): Florida Forever Area Reviewed: Entire Property

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

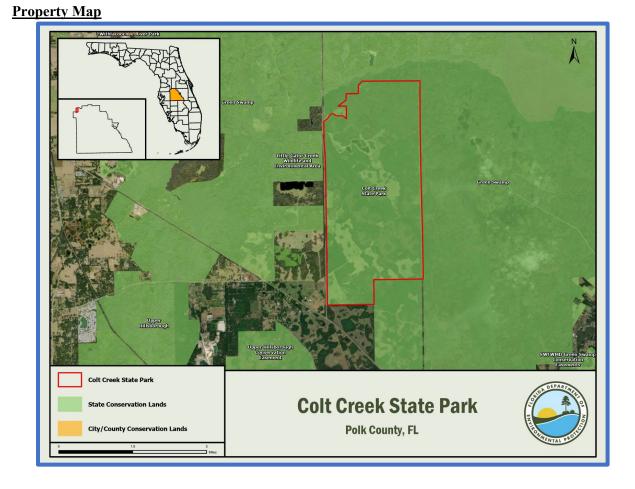
- Heather Coleman, Park Service Specialist
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Chris Matson, DRP District
  - Brooke Coulter, Local Gov't.
  - Ethan Noel, FWC
  - Makayla Parnell, DEP District

### Non-Team Members (attending)

• Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Chris Green, SWFWMD
- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/14/07



### County: Polk

**Original Acquisition Date: 5/31/06** 

**Review Date:** 4/30/24

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

### Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6$$
,  $No = 0$ 

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

### Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for the fire regime in the flatwoods. The fire frequency and

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	3.71	3.40
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	4.63	3.38
Hydrology	3.07	2.92
Imperiled Species	3.90	3.18
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.60	2.77
Cultural Resources	3.92	3.58
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.55	3.53
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.53	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for det	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 30: Results at a glance.

emphasis on burning in the growing season has resulted in excellent groundcover composition. (6+, 0-)

### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

 The team recommends that FPS review the drafted/updated management plan to ensure it includes discussion topics/details from all previous land reviews, and work on getting it enacted as soon as possible. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. DRP reviews and applies LMR recommendations, as appropriate, as part of the UMP revision process.

2. The team recommends that staff review timber assessment and utilize the information when looking at future habitat management. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** Agree. DRP will review the current timber assessment to determine if an update is required. The timber assessment is one resource among several utilized to guide restoration and improvements to applicable natural communities.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, bottomland forest, dome swamp, basin swamp, and floodplain swamp.
- 2. Listed species, animals in general.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically hydrological restoration, and pine planting (for restoration).
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically control of plants.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, ditches, and hydroperiod alteration.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
- 11. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Natural Resources Survey, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether survey and monitoring of the resources or their habitats are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Pursuant to Division philosophy (as stated in UMPs), the primary emphasis is on restoring and maintaining natural processes that define the natural communities. Single species monitoring and management may be implemented when the recovery or persistence of an imperiled species is in question. In future UMP revisions, DRP will evaluate aquatic habitats for any restoration and management needs and consult with FWC for their input on sport fish management.

2. Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether ground water monitoring is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** The Southwest Florida Water Management District currently has five groundwater wells within the park. Division staff will request guidance from the Water Management District to determine if additional water quality/quantity data would be helpful.

3. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether surface water monitoring is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Park and District staff will request assistance from the Water Management District (or local Water Authority or local health department) to determine if additional water quality/quantity monitoring would be helpful.

4. Management Resources, specifically buildings, and staff, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management resources are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Additional staff can only be assigned to this or other park units if they are appropriated by the Legislature or reassigned from other units. Funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Natural Resource Survey and Monitoring Resources, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, and other habitat management effects monitoring, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address survey or monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** Natural Resources Survey and Monitoring Resources including sport fish or their habitat monitoring will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

2. Restoration, specifically pine planting (for restoration), received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether restoration efforts are adequate.

**Managing Agency Response:** Restoration, including pine planting (for restoration) will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

3. Non-native, Invasive & Problem Species, specifically prevention of animals, and prevention and control of pests/pathogens, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address prevention of invasive species.

**Managing Agency Response:** Non-native, Invasive and Problem Species, including prevention of animals, and prevention and control of pest/pathogens will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan

update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

### 4. Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address ground water monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC. Ground Water Monitoring will be more explicitly addressed in the next plan update, though the Division relies on partners to enact water quality and quantity monitoring in the field.

### 5. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address surface water monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC. Surface Water Monitoring will be more explicitly addressed in the next plan update, though the Division relies on partners to enact water quality and quantity monitoring in the field.

# 6. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Adjacent property concerns including discussion of potential surplus land determination will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

## 7. Managed Area Uses, Proposed Uses, specifically cabins, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address managed area uses.

**Managing Agency Response:** The Division will consider these recommendations during the next unit management plan revision.

### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Seminole SF

#### Seminole State Forest

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

 Acres: 27,082
 County: Lake

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.
 Original Acquisition Date: 5/27/93

 Area Reviewed: Entire Property
 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/9/11

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Joe Bishop, Manager

### **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Peter Jensen, DRP District
- Linda Richardson, Local Gov't.
- Jess Rodriguez, FWC
- Mara Galvez Gonzalez, DEP District

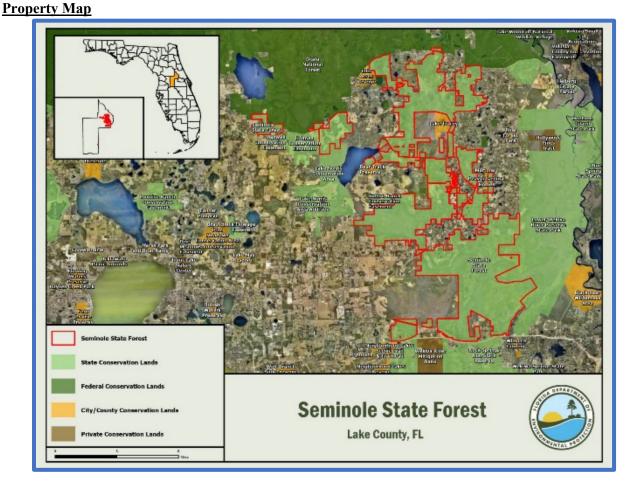
### Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Jean-Marie Conner, FWC
- Barbara Howell, DEP/RCP
- Katie Durham, DEP/RCP

- Mike Edwards, FFS
- R.H. Davis, SJRWMD
- John Benton, Conservation Org.

Review Date: 5/2/24

• Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 7, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

 The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) staff for managing and advocating for the wildlife crossing. (7+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.18	4.57
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		2
Restoration	3.99	4.43
Hydrology	4.49	4.31
Imperiled Species	4.46	4.43
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.26	4.48
Cultural Resources	4.57	4.71
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	4.50	4.75
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.67	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 31: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends the staff on their overall management efforts. It is clear they have a close personal connection to the land, and it shows in their efforts across the property. (7+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the staff on restoration of scrub areas and look forward to expanded Jay monitoring. (7+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the staff for adjusting management strategies to accommodate Camp Boggy Creek. (7+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the staff for their public outreach and education opportunities and partnering with FWC to host Welcome to the Woods. (7+, 0-)
- 6. The team commends the staff for using new prescribed burning tools like drones to help increase their prescribed burning acres. (7+, 0-)

### Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

 The team recommends that the Warea Tract be transferred to DEP to be managed as part of Lake Louisa State Park, as it is disjunct and difficult to manage adequately from Seminole State Forest headquarters. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The FFS is exploring all available options to ensure proper management of the Warea Tract.

2. The team recommends that the staff consider utilizing surrogates such as mowing/mulching of understory for fire in high fuel load areas and difficult to burn /smoke sensitive areas. (7+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The newly approved 2024 Ten-Year Land Management Plan includes mowing as a strategy in heavy fuel load areas. Chopping is currently the preferred means to reduce the heavy fuel loads in difficult to burn/smoke sensitive areas. Mulching using gyro trac equipment has been used in the construction of firebreaks along the forest perimeter where there are nearby structures. Staff will consider the use of mowing/mulching in appropriate areas of heavy fuel loading.

### Field Review Details

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically scrub, hydric hammock, floodplain swamp, basin swamp, scrubby flatwoods, depression marsh, baygall, flatwoods lake, sandhill upland lake, floodplain marsh, wet prairie, aquatic cave/spring-run stream, blackwater stream, and wet flatwoods.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically scrub jay, black bear, gopher tortoise, sand skink, gopher frog, hasteola, warea, and giant orchid.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically sandhill overstory restoration (47 acres), and scrub restoration Tracy East (300 acres).
- 7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.
- 8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- 9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration, and water level alteration.
- 10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 12. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 13. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, Wekiva Parkway, and inholdings and additions.
- 14. Public access, specifically roads, parking and boat access.
- 15. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 16. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, and buildings.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Seminole SF

overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, and sandhill, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** The 2024 Ten-Year Management plan identifies the fire frequency goals and management needs for all natural communities. SSF staff will continue to strive to meet the fire frequency goals for all natural communities, especially mesic flatwoods and sandhill. Assistance from other resources, to include FFS, other agencies, and contractors, will be considered to supplement staffing needs for burning and management activities. The continued use of unmanned aerial vehicles (e.g., drones) has the potential to significantly improve burning goals.

# 2. Management Resources, specifically equipment, and staff, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management resources are sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Requests for funding additional management resources, to include staffing and equipment, will continue to be considered and made when appropriate. The use of additional volunteers and outside resources for management assistance will also be considered.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Natural Communities, specifically aquatic cave/spring-run stream, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address current or desired condition and/or future management actions to protect or restore.

**Managing Agency Response:** The 2024 Ten-Year Land Management Plan includes language regarding the monitoring and protection of springs. However, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) reassessed all of SSF in 2019 and did not identify Aquatic Cave/Springs-Run Stream as a community type located on the forest. All communities identified by FNAI are fully described in the newly approved 2024 plan for SSF.

### **Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area**

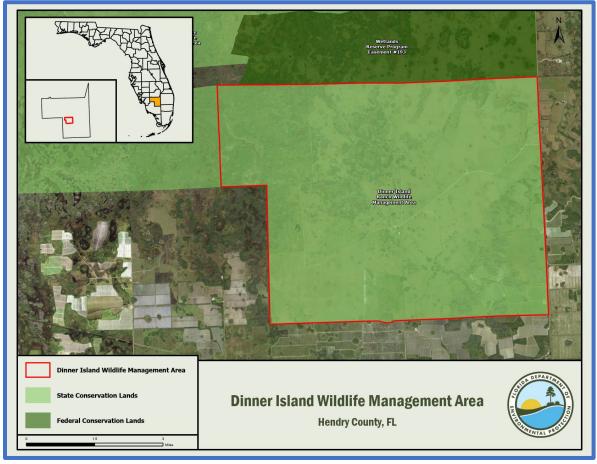
Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Acres: 21,714 County: Hendry Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): Florida Forever **Original Acquisition Date:** 7/3/02 Area Reviewed: Entire Property

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Alexis Cardas, Area Biologist •
- Daniel Mitchell, Asst. Reg. Biologist •
- **Review Team Members** (voting)
  - Cole Luttrell, DRP District
  - Local Gov't., None •
  - Josiah Freese, FWC •
  - Scarlett Heuett, DEP District •
- **Non-Team Members** (attending)
  - Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
  - Jackie Smith, FWC /IPM •

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 8/19/16 **Review Date:** 5/21/24

- Marsha Ward, Regional Biologist
- Ryder Hochmuth, District Biologist
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD •
- Conservation Org., None
- Ryan Grady, Private Land Manager



### **Property Map**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

There were no consensus commendations.

### Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FWC staff get ARM trained and review new archeological survey once it is submitted to FWC. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** FWC will review the 2024 cultural resource survey recently completed on the original property and conduct site monitoring and management in accordance with Division of Historical Resources (DHR) recommendations. FWC will prioritize Archaeological Resource Management training for area staff as appropriate.

### **Field Review Details**

### Field Review Checklist Findings

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

- 1. Listed species, specifically Florida panther.
- 2. Restoration, specifically hydrologic restoration.
- **3.** Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, hydro-period alteration, and water level alteration.
- 4. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage.
- 5. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 6. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /	÷.	
Forest Management	3.43	3.48
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	2.84	3.54
Hydrology	3.38	3.05
Imperiled Species	3.83	3.94
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.28	3.42
Cultural Resources	3.00	3.75
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	3.92	3.68
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.80	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 32: Results at a glance.

- 7. Environmental education and outreach, specifically recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 8. Management resources, specifically buildings, and equipment.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, and slough marsh, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC estimates that approximately 61-80% of the mesic flatwoods and slough marsh communities are in invasive plant maintenance condition, with 0-20% in prescribed fire maintenance condition. Fire return intervals were historically lengthened on these units due to a Special Management Area designation for Florida panthers; however, ongoing efforts to exclude cattle as well as maintain and improve habitat will continue to provide Florida panther habitat on the area without a designation. The FWC will continue to implement resource management strategies (e.g., prescribed fire, invasive vegetation treatment rotations), as appropriate and feasible, for management of these natural communities.

# 2. Cultural Resources (Archaeological & Historic Sites), specifically protection and preservation, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management of cultural resources is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC will review the 2024 cultural resource survey recently completed on the original property and conduct site monitoring and management in accordance with Division of Historical Resources (DHR) recommendations. The FWC will prioritize Archaeological Resource Management training for area staff as appropriate. The FWC will consult with DHR and propose and conduct a cultural resource survey on the newly acquired unit as feasible.

3. Resource Management, Prescribed Fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, to what degree prescribed fire is accomplished according to the objectives for prescribed fire management. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% accomplished, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC estimates that approximately 21-40% of fire-maintained communities are currently within desired fire return intervals, with much of the area altered non-fire-maintained communities. The FWC will continue to implement prescribed fire management strategies on the area and prioritize burning in fire-maintained communities.

# 4. Restoration, specifically groundcover restoration, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether restoration is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** Currently, much of the area is classified as pasture with active cattle leases. As such, groundcover restoration activities are not currently prioritized in these units. Previous groundcover

restoration efforts on the area were unsuccessful and discontinued. The FWC will continue to implement hydrologic, forest, and groundcover restoration activities in priority natural communities and evaluate the potential for further restoration activities across the area.

5. Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species, specifically prevention of pest/pathogens, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, as well as overall management actions, whether prevention and control are sufficient.

Managing Agency Response: The FWC will continue efforts to prevent pests and pathogens, evaluate current strategies, and implement improved efforts for management and prevention as feasible and appropriate.

6. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether surface water monitoring is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC will continue to cooperate with the South Florida Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection for surface water monitoring as appropriate.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Non-native, Invasive & Problem Species, specifically prevention pests/pathogens, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address prevention of invasive species.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC notes that non-native, invasive species are discussed throughout the management plan and the prevention of pests and pathogens specifically in section 5.5, where a proactive approach to prevent the introduction of pests and pathogens is described. The FWC will further consider and expand upon in the management plan update as appropriate.

## 2. Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address ground water monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** Per section 5.7.2 on page 88 of the management plan, monitoring of ground water quality and quantity is conducted in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The FWC coordinated with SFWMD to develop a monthly monitoring protocol and may conduct or contract for additional water resource monitoring, if recommended by the DEP and the SFWMD.

3. Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address surface water monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** Per section 5.7.2 on page 88 of the management plan, monitoring of surface water quality and quantity is conducted in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The FWC coordinated with SFWMD to develop a monthly monitoring protocol and will continue to coordinate with both DEP and SFWMD on the development and implementation of additional monitoring protocols if deemed appropriate and necessary. The FWC may conduct or contract for additional water resource monitoring, if recommended by the DEP and the SFWMD.

# 4. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically cattle from adjacent neighbors, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** Cattle grazing is utilized on both Dinner Island Ranch and WMA and some adjacent properties. The FWC will continue to coordinate with DIRWMA lessees and adjacent landowners on fencing issues and escaped cattle, as appropriate, to minimize concerns. This will be addressed in the management plan update.

## 5. Managed Area Uses, Proposed Uses, specifically citrus, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address managed area uses.

**Managing Agency Response:** As described on pages 9, 43, 62, 63, 97-98, 116, and 128 in the management plan, approximately 800 acres on the southeastern portion of the DIRWMA are under a citrus grove management contract. The contract (FWC #11383) was entered into on July 26, 2012 and expires on July 25, 2027, with an optional 15-year extension. The FWC will consider restoration of the DIRWMA's citrus groves upon the expiration of the current contract in 2027.

### **Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area**

Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation CommissionAcres: 26,510County: HendryPurpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the<br/>greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.Acquisition Program(s): Florida ForeverOriginal Acquisition Date: 2/16/99<br/>Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/12/14

#### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Ryder Hochmuth, Area Biologist
- Daniel Mitchell, Asst. Reg. Biologist

#### **Review Team Members** (voting)

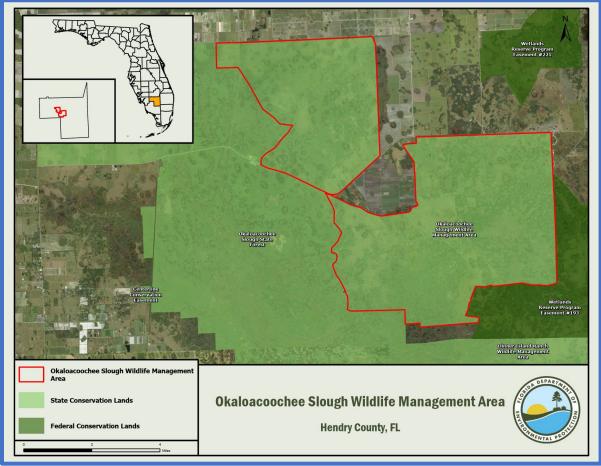
- Matthew Hodge, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Josiah Freese, FWC
- Britney Verstraete, DEP District

### **Non-Team Members** (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Jackie Smith, FWC /IPM

### Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/16/99 Review Date: 5/22/24

- Marsha Ward, Regional Biologist
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD
- Jenny Evans, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



### <u>Property Map</u>

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6$$
,  $No = 0$ 

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

### Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the staff for taking on additional lands and making strides to restore and manage the natural

Major Land Management	Field	Management
Categories	Review	Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	3.28	3.92
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	2.76	3.68
Hydrology	3.76	3.08
Imperiled Species	3.75	3.88
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.58	3.50
Cultural Resources	4.17	3.92
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	3.89	3.52
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	2.97	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for det	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 33: Results at a glance.

communities, particularly in invasive plant control, with limited resources. (6+, 0-)

### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the FWC introduce prescribed fire to the fire maintained natural communities more frequently and work toward growing season burns, and partnering with FFS to complete the fire program. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC will continue to prioritize prescribed burning efforts on Okaloacoochee Slough WMA and will strive to burn the fire maintained natural communities based on recommended fire-return intervals, prioritizing growing season when conditions permit. The FWC will continue to partner with the Florida Forest Service to help meet prescribed burn goals on the WMA.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically slough marsh, and wet prairie.
- 2. Listed species, animals in general, and specifically Florida panther.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.

- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
- 5. Restoration, specifically GCR sites.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention of plants.
- 7. Ground water monitoring, specifically quantity.
- 8. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, and signage.
- 9. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically inholdings and additions.
- 10. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
- 11. Environmental education and outreach, specifically management of visitor impacts.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, and wet flatwoods, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC estimates that 21-40% of wet and mesic flatwoods are within maintenance condition. The FWC will continue to implement resource management strategies (e.g., prescribed fire, invasive vegetation treatment rotations) as appropriate and feasible for management of these natural communities.

2. Resource Management, Prescribed Fire, specifically area being burned, and frequency, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, to what degree prescribed fire is accomplished according to the objectives for prescribed fire management. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% accomplished, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC estimates that 0-20% of fire-maintained communities are currently within desired fire-return intervals, with much of the area altered non-fire-maintained communities. The FWC will continue to implement prescribed fire management strategies on the area and prioritize burning in fire-maintained communities.

# 3. Restoration, specifically hydrologic restoration, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether restoration is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC intends to conduct or obtain a site-specific hydrological assessment to identify potential hydrology restoration needs and implement as feasible.

4. Management Resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management resources are sufficient.

Managing Agency Response: The FWC strives to conserve the maximum amount of wildlife habitat while providing sufficient facilities to effectively provide opportunities for fish and wildlife based public outdoor

recreation. FWC will consider and evaluate the feasibility and appropriateness of sanitary facility improvements on both the original and newly acquired property.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

# 1. Restoration, specifically initial invasive treatments on newly acquired sites, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether restoration efforts are adequate.

**Managing Agency Response:** The current management plan has been updated and submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for consideration at its October 2024 meeting. The updated plan addresses invasive maintenance and control in Section 4.5 on pages 53-57 and associated goals and objectives on page 72. Restoration is discussed in Section 4.3 and will be achieved through the reintroduction of fire, hydrological restoration, the use of mechanical or chemical forest management treatments, or other techniques as appropriate and resources allow.

## 2. Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quantity, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address ground water monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** Per Section 5.7.2 on page 68 of the management plan, the FWC will cooperate with the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District on the development and implementation of protocols to monitor ground water quality and quantity.

### Spirit of the Wild Wildlife Management Area

Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Acres: 7,646 County: Hendry Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state. Acquisition Program(s): Florida Forever **Original Acquisition Date: 2/16/99** Area Reviewed: Entire Property

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

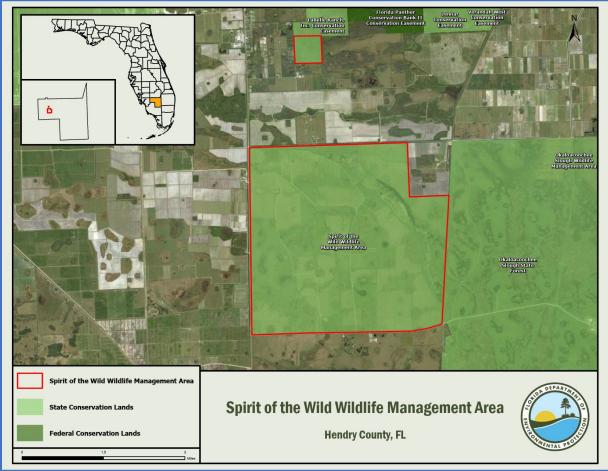
- Tanner Mazanec, Area Biologist •
- Daniel Mitchell, Asst. Reg. Biologist

### **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Cole Luttrell, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None •
- Josiah Freese, FWC •
- Jacob Poirier, DEP District
- **Non-Team Members** (attending)
  - Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
  - Jackie Smith, FWC /IPM •

### Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/21/16 **Review Date:** 5/24/24

- Marsha Ward, Regional Biologist
- Ryder Hochmuth, District Biologist
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD •
- Conservation Org., None
- Donnie Crawford, Private Land Manager



### **Property Map**

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 5, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 5, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

 The team commends the staff on the restoration efforts in the basin marsh from a degraded state to a community that is supporting important wildlife species. (5+, 0-)

### Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

There were no consensus recommendations.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically dome swamp, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, and wet prairie.
- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Restoration, specifically plantings.
- 5. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
- 6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants.
- 7. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey.
- 8. Environmental education and outreach, specifically management of visitor impacts.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	3.80	3.81
Prescribed Fire / Habitat		
Restoration	3.65	3.79
Hydrology	3.11	3.18
Imperiled Species	4.00	3.58
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.47	3.43
Cultural Resources	3.75	4.00
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	3.71	3.19
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.23	N/A
Color Code (See App	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 34: Results at a glance.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. The maintenance condition of the Natural Communities, specifically basin marsh, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, what percent of the natural community is in maintenance condition. The scores range from 1 to 5, with 1 being 0-20% in maintenance condition, 2 being 21-40%, 3 being 41-60%, 4 being 61-80% and 5 being 81-100%.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC estimates that approximately 41-60% of the basin marsh community is in maintenance condition. The FWC will continue to evaluate resource management strategies (e.g., prescribed fire, non-native vegetation treatment rotations), and implement as appropriate and feasible, for management of the basin marsh natural communities.

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

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC strives to conserve the maximum amount of wildlife habitat while providing sufficient facilities to effectively provide opportunities for fish and wildlife based public outdoor recreation. FWC will consider and evaluate the feasibility and appropriateness of sanitary facility improvements at the check station and trailhead.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Natural Communities, specifically strand swamp, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address current or desired condition and/or future management actions to protect or restore.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC contracts the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to map natural communities on the WMAs and recertify those maps every five years. Strand swamp was not mapped on Spirit of the Wild WMA at the last management plan update. The next management plan update will contain descriptions of the most current mapped natural communities along with planned management activities.

2. Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address ground water monitoring.

**Managing Agency Response:** As per page 78 of the Spirit of the Wild WMA management plan, the FWC, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District, monitors ground water quantity and quality and, as necessary, may conduct or contract for additional water resource monitoring, if recommended by the DEP and the SFWMD.

3. Resource Protection, specifically law enforcement presence, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address resource protection.

**Managing Agency Response:** The FWC acknowledges on page 114 of the management plan that insufficient levels of law enforcement pose a challenge for the WMA and proposes a strategy to increase law enforcement presence to help alleviate this challenge.

### Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

 Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

 Acres: 42,475
 County: Charlotte/Lee

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): EEL/CARL/P2000/Florida Forever
 Original Acquisition Date: 12/7/77

 Area Reviewed: Entire Property
 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 6/15/07

 Review Date: 6/18/24

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

• Nicole Ross, Park Manager

### **Review Team Members** (voting)

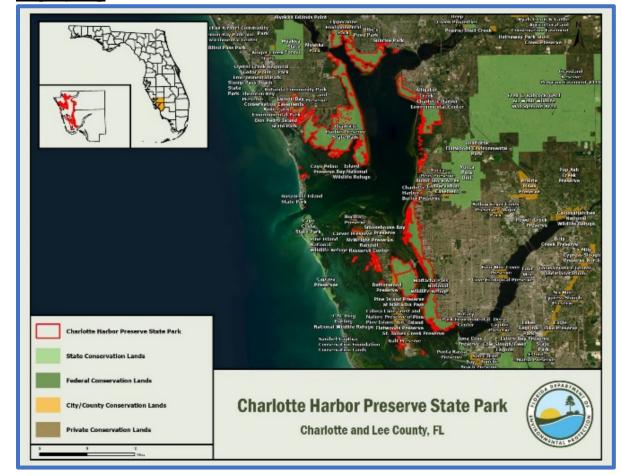
- Tracy Muzyczka, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Hunter Folmar, FWC
- Sarah Marra, DEP District

### **Non-Team Members** (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Michael Sowinski, FWC/IPM
- Bob Siegel, FNPS

### **Property Map**

- Taylor Smith, ESII
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Felicia Nudo, SWFWMD
- Sanford Siegel, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6$$
,  $No = 0$ 

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

### Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for preserving natural and cultural resources on such a large site with extremely limited staff numbers. (6+, 0-)

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	3.15	4.33
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.38	3.54
Hydrology	3.64	3.44
Imperiled Species	4.53	4.39
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.09	3.75
Cultural Resources	3.92	4.08
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	3.97	3.54
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.65	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	iil)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 35: Results at a glance.

- 2. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for introducing prescribed fires in fire excluded areas and striving to increase acres burned. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for their invasive plant management program. (6+, 0-)

### **Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

1. The team recommends that the UMP is updated as well as updating the Timber Assessment. (6+, 0-)

**Managing Agency Response:** The Division is currently in the process of updating the Unit Management Plan for all District 4 parks and will address all recommendations in the 2025 update.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

1. Natural communities, specifically coastal berm, mesic flatwoods, scrub, shell mound, and depression marsh.

- 2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically bald eagle, scrub jay, and beautiful pawpaw.
- 3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- 4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey.
- 5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 6. Restoration, specifically the Alligator Creek restoration plan, and Coral Creek restoration.
- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants and animals.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, ditches, and hydroperiod alteration.
- 9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage.
- 10. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
- 11. Environmental education and outreach, specifically invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, and recreational opportunities.
- 12. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, and equipment.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Forest Management, specifically timber inventory, and timber harvesting received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether forest management is sufficient.

**Managing Agency Response:** The Division is currently in the process of updating the Unit Management Plan for all District 4 parks and will address all recommendations in the update.

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

**Managing Agency Response:** Additional staff can only be assigned to this or other park units if they are appropriated by the Legislature or reassigned from other units. Funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Restoration, specifically Coral Creek restoration, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether restoration efforts are adequate.

**Managing Agency Response:** The update of the UMP will address current and planned restoration. This will address restoration practices that are currently ongoing and areas of priority for the next period covered by the new UMP.

2. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically discussion of potential surplus land determination, and surplus lands identified, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

**Managing Agency Response:** As a whole, all properties within the boundaries of CHPSP are considered essential to the preservation and protection of Florida ecosystems and the health of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. A line item within the updated UMP can address this and note that there are no known or perceived surplus lands.

3. Public Access, Environmental Education & Outreach, specifically wildlife, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address public access and education.

**Managing Agency Response:** The updated plan will describe the cooperation with Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) staff for educational outreach in further detail.

### Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area (Yucca Pens Unit)

 Managed by: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

 Acres: 14,577
 County: Charlotte/Lee

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): P2000/CARL/Florida Forever
 Original Acquisition Date: 5/15/95

 Area Reviewed: Entire Property
 Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/16/15

 Review Date: 6/19/24

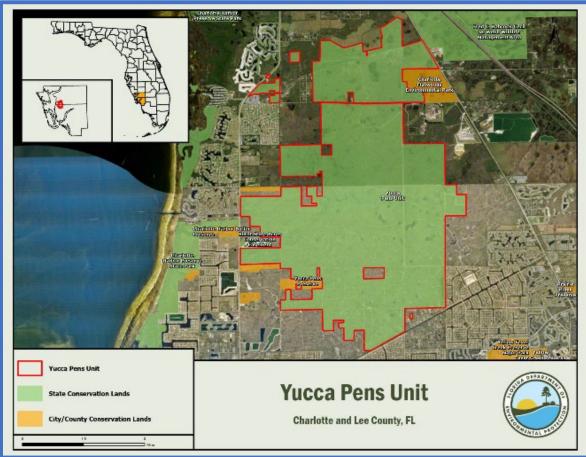
### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Cason Pope, Area Biologist
- Jennifer Myers, Asst. Reg. Biologist

### **Review Team Members** (voting)

- Taylor Smith, DRP District
- Honey Phillips, Local Gov't.
- Ethan Noel, FWC
- Xenia Alonso, DEP District
- Non-Team Members (attending)
  - Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
  - Michael Sowinski, FWC /IPM

- Karch Chancellor
- Seth Sofferin
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- WMD, None
- Krister Martinez, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None



### <u>Property Map</u>

Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 6, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 6, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the FWC for their efforts to enhance their ability to apply prescribed fire by strategically treating hum with hum being to apply a first treating the strategical burger with the strategical burger of the strategical burger and the strategical burger of the

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities /		
Forest Management	4.03	3.53
Prescribed Fire / Habitat	6	
Restoration	4.28	4.31
Hydrology	4.07	3.56
Imperiled Species	3.89	3.64
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.08	4.11
Cultural Resources	4.40	3.83
Public Access / Education /		
Law Enforcement	3.71	3.53
Infrastructure / Equipment /		
Staffing	3.83	N/A
Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 36: Results at a glance.

burn unit boundaries to reduce fuels and improve safety and efficiency. (6+, 0-)

- 2. The team commends the FWC for being an example of what can be accomplished as a state agency with appropriate funding and staffing. (6+, 0-)
- 3. The team commends the FWC on the timber thinning project for habitat restoration and wildfire prevention. (6+, 0-)
- 4. The team commends the FWC for their efforts to manage the flatwoods natural community to provide the appropriate basal area and canopy structure for future occupation by red-cockaded woodpeckers. (6+, 0-)
- 5. The team commends the FWC for their significant efforts to reduce invasive non-native plant populations on the Yucca Pens Unit. (6+, 0-)

### Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

There were no consensus recommendations.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically dome swamp, mesic flatwoods/wet flatwoods, mesic hammock, basin swamp, depression marsh, wet prairie, and dome swamp.
- 2. Listed species, animals in general, specifically red cockaded woodpecker, and Florida bonneted bat.

- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
- 5. Restoration, specifically Charlotte Flatwoods hydrological initiative.
- 6. Forest Management, specifically timber harvesting.
- 7. Non-native, invasive and problem species, specifically control of plants and animals.
- 8. Ground water Monitoring, specifically ground water quantity.
- 9. Surface water Monitoring, specifically surface water quantity.
- 10. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, and gates and fencing.
- 11. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development.
- 12. Public access, specifically roads.
- 13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically recreational opportunities.
- 14. Management resources, specifically equipment, staff, and funding.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

1. Resource Protection, specifically law enforcement presence, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether resources are sufficient to protect the property.

**Managing Agency Response:** FWC will continue evaluating law enforcement presence on the WMA and work to ensure resource protection needs are being met. FWC will also coordinate with local law enforcement agencies for assistance as needed. Area staff will continue assisting law enforcement with surveillance of the area, monitoring and repairing boundary fencing, and posting signage to educate and deter illegal activities.

### Land Management Plan Review Details

### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

1. Listed Species protection and preservation, plants in general, and specifically Florida beargrass and beautiful pawpaw, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address protection and preservation of listed species.

**Managing Agency Response:** FWC's Objective-Based Vegetation Management program and the prescribed fire program and habitat restoration practices on the BWWMA, which benefit common and listed species, such as beargrass and beautiful pawpaw, are outlined in Section 5.3, Habitat Restoration and Improvement. In addition, Section 5.5 addresses invasive species prevention, control and maintenance which benefits listed and common plant species occurring on the BWWMA as well.

## Forest Management, specifically timber inventory, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address forest management.

**Managing Agency Response:** A timber assessment addressing the timber resources was completed by the Florida Forest Service in 2002, then updated in 2014, and is included in the 2014 management plan via Appendix #8. The assessment addresses timber resources, inventory, thinning strategies for habitat improvement, and harvesting, where appropriate. The FWC also addresses Forest Resource Management in Section 5.8 of the management plan.

2. Public Access, Environmental Education & Outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, and interpretive facilities and signs, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address public access and education.

**Managing Agency Response:** Environmental education and outreach programs are discussed in Section 5.6.13 starting on page 88 of the current management plan including twelve interpretive signs and four kiosks on the BWWMA. As stated on page 113, a long-term goal of the FWC is to "continue to identify partnerships that could provide for environmental educational programs and outreach" as this is an ongoing effort.

### Myakka State Forest

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

 Acres: 8,593
 County: Sarasota

 Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the property and provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of the state.

 Acquisition Program(s): P2000/CARL
 Original Acquisition Date: 10/13/95

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

### Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Eric Strickland, Resource Administrator
- Ed Vuolo

### **Review Team Members** (voting)

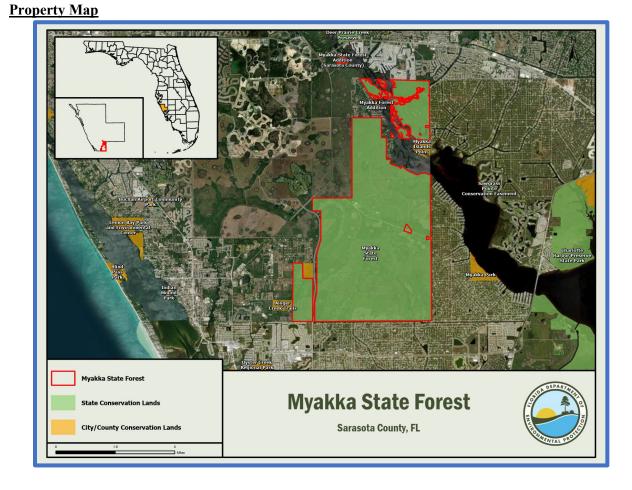
- Chris Oliver, DRP District
- Chris Meyer, Local Gov't.
- Seth Sofferin, FWC
- Alexandria Martinez, DEP District
- **Non-Team Members** (attending)
  - Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
  - Kristen Peterson, FWC/IPM

- Caroline Ritchey
- Brent Richie
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Cody Phillips, SWFWMD
- Sanford Siegel, Conservation Org.

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/10/10

Review Date: 5/2/24

• Private Land Manager, None



Is the property managed for purposes that are compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation?

Yes = 7, No = 0

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

$$Yes = 7, No = 0$$

Table 1 shows the average scores received for each applicable category of review. Field Review scores refer to the adequacy of management actions in the field, while Management Plan Review scores refer to adequacy of discussion of these topics in the management plan. Scores range from 1 to 5 with 5 signifying excellence. For a more detailed key to the scores, please see Appendix A.

## Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Myakka State Forest staff on implementing their prescribed burning facing the challenges of wildland urban interface. (7+, 0-)

### Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The next management plan update should include information about how these recommendations have been addressed:

### There were no consensus recommendations.

### **Field Review Details**

### **Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

- 1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods/wet flatwoods, depression marsh/wet prairie, scrub/scrubby flatwoods, mesic hammock, tidal creek/salt marsh.
- 2. Listed species, animals in general, and specifically scrub jay, bald eagle and giant orchid.
- 3. Natural resource survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
- 4. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.
- 5. Restoration, specifically pastures/agricultural fields.
- 6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation, and site preparation.

	Management gories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Co	mmunities /		
Forest M	anagement	4.31	4.36
Prescribed	Fire / Habitat	6 	2
Resto	oration	4.49	4.33
Hydr	rology	4.27	4.08
	01087		1.00
Imperile	ed Species	3.99	4.34
Exotic / Inv	asive Species	3.86	3.97
Cultural Resources		3.29	4.00
Public Acces	s / Education /		
Law Enforcement		4.37	4.12
Infrastructure	e / Equipment /		
Staffing		3.38	N/A
(	Color Code (See Ap	pendix A for deta	ail)
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor

### Table 37: Results at a glance.

- 7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically control of plants, and prevention and control of pests/pathogens.
- 8. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, and hydro-period alteration.
- 9. Ground water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 10. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
- 11. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- 12. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
- 13. Public access, specifically roads, parking and boat access.
- 14. Environmental education and outreach, specifically habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- 15. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, and buildings.

### **Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 3.0 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan update should include information on how these items have been addressed:

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

**Managing Agency Response:** The FFS aggressively deploys staff utilizing available funding to accomplish the tasks set forth in the approved 10 year Land Management Plan. The FFS will continue to request additional staff and funding resources as budgets allow.

#### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### **Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan**

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than 3.0 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The next management plan update should address the checklist items identified below:

The review team scores did not identify items requiring improvements in the management plan.

#### Appendix A. Scoring System Detail

#### **Explanation of Consensus Commendations:**

Often, the exceptional condition of some of the property's attributes impress review team members. In those instances, team members are encouraged to offer positive feedback to the managing agency in the form of a commendation. The teams develop commendations generally by standard consensus processes or by majority vote if they cannot obtain a true consensus.

#### **Explanation of Consensus Recommendations:**

Subsection 259.036(2), F.S., specifically states that the managing entity shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review. We ask team members to provide general recommendations for improving the management or public access and use of the property. The teams discuss these recommendations and develop consensus recommendations as described above. We provide these recommendations to the managing agency to consider when finalizing the required ten-year management plan update. We encourage the manager to respond directly to these recommendations and include their responses in the final report when received in a timely manner.

### Explanation of Field Review Checklist and Scores, and Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores:

We provide team members with a checklist to fill out during the evaluation workshop phase of the Land Management Review. The checklist is the uniform tool used to evaluate both the management actions and condition of the managed area, and the sufficiency of the management plan elements. During the evaluation workshop, team members individually provide scores on each issue on the checklist, from their individual perspective. Team members also base their evaluations on information provided by the managing agency staff as well as other team member discussions. Staff averages these scores to evaluate the overall conditions on the ground, and how the management plan addresses the issues. Team members must score each management issue 1 to 5: 1 being the management practices are clearly insufficient, and 5 being that the management practices are excellent. Members may choose to abstain if they have inadequate expertise or information to make a cardinal numeric choice, as indicated by an "X" on the checklist scores, or they may not provide a vote for other unknown reasons, as indicated by a blank. If a majority of members failed to vote on any issue, that issue is determined to be irrelevant to management of that property or it was inadequately reviewed by the team to make an intelligent choice. In either case staff eliminated the issue from the report to the manager.

#### Average scores are interpreted as follows:

Scores 4.0 to 5.0 are Excellent Scores 3.0 to 3.99 are Above Average Scores 2.0 to 2.99 are Below Average Scores 1.0 to 1.99 are considered Poor