EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Protecting human health and Florida’s environment are the highest priorities for the Central District Office of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Toward those priorities, the District issues a variety of permits, ensures regulatory compliance, and reaches out to the Central Florida community.

The District is led by Director Aaron Watkins who oversees three separate programs – Business, Compliance Assurance, and Permitting. These programs handle regulatory functions related to Air Resources, Water Resources, Waste Management, Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources, Waste Cleanup, and Emergency Response as well as day to day management of the office and budget.

The District is funded with a portion of a lump sum provided to DEP by the Florida Legislature. About 4% of the District’s funding comes from General Revenue, while the remaining 96% comes from ten different trust funds.

The District covers an 8-county area that spans over 9,000 square miles (shown below). This area is home to about 3.5 million people, major industry (tourism, health care, aerospace, defense, manufacturing), 4 first-magnitude springs, and large portions of the St. Johns River and the Indian River Lagoon.
DEP’s MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection protects, conserves, and manages the state’s natural resources and enforces its environmental laws.

Vision

To advance Florida’s position as a world leader in protecting natural resources while growing the state’s economy.

Values

- Leadership. Serve as an example of how to protect natural resources and economic vitality while adhering to the integrity of our shared vision.
- Integrity. Operate ethically, honorably, and respectfully.
- Accountability. Accept personal ownership for our actions and responsibilities.
- Communication. Operate transparently, sharing information frequently and honestly.
- Innovation. Seek innovative ways to improve operations and scientific achievements.
- Service. Serve Florida, its environment, the public, stakeholders, and each other.
# DEP STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## COASTAL RESILIENCY

**Strategic Goal #1:** Florida has the most advanced coastal resiliency program in the nation.
- Our communities are prepared for sea level rise.
- We have the most advanced coral management system.
- Our beaches flourish, they protect local communities and allow the public to experience the most iconic beaches in the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1.1</th>
<th>Objective 1.2</th>
<th>Objective 1.3</th>
<th>Objective 1.4</th>
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</thead>
</table>

## EVERGLADES RESTORATION

**Strategic Goal #2:** Florida has the largest and most successful restoration program on the planet to restore America’s Everglades and its estuaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 2.1</th>
<th>Objective 2.2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue water quality improvements within the Everglades protection area.</td>
<td>Increase clean freshwater deliveries to the Everglades protection area.</td>
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</table>

## PRIZED PROPERTIES

**Strategic Goal #3:** Florida is received as a national leader for conservation stewardship through strategic acquisitions and recreational networks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 3.1</th>
<th>Objective 3.2</th>
<th>Objective 3.3</th>
<th>Objective 3.4</th>
<th>Objective 3.5</th>
<th>Objective 3.6</th>
<th>Objective 3.7</th>
<th>Objective 3.8</th>
<th>Objective 3.9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manage aquatic preserves.</td>
<td>Spend appropriated funding for the acquisition of conservation properties and secure stakeholder support.</td>
<td>Improve state conservation efforts by improving compliance within land management plans.</td>
<td>Dispose of land identified for surplus while getting the best value for the taxpayer.</td>
<td>Long-term parcel-based resource management plans and infrastructure repair/replacement plans will guide budget decisions.</td>
<td>Volunteers and partner organizations are valued and augment workforce.</td>
<td>Value, in response to state park investments by taxpayers, users, and donors in state parks, is compelling and leads to annual budget growth.</td>
<td>DEP/DRP will plan, promote and provide outdoor recreational opportunities through network of trails/access and information.</td>
<td>Staff and volunteers will deliver ongoing interpretive programs about state parks and Florida natural and cultural resources.</td>
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## WATER SUSTAINABILITY

**Strategic Goal #4:** Florida has the most advanced water protection programs in the nation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 4.1</th>
<th>Objective 4.2</th>
<th>Objective 4.3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decrease nutrient loading from residential and community operations.</td>
<td>Decrease nutrient loading from agricultural operations.</td>
<td>Restore impacted waterways.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## ONE DEP

**Strategic Goal #5:** Ensure solutions, resources and ideas are shared to advance the mission of the DEP to protect, conserve and manage Florida’s natural resources.
- Commitment to communities.
- Advance the services, tools and resources enabling employees to promote the DEP mission.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 5.1</th>
<th>Objective 5.2</th>
<th>Objective 5.3</th>
<th>Objective 5.4</th>
<th>Objective 5.5</th>
<th>Objective 5.6</th>
<th>Objective 5.7</th>
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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

**Strategic Goal #6:** Managing environmental impacts.

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<thead>
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<th>Objective 6.1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting environmental standards.</td>
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</table>
CLIENT SERVICES

The Central District has three client segments which must be responsibly balanced:

**The Citizens and Visitors of Florida** expect that the District Office will reasonably, respectfully, and responsibly implement Florida’s laws and regulations. Services provided on behalf of these clients include:

- Issuing permits which meet state and federal requirements
- Ensuring compliance of regulated facilities
- Responding to public concerns related to regulated and non-regulated facilities
- Providing opportunities for the public to share its thoughts and concerns, and in turn, ensuring that the public has timely and efficient access to our public records
- Training to understand the rules associated with the various programs
- Technical assistance with permitting, compliance and enforcement cases

**The Regulated Community** expects that District Office will provide regulatory certainty and consistency along with fair solutions. Services provided on behalf of these clients include:

- Issuance of reasonable, law-based permits in a timely manner
- Ensuring regulatory certainty and consistency
- Providing professional and timely review of permit applications
- Providing opportunities for the regulated community to share its thoughts and concerns, and in turn, ensuring that the regulated community has timely and efficient access to our public records
- Training to understand the rules associated with the various programs
- Technical assistance with permitting, compliance and enforcement cases

**The Department** expects the District Office to assist them in achieving goals as established by the Secretary’s Office. This assistance includes:

- Consistent application of regulations and policies throughout District programs
- Producing work products as stipulated in Division goals
- Sharing information and allowing input regarding projects that fall within their respective boundaries and programs
This chart represents the District’s appropriated operating budget by category for the current fiscal year.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- DEP Secretary
  Noah Valenstein

- DEP Chief of Staff
  Darica Smith

- DEP Deputy Secretary of Regulatory Programs
  John Truitt

- DEP Assistant Deputy Secretary of Regulatory Programs
  Mike Halpin

- Central District Director
  Aaron Watkins

- Central District Assistant Director
  Kim Rush

- Compliance Assurance Program

- Permitting / WCU PA
  Nathan Hess

- Business Planning PA
  Pamela Ammon

- Communication/ Legislative Affairs/ Ombudsman
  Ashley Gardner
DISTRICT STAFFING

Central District Staffing

- Directors Office: 2
- Business: 15
- Permitting: 34
- Compliance Assurance: 39
- OPS: 16
- Vacancies: 0

Total District Employees:

90 FTE
16 OPS
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Compliance Assurance Program

- Help prevent violations from occurring by providing outreach and education to the regulated community
- Move quickly in resolving violations and bringing facilities back into compliance through compliance assistance or enforcement mechanisms
- Provide timely inspections which meet state and federal requirements
- Oversee compliance with all media (Air, Waste, Water, Wetlands and State Lands)
- Work in conjunction with DEP’s law enforcement to provide a timely and thorough response to any possible criminal environmental activities to ensure the protection of the environment.

Permitting and Waste Cleanup Program

- Issue permits, clearances, leases, and other authorizations related to Air, Waste, Water, Wetlands and State Lands
- Provide benefits to the customer via outreach, cost savings and other proactive efforts
- Review required technical submittals from regulated facilities and waste cleanup sites
- Manage contaminated sites, brownfields, closed landfills and “old dumps”
- Provide technical support to CAP

Business Program

- Manage the Central District budget allotment responsibly and transparently
- Provide administrative support for centralized mail processing to all District Offices
- Oversee facilities, operations and accurate records management
- Personnel management in coordination with the Bureau of Human Resource Management
- Planning, coordination, and tracking of training for staff based on need, level of service, and building the bench through better staff development
- Implement continuous process improvement
- Provide administrative support to all program areas

Director’s Office

- Ombudsman, communications, outreach and education, and legislative affairs.
- Support and development of District Level of Service /Work plan through data analysis, continual work plan review, and Business Plan reporting