

St. Joe Ecosystem Management Agreement For Bay County/West Bay Sector Plan

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This agreement is made and entered into by The St. Joe Company (St. Joe) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

I. Threshold and Procedural Matters

1. This Ecosystem Management Agreement and all attachments and exhibits hereto (the "Agreement") is entered into pursuant to the authority provided by Sections 403.0752. Florida Statutes (F.S.). It is intended to be a binding agreement under subsections 403.0752(7) and 403.0752(8). Governmental approvals addressed herein will be subject to public notice, hearing and decision-making procedures (including points of entry for third parties) as set forth in the applicable provisions of state law and this Agreement.
2. The ecosystem management process established herein coordinates the regulatory responsibilities of the DEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with the interests of the business community, private landowners and the public, as partners in a streamlined and effective program to protect the environment and to provide net ecosystem benefits (NEB) pursuant to subsection 403.0752(2)(a), F.S.
3. This Agreement is intended to coordinate and facilitate flexible permitting for community and economic development and to achieve a NEB and related public objectives for the region. The Parties acknowledge that the permitting process described in this Agreement will provide reasonable assurance the objectives and requirements of

subsections 403.0752(1), (2), (3), (4), F.S., are met.

4. Reference in this Agreement to "wetlands" shall include wetlands and other surface waters of the State.
5. As a result of the conditions of this Agreement, 95% of all wetlands and 98% of all high quality wetlands in the Agreement area will be conserved. As a result of the conservation of these substantial wetlands systems, the amount of upland and wetland conservation within the Agreement Area will be approximately 69%, which will substantially minimize direct and secondary impacts and comprehensively address cumulative impacts.
6. Subsection 403.0752(2), F.S., provides that an ecosystem management agreement may be entered into by DEP and regulated entities when DEP determines that:
 - a. implementation of such an agreement meets all the applicable standards and criteria so that there is a NEB to the subject ecosystem more favorable than operation under applicable rules;
 - b. entry into such an agreement will not interfere with DEP's obligations under any federally delegated or approved program;
 - c. implementation of the agreement will result in a reduction in overall risks to human health and the environment as compared to activities conducted in the absence of the agreement; and
 - d. the regulated entity has certified to DEP that it has in place internal environmental management systems or alternative internal controls sufficient to implement this Agreement.

DEP has determined that the requirements of subsection 403.0752(2), F.S., are satisfied by the approach outlined in this Agreement. This agreement does not authorize dredging and filling in waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). St. Joe currently obtains CWA authorization from USACE in the form of regional general permits (RGPs). If and when the state of Florida assumes authority over the 404 permitting program, DEP will administer the USACE RGPs in state assumed waters pursuant to 40 CFR§ 233.21(a) until the RGPs expire. Prior to expiration of the USACE RGP, and to ensure consistency with this EMA, DEP will initiate rulemaking to create State 404 general permits under Ch 62-331, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), that will operate similarly to the RGPs.

II. Agreement Overview

This Agreement addresses regulatory approvals for development of St. Joe owned lands which constitute a 42,889 acre tract of land in Bay County, identified as the Agreement Area on **Exhibit 1**. Specifically, this Agreement sets forth the procedures and criteria to be followed by DEP and St. Joe both for pre-application meetings and for procedures for application submittal, review and approval, for individual projects within the Agreement Area, as well as coordination with federal agencies and notice to the public.

Execution of the Agreement by DEP shall constitute final agency action for Environmental Resource Permitting (E.R.P.), pursuant to Chapters 403 and 373, F.S., and Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., and the accompanying Applicant's Handbooks, Volumes 1 (General and Environmental) and 2 (Design Requirements for Stormwater Management Systems - Water Quantity and Water Quality). This Agreement is the sole mechanism, with the exception of lands conveyed to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), used by St. Joe to obtain authorization to conduct the specific activities, as set forth in Article VI, within the Agreement Area. Although FDOT is encouraged to use this agreement to permit activities within the EMA boundaries, they are capable of applying separately using the rules in place at the time of application. If the FDOT submits an application absent the use of this agreement, the application will still be evaluated using the criteria set forth in this document to the fullest extent practicable. The St Joe Company, through conveyance of property, transaction, or other agreement with FDOT agrees to calculate impacts associated with FDOT projects in accordance with the established caps and developable criteria associated with high quality and altered wetlands. For FDOT projects, DEP and The St. Joe Company agree that any impacts to high quality wetlands which are approved by DEP will apply to the high quality wetland cap contained in the EMA; and for every 1 acre of impact to altered wetlands as approved by DEP, 5.67 acres of altered wetlands shall be conserved within the same sub-watershed.

This Agreement constitutes a finding that reasonable assurance has been provided that the activities described herein when conducted pursuant to the conditions of this Agreement, including the obligation to provide the additional level of treatment as set forth in Article VII and to adhere to the Sediment and Erosion Control NEB Criteria set forth in **Exhibit 2**, meet or exceed the substantive criteria of Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., and Applicant's Handbooks, Volumes 1 and 2. This Agreement also constitutes certification of compliance with state water quality standards under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341, and a finding of consistency with Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program, as required by Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Prior to construction, individual projects must demonstrate compliance with the conditions of this Agreement under the individual project approval process set forth in Article IX.

This Agreement does not constitute approval by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to conduct activities on sovereign submerged lands. Such approval, if needed, must be obtained separately by St. Joe prior to conducting any activities on sovereign submerged lands.

III. Description of Agreement Area & Ecosystem Characteristics

Located within the St. Andrews Bay Watershed and Gulf Coast Lowland physiographic region of Northwest Florida, the Agreement Area encompasses approximately 42,889 acres of property, (see **Exhibit 1**). General cardinal boundaries are the portion of the West Bay Sector Plan that is located north of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The West Bay Sector Plan is depicted in the Bay County Comprehensive Plan. The boundaries are all in unincorporated Bay County, Florida. The Agreement Area has been divided into six (6) sub-watersheds. Sub-watersheds are shown on **Exhibit 3**.

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140 **IV. EMA Process**
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142 The St. Joe Company has extensive landholdings in northwest Florida, some of which it intends to
143 develop, requiring ERP permits. In 2004, DEP and St. Joe entered into an Ecosystem Management
144 Agreement for property located in Bay and Walton Counties. After the adoption of the West Bay
145 Sector Plan and the approval and commencement of construction of the new Northwest Florida
146 Beaches International Airport, DEP, USACE, St. Joe and other commenting agencies began
147 discussions to determine whether lands within the West Bay Sector were appropriate for another
148 Ecosystem Management Agreement due to the anticipated development pressures within the area.
149 The effort to develop this Agreement was modeled on the development of the Ecosystem
150 Management Agreement in 2004.

151
152 Meetings commenced in October 2008 and have been held on a regular basis until the execution
153 of this Agreement. Early in the discussion, it was recognized that a more comprehensive approach
154 to the evaluation and regulation of development within the West Bay Sector to deal with expected
155 development in the area would benefit the environment and the economy by streamlining
156 regulation. The ensuing discussions were guided by an interagency team of senior staff
157 representatives from the USACE, DEP, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and
158 Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and The
159 St. Joe Company. The interagency team defined and developed a series of issues, including:
160 wetland delineation, wetland functional quality, identification of permitting and mitigation for
161 watershed basins and sub-basins, cumulative and secondary impacts, impact assessment, impact
162 amounts, types of impacts, impact clustering, mitigation, buffers, stormwater treatment, and
163 federal and state listed/protected species. The team conducted workshops and extensive field
164 inspections, including evaluation of wetland functional assessments, flatwoods salamander habitat
165 assessments and field verification of GIS data.

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168 **V. Conservation Units**
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170 Central to this Agreement is the concept of "Conservation Units," areas of high quality habitat and
171 landscape function, which have been identified and are to be excluded from development.
172 Conservation Units include areas of uplands and wetlands. In this Agreement, Conservation Units
173 have been divided between Type I Conservation Units, which contain 10,982 acres and Type II
174 Conservation Units, which contain 7,398 acres (refer to **Exhibit 4**). All Conservation Units are
175 designated as West Bay Preservation in the Bay County Sector Plan. This land use precludes
176 development, but does permit certain recreational facilities and activities. Type I Conservation
177 Units are of higher quality habitat and function than Type II Conservation Units. As a result, not
178 all of the land uses allowed by this Agreement in Type II Conservation Units will be allowed in
179 Type I Conservation Units.

180
181 The five (5) Conservation Units within the Agreement Area are identified in **Exhibits 5-9**. Future
182 development will be planned and designed to accommodate and complement the Conservation
183 Units, in order to maximize their habitat values and functions. As community and economic
184 development occurs within the Agreement Area, the Conservation Units and open space

within individual project sites will be designed with connective qualities, primarily to link Conservation Units. Over time, this will increase the value of the Conservation landscape within the Agreement Area. These Conservation Units link wildlife corridors and protected upland/wetland habitats from Pine Log State Forest to West Bay.

Five ecological criteria were adopted by the interagency team to analyze and select appropriate areas for inclusion in Conservation Units: Regional Significance, Biodiversity, Water Quality, Essential Fish Habitat and Nursery/Living Marine Resources (see **Exhibit 10**). Many of these Conservation Units have been altered to planted pine plantations, but are restorable to more natural conditions. Their specific locations were chosen based on their present and potential contributions to the ecosystems in and surrounding the Agreement Area. Conservation Units may only be used for mitigation/conservation purposes and limited recreational purposes.

Conservation Units are to be used for conservation purposes, wetland or habitat mitigation, limited recreational purposes, sustainable forestry and other uses, activities and facilities as allowed in Type I Conservation Units and Type II Conservation Units as set forth below. Activities which would result in "Land Disturbance" are prohibited, except those as allowed in Type I Conservation Units and Type II Conservation Units as set forth below. "Land Disturbance" is defined as "any manmade change of the land surface, including removing vegetative cover that exposes the underlying soil, excavating filling, grading, grubbing, discing, blading, contouring, ripping, root raking and includes areas covered by impervious surfaces such as roofs, concrete and asphalt." No wells shall be installed within the Conservation Units.

TYPE I CONSERVATION UNITS - The uses and activities allowed in Type I Conservation Units are limited to the following:

1. Wetland and upland habitat enhancement and restoration.
2. Forest management, which shall be conducted through sustainable forestry, uneven age management regimes and best management practices, in accordance with, and as defined in the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of Conservation Units within the West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement and RGP SAJ-105 ("Forest and Wildlife Management Plan," see **Exhibit 11**). No timbering of cypress or wetland hardwoods or clear cutting is permitted except as allowed in the Forest and Wildlife Management Plan.
3. Hunting, fishing and birding.
4. Passive recreational facilities such as hiking and biking trails, boardwalks, gathering shelters, restrooms, camping platforms, horseback trails and hitching areas and other facilities of a similar nature. These facilities shall result in no more than minimal impacts. Trails and boardwalks may cross wetlands, but must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. All other facilities must be located in uplands.

- 231 5. Wetland mitigation.
- 232
- 233 6. Green Burial Council certified *Conservation Burial Grounds*. This level of certification
- 234 employs burial/scattering programs that aid in the restoration, acquisition and/or
- 235 stewardship of natural areas.
- 236
- 237 7. Reinstitution of fire regime, including necessary firebreaks, which mimics natural
- 238 conditions. Firefighting and fire suppression activities, including light mechanical clearing
- 239 of fire lanes/fire breaks as part of controlled burns are also allowed.
- 240
- 241 8. Linear utilities and infrastructure facilities, which shall be defined as
- 242
- 243 a. electric transmission, collection and/or distribution lines,
- 244 b. water transmission, collection and/or distribution lines,
- 245 c. sewer transmission, collection and/or distribution lines,
- 246 d. natural gas transmission, collection and/or distribution lines,
- 247 e. data and/or telecommunications transmission, collection and/or distribution lines
- 248 (phone, cable, fiber optics, internet), and
- 249 f. stormwater conveyances, but not stormwater ponds. In addition, ancillary
- 250 facilities that are part of and support the linear utilities and infrastructure facilities
- 251 described above shall be allowed. All linear utilities and infrastructure facilities
- 252 shall, when practical, be co-located with road crossings and be installed by direct
- 253 bore methods. The linear infrastructure shall be subject to the criteria and wetland
- 254 impact limitations as set forth in sub-paragraph 3 of Article VII below.
- 255
- 256 9. Activities needed to maintain, in current condition, existing access, roads, and ditches
- 257 within and through the Conservation Units. These allowable maintenance activities do
- 258 not include activities to relocate such access, roads and ditches.
- 259
- 260 10. Nature centers, including single access roads. A Leadership in Energy and
- 261 Environmental Design ("LEED") certification of silver or higher must be obtained for
- 262 any enclosed structures. Nature centers may only be located in uplands. Access roads to
- 263 serve nature centers must comply with paragraph 3 of Article VII below and paragraph
- 264 12 below.
- 265

266 TYPE II CONSERVATION UNITS - The uses, activities and facilities allowed in Type II

267 Conservation Units include all the uses, activities and facilities set forth above in Article V,

268 and also include the following:

269

- 270 11. Road and bridge crossings to support associated development. All crossings in wetlands
- 271 shall be designed so that the hydrologic conveyance is not reduced or impaired. Bridging
- 272 is required wherever practicable. The following factors shall be considered when
- 273 determining if bridging of the wetlands is practicable:
- 274
- 275 a. the degree of water flow within the wetland,
- 276 b. the length of the wetland crossing,

- c. the topography of the wetland and associated upland, and
- d. the degree to which a roadway would adversely affect the movement of wildlife expected to use the wetland.

Road and bridge crossings shall be designed and constructed to minimize wetland and upland impacts and must comply with paragraph 3 of Article VII below.

12. Certain recreational facilities to include boat ramps, fishing piers, parks picnic areas and pavilions, playgrounds/tot lots, nature facilities, but excluding any sports or ball fields, including baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts and golf courses. In addition, parking facilities are allowed, but shall be constructed with pervious surfaces, unless it is impractical to use pervious surfaces, in which event impervious surfaces may be used. Boat ramps, fishing piers and access roads may cross wetlands, but must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. All other facilities may only be located in uplands. Access roads to serve recreational uses and activities must use existing roads to the maximum extent practicable and otherwise must comply with paragraph 3 of Article VII below and paragraph 11 above.

The total number of acres that can be impacted within Type 1 and Type 2 Conservation Units by Land Disturbance associated with activities allowed by subparagraphs 4, 6, 8, and 10 of Article V related to Type I Conservation Units and subparagraphs 11 and 12 of Article V related to Type II Conservation Units is 183 acres, which is 1% of the total number of acres within the Conservation Units. The following activities listed in the referenced subparagraphs shall not be subject to the Land Disturbance restriction: pervious hiking and biking trails, pervious horseback riding trails and boardwalks. Areas which are temporarily disturbed by activities in the referenced subparagraphs will not count toward the 183 acre cap, if restored within one (1) year of the disturbance. The number of acres subjected to Land Disturbance shall be reported on a sub-watershed basis in the required annual reports. Any proposed Land Disturbance acreage within altered wetlands in a Type I or Type II Conservation Unit shall be offset by an equal acreage amount consisting of preserved altered wetlands outside of the Conservation Unit but located in the same sub-watershed. Direct impacts to altered wetlands within Conservation Units shall be conducted consistent with the applicable provisions in Article VII. Any proposed Land Disturbance acreage within uplands in a Type I or Type II Conservation Unit shall be offset by an equal acreage amount consisting of preserved upland buffers outside of the Conservation Unit but located in the same sub- watershed. This offset shall be included in the individual project approval that approves Land Disturbance to the Type I or Type II Conservation Unit and will further be reported in the required annual report.

DEP's approval shall be required for any uses, activities or facilities sought to be constructed in Conservation Units as allowed by subparagraphs 4, 6, 8, and 10 of Article V related to Type I Conservation Units and subparagraphs 11, and 12 of Article V related to Type II Conservation Units ("Conservation Unit Project Approval"). Written authorization under this Agreement for allowable projects within Conservation Units is required prior to initiation of construction. If the allowable project is located in State Sovereign Lands, then separate Sovereign Lands approval is required. Conservation Unit Project Approval shall generally be conducted consistent with Article IX, and will include a use of the Conservation Unit Checklist (**Exhibit 12**) applicable to allowances of uses, activities and facilities in the Conservation Units. In applying for Conservation Unit

Project Approval an applicant will be required to include an avoidance and minimization impact analysis with respect to the proposed uses, activities and facilities and review by DEP will include a review of the total scale of facility to ensure that the proposed use, activity or facility is limited and consistent with the preservation objectives of the Conservation Units.

VI. Permitted Activities

This Agreement authorizes dredging and filling in waters of the State, and construction and maintenance of stormwater facilities associated with the construction of residential, commercial, recreational, institutional, and restoration projects, including supporting infrastructure, by St. Joe within the Agreement Area, excluding the Conservation Units described in Article V. Subject to the conditions of this Agreement, dredging and filling for the referenced activities is authorized in wetlands and ditches. Dredging and filling in, on or over high quality wetlands is limited to road, bridge, or boardwalk crossings.

Specifically, this Agreement authorizes such activities as the construction of building foundations, building pads and attendant features necessary for the use and maintenance of the structures. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, and storm water management facilities. Residential developments include multiple and single unit developments. Examples of commercial developments include retail stores, light industrial facilities (which means business activities such as commercial distribution assembly or manufacturing processes with no primary use of raw materials), manufacturing facilities, research facilities, warehouses, distribution facilities, hotels, restaurants, business parks, and shopping centers. Examples of recreational facilities include playgrounds, playing fields, golf courses, hiking trails, bike paths, horse paths, stables, nature centers, and campgrounds. No marinas or other docking structures are authorized under this Agreement. Examples of institutional developments include schools, fire stations, government office buildings, judicial buildings, roads, public works buildings, libraries, hospitals, and places of worship.

VII. Wetland Impacts and Stormwater

The Agreement Area, as depicted in **Exhibit 1**, is divided into six sub-watersheds, including: Pine Log Creek, Crooked Creek-West Bay, Little Burnt Mill Creek, Burnt Mill Creek-Doyle Bayou Frontal, Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou Frontal, and Intracoastal Waterway-West Bay. For the purposes of this Agreement, the identification and delineation of wetlands must be in accordance with the most recent guidance and wetland delineation manual or manual supplement issued by USACE (which as of this date is the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region (2010)*), or the State of Florida methodology prescribed in Chapter 62-340, F.A.C., *Delineation of the Landward Extent of Wetlands and Surface Waters*, or a combination of both, in order to establish one jurisdictional wetland line for all individual project approvals that is the most landward line of wetlands. Wetlands shall be delineated for each individual project approval which proposes impacts to wetlands by flagging located either by Global Positioning System or survey. For projects under this Agreement, the state will be allowed to exercise regulatory jurisdiction over a significantly

larger area than presently allowable under state law.

Wetlands in each basin have been identified, mapped and classified as either altered or high quality, **Exhibit 13**. Altered wetlands are wetlands that have been planted in pine trees as shown on the aerial dated March 2013 (see **Exhibit 14**) and are to remain altered unless and to the extent the silviculture activities in any area of altered wetlands remains dormant for more than 5 years. Altered wetlands are hydric pine plantations. The class of altered wetlands also includes ditches and borrow pits. High quality wetlands are all other jurisdictional wetlands and include cypress domes/strands, bay/gallberry swamps, cypress swamp areas, seepage slopes, Hypericum bogs, emergent marsh and other similar areas.

In order to be approved, wetland impacts must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Impacts to altered wetlands shall not exceed 15% of the total altered wetlands in any one sub-watershed. The area within a particular sub-watershed to be used to make the 15% percent calculation does not include areas within Conservation Units located within the sub-watershed. Sub-watersheds are depicted in **Exhibit 3**. A small portion of the Intercoastal Waterway-West Bay Sub-watershed is located within the boundary of the RGP with the majority of the sub-watershed being located to the west of and outside of the boundary of the RGP. Provided this RGP is modified or a new RGP is issued to encompass the remaining extent of the Intercoastal Waterway-West Bay Sub-watershed, impact acreage limit calculations for altered wetlands would be based on the entire Intercoastal Waterway-West Bay sub-watershed.
2. Projects may impact more than 15% of the altered wetlands within an individual project site, if cumulative altered wetland impacts for all approved projects within the sub-watershed do not exceed the 15% requirement at any given time. Examples of where this may occur include:
 - a. An applicant proposes an individual project, which would impact 10 acres of the 100 acres of altered wetlands located within the proposed project site and preserve the remaining 90 acres of altered wetlands through placement under a conservation easement. This example would result in an altered wetland overage of 33.3 acres, since 56.7 acres of altered wetland preservation would be required to comply with the 15% allowable impacts to altered wetlands within a specific watershed. The same applicant, or succeeding assignee, with a subsequent individual project, located at a different site within the same watershed, and containing a total of 5 acres of altered wetlands, proposes to impact all 5 acres of altered wetlands for the project. The applicant may use 28.4 acres of the 33.3 acre overage of preserved altered wetlands from the first project to comply with the 15% requirement for the second project.
 - b. An applicant proposes an individual project on a site with a total of 10 acres of altered wetlands. The applicant proposes to impact all 10 acres of the altered wetlands for the project. To comply with the 15% allowable impacts to altered wetlands requirement, the applicant would preserve 56.7 acres of altered wetlands through the placement of a conservation easement, elsewhere within the same

sub- watershed in which the impact site is located.

3. Impacts to high quality wetlands:

- a. Shall be limited to road and bridge crossings, boardwalks and paths, linear infrastructure (which includes stormwater conveyances but not stormwater ponds), utility corridors, and any other linear access facilities necessary to support the associated development and shall usually not exceed a width of 100 feet of combined filling or clearing at each crossing, but may in certain cases, consistent with the criteria in this section, be allowed up to a total width of 160 feet. Florida Department of Transportation roads may be allowed up to a width of 200 feet consistent with criteria in this section.
 - b. The aggregate total filling or clearing of high quality wetlands for crossings and other linear infrastructure within the Agreement Area shall not exceed 225 acres.
 - c. The first preference for new high quality wetland road crossings will be at existing silviculture road crossings. Crossings at existing silviculture road crossing and at locations other than existing silviculture crossings are allowed if the crossing is designed and constructed to minimize wetland impacts.
 - d. For each crossing proposed at a point where no previous crossing existed, an existing silviculture road crossing within the same sub-watershed must be removed and the wetland hydrologic connection including any associated natural stream or tributary within the area of removal, shall be restored. Restoration in this section is defined as re-establishment of natural soil surface grades and natural re-vegetation is being allowed to occur no later than February 15th of each year following the date of initiation of construction of the new crossing. Projects authorized 45 days prior to February 15th may be completed by the following year after that. Once all silviculture road crossings of high quality wetlands within a sub-basin have been restored this requirement shall lapse.
4. All crossings in wetlands shall be designed so that the hydrologic conveyance is not reduced or impaired. Bridging, co-locating utilities and infrastructure and directional boring is required wherever practical. The following factors shall be considered when determining if bridging or directional boring of the wetlands is practical: 1) the degree of water flow within the wetland, 2) the length of the wetland crossing, 3) the topography of the wetland and associated upland, and 4) the degree to which a roadway would adversely affect the movement of wildlife expected to use the wetland
5. The natural streams and tributaries located within portions of the Crooked Creek/West Bay Conservation Unit as shown on **Exhibit 15** (the "Hydrologically Sensitive Area"), which is a Type II Conservation Unit, shall be further protected by the following additional conditions and restrictions. Within the Hydrologically Sensitive Area all road crossings over the natural streams and tributaries are required to be bridged, where practicable. Bridging shall occur over the portion of a crossing that has a discernable natural channel with well-defined banks and flow. The exact length and cross section of a bridge shall be determined at the time of the individual project approval, based on professionally accepted engineering practice and the

characteristics of the channel. A maximum of six (6) non-bridged crossings will be allowed. The first preference for new non-bridged crossings will be at existing silviculture road crossings. Non-bridged crossings at locations other than existing silviculture road crossings are allowed if the crossing is designed and constructed to minimize wetland impacts. In addition, for each non-bridged crossing proposed at a point where no previous crossing existed, an existing silviculture road crossing within the same sub-watershed including any associated natural stream or tributary within the area of removal, shall be restored. Restoration in this section is defined as re-establishment of natural soil surface grades and appropriate vegetation is naturally re-emerging no later than the 365th day following the date of the initiation of construction of the new crossing. The removal of existing silviculture road crossings shall be coordinated with land management operations. Non-bridged road crossing rights of way shall usually not exceed a width of 100 feet of combined filling or clearing at each crossing, but may in certain cases, consistent with criteria in this section be allowed up to a total width of 160 feet. In designing stormwater management systems adjacent to these natural streams and tributaries, flow velocity and hydraulic energy at the outfall shall be minimized. These design considerations may include, but are not limited to U-Type Concrete Endwalls with optional baffles and grates, U-Type Concrete Endwalls with engineered energy dissipater, structurally lined outfall aprons, plunge pool outfall aprons, and spreader swales. No new direct outfall pipes or new channels shall be permitted into any of these natural streams and tributaries. Instead, vegetated natural buffers shall be utilized for stormwater purposes adjacent to these natural streams and tributaries.

6. Surface Water management systems for all projects authorized by this Agreement shall be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in compliance with Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., and 2018 Applicant's Handbook, Volume 2 and shall include an additional level of treatment that is 50% above the treatment that is required for a non-OFW. Although the Surface Water Management systems will be designed to meet OFW standards, water quality standards appropriate to the receiving waters shall be applied for determining compliance with water quality standards.

VIII. Mitigation

1. Within the Agreement Area, individual project wetland impact mitigation may be satisfied within (1) mitigations banks, (2) designated Conservation Units, or (3) within the project area. The first priority for compensatory mitigation of permitted wetland impacts in the RGP area is restoration/enhancement-based activities at one of the two following mitigation banks: the Breakfast Point Mitigation Bank or projects within the Breakfast Point Basin; and the Devils Swamp Mitigation Bank for projects within the Devils Swamp Basin.
2. Mitigation for impacts to estuarine wetlands will be ecologically appropriate and sufficient based on an individual project evaluation. Factors to be considered in

determining if additional mitigation is needed for impacts to estuarine wetlands shall include:

- a. the extent of direct impacts from fill, including pilings and support structures.
- b. the amount of shading or other secondary impacts expected to result from the activity, and
- c. impacts from construction methodologies, such as barge access or the use of heavy equipment. Mitigation for impacts to estuarine wetlands shall be conducted either on site or within a Conservation Unit that contains estuarine systems.

3. St. Joe has provided reasonable assurances that there is an adequate amount of mitigation currently available or potentially available in mitigation banks and Conservation Units for all individual project impacts that may be authorized under this Agreement. In order for DEP to regularly monitor the number of available credits or potentially available functional units, St. Joe shall prepare and submit to DEP an updated report with each annual report summarizing the number of credits that are available in mitigation banks and the number of functional units that are potentially available in Conservation Units. DEP will utilize this information to determine if trends warrant that St. Joe initiate a process to make available additional mitigation credits or functional units from existing Conservation Unit acreage in one thousand (1,000) acre or larger increments. This determination will be based on whether there is an adequate supply of credits to satisfy the rate of credit absorption within the EMA boundary.

IX. Individual Project Approval

Individual project approval for all projects authorized by this Agreement shall be conducted in compliance with Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., and Applicant's Handbook, Volume I, including all procedures contained therein, except as those procedures are modified in this Article. At the pre-application meeting, clarification will be provided on any question related to the procedural aspects of the Applicants Handbook, Volume I as they related to the procedures contained in this Agreement.

Pre-Application Process

An applicant may request an informal pre-application meeting with appropriate representatives from USACE and DEP to discuss a proposed project and clarify any necessary procedural and substantive criteria of the EMA. Appropriate representatives from USFWS, EPA, FWC, National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") and the Northwest Florida Water Management District ("NFWMD") shall be invited to the pre-application meeting. There are no specific submittal requirements for this informal pre-application meeting, but the applicant shall provide an appropriate type and level of information on any procedural or substantive criteria that needs clarification. An information pre-application meeting does not commence the formal review of an individual project approval application. Pre-application meeting may be scheduled on an as needed basis. A mandatory meeting with DEP to discuss stormwater must take place.

Formal Individual Project Review

To commence the review of an application for an individual project approval, the applicant shall prepare an application using the form *Joint Application for Individual And Conceptual Environmental Resource Permit/Authorization to Use State Owned Submerged Lands, Forms 62-330.060(1)*. It must include all of the information required in the Individual Project Approval Checklist (**Exhibit 16**). The application shall be submitted to USACE and DEP at least two weeks prior to a meeting with USACE and DEP to review the application. A processing fee shall accompany each application in an amount consistent with the fee schedule set forth in Rule 62-330.071, F.A.C. The form shall be completed pursuant to the instructions, with the exception of items 7 and 8, which shall be completed as follows:

Item 7. Desired Permit Duration (see Fee Schedule): *Duration of the individual project approvals shall be 10 years.*

Item 8. General Permit or Exemption Requested: *St. Joe Ecosystem Management Agreement for Bay County/West Bay Sector Area* should be referenced here.

Appropriate representatives from the USFWS, EPA, FWC, NMFS and NFWFMD shall be invited to the meeting. The application shall be considered to be in draft form until the day of the meeting, at which time the formal review of the application shall commence and DEP has the right to submit a Request for Additional Information (RAI) within 30 days of the meeting. Unless otherwise requested by DEP at the meeting, no post meeting submissions will be made by the applicant until receipt of the RAI. No regulated work may proceed until after written authorization under this EMA has been issued. For ease of scheduling purposes, individual project approval meetings shall be scheduled on a monthly basis but may be cancelled if no applications are proposed on any given month.

In addition to the application form, the submittal shall include:

1. The necessary technical information, drawings and calculations describing the stormwater management system proposed for the individual project and
2. Documentation of coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding any needed archaeological and historical surveys for the project area, and any measures needed to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts to sites of historical or archaeological value.
3. Documentation of coordination with the FWC regarding any needed fish and wildlife surveys for the project area, and any measures needed to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts to listed/protected fish and wildlife species and their habitat, including any plan to obtain a permit if required by Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C.

Additionally, DEP and St. Joe will discuss the need for a separate approval to use sovereign submerged lands to implement the proposed project. If sovereign submerged lands approval is needed, every effort will be made to process such approval concurrently with the individual project review required by this Agreement.

599
600 Upon receipt of the complete application for individual project approval, DEP will have 60 days
601 to review the information for compliance with the terms of this Agreement. The review shall also
602 consider St. Joe's history of compliance with previously issued permits, and individual project
603 approvals granted under this Agreement, as a factor in determining if reasonable assurance has
604 been provided that the terms of the Agreement as applied in the individual project approval will
605 be met. A history of non-compliance with previously issued permits and individual project
606 approvals may serve as the basis for project denial, modification, or the addition of specific
607 conditions, based on the nature, severity, and extent of the non-compliance.

608
609 If the application provides reasonable assurance that the project complies with the terms of this
610 Agreement, DEP shall approve the individual project by issuing letter of approval or denial of the
611 individual project that shall include a point of entry for challenging the agency action. The letter
612 will also include a public notice of the agency action that St. Joe shall publish in a newspaper of
613 general circulation in the county where the individual project is located, which publication shall
614 be accomplished in the same manner as provided in Rule 62-110.106(5), F.A.C.

615 616 **Preservation of Third Party Rights**

617 This Agreement is not intended to alter or modify the rights of third parties to challenge agency
618 actions, except that the requirements imposed by this Agreement for stormwater management
619 systems, dredge and fill of wetlands, and wetlands impact mitigation shall govern rather than the
620 requirements of Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code.

621
622 If the DEP proposes to issue an individual project approval pursuant to Article IX of this
623 Agreement, any Florida corporation not for profit which meets the requirements of subsection
624 403.412(6), F.S., and any person whose substantial interests will be determined or affected by
625 individual project approvals under the Agreement may petition DEP for a formal administrative
626 hearing pursuant to section 120.569 or 120.57, F.S.

627
628 The scope of a challenge to an individual project approval is limited to whether the individual project
629 approval complies with this Agreement, such as whether the stormwater management system, the
630 dredging and filling of waters of the state and the mitigation to offset wetland impacts proposed
631 for an individual project approval comply with this Agreement.

632 633 **Individual Project Approval General and Specific Conditions**

634 The general conditions contained in **Exhibit 17** shall be conditions of any individual project
635 approval.

636
637 If mitigation for the project is provided in a mitigation bank, the approval shall specify the
638 number and type of credits to be used to offset the project impacts, pursuant to Section VIII.
639 If mitigation for the individual project is to be provided either on-site, or in a Conservation
640 Unit , rather than a mitigation bank, the individual project approval shall specify the number
641 and type of functional units to be used to offset project impacts, as well as any associated
642 requirements for monitoring the success of the mitigation.

643
644 As part of reasonable assurance that any mitigation provided outside of a mitigation bank will be

maintained in perpetuity in its enhanced or restored state, the individual project approval shall also include a requirement for the placement of a conservation easement over the mitigation site. In addition, wetlands not authorized for impacts on each project site and their buffers as set forth in paragraph 12 of Article X shall also be made subject to a conservation easement. Prior to issuing a letter of approval for the individual project, St. Joe shall submit a draft of the conservation easement, along with documentation that the property over which the conservation easement will be granted has no encumbrances or liens that would be contrary to the purpose of the conservation easement. The individual project approval shall include a condition requiring that the conservation easement be executed, delivered and recorded prior to conducting the activities authorized in the project approval letter, or according to the time frame specified in the project approval letter.

St. Joe shall use best management practices during individual project construction to minimize impacts to wetlands not authorized to be dredged or filled, and to control erosion and turbidity to ensure that state water quality standards are not violated. DEP may include specific conditions related to project construction techniques in the individual project approval letter to address these issues.

Web Site for Public Information

DEP agrees to maintain a web site, accessible to the public, containing information regarding individual projects reviewed under the Agreement. At a minimum, the web site will include information on the individual projects approved, or pending approval by DEP. This information may be viewed at the following web address: <https://floridadep.gov/northwest/nw-permitting/content/st-joe-company-ecosystem-management-agreement-2>. Posting of such information does not constitute public notice of a point of entry to challenge DEP's action on individual project approvals. Such public notice shall be accomplished as set forth above in this Article.

X. St. Joe Commitments

St. Joe agrees to the following commitments:

1. This Agreement is the sole mechanism to be used by St. Joe to obtain authorization to conduct the specific activities set forth in Article VI within the Agreement Area. Any change in the specific activities or any other deviation from the terms of the Agreement, will require amendment of the Agreement. Separate individual or general permits may be applied for within the Agreement Area for activities that are not addressed by this Agreement, including but not limited to marinas and docking facilities.
2. The Conservation Units shall be excluded from development activities, other than those activities authorized under Article V.
3. St. Joe will manage the Conservation Units consistent with their ultimate conservation use unless or until transferred in accordance with paragraph 8 below.
4. Mitigation of project impacts will be conducted in a manner consistent with the

conditions of the individual project approval.

5. Mitigation will occur prior to or concurrently with permitted impacts.
6. For mitigation conducted outside of a mitigation bank or for wetlands not authorized for impact and their buffers (as set forth in paragraph 12 below) a perpetual conservation easement will be placed on such property prior to conducting the activities authorized in the project approval letter as set forth in Article IX. The easement shall be in the form of the applicable easement document in **Exhibit 20**.
7. The St. Joe Company shall place perpetual conservation easements on portions of Conservation Units equal to the percentage of the total acreage of approved projects in each sub-watershed within the EMA area. Approved projects in this special condition includes those projects within the EMA area having received approval under this Agreement plus any other projects within the EMA area having received approval from Bay County during the preceding year, but which do not require specific approval under this Agreement. To determine the acreage of the Conservation Units that must be placed under an easement:
 - a. Divide the total acreage within approved project boundaries in a sub-watershed (including impact and preserved area), for the previous year, by the total acreage of land within the sub-watershed minus the area of any Conservation Units within the same sub-watershed. To comply with this condition only, the Intracoastal Waterway Sub-watershed and the Crooked Creek West Bay sub-watershed shall be combined and treated as a single Conservation Unit.
 - b. This percentage of the Conservation Units in each sub-watershed shall be placed under a conservation easement within six months from the date of the individual project approval or for approved projects that do not require specific approval under this Agreement, within six months from project approval by Bay County.
 - c. The cumulative acreage of Conservation Units conveyed to governmental entities or 501C(3) conservation organization buyers shall count toward the acreage which is required to be placed under a conservation easement.
 - d. Once all Conservation Unit acreage within a sub-basin has been placed under conservation easement, this requirement shall cease for projects associated with the subbasin.
8. Sale or transfer of a Conservation Unit may only be made to a governmental entity or a non-profit conservation/natural resource management entity. If a Conservation Unit or any portion thereof or interest therein is conveyed to subsequent owners, if not already subject to a conservation easement pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article X above, The St. Joe Company shall place conservation easements on such property to assure the perpetual conservation use of the Conservation Unit as described in Article V with respect to Type I Conservation Units and Type II Conservation Units above. The perpetual conservation easement shall be in the form of **Exhibit 18** for Type I Conservation Units, **Exhibit 19** for Type II Conservation Units and **Exhibit 21** for the

Hydrological Sensitive Area. Within seven (7) days of conveyance of any portion or interest of a Conservation Unit, The St. Joe Company shall provide to the new owner a complete copy of the Agreement. Written assurance that a complete copy of the Agreement has been given and received shall be provided to DEP by The St. Joe Company within fourteen days of any such conveyance. The written assurance shall consist of a letter to DEP stating that the conveyance has taken place and shall be signed by the appropriate representatives of The St. Joe Company and the new owner.

9. Stormwater management systems in project areas within the Agreement Area will be designed, constructed and maintained to meet the Stormwater NEB Criteria as set forth in Section VII and to adhere to the Sediment and Erosion Control NEB Criteria as set forth in **Exhibit 2**.
10. There will be no wetland or other surface water fill for septic tanks or drain fields, however composting aerobic restrooms are allowed in conjunction with recreational facilities.
11. St. Joe base maps will depict the location of Conservation Units to assure each business unit within the company is aware of their location and restrictions placed upon them to assure that there is no encroachment or activity incompatible with the activities specifically authorized in Article V.
12. In general, high quality wetlands shall be buffered from development by uplands/and or altered wetlands. Except at road crossings, upland and/or altered wetland buffers adjacent to high quality wetlands shall be an average of 50 feet wide, with a minimum 30- foot width for each individual project area. Except at road crossings, high quality wetlands, altered wetlands and uplands shall buffer natural streams and tributaries located in Conservation Units. The exact width of the buffer from the natural streams and tributaries located in Conservation Units shall be evaluated and determined during Individual Project review. The buffer along natural streams and tributaries located in Conservation Units shall be a minimum of 100 feet as measured from the edge of the stream or tributary. All buffers, whether upland or wetland, will be preserved and maintained in a natural condition, except for the construction of boardwalks for dock access and on-grade trails. These buffers may be enhanced or restored to a more natural condition. They may also be managed to provide an urban wildfire interface, as may be requested by local emergency management officials, and as may be approved following coordination with regulatory agencies. Application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is prohibited in all buffers, except to the extent herbicides are used to control exotic vegetation.
13. Only clean fill and rock material compatible with existing soils (e.g., soil, rock, sand, marl, clay, stone, and/or concrete rubble) shall be used for wetland fill.
14. No wetland fill shall sever a hydrological connection in high quality wetlands. Small areas of altered wetlands may be severed, as approved on a case-by-case basis, provided the requirements pertaining to altered wetland impacts are met (see Article VII [2]) and

compensatory mitigation as described in Article VIII is provided for the area of altered wetlands within the severed area. Severed altered wetlands will be considered to be impacted for purposes of this EMA.

15. No work is authorized under this Agreement on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
16. When required by the State Historic Preservation Officer, St. Joe will conduct a Phase I archeological and historical survey on each individual project site. This information will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer, DEP and USACE so that measures can be identified to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise of historical or archeological value.
17. No activity is authorized by this Agreement that is likely to adversely affect a federal or state listed/protected species or a species proposed for such designation, or destroy or adversely modify its designated critical habitat.
18. St. Joe certifies that it has and will maintain internal systems and controls to ensure adherence to these commitments and implementation of this Agreement.

XI. Monitoring and Reporting

1. St. Joe shall establish and maintain a GIS based ledger and map for each basin and sub-watershed, depicting the amount, type and percentage of wetland impact and mitigation implemented in the Agreement Area. An updated ledger balance sheet demonstrating compliance with the Agreement shall be submitted with each individual request for project approval. The ledger will include the following by sub-watershed:
 - a. Total high quality and altered wetlands in the Agreement Area.
 - b. Total project size - uplands and wetlands.
 - c. Project impacts - high quality and altered amount and percent of total.
 - d. Mitigation required and location.
 - e. Cumulative project impacts (acreage total and percentage).
 - f. Total high quality and altered wetlands remaining in the Agreement Area.
 - g. Mitigation bank credit use categorized by rate of use, year used, and anticipated use for the upcoming year.
2. St. Joe shall submit an annual report by February 15 from the preceding calendar year identifying:
 - a. Total project acres approved;
 - b. The location and acreage of any mitigation activity undertaken;
 - c. Conservation easements executed and recorded;

- d. Conservation Units conveyed to other owners;
- e. Activities undertaken within Conservation Units including the total number of acres of Land Disturbance;
- f. The number of bridged and non-bridged crossings permitted and restored in the Hydrological Sensitive Area; and
- g. Other activities that may impact this Agreement

XII. Net Ecosystem Benefits

The parties acknowledge that the Agreement will result in NEBs and implement progressive policies for ecosystem management and team permitting because:

1. Implementation of this Agreement satisfies applicable standards and criteria, and includes commitments to various operational, mitigation and conservation conditions that exceed current regulatory requirements.
2. Implementation of this Agreement will result in a significant reduction in overall risks to the environment compared to activities conducted in the absence of the criteria and limitations contained in this Agreement.
3. Implementation of this Agreement will result in conservation at a regional landscape-scale, which protects the best possible diversity and extent of habitats, ahead of development.
4. The regional conservation plan established by this Agreement increases the ability of adjacent - existing and proposed - public conservation lands and waters to sustain long term ecological values, enhance regional wildlife dispersal and survival, protect regional water resources, and create significant opportunities for public nature-based recreation.

The specific NEBs provided by this Agreement are as follows:

1. Five Conservation Units will be established as depicted in **Exhibits 5-9**, in addition to mitigation required for wetland impacts. The Conservation Units and preserved mitigation areas link wildlife corridors and protected upland/wetland habitats to create more sustained wildlife corridors, which will help to preserve the ecological integrity of two of Northwest Florida's most rapidly developing watersheds. The Conservation Units and preserved mitigation areas also help protect water quality and quantity by reducing flows and flooding and creating hydro-patterns of well drained areas. Preservation of the Conservation Units will also occur due to projects which themselves do not impact wetlands.
2. The wetland and other surface water impact limiting criteria included in the Agreement will result in a larger percentage of preserved wetlands and uplands than would otherwise be expected as a result of the usual permitting process. In total, 95% of all wetlands and 98% of all high quality wetlands in the Agreement area will be preserved.

- 875
- 876 3. Through this Agreement, both uplands and wetlands have the opportunity to be
- 877 enhanced or restored in the Conservation Units and protected in perpetuity. Significant
- 878 uplands, such as xeric sandhills, scrubby flatwoods and mesic flatwoods were included
- 879 in Conservation Units to increase habitat diversity, wildlife conservation and corridor
- 880 values adjacent to high priority wetlands.
- 881
- 882 4. By protecting and providing the ability to enhance uplands within the Conservation Units,
- 883 the St. Joe Company is providing potential habitat for the Flatwood Salamander, a
- 884 Federally listed threatened species.
- 885
- 886 5. Throughout the Agreement Area, wetland delineations will be conducted utilizing the
- 887 most landward line of wetlands, rather than one federal and one State line.
- 888
- 889 6. Development immediately next to high quality wetlands will have a buffer of
- 890 uplands and/or altered wetlands with an average width of 50 feet and a minimum width
- 891 of 30 feet, which is not required under existing rules.
- 892
- 893 7. Stream and tributaries within the Conservation Units will have a minimum buffer of 100
- 894 feet, which is not required under existing rules.
- 895
- 896 8. No fill for septic tanks or drain fields will occur in wetlands.
- 897
- 898 9. All development will be designed, constructed and maintained to meet the Stormwater
- 899 NEB Criteria as set forth in Section VII and to adhere to the Sediment and Erosion
- 900 Control NEB Criteria as set forth in **Exhibit 2**. As such, storm water management
- 901 systems will incorporate water quantity and quality criteria components which exceed
- 902 the standard requirements in the 2018 Applicant's Handbook Volume II, providing
- 903 greater protection for water quality and provide protection from off-site flooding.
- 904
- 905 10. Development projects shall be subject to the Sediment and Erosion Control NEB
- 906 Criteria set forth in **Exhibit 2**, which provide additional protection over and above those
- 907 contained in Applicant's Handbook, Volume I.
- 908
- 909 11. The criteria and obligations contained in this Agreement provide a more effective
- 910 mechanism to address cumulative and secondary impacts associated with the types of
- 911 development authorized in this Agreement. Instead of addressing cumulative and
- 912 secondary impacts on a piecemeal basis, the comprehensive approach taken in this
- 913 Agreement, which includes limitations on wetland impacts, protection of upland areas,
- 914 preservation of Conservation Units and preservation of non-impacted wetlands and
- 915 upland buffers, provides a complete basis to address cumulative and secondary impacts
- 916 over and above that which could be accomplished through normal permitting practices.
- 917
- 918
- 919
- 920

XIII. Amendments

This Agreement may be modified at any time by written amendment approved by both parties, which shall be submitted, reviewed and processed in the same manner as this Agreement or as otherwise provided for by law. Amendments must be consistent with the provisions of sections 403.075 and 403.0752, F.S.

XIV. Term of Agreement

This Agreement shall be perpetual, unless modified according to Article XIII or terminated according to Article XV.

XV. Termination

1. DEP may terminate or request renegotiation of this Agreement by giving thirty (30) days prior written notice to St. Joe if DEP demonstrates that:
 - a. There has been a material change in conditions which existed at the time of the original Agreement such that the intended NEBs are not being, or may not reasonably be expected to be, achieved through continuation of the Agreement.
 - b. St. Joe is in material breach of the terms of the Agreement.

Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude DEP from taking appropriate enforcement action in lieu of or in combination with termination for violations of this Agreement or any individual project approval issued hereunder.

2. St. Joe may terminate this Agreement for any reason by giving thirty (30) days prior written notice to DEP as provided in Article XVI, provided that:
 - a. The mitigation commitments identified in the individual project approvals which have been issued are fulfilled or agreements are entered into to ensure fulfillment.
 - b. The conservation easements required by the Agreement and individual project approvals up to the time of termination have been properly executed, delivered and recorded.
3. Upon termination of the Agreement, previously issued project approval letters shall remain in effect for the duration of such approval. Such individual projects shall continue to be subject to the General and Specific Conditions included in the individual project approval letter, and the terms of this Agreement.

XVI. Notices

Notices under this Agreement shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, express mail or electronically to the parties.

XVII. Effective Date

The effective date of this Agreement shall be the date on which the last party executed the Agreement.

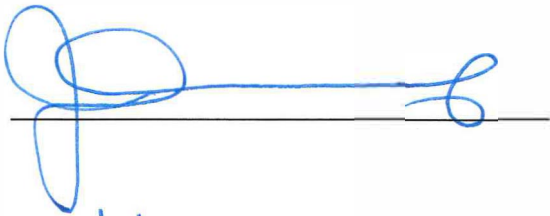
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties, by and through the undersigned duty authorized representatives have executed this Agreement on the dates set forth below.

EXECUTION AND CLERKING

THE ST. JOE COMPANY

Executed in Pensacola, Florida

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



District Director – Northwest District

July 28, 2025
Date

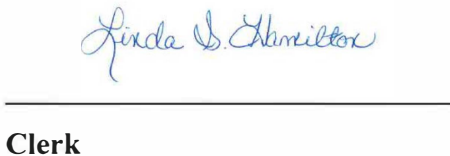
August 4, 2025
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned duly designated deputy clerk hereby certifies that this document and all attachments were sent on the filing date below to the following listed persons:

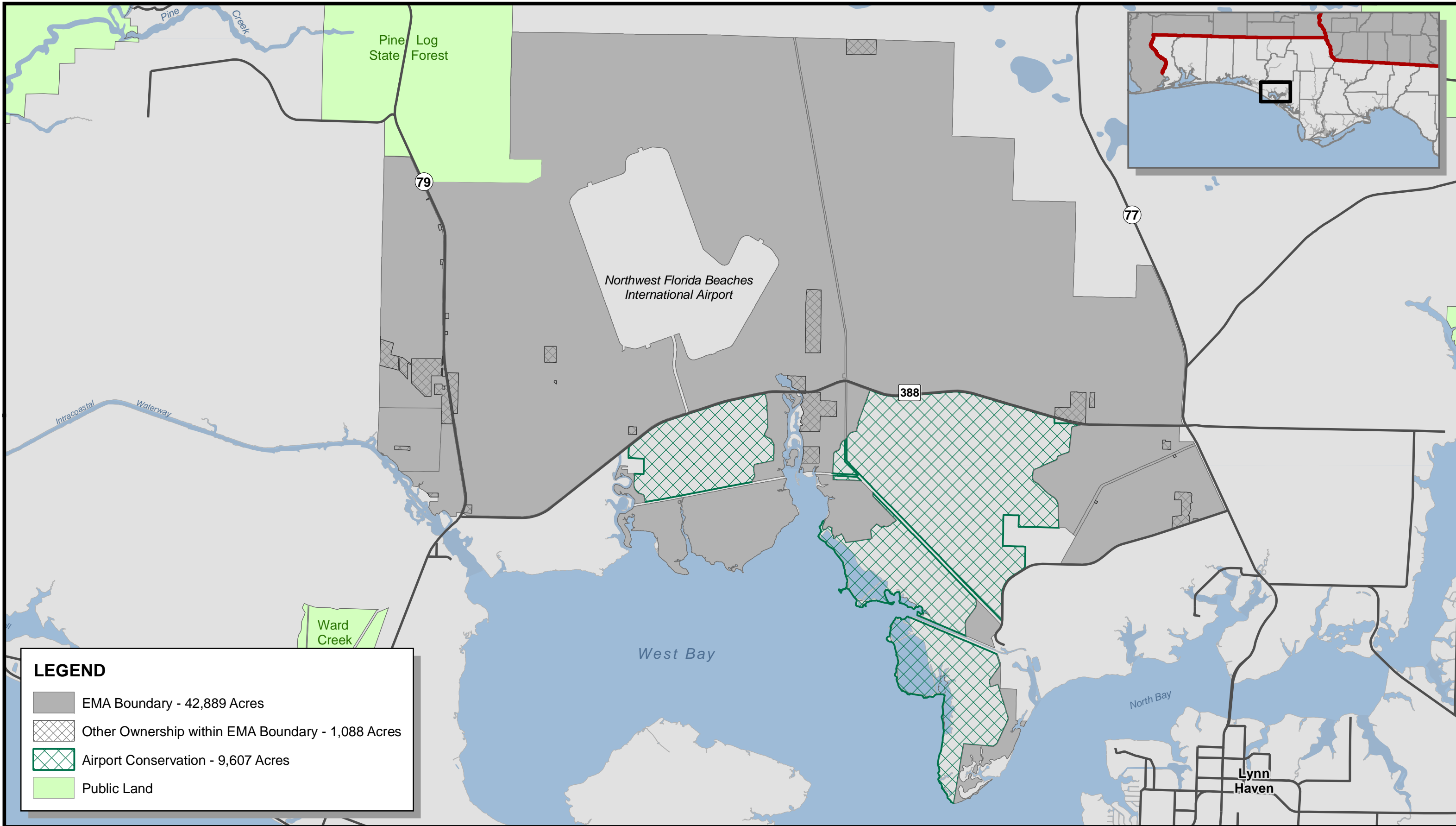
FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FILED, on this date, pursuant to Section 120.52., F.S., with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.



Clerk

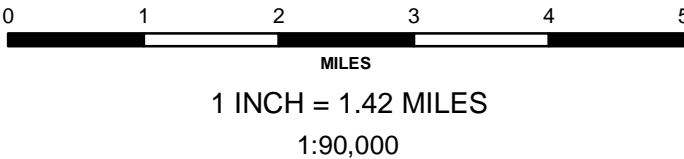
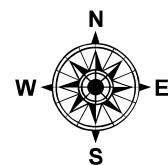
August 4, 2025
Date



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BOUNDARY MAP

E X H I B I T 1

MARCH, 2015



**The St. Joe Company / Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Ecosystem Management Agreement**

Checklist for Sediment and Erosion Control Plans

Minimum Standards: All applicable minimum standards set forth in Part IV (Erosion and Sediment Control) of the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook Volume I must be addressed. In addition to the applicable minimum standards, projects subject to the Ecosystem Management Agreement that are greater than 1 acre must prepare a sediment and erosion control plan in accordance with this checklist.

The engineer of record must prepare and submit a sediment and erosion control plan in accordance with this checklist at the time of Individual Project Approval. A copy of the sediment and erosion control plan prepared at the time of Individual Project Approval must be provided to all contractors by the permittee. Prior to the commencement of construction, the name and contact information of the contractor that is responsible for the implementation of the sediment and erosion control plan shall be provided to FDEP by the permittee and all applicable permits shall be obtained.

Modifications to the sediment and erosion control plan that may be necessary before or during construction must be documented and submitted to FDEP by the engineer of record and/or the contractor responsible for implementing the sediment and erosion control plan.

NARRATIVE

- _____ Project description – Briefly describes the nature and purpose of the land-disturbing activity, and the area (acres) to be disturbed.
- _____ Existing site conditions – A description of the existing topography, vegetation, wetlands, and drainage features.
- _____ Adjacent areas – A description of neighboring areas such as streams, lakes, residential areas, roads, etc., which might be affected by the land disturbances.
- _____ Off-site areas – Describe any off-site land-disturbing activities that will occur (including borrow sites, waste or surplus areas, etc.). Will any other areas be disturbed?
- _____ Soils – A brief description of the soils on the site giving such information as soil name, mapping unit, erodibility, permeability, depth, texture and soil structure.

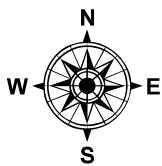
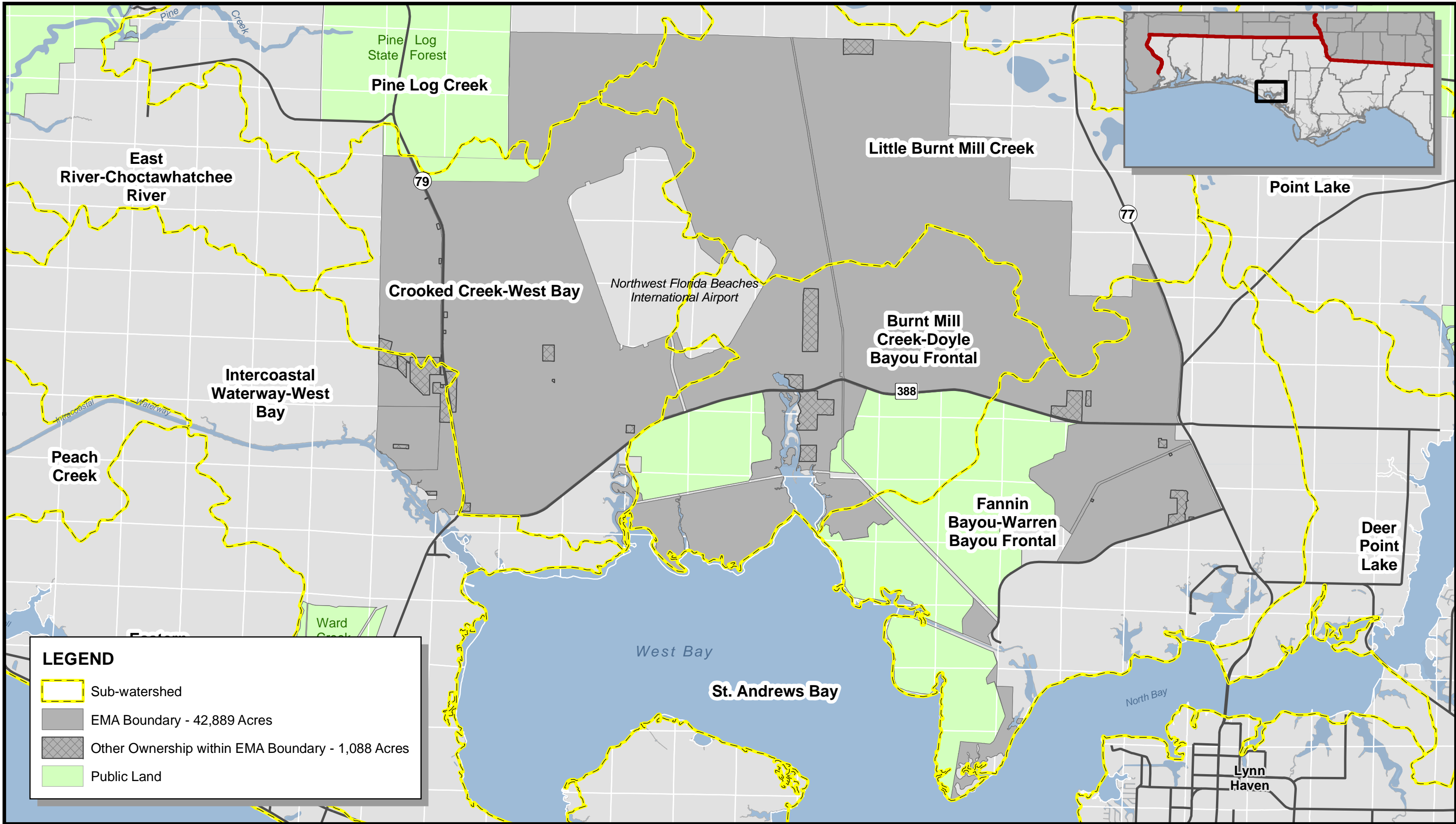
- _____ Critical areas – A description of areas on the site which have potentially serious erosion problems (e.g., steep slopes, channels, wet weather / underground springs, etc.).
- _____ Erosion and sediment control measures – A description of the methods which will be used to control erosion and sedimentation on the site.
- _____ Permanent stabilization – A brief description, including specifications, of how the site will be stabilized after construction is completed.
- _____ Stormwater runoff consideration – Will the development site cause an increase in peak runoff rates? Will the increase in runoff cause flooding or channel degradation downstream? Describe the strategy to control stormwater runoff.

SITE PLAN

- _____ Vicinity map – A small map locating the site in relation to the surrounding area. Include any landmarks which might assist in locating the site.
- _____ Indicate north – The direction of north in relation to the site.
- _____ Aerial photograph – A copy of the most recently available aerial photograph
- _____ Limits of clearing and grading – Areas which are to be cleared and graded.
- _____ Existing contours – The existing contours of the site.
- _____ Final contours – Changes to the existing contours, including final drainage patterns.
- _____ Existing vegetation – The existing tree lines, grassed areas, or wetlands.
- _____ Soils – The boundaries of different soil types.
- _____ Existing drainage patterns – The dividing lines and the direction of flow for the different drainage areas. Include the size (acreage) of each drainage area.
- _____ Critical erosion areas – Areas with potentially serious erosion problems.
- _____ Site Development – Show all improvements such as buildings, parking lots, access roads, utility construction, etc.

- _____ Location of practices – The locations of erosion and sediment controls and stormwater management practices used on the site, including identification of all of the temporary stabilization measures that will be used during construction.
- _____ Off-site areas – Identify any off-site land-disturbing activities (e.g., borrow sites, waste areas, etc.). Show location of erosion controls. (Is there sufficient information to assure adequate protection and stabilization?)
- _____ Detail drawings – Any structural practices used that are not referenced to the stormwater manual or local handbooks should be explained and illustrated with detail drawings.
- _____ Maintenance – A schedule of regular inspections and repair of erosion and sediment control structures should be set forth.

NOTE: Acceptance and implementation of the sediment and erosion control plan does not in and of itself excuse any potential violation of the applicable laws and regulations. If a violation occurs, corrective actions must be taken, which may include implementing a revised sediment and erosion control plan. Also, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, the permittee is ultimately responsible for violations that may occur.

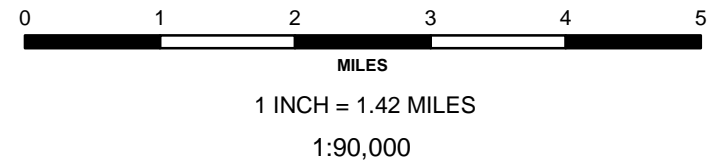


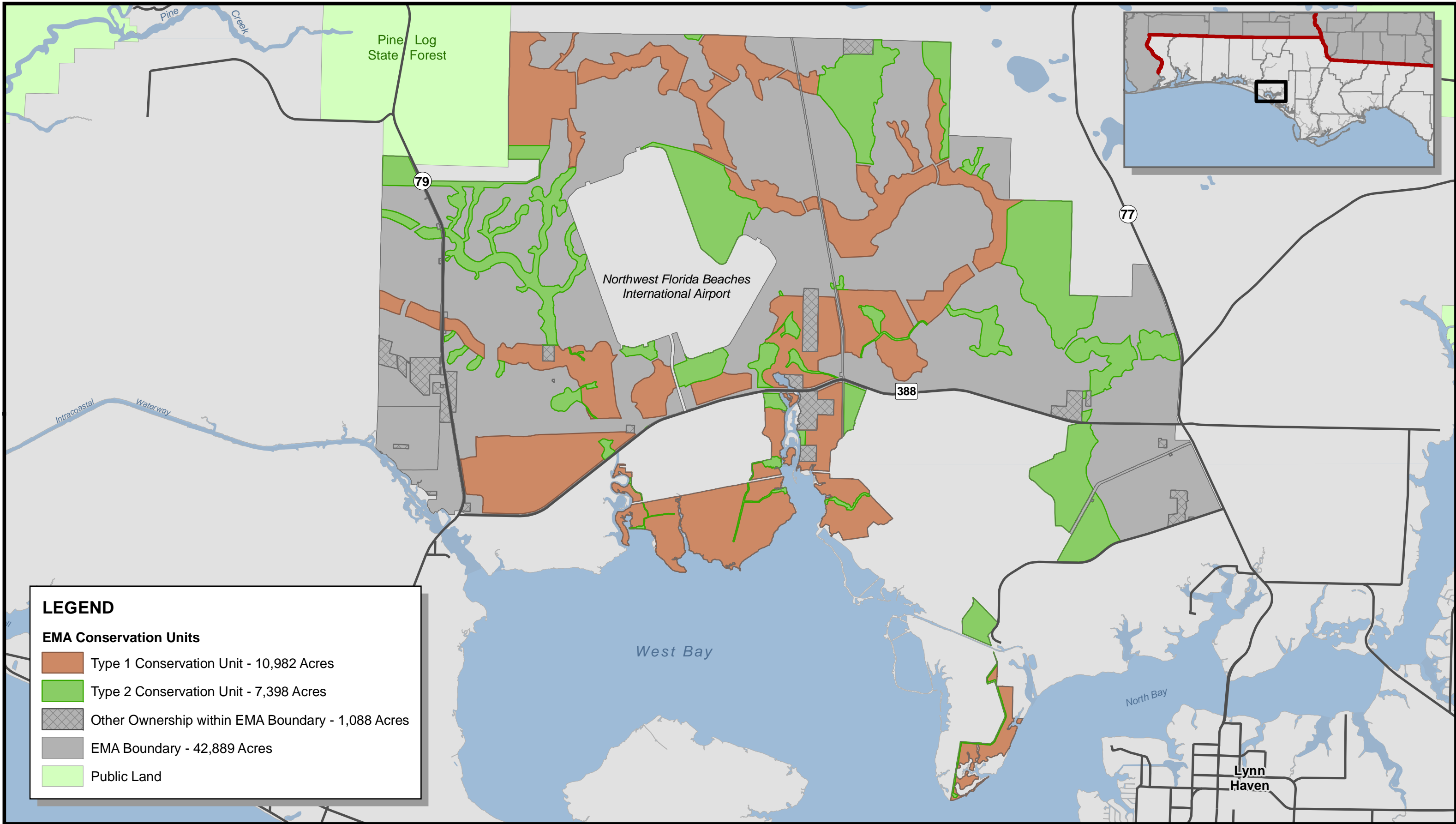
FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING ANNUAL CONSERVATION UNIT PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS, THE INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY-WEST BAY AND THE CROOKED CREEK WEST BAY SUB-WATERSHEDS CAN BE CONSIDERED AS ONE UNIT, SINCE THE INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY - WEST BAY SUB-WATERSHED WILL NOT CONTAIN A CONSERVATION UNIT.

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT SUB-WATERSHED MAP

E X H I B I T 3

MARCH, 2015

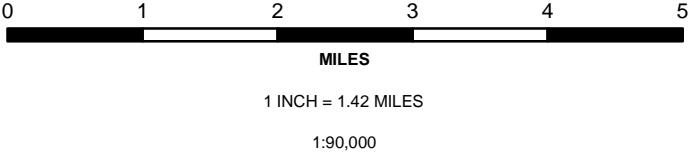
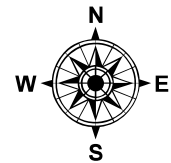




ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT
CONSERVATION UNITS MAP

E X H I B I T 4

MARCH, 2015



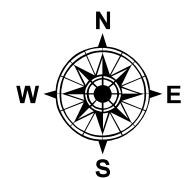
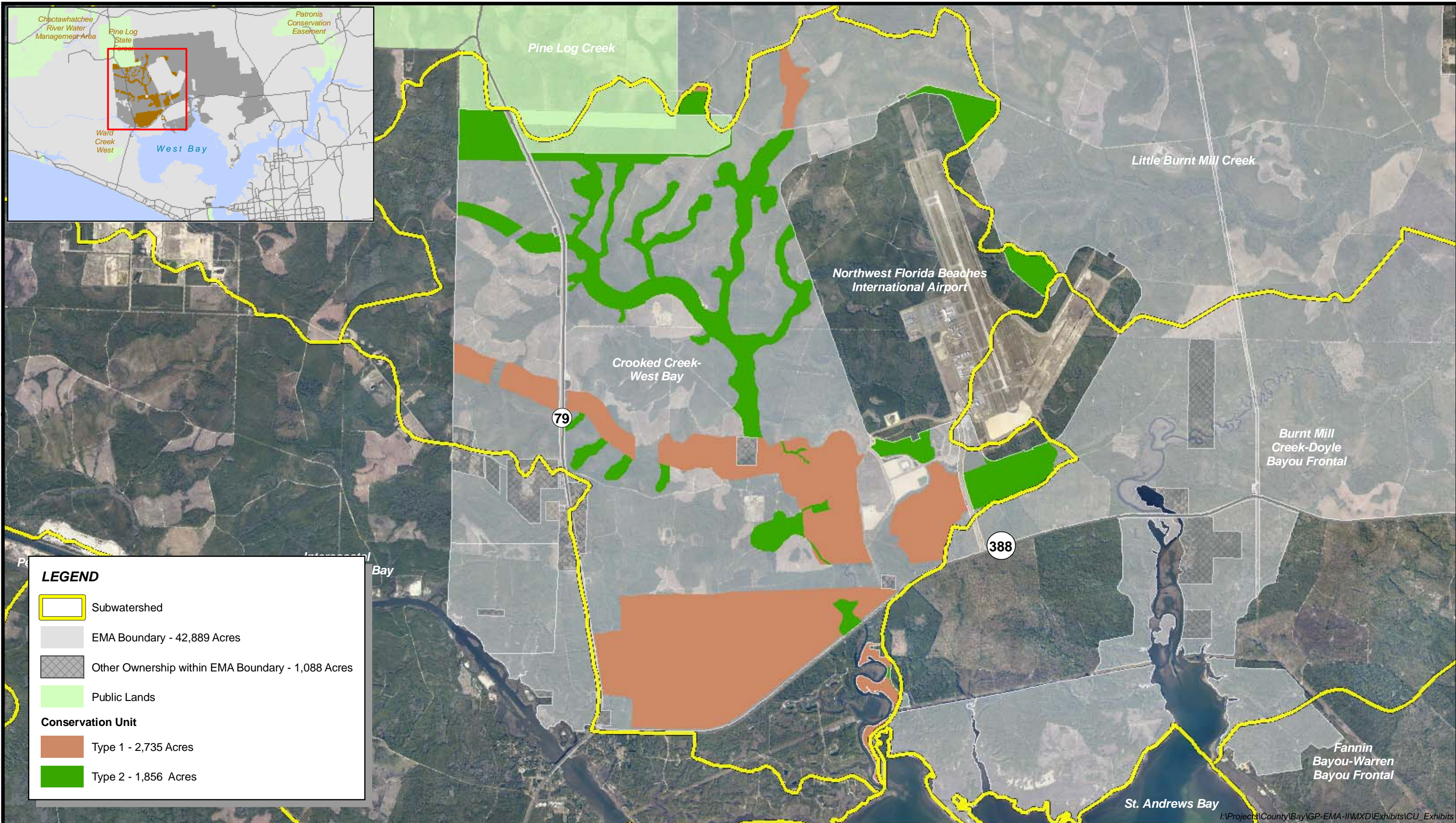


EXHIBIT 5
MARCH, 2015

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONSERVATION UNIT MAP CROOKED CREEK-WEST BAY - 4,591 ACRES

2013 AERIAL PHOTO

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5
Miles

1 INCH = 0.82 MILES
1:52,000

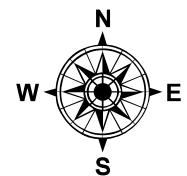
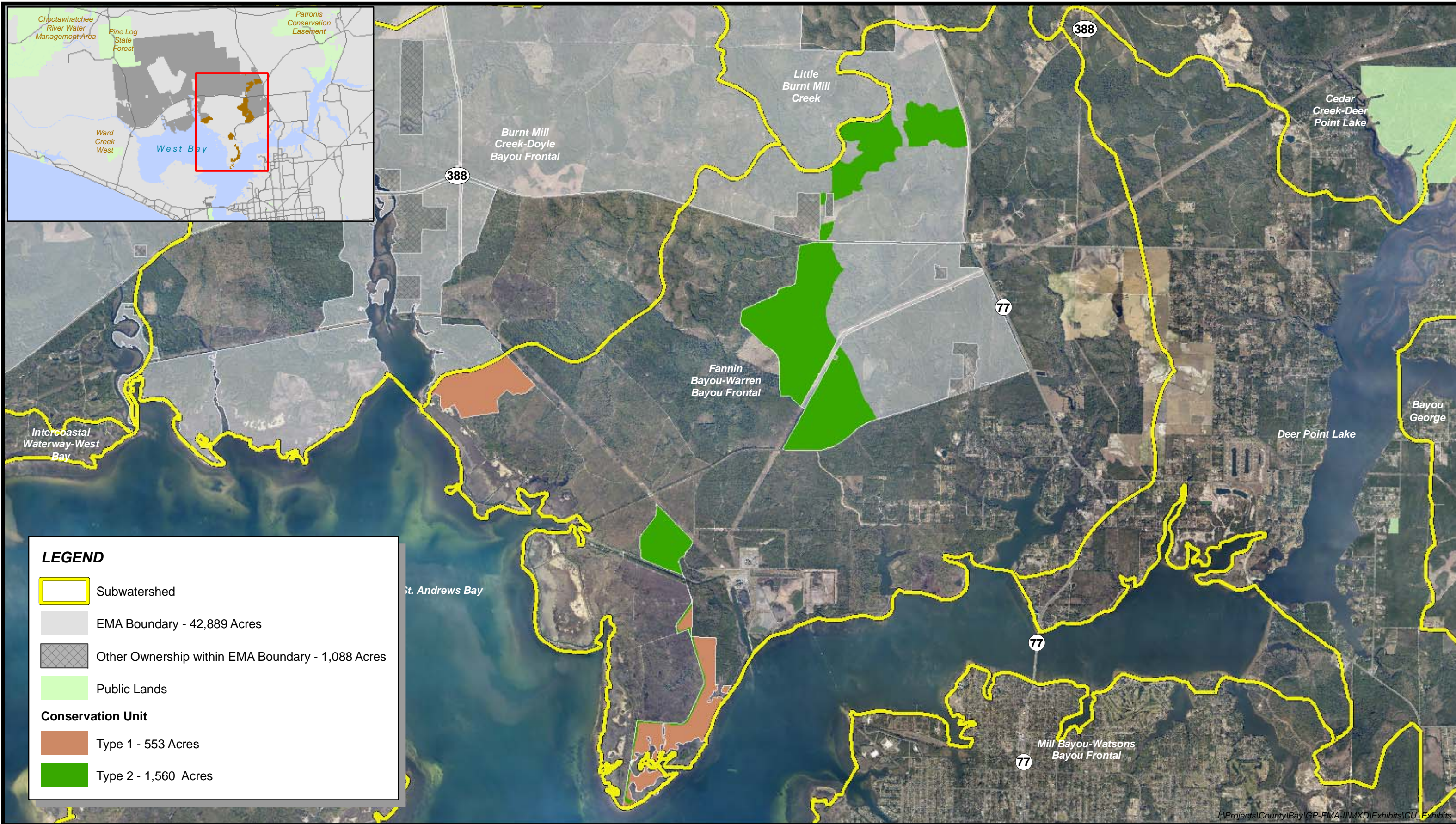


EXHIBIT 6
MARCH, 2015

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONSERVATION UNIT MAP FANNIN BAYOU-WARREN BAYOU FRONTAL - 2,113 ACRES

2013 AERIAL PHOTO

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3
Miles

1 INCH = 0.95 MILES
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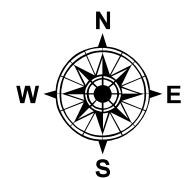
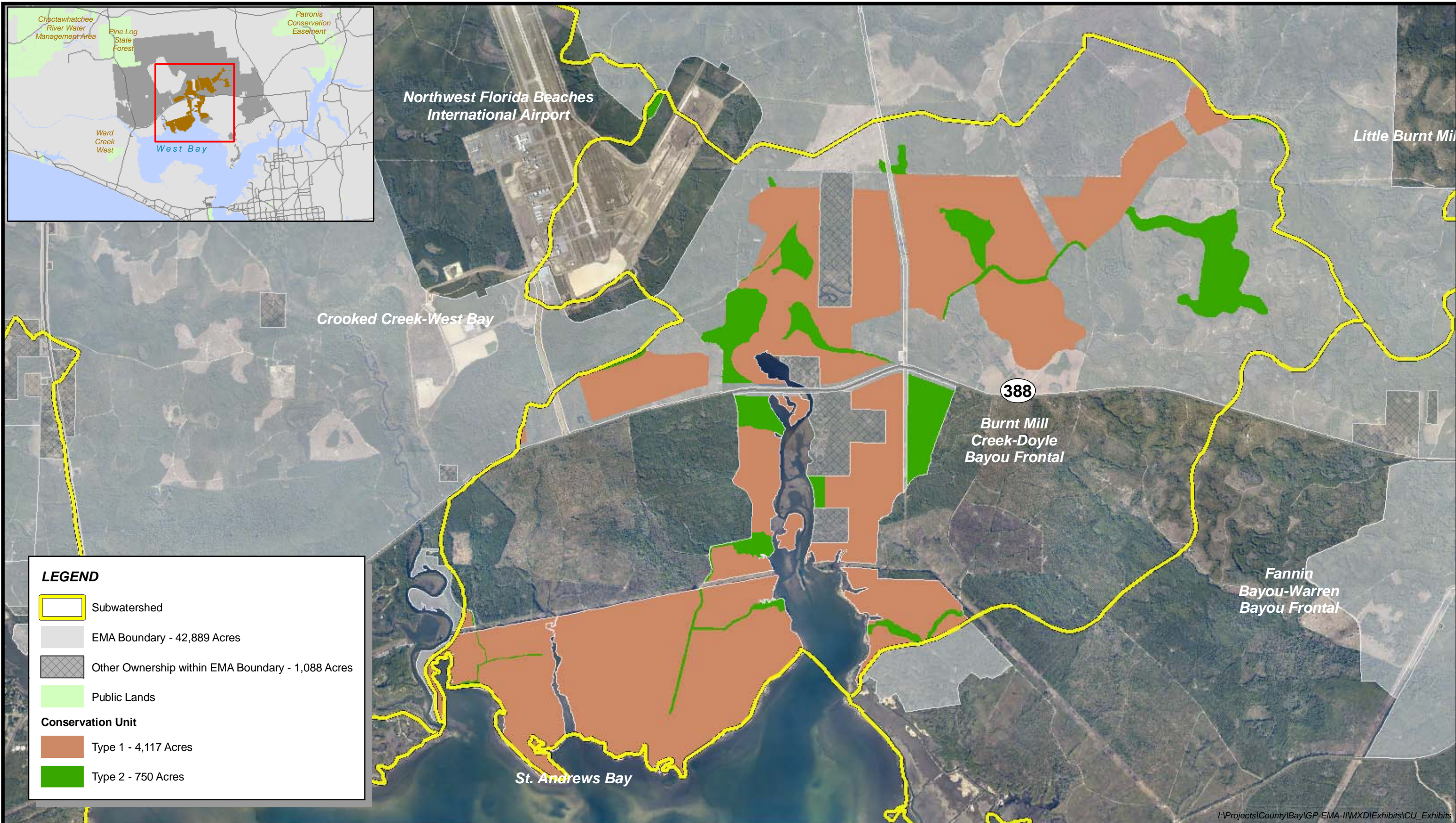


EXHIBIT 7
MARCH, 2015

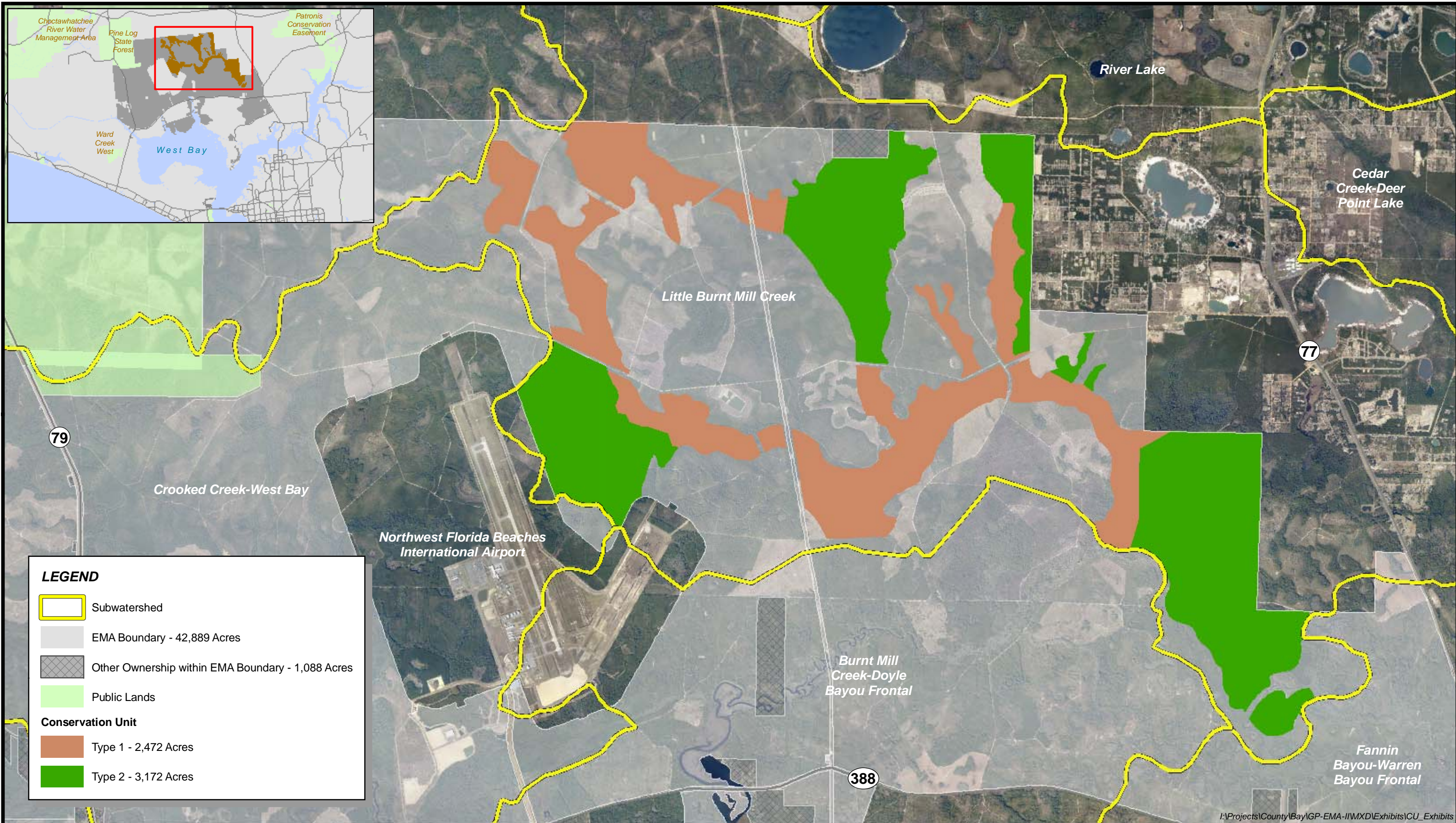
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONSERVATION UNIT MAP BURNT MILL CREEK-DOYLE BAYOU FRONTAL - 4,867 ACRES

2013 AERIAL PHOTO

0 0.5 1 1.5 2
Miles

1 INCH = 0.66 MILES

1:42,000



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONSERVATION UNIT MAP LITTLE BURNT MILL CREEK - 5,644 ACRES

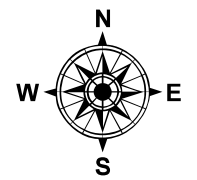
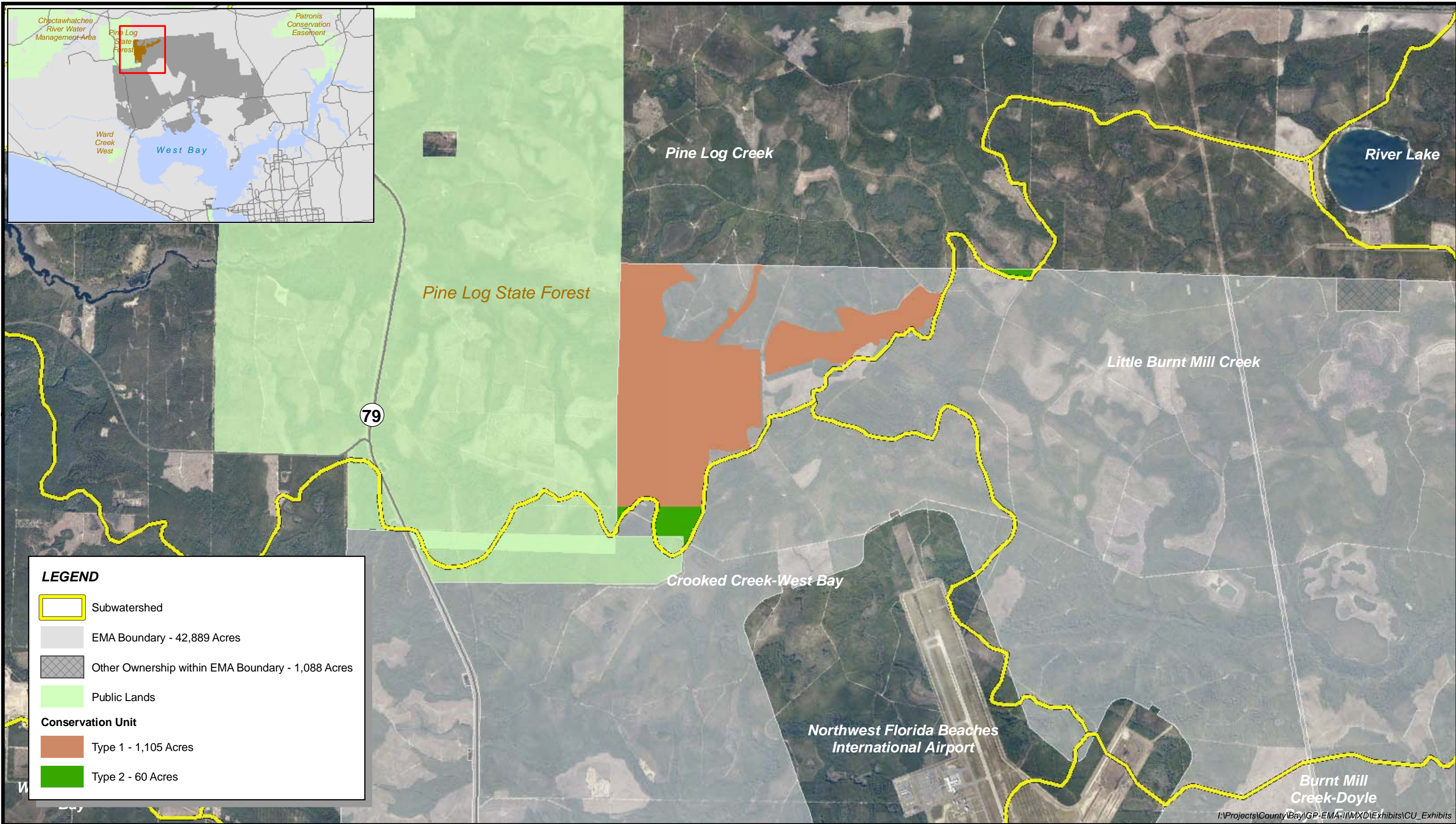


EXHIBIT 8
MARCH, 2015



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONSERVATION UNIT MAP PINE LOG CREEK - 1,165 ACRES

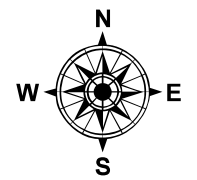
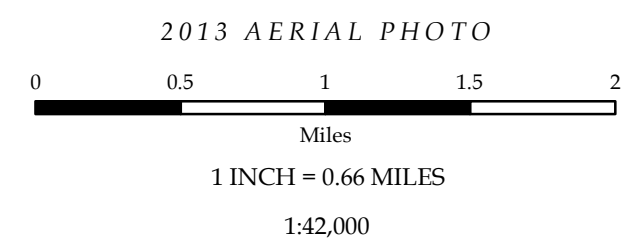


EXHIBIT 9
MARCH, 2015



**BURNT MILL CREEK - DOYLE BAYOU
CONSERVATION UNIT**

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I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION UNIT

The Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou Conservation Unit (CU) is a 4,867 (+/-) acre tract located northeast of West Bay in Sections 2-5, 7-9, 16, 17, and 19-21 of Township 2 South, Range 15 West; Sections 13 and 24 of Township 1 South, Range 16 West; and Sections 17-19, 22, 23, 25-30, 34, and 35 of Township 1 South, Range 15 West in Bay County, Florida (see Figure 1: General Location Map). The 4,867 total acres are broken into 4,117 acres of Type 1 CU and 750 acres of Type 2 CU. The geographic position of the Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU is within the Burnt Mill Creek sub-basin. Burnt Mill Creek is a major tributary to West Bay and 9,169 acres of its drainage area is located within the GPEMA2 area. The wetlands in this area are dominated by blackwater seepage, which is recharged from the adjacent wetlands and Sandhills. Since this creek provides a significant amount of input to West Bay, the CU is vital to the protection of West Bay as it protects 149,607 feet of shoreline.

The land cover of the Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU is dominated by coniferous plantation (47%), forest regeneration areas (15%), wetland forested mixed (12%), and mixed coniferous/hardwood (4%). There are also small inclusions of salt marsh, upland coniferous/hardwood forest, wetland coniferous forest, wetland scrub/shrub, stream, freshwater marsh, lake, cypress, wetland hardwood, tidal flats, shrub/brush, residential, and utility. The National Wetland Inventory identifies 45% of the CU as palustrine wetlands, 16% as estuarine wetlands, 1% as water, and the remaining 38% as uplands, which is similar to the wetland coverage based on the soil types. Based on soil types the CU is comprised of 65% wetlands and 35% uplands. The majority of the uplands and half of the wetlands are currently planted with slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*).

The wetlands within the Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU are comprised of Basin Swamps, Baygalls, Floodplains, and Seepage Slopes/Wet Prairies that drain into Blackwater Streams and Tidal Creeks before entering West Bay. Uplands in the CU are dominated by Sandhills and Mesic Pine Flatwoods. A majority of these plant communities (Wet Prairie, Mesic Pine Flatwoods, and Sandhills) have been replaced by pine plantations; however, these areas currently provide forestry resources and habitat for wildlife. Once these areas are placed into a conservation easement, they can potentially be restored to their historical plant communities. These plant communities provide habitat for State and Federally listed flora and fauna. There are documented threatened species within 1 mile of this site (FLEO, 2009). Table 1 provides a list of species that would be expected to use these habitats.

II. REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU protects both uplands and wetlands that are important for recharge within the Burnt Mill Creek watershed and West Bay. This CU protects the majority of the length of Burnt Mill Creek and smaller creeks that flow into

Burnt Mill Creek. This CU is also directly connected to the Little Burnt Mill Creek CU, the Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU, and the Crooked Creek-West Bay CU and will help maintain wildlife corridors and hydrological connectivity between these CUs. Burnt Mill Creek drains to the south directly into West Bay. Conserving this CU to its natural conditions will provide significant protection and buffering to open water portions of Burnt Mill Creek, which is a major tributary of West Bay.

The Burnt Mill Creek – Doyle Bayou CU consists of 149,607 feet of shoreline within estuarine and freshwater habitats. The estuarine shoreline length is 85,823 feet, while the freshwater shoreline is 63,784 feet. It is essential to protect these shorelines to maintain ecological productivity.

The Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU is identified as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Priority Area (SHCA) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) (Endries, et al., 2008). Further, this CU is ranked as a priority area by FFWCC based on their Integrated Habitat Ranking System (IHRS) (FFWCC, 2008). These rankings take into consideration the types of habitat and the species likely to use these habitats. Due to the landscape-scale conversion of this CU to pine plantation, the historical habitats within the CU, Wet Prairies and Pine Flatwoods, are listed on FNAI's list of underrepresented plant communities (FNAI, 2009).

This CU provides an important north-south corridor connecting several other CUs to one another and directly to West Bay. The CU is therefore vital to water quality treatment and storage, habitat conservation, and species conservation. Further, this CU protects the majority of the length of Burnt Mill Creek, from the headwaters to its confluence to West Bay.

III. BIODIVERSITY

The habitats within the Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU consist of herbaceous and forested wetlands and uplands. The Wet Prairie/Seepage Slope component has a dense herbaceous layer, while the Basin Swamps contain their diversity in the canopy, subcanopy, and shrub strata. The Basin Swamps grade into Floodplain Forests that surround Blackwater Streams. Groundwater seeps through these systems from the surrounding Sandhills and Mesic Flatwoods. Further downstream these blackwater streams flow into tidal creeks and eventually West Bay. In the current condition, the existing pine plantations have altered the plant communities and wildlife composition. Although these landscapes are planted in pine, they have retained physical characteristics that would allow for restoration to their historical plant communities. The tidally influenced portions of this CU are intact.

The Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU has been documented to overlap with the potential habitat of at least eight wildlife species resulting in a species richness index of 8 (FFWCC, 2008). This CU has also been ranked as a SHCA by FFWCC due to the

potential to protect imperiled species (Endries, et al, 2008). Additionally, this CU has been ranked as a priority under the IHRIS (FFWCC, 2008) due to an analysis of various factors affecting the ecological significance of land areas including species richness, listed species locations, and SHCA.

No threatened species have been documented within the CU, while *Verbesina chapmanii*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Xyris isoetifolia*, *Gentiana pennelliana*, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, *Gopherus polyphemus*, and *Picoides borealis* have been documented within 1 mile of the CU (FNAI, 2009). This CU is identified as potential habitat for the indigo snake and a portion of the CU is categorized with a rank of 4 for rare species conservation (FNAI, 2009). Further, there are 41 plants and 9 animals identified in Bay County as Threatened or Endangered Species that could potentially occur in this CU. Conserving these areas will help to maintain habitat for listed species in the region. Table 1 provides a list of species that may be expected to use these areas if the planted pine areas are restored to their historical plant communities.

IV. WATER QUALITY

The Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU is located within the Burnt Mill Creek sub-basin of the St. Andrews Bay watershed. Burnt Mill Creek flows directly into West Bay. The CU is comprised of 53% of the Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou Hydrologic Unit Code 12 drainage area within the GPEMA2; therefore, the preservation of this CU will provide significant protection to this watershed. Further, this CU is in the downstream portion of Burnt Mill Creek, which will ensure that the tidally influenced portions of the creek are protected from development.

Burnt Mill Creek is not listed on either the 305(b) or 303(d) list of impaired waters. There are currently no known point sources in the watershed and non-point sources are limited to forestry roads. Conserving lands within the CU will help to maintain a large buffer around the mouth of Burnt Mill Creek. This CU protects 85,823 feet of estuarine and 63,784 feet of freshwater shorelines. This buffer will help to provide treatment of non-point source input from upstream before it enters West Bay. Maintaining this buffer in a natural condition will ensure water quality protection and will reduce future impairment from point and non-point sources

The wetland habitats within the Burnt Mill Creek - Doyle Bayou CU are shallow Wet Prairie/Seepage Slopes that grade into Basin Swamps and then eventually into Blackwater Streams. These streams eventually flow into Tidal Creeks before discharging into West Bay. Seepage through these systems comes from the adjacent Mesic Pine Flatwoods and significantly contributes to surface water inflows to both Burnt Mill Creek and West Bay. These habitats have experienced minor alterations from being planted in pine; however, they still provide valuable water input, water filtration, and water storage function.

This CU has been identified by FNAI as a significant surface water priority (FNAI, 2009) primarily due to the support it provides to coastal surface waters. Burnt Mill Creek provides a large portion of the recharge for West Bay. West Bay is a Class II waterbody that supports extensive Tidal Marsh and seagrass beds. Preserving the lands surrounding Burnt Mill Creek will help to maintain the brackish shallow water estuaries.

IV. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AND MARINE RESOURCES

Land areas within the Burnt Mill Creek sub-basin drain into Blackwater Streams that flow into tidal creeks associated with Burnt Mill Creek and eventually West Bay. West Bay is classified as Class II waters. The majority of West Bay is conditionally approved for shellfish harvesting with some areas classified as prohibited for shellfish harvesting. West Bay and St. Andrews Bay are not classified as Essential Fish Habitat but seagrasses in both West Bay and St. Andrews Bay provide resources for fish and a variety of non-game species. As mentioned above, preserving this CU will contribute to water quality protection both at the headwaters and further downstream, which will help maintain the downstream aquatic resources.

CROOKED CREEK – WEST BAY CONSERVATION UNIT

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2. CROOKED CREEK - WEST BAY CONSERVATION UNIT ATTRIBUTES

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION UNIT

The Crooked Creek - West Bay Conservation Unit (CU) is a 4,591 (+/-) acre tract located north and northwest of West Bay in Sections 6 and 7 of Township 2 South, Range 15 West and Sections 1, 2, 10-16, and 21-26, Township 2 South, Range 16 West in Bay County, Florida (see Figure 1: General Location Map). The 4,591 total acres are broken into 2,734 acres of Type 1 CU and 1,855 acres of Type 2 CU. Crooked Creek is a major tributary to West Bay and approximately 12,575 acres of its drainage area is located within the GPEMA2 area. The wetlands in this CU are dominated by blackwater seepage, which is recharged from the adjacent Sandhills. Since Crooked Creek and its tributaries provide a significant amount of input to West Bay, the CU is vital to the protection of both the Crooked Creek Watershed and West Bay as it protects 43,326 feet of shoreline.

The land cover of the Crooked Creek - West Bay CU is dominated by wetland forested mixed (33%), coniferous plantation (40%), and forest regeneration areas (14%). There are also small inclusions of upland mixed coniferous and hardwood forest, salt marsh, floodplain marsh, wetland coniferous forest, wet prairie, wetland scrub shrub, upland coniferous forest, stream, lakes, tidal flats, residential, shrub brush, and utility. The National Wetland Inventory identifies 63% of the CU as palustrine wetlands, 1% as estuarine wetlands, less than 1% as water, and the remainder as uplands (35%), which is slightly different than the coverage based on the soil types. Based on soil types the CU is comprised of 78% wetlands and 22% uplands. The majority of the uplands and a quarter of the wetlands are currently planted with slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*).

The wetlands within the Crooked Creek - West Bay CU are comprised of Basin Swamps, Baygalls, Floodplain Forests, Seepage Slopes/Wet Prairies. These wetlands grade into the open water Blackwater Streams. Uplands are comprised of Sandhills and Mesic Pine Flatwoods. Portions of these natural ecosystems have been replaced by pine plantations; however, these areas currently provide forestry resources and habitat for wildlife. Once these areas are placed into a conservation easement, they can potentially be restored to their historical plant communities. These plant communities provide habitat for State and Federally listed flora and fauna. There are documented threatened species within the CU and within 1 mile of this site (FLEO, 2009). Table 1 provides a list of species that would be expected to use these habitats.

II. REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Crooked Creek - West Bay CU protects both uplands and wetlands that are important for recharge within the Crooked Creek watershed and West Bay. This CU protects the significant portion of Crooked Creek's main channel and smaller creeks that flow into Crooked Creek. Crooked Creek drains to the south directly into West Bay. Conserving this unit to its natural conditions will provide significant protection and

buffering to Crooked Creek and its tributaries, which are all major tributaries of West Bay.

The Crooked Creek – West Bay CU consists of 43,326 feet of shoreline within estuarine and freshwater habitats. The estuarine shoreline length is 14,406 feet, while the freshwater shoreline is 28,920 feet. It is essential to protect these shorelines to maintain ecological productivity.

The Crooked Creek - West Bay CU is identified as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Priority Area (SHCA) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) (Endries et al., 2008). Further, this CU is ranked as a priority area by FFWCC based on their Integrated Habitat Ranking System (IHRS) (FFWCC, 2008). These rankings take into consideration the types of habitat and the species likely to use these habitats. Due to the landscape-scale conversion of this CU to pine plantation, the historical habitats within the CU, Wet Prairies and Pine Flatwoods, are listed on FNAI's list of underrepresented plant communities (FNAI, 2009).

This CU is vital to water quality treatment and storage, habitat conservation, and species conservation. Further, this CU protects the majority of the length of Crooked Creek, which is one of the largest tributaries of West Bay.

III. BIODIVERSITY

The habitats within the Crooked Creek - West Bay CU consist of herbaceous and forested wetlands and uplands. The Wet Prairie/Seepage Slope component has an herbaceous layer; while the Basin Swamps and Baygalls contain their diversity in the canopy, subcanopy, and shrub strata. The Basin Swamps and Baygalls grade into Floodplain Forests that surround Blackwater Streams. Groundwater seeps through these systems from surrounding Sandhills and Mesic Flatwoods. In the current condition, the existing pine plantations have altered the plant communities and wildlife composition. Although these landscapes are planted in pine, they have retained physical characteristics that would allow for restoration to their historical plant communities.

The Crooked Creek - West Bay CU has been documented to overlap with the potential habitat of at least ten wildlife species resulting in a species richness index of 10 (FFWCC, 2008). This CU has also been ranked as a SHCA by FFWCC due to the potential to protect imperiled species (Endries et al., 2008). Additionally, this CU has been ranked as a priority under the IHRS (FFWCC, 2008) due to an analysis of various factors affecting the ecological significance of land areas including species richness, listed species locations, and SHCA.

Verbesina chapmanii, *Asclepias viridula*, *Macranthera flammea*, and *Drosera intermedia* have been documented within the CU and a portion of the CU is documented as

potential habitat for the indigo snake and flatwoods salamander. *Gopherus polyphemus*, *Gentiana pennelliana*, and *Xyris isoetifolia* have been documented within one mile of the CU (FNAI, 2009). Further, there are 41 plants and 9 animals identified in Bay County as Threatened or Endangered Species that could potentially occur in this CU. Due to the likelihood of occurrence of species and documented species, portions of this CU are ranked by FNAI as a Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priority (FNAI, 2009). Conserving these areas will help to maintain habitat for listed species in the region. Table 1 provides a list of species that may be expected to use these areas if the planted pine areas are restored to their historical plant communities.

IV. WATER QUALITY

The Crooked Creek - West Bay CU is located within the West Bay subwatershed of the St. Andrews Bay watershed. Crooked Creek flows directly into West Bay. The CU is comprised of 37% of the Crooked Creek - West Bay Hydrologic Unit Code 12 drainage area within the GPEMA2 area; therefore, the preservation of this CU will provide significant protection to both Crooked Creek and West Bay. Further, this CU is located in both the main stem of Crooked Creek and within its headwaters which will ensure that the creek is protected at its source and along its drainage course.

Crooked Creek is not listed on either the 305(b) or 303(d) list of impaired waters. There are currently no known point sources in the watershed and non-point sources are limited to forestry roads and residential development. Conserving lands within the CU will help to maintain a restored buffer around Crooked Creek and its headwaters. This CU protects 14,406 feet of estuarine and 28,920 feet of freshwater shorelines. Maintaining this buffer in a natural condition will ensure water quality protection and will reduce future impairment from point and non-point sources

The wetland habitats within the Crooked Creek - West Bay CU are shallow Wet Prairie/Seepage Slopes that grade into Basin Swamps and Baygalls and then eventually into Blackwater Streams. The Blackwater Streams flow into Tidal Creeks and are eventually discharged directly into West Bay. Seepage through these systems comes from the adjacent Sandhills and Mesic Pine Flatwoods and significantly contributes to surface water inflows to both Crooked Creek and West Bay. These habitats have experienced minor alterations from being planted in pine; however, they still provide valuable water input, water filtration, and water storage function.

This CU has been identified by FNAI as a significant surface water priority (FNAI, 2009) primarily due to the support it provides to coastal surface waters. Crooked Creek provides a large portion of the recharge for West Bay. West Bay is a Class II Waterbody that supports extensive Tidal Marsh and seagrass beds. Preserving the lands surrounding Crooked Creek will help to maintain the brackish shallow water estuaries.

IV. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AND MARINE RESOURCES

Land areas within Crooked Creek - West Bay subwatershed drain into Blackwater Streams that flow into Tidal Creeks associated with Crooked Creek and eventually West Bay. West Bay is classified as Class II waters. The majority of West Bay is conditionally approved for shellfish harvesting with some areas classified as prohibited for shellfish harvesting. West Bay and St. Andrews Bay are not classified as Essential Fish Habitat but seagrasses in both West Bay and St. Andrews Bay provide resources for fish and a variety of non-game species. As mentioned above, preserving this CU will contribute to water quality protection both at the headwaters and further downstream, which will help maintain the downstream aquatic resources.

**FANNIN BAYOU-WARREN BAYOU
CONSERVATION UNIT**

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2. FANNIN BAYOU-WARREN BAYOU CONSERVATION UNIT ATTRIBUTES

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION UNIT

The Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou Conservation Unit (CU) is a 2,113 (+/-) acre area divided into two sections. This CU borders the northern, northeastern and eastern shorelines of West Bay in Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12 of Township 3 South, Range 15 West; Sections 12, 13, 23, 24, and 25 of Township 2 South, Range 16 West; and Sections 19-22, 29 and 30 Township 2 South, Range 15 West in Bay County, Florida (see Figure 1: General Location Map). The 2,113 total acres are broken into 553 acres of Type 1 CU and 1,560 acres of Type 2 CU. The wetlands in this area are dominated by tidal marsh and tidal flats, which rely on the freshwater influx from upstream as well as the marine waters in West Bay, and are fringed by 26,962 feet of estuarine shoreline.

The land cover of the Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU is dominated by coniferous plantation (40%), forest regeneration areas (24%), and salt marsh (7%). There are also small inclusions of wetland forested hardwood, upland pine, wetland pinelands, wetland shrub, tidal flats, upland coniferous forest, and mixed coniferous hardwood. The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) identifies 59% of the CU as palustrine wetlands, 9% as estuarine wetlands, less than 1% as water, and the remainder as uplands (32%), which is slightly different than the wetland coverage based on the soil types. Based on soil types the CU is comprised of 79% wetland and 21% uplands. The majority of the uplands and a quarter of the wetlands are currently planted with slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*).

The wetlands within the Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU are comprised of Basin Swamps and Seepage Slopes/Wet Prairies that drained into Tidal Marshes and Tidal Creeks. This CU also has upland areas that are classified as Mesic Flatwoods. Groundwater seeps from the Mesic Flatwoods through the wetlands and into the Tidal Marshes and Tidal Creeks. Many of these plant communities have been replaced by pine plantations or have been become fire suppressed; however, these areas currently provide forestry resources and habitat for wildlife. Once these areas are placed into a conservation easement, they can potentially be restored to their historical plant communities. These plant communities provide habitat for State and Federal listed flora and fauna. There are documented threatened species within 1 mile of this site (FLEO, 2009). Table 1 provides a list of species that would be expected to use these habitats.

II. REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU protects both uplands and wetlands that are directly adjacent to West Bay and will therefore provide an essential buffer to West Bay, especially when combined with the Burnt Mill Creek-Doyle Bayou CU and the Bay County International Airport mitigation site, which are adjacent. Conserving this CU will contribute to sustained water quality and water quantity treatment for Burnt Mill Creek, West Bay, and ultimately, St. Andrews Bay.

The Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU consists of 26,962 feet of shoreline within estuarine habitats. It is essential to protect this shoreline to maintain ecological productivity.

The Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU is identified as a priority Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) (Endries et al., 2008). Further, this CU is ranked as a priority area by FFWCC based on their Integrated Habitat Ranking System (IHRS) (FFWCC, 2008). These rankings take into consideration the types of habitat and the species likely to use these habitats. Due to the landscape-scale conversion of this CU to pine plantation, the historical habitats are listed on FNAI's list of underrepresented plant communities (FNAI, 2009).

This CU is vital to water quality treatment and storage, habitat conservation, and species conservation. This CU is directly adjacent to the Burnt Mill Creek-Doyle Bayou CU and airport mitigation land.

III. BIODIVERSITY

The habitats within the Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU are a landscape of herbaceous and forested wetlands and uplands. The Wet Prairie/Seepage Slope component has a dense herbaceous layer, while the Basin Swamps contain the majority of their diversity in the canopy and subcanopy strata. The Basin Swamps grade into Tidal Marshes that surround Tidal Creeks. Groundwater seeps through these systems from the surrounding Mesic Flatwoods. In the current condition, the existing pine plantations have altered the plant communities and wildlife composition. Although these landscapes are planted in pine, they have retained physical characteristics that would allow for restoration to their historical plant communities.

The areas directly adjacent to the bay are dominated by Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats which contain typical estuarine plant species including *Juncus roemerianus*, *Spartina alterniflora*, *Spartina patens*, and *Scirpus* spp. These areas are currently very similar to the historical conditions.

The Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU has been documented to overlap with the potential habitat of at least eight wildlife species resulting in a species richness index of 8 (FFWCC, 2008). This CU has also been ranked as a SHCA by FFWCC due to the potential to protect imperiled species (Endries et al., 2008). Additionally, this CU has been ranked as a priority under the IHRS (FFWCC, 2008) due to an analysis of various factors affecting the ecological significance of land areas including species richness, listed species locations, and SHCA.

No threatened species have been documented within the CU and a portion of the CU is

documented as potential habitat for the indigo snake. Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been documented within one mile of the CU (FNAI, 2009). Further, there are 41 plants and 9 animals identified in Bay County as Threatened or Endangered Species that could potentially occur in this CU. Conserving these areas will help to maintain habitat for listed species in the region. Table 1 provides a list of species that may be expected to use these areas if the planted pine areas are restored to their historical plant communities.

IV. WATER QUALITY

The Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU is adjacent to large parcels of airport mitigation lands within the West Bay watershed. This CU is comprised of 38% of the Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou Hydrologic Unit Code 12 drainage area within the GPEMA2 area; therefore, the preservation of this CU will provide significant protection compared to other watersheds that have experienced heightened development pressures. This large preservation area will provide an essential buffer to the bay and ensure that the airport mitigation lands and tidal areas are protected.

Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou is not listed on either the 305(b) or 303(d) list of impaired waters (FDEP, 2008). There are currently no known point sources in the watershed and non-point sources are limited to forestry roads. Conserving lands within the CU will help to maintain a restored buffer around the mouth of Burnt Mill Creek, Alligator Bayou, Warren Bayou, Fannin Bayou, and the tidal marshes that fringe the West Bay shoreline. The CU protects 26,962 feet of estuarine shoreline and maintaining this buffer in a natural condition will ensure water quality protection and will reduce future impairment from point and non-point sources

The habitats within the Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou CU are shallow Wet Prairie/Seepage Slopes that graded into Basin Swamps and then eventually into Tidal Marshes and Tidal Creeks. Seepage through these systems comes from the adjacent Mesic Pine Flatwoods and significantly contributes to surface water inflows to West Bay. These habitats have experienced minor alterations from being planted in pine; however, they still provide valuable water input, water filtration, and water storage function.

This CU has been identified by FNAI as a significant surface water priority (FNAI, 2009) primarily due to the support it provides to coastal surface waters. Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou provides a significant portion of the recharge and shoreline protection for West Bay. West Bay is a Class II Waterbody that supports extensive Tidal Marsh and seagrass beds. Preserving the lands surrounding Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou will help to maintain the brackish shallow water estuaries.

IV. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AND MARINE RESOURCES

Land areas within Fannin Bayou-Warren Bayou subwatershed drain into Tidal Creeks associated with Burnt Mill Creek, Alligator Bayou, Fannin Bayou, and eventually West Bay. West Bay is classified as Class II waters. The majority of West Bay is conditionally approved for shellfish harvesting with some areas classified as prohibited for shellfish harvesting. West Bay and St. Andrews Bay are not classified as Essential Fish Habitat but seagrasses in both West Bay and St. Andrews Bay provide resources for fish and a variety of non-game species. As mentioned above, preserving this CU will contribute to water quality protection both at the headwaters and further downstream, which will help maintain the downstream aquatic resources.

**LITTLE BURNT MILL CREEK
CONSERVATION UNIT**

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2. LITTLE BURNT MILL CREEK CONSERVATION UNIT ATTRIBUTES

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION UNIT

The Little Burnt Mill Creek Conservation Unit (CU) is a 5,644 (+/-) acre tract located northeast of West Bay in Sections 15, 22, 23, 26, and 27 of Township 1 South, Range 15 West in Bay County Florida (see Figure 1: General Location Map). The 5,644 total acres are broken into 2,472 acres of Type 1 CU and 3,172 acres of Type 2 CU. The geographic position of the Little Burnt Mill Creek CU is within the headwaters of the Burnt Mill Creek watershed. Little Burnt Mill Creek is a major tributary to Burnt Mill Creek and has a 12,500 acre drainage area within the GPEMA2. The wetlands in this area are dominated by blackwater seepage, which is recharged from the adjacent Sandhills. Since this creek provides a significant amount of input to Burnt Mill Creek, the CU is vital to the protection of the Burnt Mill Creek Watershed and West Bay.

The land cover of the Little Burnt Mill Creek CU is dominated by coniferous plantation (64%), wetland forested mix (26%), and wetland coniferous forest (4%) with small inclusions of forest regeneration areas, utilities, mixed coniferous/hardwood, shrub and brushland, upland coniferous forests, and wetland shrub. The National Wetland Inventory identifies 59% of the CU as palustrine wetlands and the remainder as uplands (41%), which is different than the wetland coverage based on the soil types. Based on soil types the CU is comprised of 71% wetlands. The majority of the uplands and approximately half of the wetlands are currently planted with slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*).

The wetlands within the Little Burnt Mill Creek CU are comprised of Basin Swamps, Seepage Slopes/Wet Prairies, Floodplain Forests that drain into Blackwater Streams. This CU also has upland areas that are classified as Sandhills and Mesic Flatwoods. Groundwater seeps from the Sandhills and Mesic Flatwoods through the wetlands and into the Blackwater Streams. Many of these plant communities have been replaced by pine plantations; however, these areas currently provide forestry resources and habitat for wildlife. Once these areas are placed into a conservation easement, they can potentially be restored to their historical plant communities. These plant communities provide habitat for many State and Federally listed flora and fauna. There are documented threatened species within the CU and within 1 mile of this site (FLEO, 2009). Table 1 provides a list of species that would be expected to use these habitats.

II. REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Little Burnt Mill Creek CU protects both uplands and wetlands that are important for recharge within the Burnt Mill Creek watershed and West Bay. This CU protects the headwaters of Burnt Mill Creek and is adjacent to the Pine Log Creek CU. Conserving this unit will contribute to sustained water quality and water quantity treatment for Little Burnt Mill Creek, Burnt Mill Creek, West Bay, and ultimately, St. Andrews Bay.

The Little Burnt Mill Creek CU is identified as a priority Strategic Habitat Conservation

Area (SHCA) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) (Endries et al., 2008). Further, this CU is ranked as a priority area by FFWCC based on their Integrated Habitat Ranking System (IHRS) (FFWCC, 2008). These rankings take into consideration the types of habitat and the species likely to use these habitats. Due to the landscape-scale conversion of this CU to pine plantation, the historical habitats are listed on FNAI's list of underrepresented plant communities (FNAI, 2009).

This CU is vital to water quality treatment and storage, habitat conservation, and species conservation. It also provides an essential corridor connecting CUs in the headwaters of Burnt Mill Creek.

III. BIODIVERSITY

The habitats within the Little Burnt Mill Creek watershed are a landscape of herbaceous and forested wetlands and uplands. The Wet Prairie/Seepage Slope component has a dense herbaceous layer, while the Basin Swamps contain the majority of their diversity in the canopy and subcanopy stratus. The Basin Swamps grade into the Floodplain Forests that surround Blackwater Streams. Groundwater seeps through these systems from the surrounding Sandhills and Mesic Flatwoods. In the current condition, the existing pine plantations and fire suppression of woody shrubs have altered the plant communities and wildlife composition. Although these landscapes are planted in pine, they have retained physical characteristics that would allow for restoration to their historical plant communities.

The Little Burnt Mill Creek CU has been documented to overlap with the potential habitat of at least eight wildlife species resulting in a species richness index of 8 (FFWCC, 2008). This CU has also been ranked as a SHCA by FFWCC due to the potential to protect imperiled species (Endries et al., 2008). Additionally, this CU has been ranked as a priority under the IHRS (FFWCC, 2008) due to an analysis of various factors affecting the ecological significance of land areas including species richness, listed species locations, and SHCA.

Sarracenia leucophylla has been documented within the CU, while *Verbesina chapmanii*, *Rhexia salicifolia*, and *Gopherus polyphemus* have been documented within 1 mile of the CU (FNAI, 2009). A portion of the CU is documented as potential habitat for the indigo snake. Further, there are 41 plants and 9 animals identified in Bay County as Threatened or Endangered Species that could potentially occur in this CU. Due to the likelihood of occurrence of species and documented species, portions of this CU are ranked by FNAI as a Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priority (FNAI, 2009). Conserving these areas will help to maintain habitat for listed species in the region. Table 1 provides a list of species that may be expected to use these areas if the planted pine areas are restored to their historical plant communities.

IV. WATER QUALITY

The Little Burnt Mill Creek CU is located within the Burnt Mill Creek subwatershed of the St. Andrews Bay watershed. Little Burnt Mill Creek flows into Burnt Mill Creek and then into West Bay. The CU is comprised of 43% of the Little Burnt Mill Creek Hydrologic Unit Code 12 drainage area within the GPEMA2; therefore, the preservation of this CU will provide significant protection to this stream and ultimately, Burnt Mill Creek and West Bay.

Little Burnt Mill Creek is not listed on either the 305(b) or 303(d) list of impaired waters. There are currently no known point sources in the watershed and non-point sources are limited to forestry roads. Conserving lands within the CU will help to maintain a restored buffer around the open water portion of Little Burnt Mill Creek. Maintaining this buffer in a natural condition will ensure water quality protection and will reduce future impairment from point and non-point sources

The habitats within the Little Burnt Mill Creek CU are shallow Wet Prairie/Seepage Slopes that grade into Basin Swamps and then eventually into Blackwater Streams. Seepage through these systems comes from the adjacent Mesic Pine Flatwoods and significantly contributes to surface water inflows to both Burnt Mill Creek and West Bay. These habitats have experienced minor alterations from being planted in pine; however, they still provide valuable water input, water filtration, and water storage function.

This CU has been identified by FNAI as a significant surface water priority (FNAI, 2009) primarily due to the support it provides to coastal surface waters. Little Burnt Mill Creek provides a large portion of the recharge for Burnt Mill Creek, which ultimately outflows into West Bay. West Bay is a Class II Waterbody that supports extensive Tidal Marsh and seagrass beds at the mouth of Burnt Mill Creek. Preserving the lands surrounding Little Burnt Mill Creek will help to maintain the brackish shallow water estuaries.

IV. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AND MARINE RESOURCES

Land areas within Little Burnt Mill Creek subwatershed drain into Blackwater Streams that flow into Tidal Creeks associated with Burnt Mill Creek and eventually West Bay. West Bay is classified as Class II waters. The majority of West Bay is conditionally approved for shellfish harvesting with some areas classified as prohibited for shellfish harvesting. West Bay and St. Andrews Bay are not classified as Essential Fish Habitat but seagrasses in both West Bay and St. Andrews Bay provide resources for fish and a variety of non-game species. As mentioned above, preserving this CU will contribute to water quality protection and will help maintain the downstream aquatic resources.

*Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of
Conservation Units within the
West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement and RGP - SAJ 105*



Prepared by:
Kevin Smith, Steve Shea, Jim Moyers,
Mike Lamonica, Tom Beitzel, and Manning Miller
St. Joe Timberland Company



Purpose

To provide an outline for forest and wildlife management within the Conservation Units (CUs) of the West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement (EMA) , Regional General Permit and Ecosystem Management Agreement (GP/EMA) areas. This document provides the frame-work that will guide the development of future land management plans for CUs.

Methodology

Using the *Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for National Forests in Florida* and the *Cecil Field Timber Management Plan* as a framework, the guidelines will prescribe forest and wildlife management strategies that enhance conservation, habitat restoration, and ecological functions within the CUs.

History

The primary land management goal for most of the GP/EMA area historically has been the production of forest products. Intensive silvicultural management of slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and sand pine (*P. clausa*) plantations has occurred on the CUs for the past 30 to 40 years. Silvicultural practices implemented on the area include clear-cutting, roller chopping, site-preparation burning, bedding, planting, and fertilization. Most stands within the GP/EMA area have been through one or more rotations of planted pine. While forest management practices have degraded the natural habitats of many uplands and wetlands, some wetlands within the CUs have experienced little or no silvicultural impacts.

Prescribed Management

The primary forest management objective for this area is to prescribe management activities that will restore and enhance the vegetative communities and function of historic ecosystems. Restoration forestry practices will replace historical intensive silvicultural practices within the CUs. Harvest operations, controlled burning and other restoration prescriptions will be used to convert the existing even-aged pine monoculture to a mosaic of even and uneven-aged management regimes. Proposed objectives, suggested management prescriptions and benefits are summarized below.

I. Forest Management

1. **Objective**-To implement harvest, planting, and management operations that restore and maintain the vegetative species composition, stem density, basal area, understory, hydrology, wildlife species diversity and ecological functions of historically naturally occurring ecosystems.
2. **Prescription**
 - All forest management operations will adhere to the *Silviculture Best Management Practices* (BMPs) outlined by the Florida Division of Forestry, harvests will be conducted by Florida Master Loggers, and forest management will adhere to guidelines set forth by the Sustainable Forest Initiative Program (SFI).

- Five silviculturally impacted forest community types are found to occur within this conservation area: xeric planted uplands, mesic planted uplands, hydric planted flatwoods, upland hardwoods, and wetland hardwoods. Goals and prescriptions of each community are described below.

1. Xeric Planted Uplands Goal- Open canopy with appropriate canopy species, longleaf pine, herbaceous ground cover, low density mid-story.

a) Remove existing stands of sand and off site slash pine plantations through clear cutting following SFI standards. Stands will be candidates for conversion to longleaf once they become merchantable. Existing individual longleaf trees will be left where they are found.

b) Prepare and maintain sites by control burning, mechanical and or chemical means to accomplish successful longleaf stand establishment.

c) Plant longleaf seedlings to ensure capture of site (competition) and provide sufficient needle drop for future control burns.

d) Periodic burning to promote ecological functions.

e) Once stands are established, uneven aged management will occur. Thinning operations will typically occur every 10-15 years on a continual basis with the introduction of patch clear cutting during these operations to facilitate uneven aged management (natural regeneration)

f) Bedding will not be used.

2. Mesic Planted Uplands Goal- Uneven age, open canopy, longleaf pine or a mix of slash and longleaf pine, more diverse herbaceous groundcover than current condition, low density mid-story.

a) Existing pine plantations will be managed to a 30 year rotation. Stands will be clear cut following SFI standards. Existing individual longleaf trees will be left where they are found.

b) Prepare and maintain sites by control burning, mechanical (no bedding) and or chemical means to accomplish successful reestablishment of slash and longleaf pine. Planting densities will ensure adequate stocking for tree selection processes.

c) Once stands are established, pine canopies will be managed to promote ground cover through thinning operations.

d) Periodic burning to promote ecological functions.

e) Bedding will not be used.

3. Hydric Planted Flatwoods Goal- Open canopy with appropriate canopy species, low density slash pine, more diverse ground cover, low density mid-story.

a) Clear-cut existing pine plantations and convert to savannahs.

b) Periodic burning to promote ecological function.

c) Periodic harvesting of natural regeneration, when economically feasible, to maintain ecosystem integrity.

d) Bedding will not be used.

4. Upland Hardwood Goal- Retain current conditions.

a) Control burns conducted in adjoining areas will be allowed to burn into these stands. Suitable mechanical means if necessary to maintain.

b) No herbicides.

c) No bedding.

5. Wetland Hardwood Goal- Retain current conditions except allow for more clearly defined edges.

a) Control burns conducted in adjoining areas will be allowed to burn into these stands. Implement mechanical control measures to maintain if necessary.

b) No herbicides.

c) Salvage harvests due to storms, disease or wildfire only.

d) No bedding.

- Thinning operations are not economically feasible until stands reach merchantable age. Therefore, harvest prescriptions will not be implemented until stands attain minimum volume specifications.
- Harvest activities in all wet pine flatwoods and other jurisdictional wetlands will adhere to BMPs.
- Silvicultural activities deemed detrimental to ecosystem functioning (herbicide application, fertilization, bedding, roller-chopping, row planting) will be excluded except where appropriate to meet restoration objectives.
- Clear-cutting combined with longleaf reestablishment will be used to convert some even-aged slash and sand pine stands to uneven-aged longleaf stands over time. Clear-cutting will be used only for longleaf restoration and salvage cutting of storm, fire, disease or insect damaged timber.
- Longleaf pine reestablishment sites will be selected by evaluating the vegetative communities, soils and hydrology of prospective restoration areas.
- Uneven-aged management of naturally regenerated slash pine stands can be difficult due to high mortality rates of young pines when regularly burned. Therefore, the establishment of a diverse juxtaposition of small even-aged stands will be used to create the same effect as uneven-aged management.
- Limited use of herbicides also could be used to complement burning to create uneven-aged slash pine stands.

3. *Benefits*

- Reduction in stand density will promote the restoration and establishment of a naturally occurring under-story vegetative community and restoration of natural hydrology.
- Harvest, planting and burning operations will promote and maintain longleaf pine restoration within CUs.
- Thinning will reduce tree density and promote canopy development, restoration and establishment of a naturally occurring under-story vegetative community and increase the aesthetics and natural beauty of the CUs.
- Thinning operations also will reduce mid-story fuel levels and improve conditions for the use of prescribed fire.

II. Groundcover Management

1. *Objective*-To establish a groundcover management regime that restores and maintains the ecological functions of naturally occurring upland and wetland communities in the CUs, through prescribed fire, mechanical and chemical means.

2. *Prescription*

- Establish fire-lines that minimize impacts to the landscape and maximize inclusion of fire into formerly fire-suppressed areas.
- Implement dormant-season fire in all fire-dependent upland and wetland ecosystems to reduce fuel loads.
- Implement growing season fires in CUs whenever practical after fuel reduction is accomplished.
- Use site-preparation fire before reestablishing longleaf pine.
- Mechanical and/or chemical prescriptions may be used where fire prescriptions are not feasible.

3. *Benefits*

- Groundcover treatments in wetlands will reduce woody vegetation and restore and maintain the natural under-story and ground cover plant communities.
- Dormant-season prescriptions will reduce fuel loads, the risk of catastrophic fire and prepare sites for implementation of growing-season fire.
- Growing-season prescriptions will mimic natural fire regimes which will enhance and maintain fire-dependent ecosystems, under-story and ground cover.
- Growing-season fire will improve habitat for many species of wildlife and rare plants.
- Groundcover treatments will promote successful natural regeneration of longleaf pine, prepare sites for restoration planting and control noxious vegetation.

- Groundcover treatments will promote and enhance the aesthetic value and outdoor recreational opportunities in CUs.

III. Wildlife Management

1. Objective-To prescribe and implement wildlife habitat and population management strategies that enhance species diversity and population levels.

2. Prescription

- Where appropriate, determine the presence, location, and population status of threatened, endangered and other protected species.
- When deemed necessary monitor and evaluate responses of protected species to habitat management activities.
- Where appropriate, identify and implement habitat and population management measures that improve the recovery and status of protected species.
- Promote and develop inter-agency partnerships that will enhance the management of protected species in the CUs, when appropriate.
- Identify, promote and establish protocol for public recreational consumptive and non-consumptive uses of wildlife species in the CUs.
- Promote and establish educational and public outreach opportunities related to wildlife species in the CUs.

3. Benefits

- Species monitoring will help ensure permit compliance, increase public outreach opportunities and assist in evaluating management efforts.
- Species-specific management prescriptions and development of partnerships will promote population growth and recovery of protected species and improve communication and relationships with regulators.
- Promotion of recreational opportunities will encourage public participation and improve attitudes about and acceptance of land management objectives.
- Restoration efforts will create and maintain diverse and healthy biotic communities that will serve as keystone ecosystems for evaluating future management decisions.
- Restoration efforts will enhance CU suitability and value as wildlife corridors within the RGP - SAJ 105 area and adjacent natural areas.

IV. Exotic Vegetation Management

- 1. Objective**-Promote control and eradication of exotic and nuisance plant and animal species.
- 2. Prescription**
 - Monitor vegetation and wildlife in the CUs to identify the occurrence, location and severity of exotic plant and animal infestations.
 - Develop and implement an exotic plant control and eradication plan.
 - Implement herbicide, fire, and other management prescriptions to meet eradication objectives.
 - Implement lethal and non-lethal measures to control exotic animals.
 - Monitor infestation sites and evaluate the success of control measures to determine ecological lift.
 -
- 3. Benefits**
 - Control of exotic plants will improve habitat quality and reduce competition with native species.
 - Control of exotic wildlife species will reduce habitat degradation and competition with native wildlife species.

V. Standards Cited in Document

- 1. Silviculture Best Management Practices**, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Department of Agriculture, DACS-P-01284 (provides guidelines for Timber harvesting, access, crossings, site prep and planting.
- 2. Florida Master Logger Program**, sponsored by the Florida Forestry Association and the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee (professional loggers must complete a three day class in safety, timber harvesting, and environmental regulations. Must complete six hours of continuing education yearly to maintain their certification.)
- 3. Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)**, Inc. (Independent, charitable organization that is dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. Principals include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Reviewed and updated every 5 years.)

**Department of the Army
Regional General Permit (RGP) SAJ-105
and
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement (EMA)**

**Checklist for Activities Requiring Conservation Unit Project Approval within Type I
and Type II Conservation Units**

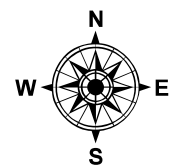
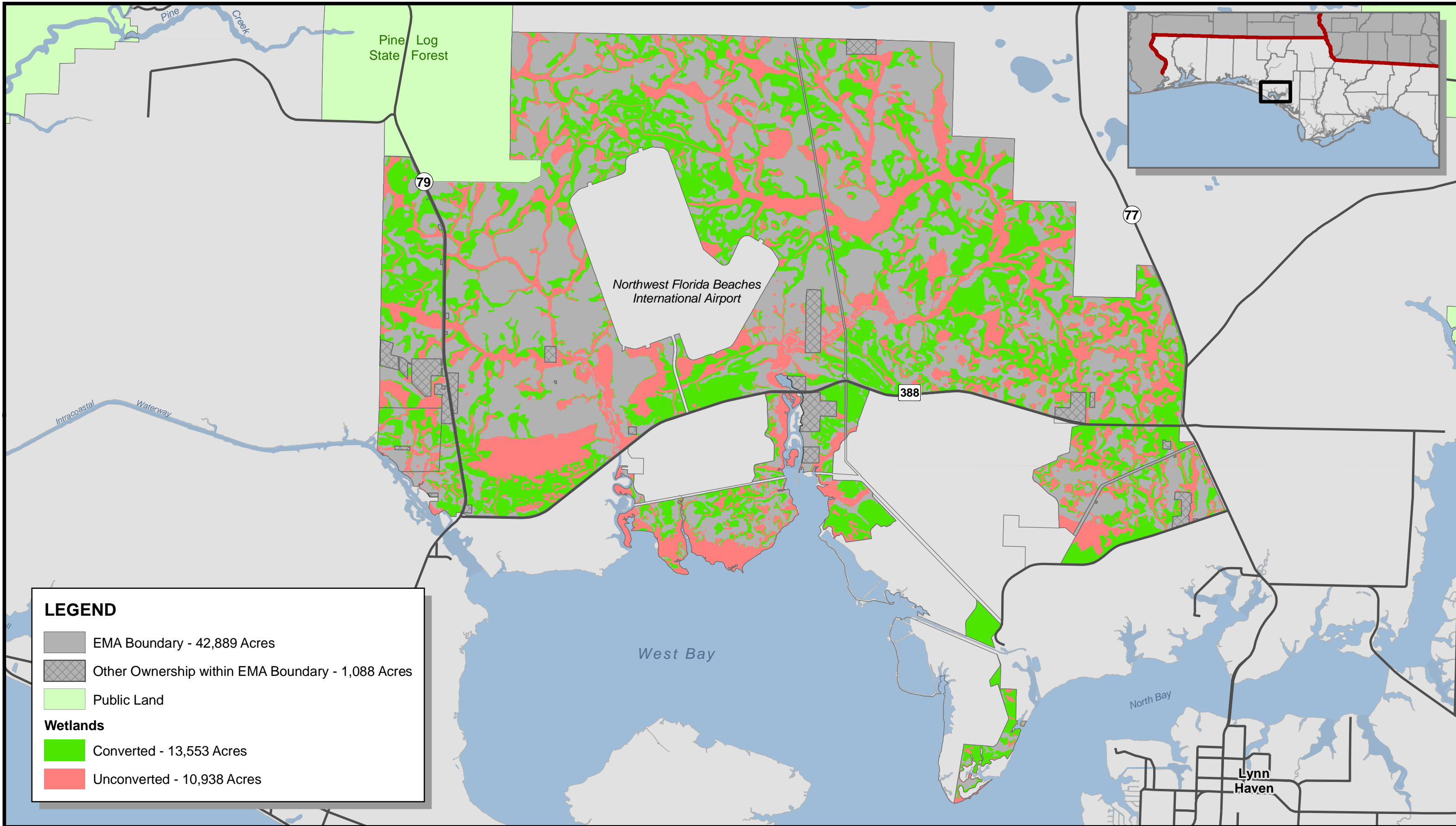
This checklist is to be completed in addition to the Individual Project Approval (IPA) Checklist for projects located within Conservation Units associated with RGP SAJ-105 and the EMA. This checklist applies to the activities listed in Special Conditions 12.d (4), (6), (8), (10), and 12.e. Check the appropriate boxes to determine whether the proposed project complies with Conservation Unit allowable uses. In order for the proposed project to qualify for Conservation Unit Project Approval under RGP SAJ-105 and under the EMA, all applicable responses must be marked "Yes."

	Yes	No	N/A	Questions 1 through 16 are applicable to projects proposed within Type I or Type II Conservation Units for activities listed in Special Conditions 12.d (4), (6), (8), and (10):
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a passive recreational facility, is the proposed project identical to or of similar nature to one of the following: Hiking and biking trails, boardwalks, gathering shelters, restrooms, camping platforms, and horseback trails and hitching areas?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project a passive recreational facility, is the proposed passive recreational facility located in uplands with the exception of minimized trails and boardwalks crossing wetlands?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the proposed project limited to and consistent with the preservation objectives for Conservation Units under RGP SAJ-105, and is it anticipated to result in no more than minimal adverse impacts to the Conservation Unit?
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a <i>Conservation Burial Ground</i> , has the proposed project been certified by the Green Burial Council as a <i>Conservation Burial Ground</i> and would the project aid in the restoration, acquisition and/or stewardship of the Conservation Unit?

5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a linear utility or infrastructure facility, does the project consist of one or more of the following linear utility or infrastructure facility types: Electric transmission and/or distribution lines; water transmission and/or distribution lines; sewer transmission, collection, and/or distribution lines; natural gas transmission and/or distribution lines; data and/or telecommunications transmission and/or distribution lines (phone, cable, fiber optics, internet); or stormwater conveyances, but not stormwater ponds?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed linear utility or infrastructure project includes facilities ancillary to the linear utility or infrastructure facility types listed in Question 5, are the ancillary facilities part of or do they support the linear utility and infrastructure facility?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed linear utility or infrastructure facility project includes work in wetlands, is the project co-located with road crossings where practicable?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed linear utility or infrastructure facility project includes work in wetlands, will the project be installed by directional bore methodology where practicable?
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed linear utility or infrastructure facility project includes work in wetlands, does the project meet the linear infrastructure criteria found in Special Condition 5.c. of the RGP?
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a Nature Center, has a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Designed (LEED) certification of silver or higher been obtained and demonstrated?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a Nature Center with a single access road, does the access road comply with the criteria found in Special Conditions 5.c. and 12.e(1) of the RGP?
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has the Land Disturbance acreage associated with the project been defined and calculated in accordance with the criteria in Special Conditions 12.c. and 12.g. and has the proposed Land Disturbance acreage been demonstrated not to exceed the cumulative Conservation Unit Land Disturbance cap of 183 acres?

13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has Land Disturbance acreage associated with the project proposed within converted wetlands been offset by an equal acreage amount consisting of preserved converted wetlands outside of the Conservation Unit but located within the same sub-watershed?
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has Land Disturbance acreage associated with the project proposed within converted wetlands met the applicable provisions in Special Condition 5?
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has Land Disturbance acreage associated with the project proposed within uplands been offset by an equal acreage amount consisting of preserved upland buffers outside of the Conservation Unit but located within the same sub-watershed?
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has Land Disturbance acreage associated with the project proposed within unconverted wetlands been demonstrated to meet the provisions of Special Condition 5.c.?
	Yes	No	N/A	Questions 17 through 25 are applicable to projects proposed within Type II Conservation Units for activities listed in Special Condition 12.e:
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a road or bridge wetland crossing, has the crossing been designed to not reduce or impair hydrologic conveyance?
18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a road or bridge wetland crossing, has bridging been utilized where practicable utilizing the following criteria for determining practicability: The degree of water flow within the wetland; the length of the wetland crossing; the topography of the wetland and associated upland; and the degree to which a roadway would adversely affect the movement of wildlife expected to use the wetland?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a road or bridge wetland crossing, has the crossing been designed to minimize wetland and upland impacts and does it meet the criteria found in Special Condition 5.c. of the RGP?

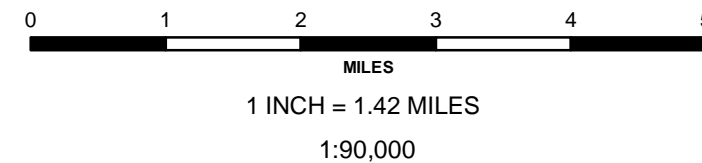
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a recreational facility, does it consist of one of the following: Boat ramps, fishing piers, parks, picnic areas and pavilions, playgrounds/tot lots, and nature facilities but not include any sports or ball fields such as baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, or golf courses?
21.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a recreational facility with an associated parking facility, will pervious surface be utilized for the parking facility or has the use of pervious surface been adequately demonstrated as impracticable?
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a recreational facility, is it located in uplands with the exception of minimized boat ramps, fishing piers, and access roads that cross wetlands?
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a recreational facility, does the project utilize existing access roads to the maximum extent practicable?
24.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a recreational facility and no existing access roads have been found to be practicable for use, does the proposed access road comply with Special Condition 5.c. and Special Condition 12.e(1) of the RGP?
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the proposed project is a road crossing in the "Hydrologically Sensitive Area" of the Crooked Creek/West Bay Conservation Unit, does the proposed road crossing comply with Special Condition 12.f. of the RGP?



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONVERTED/UNCONVERTED WETLANDS MAP

E X H I B I T 1 3

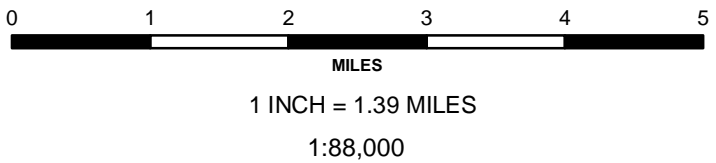
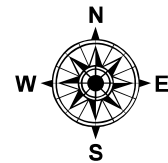
MARCH, 2015

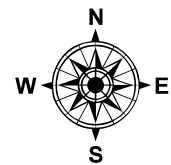




ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT 2013 AERIAL PHOTO

EXHIBIT 14
MARCH, 2015

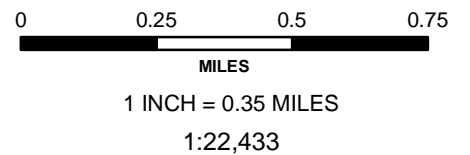




ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT HYDROLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS MAP

E X H I B I T 1 5

MARCH, 2015



**Department of the Army
Regional General Permit (RGP) SAJ-105
and
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement (EMA)
Individual Project Approval Checklist**

Completion of this Individual Project Approval Checklist is required to demonstrate project compliance with the requirements of Regional General Permit (RGP) SAJ-105 and the EMA as indicated in Special Condition 18.a. In order for a proposed project to qualify for authorization under RGP SAJ-105 and under the EMA, all applicable responses must be marked "Yes" or Non-applicable (N/A).

	Yes	No	N/A	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Was a draft application submitted to the appropriate agency representatives two weeks prior to the individual project approval meeting pursuant to Special Condition 18.a.?</p> <p>Date of draft application submittal: _____ Date of individual project approval meeting: _____</p>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Was a complete application to the Corps for this project made using the form "Joint Application for Environmental Resource Permit/Authorization to Use State-Owned Submerged Lands/Federal Dredge and Fill Permit", Form #62-330.060(1) or other permit application form acceptable to the Corps and FDEP?</p>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Were exhibits provided which show the specific location of the proposed project and confirm that the proposed project is located within the RGP area boundaries (1"=200' or other appropriate scale)?</p>
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>RGP SAJ-105 only authorizes Section 404 activities. Are all regulated activities associated with the proposed project located: 1) in Section 404 waters only, or 2) if there are associated Section 10 activities, will these Section 10 activities be evaluated separately as a NWP, GP, LOP or IP?</p>

5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include a written scope of the project which describes the type of project and confirms that it comports with activities authorized by the RGP (i.e. the proposed project is a type of residential, commercial, recreational, or institutional development)?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are project wetland delineations in accordance with the most recent guidance and wetland delineation manual or manual supplement issued by the Corps (which as of this date is the <i>Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region (2008)</i>), or the State of Florida methodology prescribed in Chapter 62-340, F.A.C., <i>Delineation of the Landwater Extent of Wetlands and Surface Waters</i> (whichever is the most landward line of wetlands)?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have Corps wetland delineation data sheets and a completed Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form (Exhibit 17) been completed, signed, and included for the project?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have all wetlands on the project site been identified as either converted or unconverted quality wetlands?
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do all wetlands identified as converted wetlands on the proposed project site consist of hydric pine plantations as shown on the aerial photo dated March 2007 (Exhibit 5), non-Section 10 ditches, or non-Section 10 borrow pits; and were confirmed by a combination of remote sensing and ground-truthing; and has a March 2007 aerial photo been included indicating the project boundary?
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have converted wetlands as shown on the aerial dated March 2007 (Exhibit 5) been subjected to ongoing silviculture activities within the past 5 years from the pre-application meeting?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do proposed direct impacts to converted wetlands comply with the 15% limit as specified in Special Conditions 5.a. and 5.b. of the RGP?

12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are unconverted wetland impacts limited to impact types allowed by Special Condition 5.c. (Road and bridge crossings, boardwalks and paths, linear infrastructure including stormwater conveyances but not stormwater ponds, utility corridors, and any other linear access facilities necessary to support the associated development)?
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has consideration of the following factors been demonstrated by the Applicant for determining if bridging or directional boring of the unconverted wetlands is practicable: 1) the degree of water flow within the wetland, 2) the length of the wetland crossing, 3) the topography of the wetland and associated upland, and 4) the degree to which a roadway would adversely affect the movement of wildlife expected to use the wetland?
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If impacts to unconverted wetlands are proposed to exceed 100 feet in width of combined filling or clearing for a road crossing, has need been adequately demonstrated by the Applicant?
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was first preference for each new unconverted wetland road crossing location given to existing silviculture road crossings?
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If road crossings at locations other than existing silviculture road crossings are proposed, was the crossing designed and constructed to minimize wetland impacts?
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For each road crossing proposed at a point where no previous silviculture road crossing existed, will an existing silviculture road crossing within the same sub-watershed be removed and the wetland connection restored?
18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overall, do the application's drawings and other exhibits that document and show the number, type, location, and acreage of all wetland impacts sufficiently confirm that the proposed project fully complies with this RGP?
19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has the Applicant avoided placing fill material in wetlands for septic tanks or drainfields?
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will only clean fill and rock material compatible with existing soils (e.g., soil, rock, sand, marl, clay, stone, and/or concrete rubble) be used for wetland fills?

21.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has the Applicant demonstrated that wetland fill will not sever a jurisdictional connection or isolate a jurisdictional area?
22.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the site includes/abuts unconverted wetlands, will all unconverted wetlands within the project site include preserved buffers (except at road crossings), which on an individual impact site basis, are comprised of uplands and/or converted wetlands and are on average 50 feet wide, with a minimum 30-foot width, and will the buffers be placed under a conservation easement?
23.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the site abuts a Conservation Unit, has an analysis been made regarding any natural streams or tributaries located within the Conservation Unit, as to the width of required buffers to be preserved between the stream or tributary and the proposed work on the site; is the preserved buffer a minimum of 100 feet in width as measured from the edge of the stream or tributary to the proposed work; is the preserved buffer included in the site plan; and if a portion of a buffer is located within a site, will it be placed under a conservation easement?
24.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Except for the control of exotic plant species, will the application of fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides be prohibited in all preserved buffers?
25.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will compensatory mitigation for individual project wetland impacts be satisfied within one or more of the following: 1) mitigation banks; 2) Conservation Units; or 3) within the project site?
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the project includes compensatory mitigation located within the Conservation Units or on individual project sites, does the proposed compensatory mitigation plan comply with the requirements of 33 CFR Part 332, "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources"?
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Were direct wetland impacts associated with the proposed project and the compensatory mitigation to offset those direct wetland impacts calculated in terms of functional units (FU), as determined using the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) with each acre of impact to converted wetlands assessed at 0.53 FU, and each acre of impact to unconverted wetlands assessed at 0.87 FU or in the case when a Wetland Rapid Assessment Method (WRAP) only credited mitigation bank is used, was each acre of impact to converted wetlands assessed at 0.65 FU, and each acre of impact to unconverted wetlands assessed at 0.92 FU?

28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will the compensatory mitigation be implemented concurrent with or before proposed project impacts?
29.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation Units (CUs): If the proposed project or a portion of the project is located within the EMA area, and in a sub-watershed in which one of the CUs is located, will The St. Joe Company place perpetual conservation easements with the DEP as the grantee on portions of CUs equal to the percentage of the total acreage of approved projects in the affected sub-watershed per the following calculation: Using the EMA area only, divide the total acreage within an approved project boundary in a sub-watershed (including impact and preserved area) by the total acreage of land within the sub-watershed minus the area of any conservation units with the same sub-watershed?
30.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will perpetual conservation easements with the DEP as the grantee, be placed on wetlands not authorized for impact on each project site (including offsite preservation areas to meet the 15% converted wetland requirement) following individual project approval, but prior to commencing any activities authorized by this RGP (or according to the timeframe specified as a special condition in the project specific approval); and does the proposed conservation easement comport with Exhibit 16 of the RGP?
31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For projects that include off-site preservation of converted wetlands, are the boundaries of the off-site preservation area reasonable and include intermixed and adjacent unconverted wetlands?
32.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For compensatory mitigation conducted outside of a mitigation bank, will a perpetual conservation easement with the DEP as the grantee, be placed on the mitigation area prior to commencing any activities authorized by this RGP on the individual project for which the mitigation is approved (or according to the timeframe specified as a special condition in the project specific approval); and does the proposed conservation easement comport with Exhibit 16 of the RGP?
33.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has a set of signed and sealed stormwater management system plans been submitted by a Florida registered professional to the DEP for review as required by Part III, Section D of the ERP application?

34.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include a signed statement by a Florida registered professional certifying that the project conforms to Chapter 62-330 F.A.C. and Applicant's Handbook, Volumes 2, to the additional level of treatment as set forth in the EMA, and to the heightened sediment erosion control measures (Exhibit 2)?
35.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was documentation of coordination with SHPO provided?
36.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If required by the SHPO, did the applicant conduct a Phase I archeological and historical survey on the proposed project site?
37.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If required, will measures identified to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing in the <i>National Register of Historic Places</i> , or otherwise of archeological or historical, be made special conditions of the RGP authorization for the proposed project?
38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was documentation provided with respect to the Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>) that states whether or not a bald eagle's nest is located on or in the vicinity of the project site?
39.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If a bald eagle's nest occurs within 660 feet of a project, has the applicant followed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's May 2007 National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines? Has the applicant contacted the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for recommendations relative to Florida's Bald Eagle Management Plan and Permitting Guidelines to ensure the project is consistent with the provisions of Rule 68A-16.002, Florida Administration Rule? Have appropriate protections been incorporated in the project and documentation provided showing how the appropriate protections will be implemented?

40.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has documentation of coordination with the FWC regarding any needed fish and wildlife surveys for the project area, and any measures needed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to state listed/protected fish and wildlife species and their habitats including any plan to obtain a permit if required by Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C. been provided?
41.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has an updated ledger balance sheet demonstrating compliance with the RGP been submitted in accordance with Special Condition 14?
42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the project is located within a Conservation Unit for an activity listed in Special Conditions 12.d (4), (6), (9), (11), and 12.e, has the Checklist for Activities Requiring Conservation Unit Project Approval within Type I and Type II Conservation Units (Exhibit 15) been completed and provided?

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The terms, conditions, requirements, limitations, and restrictions set forth in this permit are “permit conditions” and are binding and enforceable pursuant to sections 403.141, 403.727, or 403.859 through 403.861, F.S. The permittee is placed on notice that the Department will review this permit periodically and may initiate enforcement actions for any violation of these conditions.
2. This permit is valid only for the specific processes and operations applied for and indicated in the approved drawings for exhibits. Any unauthorized deviate from the approved drawings, exhibits, specifications, or conditions of this permit may constitute grounds for revocation and enforcement action by the Department.
3. As provided in subsections 403.017(6) and 403.722(5), F.S., the issuance of this permit does not convey any vested rights or any exclusive privileges. Neither does it authorize any injury to public or private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
4. This permit conveys no title to land or water, does not constitute State recognition or acknowledge of title, and does not constitute authority for the use of the submerged lands unless herein provided and the necessary title or leasehold interests have been obtained from the State. Only the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund may express State opinion as to title.
5. This permit does not relieve the permittee from liability for harm or injury to human health or welfare, animal, or plant life, or property caused by the construction or operation of this permitted source, or from penalties therefore; nor does it allow the permittee to cause pollution in contravention of Florida Statutes and Department rules, unless specifically authorized by an order from the Department.
6. The permittee shall properly operate and maintain the facility and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed and used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit, are required by the Department rules.
7. The permittee, by accepting this permit, specifically agrees to allow authorized Department personnel, upon presentation of credentials or other documents as may be required by law and at reasonable times, access to the premises where the permitted activity is located or conducted to:
 - a. Have access to and copy any records that must kept under the conditions of this permit;
 - b. Inspect the facility, equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
 - c. Sample or monitor any substances or parameters at any location reasonable necessary to assure compliance with this permit or Department rules.

Reasonable time may depend on the nature of the concern being investigated.

8. If, for any reason, the permittee does not comply with or will be unable to comply with any condition or limitation specified in this permit, the permittee shall immediately provide the Department with the following information:

- a. A description of and cause of noncompliance; and
- b. The period of noncompliance, including dates and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue, and steps being taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrent so the noncompliance.
- c. The permittee shall be responsible for any and all damages, which may result and may be subject to enforcement action by the Department for penalties or for revocation of this permit.

9. In accepting this permit, the permittee understands and agrees that all records, notes, monitoring data and other information relating to the construction or operation of this permitted source which are submitted to the Department may be used by the Department as evidence in any enforcement case involving the permitted source arising under the Florida Statutes or Department rules, except where such use is prescribed by sections 403.111 and 403.73, F.S. Such evidence shall only be used to the extent it is consistent with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and appropriate evidentiary rules.

10. The permittee agrees to comply with changes in Department rules and Florida Statutes after a reasonable time for compliance; provided, however, the permittee does not waive any other rights granted by Florida Statutes or Department rules. A reasonable time for compliance with a new or amended surface water quality standard, other than those standards addressed in rule 62-302.500, F.A.C., shall include a reasonable time to obtain or be denied a mixing zone for the new or amended standard.

11. This permit is transferable only upon Department approval in accordance with rules 62-4.120 and 62-730.300, F.A.C., as applicable. The permittee shall be liable for any non-compliance of the permitted activity until the transfer is approved by the Department.

12. This permit or a copy thereof shall be kept at the work site of the permitted activity.

13. This permit also constitutes Certification of Compliance with State Water Quality Standards (Section 401, PL 92-500).

14. The permittee shall comply with the following:

- a. Upon request, the permittee shall furnish all records and plans required under Department rules. During enforcement actions, the retention period for all records will be extended automatically unless otherwise stipulated by the Department.
- b. The permittee shall hold at the facility or other location designated by this permit records of all monitoring information (including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation) requirement by the permit copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit.

These materials shall be retained at least 3 years from the date of sample, measurement, report, or application unless otherwise specified by Department rule.

- c. Records of monitoring performance shall include:
 - 1. the date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
 - 2. the person responsible for performing the sampling or measurements;
 - 3. the dates analyses were performed;
 - 4. the person responsible for performing analyses
 - 5. the analytical techniques or methods used; and
 - 6. the results of such analyses.

15. When requested by the Department, the permittee shall within a reasonable amount of time furnish any information required by law which is needed to determine compliance with the permit. If the permittee becomes aware the relevant facts were not submitted or were incorrect in the permit application or in any report to the Department, such facts or information shall be corrected promptly.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition for the administrative hearing is timely filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., before the deadline for filing a petition. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Department's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice.

Petition for Administration Hearing

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petition's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of the how the petition's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination.
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and

- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take vital respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

Time Period for Filing a Petition

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S. must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.63(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 21 days of the receipt of notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure to petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

Mediation

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

FLAWAC Review

The applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1) (a) or 373.4275, F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when the order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

Judicial Review

Any party to this action has the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Section 120.68, F.S., by filing a Notice of Appeal pursuant to Rules 9.110 and 9.190, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with a Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000; and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable fees with the appropriate District Court of Appeal.

TYPE I CONSERVATION UNIT EASEMENT

DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THIS DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT is given this ____ day of _____ 20__, by THE ST. JOE COMPANY/ST. JOE TIMBERLAND COMPANY OF DELAWARE, L.L.C., having an address at 133 South Watersound Parkway, Watersound, Florida 32413 (Grantor) to the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION whose address is Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 130, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 (Grantee). As used herein, the term Grantor shall include any and all heirs, successors or assigns of the Grantor, and all subsequent owners of the Property (as hereinafter defined) and the term Grantee shall include any successor or assignee of Grantee.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain lands situated in Bay County, Florida, more specifically described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein (Property);

WHEREAS, the Department and Grantor executed an Ecosystem Management Agreement, dated _____, (Agreement), which authorizes certain activities that affect waters in or of the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, the Agreement and individual project approvals issued pursuant to the Agreement ("Approval") requires the set aside of certain areas called Type I Conservation Units, as defined in the Agreement, and requires that the Grantor exclude from development wetlands and uplands within such Type I Conservation Units;

WHEREAS, the Property is a part of a Type I Conservation Unit;

WHEREAS, Grantor grants this conservation easement as a condition of the Approval to offset or prevent secondary and cumulative adverse impacts to water quality and natural resources, such as fish, wildlife, and wetland or other surface water functions, and to provide a net ecosystem benefit as provided in the Agreement;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps") General Permit No. SAJ-105 (RGP) authorizes certain activities in the waters of the United States and requires this conservation easement over the lands identified in Exhibit A as a condition for such activities; and

WHEREAS The Corps is not authorized to hold conservation easements and the Grantee has agreed to hold the easement on behalf of the Corps as well as on its own behalf; and

WHEREAS, this conservation easement is subject to and governed by the Agreement and the RGP and provisions within both the Agreement and RGP affect this conservation easement and owners of property subject to this conservation easement are advised to refer to the Agreement and RGP, which documents are available as public records.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions and restrictions contained herein, together with other good and valuable consideration, the adequacy and receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys a perpetual conservation easement as defined in Section 704.06 Florida Statutes, for and in favor of the Grantee upon the Property which shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantor, and shall remain in full force and effect forever.

The scope, nature and character of this conservation easement shall be as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this conservation easement is to retain land or water areas in their natural vegetative, hydrologic, scenic, agricultural or wooded condition so as to preserve their environmental value and to retain such areas as suitable habitat for fish, plants or wildlife, while allowing certain passive recreational activities and facilities. Those wetland or upland areas included in the Type I Conservation Units which are to be enhanced or restored pursuant to the Approval shall be retained and maintained in the enhanced or restored conditions required by the Approval.

2. Rights of Grantee. To carry out this purpose, the following rights are conveyed to Grantee by this easement:

a. The right to take action to preserve and protect the environmental value of the Property;

b. The right to prevent any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with purpose of this conservation easement, and to require the restoration of areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any activity inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement;

c. The right to enter upon and inspect the Property in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times, including the right to use vehicles and all necessary equipment to determine if Grantor or its successors and assigns are complying with the purpose of this conservation easement; and

d. The right to enforce this conservation easement by injunction or proceed at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this conservation easement and the covenants set forth herein, to prevent the occurrence of any of the prohibited activities hereinafter set forth, and the right to require Grantor to restore such areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use.

3. Prohibited Activities. Any activity which violates the purpose of this conservation easement is prohibited, including the following:

- a. Construction or placing of buildings, roads, signs, billboards, docks or other similar structures on or above the ground;
- b. Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste, or unsightly or offensive materials;
- c. Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation, except for timbering done in accordance with the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of Conservation Units within the West Bay EMA ("Forest and Wildlife Plan") which is part of the Agreement and for the purpose of enhancing or restoring wetlands or uplands in a mitigation area in accordance with applicable permits;
- d. Planting or seeding of plants that are outside their natural range or zone of dispersal and has or is able to form self-sustaining, expanding, and free-living populations in a natural community on the Property with which it has not previously associated;
- e. Exploration for or extraction of oil or gas, and excavation, dredging, or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material substance;
- f. Surface use except for purposes that allow the land or water area to remain in its natural condition;
- g. Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation including, but not limited to, ditching, diking and fencing;
- h. Acts or uses detrimental to such aforementioned retention of land or water areas;
- i. Acts or uses detrimental to the preservation of the structural integrity or physical appearance of sites or properties of historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance; and.
- j. The application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is prohibited, except in buffers as authorized in accordance with Section 4(l).
- k. No wells shall be installed within the Property.

4. Authorized activities. Any activity which is consistent with the purpose of this conservation easement is authorized, including the following:

- a. Wetland and upland habitat enhancement and restoration.
- b. Forest management, which shall be conducted through sustainable forestry, uneven age management regimes and best management practices, in accordance with, and as

defined in the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of Conservation Units within the West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement and RGP-SAJ-105 (“Forest and Wildlife Management Plan”) which is part of the Agreement. No timbering of cypress or wetland hardwoods or clear cutting is permitted except as allowed in the Forest and Wildlife Management Plan.

- c. Hunting, fishing, and birding.
- d. Passive recreational facilities and activities such as hiking and biking trails, boardwalks, gathering shelters, restrooms, camping platforms, horseback trails and hitching areas and other facilities of a similar nature. These facilities shall result in no more than minimal impacts. Trails and boardwalks may cross wetlands, but must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. All other facilities may only be located in uplands.
- e. Wetland mitigation as required by any future permit.
- f. Green Burial Council certified *Conservation Burial Grounds*. This level of certification employs burial/scattering programs that aid in the restoration, acquisition and/or stewardship of natural areas.
- g. Reinstitution of fire regime, including necessary firebreaks, which mimics natural conditions.
- h. Linear utilities and infrastructure facilities, which shall be defined as (i) electric transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (ii) water transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (iii) sewer transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (iv) natural gas transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (v) data and/or telecommunications transmission, collection and/or distribution lines (phone, cable, fiber optics, internet), and (vi) stormwater conveyances, but not stormwater ponds. In addition, ancillary facilities that are part of and support the linear utilities and infrastructure facilities described above shall be allowed. All linear utilities and infrastructure facilities shall, when practical, be co-located with road crossings and be installed by direct bore methods. The linear infrastructure shall be subject to the criteria and wetland impact limitations as set forth in special condition 5.c of the RGP and paragraph 3 of Article VII. of the Agreement.
- i. Activities needed to maintain, in current condition, existing access, roads and ditches within and through the Property. These allowable maintenance activities do not include activities to relocate such access, roads and ditches.
- j. Nature Centers, including single access roads. A Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification of silver or higher must be obtained for any enclosed structures. Nature Centers may only be located in uplands. Access roads to serve nature centers must comply with special conditions 5.c and 12.e(i) of the RGP and paragraph 12 of Article V and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

k. Within buffers that are required to be preserved by the Approval and that are part of the Property, construction of boardwalks for dock access and on-grade trails will be permitted. Also, application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is authorized to the extent fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are used to control exotic plant vegetation within the buffers.

5. Land Disturbance. Activities which result in any manmade change of the land surface, including removing vegetative cover that exposes the underlying soil, excavating, filling, grading, grubbing, discing, blading, contouring, ripping, root raking and includes areas covered by impervious surfaces such as roofs, concrete and asphalt, but excluding pervious hiking and biking trails, pervious horseback riding trails and boardwalks ("Land Disturbance") are prohibited, except to the extent Land Disturbance occurs as a result of activities which are allowed in this Section. The Agreement and RGP place restrictions on the amount of Land Disturbance which can occur within the total area of Conservation Units and require certain mitigation for any Land Disturbance or impacts to converted wetlands within the Conservation Units.

6. Written Approval Required. Written approval from the Corps and DEP shall be required for any uses, activities or facilities sought to be constructed on the Property as allowed by this conservation easement ("Conservation Unit Project Approval"). Written authorization for allowable projects within the Property is required prior to initiation of construction. Conservation Unit Project Approval shall be conducted consistent with special condition 18 of the RGP and Article V of the Agreement. In applying for Conservation Unit Project Approval an applicant will be required to include an avoidance and minimization impact analysis with respect to the proposed uses, activities and facilities and review by the Corps and DEP will include a review of the total scale of facility to insure that the proposed use, activity or facility is limited and consistent with the preservation objectives of the Conservation Units.

7. Reserved Rights. Grantor reserves all rights as owner of the Property, including the right to engage in uses of the Property that are not prohibited herein and which are not inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement or any Department rule, criteria, or Agreement.

8. Public Access. No right of access by the general public to any portion of the Property is conveyed by this conservation easement.

9. Responsibilities of Parties. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall take responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property. In addition, the Grantee, its successors or assigns, shall have no responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property.

10. Taxes. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall pay, before delinquency, any and all taxes, assessments, fees, and charges of whatever description levied on or assessed by competent authority on the Property, and shall furnish Grantee with satisfactory evidence of payment upon request.

11. Liability. Grantee shall not assume any liability for any injury or damage to the person or property of Grantor or third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Neither Grantor, its

successors or assigns, nor any person or entity claiming by or through Grantor its successors or assigns, shall hold Grantee liable for any damage or injury to person or personal property which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Furthermore, the Grantor, its successors or assigns shall indemnify and hold harmless Grantee from all liability, and injury or damage to the person or property of third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Grantee may not bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the property resulting from natural causes beyond Grantor's control including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm and earth movement, or from any necessary action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate or mitigate significant injury to the property or to persons resulting from such causes.

12. Hazardous Waste. Grantor covenants and represents that to the best of its knowledge, no hazardous substance or toxic waste exists nor has been generated, treated, stored, used, disposed of, or deposited in or on the Property, and that there are not now any underground storage tanks located on the Property.

13. Enforcement Discretion. Enforcement of the terms, provisions and restrictions of this conservation easement shall be at the discretion of Grantee, and any forbearance on the part of Grantee to exercise its rights hereunder in the event of any breach by Grantor, shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver of Grantee's rights.

14. Enforcement Costs. If the Grantee prevails in an enforcement action, it shall be entitled to recover the cost of restoring the land to the natural vegetative and hydrologic condition existing at the time of execution of the conservation easement or to the vegetative and hydrologic condition required by the RGP and the Approval.

15. Assignment of Rights. Grantee will hold this conservation easement exclusively for conservation purposes. Grantee will not assign its rights and obligations under this conservation easement except to another organization qualified to hold such interests under applicable state laws. The Corps reserves the right to approve successor grantees for the purpose of meeting the continuing compensatory mitigation requirements of its permit, permits or individual project approvals.

16. Recording in Land Records. Grantor shall record this conservation easement and any amendments hereto in a timely fashion in the Official Records of Bay County, Florida. Grantor shall pay all recording costs and taxes necessary to record this conservation easement in the public records.

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

18. Notices. All notices, consents, approvals or other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed properly given if sent by United States certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the appropriate party or successor-in-interest.

19. Severability. If any provision of this conservation easement or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this conservation easement shall not be affected thereby, as long as the purpose of the conservation easement is preserved.

20. Alteration or Revocation. This conservation easement may be amended, altered, released or revoked only by Agreement modification as necessary and written agreement between the parties hereto or their heirs, assigns or successors-in-interest, which shall be filed in the public records of Bay County, Florida.

21. Controlling Law. The interpretation and performance of this conservation easement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida.

22. Rights of the Corps. The Corps, as a third party beneficiary, shall have all the rights of Grantee under this easement. The Corps shall approve any modification, alteration, release, or revocation of the conservation easement, and shall review and approve as necessary any additional structures or activities on the property that require approval by the Grantee. The Grantor shall provide the Corps (District Engineer) at least 60 days advance notice in writing before any action is taken to modify, alter, release or revoke this Conservation Easement.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto Grantee forever. The covenants, terms, conditions, restrictions and purpose imposed with this conservation easement shall be binding upon Grantor, and shall continue as a servitude running in perpetuity with the Property.

Grantor hereby covenants with said Grantee that Grantor is lawfully seized of the Property in fee simple; that the Property is free and clear of all encumbrances that are inconsistent with the terms and conditions of this conservation easement; that all mortgages have been joined or subordinated; that Grantor has good right and lawful authority to convey this conservation easement; and that Grantor hereby fully warrants and defends the title to this conservation easement against the lawful claims of all persons whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has executed this Conservation easement on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in our presence as witnesses:

Print Name:

By: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: _____

Print Name:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____, by _____ as _____ of the (corporation's name) _____ He/She is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

(SEAL)

Notary Public Signature

Printed/Typed Name of Notary

Commission No. _____

Commission Expires: _____

TYPE II CONSERVATION UNIT EASEMENT

DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THIS DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT is given this ____day of _____ 20____, by THE ST. JOE COMPANY/ST. JOE TIMBERLAND COMPANY OF DELAWARE, L.L.C., having an address at 133 South Watersound Parkway, Watersound, Florida 32413 (Grantor) to the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION whose address is Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 130, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 (Grantee). As used herein, the term Grantor shall include any and all heirs, successors or assigns of the Grantor, and all subsequent owners of the Property (as hereinafter defined) and the term Grantee shall include any successor or assignee of Grantee.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain lands situated in Bay County, Florida, more specifically described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein (Property);

WHEREAS, the Department and Grantor executed an Ecosystem Management Agreement, dated _____, (Agreement), which authorizes certain activities that affect waters in or of the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, the Agreement and individual project approvals issued pursuant to the Agreement ("Approval") requires the set aside of certain areas called Type II Conservation Units, as defined in the Agreement, and requires that the Grantor exclude from development wetlands and uplands within such Type II Conservation Units;

WHEREAS, the Property is a part of a Type II Conservation Unit;

WHEREAS, Grantor grants this conservation easement as a condition of the Approval to offset or prevent secondary and cumulative adverse impacts to water quality and natural resources, such as fish, wildlife, and wetland or other surface water functions, and to provide a net ecosystem benefit as provided in the Agreement;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) General Permit No. SAJ-105 (RGP) authorizes certain activities in the waters of the United States and requires this conservation easement over the lands identified in Exhibit A as a condition for such activities; and

WHEREAS The Corps is not authorized to hold conservation easements and the Grantee has agreed to hold the easement on behalf of the Corps as well as on its own behalf; and

WHEREAS, this conservation easement is subject to and governed by the Agreement and the RGP and provisions within both the Agreement and RGP affect this conservation easement and owners of property subject to this conservation easement are advised to refer to the Agreement and RGP, which documents are available as public records.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions and restrictions contained herein, together with other good and valuable consideration, the adequacy and receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys a perpetual conservation easement as defined in Section 704.06 Florida Statutes, for and in favor of the Grantee upon the Property which shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantor, and shall remain in full force and effect forever.

The scope, nature and character of this conservation easement shall be as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this conservation easement is to retain land or water areas in their natural vegetative, hydrologic, scenic, agricultural or wooded condition so as to preserve their environmental value and to retain such areas as suitable habitat for fish, plants or wildlife while generally allowing certain limited areas to be used for recreational purposes consistent with the West Bay Preservation Area land use category as defined in the West Bay Sector Plan. Those wetland or upland areas included in the Type II Conservation Units which are to be enhanced or restored pursuant to the Approval shall be retained and maintained in the enhanced or restored conditions required by the Approval.

2. Rights of Grantee. To carry out this purpose, the following rights are conveyed to Grantee by this easement:

a. The right to take action to preserve and protect the environmental value of the Property;

b. The right to prevent any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement, and to require the restoration of areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any activity inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement;

c. The right to enter upon and inspect the Property in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times, including the right to use vehicles and all necessary equipment to determine if Grantor or its successors and assigns are complying with the purpose of this conservation easement; and

d. The right to enforce this conservation easement by injunction or proceed at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this conservation easement and the covenants set forth herein, to prevent the occurrence of any of the prohibited activities hereinafter set forth, and the

right to require Grantor to restore such areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use.

3. Prohibited Activities. Any activity which violates the purpose of this conservation easement is prohibited, including the following:

a. Construction or placing of buildings, roads, signs, billboards, or other similar structures on or above the ground;

b. Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste, or unsightly or offensive materials;

c. Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation, except for timbering done in accordance with the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of Conservation Units within the West Bay EMA ("Forest and Wildlife Plan") which is part of the Agreement and for the purpose of enhancing or restoring wetlands or uplands in a mitigation area in accordance with applicable permits;

d. Planting or seeding of plants that are outside their natural range or zone of dispersal and has or is able to form self-sustaining, expanding, and free-living populations in a natural community on the Property with which it has not previously associated;

e. Exploration for or extraction of oil or gas, and excavation, dredging, or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material substance;

f. Surface use except for purposes that allow the land or water area to remain in its natural condition;

g. Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation including, but not limited to, ditching, diking and fencing;

h. Acts or uses detrimental to such aforementioned retention of land or water areas;

i. Acts or uses detrimental to the preservation of the structural integrity or physical appearance of sites or properties of historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance; and

j. The application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is prohibited, except in buffers as authorized in accordance with Section 4(n).

k. No wells shall be installed within the Property.

4. Authorized activities. Any activity which is consistent with the purpose of this conservation easement is authorized, including the following:

a. Wetland and upland habitat enhancement and restoration.

b. Forest management, which shall be conducted through sustainable forestry, uneven age management regimes and best management practices, in accordance with, and defined in the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of Conservation Units within the West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement and RGP SAJ-105 ("Forest and Wildlife Management Plan") which is part of the Agreement. No timbering of cypress or wetland hardwoods or clear cutting is permitted except as allowed in the Forest and Wildlife Management Plan.

c. Hunting, fishing, and birding.

d. Passive recreational facilities and activities such as hiking and biking trails, boardwalks, gathering shelters, restrooms, camping platforms, horseback trails and hitching areas and other facilities of a similar nature. These facilities shall result in no more than minimal impacts. Trails and boardwalks may cross wetlands, but must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. All other facilities may only be located in uplands.

e. Wetland mitigation as required by any future permit.

f. Green Burial Council certified *Conservation Burial Grounds*. This level of certification employs burial/scattering programs that aid in the restoration, acquisition and/or stewardship of natural areas.

g. Reinstitution of fire regime, including necessary firebreaks, which mimics natural conditions.

h. Linear utilities and infrastructure facilities, which shall be defined as (i) electric transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (ii) water transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (iii) sewer transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (iv) natural gas transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (v) data and/or telecommunications transmission, collection and/or distribution lines (phone, cable, fiber optics, internet), and (vi) stormwater conveyances, but not stormwater ponds. In addition, ancillary facilities that are part of and support the linear utilities and infrastructure facilities described above shall be allowed. All linear utilities and infrastructure facilities shall, when practical, be co-located with road crossings and be installed by direct bore methods. The linear infrastructure shall be subject to the criteria and wetland impact limitations as set forth in special condition 5.c of the RGP and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

i. Activities needed to maintain, in current condition, existing access, roads and ditches within and through the Property. These allowable maintenance activities do not include activities to relocate such access.

j. Nature Centers, including single access roads. A Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification of silver or higher must be obtained for any enclosed structures. Nature Centers may only be located in uplands. Access roads to serve nature centers must comply with special conditions 5.c and 12.e.(i) of the RGP and paragraph 12 of Article V and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

k. Road and bridge crossings to support associated development. All crossings in wetlands shall be designed so that the hydrologic conveyance is not reduced or impaired. Bridging is required wherever practicable. The following factors shall be considered when determining if bridging of the wetlands is practicable: 1) the degree of water flow within the wetland, 2) the length of the wetland crossing, 3) the topography of the wetland and associated upland, and 4) the degree to which a roadway would adversely affect the movement of wildlife expected to use the wetland. Road and bridge crossings shall be designed and constructed to minimize wetland and upland impacts and must comply with special condition 5.c of the RGP and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

l. Certain recreational facilities to include boat ramps, fishing piers, parks, picnic areas and pavilions, playgrounds/tot lots, nature facilities, but excluding any sports or ball fields, including baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts and golf courses. In addition, parking facilities are allowed, but shall be constructed with pervious surfaces, unless it is impracticable to use pervious surfaces, in which event impervious surfaces may be used. Boat Ramps, fishing piers and access roads may cross wetlands, but must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. All other facilities may only be located in uplands. Access roads to serve active recreational uses and activities must use existing roads to the maximum extent practicable and otherwise must comply with special conditions 5.c and 12.e.(i) of the RGP and paragraph 12 of Article V and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

n. Within buffers that are required to be preserved by the Approval and that are part of the Property, construction of boardwalks for dock access and on-grade trails will be permitted. Also, application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is authorized to the extent fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are used to control exotic plant vegetation within the buffers.

5. Land Disturbance. Activities which result in any manmade change of the land surface, including removing vegetative cover that exposes the underlying soil, excavating, filling, grading, grubbing, disking, blading, contouring, ripping, root raking and includes areas covered by impervious surfaces such as roofs, concrete and asphalt, but excluding pervious hiking and biking trails, pervious horseback riding trails and boardwalks ("Land Disturbance") are prohibited, except to the extent Land Disturbance occurs as a result of activities which are allowed in this Section. The Agreement and RGP place restrictions on the amount of Land Disturbance which can occur within the total area of Conservation Units and require certain mitigation for any Land Disturbance or impacts to converted wetlands within the Conservation Units.

6. Written Approval Required. Written approval from the Corps and DEP shall be required for any uses, activities or facilities sought to be constructed on the Property as allowed by this conservation easement ("Conservation Unit Project Approval"). Written authorization for allowable projects within the Property is required prior to initiation of construction. Conservation Unit Project Approval shall be conducted consistent with special condition 18 of the RGP and Article V of the Agreement. In applying for Conservation Unit Project Approval an applicant will be required to include an avoidance and minimization impact analysis with respect to the proposed uses, activities and facilities and review by the Corps and DEP will

include a review of the total scale of facility to insure that the proposed use, activity or facility is limited and consistent with the preservation objectives of the Conservation Units.

7. Reserved Rights. Grantor reserves all rights as owner of the Property, including the right to engage in uses of the Property that are not prohibited herein and which are not inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement.

8. Public Access. No right of access by the general public to any portion of the Property is conveyed by this conservation easement.

9. Responsibilities of Parties. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall take responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property. In addition, the Grantee, its successors or assigns, shall have no responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property.

10. Taxes. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall pay before delinquency any and all taxes, assessments, fees, and charges of whatever description levied on or assessed by competent authority on the Property, and shall furnish Grantee with satisfactory evidence of payment upon request

11. Liability. Grantee shall not assume any liability for any injury or damage to the person or property of Grantor or third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Neither Grantor, its successors or assigns, nor any person or entity claiming by or through Grantor its successors or assigns, shall hold Grantee liable for any damage or injury to person or personal property which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Furthermore, the Grantor, its successors or assigns shall indemnify and hold harmless Grantee from all liability, and injury or damage to the person or property of third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Grantee may not bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the property resulting from natural causes beyond Grantor's control including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm and earth movement, or from any necessary action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate or mitigate significant injury to the property or to persons resulting from such causes.

12. Hazardous Waste. Grantor covenants and represents that to the best of its knowledge, no hazardous substance or toxic waste exists nor has been generated, treated, stored, used, disposed of, or deposited in or on the Property, and that there are not now any underground storage tanks located on the Property.

13. Enforcement Discretion. Enforcement of the terms, provisions and restrictions of this conservation easement shall be at the discretion of Grantee, and any forbearance on the part of Grantee to exercise its rights hereunder in the event of any breach by Grantor, shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver of Grantee's rights.

14. Enforcement Costs. If the Grantee prevails in an enforcement action, it shall be entitled to recover the cost of restoring the land to the natural vegetative and hydrologic condition existing at the time of execution of the conservation easement or to the vegetative and hydrologic condition required by the RGP and the Approval.

15. Assignment of Rights. Grantee will hold this conservation easement exclusively for conservation purposes. Grantee will not assign its rights and obligations under this conservation easement except to another organization qualified to hold such interests under applicable state laws. The Corps reserves the right to approve successor grantees for the purpose of meeting the continuing compensatory mitigation requirements of its permit, permits or individual project approvals.

16. Recording in Land Records. Grantor shall record this conservation easement and any amendments hereto in a timely fashion in the Official Records of Bay County, Florida. Grantor shall pay all recording costs and taxes necessary to record this conservation easement in the public records.

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

18. Notices. All notices, consents, approvals or other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed properly given if sent by United States certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the appropriate party or successor-in-interest.

19. Severability. If any provision of this conservation easement or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this conservation easement shall not be affected thereby, as long as the purpose of the conservation easement is preserved.

20. Alteration or Revocation. This conservation easement may be amended, altered, released or revoked only by Agreement modification as necessary and written agreement between the parties hereto or their heirs, assigns or successors-in-interest, which shall be filed in the public records of Bay County, Florida.

21. Controlling Law. The interpretation and performance of this conservation easement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida.

22. Rights of the Corps. The Corps, as a third party beneficiary, shall have all the rights of Grantee under this easement. The Corps shall approve any modification, alteration, release, or revocation of the conservation easement, and shall review and approve as necessary any additional structures or activities on the property that require approval by the Grantee. The Grantor shall provide the Corps (District Engineer) at least 60 days advance notice in writing before any action is taken to modify, alter, release or revoke this Conservation Easement.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto Grantee forever. The covenants, terms, conditions, restrictions and purpose imposed with this conservation easement shall be binding upon Grantor, and shall continue as a servitude running in perpetuity with the Property.

Grantor hereby covenants with said Grantee that Grantor is lawfully seized of the Property in fee simple; that the Property is free and clear of all encumbrances that are inconsistent with the terms and conditions of this conservation easement; that all mortgages have been joined or subordinated; that Grantor has good right and lawful authority to convey this conservation easement; and that Grantor hereby fully warrants and defends the title to this conservation easement against the lawful claims of all persons whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has executed this Conservation easement on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in our presence as witnesses:

Print Name:

By: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: _____

Print Name:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____, by _____ as _____ of the (corporation's name) _____ He/She is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

(SEAL)

Notary Public Signature

Printed/Typed Name of Notary

Commission No. _____

Commission Expires: _____

MITIGATION EASEMENT

DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THIS DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT is given this ____ day of _____, 20__, by THE ST. JOE COMPANY/ST. JOE TIMBERLAND COMPANY OF DELAWARE, L.L.C., having an address at 133 South Watersound Parkway, Watersound, Florida 32413 (Grantor) to the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, whose address is Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 130, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 (Grantee) with third party enforcement rights to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Third Party Beneficiary). As used herein, the term Grantor shall include any and all heirs, successors or assigns of the Grantor, and all subsequent owners of the Property (as hereinafter defined); the term Grantee shall include any successor or assignee of Grantee; and the term "Third Party Beneficiary" shall include any successor or assignee of the Third Party Beneficiary.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain lands situated in Bay County and Walton County, Florida, more specifically described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein (Property);

WHEREAS, the Department and Grantor have executed an Ecosystem Management Agreement, dated _____, (Agreement), which authorizes certain activities which affect waters in or of the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, the Agreement and individual project approvals issued pursuant to the Agreement ("Approval") requires that the Grantor preserve, enhance, or restore wetlands or uplands within specified mitigation areas;

WHEREAS, Grantor grants this conservation easement as a condition of the Approval to offset or prevent adverse impacts to water quality and natural resources, such as fish, wildlife, and wetland or other surface water functions;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps") General Permit No. SAJ-114 (RGP) (Corps Permit) authorizes certain activities in the waters of the United States and requires this conservation easement over the lands identified in Exhibit A as part of the mitigation for such activities; and

WHEREAS, the Corps is not authorized to hold conservation easements and the Grantee has agreed to hold the easement on behalf of the Corps as well as on its own behalf; and

WHEREAS, this conservation easement is subject to and governed by the Agreement and the RGP and provisions within both the Agreement and RGP affect this conservation easement

and owners of property subject to this conservation easement are advised to refer to the Agreement and RGP, which documents are available as public records.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions and restrictions contained herein, together with other good and valuable consideration, the adequacy and receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys a perpetual conservation easement, as defined in Section 704.06, Florida Statutes, for and in favor of the Grantee upon the Property which shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantor, and shall remain in full force and effect forever.

The scope, nature and character of this conservation easement shall be as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this conservation easement is to retain land or water areas in their natural, vegetative, hydrologic, scenic, open, agricultural or wooded condition so as to preserve their environmental value and to retain such areas as suitable habitat for fish, plants or wildlife. Those wetland or upland areas included in the conservation easement which are to be enhanced or restored pursuant to the Approval shall be retained and maintained in the enhanced or restored conditions required by the Approval.

2. Rights of Grantee. To carry out this purpose, the following rights are conveyed to Grantee by this easement:

a. The right to take action to restore, preserve and protect the environmental value of the Property;

b. The right to prevent any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with purpose of this conservation easement, and to require the restoration of areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any activity inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement.

c. The right to enter upon and inspect the Property in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times, including the right to use vehicles and all necessary equipment to determine if Grantor is complying with the purposes of this conservation easement; and

d. The right to enforce this conservation easement by injunction or proceed at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this conservation easement and the covenants set forth herein, to prevent the occurrence of any of the prohibited activities hereinafter set forth, and the right to require Grantor to restore such areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use.

3. Prohibited Uses. Any activity which violates the purpose of this conservation easement is prohibited, including the following:

- a. Construction or placing of buildings, roads, signs, billboards or other advertising, utilities, docks, or other structures on or above the ground, except in accordance with Section 4;
- b. Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste, or unsightly or offensive materials;
- c. Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation, except for timbering done in accordance with the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management Plan which is part of the Agreement and for the purpose of enhancing or restoring wetlands or uplands in the mitigation area in accordance with applicable permits;
- d. Planting or seeding of plants that are outside its natural range or zone of dispersal and has or is able to form self-sustaining, expanding, and free-living populations in a natural community with which it has not previously associated;
- e. Exploration for or extraction of oil or gas, and excavation, dredging, or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material substance;
- f. Surface use except for purposes that allow the land or water area to remain in its natural condition;
- g. Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation including, but not limited to, ditching, diking and fencing;
- h. Acts or uses detrimental to retention of land and water areas as existing or restored;
- i. Acts or uses detrimental to the preservation of the structural integrity or physical appearance of sites or properties of historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance; and
- j. The application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is prohibited, except in buffers as authorized in accordance with Section 4(i).
- k. No wells shall be installed within the Property.

4. Authorized activities. Any activity which is consistent with the purpose of this conservation easement is authorized, including the following:

- a. Fire fighting or fire suppression activities;
- b. Machine clearing of fire lines/fire breaks as part of controlled burn activities, fire fighting, or fire suppression. Grantor shall obtain and comply with a prescribed fire authorization from the local and state regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over controlled or prescribed burning.

- c. Installation of fences for land management or habitat protection purposes;
- d. Removal or extermination of nuisance or exotic plant species;
- e. Hunting, fishing or birding;
- f. Installation of signs for land management, facilitating passive recreation or habitat protection purposes;
- g. Maintenance of unpaved nature trails;
- h. Installation of interpretive signs for nature trails; and
- i. Within buffers that are required to be preserved by the Approval and that are part of the Property, construction of boardwalks for dock access and on-grade trails will be permitted. Also, application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is authorized to the extent fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are used to control exotic plant vegetation within the buffers.

5. Reserved Rights. Grantor reserves all rights as owner of the Property, including the right to engage in uses of the Property that are not prohibited herein and which are not inconsistent with purpose of this conservation easement or any Department rule, criteria, and Agreement.

6. Public Access. No right of access by the general public to any portion of the Property is conveyed by this conservation easement.

7. Responsibilities of Parties. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall take responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property. In addition Grantee and Third Party Beneficiary, their successors or assigns, shall have no responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property.

8. Taxes. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall pay, before delinquency, any and all taxes, assessments, fees, and charges of whatever description levied or assessed by competent authority on the Property, and shall furnish Grantee with satisfactory evidence of payment upon request

9. Liability. Grantee shall not assume any liability for any injury or damage to the person or property of Grantor or third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee, or its employees or agents, are found legally responsible therefor. Neither Grantor, its successors or assigns, nor any person or entity claiming by or through Grantor its successors or assigns, shall hold Grantee liable for any damage or injury to person or personal property which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents are found legally responsible therefor. Furthermore, Grantor shall indemnify and hold harmless Grantee for all liability, and injury or damage to the person or property of third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents are legally responsible therefor. Grantee may not bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the

property resulting from natural causes beyond Grantor's control including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm and earth movement, or from any necessary action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate or mitigate significant injury to the property or to persons resulting from such causes.

10. Hazardous Waste. Grantor covenants and represents that to the best of its knowledge no hazardous substance or toxic waste exists nor has been generated, treated, stored, used, disposed of, or deposited in or on the Property, and that there are not now any underground storage tanks located on the Property.

11. Enforcement Discretion. Enforcement of the terms, provisions and restrictions of this conservation easement shall be at the discretion of Grantee, and any forbearance on behalf of Grantee to exercise its rights hereunder in the event of any breach by Grantor, shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver of Grantee's rights.

12. Enforcement Costs. If the Grantee prevails in an enforcement action, it shall be entitled to recover the cost of restoring the land to the natural vegetative and hydrologic condition existing at the time of execution of the conservation easement or to the vegetative and hydrologic condition required by the aforementioned Approval.

13. Assignment of Rights. Grantee will hold this conservation easement exclusively for conservation purposes. Grantee will not assign its rights and obligations under this conservation easement except to another organization qualified to hold such interests under applicable state laws. The Corps reserves the right to approve successor grantees for the purpose of meeting the continuing compensatory mitigation requirements of its permit, permits or individual project approvals.

14. Recording in Land Records. Grantor shall record this conservation easement and any amendments hereto in a timely fashion in the Official Records of Bay County or Walton County, Florida, as applicable. Grantor shall pay all recording costs and taxes necessary to record this conservation easement in the public records.

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

16. Notices. All notices, consents, approvals or other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed properly given if sent by United States certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the appropriate party or successor-in-interest.

17. Severability. If any provision of this conservation easement or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this conservation easement shall not be affected thereby, as long as the purpose of the conservation easement is preserved.

18. Alteration or Revocation. This conservation easement may be amended, altered, released or revoked only by Agreement modification as necessary and written agreement between the parties hereto or their heirs, assigns or successors-in-interest, which shall be filed in the public records of Bay County or Walton County, Florida, as applicable.

19. Controlling Law. The interpretation and performance of this conservation easement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida.

20. Rights of the Corps. The Corps, as a third party beneficiary, shall have all the rights of Grantee under this easement. The Corps shall approve any modification, alteration, release, or revocation of the conservation easement, and shall review and approve as necessary any additional structures or activities on the property that require approval by the Grantee. The Grantor shall provide the Corps (District Engineer) at least 60 days advance notice in writing before any action is taken to modify, alter, release or revoke this Conservation Easement.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto Grantee forever. The covenants, terms, conditions, restrictions and purpose imposed with this conservation easement shall be binding upon Grantor, and shall continue as a servitude running in perpetuity with the Property.

Grantor hereby covenants with said Grantee that Grantor is lawfully seized of the Property in fee simple; that the Property is free and clear of all encumbrances that are inconsistent with the terms and conditions of this conservation easement; that all mortgages have been joined or subordinated; that Grantor has good right and lawful authority to convey this conservation easement; and that Grantor hereby fully warrants and defends the title to this conservation easement against the lawful claims of all persons whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has executed this Conservation Easement on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in our presence as witnesses:

Print Name:

By: _____
Print Name: _____
As: _____

Print Name:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ☐ physical presence or ☐ online notarization this _____ day of _____, 2020, ____ (name) _____ as _____ (title) _____ of the Department of Environmental Protection. He/She is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at in the County and State last aforesaid this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

[Notary Seal]

Print Notary Name

Commission Expiration: _____

Commission Number: _____

HYDROLOGICAL SENSITIVE AREA CONSERVATION EASEMENT

DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THIS DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT is given this ____day of _____ 20____, by THE ST. JOE COMPANY/ST. JOE TIMBERLAND COMPANY OF DELAWARE, L.L.C., having an address at 133 South Watersound Parkway, Watersound, Florida 32413 (Grantor) to the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION whose address is Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 130, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 (Grantee). As used herein, the term Grantor shall include any and all heirs, successors or assigns of the Grantor, and all subsequent owners of the Property (as hereinafter defined) and the term Grantee shall include any successor or assignee of Grantee.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain lands situated in Bay County, Florida, more specifically described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein (Property);

WHEREAS, the Department and Grantor executed an Ecosystem Management Agreement, dated _____, (Agreement), which authorizes certain activities that affect waters in or of the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, the Agreement and individual project approvals issued pursuant to the Agreement ("Approval") requires the set aside of certain areas called Type II Conservation Units, as defined in the Agreement, and requires that the Grantor exclude from development wetlands and uplands within such Type II Conservation Units;

WHEREAS, the Property is a part of a Type II Conservation Unit;

WHEREAS, Grantor grants this conservation easement as a condition of the Approval to offset or prevent secondary and cumulative adverse impacts to water quality and natural resources, such as fish, wildlife, and wetland or other surface water functions, and to provide a net ecosystem benefit as provided in the Agreement;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) General Permit No. SAJ-105 (RGP) authorizes certain activities in the waters of the United States and requires this conservation easement over the lands identified in Exhibit A as a condition for such activities; and

WHEREAS The Corps is not authorized to hold conservation easements and the Grantee has agreed to hold the easement on behalf of the Corps as well as on its own behalf; and

WHEREAS, this conservation easement is subject to and governed by the Agreement and the RGP and provisions within both the Agreement and RGP affect this conservation easement and owners of property subject to this conservation easement are advised to refer to the Agreement and RGP, which documents are available as public records.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above and the mutual covenants, terms, conditions and restrictions contained herein, together with other good and valuable consideration, the adequacy and receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Grantor hereby voluntarily grants and conveys a perpetual conservation easement as defined in Section 704.06 Florida Statutes, for and in favor of the Grantee upon the Property which shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantor, and shall remain in full force and effect forever.

The scope, nature and character of this conservation easement shall be as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this conservation easement is to retain land or water areas in their natural vegetative, hydrologic, scenic, agricultural or wooded condition so as to preserve their environmental value and to retain such areas as suitable habitat for fish, plants or wildlife while generally allowing certain limited areas to be used for recreational purposes consistent with the West Bay Preservation Area land use category as defined in the West Bay Sector Plan. Those wetland or upland areas included in the Type II Conservation Units which are to be enhanced or restored pursuant to the Approval shall be retained and maintained in the enhanced or restored conditions required by the Approval.

2. Rights of Grantee. To carry out this purpose, the following rights are conveyed to Grantee by this easement:

a. The right to take action to preserve and protect the environmental value of the Property;

b. The right to prevent any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement, and to require the restoration of areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any activity inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement;

c. The right to enter upon and inspect the Property in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times, including the right to use vehicles and all necessary equipment to determine if Grantor or its successors and assigns are complying with the purpose of this conservation easement; and

d. The right to enforce this conservation easement by injunction or proceed at law or in equity to enforce the provisions of this conservation easement and the covenants set forth herein, to prevent the occurrence of any of the prohibited activities hereinafter set forth, and the right to require Grantor to restore such areas or features of the Property that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use.

3. Prohibited Activities. Any activity which violates the purpose of this conservation easement is prohibited, including the following:

a. Construction or placing of buildings, roads, signs, billboards, or other similar structures on or above the ground;

b. Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste, or unsightly or offensive materials;

c. Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation, except for timbering done in accordance with the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of Conservation Units within the West Bay EMA ("Forest and Wildlife Plan") which is part of the Agreement and for the purpose of enhancing or restoring wetlands or uplands in a mitigation area in accordance with applicable permits;

d. Planting or seeding of plants that are outside their natural range or zone of dispersal and has or is able to form self-sustaining, expanding, and free-living populations in a natural community on the Property with which it has not previously associated;

e. Exploration for or extraction of oil or gas, and excavation, dredging, or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material substance;

f. Surface use except for purposes that allow the land or water area to remain in its natural condition;

g. Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation including, but not limited to, ditching, diking and fencing;

h. Acts or uses detrimental to such aforementioned retention of land or water areas;

i. Acts or uses detrimental to the preservation of the structural integrity or physical appearance of sites or properties of historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance; and

j. The application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is prohibited, except in buffers as authorized in accordance with Section 4(n).

k. No wells shall be installed within the Property.

4. Authorized activities. Any activity which is consistent with the purpose of this conservation easement is authorized, including the following:

a. Wetland and upland habitat enhancement and restoration.

b. Forest management, which shall be conducted through sustainable forestry, uneven age management regimes and best management practices, in accordance with, and

defined in the Principles for Forest and Wildlife Management of Conservation Units within the West Bay Ecosystem Management Agreement and RGP SAJ-105 ("Forest and Wildlife Management Plan") which is part of the Agreement. No timbering of cypress or wetland hardwoods or clear cutting is permitted except as allowed in the Forest and Wildlife Management Plan.

- c. Hunting, fishing, and birding.
- d. Passive recreational facilities and activities such as hiking and biking trails, boardwalks, gathering shelters, restrooms, camping platforms, horseback trails and hitching areas and other facilities of a similar nature. These facilities shall result in no more than minimal impacts. Trails and boardwalks may cross wetlands, but must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. All other facilities may only be located in uplands.
- e. Wetland mitigation as required by any future permit.
- f. Green Burial Council certified *Conservation Burial Grounds*. This level of certification employs burial/scattering programs that aid in the restoration, acquisition and/or stewardship of natural areas.
- g. Reinstitution of fire regime, including necessary firebreaks, which mimics natural conditions.
- h. Linear utilities and infrastructure facilities, which shall be defined as (i) electric transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (ii) water transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (iii) sewer transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (iv) natural gas transmission, collection and/or distribution lines, (v) data and/or telecommunications transmission, collection and/or distribution lines (phone, cable, fiber optics, internet), and (vi) stormwater conveyances, but not stormwater ponds. In addition, ancillary facilities that are part of and support the linear utilities and infrastructure facilities described above shall be allowed. All linear utilities and infrastructure facilities shall, when practical, be co-located with road crossings and be installed by direct bore methods. The linear infrastructure shall be subject to the criteria and wetland impact limitations as set forth in special condition 5.c of the RGP and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.
- i. Activities needed to maintain, in current condition, existing access, roads and ditches within and through the Property. These allowable maintenance activities do not include activities to relocate such access.
- j. Nature Centers, including single access roads. A Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification of silver or higher must be obtained for any enclosed structures. Nature Centers may only be located in uplands. Access roads to serve nature centers must comply with special conditions 5.c and 12.e.(i) of the RGP and paragraph 12 of Article V and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

k. Road and bridge crossings to support associated development. All crossings in wetlands shall be designed so that the hydrologic conveyance is not reduced or impaired. Bridging is required wherever practicable. The following factors shall be considered when determining if bridging of the wetlands is practicable: 1) the degree of water flow within the wetland, 2) the length of the wetland crossing, 3) the topography of the wetland and associated upland, and 4) the degree to which a roadway would adversely affect the movement of wildlife expected to use the wetland. Road and bridge crossings shall be designed and constructed to minimize wetland and upland impacts and must comply with special condition 5.c of the RGP and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

l. Certain recreational facilities to include boat ramps, fishing piers, parks, picnic areas and pavilions, playgrounds/tot lots, nature facilities, but excluding any sports or ball fields, including baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts and golf courses. In addition, parking facilities are allowed, but shall be constructed with pervious surfaces, unless it is impracticable to use pervious surfaces, in which event impervious surfaces may be used. Boat Ramps, fishing piers and access roads may cross wetlands, but must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. All other facilities may only be located in uplands. Access roads to serve active recreational uses and activities must use existing roads to the maximum extent practicable and otherwise must comply with special conditions 5.c and 12.e.(i) of the RGP and paragraph 12 of Article V and paragraph 3 of Article VII of the Agreement.

n. Within buffers that are required to be preserved by the Approval and that are part of the Property, construction of boardwalks for dock access and on-grade trails will be permitted. Also, application of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides is authorized to the extent fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are used to control exotic plant vegetation within the buffers.

o. The natural streams and tributaries located within the Property shall be further protected by the following additional conditions and restrictions.

(1) All road crossings over the natural streams and tributaries within the property are required to be bridged where practicable. Bridging shall occur over the portion of a crossing that has a discernable channel with well defined banks and flow. The exact length and cross section of a bridge shall be determined at the time of the Approval, based on professionally accepted engineering practice and the characteristics of the channel. A maximum of six (6) non-bridge crossings will be allowed. The first preference for new non-bridged crossings will be at existing silviculture road crossings. Non-bridged crossings at locations other than existing silviculture road crossings are allowed if the crossing is designed and constructed to minimize wetland impacts. In addition, for each non-bridged crossing proposed at a point where no previous crossing existed, an existing silviculture road crossing within the sub-watershed must be removed and the wetland connection restored within one year of initiation of construction of the new crossing. The removal of existing silviculture road crossings shall be coordinated with land management operations. Non-bridged road crossing rights of way shall usually not exceed a width of 100 feet of combined filling or clearing at each crossing, but may in certain cases, consistent with criteria in this section be allowed up to a total width of 160 feet.

(2) In designing stormwater management systems adjacent to these natural streams and tributaries, flow velocity and hydraulic energy at the outfall shall be minimized. These design considerations may include, but are not limited to U-Type Concrete Endwalls with optional baffles and grates, U-Type Concrete Endwalls with engineered energy dissipater, structurally lined outfall aprons, plunge pool outfall aprons, and spreader swales. No new direct outfall pipes or new channels shall be permitted into any of these natural streams and tributaries. Instead, vegetated natural buffers shall be utilized for stormwater purposes adjacent to these natural streams and tributaries.

5. Land Disturbance. Activities which result in any manmade change of the land surface, including removing vegetative cover that exposes the underlying soil, excavating, filling, grading, grubbing, discing, blading, contouring, ripping, root raking and includes areas covered by impervious surfaces such as roofs, concrete and asphalt, but excluding pervious hiking and biking trails, pervious horseback riding trails and boardwalks ("Land Disturbance") are prohibited, except to the extent Land Disturbance occurs as a result of activities which are allowed in this Section. The Agreement and RGP place restrictions on the amount of Land Disturbance which can occur within the total area of Conservation Units and require certain mitigation for any Land Disturbance or impacts to converted wetlands within the Conservation Units.

6. Written Approval. Written approval from the Corps and DEP shall be required for any uses, activities or facilities sought to be constructed on the Property as allowed by this conservation easement ("Conservation Unit Project Approval"). Written authorization for allowable projects within the Property is required prior to initiation of construction. Conservation Unit Project Approval shall be conducted consistent with special condition 18 of the RGP and Article V of the Agreement. In applying for Conservation Unit Project Approval an applicant will be required to include an avoidance and minimization impact analysis with respect to the proposed uses, activities and facilities and review by the Corps and DEP will include a review of the total scale of facility to insure that the proposed use, activity or facility is limited and consistent with the preservation objectives of the Conservation Units.

7. Reserved Rights. Grantor reserves all rights as owner of the Property, including the right to engage in uses of the Property that are not prohibited herein and which are not inconsistent with the purpose of this conservation easement.

8. Public Access. No right of access by the general public to any portion of the Property is conveyed by this conservation easement.

9. Responsibilities of Parties. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall take responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property. In addition, the Grantee, its successors or assigns, shall have no responsibility for any costs or liabilities related to the ownership, operation, upkeep or maintenance of the Property.

10. Taxes. Grantor, its successors or assigns, shall pay before delinquency any and all taxes, assessments, fees, and charges of whatever description levied on or assessed by competent authority on the Property, and shall furnish Grantee with satisfactory evidence of payment upon request

11. Liability. Grantee shall not assume any liability for any injury or damage to the person or property of Grantor or third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Neither Grantor, its successors or assigns, nor any person or entity claiming by or through Grantor its successors or assigns, shall hold Grantee liable for any damage or injury to person or personal property which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Furthermore, the Grantor, its successors or assigns shall indemnify and hold harmless Grantee from all liability, and injury or damage to the person or property of third parties which may occur on the Property, except to the extent Grantee or its employees or agents is found legally responsible therefore. Grantee may not bring any action against Grantor for any injury to or change in the property resulting from natural causes beyond Grantor's control including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm and earth movement, or from any necessary action taken by Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate or mitigate significant injury to the property or to persons resulting from such causes.

12. Hazardous Waste. Grantor covenants and represents that to the best of its knowledge, no hazardous substance or toxic waste exists nor has been generated, treated, stored, used, disposed of, or deposited in or on the Property, and that there are not now any underground storage tanks located on the Property.

13. Enforcement Discretion. Enforcement of the terms, provisions and restrictions of this conservation easement shall be at the discretion of Grantee, and any forbearance on the part of Grantee to exercise its rights hereunder in the event of any breach by Grantor, shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver of Grantee's rights.

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15. Assignment of Rights. Grantee will hold this conservation easement exclusively for conservation purposes. Grantee will not assign its rights and obligations under this conservation easement except to another organization qualified to hold such interests under applicable state laws. The Corps reserves the right to approve successor grantees for the purpose of meeting the continuing compensatory mitigation requirements of its permit, permits or individual project approvals.

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21. Controlling Law. The interpretation and performance of this conservation easement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida.

22. Rights of the Corps. The Corps, as a third party beneficiary, shall have all the rights of Grantee under this easement. The Corps shall approve any modification, alteration, release, or revocation of the conservation easement, and shall review and approve as necessary any additional structures or activities on the property that require approval by the Grantee. The Grantor shall provide the Corps (District Engineer) at least 60 days advance notice in writing before any action is taken to modify, alter, release or revoke this Conservation Easement.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has executed this Conservation easement on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in our presence as witnesses:

Print Name:

By: _____

Print Name:

Title: _____

Print Name:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____,
20____, by _____ as _____
of the (corporation's name) _____ He/She is personally
known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

(SEAL)

Notary Public Signature

Printed/Typed Name of Notary

Commission No. _____

Commission Expires: _____