

**ITEM 9:**

Status report on Land Management Reviews completed by the Division of State Lands from July to September 2021.

**DSL STAFF REMARKS:**

During Fiscal Year 2021-22, the Office of Environmental Services coordinated onsite reviews of 12 managed conservation lands. The following nine land management reviews have been completed in the first quarter by regional review teams established in Ch. 259.036, F.S., and their reports are provided for the Council's information. The October 2022 annual report of land management reviews will be compiled from these and the remaining reports, presented to the Council for acceptance, and then submitted to the Board of Trustees.

The results of each review are compiled and returned to the managing agencies for their responses to recommendations and checklist findings. The nine summaries provided below briefly summarize finalized reports. These reports can be reviewed as backup to this item.

*Land Management Review of Tomoka Basin State Parks (Volusia County):*

On July 22, 2021, the review team found Tomoka Basin State Parks (Bulow Creek State Park and Tomoka State Park) (7,206 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) staff for the active pursuit of locating and preserving cultural resources in the parks. The team also commended the park staff efforts to purchase the Ford's properties to add to Bulow Creek State Park.

*Land Management Review of Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve (Volusia County):*

On August 4, 2021, the review team found Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve (2,489 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the DRP staff for the efforts made on scrub restoration using roller chopping and prescribed burns. The team also commended the staff for working with recreational groups while working to restore habitats. The team recommended regular spraying of the Art Center boundary fence to prevent further vine/vegetation encroachment.

*Land Management Review of Haw Creek Preserve State Park (Flagler, Volusia and Putnam counties):*

On August 6, 2021, the review team found Haw Creek Preserve State Park (3,061 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended DRP staff on efforts made to restore the mesic flatwoods using a timber thinning. The team also commended the staff for utilizing private contractors to conduct resource management activities at this park, specifically timber harvesting and fireline preparation. The team recommended that DEP staff continue to work in acquiring legal access over Haw Creek Preserve State Park.

*Land Management Review of Suwannee River State Park (Suwannee, Madison, Hamilton counties):*

On August 31, 2021, the review team found Suwannee River State Park (1,929 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the DRP for their efforts in managing invasive vegetation. The team also commended the staff for cooperating with the SRWMD on the monitoring of water quality and quantity at the park. The team recommended that park staff continue to maintain areas in the appropriate fire return interval and expand into areas where fire return interval needs improvement.

*Land Management Review of Suwannee Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area (Hamilton County):*

On September 1, 2021, the review team found Suwannee Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area (1,429 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the staff on increasing the amount of prescribed fire in this cycle and integrating prescribed fire into the overall sandhill restoration strategy. The team also commended the staff for working with partners to provide mobility-impaired limited hunting opportunities. The team recommended that before the next management plan to determine how much of the sandhill area is actually upland pine desired future condition and how much of the mesic hammock is upland mixed forest desired future condition through FNAI survey, soil typing and other means.

*Land Management Review of Twin Rivers State Forest (Hamilton and Madison counties):*

On September 3, 2021, the review team found Twin Rivers State Forest (2,680 BOT acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for working quickly to establish longleaf pines in harvested areas to start the restoration process and introduce prescribed fire to the Damascus tract and Hardee Springs tract. The team also commended the FFS for identifying the need and obtaining funding to treat invasive non-native plants on the Hardee Springs tract. The team recommended that FFS develop a strategy to minimize the spread and begin treating infestations of sweet tanglehead (*Heteropogon contortus*) on all tracts.

*Land Management Review of Ross Prairie State Forest (Marion County):*

On September 14, 2021, the review team found Ross Prairie State Forest (3,531 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the FFS for the fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface. The team also commended the FFS staff for the interagency cooperation to get the job done, recognizing the limited staff assigned to this state forest. The team recommended that FFS increase the bare sand in the scrubby flatwoods for the scrub jay habitat.

*Land Management Review of Silver Springs State Park (Marion County):*

On September 15, 2021, the review team found Silver Springs State Park (4,666 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the

FPS for the time and fire interval in the sandhill. The team recommended FPS maintain the Sea Hunt deck as an observation area, for people observing wildlife, including resting manatees. The team also recommended that the swim area be reevaluated to consider submerged aquatic vegetation, and human/wildlife interactions.

*Land Management Review of Crystal River Preserve State Park (Citrus County):*

On September 17, 2021, the review team found Crystal River Preserve State Park (27,417 acres) is being managed for purposes compatible with conservation, preservation, or recreation, and that the management practices are in compliance with the management plan. The team commended the park staff for partnering with FWC for treatment of Brazilian Pepper infestations, the use of internal funding for additional treatment, and the effective use of Americorps members at the park for exotic plant control. The team also commended the park staff for effective use of cooperative funding and staff to install low water crossings to improve hydrological conditions and provide access for prescribed fire operations. The team recommended that park staff focus on reducing backlog of prescribed fire in the southern end of the preserve.

**DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

None required

**ARC RECOMMENDATION:**

None required

# *First Quarterly Land Management Review Team Report*

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

**July – September 2021**



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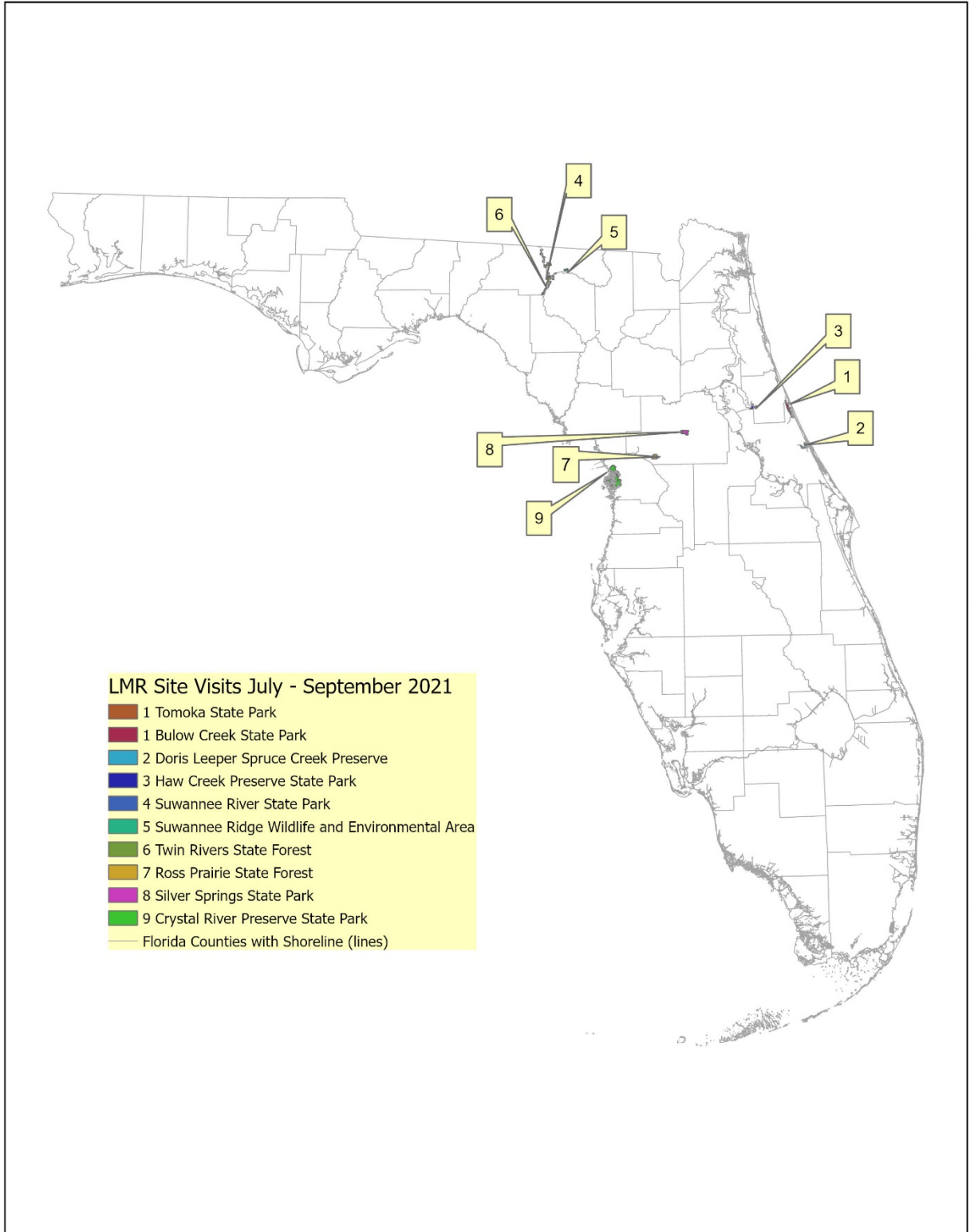
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Overview of LMR site locations



**Tomoka Basin State Parks**

**Managed by:** Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

**Acres:** 7,206

**County:** Volusia

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** To provide resource-based public outdoor recreation and other park related uses

**Acquisition Program(s):** N/A

**Original Acquisition Date:** 6/11/37

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 8/20/12

**Review Date:** 7/22/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Phil Rand, Manager

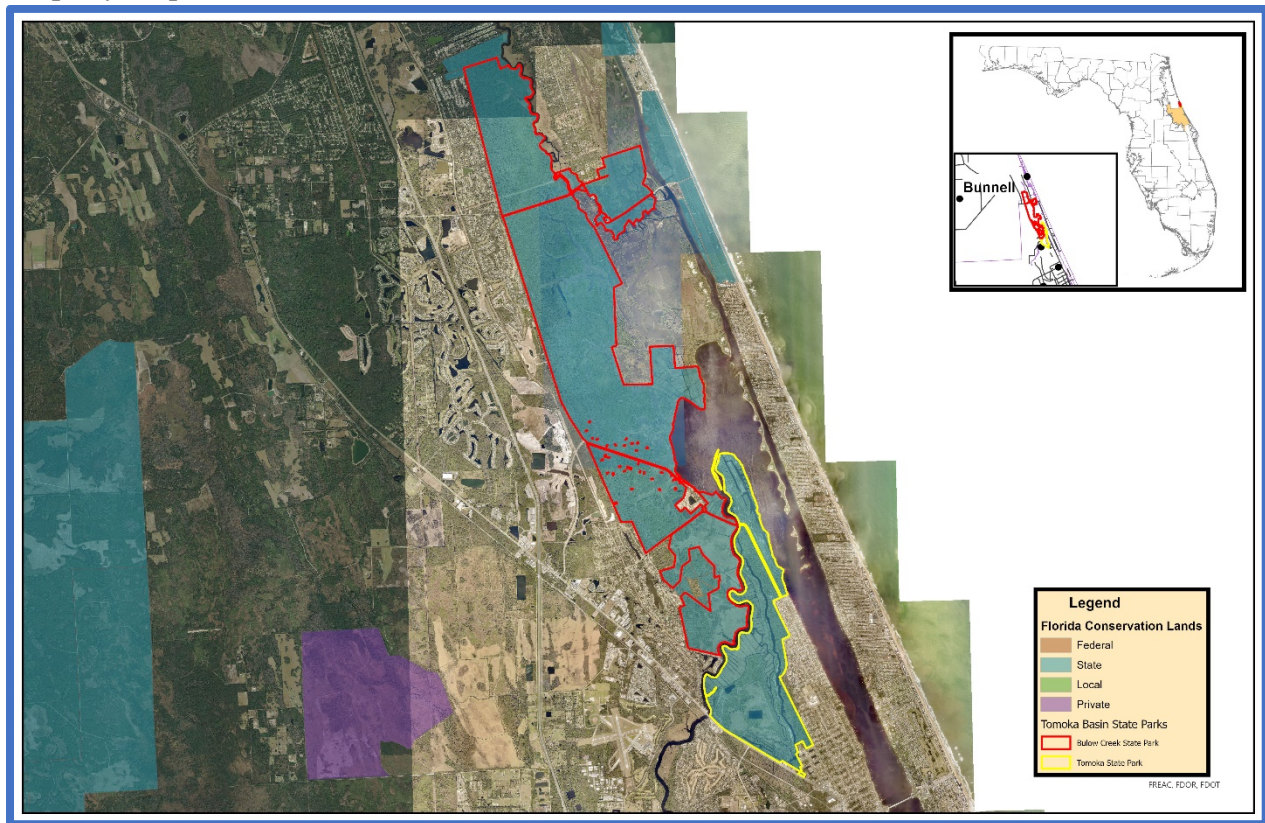
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Alice Bard, DRP District
- Nick Dunnam, Local Gov't.
- Samantha Cobble, FWC
- Keri Armstrong, DEP District
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Sandy Oxenrider, SJRWMD
- Paul Rebman, Conservation Org.
- Chris Schlageter, Private Land Manager

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Ashley Hurley, ORCP

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 8, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 8, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

2. The team commends park staff and other parties involved on the shoreline restoration at Tomoka Point. (7+, 0-)
3. The team commends the park staff efforts to purchase the Ford’s properties to add to Bulow Creek State Park. (7+, 0-)
4. The team commends staff for their proactive invasive species management, i.e. biological control of Brazilian pepper and hog control. (7+, 0-)
5. The team commends park staff for rollerchopping and burning project at Johns Island. (7+, 0-)

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

**There were no consensus recommendations.**

**Field Review Details**

**Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically baygall, basin swamp, depression marsh, hydric hammock, maritime hammock, mesic hammock, mesic flatwoods, marsh lake, salt marsh, scrubby flatwoods, shell mound, slough, seepage slope, seepage stream, upland hardwood forest, wet flatwoods, and xeric hammock.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically gopher tortoise, coastal mock vervain, and toothed spleenwort.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.**

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.71	4.68
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.68	4.63
Hydrology	4.06	4.46
Imperiled Species	4.41	4.35
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.62	4.48
Cultural Resources	4.88	5.00
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.54	4.56
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.31	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor



4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
5. Prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.
6. Restoration, specifically salt marsh restoration (dragline ditch), and living shoreline restoration.
7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting.
8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration and erosion.
10. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.
11. Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.
12. Public access, specifically roads, parking and boat access.
13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and funding.

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

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

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

#### **Land Management Plan Review Details**

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

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

1. **Managed Area Uses, Proposed Uses, specifically Bulow Creek Group Camp (Crabby Hole), received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address managed area uses.**

**Managing Agency Response:** During the LMR review, the team noted that since the proposed area is subject to flooding, there was a potential for disturbance to cultural resources. Because of this, the team asked DRP to reevaluate the location of the proposed group camp and consider another area. The Division will consider these recommendations during the next unit management plan.

**Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve**

**Managed by:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Acres:** 2,489

**County:** Volusia

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** To protect one of the largest undeveloped tracts in the region, help maintain water quality of the adjacent creeks and bays, and provide protection to important historical resources, including portions of the Andrew Turnbull plantation.

**Acquisition Program(s):** CARL/Florida Forever

**Original Acquisition Date:**

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 7/31/12

**Review Date:** 8/4/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Nick Dunnam, Manager
- Cindy Venuti

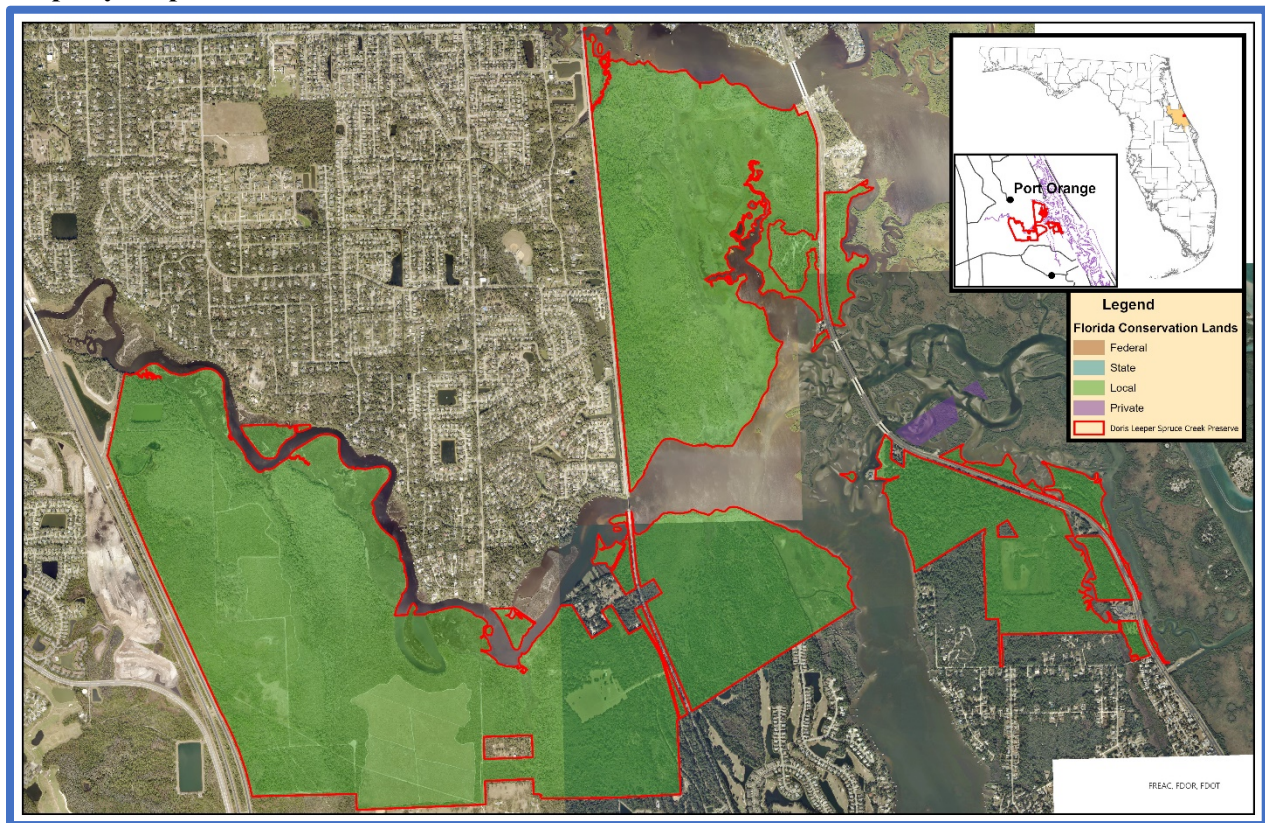
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Mark Romagosa, DRP District
- Crystal Morris, Local Gov't.
- Lauren Akins, FWC
- Rain Yates, DEP District
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Amanda Lee, SJRWMD
- Sonya Guidry, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 7, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 7, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the staff for the efforts made on scrub restoration using roller chopping and prescribed burns. (7+, 0-)
2. The team commends staff for working with recreational groups while working to restore habitats. (7+, 0-)
3. The team commends staff for using Survey123 for wildlife monitoring, incorporating it into public participation, and GIS database maintenance. (7+, 0-)

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

1. The team recommends that regular spraying of the Art Center boundary fence to prevent further vine/vegetation encroachment. (7+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response:

**Field Review Details**

**Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically mesic hammock, scrub, mesic/wet flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, maritime hammock, wet prairie, coastal hydric hammock, bottomland forest, salt marsh, mangrove swamp and blackwater stream.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically scrub jay, gopher tortoise, bald eagle, Atlantic salt marsh snake, and eastern indigo snake.**

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.66	4.56
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.18	4.64
Hydrology	4.04	4.14
Imperiled Species	4.42	4.50
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.19	4.31
Cultural Resources	4.57	4.57
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.76	4.44
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.69	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

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

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

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

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

#### **Land Management Plan Review Details**

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

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

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

**Haw Creek Preserve State Park**

**Managed by:** Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

**Acres:** 3,061

**County:** Flagler, Volusia and Putnam

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** The Board of Trustees acquired Haw Creek Preserve State Park to preserve, maintain, and enhance the integrity and character of the ecosystem of the property for use as wildlife and waterfowl area and for compatible non-consumptive recreational use and nature appreciation.

**Acquisition Program(s):** CARL/P2000/Florida Forever

**Original Acquisition Date:** 12/2/76

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 12/16/16

**Review Date:** 8/6/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Phil Rand, Manager

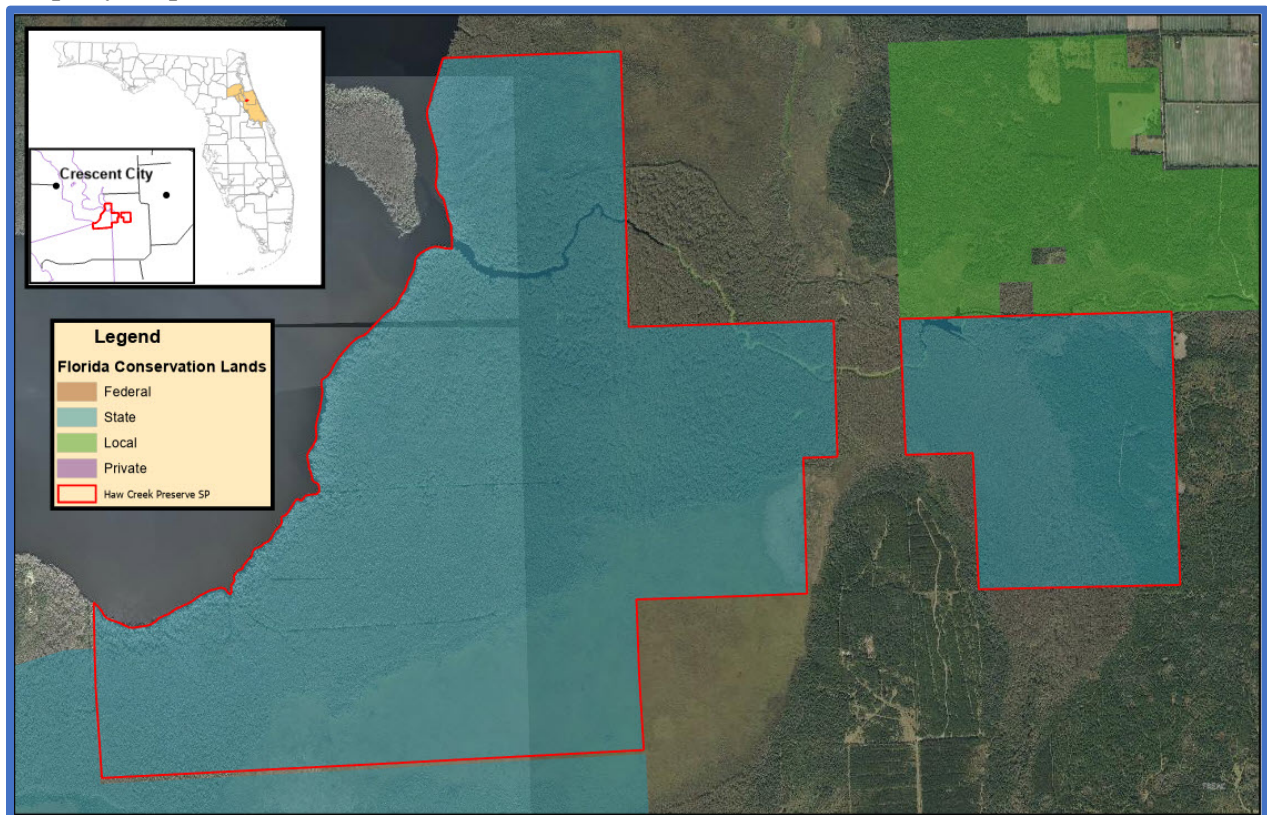
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Alice Bard, DRP District
- Robert Detherow, Local Gov't.
- Anna Deyle, FWC
- Jessica Sherman, DEP District
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Sandy Oxenrider, SJRWMD
- Paul Rebmman, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Rain Yates, DEP

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 7, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 7, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the staff on efforts made to restore the mesic flatwoods using a timber thinning. (7+, 0-)
2. The team commends the staff for their ongoing efforts to survey for exotic plants and animals and treatment of exotic plant species. (7+, 0-)
3. The team commends staff for utilizing private contractors to conduct resource management activities at this park, specifically timber harvesting and fireline preparation. (7+, 0-)

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team recommends that DEP staff continue to work in acquiring legal access over Haw Creek Preserve State Park. (7+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: Agree. DEP staff have had several meetings with the adjacent land owners about the need for a land based access to the eastern upland portions of the property. Several land owners would need to grant access in order for the park to have a viable access route. Discussions are ongoing.

**Field Review Details**

**Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

2. **Listed species, listed plant species in general, and specifically bromeliads.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically invasive species survey and monitoring.**

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.29	4.67
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	2.51	4.43
Hydrology	3.71	4.00
Imperiled Species	3.90	4.13
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.06	4.07
Cultural Resources	4.07	4.43
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	2.91	3.78
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.19	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
5. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, and timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation and site preparation.
6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, and pests/pathogens.
7. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality.
8. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey.
9. Public access, specifically water access.
10. Management resources, specifically equipment.

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

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

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

**Managing Agency Response: Agree. One of the major resource management goals of the current unit management plan is to prepare management zones for prescribed fire. This work involved reducing the density of overstory trees (via timber removal) and the creation of fire lines where none previously existed. Both of these tasks have recently been completed. The next step is to apply prescribed fire and to evaluate the results of those burns. This information will be included in the next unit management plan.**

2. **Resource Protection, specifically gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether resources are sufficient to protect the property.**

**Managing Agency Response: Additional law enforcement will be requested by the park as needed and is contingent on available resources. Supplemental signage, fencing and protection will be added when upland portions of the property are made accessible. These Resource Protection measures are addressed in the current management plan.**

3. **Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically legal access, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether adjacent property concerns are sufficiently addressed.**

**Managing Agency Response: The Department is working with the adjacent property owners to determine if a legal access point is possible. More than one property owner would need to agree in order to provide one continuous easement to the Park.**

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

**Managing Agency Response: Agree. As stated in the current plan, the park continues to have no land-based access to the uplands that allows for interpretive facilities. Once legal access is granted, interpretive facilities and signage can be added.**

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

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

### **Land Management Plan Review Details**

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

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

- 1. Managed Area Uses, Proposed Uses, specifically platform camping, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address managed area uses.**

**Managing Agency Response** During the field review, the LMR team discussed some problems that might arise if platform camping was installed in the Park along the river. It was recommended that DRP reconsider or reevaluate this proposed use when it comes time to install the platforms. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC. The Division will consider these recommendations during the next unit management plan revision.:



**Suwannee River State Park**

**Managed by:** Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

**Acres:** 1,929

**County:** Suwannee, Madison, Hamilton

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** Public outdoor recreation and conservation.

**Acquisition Program(s):** N/A

**Original Acquisition Date:** 11/6/45

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 12/19/16

**Review Date:** 8/31/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Matthew Phifer, Manager

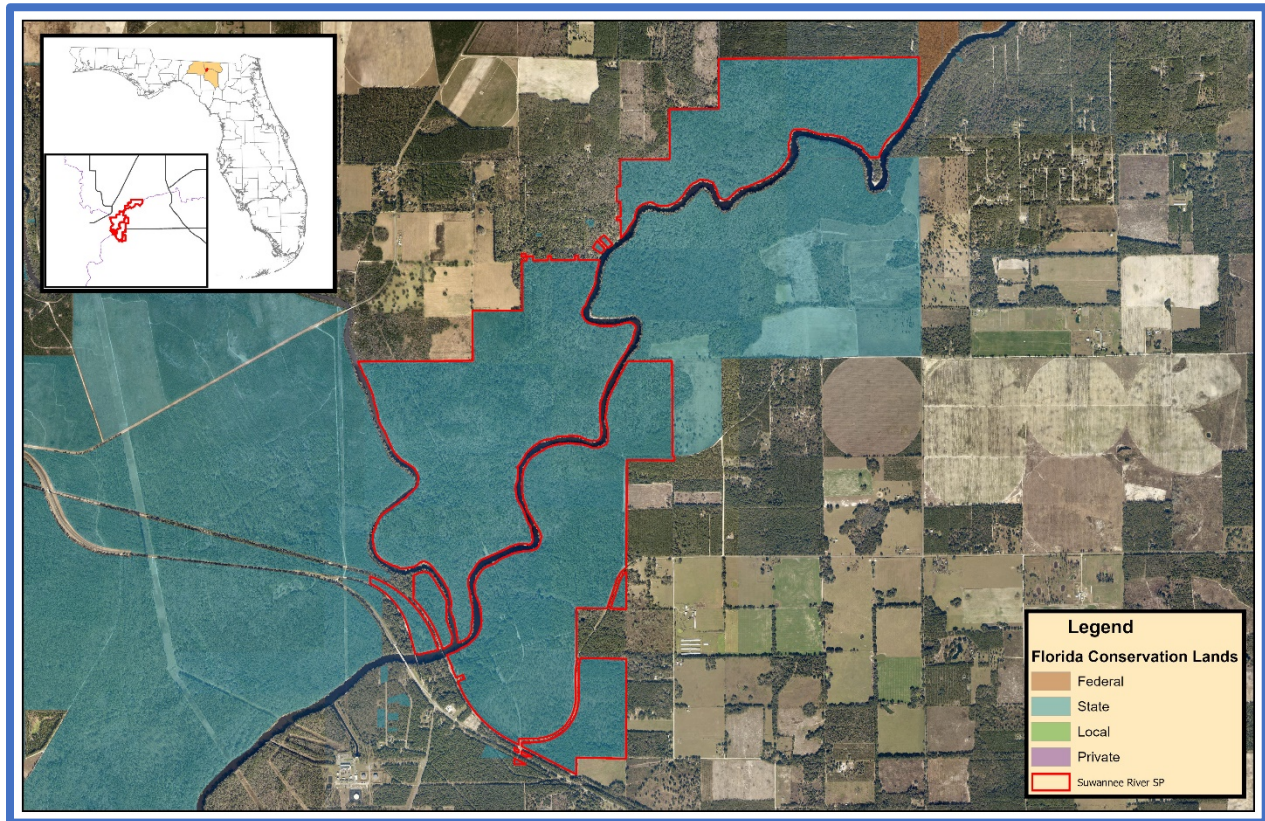
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Rick Owen, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Scotland Talley, FWC
- Taylor Parks, DEP District
- Shelly Wayte, FFS
- Edwin McCook, SRWMD
- Michael Bubb, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 6, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 6, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) for their efforts in managing invasive vegetation. (5+, 0-)
2. The team commends staff for providing excellent recreational opportunities, camping, hiking, etc. (5+, 0-)
3. The team commends staff for cooperating with the SRWMD on the monitoring of water quality and quantity at the park. (5+, 0-)

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.49	4.65
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	3.86	4.48
Hydrology	4.90	4.88
Imperiled Species	4.50	4.67
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.67	5.00
Cultural Resources	4.58	4.75
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.62	4.75
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.47	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team recommends that park staff continue to maintain areas in the appropriate fire return interval and expand into areas where fire return interval needs improvement. (5+, 0-)  
 Managing Agency Response: Agree. The park will continue to use prescribed fire and strive for the appropriate Fire Return Interval for all management zones.
2. The team recommends that Florida Park Service continue to remove larger hardwoods to allow sunlight to enter successional hardwood forest areas. (5+, 0-)  
 Managing Agency Response: Agree. The Park and District 2 staff will prioritize management zones in need of mechanical treatment, and work to improve habitat by reducing offsite hardwoods.

**Field Review Details**

**Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically mesic hammock, sandhill, sinkhole, upland hardwood forest, alluvial forest, bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, sinkhole lake, alluvial stream, blackwater stream, spring-run stream and aquatic cave.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically Florida mountain mint.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.**
4. **Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.**
5. **Prescribed fire, specifically quality.**
6. **Restoration, specifically Zone 6A and 1B hardwood treatment .**
7. **Forest management, specifically timber inventory, and site preparation.**
8. **Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.**
9. **Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, and dams, reservoirs or other impoundments.**
10. **Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.**
11. **Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.**
12. **Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and law enforcement presence.**
13. **Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.**
14. **Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.**
15. **Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.**
16. **Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff, and funding.**

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

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

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

#### **Land Management Plan Review Details**

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

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

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

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

**Suwannee Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area**

**Managed by:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Acres:** 1,429

**County:** Hamilton

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** Restore and conserve optimum habitat for rare and imperiled wildlife populations, principally, the gopher tortoise and associated species, and to provide compatible fish and wildlife based public outdoor recreation, environmental education and research opportunities.

**Acquisition Program(s):** Fish & Wildlife Habitat

**Original Acquisition Date:** 6/26/02

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 12/23/15

**Review Date:** 9/1/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Matthew Barker, Manager
- Rebecca Doane
- Scott Johns, District Biologist
- Ash Ehlers

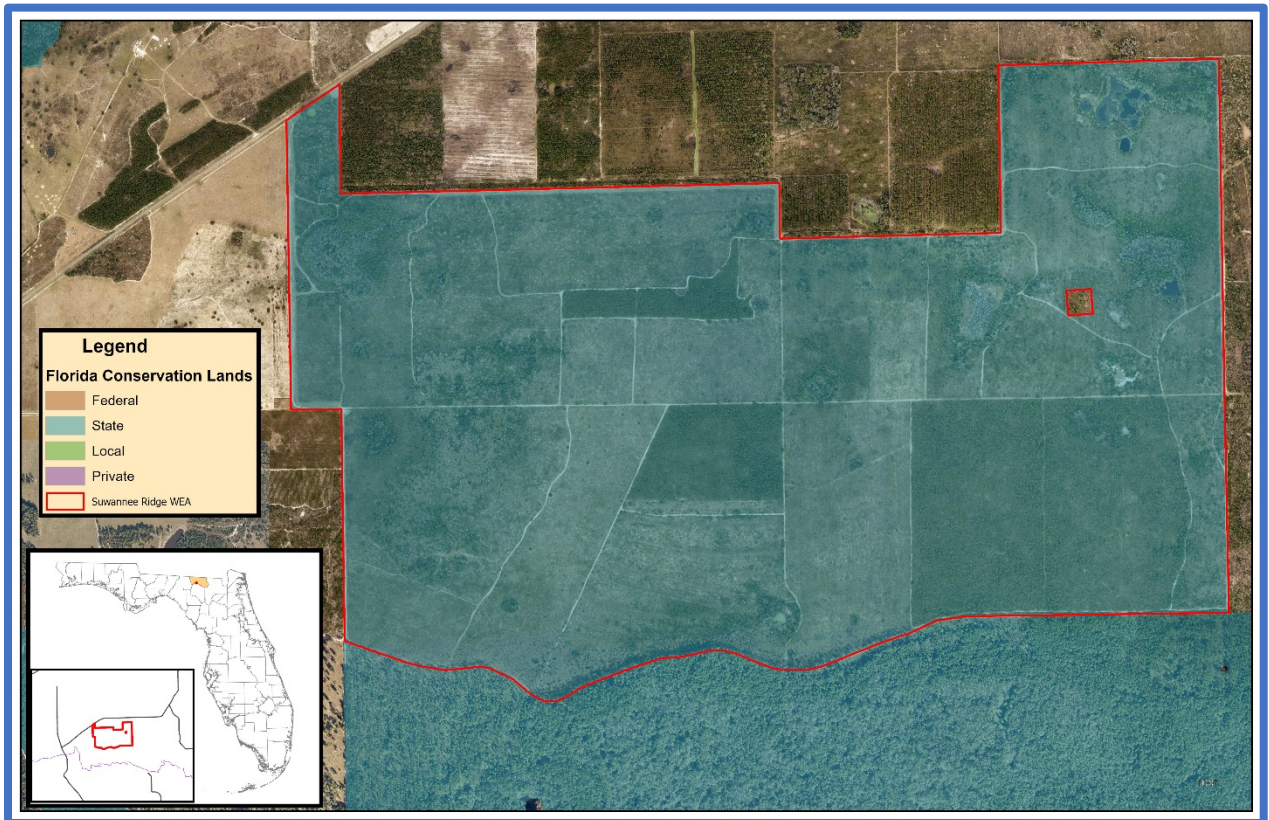
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Keith Morin, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Scotland Talley, FWC
- Jason Neumann, DEP District
- Shelly Wayte, FFS
- Steven Carpenter, SRWMD
- Walter Bryant, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 6, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 6, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the staff on increasing the amount of prescribed fire in this cycle and integrating prescribed fire into the overall sandhill restoration strategy. (6+, 0-)
2. The team commends the staff for working with partners to provide mobility-impaired limited hunting opportunities. (6+, 0-)
3. The team commends the staff for efforts in completing the timber inventory of the property (6+, 0-)

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.70	4.67
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.78	4.89
Hydrology	4.44	4.22
Imperiled Species	4.92	4.70
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.72	4.64
Cultural Resources	4.58	4.50
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.54	4.50
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.40	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team recommends that before the next management plan to determine how much of the sandhill area is actually upland pine desired future condition and how much of the mesic hammock is upland mixed forest desired future condition through FNAI survey, soil typing and other means. (6+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: Currently, the FWC contracts through the Florida Natural Area’s Inventory (FNAI) for natural community mapping and recertification. Natural community recertification is currently expected to occur in fiscal year 2023/2024 for the Suwannee Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area (SRWEA). During this process FNAI confirms current natural and altered communities on the area, as well as determining communities that have the potential to occur on the area through habitat restoration and improvement activities. At that time, FWC staff will work with FNAI to determine the extent of upland pine and upland mixed forest communities that is currently on the area or have the potential to occur on the SRWEA. Upon completion of FNAI’s recertification, FWC’s databases will be updated and any new information will be incorporated in the SRWEA Management Plan, which is currently scheduled to be updated in 2024.

## Field Review Details

### Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically depression marsh, dome swamp, mesic hammock, sinkhole, upland hardwood forest, and wet flatwoods.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically gopher tortoise.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.**
4. **Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.**
5. **Prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.**
6. **Restoration, specifically sandhill restoration.**
7. **Forest management, specifically timber inventory, and timber harvesting.**
8. **Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.**
9. **Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts.**
10. **Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.**
11. **Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.**
12. **Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.**
13. **Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.**
14. **Public access, specifically roads, and parking.**
15. **Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.**
16. **Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff, and funding.**

### Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

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

### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

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

**Twin Rivers State Forest**

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

**Acres:** 2,680 (TIITF)

**County:** Hamilton & Madison

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:**

**Acquisition Program(s):** CARL/Florida Forever

**Original Acquisition Date:** 5/22/94

**Area Reviewed:** Blue Springs Longleaf, Damascus, Hardee Springs

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 4/22/16

**Review Date:** 9/3/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Brad Ellis, Manager
- Glenn Davis, Center Manager

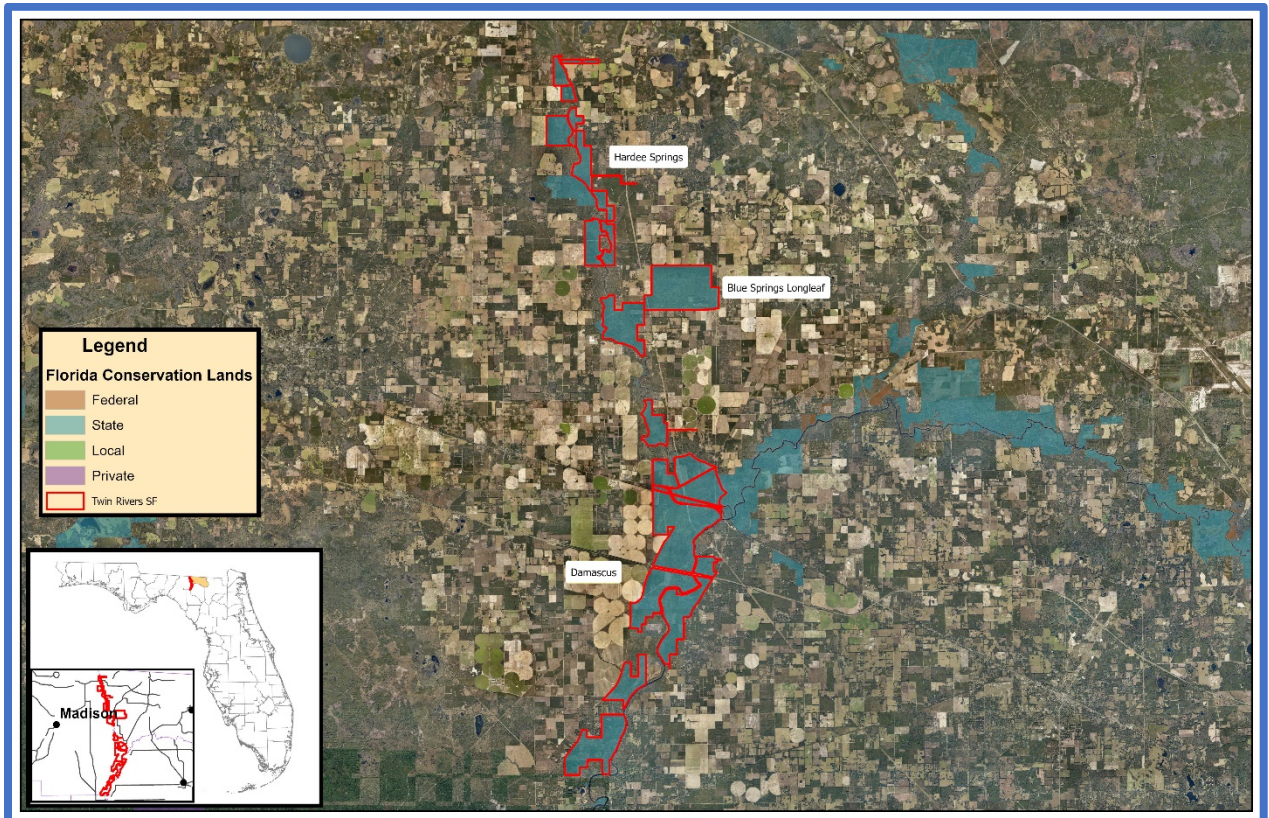
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Anne Barkdoll, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Scotland Talley, FWC
- Steven Krupka, DEP District
- Jason Love, FFS
- Bill McKinstry, SRWMD
- Walter Bryant, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Chris Boever, FWC/IPM
- James Parker, DEP/DSL

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 6, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 6, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the FFS for working quickly to establish longleaf pines in harvested areas to start the restoration process and introduce prescribed fire to the Damascus tract and Hardee Springs tract (6+, 0-)
2. The team commends FFS for identifying the need and obtaining funding to treat invasive non-native plants on the Hardee Springs tract. (6+, 0-)
3. The team commends FFS for implementing a thinning harvest designed to retain the natural structure of the stand, while promoting forest health and regeneration. (6+, 0-)
4. The team commends FFS for the prescribed fire program and the timing of fire return intervals. (5+, 0-)
5. The team commends FFS for hiring staff to control invasive plants. (5+, 0-)

**Table 6: Results at a glance.**

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review	
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.70	4.65	
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.57	4.36	
Hydrology	4.50	4.50	
Imperiled Species	4.25	3.83	
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.44	4.44	
Cultural Resources	4.53	4.33	
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.64	4.68	
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.94	N/A	
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)			
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team recommends that FFS develop a strategy to minimize the spread and begin treating infestations of sweet tanglehead (*Heteropogon contortus*) on all tracts. (6+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: The FFS has begun treating sweet tanglehead on the state forest and will continue to monitor and treat infestations as feasible with existing resources and available funding. The FFS will seek outside resource funding to control infestations that are beyond the control capability of TRSF staff. The FFS already has a strategy for minimizing the spread of sweet tanglehead and other invasive plants during silvicultural operations on the state forest. The FFS will implement a strategy to minimize the spread of sweet tanglehead for all in-house forest operations such as woods roads mowing and firebreak maintenance.



2. The team recommends that FFS seeks funding to address management needs that were previously met by inmate labor crews that are no longer available. (6+, 0-)  
Managing Agency Response: The FFS has requested additional funding from the Suwannee River Water Management District to support an OPS position to assist with the management needs previously met by the inmate labor crew and DOC supervisor.
3. The team recommends initiating native groundcover restoration in pinelands needing native groundcover. (4+, 0-, 1 abstain)  
Managing Agency Response: The FFS will explore the feasibility of initiating native groundcover restoration in existing planted pine stands, as these are the ones most in need, once at least an initial thinning has taken place. Funding availability will dictate the extent of restoration work feasible on a case by case basis.

## Field Review Details

### Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically upland pine, bottomland forest and sinkhole.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.**
4. **Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.**
5. **Prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.**
6. **Restoration, specifically upland pine Damascus, and upland pine Blue Springs.**
7. **Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation and site preparation.**
8. **Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.**
9. **Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts.**
10. **Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.**
11. **Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.**
12. **Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.**
13. **Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.**
14. **Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.**

### Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

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

## **Land Management Plan Review Details**

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

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

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

**Ross Prairie State Forest**

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

**Acres:** 3,531

**County:** Marion

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:**

**Acquisition Program(s):** CARL

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Original Acquisition Date:** 3/22/07

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 8/18/19

**Review Date:** 9/14/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Justin Kilcrease, Manager
- Stephen Montgomery
- Charlie Pedersen, District Biologist

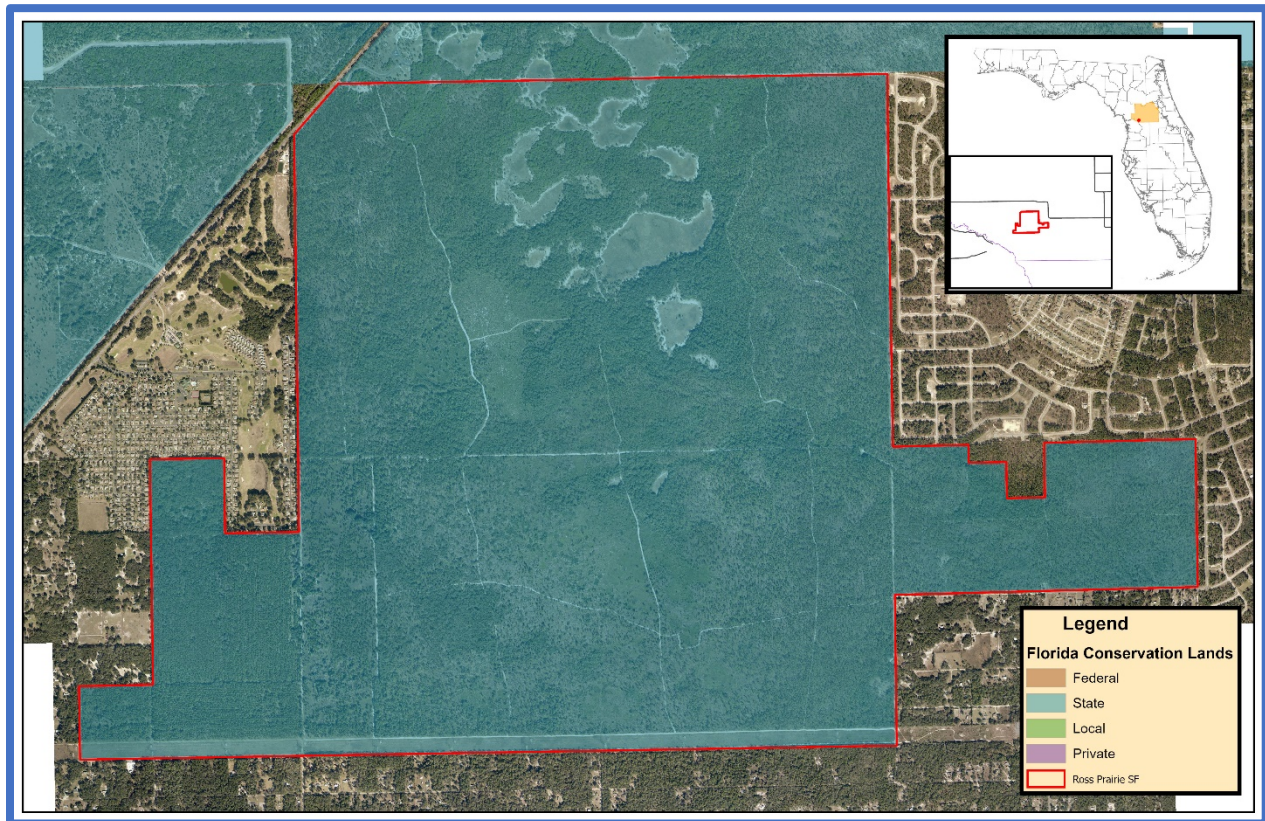
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Adele Mills, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Jess Rodriguez, FWC
- Madelline Mathis, DEP District
- Jason Love, FFS
- WMD, None
- Jim Buckner, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 5, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 5, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for the fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface. (5+, 0-)
2. The team commends FFS for the amount of acres treated with growing season burns. (5+, 0-)
3. The team commends FFS for the frequent fire rotation (3-year fire return interval) and encourage them to keep working at that frequency. (5+, 0-)
4. The team commends FFS staff for the interagency cooperation to get the job done, recognizing the limited staff assigned to this state forest. (5+, 0-)

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team recommends that FFS increase the bare sand in the scrubby flatwoods for the scrub jay habitat. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response:

**Field Review Details**

**Field Review Checklist Findings**

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically depression marsh, mesic hammock, mesic flatwoods, sandhill and xeric hammock.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically Florida scrub jay.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.**

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.67	4.82
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.80	4.92
Hydrology	4.50	4.67
Imperiled Species	4.22	4.81
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.46	4.71
Cultural Resources	4.40	5.00
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.34	4.50
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.17	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
5. Prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.
6. Forest management, specifically timber inventory, and timber harvesting.
7. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
8. Hydro-alteration, specifically hydroperiod alteration.
9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage.
10. Adjacent property concerns, specifically smoke management, groundwater consumption, and inholdings and additions.
11. Public access, specifically parking.
12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.

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

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

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

#### **Managing Agency Response:**

#### **Land Management Plan Review Details**

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

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

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

**Silver Springs State Park**

**Managed by:** Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

**Acres:** 4,666

**County:** Marion

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:**

**Acquisition Program(s):** CARL/P2000/Florida Forever

**Original Acquisition Date:** 12/11/85

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 12/17/14

**Review Date:** 9/15/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Sally Lieb, Manager

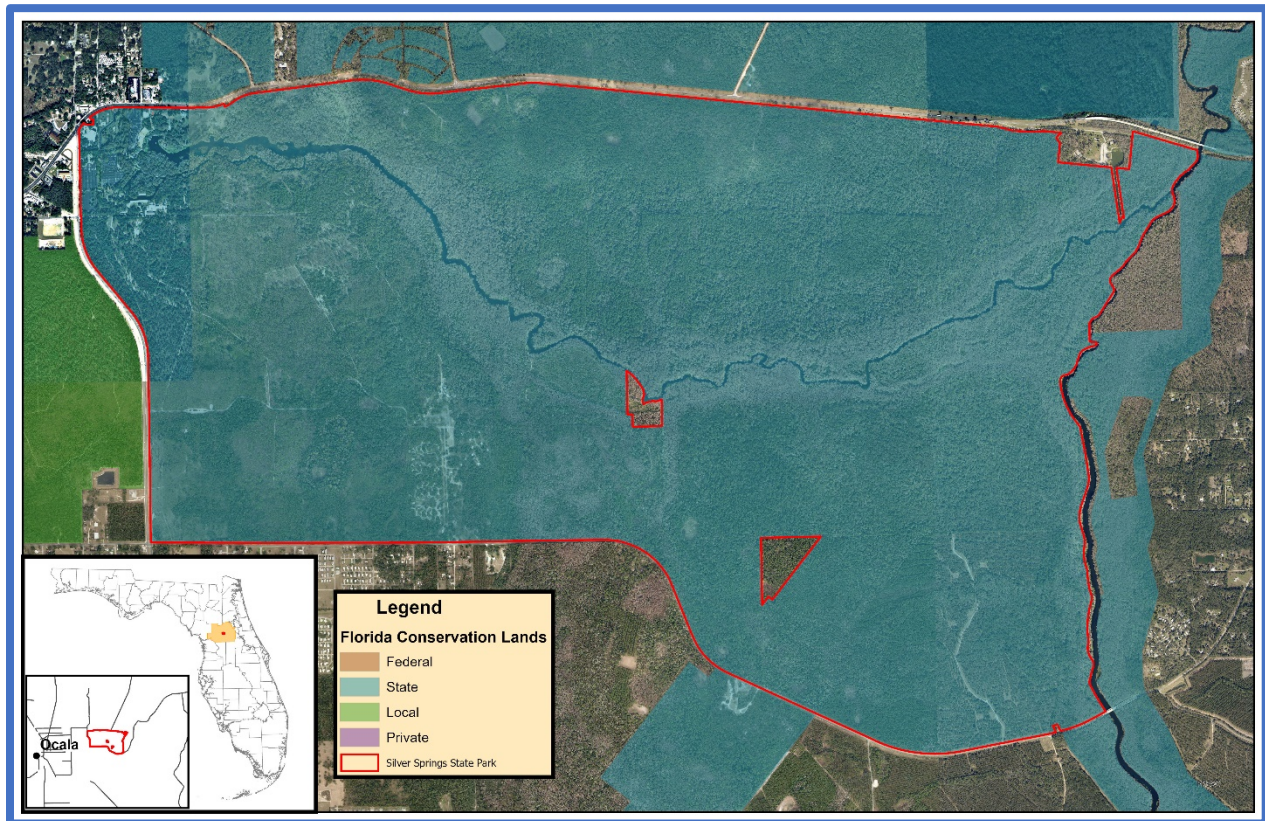
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Mark Romagosa, DRP District
- Charles Ryan, Local Gov't.
- Samantha Cobble, FWC
- Courtney Puckett, DEP District
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Kyle Madden, SJRWMD
- Kimberleigh Dinkins, Conservation Org.
- Jim Buckner, Private Land Manager

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- John Kunzer, FWC

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 8, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 8, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) for the time and fire interval in the sandhill. (5+, 0-)

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team recommends FPS maintain the Sea Hunt deck as an observation area, for people observing wildlife, including resting manatees. (8+, 0-)  
Managing Agency Response:
2. The team recommends that a gopher tortoise line transect distance sampling survey be done and then repeated every five years. (7+, 0-, 1 abstain)  
Managing Agency Response:
3. The team recommends that the swim area be reevaluated to consider submerged aquatic vegetation, and human/wildlife interactions. (7+, 0-)  
Managing Agency Response:
4. The team recommends that a dedicated biologist/ecologist be assigned to the park. (7+, 0-)  
Managing Agency Response:
5. The team recommends permanent photopoints for various monitoring at the park. (5+, 0-)  
Managing Agency Response:

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.15	3.82
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.44	4.79
Hydrology	4.51	4.10
Imperiled Species	4.26	3.95
Exotic / Invasive Species	3.90	3.94
Cultural Resources	4.71	4.71
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.59	4.13
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.42	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

## Field Review Details

### Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, sinkhole, upland mixed forest, xeric hammock, depression marsh, dome swamp, floodplain forest, floodplain swamp, wet flatwoods, blackwater stream, spring-run stream, hydric hammock and aquatic cave.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically silver buckthorn.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically invasive species survey and monitoring.**
4. **Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.**
5. **Prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.**
6. **Restoration, specifically sandhill, hydrology, and flatwoods.**
7. **Forest management, specifically reforestation/afforestation.**
8. **Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants.**
9. **Hydro-alteration, specifically roads and culverts, ditches, and hydro-period alteration.**
10. **Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality and quantity.**
11. **Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality and quantity.**
12. **Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.**
13. **Adjacent property concerns, specifically inholdings and additions.**
14. **Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.**
15. **Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.**
16. **Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, staff, and funding.**

### Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

1. **Natural Resources Survey, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, and other habitat management effects monitoring, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether survey and monitoring of the resources or their habitats are sufficient.**

#### Managing Agency Response:

### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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



1. **Natural Resource Survey and Monitoring Resources, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address survey or monitoring.**

**Managing Agency Response:**

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

**Managing Agency Response:**

3. **Managed Area Uses, Proposed Uses, specifically swimming area, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address managed area uses.**

**Managing Agency Response:**

**Crystal River Preserve State Park**

**Managed by:** Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

**Acres:** 27,417

**County:** Citrus

**Purpose(s) for Acquisition:** to conserve the natural landscape of this coast, protect the water quality of the spring runs and estuaries where endangered manatees congregate, preserve natural lands that link with conservation lands to the south, and provide scenic areas in which the public can enjoy fishing, hiking, or learning about the natural world of this coast.

**Acquisition Program(s):** EEL, CARL/P2000/Florida Forever

**Original Acquisition Date:** 12/5/84

**Area Reviewed:** Entire Property

**Last Management Plan Approval Date:** 10/19/18

**Review Date:** 9/17/21

**Agency Manager and Key Staff:**

- Barbara Roberts, Manager

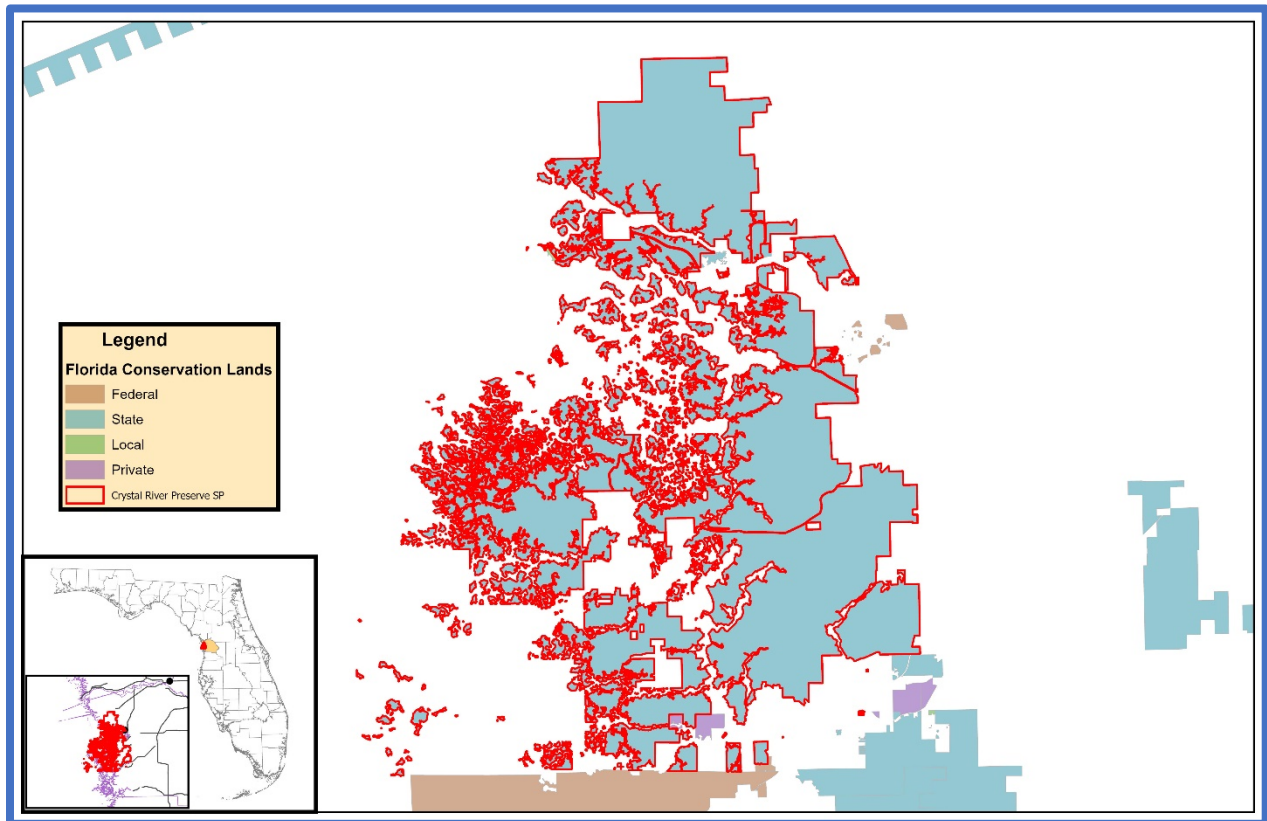
**Review Team Members (voting)**

- Dan Pearson, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Scotland Talley, FWC
- DEP District, None
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Chris McKendree, SWFWMD
- Conservation Org., None
- Kimberleigh Dinkins, Private Land Manager

**Non-Team Members (attending)**

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL

**Property Map**



**Overview of Land Management Review Results**

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

**Yes = 5, No = 0**

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

**Yes = 5, No = 0**

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

**Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team commends the park staff for partnering with FWC for treatment of Brazilian Pepper infestations, the use of internal funding for additional treatment, and the effective use of Americorps members at the park for exotic plant control. (5+, 0-)
2. The team commends park staff for partnering with SWFWMD in development of Redfish Hole hydrological restoration plan. (5+, 0-)
3. The team commends park staff for effective use of cooperative funding and staff to install low water crossings to improve hydrological conditions and provide access for prescribed fire operations. (5+, 0-)
4. The team commends park staff for the excellent historical and cultural resource protection, and their cooperation with Gulf Archaeological Research Institute and Florida Public Archaeology Network. (5+, 0-)
5. The team commends park staff for maximizing funding and staffing resources. (5+, 0-)
6. The team commends park staff for their prescribed burning efforts given the complexities of the wildland urban interface. (5+, 0-)

**Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency**

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

1. The team recommends that park staff focus on reducing backlog of prescribed fire in the southern end of the preserve. (5+, 0-)  
 Managing Agency Response: Agree. Park staff have already began working towards increasing prescribed fire south of the Crystal River with additional mechanical treatments and fireline projects.

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

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.43	4.56
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.08	4.28
Hydrology	4.13	4.20
Imperiled Species	4.50	4.25
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.73	4.23
Cultural Resources	4.50	4.40
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.47	4.32
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.17	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

## Field Review Details

### Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically basin swamp, mangrove swamp (estuarine tidal swamp), dome swamp, floodplain swamp, freshwater tidal swamp, salt marsh, basin marsh, hydric hammock, mesic hammock, depression marsh, and floodplain/freshwater tidal marsh.**
2. **Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.**
4. **Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.**
5. **Prescribed fire, specifically quality.**
6. **Restoration, specifically sandhill, flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, and coastal hydric hammock.**
7. **Forest management, specifically timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation and site preparation.**
8. **Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.**
9. **Hydro-alteration, specifically roads, culverts, and ditches.**
10. **Ground water monitoring, specifically quality.**
11. **Surface water monitoring, specifically quality and quantity.**
12. **Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.**
13. **Adjacent property concerns, specifically mining, invasive species, and inholdings and additions.**
14. **Public access, specifically roads, parking and boat access.**
15. **Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.**
16. **Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, equipment, and funding.**

### Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

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

### Land Management Plan Review Details

#### Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

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

## **Appendix A. Scoring System Detail**

### **Explanation of Consensus Commendations:**

Often, the exceptional condition of some of the property's attributes impress review team members. In those instances, team members are encouraged to offer positive feedback to the managing agency in the form of a commendation. The teams develop commendations generally by standard consensus processes or by majority vote if they cannot obtain a true consensus.

### **Explanation of Consensus Recommendations:**

Subsection 259.036(2), F.S., specifically states that the managing entity shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review. We ask team members to provide general recommendations for improving the management or public access and use of the property. The teams discuss these recommendations and develop consensus recommendations as described above. We provide these recommendations to the managing agency to consider when finalizing the required ten-year management plan update. We encourage the manager to respond directly to these recommendations and include their responses in the final report when received in a timely manner.

### **Explanation of Field Review Checklist and Scores, and Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores:**

We provide team members with a checklist to fill out during the evaluation workshop phase of the Land Management Review. The checklist is the uniform tool used to evaluate both the management actions and condition of the managed area, and the sufficiency of the management plan elements. During the evaluation workshop, team members individually provide scores on each issue on the checklist, from their individual perspective. Team members also base their evaluations on information provided by the managing agency staff as well as other team member discussions. Staff averages these scores to evaluate the overall conditions on the ground, and how the management plan addresses the issues. Team members must score each management issue 1 to 5: 1 being the management practices are clearly insufficient, and 5 being that the management practices are excellent. Members may choose to abstain if they have inadequate expertise or information to make a cardinal numeric choice, as indicated by an "X" on the checklist scores, or they may not provide a vote for other unknown reasons, as indicated by a blank. If a majority of members failed to vote on any issue, that issue is determined to be irrelevant to management of that property or it was inadequately reviewed by the team to make an intelligent choice. In either case staff eliminated the issue from the report to the manager.

### **Average scores are interpreted as follows:**

- Scores 4.0 to 5.0 are *Excellent*
- Scores 3.0 to 3.99 are *Above Average*
- Scores 2.0 to 2.99 are *Below Average*
- Scores 1.0 to 1.99 are considered *Poor*