



LAND MANAGEMENT REVIEWS

Southwest District

Charlotte Harbor Region

Big Cypress Region

Terra Ceia Preserve State Park

Big Cypress Region

2024 Land Management Review Team Report for Collier-Seminole State Park

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Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and (2) whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, F.S. In cases where the managed areas exceed 1,000 acres in size, such a review must be scheduled at least every five years. In conducting this review, a statutorily constructed review team “shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.”

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district or jurisdictional water management district, a conservation organization member, and a local private land manager.

Each Land Management Review Report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides the details of the property being reviewed as well as the overall results of the report. Section 2 provides details of the Field Review, in which the Review Team inspects the results of management actions on the site. Section 3 provides details of the Land Management Plan Review, in which the team determines the extent to which the Management Plan provides for and documents adequate natural and recreational resource protection.

Finally, each report may also contain an Appendix that lists individual team member comments. This is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts raised by individual team members, but not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the Land Management Review Team.

Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Collier-Seminole State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 6,759

County: Collier

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

Acquisition Program(s):

Original Acquisition Date: 3/8/1944

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 2/6/04

Review Date: 1/24/24

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Darren Flickinger, Park Manager
- Maulik Patel, Environmental Specialist

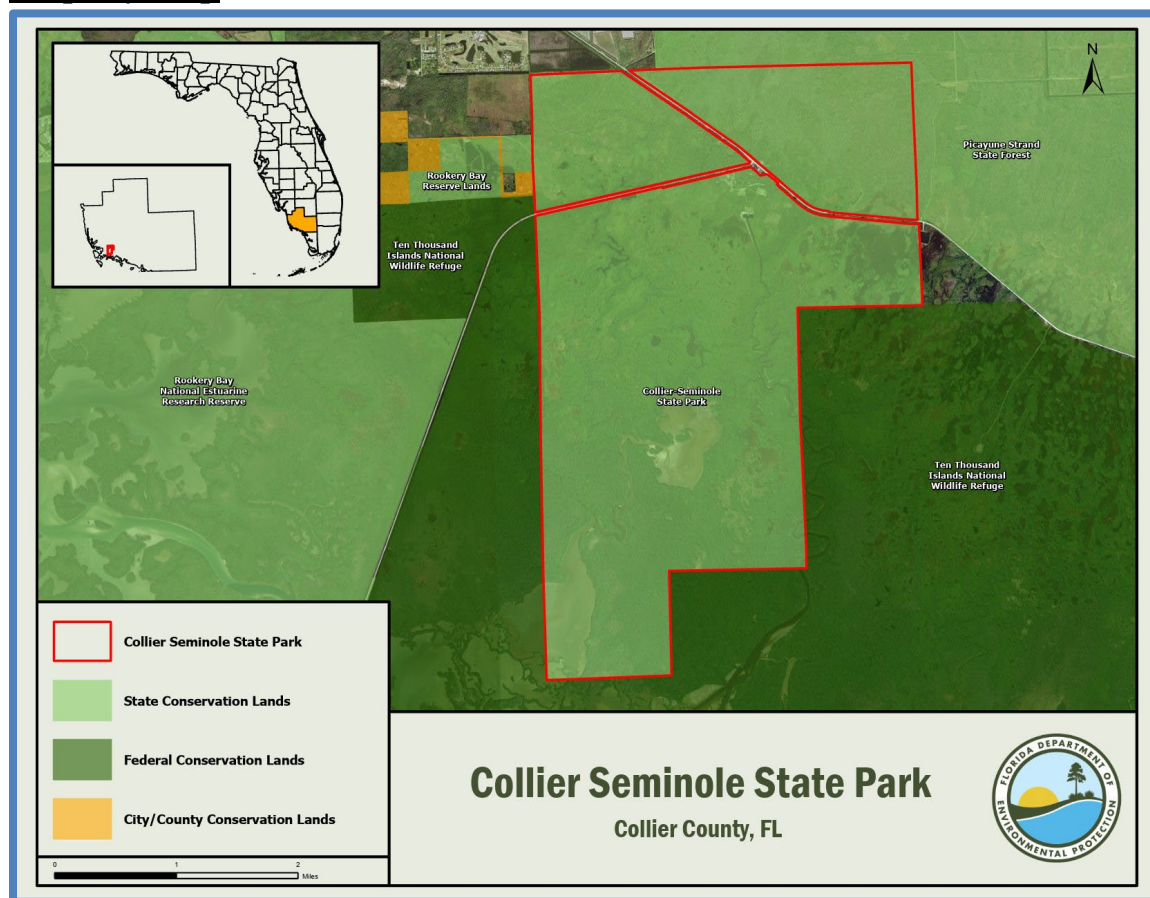
Review Team Members (voting)

- Tracy Muzyczka, DRP District
- Clark Ryals, FFS
- Local Gov't., None
- WMD, None
- Jessica Spickler, FWC
- Conservation Org., None
- Scarlett Heuett, DEP District
- Liesa Priddy, 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 = 4, No = 0

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

Yes = 4, No = 0

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

Table 1: Results at a glance.

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

Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

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

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

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

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

Managing Agency Response: *Primary inventory and monitoring focus must be on species that require special management attention. All-species inventory generally must be a lower priority than conducting actions to manage habitats. DRP regularly works with wildlife-focused agencies*

and researchers to quantitatively evaluate the status of wildlife in state parks. Incidental wildlife observations are also recorded by park staff on a quarterly basis and compiled in a district-wide database.

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

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

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

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

Field Review Details

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

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

13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.

14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

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

Field Review Checklist and Scores

Field Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Coastal Berm	I.A.1	5	4	5	X					4.67
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.2	5	5	5	5					5.00
Prairie Hammock	I.A.3	4	4	4	4					4.00
Rockland Hammock	I.A.4	4	4	4	4					4.00
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.5	4	4	4	3					3.75
Marl Prairie	I.A.6	5	5	5	5					5.00
Slough	I.A.7	4	4	5	4					4.25
Strand Swamp	I.A.8	4	3	3	3					3.25
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.9	4	4	4	4					4.00
Salt Marsh	I.A.10	5	4	4	3					4.00
Mangrove Swamp	I.A.11	5	5	5	5					5.00
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.12	5	4	5	X					4.67
Natural Communities Average Score										4.30
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	5	4	4	4					4.25
Bald Eagle	I.B.1.a	5	5	5	5					5.00
Manatee	I.B.1.b	5	4	4	4					4.25
Plants	I.B.2	5	4	5	4					4.50
Bromeliads	I.B.2.a	5	3	4	4					4.00
Orchids	I.B.2.b	5	4	5	5					4.75
Royal Palm	I.B.2.c	5	3	4	4					4.00
Listed Species Average Score										4.39
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	4	4	4	4					4.00

Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	4	3	4	2					3.25
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	5	5	4					4.50
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	4	4	5	3					4.00
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	4	4	4	4					4.00
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	2	4	3					3.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	3	4	5	4					4.00
Cultural Resources Average Score										3.50
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	4	4	5					4.50
Frequency	III.A.2	5	4	5	4					4.50
Quality	III.A.3	5	4	4	5					4.50
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.50
Restoration (III.B)										
Ag Field to Wet Flatwoods	III.B.1	3	4	3	3					3.25
Ag Field to Marl Prairie	III.B.2	3	4	3	2					3.00
Restoration Average Score										3.13
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	4	4	3	5					4.00
Forest Management Average Score										4.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	4	4	4	4					4.00
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	4	4	5	4					4.25
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	4	3	5	X					4.00
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	4	5	4	5					4.50
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	4	5	3					4.00
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	4	3	4					3.75
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.08
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	4	4	4	4					4.00
Ditches	III.E.1.b	3	4	4	4					3.75
Hydro-period Alteration	III.E.1.c	3	4	4	4					3.75
Erosion	III.E.1.f	4	5	4	X					4.33
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.96
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	4	3	5	5					4.25
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										4.25
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	3	4	3	5					3.75
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	3	4	3	4					3.50
Signage	III.F.3	4	5	4	5					4.50

Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	3	4	4	3					3.50
Resource Protection Average Score										3.81
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	3	4	4	4					3.75
Lipman Farms	III.G.1.b	3	4	4	5					4.00
US41	III.G.1.c	3	4	4	5					4.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	3	5	4	X					4.00
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	5	5	4	5					4.75
Parking	IV.1.b	5	5	5	4					4.75
Boat Access	IV.1.c	5	4	5	5					4.75
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	4	4	4	5					4.25
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	4	3	5	4					4.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	5	4	5	4					4.50
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	5	5	5	5					5.00
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	5	4	5					4.75
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	4	5	4					4.25
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.56
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										
Waste disposal	V.1.a	4	5	4	4					4.25
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	5	4	4	4					4.25
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	4	4	4	4					4.00
Equipment	V.2.b	4	5	5	5					4.75
Staff	V.3	3	4	4	4					3.75
Funding	V.4	2	4	4	5					3.75
Management Resources Average Score										4.13
Color Code: Excellent Above Average Below Average Poor Missing Vote Insufficient Information See Appendix A for detail										

Land Management Plan Review Details

Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores

Plan Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Coastal Berm	I.A.1	4	5		3					4.00
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.2	5	4		5					4.67
Prairie Hammock	I.A.3	5	4		3					4.00
Rockland Hammock	I.A.4	4	5		3					4.00
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.5	5	4		5					4.67
Marl Prairie	I.A.6	5	4		5					4.67
Slough	I.A.7	5	4		3					4.00
Strand Swamp	I.A.8	5	5		3					4.33
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.9	5	4		5					4.67
Salt Marsh	I.A.10	5	3		4					4.00
Mangrove Swamp	I.A.11	5	4		3					4.00
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.12	4	4		3					3.67
Natural Communities Average Score										4.22

Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	4	3		4					3.67
Bald Eagle	I.B.1.a	4	3		4					3.67
Manatee	I.B.1.b	4	2		4					3.33
Plants	I.B.2	4	3		4					3.67
Bromeliads	I.B.2.a	4	2		2					2.67
Orchids	I.B.2.b	4	3		4					3.67
Royal Palm	I.B.2.c	4	3		4					3.67
Listed Species Average Score										3.48
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	4	3		4					3.67
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	3	2		2					2.33
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	3		3					3.33
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	4	3		4					3.67
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	4	2		4					3.33
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	2	3	3					2.75
Protection and preservation	II.B	3	3	3	4					3.25
Cultural Resources Average Score										3.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	4	4	3	5					4.00
Frequency	III.A.2	4	4	4	5					4.25
Quality	III.A.3	4	3	3	5					3.75
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.00
Restoration (III.B)										
Ag Field to Wet Flatwoods	III.B.1	2	3	2	1					2.00
Ag Field to Marl Prairie	III.B.2	2	3	2	1					2.00
Restoration Average Score										2.00
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	3	2	3	5					3.25
Forest Management Average Score										3.25
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	3	3	3	5					3.50
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	3	2	3	2					2.50
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	3	2	3	3					2.75
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	3	3		5					3.67
control - animals	III.D.2.b	3	2		1					2.00
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	3	3		3					3.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										2.90
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	3	3		3					3.00

Ditches	III.E.1.b	3	3		4					3.33
Hydro-period Alteration	III.E.1.c	3	4		5					4.00
Erosion	III.E.1.f	3	3							3.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.33
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	3	3	1	2					2.25
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										2.25
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	3	4	4	5					4.00
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	3	3	4	4					3.50
Signage	III.F.3	4	3	4	5					4.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	3	3	4	1					2.75
Resource Protection Average Score										3.56
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	3	4		4					3.67
Lipman Farms	III.G.1.b	3	3		3					3.00
US41	III.G.1.c	3	3		4					3.33
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	3	3		4					3.33
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.G.3	2	2	3	1					2.00
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.G.4	3	3	5	5					4.00
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	4	4		5					4.33
Parking	IV.1.b	4	4		4					4.00
Boat Access	IV.1.c	4	3		5					4.00
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	4	3		4					3.67
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	4	3		5					4.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	4	3		3					3.33
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	4	4		5					4.33
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	4		5					4.33
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	3		4					3.67
Public Access & Education Average Score										3.96
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Camping	VI.A.1	5	4		4					4.33
Hiking	VI.A.2	5	5		5					5.00
Nature Study	VI.A.3	5	4		5					4.67
Picnicking	VI.A.4	5	4		5					4.67
Fishing	VI.A.5	5	4		5					4.67
Canoeing/Kayaking	VI.A.6	5	5		5					5.00
Boating	VI.A.7	5	4	4	4					4.25
Off-road Cycling	VI.A.8	5	5	4	5					4.75

Color Code:

Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor
	Missing Vote	Insufficient Information	

See
Appendix A
for detail

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*

2025 Land Management Review Team Report for Estero Bay Preserve State Park

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Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and (2) whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, F.S. In cases where the managed areas exceed 1,000 acres in size, such a review must be scheduled at least every five years. In conducting this review, a statutorily constructed review team “shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.”

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district or jurisdictional water management district, a conservation organization member, and a local private land manager.

Each Land Management Review Report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides the details of the property being reviewed as well as the overall results of the report. Section 2 provides details of the Field Review, in which the Review Team inspects the results of management actions on the site. Section 3 provides details of the Land Management Plan Review, in which the team determines the extent to which the Management Plan provides for and documents adequate natural and recreational resource protection.

Finally, each report may also contain an Appendix that lists individual team member comments. This is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts raised by individual team members, but not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the Land Management Review Team.

Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Estero Bay Preserve State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 10,457

County: Lee

Purpose(s) for Acquisition: to protect Estero Bay's water quality, its native plants and animals, its archaeological sites, and to provide recreational opportunities to the people of the rapidly growing Fort Myers area.

Acquisition Program(s): CARL/Florida Forever

Original Acquisition Date: 4/27/87

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 10/15/04

Review Date: 2/11/25

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Rebecca Thornhill, ES I

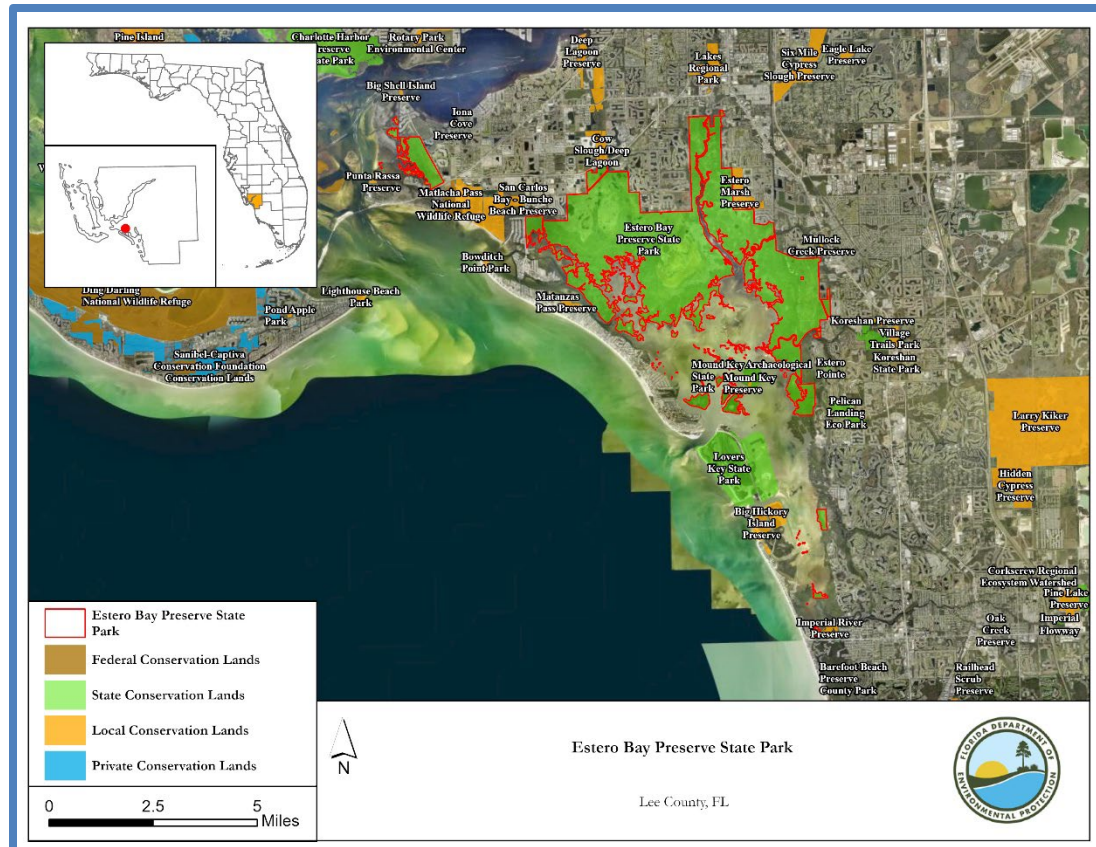
Review Team Members (voting)

- Karen Rogers, DRP District
- Greg Kosik, Local Gov't.
- Brianna White, FWC
- Jacob Poirier, DEP District
- Clark Ryals, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD
- Krister Martinez, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Merelee Atkinson, FNPS

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.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.43	4.05
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.22	3.86
Hydrology	4.00	3.92
Imperiled Species	4.50	4.20
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.03	3.94
Cultural Resources	4.00	4.25
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.13	4.03
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.74	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

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 their efforts to treat invasive exotic plants and continued efforts to request and obtain funding through FWC's upland exotic plant management program. (7+, 0-)
2. The team commends the staff for introducing fire to areas that have not had a fire rotation. (7+, 0-)
3. The team commends the FPS for the work they are doing with the Prescribed Fire program at the preserve with limited number of staff and resources. (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 the FPS deter bicycle traffic around the salt flats by removing the yellow trail from the plan and erect signage to manage access. (7+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: Park staff has installed "No Bicycle" signage at the Winkler parcel and is reviewing additional solutions to manage visitor access. Park staff are actively working with the Office of Park Planning to remove the Yellow trail at Estero River Scrub parcel.

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 wet flatwoods, salt marsh, mangrove swamp, coastal rock barren, coastal berm, mesic flatwoods, prairie hammock, depression marsh, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and strand swamp.
2. Listed species, animals and plants 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.
5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
6. Restoration, specifically salt marsh at Lexington.
7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, and pest/pathogens.
9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, and ditches.
10. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, signage, and law enforcement presence.
11. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.
12. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
13. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
14. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, 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, and funding, received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether management resources are sufficient.*

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

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.

Field Review Checklist and Scores

Field Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Shell Mound	I.A.1	X	4	4	4	3	4			3.80
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.2	5	5	4	4	4	3			4.17
Salt Marsh	I.A.3	5	4	4	5	4	4			4.33
Mangrove Swamp	I.A.5	5	5	5	5	3	3			4.33
Coastal Rock Barren	I.A.6	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Coastal Berm	I.A.7	X	4	5	x	4	4			4.25
Maritime Hammock	I.A.8	X	3	4	4	2	4			3.40
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.9	5	5	5	5	4	3			4.50
Prairie Hammock	I.A.10	X	4	5	x	4	3			4.00
Depression Marsh	I.A.11	4	4	5	5	5	4			4.50
Scrub	I.A.12	5	5	5	5	4	3			4.50
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.13	5	5	4	5	4	3			4.33
Strand Swamp	I.A.14	5	4	5	4	4	3			4.17
Natural Communities Average Score										4.25
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1		4	5	5	4	4			4.40
Plants	I.B.2		5	5	5	4	4			4.60
Listed Species Average Score										4.50
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	4	5	5	3	3			4.17
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	5	3	4	5	3	x			4.00
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	5	4	4	5	4	x			4.40
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	4	4	5	4	4			4.33
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	5	4	4	5	4			4.50
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	X	4	4	5	4	4			4.20
Protection and preservation	II.B	X	3	4	5	3	4			3.80
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	5	4	5	4	3			4.33
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	4	5	3	4			4.33
Quality	III.A.3	5	4	4	5	5	5			4.67
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.44

Restoration (III.B)										
Salt Marsh @Lexington	III.B.1	5	4	4	4	4	3			4.00
Restoration Average Score										4.00
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	X	5	5	5	5	3			4.60
Forest Management Average Score										4.60
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	5	5	3	5	4	4			4.33
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	4	5	3	5	3	3			3.83
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	X	5	3	x	4	x			4.00
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	4	3	4	5	4			4.17
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	4	3	5	4	3			3.83
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	5	3	x	4	x			4.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.03
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	4	4	4	4	4	x			4.00
Ditches	III.E.1.b	4	4	4	4	4	x			4.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										4.00
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	5	4	5	5	4			4.67
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	3	4	4	4	4			3.83
Signage	III.F.3	5	3	4	5	3	3			3.83
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	5	4		4	4	3			4.00
Resource Protection Average Score										4.08
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	5	4	4	4	4	3			4.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	5	4	4	x	4	3			4.00
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	4	4	5	x	4	5			4.40
Parking	IV.1.b	4	3	5	5	3	5			4.17
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	5	5	4	4	4	3			4.17
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	5	5	4	4	4	3			4.17
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	5	4	4	5	4	5			4.50
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	4	3	4	4	3	5			3.83
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	3	4	4	5	5			4.17
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	3	4	5	4	4			4.00
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.18
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										

Waste disposal	V.1.a	4	5	4	5	5	x			4.60
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	4	5	4	5	5	4			4.50
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	4	4	4	4	4	4			4.00
Equipment	V.2.b	4	4	4	4	4	4			4.00
Staff	V.3	4	3	2	2	3	3			2.83
Funding	V.4	3	2	2	2	3	3			2.50
Management Resources Average Score										3.74
Color Code:		Excellent	Above Average		Below Average		Poor		See Appendix A for detail	
			Missing Vote		Insufficient Information					

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 improvement actions in the management plan.

Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores

Plan Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Shell Mound	I.A.1	4	4	4	5	4	3			4.00
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.2	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Salt Marsh	I.A.3	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Mangrove Swamp	I.A.5	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Coastal Rock Barren	I.A.6	5	4	4	5	3	3			4.00
Coastal Berm	I.A.7	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Maritime Hammock	I.A.8	4	4	4	5	4	3			4.00
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.9	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Prairie Hammock	I.A.10	5	3	4	5	4	3			4.00
Depression Marsh	I.A.11	4	4	4	5	4	3			4.00
Scrub	I.A.12	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.13	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Strand Swamp	I.A.14	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Natural Communities Average Score										4.10
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										

Animals	I.B.1		5	4	5	4	3			4.20
Plants	I.B.2		5	4	5	4	3			4.20
Listed Species Average Score										4.20
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	4	4	5	3	3			4.00
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	5	3	4	5	3	3			3.83
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	5	3	4	5	3	3			3.83
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	4	4	4	5	5	4			4.33
Protection and preservation	II.B	4	4	4	5	4	4			4.17
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.25
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	4			4.83
Frequency	III.A.2	5	4	5	5	5	4			4.67
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	5	5	4	4			4.67
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.72
Restoration (III.B)										
Salt Marsh @Lexington	III.B.1	5	2	3	5	1	2			3.00
Restoration Average Score										3.00
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	5	4	3	5	4	3			4.00
Forest Management Average Score										4.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	5	5	3	5	4	4			4.33
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	4	5	3	5	3	3			3.83
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	4	5	3	5	3	2			3.67
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	5	3	5	4	4			4.33
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	5	3	5	3	3			3.83
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	5	3	5	3	2			3.67
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										3.94
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	4	4	4	5	4	3			4.00
Ditches	III.E.1.b	4	4	4	5	4	2			3.83
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.92
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	4	4	5	3	3			4.00
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	4	4	5	4	3			4.00
Signage	III.F.3	5	3	4	5	4	3			4.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17

Resource Protection Average Score										4.04
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	5	4	3	5	4	3			4.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	5	4	3	5	3	3			3.83
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.G.3	2	3	4	2	4	3			3.00
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.G.4	4	5	4	5	4	3			4.17
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	4	3	4	5	4	4			4.00
Parking	IV.1.b	4	3	4	5	4	4			4.00
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	5	4	4	5	4	3			4.17
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	4	4	4	5	5	3			4.17
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	3	4	4	5	3			3.83
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	3	4	4	4	3			3.67
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.02
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Hiking	VI.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	4			4.83
Environmental Education	VI.A.2	4	4	5	5	5	4			4.50
Paddling	VI.A.3	4	3	3	5	3	4			3.67
Wildlife Observation	VI.A.4	5	5	5	5	5	4			4.83
Bicycling	VI.A.5	4	4	3	3	4	3			3.50
Geocaching	VI.A.6	4	5	3	4	4	5			4.17

Color Code:

Excellent

Above
Average

Below
Average

Poor

Missing
Vote

Insufficient
Information

See
Appendix A
for detail

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*

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 77,814

County: Collier

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

Acquisition Program(s): P2000/CARL

Original Acquisition Date: 8/31/1994

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 8/19/2014

Review Date: 3/9/2023

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Allen Murray, Park Manager
- Mike Owen, Park Biologist

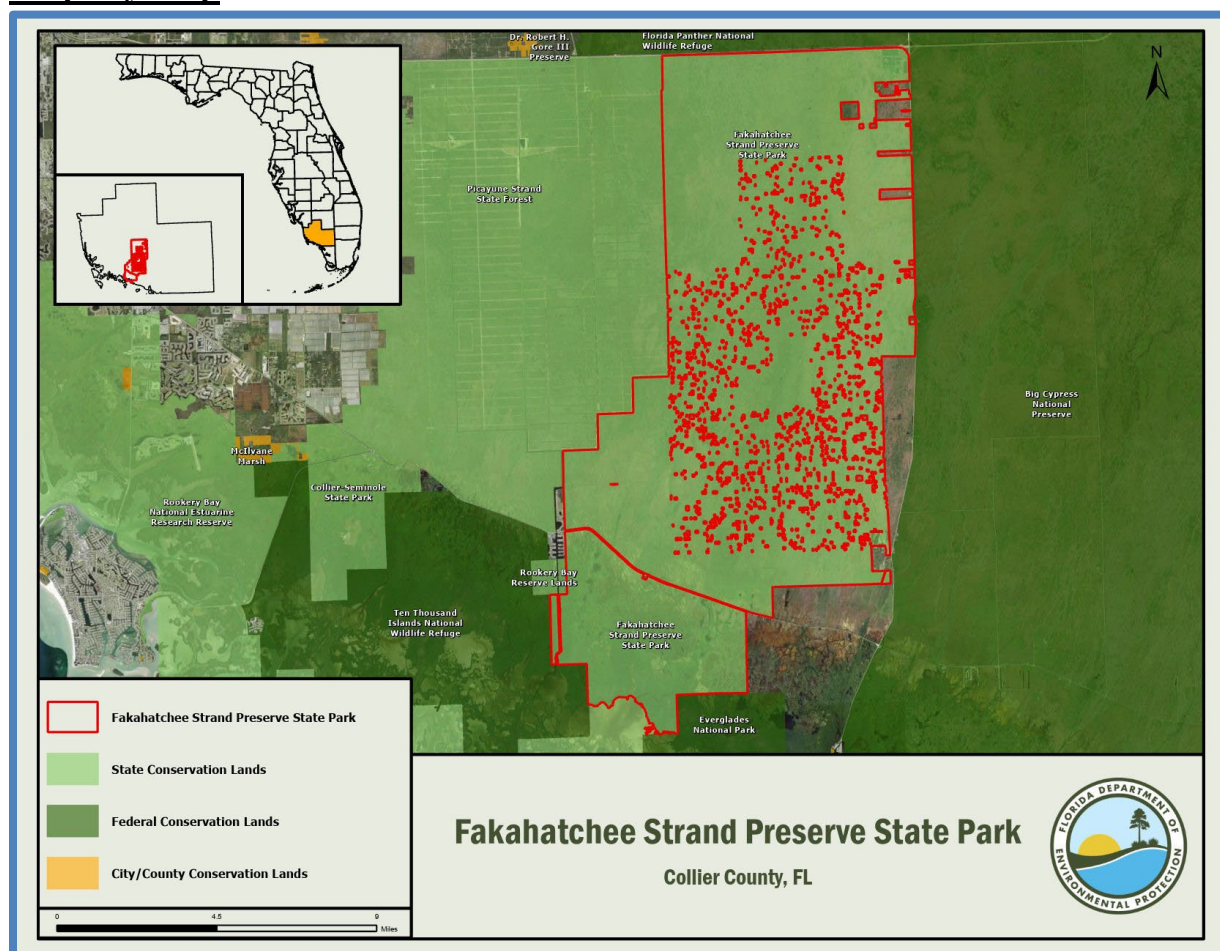
Review Team Members (voting)

- Tracy Muzyczka, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Travis Mangione, FWC
- Kelly Dino, DEP District
- Clark Ryals, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD
- Conservation Org., None
- Private Land Manager, None

Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Jeffrey Carter, DEP/RCP

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*.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.25	4.28
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.19	4.73
Hydrology	4.80	4.70
Imperiled Species	4.80	4.45
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.37	4.17
Cultural Resources	3.70	4.50
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.33	4.11
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.10	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for their ongoing work to grow, empower, and utilize their relationship with their CSO/Friends group and volunteers. (5+, 0-)
2. The team commends park staff for their very effective efforts to build strong supportive partnerships helping them manage their natural resources from both a systems and single species perspective. (5+, 0-)
3. The team commends the tremendous improvements that park staff have been doing to improve hydrologic/geologic function through broad monitoring efforts guiding park actions increasing water conveyance through the strategic installation of culverts throughout the park. (5+, 0-)
4. The team commends park staff for maintaining pristine habitat for black rail, florida panther, Everglades mink, and orchids. (5+, 0-)
5. The team commends park staff for growing interpretative and education opportunities with the new boardwalk and pavilions. (5+, 0-)
6. The team commends park staff for their utilization of workgroups to reduce the spread of exotics on the property. (5+, 0-)
7. The team commends park staff for their ability to actively engage volunteers and in turn provide educational outreach and opportunities for the public. (5+, 0-)
8. The team commends the efforts of park staff to continue the use of prescribed fire to maintain critical habitats within the park with limited staff and resources. (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 additional staff be allocated to help manage the new facility so that existing management efforts do not suffer. (5+, 0-)

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

2. The team recommends that staff conduct wildlife surveys to collect quantitative population/abundance data over opportunistic observations. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: Primary inventory and monitoring focus must be on species that require special management attention. An all-species inventory generally must be a lower priority than actually conducting actions to manage habitats. As needed, costs for an inventory will be included in the unit management plan, but can only be allocated as funds become available on a statewide priority needs basis.

3. The team recommends continuing the monitoring of rare and endangered species. (5+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: Monitoring of imperiled species will continue, as detailed in the Unit Management Plan.

Field Review Details

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, rockland hammock, dome swamp, glades marsh, mangrove swamp, marl prairie, prairie mesic hammock, salt marsh, slough, strand swamp, marsh lake, swamp lake, blackwater stream, and estuarine unconsolidated substrate.
2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general, and specifically orchids, bromeliads, and stately maidenfern.
3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
4. Cultural resources, specifically protection and preservation.
5. Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.
6. Restoration, specifically hydrological restoration, and cowhorn orchid restoration.
7. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.

8. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals and pest/pathogens.
9. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration, and water level alteration.
10. Ground water monitoring, specifically quantity.
11. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
12. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, signage, and law enforcement presence.
13. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically OHV use/unauthorized access, inholdings access, and inholdings and additions.
14. Public access, specifically roads, and parking.
15. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
16. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, buildings, and equipment.

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.

2026 Land Management Review Team Report for Lover’s Key State Park

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Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and (2) whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, F.S. In cases where the managed areas exceed 1,000 acres in size, such a review must be scheduled at least every five years. In conducting this review, a statutorily constructed review team “shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.”

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district or jurisdictional water management district, a conservation organization member, and a local private land manager.

Each Land Management Review Report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides the details of the property being reviewed as well as the overall results of the report. Section 2 provides details of the Field Review, in which the Review Team inspects the results of management actions on the site. Section 3 provides details of the Land Management Plan Review, in which the team determines the extent to which the Management Plan provides for and documents adequate natural and recreational resource protection.

Finally, each report may also contain an Appendix that lists individual team member comments. This is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts raised by individual team members, but not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the Land Management Review Team.

Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Lover's Key State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 1,397

County: Lee

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

Acquisition Program(s): SOC

Original Acquisition Date: 5/25/83

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/9/05

Review Date: 1/29/26

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Miranda Murphy, Asst. Park Manager

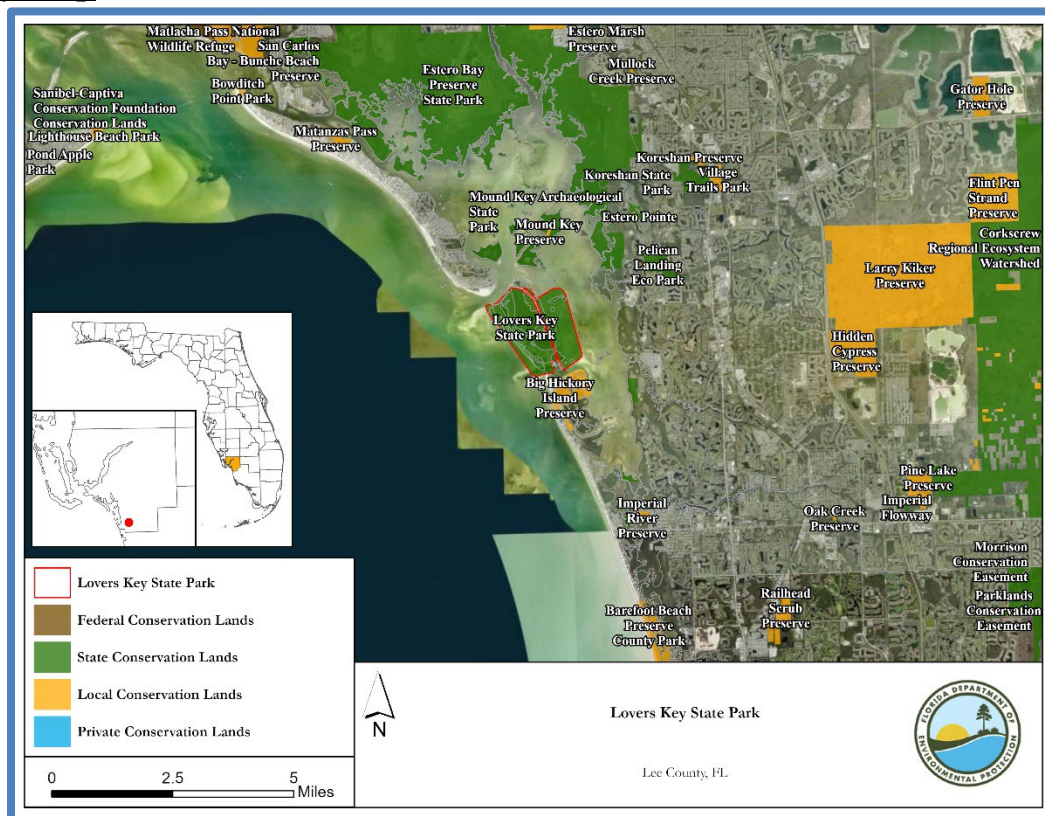
Review Team Members (voting)

- Karen Rogers, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Janell Brush, FWC
- Brie Coffman, DEP District
- Clark Ryals, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD
- Marlene Rodak, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Stephanie Erickson, DEP/RCP

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.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.69	3.76
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	5.00	2.33
Hydrology	4.00	2.83
Imperiled Species	4.69	3.66
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.75	3.31
Cultural Resources	4.62	4.40
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.62	3.91
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	4.22	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends Lover's Key SP staff for their efforts in treatment and removal of exotic invasive plants throughout the park. (6+, 0-)
2. The team commends the park staff for post-storm recovery of park infrastructure and restoration of natural habitats. (6+, 0-)
3. The team commends the park staff for their efforts in conservation and protection of imperiled breeding shorebirds. (6+, 0-)
4. The team commends the park staff for making good use of available space to offer hiking trails without affecting the preservation of nature habitat. (6+, 0-)

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

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

1. The team recommends that the staff coordinate with volunteers for monofilament fishing line removal of popular kayaking and fishing areas. (6+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *Agree. DRP will coordinate with FWC towards acquiring monofilament fishing line disposal kits for kayak and fishing areas.*

Field Review Details

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. Natural communities, specifically beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, marine tidal swamp, marine unconsolidated substrate, seagrass bed, and shell mound.
2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically imperiled shorebirds, sea turtles, manatee and gopher tortoise.
3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, listed species or their habitat monitoring, other nongame species of their habitat monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
5. Restoration, specifically dune restoration.
6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals and pests/pathogens.
7. Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts.
8. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality.
9. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage, and law enforcement presence.
10. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically dog beach, and inholdings and additions.
11. Public access, specifically roads, parking, and boat access.
12. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
13. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, 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.

Field Review Checklist and Scores

Field Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Natural Communities (I.A)										
Beach Dune	I.A.1	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Coastal Strand	I.A.2	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Maritime Hammock	I.A.3	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Marine Tidal Swamp	I.A.4	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.5	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Sea Grass Bed	I.A.6	5	2	5	5	3	5			4.17
Shell Mound	I.A.7	5	3	5	4	3	5			4.17
Natural Communities Average Score										4.69
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Imperiled Shorebird spp.	I.B.1.a	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Sea Turtles	I.B.1.b	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Manatee	I.B.1.c	5	3	5	5	4	5			4.50
Gopher Tortoise	I.B.1.d	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Plants	I.B.2	5	5	4	5	4	5			4.67
Listed Species Average Score										4.69
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Sport fish or their habitat monitoring	I.C.1	5	1	4	5	x	5			4.00
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	4	4	5	4	5			4.50
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	5	4	4	5	4	x			4.40
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.62
Restoration (III.B)										
Dune Restoration	III.B.1	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Restoration Average Score										5.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
control - animals	III.D.2.b	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	5	4	5	5	3	5			4.50
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.75
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	4		4	4	3	5			4.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										4.00

Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	4	3	5	4	3	5			4.00
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										4.00
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Signage	III.F.3	5	5	4	5	3	5			4.50
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	5	4	4	4	3	5			4.17
Resource Protection Average Score										4.50
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Dog Beach	III.G.1.a	5	3	4	4	3	5			4.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	4	5	4	5	3	x			4.20
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Parking	IV.1.b	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Boat Access	IV.1.c	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	5	5	4	5	4	5			4.67
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	5	5	4	5	3	5			4.50
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.74
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										
Waste disposal	V.1.a	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	5	5	4	5	3	5			4.50
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	4	4	4	5	3	5			4.17
Equipment	V.2.b	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Staff	V.3	4	4	3	4	3	5			3.83
Funding	V.4	4	3	3	3	3	5			3.50
Management Resources Average Score										4.22

Color Code:

Excellent	Above Average	Below Average	Poor
	Missing Vote	Insufficient Information	

See Appendix A for detail

Land Management Plan Review Details

Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

1. Natural Communities, specifically sea grass bed, and shell mound, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address current or desired condition and/or future management actions to protect or restore.

Managing Agency Response: Natural communities including seagrass bed and shell mound will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

2. Listed Species protection and preservation, specifically gopher tortoise, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address protection and preservation of listed species.

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

3. Natural Resource Survey and Monitoring Resources, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, and other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address survey or monitoring.

Managing Agency Response: Natural Resources Survey, specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, and other non-game species of their habitat monitoring will be more thoroughly addressed in the next plan update. This would include coordination with FWC, the agency that regulates sportfish, to request that any regional survey and monitoring of sportfish and their habitat include waters within or in vicinity of the park. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

4. Restoration, specifically dune restoration, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether restoration efforts are adequate.

Managing Agency Response: Restoration including beach dune restoration/revegetation will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. The current management

plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

5. Non-native, Invasive & Problem Species, specifically prevention of animals, and pests/pathogens, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address prevention of invasive species.

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

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

Managing Agency Response: Surface water monitoring, specifically for quality and quantity, will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. Park and District staff will not be able to maintain a water quality monitoring program on their own. Instead, staff will attempt to enlist assistance of the Water Management District (or local Water Authority or local health department) to assist the park in regular water quality/quantity monitoring. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

7. Resource Protection, specifically gates & fencing, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address resource protection.

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

8. Adjacent Property Concerns, specifically dog beach, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address adjacent property.

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

Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores

Plan Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Natural Communities (I.A)										
Beach Dune	I.A.1	5	3	4	5	3	5			4.17
Coastal Strand	I.A.2	5	4	4	5	3	5			4.33
Maritime Hammock	I.A.3	5	4	4	5	3	5			4.33
Marine Tidal Swamp	I.A.4	5	3	4	5	3	4			4.00
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.5	5	3	4	5	3	5			4.17
Sea Grass Bed	I.A.6	4	2	3	2	3	3			2.83
Shell Mound	I.A.7	4	3	3	1	3	1			2.50
Natural Communities Average Score										3.76
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	5	4	4	3	4	4			4.00
Imperiled Shorebird spp.	I.B.1.a	4	5	5	5	4	4			4.50
Sea Turtles	I.B.1.b	4	4	5	4	4	4			4.17
Manatee	I.B.1.c	4	3	3	2	4	4			3.33
Gopher Tortoise	I.B.1.d	3	2	2	1	3	2			2.17
Plants	I.B.2	4	4	4	5		2			3.80
Listed Species Average Score										3.66
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Sport fish or their habitat monitoring	I.C.1	1	1	3	1		1			1.40
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	4	4	5	4		3			4.00
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	2	3	3	3		2			2.60
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	3	3	5		4			4.00
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	4	5	5		5			4.80
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	4	4	4	5		4			4.20
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	3	5	5		5			4.60
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.40
Restoration (III.B)										
Dune Restoration	III.B.1	1	3	5	1	3	1			2.33
Restoration Average Score										2.33
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	2	4	5	2	3	2			3.00
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	2	3	5	2	3	2			2.83
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	2	3	3	2	2	2			2.33
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	4	4	5	5	3	4			4.17
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	3	5	5	3	4			4.00
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	3	4	5	2	3			3.50
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										3.31
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	5		4	3		4			4.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										4.00

Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	1	1	3	1	3	1			1.67
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										1.67
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	4	5	5	3	4			4.33
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	3	3	2	3	2			2.83
Signage	III.F.3	4	3	3	5	3	3			3.50
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	5	3	3	2	3	4			3.33
Resource Protection Average Score										3.50
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Dog Beach	III.G.1.a	2	3	3	2	3	2			2.50
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	4	5	4	5	3	x			4.20
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.G.3	3	5	5	1	3	x			3.40
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.G.4	4	5	5	1	3	x			3.60
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Parking	IV.1.b	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Boat Access	IV.1.c	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	5	3	5	1	5	5			4.00
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	5	3	5	1	5	5			4.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	5	3	5	1	5	5			4.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	5	3	5	1	4	5			3.83
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	4	5	4	4	5			4.50
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	5	3	5	5	4	5			4.50
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.31
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Beach Recreation	VI.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	4			4.83
Boating/Paddling	VI.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Geocaching	VI.A.3	5	5	4	5	5	5			4.83
Picnicking	VI.A.4	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Nature Study / Tours	VI.A.5	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Bicycling	VI.A.6	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Fishing	VI.A.7	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Hiking	VI.A.8	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Wildlife Observation	VI.A.9	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Natural Resource Conservation	VI.A.10	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Cultural Resource Conservation	VI.A.11	5	3	5	5	5	5			4.67
Proposed Uses										
Visitor Center	VI.B.1	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00

Color Code:

Excellent

Above
Average

Below
Average

Poor

Missing Vote	Insufficient Information
-----------------	-----------------------------

See
Appendix A
for detail

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*

Charlotte Harbor Region

2025 Land Management Review Team Report for Cayo Costa State Park

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Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and (2) whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, F.S. In cases where the managed areas exceed 1,000 acres in size, such a review must be scheduled at least every five years. In conducting this review, a statutorily constructed review team “shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.”

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district or jurisdictional water management district, a conservation organization member, and a local private land manager.

Each Land Management Review Report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides the details of the property being reviewed as well as the overall results of the report. Section 2 provides details of the Field Review, in which the Review Team inspects the results of management actions on the site. Section 3 provides details of the Land Management Plan Review, in which the team determines the extent to which the Management Plan provides for and documents adequate natural and recreational resource protection.

Finally, each report may also contain an Appendix that lists individual team member comments. This is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts raised by individual team members, but not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the Land Management Review Team.

Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Cayo Costa State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 2,458

County: Lee

Purpose(s) for Acquisition: To develop, operate and maintain the property for outdoor recreational, park, conservation, historic, and related purposes.

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

Original Acquisition Date: 9/7/76

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 12/9/05

Review Date: 2/13/25

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Byron Maxwell, Park Manager

- Jacob Wozny, ES I

Review Team Members (voting)

- Natalie Bergeron, DRP District
- Tyler Marzella, Local Gov't.
- Kylie Wilson, FWC
- Olivia Yagy, DEP District

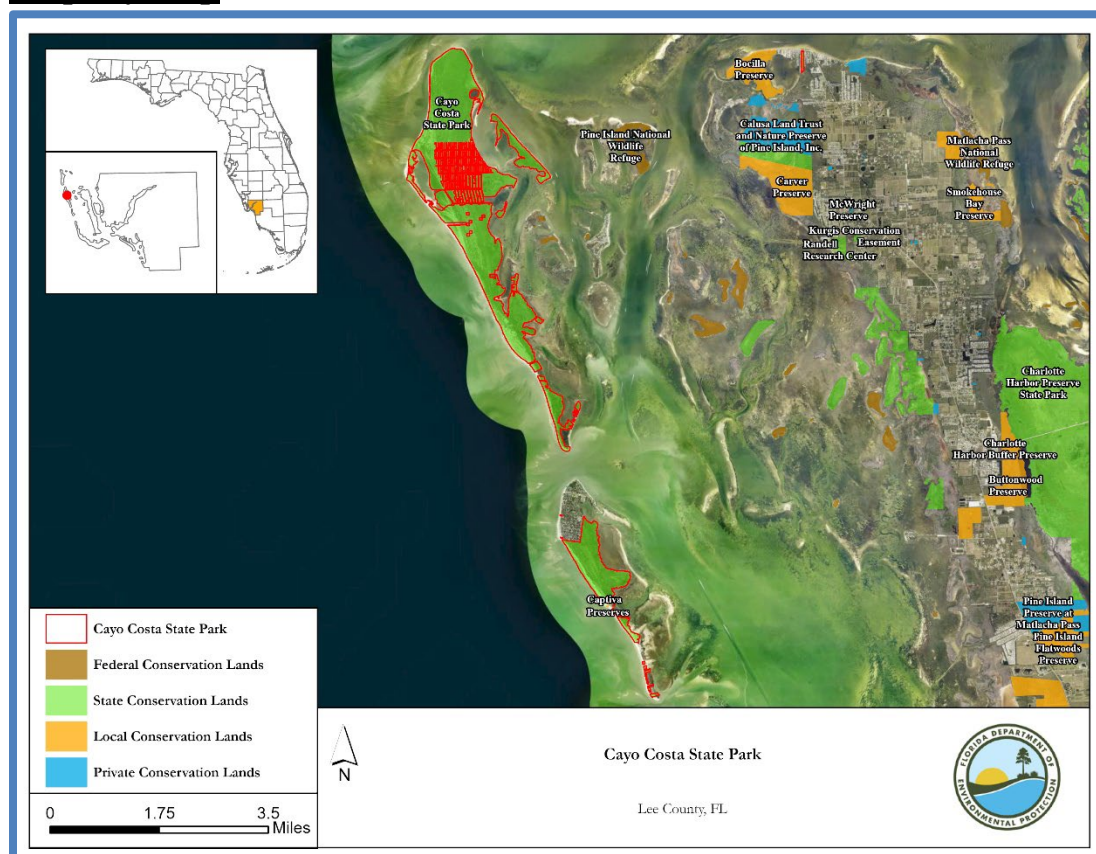
- Clark Ryals, FFS
- Marie Dessources, SFWMD
- Emily Harrington, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Jason O'Donoghue, DOS/DHR

- Arielle Taylor-Manges, DEP/RCP

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.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.27	3.92
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	2.61	2.89
Hydrology	3.38	2.70
Imperiled Species	4.19	3.03
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.55	3.28
Cultural Resources	4.92	4.67
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	3.76	3.49
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.67	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

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) on their invasive plant control program on Cayo Costa with the limited amount of personnel and funding they receive. (7+, 0-)
2. The team commends the staff for their ability to effectively manage the park given the obvious logistical and transportation difficulties involved. (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 the FPS supplement with mechanical treatment to maintain the native understory when and where fire is not feasible. (7+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: *Park management will consider mechanical treatment where fire is not feasible to reduce fuel loads and maintain the natural community biodiversity. Park management will assess additional areas of the park impacted by recent storms that may benefit from prescribed fire.*

2. The team recommends the FPS coordinate with Lee County to stay informed on new development/construction permits and proactively follow up with a plan to survey and fence the park boundary prior to or after private land construction. (7+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: The Division will coordinate with Lee County to identify new development/permits and with DSL to identify survey needs of state park boundaries. The park has recently coordinated with DSL to conduct property boundary surveys in vicinity of Faulkner Mound and other private inholdings where encroachments have occurred. The Division will install fences as needed on park property to address park operational and maintenance needs.

Field Review Details

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. Natural communities, specifically beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, coastal grasslands, shell mound, marine tidal swamp, and marine unconsolidated substrate.
2. Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically shorebirds, sea turtles, and gopher tortoise.
3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, other non-game species or their habitat monitoring, and invasive species survey and monitoring.
4. Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, and protection and preservation.
5. Forest management, specifically timber inventory.
6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pest/pathogens.
7. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey.
8. Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development.
9. Public access, specifically boat access.
10. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
11. Management resources, specifically waste disposal, and sanitary facilities.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

1. *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: Prescribed fires have not occurred at Cayo Costa State Park within the optimum fire return interval due to difficulty of access to the site. The large number of private inholdings is also a complicating factor that limits fire management options/strategies in the event of

naturally occurring fires. Park staff have been preparing the site for a prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads and maintain fire dependent communities. In addition, park management is assessing other areas that may benefit from prescribed fire, ensuring staff are receiving fire trainings and certifications, and working with private landowners to educate them about the importance of prescribed burning in reducing fuel loads. Park management has also provided them with information about wildfire prevention measures that the homeowners can implement around their properties to assist with protection of their home in case of a wildfire.

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

Managing Agency Response: Law enforcement assistance must be obtained through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement or from a local law enforcement agency. Park staff have been requesting assistance and will continue to request additional presence to protect resources as necessary.

Field Review Checklist and Scores

Field Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Beach Dune	I.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Coastal Berm	I.A.2	3	4	3	5	3	5			3.83
Coastal Strand	I.A.3	4	4	4	5	4	5			4.33
Maritime Hammock	I.A.4	4	4	4	4	3	5			4.00
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.5	3	4	3	3	3	5			3.50
Coastal Grasslands	I.A.6	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Shell Mound	I.A.7	4	4	3	5	5	5			4.33
Depression Marsh	I.A.8	4	4	4	4	3	4			3.83
Marine Tidal Swamp (Mangrove Swamp)	I.A.9	5	5	5	5	3	5			4.67
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.10	5	5	5	5	5	X			5.00
Natural Communities Average Score										4.33
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	4	5	3	4	4	5			4.17
Shore Birds	I.B.1.a	5	5	4	4	4	4			4.33
Sea Turtles	I.B.1.b	5	5	4	5	5	5			4.83
Gopher Tortoise	I.B.1.c	5	4	3	4	4	4			4.00
Indigo Snake	I.B.1.d	4	4	3	3	4	4			3.67
Plants	I.B.2	5	4	3	4	4	5			4.17
Listed Species Average Score										4.19
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	4	3	5	4	5			4.33

Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	4	4	3	4	4	5			4.00
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	3	3	3	3	4	4			3.33
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	4	4	4	4	4	5			4.17
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	5	5	5	5	4	5			4.83
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.92
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	2	4	3	1	2	4			2.67
Frequency	III.A.2	2	4	2	1	2	4			2.50
Quality	III.A.3	2	4	3	1	2	4			2.67
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										2.61
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	x	4	3	5	4	5			4.20
Forest Management Average Score										4.20
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	5	4	4	5	5	5			4.67
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	5	4	3	5	5	5			4.50
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	5	4	3	5	x	5			4.40
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	5	4	5	4	5			4.67
control - animals	III.D.2.b	5	5	4	5	4	5			4.67
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	5	3	5	x	5			4.40
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.55
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)										
Ground water quality	III.E.2.a	4	4	3	3	x	X			3.50
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score										3.50
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	3	4	3	3	x	X			3.25
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										3.25
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	4	4	4	4	x	5			4.20
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	2	4	3	3	x	5			3.40
Signage	III.F.3	4	3	3	2	4	5			3.50
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	3	3	2	2	2	4			2.67
Resource Protection Average Score										3.44
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	5	2	4	4		5			4.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	5	2	x	3		5			3.75
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										

Public Access										
Boat Access	IV.1.c	4	4	4	5	4	5			4.33
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	5	5	3	3	4	5			4.17
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	5	4	3	3	4	5			4.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	4	4	3	3	4	5			3.83
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	4	4	2	3	4	5			3.67
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	3	5	4	5	4	5			4.33
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	5	3	4	4	5			4.17
Public Access & Education Average Score										4.07
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										
Waste disposal	V.1.a	4	4	4	4	4	X			4.00
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	5	5	4	4	4	5			4.50
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	4	3	3	5	3	X			3.60
Equipment	V.2.b	5	3	3	4	3	X			3.60
Staff	V.3	3	2	3	3	4	4			3.17
Funding	V.4	4	2	3	3	4	3			3.17
Management Resources Average Score										3.67
Color Code:		Excellent	Above Average		Below Average		Poor		See Appendix A for detail	
			Missing Vote		Insufficient Information					

Land Management Plan Review Details

Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

1. *Listed Species protection and preservation, plants in general, and specifically gopher tortoise, and indigo snake received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address protection and preservation of listed species.*

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

2. *Resource Management prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, and quality, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address prescribed fire needs.*

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

3. *Non-native, Invasive & Problem Species, specifically prevention and control pests/pathogens, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address prevention of invasive species.*

Managing Agency Response: Non-native, invasive and Problem Species including prevention of pests/pathogens and control of plants and pests/pathogens will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update. Surveys and control efforts are routinely updated in the DRP's Natural Resources Tracking System (NRTS). The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18-2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

4. *Ground Water Monitoring, specifically quality, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address ground water monitoring.*

Managing Agency Response: Ground water monitoring will be more thoroughly addressed in the next management plan update, including identification of monitoring wells in vicinity of the park maintained by the SFWMD. The current management plan was reviewed by the relevant agencies and was in full compliance with Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., and Chapter 18- 2, F.A.C., when it was approved by ARC.

5. *Surface Water Monitoring, specifically quality, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address surface water monitoring.*

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

6. *Resource Protection, specifically gates & fencing, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address resource protection..*

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

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

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

Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores

Plan Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Beach Dune	I.A.1	5	5	5	4	4	5			4.67
Coastal Berm	I.A.2	3	5	4	4	4	5			4.17
Coastal Strand	I.A.3	4	5	4	5	4	5			4.50
Maritime Hammock	I.A.4	4	4	4	4	4	5			4.17
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.5	3	4	4	5	4	5			4.17
Coastal Grasslands	I.A.6	4	4	5	4	4	5			4.33
Shell Mound	I.A.7	4	5	4	4	4	5			4.33
Depression Marsh	I.A.8	4	4	4	5	4	4			4.17
Marine Tidal Swamp (Mangrove Swamp)	I.A.9	4	5	4	5	4	4			4.33
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.10	4	5	5	5	4	4			4.50
Natural Communities Average Score										4.33
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	3	4	3	4	3	4			3.50
Shore Birds	I.B.1.a	3	3	4	5	3	4			3.67
Sea Turtles	I.B.1.b	3	4	4	5	3	5			4.00
Gopher Tortoise	I.B.1.c	3	1	3	1	2	3			2.17
Indigo Snake	I.B.1.d	3	1	3	1	2	3			2.17
Plants	I.B.2	3	1	2	2	3	5			2.67
Listed Species Average Score										3.03
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	3	3	4	3	4	4			3.50
Other non-game species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.3	3	3	3	3	4	4			3.33
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	3	2	3	3	4	4			3.17
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	4	4	4	3	4	5			4.00
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	4	5	5	4	5			4.67
Cultural Resources Average Score										4.67
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	3	2	3	2	3	4			2.83
Frequency	III.A.2	3	2	3	3	3	4			3.00
Quality	III.A.3	3	2	3	2	3	4			2.83
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										2.89
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	3	4	3	3	4	4			3.50

Forest Management Average Score										3.50
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	5	2	3	2	3	5			3.33
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	5	3	3	2	3	5			3.50
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	3	2	3	2	3	4			2.83
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	5	2	3	3	3	5			3.50
control - animals	III.D.2.b	5	3	3	3	3	5			3.67
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	2	3	2	2	4			2.83
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										3.28
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)										
Ground water quality	III.E.2.a	3	2	3	2	3	X			2.60
Ground Water Monitoring Average Score										2.60
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	3	3	3	2	3	X			2.80
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										2.80
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	3	5	4	3	2	4			3.50
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	3	2	3	3	2	4			2.83
Signage	III.F.3	3	2	3	3	3	4			3.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	3	2	3	3	3	4			3.00
Resource Protection Average Score										3.08
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	4	2	4	4	4	4			3.67
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	5	2	4	5	4	4			4.00
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.G.3	3	2	3	2	2	5			2.83
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.G.4	4	4	3	4	4	4			3.83
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Boat Access	IV.1.c	5	3	4	4	4	4			4.00
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	4	3	4	4	4	4			3.83
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	4	3	3	4	4	4			3.67
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	3	3	4	4	4	4			3.67
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	4	3	4	4	4	4			3.83
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	3	5	5	4	5			4.33
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	4	3	4	4	4	5			4.00
Public Access & Education Average Score										3.90
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Swimming	VI.A.1	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Fishing	VI.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00

Sunbathing	VI.A.3	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Shell Collecting	VI.A.4	5	5	4	3	5	4			4.33
Wildlife Viewing	VI.A.5	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Camping (tent/cabin)	VI.A.6	5	4	5	5	5	5			4.83
Picnicking	VI.A.7	5	5	4	5	4	5			4.67
Boating	VI.A.8	5	5	5	5	5	5			5.00
Hiking/biking	VI.A.9	5	5	4	5	5	5			4.83

Color Code:

Excellent

Above
Average

Below
Average

Poor

Missing
Vote

Insufficient
Information

See
Appendix A
for detail

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*

2024 Land Management Review Team Report for Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

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Introduction

Section 259.036, F.S. requires a periodic on-site review of conservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees to determine (1) whether the lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and (2) whether they are being managed in accordance with their land management plan adopted pursuant to s. 259.032, F.S. In cases where the managed areas exceed 1,000 acres in size, such a review must be scheduled at least every five years. In conducting this review, a statutorily constructed review team “shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.”

The land management review teams are coordinated by the Division of State Lands and consist of representatives from the Division of Recreation and Parks (DEP), the Florida Forest Service (DACS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the local government in which the property is located, the DEP District in which the parcel is located, the local soil and water conservation district or jurisdictional water management district, a conservation organization member, and a local private land manager.

Each Land Management Review Report is divided into three sections. Section 1 provides the details of the property being reviewed as well as the overall results of the report. Section 2 provides details of the Field Review, in which the Review Team inspects the results of management actions on the site. Section 3 provides details of the Land Management Plan Review, in which the team determines the extent to which the Management Plan provides for and documents adequate natural and recreational resource protection.

Finally, each report may also contain an Appendix that lists individual team member comments. This is a compilation of feedback, concerns or other thoughts raised by individual team members, but not necessarily indicative of the final consensus reached by the Land Management Review Team.

Property Reviewed in this Report

Name of Site: Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 42,475

County: Charlotte/Lee

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

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

Original Acquisition Date: 12/7/77

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 6/15/07

Review Date: 6/18/24

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Nicole Ross, Park Manager

- Taylor Smith, ESII

Review Team Members (voting)

- Tracy Muzyczka, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Hunter Folmar, FWC
- Sarah Marra, DEP District

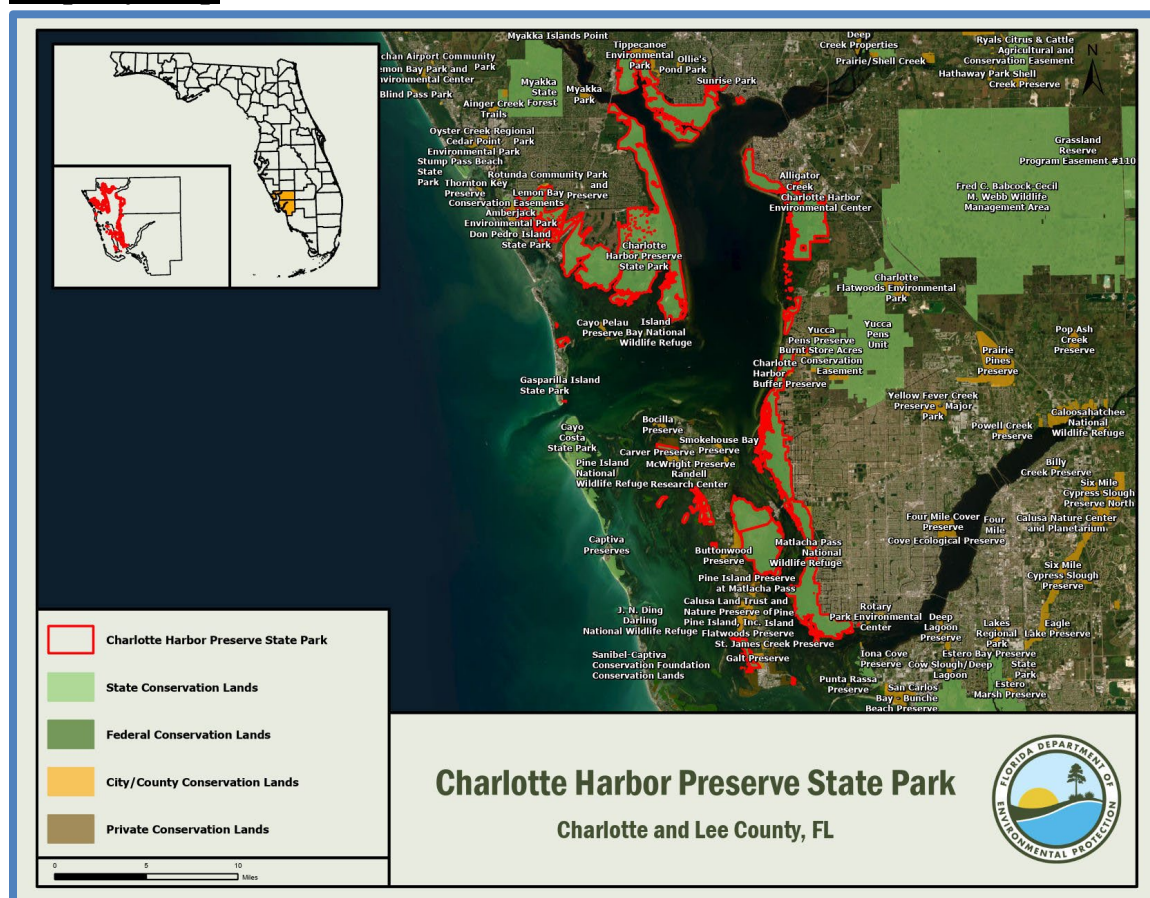
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Felicia Nudo, SWFWMD
- Sanford Siegel, Conservation Org.
- Private Land Manager, None

Non-Team Members (attending)

- Keith Singleton, DEP/DSL
- Michael Sowinski, FWC/IPM

- Bob Siegel, FNPS

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.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	3.15	4.33
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.38	3.54
Hydrology	3.64	3.44
Imperiled Species	4.53	4.39
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.09	3.75
Cultural Resources	3.92	4.08
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	3.97	3.54
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	3.65	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

Consensus Commendations for the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for preserving natural and cultural resources on such a large site with extremely limited staff numbers. (6+, 0-)
2. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for introducing prescribed fires in fire excluded areas and striving to increase acres burned. (6+, 0-)
3. The team commends the Florida Park Service (FPS) staff for their invasive plant management program. (6+, 0-)

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

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

1. The team recommends that the UMP is updated as well as updating the Timber Assessment. (6+, 0-)

Managing Agency Response: The Division is currently in the process of updating the Unit Management Plan for all District 4 parks and will address all recommendations in the 2025 update.

Field Review Details

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. **Natural communities, specifically coastal berm, mesic flatwoods, scrub, shell mound, and depression marsh.**
2. **Listed species, animals and plants in general, and specifically bald eagle, scrub jay, and beautiful pawpaw.**
3. **Natural resources survey/monitoring resources, specifically listed species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring and invasive species survey/monitoring.**
4. **Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey.**
5. **Resource management (prescribed fire), specifically area being burned, frequency, and quality.**
6. **Restoration, specifically the Alligator Creek restoration plan, and Coral Creek restoration.**
7. **Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants and animals.**
8. **Hydro-alteration, specifically roads/culverts, ditches, and hydroperiod alteration.**
9. **Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage.**
10. **Adjacent property concerns, land use, specifically expanding development, and inholdings and additions.**
11. **Environmental education and outreach, specifically invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, and recreational opportunities.**
12. **Management resources, specifically waste disposal, sanitary facilities, and equipment.**

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

1. ***Forest Management, specifically timber inventory, and timber harvesting received below average scores. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on information provided by the managing agency, whether forest management is sufficient.***

Managing Agency Response: The Division is currently in the process of updating the Unit Management Plan for all District 4 parks and will address all recommendations in the update.

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

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

Field Review Checklist and Scores

Field Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Coastal Berm	I.A.1	4	4	5	X	4	3			4.00
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.2	3	4	5	4	4	4			4.00
Scrub	I.A.3	4	4	5	4	4	4			4.17
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.4	3	4	5	3	4	4			3.83
Shell Mound	I.A.5	5	4	5	X	4	3			4.20
Depression Marsh	I.A.6	4	4	5	3	4	3			3.83
Hydric Hammock	I.A.7	4	4	5	4	4	3			4.00
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.8	3	4	5	3	4	4			3.83
Wet Prairie	I.A.9	3	4	5	4	4	3			3.83
Salt Marsh	I.A.10	3	4	X	3	5	4			3.80
Mangrove Swamp	I.A.11	4	4	X	X	4	3			3.75
Estuarine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.12	x	4	3	X	4	3			3.50
Mesic Hammock	I.A.13	3	4	X	3	4	3			3.40
Natural Communities Average Score										3.86
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	5	5		4	4	4			4.40
Scrub Jay	I.B.1.a	5	5	5	4	4	4			4.50
Bald Eagle	I.B.1.b	5	5	5	5	4	4			4.67
Plants	I.B.2	5	5		4	3	5			4.40
Beautiful Pawpaw	I.B.2.a	5	5	5	4	4	5			4.67
Listed Species Average Score										4.53
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	5	4	5	4	4	4			4.33
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	5	5	5	4	4	5			4.67
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	5	X	4	4	4	4			4.20
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	4	4	5	4	5			4.50
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	3	4	5	4	5			4.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	3	3	4	5	4	4			3.83
Cultural Resources Average Score										3.92
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	3	5	5	4	5	4			4.33
Frequency	III.A.2	3	5	5	4	4	4			4.17
Quality	III.A.3	3	5	5	4	5	5			4.50
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										4.33

Restoration (III.B)										
Alligator Creek Restoration Plan	III.B.1	4	5	4	4	4	5			4.33
Coral Creek Restoration	III.B.2	4	4	5	5	4	5			4.50
Restoration Average Score										4.42
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	2	3	2	3	2	4			2.67
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	2	X	1	2	2	4			2.20
Forest Management Average Score										2.43
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	3	5	4	3	4	5			4.00
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	3	5	4	3	4	5			4.00
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	3	5	3	X	3	3			3.40
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	4	5	5	5	4	5			4.67
control - animals	III.D.2.b	4	5	5	5	4	5			4.67
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	4	5	5	3	3	3			3.83
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										4.09
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	3	5	4	4	5	4			4.17
Ditches	III.E.1.b	4	5	4	4	5	4			4.33
Hydro-period Alteration	III.E.1.c	3	5	5	4	5	4			4.33
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										4.28
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	2	1	5	2	3	5			3.00
Surface water quantity	III.F.3.b	2	1	5	2	3	5			3.00
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										3.00
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1	4	3	5	5	4	5			4.33
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	4	2	5	4	4	5			4.00
Signage	III.F.3	4	3	4	4	4	5			4.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	4	3	4	3	4	4			3.67
Resource Protection Average Score										4.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	4	4	5	5	3	5			4.33
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2		4	5	4		5			4.50
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	3	2	5	4	4	5			3.83
Parking	IV.1.b	3	1	5	4	4	5			3.67
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	5	1	5	4	3	5			3.83
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	5	3	5	4	3	5			4.17

Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	5	3	5	4	3	5			4.17
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	5	3	5	3	3	5			4.00
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	3	5	3	4	5			4.17
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	5	2	4	3	3	5			3.67
Public Access & Education Average Score										3.94
Management Resources (V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4)										
Maintenance										
Waste disposal	V.1.a	5	3	5	5	3	x			4.20
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	5	3	5	5	3	x			4.20
Infrastructure										
Buildings	V.2.a	2	3	5	4	4	5			3.83
Equipment	V.2.b	2	3	5	5	4	5			4.00
Staff	V.3	2	2	5	3	1	3			2.67
Funding	V.4	2	2	5	3	3	3			3.00
Management Resources Average Score										3.65
Color Code:		Excellent	Above Average		Below Average		Poor		See Appendix A for detail	
			Missing Vote		Insufficient Information					

Land Management Plan Review Details

Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

1. *Restoration, specifically Coral Creek restoration, received a below average score. The review team is asked to evaluate, based on their perspective, whether restoration efforts are adequate.*

Managing Agency Response: The update of the UMP will address current and planned restoration. This will address restoration practices that are currently ongoing and areas of priority for the next period covered by the new UMP.

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

Managing Agency Response: As a whole, all properties within the boundaries of CHPSP are considered essential to the preservation and protection of Florida ecosystems and the health of Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. A line item within the updated UMP can address this and note that there are no known or perceived surplus lands.

3. *Public Access, Environmental Education & Outreach, specifically wildlife, received a below average score. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address public access and education.*

Managing Agency Response: The updated plan will describe the cooperation with Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) staff for educational outreach in further detail.

Management Plan Review Checklist and Scores

Plan Review Item	Reference #	Anonymous Team Members								Average
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Natural Communities (I.A)										
Coastal Berm	I.A.1	4	5	5	5	5	5			4.83
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.2	4	5	5	5	5	5			4.83
Scrub	I.A.3	4	5	5	4	5	5			4.67
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.4	4	5	5	4	5	5			4.67
Shell Mound	I.A.5	4	5	4	4	5	5			4.50
Depression Marsh	I.A.6	4	5	5	5	5	5			4.83
Hydric Hammock	I.A.7	4	5	4	5	5	5			4.67
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.8	4	5	4	5	5	5			4.67
Wet Prairie	I.A.9	4	5	5	4	5	5			4.67
Salt Marsh	I.A.10	4	5		4	5	5			4.60
Mangrove Swamp	I.A.11	4	5		3	5	5			4.40
Estuarine Unconsolidated Substrate	I.A.12	4	5	1	3	5	5			3.83
Mesic Hammock	I.A.13	4	5		1	5	5			4.00
Natural Communities Average Score										4.55
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)										
Animals	I.B.1	3	5		4	5	5			4.40
Scrub Jay	I.B.1.a	3	5	5	4	5	5			4.50
Bald Eagle	I.B.1.b	3	5	4	3	5	5			4.17
Plants	I.B.2	3	5		4	5	5			4.40
Beautiful Pawpaw	I.B.2.a	3	5	5	4	5	5			4.50
Listed Species Average Score										4.39
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)										
Listed species or their habitat monitoring	I.C.2	2	4	5	4	5	5			4.17
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	2	5	5	3	3	5			3.83
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	2	X	4	3	3	5			3.40
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	3	4	4	4	4	5			4.00
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A, II.B)										
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	3	4	4	5	5			4.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	3	3	4	5	5	5			4.17

Cultural Resources Average Score										4.08
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)										
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	2	5	4	4	4	5			4.00
Frequency	III.A.2	2	5	4	3	4	5			3.83
Quality	III.A.3	2	5	5	3	4	5			4.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire Average Score										3.94
Restoration (III.B)										
Alligator Creek Restoration Plan	III.B.1	2	5	4	2	4	5			3.67
Coral Creek Restoration	III.B.2	2	4	X	2	4	1			2.60
Restoration Average Score										3.13
Forest Management (III.C)										
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	4	3	5	3	5	4			4.00
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	4	X	5	3	5	4			4.20
Forest Management Average Score										4.10
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)										
Prevention										
prevention - plants	III.D.1.a	2	5	4	2	4	5			3.67
prevention - animals	III.D.1.b	2	5	4	1	4	5			3.50
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.D.1.c	2	5	4	1	4	5			3.50
Control										
control - plants	III.D.2.a	2	5	4	5	5	5			4.33
control - animals	III.D.2.b	2	5	4	4	5	5			4.17
control - pests/pathogens	III.D.2.c	2	5	4	1	3	5			3.33
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species Average Score										3.75
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)										
Roads/culverts	III.E.1.a	2	5	3	2	5	5			3.67
Ditches	III.E.1.b	2	5	4	3	5	5			4.00
Hydro-period Alteration	III.E.1.c	2	5	1	3	5	5			3.50
Hydrologic/Geologic function, Hydro-Alteration Average Score										3.72
Surface Water Monitoring (III.E.3)										
Surface water quality	III.E.3.a	2	1	4	2	5	5			3.17
Surface water quantity	III.E.3.b	2	1	4	2	5	5			3.17
Surface Water Monitoring Average Score										3.17
Resource Protection (III.F)										
Boundary survey	III.F.1		3	4	1	4	5			3.40
Gates & fencing	III.F.2		2	4	4	4	5			3.80
Signage	III.F.3		3	3	3	4	5			3.60
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4		3	5	4	4	5			4.20
Resource Protection Average Score										3.75
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)										
Land Use										
Expanding development	III.G.1.a	3	4	4	5	5	5			4.33
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	3	4	5	4	4	5			4.17

Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.G.3	1	4		1	2	5			2.60
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.G.4	3	X		1	2	5			2.75
Public Access & Education (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3, IV.4, IV.5)										
Public Access										
Roads	IV.1.a	3	2	5	3	4	5			3.67
Parking	IV.1.b	3	1	5	4	4	5			3.67
Environmental Education & Outreach										
Wildlife	IV.2.a	2	1	5	1	3	5			2.83
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	2	3	5	1	3	5			3.17
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	2	3	5	1	3	5			3.17
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	2	3	5	3	3	5			3.50
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	2	3	5	3	3	5			3.50
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	2	2	5	2	3	5			3.17
Public Access & Education Average Score										3.33
Managed Area Uses (VI.A, VI.B)										
Existing Uses										
Hiking	VI.A.1	4		5	5	5	5			4.80
Canoeing/Kayaking	VI.A.2	4		5	5	5	5			4.80
Picnicking	VI.A.3	4		5	5	5	5			4.80
Fishing	VI.A.4	5		5	5	5	5			5.00
Scientific Research	VI.A.5	4		5	5	5	5			4.80
Geocaching	VI.A.6	4		5	5	5	x			4.75
Proposed Uses										
Primitive Group Camping	VI.B.1	3		4	5	3	1			3.20

Color Code:

Excellent

Above
Average

Below
Average

Poor

Missing
Vote

Insufficient
Information

See
Appendix A
for detail

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*

Central Gulf Region

Terra Ceia Preserve State Park

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Acres: 1,948

County: Manatee

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

Acquisition Program(s): None (Donation)

Original Acquisition Date: 2/24/99

Area Reviewed: Entire Property

Last Management Plan Approval Date: 6/15/12

Review Date: 7/18/22

Agency Manager and Key Staff:

- Kevin Kiser, Manager
- Kathryn Smithson, Park Biologist
- Christin Meilink, Park Service Specialist

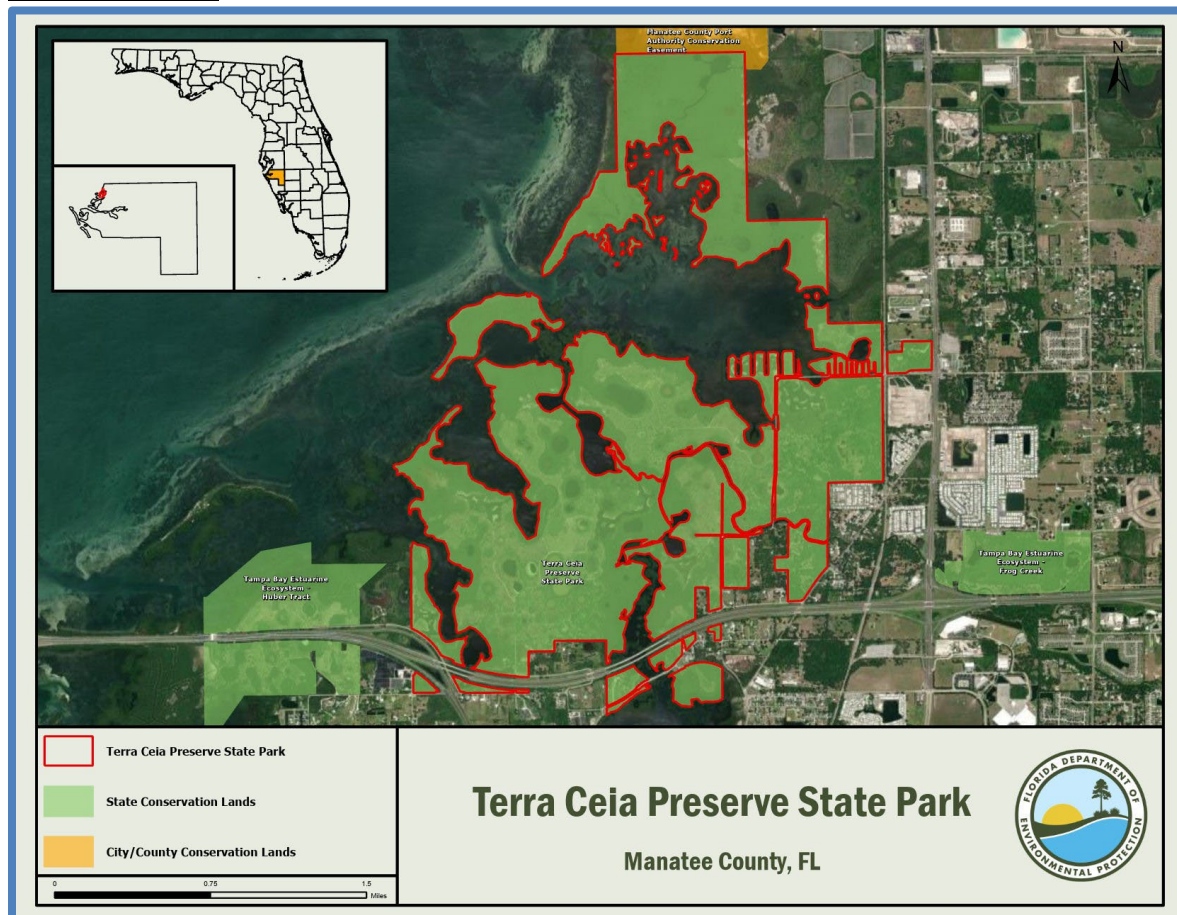
Review Team Members (voting)

- Tracy Muzyczka, DRP District
- Local Gov't., None
- Nick Jennings, FWC
- Marc Escudie, DEP District
- Mike Edwards, FFS
- Mark Maggard, SWFWMD
- Conservation Org., None
- 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*.

Table 1: Results at a glance.

Major Land Management Categories	Field Review	Management Plan Review
Natural Communities / Forest Management	4.11	4.39
Prescribed Fire / Habitat Restoration	4.43	4.33
Hydrology	3.90	3.78
Imperiled Species	5.00	4.38
Exotic / Invasive Species	4.53	4.37
Cultural Resources	3.20	4.10
Public Access / Education / Law Enforcement	4.11	3.84
Infrastructure / Equipment / Staffing	2.45	N/A
Color Code (See Appendix A for detail)		
Excellent	Above Average	Below Average
		Poor

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 developing a greenhouse for growing ground cover species to use for ground cover restoration project. (5+, 0-)
2. The team commends the staff on their feral hog removal efforts. It's been a dramatic change in the past few years from both a water quality and a land management standpoint. (5+, 0-)
3. The team commends staff for introducing fire into all 541 upland acres, mapping fire footprints over last 10 yrs, and meeting management goal to reclass and quantify fire type acres. (5+, 0-)

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

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

There were no consensus recommendations.

Field Review Details

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

1. Natural communities, specifically mesic flatwoods, coastal berm, coastal strand, maritime hammock, shell mound, hydric hammock, salt marsh, salt flat, mangrove swamp, blackwater stream, and estuarine unconsolidated substrate.
2. Listed species, listed animal and plant species in general.
3. Natural resources survey/monitoring resources; specifically sport fish or their habitat monitoring, listed species or their habitat monitoring, other nongame species or their habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects and invasive species/monitoring.
4. Prescribed fire, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.
5. Restoration, specifically hydrology restoration.
6. Non-native, invasive, and problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
7. Surface water monitoring, specifically quality, and quantity.
8. Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates and fencing, and signage.
9. Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development.
10. Public access, specifically boat access.
11. Environmental education and outreach, specifically wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

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

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

Managing Agency Response: Law enforcement assistance is obtained through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement or from a local law enforcement agency. Florida FWC law enforcement officers patrol the main roads through the preserve routinely. Park staff will request additional presence to protect resources as necessary. Signage to include general boating and fishing rules and regulations should be addressed in the next Unit Management Plan update with input from FWC law enforcement, to provide for better enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

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

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

Land Management Plan Review Details

Items Requiring Improvements in the Management Plan

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

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

Managing Agency Response: The next Unit Management plan updates will thoroughly review optimum boundary and potential lands for acquisition. Updates should expound on the responsibilities of Park, District, and Division staff, along with role of public agencies & private partnerships, in the acquisition of adjoining public land for conservation. As Park staff may be the first to know of property within optimum boundary available for purchase, and partnerships are often forged at the park level, it is important to communicate these potential opportunities to the appropriate Division staff for a timely and concerted response.

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

2. *Managed Area Uses, Proposed Uses, specifically group camping area, paddle-in primitive camping area, and concession area, received below average scores. This is an indication that the management plan does not sufficiently address managed area uses.*

Managing Agency Response: Terra Ceia Preserve is managed for passive recreational opportunities like hiking, wildlife viewing, boating, fishing and canoeing, but more extensive visitor services like concessions, group camping or primitive camping facilities were found to be incompatible with the cultural and natural resource management goals of the preserve at the time of the last Unit Management update. Updates to the next Management Plan will address whether primitive camping, group camping or concession operations are feasible with the current infrastructure, which lacks potable water, bathroom facilities, septic, or dedicated on-site staff.