KISSIMMEE BEND STATE FOREST
2025 LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A

Four-Year Management Accomplishment Summary

Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Four-Year Accomplishments

Invasive Control	Cogon Grass	Acres	1
Fire	Prescribed Burning	No.	3
		Acres	2,887
Boundary Maintenance	Maintenance/Marking	Miles	4
Other Activities	OOF Event	No.	1

Exhibit B

Boundary and Road Map

Florida Forest Service

Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Boundary & Road Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

0.25 0.125 0 Miles

N
W E
S

Map Month/Year: June 2023

1,000 500 0 Yards

Exhibit C

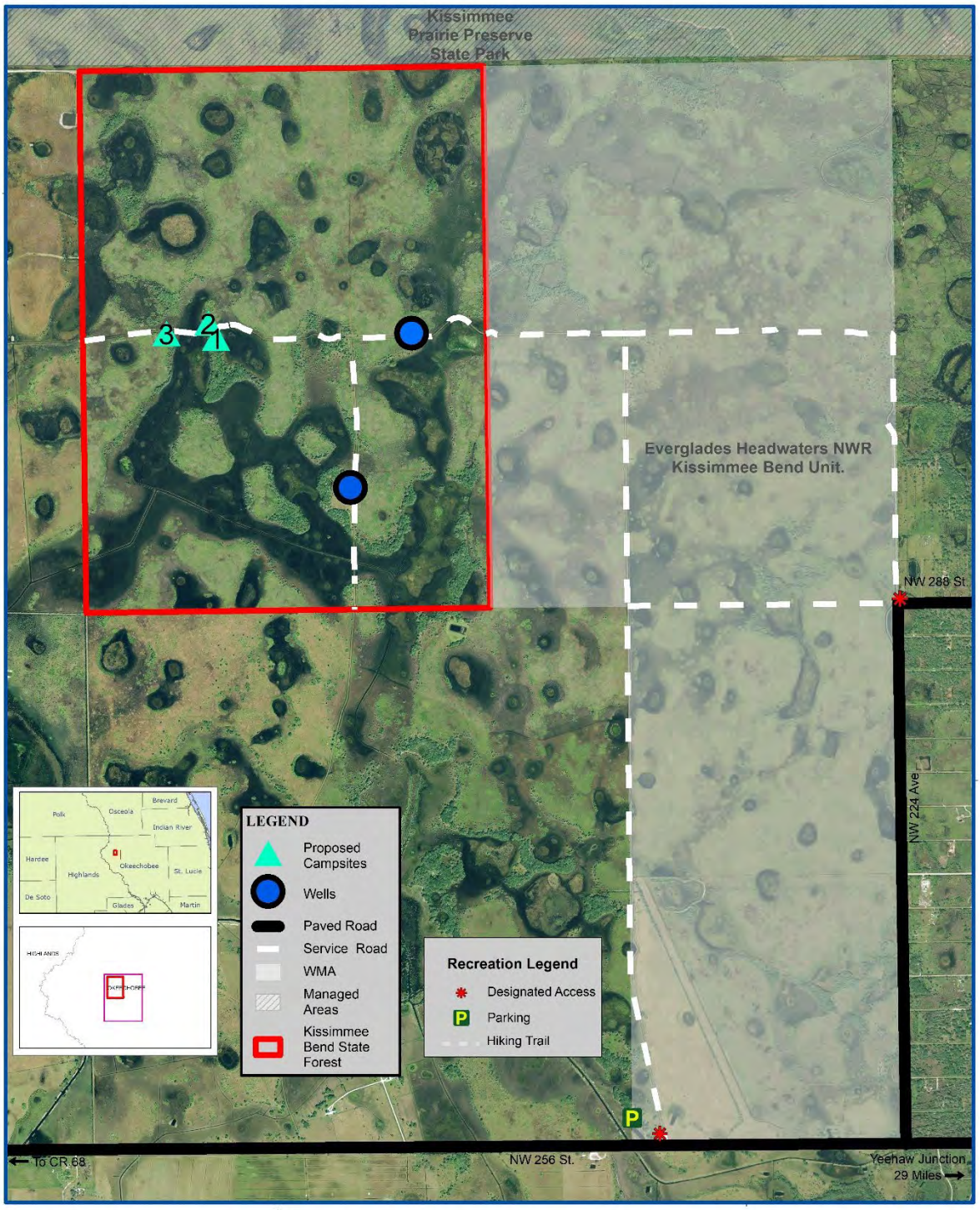
Facilities, Recreation, and Improvements Map

Florida Forest Service

Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Facilities, Recreation and Improvements Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum



0.25 0.125 0 0.25 Miles

N W E S

1,000 500 0 Yards

Map Month/Year: January 2024

Exhibit D

Florida Forever
Acquisition Project

Triple Diamond

Critical Natural Lands
Okeechobee

Year Added to Priority List	*2009*
Project Acres	*7,998*
Acquired Acres	*5,308*
Cost of Acquired Acres	*$4,200,000*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,690*
2021 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$11,374,666*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Triple Diamond project will preserve significant areas of endemic dry prairie and potential habitat for the endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Preserving this intact landscape would protect and maintain thousands of acres of high-quality habitat and provide recreational and research opportunities in an area of Florida known for its rare wildlife, imperiled natural communities, and significant hydrological values.

General Description

Triple Diamond is a working ranch and is exemplary in its retention of Florida's native prairie. Natural communities comprise 80 percent of the property and include basin marsh, depression marsh, dome swamp, dry and wet prairie, mesic hammock, and swales or sloughs. Dry prairie, endemic to this region of the state, is the most prevalent natural community within the project. A smaller acreage of wet prairie occurs as open, herbaceous areas occupying lower spots in the dry prairie and in ecotones between wetlands and the dry prairie. The dry prairie provides habitat for state and federally listed species such as gopher tortoise, Florida grasshopper sparrow and crested caracara. Dry and wet prairies make up approximately 42 percent of the property's acreage and comprise one of the largest blocks of native prairie remaining on private lands. Much of the Triple Diamond prairie has been burned frequently and is in excellent condition. Interconnected swale/slough and depression marsh wetlands form a branching network that spreads over the length and breadth of the property. There are also isolated depression/basin marshes scattered over the property. One small dome swamp is in the northeastern portion of the project. The canopy is dominated by mature pond cypress surrounding a small, disturbed pond. A two-story home is in the southwestern part of the site as part of a complex of management facilities that also includes an equipment barn and horse stables.

This project is bordered on the north by the Kissimmee River Prairie Preserve State Park. Other public lands nearby include Avon Park Air Force Range, Bombing Range Ridge, and the Kissimmee River to the west and Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area and Blue Cypress Conservation Area to the east. The

Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Florida Forever Project is also located within seven miles to the east of the property. Triple Diamond would contribute to a large, contiguous landscape-sized protection area of more than 200,000 acres.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2

Public Use

The Triple Diamond project has the potential of providing a diverse recreational experience. There is already a well-maintained road system occurring throughout the property and all the existing facilities can greatly enhance the recreational and research potential of the property. There is a potential for a full range of trail activities including nature trails, long distance hiking trails, bicycle trails and equestrian trails. Nature appreciation and wildlife observation and both primitive and facility camping could be supported. The infrastructure already on the property is in excellent shape and the existing residence could be converted to a spacious visitor/educational center. The barn and corrals could be used as part of an equestrian center for trail rides.

Acquisition Planning

2009

On June 12, 2009, ARC recommended that the Triple Diamond Ranch be added to the Florida Forever list as an A list project. In 2009, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of $23,007,107.

2010

On June 11, 2010, ARC placed this project into the Critical Natural Lands category.

2019

In 2019, DEP purchased 1,992 acres fee simple from the Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. The property is now managed as Kissimmee Bend State Forest.

In 2019, the USFWS acquired 2,003 acres to be managed as part of the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

2021

In 2021, the USFWS acquired 1,315 acres to be managed as part of the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner on this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of managing the Triple Diamond property are to protect and manage thousands of acres of high-quality habitats.

Manager(s)

DRP is the recommended manager of this site; it would be managed as a part of the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

This intact and well-managed landscape would allow protection and management of thousands of acres of high-quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare and imperiled wildlife, natural communities, and significant hydrological value. This project also has the potential for providing a diverse resource-based recreation experience.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The property should not require intense management in the short term; however, the buildings on the property will need to be maintained. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will increase as management emphasis shifts to a broader public use area with more use of the substantial infrastructure already on the property.

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure

Once the property is acquired and assigned to DRP, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicle access and management planning. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park will serve initially as a point of access for low intensity resource-based recreation (such as hiking). Consideration will be given in the management planning process for the provision of access from other locations to accommodate recreation development. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will in great part depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions and using established infrastructure.

Revenue-generating potential

The future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the use of the facilities already on the property. Vendors for future operation of the equestrian facility and two-story house will be considered.

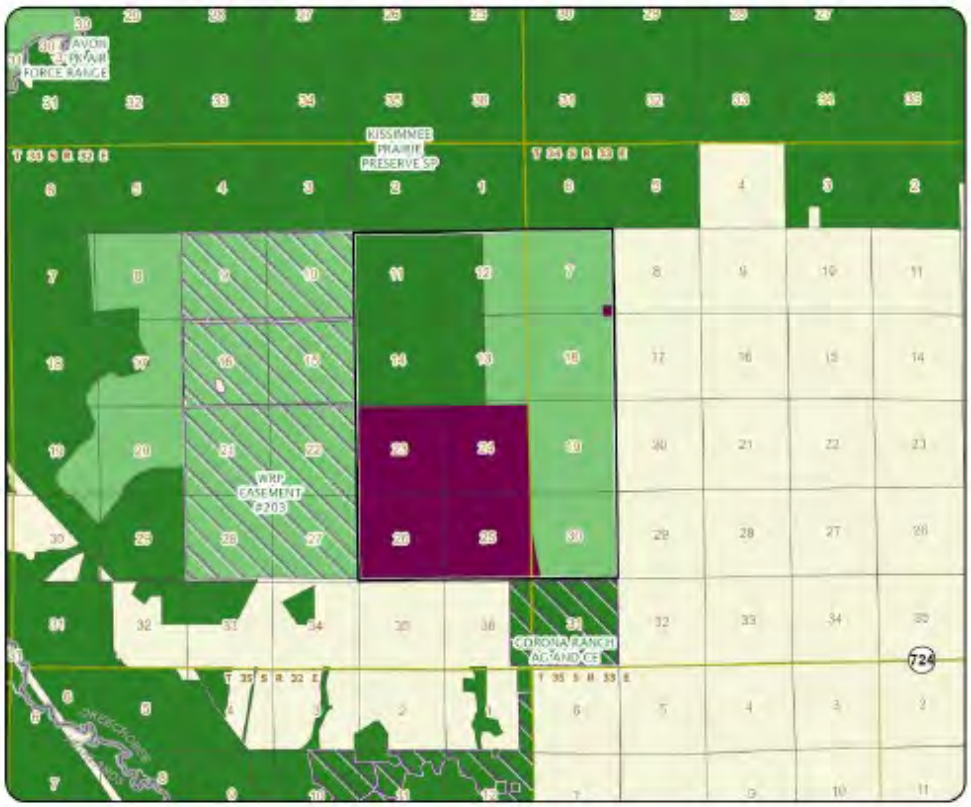
Cooperators in management activities

DRP will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup
Salary (1 FTE, 1 OPS)	$52,000
Expense	$50,000
OCO	$150,000
Outsourcing	$20,000
TOTAL	$272,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



TRIPLE DIAMOND

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

N

0 2 4 Miles

Exhibit E

Proximity
to
Significant Managed Lands Map


Florida Forest Service
Kissimmee Bend State Forest
Proximity to Significant Managed Lands
Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch Conservation Easement
Avon Park Air Force Range
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park
Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area
Wetlands Reserve Easement #305
Wetlands Reserve Program Easements #129,#166,#203
LEGEND
Kissimmee Bend State Forest
Managed Area Category
Federal
Private
State
Polk
Osceola
Brevard
Indian River
Hardee
Highlands
Okeechobee
St. Lucie
De Soto
Glades
Martin
N
W
E
S
Miles
Map Month/Year: January 2025

Exhibit F

Department of State

Report on Archaeological and Cultural Sites

From: Vovsi, Eman M.
To: Anderson, Patti
Subject: [External] RE: Archaeological Information for Kissimmee Bend State Forest
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:14:19 PM
Attachments: image001.png
Template_102.pdf

Completed; no cultural resources detected

From: Anderson, Patti <Patricia.Anderson@fdacs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Vovsi, Eman M. <Eman.Vovsi@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Subject: Archaeological Information for Kissimmee Bend State Forest

---

Good afternoon Eman,
I hope all is well.
I am contacting you to request a Florida Master Site File review of archaeological sites and structures found on Kissimmee Bend State Forest located in Okeechobee County. Only pertinent information from your results will be included in the 2022 10-Year Land Management Plan. I'm attaching the shapefile since it's a new acquisition.
Thank you kindly,
Patti

Patti Anderson
Land Management Planner
Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 681-5889
Patricia.Anderson@FDACS.gov
3125 Conner Boulevard
Suite I-258, Mail Stop C-25
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

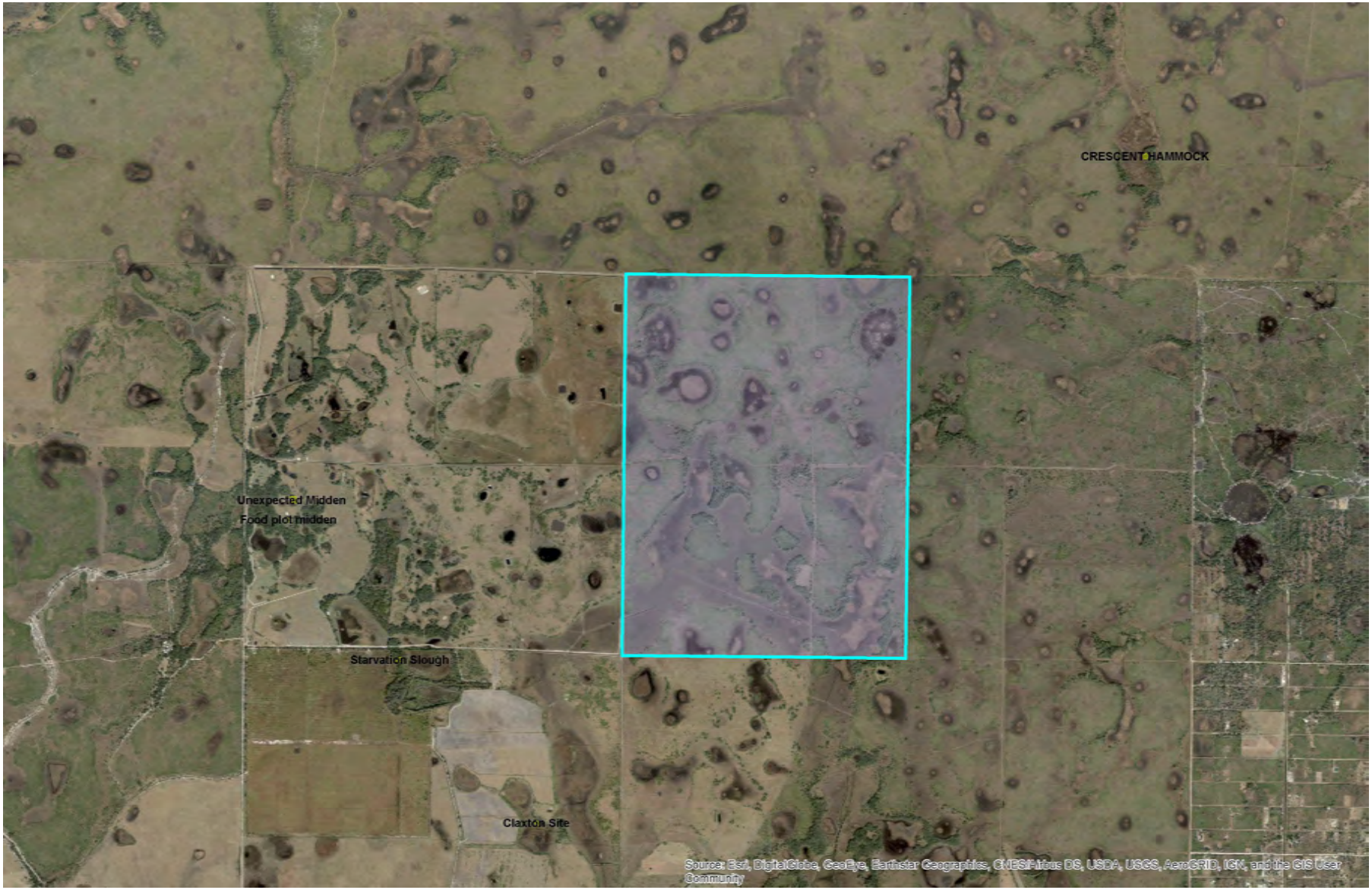

CRESCENT HAMMOCK
Unexpected Midden
Food plot midden
Starvation Slough
Claxton Site
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Exhibit G

Management Procedures
for
Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties
on
State Owned or Controlled Lands

Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Properties
(revised June 2021)

These procedures apply to state agencies, local governments, and non-profits that manage state-owned properties.

A. Historic Property Definition

Historic properties include archaeological sites and historic structures as well as other types of resources. Chapter 267, Florida Statutes states: " *'Historic property' or 'historic resource' means any prehistoric district, site, building, object, or other real or personal property of historical, architectural, or archaeological value, and folklife resources. These properties or resources may include, but are not limited to, monuments, memorials, Indian habitations, ceremonial sites, abandoned settlements, sunken or abandoned ships, engineering works, treasure trove, artifacts, or other objects with intrinsic historical or archaeological value, or any part thereof, relating to the history, government, and culture of the state."*

B. Agency Responsibilities

Per Chapter 267, *F.S.* and state policy related to historic properties, state agencies of the executive branch must provide the Division of Historical Resources (Division) the opportunity to comment on any undertakings with the potential to affect historic properties that are listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, whether these undertakings directly involve the state agency, i.e., land management responsibilities, or the state agency has indirect jurisdiction, i.e. permitting authority, grants, etc. No state funds should be expended on the undertaking until the Division has the opportunity to review and comment on the undertaking. (267.061(2)(a))

State agencies must consult with the Division when, as a result of state action or assistance, a historic property will be demolished or substantially altered in a way that will adversely affect the property. State agencies must take timely steps to consider feasible and prudent alternatives to the adverse effect. If no feasible or prudent alternatives exist, the state agency must take timely steps to avoid or mitigate the adverse effect. (267.061(2)(b))

State agencies must consult with Division to establish a program to locate, inventory and evaluate all historic properties under ownership or controlled by the agency. (267.061(2)(c))

State agencies are responsible for preserving historic properties under their control. State agencies are directed to use historic properties available to the agency when that use is consistent with the historic property and the agency's mission. State agencies are also directed to pursue preservation of historic properties to support their continued use. (267.061(2)(d))

C. Statutory Authority

The full text of Chapter 267, F.S. and additional information related to the treatment of historic properties is available at:

https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/compliance-and-review/regulations-guidelines/

D. Management Implementation

Although the Division sits on the Acquisition and Restoration Council and approves land management plans, these plans are conceptual and do not include detailed project information. Specific information for individual projects must be submitted to the Division for review and comment.

Managers of state lands must coordinate any land clearing or ground disturbing activities with the Division to allow for review and comment on the proposed project. The Division's recommendations may include, but are not limited to: approval of the project as submitted, recommendation for a cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, and modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Projects such as additions or alterations to historic structures as well as new construction must also be submitted to the Division for review. Projects involving structures fifty years of age or older must be submitted to the Division for a significance determination. In rare cases, structures under fifty years of age may be deemed historically significant.

Adverse effects to historic properties must be avoided when possible, and if avoidance is not possible, additional consultation with the Division is necessary to develop a mitigation plan. Furthermore, managers of state property should make preparations for locating and evaluating historic properties, both archaeological sites and historic structures.

E. Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) Training

The ARM Training Course introduces state land managers to the nature of archaeological resources, Florida archaeology, and the role of the Division in managing state-owned archaeological resources. Participants gain a better understanding of the requirements of state and federal laws with regard to protecting and managing archaeological sites on state managed lands. Participants also receive a certificate recognizing their ability to conduct limited monitoring activities in accordance with the Division's Review Procedure, thereby reducing the time and money spent to comply with state regulations. Additional information regarding the ARM Training Course is available at:

https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/education/arm-training-courses/

F. Matrix for Ground Disturbance on State Lands

The matrix is a tool designed to help streamline the Division's Review Procedure. The matrix allows state land managers to make decisions about balancing ground disturbance and stewardship of historic resources. The matrix establishes types of undertakings that are either minor or major disturbances and then guides the land manager to consult the Division, conduct ARM-trained project monitoring, or proceed with the project. Additional information regarding the matrix is available at:

https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/education/dhr-matrix-for-ground-disturbance-on-state-lands/

G. Human Remains Treatment

Chapter 872, *Florida Statutes* makes it illegal to willfully and knowingly disturb human remains. In the event human remains are discovered, cease all activity in the area that may disturb the remains. Leave the bones and nearby items in place. Immediately notify law enforcement or the local district medical examiner of the discovery and follow the provisions of Chapter 872, FS. Additional information regarding the treatment of human remains and cemeteries is available at:

https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/human-remains/
https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/human-remains/abandoned-cemeteries/what-are-the-applicable-laws-and-regulations/

H. Division of Historical Resources Review Procedure

Projects on state owned or controlled properties may submit projects to the Division for review using the streamlined State Lands Consultation Form. The form provides instructions to submit projects for review and outlines the necessary information for the Division to complete the review process. The State Lands Consultation Form and additional information about the Division's review process is available at:

https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/compliance-and-review/state-lands-review/

* * *

Questions relating to the treatment of archaeological and historic resources on state lands should be directed to:

Compliance and Review Section
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Division of Historical Resources
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

StateLandsCompliance@dos.myflorida.com

Phone: (850) 245-6333
Toll Free: (800) 847-7278
Fax: (850) 245-6435

Exhibit H

Soil Types Map
and
Descriptions

Florida Forest Service

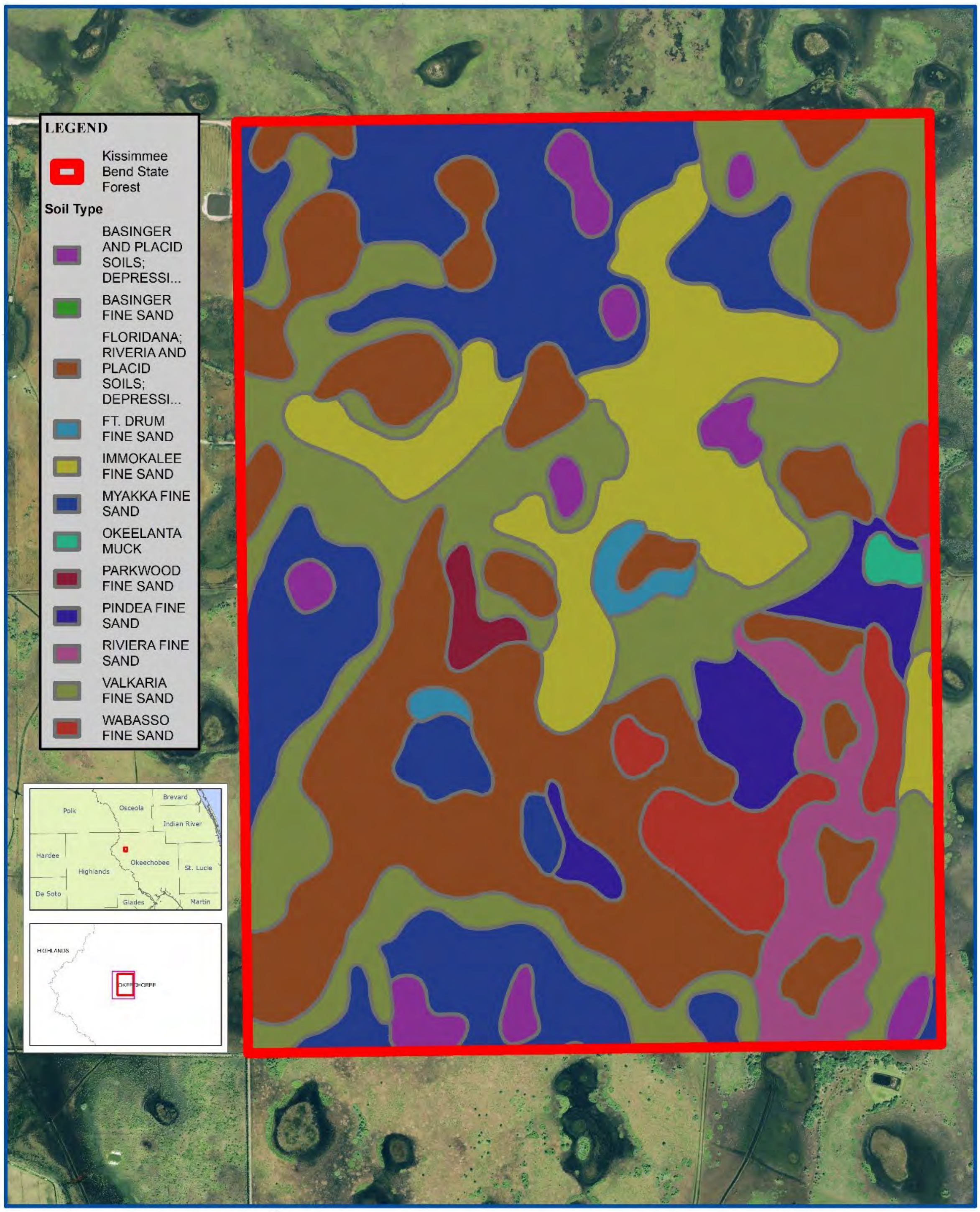
Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Soils Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:

Managed Area boundaries courtesy of
the Florida Natural Areas Inventory
Formally Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
from the US Army Corps of Engineers



0.25 0.125 0 Miles

N W E S

Map Month/Year: January 2021

1,000 500 0 Yards

Component Legend

This report presents general information about the map units and map unit components in the selected area. It shows map unit symbols and names and the components in each map unit. It also shows the percent of the components in the map units, the kind of component, and the slope range of each component.

Report—Component Legend

Component Legend--Okeechobee County, Florida							
Map unit symbol and name	Map unit acres	Pct. of map unit	Component name	Component kind	Pct. slope		
					Low	RV	High
2—Basinger fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	33,510						
		80	Basinger	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
3—Basinger and Placid soils, depressional	26,010						
		50	Basinger, depressional	Series	0.0	0.5	1.0
		40	Placid, depressional	Series	0.0	0.5	1.0
5—Valkaria fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	36,860						
		85	Valkaria	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
7—Floridana, Riviera, and Placid soils, depressional	41,460						
		40	Floridana, depressional	Series	0.0	0.5	1.0
		30	Riviera, depressional	Series	0.0	0.5	1.0
		20	Placid, depressional	Series	0.0	0.5	1.0
8—Pineda-Pineda, wet, fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	4,140						
		45	Pineda	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
		40	Pineda, wet	Series	0.0	0.5	1.0
9—Riviera fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	10,970						
		80	Riviera	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
10—Ft. Drum fine sand	1,420						
		80	Ft. drum	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
11—Immokalee fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	109,950						
		90	Immokalee	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
14—Myakka fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	155,120						
		85	Myakka	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0

Component Legend--Okeechobee County, Florida							
Map unit symbol and name	Map unit acres	Pct. of map unit	Component name	Component kind	Pct. slope		
					Low	RV	High
15—Okeelanta muck, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes	5,880						
		85	Okeelanta	Series	0.0	0.5	1.0
18—Parkwood fine sand	4,080						
		90	Parkwood	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0
25—Wabasso fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	5,340						
		85	Wabasso	Series	0.0	1.0	2.0

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Okeechobee County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 18, Jun 9, 2020

Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated)

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions in this report, along with the maps, provide information on the composition of map units and properties of their components.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

The Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated) report displays a generated description of the major soils that occur in a map unit. Descriptions of non-soil (miscellaneous areas) and minor map unit components are not included. This description is generated from the underlying soil attribute data.

Additional information about the map units described in this report is available in other Soil Data Mart reports, which give properties of the soils and the limitations, capabilities, and potentials for many uses. Also, the narratives that accompany the Soil Data Mart reports define some of the properties included in the map unit descriptions.

Report—Map Unit Description (Brief, Generated)

Okeechobee County, Florida

Map Unit: 2—Basinger fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Basinger (80%)

The Basinger component makes up 80 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Myakka (6%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Myakka soil is a minor component.

Component: Immokalee (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Immokalee soil is a minor component.

Component: Placid (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Placid soil is a minor component.

Component: Pompano (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pompano soil is a minor component.

Component: Anclote (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Anclote soil is a minor component.

Component: Felda (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Felda soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 3—Basinger and Placid soils, depressional

Component: Basinger, depressional (50%)

The Basinger, depressional component makes up 50 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 5 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Placid, depressional (40%)

The Placid, depressional component makes up 40 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: St. Johns (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The St. Johns soil is a minor component.

Component: Myakka (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Myakka soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 5—Valkaria fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Valkaria (85%)

The Valkaria component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Myakka (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Myakka soil is a minor component.

Component: Malabar (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Malabar soil is a minor component.

Component: Pineda (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pineda soil is a minor component.

Component: Satellite (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Satellite soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 7—Floridana, Riviera, and Placid soils, depressional

Component: Floridana, depressional (40%)

The Floridana, depressional component makes up 40 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 11 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Riviera, depressional (30%)

The Riviera, depressional component makes up 30 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Placid, depressional (20%)

The Placid, depressional component makes up 20 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 6 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Okeelanta, depressional (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Okeelanta, depressional soil is a minor component.

Component: Manatee, depressional (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Manatee, depressional soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 8—Pineda-Pineda, wet, fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Pineda (45%)

The Pineda component makes up 45 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Pineda, wet (40%)

The Pineda, wet component makes up 40 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Felda (6%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Felda soil is a minor component.

Component: Wabasso (3%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Wabasso soil is a minor component.

Component: Hallandale (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Hallandale soil is a minor component.

Component: Boca (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Boca soil is a minor component.

Component: Valkaria (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Valkaria soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 9—Riviera fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Riviera (80%)

The Riviera component makes up 80 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during July, August, September, October. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 1 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Wabasso (8%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Wabasso soil is a minor component.

Component: Pinellas (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pinellas soil is a minor component.

Component: Hallandale (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Hallandale soil is a minor component.

Component: Oldsmar (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Oldsmar soil is a minor component.

Component: Floridana (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Floridana soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 10—Ft. Drum fine sand

Component: Ft. Drum (80%)

The Ft. Drum component makes up 80 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil meets hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 15 percent. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 20 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Wabasso (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Wabasso soil is a minor component.

Component: Parkwood (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Parkwood soil is a minor component.

Component: Bradenton (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Bradenton soil is a minor component.

Component: Pineda (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pineda soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 11—Immokalee fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Immokalee (90%)

The Immokalee component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Basinger (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Basinger soil is a minor component.

Component: Basinger (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Basinger soil is a minor component.

Component: Wabasso (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Wabasso soil is a minor component.

Component: Pomello (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pomello soil is a minor component.

Component: Margate (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Margate soil is a minor component.

Component: Placid (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Placid soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 14—Myakka fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Myakka (85%)

The Myakka component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 4w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Basinger (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Basinger soil is a minor component.

Component: Wabasso (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Wabasso soil is a minor component.

Component: Cassia (3%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Cassia soil is a minor component.

Component: Immokalee (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Immokalee soil is a minor component.

Component: Satellite (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Satellite soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 15—Okeelanta muck, frequently ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Component: Okeelanta (85%)

The Okeelanta component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 1 percent. This component is on depressions on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of herbaceous organic material over sandy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is very poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is very high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is frequently ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 0 inches during January, June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 75 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 7w. This soil meets hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Terra Ceia (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Terra Ceia soil is a minor component.

Component: Lauderhill (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Lauderhill soil is a minor component.

Component: Placid (3%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Placid soil is a minor component.

Component: Floridana (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Floridana soil is a minor component.

Component: Tequesta (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Tequesta soil is a minor component.

Component: Pompano (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pompano soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 18—Parkwood fine sand

Component: Parkwood (90%)

The Parkwood component makes up 90 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flats on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately low. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 6 inches during June, July, August, September. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 4 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil meets hydric criteria. The calcium carbonate equivalent within 40 inches, typically, does not exceed 15 percent. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Ft. Drum (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Ft. Drum soil is a minor component.

Component: Bradenton (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Bradenton soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: 25—Wabasso fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Component: Wabasso (85%)

The Wabasso component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 0 to 2 percent. This component is on flatwoods on marine terraces on coastal plains. The parent material consists of sandy and loamy marine deposits. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is poorly drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is moderate. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. A seasonal zone of water saturation is at 12 inches during June, July, August, September, October, November. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 2 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 3w. This soil does not meet hydric criteria. There are no saline horizons within 30 inches of the soil surface. The soil has a maximum sodium adsorption ratio of 1 within 30 inches of the soil surface.

Component: Riviera (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Riviera soil is a minor component.

Component: Myakka (4%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Myakka soil is a minor component.

Component: Basinger (3%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Basinger soil is a minor component.

Component: Malabar (2%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Malabar soil is a minor component.

Component: Felda (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Felda soil is a minor component.

Component: Pinellas (1%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Pinellas soil is a minor component.

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Okeechobee County, Florida
Survey Area Data: Version 18, Jun 9, 2020

Exhibit I

Department
of
Environmental Protection

Outstanding Florida Waters

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

July 17th, 2024

Ms. Emily Marsh
Land Management Planner, Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
3125 Conner Boulevard, Suite I-258, Mail Stop C-25
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

RE: Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Dear Ms. Marsh:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the surface water quality classifications and Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) for Kissimmee Bend State Forest in Okeechobee County. All of the surface waters within, adjacent to, or within 5 miles of Kissimmee Bend State Forest are classified as Class III waters pursuant to Rule 62-302.400, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). According to subsection 62-302.700(9), (FAC), there are no OFWs within, adjacent, and within several miles of the state forest.

You may also be interested in knowing that, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory Managed Areas data layer, there are other parcels adjacent to or near the State Forest that are considered conservation lands at a Federal or State level (see attached map). However, these have not been designated as OFWs.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this response, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at Talia.E.Smith-Sickler@FloridaDEP.gov or by phone at 850-245-8068.

Sincerely,

Talia Elisa Smith-Sickler
Standards Development Section
Water Quality Standards Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Kissimmee Bend State Forest Map:

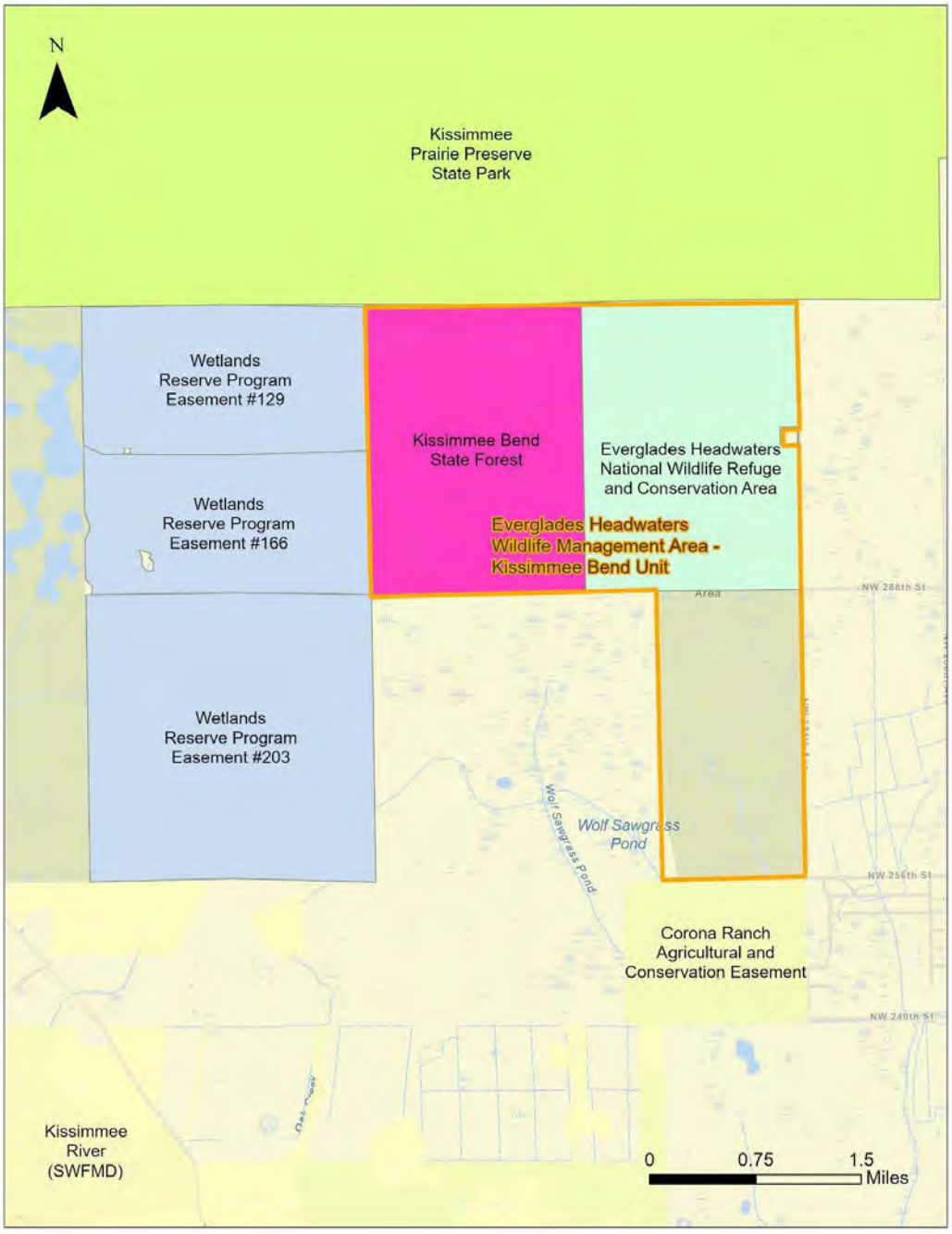


Exhibit J

Water Resources Map

Florida Forest Service

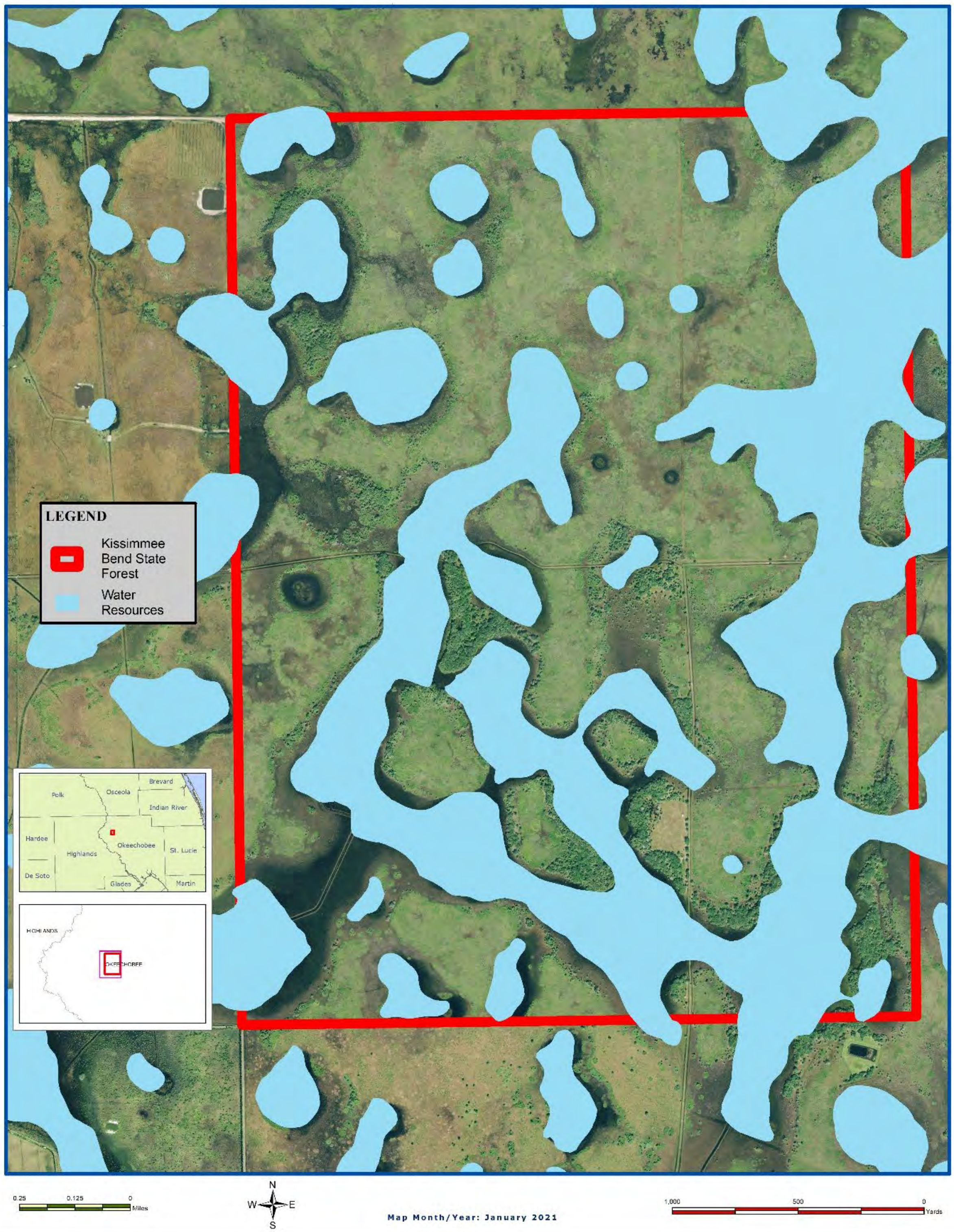
Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Water Resources Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
This map was created by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) Geographic Information System (GIS) staff using data from multiple sources. Maps created by FFS are designed for in-house use and for use by related public agencies; these products are not legal descriptions or documents.
The Florida Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace, GIS products without notification.
The Florida Forest Service makes no warranty, either written or implied as to the accuracy or completeness of the information in this map.

Managed Area boundaries courtesy of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory
Formally Used Defense Sites (FUDS) from the US Army Corps of Engineers



Map Month/Year: January 2021

Exhibit K

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Managed Area Data Report

FLORIDA
Natural Areas
INVENTORY

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-224-8207
fax 850-681-9364
www.fnai.org

January 12, 2022

Patti Anderson
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard, Suite I-258, Mail Stop C-25
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650q

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Thank you for requesting information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). At your request we have produced the following report for your project area.

The purpose of this Standard Data Report is to provide objective scientific information on natural resources located in the vicinity of a site of interest, in order to inform those involved in project planning and evaluation. This Report makes no determination of the suitability of a proposed project for this location, or the potential impacts of the project on natural resources in the area.

Project: Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Date Received: 12/7/2021

Location: Okeechobee County

Based on the information available, this site appears to be located in a significant region of natural areas and habitat for several rare species.

Element Occurrences

A search of our maps and database indicates that we currently have one element occurrence mapped in the vicinity of the study area (see enclosed map and element occurrence table). Please be advised that a lack of element occurrences in the FNAI database is not a sufficient indication of the absence of rare or endangered species on a site.

The element occurrences data layer includes occurrences of rare species and natural communities. The map legend indicates that some element occurrences occur in the general vicinity of the label point. This may be due to lack of precision of the source data, or an element that occurs over an extended area (such as a wide ranging species or large natural community). For animals and plants, element occurrences generally refer to more than a casual sighting; they usually indicate a viable population of the species. Note that some element occurrences represent historically documented observations which may no longer be extant. Extirpated element occurrences will be marked with an 'X' following the occurrence label on the enclosed map.

Likely and Potential Rare Species

In addition to documented occurrences, other rare species and natural communities may be identified on or near the site based on habitat models and species range models (see enclosed Biodiversity Matrix Report). These species should be taken into consideration in field surveys, land management, and impact avoidance and mitigation.

Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center

Institute of Science and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

FNAI habitat models indicate areas, which based on land cover type, offer suitable habitat for one or more rare species that is known to occur in the vicinity. Habitat models have been developed for approximately 300 of the rarest species tracked by the Inventory, including all federally listed species.

FNAI species range models indicate areas that are within the known or predicted range of a species, based on climate variables, soils, vegetation, and/or slope. Species range models have been developed for approximately 340 species, including all federally listed species. The FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Geodatabase compiles Documented, Likely, and Potential species and natural communities for each square mile Matrix Unit statewide.

CLIP

The enclosed map shows natural resource conservation priorities based on the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project. CLIP is based on many of the same natural resource data developed for the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment, but provides an overall picture of conservation priorities across different resource categories, including biodiversity, landscapes, surface waters, and aggregated CLIP priorities (that combine the individual resource categories). CLIP is also based primarily on remote sensed data and is not intended to be the definitive authority on natural resources on a site.

For more information on CLIP, visit https://www.fnai.org/services/clip.

Managed Areas

Portions of the site appear to be located within the Kissimmee Bend State Forest, managed by the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service.

The Managed Areas data layer shows public and privately managed conservation lands throughout the state. Federal, state, local, and privately managed conservation lands are included.

Land Acquisition Projects

This site appears to be located within the Triple Diamond Florida Forever BOT Project, which is part of the State of Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands land acquisition program. A description of this project is enclosed. For more information on this Florida Forever Project, contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands.

Florida Forever Board of Trustees (BOT) projects are proposed and acquired through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands. The state has no specific land management authority over these lands until they are purchased.

The Inventory always recommends that professionals familiar with Florida's flora and fauna conduct a site-specific survey to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Please visit www.fnai.org/species-communities/tracking-main for county or statewide element occurrence distributions and links to more element information.

The database maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research, and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Information provided by this database may not be published without prior written notification to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and the Inventory must be credited as an information source in these

publications. **The maps contain sensitive environmental information, please do not distribute or publish without prior consent from FNAI.** FNAI data may not be resold for profit.

Thank you for your use of FNAI services. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (850) 224-8207 or at kbrinegar@fnai.fsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Kerri Brinegar

Kerri Brinegar
GIS / Data Services

Encl

Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Site boundaries are approximate.

Okeechobee County

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY

CLIP v4.0 Resource Priorities

Biodiversity Resource Category
- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

Landscape Resource Category
- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

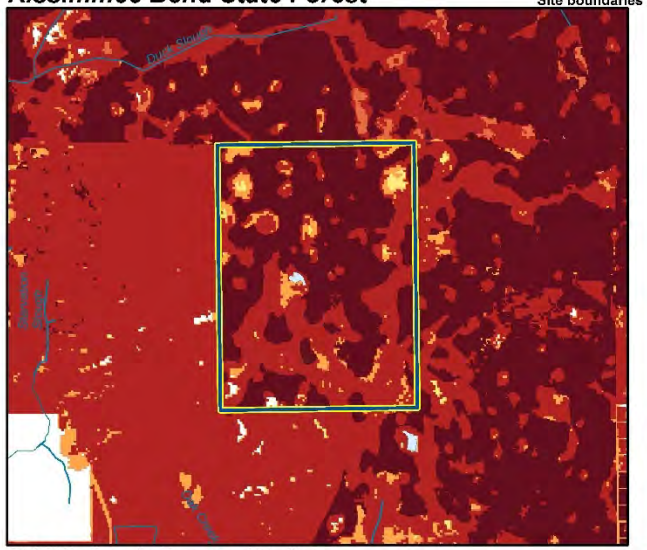
Surface Water Resource Category
- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

Aggregated CLIP Priorities
- Priority 1 - highest
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

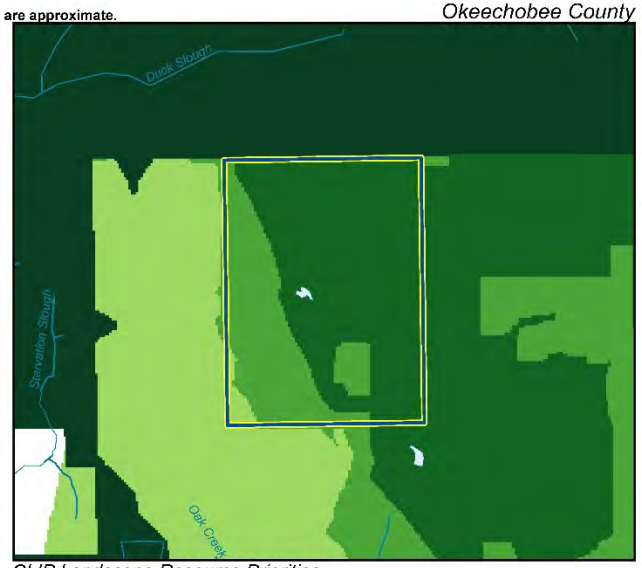
Site Boundary

Map should not be interpreted without accompanying documents.

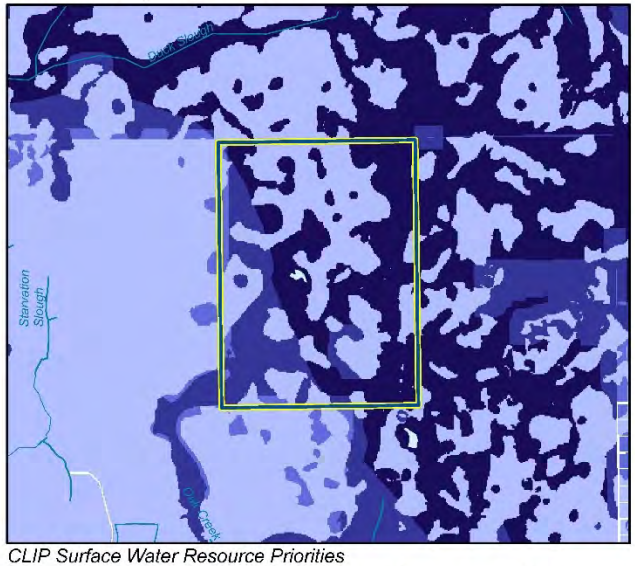
Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) is a cooperative effort between the FSU Florida Natural Areas Inventory, UF Center for Landscape Conservation Planning, and FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, with additional funding from FL Dept of Environmental Protection and US Fish & Wildlife Service.



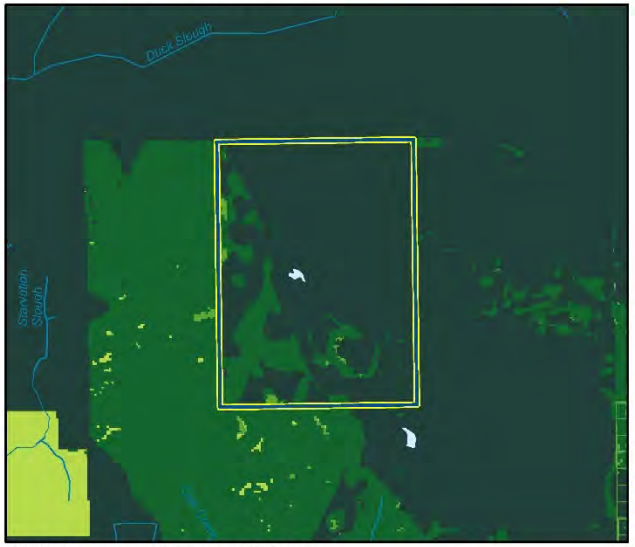
CLIP Biodiversity Resource Priorities



CLIP Landscape Resource Priorities



CLIP Surface Water Resource Priorities



CLIP Aggregated Resource Priorities

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Map produced by KAB
12/13/2021

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Managed Area Element Summary

Kissimmee Bend State Forest

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Global rank	State rank	Federal status	State status
REPTILES					
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
NATURAL COMMUNITIES					
Dry Prairie		G2	S2	N	N

Note: *Summary includes all documented and likely species occurrence records currently in the FNAI database.*

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

FNAI ELEMENT OCCURRENCE REPORT on or near

Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing	Observation Date	Description	EO Comments
GOPHPOLY*1052	*Gopherus polyphemus*	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST	2021-07-27	Dry prairie with patches of scrub. Several sloughs, depression marshes, and basin marshes occur throughout the prairie.	2017-04: LTDS survey; 332 burrows scoped: 69 occupied; 260 unoccupied; 3 undetermined. Estimated 4,778 gopher tortoises, with an estimated density of 0.64 gopher tortoises per ha. (F17FNA06FLUS). One tortoise and two burrows, 1 active, were documented during natural community mapping at the proposed Kissimmee Bend State Forest in July 2021 (F21FNA19FLUS).

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Biodiversity Matrix Report

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Matrix Unit ID: 53371					
Likely					
Ammodramus savannarum floridanus	Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1	S1	E	FE
Caracara cheriway	Crested Caracara	G5	S2	T	FT
Dry prairie		G2	S2	N	N
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
Potential					
Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Athene cunicularia floridana	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
Bonamia grandiflora	Florida bonamia	G3	S3	T	E
Calamintha ashei	Ashe's savory	G3	S3	N	T
Calopogon multiflorus	many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3	N	T
Centrosema arenicola	sand butterfly pea	G2Q	S2	N	E
Chionanthus pygmaeus	pygmy fringe tree	G2	S2S3	E	E
Coelorachis tuberculosa	Piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3	N	T
Coleataenia abscissa	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
Conradina brevifolia	short-leaved rosemary	G2Q	S2	E	E
Dryobates borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium	scrub buckwheat	G4T3	S3	T	E
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
Gymnopogon chapmanianus	Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
Lechea cernua	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
Liatris ohlingerae	Florida blazing star	G2	S2	E	E
Lithobates capito	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
Matelea floridana	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
Mustela frenata peninsulae	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3?	S3?	N	N
Nemastylis floridana	celestial lily	G2	S2	N	E
Neofiber alleni	Round-tailed Muskrat	G2	S2	N	N
Nolina atopocarpa	Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	T
Nolina brittoniana	Britton's beargrass	G3	S3	E	E
Paronychia chartacea var. chartacea	paper-like nailwort	G3T3	S3	T	E
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Platanthera integra	yellow fringeless orchid	G3G4	S3	N	E
Plestiodon egregius lividus	Blue-tailed Mole Skink	G5T2	S2	T	FT
Podomys floridanus	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
Polygonella basiramia	Florida jointweed	G3	S3	E	E
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
Rostrhamus sociabilis	Snail Kite	G4G5	S2	E	FE
Sciurus niger niger	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Warea carteri	Carter's warea	G1	S1	E	E
Matrix Unit ID: 53372					
Likely					
Ammodramus savannarum floridanus	Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1	S1	E	FE
Dry prairie		G2	S2	N	N
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT

Definitions: *Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.*
Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Biodiversity Matrix Report

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Potential					
Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Athene cunicularia floridana	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
Bonamia grandiflora	Florida bonamia	G3	S3	T	E
Calamintha ashei	Ashe's savory	G3	S3	N	T
Calopogon multiflorus	many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3	N	T
Centrosema arenicola	sand butterfly pea	G2Q	S2	N	E
Chionanthus pygmaeus	pygmy fringe tree	G2	S2S3	E	E
Coelorachis tuberculosa	Piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3	N	T
Coleataenia abscissa	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
Conradina brevifolia	short-leaved rosemary	G2Q	S2	E	E
Dryobates borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium	scrub buckwheat	G4T3	S3	T	E
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
Gymnopogon chapmanianus	Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
Lechea cernua	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
Liatris ohlingerae	Florida blazing star	G2	S2	E	E
Lithobates capito	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
Matelea floridana	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
Mustela frenata peninsulae	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3?	S3?	N	N
Nemastylis floridana	celestial lily	G2	S2	N	E
Neofiber alleni	Round-tailed Muskrat	G2	S2	N	N
Nolina atopocarpa	Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	T
Nolina brittoniana	Britton's beargrass	G3	S3	E	E
Paronychia chartacea var. chartacea	paper-like nailwort	G3T3	S3	T	E
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Platanthera integra	yellow fringeless orchid	G3G4	S3	N	E
Plestiodon egregius lividus	Blue-tailed Mole Skink	G5T2	S2	T	FT
Podomys floridanus	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
Rostrhamus sociabilis	Snail Kite	G4G5	S2	E	FE
Sciurus niger niger	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Warea carteri	Carter's warea	G1	S1	E	E
Matrix Unit ID: 53373					
Likely					
Ammodramus savannarum floridanus	Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1	S1	E	FE
Dry prairie		G2	S2	N	N
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
Potential					
Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Athene cunicularia floridana	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
Bonamia grandiflora	Florida bonamia	G3	S3	T	E
Calamintha ashei	Ashe's savory	G3	S3	N	T
Calopogon multiflorus	many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3	N	T

Definitions: *Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.*
Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Biodiversity Matrix Report

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Centrosema arenicola	sand butterfly pea	G2Q	S2	N	E
Chionanthus pygmaeus	pygmy fringe tree	G2	S2S3	E	E
Coelorachis tuberculosa	Piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3	N	T
Coleataenia abscissa	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
Conradina brevifolia	short-leaved rosemary	G2Q	S2	E	E
Dryobates borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium	scrub buckwheat	G4T3	S3	T	E
Gymnopogon chapmanianus	Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
Heterodon simus	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
Lechea cernua	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
Liatris ohlingerae	Florida blazing star	G2	S2	E	E
Lithobates capito	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
Matelea floridana	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
Mustela frenata peninsulae	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3?	S3?	N	N
Nemastylis floridana	celestial lily	G2	S2	N	E
Neofiber alleni	Round-tailed Muskrat	G2	S2	N	N
Nolina atopocarpa	Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	T
Nolina brittoniana	Britton's beargrass	G3	S3	E	E
Paronychia chartacea var. chartacea	paper-like nailwort	G3T3	S3	T	E
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Platanthera integra	yellow fringeless orchid	G3G4	S3	N	E
Plestiodon egregius lividus	Blue-tailed Mole Skink	G5T2	S2	T	FT
Podomys floridanus	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
Rostrhamus sociabilis	Snail Kite	G4G5	S2	E	FE
Sciurus niger niger	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Warea carteri	Carter's warea	G1	S1	E	E
Matrix Unit ID: 53697					
Likely					
Ammodramus savannarum floridanus	Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1	S1	E	FE
Caracara cheriway	Crested Caracara	G5	S2	T	FT
Dry prairie		G2	S2	N	N
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
Potential					
Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Athene cunicularia floridana	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
Bonamia grandiflora	Florida bonamia	G3	S3	T	E
Calamintha ashei	Ashe's savory	G3	S3	N	T
Calopogon multiflorus	many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3	N	T
Centrosema arenicola	sand butterfly pea	G2Q	S2	N	E
Chionanthus pygmaeus	pygmy fringe tree	G2	S2S3	E	E
Coelorachis tuberculosa	Piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3	N	T
Coleataenia abscissa	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
Conradina brevifolia	short-leaved rosemary	G2Q	S2	E	E
Dryobates borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium	scrub buckwheat	G4T3	S3	T	E

Definitions: *Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.*
Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Biodiversity Matrix Report

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
Gymnopogon chapmanianus	Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
Lechea cernua	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
Liatris ohlingerae	Florida blazing star	G2	S2	E	E
Lithobates capito	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
Lythrum flagellare	lowland loosestrife	G2	S2	N	E
Matelea floridana	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
Mustela frenata peninsulae	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3?	S3?	N	N
Nemastylis floridana	celestial lily	G2	S2	N	E
Neofiber alleni	Round-tailed Muskrat	G2	S2	N	N
Nolina atopocarpa	Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	T
Nolina brittoniana	Britton's beargrass	G3	S3	E	E
Paronychia chartacea var. chartacea	paper-like nailwort	G3T3	S3	T	E
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Platanthera integra	yellow fringeless orchid	G3G4	S3	N	E
Plestiodon egregius lividus	Blue-tailed Mole Skink	G5T2	S2	T	FT
Podomys floridanus	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
Rostrhamus sociabilis	Snail Kite	G4G5	S2	E	FE
Sciurus niger niger	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Warea carteri	Carter's warea	G1	S1	E	E

Matrix Unit ID: 53698

Likely

Ammodramus savannarum floridanus	Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1	S1	E	FE
Dry prairie		G2	S2	N	N
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT

Potential

Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Athene cunicularia floridana	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
Calamintha ashei	Ashe's savory	G3	S3	N	T
Calopogon multiflorus	many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3	N	T
Centrosema arenicola	sand butterfly pea	G2Q	S2	N	E
Chionanthus pygmaeus	pygmy fringe tree	G2	S2S3	E	E
Coelorachis tuberculosa	Piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3	N	T
Coleataenia abscissa	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
Conradina brevifolia	short-leaved rosemary	G2Q	S2	E	E
Dryobates borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium	scrub buckwheat	G4T3	S3	T	E
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
Gymnopogon chapmanianus	Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
Lechea cernua	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
Liatris ohlingerae	Florida blazing star	G2	S2	E	E
Lithobates capito	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
Lythrum flagellare	lowland loosestrife	G2	S2	N	E
Matelea floridana	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
Mustela frenata peninsulae	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3?	S3?	N	N

Definitions: *Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.*
Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Biodiversity Matrix Report

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Nemastylis floridana	celestial lily	G2	S2	N	E
Neofiber alleni	Round-tailed Muskrat	G2	S2	N	N
Nolina atopocarpa	Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	T
Nolina brittoniana	Britton's beargrass	G3	S3	E	E
Paronychia chartacea var. chartacea	paper-like nailwort	G3T3	S3	T	E
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Platanthera integra	yellow fringeless orchid	G3G4	S3	N	E
Plestiodon egregius lividus	Blue-tailed Mole Skink	G5T2	S2	T	FT
Podomys floridanus	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
Rostrhamus sociabilis	Snail Kite	G4G5	S2	E	FE
Sciurus niger niger	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Warea carteri	Carter's warea	G1	S1	E	E

Matrix Unit ID: 53699

Documented

Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST

Likely

Ammodramus savannarum floridanus	Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1	S1	E	FE
Caracara cheriway	Crested Caracara	G5	S2	T	FT
Dry prairie		G2	S2	N	N
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT

Potential

Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Athene cunicularia floridana	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST
Calamintha ashei	Ashe's savory	G3	S3	N	T
Calopogon multiflorus	many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3	N	T
Centrosema arenicola	sand butterfly pea	G2Q	S2	N	E
Chionanthus pygmaeus	pygmy fringe tree	G2	S2S3	E	E
Coelorachis tuberculosa	Piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3	N	T
Coleataenia abscissa	cutthroatgrass	G3	S3	N	E
Conradina brevifolia	short-leaved rosemary	G2Q	S2	E	E
Dryobates borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3	S2	E, PT	FE
Eriogonum longifolium var. gnaphalifolium	scrub buckwheat	G4T3	S3	T	E
Gymnopogon chapmanianus	Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
Heterodon simus	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3	N	N
Lechea cernua	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
Liatris ohlingerae	Florida blazing star	G2	S2	E	E
Lithobates capito	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	N	N
Lythrum flagellare	lowland loosestrife	G2	S2	N	E
Matelea floridana	Florida spiny-pod	G2	S2	N	E
Mustela frenata peninsulae	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3?	S3?	N	N
Nemastylis floridana	celestial lily	G2	S2	N	E
Neofiber alleni	Round-tailed Muskrat	G2	S2	N	N
Nolina atopocarpa	Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	T
Nolina brittoniana	Britton's beargrass	G3	S3	E	E

Definitions: *Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.*
Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 224-8207
(850) 681-9364 Fax
www.fnai.org

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Biodiversity Matrix Report

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Paronychia chartacea var. chartacea	paper-like nailwort	G3T3	S3	T	E
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3	N	N
Platanthera integra	yellow fringeless orchid	G3G4	S3	N	E
Podomys floridanus	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	N
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
Rostrhamus sociabilis	Snail Kite	G4G5	S2	E	FE
Sciurus niger niger	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Warea carteri	Carter's warea	G1	S1	E	E

Definitions: *Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.*
Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years.
Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity.
Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

Elements and Element Occurrences

An **element** is any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave, or other ecological feature.

An **element occurrence (EO)** is an area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is, or was, present. An EO should have practical conservation value for the Element as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence at a given location.

Element Ranking and Legal Status

Using a ranking system developed by NatureServe and the Natural Heritage Program Network, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory assigns two ranks for each element. The global rank is based on an element's worldwide status; the state rank is based on the status of the element in Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, the most important ones being estimated number of Element Occurrences (EOs), estimated abundance (number of individuals for species; area for natural communities), geographic range, estimated number of adequately protected EOs, relative threat of destruction, and ecological fragility.

FNAI GLOBAL ELEMENT RANK

G1 = Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
G2 = Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
G4 = Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
G5 = Demonstrably secure globally.
GH = Of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
GX = Believed to be extinct throughout range.
GXC = Extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation.
G#? = Tentative rank (e.g., G2?).
G#G# = Range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3).
G#T# = Rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1).
G#Q = Rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q).
G#T#Q = Same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
GU = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
GNA = Ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
GNR = Element not yet ranked (temporary).
GNRTNR = Neither the element nor the taxonomic subgroup has yet been ranked.

FNAI STATE ELEMENT RANK

S1 = Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S2 = Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S3 = Either very rare and local in Florida (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
S4 = Apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range).
S5 = Demonstrably secure in Florida.
SH = Of historical occurrence in Florida, possibly extirpated, but may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
SX = Believed to be extirpated throughout Florida.
SU = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned.
SNA = State ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
SNR = Element not yet ranked (temporary).

FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS

Legal status information provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant federal agency.

Definitions derived from U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, Sec. 3. Note that the federal status given by FNAI refers only to Florida populations and that federal status may differ elsewhere.

C = Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened.
E = Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
E, T = Species currently listed endangered in a portion of its range but only listed as threatened in other areas
E, PDL = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for delisting.
E, PT = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for listing as threatened.
E, XN = Species currently listed endangered but tracked population is a non-essential experimental population.
T = Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
PE = Species proposed for listing as endangered
PS = Partial status: some but not all of the species' infraspecific taxa have federal
PT = Species proposed for listing as threatened
SAT = Treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed such that enforcement personnel have difficulty in attempting to differentiate between the listed and unlisted species.
SC = Not currently listed, but considered a "species of concern" to USFWS.

STATE LEGAL STATUS

Provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant state agency.

Animals: Definitions derived from "Florida's Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern, Official Lists" published by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 August 1997, and subsequent updates.

C = Candidate for listing at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FE = Listed as Endangered Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FT = Listed as Threatened Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FXN = Federal listed as an experimental population in Florida
FT(S/A) = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance
ST = State population listed as Threatened by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.
SSC = Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species. (SSC* for Pandion haliaetus (Osprey) indicates that this status applies in Monroe county only.)
N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Plants: Definitions derived from Sections 581.011 and 581.185(2), Florida Statutes, and the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act, 5B-40.001. FNAI does not track all state-regulated plant species; for a complete list of state-regulated plant species, call Florida Division of Plant Industry, 352-372-3505 or see: http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/.

E = Endangered: species of plants native to Florida that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue; includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
T = Threatened: species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in number as to cause them to be Endangered.
N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Element Occurrence Ranking

FNAI ranks of quality of the element occurrence in terms of its viability (EORANK). Viability is estimated using a combination of factors that contribute to continued survival of the element at the location. Among these are the size of the EO, general condition of the EO at the site, and the conditions of the landscape surrounding the EO (e.g. an immediate threat to an EO by local development pressure could lower an EO rank).

A = Excellent estimated viability
A? = Possibly excellent estimated viability
AB = Excellent or good estimated viability
AC = Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability
B = Good estimated viability
B? = Possibly good estimated viability
BC = Good or fair estimated viability
BD = Good, fair, or poor estimated viability
C = Fair estimated viability
C? = Possibly fair estimated viability
CD = Fair or poor estimated viability
D = Poor estimated viability
D? = Possibly poor estimated viability
E = Verified extant (viability not assessed)
F = Failed to find
H = Historical
NR = Not ranked, a placeholder when an EO is not (yet) ranked.
U = Unrankable
X = Extirpated

*For additional detail on the above ranks see: http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/eorankguide.htm

FNAI also uses the following EO ranks:

H? = Possibly historical
F? = Possibly failed to find
X? = Possibly extirpated

The following offers further explanation of the H and X ranks as they are used by FNAI:

The rank of H is used when there is a lack of recent field information verifying the continued existence of an EO, such as (a) when an EO is based only on historical collections data; or (b) when an EO was ranked A, B, C, D, or E at one time and is later, without field survey work, considered to be possibly extirpated due to general habitat loss or degradation of the environment in the area. This definition of the H rank is dependent on an interpretation of what constitutes "recent" field information. Generally, if there is no known survey of an EO within the last 20 to 40 years, it should be assigned an H rank. While these time frames represent suggested maximum limits, the actual time period for historical EOs may vary according to the biology of the element and the specific landscape context of each occurrence (including anthropogenic alteration of the environment). Thus, an H rank may be assigned to an EO before the maximum time frames have lapsed. Occurrences that have not been surveyed for periods exceeding these time frames should not be ranked A, B, C, or D. The higher maximum limit for plants and communities (i.e., ranging from 20 to 40 years) is based upon the assumption that occurrences of these elements generally have the potential to persist at a given location for longer periods of time. This greater potential is a reflection of plant biology and community dynamics. However, landscape factors must also be considered. Thus, areas with more anthropogenic impacts on the environment (e.g., development) will be at the lower end of the range, and less-impacted areas will be at the higher end.

The rank of X is assigned to EOs for which there is documented destruction of habitat or environment, or persuasive evidence of eradication based on adequate survey (i.e., thorough or repeated survey efforts by one or more experienced observers at times and under conditions appropriate for the Element at that location).

Exhibit L

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Listed Species Occurrence Records

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commissioners
Rodney Barreto
Chairman
Coral Gables

Michael W. Sole
Vice Chairman
Tequesta

Steven Hudson
Fort Lauderdale

Gary Lester
Oxford

Gary Nicklaus
Jupiter

Sonya Rood
St. Augustine

Robert A. Spottswood
Key West

Executive Staff
Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Thomas H. Eason, Ph.D.
Assistant Executive Director

Jennifer Fitzwater
Chief of Staff

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
Gil McRae
Director

727-896-8626
727-823-0166 FAX

Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
100 Eighth Avenue SE
St. Petersburg, Florida
33701-5020
Voice: (727) 896-8626
Fax: (727) 823-0166
Hearing/speech-impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)
MyFWC.com/Research

December 10, 2021

Patti Anderson
Land Management Planner
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Suite I-258, Mail Stop C-25
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Patti:

This letter is in response to your request for listed species occurrence records and critical habitats for your project (Kissimmee Bend FFS) located in Okeechobee County, Florida. Records from The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's database indicate that listed species occurrence data and critical habitats are located within the project area. Records of Swallowed-tailed kit, Crested caracara, Loggerhead shrike, American white pelican, American alligator, Raccoon and Gopher tortoise were found on, or within a 1-mile distance of, the property. SHCAs were found for Short-tailed hawk, Florida burrowing owl and Florida Grasshopper sparrow within a 1-mile distance of, the property. Enclosed are 8.5 x 11 maps prioritized SHCA's, species richness, priority wetlands for listed species, and land cover for the project site and surrounding area.

This letter and attachments should not be considered as a review or an assessment of the impact upon threatened or endangered species of the project site. It provides FWC's most current data regarding the location of listed species and their associated habitats.

Our SHCA recommendations are intended to be used as a guide. Land development and ownership in Florida is ever-changing and priority areas identified as SHCA might already have been significantly altered due to development or acquired into public ownership. Onsite surveys, literature reviews, and coordination with FWC biologists remain essential steps in documenting the presence or absence of rare and imperiled species and habitats within the project area.

Our fish and wildlife location data represents only those occurrences recorded by FWC staff and other affiliated researchers. It is important to understand that our database does not necessarily contain records of all listed species that may occur in a given area. Also, data on certain species, such as gopher tortoises, are not entered into our database on a site-specific basis. **Therefore, one should not assume that an absence of occurrences in our database indicates that species of significance do not occur in the area.**

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) maintains a separate database of listed plant and wildlife species, please contact FNAI directly for specific information on the location of element occurrences within the project area.

Because FNAI is funded to provide information to public agencies only, you may be required to pay a fee for this information. County-wide listed species information can be located at their website (http://www.fnai.org).

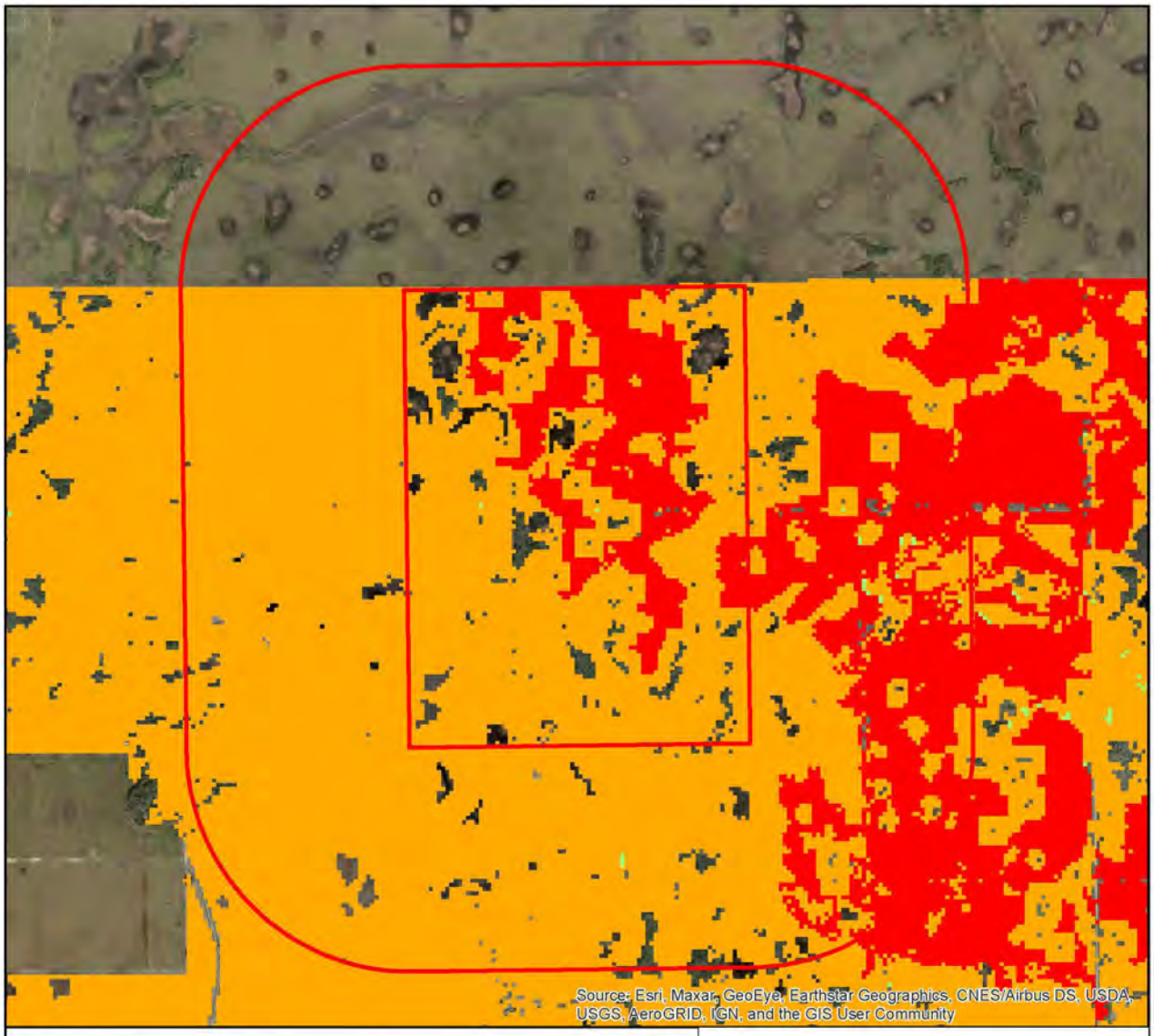
Please credit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in any publication or presentation of these data. If you have any questions or further requests, please contact me at (850) 488-0588 or gisrequests@myfwc.com.

Sincerely,

Steven Nicholl

Steven Nicholl

Environmental Specialist I/GIS Technician
Center for Spatial Analysis
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
100 8th Avenue S.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-502-4970



Prioritized SHCA's

Priority 1
Priority 2
Priority 3
Priority 4
Priority 5

N

Kissimmee Bend FFS

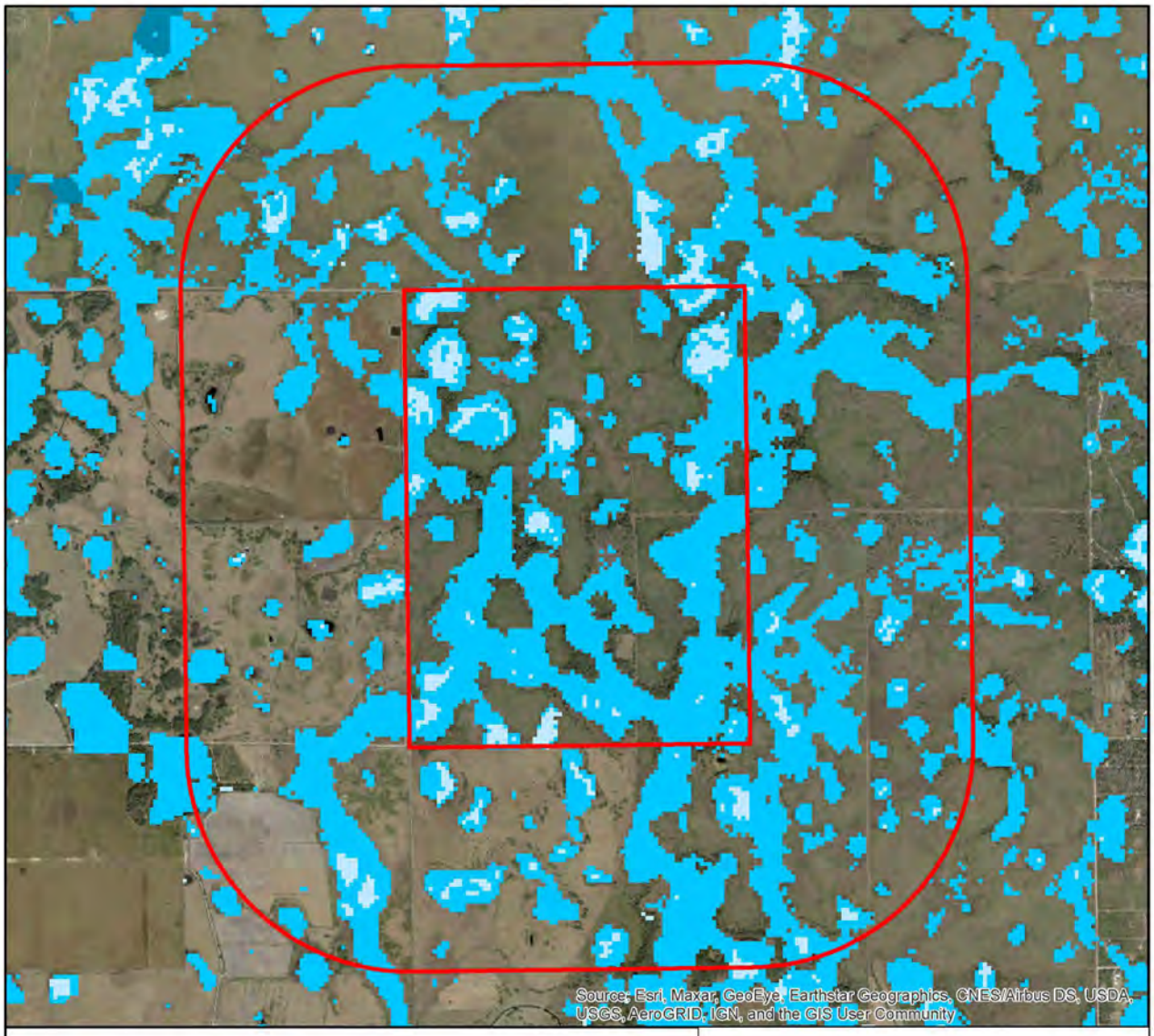
The prioritized SHCA map identifies 5 classes of SHCA based upon Heritage ranking criteria developed by The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Heritage Program Network, and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. There are 2 possible ranks used to prioritize a species' SHCA: 1) the global rank based on a species worldwide status, and 2) the state rank based upon the species status in Florida. The state and global ranks are based upon many factors such as known occurrence locations, estimated abundance, range, amount of habitat currently protected, perceived levels of threats towards the species, and ecological fragility.

Approximate site boundary and 1-mile buffer

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

Miles
0 0.5 1 1.5 2

FWC ID: 2021_6531 December 12, 2021



Priority Wetlands

- 1-3 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 4-6 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 7-9 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 10-11 Species, Wetlands habitat

N

Kissimmee Bend FFS

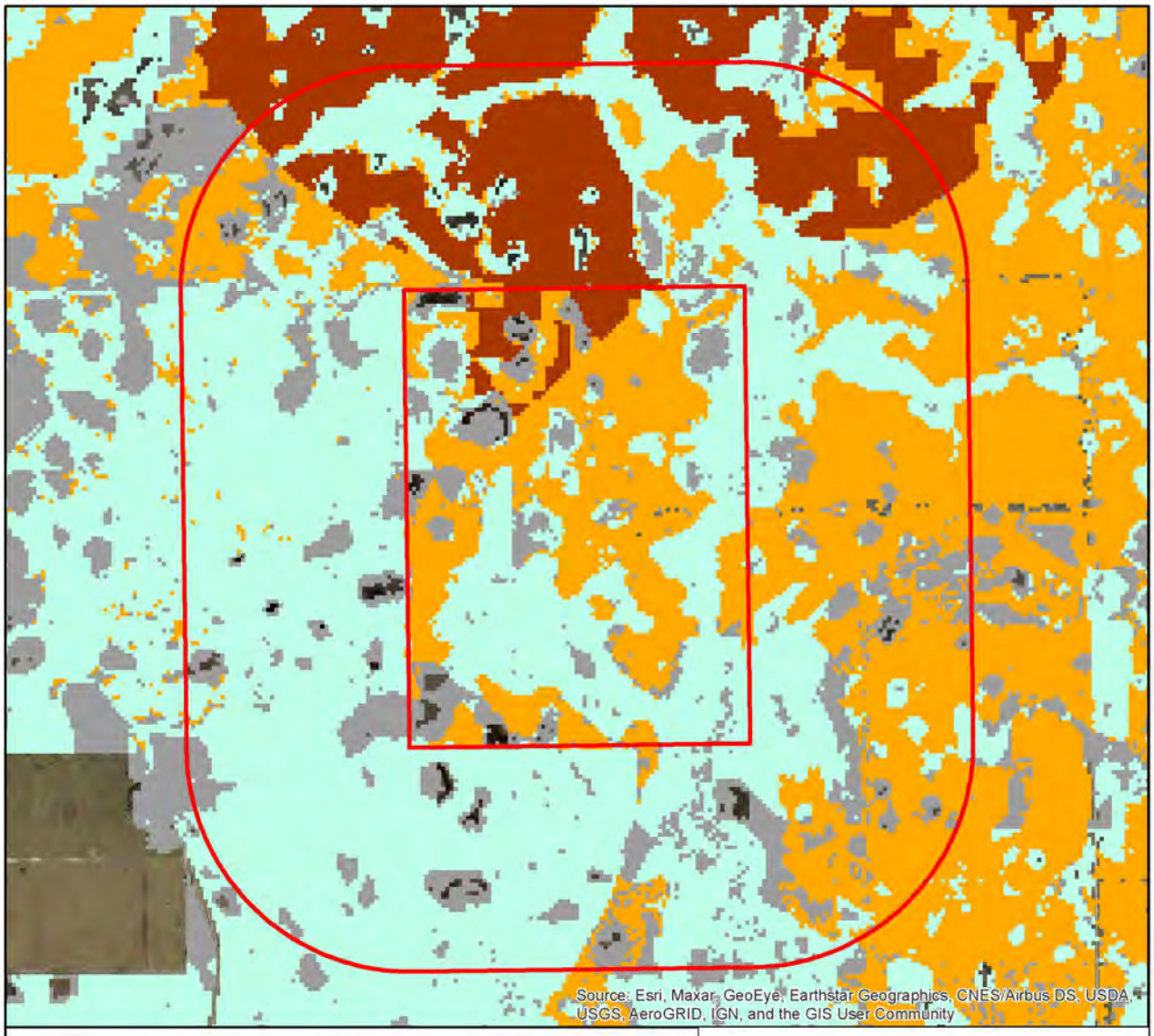
This raster dataset identifies Florida wetlands important to wetland-dependent vertebrates listed by the State of Florida as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern. The dataset also ranks the relative importance of wetland areas based on species richness of the selected vertebrate species.

Approximate site boundary and 1-mile buffer

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

Miles
0 0.5 1 1.5 2

FWC ID: 2021_6531 December 12, 2021



Species Richness

1 - 3
4 - 6
7 - 9
10 - 13

N

Kissimmee Bend FFS

This dataset represents the richness of potential habitat for selected focal species in Florida. Potential habitat includes areas that have been occupied by the species and areas where occupancy is unknown based on available occurence records. We combined the potential habitats generated for Florida into a single grid layer indicating diversity. Pixel cell value indicates the total number of species potential habitat identified at the specific location.

Approximate site boundary and 1-mile buffer

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

Miles
0 0.5 1 1.5 2

FWC ID: 2021_6531 December 12, 2021

Exhibit M

Four-Year Fire History

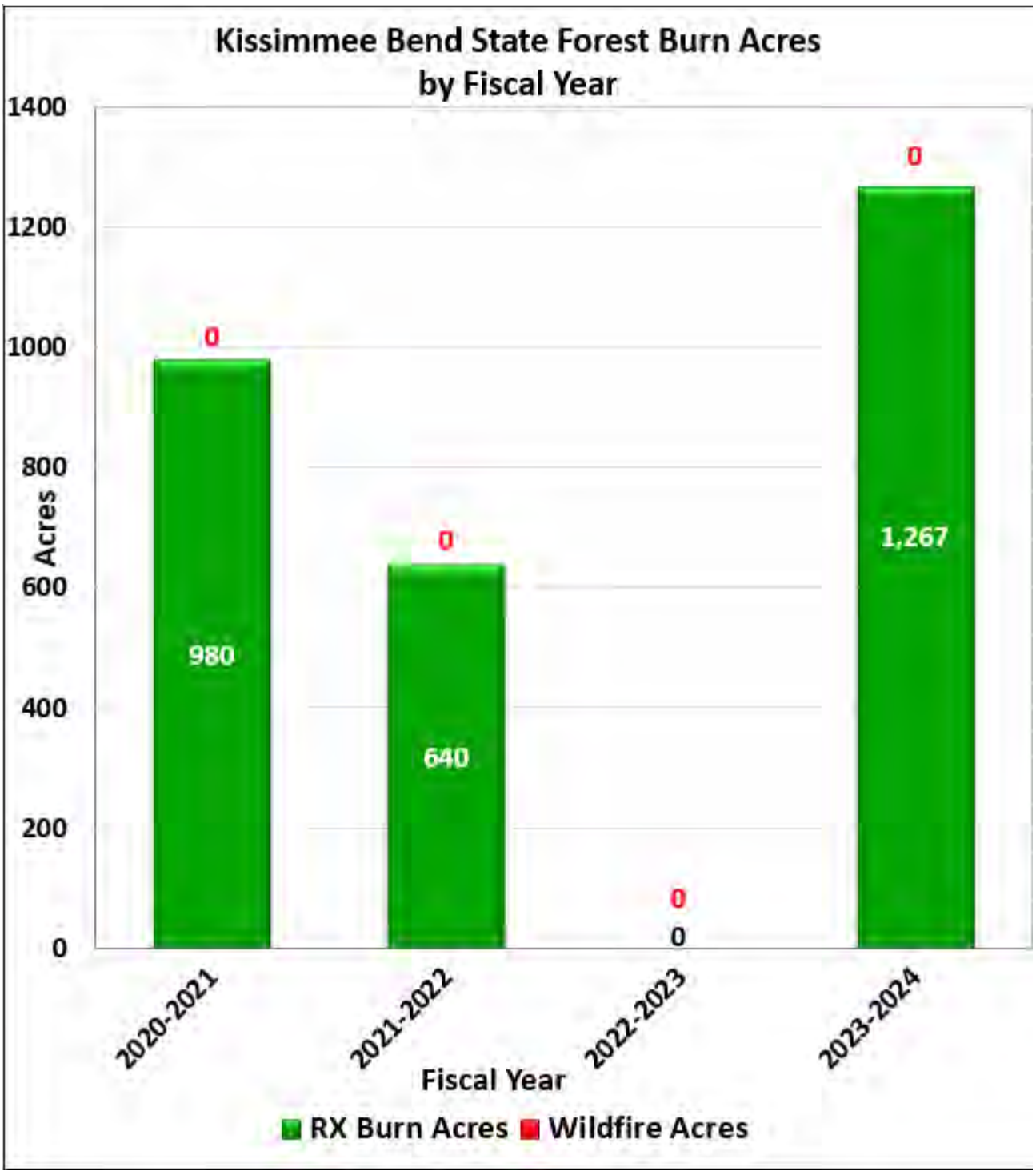

Kissimmee Bend State Forest Burn Acres
by Fiscal Year
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Acres
0
980
0
640
0
0
0
1,267
2020-2021
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
Fiscal Year
RX Burn Acres
Wildfire Acres

Exhibit N

Invasive Species Map

Florida Forest Service

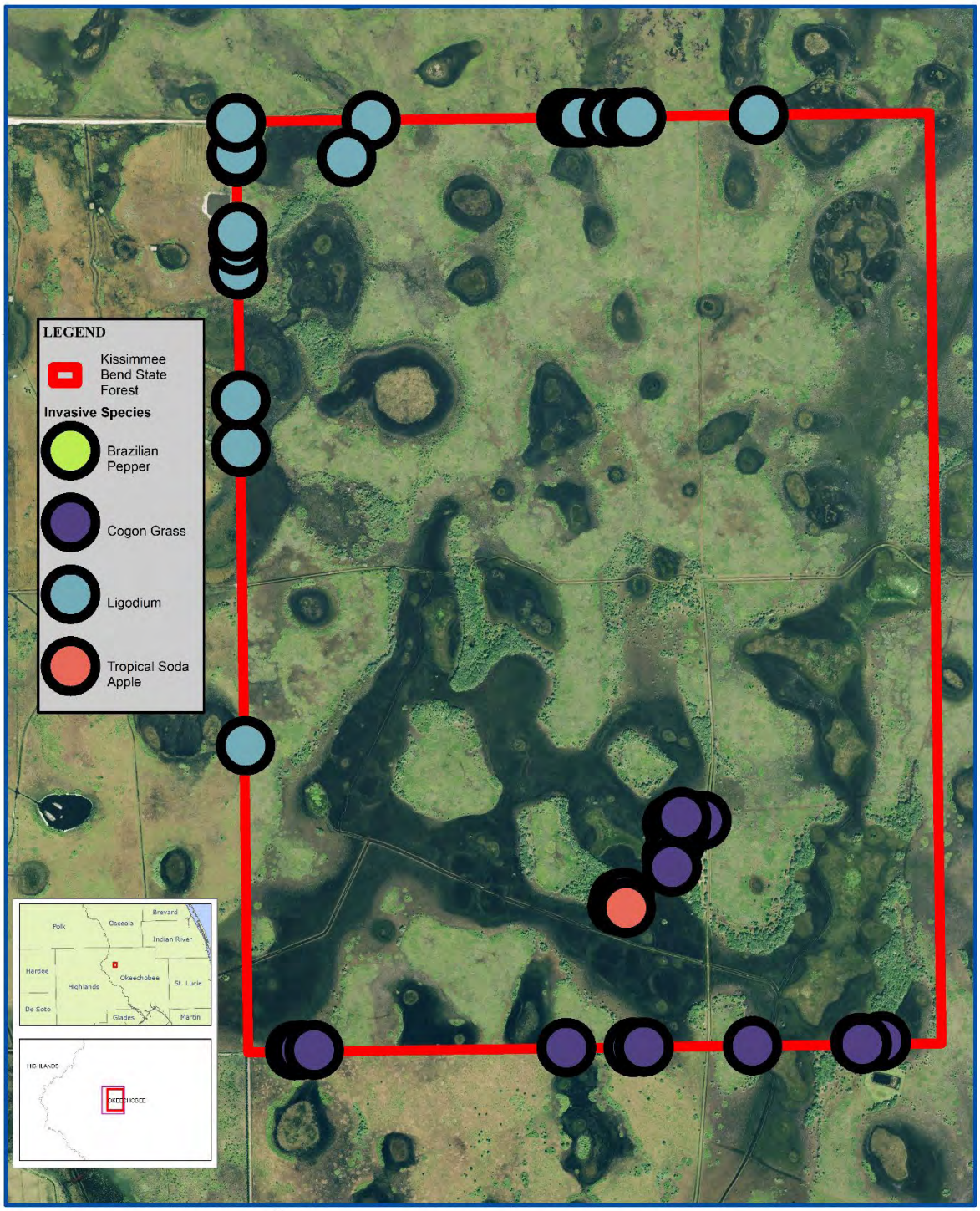
Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Non-Native Invasive Species Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
[illegible]

Managed Area boundaries courtesy of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory formally titled Defense Sites (FNAI) from the US Army Corps of Engineers



0.25 0.125 0 Miles

N
W E
S

1,000 500 0 Yards

Map Month/Year: June 2023

Exhibit O

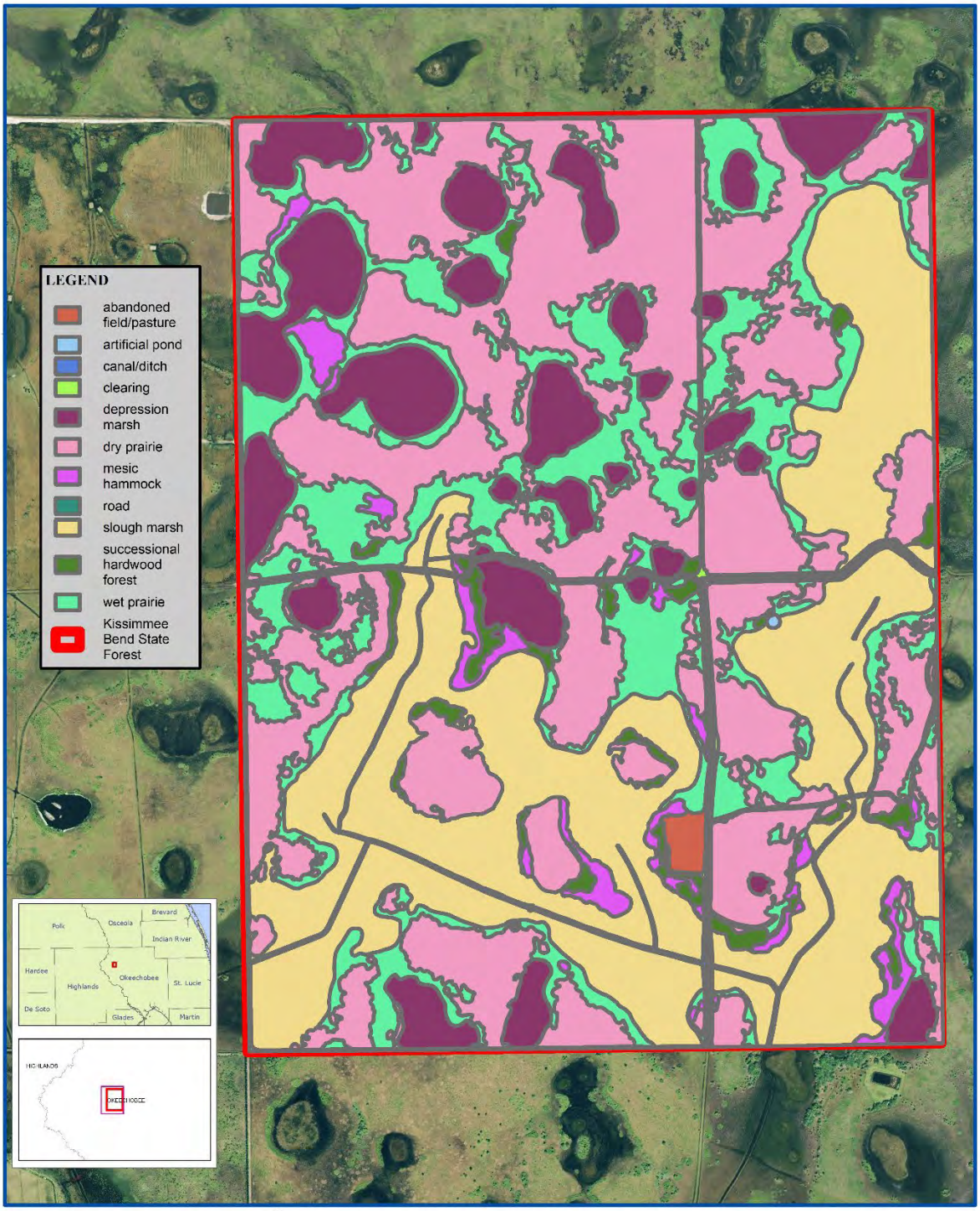
Current FNAI Natural Communities
and
Cover Types Map

Florida Forest Service

Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Current FNAI Natural Communities Cover Type Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum



Map Month/Year: June 2023

Exhibit P

Historic FNAI Natural Communities
and
Cover Types Map

Florida Forest Service

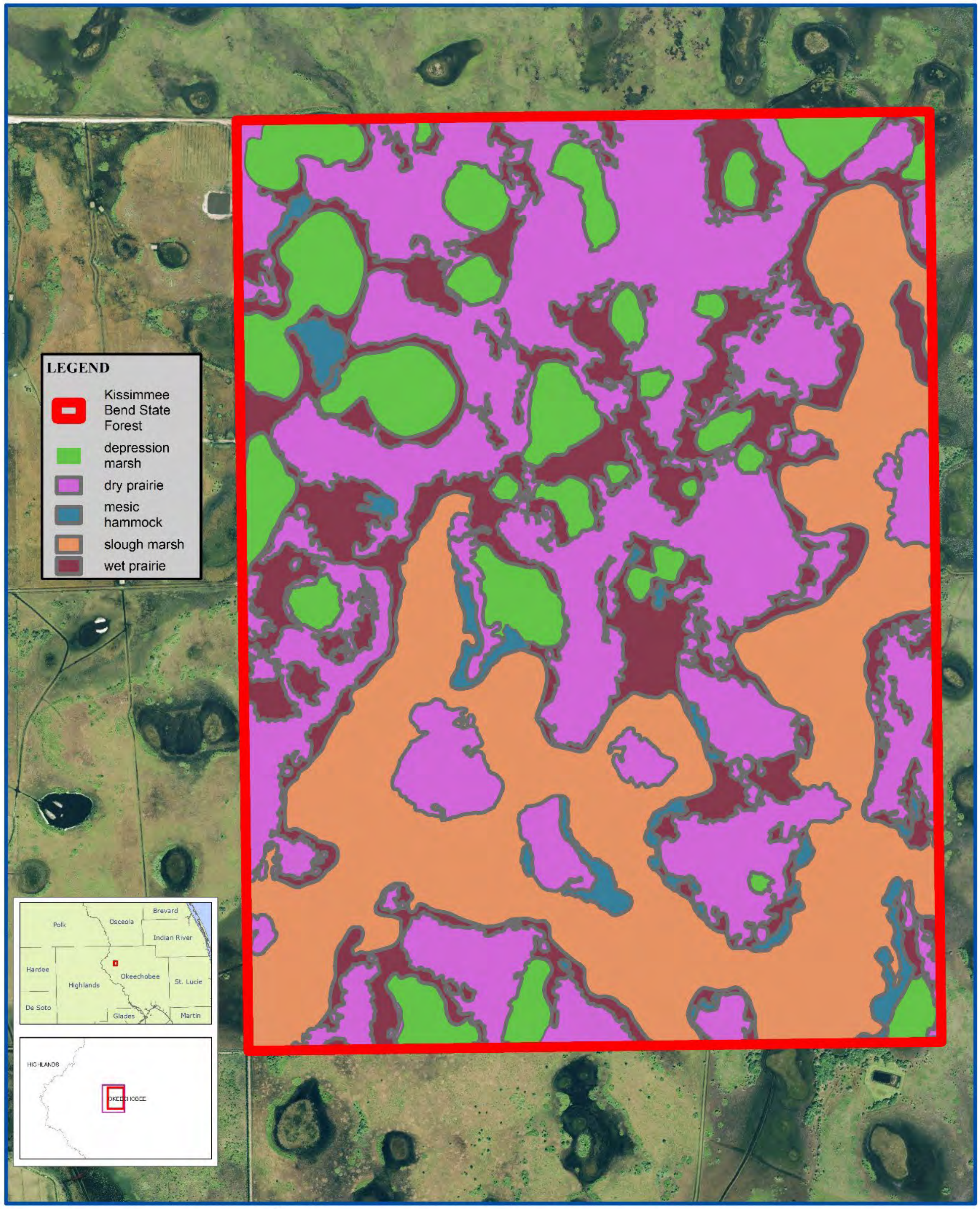
Kissimmee Bend State Forest

Historic FNAI Natural Communities Map

Coordinate System: Florida Albers
High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) Datum

DISCLAIMER:
This map was created by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) Geographic Information System (GIS) staff using data from multiple sources. Maps created by FFS are designed for division use and for use by related public agencies; these products are not legal descriptions or documents.
The Florida Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace, GIS products without notification.
The Florida Forest Service makes no warranty, either written or implied as to the accuracy or completeness of the information in this map.

Managed Area boundaries courtesy of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory
Formally USed Defense Sites (FUDS) from the US Army Corps of Engineers



0.25 0.125 0 Miles

N W E S

Map Month/Year: June 2023

1,000 500 0 Yards

Exhibit Q

Management Prospectus

Florida Forest Service (FFS)
Land Management Prospectus
Triple Diamond Ranch, Okeechobee County, Florida

Florida Forest Service Management:
The FFS management of Triple Diamond Ranch will act to help preserve the water quality of the region, and to provide for a diverse array of resource-based recreational opportunities. The FFS will seek to maintain the property by preserving the Florida ranch type atmosphere, removing invasive species, maintaining some improved pastures, and possibly continuing the grazing operations. This property is not envisioned as a productive timber tract and will not be managed as such.

The FFS utilizes a multiple-use management regime on all environmental lands it manages and will implement frequent prescribed fire. The primary objective of the management of Triple Diamond Ranch is to preserve the water quality in the region and ensure that the resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities of the property will continue to be enjoyed by youth groups, disabled American veterans, and others in the public. The Triple Diamond Ranch will be managed with an emphasis toward protecting and restoring native flora and fauna. FFS may continue an emphasis on Florida Heritage ranching, and possibly continue and expand the existing cattle grazing operations. Equipment required to manage the property includes, but is not limited to, a 4x4 pickup, tractor with implements (bucket, box blade, bush hog, etc.), a commercial grade riding mower, and an UTV/ATV.

Conditions affecting intensity of management:
The property should not require intensive management in the short term. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and planning, to restoration efforts and a broader public use, with more use of the infrastructure already on the property.

Revenue generating potential:
The FFS expects no significant revenue from the management of this property. The amount of future revenue will depend on the acreage that is grazed and the nature and extent of public use.

Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure:
Once the property is acquired and assigned to the FFS, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicle access and management planning. Consideration will be given in the management planning process to accommodate recreational development. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions and using established infrastructure.

Public Use:
Triple Diamond Ranch lends itself to diverse recreational opportunities, including but not limited to hiking, primitive camping, equestrian uses, group recreational opportunities, and a very strong component featuring specialty hunts for Operation Outdoor Freedom and Youth Hunts. Existing roads may be utilized for trails throughout the property providing off-road bicycling, hiking, horseback riding and access to beautiful vistas throughout the landscape. The infrastructure already

on the property is in excellent shape and the existing residence could be converted to a spacious visitor/educational center. The barn and corrals could be used as part of an equestrian center for trail rides.

Management costs and sources of revenue:
It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

Salary (1-OPS Park Ranger) $45,000
Expense $50,000
OCO $250,000
Outsourcing $20,000
TOTAL $365,000

Cooperators in management activities:
FFS may liaise with the USFWS, local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities.

Exhibit R

Compliance
with
Local Comprehensive Plan
(Requested of county after MPAG)

From:	Marsh, Emily
To:	planninginfo@okeechobeecountyfl.gov
Cc:	Camposano, Brian
Subject:	Kissimmee Bend State Forest Draft Land Management Plan for Review
Date:	Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:27:00 AM
Attachments:	8. Okeechobee County Compliance Letter Request 02252025.pdf 2025 KBSF Draft LMP Okeechobee County Compliance Review 02252025.pdf
Importance:	High

Good Morning,

Please see the attached letter and management plan for Kissimmee Bend State Forest. We are asking that you review this plan for compliance with the County's Comprehensive Plan. Since the materials for the exhibits were too large to send digitally, we are sending a paper copy to your office via FedEx, which should arrive by Thursday afternoon (tracking number 772303252741). Thank you!

If you have any questions, concerns, or if I may be of additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Emily

Emily Marsh
State Lands Management Planner
Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

(850) 681-5889
Emily.Marsh@FDACS.gov

The Conner Building
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650

www.fdacs.gov

Exhibit S

Management Plan Advisory Group Summary

Management Plan Advisory Group Public Hearing
Kissimmee Bend State Forest
10-Year Land Management Plan

January 29, 2025
10:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- Joseph Debree, III — Okeechobee District Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS)
- Andrew West — Science Supervisor, South Florida Water Management District
- Josiah Freese — Conservation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Audrey Kuipers — District Administrator, Local Soil and Water Conservation District
- Paul Gray — Everglades Science Coordinator, Audubon Society

MPAG Members Not Present:

- Dennis Wedgworth — Local Property Owner
- Brian Pippin — Local Property Owner
- Representative Frank Decarlo — Okeechobee County Commissioner

FFS Staff:

- Alan Davis — Land Planning Coordinator
- Brian Camposano — Forest Management Assistant Bureau Chief
- Duane Weis — Region 4 Deputy Chief of Field Operations
- David Grubich — Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and Public Information Officer
- Michael Lisiecki — Forest Area Supervisor
- Emily Marsh — Land Management Planner

Guests:

- None

Public Meeting Start Time: 10:30 A.M.

- Land Planning Coordinator, Alan Davis (FFS) opened the meeting by introducing himself and explained the purpose and statutory framework for the Kissimmee Bend State Forest 10-Year Land Management Plan process. He explained that the Plan is not an annual work plan or detailed operational plan but provides general and conceptual guidance for management of Kissimmee Bend State Forest (KBSF) for the next 10-year period.
- Mr. Davis confirmed compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law advising MPAG members to not discuss the draft outside of the public meetings. He stated that the meetings are open to the public, recorded, and minutes taken.
- Mr. Davis stated that both MPAG meetings are open to the public and proper notice was given. The meetings were advertised in the Lake Okeechobee News Newspaper on January 15, 2025; Florida Administrative Register, FFS webpage, as well as posted at the kiosks in the Okeechobee District. The meetings were announced at the Okeechobee County Commissioners meeting on December 19, 2024. He noted that the draft plan goes through various approvals before and after the MPAG meetings but that the FFS Director is granted final authority on changes to the draft plan. He described the day's two meetings: The first meeting is informational and provides opportunity for public comment; the 1:00 p.m. Workshop

meeting provides opportunity for the MPAG members to discuss the public input and to share their personal comments on the draft plan. The public is welcome to attend the Workshop, but participation is limited to MPAG members.

- Mr. Davis then requested MPAG Member introductions and attendance was taken.
- Mr. Davis asked the advisory group to elect an MPAG chairperson. Joe Debree, III was elected to serve as chairperson.
- Mr. Davis asked if there are any questions at this time.
- Mr. Davis then introduced Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and Public Information Officer David Grubich who presented a PowerPoint presentation of the 10-Year Plan. Mr. Davis asked if there were any clarifying questions regarding the presentation.
- Mr. Davis asked if there are any questions. No questions followed.
- No public members attended the meeting, and no public comments were received, and Mr. Davis closed the meeting.

Public Meeting End Time: 10:49 A.M.

Management Plan Advisory Group Workshop Meeting
Kissimmee Bend State Forest
10-Year Land Management Plan

January 29, 2025
1:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

• Joseph Debree, III	Okeechobee District Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS)
• Andrew West	Science Supervisor, South Florida Water Management District
• Josiah Freese	Conservation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
• Audrey Kuipers	District Administrator, Local Soil and Water Conservation District
• Paul Gray	Everglades Science Coordinator, Audubon Society

MPAG Members Not Present:

• Dennis Wedgworth	Local Property Owner
• Brian Pippin	Local Property Owner
• Representative Frank Decarlo	Okeechobee County Commissioner

FFS Staff:

• Alan Davis	Land Planning Coordinator
• Brian Camposano	Forest Management Assistant Bureau Chief
• Duane Weis	Region 4 Deputy Chief of Field Operations
• David Grubich	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and Public Information Officer
• Michael Lisiecki	Forest Area Supervisor
• Emily Marsh	Land Management Planner

Guests:

- None

Workshop Meeting Start Time: 1:00 P.M.

- Land Planning Coordinator, Alan Davis introduced himself and opened the KBSF MPAG Workshop. He reminded the MPAG members of the Florida Sunshine law and that the purpose of the workshop is to review and discuss the draft and that any edits made to the draft would be presented to the FFS Director for approval. He noted that minutes will be recorded and emailed to the MPAG members and will be approved via negative response review. MPAG member appointment will terminate when the final draft is submitted to the Acquisition Restoration Council. Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and Public Information Officer David Grubich was available to make proposed changes to the draft during the page-by-page review.
- Mr. Gray inquired if comments will only be provided today and no comments after this.
- Mr. Davis clarified that no, not as far as the workshop, but there will be another public hearing at the Acquisition Restoration Council Meeting (ARC) that this plan will be approved at. He continued to state that ARC is essentially another public meeting that anyone can come and comment on it.
- Mr. Gray inquired where the Sunshine Committee is. Mr. Davis stated that they are the MPAG Workshop Members and continued to explain that the group are the advisory group for the plan that discusses and makes decisions on what FFS incorporates into the plan based on public comment and the Committee's thoughts.

- Mr. Gray stated that some of the Sunshine Committees he's been on, he wasn't allowed to talk to others about the meeting after he left the meeting.
- Mr. Davis stated that he is correct and that was discussed in the first meeting, and that they're still under the Florida Sunshine Law. Mr. Gray stated ok and just wanted to make sure.
- Mr. Davis stated that we will get started on the Executive Summary, which is page 1 of the plan.
- Page 3: Ms. Kuipers stated that as an outsider looking in, she stated that reading the website and then reading this, she inquired what exactly was the year that the property was acquired be it 2019 or 2020. Mr. Davis stated that he believes it was on the lease in 2019 and then corrected himself by stating 2020. Ms. Kuipers stated that the website states that it was acquired in 2019. Mr. Davis explained that the acquisition dates can be different from the lease dates because acquisition is when it closes and the funds and title are transferred and conveyed to the state. The lease date could be months after the acquisition date because documents need to be drafted and signed. He then stated that the closing date could be totally different than the actual lease date. He further stated that the April 2020 date is when FFS got in under lease, but it could have closed in 2019 as far as the acquisition goes but is not officially under FFS management until we sign the lease. Ms. Kuipers state ok. Mr. Davis asked if there was anything else on page 3.
- Page 5: Mr. Gray suggested that the fire return interval on the bottom of page 5 where it states a 2-to-4-year interval, should be shortened. He explained that he is a member of the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Working Group, and they manage a lot of dry prairie, and that group is composed of managers at Kissimmee Prairie, Avon Park, Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (which are the sparrow properties). He continued to explain that they also have Archibald Biological Station helping Airforce range's bio team and surveys that DOD has to do. He then stated that they have various researchers and captive breeding facilities too. He stated that they used to think that a 3-year burn return interval on dry prairie was right, but now there are kind of shifting to 2-year, but he doesn't know if that's right either. He continue to explain that it's because the sparrows aren't doing particularly well. He stated that it's just an idea to adjust the interval, and that a 2-to-4-year interval is fine, but would like to see that shortened a little bit.
- Mr. Davis explained that the return interval accounts for a grace period because of wet seasons. He then mentioned that in Land Management Reviews (LMRs), if FFS says 1 to 2 and they do not burn within the 1-to-2-year range, then they get dinged on the LMR for not burning every 1 to 2 years. He then stated that the current fire return interval gives FFS leeway on years where they can get in there and burn if it's too wet or other factors preventing them to burn.
- Mr. West inquired if the interval can be changed to 1 to 4 years instead of a 2 to 4, so that FFS has the option to start burning on a yearly basis if it's optional. He then stated that native prairies do respond back fast. Mr. Davis stated that the interval range is also an average, so that it's not limiting FFS for 2 to 4 years. Mr. West stated ok and agreed that FFS is just stating the average.
- Mr. Camposano confirmed that this is an average and explained that of all the fire adapted systems on the forest, 2 to 4 years is the average. He then stated that 2 to 4 years is a general average that FFS uses on most state forests. He acknowledged that Mr. Gray and Mr. West are making a good argument about the dry prairie and taking that to a 1 to 4. He then stated that there isn't any timber out there and that is part of the reason why you want to give it a little longer too; so, the prairie can probably take it a little sooner. Mr. Camposano concluded by stating that saying an average fire return interval of 1 to 4 years is perfectly acceptable if you want to do it year after year, but the group has to agree as a whole.
- Mr. Gray stated that it really doesn't make a difference if it's 1 to 4, but that it just gives FFS more of an opportunity to burn.
- Mr. Freese agreed, then stated that having FFS staff try to plan for that shorter interval window. He continued to state that rather than planning for the 4-year window, for FFS staff to plan for the 1 to 2 year, and for FFS to know that, even if we don't change the text.
- Mr. Davis inquired of the group if the 2 should be change to a 1 making it a 1-to-4-year interval. The group agreed and the change was made within the draft plan. He then inquired if there was anything else on page 5.
- Page 6: At the top of the page on page 6 where it talks about dormant and growing season burns, Mr. Gray stated that, again, most dry prairie managers prefer growing season burns. He then stated that they don't all

have to be done during growing season. He continued to state that one thing FFS will find out is that this area is so wet, that by the time it gets dry enough to burn during May or April, frequently there are burn restrictions in place because other places are drier; which can mess with FFS's ability to meet the 1-to-4-year interval. He continued to state that FFS is going to run into years like that because everyone else dries out and fires start.

- Mr. Camposano stated that dormant and growing season burns are in the plan for that reason. He then stated that FFS want to burn things in the growing season whenever they can, but they don't want to give up days in the dormant season just because of the growing season. Mr. Gray agreed and stated that dormant season is better than nothing. Mr. Camposano agreed and stated that that is why it is in the plan the way it is. He then stated that if that answers Mr. Gray's question, he then stated to Ms. Kuipers that he looked up the lease date which is April 13, 2020, so the acquisition date to the state was in 2019. Ms. Kuipers stated ok.
- Mr. Gray inquired if there could be a note stating, "preferably dormant". Mr. Davis stated that it is stated further in the plan that talks about prescribed fire. Mr. Gray thanked Mr. Davis and apologized.
- Mr. Freese stated he had one thing for page 6, then mentioned a discrepancy regarding the fire return interval on page 6 which reads 1,992 acres are within the desire fire return interval, but on page 26 it says only an estimated 182 acres are within the desired return interval. Mr. Camposano stated that that will need to be changed and that can be highlighted. He then inquired what page the discrepancy was on. Mr. Freese stated that on page 6 it reads 1,992 acres. Mr. Camposano stated that that is correct. Mr. Freese stated that on page 26 it reads 182 acres. Mr. Camposano instructed Mr. Grubich to scroll down to page 26. Mr. Gray agreed and stated that he saw that. Mr. Freese pointed out the last sentence of the paragraph on page 26. Mr. Camposano instructed Mr. Grubich to add a comment saying, "Verify or change number". Mr. Davis asked Mr. Grubich to highlight the 182 acres and right click and enter comment. Mr. Grubich inquired Mr. Camposano what to say in comment. Mr. Camposano answered for it to read, "Please revise number to actual burn acreage". Mr. Camposano thanked Mr. Freese for catching that discrepancy. Mr. Davis also thanked Mr. Freese and then inquired the group if there was anything else on page 6.
- Page 8: Mr. Freese requested clarification that the parking lot is not owned by FFS. Mr. Grubich stated that it is owned by the feds. Mr. Freese stated ok, and Mr. Grubich explained that the user has to go through the federal parking lot and the gate and KBSF is 4.5 miles out, and then hang a left and get to a dead end. From there the user would have to drive another mile or 1.5 miles to get to the actual entrance to where the sign is posted for KBSF. Mr. Freese stated got it and thanked Mr. Grubich.
- Mr. Gray stated that he hasn't driven in there, and inquired if the public has access all the way in. Mr. Lisiecki stated that they do on foot and that the gate is open during hunting season, so they can't drive that 4.5-mile stretch. Mr. Debree added that there are certain areas where users have to stop at because there are no more vehicles beyond certain points. Mr. Lisiecki agreed.
- Mr. Grubich stated that there are also other gates that go into the federal property itself, and some areas don't even have gates for. Mr. Debree agreed and stated that there is only signage. Mr. Grubich echoed Mr. Debree stating that there are signs reading "No Vehicles Beyond This point". Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 6.
- Mr. Grubich stated that it's a long walk out there.
- Ms. Kuipers inquired if there is a time later to discuss signage. She then stated that she went on Sunday to visit the property and then inquired if she wasn't supposed to drive around. Mr. Grubich inquired Ms. Kuipers if the gate was open. Ms. Kuipers stated that the gate was already open. Mr. Grubich stated that somebody broke the chain. Ms. Kuispers continued to state that she went out in the northern part of the area.
- Mr. Davis stated that to answer Ms. Kuipers' question, there is a spot later on in the plan to address signage. Ms. Kuipers stated perfect.
- Mr. Lisiecki stated that regarding the gate, there is a lot of people that have access such as FWC and the feds. Ms. Kuipers stated that she saw a UTV that ducked away from her on the way back. Mr. Lisiecki joked that that user was not supposed to be there. Ms. Kuipers stated that she can talk about that later too because the website stated that it directed her to Flying A Ranch. She then continued to state that she determined to take her chances since she had the plan with her and was able to find KBSF. Brian inquired Ms. Kuipers that she went somewhere for Day Use and to pay a Day Use Fee. Ms. Kuipers stated yes and that the website states to

use that area and Reserve America and is supposed to be $2. Mr. Camposano explained that that's another discussion that he needs to have with the FFS Recreation Coordinator and folks out here because there should not be any Day Use Fees being charged out there because there isn't really any infrastructure there presently at the forest. He continued to state that even the parking lot doesn't belong to FFS, rather, it belongs to the feds, so we usually make sure we have improvements in place before there's an entrance fee; therefore, we might need to take that down. He reassured Ms. Kuipers that it is fine if she didn't pay a Day Use Fee. He then stated that he doesn't know why the website took her to Flying A Campground but will talk with the Recreation Coordinator back in Tallahassee to figure that one out. Ms. Kuipers stated that she didn't dig deeper into that one, but FFS staff reassured her that that will be handled and fixed by FFS staff.

- Mr. West inquired if the gate would be open for small game hunting season since small game season is in. Mr. Lisiecki confirmed and stated yes it would be open for small game hunting season.
- Mr. Lisiecki stated that he doesn't know how it works with the quotas, but he does know that it's all quota, so he is certain that there is a quota for small game. Mr. Debree stated that there is usually a quota for small game. Mr. Lisiecki stated ok. Mr. West stated that he just doesn't know the rules for driving regarding small game.
- Mr. Camposano stated that FFS didn't see anybody out there even though the gate was open. He then inquired that the feds prefer the gate to be closed. Mr. Lisiecki stated that he doesn't really know and that he was instructed to just keep it closed and locked. Mr. Debree agreed and stated that it's supposed to be closed and locked. Mr. Lisiecki stated yes. Mr. Camposano inquired if it was the feds' ultimate decision whether to keep the gate closed and locked. Mr. Lisiecki stated he believes so. Mr. Camposano stated ok, and he asked because if it was FFS's choice, then we would choose to leave the gate open.
- Ms. Kuipers stated that the website stated it would provide a gate code. Mr. Freese inquired if the gate was at the end of the federal parking lot. Mr. Lisiecki stated yes and that is part of the issue, and that users have to go through the federal property to get to KBSF so it's kind of the feds' rule regarding the gate.
- Mr. Camposano stated yes and that is the reason why FFS needs legal access back to it.
- Mr. Gray inquired who the federal management entity is. Mr. Freese stated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife manages the federal property. Mr. Gray then inquired who FFS contacts when talking to FWC. Mr. Grubich inquired if it was Oliver. Mr. Lisiecki confirmed. Mr. Gray inquired if he has a bureau, which Mr. Lisiecki responded that he is not sure. An MPAG member stated that he thinks Oliver is at Merritt Island.
- Mr. Grubich stated that he was talking with an FWC Officer, and the officer mentioned that, within his recollection, he only remembers one person ever out there shooting or hunting turkey. He then stated that there hasn't been a whole lot of use.
- Mr. Lisiecki stated that he gets calls all the time from the public inquiring of any nearby hotels and if there is any camping. He continued to say that he gets those all the time leading up to hunting season. Mr. Davis inquired the group if there was anything else on page 8.
- Mr. Gray stated that he saw the language restricting the use of off-road vehicles and praised FFS for including said language because if you drive across prairie when it's wet, those tire tracks will last for years. He then inquired the classification of electric bikes because they are becoming more and more common and gives people a lot of access. He continued to explain that that's not necessarily a bad thing but inquired if they are considered to be a motorized vehicle. Mr. Camposano stated that Class I E-Bikes (pedal assist bikes) are allowed on any trail that a normal bicycle can be on because you still have to pedal. He continued to state that, as of right now, anything that is Class II, Class III or even if they make Class IV E-Bikes, would only be able to be used on a road that is opened to licensed vehicles; so, they are only on our named and numbered roads. He then stated that right now, there isn't a named or numbered road on KBSF so it would be Class I E-Bikes only. He then inquired if the feds allowed bicycling down their road to get to KBSF. Ms. Kuipers answered that she thinks at the sign she read "E-Bike". Mr. Camposano stated ok. He then reiterated that that is for the feds, and he doesn't know if they allow Class II or Class III. He then concluded by stating that for Florida state forests, across the board, it's Class I only on our bike trails, but you take a Class II, III or IV on an open, named, or numbered road.

- Mr. Freese added that it will also be written on the WMA brochure as well. Mr. Gray suggested that he doesn't know if that is in the document and may be good to clarify. He then stated that the e-bikes are not necessarily a bad thing, but they could be used for less stuff.
- Page 9: Mr. Gray requested to add the DeLuca Preserve to the Conservation Areas and Proximity Table (Table 2), which is the area that goes from Yeehaw Junction down to the corner of Kissimmee Prairie's 20,000 acres. He then stated that that is the area that was given to the University of Florida. Mr. Davis inquired Mr. Gray if he was asking for the preserve to be added in. Mr. Gray stated yes, because it is maybe 10 miles northeast of KBSF. Ms. Marsh inquired Mr. Gray of the name of the preserve again. Mr. Gray stated it is called the DeLuca Preserve. He stated that it is the Old Destiny property and explained that it basically goes from the Osceola/Okeechobee County Line to Highway 60 and from the P Vine (trail road) to 441. Ms. Marsh stated ok. Mr. Gray provided the spelling of the preserve. Mr. Davis inquired the manager. Mr. Gray stated that it is the University of Florida and there is a conservation easement on it. He then stated to Mr. Davis that he can just google it.
- Mr. West stated that since we're adding, to add the new Okeechobee Unit for FWC that is directly west of KBSF. Mr. Debree inquired the name of the unit. Mr. West stated that it's called the Okeechobee Unit and that it's part of the Headwater Everglades, but it's called the Okeechobee Unit. An MPAG member inquired if that is the new one that was just purchased. Mr. West stated yes, apparently at the end of Micco Road. Mr. Grubich inquired if it was Swiftmud (SWFWMD). Mr. Freese stated no, that is a federal piece of property. Mr. West stated that there is the Kissimmee Prairie has part of it and then there is Fish and Wildlife that has the other part. Mr. Gray stated that's right and inquired if that is the Corgon Tract. Mr. West stated yes, the Corgon Tract. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 9.
- Page 10: Mr. Gray stated that, referring to the Revenue Producing Activities section, people want to go out there and pick palmetto berries. He then inquired if FFS restricts that. Mr. Camposano stated that FFS currently doesn't have any active contracts and explained that FFS hasn't done any palmetto harvesting in quite some time. He stated that we want to keep the door open but at the same time, it has to be on the right property for the right reasons. He continued to explain that if FFS does this again in the future then we would want to do it in similar fashion like how Camp Blanding does theirs. However, he notated that Camp Blanding has fencing around their property which does help with a sale. He further stated that it's not necessarily banned or anything like that; but just because it's not in the plan doesn't mean that it can't come back. Rather, it is not high on the radar right now. Mr. Gray stated that, biologically speaking, he recommends prohibiting it because it's a massive crop for deer, turkey, and for a lot of animals, bears and the like. He explained that it's a pretty big issue around here and that a lot of people take these berries. He then stated that migrant workers will go in and pick everything they can. He further explained that a guy was arrested on Kissimmee Prairie a couple years ago and was hiding out but was found a couple of days later. Mr. Camposano stated that he doesn't think that he'll get the Director to approve saying that it is explicitly banned in there. He then stated that FFS doesn't have any plans to do any right now, and that the Commissioner's Office briefly had FFS look into it about a year to a year and a half ago. The result of that investigation was that it wasn't the right time or place, not just for KBSF, but for all FFS state forests. He concluded that they have since moved on from it and doesn't foresee FFS going back to it because they're too busy doing their normal timber management on the rest of their forests and that he doesn't see that opportunity opening up any time soon. Mr. Gray stated that if there is a Wildlife Officer out there and there isn't some sort of prohibition in the plan, then that can pose a problem. Mr. Camposano stated that in law, and in our rule, the public cannot go out into FFS state forests and collect plant material without explicit permission, so that would already be breaking the law. Mr. Camposano stated that he has even kick people off the forest before and take everything they have and scatter it back out in the woods, if they don't have a permit for harvesting or are harvesting sale. Mr. Gray thanked Mr. Camposano. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 10.
- Page 12: Mr. Freese inquired about the equipment section and specifically inquired if this was a spot to add potential for future purchases too or if that would be further into the plan. He then clarified his question and inquired if that list is only what KBSF only has right now. Mr. Davis explained that this is just what KBSF has in

this particular snapshot in time. Mr. Freese stated ok. Camposano promised Mr. Freese that that is not a limiting list. Mr. Freese expressed his relief. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 12.

- Mr. Gray pointed out the Incompatible Uses section at the bottom of the page and notated that it does point out Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), which is what he was inquiring about earlier. Mr. Camposano stated that E-Bikes are a little bit different than off highway vehicles that they are off highway in the sense that you can take them off the road, but OHVs specifically refer to ATVs, and UTVs. Mr. Camposano explained that they have three (3) state forests that have OHV riding providing areas, and those are the only state forests where the public is allowed to bring their OHV, unless you have a mobility permit issued from FWC that allows for specialized pieces of equipment for a specific purpose. Mr. Camposano stated that if they were to start lumping in Class I E-Bikes into the same category as OHVs, then it wouldn't be good. Mr. Gray agreed. Mr. Camposano added that an E-Bike and a regular bike are supposed to stay on the trails and roads and should not be going through the prairie. Mr. Gray joke that that would be a rough ride. Mr. Camposano agreed. Mr. Gray thanked Mr. Camposano.
- Page 14: Mr. Gray inquired who is the State Forest Liaison Committee. Mr. Camposano stated that KBSF has had one in the past. He explained that Time Elder was here when the last one was done. He then stated that contains a group of representatives of different user groups. He explained that he can't recall the composition of the last meeting, but it's not a huge group at this point because there isn't a lot of forest users; not a lot of people know of KBSF yet and with its access issues. He continued to state that all state forests are required to have liaison panel meetings to discuss, especially when there is public interest in wanting to advance recreational activities on the forest or have concerns about activities going on; or what activities are available on the forest. He stated that FFS discusses this with local managers on the public's behalf (equestrian, hiking, camping groups, etc.). Mr. Camposano concluded that that group will be scheduled by the district when necessary, usually once a year. The purpose of the liaison meeting is to have another venue to talk. He is unsure if the same people on the previous panel would be on the next one, but that is something that the state office will work out with the district. Mr. Gray inquired if the meeting is statewide. Mr. Camposano stated no, and that it is specific to the state forest or district. Mr. Gray stated yes, and he wouldn't think that FFS would want to have a whole committee for this one tract, but to have one for the district. Mr. Camposano reiterated that the Liaison Meetings are typically for the forest, but again, there is usually more activity going on the state forest than what KBSF currently has to offer, so there probably isn't a big need for a liaison committee meeting right now. He then stated that when there becomes a need or feeling like the users want to voice their opinions, then FFS will compile a liaison committee meeting, which will be similar to this MPAG. Mr. Camposano then stated that these meetings are on a forest-by-forest basis. He explained that we wouldn't hold a meeting for all the state forests in Region 4, for an example, because there is way too much diversity and too many people that vary from state forest to state forest. Mr. Gray agreed and stated that he was just curious, then thanked Mr. Camposano. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 14.
- Page 13: Mr. Freese inquired to go back a page to page 13 for a clarifying question. He then stated that there are easements to south and west of the property and inquired if FFS is looking to expand the forest through acquisitions. Mr. Davis stated that there isn't really any land available to continue to acquire for the property. Mr. West added that KBSF is completely land locked. Mr. Davis agreed and reiterated the easements, state and federal agencies directly adjacent to KBSF. Mr. Freese inquired that even if there are easements to the south and west of the property, if those areas are still considered to be private property even though it is undeveloped. Mr. Davis stated yes and continued to explain that the state will not spend acquisition funds on something that is already being protected. Mr. Freese stated ok. Mr. Davis continued to state that since the land is already being protected, then there is no opportunity for FFS to manage it, even if they wanted to. Mr. Freese stated ok. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 13.
- Page 15: Mr. Gray explained that the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve was used as a bombing range in WWII and when Barry Burch first got onto the property, they were burning and did a flight to scout for poachers. On the southwest corner of the preserve, the crew noticed a bomb laying in a palmetto head that had burned off, they ended up calling Department of Defense (DOD) at Avon Park to come out and put some C4 on it and the bomb exploded. He suggested to add some language somewhere in the plan for users to be cautious of potential

explosions that may occur out there. He then stated that it won't prohibit FFS from doing anything on the forest but stressed to add some sort of cautionary language within the plan. Mr. Gray then stated that when Barry Burch, who was Mr. Gray's manager at the time, blew up the bomb, Mr. Burch joked that he was too close to it. Mr. Camposano stated that Mr. Gray's story is an interesting one and that Mr. Camposano cannot recall him ever reading about that in any documentation. He then inquired Mr. Gray if he has any documentation that he can provide to FFS so that it can be added to the files for that forest. Mr. Camposano continued to state that it might be worth sticking a sentence or two in there about that. He then stated that the Ground Disturbing section may not be the right place to put that because that pertains what FFS would do to disturb the ground if they were to build something on the state forest. Mr. Freese suggested to mention it under Past Uses section and Mr. Camposano agreed. Mr. Gray stated that will can send FFS some documentation on it and added that this is also mentioned is some of the original Kissimmee Prairie acquisition documents. They have three (3) different targets, and they used 50 caliber machine guns, so you will find brassings laying around out there. He continued to state that they also mostly dropped concrete bombs with flares on them; so, they weren't really bombs, but they would be practicing. Mr. Gray stressed that he will send FFS documentation. Mr. Camposano stated yes and that all the documentation he has says the property was used as a range and for grazing cattle, but there was no mention of a bombing range, and would like to put in a sentence or two about it. Mr. Gray stated that the other thing they were doing was looking for hazards up P Vine Trail and they were getting all kinds of hits out there. He concluded by stating that it ended up being the old railroad out there and there were a lot of spikes out there.

- Mr. Debree III inquired if the property was used for the bombing range or if it is because it is on the approach that there could have been remnants of what they were firing across. Mr. Gray stated that it was used as a bombing range. They had targets out there and then stated that he can send over the documentation. Mr. Debree III inquired if it was on this side of the river. Mr. Gray stated yes and that there is one (1) square mile of the Preserve that says, "No Surface Activity". He continued to state that when he asked DOD what that meant, they responded saying they don't know, and they don't have any record of it. He concluded by reiterating that he will send the documents that he has. Mr. Camposano thanked Mr. Gray and stated his appreciation. Mr. Camposano inquired KBSF staff if they have seen anything like this on the property. Mr. Lisiecki stated no or have even heard of this. Mr. Grubich stated that that is the corner he burned, and nothing went off. Mr. Debree III stated that he has heard of that on the park side before and that they have pulled up bombs over there when plowing but didn't realize that this property was part of that. Mr. Camposano reiterated that this is why he would like to see documentation on this matter so that FFS can overlay and see where it is and add some language to the plan. Mr. Gray agreed and stated that language just needs to be cautionary. He then stated that he doesn't know if the Prairie has this, but they used to have a sign stating that if the public sees anything suspicious to please report; and there was a picture of a bomb accompanying the sign. Mr. Camposano stated that that must be a little unnerving for a public user to see that sign. R. Gray then stated that he doesn't think the property was used for bombing, but being in proximity here, there is a little bit of a risk. Mr. Camposano agreed and stated that even if it's within proximity, it would be a good idea to mention that within the plan.
- Page 17: Mr. West inquired if there are any plans to back fill the ditches running through the wetlands. He then stated that he understood that FFS is still early in the process and hasn't had the property for long. Mr. Debree III stated that right now there aren't any plans to do any hydrological restoration there.
- Mr. Gray stated that when he was doing the Kissimmee River restoration, one of their goals was regards to wading bird use and nesting. He continued to state that the Audubon Society had wardens to patrol the region since the 1930s, and they documented different nesting colonies and wading birds on the preserve. He continued to explain that they were not nesting in the river floodplain. Instead, they were nesting in big Basin marshes, and there are several of them. He then stated that he has not has a chance to cross check those against the map to see if any were on there. He concluded that it would be beneficial to plug up those ditches in the long run to get back some of those functions. He explained that the way these go across the property border, you would have to make an agreement with the feds and everyone. He then stated that the Water Management District wants to do water restoration projects, and they even have a rule and acre fee, a storage

north of the lake and a lot of that is heavy to restore wetlands to the extent they can. Mr. Gray concluded by stating that once he has a plan and gets partners, he will be back, because there is a lot of opportunity with the Basin marshes as they are wonderful resources.

- Ms. Kuipers stated that further in the plan it states that restoration could be a possibility. Mr. Gray agreed and stated yes, in the future. He then explained that with the way they cross KBSF's boundaries, FFS cannot fill restore them anyways because FFS would flood their neighbors and we don't have the permission to install all of that, but it would be a tremendous opportunity out on the property. He then stated that the work would be done by the WMD or some other funding source, FFS would just have to cooperate.
- Ms. Kuipers stated that under Number 5, it should state "the removal or installation of" structures. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 17. Mr. Gray stated no, and that he doesn't think anything needs to be changed.
- Mr. Camposano stated that in the third paragraph under number 5, US Fish and Wildlife Service should be included along with WMD as joint cooperators / partners. He explained that because of the shared boundary, the property will almost always have to be working with these agencies. Mr. Freese inquired about stating adjacent landowners in the plan instead and further inquired that the southern boundaries aren't owned by them. Mr. Camposano stated that they are not.
- Mr. West stated that the drainage goes up to the north and some to the west.
- Mr. Camposano stated that he is more concerned about ditches being on the main road and US Fish and Wildlife wanted to do something that would affect our property then FFS and US Fish and Wildlife would need to work together, so those are the kinds of partnerships that Mr. Camposano is expected to see there, because there is no guarantee that a private landowner would be willing to work with us. Mr. Freese agreed. Mr. Gray reminded to add in the preserve regarding partnerships because it would take a lot of planning and people to back up the project. Mr. Camposano agreed. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 17.
- Page 19: Mr. Freese stated that the most recent Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) scientific name for caracara is *Polyborous plancus audubonii* and suggested for that change to be made in Table 4.
- Page 18: Ms. Kuipers stated that while Mr. Grubich is typing in the updated caracara scientific name if they can go back to page 18. She then inquired why the group decided not to put adjacent landowners in the sentences that was previously discussed. Mr. Davis inquired where and Ms. Kuipers directed Mr. Davis to the section she was referring to. Mr. Camposano explained that he suggested to add in US Fish and Wildlife and not adjacent landowners, because of the ownership boundaries. He then stated that if FFS does anything that involves private land then they will have to involve private landowners, otherwise FFS cannot really operate. He then stated that whenever FFS does something water related on state forests, they have to have the WMD involved. He continued to state that with the ownership the way it is and the access into our property, from that standpoint, it makes sense to him to include the feds specifically. He explained that any of FFS's forests that have any private landowners, on any edges or sides, they are going to have to be involved. Mr. Camposano reassured Ms. Kuipers that FFS is not going to put water on private property and flood them out. That wouldn't be something FFS would be willing or allowed to do, as well as it being bad business for a government agency. Mr. Camposano concluded by stating that this is by default; that, FFS cannot do something that is going to affect private property without their expressed consent and permission. Whereas, from a regulatory standpoint, FFS has to work with the WMD and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ms. Kuipers stated that she was thinking about easements on the west boundary and coordination with NRCS and their wetlands and restoration plans; if that needs to be added. Mr. Camposano stated that he does not know if it *has* to be added but doesn't know if it would hurt it either so that is up to the group to decide.
- Mr. West stated that part of the DRP program is to hold water back, so they are already make plans for that, then it makes sense for FFS to follow suit. Mr. Camposano stated that it does not hurt to add it in, it is just not something we normally do, but we also don't normally have the joint ownership and service either. Mr. West stated that it is the goal as it is with DRP. Mr. Davis inquired the group if they propose a change. Ms. Kuipers stated that she brought it up because if they were going to mention and add US Fish and Wildlife then why not NRCS. Several MPAG members suggest wording and language at once. Mr. West and Ms. Kuipers suggest the term "partners". Ms. Kuipers stated that partners sounds appropriate since landowners are a given. Ms. Marsh

suggested the term applicable or relevant partnering agencies to be used as a "catch all" for all of the agencies that would be potentially involved. Mr. Davis suggested applicable parties or partners. Mr. Camposano inquired applicable parties or partners. Ms. Marsh suggested partners or agencies, and then stated whichever the group prefers. Ms. Kuipers stated partnering agencies to which Ms. Marsh and Mr. Davis agreed. Mr. Camposano stated that using the term "agencies" will take the private landowners out of the equation. Mr. Davis inquired if that change made works for the group. The group agreed.

- Page 19: Mr. Gray stated that the list of rare and endangered species is going to get a lot longer, and somewhere within the text it says that just because it is not on the list does not mean it isn't there; rather FFS just has not yet located those species. He continued to state that he noticed that the Grasshopper sparrow is listed. Mr. Gray explained that someone found the species out on the property back in the 1980s and the working group is very interested in going out there to survey for sparrows. He then inquired if that is a possibility that FFS is willing to entertain. He then stated that the preserve is working on the Corgan Tract, which is West of KBSF, and they are of course working north of KBSF, and they will frequently do field days where FWC will send their crew and Archibald will send their crew, and the prairie will send their crew out to a property to which they will all move around. Mr. Gray inquired if it would be a possibility to set up a day or time for them to come out to KBSF and do a survey and try to get an idea of what they can find. Mr. Camposano stated that yes, but for Mr. Gray's inquiry, it would be best to apply for a Special Use Permit, which is at no cost, to go out there. He explained that a Special Use Permit would allow the agencies to be given access to the property for that specific purpose to take a vehicle out there so that the group doesn't have to walk 4.5 miles and back. He then stated that the valuable information they find, they would presumably report it to FFS so that it could be incorporated into future plans and any management. Mr. Camposano concluded by stating that that is something that would be welcomed our state forests in general because we cannot be everywhere at once. Mr. Camposano stated that FFS appreciates when they have entities like Citizens Science for this purpose. Mr. Camposano acknowledged that it is a little bit more intensive of what Mr. Gray is referring to, but any information FFS can get from people that are documenting and observing things out there is beneficial and appreciated. Mr. Gray stated that it is also free labor for the kids to go out there.
- Mr. Grubich stated that as of yesterday, he has now seen two grasshopper sparrows with the orange band on their leg, so they are there, but then stated that he does not know who is banding and tracking them. Mr. Gray explained that they are banded when they are in the nest, when they are about ready to fledge (about 13 days old). He then stated that they are all big enough for them to be banded, and the bands are all color coded, which allows them to identify each, individual bird. Mr. Gray explained that for each nest they find on all of their properties, they band them. For all the captive-reared birds, that are released are banded to show who is who and who is where. He then stated that they have also seen them go between properties; such as birds from Avon Park found up in the prairie and over up to the loop near the three lakes and all that. He concluded by stating that most of them are sedentary but some of them do migrate.
- Mr. Grubich stated that he and Ms. Marsh saw around at least ten (10) around the food plot we were at, so there is an active group of them. Ms. Marsh agreed. Mr. Grubich then stated that he saw the first one with the deer but then he saw all of these sparrows bouncing around just yesterday and since it's new to him, he was trying to get a picture of them. He then stated that when the bird was chirping at him, he noticed the band on it and was wondering what that was, and when he saw a picture of one later on he knew what the band was. Mr. Gray stated that Mr. Grubich struck gold. He then stated that this time of year, there is also a migratory grasshopper sparrow that comes down from the New England and Mid-West areas, so they are down here too. However, the Florida grasshopper sparrows will be the only ones here by June. Mr. Grubich inquired if the migratory species are darker in color. Mr. Gray stated yes. Mr. Grubich and Ms. Marsh both stated that those are the ones that they saw the other day. Mr. Camposano stated that he didn't know there were out of state grasshopper sparrows and that he learned something new today. Mr. Gray stated yes, and that it is a sub-species. Mr. Grubich stated that those are there now too, just for Mr. Gray to know. Mr. Gray stated yes and that is one of the things, when they do their first survey, they usually start in April, and they get a whole bunch of birds and then three (3) weeks later they are all gone because they were migratory. Mr. Grubich stated that

there are light and dark ones, and he did not know what the dark ones were. Mr. Gray stated that if you see them hand in hand together, they look a lot different. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 19.

- Mr. Gray inquired who he needs to contact to set up a date and time for a survey on KBSF and if that would be Mr. Debree III. Mr. Debree III stated yes. Mr. Gray stated ok and that he will talk to the sparrow people and let them know and they will cooperate with FFS. Mr. Grubich volunteered to drive the group out there. Mr. Gray stated that they still had them on the DeLuca property when it was still private property and the DeLucas would let them work out there; so, we never told anybody where it was. He then stated that they referred to the property as "The Ranch", and now that it is owned by the state, they can reveal it. Mr. Camposano stated to Mr. Debree to call him, and Mr. Camposano will help him with that process.
- Page 24: Mr. Gray stated that on top of the page where it states that visitors can enjoy hiking, stargazing can also be added to that. Mr. Davis requested Mr. Gray to restate that as he could not hear. Mr. Gray repeated that stargazing can also be added. Mr. Camposano inquired if the Kissimmee Prairie State Park is considered to be a dark sky area. The group stated yes. Mr. Camposano stated that they can add stargazing into the plan as that is reasonable. Ms. Kuipers agreed. Mr. Gray stated to put stargazing underneath the Existing section. He then added that when FFS develops their facilities, it would be good to consider dark sky ideas because Kissimmee Prairie State Park is a dark sky park and is the first of the state. He continued to state that it's not complicated, that when you install light fixtures to be sure to be pointing the lights downwards and not pointed towards the sky. He further stated that they are trying to get a dark sky ordinance in Okeechobee County, and the Mayor of all people want to do that. He then stated that trying to protect the dark skies is a really important initiative there. Mr. Gray then stated that when Avon Park Airforce Range was designated, they wrote a letter of support for that because it protects their mission since they don't want the preserve outlined in cities, or the Airforce range; because they are flying people in from ships out in the ocean and the aircraft carrying folks. He then concluded by stating that they want to keep a buffer around the preserve or the range. Mr. Davis inquired of anything else on page 24.
- Ms. Kuipers stated that under Subsection B.2, it has language about evaluating hiking trails. She then inquired how FFS is going to evaluate that if there is no use fee. Mr. Davis stated that FFS evaluates through demand from users of the state forest. Ms. Kuipers restated her inquiry. Mr. Camposano stated that Liaison Meetings are one of the avenues of evaluations that FFS uses. He stated that at those meetings, FFS would ask the group if trails and / or other infrastructure are a desired. Mr. Camposano then echoed Mr. Davis's sentiment that it is based on what the demand is and if the public come to the office to make suggestions. From there, KBSF staff would start to look into that and start planning a Liaison Panel Meeting to see what actual support the public has. Mr. Camposano explained that FFS can amend a plan and add stuff in, but then they would need to do a plan amendment to add the trailheads, since we do not have a location for them right now. He then stated that DEP is going to want to see where the public input is on this matter, so FFS will always be required to have public input. He concluded by stating that it is not just a matter of whether or not the public wants it, but whether or not FFS can install it. He further explained that KBSF is a challenging property because trails going through a bunch of wetlands, it is going to be tricky. He continued to state that it is not going to be impossible, because there are a few dim roads out there now and one sort of main road. Mr. Camposano ended by stating that is the evaluation through public feedback and whether FFS can feasibility do it or not. He then stated that currently, there is very little demand out there and FFS is not going to just to put a trail in and not have anyone ever use it and create a use that needs to be managed and maintained for no reason. He continued to state that if the demand rises, then FFS will have local meetings to make sure there is public support for it and move forward if there is funding and all that stuff that goes along with it.
- Mr. West inquired Mr. Camposano that he is talking about adding in potential campsites out there and the access to those sites. Mr. Camposano stated yes. Mr. West inquired if the public can drive up to those sites. Mr. Camposano stated that in theory, yes and continued to state that they were also talked about being hike-in campsites, but that is a long hike. He continued to state that FFS has other hike-in campsites at other state forests but does not know if any of them are that long. Mr. West agreed and stated that the Florida Trail does not go by this proposed campground and suggested it to be close to this one. Mr. Camposano stated that that is something FFS would need to do down the road. He stated that the sites have been identified for the

campground, but they are not actually in place yet. Mr. Camposano continued to state that the sites were also envisioned as...Mr. West inquired for a hunt camp. Mr. Camposano answered not for true hunt camps, but they would probably be used more during hunting season more than anything; which in that case, the gate is open and those could be driven to. Mr. Grubich stated to find a spot on semi-dry land. Mr. West agreed. Mr. Gray joked about getting a hammock. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 24.

- Page 28: Mr. Gray stated that under Adjacent Neighborhood Contacts at the bottom of page 28 / top of page 29, it says families. He then stated that a lot of FFS's adjacent neighbors are agencies, not families and suggested to change that. Ms. Kuipers suggested adjacent neighbors instead. Mr. Gray stated yes and then suggested "a list of neighbors who requested to be notified. These entities are contacted via phone or by email" or something like that, because they are not families, so it is not necessarily accurate. Mr. Davis inquired if neighbors would be better. Mr. Gray stated yes.
- Page 30: Mr. Freese inquired if there were plans to put cattle on the property in the future. Mr. Debree III stated no. Mr. Freese stated ok.
- Mr. Camposano stated that the discussion had been that the acreage FFS has by themselves would not be enough to logistically sustain without damaging the resource. Mr. Freese agreed and stated that the fact that FFS has burned the entire property in four (4) years, and if FFS can keep that up, then there would be no need for cattle grazing.
- Mr. Camposano stated that they would like to generate revenue on the property somehow, but FFS is kind of at an impasse right now. He explained that without the feds' assistance to increase the area to have it be equitable then it won't be done. Mr. Gray stated that it would have to be grazed carefully, and it may not be worth it.
- Mr. Gray then inquired about timber sales on the property and how FFS is handling cabbage palms. Mr. Camposano stated that it is funny that Mr. Gray is bringing up this topic because this was a topic of discussion in yesterday's truck ride. Mr. Camposano then stated that has been done on 1-2 forests, both near Orlando District (Charles H. Bronson State Forest and Little Big Econ State Forest), but does not know if Mr. Gray has seen those forests and the amount of palm trees they have down there. He stated that it makes KBSF look like there is hardly any trees. Mr. Camposano stated that the one thing he has learned from those contracts is that the buyers are very particular. They get orders from companies and landscapers for very specific trees so if you do not have tens of thousands of trees all in a small area, then they do not usually contract as much since it is an "as needed" contract. He further explained that you would not want to spend the time and equipment out there, especially with not a lot of roads, dragging trees and how damaging the equipment can be, and the digging, so it is probably not the best spot. Mr. Camposano then stated that the 2 forests near Orlando District, has actually led to restoration of those systems whereas you are not as choked out or near as choked out you would be here versus Orlando. He concluded by stating that the thought has crossed their minds but there is not enough density out there to be able to do it on KBSF. Mr. Gray stated that, with the Kissimmee Prairie, Cabbage palms are considered somewhat invasive, that they are more common in the open prairie than they used to be. He then stated that they have a program which grasshopper sparrows will give them 400 yards of tree. He further stated that they just don't like trees, and he thinks it's hawks. He then stated that on Kissimmee Prairie, where they have isolated cabbage palm trees, they have actually been going around and cutting them down as part of land management. He then stated that FFS can wait until the grasshopper people come out and they can give FFS a better idea of whether or not that would be a management consideration to try to fit the cabbage palms in the open prairie. Mr. Camposano stated that FFS would take that into consideration. He then stated that he is unsure if they would sell them, because FFS does this on other state forests, but to do mechanical removal whether that is doing it ourselves or contract out the work. He concluded by stating that FFS, at this point, has not assessed the property enough to truly make a determination, because, again, there are too many and FFS needs to remove some. He then stated that by looking at them he can say that there is not enough to be able to sell them given the breadth of size classes you would need or if it exists, and what the landscapers need is very narrow in that window. Mr. Gray stated that the prairie was just sawing them down with a chainsaw and from what he hears, that is a nightmare. Mr. Camposano agreed and stated that that is a young man's work right there and that is hard. He explained that it is hard enough to knock them over with a

dozer. Mr. Gray stated that this was just something for future thought and to see if the sparrow people will bring it up. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 30.

- Mr. West inquired if FFS has a budget for invasive species control, if they are treating them in-house, etc. He then stated that it does not appear that KBSF has a lot of invasives based on the current list or what the staff are looking at. Mr. Camposano stated that as of right now, though there are some invasives right now, it does not appear to be the worst problem that he has seen. He continued to state that because it is a new property, FFS is still trying to get everything figured out. He then stated that staff has been treating some cogongrass, Japanese climbing fern, and candlestick. He continued to state that there might have been some additional treatments done from the first conversation he has had. Mr. Camposano stated that treatments have been done in-house and FFS does have a budget to do contractual projects, if necessary, but we need to get a better handle on exactly all of the points that are out and make sure we are sending the contractor to go get everything that we are aware of. He further stated that this is something that FFS can look at over the next year or two. Mr. Freese added that if funding ever does become an issue, there is also the FWC Uplands program to get some funding to treat over 2,000 acres. Mr. Camposano stated that the Seminole Gaming Compact has been pretty good to FFS this year, as long as that keeps moving forward, FFS should have sufficient funding to be able to do this to a point where it is actually problematic to take other agencies' funding because we have our own to spend now, which is a good problem to have. Mr. Camposano further stated that this is the first year of that and we have actually added a lot of invasive projects state-wide, and again this is a property that FFS wants to make sure they get to at some point in time. He concluded by stating that there is funding available. Mr. West stated ok and then mentioned the hog problem.
- Mr. West stated that USDA has a program where they fly around in helicopters. He further stated that if the hunts are not doing enough, then that may be something else to look at. Mr. Camposano inquired if he's talking about USDA shooting from helicopters. Mr. Freese stated yes. Mr. Camposano inquired if it been done before on Water Management property. Mr. Freese stated yes and that it is through the USDA. Mr. Camposano stated that he knows who it is through, but inquired Mr. West if he doe not have any private landowners nearby the lands and how his agency deals with the public perceptions of that. Mr. West stated that a few were actually on board with the idea because some of the hogs were leaving WMD property and migrating onto the landowners' properties. Mr. Camposano inquired that WMD talked to the landowners first this to see if they were on board or if they just went ahead and did it. Mr. West stated that they talked to a few of them that knew had an issue, but they started on project lands so that it was not on the public use side of the property. The other areas they have not gone into it yet, but WMD is looking into it, specifically lands that may turn in to a WMD project in the future. Mr. West reiterated that he knows that they talked to the neighbors there and a lot of them have cattle leases on their properties, so they were all for the program. Mr. Camposano stated that a lot of ranchers and private landowners are digging this idea, from his understanding. He then inquired if they also do this on private lands. Mr. West stated yes.
- Mr. Debree III suggested that aerial means may be conflicted due to flight restrictions that get put in around that area. Mr. Camposano inquired if there were already any permanent restrictions with the property. Mr. Debree III answered that they do shut down, but when they are active, the restrictions do expand. He further stated that it would have to be coordinated with the feds. Mr. Grubich stated that you can skirt the eastern edge of the property, but the property itself is in a restricted area.
- Mr. Gray stated that Kissimmee Prairie has done aerial hog control. He further stated that it is possible but FFS would have to coordinate with the range. Mr. Camposano stated that FFS they have tried to do this on a different state forest a few years ago and someone higher in the General Counsel's Office got cold feet about it because of the perception. He then stated that he was approached by the same manager and asked Mr. Camposano about it yesterday for a different forest. He continued to state that as he is thinking about it for KBSF, aside from the air restrictions, it is so isolated that you may not have as many neighbor complaints or concerns; so, it might be a property, if we can bypass the restricted airspace part, to try to do this. Mr. West stated that if the Prairie is already doing this, then it should not take much to sign on to because they are already hitting that area. Mr. Camposano stated that the hunters that do come out there are not interested in hogs. Mr. Freese stated that probably not hogs, but you still might get some hunter pushback because FWC gets

pushback on their WMA that they manage. He further stated that hunters do not even want FWC to trap the hogs. Mr. Camposano stated that FWC has a USDA contract for trapping on the Joe Budd WMA that has done fantastic from what he understands. Mr. Freese stated yes but is still considered contentious. Mr. Camposano apologized for going off track from the meeting but stated that this is something that FFS would consider. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 31. Mr. Camposano thanked Mr. Freese for his perspective on that topic.

- Mr. Gray stated that the preserve has a hog trapper too that can help. He then stated that he believes they just get paid for the value of the hogs that are taken off the property. He continued to state that they do not pay them. Mr. Camposano inquired who was that. Mr. Gray stated the preserve. Mr. Debree III stated that the hog is their payment. Mr. Gray stated yes and to work out a deal with the trapper. Mr. Camposano stated that this is something they will look into for a couple of state forests, especially because FFS has some decent funding right now whether it is trapping or aerial. He then stated that the trapping is a little less contentious, because you do not have a helicopter flying over your head with a rifle. Mr. Freese corrected that they use a shotgun. Mr. Camposano stated that shotgun, or whatever it is they use to shoot, and continued to state that FFS is going to look at it from a couple of different perspectives and try to get something on the books for KBSF. Mr. Gray stated that there is already a lot of shooting at night.
- Page 31: Mr. Gray inquired if FFS has not had any rights to nutrush or whatever it is called. Mr. Freese stated it is called *Scleria*. Mr. Camposano stated that FNAI probably did not find any when they did the natural community mapping. Mr. West stated that there is some on the river down by Eggers and Megacarpa and concluded that it is on the Kissimmee River. Mr. Gray stated that is bad stuff, if you can prevent it that is great. Mr. West inquired if that was on the prairie itself. Mr. Gray stated yes and that it is an annual, so it leaves seeds behind, so you kill it, and it comes right back. Mr. Camposano stated that from the survey we have done and the survey that FNAI has done, FFS has not had it detected yet, but if it is detected then it will be added to the list and will be treated, just like anything else on their list. Mr. West stated that if FFS finds it, to hit it early. Mr. Gray agreed. Mr. Camposano stated that down in FFS's Caloosahatchee District, on OK Slough State Forest, that they have had some of the *Scleria* species and they have done some treatment down there on that. Mr. West stated that they have three (3) of them down there. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 31.
- Page 32: Mr. Gray stated that on Table 7 it reads "Clearing of 24 acres..." and inquired if that was the food plot or something. Mr. Camposano stated no. Mr. Freese stated that it is wrong then and stated that he assumed it was the food plot because that is generally what FNAI calls it. He then stated that FNAI will generally them wildlife clearings. Mr. Camposano stated wildlife openings. Mr. Freese agreed, but the 24 acres is probably referring to the food plot. Mr. Camposano promised the group that the food plot is not 24 acres in size. He then stated that the one they were at yesterday was about one (1) acre. Mr. Grubich stated that the food plot is not very big. Mr. Camposano stated that he would have to go back to the map to see how and where they mapped that as. He then stated that it could be multiple "somethings" added together and does not remember all those areas were.
- Mr. Gray inquired if FFS lets the food plots revert back to what it was. Mr. Camposano stated that FFS is not maintaining the food plot, not replanting it, but rather letting it go and burning it. Mr. Gray stated that is good.
- Ms. Kuipers inquired if FFS just calls it a food plot or if it is a managed food plot. Mr. Davis stated that it is not managed. Mr. Grubich stated that it used to be a food plot. Mr. Camposano stated that it is just an opening right now, essentially. Mr. Grubich stated that there is a solar well on it. Ms. Kuipers stated that she thinks she saw it during her visit, a small one. Mr. Grubich stated that is it and continued to explain that if you take a left turn going that way. Ms. Kuipers hesitantly stated sure. Mr. Grubich then stated that there is only one turn to make. Ms. Kuipers stated that they had to turn around because then you could not go past a certain point. Mr. Grubich stated that you pass it on the drive coming in from the other way.
- Mr. Freese stated that since there are no cattle out there, if FFS is planning to abandon the wells at some point. Mr. Debree III stated that most of them have been abandoned, but FFS did leave a few of them out there as a water source for burning since the wells are not really doing anything. Mr. Gray stated yes, that can help. Mr. West stated that there is not much else out there.

- Page 33: Mr. Gray stated that he really likes FFS's fire prescription on wetlands and thought that was good.
- Page 34: Mr. Freese stated that, regarding the fire regimes for the wetlands, he likes that it allows to burn with the surrounding uplands. He then suggested to add some language about encouraging fire to carry across the wetlands as well. He explained that it talks about burning when it is dry as possible, but to add language saying ignition techniques to encourage the wetlands to burn across to keep the basin itself open. He then stated that he does not know how FFS wants to do it or if that is just something to keep in mind, in house, when FFS does their annual burn planning. He concluded by stating to try to get the actual basin itself to burn and not just the edges. Mr. Davis inquired if there is or is no change.
- Mr. Freese stated that change is needed to Fire Regimes on Depression marsh but would also be the same for Slough marsh as well. He then stated that he is fine with keeping this in house, but to contain verbiage of actually trying to get the marsh itself to burn, not just the edges. He agreed that burning the edges is great, but to get the actual marsh itself to burn on, at least, that eight (8) year cycle would be great. Mr. Debree III stated that if FFS gets it to burn, they will let it burn. Mr. Freese stated that is great and that was all he was suggesting. Mr. Grubich added that if it is too wet you will see a wet line going through it, so it will not get in there; but if it is dry enough then FFS will burn it. Mr. Freese stated that is perfect and that does not need to be stated within the plan and can be kept in house. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else on page 34.
- Mr. Davis asked if there were any questions or comments on the exhibits. None followed but Mr. Gray requested to go back to page 11.
- Page 11: Mr. Gray requested to add language under On-Site Housing that alludes to the development of the property would be under consideration of dark sky principles or something to that effect. He continued to state that if FFS decides to put housing out there, that they would do it according to dark sky principles. Mr. Davis inquired if this is for improvements. Mr. Gray stated maybe under On-Site Housing or under the Improvements section, and even for campgrounds. He explained that he wants a note in there to remind FFS that if they put something out there to try to remember to not to install a big, glaring light out there. He stated that he knows that is far into the future and that FFS does not have any plans for it, but again, this is a ten-year plan, so he believes it is appropriate. Mr. Davis stated that this is FFS's generic language and stated that he is unsure if we should change it. He continued to explain that FFS does not have any plans to put on site housing for employees, while that may change, but does not think it would be enough to disturb anything as far as light pollution goes. Mr. Grubich agreed and stated that especially if it is just a little campsite. Mr. Davis stated that if FFS puts something out there, it is because of a need for FFS. He then inquired the group of their thoughts on the matter.
- Mr. Debree III stated that he would push against adding that language in, just in case, not that FFS would encourage light pollution. Mr. Davis agreed. Mr. Gray restated that there should be some sort of restriction in there.
- Mr. Camposano stated that he is hesitant to tailor it that way because then it could apply to anything for any reason. He then stated that if you were to go to any of our state forests at night, they are most likely some of the darkest places around. He continued to state that FFS does not generally install a lot of infrastructure, lights or buildings, or anything like that. Mr. Camposano reiterated that there are no plans for any power or lighting or buildings out there. He then stated that he does not see FFS doing that any time in the future, but if they did, FFS does not want a whole lot of light; it would be minimized to the greatest extent possible. He further stated that even the campgrounds have only enough light for people to walk around safely from their campground to the bathroom, for an example, but otherwise...Mr. Gray interjected and stated that he would not make it a requirement because FFS cannot require their agency to do something, but suggested to add language "in consideration of" because that way, it is a reminder in the plan that this is a dark sky area and as FFS thinks about doing something in the future, that they are mindful of it. Mr. Camposano stated that because the property itself has not been designated that way, so without the actual designation, FFS can just try to aim for it. He continued to state that he does not plan on seeing any light out there or anything that FFS puts out there that would brighten the skies, unless they want to do a night burn, but that is temporary. He concluded by stating that he agrees with Mr. Davis about keeping the language the way it is but know that if we get to a project-by-project basis, that, it will be developed with minimal light. He then reiterated that it is a pretty rural area.

- Mr. Lisiecki stated that he does not foresee anything ever going out there. Mr. Camposano agreed. Mr. Debree and Mr. Lisiecki both expressed that it would be a lot of money for just a small building, if you even wanted that so it will never be worth it. Mr. Davis inquired the group if they are good with no changes. Mr. Lisiecki stated yes. Mr. Camposano stated that as far as houses go on the federal property, there are fed houses (FWC Officer) which gives FFS plenty of site security at this time that does not warrant FFS to build housing out there for extra security measures to protect the property. Mr. Lisiecki added that their cooperation with them is good enough if we have anything, then it would be on that little piece of property they have already.
- Mr. Debree III stated that, if anything, the private side has more light out there than anything else. Mr. Lisiecki agreed. Mr. Davis inquired if there was anything else in the plan.
- Mr. Gray stated that they have a sensor in order to maintain the dark sky certification, they have to measure light and send in an annual report to the International Dark Sky Association. He continued to state that they have a sensor in the middle of the preserve, and it is still pretty dark, but they feel that the Viking properties are getting lighter and lighter, so they put a sensor on the border. He continued to state that it is indeed getting lighter really fast. Mr. Debree III stated that if that place blows up and construction goes there, then that place is going to be pretty lit up, and FFS's little building would not be a comparison to what would happen there. Mr. Gray wearily agreed. He continued to state that the argument is that school kids are waiting for the school busses in the dark and parents do not want that. Mr. Gray's response to their concern was that it is fine, but to shield the light and have the light shine down on the kids, but don't shine it up into the sky, and that has been an ongoing issue. Mr. Gray continued to state that that is part of the Dark Sky Ordinance that the county is trying to pass. The people's concerns are that the county is going to black everyone out, to which Mr. Gray responded that they are just trying to get rid of glare.
- Mr. Davis asked each MPAG member to comment on the draft plan. Mr. Debree III stated that he thinks that some good changes were made and off to a good start. Mr. Freese stated that the plan is well written and agreed with Mr. Debree that the changes made were good and wanted to commend FFS for great forest management so far, particularly getting the whole property burned already in four (4) years with limited staff, resources and infrastructure available. He then expressed his excitement to see what FFS does next. Mr. West stated that he likes the plan and FFS did a good job writing it and appreciates the burn program that FFS already established at KBSF. Ms. Kuipers stated that she enjoyed participating in the group and thinks that the plan is good and liked all the changes that were amended today. She then stated that if FFS needed a test dummy again to go through and see how the public navigates through the property. Mr. Gray stated that he also thinks it is a well written plan and that FFS considers a lot of stuff. He expressed that even though a lot of this is boiler plate but FFS covered the basis. He then stated that he is glad FFS is here. He concluded by stating he would like more dark sky but is a very good plan.
- Mr. Davis noted that the draft will be submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for review. Consideration by the Council will likely occur at the June 13, 2025, public meeting.
- Mr. Davis thanked everyone for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Workshop Meeting End Time: 2:19 P.M.

Exhibit T

Arthropod Control Plan

Okeechobee County, Florida

Board of County Commissioners
Okeechobee County

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
707 NW 6th Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
863-763-3212
Fax 863-763-4565

June 6, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Okeechobee County Mosquito control has no plans to apply mosquito control treatments in areas designated as environmentally sensitive. In some cases, aerial applications maybe made the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) after a tropical cyclone event.

Okeechobee County will coordinate operations with DACS to ensure the environmentally sensitive areas are placed on the do not spray list.

If you would like additional information you can telephone me at (863) 763-3212. (863)-634-6273 mobile

Sincerely,

FPEM, FMI

O. Mitchell Smeykal, FPEM, FMI
Director.
Okeechobee Emergency Management/Mosquito Control