

JOHN M. BETHEA STATE FOREST

2015

10-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXHIBITS

Exhibit V

State Forest Summary Budget

State Forest Summary Budget

	JOHN M. BETHEA STATE FOREST LANDS MGT. ONLY 13-14 EXPENDITURES -	Percentage of Total for FY 2013-14	JMBSF Based Upon LMUAC Resource Management Funding Need
Resource Management	\$ 324,850	30.40%	\$ 878,286.09
Exotic Species Control	\$ 15,984	2.50%	\$ 72,227.47
Prescribed Burning	\$ 167,568	5.80%	\$ 167,567.74
Cultural Resources Management	\$ 639	0.10%	\$ 2,889.10
Timber Management	\$ 64,575	10.10%	\$ 291,799.00
Hydrological Management	\$ 4,475	0.70%	\$ 20,223.69
	\$ -		\$ -
<u>OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</u>	\$ 71,608	11.20%	\$ 323,579.08
<i>Listed Species Management</i>	\$ -		\$ -
<i>Forest Pest and Disease</i>	\$ -		\$ -
<i>Plant Conservation Program</i>	\$ -		\$ -
<i>State Forest Research Projects</i>	\$ -		\$ -
<i>Boundary Surveys for State Forests</i>	\$ -		\$ -
<i>Other Activities Also Include:</i>	\$ -		\$ -
<i>Liaison Community Meetings / Boundary Line Maintenance / Forest Inventories and Various Other Activities / Wildfire Suppression on State Forests</i>			
			\$ -
Administration	\$ 49,870	7.80%	\$ 225,349.72
Central Office Headquarters	\$ 49,870	7.80%	\$ 225,349.72
District/Regions	\$ -		\$ -
Units/Projects	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
Support	\$ 188,610	29.50%	\$ 421,808.45
Land Management Planning	\$ 11,508	1.80%	\$ 52,003.78
Land Management Reviews	\$ 1,918	0.30%	\$ 8,667.30
Training/Staff Development	\$ 36,443	5.70%	\$ 164,678.64
Vehicle Purchase	\$ 2,557	0.40%	\$ 11,556.40
Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	\$ 95,264	14.90%	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
OTHER SUPPORT	\$ 40,919	6.40%	\$ 184,902.33
<i>State Forest Land Acquisition Support</i>			\$ -
<i>Other Support Activities Also Include:</i>	\$ -		\$ -
<i>Computer Maintenance / Radio Maintenance / Technical Support / Management of Apiary and Cattle Leases / State Forest Easements and Other Various Activities</i>	\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -
Capital Improvements	\$ 124,675	19.50%	\$ 563,374.30
New Facility Construction	\$ 29,410	4.60%	\$ 132,898.55
Facility Maintenance	\$ 95,264	14.90%	\$ 430,475.75
			\$ -
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$ 81,838	12.80%	\$ 369,804.67
Information/Education	\$ 18,541	2.90%	\$ 83,783.87
Operations	\$ 63,296	9.90%	\$ 286,020.80
			\$ -
Law Enforcement	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Total	\$ 639,357	100.00%	\$ 2,889,098.97

Exhibit W

Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan

*Baker County
Planning and Zoning Department*

360 East Shuey Avenue
Macclenny, Florida 32063
Phone (904) 259-3354
Fax (904) 259-5057

Ed Preston
Planning & Zoning Director

November 5, 2015

**Jennifer Reed
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650**

Jennifer Reed:

The Baker County Planning Department has completed its review of the Florida Forest Service Ten Year Resource Management Plan for the John M. Bethea State Forest.

We have found the Plan consistent with the Baker County Local Comprehensive Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Preston, at (904) 259-3354.

Sincerely,



**Ed Preston
Baker County Planning & Zoning Director**

EP

**cc: Sam Leneave
John Raulerson
Andy Lamborn**

Exhibit X

State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group Summary

Management Plan Advisory Group Introductory Meeting
John Bethea State Forest
July 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present: All

- Pete Bowyer, Hunter
- Doug Moore, Private Landowner
- David Walls, Private Landowner
- Candice Leek, Hiker
- Scotland Talley, FWC
- Chad Rischar, SJRWMD
- Sam LeNeave, FFS
- James Croft, Baker County Commissioner

MPAG Members Not Present: N/A

Guests:

- Joel Addington, Baker County Press

Staff:

- Sam LeNeave, District Manager, FFS
- John Raulerson, FFS
- Andy Lamborn, FFS
- Jennifer Reed, FFS
- Bill Korn, FFS
- Cat Ingram, FFS

Starting Time: 6:01 p.m.

- Mr. Korn opened the meeting by explaining the purpose, statutory requirement and at what point during the management plan development process the MPAG members are called upon to provide input into the draft land management plan. Mr. Korn also explained the Sunshine Law's role in the MPAG public hearings, the member appointment timeframe, and a rundown of how the meetings were appropriately advertised to the public.
- Mr. Korn provided a rundown of the various approvals the draft land management plan must go through both before and after the MPAG public hearings have occurred.
- Introductions were made by everybody in the room.
- Mr. Korn went over the different roles of each of the MPAG public hearings, and how each meeting is structured. He also provided how various scenarios could play out at the individual meetings.
- Mr. Talley moved to elect Mr. LeNeave as MPAG Chair. Mr. Walls seconded the motion.
- No opposition; the motion was approved.

Ending Time: 6:20 p.m.

Public Hearing
John Bethea State Forest
July 28, 2015
6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present: All

- Pete Bowyer, Hunter
- Doug Moore, Private Landowner
- David Walls, Private Landowner
- Candice Leek, Hiker
- Scotland Talley, FWC
- Chad Rischar, SJRWMD
- Sam LeNeave, FFS
- James Croft, Baker County Commissioner

MPAG Members Not Present: N/A

Public Guests:

- Joel Addington, Baker County Press

Staff:

- Sam LeNeave, Center Manager, FFS
- John Raulerson, FFS
- Andy Lamborn, FFS
- Jennifer Reed, FFS
- Bill Korn, FFS
- Cat Ingram, FFS

Starting Time: 6:30 p.m.

- Mr. Korn began the meeting and gave a general overview of the purpose of the public hearing.
- Mr. Lamborn welcomed the group and gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of the Draft Ten-Year Land Management Plan Update for John Bethea State Forest. Mr. Lamborn's presentation covered: the history of the forest, the general points of interest on the state forest, management changes set forth in the draft plan update, and the basic goals and objectives for the management of JMBSF that are presented in the draft plan update.
- Mr. Moore inquired about potential areas on JMBSF that are flat-planted (not bedded). Mr. Lamborn commented that this activity does occur on JMBSF. Associated discussion ensued regarding the difference in management practices on state land versus forest industry property.
- Mr. Bowyer inquired about road widening, turn around areas for equipment and any associated foodplots. Mr. Lamborn responded that foodplots were being added to the forest, and that the public can suggest to FFS where they would like the locations of foodplots to be located on the forest. Also discussed was the fact that over time, the roads on JMBSF would be widened over the next several years for fire suppression purposes.

- Mr. Rischar inquired about the number of acres of foodplots FFS desires to have on the forest. Mr. Lamborn responded that probably about 8-10 acres total would be planted.
- Mr. Talley mentioned the benefits that foodplots can provide.
- Mr. Bowyer mentioned he thought foodplots bring a sense of artificiality to forests.
- Mr. Korn reminded the group that tomorrow's MPAG meeting would be the appropriate time and place to hash out the ins and outs of foodplots.
- Mr. Lamborn continued with the presentation on the draft plan, including the topic of non-native, invasive species.
- Mr. Moore asked if cogon grass was present on the forest. Mr. Lamborn responded that a small amount does exist. Mr. Bowyer inquired about how FFS is dealing with it. Mr. Lamborn answered that it would take approximately 3-4 treatments to eradicate the species from the forest.
- Mr. Bowyer asked if the longleaf pine trees on JMBSF are genetically the same as the historical longleaf pines that were there many years ago. Mr. Lamborn responded that they are the same.
- Mr. Lamborn concluded his presentation.
- At this juncture in the meeting, the public would normally be asked to speak. However, since no members of the general public were present, Mr. Korn stated that the group would wait a few more minutes until 7:00 p.m. to close the meeting in case anyone else showed up late to the meeting and wanted a chance to speak.
- Mr. Talley and Mr. Lamborn discussed fishing opportunities, hatcheries and the genetics of bass and its subspecies.
- Mr. Rischar inquired whether or not any RCWs have been documented on JMBSF. Mr. Lamborn responded that there was documentation that RCWs occurred on the forest in the early 1900s. Mr. Rischar asked if JMBSF could ever be an appropriate habitat RCWs. Mr. Lamborn responded that in 30-40 years, JMBSF could be appropriate habitat for the birds.
- Mr. Walls, Mr. Lamborn and Mr. LeNeave discussed flat-planting, the associated timeframes and the associated ability to use containerized longleaf seedlings to allow the earlier introduction of fire.
- Mr. Talley discussed the scientific, Latin name of the longleaf pine tree and its association with its historic presence in marshes.
- Mr. Korn inquired about whether or not FWC is contemplating changes to hunting regulations at JMBSF. Mr. Talley discussed recent new regulations in place for black bear hunts, as well as a recent change to FWC's breakdown of deer management units across the state. Discussion ensued regarding new hunting rules versus old hunting rules, antlers and measurements.
- Mr. Rischar and Mr. Talley discussed what the accepted determined age is of a bear cub that can fend for itself, as well as what activities the collected bear hunt fees will go toward in the future.
- Mr. Moore and Mr. Talley discussed the purpose of FWC opening up the black bear hunt opportunity in the state.
- Mr. Korn stated that as no other public has arrived at this point, it was time to wrap up the meeting.

Ending Time: 7:03 p.m.

Management Plan Advisory Group Meeting

John M. Bethea State Forest

July 29, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- Pete Bowyer, Hunter
- Doug Moore, Private Landowner
- David Walls, Private Landowner
- Candice Leek, Hiker
- Scotland Talley, FWC
- Chad Rischar, SJRWMD
- Sam LeNeave, FFS
- Michael Davis, substituting for Mr. James Croft, Baker County Commissioner

MPAG Members Not Present:

- James Croft, Baker County Commissioner

Public Guests: None

Staff:

- Sam LeNeave, Center Manager, FFS
- John Raulerson, FFS
- Andy Lamborn, FFS
- Jennifer Reed, FFS
- Bill Korn, FFS
- Cat Ingram, FFS

Starting Time: 9:30a.m.

- Mr. Korn started the meeting by going over which members were missing, the meeting structure that would take place and specifics regarding staff and member responsibilities regarding the meeting minutes in the coming days/weeks.
- The MPAG reviewed the two sets of meeting minutes from the MPAG Introductory Meeting and Public Hearing that occurred on 7/28/2015. The following are the recommended changes:
 - Mr. Talley asked for a correction in the spelling of his name. Staff made the change.
 - Changes were also made to tighten up some of the acronyms listed on the minutes.
 - Mr. Walls asked for two of the statements that indicated that he had made them, be changed to indicate that Mr. Bowyer made them, who concurred that these changes would be accurate. Staff made the changes.
 - Ms. Leek asked about the meaning of “flat-planted” and Mr. LeNeave explained the meaning of the terminology.

- Mr. Moore moved to accept both sets of minutes.
- Ms. Leek seconded the motion.
- Mr. Korn proceeded to call on each member one by one and go over each member's questions and recommended changes.

Pete Bowyer

- Mr. Bowyer noted that he thinks the plan is great.
- Mr. Bowyer had questions regarding Eddy Road maintenance and the corresponding section in the plan. Mr. Lamborn responded to his questions regarding road maintenance, the budget, and how the county and FFS cooperates in providing equipment, personnel and supplies for such road projects.
- Mr. Talley shared an anecdote from a recent LMR that he had participated on and questioned if a similar circumstance was valid for the JMBSF. The situation was in regard to the ROW corridor and fire protection and how they relate to the subject draft plan's pertinent objective. Mr. Lamborn responded and he and Mr. Korn further discussed the collaboration of resources the county and FFS employ. Mr. LeNeave stated that Eddy Road is much more improved now than the condition it was in the past.
- Mr. Bowyer stated that no changes to the plan were necessary regarding this topic.

Doug Moore

- Mr. Moore inquired whether or not FFS rakes following clearcuts. Mr. Lamborn responded that this method is employed only after catastrophic fires for salvage harvests. Mr. Moore talked about how raking can create piles of dirt, which later can become mounds that coyotes may inhabit. Mr. Lamborn stated that FFS does scatter the mound tops during thinning. Mr. Moore, Mr. Lamborn and Mr. Bowyer discussed rake piles and burn potential.
- Mr. Moore inquired about the timing of planting as it relates to FFS methods for herbiciding. Mr. Lamborn responded and discussed seasonal timing and which herbicides are used. Mr. Korn stated that the current discussion was more operational in nature and that the draft plan does not go into the details of operations to the extent at which the conversation was presently occurring. Mr. Moore stated that the current conversation relates to timber money and how well wildlife will do on the forest. Mr. Lamborn discussed stocking levels. Mr. Korn stated that FFS is more aggressive with prep work. Mr. Lamborn stated that FFS manages for multiple-use, not just timber, but also groundcover, etc.
- Mr. Moore stated that he believed that all available management tools should be employed on JMBSF to result in more revenue. More revenue would mean more money to manage the forest with. He stated that he wants prescribed fire and herbicide to be utilized. Mr. Lamborn stated that FFS does use all the tools available, except bedding. Mr. Moore stated that herbicide is an important forest management tool.

At this time, the group took a quick break. The meeting resumed after a few minutes.

- Mr. Moore stated that feral hogs are invasive and can be quite detrimental to forests. When the feral hog populations are high, he would like to see all available tools employed for hog control. He stated that he wants no restrictions, including hunting.
- Mr. Talley stated that outside of youth and specialized hunts, feral hogs are legal game. He further mentioned that if FFS would like to add more hog hunts, FWC would be fine with

that. He further discussed the fact that FWC issues annual permits to FFS to trap and remove feral hogs from all state forests. Each forest manager on a case-by case basis may decide if they want to employ contractors for hog removal. The forest is not necessarily open for hog hunts all year long because there is not enough enforcement staff available to provide oversight for such hunt activities.

- Mr. Moore stated that youth hunts were a great opportunity to utilize the forest. He further discussed that one cannot control hogs with guns or traps because the hogs are too smart. He stated that the hogs could be controlled with dogs though. He encouraged that opportunity to be available on JMBSF.
- Mr. Korn stated that the mission of the meeting is to incorporate changes to the draft plan. He asked whether this discussion revolved around any suggested change to the draft plan.
- Mr. Moore declared that he would like the plan to state that FFS would allow all means available to control feral hogs, including off-season hunting, trapping and hog hunting.
- Mr. Talley stated that there is no "off-season" hunts for hogs. Mr. Lamborn and Mr. Moore discussed hunt seasons.
- Mr. Rischard inquired whether the plan currently reads as if all means for getting hogs from tearing up the forest are available the way it is worded currently. Mr. Moore asked if the language includes utilizing dogs.
- Ms. Leek stated that feral hogs are included in the species listed for hunts on the document that lists hunt dates. She inquired as to whether Mr. Moore's request conflict with the hunt date rules on the website.
- Mr. Talley stated that this situation would be an instance of FWC and FFS cooperating together. He further mentioned that this type of issue gets vetted in FWC's rulemaking process and further, this is an operational issue. The language that is currently in the draft plan provides for FFS being able to host hunts as they wish, and FWC works with FFS in this type of endeavor.
- Mr. Moore declared that this issue is in reference to a ten-year plan.
- Mr. Bowyer talked about specific hunt season dates as they relate to hogs, dogs and turkeys.
- Mr. Talley brought up the fact that a manager can run into a lot of conflicts due to other issues.
- Mr. Lamborn stated that the hogs on JMBSF are not a horrible issue currently, though he would of course like to see the population decrease. However, managing the people that would be involved in such a hunt would be hard for the land management staff on JMBSF. Mr. Moore stated that he did not want the tools that could be used for hog management be limited. Mr. Korn stated that the draft plan's language is non-limiting the way it reads currently. He added that no one wants to see hog damage to the forest. Mr. Talley stated that the cooperating land managers do have youth hunts that may incorporate such activities. Ms. Reed pointed out that such hunts are advertised for appropriately. Mr. Talley discussed the topic further.

At this juncture in the meeting, Mr. Croft entered the meeting.

At this juncture in the meeting, Mr. Davis left the meeting.

- Mr. Talley discussed hunting and the potential use of contractors. Mr. Moore stated that at Pumpkin Hill, the land has been devastated by hogs. The managers do not allow hunts on the

property, and as a result, spend a lot of money on getting hogs, as opposed to getting other activities accomplished.

- Mr. Lamborn stated that hunting is a huge recreational activity on JMBSF.
- Mr. Korn asked if there was consensus among the group to change the pertinent section in the draft plan. He stated that the agency was comfortable with the language as it is currently. At that time all members of the Advisory Group nodded in the affirmative that they were in agreement that they did not support the proposal to have year-around out-of-season hunting for feral hogs in JM Bethea SF.
- Mr. Moore stated that the county was one of 16 counties in the U.S.A. that are “firewise.” He stated that we want to help the public understand that fact, and they would be happy to take advantage of any financial help to that end. Mr. Lamborn stated that FFS cooperates with all of our partners, many of which are state and federal agencies.

David Walls

- Mr. Walls had a specific suggestion regarding the section of the plan entitled, “Use of Private Land Contractors.” He inquired whether or not it would be beneficial to have a pre-screened list of foresters for timber sales to get more revenue from bidders. Mr. Lamborn responded that FFS only utilizes loggers that have gone through master-logger training. Mr. Korn referenced the guidelines within the State Forest Handbook. Mr. Lamborn referenced the most recent time a bid package went out and approximately how many loggers bid on the project. Mr. Lamborn stated that FFS gets top dollar when ascertaining work from contractors. Mr. Korn further discussed timber sales and the minimum bid process for state forests.

Candice Leek

- Ms. Leek thanked FFS for the opportunity to serve as a member on the MPAG. She complimented the draft plan creators and stated that the color maps are good. She stated that she is a hiker and former hunter, and she uses the forest recreationally. She declared that she had three main points she wanted to talk about.
- She wondered if there could be a sign-in log at the Maple Set Trailhead Kiosk. Mr. Lamborn stated that there was not one, but that if a visitor wanted to communicate with state forest staff, they could fill out a general comment card and mail it in to the state office. Ms. Leek stated that there may be primitive campers and day users that may not be utilizing the Trailwalker Program. She asked how those types of forest users are being kept track of. Mr. Lamborn stated that as much as he would love to document all those who visit the forest, a sign-in log would just not be feasible to maintain at the trailhead. He discussed the relevant hardships.
- Mr. Raulerson agreed with Ms. Leek and Mr. Lamborn and stated that he, too, would like to see this information captured, however, the personnel to manage such a task does not exist. He stated that placement of the general comment cards at the kiosk for feedback is a good idea.
- Mr. Talley asked whether FFS has considered a traffic counter. Mr. Lamborn stated that they would have to hide it. Mr. Talley stated that FWC has had success disguising them as blue bird boxes. The issue was discussed further.
- Mr. Korn stated that FFS only has three to four actual recreational positions and that the issues the group was discussing was operational in nature. He remarked that FWC had

received a substantial amount of money they were able to use in such a way that has been effective in utilizing the counters for good and credible information.

- Mr. LeNeave stated that one of the recreational coordinators at the state office has been able to ascertain good information for FFS that has been used to build credibility for visitor numbers. He stated that FFS works with FWC in this type of endeavor on occasion. He further stated that FFS had considered putting a counter on Eddy Road, but the issue of accuracy came up. As in, it would additionally be counting people that were just driving through on the road and not necessarily using the forest.
- The second issue Ms. Leek wanted to speak about was in regard to volunteerism. She inquired how volunteers could help FFS JMBSF staff, including trail blazing, equipment, tools etc. She stated that she herself was going to give Mr. Lamborn her FFS Volunteer Application paperwork so that the manager can utilize her service when they need her. She also mentioned that perhaps volunteers can help FFS with particular species counts on the forest. Mr. Lamborn stated that if he had qualified volunteers to help with such an activity, then yes, he would consider using them. He further mentioned trail maintenance and picking up litter as activities volunteers may be helpful in accomplishing.
- Mr. Korn referenced that in the past, volunteers with botanical credentials had actually identified plants on Cary State Forest that FFS had not been aware of existed on the property. Ms. Leek stated that volunteers are teachable, and with the appropriate trust in place between the manager and volunteer, more could be accomplished.
- The third issue Ms. Leek talked about was the surveying and monitoring of archeological and historical resources. She discussed how in the past, she had spent years volunteering at Mammoth Cave National Park. After receiving training, she was able to mobilize into the backcountry and identify areas where unauthorized digging had occurred. Mr. Lamborn referenced the Sunshine Law and stated that the locations of many historical and archeological resources are sensitive. He stated that activities such as these that could potentially be performed by volunteers would depend on the trust between the manager and the volunteer as an individual.
- Ms. Leek discussed that bits and pieces containing verbiage regarding volunteerism are scattered throughout the plan. She wondered how volunteer work on the forest could be captured and documented perhaps via exhibit or appendix. Mr. Lamborn stated that for this ten year update, there is no volunteer information available to add to the plan. He stated that if there is volunteer information available for the next ten year update plan, he would consider putting that information in at that time.
- Mr. Rischard stated that the Friends of Florida State Forests could be the best avenue for volunteerism.
- Mr. Croft mentioned that a similar situation existed at Olustee Battlefield.
- Mr. Rischard stated that funding received from FFSF has the ability to accomplish projects on the state forests that the FFS may not be able to fund itself.
- Mr. LeNeave stated that FFS is growing these types of direct support organizations and that FFS will continue to be interested in pursuing and addressing these issues.
- Mr. Korn discussed the liaison group objective in the draft plan and mentioned that the department will put a renewed focus on liaison groups so that their interaction becomes more routine.

Scotland Talley

- Mr. Talley mentioned a few housekeeping issues in the plan. These were mostly grammatical errors that were changed by staff accordingly.
- Mr. Talley mentioned the fact that the black bear is listed in the FNAI list in the draft plan and that it was delisted species in 2012. Mr. Reed stated that it is still on the FNAI list. Mr. Talley remarked that he was not sure if FNAI has updated their list since FWC delisted the species. He pointed out that this issue could potentially cause “heartache,” in that the draft plan lists the species as rare/threatened, and yet FWC just opened up hunts specific to the species in Florida.
- Further discussion amongst the group ensued regarding the issue of whether or not to take the species out or to leave it in. Mr. Korn asked the group if there was a consensus to remove it from the list in the plan. More discussion ensued. Mr. Korn asked if there was group consensus to remove black bear from the plan. Mr. Talley mentioned that it is now a game species and it could be added to the “game species and other wildlife” section of the plan. The group agreed as a consensus.
- Mr. Moore talked about whether or not to use the term, “Florida” before “black bear.” Mr. LeNeave and Mr. Talley discussed terminology and legal reasoning behind different ways to mention the bear in documents. Mr. Talley stated that FWC is comfortable with the way it is worded in the draft plan. Mr. Korn asked Mr. Talley if the name the draft plan gives the Black Bear management plan that is referenced uses the correct title. Mr. Talley stated that it did. Mr. Bowyer, Mr. Talley, Ms. Leek and Mr. Rischar discussed verbiage technicalities as they relate to the draft plan.
- Mr. Talley talked about the natural community section and inquired how the section is broken up into topics. He asked if there was no longer a desired future condition being listed in the FFS management plans. Mr. Korn stated that the desired future condition is captured within the description section of those areas. Mr. Talley commented that the section is not as detailed as it was in the past. Mr. Korn stated that the draft plan is not operational in nature.
- Mr. Talley, Mr. Korn and Mr. LeNeave discussed the descriptions offered in the draft plan and how they relate to the State Forest Handbook.
- Mr. Talley referred to a place in the draft plan that mentions “tater patching.” The group came to a consensus to remove the verbiage.
- Mr. Talley stated that overall, he thought that FFS did a good job on the draft plan, as well as on managing the forest. He stated that he is glad to continue to work with FFS.

At this juncture, Mr. Moore left the meeting.

The group then took a five-minute break.

Chad Rischar

- Mr. Rischar asked how it came to be that mesic flatwoods were identified as the primary uplands on the property. He mentioned that it seemed to him that greater than half of the property looks like industrial pine plantation. He asked whether this discrepancy is due to the difference in the natural community definitions. Mr. Lamborn stated that the draft plan includes how FFS plans to manage that portion of the property, and that FFS plans to bring it into the stated desired condition of mesic flatwoods.

- Mr. Rischar discussed the natural community maps (Q and R) in the exhibit portion of the draft plan. He stated he felt that pine plantation does not fall into the natural community category, but also that it could be listed that way due to the different ways the individual agencies define certain land use types.
- Mr. Rischar discussed the opportunity FFS has to show how particular management strategies can bring an industrial pine plantation area into the FFS desired condition. Mr. Rischar, Mr. LeNeave, Mr. Korn and Mr. Talley discussed historic and current natural land types, the way FNAI categorizes land types, and at what point can one determine a changeover in community type. Discussion centered on how community types are depicted in exhibits. Mr. Korn stated that this issue would be revisited by FFS planning staff with the State Forest Ecologist.
- Mr. Rischar restated that FFS can use data to show how particular FFS strategies can be integral in changing community types. Ms. Reed stated that the State Forest Ecologist is currently gathering related information from state forests.
- Mr. Rischar referenced a specific exhibit in the draft plan and asked how the map was created since many sections of JMBSF were not surveyed by FNAI. Mr. Lamborn responded that an FFS staff member most likely completed the map utilizing photographs of the property from the 1940's. He informed the group that the reason why sections were not surveyed was because FFS was going to have the feds complete the natural community survey work. Mr. Rischar stated that there is a potential for disparity. Mr. Korn stated that FFS staff would revisit the issue with the State Forest Ecologist.
- Mr. Rischar stated that he supports any initiative of the manager to maintain a species inventory, though this is a hard feat to accomplish. However, doing this would show how increases in species populations do occur. Mr. Korn stated that such a program had been in place, and Mr. Lamborn maintains the info. Mr. Rischar discussed how information that depicts how the mitigation of, for instance, DOT's impacts to the land, gets used by the feds, including the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Rischar specifically mentioned the hydrology section and corresponding exhibit in the draft plan, specifically in reference to the FDOT mitigation program. He commended the forest supervisor for implementing and executing what the WMD indicated would be beneficial on the forest. He stated that he would like to see more financial help go toward state forest projects such as that one. He stated that he would like to continue to help facilitate a relationship between the WMD and FFS for more successful partnerships in the future.
- Mr. LeNeave mentioned the hydrological assessment on JMBSF. Mr. Rischar talked more about what could be accomplished with even more cooperation between the WMD and FFS. He spoke specifically about how the WMD can help FFS out with the addition of culverts, many of which are also mentioned in the 2007 hydrological report.
- Mr. Rischar commended FFS on the draft plan.

Sam LeNeave

- Mr. LeNeave stated that he thought the plan looked good. He did not have any recommendations for change other than what was being discussed during this meeting.

James Croft

- Mr. Croft stated that he did not have any recommendations for change. He added that he, in fact, did not receive a copy of the draft plan until the night before, since he was filling in for another county commissioner at the last minute.
 - Mr. Korn thanked Mr. Croft for his attendance.
-
- Ms. Reed stated that she would be sending these meeting minutes to the MPAG members as an attachment to an email.
 - Mr. Korn stated that FFS would revisit the natural community portion with the appropriate staff.
 - Mr. Rischar, Mr. LeNeave, Mr. Raulerson and Mr. Korn discussed the timing of natural community map generation. Mr. Rischar referenced “departure” maps that were utilized on Four Creeks. The maps were used to indicate changes over time.
 - Mr. Korn discussed the FFS forest inventory process.
 - Mr. LeNeave motioned for the meeting to adjourn.
 - Mr. Walls seconded the motion.

Ending Time: 11:32 a.m.

Exhibit Y

Arthropod Control Plan – County Response



STACIE D. HARVEY
CLERK TO BOARD

*Baker County
Board of Commissioners*

55 NORTH THIRD STREET
MACCLENNY, FLORIDA 32063
(904) 259-3613 • (904) 259-7610
www.bakercountyfl.org



CJ THOMPSON
COUNTY MANAGER

May 20, 2015

Andy Lamborn, Forestry Supervisor II
Florida Forestry Service
John M. Bethea State Forest
11656 SR 2
Sanderson, Florida 32087

RE: John M. Bethea State Forest Arthropod (mosquito) Control Plan

Mr. Lamborn,

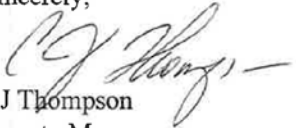
I am in receipt of your letter regarding mosquito control in the John M. Bethea State Forest. Please consider this correspondence as official notification that Baker County does not have any plans for mosquito control in the forest.

In the past, Baker County has partnered with FEMA in the aftermath of tropical storms and hurricanes to bring mosquito control to specific areas of concern due to flooding. These instances are not routine or on a continued basis.

Unfortunately, due to budget limitations Baker County has no future plans to offer mosquito control in any area of the County. Should this information ever change notification will be sent to the Florida Forestry Service.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other matter please contact my office.

Sincerely,


CJ Thompson
County Manager

JAMES CROFT
DISTRICT 1

JIMMY ANDERSON
DISTRICT 2

GORDON CREWS
DISTRICT 3

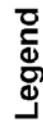
JAMES G. BENNETT
DISTRICT 4

MARK HARTLEY
DISTRICT 5

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

Exhibit Z

Acres Planted to Longleaf Pine



- DISCLAIMER**
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Created by: Andy Lamborn
Date: August 4, 2015

