

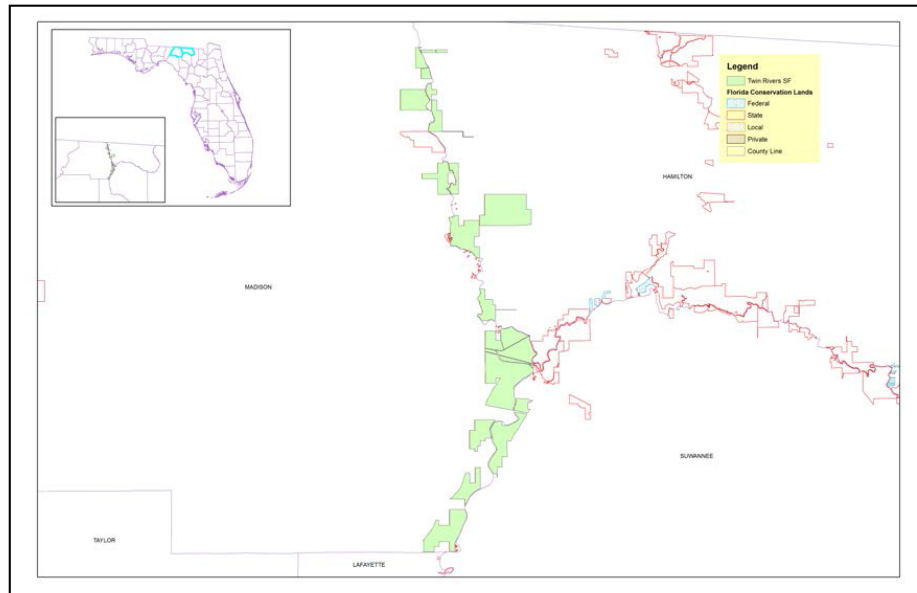
Exhibit U

Land Management Reviews

Name of Site: Blue Springs Longleaf Pine Tract – Twin Rivers SF **County:** Hamilton

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services **Acres:** 14,882
Florida Forest Service **Area Reviewed:** 2,080 acres

Review Date: 12/13/11 **Management Plan Approval Date:** 12/13/06



Review Team Determination

Managed in accordance with
Acquisition purpose? Yes =6, No =0



Management practices, including public access,
in compliance with the management plan? Yes =6 No =0



Categories	Management Plan Review	Field Review
Natural Communities	0.69	4.89
Listed Species	0.25	3.42
Natural Resource Survey	0.66	4.21
Cultural Resources	1.00	4.08
Prescribed Fire	1.00	5.00
Restoration	0.75	4.27
Exotic Species	0.87	4.35
Hydrology	N/A	N/A
Groundwater Monitoring	N/A	N/A
Surface Water Monitoring	N/A	N/A
Resource Protection	1.00	4.46
Adjacent Property Concerns	0.94	5.00
Public Access & Education	0.98	4.17
Management Resources	N/A	N/A
Managed Area Uses	1.00	N/A
Buildings, Equipment, Staff & Funding	N/A	3.38

Consensus Commendations to the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the FFS staff for their excellent and proactive burning program that incorporates two year rotations and growing season burns. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

2. The team commends the staff for their efforts to utilize natural regeneration of longleaf pine, and recommends documentation of the efficacy of various strategies. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

3. The team commends the staff for their consistent treatments of invasive exotic plants. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

4. The team commends the FFS staff on their quail habitat management and their quail hunting quotas based on population data. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

5. The team commends the FFS staff for their excellent cooperation with FWC personnel. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

6. The team commends the FFS staff for the continued efforts to maintain a high quality upland pine community. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The management plan must include responses to the recommendations identified below.

1. The team recommends that FFS develop and implement guidelines for internal use to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive exotic plants. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

Managing Agency Response: FFS will utilize existing Department policies and procedures as well as the guidelines within the State Forest Handbook. Also, a workshop will be conducted at the local field office in Live Oak for the Rangers and Senior Rangers to be able to better recognize and identify the more prevalent invasive/exotic plant species that occur in the North Florida area.

Guidelines are already in place for private contractors doing work on the State Forests, as the manager may insert language in the contract to accommodate for spraying of equipment prior to ingress and other protocols as appropriate to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive exotic plants.

2. The team recommends that the FFS assess the most appropriate strategies for long-term management approach to maintaining an old growth, uneven aged upland pine forest with desired stand characteristics that encompass the full age spectrum of age classes. (VOTE: 6+, 0-)

★★★★★★

Managing Agency Response: Prior to harvesting in any of the intact longleaf pine forest, FFS staff consider the various silvicultural methodologies as shelterwood with retention, modified group selection, small gap creation and other techniques that mimic natural disturbance patterns to successfully establish and maintain an uneven-aged stand structure. Specific silvicultural method(s) for harvesting/thinning specific stands are not typically addressed in the ten-year management plan. Barring the need for a salvage harvest, no thinning is anticipated here until merchantable pine basal area reaches a minimum of 65 to 75 square feet per acre, as outlined in the State Forest Handbook.

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

- Natural Communities, regarding upland pine forest, sinkhole and pond.
- Listed Species, regarding animal inventory.
- Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources, regarding listed species or habitat monitoring, other non-game species or habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- Cultural Resources, regarding cultural resource survey and protection and preservation.
- Resource Management, Prescribed Fire, regarding area being burned (no. acres), frequency and quality.
- Restoration of Ruderal Areas, regarding former slash pine plantation longleaf pine.
- Forest Management, regarding timber inventory, timber harvesting, reforestation/afforestation and site preparation.
- Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species, regarding prevention of plants, animals and pests/pathogens.
- Control, regarding plants and pest/pathogens.
- Resource Protection, regarding boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.
- Adjacent property concerns, regarding inholdings/additions.
- Public Access & Education, regarding roads and parking.
- Environmental Education & Outreach regarding wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive facilities and signs, recreational opportunities and management of visitor impacts.
- Maintenance & Infrastructure, regarding buildings, equipment and staffing.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Management Plan

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than .5 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. Management of natural communities, specifically pond, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: The current plan lists three natural community types on the tract. These are upland pine, upland hardwood forest, and sinkhole communities. The pond is not listed as a natural community, because it appears to be a man made pond. Being that it does not appear to be natural, it should be addressed in the water resources bullet under Renewable and Non-renewable resources in the Resource section.

2. Increased protection of listed species, specifically animal and plant inventory, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: Goal 1 in the ten-year management plan for the current period was to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems; including the health and diversity of native biological communities (flora & fauna) associated with these natural areas. The primary performance measures for this goal have been completed. Goal 2 for the plan period was to ensure long-term viability of populations and native species considered rare, endangered, threatened or of special concern. The performance measure was to have a survey completed. At this time, a gopher tortoise survey of the entire property has been completed in the plan period. A copy of the results of this survey is available at the FFS office in Live Oak. A plant survey would be the next step and will be completed as resources allow (see #3 below for

comments on "monitoring"). The data collected and results from such surveys and ongoing monitoring activities will be documented in some detail in the next ten-year management plan.

3. Natural resources survey/management resources, more specifically listed species or habitat monitoring and other habitat management effects monitoring, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: FFS staff have made contacts with FNAI, Florida Native Plant Society, and our FFS Conservation Plant Biologist, who, will coordinate the fieldwork to develop a better baseline floristic survey. This will be completed as continued interest, budgets, volunteer efforts allow. FFS will also investigate appropriate habitat monitoring opportunities, including photoplots, vegetative structure measurements related to fire response, etc. The next management plan update will provide greater information on these monitoring activities and the data collected.

4. Managed Area Uses, proposed uses, more sheltered pavilion, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: The current plan addresses the construction of a sheltered picnic pavilion and short looped nature trail at the parking area. This was planned to have an area that school groups could utilize on field trips for forest education. Since the writing of the plan, state forest and school budgets have been reduced. These budget reductions along with the remote location of the tract have eliminated the need for the pavilion.

PLAN REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)								
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.83
Sinkhole	I.A.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Pond	I.A.4	0	0			1	0	0.25
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)								
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.33
Plant Inventory	I.B.2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.17
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)								
Listed species or habitat monitoring	I.C.2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.33
Other non-game species or habitat monitoring	I.C.3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.33
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	1		0	1	1	1	0.80
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.83
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)								
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)								
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Frequency	III.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Quality	III.A.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)								
Former Slash Pine Plantation → Longleaf Pine	III.B.1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0.83
Former Ag Field → Longleaf	III.B.2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0.67
Forest Management (III.C)								
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00

Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0.67
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	0	1	1	1	1	0	0.67
Site Preparation	III.C.4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0.67
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.E)								
Prevention								
prevention - plants	III.E.1.a	0	1	1	1	1	0	0.67
prevention - animals	III.E.1.b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.E.1.c		1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Control								
control - plants	III.E.2.a	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.83
control - pest/pathogens	III.E.2.c	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.83
Resource Protection (III.G)								
Boundary survey	III.G.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Gates & fencing	III.G.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Signage	III.G.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Law enforcement presence	III.G.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.H)								
Land Use								
Inholdings/additions	III.H.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Discussion of Potential Surplus Land Determination	III.H.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Surplus Lands Identified?	III.H.4	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.83
Public Access & Education								
Public Access								
Roads	IV.1.a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Parking	IV.1.b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Environmental Education & Outreach								
Wildlife	IV.2.a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.83
Managed Area Uses								
Existing Uses								
Multiple Use Trails	VI.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Picnicking	VI.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Silviculture	VI.A.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Bird Dog Training	VI.A.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Wildlife Observations	VI.A.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hunting	VI.A.6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Proposed Uses								
Sheltered Pavilion	VI.B.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 2.5 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. The need for management resources maintenance and infrastructure, regarding funding, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: Due to budget constraints for the past several years, additional funding has not been available. The forest staff will continue to identify needed resource management and public access activities in order to submit the appropriate budget requests. However, with available funding being limited, FFS will likely have to continue to manage this property with a tight budget. Focus of existing funding and staffing will be to continue the active burn program and to seek outside support (e.g. FWC) and volunteers to assist with resource monitoring.

FIELD REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)								
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.1	4	5	5	5	5	5	4.83
Sinkhole	I.A.3	5	5	5	5	5	4	4.83
Pond	I.A.4		X			5		5.00
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)								
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	4	4	4	4	5	3	4.00
Plant Inventory	I.B.2	1	3	3	4	3	3	2.83
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)								
Listed species or habitat monitoring	I.C.2	4	5	3	4	5	3	4.00
Other non-game species or habitat monitoring	I.C.3	4	4	4	4	5		4.20
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4.17
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.5	4		3	4	5	4	4.00
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.6	5	5	3	5	5	5	4.67
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)								
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	3	5	4	2	5	3	3.67
Protection and preservation	II.B	X	X	4	X	5	X	4.50
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)								
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)								
Former Slash Pine Plantation → Longleaf Pine	III.B.1	4	4	4	4	5	4	4.17
Former Ag Field → Longleaf	III.B.2	4	2	2	4	4	3	3.17
Forest Management (III.C)								
Timber Inventory	III.C.1	5	4	5	4	5	4	4.50
Timber Harvesting	III.C.2	5	4	5	5	5	5	4.83
Reforestation/Afforestation	III.C.3	5	X	4	5	5	4	4.60

Site Preparation	III.C.4	5	4	4	4	5	4	4.33
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.E)								
Prevention								
prevention - plants	III.E.1.a	4	4	4	5	4	3	4.00
prevention - animals	III.E.1.b	X	5	4	4	5	4	4.40
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.E.1.c	4	4	4	5	5	5	4.50
Control								
control - plants	III.E.2.a	5	4	4	5	5	4	4.50
control - pest/pathogens	III.E.2.c	5	4	4	4	4	5	4.33
Resource Protection (III.F)								
Boundary survey	III.G.1	5	5	4	5	5	5	4.83
Gates & fencing	III.G.2	5	4	4	4	5	5	4.50
Signage	III.G.3	5	4	4	4	5	5	4.50
Law enforcement presence	III.G.4	5	X	4	3	X	4	4.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)								
Land Use								
Inholdings/additions	III.H.2	X	X	5	X	5	X	5.00
Public Access & Education								
Public Access								
Roads	IV.1.a	5	4	5	3	3	4	4.00
Parking	IV.1.b	5	4	5	4	5	4	4.50
Environmental Education & Outreach								
Wildlife	IV.2.a	5	3	4	5	4	3	4.00
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	5	4	4	5	4	3	4.17
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	4	4	4	4	4	3	3.83
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	4	4	4	4	5		4.20
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	5	5	4	4	5	3	4.33
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4.33
Management Resources								
Maintenance								
Infrastructure								
Buildings	V.2.a	4	4	4	4	5	4	4.17
Equipment	V.2.b	4	4	4	4	4	4	4.00
Staff	V.3	4	3	3	4	5	4	3.83
Funding	V.4	1	1	2	2	1	2	1.50

Florida Forest Service Manager and Key Staff Present:

- Steve Carpenter, Forest Supervisor II
- Matt Bridges, Forester
- Brad Ellis, Forestry Resource Administrator

APPENDIX:

The following comments represent individual comments, and may not represent the consensus of the land management review team.

I.A. Natural Communities

- The upland pine needs to have a variety of age classes of southern red oak, mockernut hickory & other appropriate hardwoods as well as various age classes of longleaf pine. Upland hardwood forest – reassess may not really have this natural community. There may be an additional natural community present on the forest. From west to east the hardwood component changes. On the westside of the forest there is more turkey oak & blue jack, on the east there is southern red oak mockernut & laurel oak. It needs to be determined if these could be sandhill & upland pine rather than just upland pine.
- During mgmt. plan revision revisit natural community MAP – probably do not have upland hardwood forest and some upland pine in NW corner maybe. Sandhill (Turkey Oak – Blue Jack) overall all condition of forest is excellent.
- Re-evaluate plant communities – possible addition of sinkhole lake, elimination of upland hardwood forest.
- Excellent job of burning the upland pine forest. FFS has moved to a goal of a two year burn cycle with majority of the burning in the growing season. Ground cover was diverse and prolific. In the northeastern zones where hardwoods had become too dense, FFS has mowed and burned these acres with good results. It appears that this zone can now be maintained with just prescribed fire. A couple of sites totaling about 150 acres or so were in the distant past planted to slash pine. All of these stands are receiving regular fire, which was improved ground cover quality. One stand has been clear cut in the past and subsequently replanted to longleaf pine. More work is needed to research and identify the small pond community, which is not addressed in the current mgmt. plan.

I.B. Listed Species

- The plan needs lists of actual plants & animals known to be present on the site not just list of species possibly present. It is not known if there are listed plants at Blue Springs. Include FNAI's 1992 plant survey. There is no list of plants occurring in the forest.
- Plan update needs to address listed animal protection and monitoring and listed plant species inventory & monitoring need to be addressed.
- For animal inventory: recommend monitoring by incidental observation for plant inventory: FNAI plant survey should be included in plan & expand effort to identify listed plant species.
- Suggest FFS adopt an incidental observation protocol for listed species to be used by staff. There is currently no plant list for the forest nor does one exist in the plan. Additional effort is needed to find a source of funding or volunteers to conduct a floristic survey.

I.C. Natural Resource Survey/Monitoring Resources

- Excellent cooperation with FWC staff in completing semiannual quail surveys-the data from which is used to establish the “take” for the hunt. Suggest FFS incorporate photo monitoring into the habitat monitoring.

II.A.B. Cultural Resources (Archaeological and Historic Sites)

- Two of the local staff are trained as archaeological site monitors. No FMSF listed sites occur on the forest. DHR does not recommend a survey here as being a very high priority.

III.A. Resource Management

- Excellent Rx Fire Program - fire program is progressively improving.
- Superb efforts to implement and continue a two-year (goal: 1 to 3 yrs.) rotation throughout the property, including a focus on growing season fire. All areas have had at least two burns in the last four years. Great burn program!

III.C. Restoration

- The plan breaks out the types of areas very well but needs to address future restoration actions better.
- The old field recommend not renewing pinestraw contract and restore Rx fire to field. This as soon as marketable.
- Identify “old fields” as former agriculture & “pine plantation” as former or current slash pine.

- More effort is needed to assess long-term restoration goals as it relates to groundcover establishment in old ag fields once pinestraw operation ceases.

III.D. Forest Management

- Plan update needs to address long term strategy for maintaining uneven aged forest with old growth characteristic future harvesting should enhance the forest with carefully managed marking & monitoring.
- Plan should address long term objectives for age distribution of trees & outline a mechanism to achieve these objectives.
- A timber inventory was completed in 2008 on all stands. Excellent work to log out and salvage beetle killed timber with no damage observed from skidders & log trucks. Very adaptive approach to burn these clearcut areas in preparation of natural seed fall from adjacent longleaf pine-rather than await funding for “artificial reforestation?” Seed cache at this point looks very good. These sites will not be burned for several years.

III.E. Non-native, Invasive & Problem Species

- FFS needs to develop preventative measures to clean equipment so that it does not spread exotic plants.
- Continued effort is needed to establish and implement a protocol for cleaning equipment that has worked in area of invasives (eg. cogon grass) before moving to another property. Good efforts to continue treatment of existing cogon grass sites. A recently discovered site has now been treated. Excellent continuing efforts by FFS staff, with support by FWC, to eradicate an extensive population of autumn olive. Continued effort is needed to treat climbing fern in a small sinkhole community. No feral hog activity was observed.

III.F. Resource Protection

- Property boundary along public highways is all well fenced and signed as a “State Forest”.

III.G. Adjacent Property Concerns

- Plan should mention significance of connected public lands to the west.
- Mgt. plan identifies no additional property needs.

IV. Public Access and Education

- Vehicular access policy should be defined & posted – what are the requirements for a special use permit?
- The short educational nature trail was not installed due to distance from schools and low public demand. Public access is walk in, by foot or horse, from a public parking area along SR6. Vehicle access onto the tract is allowed to hunters and to the general public was first secure a use permit from the forest office in Live Oak. This level of public access seems sufficient for this rural, small tract with such unique and pristine habitat.

V. Infrastructure/ Management Resources

- Need a new bushhog & 4 wheeler. Need some additional biological support of inventories etc. The funding to operate the Blue Springs tract needs to be doubled for them to cover their current costs. The staff does an excellent job stretching their current funding.
- Funding to conduct needed plant survey work plus additional funding for land management activities would be helpful.
- Implementation of management plan requires \$12,000/yr. compared to current allocation of about \$5,500/year.
- Additional funding is needed for professional biological/botany support services for plant/animal inventories as well to pay for fuel & transportation costs. Good support coming from FWC staff to assist in burning program and a tremendous support overall in the mgt. of this property.

VI. A. Managed Area Uses

- Quail habitat is outstanding and demand for quota permits has increased greatly in last year.

VI. B. Uses Proposed in the Management Plan

- Blue Springs does not need a sheltered pavilion. This should be removed from the plan. This would most likely cause a garbage problem on the site.
- Seems to be little demand for a picnic pavilion. Such an improvement would require more attention to litter/garbage collection.

**Land Management Review of
Blue Springs Tract/Twin Rivers State Forest
Lease No. 4047
December 13, 2006**

Prepared by Division of State Lands Staff

*Keith Singleton, Land Acquisition & Management Planner
Cindy Morris, Administrative Assistant*

For

Blue Springs Tract/Twin Rivers State Forest Review Team

FINAL

January 3, 2007

Land Manager:	DACS
Area:	2088.44
County:	Hamilton
Mgmt. Plan Revised:	10/15/2004
Mgmt. Plan Due:	10/15/2014

Management Review Team Members

Agency Represented	Team member Appointed	Team member In attendance
DOF	John Barrow	John Barrow
DRP	Anne Barkdoll	Anne Barkdoll
FWC	Jeremy Dixon	Jeremy Dixon
TNC	Mike Wisenbaker	Mike Wisenbaker
Observer (FNAI)	Carolyn Kindell	
DOF	Brad Ellis	
DOF	Steve Carpenter	

Process for Implementing Regional Management Review Teams

Legislative Intent and Guidance:

Chapter 259.036, F. S. was enacted in 1997 to determine whether conservation, preservation, and recreation lands owned by the state Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board) are being managed properly. It directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish land management review teams to evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and archaeological features. The teams also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan. If a land management plan has not been adopted, the review shall consider the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices are in compliance with the management policy statement and management prospectus for that property. If the land management review team determines that reviewed lands are not being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired or in compliance with the adopted land management plan, management policy statement, or management prospectus, DEP shall provide the review findings to the Board, and the managing agency must report to the Board its reasons for managing the lands as it has. A report of the review team findings is given to the managing agency under review, the Acquisition and Restoration Council, and the Governor and Cabinet and made available by site on the web at www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/landmgt/maps/default.htm.

Review Site

The management review team for Blue Springs Tract/Twin Rivers State Forest considered approximately 2088.44 acres in Hamilton County that are managed by the Division of Forestry. The team evaluated the extent to which current management actions are sufficient, whether the land is being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired, and whether actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the management plan. The management plan update is due on October 15, 2014.

Review Team Determination

Is the land being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired?

After completing the checklist, team members were asked to answer "yes" or "no" to this question. All team members agreed Blue Springs Tract/Twin Rivers SF is being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired.

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

After completing the checklist, team members were asked to answer "yes" or "no" to this question. All team members agreed Blue Springs Tract/Twin Rivers SF is in compliance with the management plan.

Commendations to the Managing Agency

1. The team commends the manager on the outstanding prescribed fire management of this site. (VOTE 4+, 0-)
2. The team recognizes that the Blue Springs Tract is one of the finest examples of longleaf pine-wiregrass forests in existence. We commend and support DOF's overall goal to maintain this property in its natural, old growth condition. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)
3. The team commends the manager on his aggressive control of Russian olive and cogongrass at this site. (VOTE 4+, 0-)
4. The team commends the manager and DOF on the management of visitor impacts at this site. (VOTE 4+, 0-)
5. The team commends DOF's work toward the removal of off-site pine and the replanting of longleaf in the oldfield areas. (VOTE 4+, 0-)

Exceptional Management Actions

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

Exceptional management actions:

- Management of the upland pine forest, upland hardwood forest and sinkhole communities.
- Management and protection of the listed plants and animals.
- Protection and preservation of the cultural resources.
- Area, frequency and quality of the prescribed burns.
- Restoration of the pine plantations and old fields.
- Management of the wildlife habitat.
- Control of invasive animals and plants.
- Gates and fencing, boundary surveys, signage, and law enforcement presence.
- Public access including roads, parking, recreational opportunities and interpretive facilities and signs, environmental education and buildings.

Recommendations and Checklist Findings

The management plan must include responses to the recommendations and checklist items that are identified below.

Recommendations

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members.

1. The team recommends that DOF consider augmenting groundcover restoration in the oldfield and old plantation sites with direct seeding of site-collected native seed. (VOTE: 4+, 0-)

Manager's Response: This will be considered as a long term goal. In the short term the site will be maintained by prescribed fire and sound timber management and the groundcover will be evaluated in the future to see if direct seeding is necessary.

2. The team recommends that DOF conduct a floristic survey of the property. VOTE: 4+, 0-)

Manager's Response: The Division of Forestry's (Division) philosophy is to manage the entire ecosystem and through restoration and appropriate management the desirable plants and animals will flourish. Much work has been done to identify and monitor populations of listed species, and the Division will continue to monitor forest habitats and collect information that will establish a more complete species list.

Checklist findings

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist (see Attachment 1), which indicates that management actions, in the field, were insufficient (f) or that the issue was not sufficiently addressed in the management plan (p). These items need to be further addressed in the management plan update.

1. Discussion in the management plan of the need to monitor ground water quality and quantity. (p,f)

Manager's Response: This is not the within the Divisions purview to conduct. The Division will coordinate with the Suwannee River Water Management District should they decide it necessary to monitor.

2. Discussion in the management plan to address the adjacent property concerns including expanding development and inholdings and additions. (p,f)

Manager's Response: There are no inholdings within this State Forest. The DOF acquisition program reviews and prioritizes potential acquisitions statewide and can not guarantee the acquisition of these adjacent properties .

Team Member's Comments

Natural Communities: protection and maintenance: (I.A)

- Looks to be very well managed properties. Need to check to see if underlain by Hawthorn formation.
- The upland pine section of the management plan does not sufficiently address the southern red oak and other hard woods that should be a component of this plant community. There are very few canopy red oaks and mockernut hickories, etc., in the forest.

Listed Species: protection and preservation (I.B1, I.B.2)

- A plant survey needs to be conducted at this site for rare and common plants. Perhaps a gopher tortoise survey is needed. Need a list of animal species that actually occur on the site.
- Some work needs to be done to survey for threatened and endangered species, such as plants and animals.

Prescribed Fire (Natural Community Maintenance): (III.A)

- The frequency of burns should be a 3 year rotation or less.

- In terms of quality there may be too few southern red oaks, mockernut hickories and sand post oaks.

Restoration of Disturbed Natural Communities: (III.B)

- The restoration of the slash pine plantation to the longleaf canopy is progressing well. No native ground cover restoration is occurring in these old fields and plantations. Nature ground cover restoration should occur in the old fields and former plantations.

Wildlife Management (III.C)

- There is currently no hunting allowed.
- For quail management, growing season prescribed fire at 1 to 2 year rotations is preferable.

Non-native Invasive and Problem Species: (III.D)

- Cogon grass, Russian olive and centipede grass has not been eradicated.
- Herbicide these species, cogon grass, Russian olive and centipede grass. Need to revise management plan to indicate that the cogon grass has not been eradicated.

Adjacent Property Concerns: (III.G)

- Expanding development and inholdings and additions are not a big problem at present, but could possible be in the future. It would be preferable to square off the boundaries.
- Need to review and determine if the optimum boundary map should be revised.
- The plan does not adequately address an optimum boundary and desired acquisitions for future ability to manage the property and strengthen the connection to other conservation lands.

Public Access and Education: (IV.1; IV.2; IV.3; IV.4)

- This site does not need a picnic shelter. The plan should be revised to remove reference to the picnic shelter.

Management Resources: (V.2. V.3; V.4)

- The building could be closer to the tract, but otherwise adequate. A bulldozer is needed.

Review Team Determination

Purpose for Acquisition

- The property was purchased to be maintained as a unique, once common, ecosystem. This longleaf-wiregrass ecosystem is one of the best representatives of its kind in Florida.

Management Plan Compliance

- The area is mainly being maintained with prescribed fire.

Exceptional Management Actions

- Outstanding - prescribed burns on tract. Aggressive control of cogon grass and Russian olive. Removal of slash pines and replacement with longleaf to old growth conditions. Exceptional management of human impacts on tract.
- The burn program is good, however, it could be improved by moving forward a more frequent growing season of burning.

Recommendations for Improving Management of this Site:

- More biological surveys and research on natural communities and inhabitants. Restoration of groundcover in select areas.
- Need to control centipede and Bahia ground cover.
- More frequent burning of 1 to 2 years, geared toward the growing season.

PLAN REVIEW		1	2	3	4	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)						
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.1	1	1	0	1	0.75
Upland Hardwood Forest	I.A.2	1	1	1	1	1.00
Sinkhole	I.A.3	1	1		1	1.00
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)						
Animals	I.B.1	1	1		1	1.00
Plants	I.B.2	1	1	0	1	0.75
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)						
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A		1	1	1	1.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	1	1	1	1	1.00
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)						
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Frequency	III.A.2	1	1	1	1	1.00
Quality	III.A.3	1	1	1	1	1.00
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)						
Pine Plantation	III.B.1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Old Fields	III.B.2		1		1	1.00
Wildlife Management (III.C)						
Wildlife Habitat	III.C.1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)						
Animals	III.D.1		1	0	1	0.67
Plants	III.D.2	1	1		0	0.67
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)						
Ground water quality	III.E.2.a			0	0	0.00
Ground water quantity	III.E.2.b	1	1	0	0	0.50
Resource Protection (III.F)						
Boundary survey	III.F.1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	1	1	1	1	1.00
Signage	III.F.3	1	1	1	1	1.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	1	1	1	1	1.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)						
Land Use						
Expanding development	III.G.1a	0	0	0	0	0.00

Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	0	1	0	0	0.25
Public Access & Education						
Public Access-Maintenance						
Roads	IV.1a	1	1	1	1	1.00
Parking	IV.1b	1	1	1	0	0.75
Recreational Opportunities	IV.2	1	1	1	1	1.00
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.3		1	1	1	1.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.4	1	1	1	1	1.00
Environmental education/outreach	IV.5			1	1	1.00
Managed Area Uses						
Existing Uses						
Multiple use trails	VI.A.1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Picnicking	VI.A.2	1	1	1	1	1.00
Bird dog Training	VI.A.3	1	1	1	1	1.00
Wildlife Observations	VI.A.4	1	1	1	1	1.00
Uses Proposed in Mgmt. Plan						
Hunting	VI.B.1	1	1	1	1	1.00

FIELD REVIEW		1	2	3	4	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)						
Upland Pine Forest	I.A.1	4	4	4	4	4.00
Upland Hardwood Forest	I.A.2	5	5	x	5	5.00
Sinkhole	I.A.3	5	5	x	5	5.00
Listed species: Protection & Preservation (I.B)						
Animals	I.B.1	4	4	4	4	4.00
Plants	I.B.2	3	5	4	5	4.25
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)						
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	x	4	5	5	4.67
Protection and preservation	II.B	5	4	x	5	4.67
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)						
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A1	5	5	5	5	5.00
Frequency	III.A.2	5	5	5	5	5.00
Quality	III.A.3	5	5	4	5	4.75
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)						
Pine Plantation	III.B.1	5	4	4	5	4.50
Old Fields	III.B.2	x	4	x	5	4.50
Wildlife Management (III.C)						
Wildlife Habitat	III.C.1	5	4	4	3	4.00
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.D)						
Animals	III.D.1	x	4	4	5	4.33
Plants	III.D.2	3	5	x	5	4.33
Ground Water Monitoring (III.E.2)						
Ground water quality	III.E.2.a			x	x	0.00
Ground water quantity	III.E.2.b	3	3	x	x	3.00
Resource Protection (III.F)						
Boundary survey	III.F.1	5	4	3	5	4.25
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	5	4	3	5	4.25
Signage	III.F.3	5	3	3	5	4.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	5	3	3	5	4.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)						
Land Use						
Expanding development	III.G.1a	1	4	x	3	2.67
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	1	3	x	3	2.33

Public Access & Education						
Public Access-Maintenance						
Roads	IV.1a	5	4	5	5	4.75
Parking	IV.1b	5	4	5	5	4.75
Recreational Opportunities	IV.2	5	5	4	5	4.75
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.3	x	5	5	5	5.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.4	5	4	4	5	4.50
Environmental education/outreach	IV.5	x	4	4	5	4.33
Management Resources						
Maintenance						
Waste disposal	V.1a	x	4	x	3	3.50
Sanitary facilities	V.1b	x	4	x	3	3.50
Infrastructure						
Buildings	V.2a	4	4	4	4	4.00
Equipment	V.2b	3	4	4	2	3.25
Staff	V.3	5	3	4	1	3.25
Funding	V.4	3	3	4	3	3.25

**Suwannee River Water Management District
Land Management Review Team Report
FY 2014**

Executive Summary

District staff conducted two Land Management Review Team meetings and tours in 2014. The reviews focused on activities that were conducted in FY 2013. Areas of review included water resources, natural resource management, public use and facilities on representative areas.

The review of the Withlacoochee and Middle Suwannee basins focused on the 12,584 acres of District fee lands managed by the Florida Forest Service under a lease at Twin Rivers State Forest. This review was conducted on March 20, 2014.

The second review of District managed land was in the Lower Suwannee and Waccasassa River basins. This area encompasses 15,821 acres of fee lands and 43,470 acres of Conservation Easement lands. This inspection was held on April 24, 2014.

The Team was asked to score whether the District was achieving its objectives using a scale of:

- 0 – not meeting objectives;
- 1 – meeting objectives and
- 2 – exceeding objectives.

Ten objectives were scored on each inspection ranging from a low score of 1.0 for rare species resources on Twin Rivers State Forest to a high score of 1.77 for Public use on the Lower Suwannee and Waccasassa. Water resource objectives were scored 1.43 at TRSF and 1.46 in Lower Suwannee/Waccasassa. The overall average score was 1.36 at TRSF and 1.51 at Lower Suwannee/Waccasassa, both meeting and exceeding the objectives.

In terms of the statutory requirements; Is the land being “managed for the purposes for which it was acquired”; the score was 1.54 at TRSF and 1.65 at Lower Suwannee/Waccasassa, indicating that efforts were meeting and exceeding this guideline. The scores of 1.27 and 1.58 respectively for being “in accordance with the management plan” also represents acceptance by the team of efforts being made on the ground to be consistently meet or exceed standard in implementing the Board's objectives.

The review team scores indicate approval of plans and methods to implement Governing Board objectives and Florida statutes in managing lands under the District ownership.

Introduction

Florida Statute 373.591 requires that the District annually establish Land Management Review Team(s) (LMRT) to determine if lands titled to the Governing Board are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with land management objectives. Staff will report the Review Team's findings which shall be presented to the Governing Board by October 1 of each year. This report was prepared in compliance with the statute.

Background

The first trip reviewed the lands managed by the Florida Forest Service in Twin Rivers State Forest in the Withlacoochee River basin and a portion of the Middle Suwannee River basin. The second trip was led by staff and included lands in the Lower Suwannee River and Waccasassa River basins.

Twin Rivers State Forest

On March 20, 2014, staff and representatives of the Florida Forest Service (FFS) led a field tour of lands in Twin Rivers State Forest (TRSF). This review area totals about 12,584 acres of fee lands. The main area of emphasis on the tour was silvicultural activities used by the FFS to restore the natural communities on TRSF and the BMPs utilized to protect water and cultural resources.

Eighteen individuals representing private landowners, interests groups and agencies participated in the tour. Staff provided the "Land Management Report 2013", Attachment 1, for activities completed in fiscal year 2013 and the blank SRWMD Land Management Review Team Excellence in Land Management Scorecard, Attachment 2, to the members for their use. FFS staff provided a five year summary of land management accomplishments at TRSF, Attachment 3.

A group presentation and various field presentations were conducted to allow the review team to see activities and ask questions about the land management program as a whole and also its implementation on these selected lands.

Lower Suwannee and Waccasassa River Basins

On April 24, 2014, staff led a field tour of lands in the Lower Suwannee and Waccasassa River Basins in Gilchrist and Levy Counties. This review area totals about 15,821 acres of fee lands and 43,470 acres of Conservation Easement lands. The main area of emphasis on the tour was protection of surfacewater resources while managing public use and natural community management; management of lands during the current flood event and the many cooperators involved in the management of District lands in these basins.

Sixteen individuals representing private landowners, interests groups and agencies participated in the tour. Staff provided the "Land Management Report 2013" for activities completed in fiscal year 2013, the SRWMD "Land Management Review Team

April 24, 2014” booklet, Attachment 4, and the blank SRWMD Land Management Review Team Excellence in Land Management Scorecard to the members for their information and use.

Presentations were made in the Otter Springs Lodge by staff and representatives of Gilchrist County and ForVets, Inc. In the afternoon, Levy County staff made a presentation at Levy Blue Springs regarding the spring and joint management of Devils Hammock with the District. Field discussions were led by staff at Otter Springs and Devils Hammock Tracts.

The District “Excellence in Land Management” (ELM) program was established to quantify land management operations in meeting the objectives set forth by the Governing Board in the District Land Management Plan (DLMP). The review team was provided with the ELM Scorecard to document their determination on whether the activities they saw or discussed were deficient, meeting, or exceeding the objectives adopted by the Governing Board. The team also scored, using the same criteria, whether actions were in compliance with statutes (259.036, F.S.).

The ELM scorecard is annually calculated based on completed District land management operations from the prior year(s). Review team members score District land management efforts on the following scale:

- 0 – District is not meeting the objectives of the DLMP
- 1 – District is meeting the objectives of the DLMP
- 2 – District is meeting and exceeding the objectives outlined in the DLMP

The ELM scores represent the average totaled from all participating member’s scores.

Results

The scores at TRSF ranged from 1.0 for rare species to 1.64 for public use. The two lowest scoring items were for rare species (1.0) and fiscal responsibility (1.23). The two highest scoring were public use (1.64) and communications (1.57). Ten out of 140 individual scores were for “0” or not meeting standards. Staff will review these items with TRSF staff to determine how to address these potential items. The overall score was 1.36 which is meeting and exceeding standards. On both statutory questions, TRSF scored 1.54 for managing consistent with purpose acquired and 1.27 for managing consistent with land management objectives of the District.

The scores for the Lower Suwannee/ Waccasassa ranged from 1.23 for groundcover resources to 1.77 for public use. The two lowest were groundcover (1.23) and rare species (1.27). The two highest were communications (1.69) and public use (1.77). Fiscal responsibility scored 1.67. The overall score was 1.51; with scores of 1.65 and 1.58 for the statutory questions. One score of 0.5 for rare species was below standards.

SRWMD Excellence in Land Management Scorecard

2014 Land Management Review Team Report Withlacoochee and Middle Suwannee Basins March 20, 2014 District Land Management Plan Objectives

RESOURCE PROTECTION

1. Water Resource Objectives

Score: 1.43

- Minimize structural floodplain management on District-managed lands.
- Maintain surface and groundwater quantity and quality during land management activities by using enhanced Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Restore hydrologic regimes to the Desired Future Condition (DFC) where possible.
- Maintain water control structures so they achieve their intended function.

Water Resource Comments

The District owned lands are being protected and maintained in accordance with the objectives set for the in the District Land Management Plan.
Great job @ Anderson, need work @ (river access site? Not complete on paper).
Water resource objectives were not a central feature of this meeting.
Very impressive job. Especially important with aquifer springs.
Use of fireplow for firelanes is not always best from hydrology perspective.
Terrific job keeping on top.
Your efforts are very evident.
Excellent
If there is insufficient burnable dicots on a plot, wait until there is! Use fire, not herbicide! Stop the application of all herbicides for pine plantation management and any other dicot (native) plant control, other than spot treatment to eliminate exotic plants. This use is a giant uncontrolled experiment with unknown consequences to wildlife.

2. Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Objectives

Score: 1.29

- Minimize soil degradation (erosion, compaction).
- Manage and/or restore historic natural communities for a given site to DFC levels.
- Update and maintain reference maps as soon as new information is available.

Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Comments

District staff and the Forestry staff are doing an excellent job of managing historic natural communities.
Erosion is a problem because of the flooding, etc.
Basically, a very good job. Natural communities could be tough to document/restore.
Saw less emphasis on natural community restoration than I've seen on other District lands. FFS seems to be heavily timber-production oriented.
The controlled burns & efforts to maintain property show excellent results.
Clearcut areas (206A) that are being left without reforestation are contributing to erosion and are not in compliance with DLMP specification for natural community management. FFS should be required to reforest within a specified time. Reforestation funds should have been allocated prior to the clearcutting. If funds are lacking, cooperative land management agencies should be approached for help in acquisition and planting of longleaf seedlings. Consider contacting Chris Demers, Forestry Stewardship Program (cdemers@ufl.edu), for improving interactions with cooperative agencies.
Stay as far away as possible with pine planting from sinkholes. Instead of clearcutting everything and disrupting all soil (& soil living vertebrates & invertebrates and all ground cover plants) using heavy equipment, keep equipment off significant areas and do the clearing using handheld equipment.

3. Ground Cover Resource Objectives

Score: 1.43

- Monitor the grass, herbaceous and shrub layers to detect if the resource falls outside the DFC parameter range.
- Reduce degradation of the existing native groundcover.
- Reintroduce or supplement current native ground covers with local stock from District lands or cooperating land management agencies.

Ground Cover Resource Comments

More groundwater restoration is needed. The burning is adequate, but more planting of native groundcover is needed.
Monitoring and maintenance of native groundcover is obvious and impressive. Efforts to reintroduce wiregrass is working very well.
Great burn and replant wiregrass programs. Need more.
Participation in a research project on wiregrass regeneration extends the District's activities significantly.
Good job!
Lot of good work on restoring wiregrass/long leaf.
This seemed to be a very low priority on Twin Rivers land.
Prudent use of herbicides is well documented.
The ground cover is very good.
On nearly all properties viewed, the grass and herbaceous groundcover vegetation failed to meet DLMP objectives. The existing seed bank is poorly represented by grasses and the regenerating forbs and wildflowers are low in species number. Repetitive burning, as planned, will not suffice. FFS should augment all properties, including Black Tract, with native seed for groundcover restoration. If groundcover resources are unavailable, contact the District or the Forestry Stewardship Program or Anne Barkdoll, DEP, who is an experienced regional contact for groundcover seeding technique (Anne.Barkdoll@dep.state.fl.us).
The three agencies, SRWMD, FFS & FFWCC, have their hands tied behind their backs by the Florida Legislature, Governor, and business interests. The staffs want to protect the resource, but are not given free-reign to do so. Planting longleaf pine, using fire, and providing reasonable, controlled public access must continue. Deer populations must be reduced still further through hunting. But there are hundreds of trees in addition to one pine & hundreds of other plants. These agencies should have an <u>EMPOWERED</u> group of botanists on staff.

4. Timber Resource Objectives

Score: 1.43

- Manage for natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest, including select dominant and/or old growth trees and snags.

- Maintain the dominant and co-dominant tree species within the DFC parameter range.
- Reforest within DFC parameters using techniques that minimize damage to other natural community resources.
- Maintain an accurate and current forest resource inventory.
- Ensure that commercial harvests provide the maximum financial returns that are possible with the consistent attainment of natural resource values.

Timber Resource Comments

I was very impressed with the knowledge and commitment of District and Forestry staff.
The program is sustained with minimum inputs.
Good job generally. May conflict with a goal of maximum financial return.
Reforestation is exceeding what I expected.
Do plans exist to replant lost longleaf seedlings from the 2012-2013 planting season? 70% survival left 561 trees/A, does FFS plant to meet the 726 trees/A DLMP?
These lands are now within the use radius of Gainesville's 104 MW Biomass Plant, which started operation in October, 2013. Hardwoods <u>must not</u> be completely cut down to feed this electricity monster, which by contract <u>must</u> be fully operational at 104 megawatts for the next 30 years. <u>All</u> revenue from thinning & clear-cutting must go back into the forest management budget, as well as increasing the supply of general revenue.
Management techniques are starting to show the transition from pine plantation to more natural looking stands, more longleaf, grasses for fire fuels, Keep up the prescribed burning.

5. Rare Species Resource Objectives

Score: 1.0

- Identify and monitor rare species on District lands.
- Protect and manage biodiversity on District lands.
- Provide District staff with the most current rare species locations, status, and Rare Species BMPs.
- Maintain and/or increase existing rare and imperiled species populations.

Rare Species Comments

Objectives are being met and exceeded.
They are doing well with people they have but need to do more rare plant species surveys.
Seems to be going well.
Didn't see evidence of significant emphasis on rare species.
Obvious knowledge of rare and endangered species w/habitat adjustment as required for protection.
I do not recall discussion of rare species, perhaps because current habitat is not particularly supportive? Overall species diversity will not be well managed until intact communities are represented. I saw approachment of this goal at the upland Ellaville Tract only.
This is primarily a timber and hunting operation which has almost nothing to do with wildlife/plant biodiversity. Wildlife and plant diversity was historically very high this close to the Suwannee River & Panhandle. Obviously the re-planting with longleaf pine & extensive burning are commendable, but the use of any herbicide must be stopped. It is well known that garlon kills amphibian tadpoles at very low concentration. In addition these products enter the aquifer and destroy cave organisms, such as cave salamanders. As pointed out, the area is loaded with sinkholes! Open entry points to the surficial aquifer.

6. Cultural and Historic Resource Objectives**Score: 1.29**

- Document location of significant cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands and share information with the Division of Historic Resources within the Department of State.
- Protect and prevent negative impacts to cultural and historical resources during all activities.
- Monitor the condition of cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands.

Cultural and Historic Resource Comments

Objectives are being met and exceeded.
Doing a good job fencing around historic structures, etc.

Good research of preservable area.
Obvious knowledge of cultural resources and adjustment as required for protection.
Keeping the historic resources exceeds my expectation.
Excellent
I see no archeological/anthropological inventory or research for the last five years mentioned in mailed report. An old cemetery was pointed out on the field trip but we did not stop. Heavy equipment used almost everywhere on this = very damaging +15,000 acres. No money spent at all, yet \$1,341,000 generated from timber sales. Salaries must be paid out of general revenue using timber sale money for habitat restoration & management.

7. Aesthetic and Visual Resource Objectives

Score: 1.29

- Maintain or enhance overall visual quality of District lands.
- Minimize or mitigate short-term negative appearances of land management activities.

Aesthetic and Visual Resource Comments

Objectives are being met.
Good work on keeping up good visual appearances with reduction of improper use/vandalism.
<u>Beautiful!</u>
Most of the managed lands that we viewed today were in early phases of restoration, void of groundcover, and short on aesthetics. Sites treated in the past with Velpar ULW, however, are especially lacking in visual appeal, perhaps due to the broad spectrum impact of hexazinone on, not just the targeted oaks and other trees, but on the lower growing shrubs and flowering herbs. A little chinquapin, blueberry, holly are to be expected in upland pine forests that are managed with fire and add to habitat value (e.g. turkey). With the broadcast of Velpar ULW, however, we see understory shrubs are eliminated and a wide array of flowering herbs reduced. Regeneration of these species depends on a soil seed bank, whereas regeneration after fire quickly recurs from basal parts. Typically, sites that have been in production have poor native seed banks, thus use of Velpar in tracts slated to be managed according to the historic natural community is questionable.
In another 50 years, the uplands may be as promised, a long-leaf pine uneven aged

group of many non-continuous stands. However, I doubt it, because timber cutting for salaries and hunting revenue are at present the obvious objectives. No one mentioned nor wrote about what percentage of costs on public land is paid for out of general revenue. It should be almost 100%, since the public is getting enormous benefits from this non-urban property they own.

8. PUBLIC USE

Score: 1.64

- Provide opportunities for resource-based recreation compatible with water resource protection.
- Protect health and safety of visitors.
- Use cooperating agencies and volunteers whenever possible.

Public Use Comments

I was very impressed with the cooperation between District staff and Forestry staff.
Good job reworking and maintaining recreation areas for public safety and controlling erosion.
There is considerable emphasis on providing appropriate recreation opportunities.
The District has always protected the public. Keeps us advised during flood conditions via the web site.
A good basic job. Web site might need a little work – EZ access, graded activities, etc.
Numerous opportunities available.
Having cooperating agencies maintain the property saves many dollars.
Obviously these acres receive very heavy use. The report does not indicate how much of this is for hunting, but probably the majority of the 21,273 day users were on the public lands for this purpose. No mention was made of illegal ATV use, but this undoubtedly is a problem, along with the vandalism. The SRWMD, FWC (FFWCC) & FFS should offer courses for volunteers (paid) to provide a constant presence on these 15,000 + acres, with radios to call in armed reinforcement when public land violations are observed. This would be dangerous work in any event, but necessary to reduce arson & ATV damage & gate vandalism. <u>NO</u> hunting should be allowed within 500 feet of FFWCC food plots, for deer viewing only! This must be posted and enforced.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Score: 1.57

- District land management is operating under a current Board approved DLMP.
- District staff held an annual Land Management Review Team meeting to review the previous fiscal year's activities and showcase land management operations.
- District land management staff represented the District to the public and peers through articles in District Newsletter, Public Workshops, Training Opportunities, Presentations, etc.

Communication Comments

Objectives are being met and exceeded.
Doing a great job! The District's outreach to the public is great!
Excellent job of communication via workshops.
Communications is very good.
LMRT meeting to review: Great! Continue! LMS to the public and peers: No discussion during field trip = don't know. All state agencies: Water Management Districts, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Forest Service, are under constant economic pressure to maximize the revenue coming out of the lands, rather than using taxation and fees. The Governor selects only business people to control these agencies through the Boards, Commission, etc., and demands totally inadequate paid staffing to carry out what is left of Florida law. The Florida Legislature no longer serves the public good, as happened briefly from the 1970's to early 1990's.

10. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Score: 1.23

- Protect and manage resources on District lands in an efficient manner within the limits of the annual operating budget.
- Revenues generated from land management will be from operations conducted to achieve resource objectives.
- The District will implement the Payment in Lieu of taxes program for eligible counties.

Fiscal Responsibility Comments

Objectives are being met. I would like to see more funding and resources made available to the management of these lands.

Good, efficient job of property management. Much better than many governmental agencies.
Limited opportunity to judge.
Funds received from timber sales should be used for reforestation.
Good use & cooperation between State bodies.
Once again the outside management of lands saves money.
District land resources are not being properly managed when FFS does not budget to replant longleaf seedlings nor to actively restore groundcover. Nevertheless, timber sales were made and a large section of property was sold. How does fiscal responsibility compare with management ethics? Perhaps I am missing too much information to fairly score.
Under the present Florida Legislature and Governor, many long serving, highly qualified and dedicated employees have been summarily fired without cause, whereas the budget of the Florida Department of Transportation budget remained untouched. The housing mania in Florida brought on our recession, as well as the lack of Federal Regulation, under 8 years of President Bush & two very costly wars. The result has been the financial end of the Florida Forever Act and necessary completion of the public land purchase along Florida's rivers & in the uplands. Hopefully, Legacy Lands will pass in November & restore the land buying program.

Other General March LMRT Comments:

The District lands are being managed very appropriately. All objectives are being met and exceeded.
District lands are being managed appropriately with a diversity of partners.
Appreciate the District keeping up with gates and keeping the area safe.
A good job of balancing objectives that are difficult to balance. Efficient management, good public experience, endangered species, etc.
With exceptions noted in my previous comments.
<u>Absolutely!</u>
Physical, hydrological and archaeological features as well as public access all appear well provided for. Natural community management objectives however appear not well

met as indicated previously by the paucity of groundcover and by clearcuts left unplanted with longleaf. I am not given the impression that this land has been managed for 19 years under District Plans. I do not feel the FFS maintains the standards to the level that District land managers display themselves on their own lands.
The final objective for converting purchased tree farm monocultures is an old growth, uneven age stand of longleaf pine. This is one fine objective but there needs to be diversification. All the over one hundred species of other trees, mostly dicots, are being totally ignored and presumed to come back naturally during the controlled burn process. Instead it will be necessary to start a state run native tree nursery & start getting closer to the historic forest habitat diversity through deliberate replanting.
Disposal of "surplus" lands has removed lands valuable to the conservation needs of not only water resources, but also lands valuable to public recreation, endangered and otherwise rare species and natural communities "restoration". It has also resulted in additional urban interface which makes management more difficult and expensive, especially burning. It has removed buffers along streams to leaching of fertilizer into the waterways and has increased the removal of water through irrigation systems. Selling lands that are truly surplus (meaning non-contiguous outlying parcels) is desirable and justifiable; selling lands that do have conservation and recreation value is not justifiable.
I feel that the District staff and the Forestry Service staff are doing a wonderful job. Thank you!
Good Job.
Twin Rivers management might broaden its purview beyond timber.
<u>Great job.</u>
Management shows a definite effort.
If District Land Managers were more closely involved in the management of Twin Rivers, perhaps the 2010-2011 application of Velpar ULW by FFS to 94 A of longleaf might have been forestalled through timely prescribed burning? Same goes for the site preparation with Velpar of 290A in 2011-2012? The District objectives clearly define their management focus to be on designated core areas, those that can be burned without chemical pre-treatments. So then why does it appear that FFS is falling back on aerial broadcast herbicide use as nearly routine? District managers might better step in when they feel District objectives are not being upheld. This includes providing seedlings and seed if needed for FFS to maintain standards in reforestation and groundcover.
I don't see much of anything going on with presently protected state plants and animals, other than killing them with herbicides & ignoring them. Monitoring money must be increased and re-introduction efforts also need to be at least tried. As/Just one

example, pine beetle infestations by exotics plus their fungi probably would be less damaging if native insect populations were not so decimated by clearcutting 40 acres or more at a time.

Statutory Compliance

Florida Statute 259.036, states that the Land Management Review Teams shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.

Average LMRT Score	
Are District lands are being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?	1.54
Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan? This includes sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and/or archaeological features.	1.27

**SRWMD Excellence in Land Management Scorecard
2014 Land Management Review Team Report
Lower Suwannee and Waccasassa River Basins
April 24, 2014
District Land Management Plan Objectives**

RESOURCE PROTECTION

3. Water Resource Objectives

Score: 1.46

- Minimize structural floodplain management on District-managed lands.
- Maintain surface and groundwater quantity and quality during land management activities by using enhanced Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Restore hydrologic regimes to the Desired Future Condition (DFC) where possible.
- Maintain water control structures so they achieve their intended function.

Water Resource Comments

Considerable effort is devoted to restoring original hydrologic condition.
Didn't observe first two of list of focusing today's review. Second two were commendable. Report sounds good.
While I am not proficient in all technical aspects of the program, I do understand and appreciate the dedication and professionalism of the District staff as well as their partners with various agencies. With all the criticism of government agencies by the media and even some of our elected officials, it is very refreshing to see the results of a well-organized, though underfunded, operation such as this.
Need more funds to plant and restore longleaf pine.
Ideally, the District would have 1) the money to annually buy more 100-yr. floodplain land along the Suwannee River & its tributaries, and 2) force private land owners to clean up their septic tanks and 3) regulate fertilizer application on agricultural land and 4) continue to establish Best Management Practices for dairies & beef cattle operations. Also regulate private pine plantation management (fire & herbicide).
The District is doing an outstanding job to maintain surface and groundwater quality by incorporating BMPs in all its land management activities. No recs for improvement, just continue the outstanding work.

May need to determine different management objectives as to how water control structures are set. May need drawdowns for Mallory Swamp for example so prescribed burns can be accomplished.

4. Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Objectives

Score: 1.46

- Minimize soil degradation (erosion, compaction).
- Manage and/or restore historic natural communities for a given site to DFC levels.
- Update and maintain reference maps as soon as new information is available.

Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Comments

Boat ramps improved to avoid erosion. Excellent use of up-to-date remote sensing techniques.
--

Not emphasized on today's trip. Report sounds good.

Have a very accurate supply of reference maps.
--

Really love the Lidar!

Logging of district land allows for soil degradation and erosion. What is the difference between a timber company and SRWMD logging? Row planted pines harvested regularly don't allow for build-up of decaying vegetation that enriches the soil & holds it in place.
--

During site preparation after pine plantation clear cuts, <u>minimize</u> soil disturbance during re-planting of long-leaf pines & slash pines (wet sites only for this species).

3. Ground Cover Resource Objectives

Score: 1.23

- Monitor the grass, herbaceous and shrub layers to detect if the resource falls outside the DFC parameter range.
- Reduce degradation of the existing native groundcover.
- Reintroduce or supplement current native ground covers with local stock from District lands or cooperating land management agencies.

Ground Cover Resource Comments

No emphasis on today's field visit. I know District does some of this, but no evidence today.
Does a good job of maintaining ground cover.
It is my opinion the District is meeting and exceeding all of the objectives outlined in the DLMP. Thank you!
Continue control burns of upland pine plantations, with <u>no</u> use of herbicides, except for spot treatments to kill exotic plant invasions.

4. Timber Resource Objectives**Score: 1.46**

- Manage for natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest, including select dominant and/or old growth trees and snags.
- Maintain the dominant and co-dominant tree species within the DFC parameter range.
- Reforest within DFC parameters using techniques that minimize damage to other natural community resources.
- Maintain an accurate and current forest resource inventory.
- Ensure that commercial harvests provide the maximum financial returns that are possible with the consistent attainment of natural resource values.

Timber Resource Comments

Opportunities are seized when dealing with exceptionally wet environments.
Lots of emphasis on financial outcomes. District sounds increasingly like FFS.
Great research into a difficult "natural" community.
Manages timber in order to receive maximum income.
Very impressed with "handling" of log-cutting operations.
Have not seen multi-age, multi-species replanting or of significant snags in logged areas. Logging and mono culture destroys the complex composition of soil nutrients.
Do not destroy existing mesic hammock habitat for wood chips to burn for electricity to increase pine plantations for profit. With the operation of the 104 MW Biomass Plant at Deerhaven in Alachua County, the temptation to do this has been greatly increased.

Unfortunately, this plant must be operated at full capacity for 30 years starting Oct. 2013, and is not owned by Gainesville Reg. Utilities.

5. Rare Species Resource Objectives

Score: 1.27

- Identify and monitor rare species on District lands.
- Protect and manage biodiversity on District lands.
- Provide District staff with the most current rare species locations, status, and Rare Species BMPs.
- Maintain and/or increase existing rare and imperiled species populations.

Rare Species Comments

Little mention in today's visit. Good that sites are GIS located.

Nice management of rare species.

Unauthorized vehicle use near ponds destroys amphibian and fish nursery areas. Logging destroys habitat.

The District does almost nothing here, except for rare contracted plant & animal surveys. The District should hire a minimum of two full-time people to do continuous plant & vertebrate surveys of District lands & invertebrate surveys in uplands & lowlands.

6. Cultural and Historic Resource Objectives

Score: 1.54

- Document location of significant cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands and share information with the Division of Historic Resources within the Department of State.
- Protect and prevent negative impacts to cultural and historical resources during all activities.
- Monitor the condition of cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands.

Cultural and Historic Resource Comments

Staff is aware of culturally and historically significant sites.

Vigilance and attention are good, as is ensuring that forest managers are aware of sites.

Make sure they locate historical resources.
The District should work much more closely with staff at the Florida Museum of Natural History (Anthropology) & Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee to gain a much deeper understanding of cultural & historic resources on District lands and the entire 100-year floodplain of the Suwannee River and its tributaries.

7. Aesthetic and Visual Resource Objectives

Score: 1.54

- Maintain or enhance overall visual quality of District lands.
- Minimize or mitigate short-term negative appearances of land management activities.

Aesthetic and Visual Resource Comments

Not mentioned or observed.
Great use of county agreements to facilitate resources.
As a hiker & member of FTA, we appreciate how the FNST is preserved during land management activities.
I have observed logging companies allowed to leave areas damaged, with timber waste and deep ruts. Trails that aren't mowed don't encourage legitimate, non-motorized use.
Minimize the size of pine clear-cuts. Reduce forest roads which are unnecessary and costly to maintain. Of course, do all that is possible to minimize vandalism and arson and littering.

8. PUBLIC USE

Score: 1.77

- Provide opportunities for resource-based recreation compatible with water resource protection.
- Protect health and safety of visitors.
- Use cooperating agencies and volunteers whenever possible.

Public Use Comments

Lots of recreational opportunities; very good use of partnerships.
Not favorably impressed with county partnership and their perception of spring management as swimming pool.
Great use of county agreements to facilitate resources..

Make efforts to protect visitors.
I am impressed by the District's broad cooperative planning/interaction with other agencies (DEP, USFWS, WMA, FWC and individual counties). This collaborative effort seems to be facilitating the best possible public use and oversight, as well as the best utilization of staff and resources.
Again, as a hiker & member of FTA, we appreciate the SRWM District's concern for recreation & the health & safety of hikers & other users.
Wish there was a formal SRWMD volunteer system for better monitoring of holdings. Thank you for access to the beautiful and peaceful land.
I do not know why Gilchrist County government can't manage Otter Springs Park and Campground <u>directly</u> rather than contracting out the job totally to injured veterans to manage ("ForVets, Inc.") = \$30,000,000 project. I hope this new contract will be successful, but am not convinced by the presentation. I am a 26-year veteran of the US Navy & Naval Reserve, so definitely am in favor of hiring <u>all</u> veterans for employment in government jobs. I have found no information about "ForVets, Inc." on the internet. I assume "free housing" for resident veterans provided by the Federal Government?

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Score: 1.69

- District land management is operating under a current Board approved DLMP.
- District staff held an annual Land Management Review Team meeting to review the previous fiscal year's activities and showcase land management operations.
- District land management staff represented the District to the public and peers through articles in District Newsletter, Public Workshops, Training Opportunities, Presentations, etc.

Communication Comments

Land Management Review Team meetings are effective.
Tours are excellent.
Facebook is a great way to share information. I will visit as soon as I get back to a computer.
We all appreciated the way District staff helped the Review team understand the fiscal years' activities & land management operations. Job well done!

More publicity about water and soil conservation would help people understand why the holdings are protected.

Amazingly good considering the lack of support from state government politicians. Considering that the Florida Legislature and the Governor would prefer to privatize practically everything, and District staffing has been reduced as a result, as well as eliminating the independent taxing authority of the District, I am gratified that they have not yet been successful in totally destroying water regulation in Florida.

10. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Score: 1.67

- Protect and manage resources on District lands in an efficient manner within the limits of the annual operating budget.
- Revenues generated from land management will be from operations conducted to achieve resource objectives.
- The District will implement the Payment in Lieu of taxes program for eligible counties.

Fiscal Responsibility Comments

Sale of surplus properties generates revenue for purchase of hydrologically, ecologically, and culturally significant properties.

District budget is too small, given its responsibilities. They do well with what they've got.

You all do so much with your tiny budget. Thanks!

All 5 water management districts must have their independent taxing authority restored by state government. And Legacy Lands hopefully will pass in November, providing \$6,000,000,000 over 20 years for additional public land purchases, including 100-year flood plains & swamps. Buying back Florida for the public good was not completed under P2000 & Florida Forever Act but will be completed if Legacy Lands passes.

The District is doing an excellent job with available resources. I know it has been a struggle keep up the good work.

Smaller staff now; more contracting of essential management tools; cutting back/cutting out on some management activities to meet reduced budget.

Other General LMRT Comments:

More funds would help address all DLMP objectives to the desired degree.

Manages District land well.

If Otter Springs, Levy Blue Springs and Devil's Hammock are indicative of management practice across the District, then I would rank them as meeting/exceeding expectations.
Yes they are.
Obviously I think these Land Management Review Teams are a good idea, as long as they are not a rubber stamp of approval for all District practices. It is impossible to manage Florida's public lands properly while cutting water management district budgets and eliminating jobs and accumulated expertise.
<u>Excellent Job!</u>
They District is handling the increased rainfall in a timely manner. And informing the public about flooding & its dangers.
I have no idealistic objections to contracting work out to private entities and other state agencies and institutions, but this cannot be done by cutting the District budget. The people of Florida cannot survive without clean water; and natural systems provide this free of cost, assuming the habitats are not destroyed to make homes for more and more people, paying less & less.
I hope the County did the right thing to have the ForVets manage RV Park. I cannot comment on the ForVets organization because this is the first association I have had with them.
Note: Due to flooding of the Suwannee, our field trip was of limited scope, taking place 1) inside the Otter Springs Park & Campground "Springs Lodge", 2) we also stopped at "Blue Spring" at the headwaters of the Waccasassa River, and 3) and one site inside Devil's Hammock, on the afternoon driving tour, after a drive in from State Road 24.

Statutory Compliance

Florida Statute 259.036, states that the Land Management Review Teams shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.

Average LMRT Score

Are District lands are being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?	1.65
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Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan? This includes sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and/or archaeological features.	1.58
---	-------------

Exhibit V

Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan

Reed, Jennifer

From: Ronald Meeks [ronaldrm@suwgov.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 11:16 AM
To: Carpenter Jr, Steven
Cc: ronaldrm@suwcounty.org; Reed, Jennifer
Subject: Re: Twin Rivers State Forest Management Plan

Please be advised that the Resource Management Plan for the Twin Rivers Sate Forest is consistent with the Suwannee County Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

Ron Meeks
Planning & Zoning Director for Suwannee County

On Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 9:45 AM, Carpenter Jr, Steven <Steven.Carpenter@freshfromflorida.com> wrote:

Mr. Meeks,

The attached letter was sent to you regarding the resource management plan for Twin Rivers State Forest. The Anderson Springs tract of the Forest is located in Suwannee County. In order to finalize the resource management plan, I need to know if it is consistent with Suwannee County's Local Comprehensive Plan. Please contact myself or Jennifer Reed ([850-681-5828](tel:850-681-5828)) regarding this issue. Thank you.

Steve Carpenter

Forestry Supervisor II

Florida Forest Service

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

[386-208-1460](tel:386-208-1460)

Steven.Carpenter@freshfromflorida.com

Twin Rivers and Big Shoals State Forest

7620 133rd Road

Live Oak, FL 32060

www.FreshFromFlorida.com

Please note that Florida has a broad public records law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes).

Most written communications to or from state employees are public records obtainable by the public upon request. Emails sent to me at this email address may be considered public and will only be withheld from disclosure if deemed confidential pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida.

Please Note: Florida has a very broad Public Records Law. Most written communications to or from State and Local Officials and agencies regarding State or Local business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications, including your email address, may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

Confidentiality Notice: This message and any attachments are for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender (by phone or reply by email) and then destroy all copies of the original message.

From: [Jeanne Bass](#)
To: [Reed, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Ten-Year Resource Management Plan for Twin Rivers State Forest
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:41:57 AM

Hi Jennifer,

After reviewing your plan, it is my opinion that your Ten-Year Resource Management Plan for the Twin Rivers State Forest is consistent with our Madison County Local Comprehensive Plan.

If there is anything else you need, just let us know!

Yours truly,

Jeanne Bass

County Land Use Planner
Madison County Planning & Zoning
P. O. Box 539
229 SW Pinckney Street, Suite 219
Madison, FL 32340
850-973-3179
planner@madisoncountyfl.com

Visit our website at: www.madisoncountyfl.com

Exhibit W

State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group Summary

(To be provided upon completion of meetings and public hearing.)

**Management Plan Advisory Group Introductory Meeting
Twin Rivers State Forest**

January 19, 2016

11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • Samuel Leneave | Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Scotland Talley | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) |
| • Bill Mckinstry | Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) |
| • Craig Liney | Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection (DRP/DEP), Suwannee River State Park |
| • James W. Brown | Chairman, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Andy Jackson | District Chairman, Suwannee County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Carol Sullivan | Florida Native Plant Society |
| • Richard McCulley | Private Landowner |
| • Jeff Glenn | Hiking Group |
| • Chris Menhennett | Hunting Group |
| • Edwin McCook | Paddling Group |
| • Bob Wallace | Biking Group |
| • Beth Burnam | Hamilton County Commissioner |
| • Rick Davis | Madison County Commissioner |
| • Ricky Gamble | Suwannee County Commissioner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| • Jimmy Daniels | Equestrian Group |
| • Scott Wynn | Vice Chairman, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District |

Staff:

- Steve Carpenter, FFS
- Glenn Davis, FFS
- Paul Williams, FFS
- Jennifer Reed, FFS
- Bill Korn, FFS
- Cat Ingram, FFS

Note: No members of the general public were present.

Meeting Start Time: 11:30 a.m.

- Mr. Korn opened the meeting with the introductions of Florida Forest Service staff and Management Plan Advisory Group (MPAG) members.

- Mr. Korn continued by explaining the purpose, statutory requirements and management plan development process within which 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 and MPAG member appointment timeframe.
- FFS staff listed 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.
- Mr. Talley moved to elect Mr. Leneave as MPAG Chair. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. No opposition; the motion was approved.

Meeting End Time: 11:47 a.m.

**Public Hearing
Twin Rivers State Forest**

January 19, 2016

12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • Samuel Leneave | Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Scotland Talley | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) |
| • Bill Mckinstry | Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) |
| • Craig Liney | Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection (DRP/DEP), Suwannee River State Park |
| • James W. Brown | Chairman, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Andy Jackson | District Chairman, Suwannee County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Carol Sullivan | Florida Native Plant Society |
| • Richard McCulley | Private Landowner |
| • Jeff Glenn | Hiking Group |
| • Chris Menhennett | Hunting Group |
| • Edwin McCook | Paddling Group |
| • Bob Wallace | Biking Group |
| • Beth Burnam | Hamilton County Commissioner |
| • Rick Davis | Madison County Commissioner |
| • Ricky Gamble | Suwannee County Commissioner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| • Jimmy Daniels | Equestrian Group |
| • Scott Wynn | Vice Chairman, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District |

Staff:

- Steve Carpenter, FFS
- Glenn Davis, FFS
- Paul Williams, FFS
- Jennifer Reed, FFS
- Bill Korn, FFS
- Cat Ingram, FFS

Note: No members of the general public were present.

Meeting Start Time: 12:01 p.m.

- Mr. Korn began the meeting and gave a general overview of the purpose of the public hearing.
- Mr. Korn gave the group a general history on the background of ten-year land management plans for TRSF. Talking points included were acquisition history, the different tracts that make

up the forest and a change in overall plan organization from two separate documents from two different entities (FFS & WMD), into one combined current document.

- The group discussed the new change regarding the organization of the document.
- Mr. Carpenter gave a PowerPoint presentation on the draft land management plan.
- Mr. Korn opened up the floor for a question/answer session.
- Mr. McCook inquired about Japanese climbing fern, its occurrence on private property and what FFS is doing to eradicate the plant outside of the state forest. Mr. Carpenter answered and discussed the options for treatment when working with private landowners.
- Mr. Korn ended the meeting, as no public was present to interface with FFS staff regarding the TRSF draft plan.

Meeting End Time: 12:38 p.m.

**Management Plan Advisory Group Meeting
Twin Rivers State Forest**

January 19, 2016

1:00p.m.

Meeting Minutes

MPAG Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • Samuel Leneave | Center Manager, Florida Forest Service (FFS) |
| • Scotland Talley | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) |
| • Bill Mckinstry | Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) |
| • Craig Liney | Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection (DRP/DEP), Suwannee River State Park |
| • James W. Brown | Chairman, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Andy Jackson | District Chairman, Suwannee County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| • Carol Sullivan | Florida Native Plant Society |
| • Richard McCulley | Private Landowner |
| • Jeff Glenn | Hiking Group |
| • Chris Menhennett | Hunting Group |
| • Edwin McCook | Paddling Group |
| • Bob Wallace | Biking Group |
| • Beth Burnam | Hamilton County Commissioner |
| • Rick Davis | Madison County Commissioner |
| • Ricky Gamble | Suwannee County Commissioner |

MPAG Members Not Present:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| • Jimmy Daniels | Equestrian Group |
| • Scott Wynn | Vice Chairman, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District |

Staff:

- Steve Carpenter, FFS
- Glenn Davis, FFS
- Paul Williams, FFS
- Jennifer Reed, FFS
- Bill Korn, FFS
- Cat Ingram, FFS

Note: No members of the general public were present.

Meeting Start Time: 1:00 p.m.

- Mr. Korn started the meeting by going over the meeting structure that would take place and specifics regarding staff and member responsibilities regarding the meeting minutes in the coming days/weeks.
- Mr. Korn, after deliberating with the Management Plan Advisory Group (MPAG) regarding process preference, declared a “page-by-page” format would be the way the group would be advising on the draft plan.
- Mr. Talley discussed the potential implications involving possible future hunting activities on the Damascus Tract of Twin Rivers State Forest (TRSF).
- Mr. Davis, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. McKinstry discussed harvesting, acreages, and the Water Management District (WMD) surplus land process.
- Mr. Jackson inquired about potential negative connotations regarding utilizing WMA status on the state forest. Mr. Carpenter discussed implications. Mr. Talley discussed examples of different state lands which utilize different Wildlife Management Area (WMA) formats and aspects. Mr. Korn and Mr. Leneave discussed Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF) rules in comparison to WMA rules.
- Mr. Liney, Mr. McCook, Mr. McCulley, and Mr. Korn discussed the control of non-native, invasive species and the possible addition to the draft plan of a pertinent objective with associated performance measures that would mention coordination of treatment with private landowners. Also discussed were the topics of herbicide banks and a related Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program.
- Mr. Jackson mentioned adding the appropriate Soil and Water Conservation District to the objective.
- Mr. McKinstry mentioned the WMD’s acceptance of a previous change to the plan.
- Mr. Liney inquired about timber revenue and its potential use for reforestation. Mr. Korn and Mr. Carpenter discussed the Incidental Trust Fund, as well as the different relationship WMD’s have to revenue and what types of activities timber sale funding may be directed to for other properties.
- Mr. Talley requested the addition of a structure be added to the infrastructure list.
- Mr. Korn interpreted the DHR process regarding archeological sites and monitoring protocols on FFS-managed state-owned properties. Since this property had over 25 sites, FFS will work with DHR to determine appropriate priorities for annual monitoring.
- Mr. Talley and Mr. McKinstry discussed the potential presence of burrowing owls and the pertinent Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) list. FFS staff agreed to review the shapefiles to determine the status of the burrowing owl and whether the location of the historic siting was actually on the state forest.
- Mr. Talley discussed the black bear in relation to the FNAI list in the draft plan. Mr. Korn, Mr. McCook, Mr. Talley, and Mr. Jackson discussed other imperiled species of similar and/or different situations in terms of how they are listed by various entities.
- Mr. Talley vocally agreed to a change that occurred on page 26 regarding the 2008 Gopher Tortoise survey.
- Mr. Glenn inquired about verbiage regarding “multi-use management” and how that phrase is interpreted when referencing specific trails and whether they’d be multi-use. Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Talley, Mr. McCook, and Mr. Korn discussed usage of trails and a language change pertinent to that section of the draft plan. Mr. McCulley, Mr. McCook, and Mr. Wallace continued to discuss trail uses. Of particular concern was the hiking trail that followed along the shore of the Suwannee and Withlacoochee Rivers and potential negative impacts from equestrian use. Mr. Carpenter mentioned that the Five-Year Recreational Plan will mention specifics. All agreed to

include language that FFS would assess trail uses and where appropriate they would be designated “single-use” trails.

- Mr. Liney and Mr. Korn discussed the Five-Year Operational plans in more detail.
- Mr. Jackson questioned the percentage of TRSF that will be restored to longleaf pine. Mr. Carpenter discussed the restoration situation of the forest.
- Ms. Sullivan presented a correction in the natural community section of the draft plan related to the scientific name for mockernut hickory.
- Mr. Carpenter stated FFS staff would look into the specific name of a code/abbreviation on page 48.
- Mr. McKinstry asked if specific acreages in relation to certain activities could be laid out for the Mill Creek South Tract section of the draft plan to achieve documentation of a baseline. Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Korn, and Mr. McKinstry discussed the proposition and added a clarifying sentence to the section that defined the approximate 30 acres that remain needing stand longleaf pine restoration.
- Mr. Jackson asked that the current name for the local energy company (Duke) replace the outdated name (Progress) in the draft plan.
- Mr. McCook inquired about using the WMD name for a specific tract. Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Talley, and Mr. Korn discussed the name as it is in FWC’s brochure and the best way to relay the area in the TRSF draft plan.
- Mr. McCook inquired as to whether or not the other tracts will be included in the WMA. Mr. Carpenter discussed WMA additions with Mr. McKinstry, Mr. Korn, and Mr. McCook. Mr. McCook discussed WMD assessments of TRSF tracts. Mr. Leneave and Mr. Korn discussed potential verbiage changes regarding WMAs and TRSF tracts. MPAG group came to a consensus to change verbiage in the Goals and Objectives section that would allow for an ongoing assessment of ALL the forest tracts for inclusion into the current WMA system. Mr. McKinstry suggested a verbiage change to the recreation section regarding continued assessment for additional uses.
- Mr. Talley asked that an acronym be added to the acronym list: Florida Natural Scenic Trail (FNST).
- Mr. Korn stated that the group had concluded going over the text portion of the draft plan. He inquired whether anyone had any suggested changes to any of the exhibits. No changes to the exhibits were recommended by MPAG members.
- Mr. Korn went around the table and asked each MPAG member final thoughts/comments.
- Mr. Wallace inquired whether the corridors of recreational trails were left intact following clearcuts. Mr. Carpenter discussed the fate of such corridors. Mr. Korn stated that details regarding corridors are an operational issue and related issues are perhaps best examined by the liaison group.
- Mr. Wallace inquired about the access of off-highway vehicles and equestrians on TRSF recreational trails and whether FFS discourages illegal use on trails. Mr. Carpenter discussed FFS’s use of FWC law enforcement on state forests. Mr. Wallace inquired about the use of signage on the TRSF recreational trails. Mr. Carpenter discussed FFS’s use of signage and the potential of future coordination with user groups to accomplish signage on TRSF recreational trails. Mr. Talley commented on the potential public usage of the FWC wildlife alert hotline. Mr. Korn and Mr. Carpenter continued to discuss the topic. FFS agreed to look at the current trailhead signage to determine if adequate.
- Mr. Liney commented that the draft plan is well-written and commended FFS for past accomplishments on TRSF, given limited resources.

- Ms. Burnam stated that the TRSF MPAG was a good experience for her.
- Mr. McCulley thanked FFS for taking care of Florida's forests.
- Ms. Sullivan agreed with Mr. Liney.
- FFS staff clarified how long within the FFS and WMD draft plan review/approval process the MPAG members are obligated to uphold the Sunshine Law.
- The MPAG members agreed to consensus regarding the edits put forth during the meeting for the TRSF draft plan. The MPAG members agreed that FFS should move forward with the draft plan approval process.
- Mr. Leneave made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion.

Meeting End Time: 2:37 p.m.

Exhibit X

State Forest Summary Budget

Twin Rivers State Forest Summary Budget

	TWIN RIVERS STATE FOREST LANDS MGT. ONLY 13-14 EXPENDITURES -	Percentage of Total for FY 2013-14	TRSF Based Upon LMUAC Resource Management Funding Need
Resource Management	\$ 137,983	30.40%	\$ 482,685.01
Exotic Species Control	\$ 4,664	2.50%	\$ 39,694.49
Prescribed Burning	\$ 92,091	5.80%	\$ 92,091.22
Cultural Resources Management	\$ 187	0.10%	\$ 1,587.78
Timber Management	\$ 18,842	10.10%	\$ 160,365.74
Hydrological Management	\$ 1,306	0.70%	\$ 11,114.46
<i>OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</i>	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ 20,894	11.20%	\$ 177,831.32
Listed Species Management	\$ -		\$ -
Forest Pest and Disease	\$ -		\$ -
Plant Conservation Program	\$ -		\$ -
State Forest Research Projects	\$ -		\$ -
Boundary Surveys for State Forests	\$ -		\$ -
Other Activities Also Include:	\$ -		\$ -
Liaison Community Meetings / Boundary Line Maintenance / Forest Inventories and Various Other Activities / Wildfire Suppression on State Forests			
			\$ -
Administration	\$ 14,551	7.80%	\$ 123,846.81
Central Office Headquarters	\$ 14,551	7.80%	\$ 123,846.81
District/Regions	\$ -		\$ -
Units/Projects	\$ -		\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
Support	\$ 55,033	29.50%	\$ 231,815.83
Land Management Planning	\$ 3,358	1.80%	\$ 28,580.03
Land Management Reviews	\$ 560	0.30%	\$ 4,763.34
Training/Staff Development	\$ 10,633	5.70%	\$ 90,503.44
Vehicle Purchase	\$ 746	0.40%	\$ 6,351.12
Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	\$ 27,796	14.90%	\$ -
	\$ -		\$ -
OTHER SUPPORT	\$ 11,939	6.40%	\$ 101,617.90
State Forest Land Acquisition Support			\$ -
Other Support Activities Also Include:	\$ -		\$ -
Computer Maintenance / Radio Maintenance / Technical Support / Management of Apiary and Cattle Leases / State Forest Easements and Other Various Activities	\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -
Capital Improvements	\$ 36,377	19.50%	\$ 309,617.03
New Facility Construction	\$ 8,581	4.60%	\$ 73,037.86
Facility Maintenance	\$ 27,796	14.90%	\$ 236,579.17
			\$ -
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$ 23,879	12.80%	\$ 203,235.79
Information/Education	\$ 5,410	2.90%	\$ 46,045.61
Operations	\$ 18,469	9.90%	\$ 157,190.18
			\$ -
Law Enforcement	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Total	\$ 186,551	100.00%	\$ 1,587,779.64

Exhibit Y

Arthropod Control Information