



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

May 11, 2010

Ms. Corinne Hermle
Division of Forestry
3125 Connor Blvd./C25
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1560

RE: Holopaw State Forest, Lease # 3556

Dear Ms. Hermle:

The Division of State Lands (DSL), Office of Environmental Services, acting as agent for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, approves the Holopaw State Forest management plan. The next management plan update is due May 11, 2020.

Approval of this land management plan does not waive the authority or jurisdiction of any governmental entity that may have an interest in this project. Implementation of any upland activities proposed by this management plan may require a permit or other authorization from federal and state agencies having regulatory jurisdiction over those particular activities. Pursuant to the conditions of your lease, please forward copies of all permits to this office upon issuance.

Sincerely,

Paula L. Allen
Office of Environmental Services
Division of State Lands
Department of Environmental Protection

TEN-YEAR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR THE

HOLOPAW STATE FOREST

OSCEOLA COUNTY

PREPARED BY



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

APPROVED ON

May 11, 2010

TEN-YEAR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
HOLOPAW STATE FOREST



Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Karels", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Karels, Director
Division of Forestry

3/25/10
Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Core", written over a horizontal line.

David Core, Assistant Director
Division of Forestry

March 24, 2010
Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Jennings", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Jennings, Chief
Forest Management Bureau

March 24, 2010
Date

TEN-YEAR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
HOLOPAW STATE FOREST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Land Management Plan Executive Summary	1
I. Introduction	2
A. General Mission, Goals for Florida State Forests, and Management Plan Direction	2
B. Past Accomplishments and Status of Previous Plan's Goals/Objectives	2
C. Goals/Objectives for the Next Ten Year Period	2
D. Management Needs, Priority Schedule and Cost Estimates	3
II. Administration Section	4
A. Descriptive Information	4
1. Common Name of Property	4
2. Location, Boundaries and Improvements	4
3. Legal Description and Acreage	4
4. Degree of Title Interest Held by the Board	4
5. Proximity to Other Public Resources	4
6. Aquatic Preserve/Area of Critical State Concern	4
B. Acquisition Information	4
1. Land Acquisition Program	5
2. Legislative or Executive Constraints	5
3. Purpose for Acquisition	5
4. Designated Single or Multiple-Use Management	5
5. Alternate Uses Considered	5
6. Additional Land Needs	5
7. Adjacent Conflicting Uses	6
8. Surplus Land Assessment	6
C. Agency & Public Involvement	6
1. Responsibilities of Managing Agencies	6
2. Public and Local Government Involvement	6
3. Compliance with Comprehensive Plan	6
III. Resource Section	6
A. Past Uses	6
B. Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources	6
1. Soil Types	6
2. Archaeological and Historical Resources	7
3. Water Resources	7
4. Fish and Wildlife	7
5. Endangered or Threatened Species	7
6. Beaches and Dunes	7
7. Swamps, Marshes, or Other Wetlands	7

8. Mineral Resources	7
9. Unique Natural Features	7
10. Outstanding Native Landscapes	7
11. Timber Resources	7
IV. Management Concepts by Natural Communities and Proposed Management Activities	8
A. Existing and Planned Uses	8
1. Property Boundaries Establishment and Preservation	8
2. Soil and Water Protection	8
3. Roads.....	8
4. Recreation Management	8
5. Fire Management	8
6. Silvicultural Guidelines & Forest Resource Management Objectives	9
7. Research Projects/Specimen Collection	9
8. Law Enforcement.....	9
9. Wildlife and Fish Management	9
10. Non-Native Invasive Species	10
11. Insects, Disease and Forest Health	10
12. On-Site Housing	11
13. Utility Corridors and Easements	11
14. Ground Disturbing Activities	12
15. Apiaries	12
16. Cattle Grazing.....	12
17. Ground Cover	12
B. Description of Natural Communities and Proposed Management Activities	12
C. Impact of Planned Uses on Property Resources	13
V. Management Summary	13
A. Operations Infrastructure	13
B. Plans to Locate Fragile, Non-Renewable Natural and Cultural Resources	13
C. Conformation to State Lands Management Plan	14
D. Potential Use of Private Land Managers	14
VI. References	14

TEN-YEAR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
HOLOPAW STATE FOREST

EXHIBITS

Location Map	Exhibit A
Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan	Exhibit B
Soil Map	Exhibit C
Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands	Exhibit D

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lead agency: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry

Common Name of Property: Holopaw State Forest (HSF)

Location: Osceola County

Acreage Total: 49

<i>Land Cover Classification</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Planted Slash Pine	47
Ruderal (Driveway, Buildings)	2
Acreage Total:	49

Lease/Management Agreement No.: 3556

Use: Single ☐ Multiple ☒

MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Division of Forestry

Florida Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Division of Historical Resources

RESPONSIBILITY

General Management of Forest Resources

Wildlife Resources and Laws

Historical and Archaeological Resource
Management

Designated Land Use: Multiple-Use State Forest

Sublease(s): None

Encumbrances: None

Type Acquisition: Florida Development Commission

Unique Features: None

Archaeological/Historical: None

Management Needs: Prescribed burning and timber harvesting (thinning)

Acquisition Needs/Acreage: None

Surplus Lands/Acreage: None

Public Involvement: Forest is less than 160 acres, so no Advisory Group is required; Osceola County

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE (FOR DIVISION OF STATE LANDS USE ONLY)

ARC Approval Date: _____ BTIITF Approval Date: _____

Comments: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

Holopaw State Forest (HSF) is a 49-acre tract located in Osceola County. It was acquired in 1961 and is designated as a multiple-use management area by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), Division of Forestry (DOF). Improved slash and South Florida slash pine were planted on 56 of the 58 acres in 1979-1983. The size of the forest was reduced by 9 acres when US 192 was widened in 2005.

A. General Mission, Goals for Florida State Forests, and Management Plan Direction

The primary mission of the DOF in managing HSF is to protect and manage the unique resources of the forest through a stewardship ethic to assure these resources will be available for future generations. This will be accomplished by implementing sound multiple-use management principles. The goals of which will be to:

- To restore, maintain, and protect in perpetuity, all native ecosystems;
- To ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare, endangered, threatened, or of special concern;
- To restore, maintain, and protect hydrological functions related to the quality and quantity of water resources and the health of associated wetland and aquatic natural communities;
- To integrate human use through the multiple-use concept, not emphasizing any particular use over the others or over restoration, maintenance, and protection of native ecosystems;
- To protect known archaeological and historical resources; and
- To practice sustainable forest management utilizing sound silvicultural techniques.

This plan is intended to meet the requirements of Florida Statute 253.034 and was prepared using guidelines outlined in Chapter 18-2.021 of the Florida Administrative Code. The management plan is neither an annual work plan nor a detailed operational plan, but a document that provides strategic guidance for the management of HSF for the next ten years.

B. Past Accomplishments and Status of Previous Plan's Goals/Objectives

A thinning operation was conducted in fall 2003/winter 2004. All four stands were selectively thinned. A total of 2,917 tons were harvested (2,742T pulpwood and 175T C-N-S). All four stands in the forest were inventoried in March 2007.

In the fall of 2007, mechanical treatment was performed to reduce fuel loading and woody stem competition.

C. Future Goals and Objectives for the Next Ten-Year Period

The following goals and objectives provide direction and focus for management resources for the next 10-year planning period. This section should be used to measure

management accomplishments. Funding, agency program priorities and the wildfire/major weather events during the planning period will determine the degree to which these objectives can be met. Short-term goals shall be achievable within a two year planning period, and long-term goals shall be achievable within a ten year planning period.

GOAL 1: Sustainable Forest Management

OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce hazardous fuel levels using prescribed burns, mechanical or chemical treatments. (Short Term/Long Term Goal)

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Total number of acres treated for fuel reduction.

OBJECTIVE 2: Maintain existing firelines. (Short Term/Long Term Goal)

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Miles of firelines maintained.

GOAL 2: Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain state forest boundary annually. (Short Term/Long Term Goal)

PERFORMANCE MEASURE: Miles of forest boundary maintained.

D. Management Needs, Priority Schedule and Cost Estimates

There are no anticipated problems in the continued management of HSF. The HSF has no history of epidemic and/or managerially important outbreaks of damaging insects or diseases. Given the forest's current and/or expected biodiversity, structure, and management plans, no such outbreak is anticipated. In the event of novel or circumstance generated outbreaks, the state forest management staff will cooperate with the DOF's Forest Health Section to develop and implement appropriate scientifically sound responses and/or management prescriptions.

1) Schedule

Reinventory each stand between 2012 and 2017.

Perform mechanical treatment on all stands between 2010 and 2012 and continue to perform on a 2-4 year interval.

2) Cost Estimates

Costs to conduct the necessary management activities are minimal. They include transportation of personnel and equipment to the forest for inventory and mechanical treatment.

II. ADMINISTRATION SECTION

A. Descriptive Information

1. Common Name of Property

The common name of the property is Holopaw State Forest (HSF).

2. Location, Boundaries and Improvements

This 49 acre state forest is located approximately 2 ½ miles east of Holopaw, on U.S. Highway 192 in Osceola County, Florida (Exhibit A). Structures consist of two abandoned concrete block buildings. Other improvements consist of an asphalt driveway, radar walkway and boundary fence.

3. Legal Description and Acreage

The HSF lies in the following portion of Section 17, Township 27 South, Range 33 East in Osceola County, Florida: South ¾ of Southeast ¼ of Northwest ¼ lying North of U.S. Highway 192; and that part of Northeast ¼ of Southwest ¼, and that part of Northwest ¼ of Southeast ¼ lying North of U.S. Highway 192, and South ½ of Southwest ¼ of Northeast ¼ and South ½ of Northwest ¼ of Southwest ¼ of Northeast ¼. The forest consists of 49 acres.

4. Degree of Title Interest Held by the Board

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) holds fee simple title to the property. No restrictions, leases, reservations, or encumbrances are known to exist for this property.

5. Proximity to Other Public Resources

- Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area, St. Johns River Water Management District, approximately two miles southeast of HSF.
- Triple N Wildlife Management Area-Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, across U.S. 192, south and adjacent to HSF.
- Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area-Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, approximately 8 miles southeast of HSF.
- River Lakes Conservation Area-St. Johns River Water Management District, approximately 10 miles northeast of HSF.

6. Aquatic Preserve/Area of Critical State Concern

This property is not within an aquatic preserve or an area of critical state concern, nor is it under study for such designation.

B. Acquisition Information

1. Land Acquisition Program

The HSF was acquired by the Florida Development Commission in 1961. This tract was purchased by the Florida Development Commission from Consolidated Naval Stores Company. The Commission bought the land for approximately \$300, less the mineral rights which were owned by Sun Oil Company. Terms of the OGM lease with Sun Oil Company were for ten years. Under a provision of the OGM lease it

appears to have expired ten years after issuance since no utilization of the minerals occurred.

2. Legislative or Executive Constraints

There are no known legislative or executive constraints specifically directed toward HSF.

3. Purpose for Acquisition

The DOF took this property under management from the Department of Natural Resources on August 14, 1979. At the time of acquisition there were no stated acquisition goals and objectives.

4. Designated Single or Multiple-Use Management

HSF is designated for multiple-use management with the DOF as the lead agency as stated in Multiple Agency Lease Agreement #3556. Authority for multiple-use management is given under Chapters 253 and 589, Florida Statutes. Sustainable multiple-use management is the overall goal for the property. Multiple-use management includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: silvicultural management, recreation, wildlife management, archaeological and cultural resource management, ecosystem restoration, environmental education, and watershed management. The goals of the DOF are to protect and manage ecosystems, restore and maintain biological diversity, and integrate public use through multiple-use of the forest resources. Multiple-use resource management and the practice of sustainable forestry will provide for the greatest public benefit in perpetuity, while at the same time protecting all the values and resources of the land. Local demands and geographic factors influence the array of uses to be applied to any area of the forest. Only uses compatible with the forest and its ecosystems will be implemented. Forest management practices should ensure that all resources of the forest are sustained for the future. Sustainable forest management will be practiced to ensure long-term forest health.

5. Alternate Uses Considered

Due to its small size, relative isolation, and lack of outstanding natural features, the forest is not considered suitable for any type of recreation or hunting.

6. Additional Land Needs

The small size and limited access of HSF limits effective management for all multiple use purposes. The tract is considered surplus to our needs.

7. Adjacent Conflicting Uses

There are no conflicts between the planned uses on this tract and current uses on adjacent lands as the adjacent lands are used for similar purposes.

8. Surplus Land Assessment

The small size of HSF challenges effective management as a state forest for all multiple use purposes. The tract is being considered for surplus.

C. Agency & Public Involvement

1. Responsibilities of Managing Agencies

The DOF is responsible for the overall management of the forest. The FWC, a cooperating agency, is responsible for enforcement of wildlife management laws. The Division of Historical Resources (DHR) cooperates with the DOF regarding appropriate management practices on historical or archaeological sites on the forest as stated in Section 267.061(2) (d), Florida Statutes.

2. Public and Local Government Involvement

This plan has been prepared by the DOF and will be carried out primarily by that agency. The DOF responds to public involvement through direct communication with individuals, user groups and government officials. The forest is less than 160 acres, so no designated advisory group is required.

3. Compliance With Comprehensive Plan

This plan has been submitted to the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners for review and compliance with their local comprehensive plan (Exhibit B).

III. RESOURCE SECTION

A. Past Uses

A cleared area on the forest has been used in the past as a dirt airstrip and is still designated as such on the county map. At one time, some type of radar structure was located on the property according to some local residents. A tracking device may have rotated on the still existing asphalt walkway which is approximately five feet wide and 100 feet in length.

B. Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources

1. Soil Types

According to the Soil Survey of Osceola County, the dominant soil on HSF is Smyrna fine sand (Exhibit C). This is a nearly level, poorly drained soil in broad flat areas in the flatwoods. The potential for pine production is moderate with slash pine the recommended tree for planting.

2. Archaeological and Historical Resources

There are no known historical or archaeological sites on this tract. The DHR will be contacted before any major ground disturbing activities are conducted. The DOF will comply with the procedures outlined in "Management Procedures for Archaeological or Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands" (Exhibit D) and protect known archaeological and historical sites.

3. Water Resources

There are no water bodies on site.

4. Fish and Wildlife

Game species such as deer and wild hog have been observed on the site. The site also supports non-game populations (i.e. snakes, birds, turtles, etc.) that would typically be associated with flatwoods sites.

5. Endangered or Threatened Species

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), no listed species are known to exist on the state forest. The Florida sandhill crane has been mapped in the vicinity of the forest and is listed as “threatened” by the FWC.

6. Beaches and Dunes

Not applicable.

7. Swamps, Marshes, or Other Wetlands

Not applicable.

8. Mineral Resources

No known mineral deposits exist in this forest.

9. Unique Natural Features

Not applicable.

10. Outstanding Native Landscapes

Not applicable.

11. Timber Resource

The DOF practices sustainable timber management in the state forest system, which means annual harvest volume on each state forest will not exceed the annual growth rate. This is accomplished by periodically obtaining accurate estimates of standing timber volumes in order to ensure that the timber resource will not be depleted.

HSF contains one stand of South Florida slash pine and three stands of improved slash pine. These stands were established between 1980 and 1983. Stands are being managed on a 60 to 80 year rotation with final harvest scheduled around 2040.

IV. MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS BY NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Existing and Planned Uses

Existing and planned uses of the property consist of managing the property as a forestry demonstration area. This forest is used by the DOF to show local landowners and other interested people the various types of site preparation, tree spacing, species selection and other forestry practices that can be used to manage a typical Florida flatwoods site for timber production. Any harvesting done will follow Best Management Practices and existing firelines will continue to be maintained.

1. Property Boundaries Establishment and Preservation

State forest line boundary lines are maintained on an annual basis by DOF personnel. The identifying color is a white band on perimeter trees. Boundary marking is done according to the most current version of the DOF State Forest Handbook. Establishment of the forest boundary has been completed.

2. Soil and Water Protection

To prevent soil erosion and to protect water resources on the forest, all management activities will strictly adhere to the current Silviculture BMP manual. Copies of this publication are available upon request from the DOF Forest Hydrology Section.

3. Roads

There is an asphalt driveway and a radar walkway.

4. Recreation Management

There are no recreational facilities/opportunities at HSF.

5. Fire Management

All guidelines as outlined in the DOF's Fire Management Policy will be used on HSF. The DOF utilizes a total fire management program on state forests that includes prevention, detection, suppression and prescribed burning. DOF personnel and equipment will be utilized for pre-suppression practices and rehabilitation of firelines on the forest. BMPs for fireline construction will be followed as described in the Silviculture BMP Manual (DOF 2008). If firelines are installed as a result of suppression actions during a wildfire, every effort will be made to rehabilitate these lines within two weeks of the wildfire "controlled" date. Emphasis will be placed on prescribed burning, fire prevention, and education to help reduce wildfire occurrence on the forest and in the surrounding rural residential community. To prevent soil erosion and to protect water resources on the forest, all management activities will strictly adhere to the current Silviculture BMP manual. Copies of this publication are available upon request from the DOF Forest Hydrology Section. Smoke management in and around the community will be addressed during preparation of prescribed fire prescriptions by utilization of the smoke screening system. DOF personnel and equipment will be used for these activities. This plan will be in compliance with the DOF Fire Management Policy.

6. Silvicultural Guidelines & Forest Resource Management Objectives

All stands are being managed on a 60 to 80 year rotation with final harvest scheduled sometime around 2040. It is not anticipated that there will be a need to harvest timber from HSF within this planning period, except as emergency salvage should another hurricane or other disaster occur. All timber sales will follow the guidelines stated in Chapter 6.4 of the most currently approved State Forest Handbook.

7. Research Projects/Specimen Collection

Research projects may be performed on certain areas of the forest on a temporary or permanent basis for the purpose of obtaining information which furthers the knowledge of forestry, ecology and related natural resource fields. The DOF currently cooperates with the U.S. Forest Service, educational institutions, governing agencies, and non-profit organizations in the accumulation of this research information. The DOF will consider assisting with research projects when funds and manpower are made available.

In order for any research project or specimen collection to occur, they must first be approved by DOF's Forest Ecologist. All requests for research projects or specimen collections should be submitted in writing to the field forester in charge of the state forest. The forester will then forward requests to the DOF Forest Ecologist for approval as stated in the State Forest Handbook. Requests must include a letter outlining the scope, methodology, and location of the proposed project. Requests are subject to review by DOF foresters, biologists, Forest Entomologist/Pathologist, and Forest Hydrology Section as appropriate. Permission to conduct research will require that the investigator provide copies of any reports or studies generated from research projects to the HSF staff. The status of existing projects will be subject to periodic review by state forest staff annually.

8. Law Enforcement

Primary law enforcement responsibilities are handled by forest staff or DACS, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement. Additional assistance is rendered by the Osceola County Sheriff's Office or FWC as needed.

9. Wildlife and Fish Management

Due to the small size of HSF and its proximity to nearby residents, HSF is closed to public hunting. FWC will be utilized to assist in the management of fish and wildlife species as deemed necessary.

In order to enhance wildlife habitat, the following general management guidelines are observed to best meet the needs of both the wildlife and resources of HSF:

a. Timber Management

Timber management will be conducted in a manner specified in above sections to this plan. The DOF recognizes the importance of snags for wildlife value. As a general rule, snags will be left alone in their natural environment unless they are deemed to be a potential safety hazard.

b. Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning will be conducted in a manner specified in above sections to this plan. Prescribed burning provides numerous benefits to the forest.

c. Managing Non-Game Species

Non-game species, including rare and sensitive species, will be managed and protected through the maintenance of the native ecosystems found on the property. Research done by DOF, other state agencies, educational institutions, and the federal government will provide valuable information in determining the management objectives for non-game wildlife species.

10. Non-Native Invasive Species

The practice of the DOF is to locate, identify and control (eradicate if possible) non-native invasive species. State Forest employees monitor the forest for exotics while conducting management activities. When these species are discovered, a monitoring and control plan will be developed and implemented based upon the severity of the infestation and the availability of manpower and funding. The DOF will elicit support from the FWC in efforts to control non-native animals when deemed to have a negative effect on native species.

11. Insects, Disease and Forest Health

There are no documented cases of any specific insect or disease problem on HSF, either before or since State ownership. To minimize the potential for such problems, preventive management strategies will be developed in consultation with DOF Forest Health Section staff. Management strategies will include restoration and maintenance of native species and natural plant communities, natural prescribed fire regimes specific for plant communities, site-appropriate tree plantings and the natural regeneration of native species. In addition, the control or elimination of exotics and non-native species will promote overall good forest health.

In compliance with section 388.4111, Florida Statutes and in Sec. 5E-13.042, F.A.C., all lands have been evaluated and subsequently designated as environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive. Such designation is appropriate and consistent with the previously documented natural resources and ecosystem values and affords the appropriate protection for these resources from arthropod control practices that would impose a potential hazard to fish, wildlife and other natural resources existing on this property. With the approval of this plan documenting this designation, the local arthropod control agency in Osceola County will be notified of this designation.

As a result, prior to conducting any arthropod control activities on HSF, the local agency must prepare a public lands control plan, that addresses all concerns that DOF may have for protecting the natural resources and ecosystem values on the state forest. In this regard DOF will provide the local agency details on the management objectives for HSF. This public lands control plan must be in compliance with DOACS guidelines and using the appropriate DOACS form. The plan must then be approved and mutually adopted by the county, DOF, and DOACS prior to initiation of any mosquito control work. Should the local mosquito control district not propose any mosquito control operations on the property, no arthropod control plan is required.

12. On-Site Housing

DOF may establish on-site housing (mobile/manufactured home) on HSF if deemed necessary to alleviate security and management issues. The need and feasibility specific for the state forest will be evaluated and established if considered appropriate by the Center/District manager and approved by the DOF Director. On-site housing will only be available to individuals approved by the Director. This type of housing will not exceed three homes per location with the possibility of more than one on-site housing location occurring if considered necessary by the center/district manager and approved by the Director.

Prior to the occurrence of any ground disturbing activity for the purpose of establishing on-site housing, a notification will be sent to the Division of State Lands as well as packages to the DHR and FNAI for review and recommendations. The package will contain a description of the project (location, number of units, type and amount of ground disturbance, affected natural community type and nearby known archaeological or historical sites), maps (topographic and aerial) and photographs of the area.

13. Utility Corridors and Easements

The DOF does not favor the fragmentation of natural communities with linear facilities. The DOF does not consider HSF suitable for any new linear facilities. When such encroachments are unavoidable, previously disturbed sites will be the preferred location. The objectives, when identifying possible locations for new linear facilities, will be to cause no damage to sensitive resources (e.g., listed species and archaeological sites), to avoid habitat fragmentation, and to limit disruption of management activities and resource-based recreation.

Collocation with existing corridors will be considered but will be used only where expansion of existing corridors does not increase the level of habitat fragmentation and disruption of management and multiple-use activities. The DOF will further encourage the use of underground cable where scenic considerations are desirable. Easements for utilities and other right of ways are subject to the review and approval of the BOT.

14. Ground Disturbing Activities

Although the DOF's approach to handling ground disturbing activities is identified in various sections in this plan, the DOF's overall approach to this issue is summarized here. The DOF recognizes the importance of managing and protecting sensitive resources and will take all necessary steps to ensure that ground disturbing activities will not adversely impact sensitive resources. This includes areas such as archaeological and historic sites, ecotones, wetlands, and sensitive species habitat. Recommendations outlined in the "Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands" will be followed whenever and wherever appropriate (Exhibit D).

The construction of new pre-suppression fire lines will be limited to the greatest extent practical. When new pre-suppression fire lines, recreational trails, or other low-impact recreational site enhancements are necessary, their placement will be carefully monitored by state forest field staff and they will be developed so as to avoid sensitive areas. For other ground disturbing activities such as construction of buildings, parking lots and new roads the DOF will consult with the FNAI and the DHR.

15. Apiaries

The feasibility of pursuing and establishing apiary leases on HSF in areas where appropriate will be evaluated in accordance with the guidelines stated in Chapter 9.1 of the State Forest Handbook (DOF 2004).

16. Cattle Grazing

Cattle grazing can be a useful tool in fuel reduction planning and will be evaluated where appropriate.

17. Ground Cover

Management activities will be designed and conducted to protect and enhance the condition and integrity of the native groundcover. Management techniques, such as prescribed fire, will be used to restore, recover and maintain a diversity of native groundcover.

B. Description of Natural Communities and Proposed Management Activities

Stand I is 7 acres of South Florida slash pine planted in 1980. This stand was selectively thinned in winter 2003/spring 2004.

Stand II is 8 acres of improved slash pine planted in 1980. This stand was selectively thinned in winter 2003/spring 2004.

Stand III is 22 acres of improved slash pine planted in 1981. This stand was selectively thinned in winter 2003/spring 2004.

Stand IV is 8 acres of improved slash pine planted in 1983. This stand was selectively thinned in winter 2003/spring 2004.

All stands will be re-inventoried between 2012 and 2017, and growth rates will determine if a thinning cut is needed at that time.

Mechanical treatment will be performed on a 2-4 year interval to keep fuel loads low and reduce herbaceous competition.

C. Impact of Planned Uses on Property Resources

The intended use of the property will have minimal impact upon renewable and non-renewable resources. By implementing a balanced forest management plan for the

property, both wildlife and timber resources will be enhanced. The controlled burning program, when implemented, will enhance the availability of food for wildlife and help provide a diverse habitat for the various species that may use the forest.

V. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A. Operations Infrastructure

There is no equipment or personnel dedicated to HSF. Structures consist of two abandoned concrete block buildings. The concrete block buildings are not used or maintained. Other improvements consist of an asphalt driveway, radar walkway and boundary fence.

B. Plans to Locate Fragile, Non-renewable Natural and Cultural Resources

1. Archaeological Resources

Representatives of the DHR and FNAI will be consulted prior to the initiation of any proposed significant ground disturbing activity by the DOF or any other public agency. The DOF will make every effort to protect known archaeological and historical resources. The DOF has state forest personnel trained as archaeological monitors. Trained monitors will oversee ground disturbing activities in which the DHR recommends monitoring.

As mentioned above, all significant ground disturbing projects that are not specifically identified in an approved management plan will be sent to the DHR for review. Recommendations outlined in the Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands (Exhibit E) will be followed whenever and wherever appropriate.

2. Soil and Water Resources

This tract is primarily comprised of intact, undisturbed natural communities and there are no soil or erosion problems present.

3. Other Resources

Applicable surveys will be conducted by DOF staff or others during the process of planning and implementing forest management activities. DOF personnel will remain alert for any environmentally significant resources and protective actions will be taken as necessary.

C. Conformation to State Lands Management Plan

Management of the tract under the multiple-use concept complies with the State Lands Management Plan. Specific authority for the DOF's management of public land is derived from Chapter 589, Florida Statutes.

D. Potential Use of Private Land Managers

The forest manager makes ongoing evaluations of the use of private land managers, consultants and contractors to facilitate the restoration or management of this state forest.

Opportunities for such outsourcing of land management work have included or are anticipated to include: contract logging operations, site preparation and timber stand improvement contractors, and tree planting contractors.

VI. REFERENCES

Division of Historical Resources. Revised 2007. Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Lands. Florida Department of the State, Division of Historical Resources.

Florida Division of Forestry. Revised 2008. “Florida’s Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.” Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry. Tallahassee, Florida.

Florida Division of Forestry. December 2004. State Forest Handbook. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry. Tallahassee, Florida.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory. February 1990. “Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida.” Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Florida Department of Natural Resources.