

EXHIBIT E

Management Plan Advisory Group Summary

**Indian Lake State Forest
MPAG PRE-HEARING MEETING
August 10, 2010
Ocala Airport Training Facility
Ocala, Florida**

MPAG Members Present

Becky Tindale, Marion County SWCD
Ernie Ash, Resource Administrator, DOF
Leon Gary, Private Landowner (Inholding)
Carrie Christman, Private Landowner (Adjacent) and Deputy District Ranger, Ocala NF
Bob Lamont, Park Manager, Silver River State Park
Judy Greenberg, Audubon Society (Marion County Chapter)
Guy Marwick, Silver Springs Basin Working Group (and other conservation organizations)
Rufus Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District

MPAG Members Not Present

Andrea Boliek, Biologist, FWD
Terri Hall, Rayonier (private property owner)
Barbara Fitos, Chairperson, Marion Country Commission
Chris McKendree, Office of Greenways and Trails)

DOF Staff Present

Justin Kilcrease, State Lands Forester
Charlie Pedersen, WaFC Biologist
Terry Sheehan, Recreation Coordinator
Rick Dolan, WaFC Operations Administrator
Butch Hall, Marion County Forest Area Supervisor
Judy Beauchamp, Region 2 Administrative Assistant
Bill Korn, Environmental Manager

Bill Korn convened the pre-public hearing meeting of the MPAG at 6:00 p.m. and provided background on the draft Ten-Year Resource Management Plan history and process. He talked about the role of the Management Plan Advisory Group (MPAG), as defined in Florida Statutes and whose members have been appointed by the DOF Director. He explained the Florida Sunshine Law – which in brief instructs members of a governmental body or group in a decision-making capacity not to discuss agenda items outside the publicly noticed meeting. Mr. Korn discussed the goals of the upcoming public hearing. The group elected Ernie Ash as Chairperson for the MPAG proceedings. Attendees then introduced themselves. Mr. Korn discussed the meeting process and appropriate activities that may occur during the public hearing to follow. He explained that the hearing is the venue for the public to voice their questions and their opinions or comments and for the MPAG members to listen. The meeting Wednesday morning will be the place when MPAG members can speak and share their opinions/feedback. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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Judy Beauchamp, Region 2 Administrative Assistant
Bill Korn, Environmental Manager

Others Present

Gary Beauchamp, Private Citizen
Carl Taylor, Private Citizen
Leon & Becky Gary, Private Landowner
Mike & Sandy Poucher, Private Citizen
Joyce Tyson, Private Citizen
Debra Fruda, Private Citizen
Donna Norman, Private Citizen
Meg Knight, Sun Country Trailblazers Club

Buster Stratton, Forest Archers
Greg Wiley, Marion County
Jan Cross, Marion County/Sun Country Trailblazers, UF
Frank Stenholm, Forest Archers
Julie Olson, Sun Country/MCHA
Gerald Reed, Forest Archers
Mary Jo & Dick Stockmaster, Sun Country Trailblazers
Robert Sabatino, Forest Archers
Tracy Tripp, Forest Archers
Shayne Wilemon, Forest Archers
Jeanne Thompson, Sun Country Trailblazers
Lynn Hamilton, Sun Country Trailblazers
Iris Diez, Sun Country Trailblazers
Marita Levine, Sun Country Trailblazers
Bretton Bode, Sun Country Trailblazers
Clyde & Jean Rice, Adjacent property, Altoona Riders

MPAG Chairperson Ernie Ash convened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. The MPAG members introduced themselves to the members of the public present. Mr. Korn outlined the agenda for the hearing and provided an overview of the procedure for how the management plan will proceed through the evaluation process. Justin Kilcrease presented highlights of the management plan via a Power Point presentation. Mr. Kilcrease's presentation noted the goals that Indian Lake State Forest wants to achieve and the proposed recreation activities. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Korn asked the DOF staff to assemble in the front of the room so they could answer questions from the public on the presentation and/or the proposed 10-year goals for the state forest. He continued explaining the future process for this management plan.

Question 1: Did you take neighborhood park in consideration? Did you consider the use of AmeriCorps from the High School to help with some of the work? Could mountain bikes be allowed use of the power lines?

Answer: This park is more of an underbrush clearing with a picnic table or two. This is not a park like a typical playground park – more of an outdoor picnic area. We have not used AmeriCorps but would be more than happy to use any volunteers. The power lines are not really suitable for mountain bikes because of limited hard-surfaced distances.

Question 2: SEDRA (South Eastern Distance Riders Association) would like to know how long the horse trails would be? How many trailers will be able to park? Will there be water?

Answer: Terry Sheehan advised no exact trail had been set as yet – he would be getting with the equestrians to decide. He advised no determination had been made as yet. Water and restrooms are in the plans for the future if there is funding.

Question 3: Regarding the inholdings at Silver Springs Park Subdivision, how much land do people have to have to build within the state forest?

Answer: The inholding lots are 1/10th acre lots and people can no longer build on lots that size. Forestry is trying to acquire these inholdings.

Question 4: We are with the Suncoast Trail Blazers – how can we help you? Will you have a volunteer program?

Answer: Terry Sheehan advised that Justin Kilcrease and he will have to work out who the local contact will be. At this point DOF hasn't used any volunteers for trail construction. DOF is always looking for volunteers. Mr. Korn advised anyone in attendance tonight that is interested in the Volunteer Program should get in touch with Terry Sheehan.

Question 5: Do you have a group of horseback riders helping you make trail decisions?

Answer: Terry Sheehan advised that right now we don't. Mr. Korn talked about a Liaison Group with representatives from various groups. This would be coming up shortly.

Question 6: If you don't have a budget, how are you working on the property now?

Answer: DOF has been using other monies and personnel to do some of the work that has been done. This year DOF did get \$17,000 for this state forest.

At this point, with no further questions, Mr. Korn closed this section of the public meeting and announced the meeting would now enter the public hearing phase.

At this point Jan Cross with the Suncoast Trailblazers said she did not need to speak. However, she asked if they can use this property now? Mr. Ash stated that yes access is permitted by a state forest use permit issued by the Ocala Ranger Station. This permit is for foot traffic only.

Speaker #1: Iris Diez (President, Sun Country Trailblazers) – Looks like a great plan. Just came to let you know we are here to help you out in any way we can. We would like you to hear the horse groups opinions – we are not here to force you into anything.

Speaker #2: Buster Stratton (Forest Archers) – Archery would like a small portion for an archery range. There is no archery range in Marion County. Currently archers have to drive 42 miles one way to go to an archery range. We are requesting one similar to the one in Gainesville. At this point, he handed Mr. Korn a formal plan (included as "Written Comment" in ILSF 10-Year Plan / Exhibits)

Speaker #3: Debra Fruda – My concern is trails having gravel. We don't want to shoe our horses and would like sand trails. We also would request water.

Speaker #4: Clyde Rice (Adjacent Landowner, Altoona Trail Riders) – My concern is that there is a lot of fencing being done. We don't like barbed wire fence because of the horses. I feel that you are spending money that is not valuable to the community.

Speaker #5: Shayne Wilemon (Forest Archers) –we are looking for land to move our club to. We have targets, our own money, etc. Mr. Korn asked for a minimum amount of land that is needed. Mr. Wilemon stated 60 acres.

At this point, Mrs. Poucher asked if DOF had planned hiking trails. Mr. Ash pointed out 600 acres on the Indian Lakes Recreation Map.

Speaker #6: Mike Poucher – Mr. Poucher stated that we live off of 49th street and would like to see an access that we can walk/bike through and not have to drive in. I would like to see a bike corridor where we could ride our bikes. Mr. Ash pointed out the plans for an open forest road bisecting the forest north/south. Mr. Korn pointed out that along the highway road shoulder bike paths are an issue for DOT not DOF.

Mr. Korn summarized and closed the meeting and announced the next MPAG meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at this location. The plan will be rewritten and forwarded to Tallahassee.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

From: Langeland, Kenneth A [mailto:gator8@ufl.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Pedersen, Charlie; Pete Colverson; Means, Guy
Cc: Doria Gordon; Fishel, Frederick M

Subject: RE: Indian Lake State Forest Public Hearing

I don't know if I'll be able to make it Tuesday night and don't have time to provide more lengthy comment than the following. I would like to make some preliminary suggestions about the risk of groundwater contamination as a result of herbicide use for invasive plant management. Protecting ground water is a concern for all pesticide applications, not just those on properties specifically designated to protect groundwater. For this reason, it is a major consideration for both EPA and DOACS when reviewing pesticide registration packages. The manufacturer must conduct research and provide data that is relevant to the pesticide's risk for groundwater contamination. Laboratory studies are conducted to determine the pesticide's potential for leaching and field studies are also conducted. Additional field testing is required if the pesticide's chemistry (K_d and K_{oc}) indicate high potential for leaching. If a pesticide has a high probability for contaminating groundwater it is either not registered or the pesticide's label will have a warning and special instructions for protecting groundwater.

When considering the potential for groundwater contamination as a result of herbicide application, herbicide characteristics must be considered along with other factors such as the amount of herbicide that is applied to a site, application method, edaphic and geographic conditions. Licensed applicators learn the characteristics of herbicides, including potential for movement in soils, and use this information when making site-specific herbicide selection decisions.

I have reviewed the 10 Year Resource Management Plan for Indian Lake Forest. The list of invasive plant species is lengthy and some of the species are very difficult to control. Without the use of herbicides, it will be impossible to meet Goal 5, Objective 1: "-----
- implement a Non-Native Invasive Species Control Program -----." For this reason, and those mentioned above, I recommend to not prevent the use of herbicides on this property. I suggest that, when developing management strategies for invasive plants, agency personnel and applicators will make herbicide use-decisions that will minimize to insignificant the risk of groundwater contamination as a result of vegetation management. I will be happy to provide additional information and discuss invasive plant management and herbicide use with anyone whom wishes additional information. Please let me know if my presence tomorrow night is needed to address this question.

From: Means, Guy [mailto:Guy.Means@dep.state.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 2:54 PM
To: Pete Colverson
Subject: RE: Indian Lake State Forest Public Hearing

Pete,

I am too swamped to make this meeting but somebody should be there to both encourage the restoration of the property back to native communities (Long-leaf pine/wiregrass) and urge them to minimize the use of herbicides and fertilizers. Herbicides are a tool in their tool box that they commonly use in the extirpation of exotic invasive plants. In my opinion fire is a more natural tool to handle this. I have spoken with these guys about this but have just been too darn busy to really get involved.

Harley

Harley Means, P.G.
Geologic Investigations Section
Office of the Florida Geological Survey
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
903 West Tennessee Street, MS 720
Tallahassee, FL 32304-7700
(850) 487-9455 Ext. 112
www.dep.state.fl.us/geology

Jan Cross

August 10th 2010

TO: Indian Lake State Park Management Plan Team

The following are suggestions for the development of equestrian trails and associated facilities based on the experiences of members of the Sun Country Trail Blazers riding club of Marion County. The SCTB have existed as a formal organization for twenty years and ride the trails in our home county, Marion, as well as state park trails in several other counties. Our recommendations, therefore, are based on the collective experiences of ninety plus members whom have ridden thousands of miles of trails in Florida and other states. Our organization has had several members whose volunteer hours working with the Marjorie Carr Cross Florida Greenways management led to the opening of over fifty miles of Greenway riding trails. Please refer to our web site for information on club activities including fund raising endeavors.

The following are suggestions from Sun Country Trail Blazers:

- 1) Establish a team of volunteers and set up a timeline of possible duties for the team. Establish an information network reaching out to area riding clubs as well as our young riders in Marion County. Several clubs have many retired and semi-retired members eager to offer their services. Our high school FFA members, 4-H and U.S. Pony Club members are also interested in accumulating volunteer hours that may help them secure college scholarships in the future. We also are aware that our younger horse riders are the guardians of the future. Engaging them now is a way to ensure the preservation of our natural resources/public lands.

2) All trails should be visibly marked as to the trail's designated section name AND direction of travel (cardinal direction).

3) We also strongly suggest placing mile markers.

4) The management makes note of the publication of a "brochure" describing the park and rules. Please publish a full - page map of all trails noting mile markers. Make the print large. A major complaint of riders are that state park produced maps on brochures and on line are most often inaccurate and the print too, too small to read.

5) Place a kiosk of generous size at the trailhead that includes a map of the park as well as general park rules such as no loose dogs, no alcohol, no littering. Post a number to call to report violators to state park officials.

X 6) We horseback riders are disappointed to see that we have been excluded (as it appears on the trail map on-line) from riding to the shoreline of Indian Lake. We are used to crossing roads with our horses so that should not be an issue for a trail to lead from the main loop eastward to the lakeshore. Perhaps a small picnic area could be established for horseback riders at the lake. A hitching post or two would be nice to have at this location also.

7) Instead of having just one area to hose off horses after returning from rides, perhaps there could be several wash areas at the trailhead. This would prevent the muddy areas from forming around the single location horse-washing-areas that we now have at several greenways trail heads.

8) We would like to see a group of picnic tables (6-8 perhaps) at the trailhead to accommodate groups picnicking after riding.

9) Please limit the number of various hunting season days to four days per month during Florida wildlife management hunting seasons if and when hunting should be allowed on the lands

of the state park that will have designated public use trails.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our suggestions. Please contact SCTB trail boss/vice president (Jan Cross) at any time at whinnyme@peoplepc.com.

Phone 352-278-1352 work (Dunnellon High School) 465-6745

Comments on the Ten-Year Resource Management Plan

For the Indian Lake State Forest

Prepared by: R.H. Davis, SJRWMD

Page 4/Objective 4:

- Line 2: re-word statement: ex. "through acquisition of adjacent parcels or parcels within the potential acquisition boundary"

Page 13/Table 3:

- Orange Creek Restoration Area is managed by the SJRWMD

Page 18:

- Is it necessary to list site names and descriptions in the plan? It seems that it would call undue attention to the sites inviting folks to exploit them. I would suggest removing names and descriptions and just mentioning the number of sites in the area

Page 41/Para 2/Line 2:

- Change surround to surrounding
"open sedgy fringe because fires from the surrounding sandhill"

Page 42/Para1:

- You might also consider basal bark treatments to control woody species

Page 42/Para2:

- Scalping or sod harvesting could release unwanted species such as Tropical Soda Apple, Johnson Grass, etc. that are currently suppressed in the seed bank. We have done each of the treatments on similar sites and suffered massive release of exotic invasive plants. We have discovered that use of herbicide and flat planting sites results in less seed bank release than methods that result in large-scale soil disturbance.

Design & Access Statement

Change of Use of State Forest for Use as an Archery Range

Background

Forest Archers is a Not for profit (501) c target archery club formed in the 1990's. Target archery is the most popular form of archery, in which members shoot at stationary life like three dimensional (3-D) animals, Excelsior bale (Field) and circular targets (FITA) at varying distances. All types of bow - longbow, bare bow, recurve, compound and now crossbows can be used. There are no target archery clubs in Marion County and none within at least a 42-mile radius of Ocala.

Since its inception, Forest Archers has used ad-hoc locations on State leased property from the Greenway Authority for practicing the sport. Please note the attached copy of the letter from The office of the Greenway. Forest Archers has been providing guidance and training for archers through 4-H and social gatherings to educate the general public in the proper and safe use of archery equipment.

The club has seen significant growth over the past ten years and is looking to secure its future by establishing a permanent base where it can realize its goal to become Marion Counties premier archery club and archery teaching facility. Providing a safe and fun atmosphere to introduce young and old alike to archery and the simple joy it brings.

Forest Archers now has approximately 85 members with ages ranging from 8 to 74. Forest Archers prides itself on being inclusive and has no restrictions on age, ethnicity, gender or members with physical disabilities.

Proposal

Forest Archers is applying to change the use of low-grade pine forested land on Indian Lake State Forest for use as an archery range where it can establish a permanent facility for the club.

The range area will be unaltered except that safe and secure shooting lanes will be cut within the facility leaving a minimum footprint on the land with in the area. The following statement explains the rationale behind the choice of location and the provision of access to the area.

Location

In selecting a suitable location for an outdoor archery range there are a number of factors to be considered. Distance to surrounding dwellings, access to and from range, security of equipment and security of

Size and Layout

The size and layout of archery ranges are specified and regulated by many national organizations, with each being specific as to number of targets size and distances from and directions thereof.

All of these organizations specify the dimensions of the range and the appropriate safety zones that **will be adhered to**. Archery officials inspect ranges in order to become certified that they meet the appropriate criteria. Forest Archers intend the range to be suitable for all target distances up to the Olympic distance of 90 meters.

This means that appropriate 'overshoot' distances behind the targets and to the side of the targets have been incorporated into the overall size of the area (See planning application plan).

Aspect

The ideal aspect for Olympic target archery is to shoot towards the North. This is because the sun is then never directly in the line of sight of the archer. This is in fact a requirement for Fita style ranges. With this in consideration the target bag area will face North as it will also be used for Fita style events.

Field and 3-D archery have no such constraints on direction only distance between each target. As such these ranges will be laid out in a TV style range where each target is separated by walking distance and after each round archers will retrieve arrows by walking to the target and returning on the same unobstructed path.

Environment

Although target archery can be undertaken anywhere, the modern day archer in this area has no set area in which to practice the sport. The area Forest Archers is trying to gain will give the everyday as well as the occasional archer a **safe and secure area** in which to practice. It will also provide an area in which the local 4-H, National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) and Scouting programs can be used under qualified supervision in the outdoor environment.

It is desirable where possible to have some shelter from cross winds as it improves the shooting experience in windy conditions. In both field and 3-D all lanes are in the forest area so wind is much less of a factor.

Cost

Initial cost of this project will be **limited to the securing of the area and an access gate provided by the DOF**. In partnering with the Forest Archers targets and perishable materials will be solely responsibility of Forest Archers.

As with most Archery clubs, Forest Archers' aim is to make the club accessible to as many people as possible. To achieve this aim and make the club sustainable the cost of membership has been kept as low as possible.

Our policy has always been to provide a safe and secure **supervised archery range open to the public** during daylight hours at a low cost. The only reason for any cost is to pay our lease on the land, provide water on the ranges, replace targets, keep bathroom facilities, storage facilities for targets and equipment and provide **insurance** for the members of the club and all signed in guests.

Selected Area

Having considered the above requirements and looked at suitable locations and areas in and around Ocala the most suitable location that meets all the criteria is an area of forested land adjacent and south of the cross road of HWY 326 and N.E. 58th Ave. This was the area toured by Shayne Wilemon (Vice President Forest Archers), Don West (Manager Waccasassa district D.O.F.), Buster Stratton (Forest Archers Technical Advisor), Justin Killcrease (D.O.F.) and Troy Novinger (D.O.F.) on or about March 24th 2010.

Access

Vehicular access to the proposed range will be via a new gateway into and along the perimeter of the above mentioned hayfield area. This is shown on this synopsis as a rough sketch together with the additional range drawings.

ref: See Gate 1 showing proposed changes to the entrance to the meadow.

The proposed modifications to the entrance to the meadow consist of adding a new gate recessed into the field by approximately 15 ft and installing a new gate on the forested trail South of the meadow to prevent unauthorized access.

Fencing will be in keeping with existing fencing on the meadow.

Vehicles will park on the south end of the marked area behind the shooting point and east of the target bags.

Alternative Accesses

Access to the range should be via only one entrance and any access from any other direction should be **permanently** blocked off with signs of some type designating the area as a live fire archery range.

Usage

Forest Archers plans to have the proposed range available for use during daylight hours seven days a week for all club members. Public supervised use with set shooting times during all club events and Wednesday evenings during daylight savings times from 5 till dark as it has been done in that respect for the last ten years. Club members are allowed to take guests and supervise activity at

ILSF Plan
from Forest Archers written
Comments

the facility. An authorized club member or members will attend any 4-H, Scouting, FWC, or special group usage.

This service provided to the Marion county community has been ongoing for the last several years and would continue through the use of this property.



Red = Outer Boundaries
Blue = Maximum overshoot areas



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. Cole
Secretary

Office of Greenways & Trails
Sharpes Ferry Office
8282 SE Hwy 314
Ocala, FL 34470

September 29, 2009

Mr. Shane Wilemon
Forest Archers Inc.
801 NW 4th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34475-8836

Dear Mr. Wilemon,

Please utilize this letter as needed to document the positive partnership that has existed for the past several years between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) and the Forest Archers Inc. that you represent.

The low cost sublease that OGT provided to your organization has provided a community and family oriented target archery location open to anyone with an interest to participate. In addition, your relatively modest space requirements and low impact activities have demonstrated your high level of land stewardship and custodial care.

If anyone has any need for reference or questions regarding our past partnership efforts they can contact me at (352) 236-7143.

Sincerely,

Mickey Thomason

OGT Central Region Manager

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Carrie Christman, Private Landowner and USFS
Barbara Fitos, Marion County Board of County Commissioners
Chris McKendree, OGT/Cross Florida Greenway
Bob Lamont, Park Manager, Silver River State Park
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MPAG Members Not Present:

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Bill Korn, Environmental Manager

Other Attendees Present:

Becky Gary, Private Landowner (Inholding)
Buster Stratton, Forest Archers
Greg Wiley, Marion County Parks and Recreation Dept

Ernie Ash (MPAG Chairperson) convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Mr. Ash turned the proceedings over to Bill Korn to facilitate the meeting. He briefly summarized the procedure for today's meeting, Florida Sunshine Rules, process from this point for the Management Plan, and the minutes from last night's public hearing meeting. Each MPAG member was given a copy of the public hearing meeting minutes and two written comments DOF received last night.

Charlie Pedersen advised he had forwarded e-mails to the Silver Springs Working Group. He received **e-mailed written comments from Tom Mirti (SJRWMD)**, who

recommending that planting 200 trees per acre rather than 600 trees per acre. Guy Marwick explained that leaving it more sparse benefited the animal life. The thinning also needs to be done creatively. He would not like to see row after row of trees. Mr. Korn advised that DOF's thinking is when we have intact native ground cover there is a strong inclination to take advantage of natural reforestation. In other cleared ruderal areas like old fields and improved pasture, DOF, generally puts the first effort into establishing a stand of trees – before trying to intensively restore groundcover. There are some of these planted field areas where DOF is looking at selling pine straw. All areas though are burned. Longleaf pine can be burned earlier (at a younger age) than slash pine. Mr. Ash stated that the trees are planted in rows, but over the years stands will be thinned and we will work toward natural regeneration, which will eliminate the rows. Bob Lamont asked if the property was to make a monetary return. Justin Kilcrease advised that would be a future desire for the DOF and enumerated different options we might use to generate revenue. Charlie Pedersen referred members to Exhibit K in the Plan for the future plans of DOF for this property. Chris McKendree advised what experience Greenways had had with wiregrass not competing well with Bahia grass, and suggested that DOF's plan to establish pines first might work better in the long run. Mr. Korn advised the main thrust long term should be returning native ground cover to the area when feasible. Mr. Korn asked what members thought about the number of trees per acre. Ernie Ash advised that DOF usually plants 600-700 seedlings per acre. Rufus Davis advised what he was responsible for at SJRWMD and that you have to plant more trees per acre than you want to end up with. The best way to start is in rows because of multiple thinnings. It was decided to add some language about DOF's plans for future reforestation on page 31 of the plan.

Charlie Pederson next discussed **e-mailed written comments from Guy Means P.G. (Office of the Florida Geological Survey) and Ken Langeland Ph.D. (Professor, UF Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants)**, regarding using herbicides to control invasive species, protecting ground waters from contamination, when and where herbicides are permitted, and following label directions, Mr. Langeland confirmed that using herbicides on the property is appropriate and will be necessary to control exotic weeds that are present.

Written comments were discussed from Forest Archers who have proposed to set aside approximately 100 acres in the SE section of the forest to be designated as a target archery area to be operated and exclusively used by their not-for-profit organization. The general public would be given access one day a week. User fees would be collected. Guy Marwick was concerned about carving out acres for one user group. Mr. Ash is also concerned about carving up the land into little pieces for different user groups. However, there is precedence in this plan and on other state forests for single user areas (OHV area at Withlacoochee State Forest, for example). There would have to be a buffer for the arrows, which is why they are asking for 100 acres but their footprint and impact on the forest would be much less. Mr. Marwick was concerned about preserving future opportunities for trail connectivity with the Greenways property to the south. Mr. Korn asked Chris McKendree to tell the group about when this group was on Greenways. Mr. McKendree advised there was no abuse from this group and that the retention pond need

was the reason they had to leave Greenways. Greenways charged the group a yearly administrative fee. Their footprint was 68 acres. Becky Tindale thinks they should be given the area. Barbara Fitos advised that the group is trying to develop an overall management plan for the state forest and should not be micro managing at this point and this level of decision making would be premature at this point. There should be a “vehicle” in place in the overall plan to vet individual uses rather than doing it now. Mr. Korn explained that there is an emphasis from our Director that we need to get moving on managing this property and he wants to vet some of this now thru the plan preparation and MPAG process. Mr. Ash advised that an earlier, more intensive development for an archery area, had already been proposed by the Forest Archers and rejected by DOF in the current plan draft. If it is to be approved, it needs to be done with a change in the plan now. Judy Greenberg understands that the primary reason we got this land was for water recharge. Mr. Ash advised that archery would be low impact and didn’t feel it was incompatible with the water recharge. The public should be able to use this land for recreational purposes as long as it does not negatively impact the resource or other users. Chris McKendree stated he didn’t feel the land should be locked up and unavailable to the public. Leon Gary likes the way it currently reads (page 15). Rufus Davis – feels there is some negativity in designating areas for certain different things in a multiple-use plan. On their property trails are not limited to one certain type of use. Bob Lamont says the trails are multiple-use unless designated limited use. Barbara Fitos suggested using the word “designated” trail use. Mr. Korn asked if there was a consensus on changing the plan to include some type of archery area. Mr. Ash asked how many are leaning for changing the plan to allow the archery club – only two were in favor. The majority feels the plan should be left the same. Greg Wiley would love to see them get the use but doesn’t feel the area is compatible for this use. Barbara Fitos proposed - add archery as an acceptable use on page 15, #4, but amend the language on page 15, #5 - Archery range not acceptable since it is high intensity, single-use. There was no consensus. Vote on Ms. Fitos’ suggestion – In Favor: 4; Opposed: 6.

Written comments received from Jan Cross representing the Sun Country Trail Blazers that addressed equestrian concerns and provided nine (9) suggestions were discussed in general. The group stated that there is a need for DOF to be aggressive in recruiting volunteers. Mr. Korn stated that this topic is covered on page 53, fourth paragraph – He asked if there’s a need to modify this page? The group agreed that there was no need to add this level of detail (Jan’s numbered suggestions) to the plan, but they should be considered later when developing the trails. Judy Greenberg stated however that she though there was an issue with their suggestion #6 (providing equestrian/horse access to the Indian Lake shoreline area) that should be discussed. She stated strong concern for allowing equestrian access to this sensitive (re-charge, flooding, erosion, ecotone values, archeological sites, etc.) area of the forest. The consensus of all MPAG members was that item #6 on the Sun Country’s written comments should be rejected.

At this point Mr. Korn read from four Speaker Forms submitted last night at the public hearing in which the attendee has provide brief written comments. Those comments were as follows:

1. **Gary Beauchamp** – “Use as multiple use forest! Not as a park.”

2. **Bretton Bode** – “Indian Lake is a beautiful forest that should be preserved for all nature and recreation purposes.”

3. **Lynn Hamilton** – “Development of equine recreation area adds to the value of Ocala as the Horse Capitol of the World. Most horse trail areas can be shared at least with hikers/campers, etc.”

Ms. Greenburg stated concern regards horse access to the water (Indian Lake) and in the same regard, Mr. Marwick stated a concern regarding sewage from horses. The MPAG members felt like there was no need to change the plan in response to these comments.

Ms. Greenberg asked what the actual use of the land was – she was unclear from the Management Plan. Mr. Ash advised that the state forest will be managed for multiple-use - DOF is trying to please everyone. One of the primary goals, however, is protection of Silver Springs. DOF is going to grow and harvest trees and will promote passive dispersed recreation without a lot of infrastructure.

At this point, Mr. Korn went around the room asking each person if they had any thoughts and comments about the draft Plan.

Carrie Christman (Adjacent Private Land Owner & Asst District Ranger at Ocala Natl Forest): On page 7, objective 12 – the five-year road management plan – does not talk about any decommissioning of roads. Mr. Ash stated that as many of the roads have not been used in several years they are decommissioning themselves. There aren’t many roads, just dirt trails. Guy Merrick says nature will take care of this. Barbara Fitos suggested - add text to page 7, objective 12 - “decommission non-essential roads”. This was agreed to.

Barbara Fitos (Marion County Board of County Commissioners) She goes back to her global overall view. She feels that the Management Plan is in compliance with the Marion County resolution made at the time of the acquisition (page 14). She acknowledged **Greg Wiley** (Marion County Parks and Recreation Dept) who was present. Mr. Wiley stated that on page 13, the distance to Fort King Property is in error. Also, he stated that Orange Creek Recreation Area is managed by SJRWMD, not DRP. Mr. Wiley stated that regards the proposed Neighborhood Park (page 27, item 8), he recommended that DOF do not do this – setting it up as a passive thing could take personnel for upkeep and would invite more of the undesired visitors and abuse. The MPAG members consensus was it made sense to remove it because it may be more of a problem to DOF than a benefit. Barbara Fitos suggested (page 53, item A) that there should be language added about DOF working with appropriate partners.

Becky Tindale (Marion County SWCD) She asked that the Objective 5 on page 7 - proposing a full service RV campground on the shores of Indian Lake - be removed from the plan. She stated that this was due to the proposed site’s proximity to the sink hole system, extreme flooding. She added that RV parks don’t fit the bill for low impact recreation use and the concerns for the presence of various archeological areas, the area being prone to flooding, sewage treatment problem, karst nature of the area that has

interconnected sinkholes, and that there's plenty of other public and private RV camping areas close by. The MPAG members were all in agreement to remove the objective supporting RV camping, here and wherever else it occurs in the plan. The group also asked that DOF add the RV campground as non-compatible use in the plan. As a kind of compromise, the group saw no problem including primitive camping (not an RV park) in the hammock area well off the shores of the lake.

Rufus ("RH") Davis (St. Johns River Water Mgt District) On page 18, Mr. Davis had a question for everyone - does DOF really want to list all the historical sites? He felt like it would bring unnecessary attention to them. Mr. Korn answered that we'll take a look, and perhaps, combine into a general statement about various historical sites in the area rather than specifics. On page 42, the first paragraph, Mr. Davis suggested that DOF might consider basal bark herbicide applications. Mr. Ash then suggested replacing the phrase "hack-and-squirt" with "single-tree". No one had any problem with this change. On page 42, the second paragraph, DOF states that in areas of thick grasses- scalping may be used. He said he didn't have any problems with this treatment but he cautioned that when scalping/sodding where cattle were grazed for a number of year, DOF should be very careful to disturb a seed bank such that undesired and invasive plants (e.g. tropical soda apple) get out of hand. Mr. Korn stated that DOF will add a caution in the plan.

Chris McKendree (OGT/Cross Florida Greenway) He stated he liked the objective on page 7, regarding the trail and environmental education with schools. On page 8, he liked the efforts to preserve the Indian Lake Cemetery. He stated that DOF might get some interest in working with this area from local scout troops and Eagle Scouts. He gave the group an article he had cut out of a newspaper.

Bob Lamont (Park Manager, Silver River State Park): On page 1 (Executive Summary), Mr. Lamont questioned the stated "Designated Land Use" as Multiple-Use. He asked if DOF doesn't need to change the designation. He thought that the property is probably zoned for many uses and development densities. Mr. Korn said that Multiple-Use designation is correct on this page as far as DOF has interpreted this section of the Executive Summary, but that it did raise a good question regarding the County's zoning designation and where that should be included in the plan. Mr. Korn stated that DOF will need to check on this and possibly put an objective in the plan to checking with the County and to ensure the appropriate changes to the land use and zoning category. Mr. Lamont stated that he does not feel that hunting, as proposed in the plan (page 5, objective 7 and also on page 28), is compatible because of the way the land is divided up by various highways. He stated several specific reasons to limit hunting: neighbors have concerns, equestrian concerns, nearby elementary school, lead in wetlands. He suggests that on page 28 – 1st sentence: DOF change the plan to read to "research compatibility for limited and restricted hunting" and to delete the unequivocal statement that "ILSF will have limited hunting.". Mr. Korn suggested adding "location" to second sentence here too. The MPAG consensus was to agree to these suggested changes. Mr. Lamont asked about why in one place in the plan (page 6, Objective 3), DOF suggested regarding equestrian trail length – that "8 miles is our minimum goal", but on – page 26, under equestrian section, the plan says the trail goal was for "approximately 12

miles” in length. Terry Sheehan said the shortterm goal was lower than the ultimate desire. After some discussion on trail length, the group decided to change the goal on page 6 to read: “construct up to 12 miles of trails” and leave out the specific mileage figure on page 26. On page 11, priority 3.1, Mr. Lamont asked about the desired restrooms at trailheads – why doesn’t DOF plan for solar-powered lights instead of bringing in electricity, and to install vaulted toilets or composting toilets instead of flushing toilets that would require septic systems. Terry Sheehan said he was asking for the best, but would settle for less. The MPAG members consensus on this issue was to add text in plan about constructing environmentally friendly restrooms and remove requirement of flush toilets and power and to leave the cost alone to allow for any construction contingencies.

Guy Marwick (Silver Springs Basin Working Group) Regarding grazing leases (page 37, item 16) Mr. Marwick stated that to him grazing was incompatible due to the porous karst geology and the spring protection mandate. He asked that the group consider deleting the last sentence in this section, and adding statement that cattle grazing is incompatible. The MPAG members all agreed that, for the stated reasons, this change was appropriate. In addition, Mr. Marwick questioned the statement on page 28 that fishing would be permitted along banks of Indian Lake. He requested that DOF change fishing language to read that any fishing will need to be limited to designated special events. The group all agreed with his suggestion. On page 42 (bottom) regarding gopher tortoises – Mr. Marwick asked for DOF to add statement that part of this strategy will be an assessment of the potential of the area to be a gopher tortoise mitigation site. No one saw a problem adding such a statement.

Leon Gary (Private Landowner/Inholding) On page 16, Mr. Gary asked what does Marion County Fire/Rescue intend to do with the land being requested for a fire training facility. Mr. Ash responded that Marion County want some kind of training facility to include a tower to repel out of and concrete structures to set fires in, etc. for practice. DOF would be giving up the management of this area and the County could do anything they wanted as long as is they comply with DEP and Marion County regulations. It would be surplus as part of state forest, but would still be owned by and leased from the Board of Trustees (State of Florida). Mr. Gary was satisfied with that explanation.

Ernie Ash (Wacassassa District, Division of Forestry):

Mr. Ash stated that he had had plenty of opportunities for editing already and had nothing further to add.

Judy Greenberg (Audubon Society, Marion County Chapter) Ms. Greenburg referenced the priority discussion in the plan about prescribed burning. She stated that there are a lot of neighborhood communities around ILSF and that DOF might want to do some educational things such as what The Nature Conservancy is doing at the Tiger Creek tract near Lakeland. She then handed out example leaflet about firewise shrubs. Mr. Korn said that DOF would look at including something here or in the environmental education section. She then asked if it really made sense for DOF to rehabilitate (page 11: priority 3, #4) rehabilitate recreation building and other buildings near the shores of the Indian Lake - or to do away with them, as they are an eyesore? Consistent with the discussion

earlier in the meeting that argued against building an RV campground in this flood-prone and sensitive karst area, the groups consensus was to strike this request, and instead, to add a request for funding to demolish and remove all of the old campground infrastructure. Finally, Ms. Greenberg suggested that DOF strike the ADA boardwalk (page 11: priority 3, #5) to circumnavigate the lake as a misuse of taxpayer money. After some discussion regarding ADA opportunities, and after Ms. Christman pointed out that a boardwalk can help prevent erosion, the members decided it should stay in the plan, however the group agreed that language be added to state that the boardwalk would be just part of a trail.

With no further comments, Mr. Korn reiterated the next step would be for DOF staff here to work on plan to incorporate all of the MPAG consensus items for change and improvement to the plan draft. Copies of the new draft would be forwarded to them in digital form by Ernie Ash, along with copies of the meeting minutes. Mr. Korn asked them to contact Mr. Ash if they saw any problems with the minutes. The plan would then be submitted to Tallahassee for review by the Forest Management Bureau Chief and the Division Director. From there it would go to the Division of State Lands and the Acquisition and Restoration Council. He stated DOF's appreciation for their time and participation in the process.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.