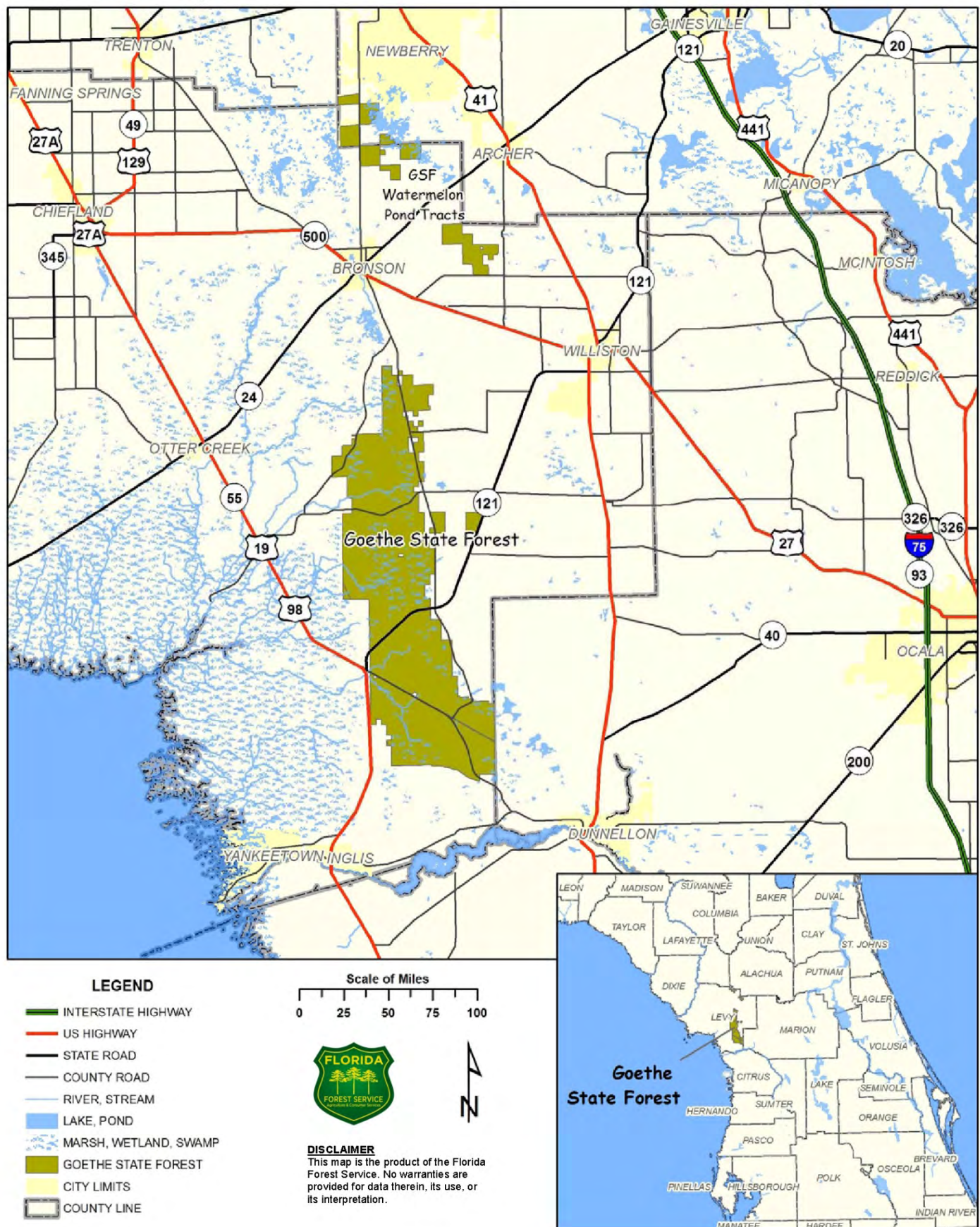


EXHIBIT A

Location Maps

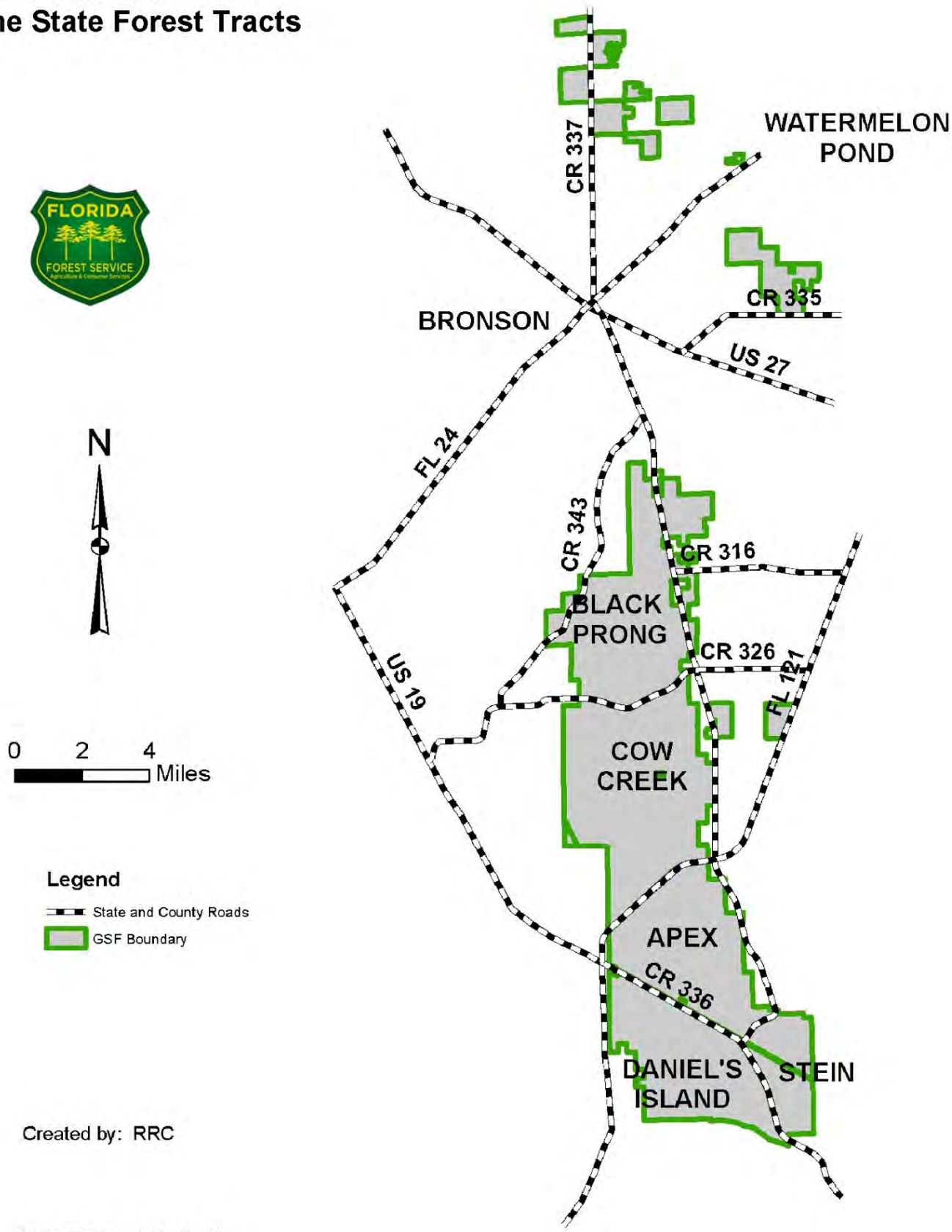
Goethe State Forest Location Map

Exhibit A1



Department of Agriculture
And Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service
Goethe State Forest Tracts

Exhibit A2



Created by: RRC

DISCLAIMER: This map is the product of the Florida Forest Service. There are no warranties made as to the fitness of this map or any unlisted purpose. Furthermore, no warranties are provided for data therein, its uses or its interpretation

EXHIBIT B

GSF Management Accomplishment Summary

Management Accomplishment Summary for Goethe State Forest

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY		FY 2001/02	FY 2002/03	FY 2003/04	FY 2004/05	FY 2005/06	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Reforestation	Longleaf Pine	acres	1,196	383	166	338	227	500	318	235	0	0
Fire	Wildfire	no.	11	5	4	5	4	23	20	7	10	13
	Wildfire	acres	1,157	375	168	375	168	434	573	97	901	5,061
	Prescribed Fire	acres	1,627	11,666	3,332	8,106	15,050	734	2,430	1,687	3,753	2,048
Boundary Maintenance	Marked/ Maintained	miles	23	0	30	31	30	28	55	5	5	11
Timber Harvesting	Number of Sales	no.	7	5	3	5	6	7	2	5	7	4
	Acres Harvested	acres	932	876	1,566	1,587	2,400	1,376	1,647	1,733	1,514	740
	Pulpwood	tons	14,884	20,225	8,258	7,542	16,150	13,236	18,953	31,559	22,060	15,573
	Chip N Saw	tons	10,974	15,302	7,023	6,380	8,466	9,201	11,391	12,387	9,514	4,453
	Saw Timber	tons	5,455	5,615	4,979	4,992	7,881	9,900	14,993	10,386	9,762	11,827
	Total Harvested	tons	31,313	41,142	20,260	18,914	32,497	32,337	45,337	54,332	41,336	31,853
	Total Revenue	\$	\$704,636	\$791,662	\$858,413	\$523,506	\$862,859	\$744,568	\$1,036,036	\$795,330	\$722,905	\$748,181
Exotic Species Control	Air Potato	acres	-	9	2	2	1	2	2	15	15	7
	Bamboo	acres	-	17	-	-	1	-	-	19	4	50
	Camphor	acres	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	22	14
	Climbing Fern	acres	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	40	40	56
	Cogongrass	acres	1	1	2	0.1	0.04	9	11	31	7	10
	Mimosa	acres	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	60
	Natal Grass	acres	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	37	9	48
Recreation	Day Use Visitors	no.	1,732	2,460	1,608	1,318	1,229	1,471	1,282	18,324	23,703	21,692
	Camping	no.	477	35	45	56	49	317	406	710	543	557
	Annual Passes	no.	28	0	32	34	86	54	52	70	97	108
	Recreational Revenue	\$	\$399	\$155	\$1,948	\$3,905	\$4,717	\$7,514	\$6,202	\$6,747	\$9,253	\$9,838.00

Management Accomplishment Summary for Goethe State Forest

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY		FY 2001/02	FY 2002/03	FY 2003/04	FY 2004/05	FY 2005/06	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Roads/Trails	Miles Maintained/ Rebuilt	miles	36	62	81	16	1	17	8	36	68	14
	Culverts, low water crossing	no.	3	12	17	16	8	22	10	9	14	13
Information & Education Activities	Programs/Tours	no.	17	22	3	0	2	16	9	4	2	0
	Ed./Research Projects	no.	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	6	0	0

EXHIBIT C

GSF Fire History

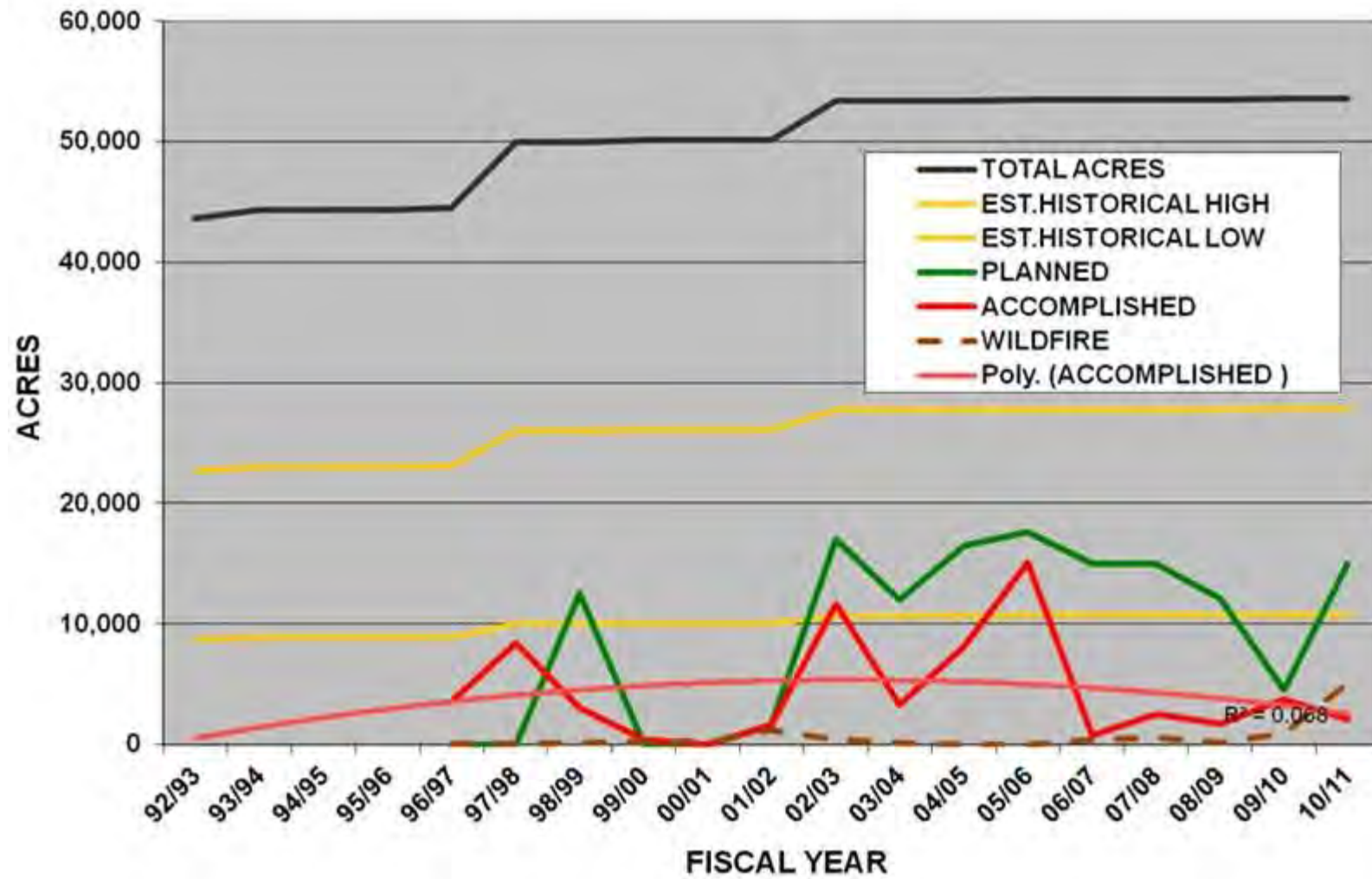
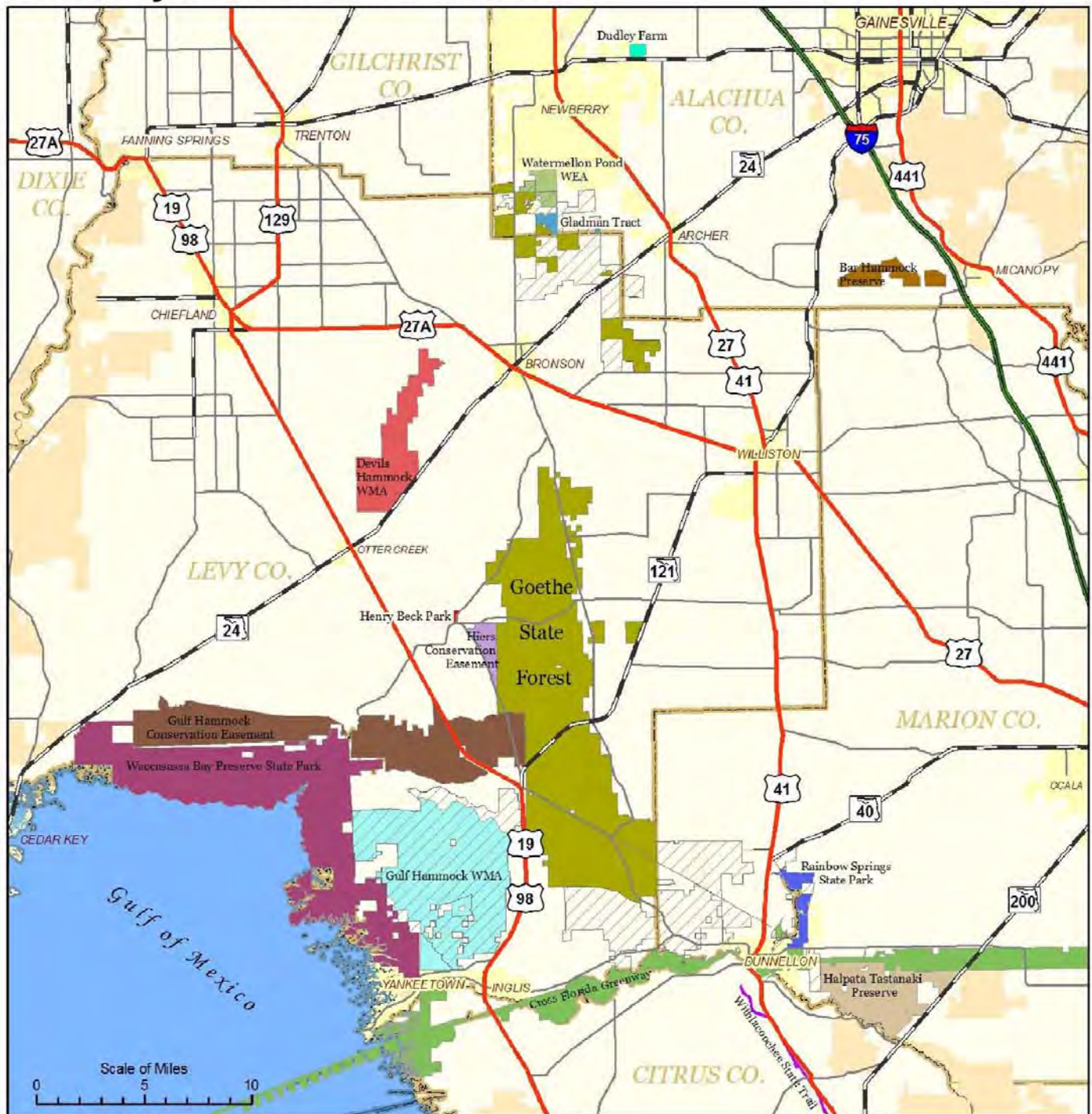
GOETHE STATE FOREST FIRE HISTORY, 1992-93 TO 2010-11

EXHIBIT D

Proximity to Other Public Lands

Goethe State Forest Proximity to Other Public Lands

Exhibit D



LEGEND

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY	Goethe State Forest	Dudley Farm Historic State Park
US HIGHWAY	Hiers Conservation Easement	Barr Hammock Preserve
STATE ROAD	Gulf Hammock Conservation Easement	Halpata Tastanaki Preserve
COUNTY ROAD	Watermelon Pond Wildlife Env Area	Rainbow Springs State Park
FLA FOREVER PROJECTS	Watermelon Pond - Gladman Tract	Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park
CITY LIMITS	Henry Beck Park	Devils Hammock Wildlife Management Area
COUNTY LINE	Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area	Withlacoochee State Trail
	Marjorie Carr Cross Florida Greenway	OTHER PUBLIC LANDS



DISCLAIMER
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EXHIBIT E

Management Prospectus

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS
MANAGEMENT PROSPECTUS

LEVY COUNTY FOREST/SANDHILLS

DIVISION OF FORESTRY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

Management Goals

The Levy County Forest/Sandhill Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) project encompasses approximately 54,500 acres south of Bronson, in Levy County. The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the project in accordance with, and in a manner designed to accomplish, the acquisition goals and objectives as approved by the Land Acquisition Advisory Council. These goals and objectives are hereby incorporated by reference.

The primary land management goal for the Division of Forestry is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the Division of Forestry's management activities on this project.

Qualifications for State Designation

Major communities represented on this project include a large area of mesic flatwoods interspersed with cypress ponds, hardwood swamps, and high quality sandhills. The project's most notable feature is the vast area of relatively untouched pine forest with many areas of old growth pine. The project's size and diversity of makes it highly desirable for use and management as a state forest.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

There are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, however, the proposed construction of an extension of the Florida Turnpike in the immediate vicinity of the project will adversely impact fire management activities and may restrict public access to the forest. Except for possible increased fire management costs, the level of management intensity and related costs is expected to be typical for a state forest.

Timetable for Implementing Management

Approximately 43,600 acres of the project have been purchased and assigned to the Division of Forestry for management as the Goethe State Forest. The Division of Forestry provides public access for low intensity, non-facilities related outdoor recreation activities. Public access is being coordinated through the Division of Forestry's Waccasassa District Headquarters and management activities are being conducted utilizing district personnel. The Division of Forestry will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Initial or intermediate management efforts are concentrating on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. Steps are being taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public is confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points have been closed. An inventory of the

site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna is being conducted to provide the basis for formulation/revision of a detailed management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species.

An all season burning program will be established utilizing practices that incorporate recent research findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance and, where appropriate, will be reforested with species that would typically be found in a naturally functioning ecosystem. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The Division will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. As a general practice, if it is determined that a new recreation area is needed, low impact, rustic facilities will be the only kind developed. High impact, organized recreation areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Revenue Generating Potential

As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be high.

Management Costs and Sources of Revenue

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Positions and equipment for management are in the Division of Forestry's current budget request. Budget needs for the expense category of interim management costs are estimated below.

Expense	\$20,000
----------------	-----------------

Watermelon Pond

Levy and Alachua Counties

Group B Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

Purpose for State Acquisition

In southwestern Alachua County, the original landscape of dry longleaf-pine sandhills pocked with marshes and lakes, important for wildlife, has been much reduced by agriculture and encroaching ranchettes. The Watermelon Pond project will conserve part of this original landscape for wildlife such as fox squirrels and sandhill crane and for plants like the scrub bay, for the protection of the groundwater supply of the county, and for the public to enjoy for years to come.

Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

General Description

The project is important for its extensive tract of xeric uplands (sandhill and scrub natural communities) and seasonally interconnected wetlands of the Brooksville Ridge physiographic province. The complex of these uplands with their marshes and lakes is regionally significant to vertebrate fauna in an area of the state subject to extensive development pressures. No comparable complex is protected in north-central Florida. The project is also the major aquifer recharge area in Alachua County. No archaeological sites are known from the project. The uplands are threatened by subdivision for agriculture and ranchette developments.

Watermelon Pond FNAI Elements	
Striped Newt	G2G3/S2S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Skelley's June Beetle	G2/S2
Workman's Jumping Spider	G2/S2
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
Short-tailed Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
24 rare species are associated with the project	

Public Use

This project will be designated as a state forest with such public uses as hiking, fishing, horseback riding and camping.

Acquisition Planning

Phase I:(essential) Loncala (acquired) and other large sandhill and xeric tracts including Gladman, Burch, Matson, Hart, Barry, O'Steen and Outler. Phase II: Remaining tracts.

On October 15, 1998, the Council designated the unsubdivided portion of section 36 and 11 other "corridor" parcels as essential.

On February 7, 2003 the Council added 250 acres in Alachua County to the project boundaries.

On December 5, 2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to the Group B list.

In April 2007 the FWC acquired 1,288 acres, identified as Barry Ranch, for \$10,600,000. Of these acres, 607 are within the Watermelon Pond Florida Forever project boundary.

Coordination

Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Alachua County are acquisition partners.

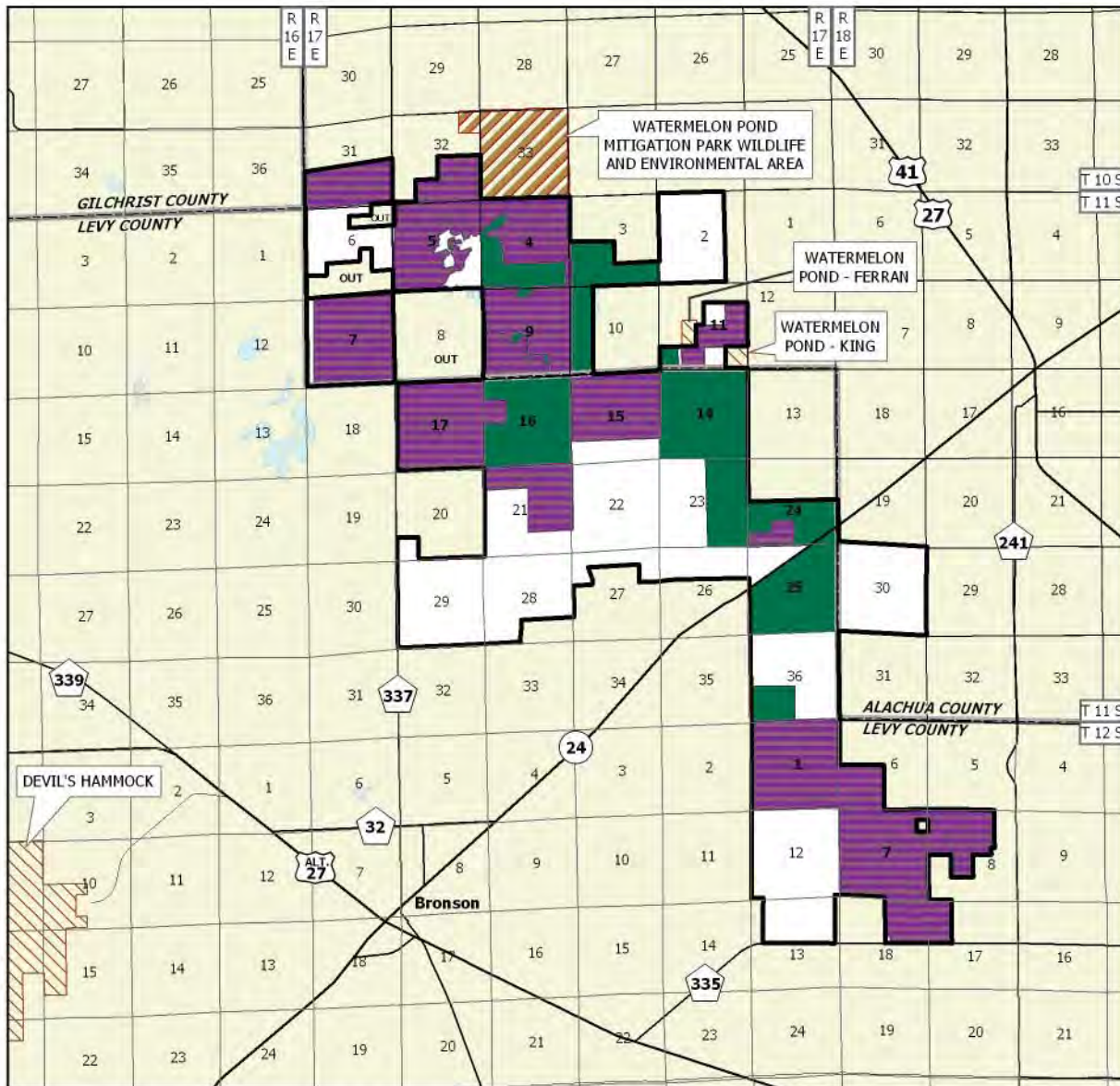
Placed on List	1994
Project Area (Acres)	15,486
Phase I Only	8,250

Acres Acquired at a Cost of	6,495*
Acres Remaining Phase I Only	\$8,647,029*
	8,991
	2,627

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of Phase I Only:	\$8,164,098
	\$1,941,090

*includes acreage and expenditures by the FWC.

Watermelon Pond - Group B/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



WATERMELON POND

LEVY AND ALACHUA COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands

0 0.5 1 2
Miles



MARCH 2010

Watermelon Pond - Group B/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Watermelon Pond CARL project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation The natural pine forests and the restorable pine plantations of the Watermelon Pond project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

Manager The DOF is recommended as manager.

Conditions affecting intensity of management The areas of pine plantation and agricultural land in the project will require reforestation and restoration efforts beyond the level typically expected on a state forest. Consequently, management intensity and related management costs might be slightly higher than what would normally occur on a state forest.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure Once the core area is acquired, the Division of Forestry will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The DOF will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration.

An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age.

Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating potential The DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low to moderate.

Cooperators in management activities The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary/DOF

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$80,530	\$80,530
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$30,000	\$20,000
OCO	\$112,500	\$6,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$223,030	\$106,530



EXHIBIT F

Optimal Management Boundary

Goethe State Forest Optimal Management Boundary Map

Exhibit F

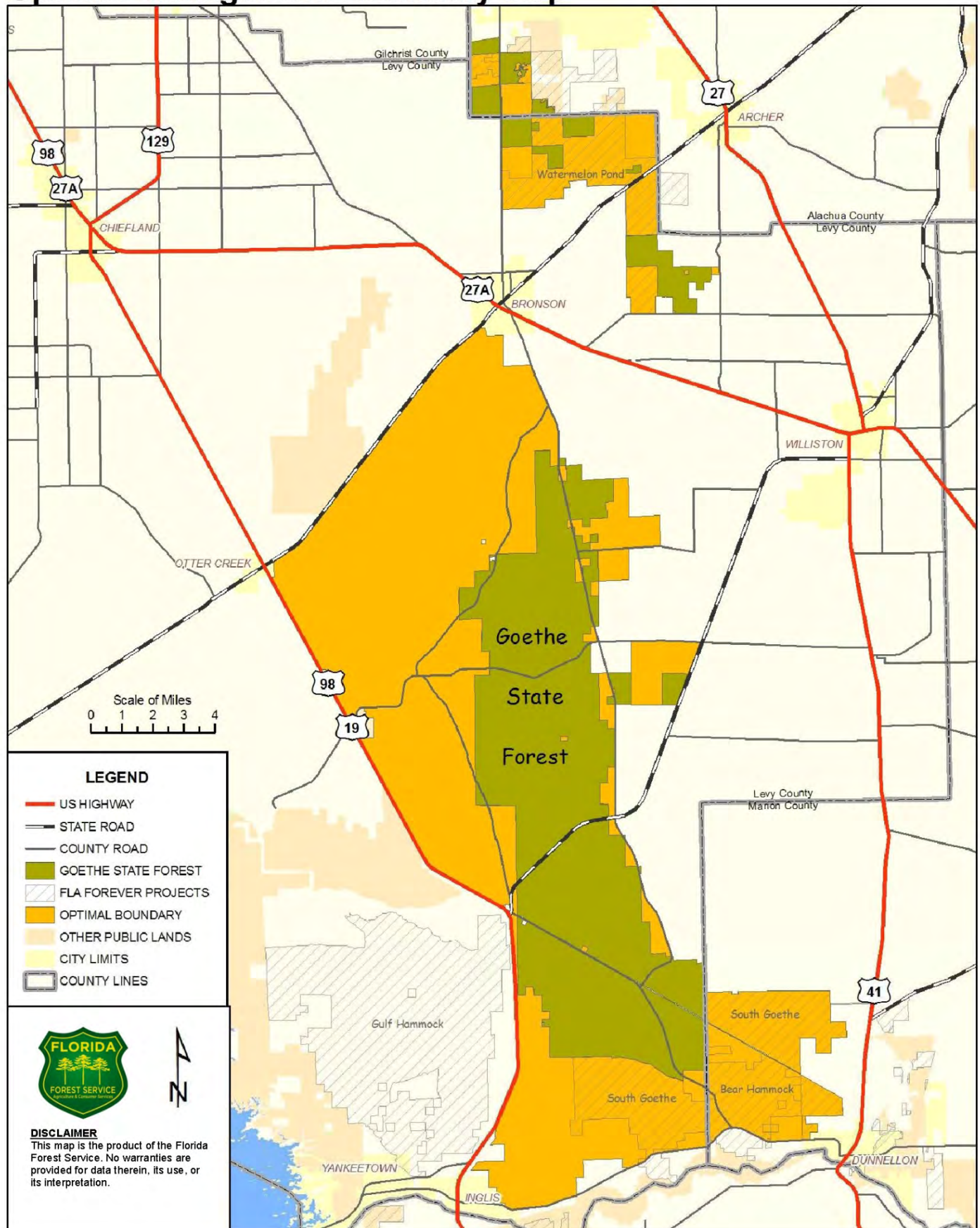


EXHIBIT G

Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan



ALACHUA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT

10 S.W. 2nd Avenue Third Floor Gainesville, Florida 32601-6294

Tel: (352) 374-5249 Fax: (352) 338-3224

Home Page: www.alachuacounty.us

June 18, 2012

Steven Lachnicht, AICP
Director
Growth Management

Richard Wolf
Assistant Director
Growth Management

Ken Zeichner, AICP
Principal Planner
Comprehensive Planning

Tom Webster
Housing Program
Manager

Brenda Wheeler
Development Review
Manager

Jeffrey Hays
Transportation
Planning Manager

John Freeland, CBO
Building Official

Benny Beckham
Zoning Administrator

Corinne Hermle
Land Planning Specialist
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Ms. Hermle:

At your request, we reviewed the Florida Forest Service's draft Ten-Year Resource Management Plan for the Goethe State Forest for consistency with the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan: 2011-2030. The only piece of property located within the unincorporated portion of Alachua County that is part of the Forest (parcel #02708-001-000) has a Future Land Use designation of Preservation. Policy 3.2.1 of our Conservation Element states that, "Preservation areas shall consist of publicly owned lands, including lands owned and managed by non-profit conservation organizations, which are intended for use as natural reserves or managed conservation lands for the preservation of natural resources in perpetuity." Furthermore, the Goethe State Forest is included in the list of Preservation areas identified in Policy 3.2.1 of the Conservation Element. The activities identified within the draft Resource Management Plan are consistent with this Preservation designation and with the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan as a whole.

We do have one comment provided by our Environmental Protection Department. The maps and table that depict nearby public lands, specifically maps in Exhibits D, E, and F, and Table 2 do not include the Alachua County Watermelon Pond boat ramp park (parcel #02694-001-000) or the Metzger tract recently acquired by Alachua County Forever as part of the County's Watermelon Pond Preserve (parcel #02690-000-000). While the scale of some of the maps may preclude showing the boat ramp park, it should be identified in Table 2 if possible.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and for the opportunity to provide input. Please feel free to contact Holly Banner, Planner, should you need any further information. She can be reached by phone at the number above or by email at hbanner@alachuacounty.us.

Sincerely,


Steven Lachnicht, AICP
Director of Growth Management





LEVY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 672
BRONSON, FLORIDA 32621
(352) 486-5405

June 18, 2012

Ms. Corinne Hermle
Land Planning Specialist
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
The Conner Building
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650

RE: Goethe State Forest Ten-Year Resource Management Plan

Dear Ms. Hermle:

This letter confirms that the above referenced plan appears to be consistent with the Levy County Comprehensive Plan adopted pursuant to section 163.3167, Florida Statutes. If you would like additional information, I can be reached at (352) 486- 5405.

Sincerely,

Shenley Neely
Planning Director
Levy County Planning Department

cc: Fred Mood, County Coordinator

Hermle, Corinne

From: Lowell Garrett [Lowell.Garrett@ci.newberry.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 9:42 AM
To: Hermle, Corinne
Cc: Wendy Kinser
Subject: Review of the Ten-Year Resource Management Plan for the Goethe State Forest.

Corinne – Please accept this email as a response to your request for City staff to review the Ten-Year Resource Management Plan for the Goethe State Forest.

The Watermelon Pond and Trailhead areas are a portion of lands which are in either private conservancy or state agency ownership. The City will be amending the Comprehensive Plan to change these properties to Conservation Future Land Use, which is intended to support the protections that have already been afforded to these lands.

The City's Conservation land use category is not a complete preservation land use category. It is intended to provide certain public and institutional uses, which are consistent with the management of wildlife habitat.

Planning staff has reviewed the above stated management plan and finds it to further the direction of the City's long range planning program. Full consistency will be acquired, at the time the City amends the Comprehensive Plan as stated above.

I am providing the following language for your reference, and should there be potential conflicts in your long range planning, I would appreciate your contacting this Department so that we may better work with your plans and programs.

Excerpt from Policy I.1.2: Lands classified as **conservation** use are lands devoted to the conservation of the unique natural functions within these lands.

Conservation uses shall be limited to public access, native vegetative community restoration and nonresidential and residential uses necessary to manage such conservation lands (i.e., ranger stations, research stations and park amenities).

Objective V.4. The city shall, upon adoption of this Comprehensive Plan, identify as provided in policy V.4.3, and protect native wildlife and their habitats, including state and federally protected plant and animal species (endangered, threatened and species of special concern), within proposed development sites and protect these natural resources from impacts of development.

Policy V.4.1. The city shall cooperate with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish commission in the monitoring and inventorying of wildlife and wildlife habitats within the city.

Policy V.4.2. The city shall assist in the application and compliance with all federal and state regulations which pertain to endangered and rare species.

Lowell P. Garrett, AICP
Planning Director
City of Newberry
P.O. Box 369
25815 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Newberry, FL 32669
Office: (352) 472-3927, ext. 127
Mobile: (352) 213-1688

EXHIBIT H

Land Management Review

**Land Management Review of
Goethe State Forest
Lease No. 3976
February 5, 2004**

Prepared by Division of State Lands Staff

William Howell, OMC Manager
Joseph Duncan, Administrative Assistant

*For
Goethe State Forest Review Team*

FINAL REPORT

September 3, 2004

Land Manager:	<u>DOF</u>
Area:	<u>50,171</u>
County:	<u>Levy</u>
Mngt. Plan Revised:	<u>08/22/2000</u>
Mngt. Plan Update Due:	<u>08/22/2010</u>

Management Review Team Members

Agency Represented	Team member Appointed	Team member In attendance
DOF	Bill Korn	Bill Korn
DEP District	Don Jensen	Don Jensen
DRP District	Anne Barkdoll	Anne Barkdoll
FWCC	Vic Doig	Vic Doig
County	Kathy Winburn	
Environmental Org.	Carolyn Kindell	Carolyn Kindell

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 findings are given to the managing agency under review, the Acquisition and Restoration Council, and to the Division of State Lands. Also, DEP shall report the annual review findings of its land management review teams to the Board no later than the second board meeting in October of each year.

Review Site

The management review of Goethe State Forest considered approximately 50,171 acres in Levy County that are managed by the Division of Forestry (DOF). 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 DOF management plan was approved on August 22, 2000, and the management plan update is due on August 22, 2010.

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 that Goethe State Forest 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 that actual management practices, including public access, were in compliance with the management plan for this site.

Commendations to the Managing Agency

1. The Team commends the DOF for the improved flatwoods communities, due to silvicultural and prescribed burning practices throughout the forest. (VOTE 5+, 0-)
2. The team commends the DOF and FWCC for their partnership and extraordinary efforts relating to RCW population and habitat enhancement. (VOTE 5+, 0-)
3. The team commends the DOF for the outstanding restoration of the hydrology associated with the Cow Creek road reconstruction. (VOTE 5+, 0-)

Exceptional Management Actions

The following items received high scores on the review team checklist (see attachment 1), which indicates that management actions exceeded expectations

Exceptional management actions:

- Management and protection of the Sandhill, Floodplain Swamp, Sandhill Upland Lake and Blackwater/Spring-run Stream communities.
- Protection and preservation of listed animals.
- Protection, survey and preservation of cultural sites.
- Excellent quality of the prescribed burns.
- Excellent management of Wildlife Habitat and Hunting/Fishing quality.
- Excellent roads and culverts.
- Exceptional boundary surveys and signage.
- Exceptional success in acquiring inholdings and additions.

- Exceptional roads, parking and recreational opportunities.
- Exceptional sanitary facilities and waste disposal program.
- Exceptional Buildings, Equipment and Staff.

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 the plan update discuss recreation potential and conflicts between various user groups. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)

Manager's Response:

Agree & Disagree: The LMR group discussion focused mainly on the need for single use trails and marking trails in two directions. DOF staff will review and discuss these issues and implement any appropriate changes as well as to address them in the next resource management plan. We will not address conflicts between various user groups.

2. The team recommends that the DOF evaluate the ecotones around certain wetlands for potential restoration (due to fire suppression) in the forest. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)

Manager's Response:

Agree: One team member expressed his concern that due to lack of frequent fires many of the upland ponds are becoming encircled by shrubby thickets that don't burn well; altering the ecotone. DOF will evaluate the situation and survey upland ponds prior to burning the surrounding landscape and identify opportunities for more intensive fire to reduce herbaceous growth. Concern for peat fires and related smoke management issues may limit this action and may therefore require mowing, chopping, or other management techniques to restore these shrubby thickets.

3. The team recommends that DOF evaluate the known hydrological disturbances for potential restoration. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)

Manager's Response:

Agree: It was brought up in discussion that there are many old ditches throughout the forest. This can be a sensitive issue, since these ditches have been in place for many years, and any changes that are made now may have a negative impact on adjacent properties and disturb existing flora and fauna. Local staff will continue to work with the DOF hydrology section to evaluate the feasibility of plugging selected ditches or installing water control structures where it will restore a more natural water flow, have a net benefit to the ecosystem and not have significant impact on adjacent properties.

4. The team recommends that the DOF prepare a list of plant species occurring in the forest and conduct surveys of listed plant and animal species. (VOTE: 4+, 1-)

Manager's Response:

Agree in Part: Most of the group felt that DOF needed to do a better job monitoring and cataloging the plants and animals on the forest. However, the Goethe staff explained that DOF philosophy is to manage the entire ecosystem and we feel that by restoring the habitat the desirable plants and animals will flourish. Much work has been done to identify and monitor populations of RCWs, fox squirrels, reptiles, amphibians, Florida mice, Bachman's sparrow and orchids. DOF will continue to monitor forest habitats and collect information that will establish a more complete Goethe plant species list. As funding and staffing allows we will either conduct or contract additional listed species surveys.

5. The team recommends DOF more fully describe changes in amount of timber removed and type of silvicultural methods that will occur once the thinning of the flatwoods is completed in the next few years. (VOTE: 4+, 1-)

Disagree: DOF has instituted an ongoing forest inventory program that requires managers to monitor timber volumes and forest growth. Each year Goethe foresters monitor this data and identify stands for improvement cuts and submit harvest proposals which are reviewed by the State Lands Silviculturist and an annual cutting budget is approved that conforms with long term goals of enhancing forest conditions. Silviculture methods to establish and maintain uneven-aged stands continue to evolve as the successes of previous harvests are monitored and evaluated. This is an ongoing process with adequate planning and controls already established.

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 need for plant lists (p) and restoration of ditches (p).

Manager's Response:

See responses for #3 and #4 above. We will address these issues in the next management plan.

2. Discussion in the management plan of the need for monitoring surface water quality (f) and surface water quantity (f).

Manager's Response:

Goethe staff responded during the LMR team discussion that they felt that this was the responsibility of the water management districts and outside the jurisdiction of DOF. As it relates to hydrological monitoring and the potential impact of historical water conveyance structures, local staff will request the involvement and guidance from the DOF hydrology section and the local water management districts in order to identify appropriate survey methods and beneficial restoration actions. Local staff will cooperate with WMD projects on GSF.

Team Member's Comments

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

- Prescribed fire and timber management strategies are sound and accomplishments have taken big step towards getting to maintenance conditions in the flatwoods.
- There is a need to conduct growing season burns in Mesic Flatwoods.
- There is a need for fire in the wetlands-get rid of brushy vegetation around edges.

Listed Species: protection and preservation: (I.B)

- Excellent work at re-establishing viable RCW population. All birds are banded and nesting is monitored.
- Habitat manipulations through burning and thinning have been well implemented.
- More information on T&E plants species (e.g. Orchids) should be included in the plan.
- Get grad student to work on a species list.
- Good management of orchids.
- Conduct Bachman Sparrow Survey-need info in plan.

Cultural Resources: (II.A; II.B)

- Management plan should provide more information on significance of cultural and archaeological sites and any special management needs.
- Recent CARL archaeological survey has produced new sites.

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

- Good-looking result with fire program, with most all stands receiving and initial treatment.
- Encourage growing season fire following fuel reduction burns.
- Management plan needs to describe in more detail acreage and season of burn issues.
- There is a need to start growing season burns in the flatwoods

Restoration of Disturbed Natural Communities: (III.B)

- The plan needs to more fully describe the changes in tons of timber that will be removed and also the type of harvest that will occur once the thinning and restoration phase in the flatwoods is completed in the next five years.

Wildlife Management: (III.C)

- Recommend continued efforts to resolve the hunting issues raised in the management plans (e.g. dog hunting, quotas for archery hunt, and length of general gun season).

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

- Management plan needs to provide more information/maps on invasive exotic plants, control strategies and monitoring plans.
- More clarity is needed on policy and implementation of hog trapping contract.

Hydrologic/Geologic Function: (III.E)

- More information is needed in plan regarding existing ditches and need for restoration.
- Recommend follow up with WMD, regarding water monitoring testing and how results might guide hydrological management on the state forest.
- More fully develop plans to restore ditches.
- Need to develop and include more information on hydrology.

Resource Protection: (III.F)

- Recommend that broken fences, especially along highway, be either repaired or removed.

Adjacent Property Concerns: (III.G)

- Recommend revisiting optimal management boundary map to update for current land development patterns.

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

- Excellent system of roads throughout forest that have been improved and well maintained.
- Commend effort to install low water crossing at many locations.
- Great road signs at forest road intersections.
- Appears to be disproportionate recreation opportunities provided to equestrian users.
- Recommend more interpretive signs/info at Big Cypress Boardwalk.
- Have two trails for hikers and bikers.

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

- Great facilities and great equipment.
- High mileage trucks.

Managed Area Uses: (VI.B.)**Exceptional Management Actions:**

- Excellent work at re-establishing viable RCW population. All birds and banded and nesting monitored.
- Commend work and encourage growing season fire following fuel reduction burns.
- Excellent system of roads throughout forest that have been improved and well maintained

Recommendations for Improving Management of this Site:

- Recommend continued efforts to resolve the hunting issues raised in the management plans (e.g. dog hunting, quotas for archery hunt, and length of general gun season.
- Recommend follow up with WMD, regarding water monitoring testing and how results might guide hydrological management on the state forest.
- Recommend that broken fences, especially along highway, be either repaired or removed.
- Recommend revisiting optimal management boundary map to update for current land development patterns.
- Recommend more interpretive signs/info at Big Cypress Boardwalk.

Attachment I

PLAN REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Average
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	1	1		1				1.00
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.2	1	1		1				1.00
Sandhill	I.A.3	1	1		1				1.00
Floodplain Swamp	I.A.4	1	1		1				1.00
Depression Marsh	I.A.5	1	1		1				1.00
Dome Swamp	I.A.6	1	1		1				1.00
Sandhill Upland Lake	I.A.7	1	1		1				1.00
Blackwater/Spring-run Stream	I.A.8	1	1		1				1.00
Flatwoods Lake	I.A.9	1	1		1				1.00
Animals	I.B.1	1	1		1				1.00
Plants	I.B.2	0	1		1				0.67
Survey	II.A	0	1		1				0.67
Protection and Preservation	II.B	0	1		1				0.67
Area Being Burned	III.A.1	0	1		1				0.67
Frequency	III.A.2	1	1		1				1.00
Sandhill	III.B.1	1	1		1				1.00
Wildlife Habitat	III.C.1		1		1				1.00
Hunting/Fishing Quality	III.C.2		1		1				1.00
Animals	III.D.1	1	1		1				1.00
Plants	III.D.2	0	0		1				0.33
Roads/Culverts	III.E.1a	1	1		1				1.00
Ditches	III.E.1b	0	0		0				0.00
Ground water quality	III.E.2a	1	1		1				1.00
Ground water quantity	III.E.2b	1	1		1				1.00
Surface water quality	III.E.3a	1	1		1				1.00
Surface water quantity	III.E.3b	1	1		1				1.00
Boundary survey	III.F.1	1	1		1				1.00
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	1	1		1				1.00
Signage	III.F.3	1	1		1				1.00
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	1	1		1				1.00
Expanding Development	III.G.1a	1	1		1				1.00
Turnpike	III.G.1b	1			1				1.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2	1	1						1.00
Silviculture	III.H.1	1	1		1				1.00
Apiary	III.H.2	1	1		1				1.00
Roads	IV.1a	1	1		1				1.00
Parking	IV.1b	1	1		1				1.00
Entrances	IV.1c	1	1		1				1.00
Recreational opportunities	IV.2	1	1		1				1.00
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	0	1		1				0.67
Environmental education/outreach	IV.4	0	1		1				0.67

FIELD REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Average
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	4	4	2	4	3			3.40
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.2	3	2	2	3	2			2.40
Sandhill	I.A.3	4	5	2	3	4			3.60
Floodplain Swamp	I.A.4	4	4	4	3	5			4.00
Depression Marsh	I.A.5	3	3	4	2	3			3.00
Dome Swamp	I.A.6	3	3	2	2	3			2.60
Sandhill Upland Lake	I.A.7	4	4	5	4	5			4.40
Blackwater/Spring-run Stream	I.A.8	3	4	5	4	5			4.20
Flatwoods Lake	I.A.9	3	4	2	2	4			3.00
Animals	I.B.1	5	4	4	3	4			4.00
Plants	I.B.2	3	4	2	3	2			2.80
Survey	II.A	4	5	3	4	5			4.20
Protection and Preservation	II.B	3	4	4	3				3.50
Area Being Burned	III.A.1	4	3	2	3	4			3.20
Frequency	III.A.2	3	3	4	2	4			3.20
Quality	III.A.3	4	3	4	4	3			3.60
Sandhill	III.B.1	3	3	4	3				3.25
Wildlife Habitat	III.C.1	4	3	4	3	5			3.80
Hunting/Fishing Quality	III.C.2	3	3	4	3	5			3.60
Animals	III.D.1	3	3	4	3	3			3.20
Plants	III.D.2	3	2	4	4				3.25
Roads/Culverts	III.E.1a	4	4	4	5				4.25
Ditches	III.E.1b	3	3	4	2	3			3.00
Ground water quality	III.E.2a	3	4	3	4	2			3.20
Ground water quantity	III.E.2b	3	4	2	3	2			2.80
Surface water quality	III.E.3a	3	3	2	2	2			2.40
Surface water quantity	III.E.3b	3	3	2	2	2			2.40
Boundary survey	III.F.1	4	4	2	4	4			3.60
Gates & fencing	III.F.2	3	3	4	2	4			3.20
Signage	III.F.3	3	4	4	4	4			3.80
Law enforcement presence	III.F.4	3	3	2	4	4			3.20
Expanding Development	III.G.1a	3	3	4	2	4			3.20
Turnpike	III.G.1b	3		4	2				3.00
Inholdings/additions	III.G.2		3	4					3.50
Silviculture	III.H.1	4	3	2	4	4			3.40
Apiary	III.H.2	3		3	3				3.00
Roads	IV.1a	4	4		4				4.00
Parking	IV.1b	4	3	3	4				3.50
Entrances	IV.1c	3	3	2	3				2.75
Recreational opportunities	IV.2	4	3	2	4	5			3.60
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	2	2		5			3.00
Environmental education/outreach	IV.4	3	3	2	3	5			3.20
Waste Disposal	V.1a	3	3	2	4	5			3.40

Sanitary Facilities	V.1b	4	4	2	4	5			3.80
Buildings	V.2a	4	5	2	4	5			4.00
Equipment	V.2b	4	4	2	3	5			3.60
Staff	V.3	3	4	4	4	5			4.00
Funding	V.4	3	4	3	4	5			3.80

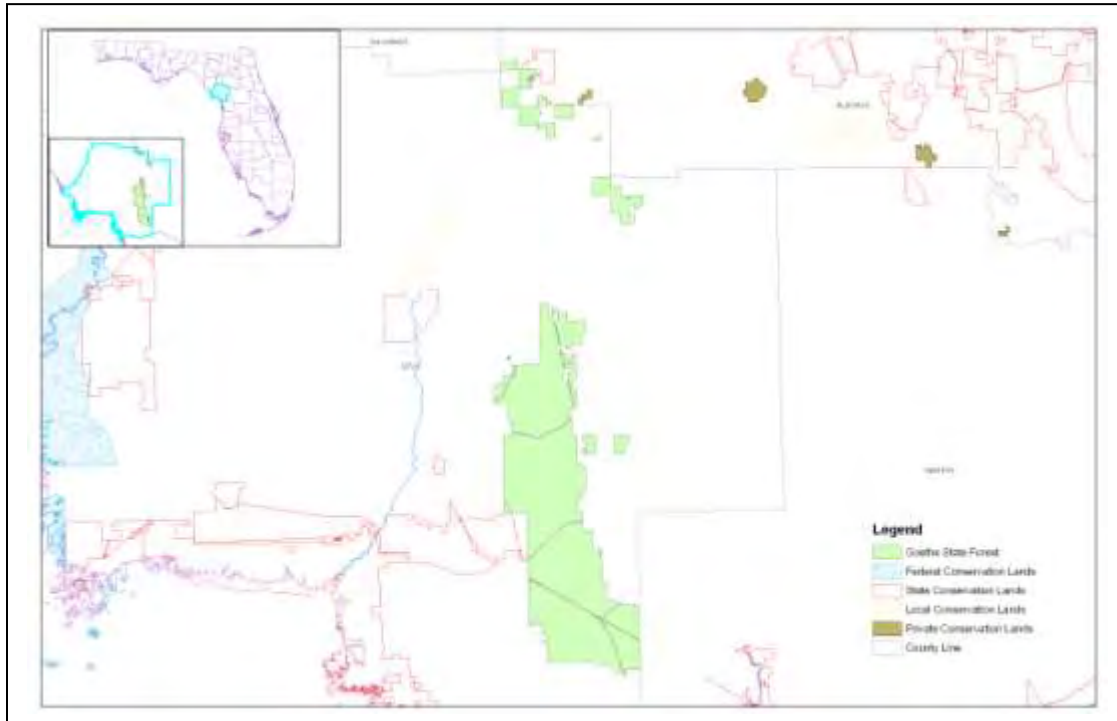
Name of Site: Goethe SF

County: Alachua/Levy County

Managed by: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Forestry

Acres: 52,796 Acres

Review Date: 4/22/09



Review Team Determination

Managed in accordance with
acquisition purpose? Yes = 7, No = 0



Management practices, including public access,
in compliance with the management plan? Yes =7, No = 0



Categories	Management Plan Review	Field Review
Natural Communities	0.81	2.93
Listed Species	0.86	3.88
Natural Resource Survey	0.88	3.31
Cultural Resources	0.86	2.75
Prescribed Fire	0.94	2.76
Restoration	0.68	3.21
Exotic Species	0.98	3.24
Hydrology	0.94	2.82
Groundwater Monitoring	N/A	N/A
Surface Water Monitoring	N/A	N/A
Resource Protection	0.96	3.82
Adjacent Property Concerns	0.51	2.99
Public Access & Education	0.83	3.58
Management Resources	N/A	3.50
Managed Area Uses	1.00	N/A
Buildings, Equipment, Staff & Funding	N/A	3.89

Consensus Commendations to the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the Goethe SF staff for their innovative timber management practices, including hand planting, thinning to a basal area more representative of a natural forest ecosystem, removing off-site timber species, and replanting with longleaf pines. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



2. The team commends the DOF for working with the USFS on forest research for uneven aged management. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



3. The team commends the DOF for the success made with increases in red-cockaded woodpecker population, despite the years of fire suppression prior to DOF management. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



4. The team commends the DOF for the multiple recreational opportunities afforded at this forest. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



5. The team commends the staff for collaborating with orchid experts to survey the forest for orchids. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



6. The team commends the staff for setting an aggressive goal for annual prescribed fire acres at the forest. (VOTE: 7+, 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 the DOF move toward the use of more growing season fire, especially in the flatwoods. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



Managing Agency Response: We agree that growing season fire is desirable in the flatwoods and will try to continue to move in that direction.

2. The team recommends that DOF experiment with below-label rates of herbicides to reduce the need for soil disturbing site preparation methods in sandhill communities. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



Managing Agency Response: The Division of Forestry will utilize the appropriate label rates of herbicide for site preparation. Roller chopping may also be utilized if it is determined that it is a better method for site preparation..

3. The team recommends that staff formally incorporate the invasive plant survey into the timber management inventory. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)



Managing Agency Response: It is certainly a good idea for Forestry staff to keep a look-out and note the location of exotic plants while they are conducting the inventory, but the timber inventory is not the mechanism for conducting an invasive plant survey.

Checklist Findings

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

- Natural Communities, specifically Mesic Flatwoods, Dome Swamp, Sandhill, Flatwoods Lake, Floodplain Swamp, Sandhill Upland Lake, Scrub, Black water Stream, Scrubby Flatwoods, and Depression Marsh.
- Listed Species, specifically animal inventory, red-cockaded woodpecker, plant inventory, and orchids.
- Natural Resource survey, specifically game wildlife or habitat monitoring, listed species or habitat monitoring, other non game species or habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management, and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- Cultural resources, specifically cultural resource survey, protection and preservation.
- Resource management, specifically area being burned, frequency and quality.
- Restoration of ruderal areas, specifically watermelon pond site, black prong & pasture, pine straw raking areas.
- Non native, invasive problem species, specifically prevention and control of plants, animals, and pests/pathogens.
- Hydrological geological function, specifically roads, culverts, ditches, and hydro period alteration.
- Resource protection, specifically boundary survey, gates, fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.
- Adjacent property concerns, specifically expanding development.
- Public access and education, specifically roads, parking, wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, interpretive signs and facilities, recreational opportunities, and management of visitor impacts.
- Managed area uses, specifically recreational trails/multi use trails, primitive camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing and timber management.

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review (FR) were not considered sufficient (less than 2.5 score on average), or that the text noted in the Management Plan Review (PR) does not sufficiently address this issue (less than .5 score on average.). The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. Discussion in the management plan regarding Natural Communities, specifically wet flatwoods (PR), mesic flatwoods, scrub, scrubby flatwoods and hydric hammock (FR).

Managing Agency Response: We agree, the current resource management plan is in an older format, and the new revision of the ten year management plan will have discussions of wet flatwoods, mesic & scrubby flatwoods, scrub, and hydric hammock.

2. Discussion in the management plan regarding Cultural Resources, specifically protection and preservation. (FR)

Managing Agency Response: GSF does not have a history of problems with archeological site disturbance. However, we agree that we should implement a better monitoring and documentation system for the sensitive recorded sites, utilizing photos and notes.

3. Discussion in the management plan regarding Restoration of ruderal areas, specifically Wolf Arbor. (PR)

Managing Agency Response: We agree, restoration plans for the Wolf Arbor acquisition and other ruderal areas will be discussed in the new plan.

4. Discussion in the management plan regarding adjacent property concerns, specifically trespass/adjacent homes, watermelon pond and inholdings/additions. (PR)

Managing Agency Response: We agree, the section on adjacent conflicting uses will be expanded in the new plan.

APPENDIX A:

PLAN REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)									
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.86
Dome Swamp	I.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Sandhill	I.A.3	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.86
Flatwoods Lake	I.A.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Floodplain Swamp	I.A.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Sandhill Upland Lake	I.A.6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Scrub	I.A.7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Blackwater Stream	I.A.8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Depression Marsh	I.A.10	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.86
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.11	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.14
Hydric Hammock	I.A.12	0	0	0		0	0	0	0.00
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)									
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	I.B.1.a	1	1	1	1	1		1	1.00
Plant Inventory	I.B.2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0.86
Orchids	I.B.2.a	0	1	1	1	0			0.60
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)									
Game wildlife or habitat monitoring	I.C.1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0.71
Listed species or habitat monitoring	I.C.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Other non-game species or habitat monitoring	I.C.4	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.86
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.6	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.86
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.7	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.86
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)									
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0.71
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)									
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Frequency	III.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Quality	III.A.3		1	1	1	0	1	1	0.83
Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)									

Watermelon Pond Site	III.B.1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0.86
Black Prong	III.B.2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.86
Pasture/Pine straw raking areas	III.B.3	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0.57
Wolf Arbor	III.B.4	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0.43
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.E)									
Prevention									
prevention - plants	III.E.1.a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
prevention - animals	III.E.1.b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.E.1.c	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Control									
control - plants	III.E.2.a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
control - animals	III.E.2.b	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.86
control - pest/pathogens	III.E.2.c	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.F.1)									
Roads/culverts	III.F.1.a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Ditches	III.F.1.b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hydro-period Alteration	III.F.1.c	1	1	1	0	1	1		0.83
Resource Protection (III.G)									
Boundary survey	III.G.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Gates & fencing	III.G.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Signage	III.G.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Law enforcement presence	III.G.4	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0.86
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.H)									
Land Use									
Expanding development	III.H.1.a	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.86
Trespass/Adjacent Homes (Watermelon Pond)	III.H.1.b	0		1	0		1	0	0.40
Inholdings/additions	III.H.2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.29
Public Access & Education									
Public Access									
Roads	IV.1.a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Parking	IV.1.b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Environmental Education & Outreach									
Wildlife	IV.2.a	0		1	0	1	1	1	0.67
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	0		1	0	1	1	1	0.67
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	0		1	0	1	1	1	0.67
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	0		1	0	1	1	1	0.67
Managed Area Uses									
Existing Uses									
Recreational Trails/Multi-use Trails	VI.A.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Primitive Camping	VI.A.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00

Canoeing	VI.A.3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Hunting	VI.A.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Fishing	VI.A.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00
Timber Management	VI.A.6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00

FIELD REVIEW		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	AVERAGE
Natural Communities (I.A)									
Mesic Flatwoods	I.A.1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2.00
Dome Swamp	I.A.2	3	3	3	2	4	4	3	3.14
Sandhill	I.A.3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2.57
Flatwoods Lake	I.A.4	4	2	3	3	x	x	4	3.20
Floodplain Swamp	I.A.5	4	3	4	4	x	4	4	3.83
Sandhill Upland Lake	I.A.6	3	4	3	4	x	x	x	3.50
Scrub	I.A.7	3	2	x	x	x	x	x	2.50
Blackwater Stream	I.A.8	4	4	4	x	4	x	5	4.20
Scrubby Flatwoods	I.A.9	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	2.43
Depression Marsh	I.A.10	3	2	3	2	x	4	x	2.80
Wet Flatwoods	I.A.11	2	2	3	2	x	x	4	2.60
Hydric Hammock	I.A.12	4		2		x	1	x	2.33
Listed species:Protection & Preservation (I.B)									
Animal Inventory	I.B.1	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	3.86
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	I.B.1.a	5	4	4	5	4		4	4.33
Plant Inventory	I.B.2	4	3	3	4	2	x	4	3.33
Orchids	I.B.2.a	4	4	4	4	4			4.00
Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources (I.C)									
Game wildlife or habitat monitoring	I.C.1	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	2.86
Listed species or habitat monitoring	I.C.3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	3.57
Other non-game species or habitat monitoring	I.C.4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3.43
Fire effects monitoring	I.C.6	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	3.57
Other habitat management effects monitoring	I.C.7	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3.29
Invasive species survey / monitoring	I.C.8	4	3	2	3	3	3	4	3.14
Cultural Resources (Archeological & Historic sites) (II.A,II.B)									
Cultural Res. Survey	II.A	4	4	3	x	3	4	0	3.00
Protection and preservation	II.B	3	3	3	x	2	2	2	2.50
Resource Management, Prescribed Fire (III.A)									
Area Being Burned (no. acres)	III.A1	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	2.71
Frequency	III.A.2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	2.71
Quality	III.A.3	4	2	2	2	2	4	4	2.86

Restoration of Ruderal Areas (III.B)									
Watermelon Pond Site	III.B.1	3	4		3	3		4	3.40
Black Prong	III.B.2	4	4		3		3	4	3.60
Pasture/Pinestraw raking areas	III.B.3	4	2		3	2	3	4	3.00
Wolf Arbor	III.B.4	3	2		2	4	2	4	2.83
Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species (III.E)									
Prevention									
prevention - plants	III.E.1.a	4	3	1	4	1	2	3	2.57
prevention - animals	III.E.1.b	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	3.43
prevention - pests/pathogens	III.E.1.c	4	3	3	4	3	2	5	3.43
Control									
control - plants	III.E.2.a	3	2	1	4	3	4	4	3.00
control - animals	III.E.2.b	4	3	3	4	x	2	4	3.33
control - pest/pathogens	III.E.2.c	4	3	3	4	x	4	4	3.67
Hydrologic/Geologic function Hydro-Alteration (III.E.1)									
Roads/culverts	III.F.1.a	4	4	1	3	3	4	3	3.14
Ditches	III.F.1.b	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2.71
Hydro-period Alteration	III.F.1.c	3	2	3	2	3	x		2.60
Resource Protection (III.F)									
Boundary survey	III.G.1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4.00
Gates & fencing	III.G.2	3	3	4	5	4	3	3	3.57
Signage	III.G.3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3.71
Law enforcement presence	III.G.4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	4.00
Adjacent Property Concerns (III.G)									
Land Use									
Expanding development	III.H.1.a	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3.00
Trespass/Adjacent Homes (Watermelon Pond)	III.H.1.b	2	2	4	2	3	3	3	2.71
Inholdings/additions	III.H.2	3	3	4		3	x		3.25
Public Access & Education									
Public Access									
Roads	IV.1.a	4	5	4	4	4	4	2	3.86
Parking	IV.1.b	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3.86
Environmental Education & Outreach									
Wildlife	IV.2.a	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	3.43
Invasive Species	IV.2.b	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3.43
Habitat Management Activities	IV.2.c	3	2	4	3	3	4	4	3.29
Interpretive facilities and signs	IV.3	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	3.43
Recreational Opportunities	IV.4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4.14
Management of Visitor Impacts	IV.5	3	3	3		3	x	4	3.20
Management Resources									
Maintenance									
Waste disposal	V.1.a	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	3.71
Sanitary facilities	V.1.b	3	4	4	3	3	2	4	3.29

Infrastructure									
Buildings	V.2.a	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4.14
Equipment	V.2.b	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4.00
Staff	V.3	3	2	4	4	4	3	4	3.43
Funding	V.4	4	4	4		4	3	5	4.00

APPENDIX B:

I.A. Natural Communities

- Continued efforts are needed to burn flatwoods more routinely to achieve maintenance condition and introduce growing season fire. Timber ~~dam~~ sites densities have been reduced to 60-70 basal area now for the most part. The transition zones around wetland areas need additional fire, timbering or chopping to reduce woody, herbaceous growth and improve quality of ecotones. Fire lines in wetlands ecotones should be discouraged. Management plan needs to identify and map current natural community types.
- Drought has recently reduced capacity for burning and more importantly growing season burns.
- Management plan needs to be updated or an update of current management regime addressed, especially what had been done to address last management review.
- More mechanical treatment if prescribed burning is not feasible. More use of herbicide treatments on sandhills to control ~~ear~~ oak destiny and open up ground cover.

I.B. Listed Species

- Excellent work to manage RCW habitat and actively monitor for their populations. Nesting pairs have continued to increase steadily since 1995. DOF has installed artificial communities and imported birds from north Florida.
- Increased surveys of orchids and animals since previous LMR.
- Great work with RCW's. Need to address other listed species.
- Need plant and animal species list of all known to occur in forest.

I.C. Natural Resources Survey/Management Resources

- There has been an invasive plant survey done in 2005/2006. Encourage fwc to improve check station data and pre hunt track count inventories.
- Staff seems to be aware of what's on site. Especially game. Dof surveying for exotic/invasive species. Hiring freezes and loss of staff make these tasks difficult. No systematic surveys that are on going. Opportunistic monitoring is conducted.
- Formally incorporate exotic surveys into timber inventory process.

II.A.B. Cultural Resources

- At least one of the staff is trained as an archeological site monitor. Additional work is needed to identify an appropriate level on site monitoring that prioritizes visits to the most sensitive recorded sites. Suggest visits be documented with written notes and photos.
- Managers need guidance on dealing with lithic scatter listed as sites. No real reason to visit all sites every three months. Manager suggesting modifying plan for sites that are not important.
- Not enough information. DHR needs to provide management recommendations for related sites.

III.A. Prescribed Fire

- Annual burn goal is 15,000 acres. Accomplishments during the past five years have averaged just 5,000 acres annually. Recent drought conditions have greatly reduced the burning window over the last 2 years. Continued efforts are needed to reach annual goals for burn frequencies and growing season fire.
- Difference in burn unit acres and actual acres burned. Report acres burned. Drought impacting ability to burn over last 3 years. Still fuel reduction mode. Little summer burns frequency not met.
- Management should assess if pine straw raking meets the objectives of the timber management program defined in the management plan.
- Again drought has hindered meeting goals for the past 3 years. For quality fuel reduction goals slowly being met but growing season burns are lacking. Single drum chopping without water in drum should be utilized when fire cannot in order to achieve growing season burning sooner.
- Need to begin burning flatwoods in growing season. Need to burn more but recognize weather has been an issue.
- Rated for resources versus management
- Due to drought conditions

III.A. Restoration

- Adaptive management approach to restore Watermelon Pond using fire, roller chopping seems appropriate. Early results appear to have improved burn quality and have minimal impact on wire

grass. Pretreatment plant and wildlife survey was completed by a grad student, however post treatments vegetative transects and wildlife monitoring will be important to ensure understanding the biological response to and the success of the mechanical treatments.

- 1500 acres greater than 1 million seedling LLP planted
- Pine straw raking should be addressed in management plans such as which areas are appropriate and the surveying criteria prior to raking.
- Need a protocol to decide what sites are appropriate for pine straw raking and which are not. Incorporate into management plan.

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

- Need to continue to assess and monitor importation of cogon grasses through road rock and building materials.
- Hog hunting, firewood can be brought in \
- Management knowingly using lime rock purchased offsite and infected with cogon grass severely limits ability to prevent future exotic infestation
- Need to address hog control in plan.
- Cogon infected road fill has been spread in confined area in forests to stabilize roads. This may create future cogon grass beetles. Incorporate invasive exotic plant surveys into one. Inventory process to enhance early detection of incipient exotic plant populations.
- More preventative efforts to keep exotics free from road materials.

III.F. Hydrologic/Geologic Function

- Good program of water crossings. More work is needed to finalize a scope of work to complete the replacement of failing culverts. Team members pointed out two failed culverts during the field visits. Roads looked good during visit.
- Low water crossing replacing culverts where possible. Culvert stabilization where possible and needed. Need to mitigate for known ditches.
- Sediment and erosion control measures such as rip rap and silt fencing needs to be implanted where corrosion and new construction taking place at culverts.
- Continue with hydrological assessments for determining where restoration work can occur.

III.G. Resource Protection

- Watermelon Pond-East needs assessment of boundary fencing needs to reduce trespassing and atv access.
- Installing new gates. Much of forest not fenced, close to being able to secure forest. Need to fix some sign and map inconsistencies (hunting).
- Saw law enforcement presence during field visit.
- Closed signs in open areas on 337.

III.H. Adjacent Property Concerns

- Little progress to acquire property to consolidate the public lands ownership in the Watermelon Pond area.
- Most neighbor issues with Watermelon Pond- East
- Watermelon Pond-East needs protection from four-wheeler damage. Need to acquire more Watermelon Pond properties.

IV. Public Access and Education

- 320 miles of roads, many roads open but not on map. Need corrected map. Too many open roads. South Gasoline Road needs repair.
- Temporary closure of public roads needed when extensive repair maintenance is needed.
- Equestrian users and other non-hunting users should wear safety orange as do the hunters.

V. Infrastructure/ Management Resources

- Two staff positions frozen.
- Minimal litter. Some illegal dumping. Two public restrooms are funding dependent. Could use some money for ATV for prescribed fire, most vehicles from 1995. Need biologist and forester II positions to be unfrozen. 12 positions, 2 vacant and never been short of funding.
- Need additional ATV for staff management. Need to unfreeze two positions for GSF. Full staff compliment needed to introduce effective management.
- Fill two frozen positions.

VI. Managed Area Uses

- Excellent ongoing program of timber management on this property, including reforestation and timber harvests.
- Some hunter/public use conflict canoeing is a plan but not realistic.
- Done very well with timber management program, including thinning and restoration. Commend work with US forest service on research.

EXHIBIT I

Management Plan Advisory Group Summary

Goethe State Forest (GSF)
10-Year Resource Management Plan

Management Plan Advisory Group (MPAG)
Public Meeting Summary
Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 6:00 pm
Levy County School Board Meeting Room
480 Marshburn Drive
Bronson, FL 32621

MPAG Members Present: Affiliation:

Bobby Cahal	GSF Forestry Supervisor II, Florida Forest Service
Keith R. Ashby	City Manager, City of Newberry, FL
Mark Carpenter	Private Adjacent Landowner
Norberto Fernandez	Area Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Shenley Neely	Planning Director, Levy County Planning Department, (representing Levy County Board of Commissioners)
Bryan J. Olmert	Forest Landowner, President, Loncala, Inc.
Dave Wilson	Trail user, President, Levy County Horse Club

MPAG Members Absent: Affiliation:

Mike Byerly	Alachua County Commissioner
Brian Griffin	Alachua County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wilbur Dean	Levy County Soil and Water Conservation District
Bob Simons	Florida Conservation Trust

FFS/Other Agency Staff Affiliation:

Present:

Ernie Ash	Resource Administrator, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Lyn Kertesz	Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service, Goethe State Forest
Bill Korn	Environmental Manager, Florida Forest Service
Charlie Pedersen	Biologist, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Terry Sheehan	Recreation Coordinator, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Don West	Center Manager, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center

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Bill Korn convened the public meeting of the Management Plan Advisory Group (MPAG) at 6:00 pm and provided background on the draft Ten-Year Resource Management Plan history and process. He spoke of the role of the MPAG as defined in the Florida Statutes, stating that the members of this group are appointed by the FFS Director, and the GSF MPAG is to conduct a public hearing (tonight) and to provide input to FFS on the draft management plan. He briefly explained the Florida Sunshine Law, stating that the law specifically instructs members of a

government body or group in a decision-making capacity not to discuss agenda items outside the public noticed meeting. Mr. Korn mentioned the process of noticing for public meeting. Mr. Korn then explained the management plan approval process and appropriate activities that may occur during the public hearing to follow emphasizing that tonight's meeting and public hearing was largely their opportunity to listen to the staff presentation and to the general public, and that tomorrow's MPAG meeting was more their opportunity to share their opinions on what should happen on the state forest. This whole process serves to improve the quality of the management plan.

Bill Korn reminded the group that Thursday's meeting will be at the GSF office at 1:00 pm. Mr. Korn gave an overview of the approval process for the 10-year management plans. Mr. Korn said it was necessary to elect a committee chairman and Mr. Olmert nominated Mr. Cahal as committee chairman. Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Wilson seconded the nomination. By unanimous vote, Mr. Cahal was elected to be Chairperson for the MPAG proceedings. Mr. Korn then introduced the FFS staff present at the meeting to the MPAG members.

The MPAG meeting was then adjourned at 6:18 pm.

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Goethe State Forest (GSF)
10-Year Resource Management Plan

Management Plan Advisory Group (MPAG)
Public Hearing Summary
Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 6:30 pm
Levy County School Board Meeting Room
480 Marshburn Drive
Bronson, FL 32621

MPAG Members Present: Affiliation:

Bobby Cahal	GSF Forestry Supervisor II, Florida Forest Service (MPAG Chairperson)
Keith R. Ashby	City Manager, City of Newberry, FL
Mark Carpenter	Private Adjacent Landowner
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MPAG Members Absent: Affiliation:

Mike Byerly	Alachua County Commissioner
Brian Griffin	Alachua County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wilbur Dean	Levy County Soil and Water Conservation District
Bob Simons	Florida Conservation Trust

Members of the General Affiliation:

Public Present:

Art Bishel	Landowner
Richard Cialona	Adjacent landowner
Phyllis Cialona	Adjacent landowner
Linda Evans	Forest user
Mike Gibbs	Local hunter

FFS/Other Agency Staff Affiliation:

Present:

Ernie Ash	Resource Administrator, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Susie Hetrick	Alachua County EPA
Lyn Kertes	Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service, Goethe State Forest
Bill Korn	Environmental Manager, Florida Forest Service
Charlie Pedersen	Biologist, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Terry Sheehan	Recreation Coordinator, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center

Courtney Tye	Wildlife Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Scotland Talley	Conservation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Don West	Center Manager, Florida Forest Service, Waccasassa Forestry Center

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Mr. Cahal convened the public hearing at 6:30 pm. Seven (7) MPAG members and five (5) interested citizens were in attendance for the public hearing. The MPAG members introduced themselves to the members of the public present. Mr. Cahal then turned the hearing over to Mr. Korn who would facilitate the public hearing. Mr. Korn outlined the agenda for the hearing and provided an overview of the procedure for how the plan will proceed through the evaluation process. Mr. Korn asked the members of the public present at the hearing to go around the room and introduce themselves. Mr. Korn stated that the hearing would be broken down into three sections: 1) Slide Show/PowerPoint presentation, 2) Question and Answer session, and 3) Public testimony. MPAG will listen to public comments tonight and discuss comments at Thursday's meeting.

Mr. Cahal gave a brief presentation of the management plan and the focus of the plan. Mr. Cahal turned the meeting back to Mr. Korn. Mr. Korn mentioned that the draft management plan was available on the FFS website and that a large map of GSF had been placed on the wall in the meeting room. Mr. Korn then opened the floor to questions or comments by the public.

Below is a summary of comments from the question and answer session:

Mr. Gibbs asked if FFS preserves "Cat-faced" (turpentine) trees during prescribe burning? Mr. Cahal replied that if Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers (RCWs) use them, the trees are mowed around before burning. If FFS sees those trees burning and are close enough to the road to reach, FFS puts them out. Mr. Gibbs said that the number of "Cat-faced" trees is dwindling and they are a historic resource.

Ms. Tye asked with regard to palmetto berry harvesting, does FFS do an inventory to see how many berries there are before issuing permits? Mr. Cahal replied no; permits are issued by the day, \$10 per person per day to harvest berries. People choose the area where they will pick. This disperses the berry pickers as they do not want to pick too close to others. FFS tried telling people where they could harvest berries and that did not work so well. Palmetto berry harvesting is stopped ten days before hunting season to allow hunters time to scout. Ms. Kertesz said that FFS issues scouting permits at no charge for people to scout out the availability of berries before they decide to purchase permits to pick berries. If they do not see a lot of berries they decide to not purchase a permit.

Ms. Evans said she buys an annual pass every year and rides in the Black Prong Tract. She has noticed an increase in mosquitoes because of the recent rains. Does FFS ever spray to control mosquitoes on the forest? Mr. Korn replied that designating land as environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive protects the resources from arthropod control that could be a hazard. Spraying for mosquito control cannot be conducted on the forest unless there is an

arthropod control plan in place. FFS would need to be notified prior to spraying. Mr. Pedersen said to refer to Section VI.D. of the plan. Before any control activities, an arthropod control plan must be in place. If there are no proposals for mosquito control then no arthropod control plan is needed.

Ms. Hetrick said regarding trail development at Watermelon Pond, (specifically Watermelon Pond North) what is FFS going to do? Mr. Sheehan replied that there are currently a total of 20 miles of trails on Watermelon Pond North, seven miles of trails are on the GSF portion of the Tract, and the remaining trails are on the FWC managed WEA. There is joint access, meaning that if people are riding on the FWC area they can come onto the FFS area. At the new Bailey Trailhead (an area formerly called Watermelon Pond East), there is a parking lot. Preliminary work has been done by FFS Forest Rangers to flag out a five mile trail. Staff is now trying to finalize which areas to include in the trail. Restrooms are expensive. If there was grant money, it might be faster to build restrooms. The trailhead at Watermelon Pond North has water and electric. FFS staff installed the facilities, reducing the cost. Ms. Hetrick said the area in question for trails on Watermelon Pond North is the SE corner, and that the Alachua County property is adjacent. Alachua County is looking at opening trails on their property. Mr. Sheehan said that piece has limited access and the corner landowner allows FFS access. It would be good to have meeting with FFS, FWC and Alachua County to discuss. Access will be key issue.

Mr. Gibbs asked where is the Bailey Trailhead in relation to the racetrack? Mr. Cahal responded that it is on CR 335, near the landfill. Mr. Korn said that the Alachua County representative to the MPAG will make note to coordinate trail activity in the Goethe plan for Watermelon Pond North, area in question to be referred to as “the little piece.”

Mr. Korn asked the group if there were any other questions. With no further questions, Mr. Korn announced the hearing would now enter the public testimony phase. Mr. Korn asked Mr. Sheehan how many speakers there were, and she said there were four.

Below is a summary of comments received:

Ms. Evans thanked the FFS for the trails, and said she drives carriages. She moved here from Ohio because of the trails on GSF. She lives in the Steeplechase neighborhood and loves the trails. She and her neighbors volunteer to trim trails and pick up trash. Thank you for providing and maintaining trails.

Mr. Gibbs said he knew Mr. Goethe. He said he has hunted every inch of Mr. Goethe’s property. He sees animosity between hunters and equestrians. He would like to see FFS add language to the draft plan to avoid conflict between hunters and horseback riders, and that no special event permits be issued for equestrian events during hunting season. He does not want to limit riding during hunting season, but requests that FFS not issue any permits for special endurance events that cover multiple Tracts during small game and other seasons. He wants FFS staff to keep special events from being held during hunting season. (A typed copy of Mr. Gibbs comments are attached to the minutes.)

Mr. Talley said he had two comments. The first one was that the small game hunting area at Hog Pond access is a pull off the country road, with a kiosk and a fence. Safety is a concern for

him while unloading his dog and gun from his vehicle, since he is so close to the road. He would like to see parking places for hunters at Hog Pond. The second comment, a big issue, is stumping. USDA has banned stumping on three National Forests in Florida. Since it takes 80 – 100 years to create a lightered stump, removing them is more like mining, since the old stumps would not be replaced as a result of shorter rotation timber harvests. He questioned if a price of \$6 per ton was worth doing that to public property. It is ground disturbing and groundcover is destroyed. Stumps are refuge for indigo snakes, pine snakes, gopher tortoises and Florida mice. He said that as the stumps rot slowly, and after fire, they create root channels that are also used as refuge by animals. He also wanted to discuss palmetto drupes and that Ms. Tye would comment on that. Mr. Talley mentioned that he brought with him written comments on the management plan from his FWC office in Lake City, FL. (A copy of Mr. Talley's comments is attached to the minutes.)

Ms. Tye said she would like more information about saw palmetto, regarding number of permits and pounds of berries collected, since wildlife depend on palmetto berries. She would like to see coordination with prescribe burning and adjacent private landowners. She works with private landowners in Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist Counties. Mr. Cahal asked her if she received the notices of FFS planned prescribe burns that are emailed to the GSF neighbors list. Ms. Tye said no, and Mr. Cahal said he would add her email address to the email distribution list.

There were no additional speakers, so Mr. Korn thanked everyone for attending and for comments received. Mr. Korn reminded the MPAG members of the next MPAG meeting at 1:00 pm Thursday at the GSF office.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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From: Talley, Scotland [Scotland.Talley@MyFWC.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:03 AM
To: Cahal, Bobby
Cc: WILLIAM J KORN
Subject: Goethe SF MAG
Attachments: Comment letter.docx

Hi Bobby,

Good meeting last night, but I realized after I got home that I failed to compliment you on a well-written plan when I made my remarks. I've attached a copy of my comment letter so that you have an electronic copy.

Regarding my comments on the listed species monitoring, I had similar comments to the Cary SF MAG group, so you may want to take a look at the language they incorporated for listed species. I am currently working on a strategy for monitoring listed and focal species on the Watermelon Pond WEA with Norb and would be happy to work with you on identifying ways we can cooperate on that part of the forest. I am also more than happy to work with you and Charlie on sorting out listed species monitoring on the main part of Goethe as well.

Scotland Talley
Conservation Biologist
Wildlife and Habitat Management Section
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
3377 E. US Hwy 90
Lake City, Florida 32055
(386) 758-0525 (office)
(386) 758-5799 (fax)
(386) 588-4407 (cell)
www.myfwc.com

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. ~Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac"



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8 August 2010

Bobby Cahal
Florida Forest Service
Goethe State Forest
9110 SE County Road 337
Dunnellon, FL 34431

Re: Draft 10-year Management Plan for Goethe State Forest

Dear Mr. Cahal:

I have reviewed the draft 10-year management plan for the Goethe State Forest (GSF) and have the following comments and concerns:

Page 6:

In Goal 1, Objective 6 palmetto drupe and pine straw sales are listed as miscellaneous revenue sources. Palmetto drupes are an important seasonal food resource for the Florida black bear. GSF is located in a potential corridor for bears dispersing between the Aucilla, Chassahowitzka, Ocala, and Osceola subpopulations. Some consideration should be given to regulating drupe harvest to ensure that the resource is not depleted to a level detrimental to bears.

Pine straw harvesting generally requires the application of herbicides to remove all ground cover from the area in order to facilitate raking and ensuring the harvested pine straw is "clean". This practice should not be used in areas with native ground cover and even in areas with "old-field cover" the loss of food and cover is detrimental to virtually all wildlife. Consideration should be given to limiting the size (acreage) of sales and the location in order to minimize negative impacts to wildlife.

Page 8:

In Goal 4, Objective 5 monitoring of eight rare and listed species is proposed. Which species are to be monitored and why eight? FWC is currently developing and implementing standardized monitoring protocols for a number of species. I would recommend that FFS consult with FWC to identify species to monitor and use the standardized protocols in order to maintain consistency in data collection on public lands.

Page 20:

Minor edit may be needed in Law Enforcement paragraph since OALE patrol officers have been reassigned to FWC recently.

Page 28:

In the second paragraph regarding bald eagles reference is made to the “National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines” (USFWS 2007). In 2008 the FWC approved the Florida Bald Eagle Management Plan which provides rules and guidelines specific to bald eagles in Florida. This plan is available at http://www.myfwc.com/media/427567/Eagle_Plan_April_2008.pdf and should be the primary reference for bald eagle management in Florida.

Page 31:

In the Sustainable Forest Resources section reference is made to the sale of lightered stumps. Stump sales should not be considered a sustainable activity. Lightered stumps require pines at least 80-100 years old. I question whether there are enough trees in these age classes being harvested and enough trees growing into these age classes to replace stump harvest. Therefore stump harvesting is a mining or resource extraction activity that is not sustainable.

Putting aside the issue of sustainability, the harvest of stumps is detrimental to a number of small mammals, amphibians and reptiles which frequently use these decaying stumps as refugia. A number of state and federally listed species have been documented to use lightered stumps for refuge including Florida mouse, eastern indigo snake, Florida pine snake, and gopher frog. In addition, the ground disturbance associated with stump removal is also deleterious to many species including the flatwoods salamander and striped newt. The ground disturbance is also not acceptable in any area with native ground cover. The cost of restoring native ground cover would far exceed in revenue generated.

If a stump sale is considered a prudent practice would be to survey the area prior to initiating the harvest and close monitoring of the operation to minimize potential take of threatened species or damage to ground cover, wetlands, or archeological resources. Given the current value of stumps (~6-7 dollars/ton), the revenue generated would not support the level of survey and monitoring that one would expect on lands held in the public trust.

Page 37:

In the section on Planned Parking I would like to see a small parking area added to the Hog Pond small game area. Currently there is no parking at the entrance and kiosk off of CR 337. Pulling off there on the right of way and trying to get bird dogs out of the truck is a safety concern. If the gate could be moved back off the road and a couple of parking spaces behind the kiosk provided it would make visiting the area much easier and safer.

General Comments:

I am happy to see the emphasis on prescribed fire in the plan with very aggressive goals for fires within desired intervals. I am concerned that there is little discussion regarding how those goals will be met with no apparent change in resources

committed to the forest. I also agree that increasing the acreage in growing season fire is positive, but I think the primary focus at this time should be increasing fire frequency regardless of season.

Overall the plan is generally well written and has addressed the concerns of the previous Land Management Review team.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft 10-year management plan for the Goethe State Forest and do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Scotland Talley

Conservation Biologist

Wildlife and Habitat Management Section

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

3377 E. US Hwy 90

Lake City, Florida 32055

(386) 758-0525 (office)

(386) 758-5799 (fax)

(386) 588-4407 (cell)

www.myfwc.com

12591 SE 137 Court
Dunnellon, FL 34431

July 20, 2012

Mr. Bill Korn
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Bill:

As you requested through Bobby Cahal, this is a resubmitted document typed on my personal letterhead. The original memorandum was dated July 10, 2012 and it was prepared on Florida Forest Service letterhead.

These are my comments regarding my review of the 10-Year Resource Management Plan For Goethe State Forest. Please enter this letter into the record as a part of the review process. Please also add me to your mailing list for workshops and hearings on the plan, as I intend to participate in the review process.

1. Page 7. Objective 2, first sentence. Add the word 'upon' between based and references.
2. Page 10. Add a new Objective 3 to GOAL 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration. The new section would read: Objective 3: Implement the Hydroperiod Restoration Study that was done for Deerpen Pond in cooperation with the Hydrology Section of the Florida Forest Service and the Suwannee River Water Management District. [Note: This study resulted in temporary bench marks being established by a licensed land surveyor (Dan Croft in Bronson). All that remains is to install a structure to regulate the water level in Deerpen Pond by installing a ditch plug in a mosquito control ditch that has drained the pond. The only copy of the study is found in a 3-ring binder in a bookcase in my former office, entitled 'Hydrologic Restoration'.] The cost estimate should be \$1,000. The Performance Measure should be 'ditch plug installed' and 'decline of Pond Cypress reversed'.
3. Page 10. Objective 4. Change 30 miles to 24 miles, more or less, change 10% to 20% and change 300 miles to 120 miles. [Note: The State Forest Handbook in Section 11.2 sets the boundary marking standard at 5-year intervals, not 10 years; further, the perimeter distance of the forest is closer to 120 miles than 300 miles, exclusive of interior highway frontage.]
4. Page 16. Section C.1. Property Boundaries Establishment and Preservation. Change '350 miles' to '120 miles' to be consistent with revised page 10, Objective 4 as above-described.
5. Page 17. Buck Island Old-Growth Interpretative Trail should have the spelling corrected to 'Interpretive'.
6. Page 38, 4. Trails needs to have another hiker-only trail added as originally

recommended by Don West. The wording could be: 'A new hiker-only trail would connect the Tidewater Trailhead to an old-growth longleaf pine stand that adjoins the north boundary of the Stein Tract'.

7. Page 40, Silvicultural Operations, Paragraph 2. As written, this section is overly vague, it is potentially misleading and, by referring to 'thinning' as an even-aged management technique, it is totally wrong. The plan needs to spell out where, when, why and how even-aged management will be applied, and where it won't. In recent years on Goethe State Forest, even-aged management has been applied in locations where it shouldn't be; i.e. in entire stands on longleaf pine sites. Examples include, but are not limited to: the slash pine seed tree study in Stein that was expanded to over 100 acres on a longleaf pine site (GSFST0307, 0308 & 0311), a shelterwood harvest in Cow Creek, (GSFCCC0301), the expansion of one of the 'study sale' areas to include the entire stand (GSFAP0133) and a marked thinning across CR-336 from the former Forestry Youth Academy (GSFAP0505). Our adopted management plan has identified all pine stands on Goethe State Forest as 'Foraging Habitat'. There is no rational basis for reducing pine basal areas to less than 60 square feet per acre by thinning, and there isn't any need or justification to regenerate an entire stand by the shelter wood or seed tree methodologies. Because the 'stand' is our basic forest management unit, every stand on Goethe State Forest should be maintained with a post-thinning basal area between 60 and 80 square feet per acre to assure that it can be suitable as RCW habitat in perpetuity. Any regeneration technique applied to a stand should cover no more than 1/8 (or less) of the total stand area, thereby assuring that the net stand basal area never falls below 53 square feet per acre. (This will provide a range of age classes in each stand.) Where even-aged management techniques (seed tree and shelter wood) are applied in a stand, each spot should be limited to a size of less than 10 acres so as to not create a new stand.

8. Page 45, E. Use of Private Land Contractors. Timber Marking and Herbicide Application need to be added as outsourcing options.

9. Page 49. Management Actions, fourth paragraph, first sentence. There are very few pure stands of slash pine on Goethe State Forest. Portions of most stands have a predominately slash pine component, primarily around cypress pond margins. Regeneration techniques applicable to the slash pine component can include group selection openings, imbedded seed tree patches of up to 10 acres in size, and imbedded shelter wood patches of up to 10 acres in size. In no case should even-aged management (clearcutting, seedtree and shelterwood) be applied to an entire stand.

Sincerely,



Herbert H. W. Heesch
Forester

cc: Bobby Cahal ✓

From: Bob Simons [rsimons@cox.net]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 4:56 PM
To: Cahal, Bobby
Subject: Re: GSF Plan comments

Hi Bobby,

Sorry I am late with this. It's the best I can do.

I have four comments.

1. In my opinion, prescribed burning is the most important issue. Most of this forest is fire adapted forest. If it doesn't burn on the frequency that it is adapted to, it changes. It becomes less good for wildlife. It becomes more difficult and expensive to manage. And, it becomes much more dangerous for everyone, including people and communities near the forest.
2. Priorities: In some years, the planting of trees to reforest areas needing planting following harvest do not get planted due to budget shortages. Surely that is not where to cut expenses. It just gets more expensive and less effective to plant later than planned, and the land is left out of production.
3. Connectivity: Hopefully, the issue of establishing and maintaining wildlife connections between areas of public land is still a high priority. Without it, we will loose many species.
4. Stumping: Selling tree stumps for a few dollars is highly questionable to me. I did not see much problem with this until one day, out in Levy County, I visited a stumping operation. There, beside a stump that had just been pushed up, lay two dead indigo snakes. It is just not worth it.

Hopefully these comments are not too late, and are worth considering.

Robert Simons

From: Cahal, Bobby
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 2:59 PM
To: rsimons@cox.net
Subject: GSF Plan comments

Bob, I know this is short notice, but if you can e-mail me the comments by tomorrow @1:00 PM I would greatly appreciate it. If I can be of any help please let me know, Bobby

Bobby Cahal
Forestry Supervisor II
Goethe State Forest
352-465-8568

From: Jodie_Smithem@fws.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 4:37 PM
To: Cahal, Bobby
Cc: Linda_LaClaire@fws.gov; Cary_Norquist@fws.gov; Harold_Mitchell@fws.gov
Subject: Re: Florida Forest Service's 10-year Management Plan for the Goethe State Forest

Dear Mr. Cahal,

I have lead USFWS responsibility for the striped newt and also local responsibility for the indigo snake. I also have concerns with the possibility of stump removal as a future management activity on Goethe State Forest and just wanted to concur with Linda's comments below. Thank you very much for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jodie Smithem
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Florida Ecological Services Office
7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200
Jacksonville, FL 32256
904-731-3134 Phone
904-731-3045 Fax

From: Linda_LaClaire@fws.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 1:44 PM
To: Cahal, Bobby
Cc: Jodie_Smithem@fws.gov; Harold_Mitchell@fws.gov; Cary_Norquist@fws.gov
Subject: Florida Forest Service's 10-year Management Plan for the Goethe State Forest

Dear Mr. Cahal,

Although the North Florida Field Office in Jacksonville, Florida, has local responsibilities for threatened and endangered species occurring on the Goethe State Forest, I have the rangewide U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery lead for the threatened eastern indigo snake. After reviewing the draft management plan for the Goethe State Forest, I have concerns regarding the statement within the plan that suggests the removal and selling of lightered stumps may be a future management activity on the forest. Removal of stumps would negatively affect a number of reptiles and amphibians that live in, around, and under these stumps. Mortality of these species, including the eastern indigo snake, is possible when the stumps are removed. After the removal of the stumps, the habitat for those species that survive will be degraded. In fact, removal of these stumps for the naval stores industry has contributed to the decline of a number of amphibian and reptile species, including the eastern indigo snake. I hope you will consider removing this activity from the 10-year management plan for the Goethe State Forest.

Sincerely,
Linda LaClaire

Linda LaClaire, Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Pkwy.
Jackson, MS 39213
office phone: 601 321-1126
fax: 601 965-4340

From: Kathleen Williams [kathleen9211@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 7:59 AM
To: Cahal, Bobby
Cc: Busy Kislig-Shires Byerly
Subject: Goethe Management Plan meeting

Dear Bobby,

I wanted to let you know that I don't think I will be able to make the meeting tonight, as I had hoped. I have asked our executive director to contact other CTF board members who may be able to attend the meeting and speak on behalf of CTF. I am sorry for this late notice.

I did read the management plan--it looks very good and comprehensive.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Williams

From: Helen Koehler [blackprong@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 11:59 AM
To: Cahal, Bobby
Subject: working draft of 10- year Goethe Management Plan

Comments, questions and observations:

Plan is very well written and easy to read.

If a shelter would be approved at the Black Prong Trail head, would it also be possible to enlarge the parking area ?

Would it be feasible to enlarge the Buck Island Pond Trail head to accommodate horse trailers? This would provide immediate access to the Trails (an easy reroute) and provide an improved experience. The existing parking and pavilion at Apex would still be available for hikers and cyclists. A new hiking loop would be easy to route in the upland areas surrounding the office complex. The majority of cyclists use the improved road system.

The Goethe Trail, Inc. will continue to host the Goethe Benefit Challenge Endurance Ride as it's main fund raiser for Goethe State Forest. Other popular events are being considered such as a Run Roll Relay in the near future.

Thank you,
Helen Koehler
the goethe trail

From: Helen Koehler [blackprong@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 9:14 AM
To: Cahal, Bobby
Subject: Fwd: goethe management plans

here is a comment from Connie in regards to the Cow Creek Tract.

Helen Koehler
the goethe trail

-----Original Message-----

From: Connie Caudill <conniecaudill@yahoo.com>
To: Helen Koehler <blackprong@aol.com>
Sent: Thu, Jul 19, 2012 11:44 am
Subject: Re: goethe management plans

I like his big loop. I ride most of it all the time. Thanks for sending hope it goes through.
Connie

From: Helen Koehler <blackprong@aol.com>
To: conniecaudill@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 9:21 PM
Subject: goethe management plans

will hold public meetings in Aug....the new trailhead and a loop was put in by Bobby. If approved, we can ask for an AERC and AQHA grant to help put in the well when the time comes.

Helen Koehler
the goethe trail

From: Javan Bauder [mailto:jbauder@oriannesociety.org]
Sent: Mon 7/9/2012 3:09 PM
To: Pedersen, Charlie
Subject: FW: Goethe State Forest Management Plan Public Hearing

Hello Charlie

Here are some comments from Dirk Stevenson, our Director of Inventory and Monitoring for The Orianne Society. I will forward the call for public comments to some other colleagues within the southeast.

Thanks
Javan

From: Dirk Stevenson [mailto:d Stevenson@oriannesociety.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 8:17 PM
To: 'Javan Bauder'
Subject: RE: Goethe State Forest Management Plan Public Hearing

Javan,
Pulling stumps (i.e., removal of remnant "fat-lighter" longleaf pine stumps) has myriad adverse affects on wildlife, and not just indigo snakes. Bruce Means, K Enge, Paul Moler, John Jensen, Linda LaClaire and many others would concur here.

The stump-holes are valuable refugia/shelters/ecdyasis/nesting sites utilized by a very wide variety of small mammals and snakes, including indigos, pine snakes, coachwhips, racers, corn snakes, eastern kingsnakes, and eastern diamondbacks. Indigos are commonly known to use stumps for refugia (as are the other snake species listed).

Paul Moler, in his D. corais species acct. in Amphibians and Reptiles: Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida (1992) mentions the importance of stumps for indigo snakes. The Fort Stewart, GA habitat management plan specifically excludes the harvest of remnant stumps for these very reasons, and I am sure many other habitat mgt plans do for the same reasons, its become a conventional sort of habitat practice in fact. B Means, years ago now, convinced the Forest Service to abstain doing so in the Apalachicola Nat'l Forest.

Dirk J. Stevenson
Director of Inventory & Monitoring
The Orianne Society
414 Club Drive
Hinesville, GA 31313
Office: (912) 876-3288
Cell: (912) 432-2041
dstevenson@oriannesociety.org
www.oriannesociety.org

To the Goethe State Forest Management plan Advisory Group;

In the name of hunters I would like to propose that there be no organized equestrian events planned, or permits granted to any organized equestrian event during any scheduled hunting seasons. That includes all quota and non quota hunts.

There is a total of 83 hunting days of the GSF Rules and Regulations brochure from July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013. During the span from Sept. 22, to March, 16. There would be two vacant spans. One from Nov. 27, thru Jan. 4th. The other would be from Jan. 28, thru March 16. That would be more than enough time to hold an equestrian event during the cooler months.

Most of the days listed above are lottery draw quota hunts. Small game season is not quota hunt and gives any hunter that was not lucky enough to be drawn earlier in the season to be able to hunt with friends and family. Therefore we would like for it to be within Goethe Law that "Small Game Season" be treated the same as any other season.

It is not the intent to prevent anyone from trail riding and enjoying the forest during hunting seasons. It would mean only that there would not be any large organized rides that would fall within any hunting seasons.

In the past several years the AQHA would come from all around to set up camp at the Tidewater trailhead and compete in cross country endurance runs. The trails encompass many miles and three named tracts of the forest; i.e.; Stein, Daniel Island, and the Apex tract. It would be very much appreciated if it were taken into consideration for some kind of policy adjustment for the next 10 years.

Thanks, Mike Gibbs

Goethe State Forest (GSF)
10-Year Resource Management Plan

Management Plan Advisory Group (MPAG)
Public Meeting Summary
Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 1:00 pm
FFS Goethe State Forest Office
9110 SE County Road 337
Dunnellon, FL 34431

MPAG Members Present: Affiliation:

Bobby Cahal	Forestry Supervisor II, Goethe State Forest (MPAG Chairperson)
Keith Ashby	City Manager, City of Newberry
Mark Carpenter	Adjacent Private Landowner
Norberto Fernandez	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Shenley Neely	Planning Director, Levy County Planning Department
Bryan Olmert	President, Loncala Inc., Adjacent Forest Landowner
Dave Wilson	President, Levy County Horse Club, Equestrian User

MPAG Members Absent: Affiliation:

Mike Byerly	Alachua County Commissioner
Brian Griffin	Alachua County Soil and Water Conservation District
Wilbur Dean	Levy County Soil and Water Conservation District
Bob Simons	Conservation Trust for Florida

FFS Staff Present:

Affiliation:

Bill Korn	Environmental Manager, Directors Office
Don West	Center Manager, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Ernie Ashe	Forestry Resource Administrator, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Charlie Pedersen	Biological Scientist, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Terry Sheehan	Recreational Coordinator, Waccasassa Forestry Center
Lyn Kertesz	Senior Forester, Goethe State Forest

Members of the General Affiliation:

Public Present:

Helen Koehler	Goethe Trails Inc., Adjacent Landowner, Equestrian User
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Bobby Cahal (chairperson) called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance. He asked the MPAG members to introduce themselves. He then turned the meeting over to Bill Korn. Mr. Korn briefly explained the purpose of the meeting, which is to give the MPAG members an opportunity to review and discuss the public hearing testimony as well as any written comments that had been received regarding the SF draft 10-year management plan. Copies of the minutes from the previous night's MPAG meeting and hearing were handed out, and Mr. Korn asked the members to review and approve the minutes. Copies of all written comments received at last night's public hearing were handed out to the MPAG members. The

MPAG focused their attentions on the ten-year management plan. The plan was reviewed section-by-section and below is a summary of the comments by topic.

I.C. Goal 1: Sustainable Forest Management

Mr. Korn summarized the written comments from Mr. Talley and Ms. Tye from the night before. Their comments expressed concerns about possibility of depleting palmetto drupes through permitted harvests and the effects of the use of herbicide on sites with pine straw raking. Mr. Cahal said that GSF has just two areas suitable for pine straw raking, a site currently under contract and another area of approximately 25 acres. The site under contract is on 90 acres, and expires in two years. No herbicide is applied and only mowing occurs. Mr. West noted that pine straw raking is limited on GSF because of the abundance of palmettos. Mr. Cahal said that another state forest was unable to fulfill a pine straw raking contract due to being unable to herbicide, and thus the contract area was moved to GSF. Mr. Olmert said raking and sale of pine straw on GSF was not an issue due to the small size of areas that could be raked. Mr. Cahal replied that plantations on the Watermelon Pond Tract had too much of an understory to be economical to conduct pine straw raking on. MPAG members declined to make any changes to draft plan language.

Mr. Olmert pointed out that palmetto drupes or berries had not been discussed. Mr. Cahal said that the permits issued by FFS were not over-harvesting the berries. Mr. Ashby replied that it should be up to the discretion of FFS staff to decide if there were enough berries to issue harvest permits. Mr. Carpenter said the market regulates itself and if there are not enough berries to pick, then harvesters won't pick them since it wouldn't be worth it. Ms. Kertesz said FFS staff observe the quantity of berries while they are in the field for forest inventory or other management activities and can tell if there are leftover berries. MPAG members declined to make any changes to draft plan language.

I.C. Goal 4: Listed and Rare Species Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, or Population Restoration

Mr. Korn read a comment by Mr. Talley on Goal 4, Objective 5. Mr. Talley said this objective doesn't mention which eight species will have monitoring protocols developed. Mr. Pedersen suggested editing the Objective to instead refer to Section IV. C.1. Table 3. 'Endangered or Threatened Species of GSF', and to remove the numerical reference. Mr. Korn suggested changing the objective to the following: "Develop monitoring protocols for selected listed and rare species in consultation with FWC." Mr. Ash replied that to completely accept FWC guidelines may not be realistic for FFS, due to staff levels, etc. Mr. Korn asked if GSF had the staff available to implement only the monitoring protocol aspect of this objective. MPAG members questioned the number of listed and rare species to be monitored, since there are more than eight species in Section IV.C.1. Mr. Olmert, Mr. Ash and Mr. Pedersen discussed whether a species must first be present on GSF in order to monitor. Mr. Korn asked if the MPAG members wished to use his recommended language for this Objective. Mr. Ash requested that the number of species being monitored stay in the objective. MPAG requested that at a minimum, FFS capture data on all imperiled species identified in Table 3 and to add a column to Table 3 to indicate which species are being monitored. Mr. Ashby asked what the difference was between Exhibit M (FNAI's Occurrence List) and Table 3, and expressed the need to identify which list is referenced. Mr. Pedersen asked if Mr. Korn's recommended language for this

objective would be used. Mr. Korn clarified that at a minimum FFS staff should update the objective to include a reference to Table 3.

I.C. Goal 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration

Mr. Korn summarized a letter from Mr. Heesch that requested adding a third objective to address a hydrological restoration project on Deer Pen Pond. Mr. Heesch, a former FFS employee, identified and developed this project with FFS Watershed Specialist, Tom Gilpin. Mr. Cahal said the project was listed in an earlier draft of the management plan, but was removed. Adjacent landowners had voiced objections to the project, believing that it would have led to potential flooding on their property. Mr. Olmert stated that if it would flood the neighbors then it would not be good. Mr. Ash said that the drainage occurred about 80 years ago and that Mr. Heesch wanted to change it back to restore the flow, however the Suwannee Water Management District decided not to pursue it. Mr. Ashby said that if it was working for the last 80 years why mess with it. MPAG members agreed it was best to leave this project out of the plan.

I.C. Goal 8: Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

Mr. Korn said that Mr. Heesch's letter pointed out an error in the miles of boundary listed in the draft plan. FFS staff would review the number and make any appropriate change to the number of miles.

II.B.4. Revenue Producing Activities

Mr. Carpenter inquired about possibility of cattle leases on GSF. He said that GSF outparcels would be suitable for grazing, since before state ownership of Watermelon Pond, Loncala had cattle leases on the property. Mr. Cahal said he would be willing to discuss the issue further with Mr. Carpenter after the meeting. Mr. Ash and Mr. Korn discussed the disturbed areas on GSF that would be suitable for grazing. Mr. Carpenter agreed that the majority of GSF was not suitable to graze, but that small parcels would be. He proposed allowing the lessee to cover costs of fencing for those small parcels. Mr. Carpenter pointed out that grazed areas have reduced fuel loads. He suggested adding the following language to the draft plan: "There are no areas of the forest currently being used for cattle grazing, but will be considered as requests are made and will be accommodated as appropriate if they are determined to be compatible with existing uses and within the management goals and objectives of the forest." MPAG members agreed that his suggested language should be added to the draft plan.

II.C. 2. Improvements

Mr. Carpenter asked how many fire towers were on GSF, and Mr. Cahal replied there were two. Mr. Carpenter asked if the tower sites qualified as historic sites. Mr. West clarified that the tower sites were technically not part of the GSF. Mr. Carpenter commented that the tower sites should either be maintained or taken down.

II.D. 3. Surplus Land Assessment

Mr. Carpenter asked about draft plan language on surplus land assessment. He said he preferred the language used in the currently approved GSF management plan, which allowed for land trades. Mr. Carpenter said he has 40 acres next to Watermelon Pond North that he wanted to trade, and knows of additional property where the current landowner might be interested in trading. The MPAG members discussed the steps required for surplus property or land

swaps, and if tradable portions of the forest would need to be surplus. Mr. Ash said potential parcels would have to be designated as surplus before FFS can trade it. Mr. West stated that surplus land swaps would be addressed if it is beneficial to GSF.

II.D. 4. Adjacent Conflicting Uses

Ms. Neely approved to the draft plan and inquired if adjacent landowners and their concerns had been addressed.

II.D. 5. Compliance with Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Cahal said that both Levy and Alachua counties and the City of Newberry had submitted written remarks supporting the plan. Mr. Ashby stated that the City of Newberry Conservation and Planning Department supports the plan as well.

II.E. 3. Public and Local Government Involvement

Mr. Carpenter asked about public involvement with the GSF liaison panel and if there was going to be any meetings in the future. Mr. Cahal said that FFS is fortunate to have good communication with user groups and neighbors, but that the GSF liaison committee hadn't met in quite awhile. Mr. Korn said that the liaison committees are still encouraged and the issue is included in Goal 2 Objective 6.

Mr. Ashby said he appreciated the involvement in the management plan, and that the people in Newberry were pleased to be engaged. He was impressed with the dialog at the meetings. He said that City of Newberry planner Lowell Garret was pleased with the draft plan. The city is updating Newberry's comprehensive plan; parcels that include GSF will be categorized under "conservation".

III.A. Past Uses

Mr. Korn read comments from Mr. Gibbs regarding cat-faced pines. Mr. Ash pointed out that there were fewer of them, and Ms. Koehler commented it would be good to save them since they are historical relics. Mr. Olmert stated that they were lost during control burns and timber sales. Mr. Korn asked if the MPAG members wanted to add any language to the draft plan. Mr. Cahal provided details on timber sales and current steps taken to identify cat-faced trees so that they would not be accidentally removed by loggers. MPAG members agreed that no changes were necessary.

IV.C. 1. Threatened and Endangered Species

The MPAG reviewed Mr. Talley's letter which recommended that FFS use the Florida Plan instead of USFW 2007 guidelines. All MPAG members agreed with the recommendation. Mr. Carpenter said in regard to prescribed burning around bald eagle nest trees, he was concerned about root damage when a fireline was plowed 30 to 40 feet from a tree. Mr. Pedersen stated that plowing too close to nest trees, regardless of the season, should be avoided.

Mr. Fernandez commented that Table 4. 'RCW Population Trends' indicates an increase in the total population from last planning period. He pointed out that in reality, the north subpopulation after increasing has been declining for five (5) years. He asked if this was due to drought and how would FFS address this issue. Mr. Pedersen said that FFS will adhere to the federal RCW Recovery Plan. Mr. Pedersen provided details on RCW efforts at the Blackwater River State Forest. Mr. Carpenter asked if Blackwater had the same problem with declining populations and

Mr. Pedersen said no. Mr. Fernandez asked what FFS staff would do regarding number of RCW clusters, foraging zones, or meeting groundcover requirements. Mr. Pedersen said it is evolving. Mr. Korn referred to Goal 4 Objective 1 regarding specific language and suggested that Mr. Pedersen and Mr. Fernandez write up any appropriate guidelines to implement RCW management. Mr. Fernandez said FFS needs to add language about recruitment. The MPAG members made no specific recommendations on this topic.

IV.D. Sustainable Forest Resources

Mr. Olmert said that FFS did a good job on burning, price wise, and was surprised by the lower cost, but that the boundary marking price in the draft plan was high. Mr. Cahal stated that FFS has used contract boundary marking in the past, but due to budgetary constraints FFS presently does boundary marking in-house. Mr. Olmert said that he was surprised by the quality of the timber on GSF. He stated that with the volumes present, FFS could be harvesting heavier for more income, but he understood FFS's mission and why that wouldn't be the case for the state forest. He complimented the FFS staff for their efforts.

V. Public Access and Recreation

At this point Ms. Helen Koehler asked to speak. No MPAG members objected, and Mr. Korn told her to go ahead with her comments. She said that she read the draft management plan, state forest peer reviews, etc, and that GSF is written up for being too heavy on equestrian use and horse trails. She said that these trails are all labeled as "shared use" trails. There are also carriage riders. The "shared use" approach is criticized for being too heavy on the equestrian use. She said GSF had a wonderful 300-mile road system in place, but that FFS doesn't defend these "shared use" trails as she thinks they should. GSF is criticized for heavy equestrian emphasis, but this use is not keeping other uses away. The Florida Trail users could have come here first and claimed the trails for hiking, but they didn't. She concluded that she wants the FFS to defend the "shared use" trails for all users, biking trails and more day use.

Mr. Korn then summarized written comments received from Mr. Cialona. Mr. Cialona requested more of a FFS presence on the Watermelon Pond parcels. Mr. Ashby said he also receives comments on this issue at his City of Newberry office. Mr. Carpenter pointed out that the FFS lock was cut off the gate. Mr. Cahal said that he would try to improve the frequency of staff visits to the properties.

Mr. Olmert asked how FFS identifies the number of visitors to GSF. Mr. Sheehan said that it is done through estimates, counters and iron rangers.

The MPAG members then discussed FFS coordinating recreation efforts with adjacent public lands. Mr. Sheehan said that Ms. Hetrick (Alachua County EPD) will coordinate on all plans. Mr. Sheehan added that FFS has access issues on portions of GSF, and that language should be added to the draft plan that FFS would coordinate with other agencies. Mr. Fernandez said including a "coordination" statement to the draft plan would be a good idea, and that such coordination could be expanded to include additional activities in addition to trails. Mr. Olmert recommended such a statement be added to a general management section of the draft plan. Mr. Fernandez agreed. Ms. Neely pointed out that Section II.D.4. 'Adjacent Conflicting Uses' touches on this issue. Mr. Ash and Mr. Fernandez pointed out the language in II.D.4 doesn't address access issues. The MPAG agreed that FFS should incorporate language addressing the "coordination" issue and place it in the most appropriate portion of the plan.

V. A. 3. Facilities

Mr. Korn read the MPAG members a written comment received from Ms. Koehler. Ms. Koehler asked if a shelter is built at the Black Prong Trailhead, if it would be possible to expand the parking. Mr. Sheehan replied that parking may be expanded. With regards to Ms. Koehler's inquiry about enlarging the trailhead at Buck Island Pond for equestrian use, Mr. Sheehan stated that he thought it was best to leave the trailhead at Apex. He stated that water and structures are already there and the existing trail goes off the road and through the wet flatwoods. He suggests leaving the hiking-only trail at Buck Island Pond (the horse trail goes by it). The current trailhead is visible from the highway and there is no need to retroute portions of the trail. He said rather than changing the draft plan, to instead make operational adjustments in the field. MPAG consensus was that these were operational items for FFS to manage and that there was no need to change the draft plan.

V. A. 4. Trails

Mr. Carpenter said that Section V.A.4. 'Trails' states that the Watermelon Pond Trailhead had fire rings, but that no fire rings are present. Mr. Sheehan said that fire rings had been removed from that location for fear of theft.

V. B.1. Parking

Mr. Talley's letter pointed out that there was a need for parking off of the highway shoulder at the entrance kiosk at Hog Pond. Mr. Olmert said that there needed to be more general language in the plan regarding safety issues such as this. MPAG agreed that the language "parking may be added to designated access points" be added to the plan.

V. B.4. Trails

The MPAG members discussed Mr. Heesch's written request that another hiking-only trail be added through an old growth longleaf pine stand on the Stein Tract. Mr. Sheehan asked if any additional hiking trails are needed, given that there is presently little hiker use on GSF. MPAG agreed no changes were needed to the draft plan.

V. C. Hunter Access

Mr. Korn summarized written comments received from Mr. Gibbs. Mr. Gibbs requested that no organized group rides occur during any hunting season, including small game season. Mr. Sheehan provided some background information to the MPAG members. He said that no special event (organized equestrian rides) permits are issued during muzzle loading, general gun still hunt or general gun dog hunt. FFS did allow special events during small game season, but then hunting pressure increased and the small game season was lengthened. FFS currently has one organized equestrian ride during small game hunting season. Mr. Cahal said that the small game season was moved from December to January several years ago and that the equestrian event was already scheduled for that same time. The hunting season was then moved up a week so that there were no conflicts on opening weekend. Mr. Cahal said that these are sanctioned rides, and used as qualifying events with Olympic and international implications. Mr. Fernandez said it is customary to schedule small game season close to Christmas for school breaks when kids are available to learn to hunt. Mr. Ashby replied that sounded like a reasonable compromise. Mr. West stated that the organized ride being discussed was the same two days each year, more or less. He suggested that FFS and FWC could look at changing the hunt start dates and then

adding two additional days. Mr. Korn asked if this was an operational issue. The MPAG members agreed it was an operational issue and outside the scope of a ten year management plan. Mr. Fernandez added that he doesn't see that much conflict due to bullet size used during small game.

VI.B.1. Strategies

Mr. Korn summarized written comments received from Mr. Heesch regarding the FFS approach to implementing even-aged vs. uneven-aged silviculture at GSF, as well as RCW management. Mr. Cahal explained that this section of the draft plan provides an overall view of silvicultural operations on GSF. The RCW management plan states that there needs to be 120 acres of suitable habitat within the 502 acre foraging zones. GSF staff is currently working on the foraging zone analyses and staff believes the forest is in pretty good shape. MPAG consensus at this point was to agree with Mr. Cahal that these were largely operational issues that FFS should work out site-by-site and that there were no changes needed for the draft management plan.

VI.B. 2. Silvicultural Operations

Mr. Korn summarized written comments on stumping on GSF from Mr. Talley, Mr. Stevenson of the Orianne Society, and two biologists from the USFWS. Collectively, the written comments identified concerns about sustainability, groundcover damage, and degradation of habitat for reptiles and amphibians, including striped newt and indigo snakes, and questioned why stumping was included in the draft management plan.

Mr. Cahal said that stumping is occurring on 600 acres on GSF that was salvaged following a catastrophic 2011 wildfire. He summarized details of the stumping contract to the MPAG members, and provided details on the specifics of the operation. Mr. Olmert asked what the anticipated revenue is. Mr. Cahal replied that contract pays \$6/ton or about \$90 to \$120 per load. Currently they are hauling one load per day and have stumped about 10 acres. Mr. Olmert asked if it was \$100/acre, and Mr. Cahal replied that amount is generous. Mr. Cahal said that stumping is occurring only in the mesic flatwoods; the wet flatwoods are too wet and sandhills were removed from the project area due to the presence of gopher tortoise burrows. Mr. Carpenter asked was a wildlife survey done. Mr. Cahal said no, the area was only surveyed for gopher tortoises, but that the stumper is to report any and all discoveries.

Mr. Olmert asked if any lightered snags were removed. Mr. Cahal said yes, along with several recently dead trees. Mr. Olmert asked if it would be beneficial for future burning. Mr. Cahal replied that this served as more of a site preparation, and that it probably did not benefit hand planting. He added it might address safety concerns that were conveyed to him by firefighters due to stump heights following logging. Mr. Fernandez asked how many more acres would be stumped on GSF. Mr. Cahal replied that it was only the 600 acres in the current contract. Mr. Fernandez asked if stumping would happen again if more wildfires occurred in the future. Mr. Cahal stated that it might possibly occur, if Tallahassee wanted to pursue it.

Mr. Olmert asked if biologists had compared stumping in burned over sites to sites with standing trees. Mr. Pedersen said that stumping had not been occurring on public lands except on the Babcock Ranch and now on GSF. The MPAG members discussed the negative impact of stumping on structure and how it is generally seen as a non-preferred practice because of wildlife issues. Mr. West said that logging creates stumps and asked if there is any evidence about tree/stump densities over the years, since with planted pine trees there are now more trees to the acre. Mr. Pedersen said that stumping had not been done recently, so there is no research on

previous activities. He summarized that really not a lot is known about effects of stumping, and that stump holes are an important habitat.

Mr. Korn asked what the MPAG consensus was on the draft plan language. Mr. Fernandez asked that the reference to lightered stumps in section IV.D. Sustainable Forest Resources be removed and maybe even add it to non-allowed items in the plan section III.C. Ground Disturbing Activities. Mr. Ash said if the reference to lightered stumps is removed, then it doesn't matter where it appears. Mr. Carpenter said that he somewhat agrees and suggested limiting stumping to the currently contracted 600 acres. Mr. Ash pointed out that 600 acres is covered in the currently approved plan, and was initiated under the current plan. The currently approved plan has no language in it that states that the activity is not allowed. Mr. Fernandez recommended that FFS utilize a compatibility chart used by FWC that includes a specific list of allowed and non-allowed activities. Mr. Olmert said that a small percentage of stumping behind burns might be okay for revenue and if it provides for clean up and site preparation. He said it should be limited to burned-over areas, not forest wide. Mr. Ash said the stumping "white paper" by Dennis Hardin, State Forest Ecologist, listed conditions for stumping that included: no more than 50% removed, no good intact groundcover, small acreages and that all conditions must be spelled out in writing. Mr. Pedersen said that similar conditions were written in the contract.

Mr. Korn asked the MPAG members what their recommendation was on the stumping issue. Mr. Ash replied that the previously discussed conditions could be added as recommendations. Mr. Ashby asked if the local agency could determine which GSF Tracts stumping would be appropriate on, and said that he liked Mr. Olmert's suggestion for small percentage of stumping behind burns, etc. Mr. Korn said that FFS and FWC were the local agencies to determine if stumping was appropriate; there were really no other "local" agencies to benchmark against. Mr. Fernandez said that just because it doesn't kill an animal doesn't mean it is not a take.

Mr. Korn said that it appeared the MPAG members wished to modify the stumping language in the draft plan by adding conditions. He asked the MPAG members what those conditions would be. Mr. Fernandez asked about a consensus to have a survey of the current 600 acres, since there was no pre-stumping wildlife survey done. He pointed out that since the onus is on the stumper to report wildlife, the chance of it being accurately reported is questionable. Mr. Korn asked the MPAG for their thoughts. Mr. Olmert said his opinion was to leave in the ability to stump, but with some due diligence. Mr. Cahal pointed out that Mr. Pedersen had done a brief survey on gopher tortoises.

All of the MPAG members agreed that the current language in the draft plan should be changed, since the current draft plan language was too open-ended. With this consensus, Mr. Korn asked Mr. Fernandez to work on some language. Mr. Cahal said that the MPAG needed to keep in mind the original contributing factor to the stumping on GSF, a catastrophic fire, and how often such incidences were likely to occur. Mr. Fernandez replied that actions taken after a wildfire may compound the catastrophe, and may not be enhance anything. He pointed out concerns for soil permeability, seed rotation, and emergence of plants, and that this issue was about more than removing stumps. Mr. Cahal agreed to the need for more research.

Mr. Fernandez then provided suggested language for the MPAG members to discuss and edit further. He suggested the following conditions for stumping to occur on GSF:

1. Determine if area is suitable for stumping
 - a. Lacks native herbaceous groundcover
 - b. No threatened or endangered (listed? imperiled? statutes?) species population

- c. Hydrology is suitable/appropriate for the operation
2. Amount of resources to determine % of stumps
3. Size range to be left, can't take all the big ones (criteria to be determined)
4. Methods and BMPs

Mr. Fernandez asked the MPAG members to adopt language to the draft plan utilizing the criteria listed above. Mr. Ashby suggested adding "but are not inclusive" to the list provided by Mr. Fernandez. The MPAG members agreed such a list of conditions/criteria should be added to the draft plan to give operational guidance to FFS in evaluating the appropriateness of stumping in disturbed areas, following wildfires, wind throw, southern pine beetle or major disturbance.

VI.C. Non-Native Invasive Species Control

Mr. Korn said that the FWC Invasive Plant Management Section's Lygodium Strike Team no longer existed and that the reference to it in the draft plan would be removed.

VI.E. Use of Private Land Contractors

Mr. Olmert suggested that timber marking, herbicide application and boundary marking should be added to this section of the draft plan.

VII. Proposed Management Activities for Natural Communities

Mr. Fernandez voiced concerns about the direction of the draft plan and where FFS was going. He said that Desired Future Conditions aren't given in this section. Mr. Korn pointed out that desired future conditions are given in the first paragraph under each community type. Mr. Fernandez suggested adding a heading "Desired Future Conditions" at the start of that first paragraph.

VII. C. Sandhill

Mr. Carpenter brought up Exhibit H (page H-12, Land Management Review Consensus Recommendations Item #2, regarding site prep in sandhill communities). He asked if a determination had been made about using roller chopping as a site preparation method on GSF. He said that if it is too dry to burn, one shouldn't roller chop because it can wipe out wiregrass. Mr. Cahal said it depended on the number of stems; whether FFS can get a roller chopper in versus applying herbicide. Mr. Carpenter said that Watermelon Pond North and East areas that had been roller chopped and looked good. He said that the mitigation chopping that was done on his property killed the wiregrass. It was chopped during the drought (April to June). Mr. Carpenter recommended adding language to roller chopping prescription, that roller chopping would not be done during dry season or times of drought. Mr. Pedersen said due to the amount of rosemary on Watermelon Pond North and East, roller chopping was used as a fuel reduction tool as well as for site preparation. Mr. Korn noted that this information and concern for groundcover was discussed under the 'Management Actions' subsection for this natural community. Mr. Olmert commented that FFS needs to conserve wiregrass. Mr. Pedersen said he would add a comment about not roller chopping during dry seasons to the 'Management Actions' subsection and also in the plan section on site prep. Mr. Carpenter suggested including the phrase "special precautions not to chop in drought conditions." Mr. Olmert suggested including listing places not to chop, such as wet areas, and to state that FFS will chop and mow to reduce fuels. Mr. Ash commented that the intent in the plan was not to limit options, and that operationally FFS would consider the possibilities. Mr. Cahal said it was noteworthy to consider

Mr. Carpenter's observations about drought conditions, condition of groundcover, oak clumps, etc, with regard to roller chopping. MPAG members agreed that preservation of wiregrass was a priority and that language stressing that should be included in the draft plan.

The MPAG members complimented FFS staff on the quality of the draft management plan. Mr. Korn asked if anyone had any other comments. No one had any further items for discussion. Mr. Korn thanked everyone for their time and interest. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

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