

EXHIBIT F

Compliance with Local Comprehensive Plan



Growth Management Division/Planning & Regulation
• Planning & Zoning Department • Comprehensive Planning Section

October 23, 2012

Florida Forest Service
Attn: Kevin Podkowka
10941 Palm Beach Blvd.
Ft. Myers, FL 33905

SENT VIA EMAIL:

Kevin.Podkowka@freshfromflorida.com

AND

Ms. Corinne Hermle
Land Planning Specialist
Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Forest Service
3125 Conner Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

SENT VIA EMAIL:

Corinne.Hermle@freshfromflorida.com

RE: Draft Ten-Year Resource Management Plan for the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest

Dear Mr. Podkowka and Ms. Hermle,

This letter is provided in response to your (Ms. Hermle) letter dated May 31, 2012.

The Collier County Growth Management Plan was adopted by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners on January 10, 1989 (Ordinance No. 89-05), pursuant to Florida Statutes, and has been found to be in compliance with Florida Statutes by the Florida Department of Community Affairs (now Dept. of Economic Opportunity). This Plan is applicable to the unincorporated area of Collier County, which includes all of the lands within Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (OSSF) located in Collier County.

The majority of the OSSF lies within Hendry County. This letter only pertains to consistency with the Collier County Growth Management Plan - specifically, the following relevant Elements: Future Land Use Element with Future Land Use Map and Map series, and Conservation and Coastal Management Element - for the draft Ten-Year Resource Management Plan applicable to that portion of the OSSF lying within Collier County.

I have reviewed the referenced draft Resource Management Plan for consistency with the Collier County Growth Management Plan - specifically, the following relevant Elements: Future Land Use Element with Future Land Use Map and Map series, and Conservation and Coastal Management Element, and provide the following comments.

The draft Resource Management Plan: identifies the state acquisition programs utilized to purchase the property comprising OSSF, and the goals of those programs (SOR, Save Our Rivers, and CARL, Conservation and Recreation Lands, P2000, Preservation 2000); indicates OSSF is designated for multiple use management, and that "management activities and uses on



the property will primarily center on ecosystem restoration, silvicultural management, recreation, wildlife management, hunting, archaeological and cultural resource management, environmental education and watershed management;" identifies the multiple-use management strategies; and, lists the goals and objectives for the next ten year period, noting "management activities on OSSF ... must serve to conserve, provide forest products, protect and enhance the natural and historical resources and manage resource-based public outdoor recreation, which is compatible with the conservation and protection of this forest." [reference Section I - Introduction, and Subsection 1.A. - General Mission and Management Plan Direction, on pages 1-2; Subsection 1.C. - Goals/Objectives for the Next Ten Year Period, on pages 4-8; Section II - Administration Section, Subsection B. - Management Authority, Purpose and Constraints, on pages 10-12]

Most of the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest is designated Conservation on the Future Land Use Map, but a portion is designated Agricultural/Rural. The Agricultural/Rural portion is within the Rural Lands Stewardship Area Overlay (RLSA); portions are further designated as Flowway Stewardship Area and portions as Habitat Stewardship Area. Also, a portion of both the Conservation designated lands and Agricultural/Rural-RLSA lands are within the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern Overlay. All of the above future land use designations allow habitat preservation and conservation uses, associated recreational uses, and associated essential services. This includes such activities and uses integral to the core purposes for the State Forest's existence, including: natural resource management activities (e.g. prescribed burns, invasive species control and eradication efforts); associated operational facilities, such as staff housing, maintenance buildings, administrative offices, and public visitation facilities (e.g. visitor's center, rest rooms, trails, and camping areas); and, necessary essential services to serve the State Forest, e.g. potable water and wastewater facilities, roads, drainage, solid waste. The ACSC Overlay is very similar to the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern regulations contained in Ch. 28-25, F.A.C., including limitation on site clearing.

The Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Conservation and Coastal Management Element provide for the protection, conservation, management and appropriate use of natural resources within Collier County. Specifically, Objective 12.1, and subsequent policies, of the CCME requires the protection, preservation, re-use or mitigation of historic resources and requires notification of the appropriate agency. The draft Resource Management Plan identifies archaeological and historical sites present in OSSF and indicates that the State Division of Historical Resources will be consulted prior to initiation of significant ground disturbing activity. [Section III - Archaeological/Cultural Resources and Protection] And, various Goals in the CCME provide for the protection, conservation, management, etc. of the County's natural resources; protection of its surface and ground water; protection, conservation and appropriate use of its native vegetative communities and wildlife habitat; etc. The draft Resource Management Plan provides for the protection, conservation, appropriate use, etc. of such resources. [Section IV - Natural Resources and Protection]

Zoning Conformance

Though not requested, staff also reviewed this draft Resource Management Plan for conformance with the site's zoning classifications. The entire site is zoned A-MHO, Rural Agricultural with Mobile Home Overlay. Portions of the site also are within the Rural Lands Stewardship Area



zoning overlay (RLSAO), and portions are also within the Area of Critical State Concern/Special Treatment zoning overlay (ACSC/ST), and portions are within both the RLSAO and ACSC/ST. The "A" zoning district allows "wildlife management, plant and wildlife conservancies, wildlife refuges and sanctuaries" and the various zoning overlays do not preclude these uses. The ACSC zoning overlay regulations are virtually identical to the ACSC Overlay in the Future Land Use Element and the ACSC regulations contained in Ch. 28-25, F.A.C.

Conclusion

Based upon the above review and analysis, this draft Resource Management Plan for the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest is **deemed consistent** with the Collier County Growth Management Plan (specifically, the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map and Map Series, and Conservation and Coastal Management Element).

Please contact me with any questions at 239-252-2306. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Weeks, AICP, GMP Manager

cc: Bill Lorenz, Jr., P.E., Director, Natural Resources Department
Mike Bosi, AICP, Interim Director, Planning & Zoning Department
2012 CPCD folder

CD OK Slough SF Resource Man. Plan

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HENDRY COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 2340 • 640 SOUTH MAIN STREET • LABELLE, FLORIDA 33975 • (863) 675-5240 • FAX: (863) 674-4194

December 10, 2012

Mr. John Barrow
Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Subject: Compliance Letter for Hendry County

Dear Mr. Barrow:

The 2012 draft Ten-Year Resource Management Plan for the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest appears to be in compliance with the Hendry County Comprehensive Plan.

The Ten-Year Resource Management Plan is in compliance with Objectives 2.4- Historic and Natural Features, Facilities and Services, and 2.8 – Wildlife Habitat of Endangered and Threatened Species and Species of Special Concern/Vegetative Communities, of the Future Land Use Element, and well as Objective 5.2 – Public Access for recreation/open space sites, of the Recreation and Open Space Element. Additionally, the management plan meets the Goal of the Conservation Element which is to conserve and enhance the quality of natural resources in Hendry County for current and future populations. Lastly, the management plan provides for ecotourism opportunities and the preservation of sensitive natural resources, including wetlands, clean air and water, scenic vistas, and other unique natural resources in Hendry County in policies 12.2.3 and 12.1.3 of the Economic Development Element.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions at 863-675-5240 or email scatala@hendryfla.net.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. Catala
Associate Planner

cc: File