

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board  
FROM: Terry E. Demott, Senior Land Resource Coordinator   
THRU: David Still, Executive Director   
Charles H. Houder III, Deputy Executive Director   
DATE: October 15, 2009  
RE: Review Appraiser Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Michael D. Candler, MAI, SRA, of Candler Appraisal Services, Inc., for Review Appraiser Services for fiscal year 2009/2010 at a price not to exceed \$30,000 for the year. Staff also recommends Cynthia Wright and Charles B. Rogers as alternate review appraisers.

BACKGROUND

Seven appraisers submitted qualifications in response to Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 08/09-120 LA. This RFQ was for review appraisal services in the fiscal year 2009/2010. It is anticipated that Mr. Candler would be the primary appraiser, and negotiations with Mr. Candler will be on an hourly rate basis for his review services. If Mr. Candler is unable to perform a particular review, staff proposes to negotiate with the second qualified appraiser and so forth.

The selection committee made up of Jon Dinges, Joe Flanagan and Charlie Houder met at 10:00 a.m. October 9, 2009, to rank the firms. Staff member Terry Demott was also in attendance. After discussion, the top three appraisers were ranked as follows:

1. Michael D. Candler, Candler Appraisal Services, Inc., Lake City
2. Cynthia Wright, Appraisal Group of Tallahassee, Inc., Tallahassee
3. Charles B. Rogers, The Rogers Appraisal Group, Inc., Jacksonville

Other appraisers submitting qualifications were:

W. David Hohman, Tampa  
Richard MacMillan, Altamonte Springs  
James Miller, Satellite Beach  
John Robinson, Winter Garden

gal

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Terry E. Demott, Senior Land Resource Coordinator *TED*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*  
Charles H. Houder III, Deputy Executive Director *CHA*

DATE: October 15, 2009

RE: Utility Easement to Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

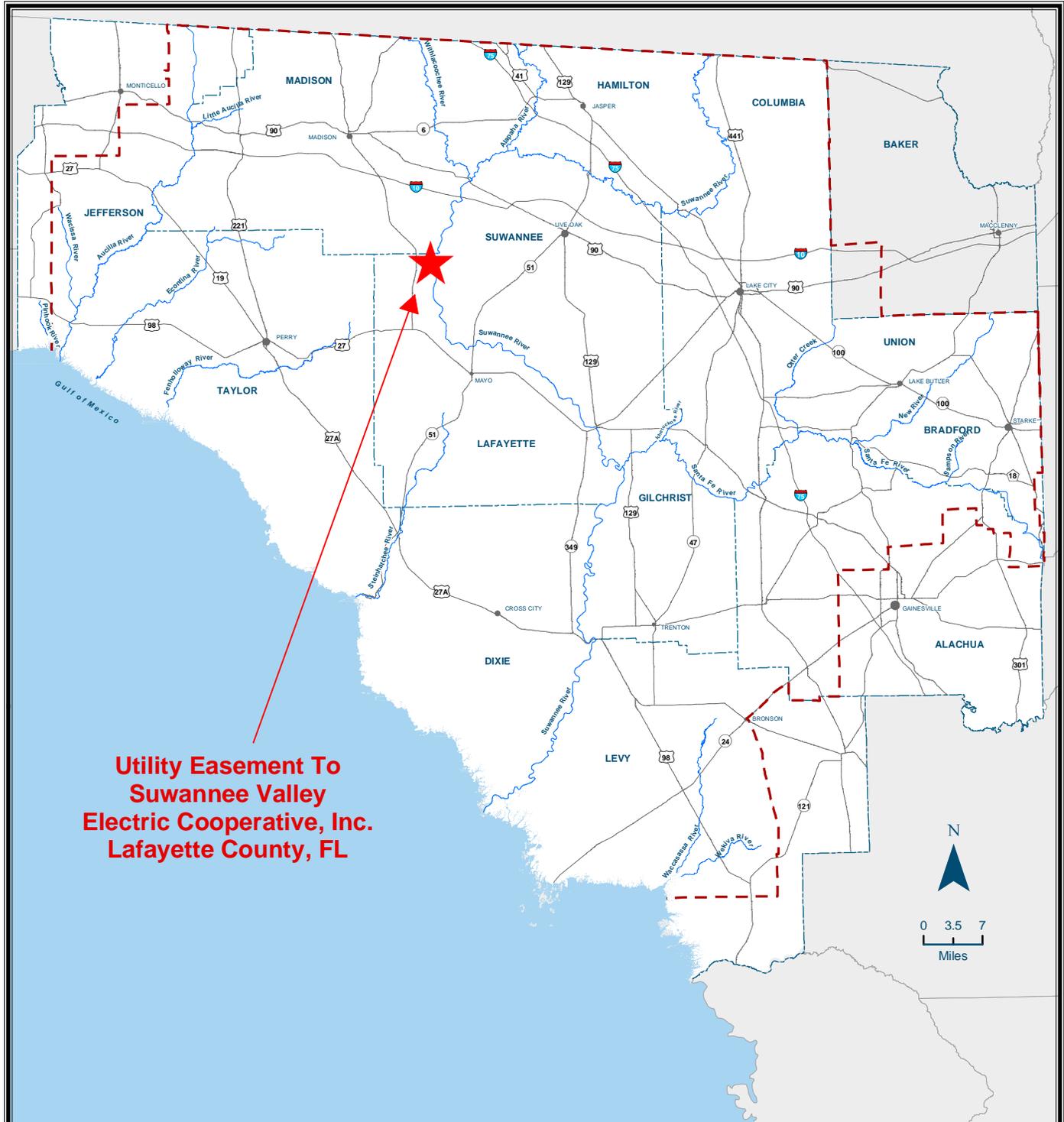
Staff recommends approval and execution of a right of way utility easement to be granted to Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., on the District's Dowling Park Suwannee River Wilderness Trail property in Lafayette County, Florida.

BACKGROUND

The District's development of the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail Dowling Park River Camp is complete, and the river camp is in use. Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative has constructed power lines through the property to serve the camp and campground host. Subsequent to power line construction, the center line of a 20-foot right-of-way was surveyed and a certified legal description was developed.

Staff feels it is in the best interest of the future protection and management of this tract to grant this specific easement to Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

/gal  
Attachment



**Utility Easement To  
Suwannee Valley  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Lafayette County, FL**

-  SRWMD Boundary
-  Project Location



NOTE: This map was prepared by the Suwannee River Water Management District, Land Acquisition and Management Department, for informational purposes only and does not conform to National Map Accuracy Standards. For more information regarding the data on this map please call SRWMD at 1-386-362-1001 (extension 3140)

10/15/09



Suwannee Valley Electric Co-Op Utility Easement

Dowling Park River Camp

Lafayette County, FL



-  Electric Utility Easement
-  SRWMD Lands
-  Suwannee River Wilderness Camp



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FILE TD  
GIS: GH  
PD: 10/16/09

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board  
FROM: Brian Kauffman, Facilities Director  
THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS  
Charles H. Houder III, Deputy Executive Director CHA  
DATE: October 14, 2009  
RE: License Agreement with Florida Power Corporation

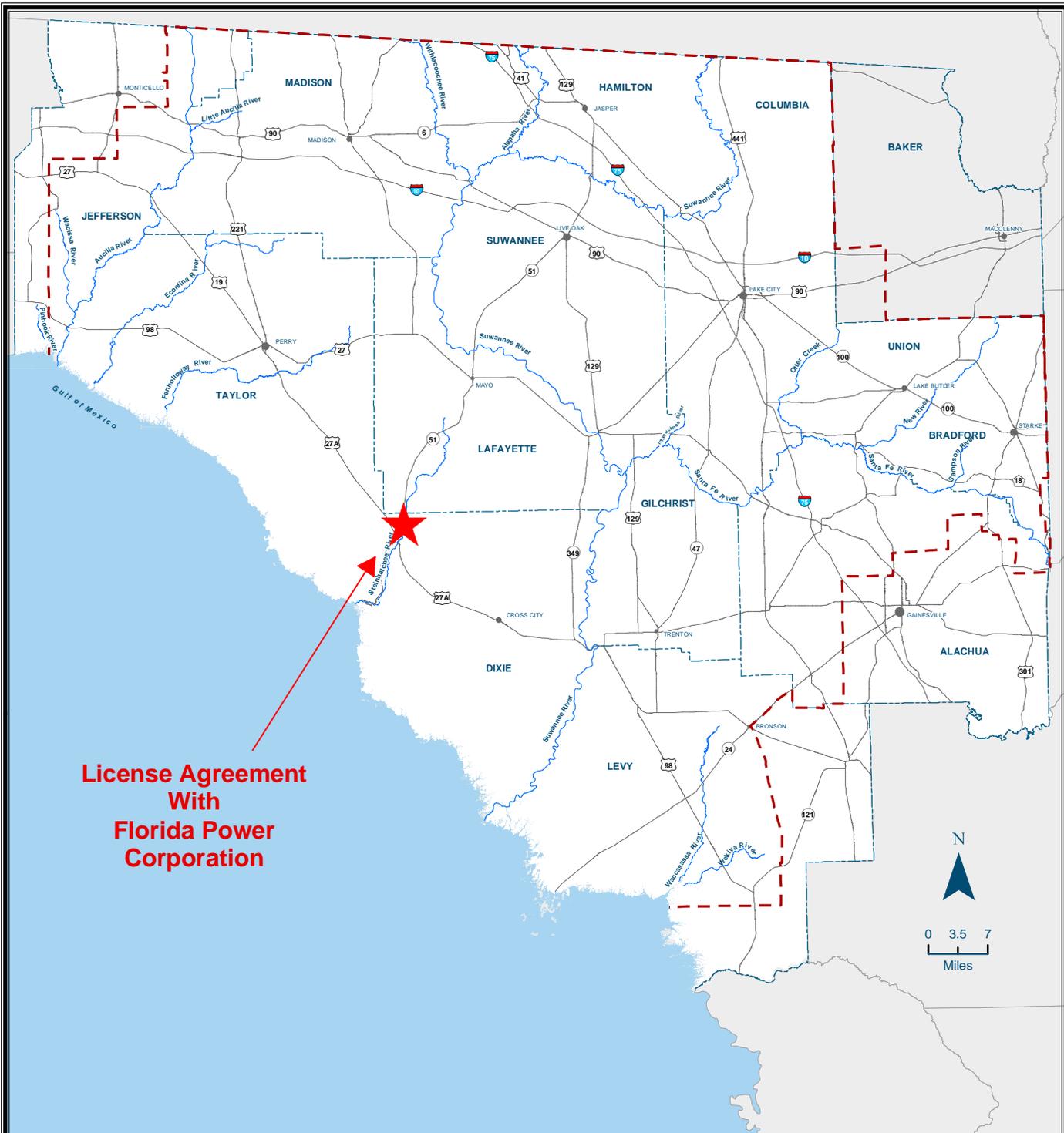
RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into a license agreement with Florida Power Corporation d/b/a Progress Energy Florida Inc. to allow the District to build and maintain a trail across the company's right-of-way.

BACKGROUND

Over the last year, the District has been working with adjacent landowners to develop a trail that would follow along the Steinhatchee River from the R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park to the Town of Steinhatchee. The total length of the trail would be approximately 18 miles and provide opportunities for both hikers and horseback riders. Most of the trail can be constructed on District-managed land, however there are some small sections managed by other parties. Under this license agreement, the District would be authorized to construct, operate, and maintain a 20-foot-wide, 130-foot-long, unpaved trail across an abandoned railroad right-of-way owned by Progress Energy. Since the project is being developed for public recreation, the company has agreed to waive all license fees.

gal



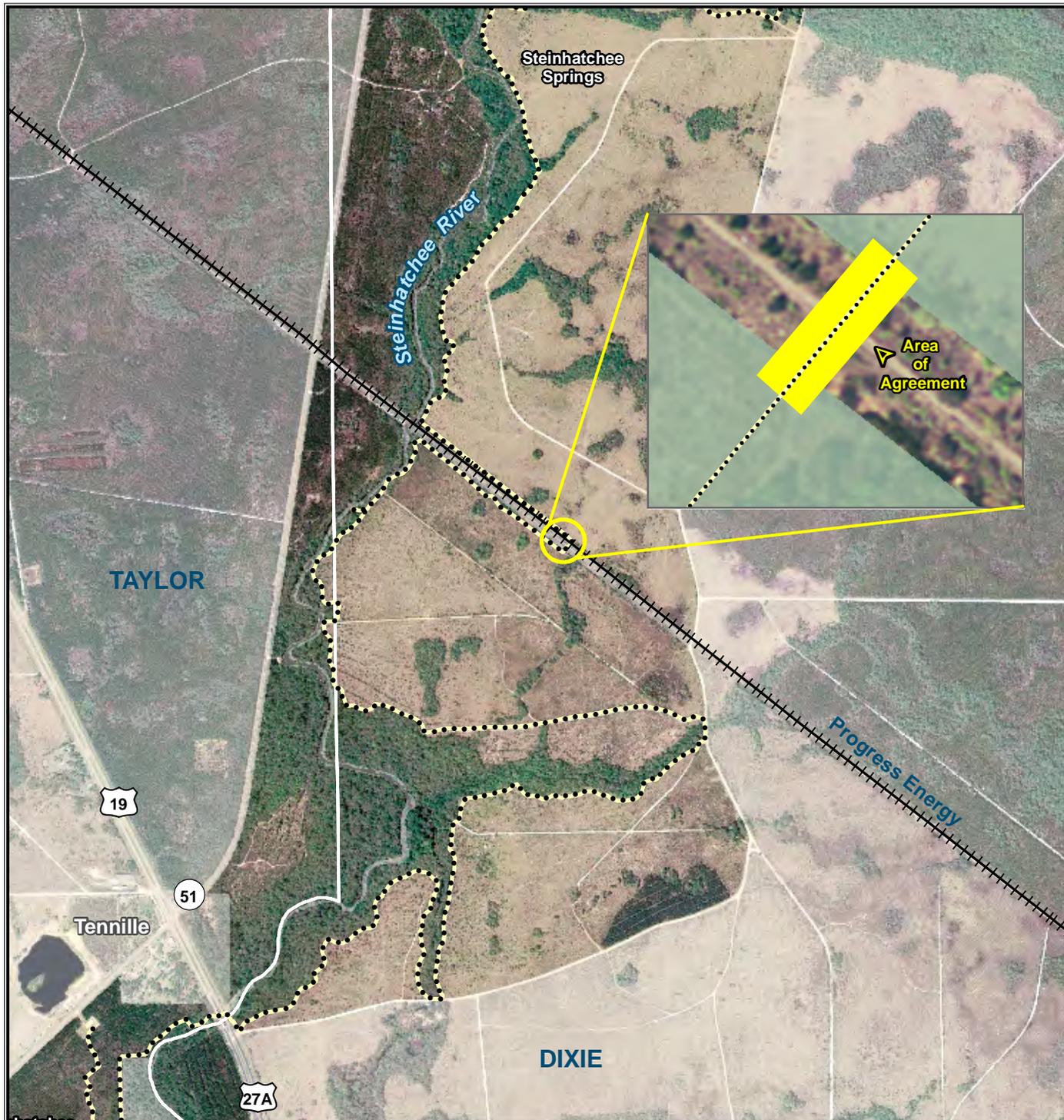
**License Agreement  
With  
Florida Power  
Corporation**

-  SRWMD Boundary
-  Project Location



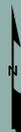
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10/15/09



-  Area of Agreement
-  Steinhathee Trail
-  Abandoned Right-Of-Way

0 1,320  
F E E T



### License Agreement With Florida Power Corporation



NOTE: The aerial photography imagery on this map is a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Digital Orthophoto Quad (DOQ) and based on photographs of the USGS taken in the spring of 2004. This map was prepared by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) for informational purposes only. SRWMD does not guarantee the quality, accuracy or suitability for any uses of this data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. More information regarding the data portrayed on this map can be found by contacting the SRWMD at (386) 362-1001.

PM: BK  
GS: GH  
PD: 10/15/09

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager *BH*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*  
Charles H. Houder, III, Deputy Executive Director *CHA*

DATE: September 15, 2008

RE: Contract with GIS Associates Inc. for GIS Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorizing the Executive Director to execute an agreement with GIS Associates Inc. for GIS Support Services for a total fee not to exceed \$120,000 through fiscal year 2010.

BACKGROUND

It was determined that a consultant was needed to develop and maintain the Land Management Information System due to staffing constraints. The consultant will function as an extension of staff.

District procedures allow for selection and contracting with contractors selected in an open procurement process by other governmental entities. GIS Associates is extending rates to the District from its fiscal year 2010 Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) contract. GIS Associates was selected by SWFWMD through a request for proposals process in fiscal year 2009.

GIS Associates has assisted staff on the Excellence in Land Management data base, migration to new data formats, review of GIS procedures, staff training, management plan data development and record tracking and storage.

Funds for this work are available in the fiscal year 2010 budget.

gal

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager, 

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*  
Charles H Houder III, Deputy Executive Director 

DATE: October 15, 2009

RE: Contract with LandMark Systems for Forestry Applications

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with LandMark Systems for a fee not to exceed \$30,000 for fiscal year 2010.

### BACKGROUND

The District has been collecting and storing forest vegetation data to use in the management plans for District-owned lands. One component of these management plans is timber resources inventory and management. In the past, the Contractor has completed the framework for the timber resources, completed stands data for which inventory has been collected; and grown all timber to current year with growth estimates for five and ten years. This year we will focus on designing the next inventory system for keeping the data current and integrating data for new acquired lands.

Additional services that may be used if funds are available include: database documentation and design, generating standard reports, integrating timber analysis into natural resource desired future conditions, updating the inventory process and assisting staff with training and maintenance.

LandMark will be extending rates from its St. Johns River Water Management District contract (PO S003752) to SRWMD for this project. Funds are available in the fiscal year 2010 budget for this contract in the Land Management Information System project.

gal  
SRWMD Contract-LandMark Systems 2010-M

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board  
FROM: Randy Hall, Forester   
THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS  
Charles H. Houder, III, Deputy Executive Director CHA  
DATE: October 16, 2009  
RE: License to Cut Timber with Usher Land & Timber for the Steinhatchee #3 Timber Sale

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests authorization for the Executive Director to execute a license to cut timber with Usher Land & Timber for the Steinhatchee #3 Timber Sale. As high bidder, Usher Land & Timber offered \$12.00/ton for pine pulpwood, and \$15.10/ton for pine chip-n-saw. Based on the bid results from this 356-acre per unit sale, the estimated revenue from the thinning operation is \$266,220.00.

BACKGROUND

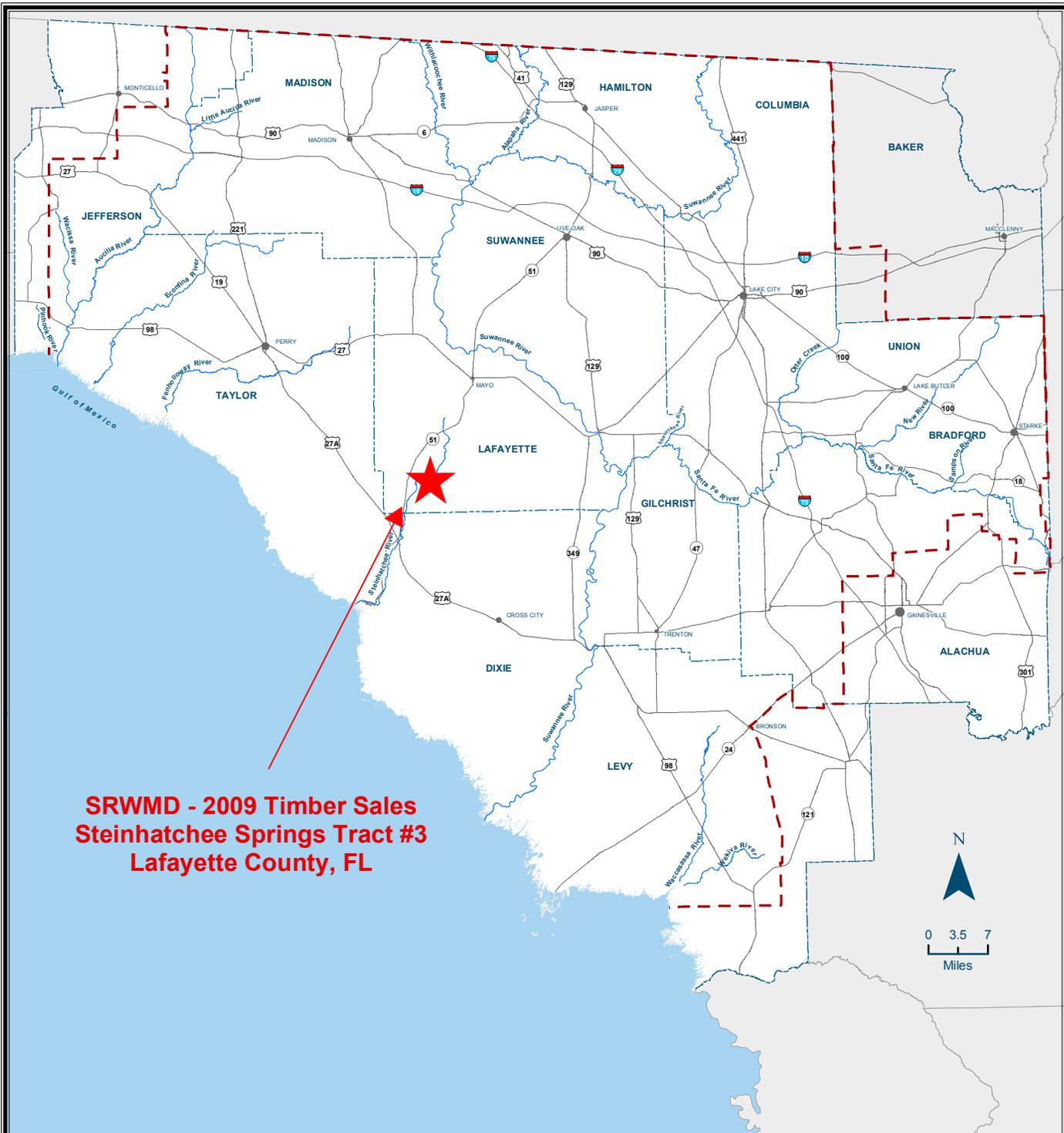
A request for bids for the Steinhatchee #3 Timber Sale was posted on the District's website on September 30, 2009. The harvest area is approximately 356 acres of slash plantation in Lafayette County estimated to have been planted in 1991. This is a thinning to leave the best dominant and co-dominant pines.

Seven responses were received, and the results from the October 16, 2009, bid opening are listed below.

**Summary of Bids**

Bidder	Composite Price	Estimated Revenue
Usher Land & Timber	\$12.32	\$266,220.00
Williams Timber	\$12.21	\$263,797.00
M.A. Rigoni	\$11.42	\$246,716.00
H.B. Tuten Logging	\$11.15	\$240,840.00
Nature Coast Timber	\$10.94	\$236,274.00
VanAernam Timber	\$10.05	\$217,057.00
Greenville Timber	\$9.92	\$214,240.00

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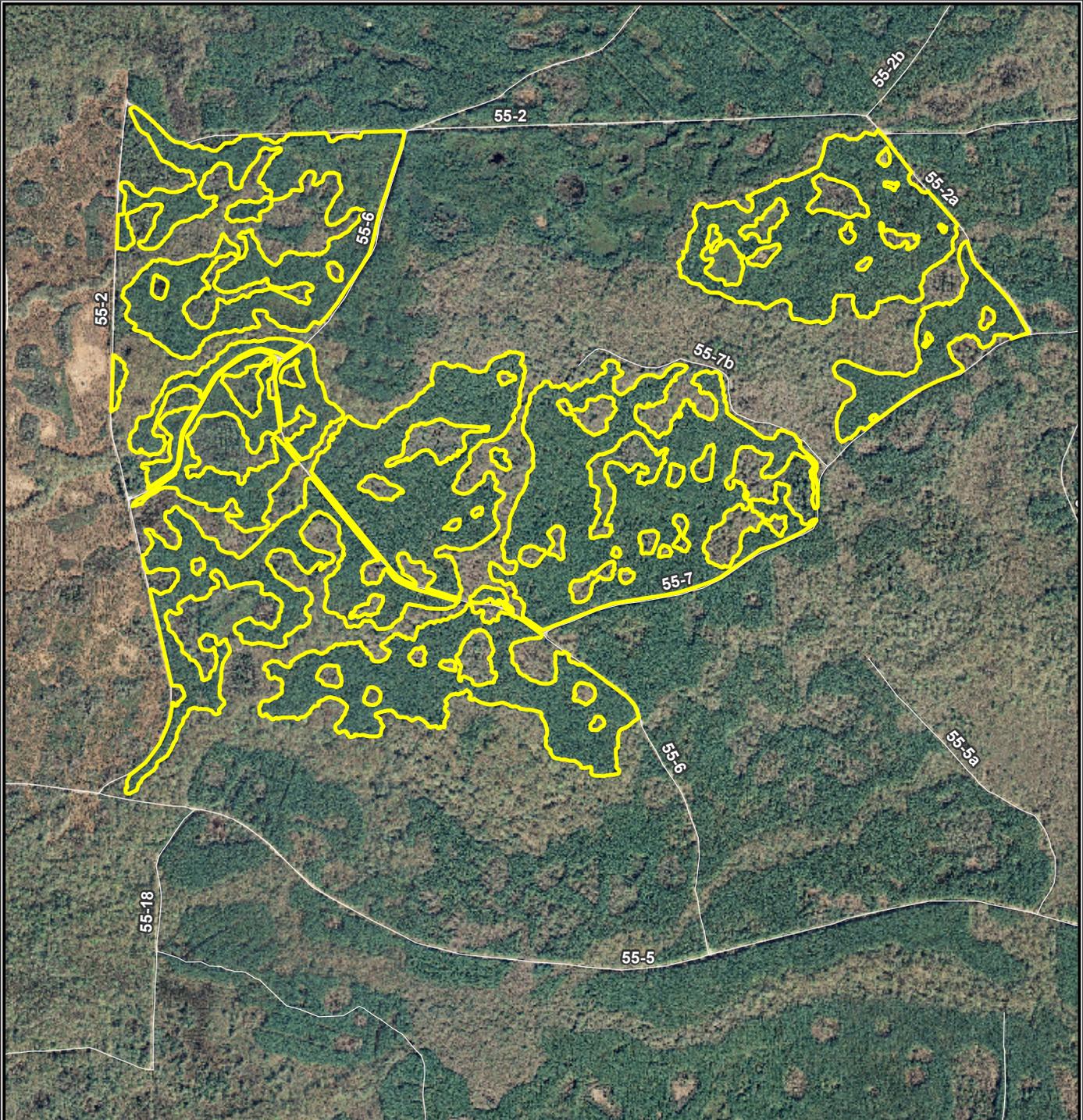
**SRWMD - 2009 Timber Sales  
Steinhatchee Springs Tract #3  
Lafayette County, FL**

-  SRWMD Boundary
-  Project Location



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10/23/09



Steinhatchee Springs  
Tract # 3  
(Total Acres 354.0 +/-)



Land Management  
Roads



SRWMD - 2009 Timber Sales  
Steinhatchee Springs Tract #3  
Lafayette County, FL



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PM: RH  
GIS: GH  
PD: 10/23/09

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager *MA*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*  
Charles H Houder III, Deputy Executive Director *CHA*

DATE: October 15, 2009

RE: Authorization to Purchase Rock Aggregate at a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$60,000

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize staff to purchase rock and fill aggregate on an as-needed basis from the least-cost Department of Transportation (DOT) certified mine near the project site. Total cost shall not exceed the amount of \$60,000.

### BACKGROUND

District procedures specify that limerock and fill material associated with road construction and maintenance, ditch blocks, culvert installations etc. be procured on a low quote basis for aggregate. The quotes for material will be documented in written responses from the mines in proximity to the job site.

Transportation costs frequently equal or exceed the cost of the material on a per load basis. So, limiting quotes to certified mines close to the project site will allow the District to purchase the material for the lowest total price (material plus transportation). DOT certification will assure consistent standards and quality of aggregate.

Rock purchases will be used for projects related to road building and repair, parking lots and hydrologic restoration.

Funding for this purchase is included in the fiscal year 2010 budget.

gal

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board  
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager *BH*  
THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*  
Charles H. Houder, III, Deputy Executive Director *CH*  
DATE: October 21, 2009  
RE: Otter Springs FY 2010 Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the budget in the amount \$199,500 as submitted by Gilchrist County for the operation of Otter Springs Park and Campground for Fiscal year 2010.

BACKGROUND

The District leased Otter Springs Park to Gilchrist County in November 2008. Under this lease the County runs all day-to-day public use operations at the park and the District continues to manage natural resources on the property.

District staff is coordinating with county staff on improvements, design and planning elements. The budget is predicted to be offset by revenues generated from visitors and users of the park.

Gilchrist County will make a presentation at the Board meeting on this item.

gal  
SRWMD Contract # 08/09-050

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager *BH*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*  
Charles H. Houder, III, Deputy Executive Director *CH*

DATE: October 21, 2009

RE: Consideration of Resolution 2009-25 Requesting Reimbursement of Restoration Expenses for Sunnyvale Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project in Dixie County

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval and execution of Resolution 2009-25, requesting the Department of Environmental Protection reimburse the District from the Florida Forever Fund for restoration costs in the amount of \$90,000.

### BACKGROUND

The Sunnyvale Wetland Restoration project consisted of enhancement of a 3.2-acre borrow pit by creating better hydrological connection to existing wetlands. To achieve this goal, 2.3 acres of wetlands were created. This work occurred in September and October 2009 with wetland tree planting completed on October 16, 2009.

This project will be used for mitigation of wetland impacts related to the Suwannee Dredge Spoil site when it is constructed.

gal

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2009-25**

**APPROVING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE FLORIDA  
FOREVER TRUST FUND FOR THE SUNNYVALE WETLAND  
RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Suwannee River Water Management District is restoring and enhancing wetlands located on the Sunnyvale Tract in Dixie County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Forever Work Plan of the Suwannee River Water Management District includes the restoration and enhancement of Sunnyvale wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available for this project through funds deposited in the Florida Forever Trust Fund to the credit of the Suwannee River Water Management District.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District:

1) The Suwannee River Water Management District hereby requests the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to approve the release of funds equal to \$90,000 from the Florida Forever Trust Fund for costs associated with the restoration and enhancement at the Sunnyvale Tract.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2009.**

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DON QUINCEY, JR.

\_\_\_\_\_  
HEATH DAVIS

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID FLAGG

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES FRALEIGH

\_\_\_\_\_  
GEORGIA JONES

\_\_\_\_\_  
OLIVER J. LAKE

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. LINDEN DAVIDSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
CARL MEECE

**ATTEST:**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Randy Hall, Forester 

THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS  
Charles H. Houder, III, Deputy Executive Director 

DATE: October 16, 2009

RE: Renewal of Contract 08/09-071 with A-1 Land Development for Fiscal Year 2010 Site Preparation Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorizing the Executive Director to renew the contract for site preparation services with A-1 Development, Inc., for a not to exceed fee of \$70,000.

BACKGROUND

As part of the FY 2010 work plan, staff identified the need for site preparation on approximately 700 acres of cutover land in the Steinhatchee Basin.

In June 2009 the District requested bids for site prep work and awarded the contract to A-1 Land Development, Inc., in McAlpin and Shaw's Welding in Perry. Both contracts allowed for the District to continue the agreements for up to two additional years, if satisfied with the product delivered.

A-1 Land Development has routinely delivered a good product to the District. The unit rates in this contract are the same prices used last year and are as follows.

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Cost/Acre</u>	<u>Cost/Hour</u>
Roller Drum Chopping	\$40.00	
Flat Harrow		\$50.00
Burning	\$15.00	
Raking		\$90.00
Fireline Construction		\$125.00

If approved, this will be the first renewal for the current contract. Operations should be completed by September 15, 2010.

gal  
SRWMD # 08/09-071

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Charles H. Houder III, Deputy Executive Director *CA*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*

DATE: October 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Activity Report, Land Acquisition

The attached report summarizes the status of current projects and describes significant activities of staff for the preceding month. Staff will be prepared to address any tracts of particular interest the Board may wish to discuss at the November 2009 Governing Board meeting.

gal  
007-00035

<b>PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Feagle, A./Bonnett Lake CE Alachua County 445 acres +/-	Governing Board approval for purchase of this conservation easement was granted on July 14, 2009. Survey, environmental baseline inventory and title comitment are finalized. The option has been extended to November 30, 2009, pending clearing of mineral interests.
<b>APPROVED PROJECTS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Chinquapin Farm, LLC Ichetucknee Basin CE Suwannee and Columbia Counties 6,300 acres +/-	This property was approved for detailed assessment on October 13, 2009. Work has begun on the conservation easement document, additional documentation pertaining to representation has been requested and bids for appraisal have been requested. Upon Governing Board approval, closing should take place by December 31, 2009.
Dixie County/Guaranto Springs Addition 17 acres and 0.7 acres	These properties were approved for detailed assessment on April 14, 2009. Title work has been requested, appraisals have been received, and appraisal review has been completed.
Guerry, Brian Surplus Property Exchange Columbia County	Governing Board approval to begin discussions with the Guerry family was given on October 13, 2009. Staff will share conservation easement documents with Mr. Guerry and begin discussions on properties desired by the District.
Jackson, Kevin & Patrice/ Jackson CE Lafayette County 150 acres +/-	This property was approved for detailed assessment on May 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Appraisal review is in process.
Limited Access Properties Inc./ Gilchrist Regional Well Field Gilchrist County 125 acres +/-	This property was approved for detailed assessment on April 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Final appraisal review is pending additional information from the appraisers.
Mangels, Henry/Shingle Spring CE Suwannee County 240 acres +/-	The project has reached impasse and has been decommissioned.
N.G. Wade Investment Co./ Gilchrist Regional Wellfield Gilchrist County 105 acres +/-	This property was approved for detailed assessment on May 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Final appraisal review is pending additional information from the appraisers.

<p>Osceola Land &amp; Timber/          Santa Fe CE          Alachua County          451 acres +/-</p>	<p>Appraisals and timber valuation have been reviewed, and final reports are complete. The Alachua County Forever program has agreed to be a 25% purchase partner in the project. An independent appraisal review has been completed. An appraisal market value update is being ordered.</p>
<p>Santa Fe River Hammock LLC/          Santa Fe River Hammock CE          Bradford County          176 acres +/-</p>	<p>Approval for detailed assessment was given on May 14, 2009. Title review and abstract are complete. Terms of a conservation easement have been agreed to with the landowner, and legal counsel has finalized the conservation easement document.</p>
<p>Suwannee River Development          LLC/Ace Ranch CE          Lafayette County          694 acres +/-</p>	<p>On April 14, 2009, this property was approved for detailed assessment of a conservation easement. Staff and owners have agreed on the easement document. The appraisals are currently under review and awaiting additional information from the appraisers.</p>
<p>Taylor, Gary &amp; Peggy/Gilchrist          Regional Well Field          Gilchrist County          260 acres +/-</p>	<p>This property was approved for detailed assessment on April 14, 2009. Title work and appraisal reports have been received. Final appraisal review is pending additional information from the appraisers.</p>
<p>Thomas, Winton &amp; Linda/Deep          Creek Addition CE          Columbia County          214 acres +/-</p>	<p>This property was approved for detailed assessment on September 9, 2008. Final conservation easement details have been completed. However, because of its location and other priority properties, staff has declined to continue pursuit of this acquisition.</p>

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Charles H. Houder III, Deputy Executive Director 

THRU: David Still, Executive Director 

DATE: October 19, 2009

RE: Land Management Activity Report

### LAND MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Edwin McCook assisted in planning and guiding a paddling weekend for Dr. Taylor Stein's Forest Recreation Planning Class from the University of Florida. On the trip we discussed planning for recreation activities on District lands and the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail. The trip was on the Middle Suwannee beginning at the Hardenbergh Ramp in Lafayette County and ending in Branford with an overnight stay at the Adams Tract River Camp.

The Excellence in Land Management Public Use Satisfaction Survey has been completed by the University of Florida for hunting and bicycling opportunities on District lands.

### REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS

David Ayers with Florida Gas Transmission Company came to the District to update staff on the most recent alignment of the new line to service Florida Power Corporation at Ellaville. He requested staff input on an easement document.

A Request for Bids was advertised for an updated appraisal on the house and ten acres on the Lower Alapaha Tract. An appraisal within the last 120 days is required in order to surplus the property.

A new access road has been completed to the Fort White Well Field property. The seller of the property put \$20,000 in escrow for construction of this road. Costs equal \$17,173.05.

Charlie Houder and Terry Demott met with Lake City and Plum Creek Timberlands officials to resolve access issues at the Lake City Well Field for logging purposes.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

A prescribed burn was conducted on 100 acres of the Blue Sink Tract in Suwannee County.

The thinning operation on the 33-acre Tyree Tract in Hamilton County began September 1, 2009, and was completed September 24, 2009.

The Withlacoochee Quail Farm thinning operation began September 23, 2009, and is approximately 40% complete. Staff expects logging operations to be completed ahead of the 12-month term set forth in the timber sale contract.

Logging on the 255-acre Steinhatchee #2 timber sale began on October 8, 2009. Due to tighter pulpwood quotas and the need to cut some tracts with more chip-n-saw and sawtimber, Suwannee Lumber has moved off the tract and expects to return sometime in January 2010.

The 85-acre thinning operation on the Cuba Bay Tract in Madison County began October 1, 2009. The logging is approximately 50% complete, and staff expects the operation to be completed by the end of November.

The 221-acre River Road timber sale, which included a combination of thinning and clearcutting, began on August 31, 2009, and is approximately 30% complete. Staff anticipates this sale to be completed ahead of the 12 month term set forth in the timber sale contract.

Logging operations at the Falmouth Springs Tract have been completed. Staff is currently working on plans to take the next step in the restoration of this sandhill community.

The FY 2009 mechanical site preparation operations have been completed on approximately 464 acres, which include sites in Taylor, Dixie, Columbia and Hamilton Counties. These sites are scheduled to be reforested this winter.

## RECREATION FACILITY MANAGEMENT

The Florida Greenways and Trails Council meeting was attended by Edwin McCook.

District staff worked with mowing contractors to mow all the roads in the wildlife management areas and other high use tracts. Due to budget constraints many of

the primitive and lesser used tracts the administrative and seasonal roads were not mowed this year.

**VISITOR MANAGEMENT**

The table below shows Special Use Authorizations issued during the last month:

<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Temporary Ingress &amp; Egress</b>	<b>Mallory Swamp ATV Trail</b>	<b>RO Ranch</b>	<b>Goose Pasture Camping</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
17	9	0	17	23	0	66

Big Shoals Public Lands reported 1,057 visitors during the month of August.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WILDERNESS TRAIL**

The table below shows Suwannee River Wilderness Trail use during the last month.

<b>River Camp</b>	<b>Day Users</b>	<b>Overnight Users</b>	<b>Total</b>
Woods Ferry		119	119
Holton Creek	0	132	132
Dowling Park	2	88	90
Peacock Slough	6	6	12
Adams Tract	2	29	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>384</b>

gal  
 008-00025

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Brian Kauffman, Facilities Director

THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS  
Charles H. Houder III, Deputy Executive Director CH

DATE: October 14, 2009

RE: R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park Monthly Activity Report

The R.O. Ranch Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting on October 1 with Vice-Chair Annette Land presiding. Five members of the public were in attendance. The main topic of the meeting was the upcoming Mayo Pioneer Day activities.

Mayo Pioneer Days, which is always held the second weekend in October, is a very busy time at the park. This year, the Van Fleet Wagon Train led the pioneer trail ride from the R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park to Mayo on Friday, October 8. Approximately 30 riders made the 18-mile trip despite the record high temperatures. Many of the riders made camp just outside of Mayo on Hank and Neil Land's property and participated in the parade on Saturday, October 9. The park sponsored two wagons in the parade; one carried this year's grand marshals and the other carried grand marshals from years past. The Cooks Hammock General Store also held several organized events at the park during pioneer weekend. Guests were offered a guided ride Saturday afternoon and a great supper with bluegrass and gospel music. On Sunday, October 10, the General Store sponsored an obstacle course challenge for horses and riders at the Crossway Branch Trailhead. Due to the high temperatures, public participation for all Pioneer Day events was lighter than normal.

McInnis Construction is making excellent progress on the visitor center. The rough electrical, plumbing, and HVAC were installed in the foundation, and the crawl space concrete slab was poured. The wooden floor above the crawl space is currently under construction. The visitor center is expected to be complete by June 2010.

The park's new website was launched October 13, 2009. The site has a new format and should be more user friendly. Please visit the new site at the same address, [www.roranch.org](http://www.roranch.org).

The District's inmate crew made minor repairs to several buildings during the month. They also repaired vandalism to the District's kiosk at Veteran's Memorial Park in Mayo.

gal