

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Terry E. Demott, Senior Land Resource Coordinator
THRU: David Still, Executive Director
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 
DATE: June 10, 2010
SUBJECT: Cooley Family Property, 130 acres ± in Jefferson County

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests Governing Board authorization to commence detailed assessment and negotiations for a perpetual conservation easement on the Cooley Family property, 130 acres ± in Jefferson County.

BACKGROUND

Through Finlayson Realty Inc., Bradley Cooley and his family approached District staff with an offer to sell conservation easement rights over their property. Several months of discussion have resulted in the Cooley family agreeing to accept no more than 90% of the appraised value for the floodplain and wetland areas (113 acres ±) of the property and no more than 60% of the appraised value for the remaining acres (17 ±). In addition, the overall price of the conservation easement will not exceed 40% of the fee value. The District would obtain development rights and rezoning rights, essentially ensuring that the property would always remain in its current or less intensive land uses.

With Governing Board authorization, staff will begin negotiations based on the value placed on the property by District-approved appraisers and the stipulations outlined above. Depending on their success, staff would bring back further recommendations to the Governing Board.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder

PARCEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

TRACT: Cooley Conservation Easement

SELLER: Bradley Joseph and Linda Sue Cooley
Bradley O. and Jenny L. Cooley

RIVER: Aucilla

COUNTY: Jefferson

S-T-R: S 2, T 2S; R 5E

ACREAGE: 130 acres ±

FRONTAGE: 0.32 miles ±

WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION:

100-Year Floodplain: 78% (101 acres)

Surfacewater and Wetlands: 45% (59 acres)

Acquifer Recharge: None

Springs Protection: None

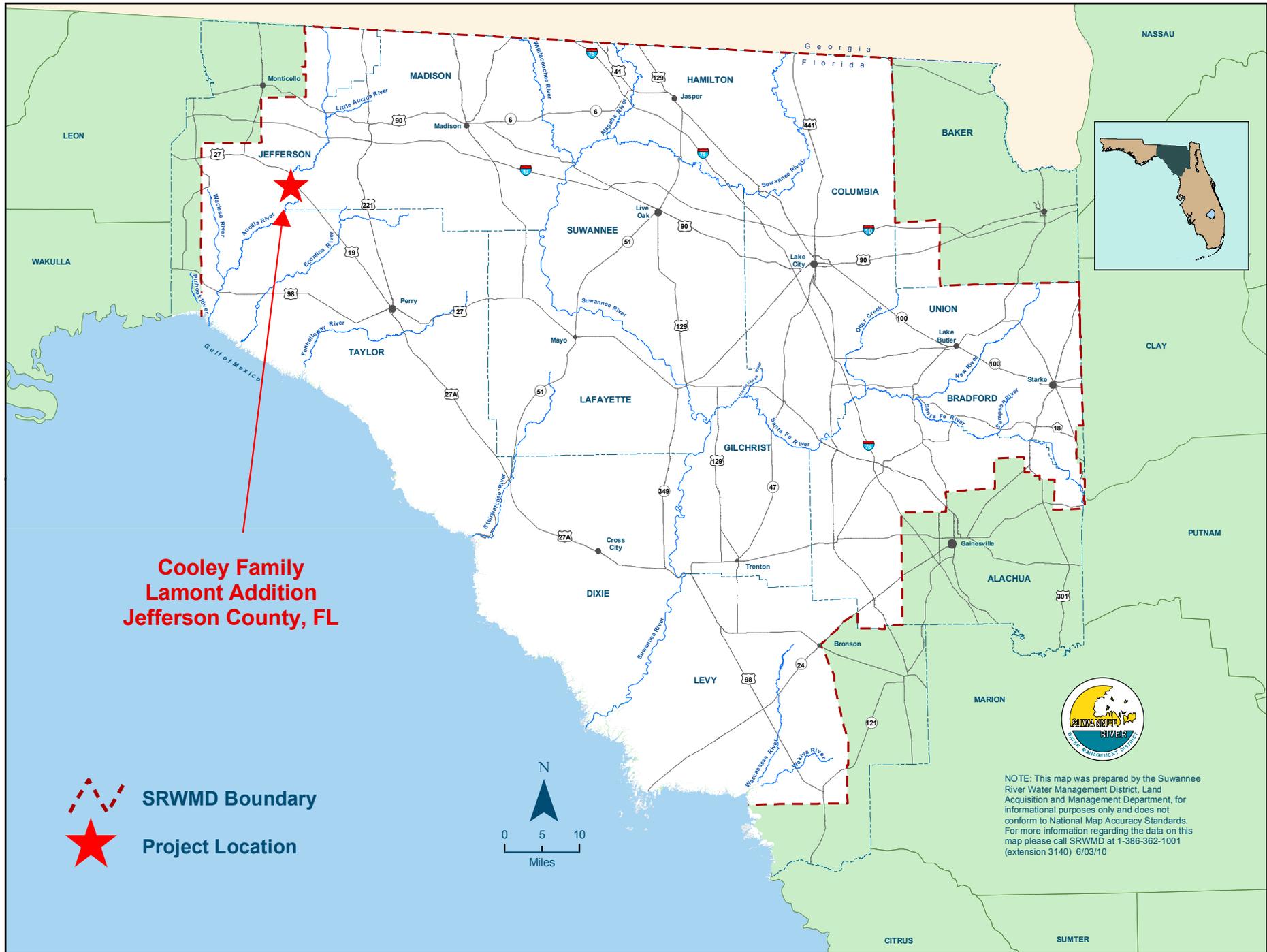
ACQUISITION PLANNING STATUS: These lands are in an identified project area of the Middle Aucilla Conservation Area.

TRACT DESCRIPTION: The tract is on the Aucilla River and adjacent to the District's Lamont Tract. Most of the property is in open woodland with two dwellings, outbuildings and an art studio building. Ganzy Slough is contained on about 25 acres of the Cooley Tract.

ACCESS: This property is accessed by a legal easement from SR 257A.

OUTSTANDING INTERESTS: No outstanding interests are reported on this property.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES: The primary management objective would be to maintain an undeveloped buffer along the Aucilla River and its floodplain. The Cooleys plan to continue using the upland portions of the property for cattle grazing, while recreational activities will be included on the entire property.

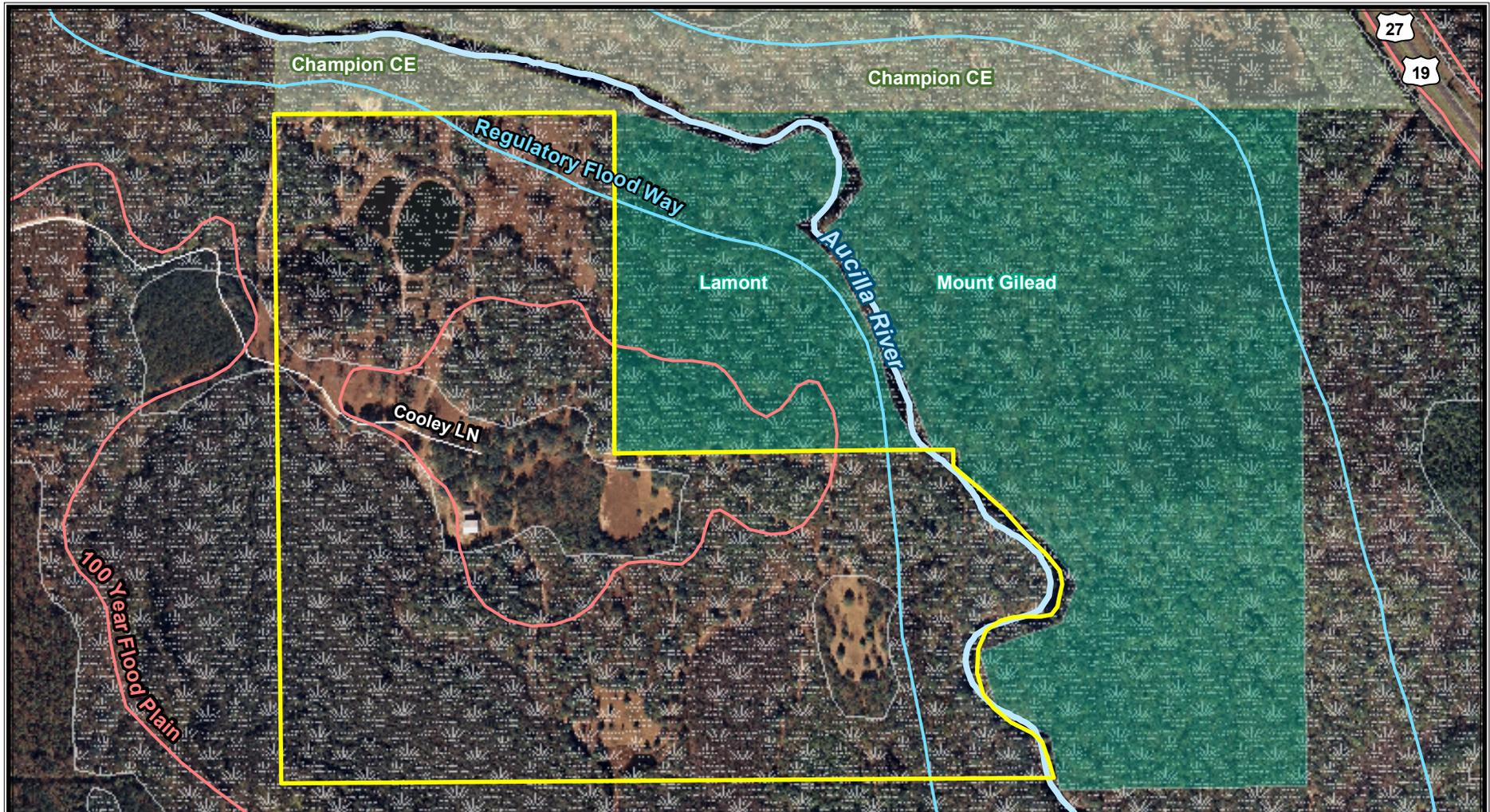


**Cooley Family
Lamont Addition
Jefferson County, FL**

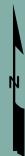
-  SRWMD Boundary
-  Project Location



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) 6/03/10



-  Property Offer
-  SRWMD Fee Land
-  Wetlands

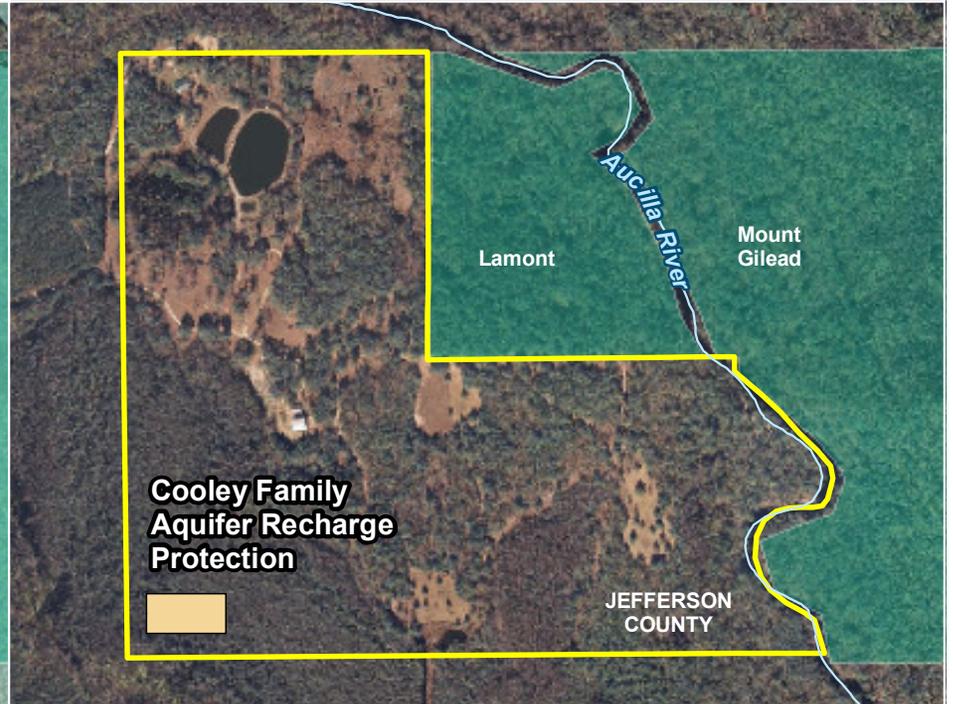
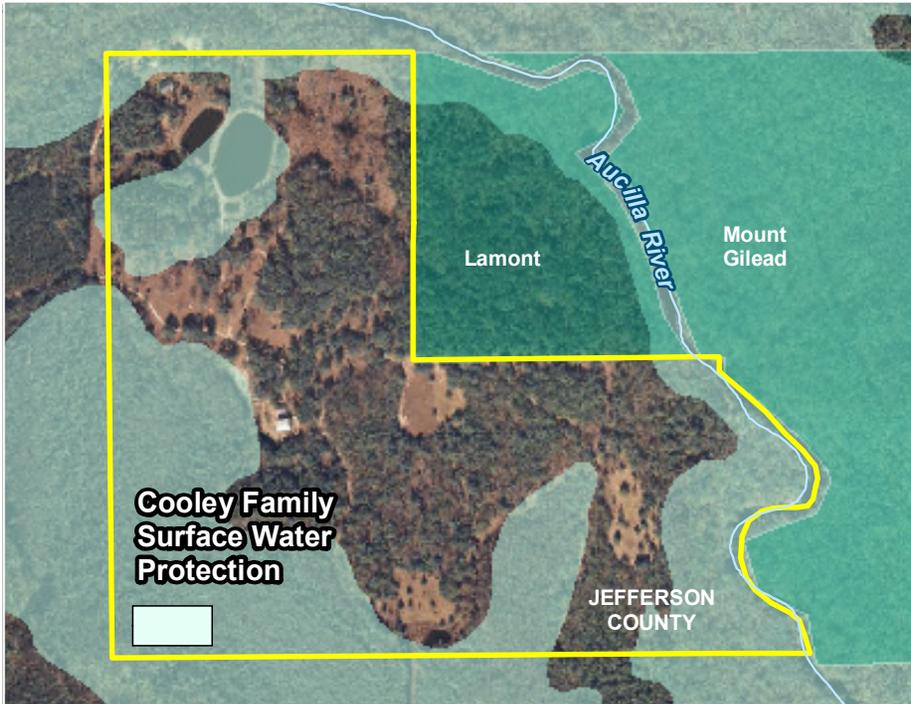
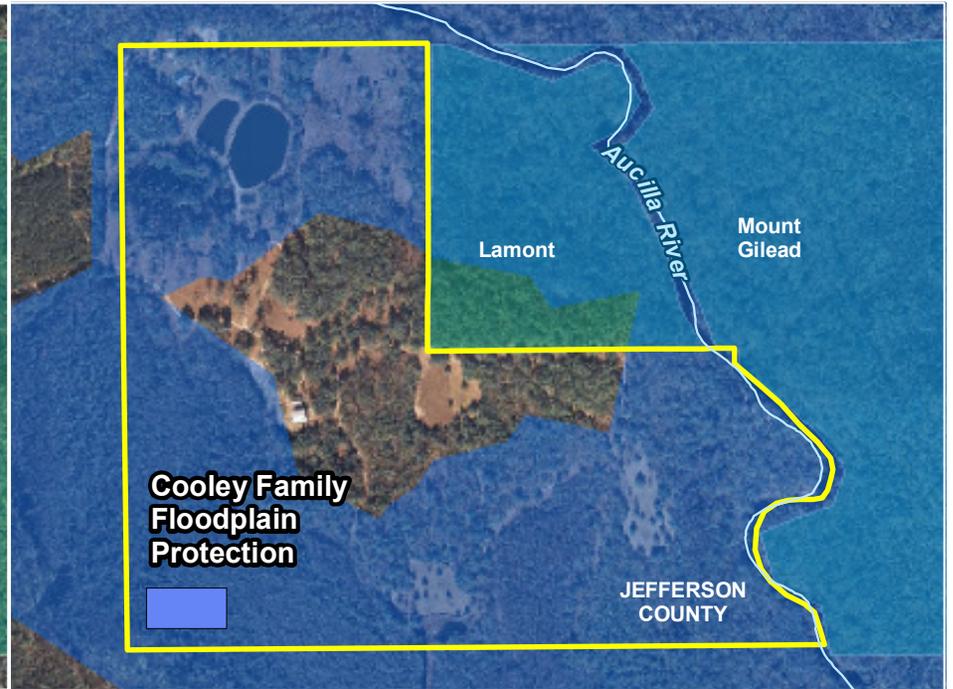
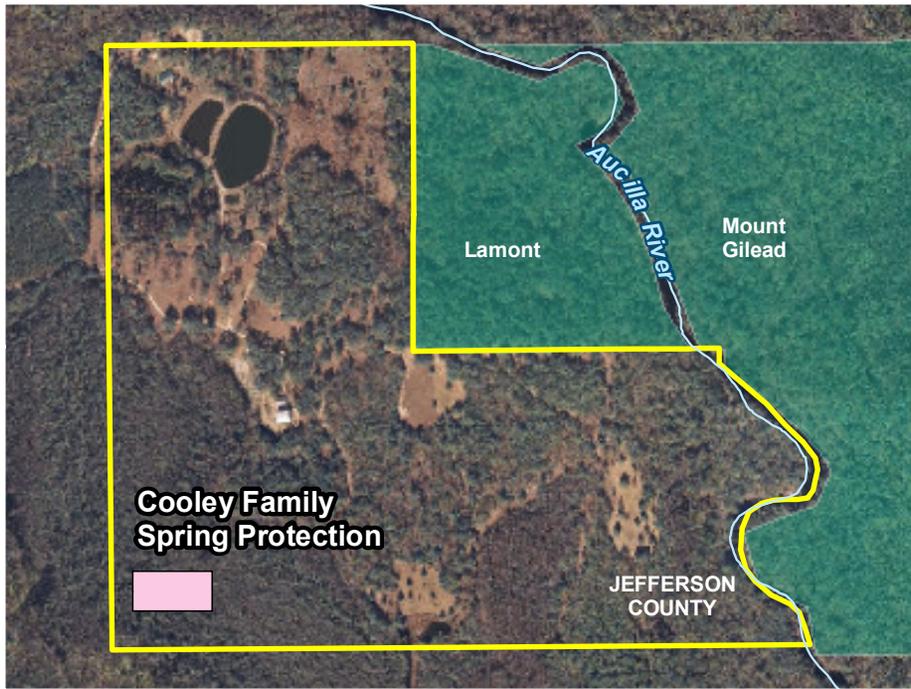


Cooley Family Lamont Addition Jefferson County, FL



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PM: TD
GIS: GBH
PD: 06/10/2010



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Terry E. Demott, Senior Land Resource Coordinator

THRU: David Still, Executive Director
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 

DATE: June 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Floyd Family Property, 570 acres ± in Jefferson and Madison Counties

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests Governing Board authorization to commence detailed assessment and negotiations for a perpetual conservation easement on the Floyd Family property, 570 acres ± in Jefferson and Madison Counties.

BACKGROUND

Through Finlayson Realty, Inc., Bobby Floyd and his family approached District staff with an offer to sell conservation easement rights over their property. Several months of discussion have resulted in the Floyd family agreeing to accept no more than 90% of the appraised value for the floodplain and wetland areas (400 acres ±) of the property and no more than 60% of the appraised value for the remaining acres (160 ±). In addition, the overall price of the conservation easement will not exceed 40% of the fee value. The District would obtain development rights and rezoning rights essentially ensuring that the property would always remain in its current or less intensive land uses.

With Governing Board authorization, staff will begin negotiations based on the value placed on the property by District approved appraisers and the stipulations outlined above. Depending on their success, staff would bring back further recommendations to the Governing Board.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder
attachments

PARCEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

TRACT: Floyd Conservation Easement

SELLER: William R. and Susan K. Floyd, Cheyenne F. Floyd and Frank Floyd Jr.

RIVER: Aucilla

COUNTY: Jefferson

S-T-R: S 2, T 2S; R 5E

ACREAGE: 570 acres ±

FRONTAGE: 1.0 miles ±

WATER RESORUCE PROTECTION:

100-Year Floodplain: 56% (320 acres)

Surfacewater and Wetlands: 38% (210 acres)

Acquifer Recharge: None

Springs Protection: None

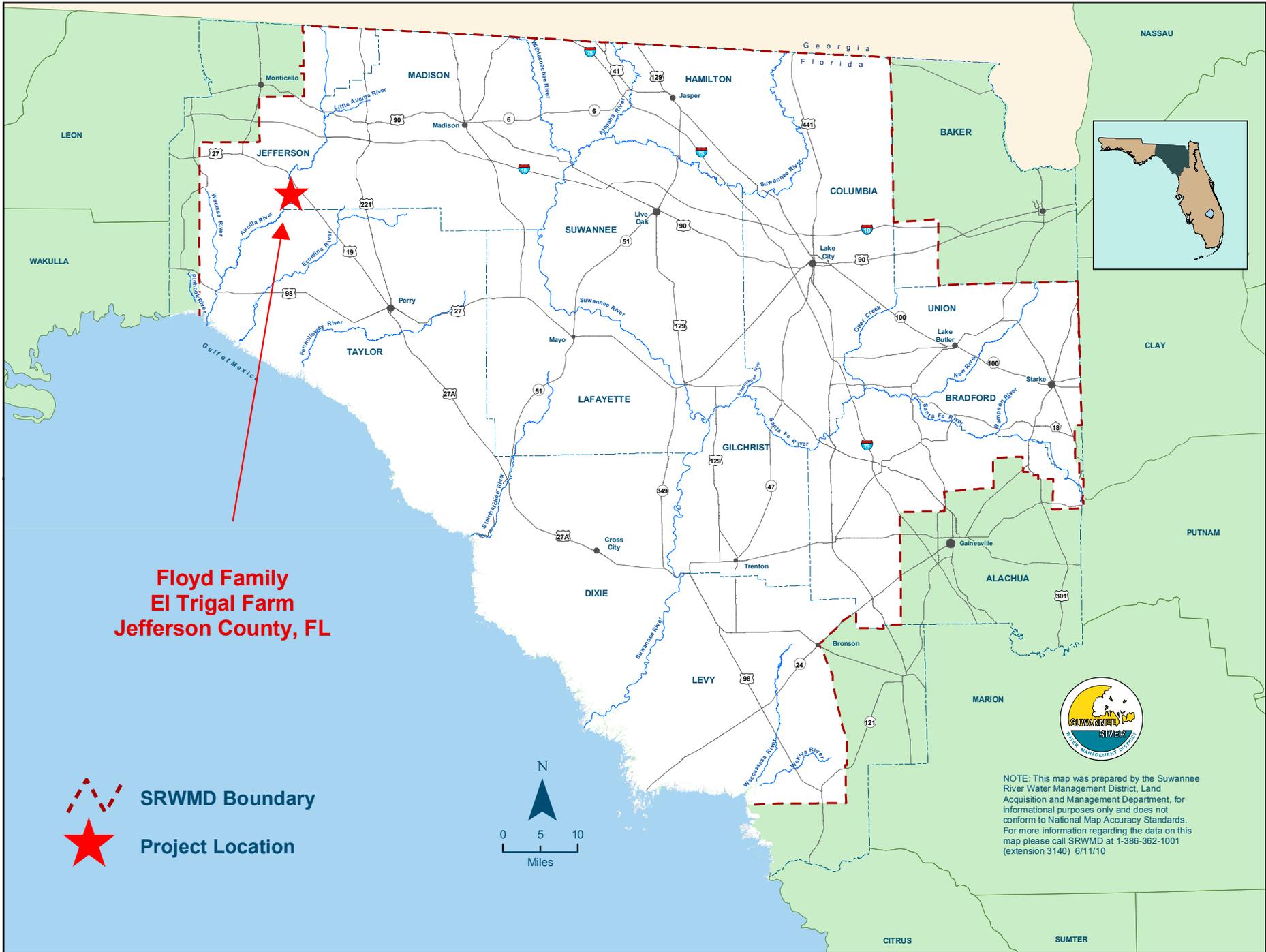
ACQUISITION PLANNING STATUS: These lands are in an identified project area of the Middle Aucilla Conservation Area.

TRACT DESCRIPTION: The tract is on the Aucilla River and adjacent to the District's Lamont Tract on the north and east. The upland portions of the property is in pasture with two dwellings and additional outbuildings. Ganzy Slough is contained on about 175 acres of the Floyd Tract. This property has an historical river crossing and was used to grow wheat for some of the Spanish missions and forts including those in St. Augustine.

ACCESS: This property is accessed by a county road from SR 257A.

OUTSTANDING INTERESTS: No outstanding interests are reported on this property.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES: The primary management objective would be to maintain a buffer along the Aucilla River and its floodplain. The Floyds plan to continue using the upland portions of the property for cattle grazing, while recreational activities will be included on the entire property.

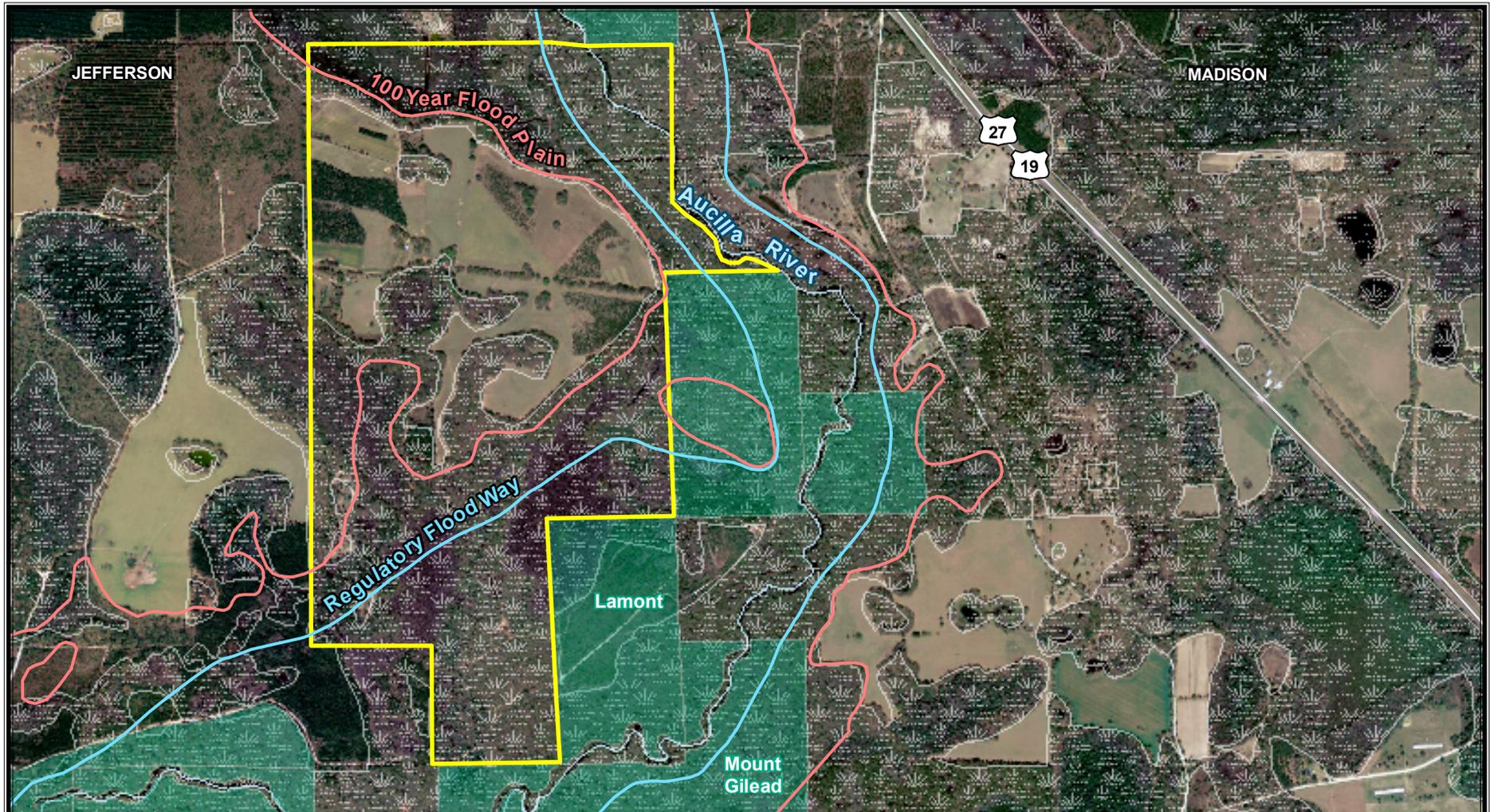


**Floyd Family
El Trigo Farm
Jefferson County, FL**

 **SRWMD Boundary**
 **Project Location**



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-  Property Offer
-  SRWMD Fee Land
-  Wetlands

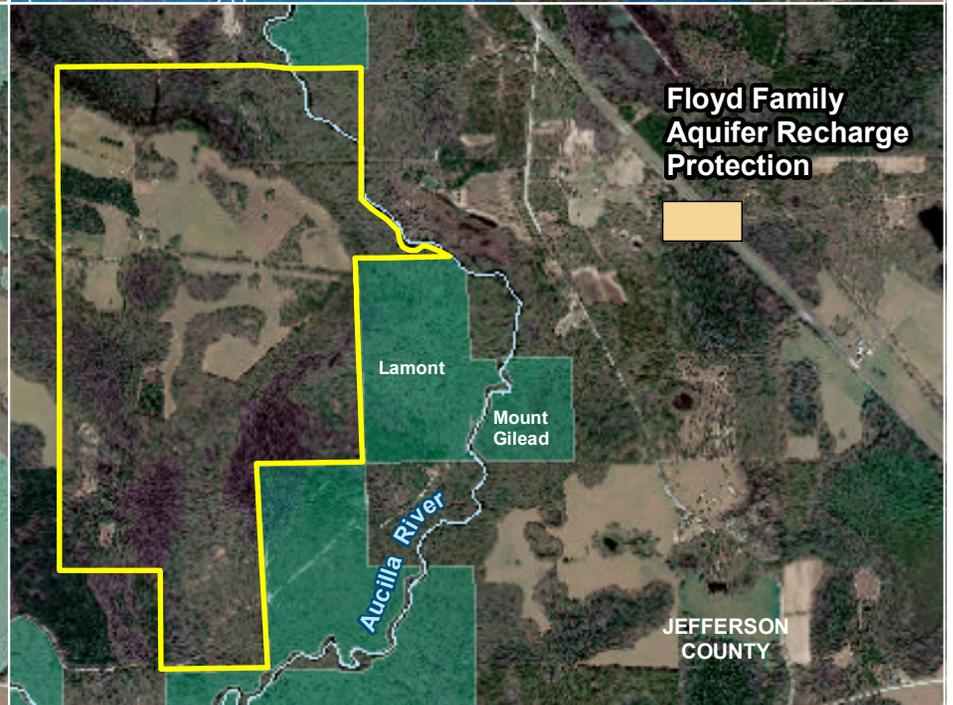
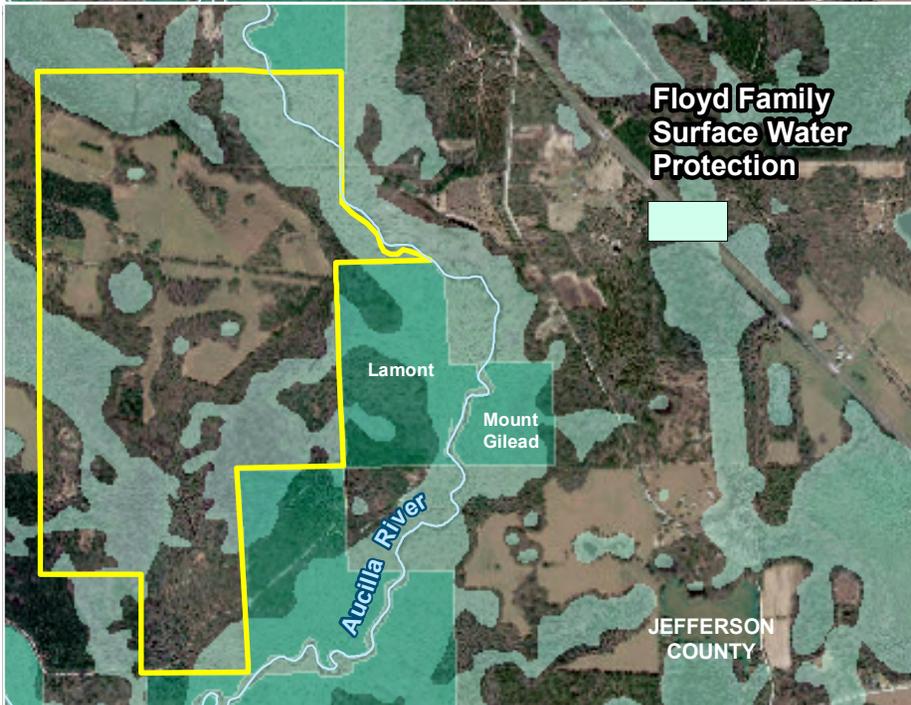
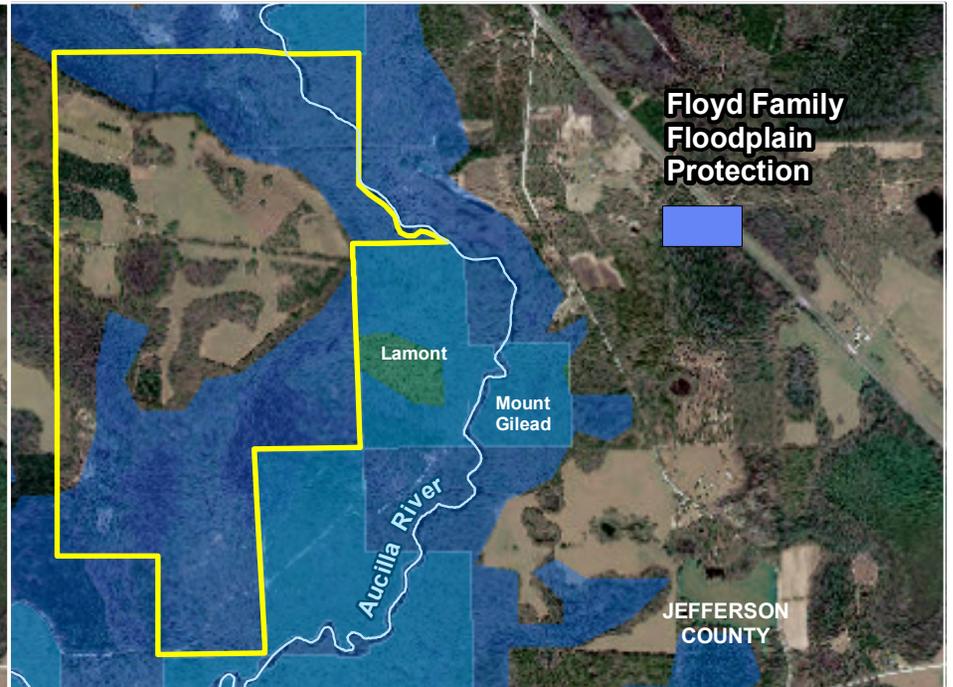
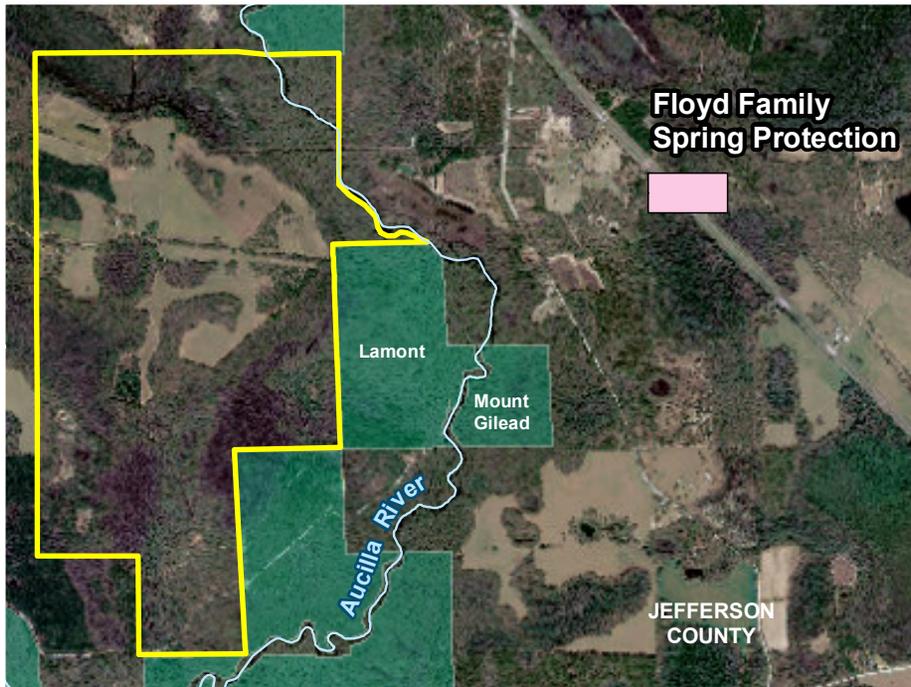


Floyd Family
El Trigal Farm
Jefferson County, FL



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PM: TD
GIS: GBH
PD: 06/10/2010



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Richard M. Rocco, Real Estate Coordinator

THRU: David A. Still, Executive Director
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 

DATE: June 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Layman Law Firm/Walker Springs Parcel, 172 acres ± in Jefferson County

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests Governing Board authorization to commence detailed assessment and negotiations for a perpetual conservation easement of the 172-acre ± Layman Law Firm/Walker Springs Tract in Jefferson County.

BACKGROUND

The Layman Law Firm (Chris and Kristine Layman) offered a conservation easement over their Walker Springs property on the Aucilla River in January of 2010 for \$2,500 per acre. The Governing Board reviewed this offer informally during a workshop. The tract is within a designated project area of the 2010 Florida Forever Work Plan and would add to protected adjoining water resource lands on the Aucilla River. The Laymans have reoffered their property to the District for \$1,780.00 per acre for a perpetual conservation easement.

Pending Governing Board approval, staff will research the title and procure appraisals to determine the fair market value. Pending outside independent appraisal review, recommendations towards a conservation easement purchase will then be provided to Board members prior to entering into an agreement for purchase.

gal
cc: Charlie Houser
enclosure
09-010 Walker Springs

PARCEL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

TRACT: Walker Spring

SELLERS: Layman Law Firm – Christopher and Kristine Layman

COUNTY: Jefferson

S-T-R: S 29; T 2S; R 5E

ACREAGE: 172 acres +/-

RIVER FRONTAGE: 3,085.29 feet (0.58 miles)

WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION:

100-Year Floodplain: 100% (172 acres)

Surfacewater Protection: 53% (90.5 acres)

Aquifer Recharge: None

Springs Protection: 42 % (71.73 acres)

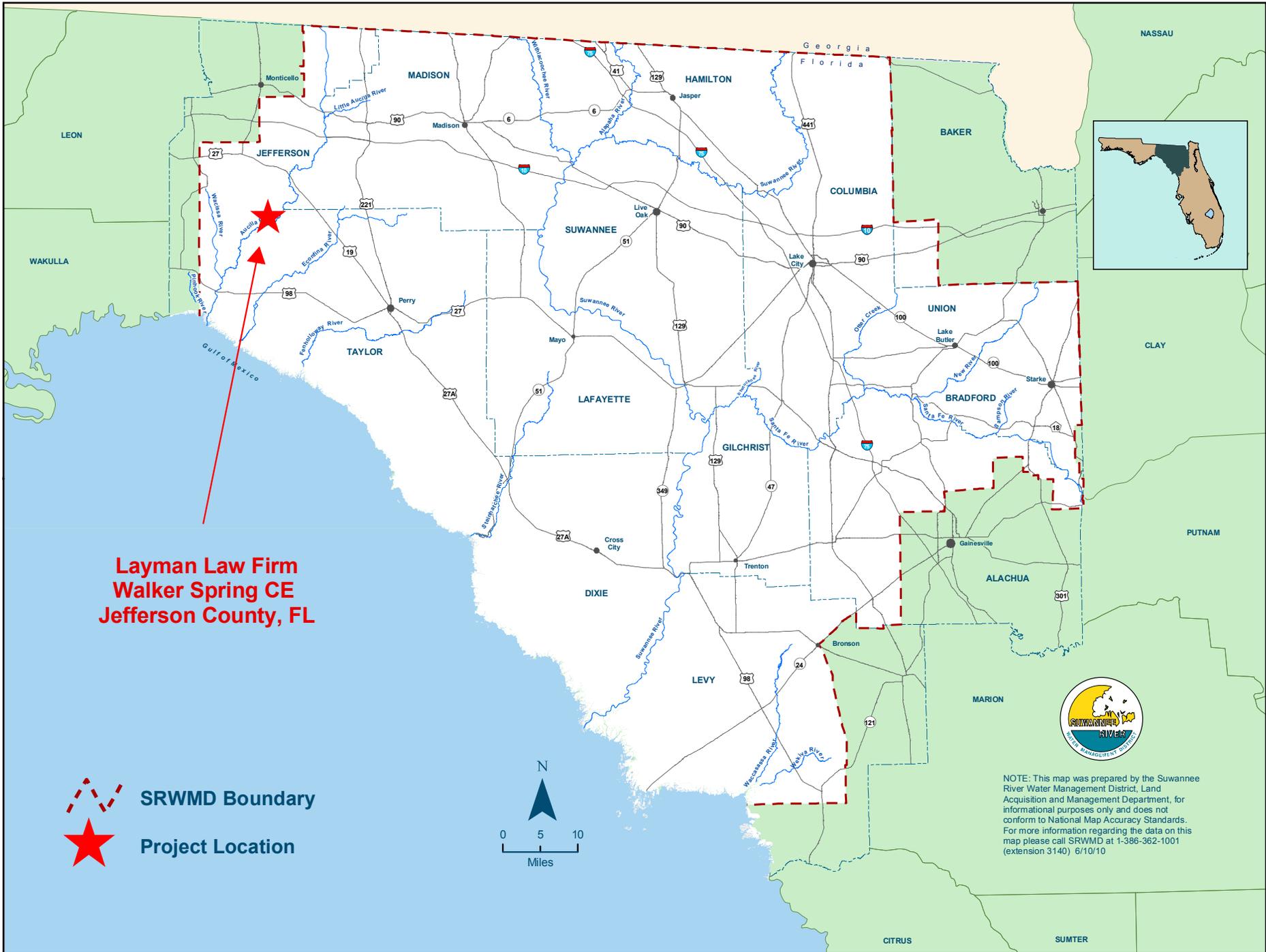
TRACT DESCRIPTION: The tract is located on the north bank of the Aucilla River and bordered by District owned land on two sides. Walker Spring is low order 3rd magnitude spring with an oval shaped 35 feet long by 15 feet wide spring pool and over a ¼ mile spring run to the river. A floodplain hardwood forest borders the Aucilla River within the 100-year floodplain. The remaining acreage is in planted pines and natural forest cover of longleaf pines and hardwoods. The only improvements are a three acre man-made lake and 2 bedroom riverfront cabin powered by a generator.

ACCESS: The property has direct frontage on paved State road 257A.

OUTSTANDING INTERESTS: No outstanding interests are reported at this time.

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES: A conservation easement is proposed over the entire acreage to protect floodplain and wetland resources. The landowner will retain hunting and recreational use and the right to harvest timber on 80 acres of pine lands and relinquish all rights for any future subdivision of the tract. Floodplain and wetland forests will be protected in their natural state and condition.

CURRENT ASKING PRICE: \$1,780/per acre for a perpetual conservation easement. The landowner offered the District a conservation easement over this property in January 2010 for \$2,500 per acre.

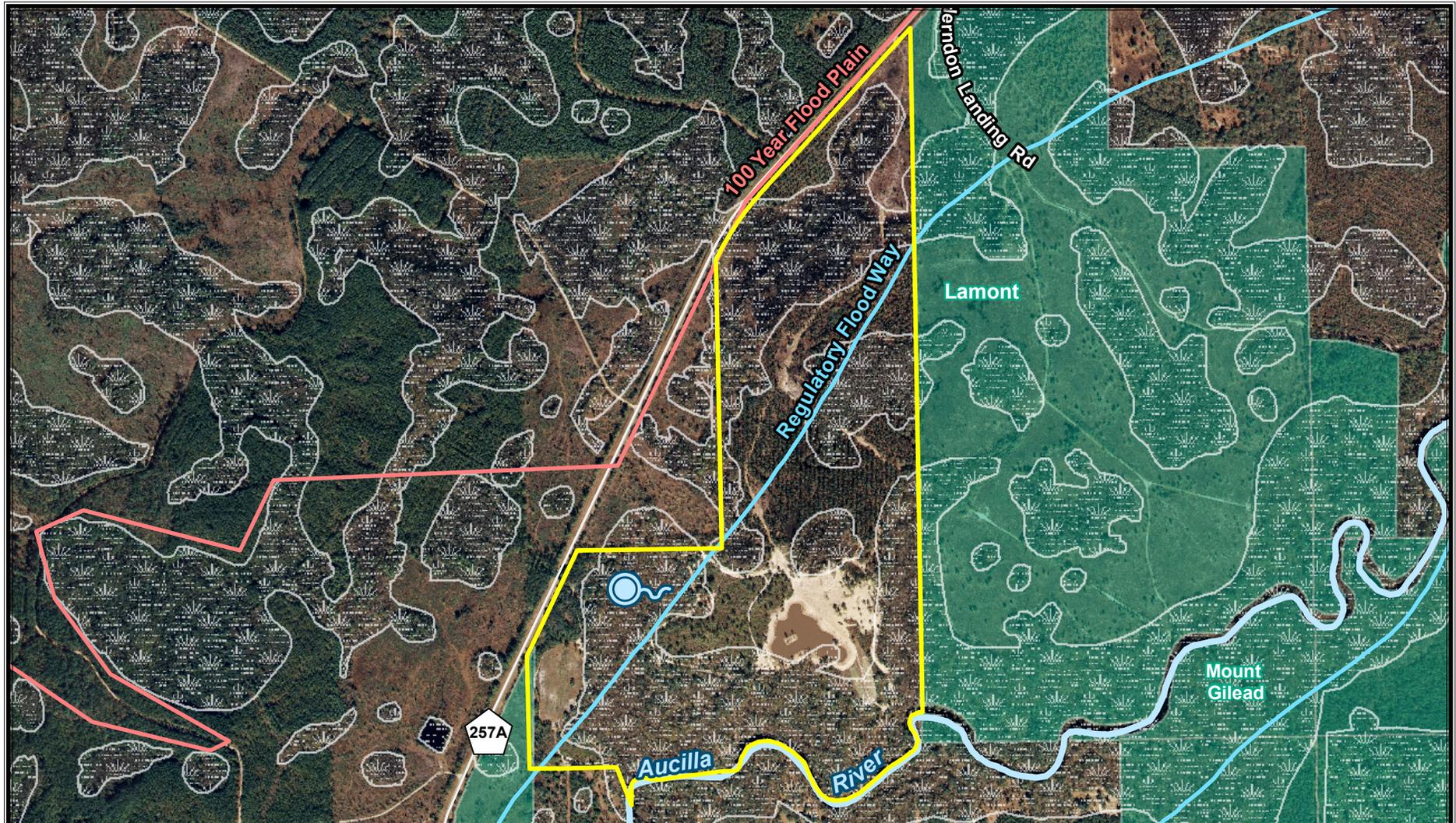


**Layman Law Firm
Walker Spring CE
Jefferson County, FL**

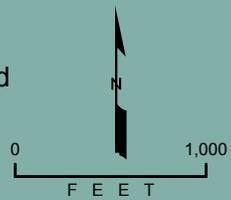
 **SRWMD Boundary**
 **Project Location**



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-  Property Offer
-  SRWMD Fee Land
-  Wetlands
-  Walker Spring



Layman Law Firm
Walker Spring CE
Jefferson County, FL



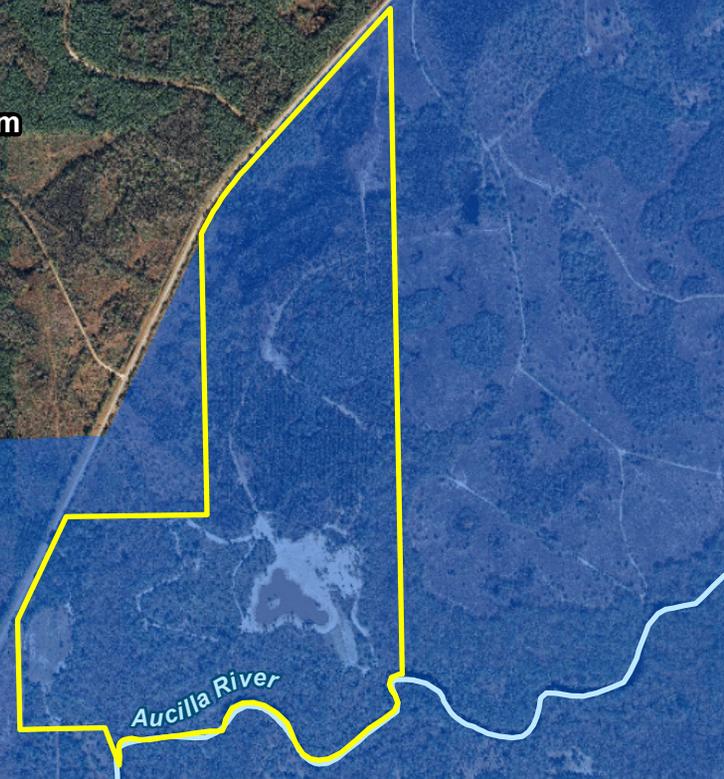
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**Layman Law Firm
Spring
Protection**



Aucilla River

**Layman Law Firm
Floodplain
Protection**



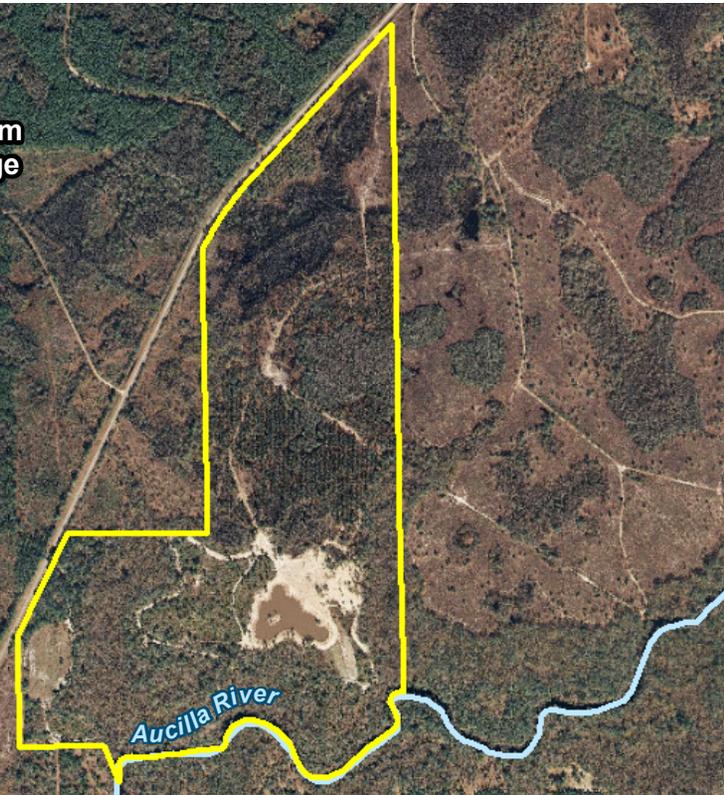
Aucilla River

**Layman Law Firm
Surface Water
Protection**



Aucilla River

**Layman Law Firm
Aquifer Recharge
Protection**



Aucilla River

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager

THRU: David Still, Executive Director
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 

DATE: June 11, 2010

RE: Agreement with Harley Forest Products, LLC, for the Steinhatchee #7 Timber Sale

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests authorization for the Executive Director to execute a license to cut timber with Harley Forest Products, LLC, for the Steinhatchee #7 Timber Sale. Harley bid \$12.53/ton for pine pulpwood and topwood and \$17.25/ton for pine chip-n-saw.

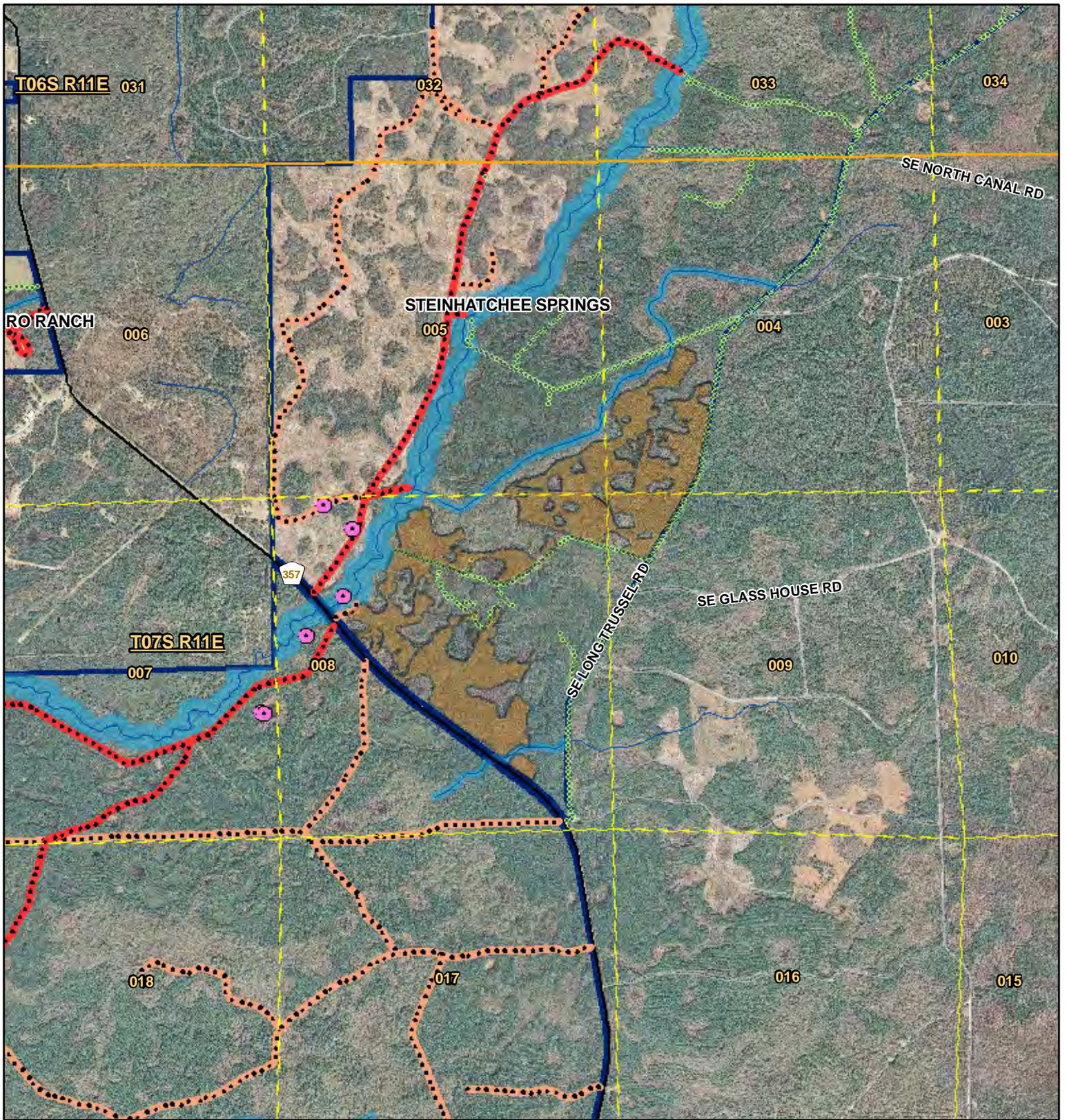
BACKGROUND

A request for bids for the Steinhatchee #7 Timber Sale was advertised on May 19, 2010. This is a thinning operation on approximately 191 acres of slash pine plantation located in parts of Sections 4, 5, 8 and 9; Township 7 South, Range 11 East, Lafayette County. It is a pay-as-cut sale. Six responses were received by June 10, 2010, as listed below. Estimated revenues are shown.

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue</u>
<u>Harley Forest Products LLC (Allen J. Harley)</u>	<u>\$157,404.99</u>
<u>M A Rigoni Inc</u>	<u>\$150,510.02</u>
<u>Williams Timber Inc.</u>	<u>\$145,450.81</u>
<u>Nature Coast Timber LLC (C. W. Bailey Jr. & J. A. Bailey)</u>	<u>\$137,892.23</u>
<u>Canal Wood LLC (James A. Pridgen, et al.)</u>	<u>\$135,549.79</u>
<u>Van Aernam Timber LLC (Franklin G. VanAernam)</u>	<u>\$130,388.00</u>

Total revenue from this sale should be between \$136,000 and \$175,000. Using the volume estimates by timber product, the anticipated revenue is \$157,000.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder



Steinhatchee Springs #7 Timber Sale (as of March 22, 2010)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2010 Timber Sales | RARE SPECIES ANIMAL |
| LM Tract Boundaries | RARE SPECIES PLANT |
| Township & Range Boundaries | Invasive & Exotic Weeds |
| Section Boundaries | Invasive Weeds (March 2010) |
| Public Roads & Highways | Erodible Soils |
| Navteq Roads | Streams (USGS Quads) |
| SRWMD (LM) Roads | 75ft Stream Buffer |
| Access | 200ft River Buffer |
| Admin | |
| Private | |
| Public | |
| Seasonal | |



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
THRU: David Still, Executive Director
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 
DATE: June 17, 2010
RE: Agreement with Great South Timber & Lumber Inc. for the Twin Rivers State Forest/Black Tract #2 Timber Sale

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests authorization for the Executive Director to execute a license to cut timber with Great South Timber & Lumber, Inc. for the Black Tract #2 Timber Sale. Great South Timber & Lumber, Inc. bid \$47,191.00 for all planted slash pines on 55 acres.

BACKGROUND

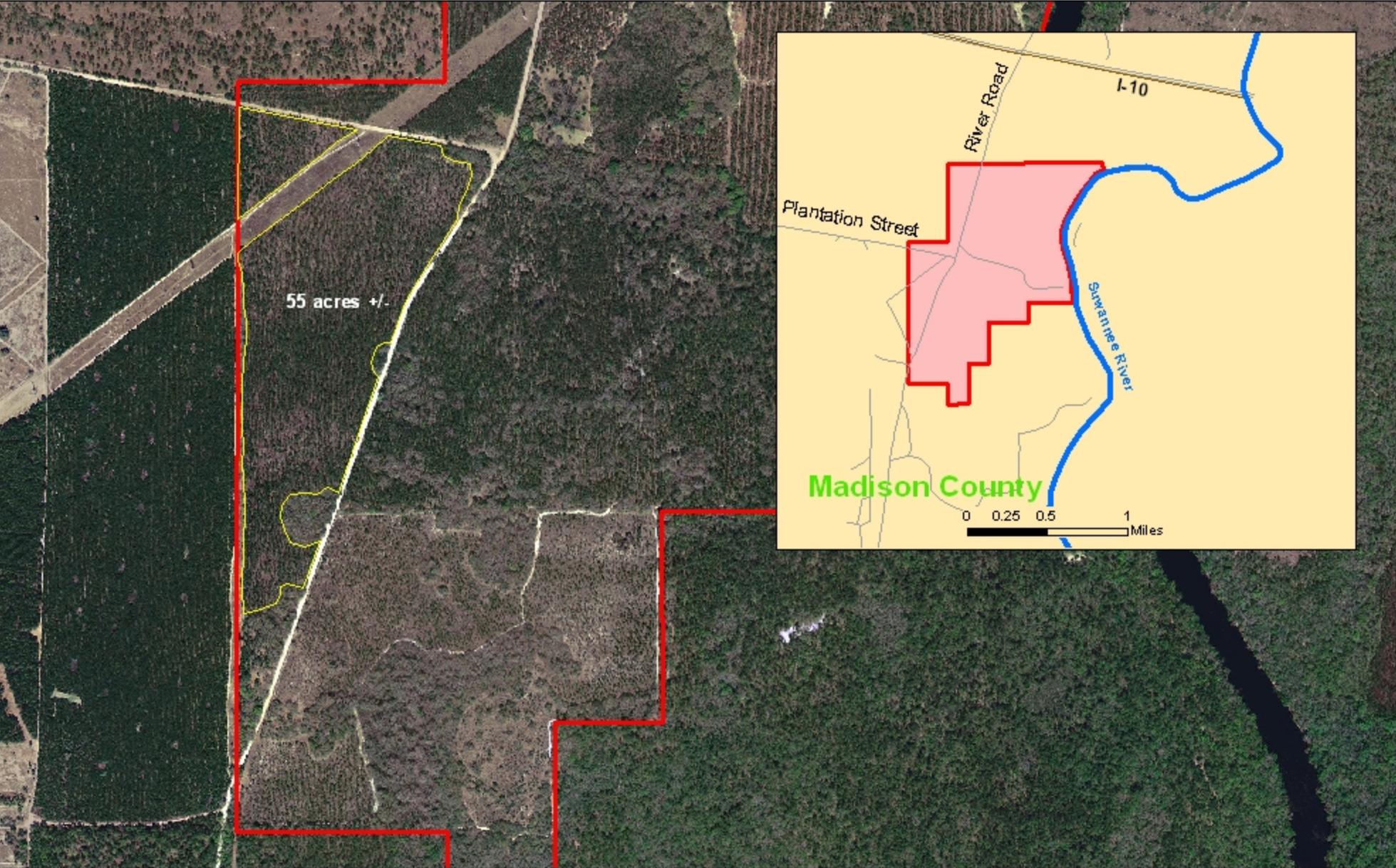
Staff advertised request for bids 09/10-039 LAM on May 19, 2010, for sale of timber on the Twin Rivers State Forest/Black Tract #2 Timber Sale. This is a clearcut harvest on approximately 55 acres of a 1986 slash pine plantation located in Madison County. It is a lump sum sale. This is a 12-month contract.

Three responses were received by June 17, 2010, as listed below. This price equates to \$12.48 per ton of timber removed.

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Lump Sum Bid</u>
Great South Timber & Lumber, Inc.	47,191.00
Greenville Timber Corp.	44,039.89
Suwannee Lumber Company Inc.	38,581.00

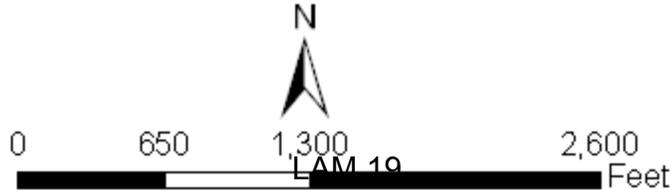
Officers of Great South Timber & Lumber, Inc. are: James M. Coleman, Roland T. Stern, Robert P. Cook and William K. Cook. John E. Norris is the Registered Agent.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder



- Clearcut Boundary - 55 +/-
- Black Tract

Disclaimer
This map is the product of the Florida Division of Forestry. No warranties are provided for data therein, its use, or its interpretation.



Twin Rivers State Forest

7620 133rd Road
Live Oak, FL 32060
(386) 208-1460
(386) 362-5551



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager

THRU: David Still, Executive Director
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management

DATE: June 24, 2010

RE: Otter Springs Park and Campground Road Construction

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval and execution of an amendment to the lease with Gilchrist County for Otter Springs Park and Campground to increase road expenses by \$37,000 from \$175,000 to a new total of \$212,000 for FY 2010.

BACKGROUND

In October 2009 the Governing Board approved an amendment to the lease with Gilchrist County to add \$175,000 for road construction. On June 22, 2010, the District received the enclosed letter from Gilchrist County Coordinator Ron McQueen requesting an additional \$37,000 in funding. This additional funding is needed due to the need for additional asphalt caused by winter freezing conditions documented in a letter from Mills Engineering (enclosed).

The current language in the lease says the District will pay the County's costs of the project up front. Reimbursement will be made by the County by the District retaining one half of the County's annual payment in lieu of taxes due for Otter Springs (about \$18,000) until the District is fully reimbursed.

Approval of this recommendation would change the reimbursable road costs listed in the lease and extend the period of time in which the District will retain one half of the county's annual payment in lieu of taxes by an additional two years.

Funds for this project will come from the land management reserves account.

gal
cc: Charlie Houser
SRWMD #08/09-050

Gilchrist County



Board of County Commissioners

PO Box 37 • Trenton, FL 32693 • (352)463-3198 • (800)236-1739

Sharon A. Langford District 1 **D. Ray Harrison Jr.** District 2 **Randy Durden** District 3 **Tommy Langford** District 4 **Kenrick Thomas** District 5

Joseph W. Gilliam
Clerk of Circuit Court
Phone: (352) 463-3170
Fax: (352) 463-4050

John K. McPherson
County Attorney
Phone: (352) 543-5050
Fax: (866) 278-7502

Ron McQueen
County Administrator
Phone: (352) 463-3198
Fax: (352) 463-3411

June 22, 2010

Donald J. Quincey, Jr., Chairman
SRWMD Governing Board
9225 County Road 49
Live Oak, FL 32060

Re: Paving of Otter Springs Road (SW 70th St.)

Dear Chairman Quincy,

Please accept this letter as an update and request to your governing board as it pertains to the paving project at Otter Springs. John C. Hipp Construction is on site and are currently paving ditch bottoms to increase drainage in the areas where we have received additional right of way. An issue has arisen over the last ½ mile of existing pavement going into the Otter Springs Park.

According to our engineer Lee Mills, he had hoped John C. Hipp Construction would be able to pave that portion in the original contract price. We only recently received their bid to substitute pavement for the alternate surface treatment. At that time Lee Mills, Billy Cannon (Road Superintendent) and Hipp Construction met on site and inspected that portion of the road. Upon that inspection conducted June 7th, 2010, they found the condition of the road had deteriorated due to the freeze in which Gilchrist County had 4-5 other roads severely damaged, and the recent hard rains. They determined that an alternate surface treatment would not correct these new problems.

Lee Mills appeared before the Gilchrist County BOCC yesterday and provided them with the following information. The current condition of the road needs a leveling course which can only be accomplished by paving. If we place 1 inch of pavement in a single pass he estimates that the driving surface would be adequate for approximately 10-15 years. If we place 1 ½ inches of pavement by making two passes he estimates the road would be good for 20-25 years. His estimate of additional cost is approximately \$21,500.00 for 1 inch of asphalt and \$34,000.00 for 1 ½ inch of asphalt, plus the additional testing that is necessary to ensure the pavement is correctly applied (another 2-3,000 dollars).

Vision Statement

Our vision for Gilchrist County in 2030 is rural communities working in harmony to provide opportunities for all its citizens through balanced growth and enhanced education, while preserving our proud heritage, natural resources and agriculture.

Gilchrist County



Board of County Commissioners

PO Box 37 • Trenton, FL 32693 • (352)463-3198 • (800)236-1739

Sharon Langford
District 1

D. Ray Harrison
District 2

Randy Durden
District 3

Tommy Langford
District 4

Kenrick Thomas
District 5

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners is requesting the additional funding for the 1 ½ of asphalt plus the additional testing which would be reimbursed as per the original agreement. Lee Mills will also be forwarding a document to explain the condition of the road and cost estimates. It is essential that we resolve this issue while John C. Hipp Construction is on site to prevent any additional mobilization costs. John C. Hipp anticipates completing this project in 2-3 weeks. If you have any additional questions please contact my office at 352-463-3198.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron McQueen".

Ron McQueen
Gilchrist County Administrator

Vision Statement

Our vision for Gilchrist County in 2020 is rural communities working in harmony to provide opportunities for all its citizens through balanced growth and enhanced education, while preserving our proud heritage, natural resources and agriculture.

MILLS ENGINEERING COMPANY

Engineering and Land Surveying

P. O. Box 778 - Bronson, Florida 32621
604 East Hathaway Avenue
Phone (352) 486-2872 FAX (352) 486-2498
Email: Millseng@BellSouth.net

June 23, 2010

Mr. Ron McQueen, County Administrator
Gilchrist County
209 SE 1st Street
Trenton, FL 32693

RE: Otter Springs Road Improvements

Dear Ron,

I am writing to report the status of the Otter Springs Road paving project and suggest changes to the proposed construction materials. As you will recall, bids were received on September 18, 2009, for roadway improvements that included paving the entrance road from GCR No. 232 to the park entrance and resurfacing the existing paved road from the park entrance to the office. John C. Hipp Construction Equipment Co. provided the low bid and was awarded a contract for the project. Work on the project could not begin immediately due to a conflict with telephone and electric utilities and the project was delayed.

The pavement construction that was proposed for the project was a surface treatment asphaltic surface. This is the same type of pavement surface that was used by the FDOT for construction of most of the Secondary Roads system. Surface treatment construction was initially proposed rather than the use of asphaltic concrete to reduce the cost of construction. When the project was bid, the existing paved roadway in the park was in relatively good condition and would have only required limited pothole repair prior to resurfacing in order to provide an acceptable driving surface. However, during the time delay required for utility adjustments, the roadway suffered severe freeze damage, as did many other roads throughout Gilchrist County.

Due to the current condition of the existing pavement in the park it is my opinion that resurfacing with a surface treatment course will not provide an acceptable driving surface. Several options have been considered to overcome this problem and it appears that installing a leveling and surface course with asphaltic concrete is the best and most cost effective option.

The contractor has provided proposals to resurface the existing pavement with 110 pounds per square yard (110 lb/SY) or approximately a 1-inch thick surface

Mr. Ronald Stevens
July 29, 2008
Page 2 of 2

course and another to resurface with 165 lb/SY or approximately 1.5-inches of asphaltic concrete. The latter option will include both a leveling and surface course of asphaltic concrete. The 110 lb/SY option will increase the cost of the project by approximately \$23,000 while the 165 lb/SY option will increase the cost of the project by approximately \$36,000.

I recommend the 165 lb/SY option with leveling and surface courses if the budget will permit. Installation of the leveling course prior to the surface course will provide a much improved driving surface and the added asphalt thickness will increase the life of the pavement.

Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

H. Lee Mills, P.E., P.S.M.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Beau Willsey, Environmental Specialist

THRU: David Still, Executive Director DS
Joe Flanagan, Director Land Acquisition and Management 

DATE: June 9, 2010

RE: FY 2010 Land Management Review Team Report

Attached are comments from the Land Management Review Team (LMRT) meeting held on April 21, 2010. The LMRT is composed of a diverse group of natural resource professionals and citizens. The group meets at least annually, at which time Land Acquisition and Management (LAM) staff provide an overview of management objectives and recent activities. LMRT participants are asked to provide an assessment as to whether District lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired, and whether staff is following established management plans for the property. During this LMRT meeting, District staff presented a draft copy of an updated District Land Management Plan (DLMP) to solicit comments and discussion from team members before the plan is submitted to the Board.

Participants volunteer their time to comment on the District's land management prescriptions and procedures. Anyone is welcome to participate in the LMRT; however, Florida Statutes mandate representatives from certain public land management agencies are in attendance at each LMRT meeting. Invitations were sent to 114 people. 21 people participated in the six-hour tour, which included indoor presentations and outdoor management action review.

Staff presented land management strategies and data to review the draft DLMP, the Excellence in Land Management Program scorecard, public use, natural community mapping and management, prescribed fire, timber harvesting and reforestation activities. Review of management actions took place at two tracts within the Troy Springs Conservation Area.

Overall, the Review Team's comments found the District to be in compliance with regards to its land management program. Discussions among members of the team and District staff were very productive and thought provoking. These reviews continue to be productive for staff and participants.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder

1. Are the lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired?
 - 1 The SRWMD is not in compliance.
 - 5 SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
 - 5 SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.

2. Do the actions taken by the SRWMD on the lands implement the goals identified in the District Land Management Plan and Excellence in Land Management Program?
 - The SRWMD is not in compliance.
 - 6 SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
 - 4 SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.

Guy Anglin, Private landowner	<p>1) The Plan calls for planting slash pine in mesic flatwoods at a rate of 450-700 trees per acre and a fire return interval of 2-8 years.</p> <p>First, slash pine should not be planted in mesic flatwoods. While in my professional opinion, slash pine is not normally a component of mesic flatwoods, I realize there is some disagreement on this issue. However, regardless of whether slash pine was historically a component of this community type, when slash pine is planted it delays restoration of the natural community, one of the primary goals of the plan. Most of the SRWMD land being clear cut has gone through at least one and usually several silvicultural rotations. In order to restore these lands, they need frequent fire as soon as possible. When slash pine is planted, it will not be burned for several years due to the almost sure mortality of the slash pine. Whereas, when planted to longleaf, which I think historically dominated the canopy in these former pine savannas, fire can and should be returned in two years.</p> <p>While FNAI may say mesic flatwoods should burn on a 2-8 year interval, it is likely that very little flatwoods, mesic or wet, went more than three years without fire prior to European interference. FNAI in fact recommends a 2-4 year fire return interval (personal communication with Carolyn Kindell).</p> <p>Planting of slash pine in either mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, or wet prairies is preventing the accomplishment of several stated goals of the SRWMD plan (the existing plan or the draft), because it prevents the use of fire on a timely basis and frequently enough to accomplish such goals as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration and protection of the land’s natural state and condition. (page 4) • Prescriptions designed to maintain objectives and prevent resource degradation. (page 4) (Nothing is more degrading than roller chopping, broadcast herbiciding, and fire exclusion, all associated with the establishment of slash pine.) • Groundcover diversity. (page 5). Restoring and protecting groundcover diversity requires exclusion of mechanical disturbance and broadcast herbicide, and requires frequent burning (2 or no more than 3 year fire return intervals), the first two of which the SRWMD is using to establish slash pine and establishment of slash pine prevents the third.
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	<p>Once slash pine is planted, fire has to be excluded for several, usually at least 6 years, but most likely 10 years, to avoid killing the slash pine. In most flatwoods (mesic and wet), woody shrubs such as tyty, gallberry, and fetterbush becomes so dense that fire would be so intense that the pines would be killed even after they are ten years old or older. Therefore, it is likely that many of these slash plantations won't be burned until after thinning around age 18 or 20. This means that restoration, as called for in the plan, is set back ten to twenty years.</p> <p>The Groundcover, as stated on page 5, is vital to the biodiversity and natural community management. Restoration and proper management requires frequent fire (2-3 years in these degraded systems). The replanting of the 800,000 slash pine this past winter and the millions that I assume were planted in the past few years is prohibiting the restoration and management of these communities as called for in this draft and the existing plan.</p> <p>2) Rare species. (page 6) Calls for protection and management for rare species. Most of the rare plant species (and associated rare animal species) are rare due to slash pine silviculture, including fire exclusion, as practiced by industrial timber companies and many smaller private land owners. Roller chopping, bedding, and more recently herbicides and the necessity of excluding fire from slash, loblolly, and sandpine plantations is the primary reason for the rarity of most of these species in the coastal plain of the southeastern United States. Many, if not most, of the rare species on SRWMD lands are components of the groundcover. In order to "protect and manage for" these species it is absolutely necessary to stop intensive (ground disturbing) mechanical site preparation, broad cast herbicide applications (the results of which I observed and provided photographs to SRWMD staff) and the exclusion of fire associated with young slash pine plantations. The only feasible way to accomplish this goal is to plant longleaf pine in flatwoods and sandhills (other than xeric scrub/ sandpine communities), using fire primarily for site preparation and release. On those sites where completion is such that fire does not successfully release the longleaf pines, band applications of herbicide may be acceptable providing it doesn't affect more than one third of the groundcover, which leaves space for survival of most groundcover components, including rare species.</p> <p>3) Maintain and/or increase existing rare species populations. (page 6) Some existing rare species populations are known, however, many are not known. While surveys sometimes reveal locations, considering the fire-suppressed, overgrown state of the SRWMD lands I have observed, the likelihood of a survey revealing the presence of most rare species occurrences is remote indeed. Having many years of experience in surveying for rare species, I can assure the reader that unless the land is recently (and frequently) burned, many (if not most) occurrences go undetected, even by the most experienced biologist. I have personally observed four rare plant occurrences along the Middle Aucilla Tract. This area was recently roller chopped at least twice and herbicides applied by helicopter. The likelihood of any rare plant surviving this type of site preparation and the fire exclusion that will accompany the slash pines recently planted is slim indeed. The only way to comply with the SRWMD plan is to assume presence of these species and</p>
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	<p>treat the land accordingly. This will accomplish the goals of restoring the native groundcover (that, as stated, is so important and often overlooked) and protecting, maintaining, and increasing rare species populations. The only feasible way I am aware of to accomplish these goals is to plant longleaf and keep the fire return interval short. I recommend a fire return interval of two years or as often as there is enough fine fuel to carry fire.</p> <p>4) I did find the field stops informative and the staff presentations all clear and professional. I was disappointed that all of the stops were in sand hills. I understand that the SRWMD manages around 160,000 acres of land, of which only about 10,000 acres is sandhill. This was my second Review Team and both times we were only shown sandhill where longleaf pines were planted or where slash pine had been thinned and burned. We were told that the District had planted roughly 200,000 longleaf and 800,000 slash pines this year. It seems to me that it would have been more appropriate for the Team to visit some of the flatwoods where slash pine was planted.</p>
<p>Matthew Chopp, FWC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ELM scorecard was useful and comprehensive. Please continue to improve this scorecard tool for the purpose of progress monitoring and communicating to the public the SRWMD's land management practices. The use of simple and clear numbers and averages in the ELM is necessary to communicate with and ensure trust from the public. • I liked the SRWMD's approach to land acquisition and management. SRWMD resource management goals and objectives were sound. They focused on resource management and public use. These were well explained. • Scott Gregor's <i>Land Management with Prescribed Fire</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Fire History" slide = confusing and did not appear to match row 1.3.B on the ELM scorecard. Perhaps a less-complex qualitative summary can be presented when educating the public on these management strategies that are difficult to quantify in a simple way. ○ Good job on the creation of MS Access database. This will enable responsible and successful follow-up work/monitoring by staff and private contractors ○ Management recommendations (referencing Table 1 of Appendix 7 of the DLMP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priorities for burning the following natural communities are lower than for other types. This is correct. However these should be targeted at some point for fire application and not totally neglected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrubby Flatwoods • Xeric Hammock • Edwin McCook's <i>Public Use of District Lands</i>: Good job. Please continue distribution of public use opportunity information throughout the region. Your public presentations are productive. They encourage public use and promote the SRWMD's positive role as a provider of public recreation on state lands • Beau's <i>Monitoring and Adaptive Management</i>: Good use of these progressive resource management strategies • Scott Gregor's <i>Field Discussion</i>: Prescribed fire/vegetation restoration program was well-explained and easy

	to understand during on-site field trips.
David L. Auth, Ph.D. Zoology, Herpetology	<p>DLMP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District should hire more permanent staff rather than contracting so many jobs out to independents. This would increase consistency, reduce costs, and increase district morale. 2. Fire is fine, but herbicides kill amphibians. 3. Patches of hardwoods in uplands should remain to increase biodiversity. 4. Some stump piles should remain as mammal snare and lizard habitat as all other habitat is removed in a clear cut. 5. There is much too much emphasis on planting slash pine in up lands. Slash is a fast growing wetland pine, but is not fire adapted and not an upland species like longleaf pine. The reason slash is planted is that it is more profitable, a quicker revenue generator, longleaf survival is lower and grows more slowly but survives fire much better than slash and has a much more diverse understory (plant biodiversity higher) as well as higher animal diversity. Much of district upland was once “high pine” = old growth longleaf. Since the district management plan states it is attempting to return to historic ecosystems, then it should not be planting slash pine. <p>So change timber resource objectives in the appendix (page 10) “ensure that commercial harvests <u>provide the maximum financial returns that are possible with the consistent attainment of</u> natural resource values” replace underlined portion with “are completely consistent with all.” Since the district land habitat types have many of the 900 species of native Florida plants, The emphasis on manipulated or “restored” lands must be on all of the plant species, not just on two species of commercially valuable pine species.</p> <p>On the positive side:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The policy of the district to leave the wetland habitats under its control alone is a good one. The District is not considering, as has happened in Florida’s history, the logging of wetland hardwoods for revenue generation. 2. I greatly appreciate the fact that District lands are open to the public without charge for hunting, fishing, hiking, and passive recreation. However I doubt that the District has the money to hire people to patrol and protect District lands from improper uses by the public. Relying on volunteers and local sheriffs probably is not sufficient. Thus, it probably is necessary to both charge a modest entry fee and secure a portion of the amounts charged for hunting and fishing licenses (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) and Florida Park Service charges on District purchased Lands.. <p>In-door Presentations</p> <p>No specific data were provided which would expedite team member evaluation success:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acres maintained in planted pines which have not been “restored” yet (= cut and replanted in mostly slash pine). 2. Acres already replanted and acres of slash & longleaf. 3. Cost of all contracts. 4. Cost of staff work.

	<p>5. Budget summary. Field Review & Presentations: I could not go on the field trip due to a 4 p.m. appointment. I left just as the vehicles left the restaurant.</p> <p>The District is in compliance with goals identified in the DLMP and ELM programs. This is true because the District writes the DLMP to conform with present actions, rather than writing the plan to conform with the spirit and substance of Florida law creating the Districts.</p>
<p>Doug Williams</p>	<p>DLMP: Might want to expand on why selling District Lands – what is the plan? Does it meet objective?</p> <p>Field Review and Presentations: Increased planting of longleaf where applicable would probably be a good move.</p> <p>I think SRWMD has challenged itself to improve their management program and constantly seeks to find better ways to manage district lands. The openness of these review teams help get the words out and encourage input.</p>
<p>Dale Soles, Private Landowner</p>	<p>DLMP: It was quite informative but took considerable time to review it. It was nice you sent it out early. Field Review and Presentations: It is a great problem to try & figure out what kind of pines when reforesting.</p>
<p>Frank Sedmera, 4 Rivers Audubon</p>	<p>DLMP: Will wait for WORD version In-door Presentations: Add a day Field Review and Presentations: Will wait for WORD doc</p> <p>FROM COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PLAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have worked with DEP, SRWMD and some private land owners, trying to bring back suppressed desirable ground covers through prescribed fire. I have appreciated being able to help with these efforts. I do not claim enough expertise to be able to comment on the tour discussions over which species of pine to plant during re-forestation. But long leaf certainly seems to be the species usually specified. I would hope that the timely re-introduction of fire would be given a very high priority when re-forestation is being considered. • I would include the objective of public education in this location. I mentioned kiosks in the meeting. Seems to me that kiosks would have been quite appropriate for some locations where I was seeking to manage, or eliminate, exotic invasives. I can think of a number of quite public locations where this could have been helpful. Falmouth Springs is just one. I worked both sides of the entrance path, managing Japanese Honeysuckle. I also worked the Japanese Climbing Fern on the walls of the karst window. I also worked the wisteria on the old homesite. A kiosk at the entrance path could have explained the "before" problems and then had people note the locations some time after treatment. The High Springs Wellfield site was alongside two county roads. Another potential kiosk site. The paved trail running past Branford Bend would have been another potential kiosk site. I understand that some program at UF might be a source of help with kiosks. I have contacted a grad student who mentioned this possibility during a meeting yesterday.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hey Hey. Here I am again. I was very disappointed when the District closed down (for all practical purposes) its education efforts. I would encourage the District to try to educate people at locations where people to come to use lands and facilities. • Here is another appropriate location for a kiosk or other device which can explain the benefits of prescribed fire. This sort of kiosk could be moved to other locations as the site begins to recover from a burn to the extent that the burn is becoming difficult to recognize. Public attention has already been drawn to the area by the burn. This is far better than hoping that someone will read a news article. • Not aware of opportunities for volunteers. How is this publicized? <p>[In regards to pine tree planting densities] It does seem like the densities are high. Perhaps this is because of the need for fine fuels early in the reforestation? Dense now but thin later??</p>
<p>Valerie Thomas, 4 Rivers Audubon</p>	<p>DLMP: I read the plan twice, and it is clear and well written.</p> <p>In-door Presentations: It would be helpful to have a list of staff names, titles and departments available for those attendees who do not know SRWMD personnel.</p> <p>Field Review and Presentations: Per the plan the goal is to “restore the land’s natural state & condition” and “maintain the historical natural community structure.” I understand that the District must work within its budget and seems to do the best they can with what they have. But the land was historically longleaf pine and the rationale for planting slash pine was not clear. Especially in large restoration areas where the habitat could really make a difference for species diversity. Longleaf should be used.</p> <p>All staff were professional and courteous, even when confronted repeatedly. I was impressed with the process they used to prepare and execute plans as a team taking into consideration all aspects of the process and working collaboratively.</p>
<p>No name on survey</p>	<p>In-door Presentations In depth on the plan to move towards the DFC in different stands</p>
<p>Mac Finlayson, Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Did not get plan to read.</p>
<p>No name on survey</p>	<p>In-door Presentations: After questions were asked, slides became clear Field Review and Presentations: Agree with longleaf over slash</p>

<p>Kevin McIntyre, Jones Ecological Center</p>	<p>Enjoyed the meeting, thought the discussions were interesting. As always, very impressed with what y'all are doing down there.</p> <p>Overall, I think the document is well written, concise, and outlines a sound approach to management of district lands, and we were especially pleased to see references to implementing ecological forestry on district lands. I only have a couple of broad comments on the plan.</p> <p>As I commented at the meeting, I would recommend broadening the fire return interval (FRI) on <u>upland</u> pine forests from 3-5 years to at least 2-5 (if not 1-5) years. I won't argue with a 3 year FRI as being the minimum acceptable criterion, but if resources are available and conditions conducive managers should not be boxed into waiting a minimum 3 years between prescribed fires if a site would benefit from more frequent fire. In the appendix, sandhill communities were assigned a shorter 2-5 year FRI. Sandhill systems are generally regarded as being lower in productivity than other longleaf communities and thus are thought to have had longer FRIs historically. With this in mind it seems that the more productive upland communities could at least be assigned the 2-5 year FRI that was given to sandhill communities. I'll be happy to provide some supporting literature citations from the Jones Center that argue for more frequent fire if you would find that useful.</p> <p>My other major comment is in regard to the debate that emerged during the meeting about planting longleaf versus slash pine. It is stated several times in the planning document that a primary objective is <i>to restore natural communities based on soils, hydrology, and site conditions</i>, and I believe your agency is sincere about that objective. Based on my limited knowledge of your land holdings, it seems likely to me that you have a range of conditions that includes sites where it is obvious which pine species was native and probably many other sites where the native overstory species is not so clear. We would certainly advocate for planting longleaf on sites where it is the obvious choice for the site conditions. However, I felt that you were unjustly taken to task for even considering planting slash pine anywhere on district lands. If the site was likely dominated by slash pine historically, I see nothing wrong with restoration of that community. I sometimes wonder if the emerging longleaf fervor biases an objective assessment of ecological restoration and appropriate target condition in some situations. Perhaps a more literal statement in the document regarding this issue, i.e. the restoration of both community types based on an objective assessment of the best available information, would help you avoid unwarranted criticism going forward. I can also see that there would be other situations, such as tracts that presented difficulty burning because of WUI issues, where longleaf restoration might not be pragmatic or practical. As much as we all would like to see ecological restoration that is true to historic patterns, we also have to accept that the world has changed and will continue to do so; as such we must be practical about picking our battles and deciding where to best expend our resources and efforts. I hope we can make the next review meeting and tour that examines this restoration target issue in more detail.</p>
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<p>Bob Simons, FL Defenders of the Environment</p>	<p>DLMP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ELM score card is confusing in some cases: % of burns that are within target return intervals 2. Desired future condition for each community; these could be more complete and detailed. <p>In-door Presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management of bottomland hardwood forests flood plain swamps, depression swamps, etc. <p>More frequent fire and more growing season fire would be highly desirable.</p>
<p>Colette Jocono, IFAS</p>	<p>DLMP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8-IPM, p2: Education should extend to LM staff in that they receive training in new invasive species and application methods. FLEPPC conferences & IFAS workshops are possible sources. 2. 8-IPM, p6: CWMA – LM staff should be active in both Apalachicola & First Coast invasive working groups – usually consists of monthly call in sessions & occasional meeting to discuss current invasive species issues- would be good for LM staff, a wealth of resources & strength for funding proposals. 3. 12: Work towards LL pine seed collection from district lands & culture then local nurseries which that local seed would be deposited with. 4. Natural community designation may be based on FNAI stds however endemic subcategories must be determine by LM staff. This should be ongoing by LM not all contracted to FNAI. The District needs to better address LM programs as long term & work towards increasing staff in order to ensure integrity of programs from within. <p>In-door Presentation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less general more detail inside. Assume we have read report and work from there. <p>Field Review and Presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heighten management goals to improve common species not just preserve rare. 2. Adopt Mr. Meese’s proposal to plant long leaf over slash unless a decision matrix provides otherwise. LM team should draft this matrix and submit for review before finalization of this draft. 3. No hardwood in bottomland/flood plain swamp. 4. Keep the group moving through the site then follow up with important points. Do not have group standing in road while LM goes over LM details. Shorten these periods. Reduce repetition. Divide reviews into one for LM one for recreation. I would rather spend all my efforts on LM. <p>I am opposed to the suggestion of using off district reference standards, and for wetland esp., do not recommend adopting reference standards. Again—District should conduct and maintain its own natural area mapping and designation. Shift to FSE over SFI standards (this is next step as you have exceed/met SFI). Thank you for the enjoyable and potentially productive. Keep up good work Beau & Scott.</p>

<p>Scotland Talley, FWC</p>	<p>FROM COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PLAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In areas with pyrogenic ground cover communities reforestation with longleaf is essential to maintaining the appropriate fire return. <p>FNAI has been revising the fire return interval for a number of communities, generally shortening them. I also recommend using shorter intervals on fire-suppressed areas due to the increased vigor of shrubs and hardwoods in these areas. It takes several rotations of fire on shorter intervals to deplete the root systems, particularly in mesic flatwoods. Interval is more important than seasonality at this point although getting fire in during the growing season (or at least after bud break) does help deplete the belowground resources.</p>
<p>Katherine Ewel, Private Landowner</p>	<p>FROM COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PLAN:</p> <p>[The Financial Responsibility section] would be a good place to introduce the possibility (and mechanism) of divesting yourself of lands that no longer serve the District's purpose.</p>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

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

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*
Joe Flanagan, Deputy Executive Director *JF*

DATE: June 11, 2010

RE: Excellence in Land Management Report
Sustainable Forestry Initiative Public Surveillance Audit Report

The District has completed the fifth year of implementing its Excellence in Land Management program. With five years of data for most measures, the program is beginning to generate trends that can assist the Governing Board, staff and public in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses in the District's land management. The attached report summarizes the data that has been collected as evidence of the District's conformance with the four major performance measures adopted in 2005 by the Governing Board.

- Resource Protection
- Public Use
- Communications
- Fiscal Responsibility

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Public Audit Report is a portion of the audit the District contracted with NSF International Strategic Registrations, Ltd., to perform on activities subject to review in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard 2005-2009.

The information provided in these reports continues to be helpful to staff in assessing progress towards goals, improved operational processes and development of the new District Land Management Plan.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder
008-00348

SRWMD Excellence in Land Management Report for Fiscal Year 2009

Introduction

The District has completed its fifth year of implementing its Excellence in Land Management program. Although the program is, and will remain, a work in progress, the data collection and reporting procedures are beginning to stabilize. In addition, with five years of data for most measures, the program is beginning to generate trends that can assist the Governing Board, staff and public in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses in the District's land management.

The following report summarizes the data that has been collected as evidence of the District's conformance with the four major performance measures adopted by the Governing Board in 2005.

Resource Protection

1.1 The District shall increase public ownership and/or control of land within the Florida Forever (FF) Boundary and 100 year floodplain of Suwannee River and tributaries.

The District acquired 1,488 acres within the areas of acquisition interest delineated in the Florida Forever Work Plan. This accounts for 99% of all lands acquired during the year. This compares with 3,097 acres, 92% within plan-delineated areas, in FY 08. Less than fee purchases accounted for 181 acres or 12% of acres acquired, only 8% of the less than fee acres acquired in FY 08.

These numbers will vary significantly from year to year based on the type of projects submitted by landowners (e.g., fee vs. conservation easement), the success of negotiations, and the relative price for acreage purchased.

The percentage of acquired lands that meet two or more of the statutorily-mandated Florida Forever goals and measures remained high at 100% for FY 09.

Cumulatively, the District owns or has less than fee interests in 59,107 acres within the mapped floodplains of the Suwannee River and its tributaries. This is an increase of 88 acres over the previous fiscal year. Staff will review the new FEMA data to determine if an ownership-wide analysis of lands in 100-year floodplain can be developed for 2011 evidence.

1.2 The District's Acquisition Program will be consistent with the Florida Forever Goals and Performance Measures.

The analysis for this performance measure is based on an overlay of the map of lands acquired and a set of state-wide maps developed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). This is the same method used by FNAI to analyze the effectiveness of all agencies implementing the Florida Forever program for the Legislature.

District acquisitions contribute to the complete range of targeted resources. Most acquired lands provide protection for surface waters (1,506 acres) and groundwater recharge or springs protection (1,507 acres). This score shows that a large percentage of acres acquired have multiple water resource benefits.

1.3 The District shall increase the "quality" of resources under its management.

The evidence in this section addresses the degree to which District activities improve the condition of the hydrological, ecological, or historical/archeological resources on its lands. To that end, District staff treated 12,021 acres, somewhat higher than the previous fiscal year (11,618 acres).

The most extensive activity was prescribed burning. District staff and contractors conducted successful burns on 7,431 acres. The acres of burning are on a downward trend related to ongoing drought conditions, high fuel loads and budget constraints. This measure will require better weather conditions and funding to move back to the desired upward trend.

The percentage of burns that were conducted within the planned fire return interval increased from 24% in FY 08 to 48% in FY 09. This is primarily a result of being able to burn areas where fuel loading was reduced by previous District prescribed fires.

With input from the 2009 Land Management Review Team, a change is being recommended that scores the percentage of fire dependent communities, District-wide, whose fire frequency is within the natural fire return interval listed in the management plan. The previous measure only scored those acres burned that year, so it didn't provide an accurate measure of project success over all District-owned lands. The first year measure is 43%.

Hydrologic enhancements have decreased with the completion of the Mallory Swamp Project this year and no Department of Transportation wetland mitigation activity in FY 09.

The acres and percent treatment of exotic species reported are static this year. This is the second year of a new analysis. Since some plants require multiple treatments to eradicate, there is now a multiyear monitoring protocol to confirm mortality before a population is classified as eradicated. The reduction of areas impacted is anticipated in the FY 2010 report.

Each of the District's 37 conservation easements, encompassing 118,000 acres, was inspected during the fiscal year and 100% were found to be in compliance with the terms of the easement.

A third-party Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification audit of District lands was completed in FY 07. Follow-up surveillance audits were completed in FY 08 and FY 09. The Audit firm found the District to be in conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard 2005-2009 in FY 09. The scorecard reflects 96% of all measures either Exceed Requirements or are in Conformance with the Standard for the certification audit. For FY 08, 89% of the surveillance measures (20% of the total) were in Conformance or Exceed Requirements. For the FY 09 surveillance audit, 91% of the audit performance measures met or exceeded the standards. Three Opportunity for Improvement were noted by the auditor: periodic updates of timber inventories, improve the program to ensure efficient utilization of timber products and more accurate reporting in clearcut acres in the audit report.

Public Use

2.1 The District shall increase access and the number of recreation facilities consistent with Management Plans.

The quantity of recreational facilities has generally increased as the District acquires new lands and completes improvements to them. Hunting opportunities have increased by approximately 3,000 acres in FY 2009.

Multi-use and equestrian trails totaling 38 miles were added in FY 2009, raising the total trail miles to 196 miles.

2.2 The District shall increase the quality and appearance of access and education/recreation facilities, and compliance with facility maintenance standards (including ADA requirements).

The percentage of sites meeting or exceeding standards is based on whether a tract meets the development standard for its public use classification (i.e., featured, general recreation, or primitive). District staff has been renovating

existing facilities and constructing new ones to the new DRAFT standards in the District Land Management Plan. The impact of ongoing improvements is expected to show up with a large increase in FY 10.

2.3 The District shall maintain or increase the public's satisfaction with recreation/education experiences on District-owned lands.

The University of Florida Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sports Management completed the third and final phase of the "Customer Satisfaction Surveys" by polling particular user groups at two events this year. Participants at the Suwannee Bicycle Festival were polled regarding the bike trails on SRWMD lands and their satisfaction with their experience. 89% responded that they were satisfied with trails and their use of SRWMD lands. The survey of mobility-impaired hunters at the District's Holton Creek Tract shows 89% were satisfied with the hunting opportunity and their use of the lands for hunting opportunities.

Communication

3.1 The District shall prepare a District Land Management Plan for all District-owned sites.

The District Land Management Plan (DLMP) covering all lands was approved by the Governing Board in June 2003. Staff is concentrating on refinement of the geographic information system for land management and the development of standards to apply to all facets of District lands. These data processing and document updates will provide the basis for revision of the DLMP and development of the annual work plan.

Work on the update was not completed in FY 09. Meetings were held with the Land Management Review Team in 2009 and spring 2010 to review the DRAFT plan. Submittal to the Governing Board is planned for the first quarter of FY 2011.

3.2 The District shall maintain or increase the annual level of stakeholder involvement (web site hits, meeting participation, number of meetings and workshops, etc.), including review team meetings.

This is one of the measures that have been difficult for staff to track. More is occurring than is being recorded because a consistent mechanism for reporting has not been developed. Staff participated in 29 meetings or developed articles for press release six times. 24 members of the public participated in the 2009 Land Management Review Team process and provided comments to the District.

3.3 The District shall maintain or increase the public's satisfaction with public outreach.

Staff is recommending discontinuing this measure until the revised DLMP is approved. The new DLMP will specify the Outreach program and recommend suitable metrics to measure the District efforts to educate the public on land purchases and management.

Fiscal Responsibility

4.1 The District shall manage its lands within the range of management costs of other similar agencies in Florida.

Management costs reported by the other water management districts ranged from \$9.02 to \$20.24 per acre. The District's actual land management expenditures for FY 2009 were \$14.98 per acre. This was 2% above the average value of \$14.74. Budget cuts related to lack of Water Management Trust Fund funding contributed to expenditures lower than FY2008.

4.2 The District shall maximize revenues from its timber sales.

Staff has compiled timber sales data and compared the average price per ton for all planned timber sales sold to the average market prices reported for the region from Timber Mart South. Revenues from District timber sales have consistently exceeded expected values reported from the market and did so by 4% last year.

4.3 The District shall maximize revenues from alternative funding sources.

Grants from both federal and state sources and non-cash contributions by management cooperators were summed to arrive at a measure of alternate funding. Federal Wetlands Reserve grants have been the single biggest source in recent years, totaling \$124,000 last year. The services that cooperating agencies contributed is estimated at \$343,000. DOF sold approximately \$293,000 of SRWMD timber from Twin Rivers State Forest and billed for \$41,000 of services. Along with several smaller grants, the total from alternative sources for FY 09 was \$343,296. This was down substantially from previous years (related to the winding down of Mallory Swamp funding) and amounted to 8% of all land management expenditures.

4.4 The District shall provide and maintain adequate human resources and physical infrastructure to effectively and safely manage its lands.

This performance measure is designed to gauge the extent to which the District is taking proactive action to maintain the underlying support system for land management. The human dimension is measured in terms of staff training. The number of courses attended was down for the third straight year. Staff attended 19 courses in FY 2009 compared to 54 courses in FY 06. This issue is being monitored more closely as a result of the SFI audit findings. A list of required courses by job description was developed in 2009. In 2010, a new method that reflects staff training levels consistent with their responsibilities and the percentage of staff that are fully trained will be developed.

The maintenance of key records has been identified as an important measure, but a protocol for its application has yet to be developed. It is recommended that this measure be deleted until the list of required records is developed in 2010.

Staff is conducting quarterly safety inspections of public use facilities. Potential problems are being noted and addressed on a regular basis. Development of a complete set of safety standards and a procedure for auditing conformance are not yet complete.

Conclusions

District land acquisition and management is achieving its core mission of natural resource protection. Examples of evidence for this statement include:

- The District is acquiring land that is highly consistent with the Florida Forever Work Plan and with 100% of the acquisitions meeting two or more Florida Forever goals and measures.
- Over 12,000 acres were treated to enhance natural community conditions on SRWMD lands despite budget shortfalls.
- The District's prescribed fire program increased the percentage of repeat burns occurring at a frequency consistent with natural cycles. New measures to better reflect progress have been proposed.
- Third party audits of the program for conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard 2005-2009 show high levels of conformance and evidence Exceeding Requirements of the Standard in the rare species management program.

- Recreational users of SRWMD lands report a high degree of satisfaction, (9 out of 10) with natural experience provided by SRWMD lands.

Areas to monitor based on information tracked through this process include:

- Downward trend in areas treated to enhance natural communities. Prescribed fire is highly correlated with weather and adversely affected by the ongoing drought and lost funding, but there were decreases in timber sales acreage, acres replanted and exotic plant treatment.
- The District Land Management Plan update must be completed within the FY 2010-11 or there exists the potential to lose direction and lose public confidence and accountability.
- A consistent measure of adequate staff training must be developed to understand the status of desired training. Focusing on courses and hours may reflect training opportunities and not “adequately trained” staff. A training outline was developed and will be integrated into the Management Plan.

**Recommended Revisions for FY 09 Score Card
(Shown in red on Scorecard)**

Add new Evidence:

Measure 1.1.B.a – Percentage of District-owned lands in the 100-year floodplain based on District-wide FEMA data sets.

Measure 1.3B.a – Percentage of all fire dependent natural communities that are treated with prescribed fire within the reported range of natural fires.

Restate Evidence:

(Delete strikethrough; add underlined text)

Measure 1.3.E - ~~# Acres harvested~~ sold for timber to reach Desired Stocking conditions.

Measure 1.3.H - ~~%Acres surveyed for cultural resources~~ assessed for cultural resources high probability zones.

Measure 1.3.L - ~~# of Known populations of listed species monitored.~~ % of listed species monitoring plan implemented.

Discontinue tracking until completion of new District Land Management Plan.

Measure 1.3D – % acres restored in identified upland restoration layer.

Measure 3.3 – % satisfaction with Public Outreach program.

Measure 4.4B – % of records up to date.

Measure 4.4C – % of facilities that meet standards.

SRWMD FY 09
Excellence in Land Management
Score Card

Resource Protection	Performance Measure	Evidence	FY 09 Score	FY 08 Score	FY 07 Score	FY 06 Score	FY 05 Score
1.1.A	The District shall increase public ownership and/or control of land within the Florida Forever (FF) Boundary and 100 year floodplain of Suwannee River and tributaries.	Total acres of lands acquired within FF boundary. (Annual FF and cumulative within mapped 100-year floodplain)	1,488 acres 59,107 acres	3,097 acres 59,019 acres	2,635 acres 58,062 acres	3,217 acres 57,369 acres	2,639 acres 58,937 acres
1.1.B		% of all lands acquired that fall within FF boundary. (Annual FF and cumulative within 100-year floodplain)	99% 59%	92% 59%	99% 58%	88% 58%	99% 45%
1.1.C		% of annual acquired lands that meet two or more FF Goals and performance measures.	100%	97%	98%	99%	99%
1.2.A	The District's Acquisition Program will be consistent with the Florida Forever Goals and Performance Measures.	% of land acquired annually containing targeted resources. (summary)	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%
1.2.B		# of acres protected through the use of alternatives to fee simple acquisition.	181	2,158	1,232	568	0
1.2.C		# of acres acquired within "significant strategic habitat conservation area".	875	2,253	204	518	426
1.2.D		# of acres acquired that protect natural floodplain functions.	433	708	333	1,314	1,018
1.2.E		# of acres acquired that protect surface waters.	1,506	3,371	2,639	3,634	2,665
1.2.F		# of acres of functional wetland systems protected.	713	1,961	1,061	1,356	1,994
1.2.G		# of acres acquired of groundwater recharge areas critical to springs, sinks, aquifers, other natural systems or water supply.	1,507	202	25	152	178
1.2.H		# of acres acquired that are available for natural resource-based recreation or education.	253	1,424	144	734	0
1.2.I		# of acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management.	573	379	1,175	1,447	531
1.2.J		# of acres acquired of forestland that will serve to maintain natural groundwater recharge functions.	574	358	898	1,084	151
1.2.K		# of acres acquired of habitat deemed highest priority conservation areas for Florida's rarest species.	59	2,108	763	646	983

SRWMD FY 09
Excellence in Land Management
Score Card

Resource Protection	Performance Measure	Evidence	FY 09 Score	FY 08 Score	FY 07 Score	FY 06 score	FY 05 score
1.3.A	The District shall increase the "quality" of resources under its management.	# Acres burned that met objective.	7,229	7,014	10,971	11,972	10,681
1.3.B		% Acres burned within natural fire return interval.	48%	24%	26%	30%	44%
1.3.B.a		% Acres within natural fire return interval	43%	43%	36%	43%	40%
1.3.C		# Acres replanted for Desired Future Conditions (DFCs).	1,458	812	1,147	1,201	1,689
1.3.D		% Acres restored to historical natural communities and identified upland restoration layer.	na	na	na	na	na
1.3.E		# Acres harvested/sold for timber to reach Desired Stocking conditions.	1,079	981	1,259	1,231	880
1.3.F		# Hydrologic Structures installed / # Acres wetlands mitigated.	53 / 0 acres	50 / 0 acres	160 / 236 acres	85 / 11.3 acres	3,800
1.3.G		% Acres treated / # Acres impacted by exotic species.	22% / 1,135	22% / 1266	40% / 1,813	1,318	993
1.3.H		% Acres surveyed for cultural resources- assessed for cultural resources high probability zones.	95%	0%	0%	0%	99%
1.3.I		# Sites monitored for cultural resources.	5	3	0	na	0
1.3.J		#/% Known cultural sites damaged.	9/5%	9 / 5%	9 / 5%	5%	na
1.3.K		% Acres baseline surveyed for listed species.	98%	97%	95%	94%	92%
1.3.L		# of Known populations of listed species monitored. % of listed species monitoring plan implemented.	102	153	179	47	0
1.3.M		% of Easements in compliance.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1.3.N		Total acres burned, planted, harvested, sprayed.	12,021	11,618	14,741	14,908	13,858
1.4	The District shall conform with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard (2005-2009).	% of Indicators that Exceed Requirements or are in Full Conformance. <i>FY07, 08 , 09 scores are third party audit. FY 08, 09 is 20% surveillance audit.</i>	91%	89%	96%	na	62%

SRWMD FY 09
Excellence in Land Management
Score Card

Public Use	Performance Measure	Evidence	FY 09 Score	FY 08 Score	FY 07 Score	FY 06 Score	FY 05 score
2.1.A	The District shall increase access and the number of recreation facilities consistent with Management Plans.	# Trailheads	18	18	15	13	13
2.1.B		# Boat Ramps	10	10	10	7	6
2.1.C		# Canoe Launches	70	70	61	38	38
2.1.D		# Acres Open to Hunting	98,646	95,675	96,210	95,331	95,796
2.1.E		# Picnic Areas	15	15	12	12	12
2.1.F		# Interpretive Sites	6	6	5	4	2
2.1.G		# Restrooms	14	14	10	7	7
2.1.H		# Fishing Access (Parking, Bank Access)	94	94	87	82	77
2.1.I		# Miles Trails	196	158	158	108	87
2.1.J		# Miles Driving Trails	302	302	286	285	312
2.2	The District shall increase the quality and appearance of access and education/ recreation facilities, and compliance with facility maintenance standards (including ADA requirements).	% Sites that Meet or Exceed Standards.	76%	75%	74%	70%	49%
2.3	The District shall maintain or increase the public's satisfaction with recreation/education experiences on District-owned lands.	% Public Satisfaction	89% Bicycling Festival Survey 89% Hunting at Holton Creek WMA	90%	83%/48%	na	na

SRWMD FY 09
Excellence in Land Management
Score Card

Communications	Performance Measure	Evidence	FY 09 Score	FY 08 Score	FY 07 Score	FY 06 Score	FY 05 score
3.1	The District shall prepare a District Land Management Plan for all District-owned sites.	# acres / % Current Management Plans	0 acres 0%	0 acres 0%	158,080 acres 92.6%	159,092 acres 95.5%	116,307 acres 72%
3.2.A	The District shall maintain or increase the annual level of stakeholder involvement (web site hits, meeting participation, number of meetings and workshops, etc.), including review team meetings.	# of Articles in District Newsletter, Public Workshops, Review Team Meetings, Presentations, etc.	36	78	58	na	76
3.2.B		# Participants (Review Team)	24	13	21	10	19
3.3	The District shall maintain or increase the public's satisfaction with public outreach.	% Public Satisfaction	na	na	na	na	na
Fiscal Responsibility	Performance Measure	Evidence	FY 09 Score	FY 08 Score	FY 07 Score	FY 06 Score	FY 05 score
4.1	The District shall manage its lands within the range of management costs of other similar agencies in Florida.	% Variation between District, other WMD costs	102%	134%	130%	116%	96%
4.2	The District shall maximize revenues from its planned timber sales.	% Of Market Rate	Pulpwood = 109% Chip & Saw = 97% Sawtimber = 87% Total Value = 104%	Pulpwood = 113% Chip & Saw = 109% Total Value = 113%	Pulpwood = 114% Chip & Saw = 95% Sawtimber = 94% Total Value = 109%	Pulpwood = 104% Chip & Saw = 104% Sawtimber = 100% Pole = 90% HW ST = 116% Total Value = 103%	Pulpwood = 98% Chip & Saw = 112% Sawtimber = 94% Total Value = 104%
4.3.A	The District shall maximize revenues from alternative funding sources.	\$ From External Sources	\$343,296	\$583,753	\$1,961,728	\$675,400	\$617,063
4.3.B		% of Expenses from External Sources	8%	9%	30%	12%	14%
4.4.A	The District shall provide and maintain adequate human resources and physical infrastructure to effectively and safely manage its lands.	# of Training Courses and Hours Completed by Staff	19 Training Courses 249 hours	29 Training Courses 312 hours	53 Training Courses 454 hours	54 Training Courses 401 hours	45 Training Courses na Hours
4.4.B		% of records up-to-date	na	na	na	na	na
4.4.C		% Facilities that Meet or Exceed Standards-	na	na	na	na	na



Public SFI Surveillance Audit Report

The SFI Program of Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) of Live Oak, Florida has demonstrated continuing conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard®, 2005-2009 Edition (SFIS), according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF-ISR initially certified SRWMD to the SFIS in July 2008. This report describes the second annual follow-up Surveillance Audit designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. This audit included a detailed review of a portion of the SFI requirements.

SRWMD's Department of Land Acquisition and Management manages approximately 160,418 acres of fee timberland in north central Florida. The Department is charged with managing lands to ensure a balance between public access, general public recreation purposes and restoration and protection of the natural state and condition of the land and to provide nature based passive recreational use opportunities consistent with environmental sensitivity of the lands and the purpose for which the lands were acquired. SRWMD's SFI Program is managed by Joe Flanagan.

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR January 26-27, 2010 by Norman Boatwright, Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ). The objective of the audit was to assess continuing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2005-2009 Edition.

The scope of the SFIS Audit included fee timberland. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been under active management between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009. In addition, practices conducted later were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example). A subset of SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were reexamined during the audit. The requirement to provide a public disclosure of audit reports was also reviewed.

As with the initial certification, several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of SRWMD's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- 2.1.3, 3.2.5, 8 All, 11.1.4.

No indicators were modified.

SFIS Surveillance Audit Process

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed

forest practices. Documents describing these activities were provided to the auditor in advance, and a sample of the available audit evidence was designated by the auditor for review.

The possible findings for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS. Surveillance Audits generally focus on conformance issues and do not generally address exceptional practices.

Overview of Audit Findings

SRWMD's SFI Program was found to be in full conformance with the SFIS Standard. The NSF-ISR Audit team reviewed the previous minor non-conformance and corrective action plan implemented by SRWMD as follows:

1. 10.1.3 "Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities."
Documentation of training for 2 key staff not sufficient. Confirmed staff training matrix in place and populated. Training not done yet for contractors. This non-conformance was closed.

Three opportunities for improvement (OFIs) were identified:

1. 1.1.4 There is an opportunity to improve periodic updates of inventory.
2. 7.1.1 There is an opportunity to improve the program to ensure efficient utilization.
3. 12.6.2 There is an opportunity to improve the reporting accuracy for clearcut acres on the annual report.

NSF-ISR also identified the following areas where forestry practices and operations on SRWMD's lands exceed the basic requirements of the SFI Standard:

1. 4.1 ALL SRWMD is mandated to manage & maintain its land base to, among other things, restore and protect the lands natural condition; SRWMD has an exemplary robust program to inventory and protect T/E species titled "Rare Species and Communities Project". Document describes inventory frequency & methodology and management prescriptions; SRWMD's land acquisitions are managed with forestry operations to enhance natural communities and forest structure so as to restore conditions represented in old growth forests; SRWMD has an active prescribed burning program.

This program is being audited under the continuous surveillance audit option provided in the SFI program. The next surveillance audit is scheduled for January 25, 2010.

Relevance of Forestry Certification

Third-party certification provides assurance that forests are being managed under the principles of sustainable forestry, which are described in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as:

1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Responsible Practices

To use and to promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally, and socially responsible.

3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forestland base.

4. Forest Health and Productivity

To protect forests from uncharacteristic and economically or environmentally undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

5. Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity

To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity.

6. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and riparian zones.

7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity

To manage forests and lands of special significance (biologically, geologically, historically or culturally important) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote a diversity of wildlife habitats, forest types, and ecological or natural community types.

8. Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

9. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management and also to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2005–2009 Edition

For Additional Information Contact:

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Joe Flanagan
SRWMD
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Live Oak, FL 32060
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JWF@srwmd.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Terry Demott, Sr. Land Resource Coordinator *TD*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management *JF*

DATE: June 15, 2010

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 July 13, 2010, Governing Board meeting.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder
007-00035

PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT	STATUS
Jackson, Kevin & Patrice/ Jackson CE Lafayette County 150 acres +/-	This property was approved for purchase on April 13, 2010. Survey, title review and environmental audit are in progress. Closing is scheduled to take place by June 30, 2010.
N.G. Wade Investment Co./ Gilchrist Regional Wellfield Gilchrist County 105 acres +/-	This property was approved for acquisition on April 13, 2010. Survey, title review and environmental audit are in progress. Closing is to take place by July 31, 2010.
Osceola Land & Timber/ Santa Fe CE Alachua County 463 acres +/-	This property was approved for purchase on April 13, 2010. The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners approved the joint purchase on April 27, 2010. A survey, environmental audit and title review are all in progress and scheduled for June 30 completion. Purchase of the tract is planned for July 15, 2010.
APPROVED PROJECTS	STATUS
Guerry, Brian Surplus Property Exchange Columbia County	Appraisals are complete, and staff is preparing an exchange proposal for Board review.
Santa Fe River Hammock LLC/ Santa Fe River Hammock CE Bradford County 167 acres +/-	Terms of a conservation easement have been agreed to with the landowner, and legal counsel has finalized the conservation easement document. A confidential offer authorization was reviewed by the Governing Board and negotiations with the landowner are in progress.
SURPLUS LANDS	STATUS
Surplus Lands	Appraisals and timber valuations of Group 1 Land Sales were received June 14, 2010, and are under review by the District's independent review appraiser. A Request for Bid for Group II Land Sales has resulted in the selection of two appraisers and a timber valuation firm. The appraisals of Group II Land Sales are due July 15, 2010. A request for bid for appraisal services is being prepared for Group III Land Sales.

SURPLUS LANDS

Group #	Tract Name	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding Source	Appraisal Date	Listing Date	Listing Price	Sale Date	Sale Price
1	Bay Creek South	46	Columbia	April 1990	WMLTF	June 14	July 1			
1	Owens Spring	77	Lafayette	March 1999	P2000	June 14	July 1			
1	Westwood West	270	Madison	December 1988	WMLTF	June 14	July 1			
1	Blue Sink	79	Suwannee	December 1988	WMLTF	June 14	July 1			
2	Jennings Bluff	70	Hamilton	February 1989	WMLTF	July 30	August 6			
2	Adams South	60	Lafayette	May 1990	WMLTF	July 30	August 6			
2	Manatee South	330	Levy	April 1997	WMLTF	Pending				
2	47 Runs	20	Levy	December 2000	WMLTF	July 30	August 6			

Land Acquisition Activity Report
 June 11, 2010
 Page 3

Group #	Tract Name	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding Source	Appraisal Date	Listing Date	Listing Price	Sale Date	Sale Price
3	Hunter Creek	120	Hamilton	September 2002	P2000	August 27	Sept. 3			
3	Santa Fe Oasis	110	Gilchrist	June 1995	P2000	August 27	Sept. 3			
3	Steinhatchee Rise	42	Dixie	February 1996	P2000	August 27	Sept. 3			
3	Timber River	1	Madison	March 1998	WMLTF	August 27	Sept. 3			
3	Falmouth North (8 tracts)	6	Suwannee	April 1998	WMLTF	August 27	Sept. 3			

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bob Heeke, Senior Land Resources Manager *BA*

THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management *JF*

DATE: June 14, 2010

SUBJECT: Land Management Activity Report

REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Annual inspection of the Plantations at Deep Creek Conservation Easement in Columbia County took place. Maintenance and upkeep of the property in the easement is according to the agreed upon terms.

The Bailey Brothers Conservation Easement in Dixie County was visited with Resource Management staff concerning ditch maintenance.

Staff met with Dixie County School officials concerning the possible conveyance of District property in Cross City to the County for a new high school.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

District staff is working with contractors to begin the first round of mowing public use roads on District lands

District staff has worked with three Eagle Scout candidates on projects for District lands. These projects include a fire ring project for a group camp site at Swift Creek and marking two off-road bike trails with new metal blazes. The projects should be completed this summer.

Eroded roads have been repaired at Otter Springs. Road repairs are ongoing in the Middle Aucilla Conservation Area.

A monitoring well has been installed at Otter Springs to test for any impacts related to septic systems located in the camp ground.

LAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

A field trip was conducted with volunteers from the last Land Management Review Team who were interested in further review of reforestation practices on District lands. In attendance were three members of the public, three DOF employees, and three District employees.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

District staff surveyed and/or treated invasive weeds on District lands including Cogongrass, Mimosa, Chinese Tallow, Japanese Climbing Fern, Chinaberry and Air Potato. Two separate contractors have been controlling invasive weeds on District tracts. One contractor continues work at the Lake Rowell Tract which has areas of heavy infestation with several FLEPPC Categories I and II invasive weeds. The second contractor treated Japanese Climbing Fern on District tracts within the Alapaha Basin.

Requests for bids for the Steinhatchee Springs #7 Timber Sale and Twin River State Forest/Black Tract Timber Sale were advertised and bids received. Additional information and requests for authorization to enter into contract are presented in other Board memos.

District staff surveyed District tracts for Swainson's Warbler, state listed Endangered Bartram Ixia and confirmed presence of state listed Endangered Anglepod. Three wading bird rookeries were visited to confirm activity, to monitor the surrounding area for deleterious activities and to estimate the approximate number and species of birds present.

Logging is underway on the Steinhatchee Springs #4 timber sale (153-acre thinning) and the Alapahoochee #1 Timber Sale (36-acre clearcut and 4-acre thinning).

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

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

Recreation	Temporary Ingress & Egress	Mallory Swamp ATV Trail	RO Ranch	Goose Pasture Camping	Total
14		6			20

PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGEMENT

Summary Table FY 2010

	2010 Target Acres	Acres Complete
SRWMD	8,500	11,295
DOF TRSF	2,000	3,874
TOTAL	10,500	15,169

Contractors conducting prescribed burns on Suwannee River Water Management District (District) lands this year include: B&B Dugger (B&BD),

Natural Resources Planning Service (NRPS), The Forestry Company (TFC) and Wildland Fire Services (WFS). Also included are the acres The Florida Division of Forestry burns on Twin Rivers State Forest (DOF TRSF). The Florida Division of Forestry (DOF COOP) will also provide additional crews to burn on District tracts and Twin Rivers State Forest. District staff will also be conducting burns when possible.

Activity Table (May 2010)

		WFS	NRPS	TFC	B&BD	SRWMD STAFF	DOF COOP	DOF TRSF	Total Acres
TRACT	COUNTY								
Ellaville	Madison							62	62
Cuba Bay	Madison	179							179
Adams	Lafayette		25						25
Little River	Suwannee		500						500
<i>Sub-total for Period</i>		179	525	0	0	0	0	62	766
<i>Previous Acres Burned</i>		4,559	2,250	1,222	2,004	0	1,715	2,653	14,403
FY 2010 Total Acres		4,738	2,775	1,222	2,004	0	1,715	2,715	15,169

In May, growing season burns were conducted on sandy, upland sites to help promote the growth of grasses and forbs and inhibit hardwood encroachment. In Mallory Swamp, contractors have finalized plans for conducting aerial burns and continue to plan on starting operations as soon as conditions dry out.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Brian Kauffman, Facilities Director BCK

THRU: David Still, Executive Director
Joe Flanagan, Director of Land Acquisition and Management 

DATE: June 16, 2010

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

The R. O. Ranch Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled monthly board meeting on June 3 at the District's office in Live Oak. Earlier that same afternoon, the Directors attended a three-hour workshop with Tom Harper to work on the development of a business plan.

An agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to allow the District to build a trail under a bridge on U.S. Highway 19 has been finalized. The bridge crosses the Steinhatchee River bed, which is dry most of the time. The river goes underground a half mile north of the bridge and reappears about a quarter of a mile south of the bridge at Tennille. Water flows under the bridge only during extreme flood events, which makes the bridge an ideal place to build a trail under Highway 19. The 20-mile multipurpose trail will connect the R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park to the Steinhatchee Falls recreation area.

A Request for Bid (RFB) to build an electrical distribution system for the campground was advertise June 1; bids are due on June 30. In a related matter, staff received Governing Board approval on June 8 to contract with Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative to install the incoming power transmission lines to the campground. A purchase requisition to construct the power lines and install the transformers has been sent to Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative. The electric cooperative estimates construction to start around the first of July.

McInnis Construction is making progress on the visitor education center. Subcontractors are installing the sheetrock and trimming out the inside of the building. Bathhouse plans were revised and resubmitted to the Lafayette County Building Department for approval. Staff hopes to receive the permit within the next couple of weeks.

The District's inmate crew worked several days this month at the District headquarters in Live Oak. The crew maintained the grounds around the office and

R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park Monthly Activity Report
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landscaped the areas recently disturbed by new water and sewer line construction. They also cleaned up the boat storage yard behind the office. At the park, the inmate crew built a simple four-stall barn at the Panther Jim rental lodge for guests to use when they rent the house.

gal
cc: Charlie Houder
023-00010