

Suwannee River Water Management District

Governing Board Materials

Land Acquisition and Management

The following materials have been reviewed and approved for distribution to the Governing Board and the public.

Director of Land Acquisition
and Management

Assistant Executive Director

Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Surplus Lands Committee
DATE: May 24, 2011
SUBJECT: Program Directive 2011-03

RECOMMENDATION

The Surplus Lands Committee recommends adoption of Program Directive 2011-03 to clarify guidelines and procedures for identification and disposition of surplus real property.

BACKGROUND

The attached program directive was created to provide clarification of guidelines for staff when preparing recommendations to the Board regarding surplus properties.

Program Directive 2011-01, regarding guidelines and procedures for disposition of surplus real property, was approved by the Board in March 2011. Based on Governing Board concerns and public comment, staff worked with the Surplus Lands Committee to provide additional clarification. The directive was provided for public comment during the April 26 and May 24 Surplus Lands Committee meetings and has been reviewed by legal counsel.

gal
enclosure
Surplus Lands 008-00477

Department of Land Acquisition and Management
Program Directive 2011-03 LM

Purpose: To amend Program Directive 2011-01 to provide updated guidelines and procedures for consistency regarding identification and disposition of surplus real property.

For the purpose of this directive, surplus lands are defined as those District-owned parcels that no longer need to be owned in order to further the District's land conservation purposes of flood control, water storage, water management, conservation and protection of water resources, aquifer recharge, water resource and water supply development, and preservation of wetlands, streams, and lakes, as per section 373.016, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Due to property ownership patterns and the demands of sellers in a voluntary program, the acquisition of surplus lands is unavoidable. Surplus acreage can be minimized, however, by observing the following guidelines prior to acquisition:

- Staff should state project objectives clearly and should delineate project boundaries to meet those objectives as tightly as possible.
- During negotiations, staff should work with the seller to keep acquisitions within the project boundaries by offering alternatives such as the purchase of a conservation easement over lands adjacent to the project area.
- If they can be identified, potential surplus lands should be referenced in the management prospectus that is presented to the Governing Board prior to entering into a purchase agreement.

Once property has been acquired, either staff or the Governing Board may initiate a review to determine whether there is a continuing need to retain ownership to all or any portion of the District's land holdings. In any such review, the following factors will be considered:

- (a) Whether and the extent to which the parcel possesses or would affect any spring, floodplain, aquifer, surface water protection, or other water resource value; see Water Resource Guidelines table below.
- (b) Whether and the extent to which disposing of the parcel will adversely affect management effectiveness and efficiency;
- (c) Whether and the extent to which the parcel is currently used by the public for recreational purposes;
- (d) Whether and the extent to which the parcel provides other significant archaeological, historical, or ecological value;
- (e) Whether and the extent to which the parcel provides a valuable linkage to

other conservation property owned by the District or federal or state or local public agencies; and

- (f) Whether and the extent to which the parcel would be accessible to a future owner without causing adverse impacts to natural resources or hindering the District's management of the property (including prescribed fire management);
- (g) Whether and the extent to which the parcel is marketable, based on consultation with local real estate brokers; and
- (h) Whether and the extent to which concerns of other public conservation land managers or members of the public have been addressed.
- (i) For lands acquired with Preservation 2000 funds, the intent of the Act as prescribed in Section 259.101(6), F.S.

The procedure for determination of surplus lands shall be as follows:

1. Staff will present proposed surplus lands for consideration to the Surplus Lands Committee (Committee) or Governing Board;
2. The Committee or Governing Board will then make a determination as to whether or not to proceed.
3. If Committee or Governing Board makes a determination to proceed, then notice of consideration of the parcel for surplus sale will be posted on the District website in order to provide notice of said consideration, to allow for public input and to inform the public of the next meeting, Committee or Governing Board, in which the consideration of the proposed parcel will be discussed.
4. At the Committee or Governing Board meeting of which notice was given to the public, comment on the proposed parcel will be received and discussed. The Committee or Governing Board will then make a determination as to whether or not the parcel should be recommended for surplus at the next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting.
5. At the next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting, the Governing Board may take additional public input and may have additional discussion with regards to the parcel recommended for surplus. For lands acquired for conservation purposes as specified in 373.089(6)(c) and (d), F.S., the Governing Board must determine the parcel is no longer needed for those purposes and approve their disposal by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Board. All other lands may be designated as surplus and approved for disposal by a simple majority vote of the Governing Board.

In determining whether a Governing Board interest in real property acquired through any program is no longer needed for conservation purposes, the Governing Board will consider factors (a) through (i) listed above; however, the parcel's water resource values will be the primary consideration in the evaluation.

No parcel shall be recommended to the Governing Board for consideration as surplus unless an on-site inspection has been conducted by SRWMD staff within the four months prior to the recommendation.

At the time of the Governing Board's designation of a parcel as surplus, the Governing Board shall also consider whether to require retention of a conservation easement over the property as a condition of the ultimate sale or exchange of the District's fee interest in the property.

The following procedures will be followed by the District when selling, conveying, and disposing of Governing Board interests in real property as surplus lands:

- (a) After the Governing Board declares a real property interest to be surplus land, the District will obtain a certified appraisal of the property. Such appraisal shall only be valid for a period of 120 days.
- (b) A notice of intent to sell a real property interest as surplus land will be published by the District in a newspaper, in the county in which it is located, once a week for three consecutive weeks. The first publication of such a notice of intent must occur not less than 30 days nor more than 45 days prior to the sale and must include a description of the real property interest being offered for sale. A copy of the notice of intent to sell surplus land will be provided to the county and any municipality in which the property is located at the same time as the first notice is provided to the newspaper for publication.
- (c) All sales of surplus land shall be for cash or upon terms and security approved by the Governing Board for no less than the appraised value. No deed will be executed and delivered by the Governing Board until payment is made.
- (d) The Governing Board may entertain proposals for exchange of surplus land for other real property or a conservation easement interest in real property.
- (e) For all parcels declared surplus, the District shall follow the requirements of Section 373.089(7) F.S. concerning offering parcels to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund prior to sale.

Net proceeds from the sale of surplus land will be used to purchase other lands or conservation easements deemed to have significant water resource value.

WATER RESOURCE GUIDELINES FOR SURPLUS TRACTS

The following guidelines are for staff to consider and evaluate in making recommendations to the Surplus Lands Committee. Generally, a sale of fee title or a sale subject to a retained conservation easement may be appropriate if the subject area represents water resource values at less than the percentages listed below:

	Very High Recharge	Springs Protection	Surface Water Protection	100-Year Floodplain (1% Annual Chance of Flood)*
Fee Sale	<15%	Zero	<25%	Zero
Retain a Conservation Easement	<50%	Zero	<25%	<25%
Small Non-Contiguous Tracts 40 Acres or less	Must be outside 10-Year Floodplain (10% Annual Chance of Flood)			

* based on FEMA SFHA Zone AE – 1% chance annual flood with an elevation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Terry E. Demott, Senior Land Resource Coordinator
DATE: May 24, 2011
SUBJECT: Declaration of Surplus Lands

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board declare 22 acres ± of the Cuba Bay parcel as no longer needed for conservation purposes. In addition, staff requests authorization to conduct an appraisal on the property, contract with a qualified real estate broker for marketing the property and contract with a qualified surveyor if the need arises to prepare a legal description.

BACKGROUND

As part of the District's effort to dispose of property not needed for conservation purposes, 22-acres ± of the 1,968-acre Cuba Bay parcel in Madison County has been selected for surplus. This parcel was acquired with Preservation 2000 Funds. The parcel has been examined by the Governing Board Surplus Lands Committee comprised of Carl Meece, David Flagg and Ray Curtis.

At the committee's direction, it is staff recommendation that this tract be prepared for sale. The tract was evaluated based on guidelines provided in Program Directive 2011-01, which was adopted by the Board in March 2011. After successful negotiations, the Governing Board will have the opportunity to review and approve the sale as acceptable offers are received.

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008-00477

SRWMD
SURPLUS PARCEL ASSESSMENT

TRACT: Cuba Bay

COUNTY: Madison

ACREAGE: 22 acres ±

TRACT DESCRIPTION: The Cuba Bay parcel uplands have been clearcut. The parcel contains a power line right-of-way and part of a wetland on the west side.

PARENT TRACT: Bought in February 1996 from Foley Timber and Land Company, the 1,968-acre parent tract was part of the Rivers of the Big Bend acquisition. The tract contains frontage on the Aucilla River, and associated floodplain and wetlands. This proposal represents 1% of the parent tract.

ACCESS: The property has frontage along Madison County SW Federal Highway, a graded road.

CURRENT ZONING: Conservation

INTERESTS TO BE RETAINED: The tract is recommended to be sold in fee or with a retained conservation easement.

RESOURCE REVIEW

(a) Water Resources:

Recharge: 0% (0 acres)

Springs Protection: 0% (0 acres)

Surface Water Protection: 14% (3.1 acres)

100-year Floodplain: 15% (3.4 acres)

(b) Management Efficiency:

The District would retain access from the SW Federal Highway. The internal public access road would be buffered by 100 ft. The proposal would require the District to establish new firelines along the east and north lines; however since the property is currently clear cut the cost of establishing the new lines would be minimal.

(c) Public Use:

There are no public use sites on this proposed parcel. The public use road just to the east of the parcel will remain in District ownership with a buffer to protect the road from other uses that may occur on the proposed parcel.

(d) Archaeological, Historical:
No Records.

(e) Ecological Records:
Protected Plants: No Records
Protected Animals: No Records
Exotic Plants: No Records
Natural Communities: Mesic flatwoods 16 acres
 Dome Swamp 6 acres

(f) Linkage:
This parcel is at the southwest corner of the parent tract. The Bailey Conservation Easement property is located to the northwest of this parcel. No new acquisitions are planned in this area. The river corridor downstream is protected by conservation easements.

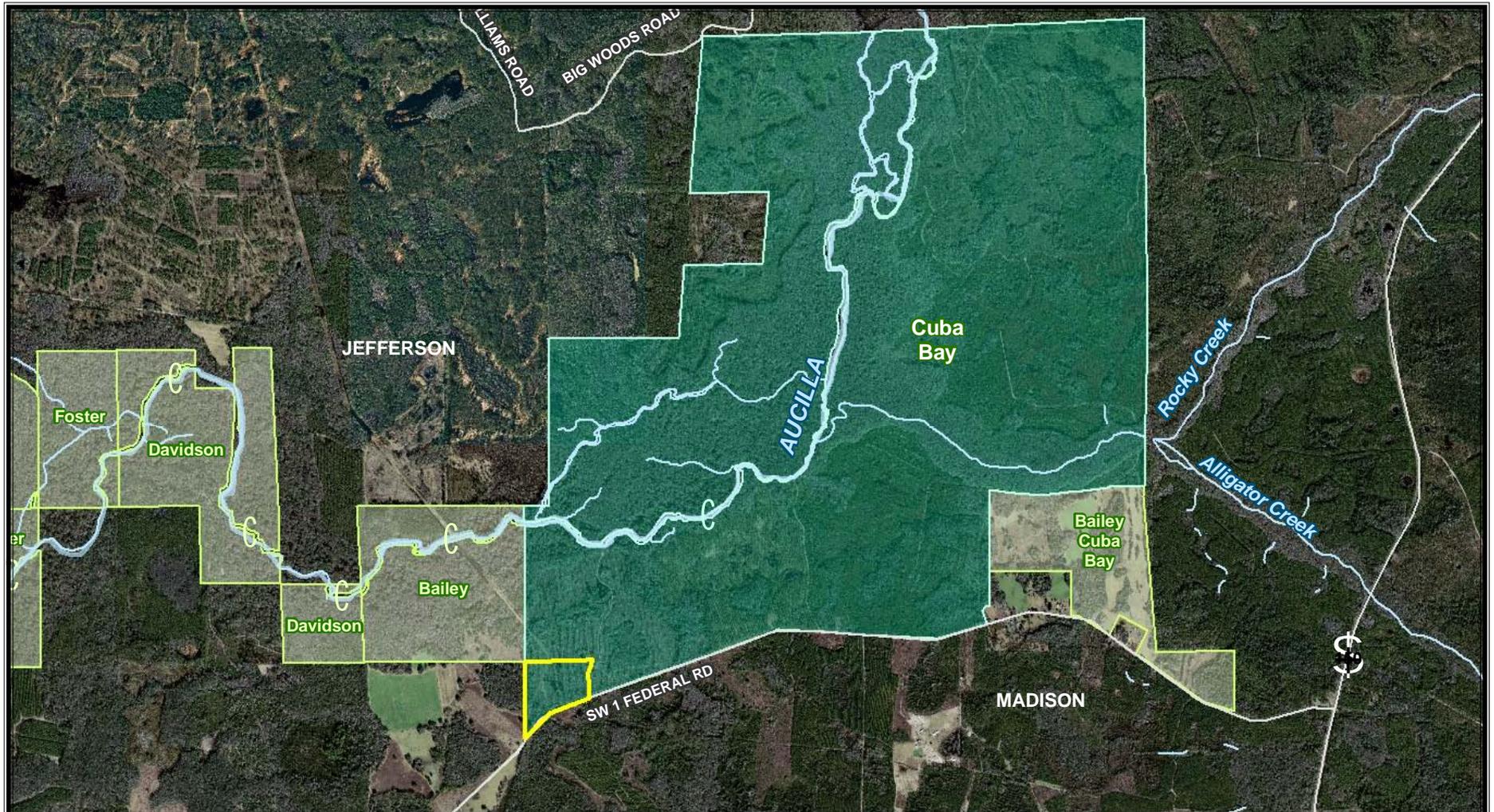
(g) Adverse Impact to Future Management:
The sale of this parcel should not increase the cost or reduce the manageability of the parent tract. Potential buyers will need to be apprised that the property is adjacent to public lands managed with prescribed fire.

(h) Marketability:
The property is presumed to be marketable on the open real estate market.

(i) Other Public Land Managers:
Division of State Lands, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and Madison County will be notified by letter of this potential surplus.

(j) Preservation 2000:
Disposition of these lands must comply with the requirements of Section 259.101(6), F.S. This includes the Governing Board declaring the parcel no longer needed to further the intent of the Preservation 2000 Act in its sale resolution and notifying the Department of Environmental Protection of the proposed sale to confirm that it would not negatively affect the status of the tax-exempt land acquisition bonds.

ANALYSIS: The 22 acres of the Cuba Bay parcel is recommended for surplus.



-  Proposed Surplus = 22 Acres (+/-)
-  SRWMD Fee Land
-  SRWMD CE
-  Rivers & Streams

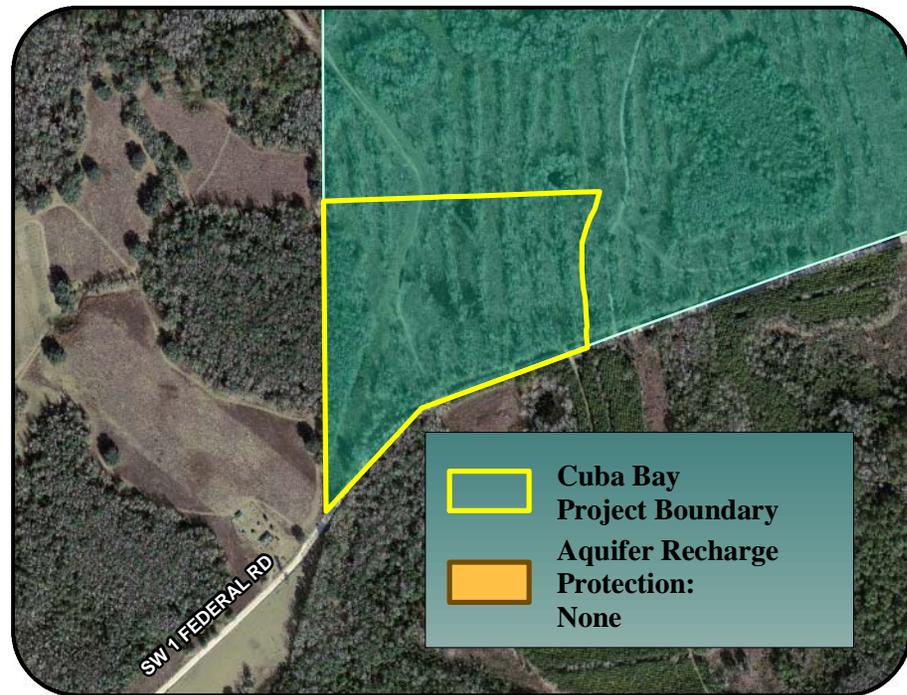
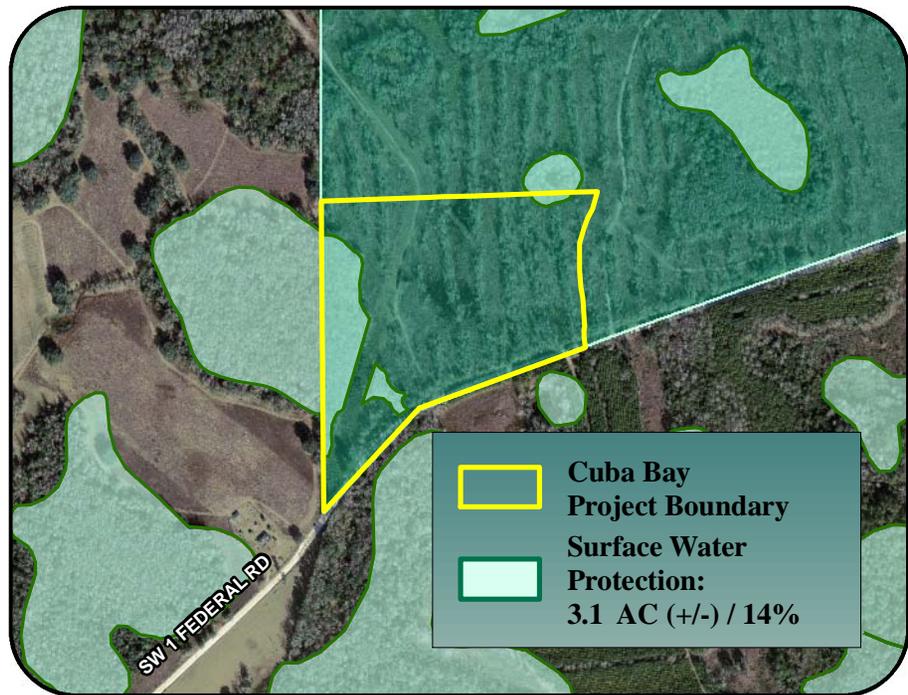
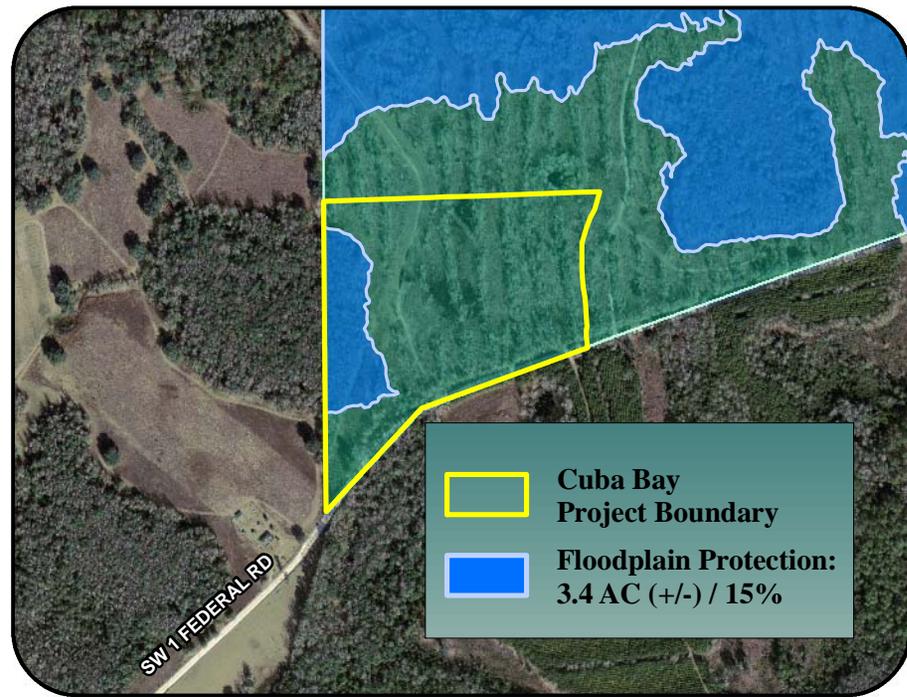
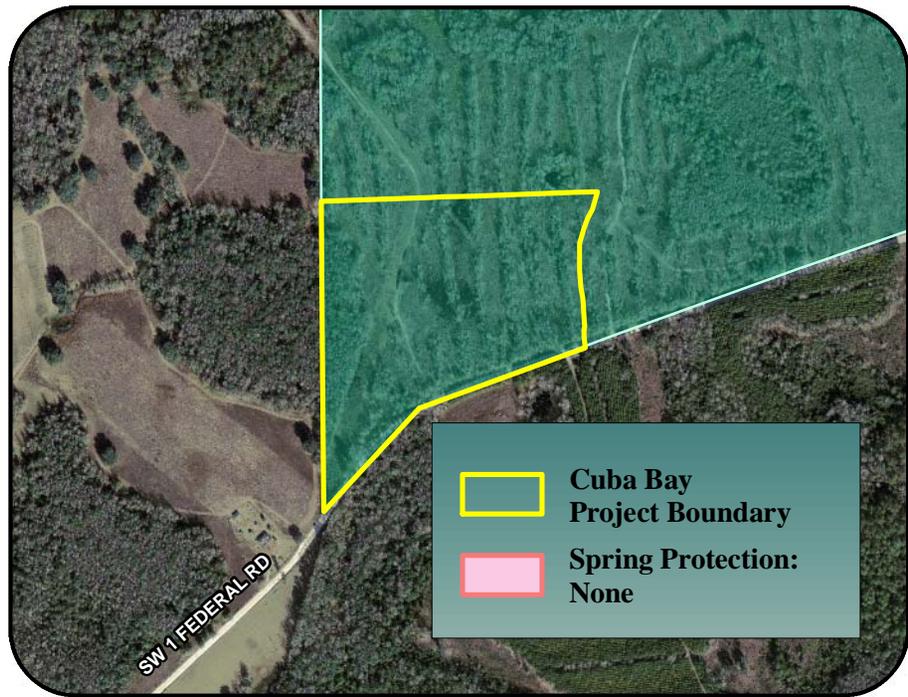


Cuba Bay Madison County, FL



NOTE: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), Department of Land Acquisition and Management (LA&M), to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of the data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or applications. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of this data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD Department of LA&M at 1-386-362-1001. Madison & Jefferson 2010 NC IFT Imagery.

Date: 04/20/2011



MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Beau Willsey, Environmental Scientist
DATE: May 17, 2011
RE: Agreement with Bonnell and Sons Forestry Service, LLC, for FY 2012
Tree Planting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests authorization for the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Bonnell and Sons Forestry Service, LLC, for an amount not exceed \$190,000 for FY 2012 tree planting services.

BACKGROUND

On April 11, 2011 the District released a request for proposals (RFP) for tree planting services on District lands during the FY 2012 planting season. V-blade planting is anticipated on approximately 2,100 acres during FY 2012. The RFP requested references, previous work history and per acre costs for V-blade planting of bare root longleaf pine seedlings, V-blade planting of bare root slash pine seedlings and V-blade planting of containerized longleaf pine seedlings.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting was held April 25 and response packages were opened on May 2. Of the five potential proposers present during the meeting, two submitted response packages: Chauncey Contracting, Inc. and Bonnell and Sons Forestry Service, LLC. Based on the anticipated reforestation efforts during FY 2012 and the prices listed by Bonnell and Sons Forestry Service, LLC. (Table 1) staff requests approval and authorization for the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Bonnell and Sons Forestry Service, LLC for FY 2012 tree planting services.

Principals for Bonnell and Sons Forestry Service are Bryan R. Bonnell and Belinda L. Bonnell. Funds for this service are expected to be funded in the FY 2012 budget in account code 132586631000209007.

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Table 1:
RFP 10/11-026LM TREE PLANTING SERVICES.

Proposals			
		Chauncey Contracting	Bonnell & Sons
SPECIES*		cost per acre	cost per acre
LLP BR		\$ 94.00	\$ 90.00
LLP Cont		\$ 93.00	\$ 93.00
SL BR		\$ 84.50	\$ 88.00
FY2012 ESTIMATED REFORESTATION COSTS			
SPECIES	ACRES	Chauncey Contracting	Bonnell & Sons
LLP BR	1,192	\$ 112,048	\$ 107,280
LLP Cont	169	\$ 15,717	\$ 15,717
SL BR	744	\$ 62,868	\$ 65,472
	2,105	\$ 190,633	\$ 188,469

*LLP = Longleaf Pine; SL = Slash Pine
Cont = Containerized Plug; BR = Bare Root Seedling

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 11, 2011
RE: Contract with Flatwoods Forestry Inc. for Forest Inventory Services

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board approve the rankings developed by the Selection Committee as shown below and requests authority to negotiate and execute a contract with Flatwoods Forestry, Inc. If negotiations are unsuccessful with this firm, staff requests authority to negotiate and execute a contract with the next ranked firm. The amount of these services would not exceed \$ 87,000 in FY 2011.

BACKGROUND

On March 30, 2011 staff released RFP 10/11-025 for collection of forest inventory data. These services include collecting specified timber information in District approved format and delivering that data to LandMark Systems. Six firms responded to the RFP.

The Selection Committee of Melanie Roberts, Charlie Houder and Joe Flanagan met on May 11, 2011 to review the proposals and developed the rankings below:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>City</u>
1. Flatwoods Forestry, Inc.	Lake City
2. Shiver Forestry	Lake City
3. The Forestry Company (tie)	Perry
4. Wildland Fire Service (tie)	Tallahassee

The selection criterion, as noted in the RFP, was to search for the best value to the District amongst the submitted proposals. Proposals were compared on price, firm experience, and demonstrated ability to successfully complete projects of similar size. Ranking was made to select the most qualified and cost-effective in the opinion of the District Selection Committee.

Staff anticipates completing about 4,500 plots on about 31,000 acres. Data from this inventory will be used for daily planning and implementation of timber sales for natural resource enhancement. The data will also be used to predict growth of timber resources to project allowable harvest levels, compatible with our management, for 5-10 years into the future.

Inventory this year will cover approximately 80% of the forest in age classes older than 15 years and all stands aged 6 and 7 years old. The inventory will be an ongoing expense to maintain. Updated data is needed to track natural growth of trees to check growth models, update based on age class(age 6 and age 15), update for changes related to timber sales or other change such as wildfire and incorporate new acquisitions. Funding for future years is planned to be 20-25% of this year's efforts.

The total value of this project in the FY 11 budget is \$87,000. Funds for this activity are included in the FY 2011 budget.

Principals for Flatwoods Forestry Inc. are Ward Anthony Frisina and Scarlet P. Frisina.

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RFP 10/11-025LM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 16, 2011
RE: Agreement with Forestech Consulting Inc. d/b/a LandMark Systems for Forestry Applications

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorization for the Executive Director to execute a contract with Forestech Consulting Inc. d/b/a LandMark Systems for a fee not to exceed \$38,000 for FY 2011.

BACKGROUND

Staff anticipates collecting timber data on about 4,500 plots using the selected contractor from the Forest Inventory RFP. The system to store and manage the timber data was developed by LandMark under previous contracts. Under this proposal, LandMark will oversee the data collection process to assure that it is consistent with District standards. LandMark will audit 5% of the collected plots, receive data and perform quality control before delivering the data to the District.

Additional services funded in FY 2011 include: installing software for timber inventory and management, developing growth and yield estimates from the inventory for 10 years, calculating site index from new data, refining the inventory process to prepare for FY 2012 plots, and assisting staff with training and maintenance.

This information will allow staff to project timber sales locations based on goals in the management plan. Staff can also assess the level of sustainable harvest based on our management regime. Future inventories will be needed for stands as they reach six years old and locations where activities have changed the forest.

LandMark will be extending project rates to SRWMD for this from its SJRWMD contract (PO S005048). Funds are available in the FY 2011 budget for this contract in the Land Management Information System project. Principals for Forestech Consulting are Mark M. Milligan, Richard Davis III, and Brian H. Holley.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 12, 2011
RE: Amendment to Agreement 08/09-033 with The Forestry Company for
Timber Sale Monitoring

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests authorization for the Executive Director to execute an amendment to the agreement with The Forestry Company for an additional \$15,000 for timber sale monitoring in FY 2011.

BACKGROUND

As part of its contractual work in FY 2011, The Forestry Company has been responsible for timber sales over more than 1,700 acres. One of these sales goes back to FY 2009. Factors including persistent wet site conditions in 2010 and recent severe restrictions on mill quotas have caused harvest operations to be extended beyond typical time frames. Time extensions have been approved by staff on several timber sales due to these conditions.

The Forestry Company's contract allows for hourly billings up to \$75.00/acre. The extenuating conditions above have increased the need for monitoring beyond what is normal and expected. The recommendation will provide funds for the two sales recently approved by the Board and provide funds for The Forestry Company to continue office reconciliation of mill tickets and payments on all sales. District staff will take over some field monitoring. The maximum value of the contract would increase from \$86,000 to \$101,000. Funds in timber sales reserves will be used to fund this amendment.

Principals for The Forestry Company are Donald R. Curtis Jr. and Bonnie S. Agner.

SRWMD Contract #08/09-033
gal

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 12, 2011
RE: Amendment to the Agreement 08/09-045 with The Forestry Company
for Prescribed Burning and Roller Drum Chopping at Mallory Swamp

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests authorization for the Executive Director to amend the agreement with The Forestry Company to allow use of accumulated timber sale revenues to fund services in Mallory Swamp during FY 2011.

BACKGROUND

In January 2011 the Board approved a contract amendment valued at \$56,732, with The Forestry Company for roller drum chopping and prescribed fire in the Mallory Swamp "Land Tract" using funds from the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). During this work it was determined that burning would not be needed due to the effectiveness of the drum chopping.

The NRCS grant funds are limited to use on the "Land Tract". All work on this parcel has been successfully completed.

Staff is requesting authority to use accumulated timber sale revenues for additional prescribed fire elsewhere in Mallory Swamp, since the "Land" project funded by the grant funds is completed. Total funds requested from timber sale reserves are \$39,500. Approximately 300 more acres can be treated with chopping and prescribed fire on other areas of Mallory Swamp with these funds.

Principals for The Forestry Company are Donald R. Curtis Jr. and Bonnie S. Agner.

SRWMD Contract #08/09-045
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 11, 2011
RE: Otter Springs and Campground FY 12 Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the FY 2012 budget for Otter Springs for an amount not to exceed \$440,000.

BACKGROUND

Gilchrist County manages the day-to-day operations at Otter Springs Park and Campground for the District. As part of the Otter Springs lease, a budget must be approved by both parties. Gilchrist County is recommending a budget of \$440,000 for FY12. The budget recommendation includes approximately \$377,000 for park operations and capital outlay and about \$63,000 for completion of the approved road improvements.

The lease states that both parties share revenues or losses after the year end reconciliation. Total park revenues were projected by County staff to be about \$21,000 below total expenditures. County staff believes their revenue projections are conservative. However, if the revenue and expense projections hold true, it would result in each party paying a projected \$10,500 to balance the fiscal year. The trend shows that total additional monies needed to balance the finances have decreased from \$15,000 in FY 2009 to \$8,000 in FY 2010.

The road portion of the budget is still within the \$212,000 previously authorized. This \$63,000 will cover expenses that occur in FY 12.

The Capital Reserve Fund will increase to almost \$72,000. This is funded by Gilchrist County from one-half of their Payment in Lieu of Taxes for Otter Springs.

Funding of this project is contingent upon final approval of the FY 2012 budget and subject to available funds.

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SRWMD#08/09-050

BUDGET REQUEST FOR OTTER SPRINGS FY2012

Narrative Assumptions

This budget request was compiled by committee and has not been approved by the Gilchrist County Board of Commissioners. This request will be included in the Proposed Budget presented to the Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners on or about July 5, 2011 for consideration.

Revenues

1. Increase camping and rentals by 40% due to anticipated increased bookings for campground, cabins and lodge.
2. Estimated split between SRWMD and GCBOCC is \$20,738. This is a worst case scenario, if revenues and/or expenditures do not materialize as projected.

Expenditures:

1. Completion of Road Project \$63,148.
2. Additional permanent part-time minimum wage position estimated at 53 hours biweekly (26.5 hours per week). Position will be covered by retirement but no health insurance benefit.
3. No raises, no changes to retirement, no changes to health insurance costs are included in this budget request. Adjustments will be made when final figures are available.
4. Utility Services – 37% increase due to increased camping and facilities usage as well as possible rate increases due to fuel costs.
5. Rental and leases – increase for 6 month handicapped porta-potty rental for Springs area.
6. \$1,500 increase for 6-month handicapped porta-potty rental for Springs area.
7. Credit card fees are increased because of customer usage.
8. Operating supplies – more camping/rentals, more supplies needed (i.e.: paper products, cleaning supplies, etc.)
9. Software - \$3,000 for reservation software.
10. \$3,000 increase for computer/printer and other non-capital items as needed.

Capital Outlay

1. Manager's Residence (1,200 sq ft ??, 3/2) – \$125,000 County to sub-contract, where possible, county personnel, departments will provide manpower, equipment and resources. Loan will be obtained and financed for 15 years. Payments made from operating expenses beginning in FY 2013.
2. Dixie Chopper Mower 60" - \$8,000 to maintain grounds.
3. Log splitter - \$1,500. Road department is transporting cut wood to Otter Springs Park. Must be split for use and resale.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Brian Kauffman, Facilities Director
DATE: May 18, 2011
RE: R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park Annual Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Governing Board ratification of the R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park FY 2011 Budget (April through September) and approval of the FY 2012 budget.

BACKGROUND

In April of this year the Suwannee River Water Management District executed an agreement with R. O. Ranch, Inc. to manage and operate the R. O. Ranch Equestrian Park in Lafayette County, Florida. Those operations are now underway and proceeding based on the attached budget for the period from April through September, 2011. Funds from the District have been transferred to the R. O. Ranch, Inc. account to cover April expenditures, but additional transfers are awaiting Governing Board approval of the budget.

The agreement requires R. O. Ranch, Inc. to submit a draft annual budget in June of each year so the Governing Board can review it in time to incorporate any support for the ranch in the District's budget. The proposed FY 2012 budget anticipates the receipt of \$42,000 in interest from the R. O. Ranch Fund and an additional \$38,500 from District land management funds.

Both budgets track an expected cumulative cash flow predicated on the establishment and maintenance of an operational cushion of \$20,000 to \$25,000. This should ensure that R. O. Ranch, Inc. is able to meet its monthly obligations should there be a temporary shortfall in revenues.

This budget will also be presented to the R. O. Ranch Board of Directors for review and recommended approval at their June 2 meeting.

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023-00045

		April	May	June	July	August	September	TOTAL
REVENUE	SRWMD	\$11,400.00	\$14,900.00	\$5,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$42,300.00
	R.O. RANCH FUND INTEREST	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$21,000.00
	EQUESTRIAN EVENTS	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,750.00
	VISITORS CENTER	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
	CAMPING	\$700.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$2,200.00
	LODGE RENTAL	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$1,500.00
	TRAIL RIDING	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$350.00
	SPONSOR/ADVERTISEMENT		\$900.00	\$1,800.00	\$2,100.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$6,000.00
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$16,650.00	\$20,100.00	\$11,600.00	\$15,900.00	\$8,400.00	\$7,450.00	\$80,100.00
EXPENSES	SALARY	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$21,600.00
	SUPPLIES	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$2,300.00
	UTILITIES	\$750.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,850.00
	ROAD MAINTENANCE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TRAIL MAINTENANCE	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
	FACILITY MAINTENANCE	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$2,400.00
	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,200.00
	FUEL	\$500.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$5,000.00
	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$600.00
	COMMUNICATIONS	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$1,500.00
	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$900.00
	ADVERTISEMENT/PRINTING	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,200.00
	REGISTRATION/TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	POSTAGE	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$300.00
	MEETINGS	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$1,750.00
	TRAVEL	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$525.00
	MISCELLANEOUS	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$600.00
	INSURANCE GENERAL LIBILLIT	\$8,600.00						\$8,600.00
	INSURANCE DIRECTORS		\$3,500.00					\$3,500.00
	ACCOUNTING		\$1,750.00					\$1,750.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,625.00	\$12,875.00	\$8,250.00	\$8,075.00	\$7,925.00	\$7,575.00	\$60,325.00
SUMMARY	MONTHLY CASH FLOW	\$1,025.00	\$7,225.00	\$3,350.00	\$7,825.00	\$475.00	-\$125.00	
	CUMULATIVE CASH FLOW	\$1,025.00	\$8,250.00	\$11,600.00	\$19,425.00	\$19,900.00	\$19,775.00	

		October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	TOTAL
REVENUE	SRWMD	0.00	5,000.00	4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$38,500.00
	R.O. RANCH FUND INTEREST	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$42,000.00
	EQUESTRIAN EVENTS	7,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$22,250.00
	VISITORS CENTER	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$1,600.00
	CAMPING	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$5,550.00
	LODGE RENTAL	\$375.00	\$250.00	\$375.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$3,250.00
	TRAIL RIDING	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$750.00
	SPONSOR/ADVERTISEMENT	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$6,000.00
	TOTAL REVENUE	12,575.00	11,175.00	10,250.00	7,900.00	8,400.00	7,900.00	\$16,550.00	\$11,800.00	\$7,700.00	\$9,700.00	\$7,700.00	\$8,250.00	\$119,900.00
EXPENSES	SALARY	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$43,200.00
	SUPPLIES	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$4,200.00
	UTILITIES	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$10,350.00
	ROAD MAINTENANCE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
	TRAIL MAINTENANCE	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	FACILITY MAINTENANCE	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$4,800.00
	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$2,400.00
	FUEL	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$9,750.00
	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$1,200.00
	COMMUNICATIONS	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$3,000.00
	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$1,800.00
	ADVERTISMENT/PRINTING	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$3,000.00
	REGISTRATION/TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	POSTAGE	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$600.00
	MEETINGS	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$3,250.00
	TRAVEL	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$975.00
	MISCELLANEOUS	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$1,200.00
	INSURANCE GENERAL LIBILLITY							\$8,600.00						\$8,600.00
	INSURANCE DIRECTORS								\$4,000.00					\$4,000.00
	ACCOUNTING		\$5,000.00						\$1,750.00					\$6,750.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,075	\$ 12,375	\$ 7,575	\$ 8,875	\$ 7,575	\$ 7,275	\$17,375.00	\$13,575.00	\$7,950.00	\$9,275.00	\$7,775.00	\$7,675.00	\$116,375.00
SUMMARY	MONTHLY CASH FLOW	\$ 3,500	-1,200	2,675	-975	825	625	-\$825.00	-\$1,775.00	-\$250.00	\$425.00	-\$75.00	\$575.00	
	CUMULATIVE CASH FLOW	\$25,025.00	\$ 23,825	\$ 26,500	\$ 25,525	\$ 26,350	\$ 26,975	\$26,150.00	\$24,375.00	\$24,125.00	\$24,550.00	\$24,475.00	\$25,050.00	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Sr. Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 16, 2011
RE: FY 2010 Excellence in Land Management Report

The 2010 Excellence in Land Management (ELM) report summarizes staff activity and documents progress towards achieving the goals in the Land Management Plan. The information provided in these reports continues to be helpful to staff in assessing progress towards goals and improving operational processes and focus.

Staff is currently analyzing the new Management Plan to determine if new metrics need to be added to the ELM report to keep it consistent with the Management Plan. Recommendations on this will be made next year.

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008-00348

SRWMD Excellence in Land Management Report Fiscal Year 2010

Introduction

The District has completed its sixth 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 six years of data for most measures, the program is beginning to generate trends that can assist the Governing Board, the staff and the 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 8,227 acres in FY 2010. 8,120 acres, 99%, were within the areas of acquisition interest delineated in the Florida Forever Work Plan. This compares with 1,488 acres, 99% within plan-delineated areas, in FY 09. Less than fee purchases accounted for 7,637 acres or 94% of acres acquired this year; only 12% of the acres acquired in FY 09 were less than fee acres.

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 10.

Cumulatively, the District owns or has less than fee interests in 60,471 acres within the mapped floodplains of the Suwannee River, and its tributaries. This is an increase of 1,366 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. These scores 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 19,413 acres, significantly higher than the previous fiscal year (12,021 acres). This jump reflects the Governing Board's approval of additional funding for the prescribed fire project to take advantage of improved weather conditions.

The most extensive activity was prescribed burning. District staff and contractors conducted successful burns on 13,189 acres up from 7,229 in FY 09. This is the highest number of acres burned in the six years of ELM tracking. The challenge will be to continue to achieve at this high level.

The percentage of burns that were conducted within the planned fire return interval increased slightly from 48% in FY 09 to 50% in FY 10. This is primarily a result of being able to burn areas where fuel loading was reduced by previous District prescribed fires. Of the natural communities where fire is required, only 45% are within their natural fire return interval.

70% of all known invasive exotic plant populations were treated this year. Acres infested with these plants decreased by 22 acres to 1,113 acres. Some plants require multiple treatments to eradicate; there is now a multiyear monitoring protocol to confirm mortality before a population is classified as eradicated. Some of the acres are currently in the monitoring only phase.

Each of the District's 37 conservation easements, encompassing 125,500 acres, was inspected during the fiscal year and 100% were found to be in compliance with the terms of the easement.

Due to funding constraints, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative audit was not conducted for FY 2010 activities. Staff continues to use techniques developed for compliance with this standard to maintain high levels of sustainable forest management. This measure may be reinstated when funding becomes available.

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 fee lands and completes improvements to them. The large percentage of conservation easement lands purchased in FY 2010, which don't allow public access, means there was little new opportunity for public recreation on new fee parcels.

River Access sites are being reassessed to determine allowable uses such as boat ramp, hand-launch site or just fishing access.

Hunting opportunities remained stable at 97,200 acres in FY 2010. Trails and other facilities stayed stable this year as well.

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 public use standards is 91%; based on whether a tract meets the development standard for its public use classification (i.e., featured, general recreation, or primitive).

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

No public use surveys were conducted in FY 2010.

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 April 2011. At the time of the ELM report, work was not yet completed, hence the zero score.

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 has 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 41 meetings with partner entities or groups interested in SRWMD lands. Staff developed 14 articles for press release. 32 members of the public participated in the 2010 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.

The new DLMP will specify the Communications 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 \$11.32 to \$19.13 per acre. The District's actual land management expenditures for FY 2010 were \$15.67 per acre. This was 5% above the average value of \$14.99 for all water management districts. Budget cuts related to lack of Water Management Trust Fund funding and completion of capital projects contributed to lower expenditures.

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 SRWMD timber sales sold to the average market prices reported for the region from Timber Mart South, a reporting service. Total revenues from District timber sales have consistently exceeded expected values reported from the general market and did so by 2% last year.

4.3 The District shall maximize revenues from alternative funding sources.

Cooperating agencies contributed services by managing leased properties. These services are estimated to be \$275,300 at \$15 per acre leased. DOF sold approximately \$357,000 of SRWMD timber from Twin Rivers State Forest and billed for \$42,400 of services to fund its services. No grant money was awarded to the District this year leading to the negative value of this score.

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. Staff attended 33 courses in FY 2010 compared to 53 courses in FY 07. In 2011, 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 2011.

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 is 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 19,000 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.

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 incorporated into the FY 2011 to maintain 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 11 Score Card

Review the ELM evidence for consistency with new District Land Management Plan 2011 and recommend changes as need.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Beau Willsey, Environmental Scientist

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

DATE: May 16, 2011

RE: FY 2011 Land Management Review Team Report

Attached are comments from the Land Management Review Team (LMRT) meeting held on April 5, 2011. The LMRT is composed of a diverse group of professionals and citizen advocates who volunteer their time to comment on the District's land management procedures. The group meets at least annually, at which time 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 LAM staff is following established management plans for the property.

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 that representatives from the local county, soil and water conservation district, and certain public land management agencies be invited to each LMRT. Invitations were sent to 108 people; 18 people participated during the 6½ hour tour. The tour included indoor presentations and an outdoor management action review.

Staff presented the following during the indoor presentations:

- District land management objectives as detailed within the recently revised District Land Management Plan,
- A review of Performance Measures and FY 2010 scores from the Resource Protection and Public Use goals within the Excellence in Land Management Program scorecard,
- A review of land use history and recent hydrological and natural community restoration at the Mallory Swamp Tract, and
- Public use of District lands with emphasis on the Upper Steinhatchee Basin.

Field review of restoration efforts and management actions within the Upper Steinhatchee basin took place primarily at the Mallory Swamp Tract. Review

team participants reviewed hydrological restoration control structures, natural community restoration and management techniques, and public use opportunities at Mallory Swamp. The final two field demonstrations further showcased hydrological restoration and natural community management within the Steinhatchee Springs Tract.

The Review Team's comments were very positive; all participants found the District to be in or exceeding compliance with regards to its Resource Protection and Public Use objectives. In addition, the majority of participants viewed the District as regularly exceeding compliance in managing lands for the purpose for which they were acquired. Discussions among members of the team and District staff were very productive and thought provoking. These reviews continue to be an invaluable learning experience for staff and the participants.

gal

UPPER STEINHATCHEE CONSERVATION AREA
APRIL 5, 2011

Did you find the indoor presentations informative and easy to follow?

Yes 8 No

Did you find the field stops and outdoor presentations informative and easy to follow?

Yes 6 No

1. Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?
 The SRWMD is not in compliance.
 2 SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
 6 SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.

2. Does SRWMD land management implement the Resource Protection and Public Use goals identified in the District Land Management Plan? This includes sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and/or archaeological features.
 The SRWMD is not in compliance.
 4 SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
 4 SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.

Mac Finlayson	I enjoy seeing the diversity of the district's lands. I also enjoyed hearing about the many opportunities for the public to use these lands.
No name	Include bird watching/wildlife viewing or possible recreational uses. I am motivated to come back and explore the area more extensively.
Jacqui Sulek	Not sure what endangered species are here and I am afraid that the law enforcement resources are not adequate on any public lands. Great job Beau! Thanks Hope we can work with you on the birds.
Rick Battillo	Have meeting when operations are in process (i.e., site prep, logging, burning etc.) All are in compliance. Scott and team were very well prepared. Good job!
Scotland Talley	I would like to have more info regarding the criteria for matching LL or SL to sites and criteria for initial stocking and thinning strategy (i.e., timing of first thinning, target basal areas, etc.) Management activities observed on tour looked good. Determining target water levels and hydroperiod in wet flatwoods and basin swamps and monitoring to determine success in meeting those targets would be an excellent measure of success in the Mallory Swamp restoration effort.

Kevin McIntyre	<p>Great meeting. Especially impressed with hydrologic restoration at Mallory Swamp. This, combined with frequent application of prescribed fire, will go a long way to achieving ecological restoration of this property.</p> <p>I continue to be impressed with the professionalism, transparency and accountability of SRWMD programs and staff. Keep up the good work!</p>
Jack Ewel	<p>I was unable to attend Tuesday's indoor session, but I found the field stops and presentations extremely informative and easy to follow. Every management action I saw appeared to conform with District land management goals and objectives.</p> <p>I sympathize with the difficulty of having desired future conditions guided in part by FNAI perspectives on plant community composition and distribution. On the other hand, it may be something of a cop-out to follow the route of "let nature show us where she wants to go". The current tactic of restoring "structure" (which I took to be mostly planting trees and ecosystem stewardship with fire) in the hope that the details of composition will follow with little further intervention may be too optimistic. If budgets permit, some small scale, more intensive restoration efforts in readily accessible locations would be instructive. Some practices might prove to be operational at larger scale, and that would be a boon to the District's restoration efforts.</p> <p>The District's work on hydrology in Mallory Swamp is commendable. Ditch blocks, culverts, and control structures are all steps in the right direction. Adequate monitoring to facilitate development of a water balance for Mallory Swamp would be extremely useful, both for answering the practical questions of water-in, water-out, but also the broader issue of relating the District's land management actions to water quantity and water quality.</p> <p>The main accolade that I can extend to you and your colleagues who participated in Tuesday's site visit is that I learned a great deal. And that is always the best assessment of a day well spent, from my perspective. Thanks to all of you for hosting such a productive, instructive day.</p>
Kathy Ewel	<p>Indoor presentations: I missed these because bad weather delayed our departure from Gainesville.</p> <p>Field Review and Presentations: These presentations were informative and very well done. We all had a sense of the size and uniqueness of Mallory Swamp as well as the significance of restoration activities.</p> <p>I did not see any inappropriate land management decisions or actions. I found that District lands were being managed consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, and the land management team implements the Resource Protection and Public Use goals identified in the District Land Management Plan.</p> <p>Additional Comments: The Mallory Swamp is a special place, but wetland science cannot contribute all the information needed to ensure that restoration will be successful. There are several areas where graduate student theses could be conducted to fill in the blanks; more about the ecology and management of pond pine is one we discussed. The promise of logistic support from SRWMD would be useful in backing up a faculty member's proposal for funding from another source. Keeping ecologists and resource managers in the state's universities and colleges apprised of open issues such as these could be fruitful.</p>

Dale Soles	<p>I found the information on the Mallory Swamp fire very interesting. Since my property is about 20 miles from the swamp, we had quite a few effects such as ashes, clouds, and my pool was difficult to clean. I had the pool screened shortly after the fire.</p> <p>It was interesting to witness the efforts of SRWMD to protect the Steinhatchee River. Due to the commercial activities at Steinhatchee that is very important.</p> <p>Since the area I live in has quite a lot of ATV damage, including one death last month, it was interesting to note that the ATV activities were evidently quite orderly.</p>
Colette Jacono	<p>Would like to have heard from the District hydrologist at morning meeting. Good to get out of the building and into the field sooner.</p> <p>Future topic: Floodplain forested tracts, because although they are not under direct management by your section, they are being affected by District decisions and policy.</p> <p>Walking trips further into the habitats at the different stops would have offered better opportunity for habitat assessment and more stimulation to the field trips. Next year, consider advising participants ahead of time of the field variables so that we might dress appropriately. On arrival, participants could be divided into 2 groups, those who want to traipse of road and those that prefer staying at the vehicles. Each group would still be hosted by a District leader. I think this might also lead to more productive discussions among participants.</p> <p>Stop 1 – beautiful results. Just try to get a little more water out into the center of that basin and keep it there longer to replace the broom sedge with more natural graminoid diversity.</p> <p>Stop 3 – why not tolerate some titi as pines mature?</p> <p>Why so many deep ditches, are they just to prevent road flooding?</p> <p>The District land management goal for the last stop, old planted pine tract, should better be to plant longleaf pine and start burn rotation.</p> <p>Questions 1 and 2 ought to be qualified by prefacing “at Mallory Swamp,” as participants should only be expected to comment on what they have seen.</p> <p>Q2 – Threatened plant species: Where I saw <i>Sarracenia minor</i> they were under shrub encroachment, not enough fire suppression – too much overbrush. The other plant species should be better off, especially as cypress reestablish. I was, however, surprised to hear that fire is allowed to penetrate and run through the recovering cypress strands at Mallory. Why not better to protect until trees re grow to tolerant heights and peat hummocks build up providing natural fire protection?</p> <p>Physical features and Hydrological functions: Is it adequate? Why still so many deep ditches – should not this water be pushed back into the marsh?</p> <p>Bound book was useful reference. Please include a page of two on each of the habitats we stopped at providing details, a zoomed vegetation or hydrologic map, and the community designation.</p> <p>Handbook Table 11 – not clear if the given hydroperiod is that actually gauged within Mallory Swamp or simple a descriptor for that type of wetland.</p> <p>Useful for understanding of vegetation over time would have been timeline graph of surface water levels within the community types. How many gauging stations are in the tract and do their locations correspond with the community designations?</p> <p>Thank you – again you have shown promising results from your small but super group.</p>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Terry Demott, Sr. Land Resource Coordinator

DATE: May 12, 2011

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 June 14, 2011 Governing Board meeting.

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007-0003

APPROVED PROJECTS	STATUS
Andrews Family Cedar Key #4 West & Lukens Reserve Levy County 600 acres ±	On May 19, 2011 the Governing Board approved fee simple acquisition of these properties.
Cooley Family/Cooley CE Jefferson County 120 acres ±	Approval for detailed assessment of this property was received July 13, 2010. Staff seek Governing Board approval on June 14, 2011 for this conservation easement acquisition.
Floyd Family/Floyd CE Jefferson County 620 acres ±	Detailed assessment for this property was approved on July 13, 2010. Staff will seek Governing Board approval on June 14, 2011 for this conservation easement acquisition.
Guerry, Bryan and Candace Surplus Property Exchange Columbia County 127 acres ±	The surplus lands subcommittee recommended listing the property for sale rather than reserve it for exchange purposes. The property was listed for sale with Poole Realty on May 11, 2011.
Hartzog, Grady and Honor/Stuart's Landing Conservation Easement Suwannee County 82 acres ±	A title search is complete, and terms for a conservation easement have been agreed to with the landowner. Legal counsel has prepared a final draft of the conservation easement. Staff is requesting a bid for appraisal.
Layman Law Firm/Walker Spring CE Jefferson County 172 acres ±	On May 19, 2011 the Governing Board approved purchase of a conservation easement on this property.
Nyman, George and Sharon Suwannee River Oaks CE Gilchrist County 312 acres ±	Timber valuation and appraisals are complete. An offer authorization is being prepared for Executive Office approval.
Rock Bluff Springs Co. LLC/Rock Bluff Spring Gilchrist County 176 acres ±	Title search is complete. Appraisals have been received and reviewed by the District's independent review appraiser.

Santa Fe Springs LLC/Sawdust Spring Columbia County 234 acres ±	Staff notified the owners' representative that their asking price exceeds the appraised value.
Slezak Trust/Holton Creek Addition Hamilton County 30 acres ±	On May 19, 2011 the Governing Board approved fee simple acquisition of this parcel.

SURPLUS LANDS	STATUS
	Final appraisals and timber valuations of Group I Land Sales are complete, and all Group I parcels have been listed for sale with Poole Realty of Live Oak. Appraisals and timber valuations for Group II parcels are complete, and the parcels are listed for sale with the Daniel Crapps Agency of Lake City. Appraisals of Group III Land Sales are complete, and the parcels are listed with Daniel Crapps Agency, Poole Realty and Don King Realty. Sale of the 320-acre Westwoods West surplus tract to Herring Farms Inc. occurred April 7, 2011.

SURPLUS LANDS

Group #	Tract Name	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding Source	Appraisal Date	Listing Date	Listing Price
1	Bay Creek South	46	Columbia	02/1988	WMLTF	6/14/2010	7/12/2010	Fee \$123,750
1	Bay Creek North	24	Columbia	02/1988	WMLTF	6/14/2010	7/12/2010	Fee \$60,720
1	Owens Spring	77	Lafayette	03/1999	P2000	6/14/2010	7/12/2010	Fee \$277,200
1	Westwood West	320	Madison	12/1988	WMLTF	6/14/2010	7/12/2010	Sale of the 320-acre Westwoods West surplus tract to Herring Farms Inc. occurred April 7, 2011.
1	Blue Sink	79	Suwannee	12/1988	WMLTF	6/14/2010	7/12/2010	Fee entire parcel \$281,600 40-acre parcels \$154,000
1	Levings	69	Columbia	02/1998	WMLTF	6/14/2010	5/11/2011	Fee \$135,860
2	Jennings Bluff	70	Hamilton	02/1989	WMLTF	7/30/2010	8/16/2010	Fee entire tract \$215,600
2	Adams South	60	Lafayette	05/1990	WMLTF	7/30/2010	8/16/2010	Fee entire tract \$191,400

Group #	Tract Name	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding Source	Appraisal Date	Listing Date	Listing Price
3	Hunter Creek	120	Hamilton	09/2002	P2000		11/18/2010	Fee (3 parcels) \$343,200 Conservation Easement (3 parcels) \$243,100
3	Santa Fe Oasis	110	Gilchrist	06/1995	P2000	8/27/2010		Leased to FWC
3	Steinhatchee Rise	42	Dixie	02/1996	P2000	8/27/2010	11/18/2010	Fee entire tract \$126,940 Conservation easement \$97,020
3	Timber River	1	Madison	03/1998	WMLTF	8/27/2010	11/18/2010	Fee entire tract \$10,780
3	Falmouth North (8 lots)	6	Suwannee	04/1998	WMLTF	8/27/2010	11/18/2010	Fee entire tract (8 lots \$52,030

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bob Heeke, Senior Land Resources Manager
DATE: May 19, 2011
SUBJECT: Land Management Activity Report

REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS:

Five conservation easement properties were inspected in the past month. All of the properties were in compliance with the original terms of the easement document. The inspections included:

<u>CE Tract</u>	<u>County</u>
Jennings Bluff	Hamilton County
Bailey Cuba Bay	Jefferson and Madison Counties
Chinquapin Farm	Columbia and Suwannee Counties
Dixie Plantation	Jefferson County
Harrell	Suwannee County

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

District Staff and contractors have finished repairing roads on the Steinhatchee Springs Tract.

A GIS update of recreational facilities has been completed; work continues on updating roads and facilities.

A new entrance sign was installed at Otter Springs, and design for an entrance sign at R. O. Ranch has been completed.

PUBLIC RECREATION SERVICES

The Mallory Swamp ATV trail opened on April 9 and closes September 11, the week before archery season begins. A media release was sent to all the news outlets in the District announcing the opening.

A special summer hog hunt on the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area will be provided in coordination with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The hunt will be one weekend per month during May, June, July, August, and September.

A map of recreational opportunities on the Aucilla, Wacissa and Econfina Rivers was completed in a cooperative effort between the District and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

The following table shows special use authorizations issued during the last month:

Recreation	Temporary Ingress & Egress	Mallory Swamp ATV Trail	RO Ranch	Goose Pasture Camping¹	Other	Total
41	2	6	36	25		110

Suwannee Bicycle Association held their annual Suwannee Bicycle Festival on April 29 – May 1 with approximately 150 participants. A majority of the participants rode the off-road bicycle trails on District lands in the White Springs area.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Rare Species Monitoring has been conducted on District lands as follows:

- Four tracts for Angle Pod (*Gonolobus suberosus*; Threatened).
- Three tracts for presence of Pinewoods Dainties (*Phyllanthus liebmannianus platylepis*; Endangered).
- Two tracts for Chapman’s Sedge (*Carex chapmannii*; Threatened).
- One tract for Hooded Pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*; Threatened)
- One tract for Florida Pinkroot (*Spigelia loganioides*; Endangered).
- One tract for Tinted Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia commutate*; Endangered)
- Florida mice (*Podomys floridanus*; Species of Special Concern) were trapped on two District tracts for continued monitoring of population indices.

A scattered infestation of Japanese Climbing Fern and a localized infestation of Mimosa (both FLEPPC Category I) were treated on two District tracts. Previously treated infestations on 3 District tracts were visited to monitor control efforts; no invasive weeds were observed at these sites.

Request for Proposals (RFP 10/11-026) for tree planting services on District lands during the upcoming planting season was released April 11, 2011. Along with references and previous work history, the RFP requested per acre costs for the V-blade planting of bare root longleaf and slash pine seedlings and v-blade planting of containerized longleaf pine seedlings. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting was held on April 25, and the proposals were opened on May2. A recommendation is provided elsewhere in the Board materials.

Prescribed Burn Report

Summary Table FY 2011

	2011 Target Acres	Acres Complete
SRWMD	8,500	8,734
DOF TRSF	2,000	1,416
TOTAL	10,500	10,150

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 a crew to burn additional acres on both District tracts and Twin Rivers State Forest.

Activity Table (April 2011)

		WFS	NRPS	TFC	B&BD	DOF COOP	DOF TRSF	Total Acres	Total Wildfire Acres
TRACT	COUNTY								
Cuba Bay	Taylor	192							
Holton Creek	Hamilton	61							
Falling Creek	Columbia								3
Santa Fe River Ranch	Alachua		96						
<i>Sub-total for Period</i>		253	96	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Previous Acres Burned</i>		3,550	748	2,381	1,706	0	1,416	9,801	92
Total Acres		3,803	844	2,381	1,706	0	1,416	10,150	95

During the report period conditions were drier than normal and many pine trees began exhibiting full bud growth. To avoid causing organic soil (duff) fires or damaging buds by exposing them to excessive heat, prescribed burning activities were limited to areas with well drained sandy soils and stands of tall, mature timber that were at a lower stocking density.

One wildfire occurred on District land during the report period. The wildfire was caused by a spot-over from a prescribed fire ignited by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the Big Shoals State Park in Hamilton County. It was approximately three acres in size and located on the Falling Creek tract in Columbia County. Because of dry conditions, some duff ignition occurred during this fire. DEP mopped up areas where the duff ignition occurred. DEP and FLDOF monitored the site until it was declared out at the end of April.

Timber Sale Report

Contract #	Fiscal Year	Timber Sale Name	Consultant	Sale Date	Estimated Pine Tons	Harvest Completion
09/10-022	2010	Steinhatchee #3	TFC	11/30/2009	21,603	74%
09/10-044	2010	Alapahoochee #1	NRPS	2/5/2010	2,090	100%
09/10-051	2010	Steinhatchee #4	TFC	3/3/2010	8,923	100%
09/10-070	2010	Steinhatchee #5	TFC	4/23/2010	13,728	100%
09/10-085	2010	Westwoods #2	DOF/TRSF	6/7/2010	24,479	70%
09/10-128	2010	Black Tract #2	DOF/TRSF	7/20/2010	3,530	100%
09/10-129	2010	Steinhatchee #7	TFC	7/23/2010	12,007	87%
09/10-137	2010	Steinhatchee #6	TFC	8/20/2010	13,919	78%
10/11-038	2011	Owens Springs #1	NRPS	12/16/2010	9,930	50%
10/11-115	2011	Steinhatchee #8	TFC	pending	4,376	
10/11-116	2011	Jones Mill Creek #1	TFC	pending	29,690	
10/11-117	2011	Little River #3	NRPS	pending	2,500	
10/11-118	2011	Levings #3	NRPS	4/29/2011	2,820	0%
10/11-119	2011	Sullivan #1	DOF/TRSF	pending	6,574	
10/11-120	2011	Ellaville #13	DOF/TRSF	pending	7,905	

R. O. RANCH

Five meetings were held at the Visitors Center this past month, and staff is busy planning activities for the summer and fall.

The septic system is complete, and the campground is open.

The District's inmate crew installed new directional signs at the Park and repaired damaged directional signs in Mallory Swamp. The crew also worked several days in Mallory Swamp picking up roadside litter.

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008-00025