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2,000 acres of natural systems protected through acquisition



Over 2,000 acres acquired by SRWMD

Live Oak, FL, September 22, 2015 – Approximately 2,000 acres of natural systems in Bradford County will be protected while providing a military base buffer for Camp Blanding, thanks to an acquisition made possible by a variety of key players. The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) acquired the property from Rayonier Atlantic Timber Company.

The Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Clay County, Rayonier Atlantic Timber Company, and the District, partnered to provide a military buffer for Camp Blanding that simultaneously protects natural systems. The acquisition will support the District's implementation of flood abatement and water resource development projects that will provide regional benefits.

"This acquisition provides the District with the property to implement flood protection and water resource development projects within the Santa Fe River Basin," stated Interim Executive Director, Carlos Herd.

"Rayonier is proud to partner, once again, with both the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Department of Defense," said Doug Long, Rayonier Vice

President of Operations. "The opportunity to work together on this project to achieve both important environmental and military goals makes this transaction doubly rewarding for us."

"Partnering with the District is particularly advantageous, said Paul Catlett, Installation Environmental Manager for Camp Blanding Training Center, "as it provides solutions to regional water challenges as well as a buffer for military operations at Camp Blanding.

Land acquisition is part of the District's core mission as a mechanism to protect natural resources through flood abatement and restoration projects.

The District will convey 104 acres to the St. Johns River Water Management District that is situated within the boundary of the St. Johns District.

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