

AGENDA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>

Open to Public

January 9, 2024
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair
Amendments Recommended by Staff: None
4. Public Comment
5. Consideration of the following Items Collectively by Consent:
 - Agenda Item No. 6 - December 12, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
 - Agenda Item No. 12 - November 2023 Financial Report
 - Agenda Item No. 14 - Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan
6. December 12, 2023 Governing Board Meeting Minutes - **Recommend Consent**
7. Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
 - A. Hydrologic Conditions Report
 - B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
 - C. Service Recognition – Stephanie Armstrong (Five Years of Service)

Page 5

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Tom Reeves

8. Update on Legal Activities

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director

Administration

9. Facilities Update

BCS Page 1

10. Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

BCS Page 4

11. Resolution 2024-01 Waldo Tree Farm Acquisition, Alachua County

Finance

BCS Page 9 12. November 2023 Financial Report – **Recommend Consent**

Resource Management

BCS Page 14 13. Permitting Summary Report

BCS Page 17 14. 2024-2028 Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan –
Recommend Consent

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Katelyn Potter, Division Director

Outreach and Operations

OPS Page 1 15. Outreach and Communications Activity Summary

Land Management

OPS Page 3 16. Land Management Update

OPS Page 6 17. Amendment to Agreement 15/16-037 with the Florida Department of Military
Affairs

OPS Page 7 18. 2022-2023 Land Management Annual Report

Hydrologic Data Services

OPS Page 41 19. Agricultural Water Use Monitoring Report

WATER RESOURCES

Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director

20. Water Resources Division Updates

Agriculture and Environmental Projects

WR Page 1 21. Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

22. Announcements

23. Governing Board Comments

AGENDA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP

January 9, 2024
Following Board Meeting

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

- District Investment Discussion
- Surface Water Improvement and Management Discussion

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>
Open to Public

Note: A digital recording system was used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the materials and handouts are a part of the record as set out in full herein and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

December 12, 2023
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

Governing Board

Seat	Name	Office	Present	Not Present
Aucilla Basin	Vacant		-	-
Coastal River Basin	Richard Schwab	Vice Chair	X	
Lower Suwannee Basin	Larry K. Thompson		X	
Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins	William Lloyd		X	
Upper Suwannee Basin	Larry Sessions		X	
At Large	Virginia H. Johns	Chair	X	
At Large	Charles Keith	Sec./Treas.	X	
At Large	Harry Smith		X	
At Large	Vacant		-	-

Governing Board Legal Counsel

Name	Firm	Present	Not Present
George T. Reeves	Davis, Schnitker, Reeves & Browning, P.A.	X	

Leadership Team

Position	Name	Present	Not Present
Executive Director	Hugh Thomas	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Tim Alexander	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Amy Brown	X	
Executive Office & Board Coordinator	Robin Lamm	X	

Agenda Item No. 3 - Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair:

Updated:

Business and Community Services – Agenda Item No. 13 - Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment:

- Amy Morie, Bradford Soil and Water District (online comment submitted and read for the record by Troy Roberts, Manager, Outreach and Communications) – North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan concerns.
- Merrilee M. Jipson - North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan concerns, Seven Springs Water Company permit renewal concerns.
- Ryan Smart, Florida Springs Council - North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan concerns, Seven Springs Water Company permit renewal concerns.
- Joanne Tremblay, Our Santa Fe River - North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan concerns, Seven Springs Water Company permit renewal concerns, consumptive use permits reduction.

Agenda Item No. 5 Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent:

- Agenda Item No. 6 - November 14, 2023, Governing Board Meeting and Workshops Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 12 - October 2023 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 15 - Memorandum of Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection Regarding Concurrent Permit Review of Indirect Potable Reuse Projects
- Agenda Item No. 19 - Florida Forever Workplan
- Agenda Item No. 24 - 2023 Federal Emergency Management Agency Risk Mapping and Planning Program Five-Year Business Plan
- Agenda Item No. 25 - Amendment to Contract 22/23-168 with Ladedra, LLC.
- Agenda Item No. 26 - Task Work Assignment 19/20-031.16 with Water and Air Research, Inc.
- Agenda Item No. 27 - Order Number 23-007 – 2023 North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (2020-2045)

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 6 - November 14, 2023, Governing Board Meeting and Workshops Minutes.
Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 7 - Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations.

- A. Robbie McKinney, Chief, Office of Water Resources, gave a presentation of hydrologic conditions of the District.
- B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations. Mr. Thomas introduced Tommy Langford, Gilchrist County Commissioner, to the Board.

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Agenda Item No. 8 –Update on Legal Activities. No items.

Agenda Item No. 9 – Final Order Number 23-006, Florida Springs Council v. Seven Springs Water Company and Suwannee River Water Management District; SRWMD Renewal WUP App. No. 2-041-218202-3; DOAH Case Nos. 21-1180. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, presented this item to the Board.

The following attendees provided public comments to the Board:

- Tommy Langford, Gilchrist County Commissioner
- Raven Siegfried, Rainbow River Conservation
- Thor Siegfried
- Merrilee M. Jipson
- Joanne Tremblay, Our Santa Fe River

The following legal representatives provided public comments to the Board:

- Doug MacLaughlin, Florida Springs Council, Inc.
- Doug Manson, Seven Springs Water Company
- Fred Reeves, Suwannee River Water Management District

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration

Agenda Item No. 10 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Request for Qualifications 23/24-002 Design-Build Construction Services for Renovation of the Field Services Building. Steve Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Finance

Agenda Item No. 12 – October 2023 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget - **UPDATED**. Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resource Management

Agenda Item No. 14 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 15 – Memorandum of Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection Regarding Concurrent Permit Review of Indirect Potable Reuse Projects. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 16 – Brandon Creasy, Unlicensed Water Well Contracting Administrative Complaint and Order. Warren Zwanka, Director, Resource Management Division, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

AMENDED MOTION BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM AND FORWARD THE AMDINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT AND ORDER TO THE STATE ATTORNEY OFFICE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 17 – Environmental Resource Permit Number ERP-023-244379-1, Gwynn Farms Subdivision, Columbia County. Mr. Zwanka presented this item to the Board.

The following attendees provided comments to the Board:

- Greg Bailey, North Florida Professional Services
- Jacqui Sulek
- Laura Dailey

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY LLOYD TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 18 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 19 – 2024 Florida Forever Work Plan. Approved on Consent.

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 20 - Land Management Update. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Hydrologic Data Services

Agenda Item No. 21 – Agricultural Water Use Monitoring Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

WATER RESOURCES

Agenda Item No. 22 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

Agriculture and Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 23 – Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 24 – 2023 Federal Emergency Management Agency Risk Mapping and Planning Program Five-Year Business Plan. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 25 – Amendment to Contract 22/23-168 with Ladeda, LLC. Approved on Consent.

Minimum Flows and Levels

Agenda Item No. 26 – Task Work Assignment 19/20-031.16 with Water and Air Research, Inc. Approved on Consent.

Water Supply

Agenda Item No. 27 – Order Number 23-007 – 2023 North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (2020-2045). Approved on Consent.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Agenda Item No. 28 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities.

Agenda Item No. 29 - Governing Board Comments. None

Agenda Item No. 30 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Stephen Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration
THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: December 28, 2023
RE: Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

Attached for your information is the Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report.

SS/tm
Attachments

LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION ACTIVITY REPORT

Property Offers							
Owner	Tract	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Asking Price	Acquisition Type	Comments
Approved for Detailed Assessment							
Owner	Project Name	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Asking Price	Acquisition Type	Comments
Camp and Abel	Camp and Abel	266	Hamilton	09.23.20	\$948,000	Fee	Approved for detailed assessment and negotiations 12.8.20. Property being tasked to NFLT for negotiation and assessment. Transaction will be processed in house and not contracted. ESA Phase 1 ordered. Appraisal ordered. Delayed completion due to flooding. ESA Phase 1 site visit scheduled 5.18.2022. ESA report received and reported no concerns. Appraisal pending. Appraisal received. Offer being extended to offeror. On March 2023 Board for action. Approved by GB March 2023 meeting. Contract being drafted. Resolution on April 2023 GB Agenda. Resolution approved. In closing pending termination of timber lease. Owner is having an OGM (Mineral Rights) title search completed. Final closing anticipated October 6. Closing to be extended - mineral right releases still being obtained by seller. Closing extended
Pfleiger	Riverbend Estates	1.1	Dixie	03.20.20	\$11,000/Possible exchange	Fee	Staff recommendation to proceed with detailed assessment and negotiations. Approved by LC on 6.9.20. Approved by GB on 7.14.20. In discussions with Offeror to exchange for Timber River parcel in Madison County. Offeror has tentatively agreed to exchange. Draft contract submitted to Counsel for review on 3.3.21. Awaiting additional guidance from Counsel regarding appraisals. Contract revised and submitted to Pfleiger. Staff will order an ESA Phase 1 and appraisal of the Riverbend property; Pfleiger will order an appraisal on the District land in Timber River. Signed contract received from Pfleiger to be submitted for GB Chair signature. Satisfactory Phase 1 ESA was received. Appraisal in process. Final exchange approved by LC 1.11.22. . Approved by GB 2.8.22. Will proceed to closing. Pending Closing. Closing in process. Closing date pending - likely March 2023. Closing scheduled to be completed April 3, 2023. Closing complete. Closing delayed due to one owner being out of the Country. Awaiting final documentation for closing. 10.11.23 - awaiting final action on closing.
Florida Department of Transportation	Quail Heights	40.63	Columbia		\$651,105	Fee	Staff review on 8.8.19 recommended purchase in partnership with FDOT. Approved by LC on 2.11.20. Approved by GB 3.10.20. Submitted for Springs Grant funding but not obtained for FY 20. Property acquired by FDOT on 9.10.20. LC approved contribution to acquisition costs 11.10.20. GB approved on consent agenda 12.8.20. FDOT contract completed. Resolution for acquisition on GB agenda 5.11.21 and was approved. Final revisions and resolution of all contingencies complete and satisfied. Funds will be distributed to FDOT before 6.1.21. Agreement with FDOT executed. Funds referred after due diligence. Staff is working on obtaining appropriate surveys and negotiating agreement with Columbia County. Interlocal agreement being drafted with Columbia County. Survey received from Columbia County. Determining next steps for completion of transaction. Staff met with County representatives 9.13.22 - MOA should be completed by 10.1.22. Still awaiting MOA from County. District has assumed responsibility for MOA anticipate completion by April 2023. Staff is meeting with County on May 18, 2023 to discuss. Awaiting comments from County legal counsel on MOA. Revised MOA awaiting approval by Columbia County Commission. MOU approved by County Commission on 12.6.23.
Waldo Tree Farm, LLC	Waldo Tree Farm	38 +/-	Alachua	5.10.22	TBD based on appraisal	Fee	8.9.22 LC authorized staff to expend not more than \$5,000 to acquire an appraisal and negotiate a price with the sellers. Recommended acquisition price to be presented to LC when available for further approval and recommendations to the Governing Board. Quotes pending for appraisal. Appraisal pending. Anticipated completion in February 2023. Appraisal received. Proposed acquisition price being submitted to LC March 2023. LC approved acquisition price at March 2023 meeting. On April 2023 GB Agenda. Contract being prepared. ESA Phase 1 being ordered. Phase 1 report anticipated in late August. Phase 1 underway (delayed due to contractor personell issues) due by November 20. Satisfactory Phase 1 ESA received. Sent for closing. Final Resolution on January 2024 Agenda.
Hodges	Hodges	753 +/-	Levy	3.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	5.9.23 Staff recommendation approved by LC. On June 2023 Governing Board agenda. Discussion of terms of CE in process. Revised map and amended language being reviewed by Offeror.
Tanner Springs (Dixon)	Dixon	40 +/-	Hamilton	1.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	5.9.23 Staff recommendation approved by LC. On June 2023 Governing Board agenda. Discussion of terms of CE in process. Springs buffer map and revised language being reviewed by offeror.
Long Pond	Williams Family Investments, LLC.	947 +/-	Levy	6.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	9.25.23 staff recommendation approved by Lands Committee. 10.10.23 LC action approved by Governing Board. CE terms being negotiated. Projects team conducted a site visit 12.11.23 - recommendations being incorporated into CE language.
Rawson	Matthew Rawson	140 +/-	Lafayette	5.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	9.25.23 staff recommendation approved by Lands Committee. 10.10.23 LC action approved by Governing Board. CE terms being negotiated. Awaiting amended language from offeror and decision regarding Mortgage.
Taylor	Johnny Taylor	941 +/-	Gilchrist	7.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	9.25.23 staff recommendation approved by Lands Committee. 10.10.23 LC action approved by Governing Board. CE terms being negotiated. Awaiting feedback from offeror.

LAND AND DISPOSITION ACTIVITY REPORT
SURPLUS

Proposed for Surplus

Tract	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding	Appraisal Date	Price	Comments
None pending.							

Authorized for Surplus

Tract	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding	Appraisal Date	Price	Comments
Forest Woodlands	11	Gilchrist	10.11.1996	Save Our Rivers	TBD	To be determined by appraisal.	Staff recommended for surplus. Approved by Lands Committee (LC) on 10.10.19. Approved by Governing Board (GB) 11.12.19. Will be offered to adjacent property owners.
Santa Fe Oasis	1	Gilchrist	4.28.1998	Save Our Rivers	TBD	TBD by appraisal update.	Approved by LC on 4.14.20. Approved by GB 5.12.20. Offered for sale to adjacent owners, two offers received. Approved by LC 8.11.20 to accept highest offer. Withdrawn from GB on 9.8.20. Being resubmitted to LC for its 9.21.20 meeting for staff recommendation to reject all offers and offer for sale to the general public. GB approved LC recommendation on 10.13.20. All bids rejected and property will be offered for sale to the general public. Staff is trying to obtain a review appraisal to reconcile disparate appraisals received and determine minimum price for bids. Awaiting legal guidance on establishing minimum price for public notice of intent to sell.
Suwannee Run Shores	1.175	Dixie	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	TBD	To be determined by appraisal.	Staff recommended for surplus. Approved by LC 7.9.19. Approved by GB 8.13.19. Adjacent Property owners notified, responses/bids with appraisals due 4.15.20. No responses received, will be posted on website and offer for sale to general public.
Three Rivers Estates	1	Columbia	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	N/A	TBD by appraisal update.	Staff recommended for surplus. Approved by LC 7.9.19. Approved by GB 8.8.19. Adjacent Property owners notified, responses/bids with appraisals due 4.15.20. Two offers received, highest offer approved by LC 6.9.20. On GB agenda for 7.14.20 and approved. Contract being drafted.
Turtle Spring Surplus Tract	32	Lafayette	5.13.2015	Florida Forever	5.24.2015	TBD by appraisal update.	Suspended until further review. Attempting to verify final surplus status/approval by GB.
Newberry Wellfield	58.66	Alachua	1.11.2000	P-2000	N/A	\$0	3.9.21 LC recommended surplus and conveyance to the City of Newberry with specified conditions. Approved by GB 4.13.21. Conveyance documents being drafted for legal review. Conveyance on hold pending resolution of issues relating to timber operations by the District. Timber operations underway. Once complete, transaction will be closed.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Stephen Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration
THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: December 28, 2023
RE: Resolution 2024-01, Waldo Tree Farm Acquisition, Alachua County

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution 2024-01 for the final acquisition of the Waldo Tree Farm Tract in Alachua County for an amount not to exceed \$45,000.

BACKGROUND

In April 2023, the Governing Board approved the acquisition of the Waldo Tree Farm Tract in Alachua County and authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract to acquire the parcel for the amount of \$35,200. A satisfactory Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment has been received by the District. Expenses incurred in the due diligence phase include \$1,925 for the appraisal and \$5,012 for the Phase 1 assessment. Minimal closing expenses are expected.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 2024-01 authorizing the acquisition of the property using PCS Mitigation/Save Our Rivers funds for all costs associated with the acquisition, for an amount not to exceed \$45,000.

SCS/tm
Attachment
File No. 2022-002

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THE WALDO TREE FARMS TRACT CONSISTING OF 44.52 ACRES +/- LOCATED IN ALACHUA COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE PCS MITIGATION/SAVE OUR RIVERS FUND FOR THE LAND PURCHASE AND ACQUISITION COSTS

WHEREAS the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has been offered fee title to lands owned by Waldo Tree Farms, LLC., a Florida Limited Partnership in Alachua County, Florida and consisting of one parcel totaling 44.52 acres +/- (the Waldo Tree Farms Tract). A description of said lands being attached hereto as Attachment A; and

WHEREAS the Waldo Tree Farms Tract is adjacent to other tracts currently owned by the District; and

WHEREAS the parcels lie within the floodplain for the Santa Fe River; and

WHEREAS the purchase price for said lands shall be \$35,200; and

WHEREAS acquisition costs to be funded include a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment at a cost of \$5,012 and an appraisal at a cost of \$1,975; and

WHEREAS the sum of \$45,000 is being requested for use from funds on hand at the District within the PCS Mitigation/Save Our Rivers Fund for the purchase price and acquisition and closing costs; and

WHEREAS said lands are being acquired consistent with sections 373.139 and 373.199, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and consistent with the District's annually updated Florida Forever Five-Year Work Plan filed with the Legislature and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS said lands are being acquired in fee simple for water management purposes and the acquisition meets the goals and criteria of section 259.105, F.S.; and

WHEREAS the funds hereinafter requested will be used only for the purchase price of said lands and related acquisition costs; and

WHEREAS said lands will be maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner compatible with the resource values for which acquired and, to the extent practical, in such a way as to restore and protect their natural state and condition; and

WHEREAS said lands have been appraised by a real estate appraiser and were approved for acquisition after duly noticed public meeting to inform the public of this acquisition; and

WHEREAS an environmental audit has been performed and reported no contamination or need for a Phase II Environmental Assessment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the District, that:

1. The above statements are hereby certified and declared to be true and correct, and the acquisition of said lands are hereby further certified to be consistent with this District's plan of acquisition and Section 373.199, F.S.
2. The Chair and Secretary of the Governing Board, the Executive Director, the Governing Board attorney and all other officers and employees of the District are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to close and complete the acquisition.
3. The District hereby approves the use of the PCS Mitigation/Save Our Rivers fund for an amount not to exceed \$45,000 for the purchase price, acquisition costs, and closing costs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF January 2024.

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

**VIRGINIA JOHNS, CHAIR
RICHARD SCHWAB, VICE-CHAIR
CHARLES KEITH, SECRETARY/TREASURER
WILLIAM LLOYD
LARRY SESSIONS
HARRY SMITH
LARRY K. THOMPSON**

ATTEST:

**CHARLES KEITH
SECRETARY/TREASURER**

ATTACHMENT A

DESCRIPTION OF THE LANDS

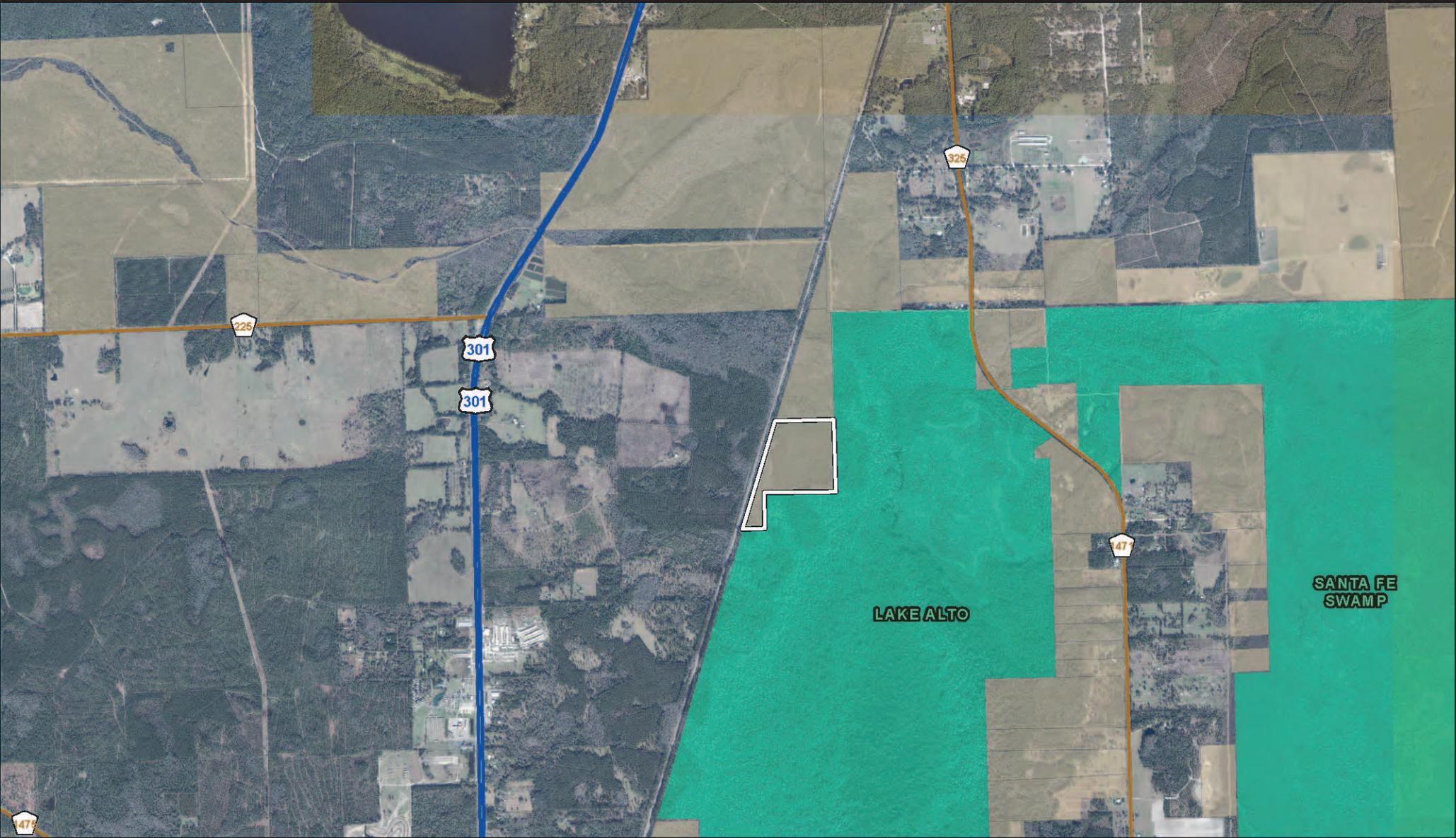
That portion of the following described real property located East of the CSX Railroad

lying and being in Section 1, Township 8 South, Range 21 East, ALACHUA County, Florida, viz:

- (1) The NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, EXCEPT a strip of land uniformly 210 feet wide across the North end thereof;
- (2) The W 1/2 of the NE 1/4;
- (3) That portion of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, lying West of the S.A.L. Railroad;
- (4) That portion of the N 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, lying West of the S.A.L. Railroad;
- (5) The S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4;
- (6) The NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4; and
- (7) The N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4.

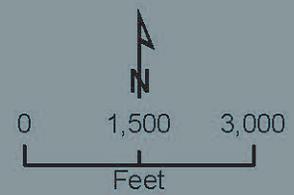
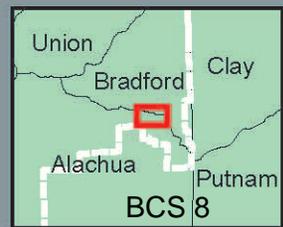
EXCEPTING from each parcel any portion thereof lying within the right of way of the Seaboard Airline Railroad.

Consisting of 44.52 acres M.O.L.
Alachua County parcel ID 16914-000-000



Waldo Tree Farm
 ± 44.52 Ac
 Alachua County

-  Property Boundary
-  SRWMD Ownership
-  Other Public Ownership
-  Florida Forever



Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001. Map Created 5/18/2022

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: December 28, 2023

RE: November 2023 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the November 2023 Financial Report and confirm the expenditures of the District.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.553(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), authorizes the delegation of authority by the Governing Board to the Executive Director to disburse District funds, providing certification is made to the Board at the next regular meeting that such disbursement is proper, in order, and within budgetary limits. In compliance with the statutory provisions in Chapter 373, F.S., the Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board has directed staff to prepare a financial report as attached.

PS/tm
Attachments

**Suwannee River Water Management District
Cash Report
November 2023**

Financial Institution/Account	Monthly Interest	Interest Rate %	Closing Balance
First Federal Permit Fee	\$0.00		\$500.00
First Federal Accounts Payable	\$0.00		\$35,000.00
First Federal EFT Disbursements	\$0.00		\$0.00
First Federal Depository	\$564.35		\$814,472.77
Special Purpose Investment Account (SPIA)*	<u>\$80,402.90</u>	2.55%	<u>\$36,718,740.89</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>\$80,967.25</u></u>		<u><u>\$37,568,713.66</u></u>

*SPIA is part of the Treasury Investment Pool administered by Florida Department of Financial Services.

**Suwannee River Water Management District
Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds
For the Month ending November 30, 2023
(Unaudited)**

	Current Budget	Actuals Through 11/30/2023	Variance (Under)/Over Budget	Actuals As A % of Budget
Sources				
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	\$ 6,889,956	\$ 938,576	\$ (5,951,380)	13.6%
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 51,272,469	\$ 1,651,489	\$ (49,620,980)	3.2%
Interest on Invested Funds	\$ 130,000	\$ 161,713	\$ 31,713	124.4%
License and Permit Fees	\$ 223,000	\$ 68,732	\$ (154,268)	30.8%
Other	\$ 1,390,000	\$ 90,618	\$ (1,299,382)	6.5%
Fund Balance ¹	\$ 11,728,665	\$ 67,218	\$ (11,661,447)	0.6%
Total Sources	\$ 71,634,090	\$ 2,978,346	\$ (68,655,744)	4.2%

	Current Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances ²	Available Budget	%Expended	%Obligated ³
Uses						
Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	\$ 12,182,776	\$ 723,802	\$ 6,127,515	\$ 5,331,459	6%	56%
Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	\$ 46,444,966	\$ 2,390,262	\$ 34,408,237	\$ 9,646,467	5%	79%
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	\$ 8,457,072	\$ 596,340	\$ 2,939,178	\$ 4,921,554	7%	42%
Regulation	\$ 2,368,342	\$ 213,888	\$ 46,339	\$ 2,108,115	9%	11%
Outreach	\$ 227,719	\$ 39,221	\$ 1,492	\$ 187,006	17%	18%
Management and Administration	\$ 1,953,215	\$ 243,887	\$ 131,361	\$ 1,577,967	12%	19%
Total Uses	\$ 71,634,090	\$ 4,207,400	\$ 43,654,123	\$ 23,772,567	6%	67%

¹ Actual Fund Balance used is recorded at the end of the fiscal year. This amount represents Fund Balance used for the Agricultural and RIVER Cost-Share, Regional Water Resource Development, and Project Effectiveness Metrics Programs.

² Encumbrances represent unexpended balances of open purchase orders, contracts, and task work assignments.

³ Represents the sum of expenditures and encumbrances as a percentage of the available budget.

This financial statement is prepared as of November 30, 2023 and covers the interim period since the most recent audited financial statements.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)
FOR 11/30/2023

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>Report Recap -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	1,259,639	0	8,632,956
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	1,433,013	0	35,994,469
FEDERAL REVENUES	218,476	0	15,278,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	67,218	0	11,728,665
TOTAL REVENUES	2,978,346	0	71,634,090
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	1,019,826	0	8,426,206
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	2,561,372	13,888,788	26,544,876
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	314,966	262,562	2,334,500
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	3,260	59,059	343,044
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	17,655	376,136	5,816,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	290,321	29,067,579	28,169,464
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,207,400	43,654,124	71,634,090
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(1,229,054)	(43,654,124)	0
<u>General Fund -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	1,138,418	0	5,135,254
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	4,740,000
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	3,066,077
TOTAL REVENUES	1,138,418	0	12,941,331
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	806,510	0	6,482,354
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	56,901	757,176	4,019,204
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	137,864	107,837	1,452,457
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	57,284	226,816
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	0	550,259	760,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,001,275	1,472,556	12,941,331
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	137,143	(1,472,556)	0
<u>Land Management Operations -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	90,618	0	2,707,020
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	3,691,119
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	40,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	2,253,933
TOTAL REVENUES	90,618	0	8,692,072
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	115,591	0	1,081,015
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	282,937	2,016,805	3,914,672
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	177,102	154,725	807,543
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	3,260	1,775	116,228
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	17,655	142,463	1,816,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	0	581,614	956,614
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	596,545	2,897,382	8,692,072
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(505,927) *	(2,897,382)	0

**Covered by Appropriations and Ad Valorem*

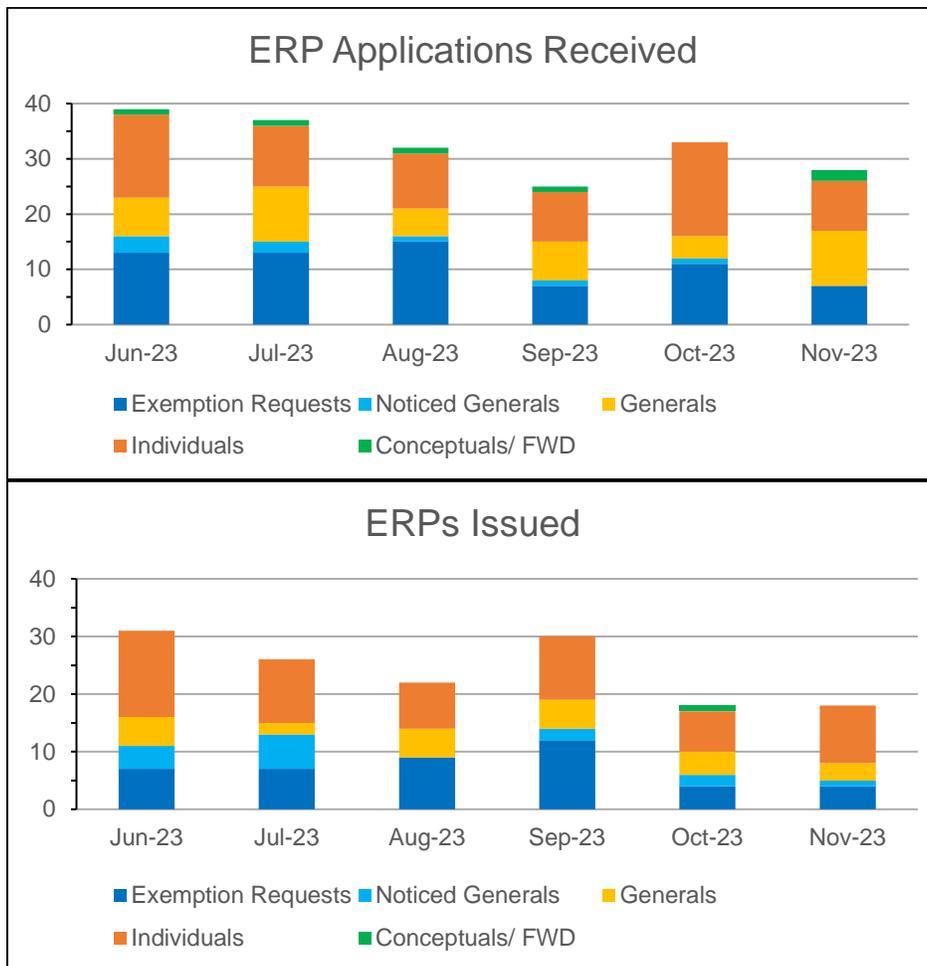
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)
FOR 11/30/2023

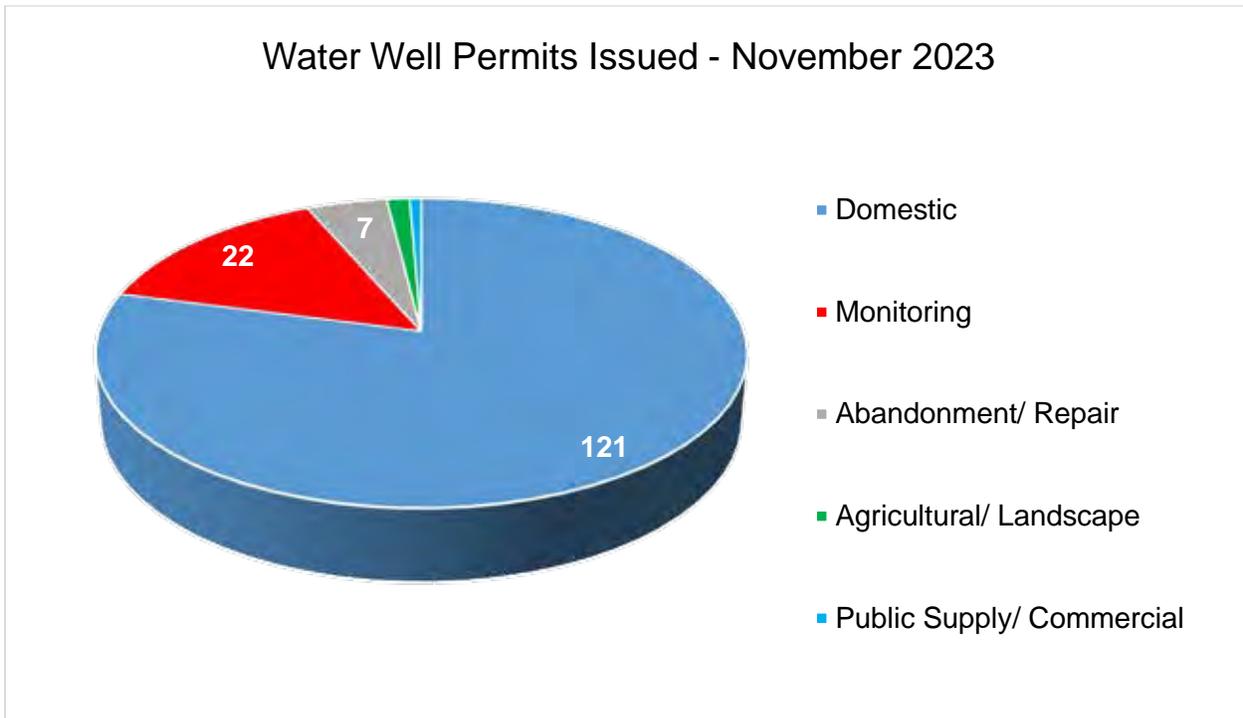
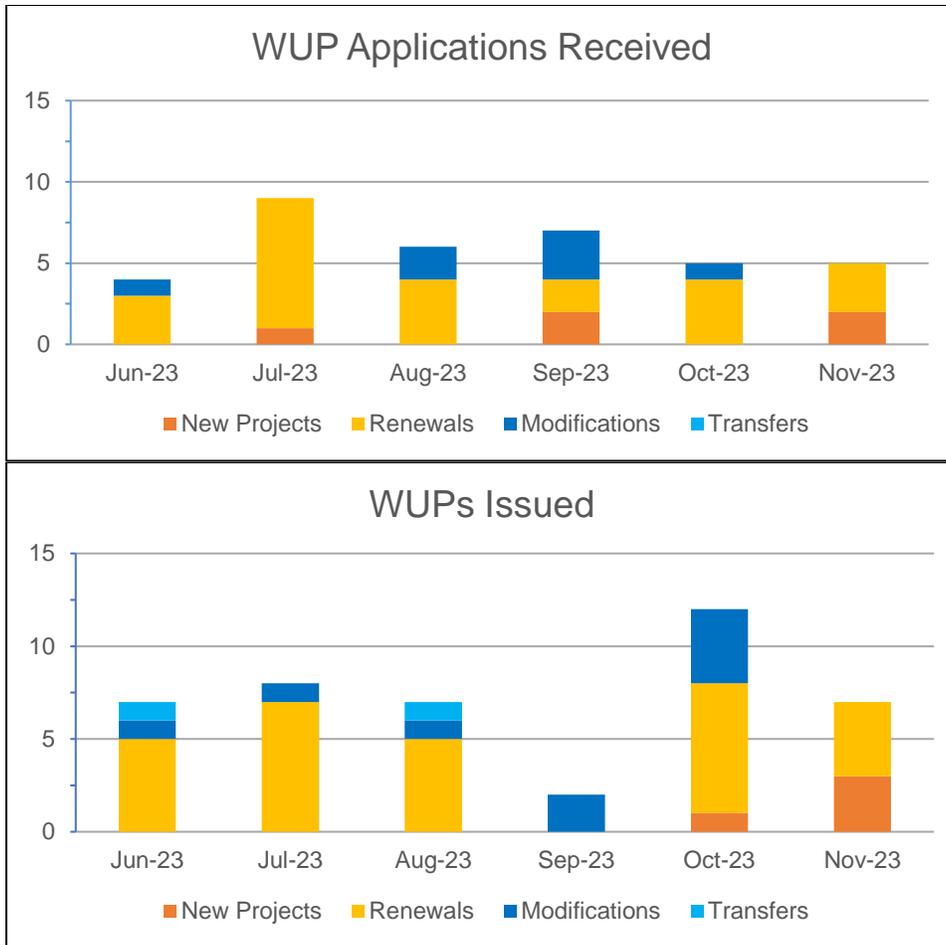
	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>District Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	67,218	0	3,820,000
TOTAL REVENUES	67,218	0	3,820,000
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	17,218	751,276	1,300,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	30,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	50,000	1,329,862	2,490,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	67,218	2,081,138	3,820,000
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	0	(2,081,138)	0
<u>State Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	30,602	0	790,682
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	1,433,013	0	27,563,350
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	2,588,655
TOTAL REVENUES	1,463,615	0	30,942,687
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	96,909	0	846,837
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,985,658	5,727,495	12,624,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	36,500
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	233,672	4,000,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	240,321	13,241,608	13,435,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,322,888	19,202,775	30,942,687
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(859,273) *	(19,202,775)	0
	<i>*To be reimbursed by State Grants</i>		
<u>Federal Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	218,476	0	15,238,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUES	218,476	0	15,238,000
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	816	0	16,000
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	218,659	4,636,035	4,687,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	8,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	0	13,364,235	10,527,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	219,475	18,000,270	15,238,000
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(999) *	(18,000,270)	0
	<i>*To be reimbursed by Federal Grants</i>		

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Warren Zwanka, Director, Division of Resource Management
THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: December 28, 2023
RE: Permitting Summary Report





40B-1.1010 Point of Entry into Proceedings

GB Authorized Rulemaking	2/14/2023
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-400.091 Statewide FDEP Stormwater

GB Authorized Rulemaking	11/14/2023
Notice of Rule Development	12/15/2023
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	1/3/2024
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-2.301 AH Water Use Monitoring

GB Authorized Rulemaking	11/14/2023
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-2.331 Modification of WUPs

GB Authorized Rulemaking	11/14/2023
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-2.351 Transfer of WUPs

GB Authorized Rulemaking	11/14/2023
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

GB Authorized Rulemaking	
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

ERP/ WUP Compliance Agreements: Forrest Cothron, Item 147938, clearing in 75-ft buffer

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Warren Zwanka, Director, Division of Resource Management
THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: December 28, 2023
RE: 2024-2028 Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the 2024-2028 Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.4137, Florida Statutes, identifies an environmental mitigation process for transportation projects. The statute requires that mitigation for transportation projects be accomplished through regional, long-term planning instead of on a project-by-project basis. The statute also requires that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) fund the mitigation and the District carry out the plans.

Each year, FDOT submits a work plan to the District that identifies environmental impacts from planned transportation projects. District staff develops a mitigation plan for each project that secures all state and federal permits for the impacts and streamlines staff review of the permit application once submitted. All projects and their mitigation strategies are contained in the mitigation plan, which is updated each year for approval by the District's Governing Board. In this year's plan, FDOT changed the status of the County Road 18 Trail Segment in Bradford County and the Northwest Bascom Norris Drive Project in Columbia County to complete.

The plan is also included in the annual Consolidated Annual Report.

WZ/tm
Attachment



Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan

2024 - 2028

Suwannee River Water Management District

Executive Summary

In accordance with section 373.4137, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) must develop and implement regional, long-range mitigation planning for wetland impacts associated with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects.

A total of 18 FDOT projects that include wetland mitigation have been initiated since 1996, and all 18 have been completed successfully. One mitigation site for the Starke Bypass Project remains under construction. The District has received a sum total of \$7,146,155.00 from FDOT to manage these wetland mitigation activities. For the 2024 through 2028 planning period, the two ongoing projects listed in last year's report were completed.

Background

Section 373.4137, F.S., states that environmental mitigation for the impact of transportation projects proposed by the FDOT can be more effectively achieved by regional, long-range mitigation planning rather than on a project-by-project basis. The statute sets forth specific language designed to provide funding to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Water Management Districts (WMDs) to develop a mitigation plan to offset environmental impacts from FDOT road projects that require an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP). By July 1st of each year, the FDOT must submit to the WMDs an environmental impact inventory containing a list of projects with proposed wetland impacts. The list is typically published at least three years prior to planned construction. Based on the yearly inventory, WMD staff develop a mitigation plan capable of securing all local, regional, state, and federal permits for the proposed impacts.

The statute requires each WMD, in consultation with the FDEP, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other appropriate federal, state, and local governments, to develop a mitigation plan for presentation to the WMD Governing Board prior to March 1st of each year. Once the mitigation plan is approved by the Governing Board it shall be submitted to FDEP for approval. Upon approval by FDEP, the WMDs can implement mitigation projects as outlined in the plan.

FDOT wetland impacts in the District have occurred or will occur in the following eight river basins: Alapaha, Aucilla, Coastal Rivers, Santa Fe, Suwannee River, Upper Suwannee River, Waccasassa, and Withlacoochee (Figure 1). This mitigation plan is designed to provide in-kind mitigation for impacted wetlands within the same basin the impacts occur. The plan consists of one or more mitigation alternatives for each FDOT project (Figure 2). In some cases, alternatives include more than one mitigation site that, when combined, yield an alternative that will offset the FDOT impacts and secure the appropriate permits.

Mitigation planning projects undertaken since February of 2004 have used the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM), in accordance with Chapter 62-345, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), to calculate the functional loss from the proposed FDOT activities and the functional gain for each mitigation proposal.

New Projects

None to report

Ongoing Projects

None to report

Completed Projects

Aucilla River Basin

FDOT Project: US Highway 98 Aucilla River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Credits 3: San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase

The District issued ERP-123-212754-1 on October 24, 2011, for the replacement of US Highway 98 Bridge across Aucilla River. The bridge replacement impacted 5.7 acres of wetlands. Mitigation included purchase of mitigation credits from San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank, and water quality improvements for District owned Cabbage Grove and Mt. Gilead tracts. Mitigation credits (0.87 units) were purchased in November 2010 by the District using a total of \$43,500.00 in funding received from the FDOT for this project. District staff met with USACE and FDOT representatives in 2016 to evaluate the success of the mitigation project. It was determined that an additional 0.42 mitigation credits would be required to complete the project. FDOT purchased these mitigation credits from the San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank on October 27, 2017.

Withlacoochee River Basin

FDOT Project: State Road 53 Widening and Resurfacing (US90 to State Line)

Mitigation Project 4: West Farm Lake Stormwater Pond Project

The District issued ERP-079-204218-1 on June 9, 1998, for the widening of SR53 from US Highway 90 in the City of Madison to the Georgia State Line, impacting 1.6 acres of wetlands. Mitigation created wetland and lake habitat at the West Farm Lake Storm Water Facility in Madison County. Mitigation activities were completed in March 2001. The District received \$260,325.00 from FDOT for this project.

FDOT Project: State Road 14 Widening (I-10 to CSX Transportation Railroad)

Mitigation Project 5: Cabbage Grove Wetland Enhancement

The District issued ERP-079-209145-1 on March 11, 2003, for the widening of SR14 from Interstate 10 to the CSX Transportation Railroad in the City of Madison. The widening of SR14 impacted 0.89 acres of wetlands. Mitigation restored natural water flow in wetlands within District-owned property, Cabbage Grove Tract, in Taylor County. The District received \$75,594.00 from FDOT. The mitigation project was completed in 2006. The District conducted operation and maintenance improvements at this site in December 2011.

Upper Suwannee River Basin

FDOT Project: County Road 143 Widening (CR146 to I-75)

Mitigation Project 6: Woods Ferry Hydrologic Enhancements

The District issued ERP-047-209544-1 on December 13, 2005, for the widening of CR143 in Hamilton County from CR146 to Interstate 75, impacting 1.23 acres of wetlands. The District contracted with consultants to identify, evaluate, and construct mitigation activities within the District's Woods Ferry Tract in Suwannee County. Mitigation involved hydrologic enhancement of seven wetland sites by improving drainage features to restore natural water flow. Mitigation activities were completed in November 2006. The District received \$110,970.00 from FDOT for the mitigation. Evaluation of mitigation success was conducted by Jones, Edmunds and Associates in 2010 and shown to have met mitigation requirements.

Coastal Rivers Basin

FDOT Project: State Road 51 Widening Lafayette County

Mitigation Project 7: Steinhatchee River Basin Hydrological Improvements

The District issued ERP-067-223712-1 on March 13, 2001, for the widening of SR51 from the City of Mayo to the Taylor County line impacting 3.5 acres of wetlands in 2002. The mitigation project restored natural water flow for wetlands located on the District's Steinhatchee Springs tract. The District received \$279,174.00 from FDOT for this project.

FDOT Project: State Road 51 Widening Taylor and Dixie Counties

Mitigation Credits 3: San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase

The District issued ERP-123-210590-1 on October 10, 2006, for the widening of SR51 from the Town of Steinhatchee to the Lafayette County line, impacting 1.27 acres of wetlands. Mitigation was achieved by purchase of mitigation credits from San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank. The District received \$10,200.00 from FDOT for mitigation and purchased 0.6 mitigation credits from San Pedro Mitigation Bank in 2006.

Santa Fe River Basin

FDOT Project: US Highway 441 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacement

FDOT Project: State Road 121 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Project 8: Alligator Lake Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program

The District issued ERP-001-206684-1 and ERP-125-205839-1 on June 13, 2000 and May 13, 1999, respectively, for the replacement of bridges crossing the Santa Fe River in Alachua and Union Counties. These projects impacted 2.3 acres of wetlands. The mitigation project restored natural water flow between wetlands adjacent to Alligator Lake and Price Creek (both in Columbia County). Mitigation activities were completed in March 2001. The District received \$60,000.00 from FDOT for this project. District staff inspected the Alligator Lake and Price Creek surface water improvements project in January 2017.

FDOT Project: County Road 231 Widening (SR100 to Baker County Line)

Mitigation Project 9: Cellon Creek Floodplain Restoration at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve

The District issued ERP-125-209144-1 on March 11, 2003, for the widening of CR231 in Union County from SR100 to the Baker County line, impacting 1.96 acres of wetlands. The mitigation project restored natural water flow and exotic plant species were removed within wetlands in San Felasco Hammock State Preserve (Alachua County). Construction activities were completed in August 2004, and exotic plant removal was completed in June 2011. The District received a total of \$166,476.00 from FDOT for wetland mitigation and a final report from FDEP in January 2011.

FDOT Project: County Road 229 New River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Project 10: Lake Rowell Tract Restoration and Enhancement

The District issued ERP-125-210531-1 on April 12, 2005, for the replacement of the CR229 bridge over New River at the Union/Bradford County's line, impacting 2.44 acres of wetlands. The mitigation project, located at the District-owned Lake Rowell tract, restored natural water connections between Alligator Creek and Lake Rowell (both in Bradford County). The District received \$180,214.00 from FDOT for this project. Mitigation activities were completed in 2006, evaluated in 2013, and deemed to be a success.

FDOT Project: Starke Bypass Project (SR223)

Mitigation Project 2: Starke Bypass Mitigation Area (SBMA)

The District issued ERP-007-213985-1 on October 22, 2017, for the construction of a new roadway corridor, SR223, that routes traffic around the City of Starke in Bradford County. The project impacted 58.06 acres of wetlands with a total UMAM functional loss of 46.47. Construction of SR223 was completed on September 12, 2019. Starke Bypass Mitigation Area, permitted under SRWMD ERP-007-223088-1 on November 6, 2015, and USACE permit SAJ-2013-00113 (SP-AWP) on March 4, 2016, to create sufficient mitigation credit, was deemed partially successful in 2022. To date, physical site alteration for target hydrology is complete, but no target wetland community has been fully achieved and additional planting (construction) will be necessary. Maintenance of invasive and nuisance species resumed in 2022 and will continue through 2023, with an early 2024 supplemental planting by a new contractor. This new contractor will continue site maintenance until the 2027 success target date under an Adaptive Management Plan approved by USACE in late 2023.

FDOT Project: County Road 231 New River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Project 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-228291-2 on April 2, 2019, for the construction of a new bridge over the New River on CR231 in Bradford and Union counties, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction began March 3, 2020, and was completed on December 14, 2021. FDOT determined 1.27 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project, and FDOT will acquire 0.61 palustrine wetlands credits from the EBL mitigation area. The EBL mitigation area project consists of 43.6 acres of wetland/hydrologic restoration, enhancement, and creation implemented in three phases, plus ongoing invasive species removal and control. Baseline monitoring of the mitigation area commenced in 2021 and, upon successful completion of monitoring, a total UMAM functional gain of 7.56 credits will have been created. USACE authorized partial release of 5.49 functional gain credits, and 1.73 credits are currently reserved or used for the ongoing and completed projects listed below. FDOT has contributed \$1,085,299.00 to EBL.

FDOT Project: County Road 200A Alligator Creek Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Project 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-212720-3 on March 27, 2019, for bridge replacement over Alligator Creek in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction began November 3, 2020, and was completed on April 6, 2021. FDOT determined 0.47 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project, and FDOT acquired 0.22 palustrine wetlands credits from the EBL mitigation area.

FDOT Project: County Road 18 Hampton Trail and Trailhead

Mitigation Project 1: Edwards Bottomland (EBL)

The District issued Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application ERP-007-240538-1 for CR18 rails-to-trails segment three in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction was completed November 9, 2022, and FDOT acquired 0.05 credits from the EBL mitigation area.

FDOT Project: County Road 18 Trail (SE 36th Avenue to CR325)

Mitigation Project 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-239071-1 on April 23, 2021, for CR18 rails-to-trails segment four in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction was completed May 5,

2022. FDOT determined 0.865 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project, and FDOT acquired 0.2 herbaceous freshwater wetland credits from the EBL mitigation area.

FDOT Project: County Road 18 Trail (SR100 to SE 36th Avenue)

Mitigation Project 1: EBL

The District issued Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application ERP-007-240605-1 for CR18 rails-to-trails segment five in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction was completed in December 2023. FDOT determined 0.355 acres of wetlands were impacted by the project, but mitigation was not required pursuant to rules 62-330.443 and 62-330.447, F.A.C.

FDOT Project: Northwest Bascom Norris Drive

Mitigation Project 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-023-204915-12 on May 10, 2021, for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Bascom Norris Road and US Highway 41 in Columbia County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. Construction commenced on August 21, 2021, and was completed on January 23, 2023. FDOT determined 0.925 acres of wetlands (FLUCCS 630) were impacted by the project, and FDOT acquired 0.37 herbaceous freshwater credits from the EBL mitigation area.

[Waccasassa River Basin](#)

FDOT Project: State Road 500 Widening (Chiefland to Bronson)

Mitigation Projects:

- Cedar Key Storm Water Quality Restoration Project
- Cow Creek Road Restoration in Goethe State Forest
- Wetland Preservation in Levy County

The District issued ERP-075-206226-1 on May 9, 2002, for the widening of SR500 from Chiefland to Bronson. The project impacted 23.0 acres of wetlands. Mitigation involved improvements to the Cedar Key stormwater system to prevent discharge of sediments, nutrients, bacteria, and heavy metals into the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, natural water flow into wetlands was restored within the Goethe State Park, and approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands in Levy County were preserved by conservation easements to the District. Mitigation activities were completed in May 2007. The District received \$1,713,490.00 from FDOT for this project. The Cedar Key Water Quality Restoration Project was evaluated by District staff in 2019 and the Cow Creek Road Restoration project was evaluated November 2017, and both were determined to be successful. In 2003 the District acquired and recorded conservation easements for the Meeks and Mann parcels (1,000 acres) in Levy County.

FDOT Project: State Road 24 Widening (Otter Creek to Rosewood)

Mitigation Project 14: Devil's Hammock Hydrological Enhancement and Preservation

The District issued ERP-075-210019-1 on March 8, 2005, for the widening of SR 24 in Levy County, impacting 9.95 acres of wetlands. The District contracted with consultants to identify, evaluate, and construct the mitigation project that restored natural water flow for wetlands located on the District-owned Devil's Hammock property. Mitigation activities were completed in January 2007. The District received \$180,913.00 from FDOT for this project. Evaluation of mitigation success was conducted by Jones, Edmunds and Associates in 2010 and shown to have met mitigation requirements.

Figure 1. FDOT Construction Projects

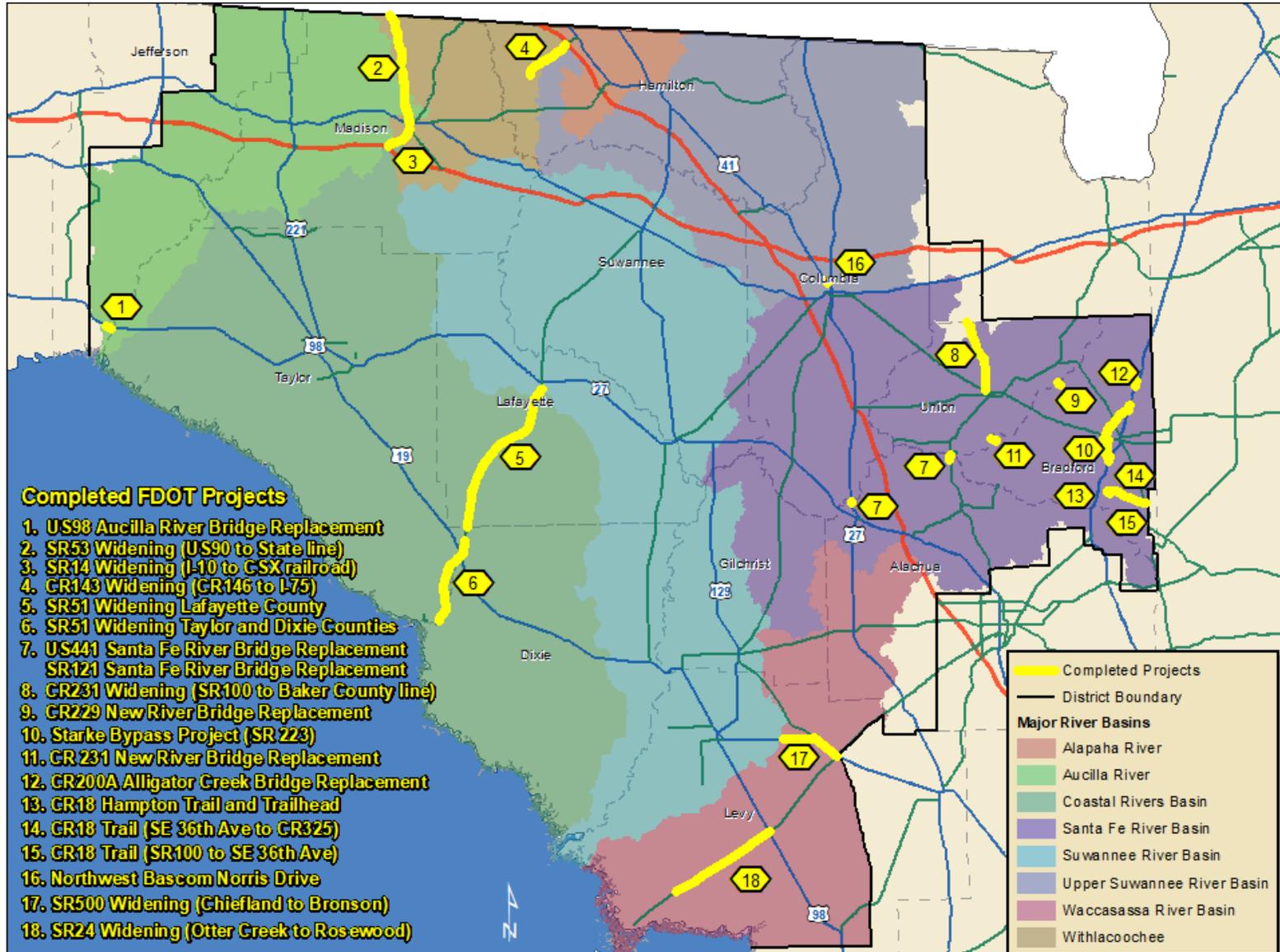


Figure 2. Wetland Mitigation Sites

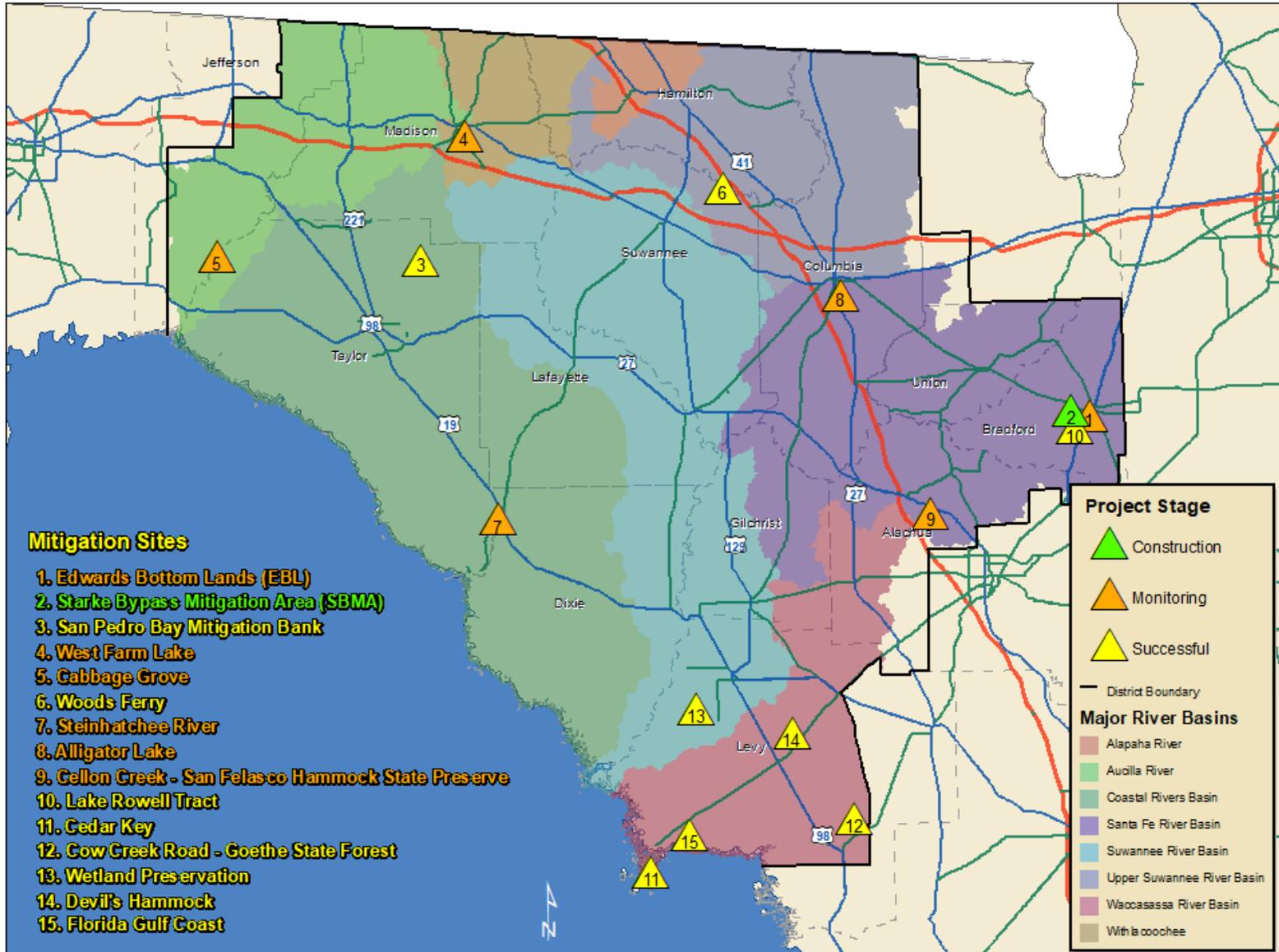


Table 1. FDOT Construction Projects and Associated Mitigation Sites

FDOT Project Status	River Basin	Project No.	FDOT Project	FDOT Work Number	ERP Number	Impact Acres	Mitigation Site	Revenue from FDOT	Total Fund Expended
COMPLETED	Currently, there are no projects for the Alapaha or Suwannee River basins								
	Aucilla	1.	US Highway 98 Aucilla River Bridge Replacement	2108732	212754-1	5.70	San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase	\$43,500.00	\$43,500.00
	Withlacoochee	2.	State Road 53 Widening and Resurfacing (US90 to State Line)	2117565	204218-1	1.60	West Farm Lake Stormwater Pond Project	\$260,325.00	\$260,325.00
		3.	State Road 14 Widening (I-10 to CSX railroad)	2105281	209145-1	0.89	Cabbage Grove Wetland Enhancement	\$75,594.00	\$46,459.00
	Upper Suwannee River	4.	County Road 143 Widening (CR146 to I-75)	2122181	209544-1	1.23	Woods Ferry Hydrologic Enhancements	\$110,970.00	\$53,848.00
	Coastal Rivers (Steinhatchee)	5.	State Road 51 Widening Lafayette County	2100751 2100851	223712-1	3.50	Steinhatchee River Hydrological Improvements	\$279,174.00	\$279,174.00
		6.	State Road 51 Widening Taylor and Dixie Counties	2108502 2084662	210590-1	1.27	San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
	Santa Fe	7.	US Highway 441 Santa Fe River Bridge and State Road 121 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacements	2110486	206684-1	1.00	Alligator Lake Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
					205839-1	1.30			
8.	County Road 231 Widening (SR100 to Baker County line)	2128801	209144-1	1.96	Cellon Creek Floodplain Restoration at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve	\$166,476.00	\$72,180.00		

	Santa Fe	9.	County Road 229 New River Bridge Replacement	2128761	210531-1	2.44	Lake Rowell Tract Restoration and Enhancement	\$180,214.00	\$180,214.00
		10.	Starke Bypass Project (SR223)	2080014 2080015 2080016	213985-1	58.06	Starke Bypass Mitigation Area (SBMA)	\$2,980,000.00	\$2,931,843.00
		11.	County Road 231 New River Bridge Replacement	433957	228291-2	1.27	Edwards Bottomland (EBL)	\$1,085,299.00	\$1,036,065.00
		12.	County Road 200A Alligator Creek Bridge Replacement	435780	212720-3	0.47			
		13.	County Road 18 Hampton Trail and Trailhead	433171-3	240538-1	0.073			
		14.	County Road 18 Trail (SE 36th Avenue to CR325)	433171-4	239071-1	0.87			
		15.	County Road 18 Trail (SR100 to SE 36th Avenue)	433171-5	240605-1	0.355			
		16.	Northwest Bascom Norris Drive	446295	204915-12	0.37			
	Waccasassa	17.	State Road 500 Widening (Chiefland to Bronson)	2117089	206226-1 204584-1 224156-1	23.00	Cedar Key Storm Water Quality Restoration Project	\$1,713,490.00	\$1,713,490.00
							Cow Creek Road Restoration in Goethe State Forest		
							Wetland Preservation in Levy County		
	18.	State Road 24 Widening (Otter Creek to Rosewood)	210384	210019-1	9.95	Devil's Hammock Hydrological Enhancement and Preservation	\$180,913.00	\$190,694.00	

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Troy Roberts, Communications and Outreach Manager
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
DATE: December 12, 2023
RE: Outreach and Communications Activity Summary

The following information summarizes Outreach and Communications activities for the month of November 2023:

Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Total Posts: 15 Total Reach: 60,025 Total Likes: 890 Total Comments: 36 Total Shares: 172	Total Posts: 16 Total Impressions: 960 Total Engagement: 29 Engagement Rate: 1.7 percent	Total Posts: 8 Total Reach: 457 Total Engagement: 99

Press Releases
<ul style="list-style-type: none">November 7 – Governing Board MeetingNovember 9 – Fall Back for Water ConservationNovember 16 – Springs Restoration FundingNovember 20 – Hydrological Conditions ReportNovember 21 – Governing Board Livestream

Media Inquiries / Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">November 2 – Troy Roberts responded to a request from Bloomberg regarding the permitting process for Seven Springs/ BlueTriton.November 21 – Troy Roberts conducted an interview with TV 20 regarding springs restoration funding.November 28 – Troy Roberts responded to a request from the Florida Specifier for an article in their upcoming publication.

Meetings with Vendors / Consultants / Public
<ul style="list-style-type: none">November 1 – Troy Roberts met with Moore Communications regarding the online special use authorization project for the current fiscal year.November 7 – Troy Roberts met with North Florida Printing in Live Oak to discuss upcoming print projects.

- November 8 – Troy Roberts met with Moore Communications and Understory to have a discovery meeting regarding the online SUA project.
- November 28 – Troy Roberts, along with Mary Diaz and Jonathan Crain, provided a tour of District locations and Alliance Dairy to University of Florida irrigation students.
- November 29 – Troy Roberts, along with District staff, attended a mussel identification training session in Branford.
- November 29-30 – Troy Roberts attended the Florida Rural Economic Development Summit 2023, in Orlando.
- November 30 – Troy Roberts met with producers from the American Dream TV show regarding possible involvement on an upcoming episode.

October Photo Highlight:

District staff took University of Florida students on a tour of the District in late November.



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management

THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations

DATE: December 10, 2023

RE: Land Management Update

BACKGROUND

The following information summarizes land management activities for November 2023, Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY 2024).

Natural Communities Management: The following tables represent activities that support overall natural community restoration and management across District lands.

Vegetative Management (acres)	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Herbicide	250	0	0
Roller Chop Uplands	200	0	0
Mallory Swamp Mow/Chop	1,300	96	7%
Woods Mowing	1,500	0	0
Totals	3,250	0	0

Prescribed Fire (acres)	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
SRWMD	12,300	0	0
FFS - Twin Rivers State Forest	2,000	0	0
Totals	14,300	0	0

Invasive Plant Treatment	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
SRWMD Staff Treat (# mapped infestations)	0	0	0
Edwards Bottomland (acres)	30	0	0
Contractors (acres)	0	0	0

FWC Uplands Program-Grant funded (acres)	0	0	0
Starke Bypass (acres)	100	0	0

Ecological Services Monitoring (locations)	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Rare Plants Monitoring	0	0	0
Gopher Tortoise Surveys (transects)	557	47	8%
Wading Bird Rookeries	13	0	0
Natural Community Mapping (acres)	1,200	0	0

Timber Harvests	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Acreage	1,764	596	33%
Revenue (estimated)	\$1,064,000	\$167,194.60	15%

Current Timber Sales	County	Acreage	Type	Status or Revenue
Gilchrist Wellfield #1	Gilchrist	100	Thinning and Chipping	Inactive
Adams Tract #4	Lafayette	90	Thinning and Clearcut	Active
Sandlin Bay #9	Columbia	374	Thinning	Inactive
Devils Hammock #2	Levy	144	Thinning	Active
Shelly #1	Jefferson	121	Thinning	Inactive
Hurricane Idalia Ellaville Salvage	Madison/Suwannee	154	Salvage Clearcut	\$115,739.93
Hurricane Idalia Mill Creek North Salvage	Madison	92	Salvage Clearcut	\$12,120.34
Woods Ferry #7	Suwannee	155	Thinning	Active
Jerry Branch #2	Hamilton	191	Clearcut, Thinning, & Chipping	Contract Pending
Steinhatchee Springs #25	Lafayette	250	Thinning	Contract Pending
Fiscal Year 2024 Revenue as of December 11, 2023				\$167,194.60
<i>*Estimated for this report only. Official accounting records have not yet been finalized.</i>				

Restoration	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Reforestation (acres)	312	0	0

Land Management: The following tables represent tract and land management activities on the District's fee and less-than-fee owned properties.

Conservation Easements	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Monitor Current Easements	5	0	0

Hydrologic & Road Maintenance	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Culvert Replacements	5	0	0
Road maintenance (miles)	290	3.13	1.07

Tract Maintenance	FY 2024 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Mowing (total miles)	1,748	237.31	14
Site Maintenance (total visits)	2,736	228	25
Enhanced Patrols (hours)	1,172	0	0
Sign Replacements	49	0	0
Boundary Line Painting (miles)	115.4	0	0

Special Projects: The following information provides a status update on special projects within the Office of Land Management.

Pinehatchee Tract (Steinhatchee Springs Tract addition): Survey work with WSP Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc continues. Road repairs on the Pinehatchee Pond Road continue. Currently the repairs are 75% complete, however, wet conditions due to rainfall have currently stopped operations.

Rock Bluff: The site application has been submitted to Gilchrist County for review and approval, which should take place at the January Gilchrist County Commission meeting. The sanitation system permit will be issued after the site approval is received. Staff will meet with the Gilchrist County Commission at the regular January meeting to answer questions.

Aucilla River Access Improvement Project: The project is 100% complete.

Pot Springs Road Improvements: The project has commenced ahead of schedule due to wet conditions persisting on other District lands.

Hurricane Recovery: Holton Creek, Tyree, and Christian tract remain closed to the public following Hurricane Idalia. Contractors are currently removing debris to make Holton Creek and Tyree tracts safe for the public. Work to recovery the river road and river access on the Christian Tract has not yet begun.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
DATE: December 4, 2023
RE: Amendment to Agreement No. 15/16-037 with the Florida Department of Military Affairs

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the first amendment to the cooperative management agreement with the Florida Department of Military Affairs for the management of the Double Run Creek and West Ridge Water Resource Development Area Tracts at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center Cooperative.

BACKGROUND

On December 17, 2015, the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) entered into a cooperative management agreement, Agreement No. 15/16-037, with the Florida Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to allow the DMA to manage District property in eastern Bradford County bordering the western boundary of the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

Both the District and DMA found needed amendments to the existing agreement. The amendments include clerical edits, clarification of each parties' responsibilities, and financial details as it relates to potential revenues. The most significant amendment is the addition of the language related to potential revenues from timber sales. Currently, all timber sale revenue is to be used by DMA for land management of the tracts. However, due to DMA budgeting rules, DMA cannot retain more than \$450,000 in timber revenue in its accounts. The updated language provides that any residual funds from timber resource management over \$450,000 will be credited to the District's Land Management Trust Fund and can be used for other District land management activities.

This agreement is set to expire on December 17, 2040. There are no previous amendments or renewals to the agreement. The first amendment to the cooperative management agreement has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel for both parties.

WVM/ao

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management

THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations

DATE: December 6, 2023

RE: 2022-2023 Land Management Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the 2022-2023 Land Management Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

The District's Land Management Annual Report is an overview of management activities conducted on fee-simple title lands held by the Governing Board. The report is used by the District during the Land Management Review Team annual review of District lands and is incorporated into the District's Florida Forever Work Plan and Strategic Plan Annual Update.

The report summarizes the goals, objectives, and strategies of the approved District Land Management Plan and generally follows its organizational format.

A shortlist of notable Fiscal Year 2022-2023 achievements include:

- Completion of two improvement projects along the Aucilla River in the Cabbage Grove and Mt. Gilead tracts that will greatly reduce riverbank erosion and improve recreational access.
- Treatment of 9,766 acres by disturbance using prescribed fire, mechanical, or chemical treatments, with a goal of 10,280 acres.
- Completion of 20 timber sales, resulting in over \$2.5 million in revenue.
- Reforestation of 254 acres in longleaf pine.
- Completion of 93.4 acres of invasive plant treatments on District-owned lands.
- Maintenance of 136 miles of forest roads on 27 District tracts, and repair/replacement of 28 hydrological facilities on six District tracts.
- Issuance of 734 special use authorizations.
- Availability of nearly 66% of District lands open for public hunting.
- Availability of approximately 95% of District lands open for public recreation.
- Maintenance of 134 miles of trails through a variety of public/private partnerships.
- Receipt of \$268,108 in various grants for reforestation and vegetation management on District lands
- Partnership with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to complete an invasive plant treatment project on the Lake Rowell Tract, valued at \$15,493.

The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Land Management Annual Report can be viewed on the District website.

WVM/ao
Attachment



SUWANNEE RIVER

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

January 2024

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

LAND MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT



Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Land Management Annual Report
Suwannee River Water Management District

Governing Board

Virginia H. Johns, Chair
Richard Schwab, Vice Chair
Charles Keith, Secretary/Treasurer
William Lloyd
Larry Sessions
Harry Smith
Larry Thompson

Executive Director

Hugh Thomas

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION 1

GOALS OF THE DISTRICT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2

REPORT OF LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES..... 5

I. RESOURCE PROTECTION 5

II. PUBLIC USE.....14

III. COMMUNICATIONS.....19

IV. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY22

APPENDIX A: SRWMD STATUTORY SUMMARY27

Americans with Disabilities Act: The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual’s disability status. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District’s functions including one’s access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District at 386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (Florida only). The District’s fax number is 386.362.1056.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY 2023) Land Management Report is an annual overview of management objectives and activities conducted on fee-simple title lands held by the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) during the fiscal year. The report is used by the District during the Land Management Review Team (LMRT) annual review of District lands, which is required by section 373.591, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The report summarizes objectives of the approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018, District Land Management Plan (DLMP) and generally follows its organizational format, addressing key topics that provide information as to whether District lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with established land management objectives.

The report illustrates an ongoing effort by District's land management program staff to include and participate in water resource-related projects on District lands. It provides details and accomplishments on natural community resource projects which are designed to maintain or improve natural communities, forest resources, rare species, cultural, historical resources, and aesthetic and visual resources. It also addresses social and economic management goals and activities which are key components of the land management program and include public use, communications, and fiscal responsibility.

INTRODUCTION

The District's jurisdictional boundary includes approximately 7,640 square miles across all or part of 15 north-central Florida counties.

The District holds fee-simple title to approximately 162,030 acres in addition to approximately 127,688 acres of conservation easements (3.3% and 2.6% of the District's land area, respectively) as of November 3, 2023.

District management of these lands provides water resource benefits including:

- Preserving floodplain areas to maintain storage capacity, attenuate floodwaters, prevent flood-related injury and damage, and prevent inappropriate development.
- Preventing groundwater contamination by maintaining low-intensity land uses within the floodplain and high recharge areas.
- Preserving and/or restoring spring areas to improve surface and groundwater.
- Preserving and/or restoring natural communities throughout the area to support or enhance populations of native species.
- Preserving aquatic buffer zones from high impact uses that have a high potential to degrade surface water quality.
- Supporting water resource development initiatives.

The majority of District lands are considered conservation lands, and most are located along river corridors, streams, headwaters, and recharge areas. The District has also purchased real property for specific water resource projects such as wellfields, flood storage, water management, aquifer recharge, water resource development, water supply development, and preservation. These project lands are managed for specific purposes as identified in the acquisition.

Lands titled to the District are managed under a multiple-use policy that emphasizes water resource protection, maintenance, and restoration of the land's natural state and condition, and

provides for public access and recreation. Planning land management activities and uses at the ownership level allows for efficient and effective implementation of Governing Board priorities and achievement of goals. The following four goals are outlined in the DLMP:

- Resource Protection
- Public Use
- Communications
- Fiscal Responsibility

To ensure the District is meeting its four land management goals, the Excellence in Land Management Program (ELM) was established in 2004. This program uses quantifiable data to measure and track qualitative goals. ELM is used in conjunction with the statutorily required annual LMRT evaluation. LMRT participants use the ELM scorecard to determine whether land management is meeting the goals of the DLMP by scoring the strategies used to achieve those goals.

Additionally, LMRT participants evaluate if the District is achieving its statutory requirements (section 259.036, F.S.) by scoring the following questions, the LMRT must evaluate:

- Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?
- Are District land managers implementing the DLMP?

GOALS OF THE DISTRICT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Goal 1: Resource Protection

Objectives - ensure District lands are managed for natural resource protection and maintain/restore lands using natural community Desired Future Condition (DFC) guidelines when practical and as referenced in Appendix A of the DLMP.

Water Resource Strategies

- Minimize structural floodplain management on District-managed conservation lands.
- Maintain ground and surface water quantity and quality during land management activities by using enhanced silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Restore hydrologic regimes to the DFC where possible.
- Maintain water management structures to achieve their intended function.
- Develop and maintain water resource projects on the lands to improve water quality and enhance water supply.

Soils, Topography, Ground Cover, and Natural Community Strategies

- Minimize soil degradation (e.g., erosion, compaction).
- Manage and/or restore historic natural communities for a given site to DFC standards to the extent practical.
- Reduce degradation of the existing native groundcover.
- Monitor the grass, herbaceous, and shrub layers to detect if the resource falls within the DFC standard acceptable range.
- Reintroduce or supplementing current native ground covers with local stock were needed to achieve ecosystem functions.

- Update and maintain current reference data.

Forest Resource Strategies

- Manage for natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest, including retaining dominant and/or old-growth trees and snags.
- Maintain the dominant and co-dominant tree species within the DFC acceptable parameter range.
- Reforest within DFC standards using techniques that minimize damage to other natural resources.
- Ensure that commercial harvests provide the maximum financial returns that are possible with the consistent attainment of primary natural resource values.
- Maintain an accurate and current forest resource inventory.

Rare Species Resource Strategies

- Protect and manage biodiversity on District lands.
- Track rare species locations, status, and implement rare species BMPs.
- Maintain and/or increase existing rare and imperiled species populations on District lands.

Cultural and Historic Resource Strategies

- Protect and prevent negative impacts on cultural and historical resources during all activities.
- Document location of significant cultural and historical resources on District-owned lands and share information with the Division of Historic Resources within the Florida Department of State.
- Monitor the condition of cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands.

Aesthetic and Visual Resource Strategies

- Maintain or enhance the overall visual quality of District lands.
- Minimize or mitigate short-term negative appearances of land management activities.

Goal 2: Public Use

Objectives - provide resource-based public use opportunities.

Public Use Strategies

- Establishing and maintaining public use on District lands.
- Provide Special Use Authorizations (SUA) for compatible public use activities.
- Follow Governing Board Directives 90-2 and 92-1 for exclusive use requests.
- Provide hunting and fishing opportunities on District lands.
- Coordinate with law enforcement agencies to enforce Florida statutes and administrative rules on District-managed lands.
- During emergency situations, staff will assist persons in danger and communicate responses with the appropriate agency.

Goal 3: Communications

Objectives - encourage participation from outside agencies, organizations, and private citizens when developing management plans for the lands under its stewardship.

Communications Strategies

- Obtain public and private stakeholder input in the management of District lands.
- Use applicable modes of communication to encourage and promote public recreation on District lands.
- Ensure public inquiries into management activities or public use are addressed in a timely manner.
- Complete an annual land management report and conduct the annual LMRT following the guidance of the DLMP.

Goal 4: Fiscal Responsibility

Objectives - minimize the costs associated with land management by contracting with the private sector, partnering with other land management agencies and organizations, and submitting proposals for land management grant funding.

Fiscal Responsibility Strategies

- Ensure revenues are derived from operations conducted to achieve land management objectives.
- Minimize structural operational management approaches wherever practical.
- Contract with the most cost-effective and experienced firms to complete land management activities following District policies.
- Coordinate with other land management agencies and organizations to complete land management activities to reduce District costs.
- Attempt to locate and obtain grants to help fund projects on District lands.
- Assist with the surplus lands program to ensure funds derived from the disposals of unneeded land holdings are redirected to fund the purchase of higher value, water-resource lands.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 REPORT OF LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

I. RESOURCE PROTECTION

Goal - protect, enhance, and/or restore natural, archaeological, and historical resources on lands owned by the District.

1. Water Resources

District lands provide unique water resource opportunities because of their proximity to major rivers and their tributaries. At the tract level, there may be opportunities to impact altered water flows and water retention capacities to allow natural buffering characteristics of the floodplain, such as flood attenuation. Flood attenuation can enhance and provide protection to the receiving water body. At the site level, many facilities such as river access points, hydrologic facilities, and roads require review, construction, and maintenance to function in the floodplain without adverse water resource impacts. The objective of facilities' design is to make them transparent to high and low-flow conditions within the floodplain.

Natural community and facility projects are implemented using silvicultural BMPs as a minimum standard for implementation. Silvicultural practices, natural community restoration projects, hydrological improvements, and road maintenance operations are planned to protect or enhance water resources.

Specific Governing Board-approved water resource projects may be initiated for flood control, water storage, water management, conservation, protection of water resources, aquifer recharge, water resource, and water supply development. These projects typically require engineered solutions and have project-specific goals and management. In many cases, the water resource benefits are designed to extend beyond the tract. The District's Florida Forever Work Plan describes all District-wide projects. The projects listed below are specifically targeted for District fee-owned lands.

Water Resource Projects

Cabbage Grove River Access Improvement Project

The project on the Cabbage Grove Tract was meant to improve recreational access and decrease bank erosion along the Aucilla River at a set of shoals called "Lost Dog Falls." The recreation site is popular for fishing, swimming, launching canoes, and observing the shoals. Foot traffic, frequent floods, and stormwater runoff from the parking area caused severe bank erosion. The erosion scars not only created hazards for the public but also cast turbidity into the waterway. Once all permits were obtained, the District improved the site by installing two sets of formed and poured concrete steps and two sections of soil cement walkways. Large rocks were installed to slow the flow of water around the river access. The parking area was also improved by installing "W" beam barricades which prevents vehicles from access the highly erodible riverbank and bollards were installed to prevent unauthorized ATV traffic from driving down the steps to the river's edge.

Mount Gilead Tract River Access Improvement Project

The project on the Mount Gilead Tract was meant to improve recreational access and decrease bank erosion along the Aucilla River at a popular recreation site for fishing, swimming, launching canoes, and observing the river. This project consisted of replacing a set of wooden terraced steps with formed and poured concrete steps of similar size. The existing wooden steps had reached the end of their service life and were in poor repair. The completed project will reduce riverbank erosion from pedestrian traffic and create a safer river access for the public. Once all permits were obtained the District made the improvements, then installed boulders that blocked an unauthorized access road that led to the top of the steps, which will further protecting the riverbank at this site.

Underwater Cave System Research

Numerous District lands contain springs, karst windows, and other geologically significant systems for North Florida. The District issues research special use authorizations (SUAs) for underwater cave system mapping, water testing, and research to private non-profit research firms. The SUAs are for twelve (12) separate tracts of land. The SUAs are re-issued each year to continue the research. This research is shared with the District at no obligation or cost.

Hydrological Facility Restoration Projects

Hydrological facility improvement projects were completed on six District tracts (Steinhatchee Springs, Devil's Hammock, Lukens, Steinhatchee Falls, Wolf Creek and Natural Well Branch) resulting in 28 hydrological facility repairs or replacements.

West Ridge Water Resource Development Area

The West Ridge Water Resource Development Area project includes approximately 640 acres of District-owned land adjacent to the Florida National Guard's (Guard) Camp Blanding in Bradford County. The purchase was funded by a grant from the Guard through the Department of Defense (DOD) as part of a program designed to secure buffers around military installations. The Guard manages the property for the District at no cost.

The original Florida Environmental Protection Department (FDEP) mine reclamation permit required restoration of pre-development flows within the mined areas of Chemours Corporation and District lands. However, due to current concerns about westward stormwater flow the District and Chemours Corporation have collaborated on a permit modification. The modification will control the discharge rates by detaining the flows and releasing them slowly in a controlled manner. The modification also has the future potential for water conservation through water re-use and aquifer recharge to the Upper Floridan Aquifer to augment flows to the upper Santa Fe River basin. In FY 2020, Chemours Corporation received the modified FDEP permit to reclaim the mine which includes the work on the West Ridge Tract. In FY 2023 there was no activity.

2. Soils, Topography, Ground Cover, and Natural Communities

Florida Statutes direct District staff to manage lands, "in such a way as to ensure a balance between public access, general public recreational purposes, and the restoration of their natural state and condition." The District uses existing desired future condition (DFC) standards as a

guide for planning, implementing, and tracking natural community management activities on its properties. The DFCs provide information about plant community structure, representative plant species, hydrologic regimes, and the frequency that prescribed fire or other vegetation management activities should be implemented to help meet and/or maintain DFC objectives. By using these standards, District staff can evaluate the current condition of a natural community and then determine what management activities are needed to help meet statutory requirements and DFC objectives.

Many District lands currently meet DFC objectives including floodplain swamps and other wetland areas. These areas are often easily maintained through passive management or natural processes such as periodic flooding. However, many upland natural communities or transitional communities require active management to help meet and/or maintain DFC objectives. Management practices that may be used in these areas include the installation of hydrologic facilities, prescribed fire, mechanical or chemical treatments, timber harvesting, and reforestation.

Natural Community Management & Restoration Projects

Prescribed Fire/Vegetation Management

Many natural plant communities on District lands were historically influenced and maintained by the periodic occurrence of fire and other disturbances on the landscape. The District continues to use prescribed fire and other vegetation management tools, such as mechanical and chemical treatments, to manage vegetation within these communities to help meet DFC objectives. The five main fire-adapted natural communities the District targets for management and restoration work include sandhills, upland pine, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, and wet flatwoods. The District focuses on these communities because of their vegetation type or structure, their need for frequent fire or disturbance, and their proximity to other wetland communities that require periodic disturbance. Combined, these targeted communities make up approximately 58,778 acres or 70% of the total acres on District lands that were historically influenced by fire.

The remaining 30% of fire-influenced communities consist of wetland natural communities such as shrub bogs, depression marshes, and dome swamps. These communities are not actively targeted for prescribed burning or periodic disturbances. Fire is allowed to spread into these areas from adjacent communities that are being burned, but only when the risk is minimal for long-term smoke-management issues, mortality to wetland timber, and prolonged consumption of organic soils. When necessary, fire lines are installed to help avoid adverse impacts on wetlands, water resources, or the public.

The District has developed disturbance intervals (DI) for the five targeted communities listed above. These intervals are derived from the fire return intervals developed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) for these communities (Table 1). These intervals indicate the disturbance rotation or the number of years that should occur between each disturbance.

Although these return intervals are listed as a range, the District's goal is to implement prescribed fire or create a similar disturbance within these natural communities on a 2 to 3-year return interval. This interval falls within the low to mid-range of the FNAI standards and was chosen to better address the high productivity of woody vegetation on many District lands. This targeted two to three-year return interval will also continue to be evaluated for effectiveness based on field results and any additional research or data made available.

From a planning and budgeting standpoint, all land management core areas that contain these listed communities will be targeted for work on a 2 to 3-year return interval. When measuring the success of meeting this fire or disturbance return interval standard, the District will use a 3-year return interval to quantify individual fiscal year results. In this case, a 3-year return interval was chosen because it is close or equal to the maximum range for many listed communities and it better reflects fluctuating results that are often influenced by factors such as weather.

Table 1. Fire Return/Disturbance Intervals (DI)

Natural Community	Acres (approximate)	Fire Return Disturbance Interval
Sandhill	10,006	1-3 yrs.
Upland Pine	6,601	1-3 yrs.
Scrubby Flatwoods	3,980	5-15 yrs.
Mesic Flatwoods	25,655	2-4 yrs.
Wet Flatwoods	12,534	1-10 yrs.

Designating Land Management Core Areas

Within the five targeted natural communities listed above, the District allocates most of its resources to areas designated as land management core areas. These core areas contain one or more of the following attributes:

- Areas have a recent history of prescribed fire or other disturbance type,
- Vegetation within these areas can be effectively maintained using prescribed fire or other mechanical/chemical treatments, and/or
- Areas have received other land management activities (timber thinning, reforestation, etc.) requiring additional vegetation management practices to complete a restoration prescription or help meet a DFC goal.

The total acreage of these core areas can increase or decrease based on various factors. For example, some District lands contain targeted natural communities that are not included in the core areas because the current vegetative structure/composition inhibits the successful application of prescribed fire. However, if a preliminary management practice such as a mechanical or chemical treatment is implemented that creates conditions favorable for the use of prescribed fire, these areas can then be added to the total core acreage. Conversely, there may be core areas removed from the system because of size, location, and/or vegetative characteristics that consistently inhibit the efficient use of prescribed fire. Core acreage can also increase or decrease if natural community lines are adjusted, or community designations are changed based on field observations or updated information.

The District's goal is to consistently increase the percentage of core areas that are within their designated disturbance interval (Table 2). This can be achieved by using prescribed fire or other disturbances to control targeted vegetation, and help the District meet DFC

objectives. Table 3 provides additional information on core areas and the status of their disturbance intervals.

Table 2. Land Management Core Areas - Disturbance Interval Status

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
% Core Acres within Disturbance Interval (DI) (All Disturbance Types)	68%	63%	63%	64%	63%
Acres Planned (All Disturbance Types)	10,280	12,133	13,169	15,002	10,500
Acres Treated (All Disturbance Types)	9,766	10,854	10,161	14,545	6,308
Acres Burned That Met Objective	5,183	9,651	6,790	10,768	6,040
Wildfire Acres	2.9	3.70	0.00	11	0.2

Table 3. Acres of Managed Natural Communities by Classification (FY 2023).

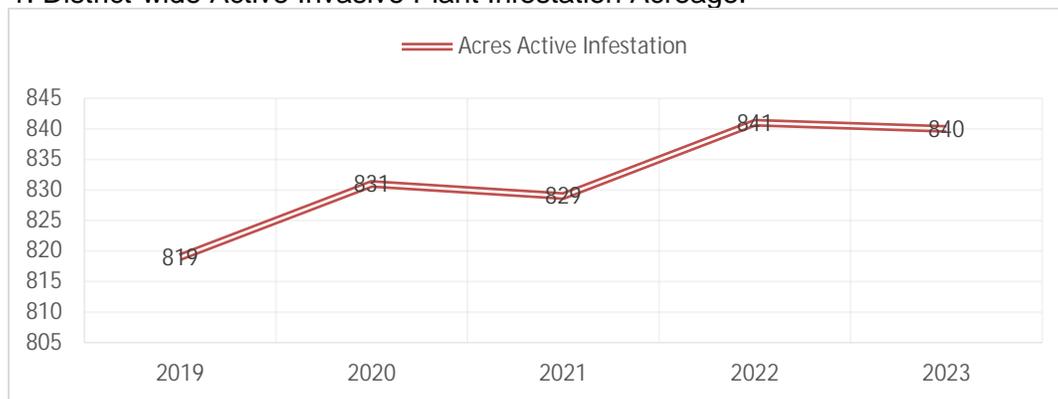
	Acres	% of total
Land Management Core Areas - TOTAL	49,346	
Total Acres IN Disturbance Interval (end of 2023)	33,637	68.2
<i>Last Management Tool - Prescribed Fire</i>	21,050	42.7
<i>Last Management Tool - Mechanical/Chemical</i>	12,587	25.5
Total Acres OUT Of Disturbance Interval (end of 2023)	15,709	31.8
Acres where pine density is too thick or stand age is too young to safely burn*	6,929	14.0
Acres within Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area	4,274	8.7
Remaining Acreage	4,504	9.1

*Stand age only applies to slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*)

Invasive Plant Control (District staff)

In FY 2023, District staff monitored 133 invasive plant infestations; 73 of those infestations were treated with herbicides. Total District-wide infestation acreage decreased slightly during FY 2023 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. District-wide Active Invasive Plant Infestation Acreage.



Invasive Plant Control (Contractors)

Contractors are used to treating larger more complex areas of invasive plant infestations. Contracts for this work are either procured by District or through cooperating agencies when grants are pursued. Work completed in FY 2023 is listed in Table 4.

Table 4. FY 2023 Completed Invasive Plant Treatment Projects (Contractors)

Work Location	County	Extent	Targeted Species	Contract Amount	Funding Source
Multiple	Multiple	93.4 acres	Japanese Climbing Fern, Chinese Tallow, Kudzu, Cogon Grass	\$34,931.60	SRWMD
Edwards Bottomland	Bradford	30 acres	Japanese Climbing Fern, Chinese Tallow, Camphor tree	\$11,220.00	SRWMD

Vegetation Management (Mechanical)

Mechanical treatments such as whole tree chipping, roller chopping, woods mowing, and ditch mowing are used to help meet natural community DFC objectives, prepare sites for prescribed fire and reforestation, and protect District resources from the damaging effects of wildfires. Work completed in FY 2023 includes:

- Approximately 1,719 acres were roller-chopped, and 2,494 acres were mowed to help facilitate the use of prescribed fire and to help meet natural community management objectives.
- Approximately 6.8 miles of ditch edges were mechanically treated on the Sugar Creek Tract in Hamilton County. This work was done to increase the width of areas along road edges to provide better fire break capabilities and/or improve access for equipment. This will facilitate the safe use of prescribed fire and help protect forest resources from the damaging effects of wildfires.

Vegetation Management (Chemical)

The application of chemical herbicides on District lands is periodically used to help control hardwood competition on sites that are being prepared for pine reforestation or to facilitate the use of prescribed fire and help meet natural community DFC objectives. Work completed in FY 2023 includes:

- Approximately 312 acres were treated on multiple tracts for reforestation site-prep purposes.

3. Forest Resources*Timber Harvest*

The District harvests timber resources to promote conditions that more closely resemble natural forests. In FY 2023, 12 sales were contracted (Table 5):

- Two final harvests (conditions met to achieve DFCs),
- Seven stand improvement pine thinning's,
- One restoration pine thinning with hardwood removal, and
- Two Hurricane Idalia timber salvage final harvests.

Timber harvest objectives include:

- Reducing overstory stocking to meet desired levels for the natural community,
- Improving forest health by removing poor health trees or stands, and
- Reducing species not native to the natural community.

Planning, advertising, contract oversight, timber sale security, and financial reconciliation are components of the timber sale process.

Table 5. Timber Sale Acres by Harvest Type and Species.

Species	Harvest Type	FY 23 Acres (12 sales)	FY 22 Acres (12 sales)	FY 21 Acres (12 sales)
Loblolly Pine	First Thin			
	Second Thin	29		
	Final Harvest	4		265
	Hurricane Salvage	180		
	ALL LOBLOLLY	213	0	265
Slash Pine	First Thin	881	265	1,061
	Second Thin	250	348	
	Final Harvest	88	492	194
	BTB Salvage		50	
	Hurricane Salvage	72		
	ALL SLASH	1,291	1,155	1,255
Longleaf Pine	First Thin	108	229	
	BTB Salvage			5
	ALL LONGLEAF	108	229	5
Hardwood	Removal	177	172	541
	TOTALS	1,789	1,556	2,066

Forest Resource Inventory

In FY 2022, District staff inventoried 150 forest plots throughout the District. The data from these plots are used to quantify the acres that have achieved their natural community goals and provide data for areas that could be improved by silvicultural activities. This timber cruise data also updates data in operational timber stands and identified volumes and other species data in areas where a restoration project has been potentially identified.

Reforestation

In FY 2023, the District reforested 254 acres with containerized longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and two acres with containerized pond pine (*Pinus serotina*). The longleaf pine was planted on the RO Ranch, High Springs Wellfield, Gar Pond, and Mattair Springs tracts while the pond pine was planted on the Mud Swamp Tract.

4. Rare Species Resources

The District conducts rare species monitoring and survey work on a regular basis to help document the location of new species and to monitor the status of existing occurrences. This information is documented and recorded in a rare species geodatabase that is made available to District staff. To help lower the potential for negative impacts on existing species occurrences, District staff can consult the rare species geodatabase before planning and conducting management activities. If potential impacts from management activities are identified, staff locate and delineate areas to prevent potential conflicts. Management activities are also adjusted if needed to prevent impacts to these resources.

In FY 2023, District staff and contractors conducted several types of rare species monitoring/surveying work including rare plant monitoring/surveying, gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) surveys and wading bird rookery monitoring. FY 2023 work accomplishments are listed below in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6. FY 2023 Rare Plant Monitoring/Survey Work.

<i>Number of Tracts Monitored/Surveyed</i>	<i>Number of Known Rare Plant Locations Monitored</i>	<i>Number of Locations Where Rare Species Were Observed</i>	<i>Number of New Rare Species Locations Documented</i>
2	21	42	236

Table 7. FY 2023 Rare Animal Monitoring/Survey Work.

<i>Number of Tracts Surveyed for Gopher Tortoise</i>	<i>Number of Gopher Tortoise Transects Surveyed</i>	<i>Number of Wading Bird Rookeries Monitored</i>
10	318	3

5. Cultural and Historical Resources

Majority of District lands have been studied for cultural and historical resources by a professional archaeologist. One hundred sixty-nine (169) known sites are located on District

lands and can be found in the Florida Department of State Master Site Files. The Master Site Files indicate that approximately 26 of these sites are considered significant cultural or historical sites and should be monitored by the District. Another 42 sites have been discovered by District staff over the years and in FY 2023 District staff discovered 14 previously looted sites that were observed to have new looting activity occurring. Additionally, five of these sites are monitored by cooperating agencies and are not inspected by District staff.

Staff attempt to inspect these sites annually while working on other projects in the vicinity. During the inspections, staff documents damage (i.e., looting) and other illegal activities. Staff provide Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement with that information. Table 8 summarizes staff monitoring activities.

Table 8. Status of Cultural and Historical Resource Sites.

Measures	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019*
Significant sites inspected	24	19	26	26	2
Looted sites discovered	0	6	27	23	1
Sites managed by other agencies	5	5	5	5	5
Number recently damaged sites	14	3	1	7	0

**The technology used to collect and process information during tract inspections was not available for the entire year.*

The District follows the “Protocol for Managing Cultural and Historical Resources on Suwannee River Water Management District Lands” to avoid damaging these resources. The area’s most likely for cultural resources, based on the known sites, are classified “High Probability Zones,” and are included as a geodatabase for planning purposes. Before District staff initiates any major ground disturbance activities staff reviews the Protocol and the geodatabases, including the Master Site Files, to determine if the activity could negatively impact a cultural or historical resource. If there are concerns a planned activity could be impactful, District staff may contract with a professional archaeologist to delineate a site or help plan the activity.

6. Aesthetic and Visual Resources

The consideration of visual or aesthetic resources while managing property is a key component of the land management program. Every aspect of these resources, from facility planning to managing contractors or the public, has visual impacts.

There is a vast array of opportunities to improve or maintain aesthetic values during land management activities. Some of these include timing of operations, minimizing debris or litter along internal roads, minimizing clearcuts during timber harvests, consistency in facility designs, placement of signage, or maintaining the District’s unwritten rule of not posting boundaries or installing signs along riverbanks. District staff has found one of the greatest impacts to visual quality is education. When appropriate the District attempts to post interpretive information about activities (either on District lands or online) however our one-on-one conversations with the public about short-term and long-term objectives have and continue to be very effective. Overall, District staff desires to maintain our lands in such a way that the public perceives wilderness or natural beauty when visiting.

II. PUBLIC USE

Goal: Provide opportunities for high quality, compatible resource-based recreation, and educational programs to meet the public’s needs while protecting water resources.

District lands provide many resource-based recreational opportunities. Of the 162,030 acres owned by the District, approximately 95% are open to the public for recreation. Of these 7,769 acres closed to the public, 1,740 acres were purchased for the purposes of water supply/water quality projects such as municipal wellfields or spray fields and are currently closed to the public except for the 60-acre Newberry Wellfield which is leased to the City for water supply and recreation purposes. The 2,686-acre Double Run Creek and West Ridge tracts are managed by the Florida National Guard and closed to the public because they were purchased for future water resource development projects. Once completed, the tracts may be opened to the public. The 3,343-acre Lasky and Steinhatchee Springs Pinehatchee Addition tracts were recently purchased and require improvements before they can be made accessible. Once the improvements are complete, they will be opened to the public.

Planning for public uses and facilities considers the sensitivity of the site, the proximity of similar recreational opportunities, time, financial requirements to provide the use, and public demand for the use. Within the DLMP the District provides the public with a Public Use Standard which lists allowable recreational uses approved by the Governing Board by tract, including uses that require a Special Use Authorization (SUA).

Conservation lands not opened to the public are tracts located in gated communities or where access is otherwise restricted. Lands classified in the Public Use Standard as “project lands” may also be closed to the public. These fee-title lands were purchased to develop infrastructure for water resource development projects and these tracts may not be open to the public for recreational activities due to the primary purpose for which the properties were purchased. Public use may be allowed once a project is completed but only after a suitability study has been undertaken.

Recreation Resources

The District has developed facility standards that detail recreational facilities, roads, trails, signs, kiosks, fence design and construction, and maintenance procedures. These standards ensure facilities provide a safe, aesthetically pleasing, outdoor environment for the public that can be effectively maintained and minimizes potential impacts to water resources. District staff inspect public use facilities, and schedules maintenance to help ensure longevity and safety. Table 9 indicates the facility type, number of facilities, and fiscal year.

Table 9. Public-Use Facilities

Facility Type	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Trailheads	30	30	31	32	31
Docks & Boat Ramps	8	8	8	11	11
Hand & Canoe Launch Sites	20	19	19	19	19
Picnic Areas	20	21	22	23	23
Interpretive Sites*	31	30	8	11	11
Restrooms	14	14	14	16	18
Miles Trails	257	285	279	228	228
Miles Driving Trails	389	391	377	383	381

*All kiosks have been added as interpretive sites. Trail miles decreased due to the sale of RO Equestrian Park.

Public Use and Facility Maintenance and Construction

- Trash cans at Falmouth and Suwannee Springs were replaced with green painted cans that were installed on posts with custom brackets so that they are suspended off the ground.
- One (1) new single panel kiosk was installed at Sneads Lake.
- Approximately eleven (11) gate repairs, installations were completed on the following tracts: Steinhatchee Springs, Mattair, Adams, McAlpin Landing, Swift Creek, and Little River Tract.
- Completed construction on two river access improvement projects on the Mount Gilead and Cabbage Gove tracts. The improved recreation sites are popular river access points for fishing, swimming, launching canoes, and observing the river (details are on pages 5-6 of this report).
- In FY 2014, the District reduced road coverage, revised management practices, and added a progressive review and approval process for general road maintenance. The culmination of those efforts was a new road maintenance plan that centered on a three-year rotation for all roads deemed necessary for public access. In recent years, the District has had a renewed interest in increasing timber harvests and providing improved public access which have required additional road maintenance outside of the three-year rotation. In FY 2021, the Executive Director approved a Road and Hydrological Maintenance Program Standard which does not adhere to the three-year rotation and instead directs staff to complete maintenance of the roads and hydrological facilities at a level commensurate with their use.

Approximately 136 miles of roads were maintained in FY2023. Tracts include Wolf Creek, Cuba Bay, Lamont, Mount Gilead, Cabbage Grove, Jones Mill Creek, Cabage Grove, Goose Pasture, Scanlon, Cabbage Creek, Natural Well Branch, Peacock Slough, Holton Creek, Suwannee Springs, Mattair Springs, Woods Ferry, Swift Creek, Little Shoals, Gar Pond, Cypress Creek, Hunter Creek, Devil's Hammock, Lukens, Mallory Swamp, Steinhatchee Springs, Steinhatchee Falls, and Steinhatchee Rise.

Hydrological facility improvement projects were completed on six District tracts resulting in 28 hydrological facility repairs or replacements as referenced on page 6 of this report.

- District staff cleaned up an old dump site on the Big Pine Tract in Columbia County, FL.
- The District has a five-year rotation plan to mark and paint District land boundaries. The District has approximately 1,000 miles of property boundary line with forty-five (45) miles being marked or painted in FY 2023. There were less miles painted than planned due to the contractor withdrawing from their contract.

Special Use Authorizations

As authorized in 40B-9.1411 F.A.C., District staff may issue special use authorizations (SUA) which are meant to provide individuals or groups to use District lands on a temporary basis for compatible activities that are either not covered in District's Land Management Plan (DLMP) or which require special access. Governing Board Program Directives 90-1 and 90-2 provides guidance on how the public can apply for an SUA and enables District staff to respond to

requests received from the public in a fair, consistent and timely manner. SUA applicants must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

As indicated in 40B-9 F.A.C., the “Governing Board delegates to the Executive Director or such District staff member as designated by the Executive Director the authority to issue, deny or revoke Special Use Authorizations...” By virtue of the Governing Board approved District Land Management Plan (DLMP), District staff has the responsibility of issuing SUAs associated with activities referenced in the Public Use Standard of the DLMP. All other activities must be authorized by the Executive Director or his/her designee including activities that are commercial in nature. All exclusive uses are approved by the Governing Board.

District staff must also incorporate the specific criteria for the activity which the public must adhere to when using the SUA. This SUA criteria includes Standard Conditions, Rules for Public Use and Warnings.

To protect sensitive resources and reduce management costs sometimes it is necessary to limit some recreational opportunities and the use of certain roads or other access on District lands. Some uses, such as camping and other night uses, require an SUA. The Public Use Standard provides recreational users with a list of recreational activities that require an SUA. Examples of these activities include all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use, night-time access, or access for persons with disabilities.

SUAs may also be issued for opportunities not listed in the Public Use Standard. By virtue of the Governing Board-approved DLMP, District staff have the responsibility of issuing SUAs associated with activities referenced in the Public Use Standard. Examples include research and data collection, adventure races, trail maintenance, placement of beehives, and nuisance hog removal.

An SUA serves as an agreement between the District and user; it details terms, conditions, liability protection, and period of the proposed use (Table 10). The District issues SUAs and reserves the right to refuse anyone an SUA if the proposed use threatens water resources, public safety, or other natural resources on District lands.

Table 10. FY 2022 Special Use Authorizations

Recreation	Temporary Ingress and Egress¹	Mallory Swamp ATV Trail	Non-Recreational²	Goose Pasture Camping	Total
305	44	80	25	280	734

¹Temporary Ingress and Egress SUAs may include recreational use on the Lukens Tract in Cedar Key.

²Non-Recreational SUAs issued during the fiscal year include research and data collection, recreation competitions, hog removal, and apiary leases.

Requests for uses that are clearly or potentially exclusive require Governing Board consideration before any agreement, license, or authorization are approved. Such uses may include legal conveyance of property rights, such as rights-of-way or access easements; tract closures for research or media projects; or exclusive use of resources as in resource harvesting. Governing Board Directives 90-2 and 92-1 set guidelines for District staff involved with land acquisition or surplus to respond to public requests for certain exclusive uses.

Hunting and Fishing

The District’s goal for public hunting and fishing on District lands is to provide high-quality hunting opportunities and access to the rivers for fishing. The District meets annually with the FWC to review opportunities for public hunting on District lands. Public hunting on District lands is offered through management agreements with FWC and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Fishing is allowed on District tracts subject to FWC fishing regulations (Table 11).

Table 11. Hunting and Fishing Access.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Number of acres open to public hunting	106,146	106,146	106,146	106,146	106,146	108,298*	108,292*
Number of fishing access locations	123	120	120	111	111	111	109

**In FY 2017 the 2,157-acre Bay Creek Tract was added to the FWC public hunting program and was subsequently removed in FY 2018 due to legal issues.*

- Starting in FY 2018, the District continues to partner with Suwannee River Strutters, Jefferson County King of Springs, and Gator Gobblers Chapters of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation to sponsor women in the outdoors and youth special opportunity hunts. These special opportunity hunts allow additional hunting opportunities on 4,410 acres.
- Camp Blanding manages the District’s Double Run Creek Tract and leases it to hunting (2,030 acres). The Double Run Creek Tract was purchased as part of the Blanding Buffers project and may be used for future water resource projects.

Law Enforcement

The District relies on FWC and county sheriffs’ offices to enforce Florida Statutes and administrative rules on District-managed lands. FWC and sheriffs perform regular patrols on District lands as part of their normal operations. The District also manages interagency contracts with FWC and various counties to utilize enhanced law enforcement services. The contracts allow the District to pay off-duty officers for enhanced patrols in areas with chronic violations or during periods of intensive use such as holiday weekends at high-use areas.

In FY 2023, the FWC officers who participated in the enhanced law enforcement program spent 675 hours patrolling District lands, the Suwannee County Sheriff’s Office spent 48 hours patrolling Suwannee and Falmouth Springs, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office spent 60 hours patrolling Goose Pasture Campground, and Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office spent 48 hours patrolling Pot Springs recreation area. The District also paid for additional patrols on Independence Day and Labor Day. There were no Labor Day patrols due to Hurricane Idalia.

FWC made several significant cases involving the illegal camping on District lands, illegal harvesting of palmetto berries, and looting of archaeological sites on District lands. All perpetrators looting archaeological sites were written citations and will receive a five-year no-trespass warning.

Emergencies

Staff encourages the public to dial 911 when emergencies arise on District lands. During emergencies involving facilities, natural disturbances, or hazard materials, the District’s land management staff play an integral role. The District maintains a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) required by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and has an active District Staff Safety Team that is organized internally.

The COOP addresses coordinated post-disaster response and recovery, rapid deployment, and pre-deployment of resources, communications, and warning systems, and presents annual exercises to determine the District’s ability to respond to an emergency. The essential role of land management staff during emergencies is associated with facilities, field operations, District headquarters, and public safety.

The District has established Tract Closing Procedures, which are followed during events that require COOP activation (e.g., hurricanes) or when conditions become unsafe for public access (e.g., flooding). Table 12 identifies all District tracts, facilities, or roads that were closed due to emergencies, extreme weather events, or vandalism.

Table 12. FY 2023 District Land Closures

Tract, Facilities or Roads	County	Closure Date	Event
All District Lands	All Counties in the District	11/09/2022	Tropical Storm Nicole
All District Lands	All Counties in the District	9/29/2023	Hurricane Idalia

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Goal – Coordinate with Public and Private Stakeholders in the Management of District Lands.

The District encourages public and private stakeholder input for the management of District lands. Communication opportunities and public inquiries into management activities and recreation are facilitated through a variety of applications including but not limited to, phone calls, mail, print materials, press releases, outreach activities, social media, website, and other electronic applications. Discussions during the Land Management Review Team (LMRT) and comments received during the Excellence in Land Management (ELM) process are important communication opportunities that staff utilize to determine management effectiveness each year.

FY 2023 Land Management Review Team

District staff conducted a Land Management Review Team (LMRT) meeting and site inspection on April 12, 2023. The review focused on District-wide land management activities that were conducted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Program areas reviewed include water resources, natural resource management, public use, and facilities on representative areas. The field tour focused on the 41,570 acres of fee owned lands located in the Steinhatchee River and Coastal Basin. The review team visited Steinhatchee Springs and Steinhatchee Falls tracts.

The LMRT was asked to score whether the District was achieving its management strategies from the District Land Management Plan (DLMP) using the following scores:

- 0 – District is not meeting the strategies of the DLMP;
- 1 – District is meeting the strategies of the DLMP; and
- 2 – District is meeting and exceeding the strategies outlined in the DLMP.

The review team scored the ten management strategies from the District Land Management Plan (DLMP). Scores ranging from a low of 1.50 for Water Resources, Rare Species, and Cultural Resources management to the highest score of 1.86 for Forest Resources management. Management of Groundcover and Fiscal Responsibility received a score of 1.82. Management of Public Use and Soils, Topography, and Natural Community received a score of 1.73. Aesthetic and Visual Resources management received a score of 1.64 and Communications management received a score 1.59. The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.67 which was slightly lower than last year's average score of 1.69.

There are two statutory scores. The first, "Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access" received a score of 1.77. The second, "Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan" received a score of 1.68. These scores signify the land management activities meet and exceed the Governing Board's management strategies outlined in the DLMP and Florida Statutes (F.S.).

The participants scores indicate substantial acceptance with the programmatic achievement of the management strategies set by the Governing Board and Florida Statutes. Overall, the participants approve the planning and methods used by District staff in managing the District's fee titled lands in FY 2022.

Table 13. Questionnaire Responses from the District’s LMRT Meeting.

Question 1 Number of Responses	Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?
0	SRWMD is not in compliance.
5	SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
17	SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.
Question 2 Number of Responses	Does SRWMD land management implement the goals identified in the District Land Management Plan?
0	SRWMD is not in compliance.
7	SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
15	SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.

Note: Total scores may differ due to non-response on questionnaire.

District Land Management Plan

On March 13, 2018, the Governing Board adopted an updated DLMP which retains the goals and guidance of the 2011 DLMP. A new section was added called Land Management Operations and Facilities. The section outlines the minimum requirements for operational activities such as the District’s DFC and silviculture best management practices. The new section also provided direction in five core programs: timber management, invasive exotic management, prescribed fire/vegetation management, public use management, and road/hydrologic facility management.

The revised DLMP requires staff to create and maintain documents detailing standards that provide guidance for each program. These standards are approved by the District’s Executive Office and are meant to communicate how each program functions, what is required, outline management activities, provide reliable information to users and improve land management continuity while achieving ELM goals. In fiscal years 2019 - 2022 four program standards were approved but due to new programs standards and program changes most of the standards are being revisited. As of November of 2023, one standard is approved, three are being reviewed by District leadership, and two are being drafted by staff.

Land Management Communication Initiatives

- All District Land Management Annual Reports and the District’s Land Management Plan are posted on the District’s website.
- Staff continues to provide images and text for the District’s social media outreach efforts via Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Staff continues to use the “Important Notices” feature on the District web page to provide information to the public regarding flooding, tract closures, and management activities that may affect public use.
- Staff installed two (2) kiosks with interpretive information.

Regional Resource Group Participation

District staff participates in regional groups to provide input, understand issues, or gain more knowledge about managing publicly owned conservation lands.

- North Florida Prescribed Fire Council
- San Pedro Bay Landowners Association
- FWC - Invasive Plant Management Section's Weed Control Project
- USFS/Florida Trail Association (Florida National Scenic Trail)
- Suwannee Bicycle Association
- Natural Resources Leadership Institute
- National Wild Turkey Federation and three local chapters
- Florida Master Loggers
- Society of American Foresters
- Florida Forestry Association
- North Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
- Alachua Conservation Trust
- Aucilla River Watershed Coalition (Tall Timbers)
- Groundcover Restoration Workshop (Longleaf Alliance)
- Public Lands Acquisition and Management (FDEP)
- Levy County Coon Hunters Association
- Karst Underwater Research
- Karstreams
- North Florida Springs Alliance
- North Florida Backcountry Horsemen Association
- Florida Trail Association
- US Forest Service

IV. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Goal: Protect resources and efficiently manage District lands within the District's annual budget.

District staff minimizes the costs associated with land management by contracting or collaborating with other agencies and private sector firms, entering into agreements with other land management agencies and organizations, and submitting proposals for land management grant funding. The District also tracks revenues, expenditures, land purchases, and the surplus of lands each year to ensure the District stays fiscally responsible and compliant with Florida Statutes.

Management Agreements

The District enters into management agreements and/or leases with organizations that reduce District management costs and still provide similar management, protection, and public access (Table 14).

Table 14. Agencies Managing District lands.

Managing Agency	# of Parcels	Acres
<i>No Cost Management Agreements</i>		
Alachua County	2	222
City of Lake City	1	26
City of Newberry	1	60
Columbia County	2	96
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	9	1,980
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	2	862
Florida National Guard	2	2,696
Gilchrist County	1	515
Hamilton County*	4	~22
Jefferson County	1	22
Levy County	1	4,274
University of Florida	2	737
US Fish and Wildlife Service	5	1,640
No Cost Management Total Acres:		13,152
<i>Shared Revenue Agreements</i>		
Alachua Conservation Trust	1	169
Florida Forest Service	13	12,452
Shared Revenue Total Acres		12,621
Total		25,773

*Hamilton County took over the management of the Roline boat ramp in FY 2022 and the exact acreage has not been defined, but the agreement indicates would be the approximate size of the Turner Bridge Park parcel which is approximately 5 acres.

Under an existing lease agreement, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) manages approximately 12,452 acres of District lands as part of the Twin Rivers State Forest (TRSF). As part of the lease, the District has agreed to reimburse FFS for management expenses each year and FFS provides the District the revenue from timber sales on District lands associated with TRSF. In FY 2023, the District reimbursed FFS \$125,275 for management expenses and the District received \$179,720 in revenue from timber sales.

In January 2019, the District entered into a cooperative management agreement with Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT), a Florida not-for-profit corporation, to manage the District-owned J.H. Anderson, Jr., Memorial Park – Rock Bluff Springs Tract. At the time of the agreement, a management plan was approved that detailed the responsibilities of each party. As part of this management plan, the District agreed to provide quarterly funding until October 1, 2021 (\$14,843 per quarter) and allowing ACT to charge an entrance fee provided that revenues generated by ACT through fees would be used to fund ACT's budget and any remaining funds should be returned to the District. In FY 2021, the District paid ACT \$59,374 for operational expenses. No remaining funds were available or provided to the District in FY 2021. On July 27, 2021, the management plan was amended, and the annual management funding was reduced to \$22,822 until October 1, 2023.

Public hunting opportunities are provided on 106,146 acres (66%) of District-owned lands in cooperation with FWC and USFWS. These agencies manage hunting opportunities, dates, bag limits, and law enforcement at no cost to the District. No fees for hunting are charged by the District and no revenues are received by the District.

The District has agreements with private and public entities to provide trail maintenance for 126 miles (46%) of the bike, horse, and multi-use trails on District lands. These trails are maintained at no cost to the District and are available for use by the public.

Collaborations

- The District partnered with Suwannee Bicycle Association to continue improvements to the trails in the White Springs Area.
- In a cooperative effort with Four Rivers Land and Timber Company, LLC., an access road to the Natural Well Branch Tract was improved. The District provided six (6) culverts and Four Rivers Land and Timber Company, LLC., provided the labor and other materials to repair the road.
- Following Hurricane Idalia, staff with Florida State Parks and Northwest Florida Water Management District assist with debris removal from District managed lands. The work help facilitate some of the initial opens of District lands for the public.

Grant Applications and Awards

In FY 2023, the District received grant funding from the following sources to help reduce the cost of natural community management.

Florida Forest Service – Prescribed Fire Enhancement Program

The Florida Forest Service awarded the District \$209,317.50 to conduct mechanical vegetation control work on the Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area in Lafayette

County. This work was done for both natural community restoration and fuel reduction purposes.

US Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife

US Fish and Wildlife Service awarded the District \$12,791.25 to fund the establishment of longleaf pine on 38 acres of the Mattair Springs Tract to help restore pine snake habitat.

Alachua Conservation Trust – Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund

Alachua Conservation Trust serves as a liaison for the Ocala Longleaf Implementation Team (LITS), and the Federal (USDA, NRCS, and USFS) grant funding for longleaf pine habitat restoration is facilitated through the local LITS. To further advance the objectives of the various cooperators, the District was awarded \$46,000 to complete 215 acres of longleaf pine habitat restoration (funds supported a portion of the FY23 longleaf pine planting activities and site preparation for FY24 reforestation) on the Gar Pond, High Springs Wellfield, Mattair Springs and Steinhatchee Springs tracts.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Uplands Program

In FY 2023 the District partnered with FWC to complete an invasive plant treatment project on 53.68 acres of the Lake Rowell Tract. The FWC Uplands Program completely funded the project which was \$15,493.14.

Revenues

The District has opportunities to generate revenues while implementing its natural resource management activities (Table 15). Timber sales generate most of the revenue from land management activities. This table was generated on November 6, 2023, before the District’s books officially closed.

Table 15. FY 2023 Land Resources Revenues.

Category	FY 2023
Timber	\$2,528,012
Land Use (Apiary Leases)	\$250
Land Use (Other)	\$300
Grants*	\$268,108
State Appropriation (Operations)	\$1,777,210
Total	\$4,573,880

**Does not include awarded grants (funds have not yet been received).*

In FY 2023, the District sold an estimated \$1,162,982 in 12 sales on 1,612 acres. Total revenues are estimated since all FY 2023 sales have not been completed as of October 1, 2023. In FY 2023 the District completed 16 timber sales and partially completed 4 timber sales realizing \$2,528,012 in revenue.

Expenditures

Expenditures in the land management program can be divided into categories for review (Table 16):

- Natural Resource & Prescribed Fire Management – includes water resource projects, reforestation, timber sales, protected species, vegetative management, and prescribed fire.
- Invasive Plant Management – includes the costs associated with invasive plant treatments including hiring private contractors and staff time/field supplies needed to conduct in-house treatments.
- Public Use – includes expenses for maintaining site-based and dispersed recreation activities, developing new sites, signs, maps, brochures, and sanitation.
- Facility and Road Management – includes costs for maintaining roads, hydrologic structures, boundaries, rental equipment, gates, debris removal, and other facility improvement projects.
- Administration and Planning – includes expenses for planning, GIS, real-estate activities, fees, permits, training, rentals, management plans and reviews, interagency law enforcement coordination, legal services, software, and other operational expenses.
- Florida Forest Service Agreement – includes expenses for Twin River State Forest which is explained on page 23 of this report.
- Other Expenditures – includes District uniforms, Rock Bluff Springs project, Country Club Road project, RO Ranch Equestrian Park trade, and adjacent property tree removal and other maintenance.

Table 16. FY 2023 Land Resources Expenditures.

Category*	FY 2023
Natural Resource & Prescribed Fire Management	\$1,093,154
Invasive Plant Management	\$19,801
Public Use	\$309,464
Facility & Road Management.	\$549,268
Administration and Planning	\$55,179
Florida Forest Service Agreement (Twin Rivers State Forest)	\$125,275
Other Expenditures	\$85,957
Salaries and Benefits	\$653,441
Total	\$2,891,539

**Does not include Payments in Lieu of Taxes.*

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

When the District purchases land in fee simple (all ownership rights), the lands are taken off the county ad valorem tax roll. The Legislature established a payment in lieu of taxes program in 1992 to reimburse local governments for the loss of revenue. To qualify for this program, the

county must have a population of less than 150,000. Payments were made to counties in the amount of \$360,100. The state appropriated the District's \$357,026 for PILT in FY 2023.

Land Acquisitions

District lands are acquired following section 373.139 F.S. and 40B-9 Florida Administrative Code. District staff who participate in processing acquisition-related activities are guided by Governing Board Directive 19-0005. Table 17 is a list of acquisitions completed in FY 2023.

Table 17: FY 2023 Land Acquisitions

Tract	Acres	County	Closing Date	Transaction	Funding Source
Lasky	351.74	Gilchrist	9/29/2023	Fee	Save Our Rivers
Lukens Exchange	1.0	Levy	9/29/2023	Fee for Fee	FL Forever

Surplus Lands

Disposing of lands that are not needed for water-resource protection allows the District to redirect funds to a higher value, water-resource lands and/or reduce land management costs. Land management staff participate in the review process of any potential surplus parcels and provide feedback to the executive office and Governing Board. Table 18 is a list of surplus lands in FY 2023.

Table 18: FY 2023 Surplus Lands

Tract	Acres	County	Date	Transaction	Funding Source
Lukens Exchange	0.49	Levy	9/29/2023	Fee for Fee	FL Forever

APPENDIX A**SRWMD STATUTORY SUMMARY***Verified October 2023***Land Acquisition and Management**

Section 373.139(2) F.S. Acquisition of Real Property.

- Flood control
- Water storage
- Water management
- Conservation and protection of water resources
- Aquifer recharge
- Water resource and water supply development
- Preservation of wetlands, streams, and lakes.

Section 373.1391 F.S. Management of Real Property.

- (1a) “Managed and maintained, to the extent practicable, in such a way as to ensure a balance between public access, general public recreational purposes, and the restoration of their natural state and condition. Except when prohibited by a covenant or condition in section 373.056(2) F.S., lands owned, managed, and controlled by the district may be used for multiple purposes including, but not limited to, agriculture, silviculture, and water supply, as well as boating and other recreational uses.”
- (1b) “Whenever practical, such lands shall be open to the general public for recreational uses. General public recreational purposes shall include, but not limited to, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, swimming, camping, hiking, canoeing, boating, diving, birding, sailing, jogging, and other related outdoor activities to the maximum extent possible considering the environmental sensitivity and suitability of those lands. These public lands shall be evaluated for their resource value for the purpose of establishing which parcels, in whole or in part, annually or seasonally, would be conducive to general public recreational purposes. Such findings shall be included in management plans which are developed for such public lands.”
- (5) “The following additional uses of lands acquired pursuant to the Florida Forever program and other state-funded land purchase program shall be authorized, upon a finding by the governing board, if they meet the criteria specified in (a) – (e): water resource development projects, water supply development projects, storm-water management projects, linear facilities, and sustainable agriculture and forestry. Such additional uses are authorized where:
- (a) Not inconsistent with the management plan for such lands.
 - (b) Compatible with the ecosystem and resource values of such lands.
 - (c) The proposed use is appropriately located on such lands and where consideration is given to the use of other available lands.
 - (d) The using entity reasonably compensates the titleholder for such use based upon an appropriate measure of value; and
 - (e) The use is consistent with the public interest.”

Section 373.591 F.S., Management Review Teams.

- (1) To determine whether conservation, preservation, and recreation lands titled in the names of the water management districts are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with land management objectives, the water management districts shall establish a land management review team to conduct periodic management reviews. The land management review team shall be composed of the following members:
 - (a) One individual from the county or local community in which the parcel is located.
 - (b) One employee of the water management district.
 - (c) A private land manager mutually agreeable to the governmental agency representatives.
 - (d) A member of the local soil and water conservation district board of supervisors.
 - (e) One individual from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
 - (f) One individual from the Department of Environmental Protection.
 - (g) One individual representing a conservation organization.
 - (h) One individual from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service.
- (2) The management review team shall use the criteria provided in section 259.036 F.S., in conducting its reviews.
- (3) In determining which lands shall be reviewed in any given year, the water management district may prioritize the properties to be reviewed.
- (4) If the land management review team finds that the lands reviewed are not being managed in accordance with their management plan, prepared in a manner and form prescribed by the Governing Board of the district, and otherwise meeting the timber resource management requirements of s. 253.036 F.S. the land managing agency shall provide a written explanation to the management review team.
- (5) Each water management district shall, by October 1 of each year, provide its Governing Board with a report indicating which properties have been reviewed and the review team's findings.

Section 259.036 F.S., Management Review Teams.

- (3) "In conducting a review, the land management review team shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geologic or hydrologic functions, or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan."

Section 253.036 F.S., Forest Management.

"All land management plans described in section 253.034(5) F.S. which are prepared for parcels larger than 1,000 acres shall contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the parcel, which analysis shall include the potential of the parcel to generate revenues to enhance the management of the parcel. The lead agency shall prepare the analysis, which shall contain a

component or section prepared by a qualified forester which assesses the feasibility of managing timber resources on the parcel for resource conservation and revenue generation purposes through a stewardship ethic that embraces sustainable forest management practices if the lead management agency determines that the timber resource management is not in conflict with the primary management objectives of the parcel.” ” All additional revenues generated through multiple-use management or compatible secondary use management shall be returned to the lead agency responsible for such management and shall be used to pay for management activities on all conservation, preservation, and recreation lands under the agency’s jurisdiction. In addition, such revenue shall be segregated in an agency trust fund and shall remain available to the agency in subsequent fiscal years to support land management appropriations.”



For additional information please contact
Suwannee River Water Management District
9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060
386.362.1001
www.mysuwanneeriver.com

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Alejandro Arteaga Garcia, Senior Data Analyst, Water Resources Office

THRU: Katelyn Potter, Division Director, Outreach and Operations

DATE: December 15, 2023

RE: Agricultural Water Use Monitoring Report

BACKGROUND

In September 2012, the District began a program of water use monitoring for agricultural water use reporting on wells eight inches in diameter or greater.

As of December 15, 2023, the District is monitoring 1,617 (239.3 million gallons per day (MGD)) of a total of 1,715 active permitted wells (249.9 MGD). The remaining 98 active wells not yet monitored are scheduled for site visits to determine the type of monitoring that will be implemented. An additional 253 proposed wells have yet to be drilled.

The District offers three options for monitoring: electric provided by the power company, telemetry on diesel systems, and self-reporting. To date, farmer electric agreements from cooperatives are in effect on 846 (152.2 MGD) monitoring points. The District currently employs telemetry on 319 (52.4 MGD) diesel-powered systems. There are currently 18 (1.4 MGD) self-monitored points.

Additionally, there are currently 434 (33.3 MGD) sites for which monitoring is currently not feasible. Staff visit these sites each year to reevaluate the feasibility of monitoring.

The attached figures show the current well status and monitoring type for all wells with water use monitoring conditions (Figure 1), and the status of flow data collection by source within the District's agricultural monitoring network (Figure 2).

Agricultural Water Use Stations with Monitoring Conditions

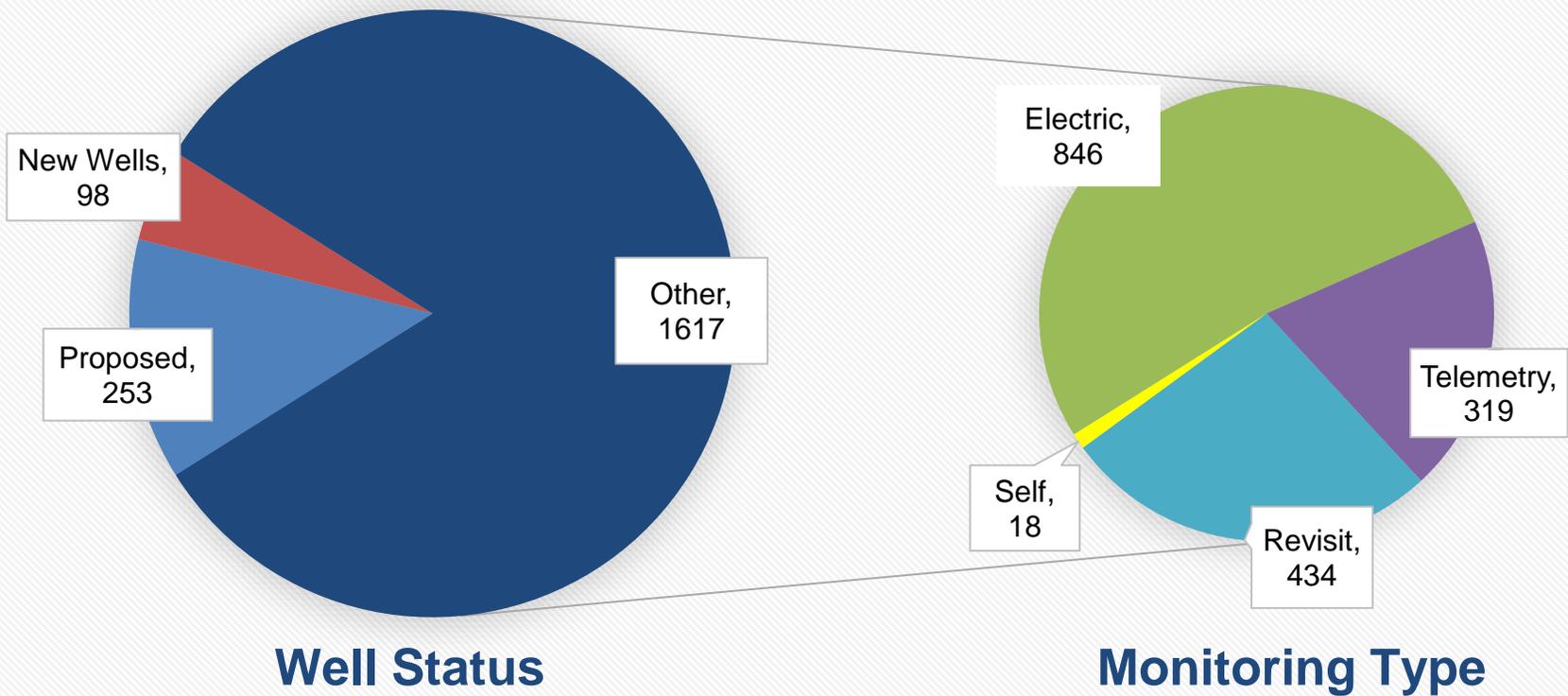
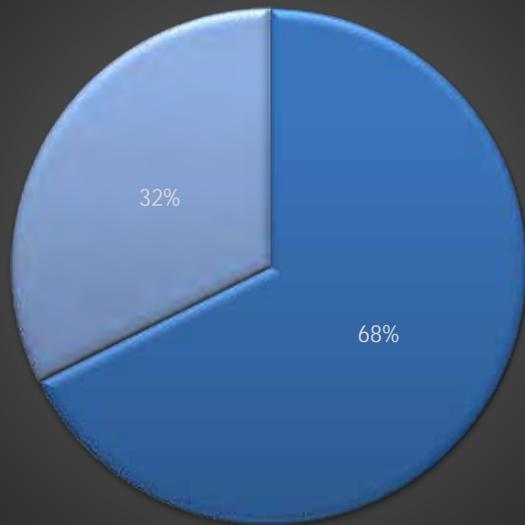


Figure 1. Well status and monitoring type for all wells with water use monitoring conditions as of December 15, 2023.

Flow Data Collection Status



■ Sites with Unique Flow Recorded, 1046
■ Sites Needing Flow Information, 500

Flows Recorded by Source

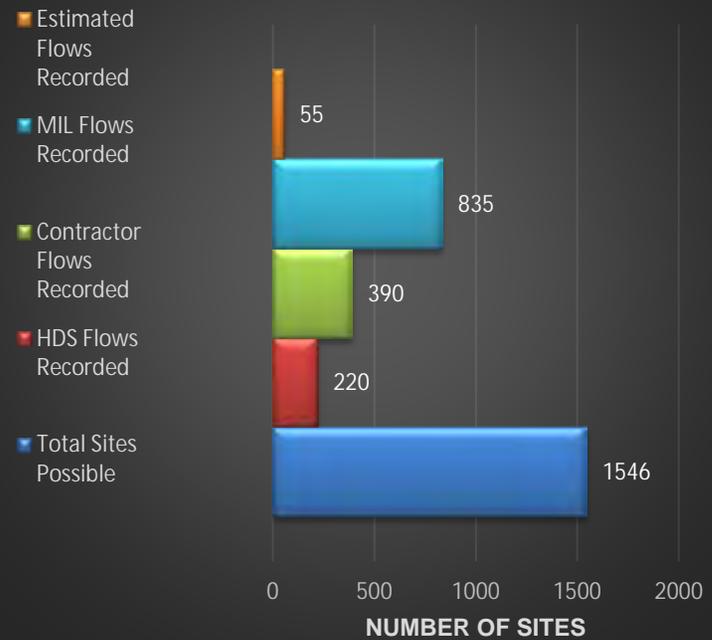


Figure 2. Status of flow data collection by source within the District's agricultural monitoring network as of December 15, 2023.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Chief, Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects

THRU: Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: December 28, 2023

RE: Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

Attached for your information is the Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report through November 30, 2023.

LMII/tm
Attachment

Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report through November 30, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	33	\$ 30,760,793
Completed within the last 6 months	10	\$ 1,441,015
Totals	43	\$ 32,201,808

AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	123	\$ 12,738,643
Completed within the last 6 months	14	\$ 942,540
Totals	137	\$ 13,681,184

FLOOD RISK OUTREACH AND MAPPING PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Number of Contracts (TWAs)	12	\$ 6,880,106
Completed within the last 6 months	1	\$ 790,500
Totals	13	\$ 7,670,606
TOTAL CONTRACTS / TWAs	193	\$ 53,553,598

AEP APPLICATIONS	
	Number of Projects
Agriculture Applications under review	41
AWS and Springs	0
Conceptual Projects under review	11
Projects in Queue	6
TOTAL	58

AEP FUNDING SOURCES		
	Number of Grants	Grant amount provided
District	3	\$ 10,461,592
FDEP	36	\$ 58,683,926
Federal through FDEP	5	\$ 14,600,000
Federal (CTP Program)	7	\$ 11,359,417
Cooperator Match	-	\$ 12,666,986
TOTAL	51	\$ 107,771,921