

ITEM 2:

Consider the December 10-11, 2020 meeting summary.

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

None

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the meeting summary.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS: _____

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER: _____

Acquisition and Restoration Council Meeting Summary

Public Hearing: December 10, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Webinar meeting

Council Meeting: December 11, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Webinar meeting

DECEMBER 10, 2020

Members in Attendance:

Dr. Tim Parsons, DHR
Mr. Erin Albury, FFS
Ms. Lynetta Griner, Citizen Member
Mr. Tom Houston, FWC
Dr. Bill Palmer, Citizen Member
Ms. Elva Peppers, Citizen Member
Mr. Shawn Hamilton, ARC Chair, DEP

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

Item 1: Call to Order at 1:00 p.m.

DEP Interim Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Shawn Hamilton, called the hearing to order. He asked the participating council members to introduce themselves. There were no additional council announcements. ARC Staff Director, Shauna Allen provided housekeeping announcements including webinar instructions and information for public comments.

Item 2: Florida Forever 2021 Cycle 1 Proposal Presentations for Big Pine Preserve and Wilson Ranch Property.

Discussion: Ms. Susan Carr, North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) Program Manager, presented the 541-acre Big Pine Preserve project proposal in Marion County. The property is an inholding of the Ocala National Forest and consists of 11 tax parcels under a single owner on Lake Kerr. Adjacent to the Historic Town of Kerr City, the property is offered for fee simple acquisition. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) has indicated a willingness to manage the property and opportunity for cooperative management with the US Forest Service. The adjacent US Forest Service property is home to the largest population of Red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) in north central Florida. The proposal area has cavity trees and observations of RCW on the property providing opportunity for expansion of managed habitat. The property also contributes to surface water protection and aquifer recharge with frontage on Lake Kerr and within two miles of the Salt Springs Recreation Area. The most significant feature of the property is the large number of old growth longleaf pine within 80 acres and 300 acres of mature longleaf pine, some are greater than 25" in diameter. The property offers connectivity and landscape integrity

with sandhill habitat and provides additional opportunities for recreation. The NFLT has an option agreement on 497 acres and has raised over \$800,000 for acquisition.

Mr. Andrew Ketchel, Capital City Consulting, presented the 450-acre Wilson Ranch Property proposal in Polk County. The property has been a working ranch since the 1930's and consists of five parcels in the City of Bartow. It is zoned for mixed-use/neighborhood development and contains the confluence of the Peace Creek and Saddle River forming the headwaters of the Peace River. The property has improved pasture along with bottomland forests and open point pars within the floodplain. The FWC has identified a portion of the site as a wading bird rookery. The proposal will advance the goals of the 2017 Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act for the Peace River. Polk County which manages the nearby SWFWMD property has indicated a willingness to manage the property if acquired.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 3: Florida Forever Project Boundary Amendment Presentations for St. Johns River Blueway, Annutteliga Hammock, Pinhook Swamp, Middle Chipola River, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway and Hardee Flatwoods Florida Forever Projects.

Discussion: Ms. Cherise Stewart, Clay County, presented the San Francisco de Pupo boundary amendment for St. Johns River Blueway project. The fee simple proposal is 112 acres located in Bayard along the St. Johns River. With evidence of prehistoric use, in the 1600's the site served as the location of a ferry crossing to Fort Picolata. The fort was established in 1716 to defend the river crossing and was enlarged in 1739 and taken over by Governor Oglethorpe. The site is also the location of Florida's first federal road, Bellamy Road, an indication of the historic strategic importance to the area. Since the proposal was deferred last year, additional investigations were conducted by SEARCH, Inc under contract with the county. The historical background research and reconnaissance survey verified that the fort is partially intact and has some archaeological integrity with new materials recovered from the site and additional acreage added to the proposed amendment. The owners of over 70 years are excited with the potential to preserve the property. The county is willing to manage the property if acquired and acknowledges the assistance of the NFLT throughout this process.

Ms. Laramé Ferry, FWC Land Conservation Coordinator, presented the Mente, LLC boundary amendment for the Annutteliga Hammock project. The property consists of two parcels totaling 48 acres adjacent to the Chassahowitzka WMA and US-19. Proposed as fee simple acquisition that could be managed by the FWC if acquired, the property includes sandhill and flatwoods with some depression marsh. Acquisition of the property would help fill an irregular boundary at the WMA, improve management and expand habitat. There is potential for rare species, gopher frog and striped newt in the depression marsh and additional recreational activities. Ms. Ferry noted that Area Manager Mr. Steve Brinkley, was also available to answer questions.

Ms. Susan Carr, NFLT, presented the Chasteen Property boundary amendment for the Pinhook Swamp project in Hamilton County. The 147-acre property consists of four tax parcels under a single ownership. Proposed as an addition to the Big Shoal State Forest, the FFS has indicated a

willingness to manage if acquired. The property is less than one mile from the Pinhook Swamp project and the Suwannee River. Potential uses include expanding recreational opportunities in the mosaic of upland and wetland habitat with sandhill restoration of the former pasture areas. The property increases protection for two tributaries to the Suwannee river, Long Branch and an unnamed tributary.

Mr. Jamie Streetman, representing the Richard Henson Property, presented the Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area (HCRA) Addition boundary amendment for the Middle Chipola River project. The proposed 49-acre addition is adjacent to 68 acres previously acquired by the state as part of the Middle Chipola River project and currently managed by the City of Marianna as the HCRA. Mostly wooded, the property would provide and expand existing recreational uses along the access to the HCRA. Community benefits would include expanded recreational and educational opportunities along with preserving the land for future generations. The City of Marianna is willing to add the proposed acquisition to the HCRA.

Mr. Carmen Rosamonda, DeBary City Manager, presented the St. Johns Riverbend South boundary amendment for the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway project. He also stated that City of DeBary Mayor Karen Chasez, Former Volusia County Council Member Ms. Pat Northey, the property owners, and Aquatic Preserve Alliance President Mr. Dean Barber and Ms. Deborah Shelley were in attendance. Mr. Rosamonda stated that the proposed amendment addressed three strategic initiatives in the City of DeBary, preservation of 170-acres of pristine riverfront property, a one-of-a-kind park within the 150-acre marsh and a Freshwater Research and Education Center with the Aquatic Preserve. The property is within an area of DeBary experiencing tremendous growth and directly adjacent to the Rivington and Riverbend North PUDs. The property is near the Wekiva Preserve and Black Bear Wilderness. There are three separate state trails encompassing 360 miles of bike trails that converge in the City of DeBary and are within one mile of the property. If acquired, the City of DeBary proposes to develop and manage a nature park and trail within the 150-acre marsh along the 2-mile riverfront berm with benches, picnic areas and fishing. Additional proposed trails in the City of DeBary would link the proposed area to the state trails. The 20-acre uplands area is proposed for a Freshwater Research and Education Center for the Aquatic Preserve.

Mr. David Lott, representing the Blackman Family, presented the Blackman Easement boundary amendment for the Hardee Flatwoods project. The proposal encompasses 160 acres of a total 210.9 acres under a single owner. The proposal was reduced to comply with the 10% requirement for boundary amendments and lies five miles south of the Hardee Flatwoods project. Half of the proposal is improved pasture and the remainder is unimproved pasture and wetland adjacent to the Highlands Hammock State Park. The subject parcel has a steep natural west to east grade that drains into this wetland. The proposal would extend protection for the Lake Wales ecosystem through the network of wetlands and protected areas. Connected hydrology with the property and Highlands Hammock State Park would receive increased protection through this less-than-fee acquisition.

Mr. Charles Powell, sole owner, presented the Wekiva River Islands boundary amendment for the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway project. Mr. Powell stated he was born and raised in Sanford within two miles of the Wekiva River where he lived until he went into military service. He remembers when the water hyacinth choked the river and allowed for little boat traffic. When he returned in the 70's he saw significant changes in the area with opening the river. He was able to acquire all three islands from the owners to make sure that they were protected from development. He also shared that growing up his Boy Scout Troop 345 camped on the Big Oak Island and has memories of his friends climbing the big oak tree for which the island is named. Big and Little Buck Islands are directly across from Katie's Landing where thousands of people come to enjoy the river. While he has received numerous calls from people wanting to buy a lot from him, he wants to see the property become part of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway.

Chair Hamilton asked if there were comments from the Council. Mr. Tom Houston, FWC, noted that there was some infrastructure on the Blackman Easement and asked if the owner was willing to release the rights. Mr. Lott stated that the owner was willing to relinquish the development rights and would only wish to retain hunting and cattle grazing.

Ms. Peppers asked if the City thought of making the St. Johns Riverbend South part of a city or county park. Mr. Rosamonda stated that they envision a city park on the 150-acres and with the Aquatic Preserve and Freshwater Research and Education Center this area would become a destination. Ms. Peppers restated that her question was more about the funding. Mr. Rosamonda responded that they anticipate with state acquisition, the City and County could provide the funding to develop and manage the property.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 4: Take Public Testimony on the Florida Forever 2021 Cycle 1 Proposals, Florida Forever Project Boundary Amendments and other Florida Forever Projects.

Discussion: Ms. Allen stated that the ARC had received email correspondence from Ms. Pat Northey in support for the Riverbend South proposal which would be forwarded for council consideration. Ms. Allen noted that four speakers requested to provide comments and asked for others to indicate their wish to speak in the question box.

Ms. Susan Williams, property owner, spoke in favor of the San Francisco de Pupo proposal. She stated that the family would like to see the property, owned by her family for four generations, acquired for preservation and conservation. They were aware of the fort but not of the archaeological significance and historic interest until the recent report. They feel it is important to protect the land for future generations to explore, study and enjoy. The property was not sold to the State in the 1990's with the 10,000 adjacent acres currently managed by the SJRWMD. The family felt this part of the property was the most peaceful and serene with woodlands and sweeping pastures providing open views of the river along 4,000 feet of shoreline. The proximity to the First Coast Expressway has increased interest from developers, but the family preference is to see the property preserved.

Mr. Dean Barber, Aquatic Preserve Alliance of Central Florida, spoke in favor of the St. Johns Riverbend South proposal. He stated that the Alliance, a support organization for the Wekiva-Middle St. Johns Aquatic Preserve, is interested in assisting with the relocation of the office and establishing a Freshwater Research and Education Center on the site.

Dr. Jay Exum, Friends of the Wekiva River, spoke in favor of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Project. He stated that acquisitions to date have protected 73% of the greenway with 22,268 acres remaining to acquire. SR46 construction of one of the most environmentally sensitive toll roads in Florida, the Wekiva Parkway, was a substantial investment in maintaining landscape connectivity for the largest population of black bears in the state. The remaining land acquisitions are needed to protect the landscape connectivity created by these investments from the development encouraged by the parkway. Friends of the Wekiva River received a \$600,000 Endangered Species Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) grant to acquire Florida scrub jay habitat adjacent to existing public lands. He requested continued effort to prioritize the remaining lands to complete the project.

Ms. Rebecca Perry, NFLT Director of Real Estate, spoke in favor of the San Francisco de Pupo proposal. She stated the proposal meets two of the mission areas of the NFLT: to protect agriculture, natural and cultural resources. The property has archaeological resources and is a significant inholding of the Bayard Conservation Area containing the underrepresented mesic flatwoods community.

Mr. Dean Saunders spoke in favor of projects that he has been involved in Corrigan Ranch, Abington Ranch, Green Swamp, and Bluefield to Cow Creek. He stated that Corrigan Ranch is starting the appraisal process with USFWS and the state working on boundaries. Half is intact dry prairie and semi-improved pasture. Home to several grasshopper sparrows it is surrounded on three sides by state owned lands. The Abington Ranch property was added to the Kissimmee-St. Johns Connector and comprises 3,600 acres adjacent to the Kissimmee Prairie State Park. It is also known habitat for the grasshopper sparrow. He stated that we have been working on Green Swamp for 50 years and should do what we can. The Bluefield to Cow Creek project connects cow creek and cypress creek with numerous public lands and conservation easements.

Ms. Carrie Sekerak, Ocala National Forest Deputy District Ranger, on behalf of the National Forests in Florida Supervisor Kelly Russell, spoke in favor of the Big Pine Preserve. She stated that the proposal would further joint missions and indicated their commitment to entering into cooperative agreement for restoration and management with the responsible agency to provide expertise, staffing and funding. The Forest Service has allocated millions over decades to restoring the riverside island complex sandhills in and around Lake Kerr and recovery of the rare species that depend on them, especially the RCW. With support from the Ocala Longleaf Implementation Team and National Forest Foundation to improve sandhill and longleaf pine forest, the area is considered a national treasured landscape. Lands surrounding the properties are on a 2-year prescribed fire interval and are in prime habitat condition. Development of this property puts these efforts at risk including the cultural heritage sites.

ARC Action: No action required.

Chair Hamilton closed the hearing noting the efforts of the applicants in highlighting the resources and values of the properties. He stated that because of willing sellers and conservation partners, we have preserved over 2.5 million acres. He invited participants back for the Friday meeting as the 2021 Florida Forever Priority list and other items would be considered either through the webinar or viewing on the Florida Channel.

The hearing was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

DECEMBER 11, 2020

Members in Attendance:

Dr. Tim Parsons, DHR
Mr. Erin Albury, FFS
Ms. Lynetta Griner, Citizen Member
Dr. Thomas Eason, FWC
Dr. Bill Palmer, Citizen Member
Ms. Elva Peppers, Citizen Member
Mr. Shawn Hamilton, ARC Chair, DEP

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

Item 5: Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.

DEP Interim Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Shawn Hamilton, called the meeting to order. Hearing that there were no announcements from council members, he asked ARC Staff Director, Shauna Allen, to conduct the roll call. The quorum was established with seven members in attendance. Ms. Allen provided housekeeping announcements including webinar instructions and information for public comments.

Item 6: Consider the October 9, 2020 meeting summary.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the meeting summary.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Chair Hamilton made the motion to approve the October meeting summary with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 7: Consider the proposed 2021 Acquisition and Restoration Council Calendar.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the proposed calendar.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Chair Hamilton made the motion to approve the 2021 ARC calendar with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

ARC STAFF REPORTS

Item 8: Items approved by the Division of State Lands via the online negative response process since the October 2020 ARC meeting.

DSL Staff Remarks: Ms. Allen stated that one management plan amendment for John M. Bethea State Forest, two management plans for properties less than 160 acres: Arch Creek Park and Sunny Isles Beach and two public easement requests for Coupon Bight/Key Deer and Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail were approved via the negative response process.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

FLORIDA FOREVER

Item 9: Develop the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Ms. Allen stated, we will now develop the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. The process contains three parts: ranking, breaking any ties, and approving the final list.

Ranking Step: Each ARC member submitted their ranking numbers for each project within categories. These numbers were revealed for members by category. Members confirmed their numbers were correct for projects in each category.

Tie breaker Step:

Climate Change Lands Category: Coupon Bight/Key Deer and Northeast Florida Blueway. Ms. Griner moved to rank Northeast Florida Blueway higher, Dr. Eason seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Climate Change Lands Category: Terra Ceia and Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island. Dr. Eason moved to rank Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island higher, Dr. Palmer seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category: Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed and Indian River Lagoon Blueway. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Indian River Lagoon Blueway higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category: Middle Chipola River and Pal-Mar. Dr. Eason moved to rank Middle Chipola River higher, Mr. Albury seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category: Dade County Archipelago and Lafayette Forest. Mr. Albury moved to rank Lafayette Forest higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Critical Natural Lands Category: Devil's Garden and Pine Island Slough Ecosystem. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Devil's Garden higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Critical Natural Lands Category: Caloosahatchee Ecoscape and Twelvemile Slough. Mr. Albury moved to rank Caloosahatchee Ecoscape higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Critical Natural Lands Category: Ichetucknee Trace and Upper Shoal River. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Upper Shoal River higher, Dr. Eason seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Discussion: Dr. Eason expressed his appreciation to staff for making the process move smoothly and quickly and his confidence in the process. He compared the process to sorting gemstones and noted that all projects are worthy regardless of where they fall on the list.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the 2021 Florida Forever Priority list with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 10: Consider a request to remove approximately 2,213 acres from the boundary of the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Florida Forever Project.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the owner requested deletion.

Discussion: Ms. Peppers asked for an explanation of the other option. Ms. Allen stated that the other option allows the council to recommend to the Board of Trustees that the property is so critical to the project that removal would reduce the viability of the project to meet the purpose. Ms. Peppers asked what percentage this removal to the overall project was. Ms. Allen stated that the proposal was 10% of the project.

ARC Action: Chair Hamilton made the motion to approve the owner-requested deletion with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 11: Vote on whether the Big Pine Preserve and Wilson Ranch 2021 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals will proceed through the project evaluation process for potential addition to the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on each proposal.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: ARC members voted unanimously by seven members to initiate a full review of the Big Pine Preserve and Wilson Ranch proposals.

Item 12: Vote on whether to amend the St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever Project Boundary to add five parcels totaling approximately 112 acres in Clay County with a tax assessed market value of \$556,815.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 13: Vote on whether to amend the Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever Project Boundary to add two parcels totaling approximately 48.3 acres in Hernando County with a tax assessed market value of \$620,220.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Mr. Albury seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 14: Vote on whether to amend the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever Project Boundary to add four parcels totaling approximately 147.5 acres in Hamilton County with a tax assessed market value of \$254,070.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 15: Vote on whether to amend the Middle Chipola River Florida Forever Project Boundary to add one parcel totaling approximately 49.41 acres in Jackson County with a tax assessed market value of \$142,940.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 16: Vote on whether to amend the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Florida Forever Project Boundary to add 9 parcels totaling approximately 9 acres in Seminole County with a tax assessed market value of \$6,400.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 17: Vote on whether to amend the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Florida Forever Project Boundary to add one parcel totaling approximately 170 acres in Volusia County with a tax assessed market value of \$745,725.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 18: Vote on whether to amend the Hardee Flatwoods Florida Forever Project Boundary to add one parcel totaling approximately 160 acres in Hardee County with a tax assessed market value of approximately \$510,400.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Griner made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Recess: Council approved a five-minute recess, with Chair Hamilton making the motion and Ms. Peppers seconding. The council meeting resumed at 9:55 a.m. and established a quorum by roll call with seven members present.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Item 19: Consider a 10-year update to the L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area (Lease No. 4619).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Ms. Dylan Haase, FWC Senior Conservation Planner, provided an overview of the 1,783-acre L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) management plan update. The WEA is located adjacent to and near several conservation lands in eastern Leon County including St. Marks Preserve State Park, Lafayette Heritage Trail Park, Aucilla Wildlife Management Area and the Apalachicola National Forest. The original 687 acres were donated in 1997 to conserve, protect and restore cultural resources, landscapes, forests, watersheds, and water resources and provide compatible recreational opportunities. The WEA predominant natural communities include basin swamp, upland pine and bottomland forest and provide habitat for imperiled species such as gopher tortoise and wood stork. There are six known historical sites. The area hosts recreational activities including hunting, fishing, birdwatching, bicycle riding, and horseback riding. Facilities include 4.5 miles of trails, three parking areas and administrative buildings. Resource management objectives include prescribed burning, timber harvest for habitat restoration, update the Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery (WCPR) strategy, monitor for imperiled species and implement the recreation master plan. Plans also include constructing one mile of new trail and improving parking access along Cap Tram Road. Ms. Haase also mentioned that Area Manager, Morgan Wilbur, was available to answer questions.

Ms. Griner asked about the location of the public hearing at Lake Panasoffkee. Ms. Haase responded that was an error in the item, the hearing was held in Tallahassee.

ARC Action: Chair Hamilton made the motion to approve the management plan with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 20: Consider an update to the Belmore State Forest Management Plan (Lease No. 4482).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Frank Burley, Forest Supervisor for Belmore and Jennings State Forests, provided an overview of the 12,262-acre Belmore State Forest management plan. Established in 2004 (Ates Creek) to protect the watershed of the Upper Black Creek and surrounding uplands, Belmore was named for the historic city which was the sixth stop on the Green Cove Springs/Melrose Railroad Line (1888 to 1902). The Satsuma tract was added in 2007. Nearby managed lands include Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Jennings State Forest and Etoniah Creek State Forest. The multiple use managed area includes 13 natural communities. Activities include timber management, prescribed fire, forest inventory, reforestation projects, maintenance of 18 miles of roads and recreational activities. The Ates Creek WMA hosts hunting and fishing while the Satsuma Tract hosts Operation Outdoor Freedom. Plans are to continue conversion of remaining sand pine plantations, transitioning dormant season burns to growing season fire, monitoring of the 16 listed and rare species including Florida Black bear and management of non-native species and continued protection and monitoring of the two known archeological sites and one historic cemetery. The FFS has installed and replaced 50 culverts, five low water crossings and two bridges damaged in hurricanes in addition to replacing a condemned bridge and repair of 23 miles of roads. The update includes hydrological assessments, replacement/install culverts and low water crossings, erosion reduction, fire line monitoring and maintenance of three parking areas, 54-miles of road (including trails), two residences and administrative and maintenance structures.

Dr. Parsons acknowledged the FFS for ongoing discussions with recommendations for improved consistency with management plans and Chapter 263, Florida Statutes. He stated that the collaborative discussions were good and that he supports this management plan update.

ARC Action: Chair Hamilton made the motion to approve the management plan with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 21: Consider an update to the Bahia Honda State Park Management Plan (Lease No. 3609).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Tyler Maldonado, DRP Office of Park Planning, provided an overview of the Bahia Honda State Park Management Plan. He stated that Assistant Park Manager, Corliss Castro, and District Biologist, Janice Duquesnel, were available for questions following the presentation. The 451-acre park was acquired in 1961 and consists of 70% marine tidal swamp, tidal marsh and unconsolidated substrate. The 120 acres of uplands include three miles of public access beaches, three day-use areas, an RV campground, cabins and marina with boat basin. The park features the largest silver palm hammock in the keys and hosts 43 listed imperiled species. The popular park is number five on the list of top visited parks in southeast Florida and includes the historic Bahia Honda Keys Rail Bridge. Hurricane Irma (2017) caused significant damage to the park facilities including erosion that damaged US1. Most of the western facilities have been rebuilt while Sandspur campground and beach day-use area are still in construction. Consistent with the department mandate, the park has developed a resiliency statement that acknowledges challenges from climate related shocks and stressors. Incorporating resilience strategies to minimize and manage the impacts of environmental disturbances into park plans and resource management decisions (build back stronger, build to yield, build with nature). Strategies used include build back stronger for the bathhouse and a combination in the Sandspur Beach area to study the response. Management objectives include building two new cabins, a new floating dock, filling the borrow pit to eight feet and restoring seagrasses, improving campsites, new pavilions, improving parking and ADA paddling launch, a new storage facility and ongoing maintenance.

ARC Action: Chair Hamilton made the motion to approve the management plan with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

LAND ADMINISTRATION

Item 22: Consider (1) whether an 8-acre parcel of state-owned land currently owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) and managed by Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Florida Forest Service as part of the Blackwater River State Forest is no longer needed for conservation purposes, and (2) recommend exchanging 8-acres of state-owned land for 16-acres of privately-owned land to the BOT.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the exchange request.

Discussion: Mr. Robbie Parrish, DSL Bureau of Real Estate Services, provided an overview of the proposed Kennedy/New exchange. He also stated that Keith Rowell and Alan Davis with the

FFS were available to answer questions. The 8-acre parcel exchange is no longer needed for conservation purposes. The owners of the parcel inherited from their parents and learned of the encroachment during a survey in preparation for sale of the property. When the state acquired the property in 1955, the federal deed included a reverter clause if the property is not used for public purposes. The Board of Trustees would receive the 16-acre parcel in exchange for the release of the 8-acre parcel. The FFS is supportive of the exchange and the US Forest Service has provided an initial approval for the exchange. The land contains a single-family residence, mobile home and garden shed. There is a net positive conservation benefit with the unimproved forested parcel adjacent to the forest boundary including natural woodlands, improved pasture and pine flatwoods consistent with the adjacent forest.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the recommendation to the Board of Trustees with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC concurred with seven members in favor of the recommendation.

Item 23: Consider whether an approximately 0.68-acre private single-family access easement within Blackwater River State Forest is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the easement.

Discussion: Mr. Jay Sircy, DSL Bureau of Public Land Administration, provided an overview of the proposed McDaniel easement. The owner, Mr. James McDaniel, Jr. and his representative Ms. Tiffany Sullivan were also available to answer questions. The easement request, located in Santa Rosa County off Highway 4 in Jay, Florida has no practical alternatives as the adjacent owners are unwilling to provide an access easement. The 25-foot wide ingress/access easement for the land-locked parcel uses an existing dirt road and 0.038 acres of new impact. The owner will pay an easement fee and additional compensation at 1.5 times the appraised value. FFS has provide consent and the DHR has provided a not likely to affect determination.

ARC Action: Dr. Palmer made the motion to approve the proposed easement with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

CLOSING COMMENTS

ARC Announcements: Chair Hamilton announced the next ARC meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2021 either in person or virtually. Dr. Eason wished everyone to stay safe and enjoy the holidays. Ms. Griner asked when we will receive the final priority list. Ms. Allen responded that it would be sent to the ARC mailing list following the meeting. Chair Hamilton thanked the Council for their time and commitment and acknowledged agency staff for the hours of time they spent preparing for the meetings. Ms. Peppers acknowledged staff stating that this was one of the smoothest webinars she has participated in.

Ms. Griner made the motion to adjourn with Dr. Eason seconding. ARC unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.