

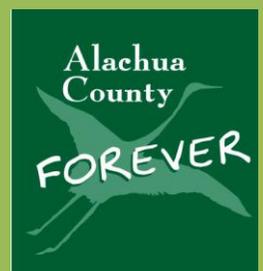


# Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Management Plan

Approved October 26, 2010



**Alachua County  
Environmental Protection Department  
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## **Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Management Plan Summary**

**Date of Plan:** October 26, 2010

**Management Area:** 242.01 acres

**Location:** Northeast Alachua County, at the intersection of CR 225 and CR 1475

**Acquisition Date and Cost:** Parcel 16893-000-000 – February 7, 2006, \$ 1,200,000

**Funding Source:** Alachua County Forever Bond

### Summary:

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve is located south of the Santa Fe River, in northeast Alachua County, at the intersection of County Road 225 and County Road 1475. It was acquired with funds from Alachua County Forever Bond. The land within the Preserve is a mosaic of mesic flatwoods interspersed with isolated swamp and marsh wetlands. The Preserve will be managed to protect, preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources found on the property, to provide an undeveloped buffer for the Santa Fe River, and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience.

### Key Management Objectives:

1. Maintain and enhance existing natural communities.
2. Inventory natural features of the site, including flora, fauna and natural communities.
3. Protect populations of significant and listed plant and animal species.
4. Develop and implement a prescribed fire management plan.
5. Protect water resource values from adverse impacts.
6. Effectively and responsibly manage cultural resources.
7. Promote public outdoor recreation and environmental education consistent with preserving the natural and cultural resources of the site.

### Resource Management Issues:

- **RESTORATION / ENHANCEMENT**- Restore/enhance approximately 160 acres of degraded upland and approximately 5 acres of degraded wetland communities.
- **FIRE MANAGEMENT** - Develop a prescribed fire management plan to aid in restoration and enhancement of natural communities, to increase species diversity, to discourage non-fire tolerant vegetation and to maintain open habitat for listed species.
- **INVASIVE PLANTS** - Control or eradicate invasive, non-native plant species.
- **HISTORIC RESOURCES** - Protect known sites from disturbance, and coordinate with Florida Department of State, Division of Historic Resources regarding identification and protection of historic sites.
- **MONITORING** - Monitor property through field inspections and photopoints to determine relative success of management strategies and impacts of public use on the resources.

### Site Development and Maintenance

- **PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS** - Construct trails and other recreational amenities, fences, gates, firebreaks, and a parking area.
- **RECREATION** – Construct trails and trailhead.
- **EDUCATION** - Develop interpretive exhibits (kiosk and trail signs).

- MAINTENANCE - Maintain all improvements, and install culverts or low water crossings as needed in existing roads or firebreaks. Remove dilapidated structures and solid waste from property.
- SECURITY - perform regular security patrols, install informational and regulatory signage, and install additional access control as needed.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve is owned and managed by Alachua County as part of the Environmental Protection Department's Land Conservation program. The property was acquired on February 7, 2006 with funds from the Alachua County Forever Bond. The Alachua County Forever (ACF) program was approved by Alachua County voters in November of 2000, to acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands in Alachua County to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

This management plan was developed to ensure that the project site will be managed and developed in accordance with the goals of the ACF program.

### LOCATION & ADJACENT USES

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve is located in northeast Alachua County, approximately four miles northwest of Waldo, at the intersection of County Roads 225 and 1475 (Exhibit A).

The north boundary of the Preserve is defined by the Alachua – Bradford County Line. The Santa Fe River meanders north of the County line, however at its closest point it is located approximately 20 feet from the north boundary of the Preserve, within Bradford County.

Land use adjacent to Northeast Flatwoods Preserve is predominately agriculture, silviculture, and rural residential. Seasonal hunting occurs on surrounding private lands.

### ACQUISITION HISTORY

Alachua County purchased the lands within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve on February 7, 2006 from A.P. & E., Incorporated, a dissolved Florida corporation, Walter R. Knudsen and Frank M. Gafford. The purchase price was \$1,200,000 for 242.01 acres.

### NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMARY

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve contains five distinct upland and wetland natural communities, in addition to human-altered or disturbed communities. Mesic pine flatwoods is the dominant natural community type. Other natural communities present are basin swamp, dome swamp, depression marsh and upland mixed forest. The Preserve contains habitat recognized as typically suitable for 9 listed animal species, of which at least four have been observed on the site.

### PREVIOUS USES

Neighbors to the Preserve have stated that the land within Northeast Flatwoods was formerly owned by the Eddy family, who utilized the pinelands for the production of turpentine. Prior to acquisition by the County, lands within the Preserve were used for timber production and hunting. No formal archaeological survey has occurred on the Preserve, and there are no documented archaeological sites within the Preserve.

### RECREATION

Planned recreational features of the Northeast Flatwoods Preserve will focus on providing appropriate, natural resource-based recreational activities, and will include trails and trailside amenities to enhance the visitor experience. In addition, a collection of interpretive information will be compiled for the Preserve to educate visitors about the site's historical significance, ecological importance, and management objectives.

Initially, Preserve trails will be open to the public by appointment for staff-guided walks or volunteer workdays. As demand for natural resource-based recreation grows, the County will evaluate the need to open the Preserve for general public access.

## II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Northeast Flatwoods Preserve project is to protect, preserve, and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources found on the property and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience. The Preserve is located south of the Santa Fe River, and provides a critical connection for wildlife traveling between the river corridor and vast, undeveloped timber lands to the south. Northeast Flatwoods Preserve will be managed only for the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources, and for public outdoor recreation that is compatible with the conservation, protection and enhancement of the site.

Management goals are aimed at improving the condition of natural communities on the site. Natural communities will be maintained and enhanced using management practices including but not limited to invasive exotic plant removal, prescribed fire, forest thinning, and re-vegetation.

### PRIORTIZED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Maintain and enhance natural communities.
  - Introduce prescribed fire to fire-dependent natural communities to manage fuel loads and to promote healthy functioning natural systems.
  - Pursue restoration of degraded natural communities.
  - Manage altered communities such that future restoration potential is enhanced or not degraded.
  - Remove feral animals.
  - Remove invasive exotic plants.
- Monitor and document effects of management activities.
  - Ensure that management activities do not harm listed species.
- Inventory flora and fauna.
- Protect water quality and soil resources.
- Document, protect, and monitor cultural resources.
- Provide opportunities for passive and educational recreational experiences.
  - Develop a trailhead and parking area to provide access.
  - Develop a network of trails.
  - Develop interpretive materials.
- Implement creative solutions to accomplish basic stewardship needs such as staffing, security and maintenance.

### LAND USE AND ZONING

Currently, the future land use for the Preserve (tax parcel 16893-000-000) is designated as “Rural/Agriculture.” Staff will initiate proceedings to change the future land use to “Preservation” during the first Comprehensive Plan amendment after approval of the Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Management Plan. When the future land use designation is changed, staff will initiate the procedure to change the zoning from “Agricultural” to “Conservation.”

### Land Use and Zoning Strategies

- Amend Future Land Use from “Rural/Agriculture” to “Preservation.”
- Change zoning from “Agricultural” to “Conservation.”

## III. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### GEOLOGY

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve is situated on the major geologic formation most recently referred to as the Hawthorn Group (Thomas et al. 1985, Scott 1988). The Hawthorn group is a complex mosaic of clay, sand, dolostone and limestone. It is an intermediate aquifer which serves as a source of water, and its heavy clay component serves as a confining layer to the underlying Floridan aquifer. No minerals of commercial value are known to exist within the Preserve.

### SOILS

Nine soil types, defined and mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, occur within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve. These soil types are mapped in Exhibit B, and briefly described below (Thomas et al. 1985). The dominant soil type within the Preserve is Newnan sand. All of the identified soils are generally described as nearly level, with sandy surface layers and loamy or clayey lower layers. Most of the soils identified are described as somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, with the exception of the Millhopper sand unit, which is moderately well drained. Some of the more saturated soil units may limit recreational or other development in their specific areas of the Preserve.

There is currently some evidence of erosion problems on the property, associated with cleared areas along both electric utility easements. Land management activities will follow generally accepted best management practices to prevent soil erosion and conserve soil and water resources within the Preserve.

#### Lochloosa fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes

This nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil occurs in rolling uplands and in slightly convex areas of flatwoods. The surface layer is fine sand, with a subsurface layer of loamy sand or sand. The subsoil is sandy loam and sandy clay loam. In normal years this soil type has a seasonal high water table at a depth between 30 and 40 inches below surface for 1 to 4 months. The water table rises to 20 to 30 inches below surface for 1 to 3 weeks.

#### Millhopper sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes

This nearly level to gently sloping, moderately well drained soil typically occurs in 10- to 250-acre areas on uplands and on slightly rolling knolls in the broad flatwoods. The soils have rapidly permeable sandy surface and subsurface layers. The subsoil has moderately rapid permeability in the upper loamy sand layer, and moderately slow permeability in the mid subsoil sandy clay loam and lower subsoil sandy loam layers. The water table is at a depth of 40 to 60 inches for 1 to 4 months most years, and at a depth of 60 to 72 inches for 2 to 4 months.

#### Monteocha loamy sand

This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is in wet ponds and shallow depressional areas of about 5 to 35 acres in the flatwoods. The surface layer is rapidly permeable loamy sand; the subsurface and upper subsoil layers are moderately rapid to rapidly permeable sand, with moderately slow to moderately permeable fine sandy loam over sand in the lower subsoil. This

soil has a water table that is within 10 inches of the surface for more than 6 months during most years. Most areas are covered with water for more than 4 months.

#### Newnan sand

These are nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soils in flatwoods, and along the transition areas between flatwoods and uplands. They are dominantly sandy with loamy horizons in the deepest layers. In most years the water table is 18 to 30 inches below the surface for 1 to 2 months, and is 30 to 60 inches below the surface for 2 to 5 months.

#### Pelham, Plummer, and Mascotte soils, occasionally flooded

These soils are nearly level and poorly drained, and generally found in flatwoods, or in the transition area between flatwoods and uplands. The water table is less than 10 inches from the surface for one to several months of normal years, and may recede to greater than 40 inches below the surface during dry periods.

#### Pomona sand

These are nearly level, poorly drained soils on flatwoods, hammocks, and other flat areas. They are dominantly sandy with a loamy subsoil layer. In normal years the water table is within 10 inches of the surface for 1 to 3 months, and is at or near the surface in wet periods. During dry seasons the water table recedes to a depth of more than 40 inches.

#### Pomona sand, depressional

These nearly level, very poorly drained soils are found in shallow depressional areas and along narrow drainage ways in the flatwoods. These areas are irregularly shaped or elongated and range from about 10 to 35 acres. They have sandy surface and subsurface layers and sandy loam in the lower part of the subsoil layers. The underlying material is sandy loam and loamy sand. In this soil, the water table is less than 10 inches below the surface for about 6 months or more. These soils are subject to frequent ponding, water is on the surface for 4 months or more during most years.

#### Sparr fine sand

This map unit consists of nearly level and gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained soils on low ridges within the flatwoods and on nearly smooth to lightly convex slopes of the gently rolling uplands. They have rapidly permeable sandy layers to depths of more than 40 inches. The subsoil is loamy sand over fine sandy loam. These soils have a water table at a depth of between 20 and 30 inches for about 1 to 2 months and at a depth of 30 to 40 inches for about 2 to 3 months. During dry seasons it receded to a depth of more than 40 inches.

#### Wauchula sand

This nearly level, poorly drained soil occurs in flatwoods with nearly smooth slopes. The surface and subsurface layers are composed of sands ranging from black to light brownish gray in color. The subsoil consists of sand in the upper part underlain by loamy, sandy loam, and loamy sand layers in the lower part. The water table in Wauchula sand is less than 10 inches below surface for 1 to 4 months, and 10 to 40 inches for 6 months in most years. During dry periods, the water table recedes below 40 inches.

## HYDROLOGY

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve lies in the Suwannee River watershed within the Santa Fe River Basin. The Floridan aquifer is largely confined in the location of the Preserve, in an area that is considered to possess low vulnerability to potential contamination of the aquifer.

The north boundary of the Preserve is lies south of the Santa Fe River, as close as 20 feet from the southern river bank. Lands within and surrounding the Preserve drain toward the river, and are considered to be areas of moderate to high aquifer recharge. A ditch located within the Preserve, which was constructed prior to 1938, drains toward the river, however it terminates several hundred feet south of the river.

The waters of the Santa Fe River are Class III waters pursuant to Chapter 62-302.400(10), F.A.C. This means the water quality in the river is sufficient for “Recreation, Propagation, and Maintenance of a Healthy, Well-balanced Population of Fish and Wildlife.” In addition, the Santa Fe River is classified as an Outstanding Florida Water or OFW pursuant to Chapter 62-302.700(9)(i)28, F.A.C.

## NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve is best described as a mosaic of fire-dependent, pine-dominated flatwoods, interspersed with depression and basin wetlands, with upland mixed forest near the Santa Fe River. Five distinct natural community types and human-altered communities occur within Northeast Flatwoods Flatwoods Preserve (Exhibit C and Table 1) (FNAI 2010). The natural communities are briefly described below.

The property has a long history of human disturbance, currently evident in the major roadways, ditches, powerline right of way, homesite, and significant trash deposits. Long-term fire suppression is also evident by areas of excessive hardwood growth and lack of diverse groundcover. The natural communities within the Preserve shall be managed to ensure their long-term viability. Restoration or enhancement of previously disturbed communities will be implemented where feasible. As management progresses, the delineation of the natural communities will be further refined.

### Upland Mixed Forest

Upland mixed forest covers approximately 43 acres of the Preserve, beginning north of the powerline right of way and extending to the northern Preserve boundary, and ranging in quality from fair to good. Small pockets of degraded pine flatwoods occur within the upland mixed forest, however these are difficult to delineate at this time. Species present include water oak (*Quercus nigra*), live oak (*Q. virginiana*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), redbay (*Persea borbonia*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*) and longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) underlain by highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), sparkle berry (*Vaccinium arboretum*), grape vine (*Vitis spp.*) and greenbrier (*Smilax spp.*). Groundcover is extremely sparse in this area of forest, and consists primarily of rare patches of woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*).

Analysis of historic aerial photos of the area suggest this portion of the Preserve was cleared for farming prior to 1938, then allowed to gradually reforest, then cleared again in the 1960’s. The present-day forest type has naturally regenerated since that time. Several deep, linear ruts still evident in the soil within this natural community are consistent with ruts visible on the 1968 historic aerial, and are likely associated with logging of the site.

Management of this natural community will require periodic monitoring for exotic plant species and appropriate control measures if they are identified.

## Mesic Flatwoods

Mesic flatwoods is the dominant natural community type within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve, covering approximately 161 acres. Much of the mesic flatwoods community within the Preserve is in good to very good condition, and with regular prescribed fire could quickly improve to excellent condition. The naturally-occurring slash and longleaf pines in this natural community were thinned in 1995, and approximately 13 stems per acre were left standing as seed trees (Doug Mercer, personal communication). Natural regeneration since that time has resulted in an uneven aged stand of longleaf and slash pine throughout most of this natural community. Shrub species include gallberry, saw palmetto, wax myrtle, and deerberry, with shiny blueberry, broomsedge, lopsided Indiangrass, and wiregrass as groundcover.

A portion of the mesic flatwoods community north of County Road 225 and west of the man-made ditch is in poor to fair condition, primarily due to a lack of desirable groundcover and dense stands of offsite hardwoods. Solid waste remaining on the site suggests this area has been used for dumping for several decades. Extensive management measures will be necessary to improve the condition of this portion of the mesic flatwoods.

Exotic plants found within the mesic flatwoods community include camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*), mimosa tree (*Albizia julibrissin*), Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), and Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*). To date, these species have been observed primarily along the edges or in areas subjected to past ground disturbance.

The mesic flatwoods communities within the Preserve will be restored through the use of prescribed fire, exotic plant control, hardwood thinning, natural pine regeneration, direct seeding with appropriate understory and ground cover plants, and planting longleaf pines and understory species as necessary. Any proceeds from the thinning of hardwoods or pines will be used for resource management activities on Northeast Flatwoods Preserve.

## Basin Swamp

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve contains three distinct areas of basin swamp covering approximately 20 acres. Most of this community type has been impacted to some degree by past silvicultural practices. The largest area, located on the southwestern parcel, is dominated by mature pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), and fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), with slash pine on the higher edges. This area is part of a larger swamp system that extends south, off the property, onto industrial silviculture lands. Cypress stumps and evidence of a manmade ditch are visible in this area of basin swamp.

The second largest area of basin swamp occurs in the northern parcel of the Preserve, within the drainage area of a manmade ditch. Historic aerial photographs of the area indicate the ditch was constructed prior to 1938, and the basin swamp is a visible shadow in the 1938 and subsequent aerial images. The ditch may have been constructed within a natural drainage feature, and it is likely that the size and composition of the basin swamp have been influenced by the ditch over time, however the extent of influence is not clearly defined by the aerial photographs. Today, this swamp supports a canopy dominated by black gum and red maple, very few midstory trees and shrubs, and abundant woodoats and lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*) as groundcover.

A smaller area of basin swamp occurs in the southeastern parcel of the Preserve, forming a meandering narrow band connecting wetlands on lands to the south, to a ditch on County Road 225. This narrow band of swamp has been impacted by past silvicultural practices, and more recently by a wildfire which burned the area in 1998. The dominant vegetation is swamp bay,

and red maple in the canopy, with a dense shrub layer of wax myrtle and fetterbush along the edges, and Virginia chain fern and sphagnum moss in open patches. A depression marsh roughly divides the band of swamp in half.

#### Depression Marsh

Several isolated depression marshes are scattered throughout the Preserve, collectively covering nearly four acres in land area. These areas are edged with swamp bay, red maple, slash pine and fetterbush, with dense groundcover consisting of Virginia chain fern, soft rush, and sphagnum moss. Hooded pitcherplants occur occasionally along the edges, in open patches. The easternmost marsh is bisected by County road 1475 and is in very poor condition, probably as a result of dewatering from the adjacent roadside ditches. The rest of the marsh communities are largely overgrown with shrubs and encroaching pines, likely due to extended drought conditions and lack of fire.

#### Dome Swamp

Two isolated dome swamps occur within the southwestern parcel of Northeast Flatwoods Preserve. These wetlands are dominated by pond cypress, swamp bay, loblolly bay, slash pine, fetterbush and wax myrtle with Virginia chain fern, several sedge species, and sphagnum moss on the forest floor. Much of the mature cypress has been logged from these swamps. Some rutting from the logging operation is apparent in and adjacent to the swamps, and very dense shrub and vine thickets are formed at the swamp-flatwoods interface, probably a result of disturbance during logging, and the absence of fire.

#### Disturbed

A manmade ditch roughly bisects the southwestern and northern parcels of the Preserve, flowing north, through the northernmost basin swamp and into the upland mixed forest. A section of this ditch which extends approximately 400 feet north from County Road 225 is part of the public right of way and is maintained for drainage by the Alachua County Public Works Department. South of County Road 225, this ditch lies within a powerline corridor. Historic aerial photographs of the area indicate the ditch was constructed prior to 1938, and suggest that it originally terminated at or near the Santa Fe River. Aerial photographs from 1968 show evidence of logging and ground disturbance which may have effectively shortened the ditch, relocating its terminus. Today the ditch appears to terminate in the upland mixed forest before reaching the Santa Fe River.

An east-west electric transmission line right of way bisects the northern parcel of the Preserve. The right of way is maintained by Gainesville Regional Utilities, and is approximately 100 feet wide. Because woody vegetation is controlled and the right of way is mowed periodically, it is primarily vegetated with pasture grasses and forbs. In spite of its disturbed condition, gopher tortoises are active within the right of way, and in the forest fringe immediately adjacent to it.

**Table 1.** A summary of natural communities, acreages, condition and community rarity within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve. Classification follows FNAI except where noted.

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Natural Communities				
Community type	Acres	% of Area	Quality	FNAI Ranking
Upland Mixed Forest	43.5	18	Good	S4
Mesic Flatwoods	160.8	66	Very Good - Poor	S4
Basin Swamp	20.4	8	Good - Fair	S3
Depression Marsh	3.9	2	Fair - Poor	S4
Dome Swamp	9.3	4	Good -Fair	S3?
Disturbed	4.2	2	---	---

INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS

Five exotic plants designated as Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category I or II Species, are currently known to occur within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve (see Table 2). To date, all of the observed infestations are sporadic occurrences of individual plants or small patches. Most of the species are dispersed by animals and wind, or have been discarded on the property by humans.

Invasive exotic plants are known to alter native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structure or ecological functions. An ongoing monitoring and control program for invasive vegetation including exotic (non-native) and nuisance native plant species has been implemented within the Preserve. The objective of this program is to eliminate invasive exotic plant infestations and maintain a diverse cover of native vegetation. This will be accomplished through an integrated pest management program that includes physical removal, chemical control, bio-control as applicable and public education. Control techniques for invasive exotic plants will follow accepted control technologies, and treatment sites will be monitored on a yearly or more frequent interval to evaluate control methods.

Invasive Exotic Plant Strategies

- Continue treatment of invasive plant infestations using appropriate techniques.
- Monitor treated sites and institute a follow-up treatment program.
- Develop an exotic species database for property.

**Table 2.** Invasive exotic plants occurring at Northeast Flatwoods Preserve.

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Exotic Plants			
Common Name	Latin Name	FLEPPC Category	Abundance and Frequency Observed
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	I	scattered individuals
Tungoil tree	<i>Aleurites fordii</i>	II	scattered individuals
Camphor tree	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	I	infrequent dense patches
Japanese climbing fern	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	I	scattered small patches
Chinese tallow tree	<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	I	scattered individuals

## FERAL ANIMALS

To date, one feral cat has been observed on the property, and occasional sign of feral hogs passing through has been noted by Doug Mercer. Given the Preserve's proximity to residential areas it is likely that, in addition to hogs, domestic dogs and cats may be found periodically. The presence of these species is of concern because of their potential to cause a variety of negative ecological impacts through habitat degradation, predation on native species, and competition with native species. Staff will continually monitor the Preserve for the presence of feral animal species. If feral animals are discovered on the property, appropriate control measures will be taken to humanely remove them.

### Feral Animal Management Strategies

- Monitor and remove feral animal species.

## NATURAL COMMUNITY RESTORATION

Lands within the Preserve are schematically divided and alpha-numerically identified as distinct resource management units (RMUs) for the purpose of planning, implementing and monitoring management activities such as prescribed fire, exotic species control and restoration (Exhibit D). Typically within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve, RMUs are delineated by existing infrastructure such as roads or trails, and in some cases by natural or human-altered community type. Some RMUs contain more than one community type.

Approximately 165 acres within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve are identified for varying levels of ecological restoration or enhancement. This includes adaptive restoration of nearly 160 acres of pine forests and depression marshes within RMUs 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C and 3; hardwood control on approximately 30 acres within RMUs 1A and 1B; and native vegetation replanting on uplands within RMU 1B. General strategies for restoring the ecological function of these natural communities are briefly outlined below. These strategies provide logical, initial steps for the long-term restoration of the biological structure and function of the target areas. The strategies will be assessed and refined as needed during the restoration process to achieve long-term restoration success.

### Adaptive Restoration of Pine-dominated Forests and Depression Marshes

Nearly all of the pine forests and depression marsh communities within the Preserve have been degraded by lack of seasonal fires. The long-term restoration goal for the pine forests is to promote natural stands of uneven aged slash and longleaf pine with native groundcover; in the marshes the long-term goal is to decrease encroachment of pines and hardwoods, and encourage native groundcover. Restoration will be implemented over a period of several years, using a combination of prescribed fire, invasive plant control, and offsite hardwood removal. In the northern parcel of the Preserve, planting of wiregrass and other native groundcover, and planting of longleaf pine trees will also be part of the restoration. If any revenue is generated from thinning operations it will be used to fund some of the planned restoration activities.

#### Pine Forest Restoration Strategies

- Implement a prescribed fire schedule.
- Control invasive species.
- Remove offsite hardwoods within RMU 1B if fire fails to control them.

- Plant native groundcover and longleaf pine on degraded mesic flatwoods within RMU 1B.
- Revise plan as necessary to meet restoration goals.

#### Depression Marsh Restoration Strategies

- Implement a prescribed fire schedule.
- Remove offsite hardwoods and pines if fire fails to control them.

#### WILDFIRE AND PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGEMENT

The use of prescribed fire is a key management tool for the restoration and maintenance of natural communities found within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve. In addition to helping maintain fire-dependent ecosystems, when applied appropriately prescribed fire improves habitat for wildlife, promotes the preservation of listed plant and animal species, and reduces the risk of severe wildfire.

In Florida, natural communities have evolved with and are adapted to landscape fires. Each natural community type is adapted to fairly specific, although irregular, fire return intervals. Seasonal occurrence, fire intensity and severity, and fire effects on the crowns of trees or shrubs all help determine the physical and biological structure of a natural community. There are wide differences between natural communities in their adaptations to fire—some are maintained by frequent, low intensity fires (such as sandhill and flatwoods) whereas others are perpetuated by infrequent, high-intensity stand-replacing fires (such as sand pine scrub). Northeast Flatwoods contains approximately 200 acres of fire-dependent habitat, all of which should be burned on a two- to three-year return interval.

Detailed prescribed fire plans for Northeast Flatwoods Preserve are developed annually and coordinated with the Florida Division of Forestry (FDOF). The plans delineate individual resource management units (RMUs), and management objectives for each unit. In addition, the prescribed fire plans incorporate the desired fire frequencies and seasons for the Preserve's fire-dependant communities, the fuel types and loads within each unit, the construction and maintenance of fire breaks, and smoke management requirements for the property.

In addition to the application of prescribed fire, consideration will be given to alternative methods for fuels reduction, including but not limited to timber thinning, mowing, and roller chopping.

#### Prescribed Burn Program Strategies

- Maintain established internal and boundary firebreaks.
- Establish new internal or boundary firebreaks as needed to conduct prescribed fire.
- Continue to develop seasonal prescribed burning plans for Northeast Flatwoods Preserve.
- Implement prescribed fire in fire-dependent natural communities.
- Continue to participate in the North Central Florida Prescribed Fire Working Group.
- Educate neighbors and visitors about the natural role of fires in Florida.

#### LISTED SPECIES PROTECTION

##### Listed Plant Species

Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), a plant listed as Commercially Exploited by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and hooded pitcher plant

(*Sarracenia minor*), listed as Threatened by FDACS, are present on Northeast Flatwoods Preserve. Further inventory of the Preserve is likely to reveal additional listed species present.

Protecting populations of listed species is a primary management concern. To accomplish this, staff will continue to survey the Preserve for listed species and manage their natural communities appropriately. Observations of FNAI tracked species will be reported to FNAI using the Field Reporting Form, Exhibit E. Management activities to protect listed species will include invasive species control, prescribed fire where appropriate, minimizing human impacts, and future restoration of disturbed areas. Management activities will be analyzed to determine potential impacts on listed species (i.e. location of trails and physical improvements, timing of prescribed burns, timber harvests and planting).

Listed Animal Species

To date, gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), timber rattlesnake (*C. horridus*) and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) are known to occur within the Preserve. Bald eagles have also been observed within the Preserve. Eagles are no longer listed as Threatened or Endangered, however they are protected by Florida Administrative Code and by federal laws. Other listed species may utilize habitat within the Preserve, given the property’s diverse upland and wetland habitats, and its proximity to the Santa Fe River corridor. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) species occurrence models indicate that all of the natural communities of the Preserve could support listed species (Table 4).

The Preserve will be managed in a manner that protects and enhances habitat for listed wildlife species that utilize or potentially utilize the habitat. Periodic surveys will be conducted to identify listed species occurrences within the Preserve.

**Table 4.** Listed and tracked animal species observed in the Preserve and species likely to utilize the site.

Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Listed Wildlife					
Common Name	Scientific Name	Endemic/ Large home range	Fed/ State Status	FCREPA/ FNAI Designation	Record
<b>Birds</b>					
Cooper’s hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	-/-	-/-	SSC/S3	SM
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	-/L	-/-	T/S3	O
<b>Reptiles</b>					
Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	-/-	(T)/SSC	-/S4	K, SM
E. diamondback rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	-/-	-/-	-/S3	O, SM
Timber rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	-/-	-/-	-/S3	O
E. indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	-/-	T/T	SSC/S3	O, SM
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	-/-	-/T	T/S3	O, K, SM
Florida pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	X/-	-/SSC	-/S3	K
<b>Amphibians</b>					
Florida gopher frog	<i>Rana capito aesopus</i>	X/-	-/SSC	T/S3	K, SM
<b>Mammals</b>					
Florida black bear	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	X/L	-/T	T/S2	SM

FCREPA= Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals, X=Endemic, L=Large Home Range designation in the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission in the Closing the Gap study (1994, pg 19), E= Endangered, T=Threatened, SSC= Species of Special Concern, O=observed by Alachua Co. EPD staff and/or Doug Mercer, K=documented through KBN Study (1996), SM=documented as potential habitat by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Species Models (2002)

### Listed Species Strategies

- Report listed and tracked species occurrence data to FNAI using the appropriate Field Reporting Form (Exhibit E).
- Survey Northeast Flatwoods Preserve for listed species and document population locations and habitats.

### INVENTORY OF BIOTA AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Surveys of flora, fauna and natural communities within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve are ongoing, and species lists are continually updated (see Exhibits F and G). Tracked and listed species observed within the Preserve will be reported to FNAI using the data forms provided (Exhibit E). Surveys conducted by volunteer plant and wildlife experts will be encouraged through educational events on the property, including research projects, organized seasonal bird counts, and fieldtrips conducted by local natural history organizations such as the Florida Native Plant Society.

Photomonitoring is the primary method of tracking natural community changes that result from management and restoration activities. Site-specific baseline photographs will be made prior to initiating major management activities. Photopoints will be established and monitored on an annual basis, or as needed. Photopoint monitoring locations and data will be recorded in a database where changes will be documented.

### Inventory Strategies

- Survey flora, fauna and natural communities.
- Encourage surveys by volunteer plant and wildlife experts and local natural history organizations.
- Establish baseline photo data and photopoints, and monitor annually or as needed.
- Develop a database for tracking monitoring activities.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

There are currently no recorded Florida Master Site File (FMSF) sites within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve, although the likelihood of historic sites occurring there is high. The 1853 State of Florida survey map depicts the old Newnansville Road in the approximate location of present-day County Road 225. A circa-1925 historic structure located just west of the Preserve is recorded by the FMSF and county historic structure surveys. Remnants of old homesites and agricultural operations are evident in several locations of the Preserve. Neighbors to the Preserve have stated that the lands were historically owned by the Eddy family and farmed for turpentine and naval stores production. Alachua County deed records confirm that the Eddy family owned many tracts of land in this area along the Santa Fe River and east toward the town of Waldo in the early twentieth century.

Analysis of historic aerial photographs of the area suggests that lands within the Preserve are part of the historic but largely forgotten community of Louise, Florida. This location of Louise is recorded on historic maps of the area, including United States Geological Survey maps. Several building sites are visible on early aerials of the present-day Preserve. A chronological record of Florida Post Offices lists a Post office for Louise from July 1884 through November 1885, and from January 1913 through October 1926. A 1936 map of the area indicates the Louise community included multiple farm units, single-family dwellings, group dwellings, and a turpentine still. The abandoned T&J Railroad, which served the communities of Louise and

nearby Graham, is also in close proximity to the present-day Preserve boundary, and is still visible on modern aerial photographs.

Evidence of prehistoric sites has not been recorded within the Preserve to date, however given its proximity to the Santa Fe River and historic towns and trade routes, undiscovered prehistoric sites may certainly exist within Northeast Flatwoods.

Protection of known and undiscovered cultural resources within the Preserve is a management priority. Collection of artifacts or the disturbance of archaeological or historical sites, including for research purposes, is prohibited unless prior authorization has been obtained from the County. Newly discovered sites will be documented and recorded in the Florida Master Site File. Staff will maintain records and maps of all known cultural sites on the property, however locations of known sites will not be identified on public maps of the property.

#### Cultural Resource Protection Strategies

- Routinely visit known sites and note any disturbance.
- Evaluate all land management activities for potential disturbance to cultural sites.
- Record newly discovered sites with the Florida Master Site File.
- Interpret cultural and historical resources of the Preserve to the public.

#### IV. TIMBER RESOURCES

Controlling or manipulating the overstory in forests is an important tool in the maintenance or restoration of natural community structure. The composition and density of the overstory influences the health and diversity of understory species. If the overstory becomes too dense, both the overstory and understory species begin to suffer. In cases where the overstory remains crowded for long periods, desirable understory plant species begin to disappear. Often seeds of these plants will remain dormant in the soil. Thinning individual trees from an overcrowded stand allows more light, moisture and nutrients to be available for groundcover plants. This often allows dormant plants to reoccupy their former sites, thereby restoring a more natural species composition to the forest floor.

Most of the pine forests on Northeast Flatwoods Preserve are in good condition, with timber stands of varying age, composition, density and merchantability. In an effort to restore, enhance and preserve the ecological values of the pine forests in Northeast Flatwoods, future timber management efforts will include the introduction of prescribed fire, exotic species control and offsite hardwood removal. A primary focus area for restoration will be RMU 1B, in which significant hardwood removal is necessary, which may warrant a selective timber harvest. Any revenue generated from timber management within Northeast Flatwoods Preserve will be used to fund restoration activities in the Preserve.

#### Timber Management Strategies

- Develop and implement a timber management plan that focuses on the restoration and management of the pine forests within the Preserve.

#### V. SITE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

##### EXISTING PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Existing physical improvements in Northeast Flatwoods Preserve include approximately two and a half miles of unpaved forest roads, two pipe gates, eight cable gates, a few sections of boundary cables in new condition, and some old boundary fencing in poor condition (Exhibit H). The existing system of roads in the Preserve will be maintained and used for firebreaks,

authorized vehicular access, and guided hiking trails. Gates and fencing will be maintained, and additional fencing and gates may be constructed as necessary to secure the site.

Several elevated hunting stands are currently located on the property. These were constructed and are maintained and used by the License Agreement licensee, Doug Mercer. These structures may remain in the Preserve for the duration of the License Agreement, however they may be removed, moved, or damage protected as needed to allow for safe management operations by County staff, volunteers or contractors.

#### Existing Physical Improvement Strategies

- Maintain existing internal roads.
- Construct low water crossings or culverted crossings as needed.
- Maintain gates and fencing.

#### PROPOSED PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed physical improvements for Northeast Flatwoods Preserve include additional firebreaks to enhance fire management and a small parking area (Exhibit I). Trails will be designated along existing service roads and firebreaks. Appropriate, low-maintenance trailside amenities such as benches and observation areas will be constructed to improve the visitor experience.

Site development will be designed to ensure protection and preservation of the natural communities and listed species. All facilities will be situated to blend with surroundings and developed to provide guided access for observation and appreciation of the natural resources on the project site without causing harm to those resources.

Trash receptacles are not anticipated for the Preserve, as visitors will be encouraged to pack out their trash. If unwanted disposal of trash by visitors becomes a management issue, trash receptacles or other methods of trash control will be considered.

#### Physical Improvement Strategies

- Construct additional firebreaks as needed.
- Construct a small grass parking area.
- Develop, mark and maintain a trail system utilizing existing roads and firebreaks.
- Construct trailside amenities including benches and observation areas.
- Construction of additional fences and gates as needed for site security.

#### WETLAND BUFFER

Although no major facilities are planned at this time, if in the future major facilities are planned, a 100-foot buffer will be provided between any wetlands and major facilities, except wildlife observation platforms and boardwalks.

#### PARKING

A small, unpaved parking area is planned for a trailhead on County Road 225, as funding and site conditions permit (see Exhibit I).

#### STORMWATER FACILITIES

Stormwater facilities are not anticipated for the Preserve. Should stormwater facilities be deemed necessary for future site development, they will be designed with shallow slopes and provide recreational open space or wildlife habitat in a park-like setting, and will not be fenced.

## HAZARD MITIGATION

Policy 5.6.8 of the Conservation and Open Space Element of the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan directs the County to implement a fuels management program to eliminate or minimize wildfire hazards. The implementation of prescribed fire at Northeast Flatwoods Preserve will further this directive, and the directives in the Local Mitigation Strategy (approved by Florida Department of Community Affairs and FEMA in 2004) by mitigating wildfire hazards in the wildland/urban interface.

## PERMITS

Alachua County staff has identified a number of potential permits for proposed development within the Preserve. These may include:

- Development order issued by the Alachua County Development Review Committee for any activities not specifically exempted by the Unified Land Development Code.
- Noticed General Environmental Resources Permit issued by the Suwannee River Water Management District in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for construction adjacent to or in wetlands.
- Flood zone hazard permit from the Alachua County Public Works Department for construction within the flood zone.

### Permit Strategies

- Apply for required permits prior to initiating physical improvements.

## EASEMENTS AND LICENSE AGREEMENTS

There are two rights of way indicated on the property survey, both within the northern parcel. A 100-foot wide right of way for Florida Power & Light high voltage transmission lines extends westward across the property from County Road 1475. This right of way is currently maintained by Gainesville Regional Utilities. A lateral ditch that is identified on the survey as part of the original Florida State Road Department right of way extends north into the property from County Road 225. The Alachua County Public Works Department currently maintains this ditch. In addition, a second electrical utility line crosses the southwestern parcel north-to south, following the manmade ditch. This line is maintained by Clay Electric Company, although no right of way or easement is indicated on the survey for this corridor.

The County holds a License Agreement with a former lessee of the site to provide site security, maintenance and feral hog removal services in exchange for limited hunting privileges. This Agreement is renewable annually, however when the Preserve is opened to the public, the Agreement may be terminated or significantly changed.

In addition to the existing rights of way and License Agreement, research and collecting permits may be issued by Alachua County for scientific research on the property.

## VI. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

### COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

Alachua County staff regularly communicates with land managers of adjacent and nearby public lands to avoid conflicting management activities, and to improve effective management of the County's conservation lands within the larger ecological corridor. Northeast Flatwoods Preserve is not currently adjacent to or near other public lands.

### OPTIMUM BOUNDARY

Acquisition of parcel number 16893-001-000 would greatly enhance the management of the Preserve by providing an additional access point to the Preserve, and by easing constraints for prescribed fire management in this area of the Preserve. Refer to Exhibit J for the Optimum Boundary map.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement and local government participation was sought in the development of the Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Management Plan through a noticed public meeting and public review period for the draft management plan. Refer to Exhibit K for the Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Management Planning Meeting Minutes and the Summary of Comments Received.

### MAINTENANCE

Perpetual maintenance of the site will entail regular work to keep gates, roads and firebreaks, fences, signs and other physical improvements in good, functional condition. Gates should be monitored regularly for needed repairs, as part of ongoing site security. Boundary signs and markers, and interpretive trail signs and structures require periodic inspection, cleaning and repair to maintain their function and legibility.

Because many of the roads in the Preserve are utilized as firebreaks, annual firebreak maintenance will include some mowing and clearing of the roads. However regular maintenance mowing and vertical trimming will be necessary to keep roads open and in good repair for dual use as recreational trails. In addition, because the site is seasonally flooded, Preserve roads will require occasional maintenance including re-crowning, erosion repair, road surface stabilization and re-contouring of roadside swales and ditches. In some places, low water crossings or culverts may be necessary.

The License Agreement licensee performs regular site inspections and limited site maintenance in exchange for limited hunting privileges. EPD staff will conduct all maintenance activities that do not fall within the License Agreement utilizing County staff, volunteers, contractors and inmate crews. These activities may include solid waste removal, invasive species control, and maintenance of signs, roads and trails. If the License Agreement is terminated, EPD staff will conduct all maintenance activities on the Preserve.

#### Maintenance Strategies

- Monitor gates monthly for needed repairs.
- Mow and vertically trim roads, trails and firebreaks as needed to maintain them in open condition.
- Maintain, repair, and stabilize roads, firebreaks, ditches and swales as needed.
- Install low water crossings or culverts in roads and firebreaks as needed.
- Inspect boundary signs and markers annually and maintain as needed.
- Inspect interpretive signs and structures monthly and maintain as needed.
- Conduct maintenance activities utilizing county staff, volunteers, contractors, or inmate labor.

### SECURITY

General on-site security will be provided primarily by the License Agreement Licensee. In the event the License Agreement is terminated or additional security is required, security of the site will be provided through staff, contractors and/or volunteers.

The Northeast Flatwoods Preserve boundary is only partially fenced. Unauthorized off-road vehicular usage occurs at times. Unauthorized access will be evaluated and appropriate measures to discourage it will be implemented. These may include additional or more secure fencing or gates, placement of boulders or bollards, signage and additional security patrols. Informational and regulatory signage will be posted on the site.

In order to facilitate emergency response on Northeast Flatwoods Preserve, a map book was created and provided to the Alachua County Public Safety Department (ACPS), FDOF, and FWC. The book includes an aerial map of the site marked with site access points, firebreaks, and Alachua County staff emergency contact numbers. This map book will be periodically updated to reflect changes in ACF sites, and made available to appropriate response agencies.

#### Security Strategies

- Provide regular security patrols.
- Fabricate and install informational and regulatory signage.
- Periodically update wildfire response information.

#### STAFFING

Alachua County EPD staff will coordinate the management of Northeast Flatwoods Preserve, with assistance from other County departments, contractors, volunteers, and partners.

## VII. REFERENCES

- Cox, J., R. Kautz, M. MacLaughlin, and T. Gilbert. 1994. Closing the Gaps in Florida's Wildlife Habitat Conservation System, Office of Environmental Services, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.
- Cox, J. and R. Kautz. 2000. Habitat Conservation Needs of Rare and Imperiled Wildlife in Florida. Office of Environmental Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.
- FLEPPC. 2009. List of Invasive Species. Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council.  
<http://www.fleppc.org/list/List-WW-F09-final.pdf>
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory. 1990. Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida. Florida Department of Natural Resources. Tallahassee, Florida.
- KBN, A Golder Associates Company. 1996. Alachua County Ecological Inventory Project. Prepared for Alachua County Department of Growth Management, Office of Planning and Development. Gainesville, Florida.
- Scott, Thomas M. 1988. The Lithostratigraphy of the Hawthorn Group (Miocene) of Florida. Florida Geological Survey Bulletin No. 59. Tallahassee, Florida.
- Thomas, B.P., E. Cummings and W.H. Wittstruck. 1985. Soil Survey of Alachua County, Florida. USDA Soil Conservation Service.

### VIII. MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION CHART

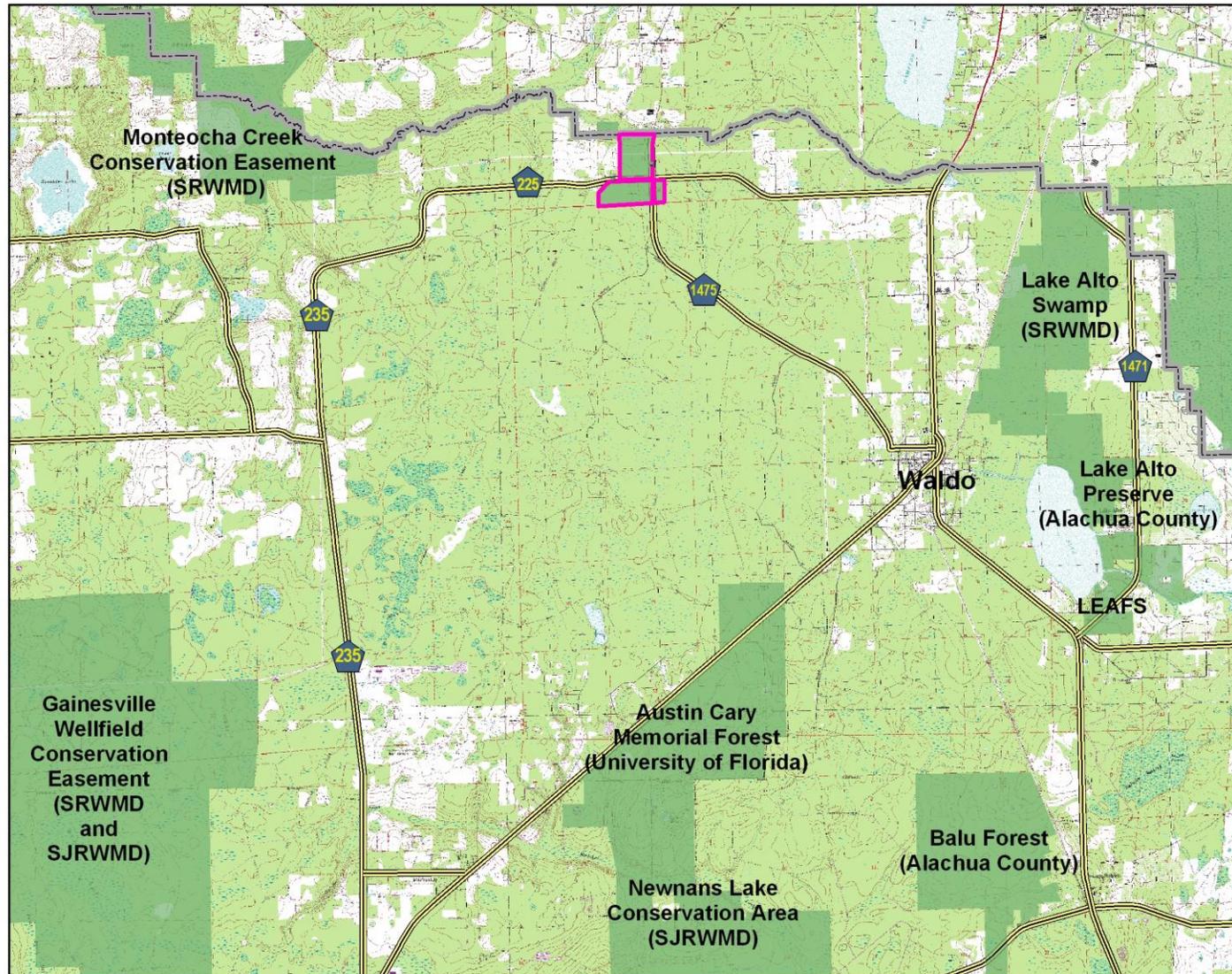
<b>Task</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Potential Cooperators</b>
<b><u>Land Use and Zoning</u></b>				
Amend Future Land Use to Preservation	12/2010	Staff time		ACGMD
Change zoning to Conservation	06/2011	Staff time		ACGMD
<b><u>Natural Resource Protection</u></b>				
Survey flora, fauna and natural communities.	Ongoing	Staff time		Volunteers, FNPS, ACT
Survey for listed species and document population locations and habitats.	Ongoing	Staff time		Volunteers, FNPS, ACT
Report listed and FNAI tracked species occurrence data to FNAI.	Ongoing	Staff time		FNAI
Develop GIS databases for tracking monitoring activities.	Ongoing	Staff time		
Maintain photo-monitoring throughout the Preserve.	Ongoing	Staff time		
<b><u>Invasive Plant Strategies</u></b>				
Survey and monitor invasive plants on the Preserve.	Ongoing	Staff time		FNAI
Treat invasive plant infestations using appropriate techniques.	Ongoing	Staff time \$1,000/year	GF or grants	Volunteers, contractors, grant agencies
Monitor treated sites and establish a follow-up treatment program.	Ongoing	Staff time		
<b><u>Restoration</u></b>				
Remove offsite hardwoods within RMU 1B if fire fails to control them.	12/2010, Ongoing	Staff time \$300	GF	SRWMD, ACOE, FDEP, ACEPD
Plant native groundcover and longleaf pine on approximately 5 acres within RMU 1B.	Ongoing	Staff time \$800	GF	
Assess and revise restoration goals.	2015	Staff time		
<b><u>Prescribed Fire</u></b>				
Develop and implement seasonal prescribed fire plans for the Preserve.	Fall, Spring	Staff time, \$1,700/yr if contracted	GF	FDOF, contractors
Continue to participate in the North Central Florida Prescribed Fire Working Group.	Ongoing	Staff time		Working Group members
Maintain boundary fire breaks.	Annually	\$600/year if contracted	GF	FDOF
Maintain RMU fire breaks.	Seasonally	\$800/year if contracted	GF	FDOF
Educate neighbors and visitors about prescribed fire	Ongoing	Staff time		FDOF
<b><u>Feral Animals</u></b>				
Monitor and remove feral animals	Ongoing	TBD		Licensee, ACAS, USDA
<b><u>Cultural Resource Protection</u></b>				
Document newly discovered sites in the Florida Master Site File.	As needed	Staff time		DHR

<b>Task</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Potential Cooperators</b>
Survey areas for cultural or historical resources before any ground disturbing activities occur.	As needed	TBD		DHR, Contractor
<b><u>Timber Resources</u></b>				
Develop and implement a timber management plan that focuses on the restoration of the pine forests within the Preserve.	01/2011	Staff time		ACPSD, FDOF
<b><u>Site Development &amp; Improvement</u></b>				
Purchase and install entrance sign.	01/2015	\$1,500	GF	Contractor, Volunteers
Construct grass parking area.	01/2015	\$500	GF	
Construct an interpretive trail system utilizing existing trails and roads.	01/2015	\$200 Staff time	GF	Volunteers
Apply for required permits prior to initiating physical improvements and restoration activities.	As needed	\$500 Staff time	GF	ACGMD, SRWMD, ACOE
<b><u>Maintenance</u></b>				
Conduct maintenance activities using County staff, Licensee, volunteers, contractors, and partners.	Ongoing			Licensee, Volunteers, Contractors
Maintain (mow, trim, clear) existing roads and trails.	Ongoing	Staff time, \$1500/yr if contracted	GF	Licensee, ACPSD, Volunteers
Remove solid waste from Preserve.	Ongoing	\$500 Staff time	GF	Volunteers, Contractors
<b><u>Security</u></b>				
Provide regular security patrols.	Monthly	Staff time		Licensee, Volunteers, FWC, ACSO, FDEP
Fabricate and install informational & regulatory signage.	12/2011	\$500	GF	Volunteers, Public Works, community service, contractors

ACAS Alachua County Animal Services  
 ACEPD Alachua County Environmental Protection Department  
 ACF Alachua County Forever  
 ACGMD Alachua County Growth Management Department  
 ACHC Alachua County Historical Commission  
 ACOE United States Army Corps of Engineers  
 ACPW Alachua County Public Works  
 ACSO Alachua County Sheriff's Office  
 ACT Alachua Conservation Trust

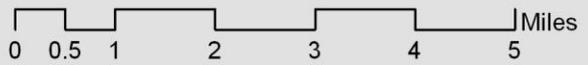
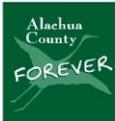
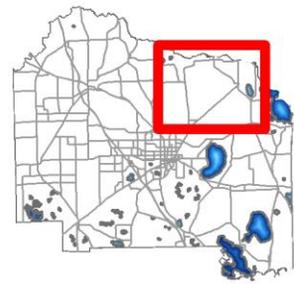
DHR Department of State Division of Historic Resources  
 FDEP Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
 FDOF Florida Division of Forestry  
 FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
 FNAI Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
 FNPS Florida Native Plant Society  
 GF General Fund  
 SRWMD Suwannee River Water Management District  
 USDA United States Department of Agriculture

# Exhibit A - Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Location Map



## Legend

- Preserve Boundary
- Conservation Lands
- County Boundary

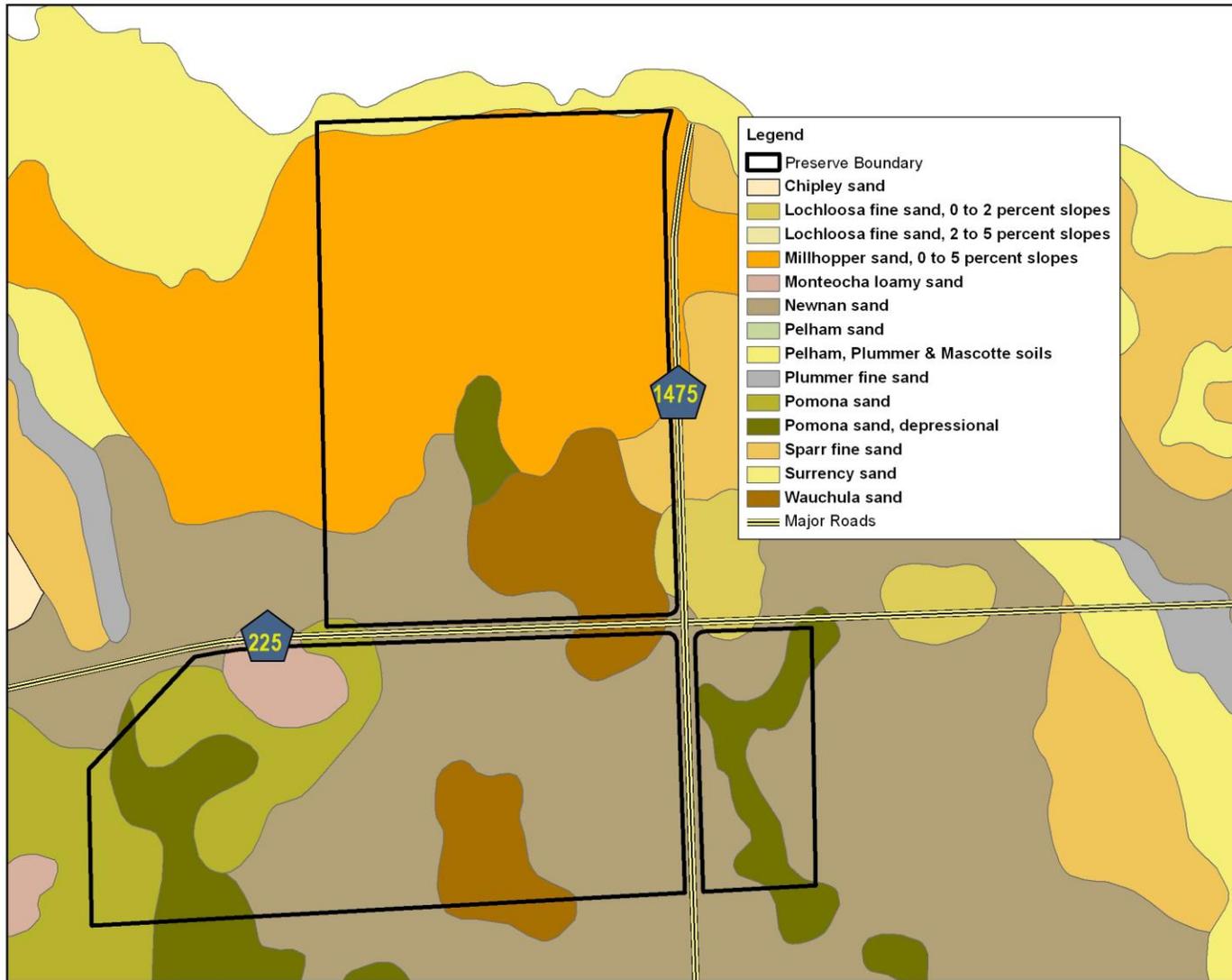


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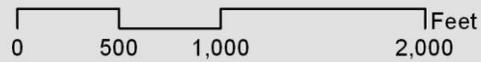
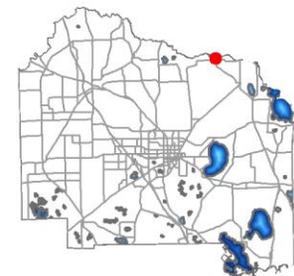
# Exhibit B - Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Soils Map



**Environmental Protection**

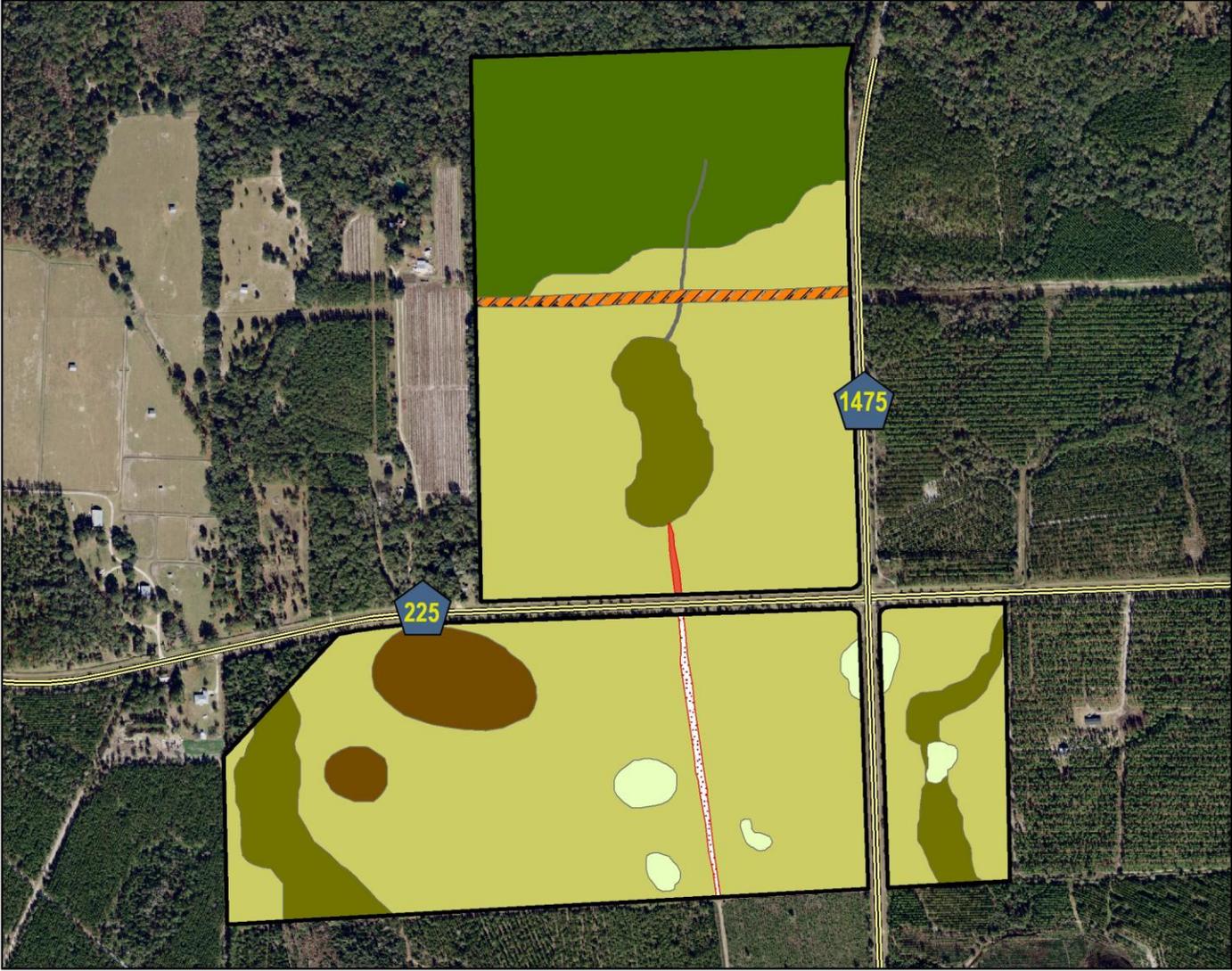


- Legend**
- Preserve Boundary
  - Chipley sand
  - Lochloosa fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
  - Lochloosa fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes
  - Millhopper sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
  - Montecocha loamy sand
  - Newnan sand
  - Pelham sand
  - Pelham, Plummer & Mascotte soils
  - Plummer fine sand
  - Pomona sand
  - Pomona sand, depressional
  - Sparr fine sand
  - Surrency sand
  - Wauchula sand
  - Major Roads



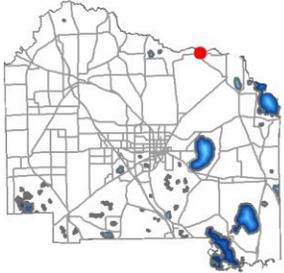
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# Exhibit C - Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Natural Communities Map



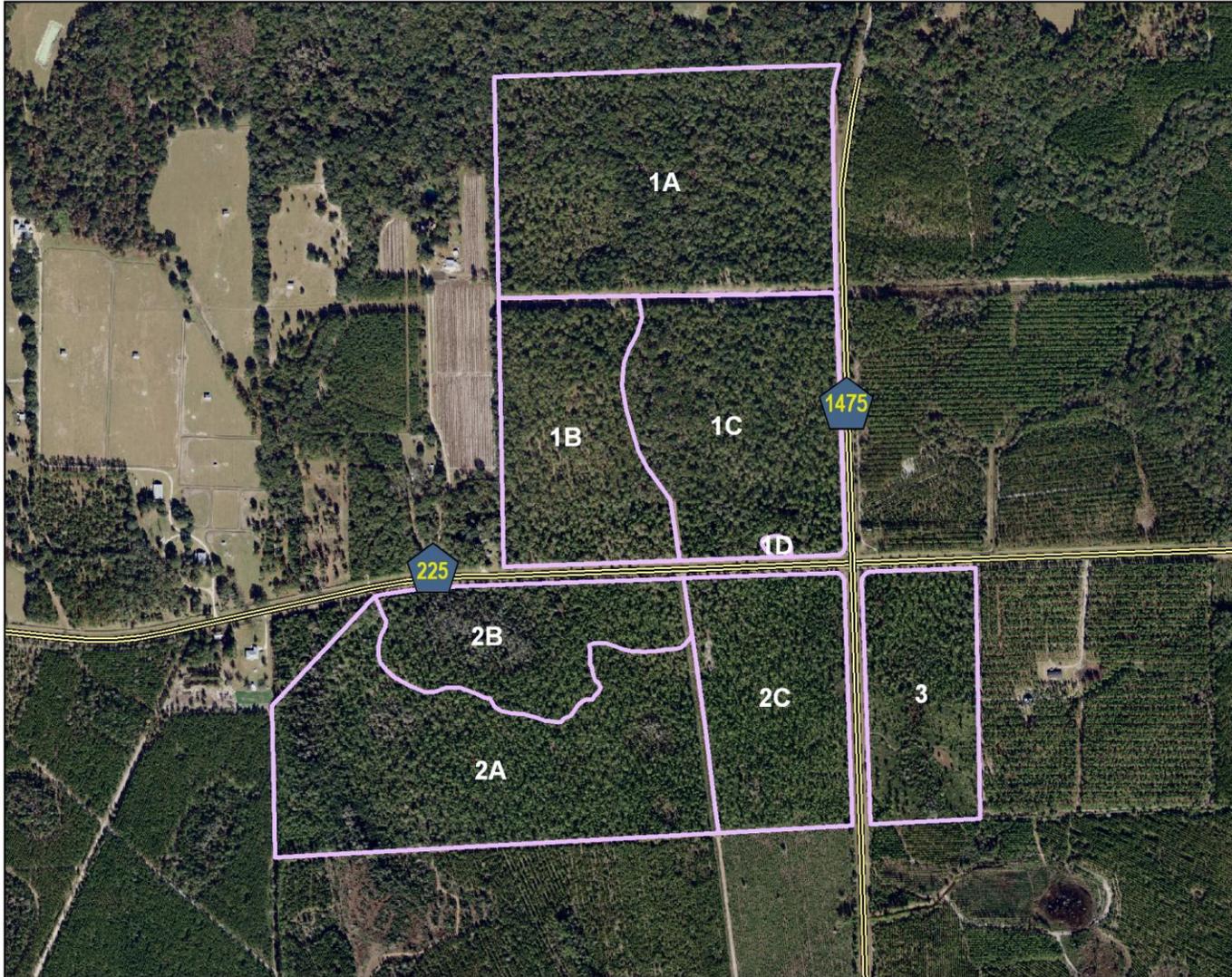
**Legend**

- Preserve Boundary
- Basin Swamp
- Depression Marsh
- Dome Swamp
- Mesic Flatwoods
- Upland Mixed Forest
- Disturbed - Ditch
- Disturbed - Ditch & Electric Line
- Disturbed - Ditch ROW
- Disturbed - Electric ROW
- Major Roads



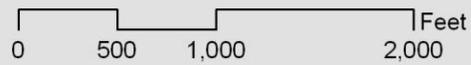
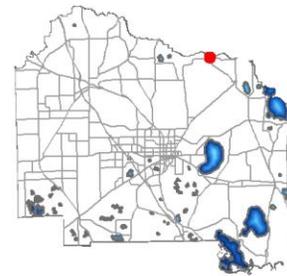
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# Exhibit D - Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Resource Management Units (RMUs)



### Legend

- RMU
- Major Roads



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EXHIBIT E: FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY REPORTING FORMS

**FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY**  
**FIELD REPORT FORM FOR RARE PLANTS**

Thank you for taking the time to complete and mail this form. Information from knowledgeable individuals such as yourself makes an important contribution to the FNAI Biological Conservation Database. If you need help with this form, or would like additional information, please call the FNAI Botanist at 850-224-8207.

Scientific name: \_\_\_\_\_ Common name: \_\_\_\_\_

Basis for identification or manual used: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) seen: \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph taken? \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen deposited at a herbarium? \_\_\_\_\_ Name of herbarium: \_\_\_\_\_

Quad name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Site or managed area name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions (mark site on copy of USGS 7.5 minute quad map or aerial photo and attach to this form, or draw a detailed map on back of this page that shows boundary of population, and/or give GPS location (latitude/longitude): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the site: habitat/plant community; topography; hydrology; dominant species in tree, shrub, and ground layers: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Size of Population (no. of individuals, size of area occupied, and % of that area occupied by this species): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you confident this is the full extent of the population? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ Is further survey needed? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Flowering? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ Fruiting? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ In bud? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ In leaf? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ Dormant? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Have you seen this species at the same location in the past? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ If yes, give dates: \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, describe changes, if any, to site and population since last visit \_\_\_\_\_

Are there disturbances or threats (e.g. vehicle use, trash dumping, fire suppression, exotic species invasion) to the population? If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there evidence (e.g., fire breaks, scorching) of the use of fire at the site? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ If yes, describe and give dates of recent fires, if known \_\_\_\_\_

Other useful information concerning the population, its ecological conditions, management history, management needs, names of individuals who might be helpful, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel no.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any additional information on the back of this sheet and send this form to: Botanist, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 1018 Thomasville Rd., Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL 32303. THANK YOU!

K:\sci\_info\botany\field form-rare plants101305 October 13, 2005

**FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY**      **FIELD REPORT FORM - OCCURRENCES OF SPECIAL ANIMALS**

Scientific Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date observed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Basis for Identification: \_\_\_\_\_ Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Animal (please attach map and give specific directions; if possible, mark site on copy of USGS 7.5 minute topo map or draw detailed map on back of this page):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe habitat/plant community, list dominant species:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Extent of this habitat at site that may support animal (e.g., acres, miles) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of individuals (or nests, burrows, etc.) seen:

Estimated no. of individuals in population:

Age/population structure (adults, young, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Ecological/behavioral notes (e.g., reproductive stage, activity type, feeding, flying, nesting):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen this species at the same location in the past? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please give date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Previous condition: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there evidence of disturbance at the site? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) of site: \_\_\_\_\_

Is owner protecting this animal? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation/Management

Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (other useful information concerning this animal and site - e.g., names and addresses of individuals who might be helpful, publications, museum specimen numbers, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

(please include any additional information on the back of this sheet.)

Additional forms may be obtained upon request. Please send completed field report forms to:

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Zoologist  
Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
1018 Thomasville Rd., Suite 200-C  
Tallahassee, FL 32303; ph. (850) 224-8207  
Fax (850) 681-9364; dhipes@fna.org

\*\* note: each form should include only one species, one locality, and one date

**Florida Natural Areas Inventory - Natural Community EOR Form (pg 1 of 2)**

D

Surveysite: \_\_\_\_\_ Surveyors: \_\_\_\_\_ Polygon # or ID: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 GPS file #: \_\_\_\_\_ lat: \_\_\_\_\_ long: \_\_\_\_\_ Photo #: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Directions/locational comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Community type: \_\_\_\_\_ Soil series: \_\_\_\_\_ Source: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOMINANT VEGETATION WITHIN 20M RADIUS OF OBSERVATION POINT:**

STRATA	cov cl	ht cl	DOMINANT SPECIES COVER: Scientific name - Braun/Blanquet scale
emergent tree			
canopy			
sub-canopy			
tall shrub/ sapling			
short shrub/ sapl, seedl.			
herbaceous tot.			
graminoid			
forb			
fern			
non-vascular			
epiphyte			
vine / liana			

Cover Class - Use Braun/Blanquet scale: 1=0-1% 2=1-5% 3=5-25% 4=25-50% 5=50-75% 6=75-100%  
 Height Class - 1<0.5m 2=0.5-2m 3=2-5m 4=5-10m 5=10-15m 6=15-20m 7=20-35m 8>35m

**SUCCESSION COMMENTS**

**CANOPY AGE**

- 1 old growth      4 younger mature
- 2 older mature    5 prereproductive trees
- 3 mature          6 early successional

SUCCESSION COMMENTS (tree size, structure, age, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**NATURE OF DISTURBANCE**

- 1 firebreaks
- 2 ORV trails or roads
- 3 agriculture
- 4 wildlife food plots
- 5 forestry site prep.
- 6 logging activities
- 7 animal digging
- 8 ditching or hydrologic
- 9 shrub encroachment
- 10 exotics encroachment
- 11 natural disturbances

**SEVERITY OF DISTURBANCE**

- 1 light
- 2 moderate
- 3 heavy
- 4 severe

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEDY SPECIES**

- 1 absent
- 2 occasional - <5%
- 3 common - >5%

List: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXOTIC SPECIES**

- 1 absent
- 2 occasional - <5%
- 3 common - >5%

List: \_\_\_\_\_

Disturbance Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**HYDROLOGIC ALTERATION**

- 1 shrub encroachment      6 dams in watershed
- 2 fire breaks                7 canals
- 3 ditching                    8 salt water intrusion
- 4 roads                        9 groundwater drawdown
- 5 impoundment              10 cause unknown

COMMENTS (Discuss severity for each type and give overall description): \_\_\_\_\_

**PAST FIRE**

- 1 not suppressed      3 not applicable
- 2 suppressed          4 unknown

Comments/evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

**MANAGEMENT COMMENTS**



EXHIBIT F: PRESERVE PLANT SPECIES LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	FDAC	FWS	FNAI
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	RED MAPLE				
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	SILKTREE	Exotic			
<i>Aleurites fordii</i>	TUNGOIL TREE				
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM				
<i>Aristida stricta</i>	WIREGRASS				
<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	EBONY SPLEENWORT				
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY				
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	TRUMPET CREEPER				
<i>Carya sp.</i>	HICKORY				
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	SPADELEAF				
<i>Chasmanthium sp.</i>	WOODOATS				
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	CAMPHORTREE	Exotic			
<i>Cnidocolus stimulosus</i>	TREAD-SOFTLY				
<i>Cornus florida</i>	FLOWERING DOGWOOD				
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	COMMON PERSIMMON				
<i>Drosera brevifolia</i>	DWARF SUNDEW				
<i>Eupatorium capillifolium</i>	DOGFENNEL				
<i>Gaura angustifolia</i>	SOUTHERN BEEBLOSSOM				
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	YELLOW JESSAMINE				
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	LOBLOLLY BAY				
<i>Hypericum fasciculatum</i>	SANDWEED; PEELBARK ST.JOHN'S-WORT				
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	INKBERRY; GALLBERRY				
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	YAUPON				
<i>Lachnanthes carolina</i>	CAROLINA REDROOT				
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	SWEETGUM				
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	JAPANESE CLIMBING FERN	Exotic			
<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	FETTERBUSH				
<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>	POWDERPUFF				
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	WAX MYRTLE				
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	BLACKGUM				
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	CINNAMON FERN				C
<i>Panicum hemitomom</i>	MAIDENCANE				
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	VIRGINIA CREEPER				
<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	BAHIAGRASS	Exotic			
<i>Persea borbonia</i>	RED BAY				
<i>Persea palustris</i>	SWAMP BAY				
<i>Pinus elliotii</i>	SLASH PINE				
<i>Pinus glabra</i>	SPRUCE PINE				
<i>Pinus palustris</i>	LONGLEAF PINE				
<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	NARROWLEAF SILKGRASS				
<i>Pleopeltis polypodioides var. michauxiana</i>	RESURRECTION FERN				
<i>Polygala lutea</i>	ORANGE MILKWORT				

<i>Polygala nana</i>	CANDYROOT		
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	BLACK CHERRY		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum var. pseudocaudatum</i>	TAILED BRACKEN		
<i>Pterocaulon pycnostachyum</i>	BLACKROOT		
<i>Quercus geminata</i>	SAND LIVE OAK		
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	LAUREL OAK		
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	WATER OAK		
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	LIVE OAK		
<i>Rhexia sp.</i>	MEADOWBEAUTY		
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	WINGED SUMAC		
<i>Rhynchospora colorata</i>	STARRUSH WHITETOP		
<i>Rhynchospora sp.</i>	Beaksedge		
<i>Rubus sp.</i>	BLACKBERRY		
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	GRASSY ARROWHEAD		
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	CHINESE TALLOWTREE	Exotic	
<i>Sarracenia minor</i>	HOODED PITCHERPLANT		T
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	SAW PALMETTO		
<i>Smilax bona-nox</i>	SAW GREENBRIER		
<i>Smilax sp.</i>	GREENBRIER		
<i>Sphagnum sp.</i>	SPHAGNUM MOSS		
<i>Spiranthes vernalis</i>	SPRING LADIESTRESSES		
<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	POND CYPRESS		
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	EASTERN POISON IVY		
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	OHIO SPIDERWORT		
<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	FORKED BLUECURLS		
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	SPARKLEBERRY; FARKLEBERRY		
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY		
<i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>	SHINY BLUEBERRY		
<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	MUSCADINE		
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	VIRGINIA CHAIN FERN		
<i>Xyris sp.</i>	YELLOWEYED GRASS		

EXHIBIT G: PRESERVE ANIMAL SPECIES LIST

**Birds**

**Origin Status**

Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	
Black vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	
Pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	
Gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	G5S3 <sup>1</sup>
Baltimore oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	
Red-headed woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	
Eastern screech-owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	
Downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	
Eastern towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	
American woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	
Eurasian collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Exotic
Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	
Brown thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	
Yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	
White-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	
<b>Reptiles and Amphibians</b>		
Cottonmouth	<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>	
Black racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	
E. diamondback rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	G4S3 <sup>1</sup>
Canebrake rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	G4S3 <sup>1</sup>
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	G3S3 <sup>1</sup> / T <sup>2</sup> / T <sup>3</sup>
Red rat snake	<i>Elaphe guttata</i>	
Yellow rat snake	<i>Elaphe obsoleta</i>	
Broadhead skink	<i>Eumeces laticeps</i>	
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	G3S3 <sup>1</sup> / T <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Masticophis flagellum flagellum</i>	
Eastern coachwhip	<i>Nerodia fasciata</i>	
Banded watersnake	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>	
Eastern glass lizard	<i>Rana sphenoccephala</i>	
Southern leopard frog	<i>Rhineura floridana</i>	
Florida worm lizard	<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	

### **Mammals**

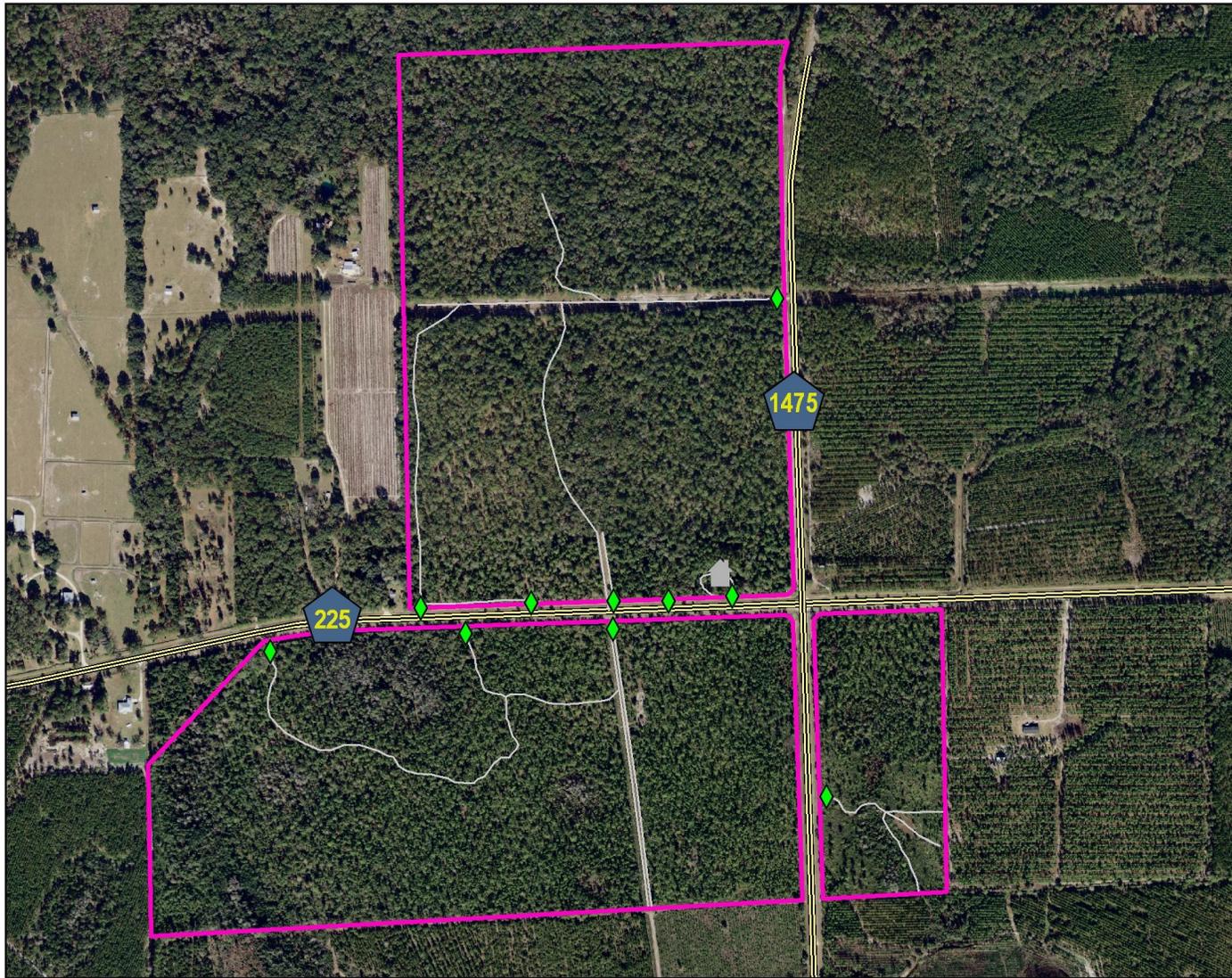
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Exotic
Nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	Exotic
Opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	
Feral cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	Exotic
Southern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus floridanus</i>	
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	
Eastern gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	
Feral hog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Exotic
Gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	

<sup>1</sup>FNAI Rank: G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors; G4 = Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range); G5 = Demonstrably secure globally; S3 = Either very rare and local in Florida (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.

<sup>2</sup>State listed as Threatened: species, subspecies, or isolated population facing a very high risk of extinction in the future.

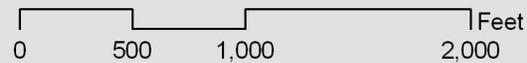
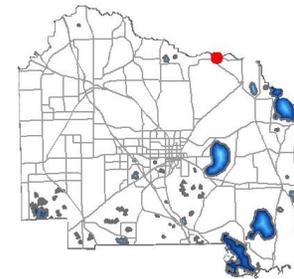
<sup>3</sup>Federally listed as Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

# Exhibit H - Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Existing Site Improvements



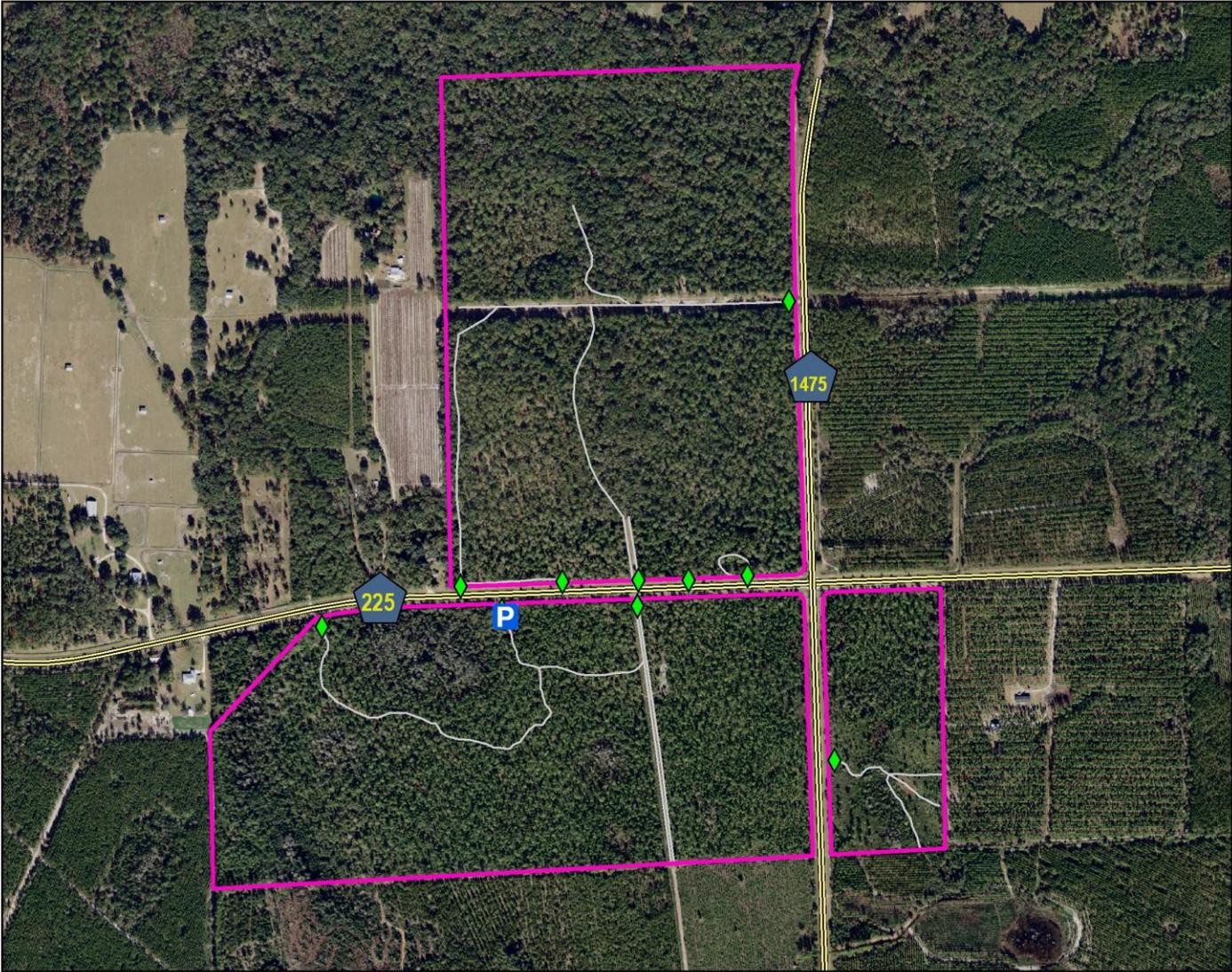
### Legend

- Preserve Boundary
- Old Homesite
- Gates
- Roads, Trails & Firebreaks
- Major Roads



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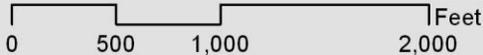
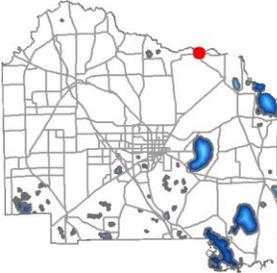
# Exhibit I - Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Conceptual Site Plan



**Environmental Protection**

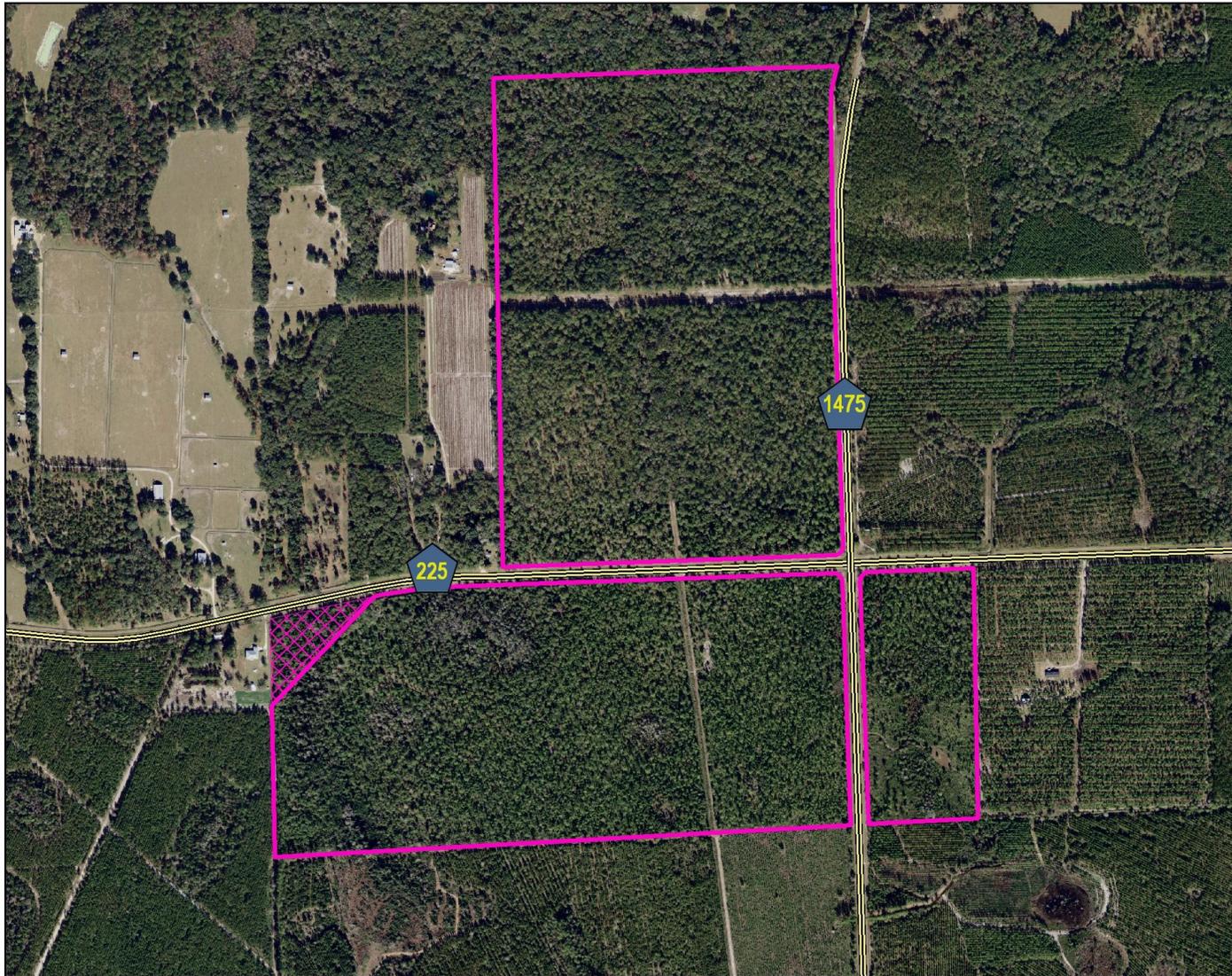
**Legend**

- Preserve Boundary
- ◆ Gates
- Roads, Trails & Firebreaks
- P Proposed Parking Area
- Major Roads



DISCLAIMER: This map and the spatial data it contains are made available as a public service, to be used for reference purposes only. The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department provides this information AS IS without warranty of any kind. The quality of the data is dependent on the various sources from which each data layer is obtained.

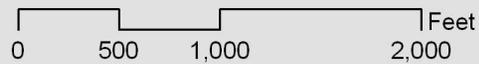
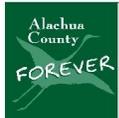
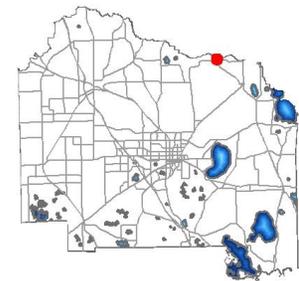
# Exhibit J - Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Optimum Boundary Map



**Environmental Protection**

### Legend

-  Preserve Boundary
-  Parcel 16893-001-000
-  Major Roads



DISCLAIMER: This map and the spatial data it contains are made available as a public service, to be used for reference purposes only. The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department provides this information AS IS without warranty of any kind. The quality of the data is dependent on the various sources from which each data layer is obtained.

EXHIBIT K: MANAGEMENT PLANNING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

## PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

### Northeast Flatwoods Preserve Management Planning Meeting

Date: September 29, 2010

Location: Yerkes Center, 14245 Cole Street, Waldo, Florida

Present: Sandra Vardaman, Susie Hetrick, Robert Eaton, Doug Mercer

---

- I. Introduction and welcome by **Sandra Vardaman**, including discussion of the Alachua County Forever (ACF) Program.
- II. Site overview, Natural Resources and Land Management, Recreational Opportunities and Conceptual Site Plan by **Susie Hetrick**
- III. Public Comments: – An informal discussion between attendees covered prescribed burning, proposed parking area location, public access to the Preserve, and site security. No written public comments were submitted at the meeting. Written comments were provided via email after the meeting (attached).
- IV. Meeting adjourned

**From:** Robert Eaton [mailto:reaton352@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 12:01 PM  
**To:** Susanna Hetrick  
**Cc:** elbert.southall.b2vz@statefarm.com  
**Subject:** Northeast Flatwoods Preserve

Susie Hetrick,

After reviewing the management plan for the Northeast Flatwoods Preserve, I am concerned about proposed physical improvements, specifically, the development of a network of trails and the construction of a parking area. I believe that these improvements would make the site more suitable for dumping, habitation by transients, drug use and dealing, deviant behaviors, and/or other illegal activities. Some of these things are already going on! I understand that the Northeast Flatwoods Preserve would be open for guided tours initially. Eventually being open to the public at large concerns me the most. So I am opposed to the construction of a parking area and the development of any additional trails.

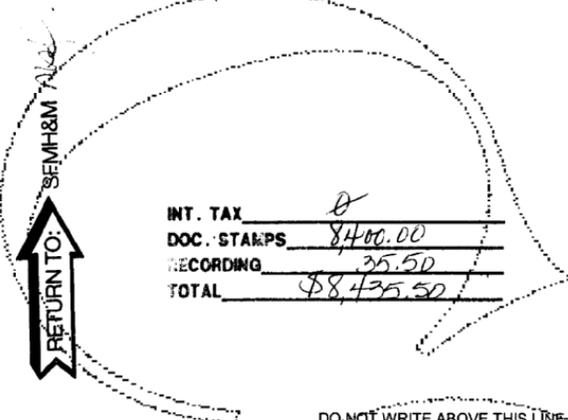
Sincerely,  
Robert Eaton

**From:** Elbert Southall [mailto:elbert.southall.b2vz@statefarm.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 2:13 PM  
**To:** Susanna Hetrick  
**Cc:** Robert Eaton  
**Subject:** NORTHEAST FLATWOODS PRESERVE

I AM THE OWNER OF THE PARCEL OF LAND BORDERED ON THE WEST BY CR 1475 AND SOUTH BY 225(RACETRACK RD.) I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THERE ARE PROPOSED PLANS TO DEVELOP TRAILS AND A PARKING AREA ON THE PROPERTY WEST OF ME NAMED NORTHEASE FLATWOODS PRESERVE. I AM ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO THIS BECAUSE IT WILL OPEN AN AREA FOR PRACTICES THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ME AS A NEIGHBOR. THERE IS ALREADY ILLEGAL DUMPING, QUESTIONABLE SEXUAL ACTIVITY, AND APPARENT DRUG USE IN THE AREA. I HAVE FOUND EVIDENCE OF SUCH ADJACENT TO MY PROPERTY AND THE OTHER PROPERTY OF CONCERN. IN ADDITION, I HAVE BEEN ROBBED FOUR TIMES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. I DON'T WANT ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC ADJACENT TO ME THAT MOST SURELY WILL INCLUDE MORE TRASPASSERS ON MY PRIVATE PROPERTY. IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOT WISE USE OF MY TAX DOLLARS, ESPECIALLY IN SUCH TIGHT ECONOMIC TIMES. THE LAND WAS PURCHASED WITH TAX DOLLARS, REMOVED FROM THE TAX ROLLS AND IS NON REVENUE PRODUCING, AND TAX DOLLARS ARE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTAINENCE. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ME WHEN DOLLARS ARE SCARCE.

*ELBERT SOUTHALL*

APPENDIX A: COPY OF DEED



RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS  
 INSTRUMENT # 2213027 4 PGS  
 2006 FEB 08 04:33 PM BK 3312 PG 375  
 J. K. "BUDDY" IRBY  
 CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
 ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 CLERK10 Receipt#271098  
 Doc Stamp-Deed: 8,400.00

INT. TAX 0  
 DOC. STAMPS 8400.00  
 RECORDING 35.50  
 TOTAL \$8,435.50



DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE RESERVED FOR RECORDING USE ONLY

WARRANTY DEED

THIS WARRANTY DEED made the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006 by  
**A. P. & E. INCORPORATED, a dissolved Florida Corporation and WALTER R. KNUDSEN and FRANK M. GAFFORD, Individually**, whose postoffice address is 224 East Duval Street, Lake City, FL 32055-4085; 314 S. E. Noble Glen, Lake City, FL 32025 and 224 East Duval Street, Lake City, FL 32055-4085, respectively, hereinafter called the Grantor,

to

**ALACHUA COUNTY, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida**, whose postoffice address is P. O. Box 2877, Gainesville, FL 32602-2877, hereinafter called the Grantee.

(Wherever used herein the terms "Grantor" and "Grantee" include all the parties to this instrument and the heirs, legal representatives and assigns of individuals and the successors and assigns of corporations)

WITNESSETH:

That the Grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of \$10.00 and other valuable considerations, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hereby grants, bargains, sells, aliens, remises, releases, conveys and confirms unto the Grantee, all that certain land situated in Alachua County, Florida, viz:

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

TAX PARCEL NO. 16893-000-000

THIS IS NOT THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY OF GRANTOR NOR IS IT CONTIGUOUS THERETO.

TOGETHER with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the same in fee simple forever.

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AND the Grantor hereby covenants with said Grantee that the Grantor is lawfully seized of said land in fee simple; that the Grantor has good right and lawful authority to sell and convey said land; that the Grantor hereby fully warrants the title to said land and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever; and that said land is free of all encumbrances, except taxes accruing subsequent to December, 2005.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Grantor has signed and sealed these presents the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered

A.P. & E., INCORPORATED,  
a dissolved Florida corporation

By: Walter R. Knudsen  
WALTER R. KNUDSEN, President

Robert L. Biggs  
Printed Name: Robert L. Biggs

Melissa Jay Murphy  
Printed Name: Melissa Jay Murphy

Robert L. Biggs  
Printed Name: Robert L. Biggs

Melissa Jay Murphy  
Printed Name: Melissa Jay Murphy

Walter R. Knudsen  
WALTER R. KNUDSEN

Robert L. Biggs  
Printed Name: Robert L. Biggs

Melissa Jay Murphy  
Printed Name: Melissa Jay Murphy

Frank M. Gafford  
FRANK M. GAFFORD

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006, by  
Walter R. Knudsen as President of A. P. & E., INCORPORATED, a dissolved Florida Corporation,

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who has produced a driver's license issued within 5 years from date as identification; OR  who is personally known to me; OR  who produced Other: \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

*Melissa Jay Murphy*  
Notary Public  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission No.: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires:

(Affix Notary Seal)



STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006, by Walter R. Knudsen, who  is personally known or  has produced a driver's license as identification.

*Melissa Jay Murphy*  
Notary Public  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission No.: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires:

(Affix Notary Seal)



STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006, by Frank M. Gafford, who  is personally known or  has produced a driver's license as identification.

*Melissa Jay Murphy*  
Notary Public  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission No.: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires:

(Affix Notary Seal)



THIS DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:  
Melissa Jay Murphy, Esq.  
Salter, Feiber, Murphy,  
Hutson & Menet, P.A.  
P.O. Box 357399  
Gainesville, FL 32635-7399

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EXHIBIT "A"

INSTRUMENT # 2213027  
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Section 32, Township 7 South, Range 21 East:

The West 208.75 feet of the East 499.15 feet of the South 208.75 feet of the West ½ of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 and East 208.75 feet of the West 380.35 feet of the South 208.75 feet of the North 274.75 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4.

AND

The Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4; LESS AND EXCEPT: Commence at the Northwest corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 and run East 10 chains Southwesterly to the West line of the Section then run North 10 chains to the Point of Beginning and LESS the North 40 feet for right-of-way.

AND

The East ½ of the West ½ of the South 3/4 LESS the South 208.75 feet of the North 274.75 feet of the East 208.75 feet of the West 380.35 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 and LESS existing right-of-way.

AND

The Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 West of the graded road AND the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 West of the graded road LESS the West 208.75 feet of the East 499.15 feet of the South 208.75 feet of the West ½ of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 AND LESS existing right-of-way, AND the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 LESS right of way as recorded in Official Records Book 268, at page 41, and LESS right-of-way as recorded in Official Records Book 268, at Page 98, public records of Alachua County, Florida.