Watermelon Pond Preserve Management Plan

Approved by Alachua County Board of County Commissioners June 9, 2015

Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department
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Watermelon Pond Preserve
Management Plan Summary

Date of Plan: June 9, 2015 **Management Area:** 1,179.5 acres
Location: Southwestern Alachua County, between Archer and Newberry
Date Acquired/Cost:

King Parcel, 02711-006-000, 39.4 acres , acquired August 2, 2006 for $296,871
Gladman Parcel, 02707-000-000, 445.6 acres, acquired January 3, 2007 for $225,000
Ferran Parcel, 02711-006-012, 34.3 acres, acquired October 21, 2008 for $216,200
Metzger Parcel, 02690-000-000, 640.9 acres, acquired April 11, 2012 for $2,142,700
Wright Parcel, 02684-003-000, 19.3 acres, acquired by donation July 26, 2013

Funding Source: Parcels 02711-006-000, 02707-000-000, and 02711-006-012 were purchased with Alachua County Forever Bond funds. Parcel 02690-000-000 was purchased with Wild Spaces Public Places Surtax funds. Parcel 02684-003-000 was donated to Alachua County Forever by Judge Margaret Kathleen Wright.

Summary: Watermelon Pond Preserve is composed of five separate parcels of land located in southwestern Alachua County between Archer and Newberry. Outstanding ecological features of Watermelon Pond Preserve include nine distinct natural communities, some in excellent condition, and a large portion of Watermelon Pond, a sandhill upland lake. Lands within the Preserve were acquired to improve and manage environmentally significant lands, to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

The Preserve's 445.6-acre Gladman tract lies completely within Watermelon Pond, and is adjacent to the Watermelon Pond County Boat Ramp Park, which is managed by Alachua County Public Works Department, as well as portions of Goethe State Forest, which is managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS), and the County-owned Metzger tract, which is described below. The Gladman tract is also located one-quarter mile south of the Watermelon Pond Wildlife Environmental Area (WEA), a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) property. Publicly-owned lands in the vicinity of Watermelon Pond form a checkerboard pattern, leaving significant gaps. The Gladman tract was acquired to protect Watermelon Pond, fill in the checkerboard pattern, and to facilitate consistent management of surrounding public lands.

The Ferran and King tracts, 34.3 and 39.4 acres respectively, are located adjacent to the Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute, a 90-acre portion of which is under a Conservation Easement owned by Alachua County with its own stewardship plan. This area is dominated by very good quality sandhill. The Ferran and King tracts were purchased to preserve and enhance the sandhill natural community.

The 640.9-acre Metzger tract is the largest in the Preserve, and is adjacent to the FWC Watermelon Pond WEA, and the Alachua County Watermelon Pond Park. This property is dominated by improved pasture and mesic hammock. Remnant native vegetation on the edges of the pasture indicates it was once sandhill habitat. A portion of Watermelon Pond lies within the Metzger tract, at the southwest corner. The Metzger tract was purchased to improve the connection between existing conservation lands in the Watermelon Pond project area.

The 19.3-acre Wright tract is located northeast of the other properties. This parcel was bequeathed to Alachua County Forever by the former owner, Judge Margaret Kathleen Wright. The property consists of excellent quality sandhill.

Key Management Objectives:

1. Maintain, enhance or restore 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. Implement managed cattle grazing on the Metzger tract to maintain open, grassy conditions of the former sandhill to facilitate future restoration.
6. Protect water resource values from adverse impacts.
7. Effectively and responsibly manage cultural resources.
8. Promote public outdoor recreation and environmental education consistent with preserving the historic and natural resources of the site.

Resource Management Issues:

- FIRE MANAGEMENT - Implement prescribed fire to restore and maintain fire-dependent natural communities within the Preserve.
- RESTORATION – Restore approximately 495 acres of sandhill as restoration technology improves and funding sources become available, and restore approximately 3 acres of mesic flatwoods with prescribed fire and planting of longleaf pine.
- INVASIVE PLANTS - Control or eradicate invasive plant species.
- FERAL ANIMAL REMOVAL – Monitor and remove feral animals as needed.
- CULTURAL RESOURCES - Protect known sites from disturbance, and coordinate with Florida Department of State Division of Historic Resources regarding identification and protection of cultural 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 - Develop trailhead facilities, and an interpretive kiosk.
- RECREATION - Develop a network of hiking trails. Incorporate the Gladman tract into the Watermelon Pond Wildlife Management Area for hunting.
- EDUCATION - Develop interpretive exhibits and trail signs for the Gladman tract and a portion of the Metzger tract.
- MAINTENANCE - Maintain all improvements.
- SECURITY - Perform regular security patrols, install informational and regulatory signage.

I. INTRODUCTION

Watermelon Pond Preserve was acquired by Alachua County with funds from the Alachua County Forever (ACF) Bond, the Wild Spaces Public Places (WSPP) Surtax, and by private donation. The ACF Bond 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. The Wild Spaces Public Places Surtax was approved by Alachua County voters in 2008 to acquire and improve conservation lands and create, improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities within Alachua County. This management plan was developed to ensure that the Preserve will be managed in accordance with the goals of the ACF Program.

Watermelon Pond Preserve is composed of five separate parcels of land located in southwestern Alachua County on the deep, sandy soils of the Brooksville Ridge. Outstanding ecological features of Watermelon Pond Preserve include nine distinct natural communities, some in excellent condition, including sandhill and a large portion of Watermelon Pond, and a dynamic mosaic of sandhill upland lake, basin marsh, wet prairie and mesic hammock islands.

LOCATION

The 1,179.5-acre Watermelon Pond Preserve is located in southwestern Alachua County between Archer and Newberry and consists of five separate parcels designated as the Gladman, Ferran, King, Metzger, and Wright tracts (Exhibit A). The Preserve's Gladman tract is accessible from the Watermelon Pond County Park on SW 250th Street, and is adjacent to portions of Goethe State Forest, which is managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). The Gladman tract is located one-quarter mile south of the Watermelon Pond Wildlife Environmental Area (WEA), a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) property. The County Park lies between the Gladman tract and the WEA, and is adjacent to the Metzger tract.

The Ferran and King tracts are accessible from SW 119th Avenue and a private ingress/egress easement, and are located adjacent to the Ashton Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute, a portion of which is part of the Ashton Conservation Easement owned by Alachua County.

The Metzger tract is accessible from SW 250th Street and SW 234th Street, and is located adjacent to the Watermelon Pond WEA and the Watermelon Pond County Park.

The Wright tract is accessible from SW 202nd Street and a private ingress/egress easement.

ACQUISITION HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Gladman tract, and a portion of the Metzger tract, were originally included as part of the Florida Forever Watermelon Pond land acquisition project. In addition, four of the tracts in the Preserve lie within the Alachua County Forever Watermelon Pond Project, which was defined largely by the Watermelon Pond Site identified in the 1996 Alachua County Ecological Inventory Project (KBN). The KBN Watermelon Pond site was ranked 15th of 47 ecologically significant sites evaluated in Alachua County.

Alachua County acquired four of the parcels which compose Watermelon Pond Preserve with separate fee simple purchases, and one by private donation. The 39.4-acre King tract (parcel 02711-006-000) was acquired from Elizabeth King Williams on August 2, 2006 for $296,871. The 445.6-acre Gladman tract (parcel 02707-000-000) was acquired from Mary Helen Borsch on January 3, 2007 for $225,000. The 34.3-acre Ferran tract (parcel 02711-006-012) was purchased from Robert C. Ferran on October 21, 2008 for $216,200. The 640.9-acre Metzger tract (parcel 02690-000-000) was acquired from the Harold Maxwell Metzger heirs on April 11, 2012 for $2,142,700. The 19.3-acre Wright tract (parcel 02684-003-000) was bequeathed to Alachua County Forever by the late Judge Margaret Kathleen Wright on July 26, 2013. Appendix A contains a copy of the deeds for the properties within Watermelon Pond Preserve. The five acquisitions total 1179.5 acres.

It is important to note that the Gladman and Metzger tracts contain sovereign submerged lands associated with Watermelon Pond. To date, a surveyed determination of the extent of sovereign submerged lands within the Gladman parcel has not been completed. A recent boundary survey of the Metzger tract indicates 33.01 acres of the property lie below the "approximate ordinary high water line" of Watermelon Pond. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program granted management authorization of the lands within Watermelon Pond to the Alachua County Forever Program in 2012 and 2013. Appendix B contains copies of the authorization letters.

Lands within Watermelon Pond Preserve were acquired to improve and manage environmentally significant lands, to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation. The Gladman tract was acquired to protect Watermelon Pond, to help fill in the checkerboard pattern of publicly owned lands within the Florida Forever Watermelon Pond project, and to facilitate consistent management of surrounding public lands. The Ferran and King tracts were purchased to preserve and enhance the sandhill natural community. The Metzger tract was acquired to improve the connection between existing conservation lands in the Watermelon Pond project area. The Wright tract was acquired, through bequeathal, to preserve and enhance the sandhill natural community.

NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMARY

The natural resources of Watermelon Pond Preserve feature outstanding examples of several unique natural communities, including sandhill and a large portion of Watermelon Pond. Nine distinct natural communities occur within the Preserve, in addition to significant areas of improved and semi-improved pasture. Many of the natural communities are in very good condition. The dominant natural community is sandhill upland lake. Other natural communities present are basin marsh, depression marsh, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, baygall, sandhill and wet prairie.

PREVIOUS USES

Prior to acquisition, the parcels within Watermelon Pond Preserve were utilized for various purposes including cattle grazing, hunting, and silviculture. Neighbors to the Ferran and King tracts reported remnants of a turpentine still are located nearby, suggesting the pine forests around and within the Preserve may also have been used for turpentine production (Ray Ashton, neighbor to the Ferran and King tracts, personal

communication). Analyses of aerial images of the property indicate that timber harvesting has occurred over the years throughout the area, more than once in some locations. The most recent harvests appear to have occurred in the early 1990's within the sandhill of the Ferran and King tracts. Slash pine, sand pine and red cedar were replanted on the Ferran tract, and longleaf pine were replanted on the King tract in 1993 (Dave Conser, Alachua County Forester for the Florida Forest Service, personal communication). Longleaf pines were replanted on the Wright tract in 1999 and 2000 (Deanna Kinnard, neighbor to the Wright tract, personal communication).

RECREATION

Recreational opportunities within Watermelon Pond Preserve will be provided on the Gladman and Metzger tracts, which offer several different resource-based recreational alternatives, depending upon existing site conditions. When Watermelon Pond is dry and established roads and trails are exposed, opportunities will include hiking, horseback riding, fishing and nature observation. When Watermelon Pond is flooded, or hydrological conditions on the site permit, recreational opportunities will also include boating. Hunting opportunities may also be provided on the Gladman and Metzger tracts.

A trailhead at the existing Watermelon Pond County Park parking area will provide access to the Gladman and Metzger tracts. A trail network utilizing existing roads and firebreaks will be established for use during dry periods. Interpretive materials will be developed to educate visitors about the natural and cultural resources of the area, and the recreational opportunities provided within the Preserve and on surrounding public lands.

The Ferran, King and Wright tracts will be open by appointment for staff-guided walks and nature observation.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Watermelon Pond 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, natural resource-based recreational experience. Watermelon Pond Preserve is managed only for the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources, and for natural resource-based recreation that is compatible with the conservation, protection and enhancement of the site. The desired future condition of Watermelon Pond Preserve is the preservation of existing high quality natural communities, and restoration and/or enhancement of species diversity and wildlife habitat in areas impacted by previous land uses, while providing visitors with an enjoyable nature experience that enhances their understanding and appreciation of Alachua County's rich natural and cultural history.

PRIORITIZED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Maintain, enhance and restore natural communities.
    - Implement prescribed fire in fire-dependent natural communities to manage fuel loads and to promote healthy functioning natural systems.
    - Implement managed cattle grazing on the Metzger tract to maintain open, grassy conditions of the former sandhill to facilitate future restoration.

    - Pursue restoration of degraded natural communities.
    - Manage altered communities such that future restoration potential is enhanced or not degraded.
    - Remove feral animals.
    - Remove invasive plants and offsite hardwoods.
- Monitor and document effects of management activities.
    - Ensure that management activities do not harm listed species.
- Continue to inventory flora and fauna.
- Protect water quality and soil resources.
- Document, protect, and monitor cultural resources.
- Provide opportunities for educational, natural resource-based recreational experiences.
    - Work cooperatively with managers of adjacent public lands to provide complementary recreational activities.
    - Develop a network of trails.
    - Develop interpretive materials appropriate to the resources of the Preserve.
- Implement creative solutions to accomplish basic stewardship needs such as staffing, security and maintenance.

LAND USE AND ZONING

The future land use and zoning for the Gladman, Ferran, King, and Metzger tracts are governed by Alachua County. Because the Wright tract is located within the City of Newberry municipal limits, future land use and zoning of that parcel are governed by the City of Newberry. For that reason, the current and future land use and zoning designations vary, and are detailed below.

Currently, the future land use designations for the Gladman, King and Ferran tracts (tax parcels 02707-000-000, 02711-006-000 and 02711-006-012 respectively) are Preservation. The future land use designation for the Metzger tract (tax parcel 02690-000-000) is Rural Agriculture. All four parcels are zoned Agriculture. Upon approval of the management plan, staff will initiate the procedures to change the future land use of the Metzger tract to Preservation. Once the future land use change is complete, staff will initiate the procedure to change the zoning from Agriculture to Conservation for all four tracts.

The future land use and zoning for the Wright tract (tax parcel 02684-003-000) are Agriculture, and Agriculture, respectively. Upon approval of the management plan, staff will coordinate with the City of Newberry to change the future land use of the Wright tract from Agriculture to Conservation, and to change the zoning from Agriculture to Conservation.

III. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

TOPOGRAPHY

Watermelon Pond Preserve is located on the northern edge of the Brooksville Ridge physiographic region of Florida (Fernald and Purdum1998). The Brooksville Ridge is a high, sandy ridge that is a remnant of an ancient sand dune which was exposed

when much of peninsular Florida was inundated by the sea. Elevations within the Preserve range from approximately 110 feet at a high point in the pasture within the Metzger tract, to approximately 46 feet in the northwest corner of the Gladman tract, within the Watermelon Pond basin. Human alteration of the natural topography is evident in the form of excavated borrow pits and artifact looting pits, roads, swales and firebreaks, and boat prop scars within the Watermelon Pond basin.

GEOLOGY

The geology underlying Watermelon Pond Preserve consists of a solution-riddled karst limestone plain overlain by undifferentiated sediments. The undifferentiated materials consist of sand and clays of Recent to Pliocene age, with thick deposits of Pleistocene sands forming the Brooksville Ridge (Williams et al. 1977). The Ocala Limestone is very near the surface. In this area of the County the Floridan aquifer is unconfined, aquifer recharge is high, and aquifer vulnerability to pollution is high (Baker et al. 2005).

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist within the property. In nearby areas sands of the Brookville Ridge are extensively excavated for use as fill in building and construction projects.

SOILS

Nine soil types recognized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service are present within Watermelon Pond Preserve (Exhibit B) (Thomas et al. 1987). These soils range from well drained to very poorly drained, and are typically sandy in one or more horizons.

Significant soil erosion is not currently occurring within the Preserve, although evidence of past erosion is apparent along the steep slopes between the sandhill and depression marsh communities within the Ferran tract. Maintaining adequate cover of vegetation is critical in minimizing erosion on these slopes. Because the fertility of the soil is low, damage to naturally occurring vegetation can pose a long-term threat to soil stability, primarily because recovery will be slow.

Soil rutting and compaction is an ongoing management challenge within the Gladman tract. Long-standing, recreational activities within the Watermelon Pond basin have included the unchecked use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), airboats, motorboats, and standard automobiles. Large portions of the basin are dry for long periods of time, and people who desire access to open waters of the lake have established a network of roads through the higher portions of the basin which connect to nearby public roads. These roads create compacted ruts in which the vegetation is dead or suppressed. In addition, “pond-hopping” by airboat users between bodies of open water leaves behind deep ruts in the lake basin which persist for decades.

Because they are subject to erosion, compaction and rutting, and because vegetation is very slow to recover, slopes and saturated soils in many portions of the Preserve may limit recreational use and site development. Land stewards will follow generally accepted best management practices to prevent soil erosion and conserve soil and water resources on site.

The soil types found within Watermelon Preserve are briefly described in Appendix D.

HYDROLOGY

Watermelon Pond Preserve is situated in a non-contributing area of the Waccasassa River Basin. Watermelon Pond and other surface water features in the area are supported by discontinuous clays present in reworked deposits that lie beneath the Pleistocene sands. There is no current connection between these surface water features and the Waccasassa River system. Drainage is vertical and flow within the Floridan aquifer system in this area is northeast toward Archer and away from the Brookville Ridge and Waccasassa River (Robin Hallbourg, Professional Geologist, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, personal communication). The primary hydrologic feature of the Preserve is Watermelon Pond itself, portions of which are found within the Gladman and Metzger tracts.

Watermelon Pond is a sandhill upland lake with fluctuating water levels, and no apparent surface inflows or outflows. Water enters the lake primarily by rainfall and by subsurface groundwater flow from surrounding uplands. Water exits the lake by evaporation, transpiration and by groundwater flow to surrounding lands. During times of drought, the lake subsides to a series of isolated ponds interconnected with basin marsh or prairie habitat. Times of prolonged, heavy rainfall result in flooding of the lake basin which often results in coalescing of the isolated ponds, and can persist for years. The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) collects lake level data from a staff gauge at the County boat ramp park and groundwater elevation data from a monitoring well approximately one mile north of the park on SW 250th Street. Lake level data from 1999 to the present day are available from the SRWMD, and range from zero, when the lake is dry at the gauge, to a reported gauge height of 16.24 feet, measured in February 2006. It is important to note that, even when the lake is dry at the staff gauge, water typically stands in some of the isolated ponds within the lake basin.

Watermelon Pond is classified as a Class III water body, which means it is designated for "recreation, propagation, and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife," pursuant to 62-302.400(12)(b), Florida Administrative Code. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Storage and Retrieval Database (STORET) contains sporadic data from eight water quality sampling stations on Watermelon Pond, collected from various agencies from the 1980's until 1992. The most consistent data collection and compilation occurred from 1988 to 1992 by Florida Lakewatch. Data from these collections indicates that the water in the lake was relatively low in pH, and nitrogen levels were higher than would be expected from a typical, nutrient-poor sandhill lake.

In addition to Watermelon Pond, other important hydrologic features within the Preserve include depression marshes within the Ferran, King and Metzger tracts, and a small sandhill upland lake on the Metzger tract. The depression marshes are small, isolated, ephemeral ponds within the sandhill community, which developed over sinkhole formations. Historic aerial photographs of the area indicate these depressions become flooded during major flood events. No water level or water quality data are available for the depression marshes.

The sandhill upland lake on the Metzger tract is locally called "Black Pot," and is situated within the improved pasture northeast of the mesic hammock and sandhill communities. Historic aerial photographs of the area indicate this pond always holds water, and local residents purport that it is "spring-fed." Because the lake is situated well

above the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer, it is unlikely that the source of water in the lake is from the Floridan. Water in the lake most likely comes directly from rainfall, and indirectly from the surrounding hillsides. A hillside seep or spring may develop during times of significant and steady rainfall (Robin Hallbourg, personal communication).

NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Nine distinct natural communities and two human-altered landcover types (FNAI 2010) exist within Watermelon Pond Preserve (Exhibits C.1 and C.2). The natural communities span a range from xeric upland communities to the sandhill upland lake community of Watermelon Pond. The dominant natural communities within the Preserve are sandhill upland lake, wet prairie, and basin marsh, all of which occupy fluctuating areas within the Watermelon Pond basin, depending on rainfall conditions. Together, these three community types cover approximately 453 acres, or 38 percent of the Preserve area, and are located within the Gladman and Metzger tracts. Because of their fluctuating boundaries, the estimated acreages described for these three natural communities may change dramatically over time.

The two human-altered landcover types within the Preserve are improved pasture and semi-improved pasture. Improved pasture is the dominant human-altered landcover, occupying approximately 390 acres on the Metzger tract.

All of the natural communities and human-altered landcover types identified within the Preserve are described in detail below and are summarized in Table 1.

Sandhill

The Ferran, King and Wright tracts are largely dominated by sandhill (approximately 33.3 acres on Ferran, 39.1 acres King and 19.3 acres on Wright), which ranges from fair to excellent condition. Many characteristic overstory and understory species are present on all three tracts, including bluejack oak (*Quercus incana*), sand live oak (*Q. geminata*), turkey oak (*Q. laevis*), longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboretum*), wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*), and lopsided indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*). Active gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows are frequent throughout all three tracts.

Groundcover is abundant and diverse within the sandhill on all three tracts, and appears to be most diverse on the Wright tract. Saw palmetto occurs in fairly dense patches on the Ferran and King tracts, and Florida rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*) occurs sporadically throughout all three, albeit more frequently on the Ferran tract. Sandhill groundcover species within the adjacent Ashton Conservation Easement appear to be more diverse than those occurring within the sandhill communities on the Preserve. This is likely due to a recent management history of frequent prescribed fire on the Ashton tract, which suggests that similar management of the sandhill within the Preserve may promote better groundcover diversity.

Portions of the sandhill on the Ferran, King and Wright tracts appear disturbed by past land management activities, and by a lack of fire. Historic aerial photographs of the area indicate the sandhill within all three tracts was logged more than once since 1937, and was most recently logged in the early to mid-1990's. In 1993, off-site species including sand pine (*P. clausa*), slash pine (*P. elliottii*), loblolly pine (*P. taeda*) and southern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) were planted on the Ferran tract, and longleaf

pine was planted on the King tract (Dave Conser, County Forester, Florida Forest Service, personal communication). Longleaf pine was planted on the Wright tract in 1999 and 2000 (Deanna Kinnard, Wright tract neighbor, personal communication). A former home site on the King tract contains centipedegrass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*) and bahia-grass (*Paspalum notatum*), which have been treated with herbicide. The treatement area was subsequently planted with wiregrass. Water oaks (*Q. nigra*) and laurel oaks (*Q. laurifolia*) are invading portions of the sandhill on all three tracts, likely a result of past alteration to the land and subsequent lack of fire. Ground fuels in the sandhill on both tracts consist of a mixture of pine needles and grasses. Where oaks are dominant, ground fuels are sparse. Prescribed fire was recently introduced to the sandhill communities on the King tract in 2008 and on the Ferran tract in 2010, in an effort to arrest off-site oak encroachment and to encourage the regeneration of wiregrass and other desirable groundcover.

Historic aerial photographs indicate the improved and unimproved pasture areas within the Metzger tract were once sandhill. Today, remnants of the sandhill, including wiregrass, longleaf pine, turkey oak and bluejack oak, persist along the edges of the pastures, and in narrow transition areas between the pastures and hammock communities. The remnants are sporadic and do not form a contiguous community, and are therefore not shown on the natural community map. It is anticipated that future management of the site will improve and expand these areas. This is discussed in more detail below within the Restoration section.

Mesic hammock

Several oak islands, classified as mesic hammock, occur within the Watermelon Pond basin on the Gladman tract (approximately 44.1 acres). These islands are in good to very good condition, and are dominated by live oak (*Q. virginiana*) which forms a closed canopy with other tree species including American holly (*Ilex opaca*), wild olive (*Osmanthus americanus*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) and red bay (*Persea borbonia*). Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), highbush blueberry (*V. corymbosum*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) and American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) occur sparsely in the midstory. Groundcover on these closed-canopy and shady islands is largely absent, however where present it consists of sparse patches of plants such as wood oats (*Chasmanthium laxum*), witchgrass (*Dichanthelium sp.*) and partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*).

Lack of fire in the fire-dependent natural communities surrounding the islands has promoted the development of dense thickets of vines and shrubs at the edges of some of the islands. In addition, there is evidence of ongoing human disturbance on some islands, including excavated pits for archaeological looting, vehicle tracks, solid waste deposits, and fireplow scars.

Approximately 83.5 acres of mesic hammock occur on the Metzger tract. There are several relatively small, isolated patches, both within the Watermelon Pond basin, and within the improved pasture. In addition, a large area of mesic hammock is located near the center of the property. Historic aerial photographs indicate the large area has expanded in size over time, likely a result of lack of fire along the edges. Remnant longleaf pine and sandhill groundcover persisting along the edges of this area of hammock, suggest it was smaller in area and surrounded by sandhill in the past. The

mesic hammock communities within the Metzger tract are dominated by the same tree species as those within the Gladman tract, however shrub and groundcover plants in the Metzger hammocks are rare or absent, probably due to decades of cattle grazing.

Xeric hammock

Two small xeric hammock islands occur on the Metzger tract (approximately 10.1 acres). One of the islands is located on the edge of the Watermelon Pond basin, near the southern property boundary, and the other is located along the northern property boundary, situated on the edge of the Horseshoe Pond basin. These areas are dominated by sand live oak with sparkleberry, American beautyberry, yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) and patchy saw palmetto in the shrub layer. Groundcover is sparse, and where present consists of sporadic grasses and forbs, with occasional dense patches of yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) and earleaf greenbrier (*Smilax auriculata*).

Mesic Flatwoods

Approximately 12.9 acres of mesic flatwoods exist within the Gladman tract, in two separate areas. This community type is in good condition, and occurs on slightly higher elevations within the wet prairie community. The mesic flatwoods within the Gladman tract are fairly typical in species composition, characterized by slash and longleaf pine in the overstory, with patchy saw palmetto, wax myrtle, and gallberry (*Ilex glabra*) in the midstory, and maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muhlenbergianum*), shiny blueberry (*V. myrsinites*) and broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) dominating the groundcover layer. Plant density within the flatwoods is somewhat atypical, however, with numerous bare sand patches, and sporadic occurrence of shrubs and trees. Most of the trees appear to be young or reduced in stature. Old pine stumps are not readily apparent in these areas, and historic aerial photographs indicate these were once fairly open, sandy areas, perhaps associated with fluctuating lake levels. It is possible that prolonged drought conditions in the region have resulted in the encroachment of flatwoods species in areas which historically flooded with the rising of lake levels.

A small area of former pine plantation exists within the mesic flatwoods along the western boundary of the Gladman tract. The surveyed area of the former pine plantation is approximately 3.1 acres. Historic aerial photographs indicate the pines were planted on adjacent private property, and the planted area encroached on the Gladman tract. The densely-planted pines were primarily slash pine, which were clearcut in 2014. Remnant mesic flatwoods species within this human altered community include shiny blueberry, gallberry, saw palmetto and blue maidencane.

Wet prairie

Extensive grassy areas associated with the Watermelon Pond basin extend landward from the fluctuating edge of the basin marsh community, covering approximately 157.9 acres within the Gladman and Metzger tracts. These areas are best described as wet prairie, and are vegetated with a diverse array of grasses and forbs, including maidencane, blue maidencane, bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*), redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliana*), St. John's-wort (*Hypericum* sp.) yellow hatpins (*Syngonanthus flavidulus*), meadowbeauties (*Rhexia* sp.),

yelloweyed grass (*Xyris* sp.), pink sundew (*Drosera capillaris*), and bladderworts (*Utricularia* sp.) Occasional patches of shrubs and small trees occur within the wet prairie, perhaps influenced by slightly higher elevations, and a persistent lack of flood or fire. Species occurring within these patches include slash pine, gallberry, wax myrtle, dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*), and water oak. Historic aerial photographs of Watermelon Pond indicate the wet prairie is rarely flooded. Wildfires occurred within the Watermelon Pond basin in March and April of 2010, burning approximately 170 acres within the Gladman tract, much of which was wet prairie. The wet prairie is in very good condition, with disturbance limited to old fence lines, established roads and trails, and fireplow scars associated with wildfire suppression.

Depression marsh

Two depression marshes are located on the Ferran tract, one depression marsh is located on the King tract, and ten depression marshes are located on the Metzger tract. Each of the depression marshes is less than one acre in size, and collectively they cover approximately 4 acres in total area. Most of these small, isolated wetlands are open and grassy with fairly steep sides and few or no shrubs and trees. Four of the depression marshes on the Metzger tract contain significant shrub vegetation. The depth and steep sides of the depression marshes suggest they developed over sinkholes. Comparison of the elevations of the marshes to nearby groundwater well elevations suggest the depression marshes are rarely fully inundated (Tom Mirti, Hydrologist, St. Johns River Water Management District, personal communication), and review of historic aerial photographs supports this.

Blue maidencane is the dominant plant along the higher edges of the grass-dominated depression marshes, with maidencane becoming dominant at lower elevations, and beaksedges (*Rhynchospora* sp.) becoming dominant in the deepest areas. The shrub-dominated depression marshes on the Metzger tract contain dense thickets of blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) and groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*). The vegetation in the deeper portions of the depression marshes indicates they occasionally contain standing water. The depression marshes on the Ferran tract were burned with the surrounding uplands in the spring of 2010 and summer of 2013. The depression marsh communities are in fair to very good condition.

Basin marsh

Freshwater herbaceous wetlands fringing the deeper portions of Watermelon Pond within the Gladman and Metzger tracts are best described as basin marsh. The extent of the basin marsh (approximately 72.4 acres on Gladman and 20.2 acres on Metzger) fluctuates with lake levels, and definitive boundaries between the sandhill upland lake, the basin marsh, and the wet prairie communities are difficult to establish. Like the adjacent wet communities, the basin marsh is in very good condition, and is characterized by maidencane, smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.), grassy arrowhead (*Sagittaria graminea*) lemon bacopa (*Bacopa caroliniana*), white waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*), and spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*). Occasional patches of cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) also occur within the basin marsh, however low nutrient levels likely prevent these from becoming dominant.

Baygall

A small seepage wetland best described as a baygall (approximately 0.2 acres) is located in the southeast corner of the King tract, associated with a fairly steep hillside between the sandhill and a portion of an unnamed pond which occurs outside the property boundary. Dominant plants within this community include slash pine, water oak, black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), large gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*) and netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*). The baygall is in fair condition owing to an apparent lack of fire which has allowed water oaks to become dominant in the overstory. Heavy shade produced by the canopy is a contributing factor to a low density and diversity of groundcover species. An erosion scar at the top of the hill is apparently a remnant of past land management activities, and the associated erosion may also have contributed to a lack of groundcover.

Sandhill upland lake

The open water portions of Watermelon Pond are best described as sandhill upland lake (approximately 200.7 acres on Gladman and 0.2 acres on Metzger), a water body with fluctuating water levels and no significant inflows or outflows, which derives most of its water from rainfall and groundwater seepage from the surrounding uplands. Historic aerial photographs of Watermelon Pond depict a wide range of water levels. The lake is a large, contiguous waterbody after flood events in the 1940's, 1960's and 1990's. During times of extended drought in the 1950's, 1990's and in recent years, the lake is reduced to several isolated ponds interconnected by grasslands. In between floods and droughts the lake appears as a large body of water with several connected fingers or lobes which are separated by grassy areas.

Vegetation in the lake is dependent upon water depth, but is typically very sparse, probably due to low nutrient conditions. Species present include water lilies, spatterdock, pickerelweed, and arrowhead. Floating algae occur in the water column, however these are currently unidentified. Historic nutrient data suggest current nutrient levels are slightly elevated, however the data available are not sufficient to accurately describe the lake's present trophic condition. Based upon its physical appearance and the absence of any obvious disturbances, the sandhill upland lake community is considered to be in very good condition.

In addition to Watermelon Pond, the Metzger tract also contains an isolated sandhill upland lake (approximately 1.4 acres), known locally as "Black Pot." This water body is located more than a half mile northeast of Watermelon Pond, and is perched approximately 20 feet above Watermelon Pond in elevation, yet historic aerial photographs indicate it always contains water. The edges of this lake are vegetated with floating and emergent aquatic vegetation including spatterdock, pickerelweed and cattail. The center of the lake is open water, with occasional floating vegetation including duckweed (*Lemna minor*), waterfern (*Azolla filiculoides*) and water spangles (*Salvinia minima*). The upland shoreline of the lake is dominated by pasture grasses and dog fennel. Past land management practices, including cattle grazing, have caused erosion of the soil immediately surrounding the lake.

Improved Pasture (Human-altered)

Approximately 390.2 acres of improved pasture are located on the Metzger tract. This human-altered community consists primarily of bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*) and

Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) with scattered native forbs and grasses. Hardwood species including pawpaw, persimmon, sweetgum, live oak, sand live oak, and turkey oak occur naturally in forested areas adjacent to the improved pastures. Seedlings and saplings of these species occur throughout the improved pasture areas. Review of historic aerial photographs indicates the improved pastures were converted from sandhill sometime between 1974 and 1979. Currently, the improved pasture is managed for cattle grazing and hay production. The purpose of the managed grazing and hay production is to keep the converted area in an open and grassy condition to facilitate restoration of native sandhill vegetation in the future.

Semi-improved Pasture (Human-altered)

Approximately 90 acres of semi-improved pasture exists on the Metzger tract, and consists mostly of native forbs, grasses and hardwoods seedlings with scattered patches of bahiagrass and bermudagrass. Like the improved pasture, this area was converted from sandhill to pasture between 1974 and 1979. In addition to being grazed and used for hay production, this area was also used for crop production, primarily watermelons (Danny Holder, Metzger tract rancher, personal communication) The semi-improved pasture is currently used for cattle grazing, but is excluded from active hay management, in an effort to keep the native groundcover components intact to facilitate future restoration of the sandhill.

Table 1. Summary of natural communities, acreages, condition and rarity in Watermelon Pond Preserve

Natural Community	Approximate Acres	% of Area	Condition	FNAI Ranking[1]
Sandhill	91.7	8	Fair – Excellent	G3/S2
Mesic Hammock	127.6	11	Good – Very good	G3/S3
Xeric Hammock	10.1	<1	Good	G3/S3
Mesic Flatwoods	12.9	1	Good	G4/S4
Wet Prairie	157.9[2]	13	Very good	G2/S2
Depression Marsh	4.0	<1	Very good	G4/S4
Basin Marsh	92.6[2]	8	Very good	G4/S3
Baygall	0.2	<1	Fair	G4/S4
Sandhill Upland Lake	202.3[2]	17	Very good	G3/S2
Improved Pasture	390.2	33	N/A	N/A
Semi-improved Pasture	90	8	N/A	N/A

[1]Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) 2010

[2]Acreages for natural communities associated with the lake basin of Watermelon Pond fluctuate with hydrologic conditions.

LISTED SPECIES

Plant and animal species occurring within Watermelon Pond Preserve are observed and recorded on an ongoing basis (Exhibits D and E). Listed plant species within Watermelon Pond Preserve include Florida jointtailgrass (*Coelorachis tuberculosa*), listed by the State of Florida as Threatened, and cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), listed by the State as Commercially Exploited. Both of these species occur

within the Gladman tract. In 2011, staff submitted Element Occurrence data to FNAI for the Florida jointtailgrass.

Listed animal species known to occur within the Preserve include gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermani*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*), and Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*).

Gopher tortoise is listed by the State as Threatened and tracked by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). They inhabit dry, upland habitats including sandhill, pasture, dry flatwoods, and xeric hammock, relying on deep sandy soils for burrows, and abundant, seasonally diverse groundcover for food. Active gopher tortoise burrows are numerous in the Ferran, King and Wright tracts, and are present although not abundant within the Metzger tract. In 2012, staff submitted Element Occurrence reports to FNAI for gopher tortoise observations on the Ferran and King tracts.

Sherman's fox squirrel, listed by the State as Threatened and tracked by FNAI, is a commonly observed species in the uplands surrounding Watermelon Pond. They typically prefer sandhills and flatwoods, or open ruderal habitat with scattered pines and oaks, such as pasture. Fox squirrels are regularly observed on the Metzger tract, and on private properties neighboring the Ferran, King, and Wright tracts. They have been reported to occur on the Ferran tract (Pat Ashton, neighbor to the Ferran tract, personal communication). In 2012, staff submitted FNAI Element Occurrence reports for several sightings of fox squirrel on the Metzger tract.

Bald eagles, tracked by FNAI and monitored by FWC, are known to nest on property adjacent to the Metzger tract, and staff have observed eagles flying over three tracts within the Preserve – Gladman, Ferran and King. Bald eagles prefer bodies of water that contain large concentrations of food, with tall trees nearby for nesting.

Wood stork, federally and State listed as Endangered, regularly forage on the ephemeral edges of Watermelon Pond. Small groups or individuals have been observed within the Gladman tract, and several hundred have been noted at one time on an adjacent private parcel. They are attracted to the freshwater marsh and flooded pasture habitats along the fluctuating edges of the lake, where food is concentrated. In 2012, staff submitted Element Occurrence data to FNAI for the wood storks sighted in these areas.

Florida sandhill crane, listed by the State as Threatened, and tracked by FNAI, have also been observed in small flocks on Watermelon Pond within the Gladman tract and adjacent private property. Florida sandhill cranes prefer prairies, freshwater marshes and pasture lands, and typically nest in shallow water or marshy areas. In 2012, staff submitted Element Occurrence reports to FNAI for Florida sandhill cranes on the Gladman tract and the adjacent property.

Florida burrowing owls, listed by the State as a Species of Special Concern and tracked by FNAI, prefer high, sandy ground with sparse vegetation, little or no tree cover, and open areas to perch. They are often found in ruderal areas with fences and manmade perches, such as pastures. A small group of burrowing owls and their active burrows were observed on the Metzger tract during the 2009 property evaluation, prior to acquisition by Alachua County. Staff submitted Element Occurrence documentation to FNAI in 2010, and regularly monitors the property for owl activity. One adult was observed at a burrow on October 10, 2013, and three adults were observed occupying burrows during the 2014

nesting season. To date, no nestlings or juvenile owls have been observed on the property, and nesting success is undetermined.

Striped newt (*Notophthalmus perstriatus*), an amphibian species tracked by FNAI, was identified by FWC and FFS staff in ponds within Goethe State Forest, less than 0.5 mile from the Gladman tract (Charlie Pedersen, Biologist, Florida Forest Service, personal communication). Striped newts depend upon ephemeral ponds within well burned upland habitats (FNAI 2010). Four of the tracts within Watermelon Pond Preserve – Gladman, Ferran, King and Metzger – contain such ponds, and are likely habitat for striped newts and other amphibians.

Several listed animal species are known to occur on the Ashton Biological Preserve, which is adjacent to the Ferran and King tracts, and for which the County owns a conservation easement. Listed species within the Ashton Conservation Easement include gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel, flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*), which is federally listed as Threatened and State listed as a Species of Special Concern; eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), federally and State listed as Threatened; and the Florida pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*), listed as a Species of Special Concern by FWC. It is likely some of these species may also utilize habitats on Ferran and King. In addition, the abundant gopher tortoise population on Ferran and King may be influenced by the management of that species on the Ashton property. In the late 1990's, Gopher tortoises were relocated to the Ashton property from several sites in Citrus County.

FNAI-tracked species are reported to FNAI using current element occurrence data forms, which are available online at: http://www.fnai.org/fieldreportingforms.cfm. In addition, County staff supports researchers and other agencies tracking particular species by providing occurrence data and related land management information.

Listed Species Strategies

- Survey the Preserve for listed species and document population locations and habitats.
- Report listed species occurrence data to FNAI using the appropriate Field Reporting Form (Exhibit F).
- Continue to implement prescribed fire in fire-maintained communities to enhance gopher tortoise habitat and promote groundcover diversity.

INVENTORY OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND BIOTA

The flora, fauna and natural communities will continue to be surveyed and qualitatively described. All major management and restoration activities will be monitored on an annual basis or as needed using strategically placed photo points. The locations and data will be linked to a Geographic Information System (GIS) where changes will be documented. Baseline photos will be taken prior to initiating management activities.

Inventory Strategies

- Continue to survey flora, fauna and natural communities.
- Continue to compile lists and maintain spatial data.
- Develop GIS database for tracking monitoring activities.
- Establish photo points and monitor annually or as needed.

RESTORATION

All five tracts within Watermelon Pond Preserve contain natural communities which require some level of restoration, ranging from small-scale, selective removal of offsite hardwoods or exotic species to large-scale restoration of sandhill that has been converted to pasture. In addition, all restoration efforts will entail the application of frequent prescribed fire.

The Ferran tract contains densely planted offsite species including sand pine, slash pine and southern red cedar. The sand pines were planted over a two-acre area, primarily along the western perimeter of the property, and were reproducing within the tract. Frequent prescribed fire may effectively control the young, volunteer sand pines, however the mature trees required mechanical removal and were felled in place in 2013 following a prescribed burn. The felled pines were not removed from the site in consideration of the potential impacts to the adjacent roads by logging equipment, and in light of the relatively low value of the timber. Future burning of the sand pine removal area must take into consideration dead fuel moisture, to avoid overheating and sterilizing the soil beneath the felled trees. Supplemental planting with longleaf pine and wiregrass seedlings will be considered if these species do not regenerate naturally within the sand pine removal area.

Slash pines were densely planted in patches within the Ferran tract during the early 1990's. Mature longleaf pines are present within and adjacent to the planted areas, and natural regeneration of longleaf is occurring throughout the site. The planted slash pine trees are very small in stature, likely due to the poor nutrient conditions of the site and to their close spacing. While slash pine is not considered native to the site, these trees do provide valuable structural components to the sandhill forest that are similar in growth habit to longleaf pines, as well as needle litter, critical ground fuel for prescribed fire. In light of these values, the slash pine will be retained onsite for the time being. Prescribed fire appears to be effectively thinning the planted slash pines, however mechanical thinning may also become necessary to create space for the natural regeneration of longleaf pines.

Prescribed fire applied in 2010 and 2013 killed a large number of the red cedars within the Ferran tract. Since there are relatively few cedars on the site, and those that are present are fairly small, they are not considered to be a merchantable timber source. Prescribed fire, felling and herbicide will be utilized to kill the remaining trees.

The King tract contained an old home site which was infested with bahia and centipede grasses, and portions of the sandhill are overgrown with hardwoods which limit the movement of prescribed fire. In addition, the depression marsh and the baygall ecotone in the southeast corner of the property are fire-suppressed. Initial herbicide control of the exotic grasses was implemented in 2012, with successful follow up treatment in 2013. The treated area was planted with wiregrass in early 2014. Control of hardwood density will be attempted with growing season prescribed fire, and selective herbicide control of hardwoods may be considered. Restoration of the depression marsh and the ecotone of the baygall will require the application of prescribed fire, however the proximity of these communities to the property boundary pose a challenge to construct effective firebreaks which allow them to be safely burned. If possible, the firebreaks along this boundary must be relocated and constructed in a way that allows safe and controlled burning of these natural communities, preferably in conjunction with the

burning of adjacent sandhill. Otherwise, mechanical methods to remove encroaching hardwoods may be considered as an alternative to prescribed fire.

The Gladman tract contains a 3.1-acre area of former pine plantation established on mesic flatwoods. The groundcover within this area is suppressed due to shading by the planted pines, and bahiagrass is present in patches. The pines were clearcut in 2014. Restoration efforts on this area of mesic flatwoods will include the introduction of prescribed fire, replanting with longleaf pines, and control of invasive groundcover species..

The Metzger tract contains nearly 480 acres of sandhill that was converted to pasture in the 1970's. These areas are currently maintained for cattle grazing and hay production, in an effort to keep them open and grassy to facilitate future restoration. Within the pastures are several areas of mesic hammock. The edges of these hammocks often contain remnant patches of sandhill species which persisted through the conversion of the sandhill to pasture. Sandhill restoration will first focus on reclaiming these natural areas where remnant sandhill vegetation persists, by applying prescribed fire, selectively removing offsite hardwoods, planting with longleaf pine, and limiting or excluding cattle grazing. Sandhill restoration in the pastures will focus on expanding the reclaimed natural areas by applying prescribed fire, removing and controlling exotic pasture grasses, planting native groundcover, limiting or excluding cattle grazing, and planting longleaf pine.

The Wright tract has the best-quality sandhill overall, largely due to the efforts of the former owner, Kathleen Wright, who hand-planted longleaf pine throughout the property, coordinated the removal of overabundant hardwoods, and cooperated with neighbors to apply prescribed fire to the site. A portion of the sandhill is disturbed, from an old road or fenceline that crossed it near the southern property boundary. This disturbed area is oak-encroached and now resembles xeric hammock. Remnant longleaf pines, wiregrass, and other sandhill species persist within the disturbed area, and restoration will entail hardwood removal and the application of prescribed fire to promote natural regeneration of the sandhill vegetation.

Restoration Strategies

- Utilize prescribed fire to increase groundcover diversity within all five tracts.
- Burn the clear cut pine plantation within the Gladman tract, and replant with longleaf pines.
- Utilize prescribed fire to thin planted slash pines on the Ferran tract, and consider mechanical thinning as necessary to promote longleaf regeneration.
- Control remaining red cedars and sand pines on Ferran tract with additional prescribed fire, mechanical removal, and herbicide as necessary.
- Plant longleaf pine seedlings on the Ferran tract, concentrating on the red cedar and sand pine control areas, and other areas which lack longleaf pine regeneration.
- Continue to control exotic grasses on the King tract with herbicide.
- Plant the exotic grass treatment area on the King tract with wiregrass seedlings.
- Assess the need for herbicide control of hardwoods on the King tract and implement as necessary.

- Relocate fire breaks in the southeast corner of the King tract to allow safe burning into the depression marsh and baygall communities.
- Alternatively, use mechanical methods to control offsite hardwood encroachment on the depression marsh and baygall communities on the King tract.
- Utilize cattle grazing on the Metzger tract to keep former sandhill areas open and grassy to facilitate future restoration.
- Utilize hardwood control and prescribed fire to reclaim remnant sandhill areas within the Metzger tract. As sandhill areas are restored on the Metzger tract, expand them into adjacent pastures by removing exotic grasses, planting native groundcover, restricting or excluding cattle grazing, and planting longleaf pines.
- Apply mechanical and herbicide control to offsite hardwoods within the disturbed sandhill on the Wright tract.
- Establish photopoints and monitor restoration areas annually or as needed.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

All five tracts of Watermelon Pond Preserve contain fire-dependent natural communities, and the Ferran, King and Wright tracts are composed entirely of fire-dependent habitats. The Ferran tract contains sandhill and depression marsh, while the King tract contains sandhill, depression marsh, baygall, and a thin sliver of basin marsh, and the Wright tract is composed of sandhill. Within the Gladman tract, the wet prairie, basin marsh, mesic flatwoods, and pine plantation communities are fire-dependent. Fire dependent habitat on the Metzger tract includes nearly 480 acres of pasture which contains remnant sandhill species, in addition to basin marsh and wet prairie associated with Watermelon Pond, and several isolated depression marshes. In total, there are approximately 887 acres of fire dependent natural communities within Watermelon Pond Preserve.

Fires naturally occur at a frequency of 1 to 3 years in sandhill communities, between 2 and 10 years within mesic flatwoods, and every 2 to 3 years in wet prairie communities (FNAI 2010). Natural fire return intervals in depression and basin marsh communities are largely dependent upon the hydrologic conditions within those wetlands as well as the occurrence of fire in surrounding uplands. Assuming an average fire return interval of 3 years, prescribed fire should be applied to approximately 295 acres per year in Watermelon Pond Preserve.

Prescribed fire will be utilized throughout the Preserve to enhance groundcover diversity in all of the fire-dependent natural communities, to help restore natural community structure, and to reduce fuel loads thereby decreasing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Several neighbors to the Preserve, including private landowners, utilize prescribed fire regularly as a cost-effective land management tool. Consistent application of prescribed fire within the Ashton property has produced abundant and diverse groundcover there.

Fire preparation typically includes mowing and/or harrowing of fire breaks. Watermelon Pond Preserve currently contains approximately ten miles of internal roads and fire breaks, and approximately three additional miles are planned for the Gladman tract. Unlike roads in other preserves, roads and fire breaks in Watermelon Pond Preserve do not necessarily require semi-annual or annual harrowing. The poor, sandy soils do not

revegetate rapidly after harrowing, therefore once fire breaks are established, only annual mowing may be necessary on certain roads and firebreaks, with pre-burn harrowing on fire breaks that are planned for use. In addition to typical roads and fire breaks, the Metzger tract contains approximately 12 miles of fence line fire breaks which must be maintained – approximately four miles of exterior fence which must have one adjacent fire break established, and approximately four miles of interior fence which must have two adjacent fire breaks established. The cattle grazing licensee on the Metzger tract is responsible for maintaining fire breaks on that property.

Beginning in 2008, growing-season prescribed fire was introduced to the sandhill within the King tract, and this was repeated in 2010. In addition, dormant-season fire was introduced to the sandhill and depression marshes of the Ferran tract in 2010, preparing these communities for subsequent growing-season fire, which was first applied in 2013. Future prescribed fires in both of these tracts will be prioritized to occur during growing seasons.

In early 2010, several wildfires occurred in and around lands associated with Watermelon Pond. Two of these fires affected approximately 170 acres within the Gladman tract. These fires were suppressed by local Florida Forest Service staff. Future prescribed fire within the marsh and prairie communities of the Gladman tract will be coordinated with prescribed burning on adjacent Goethe Forest lands when possible.

Historically, the fire-dependent habitats on the Metzger tract were burned by previous land managers, although no burn data exist (Danny Holder, personal communication). County staff successfully burned approximately 500 acres of improved and semi-improved pasture, including small pockets of remnant sandhill, in 2013 and 2014.

The Wright tract was last burned with prescribed fire in 2014. The sandhill community on this tract is in excellent condition, and future burns should be prioritized to occur during the growing season.

Annual notifications are mailed to neighbors of the Preserve to inform them about prescribed fire activities planned for the upcoming year, and why prescribed fire is used as a management tool.

Seasonal fire management plans are drafted by County staff, and are implemented in close coordination with the Florida Forest Service. Each plan addresses burn objectives, fuel loading, smoke management, safety, wildfire incident protocol and neighbor notification.

Prescribed Fire Strategies

- Continue to develop and implement seasonal prescribed burn plans for Watermelon Pond Preserve.
- Continue to participate in the North Central Florida Prescribed Fire Working Group.
- Coordinate prescribed fire activities with the Florida Forest Service and Preserve neighbors.
- Continue to educate neighbors and visitors about the natural role of fires in Florida.

INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS

Few invasive exotic plant species are known to occur within Watermelon Pond Preserve. To date, the exotic plants identified within the Preserve include bahiagrass and

centipedegrass, neither of which is currently listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC). These are described in detail in the Natural Communities and Restoration sections. All plant species identified in the Preserve, and their current status as exotics, are listed in Exhibit D. In addition, a link to the current FLEPPC list of Category I and II exotic plants that occur in Florida is provided in Section VI., References.

Staff regularly monitors the Preserve properties for new infestations of invasive plants and to determine the effectiveness of treatments and plan for follow-up treatments. In general, follow-up treatments of previously treated areas will take priority over initiation of new treatments.

Invasive Plant Strategies

- Continue to survey invasive exotic plants, produce maps and qualitatively describe populations.
- Treat exotic plant infestations as funding and staffing allows.
- Seek funding and grant opportunities to implement invasive plant control.
- Monitor treated sites and perform follow-up treatment.
- Develop an exotic species database for County managed lands.

FERAL ANIMALS

The presence of feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) and dogs (*Canis familiaris*) has been noted on the Gladman tract (Mark Carpenter, neighbor to the Gladman tract, personal communication). In addition, feral hogs are fairly common on the Metzger tract, where they are controlled through hunting and trapping. Because evidence of their presence is somewhat sporadic over time, it is thought that the feral hog population may migrate in and out of the Preserve properties opportunistically. Coyotes are known to occur throughout the lands surrounding Watermelon Pond Preserve, and while some landowners actively kill them, others utilize donkeys to repel them.

The presence of prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) has been noted in the vicinity of Watermelon Pond (Stephanie Nagid, Habitat Naturalist, City of Gainesville Nature Operations, personal communication) however these were reported to have occurred on private property west of the Preserve in Gilchrist County, and are reportedly no longer present (Norberto Fernandez, Biologist, Watermelon Pond WEA, personal communication).

Staff will continue to monitor the properties for populations of feral animals and will take actions as needed.

Feral Animal Program Strategies

- Continue to monitor the site for utilization by feral animal species.
- Contract with hog trappers or other animal control specialists to remove feral hogs as needed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Two archaeological sites listed by the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) occur within the Watermelon Pond County Park, north of the Gladman tract, and two FMSF sites occur within the sovereign submerged lands of Watermelon Pond within the Gladman tract. Additional FMSF sites are recorded on State-owned lands within Goethe State Forest, northwest and south of the Gladman tract. Most of the recorded sites are associated with upland hammock islands surrounding or within the Watermelon Pond

basin. Evidence of archaeological looting on uplands within the Gladman and Metzger tracts suggests the presence of previously unrecorded sites within the Preserve.

To date, no sites are recorded within the Ferran, King or Wright tracts, and no evidence of unrecorded sites has been observed.

The discovery of potential sites will be documented with the Florida Master Site File. Land management activities will be planned to avoid disturbance to unknown sites, or to any future known sites.

Cultural Resource Management Strategies

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

SPEICAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Gladman and Metzger tracts contain significant areas of sovereignty submerged lands, as defined by Florida Administrative Code Chapter 18-21. These are lands associated with the Watermelon Pond basin, which are considered navigable waters of the State. The State of Florida holds title to all sovereignty submerged lands in Florida, and the State's ownership within Watermelon Pond creates unique challenges for managing the lands within the Gladman tract and portions of the Metzger tract.

A significant management challenge within the sovereignty submerged lands of Watermelon Pond is effective fire management preparation. Watermelon Pond frequently draws down to isolated pools surrounded by marsh and prairie vegetation, and these drawdowns often occur for long durations. The marsh and prairie habitats are fire-dependent, are subject to wild fires, and should be actively managed with prescribed fire. Implementation of prescribed fire within the dry portions of the pond basin will require the construction of fire breaks located within sovereignty submerged lands.

Another ongoing management challenge is limiting vehicular access within the lake basin. Large portions of the Watermelon Pond basin are dry for long periods of time, and people who desire access to open-water areas of the lake have established a network of roads through the higher portions of the basin which connect to nearby public roads and adjacent lands. These roads also contribute to unchecked vehicular access to the isolated islands within the lake basin, supporting illegal activities such as poaching, archaeological looting, dumping and trespass on adjacent private lands.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program granted management authorization of the lands within Watermelon Pond to the Alachua County Forever Program in 2012 and 2013. Appendix C contains copies of the authorization letters. The letters of authorization allow Alachua County to conduct land management activities including preparing for and implementing prescribed fire, posting the boundaries to regulate unauthorized vehicular access, controlling exotic vegetation, removing solid waste, constructing recreational trail signs, and managing hunting in cooperation with FWC.

IV. FOREST RESOURCES

Most of the merchantable timber within all five tracts within the Preserve was harvested prior to County acquisition. A small portion of the Gladman tract was converted to pine plantation, and the remaining small areas of natural pine forest were allowed to regenerate naturally. The Ferran, King and Wright tracts were replanted and were also allowed to regenerate naturally. Much of the Metzger tract was converted to pasture in the 1970's, and no natural regeneration is occurring there except along edges of the hammock areas and pastures.

A small area of former slash pine plantation is located along the western boundary of the Gladman tract. Review of historic aerial photographs indicates the trees were planted as part of a larger pine plantation on property to the west between 1986 and 1995, probably the result of an inadvertent encroachment onto the Gladman property. The plantation was located within mesic flatwoods, and while the dense overstory and heavy needle cast were suppressing the groundcover, there are several remnant flatwoods species present in the understory. The area was clearcut in 2014, and a longleaf pine restoration plan will be implemented. The remaining flatwoods areas within the Gladman tract which were impacted by cattle grazing or timber harvesting are regenerating naturally. No timber harvesting or planting is anticipated for these areas.

In 1993, harvested areas within the sandhill community of the Ferran tract were planted with sand pine, slash pine and red cedar. The trees were planted in tight rows, resulting in dense stands of offsite species scattered in patches throughout the site. The sand pine were concentrated along the western property boundary, the slash pine are planted throughout the site, and the red cedar are concentrated along the northern property boundary. Approximately two acres of planted sand pine along the western boundary were felled in place in 2013 for restoration purposes. Because of the small stand size and condition of the trees, the sand pines were not considered to be merchantable. Furthermore, removal of the wood from the site was deemed impractical because of potential damage to surrounding private roads and the sandhill habitat by heavy logging equipment. The planted slash pine on the Ferran tract are languishing, likely because they are not adapted to the dry and poor soil conditions of the sandhill, and compounded by the effects of prescribed fire. Surviving trees are small in size, do not appear to be reproducing, and are decreasing in number over time. These pines will be left in place to provide needle cast, which serves as important ground fuel in prescribed fire. Future harvesting of the slash pine will likely be unnecessary, as most of them will die out on their own. The red cedars are small and too few to be merchantable as traditional timber. In addition, several of the red cedars have succumbed to the effects of the two recent prescribed fires on the property. Harvest of the red cedar for revenue is not anticipated, although selective removal may be conducted, either through felling in place or removal from the site by a small-scale harvesting process. Natural regeneration of longleaf pine is occurring throughout the site, however future supplemental plantings of longleaf seedlings may be considered in the areas where sand pine and red cedar were planted.

Harvested areas within the King tract sandhill were planted with longleaf pine in 1993. While the trees were planted in tightly spaced rows, some mortality has occurred over time, which reduced the unnatural "pines in lines" effect. In addition, unharvested native longleaf persisting on the site are regenerating naturally, contributing to a more

natural distribution of pines, both temporally and spatially. Future harvest of pines on the King tract is not anticipated. Control of offsite hardwoods may be necessary in the future, and these will likely be felled in place rather than removed from the site. Future planting of trees on the King tract is not anticipated.

Forest resources on the Metzger tract are currently limited to hardwood species which are growing into former sandhill areas from adjacent hammock. Most pines were removed from the property in the 1970's. A few mature longleaf pine remain, and limited natural regeneration is occurring. Future restoration of the sandhill will entail the removal of offsite hardwoods, and if these are merchantable, commercial harvesting may be considered. In addition, longleaf pine will be planted in restoration areas where native groundcover is established.

Planted longleaf pine on the Wright tract are a result of careful hand-planting efforts by the previous owner in 1999 and 2000. The planted trees are randomly located and more naturally spaced than the trees planted on Ferran and King. In addition, mature longleaf persisting on the site are regenerating naturally, resulting in an unevenly aged stand of randomly distributed longleaf pine . Harvesting of pines or hardwoods is not anticipated for the Wright tract at this time. If offsite hardwood control is necessary, select trees will be killed or felled in place.

With the ultimate goal of restoring, enhancing and preserving the ecological values of the pine forests in Watermelon Pond Preserve, future forest management activities will focus on reestablishing uneven-aged, open pine forests with a diverse, native understory. Restoration will occur in phases over a period of many years, and will utilize offsite hardwood and exotic species control, application of prescribed fire, and planting and of native tree and groundcover species as needed. Any revenue generated from forest management within Watermelon Pond Preserve will be used to fund restoration activities within the Preserve.

Forest Management Strategies

- Control offsite hardwoods and exotic species.
- Apply prescribed fire.
- Plant native tree and groundcover species as needed.
- Place revenues generated from forest management in a fund specifically designated for Watermelon Pond Preserve to fund restoration activities within the Preserve.

V. SITE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Site development and improvements are proposed to facilitate management operations on the Preserve, and to provide natural resource-based recreational opportunities.

Recreational opportunities within Watermelon Pond Preserve will be provided on the Gladman and Metzger tracts, and will include hiking, horseback riding, fishing and nature observation during dry conditions, as well as boating when Watermelon Pond is flooded, or as hydrological conditions on the site permit. Hunting opportunities will also be provided on the Gladman tract, as part of the Watermelon Pond WEA. Public access to the trails will be provided through the Watermelon Pond County Park.

The Ferran, King and Wright tracts will be open by appointment for staff-guided walks and nature observation.

EXISTING PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Gladman tract contains several miles of unimproved interior roads which were established prior to County ownership (see Exhibit H.1). Most of these roads occur within the higher elevations of the Watermelon Pond basin, and many of the roads extend offsite to adjacent lands. Several interior fence lines in poor condition are present, however, in the long term these fences will likely be removed. In addition, a house located on an adjacent private parcel encroaches on the Gladman tract. A small corner of the house and an electric utility pole overlap the parcel boundary. The County entered into a formal agreement with the current owners of the house to allow the encroaching structure to remain in place for the tenure of the current owners. This is described in more detail below, under "Easements, Concessions, Leases and Revenues."

The Ferran tract is fenced on all four sides, and contains one pipe gate and approximately 0.5 mile of unimproved boundary and interior roads and firebreaks (see Exhibit H.2). Portions of the fence are planned for removal, to facilitate safer conditions for prescribed burning.

The King tract is fenced on all four sides and contains one pipe gate and approximately 1 mile of boundary and interior firebreaks (see Exhibit H.2). Overhead electric lines bound the Ferran tract on the west and south boundaries, and the King tract on a portion of the west boundary.

The Metzger tract, a working cattle ranch, contains several existing physical improvements (see Exhibit H.1). Approximately four miles of exterior fence enclose the property, and approximately four miles of interior fence lines establish individual grazing or exclusion areas. Four pipe gates provide access, and several wire gates control the movement of cattle between the interior pastures. A limerock road, approximately 0.5-mile in length, provides access to the interior of the property from the southwest gate. An unpaved double-track road, approximately 0.5 mile in length provides access to the property from the east gate. In addition, approximately 2.5 miles of unpaved double-track road provide access through interior portions of the property. Many of the roads act as fire breaks, and firebreaks protect each fenceline. An interior overhead electric line, approximately 0.5-mile in length, provides electricity to the interior portion of the property. A large pole barn, a wood cattle pen, and a pump house are located near the center of the property. The pump house contains a 4-inch well and electric pump. There are three additional wells on the property – a 10-inch irrigation well, a 4-inch well, and a 2-inch well, all of which are currently capped.

The Wright tract contains approximately 0.5 mile of unimproved boundary roads on the north, south and east sides, and an unimproved interior road approximately 700 feet long. The boundary roads act as mineral firebreaks, and the interior road is a mowed firebreak. An overhead electric line bounds the Wright tract on the east boundary (see Exhibit H.3).

PROPOSED PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Physical improvements to Watermelon Pond Preserve are proposed for the Gladman and Metzger tracts, and are depicted on the Conceptual Site Plan (Exhibit I). These improvements include directional and interpretive signs, trailside benches and

wildlife viewing areas located primarily on the hammock islands. A marked trail system will be developed that utilizes existing roads. Care will be taken to develop a trail marking system which will not be hazardous to boaters when Watermelon Pond is flooded. Public access to the trail system will be provided through the Watermelon Pond County Park. A kiosk is currently available at the County Park, and this may be upgraded or replaced. Construction and maintenance of proposed physical improvements is contingent upon available funding. Additional fire breaks are anticipated for the Gladman tract, however their locations are yet to be determined, therefore they are not included in Exhibit I.

To the greatest extent possible improvements will be located to minimize impacts to natural resources, to avoid impacts to listed plant and animal species, and to avoid known archaeological sites.

It should be noted that most of the lands within the Gladman tract are occasionally flooded. This affects access to roads and trails, and will naturally limit use of trail-related improvements. Furthermore, when Watermelon Pond water levels rise, boat activity will be allowed over navigable portions of the lake. In some instances, trails may be closed to avoid hazardous conditions for visitors, or to minimize negative impacts such as soil erosion.

Site Development and Improvement Strategies

- Establish new fire breaks on the Gladman tract.
- Establish trails utilizing existing roads.
- Design and construct trailhead at Watermelon Pond County Park.
- Design, fabricate and install trail signs and viewing areas.

ACCESS

Public access to the Gladman tract will be through Alachua County's Watermelon Pond Park, managed by the Alachua County Public Works Department Parks Division. The Park is located immediately north of the Gladman tract at the terminus of SW 250th Street, and offers parking, a picnic table, and a boat ramp which is functional when Watermelon Pond contains sufficient water. Existing trails connect the County Park to the Gladman tract, thereby providing parking and public access to the Preserve.

Access to the Ferran and King tracts is through a system of privately maintained roads, which includes a private railroad crossing, owned by the CSX Corporation. CSX allows the landowners in this area to utilize the railroad crossing for access to their properties, with the stipulation that the landowners maintain liability insurance for the crossing. The Watermelon Pond Triangle Corporation (WTC) was formed by a group of landowners living near or around the Ferran and King tracts for the sole purpose of collecting annual fees to pay for the required liability insurance. Alachua County is a participating landowner, and contributes to the annual policy premium fees, as well as to annual corporation fees for the WTC. Because of the access constraints imposed by the private roads and railroad crossing, public access to the Ferran and King tracts will be limited to staff-guided entry by appointment.

Management access to the Metzger tract is via SW 234th Street and SW 250th Street. Because of private road and railroad crossing constraints mentioned above, public access will be via SW 250th Street through the County's Watermelon Pond Park. While a working cattle ranch is maintained on much of the Metzger tract, public access trails will

be maintained in the southwest portion of the property, connecting to trails on the Gladman tract.

Access to the Wright tract is via SW 202nd Street, a private road serving several residences in the vicinity, and an access easement over adjacent property to the east. Because of access constraints associated with the private road and easement, public access to the Wright tract will be limited to staff-guided entry by appointment.

A subset of the existing roads throughout the Preserve properties will be maintained for vehicular access by County staff, service and emergency vehicles. Only authorized vehicles will have access through the vehicular gates. The remaining existing roads will be abandoned. Some access roads may serve multiple uses as service roads, firebreaks and or recreational trails.

General boat access, both motorized and non-motorized, will be allowed onsite when water level conditions allow navigability from the existing boat ramp. During low water levels, non-motorized, hand-transported boats will be allowed access to interior ponded areas via the trailhead and existing trails.

Access Strategies

- Designate and maintain a network of access roads and gates.
- Designate and maintain a network of recreational trails.

EASEMENTS, CONCESSIONS, LEASES, AND REVENUES

Currently there are no plans for establishing new easements, or concessions on Watermelon Pond Preserve.

A formal license agreement is currently in place for cattle grazing and hay production on the Metzger tract. The license agreement provides limited cattle grazing and hay production privileges on the property in exchange for site maintenance, hog control and security. In addition, the County receives the benefit of grazing on the property, which will keep it in an open and grassy condition to facilitate future sandhill restoration.

A formal agreement for settlement of encroachment is currently in effect for a small portion of the Gladman tract. During a boundary survey in 2013, several encroachments were identified on the Gladman tract, originating from an adjacent private parcel, which is currently owned by the Pittman family. A corner of the Pittman home, two portable sheds, a power pole, boats, fences, refuse and a 3.1-acre area of planted slash pines were identified as encroachments during the boundary survey. The Pittman family was notified of the encroachments, and a formal agreement was established, which provides terms by which the encroaching portion of the home and the power pole may remain in their current locations for the Pittman's remaining tenure. If the property is sold or transferred to any other owner, the encroaching portion of the home and the power pole must be removed. As part of the agreement, the Pittmans removed the portable sheds, boats, refuse and planted pines, and the County reserved the right to remove or relocated the fences in the future. A copy of the agreement is included as Appendix B.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program granted management authorization of the sovereign submerged lands within the Gladman and Metzger tracts to the Alachua County Forever Program in 2012 and 2013. Appendix C contains copies of the authorization letters. The primary purpose of securing this authorization is to streamline management authority over all of the lands within these parcels. Furthermore, the State's permission to manage

the sovereign portions of the Gladman parcel will allow Alachua County to enter into a formal agreement with FWC to manage hunting on the Gladman tract as part of the Watermelon Pond WEA.

Any revenues collected from Watermelon Pond Preserve properties, including funds generated from sales of timber, will be will be used for resource management and restoration of Watermelon Pond Preserve properties.

Easements, Concessions, Leases and Revenues Strategies

- Maintain a formal license agreement for limited cattle grazing on the Metzger tract.
- Establish a formal license agreement for hog control on ACF-managed sites, including Watermelon Pond.
- Periodically monitor the Pittman encroachments on the Gladman tract to ensure the terms of the settlement of encroachment are honored.
- Negotiate formal agreement with FWC to manage hunting on the Galdman tract as part of the Watermelon Pond WEA.
- Designate revenues from the Preserve in a segregated account to be used for resource management and restoration of Preserve properties.

V. STEWARDSHIP NEEDS

MAINTENANCE

Perpetual maintenance of the site will entail regular work to keep fences, gates, roads, signs and other physical improvements in good, functional condition. Fence lines should be monitored regularly for needed repairs, as part of ongoing site security.

Because many of the roads in the Preserve are utilized as fire breaks, annual fire break maintenance will include mowing, harrowing and clearing of the roads. In addition, regular maintenance mowing and vertical trimming may be necessary to keep roads open and in good repair for dual use as recreational trails.

Boundary signs and markers, interpretive trail signs and structures require periodic inspection, cleaning and repair to maintain their function.

EPD staff will conduct all maintenance activities utilizing County staff, volunteers, contractors and community service workers.

Maintenance Strategies

- Monitor fence lines quarterly for needed repairs.
- Mow and vertically trim roads, trails and fire breaks as needed to maintain them in open condition.
- 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

Large portions of the Watermelon Pond basin are dry for long periods of time, and people who desire access to open waters of the lake have established a network of roads through the higher portions of the basin that connect to nearby public roads and adjacent lands. These roads have also afforded unchecked vehicular access to the

isolated islands within the lake basin, supporting illegal activities such as poaching, archaeological looting, dumping and trespassing on adjacent private lands.

General on-site security will be provided primarily by staff, contractors and/or volunteers. The Gladman tract 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. Design and placement of these signs will be coordinated with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ASO) and also the FWC Law Enforcement staff. In addition, if the Gladman tract is included in the Watermelon Pond WEA, FWC will provide law enforcement assistance on the property.

In order to facilitate emergency wildfire response on Watermelon Pond Preserve, a map book was created and provided to FFS, FWC and the Alachua County Fire Rescue Department. The book includes aerial maps of the parcels marked with site access points, gates, roads, 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.
- Coordinate design and placement of informational and regulatory signage with ASO and FWC.
- Fabricate and install informational and regulatory signage.
- Periodically update wildfire response information.

STAFFING

The Alachua County Forever staff will coordinate the management of Watermelon Pond Preserve, with assistance from other county departments, contractors and volunteers.

VI. REFERENCES

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VII. STEWARDSHIP PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE AND BUDGET

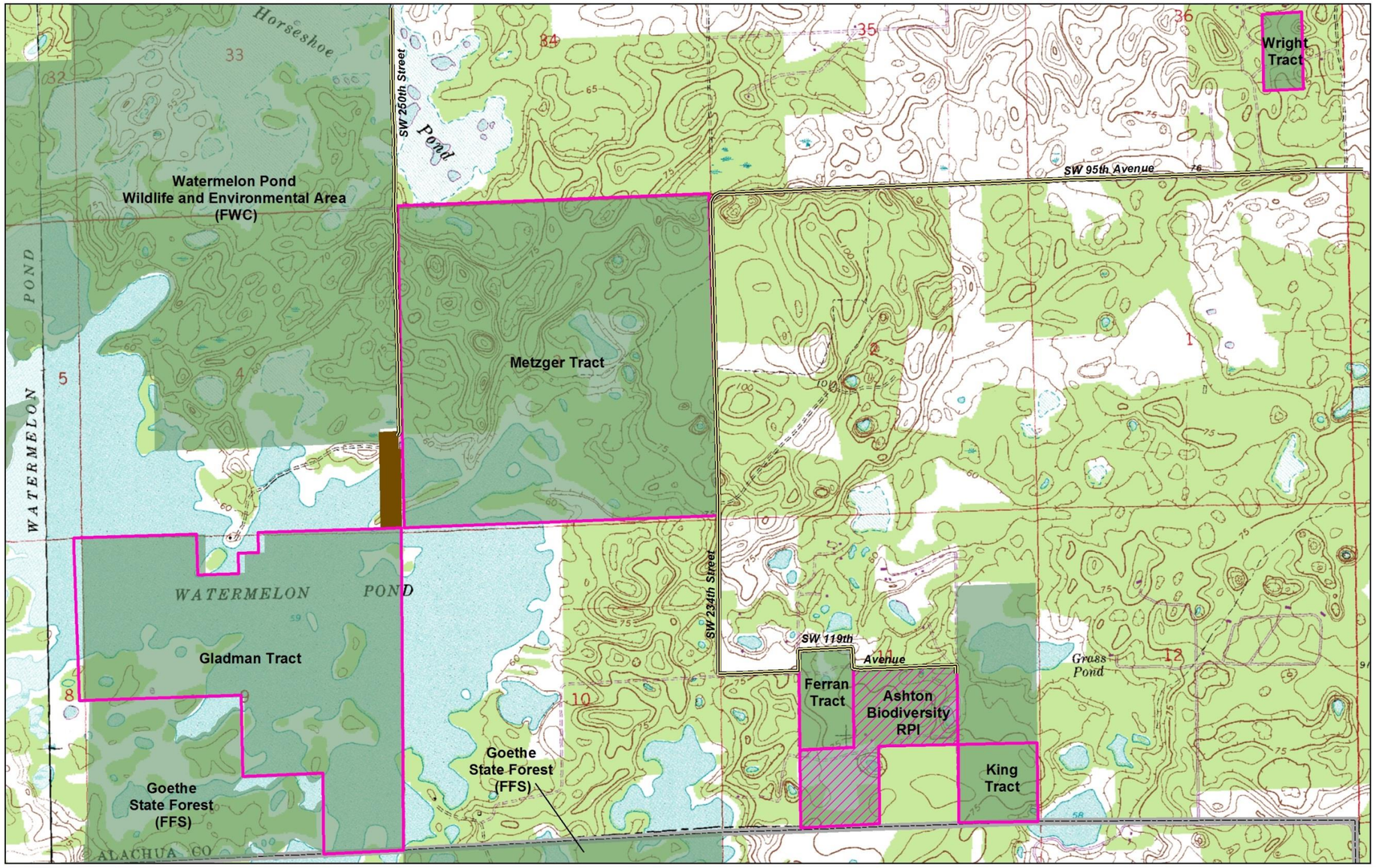
Task	Time schedule	Cost	Funding Source	Potential Cooperators
Land Use and Zoning				
Amend future land use for Metzger tract from Agriculture to Preservation.	12/2015	Staff time	GF	ACGMD
Amend future land use for Wright tract from Agriculture to Conservation.	6/2016	Staff time	GF	City of Newberry
Amend zoning for Gladman, King, Ferran and Metzger tracts from Agriculture to Preservation.	6/2016	Staff time	GF	ACGMD
Amend zoning for Wright tract from Agriculture to Conservation.	6/2016	Staff time	GF	City of Newberry
Listed Species				
Survey properties for listed species.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Report Tracked species occurrence data to FNAI.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Biota and Natural Community Inventory				
Continue to inventory plants, animals and natural communities.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	FNPS, AAS, UF
Develop GIS database for tracking monitoring activities.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Establish photo points in significant areas.	Ongoing	Staff time, $250/year	GF	
Restoration				
Burn the clear cut pine plantation within the Gladman tract, and replant with longleaf pines.	12/2016	Staff time	GF	
Utilize prescribed fire to thin planted slash pines on the Ferran tract, and consider mechanical thinning to promote longleaf regeneration.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Control remaining red cedars and sand pines on Ferran tract with additional prescribed fire, mechanical removal, and herbicide as necessary.	Ongoing, 9/2015 for mechanical removal	Staff time, $2500 for mechanical removal	GF	Contractor for mechanical removal
Plant 5000 longleaf pine seedlings on the Ferran tract.	12/2016	Staff time, $950 for seedlings	GF	Contractor for seedlings, Volunteers
Continue to spot control exotic grasses on the King tract with herbicide.	Ongoing	Staff time, $350/year for contractor	GF	Contractor
Assess the need for herbicide control of hardwoods on the King tract and implement as necessary.	Ongoing	Staff time, $250/year	GF	
Relocate fire breaks in the southeast corner of the King tract to allow safe burning into the depression marsh and baygall communities.	12/2015	Staff time	GF	

Task	Time schedule	Cost	Funding Source	Potential Cooperators
Utilize hardwood control and prescribed fire to restore remnant sandhill areas on the Metzger tract	6/2016, Ongoing	Staff time, $250/year	GF, Grants	License Agreement licensee
Apply mechanical and herbicide control to hardwoods in disturbed sandhill on the Wright tract.	6/2016, Ongoing	Staff time, $100/year	GF	
Prescribed Fire				
Develop and implement seasonal prescribed burn plans for approximately 295 acres per year	Fall, Spring	Up to $7375/year if contract-burning with FFS	GF	ACEPD, FFS, Contractors
Create and maintain up to 20 miles of fire breaks.	Mow annually, harrow as needed	Staff time, Up to $800/year for mowing and $700/year for harrowing	GF	FFS, License Agreement licensee, Contractor
Notify Preserve neighbors annually of planned prescribed burning.	Annually in November	Staff time and $100/year	GF	
Educate neighbors and Preserve visitors about the benefits of prescribed fire.	Ongoing	Staff time, cost of interpretive materials	GF	FFS
Invasive Exotic Plants				
Survey invasive exotic plants, produce maps and qualitatively describe populations.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Control exotic grasses on the King tract with herbicide.	Ongoing	(Accounted for above)	GF	
Monitor treated sites and perform follow-up treatment.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	Contractors
Develop an exotic species database for County managed lands.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Feral Animals				
Monitor and arrange for removal of feral animal species.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	ACAS, FWC, USDA, Contractors
Cultural Resources				
Routinely visit known sites and note any disturbance.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	DHR
Evaluate management activities for potential disturbance to cultural sites.	As needed	TBD	GF	DHR
Record newly discovered sites with the Florida Master Site File.	As needed	Staff time	GF	DHR
Site Development and Improvement				
Establish new fire breaks on the Gladman tract.	11/2016	Staff time	GF	FFS
Establish marked trail system.	12/2015	Staff time	GF	Volunteers
Design and construct trailhead at Watermelon Pond County Park.	12/2015	$2,500	GF	ACPW – Parks Dept.
Design, fabricate and install trail signs and viewing areas.	12/2015	$2,500	GF	Volunteers
Develop interpretive materials.	12/2015	Staff time	GF	Communications Office

Task	Time schedule	Cost	Funding Source	Potential Cooperators
Easements, Concessions, Leases and Revenues				
Maintain a formal license agreement for limited cattle grazing on the Metzger tract.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	License Agreement licensee
Establish a formal license agreement for feral hog removal.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	License Agreement licensee
Periodically monitor the Pittman encroachments on the Gladman tract to ensure the terms of the settlement of encroachment are honored.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	County Attorney
Develop agreement with FWC to include the Gladman tract in the Watermelon Pond WEA.	9/2015	Staff time	GF	FWC
Designate revenues from the Preserve in a segregated account to be used for resource management and restoration on WPP properties.	As needed	Staff time	GF	Contractors
Maintenance				
Monitor fencelines quarterly for needed repairs.	Quarterly	Staff time	GF	Volunteers, Contractors
Mow roads, trails and firebreaks as needed to maintain them in open condition.	As needed	(Roads accounted for above) Trail work by staff and volunteers	GF	FFS, Contractors, Volunteers
Inspect boundary signs and markers annually and maintain as needed.	Annually	Staff time	GF	Volunteers
Inspect interpretive signs and structures quarterly and maintain as needed.	Quarterly	Staff time	GF	Volunteers
Security				
Perform regular security inspections.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	Volunteers, Contractors, ASO
Coordinate design and placement of informational and regulatory signage with ASO and FWC.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	ASO, FWC
Fabricate and install informational and regulatory signage.	12/2015	$500	GF	Volunteers, ACPW, Contractors
Update wildfire response information.	As needed	Staff time	GF	FFS

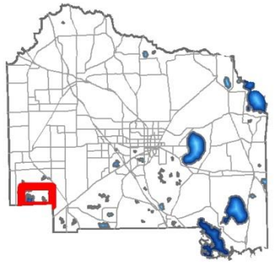
AAS Alachua Audubon Society
ACAS Alachua County Animal Services
ACEPD Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
ACGMD Alachua County Growth Management Department
ACPW Alachua County Public Works
ASO Alachua County Sheriff's Office
BIPM Florida DEP, Bureau of Invasive Plant Management
DHR Department of State Division of Historic Resources
FDEP-DSL Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Division of State Lands
FFS Florida Forest Service
FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FNPS Florida Native Plant Society
GF General Fund
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
WPP Watermelon Pond Preserve

Exhibit A - Watermelon Pond Preserve Location Map



Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

- Preserve Boundary
- Ashton Conservation Easement
- Watermelon Pond County Park
- FNAI - Managed Areas
- Roads
- County Boundary



Alachua County FOREVER

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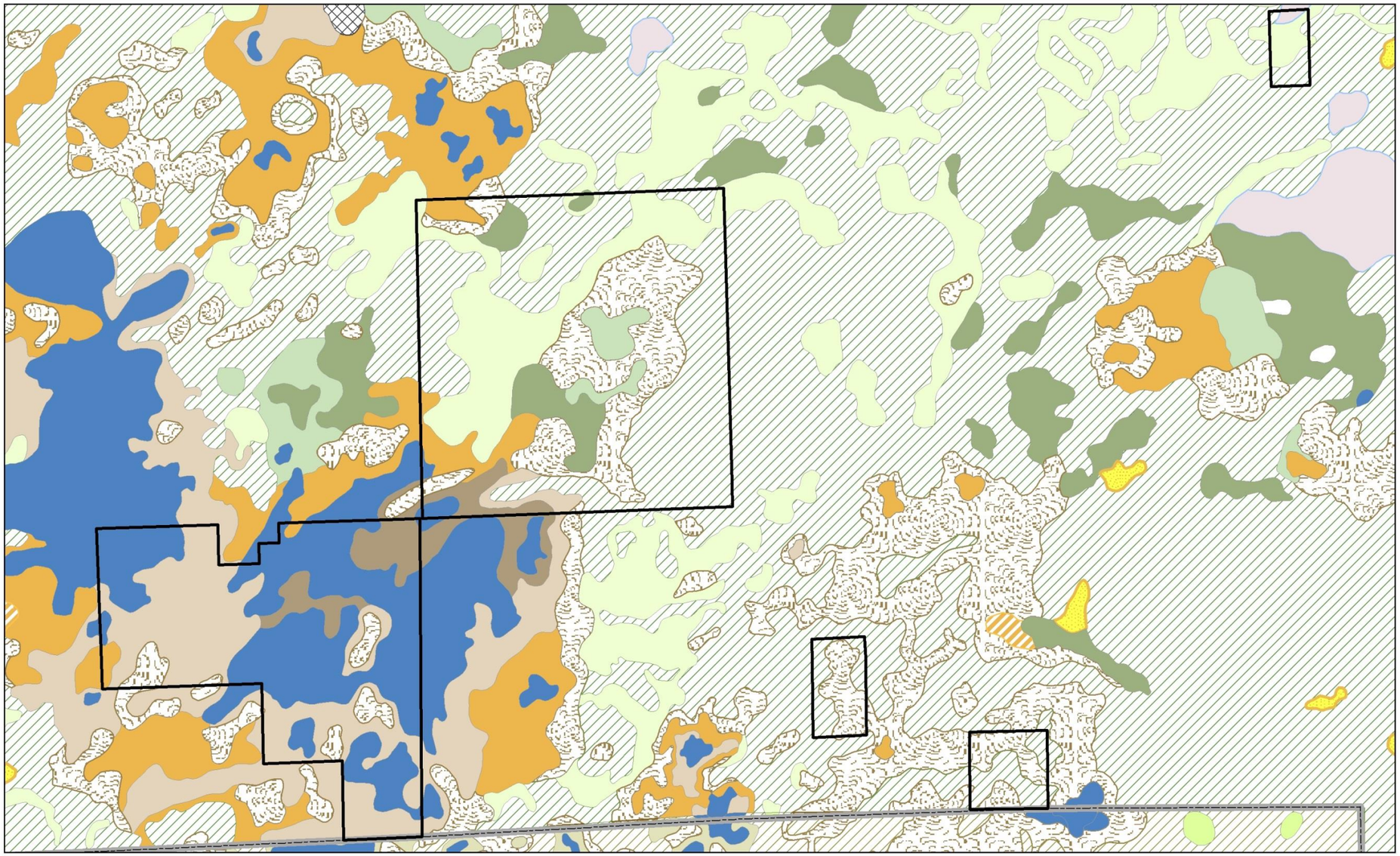
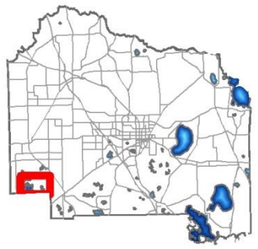
Exhibit B - Watermelon Pond Preserve Soils Map



Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

- Preserve Boundary
- Apopka sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Arredondo fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Candler fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Candler fine sand, 5 to 8 percent slopes
- Chipley sand
- Millhopper sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Newnan sand
- Placid sand, depressional
- Pomona sand
- Pompano sand
- Sparr fine sand
- Tavares sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Water
- County Boundary



Alachua County FOREVER

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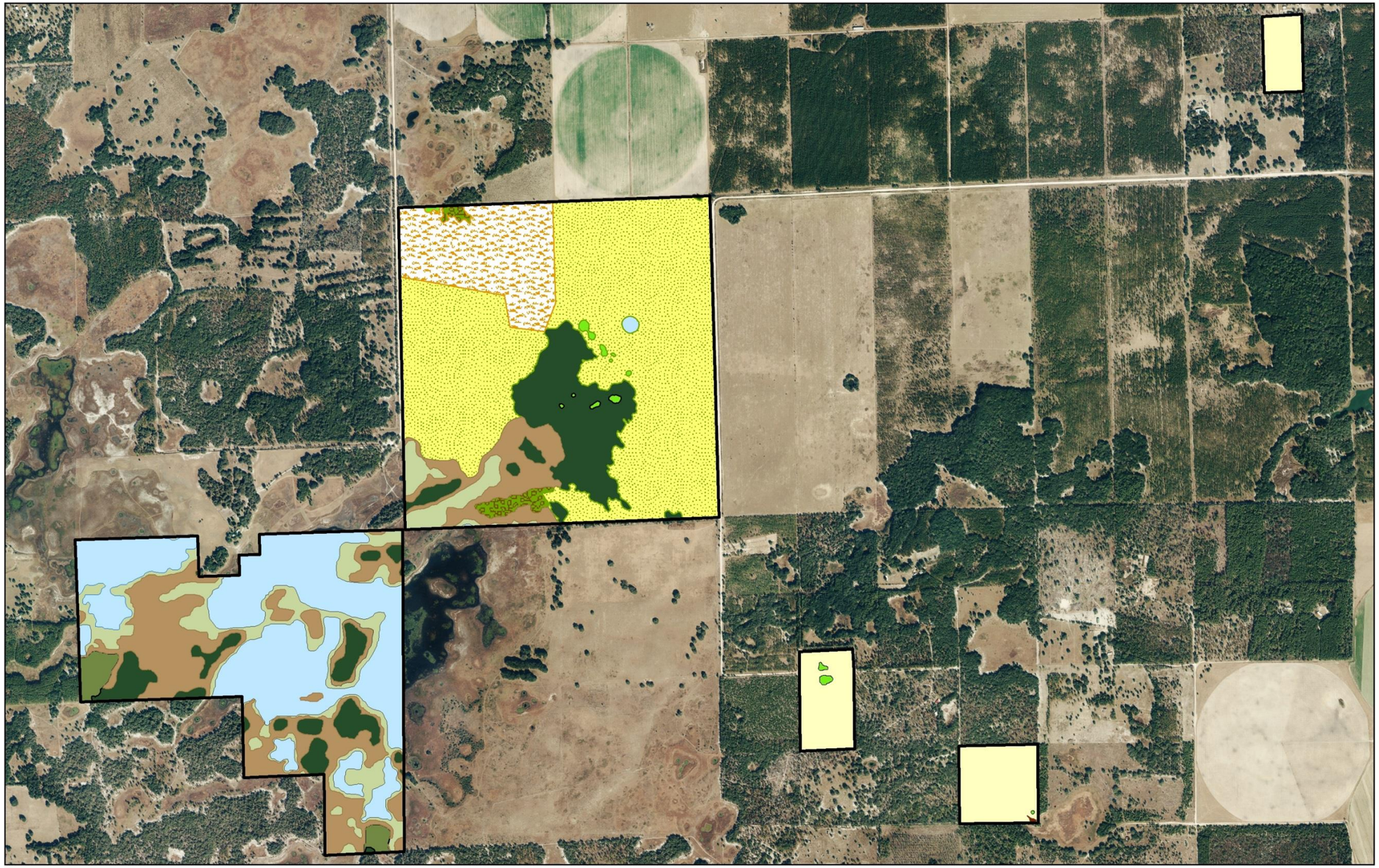
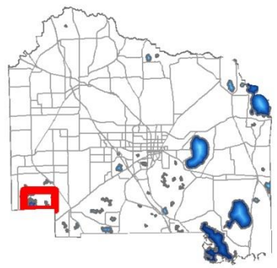
Exhibit C - Watermelon Pond Preserve Natural Communities Map



Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

- Preserve Boundary
- Basin Marsh - 92.6 acres
- Baygall - 0.2 acre
- Depression Marsh - 4.0 acres
- Improved Pasture - 390.2 acres
- Mesic Flatwoods - 12.9 acres
- Mesic Hammock - 127.6 acres
- Sandhill - 91.7 acres
- Sandhill Upland Lake - 202.3 acres
- Semi-improved Pasture - 90.0 acres
- Wet Prairie - 157.9 acres
- Xeric Hammock - 10.1 acres



Alachua County FOREVER

N W E S

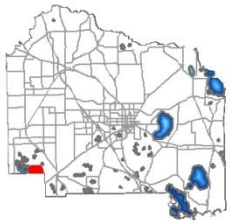
0 0.5 1 Miles

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 C.2 - Watermelon Pond Preserve Natural Communities - Ferran and King Tracts Detail Map

Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

- Preserve Boundary
- Baygall - 0.2 acre
- Depression Marsh - 1.1 acres
- Sandhill - 72.5 acres



Alachua County FOREVER

N W E S

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

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EXHIBIT D: WATERMELON POND PRESERVE PLANT SPECIES LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	FDACS	FWS	FNAI
Amphicarpum muhlenbergianum	BLUE MAIDENCANE				
Andropogon glomeratus	BUSHY BLUESTEM				
Andropogon glomeratus var. glaucopsis	PURPLE BLUESTEM				
Andropogon ternarius	SPLITBEARD BLUESTEM				
Andropogon virginicus var. glaucus	CHALKY BLUESTEM				
Aristida sp.	WIREGRASS				
Asclepias tuberosa	BUTTERFLY MILKWEED				
Asimina angustifolia	SLIMLEAF PAWPAW				
Asimina incana	WOOLLY PAWPAW				
Asimina obovata	BIGFLOWER PAWPAW	Endemic			
Axonopus furcatus	BIG CARPETGRASS				
Baccharis halimifolia	GROUNDSEL TREE				
Berlandiera subacaulis	FLORIDA GREENEYES	Endemic			
Callicarpa americana	AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY				
Carphephorus corymbosus	FLORIDA PAINTBRUSH				
Carphephorus odoratissimus	VANILLALEAF				
Centella asiatica	SPADELEAF				
Cephalanthus occidentalis	COMMON BUTTONBUSH				
Ceratiola ericoides	FLORIDA ROSEMARY				
Chamaecrista sp.	PARTRIDGE PEA				
Cladina leporine	MATCHSTICKS				
Cladina subtenuis	REINDEER LICHEN				
Clitoria mariana	ATLANTIC PIGEONWINGS				
Cnidoscolus stimulosus	TREAD-SOFTLY				
Coelorachis tuberculosa	FLORIDA JOINTTAILGRASS		T		S3
Commelina erecta	WHITEMOUTH DAYFLOWER				
Croton argyranthemus	SILVER CROTON				
Croton michauxii	RUSHFOIL; MICHAUX'S CROTON				
Cyperus retrorsus	PINEBARREN FLATSEDGE				
Diospyros virginiana	COMMON PERSIMMON				
Drosera capillaris	PINK SUNDEW				
Elephantopus elatus	TALL ELEPHANTSFOOT				
Eremochloa ophiuroides	CENTIPEDEGRASS	Exotic			
Erigeron sp.	FLEABANE				
Eriogonum tomentosum	DOGTONGUE WILD BUCKWHEAT				
Eryngium aromaticum	FRAGRANT ERYNGO				
Eupatorium capillifolium	DOGFENNEL				
Eupatorium leptophyllum	FALSEFENNEL				
Eupatorium mohrii	MOHR'S THOROUGHWORT				
Euthamia caroliniana	SLENDER FLATTOP GOLDENROD				
Gaylussacia dumosa	DWARF HUCKLEBERRY				
Gaylussacia frondosa var. tomentosa	BLUE HUCKLEBERRY				
Gelsemium sempervirens	YELLOW JESSAMINE				
Helianthemum corymbosum	PINEBARREN FROSTWEED				

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	FDACS	FWS	FNAI
Hypericum brachyphyllum	COASTALPLAIN ST. JOHN'S-WORT				
Hypericum fasciculatum	PEELBARK ST.JOHN'S-WORT				
Hypericum myrtifolium	MYRTLELEAF ST.JOHN'S-WORT				
Hypericum reductum	ATLANTIC ST.JOHN'S-WORT				
Ilex ambigua	CAROLINA HOLLY				
Ilex cassine	DAHOON				
Ilex glabra	INKBERRY; GALLBERRY				
Ilex opaca	AMERICAN HOLLY				
Juncus polycephalos	MANYHEAD RUSH				
Juncus scirpoides	NEEDLEPOD RUSH				
Krameria lanceolata	SANDSPUR				
Lachnanthes caroliana	CAROLINA REDROOT				
Lachnocaulon minus	SMALL'S BOGBUTTON				
Lespedeza sp.	LESPEDEZA				
Liatris pauciflora	FEWFLOWER GAYFEATHER				
Licania michauxii	GOPHER APPLE				
Ludwigia repens	CREEPING PRIMROSEWILLOW				
Ludwigia suffruticosa	SHRUBBY PRIMROSEWILLOW				
Lyonia mariana	PIEDMONT STAGGERBUSH				
Mimosa strigillosa	POWDERPUFF				
Mitchella repens	PARTRIDGEBERRY				
Myrica cerifera	WAX MYRTLE				
Nymphaea odorata	AMERICAN WHITE WATERLILY				
Nyssa sylvatica	BLACKGUM				
Opuntia humifusa	PRICKLYPEAR				
Osmanthus americanus	WILD OLIVE				
Osmunda cinnamomea	CINNAMON FERN		C		
Palafoxia integrifolia	COASTALPLAIN PALAFOX	Endemic			
Panicum hemitomon	MAIDENCANE				
Panicum virgatum	SWITCHGRASS				
Paspalum sp.	CROWNGRASS				
Penstemon multiflorus	MANYFLOWER BEARDTONGUE				
Persea borbonia	RED BAY				
Pinus clausa	SAND PINE				
Pinus elliottii	SLASH PINE				
Pinus palustris	LONGLEAF PINE				
Pinus taeda	LOBLOLLY PINE				
Pityopsis graminifolia	NARROWLEAF SILKGRASS				
Pleopeltis polypodioides var. michauxiana	RESURRECTION FERN				
Pluchea rosea	ROSY CAMPHORWEED				
Polygonella polygama	OCTOBER FLOWER				
Polypremum procumbens	RUSTWEED				
Pontederia cordata	PICKERELWEED				
Pteridium aquilinum var. pseudocaudatum	TAILED BRACKEN				
Pterocaulon pycnostachyum	BLACKROOT				
Quercus geminata	SAND LIVE OAK				
Quercus hemisphaerica	LAUREL OAK				

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	FDACS	FWS	FNAI
Quercus incana	BLUEJACK OAK				
Quercus laurifolia	LAUREL OAK				
Quercus nigra	WATER OAK				
Quercus virginiana	LIVE OAK				
Rhexia mariana	PALE MEADOWBEAUTY				
Rhexia nashii	MAID MARIAN				
Rhus copallinum	WINGED SUMAC				
Rhynchospora fascicularis	FASCICLED BEAKSEDGE				
Rhynchospora inundata	NARROWFRUIT HORNED BEAKSEDGE				
Rhynchospora tracyi	TRACY'S BEAKSEDGE				
Rubus cuneifolius	SAND BLACKBERRY				
Sabal palmetto	CABBAGE PALM				
Sagittaria graminea	GRASSY ARROWHEAD				
Serenoa repens	SAW PALMETTO				
Smilax auriculata	EARLEAF GREENBRIER				
Smilax bona-nox	SAW GREENBRIER				
Smilax glauca	CAT GREENBRIER				
Smilax laurifolia	LAUREL GREENBRIER				
Solidago fistulosa	PINEBARREN GOLDENROD				
Solidago sp.	GOLDENROD				
Sorghastrum secundum	LOPSIDED INDIANGRASS				
Spartina bakeri	SAND CORDGRASS				
Sphagnum sp.	SPHAGNUM MOSS				
Sporobolus junceus	PINEYWOODS DROPSEED				
Stillingia sylvatica	QUEENSDELIGHT				
Stylisma patens	COASTALPLAIN DAWNFLOWER				
Syngonanthus flavidulus	YELLOW HATPINS				
Tephrosia chrysophylla	SCURF HOARYPEA				
Tillandsia usneoides	SPANISH MOSS				
Typha latifolia	BROADLEAF CATTAIL				
Utricularia purpurea	EASTERN PURPLE BLADDERWORT				
Utricularia subulata	ZIGZAG BLADDERWORT				
Vaccinium arboreum	SPARKLEBERRY				
Vaccinium darrowii	DARROW'S BLUEBERRY				
Vaccinium myrsinites	SHINY BLUEBERRY				
Viburnum obovatum	WALTER'S VIBURNUM				
Vitis rotundifolia	MUSCADINE				
Woodwardia areolata	NETTED CHAIN FERN				
Xyris sp.	YELLOWEYED GRASS				
Zornia bracteata	VIPERINA				

FDACS = Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; FWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: FNAI = Florida Natural Areas Inventory; C = Commercially exploited; S3 = Very rare or locally restricted in Florida; T = Threatened species

EXHIBIT E: WATERMELON POND PRESERVE ANIMAL SPECIES LIST

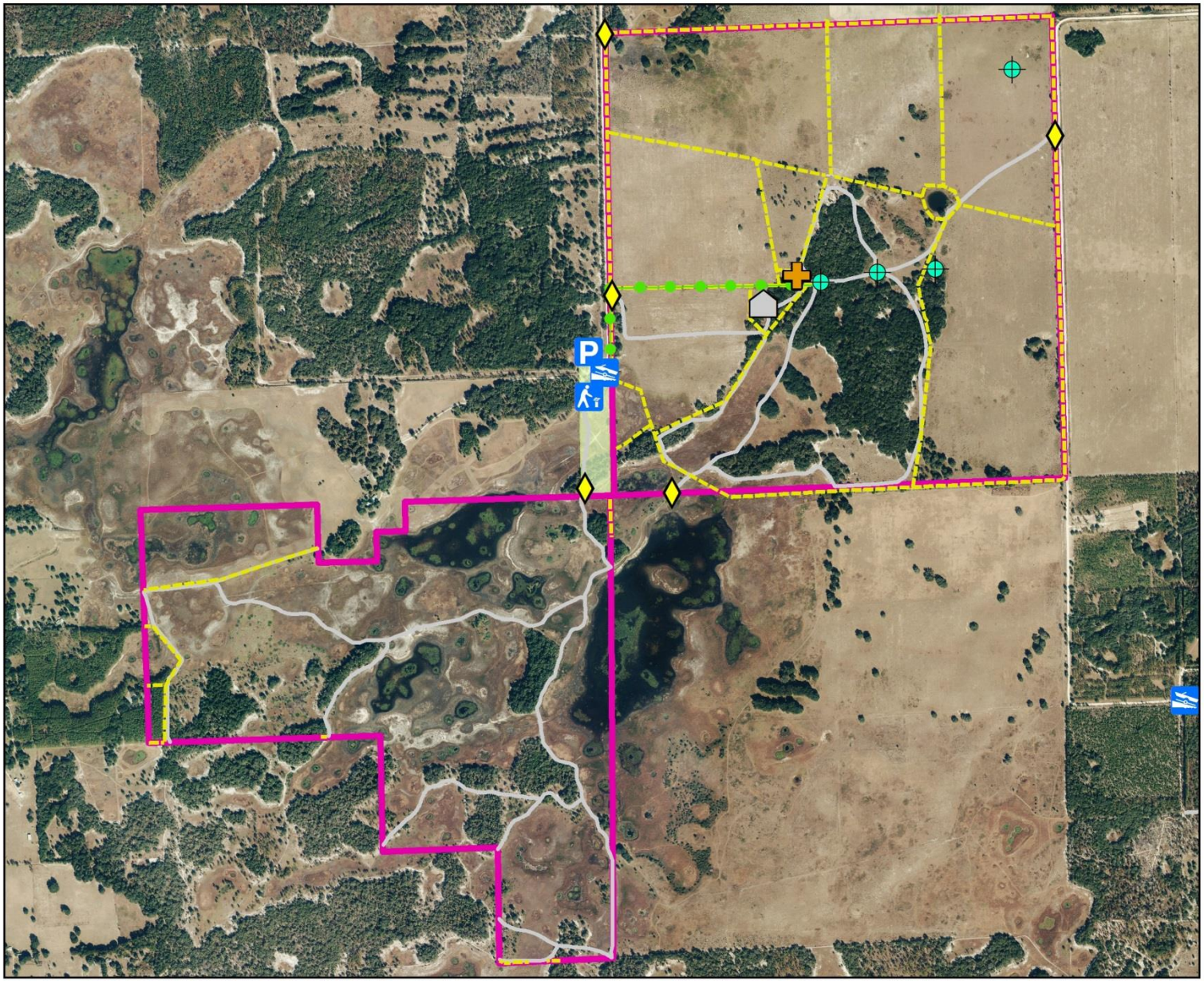
Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	SRANK	FEDERAL	STATE	Status
Birds	*Accipiter cooperii*	Cooper's Hawk	S3	N	N	
	Ardea alba	Great Egret	S4	N	N	
	Ardea herodias	Great Blue Heron				
	Athene cunicularia floridana	Burrowing Owl	S3	N	LS	
	Baeolophus bicolor	Tufted Titmouse				
	Branta canadensis	Canada Goose				
	Bubulcus ibis	Cattle Egret				
	Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed Hawk				
	Cardinalis cardinalis	Northern Cardinal				
	Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer				
	Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier				
	Colinus virginianus	Northern Bobwhite				
	Columbina passerina	Common Ground-Dove				
	Coragyps atratus	Black Vulture				
	Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow				
	Corvus ossifragus	Fish Crow				
	Cyanocitta cristata	Blue Jay				
	Dendroica palmarum	Palm Warbler				
	Dryocopus pileatus	Pileated Woodpecker				
	Dumetella carolinensis	Gray Catbird				
	Egretta caerulea	Little Blue Heron	S4	N	LS	
	Elanoides forficatus	Swallow-tailed Kite	S2	N	N	
	Falco sparverius paulus	Southeastern American Kestrel	S3	N	LT	
	Fulica americana	American Coot				
	Geothlypis trichas	Common Yellowthroat				
	Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	S2S3	N	LT	
	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	S3	N	N	
	Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead Shrike				
	Melanerpes carolinus	Red-bellied Woodpecker				
	Meleagris gallopavo	Wild Turkey				
	Mimus polyglottos	Northern Mockingbird				
	Molothrus ater	Brown-headed Cowbird				
	Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	S2	LE	LE	
	Myiarchus crinitus	Great Crested Flycatcher				
	Otus asio	Eastern Screech Owl				
	Parula americana	Northern Parula Warbler				
	Passerina caerulea	Blue Grosbeak				

	Polioptila caerulea	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
	Sialia sialis	Eastern Bluebird	
	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	
	Thryothorus ludovicianus	Carolina Wren	
	Tyrannus tyrannus	Eastern Kingbird	
	Tyto alba	Barn Owl	
	Vireo griseus	White-eyed Vireo	
	Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove	
Fish	*Ameiurus catus*	White Catfish	
	Gambusia holbrooki	Mosquitofish	
	Micropterus salmoides floridanus	Largemouth Bass	
Invertebrates	*Agraulis vanillae*	Gulf Fritillary	
	Anax junius	Green Darner	
	Bombylius major	Bee Fly	
	Celithemis amanda	Amanda's Pennant	
	Erynnis horatius	Horace's Duskywing	
	Erythemis simplicicollis	Eastern Pondhawk	
	Erythrodiplax miniscula	Little Blue Dragonlet	
	Eurytides marcellus	Zebra Swallowtail	
	Laphria sp.	Robberfly	
	Papilio glaucus	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	
	Papilio palamedes	Palamedes Swallowtail	
	Phoebis sennae	Cloudless Sulphur	
	Plecia nearctica	Lovebug	
	Strymon melinus	Gray Hairstreak	
	Tibicen auletes	Scissor-grinder Cicada	
	Tramea carolina	Carolina Saddlebags	
Mammals	*Canis familiaris*	Dog	Introduced
	Canis latrans	Coyote	Introduced
	Didelphis virginiana	Virginia Opossum	
	Felis rufus	Bobcat	
	Geomys pinetis	Southeastern Pocket Gopher	
	Mephitis mephitis	Striped Skunk	
	Odocoileus virginianus	White-tailed Deer	
	Sciurus carolinensis	Gray Squirrel	

	Sciurus niger shermani	Fox Squirrel	S3	N	LS	
	Sus scrofa	Wild Pig				Introduced
	Sylvilagus floridanus	Eastern Cottontail				
	Vulpes vulpes	Red Fox				Introduced
Reptiles and Amphibians	*Acris gryllus*	Southern Cricket Frog				
	Alligator mississippiensis	American Alligator	S4	SAT	LS	
	Apalone ferox	Florida Softshell				
	Bufo terrestris	Southern Toad				
	Cnemidophorus sexlineatus	Six-lined Racerunner				
	Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	S3	N	LT	
	Hyla squirella	Squirrel Treefrog				
	Pseudemys floridana peninsularis	Peninsula Cooter				
	Rana capito aesopus	Florida Gopher Frog				
	Rana catesbeiana	Bullfrog				
	Rana clamitans	Bronze Frog				
	Rana grylio	Pig Frog				

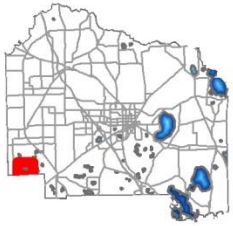
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; FWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; FNAI = Florida Natural Areas Inventory; LE = Endangered species; LS = Species of special concern; LT = Threatened species; SAT = Treated as Threatened due to similarity in appearance to another listed species; S2 = Imperiled in Florida; S3 = Very rare or locally restricted in Florida; S4 = apparently secure in Florida.

Exhibit F.1- Watermelon Pond Preserve Gladman and Metzger Tracts Existing Site Improvements



Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

- Preserve Boundary
- Watermelon Pond County Park
- Parking Area
- Boat Ramp
- Kiosk
- Gates
- Roads, Trails & Firebreaks
- Fences
- Overhead Power Line
- Wells
- Pole Barn
- Cattle Pen



Alachua County FOREVER

N W E S

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

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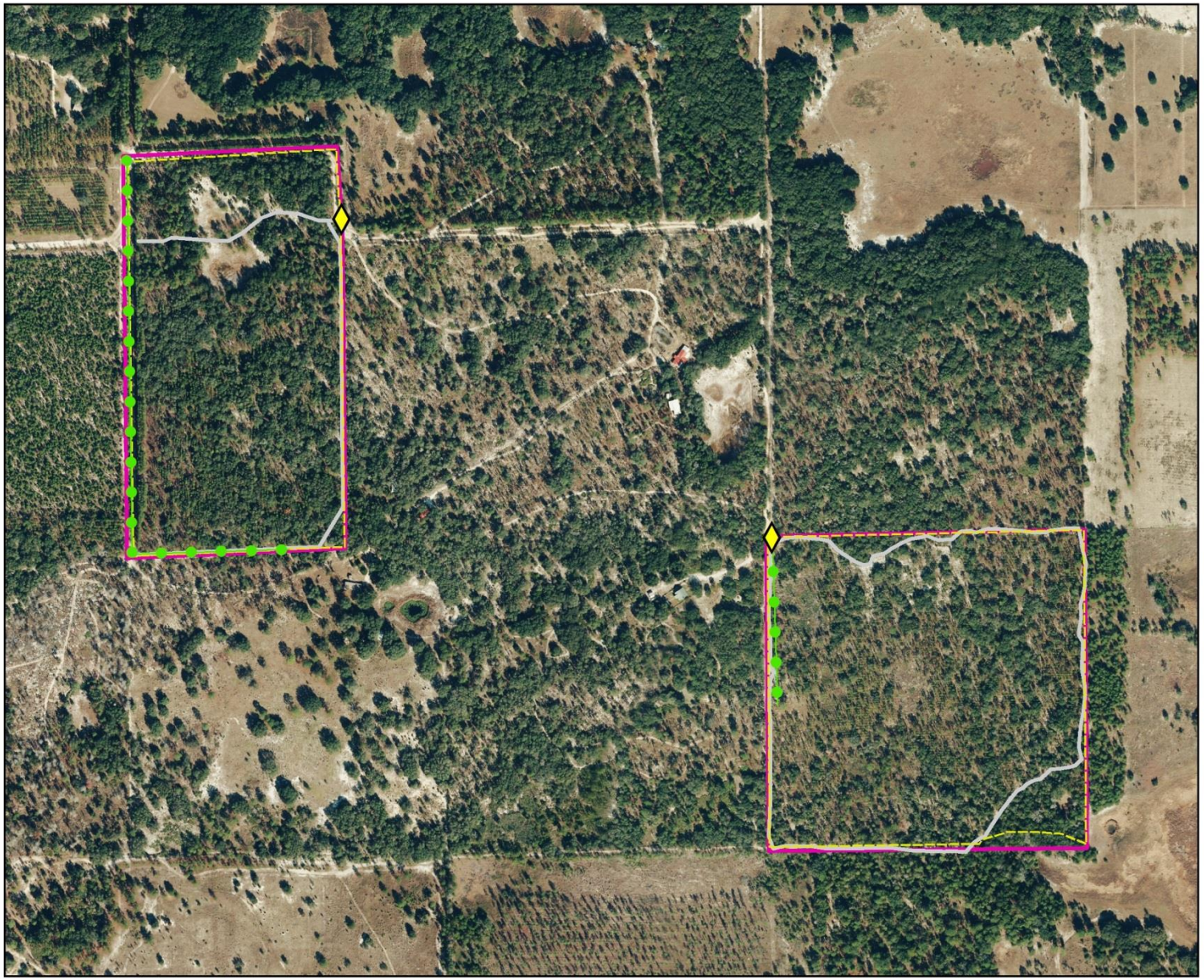
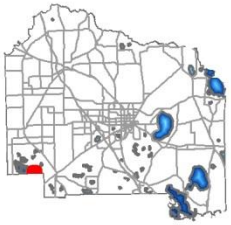
Exhibit F.2- Watermelon Pond Preserve Ferran and King Tracts Existing Site Improvements



Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

- Preserve Boundary
- Gates
- Roads, Trails & Firebreaks
- Fence
- Overhead Power Line



Alachua County FOREVER

N W E S

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

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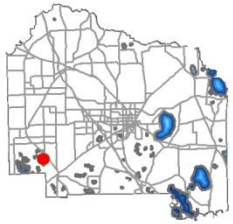
Exhibit F.3- Watermelon Pond Preserve Wright Tract Existing Site Improvements

Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

Preserve Boundary
Roads, Trails & Firebreaks
Overhead Power Line



Alachua County FOREVER

N W E S

0 250 500 Feet

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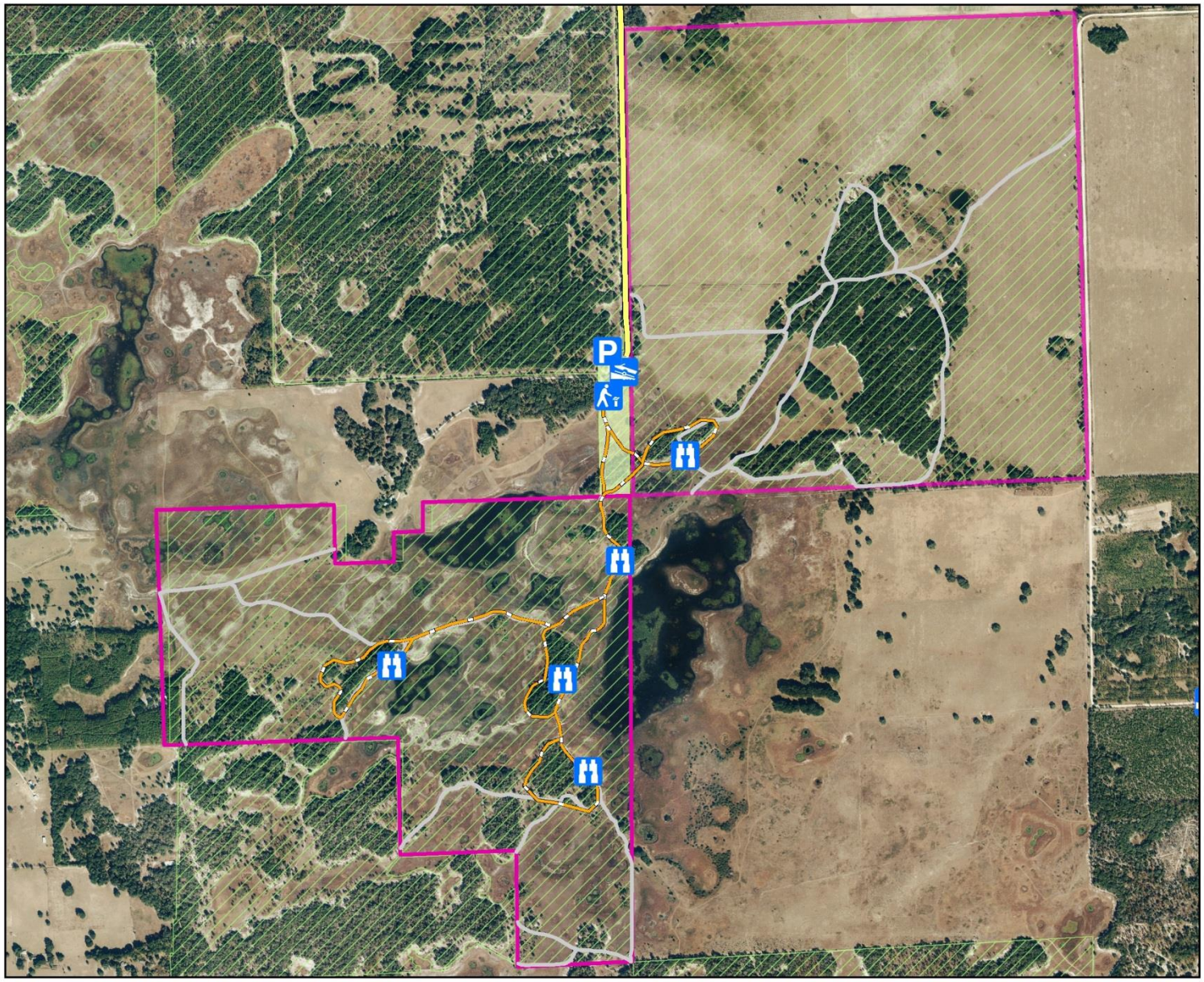
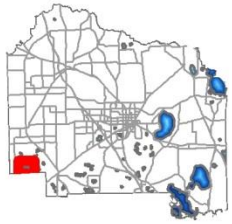
Exhibit G - Watermelon Pond Preserve Conceptual Site Plan



Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

- Preserve Boundary
- FNAI - Managed Areas
- Watermelon Pond County Park
- Parking Area
- Boat Ramp
- Kiosk
- Viewing Area
- Roads, Trails & Firebreaks
- Recreational Trails
- Access Roads



Alachua County FOREVER

N W E S

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

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EXHIBIT H – MANAGEMENT PLANNING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Watermelon Pond Preserve Management Planning Meeting

Date: May 4, 2015

Location: Archer City Hall, 16870 SW 134th Avenue, Archer, Florida

Present: Sandra Vardaman, Susie Hetrick, Barbara Sieling, Rodney Hyden, Russell Elliott, Sandy Johnson, Marilyn Johnson, Fletcher J. Hope, Jr., Jacob Lebowitz, Earl Poucher, Bricky Way, Stefan Davis, Chase Pirtle

---

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 took place during the management plan presentation, with several questions and comments from citizens. Topics discussed included: preferred prescribed burning seasons, hardwood (oak) control for restoration, cattle grazing and management on the Metzger tract, hunting on the Metzger and Gladman tracts, recreational use of trails during hunting seasons, fence removal on the Gladman tract, and neighbor notification for prescribed burning. Some attendees provided written comments at the meeting (attached).

Watermelon Pond Preserve Management Plan Comment Card

May 4, 2015 Management Plan Public Meeting

Name: Dave Marilyn Johnson Organization:

Phone Number: (352) 472-7805 Email: auntming@hotmail.com

Comments: I don't want to see any hunting with guns on any properties owned by the taxpayers. Better control of poachers.

I would like to receive burn notice!
28811 S.W. 101 Ave
Newberry, 32669

Watermelon Pond Preserve Management Plan Comment Card

May 4, 2015 Management Plan Public Meeting

Name: Sandy Johnson Organization: property owner

Phone Number: 352-472-3911 Email: foxtrotter@attnet

Comments: no hunting on trails for walking + riding areas Please.

Sandy Johnson
P.O. Box 1282
Newberry Fl 32669

Watermelon Pond Preserve Management Plan Comment Card

May 4, 2015 Management Plan Public Meeting

Name: Chase Pirtle Organization: Ashton Biological Preserve

Phone Number: 352-256-6824 Email: Zoochase@hotmail.com

Comments: Dont like Burning in the Spring + would love to See Some land Restoration in the Future.

Watermelon Pond Preserve Management Plan Comment Card

May 4, 2015 Management Plan Public Meeting

Name: R Earl Poucher Organization: Owner

Phone Number: 850-566-0865 Email: southernveg@gmail.com

Comments: ① 250th ST S.W. Needs immediate attention To channel rainwater off roadway instead of into the fd.
② Any existing fences between private lands & governmental lands should only be modified by formal written notice to landowner who must be afforded an opportunity to respond. We are commited To the preservation and protection of our lands for enjoyment by future generations.

Watermelon Pond Preserve Management Plan Comment Card

May 4, 2015 Management Plan Public Meeting

Name: Barbara Sieling Organization:

Phone Number: 727-458-7141 Email:

Comments: No free grazing no chemical fertilizer

use organic fertilizer

on county owned land

APPENDIX A – DEEDS

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
INSTRUMENT # 2264337 2 PGS
2006 AUG 04 01:41 PM BK 3435 PG 436
J. K. "BUDDY" IRBY
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK25 Receipt#294955
Doc Stamp-Deed: 1,260.00
2264337

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:
RONALD A. CARPENTER
CARPENTER & ROSCOW, P.A.
5608 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, Florida 32653
Tax Parcel # 02711-006-000

WARRANTY DEED

THIS WARRANTY DEED, made and executed this 2nd day of August, 2006, by **ELIZABETH KING WILLIAMS, f/k/a ELIZABETH D. KING,** a married woman, hereinafter referred to as GRANTOR*, to **ALACHUA COUNTY,** a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida, whose post office address is P.O. Box 1188, Gainesville, Florida, 32602-1188, hereinafter referred to as GRANTEE*.

WITNESSETH: That the GRANTOR for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars ($10.00) and other good and valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, by these presents does grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the GRANTEE, all that certain land situate in Alachua County, Florida, to wit:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

SUBJECT TO and together with easements and restrictions of record; and subject to taxes for the year 2006 and all subsequent years.

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

THE PROPERTY conveyed herein is not the homestead property of the grantors, and neither the grantors nor the grantors spouse, nor anyone for whose support the grantors is responsible, resides on or adjacent to said land.

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

SAID GRANTOR does hereby fully warrant the title to said land, and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomever.

**"GRANTOR" and "GRANTEE" are used for singular or plural, as context requires.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the GRANTOR has caused these presents to be executed in its name, the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in our presence as witnesses:

Printed Name CRAIG D. WILLIAMS

Printed Name Dale E Howe

GRANTOR:

ELIZABETH KING WILLIAMS,
f/k/a **ELIZABETH D. KING**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day, before me, an officer duly authorized in the State aforesaid and in the County aforesaid to take acknowledgments, personally appeared **Elizabeth King Williams,** who is [X] personally known to me to be the person described in, or [ ] presented _____ as proof of identification, and who under oath, executed the foregoing instrument and she acknowledged before me that she executed the same.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid this 2nd day of August, 2006.

DALE E. HOWE
Notary Public-Minnesota
My Comm. Expires Jan. 31, 2010

(Seal)
Notary Public, State of Minnesota

EXHIBIT "A"

INSTRUMENT # 2264337
2 PGS

The Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4 of SE 1/4) of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 17 East, Alachua County, Florida.

TOGETHER with an easement for ingress and egress over the North 100 feet of Section 6, Township 11 South, Range 18 East; the North 100 feet of Sections 1 and 2, Township 11 South, Range 17 East; the West 100 feet of Section 2, Township 11 South, Range 17 East; the West 100 feet of the North Half (N ½) of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 17 East, Alachua County, Florida; the North 100 feet of Section 10, Township 11 South, Range 17 East, to the waters of Watermelon Pond.

TOGETHER with a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress and public utilities forty (40) feet on either side of the following described centerline. For a Point of Beginning commence at the Northwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 of SW 1/4) also being the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW 1/4 of NW 1/4) of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 17 East, Alachua County, Florida, and run East along the North line of said Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 11 to the Northeast corner of said Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 of SW 1/4); thence run North along the East line of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW 1/4 of NW 1/4) of said Section 11 a distance of 357.41 feet; thence run North 86 deg. 54 min. 48 sec. East, a distance of 885.61 feet; thence run South 03 deg. 52 min. 50 sec. East, 367.26 feet to a point on the South line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE 1/4 of NW 1/4) of said Section 11; thence run East along the South line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE 1/4 of NW 1/4) and along the South line of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW 1/4 of NE 1/4) of said Section 11 to the Southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW 1/4 of NE 1/4) of said Section 11 (being also the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE 1/4 of NE 1/4) of said Section 11) which point shall hereinafter be referred to as reference point "A", from said reference point run North along the East line of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW 1/4 of NE 1/4) to the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW 1/4 of NE 1/4) of said Section; thence return to reference point "A and run South along the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW 1/4 of SE 1/4) of said Section 11 to the Southeast corner of the said Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW 1/4 of SE 1/4).

Prepared by and return to:
RONALD A. CARPENTER
CARPENTER & ROSCOW, P.A.
5608 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32653

2305223

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
INSTRUMENT # 2305223 1 PG
2007 JAN 11 03:54 PM BK 3528 PG 1405
J. K. "BUDDY" IRBY
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK25 Receipt#314346
Doc Stamp-Deed: 1,575.00

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S DEED

THIS Personal Representative's Deed made this 3rd day of January, 2007, between **MARY HELEN BORSCH, as Personal Representative of the Estate of HELEN MIRIAM GLADMAN, decedent,** whose mailing address is 1917 Clubhouse Road, Lakeland, Florida, 33813-3011, hereinafter called "Grantor", and **ALACHUA COUNTY, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida,** whose mailing address is P.O. Box 2877, Gainesville, Florida, 32602-2877, hereinafter called "Grantee".

WITNESSETH, that said Grantor, for and in consideration of the premises and the sum of Ten Dollars ($10.00), and other good and valuable considerations to said Grantor in hand paid by said Grantee, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, and sold to the said Grantee, and Grantee's heirs and assigns forever, the following described land, situate, lying and being in **Alachua County, Florida**, to-wit:

All of Section 9, Township 11 South, Range 17 East, Alachua County, Florida, LESS Southwest 1/4 and LESS Southwest 1/4 of Southeast 1/4.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT

The Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) +- 10 acres, and the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) +- 2-1/2 acres.
Tax Parcel # 02707-000-000

SUBJECT TO and together with easements and restrictions of record and subject to taxes for the year 2007 and all subsequent years.

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

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

AND the Grantor hereby covenants with said Grantee that the Grantor has good right and lawful authority to sell and convey said land; that the Grantor warrants the title to said land for any acts of Grantor and will defend the title against the lawful claims of all persons claiming by, through, or under Grantor, but against none other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has set her hand and seal on the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in our presence as witnesses:

Printed Name: Robert G. Cochran

Orchid A. Gonzalez
Printed Name: ORCHID A. GONZALEZ

Grantor:

Mary Helen Borsch
MARY HELEN BORSCH, as Personal Representative of the Estate of HELEN MIRIAM GLADMAN, decedent

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day, before me, an officer duly authorized in the State and County aforesaid to take acknowledgments, personally appeared **MARY HELEN BORSCH as Personal Representative of the Estate of HELEN MIRIAM GLADMAN, decedent,** to me known to be the Grantor described in the foregoing Personal Representative's Deed, and having taken an oath, she acknowledged and swore to the execution of the said Personal Representative's Deed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid on this 3rd day of January, 2007.

Notary Public State of Florida
Orchid Alice Gonzalez
My Commission DD414510
Expires 05/30/2009

Orchid Alice Gonzalez
Notary Public, State of FLORIDA

1309.00

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
INSTRUMENT # 2167687 2 PGS
2005 SEP 01 02:31 PM BK 3206 PG 653
J. K. "BUDDY" IRBY
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK10 Receipt#251117
Doc Stamp-Deed: 1,309.00

2167687

Prepared by and return to:
Charles I. Holden, Jr.
Attorney at Law
Holden, Rappenecker, ET, AL
2772 N.W. 43rd Street Suite S
Gainesville, FL 32606
352-377-5900
File Number: 7142.2(04-462)
Will Call No.:

Parcel Identification No. 02711-006-004

[Space Above This Line For Recording Data]

Warranty Deed

(STATUTORY FORM - SECTION 689.02, F.S.)

This Indenture made this 3rd day of December, 2004 between **FELTON M. SHEFFIELD and GAIL R. SHEFFIELD, husband and wife** whose post office address is 6473 S.W. Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608-4712 of the County of **Alachua**, State of Florida, grantor*, and ROBERT C. FERRAN, **AS TRUSTEE OF THE ROBERT C. FERRAN REVOCABLE TRUST DATED 11/12/1993, AS AMENDED AND RESTATED** whose post office address is ~~19314 County Road 325, Cross Creek, FL 32640~~ of the County of Alachua, State of **Florida**, grantee*,
530 Grand Street, Orlando, FL 32805

Witnesseth, that said grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of TEN AND NO/100 DOLLARS ($10.00) and other good and valuable considerations to said grantor in hand paid by said grantee, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, and sold to the said grantee, and grantee's heirs and assigns forever, the following described land, situate, lying and being in **Alachua County, Florida**, to-wit:

PROPERTY SET FORTH ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.

Subject to taxes for 2004 and subsequent years; covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, reservations and limitations of record, if any.

The Grantee, as trustee, has the full power and authority to protect, conserve, sell, convey, lease, encumber, and to otherwise manage and dispose of said real property pursuant to F.S. 689.071.

and said grantor does hereby fully warrant the title to said land, and will defend the same against lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

* "Grantor" and "Grantee" are used for singular or plural, as context requires.

In Witness Whereof, grantor has hereunto set grantor's hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in our presence:

Witness Name: Charles I. Holden, Jr. As to Both

Witness Name:

Witness Name: Carlene Cross As to Both

Witness Name:

Felton M. Sheffield (Seal)
FELTON M. SHEFFIELD

Gail R. Sheffield (Seal)
GAIL R. SHEFFIELD

State of Florida
County of Alachua

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 3rd day of December, 2004 by FELTON M. SHEFFIELD and GAIL R. SHEFFIELD, who [X] are personally known or [ ] have produced a driver's license as identification.

[Notary Seal]

Charles I. Holden, Jr.
MY COMMISSION # CC974170 EXPIRES
January 12, 2005
BONDED THRU TROY FAIN INSURANCE, INC.

Notary Public

Printed Name: Charles I. Holden, Jr.

My Commission Expires:

DoubleTime®

INSTRUMENT # 2167687
2 PGS

EXHIBIT "A"

A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID TRACT OF LAND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT AN IRON PIPE BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE AFOREMENTIONED SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND RUN NORTH 01 DEG. 03 MIN. 28 SEC. WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 AND ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION, A DISTANCE OF 1659.32 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN NORTH 86 DEG. 54 MIN. 48 SEC. EAST, A DISTANCE OF 895.61 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 03 DEG. 52 MIN. 50 DEG. EAST, A DISTANCE OF 367.26 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE, SAID IRON PIPE LYING ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4; THENCE RUN NORTH 87 DEG. 33 MIN. 00 SEC. EAST, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 413.29 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4; THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEG. 03 MIN. 21 SEC. EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 1286.25 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4; THENCE RUN SOUTH 86 DEG. 52 MIN. 10 SEC. WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 1317.13 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. LESS THE EAST 413.29 FEET OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST.

Recording	$ 18.50
Doc Stamps	$ 14,998.90
Intangible Tax	$ 0
Total	$ 15,017.40

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
INSTRUMENT # 2707373 2 PG(S)
April 11, 2012 04:31:57 PM
Book 4098 Page 1536
J. K. IRBY Clerk Of Circuit Court
ALACHUA COUNTY, Florida

Doc Stamp-Deed: $14,998.90

This Instrument was Prepared By
and is to be Returned to:

Aileen S. Davis
Akerman Senterfitt
401 E. Jackson Street, Suite 1700
Tampa, Florida 33602

RETURN TO: SFMH&M

Consideration: $2,142,700.00
Documentary Stamp Tax: $14,998.90
Account No.: 02690-000-000
Geo No.: 03-11-17-02690000000

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S DEED

THIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S DEED is made as of April 11, 2012 by **MORGAN METZGER DESMEUSLES,** as Personal Representative of the Estate of Harold Maxwell Metzger, Jr., whose mailing address is 11823 McIntosh Road, Thonotosassa, Florida 33592, as Grantor, and **ALACHUA COUNTY**, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida, whose mailing address is c/o the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, ~~12 S.E. 1st Street~~ PO Box 1188 Gainesville, Florida 32602-~~2877,~~ 1188 as Grantee. (All references to the parties herein shall include their successors and assigns.)

W I T N E S S E T H :

THAT Grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten and No/100 Dollars ($10.00) to her in hand paid by Grantee, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledge, has granted, bargained, and sold to Grantee the real property (the "Property") situated in Alachua County, Florida, legally described below:

> All of Section 3, Township 11 South, Range 17 East, Alachua County, Florida, LESS: The West 40 feet of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) and the West 40 feet of that portion of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) to the water's edge of Watermelon Pond, all in Section Three (3), Township Eleven (11) South, Range Seventeen (17) East. (Deed Book 341, Page 192 of the Public Records of Alachua County, Florida).

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the Property, with all improvements thereon, unto Grantee in fee simple forever.

AND Grantor does hereby covenant with Grantee that the Property is free from all liens and encumbrances except the lien of taxes or special assessments for the year 2012.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of:

"GRANTOR"

(Witness 1 – Signature)

(Witness 1 – Printed Name)

(Witness 2 – Signature)

(Witness 2 – Printed Name)

(SEAL)
MORGAN METZGER DESMEUSLES,
As Personal Representative of the Estate of Harold Maxwell Metzger, Jr.

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on April 10, 2012, by **MORGAN METZGER DESMEUSLES**, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Harold Maxwell Metzger, Jr., ✓ who is personally known to me or ____ who has provided a driver's license as identification.

(Signature)

(Type or Print Name)
My Commission Expires:_____
My Commission Number is:_____

AILEEN S. DAVIS
MY COMMISSION # EE 131870
EXPIRES: October 9, 2015
Bonded Thru Notary Public Underwriters

{23752951;1}

This Instrument Prepared By:
Jonathan F. Wershow, Esquire
204 SE First Street
Gainesville, Florida 32601

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S DISTRIBUTIVE DEED

THIS INDENTURE is made this 24th day of JULY, 2013, by and between JILL GEREMIA, the duly qualified and acting Successor Personal Representative of the Estate of MARGARET KATHLEEN WRIGHT, deceased, parties of the first part, and ALACHUA COUNTY, whose post office address is: Post Office Box 5547, Gainesville, Florida 32627, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, MARGARET KATHLEEN WRIGHT died testate a residence of Alachua County, Florida, on August 20, 2012, seized and possessed of the real property hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, title to said property passed to the party of the second part as of the date of said decedent's death pursuant to the provisions of the decedent's Last Will and Testament, which was admitted to probate and recorded by the Circuit Court of Alachua County, Florida, Probate Division, in Case No. 01-2012-CP-1254, subject only to the right of the parties of the first part to sell or encumber the property for the purpose of defraying claims, costs, and expenses of administration of decedent's estate; and

WHEREAS, the parties of the first part wish to distribute said property to the party of the second part and evidence the release of the property from said right to sell or encumber.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and in connection with the distribution of the estate of said decedent, the parties of the first part have released to the party of the second part the right to sell or encumber said property and granted, conveyed and conformed unto the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, all of the interest of said decedent in and to the real property situated in Alachua County, Florida described as follows:

See Attached Legal Description

TOGETHER with all and singular the tenements, hereditament, and appurtenances belonging to or in any way appertaining to that real property, subject to all restrictions, reservations, and easements of record, if any, and ad valorem taxes for the current year.

Because this deed is given to evidence the distribution of assets of a decedent's estate and involves the assumption of no mortgage, minimum state documentary stamps are affixed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, as Personal Representative of the estate of said decedent, has executed this instrument under seal on the date aforesaid.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in Our Presence as Witnesses:

Print Name JONATHAN F. WERSHOW

Print Name LINDA LEE SHERWOOD

Jill Geremia
JILL GEREMIA
as Successor Personal Representative of the Estate
of MARGARET KATHLEEN WRIGHT, Deceased.

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 24th day of July, 2013, by JILL GEREMIA, as Successor Personal Representative of the Estate of MARGARET KATHLEEN WRIGHT, deceased, who is personally known to me or who has produced a driver's license as identification and who did take an oath.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:

LINDA LEE SHERWOOD
Notary Public - State of Florida
My Comm. Expires Apr 23, 2014
Commission # DD 962125
Bonded Through National Notary Assn.

Legal Description
Personal Representative's Distributive Deed

The West ½ of the Northeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 17 East, Alachua County, Florida.

LESS the following described parcel: Commence at a point 16.0 feet West of and 20.3 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Northeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 17 East for a point of beginning and run Westerly to a point that is 50.2 feet South of the Southwest corner of the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 17 East. Then run North 50.2 feet to the Southwest corner of the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of said section. Then run east along the South line of the Northeast ¼ of said section to a point 20.3 feet North of the aforementioned point of beginning. Then run South to the point of beginning.

TOGETHER WITH an easement for ingress, egress and public utilities over and across the East 40 feet of the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ AND the South 20 feet and the North 20 feet of the parcel of property described as follows:

The East ½ of the Northeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 17 East, Alachua County, Florida.

LESS the following described parcel: Commence at a point 16.0 feet West of and 20.3 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Northeast ¼ of the Southeast ½ of Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 17 East for a point of beginning and run Westerly to a point that is 50.2 feet South of the Southwest corner of the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 17 East. Then run North 50.2 feet to the Southwest corner of the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of said section. Then run east along the South line of the Northeast ¼ of said section to a point 20.3 feet north of the aforementioned point of beginning. Then run South to the point of beginning.

APPENDIX B – AGREEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF ENCROACHMENT

AGREEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF ENCROACHMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 22 day of April, 20 14, by and between Alachua County, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida, by and through its Board of County Commissioners, ("County"), and Michael J. and Vassie P. Pittman, 11825 SW 274th Street, Newberry, FL 32609, (the "Pittmans").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Pittmans own property in Section 8 Township 11 South Range 17 East at 11825 SW 274th Street, Newberry, FL 32609, tax parcel number(s) 02705-001-001; and

WHEREAS, the County owns property which is contiguous to property owned by the Pittmans, tax parcel 02707-000-000; and

WHEREAS, the Pittmans have encroached onto the County's property by placing or allowing to remain certain encroachment(s); and

WHEREAS, the Pittmans wish to continue to encroach onto the County's property; and

WHEREAS, the County finds that, at this time, the existing encroachment(s) would not be detrimental to the County's use of its property or to the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to enter into a settlement agreement to establish rights and obligations with regard to the encroachment(s) on the County property.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, the parties do mutually covenant and agree as follows:

1) Effective Date. This agreement shall be effective on the date executed by all parties, until terminated.

2) Property. This agreement allows for the limited continued use of limited portions of County-owned property described in **Attachment "A"** ("County Property").

3) Pittmans. The Pittmans are record owners of property contiguous to the County Property, recorded in the Official Records of Alachua County, Florida, described in **Attachment "B"** ("Pittman Property").

4) Deed to County. Concurrently with the execution of this Agreement, Pittmans will execute a quit claim deed, in the form set forth in **Attachment "C"**, in favor of the County for the County Property.

5) Pittman's Use of County Property.

a) In exchange for executing the quit claim deed, Pittmans may, for a period of 20 years or less, use the County Property for the following existing purposes only:

   i) Harvest approximately 3.11 acres of pine plantation ("Plantation"), after which harvest, the Pittmans will no longer have any use, right, title or interest in this portion of the property.

   ii) Allow the SE corner of the existing single-family residential structure the Pittmans currently occupy to remain in place on the County Property, along with a six-foot buffer (altogether known as the "Residence").

b) The Plantation and the Residence shall collectively be referred to as "encroachments". The Pittmans may continue to encroach upon the County Property in the manner described herein until this agreement is terminated.

c) The Pittmans shall notify the County and shall obtain written authorization from the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department prior to effecting any maintenance, repairs or alterations on the County Property, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld in accordance herein.

d) If the Pittmans choose to replace the encroachments, then the Pittmans shall replace or cause to be replaced the encroachments on the Pittman property, not the County Property.

e) The Pittmans are allowed only one timber harvest through this agreement. For that harvest, the Pittmans must comply with the provisions in paragraph 11 of this agreement and the following conditions:

   i) Only pine trees from the Plantation may be harvested during the term of this agreement but may not be replanted. Further, no stumps, pine straw, off-site hardwoods, palmetto berries, or other vegetation may be harvested from the County Property.

   ii) No timber harvest loading ramp will be located on the County property.

   iii) All timber harvest slash will be removed from the County property.

   iv) In the event that a species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act is discovered in the Plantation during harvest operations, Licensee shall immediately suspend harvest operations on the affected portion of the Plantation and notify the County. The County shall then consult with the appropriate regulatory agencies to determine whether harvest can continue and what restrictions on harvest may apply.

v) The Pittmans must repair any damage to County Property caused by the harvesting activities, such as major rutting of areas or damage to fences.

f) The Pittmans shall not discharge or permit the discharge, directly or indirectly, of any fuels, oils, bitumens, calcium chloride, acids, insecticides, herbicides, wastes, toxic or hazardous substances, or other pollutants or harmful materials, onto the County Property nor into the surface or ground waters of the County Property, including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, rivers, canals, ditches, or reservoirs. The Pittmans shall comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and municipal laws concerning toxic wastes, hazardous substances, and pollution of surface and ground waters. If any waste, toxic or hazardous substance, or other material that can cause pollution, as defined in section 403.031, Fla. Stat., is dumped or spilled in unauthorized areas, the Pittmans shall notify the County thereof within one (1) workday and thereafter shall remove the material and restore the area to its original condition. If necessary, contaminated ground shall be excavated and disposed of as directed by the County and replaced with suitable fill material, and planted as required to re-establish vegetation. All cleanup and disposal costs shall be borne by the Pittmans.

g) The two existing sheds on the County Property belonging to the Pittmans will be removed from the County Property within 45 days of execution of this agreement; such removal will comply with the provisions in paragraph 11 of this agreement.

h) The existing fence enclosing three sides of the County Property may be relocated to the property boundary at the County's discretion and expense.

i) The County may remove trees from the plantation to install firelines and fences or otherwise as necessary to protect the County Property.

6) Termination of Agreement.

a) This agreement shall be terminated upon any of the following:

i) Death or Residence. The agreement shall terminate midnight on the ninetieth (90th) day after either (1) the demise of both Michael J. and Vassie P. Pittman, or (2) both Michael J. and Vassie P. Pittman cease to reside at the Pittman property.

ii) Immediately upon the expiration of the twenty-year term. If any of the encroachments remain on County property after twenty years from the execution of this agreement, all right, title and interest in the encroachments shall transfer to the County.

iii) Immediately upon the sale or transfer of Pittman property.

b) Effect of Termination. Prior to termination, all encroachments must be removed from the County Property; such removal will comply with the provisions in paragraph 11 of this agreement.

(a) On termination, the Pittmans grant the County the authority to remove any and all encroachments and any personal property from the County Property and dispose of those encroachments in a manner of the County's choosing, including but not limited to placing the relocated Encroachment(s) and personal property on the Pittman property. The Pittmans release the County and its officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, attorneys, and agents from all claims for damages related to such termination or resulting from or in any way arising directly or indirectly out of the removal of the Encroachment(s) or personal property from the County Property, including claims for equitable or injunctive relief, damages, loss or injury. In addition to the Release of Liability in paragraph 10, the Pittmans waive, release, absolve, and covenant not to sue Alachua County, or its officers or employees, volunteers, representatives, attorneys and agents, for any and all claims, including claims for equitable or injunctive relief, damages, loss or injury of any kind resulting from or in any way arising directly or indirectly out of the removal of the encroachments or personal property under this paragraph.

7) No Right of Assignment. The Pittmans may not assign or otherwise transfer any rights or obligations of this agreement to a third party.

8) Notices. All notices shall be in writing and sent to the other party by First Class Mail at the following addresses:

For the County:

Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department
408 West University Avenue, Suite 106
Gainesville, FL 32601
Attn: Environmental Protection Director

And to:

Clerk of the Court
Alachua County Florida
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, Florida 32601
Attn: Finance and Accounting

And to:

Office of Management and Budget
105 SE 1st Street, Suite 6
Gainesville, Florida, 32601
Attn: Contracts

For the Pittmans:

Michael J. and Vassie P. Pittman
11825 SW 274th Street
Newberry, FL 32609

9) Indemnification. The Pittmans indemnify, save harmless, and shall defend the County and all its agents, officials, and employees from any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action of every description brought against the County that arise from or are in connection with the execution, performance, or exercise of any rights, privileges, or uses allowed or granted in this agreement. In the event the County is alleged to be liable on account of alleged acts or omissions, or both, of Pittmans, their subcontractors, employees, agents or invitees, then the Pittmans will defend such allegations through counsel chosen by the County. Furthermore, the Pittmans will pay all costs, fees, and expenses of any defense, including but not limited to, all attorneys' fees and expenses, court costs, and expert witness fees and expenses. This indemnification provision will survive the termination of this agreement. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by the County of sovereign immunity or the provisions or limits of liability of §768.28, Florida Statutes.

10) Release of Liability. The Pittmans waive, release, absolve, and covenant not to sue Alachua County, or its officers or employees, volunteers, representatives, attorneys and agents, for any and all claims, including claims for equitable or injunctive relief, damages, loss or injury of any kind resulting from or in any way arising directly or indirectly out of this agreement. THIS RELEASE INCLUDES A RELEASE FOR ANY AND ALL LOSSES OR INJURIES ARISING OUT OF ANY AND ALL NEGLIGENT OR WRONGFUL ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, OR ITS OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, REPRESENTATIVES, ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS.

11) Insurance. The Pittmans will ensure that their contractors, working on County property, will procure and maintain insurance throughout the harvest, and any other work on County property, of the types and in the minimum amounts required by the County. The Pittmans should contact the County no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of any work to determine those insurance requirements.

12) Permits. If permits are necessary, the Pittmans shall obtain and pay for all necessary permits, permit application fees, agreements, or any other fees that may be required by governmental authority.

13) Laws & Regulations. The Pittmans will comply with all laws, ordinances, statutes, regulations and code requirements applicable to any maintenance, repairs or alterations permitted under this agreement and authorized by the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department under the terms of this agreement. The Pittmans are presumed to be familiar with all state, local and federal laws, ordinances, statutes, regulations, and code requirements that may in any way affect the maintenance, repairs or alterations of the encroachments. If the Pittmans are not familiar with state, local and federal laws, ordinances, statutes, regulations, and code requirements, the Pittmans have the affirmative duty to become familiar with the state, local and federal laws, ordinances, statutes, regulations, and code requirements affecting the maintenance, repairs or alterations of the Encroachment(s)

before performing any such maintenance, repairs or alterations on the County Property and remains liable for any violation and all subsequent damages or fines.

14) Third Party Beneficiaries. This agreement does not create any relationship with, or any rights in favor of, any third party.

15) Severability Clause. If any provision of this agreement is declared void by a court of law, all other provisions will remain in full force and effect.

16) Non Waiver. The failure of either party to exercise any right in this agreement shall not be considered a waiver of such right.

17) Governing Law and Venue. This agreement is governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. If either party brings an action that arises from or is related to this Agreement, then the venue for that action is in Alachua County.

18) Amendments. The parties may amend this agreement only by mutual written agreement of the parties.

19) Entire Agreement. This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the County and Pittmans with respect to the Encroachments and the County Property and supersedes all prior written or oral agreements, understandings, or representations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed for the uses and purposes therein expressed on the day and year first above-written.

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Witness
Date: _____

County Manager
Date: 4-22-14

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Alachua County Attorney

Michael J. Pittman

Michael J Pittman
Date: 4-15-14

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 15th day of April, 2014, by

_____
(Name of person acknowledging).

Lisa M. Vaidyanathan
(Official Notary Signature and Notary Seal)
Lisa M Vaidyanathan
(Name of Notary Typed, Printed or Stamped)

LISA M. VAIDYANATHAN
Commission # EE 128931
Expires October 17, 2015
Bonded Thru Troy Fain Insurance 800-385-7019

Personally Known ☐ OR Produced Identification ☑ Florida Driver License
Type of Identification Produced
F355-550-46-402-0

Vassie P. Pittman

Vassie P. Pittman
Date: 4-15-14

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 15th day of April, 2014, by

_____
(Name of person acknowledging).

Lisa M. Vaidyanathan
(Official Notary Signature and Notary Seal)
Lisa M. Vaidyanathan
(Name of Notary Typed, Printed or Stamped)

LISA M. VAIDYANATHAN
Commission # EE 128931
Expires October 17, 2015
Bonded Thru Troy Fain Insurance 800-385-7019

Personally Known ☒ OR Produced Identification ☐
Type of Identification Produced Florida Driver License

P355-875-50-888-0

ATTACHMENT A: County Property

A DESCRIPTION SKETCH

SITUATED IN

SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY

DESCRIPTION: (BY THIS SURVEYOR)
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT A 2-1/2" FOUND IRON PIPE WITH A 3-1/4" METAL DISK (STAMPED D.C. JOHNSON) AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02°03'47" EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 2705.34 FEET TO A FOUND 1/2" STEEL ROD AND CAP (LB021); THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 02°03'47" EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 7.29 FEET FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 02°03'47" EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 669.05 FEET TO A FOUND CONCRETE MONUMENT (4"X4" RLS2115) AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4; THENCE RUN NORTH 87°58'44" EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 183.00 FEET TO A 2-1/2" FOUND IRON PIPE WITH A 3-1/4" METAL DISK (STAMPED D.C. JOHNSON); THENCE RUN NORTH 01°12'39" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 671.24 FEET TO A SET STEEL ROD AND CAP (LB021); THENCE RUN SOUTH 87°41'22" WEST, ALONG AN EXISTING FENCE LINE AND EASTERLY PROJECTION THEREOF, A DISTANCE OF 221.33 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 3.11 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

NOTES

1.) THE BEARINGS HEREON ARE BASED ON FIELD MEASUREMENTS USING THE GRID BEARING OFS.02°03'47"E. ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST. GRID BEARINGS HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM THE FLORIDA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM – NORTH ZONE.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the sketch hereon, together with the surveyor's notes hereon, is an accurate representation of the lands described hereon, is in compliance with the Minimum Technical Standards in Chapter 5J-17 of the Florida Administrative Code as set forth by the Florida Board of Professional Surveyors pursuant to Section 472.027 Florida Statutes 1991, and as surveyed under the direct supervision of the undersigned registered surveyor and mapper and is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

NOT VALID WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE AND THE ORIGINAL RAISED SEAL OF A FLORIDA LICENSED SURVEYOR AND MAPPER.

PREPARED FOR:
ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
5620 NW 120TH LANE
GAINESVILLE, FL. 32653

PITTMAN ENCROACHMENT
DESCRIPTION SKETCH
SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11S., RANGE 17E.

REVISED	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	MLH	8/9/13	PER COUNTY COMMENTS
	MLH	9/17/13	ADDED IMPROVEMENTS

	INITIALS	DATE
CREW CHIEF	HM	7/30/13
DRAWN	HB	8/1/13
CHECKED	MLH	9/23/13
FIELD BOOK	630/4	
FIELD DATE	07/30/13	

MICHAEL L. HARBERT PSM LS 4995
DATE 10/4/13

Since 1919

George F. Young, Inc.
1905 SOUTH MAIN STREET GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601
PHONE (352) 378-1444 FAX (352) 372-2502
BUSINESS ENTITY LB21
ARCHITECTURE·ENGINEERING·ENVIRONMENTAL·LANDSCAPE·PLANNING·SURVEYING·UTILITIES
GAINESVILLE·LAKEWOOD RANCH·ORLANDO·PALM BEACH GARDENS·ST. PETERSBURG·TAMPA·VENICE

JOB NO. 0853011718
SHEET NO. S1 OF S2

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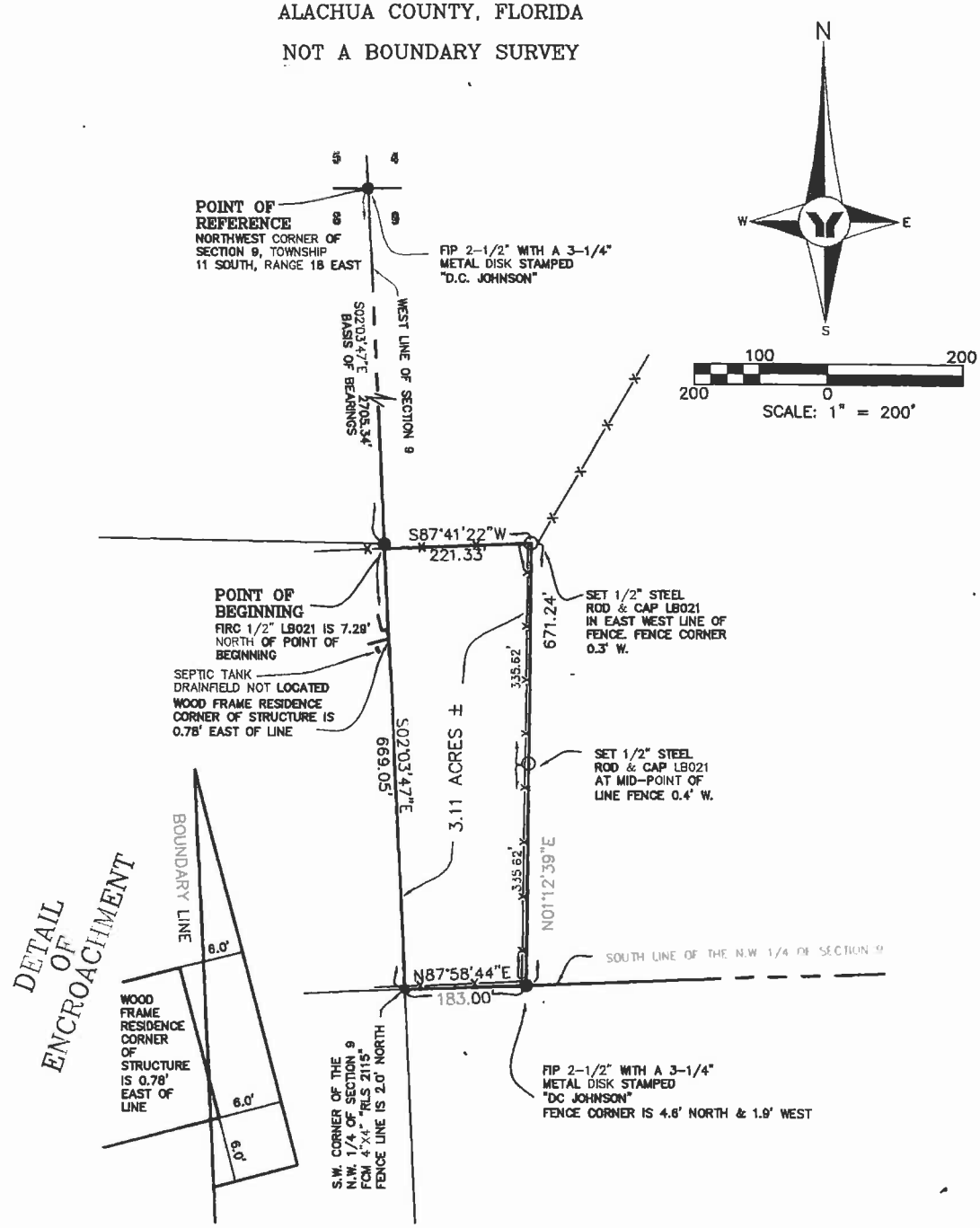
A DESCRIPTION SKETCH

SITUATED IN

SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY



LEGEND

FCM	FOUND CONCRETE MONUMENT AS NOTED
FIP	FOUND IRON PIPE AS NOTED
FIRC	FOUND IRON ROD AND CAP AS NOTED
○	SET 1/2" STEEL ROD & CAP LB021
●	IRON MARKER FOUND AS NOTED
■	CONCRETE MONUMENT FOUND AS NOTED
—X—	WIRE FENCE LINE

PREPARED FOR:
ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
5620 NW 120TH LANE
GAINESVILLE, FL. 32653

PITTMAN ENCROACHMENT
DESCRIPTION SKETCH
SECTION 9 TOWNSHIP 11S., RANGE 17E.

REVISED	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	WLH	8/9/13	PER COUNTY COMMENTS
	WLH	9/17/13	ADDED IMPROVEMENTS
	WLH	1/29/14	ADDED ENCROACHMENT DETAIL

	INITIALS	DATE
CREW CHIEF	HM	7/30/13
DRAWN	HB	8/1/13
CHECKED	WLH	
FIELD BOOK	630/4	
FIELD DATE	07/30/13	

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JOB NO. 0853011718
SHEET NO. S2 OF S2

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ATTACHMENT B: Pittmans Deed

2051296

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
INSTRUMENT # 2051296 2 PGS
2004 JUN 29 09:16 AM BK 2944 PG 925
J. K. "BUDDY" IRBY
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
ALACHUA COUNTY,FLORIDA
CLERK13 Receipt#196024
Doc Stamp-Deed: 490.00

WARRANTY DEED

THIS WARRANTY DEED made this 22nd day of June, 2004, by FRANK BANDEL AND LINDA SUE BANDEL, Co-Trustees, under Agreement dated July 3, 2002, made by Frank Bandel and Linda Sue Bandel, whose mailing address is 117 Lake Drive, Eatonton, Georgia 31024, hereinafter called the grantors, to MICHAEL J. PITTMAN AND VASSIE P. PITTMAN, husband and wife, whose mailing address is 11825 SW 274 Street, Newberry, Florida 32669, hereinafter called the grantees:

(Wherever used herein the terms "grantor and grantee" and "grantors and grantees" 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 grantors, for and in consideration of the sum of TEN ($10.00) DOLLARS, and other valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hereby grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the grantees, all that certain land situate in Alachua County, Florida, viz:

A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID TRACT OF LAND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, THENCE SOUTH 87 DEG. 23 MIN. 50 SEC. WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, 1305.20 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4; THENCE NORTH 01 DEG. 54 MIN. 47 SEC. WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, 338.65 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4; THENCE NORTH 87 DEG. 25 MIN. 19 SEC. EAST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, 991.46 FEET; THENCE NORTH 02 DEG. 34 MIN. 41 SEC. EAST, A DISTANCE OF 96.44 FEET; THENCE NORTH 27 DEG. 01 MIN. 11 SEC. EAST, A DISTANCE OF 269.30 FEET; THENCE NORTH 87 DEG. 10 MIN. 21 SEC. EAST, A DISTANCE OF 183.18 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4; THENCE SOUTH 02 DEG. 02 MIN. 23 SEC. EAST ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 669.49 FEET TO CLOSE ON THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH A PERPETUAL, NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES OVER THE SOUTH 30 FEET OF THE WEST 1338.10 FEET OF THE NORTH 3/4 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA;

ALSO TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT OVER AND ACROSS THE SOUTH 30 FEET AND THE EAST 30 FEET OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 AND THE SOUTH 20 FEET OF THE EAST 30 FEET OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 AND THE SOUTH 20 FEET OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 AND THE WEST 16 FEET OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST, ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Subject to Covenants, Restrictions, and any other existing Easements for road rights of way and public utilitites, if any, but this shall not serve to reimpose the same.

Tax Parcel Identification No.: 02705-001-001.

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.

INSTRUMENT # 2051296
2 PGS

AND the grantors hereby covenant with said grantees that the grantors are lawfully seised of said land in fee simple; that the grantors have good right and lawful authority to sell and convey said land; that the grantors hereby fully warrant 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 31, 2003.

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

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Witness as to both Grantors

Carol A. Lang
Print Name

Witness as to both Grantors

DAVID M. LANG, JR.
Print Name

Grantor

FRANK BANDEL, Co-Trustee

Linda Sue Bandel
Grantor

LINDA SUE BANDEL, Co-Trustee

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF GILCHRIST

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day, before me, an officer duly authorized in the State aforesaid and in the County aforesaid to take acknowledgements, personally appeared, FRANK BANDEL AND LINDA SUE BANDEL to me known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged before me that they executed the same.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid, this 22nd day of June, 2004.

David M. Lang, Jr.
Commission #DD195641
Expires: Mar 23, 2007
Bonded Thru
Atlantic Bonding Co., Inc.

Notary Public
DAVID M. LANG, JR.
Print name
My commission expires: 3/23/07

___Personally known
✓ Produced Georgia Drivers Licenses as identification

This instrument was prepared by:

David Miller Lang, Jr.
Attorney at Law
204 Southeast First Street
Post Office Box 51
Trenton, Florida 32693
(352) 463-7800

ATTACHMENT C
QUIT CLAIM DEED

This instrument prepared by:
David Wagner, County Attorney
Alachua County
P. O. Box 5547
Gainesville, Florida 32627-5547

QUIT CLAIM DEED

This Quit Claim Deed made this _____day of _____, 20_____ by and between Michael J. and Vassie P. Pittman, 11825 SW 274th Street, Newberry, FL 32609, (the "Pittmans") and Alachua County, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida, by and through its Board of County Commissioners, ("County").

WITNESSETH, that the Pittmans, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does hereby remise, release, and quit-claim unto the County forever, all the right, title, interest, claim and demand the Pittmans have in and to the following described lot, piece or parcel of land, situate lying and being in Alachua County, State of FLORIDA to wit:

SEE SCHEDULE A, LEGAL DESCRIPTION ATTACHED.

TAX FOLIO NUMBER: 02707-000-000

To have and to hold the same together with all and singular the appurtenance thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and all the estate, right title, interest, lien, equity, and claim whatsoever of the Pittmans either in law or equity, to the only proper use and benefit of the County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Pittmans have hereunto set their hand and seal on the day and year first above-written.

Michael J. Pittman

Michael J. Pittman

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 15th day of April, 20 14, by

_____
(Name of person acknowledging).

Lisa M. Vaidyanathan
(Official Notary Signature and Notary Seal)
Lisa M. Vaidyanathan
(Name of Notary Typed, Printed or Stamped)

LISA M. VAIDYANATHAN
Commission # EE 128931
Expires October 17, 2015
Bonded Thru Troy Fain Insurance 800-385-7019

Personally Known ☐ OR Produced Identification ☒
Type of Identification Produced Florida Driver License
P 355-550-46-402-0

Vassie P. Pittman

Vassie P. Pittman

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ALACHUA
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 15th day of April, 20 14, by

_____
(Name of person acknowledging).

Lisa M. Vaidyanathan
(Official Notary Signature and Notary Seal)
Lisa M. Vaidyanathan
(Name of Notary Typed, Printed or Stamped)

LISA M. VAIDYANATHAN
Commission # EE 128931
Expires October 17, 2015
Bonded Thru Troy Fain Insurance 800-385-7019

Personally Known ☐ OR Produced Identification X
Type of Identification Produced Florida Driver License
P 355-875-50-888-0

SCHEDULE A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A DESCRIPTION SKETCH

SITUATED IN

SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY

DESCRIPTION: (BY THIS SURVEYOR)
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT A 2-1/2" FOUND IRON PIPE WITH A 3-1/4" METAL DISK (STAMPED D.C. JOHNSON) AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02°03'47" EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 2705.34 FEET TO A FOUND 1/2" STEEL ROD AND CAP (LB021); THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 02°03'47" EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 7.29 FEET FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 02°03'47" EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 669.05 FEET TO A FOUND CONCRETE MONUMENT (4"X4" RLS2115) AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4; THENCE RUN NORTH 87°58'44" EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 183.00 FEET TO A 2-1/2" FOUND IRON PIPE WITH A 3-1/4" METAL DISK (STAMPED D.C. JOHNSON); THENCE RUN NORTH 01°12'39" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 671.24 FEET TO A SET STEEL ROD AND CAP (LB021); THENCE RUN SOUTH 87°41'22" WEST, ALONG AN EXISTING FENCE LINE AND EASTERLY PROJECTION THEREOF, A DISTANCE OF 221.33 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 3.11 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

NOTES

1.) THE BEARINGS HEREON ARE BASED ON FIELD MEASUREMENTS USING THE GRID BEARING OFS.02°03'47"E. ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST. GRID BEARINGS HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM THE FLORIDA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM – NORTH ZONE.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the sketch hereon, together with the surveyor's notes hereon, is an accurate representation of the lands described hereon, is in compliance with the Minimum Technical Standards in Chapter 5J-17 of the Florida Administrative Code as set forth by the Florida Board of Professional Surveyors pursuant to Section 472.027 Florida Statutes 1991, and as surveyed under the direct supervision of the undersigned registered surveyor and mapper and is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

NOT VALID WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE AND THE ORIGINAL RAISED SEAL OF A FLORIDA LICENSED SURVEYOR AND MAPPER.

PREPARED FOR:
ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
5620 NW 120TH LANE
GAINESVILLE, FL 32653

PITTMAN ENCROACHMENT
DESCRIPTION SKETCH
SECTION 9 TOWNSHIP 11 S., RANGE 17 E.

REVISED	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	MLH	8/9/13	PER COUNTY COMMENTS
	MLH	9/17/13	ADDED IMPROVEMENTS

	INITIALS	DATE
CREW CHIEF	HM	7/30/13
DRAWN	HB	8/1/13
CHECKED	MLH	9/23/13
FIELD BOOK	630/4	
FIELD DATE	07/30/13	

MICHAEL L. HARBERT PSM LS 4995
DATE 10/4/13

Since 1919

George F. Young, Inc.
1905 SOUTH MAIN STREET GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601
PHONE (352) 378-1444 FAX (352) 372-2502
BUSINESS ENTITY LB21
ARCHITECTURE·ENGINEERING·ENVIRONMENTAL·LANDSCAPE·PLANNING·SURVEYING·UTILITIES
GAINESVILLE·LAKEWOOD RANCH·ORLANDO·PALM BEACH GARDENS·ST. PETERSBURG·TAMPA·VENICE

JOB NO. 0853011718
SHEET NO. S1 OF S2

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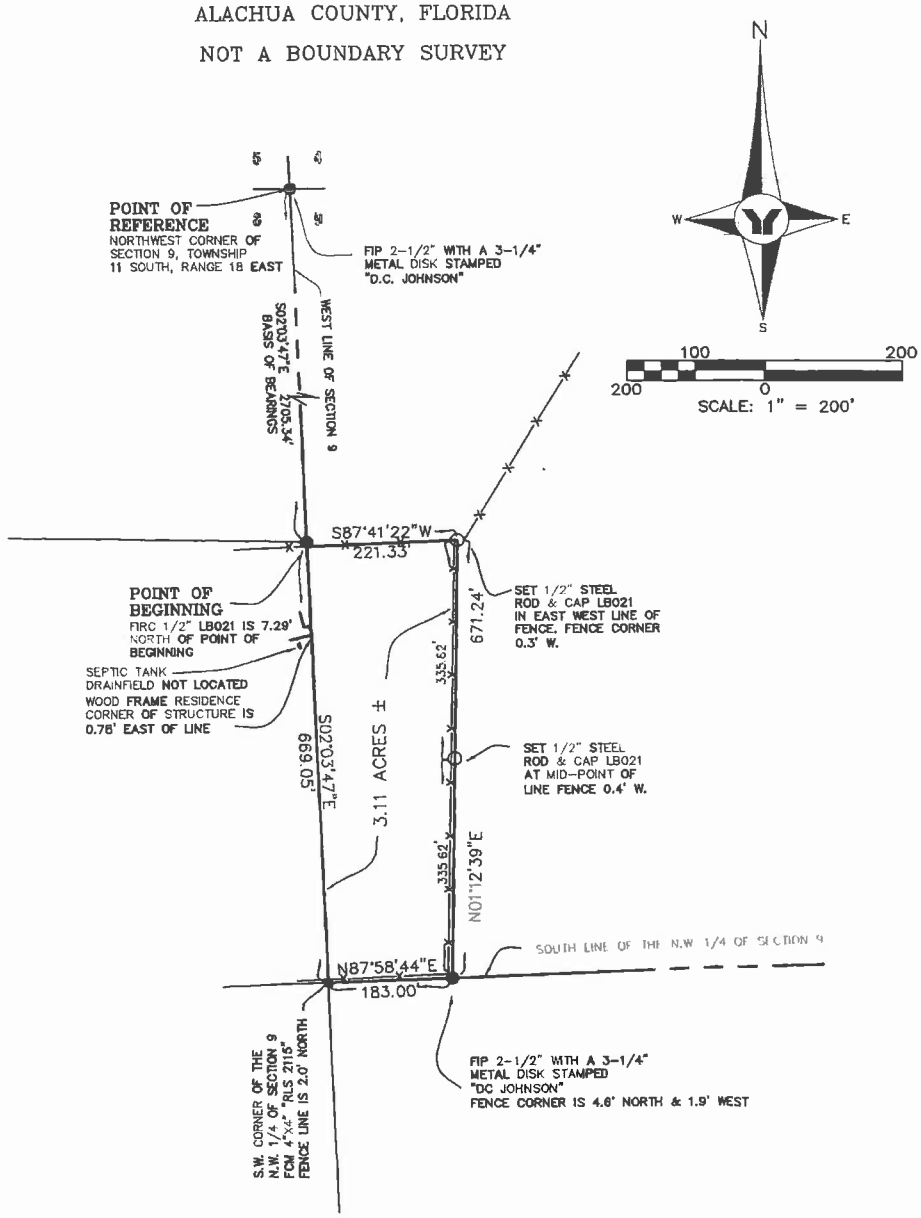
A DESCRIPTION SKETCH

SITUATED IN

SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 17 EAST

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY



LEGEND

FCM	FOUND CONCRETE MONUMENT AS NOTED
FIP	FOUND IRON PIPE AS NOTED
FIRC	FOUND IRON ROD AND CAP AS NOTED
○	SET 1/2" STEEL ROD & CAP LB021
●	IRON MARKER FOUND AS NOTED
■	CONCRETE MONUMENT FOUND AS NOTED
—X—	WIRE FENCE LINE

PREPARED FOR:
ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
5620 NW 120TH LANE
GAINESVILLE, FL. 32653

PITTMAN ENCROACHMENT
DESCRIPTION SKETCH
SECTION 9 TOWNSHIP 11S., RANGE 17 E.

REVISED	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
	MLH	8/9/13	PER COUNTY COMMENTS
	MLH	9/17/13	ADDED IMPROVEMENTS

	INITIALS	DATE
CREW CHIEF	HM	7/30/13
DRAWN	HB	8/1/13
CHECKED	MLH	9/23/13
FIELD BOOK	630/4	
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George F. Young, Inc.
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GAINESVILLE·LAKEWOOD RANCH·ORLANDO·PALM BEACH GARDENS·ST. PETERSBURG·TAMPA·VENICE
Since 1919

JOB NO. 0853011718
SHEET NO. S2 OF S2

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APPENDIX C – SOVEREGIN LANDS MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NORTHEAST DISTRICT
8800 BAYMEADOWS WAY WEST, SUITE 100
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

JENNIFER CARROLL
LT. GOVERNOR

HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR.
SECRETARY

February 19, 2013

Mr. Ramesh Buch, Supervisor
Alachua County Land Conservation Program
Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
408 W. University Avenue, Suite 106
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Re: Alachua County – ERP

Dear Mr. Buch:

You are hereby granted authorization from the Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program, as staff to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, for the authorized use of Watermelon Pond, Alachua County Parcel Identification Number 02707-000-000, Florida. This authorization is conditioned upon:

1. The site being used for management activities associated with protection of threatened, endangered and special concern species, rookeries, artificial or natural reefs, parks, preserves, historical sites, scientific study activities, or habitat restoration or enhancement areas, provided that there is no permanent preemption by structures of exclusion of the general public.

2. Land management shall include, but not be limited to:
   a. Burn on a 1-3 year rotation; this would include the use of firelines when and where appropriate to protect adjacent properties.
   b. Removal of exotic vegetation.
   c. Removal of encroaching hardwood.
   d. Solid waste removal.
   e. Plant surveys.
   f. Installation of way-finding signs to be installed on the highest elevations that site conditions allow; in the event that a sign is required in a location that is subject to flooding, the sign will be installed in a manner that allows it to be visible if/when Watermelon Pond is inundated.
   g. Boundary posting to regulate unauthorized vehicular access, dumping, hunting, archeological looting, using the same criteria for sign posting stated in f. above.

3.Animal management shall include, but not limited to:

a. Incorporate the area into existing hunt regime managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC").
b. Removal of exotic fauna.
c. Conduct wildlife surveys.

4. Public Recreation:

a. FWC hunting.
b. Other compatible activities t hat may include hiking, bird watching, wildlife observation that area allowed as part of the FWC managed hunting area.

5. Acceptance of and compliance with the following General Consent Conditions:

18-21.004 Management Policies, Standards and Criteria.

(7) General Conditions for Authorizations. All authorizations granted by rule or in writing under Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C. except those for geophysical testing, shall be subject to the general conditions as set forth in paragraphs (a) through (i) below. The general conditions shall be part of all authorizations under this chapter, shall be binding upon the grantee, and shall be enforceable under Chapter 253 or 258, part II, F.S.

(a) Authorizations are valid only for the specified activity or use. Any unauthorized deviation from the specified activity or use and the conditions for undertaking that activity or use shall constitute a violation. Violation of the authorization shall result in suspension or revocation of the grantee's use of the sovereignty submerged land unless cured to the satisfaction of the Board.

(b) Authorizations convey no title to sovereignty submerged land or water column, nor do they constitute recognition or acknowledgement of any other person's title to such land or water.

(c) Authorizations may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with their terms or the remedies provided in Sections 253.04 and 258.46, F.S., or Chapter 18-14, F.A.C.

(d) Structures or activities shall be constructed and used to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to sovereignty submerged lands and resources.

(e) Construction, use, or operation of the structure or activity shall not adversely affect any species which is endangered, threatened or of special concern, as listed in Rules 68A-27.003, 68A-27-004, and 68A-27.005, F.A.C.

(f) Structures or activities shall not unreasonably interfere with riparian rights. When a court of competent jurisdiction determines that riparian rights have been unlawfully affected, the structure or activity shall be modified in accordance with the court's decision.

(g) Structures or activities shall not create a navigational hazard.

(h) Structures shall be maintained in a functional condition and shall be repaired or removed if they become dilapidated to such an extent that they are no longer functional. This shall not be construed to prohibit the repair or replacement subject to the provisions of Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., within one year, of a structure damaged in a discrete event such as a storm, flood, accident, or fire.

(i) Structures or activities shall be constructed, operated and maintained solely for water dependent purposes, or for non-water dependent activities authorized under paragraph 18-21.004(1)(f), F.A.C., or any other applicable law.

Please consider this the authority sought under Section 253.77, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 18-21, Florida Administrative Code, to maintain these activities.

This letter of consent in no way waives the authority and/or jurisdiction of any government entity, nor does it disclaim any title interest the state may have in the project site. Please check with your local government for specific requirements.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Russell Simpson at (904) 256-1653, or via his e-mail address at Russell.Simpson@dep.state.fl.us .

Sincerely,

James R. Maher, PE
Assistant District Director

JRM/lb
Cc: Bureau of Public Lands Administration

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Northeast District Office
7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200B
Jacksonville, Florida 32256-7590

Rick Scott
Governor

Jennifer Carroll
Lt. Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.
Secretary

July 10, 2012

Mr. Ramesh Buch, Supervisor
Alachua County Land Conservation Program
Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
408 W. University Avenue, Suite 106
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Alachua County – ERP

Dear Mr. Buch:

You are hereby granted authorization from the Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program, as staff to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, for the authorized use of Watermelon Pond, Alachua County Parcel Identification No. 02690-001-000, Florida. This authorization is conditioned upon:

1. The site being used for management activities associated with protection of threatened, endangered and special concern species, rookeries, artificial or natural reefs, parks, preserves, historical sites, scientific study activities, or habitat restoration or enhancement areas, provided that there is no permanent preemption by structures of exclusion of the general public.

2. Land management shall include, but not be limited to:
   a. Burn on a 1-3 year rotation; this would include the use of firelines when and where appropriate to protect adjacent properties.
   b. Removal of exotic vegetation.
   c. Removal of encroaching hardwood.
   d. Solid waste removal.
   e. Plant surveys.
   f. Installation of way-finding signs to be installed on the highest elevations that site conditions allow; in the event that a sign is required in a location that is subject to flooding, the sign will be installed in a manner that allows it to be visible if/when Watermelon Pond is inundated.

g. Boundary posting to regulate unauthorized vehicular access, dumping, hunting, archeological looting, using the same criteria for sign posting stated in f. above.

3. Animal management shall include, but not be limited to:
   a. Incorporate the area into existing hunt regime managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC").
   b. Removal of exotic fauna.
   c. Conduct wildlife surveys.

4. Public Recreation:
   a. FWC hunting.
   b. Other compatible activities that may include hiking, bird watching, wildlife observation that are allowed as part of the FWC-managed hunting area.

5. Acceptance of and compliance with the following General Consent Conditions:

18-21.004 Management Policies, Standards, and Criteria.

(7) General Conditions for Authorizations. All authorizations granted by rule or in writing under Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., except those for geophysical testing, shall be subject to the general conditions as set forth in paragraphs (a) through (i) below. The general conditions shall be part of all authorizations under this chapter, shall be binding upon the grantee, and shall be enforceable under Chapter 253 or 258, Part II, F.S.

(a) Authorizations are valid only for the specified activity or use. Any unauthorized deviation from the specified activity or use and the conditions for undertaking that activity or use shall constitute a violation. Violation of the authorization shall result in suspension or revocation of the grantee's use of the sovereignty submerged land unless cured to the satisfaction of the Board.

(b) Authorizations convey no title to sovereignty submerged land or water column, nor do they constitute recognition or acknowledgment of any other person's title to such land or water.

(c) Authorizations may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with their terms or the remedies provided in Sections 253.04 and 258.46, F.S., or Chapter 18-14, F.A.C.

(d) Structures or activities shall be constructed and used to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to sovereignty submerged lands and resources.

(e) Construction, use, or operation of the structure or activity shall not adversely affect any species which is endangered, threatened or of special concern, as listed in Rules 68A-27.003, 68A-27.004, and 68A-27.005, F.A.C.

(f) Structures or activities shall not unreasonably interfere with riparian rights. When a court of competent jurisdiction determines that riparian rights have been unlawfully affected, the structure or activity shall be modified in accordance with the court's decision.

(g) Structures or activities shall not create a navigational hazard.

(h) Structures shall be maintained in a functional condition and shall be repaired or removed if they become dilapidated to such an extent that they are no longer functional. This shall not be construed to prohibit the repair or replacement subject to the provisions of Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., within one year, of a structure damaged in a discrete event such as a storm, flood, accident, or fire.

(i) Structures or activities shall be constructed, operated, and maintained solely for water dependent purposes, or for non-water dependent activities authorized under paragraph 18-21.004(1)(f), F.A.C., or any other applicable law.

Please consider this the authority sought under Section 253.77, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 18-21, Florida Administrative Code, to maintain these activities.

This letter of consent in no way waives the authority and/or jurisdiction of any government entity, nor does it disclaim any title interest the state may have in the project site. Please check with your local government for specific requirements.

We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Davis at 904-256-1658, or via her e-mail address of patricia.e.davis@dep.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

James R. Maher, P.E.
Program Administrator
Submerged Lands and
Environmental Resource Program

JRM:ped

cc: Bureau of Public Lands Administration

APPENDIX D – SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

Apopka sand, 0 to 5% slopes

This soil type is nearly level to gently sloping and well drained, occurring in deep, sandy uplands. The water table is at a depth of more than 72 inches. Soil permeability is rapid to moderate and surface runoff is slow. Organic matter in the surface layer is typically low, and natural fertility of the soil is low. A portion of the sandhill community within the Wright tract is situated on Apopka sand.

Candler fine sand, 0 to 5% slopes

This soil type is nearly level to gently sloping and excessively drained, occurring in deep, sandy uplands. The water table is at a depth of more than 72 inches. Soil permeability is rapid and surface runoff is very slow. Organic matter in the surface layer is low to very low, and natural fertility of the soil is low. Portions of the sandhill community within the Ferran, Gladman and Wright tracts, and portions of the improved pasture on the Metzger tract are situated on this soil type.

Candler fine sand, 5 to 8% slopes

This soil type is sloping, excessively drained, and found on upland slopes. The water table is more than 72 inches below the surface. Soil permeability is rapid and surface runoff is slow. Organic matter content is low to very low. This soil type is found on the Metzger and tract, underlying improved pasture which was once probably sandhill, and under a portion of the sandhill community on the Wright tract.

Chipley sand

Chipley sand is a nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil type found within the transitions between flatwoods and rolling uplands. The water table is 20 to 40 inches below the surface for 2 to 4 months during most years. In extremely wet seasons the water table may rise to 15 to 20 inches below the surface for brief periods, and the water table may drop below 40 inches during drought. Surface runoff is slow, and soil permeability is rapid to a depth of more than 80 inches. Organic content of this soil is moderate to moderately low, and natural fertility is low. Chipley sand occurs within the Gladman and Metzger tracts, in the transition areas between uplands and Watermelon Pond.

Millhopper sand, 0 to 5% 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. This soil type occurs within the Metzger tract, underlying transitional slopes between uplands and wetlands.

Newnan sand

This is a nearly level somewhat poorly drained soil occurring on nearly level to slightly convex slopes in broad areas within the flatwoods ranging from about 10 to 250 acres. The water table is at a depth of 18 to 30 inches for one to two months, and 30 to 60 inches for 2 to 5 months during most years. It recedes to more than 60 inches below the

surface during drier periods. Newnan sand occurs within the Metzger tract in pine-dominated pockets within the oak hammock.

Placid sand, depressional

This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is found in poorly defined drainageways and in wet depressional areas. This soil type has a water table that is within 10 inches of the surface for 6 to 12 months of the year. The surface is usually covered with water for 6 months or more. The available water capacity is high to a depth of about 15 inches and low below this depth. Permeability is rapid throughout. Internal drainage is slow because it is impeded by the water table. Natural fertility and organic matter content are high to a depth of about 15 inches and very low below this depth. This soil type occurs within the Gladman and Metzger tracts, in portions of the Watermelon Pond basin which are occasionally flooded.

Pompano sand

Pompano sand is nearly level and poorly drained, and occurs in the flatwoods and shallow depressions within sandy, rolling uplands. The water table is typically less than 10 inches below the surface for 2 to 6 months during most years, and surface runoff is slow. Soil permeability is very rapid. Organic content of the surface layer is moderately low to moderate, and natural fertility is low. Pompano sand occurs within the Gladman and Metzger tracts, in portions of the Watermelon Pond basin which flood rarely.

Tavares sand, 0 to 5% slopes

This is a nearly level to gently sloping, and moderately well-drained soil, which is typically deep and sandy. The water table is at a depth of 40 to 72 inches below the surface for at least six months each year, and is deeper than 72 inches during times of drought. Surface runoff is slow, and permeability is rapid to very rapid. Organic content is low to moderate in the surface layer, and natural fertility is low. Tavares sand is found on all four tracts of Watermelon Pond Preserve, underlying the hammock islands within the Gladman tract, meandering through the sandhill communities of the Ferran and King tracts, and underlying sandhill and hammock within the Metzger tract.