EXHIBIT M

HISTORIC NATURAL COMMUNITIES
**Myakka State Forest**

- **trail_in**
- **Shell Grade Road**

**Historic Natural Communities (acres)**

- depression marsh (872)
- mesic flatwoods (6,073)
- mesic hammock (45)
- scrub (16)
- scrubby flatwoods (6)
- tidal creek (34)
- tidal marsh (23)
- wet flatwoods (1,119)
- wet prairie (404)

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry

February 2009

Scale

1 inch = 0.6 miles
EXHIBIT N

LAND MANAGEMENT REVIEW
TEAM SUMMARY
**Name of Site:** Myakka State Forest  
**County:** Sarasota County  
**Managed by:** DACS  
**Acres:** 8593 Acres  

**Review Date:** 1/17/2008

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**Review Team Determination**

Managed in accordance with acquisition purpose? Yes = 7, No = 0

![Star Rating](image)

Management practices, including public access, in compliance with the management plan? Yes = 7, No = 0

![Star Rating](image)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Management Plan Review</th>
<th>Field Review</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Communities</td>
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<td>Listed Species</td>
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<td>Cultural Resources</td>
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<td>Prescribed Fire</td>
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<td>Restoration</td>
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Consensus Commendations to the Managing Agency

The following commendations resulted from discussion and vote of the review team members.

1. The team commends the DOF staff on how well the site is being managed, and improved overall, with the limited staffing and funding available to date. (VOTE 7+, 0-)

2. The team commends the manager and staff for their active prescribed fire efforts that are maintaining and improving the ecological condition of the flatwoods and depressions on the property. We encourage DOF to work toward a more frequent fire return interval in order to achieve full desired future condition. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)

3. The team commends the manager, staff, and the SWFWMD on the hydrologic restoration efforts completed in the depression marshes. (VOTE 7+, 0-)

Consensus Recommendations to the Managing Agency

The following recommendations resulted from a discussion and vote of review team members. The management plan must include responses to the recommendations identified below.

1. The team recommends that DOF make it a high priority to seek additional available resources to treat invasive exotic plant species, in order to more quickly achieve maintenance condition. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)

   Managing Agency Response: The District will continue to request additional personnel in the form of OPS and/or FT employees to better keep up with the invasive exotic species control on the Myakka State Forest. We will continue to seek additional funding through grants, budget request and other opportunities as they become available.

2. The team recommends DOF work with FWC and other organizations to enhance the inventory of listed species and species of special importance onsite. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)

   Managing Agency Response: The District will continue to work with the FWC and other organizations to expand and improve the data base of listed species on the state forest. Updates in the area of listed species can be addressed in the upcoming FMP revisions.

3. The team recommends that DOF work with Sarasota County and the City of North Port to incorporate notices of proximity, development order language, and other smokey protection policies, that recognize the land management practices on the forest, particularly prescribed fire. (VOTE: 7+, 0-)

   Managing Agency Response: State Forest staff has been and will continue to be involved with Sarasota County and the City of North Port in regard to land use changes and development proposals to insure that the land management activities of the State Forest are taken into consideration.

Checklist Findings

The following items received high scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions exceeded expectations.

- Management of the Natural Communities including depression marsh, wet prairie and mesic hammock.
- Resource management, prescribed fire quality.
- Restoration of ruderal areas including ditches and depression marsh.
- Management of non-native, invasive and problem species including animals and plants.
- Management of hydrologic/geologic function including roads/culverts, ditches, hydro-period alteration and water-level alteration.
- Ground water monitoring including quality.
- Surface water monitoring including quality and quantity.
- Resource protection with boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement.
- Management of public access and education including roads, parking, boat dock, recreational opportunities and management of visitor impacts.
- Management resources including buildings and equipment.

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review (FR) were not considered sufficient (less than 2.5 score on average), or that the text noted in the Management Plan Review (PR) does not sufficiently address this issue (less than .5 score on average.). The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. Management issues related to the mesic flatwoods/wet flatwoods, depression marsh, wet prairie, scrub/scrubby flatwoods, mesic hammock, and tidal creek/tidal marsh (PR).
   Managing Agency Response: These areas have been identified, delineated and the desired future conditions established. The management issues can be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.

2. Management of the listed species including animal inventory (PR, FR), gopher tortoise (PR, FR), scrub jay (PR, FR), wading birds (FR) and plant inventory (PR, FR)
   Managing Agency Response: The staff will continue to work with FWC, DEP and other organization to complete a comprehensive and ongoing inventory of listed species on the state forest. The inventory data can be used in updating management strategies for the species. Inventory completion dates can be established in the upcoming plan revisions and may be subject to funding availability.

3. Management issues relating to cultural resource survey. (PR)
   Managing Agency Response: Staff has identified an additional person to attend the next DEP Archeological training. A cultural resource survey would be based on funding availability. These management issues can be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.

4. Management issues relating to the area being burned and quality desired of prescribed fire. (PR)
   Managing Agency Response: Additional FNAL data has been received since the initial survey and the new data will be used to update these management issues in the upcoming plan revisions with emphasis on varying the time of year burns take place with a goal to move toward more growing season burns.

5. Management regarding the efforts to restore the pastures, ditches and depression marsh. (PR)
   Managing Agency Response: Additional FNAL data has been received since the initial survey and the new data will be used to update these management issues in the upcoming plan revisions. Staff will work toward specific restoration plans each area as we have done with past wetland restoration projects. Innovative funding sources will need to be pursued to accomplish some of these projects.

6. Management issues related to the wildlife management including the wildlife habitat and the hunting/fishing quality. (PR)
   Managing Agency Response: Staff will continue to work with the FWC staff in the areas of wildlife management, ways to improve the wildlife habitat and ways to provide better hunting/fishing recreational experience on the state forest. Additional FNAL data has been received since the initial survey and the new data will be used to update these management issues in the upcoming plan revisions.

7. Management issues related to the non-native invasive and problem species. (PR)
   Managing Agency Response: Staff has implemented a mapping and treatment data base and will continue to seek additional funding sources from grants, OPS position, etc. Additional FNAL data has been received and these management issues can be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.
8. Management plan for the hydrologic/geologic function including hydro-period alteration and water level alteration. (PR)
Managing Agency Response: The staff has worked closely with the Water Management District, and the DOF Hydrologist, in all aspects of hydrology. These management issues will be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.

9. Management relating to ground water monitoring including ground water quality and ground water quantity. (PR)
Managing Agency Response: The property was purchased under the Save Our Rivers program by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and is managed by the Division of Forestry. Water monitoring activities are being done through the Water Management District. These management issues will be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.

10. Management relating to surface water monitoring including surface water quantity. (FR)
Managing Agency Response: The Staff will continue to work with the Water Management District on all water related issues, and request the District’s help in expanding our surface water monitoring.

11. Management issues addressing the adjacent property concerns including expanding development and inholdings/additions (PR, FR)
Managing Agency Response: The staff makes every effort possible to address adjacent property concerns in regard to all forest activities. Staff also provides input to the local planning department on development impacts both on and off the forest. Inholding and additions are considered on a continuing basis. These management issues can be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.

12. Management issues related to public access and education including boat docks, management of visitor impacts, interpretive facilities and signs, environmental education/outreach. (PR)
Managing Agency Response: The forest routinely has a recreation Quality Assurance Review by the DOF Forest Management Bureau’s Recreation Section. These management issues can be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.

13. Management of the cattle grazing. (PR)
Managing Agency Response: Staff has been researching the different aspect of grazing on the forest, and see it as a positive management tool. These management issues can be addressed in the upcoming plan revisions.

14. Management need for additional staff and funding. (FR)
Managing Agency Response: The District will continue to request additional personnel in the form of Career Service and OPS employees, the approval of these request is dependent on the legislature approving additional positions. We will continue to request adequate funding to carry on and expand the existing public and resource management needs for the forest.