

COTTAGE HILL STATE FOREST

TEN YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN ESCAMBIA

COUNTY, FL



PREPARED BY:

FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES

OCTOBER 1, 2008 – OCTOBER 1, 2018

TEN-YEAR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
COTTAGE HILL STATE FOREST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Land Management Plan Executive Summary.....

I. Introduction.....

 A. General Mission, Goals for Florida State Forests,
 and Management Plan Direction.....

 B. Overview of State Forest Management Program.....

 C. Past Accomplishments and Status of Previous Plan's Goals/Objectives.....

 D. Goals/Objectives for Cottage Hill State Forest for Next Ten Year Period

II. Administration Section

 A. Descriptive Information

 1. Common Name of Property

 2. Location, Boundaries and Improvements

 3. Legal Description and Acreage.....

 4. Degree of Title Interest Held by the Board.....

 5. Proximity to Other Public Resources.....

 6. Aquatic Preserve/Area of Critical State Concern

 B. Acquisition Information.....

 1. Land Acquisition Program.....

 2. Legislative or Executive Constraints

 3. Purpose for Acquisition

 4. Designated Single or Multiple-Use Management.....

 5. Alternate Uses Considered.....

 6. Additional Land Needs

 7. Adjacent Conflicting Uses.....

 8. Surplus Land Assessment

 C. Agency & Public Involvement.....

 1. Responsibilities of Managing Agencies.....

 2. Public and Local Government Involvement

 3. Compliance With Comprehensive Plan

III. Resource Section.....

 A. Past Uses

 B. Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources.....

 1. Soil Types

 2. Archaeological and Historical Resources

 3. Water Resources

 4. Fish and Wildlife.....

 5. Endangered or Threatened Species.....

 6. Beaches and Dunes

 7. Swamps, Marshes, or Other Wetlands.....

 8. Mineral Resources

9.	Unique Natural Features	
10.	Outstanding Native Landscapes.....	
11.	Timber Resources	
IV.	Management Concepts by Natural Communities and Proposed Management Activities	
A.	Existing and Planned Uses.....	
1.	Property Boundaries Establishment and Preservation	
2.	Soil and Water Protection	
3.	Roads	
4.	Fire Management	
5.	Silvicultural Guidelines & Forest Resource Management Objectives	
6.	Law Enforcement	
7.	Wildlife and Fish Management.....	
8.	Non-Native Invasive Species.....	
9.	Insects, Disease, and Forest Health.....	
10.	On-Site Housing.....	
11.	Utility Corridors and Easements.....	
12.	Ground Disturbing Activities.....	
13.	Apiaries.....	
14.	Cattle Grazing.....	
15.	Ground Cover.....	
16.	Restoration.....	
B.	Description of Natural Communities and Proposed Management Activities	
	Existing Conditions and Management Direction	
C.	Impact of Planned Uses on Property Resources	
V.	Management Summary	
A.	Operations Infrastructure	
B.	Management Needs- Priority Schedule and Cost Estimates.....	
C.	Plans to Locate Fragile, Non-renewable Natural and Cultural Resources.....	
D.	Conformation to State Lands Management Plan	
E.	Multiple-Use Potential – Income Producing Activities	
F.	Potential Use of Private Land Managers	
VI.	References	

COTTAGE HILL STATE FOREST
TEN-YEAR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXHIBITS

Location Map.....Exhibit 1

Legal Description and Deed.....Exhibit 2

Lease Agreements #434-3556.....Exhibit 3

Soils Map and Legends.....Exhibit 4

Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned
or Controlled Lands.....Exhibit 5

TABLES

Table 1.....Page 19
Schedule of management activities planned for next 5 years

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lead Agency: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry
Common Name: Cottage Hill State Forest
Location: Escambia County
Acreage Total: 31.25

Acreage Breakdown:
Natural Communities Acreage
Bottomland Forest.....4.7
Mesic Uplands.....24.35
Non-productive2.2

Acreage Total:

Lease/Management Agreement No.: 434-3556

Use: **Single**_ Multiple **_X**

Management Agency	Responsibility
Florida DACS,	General Management of Forest
Division of Forestry	Resources, Recreation & Wildlife
Florida Fish and Wildlife	Wildlife Resources & Laws
Conservation Commission	
Division of Historical	Historical and Archaeological
Resources	Resource Management

Designated Land Use: Multiple-use State Forest
Sublease(s): None
Encumbrances: Gulf Power Company easement
Type Acquisition: Surplus under the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
Unique Features: Mature longleaf pine forest
Archaeological/Historical: None
Management Needs: Prescribed fire management
Acquisition Needs: None
Surplus Lands/Acreage: All: 31.25 acres
Public Involvement: Direct communication with individuals, user groups, and government officials.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE (FOR DIVISION OF STATE LANDS USE ONLY)

ARC Approval Date: _____ BTITF Approval Date: _____

Comments: _____

I. INTRODUCTION

A. GENERAL MISSION, GOALS FOR FLORIDA STATE FORESTS, AND MANAGEMENT PLAN DIRECTION

The Division of Forestry's (DOF) mission is to protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations. Multiple-use management is the overall concept used to perpetuate the sustainability of the forest's native ecosystems and biodiversity. This will be accomplished by implementing sound multiple-use management principles, the objectives of which will be to:

- To restore, maintain, and protect all native ecosystems;
- To ensure the long term viability of populations and species considered rare, endangered, threatened, or of special concern;
- To integrate human use through a total resource concept, not emphasizing any particular use over the others, or over restoration, maintenance and protection of native ecosystems;
- To protect known archeological and historical resources; and
- To practice sustainable forest management utilizing sound silvicultural techniques.

These goals are consistent with the goals for which the property was acquired.

This management plan provides the general direction for management Cottage Hill State Forest (CHSF). It is not an annual work plan or detailed operational plan, but provides general guidance for management of the CHSF for the next ten years and outlines the major concepts that will guide management activities on the forest. The following information presented is consistent with the requirements of Section 253.034, Florida Statutes and was prepared using guidelines outlined in Chapter 18-2.021 of the Florida Administrative Code.

B. GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT TEN YEAR PERIOD

The goals for the next ten year period are to establish a 3 year prescribed burning rotation, control non-native invasive plants, and to perform routine boundary maintenance around the forest.

II. ADMINISTRATION SECTION

A. DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

1. COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY

Cottage Hill State Forest (CHSF)

2. LOCATION, BOUNDARIES, AND IMPROVEMENTS

Cottage Hill State Forest is a 31.25 acre tract located approximately 1.75 miles east of State Highway 95A on McKenzie Road in the Cottage Hill community. The only improvement on this tract is an environmental open air shelter. A graded access road and bridge have also been added.

3. LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND ACREAGE

The 31.25 acre tract is located in the SW1/4 of section 36, T2N, R 31W.

4. DEGREE OF TITLE INTEREST HELD BY THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) holds fee simple title to the property. The lease agreement number between the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry is 434-3556.

5. PROXIMITY TO OTHER PUBLIC RESOURCES

The CHSF is located within three miles of the Escambia River Wildlife Management Area, which is owned by the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD).

6. AQUATIC PRESERVE/AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN

This area is not within an aquatic preserve or an area of critical state concern, nor is it in an area under study for either designation.

B. ACQUISITION INFORMATION

1. LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

The property was listed as surplus prior to being placed under Division of Forestry management by Agreement 434-3556, March 1979.

2. LEGISLATIVE OR EXECUTIVE CONSTRAINTS

There are no legislative or executive directives specifically aimed at this tract that act as constraints on the use of the forest.

3. PURPOSE FOR ACQUISITION

Swamp and Overflowed Land Patent Act

4. DESIGNATED SINGLE-USE OR MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT

Cottage Hill State Forest is designated for multiple-use management managed by the DOF under authority of Chapters 253 and 589, Florida Statutes. Multiple-use includes but is not limited to: archaeological and historical resources, ecosystem restoration, environmental education, recreation, timber management, wildlife management, and watershed management. The goal of the DOF is to restore, protect, and manage ecosystems to maintain biological diversity and ecosystem functions, while integrating public use through multiple-use of the total resource. This is best attained by practicing sustainable forestry. A balanced program does not necessarily result from equal division of acreage to each use. Local demands and biological and geographical factors influence the array of uses applied to each area of the forest. Only uses compatible with the conservation of CHSF and its ecosystems will be implemented. Forest management practices should ensure that all resources of the forest are sustained for the future. Only through sustainable forest management can we ensure continued forest health.

The DOF is responsible for the overall management of the forest. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will assist the DOF in providing technical advice on the management of wildlife (game and non-game) populations. The Division of Historical Resources will cooperate with the DOF regarding appropriate management practices on historical or archaeological sites on this forest as stated in Section 267.061(2)(d), Florida Statutes.

5. ALTERNATE USES CONSIDERED

Recreational improvements have been considered, but ruled out due to insufficient public use, high cost, and lack of adequate user supervision necessary to prevent vandalism. Managed hunting was also determined to be impractical because of the forest's small size.

6. ADDITIONAL LAND NEEDS

There are no additional land needs adjacent to this tract.

7. ADJACENT CONFLICTING USES

There are no conflicts between planned land uses on this tract and current uses on adjacent lands.

8. SURPLUS LAND ASSESSMENT

The small size and limited access of Cottage Hill State Forest limits effective management for all multiple use purposes. The tract is considered surplus to our needs.

C. AGENCY & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGING AGENCIES

Management of the Cottage Hill State Forest is the responsibility of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will assist in wildlife monitoring and wildlife management. The Department of State, Division of Historical Resources will be consulted concerning the archaeological and historical resources on this tract. They will be notified prior to the initiation of any significant ground disturbing activity by the DOF or any other agency involved with the tract.

2. PUBLIC AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

This plan has been prepared by the Division of Forestry and will be carried out primarily by that agency. The Division of Forestry responds to public involvement through direct communication with individuals, user groups, and government officials.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

This plan will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County for review of compliance with their local comprehensive plan.

III. RESOURCE SECTION

A. PASTUSES

Bagdad Lumber Company had a major impact on the forest resources of northwest Florida during the late 1800's and early 1900's. A large volume of timber was harvested from this region. Many areas of forest land were also open to grazing. Records also indicate that large turpentine operations were ongoing until the 1960's. Specific past uses for this tract are not known.

B. RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES

1. SOIL TYPES

The USDA soil survey (1997) of Escambia County, Florida identifies five soil types on the CHSF.

38- Bonifay loamy sand (0-5% slope). This very deep, well drained soil is on nearly level summits and gently sloping shoulder slopes of ridges in the central and northern parts of the county. This map unit is in the longleaf pine-turkey oak hills ecological community.

49- Dorovan muck and Fluvaquents (Frequently flooded). It is located on flood plains along rivers and streams in the central and northern parts of the county. Slopes are less than 2 percent. It is in the swamp hardwoods ecological community.

52- Robertsdale sandy loam (0-2% slope). This very deep, somewhat poorly drained soil is in flat or slightly depressional positions on uplands and toeslopes in the central and northern parts of the county. This map unit is in the mixed hardwood and pine ecological community.

54- Troup-Poarch complex (8-12% slope). This map unit consists of the sandy, somewhat excessively drained Troup soil and the loamy, well drained Poarch soil. It is on strongly sloping hillslopes in the central and northern parts of the county. This map unit is in the mixed hardwood and pine ecological community.

55- Troup-Poarch complex (2-5% slope). This map unit consists of the sandy, somewhat excessively drained Troup soil and the loamy, well drained Poarch soil. It is on gently sloping summits and side slopes of ridges in the central and northern parts of the county. This map unit is in the mixed hardwood and pine ecological community.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The review of information contained in the Florida Site File has determined that there are no archaeological or historical sites recorded with the CHSF. The DOF will comply with the procedures outlined in "Management Procedures for Archaeological or Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands" (Exhibit 5) and protect known archaeological and historical sites.

3. WATERRESOURCES

A small stream crosses CHSF. It is part of the headwaters of Williams Creek, which flows into the Escambia River and Escambia Bay. This stream is not large enough to support boat or canoe traffic. All water bodies are considered Class III.

4. FISH AND WILDLIFE

Management on the CHSF will be directed to the production of biological diversity and species composition consistent with the natural community types present. Such communities will be restored and/or maintained through habitat management. All

biological resources will be managed to maintain diversity of native species. The wildlife associated with the longleaf pine/wire grass ecosystem and/or bottomland hardwoods include: deer, squirrels, rabbits, woodpeckers, bluejays, mockingbirds, bobwhite quail, amphibians, reptiles, and a variety of other wildlife.

5. ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, there are no endangered or threatened species of plants or animals found on CHSF.

6. BEACHES AND DUNES

No beaches or dunes occur on the CHSF.

7. SWAMPS, MARSHES, AND OTHER WETLANDS

There is a small clear stream running through CHSF. The bottomland hardwoods associated with this area including: sweetgum, sweetbay, redbay, red maple, and magnolia with an understory of gallberry and smilax.

8. MINERAL RESOURCES

There are no known commercial mineral deposits on the forest.

9. UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES

The longleaf pine/ wire grass ecosystem is a known unique natural feature which includes several significant species of plants and animals. This type ecosystem also has the potential to support red-cockaded woodpeckers and gopher tortoise.

10. OUTSTANDING NATIVE LANDSCAPE

The single outstanding feature of this tract is the presence of mature longleaf pine forest, an increasingly rare resource

11. TIMBER RESOURCE

The DOF will implement silvicultural practices, including harvesting, thinning, burning, and reforestation, in an attempt to establish a healthy forest with an age distribution that best duplicates natural conditions. Well-timed and executed timber harvests play an integral role in the health of forest ecosystems. Thinning dense forest stands improves understory habitat and allows for better quality prescribed burn. Timber harvesting is also used in reestablishing native species by removing off-site trees.

All on-going timber management practices will follow the recommendations for water quality protection and erosion control contained in the revised 2004 Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.

The management of timber resources on CHSF will not seek to maximize short-term economic revenue but rather to achieve a wide array of long-term public benefits - many of which are intrinsic and not easily quantified. Good stewardship and resource sustainability are essential goals for any proposed silvicultural activity. The health of the forest ecosystem is paramount in importance.

The DOF practices sustainable timber management in the state forest system, which means annual harvest volume on each state forest will not exceed the annual growth rate. This is accomplished by periodically obtaining accurate estimates of standing timber volumes in order to ensure that the timber resource will not be depleted.

IV. MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS BY NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. EXISTING AND PLANNED USES

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHMENT AND PRESERVATION

State forest boundaries were blazed by surveyors prior to the sale of the land to the State. When DOF acquired management of the forestlands, the agency's employees established the boundary lines in accordance to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry's Policy and Procedures Chapter 525.108 and the State Lands Manual, Chapter 6.9.2. The surveyors had already placed corner post and painted witness trees along the boundary lines. The DOF employees then placed the standard DOF state forest boundary signs along all the boundaries. The underbrush clearing of the boundary lines was accomplished by mechanical means. These boundary lines serve as firebreaks and as easily distinguishable property boundaries. 100 percent of the forest boundary has been marked and maintained in accordance with the DOF guidelines. In cases where a trespass has occurred, efforts will be made to have the line surveyed and an agreement reached to return this property to state forest management. As of October 2008, CHSF had 1.3 miles of boundary.

2. SOIL AND WATER PROTECTION

With the exception of some erosion related to forest roads and firelines, CHSF has no known major soil erosion problems present. Much of the upland areas are strongly-

sloping with high erosion potential. Management activities will be executed in a manner that minimizes the potential for soil erosion.

3. ROADS

There is a single, unpaved access road to the forest from McKenzie Road , to the north. This road crosses an adjacent parcel of private land before it reaches the State Forest boundary. There is one wooden bridge to allow vehicle access to the pavilion. The road is maintained by the Blackwater Forestry Center personnel to provide access for management and occasional visitors.

4. FIRE MANAGEMENT

All guidelines as outlined in the DOF's Fire Management Policy will be used on CHSF. The DOF utilizes a total fire management program on state forests that includes prevention, detection, suppression and prescribed burning. This program is the responsibility of the DOF under the direction of the Blackwater Forestry Center. DOF personnel and equipment will be utilized for pre-suppression practices and rehabilitation of firelines on the forest. BMPs for fireline construction will be followed as described in the Silviculture BMP Manual (FDACS 2004). If firelines are installed as a result of suppression actions during a wildfire, every effort will be made to rehabilitate these lines within two weeks of the wildfire "controlled" date. Emphasis will be placed on prescribed burning, fire prevention, and education to help reduce wildfire occurrence on the forest and in the surrounding rural residential community. Smoke management in and around the community will be addressed during preparation of prescribed fire prescriptions by utilization of the smoke screening system. DOF personnel and equipment will be used for these activities. All prescribed burning will be the responsibility of the DOF personnel from the Blackwater Forestry Center and will be planned and carried out in accordance with the BRSF Fire Management Plan. This plan will be in compliance with the DOF Fire Management Policy.

5. SILVICULTURAL GUIDELINES & FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Most of the pine timber has an even-aged structure, with little or no pine regeneration. CHSF sustained considerable timber loss from Hurricane Ivan in 2004. The gaps in the tree canopy allow light to reach the ground. Prescribed burning will reduce the brushy understory and forest litter, which will create good conditions for natural regeneration.

It is not anticipated that there will be a need to harvest timber from CHSF within the next ten years, except as emergency salvage should another hurricane or other disaster occur.

6. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE) will handle primary law enforcement responsibilities. Wildlife officers from FWC will enforce fish and wildlife regulations, and provide assistance in enforcing state forest rules. The Escambia County Sheriffs Offices provide additional law enforcement support. Special rules (Chapter SI-4, Florida Administrative Code) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, DOF, have been promulgated for the public use of state lands, restrictions of forest traffic and camping. These rules are on file at Blackwater Forestry Center headquarters and at the DOF State Office in Tallahassee.

7. WILDLIFE AND FISH MANAGEMENT

Due to the small size of CHSF and its proximity to nearby residents, CHSF is closed to public hunting. FWCC will be utilized to assist in the management of fish and wildlife species as deemed necessary.

8. NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES

Small infestations of Japanese climbing fern, Chinese privet, and Chinese tallow tree have been observed on CHSF. All have been treated with herbicide treatment. Blackwater Forestry Center personnel will periodically check for new infestations and treat them appropriately.

9. INSECTS, DISEASE AND FOREST HEALTH

Currently, there are no insect or disease problems on CHSF. Should unexpected insect/disease outbreaks occur, State Forest management staff will consult with the Forest Health Section to develop scientifically sound responses and/or management prescriptions.

In compliance with Florida Statute 388.4111, all lands contained within this lease have been evaluated and subsequently designated as environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive. Such designation is appropriate and consistent with the previously documented natural resources and ecosystem values and affords the appropriate protection for these resources from arthropod control practices that would impose a potential hazard to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources existing on this property. After approval of this plan, the local arthropod control agency will be contacted and will be provided a description of the management objectives for CHSF. The local arthropod control agency must then prepare a public lands control plan that is subsequently approved by the DOF, prior to conducting any arthropod control activities for CHSF.

10. ON-SITE HOUSING

DOF may establish on-site housing (mobile/manufactured home) on Cottage Hill State Forest if deemed necessary to alleviate security and management issues. The need and feasibility specific for the state forest will be evaluated and established if considered appropriate by the Center/District manager and approved by the DOF Director. On-site housing will only be available to individuals approved by the Director. This type of housing will not exceed three homes per location with the possibility of more than one on-site housing location occurring if considered necessary by the center/district manager and approved by the Director.

Prior to the occurrence of any ground disturbing activity for the purpose of establishing on-site housing, a notification will be sent to the Division of State Lands as well as packages to the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) and Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) for review and recommendations. The package will contain a description of the project (location, number of units, type and amount of ground disturbance, affected natural community type and nearby known archaeological or historical sites), maps (topographic and aerial) and photographs of the area.

11. UTILITY CORRIDORS AND EASEMENTS

The use of state forest property for utility lines, pipelines, linear facilities, and transportation corridors will be discouraged to the greatest extent possible. The placement of these linear facilities in a forest fragments the natural communities. Requests for linear facility uses will be handled according to Governor and Cabinet's linear facility policy which can be found in Chapter 2 of the State Forest Handbook.

Gulf Power Company has a right of way (R.O.W.) for power transmission lines through the property. This R.O.W. is 250 feet wide, though only 120 feet have been cleared for the existing lines. The total area in the R.O.W. is 6.25 acres.

The state has an easement with Estes Timber Company for access to the tract from McKenzie Road to the north. Part of this easement crosses the Gulf Power easement on Estes Land. Gulf Power's easement with Estes predates the state's easement and has precedence.

The DOF does not favor the fragmentation of natural communities with linear facilities; consequently, easements for such uses will be discouraged to the greatest extent possible. The DOF does not consider CHSF suitable for any new linear facilities. When such encroachments are unavoidable, previously disturbed sites will be the preferred location.

The objectives when identifying possible locations for new linear facilities will be to cause no damage to sensitive resources (e.g., listed species and archaeological sites),

avoid habitat fragmentation, and limit disruption of management activities and resource-based multiple-use activities, such as recreation.

Collocation with existing corridors will be considered but will be used only where expansion of existing corridors does not significantly increase the level of habitat fragmentation and disruption of management and multiple-use activities. The DOF will further encourage the use of underground cable where scenic considerations are desirable. Easements for utilities and other right of ways are subject to the review and approval by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, and will follow the procedures outlined in Chapter 18-2., Florida Administrative Code covering easements.

12. GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES

Although the DOF's approach to handling ground disturbing activities is identified in various sections of this plan, the DOF's overall approach to this issue is summarized here. The DOF recognizes the importance of managing and protecting sensitive resources and will take all necessary steps to insure that ground disturbing activities will not adversely impact sensitive resources. This includes areas such as archaeological and historical sites, ecotones, wetlands, and sensitive species. "Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands" (Exhibit 5) will be followed.

The construction of new pre-suppression fire lines will be limited to the greatest extent practicable. When new pre-suppression firelines, recreational trails, or other low-impact recreational site enhancements are necessary their placement will be carefully reviewed by state forest field staff and they will be developed so as to avoid sensitive areas. For other ground disturbing activities such as construction of buildings, parking lots and new roads the DOF will consult with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and the Division of Historical Resources.

13. APIARIES

The feasibility of pursuing and establishing apiary leases on Cottage Hill State Forest in areas where appropriate will be evaluated in accordance with guidelines stated in Chapter 9.1 of the State Forest Handbook (DOF, 2004)

14. CATTLE GRAZING

Cattle grazing is not practical on CHSF due to the steep terrain, erodible soil, and sparse grass.

15. GROUND COVER

Management activities will be considered and conducted to protect and enhance the condition and integrity of the native ground cover. Management techniques, such as prescribed fire in the growing season, are used to rejuvenate and maintain ground cover to the greatest extent practical.

B. DESCRIPTION OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This tract contains a mixture of longleaf pine/wiregrass and bottomland hardwoods. Approximately 24.35 acres is considered located in a mixed upland forest (mesic upland). Approximately 4.7 acres are considered in a bottomland forest (floodplain wetlands). A GulfPower Company easement encompassed the remaining 2.2 acres (non-productive).

Prescribed burning, fireline maintenance, and exotic species control are the primary management activities planned for CHSF.

C. IMPACT OF PLANNED USES ON PROPERTY RESOURCES

No adverse impacts on renewable or non-renewable resources are expected to result from the management proposed for this ten year period.

V. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A. OPERATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The only road on the property is an unimproved gravel road that is maintained by bulldozer. The only structure located on the forest is a pavilion.

The pavilion has been requested for demolition. It suffered roof damage during Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

B. MANAGEMENT NEEDS, PRIORITY SCHEDULE AND COST ESTIMATES

This tract contains a mixture of longleaf pine/wiregrass and bottomland hardwoods. Approximately 24.35 acres is considered located in a mixed upland forest (mesic upland). Approximately 4.7 acres are considered in a bottomland forest (floodplain wetlands). A Gulf Power Company easement encompassed the remaining 2.2 acres (non-productive).

Prescribed burning to reduce fuel loading and promote natural plant and animal responses is the primary land management need. All planned prescribed fires will undergo a smoke screening process prior to the burn to insure air quality standards are met.

Use of and creation of firelines will be kept to a minimum, with emphasis placed on protection of nearby houses and property. All permanent firelines will be harrowed to reduce any possible adverse effects. Foam lines and natural firebreaks will be used whenever possible.

Eradication of non-native invasive plant species will be implemented when and if any are detected on the state forest.

No management costs are budgeted for this tract at this time but if they arise they will come from the Blackwater Forestry Center budget. Because of the custodial nature of this tract, none of the activities listed are considered priority or key management activities. The activities will be conducted by the DOF as staffing and funding permit.

C. PLANS TO LOCATE FRAGILE, NON-RENEWABLE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Archaeological Resources

All significant ground disturbing activities or projects that are not specifically identified in an approved management plan will be sent to the DHR for review. Recommendations outlined in the "Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State Owned or Controlled Lands" will be followed whenever and wherever appropriate (EXHIBIT 5).

2. Soil and Water Resources

This tract is primarily comprised of intact, undisturbed natural communities and there are no soil or erosion problems present. All activities planned for the tract will be conducted in accordance with Florida's Silviculture Best Management Practices and/or other appropriate measures as deemed necessary by the DOF's Forest Hydrologist and/or Best Management Practices (BMP) Forester. In addition, if future soil and/or water resource problems should arise, they will be immediately assessed and the appropriate action will be proposed and implemented under the direction of the DOF's Forest Hydrologist and/or the BMP forester.

3. Other Resources

Applicable surveys will be conducted by DOF staff or others during the process of planning and implementing forest management activities. DOF personnel will remain alert for any environmentally significant resources and protective actions will be taken as necessary.

D. CONFORMATION TO STATE LANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management of this tract under the multiple-use concept complies with the State Lands Management Plan and provides optimum balanced public utilization of the property. Specific authority for the Division of Forestry's management of public lands is derived from Chapters 589 and 253, Florida Statutes.

E. POTENTIAL USE OF PRIVATE LAND MANAGERS

The forest manager makes ongoing evaluations of the use of private land managers, consultants and contractors to facilitate the restoration or management of this state forest. Opportunities for such outsourcing of land management work have included or are anticipated to include: contract logging operations, site preparation and timber stand improvement contractors, and tree planting contractors.

VI. REFERENCES

Division of Historical Resources. Revised 2007. Management Procedures for Archaeological and Historical Sites and Properties on State-Owned or Controlled Lands. Florida Department of the State, Division of Historical Resources.

Florida Division of Forestry. Revised 2004. "Florida's Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual." Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry. Tallahassee, Florida.

Florida Division of Forestry. December 2004. State Forest Handbook. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry. Tallahassee, Florida.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory. February 1990. "Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida." Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Florida Department of Natural Resources.

TABLE 1: SUGGESTED TREATMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Season / Year	Stand	Treatment
Summer 2009	1	Inspect for and treat invasive plants
Summer 2010	1	Inspect for and treat invasive plants
Summer 2011	1	Inspect for and treat invasive plants
Fall2011	1	Fireline Disking
Winter 2011-2012	1	.Prescribed Burn
Summer2012	1	Inspect for and treat invasive plants
Summer 2013	1	Inspect for and treat invasive plants
Summer2014	1	Inspect for and treat invasive plants
Fall 2014	1	Fireline Disking
Winter 2014-2015	1	Prescribed burn