



Suwannee River Water Management District

Excellence in Land Management Program



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Project Background

- SRWMD owns or has real-estate interests in 270,000 acres of forestland for protection of floodplains, stream buffers, wetlands and associated habitat.
- Multiple-use management, that emphasizes water resources protection, maintenance and restoration of the natural state and condition, and provisions for public access and recreation, is the SRWMD policy.
- There is a communication need for quantifiable objectives.



Project Background (Cont'd.)

- Goals and Measures must show status of achieving specified goals over time.
- This Program must utilize currently available data or require minimal new data collection.



Consensus Challenge








- **Situation Assessment**
 - **Primary Interest**
 - Governing Board
 - Sr. Management
 - Staff
 - **Secondary Interest**
 - Cooperators
 - Stakeholders



Decision Process

- **Meet with Sr. Management to refine focus and gain approval**
- **Meet with Governing Board in Workshop Settings**
- **Meet with Staff for input and refinement**
- **Meet with Cooperators for “Peer Review”**
- **Meet with Stakeholders to “Reality Check”**

Project Schedule

Tasks:	August	September	October	November	December
Initial Governing Board Meeting (8/10/2004)					
Staff Working Group Meeting (8/10/2004)					
Prepare Proposed Indicators (8/2004 - 9/2004)					
Present Indicators, Review Process to the Governing Board (10/12/2004)					
Convene Public Workshops (10/2004)					
Review Draft Report with Staff (11/2004)					
Present Final Report to the Governing Board (12/14/2004)					

Documents Reviewed

1. Suwannee River Water Management District Land Management Issues and Objectives (Excerpt from 2002 Florida Forever Work Plan)
2. Chapter 40 B – 9, FAC
3. Guidelines for Land Management Activities (Excerpt from the 2002 Florida Forever Workplan)
4. FY 2005 Land Management Project Workplan
5. Florida Statutes Chapter 373.139
6. SRWMD Sustainable Forestry Initiative Indicators and Evidence Manual
7. FY 2003 District Land Management Plan
8. Florida Statutes Chapter 259
9. SRWMD Land Management Workshop 2003

**GOAL 1: RESOURCE PROTECTION –
Protect, enhance and/or restore natural,
archaeological, and historical resources on lands
owned by the District**



RESOURCE PROTECTION

Track increases or decreases in:

- Public ownership of land within defined boundary
- Quantity of resources
- Quality of resources
- Percentage of forest that is representative of historical communities
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative audit compliance

GOAL 2: PUBLIC USE - Provide opportunities for compatible resource-based recreation and education



PUBLIC USE

Track increases or decreases in:

- public satisfaction with recreation/education experience
- quantity of access, facilities
- quality of access, facilities
- negative impacts from public use



GOAL 3: COMMUNICATION - Coordinate with public and private stakeholders in the management of District lands



COMMUNICATION

Track increases or decreases in:

- Percentage of properties with current management plans
- Stakeholder involvement (web site hits, participation)
- Satisfaction of stakeholders regarding District communications
- The number of public meetings
- The number of inter-agency coordination meetings

GOAL 4: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY - Manage District lands in an efficient, cost-effective manner










FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Track increases or decreases in:

- Management costs/acre of District lands
- Management costs/acre compared to other water management districts
- Revenues from public use, timber harvest, etc
- Contributions from external funding sources, including grants, volunteer hours, etc
- Compliance with maintenance standards

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Lessons Learned

- **Who has Primary Interests ?**
 - Identify the “Client” to ensure successful utilization of process results



Lessons Learned

- **Be Flexible**
 - Respond to the needs of participants in order to keep their participation
 - Process Design, Timing, # of Meetings



Lessons Learned

- **Communication is KEY**
 - Understand your community
 - Make sure participants are informed on the process
 - Different groups must be kept up to speed to keep the process open