Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Habitat and Species Conservation Conservation Planning: Development, Implementation and Accountability





Introduction: FWC Conservation Planning

- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) planning process and framework for conservation planning has been developed over the past 25 years.
- Guidance and policy derives from FWC's mission as well as Legislative and Executive authorities.



Introduction: FWC Conservation Planning

- FWC currently develops ten-year Conceptual Management Plans (CMPs) for thirty-two Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEA) across Florida.
- FWC's planning philosophy includes emphasizing consensus-building among stakeholders, input from user groups and the general public at the beginning of the planning process, transparency throughout the process, manager "ownership" of the CMP, accountability, and a "living" document concept.



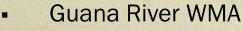
Introduction: FWC Conservation Planning

 Importantly, by emphasizing "buy-in" and "ownership" of the CMP by the WMA/WEA biologists and managers, this philosophy facilitates the development of meaningful management intent language, goals, objectives, and the identification of challenges and solution strategies for each CMP.



FWC-managed areas requiring Conceptual Management Plans*

- Andrews WMA
- Apalachicola River WEA
- Aucilla WMA
- Babcock-Webb WMA
- Big Bend WMA
- Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem / Salt Lake WMA
- Box-R WMA
- Caravelle Ranch WMA
- Chassahowitzka WMA
- Chinsegut WEA
- Dinner Island Ranch WMA
- Escribano Point / Yellow River WMA
- Everglades/Francis Taylor WMA
- Fisheating Creek WMA
- Florida Keys WEA



- Half Moon WMA
- Hilochee WMA
- Holey Land WMA
- Hungryland WEA
- Joe Budd WMA
- J.W.Corbett WMA
- Lake Wales Ridge WMA
- Little Gator Creek WMA
- Okaloacoochee Slough WMA
- Rotenberger WMA
- Spirit of the Wild WMA
- Suwannee Ridge WEA
- Three Lakes WMA
- Triple N Ranch WMA
- Watermelon Pond WEA



~ 1.48 million acres

* Partial list

Functions of Conceptual Management Plans

- To guide managed area personnel in management activities.
- To provide an enduring guiding document for the managers of FWC-managed conservation lands regardless of staff promotion or turnover.
- To establish internal communication.



Functions of Conceptual Management Plans

- To establish communication among agencies, stakeholders, the general public, FWC constituencies, and ARC/DEP–DSL, etc.
- To establish Legislative and Executive oversight (i.e., compliance with <u>Preservation 2000</u> & <u>Florida Forever</u> purposes for acquisition, and Florida Statutes).





Public Hearings

FWC Local, District & Regional Staff Draft <u>the CMP</u>

FWC:

Divisions, Offices, Sections, Office of Recreational Services

Management Advisory Group Consensus-building Meeting

Conceptual Management Plan

Other:

Cooperating agencies, Local Government, Water Management Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, FNAI, Department of State DHR Legislative:

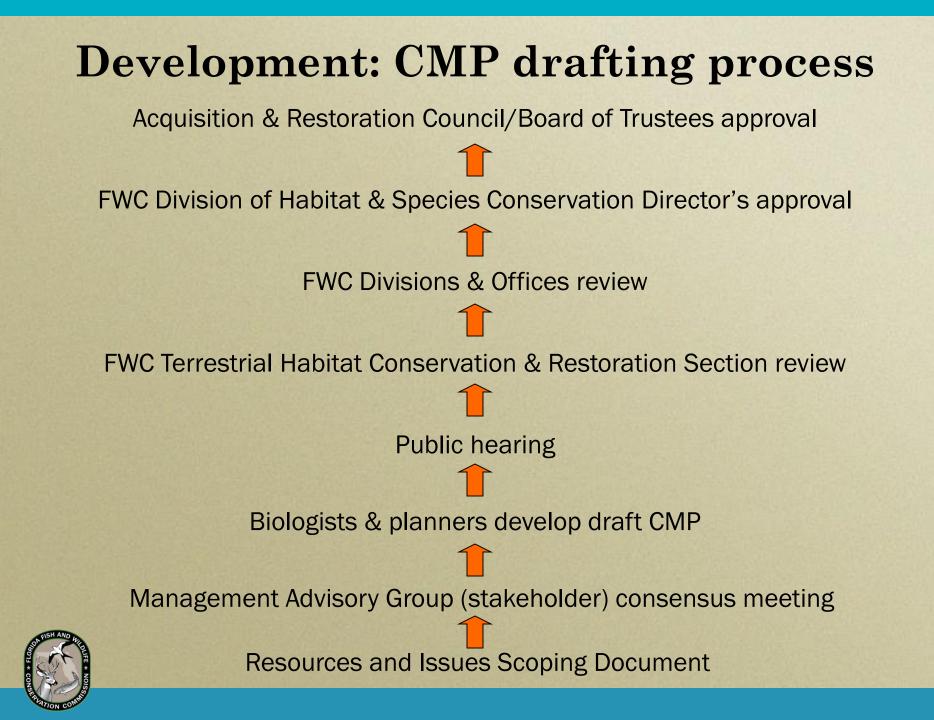
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ARC/Trustees

DEP - Division of State Lands:

CARL staff, Management Review Team



Management Advisory Group Meeting Everglades Complex of WMAs Facilitated by FWC Planners

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Development: Stakeholder consensus-building

- Develop and utilize consensus of best-informed and mostinterested minds available.
- Engage stakeholders (Management Advisory Group) at the beginning of the planning process.
- Stakeholders include FWC biologists and law enforcement, cooperating agencies (e.g., Division of Forestry, Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management District, Division of Historical Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.), adjacent landowners, NGO conservation organizations, County elected officials and planners, Soil and Water Conservation District representative, user groups, and others as appropriate.



Development: FWC Manager & Biologist "buy-in" and "ownership" of CMP.

- Management intent language, goals, objectives, challenges, and strategies are drafted by area personnel.
- Managers and biologists become vested in the components of the CMP.
- Managers and biologists accept responsibility for completion of CMP components.



Conceptual Management Plan Caravelle Bunch Wildlift Management Area Name Care (Net) anne ar

Public Hearing hosted by the Caravelle Ranch WMA Management Advisory Group Facilitated by FWC Planners Presented by FWC Area Biologist

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Implementation & Accountability

To the extent possible, CMP Objectives have the following characteristics:

- <u>Measurable</u> (e.g., acres to be restored, number of species inventories to be conducted, miles of trails to be developed, etc.)
- <u>Timeframe</u> (i.e., target dates for completion of objectives)
- <u>Assignment of responsibility</u> (e.g., FWC staff, cooperating agency, contracted services, volunteers, etc.)



Implementation & Accountability

- Assurance of CMP implementation & accountability is further achieved through integrated <u>Land</u> <u>Management Reviews</u> of both the managed area and the CMP every five years.
- These audits are conducted by a review team comprised of land management professionals assembled by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



Implementation & Accountability

- In addition, FWC conducts annual CMP reviews and accomplishment reporting for Management Intent, Goals, Objectives, Challenges and Strategies.
- As new data and information become available, CMPs are internally appended (e.g., FNAI current and historic natural community mapping, OBVM development, new parcel acquisitions, etc.) enhancing the "living " document concept.
- As CMPs are formally updated every ten years an accomplishment report is included in the newlyupdated CMP thus linking the documents through time.



Summary

- Engage stakeholders and the general public at the beginning of the CMP development process.
- Achieve manager "<u>buy-in</u>" and "<u>ownership</u>" of the CMP.
- Create a "<u>living</u>" <u>document</u> with <u>meaningful</u> and <u>measurable</u> Management Intent, Goals, Objectives, and Challenges and Strategies.
- Conduct <u>periodic reviews</u> of the CMP and the managed area, and <u>report accomplishments</u>.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Habitat and Species Conservation Conservation Acquisition and Planning





In these ways FWC works to ensure that CMPs are useful, enduring, "living" documents that directly contribute to the responsible and professional management of the conservation lands managed by FWC.

Three Lakes WMA - Whooping cranes