



Land Management Planning and Accountability

David Alden

Introduction

- FWC Conservation Planning
- New Florida Forever Act legislative requirements
- Guidance and Accountability



Guidance

- Legislature (Ch 253 & 259 FS)
- Purposes for acquisition
- Lease requirements
- Management Advisory Group input
- Public input
- Inter-agency input and peer review
- Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) input and approval
- Board of Trustees input and approval



General FWC Conservation Planning Philosophy:

- Input from stakeholders and the general public at the “front end” and continues throughout the planning process.
- Develop and utilize consensus of best-informed and most-interested minds available.
- Goals, objectives, challenges, and strategies drafted by area personnel.
- Reviews and approvals ensure compliance with laws, rules, agency responsibilities, and public desires.



Objective-based Vegetative Management (OBVM)



Image by Eric Blackmore





Establish clear and measurable Desired Future Conditions for natural plant communities



Desired Future Condition variables are management-dependant and easily measured



Overstory



Midstory



Groundcover



Example Desired Future Condition

Overstory Variables:

- Canopy Species Richness
- Canopy Height
- Canopy Percent Cover
- Basal Area (all, long leaf pine, hardwoods)
- Stem Density



**Monitor
variables
every 2-3
years**



Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery (WCPR)



Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery

Facilitate the recovery of imperiled and focal species on FWC-managed lands

- Comprehensive wildlife Strategy
- Area specific wildlife Goals
- Measurable Objectives
- Prescribed management
- Prescribed monitoring



Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery

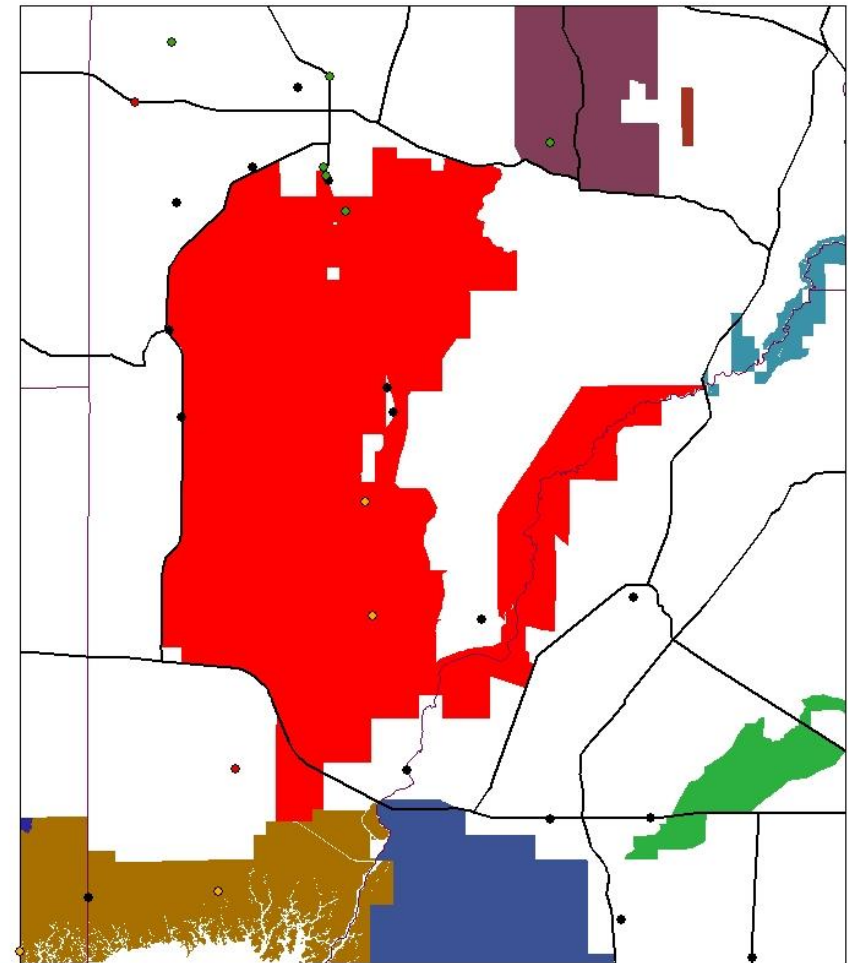
The Strategy...

- Provides species assessments
- Describes necessary actions
- Describes necessary monitoring
- Influences work priorities
- Influences work plans
- Influences budget requests
& allocations



Example Area Specific Strategy: Aucilla WMA

- Includes all listed species
- 15 of 60 focal species
- Evaluates area's overall role in wildlife conservation



Area Specific Strategy

Example Goal: establish and maintain a viable population of Bachman's sparrows that has the potential to function as part of a larger regional population



Area Specific Strategy

Example Objectives:

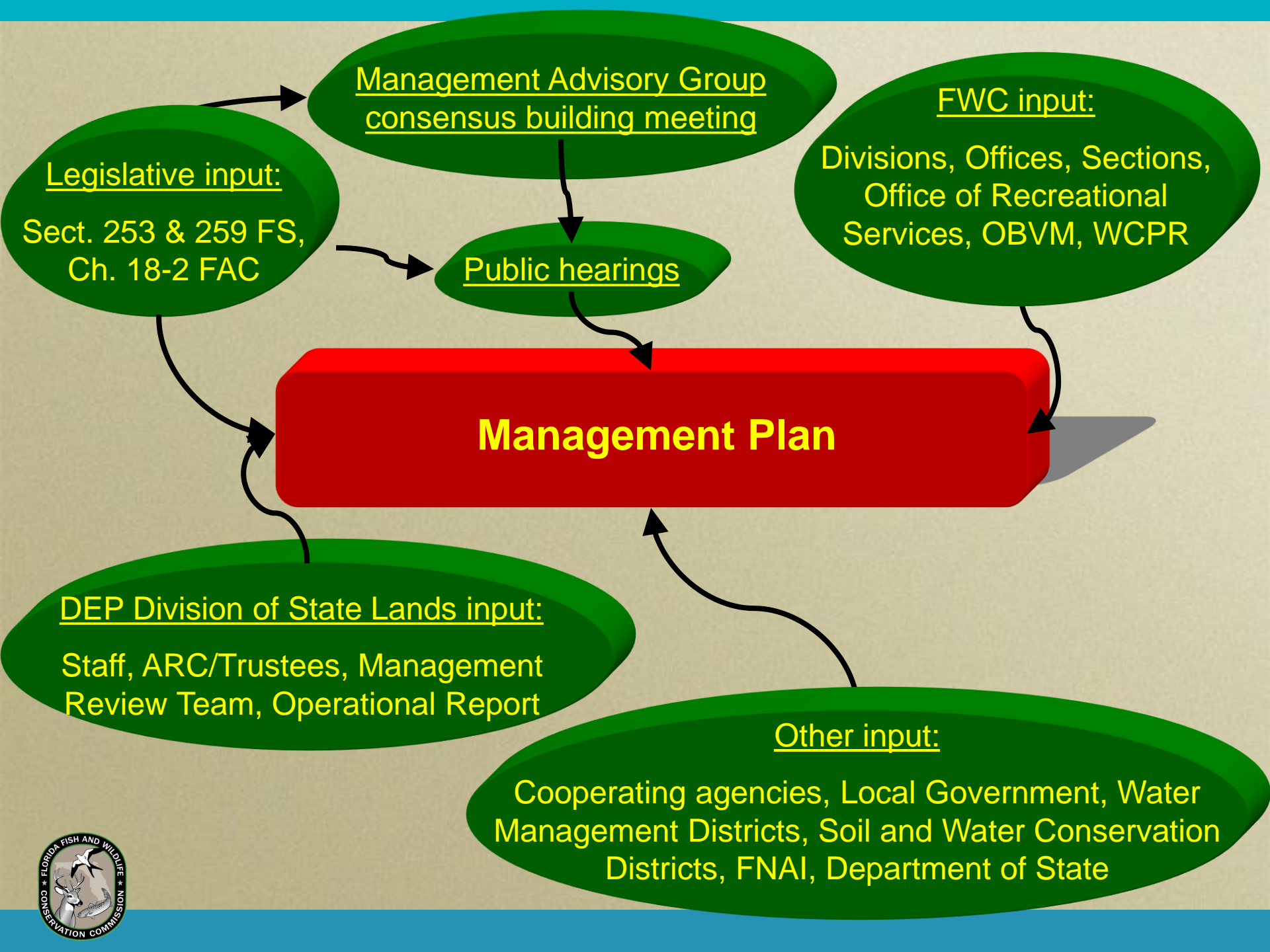
- Recruit a population of Bachman's sparrows on Aucilla WMA by 2018
- Detect presence of Bachman's sparrows on 30% of call stations in suitable habitat by 2028



Ten-year Management Plans

- Short-term and long-term Goals with...
- Measurable objectives and...
- Timelines for completion
- Integrates OBVM & WCPR





Management Advisory Group



Babcock Ranch Preserve

Ten-year Management Plans

** Recent legislative changes require management plans to be even more precise in delineating, quantifying, and measuring management success and performance.*

- Generate effective area Management Intent, Goals with measurable Objectives and timelines for completion, Challenges and Strategies, cost estimates.
- Integrate OBVM and WCPR
- Integrate a Recreation Master Plan
- Consider and address other important management issues and FWC initiatives



Management Plan Goal Categories (Ch 253.034 FS):

1. Habitat Restoration and Improvement
 2. Public access and recreational opportunities
 3. Hydrological preservation and restoration
 4. Sustainable forest management
 5. Exotic and invasive species maintenance and control
 6. Capital facilities and infrastructure
 7. Cultural and historical resources
 8. Imperiled species habitat maintenance, enhancement, restoration, or population restoration
- * Others as needed (e.g., Research Opportunities)



Example Goals and Objectives:

- Habitat Restoration and Improvement Goal: Improve extant habitats and restore disturbed areas

Short-term

- Develop and implement a contract to survey, map, and describe historical and current natural communities. (January 2009 - June 2010).
- Develop a prescribed burn plan. (January 2009 – June 2010)
- Develop and implement contract to survey and map exotics. (January 2009 – June 2010)
- Reintroduce prescribed fire to fire-adapted communities (~100 acres). (January 2009 – June 2010)
- Initiate treatment of exotic species (~10 acres). (January 2009 – June 2010)
- Initiate restoration for ~50 acres of former row-crop fields. (January 2010 – June 2011)



Example Goals and Objectives:

- Habitat Restoration and Improvement Goal: Improve extant habitats and restore disturbed areas

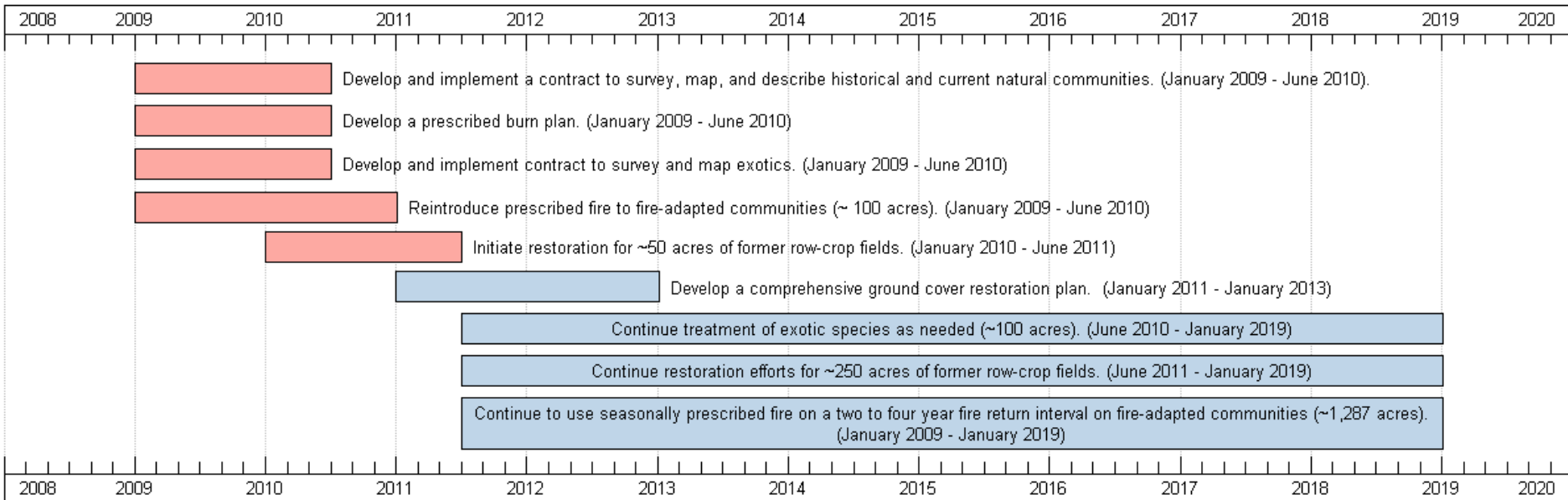
Long-term

- Continue to use seasonally prescribed fire on a two to four year fire return interval on fire-adapted communities (~1,287 acres). (January 2009 – January 2019)
- Continue treatment of exotic species as needed (~100 acres). (June 2010 – January 2019)
- Continue restoration efforts for ~250 acres of former row-crop fields. (June 2011 – January 2019)
- Develop a comprehensive ground cover restoration plan. (January 2011 – January 2013)
- Develop and implement OBVM and WCPR strategies. (January 2012 - January 2019)
- Conduct a mechanical thinning of overstocked stand of mixed-pine and hardwoods (~40 acres). (January 2013 – January 2015)



Example Timelines for Completion:

Habitat Restoration and Improvement Goal: Improve extant habitat and restore disturbed areas



Short-term Long-term

Watermelon Pond WEA Management Plan - Timelines



Public Hearing Caravelle Ranch WMA



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Summary: Accountability

- New legislation (Ch 259.037 FS): biennial operational report assessing progress towards achieving short-term and long-term management goals submitted to ARC
- Land Management Uniform Accounting Council categories for Activities and Costs
- New legislation (Ch 253.034 FS): Goals with measurable objectives and timelines for completion
- Land Management Reviews every five years
- FWC accomplishment report included in updated Management Plans



End



Image by David Moynahan