

Name of Site: Werner Boyce Salt Springs State Park

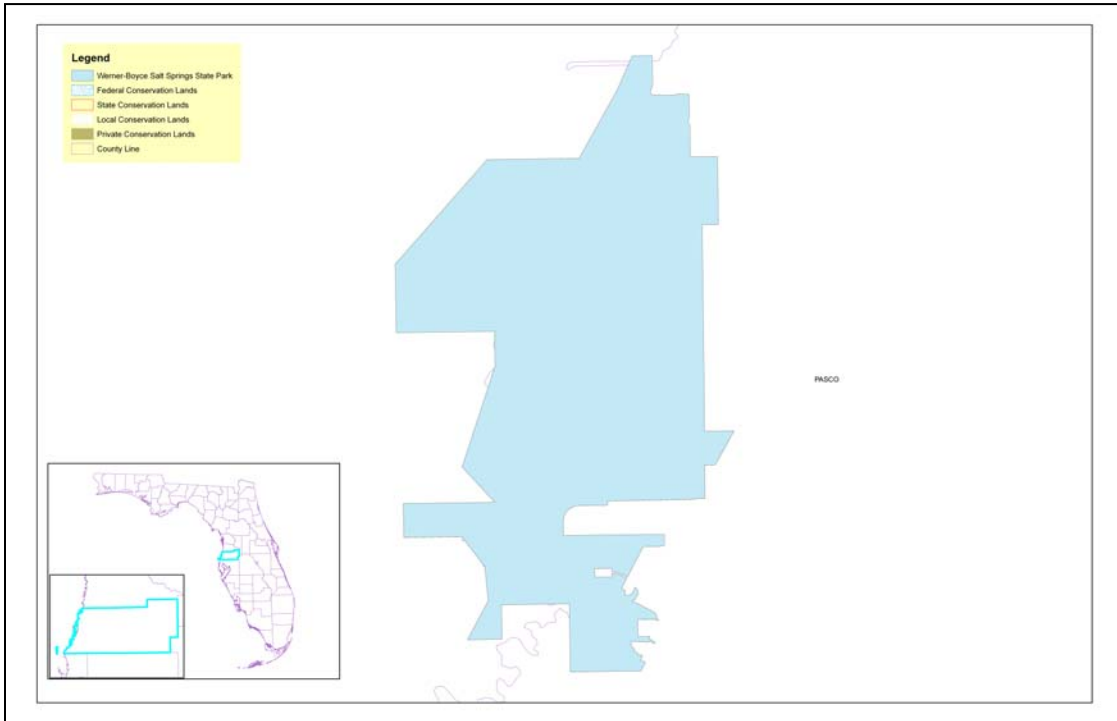
County: Pasco County

Managed by: Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Acres: 3,999.32 Acres
Area Reviewed: Entire Tract

Review Date: 9/16/2010

Management Plan Approval Date: 10/25/01



Review Team Determination

Managed in accordance with acquisition purpose? Yes = 3, No = 0, Abstain = 3



Management practices, including public access, in compliance with the management plan? Yes =3, No = 0, Abstain = 3



Categories	Management Plan Review	Field Review
Natural Communities	0.91	4.04
Listed Species	0.72	3.89
Natural Resource Survey	0.69	3.89
Cultural Resources	0.92	3.58
Prescribed Fire	0.67	2.94
Restoration	0.44	4.06
Exotic Species	0.77	3.55
Hydrology	0.82	3.82
Groundwater Monitoring	0.67	3.20
Surface Water Monitoring	0.60	2.00
Resource Protection	0.96	3.71
Adjacent Property Concerns	0.92	3.75
Public Access & Education	0.80	3.07
Management Resources	N/A	4.10
Managed Area Uses	0.79	N/A
Buildings, Equipment, Staff & Funding	N/A	2.60

Consensus Commendations to the Managing Agency

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

1. The team commends the DRP for the excellent work with development and participation of the Citizen Support Organization, and volunteers at this park. The logged number of volunteer hours has been just under 8,000 in the last year and is commendable. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)



2. The team commends the DRP for completing the public access at the Scenic Drive Trail. (VOTE: 5+, 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 DRP complete the visitor amenities necessary to provide general public use at this park. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)



Managing Agency Response: Agree; permitting and construction are progressing.

2. The team recommends that the Park renew the emphasis on prescribed fire and increase the frequency of burns. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)



Managing Agency Response: Agree; an annual target for prescribed burning will be specified in the revised Unit Management Plan.

3. The team recommends that DRP seek additional funding to address treatment and control of exotic species, including cogongrass and Brazilian pepper, which remain untreated and out of maintenance. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)



Managing Agency Response: Agree; additional funding is essential and should be applied for as opportunities arise.

4. The team recommends that DRP complete the waterway management plan to address uses such as airboats, jet skis, and motorboats. (VOTE: 5+, 0-)



Managing Agency Response: Agree.

Field Review Checklist Findings

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

- Natural Communities, regarding baygall, marine unconsolidated substrate, marine tidal swamp, marine grass beds, estuarine tidal marsh, marsh lake, hydric hammock, and spring-run stream.

- Listed Species, regarding animal inventory, black rail, Wilson’s plover, bald eagle, gopher tortoise and plant inventory.
- Natural Resource Survey, regarding sport fish or habitat monitoring, listed species or habitat monitoring, other non-game species or habitat monitoring, fire effects monitoring, other habitat management effects monitoring and invasive species survey/monitoring.
- Cultural Resources, regarding cultural resource survey.
- Resource Management, regarding quality.
- Restoration of Ruderal Areas, regarding mosquito ditch removal, SR52 road removal, and mitigation area.
- Non-Native, Invasive & Problem Species, regarding prevention of plants and animals, as well as control of animals.
- Hydrologic/Geologic Function, regarding roads/culverts and ditches.
- Ground Water Monitoring, regarding ground water quality and quantity.
- Resource Protection, regarding boundary survey, gates and fencing, signage and law enforcement presence.
- Adjacent Property Concerns, regarding inholdings/additions.
- Public Access & Education, regarding wildlife, invasive species, habitat management activities, and management of visitor impacts.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Management Plan

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that the text noted in the Management Plan Review does not sufficiently address this issue (less than .5 score on average.). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. Discussion in the management plan regarding Natural Communities, specifically Spring-Run Stream.

Managing Agency Response: This will be addressed in the revised Unit Management Plan.

2. Discussion in the management plan regarding Listed Species, specifically Black Rail, Wilson’s Plover and Plant Inventory.

Managing Agency Response: [These did not score below 0.5]

3. Discussion in the management plan regarding Natural Resource Survey, specifically Sport Fish or Habitat Monitoring.

Managing Agency Response: [This did not score below 0.5]

4. Discussion in the management plan regarding Adjacent Resource Management, specifically Area Being Burned.

Managing Agency Response: This will be addressed in the revised Unit Management Plan, but not as adjacent resource management (what “adjacent resource management” refers to is unclear, and not on the PLAN REVIEW list below).

5. Discussion in the management plan regarding Restoration of Ruderal Areas, specifically Mosquito Ditch Removal, SR 52 Road Removal, and Mitigation Area.

Managing Agency Response: [Mosquito Ditch Removal and SR 52 Road Removal did not score below 0.5] The Mitigation Area will be discussed in the revised Unit Management Plan.

6. Discussion in the management plan regarding Managed Area Uses, specifically Airboats, Motor Boats, Paved Trails, and Observation Platform.

Managing Agency Response: [Motor boats and Observation Platform did not score below 0.5] The recreational use of airboats in the park, as well as plans for Paved Trails, will be addressed in the revised Unit Management Plan.

Items Requiring Improvement Actions in the Field

The following items received low scores on the review team checklist, which indicates that management actions noted during the Field Review were not considered sufficient (less than 2.5 score on average). Please note that overall good scores do not preclude specific recommendations by the review team requiring remediation. The management plan must include responses to the checklist items identified below:

1. Increased resource management activities related to prescribed fire, specifically the area being burned and frequency at which burns are completed, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: Agree.

2. The need for surface water monitoring, specifically quality and quantity, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: Park and District staff will not be able to maintain a water quality monitoring program on their own. Instead, staff will attempt to enlist assistance of the Water Management District (or local Water Authority or local health department) to assist the park in regular water quality/quantity monitoring.

3. Discussion regarding Public Access & Education, specifically Roads, Parking, and Boat Access, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: Permitting and construction for public access are progressing. The revised Unit Management Plan will address the status of land use.

4. Discussion of the deficiencies in Management Resources, specifically staff and funding, with documentation in the management plan.

Managing Agency Response: The revised Unit Management Plan will address land management funding needs, but Division funding is determined annually by the Florida Legislature. Similarly, if it is determined that additional staff are needed, it will be included in the revised Unit Management Plan, but new staff must be appropriated by the Legislature or reassigned from other units.

Division of Recreation and Parks Manager and Key Staff Present:

- Larry Steed