

RESOLUTION NO. 2003- 80

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING CERTAIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION LANDS IN VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 1986 and again in 2000, the voters of Volusia County by referenda supported the acquisition of environmentally sensitive, water resource protection, and outdoor recreation lands for conservation purposes, and

WHEREAS, the management of conservation lands acquired pursuant to these programs is a long term, dynamic effort which should be guided by certain general principles, and

WHEREAS, these Goals and Objectives are intended to provide generalized policy direction for conservation land management to the Division of Land Acquisition and Management of the Growth and Resource Management Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN OPEN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED IN THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE THOMAS C. KELLY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 123 WEST INDIANA AVENUE, DELAND, FLORIDA, THIS 8th DAY OF MAY, 2003 A.D., AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Goal. Manage the County's conservation lands using a program of professionally accepted principles of resource and ecosystem management for the benefit of, and enjoyment by, present and future generations.

Section 2. Resource Objectives.

- A. Implement methods of management that protect and enhance ecosystem integrity, function and biodiversity.
- B. Recognize the ecological role and importance of fire. Incorporate prescribed burning, where appropriate, as part of the management regimen for County conservation lands. To the extent possible, fire maintained native ecosystems shall be burned at the appropriate interval, intensity and season to maintain these ecosystems. The timing of prescribed burns may be adjusted for fuel reduction, site safety, or other issues. Mechanical or other methods may be employed, where appropriate, in lieu of the use of fire, when prescribed fire is impracticable.
- C. Forest management techniques should be used to promote conditions favoring the natural, historical, species composition and structure. However, the County's stewardship of conservation lands may include the use of even-aged forest management practices.
- D. Substantially encourage forest management practices that complement habitat enhancement.
- E. Provide appropriate strategies for the management and enhancement of wildlife habitat and populations for both listed and non-listed species.
- F. Protect significant water resources such as streams, creeks, natural drainage ways, and floodplains.

G. Restoration and Enhancement

1. To the extent reasonably practical, altered lands should be returned, over the years, to natural habitats compatible with the existing conditions of the area, except for historical or other significant cultural features.
2. Eliminate or reduce populations of invasive and exotic or nuisance species so as to promote the restoration of these areas to the previous natural condition or to a natural ecosystem that is best suited to the existing conditions of the area.

Section 3. Historical, Cultural and Archeological Objective.

- A. Promote the protection of identified cultural, historical, and archeological resources.

Section 4. Recreation, Public Access, and Education Objectives.

- A. Provide appropriate public trails and resource based recreational opportunities such as, but not limited to, backcountry camping, nature observation, hunting and fishing.
- B. Uses shall be compatible with a site's natural resources and overall management regimen.
- C. Provide opportunities for educational and research use of managed lands. These activities may include providing structured, interdisciplinary environmental education programs to the public and the preparation and dissemination of informative and interpretive materials.

Section 5. Monitoring Objective.

- A. Implement a program for monitoring and evaluating the success of resource management and restoration activities and the impacts of public use of conservation lands. This data may be used for development of new management strategies and procedures.

Section 6. Management and Land Use Coordination Objectives.

- A. Where applicable, maintain and promote coordination of management activities with appropriate public agencies, including County and other governmental agencies.
- B. Consider adjoining land uses and infrastructure (existing and proposed) as part of the management and use of conservation lands.

Section 7. Operational/Administrative Objectives.

- A. Identify and implement compatible sources of monetary support, such as, but not limited to, a share of the Volusia Forever funds, concessions, sale of forest products and other renewable resources, user and mitigation fees, agricultural and other leases, and other revenue enhancements for the long-term management of the County's conservation lands.
- B. Prepare specific management plans for County managed, and as appropriate, jointly managed conservation areas. Each management plan shall be periodically reviewed and, if needed, revised to acknowledge changing conditions, effects of implemented management practices, changes in budgetary or operational situations, or other issues or concerns.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

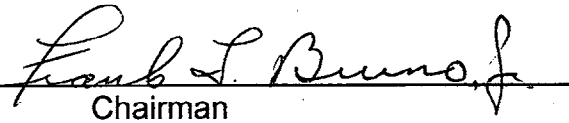
DONE AND ORDERED IN OPEN MEETING.

ATTEST:



County Manager

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA



Chairman