Agenda Item #:____

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date: Department	August 19, 2008	() Consent () Ordinance	(X) Regular () Public Hearing	
		nental Resources Management		
Submitted I	For: Environmenta	nmental Resources Management		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: a Management Plan for the Delaware Scrub Natural Area.

Summary: The Delaware Scrub Natural Area Management Plan (Plan) was developed by the Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM). The Plan provides guidelines for proposed land management activities on the Delaware Scrub Natural Area. It was recommended for approval by the Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) on June 20, 2008, after careful consideration of public comments received at a public hearing held on May 22, 2008.

The Delaware Scrub Natural Area is comprised of approximately 15.80 acres on the northeast corner of the intersection of Delaware Boulevard and Indiantown Road within the Town of Jupiter. The site's eastern boundary is Jones Creek. This site was jointly acquired by the Town of Jupiter and the County in May 23, 2005. Funds for the acquisition were provided from the Palm Beach County Lands for Conservation Purposes Bond Issue Referendum of March 9, 1999, the Town of Jupiter's Open Space Program Bond Issue Referendum of August 31, 2004, and from matching funds from the Florida Communities Trust in 2006. This site will be managed by ERM as part of the County's Natural Areas System, which is currently comprised of 36 sites. <u>District 1</u> (SF)

Background and Policy Issues: In November 1994, the BCC created NAMAC to review staff-developed natural area management plans and to conduct public hearings on the plans prior to presentation to the BCC. This plan was recommended for approval by NAMAC on June 20, 2008.

The primary objectives for the management of this site are to ensure the preservation and restoration of important remnants of scrub, mesic flatwoods, dome swamp, tidal swamp, and scrubby flatwoods vegetative communities; the wildlife populations associated with these native habitats; and the rare and/or endemic plant and animal species on the site. A total of six plant and six animal species observed on the Delaware Scrub Natural Area have been listed as endangered, threatened, or as a species of special concern by at least one government agency or nonprofit environmental organization. Additional objectives are to provide for passive recreation, environmental education, and scientific research opportunities consistent with protecting the natural resources of the Delaware Scrub Natural Area.

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Attac	hm	en	ts:
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	. Management Plan > 50 pages: Available for Review at County Administration
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Recommended by:

Department Director

Data

Approved by:

County Administrator

Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:					
Fiscal Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs	\$156,939	\$598,616	\$50,831	\$55,067	<u>\$59,303</u>
External Revenues Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County)				-	
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$156,939	<u>\$598,616</u>	\$50,831	\$55,067	<u>\$59,303</u>
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulativ	e)				
Is Item Included in Curr Budget Account No.: Fu			X_ No Unit_3162		00S
Budget Account No.: Fu	nd Depa	rtment	Unit	Object	
B. Recommended So	ources of Funds	S/Summary of	Fiscal Impact		
Funds for public use facilities and management costs will be provided by ERM's Natural Areas Fund (1226). Exotic removal and restoration costs are expected to come from a combination of monies from the Natural Areas Fund and grants. Over the past five years, capital and maintenance costs for County owned/managed natural areas have increased an average of 10% per year. Actual costs for 2008 and beyond may be higher or lower than projected. C. Department Fiscal Review:					
	III. RE	VIEW COMM	ENTS		
A. OFMB Fis The estimated ongoing maint OFMB	cal and for Contact of the cost of the cos	he project	is \$523,5	75 with e. ly.	stimated B///08 trol
B. Legal Suffi Assistant C	iciency:	ey ey			
C. Other Dep	artment Revie	w:			
Departmen	nt Director				

(Continued from page 1):

On September 13, 2005, the BCC expressed a desire to place conservation easements on all County natural areas and approved a Resolution establishing standard form conservation easements (R2005-1770). Conveying conservation easements over County natural areas provides the natural areas with a level of protection that is not affected by retirement of County or State conservation bonds. Unanticipated delays have slowed South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) acceptance of conservation easements granted outside the permitting process. Staff is working with SFWMD to resolve these delays and expects that the SFWMD will accept a conservation easement over the Delaware Scrub Natural Area within the next year. Staff is also hopeful that The Nature Conservancy will accept a conservation easement over the natural area within the next two years. The entire Delaware Scrub Natural Area is afforded some protection by the Palm Beach County Conservation Lands Protection Ordinance No. 2003-052, which requires a super-majority vote by the BCC to conceptually approve conveying an interest in, or allowing uses on conservation lands that were not contemplated by the bond referenda approved in 1991 and 1999.

An Interlocal Agreement was approved by the Town of Jupiter on April 19, 2005 and by the Board of County Commissioners on May 3, 2005.