

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Deena Reppen, Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs

**DATE:** October 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Loxahatchee River National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan  
2010 Update

**Background:** In 1985, 10.3 miles of the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River were designated as the first National Wild and Scenic River in the State of Florida. Pursuant to the enabling legislation, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the South Florida Water Management District (District) are required to jointly develop, administer, and implement a Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. The Management Plan is periodically updated by the FDEP and District, with input from the legislatively-established Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council (LRMCC). Today, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the focus of a multi-agency restoration effort. FDEP and the District have teamed with federal, state and local governments to implement management measures contained within the Loxahatchee River National Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. The Management Plan provides these agencies and the public with guidance through objectives, strategies and tasks to achieve the goal of protecting and enhancing the National Wild and Scenic portion of the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

**How this helps meet the District's 10-year Strategic Plan:** The recommendations in the Management Plan are consistent with the District's strategic goal to restore, preserve and protect the Loxahatchee River ecosystem by implementing projects that improve the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water deliveries.

**Funding Source:** Acceptance of the Management Plan Update does not incur any costs. Implementation of plan recommendations, if the District chooses to do so, may incur costs and would be considered separately from this item.

**This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography:** This item is managed by the Regulatory and Public Affairs Resource Area and the Intergovernmental Programs Department Deputy Director serves as the District's representative on the LRMCC. Staff from Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects Resource Area often makes presentations to the LRMCC. The Wild and Scenic portion of the Loxahatchee River and its tributary watershed lie in Palm Beach and Martin counties.

**What concerns could this Board item raise?** The 2010 Management Plan Update may lead to stakeholder expectations regarding the timing or funding of management recommendations. However, the plan is a guidance document that does not impose fiscal or implementation requirements on the District.

**Why should the Governing Board approve this item?** This document is the result of a collaborative effort among 25 State and local agencies, governments and stakeholders having jurisdiction or interest in the preservation and enhancement of the Wild and Scenic portion of the Loxahatchee River. As part of its advisory responsibilities to the FDEP and District, the LRMCC voted unanimously on September 27, 2010 to recommend approval of the Management Plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at ext. 6232.