

6.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

In preceding chapters, this plan has sought to identify the outstanding economic, scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or ecological features that combine to make the Myakka River an area of unique natural resource values. The plan has also sought to set forth a program of principles, objectives, and specific actions to be undertaken to ensure that these resource values are permanently preserved and enhanced for the citizens of the State of Florida both present and future.

The permanent management and administration of the river involves a complex interaction of local, regional, state and federal interests that require balancing and coordination of purpose. By working together, both public and private interests can be achieved through the implementation of the actions of this plan.

6.1 MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

Management of the Myakka Wild and Scenic River segment will be accomplished through the cooperative actions of many local, regional, state, and federal agencies having vested interests in the river. An important function of the river management program will be to coordinate the management activities of the various involved agencies.

The Council was established in part to ensure effective interagency and intergovernmental coordination of management for the river. The Council is represented by a broad spectrum of local, regional, and state agencies; agricultural interests; environmental organizations; public entities; and others recognized by the Legislature and Department as having an interest in matters that affect the administration and management of the river (see Appendix E). Historically, proper coordination, particularly between agencies and other members of the Council, has been lacking.

The purpose of the Council is to function as a collective organization. Council members are appointed because they represent larger interests and the public at large. During the critical period of initial plan implementation, the Council should strive to coordinate in the management of the river area in a collective fashion. The Council has the responsibility and authority to

review and make recommendations on all proposals for amendments or modifications to Section 258.501, Florida Statutes, and to this management plan, as well as on other matters that may be brought before the Council by DNR, any local government, or any member of the Council. The Council shall render its nonbinding advisory opinion to DNR, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Sarasota County, the City of North Port, and other affected agencies.

The Council will play a key role in ensuring that the objectives of the plan are realized by identifying and resolving coordination problems and enhancing communication between all interests in the river area. The Council may formally review problems associated with the plan and provide recommendations to the appropriate decisionmaking or management agencies. The Council may also review and may provide advisory recommendations on any permits required by Section 258.501, Florida Statutes. However, the Council's review may not impede the timely processing of those permits.

Monitoring the implementation of the plan is also an important activity. Due to the number of affected agencies and the size and complexity of the Council, issues and problems, and recommended actions, an independent review by the Council of implementation efforts is suggested to accurately monitor and determine implementation progress. This review should be conducted on an annual basis.

6.2 PLAN REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

The Myakka Wild and Scenic River Management Plan will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised periodically, at least at 5-year intervals, to ensure that the objectives and actions of the management program remain relevant to achieving the plan's preservation and enhancement principles. All regular (5-year) reviews of the plan will be conducted by DNR with the assistance of the Council.

Any revision or modification of the approved management plan will be accomplished through essentially the same process used to adopt the original plan. Amendments to the plan may be proposed at any time by DNR or the Council. The Council may, at its discretion, appoint a subcommittee or other

appropriate work group to further analyze the proposed revision before making its final recommendations. The analysis of the Council will identify or predict: 1) any potential adverse affect on any resource value of the river area which may result as a direct or indirect consequence of the proposed plan amendment; and 2) any other matters the Council finds desirable. The Council will meet to make its recommendations to DNR. All amendments to the plan must be approved by DNR.

6.3 AREAS FOR LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION

The final section of this plan summarizes the major actions that are recommended to be taken to implement the findings of the plan. Most of the actions are the responsibility of DNR. Many local, regional, state, and federal agencies, as well as private interests, however, will play vital roles in the overall execution of the management program (see Appendix D).

Specific actions for special consideration include the following:

- Adopt a rule to establish standards for regulating activities in the river area (Action 1.1)
- Amend Section 258.501, Florida Statutes, to: 1) establish the wild and scenic protection zone, 2) require local governments to amend their comprehensive plans as may be necessary to be in conformance with, or more stringent than, this plan and management guidelines and criteria promulgated by DNR with assistance from DCA, and 3) require local governments to adopt any necessary ordinances and regulations to carry out the purposes of this plan and DNR's guidelines and criteria (Action 1.2).
- Recommend legislative amendments of the Native Flora Of Florida Act, Chapter 581, Florida Statutes (Action 1.12).
- Revise Manatee County's Mining and Reclamation Ordinance No. 81-22 to include language similar to that of the Myakka River watershed for the Manatee River watershed (Action 2.3).
- Amend Chapter 17-3, FAC, to designate the entire Myakka River as an Outstanding Florida Water (Action 2.7).
- Prohibit mining of resources in the river area (Action 2.12).
- Petition applicable management agencies to conduct a master watershed study (Action 2.13).

- Implement a manatee management plan (Action 3.5).
- Develop and implement land use design standards for development within the wild and scenic protection zone (Action 4.6).
- Enact by rule a slow/minimum wake speed limit zone for the Myakka River from the Sarasota/Manatee County line to the Sarasota/Charlotte County line (Action 7.2).
- Enact a nuisance noise ordinance to minimize noise impacts on the Myakka River, if warranted (Action 7.3).
- Establish idle-speed/no-wake zones in designated areas of Myakka River (Action 7.5).

In addition, the legislature needs to provide adequate funding for the studies identified in Section 5.0, as well as for an increase in DNR staff to implement the various actions. It is projected that a minimum staffing to implement various actions of this plan will require two park officers for enforcement; two environmental specialists (I and II position levels) for permitting, coordination, and reviews; and a park ranger for resource management activities. Operating capital outlay and expenses will also be necessary for computer supplies, site development, utilities, fuel and lubricants, travel, a computer and printer, two boats and motors, miscellaneous law enforcement equipment, a modular home, two radios, and other expenses and outlays.

While the actions set forth in Section 5.0 represents the plan's major recommendations, it should not be viewed as a comprehensive listing of all the activities that will be taken to implement the plan. Rather, it should be viewed as indicative of the types of actions that will be needed to ensure that the river's special attributes are permanently preserved and enhanced. Some of the actions represent ongoing activities of the various agencies. Additional actions may be identified as implementation of the plan progresses. Where possible, estimates of funding required to complete these activities and a projected completion date for each has been included in the plan. The implementation of these actions is governed by applicable law and the availability of the funds. All agencies are expected to assume responsibility for implementing those recommended actions relevant to their functional areas of responsibility.