

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to state land management; providing a
3 short title; amending s. 253.034, F.S.; requiring
4 public hearings for all updated conservation and
5 nonconservation land management plans; requiring the
6 Division of State Lands of the Department of
7 Environmental Protection to make available to the
8 public, within a specified timeframe, electronic
9 copies of land management plans for parcels of a
10 certain size and for parcels located in state parks;
11 making technical changes; amending s. 258.004, F.S.;
12 revising the duties of the Division of Recreation and
13 Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection;
14 specifying requirements for the management of parks
15 and recreational areas held by the state; defining the
16 term "conservation-based recreational uses"; making
17 technical changes; amending s. 258.007, F.S.;
18 requiring the division to comply with specified
19 provisions when granting certain privileges, leases,
20 concessions, and permits; authorizing the division to
21 acquire, install, or permit the installation or
22 operation of camping cabins that meet certain
23 requirements in state parks; prohibiting the division
24 from authorizing certain uses or construction
25 activities within a state park; prohibiting the

26 | division from installing or permitting the
 27 | installation of any lodging establishment at a state
 28 | park; amending s. 259.032, F.S.; requiring that
 29 | individual management plans for parcels located within
 30 | state parks be developed with input from an advisory
 31 | group; requiring that the advisory group's required
 32 | public hearings be noticed to the public within a
 33 | specified timeframe; requiring the department to
 34 | submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by
 35 | a specified date; specifying requirements for the
 36 | report; providing an effective date.

37 |
 38 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

39 |
 40 | **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "State Park
 41 | Preservation Act."

42 | **Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 253.034, Florida**
 43 | **Statutes, is amended to read:**

44 | 253.034 State-owned lands; uses.—

45 | (5) Each manager of conservation lands shall submit to the
 46 | Division of State Lands a land management plan at least every 10
 47 | years in a form and manner adopted by rule of the board of
 48 | trustees and in accordance with s. 259.032. Each manager of
 49 | conservation lands shall also update a land management plan
 50 | whenever the manager proposes to add new facilities or make

51 substantive land use or management changes that were not
52 addressed in the approved plan, or within 1 year after the
53 addition of significant new lands. Each manager of
54 nonconservation lands shall submit to the Division of State
55 Lands a land use plan at least every 10 years in a form and
56 manner adopted by rule of the board of trustees. The division
57 shall review each plan for compliance with the requirements of
58 this subsection and the requirements of the rules adopted by the
59 board of trustees pursuant to this section. All nonconservation
60 land use plans, whether for single-use or multiple-use
61 properties, must ~~shall~~ be managed to provide the greatest
62 benefit to the state. Plans for managed areas larger than 1,000
63 acres must ~~shall~~ contain an analysis of the multiple-use
64 potential of the property which includes the potential of the
65 property to generate revenues to enhance the management of the
66 property. In addition, the plan must ~~shall~~ contain an analysis
67 of the potential use of private land managers to facilitate the
68 restoration or management of these lands and whether
69 nonconservation lands would be more appropriately transferred to
70 the county or municipality in which the land is located for the
71 purpose of providing affordable multifamily rental housing that
72 meets the criteria of s. 420.0004(3). If a newly acquired
73 property has a valid conservation plan that was developed by a
74 soil and water conservation district, such plan must ~~shall~~ be
75 used to guide management of the property until a formal land use

76 | plan is completed.

77 | (a) State conservation lands must ~~shall~~ be managed to
78 | ensure the conservation of this state's plant and animal species
79 | and to ensure the accessibility of state lands for the benefit
80 | and enjoyment of all people of this state, both present and
81 | future. Each land management plan for state conservation lands
82 | must ~~shall~~ provide a desired outcome, describe both short-term
83 | and long-term management goals, and include measurable
84 | objectives to achieve those goals. Short-term goals must ~~shall~~
85 | be achievable within a 2-year planning period, and long-term
86 | goals must ~~shall~~ be achievable within a 10-year planning period.
87 | These short-term and long-term management goals are ~~shall be~~ the
88 | basis for all subsequent land management activities.

89 | (b) Short-term and long-term management goals for state
90 | conservation lands must ~~shall~~ include measurable objectives for
91 | the following, as appropriate:

- 92 | 1. Habitat restoration and improvement.
- 93 | 2. Public access and recreational opportunities.
- 94 | 3. Hydrological preservation and restoration.
- 95 | 4. Sustainable forest management.
- 96 | 5. Exotic and invasive species maintenance and control.
- 97 | 6. Capital facilities and infrastructure.
- 98 | 7. Cultural and historical resources.
- 99 | 8. Imperiled species habitat maintenance, enhancement,
100 | restoration, or population restoration.

101 (c) The land management plan must ~~shall~~, at a minimum,
102 contain the following elements:

103 1. A physical description of the land.

104 2. A quantitative data description of the land which
105 includes an inventory of forest and other natural resources;
106 exotic and invasive plants; hydrological features;
107 infrastructure, including recreational facilities; and other
108 significant land, cultural, or historical features. The
109 inventory must ~~shall~~ reflect the number of acres for each
110 resource and feature, when appropriate. The inventory must ~~shall~~
111 be of such detail that objective measures and benchmarks can be
112 established for each tract of land and monitored during the
113 lifetime of the plan. All quantitative data collected must ~~shall~~
114 be aggregated, standardized, collected, and presented in an
115 electronic format to allow for uniform management reporting and
116 analysis. The information collected by the Department of
117 Environmental Protection pursuant to s. 253.0325(2) must ~~shall~~
118 be available to the land manager and his or her assignee.

119 3. A detailed description of each short-term and long-term
120 land management goal, the associated measurable objectives, and
121 the related activities that are to be performed to meet the land
122 management objectives. Each land management objective must be
123 addressed by the land management plan, and if practicable, a
124 land management objective may not be performed to the detriment
125 of the other land management objectives.

126 4. A schedule of land management activities which contains
127 short-term and long-term land management goals and the related
128 measurable objective and activities. The schedule must ~~shall~~
129 include for each activity a timeline for completion,
130 quantitative measures, and detailed expense and manpower
131 budgets. The schedule must ~~shall~~ provide a management tool that
132 facilitates development of performance measures.

133 5. A summary budget for the scheduled land management
134 activities of the land management plan. For state lands
135 containing or anticipated to contain imperiled species habitat,
136 the summary budget shall include any fees anticipated from
137 public or private entities for projects to offset adverse
138 impacts to imperiled species or such habitat, which fees must
139 ~~shall~~ be used solely to restore, manage, enhance, repopulate, or
140 acquire imperiled species habitat. The summary budget must ~~shall~~
141 be prepared in such manner that it facilitates computing an
142 aggregate of land management costs for all state-managed lands
143 using the categories described in s. 259.037(3).

144 (d) Upon completion, the land management plan must be
145 transmitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for
146 review. Within ~~The council shall have~~ 90 days after receipt of
147 the plan, the council shall ~~to~~ review the plan and submit its
148 recommendations to the board of trustees. During the review
149 period, the land management plan may be revised if agreed to by
150 the primary land manager and the council taking into

151 consideration public input. The land management plan becomes
152 effective upon approval by the board of trustees.

153 (e) Land management plans are to be updated every 10 years
154 on a rotating basis. Each updated land management plan must
155 identify any conservation lands under the plan, in part or in
156 whole, that are no longer needed for conservation purposes and
157 could be disposed of in fee simple or with the state retaining a
158 permanent conservation easement.

159 (f) In developing or updating land management plans, at
160 least one public hearing must ~~shall~~ be held in any one affected
161 county.

162 (g) The Division of State Lands shall make available to
163 the public at least 30 days before the public hearing required
164 by paragraph (f) an electronic copy of each land management plan
165 for parcels that exceed 160 acres in size and for parcels
166 located within a state park. The division shall review each plan
167 for compliance with the requirements of this subsection, the
168 requirements of chapter 259, and the requirements of the rules
169 adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to this section. The
170 Acquisition and Restoration Council shall also consider the
171 propriety of the recommendations of the managing entity with
172 regard to the future use of the property, the protection of
173 fragile or nonrenewable resources, the potential for alternative
174 or multiple uses not recognized by the managing entity, and the
175 possibility of disposal of the property by the board of

176 trustees. After its review, the council shall submit the plan,
 177 along with its recommendations and comments, to the board of
 178 trustees. The council shall specifically recommend to the board
 179 of trustees whether to approve the plan as submitted, approve
 180 the plan with modifications, or reject the plan. If the council
 181 fails to make a recommendation for a land management plan, the
 182 Secretary of Environmental Protection, Commissioner of
 183 Agriculture, or executive director of the Fish and Wildlife
 184 Conservation Commission or their designees must ~~shall~~ submit the
 185 land management plan to the board of trustees.

186 (h) The board of trustees shall consider the land
 187 management plan submitted by each entity and the recommendations
 188 of the Acquisition and Restoration Council and the Division of
 189 State Lands and shall approve the plan with or without
 190 modification or reject such plan. The use or possession of any
 191 such lands which ~~that~~ is not in accordance with an approved land
 192 management plan is subject to termination by the board of
 193 trustees.

194 (i)1. State nonconservation lands must ~~shall~~ be managed to
 195 provide the greatest benefit to the state. State nonconservation
 196 lands may be grouped by similar land use types under one land
 197 use plan. Each land use plan must ~~shall~~, at a minimum, contain
 198 the following elements:

199 a. A physical description of the land to include any
 200 significant natural or cultural resources as well as management

201 strategies developed by the land manager to protect such
 202 resources.

203 b. A desired development outcome.

204 c. A schedule for achieving the desired development
 205 outcome.

206 d. A description of both short-term and long-term
 207 development goals.

208 e. A management and control plan for invasive nonnative
 209 plants.

210 f. A management and control plan for soil erosion and soil
 211 and water contamination.

212 g. Measurable objectives to achieve the goals identified
 213 in the land use plan.

214 2. Short-term goals shall be achievable within a 5-year
 215 planning period and long-term goals shall be achievable within a
 216 10-year planning period.

217 3. The use or possession of any such lands that is not in
 218 accordance with an approved land use plan is subject to
 219 termination by the board of trustees.

220 4. Land use plans submitted by a manager shall include
 221 reference to appropriate statutory authority for such use or
 222 uses and shall conform to the appropriate policies and
 223 guidelines of the state land management plan.

224 **Section 3. Section 258.004, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 225 **to read:**

226 258.004 Duties of division.—

227 (1) ~~It shall be the duty of~~ The Division of Recreation and
 228 Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection shall:

229 (a) ~~to~~ Supervise, administer, regulate, and control the
 230 operation of all public parks, including all monuments,
 231 memorials, sites of historic interest and value, and sites of
 232 archaeological interest and value which are owned~~, or which~~ may
 233 be acquired~~, by the state, or to the operation, development,~~
 234 ~~preservation, and maintenance of~~ which the state may have made
 235 or may make contribution or appropriation of public funds for
 236 their operation, development, preservation, and maintenance.

237 (b) ~~(2) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall~~
 238 Preserve, manage, regulate, and protect all parks and
 239 recreational areas held by the state. The Division of Recreation
 240 and Parks ~~and~~ may provide these services by contract or
 241 interagency agreement for any water management district when the
 242 governing board of a water management district designates or
 243 sets aside any park or recreation area within its boundaries.

244 1. All lands managed pursuant to this chapter must be:

245 a. Managed in a manner that will provide the greatest
 246 combination of benefits to the public and to the land's natural
 247 resources; and

248 b. Managed for conservation-based recreational uses;
 249 public access and related amenities, including roads, parking
 250 areas, walkways, and visitor centers; and scientific research,

251 including archaeology. Such uses must be managed in a manner
252 that is compatible with and that ensures the conservation of
253 this state's natural resources by minimizing impacts to
254 undisturbed habitat. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term
255 "conservation-based recreational uses" means public outdoor
256 recreational activities that do not significantly invade,
257 degrade, or displace the natural resources, native habitats, or
258 archeological or historical sites that are preserved within
259 state parks. These activities include, but are not limited to,
260 fishing, camping, bicycling, hiking, nature study, swimming,
261 boating, canoeing, horseback riding, diving, birding, sailing,
262 and jogging.

263 2. To ensure the protection of state park resources,
264 native habitats, and archeological and historical sites,
265 sporting facilities, including, but not limited to, golf
266 courses, tennis courts, pickleball courts, ball fields, or other
267 similar facilities, may not be constructed in state parks.

268 (c)-(3) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall Study
269 and appraise the recreational ~~recreation~~ needs of the state and
270 assemble and disseminate information relative to recreation.

271 (d)-(4) The Division of Recreation and Parks shall Provide
272 consultation assistance to local governing units as to the
273 protection, organization, and administration of local recreation
274 systems and the planning and design of local recreational
275 ~~recreation~~ areas and facilities.

276 ~~(e)(5)~~ ~~The Division of Recreation and Parks shall~~ Assist
 277 in recruiting, training, and placing recreation personnel.

278 ~~(f)(6)~~ ~~The Division of Recreation and Parks shall~~ Sponsor
 279 and promote recreation institutes, workshops, seminars, and
 280 conferences throughout this ~~the~~ state.

281 ~~(g)(7)~~ ~~The Division of Recreation and Parks shall~~
 282 Cooperate with state and federal agencies, private
 283 organizations, and commercial and industrial interests in the
 284 promotion of a state recreation program.

285 ~~(2)(8)~~ ~~This part shall be enforced by~~ The Division of Law
 286 Enforcement of the Department of Environmental Protection and
 287 its officers and ~~by~~ the Division of Law Enforcement of the Fish
 288 and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its officers shall
 289 enforce this part.

290 **Section 4. Present subsection (5) of section 258.007,**
 291 **Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), subsection**
 292 **(3) of that section is amended, and a new subsection (5) and**
 293 **subsection (6) are added to that section, to read:**

294 258.007 Powers of division.—

295 (3)(a) The division may, as consistent with s. 258.004,
 296 grant privileges, leases, concessions, and permits for the use
 297 of land for the accommodation of visitors in the various parks,
 298 monuments, and memorials in accordance with all of the following
 299 provisions:

300 1. ~~, provided no~~ Natural curiosities or objects of

301 interest may not ~~shall~~ be granted, leased, or rented on ~~such~~
302 terms that ~~as shall~~ deny or interfere with free access to them
303 by the public.~~;~~

304 2. provided further, Such grants, leases, and permits may
305 be made and given without advertisement or securing competitive
306 bids.~~;~~ and

307 3. provided further, ~~that no~~ Such grants, leases, and
308 permits may not grant, lease, or permit shall be assigned or
309 transferred by any grantee without consent of the division.

310 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), ~~after May 1, 2014,~~ the
311 division may not grant new concession agreements for the
312 accommodation of visitors in a state park that provides beach
313 access and contains less than 7,000 feet of shoreline if the
314 type of concession is available within 1,500 feet of the park's
315 boundaries. This paragraph does not apply to concession
316 agreements for accommodations offered at a park on or before May
317 1, 2014. ~~This paragraph shall take effect upon this act becoming~~
318 ~~a law.~~

319 (5) The division may acquire, install, or permit the
320 installation or operation in state parks of camping cabins that
321 have a maximum occupancy of six guests. The installation and
322 operation of camping cabins must be compatible with the state
323 park's land management plan and must be approved pursuant to s.
324 253.034(5). Camping cabins must be sited to avoid impacts to a
325 state park's critical habitat and natural and historical

326 resources.

327 (6) The division may not authorize uses or construction
328 activities, including the building or alteration of structures,
329 within a state park which may cause significant harm to the
330 resources of the state park. Any use or any construction
331 activity must be conducted in a manner that avoids impacts to a
332 state park's critical habitat and natural and historical
333 resources. The division may not install or permit the
334 installation at state parks of any lodging establishment as
335 defined in s. 509.242.

336 **Section 5. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (8) of**
337 **section 259.032, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

338 259.032 Conservation and recreation lands.—

339 (8)

340 (b) Individual management plans required by s. 253.034(5),
341 for parcels over 160 acres and for parcels located within a
342 state park, must ~~shall~~ be developed with input from an advisory
343 group.

344 1. Members of the ~~this~~ advisory group shall include, at a
345 minimum, representatives of the lead land managing agency,
346 comanaging entities, local private property owners, the
347 appropriate soil and water conservation district, a local
348 conservation organization, and a local elected official. If
349 habitat or potentially restorable habitat for imperiled species
350 is located on state lands, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation

351 Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
352 Services must ~~shall~~ be included on any advisory group required
353 under chapter 253, and the short-term and long-term management
354 goals required under chapter 253 must advance the goals and
355 objectives of imperiled species management without restricting
356 other uses identified in the management plan.

357 2. The advisory group shall conduct at least one public
358 hearing within the county in which the parcel or project is
359 located. For those parcels or projects ~~that are~~ within more than
360 one county, at least one areawide public hearing is ~~shall be~~
361 acceptable and the lead managing agency shall invite a local
362 elected official from each county. The areawide public hearing
363 must ~~shall~~ be held in the county in which the core parcels are
364 located. At least 30 days before the public hearing, notice of
365 the such public hearing must ~~shall~~ be posted on the parcel or
366 project designated for management, advertised in a paper of
367 general circulation, and announced at a scheduled meeting of the
368 local governing body ~~before the actual public hearing~~.

369 3. The management prospectus required pursuant to
370 paragraph (7) (b) must ~~shall~~ be available to the public for a
371 period of 30 days before the public hearing.

372 (c) Once a plan is adopted, the managing agency or entity
373 shall update the plan at least every 10 years in a form and
374 manner adopted by rule of the board. Such updates, for parcels
375 over 160 acres and for parcels located within a state park, must

376 ~~shall~~ be developed with input from an advisory group. Such plans
377 may include transfers of leasehold interests to appropriate
378 conservation organizations or governmental entities designated
379 by the council for uses consistent with the purposes of the
380 organizations and the protection, preservation, conservation,
381 restoration, and proper management of the lands and their
382 resources. Volunteer management assistance is encouraged,
383 including, but not limited to, assistance by youths
384 participating in programs sponsored by state or local agencies,
385 by volunteers sponsored by environmental or civic organizations,
386 and by individuals participating in programs for committed
387 delinquents and adults.

388
389 By July 1 of each year, each governmental agency and each
390 private entity designated to manage lands shall report to the
391 Secretary of Environmental Protection on the progress of
392 funding, staffing, and resource management of every project for
393 which the agency or entity is responsible.

394 **Section 6.** By December 1, 2025, the Department of
395 Environmental Protection shall submit a report to the Governor,
396 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
397 Representatives which includes all of the following information
398 regarding the state park system:

399 (1) The number of state parks with amenities or areas that
400 have limited use or are temporarily closed due to needed repairs

401 or inadequate infrastructure necessary to support conservation-
402 based recreational uses.

403 (2) The system's estimated budget allocation expenditures
404 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, broken down by salaries and
405 benefits, equipment costs, and contracting costs for the
406 following categories: operations, maintenance and repair, park
407 improvement, and administrative overhead.

408 (3) The estimated costs associated with the facility
409 maintenance backlog by each state park, including a plan to
410 reduce or eliminate the facility maintenance backlog for the
411 state park system by July 1, 2035, to ensure access to and the
412 safe enjoyment of such public lands for the residents of this
413 state and its visitors.

414 **Section 7.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.