

RESOLUTION

of the

SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF SPRING HAMMOCK PRESERVE
IN THE OLD-GROWTH FOREST NETWORK AND APPROVING A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NETWORK;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Old-Growth Forest Network (“Network”) is a national 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of old-growth forests across the United States, currently supporting over 200 forests; and

WHEREAS, the Network seeks to identify and protect at least one forest in each of the approximately 2,370 counties capable of supporting forests in the U.S., allowing these natural areas to develop old-growth characteristics and be open to public visitation; and

WHEREAS, Spring Hammock Preserve, located in Seminole County, Florida, is an exceptional natural area deserving of recognition for its ecological, aesthetic, and cultural value; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of Spring Hammock Preserve in the Old-Growth Forest Network signals Seminole County’s commitment to preserving its old-growth sections and maintaining the forest in a manner that supports natural conditions, limits timber harvests, and promotes biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, Spring Hammock Preserve is jointly owned by the State of Florida and Seminole County, with a land management plan in place that aligns with the qualifying criteria for the Old-Growth Forest Network, ensuring that the forest will be managed to promote old-

growth characteristics, while allowing for necessary interventions related to visitor safety, trail maintenance, and invasive species control,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida that:

Section 1. The Board acknowledges and supports the principles of the Old-Growth Forest Network, including the commitment to allow the natural development of old-growth characteristics within Spring Hammock Preserve, ensuring that it remains a protected area for public enjoyment and ecological preservation.

Section 2. The Board authorizes the Parks and Recreation Department to take all necessary steps to include Spring Hammock Preserve in the Old-Growth Forest Network, including entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Network, as set forth in Exhibit A, which formalizes the County's commitment to preserving the old-growth characteristics of Spring Hammock Preserve.

Section 3. This Resolution will become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

GRANT MALOY
Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners of
Seminole County, Florida

By: _____
JAY ZEMBOWER, Chairman

Attachments:
Exhibit A – Memorandum of Understanding

GLK/sjs
8/27/24



OLD-GROWTH FOREST NETWORK

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

To include a forest in the Old-Growth Forest Network

Recognizing that less than 1% of the eastern US forests, and less than 5% of the western US forests, have remained undisturbed long enough to develop old-growth characteristics.

Recognizing that many species of plants, animals, and fungi depend on older forests and old-growth characteristics.

Recognizing that the older forests promote air and water quality and create fertile soil.

Recognizing that older forests promote aesthetic, spiritual, and wellness-related values.

Recognizing that ecotourism is economically beneficial for nearby communities.

Recognizing that all people need contact with natural areas.

Therefore

The **Old-Growth Forest Network** shall be established. Every county where forests can grow will be invited to include a forest to be recognized in the network. They shall remain unlogged, allowing old-growth characteristics to develop naturally. These forests will be open to visitation by the public.

The following management plan includes qualifying criteria for the Old-Growth Forest Network: _____

Spring Hammock Preserve Land Management Plan Date: 2016

Areas included in the Network are managed with the intent for old-growth characteristics to remain or develop and natural conditions to prevail with no timber harvest activities toward the commercial sale of forest products. Exceptions to the expectation of limited intervention are allowed for situations of visitor safety, trail maintenance, non-native tree species, or non-native invasive species infestations. Supporting language from the management plan shall be included as an appendix to this Memorandum of Understanding and this document should be incorporated into future management plans.

For Seminole County in the State of Florida, the forest to be recognized as part of the network shall be Spring Hammock Preserve, which is jointly owned by the State of Florida and Seminole County, and managed by Seminole County.

(Signature of landowner's representative)

(Signature of OGFN representative)

(Date)

(Date)

(Printed name of landowner representative)

(Printed name of OGFN representative)

(Title of landowner representative)

(Title of OGFN representative)

EXHIBIT A

FOR OGFN STAFF: Excerpts from the Management Plan Relevant to Commercial Logging for Areas Included in the Old-Growth Forest Network

Page: 26	<p><i>RESOURCE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT</i> The portion of Spring Hammock Preserve that is in state ownership is either inaccessible and/or mostly wet habitat. There are no plans or funding to try and access the state owned lands to assess these areas for potential timber production (most of these lands are hydric hammock and not appropriate for any forestry practices). The property is mainly managed for conservation/preservation, including preservation of wildlife, supporting habitat, and potential historic and archaeological resources, and recreational and educational uses that are compatible with the preservation of Spring Hammock. All management practices are compatible with Ch. 253.034(10). It is not the policy of Seminole County to have any other land management agency or private landowner restore or manage county owned lands.</p>
Page: 27	<p>Forest Management Florida Statutes require public agencies to evaluate lands they manage for timber production. Timber was removed after a pine beetle outbreak in 2002 on county owned lands. There are no plans to harvest any additional timber from this property unless there is another catastrophic event. The state owned lands are mostly inaccessible and/or wetland communities. There are no plans for any type of forest management on these parcels. Forest Management Goals. At this time there are no plans to conduct any forestry related activity within Spring Hammock Preserve, but staff will evaluate for the future.</p>