

**Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System  
River Management Plan  
Update  
Scope of Work**

**November 1, 2021**

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## **I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF WORK:**

Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Management Committee (Committee) is seeking a qualified Consultant to update the existing Comprehensive Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Management Plan (CMP) which was approved and published in 2012. The overall purpose of this project is to prepare an update to the existing CMP. The management plan update will be prepared in compliance with the National Park Service (NPS) Reference Manual 46 (RM-46) Wild and Scenic Rivers (see specific section 2.3.1.3.) and Director's Order #46. Both the Director's Order and Reference Manual describes NPS responsibilities, policies, and procedures for WSRs to ensure that nationally designated rivers are recognized and administered in a consistent manner that provides for their protection, use and enjoyment by future generations. The consultant will also insure the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542) is thoroughly documented and interwoven throughout the Plan as appropriate.

A multi-disciplinary planning team composed of the NPS and the Committee previously developed the Plan in conjunction with the services of Pandion Systems, Inc. The primary responsibilities of the Consultant will include close coordination with the NPS and its committee partners, documentation of the planning processes already undertaken by those parties, identification, analysis and updating the components of the CMP with a particular focus on the Goals, Objectives and Actions previously identified for each of the five (5) Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) in the CMP, as well as the inclusion of a sixth component outlining Goals, Objectives and Actions for educational and outreach efforts for each ORV with a particular emphasis on digital means and methods.

The following text provides background information and a detailed overview of the Scope of Work (SOW) for this effort.

## **II. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

### **A. Wekiva Wild and Scenic River**

The Wekiva River together with Rock Springs Run and Black Water Creek was designated by the United States Congress as a National Wild and Scenic River in October 2000. The designation includes the identification of five Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) that shall be protected in perpetuity through management actions. These values are: Scenic, Recreation, Wildlife and Habitat, Cultural and Historic, and Water Quality and Quantity. The Wekiva River System (WRS) Management Plan is the federally mandated management plan that describes a program to protect these five ORVs.

The Wekiva River and its tributaries (collectively referred to as the Wekiva River System) are in Orange, Seminole, and Lake Counties, approximately 10 miles northwest of Orlando. Today, over 2 million people live within 30 miles of the river system.

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The entire river basin drains over 242 square miles and represents one of the major routes of surface water drainage for Orange, Seminole, and Lake Counties. Much of the land adjacent to the river system is in public ownership either by the State of Florida or the St. Johns River Water Management District, with smaller public recreational parks and conservation areas owned by Lake, Seminole and Orange Counties. Much of the private lands adjacent to the river system are within Seminole and Lake Counties.

## **B. Current Conditions**

The CMP offers a program of goals, objectives, and actions for protecting and enhancing each ORV. Many public agencies and entities share jurisdiction over the Wekiva River System, therefore a coordinated effort with pooling staff and resources will be necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan. Public agencies and local governments in this basin have a long history of partnership and cooperation that will provide a solid foundation for implementing the updated plan. These partners participated in a coordinated effort in preparation of the original plan and will do so again with this update.

## **C. Project Description**

- The Consultant shall review and familiarize themselves with the components of the CMP approved and published in 2012, obtain and update the Goals Objectives and Actions spreadsheet and update the existing conditions and associated maps. This effort may require field visits.
- Evaluate the format of the existing CMP and recommend changes or streamlining of the CMP structure.
- Evaluate and amend as needed the Goals, Objectives and Actions by including the recommendations from the 2020 User Capacity Study for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River as applicable.
- Evaluate the previous accomplishments in the 2012 CMP and provide an analysis of the Goals, Objective and Actions that still need to be accomplished.
- Review and recommend new initiatives needed to accomplish the Goals, Objectives and Actions including, but not limited to, the inclusion of an educational section and the management committee structure. Provide an estimated cost for the new initiatives.
- Develop an approach for garnering public input with an emphasis on digital means and methods. A minimum of one public workshop (virtual or otherwise) will be required to obtain public input.
- Prepare a Draft and Final updated CMP. Approval of the final updated CMP will be done after input from the Committee and Public is provided.
- Ensure the Wild and Scenic River Act elements are incorporated into the updated Plan as well.

## **III. Minimum Qualifications:**

1. The Consultant must have a local office within Orange, Seminole or Lake County.
  2. The Consultant must have completed at least two (2) projects in the last three (3) years with a natural resource management focus (i.e. Basin Management Plan, Land Management Plan etc.).
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3. The Consultant must have completed at least 2 projects in the last 3 years dealing with recreation/human use management (Park Management Plan, etc.).
  4. The Consultant must demonstrate they have experience working with natural resource and recreational management issues in the Wekiva basin or a similar ecological basin.
  5. The Consultant must demonstrate they have experience working on a state or federally designated Wild and Scenic River- or similarly designated system i.e. Outstanding Florida Waterway, Aquatic Preserve.
  6. The Consultant must meet four out of the five minimum qualifications.
  7. The Consultant's project team must include the following members; Project Manager, Park Planner, Marketing Specialist, Ecologist.
  8. Meet with Project Subcommittee a minimum of three times.
  9. The Consultant must secure all applicable permits from agencies managing public lands and shall comply with all requirements of the permit.
  10. The Committee members, the organizations represented by the members and the employees of each organization shall be held harmless from any and all liability or claims that may result in loss of life, injuries to persons or damage to property resulting from activities associated with the revision of this Management Plan.

#### **IV. Wekiva Wild and Scenic Committee Responsibilities:**

- Issue Notice to Proceed
- Provide a copy of Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Comprehensive Management Plan approved in 2012.
- Provide a copy of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Environmental Impact Assessment approved 2010.
- Provide a copy of NPS Reference Manual 46: Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Provide a copy of current Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Management Committee structure
- Provide link to the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Website
- Provide a copy of the 2020 User Capacity Study for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River.
- Incremental review and edits to the updated CMP

#### **V. Time Frames and Deliverables:**

- Consultant shall recommend a timeframe of deliverables to include the four bullets listed below with final approval by the Committee.
- Facilitation of a Stakeholder meeting with the public and the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Advisory Committee to provide input on the updated Comprehensive Management Plan.
- Provision of draft CMP within 120 days from Notice to Proceed and final updated Comprehensive Management Plan with all layers created or utilized in the development of the maps will be delivered within 180 days of Notice to Proceed.

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- Recommendation on Website and Social Media platforms to increase public awareness
  - Develop an Arc story map for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River highlighting the Five Outstanding Remarkable Values.