



Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Comprehensive Planning

Sumter County Profile

Florida Department of Community Affairs

Executive Summary

The experiences of the 2004 hurricane season epitomize the importance of better integrating hazard mitigation activities into local comprehensive planning. Last fall, residents all over the state experienced significant damages from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Jeanne, and Ivan as a result of either winds, tornadoes, surge, or flooding. But this was not the only time we have experienced natural disasters, nor will it be the last. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida. In 1998 and 1999, most counties in Florida experienced wildfires. In some cases, despite firefighters' best efforts, fires advanced through neighborhoods and homes were lost. Every year in Central Florida, new sinkholes emerge, swallowing homes and damaging infrastructure. The cost of recovery for these various disasters ranges from hundreds of thousands to billions of dollars, significantly taxing local, State, and federal financial sources. Losses covered through federal funding as a result of the 2004 hurricanes alone could reach as high as \$7 billion. Worst of all, however, are the many lives that, directly or indirectly, are lost due to natural disasters. It is imperative that we reduce the human and financial costs of natural disasters. Through better integration of natural hazard considerations into local comprehensive planning, we can build safer communities.

This profile of Sumter County has been prepared as part of a statewide effort by the Florida Department of Community Affairs to guide local governments in integrating hazard mitigation principles into local Comprehensive Plans. Information provided in this profile will enable planners to (1) convey Sumter County's existing and potential risk to identified hazards; (2) assess how well local hazard mitigation principles have been incorporated into the County's Comprehensive Plan; (3) provide recommendations on how hazard mitigation can be better integrated into the Comprehensive Plan; and (4) determine if any enhancements could be made to the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) to better support comprehensive planning. Best available statewide level data are provided to convey exposure and risk as well as illustrate the vulnerability assessment component of the integration process.

In this profile, we present an argument for why hazard mitigation needs to be a part of comprehensive planning through an examination of population growth, the hazards that put the County at risk, the special needs population and structures that could be affected by these hazards, and the distribution of existing and future land uses in different hazard areas. We hope that this analysis will serve as an example of the issues each jurisdiction should consider as they update their plans to include hazard mitigation. The profile also contains a review of the LMS and the Comprehensive Plan. Based on the analysis and review, we were able to develop specific options for the County on how to incorporate more hazard mitigation into the Comprehensive Plan and how to enhance the LMS so that it is also a better tool for local planners.

During our review, we found that Sumter County had many strengths regarding hazard mitigation in both its LMS and Comprehensive Plan, and these are outlined in the profile. There are always ways to further strengthen such plans, however, and the following is a summary of some of the options that would enable the County to do so.

General Recommendations

- The County can promote intergovernmental coordination in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation between all applicable local governments. County's hazard mitigation strategy can be enhanced with the participation of emergency managers in the Comprehensive Plan amendment process and when making land use decisions.
- The Comprehensive Plan can reference the LMS and CEMP and County personnel can use them as hazard mitigation tools when making amendments and land use decisions.

Cross-referencing these documents may create a more unified and consistent hazard mitigation strategy.

- The Comprehensive Plan can prioritize hazard mitigation initiatives found in the LMS, including critical evacuation route improvements, through the 5-year Capital Improvements Schedule. Criteria used to prioritize projects in the Capital Improvement Schedule can include dimensions that involve hazard mitigation. By prioritizing hazard mitigation initiatives in the Capital Improvements Schedule, the LMS goals may be reached by securing funds and providing a timeframe for action.
- The County can promote education programs that provide information to the public involving potential hazards, flood prone areas, hazard awareness, evacuation procedures, shelter locations, business emergency operation planning, and wildfire hazards. Educational programs are supported in the LMS and could create a better informed community. Also, the County can educate local site plan reviewers on the importance of flood, wildfire, and sinkhole mitigation as well as the strategies used to reduce the vulnerability. Plan reviewers could then promote these ideas to local developers and explain their importance during the site plan review process.
- Analysis in this report suggests the population of Sumter County is expected to nearly double over the next two decades. Future residents may cause an increase in evacuation clearance times and congestion of evacuation routes. By addressing this challenge before development occurs, the County could maintain sufficient evacuation route capacity. Therefore, the County may consider adopting procedures in the Land Development Code that require developers to analyze the impacts of proposed development on evacuation routes prior to project approval. Since natural disasters often occur over multiple jurisdictions, the County should continue to coordinate evacuation procedures with regional evacuation plans. Also, policies that include an evacuation clearance time level of service, and policies that aim to maintain clearance times and evacuation route conditions can be adopted to measure deficiency and available capacity of evacuation routes.
- The County can adopt Comprehensive Plan policies that create an Evacuation Shelter Capacity Level of Service standard. Emergency Shelter Capacity Level of Service standards can act as a quantitative goal to maintain and improve emergency shelter capacity. The County could also encourage cooperation with the Regional Planning Council to address shelter needs. The County could explore alternatives to evacuations such as the use of safe rooms in structures outside hazard areas. Additionally, Sumter County may explore cost-effective solutions for their existing evacuation shelter deficit through cooperation with neighboring governments and by sharing resources.
- Currently, many Comprehensive Plan policies preserve and protect natural resources and the natural environment. Policies can be updated to include hazard mitigation as a benefit of conservation and regulation of environmentally sensitive lands, natural resources, and floodplains. The LMS currently supports the protection of the natural environment and natural resources. Also, Comprehensive Plan polices could be amended to include hazard mitigation as a reason to support clustering, buffering, TDR, PDR, and public acquisition of lands.
- The Comprehensive Plan can include policies that support retrofitting and relocating emergency services facilities, shelters that house equipment used in emergency operations, utility infrastructure, government facilities, county employee homes, residential structures, and medical facilities. The County could also support programs that facilitate retrofitting structures to comply or exceed building codes through grant or loan programs. Making structures more disaster proof could reduce property damages in the

event of a hurricane or flood. Also, protecting critical facilities during a disaster event could also ensure emergency operations can continue after the event is over.

- Policies could be adopted that promote the analysis of historic sites and structures in regards to storm and flood resistance. Mitigation initiatives could be prioritized in the capital improvements schedule. Currently, Comprehensive Plan policies do address historical and cultural resources, but do not address natural disasters. Proactive measures can be taken to protect historic structures and sites from natural disasters.
- The County can adopt a policy that limits or restricts public expenditure in flood prone areas, high risk wildfire areas, and karst sensitive areas. Limiting public expenditure in hazard areas can decrease potential government losses in the event of a disaster and also encourage development away from such areas.
- Develop a post-disaster recovery strategy for business. Prohibit or restrict repair or replacement of non-conforming special needs facilities or manufactured / mobile homes if damaged beyond a defined threshold. Redevelopment must occur at intensity / density of the land use designation currently in place. Approval for repairs and rebuilding should be based on the post-disaster redevelopment plan. Economic vitality of a community may recover from a natural disaster quicker and more affectively with a post-disaster recovery strategy for business. Non-conformities can be removed in order to reduce the potential of future losses and be replaced with conforming structures. Redevelopment in hazard areas may be regulated to conform to existing mitigation strategies. Following the post-disaster redevelopment plan can reduce risks associated with natural disasters and create a safer place for residents to live and work.

Wildfire and Sinkhole Hazards

- The County can explore hazard mitigation resources provided by the Florida Division of Forestry and develop a relationship to use their services to carry out prescribed burning. The LMS can also include objectives that promote wildfire mitigation strategies including prescribed burning. The analysis shows there are significant amounts of high-risk wildfire hazard zones in the County, and future development is expected to occur in and adjacent to these hazard zones. Encouraging the Division of Forestry to carry out wildfire mitigation analyses and procedures could reduce risk to property and loss of life in the case of a disaster.
- There are many polices in the Comprehensive Plan that limit and restrict development in flood prone areas. Policies could also be adopted to include development limitations of vacant lands in other hazard areas such as karst sensitive areas and high-risk wildfire zones. Moving development away from hazard areas is a strong hazard mitigation strategy. The County could explore the use of overlay zones to protect sinkhole hazard areas and wildfire hazard zones.
- Sumter County could explore the adoption of firewise building code requirements for defined high fire risk areas. Development near wildfire hazard areas may be protected by firewise building code enforcement.
- The County can require removal of exotic vegetation and proper management in high fire risk areas as a condition of development approval. Removing fire fuels prior to development can reduce the risk of wildfire damages.
- Land Development Regulations could also require geological testing in karst sensitive areas to determine the presence and magnitude of sinkholes prior to development.

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SUMTER COUNTY

1. County Overview

Geography and Jurisdictions

Sumter County is located in Central Florida. It covers a total of 546 square miles with an average population density of 97.7 people per square mile (U.S. Census, 2000).

There are five incorporated municipalities within the County, and these are listed in **Table 1.1** below.



Population and Demographics

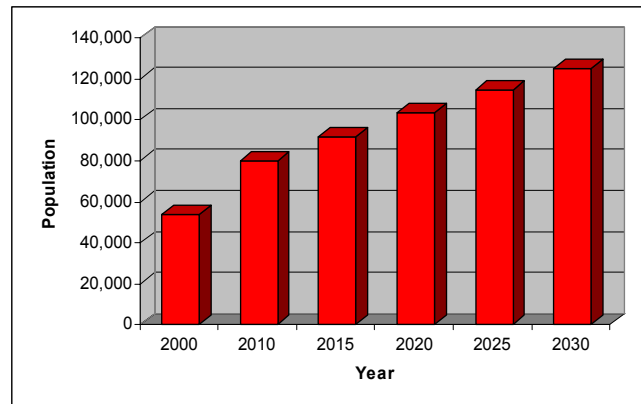
Official 2004 population estimates for all jurisdictions within Sumter County as well as the percent change in population from the 2000 U.S. Census are presented in **Table 1.1**. The most current estimated countywide population of Sumter County is 66,416 people (University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2004). The largest municipality is Wildwood, but 87% of the residents live in the unincorporated County. Between 1990 and 2000, Sumter County as a whole had a growth rate of 68.9%, which was much greater than the statewide growth rate of 23.5% in those 10 years.

Table 1.1 Population Estimates by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Population, Census 2000	Population Estimate, 2004	% Change, 2000-2004	% of Total Population (2004)
Unincorporated	45,009	57,811	28.4%	87.0%
Bushnell	2,050	2,265	10.5%	3.4%
Center Hill	910	904	-0.7%	1.4%
Coleman	647	649	0.3%	1.0%
Webster	805	800	-0.6%	1.2%
Wildwood	3,924	3,987	1.6%	6.0%
Countywide Total	53,345	66,416	24.5%	100.0%

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2004.

According to the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research (2004), Sumter County's population is projected to continue to grow rapidly, reaching 124,600 people by the year 2030. **Figure 1.1** illustrates medium population projections for Sumter County based on 2004 calculations.

Figure 1.1 Medium Population Projections for Sumter County, 2010-2030

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2004.

Of particular concern within Sumter County's population, are those persons with special needs and/or limited resources such as the elderly, disabled, low-income, or language-isolated residents. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 27.4% of Sumter County residents are listed as 65 years old or over, 24.0% are listed as having a disability, 13.7% are listed as below poverty, and 9.1% live in a home with a primary language other than English.

2. Hazard Vulnerability

Hazards Identification

The highest risk hazards for Sumter County as identified in the County's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) are flooding, hurricane related wind, wildfire and sinkholes. (Sumter County, 2005, pg. VIII-2)

Significant flooding from the Withlacoochee River occurred in June 1934, October 1950, March 1960, and from the 2004 hurricanes causing considerable property damage. Between 1871 and 1979, 25 hurricanes passed within 100 nautical miles of Sumter County, and the County has experienced 11 tornadoes since 1950.

Hazards Analysis

The following analysis looks at three major hazard types: flooding, sinkholes, and wildfire. All of the information in this section, except the evacuation and shelter estimates, was obtained through the online Mapping for Emergency Management, Parallel Hazard Information System (MEMPHIS). MEMPHIS was designed to provide a variety of hazard related data in support of the Florida Local Mitigation Strategy DMA2K revision project. It was created by Kinetic Analysis Corporation under contract with the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA). Estimated exposure values were determined using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) designated 100-year flood zones (A, AE, V, VE, AO, 100 IC, IN, AH), levels of concern 5 through 9 for wildfire, and high through adjacent risk zones for sinkholes. For more details on a particular hazard or an explanation of the MEMPHIS methodology, consult the MEMPHIS Web site (<http://lmsmaps.methaz.org/lmsmaps/index.html>) or your countywide LMS.

Existing Population at Risk

Table 2.1 presents the estimated countywide population at risk from hazards, as well as, a breakdown of the sensitive needs populations at risk. The first column in the table summarizes the residents of Sumter County that live within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map zones, which signify special flood hazard areas. According to these maps, 14.8% of the population, or 7,897 people, are within the 100-year flood zone. In Sumter County, sinkholes are a concern, with 3,610 people living within a high to adjacent risk sinkhole zone. The last column of the table shows the amount of people that fall in medium- to high-risk wildfire zones, which is based on many factors, including vegetation and ease of access to the homes. A total of 14,233 people countywide, or 26.7% of the total population, are at medium- to high-risk from wildfire. Of those at risk, 52% are disabled, making a quick evacuation difficult.

Table 2.1 Estimated Number of Persons at Risk from Selected Hazards

Population	Flood	Sinkhole (high-adjacent risk)	Wildfire (medium-high risk)
Minority	1,252	572	2,513
Over 65	2,220	1,409	3,241
Disabled	3,843	2,081	7,409
Poverty	1,305	458	2,227
Language Isolated	0	0	0
Single Parent	385	214	838
Countywide Total	7,897	3,610	14,233

Source: Florida Department of Community Affairs, 2005a.

Evacuation and Shelters

As discussed in the previous sections, population growth in Sumter County has been steady, and this trend is projected to continue. As the population increases in the future, the demand for shelter space and the length of time it takes to evacuate the County is only going to increase. Currently, evacuation clearance times for Sumter County are estimated to be 12 hours for Category 3 hurricanes and 20 hours for Category 5 hurricanes, as shown in **Table 2.2**. These data were derived from 11 regional Hurricane Evacuation Studies that have been produced by FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Florida Regional Planning Councils. The study dates range from 1995 to 2004 and are updated on a rotating basis. According to Rule 9J-5, counties must maintain or reduce hurricane evacuation times. Some experts have suggested that counties should try to achieve 12 hours or less clearance time for a Category 3 hurricane. This is due to the limited amount of time between the National Hurricane Center issuing a hurricane warning and when the tropical storm-force winds make landfall. Sumter County is able to meet this recommendation for now, but with continued growth and the limited road network of the region, it will be difficult to maintain this evacuation time. Additionally, storm events requiring evacuation typically impact larger areas, often forcing multiple counties to issue evacuation orders and placing a greater number of evacuees on the major roadways, further hindering evacuation progress. Thus, it is important to not only consider evacuation times for Sumter County, but also for other counties in the region as shown in **Table 2.2**.

**Table 2.2 County Evacuation Clearance Times in Hours
(High Tourist Occupancy, Medium Response)**

County	Category 1 Hurricane	Category 2 Hurricane	Category 3 Hurricane	Category 4 Hurricane	Category 5 Hurricane
Citrus	9.75	12	12	19	19
Lake	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Levy	7.75	7.75	14.5	14.5	14.5
Marion	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sumter	8	10	12	16	20

NA = Not available

Note: Best available data as of 7/05

Source: State of Florida, 2005

(some counties may be in the process of determining new clearance times)

Coupled with evacuation is the need to provide shelters. If adequate space can be provided in safe shelters for Sumter County’s residents, then this could be a partial solution to the ever-increasing clearance times for evacuation. Currently, the State Shelter Plan reports that there is space for 1,171 people in the County’s shelters, and there are 6,748 more people that will need sheltering in the case of a Category 5 hurricane. It is projected that by 2009 the deficit will increase to 8,432 people in need of space (FDCA, 2004). The County will need to address this deficiency but might also try to decrease the demand for public shelters by encouraging new homes to be built with safe rooms if they are outside of flood and surge zones. Residents who are further inland in the County and not in a flood zone could shelter in place if they had a safe room that could withstand hurricane-force winds. Safe rooms could at least be a last option for residents who cannot evacuate in time, especially in the case of a tornado.

Existing Built Environment

While the concern for human life is always of utmost importance in preparing for a natural disaster, there also are large economic impacts to local communities, regions, and even the State when property damages are incurred. To be truly sustainable in the face of natural hazards, we must work to protect the residents and also to limit, as much as possible, property losses that slow down a community’s ability to bounce back from a disaster. **Table 2.2** presents estimates of the number of buildings in Sumter County by structure type that are at risk from each of the three hazards being analyzed. Regardless of hazard, the structure type most at risk is single-family homes.

Flooding is the largest risk to property in the County, with 15,202 structures within a flood zone. According to the latest National Flood Insurance Program Repetitive Loss Properties list, there are three homes in unincorporated Sumter County that have had flood damage multiple times and received insurance payments.

Table 2.3 also shows 1,650 structures in a high to adjacent risk sinkhole zone and 13,543 structures within medium- to high-risk wildfire areas, with over half of those being single-family homes.

Table 2.3 Estimated Number of Structures at Risk from Selected Hazards

Structure Type	Flood	Sinkhole (high-adjacent risk)	Wildfire (medium-high risk)
Single-Family Homes	6,834	727	6,331
Mobile Homes	1,642	518	2,267
Multi-Family Homes	1,085	69	595
Commercial	714	138	586
Agriculture	3,957	51	1,968
Gov./Institutional	970	147	1,796
Total	15,202	1,650	13,543

Source: Florida Department of Community Affairs, 2005a.

In addition to understanding exposure, risk assessment results must also be considered for prioritizing and implementing hazard mitigation measures. The risk assessment takes into account not only the people and property in a hazard area, but also the probability of occurrence that is necessary to understand the impacts to people and property. Although people and property are exposed to hazards, losses can be greatly reduced through building practices, land use, and structural hazard mitigation measures. The next section of this report examines the existing and future land use acreage in hazard areas. This information can be useful in considering where to implement risk reducing comprehensive planning measures.

Analysis of Current and Future Vulnerability

The previous hazards analysis section discussed population and existing structures at risk from flooding, sinkholes, and wildfire according to MEMPHIS estimates. This section is used to demonstrate the County’s vulnerabilities to these hazards spatially and in relation to existing and future land uses. The following maps of existing land use within hazard areas are based on the 1999 Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Southwest Florida Water Management District geographic information system (GIS) shapefiles. Maps of future land uses in hazard areas were developed using the Sumter County future land use map obtained April 2005.

In **Attachment A**, two maps present the existing and future land uses within a 100-year flood zone. There are large flood-prone areas scattered across the County including almost the whole portion of the County south of Highway 50. The total amount of land in these special flood hazard areas is 370,046 acres. As shown in **Table 2.4**, 60.9% of these acres are used for agriculture and 30% is currently used for parks and conservation purposes. This is very positive that the County has been able to keep these flood prone areas from becoming intensely used and thereby vulnerable. **Table 2.5** shows that 53.7% of the undeveloped lands are designated for future agriculture uses. Another 33.4% of the vacant acres, however, are designated for planned unit developments (PUDs). While it is best to keep floodplains from being developed, the County can still keep its flood risk low if there are special considerations for the flood hazard included in these PUDs.

In **Attachment B**, maps present the land uses associated with high-risk wildfire zones. These wildfire risk areas are scattered in small patches across the County. A total of 52.7% of the land within these wildfire zones is currently used for agriculture, 22% is used for low-density residential, and 15.4% is used parks and conservation, according to the data in **Table 2.4**. The low-density residential uses increase the risk of wildfire since large lots usually contain more vegetative wildfire fuels intermixed among the homes. Of the 287.8 undeveloped acres, 88.7% are shown to be designated for rural agricultural uses in the future (**Table 2.5**).

Maps showing the sinkhole hazard zones and associated existing and future land uses can be found in **Attachment C**. A majority of the County is at risk from sinkholes, including the most populated northern portion around Wildwood. **Table 2.4**, however, shows that 65.4% of this area is used for agriculture and another 10.5% is used for parks and conservation. This means that currently Sumter’s vulnerability to sinkholes is kept in check by the low intensity of land use in the potential risk areas. **Table 2.5** shows that 63.3% of the vacant land at risk is designated for agriculture in the future. It also shows that 21.4% of the vacant land, or 41.7 acres, is designated for institutional uses. Before any public buildings are built in these potential sinkhole areas, geological testing should be done to insure they are built safely and public investments are not built to be vulnerable.

Table 2.4 Total Unincorporated Acres in Hazard Areas by Existing Land Use Category

Existing Land Use Category		Flood Zones	Wildfire Susceptible Areas	Potential Sinkhole Areas
Agriculture	Acres	225,418.4	3,664.5	5,107.1
	%	60.9	52.7	65.4
Commercial	Acres	1,540.0	137.3	75.4
	%	0.4	2.0	1.0
Government, Institutional, Hospitals, Education	Acres	929.4	14.7	0.0
	%	0.3	0.2	0.0
Industrial	Acres	421.3	14.1	65.5
	%	0.1	0.2	0.8
Parks, Conservation Areas, Golf Courses	Acres	110,980.8	1,068.5	823.1
	%	30.0	15.4	10.5
Residential High-Density	Acres	1,115.8	4.7	54.6
	%	0.3	0.1	0.7
Residential Low-Density	Acres	10,879.0	1,528.6	380.8
	%	2.9	22.0	4.9
Residential Medium-Density	Acres	4,003.2	90.1	463.5
	%	1.1	1.3	5.9
Submerged lands	Acres	6,461.4	51.1	403.7
	%	1.8	0.7	5.2
Transportation, Communication, Rights-Of-Way	Acres	1,965.4	51.3	243.7
	%	0.5	0.7	3.1
Utility Plants and Lines, Solid Waste Disposal	Acres	546.6	45.5	0.4
	%	0.2	0.7	0.0
Vacant	Acres	5,785.3	287.8	194.8
	%	1.6	4.1	2.5
Total Acres	Acres	370,046.4	6,958.1	7,812.6
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.5 Total and Undeveloped Acres in Hazard Areas by Future Land Use Category for the Unincorporated County

Future Land Use Category		Flood Zones		Wildfire Susceptible Areas		Potential Sinkhole Areas	
		Total	Undev.	Total	Undev.	Total	Undev.
Agriculture	Acres	209,502.9	3,104.3	4,489.6	255.3	3,252.1	123.3
	%	56.6	53.7	64.5	88.7	41.6	63.3
Commercial	Acres	3,444.9	174.1	183.0	6.0	716.3	29.9
	%	0.9	3.0	2.6	2.1	9.2	15.3
Conservation	Acres	102,598.4	0.0	929.4	0.0	857.6	0.0
	%	27.7	0.0	13.4	0.0	11.0	0.0
High-Density Residential	Acres	161.4	2.2	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Highway Commercial	Acres	37.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Industrial	Acres	2,919.3	88.7	179.0	10.7	191.5	0.0
	%	0.8	1.5	2.6	3.7	2.5	0.0
Lake	Acres	4,863.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	419.1	0.0
	%	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.0
Low-Density Residential	Acres	5,425.7	32.3	361.2	2.9	927.4	0.0
	%	1.5	0.6	5.2	1.0	11.9	0.0
Medium-Density Residential	Acres	315.5	37.7	14.3	0.0	87.6	0.0
	%	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.0	1.1	0.0
Municipality	Acres	8,201.2	321.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	%	2.2	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Planned Unit Development	Acres	17,762.2	1,931.7	90.3	8.0	231.2	0.0
	%	4.8	33.4	1.3	2.8	3.0	0.0
Public/Institutional/Education	Acres	2,973.4	54.4	140.5	1.1	91.8	41.7
	%	0.8	0.9	2.0	0.4	1.2	21.4
Recreation	Acres	575.4	0.5	21.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
	%	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rural Residential	Acres	11,265.3	37.0	546.6	3.8	1,038.0	0.0
	%	3.0	0.6	7.9	1.3	13.3	0.0
Total Acres	Acres	370,046.4	5,785.3	6,958.1	287.8	7,812.6	194.8
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.6 presents the total numbers of acres in a hazard zone in Sumter County's incorporated areas and how many of those acres are currently undeveloped. Wildwood is the only city in Sumter County that is affected by all three hazards. It has the most acres at risk from wildfire and is the only municipality with sinkhole susceptible areas. Of the sinkhole susceptible areas in Wildwood, 27.8% are still vacant, giving the City some opportunity to mitigate potential sinkholes before people and property become vulnerable. The City of Coleman has the most acres within the 100-year floodplain and none of the 883 acres are still vacant. Center Hill and Webster are only at risk from flooding. Center Hill still has 26.6% of its flood prone acres vacant, however, while all of Webster's flood prone acres are already developed.

Table 2.6 Total and Vacant Incorporated Acres in Hazard Areas

Jurisdiction		Flood Zones		Wildfire Susceptible Areas		Sinkhole Susceptible Areas	
		Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant
Bushnell	Acres	50.8	0.0	159.2	19.6	0.0	0.0
	%	2.9	0.0	30.4	12.3	0.0	0.0
Center Hill	Acres	273.1	72.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	%	15.6	26.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coleman	Acres	883.0	0.0	12.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
	%	50.5	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Webster	Acres	118.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	%	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wildwood	Acres	423.8	10.3	352.5	29.7	622.4	172.8
	%	24.2	2.4	67.3	8.4	100.0	27.8
Total Acres	Acres	1,748.9	82.9	524.0	49.3	622.4	172.8
	%	100.0	4.7	100.0	9.4	100.0	27.8

3. Existing Mitigation Measures

Local Mitigation Strategy

The LMS is an ideal repository for all hazard mitigation analyses, policies, programs, and projects for the County and its municipalities due to its multi-jurisdictional and intergovernmental nature. The LMS identifies hazard mitigation needs in a community and structural or non-structural initiatives that can be employed to reduce community vulnerability. Communities can further reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards by integrating the LMS analyses and mitigation objectives into their Comprehensive Plans.

An LMS prepared pursuant to the State’s 1998 guidelines has three substantive components (FDCA, 2005b):

Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment (HIVA). This section identifies a community’s vulnerability to natural hazards. Under Florida rules, the HIVA is required to include, at a minimum, an evaluation of the vulnerability of structures, infrastructure, special risk populations, environmental resources, and the economy to any hazard the community is susceptible to. According to FEMA, LMSs revised pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) criteria must include maps and descriptions of the areas that would be affected by each hazard, information on previous events, and estimates of future probabilities. Vulnerability should be assessed for the types and numbers of exposed buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities with estimates of potential monetary losses. Plan updates will be required to assess the vulnerability of future growth and development.

Guiding Principles. This section lists and assesses the community’s existing hazard mitigation policies and programs and their impacts on community vulnerability. The Guiding Principles typically contain a list of existing policies from the community’s Comprehensive Plan and local ordinances that govern or are related to hazard mitigation.

Coastal counties frequently include policies from their Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plans (PDRPs).

Mitigation Initiatives. This component identifies and prioritizes structural and non-structural initiatives that can reduce hazards vulnerability. Proposals for amendments to Comprehensive Plans, land development regulations, and building codes are often included. Structural projects typically address public facilities and infrastructure, and buy-outs of private structures that are repetitively damaged by flood. Many of these qualify as capital improvement projects based on the magnitude of their costs and may also be included in the capital improvements elements of the Counties' and Cities' Comprehensive Plans. The LMS Goals and Objectives will guide the priority of the mitigation initiatives.

The Sumter County LMS (adopted in 2003/2004) was used as a source of information in developing this profile and was also reviewed for any enhancements that could be made to allow better integration with other plans, particularly the local Comprehensive Plans.

Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment

This section of the LMS was briefly reviewed for its ability to provide hazard data that can support comprehensive planning. The HIVA is a valuable resource that can be used to support hazard mitigation efforts. It includes a strong analysis of each of the potential hazards the County faces and includes maps of high hazard areas. The analysis also considers the vulnerability of population centers, structures, critical facilities, and infrastructure. Maps and tables also show the location of known past disasters and hazard locations including floods, tornadoes, wildfire risk areas, and known sinkhole locations. The HIVA includes a long and detailed list of historical disaster events that have affected the County. Analyses of the municipalities in Sumter County are included and provide lists of critical facilities, show maps, and list project initiatives. Also, a thorough description of the County's vulnerability precludes hazard mitigation initiatives found in the LMS. This is a great approach to show the need for hazard mitigation initiatives in the County.

Guiding Principles

This section explains that during the formation of the LMS the Sumter County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Task Force (WTF) reviewed a number of resources including evacuation studies, the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, County and municipality Comprehensive Plans, and many other data files. An index that shows where the LMS criteria have been addressed in existing documents but is not included in the LMS. The index is 94 pages long and is used as the Guiding Principles to steer the goals and objectives of the LMS as well as the mitigation initiatives.

LMS Goals and Objectives

The LMS Goals and Objectives can be found in **Attachment D**. The goals and objectives are also summarized in **Section 5** as part of the recommendations analysis. The following is a summary of how well the LMS has addressed mitigation issues that coincide with planning concerns.

The Sumter County LMS includes 12 goals and 66 objectives that address a broad range of mitigation issues. The goals and objectives are particularly strong at supporting education initiatives, protection natural resources, disaster preparedness and response, post-disaster redevelopment, regulation of development and redevelopment, and fiscal responsible measures to protect critical facilities.

Goals and objectives address hazard mitigation issues by promoting the education of homeowners and the general public about potential hazards, property in flood prone areas, disaster preparedness, evacuation procedures, shelter availability, and hazardous materials.

Supporting the education of these topics is a strong hazard mitigation strategy and could potentially reduce loss of life and property in wake of a disaster event.

Goal 3 aims to protect business and industry through emergency operation planning and public-private partnerships. Intergovernmental coordination with existing plans and procedures is also a positive strategy. Post-disaster redevelopment is addressed in several objectives that produce a multi-dimensional approach to rebuilding the community in a responsible manner. Goal 6 encourages the protection of natural resources and lists seven objectives that aim to conserve and protect natural resources as well as objectives that support the regulation of development. There are policies that address cultural resources as well. Goals and objectives also consider the protection of the build environment through building codes, stormwater management, development regulations, Flood Management Plans, and participation in the NFIP and CRS. Finally, there are also objectives that aim to protect government and critical facilities through retrofit and relocation as well as location limitations.

The LMS goals and objectives employ a number of hazard mitigation strategies and address issues in a proactive way. Supporting the LMS goals and objectives through the Comprehensive Plan could strengthen these strategies and create a more disaster resistant community.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

The Mitigation Annex of the Sumter County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) was reviewed for consistency with the other plans and evaluated in its effectiveness as a tool for planners. The Annex mostly discusses post-disaster recovery and response, such as damage assessment. A small portion addresses mitigation, mainly focused on education campaigns. For gathering information about mitigation efforts in the County the LMS is a much better source currently.

Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan

A Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) for Sumter County was not available for review at the time this profile was drafted. If Sumter County has a current PDRP, this will be obtained and reviewed for the final version of this document.

National Flood Insurance Program/Community Rating System

The County, as well as the municipalities of Sumter, participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. In addition, Sumter County participates in the Community Rating System and has a current class of 8.

4. Comprehensive Plan Review

Sumter County's Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2005) was reviewed in order to see what the County has already done to integrate their LMS policies, and hazard mitigation in general, into their planning process. A list of the goals, objectives, and policies currently in the plan that contribute to hazard mitigation is found in **Attachment E**. The following is a summary of how well the plan addressed the three hazards of this analysis.

There are many policies in the Sumter County Comprehensive Plan that indirectly address hazard mitigation. There are numerous policies that protect and conserve natural resources, wetlands, floodplains, soils, and environmentally sensitive lands. Policies employ growth management techniques and development regulations including transfer of development rights, clustering of development, development regulations and restrictions, and land acquisition to

conserve and protect these features. Cultural and historic resources are addressed in several policies, but hazard mitigation strategies are not utilized to protect these structures and sites. There are no policies that address evacuation routes, evacuation shelters, and post-disaster redevelopment. There is a policy that requires Sectors plans to address these issues.

Flood Hazards

Land development regulations contain provisions that limit development within flood hazard areas. Policies address the conservation of the Withlacoochee River and Lake Panasoffkee through development regulations and restrictions. Also, policies require continual identification of wetlands and support in depth analysis of wetlands in Sector Plans. Also, the County employs acquisition of flood prone areas as a tool to reduce risk to structures and people. A policy also enforces the Flood Plain Ordinance as a means to regulate development.

Wildfire Hazards

No policies that directly address wildfire hazards were found during this review. Policies that address water conservation indirectly address wildfire suppression by reserving water in drought conditions.

Sinkhole Hazards

No policies that directly address sinkhole hazards were found during this review. Policies that include soil conditions as criteria for development review might indirectly address karst sensitive areas. Also, policies that protect vegetation may indirectly reduce negative stormwater runoff in karst sensitive areas.

5. Recommendations

For the LMS to be effective in the decision-making process of growth management, its objectives and policies must be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is the legal basis for all local land use decisions made. If hazard mitigation is to be accomplished beyond the occasional drainage project, these hazards must be addressed in comprehensive planning, where development can be limited or regulated in high-risk hazard areas just as sensitive environments are routinely protected through growth management policies. Mitigation of hazards is considerably easier and less expensive if done when raw land is being converted into development. Retrofitting structure and public facilities after they have been built is significantly more expensive. However, if older neighborhoods or communities are scheduled to be revitalized or redeveloped, hazard mitigation needs to be an aspect considered and integrated into the project prior to the time of development approval.

Sumter County has begun this process of integrating hazard mitigation throughout its Plan's elements. The prior section summarized how the major hazards for the County have been for the most part well-addressed. There is, however, still some disconnection between the LMS objectives and initiatives, and the policies in the Comprehensive Plan. By tightening the connection between these documents, the County will find it easier to implement hazard mitigation, and there will be higher awareness of these issues within more departments of the County government. **Table 5.1** presents options for further integration as well as the basis for these recommendations.

NOTE: The recommendations set out in this section are only suggestions. Through the workshop process and contact with the local governments, the goal of this project is to result in specific recommendations tailored and acceptable to each County. While the profile addresses hurricanes, flooding, wildfire, and sinkholes, the County should consider other hazards, if appropriate, such as tornadoes and soil subsidence, during the update of the local Comprehensive Plan.

Table 5.1 Options for Integrating LMS Hazard Mitigation Principles into Sumter County's Comprehensive Plan

Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
Strategy 1 - Collaboration, coordination, and education							
a) Is there information sharing &/or involvement in plan development between planners & emergency managers?	Yes	Yes	County and City Planners, as well as representatives from numerous government agencies and departments, participate on the Sumter County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Task Force.	ICE P. 5.1.2.1 Continue to coordinate with Southwest Florida SWFWMD, FDER, FDEP and other state and federal agencies to address water quality and storm water management.	Ensure intergovernmental coordination in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation between all applicable local governments.		
b) Do the Comp Plan, LMS, CEMP, & other local and regional plans cross-reference each other & include consistent data on hazardous locations?	Yes	Yes	<p>G. 4. Ensure intergovernmental coordination in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation between all applicable local governments.</p> <p>O. 4.2 Coordinate emergency evacuation procedures.</p> <p>O. 4.1 Maintain and update (as necessary) the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.</p> <p>O. 8.1 Develop or maintain a Stormwater Management Plan that identifies and recommends solutions to stormwater problems.</p>	ICE P. 5.1.2.2 Sumter County shall continue to coordinate with the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council.	Use the LMS as a hazard mitigation tool when making Comp Plan amendments and land use decisions.		Referencing the LMS as a hazard mitigation tool in the Comprehensive Plan may help establish a stronger hazard mitigation strategy.

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c) Are hazard mitigation projects addressed in the 5-year schedule of Capital Improvement Projects?	Yes	No	<p>O. 12.2 Encourage capital improvement expenditures for critical evacuation routes.</p> <p>O. 12.4 Utilize project evaluation criteria developed in the Local Mitigation Strategy for prioritizing mitigation initiatives.</p>		Encourage capital improvement expenditures for critical evacuation routes. Utilize project evaluation criteria developed in the Local Mitigation Strategy for prioritizing mitigation initiatives		The County can prioritize projects in the Capital Improvement Schedule. By prioritizing mitigation initiatives in the Comp Plan, the LMS goals may be achieved by securing funding and developing a time frame for improvements.

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<p>d) Are there measures to educate residents, homeowner/property associations, & the business community of ways they can mitigate against hazards?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>O. 1.1 Inform and educate the public about potential hazards. O. 1.2 Encourage home buyers to research and determine if a property is within a flood prone area. G. 2. Promote hazard awareness and education. O. 2.1 Notify homeowners of property located within a flood-prone area. O. 2.2 Inform and educate the public about potential hazards. O. 2.3 Prioritize and develop a hazard information program. O. 2.4 Educate the public about disaster preparedness, evacuation procedures and shelter availability. O. 2.5 Coordinate to provide public information regarding commercial hazardous materials and educate the public to safely store and dispose of household hazardous materials. O. 3.1 Minimize business interruptions through disaster preparedness and education. O. 3.2 Assist business and industry in the preparation of emergency operations plans.</p>	<p>UE P. 4.1.3.3 Sumter County will establish and utilize potable water conservation strategies and techniques, such as conduct educational programs on conservation of water.</p>	<p>Include a policy to establish education programs that provide information to the public involving potential hazards, flood prone areas, hazard awareness, evacuation procedures, shelter locations, business emergency operation planning, and wildfire hazards.</p>		<p>Educational programs may help create an informed public and decrease loss of property and life in the event of a natural disaster. Further education of county officials and employees may promote hazard mitigation initiatives before development occurs. The County can educate local site plan reviewers on the importance of flood, wildfire, and sinkhole mitigation as well as the strategies used to reduce the vulnerability. Plan reviewers could then promote these ideas to local developers and explain their importance during the site plan review process.</p>

Table 5.1 Options for Integrating LMS Hazard Mitigation Principles into Sumter County's Comprehensive Plan

Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
Strategy 2 - Get out of the way: provide evacuation and sheltering services							
a) Are there measures to provide adequate evacuation clearance time to support current population and population growth?	Yes	Yes	<p>O. 4.2 Coordinate emergency evacuation procedures.</p> <p>O. 11.1 Maintain or improve critical evacuation routes.</p> <p>O. 12.2 Encourage capital improvement expenditures for critical evacuation routes</p>	<p>FLUE P. 7.1.16.2 Sector Planning Studies shall address native habitats, rare and endangered species, drainage, soils analysis, water quality, air quality, hurricane, and other disaster preparedness, historical, and archaeological resources, hurricane evacuation, access management, level of service, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation.</p>	<p>Adopt Comp Plan policies that support coordination with regional evacuation plans. Adopt policies that include an evacuation clearance time level of service. Adopt policies that aim to maintain clearance times and evacuation route conditions by prioritizing mitigation initiatives in the 5 year Capital Improvements Schedule. Adopt procedures in the Land Development Code that requires developers to analyze impacts to evacuation routes prior to project approval.</p>		<p>Analysis in this reports suggests the population of Sumter County is expected to nearly double over the next two decades. In addition, evacuation often occur across jurisdictional boundaries. Future residents may cause an increase in evacuation clearance times and congestion of evacuation routes. By addressing this before development occurs, the County could maintain evacuation route capacity.</p>
b) Are there measures to provide adequate shelter space to meet population growth and special needs?	Yes	No	<p>O. 1.4 Provide adequate shelter for the population at risk.</p> <p>O. 5.6 Establish and implement a plan for long-term temporary housing.</p> <p>O. 12.5 Provide sufficient shelter space to satisfy in-County demand.</p>		<p>Adopt Comp Plan policies that create a Evacuation Shelter Capacity Level of Service standard. Adopt a Comp Plan policy that encourage cooperation with the Regional Planning Council to address shelter needs. Explore alternatives to evacuations such as the use of safe rooms in structures outside hazard areas.</p>		<p>Emergency Shelter Capacity Level of Service standards can act as a quantitative goal to maintain or improve emergency shelter capacity. The County could address future shelter demand by researching alternatives to public shelters and working with regional entities.</p>

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Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
Strategy 3 - Make the environment less hazardous: Protect and enhance natural protective features							
<p>a) Are there measures to protect and/or restore natural resources that might in turn decrease the risk from natural hazards?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>G. 6. Encourage the protection of natural resources. O. 6.1 Participate with the state in the acquisition of lands for environmental protection. O. 6.6 Minimize the impacts of public facilities and utilities on the natural environment. O. 10.4 Provide and protect open space. O. 10.5 Preserve natural vegetation.</p>	<p>Natural Resources CE P. 3.1.6.1 As an Outstanding Florida Water, the Withlacoochee River shall be protected through density limitations, clustered development, no loss in floodplain storage area, and may use TDR. FLUE O. 7.1.10 Sumter County shall preserve and conserve unique and environmentally sensitive lands and resources. FLUE P. 7.1.10.1 Adherence to the objectives and policies in Element 3, Conservation concerning development near the Withlacoochee River, Lake Panasoffkee, and other areas of environmental concern shall be observed in land development practices and procedures. FLUE P. 7.1.16.2 Sector Planning Studies shall address native habitats, rare and endangered species, drainage, soils analysis, water quality, air quality, hurricane, and other disaster preparedness, historical, and archaeological resources, hurricane evacuation, access management, level of service, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation. ROS P. 2.2.1.2 Continue to work with SWFWMD and FDEP in securing additional lands under State and Federal conservation and recreational lands programs for open space and recreational use.</p>	<p>The County could amend current Comprehensive Plan policies that promote the conservation and regulation of development on and near natural resources and add language that uses these growth management and conservation techniques, in part, for hazard mitigation.</p>		<p>The County has many existing policies that mitigate the impacts of hazards, however they have not been identified as beneficial in this area. Current growth management techniques such as land conservation, buffering, and the clustering of development protect and conserve natural resources but also provide the major benefit of protecting development from natural disasters. The County could update these policies in the Comprehensive Plan and emphasize the benefits of hazard mitigation.</p>

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Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
<p>a) Are there measures to protect and/or restore natural resources that might in turn decrease the risk from natural hazards? (Continued)</p>	No	Yes		<p>Wildfire Hazard UE O. 4.1.3 Require conservation of the water resources. UE P. 4.1.3.1 Cooperate with the SWFWMD to conduct water conservation programs. CE P. 3.1.9.3 The County shall adopt an emergency water conservation program in accordance with the policies of the SWFWMD. CE O. 3.1.9 Require conservation of the water resources.</p>	<p>The County could explore hazard mitigation resources provided by the Florida Division of Forestry and develop a relationship to use their services carry out prescribed burning.</p>	<p>The LMS could include objectives that promote wildfire mitigation strategies including prescribed burning.</p>	<p>The analysis shows there are significant amounts of high-risk wildfire hazard zones in the County. Encouraging the Division of Forestry to carry out wildfire mitigation analyses and procedures could reduce risk to property and loss of life in the case of a disaster. Also, establishing a relationship with the Division of Forestry could ensure that future mitigation actions will be taken.</p>
<p>a) Are there measures to protect and/or restore natural resources that might in turn decrease the risk from natural hazards? (Continued)</p>	Yes	Yes	<p>O. 6.2 Conserve and improve wetlands. O. 6.4 Protect the functions of natural drainage areas and surficial aquifer recharge areas. O. 6.7 Mitigate wetland losses to establish an overall net benefit. O. 8.5 Protect the function of natural drainage features and surficial aquifer recharge areas. O. 9.2 Protect and preserve wetlands floodplains and coastal lands</p>	<p>Wetlands / Floodplains FLUE P. 7.1.16.3 Wetlands identified in Sector Plan areas must be buffered by an upland buffer. FLUE P. 7.1.16.4 Sumter County will regulate wetlands within the Sector Plan areas. CE P. 3.1.2.1 Acquisition of flood prone properties for use as open space, conservation, or flood retention. CE P. 3.1.2.2 Acquisition to protect natural flood storage areas around surface water bodies. CE P. 3.1.2.3 The County shall retain in its Flood Plain Ordinance the provision that any filling activity within the 100-year flood elevation must be mitigated by compensating storage on-site. CE P. 3.1.2.4 LDRs control densities in the 100-year flood zone. CE O. 3.1.4 Protect and conserve wetlands and the natural functions of wetlands.</p>			

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Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
				<p>CE P. 3.1.4.2 No removal of, or encroachment within Category I wetlands will be permitted.</p> <p>CE P. 3.1.4.3 Regulate development within Category II wetlands.</p> <p>CE P. 3.1.4.9 Regulate development within Category II wetlands.</p> <p>CE P. 3.1.4.10 Regulate development within Category III wetlands.</p> <p>UE G. 4.5 To identify and manage the natural drainage features.</p> <p>UE O. 4.5.1 Capacities and functions of natural drainage features shall not be decreased due to development.</p> <p>UE P. 4.5.1.1 Site plans will be reviewed for effect on natural drainage features</p> <p>UE P. 4.5.2.1 LDRs require filling activities within the 100-year floodplain must be 100% mitigated by compensating storage on-site.</p>			

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Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
Strategy 4 - Make structures more resistant to natural hazard forces							
a) Are there measures that support relocating or retrofitting private &/or public structures in hazard areas?	Yes	No	O. 11.2 Prioritize and retrofit existing critical facilities.		The Comprehensive Plan could include policies that support retrofitting and relocating emergency services facilities, shelters that house equipment used in emergency operations, utility infrastructure, government facilities, county employee homes, residential structures, and medical facilities. The County could also support encourage programs that facilitate retrofitting structures to comply or exceed building codes through grant or loan programs.		Making structures more disaster proof could reduce property damages in the event of a hurricane or flood. Also, protecting critical facilities during a disaster event could also ensure emergency operations can continue after the event is over.

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Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
<p>b) Are there measures to require compliance with or exceed building codes &/or design standards for certain hazard areas?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>G. 9 Reduce property damage caused by flooding.O. 9.1 Elevate new construction above the base flood elevation.O. 9.4 Ensure compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.O. 9.5 Participate in or improve ratings under the Community Rating System.O. 9.6 Control development in the 100-year floodplain.O. 9.7 Implement substantial damage provisions.O. 9.8 Continue compliance with Floodplain Management Plans.O. 10.3 Ensure compliance with the Building Code for all construction.O. 10.6 Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with Federal Flood Insurance regulations.O. 10.7 Encourage the inclusion of window and door protection standards in the Building Codes.O. 10.8 Encourage lot grading plans addressing drainage with each building permit.G. 10. Regulate the impacts of development and redevelopment through code enforcement.</p>	<p>CE P. 3.1.3.1 LDRs require stormwater regulations that include setbacks from water bodies.CE P. 3.1.4.12 Require the transfer of density/intensity credit from the wetlands portion of any site, to the upland portion of the same site.FLUE P. 7.1.1.1 LDRs Regulate areas subject to seasonal and periodic flooding, and provide for drainage and stormwater management.FLUE P. 7.1.2.7 New residential structures within the 100-year flood plain must place the level of the lowest habitable floor one foot above the base flood elevation. FLUE P. 7.1.2.8 New construction or substantial improvements of any commercial, or industrial must have the lowest floor elevated one foot above the base flood elevation or be flood proofed. UE G. 4.4 Adequate stormwater drainage will be provided to afford reasonable protection from flooding and to prevent degradation of the quality of receiving waters. UE O. 4.4.1 LDRs provide stormwater drainage standards. UE P. 4.4.1.1 Site plans shall be required to show that no increase in flooding will occur due to development.</p>	<p>Adopt firewise building code requirements for defined high fire risk areas.</p>		<p>Since new development will occur in Sumter County, a firewise building code could be implemented to address wildfire hazards and potentially reduce loss of property and life in the event of a disaster.</p>

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c) Are there measures to protect cultural resources from natural disasters?	Yes	Yes	<p>G. 7. Encourage the conservation of historic and cultural resources. O. 7.1 Identify and document historic and cultural resources.</p>	<p>FLUE O. 7.1.12 Sumter County shall preserve and protect the historic resources of the County. HE G. 4 Sumter County shall preserve and protect the archaeological, historic, architectural and cultural resources of the County. HE P. 1. 4.1.2 The County shall support efforts of the Division of Historic Resources or the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council to conduct a survey and assessment of potential archaeological, historic, architectural and cultural resources in the unincorporated area of the County.</p>	<p>Policies could be adopted that allow promote the analysis of historic sites and structures in regards to storm and flood resistance. Mitigation initiatives could be prioritized in the capital improvements schedule.</p>		<p>Currently, Comprehensive Plan policies do address historical and cultural resources, but do not address natural disasters. Proactive measures can be taken to protect resources from natural disasters.</p>

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Strategy 5 - Manage the development and redevelopment of land in hazardous areas							
a) Are there measures to limit population densities in high-hazard areas?	Yes	Yes	<p>O. 5.3 Advocate property acquisition in repetitive loss areas.O. 5.4 Encourage mitigation initiatives in the Coastal High Hazard Area.O. 6.5 Restrict infrastructure supporting expansion to flood hazard areas.O. 10.2 Control development of critical care facilities in the flood hazard areas.O. 10.1 Restrict new development of mobile home parks in flood zones.O. 11.3 Control the siting and development of new critical facilities within flood hazard areas.O. 12.1 Limit public expenditures that support new development in flood hazard areas.</p>	<p>UE P. 4.5.1.2 LDRs reduce allowable densities in 100-year floodplain areas and ensure no net loss of on-site 100-year flood storage capacity, enforce clustering.CE O. 3.1.2 LDRS used to control loss of life and property in flood hazard areas. The County will protect 100-year flood plain and flood storage areas by limiting development.</p>	<p>Adopt a policy that limits development in high-risk wildfire zones and Karst Sensitive Areas.</p>		<p>There are many polices in the Comprehensive Plan that limit and restrict development in flood prone areas. Policies could also be adopted to include development limitations of vacant lands in other hazard areas such as karst sensitive areas and high-risk wildfire zones. Moving development away from hazard areas is a strong hazard mitigation strategy.</p>
b) Are there measures to limit public expenditures that subsidize development in high-hazard areas?	Yes	Yes	<p>O. 11.3 Control the siting and development of new critical facilities within flood hazard areas. O. 12.1 Limit public expenditures that support new development in flood hazard areas.</p>	<p>FLUE P. 7.1.3.2 Avoidance of new schools in ESLs.</p>	<p>Adopt a policy that limits or restricts public expenditure in flood prone areas, high risk wildfire areas, and karst sensitive areas.</p>		<p>Limiting public expenditure in hazard areas can decrease potential government losses in the event of a disaster and also encourages populations away from such areas.</p>

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<p>c) Are there creative neighborhood design solutions or development regulations that mitigate hazards, such as clustering or transfer of development rights?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>CE P. 3.1.6.1 As an Outstanding Florida Water, the Withlacoochee River shall be protected through density limitations, clustered development, no loss in floodplain storage area, and may use TDR. CE P. 3.1.13.3 The areas of environmental protected by clustering development outside the 100 year flood elevation and may use TDR. CE P. 3.1.14.3 LDRS promote clustering near ELS. CE P. 3.1.13.1 Development design to preserve unique native vegetative communities, using buffering and cluster requirements. FLUE P. 7.1.5.5 PUD's shall be required to cluster development in order to preserve open space area and to protect and enhance ESLs.</p>	<p>Comprehensive Plan polices could be amended to include hazard mitigation as a reason to support conservation, clustering, buffering, TDR, PDR, and public acquisition of lands.</p>		<p>By adding hazard mitigation as a reason for these development regulations and programs, a stronger hazard mitigation strategy may be created as well as more support of growth management techniques.</p>

Table 5.1 Options for Integrating LMS Hazard Mitigation Principles into Sumter County's Comprehensive Plan

Strategies & Integration Topics	LMS	Comp Plan	Current LMS Information, Goals, or Objectives	Current Comp Plan Policies	Options for Further Integration into the Comprehensive Plan	Options for Enhancement of the LMS	Basis For Suggested Options
<p>d) Are there measures to limit or regulate redevelopment in hazard areas and procedures for post-disaster recovery that will lead to a more disaster-resistant community?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>O. 1.3 Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.G. 5. Develop and implement guidelines for post-disaster redevelopment.O. 5.1 Expedite post-disaster recovery through the development of a Post-disaster Recovery Ordinance.O. 7.2 Prioritize funding for post-disaster redevelopment.O. 8.4 Require all new development and redevelopment to regulate the rate and volume of stormwater.O. 10.9 Encourage mitigation for repetitive loss properties.</p>		<p>Develop a post-disaster recovery strategy for business. Prohibit or restrict repair or replacement of non-conforming special needs facilities or manufactured / mobile homes if damaged beyond a defined threshold. Redevelopment must occur at intensity / density of the land use designation currently in place. Approval for repairs and rebuilding should be based on the post-disaster redevelopment plan.</p>		<p>Economic vitality of a community may recover from a natural disaster quicker and more affectively with a post-disaster recovery strategy for business. Non-conformities can be removed in order to reduce the potential of future losses and be replaced with conforming structures. Redevelopment in hazard areas may be regulated to conform to existing mitigation strategies. Following the post-disaster redevelopment plan can reduce risks associated with natural disasters and create a safer place residents to live and work.</p>

Abbreviations: G= Goal; O= Objective; P=Policy; PDRP= Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan; HVZ= Hurricane vulnerability zone; CHHA= Coastal High Hazard Area
 CE= Conservation Element; HE= Housing Element; FLUE= Future Land Use Element; UE= Utilities Element; CIE= Capital Improvements Element; IE= Infrastructure Element; CME= Coastal Management Element

6. Sources

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Attachment A

**Maps of the Existing and Future Land Uses
within the 100-year Floodplain**

Attachment B

**Maps of the Existing and Future Land Uses
within Wildfire Susceptible Areas**

Attachment C

**Maps of the Existing and Future Land Uses
within Potential Sinkhole Hazard Areas**

Attachment D

Sumter County Local Mitigation Strategy Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1. Protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

- Objective 1.1 Inform and educate the public about potential hazards.
- Objective 1.2 Encourage home buyers to research and determine if a property is within a flood prone area.
- Objective 1.3 Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.
- Objective 1.4 Provide adequate shelter for the population at risk.

GOAL 2. Promote hazard awareness and education.

- Objective 2.1 Notify homeowners of property located within a flood-prone area.
- Objective 2.2 Inform and educate the public about potential hazards.
- Objective 2.3 Prioritize and develop a hazard information program.
- Objective 2.4 Educate the public about disaster preparedness, evacuation procedures and shelter availability.
- Objective 2.5 Coordinate to provide public information regarding commercial hazardous materials and educate the public to safely store and dispose of household hazardous materials.

GOAL 3. Develop mitigation initiatives that protect business and industry.

- Objective 3.1 Minimize business interruptions through disaster preparedness and education.
- Objective 3.2 Assist business and industry in the preparation of emergency operations plans.
- Objective 3.3 Encourage public-private partnerships.

GOAL 4. Ensure intergovernmental coordination in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation between all applicable local governments.

- Objective 4.1 Maintain and update (as necessary) the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- Objective 4.2 Coordinate emergency evacuation procedures.
- Objective 4.3 Coordinate inter-jurisdictional resources during recovery efforts.
- Objective 4.4 Conduct annual updates and revisions (as necessary) to the Local Mitigation Strategy .
- Objective 4.5 Coordinate and prioritize applications for hazard mitigation grants.

GOAL 5. Develop and implement guidelines for post-disaster redevelopment.

- Objective 5.1 Expedite post-disaster recovery through the development of a Post-disaster Recovery Ordinance.
- Objective 5.2 Enable small businesses to utilize public property in the event of a disaster.
- Objective 5.3 Advocate property acquisition in repetitive loss areas.
- Objective 5.4 Encourage mitigation initiatives in the Coastal High Hazard Area.
- Objective 5.5 Consider options to mitigation initiatives that may result in substantial reduction of the local tax base.
- Objective 5.6 Establish and implement a plan for long-term temporary housing.

Objective 5.7 Encourage the diversion of Community Development Block Grant funds to disaster recovery.

GOAL 6. Encourage the protection of natural resources.

Objective 6.1 Participate with the state in the acquisition of lands for environmental protection.

Objective 6.2 Conserve and improve wetlands.

Objective 6.3 Limit discharge and protect natural resources from toxic substances and harmful pollutants.

Objective 6.4 Protect the functions of natural drainage areas and surficial aquifer recharge areas.

Objective 6.5 Restrict infrastructure supporting expansion to flood hazard areas.

Objective 6.6 Minimize the impacts of public facilities and utilities on the natural environment.

Objective 6.7 Mitigate wetland losses to establish an overall net benefit.

GOAL 7. Encourage the conservation of historic and cultural resources.

Objective 7.1 Identify and document historic and cultural resources.

Objective 7.2 Prioritize funding for post-disaster redevelopment.

GOAL 8. Encourage the resolution of stormwater problems.

Objective 8.1 Develop or maintain a Stormwater Management Plan that identifies and recommends solutions to stormwater problems.

Objective 8.2 Encourage the creation of a stormwater utility where appropriate.

Objective 8.3 Maintain and improve existing drainage systems.

Objective 8.4 Require all new development and redevelopment to regulate the rate and volume of stormwater.

Objective 8.5 Protect the function of natural drainage features and surficial aquifer recharge areas.

GOAL 9. Reduce property damage caused by flooding.

Objective 9.1 Elevate new construction above the base flood elevation.

Objective 9.2 Protect and preserve wetlands floodplains and coastal lands.

Objective 9.3 Identify and correct local flooding conditions.

Objective 9.4 Ensure compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Objective 9.5 Participate in or improve ratings under the Community Rating System.

Objective 9.6 Control development in the 100-year floodplain.

Objective 9.7 Implement substantial damage provisions.

Objective 9.8 Continue compliance with Floodplain Management Plans.

GOAL 10. Regulate the impacts of development and redevelopment through code enforcement.

Objective 10.1 Restrict new development of mobile home parks in flood zones.

Objective 10.2 Control development of critical care facilities in the flood hazard areas.

Objective 10.3 Ensure compliance with the Building Code for all construction.

Objective 10.4 Provide and protect open space.

Objective 10.5 Preserve natural vegetation.

Objective 10.6 Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with Federal Flood Insurance regulations.

Objective 10.7 Encourage the inclusion of window and door protection standards in the Building Codes.

Objective 10.8 Encourage lot grading plans addressing drainage with each building permit.

Objective 10.9 Encourage mitigation for repetitive loss properties.

Objective 10.10 Enforce wellhead protection ordinances.

GOAL 11. Regulate, limit and prioritize the construction of critical facilities.

Objective 11.1 Maintain or improve critical evacuation routes.

Objective 11.2 Prioritize and retrofit existing critical facilities.

Objective 11.3 Control the siting and development of new critical facilities within flood hazard areas.

GOAL 12. Establish pre- and post-disaster mitigation initiatives through the Local Mitigation Strategy.

Objective 12.1 Limit public expenditures that support new development in flood hazard areas.

Objective 12.2 Encourage capital improvement expenditures for critical evacuation routes.

Objective 12.3 Implement Stormwater Management programs.

Objective 12.4 Utilize project evaluation criteria developed in the Local Mitigation Strategy for prioritizing mitigation initiatives.

Objective 12.5 Provide sufficient shelter space to satisfy in-County demand.

Objective 12.6 Identify and pursue available grant funds and other funding sources for hazard mitigation activities.

Objective 12.7 Annually review and update projects identified in the Local Mitigation Strategy .

Attachment E

Sumter County Comprehensive Plan Excerpts Related to Hazard Mitigation

Conservation Element

Objective 3.1.2: The County shall retain in its land development regulations requirements to control loss of life and property in flood hazard areas. The County will protect flood storage and conveyance functions of the 100-year flood plain and flood storage areas by limiting development and fill activities consistent with the policies and standards in the Future Land Use Element.

POLICY 3.1.2.1 The County shall continue to pursue programs which allow acquisition of flood prone properties for use as open space, conservation, or flood retention.

POLICY 3.1.2.2 The County shall submit areas for acquisition in cooperation with the SWFWMD and FDEP through Federal or State programs to protect natural flood storage areas around surface water bodies in the County.

POLICY 3. 1.2.3 The County shall retain in its Flood Plain Ordinance the provision that any filling activity within the 100-year flood elevation must be mitigated by compensating storage on-site.

POLICY 3.1.2.4 The County shall retain in its land development regulations provisions to control allowable densities in the 100-year flood zone. No development shall be approved for parcels in the 100-year flood zone, unless the development complies with the density and siting policies for floodplain areas in the Future Land Use element. Polices 7.1.12 (a), 7.1.2.7.

POLICY 3.1.3.1 The County shall maintain requirements and standards for on-site stormwater run-off and detention/retention for all new developments in its land development regulations. Stormwater standards shall include at a minimum, requirements for:

- a. setbacks from any major water body to preserve vegetation;
- b. post-development run-off rates and pollutant loading must not exceed pre-development rates; and
- c. best management practices consistent with state and federal recommended standards, to reduce pesticide and fertilizer run-off and soil erosion.

Objective 3.1.4: Sumter County will protect and conserve wetlands and the natural functions of wetlands by implementing the following policies.

POLICY 3.1.4.2 No removal of, or encroachment within Category I wetlands will be permitted. Alteration to Category I wetlands will be permitted only for purposes of correcting past damage; improving the quality of a wetland; enhancing an important wetland function or fulfilling the requirements of a required management plan.

POLICY 3.1.4.3 Removal, alteration, and encroachment within Category II wetlands will require an avoidance and minimization analysis to document that the applicant reviewed alternatives to the wetland encroachment and they were deemed to not be feasible. The continuing viability of Category II wetlands shall be the prime objective of the basis for review of all proposed alterations, modifications, or removal of these areas. Mitigation for any impacts to Category II wetlands will be required pursuant to the requirements of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) according to which agency has jurisdiction over the specific wetland.

POLICY 3.1.4.9 No development shall occur in a Category II wetland or wetland setback except as follows

POLICY 3.1.4.10 No development shall occur in a Category III wetland or wetland setback except as follows:

POLICY 3.1.4.12 Require the transfer of density/intensity credit from the wetlands portion of any site, including associated buffers, to the upland portion of the same site. Any lot may be developed with one single family dwelling unit providing necessary permits are obtained from state agencies with jurisdiction or the appropriate state agencies. Any parcel created by subdivision after the adoption of this section that consists solely of wetlands may not make use this provision to develop in wetlands.

POLICY 3.1.6.1 As an Outstanding Florida Water, the Withlacoochee River shall be protected by the County according to the following guidelines:

- a. Development within the riverine floodplain shall be regulated to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to the existing water quality of the river as follows:
 1. Residential development shall be permitted at a density of one unit per ten acres and allowed to cluster in accordance with the provisions of Policy 7.1.1.2 (a) of the Future Land Use element; and
 2. All clustered development must occur outside the 100-year riverine flood elevation.

Development utilizing ten acre tracts may develop within the 100-year floodplain; however, first floor elevations must be one foot above the 100-year floodplain elevation (Policy 7.1.2.7), there must be no net loss of floodplain storage area and all provisions for water-proofing utility systems must be carried out by the landowner.

- b. Existing lots of record that are vested pursuant to Policy 7.1.7.3 the Future Land Use element that do not meet the density requirements in a. above shall be exempt from this density restriction.
- c. The County shall investigate the utilization of transfer of development rights as a method to redirect development from riverine floodplains.

Objective 3.1.9: Sumter County shall continue to require conservation of the water resources of the County. Sumter County will not issue any development permits which are inconsistent with the plan or Southwest Florida Water Management District water conservation rules/policies.

POLICY 3.1.9.3 The County shall adopt an emergency water conservation program in accordance with the policies of the SWFWMD.

Policy 3.1.13.1 The County shall require development design to site development activities in such a way as to preserve unique native vegetative communities, as identified in Map VII-15 Measures to be used include:

- a. Maintain one unit per ten acres residential density in identified areas of native vegetative communities.
- b. Utilization of the buffer and cluster requirements contained in Objective 7.1.5 and Policies 7.1.5.1 – 7.1.5.8 the Future Land Use element.
- c. Adhere to the percentages of open space required by Policy 7.1.5.3 of the Future Land Use element of this plan.

Policy 3.1.13.3 The areas of environmental concern identified in Map VII-15 and not covered by policies 7.1.7.1 – 7.1.7.4 of this element, shall be protected by Sumter County according to the following guidelines:

- 2. All clustered development must occur outside the 100 year flood elevation and must be developed in strict accordance with a site plan approved by the County after careful review to assure protection of native vegetative communities from adverse impacts.

- c. The County shall investigate the utilization of transfer of development rights as a method to redirect development from riverine floodplains.

POLICY 3.1.14.3 The County shall maintain in its land development regulations a requirement that all subdivisions of land of more than four lots must cluster these parcels on suitable upland away from environmentally sensitive land. A minimum 100-foot buffer shall be provided, plus an additional buffer up to 100 feet may be required by the Board of County Commissioners to insure compatibility between the development and public preservation areas as delineated on Map VII-14. Buffers may be incorporated into the required open space.

Future Land Use Element

POLICY 7.1.1.1 Sumter County shall maintain land development regulations that shall contain specific and detailed provisions required to implement the adopted Comprehensive Plan, and which as a minimum:

- d. Regulate areas subject to seasonal and periodic flooding, and provide for drainage and stormwater management.

POLICY 7.1.2.7 New residential structures or substantial improvements thereto within the 100-year flood plain must place the level of the lowest habitable floor one foot above the base flood elevation. A structure is substantially improved when the square footage of an addition is 25% or more than the existing structure, or when the value of the improvement is 15% or more of the value of the existing structure.

POLICY 7.1.2.8 New construction or substantial improvements of any commercial, or industrial must have the lowest floor elevated one foot above the base flood elevation. In lieu of being elevated, structures may be floodproofed. A registered professional engineer or architect must certify that the building construction is sufficient to withstand hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effect of buoyancy.

POLICY 7.1.3.2 Sumter County shall encourage to the extent possible the location of new public schools based on the following criteria:

- e. Avoidance of school siting in environmentally sensitive areas.

POLICY 7.1.5.5. PUD's shall be required to cluster development in order to preserve open space area and to protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas. Open space areas shall allow active and passive recreational facilities. However, where limited access by humans is necessary for the conservation of listed species, that area may still be counted towards required open space acreage. Common open space versus privately held open space shall be conveyed to a public agency or to a non-profit organization, including homeowners associations, established for the purpose of owning and managing such lands.

Objective 7.1.10 Sumter County shall preserve and conserve unique and environmentally sensitive lands and resources from development or developmental impacts. The County shall maintain land development regulations to implement preservation and conservation during the land development process.

POLICY 7.1.10.1 Adherence to the objectives and policies in Element 3, Conservation concerning development near the Withlacoochee River, Lake Panasoffkee, and other areas of environmental concern shall be observed in land development practices and procedures.

Objective 7.1.12. Sumter County shall preserve and protect the historic resources of the County.

POLICY 7.1.16.2 Sector Planning Studies shall address the following issues, if applicable:

- a. The following systems, services and resources will be identified, inventoried and evaluated:
 1. ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS. Native habitats, rare and endangered species, drainage, soils analysis, water quality, air quality, hurricane, and other disaster preparedness, historical, and archaeological resources.
 2. TRANSPORTATION. Thoroughfare planning, impact areas, capital improvements planning, hurricane evacuation, access management, level of service, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation.

POLICY 7.1.16.3 Upland buffers adjacent to protected wetlands provide habitat for many species and protection from deleterious effects of development adjacent to the wetland. Wetlands identified in Sector Plan areas must be buffered by an upland buffer of a minimum of 15 feet with an average width of 25 feet unless an

Environmental Resource Permit or other management plan approved by SWFWMD provides otherwise.

POLICY 7.1.16.4

Sumter County will regulate wetlands within the Sector Plan areas in order to protect and sustain their functions and values while at the same time allowing reasonable use of the property that will have no unmitigated adverse impact on wetland functions. Development shall be directed away from wetland areas as much as practical, consistent with the avoidance and minimization processes accepted by SWFWMD. However, if wetland areas are impacted, the impacts must be appropriately mitigated. The following framework will be used to evaluate proposed wetland mitigation:

- A. Mitigation projects must take into consideration the type, quality, location, and size of the wetlands being impacted.
- B. The County shall accept mitigation required by the SWFWMD for impacts that occur within Sector Plan areas.
- C. Creation, Enhancement, and Restoration projects proposed as mitigation shall be evaluated based on the type, quality, size, and location of the wetlands being impacted.

Intergovernmental Coordination Element

POLICY 5.1.2.1

The County shall continue to coordinate with Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state and federal agencies that have permitting in the County to ensure water quality and stormwater drainage are consistent with development. The County shall initiate meetings, as necessary, between County staff and agencies that have permitting responsibility for new developments.

POLICY 5.1.2.2

Sumter County shall continue to coordinate with the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council in the implementation of those policies included in the Comprehensive Regional Policy Plan that require intergovernmental coordination.

Utilities Element

Objective 4.1.3:

Sumter County shall continue to require conservation of the water resources of the County. Sumter County will not issue any development permits which are inconsistent with the Plan or Southwest Florida Water Management District water conservation rules/policies.

POLICY 4.1.3.1

The County shall cooperate with the SWFWMD on a continuing basis to conduct water conservation programs.

POLICY 4.1.3.3 Sumter County will establish and utilize potable water conservation strategies and techniques, such as:

- d. Conduct educational programs on conservation of water.

GOAL 4.4 Adequate stormwater drainage will be provided to afford reasonable protection from flooding and to prevent degradation of the quality of receiving waters.

Objective 4.4.1: The County shall retain in its Land Development Regulations recognized standards in the design and construction of stormwater drainage systems. No Development Order shall be issued for a project that does not meet the drainage level of service standards in Policy 4.1.2.

POLICY 4.4.1.1 Site plans shall be required to show that no increase in flooding will occur due to development.

GOAL 4.5: To identify and manage the natural drainage features in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of present and future County residents.

Objective 4.5.1: Capacities and functions of natural drainage features shall not be decreased due to development.

POLICY 4.5.1.1 Site plans will be reviewed for effect on natural drainage features and, if affected, compensating capacities and functions will be required.

POLICY 4.5.1.2 The County shall retain its Land Development Regulations requirements to reduce allowable densities in 100-year floodplain areas to no more than one residential unit per ten acres unless adequate mitigation measures are provided, such as:

- a. no net loss of on-site 100-year flood storage capacity.
- b. requiring clustering of dwelling units outside of floodplain areas.

Objective 4.5.2. The County shall retain in its Land Development Regulations requirements to control loss of life and property in flood hazard areas. No development order will be issued which results in net loss of 100 year flood storage capacity.

POLICY 4.5.2.1 The County shall retain in its Land Development Regulations the requirement that any filling activity within the 100-year floodplain must be 100% mitigated by compensating storage on-site.

Housing Element

GOAL 4 Sumter County shall preserve and protect the archaeological, historic, architectural and cultural resources of the County.

- POLICY 1.4.1.2** The County shall support efforts of the Division of Historic Resources or the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council to conduct a survey and assessment of potential archaeological, historic, architectural and cultural resources in the unincorporated area of the County.

Recreation and Open Space Element

- POLICY 2.2.1.2** Sumter County shall continue to work with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department Environmental Protection in securing additional lands under State and Federal conservation and recreational lands programs for open space and recreational use in Sumter County.