

# Lake George Ranger Office Renovation

## Design Charette

National Forests in Florida  
Ocala National Forest

### PARTICIPANTS:

**Randy Warbington,**  
Reg. Facility Engineer

**Bill Speer,**  
Regional Architect

**David Culp,**  
Regional Architect

**Mason Miller,**  
LA/Rec Staff Officer

**Jer Marr,**  
Lake George District Ranger

**Kamal Otman,**  
NF in FL Engineer

**Mark Warren,**  
NF in FL MERL Staff Officer

**Tony Tooke,**  
NF in FL Deputy Forest Supervisor

**Alison Thorn,**  
NF in FL Landscape Architect



### EXCERPT FROM BACKGROUND PAPER

In FY 2005 the National Forests in Florida is expecting to receive \$550,000 in facility construction/reconstruction funds (CMFC) to renovate and expand the Lake George Ranger Station Office. With the inclusion of cost pools, design, contract administration and interior furnishings the total projected cost is closer to \$980,000. In July, the Forest Leadership Team will decide whether to provide Forest "small construction funds" in FY 2005 and 2006 to makeup the needed \$350,000. Consideration was given to constructing a new office, but the price tag was prohibitive.

The project will involve renovating the existing office of 3,700 square feet and adding 2,050 square feet of new space. Through the use of Federal Highway funds and road construction funds the parking area and entrance/exit driveway would be relocated and a turn lane constructed off State Highway 40.

Due to the high visitation and visibility of the Lake George Ranger Station, the Regional Office would like to participate in an interdisciplinary design charette using the Built Environment Image Guide. The team would consist of the Regional Office and Forest representatives. The process will take one week and involve the District Ranger at the opening to provide guidance and at the closeout.

The objective of the charette is to agree on a concept for the office, parking and entrance driveway. This will occur in July or August of 2004. Following agreement on a concept the Forest will work with the Regional Office to complete a design and hopefully be prepared to advertise a construction contract in the spring of 2005 to correspond with the receipt of the \$550,000 allocation in the FY 2005 Congressional budget.

### DESIGN CHARETTE SCHEDULE

<b>Monday 6:30 -11:30</b>	Travel to Site
<b>Monday 12:30-2:30</b>	Discuss objectives, orientation to BEIG and Sustainability; Line Officer Input.
<b>Monday 3-5</b>	Dedication, Alexander Springs, Visit other Local Projects.
<b>Tuesday 8-10</b>	Study global and regional influences - natural, cultural and regulatory – which are likely to affect the project.
<b>Tuesday 10-12</b>	Visit project site, interview Ranger's Staff and affected personnel to collect applicable data, preconceptions, ideas, etc.
<b>Tuesday 1-5</b>	Discuss w/ team regional and local influences observed at or near the site, and how these might affect or translate into site and architectural character and/or project components. Consider regulatory issues and other project objectives as well. BEIG Video.
<b>Wednesday 8-12</b>	Explore conceptual site plan designs which incorporate the ideas discussed.
<b>Wednesday 12-5</b>	Explore building and system features and how these might integrate with the site. Discuss before drawing. Architect may provide conceptual sketches which illustrate ideas being considered. Actual preliminary floor plan and elevations to come later, but to be guided by the team's decisions. Also possible materials and color scheme.
<b>Thursday 7:30-9:30</b>	Further refine presentation to Ranger and staff.
<b>Thursday 9:30-11:30</b>	Present the team's concepts to the Ranger and staff for feedback.

## **ESTABLISHED DESIGN GUIDELINES**

**SITE:**

- Preserve existing trees and vegetation
- Develop a needed sign plan
- Design lighting as required, but keep minimized
- Design storm water system to comply with St John's Water management
- Allow for adequate turning radius of large RVs (minimum 50' inside radius)
- Consider buffering
- Landscaping plan needed; Consider xeriscaping and rainwater harvesting

## **BUILDING:**

- Good indoor environmental quality
- Low energy, low maintenance
- Recycling and resource conservation
- 7800 sf maximum; 1300 sf add alternate
- Front entrance not to face Highway 40

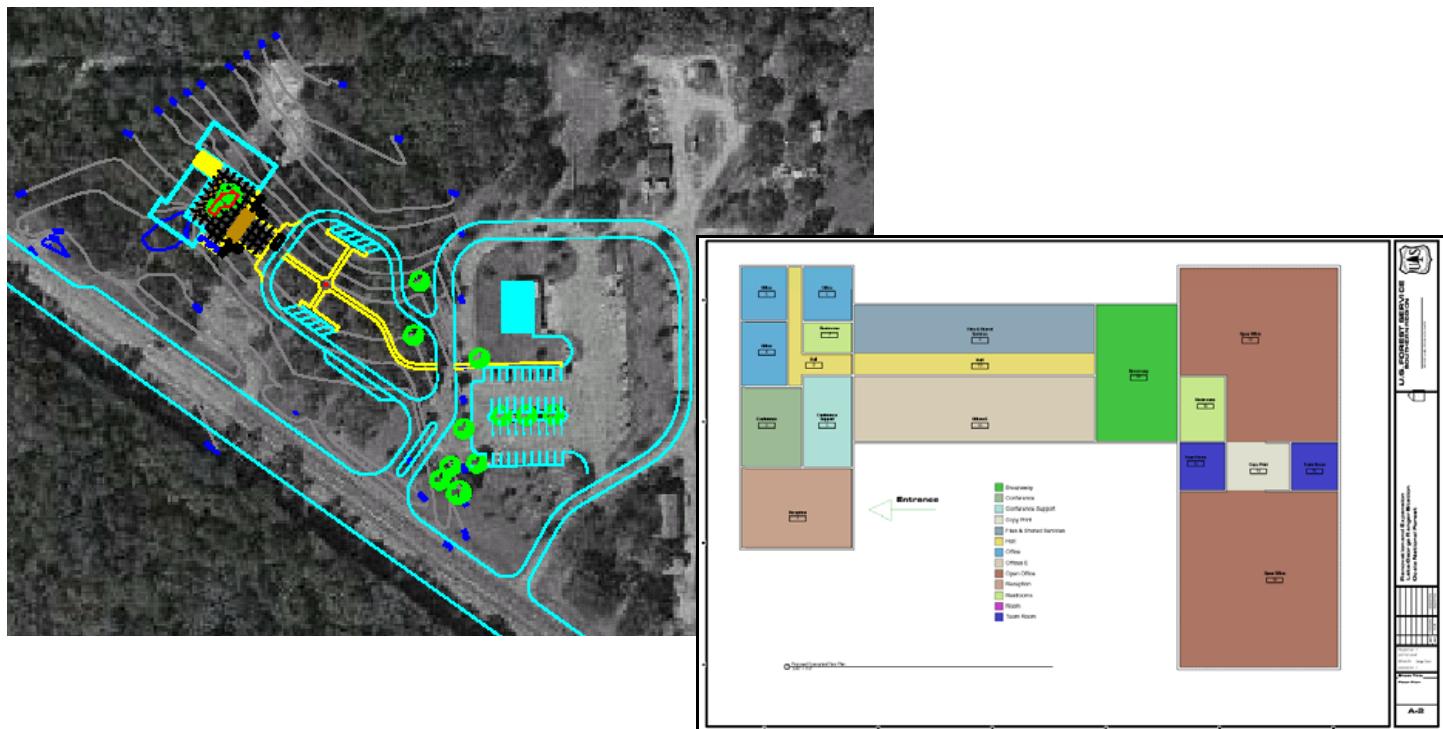
## ENTRANCE/EXIT ROAD:

- One central access point; Consider alternate fire exit
- Entrance/Exit perpendicular to Highway 40
- High visibility

## PARKING:

- Existing = 34 FLEET / 60 EMPLOYEE / 6 PUBLIC
- Proposed = 35 FLEET / 40 EMPLOYEE / 12 VISITOR (2 RV) / UNPAVED OVERLLOW

# FINAL CONCEPTUAL DRAWINGS



**LAKE GEORGE RANGER DISTRICT**  
DESIGN CHARRETTE: AUG. 9-12, 2004

**COLOR**

- Derive color schemes from native vegetation, landforms, and local culture.
- Create a color scheme to be used throughout a forest. Use darker colors within the forest canopy and lighter colors in open, sunny areas.
- Construct light-colored buildings that reflect heat and stay cooler.
- Use bright accent colors that can be derived from flowers, lichens, or cultural influences.
- Make roof colors light but nonreflective.
- Use light colors for exposed structural elements (posts, beams, and trusses) so they do not appear "heavy."

**WINDOWS AND OPENINGS**

- Use sidelights to provide visual access and to daylight the entry.
- Make shutters functional, such as louvered shutters that block the sun while providing ventilation.
- Encourage cross-ventilation by placing louvered vents or windows directly across from each other.

**STRUCTURE**

- Expose post and beam when suitable.
- Use small-dimension posts and beams to create structures that appear to be light and airy.
- Use lighter, relatively narrow structures and materials to complement tall slender forest trees.

**RANGER STATION/ OFFICE CHARACTERISTICS**

- Simple hip roof with broad overhangs
  - Broad porch in subtractive volume
  - Vegetation growing under eaves or cleared for airflow
  - Extensive windows
  - Raised structure
  - CCC trusses

**ROOF**

Roof elements include the roof itself, overhangs (eaves), dormers, skylights, and other features that penetrate the roof.

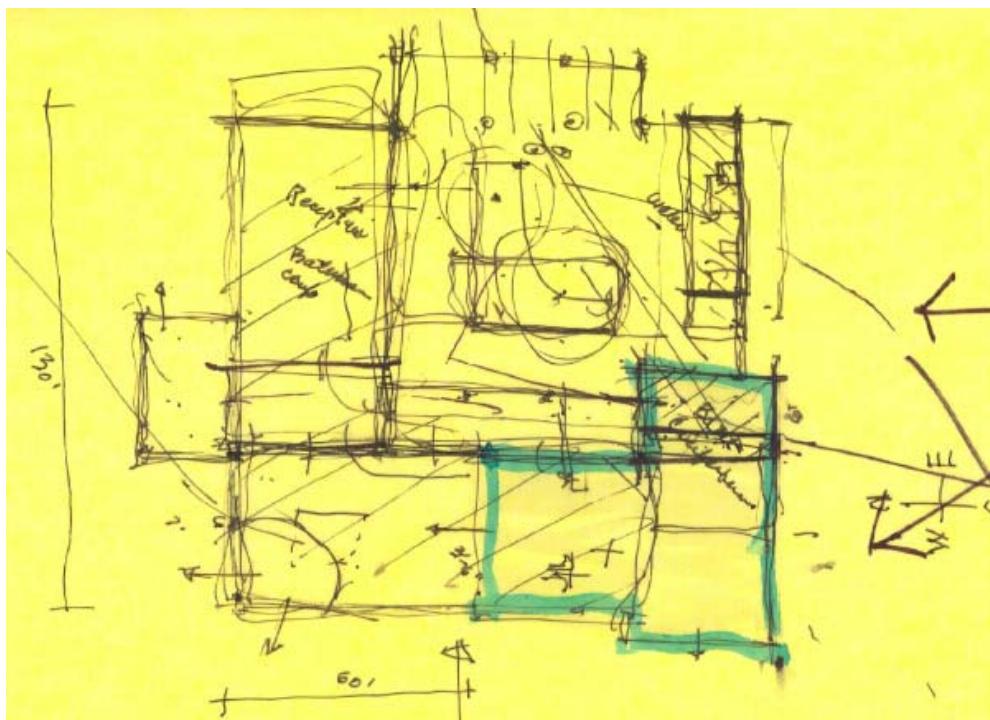
- Use simple roof forms such as shed, gable, or hipped.
- Minimize interactions of these forms that create "valleys" that can cause leaks.
- Design roof pitches to range from 7:12 to 12:12.
- Use broad overhangs to provide protection from sun and rain.
- Avoid gutters, but include a dripline trench
- Make gable-style dormers from simple forms to provide ventilation and light without complicating the roofline.

**CHARACTERISTICS**

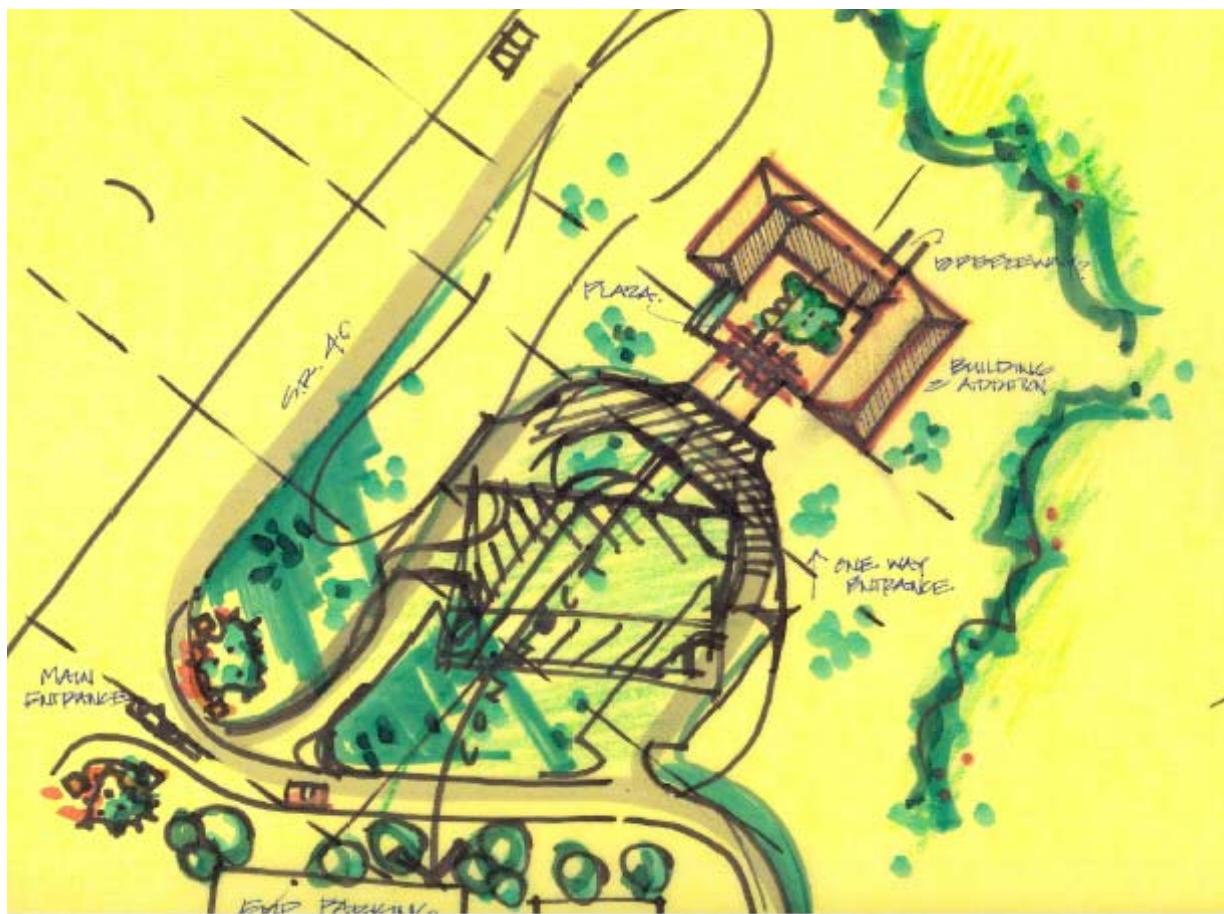
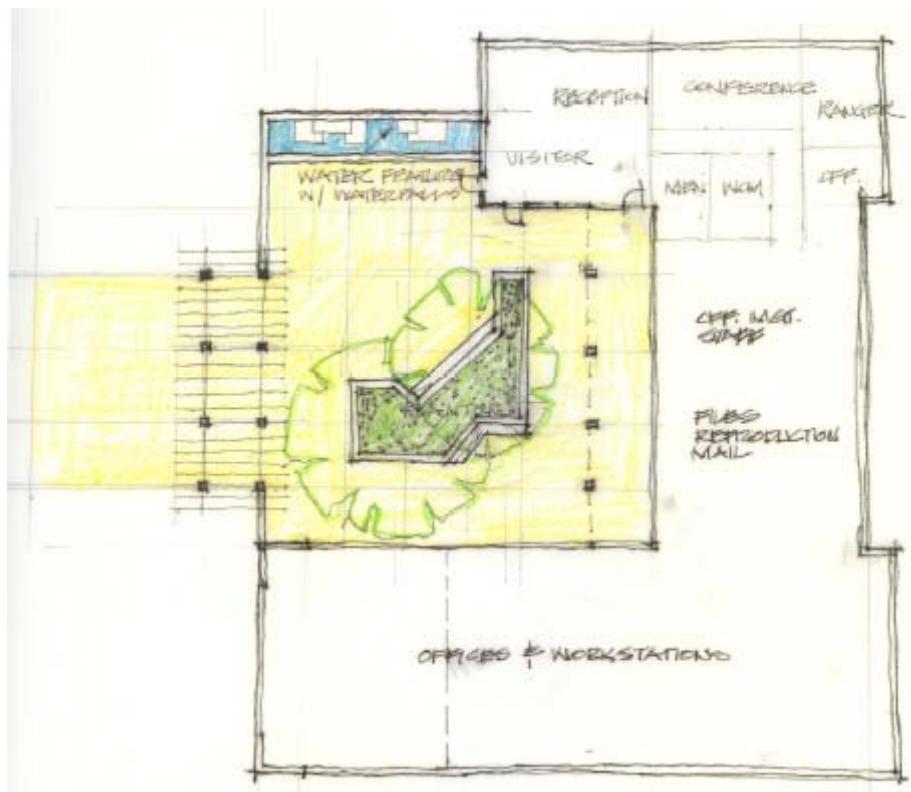
- Ground cover around and structures raised for ventilation
- Extensive windows and doors for light and air flow
- Exposure of the roof for snow protection
- Outdoor courtyard spaces and upper level porches
- Capture the essence

# The Built Environment Image Guide

## FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS



## SKETCHES



**SKETCHES**