

SUMMARY OF THE DRAGON RUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

DRAGON RUN STEERING COMMITTEE,
MIDDLE PENINSULA PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

OCTOBER 2003



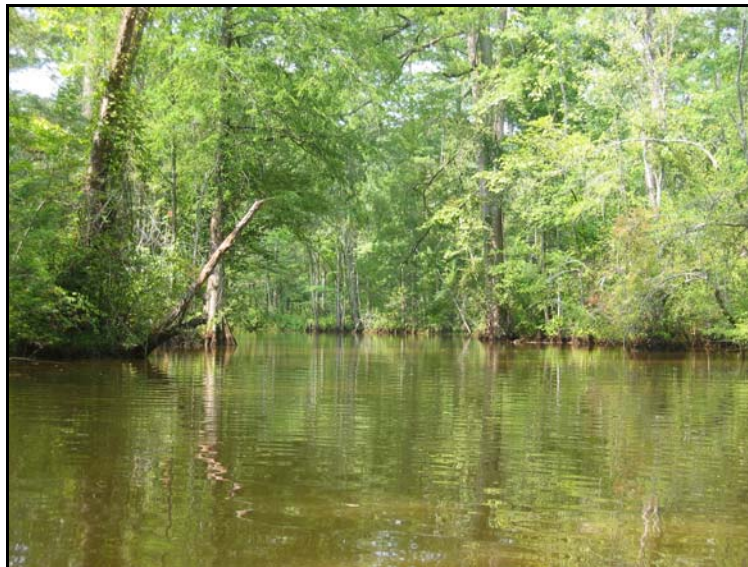
Photo credit: Teta Kain

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Section 1 describes the Dragon Run watershed's setting, its role in local history and culture, and its unique natural resources. The potential source of conflict is change in land ownership that threatens to fragment productive farm and forest land and natural habitat. The community's vision for the watershed is to preserve the traditional land uses – forestry, farming, hunting – and the unique natural resources. This section highlights both the differences of opinion on how to address the threat to the watershed and the common ground that defines the community's vision.



The Dragon Run

Section 2 describes the Dragon Run Steering Committee's planning approach. The Dragon Run Watershed Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), a partnership between the Virginia Coastal Program and the Dragon Run Steering Committee of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, is designed to address both the differing viewpoints and the common ground that exist concerning the future of the watershed. The Steering Committee's approach to the SAMP is to stimulate and coordinate community involvement in the proactive development and implementation of goals, objectives, and action plans for a watershed management plan. The Steering Committee finds that the watershed approach is the most effective way to manage natural resources and traditional land uses. A Memorandum of Agreement describing the goals and objectives of the SAMP was signed by Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, and Middlesex Counties and the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission. The Steering Committee and its Advisory Group then developed watershed action plans designed to achieve those goals and objectives.

Section 3 contains the mission, goals and objectives featured in the Memorandum of Agreement. This section serves as the basis for the proposed actions in **Section 4**.

Section 4 explains and justifies the actions proposed to achieve the goals and objectives in **Section 3**. The proposed actions are:

<i>Underway/Completed</i>
1. Memorandum of Agreement
2. Establish Baseline Watershed Information
3. SAMP Project Awareness Campaign
<i>Recommended</i>
1. Land Use and Resource Preservation
A. Designate a Unified “Dragon Run Planning Area”
B. Implement Tools to Preserve Farm, Forest, and Natural Resources
C. Address Public and Landowner Access Issues
D. Control Invasive Species
2. Education and Landowner Stewardship
3. Encourage and Support Sustainable Economic Development
4. Monitor Plan Implementation



Forestry and farming in the Dragon Run watershed

Section 5 describes the responsibilities of federal, state, and local government agencies for mandatory and voluntary programs, policies, and regulations.

Section 6 describes the watershed in detail to establish the Dragon Run’s current status. Physical and environmental features are characterized. Land use policies and recreational and educational activities are assessed. This information is designed to serve as a baseline to which to compare the success or failure of the watershed management plan in achieving its goals and objectives. Finally, gaps in the baseline information are identified.

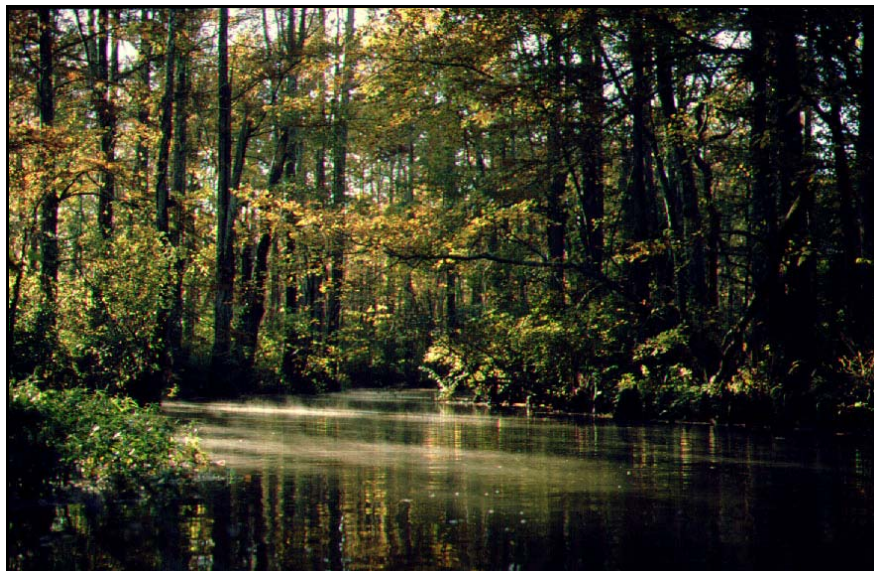


Majestic baldcypress trees along the Dragon Run

Section 7 itemizes the resources needed to implement the actions in the watershed management plan. This section also identifies responsible parties and possible funding sources.

Section 8 serves as a monitoring framework for assessing the implementation of the watershed management plan.

Section 9 concludes by reminding readers of the watershed management plan's purpose. This section recalls the plan's citizen-initiated beginnings and that it serves as a vision for the future of the Dragon Run watershed.



A misty morning on the Dragon Run (Credit: Teta Kain)