

**William O. Cleckley**

Director, Division of Land Management and Acquisition

Northwest Florida Water Management District

William O. Cleckley is Director of the Division of Land Management and Acquisition at the Northwest Florida Water Management District. Mr. Cleckley has been with the District for almost 28 years and currently oversees the management of 212,370 acres of District property and 12,403 acres of property under conservation easements. In addition, he acquires properties for water resource protection and preservation purposes under the State's Florida Forever land acquisition program, as well as acquiring other wetland properties to satisfy DOT mitigation needs. During his tenure with the District, Mr. Cleckley has focused much of his habitat restoration efforts on the xeric sandhill vegetation community, i.e. longleaf pine/wiregrass and, as well on wet prairie habitats for mitigation property restoration. To date, the District has planted approximately 12 million longleaf pine and 5 million upland/wetland wiregrass plugs on over 22,000 acres. He has also been involved in wiregrass donor site development, seed collection and research efforts.

For the past seven years, Mr. Cleckley has been involved in spring restoration and protection efforts along Econfina Creek and streambank restoration and protection efforts along Seven Runs Creek in Walton and Holmes Creek in Washington Counties. He received his bachelor's degree in forest management from the University of Florida in 1978.