



# Florida Forever Five Year Plan

April 2012

prepared by  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of State Lands  
Office of Environmental Services

in cooperation with  
Florida's Acquisition and Restoration Council

The Florida Forever Five Year Plan, April 2012 Report  
is prepared for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement  
Trust Fund of the State of Florida



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Our thanks to Bob Savannah of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for making available to us in the public domain his wildlife artwork to highlight the State's Florida Forever projects.

# Introduction to the Report

**Background and Status** - Florida Forever is the state's current blueprint for conserving our natural resources. It replaced the highly successful Preservation 2000, the largest program of its kind in the United States. Preservation 2000 acquired more than 1.78 million acres of land for protection. The Florida Forever Act, implemented in 2000, reinforced Florida's commitment to conserve its natural and cultural heritage, provide urban open space, and better manage the land acquired by the state.

Florida Forever is more than an environmental land acquisition mechanism. It encompasses a wide range of goals including: environmental restoration; water resource development and supply; increased public access; public lands management and maintenance; and increased protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements.

The additional \$3 billion investment over the next decade demonstrates Florida's continuing commitment to protecting and restoring our vital natural resources. Our state continues to be the model for other states when developing land acquisition programs of their own. Florida is at the forefront of the nation's land protection efforts.

**Legislation and Policy** - In 1998, Florida voters amended the state constitution by ratifying a constitutional amendment that re-authorized bonds for land acquisition. The 1999 legislature responded with the 10-year \$3 billion Florida Forever Program to acquire and manage land for conservation. This was extended another 10 years in 2008 for a total of \$6 billion.

The ten-member Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) makes recommendations about acquisition, management and disposal of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes private citizen members with backgrounds in scientific disciplines of land, water, or environmental sciences as well as wildlife management, forestry management, and outdoor recreation, in addition to four state agency representatives.

The Governor and Cabinet, as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, are responsible for acting on ARC's recommendations. The Board also approves the acquisition of each parcel and has ultimate oversight on state lands leases and manage-

ment plans.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands (DSL) provides primary staff support for the Acquisition and Restoration Council. DSL coordinates Council meetings; prepares agendas and reports; prepares or obtains appraisal maps, title work, appraisals and closing documents for acquisitions; and negotiates land purchases on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The Division also provides staff support for managing all leases, reviewing and approving management plans, and coordinating management review team functions for state-owned lands titled to the Board.

**Partnerships** - The state's land acquisition programs have a long history of cooperative partnerships with local and national land trusts, water management districts, counties, cities and other local governments, as well as the federal government. The successful acquisition of many state projects is the direct result of these partnerships. Nearly all of the projects on the Florida Forever list have partners.

Partnerships with local governments have increased in recent years. Of Florida's 67 counties, 28 have land acquisition programs (please see Addendum). Voters throughout Florida have approved local referenda to raise more than \$1.7 billion to acquire environmentally sensitive and recreation lands. These local government initiatives have dramatically enhanced the state's ability to protect its remaining important natural areas.

**Results** - With the passage of the Florida Forever Act, the State of Florida has one of the most aggressive conservation and recreation land acquisition programs in the United States and the world. Since 1963, Florida has invested approximately \$7.8 billion to conserve approximately 3.8 million acres of land for environmental, recreational and preservation purposes. This has been accomplished with a number of programs, including the Environmentally Endangered Lands, Outdoor Recreation, Save Our Coasts, Save Our Rivers, Conservation and Recreation Lands, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever.

Thanks to Florida Forever, millions of Americans can enjoy the outdoor experience and know that Florida is continuing to protect and create safe havens for its many endangered and threatened plants and animals.

## Abstract of the Report

**April 2012 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan:** The Florida Forever Five-Year Plan is a compilation of information on the 117 Florida Forever projects and is prepared pursuant to Chapter 259, F.S., and rule 18-24, F.A.C. During the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) hearings/meetings of February 10, April 15, June 10, August 19, October 13-14, and December 8-9, ARC recommended the following adjustments to the May 2011 priority list of acquisition projects: (a) redesign one large project into four smaller projects; (b) add one new project; and (c) amend (reduce) the boundary of seven projects.

<b>Redesigned Projects on List</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>County</b>
Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor (PRI-11*)	93,057	Lake/Polk
Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters (LTF-15)	40,016	Polk
Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters (PRI-19)	103,458	Lake/Polk/Pasco
Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area (LTF-13)	32,756	Lake
<i>Original Green Swamp Project Removed</i>		
Green Swamp (PRI-23**)	(283,735)	Lake/Polk/Pasco
<b>New Project Added to List</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>County</b>
West Bay Preservation Area (CCL-12)	4,494	Bay
<b>Projects with Boundary Amendments</b>	<b>Acres +/-</b>	<b>County</b>
Annutteliga Hammock (PRI-8)	(6,211)	Citrus/Hernando
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway (CNL-10)	(1,509)	Clay/Putnam/Marion/ Levy/Citrus
Flagler County Blueway (PRI-13)	(182)	Flagler
Green Swamp reduction in redesign (PRI-23**)	(14,448)	Lake/Polk/Pasco
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem (CNL-1)	(2,071)	Lake/Osceola/ Polk/Highlands
St. Johns River Blueway (CCL-7)	(1,656)	St. Johns
Twelvemile Slough (CNL-16)	(87)	Hendry

\*Project Categories: CCL – Climate Change Lands project; CHR—Critical Historical Resources project; CNL – Critical Natural Lands project; LTF – Less-Than-Fee project; PRI – Partnerships & Regional Incentives project; and SC – Substantially Complete project. Numbers indicate ARC’s December 2011 priority rank within the project category.

\*\*May 2011 List

The April 2012 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan is being submitted in digital format.

**ARC’s Recommended April 2012 Florida Forever Priority List for Land Acquisition Projects:** The April 2012 Five-Year Plan includes the April 2012 Florida Forever Priority List of acquisition projects recommended by ARC on December 9, 2011 and proposed for approval by the Board of Trustees. This list includes 117 projects each of which was ranked within one of six categories: 6 Substantially Complete projects; 6 Critical Historical Resources projects; 15 Climate Change Lands projects; 31 Partnership and Regional Incentives projects; 27 Less-Than-Fee projects; and 32 Critical Natural Lands projects. Pursuant to section 259.04(1)(c), F.S., “... the board shall approve, in whole or in part, the list of projects in the order of priority in which such projects are presented” [see also s. 259.105(14), F.S.].

**Accomplishments of Florida Forever Acquisition Program:** Since its inception in July 2001 through September 2011, the state's Florida Forever land acquisition program has provided protection for the following:

- 266,890 acres of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas;
- 458,000 acres of rare species habitat conservation areas, including 761 sites that are habitats for 281 different rare species, 120 of which are federal or state-listed as endangered, 51 federal or state-listed as threatened, and 20 species of special concern;
- 684,310 acres of ecological greenways;
- 119,180 acres of under-represented natural communities;
- 439,200 acres landscape-sized protection areas;
- 82,060 acres of natural floodplains;
- 1,056,180 acres important to significant water bodies;
- 705,930 acres important to significant water bodies;
- 350,660 acres minimize damage from flooding;
- 7,570 acres of fragile coastline;
- 299,220 acres of functional wetlands;
- 678,940 acres of significant groundwater recharge areas;
- 155 miles of priority recreational trails;
- 347,370 acres of sustainable forest land;
- 557 archaeological/historic sites; and
- 11,300 acres in urban service areas.

These acreages were derived from the most recently updated Florida Forever data layers, which are continuously updated by Florida Natural Areas Inventory to reflect the most current scientific analyses of Florida's natural resources. The acreages include properties acquired under the Florida Forever program, as well as donations and acquisitions by other entities with funding from other sources that were within Florida Forever project boundaries. Additionally, the acreages recorded for each measure often overlap, and thus should not be added together. Collectively, the State of Florida has protected over 682,000 acres\* of land with \$2.8 billion in Florida Forever funds through December 31, 2011.

All property within the boundaries of the Florida Forever acquisition projects, unless specifically noted otherwise, is proposed to be purchased, in fee-simple or a lesser interest, for conservation purposes.

The April 2012 Florida Forever Land acquisition Priority List is consistent with section 187.201(9), F.S., the Natural Systems and Recreational Lands section of the State Comprehensive Plan.

\*Excludes donations and lands acquired with non-Florida Forever program funding. If these are included, the total acreage protected within Florida Forever projects is over 711,000 acres.



## Explanation of the Project Summary Information

The following information summarizes the evaluation reports for the projects that were recommended by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) to be included on the current Florida Forever Priority List.

The 2008 Legislature changed the project categories as follows: (a) a critical natural lands category, including functional landscape-scale natural systems, intact large hydrological systems, lands that have significant imperiled natural communities, and corridors linking large landscapes, as identified and developed by the best available scientific analysis; (b) a partnerships or regional incentive category, including: 1. Projects where local and regional cost-share agreements provide a lower cost and greater conservation benefit to the people of the state. Additional consideration shall be provided under this category where parcels are identified as part of a local or regional visioning process and are supported by scientific analysis; and 2. Bargain and shared projects where the state will receive a significant reduction in price for public ownership of land as a result of the removal of development rights or other interests in lands or receives alternative or matching funds; (c) a substantially complete category of projects where mainly inholdings, additions, and linkages between preserved areas will be acquired and where 85 percent of the project is complete; (d) a climate-change category list of lands where acquisition or other conservation measures will address the challenges of global climate change, such as through protection, restoration, mitigation, and strengthening of Florida's land, water, and coastal resources. This category includes lands that provide opportunities to sequester carbon, provide habitat, protect coastal lands or barrier islands, and otherwise mitigate and help adapt to the effects of sea-level rise and meet other objectives of the program; and (e) a less-than-fee category for working agricultural lands that significantly contribute to resource protection through conservation easements and other less-than-fee techniques, tax incentives, life estates, landowner agreements, and other partnerships, including conservation easements acquired in partnership with federal conservation programs, which will achieve the objectives of Florida Forever while allowing the continuation of compatible agricultural uses on the land. Terms of easements proposed for acquisition under this category shall be developed by the Division of State Lands in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consum-

er Services. The ARC implemented these category changes on June 11, 2010. In the October 15, 2010 meeting, ARC voted to add a new category for Critical Historical Resources; i.e., those projects determined to have significant archaeological or historical value. Six projects were moved to the Critical Historical Resources category for ranking during the December 10, 2010 meeting.

All acquisition projects approved by the Board of Trustees are eligible for funding. However, the Board of Trustees may approve the purchase of any project from any category in furtherance of the intent expressed in 259.105(2)(e), Florida Statutes. Each project summary contains: project name, listing category, acreage, cost and general project information. The following provides a brief explanation of each of the sections contained in the project summaries:

**Purpose for State Acquisition** - Summarizes the primary reason(s) the state is attempting to acquire the property.

**Manager** - The agency to assume primary management responsibilities. If more than one agency is listed, then lead management responsibilities will be divided between agencies for portions of the project. Or, one agency may lead, the other cooperate in overall management.

**General Description** - Brief synopsis of the significant natural and cultural resources located on the tract, including: natural communities, endangered species, game and nongame species, hydrological systems, archaeological and historic sites. It also describes the vulnerability and endangerment; that is, the susceptibility of the project to natural and anthropogenic disturbances and the imminence or threat of such degradation.

**Public Use** - The State designated use pursuant to §259.032(4), F.S., under which the project qualifies for state acquisition. Florida Forever projects may be managed as: State Parks, State Preserves, State Reserves, State Aquatic Preserves, State Botanical or Geological Sites, State Recreation Areas, State Archaeological or Historical Sites, Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife and Environmental Areas, Wildlife Refuges, and State Forests. Under certain circumstances, they may also be managed as County or City Nature Parks, Environmental Education Centers, etc., but they still must qualify for state designation and be managed accordingly.

This section also includes a list of the potential recreational activities and public uses (e.g., timber management) that the project could readily accommodate.

**FNAI Elements** - The total number (and partial list) of the most endangered or threatened “elements of biodiversity”—species and certain species aggregations of animals or plants—in the project from records in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) data base. Animals are displayed in standard typeface while plants are in italics. The smaller the number in an FNAI rank, the more rare or endangered the element is. For example, the most critically endangered elements have a rank of G1/S1. “G” refers to a species’ rarity in a Global context, while “S” refers to its rarity within the State of Florida. “T,” if present, refers to the global rarity of a subspecies.

**Acquisition Planning** - Lists the number of acres and/or ownerships acquired by other public and nonprofit organizations, and the number of remaining owners. Describes acquisition activity during the past, the general status of current negotiations, and other technical aspects of acquisition, if applicable.

**Coordination** - Identifies acquisition and/or management partners who are contributing to or facilitating the acquisition or management of project lands, and lists resolutions received by official entities.

**Placed on List** - The first year that the project, or a portion thereof, was placed on the CARL Priority List or the Florida Forever List.

**Project Area** - The total size of the current project, including acres acquired or under option and acres remaining to be acquired.

**Acres Acquired** - Within the project boundaries, the number of acres acquired by the state, federal government, water management district, or local government. If a nonprofit organization has acquired acreage within the project boundary but has not yet transferred or sold the property (in whole or in part) to the state, that acreage is excluded from the Acreage Acquired. Such cases are identified with an asterisk (\*) and are explained in the text of the project summary under Acquisition Planning or Coordination.

**At a Cost of** - The amount of funds spent by the state, federal government, water management district, or local government on the acquisition of a project. If a non-profit organization has expended funds within a project, those funds are excluded from the Funds Expended or Encumbered but are identified with an asterisk (\*) and explained in the text of the project summary under Acquisition Planning or Coordination.

**Acres Remaining** - an estimate of the acres in the project not yet acquired.

**Estimated Value of** - Reflects the county’s tax assessed value of the acreage not yet acquired. Not all values are

the most recent tax assessed values. Values for larger acreage tracts and those with numerous ownerships, including recorded and unrecorded subdivisions, are sometimes estimates of tax values based on information from: (1) county property appraisers, or (2) average per acre and per lot tax values obtained from (a) project applications, (b) evaluation reports, and/or (c) the Real Estate Data, Inc., service.

**Management Policy Statement** - Briefly describes how the project meets selection criteria and public purposes pursuant to §259, F.S.

**Management Prospectus** - Identifies the rationale for the state designation under which the project will be managed; the lead and, if appropriate, the cooperating state or local agencies recommended to manage the tract if acquired; the conditions that may affect the intensity of management activities; a timetable for implementing specific management activities; the project’s revenue-generating potential; and the role(s) of potential management cooperators.

**Management Cost Summary** - Past, current, and projected management and development costs for projects which are currently being managed; estimated start-up and recurring costs for projects not yet under current management. Some costs may include areas outside the Florida Forever project boundary if the Florida Forever project is to be managed as a component of a larger tract, while others may not report additional management costs under the same circumstances. Cost information is categorized as:

- salary = salaries of permanent employees, including fringe benefits;
- OPS = other personnel services (temporary employee) salaries;
- expense = costs of office supplies, fuel, utilities, tools, implements, and other expendable items valued at less than \$1,000;
- OCO = operating capital outlay costs (equipment and machinery valued at \$1,000 or greater);
- and FCO = fixed capital outlay (permanent structures, including buildings, paved roads, and other permanent facilities).

The primary or proposed sources of management funds are also indicated as follows:

- CARL = Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund;
- GR = General Revenue Fund;
- IITF = Internal Improvement Trust Fund;
- LATF = Land Acquisition Trust Fund;
- MRCTF = Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund;
- SPTF = State Park Trust Fund;
- TNC = The Nature Conservancy;
- WMLTF = Water Management Lands Trust Fund; or federal, local, or other funding sources that should be self-explanatory.

**Project Map(s)** - Identifies the project boundary; the essential parcels pursuant to §259.105(15), F.S.; property within the project boundary that is state owned; and property within, adjacent, or near the project area that is owned by another public agency or non-profit conservation organization.



**Board of Trustees Florida Forever Priority List - April 24, 2012**

Rank	Substantially Complete Projects	County <sup>1</sup>	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres <sup>2</sup>	Work Plan Priority <sup>3</sup>
1	Estero Bay	Lee	2,359	2,359	High
2	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	Charlott/ Lee/ Sarasota	6,874	9,233	High/Med
3	Spruce Creek	Volusia	449	9,682	Medium
4	South Walton County Ecosystem	Walton	3,243	12,925	Med/Low
5	Save Our Everglades	Collier	371	13,296	Low
6	Lochloosa Wildlife	Alachua	4,828	18,124	Low
<b>Subtotal: 6 Projects</b>			<b>1% of acreage on list</b>	<b>18,124</b>	
Rank	Critical Historical Resources Projects	County <sup>1</sup>	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres <sup>2</sup>	WP Priority <sup>3</sup>
1	Windover Archaeological Site	Brevard	8	8	High
2	Pierce Mound Complex	Franklin	561	569	High
3	Three Chimneys	Volusia	56	625	High/Med
4	Okeechobee Battlefield	Okeechobee	89	714	Medium
5	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	Sumter	853	1,568	Med/Low
6	Pineland Site Complex	Lee	148	1,716	Low
<b>Subtotal: 6 Projects</b>			<b>0.1% of acreage on list</b>	<b>1,716</b>	
Rank	Climate Change Lands Projects	County <sup>1</sup>	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres <sup>2</sup>	WP Priority <sup>3</sup>
1	Florida Keys Ecosystem	Monroe	8,571	8,571	High
2	Caber Coastal Connector	Levy	7,804	16,375	High
3	North Key Largo Hammocks	Monroe	864	17,239	High
4	Northeast Florida Blueway	Duval/ St.Johns/ Flagler	13,118	30,356	High
5	St. Joe Timberland	Bay/ Franklin/ Gadsden/ Gulf/ Jefferson/ Leon/ Liberty/ Taylor/ Wakulla/ Watson/ Washington	89,976	120,333	High/Med
6	Coupon Bight / Key Deer	Monroe	1,641	121,973	Low
7	St. Johns River Blueway <sup>BA</sup>	St. Johns	26,212	148,186	Low
8	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	Citrus	9,930	158,116	Low
9	Terra Ceia	Manatee	2,474	160,590	Low
10	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	Brevard/ Indian River	245	160,835	Low
11	Dickerson Bay / Bald Point	Wakulla/ Franklin	2,972	163,806	Low
12	West Bay Preservation Area <sup>NP</sup>	Bay	4,494	168,300	Low
13	Garcon Ecosystem	Santa Rosa	3,835	172,135	Low
14	Peaceful Horse Ranch	Desoto	4,177	176,312	Low
15	Tiger / Little Tiger Island	Nassau	1,141	177,453	Low
<b>Subtotal: 15 Projects</b>			<b>9% of acreage on list</b>	<b>177,453</b>	
Rank	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	County <sup>1</sup>	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres <sup>2</sup>	WP Priority <sup>3</sup>
1	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	Washington/ Bay/ Jackson/ Wakulla/ Leon/ Hamilton/ Madison/ Lafayette/ Levy/ Marion/ Hernando	5,771	5,771	High
2	Northeast Fla Timberlands & Watershed Reserve	Duval/ Nassau/ Clay	87,481	93,252	High
3	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	Brevard	23,160	116,413	High
4	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	Volusia/ Brevard/ Indian River/ St. Lucie/ Martin	19,847	136,259	High
5	Escribano Point	Santa Rosa	1,798	138,058	High
6	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	Lee/ Collier	38,532	176,589	High/Med
7	Clear Creek / Whiting Field	Santa Rosa	3,416	180.005	Medium
8	Annutteliga Hammock <sup>BA</sup>	Citrus/ Hernando	12,540	192,545	Medium
9	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla/ Leon	3,969	196,514	Medium
10	Volusia Conservation Corridor	Volusia/ Flagler	22,418	218,932	Medium
11	Green Swamp - Hilochee Corridor <sup>RP</sup>	Lake/ Polk	55,894	274,826	Medium
12	Heather Island / Oklawaha River	Marion	19,549	294,375	Medium
13	Flagler County Blueway <sup>BA</sup>	Flagler/ Volusia	4,082	298,458	Medium
14	Dade County Archipelago	Miami-Dade	311	298,768	Medium
15	Watermelon Pond	Levy/ Alachua	5,933	304,701	Medium
16	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	Charlotte/ Lee	3,906	308,607	Medium
17	Middle Chipola River	Jackson/ Calhoun	11,877	320,484	Med/Low
18	Catfish Creek	Polk	9,162	329,646	Low
19	Green Swamp - Withlacoochee River Headwaters <sup>RP</sup>	Lake/ Pasco/ Polk	52,115	381,761	Low
20	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	Martin	8,043	389,804	Low
21	Lake Santa Fe	Alachua/ Bradford	9,785	399,589	Low
22	Pal - Mar	Palm Beach/ Martin	9,954	409,543	Low
23	Rainbow River Corridor	Marion/ Citrus	1,138	410,680	Low
24	Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch	Pasco	12,371	423,051	Low
25	Sand Mountain	Washington/ Bay	14,495	437,546	Low
26	Pumpkin Hill Creek	Duval	10,850	448,396	Low
27	Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River	Duval/ Nassau	9,129	457,525	Low
28	Lafayette Forest	Lafayette	10,261	467,787	Low
29	Carr Farm / Price's Scrub	Marion/ Alachua	305	468,091	Low
30	Hall Ranch	Charlotte	8,519	476,610	Low
31	Florida National Scenic Trail	Columbia	7	476,617	Low
<b>Subtotal: 31 Projects</b>			<b>24% of acreage on list</b>	<b>476,617</b>	

**Board of Trustees Florida Forever Priority List -April 24, 2012**

Rank	Less-Than-Fee Projects	County <sup>1</sup>	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres <sup>2</sup>	WP Priority <sup>3</sup>
1	Adams Ranch	Osceola	10,340	10,340	High
2	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	Glades/ Highlands	108,904	119,244	High
3	Seven Runs Creek	Walton	23,869	143,114	High
4	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	Gadsden/ Leon	3,269	146,383	High
5	Ayavalla Plantation	Leon	6,081	152,464	High
6	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	Dixie	46,461	198,926	High/Med
7	Myakka Ranchlands	Sarasota	11,239	210,165	Medium
8	Big Bend Swamp / Holopaw Ranch	Osceola	50,480	260,645	Medium
9	Tiger Cattle Company Ranch	Okeechobee	2,229	262,874	Medium
10	Clay Ranch	Putnam	2,460	265,333	Medium
11	Ranch Reserve	Osceola	12,592	277,925	Medium
12	Gulf Hammock	Levy	25,611	303,536	Medium
13	Green Swamp - Pine Island Recharge Area <sup>RP</sup>	Lake	30,485	334,021	Med/Low
14	Raiford - Osceola Greenway	Baker/ Union	67,673	401,693	Low
15	Green Swamp - Peace River Headwaters <sup>RP</sup>	Polk	23,719	425,412	Low
16	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	Gadsden/ Liberty	6,921	432,334	Low
17	Mill Creek	Marion	12,293	444,626	Low
18	Lower Perdido River Buffer	Escambia	2,356	446,982	Low
19	Peace River Refuge	Desoto	3,846	450,828	Low
20	Maytown Flatwoods	Brevard	7,187	458,014	Low
21	Old Town Creek Watershed	Hardee/ Polk	7,303	465,317	Low
22	Little River Conservation Area	Gadsden	2,057	467,375	Low
23	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	Alachua	376	467,750	Low
24	Horse Creek Ranch	DeSoto/ Hardee	16,316	484,066	Low
25	Suwannee County Preservation	Suwannee	1,254	485,320	Low
26	West Aucilla River Buffer	Jefferson	721	486,041	Low
27	Millstone Plantation	Leon	56	486,097	Low
<b>Subtotal: 27 Projects</b>			<b>25% of acreage on list</b>	<b>486,097</b>	
Rank	Critical Natural Lands Projects	County <sup>1</sup>	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres <sup>2</sup>	WP Priority <sup>3</sup>
1	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem <sup>BA</sup>	Lake/ Osceola/ Highlands/ Polk	24,237	24,237	High
2	Bombing Range Ridge	Polk/ Highlands/ Osceola	32,717	56,953	High
3	Wekiva - Ocala Greenway	Lake/ Orange/ Seminole/ Volusia	25,488	82,441	High
4	Apalachicola River	Jackson/ Gadsden/ Liberty/ Calhoun	11,214	93,655	High
5	Panther Glades	Hendry	40,634	134,289	High
6	Wacissa / Aucilla River Sinks	Jefferson/ Taylor	9,897	144,186	High
7	Triple Diamond	Okeechobee	7,997	152,184	High
8	Upper St. Marks River Corridor	Leon/ Jefferson/ Wakulla	11,025	163,208	High
9	Belle Meade	Collier	7,336	170,545	High
10	Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway <sup>BA</sup>	Clay/ Putnam/ Marion	66,302	236,847	High
11	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	Gilchrist/ Volusia/ Marion	9,693	246,540	High
12	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	Hendry/ Glades	13,515	260,055	High
13	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	Osceola/ Indian River	48,902	308,957	High/Med
14	Osceola Pine Savannas	Osceola	27,572	336,529	Medium
15	Devil's Garden	Hendry/ Collier	82,994	419,523	Medium
16	Twelvemile Slough <sup>BA</sup>	Hendry	8,170	427,694	Medium
17	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	Escambia	2,412	430,105	Medium
18	Camp Blanding - Raiford Greenway	Baker, Bradford, Clay and Union	33,973	464,078	Medium
19	Half Circle L Ranch	Hendry/ Collier	11,176	475,254	Medium
20	Kissimmee - St. Johns River Connector	Okeechobee/ Indian River	34,589	509,843	Medium
21	Bear Creek Forest	Bay/ Calhoun/ Gulf	100,424	610,267	Med/Low
22	Bear Hammock	Marion	4,680	614,947	Low
23	South Goethe	Marion/ Levy	11,651	626,598	Low
24	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	Osceola/ Polk	5,416	632,015	Low
25	Wolfe Creek Forest	Santa Rosa	10,068	642,083	Low
26	Pinhook Swamp	Baker/ Columbia	60,420	702,502	Low
27	San Pedro Bay	Madison/ Taylor	44,998	747,501	Low
28	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	Jackson/ Alachua/ Marion/ Citrus/ Sumter	591	748,091	Low
29	Shoal River Buffer	Okaloosa	2,095	750,186	Low
30	Upper Shoal River	Walton	12,027	762,213	Low
31	Hixtown Swamp	Madison	22,429	784,642	Low
32	Ichetucknee Trace	Columbia	1,887	786,529	Low
<b>Subtotal: 32 Projects</b>			<b>40% of acreage on list</b>	<b>786,529</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACRES OF ALL PROJECTS</b>				<b>1,946,536</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Counties with no remaining acreage to acquire in a project not listed here – see project summaries for counties in where acquisitions completed.

NP = New Project added to list.

<sup>2</sup> Cumulative acres used to calculate in which Priority Group of the Acquisition Work Plan each project will qualify.

BA = Boundary Amended. RP = Redesigned Project.

<sup>3</sup> Work Plan Priority Groups pursuant to Rule 18-24.006(6):

High Priority Group = top 1/3 acreage within each Category

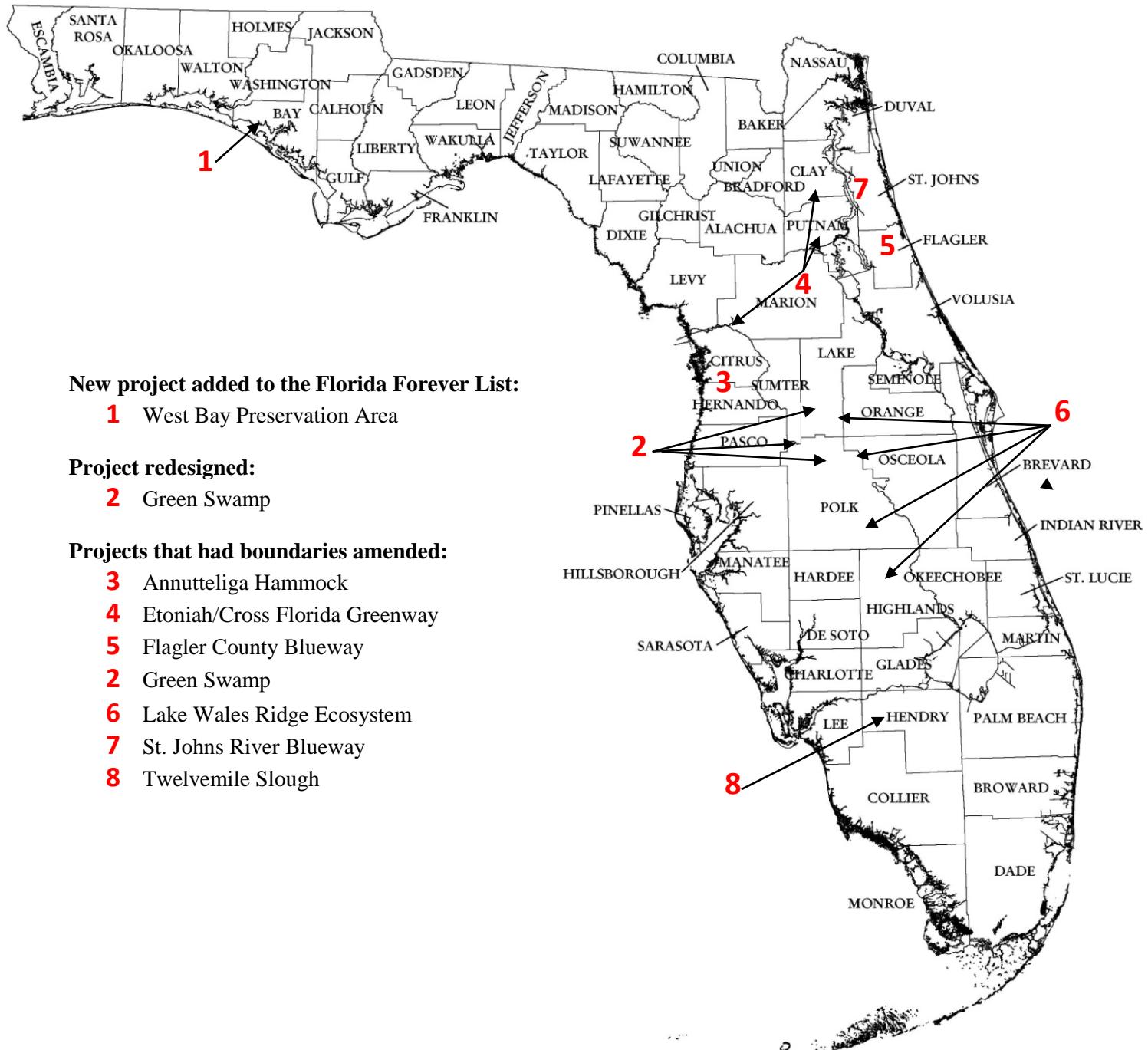
Medium Priority Group = middle 1/3 acreage within each Category

Low Priority Group = bottom 1/3 acreage within each Category

High/Med = Portion of project in High Priority Group & portion in Medium Priority Group

Med/Low = Portion of project in Medium Priority Group & portion in Low Priority Group

Florida Forever projects that have been  
added to the priority list, redesigned, or had boundaries amended  
January through December 2011



## ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL (ARC)

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# Adams Ranch

## Osceola County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The goal of the Adams Ranch Florida Forever (ARFF) project is to protect open rangeland and native prairie that support many rare species with large habitat requirements. It was originally part of a larger proposal (55,000 acres) submitted to the Conservation and Recreation Lands program in 1986-87 by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. A portion of the 1986-1987 proposal is now part of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, but the majority remains in private ownership. The intervening 20 years has not diminished the significance of this area to the many species and natural communities of concern.

One of the primary concepts of this project is the protection of the way of life for the ranch, which is managed in a way that has historically allowed for the continued protection of an important and biodiverse assemblage of imperiled vertebrate wildlife. Another stated goal of the project is to provide for continued buffering of the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area from development, avoiding fragmentation of the landscape and allowing for the continuation of proper management on a landscape scale through prescribed fire, maintenance of hydrological regimes, and other appropriate strategies.

This project meets the Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of biodiversity by acquiring 81 acres of Priority 1 habitat and 6,140 acres of Priority 2 habitat, and preserving 10,618 acres of habitat for such rare species as the eastern indigo snake and the bald eagle. Another Florida Forever goal is to increase the acreage of landscape linkages and conservation

corridors, by contributing to a 200,000-acre mosaic of protection areas that includes the adjoining Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Other Florida Forever goals are to protect waters and wetlands of the state, and the Adams Ranch will preserve 762 acres of floodplain, 5,811 acres that would help protect surface waters, and 2,598 acres of functioning wetlands. Some 10,979 acres of the proposal help recharge the aquifer.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, would serve as the conservation-easement (CE) monitor unless otherwise noted. Adams Ranch CE will be monitored by the Florida Forest Service-FFS (aka Division of Forestry-DOF ).

### General Description

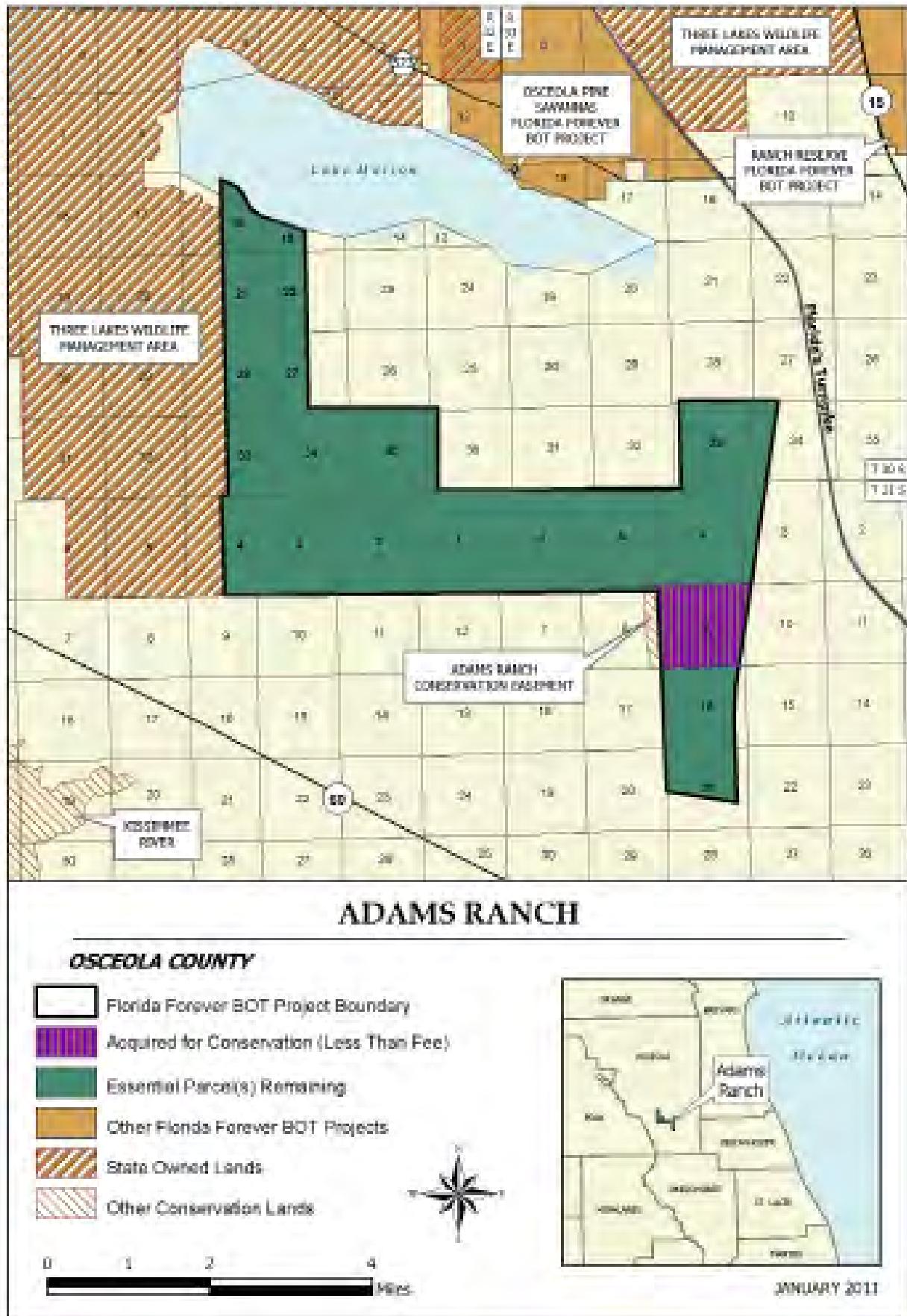
The Adams Ranch Florida Forever project includes a portion of one ownership to be considered for less-than-fee-simple acquisition totaling 11,038 (GIS) acres in southern Osceola County. About 5.2 miles of the western boundary of the project abuts the southeastern boundary of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. The northwestern boundary fronts Lake Marian for 1.3 miles. The project stretches east through the center of the entire Adams Ranch holding, which is bracketed to the north and south with Adams Ranch, Inc. property and bounded on the east by Peavine Road. Avon Park Air Force Range and Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever project are no more than 10 miles to the west of the project. The Mills Ranch and Escape Ranch Conservation Easements lie approximately 3.5 miles

Placed on List	2007
Project Area (GIS Acres)	11,038
Acres Acquired (GIS)	698*
at a Cost of	\$1,442,155
Acres Remaining (GIS)	10,340
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$9,950,131

Adams Ranch FNAI Elements	
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
4 rare species are associated with the project	

\*795 acres purchased through R&FLP (DACS-FF funds); 698 acres within FF project boundary (\$2,017/acre).

## Adams Ranch



to the east. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park is approximately 8.5 miles to the south.

Adams Ranch is a working agricultural ranch with large acreages of improved pasture for beef cattle and sod production. Improved pasture covers approximately 34 percent of the proposed area. The great majority has been planted with bahia grass.

The natural communities present within the matrix of agricultural land include basin marsh, depression marsh, dome swamp, dry prairie, mesic flatwoods, prairie hammock, and scrubby flatwoods. Many of these are in good condition even though they are impacted by cattle and a network of roads and drainage ditches that have altered hydrology.

Nearly 60 percent of the area is designated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for a variety of rare and imperiled species. This project seeks to conserve a mosaic of remaining and increasingly rare natural communities on the site that provide important habitat for an abundance of listed species occurring there as well as providing aquifer recharge, watershed and wetlands protection.

Adams Ranch not only provides habitat for listed species, but also for many species of neotropical migrant birds passing through during the spring and fall. The habitat is also important for game species including white-tailed deer, wild turkey and northern bobwhite quail. These species depend on the dry and wet prairie, mesic and scrubby flatwoods, marshes and hammocks for cover, roost sites, nesting sites and forage.

### **Public Use**

The project is a less-than-fee purchase without public access. Due to the lack of public access, there will not be any public resource-based outdoor recreation

potential for the project.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 6/15/2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added Adams Ranch to the A list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy in a proposal submitted on 12/29/2006. It has about 11,057 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$10,638,040.

On 11/4/2010, through the Rural & Family Lands Program (RFLP), Department of Agricultural closed on 795 acres owned by the Adams family for \$1,603,510. 698 acres of the CE purchase are within the FF project boundary.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Osceola County, and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) are partners in this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

*Updated 2/22/2012*



# Annutteliga Hammock

Citrus and Hernando Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Brooksville Ridge in west-central Florida supports some of the last large tracts of longleaf-pine sandhills in Florida, unique forests of northern hardwood trees, and many archaeological sites. The Annutteliga Hammock project will conserve the remaining fragments of the forests between the Withlacoochee State Forest and the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, thereby protecting habitat for black bear and many sandhill-dwelling plants and animals and giving the public a large area for recreation in the original landscape of this fast-growing region.

### Managers

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) (northeastern and southeastern parts) and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (western part).

### General Description

This project is defined by its excellent quality sandhill and very good upland hardwood forest natural communities (there is little upland hardwood forest protected in this ecoregion). Remnants of Annutteliga Hammock on steep-sided hills and in small valleys cover 15% of the project area. This hardwood forest resembles forests far to the north; in fact, several northern trees reach their southern limits near this area. Westward the

hardwoods give way to drier longleaf-pine sandhills on slightly lower and more level terrain. Remnants of these sandhill forests cover 64% of the project. It is an excellent habitat for many rare vertebrates adapted to xeric communities and several rare plant species. Twenty archaeological sites attest the long history of Native American occupation here. Limerock mines, golf courses, and residential developments are now seriously fragmenting these natural areas, but excellent examples of the original vegetation and wildlife, including the Florida black bear, remain. The Suncoast Parkway is planned to run through this project.

The Lecanto Sandhills is 2,029 acres of sandhills, xeric hammocks, and depression marshes.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a state forest and wildlife management area. Such uses as camping, picnicking, hiking, and boating will be compatible with the protection of the area.

### Acquisition Planning

This project consists of several large tracts as well as large subdivided areas. Essential parcels include Sugarmill Woods (acquired), World Woods (acquired by the FFS), Florida Crushed Stone, Orange Meadow Corp./Seville (acquired), Blackwell (westernmost tract—acquired by the SWFWMD), Tooke's Lake Joint Venture, and other large hammock and sandhill parcels.

On 3/10/1995, the LAMAC approved the addition of 990 acres to the project boundary. On 7/29/1999, the Council combined Lecanto Sandhills (2,029 acres) in

Annutteliga Hammock FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Cooley's Water-willow</i>	G2/S2
Southern Hognose Snake	G2/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Scrub Stylospia</i>	G3/S3
<i>Phume Polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>Swamp Phume Polypody</i>	G5?/S2
22 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1995
Project Area (GIS Acres)	24,771
Acres Acquired (GIS)	12,231
at a Cost of	\$35,925,705
Acres Remaining (GIS)	12,540
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$24,837,775

## **Annutteliga Hammock**

Citrus County with the Annutteliga Hammock project. Lecanto Sandhills was acquired in 2001 by the Division of State Lands to be managed by FFS/FWC.

On 4/15/2011 ARC recommended a 6,211-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/rural/commercial/development.

### **Coordination**

A Memorandum of Understanding between FDOT and DEP regarding the future conveyance of a portion of the Annutteliga Hammock project within the proposed alignment for the Suncoast Parkway, was signed on August 3, 1998. This project is also included within SWFWMD's Five-Year Plan. Hernando County is an acquisition and management partner.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Annutteliga Hammock project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the size and resource diversity to qualify as a Wildlife Management Area and a State Forest.

**Manager** The FFS proposes to manage approximately 14,336 acres in the northeastern and southeastern portions of the project. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended to be lead manager on the southwestern 14,048 acres next to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.

#### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

**A. Florida Forest Service** There are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

**B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission** Annutteliga Hammock lies within 40 miles of the St.

Petersburg/Tampa metropolitan area and is expected to receive heavy demand for wildlife oriented recreational use. The demand for hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding and nature study is expected to be high. Additionally, the sandhill community will need the frequent application of fire to rejuvenate itself.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

##### ***A. Florida Forest Service***

The primary land management goal for the FFS is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This total resource concept will guide the FFS's management activities on this project.

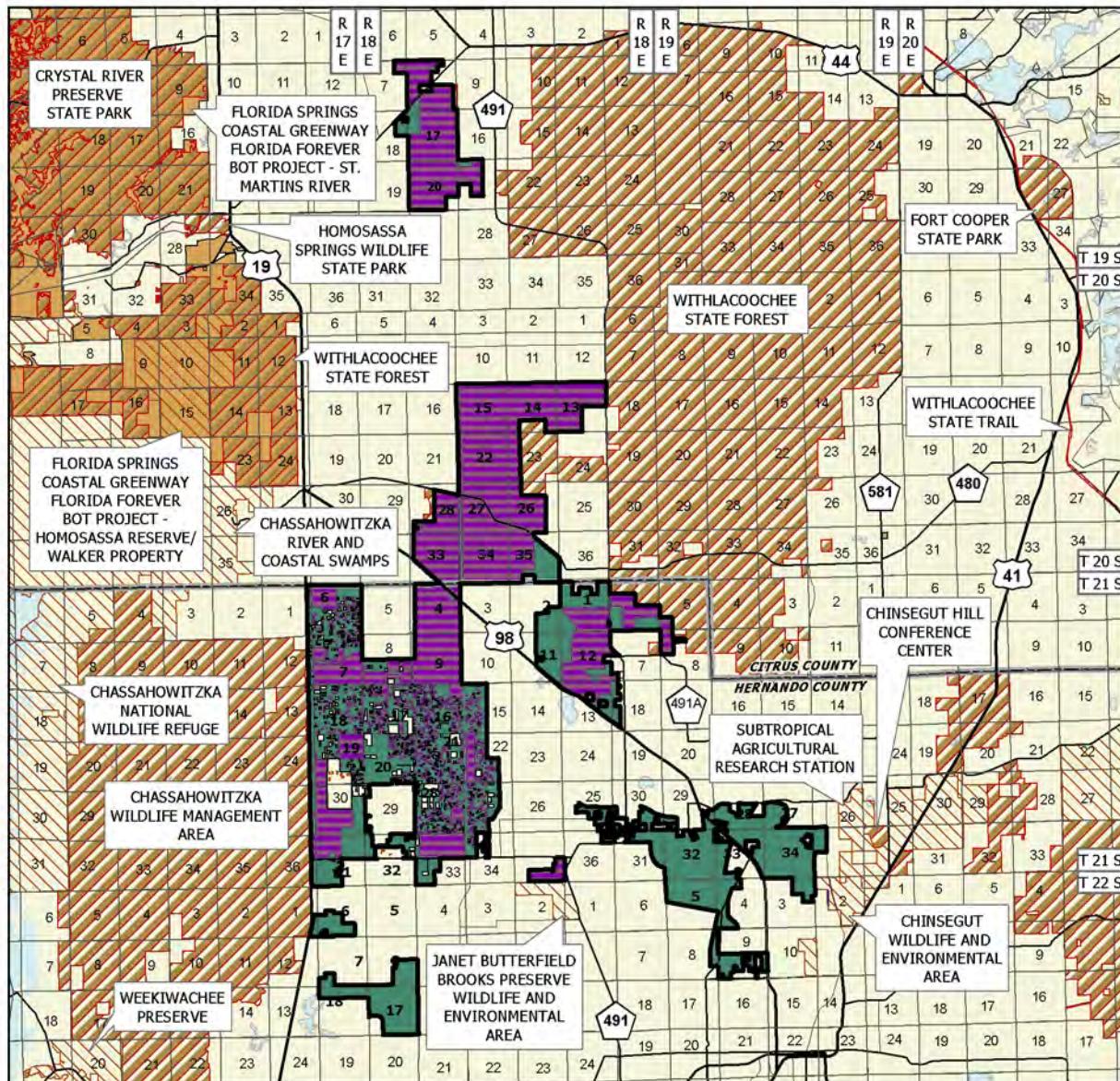
Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the FFS for management, public access will be provided for low intensity, non-facilities related outdoor recreation activities. Until specific positions are provided for the project, public access will be coordinated through Withlacoochee Forestry Center (WFC) Headquarters and management activities will be conducted utilizing personnel from WFC.

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species.

An all season burning program will be established utilizing practices that incorporate recent research findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

## Annutteliga Hammock



## ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK

### CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0    1    2    4  
Miles



JUNE 2011

Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinning and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance and, where appropriate, will be reforested with species that would typically be found in a naturally functioning ecosystem. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property. The FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. As a general practice, if it is determined that a new recreation area is needed, low impact, rustic facilities will be the only kind developed. High-impact, organized recreation areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

#### *B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on securing and posting boundaries, assuring public access to the tract, surveying wildlife and plant communities, and restoring fire as a viable component of the ecosystem. A management plan for the tract will be prepared.

Longer-range plans for the property include securing and stabilizing necessary roads for public access,

developing camping and nature interpretive facilities and developing hiking and horseback riding trails. All-weather access roads will be developed and maintained for use by the public and for management operations. An all-season prescribed burning program will be established using both aerial and ground ignition techniques. Whenever possible existing roads, trails and firebreaks will be used to control both prescribed and natural fires. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as appropriate. Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented to assure the areas are protected from abuse.

#### *Revenue-generating potential*

##### *A. Florida Forest Service*

The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. Revenue from these sales will vary, but the revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be low to moderate.

##### *B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

Harvest of pinelands could help offset operational costs. Any estimate of revenue from harvest of the pinelands will depend on a detailed timber cruise. Revenue may also be generated from the sale of Wildlife Management Area stamps to recreational users of the property.

*Updated 2/28/2012*

#### **Management Cost Summary/FFS**

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$85,020	\$85,020
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,000	\$25,000
OCO	\$116,800	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$226,820</b>	<b>\$120,020</b>

#### **Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$78,353	\$78,353
OPS	\$10,500	\$5,250
Expense	\$52,500	\$42,000
OCO	\$124,000	\$10,000
FCO	\$150,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$404,958</b>	<b>\$135,603</b>

# Apalachicola River

## Jackson, Gadsden, Liberty and Calhoun Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The high plateaus, steep bluffs and deep ravines of the northern Apalachicola River valley are some of the most significant natural features of the southeastern Coastal Plain. Covered with rich forests and dotted with unique sedgy glades, the area harbors many northern, rare, and endemic plants and animals, such as the nearly extinct Florida Torreya tree. By connecting Torreya State Park with a Nature Conservancy preserve to the south and with limestone glades to the north, and by protecting forests on the west bank of the river, the Apalachicola River project will help preserve the water quality of the river—which feeds the productive Apalachicola Bay—and the unique species and biological communities of the region, as well as provide the public with scenic areas for hiking, boat launching, and other recreational pursuits.

### Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) will be a cooperating manager for the Sweetwater Creek tract in managing the forest resources, and timber issues related to planning and implementation of forest management activities, and provide assistance in developing prescribed burn plans.

### General Description

Apalachicola River FNAI Elements	
<i>Florida Torreya</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida Black Bear</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>Gholson's Blazing Star</i>	G1/S1
<i>Apalachicola Rosemary</i>	G1/S1
<i>Torreya Pygmy Grasshopper</i>	G1/S1
<i>Fringed Campion</i>	G2/S1
<i>Baldwyn's Spiny-pod</i>	G3/S1
<i>Apalachicola Wild Indigo</i>	G2/S2
<i>Ashe's Magnolia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida Yew</i>	G2/S2
<i>Godfrey's Swampprivet</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida Spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2

61 rare species are associated with the project

This project includes much of Florida's upland glades natural community, currently not represented on conservation lands, and harbors several globally rare plant species as well as 16 species occurring nowhere else in Florida. It consists of three tracts of land along the upper Apalachicola River: 1) a large tract on the east bank, running south from near Chattahoochee to Torreya State Park, includes rich upland and floodplain forests and most of the upland glades in the state. It shelters several extremely rare plants such as the Florida torreya; 2) The Land property, west of the former area, contains floodplain forest important for southeastern and gray bats; 3) The Sweetwater Creek tract, connecting Torreya State Park with a Nature Conservancy preserve, includes some of the deepest steephead ravines in the state, with unique hardwood forests harboring many rare plants and animals. The uplands between the steepheads are a sand pine plantation. The upper Apalachicola has a high potential for archaeological sites; several are already known. All these areas are threatened by timbering and unrestricted vehicular access.

### Public Use

Portions of the project will be managed as state parks or preserves, wildlife management areas, and state forests. It will allow such uses as hiking, nature appreciation, limited hunting and fishing, and boat launching.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/7/1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) separated the Apalachicola River and Bay CARL project into two projects: Apalachicola Bay, and Apalachicola River, Phase I. The Apalachicola

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>18,805</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>7,591*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$10,120,682*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining(GIS)</b>	<b>11,214</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$5,291,974</b>

\*includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the NWFWM

## **Apalachicola River**

River, Phase I project included the Aspalaga Landing tract (800 acres/2 owners), Atkins tract (3,210 acres/7 owners), and Gadsden County Glades (1,912 acres/13 owners) and had an estimated tax value of \$4,532,300.

On 4/7/1992, the LAAC approved a 4,570-acre addition to the project boundary. It consisted of 30 owners and a taxable value of \$1,813,157.

On 7/14/1995, the LAAC approved a 374-acre addition (Land property) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, and had a taxable value of \$282,712. The tract is across from the Gadsden Glades tract and nearly adjacent to the Sneads Cove site of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project.

On 12/5/1996, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) transferred the Atkins/Trammell tract (approximately 3,210 acres) and the Hatcher tract (approximately 544 acres within the 9,145-acre Sweetwater site) to the Less-Than-Fee category. A 613-acre conservation easement was acquired on the Hatcher tract in 2002.

On 5/6/1999, the LAMAC designated an additional 11,800 acres (Lake Wimico) as essential parcels.

On 4/6/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) removed the Atkins/Trammell tract site (approximately 3,210 acres) from the project because the resources had been compromised and negotiations had reached an impasse.

On 4/25/2002, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 2,242-acre addition (Corbin/Tucker site) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of 2 owners, David Corbin & Ken Tucker, and had a taxable value of \$1,106,820. On 8/15/2002, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 1,514-acre addition of the Trammel tract (that was previously part of the 3,210-acre Atkins/Trammell tract that was removed on 4/6/2001) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Trammel, and had a taxable value of \$430,000.

On F2/7/ 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple and less-than-fee 3,113-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of 4 landowners, 5 tracts, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$764,996. The tracts break down as follows: Soterra Crooked Creek tract, 447 acres; Soterra

Connector tract, 117 acres; Thompson tract, 304 acres; Hatcher tract, 160 acres; and TNC Dupuis/Traveler's tract, 1,846 acres. On 10/17/2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 1,244-acre addition (Glenn Summers tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Glenn Summers, and had a taxable value of \$91,645.

On 12/23/2007, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) purchased a 1,544 acre conservation easement from Robert D./Kay S. Trammell and Robert Douglas Trammell and Meredith Trammell Roop for \$2,985,108. The CE is known as the Trammell tract.

On 9/30/2010 DRP purchased 553 acres known as Torreya State Park Addition for \$1,418,000 from Plum Creek. DRP will manage.

### **Coordination**

The NFWFMD and TNC have provided information and assistance with this project. It is not a Bargain/Shared project, however.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Apalachicola River project are: to conserve the rich bluffs and ravines along the upper Apalachicola River, unique in North America, that provide critical habitat for many rare plants and animals; to conserve and restore these important ecosystems and their plant and animal resources through purchase because regulation cannot adequately protect them; to provide areas for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve several significant archaeological sites. The project should be managed under the single-use concept, with management activities being directed toward the preservation of steephead streams, hardwood forests, glades, and archaeological sites, the removal of pine plantations, and restoration of natural pine forests. The project, when completed, will include most of the bluffs and ravines in private ownership and will link a Nature Conservancy preserve with Torreya State Park. It has the appropriate size and location to achieve the management goals.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The unique and sensitive forests, glades, and streams on the east side of the Apalachicola River qualify these lands as state forests, parks, and preserves. The Atkins tract on the



## APALACHICOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

**JACKSON, GADSDEN, LIBERTY, AND CALHOUN COUNTIES**

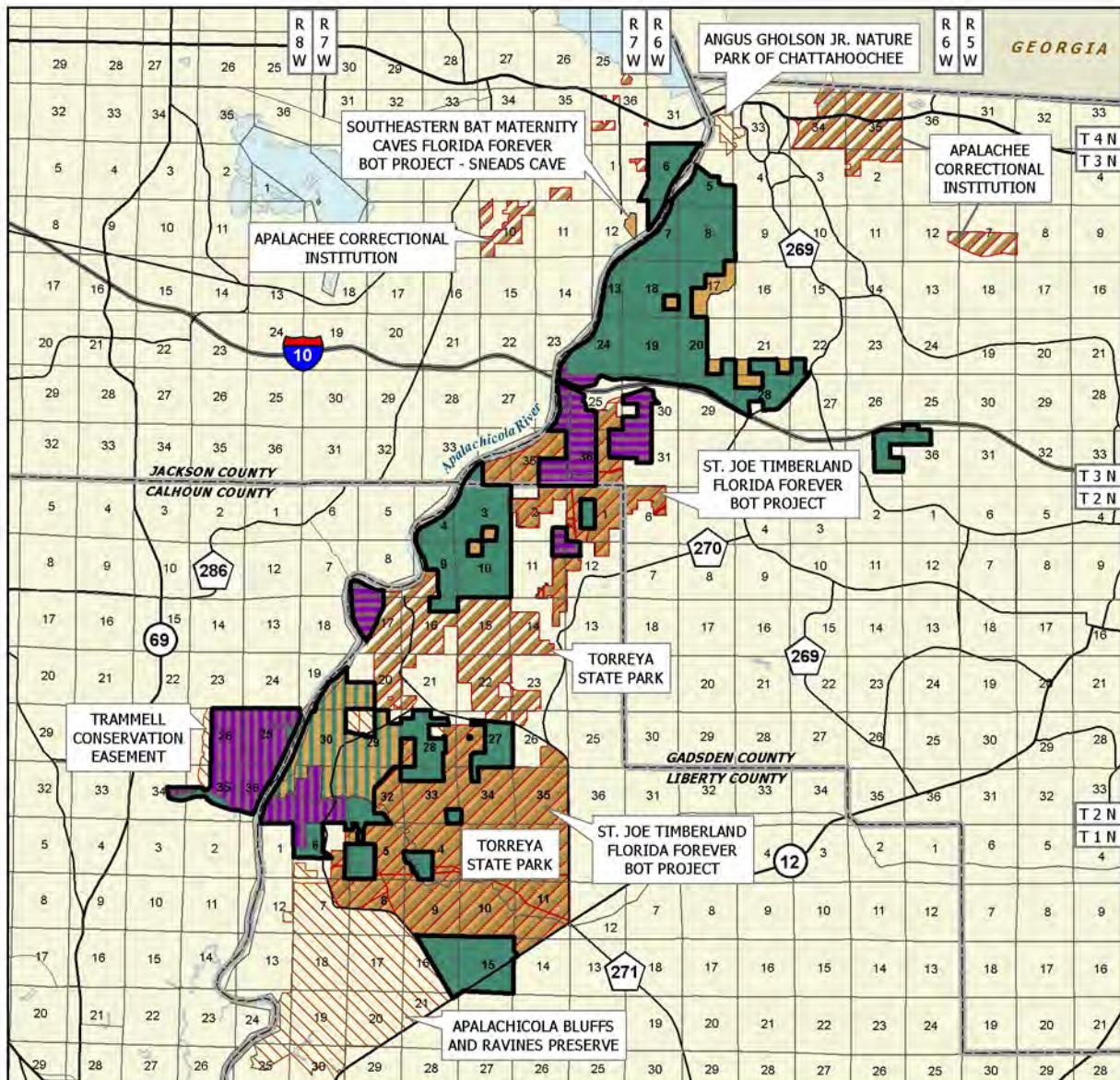


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OCTOBER 2005

## Apalachicola River

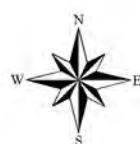


**APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 1 OF 2**

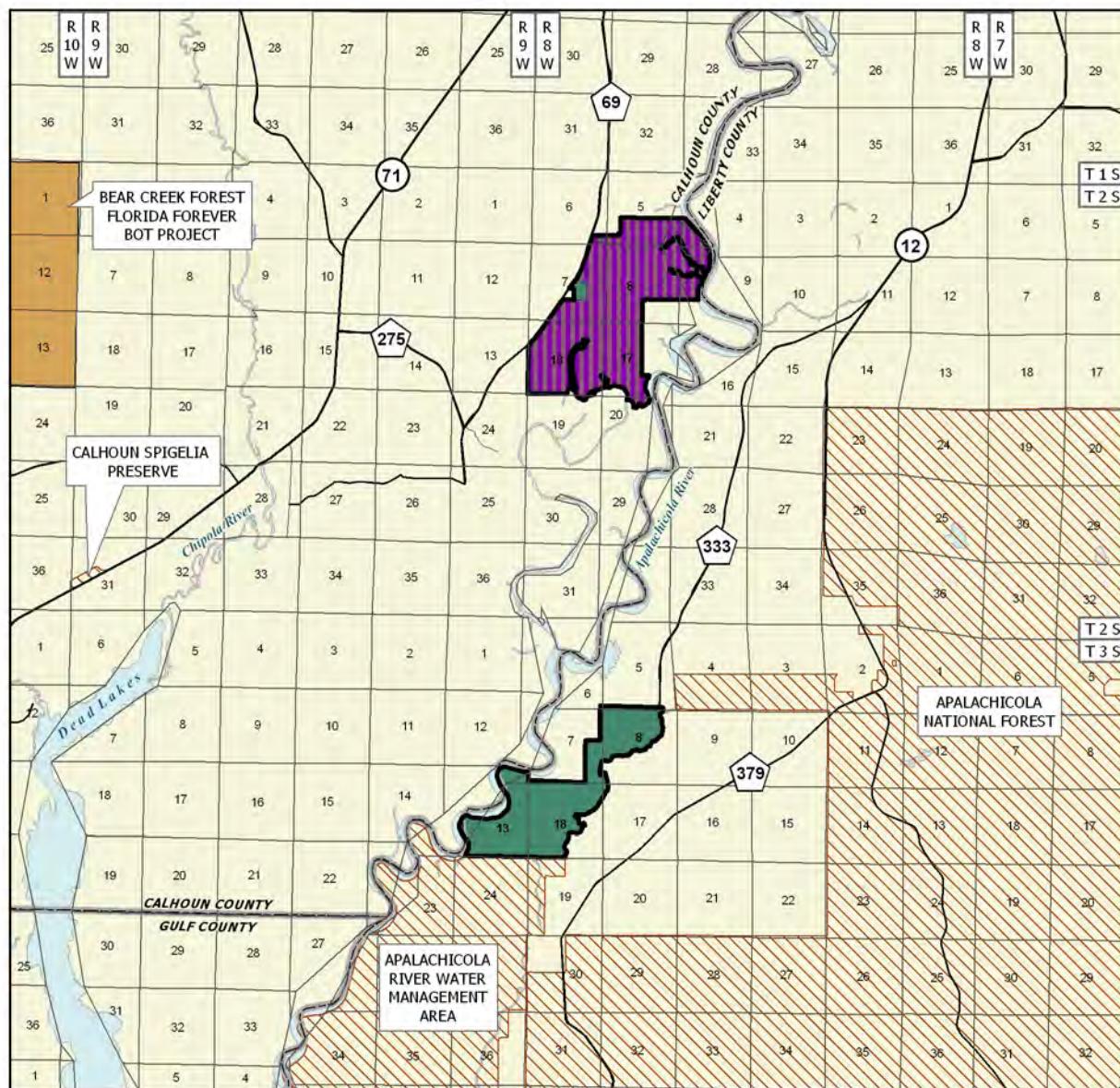
### JACKSON, GADSDEN, LIBERTY, AND CALHOUN COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Yellow/Gold Box] TNC Owned Lands Within the Project
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands

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Miles



OCTOBER 2010



## APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 2 OF 2

### CALHOUN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



SEPTEMBER 2009

## Apalachicola River

west side of the river has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The DRP will manage the fee-simple lands east of the river between Sweetwater Creek and the old Gadsden Glades area. The FFS, however, will manage the Sweetwater Creek tract for the first ten years after the state acquires it.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The portions of the project in the vicinity of the Torreya State Park and east of the river will be high-need management areas with emphasis on public recreational use and development compatible with resource protection and management. During an initial 10-year period in which the FFS will restore natural pine forests on the Sweetwater Creek tract, the site will be a low-need management area.

**Timetable for implementing management** Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially after the lands are placed under management of the DRP. It will probably be several years before any significant public facilities are developed. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project area.

Management Cost Summary FFS/Sweetwater		
Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$105,910	\$105,910
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$30,000	\$30,000
OCO	\$168,000	\$13,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$303,910</b>	<b>\$148,910</b>

Management Cost Summary DRP/Sweetwater		
Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$83,306	\$72,319
OPS	\$24,960	\$44,720
Expense	\$16,800	\$49,730
OCO	\$101,252	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$226,318</b>	<b>\$167,769</b>

Management Cost Summary DRP/ North		
Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$72,319	\$72,319
OPS	\$44,720	\$44,720
Expense	\$49,730	\$49,730
OCO	\$81,527	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$248,296</b>	<b>\$167,769</b>

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge

Brevard and Indian River Counties

Climate Change Lands

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Although sea turtle nesting occurs from the southern tip of Texas to the southern coast of Virginia, this 20-mile stretch of beach in Brevard and Indian River Counties is the second most significant nesting area for Loggerhead sea turtles in the world, one of the most significant nesting areas for Green Turtles in the western hemisphere, and an occasional nesting area for the Leatherback, the largest and rarest sea turtle. For thousands of years, these sea turtles have returned each year to these beaches to lay their eggs and continue the species. The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project is designed to help protect the habitat and assure the continued survival of these endangered sea turtles.

## Managers

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (USFWS) and Brevard and Indian River Counties will be the cooperating managers.

## General Description

This project will consolidate several small public ownerships and add to them substantially, protecting almost ten miles of undeveloped Atlantic Coast shoreline. Natural communities are in good condition and include beach, coastal strand, and maritime hammock, but the primary significance of this tract is its value as sea turtle nesting habitat. Stretches of quiet, undisturbed sandy beaches, with little or no artificial light, are essential to the reproductive success and

survival of sea turtles. The project harbors several other rare plant and animal species. The project is of particular importance to unique offshore reefs (sabellariid "worm" and hard coral) that have been proposed for listing as the focus of a *Florida Coral Grounds National Marine Sanctuary*. At least 30 archaeological sites (primarily shell middens) are located near or within the refuge. It is threatened by intense development pressure, both commercial and residential.

## Public Use

The project is designated as a recreation area and a wildlife and environmental area. The designation will allow such uses as photography, swimming, fishing and nature appreciation.

## Acquisition Planning and Status

Appraisals on the remaining essential or core parcels are being reviewed. Phase I: 500 feet or more of contiguous beach frontage adjacent to publicly owned lands; Phase II: 500 feet or more of contiguous beach frontage in a single ownership or under the contract of a single agent; Phase III: less than 500 feet of beach frontage adjacent to publicly owned lands. The project excludes developed and undeveloped parcels situated between developed parcels. Acquisition efforts are ongoing. The LAMAC approved the addition of 112 acres to the project boundary on 3/10/1995.

On 4/6/2001, the Council transferred this project to the full fee from the negotiated impasse group.

Placed on List	1991
Project Area (GIS Acres)	921
Acres Acquired (GIS)	676**
at a Cost of	\$35,650,365
Acres Remaining (GIS)	245
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$13,999,791*

\*The LAMAC directed that a \$10 million cap per year be set on acquisition expenditures within Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge. \*\*Exchange (1.34-acre parcel) with County and Windsor Properties.

Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge FNAI Elements	
Leatherback	G2/S2
Green Turtle	G3/S2
Loggerhead	G3/S3
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida Lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Coastal Hoary-pea</i>	G1T1/S1
<i>Simpson's Prickly Apple</i>	G2/S2
<i>Coastal Vervain</i>	G3/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

On 1/25/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 5 acres to the project.

January 2009, the state was part of a multi-part exchange that resulted in 1.34 acres inside the project boundary of ACSTR going to Windsor Properties. \$245,000 was originally paid for this parcel.

8/13/2010 ARC decided to reduce the project boundary by 233 acres (\$288,812,490 just value) due to infrastructure and commercial buildings.

### **Coordination**

This project was developed in conjunction with the USFWS. In 2000, the federal government approved \$2 million for the acquisition of parcels within Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge. Indian River County is an acquisition partner on several tracts within the Indian River County portion of the project.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation has made a substantial contribution to the overall protection and acquisition of the project area. The Foundation has acquired several tracts within the project boundary.

In 1994, individuals representing eleven government agencies, conservation groups, non-profit organizations and the local community formed the Archie Carr Working Group to enhance coordination, cooperation, and communication among the diverse interest groups involved in the protection of the refuge and barrier island ecosystem.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project are: to conserve scarce, undeveloped Atlantic Coast shoreline that is globally important nesting habitat for threatened and endangered sea turtles; to conserve this important ecosystem and its wildlife resources through purchase because regulation cannot adequately protect them; and to provide areas for natural-resource-based recreation.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge is recognized as the most important sea turtle nesting site in the United States and qualifies as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Manager** The USFWS will manage most of the project as a National Wildlife Refuge. Primary management

partners include the State of Florida DEP, Brevard County, and Indian River County. The portion of the project immediately north of the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area and west of the highway will be added to the state recreation area.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project includes lands that are low-need, moderate-need and high-need tracts as defined by 259.032 (11) (c) F.S. About 30% of the lands are low-need, 50% moderate need and 20% high-need properties.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, activities will concentrate on site security, controlling public access, removing trash and resource inventory. A management plan will be formulated. Brevard County plans to develop an innovative environmental education program for the area. Long-range plans for the properties, beginning one year after acquisition, will be directed toward protecting the nesting beach, restoring disturbed areas, inventorying resources, and perpetuating natural communities and listed species. To the greatest extent practical, parking lots and dune crossovers will be confined to already disturbed sites.

**Revenue-generating potential** Collecting parking or access fees is the only means of generating revenue from the tracts to be managed by the USFWS local governments. The Florida DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated initially from the tracts to be added to the state recreation area.

**Cooperators in management activities** The USFWS will collaborate in management with local governments. Non-profit organizations with active management and education interests include The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Caribbean Conservation Corporation, Center for Marine Conservation and local non-profits and land trusts. A Brevard County volunteer warden program has been proposed to involve the local community in conservation, management and educational programs.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

## Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge



## ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: OVERVIEW

### BREVARD AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES

#### Map 1:

- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Northern Boundary
- B. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment I

#### Map 2:

- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment II

#### Map 3:

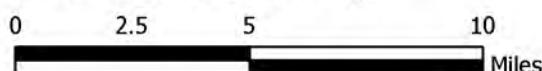
- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment III

#### Map 4:

- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment IV,  
Southern Boundary

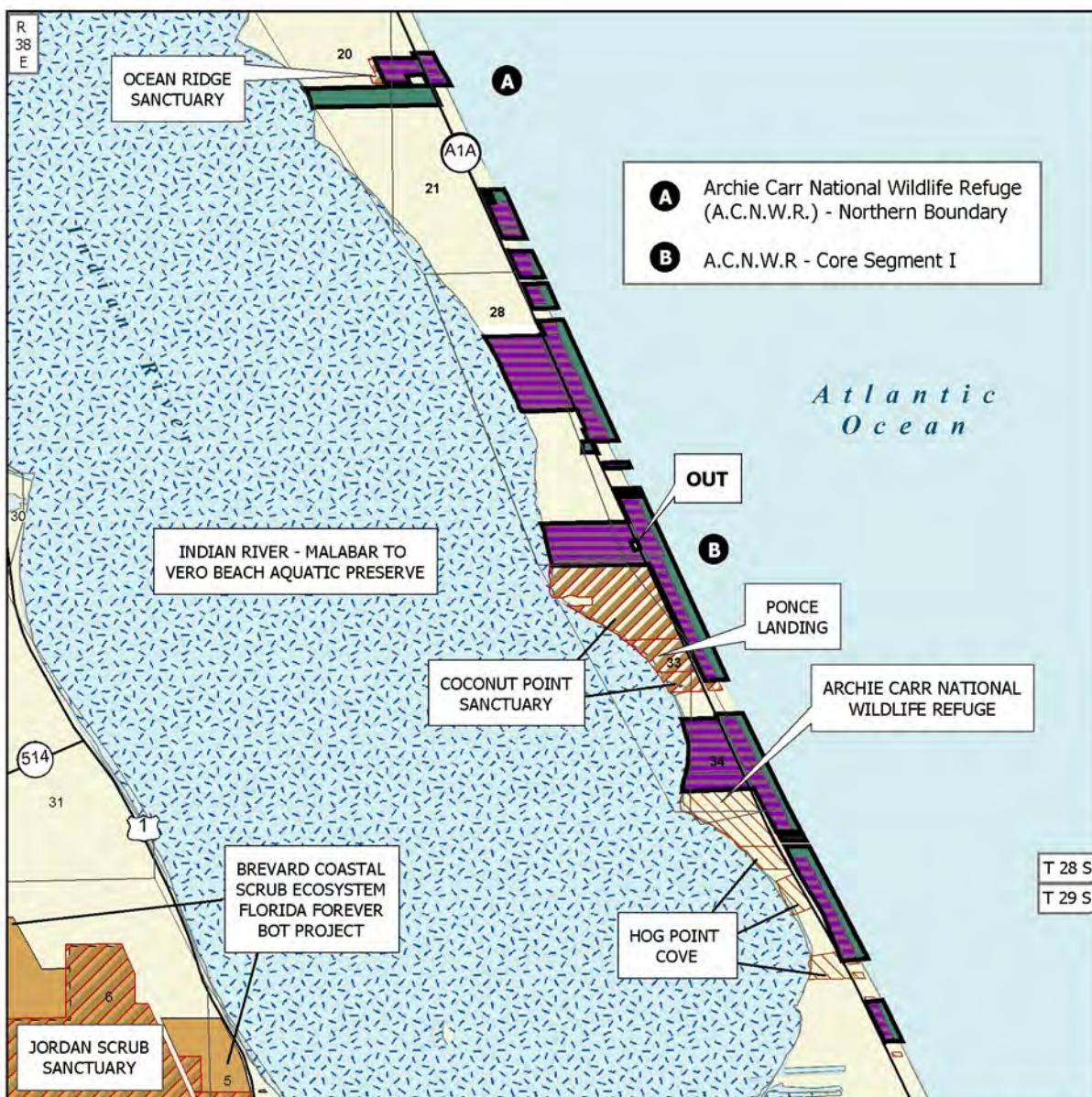
#### Map 5:

- A. Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge



AUGUST 2010

## Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge



### ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 1 OF 5

#### **BREVARD COUNTY**

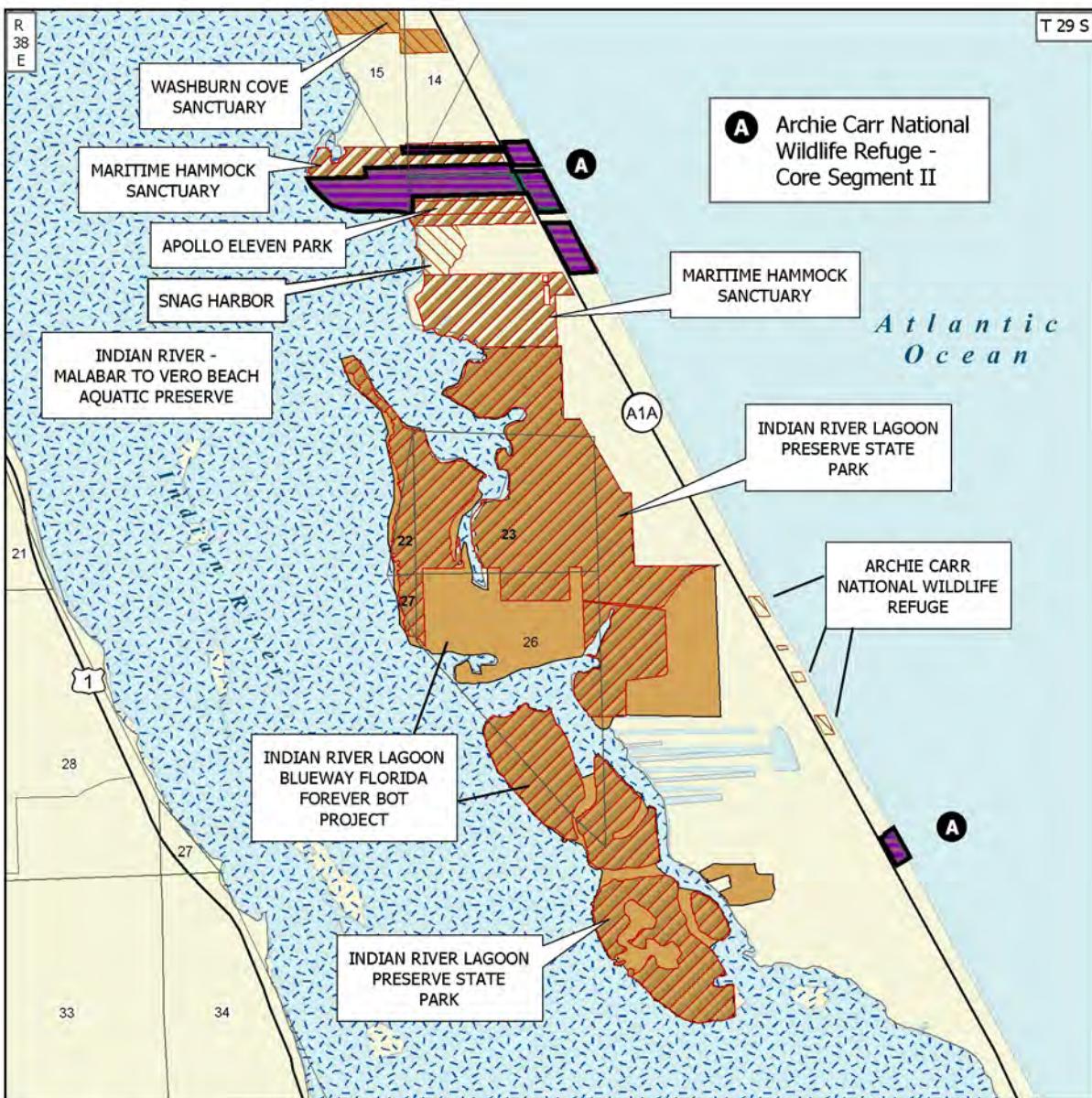
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Striped Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Yellow Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Dashed Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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AUGUST 2010

## Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge



### ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 2 OF 5

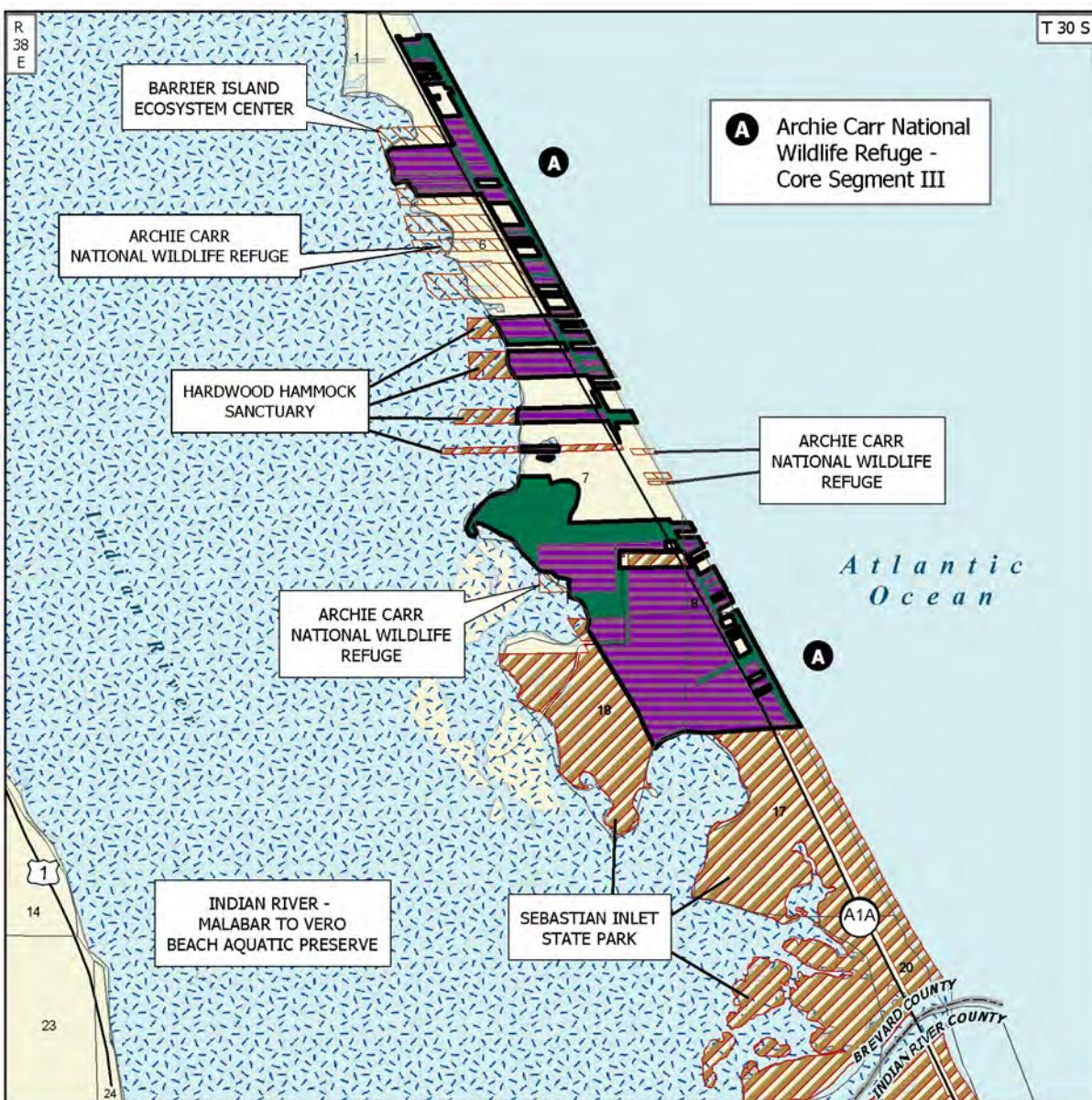
#### BREVARD COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Yellow Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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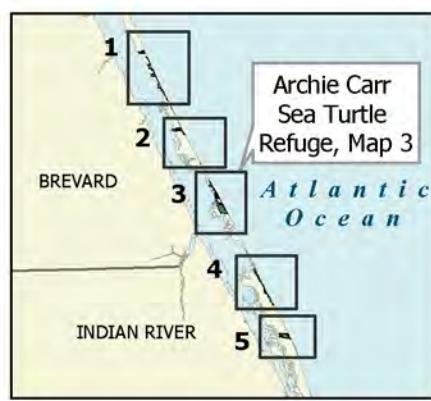
AUGUST 2010



### ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 3 OF 5

#### BREVARD COUNTY

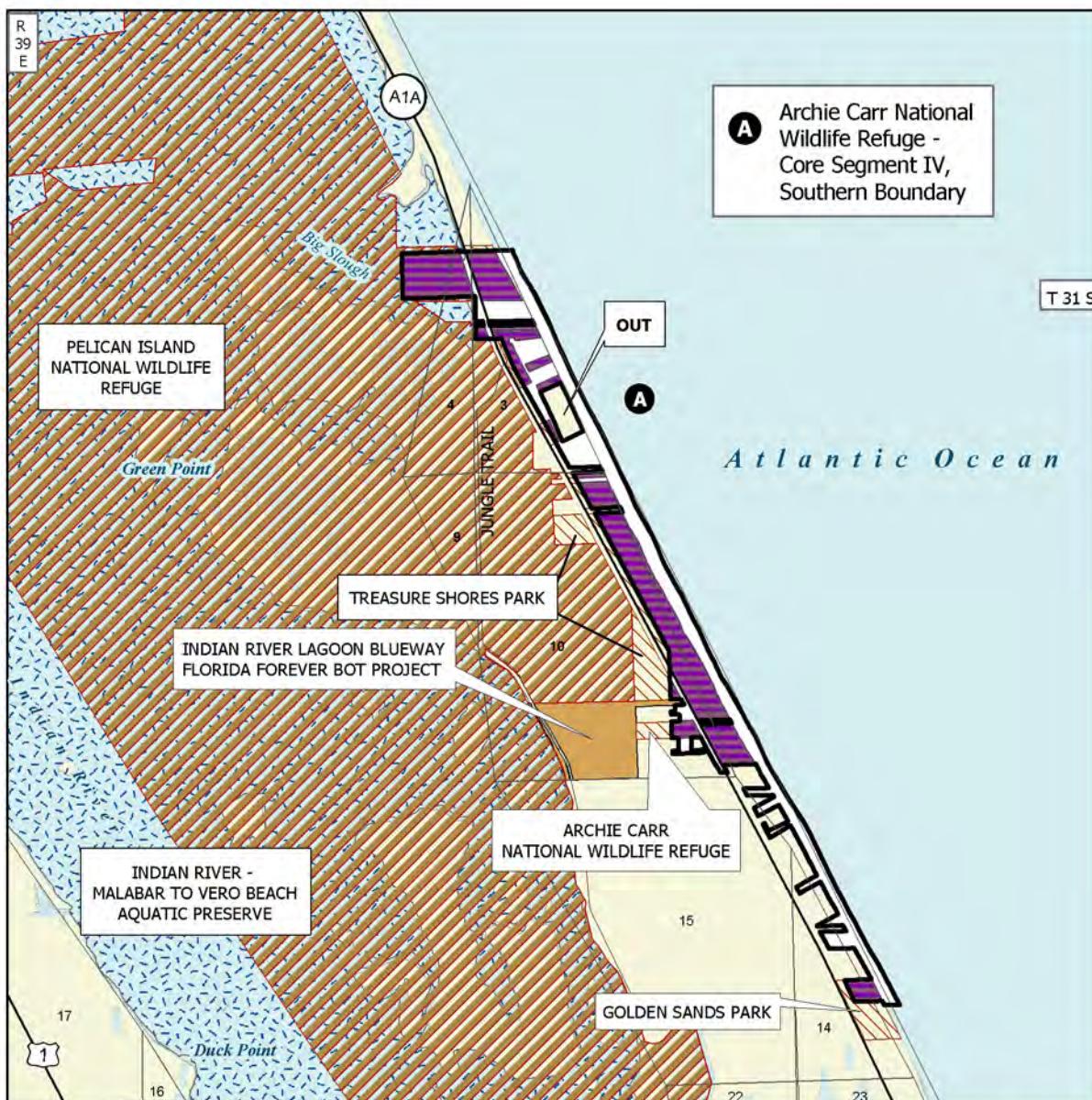
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red/Orange Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles

AUGUST 2010

## Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge



### ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 4 OF 5

#### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Gold Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Dashed Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles

AUGUST 2010



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 5 OF 5

## **INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  -  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  -  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  -  State Owned Lands
  -  Other Conservation Lands
  -  State Aquatic Preserves



0      0.5      1      2

Miles

AUGUST 2010

# Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

Martin County

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Cities spreading north from Miami and Fort Lauderdale have all but eliminated natural areas, such as coastal scrub, near the southeast Florida coast. The Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project will protect one of the largest patches of natural land left on this coast by conserving important scrub, pine flatwoods, marshes, and South Fork's floodplain on the St. Lucie River. Protection will also be provided for the quality of water in the St. Lucie and Loxahatchee River basins and the public will have the opportunity to enjoy the original landscape of this fast-growing area.

## Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

## General Description

Mesic to Wet Flatwoods, which cover almost half (43 percent) of the project, extend from the floodplain forest along the South Fork St. Lucie River east to two ridges. One of the largest remaining islands of Atlantic Coastal Ridge scrub occupies these ridges. Most of the rare plants and animals known from the project inhabit the scrub, including the extremely rare and federally listed perforate reindeer lichen, and the Florida scrub jay. The area includes the headwaters of the South Fork St. Lucie River, part of the drainage basin of the Loxahatchee River, an Outstanding Florida Water, and is important for water supply to coastal Martin County. No archaeological sites are known from the project. The scrub, in particular, is being lost to development.

## Public Use

This project is designated as a state park with uses such as picnicking, hiking, fishing and canoeing.

Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Piedmont Jointgrass	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

## Acquisition Planning and Status

This project consists of approximately 28 ownerships; five relatively large ownerships. Essential parcels are those on the eastern project boundary including Davis, Shaw, and Commercial Bank Medalist (acquired under contract by SFWMD). Mobil-Seawind (acquired) is also an essential tract.

On 2/14/1995, the Governor and Cabinet directed the LAMAC to hold a public workshop with Martin County, South Florida Water Management District, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, interested environmental and economic development organizations, private landowners, and interested citizens to establish a workplan for this project. Further, the Governor and Cabinet directed that the "CARL committee report to the Cabinet with their determination prior to any purchases on that particular tract of land". Public meetings were held on 6/12/1995, and 10/5/1995. As a result of the public meetings, the LAMAC deleted approximately 480 acres from the project boundary. The tracts had been recently developed.

On 7/16/1996, LAMAC added 41 acres to the project boundary and approximately 2,118 acres were delineated as the minimum acceptable acquisition boundary for the Mobil (Seawind) ownership within the project boundary.

On 10/15/1998, LAMAC designated the Phase II corridor to Jonathan Dickinson State Park as essential.

Placed on List	1995
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Project Area (GIS Acres)	14,073
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Acres Acquired (GIS)	6,030
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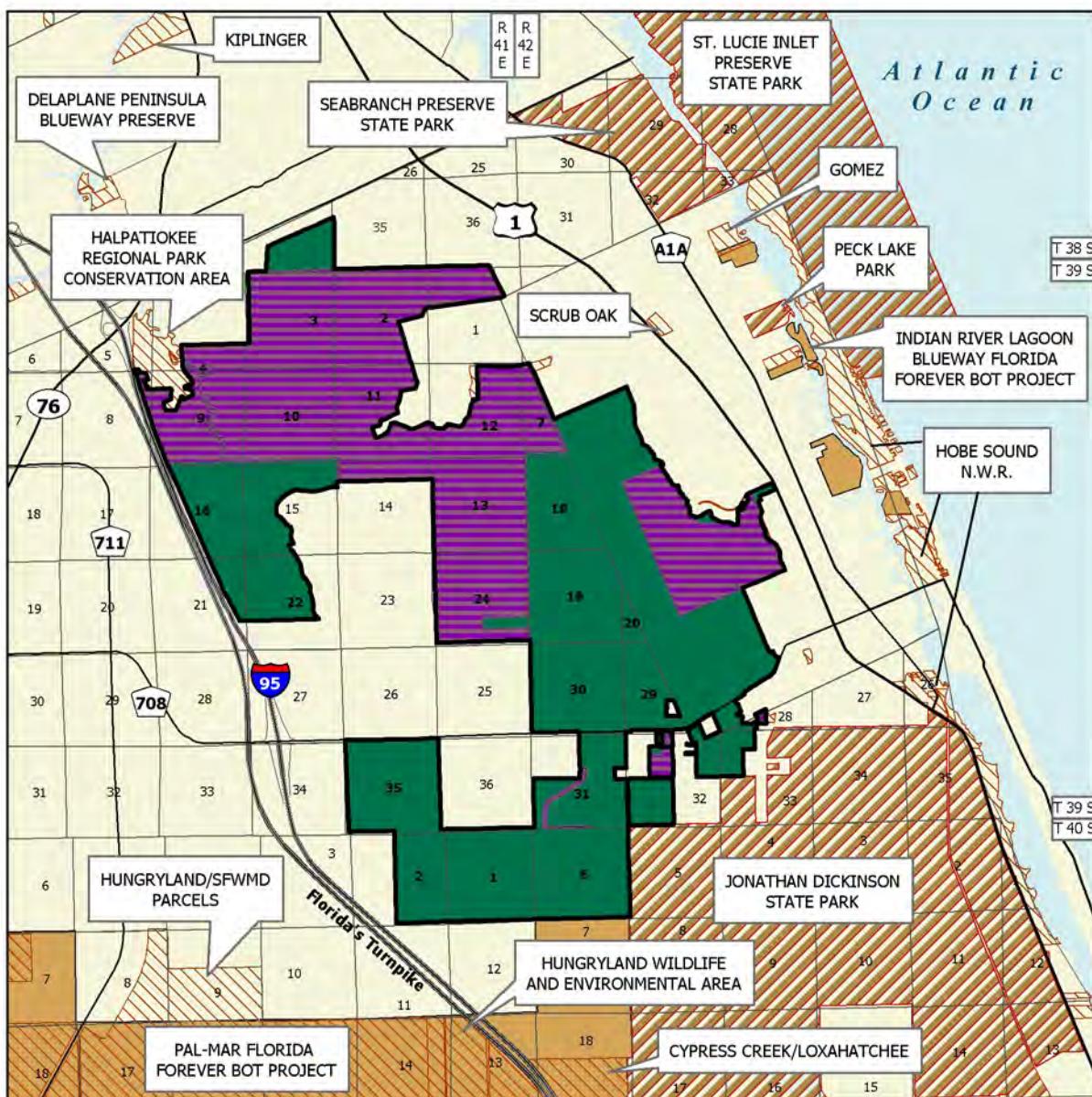
at a Cost of	\$38,215,961
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Acres Remaining (GIS)	8,043
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With Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$61,172,512
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*Note: 1,532 acres were removed 2/19/10 due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.*

## Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem



## ATLANTIC RIDGE ECOSYSTEM

### MARTIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

0      1      2      4      Miles



OCTOBER 2010

## Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

On 10/21/1999, the Council added 598 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

On 8/22/2000 the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 1,920 acres to the project.

On 2/11/2005 the Council approved adding 304 acres in 16 parcels (Kitching Creek Addition) to the boundaries of the project.

On 12/8/2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.

On 2/19/2010 ARC approved removing 1,532 acres (just tax value of \$489,091,150) from the project boundary that were disturbed by development and are no longer desirable for state acquisition.

### Coordination

South Florida Water Management District is an acquisition partner.

### Management Policy Statement

The goals of management of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** This project has the size and quality of resource desired for management under the state park system.

**Manager** The DRP.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem is a high-need management area requiring intensive resource management and protection. Depending on the nature and extent of public use determined by the management plan process, there might be additional needs for management of public use activities and facilities.

### Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management consistent with the stated goals and objectives of the approved Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project Assessment.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After the initial acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public-use facilities are developed. The degree of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. Revenue generated by the nearby Jonathan Dickinson State Park for Fiscal Year 1993-1994 was \$364,711.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project.

*Updated 2/28/2012*

Management Cost Summary		
Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$52,994	\$52,994
OPS	\$8,000	\$8,000
Expense	\$26,307	\$26,307
OCO	\$129,212	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$216,132</b>	<b>\$88,301</b>

# Ayavalla Plantation

## Leon County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring a less-than-fee conservation easement over the Ayavalla Plantation property in northern Leon County meets state goals of enhancing coordination of land acquisition policies efforts by making a conservation link among properties. This project will connect to the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area and to properties near Lake Jackson. Using a conservation easement for this project also meets state conservation goals of finding alternatives to fee-simple purchases. Additionally, the property also meets Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of Florida's biodiversity of species, landscapes, and natural communities by preserving a large area of natural habitat. Another major state conservation goal of the state conservation policies is to ensure that Florida has sufficient quantities of fresh water, and the Ayavalla Plantation conservation easement will protect a large array of ponds, lakes, and wetlands.

### Manager (Monitor)

The Office of Environmental Services within the Division of State Lands will be the monitor of the conservation easement over the property while the property remains in private hands.

### General Description

Ayavalla Plantation is 6,097 acres in northern Leon County, bordering the Ochlockonee River and stretching from Old Bainbridge Road eastward to the northern edge of Lake Jackson. It has a large number of parcels, all under the ownership of the Phipps family. As part of the planned less-than-fee acquisition, the Phipps family will retain 15 small-acreage tracts spaced throughout the project area that may be used as home sites.

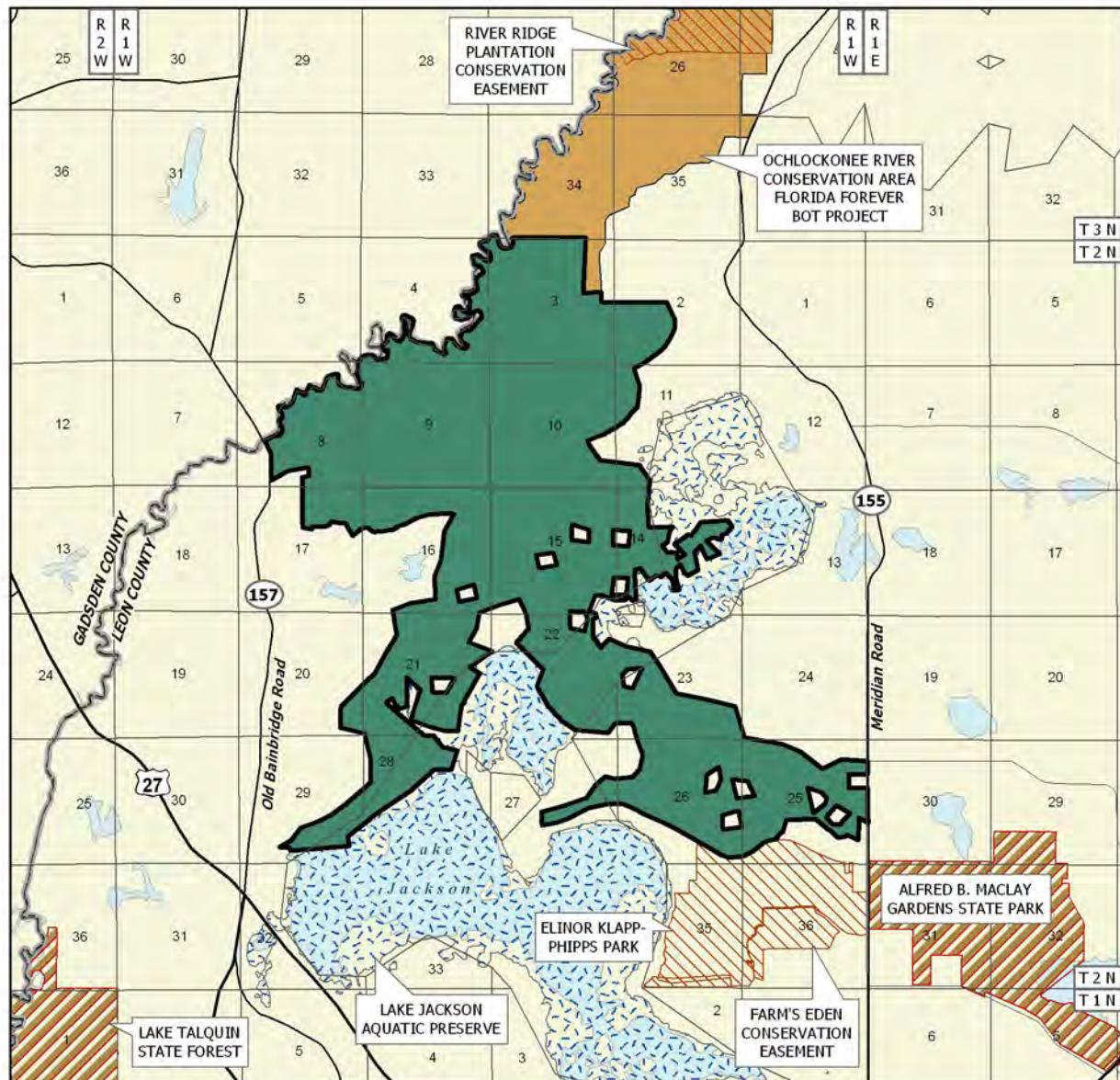
Ayavalla Plantation	
FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Round-tailed Muskrat	G3/S3
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?
Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
7 rare species are associated with the project	

The project is bounded on the south by the northern shore of Lake Jackson, and the northern boundary is the Ochlockonee River. The project includes more than five and one-half miles of river frontage. The eastern-southeastern boundary is partly defined by Meridian Road (County Road 155) and part of the western boundary fronts on Old Bainbridge Road (County Road 157). The project is also adjacent to land managed by Leon County as a local park.

The Ayavalla Plantation landscape is representative of the Red Hills Physiographic Province, characterized by rolling terrain overlying clay soils that rest upon limestone. The wetlands on the property include a variety of lacustrine (freshwater lake) and riparian systems. Elevations range from approximately 90 to 200 feet above mean sea level, being generally lower near the river. The principal native landcover was once upland pine forest, but has been heavily disturbed by long-term (centuries) use for agriculture and timber production, construction of food plots, and clearing, with substantial disturbance to native groundcover (now mostly weedy species). However, a pine component is once again prominent, albeit one that is more characteristic of successional old fields, including shortleaf, loblolly, and slash pines rather than the original longleaf pine. Roughly one-third of these pine-lands are now in intensive silviculture; the remainder more closely resembles upland pine forest at a structural level although its floral components have been altered to such an extent that it is not considered by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) as a native upland pine forest community. These pine-dominated uplands are selectively timbered pine plantation on former agricultural fields.

Placed on List	2008
Project Area (GIS Acres)	6,081
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
At a Cost Of	0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	6,081
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of:	\$23,675,453

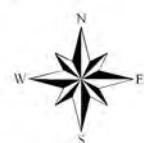
## Ayavalla Plantation



## AYAVALLA PLANTATION

### LEON COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Blue Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Dashed Blue Pattern Box] State Aquatic Preserve



0    0.5    1    2  
Miles

JUNE 2008

Approximately fifteen percent of the property is classified as a “Strategic Habitat Conservation Area”; primarily for wading birds. The river corridor segment of the property may provide habitat for larger, more far roaming listed species such as the Florida black bear. Other rare and imperiled species that are likely to occur on the upland habitat within this project includes the Sherman’s fox squirrel, gopher frog, pine barrens treefrog, and the Florida pine snake, which are all Species of Special Concern, as well as the gopher tortoise and gopher frog that are listed as Threatened. Since gopher tortoise burrows are on the site, there is some potential for restoration and establishment of gopher tortoise habitat.

### **Public Use**

Because the property would remain in private hands but under a conservation easement, opportunities for public recreation would be limited to what the land-owner would allow. As a less-than-fee property, this could not be a state park or state forest or other state use, however there are possibilities of a walking or biking trail along the edges of the property. The site could possibly be used for scientific studies and educational tours, and special opportunity hunts for disabled individuals or military veterans. These uses are conditional on whatever the conservation easement would allow.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 6/13/2008 the Acquisition and restoration Council (ARC) added the Ayavalla Plantation to the Florida Forever project list as a less-than-fee project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ayavalla Plantation will continue to be managed by the private landowner, but in accordance with the conservation easement terms. The purchase of the development rights, prohibition of converting more natural areas to intensive uses and the management of the property for habitat will likely be the primary focus of the elements of the conservation easement.

### **Coordination**

Leon County is supportive of the goals of the acquisition, but is not a partner in the acquisition at this time.

### **Management Prospectus**

The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

*Updated 2/23/2012*



# Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River

Duval and Nassau Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The 9,500 acres of the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project would preserve relatively intact forests and flatwoods of older growth trees. This project would also assist in the development of an ecological connector between Cary State Forest and Jennings State Forest, and provide a corridor from the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Florida Forever project to the St. Marys River. The proposal will connect to the Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail, and will increase the recreational opportunities for all trail users. The Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail connection occurs in an area where the City of Jacksonville is developing its primary equestrian facility access point.

### Manager

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) proposes to manage the project with a multiple use management regime consistent with the state forest system. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project.

### General Description

The Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project is located in Nassau and Duval counties and is approximately 9,500 acres in size. The multiple owners are offering the project as fee simple. The proposal is characterized by its bottomland forests and wet flatwoods that contain numerous older growth trees. These communities exhibit high species diversity and should provide habitat for numerous rare plant and animal species. Portions of the property have been converted to pine plantation but several of these areas have intact ground cover. The project borders Cary State Forest and the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Florida Forever project. The evaluation team visited the site on 9/10/2002.

Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	
FNAI Elements	
<i>Ciliate-leaf Tickseed</i>	G1G2/S1
1 rare species is associated with the project	

### Public Use

If public access of and through these properties is acquired, the project has potential for a variety of forest related recreational activities. Access to the St. Marys River could allow activities such as canoeing, swimming, bird watching, environmental education, nature study and photography.

Due to the connectivity with the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Florida Forever project and Cary State Forest, this project contributes to governmental efforts to protect and restore the regional land and water resources.

The project, as proposed, has potential for diverse forms of resource-based recreation. For those areas that would be acquired in fee title, the project can accommodate such activities as hiking, natural resource appreciation and education, picnicking, camping, bicycling and horseback riding. Depending on management emphasis, hunting is also supportable.

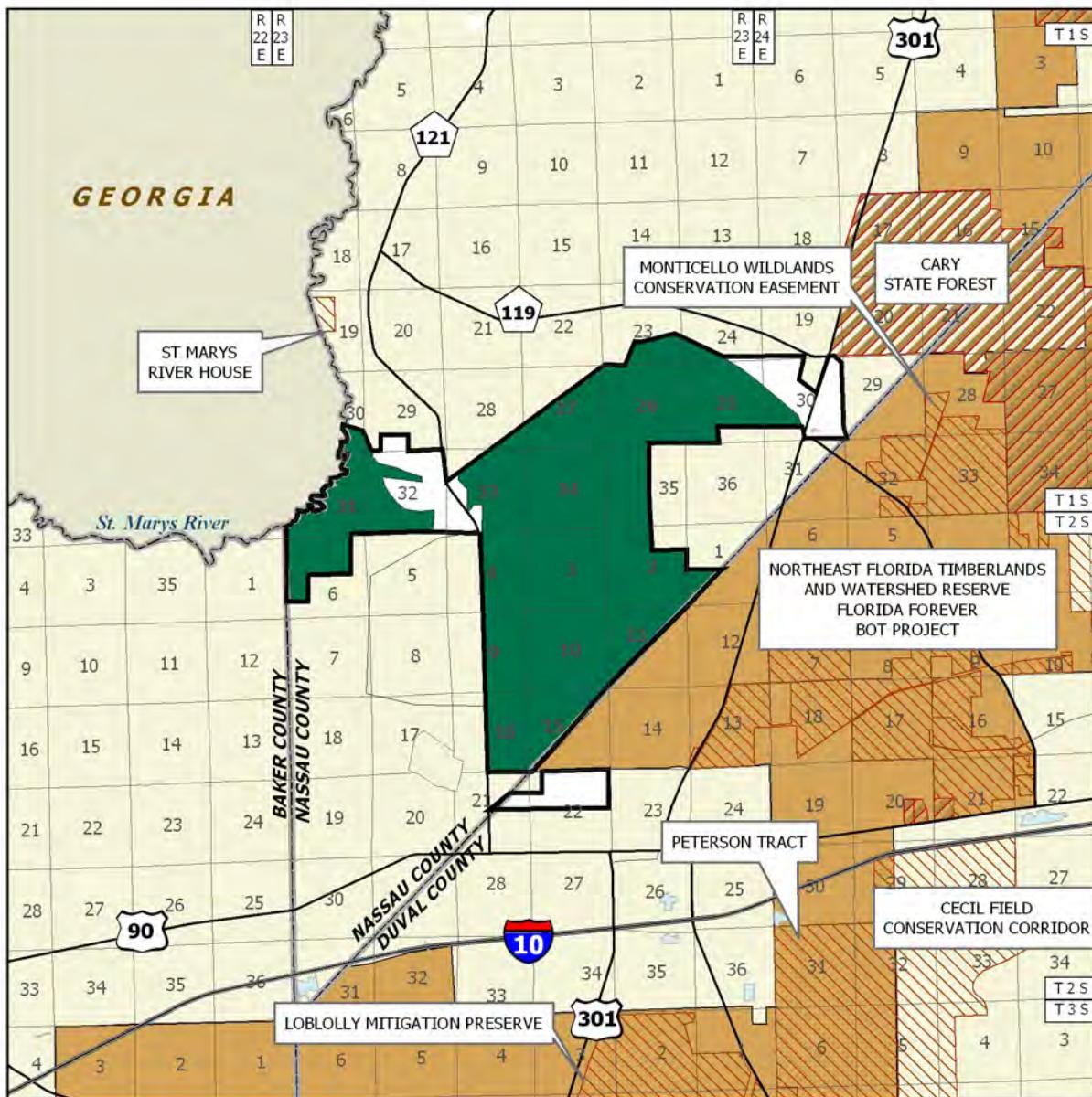
The general resource-based recreation potential for the project is considered low to moderate, depending on the extent of fee title acquisition. Hunting potential is considered medium to high.

### Acquisition Planning

The Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project was added to the 2003 Florida Forever project list at the 12/5/2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC).

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	9,129
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	9,129
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$3,587,753

## Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River



### BALDWIN BAY/ST. MARYS RIVER

#### DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box with Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



AUGUST 2006

## Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River

The essential parcels are identified as the Baldwin Bay LLC, Brandy Branch LLC, International Paper, and International Paper Realty ownerships. The essential parcels should be mapped and appraised before the other parcels, which are important, but not critical to the project as a whole. The parcels are being offered fee simple.

On 12/8/2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.

### Coordination

Portions of this project may be acquired in partnership with Duval County. The St. Johns River Water Management District is also interested in acquisition of the project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goal for the FFS is to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems in perpetuity; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS's management activities on this project.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** Based upon a review of the Florida Forever Act, this project meets the following Goals and Measures, as outlined in Statute, for significant landscapes, for increasing natural-resource based recreation, and for restoring such natural functions as protection of the floodplain, surface waters, and functional wetland systems. This project also has a great prospect for sustainable forestry.

**Manager** The FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the state forest system. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** There are major restoration challenges that will need to be addressed if the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River proposal is purchased. The entire site is affected by logging roads and ditches that have impacted hydrology. The decreased hydroperiod has allowed exotic and upland species to encroach into wetlands, particularly in the areas around Baldwin Bay and in the wet flatwoods and dome swamps that are surrounded by pine plantations. To restore normal hydrology, ditches will need to be filled and plugged and roads closed and lowered to

grade.

Much of this site (59 percent) has been converted to intensive silviculture. Recent clearcuts and slash piles mar the landscape. Intensive site prep activities such as roller chopping and bedding have severely disturbed the ground vegetation and soils. Fire suppression has led to woody species encroachment and deep needle litter build-up in the understories of some of the pine plantations.

Invasive exotic plant and animals were documented on the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River site, but if measures are taken soon, these invasives can be controlled with reasonable effort. Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), and Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) were observed. There were also numerous signs of feral hog digging within the site.

### *Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a part of Cary State Forest, and the Jacksonville District personnel will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use.

**Revenue-generating potential** As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low-medium.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

<b>SALARY (X FTE)</b>	<b>\$231,839</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>140,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>354,600</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$726,439</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Battle of Wahoo Swamp

Sumter County

## Critical Historical Resources

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp project is located in Sumter County, and consists of approximately 854 acres. The project, if acquired, will preserve a Second Seminole War battle site as well as protect habitat for several rare plant species. This battlefield may represent the best-preserved site of its kind, and would offer opportunities to increase public awareness of Florida history during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The battles that occurred here were in response to the 1835 ambush and annihilation by Seminole warriors of 100 men under the command of Major Francis Dade, now memorialized at the Dade Battlefield-located about 10 miles from Wahoo Swamp.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) proposes to manage the property.

### General Description

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp site consists of 850 acres in eastern Sumter County, approximately four miles east of the Withlacoochee River and six miles west of I-75 and Bushnell. The northeast corner of the site that extends across County Road 48 lies only 0.2 mile from the extreme southwest corner of the Jumper Creek Tract of Withlacoochee State Forest. Dade Battlefield, a historical site managed by Florida DEP Division of Recreation and Parks, lies about five miles southeast

of Wahoo Swamp. The natural communities on the Wahoo site largely include “islands” of hardwood hammock, or upland mixed forest, scattered throughout an extensive wetland matrix of freshwater marsh and cypress swamp. The project consists of a fee simple acquisition of the battlefield area and less-than-fee acquisition over the remainder of the project. The acquisition of development rights and the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### Public Use

The property has diversity for limited quantities of resource-based recreational pursuits. The project's most important resource is cultural as a Seminole war battle site. Primary emphasis should be placed on interpretation of the historic elements of this site to the public. Varied public recreational uses could include camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, hiking, and battle re-enactments. The project also provides opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature study.

### Acquisition Planning

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp project was added to the 2003 Florida Forever project list at the 12/5/2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC).

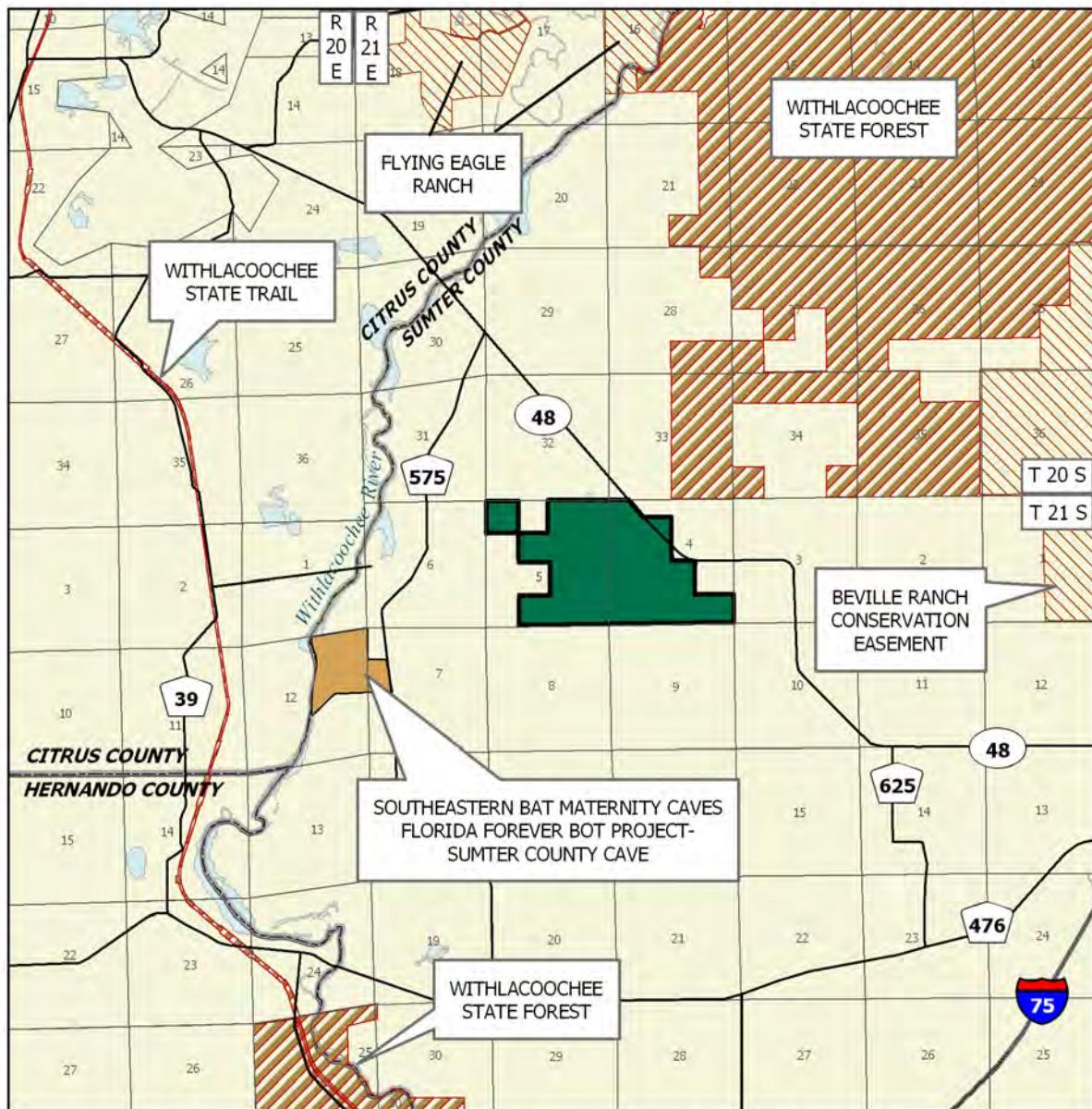
The essential parcel is identified as the Hamilton ownership. This is a single-owner project, with five parcels that total 832.5 acres. The fee-simple portion of the project should be mapped and appraised before

Battle of Wahoo Swamp	
FNAI Elements	
<i>Craighead's Nodding-caps</i>	G1/S1
<i>Modest Spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Ricketts' Nodding-caps</i>	G1?/S1
<i>Ruffled spleenwort</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Florida Spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>Curtiss' Spleenwort</i>	GNA/S1
<i>Peters' Bristle Fern</i>	G4G5/S1S2
<i>Plume Polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>Swamp Plume Polypody</i>	G5?/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3

10 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	853
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	853
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$30,218

## Battle of Wahoo Swamp



## BATTLE OF WAHOO SWAMP

### SUMTER COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0    0.5    1    2  
Miles



JULY 2006

proceeding with the less-than-fee portion of the project.

On 12/10/2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, "Critical Historical Resources."

### **Coordination**

Sumter County Historical Society is considered an acquisition partner. No partnership funding sources were known at the time this project was added to the priority list.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Although proposed originally for its archaeological values, the Battle of Wahoo Swamp site also supports many rare plant and animal species and examples of intact natural communities. The rocky hardwood hammocks and surrounding wetlands on this proposal represent high quality examples of a landscape that has been heavily altered by conversion to pasture and residential development throughout central Florida. This site is one of the few remaining in Florida that support the suite of rare ferns and orchids associated with limestone outcrops and grottoes. Nearby similar sites have been drained and filled, mined for limerock, and invaded by exotic species.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Although the project evidences past uses, its present condition is good quality hardwood hammock, freshwater slough and marsh. The greater significance of the site is in the location of a battle between U.S. forces and Seminole Indians during the Second Seminole War. The battle was fought within the project and compliments the history of two nearby state parks, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park and Fort Cooper Historic State Park. It is the complimentary aspect of this property that makes the project desirable as a unit of the state park system. Management of the project as a unit of the state park system is contingent upon acquiring fee title.

**Manager** DRP has been designated as manager of the property.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Management is generally expected to entail basic resource management, such as securing and protecting the property, while a management plan is completed. As the project is in a relatively natural state, there will not be a need for any high level resource restoration as can be the case with many projects. Prudent control of public access will be needed to protect and preserve

any physical historic elements of the site. Management should provide for uses and recreational activities that are compatible with the protection of the rare and sensitive resources.

### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project is acquired and assigned to the Division of Recreation and Parks, the acquired lands will be secured and management planning implemented. There is no infrastructure on the site. Access for low intensity resource-based recreation will be initially accommodated and may include the installation of a starter kit at an appropriate time and location. At some future date, historic reenactment of the battle may be included within the interpretive element of the site.

***Revenue-generating potential*** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use is increased and interpretive programs, particularly a reenactment program, implemented, revenue is expected to be generated. The degree of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities placed on the land.

***Cooperators in management activities*** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project. The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

***Management costs and sources of revenue*** The project is proposed for both fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition. The purchase of development rights and the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement. Approximately 200 acres is to be acquired in fee, and approximately 650 acres is to be acquired less-than-fee.

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated Budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1FTE)</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Operating Capital Outlay</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Fixed Capital Outlay</b>	<b>350,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$468,000</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Bear Creek Forest

## Bay, Calhoun and Gulf Counties

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project would help establish the Northwest Florida Ecological Greenway, a proposed system of natural areas forming a significant corridor connection between State, Federal and Non-Profit conservation lands in the central Florida Panhandle. A few of the benefits offered by this acquisition would be to increase the protection of Florida biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels; protect, restore and maintain the quality and natural functions of Florida land, water and wetlands ecosystems; and ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural ecosystems and the public. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).

### General Description

The Bear Creek project consists of approximately 104,461 acres in Calhoun, Bay and Gulf Counties, Florida. This landscape consists of numerous pine plantations that are interspersed with disturbed wet prairies and forested wetlands including baygalls, dome swamps, basin swamps and floodplain swamps. The

## Critical Natural Lands

boundaries also contain upland forest types that are represented by sandhill, scrubby and mesic flatwoods. The Bear Creek Florida Forever project is 6 miles southeast of the Econfina Creek Water Management Area (Northwest Florida Water Management District), 6 miles north of Tyndall Air Force Base, 5.7 miles west of the Apalachicola River Water Management Area (NFWFMD), 5.7 miles northwest of Dead Lakes State Park, and 2.3 miles southwest of the Middle Chipola River Florida Forever project. The Patton tract, a small 940-acre area recently acquired by the U.S. Forest Service, is adjacent to the project on its northwest side near SR 20

### Public Use

The principle acquisition purposes for this project guide management and public use towards resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities. The managers will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Recreation (and administrative) development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow suitable public access, provide facilities for public use, and the administration and management of the property. DOF anticipates that interpretive and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the natural environment. The project is accessible from public highways and local public roads. It is also near a major urban area, Panama City, and large population base.

### Acquisition Planning

On 6/4/2004 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Bear Creek Forest project to Group B

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (GIS Acres)	104,424
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	104,424
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$15,041,536

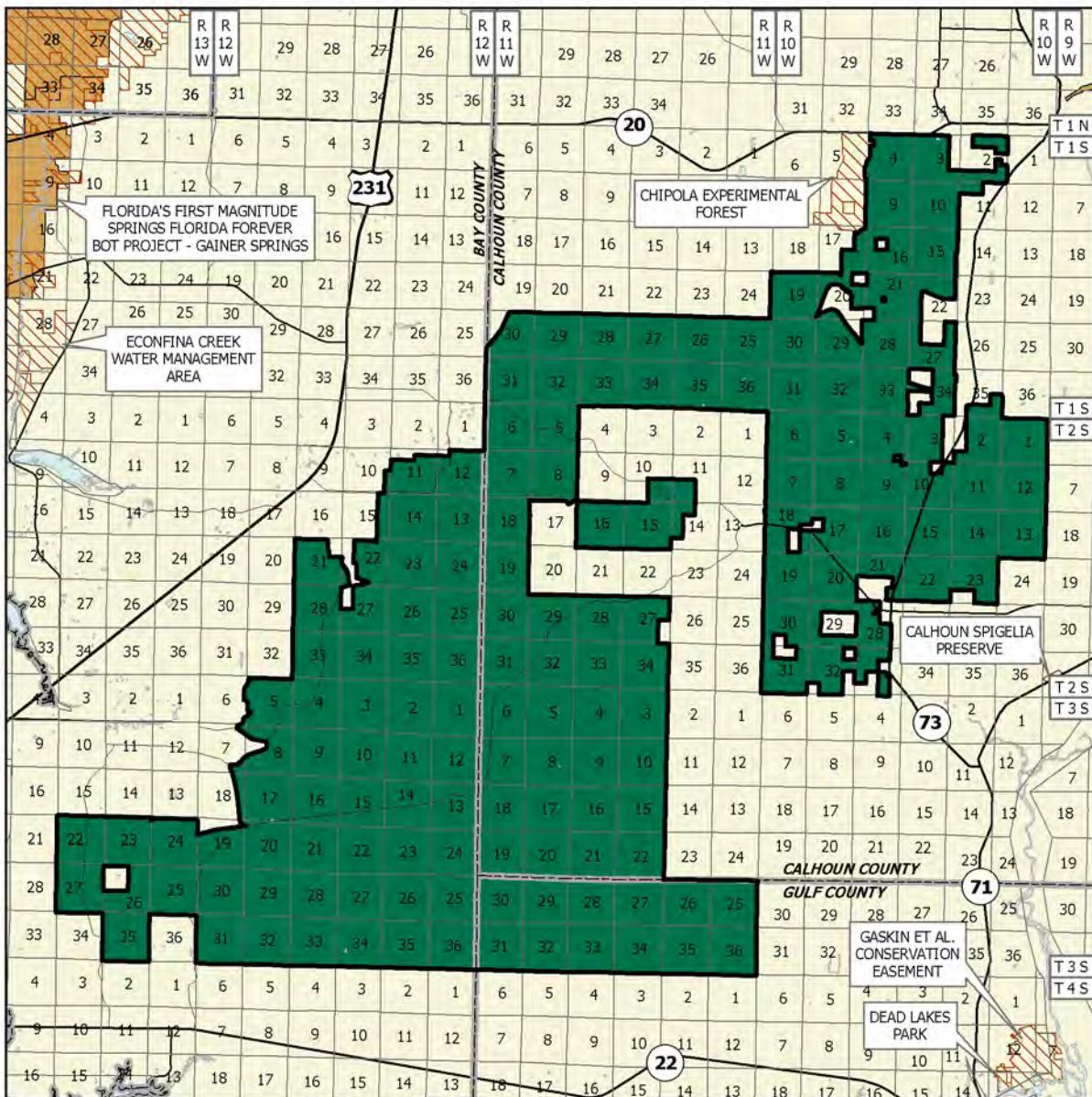
### Bear Creek Forest

#### FNAI Elements

Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Dark-headed Hatpins</i>	G1/S1
<i>Pine-woods Aster</i>	G1/S1
<i>Godfrey's Butterwort</i>	G2/S2
<i>Mock Pennyroyal</i>	G2/S2
<i>Giant Water-dropwort</i>	G3/S3
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
<i>Primrose-flowered Butterwort</i>	G3G4/S3
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?

13 rare species are associated with the project

## Bear Creek Forest



### BEAR CREEK FOREST

#### BAY, CALHOUN, AND GULF COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0      2      4      8  
Miles



JANUARY 2012

## **Bear Creek Forest**

of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Interim Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Division of Forestry (DOF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 104,461 acres, a single owner, the Great Western Timber Company, and a 2003 taxable value of \$15,041,531.

The essential parcels were identified as the Great Western Timber Company ownership, who is a willing seller, interested in exploring possible options regarding less-than-fee purchases, fee purchases with deed restrictions or other management agreements as mutually beneficial.

On 1/27/2005 ARC moved the project to Group A of the FF 2005 priority list. On 6/3/2005 ARC moved the project to Group B of the FF 2005 Interim priority list.

### **Coordination**

The FFS and TNC are considered acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Since principal purposes of the project include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to careful control of public uses.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation** The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted mesic and wet flatwoods, sandhill, and scrubby flatwoods. The project primarily consists of slash and loblolly pine plantations, and it is estimated that at least 80 percent of the project area has been converted to planted pines. Some of the pine plantations have been bedded, but several areas still have native groundcover and understory species. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silviculture values to an area managed for ecological and recreational benefits. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

**Manager** FFS of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).

**Conditions Affecting Intensity Of Management** Much of the project's flatwoods, hardwood forest and sandhill areas have been disturbed by silviculture operations and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber

species are off-site may necessitate thinning or removal to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and canopy.

### ***Timetable For Implementing Management Provisions***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a State Forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

***Estimate Of Revenue-Generating Potential*** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this property is expected to be moderate. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

***Capital Project Expenditures*** Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use, and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and biking. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, the Division of Forestry intends to apply for capital project funds.

***Revenue Sources, Management Costs And Employees Needed*** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (9 FTE)</b>	<b>\$ 293,345</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 797,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$ 852,260</u></b>
	<b>\$1,942,605</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Bear Hammock

Marion County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Bear Hammock project in southern Marion County would meet the state goals of enhanced coordination of land-acquisition efforts by making a conservation link that fills a gap among several other properties. One goal of state conservation is to preserve areas of at least 50,000 acres, and Bear Hammock provides a connector between Goethe State Forest and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, creating a continuity of more than 200,000 acres. Bear Hammock meets state goals of preserving habitat areas, because the project has an estimated 4,232 acres of rare species habitat. About 24 percent of the area is considered Strategic Habitat Conservation Area. Bear Hammock is known to be habitat for such species as wood stork, bald eagle, diamondback rattlesnake, and gopher tortoise. Finally, the property has a high potential to fill the Florida Forever goals of providing recreation by trails, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, and water access.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended by staff as manager of the project, except for a separate piece that is an island in Lake Rousseau. That island would be managed as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, which is managed by the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT).

### General Description

Bear Hammock is located in the valley of the Withlacoochee River, near Dunnellon and Brooksville. This 4,548-acre site is two-thirds covered by pine plantations that were historically a mix of pine flatwoods and

sandhill, or scrub, terrain. While slash pines have been planted in most areas, there are also native shrubs that include saw palmetto, dwarf live oak, shiny blueberry, gallberry and fetterbush. There are several natural lakes on the property, ranging from shallow ponds with abundant aquatic herbs to sandy-bottomed clear water lakes. At least one of these lakes is a sandhill upland lake with no associated swamp.

### Public Use

Bear Hammock has potential for providing many resource-based recreation opportunities. It is located within a few miles of Dunnellon, with excellent paved highway access, and is adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway, as well as being adjacent to the South Goethe Addition Florida Forever project and Goethe State Forest. This land contains seven lakes. Access to the lakes and rivers would provide canoeing, kayaking, sailing, fishing and possibly swimming. The highly scenic areas around the lakes could provide picnicking and wildlife viewing. The many roads within the property will provide off-road bicycling, hiking and horseback riding opportunities. The expansive trail system that can be supported by the property can also be connected with trails and recreational opportunities from other nearby public lands. The property has about 3 ½ miles of access from CR 40 and CR 363. This easy access could bolster the project as a full service recreation area by providing camping opportunities, picnicking, extensive trails, nature study, environmental education and water access. Depending on management emphasis, hunting can also be supported.

Bear Hammock FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Spoon-leaved Sundew	G5/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2008
Project Area (GIS Acres)	4,685
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	4,685
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$32,576,529

## Bear Hammock

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/12/2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Bear Hammock project to the Florida Forever acquisition list as a full-fee project.

**Coordination** FWC is considered an acquisition partner for this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The objectives of acquiring Bear Hammock are to conserve and protect the significant Strategic Habitat Conservation Area that makes up almost a quarter of the project area, helping preserve species that are documented on this site, including the wood stork, the bald eagle, the diamondback rattlesnake, and the gopher tortoise. Another major goal is to provide recreation for the public on trails, with horseback riding, with camping and picnicking, and by access to water. The FWC management prospectus also says that hunting is possible depending on management plans.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** Bear Hammock will increase the connectivity within the conservation landscape extending from north central peninsular Florida to the Gulf Coast, from the Ocala National Forest westward along the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area to Goethe State Forest, to the NATC Gulf Hammock Conservation Easement (Suwannee River Water Management District), the Cedar Key Scrub Preserve State Park, and to other conservation lands extending to Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. If acquired, Bear Hammock would provide considerable restoration and expansion of existing habitat for imperiled species and would advance the goals of species and habitat recovery plans.

**Manager** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has been chosen as the manager for this project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Major portions include lands that are natural areas, requiring application of resource management methods such as use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Additional methods may be necessary for some management units in order to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. FWC would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions, objectives, and restoration methods. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Among methods for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural

communities are those for control of human uses, ecological restoration, exotic species removal, prescribed burning, and other important methods for management and protection of resources. Any suburban development around Bear Hammock could affect certain management actions and uses such as the ability to conduct prescribed burning.

Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development and implementation because imperiled or rare species are expected to occur on Bear Hammock. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife and environmental areas and wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources and compatible recreational experiences, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

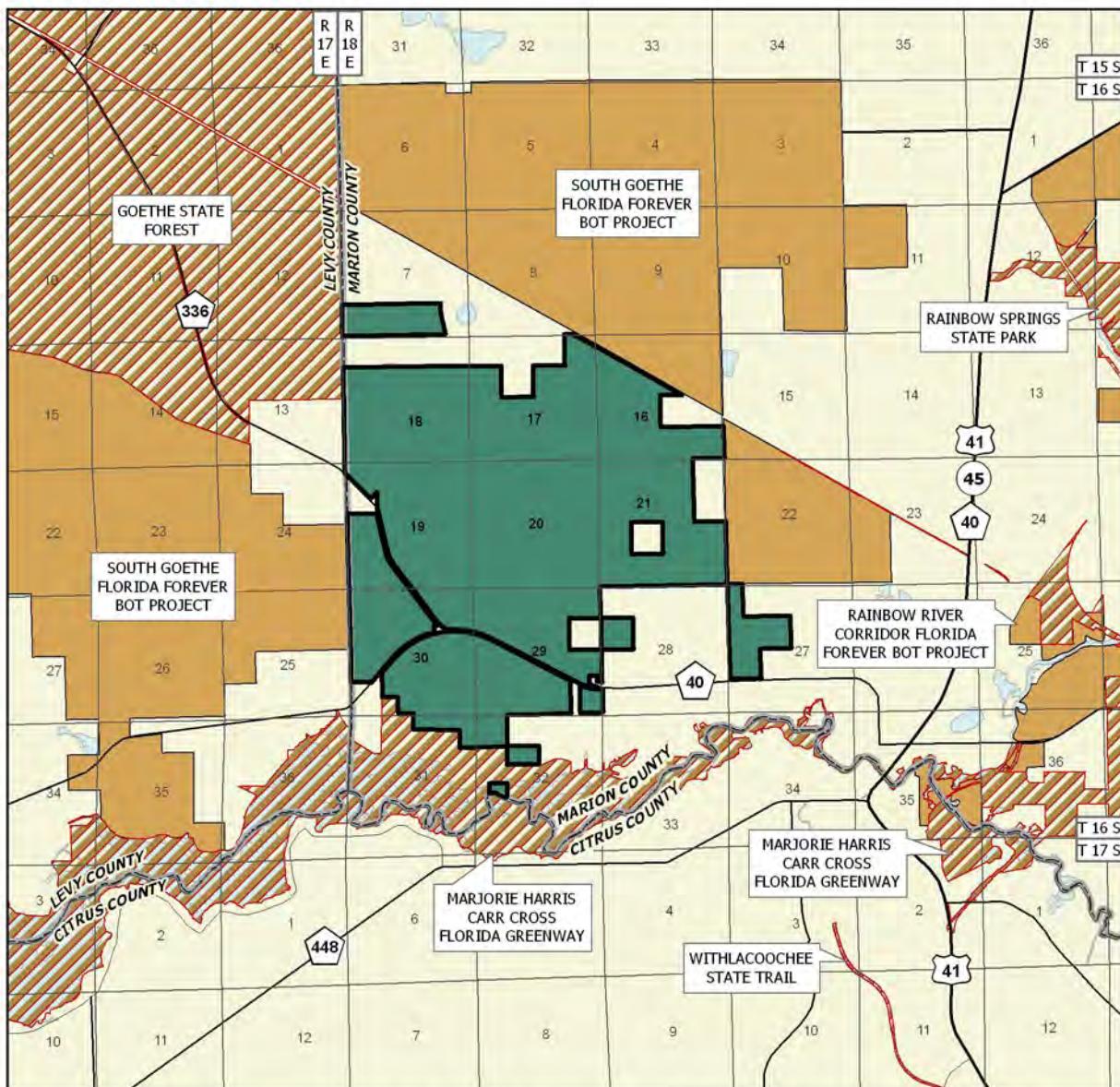
### *Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis would be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. A management plan would be developed by FWC stating management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management, taking into consideration existing conditions and approaches necessary to achieve desired future conditions. The management plan will also establish future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies and other stakeholders. Long-range goals would emphasize ecosystem management and the conservation of fish and wildlife.

**Revenue-generating potential** The revenue generating potential of Bear Hammock is not known and will depend upon future uses to be approved in the management plan. However, revenue from such environmental



## Bear Hammock



### BEAR HAMMOCK

#### MARION COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands



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MARCH 2009

## **Bear Hammock**

lands might include forest products production, sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits and user fees.

**Cooperators in management activities** FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and St. Johns River Water Management District in management of the property.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** Following has been submitted by FWC:

### **REVENUE SOURCES, MANAGEMENT COSTS AND EMPLOYEES NEEDED\***

<b>Category Source of Funds</b>	<b>Start-up CARL</b>	<b>Recurring CARL</b>
Resource Management	\$ 102,745	\$ 88,629
Administration	\$ 82,345	\$ 33,072
Support	\$ 149,080	\$ 31,566
Capital Improvements	\$ 217,898	\$ 88,179
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$ 41,300	\$ 17,000
Law Enforcement	\$ 3,251	\$ 3,251
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 596,619</b>	<b>\$ 261,697</b>

\*Figures include salary for 1 FTE.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Belle Meade

## Collier County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The cypress swamps and old-growth slash pine flatwoods in the Belle Meade project, extending to the fast-developing suburbs of Naples, are still important for such endangered wildlife as Florida panthers, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and Florida black bear. Belle Meade is also the watershed for Rookery Bay. The Belle Meade project will conserve the westernmost large natural area in southwest Florida, protect some of the southernmost populations of several rare animals, and help protect the quality of the subtropical estuary of Rookery Bay, while providing a large area for recreation in a natural environment to residents of and visitors to rapidly urbanizing southwest Florida.

### Manager

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka as Division of Forestry/DOF).

### General Description

This project includes some of the most extensive examples of old-growth wet flatwoods (hydric pine flatwoods) in southwest Florida, and high quality, undisturbed subtropical dwarf cypress savanna communities, a plant community type endemic to southern Florida not within other projects. The hydrology of the hydric pine flatwoods and dwarf cypress communities within the project is relatively intact. The project will protect habitat for at least 20 FNAI-listed plants and animals, including the Florida panther, red-cockaded woodpecker, and Florida black bear. Three archaeological sites have been recorded

within the project boundaries, and other sites may be present. The project is vulnerable to changes in the timing and amount of water flowing through it. Residential and commercial development spreading from Naples is the primary threat.

### Public Use

The project will provide a state forest with uses such as hiking, hunting and nature appreciation. Uses will be limited during the wet seasons.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/10/1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Belle Meade project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored jointly by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Conservancy, Inc., consisted of approximately 40,846 acres, 762 parcels, 504 landowners, and a 1991 taxable value of \$62,933,000.

On 7/20/1994 the LAAC approved a ± 11,985-acre deletion, requested by DEP staff, to the project boundary. The deletion covers the area north of I-75 from the project. It also removes the Collier property and the property to the south adjacent to SR 951 from the project. The approximate taxable value of the deletion was \$18,465,769 based on the 1991 value. On 12/7/1994, the LAAC was presented with and approved the revised project boundary which reduced the total acreage of the current boundary from 23,500 to 17,800 acres. The revised boundary included two additions to the current project boundary, approximately 640 acres

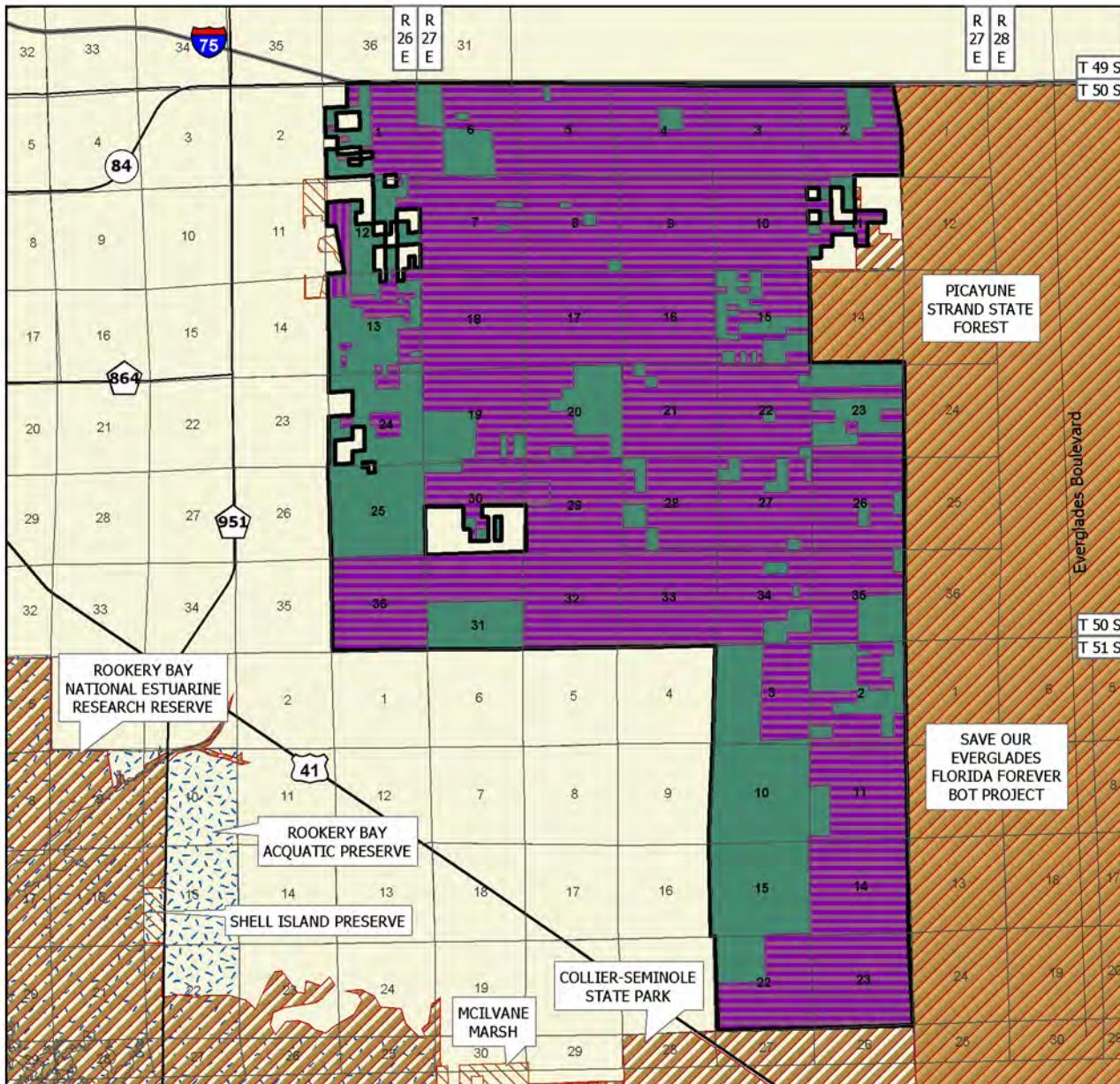
Belle Meade FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
<i>Ghost Orchid</i>	G2G4/S2
<i>Cowhorn Orchid</i>	G5?/S1
<i>Powdery Catopsis</i>	G5?/S1
<i>Tailed Strap Fern</i>	G5/S1
Bald Eagle	G5/S3

8 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1993
Project Area (GIS Acres)	27,722
Acres Acquired (GIS)	20,386*
at a Cost of	\$38,391,158
Acres Remaining (GIS)	7,336
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$14,082,600

\*Includes donations: 147 acres September 2007 (The Conservancy of Southwest Florida) and 650 acres (private group) October 2009.

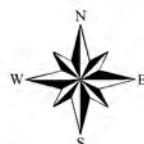
## Belle Meade



## BELLE MEADE

### COLLIER COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Yellow Box] State Owned Lands
- [Red Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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OCTOBER 2011

in the southwest corner and 160 acres in the southeast corner. Approximately 500 landowners remain in the revised boundary; close to 41 percent are owners of tracts 10 acres or less in size; 53 percent are owners of tracts between 10-40 acres; and 6 percent are owners of tracts greater than 100 acres.

On 7/14/1995 the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 2,220-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the three landowners, consisted of 20 parcels, and a 1994 taxable value of \$2,964,000. The acreage was included in the original project boundary, but later deleted during the redefinition of the project boundary by the Belle Meade Work Group appointed by the Council in 1994. The Work Group consisted of landowners, representatives of local government, the water management district, state agencies and others with local expertise. The boundary recommended by the Work Group included primarily willing sellers – approximately 500 ownerships.

On 7/16/1996, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,240-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by eight landowners, consisted of 9 parcels, and a 1995 taxable value of \$2,048,664. On 10/30/1996, LAAC approved a “Landowner Request Zone” (in effect, all tracts considered on 7/16/1996). The zone defined areas in which a landowner may request inclusion in the boundary in writing. Highest priority must be given to parcels within the LAAC approved December, 1994 boundaries. On 6/9/2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project from Group B to Group A on the August 2006 Florida Forever Priority list. On 11/20/2006, FNAI removed 490 acres from the project boundary in compliance with the 11/15/2000 request of private landowners Howard N. Galbut and Gary R. Edwards (Galbut property data provided by Dan Jones of Southern Mapping Technology 11/15/2006, and Edwards property data derived from the 2/14/2000 removal request letter and property appraiser digital boundaries).

In 9/2007, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida donated 147 ac. (value of \$2,310,000). On 10/9/2009, approximately 650 ac. were donated by Estates at TwinEagles, LTD (no value listed). FFS agreed to manage all acres. In 10/2009, Estates at Twin Eagles, LTD donated 650 ac. FFS agreed to manage.

On 8/13/2010 ARC approved a 348-acre (\$19,232,935 just value) reduction to the boundary due to commercial

development and infrastructure. In 8/2011, Citigate Development donated 86.34 acres in Picayune Strand State Forest; donation valued at \$274,785; to be managed by FFS.

### **Coordination**

Recent acquisition partners include The Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Belle Meade project are to conserve and protect unaltered wet flatwoods and cypress swamps that provide significant habitat for many rare and endangered species of wildlife, including the Florida panther; and to conserve and restore these important ecosystems, their significant wildlife resources, and their critical hydrological connection to the Gulf Coast through purchase because regulation cannot adequately protect them. The project will be managed under the multiple-use concept, with management activities being directed toward protection of old-growth forests (using growing-season burns where necessary) and restoration of natural surface-water flows. The project, when completed, will link Collier-Seminole State Park and the future Picayune Strand State Forest and will approach the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; it will be large enough to achieve the primary management goals.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Belle Meade project has the forest resources (extensive areas of old-growth South Florida slash pine) and the location (twelve miles of common border with the Picayune Strand) to make it highly suitable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The FFS is recommended as manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Portions of the project may require hydrological restoration, but these activities will probably be conducted by the water management district. No other known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention are known. The FFS expects its management efforts to be typical for a state forest.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the core area is acquired, the FFS will provide access for low intensity outdoor recreation. Initial activities include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The sites' natural resources and

## Belle Meade

threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to develop a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will restore disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem

conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding for this project will be appropriated from the CARL management fund. Budget needs for interim management are covered under the Save Our Everglades/Golden Gate Project.

*Updated 1/4/2012*

### Management Cost Summary

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$9,140	\$9,140
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$44,000	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,140</b>	<b>\$9,140</b>



# Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch

Osceola County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Many kinds of wildlife live in the expanses of palmetto prairies, pine flatwoods, and cypress swamps in Osceola County. The Big Bend Swamp project will acquire certain rights from landowners to maintain a link of natural lands between the Bull Creek and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Areas, and help to ensure the survival of crested caracara, red-cockaded woodpeckers, sandhill cranes, and other wildlife that require these large natural areas. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

## Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (lead), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) (cooperating), and OES to monitor conservation easements, unless otherwise noted. Osceola County will manage the Lonesome Camp Ranch property they acquired.

## General Description

The Big Bend Swamp project includes a diverse sample of the natural environments of central Florida. Natural communities on the project are in good condition because the uplands have been burned regularly. Mesic flatwoods and dry prairie cover 40 percent of the project. These communities are interrupted by Big Bend Swamp, which is a large cypress-dominated strand swamp, and smaller dome swamps, depression marshes, wet prairies, and hydric hammocks. Fire-suppressed scrub also occurs in patches. Disturbed areas, largely improved pasture or sod farms, cover 18 percent of the

project. No FNAI-listed plants are known from the project, but the Big Bend Swamp may be particularly important for up to 30 rare animal species that require large areas of flatwoods, prairie, and wetlands, such as red-cockaded woodpeckers, Florida sandhill cranes, Florida grasshopper sparrows, Sherman's fox squirrels, swallow-tailed kites, and crested caracaras.

## Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation. Public use will depend on agreements with landowners.

## Acquisition Planning

On 12/9/1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) added the Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch project to the less-than-fee group of the CARL 2000 Priority list. This less-than-fee project, sponsored by Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), consisted of approximately 56,710 acres, multiple owners, and a 1998 taxable value of \$28,190,776. While primarily a less-than-fee acquisition, full fee will be considered in the subdivision.

The essential parcels were identified as Bronson, Partin, Ridgewood Ranch, Oberry, Gannarelli, Whaley, Lee Ranch, and Smith.

On 4/25/2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a less-than-fee addition of

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>56,710</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>6,230*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$21,548,060</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>50,480</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$25,661,908</b>
* includes acreage acquired by Osceola County.	
Note: 7,722 acres removed on 4/16/10 due to residential/commercial /infrastructure development.	

### Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch

#### FNAI Elements

Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2

4 rare species are associated with the project

## **Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch**

5,714 acres to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by Holland & Knight Consulting, consisted of one owner, Birchwood Acres Limited Partnership, and a 2001 taxable value of \$5,346,624.

In 6/2007 Osceola County acquired, and will manage, the 342-acre Lonesome Camp Ranch property. In 11/2007 Osceola County purchased an additional 2,100 acres that will be managed as part of the Lonesome Camp Ranch Conservation Area.

In 4/2010, ARC voted to remove 7,722 acres due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

### **Coordination**

Osceola County is an acquisition partner in this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Lands project includes nearly 50,000 acres and is comprised of a mosaic of upland and wetland natural communities that serve as important integral portions of a large south-central Florida natural area. These communities include cypress strands, mesic flatwoods, dome swamp, wet prairie, scrub and baygall. Ownership and management of these communities is important to the protection of the natural system comprising the Kissimmee River Basin and will form important adjunct lands for a public lands complex already under management (or proposed for management) by FWC. Additionally, this complex of natural communities serves as important habitat for such listed bird species as the Florida grasshopper sparrow, the Florida sandhill crane, red-cockaded woodpecker, crested caracara, American swallow-tailed kite, and is of special importance to the burrowing owl. Most of the characteristic vertebrates of the Kissimmee Basin require vast tracts of land to support viable populations. This project, though largely contemplated for less-than-fee purchase, consists of a variety of wetland and upland habitats that support a broad diversity of wildlife, both common and rare. Several islands of scrub provide habitat for such species as gopher tortoises and Florida scrub jays. The Big Bend Swamp / Holopaw Ranch proposal has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area, and portions of the project have the potential to provide the public with opportunities for activities such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation. The FWC is recommended as lead manager, with the FFS

as cooperating managers.

### **Management Prospectus**

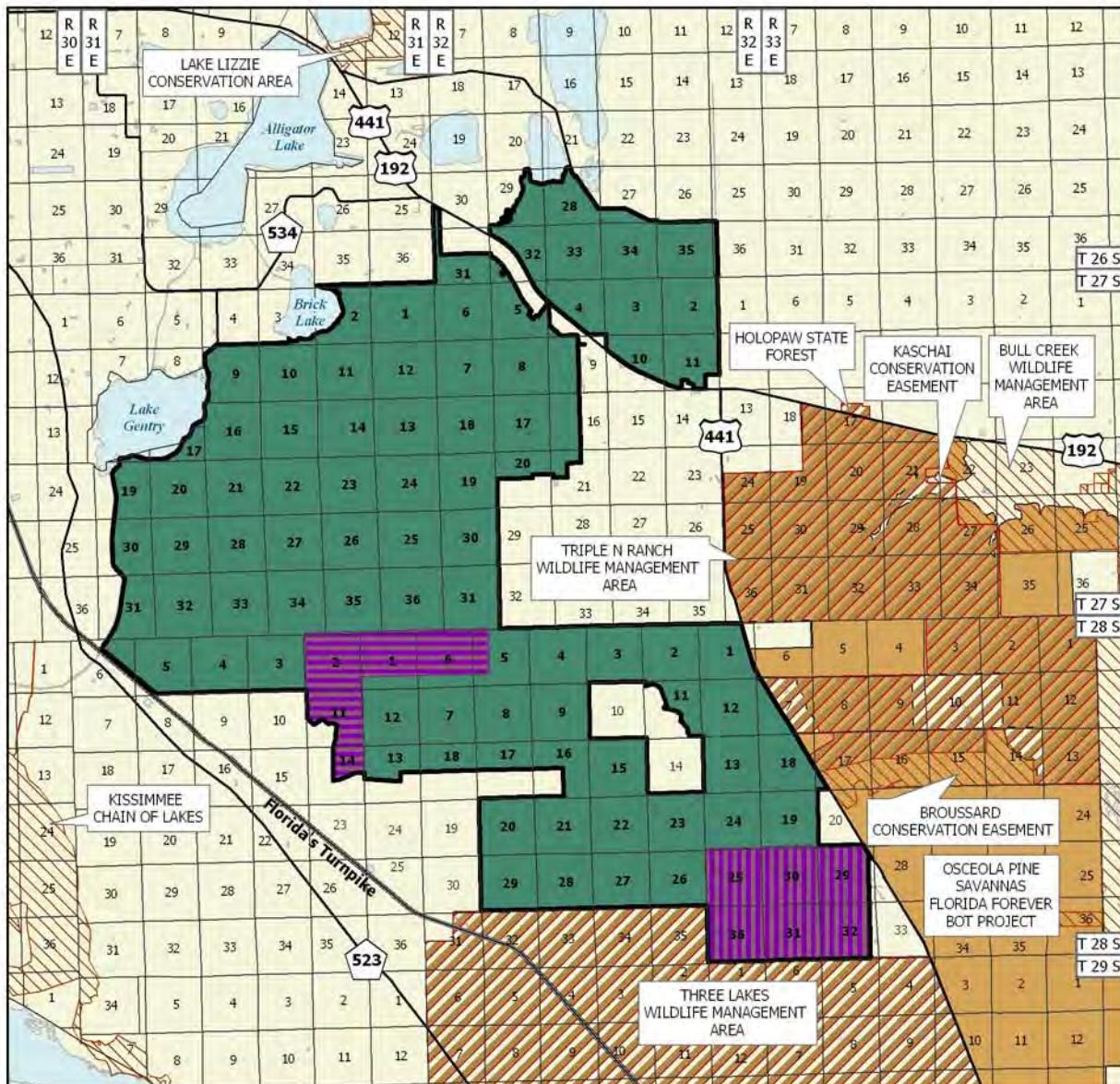
***Management goals and multiple-use activities contemplated*** Priority will be given to conservation and protection of native wildlife species' habitats, and especially to that of threatened and endangered species. Management actions on fee simple acquisitions will be designed to conserve, protect, and restore important ecosystems and plant communities. FWC will work with landowners on less-than-fee purchases to oversee conservation easement provisions negotiated for the Trustees' by the Division of State Lands and FWC. The lands within this project will provide a variety of multiple-use activities including hunting, fishing, camping, boating, hiking, horseback riding, environmental education, ecotourism, and other natural resource-based recreational activities, as well as the opportunity to generate revenues from timber management, cattle-grazing and public recreational uses.

***Conditions affecting the intensity of management*** The lands within this proposal are generally considered to be low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management, including the use of frequent prescribed fire. However, special precautions and frequent coordination will be necessary for any contemplated hydrological and plant community restoration projects, and for prescribed burning activities, since ranchers and other landowners will continue to maintain a presence on many of these properties. Additionally, if negotiated provisions allow, some low-level public-use activities may be allowed on lands acquired under conservation easements.

***Timetable for implementing management, protecting infrastructure and ensuring security*** During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on securing and posting boundaries, assuring public access to the tract, surveying wildlife and plant communities, restoring fire regimes, and establishing relationships with adjacent landowners. A management plan for the tract will be prepared, to include formation of an appropriate Management Advisory Group that includes stakeholders in the management of these lands.

Long-range activities on the property will include securing and stabilizing roads for public access, developing hiking / horseback riding trails, and developing camping and nature interpretive programs that key on facilities being provided on the adjacent Three Lakes WMA. An all-season prescribed burning program will be established using both aerial and

## Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch



### BIG BEND SWAMP/HOLOPAW RANCH

#### OSCEOLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

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## **Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch**

ground ignition techniques. Whenever possible, existing roads, trails and firebreaks will be used to control both prescribed and natural fires. Infrastructure development will be kept to the minimum required to allow public access, provide facilities, and manage the property.

Also for the long-term, FWC will seek to: maintain and establish rapport with landowners adjacent to the WMA; provide technical assistance and advice in order to assure the welfare of ecosystem components, such as wetlands; and establish working relationships with local representatives of regulatory agencies (i.e., Water Management Districts, counties, DEP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, etc.) so that if conflicts arise solutions can be quickly sought.

Floral and faunal inventories will be continually updated by Commission biologists through opportunistic observations and systematic surveys. Inventory data will be supplemented as available with data from other sources which may include, but not be limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Recreation and Parks, FFS, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, The Nature Conservancy, Water Management Districts, or other private contractors.

Over the long-term, some previously-disturbed sites will be restored or managed to specifically benefit wildlife species that thrive in early successional plant communities. Selected sites may be planted with native or non-invasive agronomic plants to: (1) provide dove hunting opportunities; (2) provide high quality forage for quail, dove, deer, and wild turkey; and / or (3) to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities.

***Estimates of revenue-generating potential*** Much of the proposed area consists of present or former ranch lands and mesic flatwoods with scattered longleaf or slash pine. Some revenues might be generated on fee-

simple portions of the acquisition through judicious stocking of cattle, or through timber management by means of a wildlife-oriented forest management plan developed with the assistance of the Division of Forestry. Also, fees could be established for touring the area to view the plant and animal communities through ecotourism programs being developed on the adjacent WMA. A \$25 wildlife management area stamp would be required to hunt on the portions of the area acquired in fee simple. For areas where only conservation easements are acquired, FWC will be bound by negotiations between landowners and the Division of State Lands. However, if negotiated provisions allow, there may be some opportunities on these lands for generating revenues from low-level hunting activities such as quota hunts, or special-opportunity hunts.

***Recommendations for other governmental agency involvement*** The FWC will cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area, but will seek special assistance from the FFS in management of forest resources and implementation of prescribed burning programs.

***Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed*** Funding of requisite positions, OPS, expenses and OCO would come from the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund, and the State Game Trust Fund as needed. Since these lands are adjacent to an existing land complex being managed by FWC, initial staffing would be limited to one Biological Scientist III and one Fish and Wildlife Technician.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

### **Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
<b>Salaries</b>	<b>\$72,311</b>	<b>\$74,480</b>	<b>\$76,714</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$32,424</b>	<b>\$32,424</b>	<b>\$32,424</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$72,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$182,735</b>	<b>\$112,404</b>	<b>\$114,638</b>

# Bombing Range Ridge

## Polk, Highlands and Osceola Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project would conserve and protect significant habitat for native species and endangered and threatened species. Additionally, public acquisition would provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource based recreation. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

The Florida Forest Services/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage all but approximately 540 acres in the north portion of the project. The 540 acres, lying adjacent to Rosalie Creek, will be managed by the Department of Environment Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

### General Description

As originally proposed, the 39,000-acre Bombing Range Ridge project, with flatwoods, marshes, swamps, hammocks, and part of a scrub ridge, connects Avon Park Air Force Range, Lake Kissimmee State Park, and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) land. It provides critical habitat for at least 20 rare animals, including red-cockaded woodpeckers, snail kites, Florida scrub jays, and grasshopper sparrows. Water resources adjacent to the project include the Kissimmee River, Lake Rosalie, Tiger Lake, Lake Walk-in-Water, and several creeks and marshes; the

Bombing Range Ridge FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Snail Kite	G4G5T2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Nodding Pinweed	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
12 rare species are associated with the project	

scrub ridge is a recharge area. The remains of Sumica, a 19th-century town, are in the project, and there are probably more archaeological and historical sites in the area.

### Public Use

The area can support a range of recreation from hiking and primitive camping to canoeing, fishing, and hunting.

### Acquisition Planning

The Bombing Range Ridge project was added to the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council's (LAMAC) 1997 Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list at their December meeting. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) and Florida Game & Fish Commission (FG&FC), consisted of approximately 39,073 acres, multiple owners, and a 1997 taxable value of \$15,238,510.

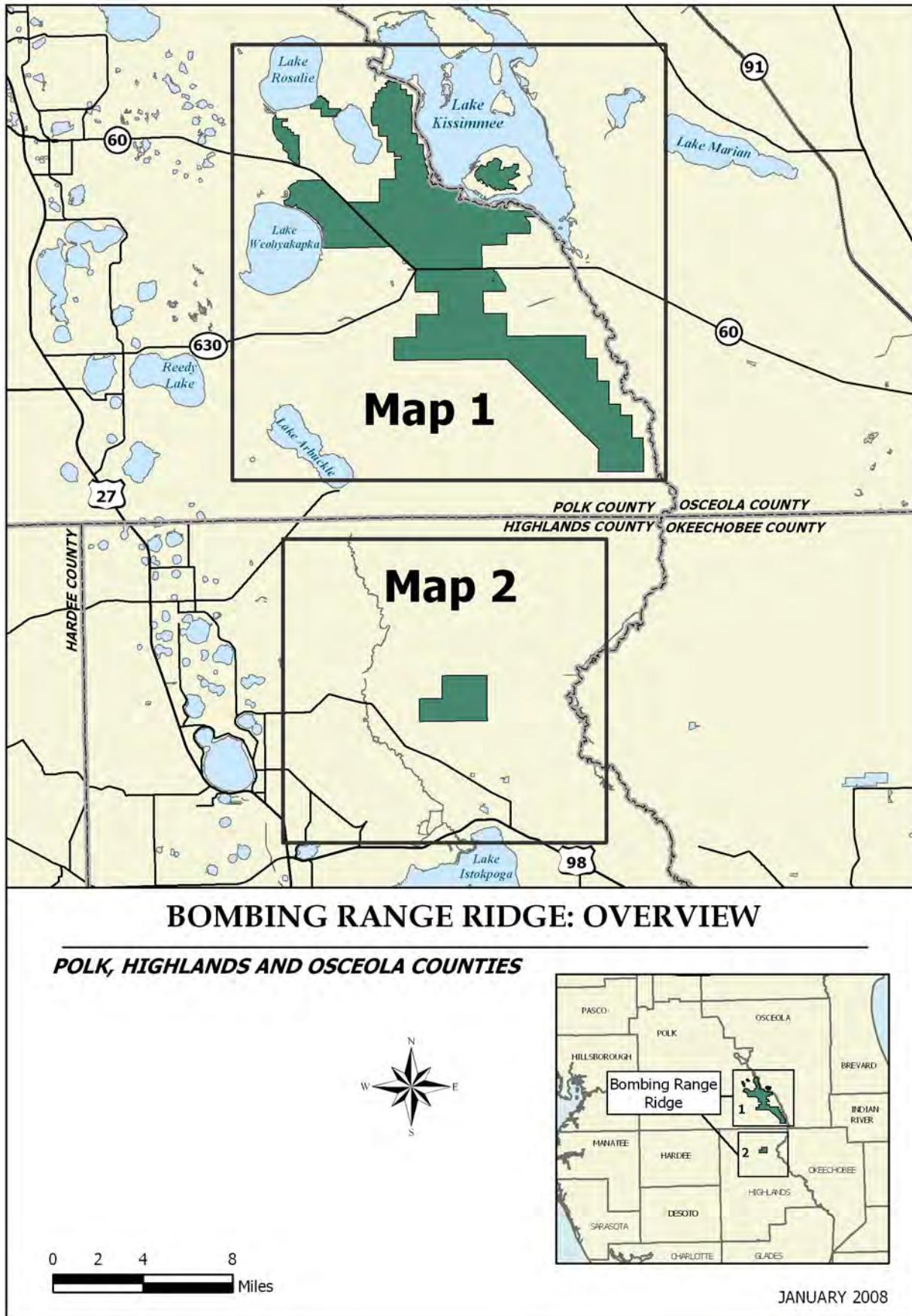
The project was divided into Priority I and Priority II areas. The essential parcels are Priority I, especially Wheeler, Avatar, Winter Haven Christian School, Lightsey, River Ranch Landowners Association members, Polk County, and the Patrick Nee ownerships.

On 8/19/1997, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners signed a resolution that gave high

Placed on List	1998
Project Area (GIS Acres)	47,092
Acres Acquired (GIS)	14,375*
at a Cost of	\$24,431,085*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	32,717
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$13,179,693

\* Including dollars spent and acres acquired by SFWMD, and Polk County

## Bombing Range Ridge



## Bombing Range Ridge

priority to this project and supported the acquisition through the CARL program.

In 1998, Polk County and the SFWMD acquired the Sumica tract (4,167 acres).

On 5/17/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 1,521-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Meredith Scott MD Trust, and had a 2000 taxable value of \$3,256,856.

On 8/15/2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee 1,691-acre addition (aka Brahma Island tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Saunders Realty, consisted of one owner, Cary & Layne Lightsey, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$176,180. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor the conservation easement. In April 2005, the Board of Trustees acquired the Brahma Island Tract (1,063.40 acres) through a conservation easement.

On 10/13/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,189-acre addition (aka Goolsby Ranch) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of one landowner, Goolsby family, and had a 2004 taxable value of \$415,291. If acquired, the site, in Highlands County, will be managed by the FFS. In view of the configuration of the Bombing Range Ridge project, this site is not essential to project completion or manageability.

On 8/15/2011 the DSL purchased 2,674.61 acres from TNC (\$5,349,220); OES to manage as a conservation easement.

### Coordination

About 2 percent of the parcels within the project are either county owned or county tax certificates. The county has expressed interest in giving the land to the state and letting the state manage it, selling the parcels to the state, or exchanging the parcels with the state for other parcels outside the proposal. TNC is an intermediary on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Bombing Range Ridge project are: to conserve and protect critical habitat for rare, endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, recreational, timber,

fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Bombing Range Ridge project is a vast area of quality flatwoods together with marshes, swamps, hammocks and scrub. The project contains valuable habitat for numerous listed bird species. Approximately 400 acres of the northwest corner of the project is adjacent to the Lake Kissimmee State Park. The area is largely a wetland through which Rosalie Creek flows. Rosalie Creek is a drainage joining Lake Rosalie with Tiger Lake, and a portion of the creek is already a part of the park. Additionally, the project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the FFS as a state forest is contingent upon the state obtaining legal public access to the site and acquiring fee simple title to the core parcels.

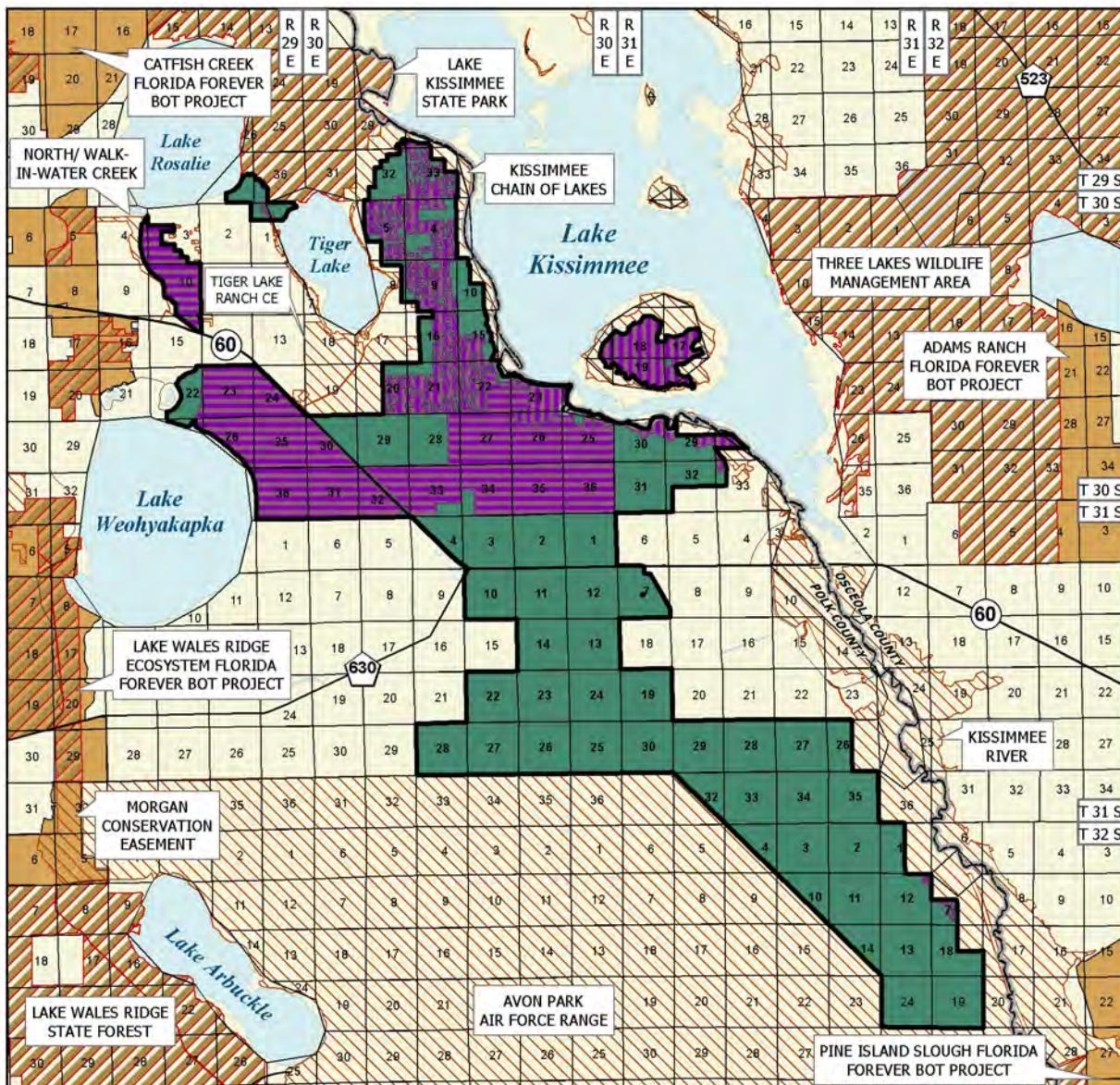
**Manager** FFS is recommended as lead manager, and DRP is recommended for the Oglesby and Beerman parcels in the northeast section of the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project includes a "high-need" management area. Public use and recreation facility development would be accomplished in a manner compatible with long-term resource protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

The FFS proposes to manage the site as a unit of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest (LWRSF), and management activities will be conducted utilizing district and LWRSF personnel. Initial or intermediate efforts of the FFS will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. The public will be provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan. Upon the fee title acquisition, the DRP proposes to provide public access for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities. Emphasis will be given to protection of Rosalie Creek and its surrounding ecological system. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate

## Bombing Range Ridge



### BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 1 OF 2

#### POLK AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Red Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes] State Owned Lands
- [Light Blue Diagonal Stripes] Other Conservation Lands

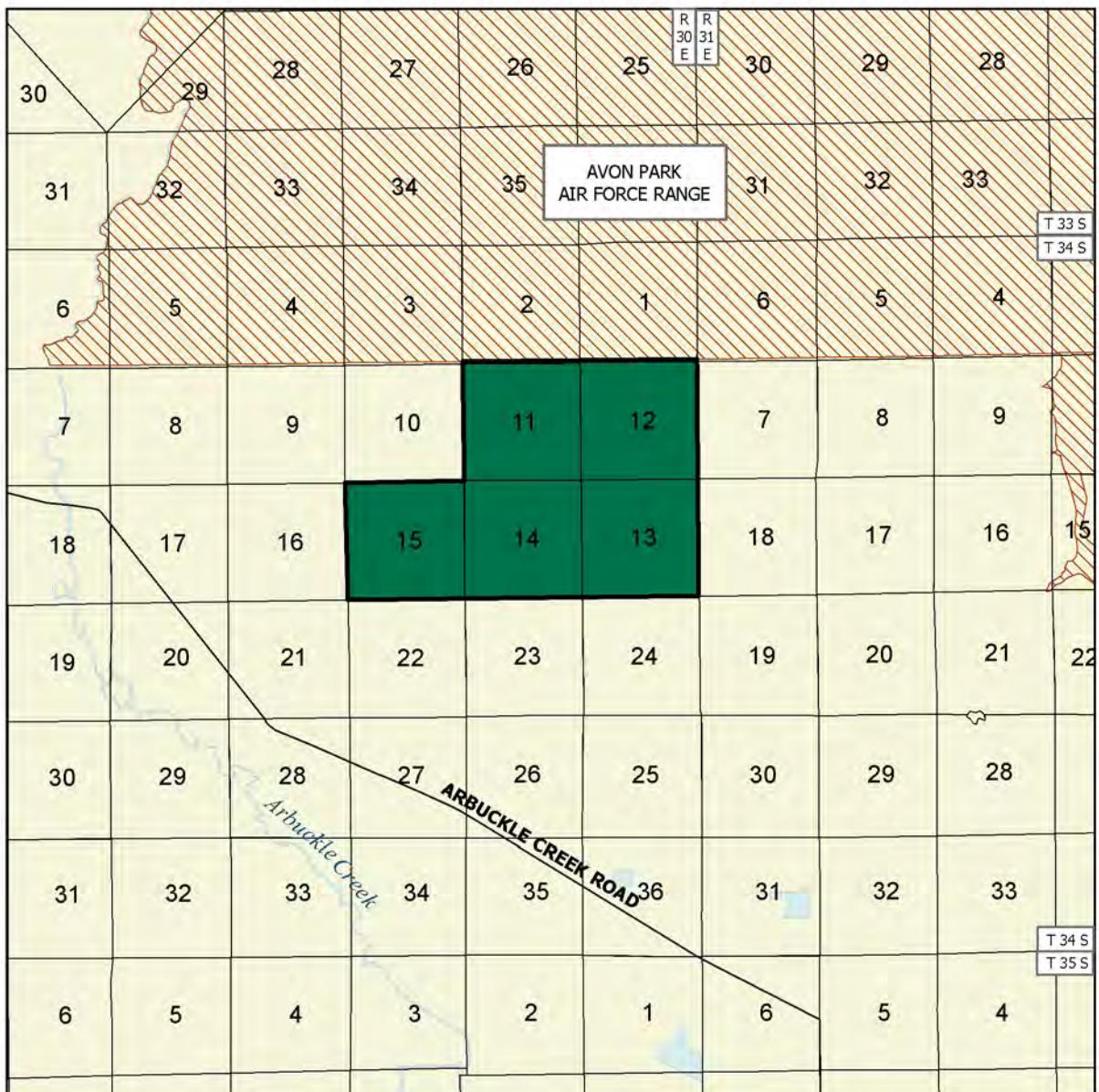


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OCTOBER 2011

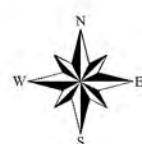
## Bombing Range Ridge



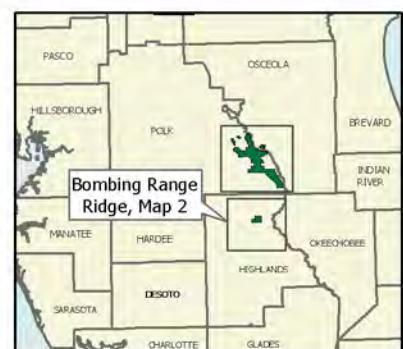
### BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 2 OF 2

#### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



OCTOBER 2006

## Bombing Range Ridge

on site security including posting boundaries and development of a resource inventory in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive management plan. Long-term management of the 540 acres would include resource-based recreation and associated facilities compatible with the resources.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS and the DRP will cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the use of the lands for state park purposes.

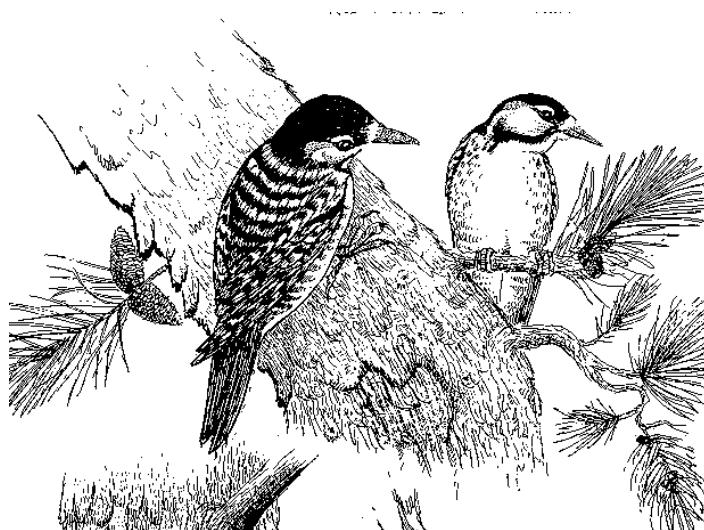
### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$1,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Management Cost Summary/FFS

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$86,412	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$70,000	\$0
OCO	\$136,400	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$292,812</b>	<b>\$0</b>

*Updated 12/1/2011*



# Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

Brevard County

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The strip of coastal scrub that once paralleled the Indian River in Brevard County is now a set of small fragments surrounded by housing developments. The Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project will preserve a few of the best scrub fragments in the county, which will aid survival of the endangered scrub jay and provide areas where the public can appreciate and learn about this unique landscape.

## Manager

Brevard County will manage the original six sites, and the Valkaria/Micco Expansion Site added in 2002. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage the six sites added in 1996, and the Ten Mile Ridge site added in 2002. The Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) will manage one site added in 2001. The City of Titusville will manage the Falcon Woods portion added in 2008.

## General Description

The project includes twenty areas considered essential to the preservation of scrub, mesic and scrubby flatwoods, floodplain marsh and marsh lake along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge and St. John's River marshes. Acquisition and management of these core areas are imperative for the survival of the Florida scrub jay on the east coast of Florida. The tracts comprising this project also support several rare vertebrates and at least

eight rare plant species, including a very rare mint. All of the tracts in the project are surrounded by development and several peripheral areas are already being destroyed. The rapid encroachment of housing developments is likely to completely eliminate any unprotected scrub and adjacent flatwoods communities of Brevard County in the very near future. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

## Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife and environmental area with limited public use, including picnicking and environmental education.

## Acquisition Planning

On 12/10/1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Scrub Jay Refugia project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition consisted of approximately 8,178 acres, several hundred parcels and landowners, and a taxable value of \$53,319,683. Brevard County sponsored the project that contained 5 sites: Tico ( $\pm$  2,421 acres, Grand Central a major owner, Brevard County has acquired 52 acres); Valkaria ( $\pm$  2,764 acres with multiple owners, County has acquired 155 acres); Rockledge ( $\pm$  2,591 acres, three major owners: Barge & Tabacchi, Duda, and Grand Central, the remainder is subdivided, County has acquired 141 acres); Condey (52 acres, two owners: Nelson and SR 405 Ltd); South Babcock (529 acres, multiple owners).

Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Titusville Balm</i>	G1Q/S1
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
<i>Tampa Vervain</i>	G2/S2
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
Hay Scented Fern	G4/S1
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Florida Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Large-flowered Rosemary	G3/S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3

15 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List 1993\*

Project Area (GIS Acres) 40,929

Acres Acquired (GIS) 17,769\*

at a Cost of \$86,085,773\*

Acres Remaining (GIS) 23,160

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$38,395,620

\*Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by Brevard County and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). The donation by TNC is valued at \$40,000.

Note: 1,667 acres were removed from the project boundary per landowners' request in December 2009. 3877 acres were removed in April 2010 due to residential/commercial infrastructure/development and 1 owner's request.

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

On 7/23/1993, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 179-acre addition (AKA Rockledge Scrub Sanctuary) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), consisted of 6 landowners (T. Barge & M. Tabacchi, L.R. Pierce Trust, N. Schopke & M. Tabacchi, TCM Investment, Inc., A.L. & M. Jacoboski, and Florida Power & Light Co.), and a taxable value of \$3,600,000.

On 3/9/1994, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,322-acre addition (AKA Micco Scrub) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Brevard County, consisted of one landowner, Kentucky Central Life Ins. Co., at a taxable value of \$1,500,120. Brevard County has acquired this site.

On 7/14/1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,410-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition consisted of four sites: Dicerandra Scrub, 44 acres, Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 395 acres, Canova Beach Scrub, 138 acres, and Jordan Blvd, 833 acres. Brevard County sponsored this addition that consisted of multiple landowners, at a taxable value of \$13,283,659. The County has acquired the Malabar and the Dicerandra Scrub sites.

In 1996, the LAAC combined the Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Initiative (CSEI) project with the Scrub Jay Refugia project bringing the new total acres to 27,745 with a TAV of \$86,847,875, and on 12/5/1996 renamed it Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem. The CSEI consisted of 6 sites: Fox/South Lake Complex - 9,189 acres; Titusville Wellfield - 972 acres; Grissom Parkway - 2,962 acres; Wickham Road - 822 acres; Micco Expansion - 1,833 acres; and Ten Mile Ridge - 529 acres, totaling 16,307 acres with a TAV of \$40,780,060.

On 12/3/1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved the transfer of the Valkaria, South Babcock, Ten Mile Ridge, and Grissom Parkway sites to the Mega-Multiparcel list. In 2001 this list was renamed Small Holdings.

On 12/19/2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ± 9,528-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition consisted of two sites: Malabar Expansion – 959.85 acres (Bargain/Shared) and Valkaria/Micco Expansion – 4,144.48 acres (Bargain/Shared) & 4,739.48 acres (Mega/Multiparcel). Sponsored by the Brevard County EEL Program, it consisted of 2,250 landowners, at a

taxable value of \$23,819,800. The following sites were deleted from the project due to development/improvement, habitat fragmentation or isolation: Canova Beach - 152.34 acres; Condev – 52.52 acres; and Wickham Road Complex – 809.62 acres; & Rockledge (select properties) – 860 acres. The total TAV for these sites was approximately \$35,952,477.

On 5/17/2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ± 3,529-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the CAMA, consisted of eleven landowners, and a taxable value of \$3,456,290.

On 4/25/2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 112-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for Brevard County, consisted of two sites (10 Mile Ridge Expansion – 62 acres and Valkario/Micco Expansion – 50 acres), multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$199,070. On 12/5/2002, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority list.

On 12/5/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 7,444-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Brevard County EEL Program, consisted of three landowners, Bernard Hersch – 112.25 acres; OLC, Inc/Campbell – 5,229.94 acres; and Babcock, LLC – 2,091.81 acres, and a taxable value of \$2,808,217.

On 9/21/2006, the DSL purchased in Valkaria section at tax deed sale 5.52 acres (Oxford Finance Co./\$83,000).

In 6/2007 Brevard County acquired 41 acres from Vero-Pittsburgh Partners LLC and added it to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

On 6/13/2008, ARC approved the 94-acre Falcon Woods Florida Forever project, and incorporated it into the boundary of the existing Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project. The Falcon Woods portion has a tax value of \$4,556,000 and is proposed for fee-simple acquisition. The site includes 7 parcels under one ownership. The City of Titusville sponsored the project, and will also act as manager for the site. Falcon Woods consists primarily of imperiled sand pine scrub habitat. In 9/2008, the Division of State Lands purchased 1.29 acres of the Hightower/Frasier ownership at Grissom Parkway for \$5,500. The FWC will manage this section. In 10/2008, TNC donated 2.71 acres, valued at

\$40,000, which will be managed by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands program.

On 6/12/2009 ARC accepted the request from the applicant/County to change the name of the Falcon Woods addition to Tortoise Ridge. At the landowners' requests, ARC on 12/11/2009 recommended that 1,667 acres be removed from the boundary--ownerships requesting: John S./John D. Copanos (20 ac.); John Copanos/Sebastian Resources 400, LP (902 ac.); Nick Dionisio/Brevard Landvest, LLC (745 ac.); all located within the Malabar Expansion and Valkaria/Micco Expansion.

In 4/2010, ARC voted to remove 3,694 acres due to residential/commercial infrastructure and development plus 183 acres at the request of Mr. Wilton Banack, landowner, for total acres removed 3,877.

### Coordination

Brevard County, an acquisition partner, committed \$10 million towards the acquisition of the project and \$2.6 million for site management. The Nature Conservancy is under contract to the county to provide assistance with acquisition of the county's projects.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; and to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** Scrub on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge is one of the most endangered natural upland communities in North America. This unique scrub, with its many rare plants and animals, qualifies the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Manager** Brevard County proposes to manage the six original sites of the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem. The FWC will manage the six sites added in 1996 and will manage the Ten Mile Ridge site added on April 25, 2002. The City of Titusville will manage the Falcon Woods portion added in 2008. On May 16, 2001, 3,529 acres were added that are to be managed by CAMA.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project includes low-need, moderate-need and high-need tracts. All sites are fire-maintained communities with an immediate need for fire management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program is preparing a Conceptual Natural Areas Management Manual for all sanctuary sites. Once these sites are acquired, the EEL Program will work with local, state and federal agencies to develop a Comprehensive Management Plan for long-term management. Initial management activities in this project will focus on site security, burn management, determination of status of listed species, location of a core area for resource protection, identification of passive recreation areas, and the development of innovative environmental education programs.

A management plan will be developed and implemented approximately one year after the completion of this multi-parcel acquisition project, or site-specific management plans will be developed as management units are acquired. The plan will detail how each of the FNAI special elements on each site will be protected and, when necessary, restored. Fire management will be a vital component of each plan. Long-range plans for this project, beginning approximately one year after acquisition is completed, will be directed towards biodiversity protection, exotic species removal, wetland restoration and enhancement, and the maintenance of links between upland, wetland and estuarine areas. Management will protect biological diversity and listed species. Specific areas will be fenced as needed. Property signs will have appropriate language to enable protection of the property. Unnecessary roads and other disturbances will be identified as areas for restoration. Firebreaks will be cleared where necessary. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be low-impact.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue sources are anticipated at this time. Mitigation agreements with USFWS have generated some funds

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem



### BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

#### BREVARD COUNTY

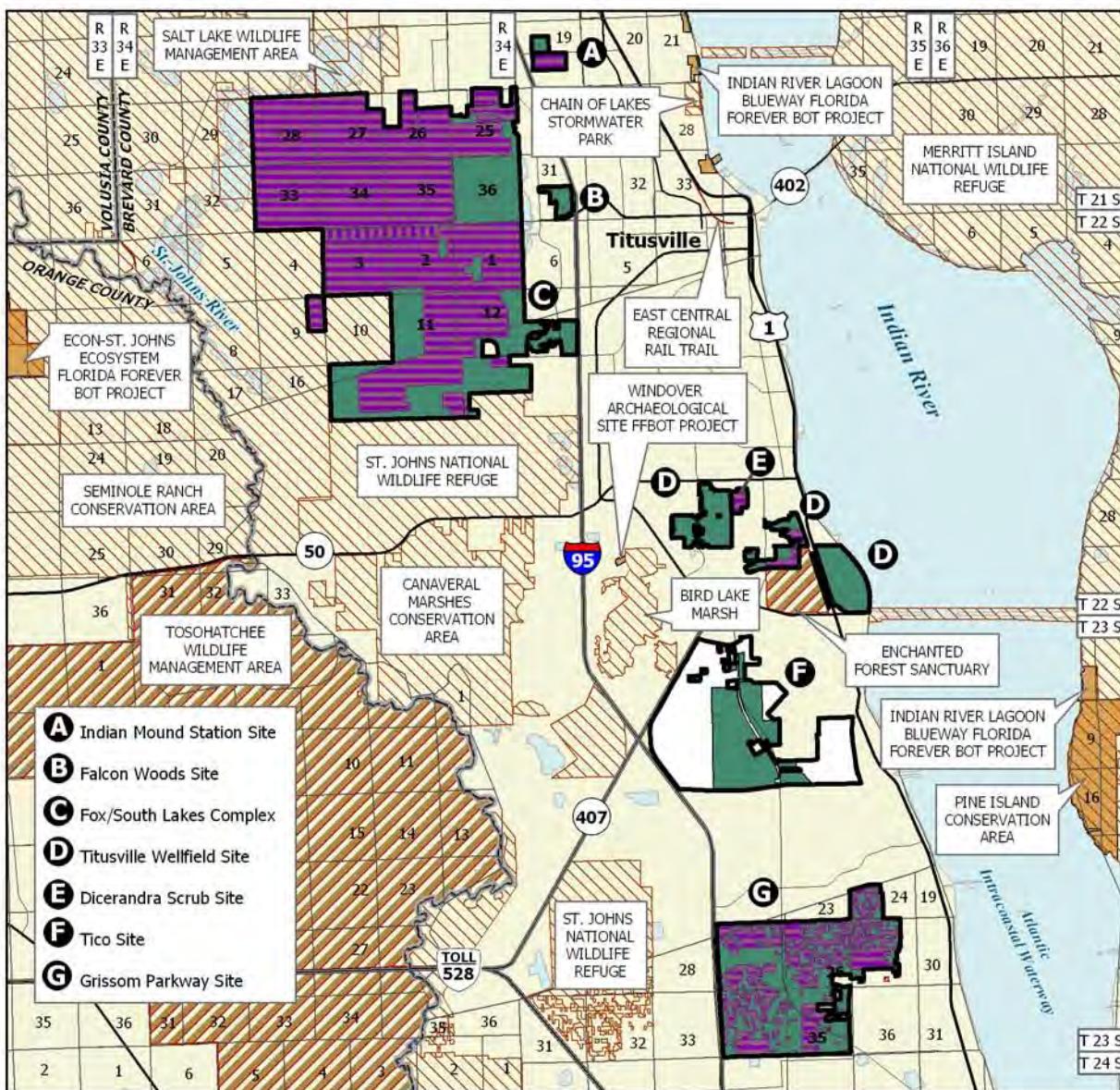


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MAY 2010

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem



### BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1 OF 3

#### BREVARD COUNTY

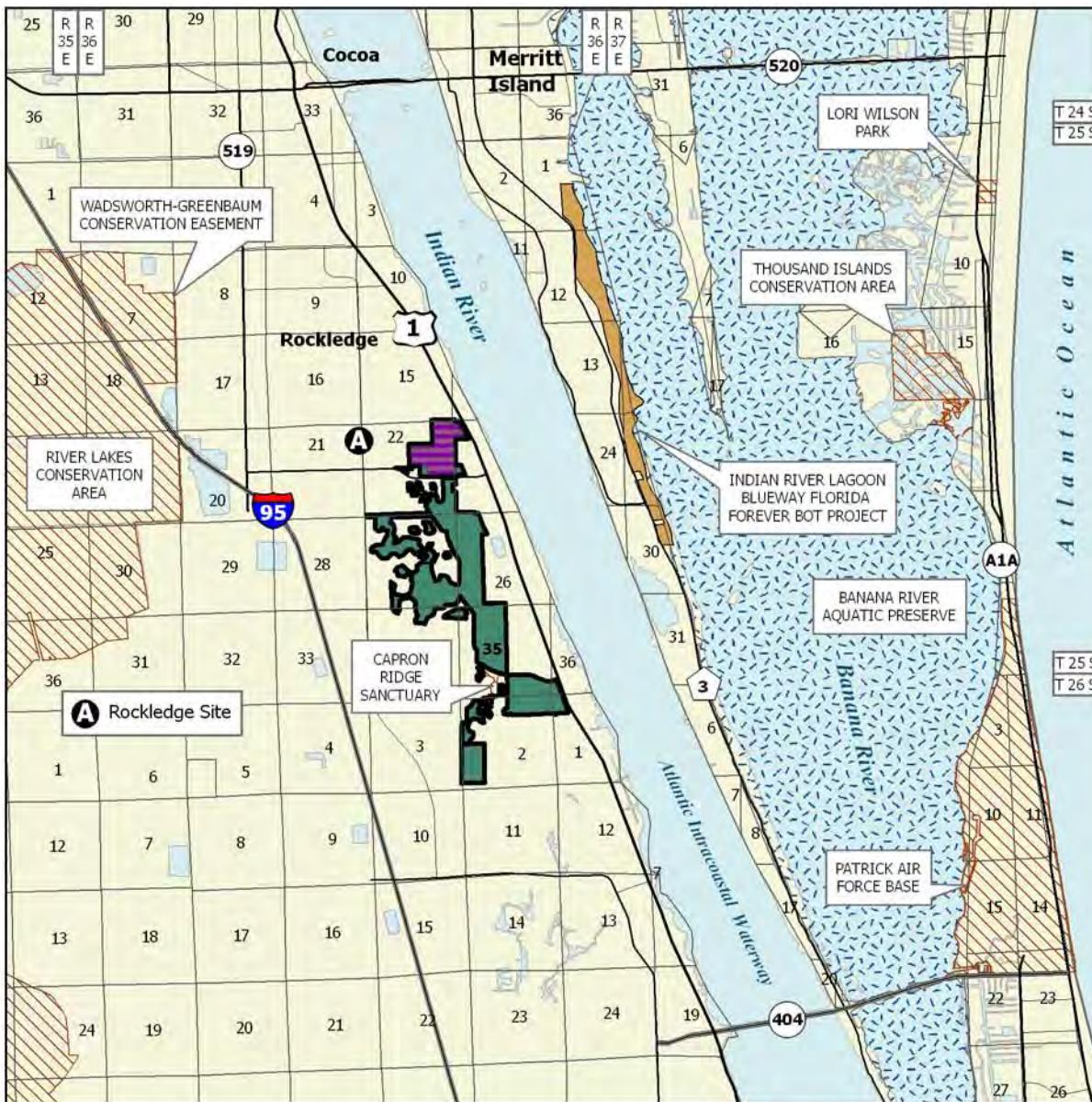
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Yellow Box] Other Conservation Lands

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Miles



APRIL 2010

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem



## BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2 OF 3

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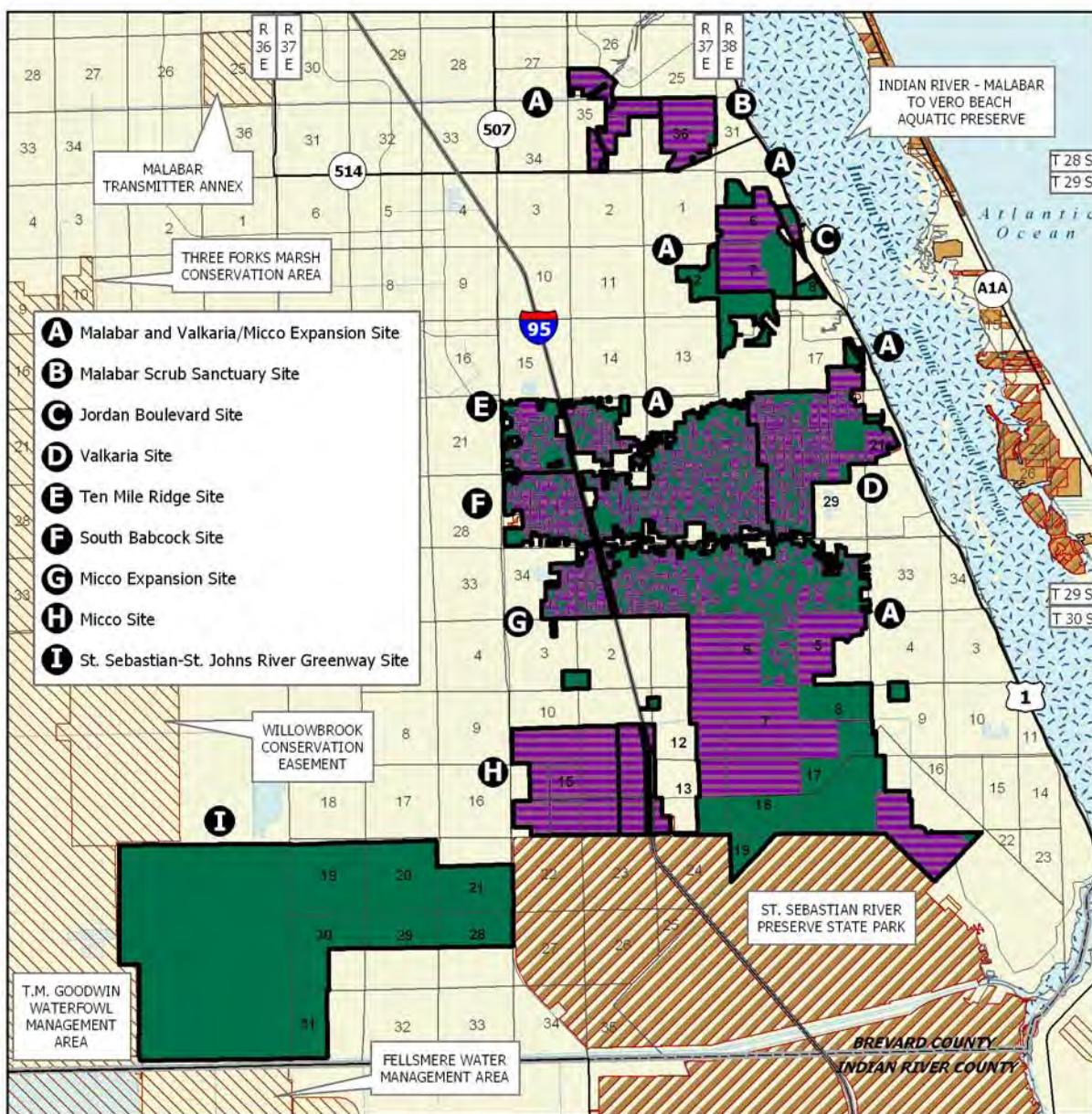
**BREVARD COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  -  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  -  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  -  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  -  Other Conservation Lands
  -  State Aquatic Preserves



APRIL 2010

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

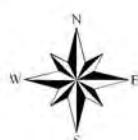


### BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3 OF 3

#### BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

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APRIL 2010

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

for management within the Valkaria Core area. Implementation and funding of the Scrub Conservation and Development Plan provide a potential source of management funds for these sites. Timber might be sold on some sites where habitat restoration requires thinning.

**Cooperators in management activities** Brevard County will require support from the USFWS and other agencies (The Nature Conservancy, Division of Forestry, FWC, and others) to implement a quality management program for scrub communities. The EEL Selection Committee will aggressively seek matching funds for site management, development of environmental education programs, and for necessary research and monitoring.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** An inter-agency partnership among the participating agencies

provides opportunities for revenue sharing. The Brevard County EEL Program proposed to set aside 2.6 million dollars from their excess ad valorem revenues to begin a management endowment for the EEL Program sanctuary network. The EEL Program will work to increase funds for management to be consistent with or exceed State management appropriations.

*Updated 12/1/2011*

### Management Cost Summary

Category	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Source of Funds	County	County	County/Grant
Salary	\$0	\$3,500	\$8,750
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
Expense	\$500	\$1,000	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
FCO	\$0	\$125,700	\$120,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$130,200</b>	<b>\$213,750</b>

# Caber Coastal Connector

Levy County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The public acquisition of this project would support a mosaic of basin swamps, dome swamps, basin marshes, hydric hammocks, mesic and wet flatwoods, tidal marshes, xeric hammocks and pine plantations. The southern and northern boundaries have contiguous borders with several other land acquisition projects. This meets the Florida Forever goals of enhancing coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, and protecting and restoring the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state. Protection of water quality and estuarine resources in the area by preventing conversion of the property to development or intensive agriculture is another benefit that this acquisition offers.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is the recommended manager.

### General Description

The proposed area is 6,052 acres and is located in Levy County, Florida, northeast of the town of Cedar Key. The southern boundary has two and a half miles of frontage along C.R. 326, including a two mile contiguous border with the Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve, while the northern boundary has three miles of contiguous border with the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. The eastern boundary is formed by C.R. 347, on which it has nearly three and a half miles of road frontage. The western boundary is formed by a one and a quarter mile congruous boundary with a disjunctive portion of the Lower Suwannee NWR, as well as nearly two additional miles of Gulf of Mexico frontage.

### Public Use

The project has the potential of providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience in a regional context. It is strategically located among state and federally owned coastal lands for which there is no full service park area. It is also located within 10 miles of the town of Cedar Key and has excellent paved highway access. What differentiates the project from adjacent and nearby public lands, such as Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve and Waccasassa Bay State Preserve, is the existence of sufficient uplands on the coast that can provide easy access internally and support infrastructure that could result in the creation of a destination park and compliment the surrounding public resources.

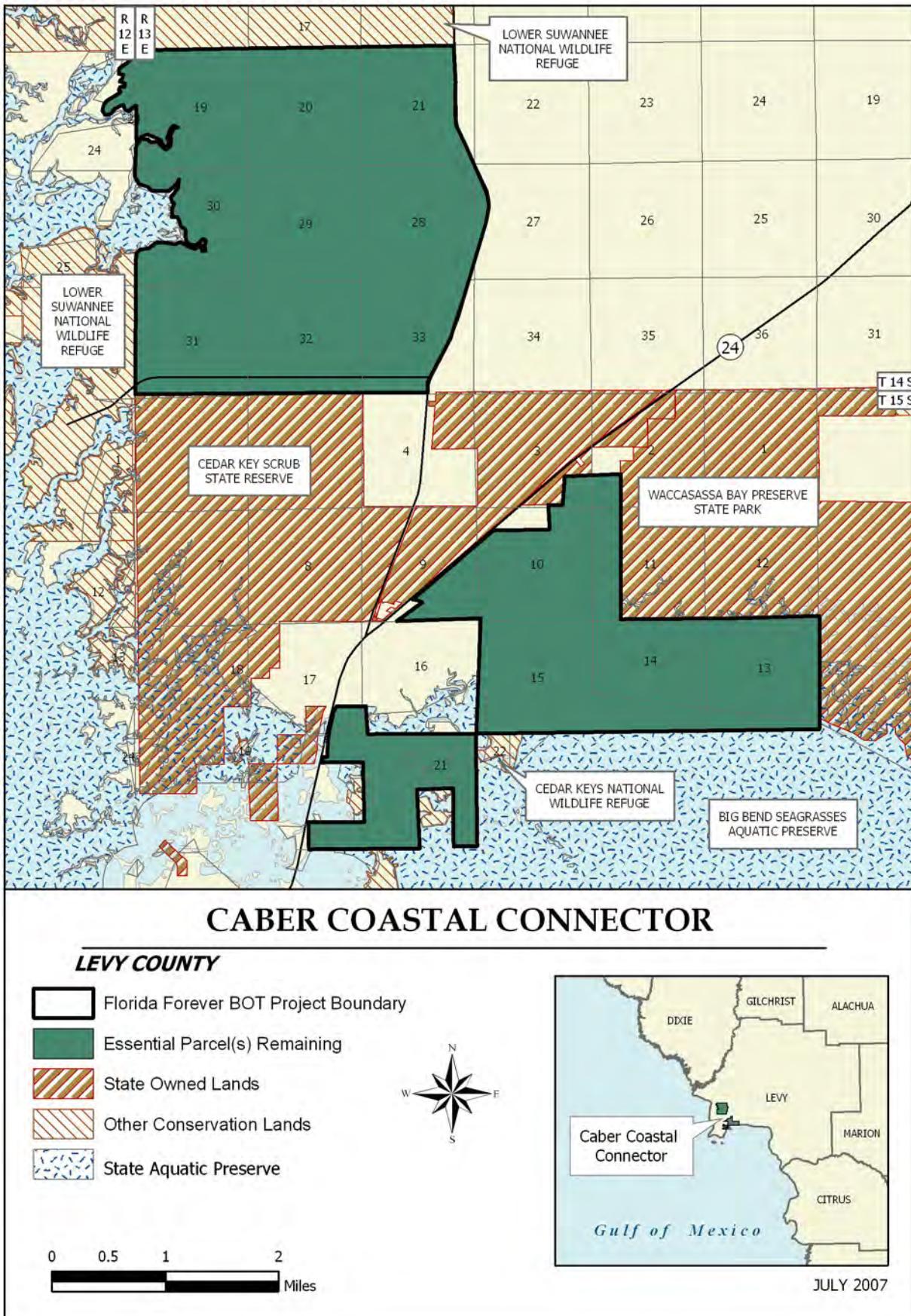
Parts of the property have been disturbed, however, other areas are highly scenic and many roads on the property could provide off-road bicycling, hiking and horseback riding opportunities. The expansive trail system that can be supported by the property could also be connected with trails from other nearby state and federal lands. In addition to trails, other resource-based activities could be provided. Nature appreciation and wildlife observation could be enjoyed at the same time as one is enjoying trail opportunities. Camping (primitive and RV), picnicking and canoe/kayak access would bolster the project as a destination park. A campground would serve the public well in this area. The property could also provide one or more stop-off sites in connection with the Big Bend Canoe Trail. While a public boat ramp cannot be ruled out, there is a public boat ramp facility at the south end of the project.

An environmental education facility has been discussed in connection with the adjacent Cedar Key Scrub State

Caber Coastal Connector FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Salt Marsh Vole	G5T1/S1
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (GIS Acres)	7,813
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	7,813
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$2,444,770

## Caber Coastal Connector



Reserve and Waccasassa Bay State Preserve. Should the project be acquired, it would be considered along with locations within the other management units for the development of such a facility.

Depending on management emphasis, the project could support hunting. As a full service park site, however, hunting opportunities would not be provided.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 1/25/2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Caber Coastal Connector project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2005 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), consisted of approximately 6,052 acres, a single owner, Caber Corporation, and a 2005 taxable value of \$920,610. The essential parcels were identified as Caber Corporation ownership.

On 8/11/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,709-acre addition (aka Thompson Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of one owner, Thompson, 12 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$1,524,160. The parcels were designated as essential.

### **Coordination**

The DRP and TNC are considered acquisition partners on this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goals of the project are to restore, maintain and protect important ecosystems and to plan for and provide a diverse resource-based recreational park consistent with the management prospectus.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation** The property has long been sought to connect tens of miles of coastal public lands. The project was within the original boundary of the Cedar Key Scrub Conservation and Recreation Land (CARL) project, but was never acquired because of an unwilling seller. When the CARL project was removed from the CARL/P2000 list in 1997, the DRP maintained an interest in the project area for resource connectivity and park purposes. The project also has limited scrub jay habitat. The scrub jays in this area are considered one of the westernmost populations in Florida. The population would be

enhanced with the acquisition of this project.

**Manager** The DRP proposes that it be considered as the manager of the Caber Coastal Connector properties if acquired full fee.

### **Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management**

Portions of the project are in planted pine that will require rehabilitation over time to provide for a natural landscape. Scrub areas will require significant work to restore the lands for scrub jay use. Over the long-term, the intensity of management and related costs would significantly increase if management emphasis shifts from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use with more substantial infrastructure.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Once the property is acquired and assigned to the DRP, the acquired lands will be secured and management planning implemented. Resource inventories and analysis will be performed to determine objectives for restoration. Low intensity resource-based recreation, such as canoeing/kayaking and trails will be provided initially on the property. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property and funding for positions and infrastructure.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. Some revenue may be generated through timber sales as the land is being restored. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities placed on the land.

**Capital Project Expenditures** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management follows:

<b>Salary (1 FTE, 1 OPS)</b>	<b>\$47,700</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>36,100</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,800</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Caloosahatchee Ecoscape

Hendry and Glades Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

In order to preserve Florida panthers and black bears, large landscape linkages of land must be protected. Although large areas are protected to the south within Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park, both the panther and bear populations are dependent on much of the proposed ranch land in Hendry County. This project connects at its southern boundary by an abandoned rail corridor with the Okaloacoochee Slough project.

### Managers

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

The project encompasses a mosaic of wet prairies, cypress basin and dome swamp, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, depressional marshes, and scrub. The majority of the natural communities on the properties have been impacted by clearing and drainage from improved pasture development or farming. Despite the disturbed plant communities, the project provides important habitat for a variety of listed wildlife species. Most of the land is within the Barron Water Control District and canals have altered the natural hydrology to the extent that no significant natural water resources remain. Eleven archaeological sites are known from the project area, some with material dated back to the Archaic period.

### Public Use

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area

with uses such as hunting, various sorts of trails, camping, and picnicking, among other activities.

### Acquisition Planning

The three largest ownerships, IMC Agrico, Floriland Dairy (Milicevic), and Atlantic Gulf Communities are the essential parcels. The owners of the Floriland Dairy tract (Milicevic) have indicated they would consider negotiating a Less-Than-Fee sale at some time in the future.

On 3/26/1999, the Council added 2,400 acres to the project. In 2002 a conservation easement was placed on the LaBelle Ranch (2,994 acres for \$2,320,700). On 6/13/2008 the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project to the A list of Florida Forever projects in order to expedite acquisition. On 11/4/2009, Panther Passage Conservation Bank CE (1,292 acres) was purchased and is managed by FWC.

### Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner.

### Management Policy Statement

The project area has been highly impacted by timbering and other clearing for farming and grazing. A management goal will be to restore and maintain native plant and animal communities to the extent feasible. A secondary goal will be to provide compatible, nature-based recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and nature study.

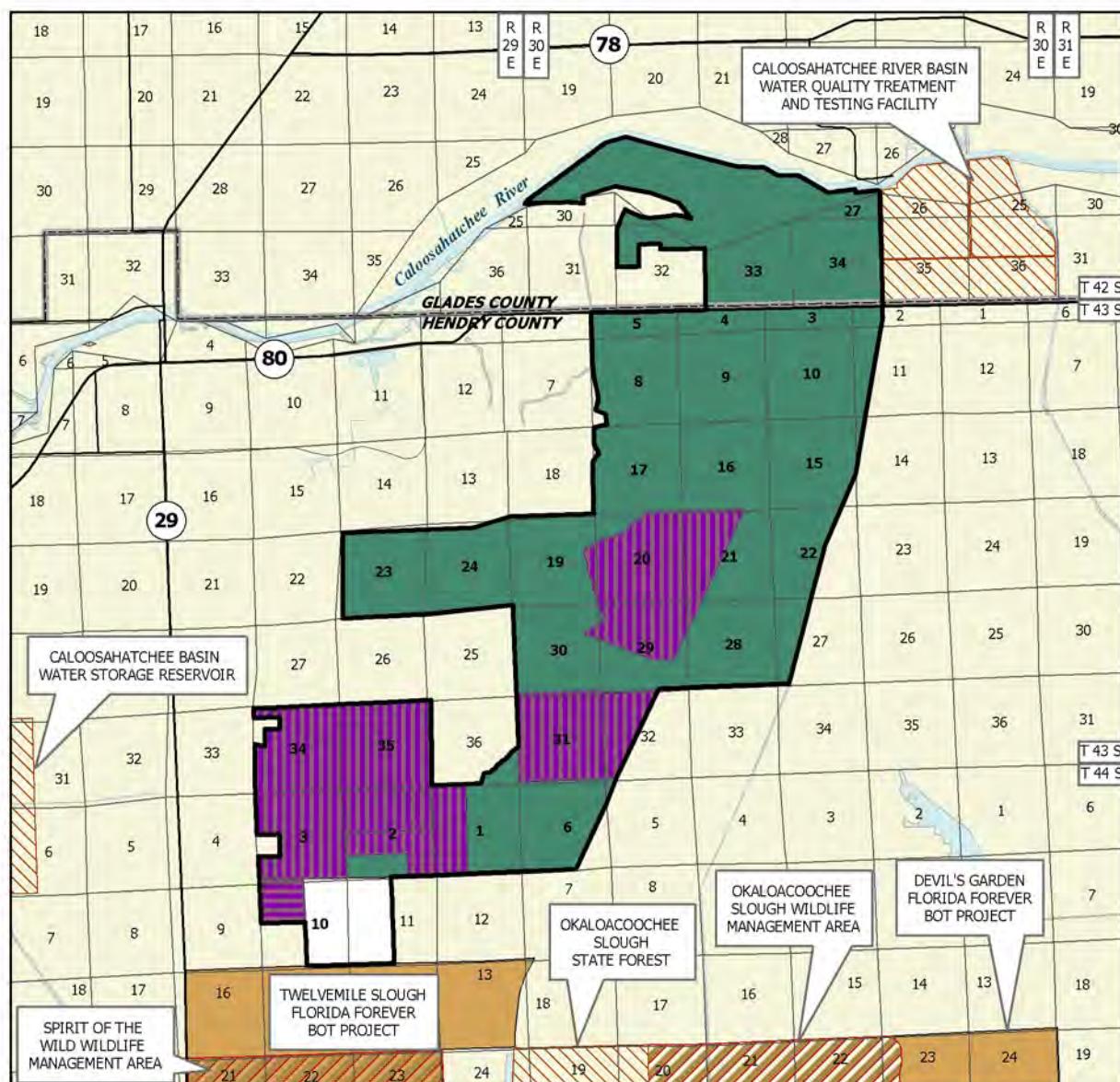
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Mangrove Fox Squirrel	G5T2/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3

Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Mangrove Fox Squirrel	G5T2/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3

7 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1998
Project Area (GIS Acres)	18,455
Acres Acquired (GIS)	4,940
at a Cost of	\$2,320,700
Acres Remaining (GIS)	13,515
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$14,055,481

## Caloosahatchee Ecoscape



## CALOOSAHATCHEE ECOSCAPE

### HENDRY AND GLADES COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands

0 1 2 4  
Miles



OCTOBER 2010

## Caloosahatchee Ecoscape

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project will provide a refuge for threatened animals like the Florida panther and black bear, sandhill crane, wood stork, and crested caracara, and a variety of other endangered species, as well as species of special concern. It will protect habitat for game species like white-tailed deer and turkey as well as to provide the public with a large area for natural-resource-based recreation. The project is also within an area where the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has conducted significant panther and bear research.

**Manager** FWC is designated as manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Hydrologic manipulation and conversion of native range to improved pastures will necessitate habitat restoration. Urbanization within, and adjacent to, the proposed project boundary will require that any large-scale controlled burning efforts be coordinated between appropriate state and federal agencies and the local affected residents.

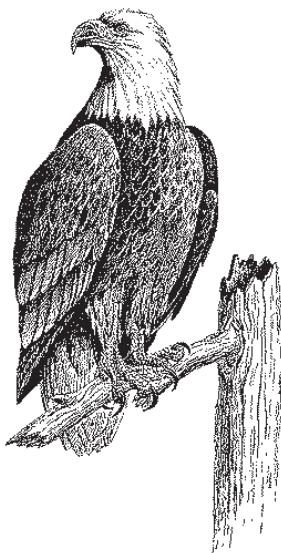
**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** During the first year after acquisition, posting the boundary, erecting entrance signs, and resource inventory will be a priority. A conceptual management plan will also be written. Location and control of exotic

plant species will be ongoing. The long-term management goals shall be to restore and maintain native plant and animal communities to the extent feasible, with a secondary goal of providing compatible nature-based recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and nature study. Establishment of access and other facilities necessary for approved nature-based recreational activities will be developed as funding permits.

**Revenue-generating potential** This property has historically provided timber and cattle production. Potential revenue sources may include hunting, fishing, ecotourism, cattle grazing, and sustainable timber production.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWC will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies and non-profit organizations in managing the area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presently maintains a campground and the locks at Ortona, along the northeastern corner of the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project boundary.

*Updated 2/23/2012*



# Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway

Baker, Bradford, and Clay Counties

Critical Natural Lands

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway Florida Forever Project was created at the request of the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from a 33,861-acre portion of the 2003 Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project. Public acquisition of the Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway (CB-RG) project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels - provide a landscape connector between Camp Blanding on the southeast, the Northeast Florida Timberlands (when acquired) on the east, and Raiford WMA on the south; (2) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state - four major blackwater streams from three major river basins originating within the project area, as well as several headwaters and tributaries; and (3) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, natural areas of floodplain, basin, and baygall swamp can be found on more than 32,000 acres. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

## Manager

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be co-managers.

## General Description

Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?

3 rare species are associated with the project

The Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway was subdivided to create two projects that maintain ecological connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands, particularly as it relates to habitat for the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). One of the key concepts is to permanently link disconnected habitat for species like the Florida black bear as well as other important focal species. As a result of the redesign, the two projects created are Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway and Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG). The Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway project consists of approximately 33,861 acres of land from the northwest corner of Camp Blanding Military Reservation to the southwest tip of Nassau County. It connects several managed areas in Bradford, Clay, and Union Counties, resulting in a contiguous area of more than a half a million acres of publicly owned or managed lands in north-central Florida. It abuts portions of the Northeast Florida Timberlands Florida Forever project. Physiographic features of interest include: the Trail Ridge, the eastern boundary of the Cody Scarp, and several large wetlands that have been ecologically devalued by silvicultural activities or mining. Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway Florida Forever project will be acquired in fee simple with multiple landowners.

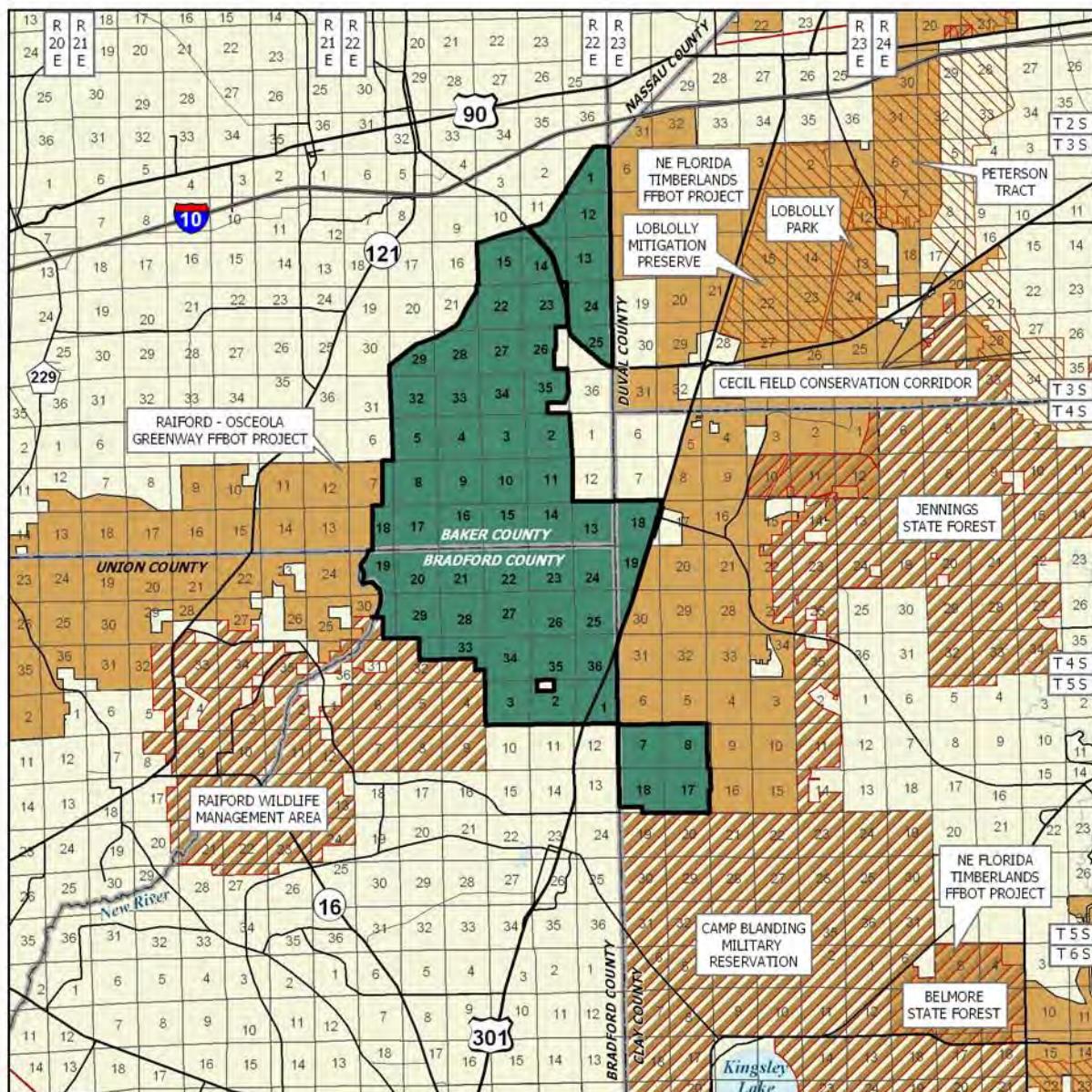
## Public Use

This project could have significant natural resource-based potential if portions of the project were available to the public.

All trails throughout the project have potential for

Redesigned for List	2010
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	33,977
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
At a Cost Of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	33,977
with Estimated (tax assessed) Value of	\$92,890,463

## Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway



### CAMP BLANDING - RAIFORD GREENWAY

#### BRADFORD, BAKER, AND CLAY COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Red Box with Horizontal Lines] Other Conservation Lands



0      2      4      8  
Miles



JUNE 2010

being multiple-use trails with hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. Other recreational opportunities would include camping, picnicking, and hunting.

Of the activities mentioned, the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies hunting within the Bradford County portion of the project as having a high need for the year 2005 for the region in which these counties are located.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Camp Blanding–Osceola Greenway project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee project, sponsored by the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) and the Conservation Trust of Florida (CTF), consisted of approximately 153,000 acres, multiple ownerships, and a 2002 taxable value of \$28,508,089. The essential parcels were identified as the Plum Creek and Wachovia ownerships.

On 10/13/2006, the ARC approved a redesign to the essential parcels within the project. The number and acreage of essential parcels was revised by removing 106 parcels (64,250 acres) and adding 52 parcels (10,180 acres) which resulted in a declassification of 54,070 acres currently designated essential. The new essential parcel configuration retained a narrower greenway connection between Camp Blanding, Raiford Wildlife Management Area, and the Osceola National Forest.

On 6/11/2010 the ARC approved a redesign of the Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project that subdivided and reduced the expansive project into Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway (33,861 acres) and Raiford - Osceola Greenway (67,457 acres).

### Coordination

Conservation Trust of Florida and OGT are considered acquisition partners on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

Areas of the project purchased in fee-simple will be managed to further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide, where possible, the public with access and quality recreational opportunities.

### Unified Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway (CB-RG) Florida Forever project comprises approximately 33,861 acres located in Baker, Bradford, and Clay counties. The project area extends from the northwest corner of Camp Blanding Military Reservation in Clay County to the southeast boundary of the Osceola National Forest in Baker County, a distance of approximately 21 miles. The project is located approximately 20 miles southwest of downtown Jacksonville, 10 miles east of Lake City, and 16 miles north of Gainesville. The project area ranges from 2 to 6.5 miles wide, and connects and adjoins the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Osceola National Forest, Northeast Florida Timberlands Florida Forever Project, and the Raiford Wildlife Management Area. The project would provide a landscape linkage, itself comprising conservation lands of substantial ecological value, which would serve as a critical component of a conservation corridor extending from central Florida to southeast Georgia. The CB-RG with the Raiford-Osceola Greenway project would create a contiguous area of more than half a million acres of publicly-owned or managed lands in north central Florida.

The most widespread community type within the project boundary is mesic flatwoods, of which the majority of acres are in silviculture operations, and a smaller number of acres are in a relatively natural condition. Sandhill communities total only about 230 acres, but may have substantial ecological value. The forested wetlands are the least disturbed natural areas. Basin swamps are represented and include several large named basin swamps, including (with approximate acreages): Turkey Creek Swamp (7,000 acres) and New River Swamp (4,000 acres). Dome swamps, wet flatwoods, and baygalls represent the remaining 15-20,000 acres. Floodplain swamps extend over approximately 4,000 acres of the joint CB-RG and the Raiford-Osceola Greenway project areas. Several flatwoods lakes are also present and also an important blackwater stream, the New River. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 2 percent of the project area is under-represented natural communities. The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), many-lined salamander (*Stereochilus marginatus*). Additional imperiled or rare

## Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway

species reported to occur on the combined projects are the swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), the white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), and the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Among other rare or imperiled species, the project is potential habitat for the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and the red-cockaded (*Picoides borealis*) woodpecker.

Natural shorelines and shallow waters of the flatwoods lakes on the project provide habitat for wading birds, waterfowl, and many other aquatic and semi-aquatic animal species. Forested riparian corridors provide a habitat connection to the Santa Fe River floodplain and bottomland forests for species such as the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenatus*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*) and numerous other species of wildlife. A wildlife corridor such as the the combined projects (CB-RG and R-OG) provides linkage to larger areas of high ecological value. Such corridors require habitat of sufficient size (optimally a mile or more in width), and quality (natural forested communities), in order to adequately provide for animal migration. This project provides habitat for Florida black bears and which occur on other public lands in the vicinity (Camp Blanding, Raiford WMA, Ocala National Forest, and the Osceola National Forest/Okefenokee Complex). Substantial populations of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and other game species occur. FNAI classifies 99% of the project area as priority 1 critical parcels and potential importance as an ecological greenway. The hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*) has been documented to occur within the project .

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), approximately 53.5 percent of the lands (18,259.2 acres) within the project are within a designated Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) for black bear, Florida mouse, and striped newt. The project provides additional habitat for many focal species, which are indicators of natural communities, and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. Focal species overlap: 1-3 species for 29,916 acres (43.5%); 4-6 species 33,264.8 acres (48.4%); 7-9 species 2,383.6 acres (3.4%); 10-12 species 8.9 acres (0.01%) for a total of 31,298 acres or 91.7% of the project.

**Managers** The FFS and the FWC.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The two managing agencies are prepared to share all management responsibilities for the two Greenways (CB-RG and

R-OG) the unified management concept that both agencies developed. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. The projects have the capability to provide important fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices.

Jointly, CB-RG and R-OG provide an opportunity to protect a large area of connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands and large areas of forest, functional wetlands. CB-RG has 29 percent of project area in sustainable forestry, protection of surface water is 80 percent of project area, and natural floodplain function is 1 percent of project area. Since the goals of the projects include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. Particular attention should be directed to the protection of upstream riparian systems that are an important habitat for imperiled fish and invertebrates. Under the unified management approach, a broad-scale management program will be developed that will manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources, and promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area is proximal to a large number of users that enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife

viewing. The DEP and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 47 percent of the project area to be suitable for priority 1, 2 or 3 recreational trails.

The two Greenways (CB-RG and R-OG) are medium-need tracts that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately 69 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity. Consequently, additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. FWC and FFS propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that may require cooperative effort include: restoration of mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal or thinning of off-site timber species to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforestation of recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection and restoration of sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species. Restoration methods will also include thinning of dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and facilitate the restoration of native groundcovers. Protection and restoration of the sensitive wetlands on the project would be a priority. It is also possible that recreational trails on the parcels could function as back up firelines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment, and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Exotic plant species (tung oil tree [*Aleurites fordii*], air potato [*Dioscorea bulbifera*], mimosa [*Albizia julibrissin*], etc.), have been observed in the project area. Two of these species (air potato and mimosa) are listed as Category I (most adversely affecting Florida's ecology) by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council; the tung oil tree is listed as Category II (increased abundance in Florida). Although observed infestations appear to pose no imminent threat to the ecological integrity of the project, there would be surveillance for, and removal of, such infestations of exotic invasive species.

Due to the presence of imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the proposed project, it is anticipated that resource inventories would be an initial priority under the unified management approach. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

**Timetable for implementing management** The extensive nature of this tract requires that both agencies develop a coordinated approach to all aspects of operations and management. It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives. Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize ecosystem multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of listed species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance, and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development

## Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway

of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products and ecological, and recreational benefits. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The DHR lists 12 such sites in the project area.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access and sensitive resources are protected. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, including provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

**Estimate of Revenue-Generating Potential** Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 63 percent of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Fifteen percent of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which those funds were generated.

**Cooperators in management activities** The unified managers (FFS and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Florida Department of Corrections, St. Johns River Water Management District, State Armory Board,

Suwannee River Water Management District, and the U. S. Forest Service, in managing the area.

**Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed\*** Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the FFS and FWC.

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Info based on management of CB-RG:

Category: Source of Funds:	Start-up CARL	Recurring CARL
Resource Management:	\$1,697,686	\$2,345,384
Administration:	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support:	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements:	\$3,313,895	\$782,107
Visitor Services/Recreation:	\$3,267	\$141
Law Enforcement:	\$103,741	\$103,741
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,343,163</b>	<b>\$3,288,071</b>

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\*includes employee salaries

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Carr Farm/Price's Scrub

Marion and Alachua Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Carr Farm/Price's Scrub in southwestern Alachua County includes Scrub, Upland Mixed Forest, Scrubby Flatwoods, Wet Flatwoods, Depression Marsh, Marsh Lake and Sinkhole Lake. This Scrub is one of the northernmost examples of the community in peninsular Florida. Sandhill cranes have been seen on the Carr Farm as have bald eagles and swallow-tailed kites. Kestrels have been found using experimental nest boxes close to the project site along CR 320. Wood storks (presumably from the River Styx rookery) have been observed feeding on the site, and gopher tortoises are present. The area is expected to provide good habitat for the gopher frog and other declining amphibians because it has so many isolated seasonal ponds in proximity to extensive upland habitat. Indigo snakes have been observed in the vicinity.

### Managers

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

### General Description

The Carr Farm/Price's Scrub in Alachua and Marion counties consists of three tracts totaling 1,260 acres owned by the family of the zoologist, Archie Carr. The property is in the Fairfield Hills physiographic unit and is underlain by the Miocene Hawthorne Formation of sandy clay mixed with phosphatic pebbles, capped in places by a sandy Plio-Pleistocene deposit. The property is predominantly Upland Mixed Forest on the northern half, and Scrub and Wet Flatwoods on the southern half. The division between hardwood-dominated

communities in the northern half and the pine-dominated communities in the southern half are marked by a change in soil types. Soil types having subsoils of sandy clay loam mixed with phosphatic pebbles are found in the north below the 170-foot contour; types with purely sandy subsoils are found in the south above the 170-foot contour. The property slopes from an elevation of 200 feet on the southern boundary to 90 feet on the northeastern border. Topography of the southern half is flat, with an imperceptible downward slope to the north, whereas the northern portion consists of rolling hills with steep slopes separated by ponds and depression marshes.

### Public Use

The varied topography and resources of the site would provide opportunities for limited freshwater fishing and canoeing, primitive camping, nature trails, hiking trails, bicycle riding trails and horseback riding trails. Picnicking and environmental education would also be suitable for this property. The Carr Farm site has potential for interpretation of the life and times of one of the leading naturalists of Florida, Archie Carr.

### Acquisition Planning and Status

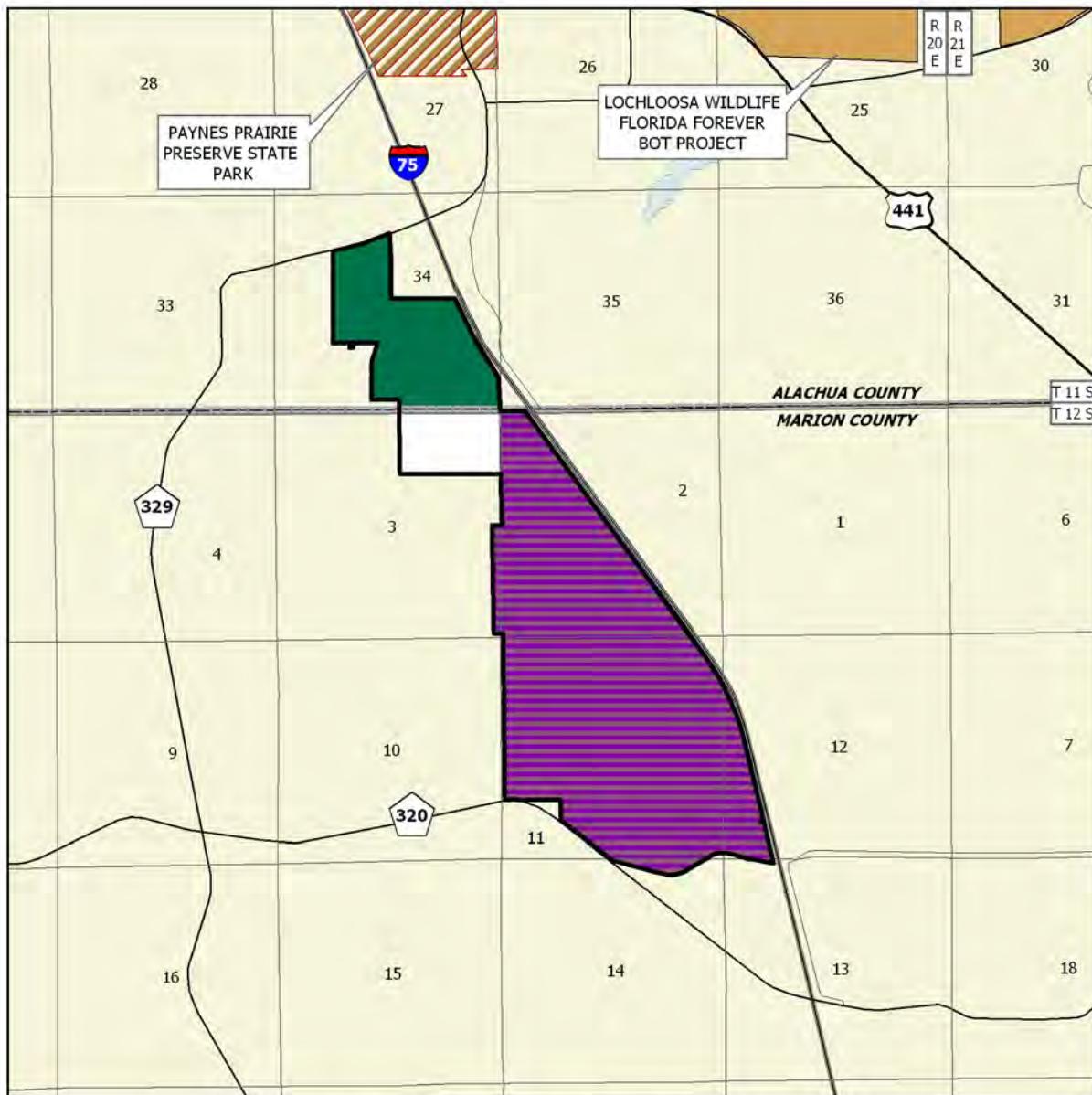
This project was ranked for the first time on 4/6/2001. The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) has purchased the Price's Scrub portion of the project as part of the Marion County Greenway. The Division of State Lands (DSL) is not actively pursuing this project.

Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	
FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Florida Spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>Pondspice</i>	G3/S2
Hobbs' Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
4 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	1,267
Acres Acquired (GIS)	974*
at a Cost of	1,975,000*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	293
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$86,144

\*Acquisition and expenditure was done by the Office of Greenways and Trails

## Carr Farm/Price's Scrub



### CARR FARM/PRICE'S SCRUB

#### MARION AND ALACHUA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands



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Miles

AUGUST 2006

### **Coordination**

Alachua County cannot commit funds at this time, but is willing to consider funding toward the project sometime in the future. Mitigation funds from DOT may be available through the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable land that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of the state or a larger geographic area. To conserve and protect significant habitat for several rare species. To provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has a number of historic and archaeological sites, including the home site of Archie and Marjorie Carr. As such, the project would qualify as a state historic site. The natural resource portions of the project will provide a variety of resource-based recreational opportunities to compliment the cultural-resource aspect of the site.

**Managers** DRP and OGT.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project will be a high need management area. Public recreational use and development of compatible cultural and resource-based facilities will be an integral aspect of management. The close proximity of I-75 and the long years since the scrub, scrubby flatwoods and wet flatwoods have burned will require more intensive preparation to burn in the short-term.

**Timetable for implementing management** Upon fee acquisition, management will concentrate on site security and development of a cultural and natural resource inventory. Hunting will not be allowed. Access to and within the project will be confined to designated points and routes. In the short-term, low-intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation will be provided as soon as practical to allow for compatible public access. Emphasis will be given to developing a short-term burn program to begin restoration efforts in the scrub, scrubby flatwoods and wet flatwoods. Long-term management will include a range of resource-based recreation and associated facilities, together with resource management goals.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DRP will,

as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities and the development of lands for state park purposes.

**Revenue generating potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after acquisition and the amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and future extent of public use and facilities development.

### **Management Costs and Sources of Revenue**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$298,000</b>	
<b>OCO</b>	<b>124,000</b>	
<b>Expense</b>		<b>\$ 28,000</b>
<b>OPS</b>		<b>15,000</b>
<b>FTE</b>		<b>87,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$422,000</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Catfish Creek

Polk County

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The high, sandy Lake Wales Ridge, stretching south from near Orlando almost to Lake Okeechobee, was originally covered with a mosaic of scrub, flatwoods, wetlands, and lakes. The scrub is unique in the world—it is inhabited by many plants and animals found nowhere else—but it has almost completely been converted to citrus groves and housing developments. The Catfish Creek project, with its scrub ridges overlooking the nearly pristine shore of Lake Pierce, will protect an especially scenic example of Lake Wales Ridge scrub and its associated ecosystems and allow the public to enjoy camping, fishing, and swimming in this unique and beautiful natural area. It will also protect an important archaeological site on Lake Pierce. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will manage the project, less that portion known as Snodgrass Island.

### General Description

Catfish Creek is a diverse natural area extending over high scrub ridges, interspersed with lakes, next to the pristine shore of Lake Pierce. Natural communities include sandhill, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flat-

woods, xeric hammock, bottomland hardwood forest, basin swamp, sandhill upland lake, wet flatwoods, blackwater stream, seepage slopes, and floodplain swamp, all in excellent condition. The tract harbors at least 19 rare plant and animal species state listed as endangered or threatened. Rare or endangered animal species include the bald eagle, wood stork, gopher tortoise, and scrub jay. The 1993 addition on Snodgrass Island contains a potentially important archaeological site. The project is threatened by agriculture and eventual residential development.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a state preserve, with such uses as hiking, camping, fishing and nature study.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I: (essential) Rolling Meadows (acquired), TNC (acquired) and Palo Alto (acquired); Phase II: Imagination Farms, Progress Homes (acquired) and K-Rocker. Phase III: Section two which is subdivided (state has acquired all of section consolidated by Bowen).

In 1992 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired 68 acres in this project and in August 2007 donated it to the state.

On 10/21/1999, the Council added 6,991 acres and designated as essential. In August, 2002, the Council added the Rolling Meadows Ranch to the project.

On 12/5/2002, the Council added the K-Rocker Tract to the project.

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1990</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>19,462</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>10,300*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$49,414,766</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>9,162</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$13,586,636</b>

\* Includes a donation from TNC

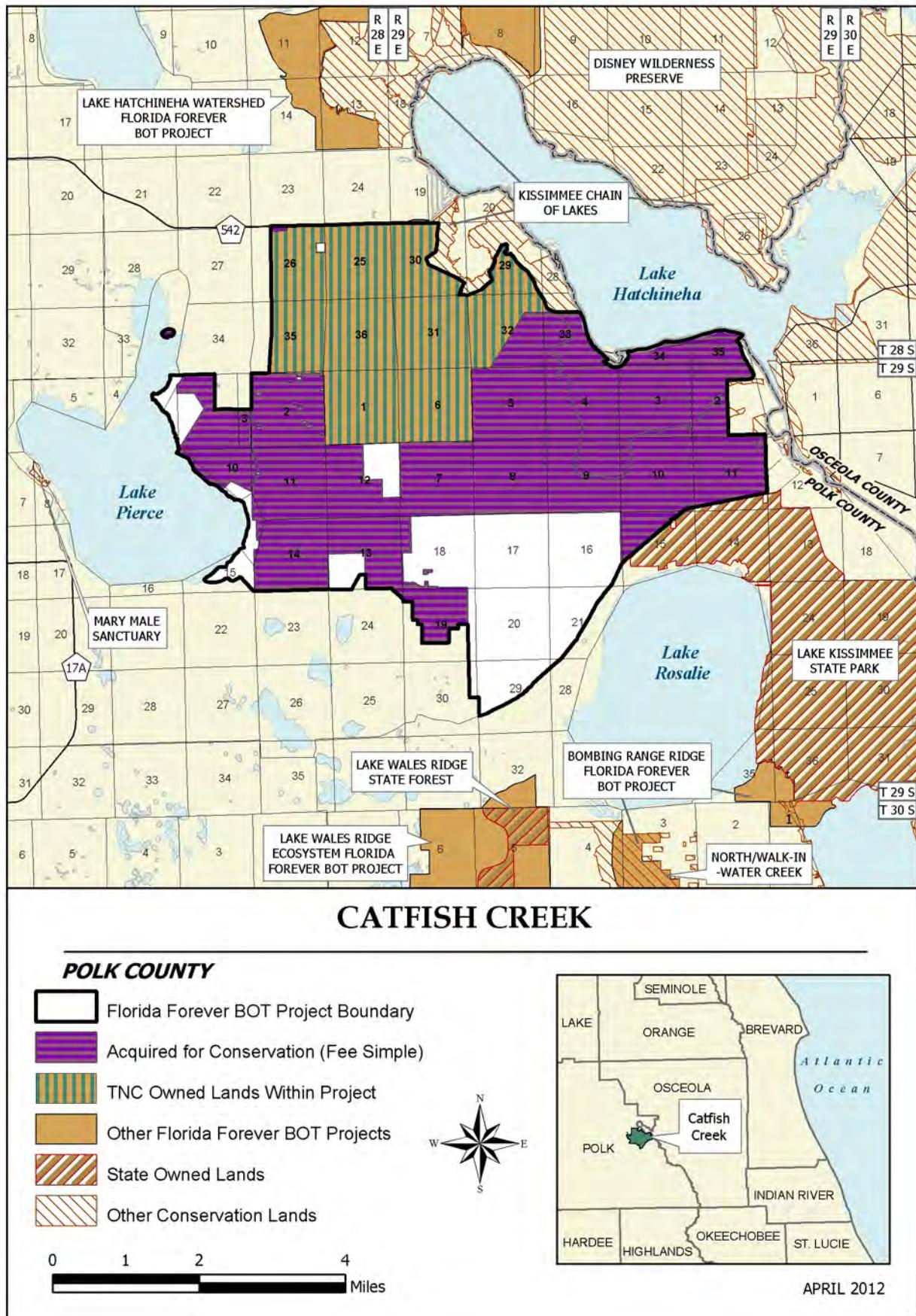
### Catfish Creek

#### FNAI Elements

Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Highlands Tiger Beetle	G1G2/S1S2
Sand Skink	G2/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Britton's Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Cutthroat Grass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida Blazing Star</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida Jointweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Lewton's Polygala</i>	G3/S3
<i>Pygmy Fringe Tree</i>	G3/S3
<i>Scrub Pigeon-wing</i>	G3/S3

27 rare species are associated with the project

## Catfish Creek



## Catfish Creek

On 12/5/2003 the Council moved the project to the Group B list.

### Coordination

TNC sponsored this project, assisted in providing information in the preparation of the project, and in discussions with some of the major landowners. TNC and SFWMD are considered acquisition partners for this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Catfish Creek project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The sensitive resources in the Catfish Creek project—sandhills, a large lake, and high-quality scrub with its rare plants and animals—qualify it as a state preserve.

**Manager** The DRP, Department of Environmental

Protection, is the manager of the project, less that portion known as Snodgrass Island.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project is a low-need management area emphasizing resource protection while allowing compatible public recreational use and development.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project area.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public use facilities are developed. The amount of any revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. With emphasis on resource protection, and with minimal public use, future generated revenues are not expected to be high.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

Management Cost Summary	
Category	Startup
Source of Funds	CARL
Salary	\$22,167
OPS	\$0
Expense	\$5,712
OCO	\$6,978
FCO	\$8,640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,497</b>

# Charlotte Harbor Estuary

Charlotte, Lee and Sarasota Counties

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Charlotte Harbor Estuary is a combination of three major Florida Forever projects: the Myakka River Estuary, the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project, and the Charlotte Harbor project.

Charlotte Harbor, one of the largest and most productive estuaries in Florida, supports an important recreational and commercial fishery, but is rapidly being surrounded by cities and residential developments, which could harm this important resource. By conserving flatwoods and prairies behind the mangrove swamps and salt marshes along Charlotte and Placida Harbors, the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project will help preserve the water quality of the estuary, protect habitat for the Florida manatee and other rare wildlife, and provide residents of and visitors to the area with opportunities for boating, fishing, and other recreational pursuits.

The Myakka Estuary project will protect the largest natural area left around northern Charlotte Harbor, conserving flatwoods, scrub, and salt marshes that support bald eagles, sandhill cranes, scrub jays, and manatees. The project will also help protect an important fishery and provide residents of, and visitors to, the rapidly growing Charlotte Harbor area with opportunities for hiking, camping, and other recreational pursuits.

## Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida

Charlotte Harbor Estuary FNAI Elements	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Aboriginal Prickly Apple</i>	G1/S1
<i>Beautiful Pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
Southern Mink, Southern Florida Pop	G5T2Q/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3/S3
Roseate Spoonbill	G5/S2

19 rare species are associated with the project

## Substantially Complete

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), will manage the majority of the project. The DRP will manage that portion of the project west of SR 775. Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will manage the western portion of the Myakka Estuary portion of the project, with the DRP managing the east side.

## General Description

The project includes the ecotone of flatwoods and dry prairies, and the estuarine tidal marshes and mangrove swamps along Charlotte Harbor and Placida Harbor. Less than 10 percent of the area is disturbed. The area provides habitat for rare animals—the bald eagle, scrub jay, indigo snake, and gopher tortoise—and influences important manatee habitat offshore.

The project protects the water quality of the Charlotte Harbor estuary, designated as a series of Outstanding Florida Waters, and its recreational and commercial fisheries. The Coral Creek Mound is a possibly significant archaeological site; no other sites are known from the area. The area is vulnerable to development, invasive exotic plants, and damage by off-road vehicles. There are 12,000 platted lots in the project vested from most development restrictions, so endangerment is extremely high. This project provides an essential addition to lands previously acquired through the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program. Most of the lands are wetlands, including mangrove, salt marsh, and salt flats, but there are some mesic flatwoods. The project area offers habitat for

**Charlotte Harbor Estuary (includes Charlotte Harbor, Charlotte Harbor Additions, Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor, Myakka Estuary)**

<b>Original Project Placed on List</b>	<b>1972</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>45,200</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>38,391</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$35,040,125</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>6,874</b>

**Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$9,078,167**

Note: 2,260 acres adjustment/removal due to residential/commercial structures or infrastructure.

## Charlotte Harbor Estuary



## CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: OVERVIEW

### CHARLOTTE, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES

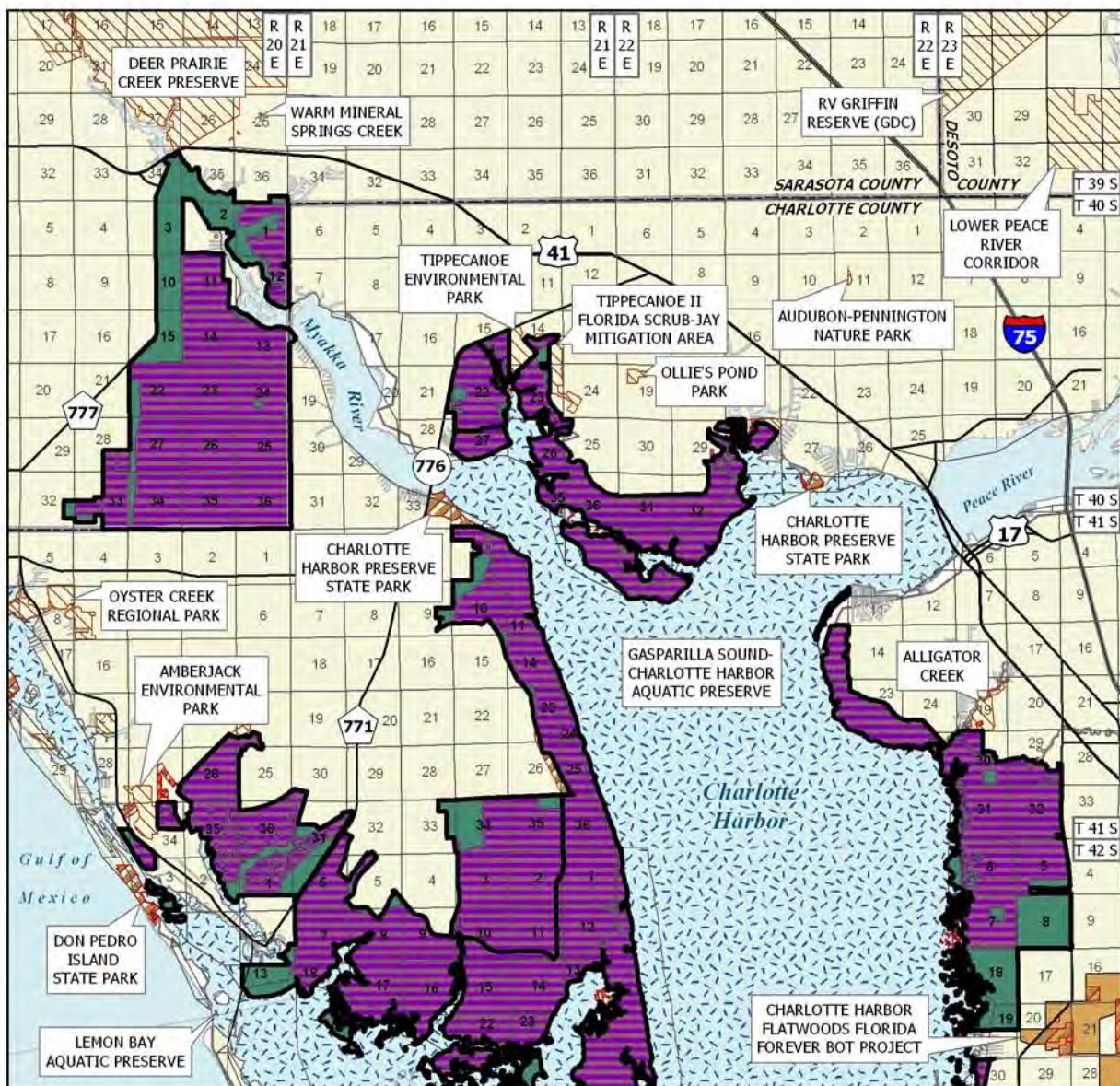


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MAY 2010

## Charlotte Harbor Estuary



### CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: MAP 1 OF 2

#### **CHARLOTTE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

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Miles



MAY 2010

## **Charlotte Harbor Estuary**

several rare species, and directly influences the water quality of Charlotte Harbor. There are two shell midden mound archaeological sites known from the project. Regulations notwithstanding, the area is threatened by dredging and filling from residential development.

The nearly intact uplands of the Myakka Estuary are primarily Mesic Flatwoods, like those in the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project, 15 miles to the south, but different in that they include scrub and the Florida scrub jay. The project provides habitat for nesting bald eagles and sandhill cranes and buffers the Tidal Marsh and waters of the Myakka River and Sam Knight Creek. Manatees use the adjacent waters heavily all year. The Myakka River estuary and the coastal wetlands associated with this project support valuable commercial and recreational fisheries. The Florida Site File records five archaeological sites in the project. The project is surrounded by development and its uplands will inevitably be developed if not purchased.

### **Public Use**

This project qualifies as a forest and buffer preserve. Wetlands will limit outdoor recreation to such activities as fishing, canoeing, picnicking, hiking, and natural-resource education. The Myakka Estuary area has potential for such public uses as hiking, picnicking, camping, and nature appreciation.

### **Acquisition Planning**

In 1980, the Charlotte Harbor project was added to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. The project, started in 1972 under the EEL program, consisted of approximately 17,854 acres of which 15,582 acres had been acquired under EEL. The remaining 2,272 acres had a taxable value of \$1,931,820. Essential tracts included Atlantic Gulf Communities (acquired in 1995) and Mariner Properties (unwilling seller but for wetlands).

In September 1986, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) approved the addition of 840 acres (aka Alligator Creek) to the project. Sponsored by Charlotte County, the addition had four landowners (Starnes, City of Punta Gorda, Lowe, and Punta Gorda Isles that owned a majority of the addition).

In June 1988, the LASC approved the modification of the project design that retained 16-17 parcels from the original project (2215 acres) and added ten parcels in 9 ownerships (3141 acres) for a total of 5,356 acres with

a taxable value of \$2,302,000. To date, 17,141 acres had been acquired at a cost of \$8,070,838.

On 11/20/1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved the addition of three parcels, totaling 188 acres with an estimated tax value of \$66,086, to the project boundary. The Southwest Florida Aquatic Preserve (60 acres), and the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), (128 acres) sponsored the addition.

On 3/9/1994, the LAAC approved the addition of 892 acres located in Lee County to the project boundary. The landowners, Burnt Store Company, Inc, sponsored the amendment with an estimated taxable value of \$2,119,000.

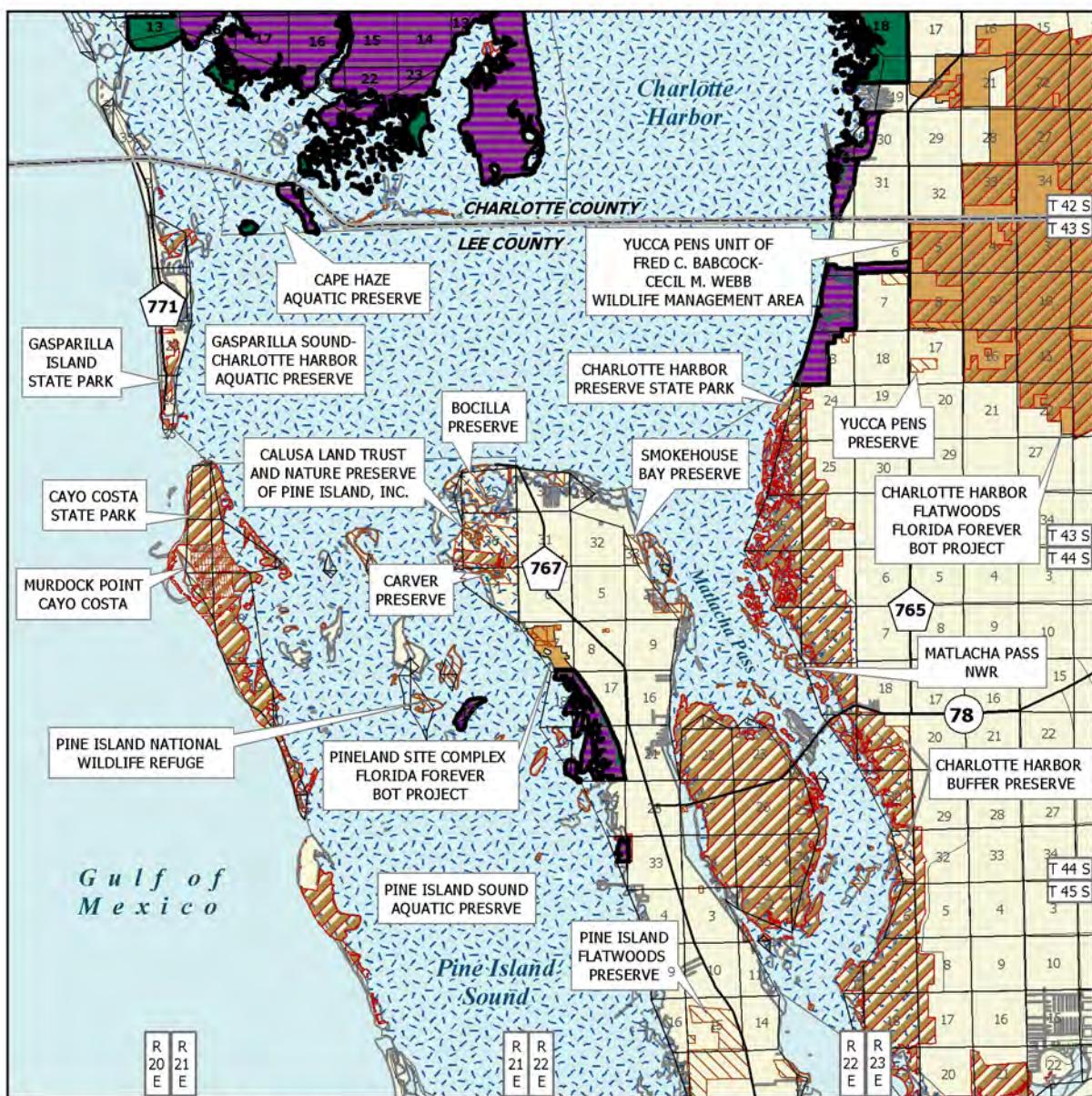
On 7/14/1995, the LAAC approved a 750-acre addition with a taxable value of \$953,918. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) sponsored the addition.

On 10/15/1998, the LAAC designated additional acreage of Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor as essential—approximately 174 acres consisting of the Rotonda Properties out-parcels, and the Cole and Lemon Bay Partners parcels. The Council also designated an additional 1,390 acres of the Myakka Estuary as essential. Previously, essential parcels had included all acreage acquired up to January 26, 1995, and the Cayo Pelau, Lowe, Ansin, and Freeland ownerships. The essential acreage also includes approximately 100 acres adjacent to the Amberjack Scrub site, an FCT project that has been acquired.

On 12/9/1999, the LAMAC transferred this project to the Substantially Complete group.

On 4/6/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) combined the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project with the Charlotte Harbor project. The total project acreage became 32,909. To date, 28,133 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$29,337,199. The updated acreage and cost include EEL, CARL, and Donations. On 12/5/2001, the ARC combined the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project with the Myakka Estuary project, and renamed the project Charlotte Harbor Estuary. The total project acreage became 46,709 acres. To date, 32,736 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$35,461,055. The updated acreage and cost include EEL, CARL, and Donations.

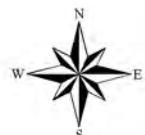
## Charlotte Harbor Estuary



### CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: MAP 2 OF 2

#### **CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles



DECEMBER 2010

## **Charlotte Harbor Estuary**

On 6/12/2009 ARC approved a 79 acre addition owned by Burnt Store Land Group, LLC.

On 2/19/2010, ARC approved removal of 13 sites with 466 individual parcels totaling 2,260 acres containing residential/commercial structures or infrastructure.

### **Coordination**

SWFWMD was an acquisition partner in the purchase of the Rotonda ownership (Cape Haze).

The TPL has been an intermediary in the state's acquisition of two large tracts within the Charlotte Harbor project.

In 1995, the SWFWMD negotiated the purchase (CARL program reimbursed half) of the Atlantic Gulf Communities Corp. ownership land within the Charlotte Harbor (704 acres) and Myakka Estuary (9,264 acres) projects.

### **Management Policy Statement**

#### **Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor/Myakka Estuary**

The primary goals of management of the Charlotte Estuary project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish, or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Achieving this objective will help to protect the water quality of Charlotte Harbor, its important nursery areas for fish and shellfish, its important recreational and commercial fisheries, and its manatee habitat. It will also provide the public with an additional area for natural resource-based recreation.

The project should be managed under the single-use language change made October 1999. Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn the fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking-natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; strictly limit timbering in old-growth stands; and monitor management activities

to ensure that they are actually preserving resources.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project provides essential additions to lands previously acquired through the EEL program of the 1970's and the Save Our Coast (SOC) Program of the 1980's. Most of the lands are wetlands, including mangrove, salt marsh, and salt flats, with occasional uplands including pine flatwoods, and oak/sabal palm hammocks. The forest resources around the Myakka River estuary have the diversity and size to make a state forest. These lands will aid in the protection or buffering of state waters, primarily the Cape Haze, and Charlotte Harbor/Gasparilla Sound Aquatic Preserves, as well as improve the protection and recreational value of the existing state-owned lands. They will also provide a land base for public access to the Don Pedro Island State Park. These lands therefore qualify as an addition to the existing Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve and the Don Pedro Island State Park.

**Manager** The DRP will manage these lands as an addition to the state park system. FFS proposes to manage 12,800 acres north and west of Highway 776.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project is surrounded by rapidly developing areas. Development in the area may alter the flow of water and nutrients by dredging, filling, and shoreline armoring. Urbanization of surrounding lands is also increasing, thereby justifying the need for an increased patrol and law enforcement presence. Initially the project lands will be "high need," requiring management to control exotic plants and animals and reducing illegal activities, such as poaching and trash dumping. Thereafter, routine management activities will be at the "moderate need" level. Lands to be used, and developed, as a landbase to provide access to Don Pedro Island State Park will be "high need" areas. West of the Myakka River there are no known major disturbances and the level of management is expected to be typical for that of a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year of appropriate funding, management activities will concentrate on; property security, including fencing, posting, and patrols; public access, staff access for management activities such as prescribed fire and restoration projects, trash removal; and exotic plant and animal eradication. The DRP will provide appropriate resource based public access while

protecting critical resources. The site will be biologically inventoried and a management plan will be written within one year. Long range goals will be established by the management plan and will provide for ecological restoration and habitat maintenance. Prescribed and natural fires will be used to maintain the appropriate communities and associated wildlife populations. The resource inventory will be used to identify appropriate uses for the property, including management activities and public use. Areas disturbed by man and exotic plants will be restored to an “as natural as possible” condition. Infrastructure will be kept to a minimum and include only a sufficient amount of structures to provide for management facilities, public access, and resource interpretation. After the core of the Myakka River forests are acquired, the FFS and DRP will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the sites, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, removing trash, and eradicating exotic plants. The project’s natural resources, and threatened and endangered plants and animals, will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. The FFS’s long-range plan is generally to restore disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests.

**Revenue-generating potential** The forest land in the Myakka River estuary portion of the project has potential for a variable source of revenue from timber sales, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low to moderate. The part of the project east of the river will provide indirect financial benefit to the state, including enhanced water quality, fisheries, and public recreation opportunities. Limited revenue may be available through small timber sales to initially thin some stands and through some entrance and user permit fees in the future. Elsewhere, the project will benefit the state indirectly by enhancing water quality, fisheries and public recreation activities, and preserving natural and historical resources. Future user fees may also contribute limited revenue.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

Charlotte and Lee Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Northwest of Fort Myers lies the largest and highest-quality slash-pine flatwoods left in southwest Florida. The pines are home to red-cockaded woodpeckers, black bears, and bald eagles, and an occasional Florida panther ranges the area. The largest population of the rare beautiful pawpaw grows here. Several drainage ditches flow through these flatwoods into the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project will protect these flatwoods and connect the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve with the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, helping to protect both of these managed areas and the waters of the Aquatic Preserve.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

This project encompasses the largest remaining tract of intact pine flatwoods in southwestern Florida. Old-growth South Florida slash pine forests on site are home to at least 10 rare animals including red-cockaded woodpeckers, bald eagles, and Florida panthers are known to use the site. The tract also provides important habitat for several rare plants, most notably a globally critically imperiled plant, the beautiful pawpaw, *Deeringothamnus pulchellus*. The project provides

additional protection for the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and will also connect the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve and the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area. This upland site is particularly suited for development, especially considering the rapid growth of Charlotte and Lee counties. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

### Public Use

The project is designated as a wildlife management area, with such uses as hiking, environmental education and hunting.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I tracts include Ansin (essential—acquired), Zemel (essential—Phase I acquired), Bower (essential), Section 20 SE of Burnt Store Marina Road and Section 24.

On 10/15/1998, LAMAC removed 165 acres and added them to the Charlotte Harbor project.

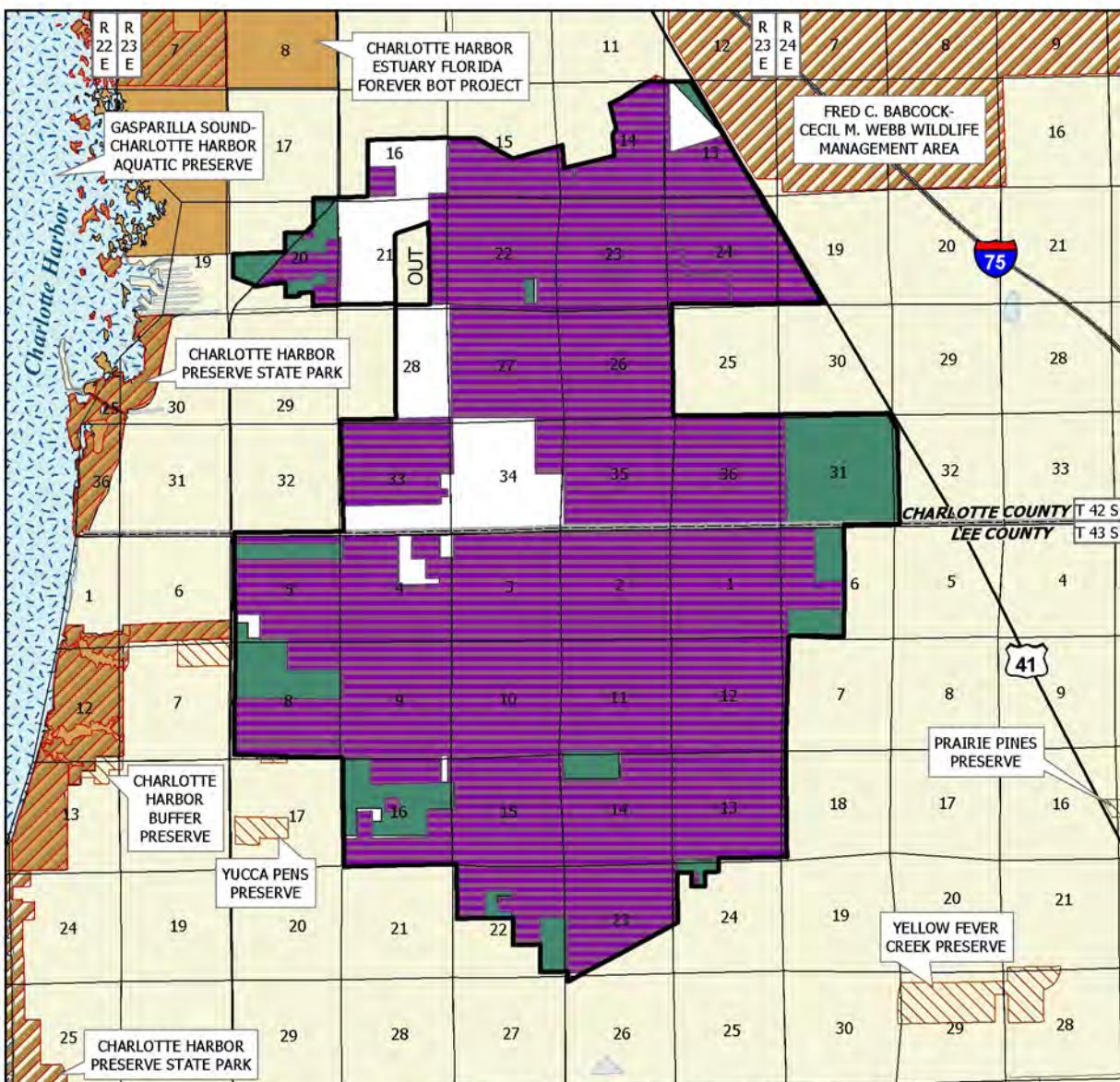
On 2/11/1999, the Council added 333 acres, and on 10/21/1999, added 1,793 acres as essential parcels. In June 2007 the 9-acre Honenberg Parcel was purchased by FWCC and added to the Yucca Pens Unit of the project.

Large essential parcels have been acquired. The Division of State Lands (DSL) is not active in this project.

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
<i>Beautiful Pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Florida Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3/S3
Roseate Spoonbill	G5/S2
14 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1992
Project Area (GIS Acres)	19,559
Acres Acquired (GIS)	15,653
at a Cost of	\$36,828,279
Acres Remaining (GIS)	3,906
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$8,536,050
<i>Note: 2,352 acres were removed from the project at the land-owner's request plus 683 isolated/disturbed acres were removed in 2009.</i>	

## Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods



### CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS

#### **CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES**

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/White Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Red/White Horizontal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue/White Dashed Pattern Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles

JUNE 2011

## **Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods**

On 2/26/09 FWC purchased 37.63 acres (Yucca Pens) for \$298,000 from Allcoat, Inc. to add to Babcock Webb WMA.

On 6/12/2009 ARC approved removal of 3,035 acres (2,352 of ZREV-owner's request-plus 683 isolated/disturbed acres) from the boundary with a tax assessed value of \$43,524,121.

### **Coordination**

The FWC is acquiring small inholdings in the project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs can adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project has the size (18,000 acres), location (adjacent to the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area), outstanding wildlife habitat (the largest stand of undisturbed flatwoods in southwest Florida) and wildlife resources (red-cockaded woodpeckers,

Florida panthers, and Florida black bears, among others) to qualify as a wildlife management area.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Development surrounding and within the project, and the intense urbanization of southwest Florida, suggest a broad array of management problems. Trash dumping, other illegal trespass and the presence of numerous inholdings will certainly increase the need for intensive and careful management. Law enforcement and fire-control issues are expected to be at the forefront.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The first year of management activity will entail controlling public access with gates and/or fencing, and controlling the littering and dumping problems. Additional emphasis will be placed on planning and on establishing an adequate and appropriate fire regime. Subsequent years should result in this project becoming an integral part of the management scheme for Babcock-Webb WMA.

**Revenue-generating potential** Though this property contains significant timber resources, the timber revenue potential is low. There is little or no market for South Florida Slash Pine timber in Southwest Florida (in fact, very little timber market at all). Nevertheless, the potential for generating recreational revenue is significant, if new recreational user fees were to be implemented on this WMA.

**Management costs and revenue source** Revenues would likely come from the CARL Trust Fund and Pittman-Robertson return of excise tax.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

### **Management Cost Summary/FWC**

<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$54,200</b>	<b>\$54,200</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,202</b>	<b>\$64,202</b>	<b>\$69,500</b>

# **Clay Ranch**

## **Putnam County**

## **Less-Than-Fee**

### **Purpose for State Acquisition**

Acquisition of a conservation easement over Clay Ranch would contribute to the goal of eventually attaining connections among the conservation lands in the region to create landscape-scale protection of the xeric uplands and associated wetlands characteristic of the Trail Ridge. It could also help to preserve and protect the healthy aquatic biota in lower reaches of Etoniah Creek.

### **Manager/Monitor**

The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Environmental Services (OES) will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement, unless otherwise noted.

### **General Description**

Clay Ranch, approximately 2,380 acres in northwestern Putnam County, consists of a mix of forested uplands, scattered depression marshes and sandhill upland lakes, and areas - both uplands and wetlands - that have been converted to pasture and/or sod farm. Some remnant sandhill remains in the western half, although a large portion of the forested area has developed into xeric/mesic hammock. Clay Ranch is situated on the southeastern portion of Trail Ridge, a physiographic province dominated by rolling sandhills and dotted with sandhill upland lakes.

The tract has the characteristics needed to harbor imperiled species, and some imperiled species are

documented to occur there. The sandhill upland lakes and marsh natural communities that occur on the tract are mostly intact and fulfilling their natural function. Although much of the uplands are in commercial uses including sod farming, cattle grazing, hay production and silviculture, the majority is in a semi-natural condition and has good potential, with the reintroduction of fire, for providing quality habitat for many imperiled species in the future.

The proximity to other conservation lands in this region embellish the less-than-fee acquisition proposal. An added benefit is the potential to connect a corridor for the Florida black bear and provide a large tract of conservation land for watershed and wildlife protection. However, even with this acquisition, other tracts would need to be protected for the corridor to be complete. If a conservation easement were acquired on this site, perhaps other private landowners within the corridor would also consider their tracts for public acquisition.

### **Public Use**

Since the Clay Ranch is being offered as a less-than-fee acquisition, public access is not being contemplated at this time. During the negotiations with the Clay family, some limited access for research or education may be possible to acquire.

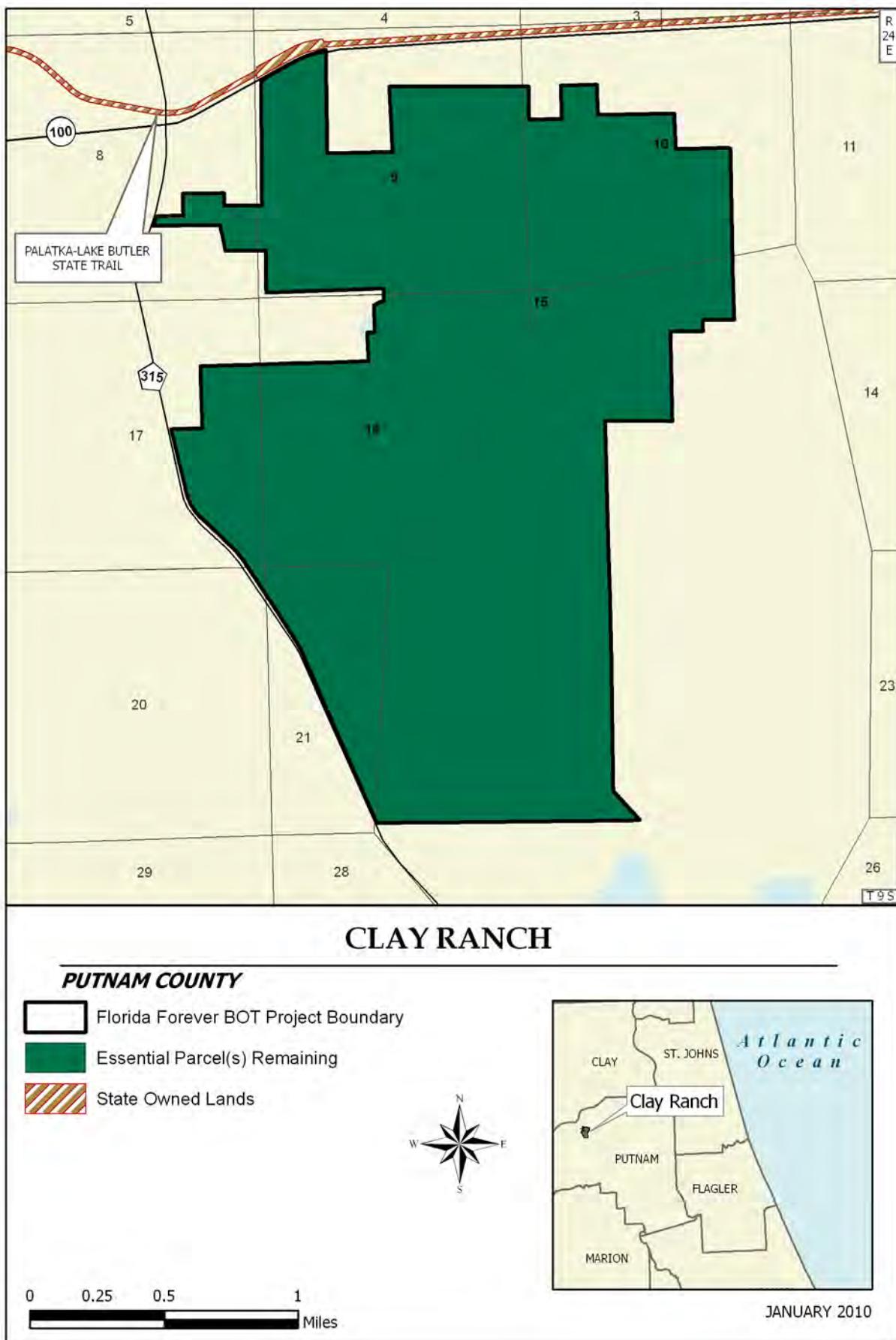
### **Acquisition Planning**

On 6/9/2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Clay Ranch project to Group A of the August 2006 Florida Forever Priority list. This less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Alachua Conservation

<b>Clay Ranch</b>	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS acres)</b>	<b>2,460</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>2,460</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,634,125</b>

## Clay Ranch



Trust, consists of one landowner, the Clay Family, ±2,380 acres and a 2005 taxable value of \$1,634,125.

### **Coordination**

No acquisition partnerships have been suggested at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of further conversion of existing natural areas and open space to more intensive uses, and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Protection of Clay Ranch would contribute to the goal of eventually attaining connections among the conservation lands in the region to create landscape-scale protection of the xeric uplands and associated wetlands characteristic of the Trail Ridge, as well as agricultural open space. TNC indicates that efforts are being made to secure some of this area that could provide a direct connection between Clay Ranch and Ordway-Swisher Preserve. Katharine

Ordway Preserve and Carl M. Swisher Memorial Nature Preserve (contiguous properties and both managed by the University of Florida) lay approximately 1.5 and 2.75 miles, respectively, west of the western boundary of Clay Ranch. The former Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) project, Putnam County Sandhills, abuts Ordway-Swisher Preserve on its eastern boundary and approaches to within approximately one mile of Clay Ranch. Etoniah Creek State Forest is located 1.75 miles northeast of the site. Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park, and Belmore State Forest are within 6 to 10 miles to the north and northwest of Clay Ranch.

**Manager/Monitor** The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement, unless otherwise noted.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The acquisition of the Clay Ranch could help to preserve and protect the healthy aquatic biota in lower reaches of Etoniah Creek. While the natural communities on Clay Ranch are in need of restoration, the site still exhibits a nice transition from higher xeric uplands in the west to more mesic conditions to the east.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Clear Creek/Whiting Field

## Santa Rosa County

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The proposed acquisition would aid in the establishment of conservation and regional protection through a land linkage of natural areas forming a significant corridor connection between state and private conservation lands. Conceptual management planning would benefit from a coordinated, bioregional consideration among all stakeholders and across management agents regarding this landscape. The project would provide open space in an urbanizing area. The project is close to the City of Milton. The project would also stabilize the land uses around the Whiting Field Naval Air Station so as to forestall encroachment that could be incompatible with the continued function of this military installation.

### Manager

The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) is willing to accept the management responsibility for the Clear Creek project, if acquired.

### General Description

The proposal lies 3 miles north of the Blackwater River Water Management Area (WMA), 12 miles east of the Lower Escambia River WMA, and 8 miles north of the Yellow River WMA. The project is contiguous to Whiting Field, the Naval Air Station used to train Navy pilots on both T-34 aircraft and helicopters. The majority of the proposal consists of upland pine forests, sandhills, mature and young pine plantations, recent clearcuts, and agricultural lands. The upland pine forests and sandhills are in various stages of selective harvest. Narrow bands of upland hardwood forest occur on the slopes of the two creeks. A small percentage (5 percent) of the site is considered to be within a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

### Public Use

Among the potential recreational uses are canoeing,

camping, hiking, biking, wildlife observation, nature photography, scientific research and environmental education. Hunting may also be accommodated in some areas. The site is particularly appropriate for developing an extension to the Blackwater River Heritage State Trail to expand the growing trails network in this region.

### Acquisition Planning

On 6/4/2004, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Clear Creek/Whiting Field project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Interim Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 5,026 acres, 45 landowners, and a taxable value of \$1,648,733

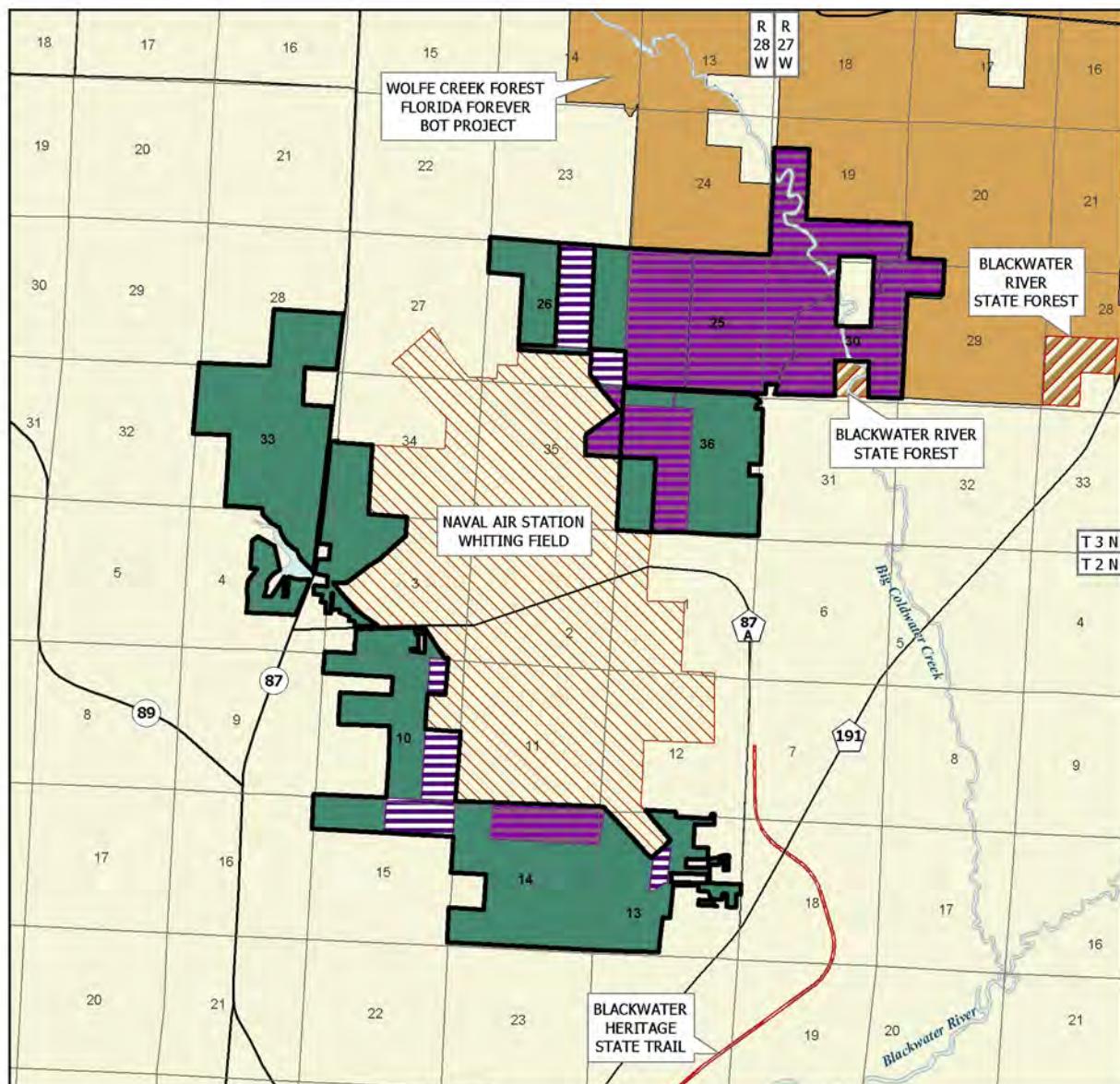
On 12/9/2005, the ARC approved a project design change to allow for acquisition phasing. Phase I was added to Group A, consisted of 7 landowners, approximately 2,029 acres, and a taxable value of \$665,593. The ownership acreage is as follows: International Paper Company (1,154), Phillips (121), Leonard (160), Florimor Inc (320), Blue Sky (120), Lowery (74) and Jernigan (80). Phase II remained in Group B, consists of 38 landowners, and approximately 2,996 acres with a taxable value of \$982,808. On 6/9/2006 ARC moved the Group B portion of this project to Group A. On 12/12/2008 the ARC voted to amend the boundary by adding Coldwater Creek Addition, consisting of two parcels totaling 265 acres owned by TNC, with a tax-assessed value of \$28,167. The acquisition is proposed fee-simple and the parcels were approved as essential. On 3/10/09 with the help of the U.S. Navy, 210.48 acres were purchased from TNC for \$1,158,258. On 9/30/09, 1,401 acres were

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (GIS Acres)	5,185
Acres Acquired (GIS)	1,769*
at a Cost of	\$6,258,258*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	3,416
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$1,111,387

\* Includes contribution by U.S. Navy, Dept. of Justice

Clear Creek/Whiting Field FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Hairy-peduncled Beaksedge	G2/S2
Panhandle Lily	G2/S2
Trailing Arbutus	G5/S2
4 rare species are associated with the project	

## Clear Creek/Whiting Field



### CLEAR CREEK/WHITING FIELD

#### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  - Santa Rosa County Owned Lands Within Project
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - State Owned Lands
  - Other Conservation Lands
- 0    0.5    1    2 Miles



OCTOBER 2011

## **Clear Creek/Whiting Field**

purchased from TNC by Florida Forever (\$2,625,000), Florida Forest Service or FFS (aka as Division of Forestry/DOF)/Incidental Trust Fund (\$1,200,000) aka off-highway vehicle funds, and Department of Navy and Department of Justice (\$1,275,000). On 6/30/2011, DSL purchased 172.59 acres to be managed by FFS.

### **Coordination**

Acquisition partners are U.S. Navy, Santa Rosa County, OGT, and FFS. Development of the management plan will be conducted in coordination with the project partners (Whiting Field, the FFS and Santa Rosa County).

### **Management Policy Statement**

OGT proposes to manage the project in coordination with the FFS, Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County for: the protection of significant habitat for native species and endangered or threatened species; protection of water quality in wetlands and surface waters, notably Clear Creek and Coldwater Creek; the provision of interpretive and recreational activities consistent with resource protection, including development of a multi-use loop trail surrounding Whiting Field and connecting to the northern terminus of the existing Blackwater Heritage State Trail; and the protection of archaeological and historical sites. The acquisition will be managed consistent with the appropriate goals and objectives of FF, and the management of other projects that are part of the statewide system of greenways and trails.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project will serve to protect a conservation landscape adjacent to a vital military training facility, Whiting Field. More than half of the project area lies within an identified Priority Ecological Greenway and a portion lies within a High Priority Segment of the Florida Recreational Trails Network Opportunities (the Blackwater Multi-Use Trail). Importantly, this project will help to enhance the resource and recreational values of the adjacent Blackwater River State Forest, Blackwater Heritage State Trail and State Designated Coldwater Creek Canoe Trail. Coldwater Creek and Clear Creek are also tributaries to the Blackwater River which ultimately flows into Blackwater Bay, an Outstanding Florida Water.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** In general, the property does not appear to require an intensity of management beyond that typically associated with a managed greenway or trail project.

However, the intensity of long-term management will be contingent upon the ability to acquire as intact an area surrounding Whiting Field as possible. Areas with adjacent residential properties will require additional management considerations. The intensity of management will increase over time as recreational facilities and trails are developed and public usage increases. Other issues that will determine intensity of management also include: exotic plant removal in some locations, with particular attention to areas where endangered and threatened species exist, such as pitcher plant; water quality protection and enhancement, particularly related to Clear Creek; and protection of archaeological sites and historical structures.

**Timetable for implementing management** Following acquisition, issues to be addressed in the first year would include site security, posting boundaries and fencing, and conducting assessments/inventories to more fully determine resource management needs including exotic and invasive plant removal, water quality enhancement and protection, protection of archaeological sites and historic structures, and prescribed burn needs. Intermediate and long-term management will address the broader issue of managing this area for resource protection and recreational opportunities as described in the “General Scope of Management” above. Development of the management plan will be conducted in coordination with the project partners (Whiting Field, FFS, Santa Rosa County).

**Revenue generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. However, as public use is increased, modest revenue may be generated for camping and use of other recreational facilities. Some areas may be managed by the FFS for timber production.

**Manager** The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, OGT will manage this property in partnership with Whiting Field, the Florida FFS and Santa Rosa County.

**General scope of management** The Clear Creek/Whiting Field project will be managed to protect its environmental and natural resource values; conserve and protect significant habitat; draw upon its natural characteristics to provide appropriate recreational opportunities; protect significant archaeological and historical sites; and enhance other adjacent managed lands, such as Whiting Field and the Blackwater River State Forest.

*Updated 12/1/2011*

# Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

## Lee and Collier Counties      Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The large, interconnected swamps of southwest Florida must be preserved if such wildlife as the Florida panther and black bear are to survive. The Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) project will conserve connections between three conservation areas and will provide critical protection for rare wildlife; protect the flow of water feeding the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand, and other areas. Public opportunities will be provided to learn about and enjoy these natural resources as southwest Florida develops rapidly around them.

### Manager

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

### General Description

The project, which mostly consists of excellent examples of cypress swamps and marshes, will connect the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve with the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, thereby securing important habitat for the Florida panther and Florida black bear. These large expanses of wetlands are believed to be critical to the survival of these critically imperiled species. The project supports at least two species of rare and endangered orchids, and includes an unusual stand of dwarf bald cypress. No

archaeological sites are recorded from the project. Up-land areas are vulnerable to agricultural and residential development.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife and environmental area, with such uses as hiking, camping and environmental education.

### Acquisition Planning

On 2/7/1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This acquisition, sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of approximately 18,205 acres, 73 landowners, and a taxable value of \$23,704,330. The entire project in both Lee and Collier counties contains approximately 49,810 acres, however, the initial focus of land acquisition is on the Camp Keis Strand Corridor (18,205 acres). The Collier family is the largest landowner in the Strand. If fee-simple acquisition is not negotiable, then conservation easements or other less-than-fee acquisition techniques will be pursued.

On 11/20/1992, LAAC amended the project design to allow matching funds anywhere within the project for "new" acquisitions (those acquired after 11/20/92) by its partners Lee County and the SFWMD.

On 9/20/1993, the LAAC approved a 3,182-acre

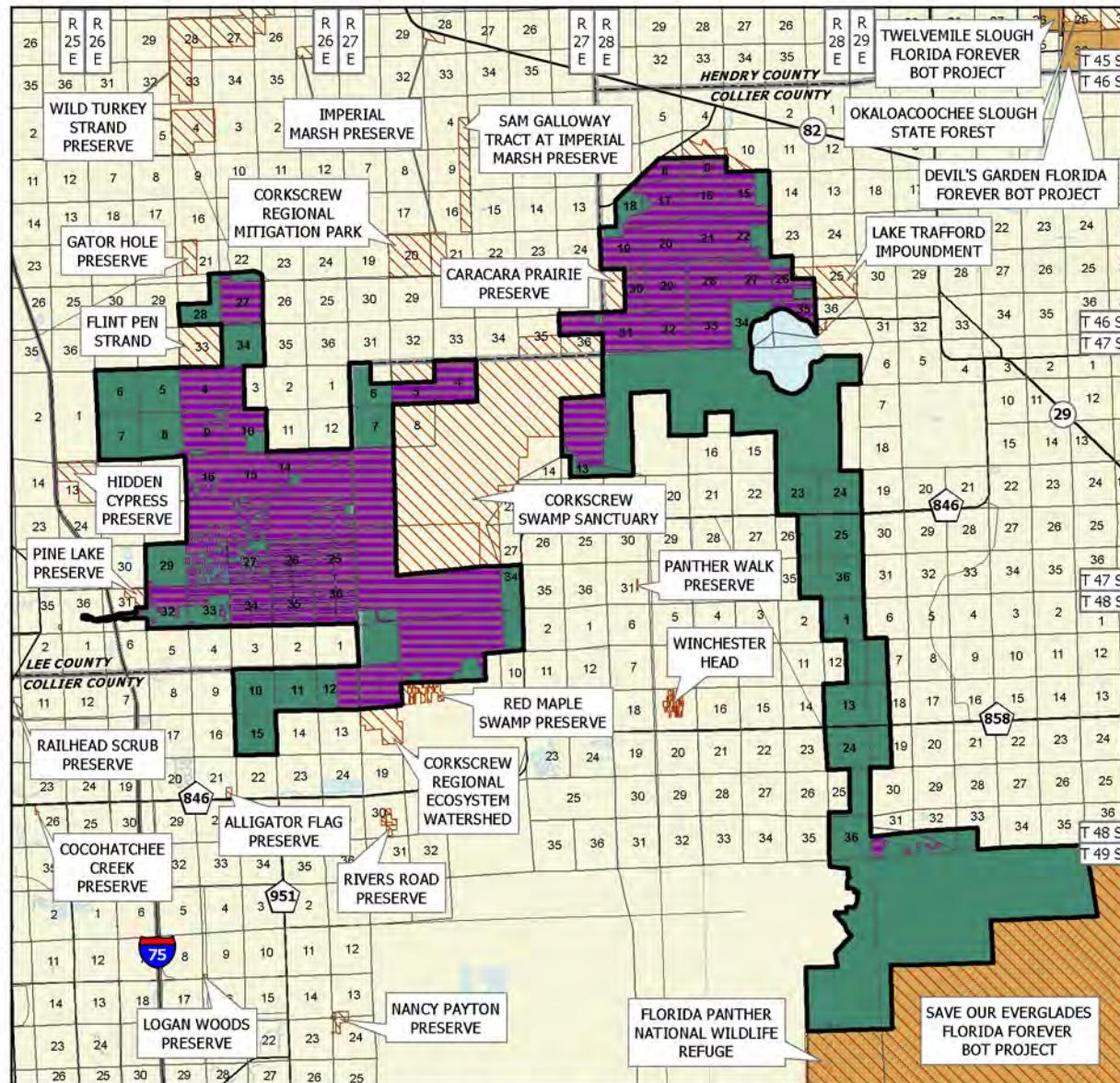
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	G5/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4

11 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1991
Project Area (GIS Acres)	69,349
Acres Acquired (GIS)	38,817*
at a Cost of	\$94,659,111*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	38,532
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$22,725,813

\*includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the State of Florida in conjunction with the SFWMD, Lee County, Collier County, and the United States government.

## Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed



### CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED

#### LEE AND COLLIER COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands



0 1.5 3 6  
Miles



JANUARY 2012

addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of 4 tracts and multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$8,636,331. The original amendment was for 4,022 acres, however 840 acres of 1 tract were already in the current boundary.

On 10/30/1995, the LAAC approved a 612-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD and had a taxable value of \$891,403. The original amendment was for 1,132 acres, however 520 acres were already in the current boundary.

On 12/5/1996, the LAAC approved a 3,040-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of 2 sites, and a taxable value of \$9,029,712. The original amendment was for 4 sites and 4,040 acres, however only sites 3 (excluding the south half of section 35) and 4 were approved.

On 12/9/1999, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a 2,560-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD and the CREW Trust, consisted of 353 parcels, 260 landowners, and a taxable value of \$10,500,000. The parcels were designated as essential.

On 6/6/2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a 424-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of 147 parcels and multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$2,570,240.

In 2/2009 Collier County purchased 2,499 acres known as Pepper Ranch for \$32,525,080; in 10/2009 Lee County purchased approximately 15 acres/\$136,500 from their 20/20 program; and SFWMD donated 10 acres to FWC in same month. Following acres were purchased by SFWMD: 6/2009 and 11/2009 (58 GIS ac./\$661,250); 3 easement tracts (15) were donated by Bonita Springs Utility Co.; 11/2010 (191 ac./\$3,828,890); 12/210 (5 ac./\$75,000).

### **Coordination**

Acquisition partners are SFWMD, Lee and Collier Counties. Both The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some tracts. Resolutions in support of this project include a pledge from Lee County for \$1.5 million.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the CREW project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project's size, natural communities, and extremely sensitive wildlife resources qualify it as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Manager** The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is lead Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** There are various intensities of management required for lands in CREW. There are low-need parcels such as virgin stands of cypress that require little or no management. Also within CREW are moderate-need tracts that need basic resource management such as prescribed burning, and high- need tracts that have been completely altered. Severely altered tracts, such as agricultural fields, must be ecologically restored.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The initial land management plan was implemented in February 1991. Planning and operational activities are ongoing. Public use guidelines, including public access, have been established and are constantly being revised.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated for at least the next two and one half years. At that time recommendations by the FWC may lead to activities such as hunting that will generate revenue through permit and license fees. No other revenue-producing practices are envisioned at this stage of the management program.

**Cooperators in management activities** A cooperative management agreement with the FWC was executed 9/6/1994. The project now receives regular inspections by SFWMD staff and law enforcement patrol by the FWC Reserve program. Under the agreement, the FWC will enforce all laws, rules and regulations applicable to the management of CREW. Additional lands acquired will be given the same protection.

## Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

### Management Cost Summary/SFWMD

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	WMLTF	WMLTF	WMLTF
Salary	\$107,238	\$117,961	\$123,859
OPS	\$35,000	\$38,500	\$38,500
Expense	\$197,250	\$216,915	\$238,606
OCO	\$0	\$28,000	\$20,000
FCO	\$0	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	\$339,448	\$401,436	\$420,965

*Updated 2/28/2012*

# Coupon Bight/Key Deer

## Monroe County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The subtropical pine forests of rapidly developing Big Pine Key and the islands around it are the home of the endangered Key deer and many Caribbean plants found nowhere else in the country. Rich coral reefs and other hardbottom communities flourish in shallow water around the islands. The Coupon Bight/Key Deer project will protect the remaining undeveloped land on Big Pine and No Name Keys (critical for the survival of the Key deer), protect water quality of the Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve, provides a preserve buffer to the National Key Deer Refuge (NKDR), and the other waters surrounding the islands, and provide the public an area to appreciate the unique natural world of this part of Florida.

### Manager

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will manage the majority of this project, however, the Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) will manage some of the project.

### General Description

The project, within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern, encompasses virtually all of the undeveloped land between the Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve and the NKDR on Big Pine Key and No Name Key. It includes the only significant sources of fresh water

in the lower keys, which are critical to the survival of the endangered Key deer. The pine rocklands and associated communities in this project are the largest and the best remaining anywhere. No fewer than 36 special plant species (specified by Florida Natural Areas Inventory) (mostly West Indian, 28 of which are state-listed as endangered or threatened) are known from the project. Several will probably go extinct if this area is developed for residential uses. At least 17 FNAI-listed animal species (4 state-listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern) are known or strongly suspected from the project area. No cultural sites are known from the project area. Residential development of Big Pine Key threatens this area.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve, and a wildlife and environmental area to the NKDR. It will allow such uses as photography, nature appreciation, and hiking.

### Acquisition Planning

#### Coupon Bight

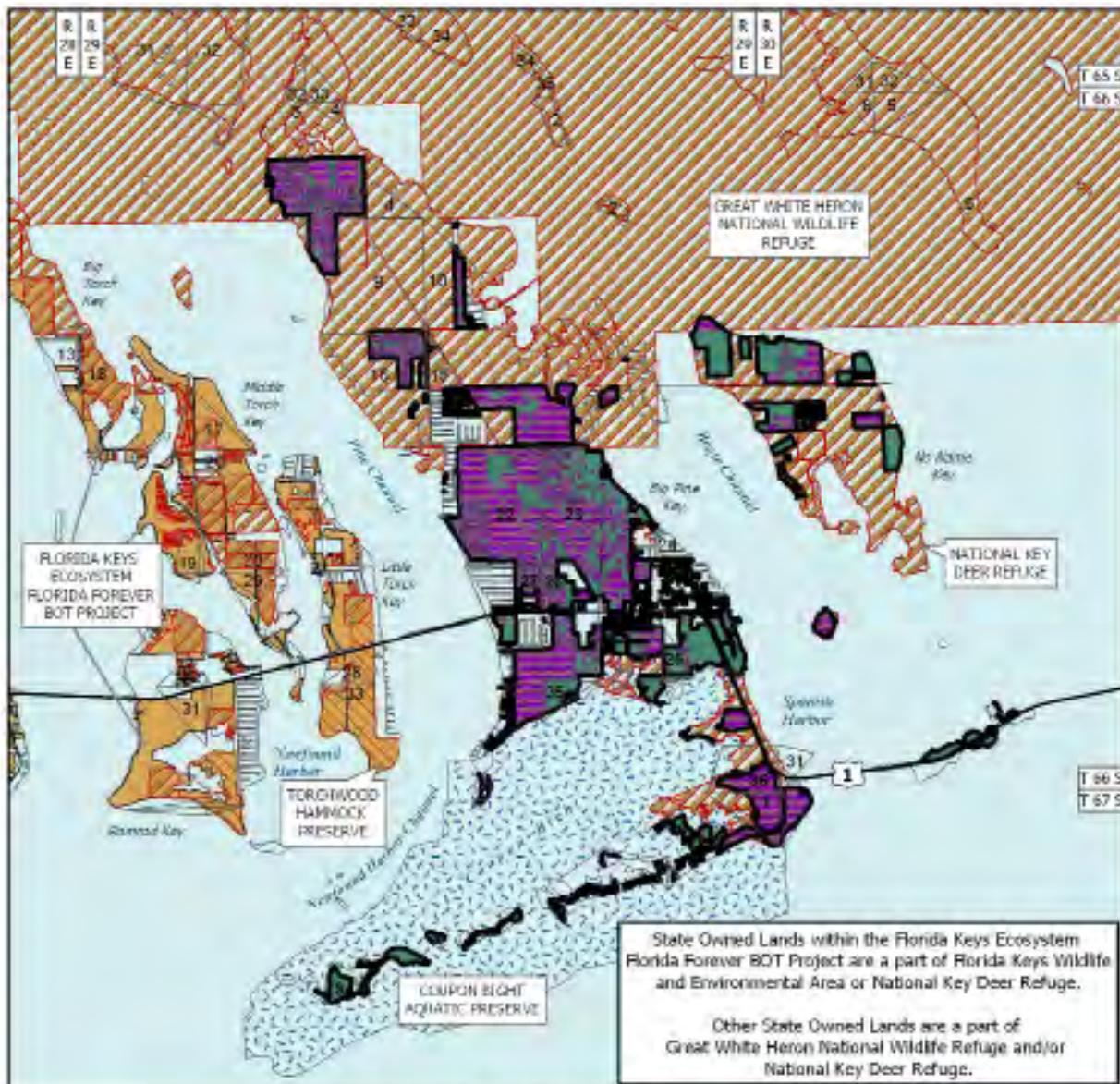
Phase I: the Strachley Tract (acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Trust for Public Lands) and the Brothers tract; Phase II: developable uplands (a few larger acreage tracts have been acquired by the state—the Pepper and Papps tracts, as well as some subdivision lots in Piney Point, Tropical Park, and Kinercha north of the bight); Phase III: jurisdictional wetlands. The Division of State Lands (DSL) further refined the priority acquisitions to large acreage tracts.

Coupon Bight/Key Deer FNAI Elements	
Key Deer	G5T1/S1
<i>Cape Sable Thoroughwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Tree Cactus</i>	G1/S1
<i>Wedge Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
Keys Mudcloak	G1/S1?
Lower Keys Rabbit	G5T1/S1
Key Ringneck Snake	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys Brown Snake	G5T1Q/S1
Lower Keys Ribbon Snake	G5T1Q/S1
Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak	G4?T1/S1
<i>Sand Flax</i>	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Devil's Smooth-claw</i>	G1G3/S1
57 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1985
Project Area (GIS Acres)	3,347
Acres Acquired (GIS)	1,706*
at a Cost of	\$30,241,577
Acres Remaining (GIS)	1,641
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$9,142,863

\* includes 2 acres in the National Key Deer Refuge acquired by the USFWS.

## Coupon Bight/Key Deer



### COUPON BIGHT / KEY DEER

#### MONROE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Light Blue Box with Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands



0    0.5    1    2  
Miles



SEPTEMBER 2007

## **Coupon Bight/Key Deer**

On 10/30/1995, LAMAC added 11.38 acres to the project boundary.

### **Key Deer**

No phasing. Negotiations on remaining parcels continue. Acquisition activity is also focusing on tracts providing a viable corridor between the Coupon Bight and Key Deer portions of the project. All of the owners have received an offer.

On 2/11/2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a ±376-acre fee-simple addition to the project boundary, with a 2004 TAV of \$3,240,815.

### **Coordination**

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and USFWS are acquisition partners in this site. The Nature Conservancy acted as intermediary in negotiation of 520 acres, expending approximately \$5,124,000 on behalf of the SFWMD and USFWS. The USFWS included this project as an addition to the NKDR.

The MCLA is also an acquisition partner on this project. MCLA has acquired 57 acres from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2008 for approximately \$663,000.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Coupon Bight/Key Deer project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The property will function as a buffer preserve to Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve, the NKDR, and sovereign submerged lands.

***Manager*** The USFWS, NKDR, and the MCLA.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management*** Impedi-

ments to management are illegal dumping, vehicular trespass, poaching and clandestine drug related activities. Regular patrols, cleanup efforts and posting of the property would curtail these encroachments and require "moderate-need" management. The USFWS land is open to the public but because of limited facilities development is considered a low-need tract requiring minimal resource management and protection.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Within the first year after acquisition, area north of US 1 would be posted in the same manner as existing NKDR lands and provided protection under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. NKDR law enforcement officers would routinely patrol the area. Permitted activities would be limited to uses such as hiking, bird watching and photography. There would be no night visits, pets, camping, use of motorized vehicles, and collection of plants and animals. Long-range goals would include development of a detailed management plan for perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. A prescribed-burning plan would be formulated in pine rockland habitat; long-term monitoring and an active research program would be part of this program. An in-depth resource inventory would be carried out to identify and map sensitive areas that warrant special consideration and management. There will be no infrastructure development in natural areas; unnecessary roads will be abandoned or removed. Long term management needs include exotic plant control and wetlands restoration. Public access will be provided on a limited basis. Acquisition has been primarily directed at unimproved properties. If the preserve acquires improved property, efforts would be made to make use of it for office, education facilities and workshop and storage space.

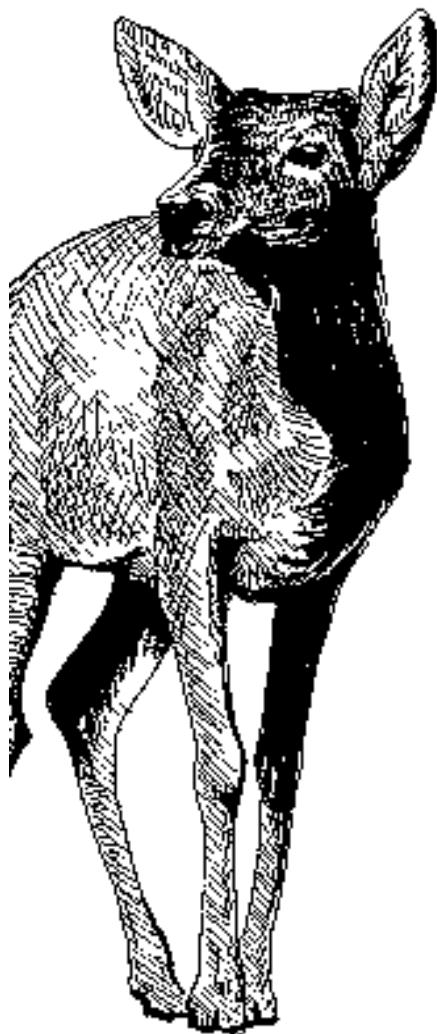
***Revenue-generating potential*** Given the sensitivity of the natural resources of the preserve, large-scale use by the public or private sector is not recommended. Low impact recreational and/or private commercial activities, such as canoe/kayak concessions, wildlife photography/filming may potentially generate some revenue.

***Cooperators in management activities*** Security of the project area will depend upon the assistance and cooperation of state and local law enforcement. Regular patrols by preserve staff will assist in detection of potential encroachments and/or violations.

**Management Cost Summary**

Category	2000/2001	2001/2002
Salary		
OPS		
Expense	\$12,048	\$21,000
OCO		
Special Category	\$1,445	
FCO		
Grant		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,493</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>

*Updated 2/27/2012*



# Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch

Pasco County

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch property would fulfill Florida Forever goals of preserving rare-species habitat and preserving a number of rare species documented to be on the site. The site has a high potential for a variety of listed species, and the wetlands on the ranch are used by numerous species of wading birds. Acquiring the property will also meet the goal of protecting, restoring, and maintaining the quality of land and water in Florida by adding to the number of acres of land needing restoration, or land that has already been substantially restored. Another goal of the Florida Forever program measures is to increase the acreage of groundwater-recharge area. The Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch has a very high value as a water-recharge area. The property also has potential to be a regional park, meeting the Florida Forever measure of increasing natural-resource based recreation.

## Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) will manage the Crossbar Ranch portion of the project. At the 12/2007 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) expressed interest in managing the Al Bar Ranch portion of this project (about one-third of the project area) if its acquisition were pursued by the Division of State Lands.

## General Description

The Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch (also known as the Ranch) Florida Forever project is about 12,440 acres in north-central Pasco County. The property is owned by Pinellas County. The Crossbar portion is 8,069 acres and is the location of the 6.41 acres of the 17 active municipal wellhead sites that Tampa Bay Water owns in fee simple. The Al Bar parcel is 4,100 acres and has several wells on-site used for augmentation, but they are owned by Pinellas County, not Tampa Bay Water.

Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch supports cattle, timber, a profitable pine-straw operation, an active Tampa Bay Water wellfield, an environmental education center, and three houses for staff. Most of this activity occurs on the western two-thirds, or Crossbar Ranch part, of the property. The Al Bar portion of the ranch, or eastern one-third, consists of some pine plantation and pasture but has no wellfield facilities and Pinellas County retains all water rights. About 60 percent of Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch is in planted pine and improved pasture. (There are approximately 3,602 acres of pine plantation on Crossbar Ranch and about 1,514 acres on the Al Bar.) The natural communities present within the matrix of timber and pasture land include xeric hammock and remnant sandhill, depression marsh, mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, dome swamp, flatwoods lake, mesic hammock, baygall, and sinkhole.

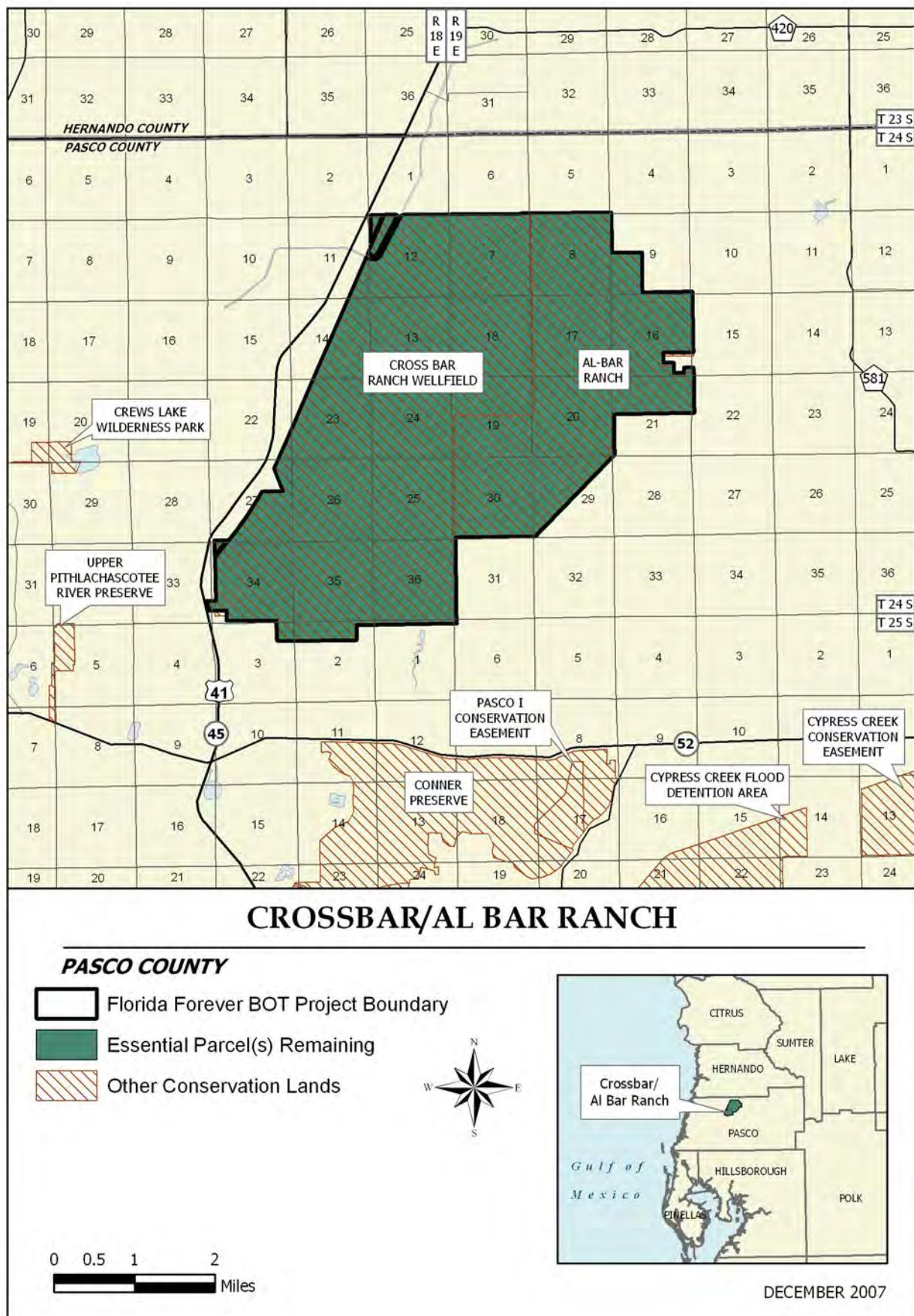
## Public Use

A resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or

Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
8 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2007
Project Area (GIS Acres)	12,440
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	12,440
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$3,730,476

## Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch



management, and to identify areas that are appropriate for responsible recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be, at a minimum, required to allow suitable public access, provide facilities for public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The manager will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High-impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Development of facilities, as on all conservation lands, will be kept to a level necessary to assure a high-quality recreational experience and any such development will be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/14/2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch to the A list of the Florida Forever projects. The property is proposed to be a fee-simple acquisition. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) would focus on the Crossbar portion of the acquisition, and the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands would focus on the Al Bar portion of the acquisition, both in partnership with Pasco County and others.

### **Coordination**

As stated above, the SWFWMD indicated in a letter provided in the application that if the project were approved, it would consider being a project co-sponsor, based on its evaluation of financial needs and partnership commitments at that time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are: restore, maintain, and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; integrate compatible human use; and insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem, and multiple use approach, will guide the management activities on this project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future

generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment. Management will be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted pine straw production area and improved pasture supporting an active cattle operation. About 60 percent of the project was converted to the pine straw and cattle operations. The pine straw production area is 4,100 acres of slash pines and the pines are 15 to 20 years old. There is an additional 500 acres of planted longleaf pine in areas to be restored before the pine straw production area. The improved pastures total about 2,100 acres with multiple combinations of grasses planted in them. The Crossbar/Al Bar ranches have been managed for cattle and pine production for more than 40 years. There does not appear to be bedding within the pine plantations, but because of the conversion to pasture and straw production, most native groundcover and under story species are absent. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, these portions of the project could be restored to a more natural state. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

**Manager** The FFS will be the lead manager of the Crossbar Ranch portion of the project and FWC will manage the Al Bar Ranch portion.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the Crossbar Ranch's flatwoods and sandhill areas were altered by silviculture and cattle operations, and require restoration. The areas where timber species are off-site may require thinning or removal, as well as the restoration of native ground covers and canopy. Biotic surveys will be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development, because many rare or listed species are expected to occur in the project. Restoration efforts will focus on introducing prescribed fire and thinning dense pine stands, exotic species treatment, restoring native groundcovers, and possible wetland restoration.

## Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch

The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to initially be moderate to high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a State Forest. Once this information is obtained and resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain this area as a State Forest.

### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low-intensity outdoor resource-based recreation activities such as hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration, and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, site security, and public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property require development of a road plan to identify those roads to be used for vehicular access by the public and roads for administrative use. Roads found to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed.

Long-range plans for this property will be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas, maintenance of natural communities, and responsible public access. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on those specific sites.

Very little of this project area has been burned by

prescribed fire in recent years. Burning goals for this project will be to eventually establish an all-season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of re-introducing longleaf pines, restoration harvests, and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age, from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment.

***Revenue-generating potential*** As mentioned above, timber sales from the Crossbar Ranch by the DOF will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderately high. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

***Management costs and sources of revenue*** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

SALARY (3FTE)	\$108,341
EXPENSE	\$500,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	<u>\$450,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,058,341

# Dade County Archipelago

Miami-Dade County

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

On a limestone ridge east of the Everglades, where Miami and Homestead and surrounding farms now stand, were subtropical pinelands and hardwood hammocks unique in the United States. Now only tiny pieces of these forests remain, the best of which the Dade County Archipelago project will protect. In so doing, the project will conserve habitat for rare animals and dozens of rare plants, many found nowhere else in the world, and will provide areas where residents and visitors can learn about and appreciate what was here before the cities.

## Manager

Miami-Dade County.

## General Description

This project contains some of the most outstanding examples of rockland hammock that remain in Florida, as well as the best remaining examples of the highly endangered pine rockland outside Everglades National Park. The pine rocklands are critical to the survival of at least 51 rare and endangered plant species found nowhere else, and several rare animal species occur within the project. Several of the hammocks contain significant archaeological sites. The urbanization of Dade County has nearly destroyed these ecosystems.

Dade County Archipelago FNAI Elements	
<i>Tiny Polygala</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida Lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Small's Milkpea</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida Lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Carter's Small-flowered Flax</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Cuban Snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
<i>Deltoid Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Florida Filmy Fern</i>	G4G5T1/S1
<i>Hairy Deltoid Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Miami Cave Crayfish</i>	G1/S1
<i>Pinelands Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Fakahatchee Ladies' -tresses</i>	G4T1/S1
60 rare species are associated with the project	

The remaining sites are still threatened by agriculture and urban development.

## Public Use

The project tracts are designated for use as botanical sites with passive recreational use.

## Acquisition Planning

Miami Rockridge Pinelands and Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands were combined to form Dade County Archipelago in 1994.

### Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands

Phasing of the hammocks in order of priority: Silver Palm (two of three tracts purchased through TNC), Castello Extension, Loveland, Big and Little George, Meissner Ross, Southwest Island, Holiday, Lucille, Ross, Madden's. All sites are essential. Dade County has acquired acreage in Holiday and Lucille Hammocks.

### Miami Rockridge Pinelands

Phasing of the pineland sites in order of priority: Site 12 (partially acquired), Site 2 (partially acquired), Site 6, Site 15 (majority acquired in 1992), Site 14, Site 13 (partially acquired), Site 8 (acquired in 1991), Site 1 (acquired in 1991), Site 16 (half acquired in 1992), Site 7 (majority acquired in 1992), FNAI addition to Site 10, Site 9. The Ludlam Pineland (10 acres) was added in 1994. Dade County has acquired the tract. All sites are essential.

During 1995, Dade County proposed the addition of 16 sites to the project area. All of the sites were assessed during the 1995 cycle with LAMAC approving in

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>889</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>578*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$35,651,244*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$184,320</b>

\* includes acquisitions by Dade County.

## Dade County Archipelago



## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: OVERVIEW

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

#### Map 1

A. Maddens Hammock Site

#### Map 2

A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 1

#### Map 3

A. Boyntown Site

B. Tamiami Addition Site

C. Big and Little George Hammocks Site

#### Map 4

A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 2

B. Miami Rockridge Pinelands -  
Ludlam Pineland Site

C. Whispering Pines Site

#### Map 5

A. Wilkins Pierson Pineland Site

B. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 7

C. Castellow #31 Site

D. Castellow Hammock Extension Site

E. Ross Hammock Site

F. Castellow #28 Site

G. Castellow #33 Site

H. Silver Palm Hammock Site

I. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 8

#### Map 6

A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 6

B. Goulds Addition Site

C. Hardin Hammock Site

D. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 10

#### Map 7

A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 9

B. Owalissa Bauer Addition Site

C. Bauer Drive Pineland Site

D. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 12

#### Map 8

A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 13

B. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 14

C. Meissner Hammock Site

D. Fuchs Hammock Site

E. Navy Wells #2 Site

#### Map 9

A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 16

B. Lucille Hammock Site

C. Navy Wells #39 Site

D. Loveland Hammock Site

#### Map 10

A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 15

B. Navy Wells #23 Site

#### Map 11

A. Southwest Hammock Site

B. Holiday Hammock Site

C. Round Hammock Site

NOVEMBER 2005

## Dade County Archipelago



### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 1 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary



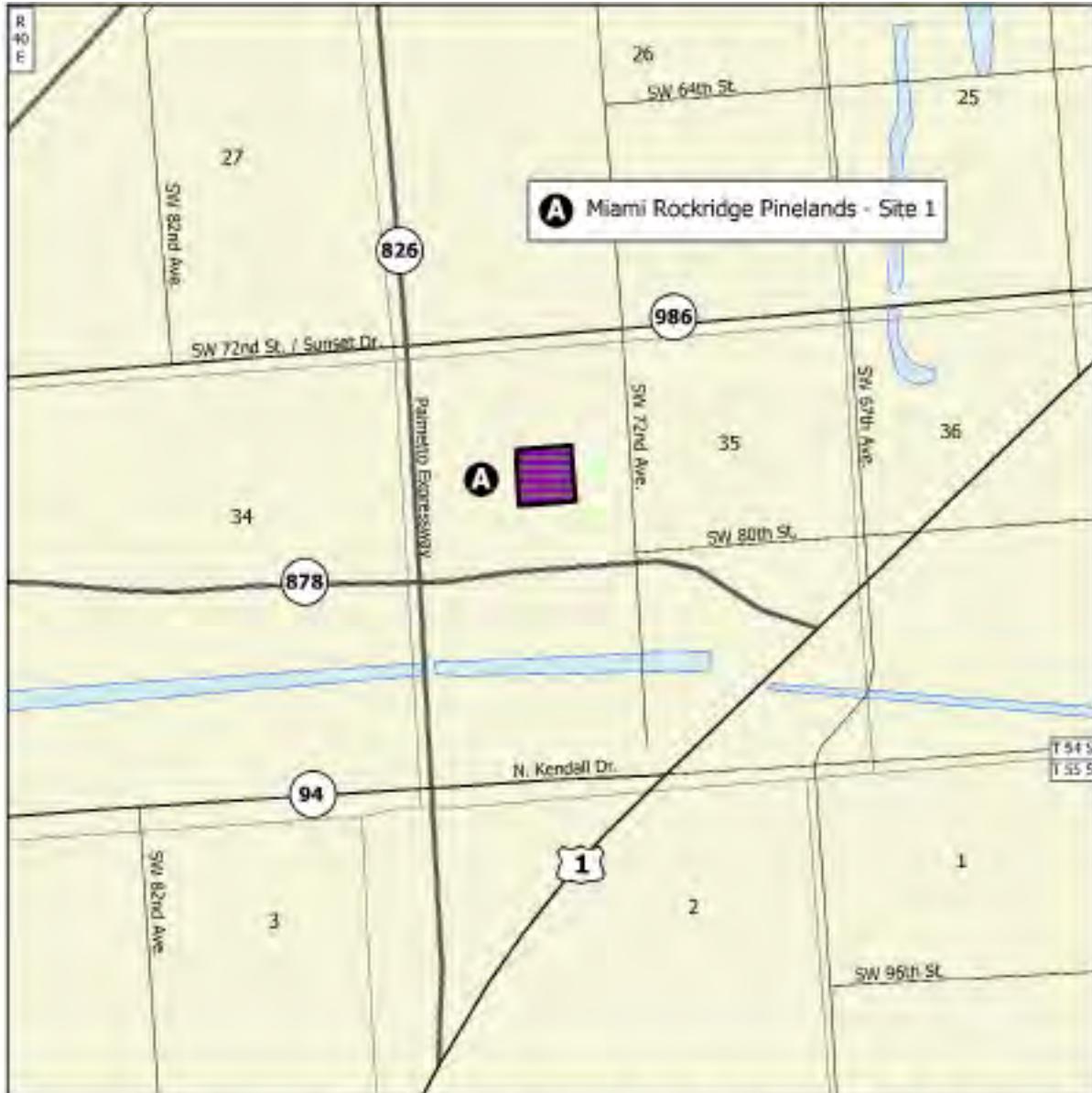
Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

FEBRUARY 2010

## Dade County Archipelago



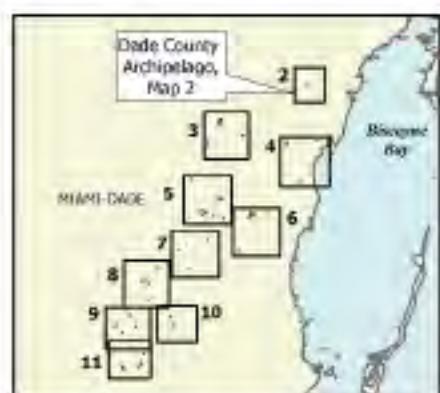
### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 2 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

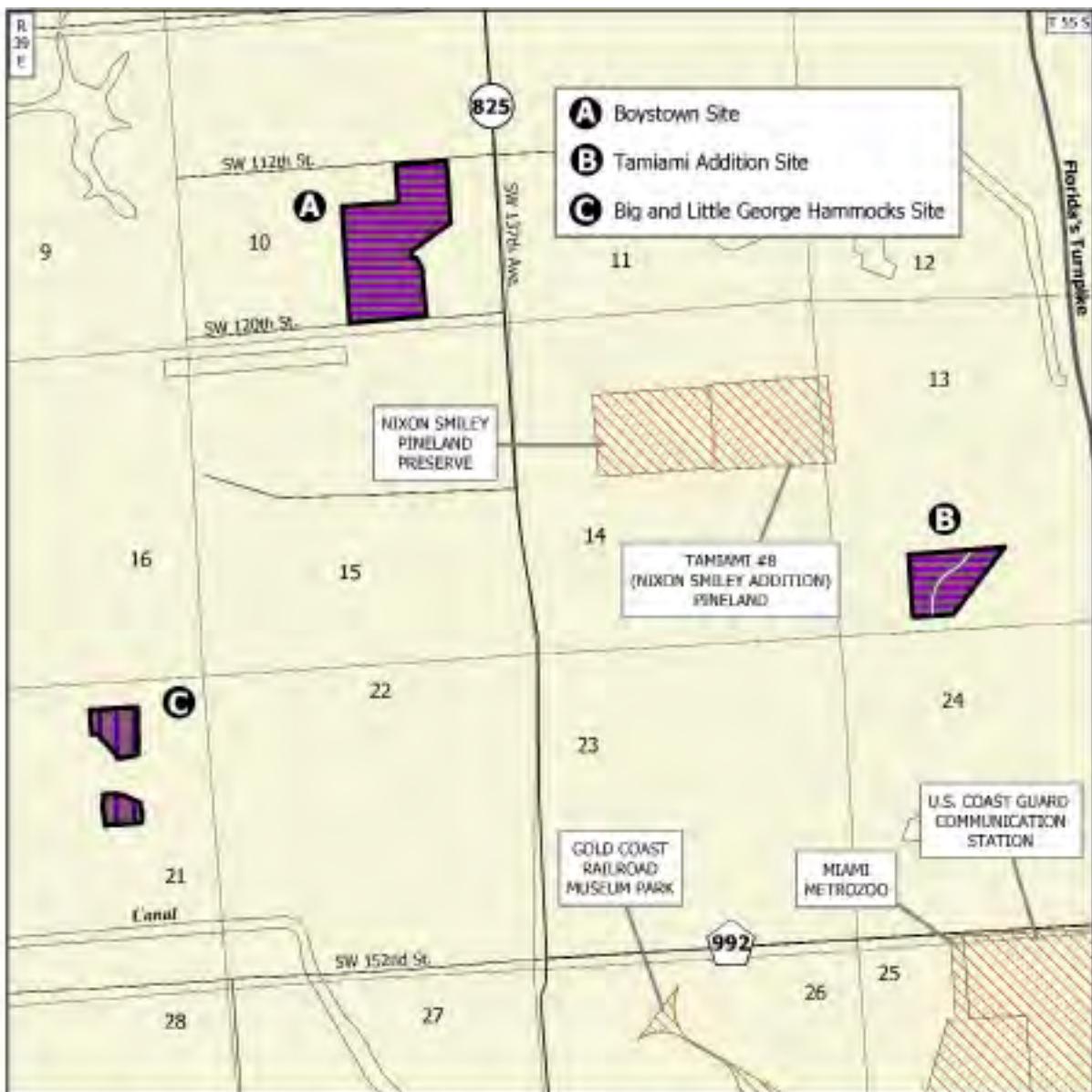
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired



0      0.25      0.5      1  
Miles

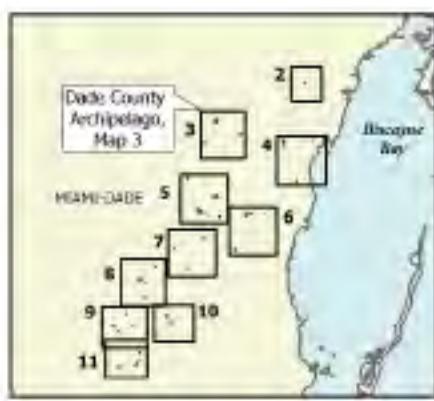


NOVEMBER 2005

**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 3 OF 11****MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

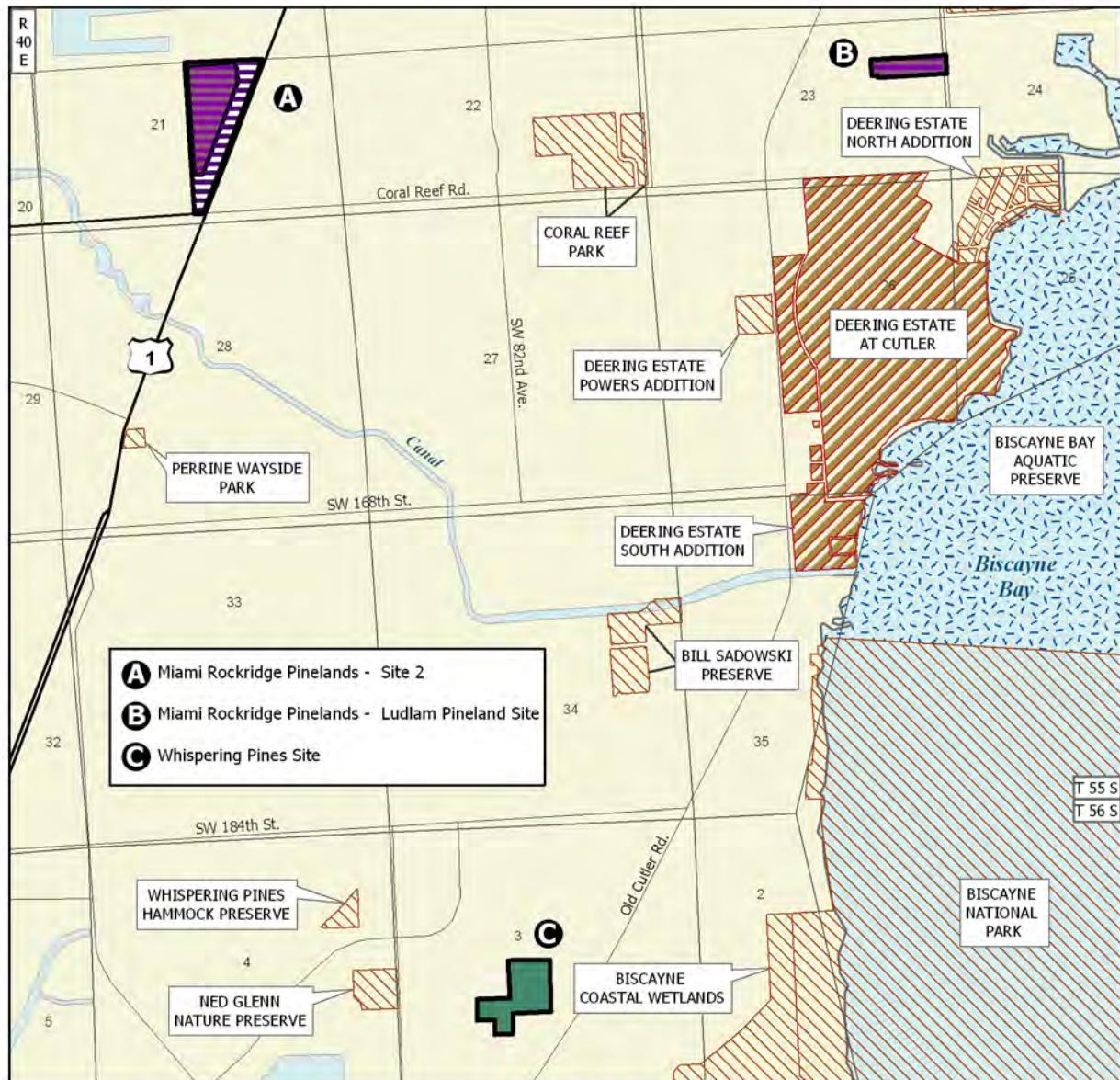
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Solid Purple Box] Acquired
- [Vertical Striped Box] Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
- [Diagonal Striped Box] Other Conservation Lands

0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



NOVEMBER 2005

## Dade County Archipelago

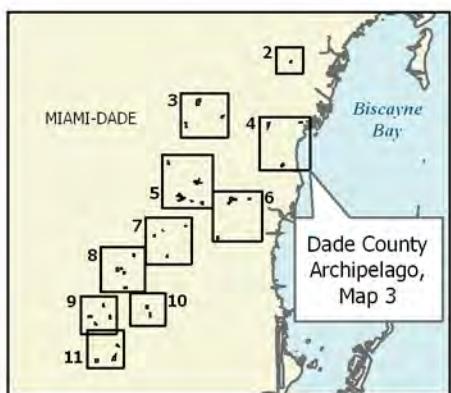


**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 4 OF 11**

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

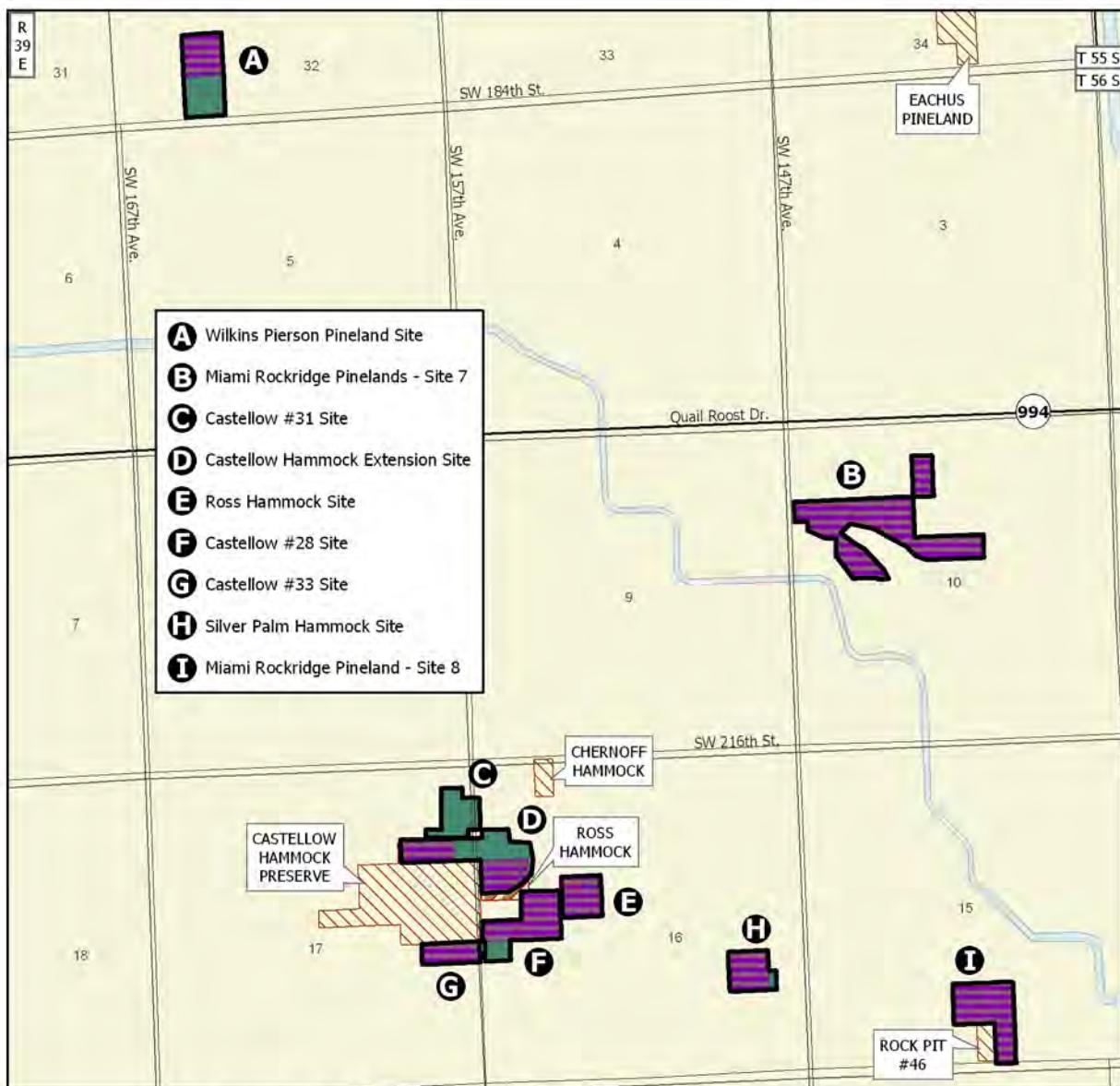
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Miami-Dade County Owned Lands within Project
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



FEBRUARY 2010

## Dade County Archipelago



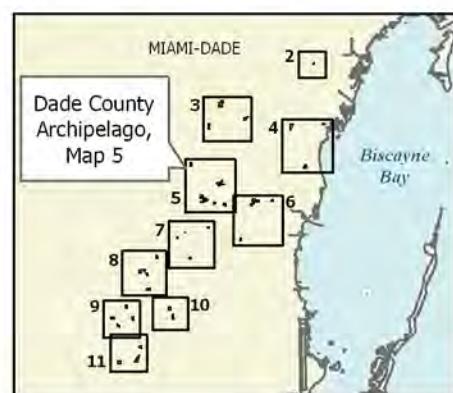
### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 5 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

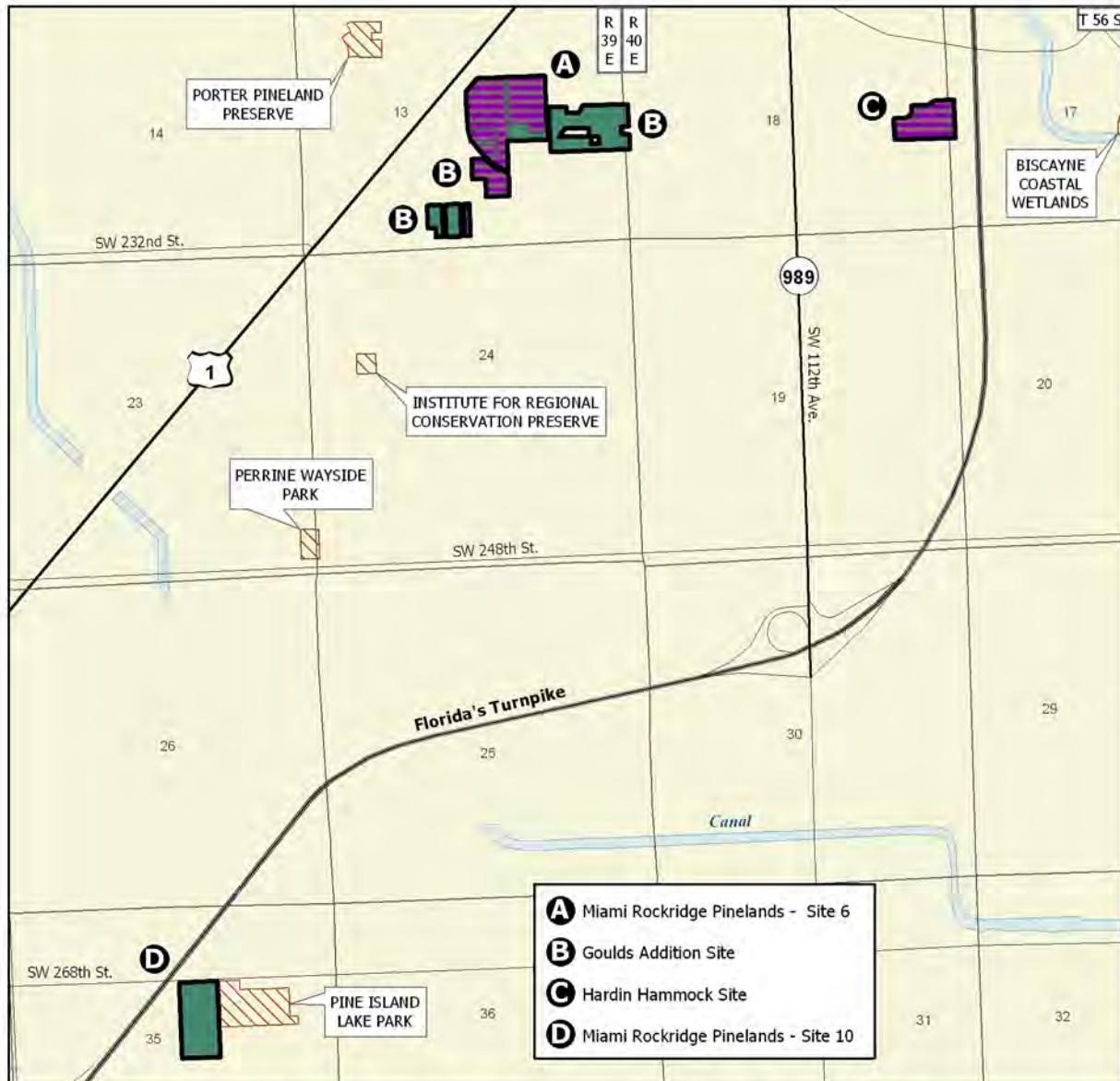


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Miles



JULY 2009

## Dade County Archipelago



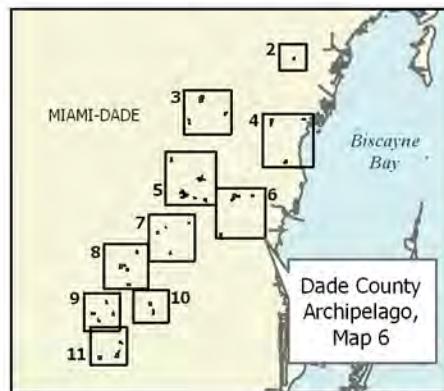
### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 6 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

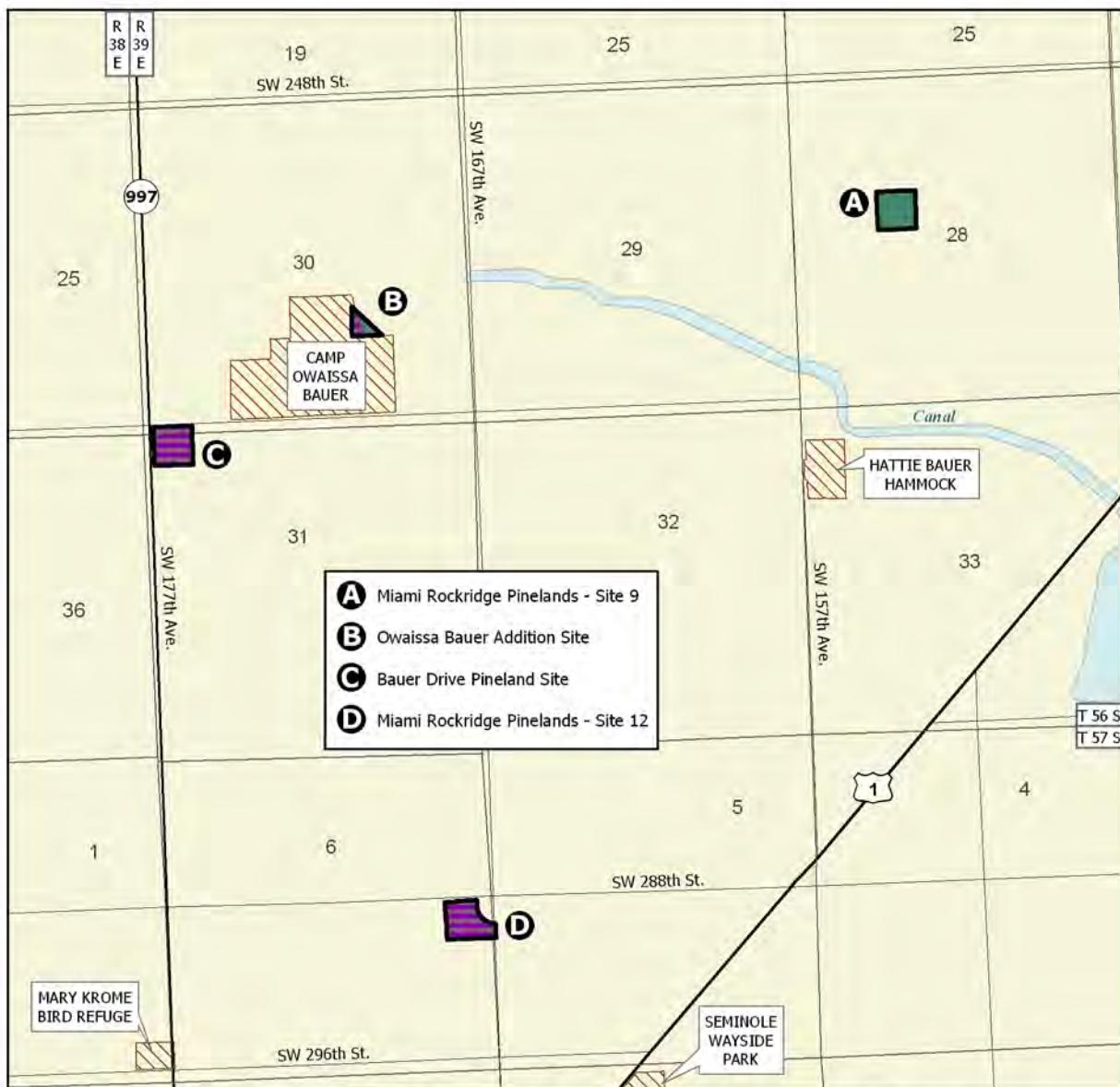
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands



0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



FEBRUARY 2010



### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 7 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Striped Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Diagonal Hatching Box] Other Conservation Lands

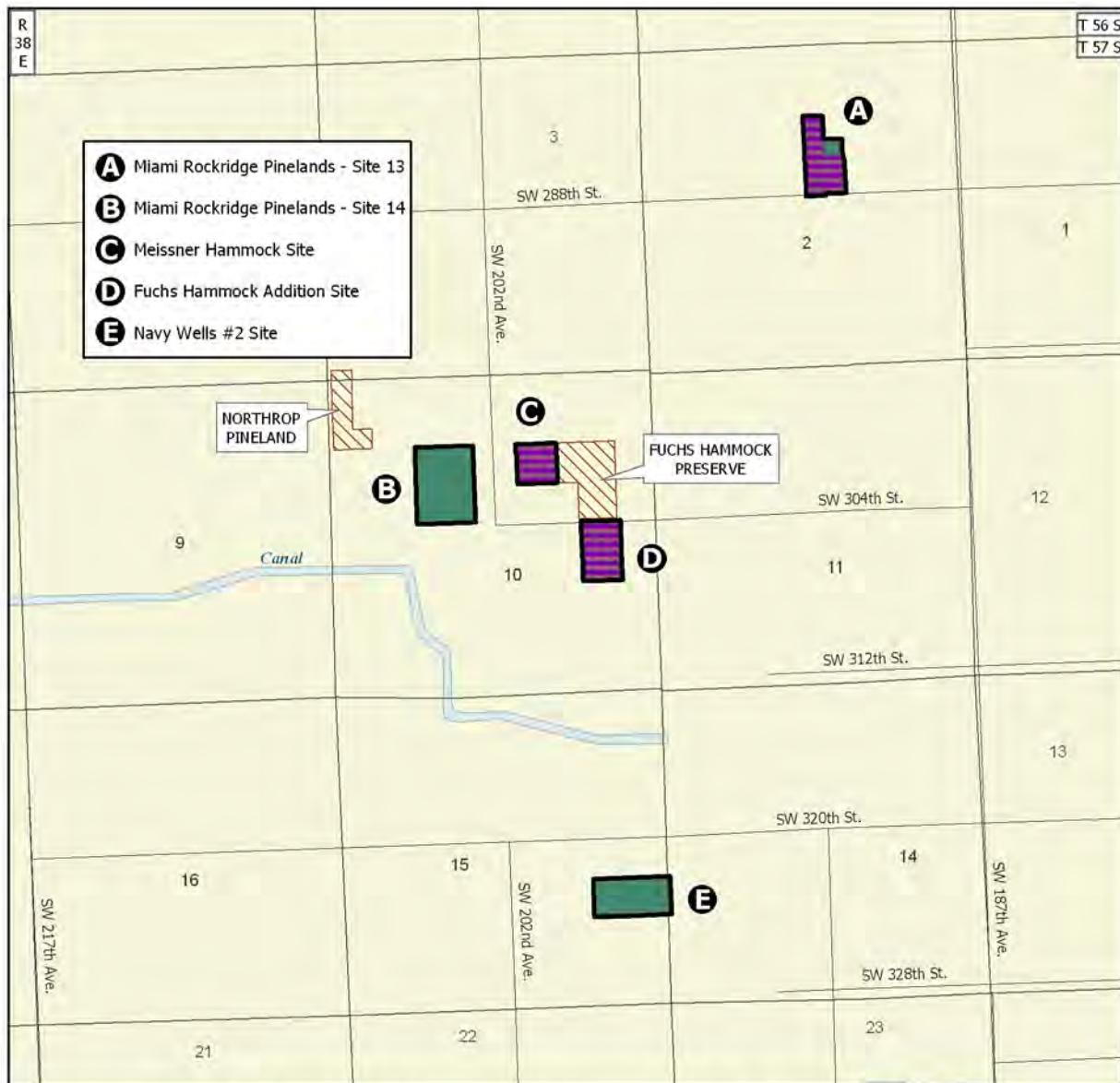


0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



NOVEMBER 2009

## Dade County Archipelago



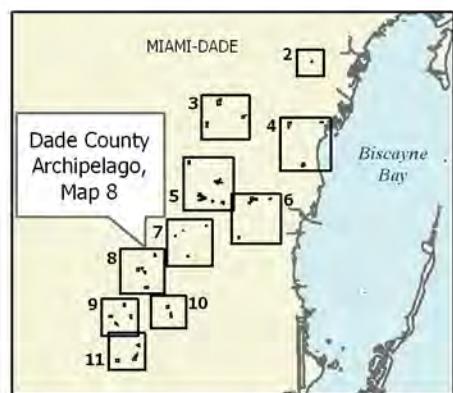
### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 8 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Striped Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Hatched Box] Other Conservation Lands



0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



NOVEMBER 2009

## Dade County Archipelago



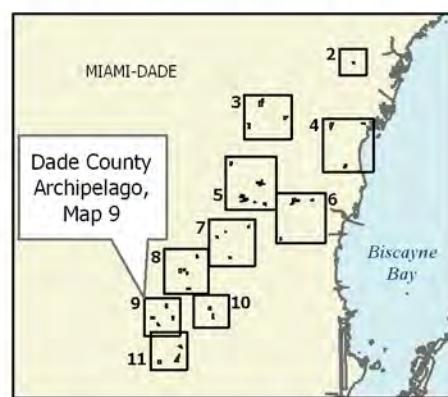
### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 9 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary**: White rectangle.
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)**: Purple rectangle.
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining**: Green rectangle.
- Other Conservation Lands**: Orange diagonal-hatched rectangle.

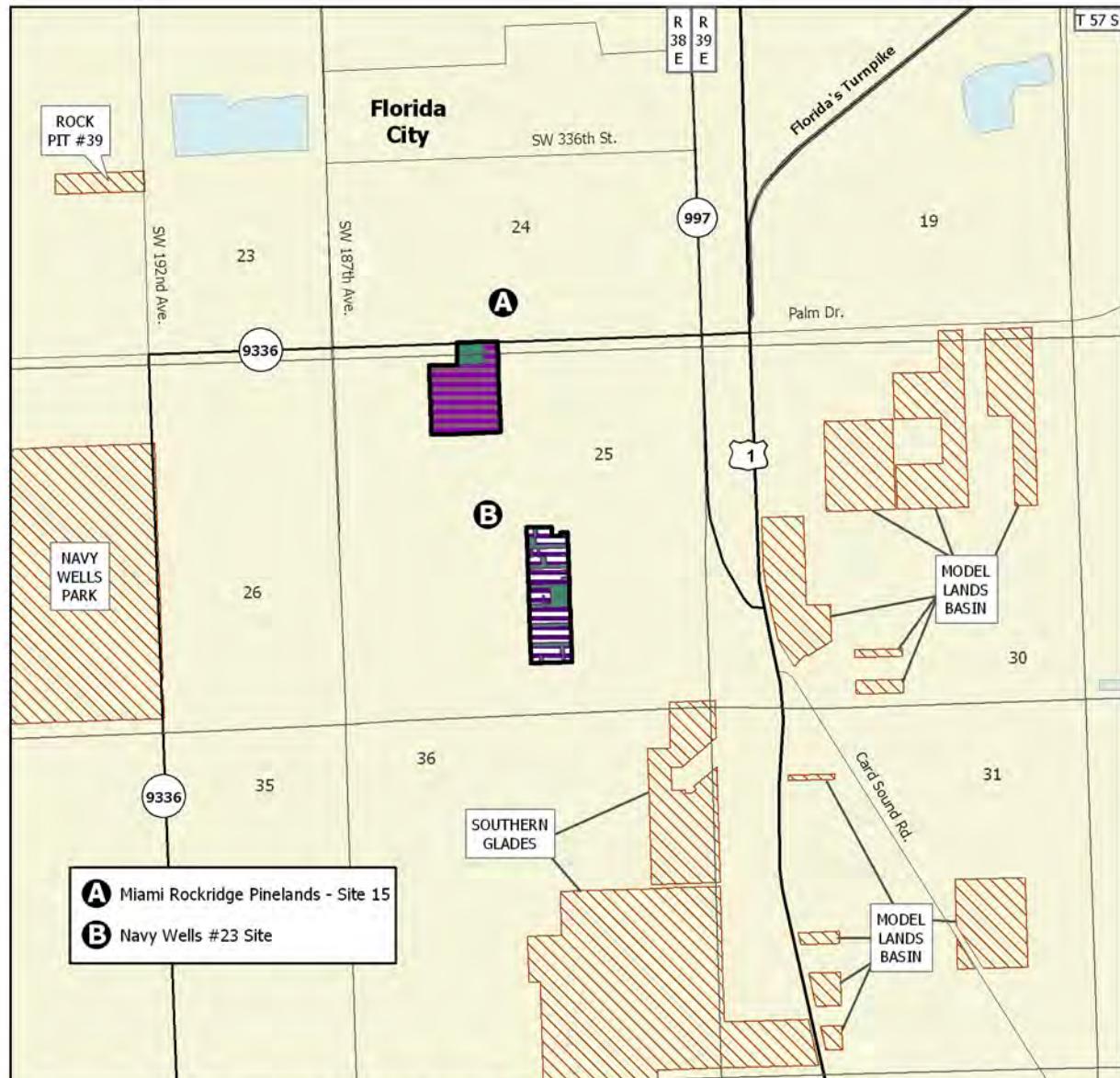


0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



FEBRUARY 2010

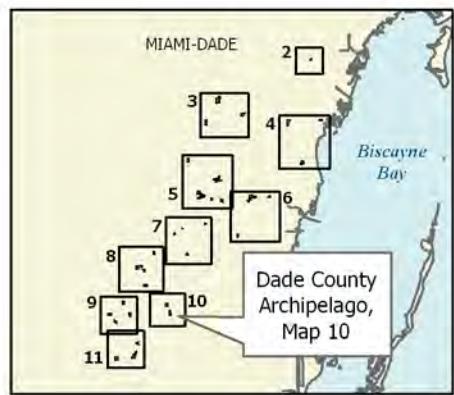
## Dade County Archipelago



**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 10 OF 11**

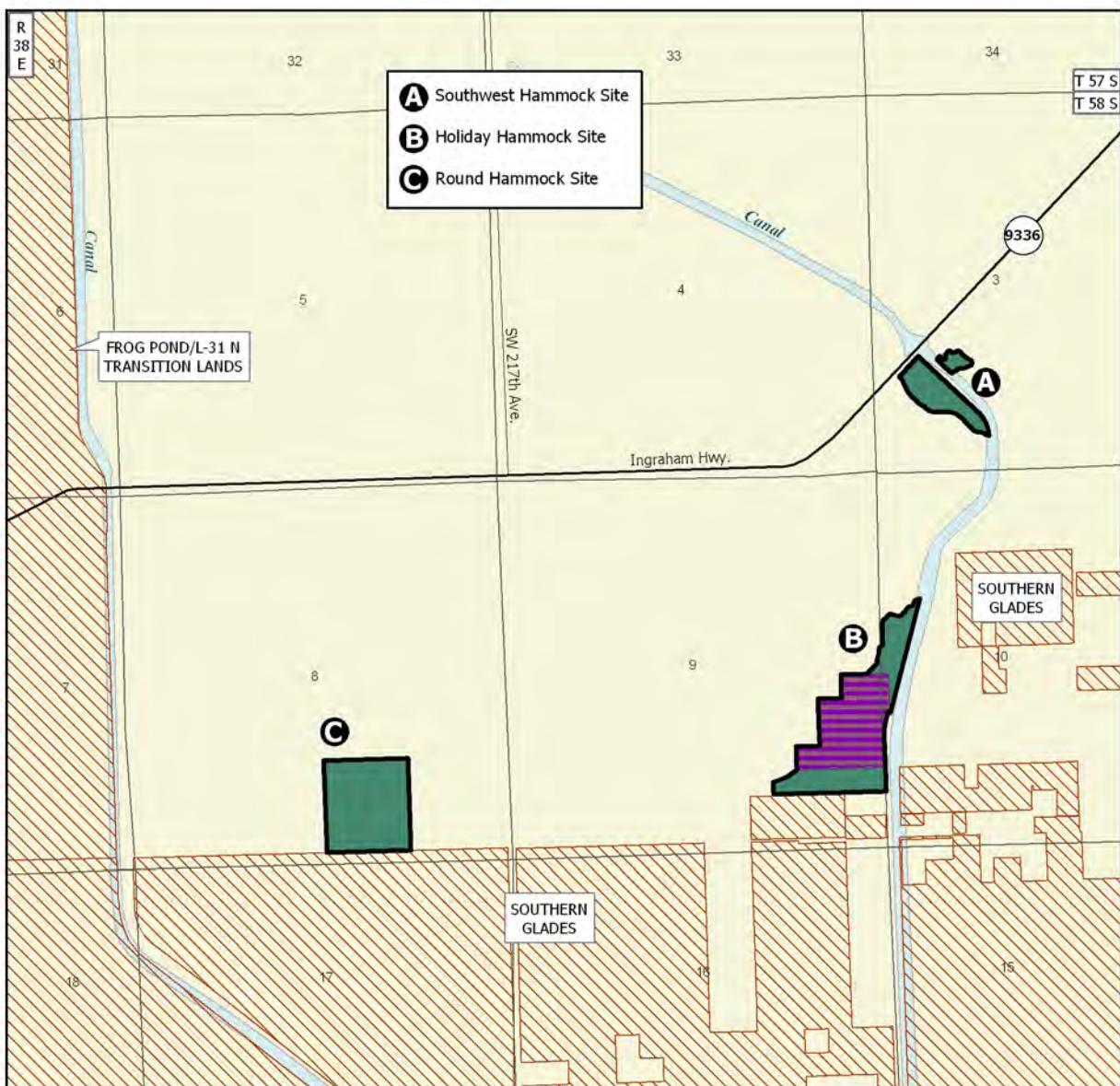
### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  - [Green Box] Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
  - [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - [Red Box] Other Conservation Lands
- 0    0.25    0.5    1 Miles



OCTOBER 2009

## Dade County Archipelago



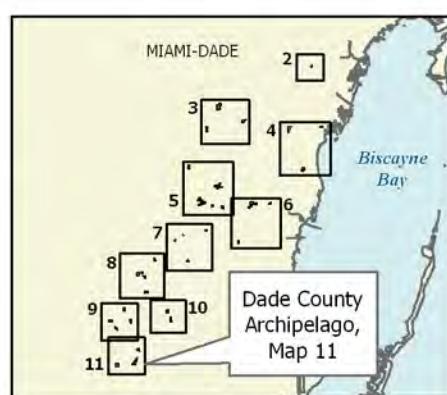
### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 11 OF 11

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands



0      0.25      0.5      1  
Miles



JULY 2009

## Dade County Archipelago

December 1995. The sites added are Boystown (acquired—77 acres); Tamiami Addition; Wilkins-Pierson Addition; Whispering Pines; Castellow Complex #28; Castellow Complex #31; Castello Complex #33; Goulds, Hardin, Owaissa Bauer Addition; Fuchs; Navy Wells #2; Navy Wells #23; Navy Wells #39; Round Hammock; Bauer Drive Pineland. Dade County has acquired approximately 348 acres at a cost of \$21,889,314 within the project.

### Coordination

Dade County is the acquisition partner. In May 1990, voters approved a referendum, which increased ad valorem tax by .75 mills for two years, generating approximately \$90 million specifically for the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands. The county participated in all phases of project development and paid for initial mapping and title work on all the hammock sites. TNC has been an intermediary in the acquisition of some sites. Dade County continues with acquisition of the remaining tracts.

Resolutions in support of this project include a pledge from Dade County Commission to participate in providing 50% of acquisition funds and to manage the acquired sites.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Dade County Archipelago project is to preserve and restore the best of the small areas of pine rockland and rockland hammock left in Dade County. Achieving this objective will protect over fifty rare plant species, several of which are found nowhere else in the world, and allow the public to learn about and appreciate the original landscapes of the Miami Rock Ridge. The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of resources. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the sites; thoroughly inventory the natural and historical resources of the sites; work to eliminate invasive exotic plants; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving the natural communities and their constituent species. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as interpretive trails, ensure that they do not harm the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

This project includes most of the high quality pine rockland and rockland hammock sites in Dade County and therefore, with intensive management, has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Dade County Archipelago includes some of the best rockland hammocks and pine rocklands in Florida. Their rare West Indian and endemic plant species and their small size qualify these areas as state botanical sites.

**Manager** Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Dade County Archipelago generally includes lands that are high-need tracts, requiring site-specific resource management and protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, initial activities will concentrate on site security; removal of existing trash; public and fire management access; and resource inventory, including areas of special concern: archaeological sites, rare species, fern, vine, and exotic dominated areas. Long-range plans will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and the perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Management activities will also stress the protection of threatened and endangered species. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

### Management Cost Summary/Dade County

Category	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	County	County
Salary	\$120,362	\$190,986
OPS	\$57,119	\$0
OCO	\$31,320	\$140,084
Expense	\$0	\$58,424
FCO	\$8,357	\$66,812
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$217,158</b>	<b>\$456,306</b>

Updated 2/29/2012

# Devil's Garden

Hendry and Collier Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels - fills a gap in the corridor that will provide a large landscape for the federally endangered Florida panther. Numerous records of panther use of the property as well as numerous other rare and threatened plants and animals have been noted and (2) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources - the project borders the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest on the west and Dinner Island to the south. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the recommended lead manager for most of the area (approximately 71,608 acres). Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) will manage the two westernmost parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) adjoining the Okaloacoochee State Forest.

### General Description

The Devil's Garden proposal includes 82,508 acres (per digitized boundaries; 82,000 acres per proposal) in Hendry and Collier counties. The proposal has a single owner and includes four "parcels." The major parcel (71,608 acres.) adjoins the eastern boundary of

Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and encompasses an area, roughly 18 miles long (east-west) and six miles wide (north-south); an additional parcel (6,445 acres) is adjacent to the northeastern boundary of the State Forest and Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area, and lies across Keri Road from the northwest corner of the major parcel. Two smaller parcels (T-shaped parcel: 3,328 acres and 1,127 acres) abut the southwestern boundary of the State Forest.

Devil's Garden represents a huge tract of ranch land that has been heavily impacted by cattle ranching activities (conversion to pasture) and to a lesser extent agriculture. Non-forested wetlands, including basin/depression marsh, swale, and wet prairie make up the dominant natural communities that are still present on the property. Mesic/wet flatwoods have been, to a large extent, cleared and converted to pasturelands. Prairie hammocks were scattered throughout the property and formed irregularly shaped forests, usually in association with basin/depression wetlands. In a helicopter survey, a few small (<15 acres) patches of dome swamp fringing swale systems could be seen in the southwestern T-shaped parcel. Both southern parcels have few remaining upland natural communities except for narrow fringes adjacent to wetlands; some hammock remains in the southwest corner of the T-shaped parcel.

### Public Use

The property can accommodate a diverse range of resource-based recreation, including camping, picnicking, hiking, natural resource appreciation (nature study), wildlife observation, bicycling, horseback riding and environmental education.

Devil's Garden FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4

10 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	82,994
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	82,994
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$9,483,649

## **Devil's Garden**

Depending on management emphasis, the land could provide significant hunting opportunities. Careful planning would need to be done if observable wildlife and hunting are to occur on the same areas. Since the project is so large, it may be possible to set areas aside where wildlife observation can be emphasized and encouraged.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/5/2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Devil's Garden project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2003 Priority List. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and FFS, consisted of approximately 82,508 acres with a single owner, Alico Inc., and a 2001 taxable value of \$9,483,649. On 12/14/2007 ARC voted to move Devil's Garden to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

### **Coordination**

TNC is the intermediary and is working to find a purchaser for the eastern portion of the tract (farm land).

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management for the Devil's Garden project are to increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels; protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities including but not limited to wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking and camping; and increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Due to the diversity, and connectivity to the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, the two western most parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) qualify State Forest designation. The high wildlife resource values and the designation of primary or secondary panther habitat zones on the project qualify the eastern parcel (approximately 71,608 acres) as a wildlife management area. **Manager** FFS will manage the two western most parcels as part of the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest. FWC will manage the eastern parcel.

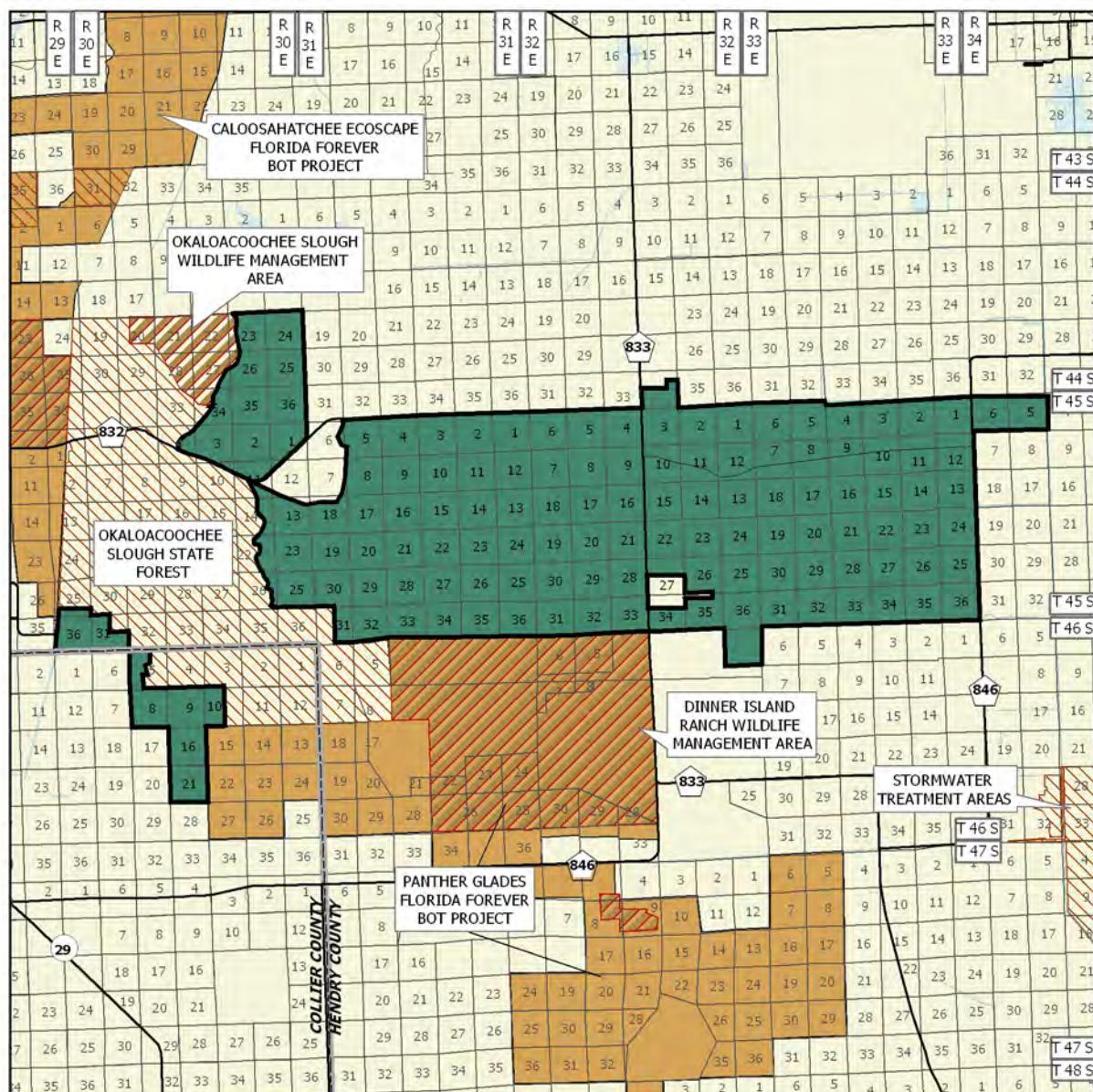
**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the project's drier natural community types have been disturbed; many converted to some improved form of agriculture. This conversion usually meant

some type of hydrologic alteration to facilitate water management. This property contains vast areas of wetlands with sensitive natural resources; accordingly, land management and public use will specifically be structured to improve and protect these areas. Surrounding land uses are not expected to effect prescribed burning on this parcel. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be initially high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage the system. Given the importance of this property to panther recovery, this link between habitat management and panther use will be critical to insuring the property is managed consistent with the primary purposes for acquisition.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, exotic species control and removal of refuse. Conceptual management plans will be developed describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management. Once the area is acquired, steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact to these areas. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads. Unnecessary access points will be closed. Both agencies will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species. Multiple use principles will be practiced where compatible with resource management goals and acquisition purposes. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented to improve the habitat quality of native fire-dependent plant communities and wildlife habitats.

**Revenue generating potential** Management will seek to improve revenue-generating potential by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation. Anticipated revenues from wildlife conservation will arise from sales of hunting licenses, wildlife



## DEVIL'S GARDEN

### HENDRY AND COLLIER COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



MARCH 2006

## **Devil's Garden**

management area permits and other special hunting permits. Additional revenues might be generated from ecotourism and wildlife viewing activities. Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low. Some revenues might be generated from agricultural farming contracts in areas currently being farmed as row crops until such areas can be restored in the interest of wildlife conservation.

***Cooperators in Management Activities*** The FWC and FFS will cooperate with other federal, state and local government agencies, including the South Florida Water Management District in managing the area.

***Management Costs and Sources of Revenue*** The Devil's Garden proposal, when acquired by the state, will require 14 FTE positions to manage the project

area. Certain activities may be privatized, which would reduce the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural-resource management and public use administration would come from the CARL Trust Fund. It is anticipated that revenue sources would include public use fees and timber harvests.

### **Management Costs (for interim management)**

<b>Salary (6 FTE)</b>	<b>\$216,639</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$725,000</b>
<b>Operating Capital Outlay</b>	<b><u>\$418,200</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,354,839</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Dickerson Bay/Bald Point

Wakulla and Franklin Counties

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

On the coast of Wakulla and Franklin Counties, the shallow, waveless Gulf of Mexico laps against the westernmost Big Bend salt marshes and the easternmost white sand beaches of the Panhandle. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge already protects much of this coast; the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project will protect more, including areas critical to the survival of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle. In so doing, it will also protect the fishery in the area by protecting its foundation - rich mud flats and seagrass beds - and will add land to Mashes Sands County Park where people may enjoy the beauty of this little-disturbed coast.

### Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection will manage that portion of the project in Franklin County; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wakulla County will separately manage individual parcels in Wakulla County.

### General Description

The project, comprising three separate areas, includes uplands around Dickerson, Levy, and Ochlockonee Bays. These bays provide foraging habitat for juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles, the world's most endangered sea turtle, and other state or globally rare

birds (e.g., wood stork, bald eagle) and sea turtles (e.g., loggerhead). The uplands surrounding the three bays are an intricate mosaic of lakes, depression marshes, mesic flatwoods (high quality to disturbed) that support populations of such rare animals as Sherman's fox squirrel and gopher tortoise, scrubby flatwoods, and scrub connected with the marine communities by numerous tidal creeks, salt flats, and salt marshes. The Bald Point site includes beach dunes used by many species of shore birds. The condition of these uplands might be expected to play a larger role in maintaining the quality of the marine communities than would be the case with a straight shoreline. The natural upland communities adjoin similar communities in St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to the north and west. Twelve archeological sites are known from Bald Point. The Bald Point site is threatened by development.

### Public Use

The southern part of this project (i.e., Bald Point and southern Dickerson Bay) is designated for use as a state park that will augment the recreational opportunities of the adjacent Mashes Sands County Park with areas for picnicking, hiking, camping, and canoeing. The beaches of Bald Point are suitable for swimming and other activities. The northern part of this project will be incorporated into the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge. This portion is suitable for boating.

### Dickerson Bay/Bald Point

#### FNAI Elements

Kemp's Ridley	G1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Green Turtle	G3/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Lobeless Spiny Burrowing Beetle	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Godfrey's Blazing Star</i>	G2/S2
Scare-weed	G3/S3
Merlin	G5/S2
Black-crowned Night-heron	G5/S3
Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5/S3

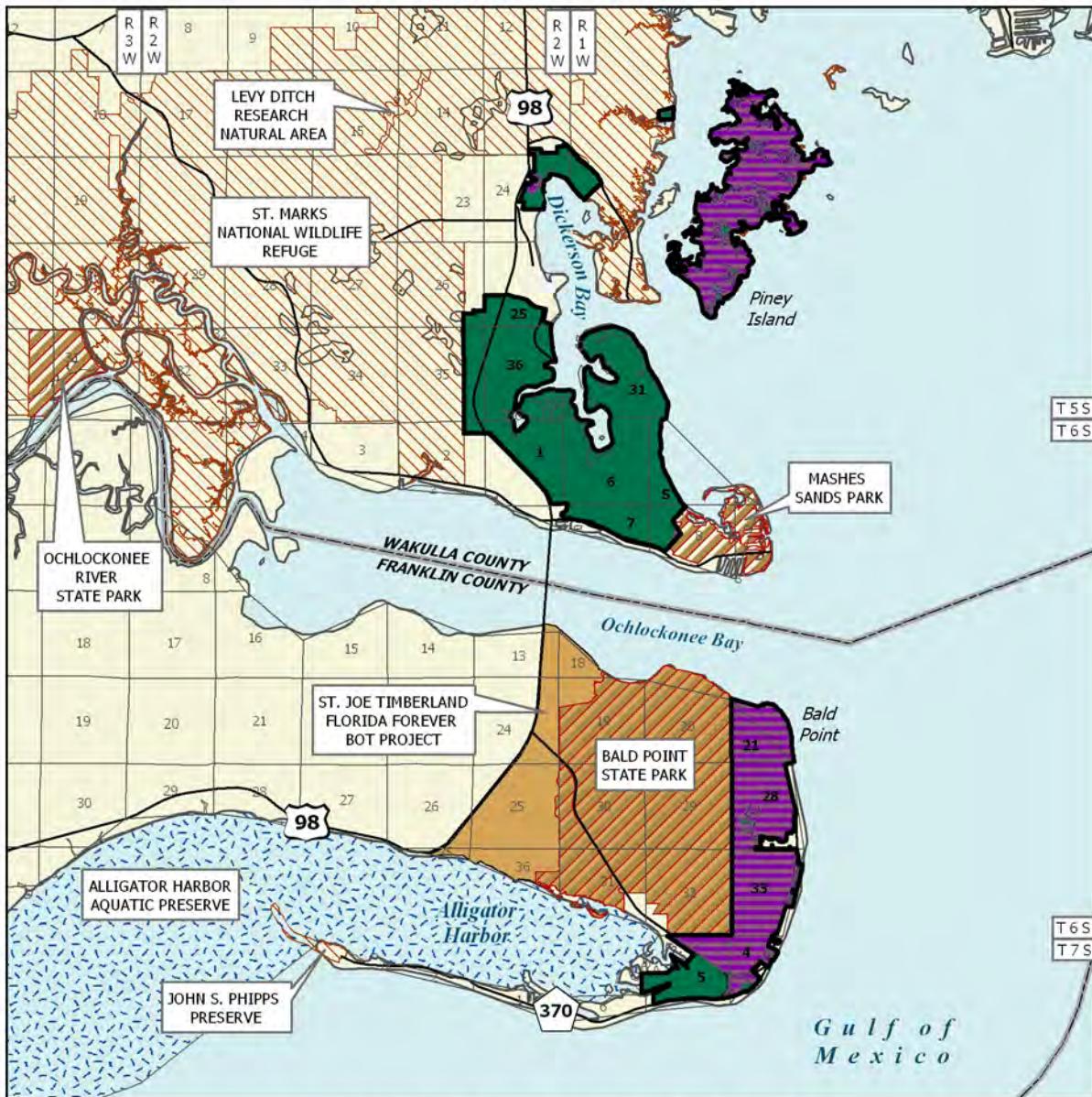
12 rare species are associated with the project

### Acquisition Planning

Dickerson Bay: Larger ownerships should be negotiated before the smaller ones. The essential parcels are McMillan, Brunstad, Nichols, JDN Enterprises, Meara, Cobleigh, Panacea Coastal Properties and Metcalf. Piney Island, also an essential parcel, was donated to the USFWS in 1996.

Placed on List	1996
Project Area (GIS Acres)	5,301
Acres Acquired (GIS)	2,329
at a Cost of	\$9,424,365
Acres Remaining (GIS)	2,972
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$4,561,186

## Dickerson Bay/Bald Point



### WAKULLA AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/Orange Diagonal Stripes] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Dotted Pattern] State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles



OCTOBER 2009

**Bald Point:** All parcels are essential. The LGR Investment Fund, LTD. has been acquired.

On 10/15/1998, the LAMAC redesignated the Jer Be Lou Development Co. parcel as essential. The parcel has been acquired.

On 9/6/2011, DRP purchased to manage .77 acres (Kennedy-\$67,500).

### **Coordination**

The USFWS is an acquisition partner, and coordination between the state and federal government should be maintained.

On 8/27/1998, a portion of the Bald Point project was selected to receive Florida Communities Trust grant money.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objectives of management of the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project are to maintain and restore the natural communities around Dickerson and Levy Bays and to give the public an area for hiking, fishing, camping, and other recreation compatible with protection of the natural resources. Protecting the natural communities of the area is critical to the survival of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle and will also help protect habitat for wading birds and shore birds. It will also help protect a recreational and commercial fishery that depends on the marine life of the bays.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of the salt marshes, flatwoods, and other communities around the bays. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; burn the fire-dependent flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually maintaining or improving the quality of the natural communities. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project includes nearly all of the undeveloped, privately-owned land along Dickerson and Levy Bays and adjoins the Mashes Sands county park on its southeast border. It therefore has the configuration and location to achieve its primary objectives.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The large south parcel of the Dickerson Bay portion of the project has the capacity to provide an effective buffer for the protection of the marine communities of Levy and Dickerson Bays. The highly endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle frequents the waters of these bays. The parcel is also capable of providing resource based recreational opportunities, particularly in support of the adjacent county park at Mashes Island. For these reasons, the property would be suitable as a state park within the state park system.

**Manager** In Franklin County: Division of Recreation and Parks; in Wakulla County: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wakulla County.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The property will be a high need management area. Public recreational use and development compatible with resource management will be an integral aspect of management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Upon acquisition and assignment to the Division, public access will be provided for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities. Additionally, initial management efforts will concentrate on site security, fire management and development of a resource inventory and public use plan. Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes.

Protection of the adjacent marine environment will be a primary focus for the property. Over the long term, however, a wide range of resource-based recreation and environmental education facilities may be promoted. The nature, extent and location of infrastructure will be defined by the management plan developed for the property. Restoration and maintenance of natural communities will be incorporated into long range management efforts and disturbed areas will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in natural systems, to the extent practical.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated from this property initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years be-

## Dickerson Bay/Bald Point

fore any significant public facilities might be developed. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use identified in the management plan developed for the property. The property has potential for generating local economic benefits. The pine plantation that covers a large portion of the Bald Point project will be managed with the assistance of the Florida Forest Service (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) has considerable value and can be expected to provide significant revenue if acquired with the land. No other significant revenues would be expected over the short-term after acquisition. The amount of future revenues from other than timber sales will depend on the nature

and extent of public use and facilities developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** Due to the potential for enhancement of the adjacent county park by this project area, coordination of management efforts may be desirable. On the Bald Point site, the FFS, will be consulted on forest management and timber issues related to planning and implementation of a forest resource management plan. Other federal, state, and local government agencies will be consulted, as appropriate, to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the project lands for state park purposes.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

### Management Cost Summary/USFWS

Category Source of Funds	Startup USFWS	Recurring USFWS
Salary	\$7,800	N/A
OPS	\$0	N/A
Expense	\$500	N/A
OCO	\$0	N/A
FCO	\$0	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,300</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
OPS	\$7,092	\$7,092
Expense	\$13,269	\$13,269
OCO	\$80,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$13,269	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$262,132</b>	<b>\$72,361</b>

# Escribano Point

Santa Rosa County

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of this proposal would complete public land ownership of Escribano Point and the mouth of the Yellow River, thereby achieving the goals of the original 1994 Escribano Point CARL project. It encompasses three sets of parcels: a northern set at the mouth of the Yellow River that adjoins Yellow River Water Management Area (WMA) lands; a middle set around Catfish Basin adjoining Eglin Air Force Base lands on the east and Yellow River WMA lands on the north and south, and a southern set, encompassing Escribano Point, that adjoins Yellow River WMA lands on the north and Eglin lands on the north and east. If purchased, the proposal plus these public lands would provide recreation opportunities and natural resource protection for 10.4 miles of shoreline along East Bay and Blackwater Bay. Its purchase would contribute to the protection of the waters of Blackwater Bay along with that afforded by the Garcon Point Water Management Area, which borders 4.6 miles of the west shore. It would also contribute protection of 37 miles of the Yellow River by adding to the public shoreline of the Yellow River Water Management Area. Uplands south of the river floodplain are protected as part of Eglin Air Force Base.

### Manager

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the recommended lead manager for the area.

### General Description

The Escribano Point project is located in Santa Rosa County and is comprised of 2,914 acres. Located along

the eastern shore of Pensacola Bay, Escribano Point is surrounded by Eglin Air Force Base to the east, and provides an upland buffer for the Yellow River Marsh Aquatic Preserve to the west. The proposal contains relatively intact examples of wetland communities, hammocks, and wet prairies that provide habitat for numerous rare and threatened plants and animals. The project is also very rich in archaeological and historical resources, containing nine recorded archaeological sites and two historic structures.

### Public Use

The project has potential to provide a varied recreation experience by offering opportunities such as saltwater swimming, bicycling, picnicking, camping, saltwater fishing, hiking, hunting, nature appreciation and natural resource education. Some of the several archaeological and historical sites known to exist on the project may have interpretation ability. The wetlands in this project limit the placement of facilities, dispersal of activities and the quantity of activities. As access is through Eglin Air Force Base, access itself may be a limiting factor.

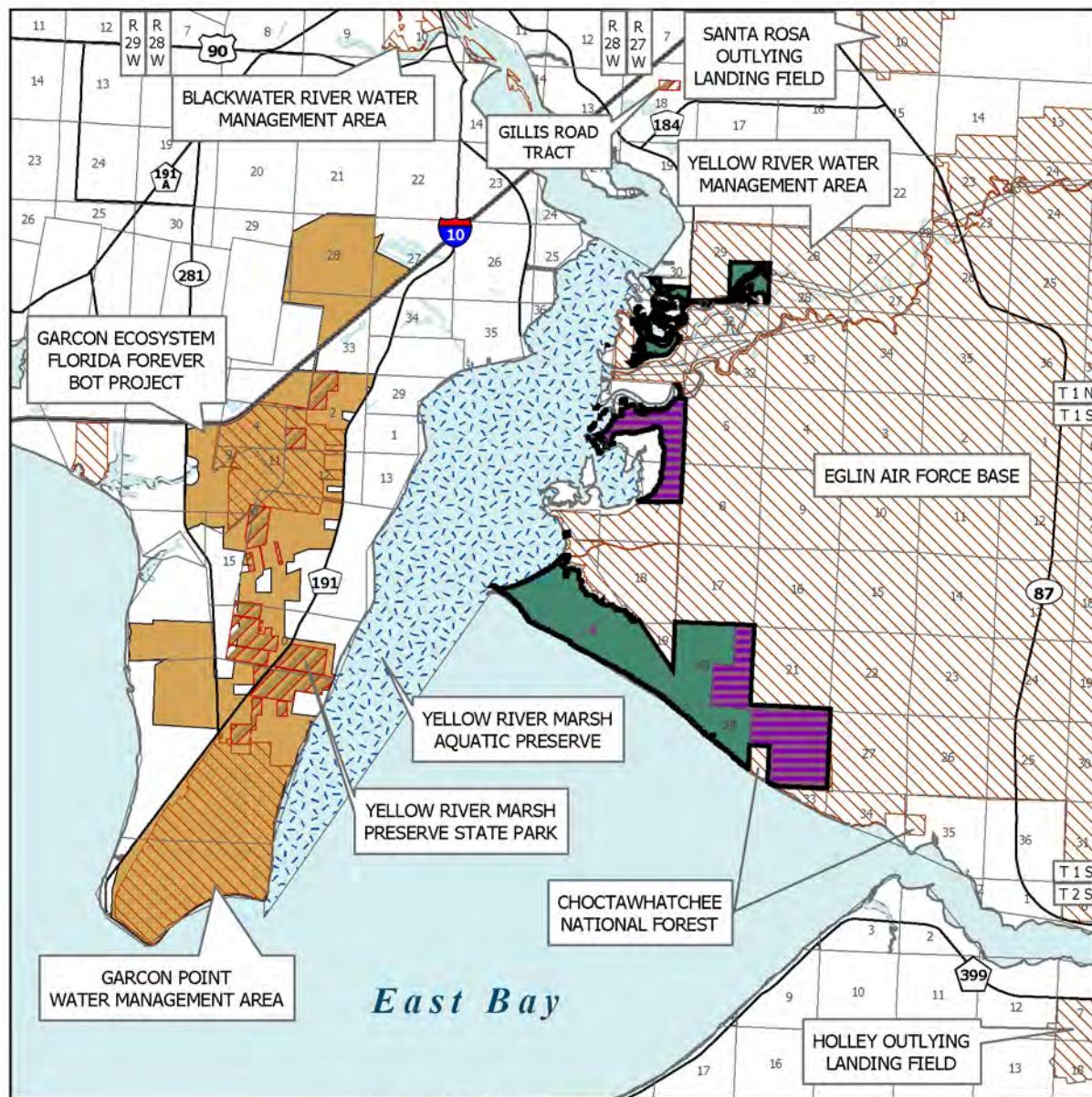
### Acquisition Planning

On February 25, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Escribano Point project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the NFWFMD, consisted of approximately 2,914 acres, 10 owners, and a 2001 taxable value of \$1,337,730. The entire proposal was identified as essential.

Escribano Point FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>Panhandle Lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
Alligator Snapping Turtle	G3G4/S3
<i>Spoon-leaved Sundew</i>	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	2,989
Acres Acquired (GIS)	1,200
at a Cost of	\$1,590,000
Acres Remaining (GIS)	1,798
Estimated 2001 (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$802,454

## Escribano Point



## ESCRIBANO POINT

### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less Than Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes] State Owned Lands
- [Light Orange Diagonal Stripes] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Dotted Pattern] State Aquatic Preserves

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Miles



JANUARY 2012

## **Coordination**

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) is an acquisition partner. The US Air Force, through a Memorandum of Agreement, is also an acquisition partner to help buffer and prevent encroachment of Eglin Air Force Base..

## **Management Policy Statement**

Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for camping, environmental and cultural resource education, fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

The connection and proximity of this proposed project to other conservation lands, as well as its diversity of natural community types, provide important habitats for wildlife populations. Since the principal purposes of the proposal are to protect habitat for wildlife, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species, and to carefully control public uses.

## **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Based on a review of the Florida Forever Act, this project meets the Goals and Measures, as outlined in Statute, for significant corridors, landscape linkages, for archeological and historic sites, and to increase nature-based recreation.

**Manager** The high wildlife resource value of this project indicates that the FWC is the suitable lead manager for the area. The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the Escribano Point proposal include lands that are relatively undisturbed and representative of the natural ecology of the area. Such areas may require basic resource management practices, such as the use of prescribed fire, maintenance of natural hydrology, and control of access where appropriate. Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many taxa of rare or listed species. In addition, the Escribano Point project may need some specific management measures to promote survival of listed species and other species of wildlife. As with all wildlife management areas, minimal infrastructure development will be required to provide for public access and use, site security, and

management. Any such development will be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

## ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, exotic species control and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management. Long-range plans will emphasize restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions; restoration of native wildlife populations and wildlife diversity including protection and management of threatened and endangered species; and management for sustainable public use of game wildlife populations balanced with other wildlife oriented recreational activities. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all weather public access and management operations. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented to improve the habitat quality of native fire-dependent plant communities and wildlife habitats. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives, forest resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices.

**Revenue-generating potential** Revenue will be generated from sales of hunting and fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and possibly other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area. These agencies might include the Department of Defense (Eglin AFB), the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** The proposal, when acquired by the State, will require one FTE position to manage the project area, although certain activities may be privatized which would reduce the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural resource management and public use administration would come from the CARL Trust Fund. See attached table for anticipated costs. It is anticipated that revenue sources would include public use fees and timber harvests.

*(continued)*

## Escribano Point

*Updated 1/4/2012*

### **FWC Prospectus: Projected Budget**

Maximum expected single-year expenditure:	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
<b><u>Resource Management</u></b>		
Exotic Species Control	\$14,329	\$28,658
Prescribed Burning	\$2,186	\$4,371
Hydrological Management	\$40,000	\$4,475
Other	\$34,435	\$34,435
Subtotal	\$90,950	\$71,939
<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$52,845	\$17,593
Districts/Regions	\$22,648	\$7,540
Subtotal	\$75,494	\$25,133
<b><u>Support</u></b>		
Land Management Planning	\$25,000	\$1,000
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$110,850	\$15,836
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$13,230	\$13,230
Subtotal	\$149,080	\$31,566
<b><u>Capital Improvements</u></b>		
New Facility Construction	\$447,064	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$32,702
Subtotal	\$447,064	\$32,702
<b><u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u></b>		
Operations	\$1,668	\$141
Subtotal	\$1,668	\$141
<b><u>Law Enforcement</u></b>		
<u>All Activities</u>	\$2,508	\$2,508
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$766,763</b>	<b>\$163,988</b>

Figures include salary for 3 FTEs.

# Estero Bay

Lee County

**Substantially Complete**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Estero Bay is one of the most productive estuaries in the state. Its mangroves shelter important nesting colonies of water birds, and feed and protect many aquatic animals. These animals, in turn, are the foundation of a commercial and sport fishery. Important archaeological remains of the Calusa Indians dot the area. The Estero Bay project will protect the bay's water quality, its native plants and animals, its archaeological sites, and will provide recreational opportunities to the people of the rapidly growing Fort Myers area.

## Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

## General Description

Much of the Estero Bay project area is composed of wetlands fronting Estero Bay (mangrove swamp, salt marsh, and salt flats). These communities provide nutrients to the bay, contributing substantially to its biological productivity. The bay area supports a diversity of wildlife, including the federally threatened bald eagle. The wetlands in a natural condition help maintain high water quality in the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. Several archaeological sites attributed to the Calusa Indians and their prehistoric ancestors are known

from the project area. The project is threatened by the rapid residential development in the area.

## Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve to the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and can provide opportunities for fishing, hiking, nature appreciation, and primitive camping.

## Acquisition Planning

Phase I: Windsor/Steven's tract (acquired) and the Estero Bay ownership (acquired). Phase II: developable uplands from Section 19 north. Phase III: developable uplands from Section 30 south. Phase IV: wetlands and islands. Other essential tracts more specifically identified by LAMAC in 1994 include the Chapel Ridge area and other high quality scrub areas in sections 19, 30, 31 and 5.

On 10/15/1998, the LAMAC revised the designation of the following parcels to essential: Boone, Haywood/Staffile Trust, Zemel, TNC, Rubin, Kagan, Bigelow, C. Bigelow, Cape Corp., ADP Chimney, Marsh and Chitwood, Francisco, Goldberg, and Helmerich. On 2/5/1998, and March 20, 1998, the Council added 302 acres and 1,586 acres, respectively. The Council deleted 932 acres at the March meeting.

On 10/17/2000, The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 160 acres to the project. The additions were made to complete ownerships that were partially included.

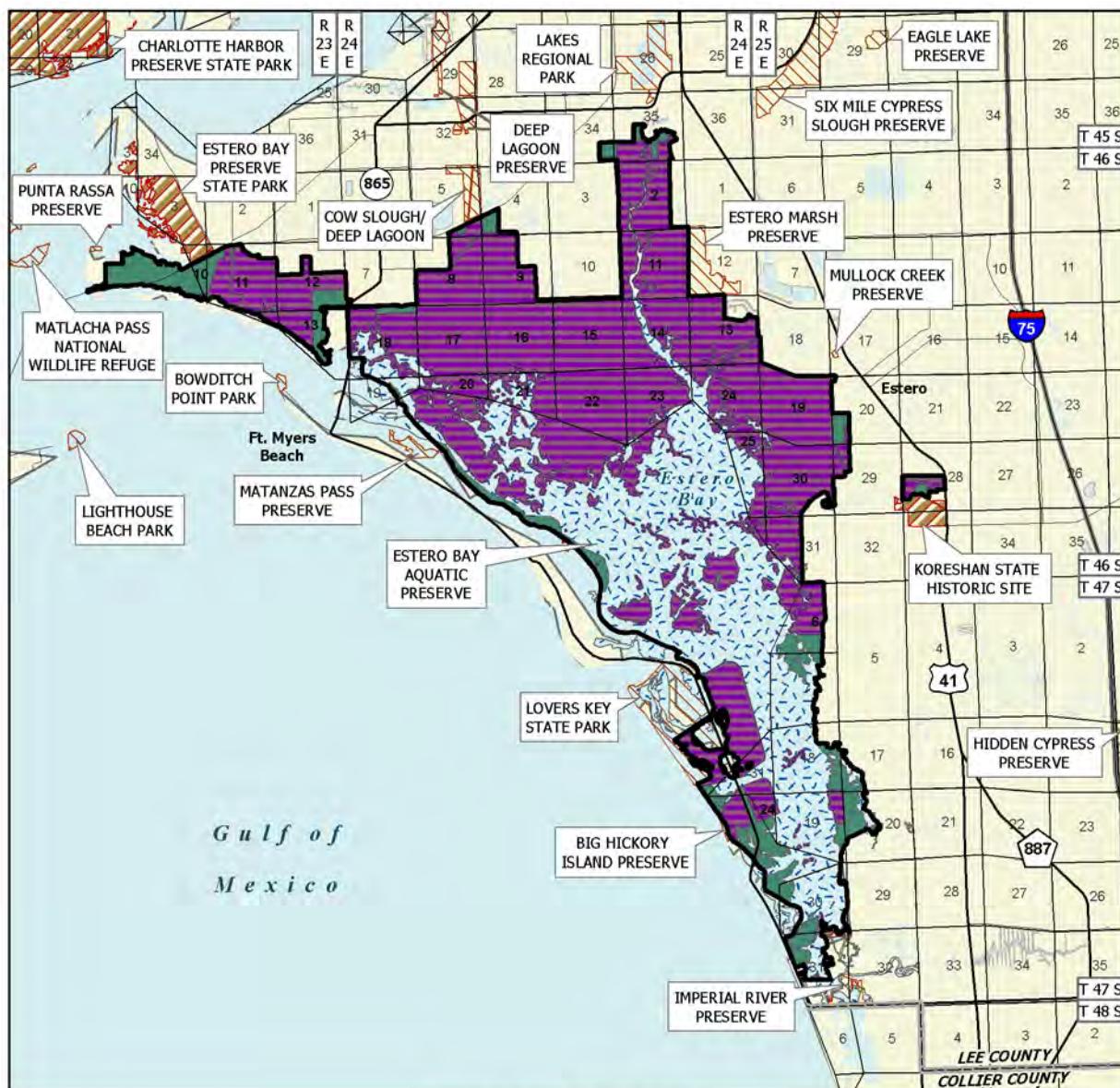
Estero Bay FNAI Elements	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
<i>Sanibel Lovegrass</i>	G5T1/S1
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Spiny Hackberry</i>	G4/S1
<i>Iguana Hackberry</i>	G5/S1
<i>Red Stopper</i>	G5/S1
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Reddish Egret	G4/S2

24 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1985
Project Area (GIS Acres)	14,267
Acres Acquired (GIS)	11,908
at a Cost of	\$54,461,790
Acres Remaining (GIS)	2,359

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$6,943,661\*  
Note: 433 acres were removed 10/2009 due to residential/commercial/infrasture development.

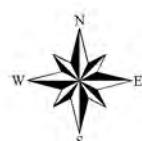
## Estero Bay



## ESTERO BAY

### LEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves



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APRIL 2012

On 12/6/2001, this project was moved from the Florida Forever “B” list to the “A” list.

On 2/6/2004, the Council added a 98-acre parcel on the Estero River to the boundaries of the project. At the 8/20/2004 meeting, the Council deleted 1,312 acres north and south of the community of Estero from project.

The majority of the large tracts have been acquired. A number of smaller tracts remain to be acquired.

On 10/9/2009. ARC recommended for removal from the boundary 7 sites of 88 individual parcels containing residential/commerical structures or infrastructure, totaling 433 acres with a just tax accessed value of \$63,958,330.

On 4/21/2010, DRP purchased 36.60 acres for \$91,500 provided through a federal grant from U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. DRP to manage.

### **Coordination**

Approximately 316 acres were acquired through donation from The Nature Conservancy in 1986. Along with TNC, the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) and USFWS are considered partners on this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Estero Bay project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to preserve significant

archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The Estero Bay project borders the state-owned submerged lands of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and includes swamps, marshes, and other natural communities that contribute to the productivity of the bay. These resources qualify it as a state buffer preserve.

***Manager*** Lands acquired through this project will be included in the Estero Bay Buffer Preserve and managed by DRP. The Division of Historical Resources will participate in the management and protection of archeological and historical resources.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management*** The project is surrounded by one of the most rapidly developing areas in the state. Development is also occurring within the project boundary. This urbanization requires immediate implementation of a patrol schedule and law enforcement presence. The control of exotic plants and animals and reduction of illegal activities, such as off-road vehicle use and poaching, will require “medium-need” initial management followed by “low-need” routine maintenance.

***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*** Long-range goals will be established by the management plan for this property and will provide for ecological restoration and habitat maintenance. Prescribed and natural fires will be used to maintain natural communities with particular emphasis on the requirements of listed species. The resource inventory will help identify site-specific management needs and appropriate uses for the property. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be the minimum required to allow appropriate uses identified in the management plan.

***Revenue-generating potential*** Initially, the revenue-generating potential of the project will be limited, with indirect financial benefits accruing to the state from increased public awareness and enhanced water quality, fisheries, and public recreation. In the future, user fees may directly generate revenue.

*Updated 4/12/2012*

# Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

Clay, Putnam, Marion, Levy and  
Citrus Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Though partially logged and planted in pine, the large expanse of flatwoods, sandhills, and scrub in central Putnam County, extending to the Cross-Florida Greenway along the Ocklawaha River, is important for the survival of many kinds of wildlife and plants. The Greenway itself is a unique strip of land for recreation and conservation that makes a cross-section of the peninsula from the Withlacoochee River to the St. Johns. The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will conserve the Putnam County land as well as fill in gaps in the Greenway; ensure that wildlife such as Florida black bear and scrub jays and plants such as the Etoniah rosemary will have areas in which to live; and provide recreation for the public ranging from long-distance hiking trails to fishing, camping, and hunting. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS (formerly Division of Forestry/DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Etoniah Creek tract) and Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT), Florida Department Environmental Protection (remaining tracts). FFS will monitor compliance with the terms of any less-than-fee purchase agreement.

### General Description

The project consists of a large tract extending north from the Cross Florida Greenway to Clay County, and four smaller tracts designed to fill in gaps in state ownership along the Cross Florida Greenway. The original Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project is important for the survival of black bear in northeast Florida, includes many acres of pine plantation and cut-over flatwoods, but also high-quality sandhill, a unique white-cedar swamp along Deep Creek, and patches of sand pine scrub near Etoniah Creek that harbor at least a dozen rare species including fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, indigo and pine snakes, rare crayfish, and seven rare plants including the only known site for federally listed Etoniah rosemary. The smaller tracts include high-quality floodplain swamps along the Ocklawaha River; mixed forest land near U.S. 441 south of Ocala; and Inglis Island, disturbed pinelands between the old Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Withlacoochee River. Eight archaeological sites are known from the project. The greatest threat to the project area is intensive logging, but the uplands on the large tract are suitable for residential development. The smaller sites would lose their value as connectors if developed for residences.

### Public Use

The Cross Florida Greenway connectors will form part of a conservation and recreation area; the majority of

### Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

#### FNAI Elements

<i>Etonia Rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Florida Willow</i>	G2/S2
<i>Pinkroot</i>	G2Q/S2
<i>Variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Pinewoods Dainties</i>	G4T2/S2
Black Creek Crayfish	G2/S2

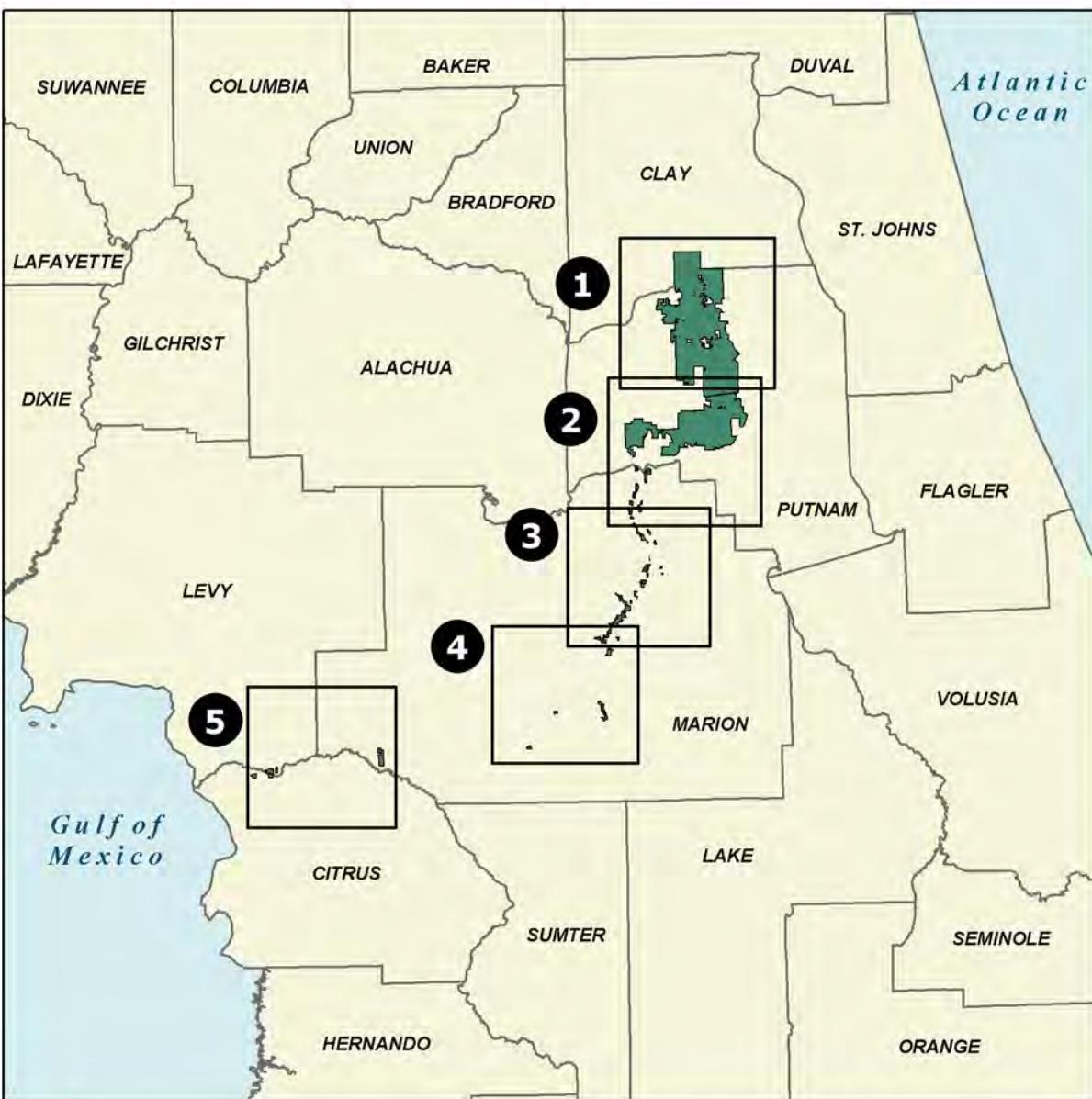
33 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1995*
Project Area (GIS Acres)	93,259
Acres Acquired (GIS)	26,957**
at a Cost of	\$20,773,131**
Acres Remaining (GIS)	66,302
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$170,079,702

\* Etoniah Creek, Cross Florida Greenways and Cross Florida Greenways Phase II were combined in 1995 to create Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway. A Less-Than-Fee parcel of approximately 18,406 acres was added to the project in 1997.

\*\* Includes a donation of 43 acres and acreage acquired and funds spent by the SJRWMD on Plum Crk/Rick Co.

## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway



### ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

**CLAY, PUTNAM, MARION, LEVY, AND CITRUS COUNTIES**

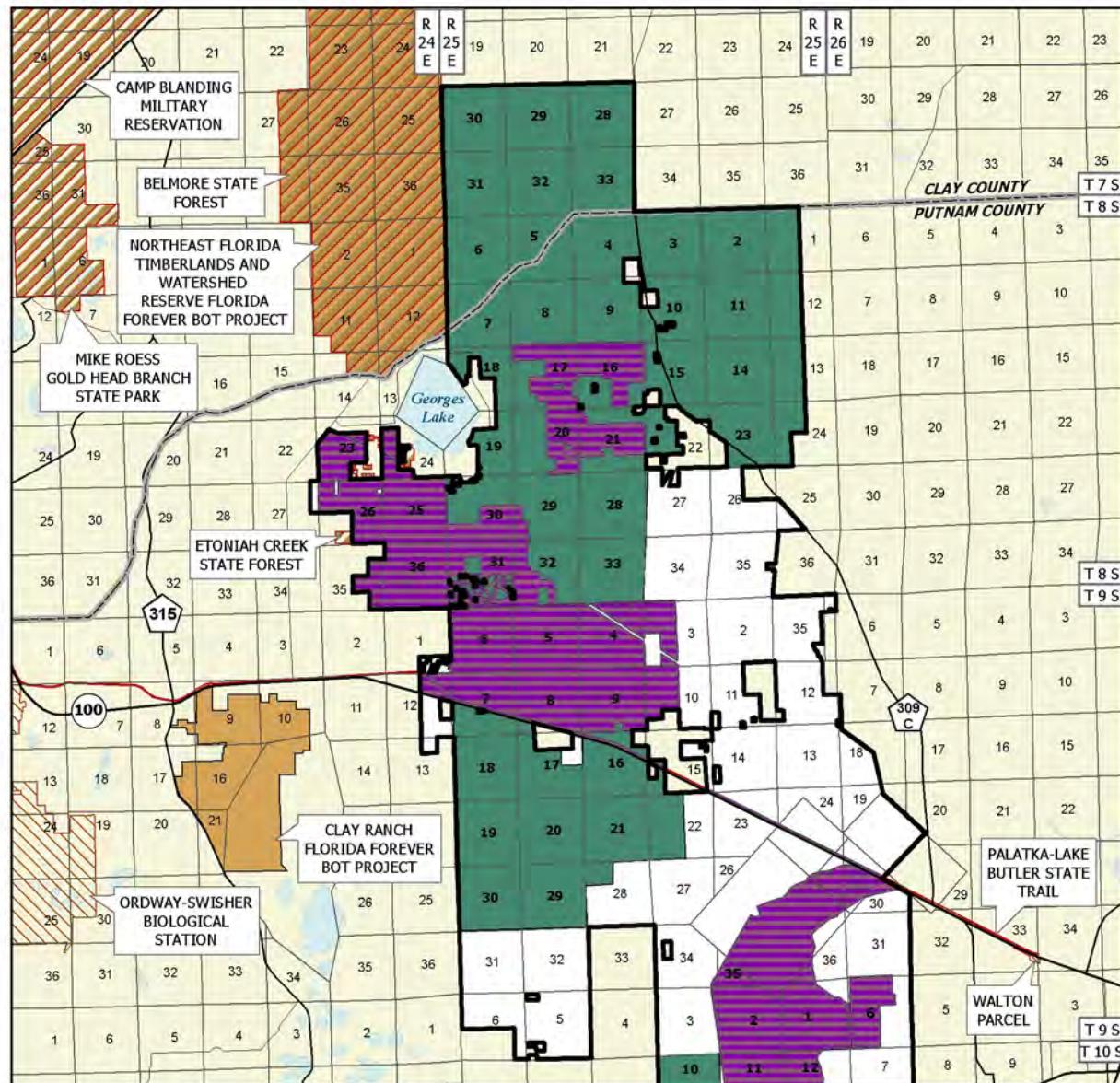


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JANUARY 2012

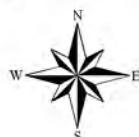
## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway



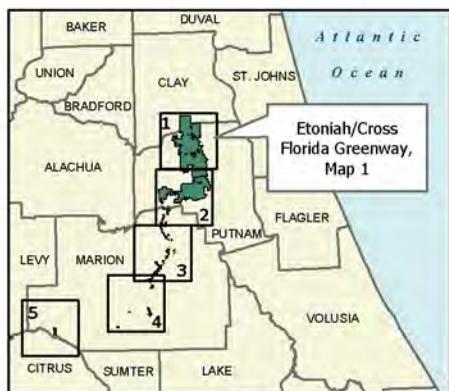
### ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 1 OF 5

#### CLAY AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/Yellow Hatched Box] State Owned Lands
- [Yellow Hatched Box] Other Conservation Lands

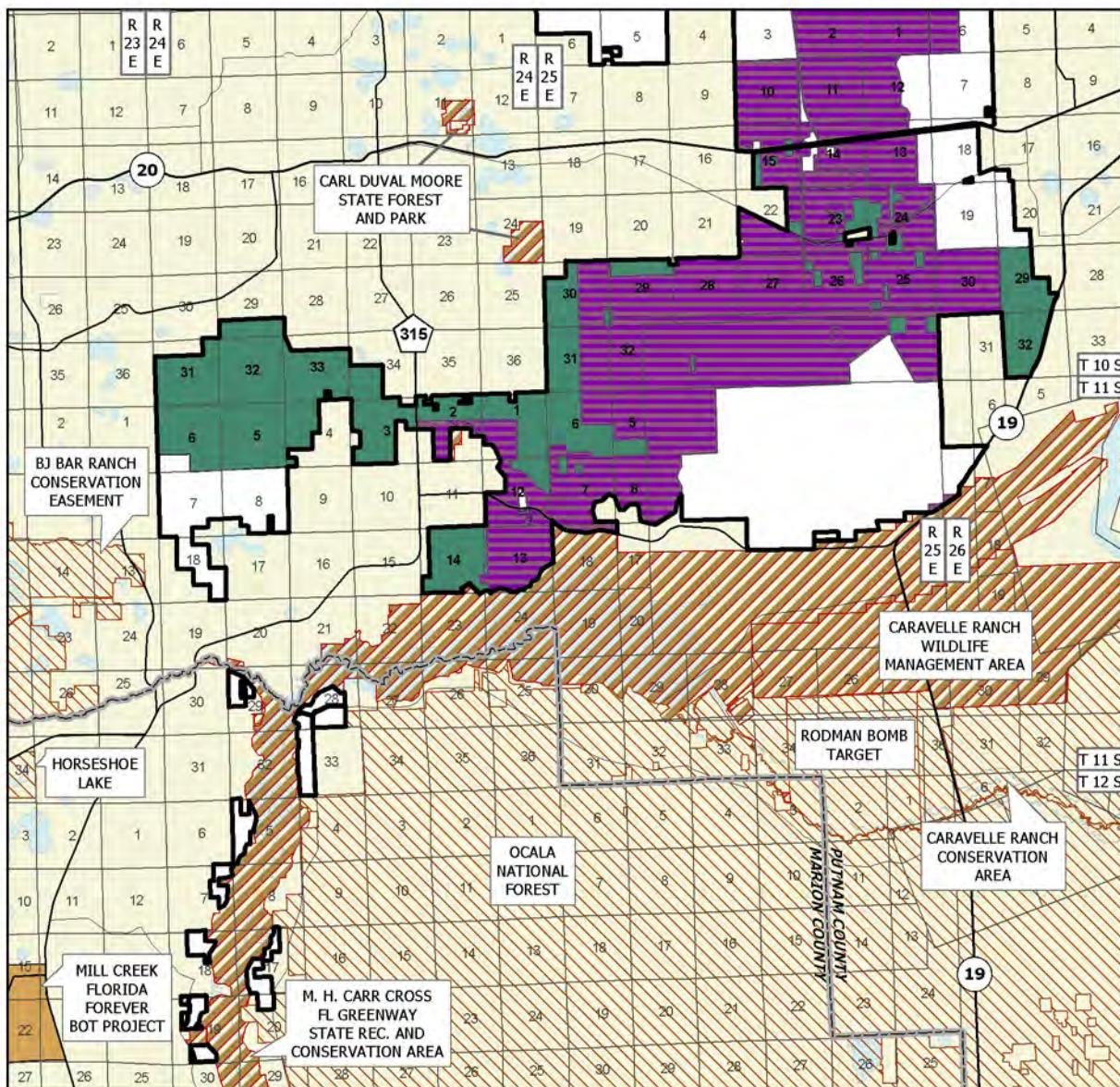


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## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway



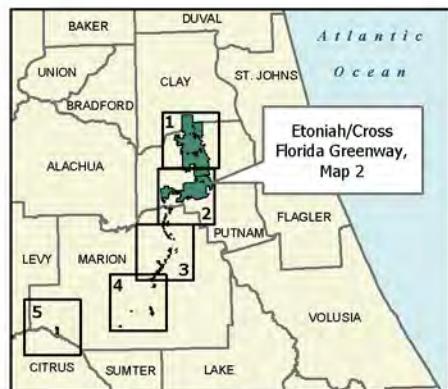
### ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 2 OF 5

#### PUTNAM AND MARION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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JANUARY 2012

## **Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway**

the large (Etoniah) tract will become a state forest. The various parts of the project will offer opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing and nature appreciation.

### **Acquisition Planning**

#### Etoniah Creek

Phase I tracts (essential) include Stokes and Agricola, formerly Deltona (acquired), Union Camp, Manning (acquired) and Interlachen Lake Estates Subdivision. Life-of-the-South (Odom) is also an essential tract. Phase II includes other large ownerships, such as Roberts, as well as other smaller tracts and subdivisions.

#### Cross Florida Greenway

Phase I (essential) includes the westernmost segment (Deep Creek Corridor) consisting of a portion of the Miller family ownerships and approximately 14 other owners.

#### Cross Florida Greenway Phase II

The priority tract (essential) within this portion of the project is the Inglis Island site (acquired by the Office of Greenways and Trails).

On 7/20/1994 the Council added 210 acres to the boundaries of the predecessor projects.

On 12/7/1995, the Council approved the addition of 2,664 acres to the project boundary. The addition included lakeshore and lake bottom associated with Rodman Reservoir. A second modification was made to allow the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to acquire, on the State's behalf, a large ownership (Odom) not identified in the original Phase I area. Acquisition of the canal easement areas is also a priority.

On 3/15/1996 the Council approved adding 141 acres to the project boundaries. On 12/5/1996, the Council transferred the Georgia-Pacific ownership (18,146 acres) to the Less-Than-Fee category.

On 10/15/1998, the Council designated as essential an additional 9,870 acres - Georgia-Pacific and seven smaller tracts in a corridor between two already acquired tracts, and portions of the Roberts ownership.

On 8/22/2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 2,110 acres (Florida Power ownership along the Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation areas) to the project. On 1/25/2001, ARC added 1,543 acres to the project (boundary in the

Deep Creek area). On 5/17/2001, ARC added 1,110 acres to the boundaries of the project.

On 2/25/2003 the project was added to the Group A list of Florida Forever projects.

On 4/13/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 85-acre addition, known as Foxtrotter Ranch, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), consisted of one landowner, Richard Simon, one parcel, and a taxable value of \$2,267,908. OGT will manage the site. The house (approximately 2.5 acres) is not included in the addition, however, it may be donated to the state subsequent to acquisition.

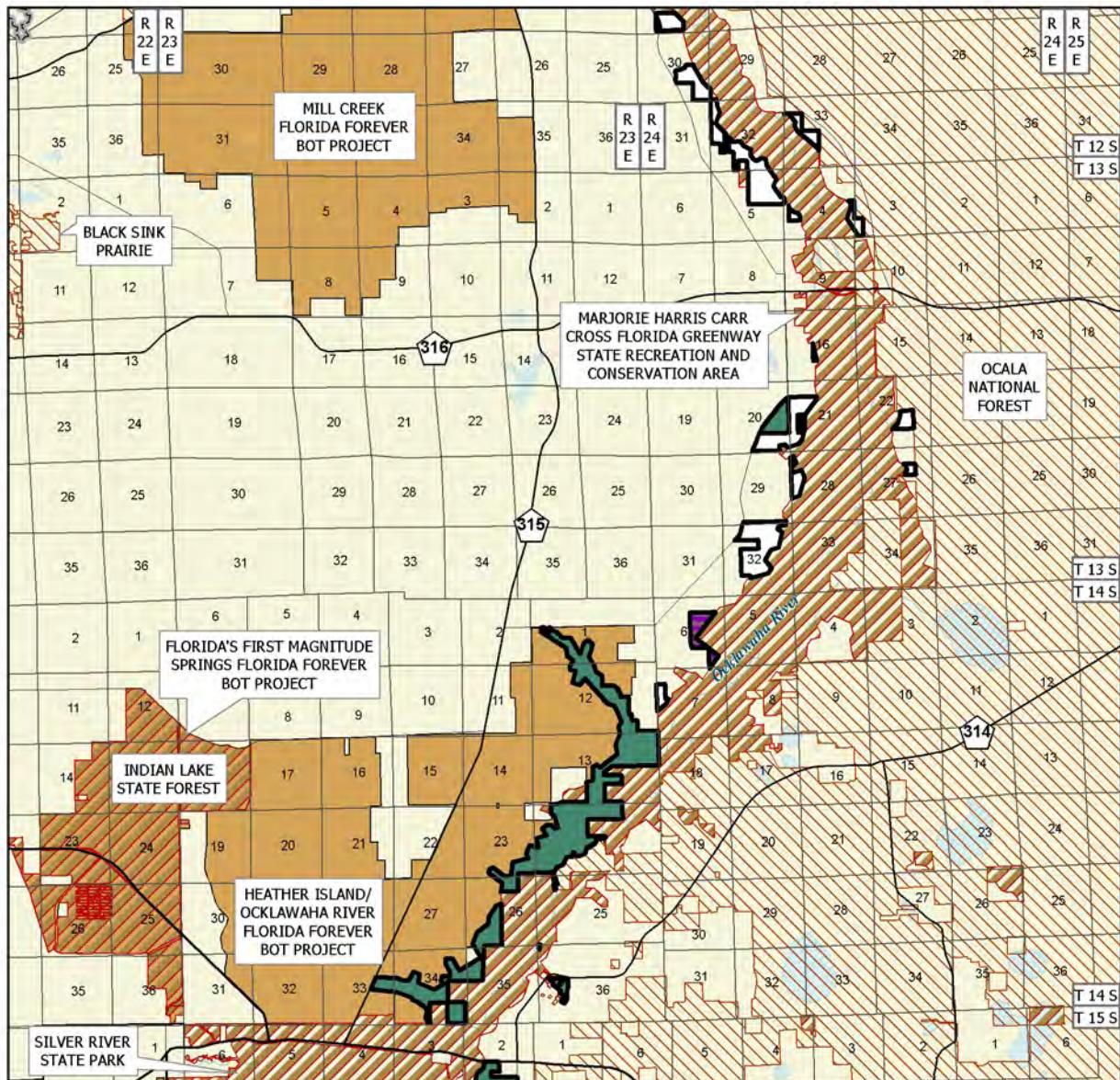
In 6/2008, some 1.19 acres of the Harrington ownership were purchased for \$15,000 with the FFS Florida Forever funds. FFS will manage this section. In 9/2008, the FFS used Florida Forever funds to buy the following acreages: 1.08 acres (Fred Yankee, LLC) for \$13,500; 0.87 acres (Goddard) for \$23,000; 1.01 acres (Land Reclamation, Inc.) for \$15,000; 2.52 acres (Cann) for \$23,000; 1.21 acres (Martin) for \$14,000; 1.27 acres (Vehoski) for \$14,000; and 1 acre (Murray) for \$15,000. The DOF will manage all of these parcels. In 10/2008, the FFS used Florida Forever funds to buy 1.25 acres (Uttech) for \$11,500; 2.5 acres (Lachmansingh) for \$25,000; 3.61 acres (Chapman) for \$37,500; and 2.53 acres (Thornton) for \$23,000. The FFS will manage these parcels. In 11/2008, the FFS used Florida Forever funds to buy 1.27 acres (Dubay) for \$14,000; 1.24 acres (Hood) for \$15,500; 1.25 acres (Contreras) for \$14,000; and 1.24 acres (South) for \$14,000. FFS will manage these parcels.

On 1/21/2009 SJRWMD purchased 208 acres for \$474,363 (Plum Creek/Rick Co.). In 10/2009, 1.25 acres were purchased from Margaret Vail for \$14,000. In November 2009, 1.25 acres were purchased from Kenneth/Diane Schwing for \$15,500. On 12/10/2009, FFS purchased 1.43 acres for \$13,500 and will manage this tract.

On 11/4/2010 FFS purchased 106 acres (Moore--\$405,000) with Florida Forever funds. FFS will manage.

On 1/3/2011, FFS purchased 1.29 acres (Williams--\$18,000 with FF funds. FFS will manage. On 5/2/2011 the FFS funded 1.25 acres (Cearley-\$12,000)

## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

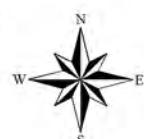


### ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 3 OF 5

#### MARION COUNTY

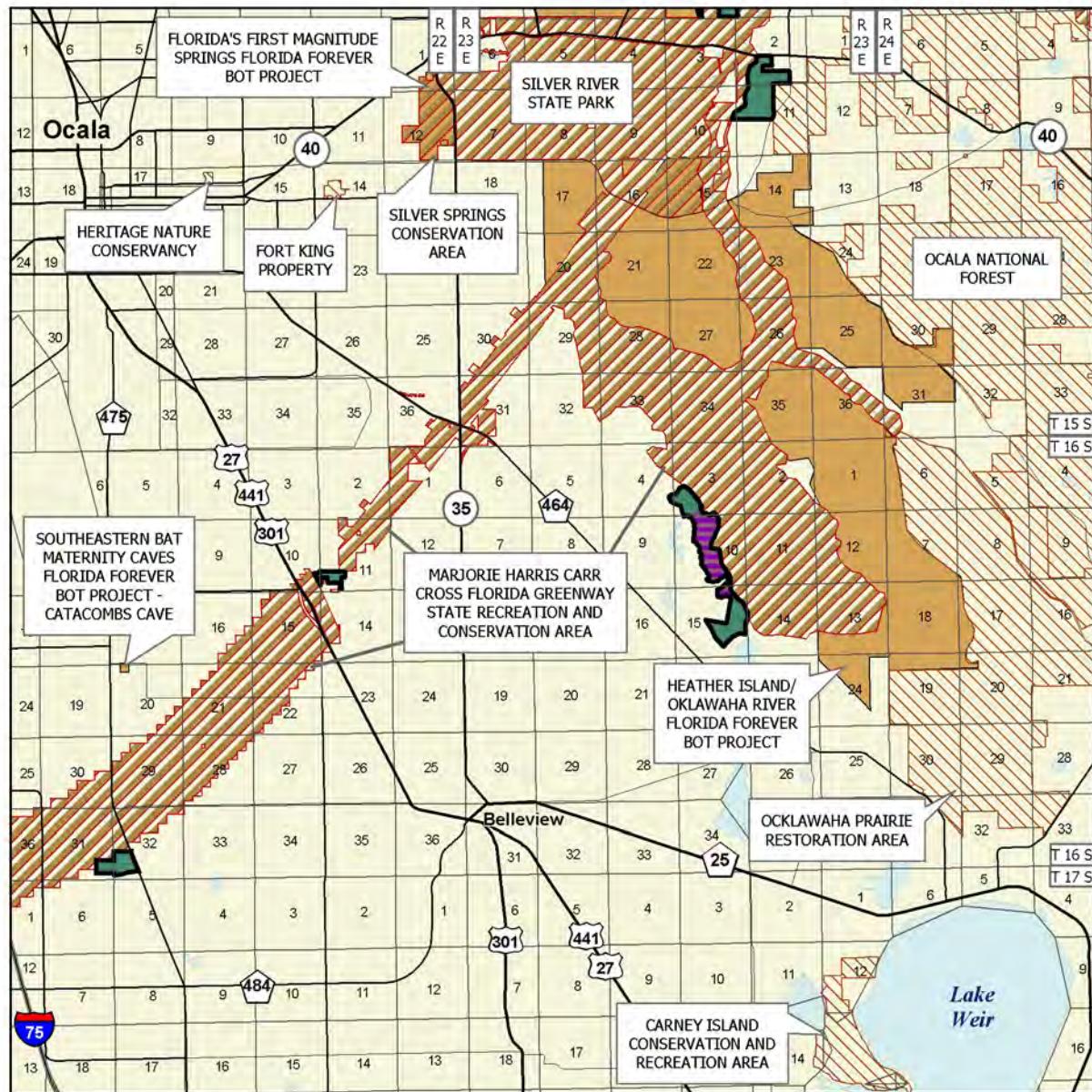
- Florida Forever BOT Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

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Miles



JANUARY 2012

## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway



### ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 4 OF 5

#### MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

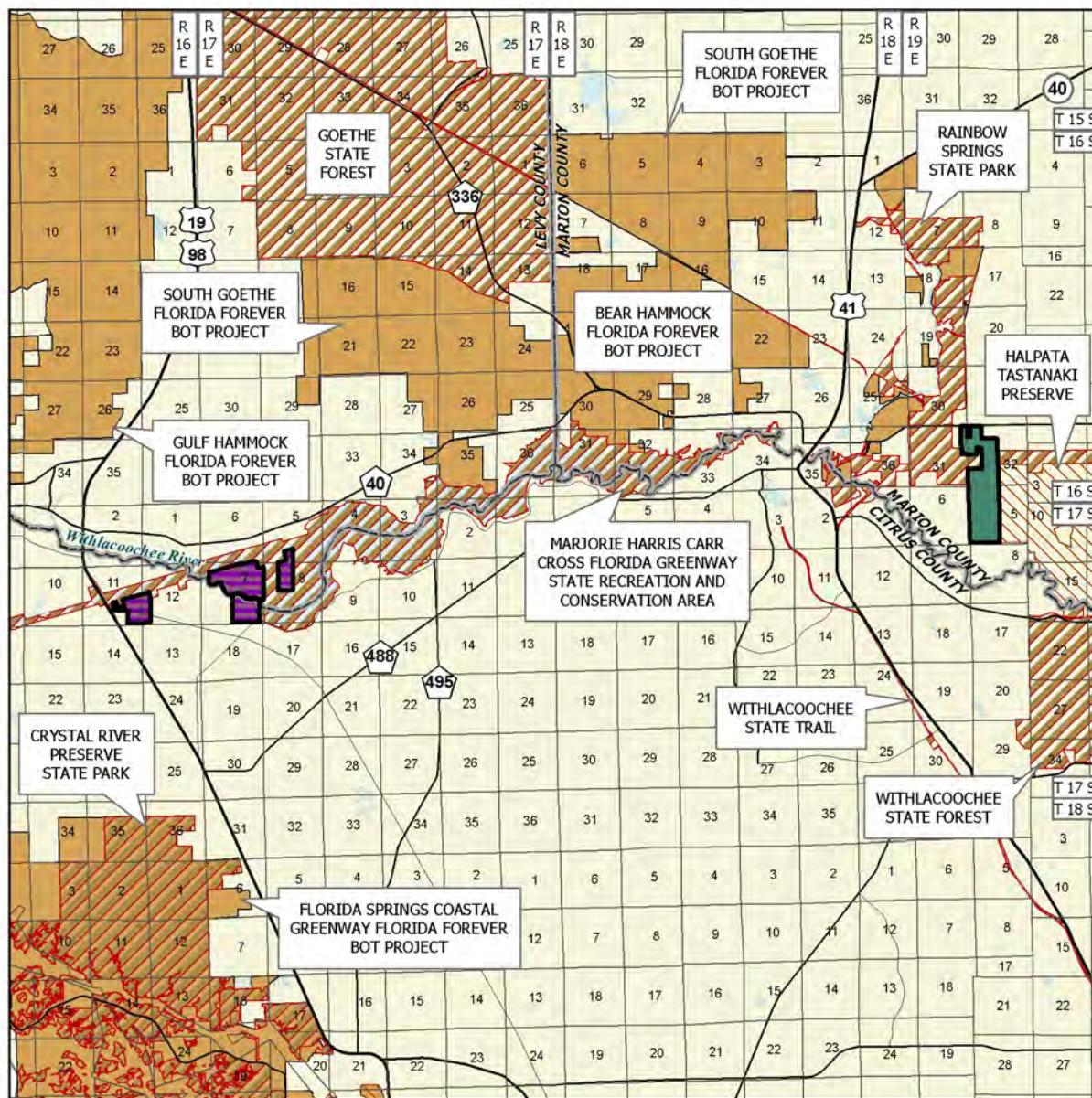


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## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway



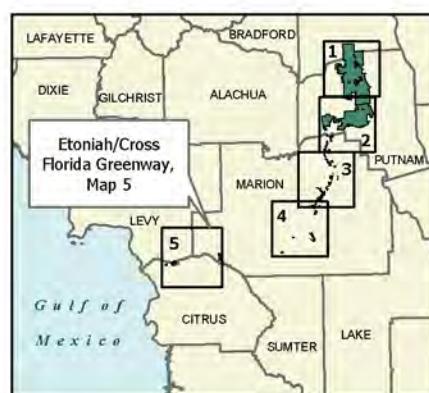
### ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 5 OF 5

#### MARION, LEVY, AND CITRUS COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box with Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands



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JANUARY 2012

## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

in the Cross Florida Greenway portion and will manage. On 8/3/2011 FFS purchased 3.69 acres (Interlachan Lakes Estates) for \$27,500; FFS to manage. On 12/9/2011 ARC recommended a 1509-acre reduction to the project boundary containing residential development/commercial buildings/infrastructure.

### Coordination

The SJRWMD was the intermediary in the acquisition of the Manning tract and has provided information and expertise on several other tracts. The Office of Greenways and Trails used additions and inholding funds to acquire Inglis Island. The Division of State Lands will assume the lead on acquisition of the remaining tracts.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The large size, restorable pine plantations, and diversity of the Etoniah Creek portion of this project make it highly desirable for management as a state forest. The Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area includes scenic and historic rivers, lakes, wetlands, and uplands. It is also near, or contiguous with, many other state-owned lands. The Cross Florida Greenway portion of this project, together with the lands already in the Greenway, has the configuration, location, and resources to qualify as a state recreation area.

**Manager** The FFS proposes to manage the 57,000-acre Etoniah Creek portion of the project and the OGT will manage the remaining lands in the vicinity of the old Cross Florida Barge Canal.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** There are no known major disturbances in the Etoniah Creek

portion that will require extraordinary attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. Lands in the Cross Florida Greenway portion are generally moderate-need tracts.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the core area of the Etoniah Creek portion is acquired, the FFS will provide access to the public for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the tract, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The tract's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for the Etoniah Creek portion will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The FFS will promote environmental education. For the Greenway portion, activities within the first year after acquisition will primarily consist of site security, resource inventory, removal of trash, and resource-management planning. Long-range activities proposed include a multipurpose trail and facilities for public access.

**Revenue-generating potential** In the Etoniah Creek portion, the FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be moderate. In the Greenway portion, no revenues are expected to be generated within the first three years after acquisition. However, as the Greenway is developed during its 20-year facility development plan, revenues will be derived from user fees, the sale of products from the lands (limerock berm and timber), and the sale of surplus lands.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state

agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Currently, properties along the Greenway are managed in partnership with Marion County, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and private individuals for recreational purposes.

*Updated 2/21/2012*

**Full Fee:**

**Management Cost Summary/OGT**

Category Source of Funds	Startup LATF	Recurring LATF
Salary	\$36,380	\$36,380
OPS	\$72,660	\$72,660
Expense	\$62,301	\$46,362
OCO	\$3,167	\$0
FCO	\$100,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$274,508</b>	<b>\$185,402</b>

**Management Cost Summary/DOF**

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 CARL	1997/98 CARL	1998/99 CARL
Salary	\$45,337	\$56,489	\$58,183.67
OPS	\$0	\$3,000	\$7,650.00
Expense	\$11,225	\$22,825	\$58,203.75
OCO	\$43,320	\$50,500	\$128,775.00
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,882</b>	<b>\$132,814</b>	<b>\$252,812.42</b>



# Fisheating Creek Ecosystem

## Glades and Highlands County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Fisheating Creek, the only undammed tributary to Lake Okeechobee, flows through vast prairies and flatwoods primarily owned by Lykes Brothers, Inc. The Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project will acquire both less-than-fee and fee-simple property to help preserve this natural land, which links the Okaloacoochee Slough, Big Cypress Swamp, Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, and Lake Okeechobee. This project will also help to ensure the survival of the Florida panther, swallow-tailed kite, other plants and animals that require such natural lands, and may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will monitor conservation easements and manage the fee-simple acquisitions unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

Natural communities in the project area include dry prairies and flatwoods interrupted by numerous freshwater marshes of various kinds, including seepage slopes, wet prairies, and depression marshes. Diverse prairie hammocks occur east of U.S. 27. Hydric hammocks, bottomland forests, and floodplain swamp along Fisheating Creek make up most of the remainder of the natural communities. Large areas of the project

are improved pasture, former eucalyptus plantations, or current pine plantations. Invasive exotic plants are largely confined to the Hoover Dike system around Lake Okeechobee.

As one of the largest fairly natural areas in the Florida peninsula, with a strategic position between several other natural areas, the project is important for the protection of rare plants and animals. The area includes large populations of three plants endemic to central Florida: Edison's ascyrum (*Hypericum edisonianum*), cutthroat grass (*Panicum abscissum*), and nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*). The proposal is extremely important as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for the Florida panther and the American swallow-tailed kite, as well for such animals as Audubon's crested caracara, snail kite, Florida grasshopper sparrow, Florida sandhill crane, mottled duck, red-cockaded woodpecker, and short-tailed hawk. At least six bald eagle nests are known to be in this project.

The water quality of Fisheating Creek and Gator Slough is good, but agricultural runoff has impaired the water quality of canals in the project.

The project area includes at least 31 archaeological sites, many associated with the important Fort Center Site Complex of the Belle Glades culture (500 B.C. to A.D. 1700). More recent sites are also known, and there could be many more in the project. The Fort Center Complex offers an opportunity for an interpretive center.

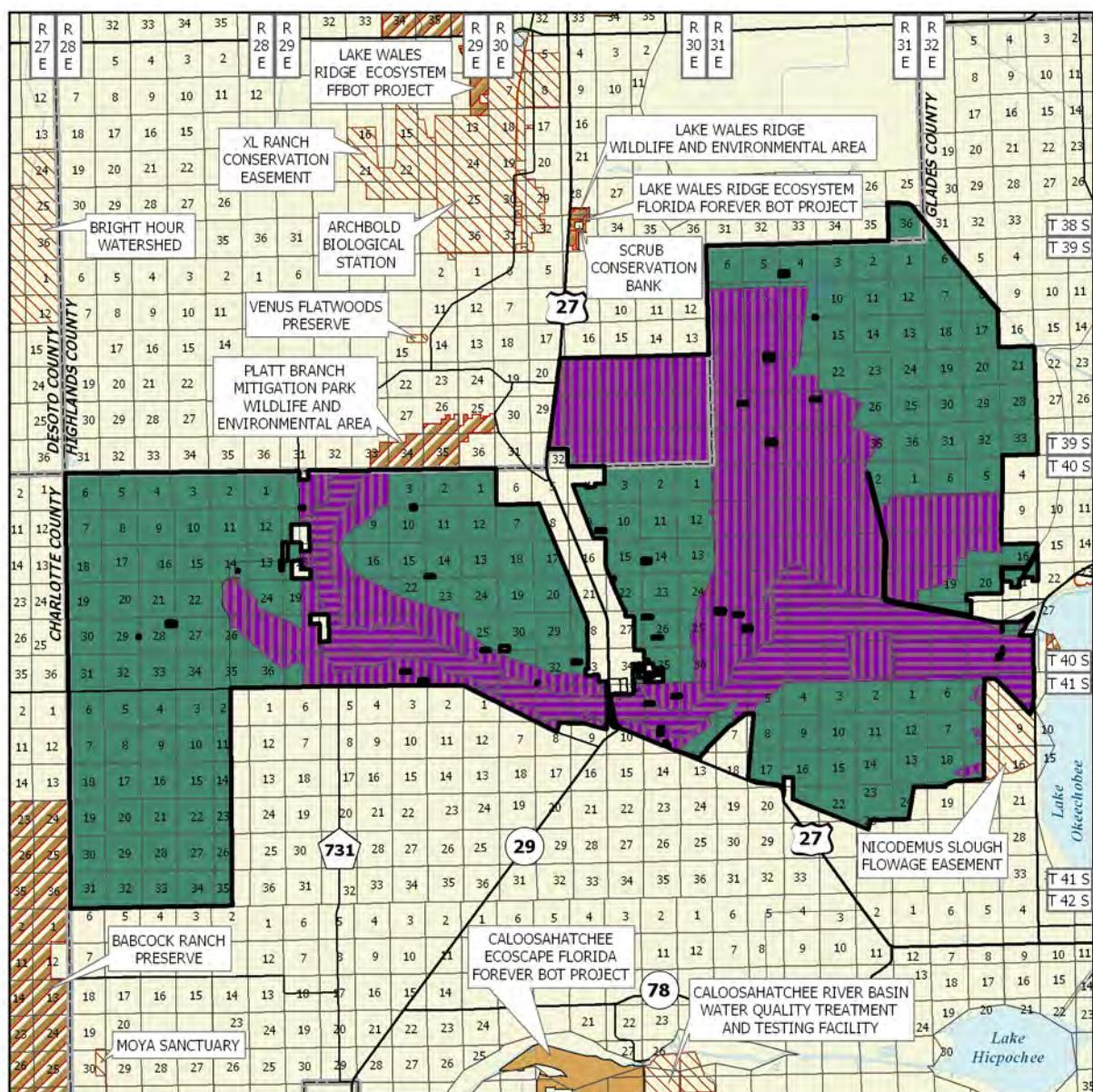
### Fisheating Creek Ecosystem FNAI Elements

Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Highlands Scrub Hypericum</i>	G2/S2
Sand Skink	G2/S2
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Florida Jointweed</i>	G3/S3

27 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2000
Project Area (GIS Acres)	177,079
Acres Acquired (GIS)	68,175
at a Cost of	\$55,628,563
Acres Remaining (GIS)	108,904
2003 Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$15,326,651

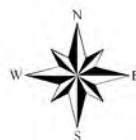
## Fisheating Creek Ecosystem



## FISHEATING CREEK ECOSYSTEM

### GLADES AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- \ State Owned Lands
- \ Other Conservation Lands



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SEPTEMBER 2009

## Fisheating Creek Ecosystem

### Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation. Public use in easement areas will depend on agreements with the landowner, but the project could support such activities as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and canoeing.

### Acquisition Planning

On 5/6/1999, the LAMAC added the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project, in Glades and Highlands counties, to the CARL Priority list. This less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 168,360 acres, a single owner, Lykes Bros. Inc., and a 1999 taxable value of \$22,297,408.

On 5/25/1999, the BOT approved a settlement agreement with Lykes Bros. Inc., which provided for settlement of the case Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund v. Lykes Bros. Inc. The settlement agreement was contingent upon, among other things, a multiple-phase, and combined less-than-fee acquisition.

On 12/19/2000, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a less-than-fee addition, in Glades County, to the project boundary. This addition, also known as the Venus Ranch, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 8,400 acres, a single owner, and a 1999 taxable value of \$667,863. The Fisheating Creek project was also moved to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list. This easement was acquired by the BOT in 2003.

On 8/15/2002, ARC approved an addition, seized by law enforcement in Glades County, to the project boundary. The .46-acre Lucky Whidden parcel was sponsored by the Division of State Lands (DSL) and FWC, and had a 2001 taxable value of \$4000.

On 6/16/2004, ARC approved a fee-simple addition to the project boundary in Glades County. The addition, sponsored by the two owners and known as Journigan Place, consisted of 115.4 acres and a 2003 taxable value of \$207,692.

### Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner and there may be some potential for joint acquisition with the South Florida Water Management District.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objectives of the acquisition of the Fisheating Creek project are to conserve and protect natural communities along the shores of Fisheating Creek, and thereby assist in maintaining and possibly improving the status of several rare plant and animal communities. Achieving this objective will help to secure the survival of the Florida panther in this state, as well as protect many other rare and endangered animals and a number of migratory bird species and provide for traditional public uses and recreational activities within sovereignty submerged lands and fee lands as specified in the Settlement Agreement.

### Management Prospectus

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement the BOT will lease the sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands to the FWC, which was designated as the managing agency for sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands and as the Easement Monitor over the conservation easement at this site. The sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands will be managed as the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. The Settlement Agreement outlining specific management guidelines is on file with the Office of Environmental Services.

*Updated 2/29/2012*

# Flagler County Blueway

Flagler and Volusia Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – will help close gaps and gain public ownership of some remaining hammock, marshes, flatwoods and swamps; (2) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas – several parcels have future potential for serving as urban open space which will increase the amount of open space available in urban areas; and (3) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities - recreational opportunities may also increase if the land is managed carefully.

### Manager

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will be cooperating managers for this project, while Flagler County will manage the Emerald Coast parcel.

### General Description

The Flagler County Blueway project has changed significantly during the evaluation phase, growing from its original 122 acres to approximately 5,015 acres clustered from south of Pellicer Creek on the north to the Flagler County line on the south. The project essentially follows the Intracoastal Waterway and includes most undeveloped and available land east of I-95 in Flagler County.

### Public Use

There are usable uplands within the project that will accommodate resource-based recreation activities, but the degree of ownership acquired will determine the degree of public access and use that can be assured.

Portions of the project include tidal marshes with numerous small creeks and hammock islands. Other

areas have creeks associated with them. Boating, canoeing and kayaking can be accommodated on many of these creeks and there are opportunities to create a water borne trail system that might accommodate limited facilities, especially for canoes and kayaks.

Where road access or connectivity with existing public lands exists, there are opportunities for upland activities such as short nature hikes, primitive camping, picnicking and shoreline fishing. RV camping may not be well suited for this project, due to the general wet nature of the lands and the disbursement of uplands within the project. Still, it is possible that a site might be located, should a demand for that activity become apparent and compatible with the purpose of acquisition. Off-road bicycling might be accommodated on the more upland sites that have access.

### Location and Proximity to Other Managed Areas

The Flagler County Blueway proposal has tracts of land adjacent to or very near the following managed areas (in alphabetical order): Bulow Creek State Park, Faver-Dykes State Park, Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area, Graham Swamp Conservation Area Guana Tolomato Matanzas, North Peninsula State Park, Pellicer Creek Corridor Conservation Area, Princess Place Preserve, Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve, Washington Oaks Gardens State Park.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Flagler County Blueway project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 priority list. While fee-simple acquisition is the preferred method for this project, there may well be parcels that are not

Flagler County Blueway FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
1 rare species is associated with the project	

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (GIS acres)	4,164
Acres Acquired (GIS)	82
At a Cost Of	790,000*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	4,082
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of:	\$17,050,409
* Flagler County paid \$395,000	

## Flagler County Blueway



### FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

#### FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES



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Miles



OCTOBER 2011

available in fee-simple but lend themselves to conservation easements or other less-than-fee approaches. Sponsored by Flagler County, this project consisted of approximately 5,015 acres, multiple owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$20,502,164. On 6/3/2004, ARC moved this project to Group A of the FF 2004 Priority list.

On 10/13/2006, ARC approved a project redesign that removed 606 acres, reducing the total project size to 4,409 acres. All parcels removed were due to development that had occurred or isolation of the parcels since the original boundary was identified. In addition, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 20-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Flagler County, consisted of one parcel & landowner, Kitteridge Investments, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$6,800. The addition is considered important, but not critical to the project as a whole, and, if acquired, will be managed by Flagler County as part of Princess Place Preserve.

In 10/2008, 59.19 acres of the Emerald Coast Development Partners, LLC ownership, were purchased for \$790,000 (\$395,000 from DSL Florida Forever funds, \$395,000 from Flagler County). Flagler County will manage this site.

On 10/14/2011 ARC recommended a 182-acre reduction to the project boundary containing residential development/commercial buildings/infrastructure.

### Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and Flagler County are considered partners on this project.

### Unified Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Flagler County Blueway Florida Forever project is 5,015 acres in eastern Flagler County. The project area consists of multiple parcels in the Matanzas River ecosystem watershed, which includes the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The tracts of private lands that constitute this project vary greatly in size, ranging from 10 to 1,056 acres, and vary in type and quality of habitats. Some tracts in this project adjoin and provide connectivity among federal, state and local conservation lands. These tracts, if acquired, would be part of the Flagler County Blueway Project, which extends from the headwaters

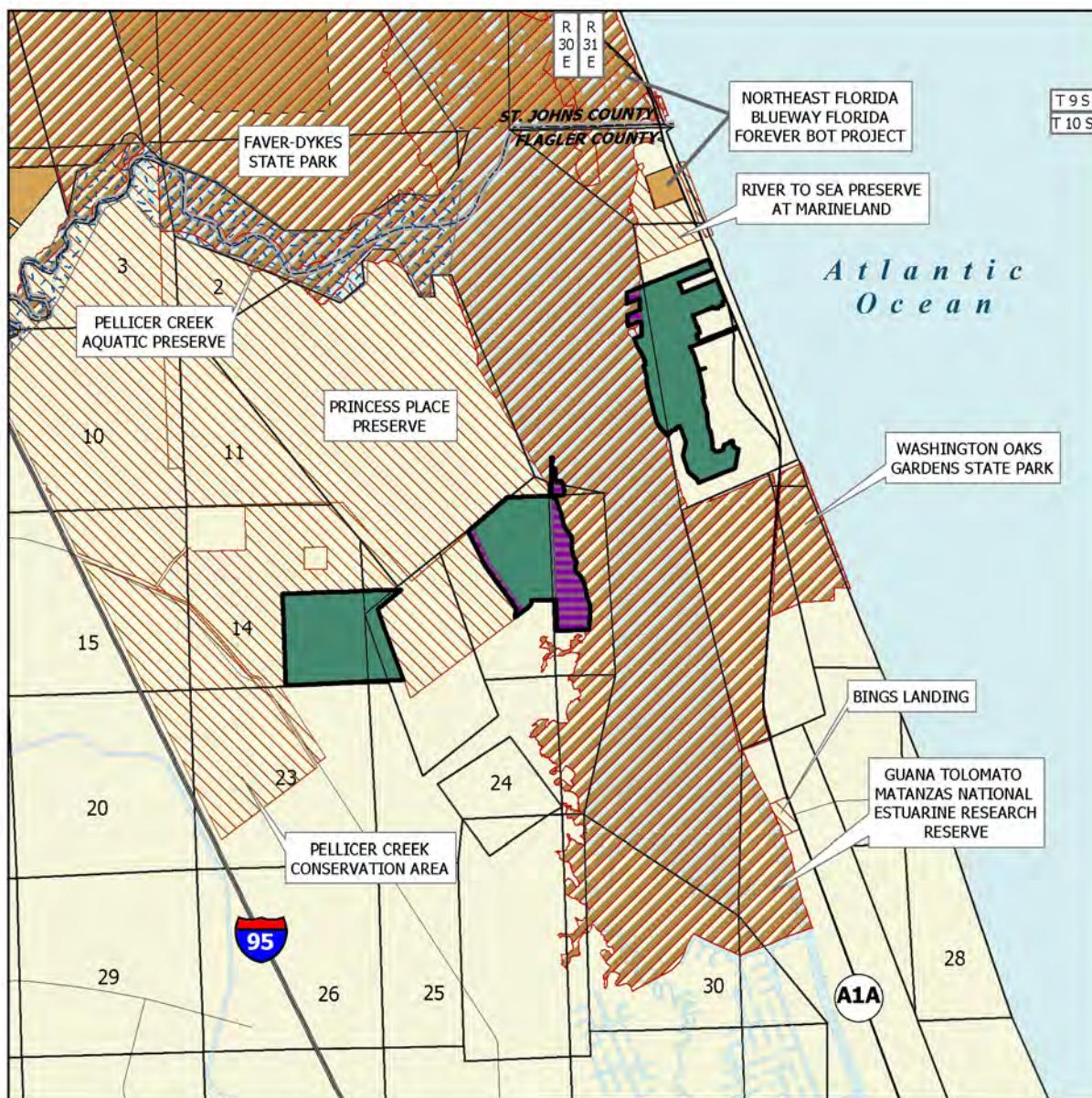
of Pellicer Creek and the Princess Place Preserve in the north, past the Graham Swamp Conservation Area (CA), to Bulow Creek State Park (SP), just south of the Flagler County line.

Project lands are situated primarily west of the ICW, with a smaller acreage on the eastern shore of the ICW. The project extends for a north-south distance of approximately 17 miles. The northernmost tract in the project is located approximately 56 miles south of Jacksonville, and 17 miles south of St. Augustine. The southernmost tract is located approximately 14 miles north of Daytona Beach, and 28 miles northeast of DeLand. Other nearby conservation lands in addition to those mentioned above include the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic SP, the Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve (AP), the Tomoka Marsh AP, Tomoka SP and Washington Oaks Gardens SP.

Overall, the Flagler County Blueway proposal comprises a landscape of three distinguishable groups of conservation lands. They are as follows: (1) northern perimeter conservation lands include the northernmost extent of the project adjacent to Washington Oaks Gardens SP, Pellicer Creek CA, and Princess Place Preserve; (2) southern perimeter conservation lands are at the southern end of the proposal boundary, including Bulow Creek SP, Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area and North Peninsula SP; and (3) the central, connecting part of the proposed blueway project that is proximal to northern and southern borders of the Graham Swamp CA. This project is significant as an ecological greenway, with 94 percent (7,791 acres) of the project area qualifying as a Priority 7 in potential importance, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation.

Approximately 48 percent of the project is uplands. Scrub comprises 132 acres of the project area, with mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods comprising a total of 883 acres. Coastal uplands include 1,063 acres of coastal strand and maritime hammock. These uplands are important flyway resting and feeding areas for migratory birds, and occur primarily on islands, and along the edge of the estuarine tidal marsh. Pine plantation, agricultural use (mostly pasture), and otherwise disturbed and developed lands constitute 1,901 acres of the project. Freshwater wetlands are mostly forested, including basin swamp, baygall, hydric hammock, and perhaps a small area of dome swamp, for a total of 2,815 acres. Some hydric hammocks are of particularly good quality. One of the basin swamps

## Flagler County Blueway



### FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 3

#### FLAGLER COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

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OCTOBER 2011

is a southern extension of the Graham Swamp CA, and is the largest natural area in the project. About 51 acres are depression marsh. Functional wetlands comprise 45 percent (3,692 acres) of the project area, and help conserve areas for aquifer recharge (8 percent, or 672 acres of project area), and provide protection for fragile coastal resources (28 percent, or 2,300 acres of project area). The FNAI Florida Forever Measures Evaluation also indicates that 84 percent (6,963 acres) of the project would serve surface water protection. There are 1,222 acres of estuarine tidal marsh, mostly along the ICW, Matanzas River and Smith Creek. There are 218 acres classified as open water. The FNAI Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 25 percent (2,075 acres) of the project area is under-represented natural communities.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus macgillivraii*). The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been reported to nest near the project area. The West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) occurs nearby in the ICW. Other imperiled or rare animals which potentially occur in the project area include the Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), hairy woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), and the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). In addition, many other vertebrate species are expected to use the project area as habitat. According to the FWC approximately 42 percent (3,486 acres) of the project area is within Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCAs). Another 31 percent (2,583 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI.

**Manager** The FFS of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the FWC are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired.

**Management Goals** The FFS and FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Flagler County Blueway under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and

provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. The project has the capability to provide needed protection for fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices. More importantly, the project could serve an important biogeographical function by providing physical linkages and connections to several other publicly owned lands in the Flagler County area.

Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources. Conservation and protection of the unique coastal maritime community, xeric oak scrub community, and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. Under the unified management approach, a broad-scale management program will be developed that will manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources, and promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area is proximal to a large number of users that enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, kayaking, and wildlife viewing. There is also potential for equestrian use, off-road biking, and multi-use trails through the proposed project. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows that 81 percent (6,717 acres) of the project area to be suitable for Priority 2 recreational trails.

This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

(c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems

## Flagler County Blueway



### FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 3

#### FLAGLER COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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OCTOBER 2011

of the state

- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state
- (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities
- (h) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The disjunct nature of parcels comprising the Flagler County Blueway creates a special management consideration that will need to be addressed by the unified managers. The FFS and FWC will need to devise a strategy to deploy manpower, equipment, and other management resources in a manner that is coordinated and efficient. Some portions of Flagler County Blueway are low-need areas that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately, 23 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity, consequently additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The FFS and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that may require cooperative effort include restoration of mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal or thinning of off-site timber species to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforestation of recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection of maritime hammock communities, restoration of sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species. Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), listed as a Category I Exotic (most adversely affecting Florida's ecology) by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, is an established shrub that has been observed in the project area and which deserves aggressive control.

The principal land management activities slated to occur on less disturbed natural communities will include the

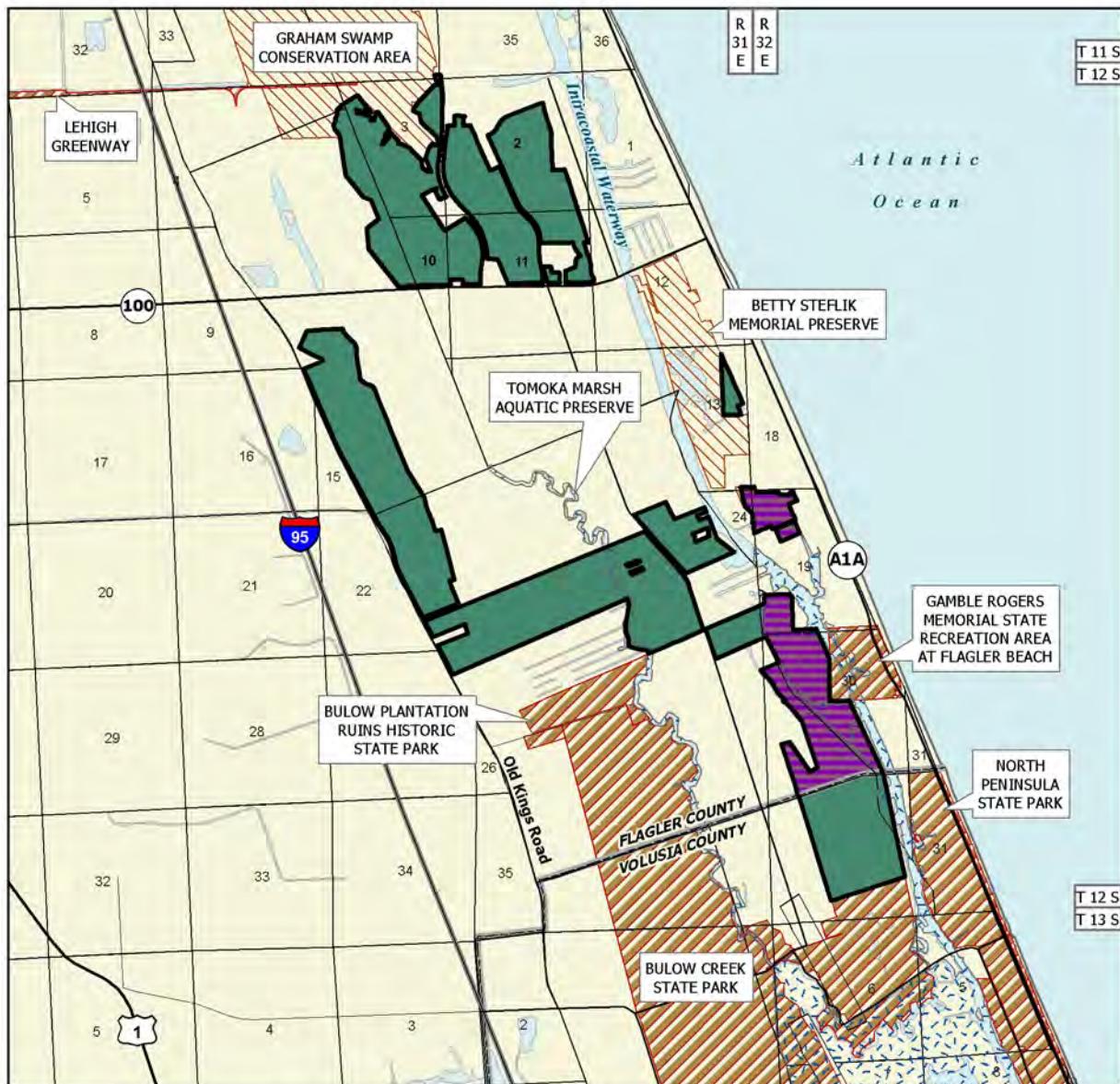
introduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Restoration methods will also include thinning of dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and facilitate the restoration of native groundcovers.

Biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Due to the presence of imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the proposed project, it is anticipated that resource inventories would be an initial priority under the unified management approach. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

**Timetable for implementing management provisions** It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of listed species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance, and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide

## Flagler County Blueway



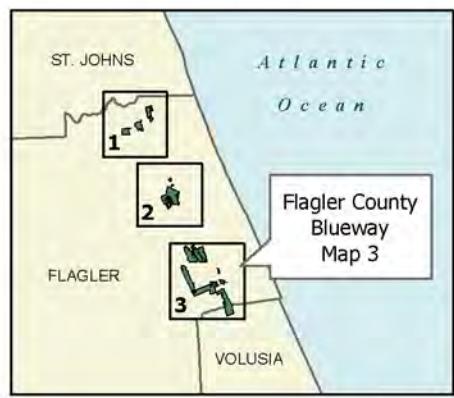
### FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 3 OF 3

#### VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Dashed Box] State Aquatic Preserve



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all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Most of this project area has not been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. It is also possible that recreational trails on the parcels could function as back up firelines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment, and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The DHR lists 16 such sites as occurring in the project area.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, including provision of facilities, and would include provisions for the facilities necessary for security and management of the project area. The Eemerald Coast parcel, already purchased, will be separately managed by Flagler County.

***Estimate of revenue-generating potential*** Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 27

percent (2,260 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry. The FNAI estimates that 1.34 percent (111 acres) of forest provides aquifer recharge. Management would seek revenue-generating potential by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and daily use permit fees. Some revenues might be realized in the future from other recreational user fees, and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15 percent) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which those funds were generated.

***Cooperators in management activities*** The unified managers (DOF and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Saint Johns River Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

***Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed\**** Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the FFS and FWC.

Updated 3/1/2012

(continued)

## Flagler County Blueway



The Indian River seen from US Highway 1 in Melbourne,  
Brevard County, in 1946

Photo from the Florida Photographic Archives,  
Florida Department of State.

Category Source of Funds	Start-up CARL	Recurring CARL
Resource Management	\$143,188	\$145,854
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$988,553	\$85,164
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$2,335	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$5,799	\$5,799
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,364,449</b>	<b>\$293,656</b>

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\*includes employee salaries

# Florida Keys Ecosystem

## Monroe County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The unique hardwood hammocks of the Florida Keys, forests of West Indian plants that shelter several extremely rare animals, are being lost to the rapid development of these islands. The Florida Keys Ecosystem project will protect all the significant unprotected hardwood hammocks left in the Keys and many rare plants and animals, including the Lower Keys marsh rabbit and Key deer. It will also help protect the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Keys, the recreational and commercial fisheries, and the reefs around the islands, and also give residents and visitors more areas for enjoying the natural beauty of the Keys.

### Managers

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (19 sites); Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), (10 sites: Key Largo Narrows, Point Charles Hammock, Newport Hammock, Pennekamp North, Largo Sound Hammock, North Creek Hammock, Teatable Hammock, Lower Matecumbe Hammock, North Layton Hammock and Grassy Key Site). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Monroe County, City of Marathon, and City of Islamorada also manage some properties.

### General Description

This project includes most of the remaining unprotected rockland hammocks (tropical hardwood hammocks) in the Keys from South Key Largo to Sugarloaf Key.

Florida Keys Ecosystem	
	FNAI Elements
<i>Florida Semaphore Cactus</i>	G1/S1
Key Deer	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys Rabbit	G5T1/S1
Loggerhead	G3/S3
<i>Cape Sable Thoroughwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garber's Spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>Tree Cactus</i>	G1/S1
<i>Cuban Snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
<i>Florida Keys Indigo</i>	G5?T1Q/S1
Key Ringneck Snake	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys Brown Snake	G5T1Q/S1
Lower Keys Ribbon Snake	G5T1Q/S1

77 rare species are associated with the project

It is important to many rare plants and animals and consists of 17 sites in the Upper and Middle Keys encompassing the remaining fragments of unprotected tropical hardwood hammock greater than 12.5 acres. The project includes habitat for migratory birds and virtually all remaining Lower Keys marsh rabbits, Key deer, and the state-threatened white-crowned pigeon. In all, it provides habitat for at least 34 species of rare vascular plants and 34 rare animals. Many archaeological and historical sites are recorded from the area. All the project sites are threatened by intense development in the Keys.

### Public Use

The tracts will become botanical sites, parks, and wildlife and environmental areas. Some will offer camping, swimming, hiking, and boating, while others will be suitable only for nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/7/1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved combining the Hammocks of the Lower Keys and Tropical Flyways projects into a single project named Florida Keys Ecosystem. The combined project consisted of approximately 4,438 acres; 465 acres acquired for \$24,324,425 and 3,973 remained with a taxable value of \$9,619,059.

Hammocks of the Lower Keys: No phasing is recommended; however, some sites are extremely vulnerable to immediate development: Cudjoe Key—Kephart tract; Big Torch Key—Outward Bound/Stelmok tract (acquired); Summerland Key—the area around the pond; and Little Torch Key—Torch Key Estates Subdivision (acquired). Estimated acreage for each site are: Cudjoe Key, 38 acres; Big Torch Key, 450 acres; Little Torch Key, 217 acres; Summerland

Placed on list	1992
Project Area (GIS Acres)	13,073
Acres Acquired (GIS)	4,502*
at a Cost of	\$91,025,252
Acres Remaining (GIS)	8,571
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$38,187,008

\*Includes donations

## Florida Keys Ecosystem

Key, 20 acres; Sugarloaf Key, 2711 acres; Little Knockemdown Key, 300 acres; Middle Torch Key, 811 acres; Ramrod Key, 615 acres; and Wahoo Key, added at the LAMAC's 12/3/93 meeting, 26 acres (acquired). Tropical Flyways: No phasing is recommended; all 17 sites are being acquired with the Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) as intermediary. The 17 sites are: North Creek (two large ownerships, remaining subdivided—16 acres acquired through MCLA), Largo Sound (one major ownership—68 acres acquired through MCLA), Pennekamp North (one major ownership - acquired through MCLA), Newport (one major ownership, remainder subdivided), Point Charles (one major ownership), Key Largo Narrows (one major ownership—acquired through MCLA), Dove Creek (several large ownerships, remaining subdivided—187 acres acquired through MCLA), Tavernier Creek (one major ownership), Lake San Pedro (several large ownerships), Snake Creek (one major ownership - acquired through MCLA), Green Turtle (one major ownership), Teatable (one major ownership), Lower Matecumbe (one major ownership), North Layton (several large ownerships), Grassy Key (several large ownerships), Vaca Cut (one major ownership), Stirrup Key (one ownership).

On 6/11/1998, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 53-acre addition (Wilson & Cotton Keys) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the William Roberts, Estate trustee, and had a 1996 taxable value of \$115,106.

On 2/11/1999, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 955-acre addition (Boot Key) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FGFC, consisted of one owner, Azurite Corp. LTD Florida, and a 1998 taxable value of \$178,019. On July 29, 1999, the LAMAC approved an owner requested, 6-acre deletion (on Ramrod Key) from the project boundary.

In 2003 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased 593.75 acres, known as Tarpon Basin, in the Newport Hammocks site. On 12/5/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 11.5-acre addition (Channel Key Island) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Barbara Trueman, and had a 2003 taxable value of \$17,268.

On 6/4/2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,063-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of multiple owners, and a 2003 taxable value of \$7,400,000. The 910 parcels are located on several offshore islands and six named Keys

(Little Torch, Saddlebunch, Ramrod, Summerland, Cudjoe, and Upper Sugarloaf). FWC will manage 1,758 acres as an addition to the Florida Keys Wildlife Environmental Area (WEA) and the USFWS will manage the remaining acres as an addition to the Florida Key Deer Refuge.

On 2/11/2005, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ±3,695-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the multiple entities, consisted of multiple owners, and a 2004 taxable value of approximately \$31,847,907.

On 10/13/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 8.6-acre addition to the Sugarloaf Key portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of 2-parcels, a single owner, Community Sons of the Divine Will, and a taxable value of \$6,286,220. The proposed manager, FWC, does not consider the parcels essential. This boundary addition was approved with the understanding that FWC would share in the cost of the acquisition.

In June 2008, the 67-acre Camillus House exchange with University of Miami for other BOT land was completed, at no cost to Florida Forever funds. The following acres (ownerships) were purchased with DSL Florida Forever funds: 0.07 acre of Dove Creek (Cameron) for \$46,250; 1.3 acres (Neff) of Grassy Key for \$382,000; 0.15 acre (Marerro) in Newport Hammocks for \$235,000; 42.22 acres (M&M Joint Venture, LLP) in Boca Chica Key for \$566,100; and 54.75 acres (Utility Board of the City of Key West) in Cudjoe Key for \$1,938,000, Monroe County as manager. In July, 2008, Florida Forever funds were used to buy 0.11 acre of the Pierce ownership in Charles Hammocks for \$46,250. Monroe County will manage this. In September, 2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to buy 3.03 acres (1.01 acre plus (2.02 acres) from the Otha Cox Estate in Cudjoe Key for a total of \$137,500 (\$47,500 plus \$90,000) Monroe County will manage this site. In November 2008, Florida Forever funds purchased 1.01 acre of the Smith ownership for \$37,000. FWC will manage this site.

On 2/6/2009 the Department of Transportation (FDOT) donated a total of 14.18 acres on Sugarloaf (.86 acre inside the project boundary) for a total donated value of \$9,265,212. At the June 2009 meeting, ARC accepted a request by the Retus Group LLC to remove 7 acres of their ownership in Marathon from the project.

On 6/24/2010 Gary Burchfield donated 1.78 acres in

Sugarloaf Key (donated value of \$60,000). FWC will manage. On 10/15/2010 ARC approved requests by property owners to remove 7 acres of their ownership within the project boundary (\$23,832 just value). On 12/10/2010 ARC approved an 11.25 acres in Boot Key with a tax assessed just value of \$410,544, addition to the project boundary to assist with a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) grant application. The City of Marathon is interested in purchasing all of Boot Key as proposed in the CELCP application.

On 1/20/2011 Anne Kirkly donated 7.39 acres (\$3,208) in Dove Creek Hammocks to be managed by FWC. On 6/1/11 James D. Hanson, Jr. donated 284.54 acres (Windley Key-value of \$200,000) to be managed by DRP.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the National Audubon Society sponsored this project. TNC, the Monroe County Land Authority, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are participants and have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some of the sites within this project. CELCP grant application to National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration NOAA).

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The unique wildlife, plant, and recreational resources of the Florida Keys Ecosystem sites qualify them as wildlife and environmental areas, botanical sites or preserves, and state parks.

### **Florida Keys Ecosystem sites managed by the DEP Division of Recreation and**

### **Parks:**

Key Largo Narrows	Grassy Key Site
Point Charles Hammock	Teatable Hammock
Largo Sound Hammock	Pennekamp North
North Creek Hammock	Newport Hammock
Lower Matecumbe Hammock	N. LaytonHammock

### **Florida Keys Ecosystem sites managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:**

Cudjoe Key	Tavernier Creek
Little Torch Key	Lake San Pedro
Middle Torch Key	Snake Creek
Big Torch Key	Green Turtle
Summerland Key	Vaca Cut
Sugarloaf Key	Stirrup Key
Little Knockemdown Key	Saddlebunch Key
Ramrod Key	Wahoo Key
Dove Creek	Upper Sugarloaf Key

### **Managers**

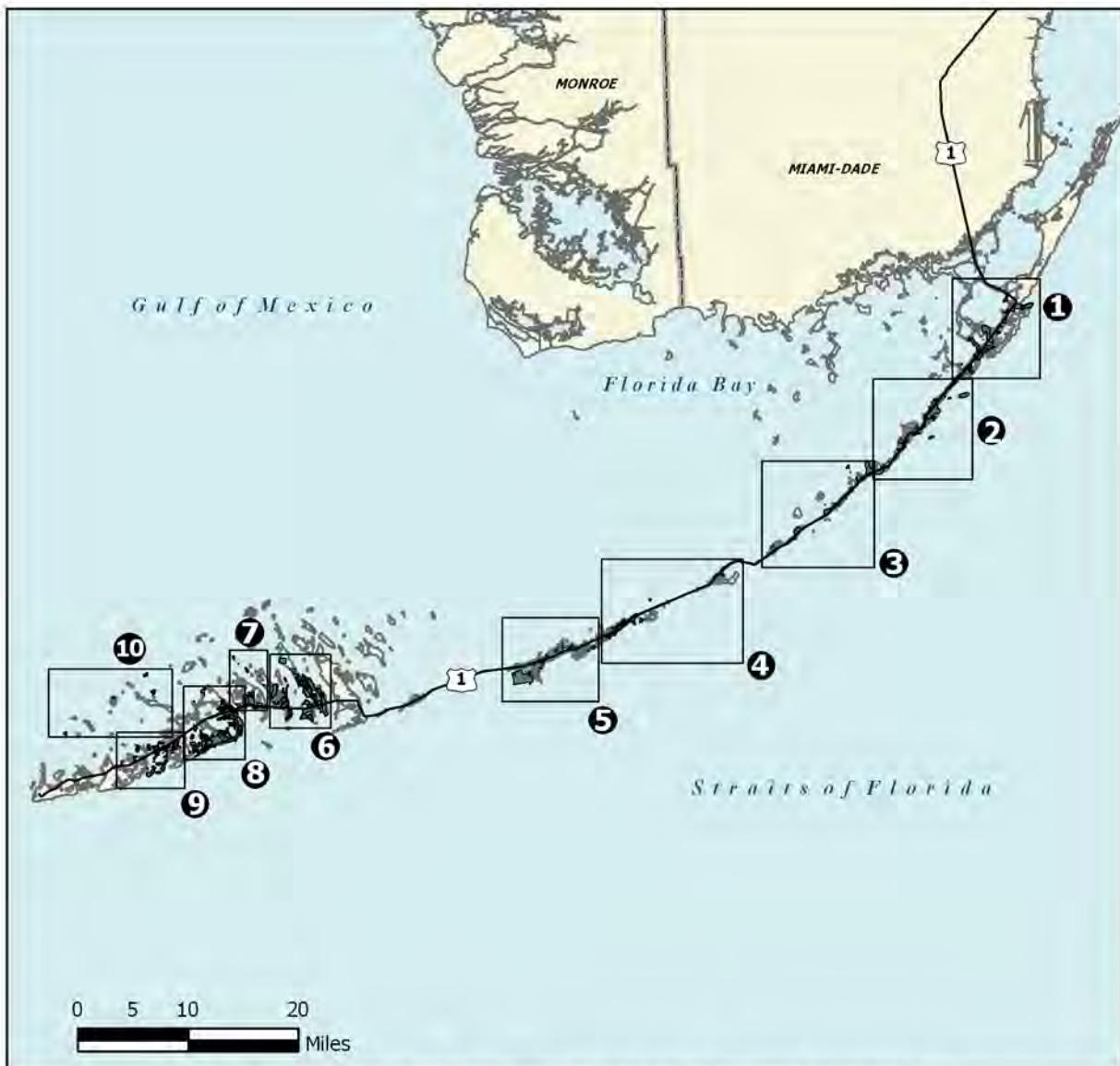
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (19 sites); Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), (10 sites). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Monroe County, City of Marathon, and City of Islamorada also manage some properties.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Florida Keys Ecosystem project generally includes high-need tracts because of their small size and proximity to intensive residential and commercial development. They require basic natural areas land management including exotic-species removal, avoidance of actions that further fragment the hammocks, general trash and debris removal, posting and some fencing, and the establishment of some basic visitor amenities at selected sites. Special species may require specific management actions. The project areas are a high-need management area which, because of their location, size and nature, will require a high level of attention to maintain and perpetuate their individual resources.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, the FWC will give management priority to natural resource inventory and planning. Sites will be surveyed for rare and endangered species and management plans will be prepared. In future years, management will concentrate on implementing the plans with emphasis on exotic species eradication and maintenance, trash and debris removal, and posting and fencing for security. Long-range management will focus on using the sites to build public awareness and support for natural areas protection in general, and for

## Florida Keys Ecosystem



## FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

### **MONROE COUNTY**

#### **Map 1**

- A. North Creek Hammocks Site
- B. Largo Sound Hammock Site
- C. Pennekamp North Hammock Site
- D. Newport Hammocks Site
- E. Point Charles Hammock Site

#### **Map 2**

- A. Key Largo Narrows Hammock Site
- B. Rodriguez Key Site
- C. Dove Creek Hammocks Site
- D. Tavernier Creek Hammocks Site
- E. Tavernier Key Site
- F. Islamorada / Plantation Key Site

#### **Map 3**

- A. Windley Key Site
- B. Wilson Key Site
- C. Cotton Key Site
- D. Islamorada / Upper Matecumbe Site
- E. Lower Matecumbe Hammock Site

#### **Map 4**

- A. North Layton Hammock Site
- B. Channel Key Site
- C. Tom's Harbor Keys Site
- D. Grassy Key Hammocks Site
- E. Marathon/Crawl Key Site

#### **Map 5**

- A. Marathon / Fat Deer Key Site
- B. Marathon / Vaca Key Site
- C. Boot Key Site

#### **Map 6**

- A. Big Torch Key Site
- B. Middle Torch Key Site
- C. Little Torch Key Site
- D. Ramrod Key Site
- E. Summerland Key Site
- F. Little Knockemdown Key Site

#### **Map 7**

- A. Budd Key Site
- B. Knockemdown Key Site
- C. Little Knockemdown Key Site
- D. Summerland Key Site
- E. Cudjoe Key Site
- F. Sugarloaf Key Site

#### **Map 8**

- A. Sugarloaf Key Site
- B. Cudjoe Key Site

#### **Map 9**

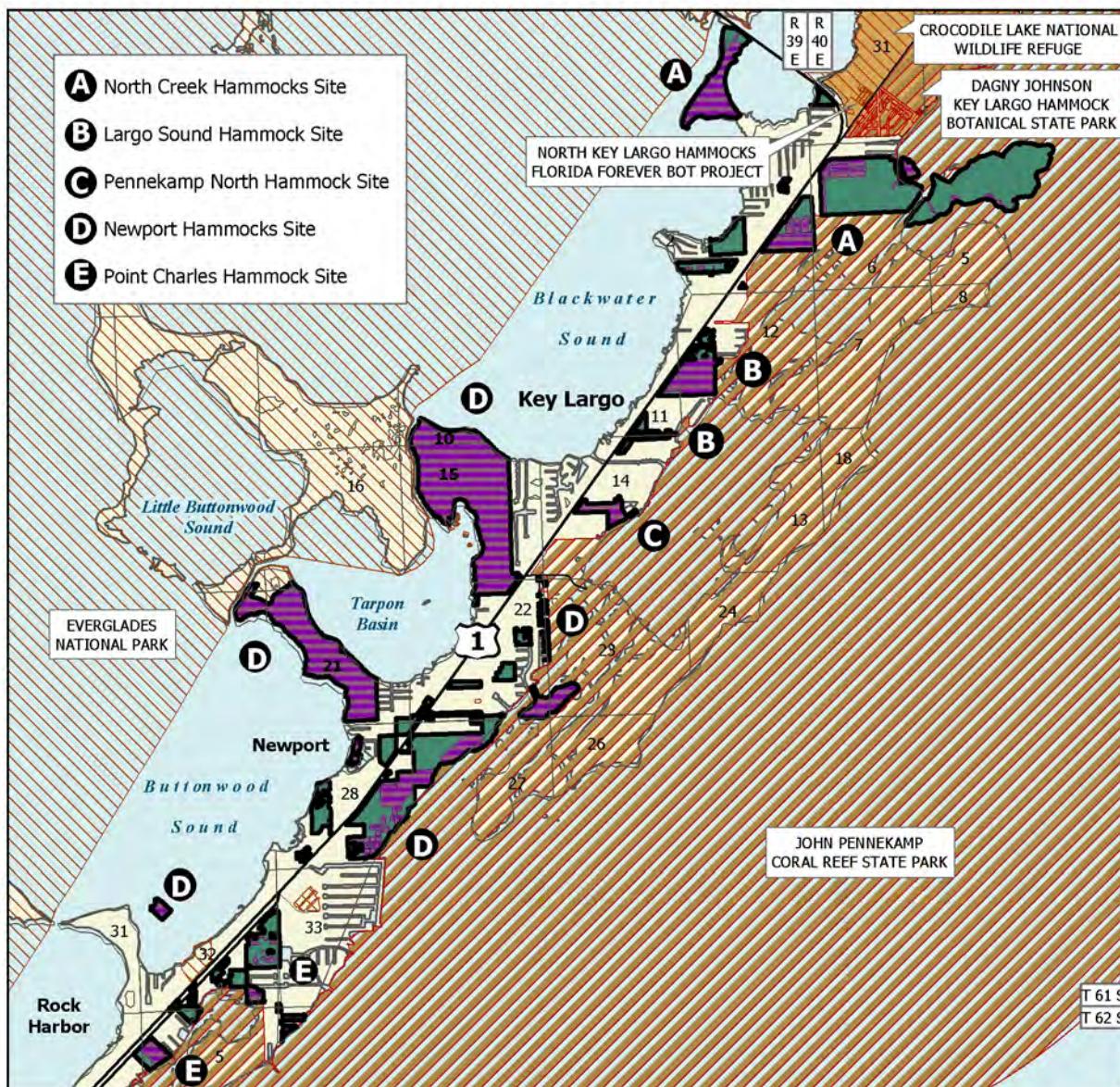
- A. Saddlebunch Keys Site
- B. Boca Chica Key Site

#### **Map 10**

- A. Great White Heron Keys Site

JANUARY 2009

## Florida Keys Ecosystem



**FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 1 OF 10**

### MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

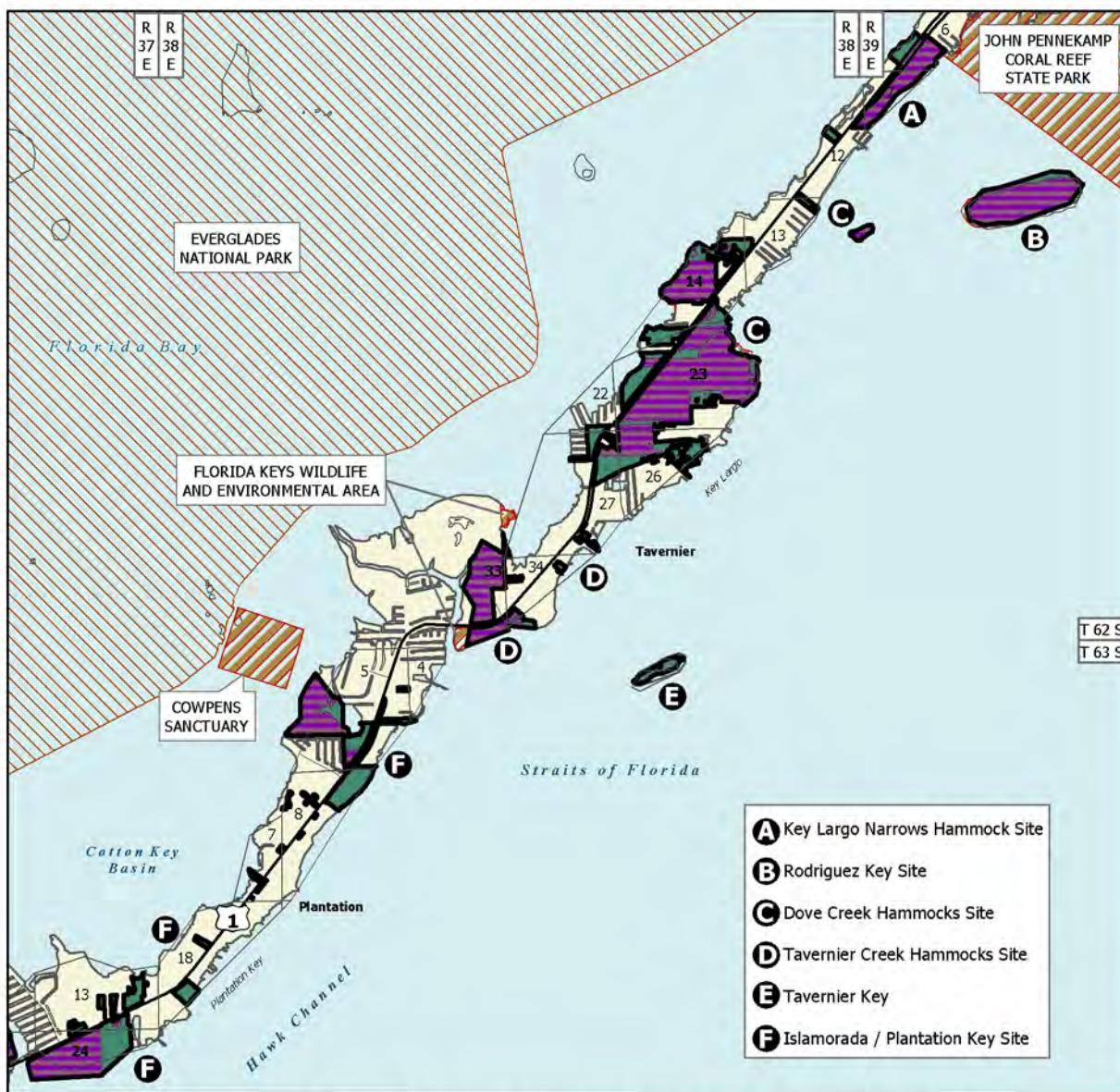


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JANUARY 2012

## Florida Keys Ecosystem



## FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 2 OF 10

### MONROE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands

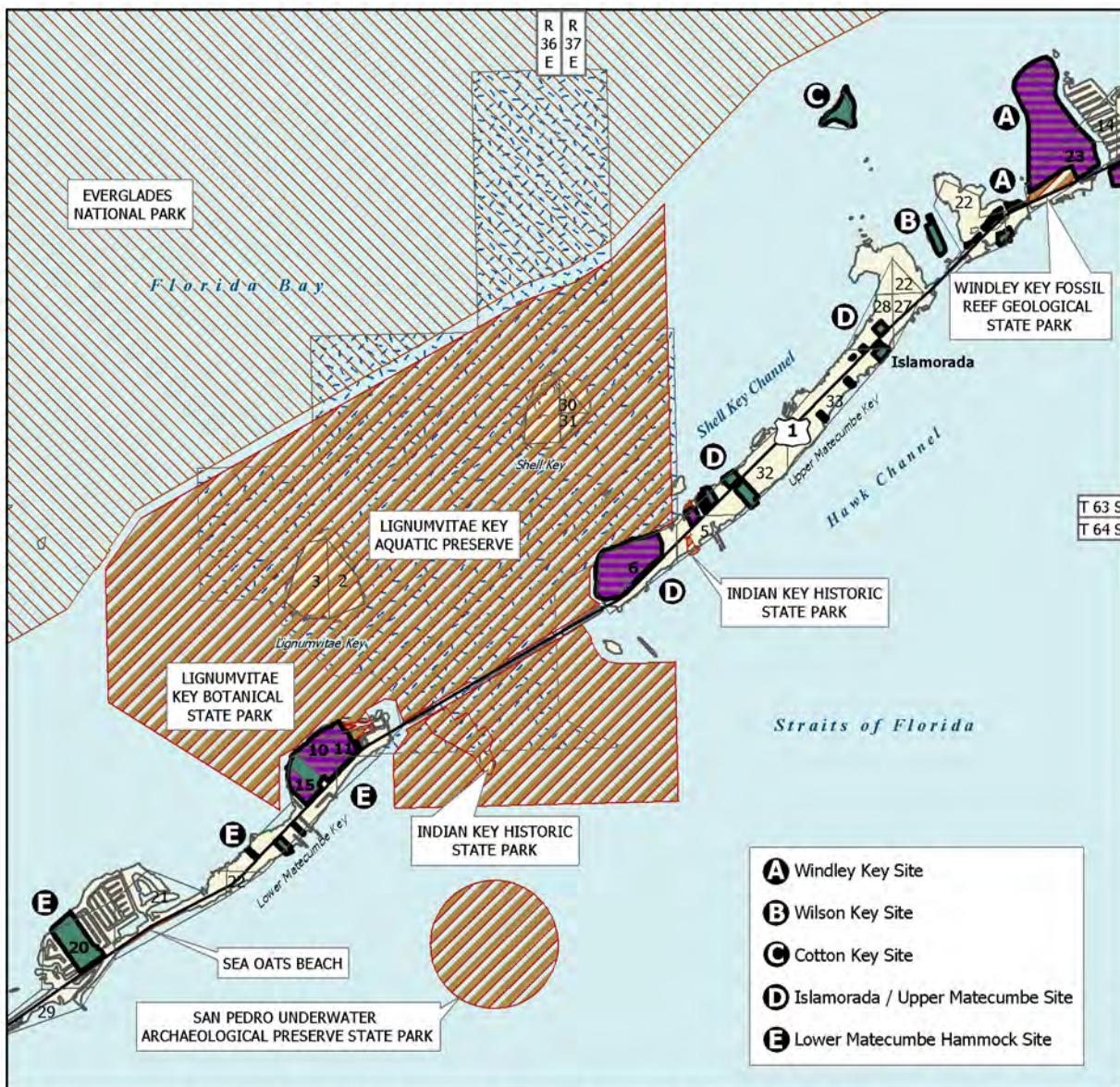


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JANUARY 2012

## Florida Keys Ecosystem



### FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 3 OF 10

#### **MONROE COUNTY**

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box with Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box with Dashed Lines] State Aquatic Preserve



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JANUARY 2012

## Florida Keys Ecosystem



## FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 4 OF 10

### MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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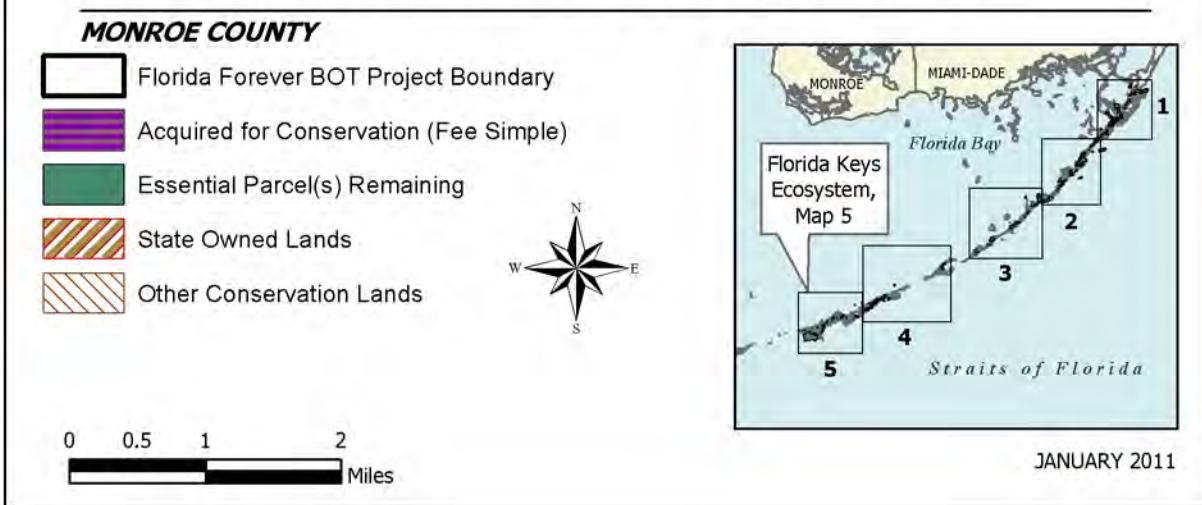


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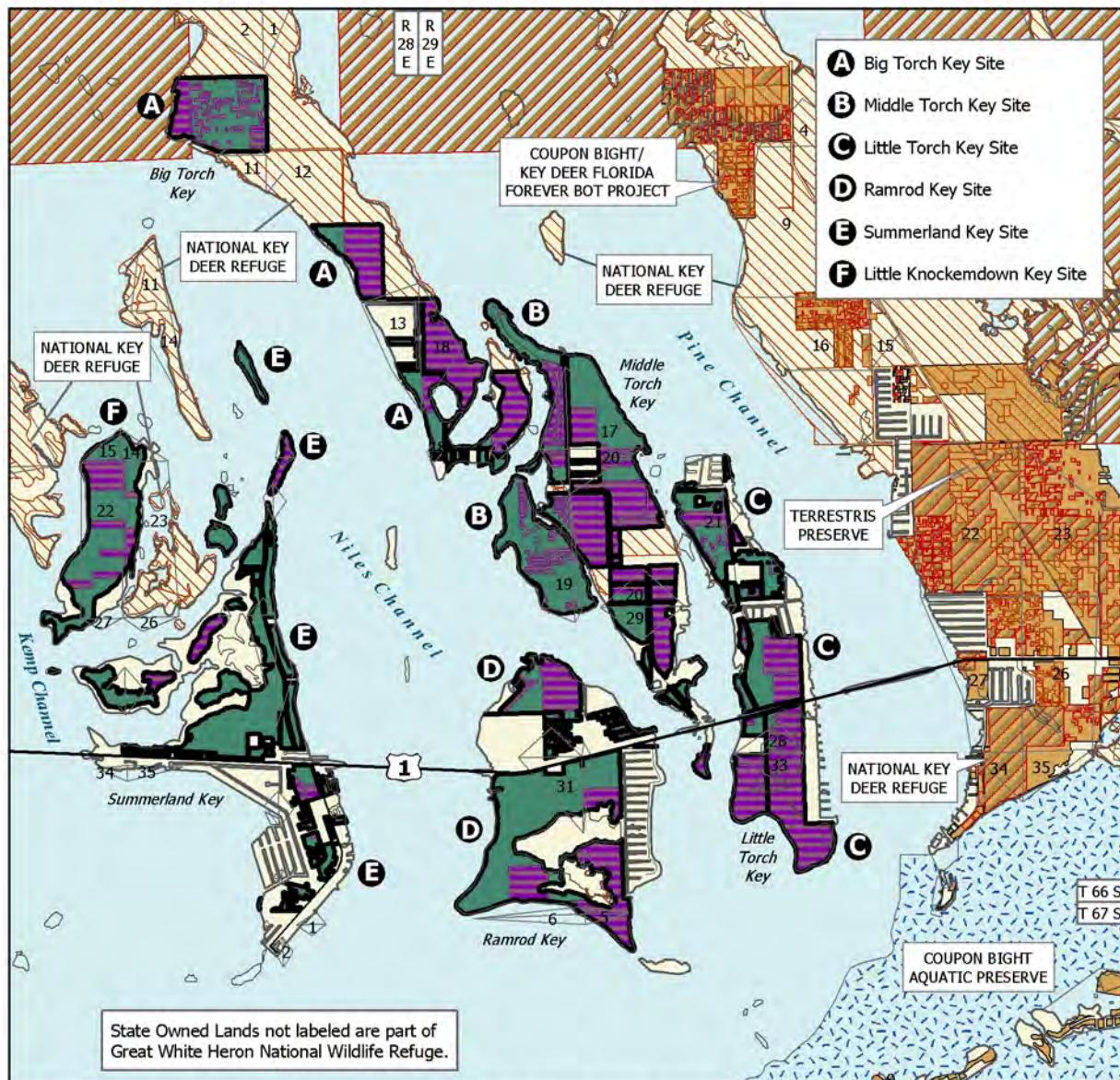
## Florida Keys Ecosystem



### FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 5 OF 10



## Florida Keys Ecosystem



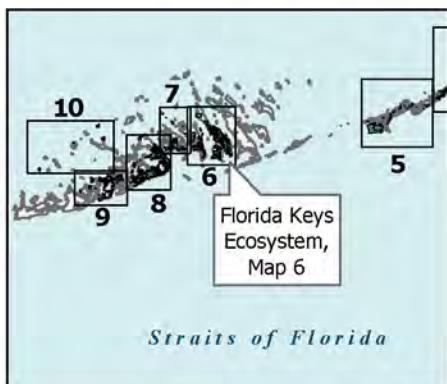
### FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 6 OF 10

#### MONROE COUNTY

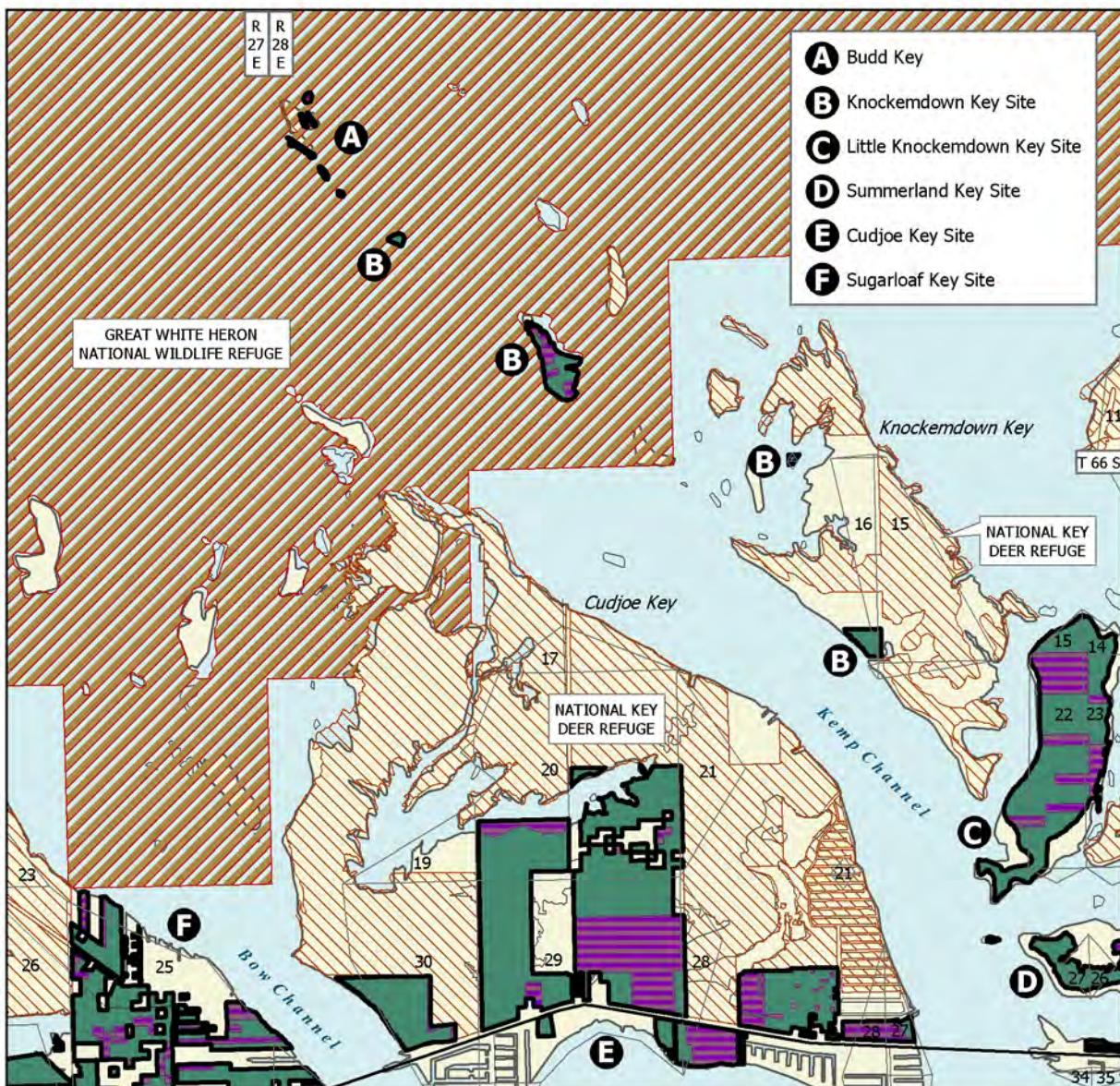
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves



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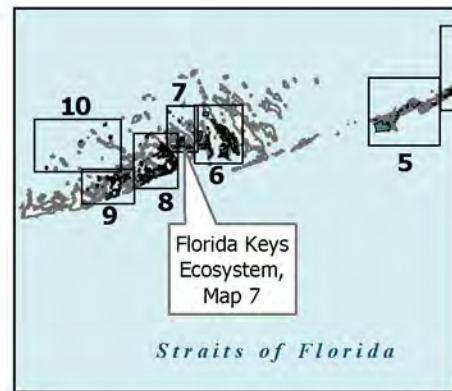
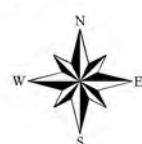
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### FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 7 OF 10

#### MONROE COUNTY

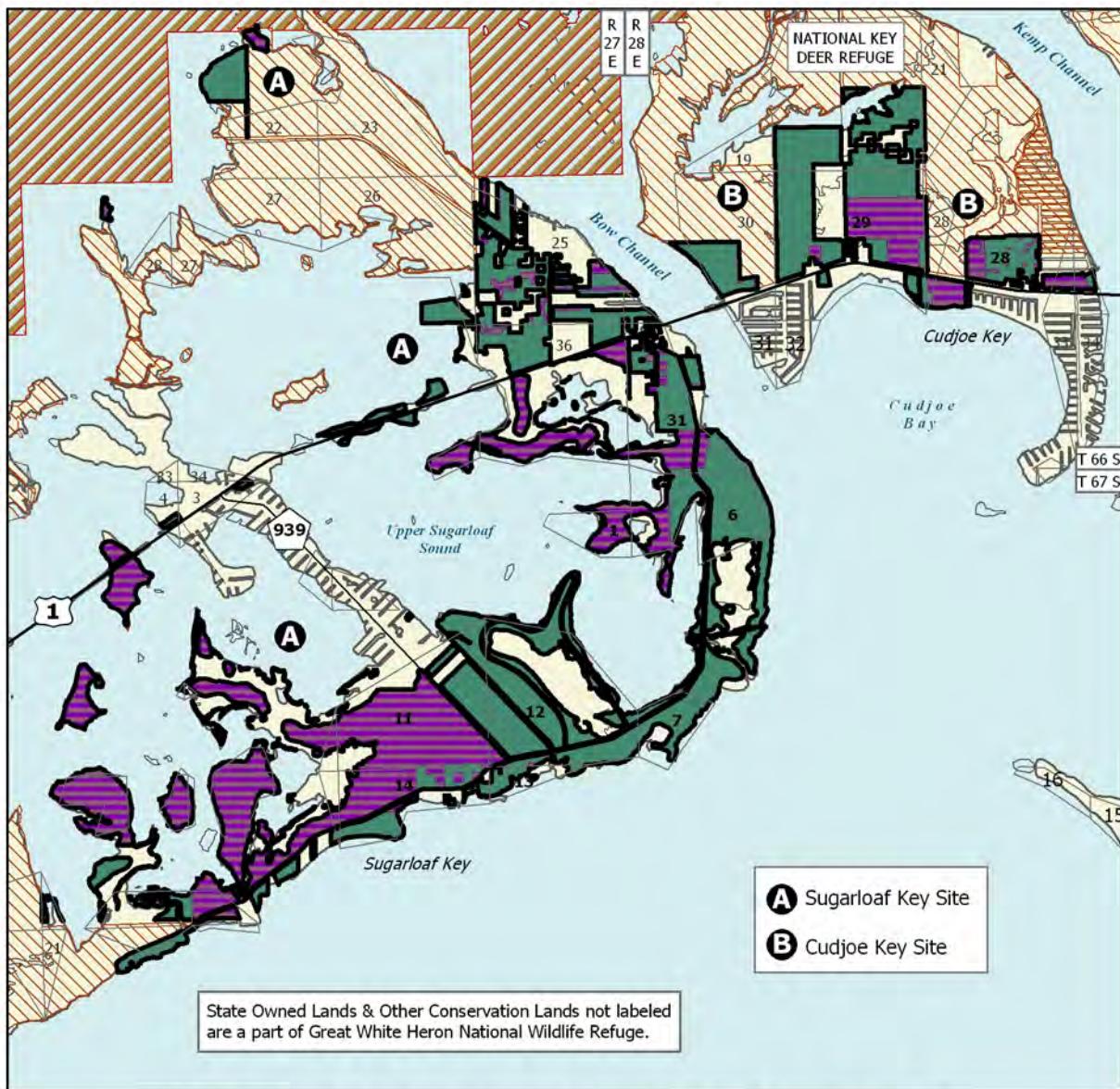
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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JANUARY 2012

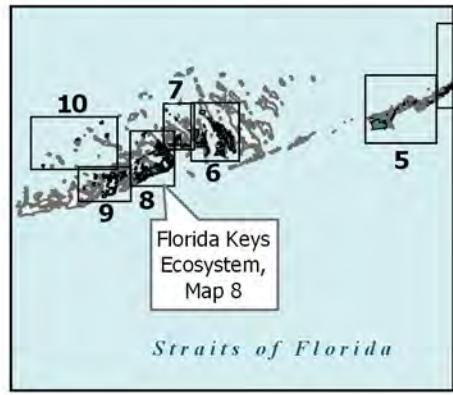
## Florida Keys Ecosystem



### FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 8 OF 10

#### MONROE COUNTY

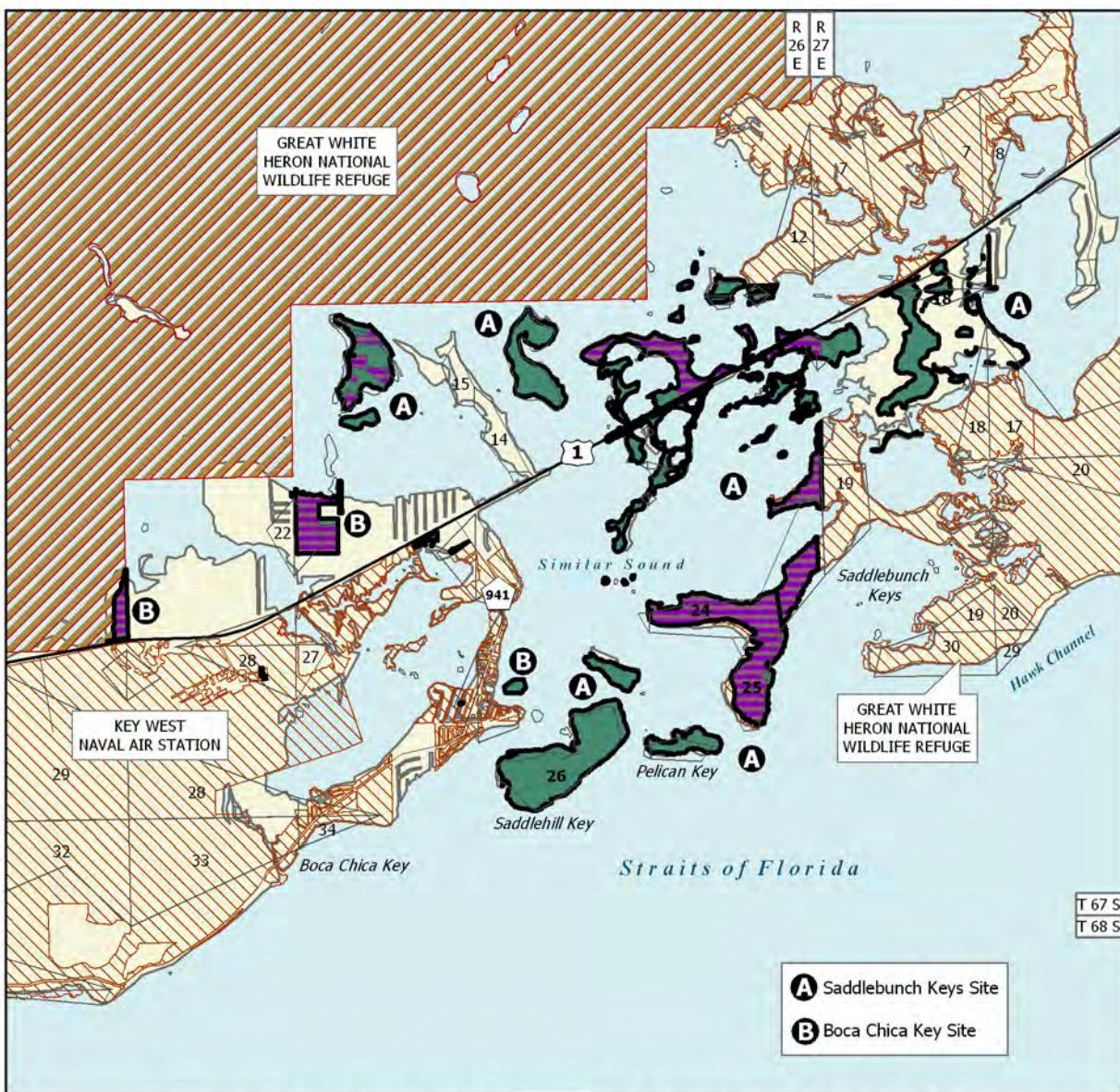
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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JANUARY 2009

## Florida Keys Ecosystem



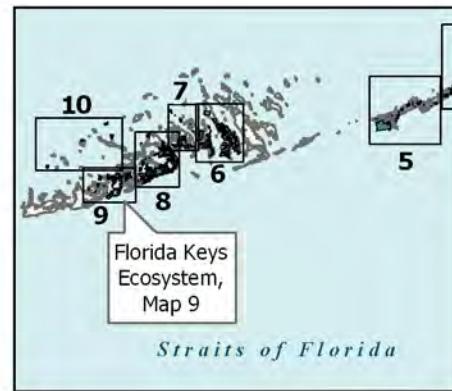
### FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 9 OF 10

#### MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

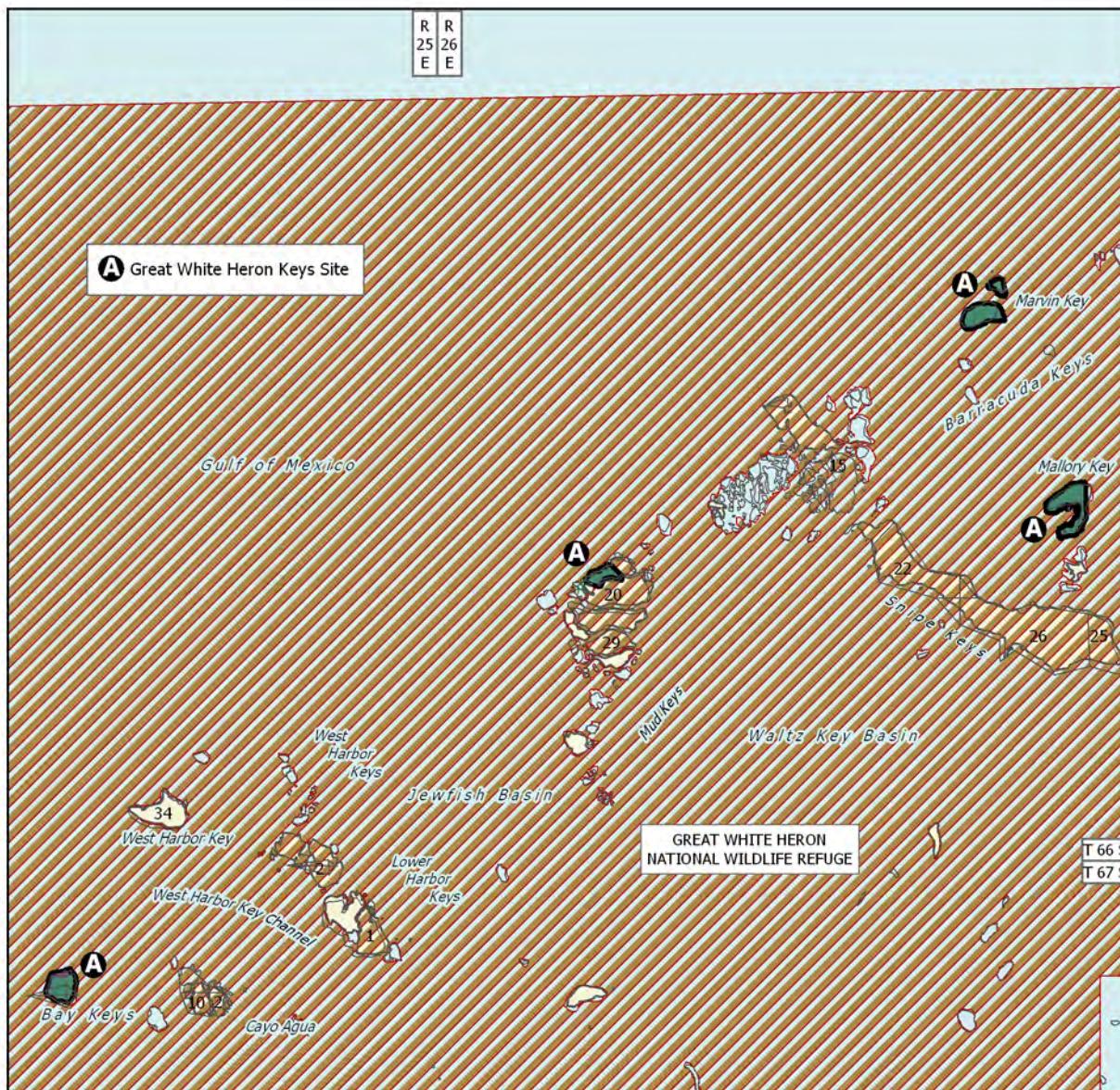


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JANUARY 2009

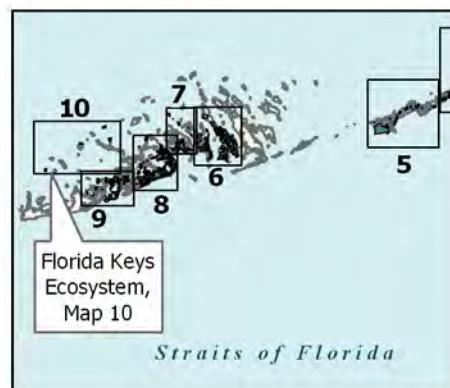
## Florida Keys Ecosystem



### FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 10 OF 10

#### MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands



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JANUARY 2009

tropical hardwood hammock preservation in particular. Most tracts will provide passive recreational activities for the general public. Longer range goals would include development of a detailed management plan focused on perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. An in-depth resource inventory would be carried out to identify and map all sensitive areas that warrant special consideration. Visitor amenities will be planned and constructed at appropriate sites within the project and public environmental-education programs will be developed. There will be no infrastructure development in natural areas; unnecessary roads will be abandoned or removed. Management activities of the DRP in the first year will include site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** Public use of sites managed by the FWC will be relatively low because no infrastructure will be provided. For the sites managed

by the DRP, no significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant level of public use facilities is developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWC will cooperate with and seek the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

*Updated 2/29/2012*

**Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL	Management Cost Summary/DRP	Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$85,000	\$85,000	Salary		\$22,167	\$285,000
OPS	\$17,500	\$9,000	OPS		\$24,560	\$10,000
Expense	\$45,000	\$35,000	Expense		\$10,000	\$95,000
OCO	\$75,000	\$15,000	OCO		\$61,978	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	FCO		\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$222,500</b>	<b>\$144,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$118,705</b>	<b>\$391,000</b>

**Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category Source of Funds	1996-97 CARL	1997-98 CARL	1998-99 CARL
Salary	\$0	\$10,950	\$85,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$17,500
Expense	\$0	\$8,010	\$45,000
OCO	\$0	\$2,838	\$75,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$21,798</b>	<b>\$222,500</b>

**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

Category Source of Funds	1996-97 SPTF/GDTF/ LATF/CARL	1997-98 SPTF/LATF/ GDTF/CARL	1998-99 SPTF/CARL
Salary	\$424,040	\$436,761	\$449,684
OPS	\$15,491	\$14,000	\$14,000
Expense	\$262,556	\$268,000	\$268,000
OCO	\$18,829	\$8,200	\$8,200
INT.MGT.	\$1,698	\$1,698	\$1,698
HOSP	\$13,561	13,561	\$13,561
FCO	\$1,081,952	\$1,332,319	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,818,127</b>	<b>\$2,074,539</b>	<b>\$755,323</b>

# Florida National Scenic Trail

Columbia County

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This is the first step in filling gaps in the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST), a congressionally designated national scenic trail stretching from the Big Cypress of south Florida to the Blackwater River of western Florida. It is one of only eight such trails in the nation. The trail primarily uses existing preservation lands, including 14 state parks. However, there are gaps in the trail and the acquisition of the parcels in this project will fill in the gap along the Suwannee River between Deep Creek Conservation Area and Big Shoals State Park.

Congress has appropriated funds to purchase 31 parcels to close the gaps in the FNST, comprising 17.3 map-miles of trail. The vision for the trail is that it will be 1,400 miles long upon completion, with a probable extension down into the Florida Keys. Initially the corridor was to be 20 miles wide, but that width was revised and narrowed in 2001; the preferred standard width is that it be not less than one quarter mile. The FNST route has been adopted as the State Hiking Trail by the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails in their trail acquisition prioritization maps, and the Office of Greenways and Trails is one of the sponsors of this proposal.

Recreation would include hiking, bicycling, and picnicking. The property includes a house that could be used for a residence or maintenance area in connection to managing the property.

The Bell Springs parcel meets Florida Forever goals of increasing Florida biodiversity at the species level by conserving black bear habitat and potential habitat for the eastern indigo snake, acquiring highest priority conservation areas, conserving landscape linkages and conservation corridors, increasing the amount of publicly-owned land undergoing restoration,

increasing the number of acres that protect surface waters, increasing the acreage for aquifer recharge, and increasing the miles of trails available for public recreation.

### Manager

Several possible managers existed for FNST sites: the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) expressed an interest in being land manager for the Bell Springs site due to the proximity to Big Shoals State Park. However, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) acquired the Bell Spring, Morrell, and the adjacent Bishop Trust riverfront property and they are managing those properties. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) were also identified as possible managers in the initial application.

### General Description

Congress has appropriated funds to purchase 31 parcels to close the gaps in the FNST, comprising 17.3 map-miles of trail. The vision for the trail is that it will be 1,400 miles long upon completion, with a probable extension down into the Florida Keys. Initially the corridor was to be 20 miles wide, but that width was revised and narrowed in 2001; the preferred standard width is that it not be less than one-quarter mile. The project is uplands on a point about 40 feet above the Suwannee River, about a third of which are in natural condition, consisting of approximately 32 percent upland mixed forest and two percent being the open

Florida National Scenic Trail FNAI Elements	
Timber Rattlesnake	G4/S3
1 rare species is associated with the project	

Placed on List	2006
Project Area (GIS Acres)	81
Acres Acquired (GIS)	74*
At a Cost of	\$1,335,000*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	7
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of	\$9,135

\*includes acreage acquired, and funds spent, by SRWMD

water of Bell Springs. Most of the upland mixed forest community is disturbed, i.e., open ground with bahiagrass between tree canopies. The area now in pine plantation also appears to have originally been upland mixed forest or possibly upland pine forest. An examination of historic aerial photographs dating back to 1937 shows that, with the exception of two small wooded areas on either side of the lower spring pool, the entire property has been cleared at one time or another.

Bell Spring is a third magnitude spring discharging approximately 350 gallons per minute. The discharge is coming from the surficial aquifer system within the Hawthorn Group sediments. The spring and possibly additional seeps form a small creek that discharges to the Suwannee River. The upper portion of this creek is dammed at three points. The spring vent can be seen on the sandy bottom upstream of the second dam on the east side of the contained pool of water. A slight boil is visible on the surface of the water several feet west of the vent. The pool below the spring pool is deeper with a copious growth of algae. Below the third dam, the spring and possibly additional seeps form a small creek that flows along its natural course and discharges to the Suwannee River.

The dammed portions of the creek are surrounded by a disturbed upland mixed forest. Canopy trees include green ash, hackberry, pignut hickory, sweetgum, and swamp laurel oak. The understory is mostly native, consisting of small trees and shrubs, such as sparkleberry, wax myrtle, hawthorn, and beautyberry. Around the pools, a few non-native plants such as pinecone ginger and English ivy are occasional.

The most natural area of upland mixed forest is to the east of the lower spring pool. Live oaks form a more or less closed canopy over a moderately dense xeric understory of sparkleberry, sassafras, gum bully, hog plum, American olive, sand holly, and American holly. This forest extends along the northern edge of the property where it is much more disturbed and weedy.

Much of the land near the house is cleared and has been farmed and/or grazed for decades. In the cleared area around the main house on the property, canopy trees typical of upland hardwood forest are scattered over a lawn of bahiagrass and other weeds. Ornamental shrubs and trees have been planted around the house and small buildings just to the north.

### **Public Use**

The site is too small to be considered for significant resource management and recreational opportunities. The presence of a third magnitude spring and its associated spring run does offer aesthetic values and low impact recreation to users such as hikers or paddlers.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/8/2006 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the FNST/Bell Springs project to the Group A of the Florida Forever priority list. The original project design had the Bell Springs/Morrell property, consisting of 45.6 acres (per proposal; 45.2 acres according to the Arc View-based boundary used in this analysis), on the south side of the Suwannee River in west-central Columbia County. At the 12/8/2006 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), five more ownerships were added as essential parcels, thus including river frontage from Deep Creek to Big Shoals. The tax assessed value for the Bell Springs tract and the additions is approximately \$182,691.

In 4/2007, the SRWMD acquired the Bell Springs/Morrell tract (45.72 acres) and the White tract (8.35 acres) for, respectively, \$785,000 and \$310,000.

On 12/8/08, DRP purchased 21.63 acres for \$240,000 from P. Smith to add to the Big Shoals State Park.

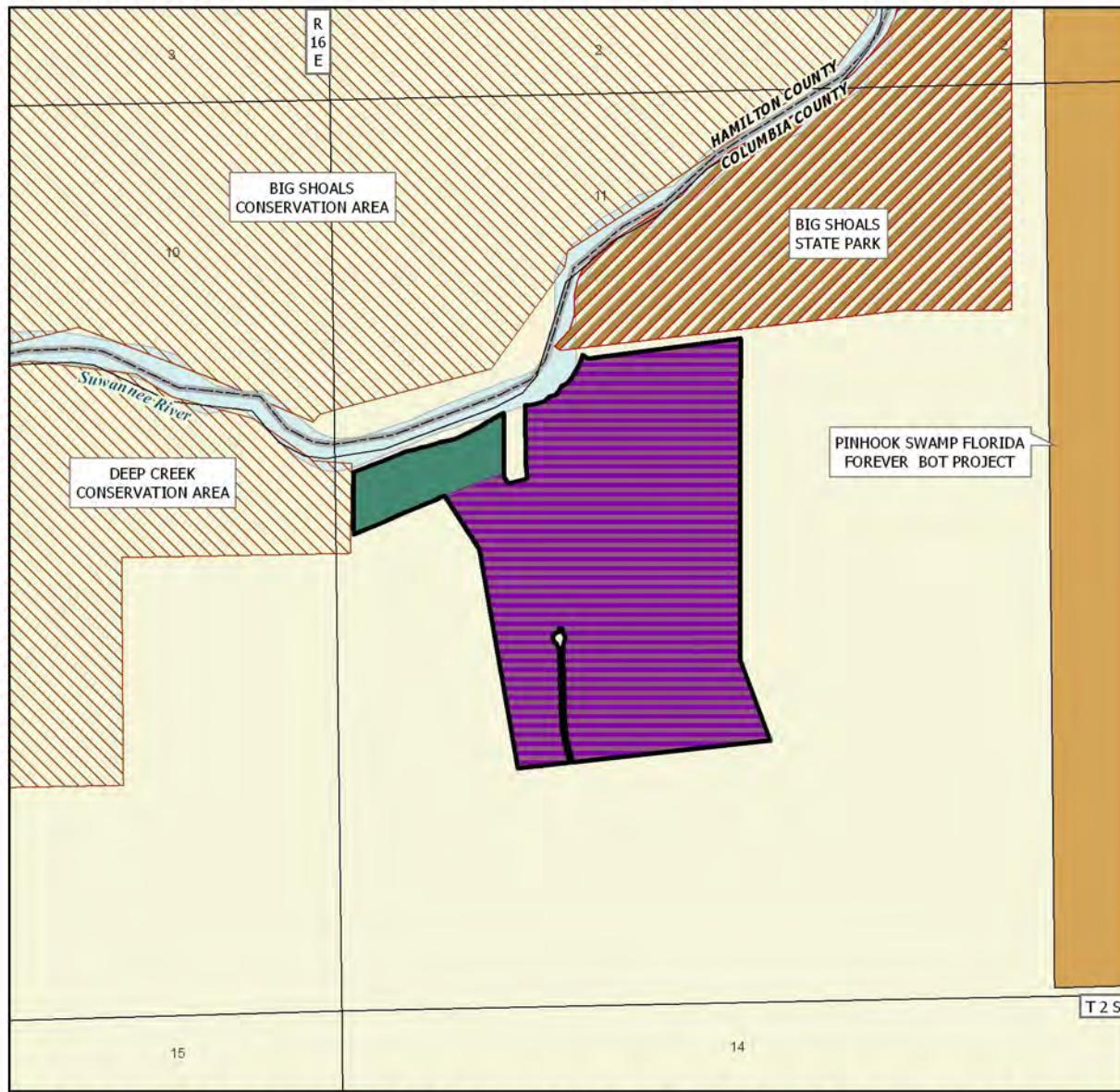
### **Coordination**

The Suwannee River Water Management District has recently begun taking the due diligence steps needed to pursue acquisition of this site and adjacent properties adjacent to the spring run. Both the Morell property and the adjacent Bishop Trust riverfront land are currently under appraisal and are listed as priority projects for acquisition in the WMD 5 year plan. The other properties within the outline of the Resource Planning Boundary as provided by FNAI would be pursued using FDEP Florida Forever funding. These enhance the route for the Florida National Scenic Trail by providing riverfront access, in addition to protecting the third magnitude spring and spring run.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals for management of the Bell Spring property are: to conserve and protect spring resources of the State of Florida; to provide connection between public lands for wildlife and resource-based recreation,

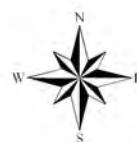
## Florida National Scenic Trail



### FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL - BELL SPRINGS

#### COLUMBIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



APRIL 2009

through the establishment of a component of the Florida National Scenic Trail; and to enhance park management.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The DRP proposes that it be considered as the manager of the Bell Springs property if it is acquired in full fee title. The property and surrounding property will connect the Deep Creek Conservation Area with the Big Shoals State Park on the Columbia County side of the Suwannee River. The project area has a small spring and spring run extending to the Suwannee River. The main parcel has a house and supporting buildings.

This project area is desirable for its potential to (1) preserve the spring and restore its spring run, and provide a connecting section between existing public lands for the Florida National Scenic Trail. The house and support structures are desirable for park residence and management purposes.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Portions of the project are in planted pine that will require rehabilitation over time to provide for a natural landscape. The spring run has been impounded and will over time be restructured to bring back as much as possible a more natural spring run condition. If acquisition efforts are successful and a trail connection through the project area is established, public use of the trail will result in at least a nominal increase in the intensity of management and potentially related costs.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the DRP, the acquired lands will be secured and management planning implemented. Resource inventories and

analysis will be performed to determine objectives for restoration and public use. The house on the main parcel and supporting structures will be used for park residence and management purposes. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property and funding for positions and infrastructure.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated by the project area.

**Cooperators in management activities** No cooperators are recommended for management of the project area. The DRP will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1 OPS)</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>11,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b><u>10,000</u></b>
	<b>\$49,000</b>

*Updated 3/1/2012*

# Florida Springs Coastal Greenway

Citrus County

Climate Change Lands

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The ragged coastline of Citrus County, with its salt marshes, clear spring runs, hammocks, and flatwoods, is being affected by the encroaching development in this part of the state. The Florida Springs Coastal Greenway project will conserve the natural landscape of this coast, protecting the water quality of the spring runs and estuaries where endangered manatees congregate, preserving natural lands that link with conservation lands to the south, and providing scenic areas in which the public can enjoy fishing, hiking, or learning about the natural world of this coast.

## Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Crystal River and St. Martins River); Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) (Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property); and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) managing the northern part of the project, adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway.

## General Description

The project is a major link in efforts to preserve the northern peninsular Gulf Coast. It includes three tracts along the karst coastline of Citrus County. The Crystal River tract, a significant part of the headwaters of the Crystal River, is a crucial habitat for the Gulf Coast

manatee population; it is also a prime nesting location for bald eagles and ospreys. Natural communities within the tract include floodplain marsh, freshwater tidal swamp, tidal marsh, and upland hammock. It also contains some pine plantations. The St. Martins River tract is predominantly hydric hammock, bottomland forest, salt marsh, mangrove islands, and spring-run streams, all in good to excellent condition. It borders the St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve. Though much of its timber has been harvested, and a quarter is pasture, the Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property is important as a corridor between Chassahowitzka Water Management District and Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge and the conservation lands to the north. The archaeological significance of this area is high. Citrus County is one of the fastest growing in the state, and residential development is a serious threat to this project. Development will increase boat traffic, which is the greatest current threat to the manatee population.

## Public Use

The project will be managed as buffer preserves and a state forest, providing such recreational opportunities as fishing, canoeing, hiking and camping.

## Acquisition Planning

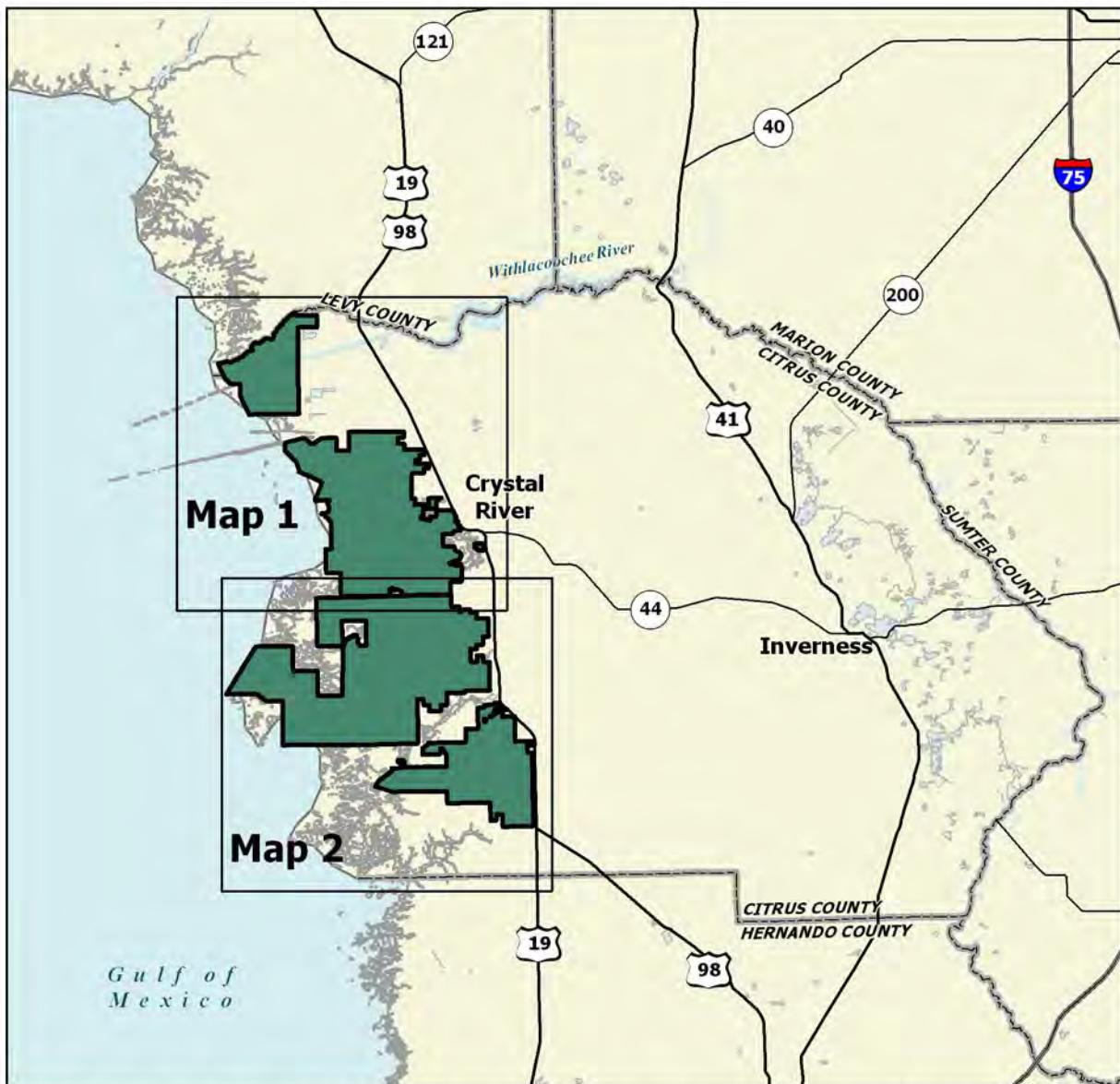
On 11/19/1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) amended Crystal River to add three tracts that include Three Sister Springs (56 acres). On that date LAAC also combined three CARL projects (Crystal River, St. Martins, and Homosassa Reserve) and renamed the project Florida Springs Coastal Greenway. The project breakdown is as follows:

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1995*</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>43,956*</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>34,026**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$50,869,573**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>9,930</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$5,855,164</b>	
* Crystal River, St. Martins and Homosassa Reserve projects combined in 1995.	
** Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SWFWMD	

<b>Florida Springs Coastal Greenway</b>	
FNAI Elements	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Green Turtle	G3/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Hawksbill	G3/S1
<i>Tampa Vervain</i>	G2/S2
Florida Olive Hairstreak	G5T2/S3
<i>Coastal Vervain</i>	G3/S3

30 rare species are associated with the project

## Florida Springs Coastal Greenway



### FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

#### CITRUS COUNTY



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JANUARY 2008

## **Florida Springs Coastal Greenway**

Crystal River (~14,758 acres) Phase I: Crystal River II; Phase II: Crystal Cove—major owner is Burnip and Sims (acquired); Phase III: Crystal River State Reserve—major owner is Hollins (acquired). St. Martins (~14,040 acres) Phase I: Large ownerships within Area I as identified in Project Design; Phase II: Other ownerships within Area I and large ownerships within Area II; Phase III: Other ownerships within Area II; and Phase IV: ownerships in Area III. Major tracts have been acquired. Only smaller strategic tracts and offshore islands remain.

Homosassa Reserve (~8,577 acres) Phase I: Rooks tract (acquired); the Walker tract (acquired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District) and other ownerships except in Sections 28, 33, 34 and 7; Phase II: minor ownerships in Sections 28 and 33, the 160-acre Villa Sites Add. to Homosassa Sub in Section 34, also the 134-acre Johnson parcel in Section 7. All large and strategic ownerships with willing sellers have been acquired with the exception of the Black ownership, an unwilling seller. This portion of the project is, in effect, complete.

On 3/10/1995, the Land Acquisition & Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 424-acre addition (in former Crystal River project) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowners, James C & Alice H. Rhoades, and had a 1994 taxable value of \$821,700. On 10/30/1995, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 200-acre addition (in former Crystal River project) to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by landowner Corneal B Myers, consisted of one parcel and a 1994 taxable value of \$400,000.

On 10/30/1996, the LAMAC transferred this project to the Substantially Complete Category.

On 3/14/1997, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 80-acre addition (in former Crystal River project) to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by landowner Dixie Hollins, consisted of one parcel and a 1996 taxable value of \$64,000.

On 10/15/1998, the LAMAC designated an additional 156 acres as essential. Previous essential parcels included land acquired as of January 26, 1995, and the Black ownership (in the former Homosassa Reserve project).

On 4/6/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) adopted a Group A and Group B for the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list and moved this project to Group B.

On 12/5/2003, the ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 FF Priority list.

On 2/6/2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 142-acre addition (in former Homosassa Reserve project) to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Audubon Society and DEPs CAMA and DRP, consisted of two landowners (Hampton Facilities LTD & Barr), 2 parcels, and a 2003 taxable value of \$524,000.

On 9/30/2011 NCDC, LLC donated 25.82 acres (Old Greiner Parcel-valued at \$146,285) to be managed by DRP.

### **Coordination**

Although this project does not have any 50-percent partners at this time, the Southwest Florida Water Management District has acquired a major ownership within the project, as well as tracts adjacent and south of the project area.

### **Management Policy Statement**

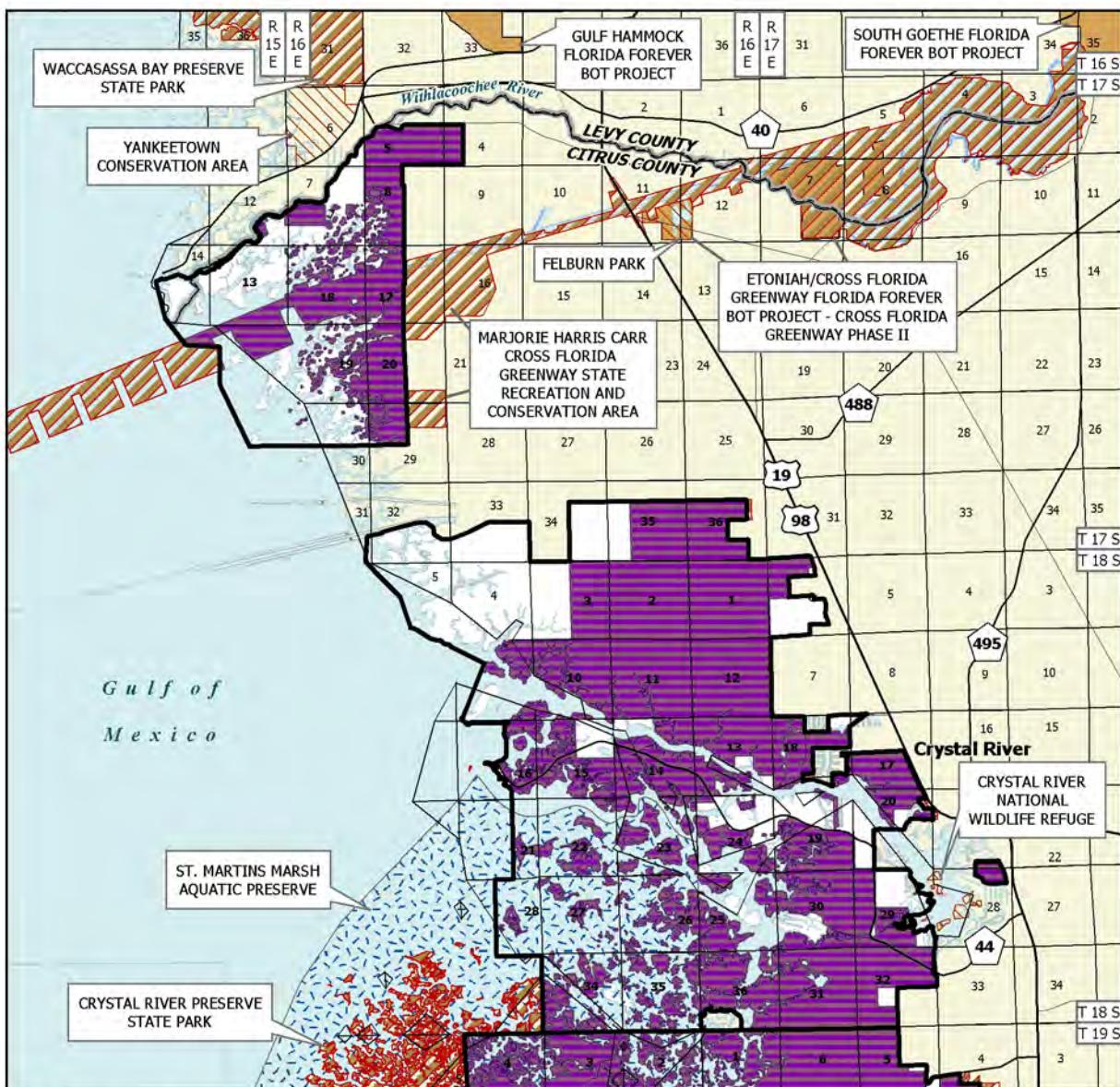
The primary goals of management of the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests; to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The proximity of the Crystal River and St. Martins River tracts of the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Project to the St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve and its major freshwater sources qualifies them as a state buffer preserve. The size and restorable forest resources of the Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property tract make it suitable for a state forest.

**Manager** DRP is recommended as the lead manager for the Crystal River and St. Martins River tracts. The FFS will manage the Homosassa Reserve tract.

## Florida Springs Coastal Greenway



### FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 1 OF 2

#### CITRUS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

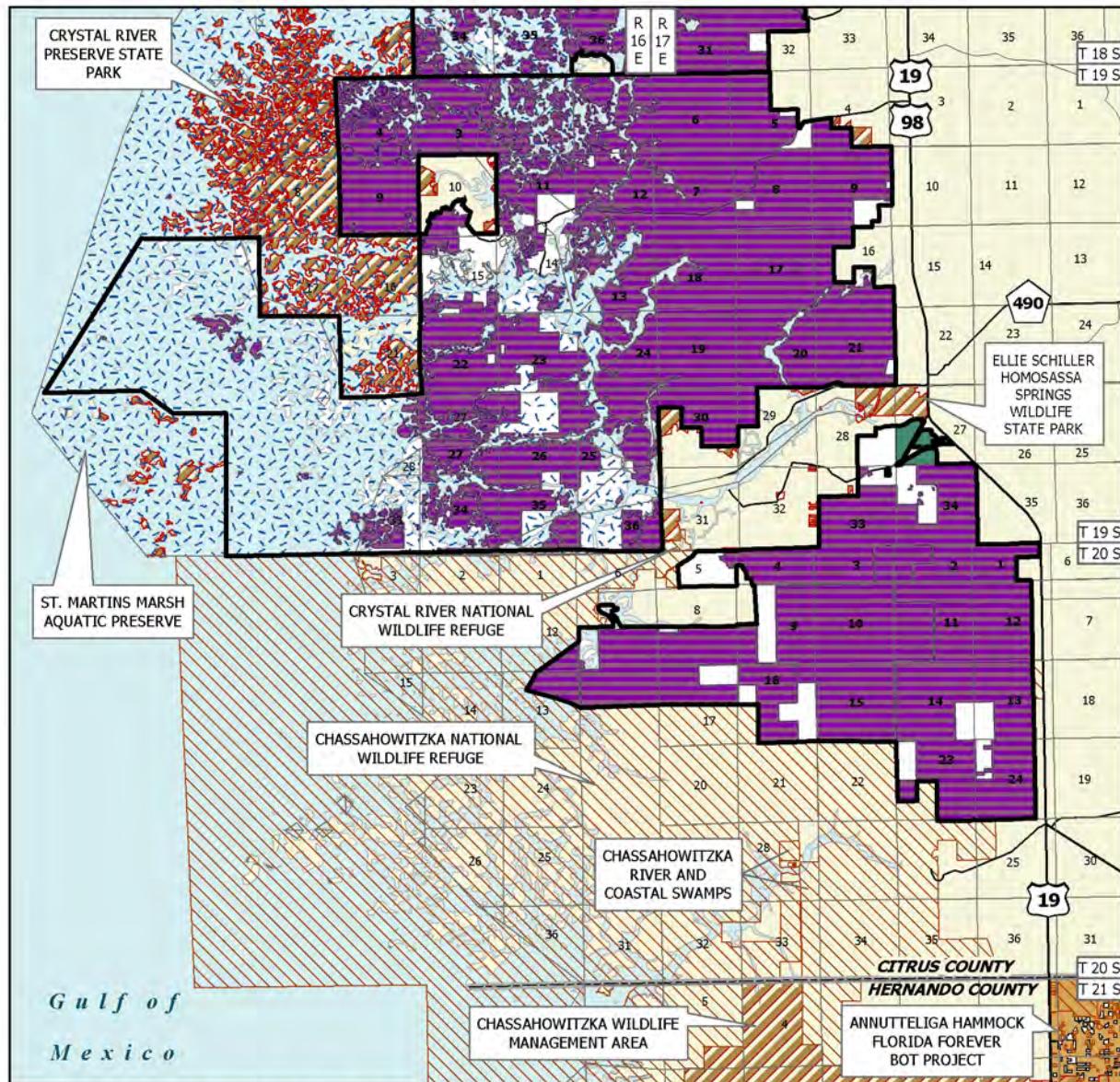


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OCTOBER 2010

## Florida Springs Coastal Greenway

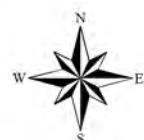


### FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 2 OF 2

#### CITRUS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

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APRIL 2012

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Portions of the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway include lands that would be considered “low-need” tracts requiring basic resource management and protection. However, increasing public pressure for recreational access and a developing ecotourism industry may push portions of this project into the “moderate to high-need” category.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, management will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and exotic removal. DRP and FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project’s natural resources will be inventoried and a management plan developed within one year.

Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed at the perpetuation of natural communities and protection of listed species. An all-season burning program will use existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks to contain fires. Areas of silviculture in the Crystal River project will be returned to their original character and species composition. About 25% of the Homosassa Reserve tract contains pasture suitable for reforestation and restoration. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas and to locate any recreational or administrative facilities. Unnecessary roads, fire lines, and hydrological disturbances will be restored to the greatest extent practical. Infrastructure will be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum needed for public access

and management.

**Revenue-generating potential** Initially, no revenue is expected to be generated. During restoration of pine plantations, some revenue to offset the cost of management may be generated from the sale of timber. Any estimate of revenue from this harvest depends upon a detailed assessment of the value of the timber. As the recreational component develops and additional staff is assigned, there may be a potential for revenue from this source. No potential revenue estimates are available at this time. On the Homosassa Reserve, the FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this tract is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended as a cooperating manager for hunts to eliminate feral hogs and to manage certain species. Because of the proximity of certain parcels to the Cross Florida Greenway and the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, the Office of Greenways and Trails and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be cooperative managers on parts of the project. Citrus County and the City of Crystal River may also cooperate in management. The FFS will also cooperate with other state agencies, local governments and interested parties as appropriate. The FFS is managing the Homosassa Reserve tract as an addition to the Withlacoochee State Forest.

*Updated 2/29/2012*

**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL/LATF	CARL/LATF	CARL/LATF
Salary	\$161,909	\$166,767	\$171,770
OPS	\$ 61,031	\$ 98,300	\$152,136
Expense	\$103,062	\$ 90,000	\$139,290
OCO	\$ 9,579	\$ 40,000	\$ 61,907
FCO	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$335,581</b>	<b>\$395,067</b>	<b>\$525,103</b>

# Florida's First Magnitude Springs

Walton, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Wakulla, Leon, Hamilton, Madison, Suwannee, Lafayette, Levy, Marion and Hernando Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Large springs of clear, continuously flowing water are among Florida's most famous and important natural and recreational resources. The cavernous, water-filled rocks of the Floridan Aquifer supply the largest springs. By preserving land around springs, this project will aid in the protection of springs, karst windows, and the Floridan Aquifer from the effects of commercial, residential, and agricultural runoff; clearcutting and mining; and unsupervised recreation. This project will ensure that Floridians and visitors from all over the world will be able to enjoy Florida springs for years to come.

### Managers

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (Weeki Wachee Springs excluding the springhead, which is part of the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area); Jackson County (Jackson Blue Springs); U.S. Forest Service (River Sink Springs); Division of Recreation & Parks (DRP) (St. Marks, Fannin, Troy, Gainer Springs, & Madison County Blue Springs); Walton County (Morrison Springs); Leon County (Church Sink); Marion County (Silver Springs); Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service/FFS (formerly Division of Forestry/DOF) (Hardee Springs); Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) (Fanning Springs); Northwest Florida Water Management

District (NFWFMD) (Gainer Springs); Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) (Fannin Springs, Falmouth Springs); and Lafayette County (Lafayette Blue Springs).

### General Description

Because of the thick, water-filled limestone underlying it, Florida has more large springs (including river rises and karst windows) than any other state or even country. Those discharging an average of 100 cubic feet of water per second or more are called first-magnitude springs. The 33 recognized springs in Florida are scattered in the northern peninsula and the eastern panhandle where the limestones of the Floridan Aquifer arch close to the surface. Each day, these 33 springs send out much more water than is used for drinking water by all the people in the state. The springs, with generally clear, continuously flowing waters, are among Florida's most important natural resources and some are famous tourist attractions. The tracts harbor at least seven FNAI-listed plants and eighteen FNAI-listed animals. The Weeki Wachee tract includes one of the best remaining scrubs on Florida's West Coast. Several archaeological or historic sites are known from these springs, from remains over 2000 years old to an historic Sinclair gas station. All these springs are vulnerable to development and unsupervised use.

### Public Use

The project sites are designated for use as state parks,

Florida's First Magnitude Springs FNAI Elements	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Marianna Columbine</i>	G5T1Q/S1
Withlacoochee Tiny Sand-loving Scarab	G1/S1
Woodville Karst Cave Crayfish	G1/S1
Coastal Lowland Cave Crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Gulf Moccasinshell	G2/S1
Oval Pigtoe	G2/S1S2
<i>Ashe's Magnolia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Sand Butterfly Pea</i>	G2Q/S2

43 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1991
Project Area (Acres)	14,175
Acres Acquired (GIS)	8,404*
at a Cost of	\$104,192,527*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	5,771

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$13,133,020

\* Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SRWMD and a 130-acre donation on the Weeki Wachee Springs site.

## **Florida's First Magnitude Springs**

geological sites and wildlife and environmental areas, with high recreational potential for swimming, canoeing, camping and nature appreciation.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/7/1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Florida's First Magnitude Springs – Phase I project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Regulations, consisted of approximately 2,907 acres, 36 landowners, 136 parcels, and a taxable value (tav) of \$5,718,493. In 1990, five springs make up the project: Falmouth Spring (Suwannee County, 75 acres, 1 parcel, 1 landowner, tav \$45,000), Fannin Springs (Levy County, 525 acres, 98 parcels, 17 landowners, tav \$1,187,610), Gainer Springs (Bay County, 1,258 acres, 19 parcels, 7 landowners, tav \$3,256,739), River Sink Spring (Wakulla County, 105 acres, 4 parcels, 4 landowners, tav \$64,956), and St. Marks Springs (Leon County, 890 acres, 19 parcels, 6 landowners, tav \$1,164,188). According to the 1990 Project Design document, the DRP will manage St. Marks Springs. The US Forest Service will manage River Sink Spring. The OGT, DRP, and SRWMD will manage Fannin Springs. A lead manager has not been determined for Falmouth Springs. The lead manager is still unclear for Gainer Springs; however, the NFWFMD and Bay County both expressed interest. A portion of the Fannin Springs sites have been acquired. The NFWFMD has acquired 214 acres of the Gainer Springs sites.

On 6/28/1991, the LAAC approved a 218-acre addition to the Falmouth Springs site, located in Suwannee County, within the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Nemours Foundation, who already has acreage within the current boundary and is not willing to sell only a portion of the tract. The taxable value of the addition is \$129,600. SRWMD will manage if acquired.

On 12/10/1992, the LAAC approved Phase II that added three springs, 1,880 acres with a taxable value of \$5,180,452. This addition consisted of Jackson Blue Springs (Jackson County, 348 acres, 3 parcels, 2 landowners, tav \$256,556); Troy Spring (Lafayette County, 265 acres, 6 parcels, 2 landowners, tav \$261,897); and Weeki Wachee Springs (Hernando County, 1,267 acres, 59 parcels, 24 landowners, tav \$4,661,999). The FWC will manage the Weeki Wachee Springs sites. The DRP will manage the Troy Spring site. Jackson County will manage the Jackson Blue

Springs sites. Portions of Troy Spring, Weeki Wachee Springs, & Jackson Blue Springs sites have been acquired. On December 10, 1992, the LAAC also approved a fee-simple, 1,635-acre addition (Gainer Springs Expansion) and combined it with the Gainer Springs site. The majority of the addition is owned by Hunt Petroleum/Rosewood Timber Co. and St. Joe Paper. There are also several small ownerships. The estimated taxable value is \$3,000,000. Phase I was combined with the new Florida's First Magnitude Springs Phase II. The springs are located in Bay & Washington counties. The NFWFMD will manage the 214-acre Harder tract that it acquired.

On 10/30/1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 20-acre addition (Jackson Blue Springs) to the project boundary in Jackson County. It was sponsored by the two landowners, Carolyn D. Huff and Wayne Mixon, located along Spring Run of Merritts Mill Pond in Jackson County, and has a taxable value of \$258,790. Jackson County will manage. Both properties were acquired in 1997.

On 12/3/1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) transferred the St. Marks Springs, River Sink Spring, Fannin Springs, and Gainer Springs sites to the Negotiation Impasse group.

On 7/29/1999, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 65-acre addition (Madison Blue Springs) in Madison County to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowners' representative, contains 45 parcels, 22 landowners, and a taxable value of \$604,000. The addition was designated as essential and added to the Priority portion of the project. Madison County will manage. Approximately 44 acres have been acquired.

On 8/22/2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 40-acre addition (Cypress Spring) in Washington County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Conservation Properties for the landowner, Harold Vickers, and had a taxable value of \$131,400. Mr. Vickers was willing manage if acquired; however property was sold to a third party in 2002.

On 4/18/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 200-acre addition (Morrison Springs) in Walton County to the project boundary with a taxable value of \$63,880. The addition was sponsored by Conservation Properties, Inc. and Walton County will manage the site. On 4/18/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 4,552-acre addition (Silver Springs Addition) north of Silver

## **Florida's First Magnitude Springs**

Springs in Marion County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the Silver Springs Basin Working Group, consisted of one landowner, Avatar Properties Inc., and had a taxable value of \$3,406,945. The FFS will manage if acquired. On 8/15/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 172-acre addition (Lafayette Blue Springs) in Lafayette County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Conservation Properties, consisted of one landowner, Union Land & Timber Corp., 9 parcels, and a taxable value of \$97,000. Lafayette County will manage if acquired. On 10/17/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 365-acre addition (Silver Springs Addition No. 2) in Marion County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the Silver Springs Basin Working Group and the Marion County Audubon, Inc., consisted of one landowner, Seldin, 2 parcels, and a taxable value of \$2,889,223. Marion County will manage the site. In 2005, 330 acres were acquired. On 12/5/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,717-acre addition (Jackson Blue Springs) in Jackson County to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by Conservation Properties, consisted of 11 parcels, 5 landowners (Edinburgh Investment Corp; AJ Green; Howard Muncaster Partnership; LH Alford Farms Inc.; Doyle Green), and a taxable value of \$303,367. Jackson County will manage if acquired.

On 10/15/2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 5-acre addition (Church Sink) in Leon County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowner, J. Lee Vause Trust, consisted of one parcel, and a taxable value of \$47,700. Leon County will manage if acquired.

On 10/13/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple 305-acre addition (Hardee Spring) to the boundary in Hamilton County. The addition was sponsored by Harold Hardee, consisted of one parcel with a taxable value of \$57,001. The FFS will manage the site as part of the Twin Rivers Forest if acquired. In 2004, 159 acres were acquired.

In 7/2007, the BOT acquired 4,471 acres of the Avatar property in Marion County.

On 2/25/2009, the BOT acquired 54.74 acres from the Rakestraw family in the St. Marks Site.

On 1/6/2010, FFS purchased approximately 1 acre for

\$16,065 from Kaiser/TNC in the Indian Lake State Forest. On 5/11/2010, FFS purchased 0.12 of an acre for \$2,550. FFS will manage both purchases. In 7/2010 FFS purchased two parcels (.23 for \$5,100 and .12 for \$2,800) and will manage both. In 10/2010 FFS purchased 5 parcels (Silver spring Addition--Bloom, Dinkins, Dupras, Hanson, Szymialis ownerships) totalling 1/2 acre for a combined \$10,200 and will manage all. In 11/2010 FFS purchased and will manage 2 parcels (Silver Spring Addition--Stovall, Landry) or .29 acre for \$6,375.

On 5/2/2011, FFS purchased and will manage .23 acre (Jean & Giselle Raymond-\$12,000). On 8/3/2011, the Felburn Foundation donated 2.42 acres in Silver Springs (valued at \$100,000) for FFS to manage. On 9/16/2011, DRP purchased to manage 55.73 acres (Gerrell Plantation, Inc.-\$457,000), as an addition to Natural Bridge Historic State Park. On 11/15/2011, FFS purchased to manage .23 acres in Indian Lake State Forest (Potter-\$5,100).

### **Coordination**

Hernando County has limited acquisition funds, but is very supportive of state acquisition efforts. The NFWFMD has acquired the 214-acre Harder tract in Gainer Springs.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project are to preserve land around springs, karst windows, and springs to aid in the protection of the Floridan Aquifer from the effects of commercial, residential, and agricultural runoff; clearcutting and mining; and unsupervised recreation.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Blue Spring has the diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as a state park. The location of the Weeki Wachee project adjacent to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area (WEA), as well as its sensitive natural resources, qualifies it as a WEA. River Sink spring is a first-magnitude karst window. This qualifies it as a state geological site. St. Marks, Fanning, Troy, Falmouth, and Gainer Springs have the diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as a state park.

**Manager** FWC (Weeki Wachee Springs excluding the

springhead, which is part of the Chassahowitzka WMA; Jackson County (Jackson Blue Springs); U.S. Forest Service (River Sink Springs); DRP (St. Marks, Fannin, Troy, Gainer Springs, and Madison County Blue Springs); Walton County (Morrison Springs); Leon County (Church Sink); Marion County (Silver Springs); FFS(Hardee Springs); OGT (Fanning Springs); NW-FWMD (Gainer Springs); SRWMD (Fannin Springs, Falmouth Springs); and Lafayette County (Lafayette Blue Springs).

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** River Sink and Blue Spring are moderate-need tracts, requiring more than basic resource management and protection. River Sink is a moderate-need tract, requiring more than basic resource management and protection. Gainer Springs is a high-need management area including public recreational use and development compatible with resource management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Jackson County Blue Spring is now being used by the public and Jackson County has no plans to curtail activities. The County would continue to open the swim area in season and maintain year-round access for boating, fishing, and nature appreciation. The smaller second spring may need restrictions to ensure public safety and preservation of the limestone bluffs. A lifeguard will be on duty while the swim area is open. Access will be controlled primarily by fences. River Sink would immediately fall under the National Forests in Florida's Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Within the first few years after acquisition, management activities would focus on site security, resource

inventory, removal of existing trash, and any necessary prescribed fire management. In the first year after Gainer Springs is acquired, the Division of Recreation and Parks will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** The Blue Springs swim area generated \$21,946 in revenue in fiscal year 1992-93 and \$13,045 in fiscal year 1993-94. DRP expects Gainer Springs to generate no significant revenue initially. The amount of any revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. As facilities are developed, River Sink may become a national recreational fee area. Fees collected from use of this area would be activities of the Federal Government. It is estimated that the area will receive more than 5,000 visits annually once it is developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** Jackson County expects the FWC to cooperate in managing wildlife on the Blue Springs project area. Other appropriate agencies may wish to become involved in the project. As funds become available and subject to public approval, the USDA Forest Service may enter into a cooperative agreement to manage the property.

*Updated 4/12/2012*

### Management Cost Summary Data

**USFS - River Sink Springs:** No additional funds are expected from the Forest Service. Each district ranger office will manage with its existing staff.

#### **DRP—St. Marks**

Category Source of Funds	Startup Federal	Recurring Federal	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$0	\$5,000	\$22,167	\$22,167
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$7,280	\$7,280
Expense	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,424	\$5,424
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$6,978	\$6,978
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$41,849</b>	<b>\$41,849</b>

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: OVERVIEW

**WALTON, WASHINGTON, BAY, JACKSON, WAKULLA, LEON, HAMILTON, MADISON,  
SUWANNEE, LAFAYETTE, LEVY, MARION, AND HERNANDO COUNTIES**

#### PRIORITY SITES

- Map 1: Morrison Springs
- Map 2: Cypress Spring
- Map 4: Blue Springs
- Map 6: Church Sink
- Map 8: Hardee Spring
- Map 9: Madison Blue Springs
- Map 10: Falmouth Spring
- Map 11: Lafayette Blue Springs
- Map 12: Troy Spring
- Map 14: Silver Springs
- Map 15: Weekiwachee Springs

#### NEGOTIATION IMPASSE SITES

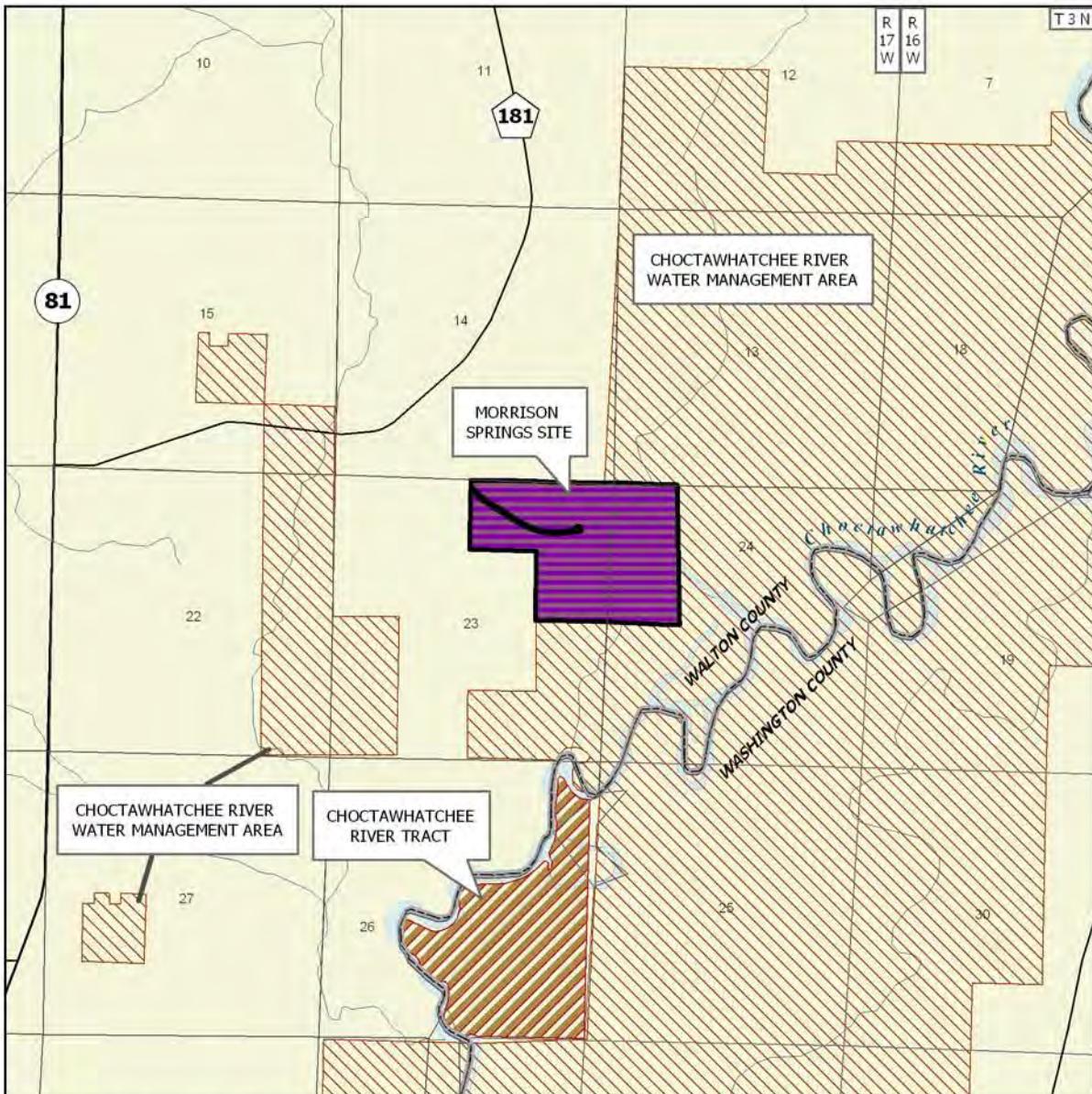
- Map 3: Gainer Springs
- Map 5: River Sink Spring
- Map 7: St. Marks Springs
- Map 13: Fannin Springs

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OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 1 OF 15

#### WALTON COUNTY

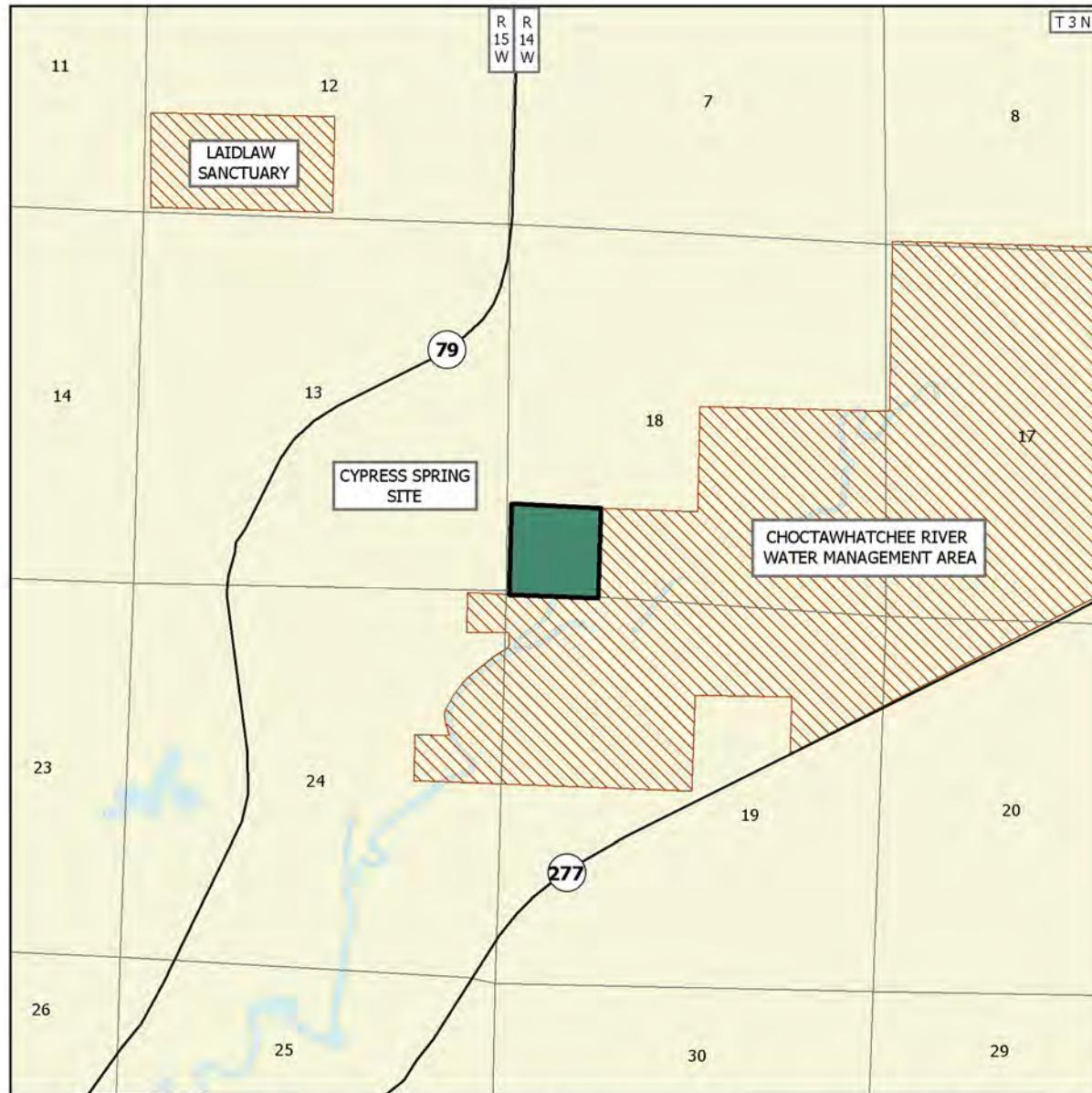
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands

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Miles



JULY 2010

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 2 OF 15

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

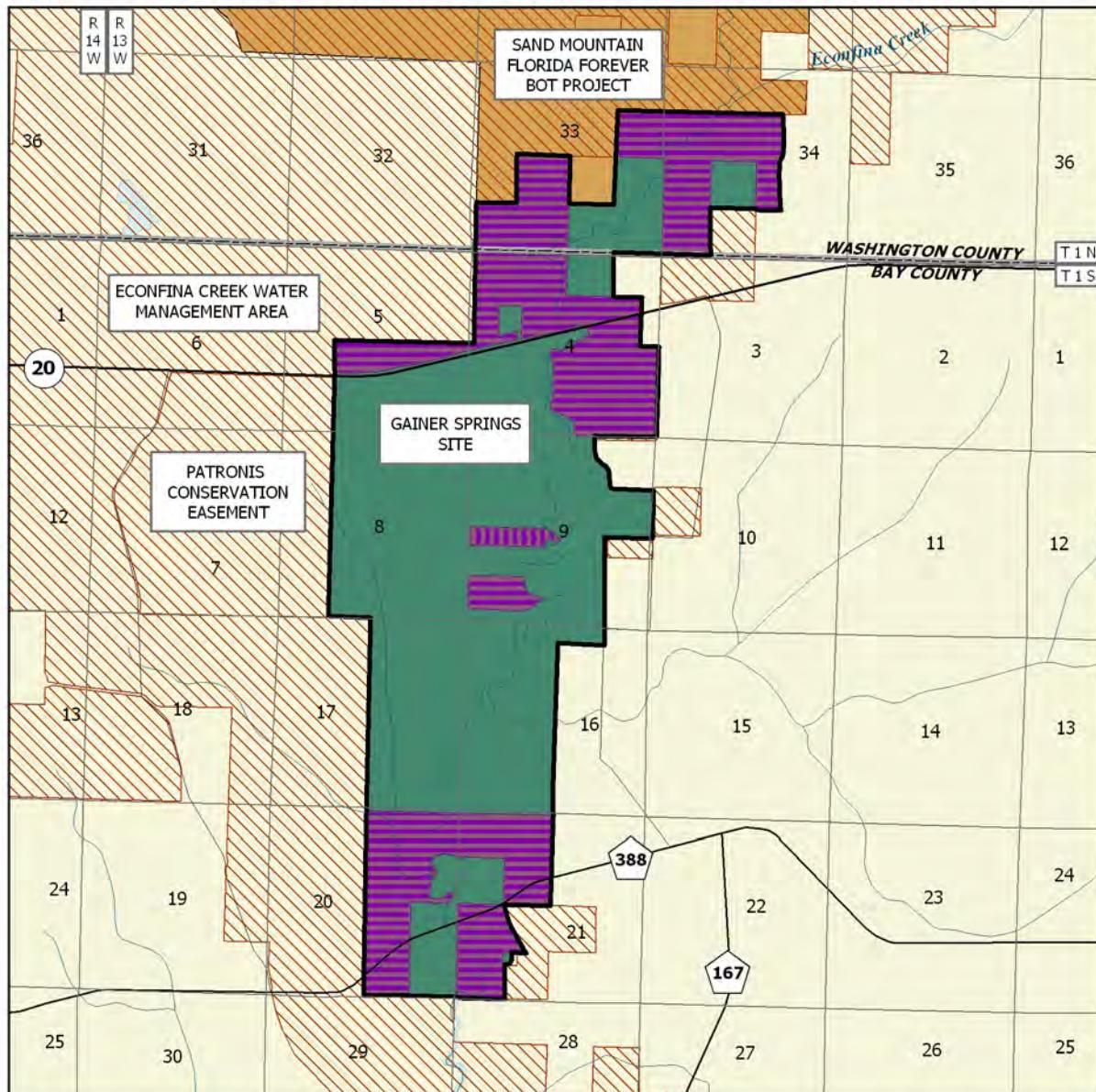
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands



0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles

OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 3 OF 15

#### **BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands

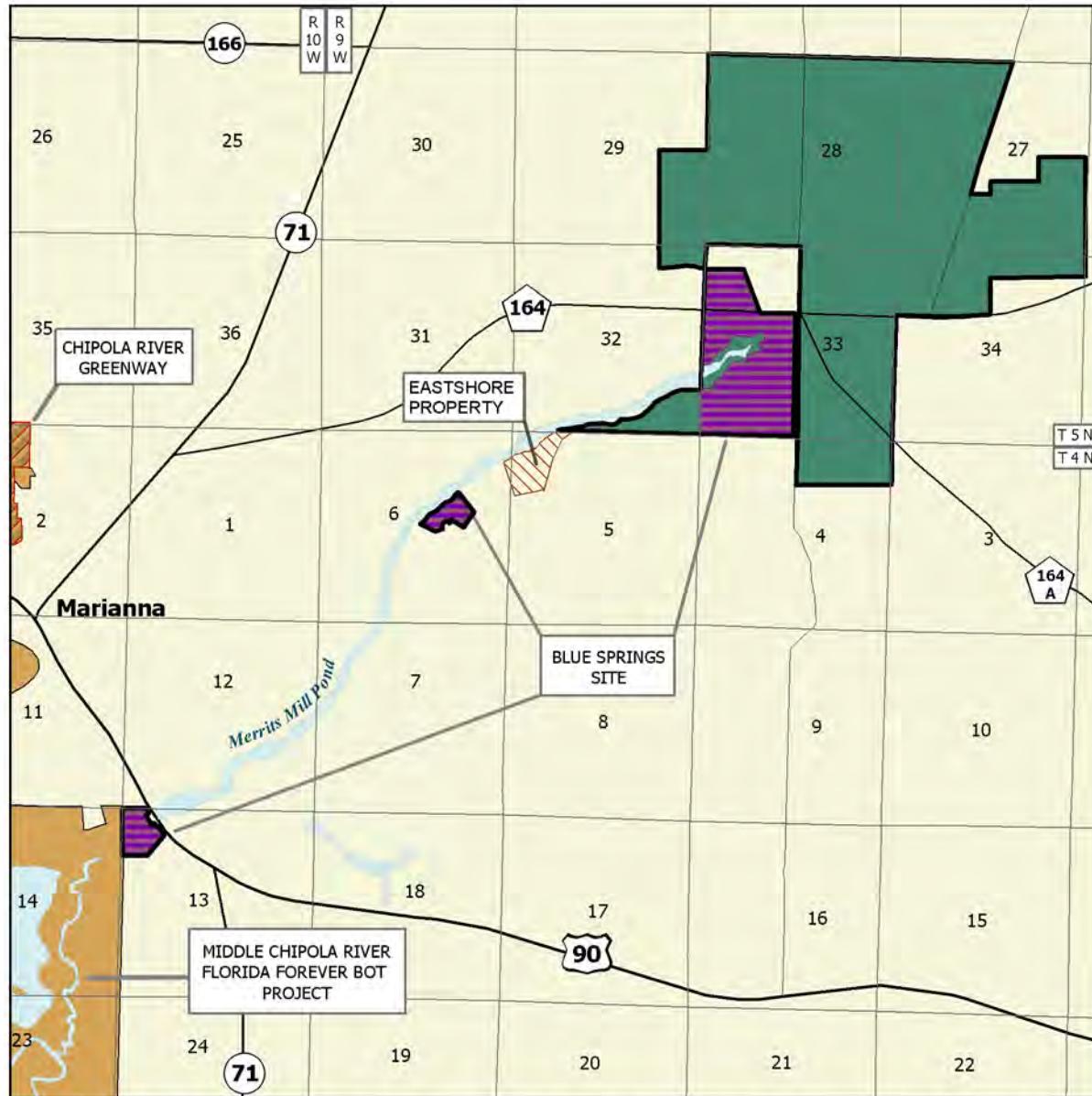


0      0.5      1      2  
Miles



SEPTEMBER 2009

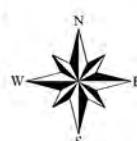
## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 4 OF 15

#### JACKSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

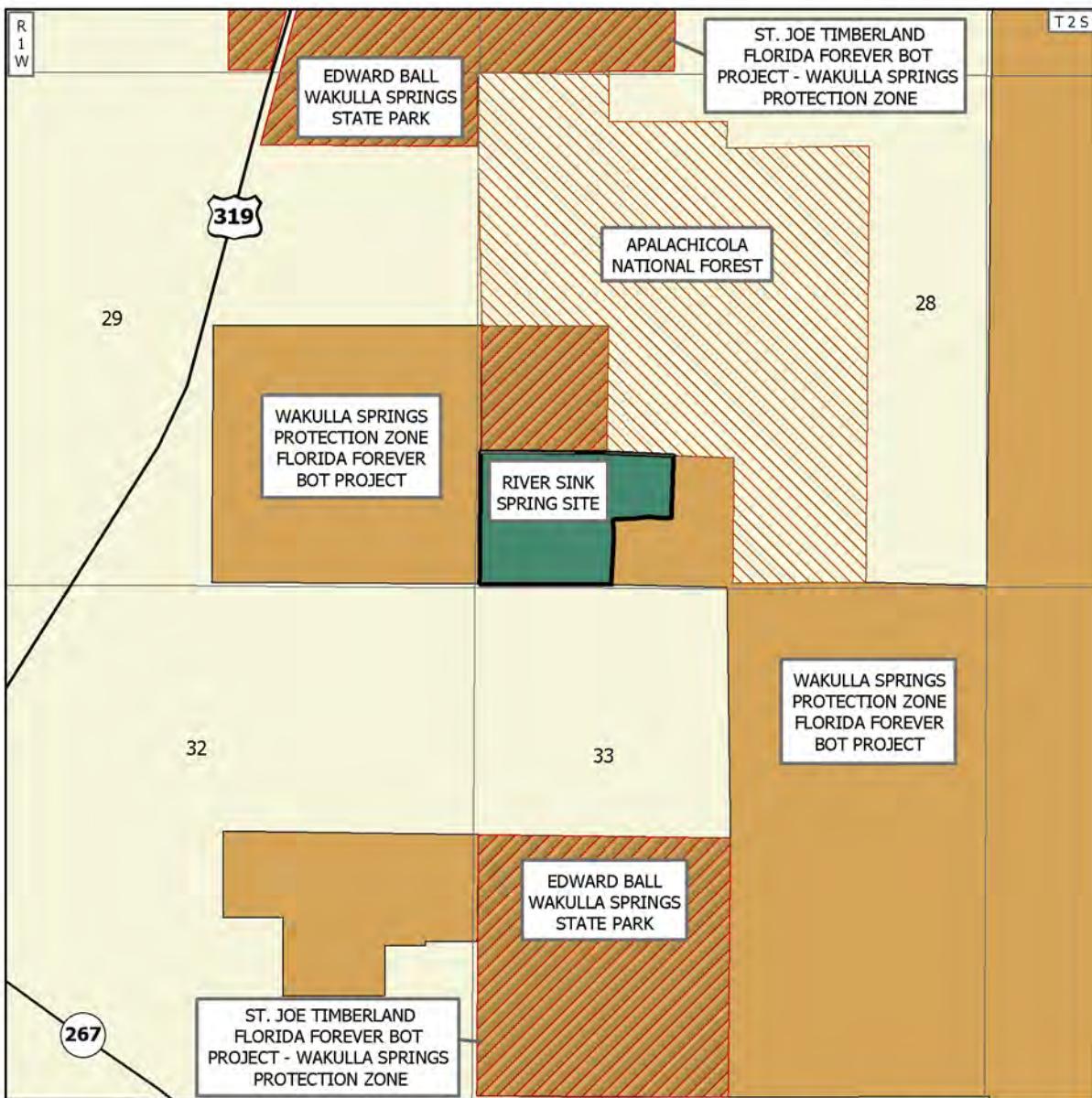


0    0.35    0.7    1.4  
Miles



OCTOBER 2006

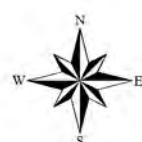
## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 5 OF 15

#### **WAKULLA COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

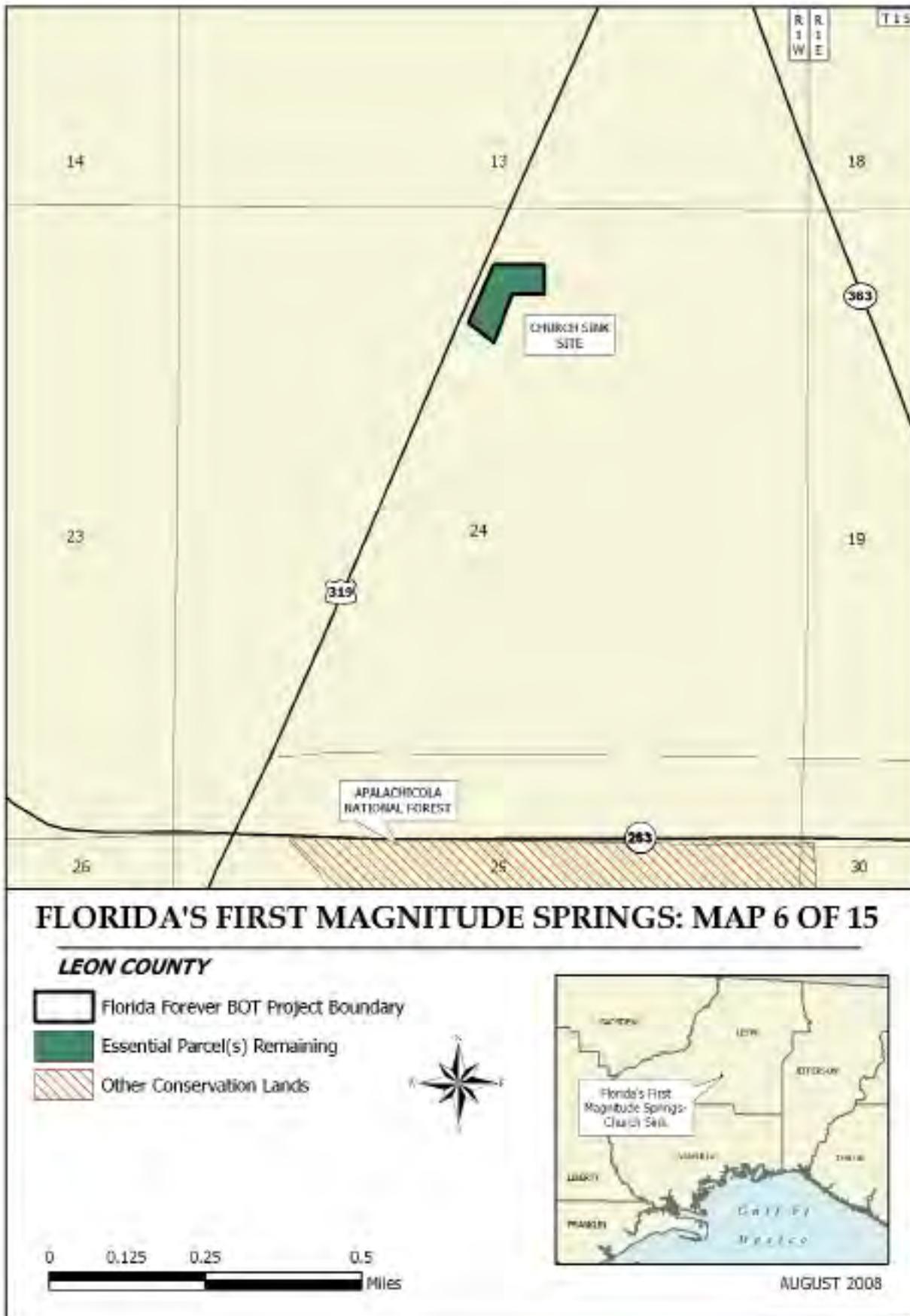


0      0.25      0.5      1  
Miles

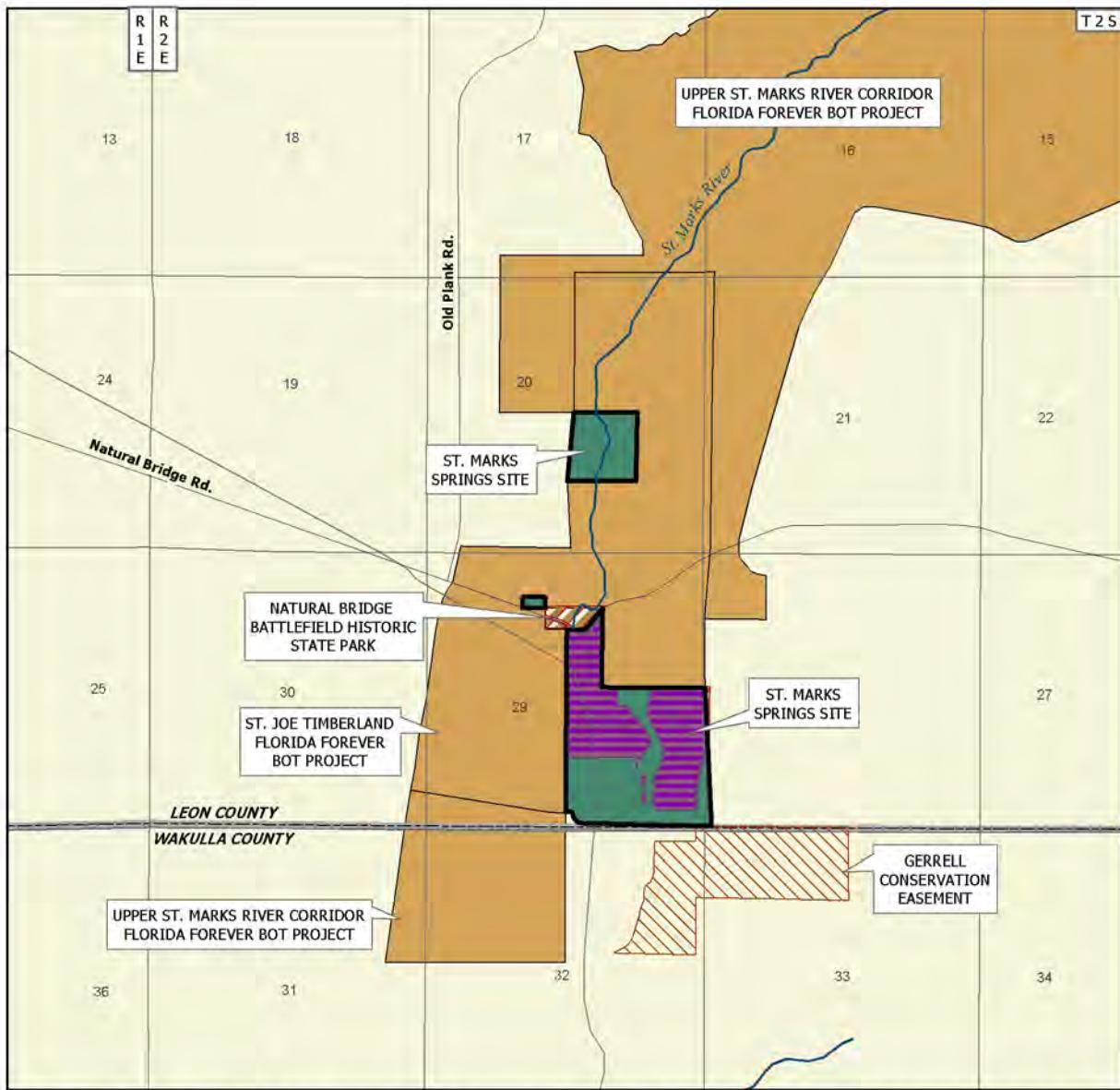


OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



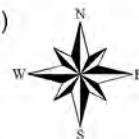
## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 7 OF 15

#### **LEON COUNTY**

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Stripes] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes] State Owned Lands
- [Red Hatched] Other Conservation Lands

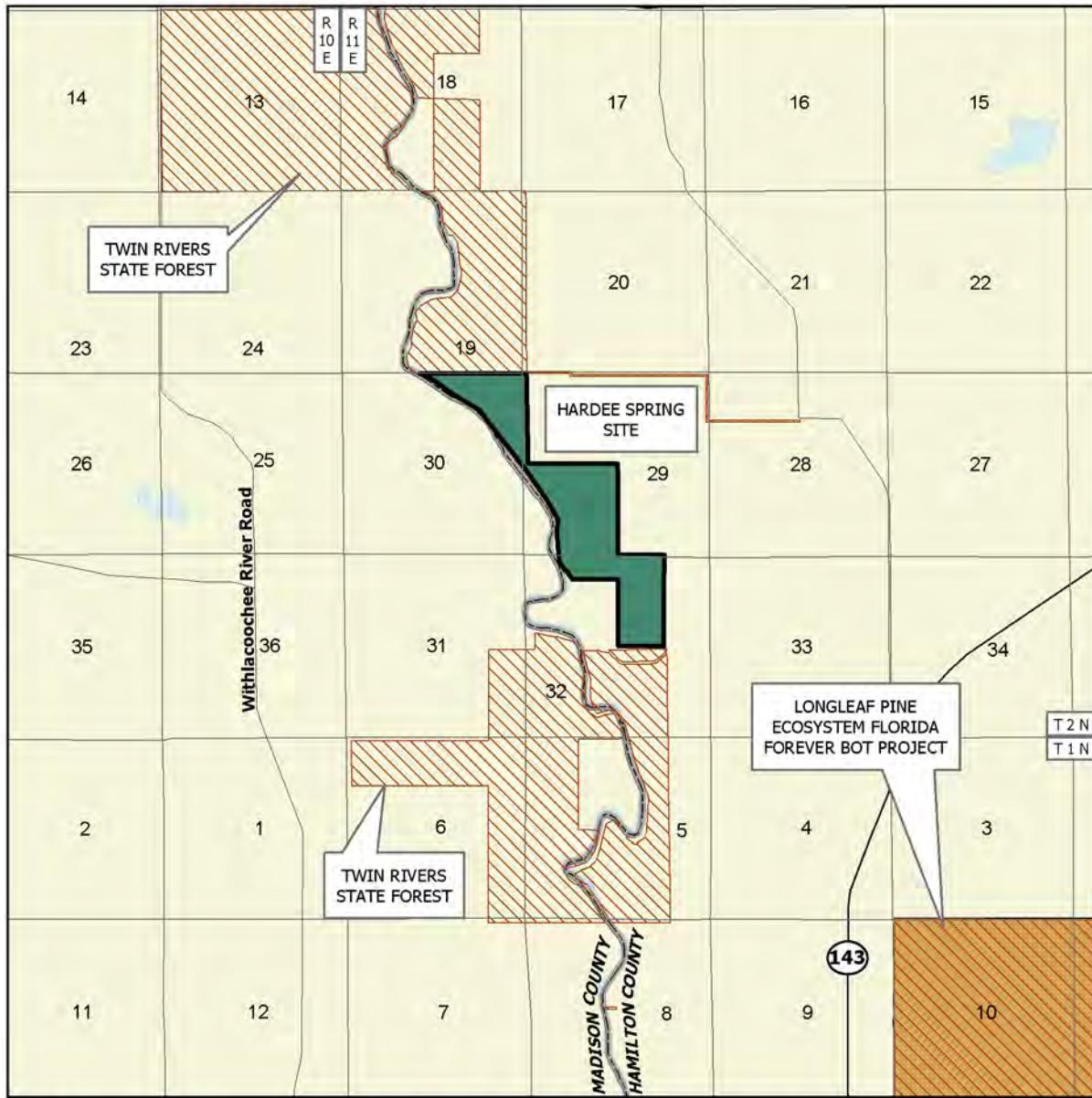


0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



APRIL 2012

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 8 OF 15

#### HAMILTON COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Hatched Box] Other Conservation Lands

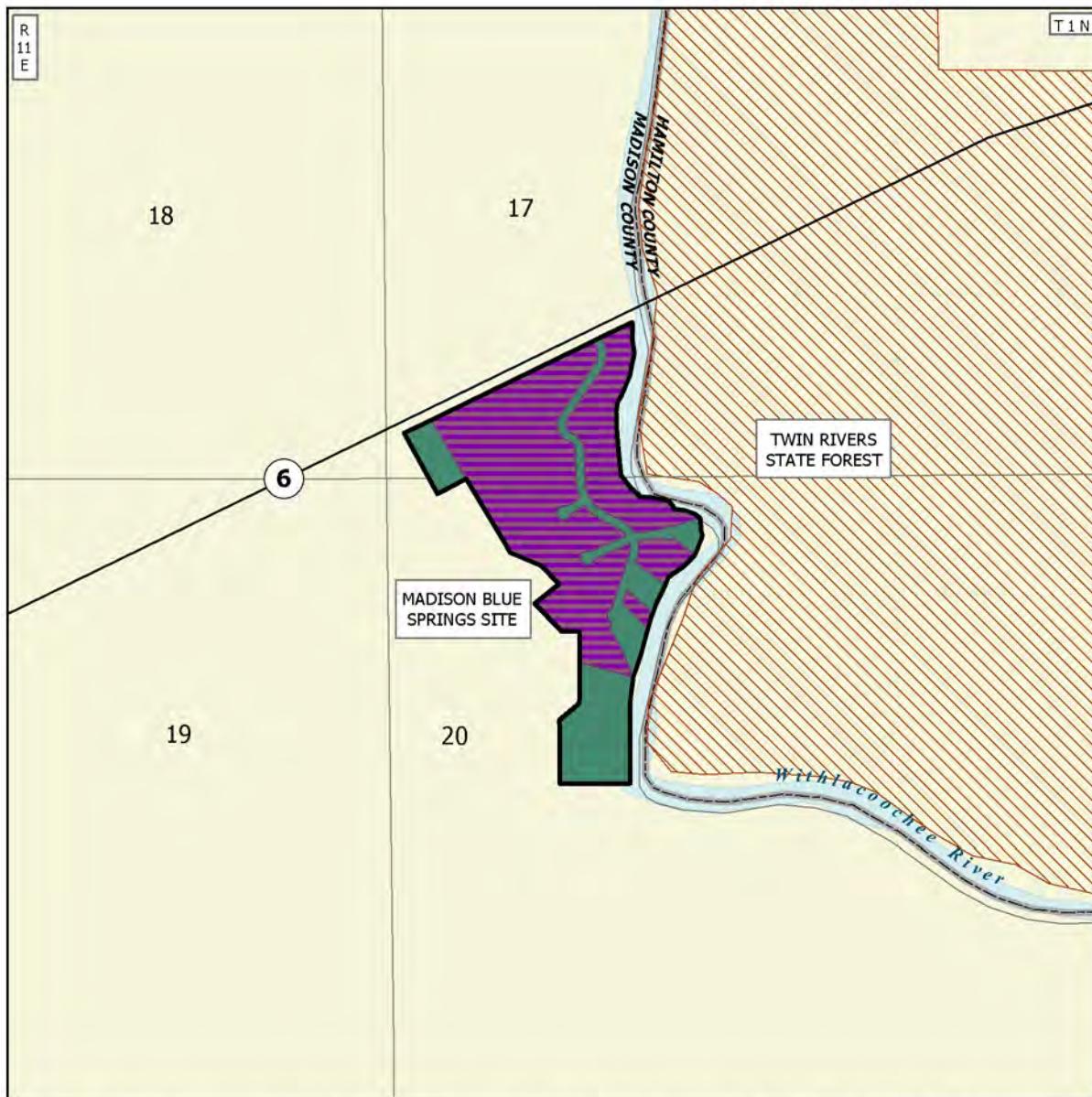


0      0.75      1.5  
Miles



OCTOBER 2006

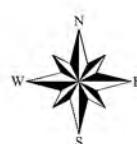
## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 9 OF 15

#### MADISON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands

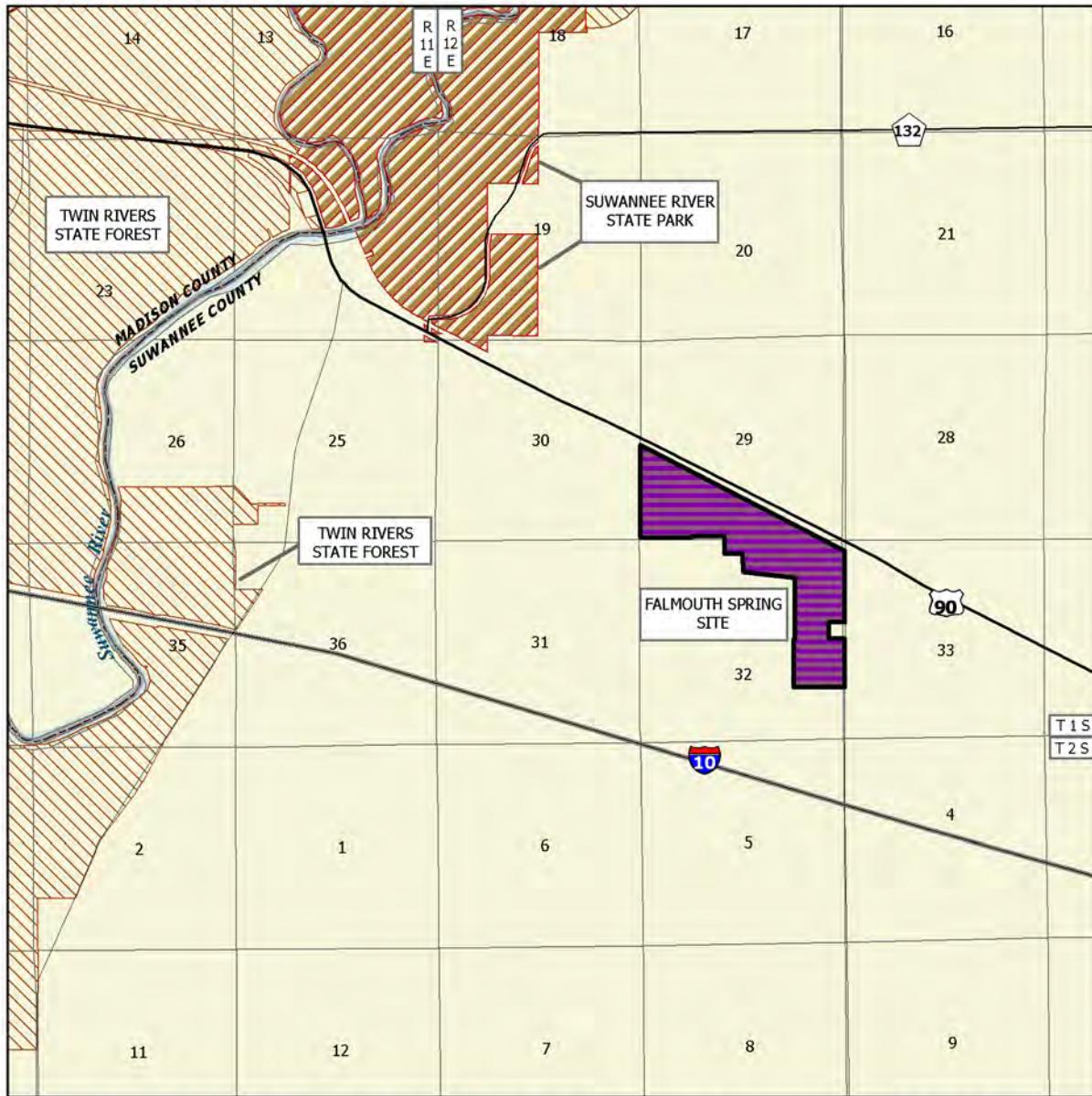


0    0.125    0.25    0.5  
Miles



OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 10 OF 15

#### SUWANNEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

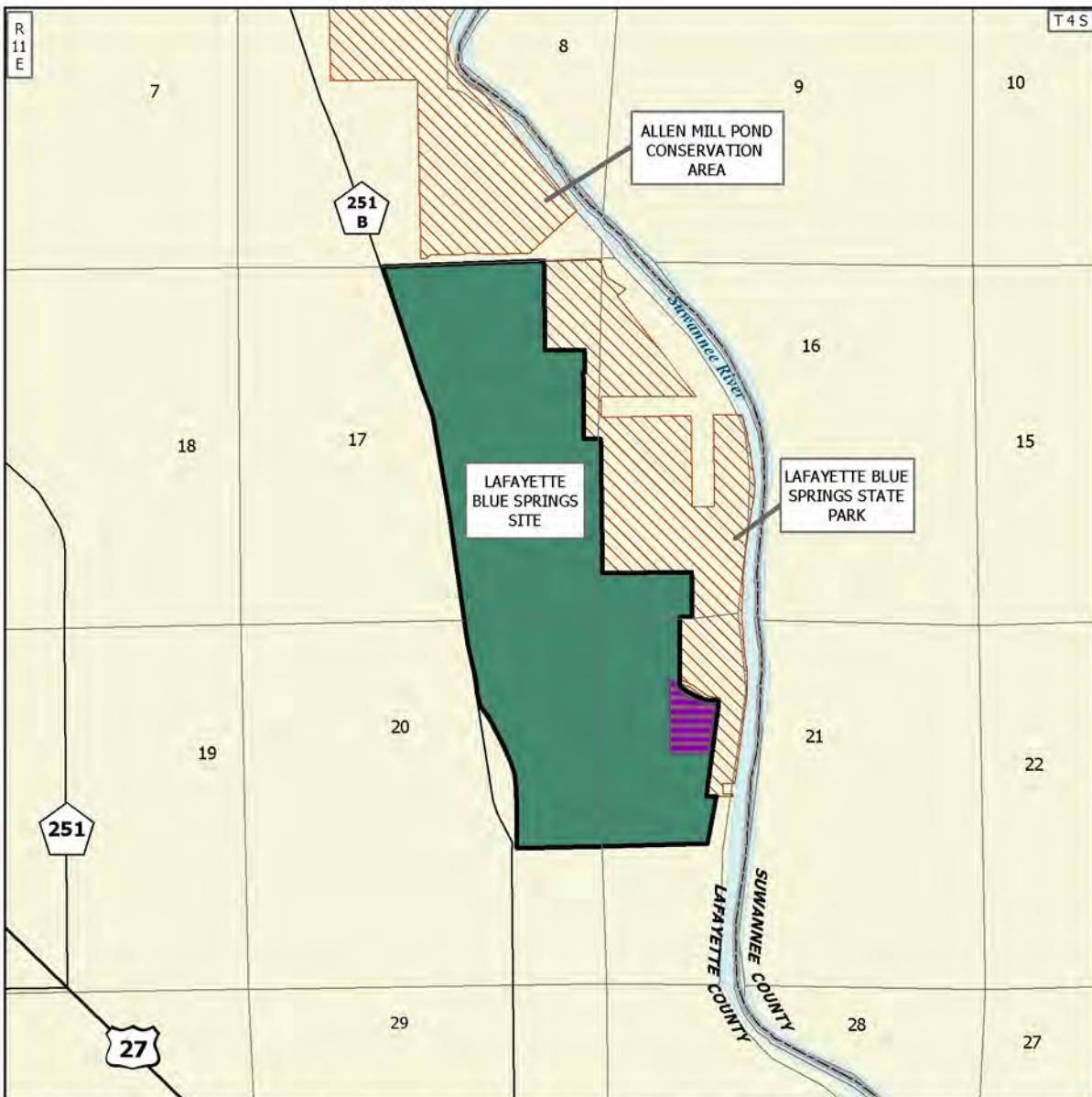


0      0.5      1      2 Miles



OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 11 OF 15

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands

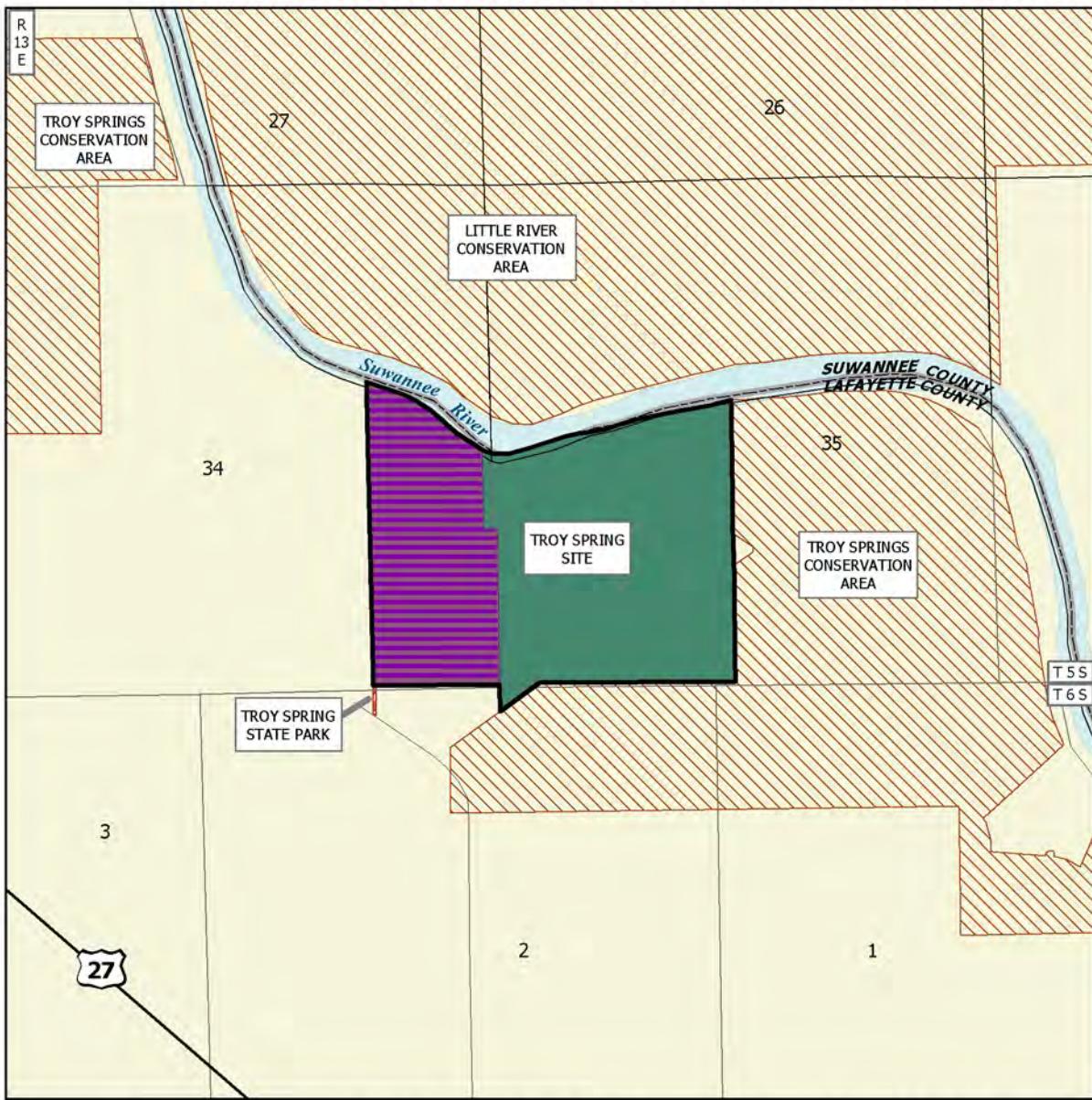


0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 12 OF 15

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Acquired
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

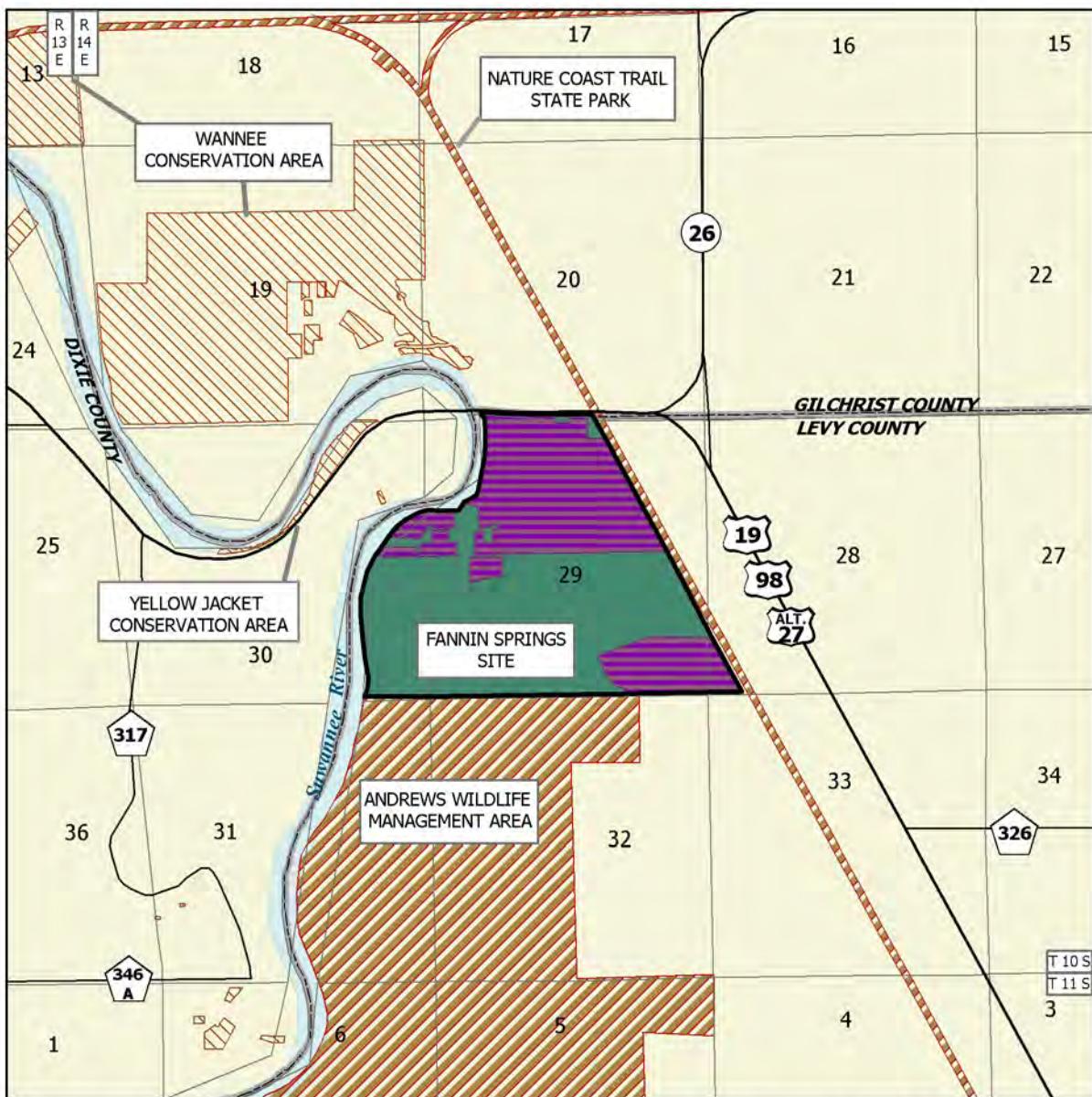


0      0.25      0.5      1  
Miles



OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 13 OF 15

#### **LEVY COUNTY**

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Yellow Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands

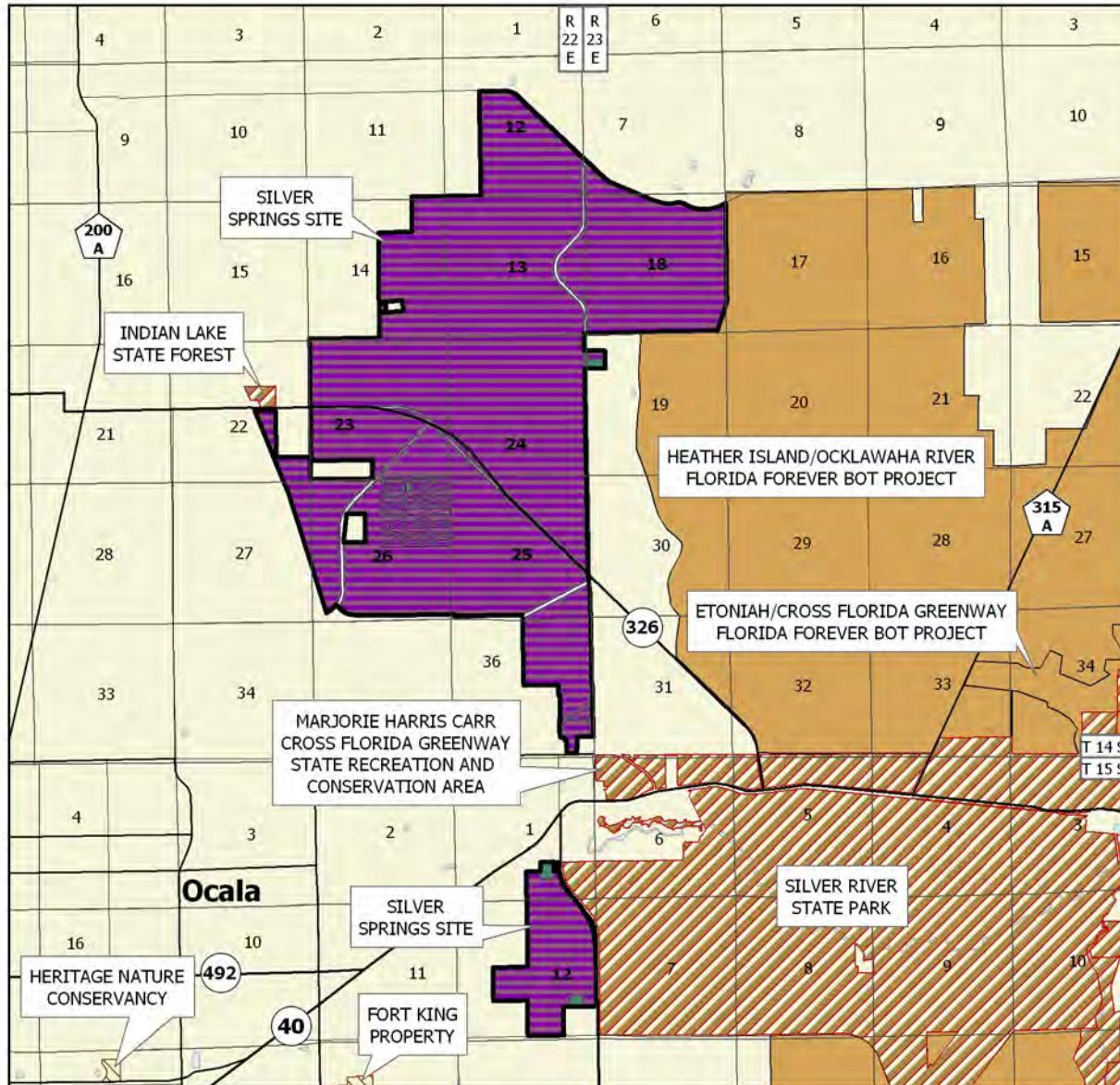


0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

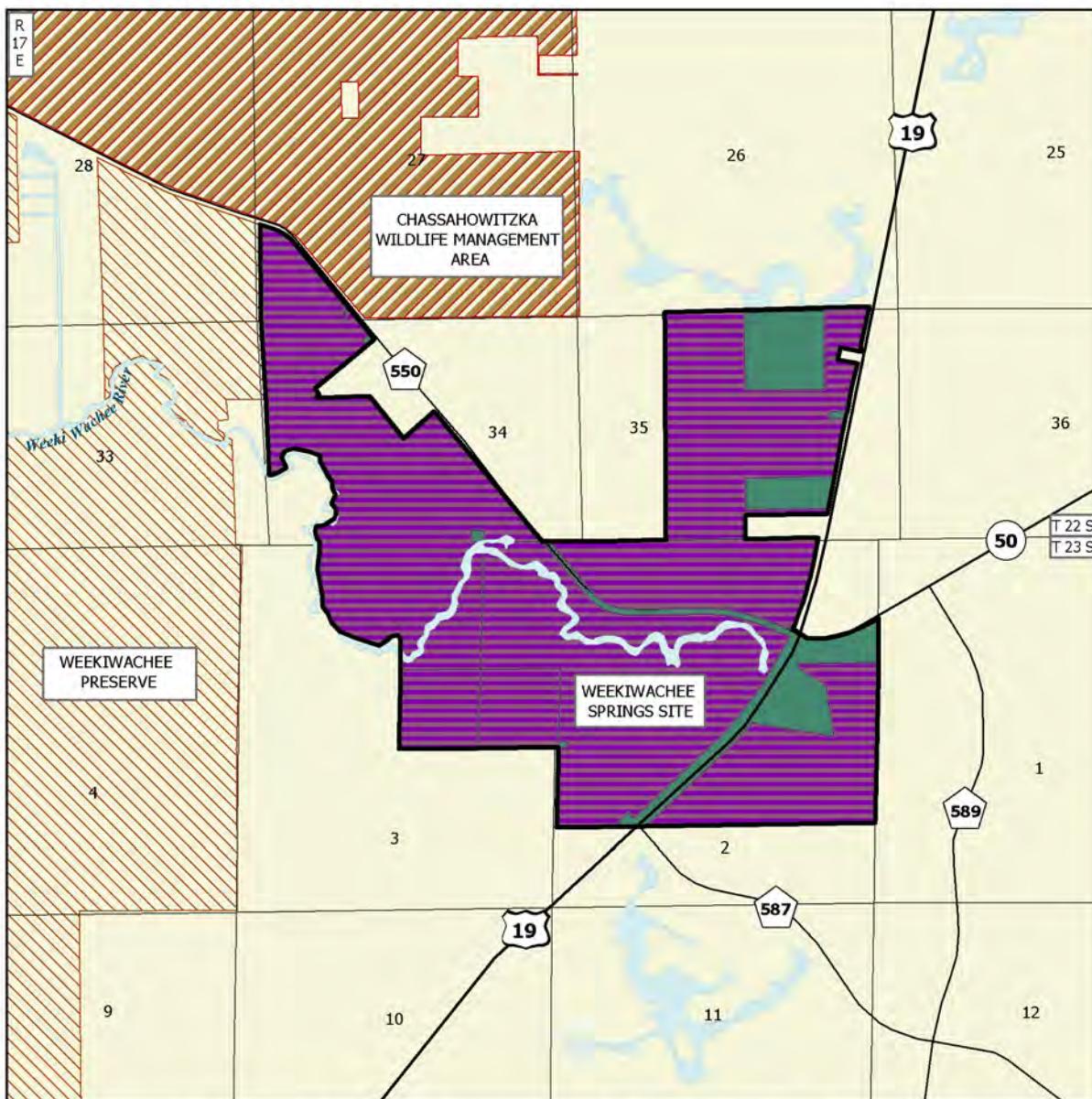


OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



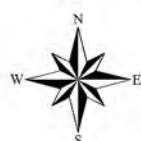
## Florida's First Magnitude Springs



### FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 15 OF 15

#### **HERNANDO COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0    0.3    0.6    1.2  
Miles

OCTOBER 2006

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs

### Management Cost Summary

#### OGT—Fanning Springs

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 LATF, CFBCTF, GR	1997/98 GR	1998/99 GR
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$68,593
OPS	\$73,699	\$55,000	\$65,000
Expense	\$17,720	\$10,000	\$229,155
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$49,414
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$430,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$90,820</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$77,162</b>

#### Jackson County - Blue Spring

Category Source of Funds	Startup County	Recurring County
Salary	\$20,000	\$20,000
OPS	\$60,000	\$25,000
Expense	\$25,000	\$15,000
OCO	\$30,000	\$30,000
FCO	\$50,000	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

#### FWC - Weeki Wachee Spring

Category Source of Funds	Start Up CARL	1995/96 CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$3,000	\$3,000
Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

#### OGT - Troy Spring

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 LATF, CFBCTF	1997/98 None	1998/99 GR
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$14,027	\$0	\$30,000
Expense	\$2,445	\$0	\$35,000
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$44,000
FCO	\$0	\$0**	\$220,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,472*</b>	<b>\$17,928***</b>	<b>\$329,000</b>

\*No appropriation was received for FY 1995/96, as such funds were taken from other projects to fund Troy Springs.

\*\*No appropriation was received for FY 1996/97.

\*\*\*This is the projected amount to be spent in 1996/97.

Estimated startup and recurring costs have not been developed by Hernando County.



# Garcon Ecosystem

## Santa Rosa County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The peninsula jutting into the north end of Pensacola Bay is covered with wet grassy prairies, dotted with carnivorous pitcher plants as well as other rare plants, that are some of the best pitcher-plant prairies left in Florida. The Garcon Ecosystem project will protect these prairies, thereby helping their rare plant and animal inhabitants to survive, maintaining the water quality of Pensacola Bay, and allowing the public to learn about and enjoy this unique natural environment.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), is lead Manager for the northern portion. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) is the Manager for the southern portion. This prospectus applies to the northern portion.

### General Description

Natural communities within this project are in good to excellent condition and include wet prairie, estuarine tidal marsh, and wet flatwoods. The prairie community is species-rich and includes orchids and insectivorous plants such as pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts, and bladderworts. Especially significant is the large population of state endangered white-topped pitcher plants (*Sarracenia leucophylla*), and the globally imperiled panhandle lily. The tracts are also habitat for the flatwoods salamander, a candidate for federal

listing. Four cultural sites are known from the project. The sensitive prairies are threatened by ditching, plant collecting and residential development. Development pressure will increase when the bridge across Pensacola Bay is completed.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve, with such uses as nature study, hiking, and fishing.

### Acquisition Planning

On 11/18/1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) combined the Prairies of Garcon and Garcon Point CARL projects and renamed the new project Garcon Ecosystem. This fee-simple project consisted of approximately 7,601 acres, multiple owners, and a 1994 taxable value of \$6,573,507. Garcon Point – consisted of approximately 21 owners. Phase I: FDIC (acquired by NFWFMD). Phase II: all other ownerships except in sections 24 & 25. Phase III: ownerships in sections 24 & 25. Prairies of Garcon – essential tracts included the larger ownerships of Jenkins (acquired by the NFWFMD), Henzelman, Culpepper, Thompson and other ownerships greater than 160 acres. Phase II tracts included smaller ownerships and lots within Avalon Beach Subdivision.

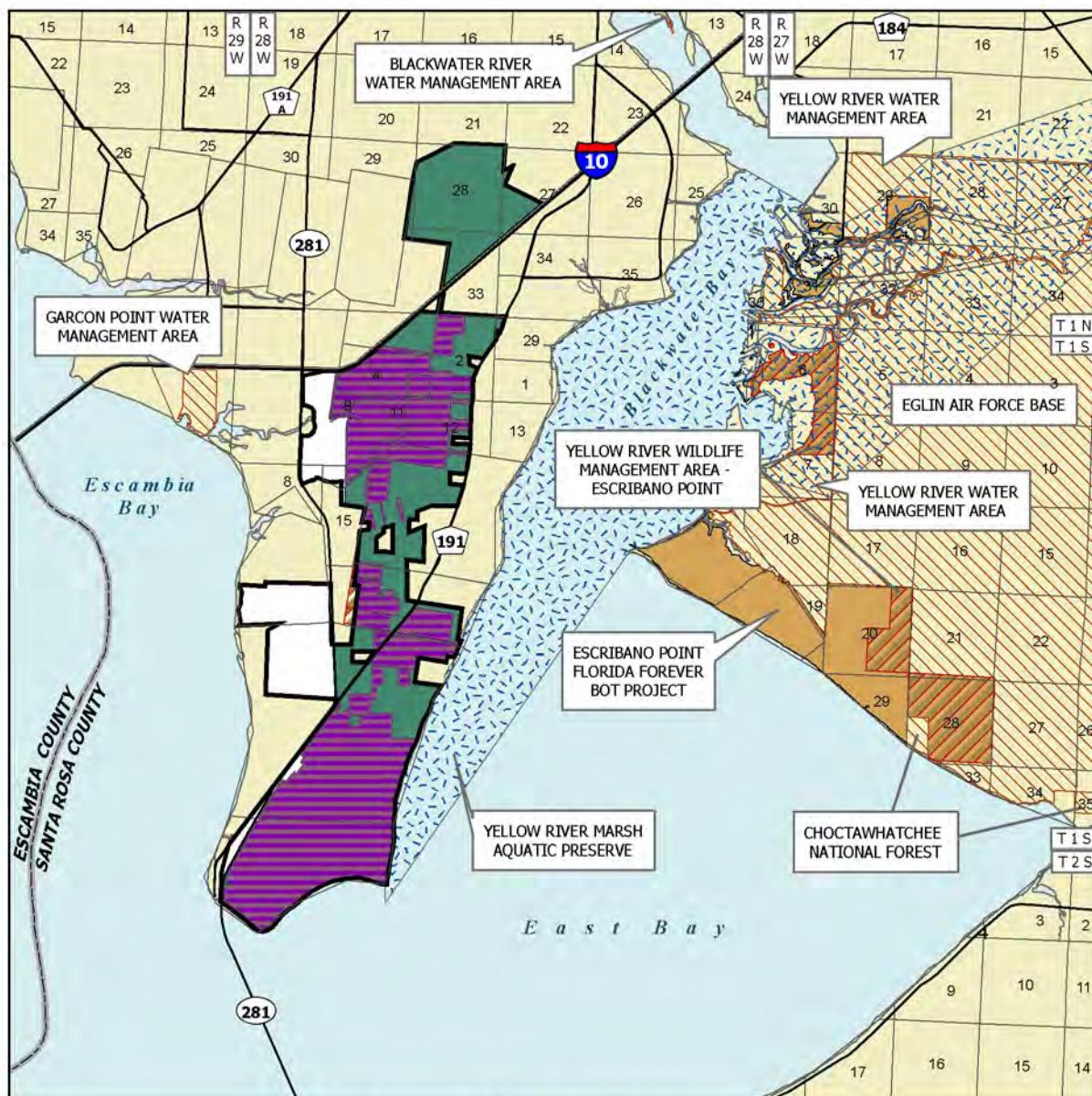
On 2/5/1998, the Land Acquisition & Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 845-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the owners' representative, consisted of five owners, and a 1997 taxable value of \$483,356. The

Garcon Ecosystem	
FNAI Elements	
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
<i>Panhandle Lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>Kral's Yellow-eyed Grass</i>	G3T3/S1
Louisiana Seaside Sparrow	G4T4/S1
<i>Pond Rush</i>	G5/S1
<i>Curtiss' Sandgrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Pine-woods Bluestem</i>	G3/S3
<i>Yellow Fringeless Orchid</i>	G3G4/S3
12 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1995
Project Area (GIS Acres)	7,657
Acres Acquired (GIS)	3,822*
at a Cost of	\$3,362,561*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	3,835

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$4,322,492  
\*Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the NFWFMD

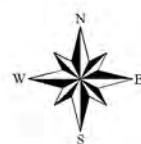
## Garcon Ecosystem



### GARCON ECOSYSTEM

#### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  - [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - [Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserve
  - [Red Box] State Owned Lands
  - [Brown Box] Other Conservation Lands
- 0 1 2 4 Miles



APRIL 2012

## **Garcon Ecosystem**

NWFWMD will manage this addition that has been designated as non-essential, meaning it is important, but not critical to the project as a whole.

On October 25, 2002, NWFWMD acquired 10 acres from Perdido Key, Inc. for \$9,000.

On 12/5/2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list.

On 7/10/2007, 20 acres were donated (Woodlands Ventures of Pensacola for a value of \$2,620).

### **Coordination**

In 11/1995, the NWFWMD accepted \$1,025,350 of mitigation funds from the Santa Rosa Bridge Authority to acquire land (Jenkins) within the project boundary.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Garcon Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the size, location, and quality of resources to qualify as a "State Buffer Preserve" to the Yellow River Marsh Aquatic Preserve and adjacent Class II shell fishing waters.

**Manager** DRP is lead Manager for the northern portion. The NWFWMD is the Manager for the southern portion. This prospectus applies to the northern portion.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Garcon Ecosystem Project includes lands that require prescribed fire management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, initial or intermediate activities will concentrate on site security, fire management planning, resource inventory, and a completed management plan.

Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and the

perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Management activities will also stress the protection of threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will be established using conventional practices. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be used to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. An educational program for all age groups will be used in conjunction with a carefully designed hiking trail, to keep the public away from sensitive areas. Efforts to prohibit vehicle activity except in designated areas will be a major concern.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and to manage the property.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated for some years.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service/FFS (formerly Division of Forestry), or the DRP, may help with fire management.

*Updated 4/12/2012*

### **Interim Management Budget**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>
<b>OPS</b>	
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>OCO</b>	
<b>Special</b>	<b>\$38,477</b>
<b>FCO</b>	
<b>Grant</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,477</b>

# Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor

Lake and Polk Counties

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The primary purposes for the acquisition of the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor Florida Forever project are protection of the water supply of central Florida, particularly recharge for the Floridan Aquifer; protection of several rivers; preservation of a large area for wildlife; and provision of areas for public recreation.

## Managers

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will be the primary manager for the majority of this project since it is contiguous with Hilochee Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (FDEP/DRP) will be the primary manager for the portion of the project that is within the optimum boundary of Lake Louisa State Park. (See Acquisition Planning section for managers of land already acquired within the boundary.)

## General Description

The project is 91,455 (GIS) acres, composed of 15 distinct natural communities and other community types. They include scrub, sandhill, and pine flatwoods, which are natural communities underrepresented in state conservation holdings. About 64% of the project area is in natural condition, while 36% is disturbed (ruderal, improved pasture and a very small amount of pine plantation.)

Geographically, the project is located within an Area of Critical State Concern and between Clermont and Haines City. It is also a short distance from the developed areas of Lakeland, Davenport, Lake Alfred, and the Disney World complex. Interstate 4 crosses the southernmost quarter of the project from east to west. US 27 runs north to south and generally defines the project's western border.

Hydrologically and geologically, the project is split north to south into two major drainage basins. The western basin drains north and west to the Withlacoochee River, and the eastern basin drains north and east into the Palatlakaha River and ultimately into the St. Johns River. Yet another sliver of the project area joins the drainage basin that meets the Kissimmee River drainage to the east and south. For the most part, elevations range between 120 and 175 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The marshes and swamps are generally lower than 120 feet MSL.

Biologically, five rare plants are documented as occurring within the project boundary. Ten rare animal species are documented on site (see FNAI Elements). From an urban planning perspective, the project has a moderate potential for being developed, subdivided or losing significant natural attributes or open spaces. The potential for development and loss of open space is highest on the uplands adjacent to the US 27 corridor on the Lake Wales Ridge.

### Green Swamp - Hilochee Corridor

#### FNAI Elements

Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Cutthroat Grass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida bonamia</i>	G3/S3
<i>Scrub Buckwheat</i>	G4T3/S3
Florida long-tailed weasel	G5T3/S3
Sherman's fox squirrel	G5T3/S3

14 rare species are associated with the project

## Public Use

The FWCC will consider programs providing multiple fish/wildlife-based public recreational uses when land within this project is acquired. These potential public outdoor fish/wildlife-based recreational uses

Placed on List	2012
Project Area (GIS Acres)	91,455
Acres Acquired (GIS)	35,561
at a Cost of	\$59,466,086*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	55,894

w/Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$157,658,238\*\*

\*Includes acreage acquired and funds expended by the SWFWMD and SJRWMD. \*\*Based on project Just Value, 2010.

## **Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor**

will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing public outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all-weather public access and management operations; and unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be appropriate to allow public access and to provide facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The DRP will consider expansion of existing recreational programs offered in the approved unit management plan.

### **Acquisition Planning**

At the 6/10/2011 meeting, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the reevaluation and redesign of the 233,598-acre Green Swamp Florida Forever project (added to the list in 1992), removing from the boundary about 14,448 acres of land that was either developed or otherwise unmanageable, then dividing the remaining acreage into four projects. At the 10/14/2011 meeting, the ARC approved the resource evaluations and eight management prospectuses for the four Green Swamp projects. The Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor project is the easternmost of the four. Covering 91,455 GIS acres in northern Polk and southern Lake Counties, the project includes 5,138 parcels with multiple owners. About 39% of the lands within its boundary (36,000 acres) has been acquired for conservation.

Included within the boundary are all or part of the following managed conservation lands acquired in fee-simple: Hilochee WMA (FWCC); Lake Louisa State Park (FDEP/DRP); Lake Bonnet Marsh and Lake Lowrey Marsh (Polk County); Appleton and Gurov, Alice Lockmiller, and Green Swamp Parcels (SWFWMD); and Boggy Marsh Sanctuary (Florida Audubon Society). All or part of the lands within the boundary acquired using alternatives to fee-simple are as follows: Green Swamp Land Authority (GSLA) Land Protection Agreements; Green Swamp Conservation Easements; and Jahna Ranch Conservation Easement (FDEP/Division of Water Resource Management, Bureau of Mining and Minerals Regulation).

### **Coordination**

The GSLA worked with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in acquiring lands within the boundary. In 1999, the GSLA's responsibil-

ties passed to the FDEP.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Plans are to manage the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor to accomplish the following: conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered or threatened species; provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural, resource-based recreation; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in a manner that enhances or protects significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

The portion of the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor project that lies within the optimum boundary of Lake Louisa State Park will be managed consistent with the goals and objectives in the approved Unit Management Plan. General management recommendations are restoration and enhancement of natural systems, maintenance of water quality, and public resource-based recreational use and resource education and interpretation.

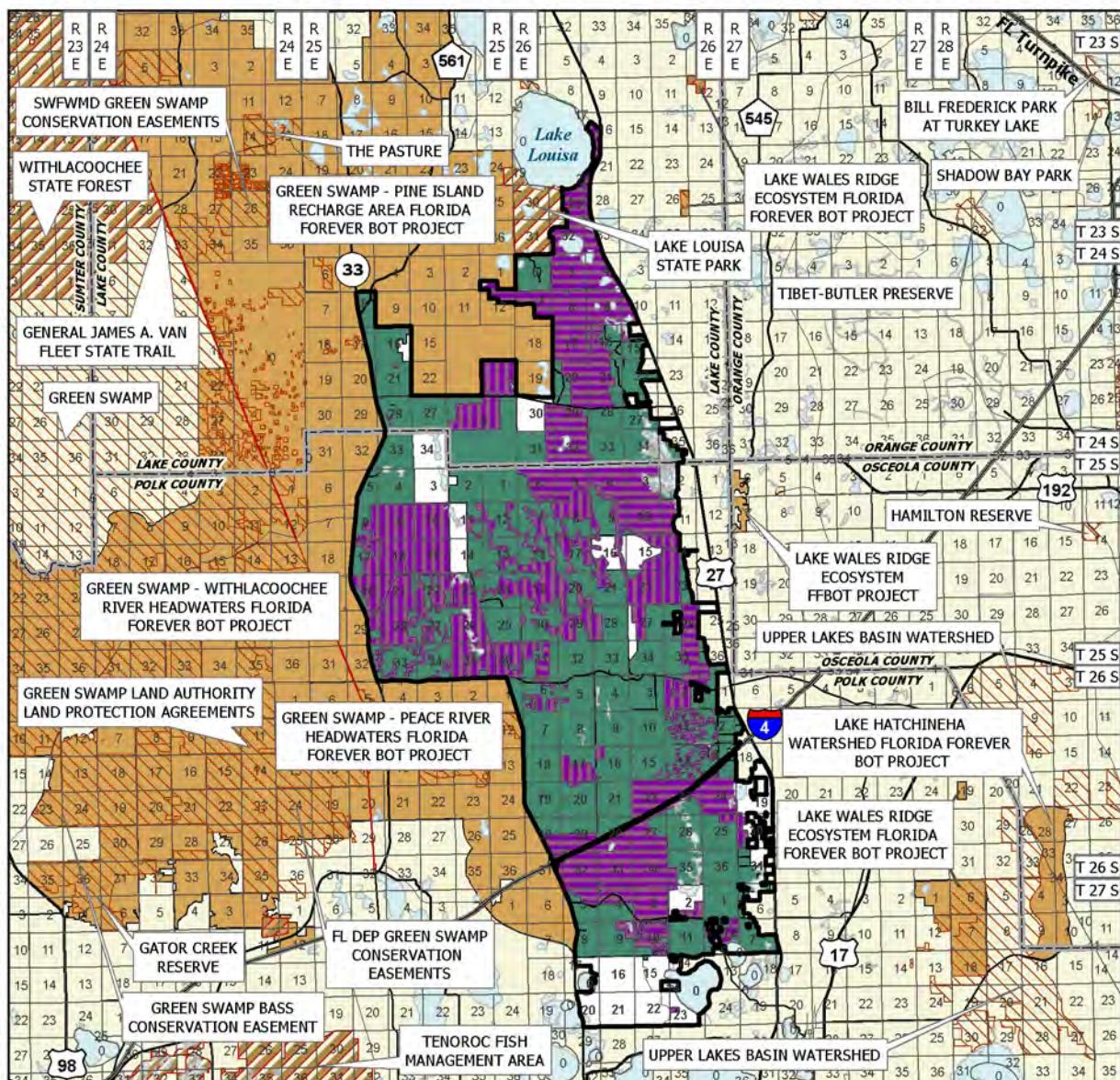
### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The project has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area (WMA). Its mosaic of land uses helps protect the Floridan Aquifer and the headwaters of several rivers that start in this region. The project preserves a large area for wildlife, and provides areas for public recreation in a fast-growing region between Tampa and Orlando.

***Manager*** The FWCC will manage most of the project lands remaining to be acquired, as part of Hilochee WMA. The DRP will manage an 84-acre parcel within Lake Louisa State Park's optimum boundary. (Note: Lands within the boundary already acquired and managed for conservation are addressed in approved land management plans.)

***Conditions affecting intensity of management*** The Hilochee Corridor requires resource-management methods for its natural areas, including prescribed fire, where appropriate. Other areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive species, and reforesting. These will be especially important to achieve the objectives of conserving habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Because of the importance of landscape ecology, a land use change near a managed area may affect efforts to reach resource conservation goals of the area, and the overall effective-

## Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor



### GREEN SWAMP - HILOCHEE CORRIDOR

#### LAKE AND POLK COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 2 4 8 Miles



OCTOBER 2011

## Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor

ness of the necessary resource-management projects. Biotic monitoring is necessary to achieving resource-management goals. Infrastructure development will be appropriate to allow public access, and to provide facilities, security, and property management. Archeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, DHR. The DRP projects that the shift from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use with more infrastructure will require a greater intensity of management.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

When acquired, the FWCC will develop a management plan describing the goals and objectives to implement future resource management. The plan would also establish current and future roles of cooperating entities. Long-range goals will stress ecosystem management and protection and management of rare or imperiled species. The FWCC will assess the wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance rare and imperiled species management and recovery of imperiled species. Prescribed fire and other resource-management activities will maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation to benefit native wildlife. Essential roads will be maintained; and unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrologic disturbance will be abandoned or restored as practical. Generally, development of facilities is to be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of resources and to ensure the recreational experience. Where possible, such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The DRP's resource management activities in the first year will concentrate on site security, protection of natural and cultural resources, and development of a resource inventory. Particular emphasis will be given to the monitoring of public land and water use planning and regulatory activities to ensure that adequate consideration is given to maintaining the quality of water resources associated with the project and any adjacent lake or other waters designated as Outstanding Florida Waters.

***Revenue-generating potential*** Revenue could include sales of various permits and recreation use fees, and fees from ecotourism activities if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary permits and fees. The long-term value of this ecosystem to human health and local and regional land and water resources are thought to be significant. The DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated from this property immediately after fee title acquisition, and the amount

of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and development.

***Cooperators in management activities*** The FWCC will cooperate in management of the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor project with SWFWMD, Florida Forest Service (FFS), Lake and Polk Counties.

### ***Management costs and sources of revenue\****

#### **Resource Management**

Exotic species Control	\$37,186
Prescribed Burning	\$111,221
Cultural Resource Management	\$1,794
Timber Management	\$7,176
Hydrological Management	\$193,739
Other	\$805,332
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,156,447</b>

#### **Administration**

General administration	\$10,636
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#### **Support**

Land Management Planning	\$103,285
Land Management Reviews	\$20,133
Training/Staff Development	\$5,339
Vehicle Purchase	\$68,433
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$53,816
Other	\$13,274
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$264,281</b>

#### **Capital Improvements**

New Facility Construction	\$89,694
Facility Maintenance	\$311,312
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$401,006</b>

#### **Visitor Services/Recreation**

Info/Education/Operations	\$60,032
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#### **Law Enforcement**

Resource Protection	\$40,501
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#### **TOTAL**

**\$1,932,903\*\***

\*The estimate of costs to operate and manage the area yet to be acquired is a projected estimate to fully implement management and reflects an estimate of the potential annual operating budget. All land management funding is dependent on annual legislative appropriations.

\*\*Based on the FWCC's current staffing ratio of approximately one full-time employee (FTE) per 5,000 acres of managed area, eleven FTE positions would be optimal to fully manage the area covered by this prospectus. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

New 2/29/2012

# Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters

## Less-Than-Fee Polk County

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The primary purposes for acquisition of the Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters Florida Forever project are protection of the water supply of central Florida, particularly recharge for the Floridan Aquifer; protection of several rivers; preservation of a large area for wildlife; and provision of areas for public recreation.

### Managers

Since this project is primarily less-than-fee, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands' Office of Environmental Services (FDEP/DSL/OES) will monitor most of the project lands acquired. (See Acquisition Planning section for managers of land already acquired within the boundary.)

### General Description

The project is 39,977 (GIS) contiguous acres and is composed of 15 distinct natural communities and other landcover. It is primarily a mosaic of basin swamps, depression marshes, pine flatwoods, pastures, and other agricultural lands. Pine flatwoods are underrepresented in state conservation holdings. About 51 percent of the project area is in natural condition, while 49 percent is disturbed (ruderal, improved and semi-improved pasture and about 400 acres of pine plantation).

Geographically, the project is located between Dean Still Road and Interstate 4. It is bounded on its east, north, and west sides with two other Green Swamp Florida Forever (FF) projects (Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor and Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters). State Road 33 bisects the proposal from north to south. Old Grade Road (County Road 557) serves as the project's eastern boundary.

Hydrologically, the majority of the project is within the south Withlacoochee River watershed and drains

northward. The land is mostly flat, ranging between 120 and 130 feet above mean sea level (MSL), though in the northwest corner, where the land slopes down towards the river, the elevation drops to 115 MSL. Most of the area (99 percent or more) meets the FF Evaluation's Measures for Surface Water Protection and Aquifer Recharge.

Historically, there are 15 archaeological sites, one historic structure, and one resource group listed in the Florida Master Site files. The hydrology and minimal elevation changes suggest a low potential for significant archaeological and historical sites that have not been discovered.

No rare species have been documented within the project. Based on habitat, there is potential for several rare species to occur here. About 98 percent of the area meets the Florida Forever Evaluation's Measures for Ecological Greenways; and 82 percent is within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWCC) Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

From an urban planning perspective, the project has a moderate potential for being developed or subdivided, and a moderate-low potential for loss of significant natural attributes or open spaces. It is located within an Area of Critical State Concern. The current and future land uses are mostly agricultural and rural residential. It is a short drive from Lakeland, Polk City, Auburndale, and Lake Alfred.

### Public Use

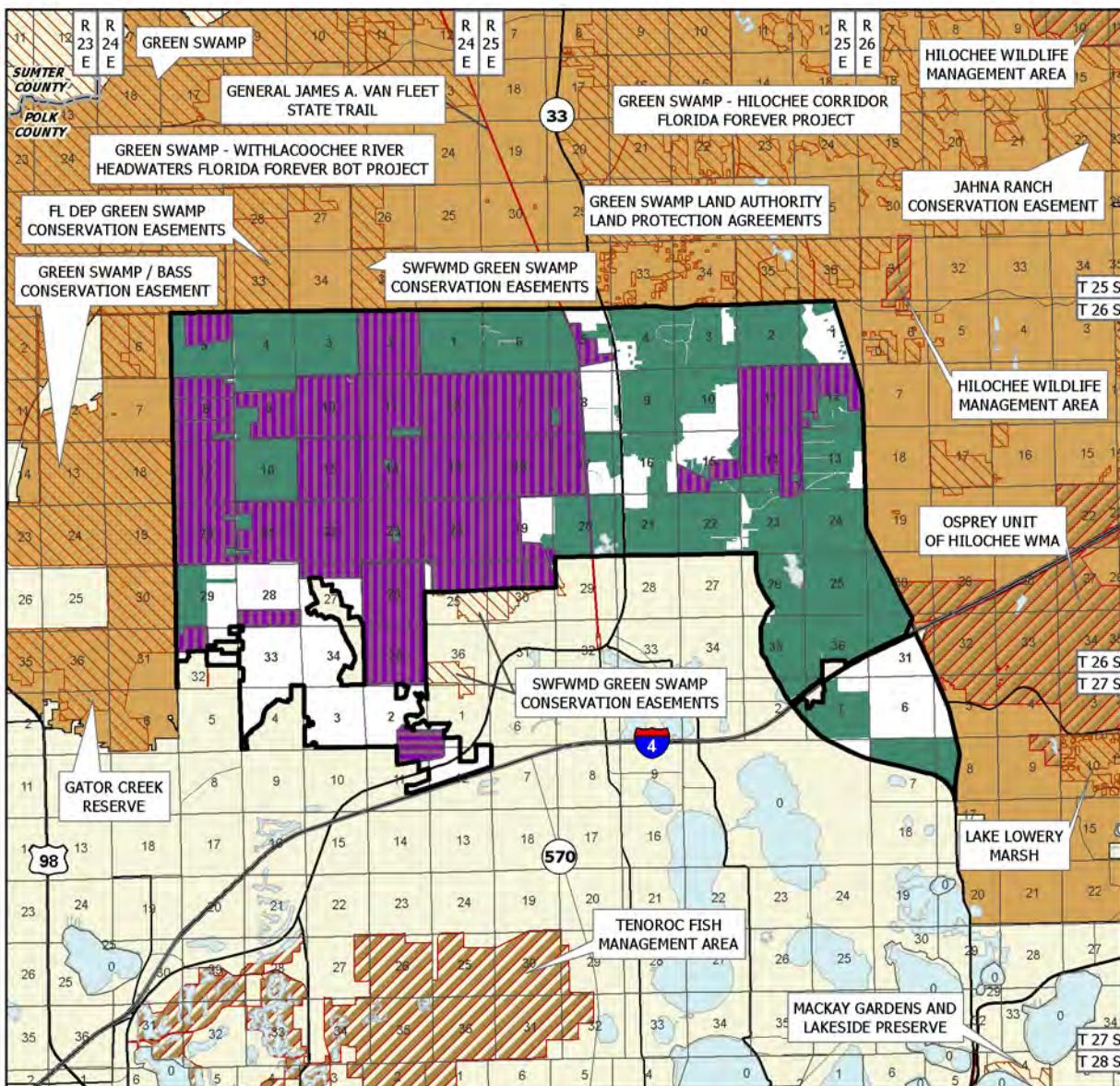
As a less-than-fee project, public access to the land is expected to be minimal. The landowner typically

Place on List	2012
Project Area (GIS Acres)	39,977
Acres Acquired (GIS)	16,258
at a Cost of	\$27,001,356*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	23,719
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$69,224,984**
*Includes acreage acquired/funds expended by the SWFWMD/SJR-WMD. **Based on project Just Value, 2010	

### Green Swamp - Peace River Headwaters FNAI Elements

no rare species are associated with the project

## **Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters**



## **GREEN SWAMP - PEACE RIVER HEADWATERS**

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**POLK COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  - Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - State Owned Lands
  - Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2011

## **Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters**

retains all hunting and fishing rights in negotiated land use agreements and conservation easements, including the right to lease lands for hunting. Monitoring of easements and agreements will be accomplished by the OES. Public use of these lands is linked to the environmental services of aquifer recharge and surface water protection they provide, as well as serving as an ecological greenway and wildlife habitat.

### **Acquisition Planning**

At the 6/10/2011 meeting, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the reevaluation and redesign of the 233,598-acre Green Swamp Florida Forever project, added to the list in 1992, removing from the boundary about 14,448 acres of land that was either developed or otherwise unmanageable, then dividing the remaining acreage into four projects. At the 10/14/2011 meeting, the ARC approved the resource evaluations and eight management prospectuses for the four Green Swamp projects. The Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters project covers 39,977 (GIS) acres in Polk County and includes 3,521 parcels with multiple owners. About 16,260 acres of the land within the project boundary have been acquired for conservation.

A disjunct portion of Hilochee Wildlife Management Area (WMA/FWCC) and some of General James A. Van Fleet State Trail (FDEP/Division of Recreation and Parks [DRP] Office of Greenways and Trails [OGT]) is within the boundary. The project also includes FDEP Green Swamp Land Authority (GSLA) Land Protection Agreements, and Green Swamp Conservation Easements.

### **Coordination**

The GSLA worked with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in acquiring lands within the boundary. In 1999, the GSLA's responsibilities passed to the FDEP.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Green Swamp lands acquired through alternatives to fee-simple should be managed to accomplish the following: conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered or threatened species; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in a manner that enhances or protects significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Green Swamp is essential to a clean adequate water supply for Central Florida.

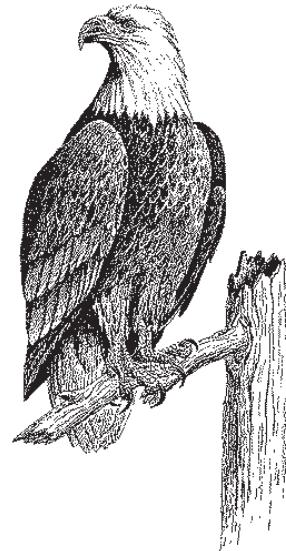
**Manager** The landowner manages the property, with monitoring oversight provided by the OES.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The intensity of management will be decided in the negotiation of the agreement or conservation easement.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The landowner will provide security and infrastructure protection.

**Revenue-generating potential** There is no revenue-generating potential for this project.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** The OES is responsible for periodic monitoring of land use agreements and conservation easements.



*New 2/23/2012*

# Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area

## Lake County      Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The primary purposes for acquisition of the Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters Florida Forever (FF) project are protection of the water supply of central Florida, particularly recharge for the Floridan Aquifer; protection of several rivers; preservation of a large area for wildlife; and provision of areas for public recreation.

### Managers

Since this project is proposed primarily as a less-than-fee acquisition, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands Office of Environmental Services (FDEP/DSL/OES) will monitor most of the project lands acquired. (See Acquisition Planning section below for managers of land already acquired within the boundary.)

### General Description

The project is 30,687 acres, comprising 13 distinct natural communities and other landcover types. Natural communities make up about half of the proposal; and various types of agricultural, rural residential, and mined lands make up the remainder. The natural communities are almost entirely wetlands; several large lakes and numerous basin swamps and depression marshes are interspersed in a complex mosaic with the disturbed landcover types.

Geographically, the project is south of SR 50, north of CR 474, and west of Lakes Minnehaha and Louisa. It is bounded to the west, south and southeast by two other Green Swamp FF projects (Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor and Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters). Its boundary is contiguous with five publicly managed conservation areas. Hydrologically, the project is split lengthwise (north-south) into two major

drainage basins. Almost three-quarters of the project is in the Oklawaha River watershed, draining east and northeast. The remaining quarter is the Withlacoochee River watershed which drains west. The northern portion of the project includes an area identified as the Groveland Karst Region; it is sandhill karst with solution basins, a region of the most active collapsed sinkhole development, and the principle recharge area of the Floridan aquifer. Most of the area (98%) meets the FF Evaluation's Measures for Aquifer Recharge.

Eight archaeological sites are listed in the Florida Master Site files within this area, but its extensive lakes and wetlands suggest a moderate to high potential for significant archaeological and historical sites that have not been discovered yet.

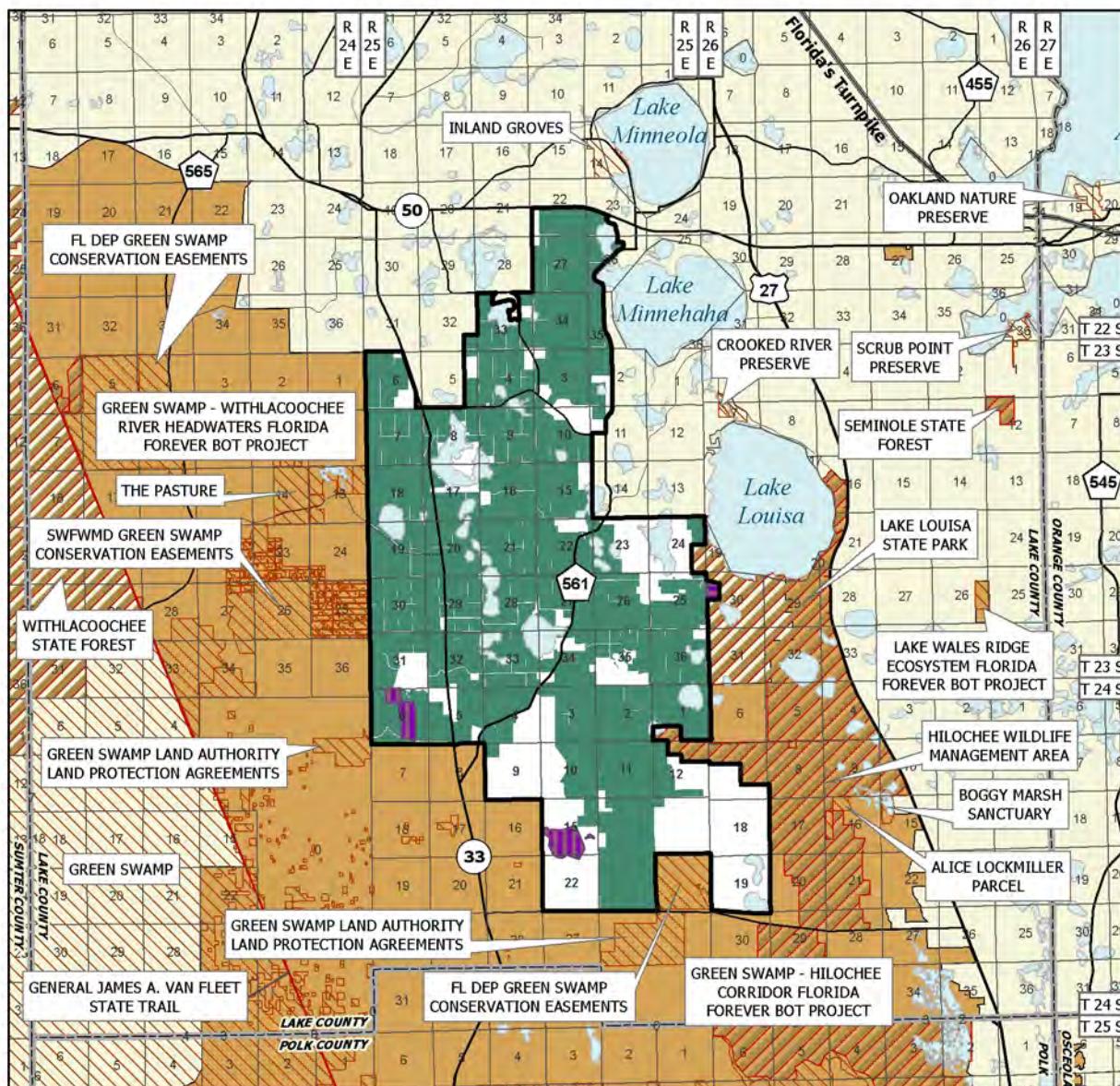
Few rare species have been documented within the project (see FNAI Elements). Based on habitat, there is potential for all 36 of the rare species identified for the original Green Swamp project to occur here. About 94% of the area meets the FF Evaluation's Measure for Ecological Greenways and 10% is within a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

From an urban planning perspective, the project has a moderate potential for being developed or subdivided, or losing significant natural attributes or open spaces. It is a short drive from Clermont and the Disney World complex. Development potential is higher on the north side near Groveland and Clermont. It is located within an Area of Critical State Concern. The current and future land uses are mostly agricultural and low-density residential, but a portion of the area just south of Grove

Green Swamp - Pine Island Recharge Area FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2012
Project Area (GIS Acres)	30,687
Acres Acquired (GIS)	202
at a Cost of	\$337,101*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	30,485
w/Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$253,652,976**
*Includes acreage acquired/funds expended by SWFWMD/ SJRWMD. **Based on project Just Value, 2010.	

## Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area



### GREEN SWAMP - PINE ISLAND RECHARGE AREA

#### Lake County

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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OCTOBER 2011

## **Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area**

land is designated for one dwelling unit per five acres.

### **Public Use**

As a less-than-fee project, public access to the land is expected to be minimal. The landowner typically retains all hunting and fishing rights in negotiated land use agreements and conservation easements, including the rights to lease lands for hunting. Monitoring of easements and agreements will be accomplished by the DSL.

Any public use of these lands needs to be linked to the environmental services of aquifer recharge and surface water protection they provide, as well as serving as ecological greenway and wildlife habitat.

### **Acquisition Planning**

At the 6/10/2011 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the reevaluation and redesign of the 233,598-acre Green Swamp Florida Forever project, added to the list in 1992. ARC removed from the original Green Swamp project boundary about 14,448 acres of land that were either developed or otherwise unmanageable, then divided the remaining acreage into four projects. The Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge project covers 30,687 acres in Lake County and includes 2,072 parcels with multiple owners. About 203 acres of the land within the project boundary have been acquired for conservation (46 acres in Lake Louisa State Park and a 150-acre conservation easement).

### **Coordination**

The Green Swamp Land Authority (GSLA) worked with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in acquiring lands within the boundary. In 1999, the GSLA's responsibilities passed to the FDEP.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The Green Swamp project lands acquired through alternatives to fee-simple should be managed to accomplish the following: conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered/threatened species; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in a manner that enhances or protects significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area land is essential to a clean, adequate water supply for Central Florida.

**Manager** The landowner manages the property with monitoring oversight provided by the FDEP/DSL/OES.

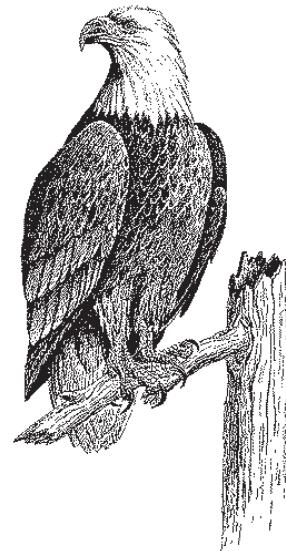
**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The intensity of management will be decided in the negotiation of the agreement or easement.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

The landowner will provide security and infrastructure protection.

**Revenue-generating potential** There is no revenue-generating potential for this project.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** The OES is responsible for periodic monitoring of land use agreements and conservation easements.



*New 2/23/2012*

# Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters

## Partnerships

### Lake, Pasco, and Polk Counties

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

The primary purposes for acquisition of the Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters Florida Forever (FF) project are protection of the water supply of central Florida, particularly recharge for the Floridan Aquifer and several rivers; preservation of a large area for wildlife; and provision of areas for public recreation.

#### Managers

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will be the primary manager for the majority of the project yet to be acquired. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (FDEP/DRP) will be the primary manager for the portion of the project that is within the optimum boundary of Colt Creek State Park. (See Acquisition Planning section for managers of land already acquired within the boundary.)

#### General Description

This project of 103,457 (GIS) acres is composed of 13 distinct natural communities and 4 other landcover types. The natural communities include pine flatwoods, scrub, and sandhill, which are underrepresented in state conservation holdings. About 61% of the project area is in natural condition, while 39% is disturbed (most

in improved and semi-improved pasture and smaller acreages in ruderal and pine plantation).

Geographically, the project is located between SR 50 on the north and US 98 on the south. It is close to Lakeland and Clermont. Its northwestern boundary is contiguous with the Withlachoochee State Forest and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)-managed Green Swamp land. To the east and the south are the other three Green Swamp FF projects. The western two-thirds of the project is characterized by low, rolling limestone plains. The land surface of the remaining third is comprised of sandhills and karst solution features with the Green Swamp region in the southeast being lower and closer to the water table. It is also a moderate distance to the Disney World complex.

Hydrographically, the majority of the project is within the Withlachoochee River watershed. A small portion along the southern boundary is within the Hillsborough River watershed to the southwest. The Withlachoochee River bisects the middle of the project along the Lake-Polk County line; the river westward forms a significant portion of the western boundary. Elevations range from knolls greater than 140 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to less than 100 feet above MSL, but the majority of the project is below 115 feet MSL.

Six rare plants and 17 rare animals are documented as occurring within the project boundary, mostly associated with existing conservation lands in the southwestern part of the project. (See FNAI Elements.)

Green Swamp - Withlachoochee River Headwaters FNAI Elements	
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Arogos Skipper	G3T1T2/S1
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
<i>Redmargin zephyrlily</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
Peninsular Floater	G3/S2S3
<i>Plume Polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>Swamp Plume Polypody</i>	G5?/S2
23 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2012
Project Area (GIS Acres)	103,457
Acres Acquired (GIS)	51,342
at a Cost of	\$84,773,630*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	52,115
w/Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$148,773,904**
*Includes acreage acquired/funds expended by SWFWMD/SJRWMD. **Based on project Just Value, 2010	

## **Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters**

From an urban planning perspective, the project has a moderate potential for being developed, subdivided, or losing significant natural attributes or open spaces. Development potential is higher on the south end, in the vicinity of Lakeland and Polk City. The project is within an Area of Critical State Concern.

and Green Swamp Conservation Easements.

### **Coordination**

The GSLA worked with the SWFWMD in acquiring lands within the boundary. In 1999, the GSLA's responsibilities passed to the FDEP.

### **Public Use**

The FWCC will consider programs providing multiple fish/wildlife-based public recreational uses if land within the project area is acquired. These potential public outdoor fish/wildlife-based recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all-weather public access and management operations; and unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be appropriate to allow public access and to provide facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR).

### **Management Policy Statement**

The Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters Florida Forever project will be managed to accomplish the following: conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered or threatened species; provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests in a manner that enhances or protects significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish and wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area (WMA). Its mosaic of land uses would help protect the Floridan Aquifer and the headwaters of several rivers that start in this region. It would preserve a large area for wildlife and provide areas for public recreation in a fast-growing region between Tampa and Orlando.

**Manager** The FWCC will manage most of the project lands remaining to be acquired (about 54,250 acres). The FDEP/DRP will manage a 488-acre parcel that is within the Colt Creek State Park optimum boundary. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) will manage a 11,963-acre parcel within the Withlacoochee State Forest optimum boundary. (Note: See site management plans for lands already acquired.) Polk County has indicated its willingness to be involved in acquisition and management when possible.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** For the FWCC-managed lands, environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, and outstanding natural areas and wetlands, if acquired, would be identified, appropriately managed, and protected.

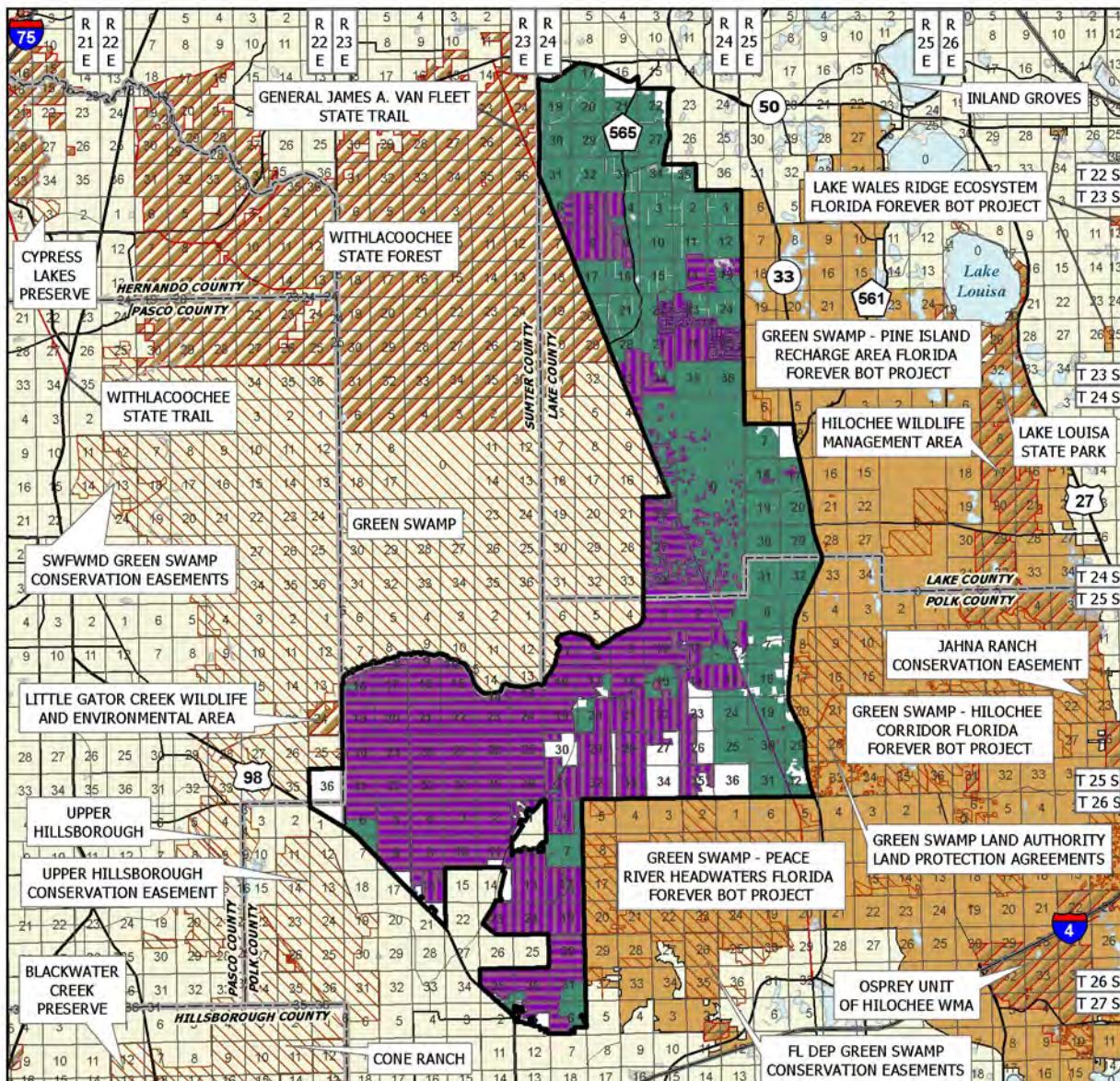
The Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters project includes natural areas requiring application of resource management methods, such as prescribed fire, where appropriate. Other areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive species,

### **Acquisition Planning**

At the June 10, 2011 meeting, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the reevaluation and redesign of the 233,598-acre Green Swamp Florida Forever project added to the list in 1992, removing from the boundary about 14,448 acres of land that was either developed or otherwise unmanageable, then dividing the remaining acreage into four projects. At the October 14, 2011 meeting, the ARC approved the resource evaluations and eight management prospectuses for the four Green Swamp projects. This project is the westernmost of the four projects. It covers 103,448 acres in northern Polk County and southern Lake County and a very small piece of Pasco County. About 45% percent of the lands (51,050 acres) within its boundary have been acquired for conservation.

Included within the boundary are all or part of the following managed conservation areas acquired in fee-simple, with the managing agency: Colt Creek State Park--FDEP/DRP; General James A. Van Fleet State Trail--FDEP/DRP/Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT); Green Swamp--SWFWMD; The Pasture--Lake County; Gator Creek Reserve--Polk County. All or part of the lands within the boundary acquired using alternatives to fee-simple include SWFWMD's Green Swamp Conservation Easements and DEP's Green Swamp Land Authority (GSLA) Land Protection Agreements

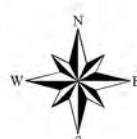
## Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters



### GREEN SWAMP - WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER HEADWATERS

#### LAKE, PASCO, AND POLK COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Yellow Box] Other Conservation Lands



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## Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters

and reforestation. Such resource management actions may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives to attain a specific-desired, future condition. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Due to the importance of landscape ecology, land use changes in the vicinity of a managed area may affect attainment of resource conservation goals for the area and the overall effectiveness of necessary resource management projects. Continued biotic monitoring is necessary for the accomplishment of natural resource management goals. Also, development of facilities is to be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources and compatible recreational experiences. To the extent possible, any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The FDEP/DRP's management costs will increase for parcels near Colt Creek State Park and will increase over time as work shifts from protection and restoration to broader public use. The FFS restoration efforts will focus on introducing prescribed fire; removing off-site pine species and exotic species; restoring native groundcovers and possibly wetlands.

***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*** If acquired, a management plan will be developed by the FWCC describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management. The management plans will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of rare and imperiled species. If acquired, quantified vegetation management objectives may be developed to guide management for actively-managed natural communities. If acquired, the FWCC will assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance rare and imperiled species management and recovery of imperiled species within the land acquired within the Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters project and managed by the FWCC. Use of prescribed fire and other resource management activities will maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources. Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation if land within the Withlachoochee Headwaters is acquired. These potential public outdoor fish- and-wildlife-based recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while provid-

ing public outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be appropriate to allow public access and to provide facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, DHR. The DRP will develop short-term management goals of security, protection of resources, and resource inventory for its parcels. The FFS proposes to manage parcels within the optimum boundary of the Withlachoochee State Forest as a state forest. Burn goals of the FFS will be to eventually establish an all-season prescribed burning program.

***Revenue-generating potential*** Revenue from the FWCC-managed conservation lands, such as an acquisition within the Withlachoochee River Headwaters for a WMA, could include sales of various permits and recreational user fees, and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. The long-term value of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are thought to be significant. The DRP expects no significant revenue immediately after acquisition. Future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use.

***Cooperators in management activities*** The FWCC will cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the SWFWMD; the SJRWMD (St. Johns River Water Management District); the FFS; and Lake, Pasco and Polk Counties in management of the property. The DRP plans to cooperate with state agencies, but plans no work with local agencies.

***Management costs and sources of revenue\**** Below is the FWCC's estimate of costs to operate/manage the area yet to be acquired within the Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters project that is outside the Colt Creek State Park and the Withlachoochee State Forest optimal boundaries. Costs listed below are projected estimates necessary to fully implement management activities within the project and reflect an estimate of the potential annual operating budget.

(continued)

## Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters

FWCC Projections		FDEP/DRP Projections Colt Creek State Park Management Costs	
<b>Resource Management</b>			
Exotic Species Control	\$37,186	Salary (1 FTE position)	\$33,000
Prescribed Burning	\$111,221	Expense	\$10,000
Cultural Resource Management	\$1,794	Operating Capital Outlay	\$25,000
Timber Management	\$7,176	Outsourcing	\$0
Hydrological Manager	\$193,739		
Other	\$805,332	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,000</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,156,447</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		<b>FFS Projections</b> <b>Withlacoochee State Forest Management Costs*</b>	
General Administration	<b>\$10,636</b>		
<b>Support</b>			
Land Management Planning	\$103,285	Salary (4 FTE positions)	\$132,141
Land Management Reviews	\$20,133	Expense	\$315,000
Training/Staff Development	\$5,339	Operation Capital Outlay	\$188,600
Vehicle Purchase	\$68,433		
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$53,816	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$635,741</b>
Other	\$13,274		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$284,281</b>		
<b>Capital Improvements</b>			
New Facility Construction	\$89,694		
Facility Maintenance	\$311,312		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$401,006</b>		
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>			
Info/Education/Operations	<b>\$60,032</b>		
<b>Law Enforcement</b>			
Resources Protection	<b>\$40,501</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,932,903*</b>		<i>New 3/1/2012</i>

\*Based on the FWCC's current staffing ratio of approximately one full-time employee (FTE) per 5,000 acres of managed area, 11 FTE positions would be optimal to fully manage the area covered by this prospectus. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

# Gulf Hammock

Levy County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gulf Hammock Florida Forever proposal is designed to protect a large forested system with watershed draining into an aquatic preserve. Acquisition of this project meets Florida Forever goals of increasing biodiversity by protecting nesting habitats for swallow tailed kites and bald eagles; of protecting and restoring natural functions of land and water by restoring the hydrology that existed before silviculture operations; and increasing natural-resource based public recreation by possibly providing passive recreation including picnicking, hiking trails, and nature appreciation and education.

## Manager

The majority of the project (25,611 GIS acres) will be managed under a conservation easement (CE) by the Office of Environmental Services (OES), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is recommended as lead manager for the portion of the project that would be acquired in full fee (3,652 acres). The FWCC currently manages most of the project area as the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

## General Description

The Gulf Hammock project consists of approximately 25,611 acres (GIS) in southwest Levy County, of which approximately 3,652 acres are proposed for full-fee sale and the remainder proposed for protection

under a less-than-fee conservation easement. A total of 23,248 acres of the lands within the project area are currently managed in cooperation with the FWCC as Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area, the State's oldest wildlife management area, established in 1948.

## Public Use

Management programs would conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources. The project area will be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping and hiking. The DEP and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 3 percent (716 acres) of the project area to be priority 1 or 2 recreational trails.

The conservation easement area is not expected to provide significant levels of resource-based recreation use. Other than hunting, nature appreciation, trails and primitive camping might be considered the most prominent public uses of the area proposed for full fee purchase. As with the conservation area, the extent of public use will greatly depend on the wet and dry conditions of the property.

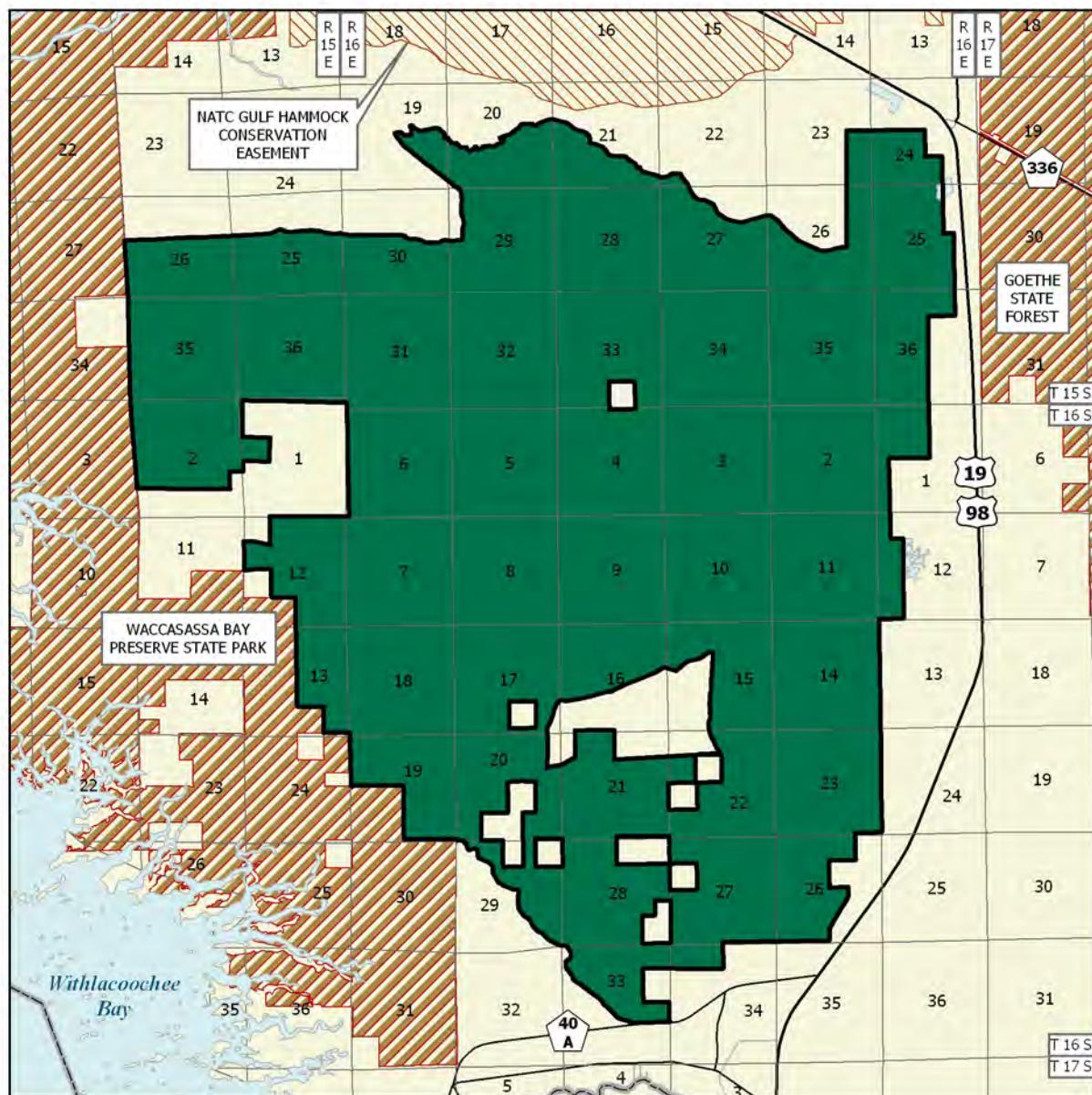
## Acquisition Planning

Of this project, 21,959 acres (86%) is proposed for less-than-fee easement. The property is owned by Plum Creek Timber Company. Most of the property that is offered in less-than-fee is currently being used for intensive silvicultural production. The 3,652 acres that is being offered in fee, located at the west end of the property, is more hydrologically and environmentally intact, and would serve as an addition to, or buffer

Gulf Hammock FNAI Elements	
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
<i>Tampa Vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Wood Spurge</i>	G5/S2
Common Kingsnake	G5/S2S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
11 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (GIS Acres)	25,611
Acres Acquired	0
At a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining	25,611
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$11,524,000

## Gulf Hammock



## GULF HAMMOCK

### LEVY COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



AUGUST 2006

to the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park. Council staff is continuing project development work with the major owner and with other landowners with significant natural resources to determine optimum boundaries and uses of the fee and less-than-fee portions of the project. The tax-assessed value of the property is \$11,524,000. On 6/4/2004 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the B List of Florida Forever projects.

### **Coordination**

The FWCC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Florida Division of Forestry/DOF) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in management of the property.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Since principal purposes of the project include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to careful control of public uses. Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled and rare species should be an important management goal for the project. Management programs would conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources. The project area will be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping and hiking.

### **Management Prospectus**

The OES, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the proposed conservation easement for this project. As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement. FWCC submitted the following management plans for any full-fee purchases in this project:

**Qualifications for state designation** The entire project area is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI. The project also provides habitat for many focal species, which are indicators of natural communities,

and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. The FWCC indicates that over 43% (11,105 acres) of the project area includes at least seven focal species. Focal species are those that are indicators of natural communities or suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife. Many important conservation lands have become increasingly isolated and no longer support viable populations of large widely ranging mammals. The Gulf Hammock Florida Forever project would provide landscape connectivity that, if realized, should benefit fish and wildlife resources by linking large areas of natural habitat, and by providing to the user community diverse outdoor recreational opportunities.

**Managers** OES for the CE; FWCC for any full-fee purchases.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Some portions of the project include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring application of resource management methods, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Additional methods may be necessary for some management units in order to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The FWCC would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate, desired future conditions; objectives; and restoration methods. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities might involve, for example, the reintroduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Surveillance for, and removal of infestations of exotic invasive plant species will be done.

Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of planned development and implementation, because imperiled or rare species are expected to occur on the project. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

**Timetable for implementing the management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** During the first year after acquisition, emphasis would be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan would be developed by the FWCC describing the

## Gulf Hammock

management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Long-range goals would emphasize ecosystem management and the conservation of fish and wildlife. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to the FWCC objective-based vegetation management process. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan would be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable methods. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Management activities would strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives, these resources would be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The DHR lists two of these sites in the project area.

Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas and wetlands, would be identified and appropriate protective measures would be implemented on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as

practical. Other existing infrastructure would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the project area.

**Revenue-generating potential** Substantial revenue from forest products production, as currently occurs, should continue. Management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential in areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting and fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWCC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the FFS and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in management of the property.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** Following has been submitted by FWCC:

### **REVENUE SOURCES, MANAGEMENT COSTS AND EMPLOYEES NEEDED\***

Category	Start-up
Recurring	

Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$ 91,369	\$ 72,532
Administration	\$ 75,494	\$ 25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$ 31,566
Capital Improvements	\$185,583	\$ 25,347
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$ 1,285	\$ 141
Law Enforcement	\$ 2,534	\$ 2,534
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$505,344</b>	<b>\$157,252</b>

\*Figures are for the fee-simple portion only, and include salary for 1 FTE.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Half Circle L Ranch

Hendry and Collier Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Located within primary habitat zones for both the Florida panther and the Florida Black bear the project compliments the ongoing conservation efforts in this region of the state for these and numerous other species. Protection of these and other endangered and threatened species is a primary concern. Habitat and hydrological restoration of disturbed areas is another goal of state acquisition of this project. Public recreation compatible with resource protection is also an acquisition goal. More information is cited below in the Public Uses description.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is the designated lead manager for the project. All management activities on Florida Forever land should include a monitoring component so that managers can judge the effectiveness of their actions. Management plans, which are required for all Florida Forever land, should indicate specifically how and when the results of management activities will be monitored and how that information will be used to improve subsequent management activities.

### General Description

Adjoining the southern boundary of the Devil's Garden Florida Forever project, the southwestern boundary of the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area, and the southeastern boundary of the Okaloacoochee Slough

State Forest/Wildlife Management Area in Collier and Hendry counties, this proposal contains approximately 11,182 acres.

The dominant communities on the property are basin and depression marshes, wet prairies, hydric/mesic hammocks, and wet/mesic flatwoods. Forty-five percent of the project has been converted to improved pasture, row crops, and citrus.

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory there are eight rare plants and animals recorded on the site. More than 60 percent of the lands within the Half Circle L Ranch project proposal are designated as Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas. In actuality, nearly all of the land in this project is classified as a Primary Zone or Priority One for panther habitat (currently used by panthers), and the Florida black bear. The remainder of the site is identified as a Secondary Zone for panther habitat (buffer areas for dispersing cats or areas that could be converted to Primary Zone status with restoration), by the Panther Subgroup of the Multispecies/Ecosystem Recovery Implementation Team. Radio telemetry studies have confirmed panther use of the site.

### Public Use

Due to extensive wetlands, the project is limited in its ability to provide year-round diverse resource-based recreational opportunities. Hiking and horseback trails would be traversable in limited dry season conditions. In the more upland sites, the project can accommodate, to one degree or another, camping,

Half Circle L Ranch	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>Narrow-leaved Strap Fern</i>	G4G5/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Hand Fern</i>	G4/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4

10 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	11,182
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
At a Cost Of	0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	11,182
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of:	\$2,811,833

picnicking, wildlife observation (nature study), and environmental education. Depending on management emphasis, hunting can also be supported. Due to the wet conditions of the project, bicycling is questionable and would require further review. Should it be considered suitable, bicycling would be limited in its range throughout the property.

### **Acquisition Planning**

The project consists of approximately 11,182 (GIS) acres, multiple parcels and two owners. The 2002 tax assessed/taxable value is estimated at \$2,811,833.00. On 6/6/2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the A List of Florida Forever projects. In 2004 ARC moved this project to the B List of the Florida Forever projects.

### **Coordination**

This project is adjacent to Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (approximately 32,039 acres) and the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area (approximately 19,639 acres). The Panther Glades and Devil's Garden Florida Forever projects are also adjacent.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goal for the project is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. An ecosystem approach will guide the management activities on this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, or the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area. Management is contingent upon the state obtaining legal public access to the site and acquiring fee simple title to the parcel. Major communities represented on this project include swale, slough, basin marsh, depression marsh, wet prairie, strand swamp, dome swamp, hammock, mesic and wet flatwoods. These community types are consistent with the adjacent state forest and the wildlife management area.

**Manager FWCC.**

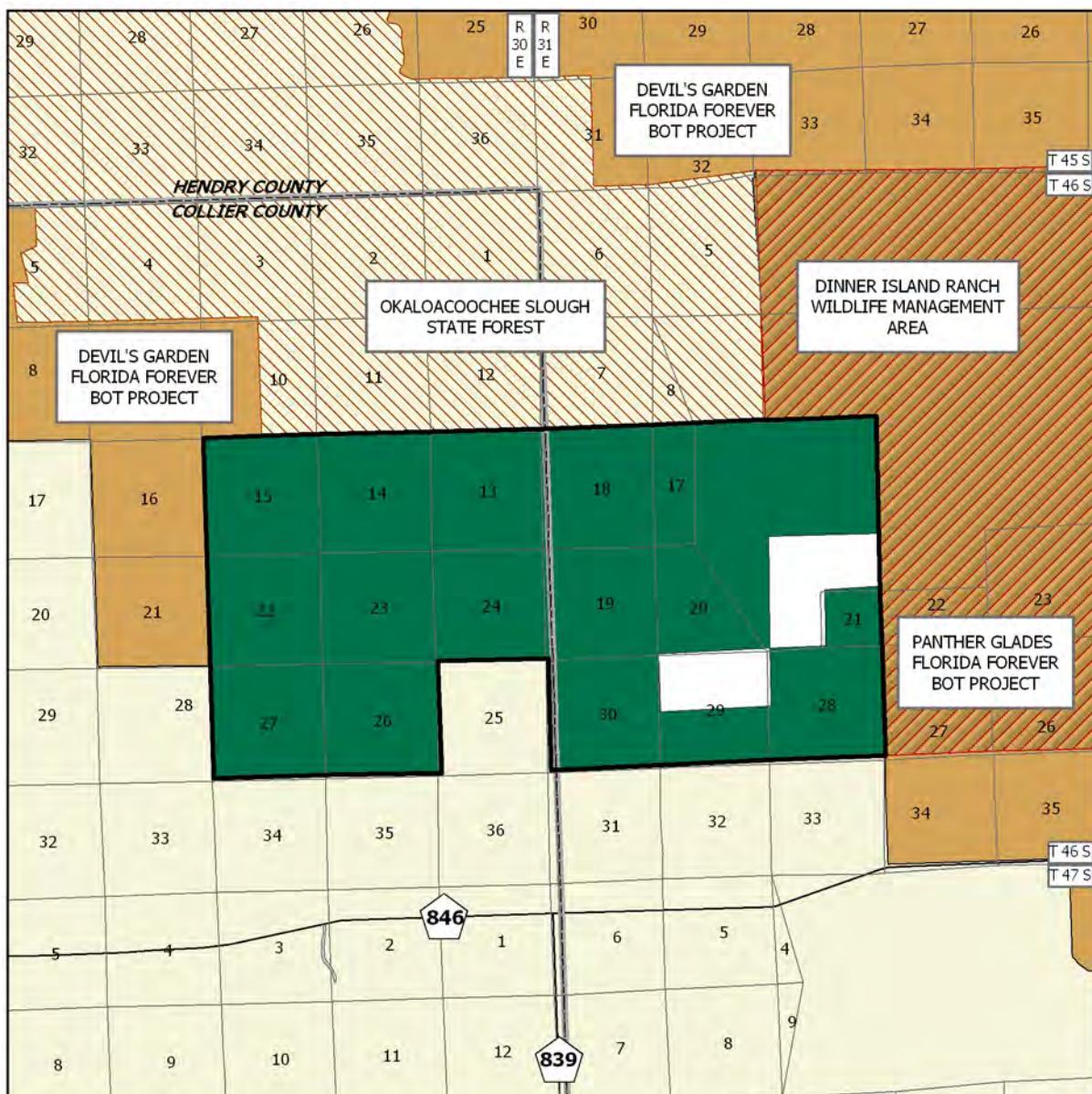
**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the project's drier natural community types have been disturbed; many converted to some improved form of agriculture. This conversion usually means some type

of hydrologic alteration to facilitate water management has occurred. This property contains vast areas of wetlands with sensitive natural resources; accordingly, land management and public use will specifically be structured to improve and protect these areas. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be initially high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a part of Okaloacoochee State Forest and/or the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area. Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain this area. The FWCC reports that wildlife habitat values and habitat restoration on the semi-improved pasture and native range areas could be improved and potentially restored by removing cattle grazing and utilizing prescribed fire.

**Timetable for implementing management** Restoration of the natural communities on this project will be a priority. Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration planning, fire management and planning, site security, public access, and removal of exotic species. The inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of management goals. Restoration efforts will focus on water flow alterations, ditching, agriculture improvements to the land, and perpetuating natural communities that have historically been changed. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact to these areas. Long-range goals will stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. Archaeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable

## Half Circle L Ranch



### HALF CIRCLE L RANCH

#### **HENDRY AND COLLIER COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



SEPTEMBER 2006

ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Because of the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from ecotourism activities which can be economically developed.

**Capital project expenditures** Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for hydrological restoration, for public access and public use. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project expenditure; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed an application may be submitted for capital project expenditure funds. It is anticipated that some the existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding

and off-road bicycling.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (2 FTE)</b>	<b>\$ 70,751</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$261,372</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$300,600</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$632,723</b>

**Updated 2/23/2012**

# Hall Ranch

Charlotte County

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Inland from the rapidly growing coast of southwest Florida are expanses of ranchland still in essentially natural condition. By adding some of this ranchland to the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, the Hall Ranch project will help preserve a corridor of natural land—slash pine flatwoods, marshes, and cypress swamps—from Charlotte Harbor to Telegraph Swamp, protect habitat for Florida black bear, and enlarge the area in which the public can hunt, hike, and camp.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC).

### General Description

Hall Ranch, adjacent to Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, includes good quality South Florida slash pine flatwoods and depression marshes, with a few other natural communities. The area is more significant for rare animals like black bear than for plants (no rare plants are known). It includes part of Shell Creek (the water supply for Punta Gorda) and the head of the important Telegraph Swamp.

No archaeological sites are known. The area is vulnerable to development and conversion to intensive agriculture; since development pressures are low, endangerment is moderate.

### Public Use

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hunting, various sorts of trails, camping, and picnicking, among other activities.

### Acquisition Planning

This project is at negotiated impasse because negotiations on the essential or core parcel have been

unsuccessful and have reached an impasse (or the owners are not willing to consider a sale to the state).

This project consists of one major owner—the Hall Ranch Corporation. The essential parcel is the Hall ownership south of State Road 74. There are multiple small ownerships scattered throughout the Hall ownership north of SR 74. This project was ranked for the first time in December, 1996.

On 4/6/2001, the Council transferred this project to the “B” Grouping.

### Coordination

The FWCC is considered an acquisition partner on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Hall Ranch project is to preserve and restore the mosaic of pine flatwoods, hammocks, and wetlands between the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area and Telegraph Swamp. Achieving this objective will provide a refuge for threatened animals like the Florida black bear and red-cockaded woodpecker, preserve an area of natural lands extending from Charlotte Harbor to Telegraph Swamp, and, by expanding the wildlife management area, provide the public with a large area for natural-resource-based recreation. The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward preservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as hunting and timber harvesting. Managers should control access to the project; limit public vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>8,519</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>8,519</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$4,997,720</b>

<b>Hall Ranch</b>	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

## Hall Ranch



## HALL RANCH

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

- [White Box] Florida Forever Project Boundary
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Hatched Box] State Owned Lands



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OCTOBER 2005

resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; reforest pine plantations with original species; strictly limit timbering in old-growth stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they actually preserve resources. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project includes much of the undeveloped land between the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area and Telegraph Swamp and consequently has the size and location to achieve its primary objective.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Hall Ranch project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area and will provide the public with a large tract for activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife observation.

**Manager** The FWCC is recommended as Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Hall Ranch proposal generally includes lands that will require moderate to intensive resource management including frequent fire, roller chopping and some timber management to open the thicker pine stands. The primary management needed for the perpetuation of the natural communities on the area would involve continuing the frequent fire regime already established and control of human access. Additional management projects will involve gradual restoration of improved pasture and agricultural fields into native habitat. On portions of existing disturbed areas, native and non-native agronomic plantings may be used to benefit both game and nongame wildlife on the area and to promote special hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the general public. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure quality recreational experience for those members of the public interested in less infrastructure and other disturbance factors.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of existing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWCC, describing the goals and objectives of future resource management.

Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management and protection of threatened and

endangered species. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will be implemented. An all-season prescribed burn management plan will be developed and implemented with conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources.

Timber resources include pine flatwoods (62%), cypress domes/strands (4%) and xeric hammock (2%). Where appropriate and practical, these resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the Florida Forest Service. Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented to those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the property.

**Revenue-generating potential** About 62% of the Hall Ranch consists of pine flatwoods that could be managed to offset operational costs. Future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of already existing pine stands. Another revenue source would include cattle grazing which would help reduce fuel loads and provide fire line maintenance by the lessee. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps and other user fees.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWCC will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in managing the area.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

### **Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category	Startup	Recurring
Fund Source	CARL/SGTF	CARL/SGTF
Salary	\$59,415	\$59,415
OPS	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$32,000	\$32,000
OCO	\$48,128	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$139,543</b>	<b>\$86,415</b>

# Heather Island/Ocklawaha River

Marion County

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project offers important ecological benefits. Foremost among those benefits are linkages with existing public conservation lands, corridors for wildlife dispersal, preservation of habitat for rare species, corridors for wildlife dispersal and floodplain protection. Given its diversity of wildlife species, quality of plant communities, and strategic location, this proposal offers substantial conservation attributes. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

## Manager

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is the suitable lead manager for most of the southern two parcels: Marshall Swamp and Cow Hammock, approximately 5,200 acres. The remaining parcels, approximately 12,700 acres, to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) (portions between Sharpes Ferry Road and the Silver River) and the Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF).

## General Description

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project consists of approximately 19,949 (GIS) acres in Marion County. The project area consists of a mosaic of upland and wetland communities with the majority being forested wetlands. Several conservation areas including the Ocala National Forest and the Cross Florida Greenway Recreation and Conservation Areas border the project. The project will protect and restore the floodplain and the adjacent upland forests along the Ocklawaha River. The project area provides suitable habitat for the black bear and the rare plant pink root. The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project was previously on the CARL

acquisition list, but was removed due to an impasse reached with unwilling sellers in 2000. Recently the landowners have expressed an interest in selling to the state and/or the St. Johns Water Management District (SJRWMD). To date the SJRWMD has acquired approximately 4,465 acres within the original CARL project boundaries.

## Public Use

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project can accommodate a diversity of resource-based recreation opportunities, such as hiking, environmental resource appreciation and education, picnicking, camping, horseback riding and bicycling. Depending on management emphasis the property will also support hunting. The project abuts the Ocklawaha River or public lands adjacent to the river that could accommodate shoreline freshwater fishing and or boat launching sites.

## Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Office & Greenway Trails (OGT) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), consisted of approximately 19,949 GIS acres, two landowners, the Rayonier Timberland Corp. and the Alawest-Al LLC, and a 2001 taxable value of \$32,234,776. The essential parcels were identified as the Rayonier ownership and should be mapped and appraised first.

On 1/25/2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority list.

On 1/11/2011 approx 400 acres (TNC/Rayonier Forest

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	19,949
Acres Acquired (GIS)	400
at a Cost of	\$1,165,000
Acres Remaining (GIS)	19,549
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$31,588,376

Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
2 rare species are associated with the project	

Resources LP--\$1,165,000) were purchased by DRP to be managed by DRP as Silver River Addition.

### **Coordination**

This project will be acquired in partnership with SJRWMD, with a mixture of state and WMD funding. Contribution percentages have not been determined.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for biking, camping, canoeing, environmental and cultural resource education, fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

The connection and proximity of this project to other conservation lands, as well as its landscape diversity and high quality wetlands, provide important habitats for wildlife populations and a unique environment for outdoor recreation in Florida. Since the principal purposes of the proposal are to protect habitat for wildlife, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species and careful management of public access.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Based upon a review of the Florida Forever Act, this project meets the Goals and Measures, as outlined in Statute to increase nature-based recreation, to enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, to increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels, to protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state, and to increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

**Manager** The high wildlife resource value of the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River proposal indicates that the FWC is the suitable lead manager for most of the southern two parcels (Marshall Swamp and Cow Hammock: approximately 5,200 acres), with the remaining parcels (approximately 12,700 acres) to be managed by DRP between Sharpes Ferry Road and the Silver River, and FFS.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Some portions of the project include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. However, since more than 53 percent of the proposal area has been disturbed for silviculture or other purposes, significant restoration activities are contemplated for some of the acreage on which fee title is acquired. FWCC will use restoration techniques recommended by specialists in the field of ecological restoration, including the most recent advancements identified by on-going research and lessons learned on the ground through adaptive management. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities will involve the introduction of prescribed fire and careful management of public use. Biotic surveys will be a priority, since many rare or listed species are expected to be present.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

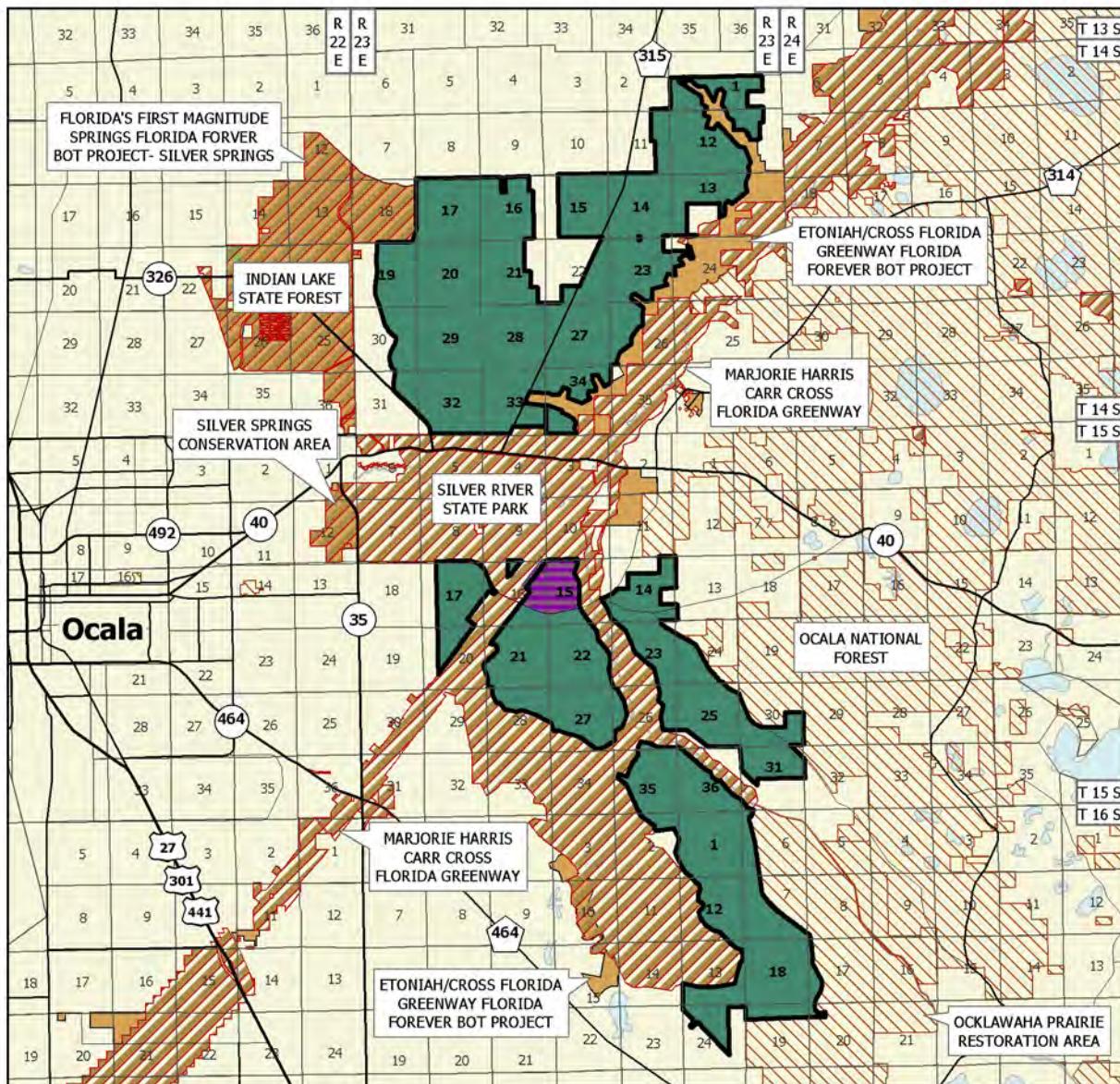
During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWCC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Long-range plans will emphasize restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions; restoration of native wildlife populations and wildlife diversity including protection and management of threatened and endangered species; and management for sustainable public use of game wildlife populations balanced with other wildlife oriented recreational activities. Multiple use principles will be practiced where compatible with resource management goals and acquisition purposes.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWCC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), FFS and the SJRWMD in managing the area. The high wildlife resource value of the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River proposal indicates that the FWCC is the suitable lead manager for most of the southern two parcels (Marshall Swamp and Cow Hammock: approximately 5,200 acres), with the remaining parcels (approximately 12,700 acres) to be managed by the DEP and the FFS as lead agencies.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** The harvest and sale of forest products should continue to provide

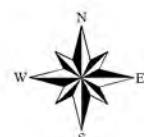
## Heather Island/Ocklawaha River



## HEATHER ISLAND/OCKLAWAHIA RIVER

### MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4  
Miles



JUNE 2011

revenues under State management, where silvicultural activities are consistent with wildlife habitat management objectives. The FWCC, however, will seek to expand and enhance the revenue-generating potential of the property improving wildlife diversity and providing a broad spectrum of resource-based recreational opportunities. Additional revenue will be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism and wildlife viewing activities.

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River proposal, when acquired by the State, will require one FTE position to manage the project area, although certain activities may be privatized which would reduce the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural resource management and public use administration would come from the CARL

Trust Fund. See attached table for anticipated costs. It is anticipated that revenues sources would include public use fees and timber harvests.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

**Management Cost Summary/FWC (including salaries for 4 FTEs, although some activities may be privatized.)**

	<b>Startup:</b>	<b>Recurring:</b>
<b>Resource Management</b>	\$ 271,345	\$327,189
<b>Administration</b>	\$ 75,494	\$ 25,133
<b>Support</b>	\$ 149,080	\$ 31,566
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	\$1,130,236	\$ 119,119
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>	\$ 2,361	\$ 141
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	\$ 13,874	\$ 13,874
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,642,389</b>	<b>\$517,020</b>

**Management Cost Summary/FFS**

<b>Salary (2FTE)</b>	<b>\$80,870</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$117,500</b>
<b>Operating Capital Outlay</b>	<b>\$225,600</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$423,970</b>

**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,700</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$268,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$268,000</b>	<b>\$8,700</b>

# Hixtown Swamp

Madison County

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The complex of cypress swamps, marshes, and ponds called Hixtown Swamp, an important overwintering and nesting site for wading birds, has been spared the intensive tree-farming practices of the surrounding uplands. The Hixtown Swamp project will conserve these swamps and marshes, thereby protecting wading-bird rookeries and wildlife habitat as well as a possible Spanish mission site and other important archeological remains, and giving the public a large area in which to hunt, hike, or simply observe wildlife.

## Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC).

## General Description

Hixtown Swamp is one of the largest cypress-dominated basin swamps in northern Florida. The moderately disturbed core swamp is a mixture of cypress swamp, freshwater marsh, and open marsh ponds (50%), as well as shrub swamp (20%), and disturbed uplands, which are mostly silvicultural/agricultural land. There are no well-defined channels or streams associated with the swamp. At least during high water, the waters of Hixtown Swamp flow slowly southward, and the swamp is functionally a part of the much larger San Pedro Bay ecosystem. Hixtown Swamp is regionally significant as habitat for both game and nongame wildlife. It is particularly important as an overwintering area for waterfowl. It supports large numbers of sandhill cranes, some perhaps residents. Twenty-one archaeological or historical sites have been recorded within this project,

## Critical Natural Lands

including perhaps a Spanish mission site. The project has high cultural-resource value. Timber harvesting is the greatest current threat to the area.

## Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hiking, picnicking, camping and wildlife observation.

## Acquisition Planning

Phase I (essential): Mitchell (aka Musselwhite), G&G, Miller, Collins, Genecer, Muggee and Gillman (contingent upon 50% donation).

## Coordination

Suwannee River Water Management District (SRW-MD) is an acquisition partner.

## Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Hixtown Swamp project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

## Management Prospectus

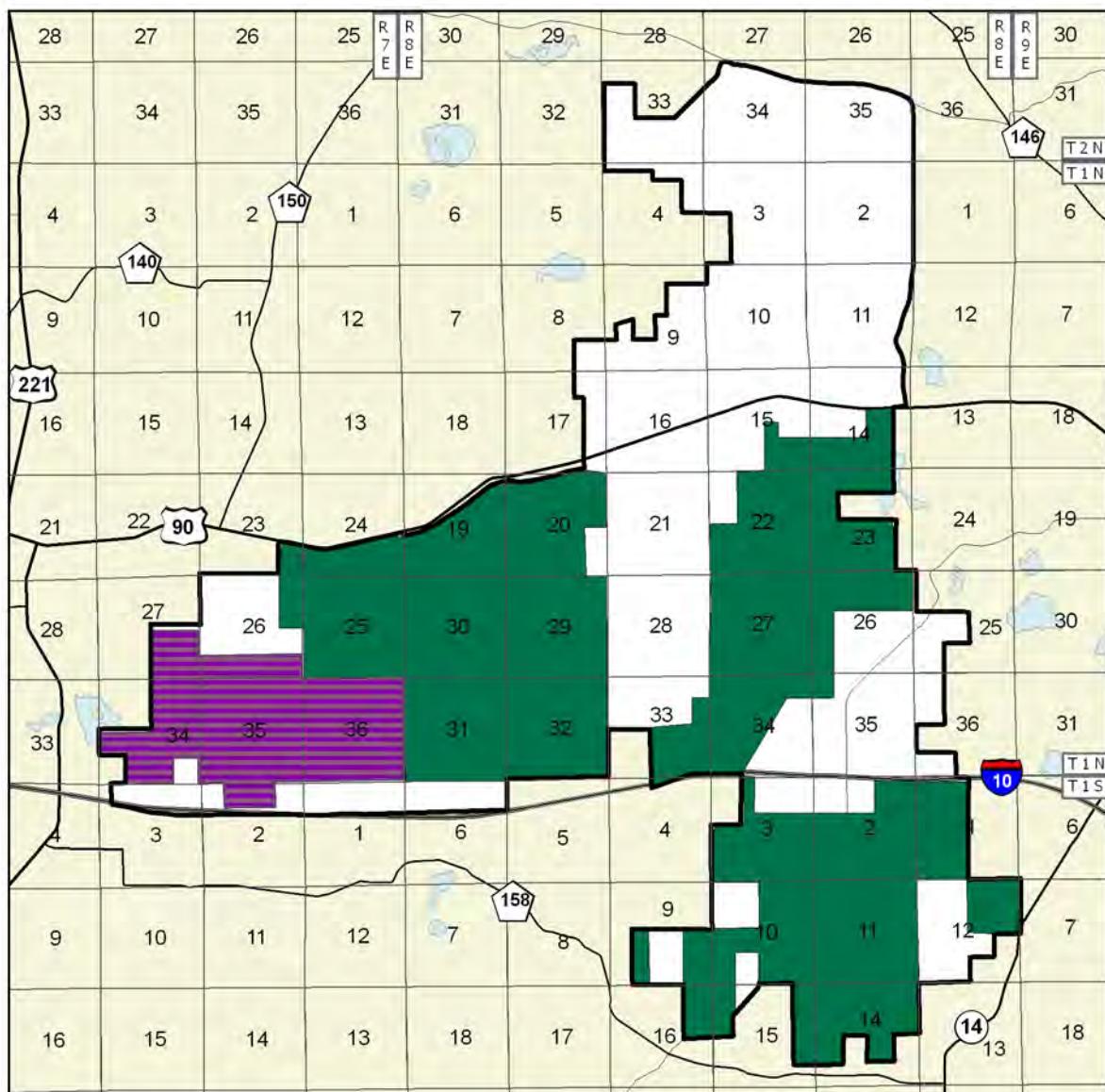
**Qualifications for state designation** The size of the Hixtown Swamp project, and its importance to wildlife, particularly its value as an over-wintering area for waterfowl, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

Hixtown Swamp FNAI Elements	
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
<i>Incised Groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1993
Project Area (GIS Acres)	24,479
Acres Acquired (GIS)	2,050*
at a Cost of	\$200,331
Acres Remaining (GIS)	22,429
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$9,542,800

\*Acquired by SRWMD

## Hixtown Swamp



### HIXTOWN SWAMP

#### MADISON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



0 0.5 1 2  
Miles

AUGUST 2006

## Hixtown Swamp

**Manager** The FWCC will manage the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** This natural wetlands system now generally requires basic resource management and protection, but is in danger of being modified hydrologically in order to drain the area for timber and agricultural production. Pine plantations and agricultural areas on the uplands will require restoration. Depending on the nature and extent of public recreational use determined by the management planning process, there may be additional needs for management of public-use facilities.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural resource management and conceptual planning. Public-use

facilities will be developed in succeeding years.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use increases, modest revenue may be generated.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Forest Service (FFS) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) is recommended as a cooperator to assist in reforestation of the upland areas.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

Management Cost Summary/FWC		
Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$180,000	\$180,000
OPS	\$5,500	\$5,500
Expense	\$45,500	\$40,000
OCO	\$124,800	\$10,000
FCO\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$355,800</b>	<b>\$236,500</b>

# Horse Creek Ranch

DeSoto/Hardee Counties

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for state acquisition of this conservation easement is to provide a buffer for Horse Creek, a high-water-quality tributary of the Peace River; provide for habitat protection and enhancement of numerous rare species and imperiled natural communities; and afford additional resource protection for the Peace River waters and riverine wetlands within the boundaries of the Peaceful Horse Ranch and Peace River Refuge Florida Forever projects, the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary, and the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

## Manager

The owner has expressed interest in preserving this land with a conservation easement, which would be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands or its successor.

## General Description

The Horse Creek Ranch project is approximately 16,316 (GIS) acres in size and its tax assessed just value is \$35.5 million. It is in southwestern Hardee County and northwestern DeSoto County, southwest of the town of Wauchula. It is held by a single owner and is offered as a less-than-fee acquisition. The county line divides the ranch about midway north-south. County Roads (CR) 663 and 661 form the eastern boundary in a portion of the north and south, respectively, and CR 665 traverses the northern third of the property east-west.

Approximately 52 percent of the project is in natural condition. Relatively little area is occupied by invasive exotic plants. The natural communities include mesic and wet flatwoods, bottomland forest, depression and basin marshes, mesic hammock, scrubby flatwoods, baygall, and blackwater streams. The natural uplands are principally longleaf pine-dominated mesic flatwoods with pockets of scrubby flatwoods on the highest elevations and more hydric wet flatwoods in the ecotone between the uplands and the Horse Creek floodplain.

A large block of high quality mesic flatwoods extends from the eastern floodplain of Horse Creek to the eastern boundary of the property in the southern part of the project. The groundcover in these flatwoods is in excellent condition and is well managed with prescribed fire. There is a lush, diverse mixture of low shrubs, grasses and other vegetation, all less than one meter in height.

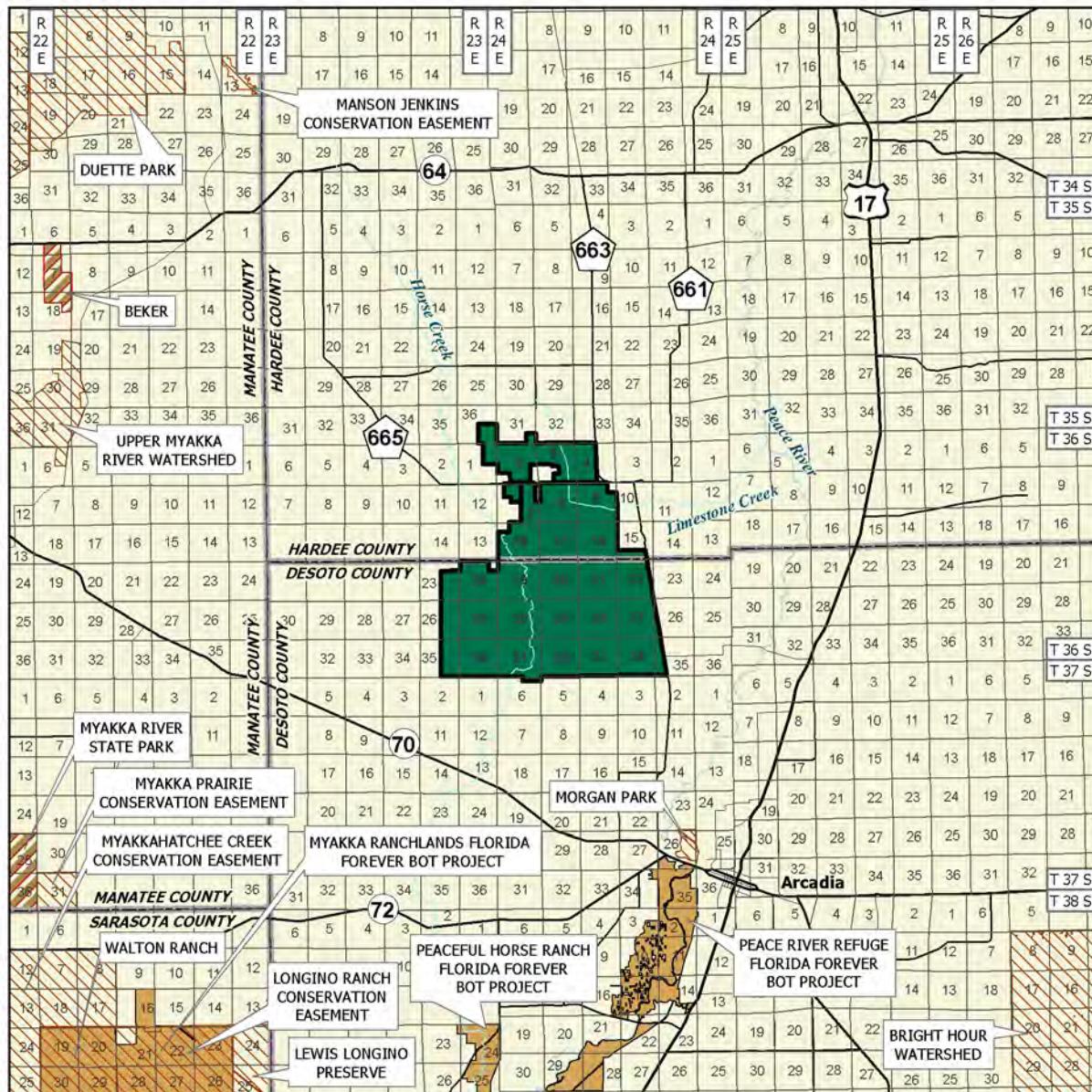
Smaller pockets of flatwoods occur to the north and also to the west of Horse Creek. Extensive stands of old growth longleaf pines occur in the southern portions of the property. Smaller patches of flatwoods that support a mix of South Florida slash pine and longleaf pine can be found in the northeastern portion of the project. Hurricane Charley in 2004 severely damaged large, mature stands of slash and longleaf pines (up to 80% according to the applicant). The canopy is now very sparse and regeneration is patchy, although some

Horse Creek Ranch	
FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4

7 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2010
Project Area (GIS Acres)	16,316
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	16,316
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$9,893,163

## Horse Creek Ranch



## HORSE CREEK RANCH

### DESOTO AND HARDEE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 2 4 8 Miles



JANUARY 2011

regeneration may not be visible, not yet taller than the groundcover. The owner has left many snags that greatly benefit cavity nesting birds.

The majority of the remainder of the property is extensive areas of improved pastures and old agricultural fields (approximately 46%) that are distributed throughout. The property is a working cattle ranch, and there are some small areas of row crops and sod fields.

Horse Creek and Limestone Creek are blackwater streams, as is typical of most creeks in the area. A small tributary to Horse Creek on the western side of the property, called "Sand Gully" by the property owner, appears to be, at least in part, a seepage stream. The segment of this tributary that was visited ran clear and shallow over white sand, at the base of a sandy slope. The tributary may have been channelized in the past; the owner stated that it is "flashy" i.e., water quickly rises during heavy rains and quickly subsides afterwards. Limestone Creek has been channelized throughout its length on the property. Horse Creek appears to be in good, relatively unaltered condition.

A 5.3-mile stretch of the middle reaches of Horse Creek, a major tributary to the Peace River, runs south through the project. The surrounding area is largely pasture land and citrus groves, and the property is not contiguous with any existing conservation lands. An approximately 243-acre inholding (citrus grove) straddles CR 665 in the northern portion of the project. Along the Peace River, DeSoto County's Morgan Park is four miles south and the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Lower Peace River Corridor is 16 miles south of the project. With the exception of the 520-acre Altman Tract Conservation Easement at the headwaters of Horse Creek in Manatee County, no other conservation lands are along this important tributary.

### Public Use

While there is the possibility that some kind of limited public access could be negotiated for research or school groups for educational purposes, as a working cattle ranch, any form of unrestricted or otherwise unsupervised access that could interfere with the property's economic uses or increase liability would not be acceptable to the landowner. Canoers and kayakers would observe its riverbanks passing through from the headwaters of Horse Creek to conservation areas such as Desoto County's Morgan Park.

### Acquisition Planning

At the 12/10/2010 meeting, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended that this less-than-fee project be added to the list.

### Coordination

As a co-applicant, The Nature Conservancy is considered to be a partner on this project; however, no funding is available for assistance with acquisition. Because this project buffers Horse Creek and ensures better water quality for Horse Creek and the Peace River, the water management district would be supportive of state acquisition of this parcel.

### Management Policy Statement

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** This project meets the following public purposes: Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels; Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state; Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state ; Increase natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities; Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and, Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

**Manager** The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement unless otherwise noted.

Updated 2/23/2012

# Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone

## Gadsden and Liberty Counties

### Less-Than-Fee

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for this project is to preserve a habitat for one of only two core populations of the rare Chapman's Rhododendron, a federally listed plant that is found in the world only in three Panhandle counties of Florida (Gulf, Gadsden and Liberty counties). This proposal is for a conservation easement. On the western portion of the project, the easement that would cover about 70 percent of the known Hosford-area Chapman's Rhododendron. The eastern portion has greater potential for diverse forms of resource-based recreation. The project is located in an area the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has identified as a priority ecological greenway area that would augment the value of the Lake Talquin State Forest, and help Gadsden County increase its resource-based recreational opportunities. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) identifies this area as potential habitat for a number of rare and imperiled species.

#### Manager

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor any conservation easements (CE).

#### General Description

The original boundary of 3,262 acres extended west from State Road 267 in an irregular-shaped block on the west side of Lake Talquin. This project adjoins the

Lines Tract of the Lake Talquin State Forest on the northwest side of Lake Talquin. The Wakulla Unit of the Apalachicola National Forest is approximately two miles to the south of this site. About half of this site is historically flatwoods but, over the years, most of this has been converted to pine plantations. About 75 percent of the site is now cultivated as pine plantations. About 15 percent of the site is pine flatwoods. The project has about 1,414 acres of functioning wetlands that would be protected by this acquisition.

On 10/24/2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the addition of 3,648 acres that formed a connection from Lake Talquin to Apalachicola.

#### Public Use

The degree of public use that could be enjoyed will be determined by the degree of ownership and public access acquired. The majority of the property is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition. Currently the property is within the Robert Brent Wildlife Management Area, and is open to hunting, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and nature-appreciation activities. Such activities are, of course, dependent upon permission by the owner. If public access is acquired, the project has the potential for a variety of forest related management activities. The possibility of linking this project to Lake Talquin State Forest would provide activities such as bird-watching, environmental education, hiking, horseback riding, off-road bicycling, hunting, nature study and photography.

#### Acquisition Planning

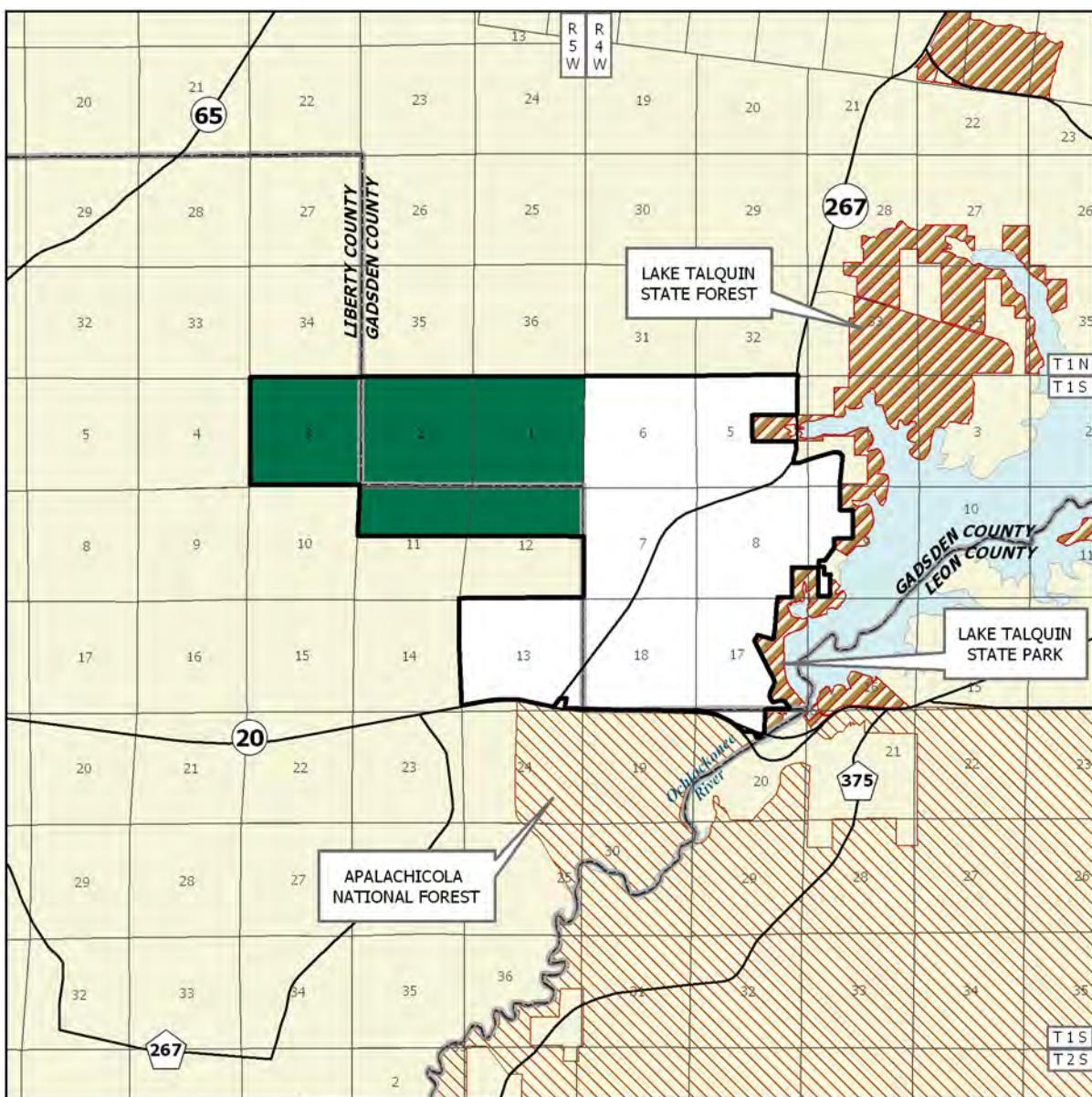
The Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection

Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>Chapman's Rhododendron</i>	G1/S1
Zigzag Silkgrass	G3/S3
Scare-weed	G3/S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	6,923
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
At a Cost of	0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	6,923
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of	\$1,064,452

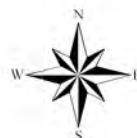
## Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone



### HOSFORD CHAPMAN'S RHODODENDRON PROTECTION ZONE

#### GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



SEPTEMBER 2006

## **Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone**

Zone Florida Forever project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the June meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group B project. The essential parcel is the St. Joe Timberlands and with the Blairwoods tract forms the connection to the Lake Talquin State Forest (3,249 acres).

On 10/24/2002 ARC approved the addition of 3,648 acres to the project boundary. This addition formed the connection from the Lake Talquin State Forest to the Apalachicola National Forest.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) are considered acquisition partners. No alternative funding sources have been identified for the project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of establishing the Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone project are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity the native ecosystems, including the core population of the rare Chapman's Rhododendron. The FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the State Forest system, and in a manner designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project as approved by the ARC. The ecosystem approach will guide the management activities of the FFS on the site.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The major communities represented on this site are flatwoods and sandhills. The project's location and diversity make it desirable as an addition to the Lake Talquin State Forest. Its management as a state forest, or its oversight as a conservation easement, will depend upon the level of title acquired by the Board of Trustees. The highest level of protection for the rare species would be accomplished by fee simple acquisition. Parcels acquired in fee simple would be added to the state forest, contingent on obtaining some level of public access to the site.

**Manager** FFS/DACS proposes to manage this site as part of the Lake Talquin State Forest, with personnel from Tallahassee District Headquarters carrying out management.

#### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

Portions of the project have been disturbed and will

require restoration. Management on these sites would be structured toward creating optimal conditions for propagation of the rhododendrons. This would preclude more intensive restoration, such as some types of mechanical understory control and site preparation. Certain types of public use, if acquired, may be reduced in the most sensitive areas of the project. Additionally, water-resource development projects, stormwater management projects and any linear facilities are considered incompatible with this ecosystem and with the resource value of this project.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

If the site is a less-than-fee acquisition, management and public use will be consistent with the terms of each conservation easement. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public access, fire management, resource inventory, reforestation of areas where off-site species have been harvested, natural regeneration of native species, and any restoration activity. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystems. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and provide a variable source of revenue, dependent on a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on this property, the revenue potential of this project is expected to be medium.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

<b>Management Cost Summary/FFS</b>	
<b>Salary (1 FTE)</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$40,900</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$69,900</b>

***Updated 2/23/2012***

# **Ichetucknee Trace**

## **Columbia County**

## **Critical Natural Lands**

### **Purpose for State Acquisition**

A dry valley known as the Ichetucknee Trace runs north and east of Ichetucknee Springs and marks the route of a major underground conduit supplying the springs with clear water. Though the Ichetucknee Springs State Park protects the springs and much of the Ichetucknee River that flows from them, limerock mining and other land uses near the sinks in the Trace pose a threat to that conduit of groundwater that flows to the springs. Limerock mines and sinks along teh trace have exposed teh conduit in some areas, leaving these areas vulnerable to pollutants from mining and encroaching development. Aquisition of the nine project sites will aid in protecting the trace and the underlying conduit, and will improve the quality and quantity of Ichetucknee Springs water. Acquisition will also provide the public with a park and a fishing area.

### **Manager**

Columbia County, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC).

### **General Description**

The project includes two active limerock mines and seven other sinkhole sites along the Trace. Over 80 percent of the 450-acre limerock mine has no natural communities on it, but a small area of upland mixed forest and floodplain forest remains northeast of the mines. The majority of the areas around the five sinkholes are highly disturbed, but includes some fair quality forests. No rare plants or animals are known from the project. The mines are believed to lie over a significant geologic feature, a major conduit to

Ichetucknee Springs. The purchase of these mines and sinks will help protect the water supply to Ichetucknee Springs.

### **Public Use**

This project qualifies as a fish management area, recreation parks, and geologic sites. With appropriate contouring, the water-filled mine pits could serve as a recreational fishery or fish hatchery and as a county park.

### **Acquisition Planning**

The essential parcels are Anderson Mining (acquired) and Kirby (acquired) ownerships and all parcels within the addition. The Council amended the boundary to add 636 acres in 1999. This project was ranked for the first time on 12/5/1996. In January, 2000, the Board of Trustees (BOT) authorized DEP's Division of State Lands (DSL) to purchase 60 acres outside the project boundary. If the 60 acres tract is acquired, the Acquistion and Restoration Council (ARC) and ultimately the BOT will consider whether to retain owership or designate the tract surplus.

On 7/29/1999, the Council added 636 acres: Rose Sink (since acquired), Saylor Sink (acquired), and Clay Hole Creek.

On 7/18/2000, the Council added 200 acres to the project.

On 8/9/2002 the Trust for Public Land donated the 2-acre parcel around Rose Sink to the State of Florida.

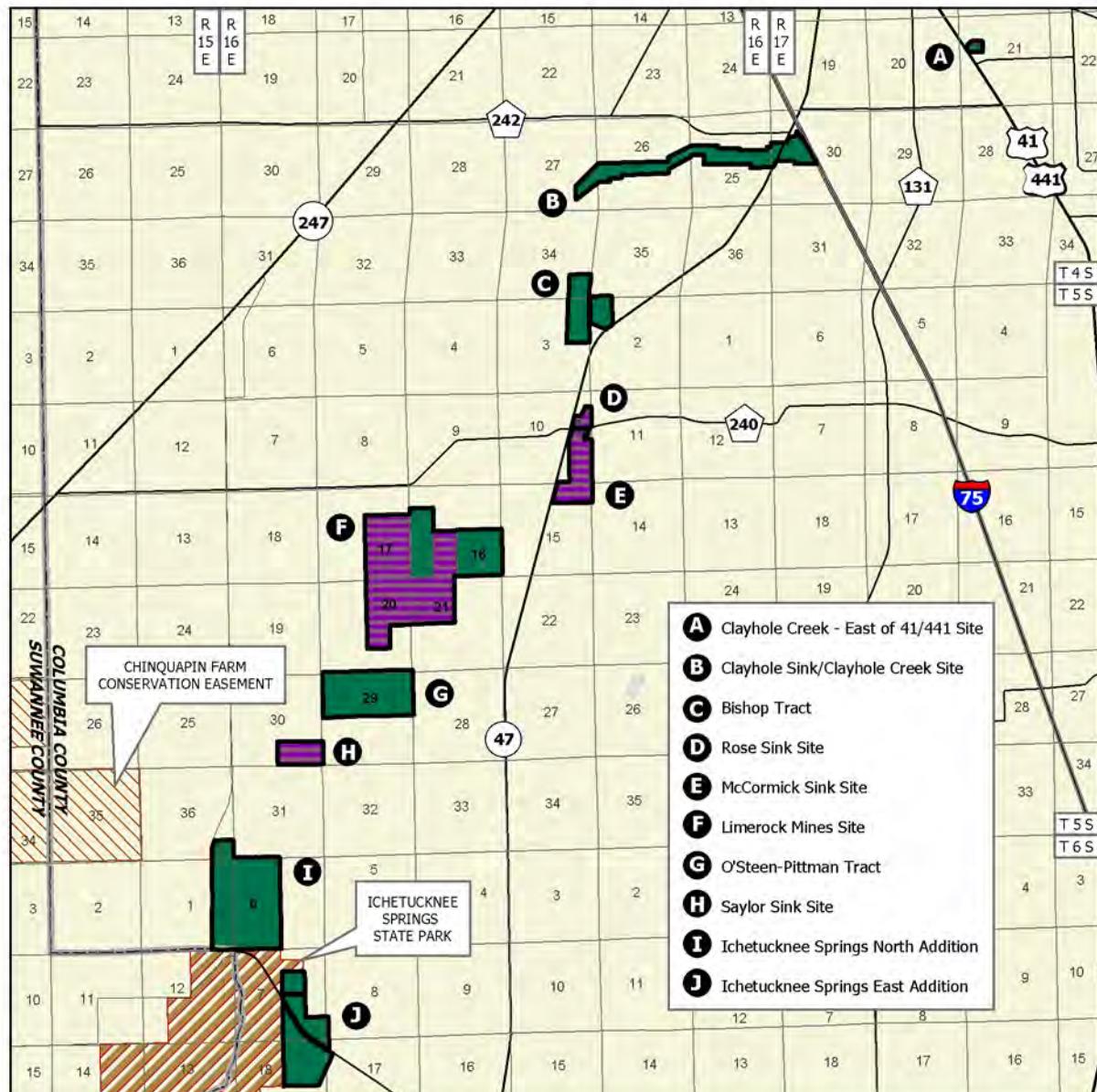
On 12/8/2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF)

<b>Ichetucknee Trace</b>	
FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Hobbs' Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Pallid Cave Crayfish	G2G3/S2S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>2,716</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>829*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$33,433,774</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>1,887</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$1,874,065</b>	

\*Includes donated acreage

## Ichetucknee Trace



0 1 2 4 Miles

JUNE 2011

On 8/15/2003 the Council added 7.8 acres to the project boundaries.

On 12/8/2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.

On 2/16/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 120-acre addition (Kirby parcel within the Limerock Mines Site) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by John Hankinson, Jr., consisted of one landowner, B. L. Kirby, and a single parcel with a taxable value of \$26,160. The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) will manage this essential parcel.

On 6/15/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,050-acre addition (aka Sinks Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the Thousand Friends of Florida, consisted of 34 parcels, 18 landowners, and a taxable value of \$1,397,263. The O'Stern-Pittman Tract, Bishop Tract, Ichetucknee Springs East Addition, and acreage added to the existing Limerock Mines Site and Ichetucknee Springs North make up this addition. The OGT has agreed to manage the parcels adjacent to its proposed Columbia County Recreation Area as part of that area, and the DRP will serve as the project manager for the remaining parcels. The added parcels have been designated as essential.

On 12/29/2010, 12.96 acres in Rose Sink (Kirby Mine Area) at a value of \$214,372 were donated by TPL and DRP are to manage.

### **Coordination**

Columbia County is considered an acquisition partner for this project. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is an intermediary.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Ichetucknee Trace project is to preserve the quality and quantity of water flowing into the first-magnitude Ichetucknee Springs by preventing mines from disturbing a major conduit to the springs and by preventing groundwater contamination through major sinkholes. Achieving this objective will help to ensure the public can continue to enjoy recreation in the scenic springs and spring run. It will also provide additional recreational opportunities and geologic education. The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept: management activities

should be directed first toward conservation and restoration of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as fishing. Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; restrict the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and gasoline-powered boats to protect water quality; inventory the resources; contour the mine pits to provide shallow littoral zones for colonization by aquatic plants and animals, and recontour spoil piles so they can be revegetated with native trees, shrubs, and grasses; reforest cleared, but unmined, areas with original species; control exotic pest plants that may invade the disturbed parts of the site; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving resources. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the potential for a family fishing park, and the site can be developed for a variety of other compatible recreational activities such as canoeing, hiking, biking, picnicking, environmental education and nature studies. It therefore qualifies as a fish management area.

**Manager** DRP is recommended as lead manager for the site adjacent to the existing state park, and Columbia County as lead manager for the other nine sites. The FWCC is recommended as co-manager on the limerock mine site.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Habitat restoration will require intense management activities involving extensive earth moving and some actual excavation of quarry pit perimeters to create desired gradual slopes and provide additional shallow littoral zones. Importantly, this excavation work will be vital from a public safety standpoint as existing quarry sides are perpendicular. It is anticipated considerable mining refuse will be present and will need to be removed. Some actual salvage or demolition may be necessary. Earthmoving to abolish some roads and to spread any available soil will be extensive but will then allow plant succession to proceed. Because no valuable habitats exist to manage, succession is the appropriate strategy. Earthmoving will allow creation of planned vehicle access/parking, etc., in areas where eventual erosion to lakes can be precluded. Some fencing to prohibit/direct vehicular and non-vehicular access will be necessary. Plant community inventory and restoration of disturbed mined areas by planting or other techniques will be

## **Ichetucknee Trace**

secondary to major initial physical reconfiguration of the landscape and mine pits.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, fencing, public access, resource inventory and removal of existing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the DRP, the County, and the FWCC describing future resource management. Because of the expense of excavating and earth moving and prerequisite planning/bidding, most of this actual work will not be scheduled for year one. Year two will concentrate on accomplishment of initial phases of conceptual plan (earth moving and excavation). This work will proceed into year three, when some infrastructure work on facilities will commence. Long-range plans will stress fish and wildlife habitat creation/management and family fishing opportunities. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented and all management activities will stress protection of

water quality in the mine pits. Future infrastructure may include a handicapped fishing pier, docks for canoes and small boats, an education/information pavilion and designated hiking/biking trails.

***Revenue-generating potential*** Some potential for sale of timber exists on this property. Additional revenue-generating potential would be the sale of fishing licenses, special use or entrance fees.

***Cooperators in management activities*** The DRP, County, and FWCC will cooperate with various offices of the DEP and local government agencies in managing the area.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

<b>Management Cost Summary/FWCC</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL, SGTF</b>	<b>CARL, SGTF</b>
Salary	\$40,000	\$75,000
OPS	\$10,000	\$10,000
Expense	\$20,000	\$200,000
OCO	\$35,000	\$20,000
FCO	\$0	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>

# Indian River Lagoon Blueway

Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and  
Martin Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition would help preserve and improve the aquatic natural communities of the Indian River Lagoon, one of the country's most productive, diverse, and commercially and recreationally important estuaries. A third of the country's manatee population lives in the Indian River, and the area is important for many migratory birds as well as for oceanic and estuarine fishes. Additionally, public acquisition would provide natural resource based recreation in a developing area of Florida.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) management centers around the Mullet Creek area. The previous managing agency, DEP Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA), also requested that the lands purchased for this project within St. Lucie County be leased directly to the county. The county has purchased parcels using county funds, Florida Communities Trust (FCT) money and other sources, and they would like to manage the lands under a single plan. Other agencies participating as cooperating managers are Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, Brevard Mosquito Control, and Indian River Mosquito Control. Several of the previously listed cooperating Managers are currently managing some of the

tracts within the project boundaries. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wishes to participate in the management of some sites (including Phase II sites). Additionally the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will likely be cooperating Managers on some sites as part of their SWIM programs. The FWC will manage that part of the project that was formally the North Indian River Lagoon project. The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge will manage the Pelican Island Addition site, if it is acquired. Florida Atlantic University (FAU) will manage the Harbor Branch sites.

Management of lands previously owned by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute will be divided among several entities. Some of the unimproved uplands will be managed by St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Division and some of the unimproved wetlands by St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District. Much of the improved acreage will be leased by the Board of Trustees for management by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Foundation or Florida Atlantic University.

### General Description

The 5,136-acre, Phase I, project is located in five counties, includes 36 separate areas (combined into 20 sites), and lies within the jurisdictions of two water management districts. It spans approximately 150 miles along the east and west sides of the Indian River Lagoon. Marine tidal marsh and maritime hammock, largely in good condition, cover roughly 60 per cent of the project;

Indian River Lagoon Blueway FNAI Elements	
Mangrove	G2/S2
<i>Lakelot's Blin'</i>	G1/S1
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida Lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
Atlantic Salt Marsh Snake	G4T1Q/S1
<i>Burrowing Firefly/clock</i>	G3/S2
Coastal Pervain	G3/S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Large-flowered Rosemary</i>	G3/S3

18 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1998
Project Area (Acres)	27,097
Acres Acquired	4,447*
at a Cost of	\$45,794,168*
Acres Remaining	19,847

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$90,061,244

\*Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SJRWMD and Martin/Brevard/Indian River counties, and Harbor Branch.

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

#### VOLUSIA, BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, ST. LUCIE, AND MARTIN COUNTIES

##### Map 1: Volusia County

- A. Barrier Island Marshes Sites
- B. North Indian River Lagoon Site
- C. Edgewater Sites
- D. Oak Hill Site

##### Map 2: Volusia and Brevard Counties

- A. North Indian River Lagoon Site
- B. North Titusville Site

##### Map 3: Brevard County

- A. Pine Island Site
- B. Sykes Creek Sites

##### Map 4: Brevard County

- A. East Merritt Island Impoundment Sites

##### Map 5: Brevard County

- A. Hog Point Site
- B. Washburn Cove Site
- C. Snagg Point Site
- D. Mullet Creek Site
- E. Old Oak Lodge Preserve Site

##### Map 6: Indian River County

- A. Pelican Island Addition Site
- B. Morgan's Impoundment Site
- C. Winter Beach Marsh Site
- D. Vossinbury Site

##### Map 7: Indian River and St. Lucie Counties

- A. Diamond Site
- B. Martin Site
- C. Oyster Bar Impoundment Site
- D. Avalon Site
- E. Harbor Branch Site
- F. Pappas Site
- G. Queens Island Site

##### Map 8: St. Lucie County

- A. Bear Point Site

##### Map 9: St. Lucie and Martin Counties

- A. Hutchinson Island Site

##### Map 10: Martin County

- A. Gomez Site
- B. Corset Island Site
- C. Palmer Sound Site
- D. Hobe Sound Site



AUGUST 2007

0 10 20 40 Miles

many of the marshes have been diked for mosquito control and require reconnection to the lagoon. Mangrove swamps, scrub, and flatwoods cover small portions of the proposal areas. A large part of the country's manatee population lives in the Indian River, and the area is important for many migratory birds as well as for oceanic and estuarine fishes. The Indian River Lagoon is a state aquatic preserve and classified as an Outstanding Florida Water. It is also a SWIM priority waterbody, and an Estuary of National Significance. The commercial and recreational fisheries (based on estuarine-dependent species) in the Indian River are some of Florida's most important—over 100,000 saltwater recreational anglers are registered in the proposal area.

### **Public Use**

Parcels within the project fall within or are adjacent to five aquatic preserves; Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River, Indian River—Malabar to Vero Beach, Indian River—Vero Beach to Ft. Pierce, and Jensen Beach to Jupiter Inlet. It will be managed as a buffer to the aquatic preserves.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/12/1997, the LAAC added the Indian River Lagoon Blueway project to the CARL 1998 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by multiple sponsors, consisted of approximately 5,136 acres, 460 owners, and a 1996 taxable value of \$24,519,173.

On 6/17/1999, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 42-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Brevard County, consisted of multiple owners, and a 1998 taxable value of \$865,400.

On 12/9/1999, LAMAC approved combining the North Indian River Lagoon project with the existing Indian River Lagoon Blueway project. The added acreage brought the total Project Area to approximately 25,345 acres.

On 12/19/2000, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 186-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by multiple sponsors, consisted of multiple owners, and a 1999 taxable value of \$4,205,800. The addition was broken down as follows: (1) Brevard County Snagg Point, sponsored by TNC, consisted of 125 acres with a taxable value of \$1,246,520. The SJRWMD acquired 14.63 acres in 2005; (2) Martin County Bon Air Beach, sponsored by the Town of Jupiter Island, consisted of 43 acres with a taxable value

of \$1,1161,000; and (3) St. Lucie County Hobe Sound Addition, sponsored by St. Lucie County, consisted of 18 acres with a taxable value of \$1,798,280.

On 4/16/2001, ARC established Groups A & B and moved this project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority list.

On 12/5/2002, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority list.

On 8/15/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 15-acre addition, aka Old Oak Lodge Preserve, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Institute of Technology, Dept. of Marine & Environmental Systems, consisted of one owner, Indian River No. 1 Developer, and a 2002 taxable value of \$685,170.

On February 11, 2005, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 297-acre addition, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of four owners, and a 2004 taxable value of \$1,137,380.

On 2/16/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 194-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Brevard County EEL Program, consisted of nine ownerships, 10 parcels, and a taxable value of \$984,310. Brevard County will manage these parcels considered essential to the project.

On 4/13/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 296-acre addition, known as Harbor Branch, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the St. Lucie County government, and consisted of three landowners, 12 parcels, and a taxable value of \$16,248,257. The parcels were designated as essential and will be managed by the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District.

On 8/16/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 47-acre addition (aka Pelican Island Addition Site) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Torwest, Inc., and the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and consisted of one parcel with a 2006 taxable value of \$5,816,550. The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge is the recommended manager of this essential parcel. Approximately half an acre overlaps with the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge site in Indian River County.

In 8/2008, 41.88 acres of the Kaufman/Young ownership were purchased for \$1,970,000 (\$1,313,333 from DSL Florida Forever funds and \$656,666 paid for by

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway

the SJRWMD). The DRP will manage this addition. On 12/12/2008 ARC voted to extend the boundary with a fee-simple 230-acre addition in St. Lucie County, with a tax-assessed value of \$33,756,700. This is the Indian River Lagoon Blueway Harbor Branch, Phase II. This addition is part of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic campus. The proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.

On 3/10/2010, two parcels--approx 384 acres (136/DSL plus 248/DCA)--were purchased from Harbor Branch (HB) for \$24,040,488 funding from FF-HB-Other. These parcels are to be managed by FAU.

### Coordination

Acquisition of this project will be a coordinated effort between directly involved local governments and water management districts and the State. The five counties (Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin) and the water management districts (St. Johns River WMD and South Florida WMD) have sent resolutions in support of this project. The District and Brevard County have acquired more than 3,200 acres. The District has acquired the Snag Point tract (214 acres), an essential parcel.

A "161" agreement has been formalized for the tracts in the St. Johns River WMD.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of Indian River Lagoon Blueway project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to or scarce within this state; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, fish and wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas for natural resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project will acquire numerous parcels adjoining the Indian River Lagoon. The habitats include freshwater marsh, salt marsh, mangrove fringe, maritime hammock, coastal strand, scrub, baygall, and pine flatwoods. Many of the wetland sites are impounded or otherwise hydrologi-

ologically altered. Management and restoration of these habitats would provide protection for the Indian River Lagoon, increase estuarine habitat, and improve public access and recreational opportunities. The parcels fall within five aquatic preserves; Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River, Indian River—Malabar to Vero Beach, Indian River—Vero Beach to Fort. Pierce, and Jensen Beach—to Jupiter Inlet, and therefore is appropriate for designation as a State Buffer Preserve.

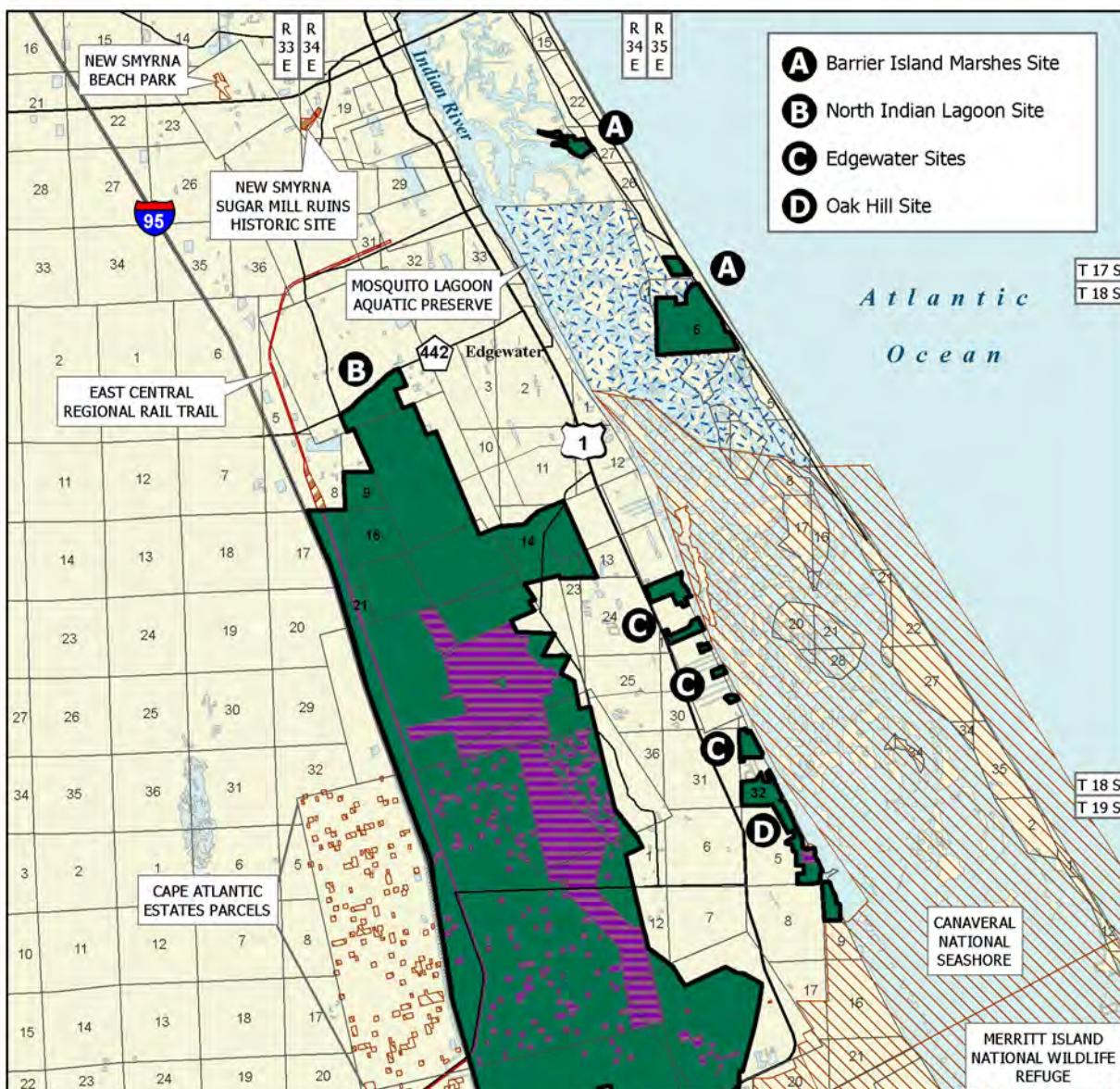
**Manager** Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will serve as the project Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Initially all acquisitions will be of "high need." Most of the wetlands are impounded, some are connected to the lagoon and managed, others are not. The long-term goal will be to reconnect all impoundments to the Lagoon through control structures. Structures will have to be installed and maintained in many areas and dikes repaired or removed where no longer functional. Most of the upland parcels have been unmanaged and have exotic plant infestations, and trash. Since most of the parcels are in urbanized areas the demand for water access will be high. Construction of several access points will be needed. Increased patrol and law enforcement presence will be necessary to prevent future dumping and vandalism. Long-term routine management activities within the upland areas will be at the "moderate need" level. However, due to the maintenance needs of the dikes and water control structures, and the required management of water levels, the impoundments will continue to require "high need" management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The management goals of this project are to utilize an ecosystems management approach: to enhance the protection of the adjacent Indian River Lagoon and its aquatic preserves; to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and uplands; to protect and manage native flora and fauna; to provide areas for boating, fishing, camping, hiking, bike riding, picnicking and nature appreciation; to protect archaeological and historical resources; to enhance public appreciation for natural diversity; and to cooperate with local mosquito control authorities to ensure that impoundments are properly managed.

Upon acquisition, initial activities will concentrate on the site security of the upland properties, including posting, fencing where needed, and patrols. Within the first year of appropriate funding, management activities will concentrate on trash removal, public access, and

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 10

#### VOLUSIA COUNTY

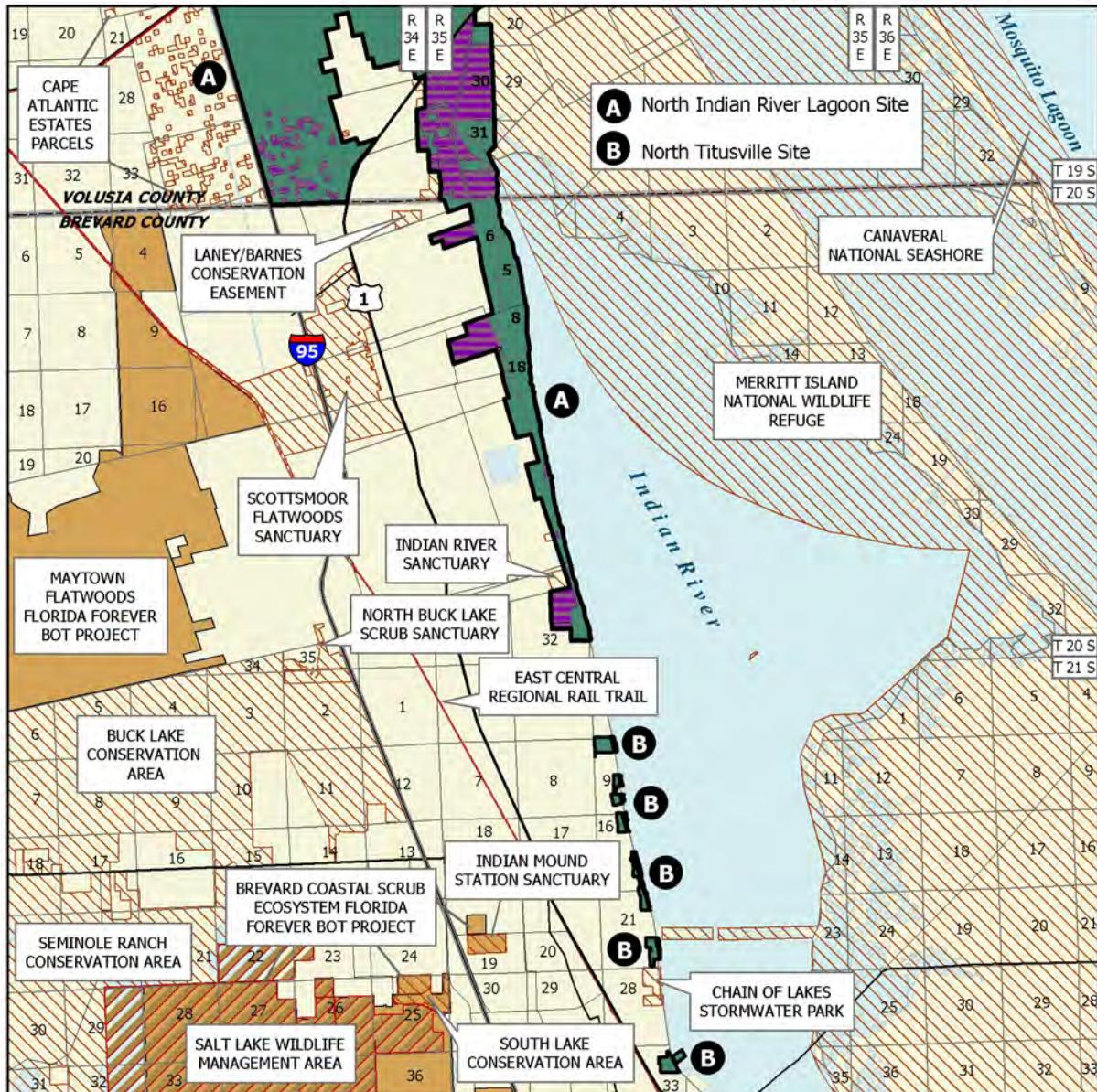
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red/Orange Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue/White Box] State Aquatic Preserves

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APRIL 2011

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 10

#### VOLUSIA AND BREVARD COUNTIES

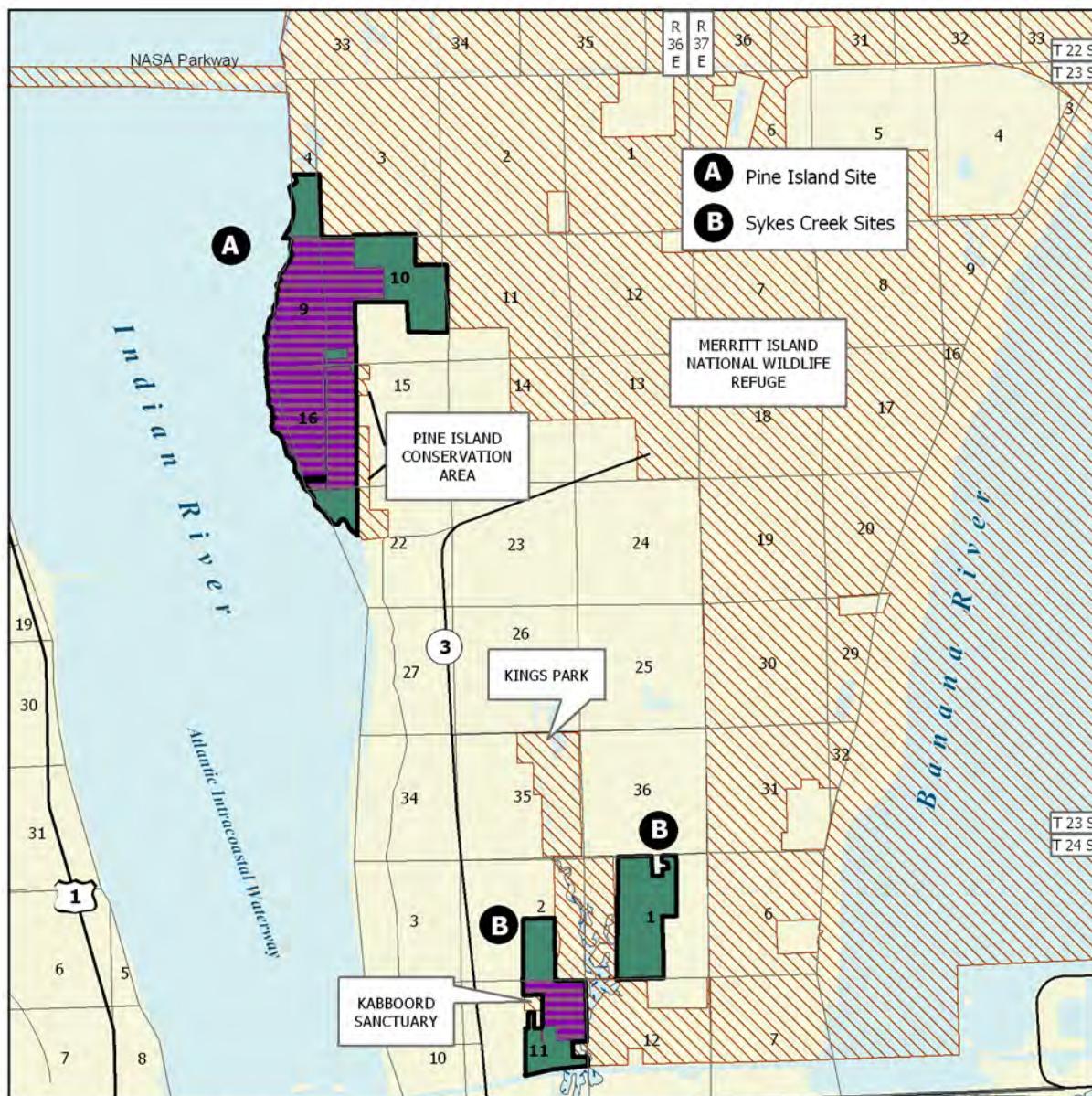
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Red Box with Horizontal Lines] Other Conservation Lands

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OCTOBER 2010

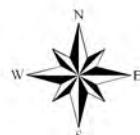
## **Indian River Lagoon Blueway**



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 3 OF 10

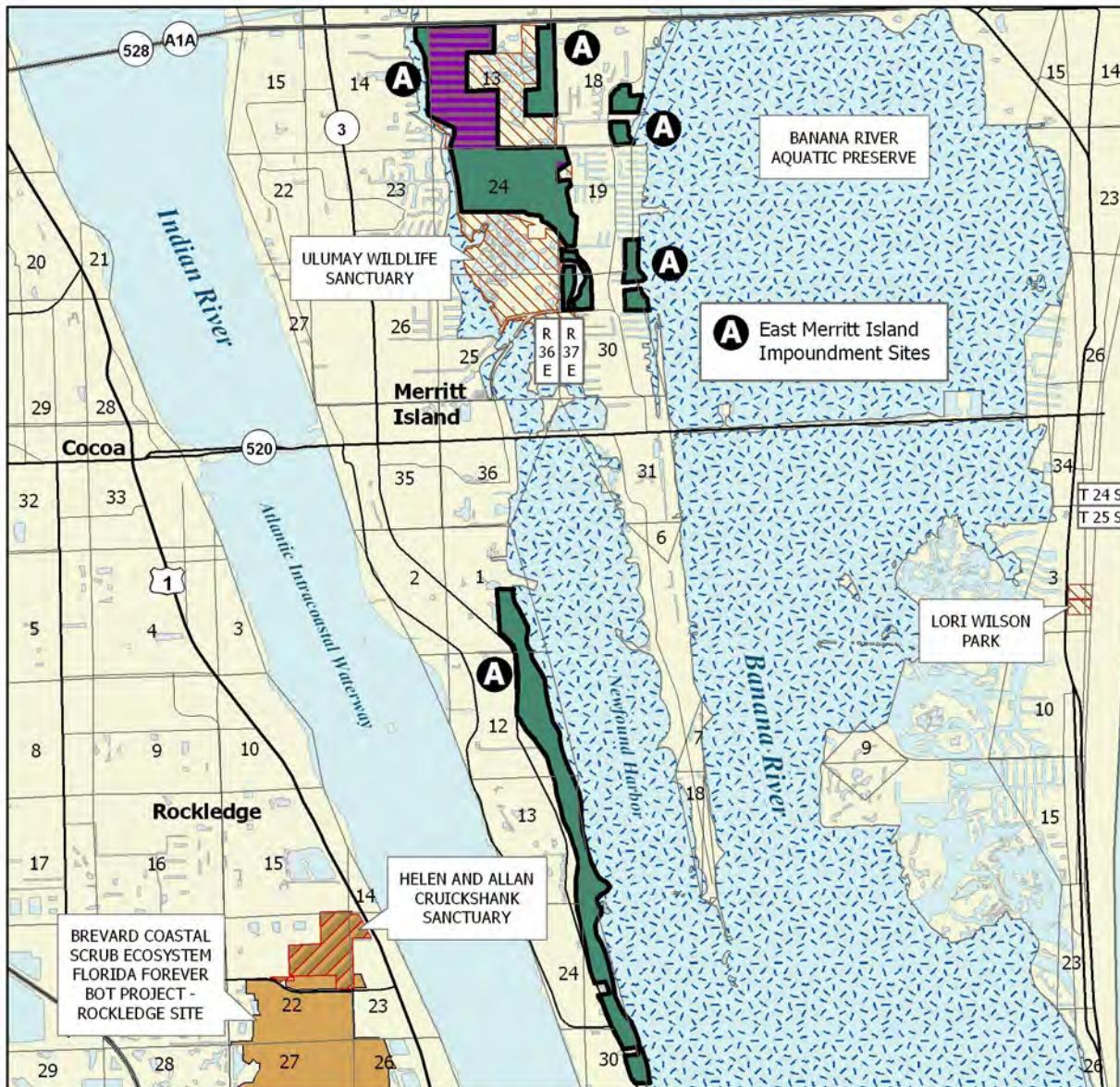
## **BREVARD COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Acquired
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2007

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 4 OF 10

#### BREVARD COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project
- [Purple Striped Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Striped Box] State Owned Lands
- [Brown Striped Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Hatched Box] State Aquatic Preserves

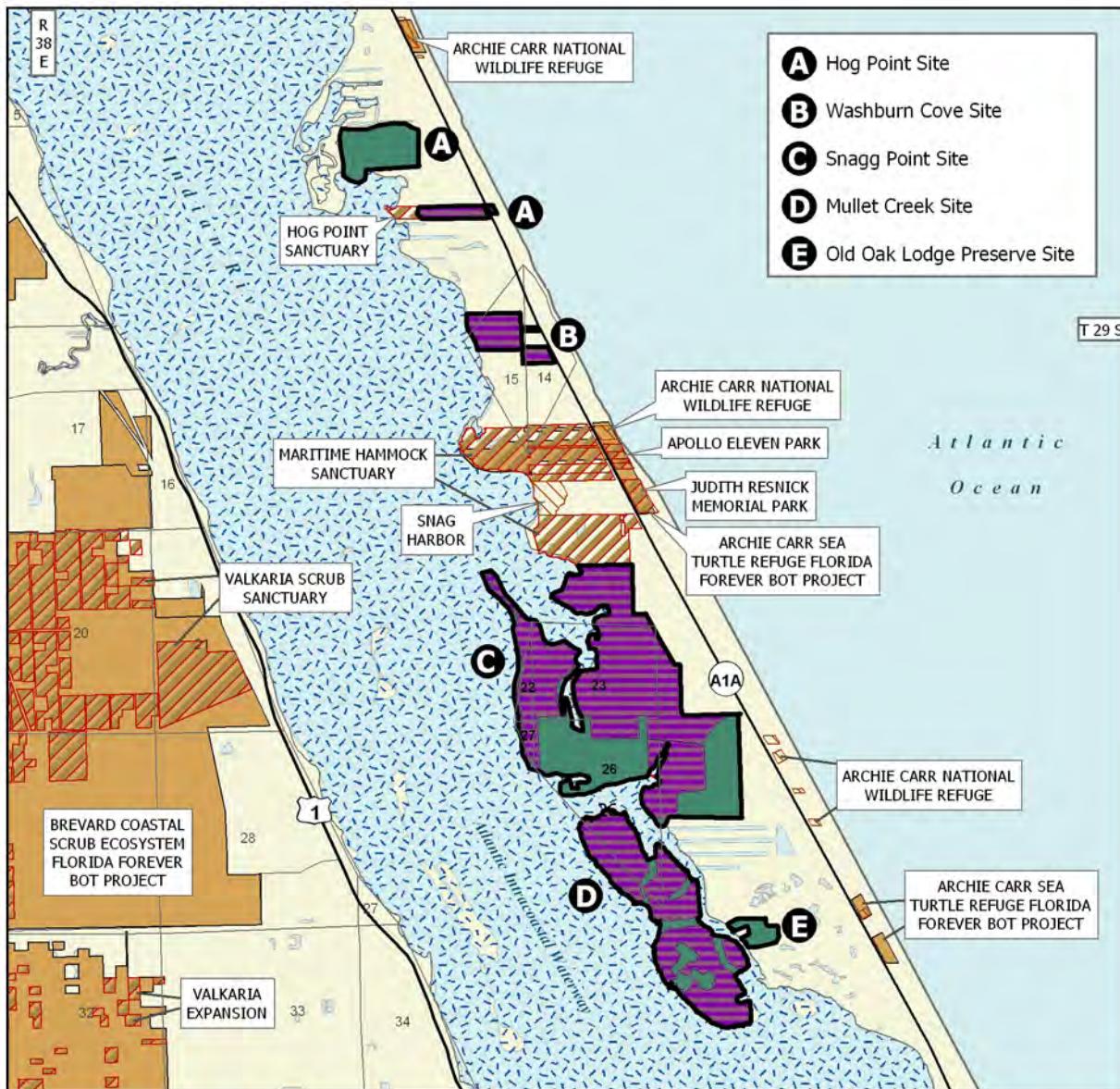


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FEBRUARY 2008

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 5 OF 10

#### BREVARD COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/Orange Box] State Owned Lands
- [Light Blue Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Dotted Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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JULY 2009

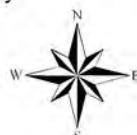
## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 6 OF 10

#### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

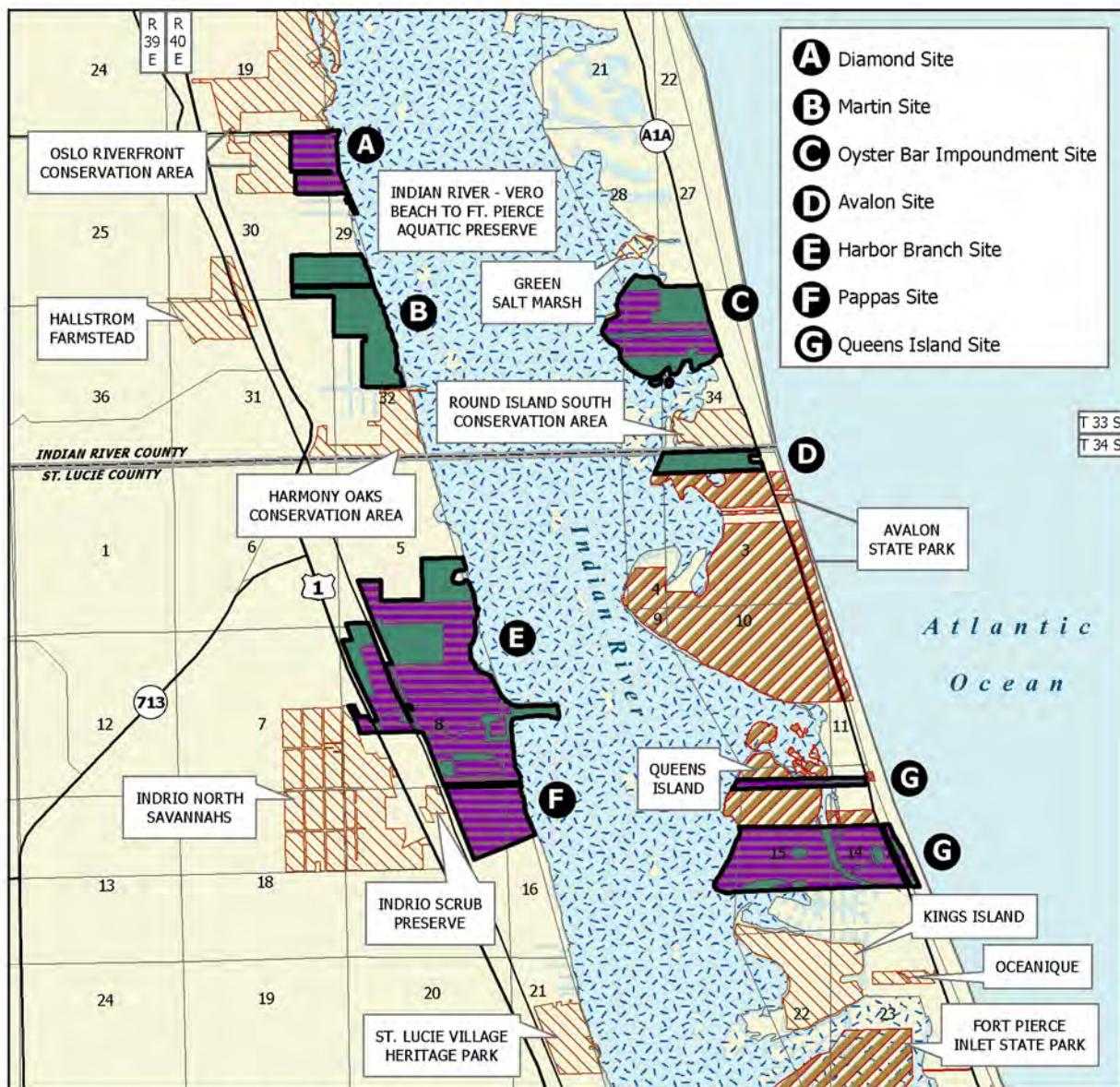


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AUGUST 2007

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 7 OF 10

#### **INDIAN RIVER AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

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OCTOBER 2010

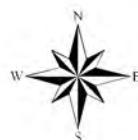
## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 8 OF 10

#### ST. LUCIE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project
- [Purple Stripes] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Dotted Pattern] State Aquatic Preserves

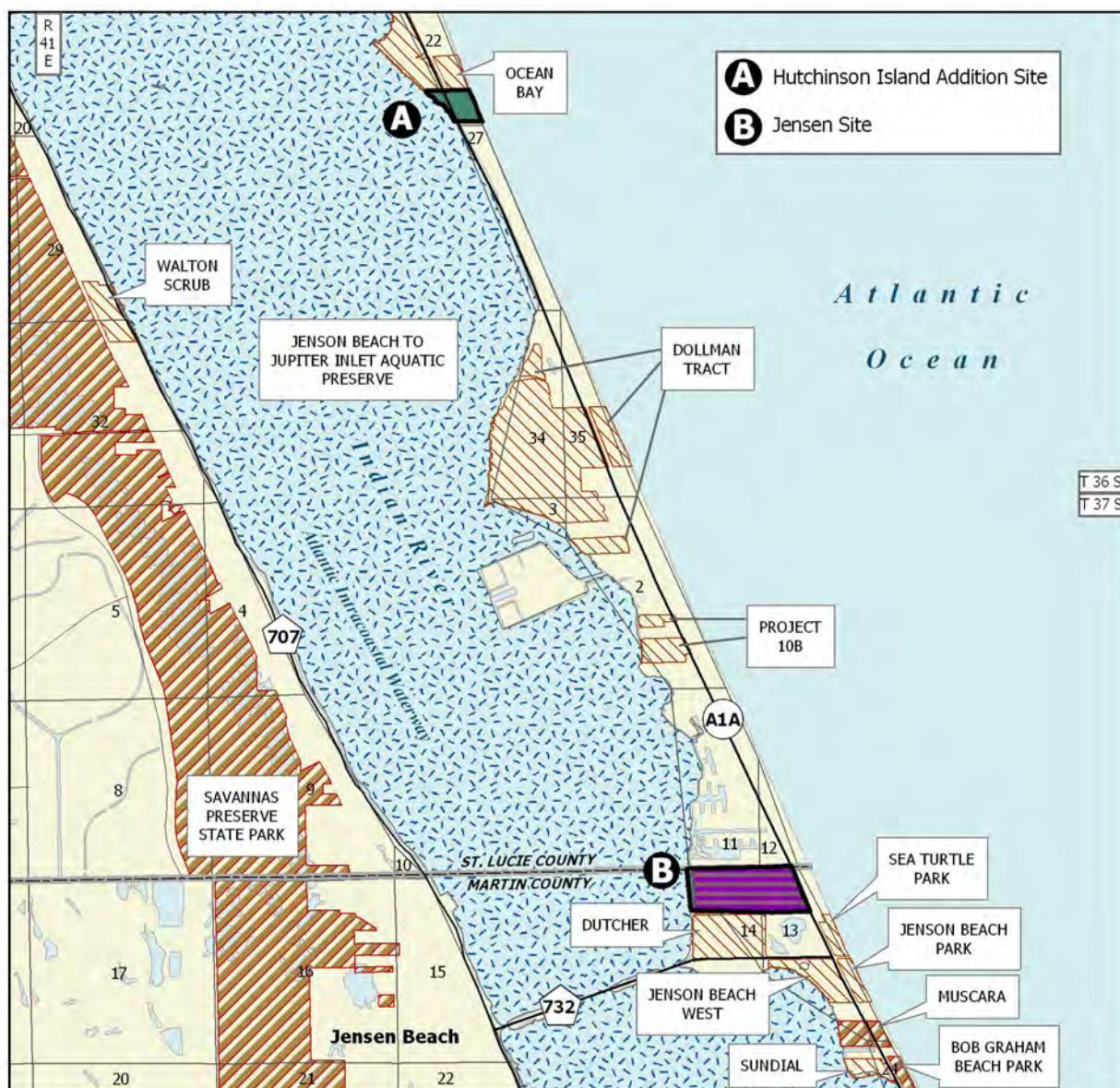


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SEPTEMBER 2008

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 9 OF 10

#### **ST. LUCIE AND MARTIN COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

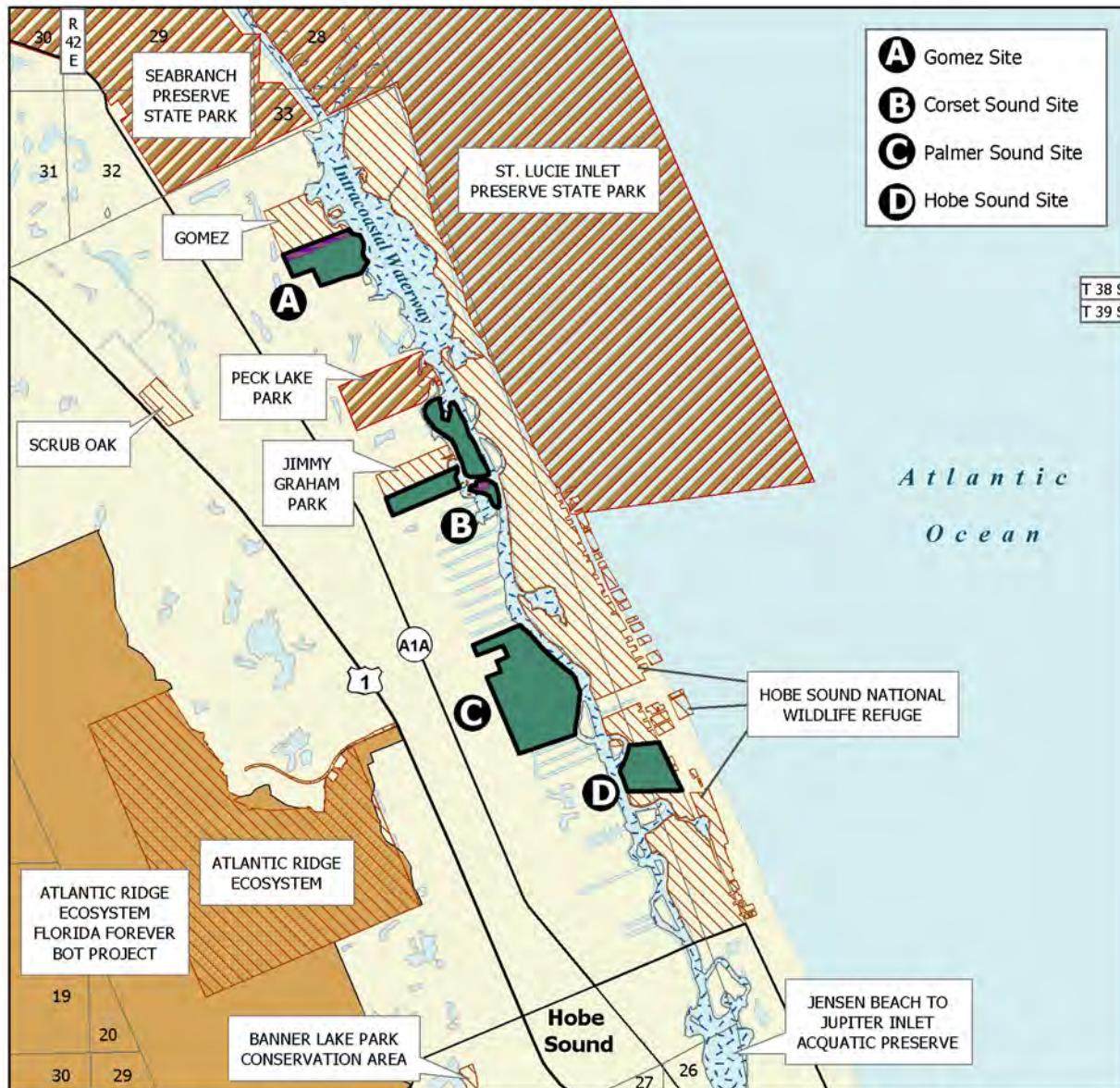


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AUGUST 2007

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway



### INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 10 OF 10

#### MARTIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves



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OCTOBER 2010

planning for management activities such as impoundment management, restoration projects, prescribed fire, and exotic plant and animal eradication. Appropriate access to the public will be provided while protecting sensitive resources on site.

The site's natural resources and threatened and endangered species will be inventoried and a management plan will be formulated. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be the minimum required to allow public access, and to manage the property. Long-range goals will be established by the management plan and will provide for ecological restoration, the removal of exotic species, and the perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Prescribed fires will be used to maintain the appropriate communities and associated wildlife populations. Management activities will also stress the protection of threatened and endangered species, and the preservation of the significant archaeological sites for professional investigation. Existing mosquito control impoundments will be reconnected to the Indian River Lagoon and rotational impoundment management implemented to meet both the goals of improved estuarine habitat and mosquito population management. Managed marshes offer excellent habitat for waterfowl and wading birds, and viewing opportunities for the public.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated from this property. The project will benefit the state indirectly by protecting or enhancing

water quality, fisheries and public recreation activities, and preserving natural and historical resources.

**Cooperators in management activities** This project will require a great deal of coordination between the affected parties. The St. Johns River and South Florida Water Management Districts, Volusia/Brevard/Indian River/St. Lucie/Martin Counties, and Mosquito Control Districts have all expressed interest in some form of cooperative management of portions of the project. This level of cooperation is needed if the project is to successfully serve the multiple purposes for which it was designed. In a few cases intensive recreation or stormwater infrastructure have been suggested as management uses, which might not be comptable with the management approach or capabilities. Such parcels may be more appropriately managed directly by the interested agency. The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge will manage the Pelican Island Addition site.

Updated 2/23/2012

<b>Management Cost Summary/Start-Up</b>	
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$64,805</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$36,100</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$16,146</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$27,692</b>
<b>Special</b>	<b>\$20,311</b>
<b>FCO</b>	
<b>Grant</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

# Kissimmee - St. Johns River Connector

## Okeechobee and Indian River Counties

### Critical Natural Lands

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose of this project is to provide a habitat and hydrological connection between the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area to the east and the Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve and the Ordway-Whittell Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary to the west. The land in this area is important habitat for the grasshopper sparrow, sandhill crane, mottled duck, wood stork, crested caracara, and numerous other wildlife species. Strategic habitat conservation areas (SHCAs) for some of these species comprise a large portion of the project lands. Acquisition and management of the lands in this project are particularly important to the long-term welfare of the wildlife species described above, as well as also being important for habitats for the red-cockaded woodpecker and wading birds. Acquisition of the project meets Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of Florida's biodiversity, protecting and restoring the natural functions of land, and increasing natural resource-based public recreation. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

#### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is the lead manager with cooperation from

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). Indian River County will monitor any conservation easement they purchase.

#### General Description

The 36,177-acre (GIS) project consists of a landscape mosaic primarily of improved pasture. It also contains mesic flatwoods (approximately 500 acres, or 1 percent), scrub and scrubby flatwoods (approximately 480 acres, or 1 percent) and dry/wet prairie (approximately 1,800 acres, or 5 percent). With the exception of the hydric hammock/blackwater stream habitats (approximately 3,106 acres, or 9 percent), the natural communities on the project are largely fragmented and situated within a mosaic of improved pasture. The bottomland forest and blackwater stream communities appear intact and are generally located on the eastern portion of the project. The dry and wet prairie communities are confined to the southwestern portion of the proposal and are impacted by numerous ditches. The remaining natural communities are largely fragmented and scattered across the proposal.

#### Public Use

The project has potential for a variety of forest related recreational activities, and the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area. Recreational activity might include bird watching, environmental

Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector FNAI Elements	
Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1/S1
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
<i>Cutthroat Grass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Hand Fern</i>	G4/S2
<i>Large-flowered Rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
15 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	36,177
Acres Acquired (GIS)	1,588*
At a Cost of	\$11,095,000*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	34,589
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of	\$28,065,895

\*Indian River Co. CEs.

education, hiking, horseback riding, off-road bicycling, hunting, nature study and photography.

### **Acquisition Planning**

The Kissimmee-St. Johns Connector project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the 12/6/2001 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group A project. The project consists of 91 parcels under 11 owners. The essential parcels are identified as the Okeechobee Partnership, Oliver, Callaway, LOR, Russakis Ranch, Wedgeworth, Padgett Creek, and the Triple S Cattle Company ownerships.

On 12/12/07 and 12/19/07 Indian River County closed on two easements on two adjacent ranches (Triple S Land Company/728 acres for \$5,096,000 and Padgett Creek LLC/857 acres for \$5,999,000). The combined purchases totaling 1,585 acres for \$11,095,000 are known as the Padgett Branch Conservation Easement.

### **Coordination**

TNC is partnering with the Division of State Lands.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of the project under FWCC management will be given to conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests and water resources. The area will also be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, hiking, camping, environmental and cultural resource education, and other natural-resource based recreational activities.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area, and would provide the public with a large tract for activities such as hunting, hiking and offroad bicycle trails, horseback riding, camping and wildlife observation. The project encompasses nearly 57 square miles.

**Manager** FWCC is recommended to be the lead managing agency, with cooperation from FFS and the

SJRWMD.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Some portions of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management, including frequent prescribed fires where appropriate. But because so much of the lands were converted to improved pasture, significant restoration activity is contemplated. This includes re-establishing native plants and a more natural hydrology. Eliminating exotic species, particularly cogon grass, is necessary. Development of facilities would be kept to a minimum to ensure the quality of recreation, and those developments would be in areas that are already disturbed.

### **Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

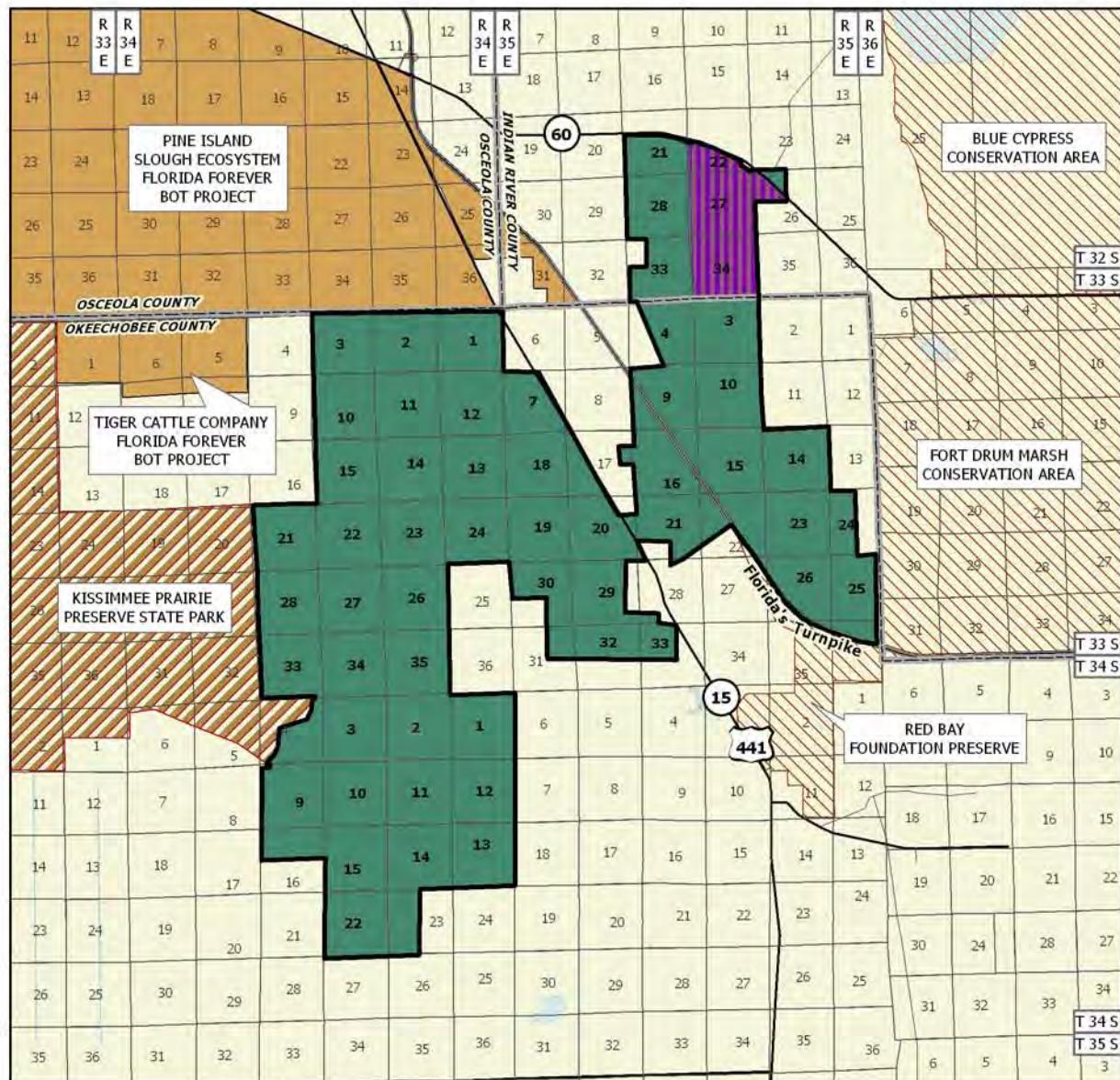
In the first year after acquisition the emphasis will be on site security, posting boundaries, arranging public access, fire management, resource inventory, control of exotic species and removing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWCC that will describe the management goals and the specific objectives that are necessary to implement the future resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** Little of the area is currently available for producing forest products, so any future revenue from timber resources would depend on successfully reforesting and managing the pasturelands and other disturbed areas. If managers indicate that it might be appropriate, some revenues might be generated by grazing contracts in the flatwoods and pastured areas that are not restored in the interest of habitat diversity, or because of lack of funds for reforestation. Additional revenue would be generated by sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife-management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenue might be realized in the future by ecotourism activity, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWCC will cooperate with other state and local government agencies, including the FFS and the SJRWMD.

(continued)

## Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector



# KISSIMMEE-ST. JOHNS RIVER CONNECTOR

## **OKEECHOBEE AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES**

- The legend consists of six entries, each with a colored square followed by a text label:

  - Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary (white box)
  - Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee) (purple vertical stripes)
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining (green solid box)
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects (yellow solid box)
  - State Owned Lands (red diagonal stripes)
  - Other Conservation Lands (tan diagonal stripes)



JUNE 2010

**Management costs and sources of revenue:** Maximum expected single-year expenditure:

**Management Cost Summary/FWCC (including salaries for 3 full-time employees)**

	Startup:	Recurring:
<b><u>Resource Management</u></b>		
Exotic Species Control	\$23,758	\$47,516
Prescribed Burning	\$7,247	\$14,494
Hydrological Management	\$80,000	\$6,000
Other	\$88,364	\$88,364
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$199,369</b>	<b>\$156,374</b>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$52,845	\$17,593
Districts/Regions	\$22,648	\$7,540
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$75,494</b>	<b>\$25,133</b>
<b><u>Support</u></b>		
Land Management Planning	\$25,000	\$0
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$80,850	\$11,550
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$13,230	\$13,230
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$119,080</b>	<b>\$119,080</b>
<b><u>Capital Improvements</u></b>		
New Facility Construction	\$426,766	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$60,215
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$426,766</b>	<b>\$60,215</b>
<b><u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u></b>		
Operations	\$1,405	\$141
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,405</b>	<b>\$141</b>
<b><u>Law Enforcement</u></b>		
All Activities	\$8,315	\$8,315
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$830,428</b>	<b>\$276,457</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Lafayette Forest

## Lafayette County

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lafayette Forest projects fills the Florida Forever goals of enhancing coordination and completion of land acquisition projects by forming a significant corridor connection between state and private conservation lands. As such, it could create a 70,000-acre block of conservation lands. The project fills the goal of increasing the protection of biodiversity because the project area is known to support rare species of plants and animals; it protects and restores the natural function of land and water by restoring, where necessary, the natural, pre-existing hydrology; it ensures that sufficient quantities of water are available by preserving wetlands that aid surface retention of water; it increases natural resource-based recreation and education by possibly accommodating hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, nature appreciation, picnicking and primitive camping; and it increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management by managing existing natural communities to perpetuate natural species.

### Manager

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) is recommended as the lead manager.

### General Description

The Lafayette Forest proposal consists of approximately 12,800 acres in Lafayette County. This landscape consists of basin swamps, wet prairies, floodplain swamps, interspersed between pine silviculture plantations established on disturbed mesic and hydric flatwoods and sandhill community types. The property is located in eastern Lafayette County on the western side of the Suwannee River and extends south to the

Levy County line.

### Public Use

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. Development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

Protection and restoration of the sensitive wetlands on this project will be a priority. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact to these areas. Restoration efforts will focus on introduction of prescribed fire and thinning of dense pine stands, and facilitating the restoration of native groundcovers.

### Acquisition Planning

On 6/4/2004, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lafayette Forest project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Conservation Fund (TCF) and FFS, consisted of approximately 13,176 (GIS) acres with a single owner, International Paper Co., and a 2003 taxable value of \$1,706,933.

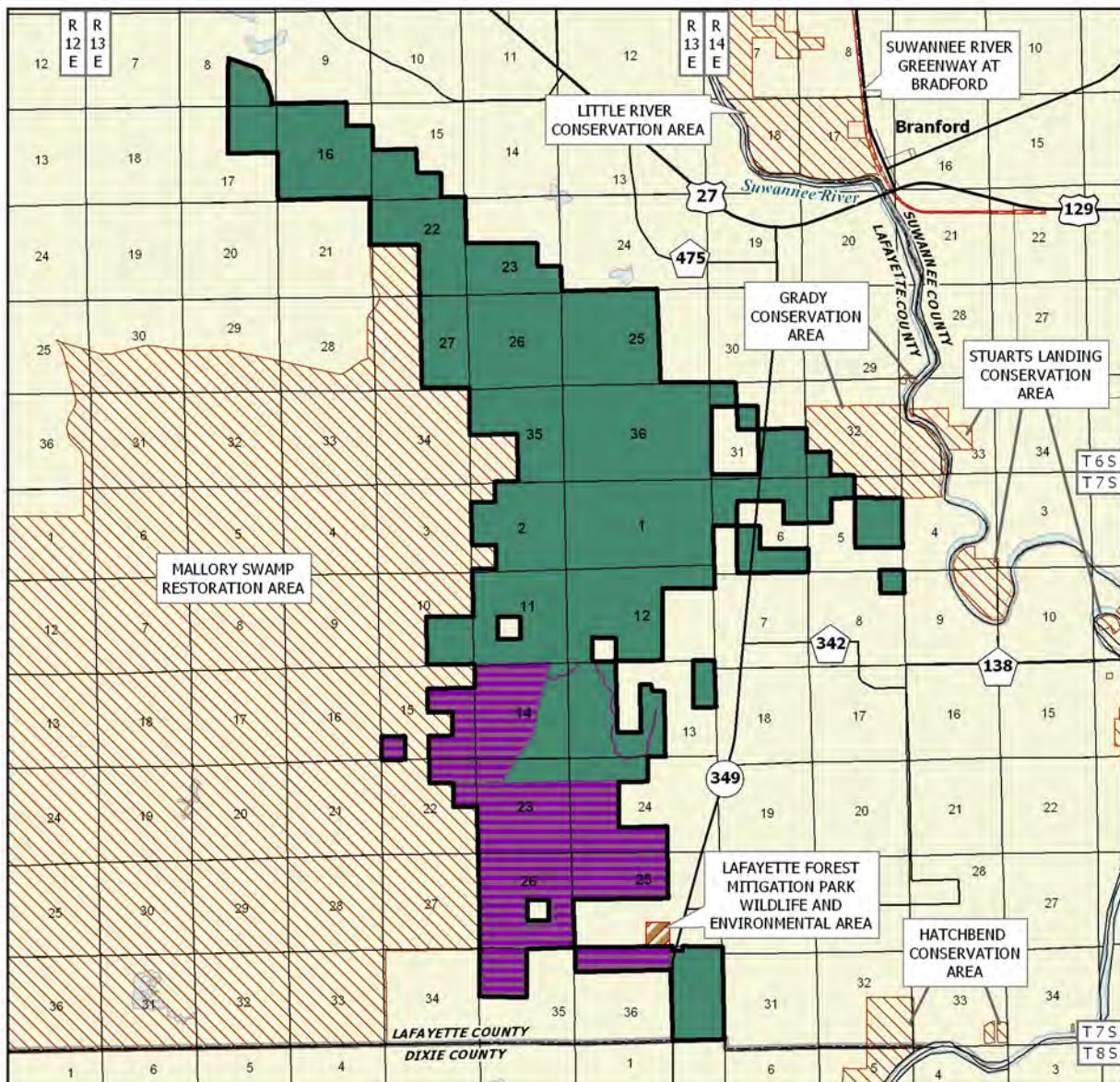
The essential parcels were identified as the International Paper Company ownership.

On 1/25/2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the FF 2005 Priority List.

Lafayette Forest FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
4 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (GIS Acres)	13,176
Acres Acquired (GIS)	2,915
at a Cost of	\$1,312,224
Acres Remaining (GIS)	10,261
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$1,597,533

## Lafayette Forest



### LAFAYETTE FOREST

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



APRIL 2009

## Lafayette Forest

### Coordination

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) acquired 820 acres in 2007.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted mesic and wet flatwoods. The project primarily consists of slash and loblolly pine plantations, and it is estimated that approximately sixty two percent of the project area has been converted to planted pines. The tract has been managed for silvicultural production for several years. The current silvicultural management objectives are for pulpwood and chip-n-saw production, and range in age from 1 to 25 years. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silvicultural values to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits.

**Manager** FFS is recommended as the lead manager.

### Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the project's flatwoods, mesic hammock and upland mixed forest areas have been disturbed by silvicultural operations, and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber species are off-site may necessitate thinning or removal to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and canopy.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a State Forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate

public access and use.

Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrological restoration, providing site security, and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a road plan to identify those roads to be utilized for vehicular access by the public, those roads that are required for administrative use, and roads that are determined to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

**Revenue Generating Potential** As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Capital Project Expenditures** Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use, and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horse back riding and biking. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, the FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.

(continued)

**Management Costs and Sources of Revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

SALARY (3 FTE)	\$77,035
EXPENSE	\$123,300
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	<u>\$423,725</u>
TOTAL	\$624,060

*Updated 2/23/2012*



# Lake Hatchineha Watershed

## Osceola and Polk Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This project consists of approximately 6,500 acres in Osceola and Polk Counties that would preserve a rare continuum of natural communities from the high scrub on the edge of the Central Ridge to marsh, floodplain, lakeshore and blackwater streams in the lowland areas. Approximately 4,778 acres in the project area would protect surface waters of the state. Approximately 777 acres of the project are groundwater recharge areas. Proposed additions to this project could eventually bring it to 11,300 acres, which would create a natural-area connection between two watersheds. Acquiring the Lake Hatchineha Watershed would meet Florida Forever goals of increasing the amount of forest land for sustainable communities, increasing natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities, and increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity by preserving the habitat of the rare species identified on this project. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC).

### General Description

The Lake Hatchineha Watershed Project consists of three separate parcels of land on the Osceola-Polk County line, north and northwest of Lake Hatchineha, and west of Reedy Creek Swamp in Osceola County. The northernmost parcel, named the Beagle Tract, is

3,350 acres of mesic flatwoods, dome swamps and some pasture that straddles State Road 580. The southeastern parcel, 1,970 acres, is dominated by a 260-acre dome swamp surrounded by former mesic flatwoods that have been cut and then used for rangeland. The southwest parcel, 1,132 acres, is about 3 miles south of the Beagle parcel and it includes a high scrubby ridge about 100 feet above sea level, with sudden changes in elevation through the site. The general site is about five miles east of Haines City, and the eastern boundary of the southeastern parcel adjoins the Disney Wilderness Preserve in Osceola County.

### Public Use

The project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area and may provide the public with many different recreational activities, including hunting, hiking, horseback riding, group and primitive camping, and cultural resource education. Other uses of the forest resources that may be compatible with management of this area include cattle grazing and apiaries.

### Acquisition Planning

The Lake Hatchineha Watershed project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the 6/6/2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group A project. This project is proposed for fee-simple ownership. The essential parcel has been identified as the Parker Poinciana ownership.

On 12/5/2003 the Council moved the project to the Group B list.

Lake Hatchineha Watershed FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
5 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	5,473
Acres Acquired	0
At a Cost of	0
Acres Remaining	5,473
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$865,890	

On 10/15/2010 ARC approved a 994-acre (\$158,208,631 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure developments.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is considered an acquisition partner on this project. No alternative funding resources have been identified at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests, and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education and other natural resource-based activity. Because one of the principal purposes of the proposal is water conservation, the FWCC will cooperate with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and other water-conservation agencies to achieve that purpose.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** This project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area, and would provide the public with a large tract for activities such as hunting, hiking and offroad bicycle trails, horseback riding, camping and wildlife observation.

**Manager** FWCC will manage the Lake Hatchineha Watershed Florida Forever project, in cooperation with other state and local agencies, including the SFWMD.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The primary management need of the Lake Hatchineha Watershed project to perpetuate the less-disturbed natural communities is to re-establish prescribed fires, and control human access. Some relatively small areas of xeric and mesic uplands have been converted to pasture or otherwise disturbed. Significant restoration is contemplated for some of these areas. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be

kept to the minimum necessary to assure a high-quality recreation experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

During the first year after acquisition emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, control of exotic species, and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWCC describing management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

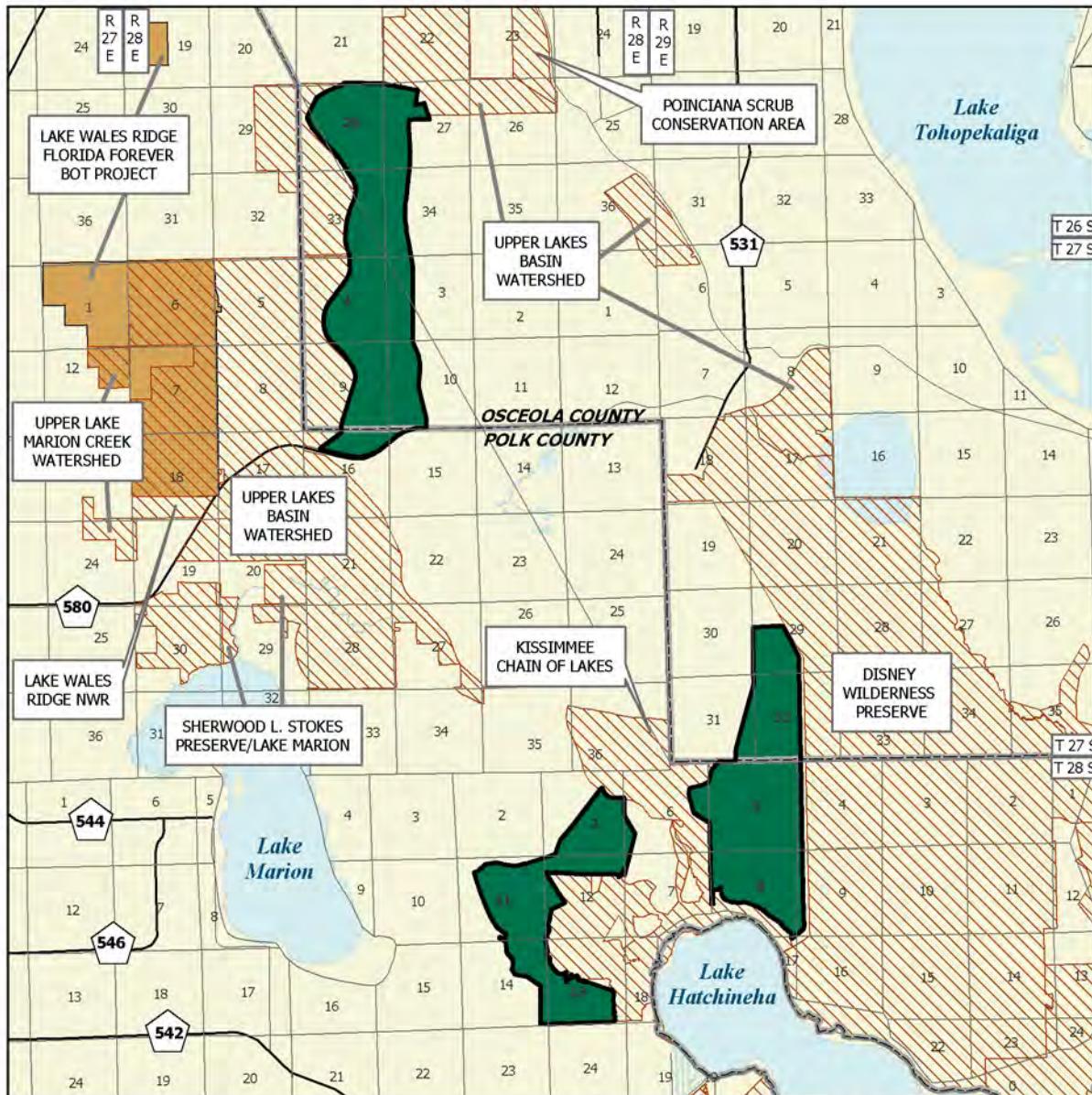
**Revenue-generating potential** Because very little of this project is appropriate for producing forest products, future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of restored pasturelands and other disturbed areas. If managers' assessments indicate it would be appropriate, some revenues might be generated from grazing leases in flatwoods or pasture areas not restored. Additional revenue would be generated from sale of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues in the future might be realized from ecotourism activity, if such projects can be economically developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWCC will manage the Lake Hatchineha Watershed Florida Forever project, in cooperation with other state and local agencies, including the DEP Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), and the SFWMD.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** Funding for this project is anticipated from the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund pursuant to Chapter 259.032, F.S., along with supplemental funds from revenue-generating activities deemed compatible with the acquisition purposes.

(continued)

## Lake Hatchineha Watershed



### LAKE HATCHINEHA WATERSHED

#### OSCEOLA AND POLK COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



OCTOBER 2010

**Management Cost Summary/FWCC (including salaries for 2 full-time employees)**

	Startup:	Recurring:
<b>Resource Management</b>		
Exotic Species Control	\$25,748	\$51,496
Prescribed Burning	\$3,927	\$7,854
Hydrological Management	\$40,000	\$4,475
Other	\$52,991	\$52,991
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$122,666</b>	<b>\$116,816</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$57,642	\$23,151
Districts/Regions	\$24,704	\$9,922
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$82,345</b>	<b>\$33,072</b>
<b>Support</b>		
Land Management Planning	\$25,000	\$0
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$83,900	\$11,986
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$13,230	\$13,230
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$122,130</b>	<b>\$26,716</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>		
New Facility Construction	\$498,865	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$47,481
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$498,865</b>	<b>\$47,481</b>
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>		
Operations	\$1,625	\$178
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,625</b>	<b>\$178</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>		
All Activities	\$4,506	\$4,506
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$832,137</b>	<b>\$228,768</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Lake Santa Fe

## Alachua and Bradford Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals by increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels. The project will also provide protection to the only remaining shoreline of Lake Santa Fe that supports wading bird nesting and resting, natural shoreline fauna, historic cypress fringe, significant swamps with attendant habitat qualities, and mostly undisturbed wetlands. It will protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; will help to protect existing publicly-owned wetlands and swamp systems through the maintenance of water quality and the prevention of additional development; will ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; and contributing lands to the health and function of the Santa Fe Swamp will help to ensure adequate surface water resources and water quality. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired. County and WMD purchases will be managed by those entities.

Lake Santa Fe FNAI Elements	
Frosted Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Narrowleaf Naiad</i>	G1/S1
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

9 rare species are associated with the project

### General Description

The Lake Santa Fe proposal includes 14 tracts in the Lake Santa Fe vicinity encompassing a total of 10,574 (GIS) acres. This project is proposed as fee simple, with possible use of less-than-fee on some parcels, and would build upon the Suwannee River Water Management District's (SRWMD) Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, which includes most of the Santa Fe Swamp and Lake Alto Swamp. It is designed to protect the surface headwaters of the swamps through prevention of further development and septic input, and to protect undeveloped portions of the Lake Sante Fe shoreline. The project is segmented due to lakefront residential development, resulting in limitations to lake edge protection and recreational opportunities.

### Public Use

Several of the parcels in the project qualify for passive recreational opportunities including picnicking, short trails and nature appreciation. One parcel may provide opportunity for more diverse (but passive) opportunities such as canoeing, fishing, and bird watching.

### Coordination

SRWMD and Alachua County are acquisition partners. Originally the SRWMD had expressed an interest in buffering the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area.

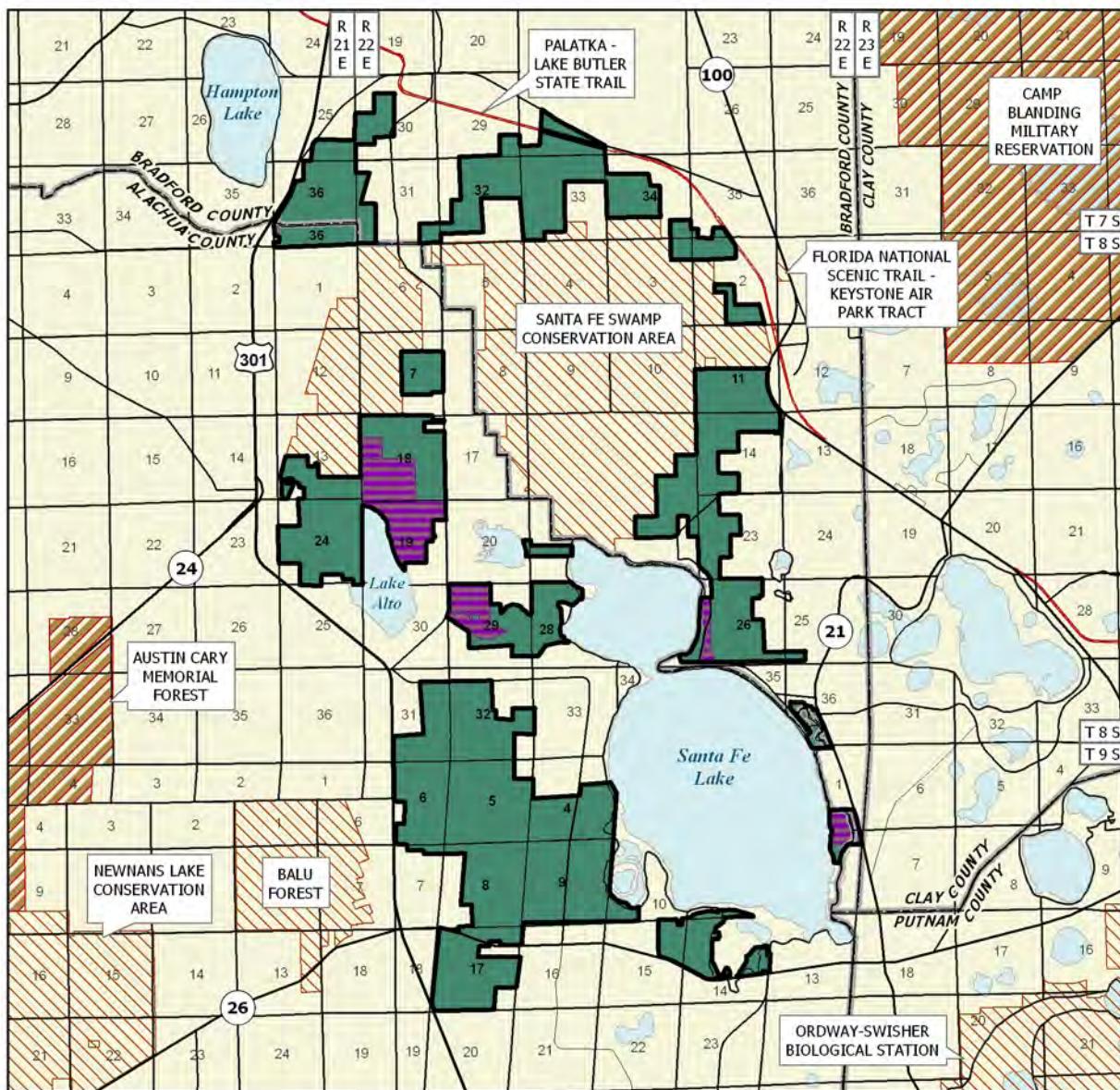
### Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lake Santa Fe project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority List. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Lake Santa Fe Dwellers Association and the Nature Conservancy

Placed on List	2004
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	10,574
Acres Acquired (GIS)	789*
At a Cost Of	\$1,721,516*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	9,785
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of:	\$3,664,230

\*includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SRWMD and Alachua County.

## Lake Santa Fe



### LAKE SANTA FE

#### BRADFORD AND ALACHUA COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box with Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



JULY 2009

## Lake Santa Fe

(TNC), consisted of approximately 10,574 (GIS) acres, multiple owners, and a 2003 taxable value of \$3,914,013. The Rayonier tract was identified as essential to this project with the Lake Santa Fe shoreline protection a concurrent priority.

### Location and Proximity to Other Managed Areas

The Lake Santa Fe proposed project is in northeastern Alachua County and southeastern Bradford County, centered on Lake Santa Fe. It is 14 tracts, to protect the surface headwaters of the Santa Fe River by preventing further development and septic input. Tract sizes range from 47 to 3,768 acres and total 10,574 (GIS) acres. The project is proposed as fee simple and would build upon the SRWMD's Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, which includes most of Santa Fe Swamp and Lake Alto Swamp. The project is fragmented because residential development has already occurred in the area. Balu Forest (Alachua County) and Austin Cary Memorial Forest lie within three miles to the west of the general project area; Camp Blanding Military Reservation lies three miles to the northeast; the (Ordway-) Swisher Memorial Nature Preserve lies approximately three miles to the southeast.

All of the parcels in this proposed project boundary are for the most part in, but also adjacent to and near a medium priority multi-use trail corridor.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals for the Lake Santa Fe project are to protect Florida's surface water quality; wetland and aquatic habitat for species associated with freshwater swamps and lakes; to preserve nesting and resting habitat for upland and aquatic species; to provide natural-resource based outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Florida including, but not limited to, fishing, boating, hiking, camping and nature appreciation; to help buffer and protect existing conservation lands at the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area; and to protect Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels.

### Unified Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Lake Santa Fe Florida Forever Project comprises approximately 10,574 acres located in Alachua and Bradford counties. The project consists of 14 separate parcels distributed around the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, Little Lake Santa Fe and Lake Santa Fe. The parcels range in size from 47 to 3,768 acres, are mostly noncontiguous,

and are distributed among other land uses. The project extends over a north-south distance of 11 miles, and an east-west distance of 7 miles. The project is located approximately 9 miles east of Gainesville, 42 miles southwest of downtown Jacksonville, and 38 miles southeast of Lake City.

Several parcels are adjacent to, and would provide buffer for the SRWMD's Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, and also several smaller named lakes including Bonnet Lake, Hickory Lake, Lake Alto and Little Lake Santa Fe. The project area is two miles west of the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, and three miles northeast of the Austin Cary Memorial Forest (managed by the University of Florida). This project is designed to protect the last remnants of undeveloped land around the Lake Santa Fe-Santa Fe Swamp headwaters system, through protection of shoreline, and associated upland and wetland natural communities. This would benefit the entire Santa Fe River system, including its associated fish and wildlife, hydrology and water quality. The project area includes functional wetlands (32%, or 3,429 acres), and provides protection for surface water (67%, or 7,247 acres of project area) and natural floodplain function (26%, or 2,817 acres of project area). Part of the project area (25%, or 2,635 acres) provides recharge to the Floridan aquifer. This project is also significant as an ecological greenway, with 92% (9,894 acres) of the project area qualifying as priorities 4, 6 and 7 in potential importance, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation.

Approximately 70% of the project is comprised of upland natural plant communities. Most uplands consist of pine plantation (6,136 acres), while remaining cover types (570 acres) include upland mixed forest and mesic flatwoods together comprise about 570 acres. Most of the uplands comprise pine plantation, which consists of 6,136 acres of flatwoods. Approximately 775 acres of uplands are in agricultural use, serving mostly as improved pasture, with about 160 acres in row crops. There are 80 acres of residential properties within the project uplands. Wetland communities consist mostly of basin and dome swamp, which together comprise 2,300 acres. Other wetland communities include baygall and depression marsh. The FNAI indicates that 6% (677 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. The flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*) is an imperiled

animal species documented to occur at a breeding location within the proposed project. Other imperiled or rare animal species reported to occur on site include the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Gopher tortoise burrows are of particular importance, because they often provide refugia for a suite of declining wildlife species.

Other wildlife observed in the project include anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodius*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), hawks, and turtles. Past records exist for a wading bird rookery within the proposed project, and use by nesting ospreys. The Northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) are game species observed to occur on the project.

The narrowleaf naiad (*Najas filifolia*) is an imperiled aquatic plant that occurs in the project area.

Focal species, which are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife, occur widely in the project area. FWCC reports that over 25% (2,725 acres) of the project area includes at least seven focal species. Another 55% (5,876 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI.

**Management Goals** The FFS and the FWCC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Lake Santa Fe under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. Both agencies agree that the project has the capability to provide important protection for fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices.

Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of

fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species should be an important management goal for the project. Particular attention should be directed to the protection of wetlands which are important habitat to the state and federally listed flatwoods salamander. Wetland drainage and conversion of wetlands for silvicultural uses are factors that have contributed to the decline of this species throughout its range. Under the unified management approach, a broad-scale management program will be developed to protect listed species habitat, restore important wetlands, and provide appropriate management for natural plant communities, wildlife populations, forests and water resources.

Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a diversity of age classes and stocking rates. Such variations in stand management increases plant and wildlife diversity, and provide the necessary micro-habitats needed by many species to meet their life history requirements.

Management programs would promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. The project area will be managed to provide opportunities for bicycling, boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, kayaking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. The Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 27% (2,937 acres) of the project area to be suitable for priority 1 or 2 recreational trails. The managing agencies would promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

- (a) Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects;
- (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels;
- (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state;
- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural

## Lake Santa Fe

systems and the citizens of the state; (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities; and (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

**Manager** The FFS of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the FWCC are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired. County and WMD purchases will be managed by those entities.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Most of the project is a medium-need tract that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately, 60% of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity, consequently additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The FFS and FWCC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the Conceptual Management Plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that will require cooperative effort include restoration of flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal of off-site species, use of practices that promote regeneration of native ground cover, and reforestation of ruderal and recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection and restoration of forested wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of invasive exotic species.

Biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Due to the presence of imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the proposed project, it is anticipated that resource inventories would be an initial priority under the unified management approach. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and

implementation of recreational use programs.

### ***Timetable for implementing management provisions***

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach, will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of imperiled or rare species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance, and spatial distribution of imperiled and rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Most of this project area has not been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices

could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, and would include provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 56% (6,042 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry, and that 18% (1,901 acres) of the project area serves as forestland for aquifer recharge. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15%) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated.

**Recommendations as to other governmental agency involvement** The unified managers (FFS and FWCC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Suwannee River Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

**Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed\*** Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the FFS and FWCC.

Category Source of Funds	Start-up CARL	Recurring CARL
Resource Management	\$170,478	\$184,467
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$1,412,903	\$124,743
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$2,404	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$7,518	\$7,518
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,817,877</b>	<b>\$373,568</b>

\*includes employee salaries

Updated 2/23/2012

# Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

Lake, Osceola, Polk and Highlands Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The high, sandy Lake Wales Ridge, stretching south from near Orlando almost to Lake Okeechobee, was originally covered with a mosaic of scrub, flatwoods, wetlands, and lakes. The scrub is unique in the world—it is inhabited by many plants and animals found nowhere else—but it has almost completely been converted to citrus groves and housing developments. The Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project is designed to protect the best remaining tracts of this scrub and the ecosystems associated with it, thereby preserving numerous endangered species and allowing the public to see examples of the unique original landscape of the ridge. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Lake June West); Division of Forestry (DOF--changed to Florida Forest Service/FFS 7/2011), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and five Warea sites) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) (remaining sites). The FFS will monitor the less-than-fee portion. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor some CEs.

### General Description

Judging from its many unique species, Central Florida Ridge scrub may be among the oldest of Florida's upland ecosystems. This project consists of separate sites along the Lake Wales Ridge which are intended to be part of a system of managed areas that conserve the character, biodiversity, and biological function of the ancient scrubs of the Ridge. The sites contain the best remaining examples of unprotected ancient scrub as well as lakefront, swamps, black water streams, pine flatwoods, seepage slopes, hammocks, and sandhills. The project is the last opportunity to protect the highest concentration of narrowly endemic scrub plants and animals on the Lake Wales Ridge, many in jeopardy of extinction. Seventy-five rare elements are found in this diverse ecosystem, including a population of scrub mint that may be a new species. No archaeological or historical sites are known from the project. All the sites are fragments vulnerable to mismanagement and disturbance. They are also seriously threatened by conversion to citrus groves or immediate development pressure.

### Public Use

Sites within this project are designated for use as state parks, state forests, botanical sites and preserves, providing opportunities for natural-resource education, hiking, and on some sites, camping, picnicking, hunting and fishing.

#### Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

#### FNAI Elements

<i>Clasping Warea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garrett's Scrub Balm</i>	G1/S1
<i>Scrub Lupine</i>	G1/S1
<i>Scrub Ziziphus</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida Scrub-jay</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida Black Bear</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>Eastern Indigo Snake</i>	G3/S3
<i>Gopher Tortoise</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida Mouse</i>	G3/S3
<i>Avon Park Rabbit-hells</i>	G1/S1
<i>Perforate Reindeer Lichen</i>	G1/S1
<i>Scrub Mint</i>	G1/S1

61 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List 1992\*

Project Area (GIS Acres) 59,163

Acres Acquired (GIS) 34,926\*\*

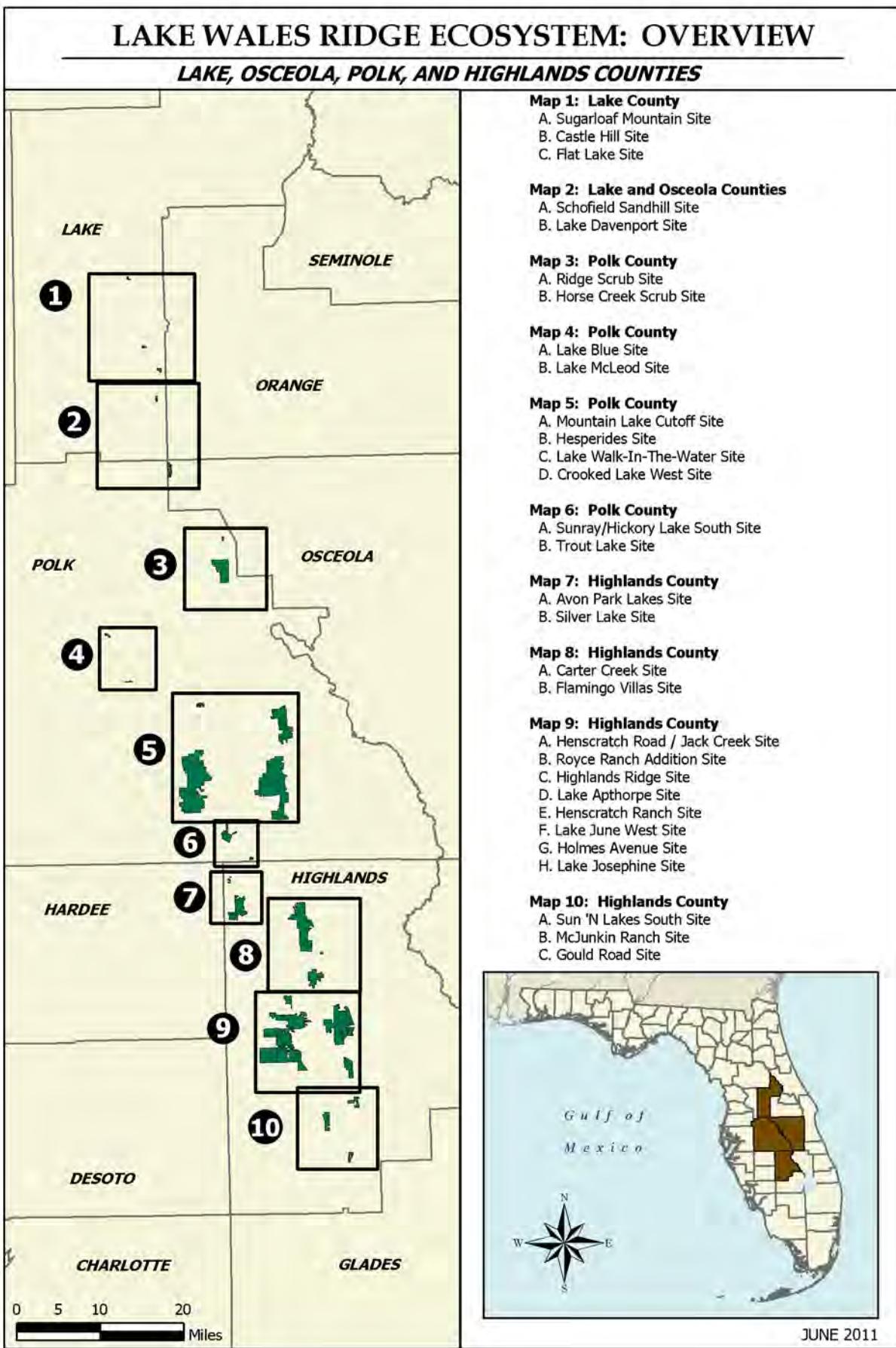
at a Cost of \$93,500,015\*\*

Acres Remaining (GIS) 24,237

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$15,522,254

\*Lake Wales Ridge sites and Warea Archipelago projects were combined in 1994.

\*\*Includes acres and expenditures by the SWFWMD, SFWMD, SJRWMD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Polk Co. and NRCS.



## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

The Boy Scouts and Morgan less-than-fee parcels qualify as state forests. The amount and nature of public use will be negotiated with the landowners.

### Acquisition Planning

Full Fee: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an intermediary in the majority of the ridge sites. Lake Walk-in-Water (8,615 acres): major owner, Alico, has been acquired; contracts have been approved/negotiations ongoing on other relatively large tracts; TNC worked with Morgan on details of the completed less-than-fee acquisition. Lake June West (831 acres): acquired. Gould Road (419 acres): major ownership acquired; discussions ongoing with owner of smaller inholding. Henscratch Road (2,869 acres): largest tracts acquired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and CARL; TNC planned to negotiate a few other relatively large tracts in 1999. Silver Lake (2,020 acres): largest tracts acquired. Lake McLeod (55 acres): at least 45 acres acquired by USFWS. Mountain Lake Cutoff (217 acres): negotiations ongoing with owner of the one large tract. Lake Blue (65 acres) has been acquired. Hesperides (2,696 acres) has been acquired from Babson. Acquisition of most other tracts dependent upon acquisition of these ownerships. Boy Scouts West (335 acres): acquired. Horse Creek (1,325 acres): SFWMD has acquired the major ownerships within this site. Trout Lake (65 acres): appraisal completed. Eagle Lake (10 acres): removed from list - developed. Ridge Scrub (80 acres): on hold pending reanalysis by FNAI. McJunkin Ranch (750 acres): acquired.

Priority phasing for the Warea Archipelago sites is: Scofield Sandhill (120 acres): negotiations were scheduled to begin in early 1999 on both ownerships. Lake Davenport (500 acres): appraisals on hold pending reanalysis of site. Flat Lake (120 acres): acquired. Castle Hill (75 acres): negotiations unsuccessful with major owner. Purchase of other tracts contingent on major owner. Ferndale Ridge (104 acres): removed from list due to site fragmentation and habitat destruction. Sugarloaf Mountain (52 acres): southernmost tract acquired by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). TNC was unable to reach agreements with a large ownership at northern end and owners of small tracts in between.

Less-than-Fee and Small Holdings: Carter Creek (4,630 acres): the majority of this parcel is acquired, a few large ownerships on western project boundary also remain. Flamingo Villas (1,420 acres): USFWS

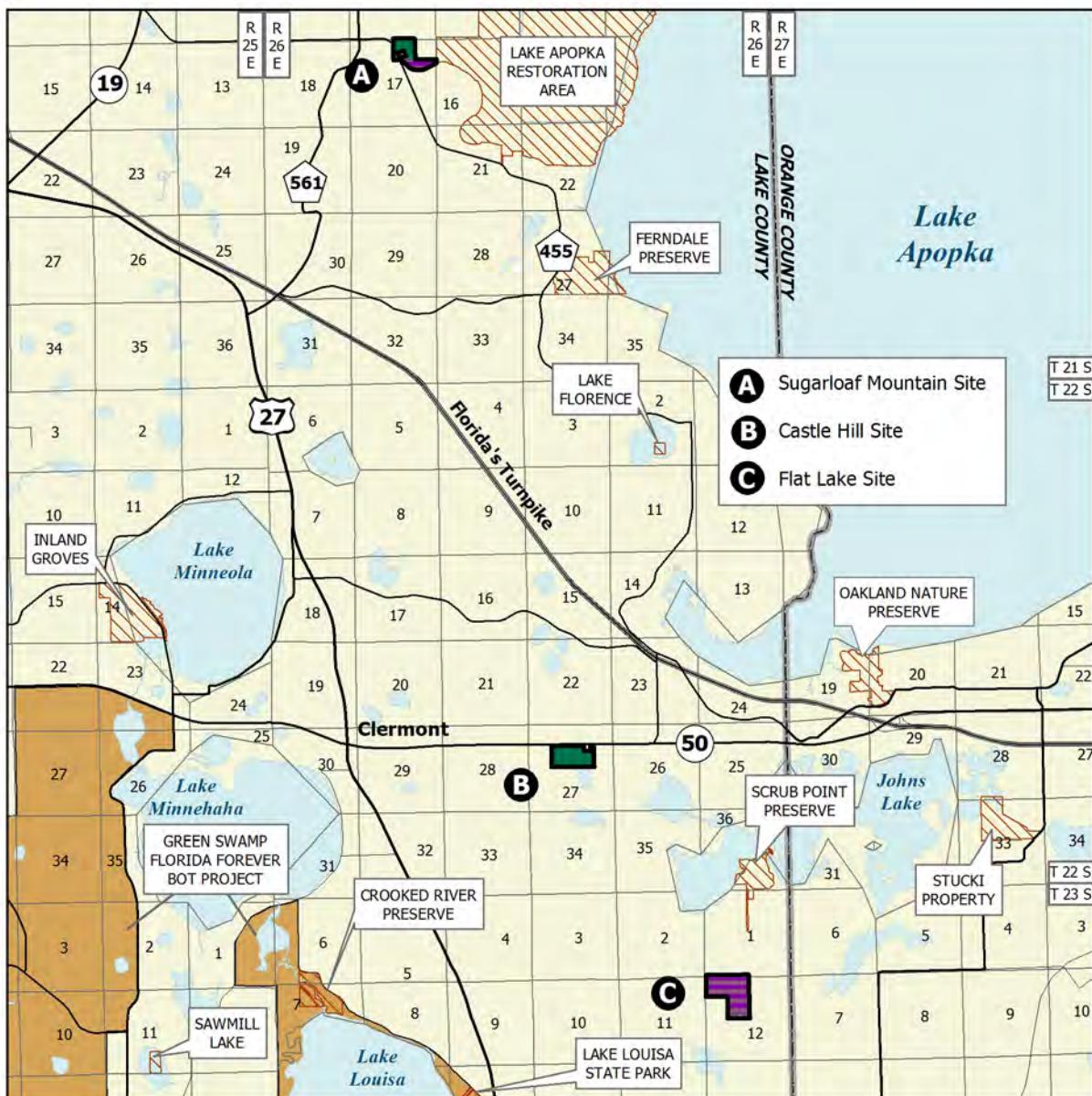
acquired approximately 600 acres. Holmes Avenue (1,269 acres): approximately half of the site has been acquired, multiple ownerships remain. Sunray (1,970 acres): negotiations have begun on major owners. Avon Park Lakes (225 acres): subdivided, TNC projects a three-year 70 percent success rate. Highlands Park Estates (232 acres) subdivided, acquisition activity not yet begun. Sun 'N Lakes South (570): more than 200 acres acquired, remaining developed and fragmented. Lake Aphorpe (2,503 acres): larger ownerships acquired, several lots important for management acquired as well.

On 12/6/1991, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem (LWRE) project to the CARL Priority list. This fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by TNC, consisted of approximately 32,480 acres, several thousand ownerships, and a taxable value of \$33,954,187. The project contains 20 separate sites located in Polk and Highlands counties and breaks down as follows: Ridge Scrub (80 acres); Lake Blue (65.23 acres); Eagle Lake (10.30 acres); Lake McLeod (55 acres); Mountain Lake Cutoff (201.05 acres); Hesperides (3,900 acres); Lake Walk-in-the-Water (9,835 acres); Sunray/Hickory Lake South (1,925 acres); Trout Lake (59 acres); Avon Park Lakes (225 acres); Silver Lake (1,194 acres); Carter Creek (4,630 acres); Flamingo Villas (1,420 acres); Henscratch Road/Jack Creek (3,985 acres); Lake Aphorpe (1,722 acres); Highlands Park Estates (232 acres); Holmes Avenue (1,199 acres); Lake June West (897 acres); Sun 'N Lakes South (503 acres); Gould Road (343 acres). The SFWMD acquired 1,309 acres within the Henscratch Road/Jack Creek site for \$1,540,000.

On 7/23/1993, the LAAC approved an 848-acre addition to the Lake Aphorpe site within the project boundary. The addition in Highlands County was sponsored by TNC, consisted of two ownerships, Clements Family (4 parcels) and Michael Rider (1 parcel), with a taxable



## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



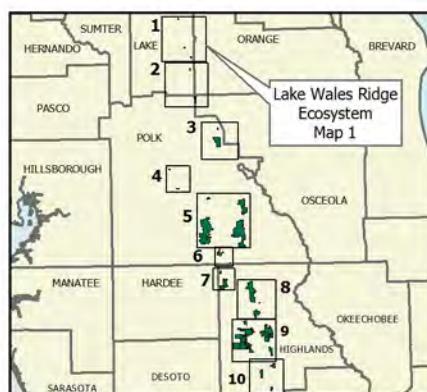
### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1 OF 10

#### LAKE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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JUNE 2011

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

value of \$313,910. On 9/20/1993, the LAAC approved a 16-acre addition to the Mountain Lake Cutoff site within the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, J. K. Stuart, and had a taxable value of \$18,548. The landowner has holdings within the site and is unwilling to sell only a part of his tract. The Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

On 3/9/1994, the LAAC approved a 160-acre addition to the Lake Walk-in-the-Water site within the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner (Alico) and TNC with a taxable value of \$160,000. The landowner has holdings within the current boundary and is unwilling to sell only a part of its holdings. The Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes. In 7/1994, the LAAC approved a 61-acre addition to Flamingo Villas site within the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowner; American Homes Service Corp.–Wohl tract, consisted of 2 contiguous parcels, with a taxable value of \$95,180. The landowner has holdings within the current boundary and is unwilling to sell only a part of his holdings. The Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes. In 11/1994, the LAAC combined the Warea Archipelago project (1,021 acres/taxable value \$4,552,797/Lake and Osceola Counties), with the LWRE. The Warea Archipelago project contained 6 separate sites that break down as follows: Schofield Sandcastle (120 acres); Lake Davenport (500 acres); Flat Lake (120 acres); Castle Hill (125 acres); Ferndale Ridge (104 acres); Sugarloaf Mountain (52 acres). On 11/18/1994, the LAAC approved a 2,336-acre addition, in Highlands County, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC with a taxable value of \$2,201,330. The breakdown follows: 400 acres to the Silver Lake site, 76 acres to the Gould Road site, and the 1,860-acre McJunkin Ranch was added.

On 7/14/1995, the LAAC approved an 850-acre (sponsored by TNC; taxable value of \$2,035,980) addition in Highlands County to the project boundary, 70 acres to the Holmes Avenue site and 780 acres to the Lake Apthorpe site. On 12/7/1995, the LAAC approved combining the Horse Creek Scrub project (2,365 acres/taxable value \$3,330,700/Polk County) with the LWRE. The SFWMD made the request to expand the LWRE boundary. On 12/7/1995, the LAAC approved

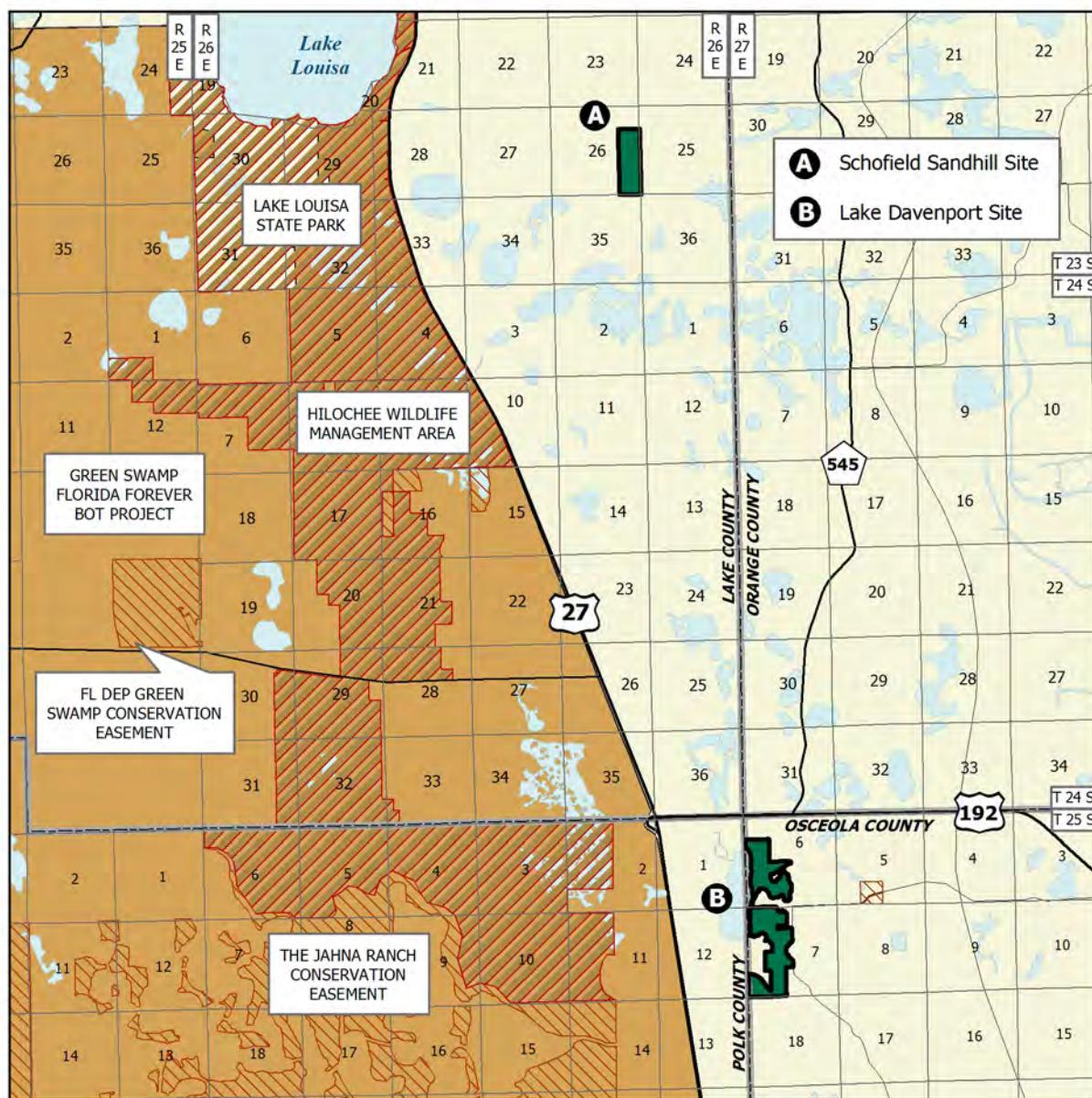
combining the Highlands Ridge project (6,318 acres/taxable value \$11,980,140/Highlands County/several thousand parcels/600-700 landowners) with the LWRE. TNC sponsored the Ridge project in 1994.

On 12/5/1996, the LAAC approved the transfer of two ownerships – Boy Scouts West in the Hesperides site and Morgan in the Lake Walk-in-the-Water site – to the newly created Less-Than-Fee category. These Polk Co. ownerships, total 2,407 acres and a taxable value of \$2,407,000.

On 12/7/1997, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a 3,724-acre deletion (sponsored by TNC) to the project boundary. The deletion affected 10 sites, with a taxable value of \$5,036,700. The breakdown of the deletions follows: Ferndale Ridge (104 acres), Castle Hill (50 acres), Eagle Lake (10 acres), Hesperides (177 acres), Sun Ray/Hickory Lake (1,070 acres), Henscratch Road (760 acres), Lake June West (66 acres), Highlands Park Estates (232 acres), Holmes Avenue (145 acres), and McJunkin Ranch (1,110 acres).

On 10/15/1998, the LAMAC approved a 580-acre addition to the project boundary, sponsored by TNC. It totalled 1,414 parcels (1,132 landowners) with a taxable value of \$159,086. Several landowners already have ownerships within the current boundary and will not sell without including the proposed additions. The additions to sites in Polk and Highlands counties follows: Lake Apthorpe site (.34 acre, Livingston), Silver Lake site (427 acres, multiple owners), Sun’N’Lakes South site (67 acres, Gables Engineering, Inc.), Sunray/Hickory Lake South site (80 acres, Alico, Inc.), and Trout Lake site (7 acres, Sistrunk, Trustee). The parcels were designated as essential. On 10/15/1998, the LAMAC approved the addition of the following tracts to the list of essential parcels: approximately 320 acres of the Saddleblanket Resorts II ownership in the Lake Walk-in-the-Water site, and approximately 3,200 acres (two large ownerships) in the Highlands Ridge site. On 7/12/2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 2,512-acre addition (Royce Ranch next to Lake Apthorpe site) to the project boundary, sponsored by the FWC, it consisted of one landowner owner, Raymond Royce, with a taxable value of \$1,230,591. The FWC will manage the addition. On 11/11/2002, 1.25 acres were bought in Carter Creek (Benvenuti--\$3,800) to be managed by FWC. On 10/17/2003, the ARC approved a less-than-

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2 OF 10

#### LAKE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

fee--2,330-acre addition (Henscratch Ranch-Highlands Co.--taxable value of \$352,419) to the project boundary. Sponsored by a representative for the landowner, Highlands Farms, Inc. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor the easement.

On 8/20/2004, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 520-acre addition (Lake Josephine--Highlands Co.--taxable value of \$17,063) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by representatives of the landowner, E. P. Jones Jr. The OES will monitor the easement.

On 10/13/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple and less-than-fee, 11,444-acre addition (Crooked Lake West) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Polk County, FWCC, and the SWFWMD. The addition, in Polk County, consisted of 1,430 parcels; 1,120 landowners; a taxable value of \$6,612,464. The parcels have been designated as essential.

In 6/2008, the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased: 0.9 acre (McKay) in Carter Creek for \$11,500 - FWCC's FF funds; 1,146.91 acres (Dunham/Cannon) in Dunham Ranch known as Gopher Tortoise Mitigation Park for \$12,353,761 – FWCC's LATF money was used for purchase. FWCC will manage these sites. In 9/2008, the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased with DSL FF funds: 1.19 acres (Boise) in Carter Creek for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Carpinello) for \$11,500; and 1.3 acres (O Such) for \$11,500--all in the Carter Creek area, and FWCC will manage. In 10/2008 the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased with DSL FF funds: 1.1 acres (Dumervil/Cameron) for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Hreschak) for \$11,500; 5.4 acres (Pollard) for \$46,000; 1.3 acres (Romani) for \$11,500; and 1.3 acres (Higgins Estate) for \$11,500. FWCC will manage these sites. On 10/3/2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to buy a 345-acre parcels from the Palmer ownership in Pine Plantation for \$24,930,304 (40 acres in the SE corner of the parcel were acquired by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to be conveyed to Orange County for a park). On 10/15/2008, TNC bought a Conservation Easement of 57.62 acres within the Scrub Conservation Bank which overlaps the Gould Road site. Archbold Biological Station monitors the easement. In 11/2008, the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased with DSL FF funds: 1.3 acres (Roselle) for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Stockard) for \$11,500; 1.4 acres (Barbuto) for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Schaffner) for \$11,500; and 1.1 acres (Smith) for

\$11,500. Again, FWC will manage these sites.

December 2008 through May 2009, 46 acres were purchased for \$445,161.

In 1/2009, SWFWMD and Polk Co. acquired 3510 acres (Crooked Lake West site) for \$5,369,950 from SWFMD; \$2,000,000 from Polk Co.; and \$12,239,500 from NRCS. In 6/2009, 5 acres were purchased in Carter Creek site for \$46,000. In 7/2009 another acre was received as a donation from C.L./Vera Stegmaier in Lake Apthorpe. In 10/2009 a little over 2 acres were purchased for \$24,000 in Carter Creek site. All to be managed by FWCC. On 12/29/2009, 1.1 acres were purchased by DSL for \$11,500. FWC will manage.

On 3/29/2011, 1/2 acre on Holmes Ave. was donated (Dorothy A. Sanders Revocable Trust--\$2,000), FWCC to manage. On 4/5/2011 16.21 acres were purchased (TNC/Lawson--\$97,000). FFS will manage. On 4/15/2011 ARC recommended a 2,071-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/rural/commercial development. On 7/20/2011, DSL purchased 1.87 acres on Holmes Avenue for \$8,422. In 8/2011, DSL bought 13.53 acres on Holmes Avenue via tax deed sales for \$40,429.

### Coordination

The Lake Wales Ridge sites are included within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge which is the top priority endangered species project of the Service. The Service will also participate in management. TNC is an intermediary for non-mega parcel sites on this project.

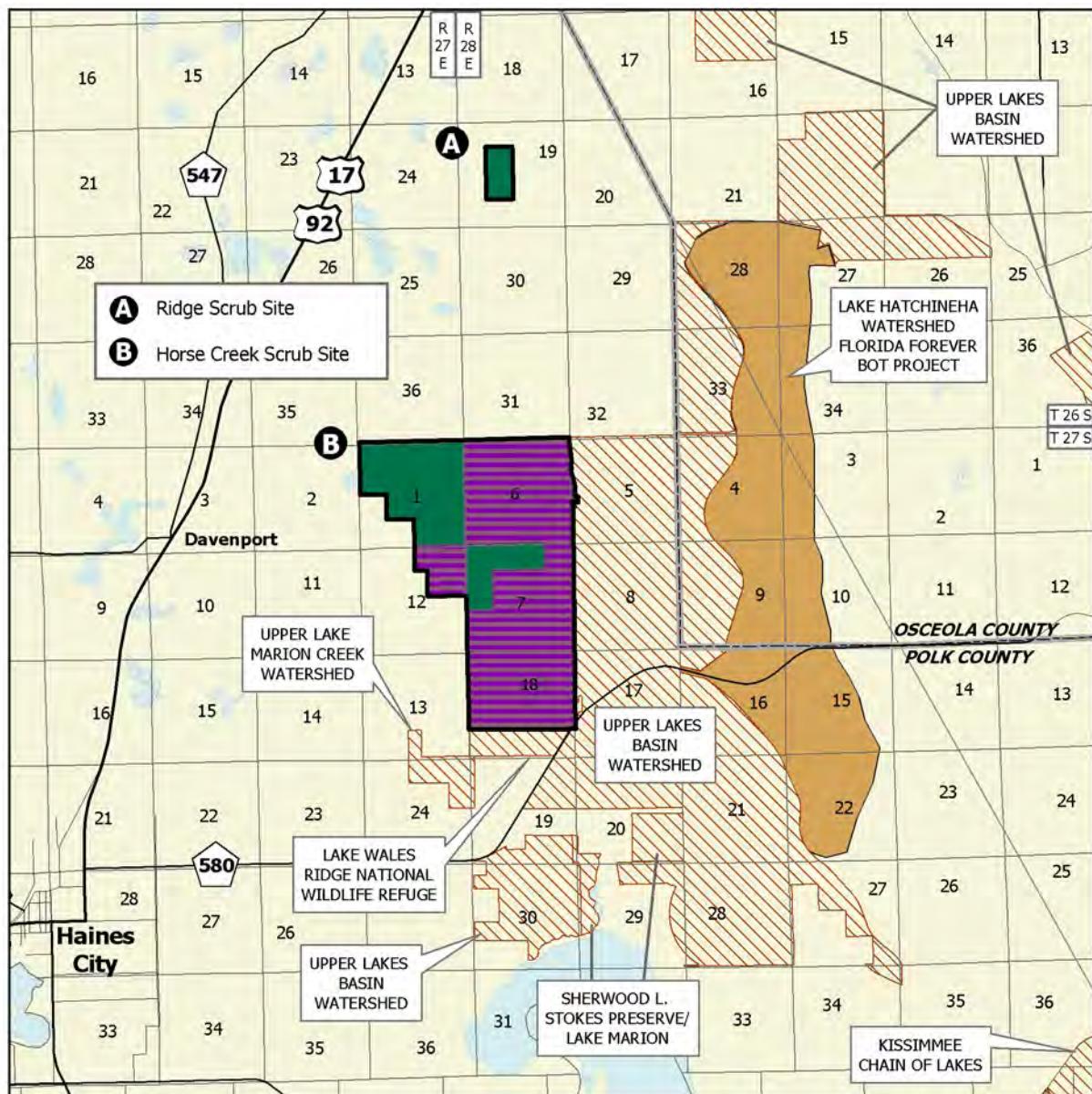
### Full Fee

#### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystems project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within,



## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3 OF 10

#### POLK COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Diagonal Hatching Box] Other Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4 Miles



OCTOBER 2006

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The full fee sites of the Lake Wales Ridge project qualify as single-use Wildlife and Environmental Areas WEA) because of their high concentration of threatened or endangered species, particularly plants. The forest resources of the Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and Warea sites make them desirable for use as state forests. The natural and recreational resources of the Lake June West parcel qualify it as a unit of the state park system.

**Manager** DRP (Lake June West); FFS (Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and five Warea sites) and FWCC (remaining sites). FFS will monitor the less-than-fee portion.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** This project is a high-needs area which will require additional funding to stabilize and protect the natural resources. Managing this ecosystem will require large prescribed burning crews that are well-trained and well-equipped to handle high intensity fires in close proximity to residential areas.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** During the first year after acquisition, management will focus on site security, conducting fuel reduction burns, conducting inventories of natural resources, and mapping of sensitive resources and conceptual planning. Public use facilities, if any, will be provided in succeeding years.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use

increases, modest revenue may be generated.

**Cooperators in management activities** It is recommended that the Archbold Biological Station and TNC serve as cooperators in the managing of some of the sites.

### Less Than Fee and Small Holdings Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The forest resources of the Lake Walk-in-Water, and Hesperides sites make them desirable for use as state forests. The small parcels sites of the Lake Wales Ridge project qualify as single-use WEA because of its high concentration of threatened or endangered species, particularly plants. Thirty percent of the plants and animals of the Lake Wales Ridge occur nowhere else in the world.

**Manager** The FWCC is recommended as project manager for the small holdings. OES and FFS to monitor CEs.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** This project is a high-need area, which will require additional funding to stabilize and protect the natural resources. Managing this ecosystem will require large prescribed burning crews that are well-trained and well-equipped to handle high intensity fires in close proximity to residential areas.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** During the first year after acquisition, management will focus on site security, conducting fuel reduction burns, conducting inventories of natural resources, and mapping of sensitive resources and conceptual planning. Public use facilities, if any, will be provided in succeeding years.

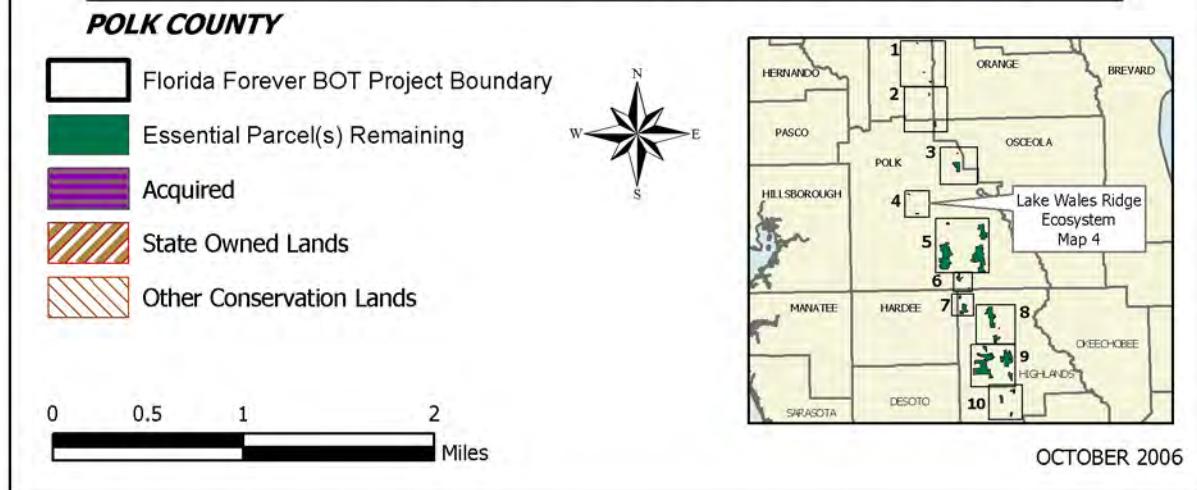
**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use increases, modest revenue may be generated.

Updated 2/21/2012

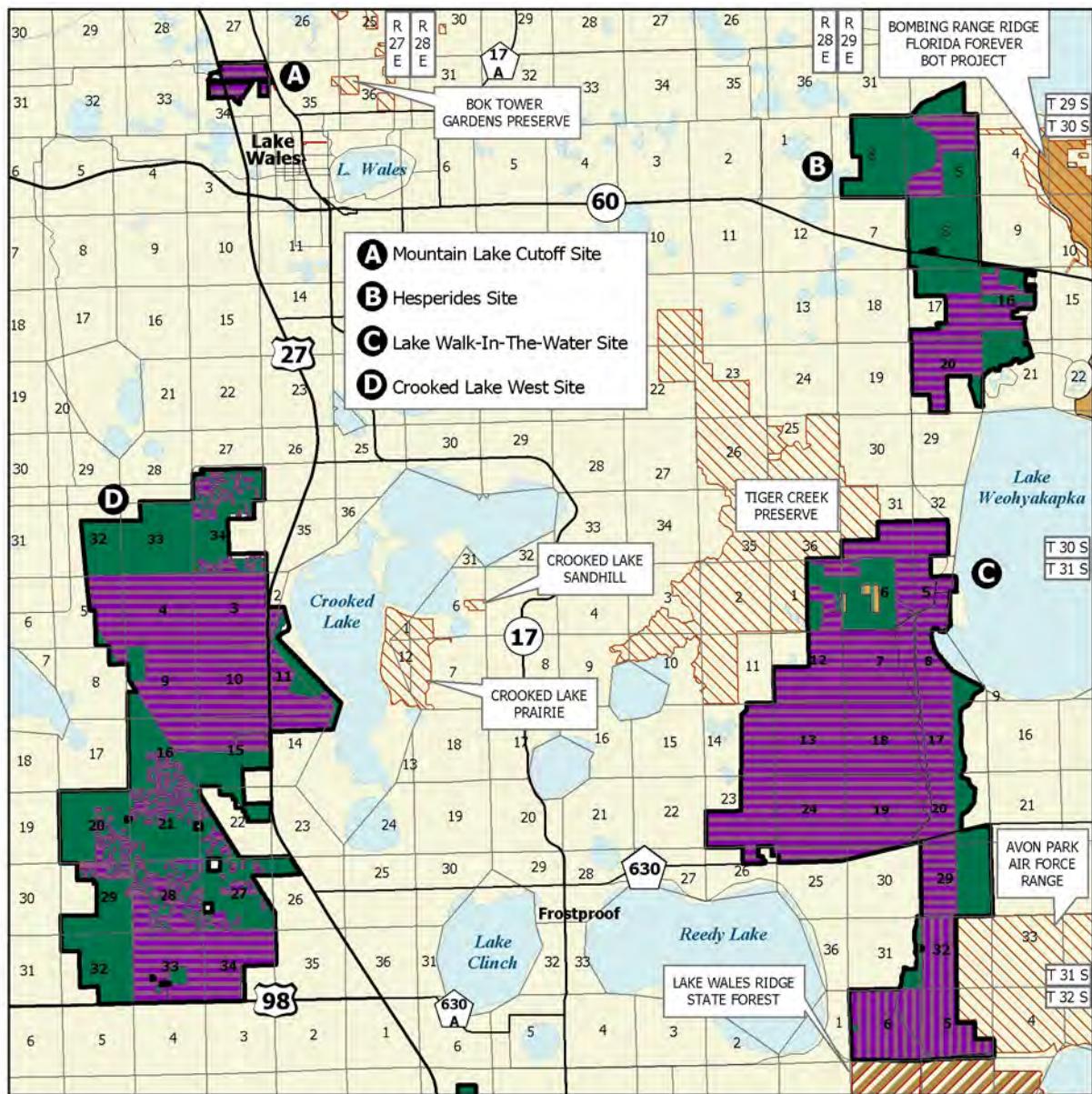
## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4 OF 10



## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

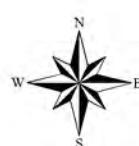


### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5 OF 10

#### POLK COUNTY

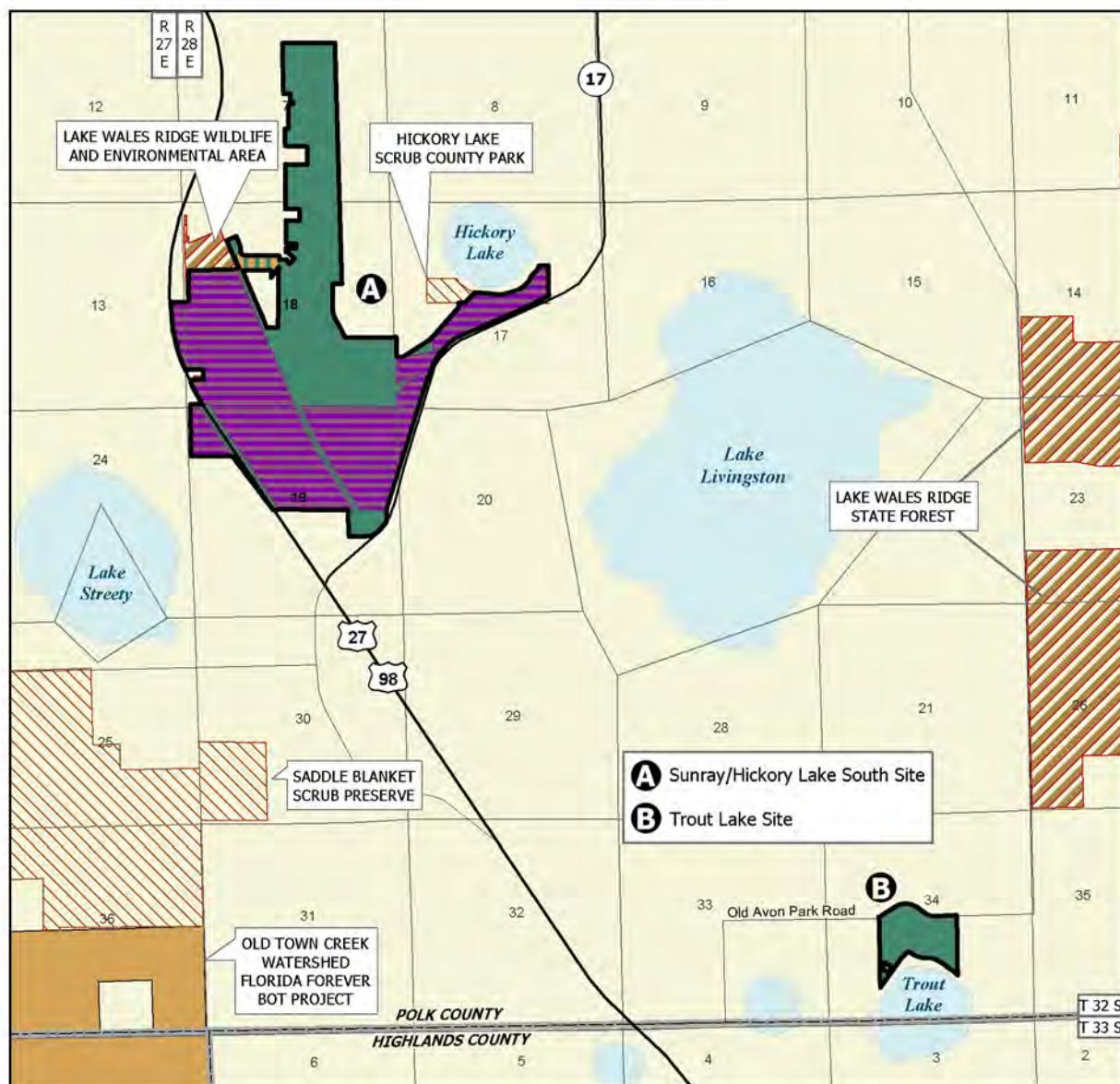
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee-Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Yellow Box] TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Light Blue Box] Other Conservation Lands

0 1 2 4 Miles



OCTOBER 2011

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6 OF 10

#### POLK COUNTY

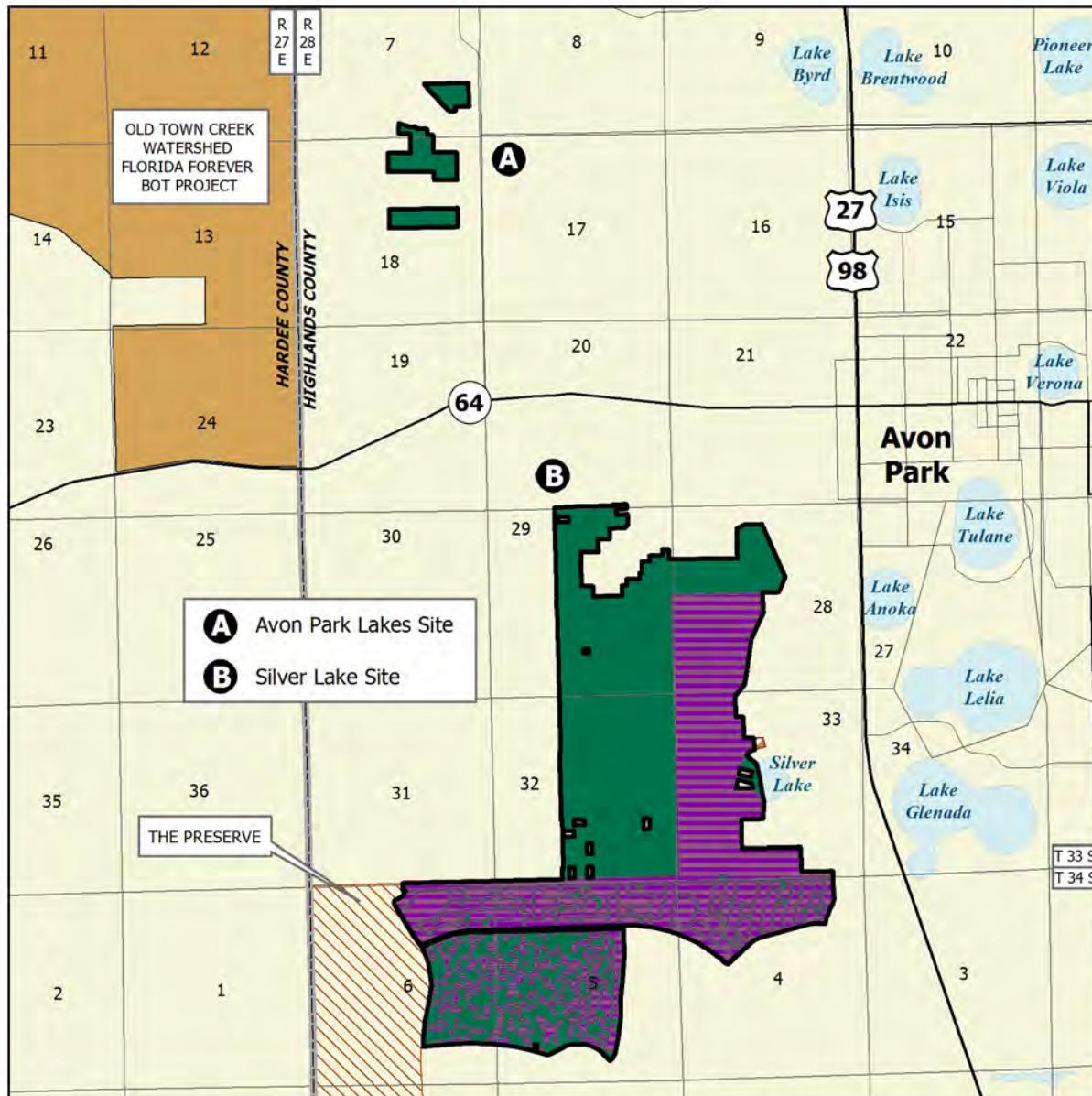
- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Yellow Box] TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Brown Box] Other Conservation Lands

0    0.5    1    2  
Miles



OCTOBER 2011

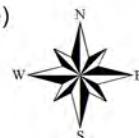
## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



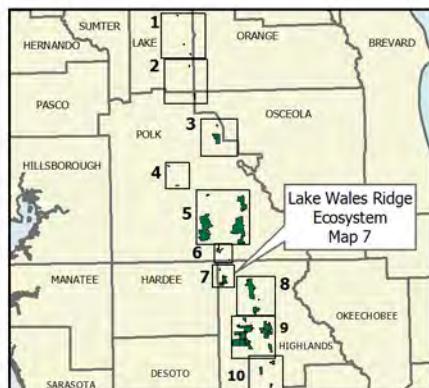
LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7 OF 10

### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

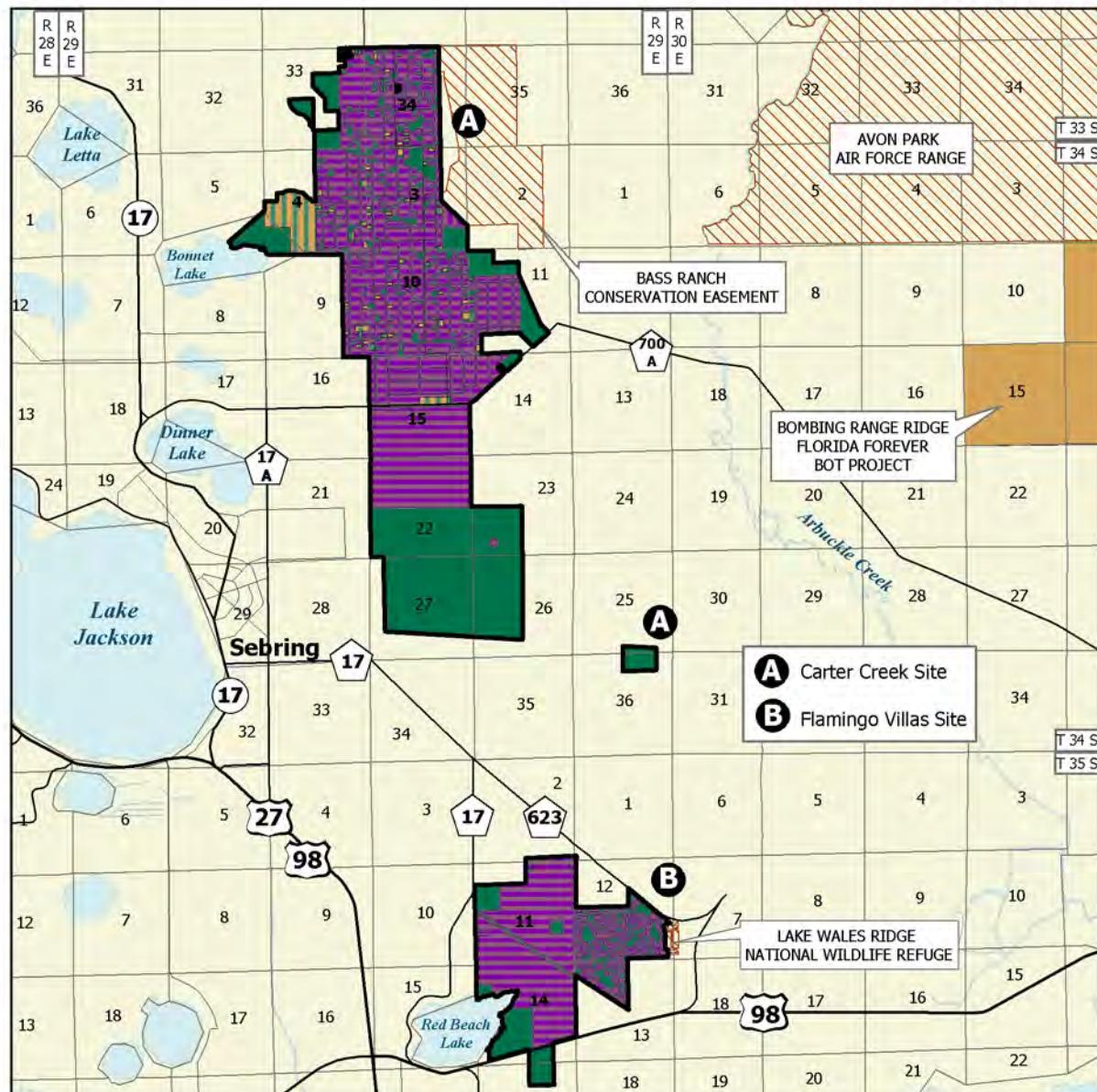


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JUNE 2011

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



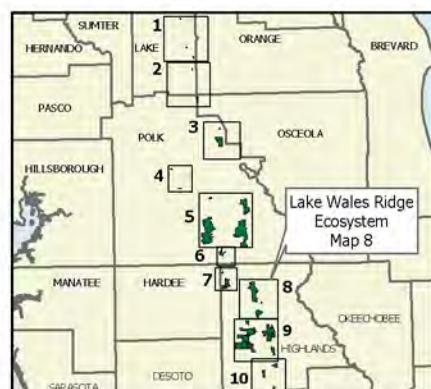
### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8 OF 10

#### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Yellow Box] TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] Other Conservation Lands

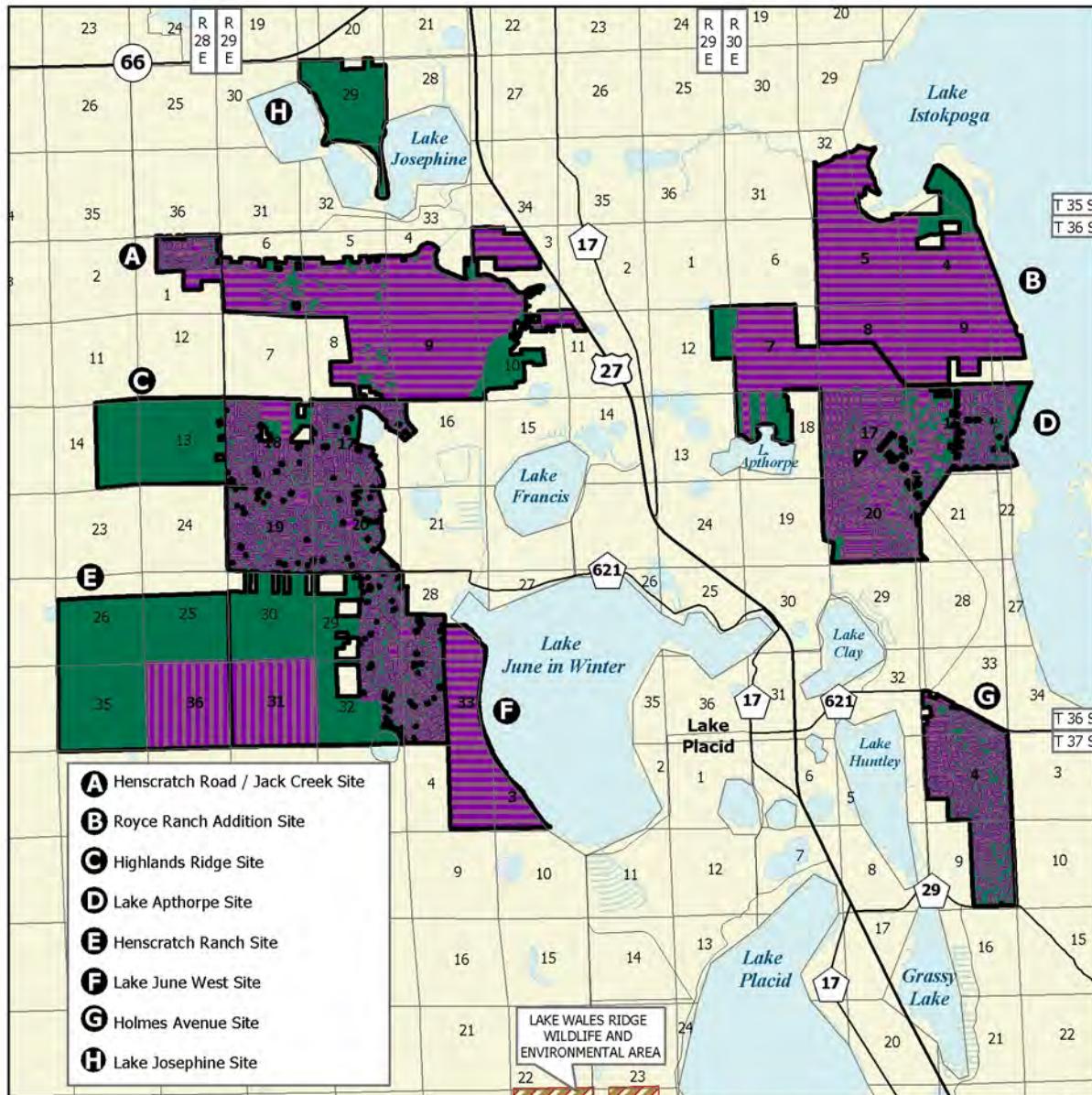


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JUNE 2011

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



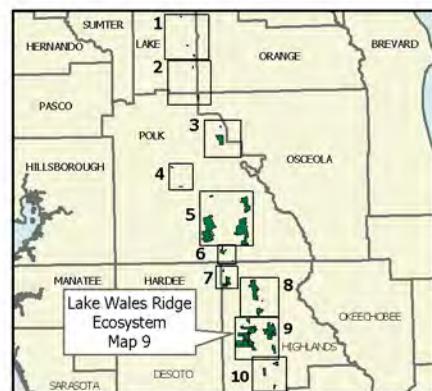
### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9 OF 10

#### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee-Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands

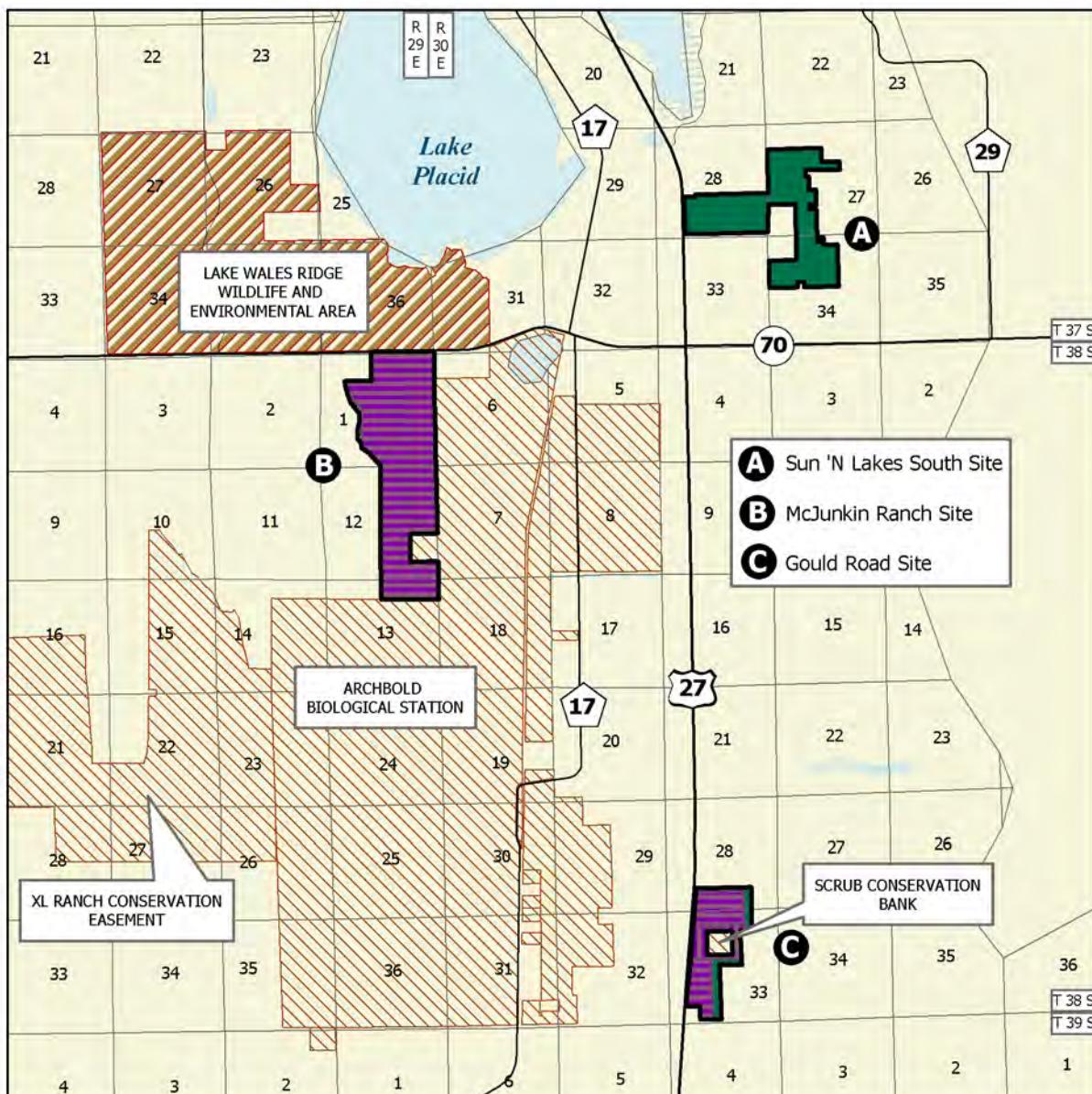


0 1 2 4 Miles



OCTOBER 2011

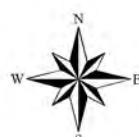
## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem



### LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 10 OF 10

#### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee-Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0   0.5   1   2  
Miles



JUNE 2011

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

### Management Cost Summary/FWCC

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$45,339	\$87,235	\$122,840
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$32,555	\$27,653	\$31,800
OCO	\$57,800	\$0	\$28,900
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,694</b>	<b>\$114,888</b>	<b>\$183,540</b>

### Management Cost Summary/FFS (previously Lake Arbuckle State Forest and Walk-in-the-Water)

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$53,587	\$66,768	\$68,771.04
OPS	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expense	\$48,480	\$29,215	\$124,720.50
OCO	\$44,728	\$39,020	\$74,498.25
FCO	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$146,795</b>	<b>\$144,893</b>	<b>\$267,989.79</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	Startup	Recurring	Management Cost Summary/FFS (Warea)
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	Category
			Source of Funds
Salary	\$44,334	\$97,575	Salary
OPS	\$14,560	\$12,000	OPS
Expense	\$23,000	\$24,000	Expense
OCO	\$67,000	\$1,000	OCO
FCO	\$57,720	\$0	FCO
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$206,614</b>	<b>\$134,575</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
			<b>\$5,000</b>
			<b>\$4,000</b>

### Management Cost Summary/FFS (Hesperides)

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$63,440	\$63,440
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$20,000	\$17,000
OCO	\$111,700	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$195,140</b>	<b>\$90,440</b>

# Little River Conservation Area

Gadsden County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Purchase of a less-than-fee-simple interest in the Little River Conservation Area would provide an opportunity to protect a portion of the Little River watershed while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area. A conservation easement would preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and would provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community. This would fulfill the stated Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels; protecting, restoring and maintaining the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; and increasing the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. Due to its proximity of the Lake Talquin State Forest, managed by Florida Division of Forestry, and Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, acquisition of a conservation easement would also enhance coordination and completion of land acquisition projects.

## Manager

The Office of Environmental Services (OES) is designated to monitor the easement.

## General Description

The Little River Conservation Area is situated within the Tallahassee Red Hills region and consists of an upland ridge about 2.4 miles long and 0.75 miles wide, forming the drainage divide between the Little River on its northwest side and its tributary, Hurricane Creek, on the southeast side, and extending to their confluence

at the south end of the property. Most of the uplands on the site are in pine plantation, approximately 63 percent of the total area. The original upland natural community was probably either upland pine forest, or sandhill, or both. Hardwood (slope) forest (4 percent) occupies the steeper slopes that extend for about a mile above the Little River. Most of the remainder of the project is occupied by floodplain/bottomland forest and floodplain swamp along the drainage ways with some of the higher transitional areas in baygall and wet flatwoods. The western portion of the project encompasses about 375 acres of floodplain along Little River at its confluence with Quincy Creek.

## Public Use

The project is being offered as a less-than-fee purchase without public access. Hence, the project does not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Without public access, there will not be any public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project. Due to an indicated lack of general public access for hunting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission advises that there would be no public hunting potential.

## Acquisition Planning and Status

The project has 2,057 (GIS) acres in east-central Gadsden County under a single owner, and is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. The Woodlands Company, Inc. of Quincy Florida, submitted this project. The Gadsden County Property Appraisers office lists the taxable value of the entire project as \$355,820. The easement would be purchased as a single purchase.

Little River Conservation Area FNAI Elements	
<i>Pyramid Magnolia</i>	G4/S3
<i>Mountain Laurel</i>	G5/S3
2 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (GIS Acres)	2,057
Acres Acquired	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining	2,057
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$355,820

## Little River Conservation Area



**Coordination**

There are no acquisition partnerships at this time.

**Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** As a less-than fee acquisition, a conservation easement over this parcel will preserve a working Florida landscape and protect existing natural areas from conversion to alternative uses. The development of additional structures and facilities on the parcel will be controlled through the

terms of the conservation easement. The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, to insure that the terms of the easement are adhered to and that undue degradation of the resources on the tract does not occur, will coordinate monitoring of the conservation easement on this tract.

Purchase of a less-than-fee-simple interest in the Little River Conservation Area would provide an opportunity to protect a portion of the Little River watershed while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area. A conservation easement would preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and would provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community.

**Manager** The OES is designated to monitor the easement.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Lochloosa Wildlife

Alachua County

**Substantially Complete**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The large lakes, flatwoods, and prairies in southeast Alachua County are still in good condition, though much of the flatwoods is now pine plantation and Gainesville and Ocala are growing. The Lochloosa Wildlife project will conserve a large part of this area, protecting forested lands linking Newnan's Lake, Lochloosa Lake, Orange Lake, and Paynes Prairie; protecting habitat for many kinds of wildlife, especially black bear, osprey, and wood storks; maintaining the high water quality of the lakes, streams, and marshes here; and providing a scenic natural area for people to boat, fish, hike, or hunt in.

## Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC).

## General Description

The project encompasses the significant resources associated with Lochloosa Lake (particularly large populations of birds of prey), a bird rookery used by wood storks, and possibly the largest intact Mesic Flatwoods remaining in Alachua County. Tracts in intensive timber production account for more than half the project acreage. Magnesia Springs in the project supports the only known population in the world of the freemouth hydrophobe snail. Nineteen other rare or

endangered species of animals are known to occur on site, including wood stork, bald eagle, Florida sandhill crane, and Florida black bear.

The good-quality surface waters in the project are a significant hydrological resource and the project will also buffer several Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) in the vicinity.

## Public Use

The project is designated as a wildlife management area.

## Acquisition Planning

Essential tracts within this project include: Georgia Pacific (St. Johns River Water Management District has acquired a conservation easement over 10,300 acres surrounding Lake Lochloosa); Franklin Crates; Concora (Container Corp./Wachovia); Goethe; and Brown.

The Division of State Lands is not currently working this project.

## Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is an acquisition partner. The district's expenditures are reflected in the table below.

Resolutions in support of this project include: 93-023: SJRWMD pledging up to 50% of the acquisition cost.

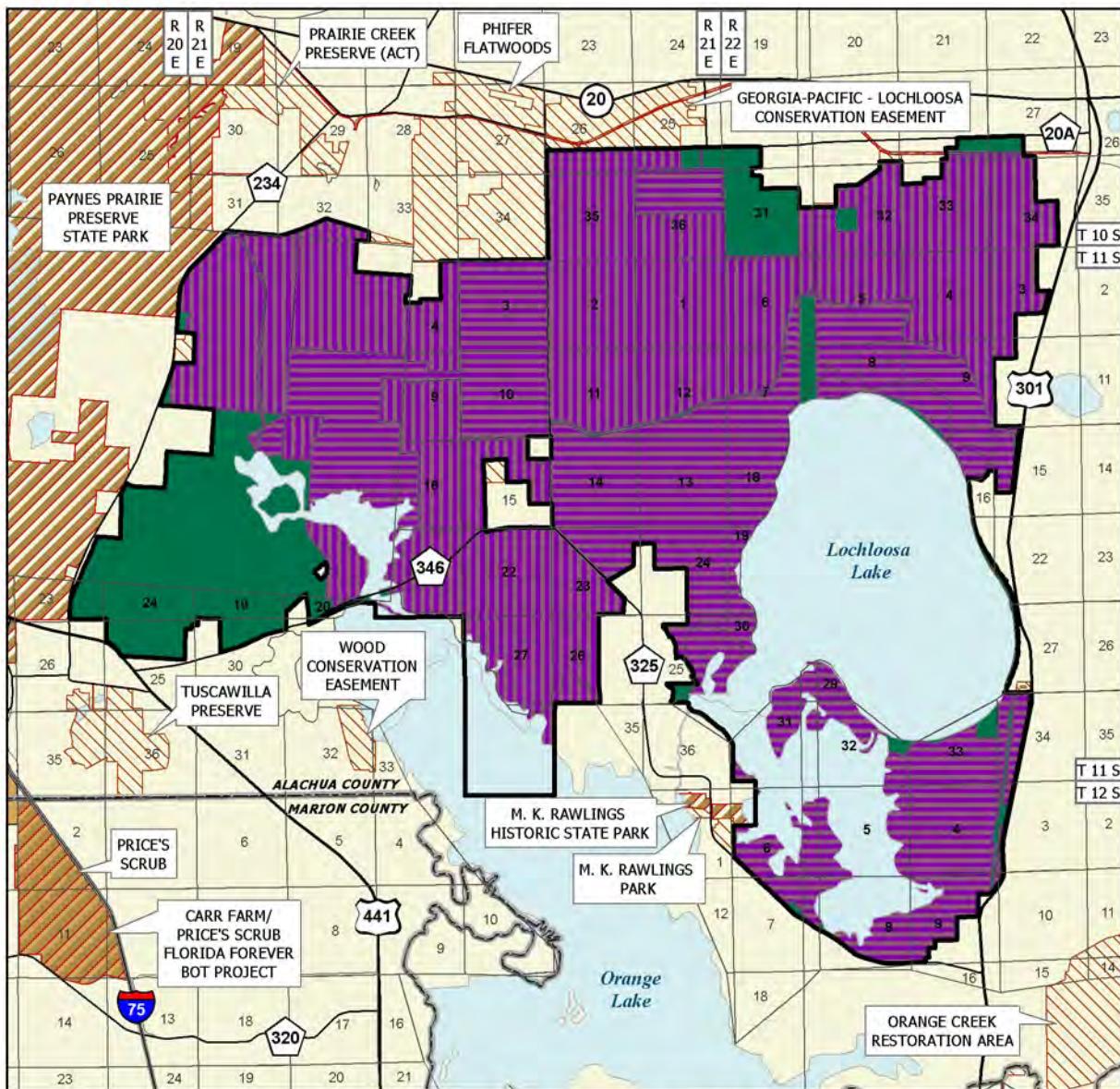
Lochloosa Wildlife FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Striped Newt	G2G3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Freemouth Hydrobe Snail	G1/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3

17 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1994
Project Area (GIS Acres)	31,978
Acres Acquired (GIS)	27,150*
at a Cost of	\$11,379,952*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	4,828
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$3,636,118

\*Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Alachua County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

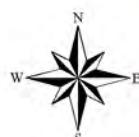
## Lochloosa Wildlife



### ALACHUA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

0    1    2    4  
Miles



OCTOBER 2011

## **Lochloosa Wildlife**

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Lochloosa Wildlife project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The significant wildlife resources of the Lochloosa Wildlife project, including such threatened species as bald eagles, wood storks, Florida sandhill crane, and Florida black bears, as well as good stocks of game animals, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The FWCC is recommended as the project Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Lochloosa Wildlife tract is an area in imminent danger of development and in high need of intense resource management and protection. The large pine plantations will require restoration.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, management will concentrate on site security, natural resource management and conceptual planning. Public-use facilities will be developed in succeeding years.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use is increased, modest revenue may be generated.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) is recommended as a cooperator to assist with forest management.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** Budget needs for interim management are estimated below. The CARL trust fund is the expected source of revenue.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

### **Management Cost Summary/FWCC**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$140,00
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$5,500
Expense	\$50	\$0	\$35,900
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$98,200
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$279,600</b>

# Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

Hamilton, Gilchrist, Volusia and Marion Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Though they once covered much of north and central Florida, old-growth longleaf pine sandhills are now only distant memories, replaced by pine plantations, pastures, and housing developments. Nevertheless, fragments of good sandhills still remain. The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project will conserve two of the largest and best of these fragments, in so doing helping to ensure the survival of several rare animals like the red-cockaded woodpecker as well as some plants, and giving the public an opportunity to see and enjoy the original, and increasingly rare, natural landscape of Florida's uplands. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

**Bell Ridge:** The primary goal is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. The Bell Ridge is a small xeric upland physiographic feature lying just north of the much larger Brooksville Ridge. The gently rolling hills and ridges of the Bell Ridge represent relict beach dunes now at elevations of 60-100 feet and consist of excessively well-drained sands of generally low fertility. It is predominantly sandhill of variable quality. The Bell Ridge Sandhills can be

expected to support most of the fauna, both game and nongame, typical of sandhill habitat. Evidence of one rare species, the gopher tortoise was found.

### Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Ross Prairie sites [except the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway--MHC-- portion which is under an approved management lease to Office of Greenways and Trails--OGT], Blue Spring Longleaf, Bell Ridge, Deland Ridge). The FFS will manage Bell Ridge under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the State Forest system. The Office

### General Description

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem sites (Ross Prairie Sandhill, Ross Prairie Addition, Bell Ridge, Blue Spring Longleaf, and Deland Ridge) are some of the highest quality longleaf pine sandhills in Florida. Longleaf pine sandhills are one of Florida's most distinctive and endangered forest types, and have declined by more than 80% in the last century. The project will protect nearly 20 plants, animals, and natural communities listed by Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Archaeological sites are known in the Ross Prairie tract. These sites are vulnerable to logging and fire suppression as well as development.

### Public Use

The project will provide state forests, with opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping and nature appreciation.

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem FNAI Elements	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
<i>Longspurred Mint</i>	G1/S1
<i>Sand Butterfly Pea</i>	G2Q/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Incised Groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
<i>Scrub Stylosma</i>	G3/S3

24 rare species are associated with the project

**Placed on List** 1993

**Project Area (GIS Acres)** 21,429

**Acres Acquired (GIS)** 11,736\*

**at a Cost of** \$30,408,180

**Acres Remaining (GIS)** 9,693

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of** \$20,329,303

\* includes 54 acres at Caraway Lake acquired by the Florida Audubon Society in 1990.

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

### Acquisition Planning

Largest property owners south of canal lands (essential) within the Ross Prairie (8,216 acres) site are Janet Land Corp. (acquired) and Deltona-Marion Oaks Sub. (unwilling seller). North of the canal lands are seven (essential), Ocala Waterway Estates (essential), Guy (essential), Davis, and less than 35 other smaller tracts. Acquisition work is scheduled to begin in early 1999 on the Maverick, Davis, and Guy tracts. The BlueSpring (1,978 acres) site consists of one owner (acquired, through TNC).

On 12/3/1998, LAMAC transferred the Deland Ridge and Chassahowitzka Sandhill sites to the Negotiation Impasse group.

On 7/29/1999, the Council added the 3,040 acre Ross Prairie Addition project to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project (Priority Group). On 12/9/1999 the Council approved the Bell Ridge project to be added to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project.

On 8/13/2010 ARC approved a 3,612-acre (\$528,396,412 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commerical/infrastructure disturbances.

### Coordination

TNC, the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), and the Florida Audubon Society are acquisition partners on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The quality of the pine forests on the Blue Spring Longleaf and Ross

Prairie sites, and their size and diversity, make them suitable for state forests.

**Manager** DOF to manage (Ross Prairie sites [except the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway portion already under an approved management plan by the OGT]; Blue Spring Longleaf; Bell Ridge; and Deland Ridge).

Bell Ridge: The FFS will manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** On the Blue Spring tract, there are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. On Ross Prairie, however, the construction of an extension of the Florida Turnpike may hinder fire management activities and public access to the forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The Blue Spring Longleaf tract and part of the Ross Prairie Sandhills tract have been acquired (the OGT is manager of lease for MHC Cross Florida Greenway portion). The FFS is now providing public access to these tracts for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Management on the Blue Spring Longleaf tract will concentrate on maintaining the existing open conditions and seeds will be collected with as little disturbance as possible to the resources. On all three tracts, the FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The sites' natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for these tracts will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The FFS will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the



## LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

### **HAMILTON, GILCHRIST, VOLUSIA, AND MARION COUNTIES**

#### **Map 1: Hamilton County**

A. Blue Spring Longleaf Site

#### **Map 2: Gilchrist County**

A. Bell Ridge Sandhills Site

#### **Map 3: Volusia County**

A. Deland Ridge Site

#### **Map 4: Marion County**

A. Ross Prairie Sandhill Site  
B. Ross Prairie Addition Site



0    15    30    60  
Miles



SEPTEMBER 2006

## **Longleaf Pine Ecosystem**

revenue-generating potential for these tracts is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested

### **Bell Ridge:**

#### **Management Policy**

The primary objective of management of the Bell Ridge Sandhills is to protect and restore the threatened sandhill natural community. A secondary objective is to provide resource-based recreational activities that are compatible with protection of the natural and cultural resource values of the project. The site will be managed under the multiple-use concept—management activities will be directed first toward conservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses. Managers will control access to the proposal; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; conduct prescribed burning of fire-dependent communities in a manner mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using existing firelines, natural firebreaks, existing roads, or foam lines for control, when possible; strictly limit timber harvesting in mature stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually conserving resources. Managers will limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The proposal includes over 3,000 acres of relatively undisturbed land adjacent to an existing area of conservation lands. It consequently appears to have the size and location to achieve its primary and secondary objective.

#### **Management Prospectus**

The Bell Ridge Sandhill encompasses approximately 3,500 acres in Gilchrist, Florida. The site is located approximately 9 miles north east of Trenton, seven miles east of Bell, seventeen miles north of the Watermelon Pond Unit of Goethe State Forest, and twenty miles west of Gainesville. The FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system, and in a manner designed to accomplish the acquisition goals and measures for this project as approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council. These goals and measures are hereby incorporated by reference. The primary land management goal for the FFS is to

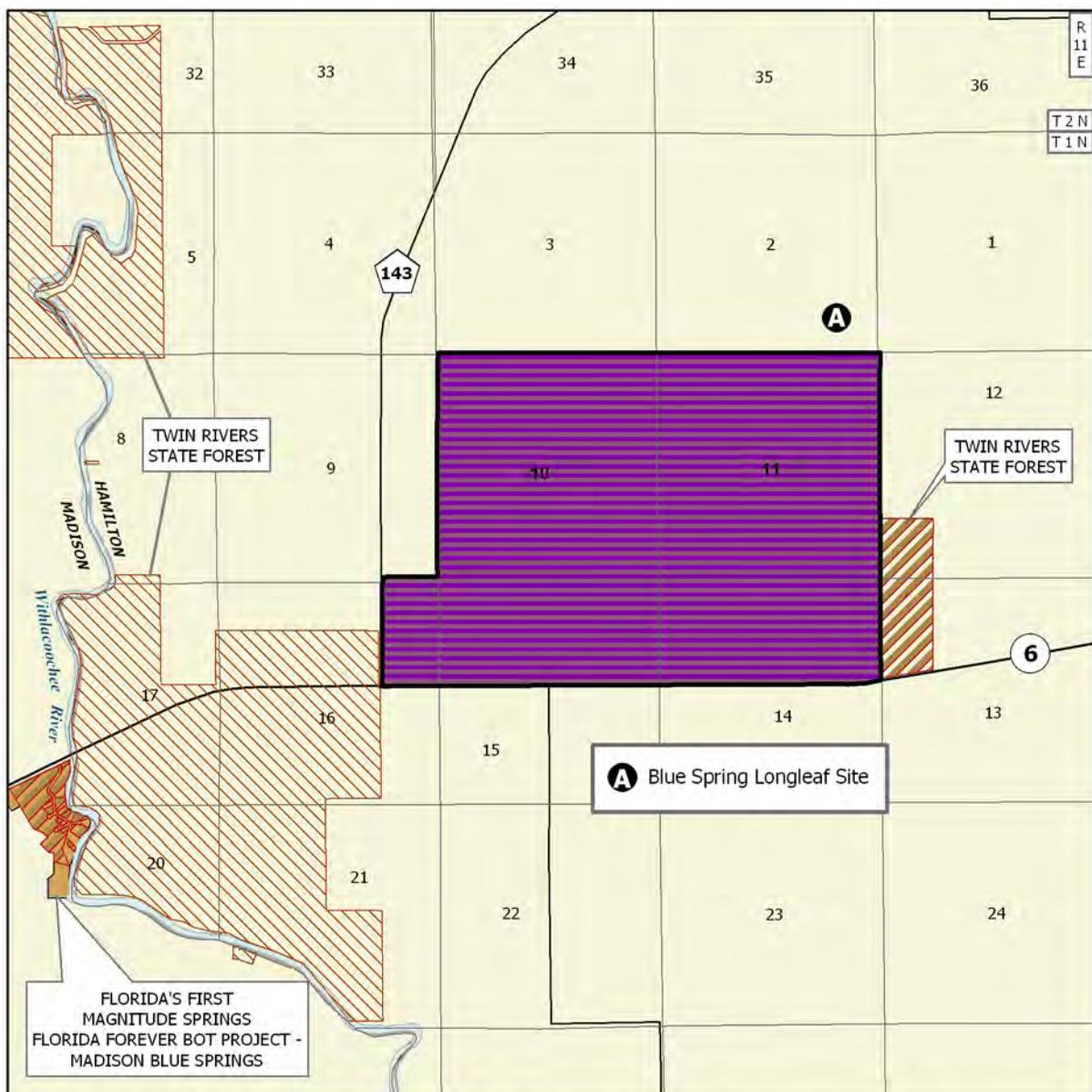
restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS management activities on this project.

**Qualifications for State Designation** The major community represented on this project is sandhill. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a State Forest. Management by the FFS as a State Forest is contingent upon the state acquiring fee simple title to the entire project and obtaining some level of legal public access to the site, which is likely since the eastern and northern property boundaries are county maintained graded roads.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** There are portions of the parcel that have been disturbed that will require restoration efforts. There is at least one linear facility that bisects the parcel, which will be an area of management concern for monitoring unauthorized uses and introduction of invasive exotic species. The sandhill community is considered imperiled and as such may be sensitive to certain uses and the intensity of use. As such, water resource development projects, water supply development projects, stormwater management projects and any additional linear facilities, other than those that already exist on the project, are considered incompatible with this type of ecosystem and with the resource values on this project. The adjacent residential developments will pose a management concern associated with prescribed burning, public use, unauthorized uses, and other natural resource management activities. There are areas that have refuse and debris and which should be removed prior to closing on the core parcel. Other than those above-mentioned points, there are no other known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention. The level of management intensity and related management cost is expected to be moderately high initially to establish this as a state forest.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the DOF, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a new unit of the State Forest system, and the Waccasassa Forestry Center personnel will carry out initial management activities and coordinate public access and use. The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem



### LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1 OF 4

#### **HAMILTON COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0      0.5      1      2      Miles

SEPTEMBER 2006

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

management access, resource inventory, reforestation of areas where off-site species have been harvested, natural regeneration of the native species in the areas with low densities, and any restoration activities. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. There are many roads throughout the property, and as such a road plan will need to be developed to determine those to be used for vehicular use by the public, those that are required for administrative use, and unnecessary access points and roads that should be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will eventually be conducted to provide a basis for formulation of a management plan. Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Any existing pine plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on those specific sites. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species.

Portions of the area can sustain an all season prescribed burning program utilizing practices which incorporate recent research findings. The objective is to eventually establish an all season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinning and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for

any recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user services recreational facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact, organized recreation areas are not planned because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

**Florida Forever Performance Measures** The FFS has reviewed the project and believes that following Florida Forever Performance Measures appear to apply to this project:

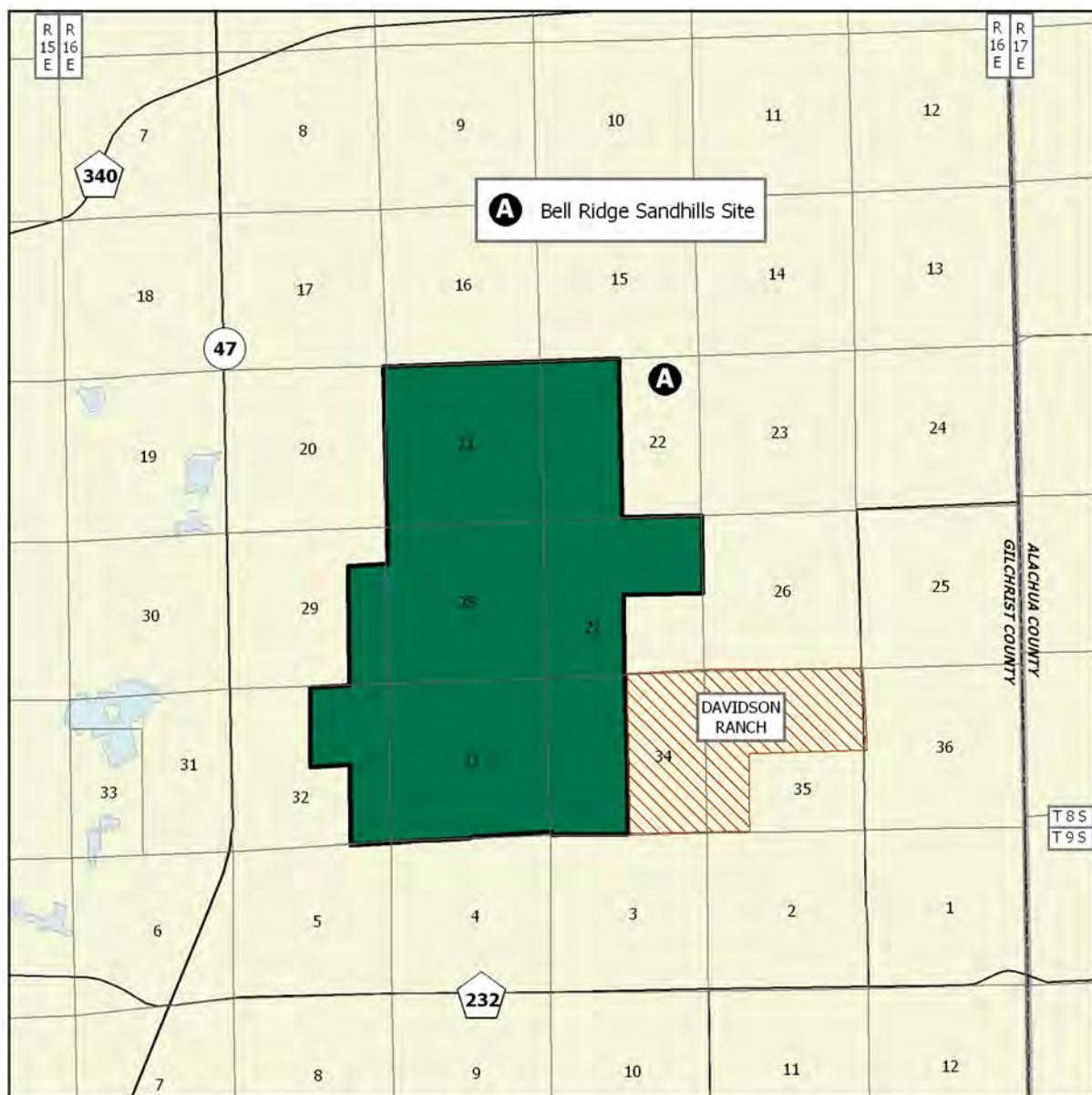
- **Measure G1:** Acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management.
- **Measure G2:** Acres of state owned forestland managed for economic return in accordance with current Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- **Measure G4:** Percentage and number of acres identified for restoration actually restored by reforestation. **Note:** In some areas, this may be accomplished by natural regeneration in areas of low density and once off-site species are harvested.

There is the possibility that other measures apply, however, that may be determined by an inventory of the resources on the project.

**Revenue Generating Potential** As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be medium.

**Capital Project Expenditures** Capital project expenditures will be needed on this parcel as listed below. They include relocation of the Trenton Work Center to this site to provide site management, security and public service. The existing Trenton Work Center is currently leased from the private sector and this lease

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem



### LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2 OF 4

#### GILCHRIST COUNTY

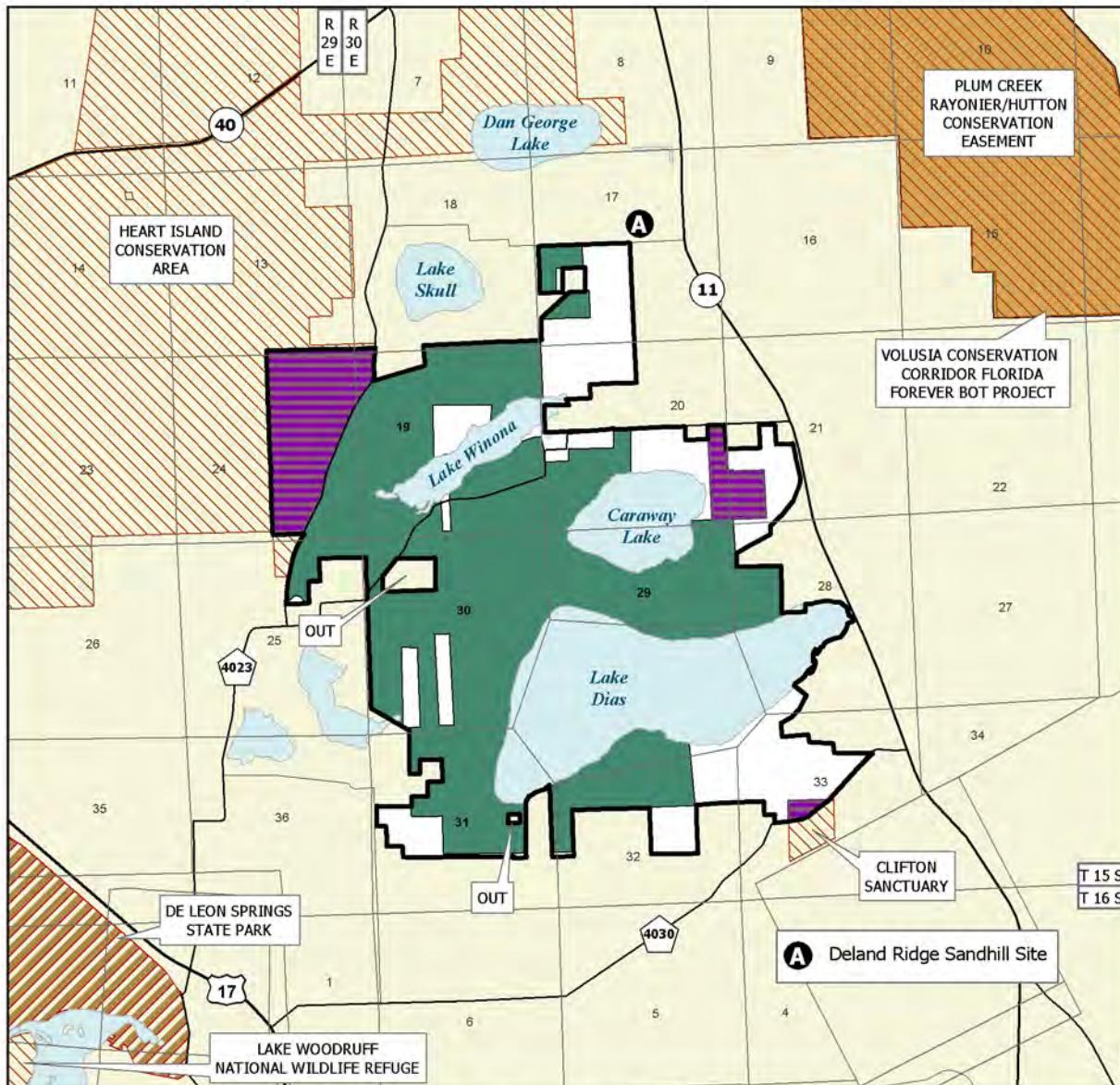
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles

SEPTEMBER 2006

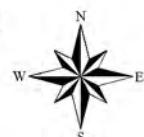
## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem



**LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3 OF 4**

### VOLUSIA COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Brown Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands

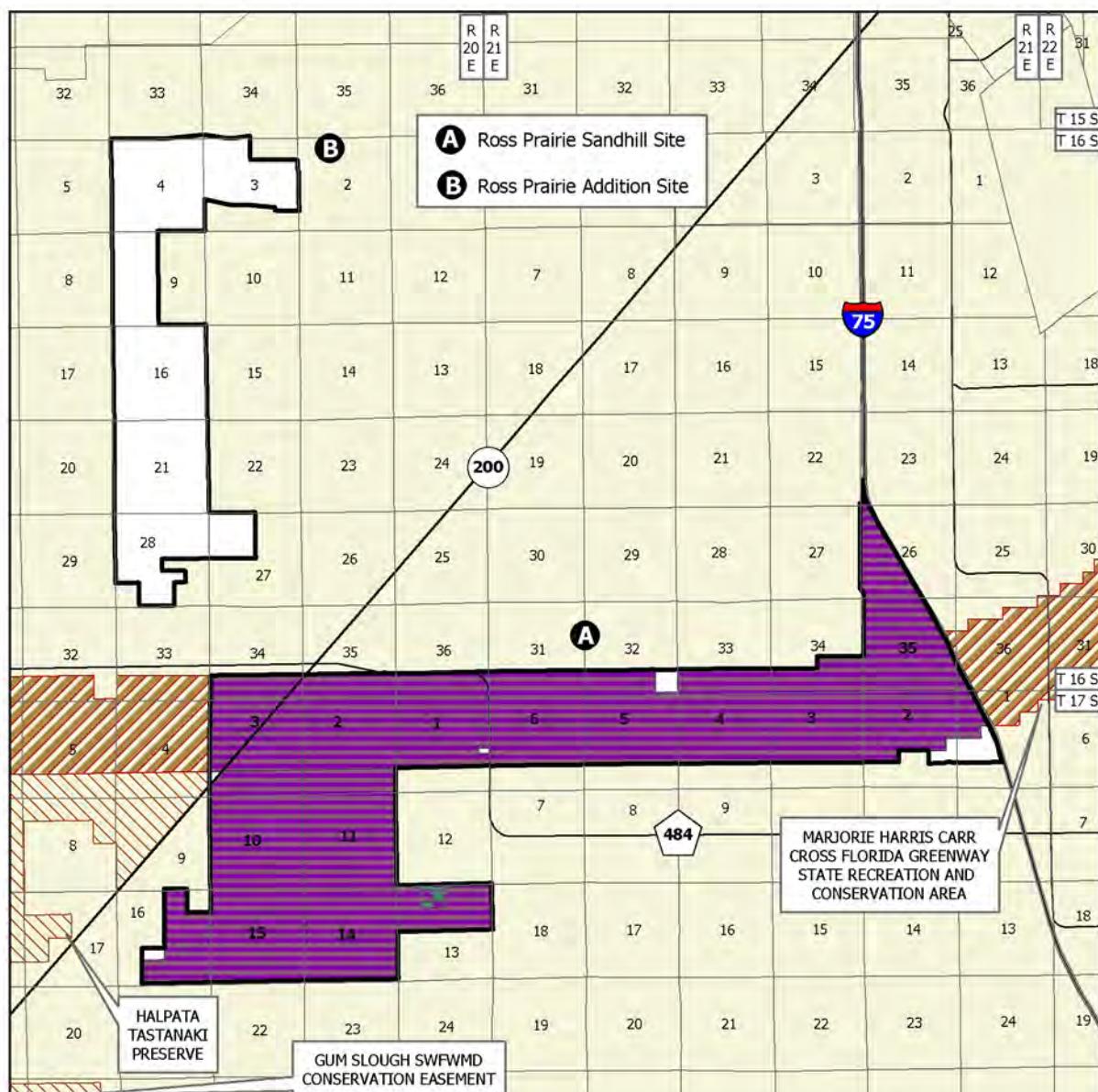


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Miles



AUGUST 2010

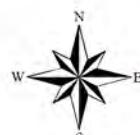
## **Longleaf Pine Ecosystem**



## LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4 OF 4

## **MARION COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - State Owned Lands
  - Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4

Miles



AUGUST 2010

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

is due to expire in 2005. It is not anticipated that the lease will be renewed. The existing house and barn on the property can be used for these facilities so that the expense associated with it can be reduced, although, they will require renovation. Reinforcing the fencing in the areas of residential development will be necessary to clearly establish the boundary with resources that cannot be easily burned or altered. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horse back riding and off road biking. As such, visitor services in the disturbed area will be

provided.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

### Longleaf Pine Ecosystem: Management Cost Summary/FFS

Category	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$31,080	\$41,013	\$44,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,505	\$11,302	\$13,000
OCO	\$40,626	\$0	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$97,211	\$52,315	\$67,000

### Management Cost Summary/FFS (Deland Ridge)

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$7,000	\$5,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$7,000	\$5,000

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Lower Perdido River Buffer

Escambia County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

This project is to preserve a riverine area along one of the state's "Outstanding Florida Waters" that has low levels of development while providing recreational access points for canoeing and kayaking. A conservation easement approach is planned for this project, keeping land ownership in private hands while shielding the area from development and ensuring public access, within a managed framework, for outdoor recreation. The small access points will be acquired in fee simple and provide recreational access points to the river where none exist today. This project meets the Florida Forever goal of increasing natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities by enhancing access to the Perdido River. Use of a conservation easement allowing silviculture would meet the Florida Forever goal of preserving forest land for sustainable management of natural resources, contingent on what management plan was developed.

## Manager (Monitor)

Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is to oversee monitoring of the conservation easement when such a plan is developed.

## General Description

The Perdido River is a medium-size sand-bottom blackwater stream that starts in southern Alabama. It has a low relief that is typical of many rivers in the lower Gulf Coastal Plain. It has no first-magnitude or second-magnitude springs, but depends on rainfall for most of its water. As a result, its flow has substantial fluctuations. The high flows have caused erosion upstream that created large and medium-size sandbars – suitable for camping - along many of the river's inner bends upstream of State Road 184. The river is

exceptionally winding, with few straight stretches of more than 200 yards. There are plenty of fallen trees, usually Atlantic white cedar, but below Barrineau Park most of the fallen trees have been cut to allow small boats to pass. The river is about 100 yards wide at the mouth on Perdido Bay, but is only about 30 yards wide near Barrineau Park. The Lower Perdido River Buffer includes land on the eastern, or Florida, side of the river from roughly the center of Escambia County (near the Barrineau Park community) downstream to the river's mouth on Perdido Bay. This project has approximately 5,053 acres of functional wetlands that will be protected by acquisition. Approximately 2,094 acres have been identified that provide groundwater recharge, and approximately 1,056 acres of forest have been identified that would maintain natural groundwater recharge functions.

## Public Use

The potential for public-resource recreation for this project has been limited by the indicated unwillingness of the current owners of the land to allow general public access. However, the owner is willing to sell limited access points to the Perdido River. These access points would allow access to the river for launching and for landing canoes and small boats.

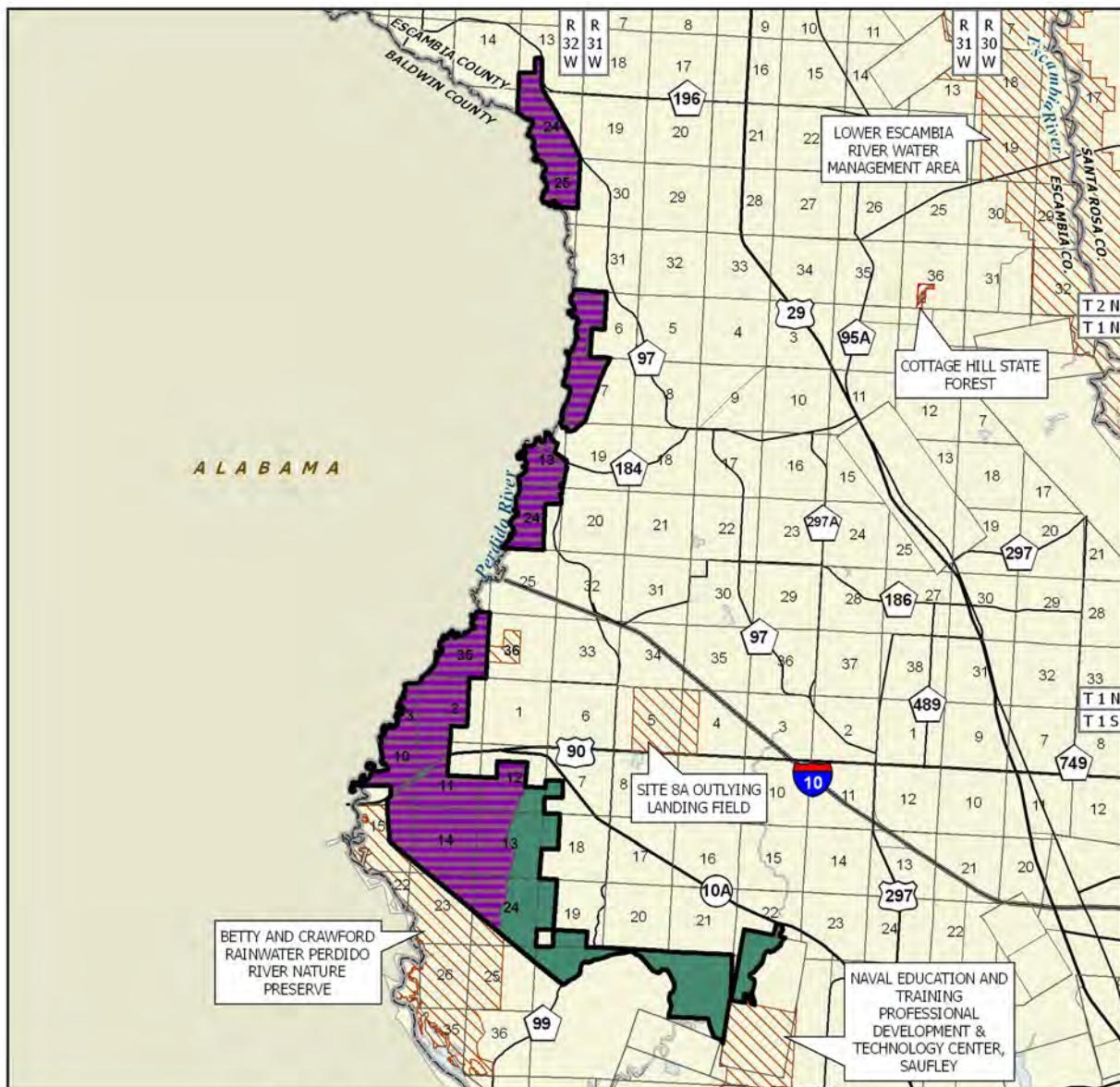
## Acquisition Planning

The Lower Perdido River Buffer Florida Forever project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the 6/6/2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group A project.

Lower Perdido River Buffer	
FNAI Elements	
Kral's Yellow-eyed Grass	G3T3/S1
1 rare species is associated with the project	

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	7,713
Acres Acquired (GIS)	5,357
at a Cost of	\$12,085,069
Acres Remaining (GIS)	2,356
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$217,336

## Lower Perdido River Buffer



### LOWER PERDIDO RIVER BUFFER

#### **ESCAMBIA COUNTY**

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] State Owned Lands
- [Red Box] Other Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4  
Miles



JULY 2007

This is a single owner project, with the property held by International Paper. The specific locations of the small access sites, to be acquired in fee-simple, are to be determined during the negotiation process. On 5/31/2006, the Northwest Florida WMD purchased 5,456 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

### Coordination

The Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services (OES) will oversee monitoring of the easement, and Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined. The acquisition partnership is expected to include local, state and NFWFMD funding sources. Contribution funding percentages have not been determined.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of this project are to increase the natural-resource based public education and recreational opportunities along the Perdido River. Acquisition of access to the river by way of the Lower Perdido River Buffer would be a benefit to those activities because there is now little to no public access to the river.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** Protecting the Lower Perdido River Buffer with a combination of a conservation easement and the outright purchase of select access points will benefit the public in several major ways – 1) This project will keep wetland and marsh habitats located within a major metropolitan statistical area (MSA) free from the pressures of development; 2) The use of the conservation easement for the project will keep the majority of the land in private hands; 3) This project will allow, at selected points, riverine access for the public for boating and fishing.

**Manager** Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined and acquired in fee simple. At this time Escambia County has not submitted a management prospectus for the project to the Division of State Lands. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is to oversee the monitoring of the

conservation easement.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Perdido River itself appears to be free of major structural alterations and point sources of pollution that substantially affect either flow or water quality. Hence, no major restoration efforts along the immediate river corridor are necessary. Nonetheless, all areas of minor structural alterations (e.g., houses, boat ramps, highway crossings) should be examined in the future to determine whether any of them are contributing erosion, siltation, or pollution.

**Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Management of the property would depend on the nature and the provisions of the conservation easement that would be used to secure riverine access in this project.

**Revenue-generating potential** The proposal for the Lower Perdido River Buffer is to acquire a conservation easement over the area of the project, and acquire fee simple title to selected points for public access to the Perdido River. The access points would be managed by Escambia County with the Division of State Lands overseeing the conservation easement. This limits or negates potential for generating revenue from this site.

**Cooperators in management activities** Escambia County would manage the access points to the river.

**Management Cost Summary** Management Costs would be formulated by Escambia County, as manager of the project site.

Updated 2/23/2012

# Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed

## Dixie County

### Less-Than-Fee

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for the proposed acquisition is to enhance management practices of the ongoing timbering operation, to protect and enhance water quality, and wetland communities, wildlife habitat and archaeological sites found within the proposal boundary. Purchase of a conservation easement over the property would buffer and protect the natural resources of the Suwannee River and the Gulf of Mexico and provide habitat and corridors for rare plants and animals over a wide swath of undeveloped public lands, including the neighboring Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, water management district conservation areas, and the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve (BBSAP).

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project meets the Florida Forever measures and public purposes of enhancing the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, using alternatives to fee-simple; increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels; protecting, restoring and maintaining the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state; ensuring that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; increasing natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities; preserving significant archaeological or historic sites; and increasing the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

#### Manager

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) has volunteered to manage this conservation easement and 10 acres in fee-simple that provide access to California Lake. The SRWMD already holds a conservation easement on the adjacent 32,000 acres. This Forest Systems Conservation Easement or "California Lake" easement was purchased in 2001.

#### General Description

This project consists of four large undeveloped, forested less-than-fee tracts in Dixie County. It is a total of 46,519 (GIS) acres. The parcels range in size from 5,800 to 19,200 acres, and include a 10-acre tract proposed for fee-simple acquisition. The 10-acre parcel will guarantee continued public access to California Lake, a traditional use located within the SRWMD's adjacent conservation easement area. The California Lake water body appears to be a wide segment of California Creek rather than a true lake.

The proposal area is located between County Road (CR) 358 to the north and CR 349 to the south, about 6 to 10 miles south-southwest of U.S. 19/98, and 1 to 7 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. The BBSAP encompasses the submerged lands in this region. Hunting leases are in place over much of the property. Timber harvesting will be prohibited in the hardwood and cypress swamps under the proposed easement, as it is in the adjacent California Lake easement. Considering the importance of the hardwood and cypress swamps to many wildlife species, this would

Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Olive Hairstreak	G5T2/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
White Ibis	G5/S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2010
Project Area (GIS Acres)	46,519
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	46,519
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$94,249,478

## **Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed**

provide substantial wildlife conservation benefits. This is also secondary habitat for the Florida black bear.

The vast natural wetlands on the proposal lands serve to funnel and filter water from the upland areas toward the Suwannee River and/or Gulf of Mexico as well as buffer several small stream systems that meander through the proposal. The topography of the three westernmost properties ranges from 20 to 5 feet above mean sea level (msl), gradually sloping downward toward the Gulf, forming numerous braided, intermittent stream systems that empty into the marshlands and tidal creeks of the Gulf. The topography of the easternmost tract ranges from 25 to 5 feet above msl. About half of this tract drains westward into the California Creek basin, a flat, highly braided stream system that is mostly outside the boundary of this tract, and that empties into the Gulf. Waters on the other half of this tract drain southward, bounded by higher ground along CR 349, and then eastward to the Suwannee River. A portion of the easternmost tract is within the Fanning/Manatee Springshed.

For the last century, approximately half of the proposal area has been managed for silviculture. Before, the site would have supported a mosaic of mesic and wet flatwoods, hydric hammocks, and swamp, interspersed with many small depression marshes and ponds. Although deep bedding has significantly altered the groundcover, many stands and even recently planted areas seen on site retain good remnant flatwoods vegetation. The proposal property is managed under guidelines of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® to protect water quality, biodiversity, and species at risk.

Hydric hammocks make up the bulk of the natural community acreage on the proposal property. There are several large hammocks in excellent condition with canopies of large hardwood trees. Species composition is typical of good quality hammocks with limestone near the soil surface. Basin and floodplain swamps within the larger hammocks are in excellent condition. Canopy trees are large and dominated by pond cypress, with a mix of hardwoods. Smaller dome swamps are common throughout the pine plantations.

### **Public Use**

The parcels adjacent to the SRWMD's California Lake conservation easement will not be open to the public. The managers have leased the property for

hunting for hunt clubs, but no general public access is contemplated.

For the 10-acre fee-simple parcel that is within the boundary of the SRWMD easement, the project would guarantee opportunities for public recreational activities and public access to California Lake.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On December 10, 2010 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed to the Florida Forever list in the Less-Than-Fee category, ranking it as number 6 of 25 projects considered in that category. This less than fee project was sponsored by The Conservation Fund and the SRWMD in a proposal submitted on June 30, 2010. It is approximately 46,441 acres with a 2010 market value of \$94,249,477, all under the same ownership. It also includes fee simple acquisition of 10 acres on the SRWMD's California Lake conservation easement.

### **Coordination**

The SRWMD is a partner in this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

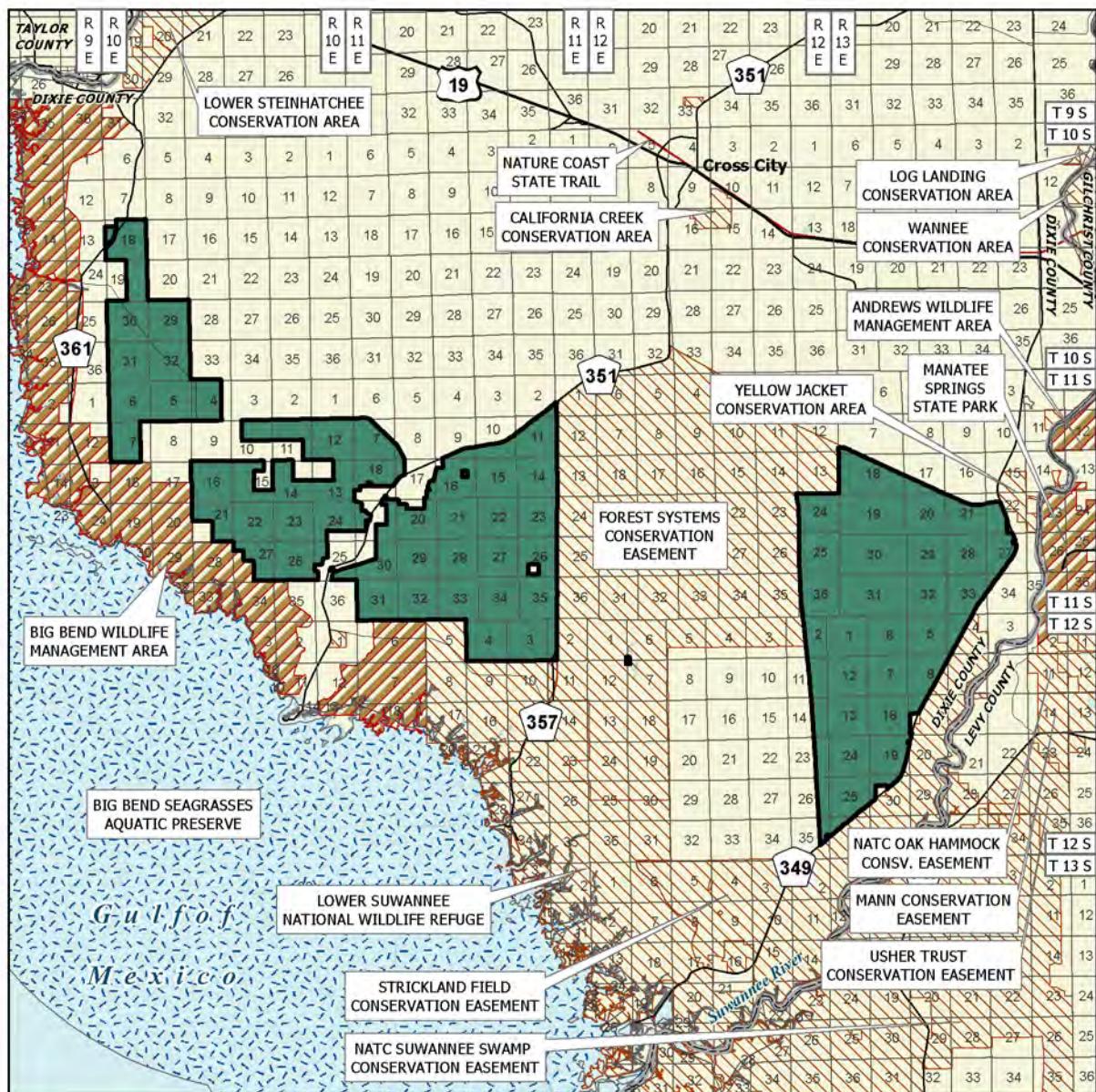
As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions under the agreement. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement, similar to that established for the adjacent SRWMD easement with the same landowner.

The 10-acre fee simple interest parcel in this project will be managed by the SRWMD. The primary management objective will be focused on recreational opportunities associated with the boat ramp. The property will be managed at the District's base level of recreational development which will include a designated, stabilized parking area for vehicles and trailers using the existing boat ramp. The parking area will be enclosed by a rail fence. A kiosk with information about the site and its recreational use is also planned. Maintenance of the boat ramp and general oversight of the property will also take place.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation** The less-than-

## Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed

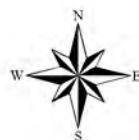


### LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND GULF WATERSHED

#### DIXIE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves

0      2      4      8  
Miles



JANUARY 2011

## Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed

fee portion of the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project meets Florida Forever measures of using alternatives to fee-simple acquisitions, protecting Strategic Habitats, natural floodplains and significant surface waters. The proposed 10-acre fee-simple-title site meets Florida Forever measures of protecting Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, natural floodplains and significant surface waters.

**Manager** The landowner would manage the site. The SRWMD, or a successor, would oversee the conservation easement. The SRWMD will manage the 10-acre fee-simple-title site.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Half of this property has been managed for silviculture for the last century. Sustainable timber management practices have evolved over the years and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative bolsters conservation practices such as providing for buffers around wetlands. The overall historic management of the property has been for wood and wood products using sustainable timber management practices. The 10-acre site includes a mixture of natural pine and bottomland hardwood tree species as well as an access road and boat ramp. SRWMD does not expect to harvest timber on the site for commercial purposes, but may need to remove underbrush or selected individual trees in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Not applicable to the conservation easement but management implementation will begin immediately after fee simple title is taken on the 10-acre site in order to keep the boat ramp available for public use. Other improvements on the 10-acre site will begin within one year. Security will be provided through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission as well as other existing contractors for maintenance of infrastructure.

### ***Estimates of Revenue-generating potential***

None under a conservation easement and no revenue is expected from the 10-acre fee simple site.

***Capital project expenditures*** Not applicable under a conservation easement but expenditures for a parking area and fencing for the fee simple 10-acre site are estimated to be approximately \$1,000.

***Recommendations for other governmental agency involvement*** Since the SRWMD holds the easement for the California Lake parcel, it may be more appropriate for them to pursue acquisition and fee simple title to the 10-acre parcel providing access to California Lake.

***Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed*** The cost of the monitoring by SRWMD staff could add to the administrative costs of the easement. No sources of revenue are known at this time, nor are there any startup costs involved.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Maytown Flatwoods

## Brevard County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring a conservation easement over the Maytown Flatwoods would advance several major Florida Forever goals: preserving 3,060 acres of strategic habitat; 1,189 acres of rare species habitat for wood storks and the Florida sandhill crane; 7,598 acres of land for creating ecological greenways; 2,080 acres of natural floodplain; and various priorities of land that contribute to surface-water protection. A conservation easement would also protect thousands of acres of water-recharge land for springs, sinks, and the aquifer.

### Manager

The owner has expressed interest in preserving this land with a conservation easement, which would be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands.

### General Description

The Maytown Flatwoods project is about 7,187 (GIS) acres with a tax-assessed value of \$7,189,500. All but 379 acres are owned by the Miami Corporation or Swallowtail LLC. The Swallowtail property was purchased by Miami Corporation to assist Brevard County with their conservation goals.

The project is located in northern Brevard County, adjacent to the Buck Lake Conservation Area which is managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Other conservation prop-

erties in the area include the Charles H. Bronson State Forest, Little Big Econ State Forest, Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area and the Seminole Ranch Conservation Area. Currently the property is under a long rotation silvicultural management regime. The project is being offered as a less-than-fee acquisition.

Natural communities located within the project include wet prairie, depression marsh, basin marsh and swamp, hydric hammock, dome swamp, and pine plantation. Several listed species are likely to occur on the tract. These include the Florida black bear, American alligator, little blue heron, gopher tortoise, and white ibis.

In 1998, the project area was devastated by wildfires that consumed most of the timber on the tract. Following the 1998 wildfires, the tract was aerially seeded with slash pine creating an even-age stand that is approximately 10 years in age. Mechanical treatments to control the understory have been used in lieu of prescribed fire. Scattered across the tract are numerous dome swamps in various conditions. Cypress trees in some of the domes are being harvested.

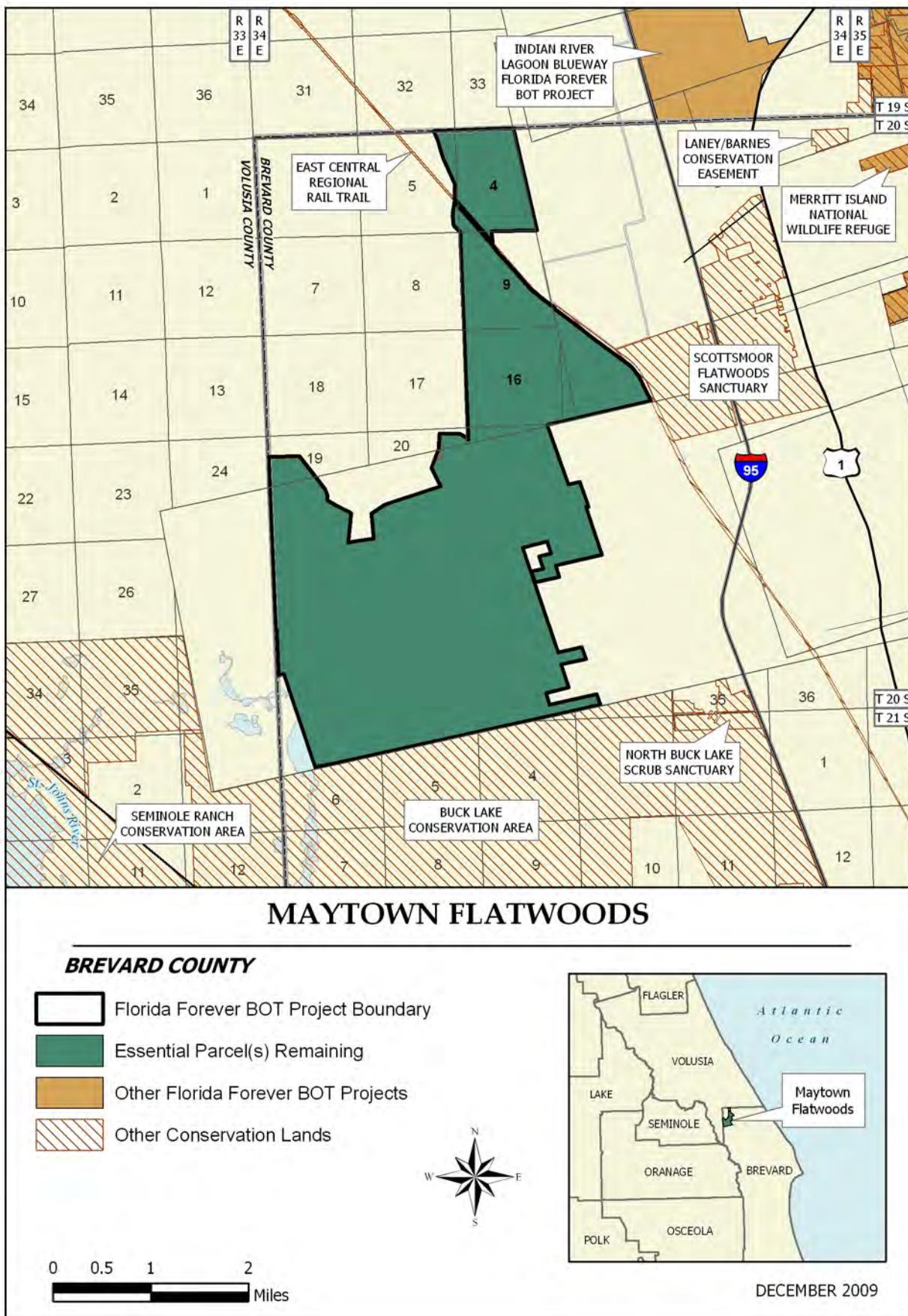
### Public Use

When the project is acquired as a less-than-fee ac-

Maytown Flatwoods FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
Pine Pinweed	G2/S2
3 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2010
Project Area (GIS Acres)	7,187
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	7,187
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$7,189,500

## Maytown Flatwoods



## **Maytown Flatwoods**

quisition, there will likely not be any public access granted under the terms of the easement, except the already established Rails-to-Trails project that runs along an abandoned Florida East Coast Railway right-of-way.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/11/2009 ARC recommended that this project be added to the 2010 Florida Forever list.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy is considered a partner on this project. Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program may participate in the acquisition and management of the Swallowtail or Membrey parcel.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely

be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### *Conditions affecting intensity of management*

Currently the property is under a long rotation silvicultural management regime. In 1998, the project area was devastated by wildfires that consumed most of the timber on the tract. Following the 1998 wildfires, the tract was aerially seeded with slash pine creating an even-age stand that is approximately 10 years in age. Mechanical treatments to control the understory have been used in lieu of prescribed fire.

**Manager** The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement unless otherwise noted.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Middle Chipola River

## Jackson and Calhoun Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Flowing through a landscape of farm fields, the Chipola River exposes the limestone bedrock of Jackson and Calhoun Counties on its way to join the Apalachicola River in a swampy wilderness. The Middle Chipola River project will protect remnants of the unique hardwood forests of this region for 30 miles along the high banks of the river, maintaining the water quality of the river; providing habitat for several rare plants and many rare animals, from mussels to turtles and cave-dwelling crayfish; helping to preserve the abundant archaeological remains in and along the river; and ensuring that the public will always have access to the river for fishing, swimming, and simple enjoyment of the beauty of this unique stream. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection, will manage the land next to the Florida Caverns State Park and a seven-mile stretch adjacent to "Look and Tremble Shoals." Any conservation easements acquired in this project will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands (DSL). The Northwest Florida Water Management District

(NFWFMD) will manage the properties to which they hold title.

### General Description

The project encompasses a strip of land on either side of the Chipola River from Florida Caverns State Park to State Road 20, totaling almost 8,000 acres of mostly second-growth hardwood forest. The river is a major tributary and drainage basin of the Apalachicola River. The river itself has an interesting combination of alluvial and spring-run characteristics. Its high banks underlain by limestone support several rare plants, one of which is the globally imperiled ciliate-leaf chickseed. It is among eight plants of conservation concern on the site. Rare to imperiled animal species include alligator snapping turtle, at least four bivalve mollusks, five rare fishes, three rare salamanders, and Barbour's map turtle. The project will help protect the water quality of the river (an Outstanding Florida Water and state canoe trail) and preserve public access to the river.

Forty-three archaeological sites, mostly underwater scatters, are known from the project, and the potential for more is high. The scenic riverbanks are attractive for development and the river is vulnerable to intensive agriculture and mining.

### Public Use

The project will be managed as an addition to Florida Caverns State Park and as a canoe trail, with opportunities for canoeing, boating, fishing, hiking, and camping.

Middle Chipola River FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Chipola Slabshell	G1/S1
<i>Marianna Columbine</i>	G5T1Q/S1
<i>Ciliate-leaf Tickseed</i>	G1G2/S1
Gulf Moccasinshell	G2/S1
Oval Pigtoe	G2/S1S2
Shiny-rayed Pocketbook	G2/S1S2
Gray Bat	G3/S1
<i>Florida Merrybells</i>	G3/S1
<i>Variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G2/S2
Barbour's Map Turtle	G2/S2
Georgia Blind Salamander	G2/S2

33 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1996*
Project Area (Acres)	13,953
Acres Acquired	2,076
at a Cost of	\$828,600
Acres Remaining	11,877
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$5,788,661
*Project combined with Waddells Mill Pond (1991) Dec. 1996	

## Middle Chipola River



### MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

JACKSON AND CALHOUN COUNTIES



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Miles



SEPTEMBER 2006

### Acquisition Planning

Middle Chipola: Essential tracts are Land (acquired), Trammell (impasse), and Florida Public Utilities Co. (acquired).

Waddells Mill Pond: Essential tracts are Waddell Plantation ownership and smaller archaeologically significant parcels west and adjacent to Waddell Plantation.

On 10/30/1996, LAMAC adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee acquisition category: 1) resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; 2) seller is willing to accept a less-than-fee-simple instrument and LAMAC has determined that the project's or site's acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and 3) manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee-simple instrument. In 1996, the Council combined the Middle Chipola project with the Waddells Mill Pond project, and added 170 acres to the Middle Chipola boundary. On 12/5/1996, the Council transferred the Rex Lumber/McRae (impasse), Trammell, Myers, Manor, Myrick and Waddell Plantation ownerships (3,633 acres) to the Less-Than-Fee category. None of the less-than-fee parcels have been acquired.

On February 11, 1999, the Council added 5 acres. The addition includes two entrances to the Hollow Ridge Cave system and is adjacent to other public land.

On June 6, 2002 the Council combined the Less-Than-Fee Middle Chipola project with the Full Fee Middle Chipola project, and moved both projects to Group A. In 2005 ARC moved the project to the Group B list.

### Coordination

The NWFWM has acquired portions of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York (Waddells Mill Pond project—approximately 705 acres within the project Phase II boundary), as well as approximately 1,217 acres east/southeast of the project connecting with the Florida Caverns State Park and ultimately the Middle Chipola Project. The district will retain title to the Mutual Life Insurance Company parcels. There are no acquisition partners for the less-than-fee portion.

### Management Policy

The primary objectives of management of the Middle Chipola River project are to conserve a corridor of

natural communities along the Chipola River and to provide the public with controlled recreational access to the river. Achieving these objectives will protect the unique collection of rare plants and animals, ranging from rare mussels and fish to cave crayfish and gray bats, in this part of the Apalachicola River basin. It will also help to protect the significant archaeological resources of the riverbed and shores.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of resources. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted immediately adjacent to the river. Managers should control public boat access to the river; thoroughly inventory the natural and archaeological resources of the river; burn fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; reforest pine plantations along the river with original species; strictly limit timbering in natural hardwood forests adjacent to the river; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually protecting the water quality and scenic values of the river. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as boat ramps and camp sites, ensure that they do not harm the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

This project includes all the undeveloped land along the Chipola River from Florida Caverns State Park to State Road 20 and therefore has the configuration, location, and size to achieve its primary objectives.

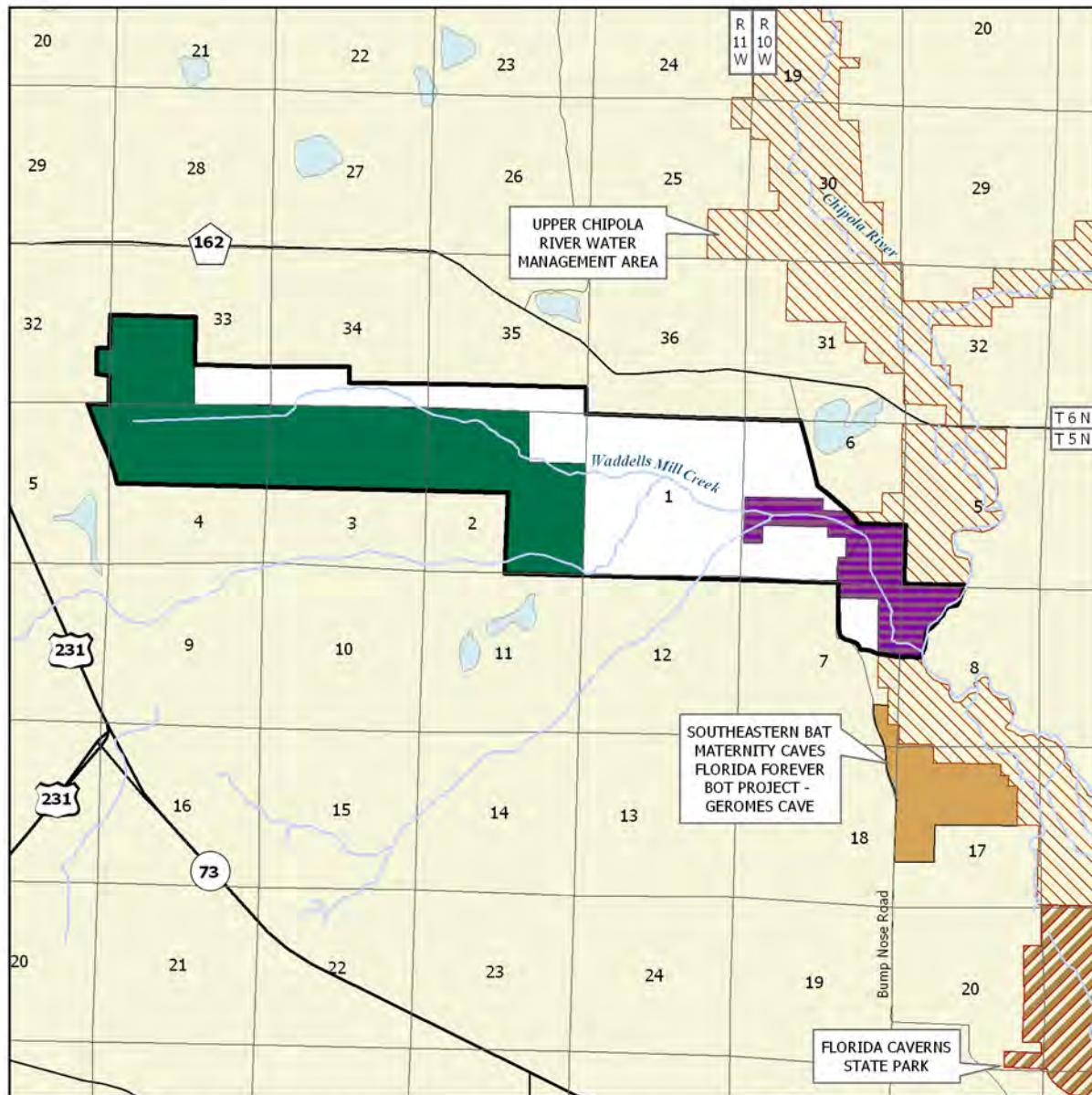
### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The portion of the Middle Chipola River project lying between the Florida Caverns State Park and the SR 167 bridge down river from the park would complement the park in its resource and management goals.

Restoration and maintenance of natural communities will be incorporated into long range management efforts and disturbed areas will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in natural systems, to the extent practical.

The DRP will encourage resource-based recreation and environmental education in conjunction with overall public use in the park. The management plan developed to define resource management and public use of the property will define the extent and placement of compatible infrastructure. The primary focus of any negotiated conservation easements will be protection

## Middle Chipola River



**MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 1 OF 5**

### JACKSON COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/Yellow Box] State Owned Lands
- [Red/Yellow Box] Other Conservation Lands

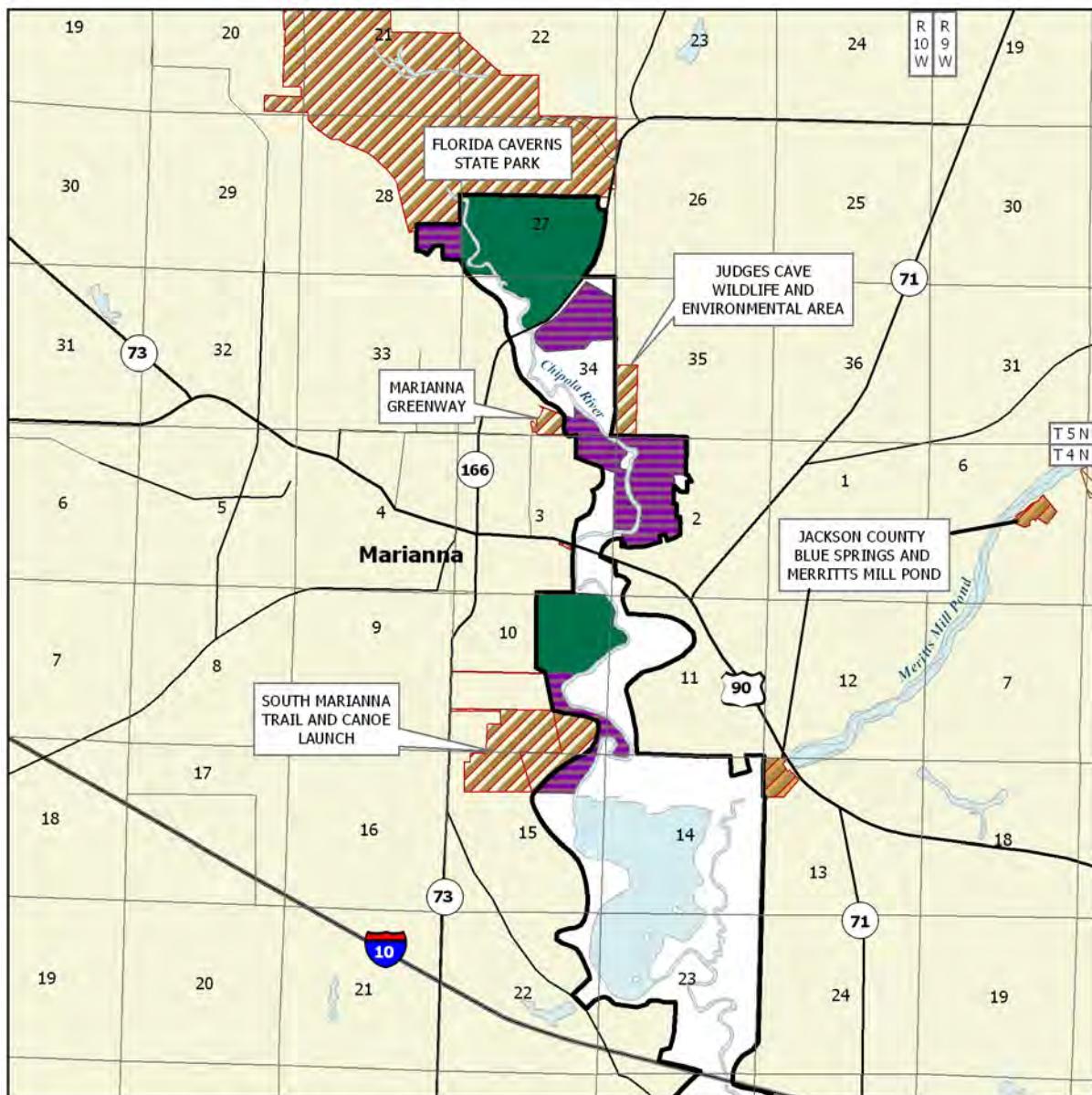


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SEPTEMBER 2006

## Middle Chipola River



### MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 2 OF 5

#### JACKSON COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands



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SEPTEMBER 2006

## Middle Chipola River



### MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 3 OF 5

#### JACKSON COUNTY

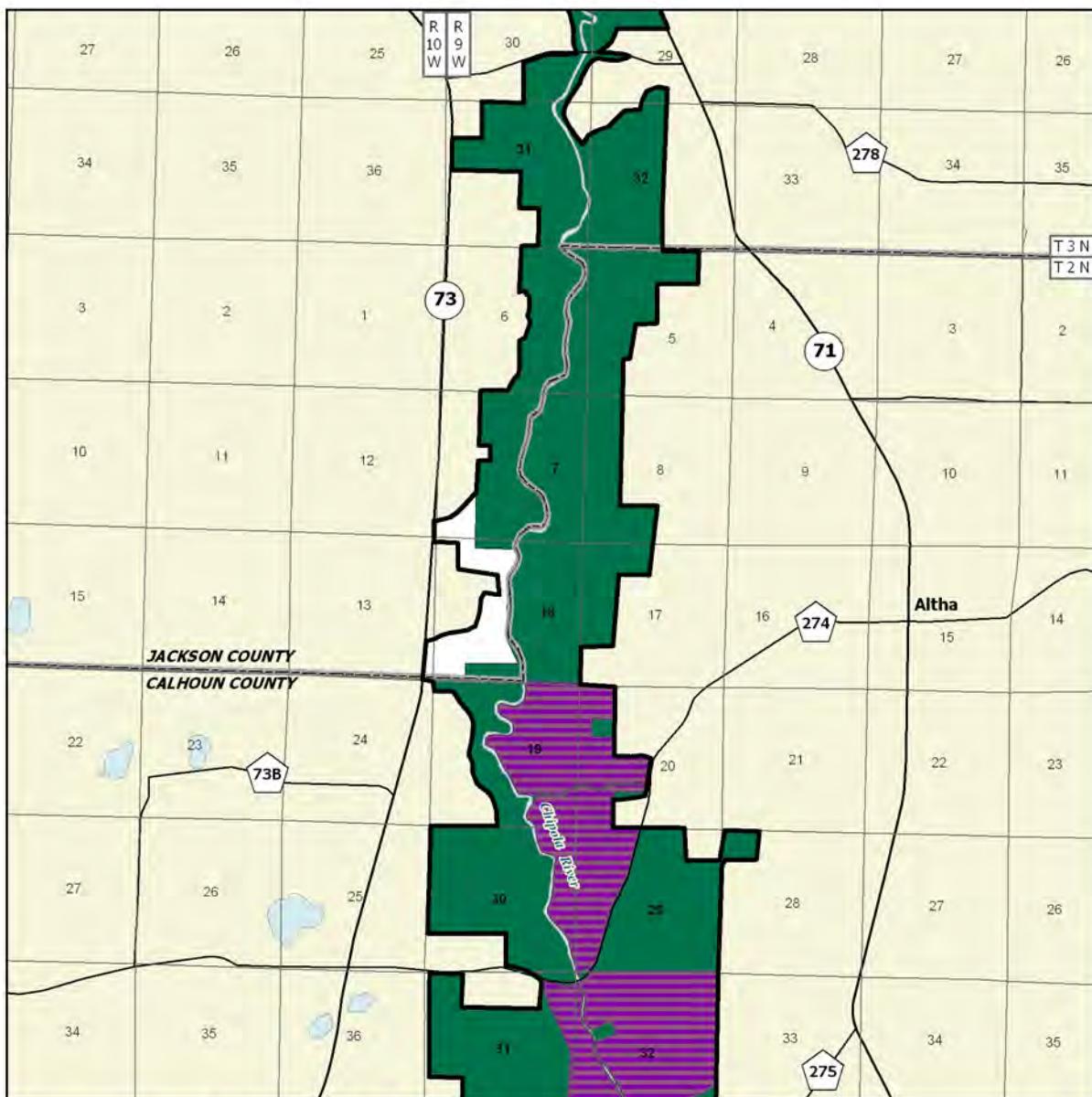
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



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SEPTEMBER 2006

## Middle Chipola River



### MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 4 OF 5

#### JACKSON AND CALHOUN COUNTIES

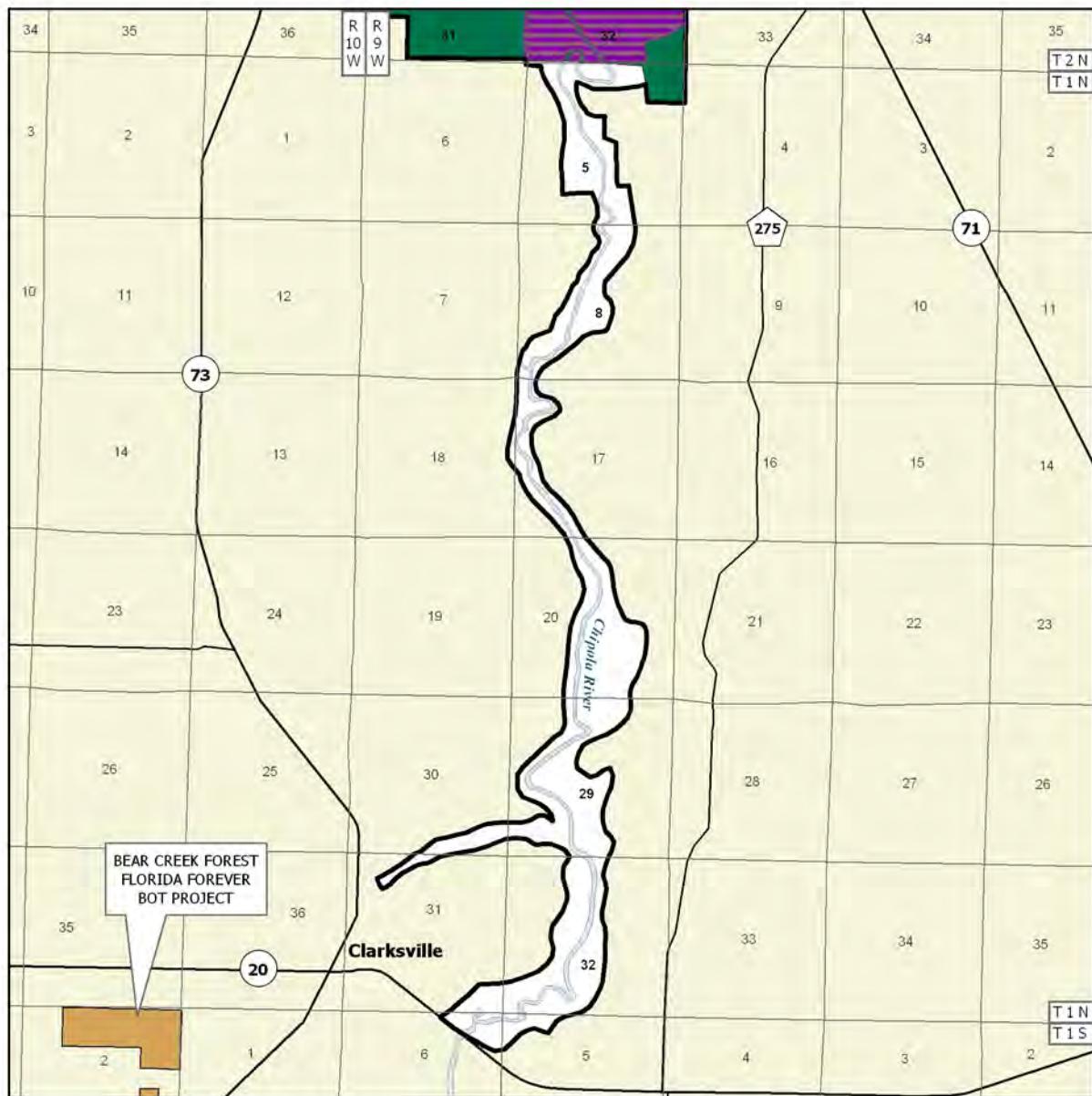
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining

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APRIL 2010

## Middle Chipola River



### CALHOUN COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



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APRIL 2010

of the floodplain along the Chipola River, maintenance of natural areas and control of invasive exotic plants.

**Manager** The DRP will manage the land next to the Florida Caverns State Park and a seven-mile stretch adjacent to “Look and Tremble Shoals.” Any conservation easements acquired by the DSL in this project will be monitored by the OES. NFWFMD will manage any purchases to which they hold title.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The property will be a high need management area. Protection and perpetuation of the property’s resources, particularly as related to caverns, bats and restoration of logged areas, will be the primary emphasis. Compatible resource-based recreation is expected to be emphasized in the long-term.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Upon acquisition and assignment of that portion of the project to be managed by the DRP, as described under “Manager” above, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicular access and the development of a resource inventory and public

use plan. Public use will be allowed for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities in the short term.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated from this addition initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public facilities might be developed. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use identified in the management plan developed the property.

**Cooperators in management activities** No cooperators are recommended for this tract. However, consultation with the NFWFMD on water related matters and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on wildlife issues will be enlisted as needed.

Updated 2/23/2012

Management Cost Summary/DRP		
Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$9,750	\$9,750
OPS	\$2,400	\$2,400
Expense	\$6,700	\$6,700
OCO	\$5,600	\$1,000
FCO	\$15,600	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,050</b>	<b>\$19,850</b>

# Mill Creek

## Marion County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project in the form of a conservation easement will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – a conservation easement will preserve a working Florida landscape and protect existing natural areas from conversion to alternative uses. Existing wetlands will be enhanced through the prohibition of future harvesting of timber. The use of prescribed fire will be continued and recommendations for fire-frequency and fireline character will be provided. Additional structures and facilities on the parcel will be controlled through the terms of the conservation easement. (2) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources – approximately 49% of this property is managed for forest resources. A conservation easement will allow for continued forest management with the use of Best Management Practices and the continuation of prescribed burning; (3) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state – due to its proximity to the Orange Creek Restoration area, protection of this property from conversion will enhance and protect water quantity and flow to Orange Lake.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services (OES), or its successor, will monitor the conservation easement unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The Mill Creek proposal includes over 12,000 acres of land in northern Marion County. It is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and is owned by four entities, but controlled by the Moxon family. Several conservation lands lie within five miles of the Mill Creek property including Orange Lake, Lochloosa Lake, Ocklawaha River, Orange Creek Restoration Area, Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area, Black Sink Prairie, Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and the Ocala National Forest. The Mill Creek property has been impacted by cattle and timber operations, including conversion to pasture, pine plantation and cypress harvesting. Two rare plants and eight rare animals are documented to occur on the property.

### Public Use

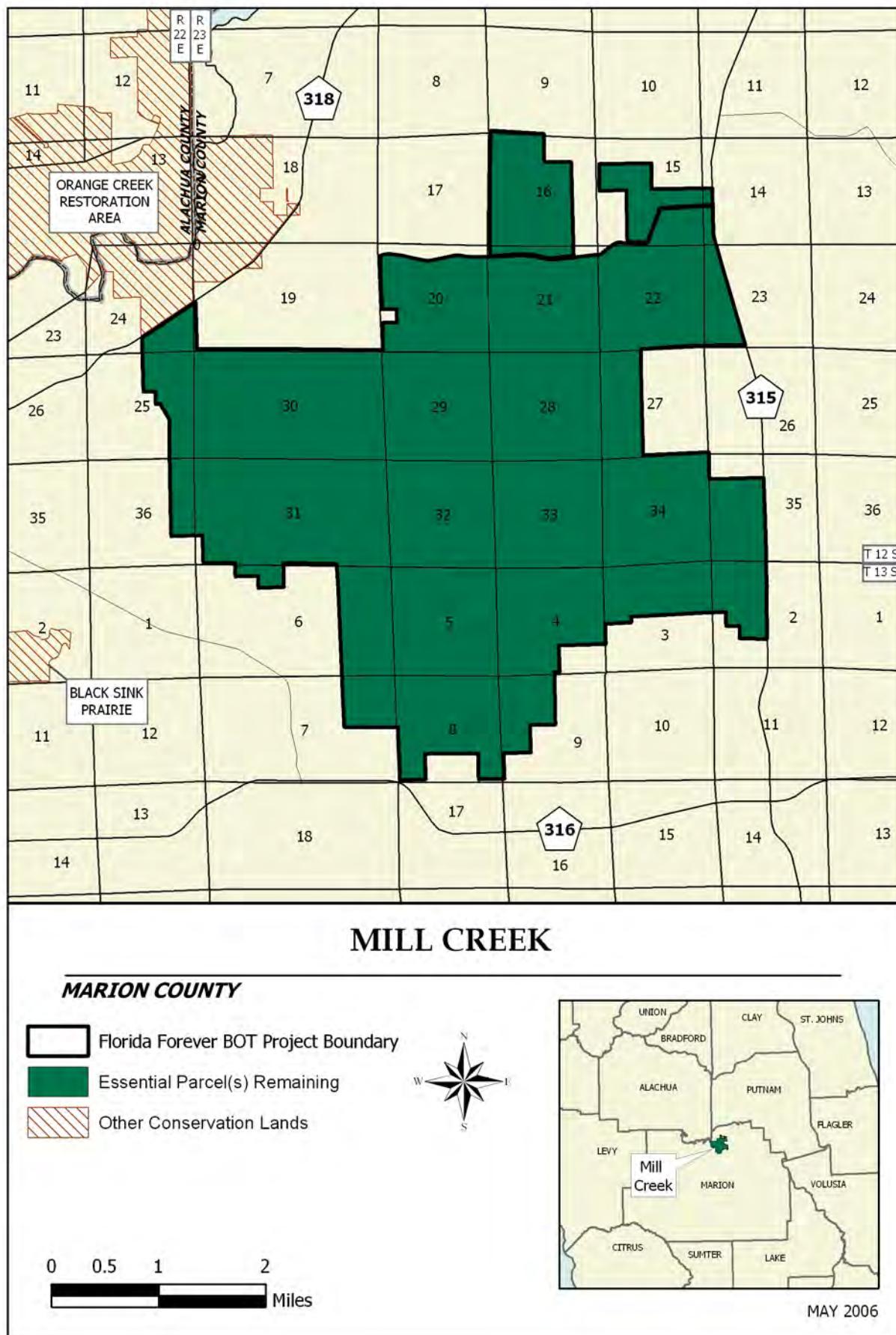
As a less-than-fee project, public resource-based recreation potential is severely limited. However, the eastern portion of the property is leased for hunting. There was no indication at the time of the field investigation that the owners would allow hunting by the general public. Willingness for other public uses was also not indicated.

The project, as offered, does not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the region. The resource-based recreation potential for the project, as offered, is low. However, it could potentially increase significantly, should public access and use of the land be allowed. Due to an indicated lack of general public access for hunting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) advises that the hunting potential for this project is low.

Mill Creek	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	12,293
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
At a Cost Of	0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	12,293
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$13,694,672

## Mill Creek



## **Mill Creek**

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/5/2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Mill Creek project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list. This less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Conservation Real Estate Group, consisted of approximately 12,285 acres, multiple owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$13,694,672.

On 1/27/2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 FF Annual Priority list. On 6/3/2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2005 FF Interim Priority list.

On 12/14/2007 ARC voted to move the Mill Creek project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

### **Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest, this project will be managed by the private landowner or landowners with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of the existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

The OES, or its successor, is to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

*Updated 2/23/2012*



# Millstone Plantation

Leon County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The proposal includes part of Lake McBride, which is reported to have low nutrient and pollutant levels and a nesting pair of bald eagles. According to the Nature Conservancy, the lakes of Leon County comprise one of the most important groups of solution lakes in the northern hemisphere. Most of these lakes hold sinkholes that breach the Floridian aquifer so it is important that they are afforded some protection from runoff.

## Manager

The Apalachee Land Conservancy would be responsible for the monitoring and enforcing of the conservation easement.

## General Description

The property consists of a mosaic of vegetated communities, a deeply incised Seepage Stream, some open pasture and a portion of Lake McBride. It falls within the "Red Hills" physiographic region, which consists of pine-dominated uplands and numerous karst sinkholes and lakes. It ranges in elevation from 140 to 225 feet above sea level, and is a critical recharge area for the Floridian aquifer. The Seepage Stream and karst lake serve as breeding, nesting and foraging areas for numerous wildlife species. The lands of Millstone Plantation are rich in archaeological sites recorded in The Division of Historic Resources Master Site File.

## Public Use

Visitation of the project will be by invitation for environmental and cultural learning purposes on a limited basis. A limited walking trail exists throughout the project.

## Acquisition Planning

The project consists of approximately 134 acres and

one owner. Approximately half of the project has been acquired. The public access would include access for public education for school children, environmental researchers, organic agriculturist, artists and writers. The money from the conservation easement will go for management and outreach programs for the Millstone Institute. The entire parcel is essential.

## Coordination

The Trust for Public Lands will be the intermediary for acquisition of the conservation easement.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project on the new Florida Forever list. Acquisition negotiations are being conducted.

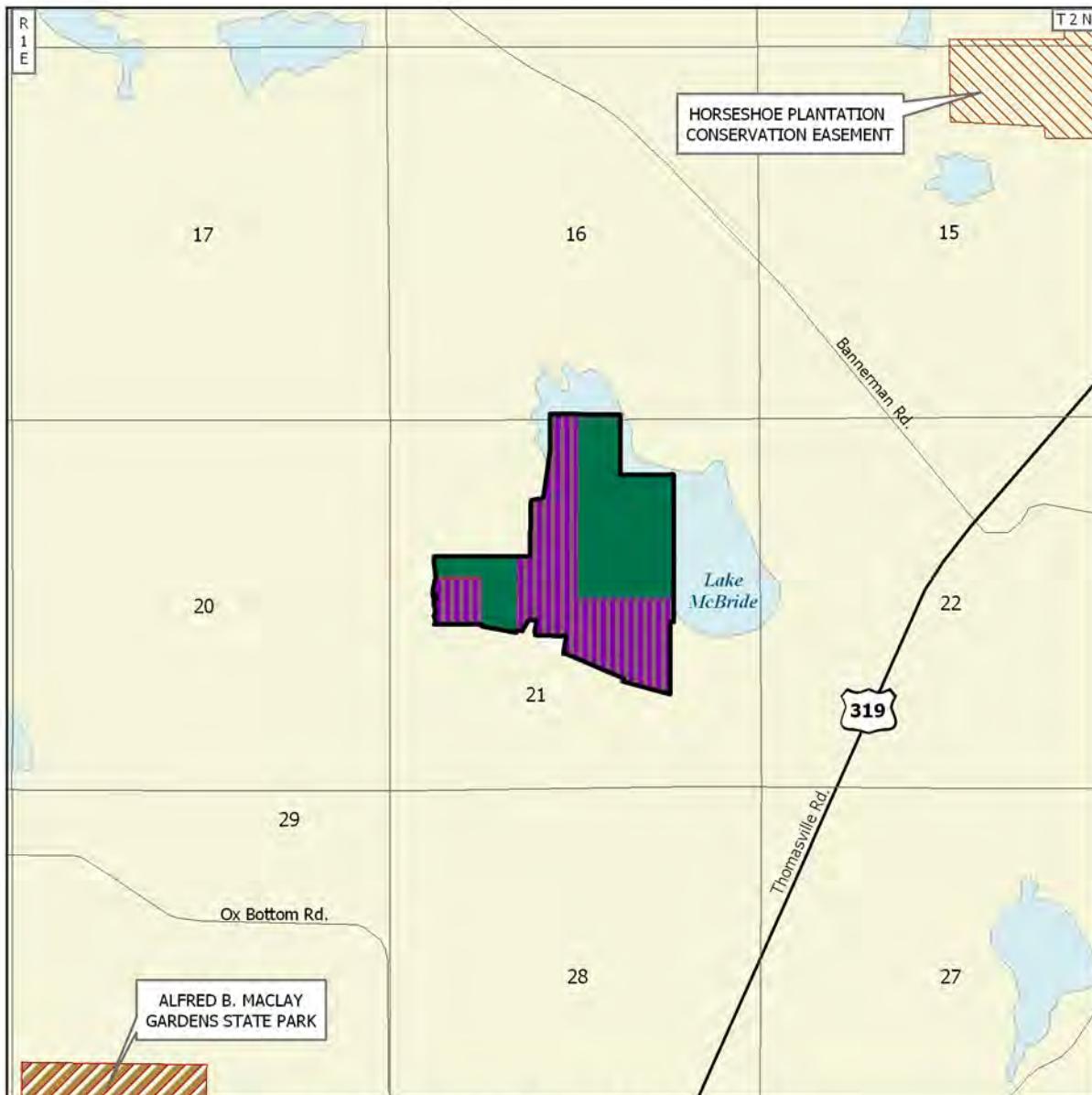
## Management Policy Statement

Millstone Plantation is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition; therefore, specific management activities and public access would be limited by the terms of the purchase. A conservation easement would preclude the eventual development pressure from the Tallahassee area. The Millstone Institute of Preservation, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit, was founded in 1995 to promote the use of the property for educational purposes. The Institute has and will continue to sponsor scientific aquatic research of Lake McBride and its surrounding area. It is expanding its nature trails and implementing a management plan for the property that will include longleaf pine and native groundcover restoration on the uplands, wildlife habitat management, wetlands management and enhancement and the protection of the many historical century-old live oaks. Further archaeological investigations and surveys are also planned.

Millstone Plantation FNAI Elements	
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
1 rare species is associated with the project	

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	134
Acres Acquired (GIS)	78
at a Cost of	\$892,000
Acres Remaining (GIS)	56
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$69,970

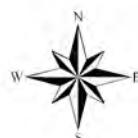
## Millstone Plantation



### MILLSTONE PLANTATION

#### LEON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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SEPTEMBER 2009

**Management Prospectus**

The Millstone Plantation Florida Forever project encompasses nearly 200 acres in northwestern Leon County, at the southern edge of the Red Hills region. Millstone is a highly significant archaeological site containing Florida Master Site File sites representing a continuous pattern of settlement for over 10,000 years, including the Paleo-Indian, Early Archaic, Late Archaic, Deptford, Weeden Island, Fort Walton, Apalachee, Spanish Mission, Seminole, English, and Colonial periods. The Millstone Plantation House, an example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Colonial revival architecture, and related structures and out-buildings, are also of great historical significance, eligible for listing as a National Register of Historic Site. The Millstone project also includes significant shoreline on Lake McBride, (Class III. Waters of the State) one of the last unpolluted Sinkhole or Clastic Upland Lakes in Leon County, and Millstone Creek, a Seepage Stream, which form the headwaters of the Lake Lafayette Basin. Millstone encompasses significant recharge areas for the Floridan Aquifer. Additionally, the project contains a Basin Swamp and Upland Mixed Forest and Upland Pine Forests suitable for restoration. Primary goals of management of the Millstone Plantation project are: investigation, protection, interpretation, and educational activities for the site's archaeological resources; conservation and protection of and continued aquatic, biological, and geologic research into the waters of Lake McBride and Millstone Creek; conservation, protection, sustainable management and restoration of the Upland Pine Forests; and historic preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures.

**Qualifications for state designation** Due to the site's unique archaeological resources representing a continuous pattern of human settlement and the importance of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures, the site may qualify for designation as a State Historical Site.

**Manager** The Apalachee Land Conservancy would be responsible for the monitoring and enforcing of the conservation easement.

**Management goals** The primary management goal of Millstone Plantation is continued protection, preservation, investigation, and interpretation of the property's rich archaeological resources and stabilization, preservation, and restoration of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures. The Institute will also continue efforts to foster the protection of the water quality of Lake McBride and Millstone

Creek and continue aquatic research, as well as begin restoration of the project's natural upland communities. Central to all of these efforts is continuation of the Institute's public education activities and community outreach programs, including continued limited public access to the property for outdoor educational and recreational activities.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The greatest challenge facing the management of Millstone is the tremendous amount of archaeological resources on the property. Developing a plan for ongoing systematic survey, investigation, and interpretation of the site's archaeological resources will be essential. The proximity of highways and residential and commercial development to the site may pose fire and smoke management problems for restoration of Millstone's natural communities. Due to development pressure in the Lake McBride Basin, accelerating the timeline for aquatic research is important.

**Timetable for implementing management** Archaeological surveys and investigation are ongoing; initial management activities should concentrate on identifying and researching these resources. In subsequent years, the Institute plans to implement a management plan for the property that will include longleaf pine and native groundcover restoration on the uplands, wildlife management, wetlands management, and enhancement and protection of the many century-old live oaks on the property. Restoration of natural communities will require eradication of exotic and pest plants (Chinese tallow, Japanese climbing fern, and tropical soda apple), as well as prescribed burning and re-vegetation. The Institute has and will continue to sponsor scientific aquatic research into Lake McBride. Existing nature trails on the property will be improved and expanded to enhance public access. The Institute will also continue and expand its existing public education programs, including traditional, sustainable, organic agricultural practices and North Florida farm arts, such as spinning and weaving. Plans will also be made for historically accurate and appropriate preservation and restoration of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** The Millstone Institute will seek funding through both public and private (foundations, corporations, and individuals) grant sources to support management activities.

*Updated 2/3/2012*

# Myakka Ranchlands

## Sarasota County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This project is composed of two areas, on opposite sides of the Myakka River State Park, that connect and protect a contiguous system of conservation areas, forming a corridor of connection among state, county and non-profit conservation lands in southwest Florida. Acquiring these lands would increase the number of acres protected with fee-simple purchase (802 acres) and with alternatives to fee-simple acquisition (17,941 acres), contributing to building landscape-size protection areas of more than 50,000 acres, by adding to the existing 121,000 acres of conservation land already protecting the Myakka River and Charlotte Harbor Estuary. It would protect lands that are documented to have rare plants and animals, and protect waters of the state and functional wetlands.

### Manager

Sarasota County Natural Resources, a division of the Sarasota County government, is recommended as the manager of 802 acres of the project once it is acquired, with assistance and cooperation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Myakka River State Park. The rest of the proposed project, 17,941 acres in two parcels, is recommended as a less-than-fee acquisition and therefore would be monitored through the Office of Environmental Services (OES), Division of State Lands (DSL).

### General Description

The Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever proposal is composed of 18,737 (GIS) acres, consisting of three ownerships in two disjunct tracts: the Hi Hat Ranch in

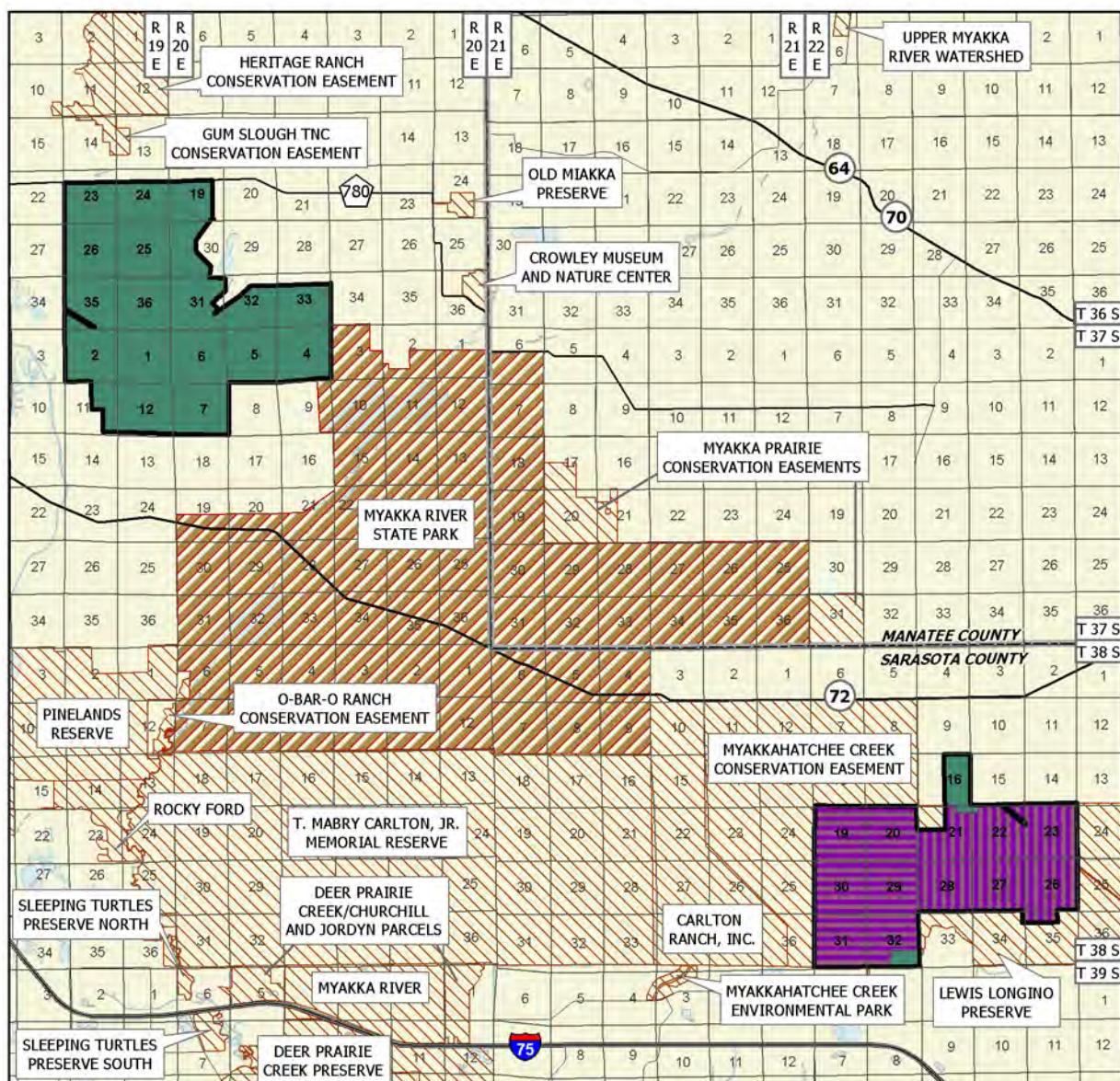
the northwest (10,770 acres) and the combined Walton and Longino Ranches in the southeast (7,969 acres). The Hi Hat tract is about five miles east of the city limits of Sarasota in the northern part of Sarasota County, and abuts the Myakka River State Park. The Longino/Walton tract is about 13 aerial miles southeast of Hi Hat Ranch, between State Road 72 and I-75 in eastern Sarasota County. It is part of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Florida Forever Work Plan. The eastern edge of the tract abuts the Lewis Longino Preserve, a 3,895-acre conservation easement purchased by Sarasota County and the SWFWMD to protect regional water supplies.

The three working ranches support ongoing cattle operations, sod farms, row crops, citrus groves, pine and cabbage palm harvesting, and hunting. The Hi Hat tract includes 2,500 acres of wastewater spray field owned by the City of Sarasota for which the owners have rights to purchase back from the City. The Hi Hat owners also retain a permit from the SWFWMD for withdrawal of 6-7 million gallons of groundwater per day at the ranch. All of the properties are crisscrossed with internal roads, access ways and ditches associated with ranch and farming operations. About 53 percent of the ranchlands, combined, have been converted to pasture, agriculture, or various uses such as impoundments, canals, roads, and buildings. The majority of these areas are improved pasture. The remaining natural areas (47 percent of the properties, combined) support a mosaic of mesic flatwoods, depression and basin marshes, prairie and hydric hammocks. The quality of these natural communities is variable, depending upon the fire history and levels of physical disturbances or

Myakka Ranchlands	
FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Least Bittern	G5/S4
6 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2007
Project Area (GIS Acres)	18,737
Acres Acquired (GIS)	7,498
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	11,239
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$85,657,692

## Myakka Ranchlands



## MYAKKA RANCHLANDS

### SARASOTA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

0    1    2    4  
Miles



SEPTEMBER 2010

## **Myakka Ranchlands**

invasive exotic plant encroachments.

### **Public Use**

In the 802 acres within the Hi Hat Ranch to be managed by Sarasota County, it is anticipated that some the existing roads and trails may become multi-use trails for hiking and horse back riding.

Longino Ranch and Walton Ranch, and the remainder of Hi Hat Ranch, will likely not have any public access granted under the terms of their conservation easements. Without public access there will not be any public-resource based outdoor recreation potential in these areas.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/14/2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Myakka Ranchlands to the A list of Florida Forever projects. The application proposes a combination of full-fee and less-than-fee acquisition. Longino Ranch is less-than-fee; Hi-Hat is fee and/or less-than-fee; and Walton Ranch was proposed as fee simple, but the owner is willing to consider it as a less-than-fee acquisition.

On 7/15/2010 Sarasota County purchased fee simple approximately 3,760 acres known as Walton Ranch and sold to the SWFWMD conservation easement rights.

On 8/19/2010 SWFWMD and Sarasota County acquired Longino Ranch Conservation Easement (3,981 acres).

### **Coordination**

Acquisition of the Myakka Ranchlands would be a shared acquisition along with Sarasota County and the SWFWMD.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Principal purposes of the project include protection of biodiversity, protection of the quality and natural functions of the land and water systems, availability of sufficient quantities of water and, within the portion to be managed by Sarasota County, provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities. Programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and careful control of public uses. The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are to restore, maintain and

protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation** The project's size, diversity, and location make it desirable for use and management compatible with the adjacent state park. The majority of the acreage of this project consists of isolated wetlands in oak hammock and improved pasture supporting an active cattle operation. Approximately 20 percent of the proposal has been converted to cattle operations and spray irrigation. The improved pastures total approximately 160 acres with multiple grass species planted in them. Hi Hat Ranch has been managed for cattle for over 40 years with pastures devoid of most native groundcover and under story species.

**Manager** Sarasota County Natural Resources, a division of the Sarasota County government, is recommended as the manager of the 802 acres of the project once it is acquired, with assistance and cooperation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Myakka River State Park. The rest of the proposed project, 17,941 acres in two parcels, is recommended as a less-than-fee acquisition and therefore would be monitored through the Office of Environmental Services, Division of State Lands.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the project's former dry prairie and pine flatwoods have been altered by cattle operations and spray irrigation fields. Hi Hat Ranch will fence the 802 acres and remove the above ground spray irrigation equipment at no cost to the project. Hydrological alterations in the form of ditches will be analyzed for potential restoration. Such areas may be restored with native ground covers and canopy. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be minimal to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system compatible with the state park. Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be low to maintain this area like the adjacent state park.

**Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Once the fee-simple portion of the project is acquired

and assigned for management to Sarasota County, existing trails will be evaluated for nature-based recreation use. After the installation of the fence and removal of the above ground spray irrigation equipment by Hi Hat Ranch at no cost to the project, primitive trails will be opened to hikers. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, providing site security, assessing public and fire management access, and hydrological restoration potential. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a road plan to identify which roads will continue to be used for vehicular access by the public, which are required for administrative use, and which are unnecessary for management or access and should be closed. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

**Revenue-generating potential** The revenue-generating potential of the portion managed by Sarasota County is expected to be moderately low. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** Sarasota

County proposes to manage the 802-acre section of the project like the adjacent state park and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. Sarasota County will cooperate with and seek the assistance of Myakka River State Park, the SWFWMD and interested parties as appropriate.

**Capital Expenditures** No capital project expenditures will be needed on the parcel managed by Sarasota County, but land management activities such as prescribed fire, vegetative restoration, and primitive public access/use will need to be funded. As more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, Sarasota County intends to include project funds contingent on availability.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from Sarasota County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program. Budget needs for initial management are estimated as follows. Annual funding could be lower.

*Updated 4/12/2012*

<b>SALARY (0.1FTE)</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>\$3,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$8,000</u></b>

# North Key Largo Hammocks

Monroe County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The West Indian hardwood forest of the Florida Keys, unique in the United States, is shrinking as development intensifies. The North Key Largo Hammocks project will protect the largest stand of this forest left, with its many tropical plants and rare animals; help protect the irreplaceable coral reef in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from the effects of uncontrolled development; and conserve an area where the public can enjoy the original landscape of these subtropical islands.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection will manage the small parcels and monitor the less-than-fee parcels.

### General Description

The hammocks of North Key Largo form the largest stand of West Indian tropical forest in the United States, with numerous plant and animal species that are rare and endangered. The project also has over ten miles of shoreline that directly influence the adjacent waters of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. Natural communities include marine tidal swamp, coastal rock barren, and rockland hammock. The majority of the project is hammock or upland. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

North Key Largo Hammocks FNAI Elements	
<i>Garber's Spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>Key Largo Cotton Mouse</i>	G5T1Q/S1
<i>Schaus' Swallowtail</i>	G3G4T1/S1
<i>Key Largo Woodrat</i>	G5T1/S1
<i>Lignum-vitae</i>	G2/S1
<i>Swartz's Snoutbean</i>	G3/S1
<i>Simpson's Prickly Apple</i>	G2/S2
<i>Bahama Wild Coffee</i>	G4/S1
<i>Mahogany Mistletoe</i>	G4/S1
<i>Small-fruited Varnishleaf</i>	G4Q/S1
<i>White Ironwood</i>	G4/S1
<i>Dollar Orchid</i>	G4?T4?Q/S1
37 rare species are associated with the project	

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a botanical site, with such uses as hiking and nature appreciation. The amount and nature of public use will be negotiated with the owner for the less than fee parcel.

### Acquisition Planning

In General, Phase I consisted of all tracts in the project area before 1986 project design additions. Phase II consisted of contiguous tracts in the addition from north to south. Phase III consisted of the northernmost islands – Palo Alto being the largest and most ecologically valuable. Phase IV consisted of privately owned submerged tracts. Phase V consisted of Port Bougainville/Garden Cove.

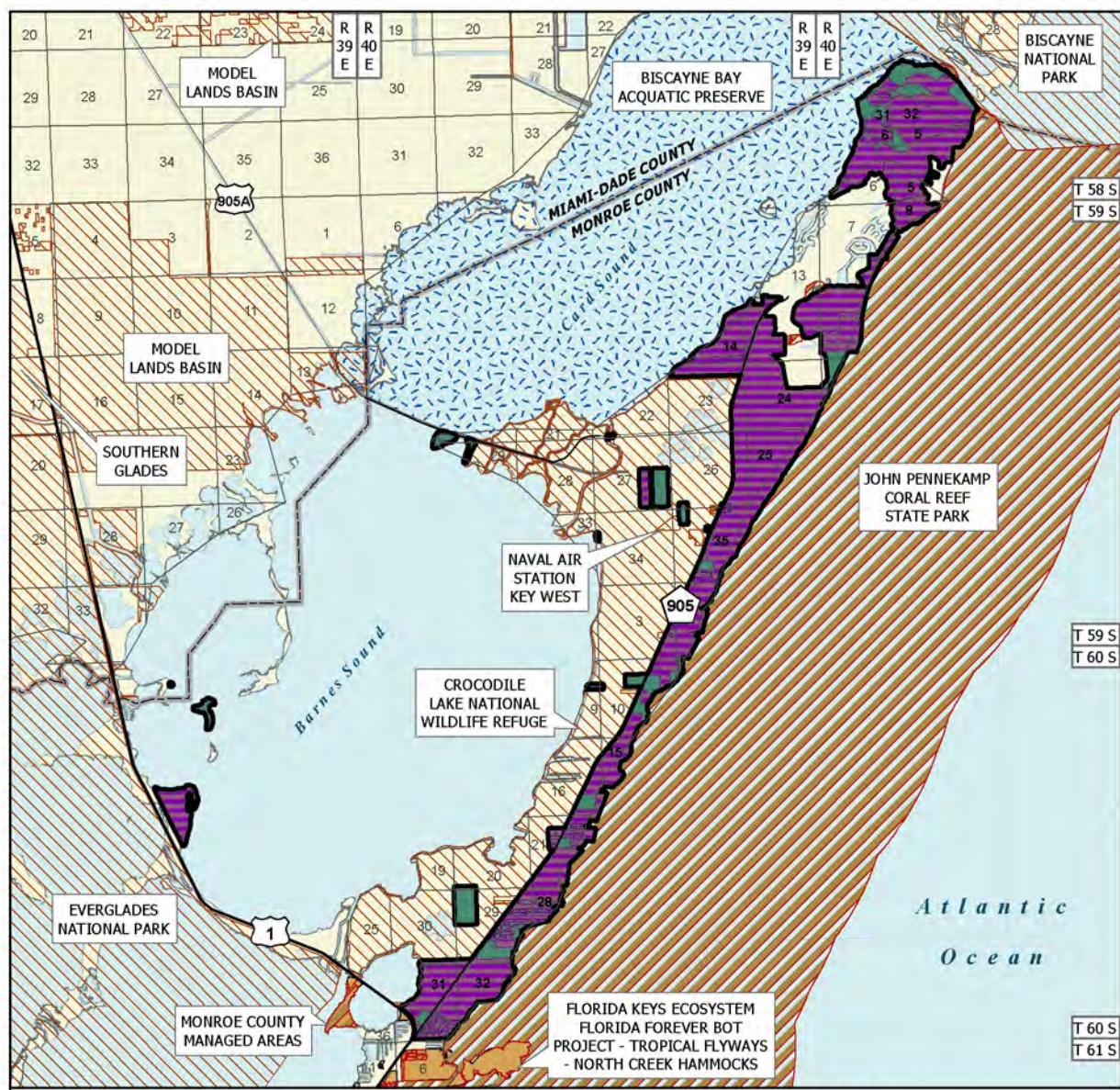
All tracts owned by willing sellers have been acquired. The Governor and Cabinet have authorized condemnation of the remainder of the project. Proceedings are in progress.

In 1983, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) added the North Key Largo Hammocks project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) 1983 Priority List. This acquisition consisted of approximately 665 acres, multiple owners, and a 1982 taxable value of \$5,239,680.

On June 7, 1984 the LASC approved a 236.5-acre addition to the Project boundary. It consisted of multiple owners and a 1983 taxable value of \$1,500,000.

Placed on List	1983
Project Area (GIS Acres)	5,012
Acres Acquired (GIS)	4,148
at a Cost of	\$85,725,890
Acres Remaining (GIS)	864
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$5,345,767

## North Key Largo Hammocks



### NORTH KEY LARGO HAMMOCKS

#### MONROE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Red Box with Horizontal Lines] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box with Dashed Pattern] State Aquatic Preserves



0 1 2 4  
Miles



OCTOBER 2010

## **North Key Largo Hammocks**

On March 21, 1986, the LASC approved combining the ± 2,430-acre North Key Largo Hammocks Addition project with the existing North Key Largo Hammocks project. The combined project acreage was approximately 3,254 acres; 2,327 acres remained to be purchased with an estimated taxable value of \$21,974,000.

On March 10, 1995, the LAMAC approved a 3.25-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) and had a 1994 taxable value of \$3,100.

On December 5, 1996, LAMAC transferred the 4.7-acre Sea Critters (Kaufman/Maxwell) ownership to the Less-Than-Fee acquisition category. In 2003, 2.81 acres were acquired in fee-simple.

On December 5, 1997, the LAMAC approved a 25-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the DRP, consisted of multiple owners, and a 1996 taxable value of \$714,000. The addition is composed of multiple lots within the Knowlson Colony (55 lots) and Gulfstream Shore (64 lots) subdivisions.

On December 6, 2001, the ARC combined Group B Less-Than-Fee with the Group A Small Holdings.

On February 11, 2005, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ± 535-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the several entities, consisted of multiple owners, and a 2004 taxable value of approximately \$4,611,267.

In June, 2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to purchase these acres (ownerships): 0.17 acres (Walker) in Knowlson Colony for \$23,375, to be managed by FWC; and 5.47 acres (Hall) in Key Largo for \$1,069,300, to be managed by Monroe County.

On December 28, 2009, DSL purchased 31.12 acres for \$8,854,750.34 from FF. DRP to manage.

### **Coordination**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection are considered partners on this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the North Key Largo Hammocks project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern, if the proposed acquisition relates to the natural resource protection purposes of the designation; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, if the protection and conservation of such lands is necessary to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which cannot otherwise be accomplished through local or state regulatory programs.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The North Key Largo Hammocks project includes the largest West Indian tropical forest in the United States. This qualifies it as a state botanical site.

**Manager** The DRP will manage the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project is a low-need management area emphasizing resource protection and perpetuation while allowing compatible public recreational use and development. Much of the project has already been acquired.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Future acquisitions will be incorporated into the Key Largo Hammock State Botanical Site. When the Division of Recreation and Parks brings each parcel under its management, it will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and inclusion of the parcel in a plan for long-term public use and resource management of the overall Botanical Site.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated for individual parcels. The amount of revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities for the Botanical Site. Since management emphasizes resource protection, with limited public use, future revenues are not expected to be high. The Site does not presently generate any significant amount of revenue.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project area.

(continued)

## North Key Largo Hammocks

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 CARL/SPTF	1997/98 CARL/SPTF	1998/99 CARL/SPTF
Salary	\$86,299	\$88,888	\$91,554
OPS	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$24,702	\$28,261	\$28,261
OCO	\$0	\$5,200	\$5,200
INT. MGT.	\$498	\$498	\$498
HOSP	\$46,235	\$46,235	\$46,235
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,535</b>	<b>\$174,082</b>	<b>\$176,748</b>

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Northeast Florida Blueway

## Duval, St. Johns and Flagler Counties

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – helps to maintain shoreline plant communities on the Tolomato & Matanzas rivers, benefiting the manatees that spend the warm season in these water; (2) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas – serves as a vital connection in the Statewide System of Greenways and Trails; (3) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities – offers many resource-based recreation opportunities both directly and indirectly: fishing, canoeing, bicycling, and camping, to name a few; (4) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state – connectivity with other areas contribute to ongoing governmental efforts to protect and restore the regional land and water; and (5) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources - areas observed within the Rayonier property that are capable of producing pine timber products have been site prepared and planted.

### Manager

The City of Jacksonville, the Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Department

of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), and the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

### General Description

This project is composed of many public and privately owned uplands and wetlands along both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway, the Tolomato and Matanzas rivers and selected tributaries, from the Duval County line south to the Flagler County line. Marshlands, open water, and small islands of shrub and hammock vegetation are 92 percent of the public lands. The intention of the project is to connect existing natural areas and greenspace to form a conservation lands corridor along the north-south waterway. It is adjacent to the following managed areas: Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (several WMD Conservation Areas included therein), Faver-Dykes State Park, Guana River State Park, Deep Creek State Forest, and Ft. Matanzas National Monument.

### Public Use

This project would support primitive camping opportunities in association with canoeing and kayaking taking place within the waterway and associated creeks. Some of the larger parcels may have potential for archaeological interpretation and nature study trails, depending on the ability of the public to gain access.

The DRP proposes to manage the St. Johns County portion north of Faver-Dykes State Park and south of

Northeast Florida Blueway FNAI Elements	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Yellow Hibiscus</i>	G4G5/S2
American Oystercatcher	G5/S2
Roseate Spoonbill	G5/S2
Least Tern	G4/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
17 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	28,448
Acres Acquired (GIS)	15,330*
at a Cost of	\$32,438,430**
Acres Remaining (GIS)	13,118
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$30,059,986	

\*Acquisition Includes lands owned by public entities and NGOs.

\*\*Money spent includes funds spent by the Board of Trustees (current) and acquisition partners (requires updating).

a haul road between US Highway 1 and a spoil site on the Matanzas River. This contains about 5,000 acres. As a part of Faver-Dykes State Park, hunting would not be allowed. The property would expand the quality and quantity of recreational activity at the park including bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, camping (RV and primitive camping), environmental education, and picnicking.

The FFS proposes to manage the remainder of the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the State Forest system. A portion of the project will become part of the Deep Creek State Forest, managed for multiple uses including, but not limited to, timber management and restoration, low impact recreational opportunities, and protection of archeological and historic sites.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 1/25/2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Northeast Florida Blueway – Phase I project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, located in Duval County and known as Pablo Creek, was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville (Preservation Project Jacksonville). It consisted of approximately 6,943 acres, multiple owners (private & public), and a 1998 taxable value of \$15,700,000 on the 4,867 acres in private ownerships. The entire project was designated as essential.

On 12/6/2001, the ARC approved Phase II, also known as Tolomato & Matanzas Rivers, to the project boundary. The fee-simple addition in St. Johns County consisted of approximately 27,929 acres, multiple owners (private & public), and a 2001 taxable value of \$18,610,780 on the 17,834 acres in private ownerships. St. Johns County sponsored this addition. The essential parcels were designated as Rayonier Timberlands, Ponce de Leon Resort, Flagler Development, Roberts, Rayland, Wadsworth, and Swan Development.

On 8/15/2003, the ARC approved two additions to the project boundary. The Office of Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) sponsored a 20.26-acre addition with a single owner, Jacoby Development Inc., two parcels, and a 2002 taxable value of \$2,955,714. This fee-simple addition, located in St. Johns County, was added to Phase II. St. Johns County sponsored a 70-acre addition with a single owner, Marine Park

Properties, LLC, multiple parcels, and a 2002 taxable value of \$8,400,000. This fee-simple addition is located in Flagler County.

On 10/13/2006, the ARC approved a redesign of the project boundary. A total of 2,000 acres were removed from the project, 180 in Duval County and 1,820 in St. Johns County, reducing the total project size to 32,564 acres. The updated total includes lands in public ownership and acres acquired. Previous project area estimates did not include lands in public ownership. Approximately 18,250 acres are currently in public and NGO ownership, leaving 14,314 acres to be acquired. All of the parcels removed from the project, about 6.2 percent, were removed due to development that had occurred or isolation of the parcel since the original boundary was identified.

### **Coordination**

The City of Jacksonville is an acquisition partner in Phase I, in Duval County. The city has contacted FEMA and they may contribute \$250,000 towards acquisition. Florida Communities Trust has already contributed acquisition funds with the City for several parcels, the SJRWMD has purchased some conservation easements and the Jacksonville Transportation Authority has mitigation funds to contribute towards acquisition. The Trust for Public Land will be the intermediary for negotiations.

Portions of Phase II, in St. Johns County, will likely be acquired through other conservation programs. St. Johns County, the Florida Communities Trust Program and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) may be partners on portions of the project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

To conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of the state or a larger geographic area. To conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species. To conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources. Finally, to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

## Northeast Florida Blueway



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

#### DUVAL, ST. JOHNS, AND FLAGLER COUNTIES



0      5      10      20  
Miles



NOVEMBER 2006

**Management Prospectus**

*Qualifications for State Designation* The lands in Phase I are rapidly disappearing as Duval County grows. The Preservation Project, the city's land acquisition program, seeks to protect and preserve the existing habitat and waterway as it exists today. It is the goal of the City of Jacksonville to manage this project to conserve, protect or restore important ecosystems while providing opportunities for natural-resource-based recreation. The City of Jacksonville proposes to manage the lands in accordance with the standards of the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Phase II is of a size and diversity that makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the FFS as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring fee simple title to the parcels of interest to FFS. The portion of the project of interest for management by the DRP is largely disturbed land that has been managed for silviculture. While much restoration work will be required over time, the quality of the property when restored will make it suitable for state park purposes.

**Manager** The City of Jacksonville will manage that portion of the project within Duval County. The DRP proposes to manage that portion of the Northeast Florida Blueway – Phase II project, approximately 5,000 acres, lying north of Faver-Dykes State Park, south of a haul road from US 1 to a spoil site on the Matanzas River, east of US 1 and west of the Matanzas River. The Division of Forestry (FFS) proposes to manage the Rayonier parcel north of the spoil haul road (approximately 4,000 acres) plus two additional parcels, one adjoining Deep Creek State Forest and an adjoining Florida Natural Areas Inventory Addition 1 (approximately 2,500 acres).

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Initial management efforts of Phase I by the City of Jacksonville will concentrate on site security, resource inventory, removal of trash and limited public access to the property. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

Intensive restoration will be needed on the portion of Phase II managed by DRP to restore natural communities disturbed by timber operations. Intensity of restoration will be dictated by study of the site. Any immediate action, such as prescribed burning, would increase the early intensity of management. The lands bordering the river are in relatively good shape and will not require intensive management.

The portions of Phase II managed by FFS can be restored with the help of carefully prescribed fires and hydrologic restoration. The use of fire must be carefully

applied because of the fuel load and type of fuel in this forest system. An inventory of the forest roads in this area would determine which stay open for public use, which would be used for management, and which would be closed.

***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Jacksonville's land-acquisition program, Preservation Project Jacksonville, will be responsible for developing and implementing the management plans for Phase I. The Preservation Project set aside \$950,000 to hire a program manager to develop and implement management plans. As properties are acquired, the City will inventory natural resources and develop first a plan to protect and restore resources, including the removal of invasive and exotic species, before developing access plans.

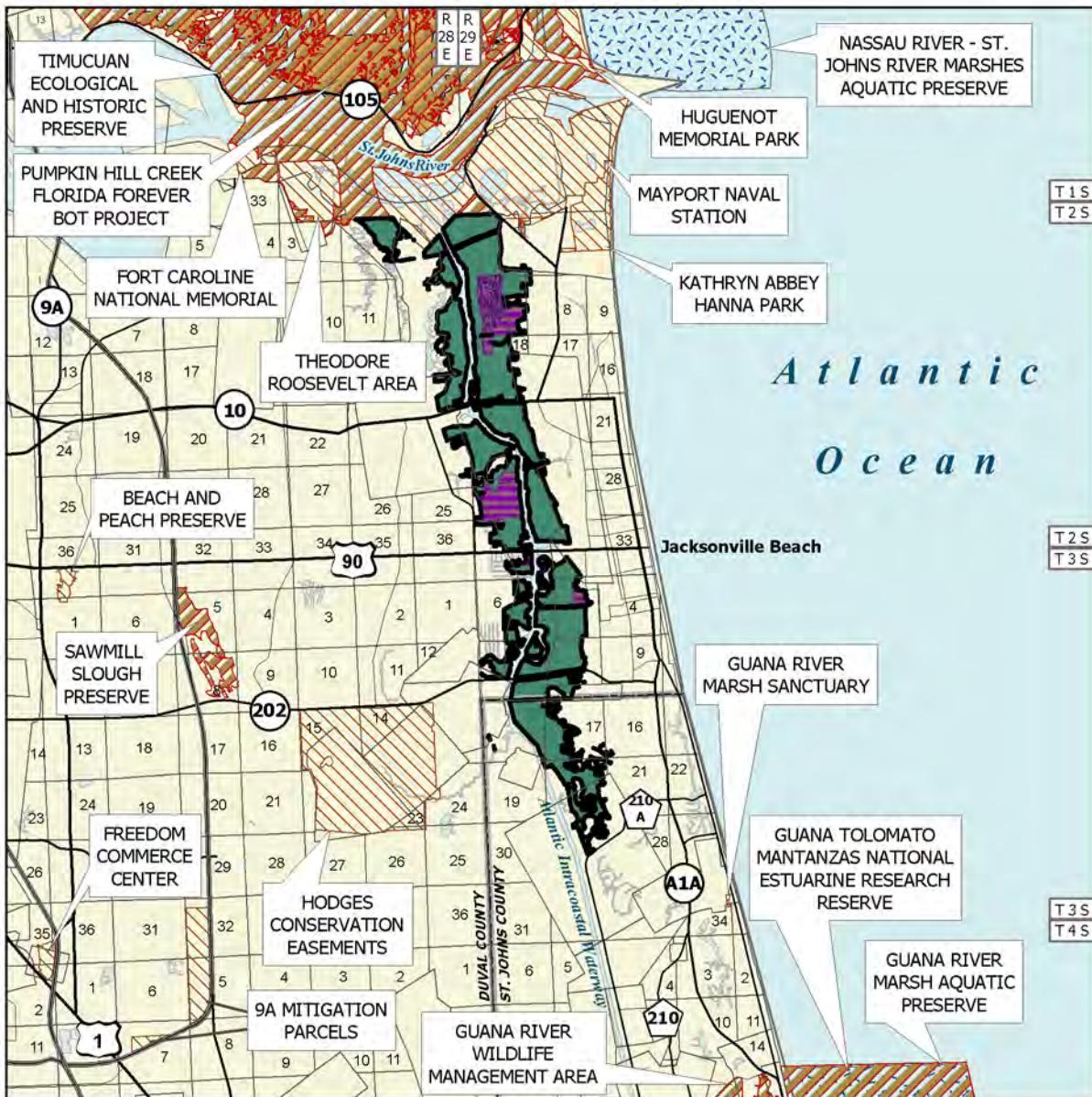
The DRP plans for its portion of Phase II that, upon fee title acquisition, public access will be provided for low-intensity, non-facility outdoor recreation. Within the first year after acquisition, management will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and developing a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

The FFS timetable for management of the remainder of Phase II also provides initial public access for diverse, low-intensity outdoor recreation. Management would be carried out by the FFS Bunnell District until additional personnel were available for resource management and restoration activity. Initial and intermediate management will concentrate on site security, public and resource management access, prescribed fire, reforestation, and removal of any trash.

**Revenue-generating potential** Phase II No significant revenue to the DRP is expected to be generated initially. After acquisition and addition of the land to Faver-Dykes State Park, it will probably be several years before significant public use facilities are developed. The amount of revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed. The FFS plans to conduct timber sales as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystems. These sales will primarily be from merchantable pine stands and provide a variable revenue depending on a variety of factors. The condition of the timber stands on the property is such that the revenue generating potential is expected to be moderate.

**Cooperators in management activities** Although not required, the City of Jacksonville commits to submitting management plans for city-controlled properties in the 1

## Northeast Florida Blueway



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 3

#### DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Light Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Dotted Pattern Box] State Aquatic Preserves

0    1.25    2.5    5  
Miles



MAY 2011

## Northeast Florida Blueway



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 3

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Stripes] State Owned Lands
- [Red Box with Stripes] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box with Stripes] State Aquatic Preserves



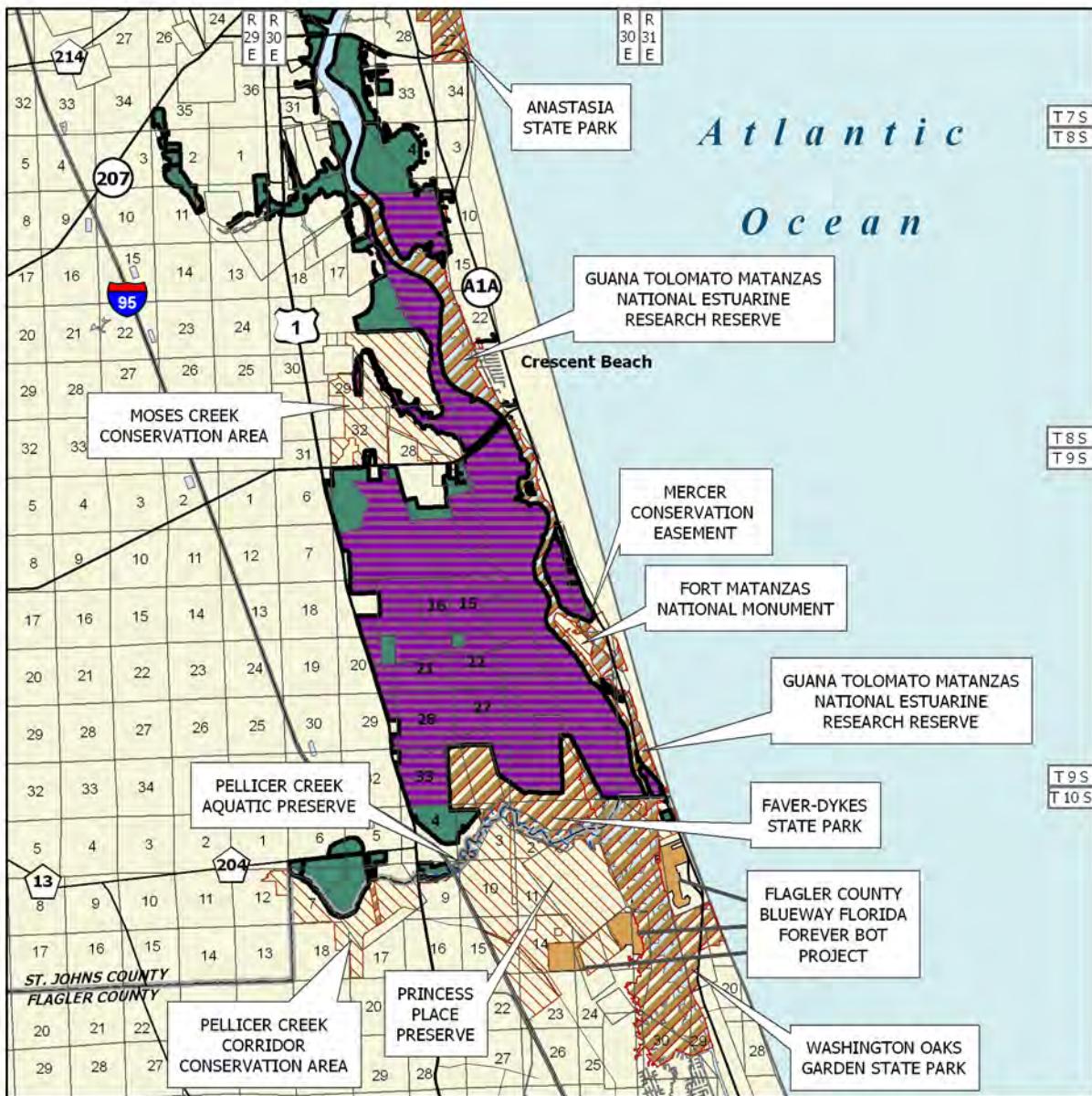
0 1.25 2.5

5

Miles

NOVEMBER 2006

## Northeast Florida Blueway



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 3 OF 3

#### ST. JOHNS AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Yellow Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Brown Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserve

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



SEPTEMBER 2009

## Northeast Florida Blueway

Blueway to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for review and comment, even though properties may have been acquired with other sources. Doing so will ensure that the Preservation Project takes a system-wide approach to managing Blueway properties.

In Phase II, DRP will consult other federal, state, and local government agencies, as appropriate, to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities and the development of the property for state park purposes. FFS plans to cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, local government entities, interested parties as appropriate and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. The FFS also intends to coordinate the recreational use of the Rayonier parcel with the DRP because of the potential for a recreation trail on the eastern portion of the property. The FFS will work with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) in game and non-game management and related public use of the property.

The Blueway also includes a substantial amount of property owned by other government agencies. It is not the intent that the City or State acquires these properties. However, it is hoped that the Blueway boundary will be the catalyst for a voluntary, joint management approach to publicly owned lands within the corridor. Other agencies that own lands within the Blueway include the U.S. Navy, the National Park Service, Florida Inland Navigation District, the cities of Jacksonville Beach and Atlantic Beach, the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Electric Authority and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

The DRP has made general management estimates that would be adjusted based on approval of a unit management plan. Costs for fencing are included. Restoration costs are estimated at \$500 per acre, and until further study, the total of acres to be restored is not known.

### Phase II Management Cost Summary/DRP:

Category	Startup	Recurring
<b>Source of Funds:</b>	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$29,000
OPS	\$15,000	\$8,000
Expense	\$18,000	\$12,000
OCO	\$28,000	\$0
FCO	\$20,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$81,000</b>	<b>\$49,000</b>

The FFS anticipates that revenue funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

### Phase II Management Cost Summary/FFS

#### Salary (3 FTE's)

\$79,518	
Expense	\$215,000
OCO	\$37,800

**TOTAL:**

\$333,318

### Management Cost Summary

#### Phase I Management Costs and Sources of Revenue:

##### Projected annual cost (FY 2001):

Management plans/	\$ 200,000
Security:	\$ 25,000
Invasion/exotics control:	\$ 25,000
One-time capital outlay	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,750,000</b>

Updated 2/23/2012

# Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve

## Duval, Nassau and Clay Counties

### Partnerships

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – known to harbor four FNAI-listed species of vascular flora and four rare animals; (2) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas – conserve spaces suitable for greenways or outdoor recreation that are compatible with conservation purposes; (3) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities – camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, hiking, and horseback riding are possible; and (4) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state – 75-80% of land is disturbed with restoration a primary objective.

#### Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The City of Jacksonville is manager for the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail.

#### General Description

This project describes a northeast-southwest diagonal along the west side of Duval County, stretching from the Nassau River north of Jacksonville to Trail Ridge in Clay County, near the town of Lawtey. Another section

of the project makes a north-south connection about 12 miles long, between the Camp Blanding Military Reservation and the Etoniah Creek State Forest. About 75 percent of this land is used, or has been used, for silviculture. It also includes mesic flatwoods, cypress and hardwood swamp, sandhills and associated plant communities.

#### Public Use

The DOF will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. There is a possibility of an intermediate and long-term need for some type of developed recreation facilities. If such facilities are developed, the use of low-impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. If an organized recreation area is desired, it will be assessed and evaluated to minimize any possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

#### Acquisition Planning

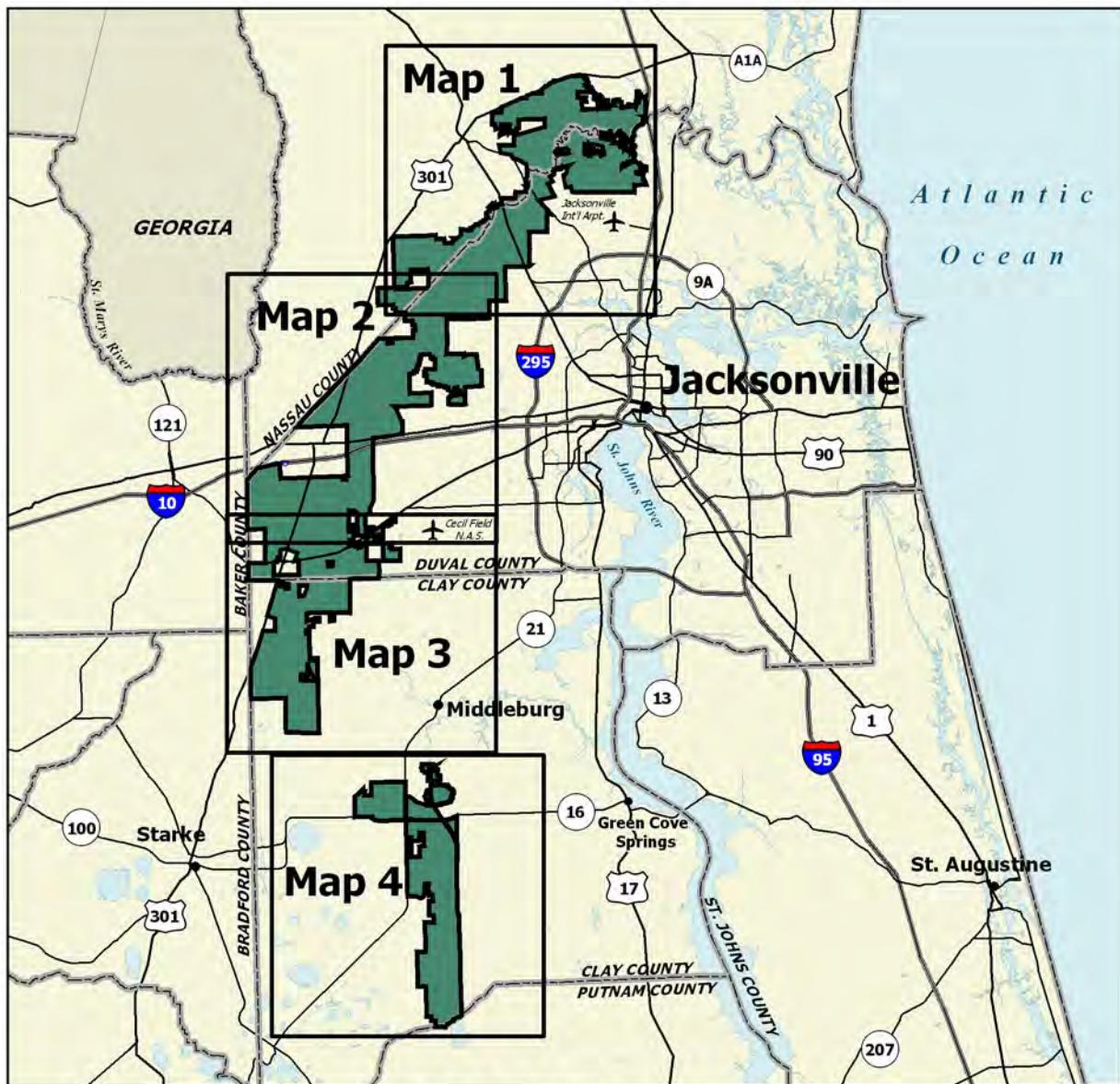
On 12/6/2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) recommended the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve project for Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2002 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, located in Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties, and sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the City of Jacksonville and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), consisted of approximately 132,450 acres, more than 150 landowners, and a 2001 taxable value of \$50,158,195.

Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve FNAI Elements	
Frosted Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
<i>Hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Thorne's Beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2
<i>Bartram's Ixia</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Pondspice</i>	G3/S2
<i>St. John's Blackeyed Susan</i>	G3/S2
<i>Yellow Sunnybell</i>	G4/S2
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
15 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	146,450
Acres Acquired (GIS)	58,969*
At a Cost of	\$141,087,558*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	87,481
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of	\$30,699,048

\*Includes acreage and expenditures by the City of Jacksonville, JEA and SJRWMD.

## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: OVERVIEW

#### DUVAL, NASSAU, AND CLAY COUNTIES

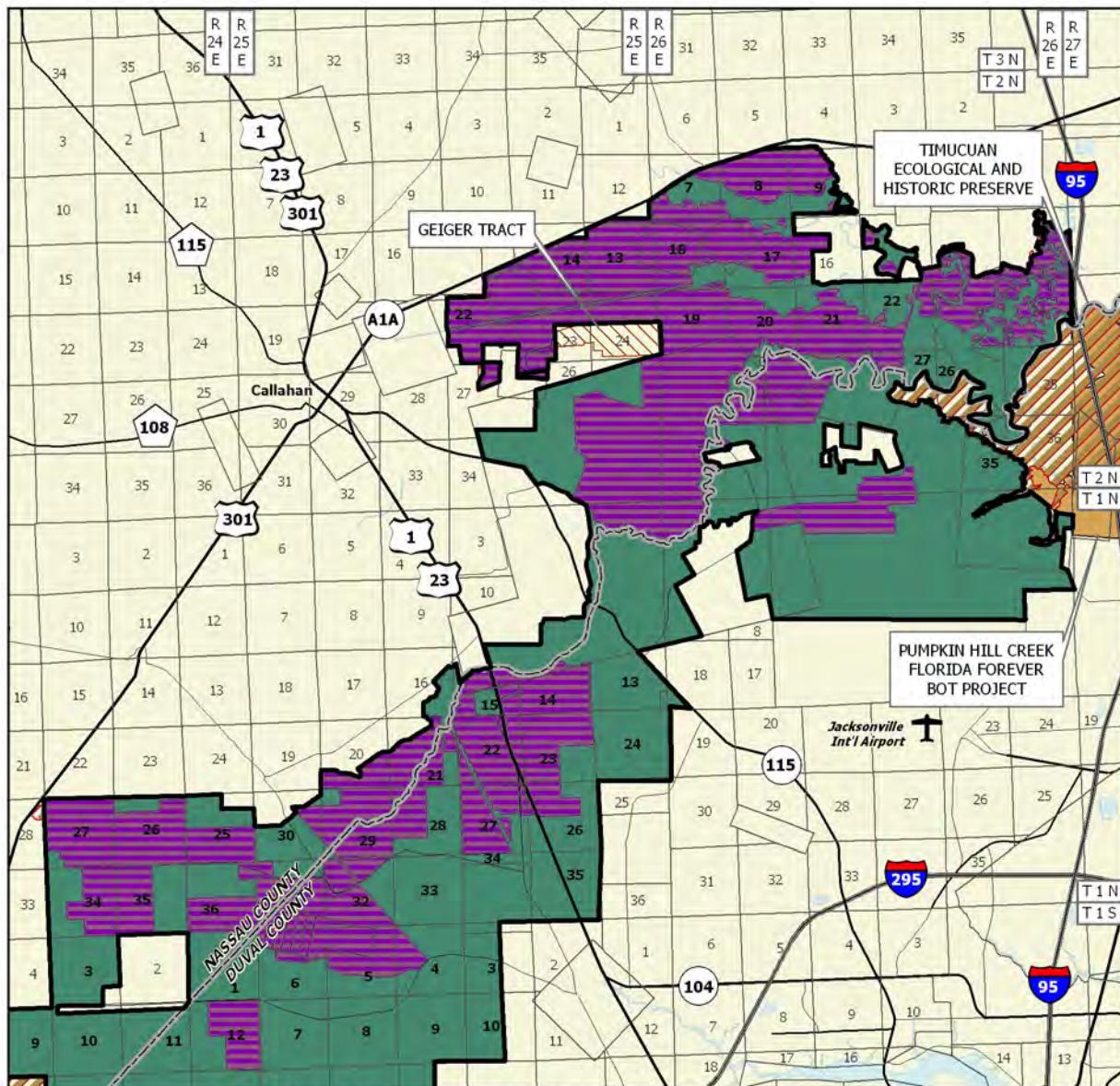


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JULY 2007

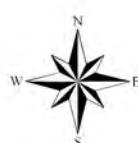
## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 1 OF 4

#### DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

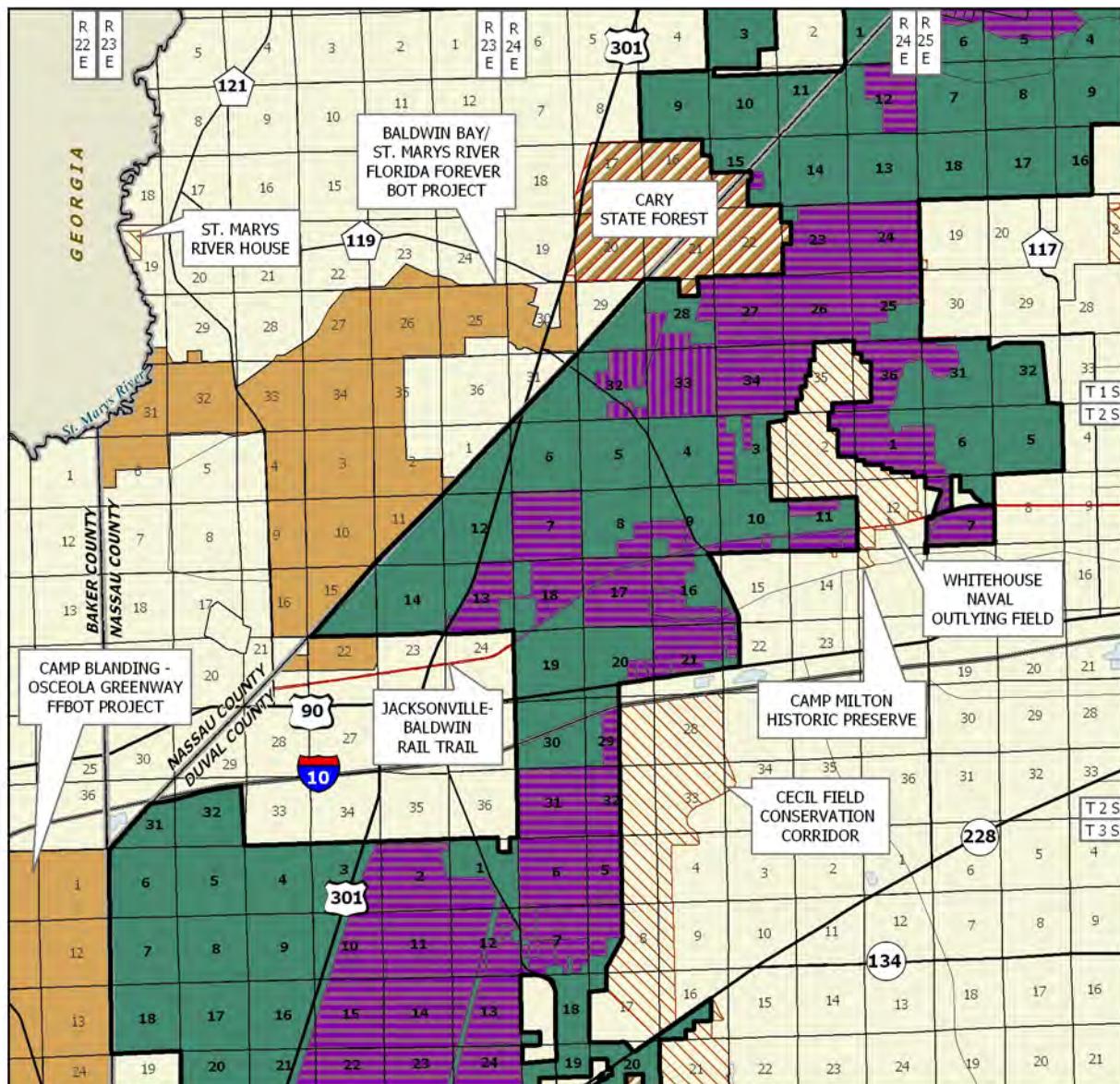


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JUNE 2008

## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 2 OF 4

#### **DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

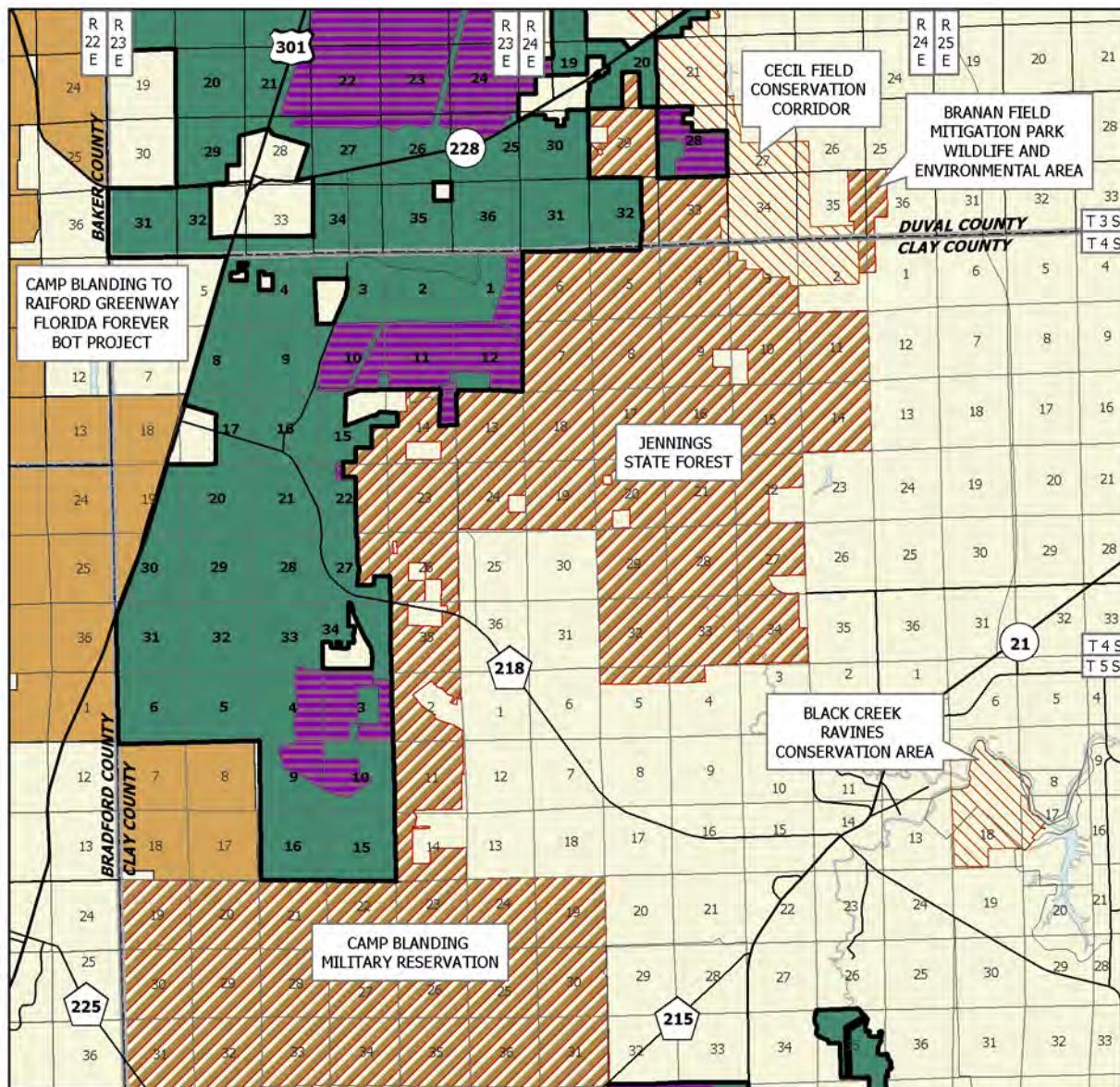


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SEPTEMBER 2009

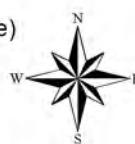
## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 3 OF 4

#### DUVAL AND CLAY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



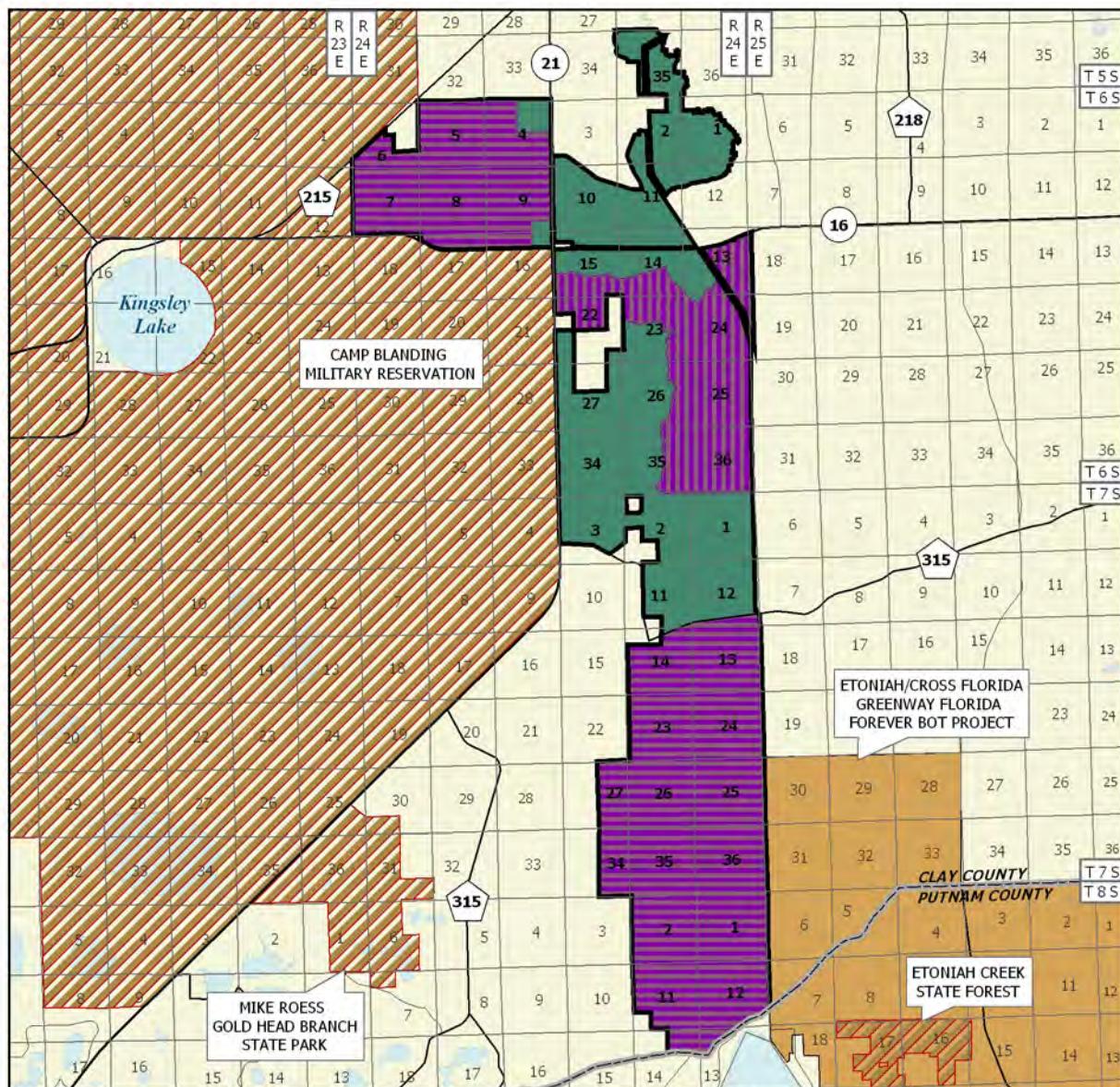
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Miles



JANUARY 2012

## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve



### NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 4 OF 4

#### CLAY COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Purple Box with Stripes] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Stripes] State Owned Lands



0 1 2 4 Miles



SEPTEMBER 2009

## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve

The following 37 ownerships were identified as essential: Gilman, Jackson, Carter, Owen, Nemours, Miller, Bostwick, Klieg, Bullock, 1<sup>st</sup> Bank & Trust, Rayonier, International Paper, Motes, Boyd, South Regional Industrial Realty, East Fiftone Partners, Monticello Drugs, St. Joe, Barnett Bank Trustee, Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Travelers Ins., Foster, Tison, Castleton, Wright, Buck, Logan, Higgenbotham, Betz, Ogilvie, Milne, Kaleel & Roberts, Grey, Sythe, Pharr, Wilkinson, and Helmer.

On 6/6/2003, the ARC approved a 506-acre addition, known as the Norfolk Southern property, to the project boundary in Duval County. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by TNC, consisted of a single owner, Southern Region Industrial Realty Inc., and had a 2002 taxable value of \$408,700. On 12/5/2003, the ARC approved a 7,043-acre addition, known as the Four Creeks Forest tract, to the project boundary in Nassau County. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, Rayonier Timberlands Operating Co. LP, and a 2002 taxable value of \$1,478,838.

On 12/3/2004, the ARC approved a 3,500-acre addition, known as the Bull Creek tract, to the project boundary in Clay County. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, Ventura LLC, and a taxable value of \$760,646.

On 6/30/2006, the Board of Trustees purchased 1,651 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

On 2/16/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 2,665-acre addition to the Bull Creek portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, 1621 Venture II LLC, nine parcels, and a taxable value of \$445,189. The FFS will manage these essential parcels.

On 11/5/2010 DSL purchased 15 acres (Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P.--\$18,108 with FF funds) for FFS to manage. On 4/25/2011, 3.95 acres in Four Creeks State Forest/Pacett) were donated (valued \$2,925). FFS to manage.

### **Coordination**

In 1992 the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail was acquired with Florida Greenways & Trails funds. This trail which meanders through the project is managed by the City of Jacksonville. The SJRWMD is an acquisition partner in areas of the

project to help protect the multiple creeks and rivers. The National Guard Bureau through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is an acquisition partner in areas of the project to help buffer and prevent encroachment of Camp Blanding. TNC, City of Jacksonville, Duval County, FCT, and the U.S. Navy are considered partners in this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the FFS management of the Cary State Forest, the Jennings State Forest and the Cecil Field Conservation Corridor, all of which are adjacent to this project. The acquisition goals and objectives as approved by ARC would include timber management and restoration, low-impact diverse recreation uses, and management of archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the FFS as a state forest is contingent on acquiring fee-simple title to the core parcels adjacent to the existing state forests and to approximately 60 percent of the project.

**Manager** FFS is recommended to be the lead managing agency.

### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

Much of the parcel has been disturbed by past pine plantings and will require restoration work. This area of Florida is experiencing rapid urban growth, so that any prescribed burning to restore the forest will have to be carefully planned. The level of management and the related management costs are expected to initially be high to obtain necessary information to restore and manage portions as a state forest. It is recognized that a portion of the project will be less-than-fee simple. This technique is valuable on the fringes of urban growth because it allows the landowners to manage the property as they have been managing it, and continuing to produce forest products for Florida's economy, while protecting the property from conversion to urban growth.

### **Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the core areas of the project are acquired and assigned to the FFS, initial public access will be provided for diverse, low-intensity outdoor recreation activities. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and resource management access, prescribed

## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve

burns, reforestation, and restoration activity.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or to maintain the desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in the marketable pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue, depending on a variety of factors. The existing condition of the timber stands on the property is such that the revenue-generating potential is expected to be moderate. Other compatible state forest sources of income will be considered.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, other state agencies, local government agencies, other interested parties as appropriate, and with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). The Division intends to coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regarding game and non-game management activity and related public use of the property.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated

as follows:

### Management Cost Summary/FWC (including salaries for 4 full-time employees)

Salary (4 FTEs)	\$154,357
Expense	\$620,000
Operating Capital Outlay	\$148,075
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$887,007</b>

*Updated 2/29/2012*

# Ochlockonee River Conservation Area

Gadsden and Leon Counties

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Purchase of a less-than-fee-simple interest in the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area would provide an opportunity to protect a portion of the Ochlockonee River watershed, including six miles of river frontage, while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area. A conservation easement would preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and would provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community. A conservation easement could also provide an opportunity to manage the site in coordination with the adjacent Tall Timbers conservation lands.

## Manager

The Office of Environmental Services will serve as the easement monitor unless otherwise noted. The Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (TTRS&LC) monitors the conservation easements they acquired through donation.

## General Description

This project is located in western Leon County on the eastern bank of the Ochlockonee River. It is connected to the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (TTRS&LC)--contiguous to the east with the Foshalee Plantation conservation easement--by a narrow strip of land. South of SR 12, the Hiamonee Plantation conservation easement abuts the proposal's eastern boundary. Lands included within the proposal

are important to the water quality of the Ochlockonee River, a state-designated Outstanding Florida Water Body despite degradation (poor water quality) from a number of upstream sources. Water quality of both Lake Talquin (a downstream impoundment) and Lake Iamonia (which occasionally connects to the river during high water) is also directly tied to the river's condition. The proposal includes a portion of the floodplain of this meandering alluvial river, which eventually empties into the commercially important Apalachee Bay. Four tributaries, two of which are partially impounded, run through the project.

Elevations across the proposal range from about 100 feet above MSL along the river to 230 feet in the northeastern uplands. Most of the site's uplands probably once supported longleaf pine-dominated upland pine forest, with a rich groundcover including wiregrass and other herbs. Most of this has been destroyed or degraded for agriculture, including silviculture; however, some tracts have returned to a shortleaf/loblolly pine-dominated community with a relatively diverse groundcover that includes exotic grasses and weedy vegetation in addition to some original components. Slopes on site generally support hardwood forests, although it is possible that seepage slope communities once may have been present.

## Public Use

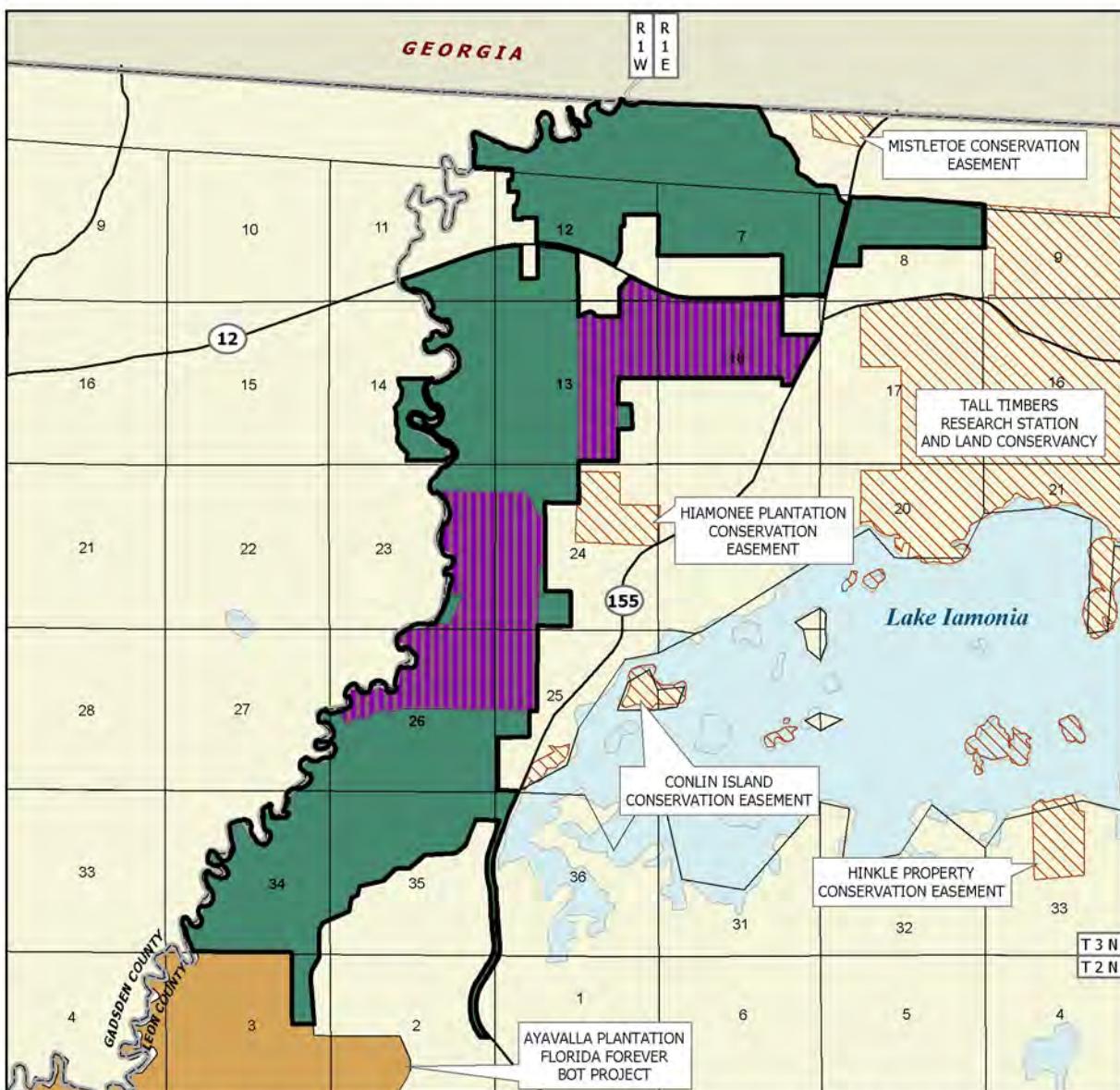
The majority of the project is being offered as a less-than-fee purchase without public access which does

Ochlockonee River Conservation Area FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Flyr's Brickell-hush</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Turk's Cap Lily</i>	G5/S1
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
White-breasted Nuthatch	G5/S2
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
9 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2005
Project Area (GIS Acres)	4,375
Acres Acquired (GIS)	1,106*
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	3,269
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$926,794

\* includes 497-acre conservation easement privately donated in 2005 to, and monitored by, Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy. Another 615 acres were added to the conservation easement in 2007.

## Ochlockonee River Conservation Area



### OCHLOCKONEE RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

#### GADSDEN AND LEON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



SEPTEMBER 2010

## Ochlockonee River Conservation Area

not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The boundary modification approved by ARC on 2/19/2010 is committed to public access by the landowner, Mr. James Dahl, who has designed a public park on the north boundary to support river access for canoes, kayaks, and small boats at Highway 12 and picnic and play areas for families and a primitive camp area near oxbow lake, private island. Hiking and off-road and paved bike trails are proposed. Also, an environmental education program/facility is in the planning stages.

The project is located within the Meridian Trail High Priority Multi-Use Recreational Trail Network Opportunity Corridor. The project is also partially within the Upper Ochlockonee River Low Priority Paddling Recreational Trail Network Opportunity Corridor.

### Acquisition Planning

On 1/25/2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2005 Priority list. This less-than-fee project, sponsored by the Woodlands Company Inc. of Quincy, consisted of approximately 3,105 acres, two owners, and a 2003 taxable value of \$1,067,948.

On 10/13/2006, the ARC approved a less-than-fee 1,025-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Woodlands Company, consisted of two parcels (one landowner, James Dahl) and a 2005 taxable value of \$200,198. The parcels are located in Gadsden and Leon counties and are designated as essential.

On 2/19/2010 ARC added to the boundary an approximately 31-acre linear conservation easement (comprising portions of two parcels owned by James Dahl, valued at \$93,935) to the boundary.

### Coordination

The Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy acquired a 497-acre conservation easement through a donation in 2005. Another 615 acres was donated in 2007 as part of the River Ridge Plantation Conservation Easement.

### Management Policy Statement

As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest,

the majority of the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions imposed by the CE agreement. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of most of the agreement. The conservation easements donated to TTRS&LC will be manage/monitored by that group. The boundary modification known as River Ridge Plantation has planned amenities for public access.

### Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services is to ensure oversight of the conservation easements on this project, except the River RidgePlantation parcels that were donated to TTRS&LC are to be managed by them.

*Updated 2/3/2012*

# Okeechobee Battlefield

Okeechobee County

## Critical Historical Resources

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Okeechobee Battlefield represents the site of one of Florida's most significant events during the Second Seminole War. On Christmas Day in 1837, more than 1,000 U.S. Army and Missouri Volunteer soldiers led by Colonel Zachary Taylor attacked several hundred Seminoles and Miccosukees north of Lake Okeechobee. Sam Jones, Alligator and Wildcat led the Indians, and the battle resulted in the loss of 26 U.S. forces killed and 112 wounded, while 14 Indians lost their lives. The battlefield, recorded in the Florida Master Site File as 8OB10, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the 1960s and later became a National Historic Landmark.

The 55-acre project consists of improved pasture and freshwater marsh, and provides the backdrop for a yearly reenactment of the battle. State acquisition of Okeechobee Battlefield would meet Goal F of the Florida Forever program by adding a site listed in the Florida Master Site File. The battlefield site is described by the National Park Service as one of the 11 most endangered historic sites in the United States. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

The Archeological and Historical Conservancy proposes to manage the property in cooperation with Okeechobee County and the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield, a Florida not-for-profit corporation.

### General Description

This ±211-acre project consists of improved pasture and freshwater marsh, and provides the backdrop for a yearly reenactment of the battle. The site is home to

bald eagles, and offers potential habitat for the crested caracara and wood stork. The project is situated adjacent to U.S. Highway 441/98 along the northeastern rim of Lake Okeechobee, approximately five miles southeast of the town of Okeechobee in southern Okeechobee County. There are no adjacent or close by conservation lands in the FNAI database, however South Florida Water Management District lands Paradise Run and Kissimmee River are approximately 8 and 12 miles to the west, respectively. St. Lucie County's Bluefield Ranch and St. Lucie Pinelands are approximately 8.5 miles to the east, and 12 miles to the northeast, respectively.

### Public Use

The project is proposed as the site for an interpretive center/museum and a place to conduct a yearly commemorative re-enactment of the battle. The small size of the project limits the relative diversity and quantity of resource-based recreational opportunities. The site's importance is in its cultural significance as a smaller part of a larger battlefield site. Further study will be needed to determine the degree and nature of facilities suitable for the interpretation of the battle. Conceptually, management and development of the project could be similar to that of Olustee Battlefield State Historic Site with an interpretive facility and an annual enactment, but on a smaller scale. The ability to interpret and enhance enactment capabilities would be enhanced by bringing more of the battlefield site into the project. In addition to cultural interpretation and activities, picnicking would be a suitable secondary usage.

Okeechobee Battlefield FNAI Elements	
no rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$3,217,250</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$89,588</b>

## Okeechobee Battlefield



### OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD

#### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



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Miles



AUGUST 2006

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/6/2001, the Acquisition and Restorations Council (ARC) added the Okeechobee Battlefield project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2002 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Archeological and Historical Conservancy (AHC) and the First Bank of Indiantown, consisted of approximately 56 acres, a single owner, First Bank of Indiantown, and a 2001 taxable value of \$113,970.

On 12/5/2003, ARC approved a fee-simple addition of approximately 141 acres to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the AHC, had 3 owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$172,442.

On 12/14/2007 ARC voted to move the Okeechobee Battlefield project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

On 12/10/2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, "Critical Historical Resources."

### **Coordination**

Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc; Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield, and Okeechobee County are considered partners on this project. No alternative funding sources are available at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Okeechobee Battlefield are to preserve a historical site of true state and national significance and the various archeological and environmental features associated with it. A secondary goal is to interpret the battlefield by providing controlled public access and living history events, establishing the battle site as a community educational resource and heritage tourist destination.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The historical significance of the Okeechobee Battlefield is reflected by its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, and by its "endangered" status as a National Landmark. Currently no portions of the battlefield are in public ownership.

***Manager*** The Archeological and Historical Conservancy proposes to manage the property in cooperation with Okeechobee County and the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield, a Florida not-for-profit corporation.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management*** The property is a low-need management area that emphasizes historic resource protection while allowing compatible public access and site interpretation.

***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*** Within the first year after acquisition the management will concentrate on protection of cultural and environmental resources, and on developing a long-term management plan.

***Cooperators in management activities*** Okeechobee County and the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield will cooperate in management activities, including developing and implementing a long-term plan for the battlefield site. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe will be included in all phases of planning for preservation, protection and appropriate improvement of the site for public use and benefit.

***Management costs and sources of revenue*** The long-term plan is anticipated to include recurring costs for wetlands restoration and site development to be determined, based on available public and private resources.

**Updated 2/29/2012**

### **Management Cost Summary**

	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Salary manager (half-tme)</b>	\$26,500	\$26,500
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$5,500	\$5,500

# Old Town Creek Watershed

Hardee and Polk Counties

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Old Town Creek Watershed proposal is proposed as a less-than-fee-acquisition. A primary purpose of less-than-fee acquisitions is to preserve existing, low intensity use of large tracts of private land, where such protection will complement management objectives on adjacent public conservation land. Management objectives would be directed to conserve the mosaic of natural habitats and improved/working landscapes that constitute the Old Town Watershed, and protect significant habitat for native species or rare species, and integrate carefully controlled consumptive uses.

## Manager

The conservation easement will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES).

## General Description

The northeastern corner of the site includes part of the Lake Wales Ridge, a physiographic region of the state that is rich in rare plant and animal species. The site supports many natural communities characteristic of south-central Florida. Although a large percentage of the former flatwoods have been converted to improved pasture, they nevertheless remain important for several rare animals in the region.

## Public Use

Most of the project is proposed as a less than fee acquisition. The property is a working ranch and the owner has indicated that unsupervised public access

would not be desirable, but occasional visitation on a prearranged basis may be possible for natural resource education and nature appreciation purposes. The Crews Ranch owner has indicated a willingness to consider a fee sale of the scrub in the north part of the project. This area is adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Saddle Blanket Lake Preserve, which allows public visitation. If this scrub area were managed as an extension of that preserve, nature appreciation, natural resource education and nature trails could be made more readily available.

## Acquisition Planning

The essential parcels are contained within Crews Ranch. Mallory Ranch (2 noncontiguous tracts) is the other ownership in this project boundary.

On 4/6/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project on the new Florida Forever list.

## Coordination

This project has been submitted to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for a Save Our Rivers proposal. SWFWMD is a potential acquisition partner.

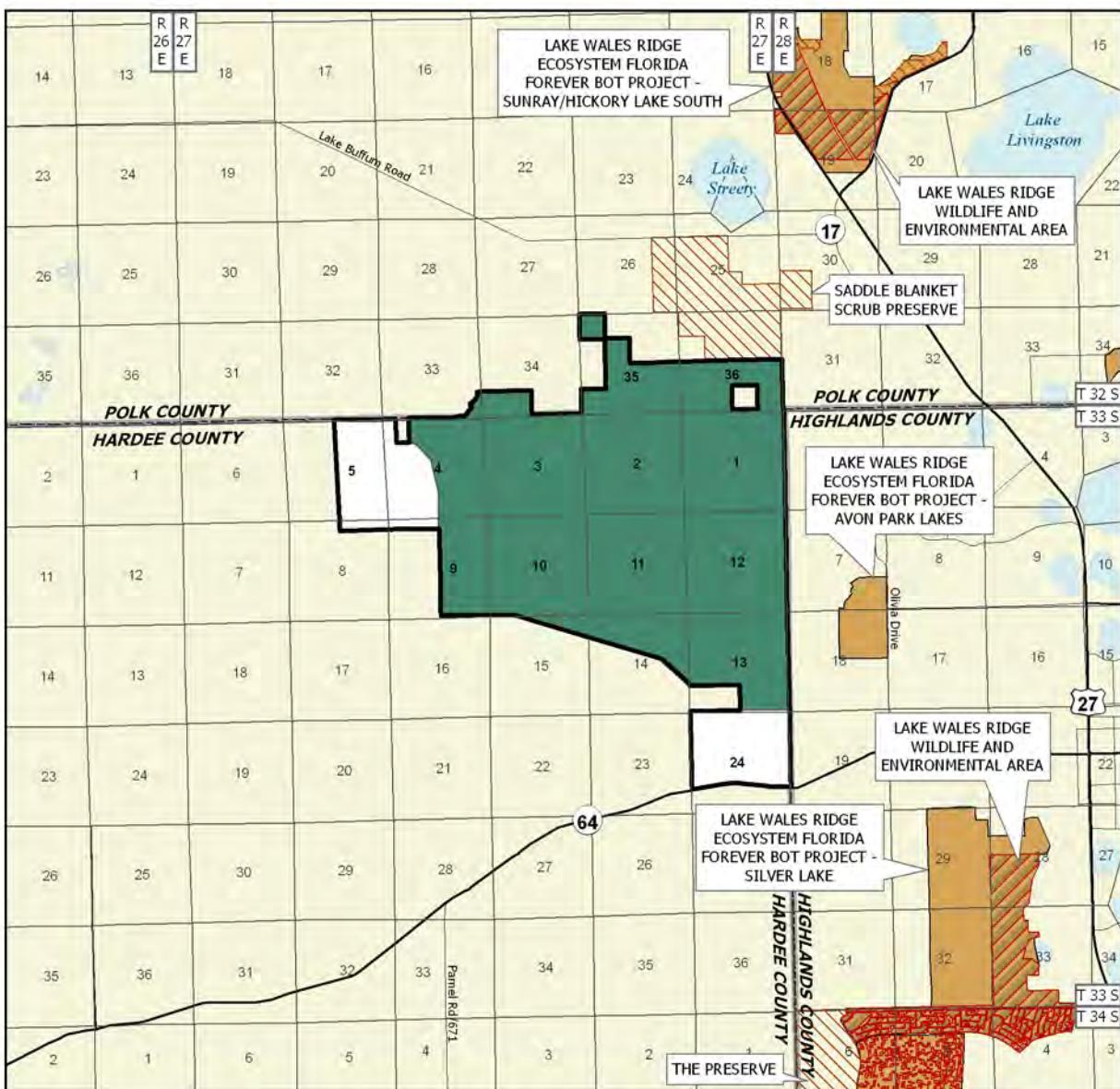
## Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** Protecting this area will benefit the public in at least three major ways: 1) This project consists of a matrix of wetland and upland habitats, including a globally imperiled natural community that supports a variety of common and rare plant and animal species and is of a size to qualify as a wildlife management area; 2) Protecting the watershed and natural habitats surrounding Old Town Creek,

Old Town Creek Watershed	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Cutthroat Grass	G3/S3
Pygmy Fringe Tree	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Florida Scrub Lizard	G3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	7,303
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	7,285
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$788,200

## Old Town Creek Watershed



### OLD TOWN CREEK WATERSHED

#### **HARDEE AND POLK COUNTIES**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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FEBRUARY 2010

## Old Town Creek Watershed

which feeds into Charlie Creek and ultimately into the Peace River, from continued conversion to more intensive uses, particularly dairies or residential development, will help protect the water quality within the region; and 3) The ranches in this region contain large areas of natural lands that should be protected if an ecological connection between the Big Cypress and the Osceola National Forest/Okefenokee Swamp is to be achieved.

**Manager** OES.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management**

This less-than-fee project includes lands requiring monitoring only. The Crews Ranch is a working cattle ranch that is and will continue to be managed by the private land owner. The Nature Conservancy and other land managing agencies will provide management advice and guidance to the landowner as necessary to maintain and enhance the resource management program.

**Timetable for implementing management, protecting infrastructure and ensuring security** During the first year after acquisition, management activities will focus on securing and posting the property and developing a management plan. Existing management activities will continue throughout the management planning process. The property owner will develop a management plan which will include fire management, exotic control and restoration components. Prior to the development

of the management plan, the tract's natural resources and threatened/endangered plants and animals and any archaeological and cultural sites will be inventoried and mapped (Easement Documentation Report) to provide the basis for the management plan. Protection and security of infrastructure and the property will be the responsibility of the private landowner.

**Revenue-generating potential** It is not anticipated or expected that any revenue will be generated from this easement.

**Cooperators in management activities** No cooperators are recommended for this site. However, consultation with the SWFWMD, TNC and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) could be helpful to the landowner.

**Expected costs to monitor easement** Approximately \$1000 per year.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Osceola Pine Savannas

## Osceola County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

A wide range of wildlife uses the open rangelands of pastures, pine flatwoods, and palmetto prairies in Osceola County. The Osceola Pine Savannas project will conserve a large part of these lands, maintaining a link of natural lands between the Bull Creek and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Areas. Preserving these lands will help ensure the survival of wildlife including swallow-tailed kite and the caracara. Together with the two wildlife management areas, this project provides a large area for the public to enjoy hunting, wildlife observation, and other activities.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will manage the Osceola Pine Savannas. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor any conservation easements unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The project covers an area of old beach ridges and intervening swales, with high-quality, longleaf-pine flatwoods interrupted by cypress strands, cypress domes, and wet prairies. There are also extensive dry prairies and patches of oak or sand pine scrub, all of which are natural communities of the Kissimmee Prairie. It is an important habitat to wildlife, especially birds,

requiring extensive natural areas. Six Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) listed animals occur, including sandhill crane, wood storks, and crested caracara, and several more, including the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow, are possible. Much of the land is used as unimproved range; seriously disturbed areas are mainly improved pastures in the south end. Two archaeological sites are known. Any construction of roads or ditches will destroy the unique character of the project, but development pressure is low. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Public Use

The project will be designated as a wildlife management area, with such uses as hiking, wildlife observation and hunting.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/7/1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Osceola Pine Savannas project to the CARL 1995 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by FNAI, consisted of approximately 42,491 acres, multiple owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$32,430,057.

Essential tracts were determined to be those owned by Robertson, McNamara, Equitable Life (acquired), Donovan, Montsococa, Redding, Keen, Kennedy, Henderson, Campos, and the Mormon Church. The Canaveral Acres subdivision was designated essential

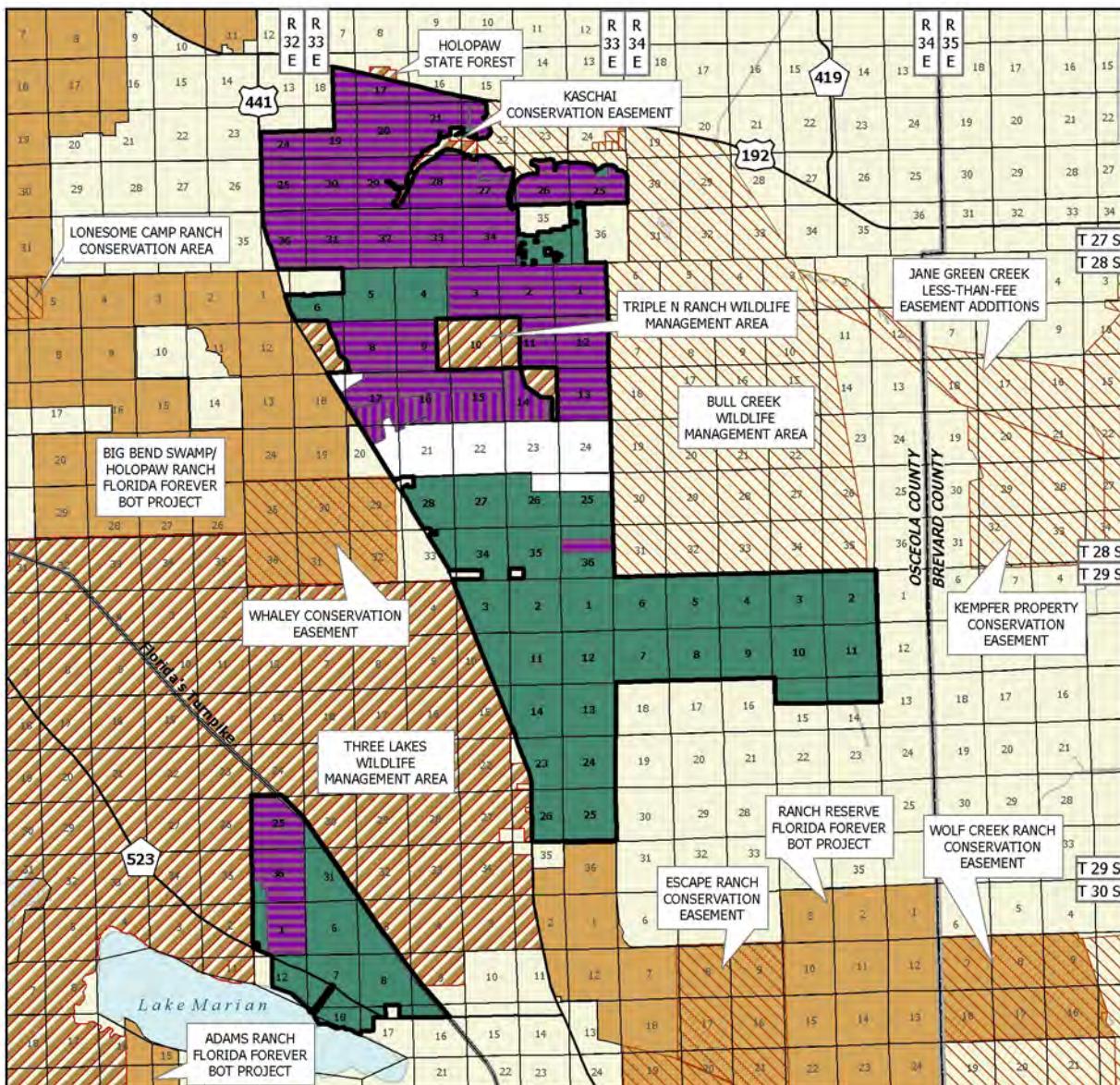
Osceola Pine Savannas FNAI Elements	
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Loammi Skipper	G1/S1
Arogos Skipper	G3T1T2/S1
<i>Celestial Lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Many-flowered Grass-pink</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2

19 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1995
Project Area (GIS Acres)	46,569
Acres Acquired (GIS)	18,997*
at a Cost of	46,260,334*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	27,572
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$17,759,975

\*includes acreage and expenditures by BOT, FWC, and SJR-WMD.

## Osceola Pine Savannas



## OSCEOLA PINE SAVANNAS

### OSCEOLA COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Brown Box] Other Conservation Lands

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OCTOBER 2010

when Dr. Broussard consolidated a significant number of parcels.

On 10/15/1998, LAAC designated two additional parcels as essential: a 229-acre tract adjacent to the Equitable Life ownership and a 17-acre tract between two other large tracts.

On 6/6/2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2002 Priority list and approved a 2,279-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Dr. William Broussard, consisted of two owners, and had a 2001 taxable value of \$695,238. The Broussard property consisted of 1,282 acres, will be acquired as a conservation easement, and monitored by OES. The Vanosdol property consisted of 997 acres to be purchased as fee-simple. The FWC acquired 904 acres of this property in 2006.

On 8/11/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple & less-than-fee, 5,529-acre addition (aka Lucky L Ranch) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC & FWC, consisted of 5 ownerships, 25 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$1,504,685. The parcels have been designated as essential.

In 10/2007, the BOT acquired 1,430 acres from William Broussard that is to be managed as a conservation easement.

In 6/2008, 1,649.8 acres were purchased in FWC's Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (Lucky L Ranch-11 Limited Partnership ownership) for \$11,651,000 from FWC's Florida Forever funds, with the FWC to manage the property.

On 10/15/2010 ARC approved a 557-acre (\$6,691,997 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

### Coordination

St. Johns River Water Management District (SJR-WMD) and the FWC have acquired over 19,007 acres (Triple N Ranch WMA) in the northern one-third of the project area. The FWC has also acquired 1,920 acres adjacent to the southern boundary and has completed a 1,921-acre acquisition centrally located within the project boundary. They have also acquired a large "essential" tract in the central portion of the project

(Equitable Life).

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Osceola Pine Savannas project is to preserve and restore the integrity of the extensive functional ecosystems, ranging from pine flatwoods, dry prairie, and scrub to marshes and cypress swamps, that now extend from the Bull Creek to the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Areas. Achieving this objective will protect habitat for several endangered species of wildlife that need large natural areas to survive, such as Florida grasshopper sparrows, Florida sandhill cranes, Audubon's crested caracaras, and American swallow-tailed kites. It will also provide to the public over 100,000 acres in which to enjoy natural-resource-based recreation, such as hiking and hunting.

The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward preservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as hunting and logging.

Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn the fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; reforest pine plantations and improved pastures with original species; prohibit timbering in old-growth stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving resources. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site



## Osceola Pine Savannas

them in already disturbed areas when possible. This project includes most of the undeveloped land between Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and consequently has the size and location to meet its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Osceola Pine Savannas project has the resource diversity to qualify as a Wildlife Management Area.

**Manager** The FWCC is recommended as lead manager. OES will manage any conservation easements.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project generally includes lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, activities will concentrate on site security, public access, fire management, resource inventory, and the removal of any existing trash. A conceptual management plan will be developed that describes the goals of future resource management on the site. Long-range plans for this property, beginning one year after acquisition, will stress the protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented. A burn management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and

biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will also strive to manage natural plant communities for the benefit of native wildlife. Where appropriate and practical, forest resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF). A resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection, or management. Unnecessary roads, firelines and ditches will be abandoned or restored. Infrastructure will be kept to the minimum necessary for public access and management.

**Revenue-generating potential** While the pinelands have significant economic value, their value to the area's wildlife may be even greater. A \$25 management area stamp would be required to hunt on the area. A management area stamp could also be required for all users. Additional revenue would be generated by sales of hunting licenses and special hunting stamps (i.e., archery stamp, turkey stamp, etc.).

**Cooperators in management activities** The SJRWMD and the FFS are recommended as cooperating managers.

*Updated 2/29/2012*

### Management Cost Summary/FWCC

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$74,645	\$114,485	\$223,565
OPS	\$0	\$30,500	\$30,500
Expense	\$55,473	\$131,525	\$131,525
OCO	\$0	\$308,148	\$135,648
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$130,118</b>	<b>\$584,658</b>	<b>\$521,238</b>

# Pal-Mar

Palm Beach and Martin Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Agriculture and residential development have reduced natural areas in the interior of southeast Florida to fragments. One of the largest and best fragments, part of what was once a transition zone between pine flatwoods and the sawgrass marshes of the Everglades, will be protected by the Pal-Mar project. This project, by protecting these flatwoods and marshes, will insure habitat for the rare species listed below, will preserve natural lands linking the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with Jonathan Dickinson State Park and other conservation lands, as well as provide land to the public of this fast-growing region for hiking, bicycling, camping, hunting, and learning about the original nature of this part of Florida.

### Managers

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) manages west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road (Hungryland WEA [Wildlife and Environmental Area]). The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) manages east of I-95. Palm Beach County (PBC) manages south of Indiantown Road.

### General Description

The project includes some of the highest quality, most intact pine flatwoods in southern Florida in an ecotone between pine flatwoods and the treeless Everglades and

also includes high-quality examples of wet prairie and savanna with exceptional ground-cover diversity. The project provides habitat for at least five federally endangered or threatened animals including the snail kite, red-cockaded woodpecker, and wood stork. It includes the Pine Glades Natural Area, is contiguous with the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (WMA), the private Pratt-Whitney Preserve and the Cypress Creek lands owned by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and includes a mile-wide connector to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The project has low archaeological or historic value, except for a segment of the historic Jupiter-Indiantown Road. Urbanization is rapidly isolating the State Park and growth pressures on the uplands in this project are intense.

### Public Use

Most of this project has been designated for use as a wildlife management area. Plans are for the eastern-most portion of the project area to be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Public uses will include hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and nature appreciation. The project area south of Indiantown Road is the Pine Glades Natural Area, managed by PBC. Hunting is not allowed on that site.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I of this project consisted of approximately five larger ownerships, including tracts adjacent to J.W. Corbett WMA, FDIC (acquired by SFWMD and Martin County), MacArthur (acquired by PBC), Pal-Mar Water Control District (acquired), Lara (acquired by PBC) and Florida National Bank. The MacArthur lands north of Indiantown Road were sold to the State by PBC.

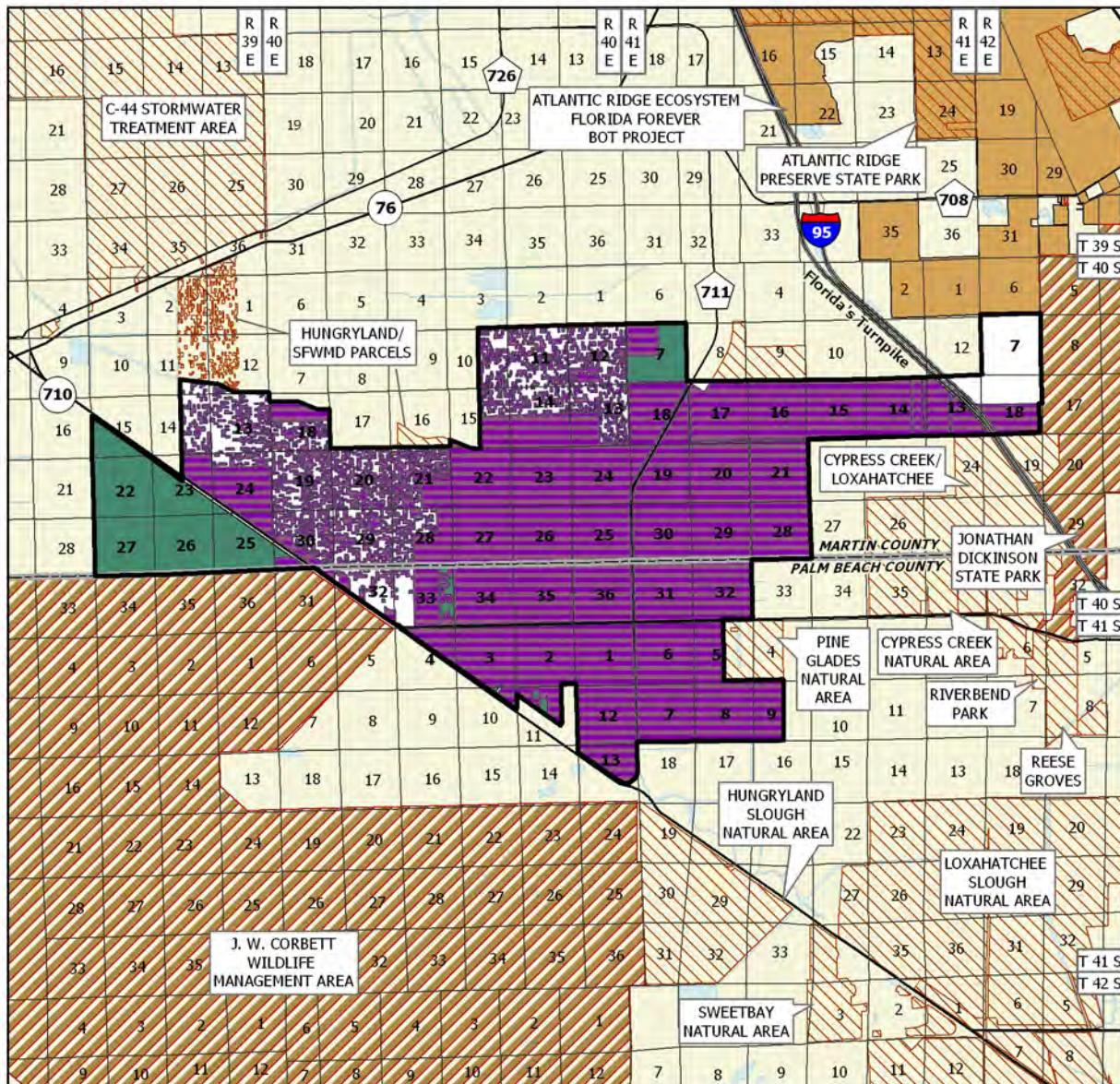
Pal-Mar FNAI Elements	
Snail Kite	G4G5T3Q/S2
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
Meadow Jointvetch	G4/S1
Many-flowered Grass-pink	G2G3/S2S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Piedmont Jointgrass	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Round-tailed Muskrat	G3/S3
Banded Wild-pine	G5/S3
Glossy Ibis	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4

13 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1992
Project Area (GIS Acres)	33,246
Acres Acquired (GIS)	23,292*
at a Cost of	\$16,044,487
Acres Remaining (GIS)	9,954
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$27,570,411

\*includes acreage and expenditures by the SFWMD.

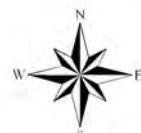
## Pal-Mar



### PAL-MAR

#### PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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APRIL 2009

Phase II consists of subdivided areas and a corridor to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. On 10/21/1999, the Council added 1,280 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

There is very little property remaining to acquire in the PBC side of the project. Martin County and the SFWMD have acquired most of the property on the Martin County side of the project.

In 7/2007 the SFWMD acquired a 427-acre parcel parcel from Indiantown Realty Partners LP. The parcel is part of the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland WEA.

### **Coordination**

SFWMD, PBC and Martin County are acquisition partners in this project. Most of the larger ownerships have been acquired. PBC has acquired a number of the smaller parcels, totaling 223.63 acres, that are located north of Indiantown Road.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Pal-Mar Florida Forever project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Preventing isolation of natural lands is important in enabling genetic interchange among plant and animal populations. This project is a large natural area connecting the J.W. Corbett WMA on the west with the SFWMD and PBC Cypress Creek lands and Jonathan Dickinson State Park on the east. The size, quality of wildlife resources and location next to the Corbett WMA of the northwestern part qualify it as a WMA. The part that lies south of Indiantown Road is part of the PBC Pine Glades Natural Area.

The part of the project east of Interstate 95 is adjacent to Jonathan Dickinson and is a logical addition to that park.

**Managers** The FWCC is manager for the area west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road (Hungryland WEA). The DRP of DEP is the manager for the area east of I-95; PBC is the manager for the area south of Indiantown Road and a few small areas north of Indiantown Road.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** For the project area west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road, no known conditions would result in the need for intensive management. The land could be managed as a normal component of the WMA system. The portion of the project east of I-95 will be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park, which is a high-need management area. The portion of the project south of Indiantown Road is being managed by PBC, which is conducting a multi-year restoration program on the site.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Initial management of the area west of I-95 involved posting and otherwise securing the tract against trespassing and vandalism, preparing roads and other infrastructure for public recreation, performing resource inventories and initiating the planning process. Subsequent resource and recreation management have occurred since the portion of the project north of Indiantown Road has been added to an existing WEA (Hungryland). Management activities, after acquisition of the eastern part, were concentrated on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management. Most of the remaining lands to be acquired would represent an addition to an existing WMA (J.W. Corbett) or an existing WEA (Hungryland).

**Revenue-generating potential** Revenue potential for the western part (excluding the lands owned by PBC) would be moderate to low since it does not contain significant upland (timber) resources. However, some revenue could be generated from recreational use (over and above licenses and permits sold by FWCC), if the Legislature could approve user fees for non-consumptive activities. The eastern part will be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. No significant revenue is expected to be generated by these lands on their own.

**Cooperators in management** PBC manages the property south of the Indiantown Road, which is Pine Glades Natural Area.

(continued)

Management Cost Summary/DRP			Management Cost Summary/FWCC		
Category	Startup	Recurring	Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	Salary	\$45,000	\$100,000
OPS	\$12,000	\$12,000	OPS	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$0	\$0	Expense	\$30,000	\$65,000
OCO	\$20,000	\$1,000	OCO	\$30,000	\$15,000
FCO	\$60,000	\$5,000	FCO	\$0	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$92,000	\$18,000	TOTAL	\$110,000	\$225,000

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Panther Glades

Hendry County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Panther Glades project is important to many wildlife species, particularly the Florida panther and the Florida black bear that require extensive areas of habitat to maintain viable populations. This project forms a connection between Devils' Garden, Half Circle L Ranch, and Save Our Everglades Florida Forever projects with the Okalocacoochee Slough State Forest and the Big Cypress National Preserve. This large landscape and watershed in south-central Hendry County would provide important habitat for many species including the Eastern indigo snake, bald eagle, and Florida sandhill crane.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is recommended as the manager. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) is recommended as a cooperating agency.

### General Description

Located in south-central Hendry County approximately 25 miles southeast of Clewiston and 46 miles northeast of Naples, the project is a mosaic of forested uplands interspersed among forested wetland communities. Ranging approximately 19 miles north to south and nine miles east to west. The far west southern boundary shares one mile with a part of Save Our Everglades

project site and the eastern third of the south boundary borders the Big Cypress National Preserve.

### Public Use

The Panther Glades proposal encompasses a wide range of natural resources. A majority of owners wish to sell conservation easements, but a few wish to sell fee title. Less-than-fee acquisition areas may have no, or at best very limited, public recreation depending on whether public access is allowed. However, fee acquisition areas have the potential for varied natural resource recreation.

For fee areas, environmental education and potentially ecosystem tourism tied in with nearby public lands may be accommodated. Ecosystem tourism may be appealing to landowners willing to consider conservation easements. Cabins may be appropriate in both cases, particularly if overnight accommodations are to be a part of environmental and ecosystem tourism programs. Further study will need to be accomplished to determine the desirability of cultural resource interpretation.

### Acquisition Planning

On 1/25/2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Panther Glades project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple & less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 21,223 acres, multiple owners, and a 2000 taxable value of \$3,947,680. The essential parcels were identified as McDaniel, Jolly, Giddens, Roberts, and the O R Ranch ownerships in the central and eastern portion of the proposal.

On 7/12/2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 20,895-

Panther Glades FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Hand Fern</i>	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Glossy Ibis	G5/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
15 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	64,809
Acres Acquired (GIS)	24,175
at a Cost of	\$40,564,708
Acres Remaining (GIS)	40,634
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$38,188,781

## Panther Glades

acre addition (aka Dinner Island) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of one owner, Hilliard Bros. of Florida LTD, and a 2000 taxable value of \$5,364,370.

On 12/5/2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,860-acre addition (aka Barfield Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, James Barfield, and a 2002 taxable value of \$3,098,640.

On 4/18/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,615-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by the ARC Vice Chair Jack Moller, it consisted of one owner, STOF Holding LTD, and a 2003 taxable value of \$1,550,990. The addition was a transfer of acreage from the Save Our Everglades FF project into this project.

On 6/6/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,711-acre addition (aka Crows Nest Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Robert J. Underbrink, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$8,630,020.

On 12/14/ 2007 ARC voted to move the Panther Glades project to Group B list of the FF priority list.

On 12/12/2008 ARC voted to extend the boundary of Panther Glades by adding a less-than-fee 4,208-acre parcel (the McDaniels Ranch Reserve) with a tax value of \$20,456,810. This proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.

On 6/12/2009 ARC voted to add 4,694 acres, with a tax value of \$12,300,000, consisting of the Kissimmee Billy Strand (full fee) and the Green Glades/Bergeron (less-than-fee) property to this project. This proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.

### Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner. Efforts will be made to coordinate state and local governmental agencies including the FFS, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in management of the property.

### Management Policy

The principal purposes of the project are to protect significant natural habitat important to the Florida panther, Big Cypress black bear, Florida black bear,

swallow-tailed kite, wading birds (including wood stork, white ibis, little blue heron, tricolored heron, snowy egret, and great egret) and numerous other rare species, as well as to preserve the hydrological connection with protected lands to the south.

### Management Prospectus

**Management Goals** Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests, and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education, and other natural resource-based recreational activities. Since the principal purposes of the project are to protect habitat for the Florida panther and other species of concern, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species and to public use that is carefully controlled.

**Manager** FWCC is recommended as the manager. FFS is recommended as a cooperating agency.

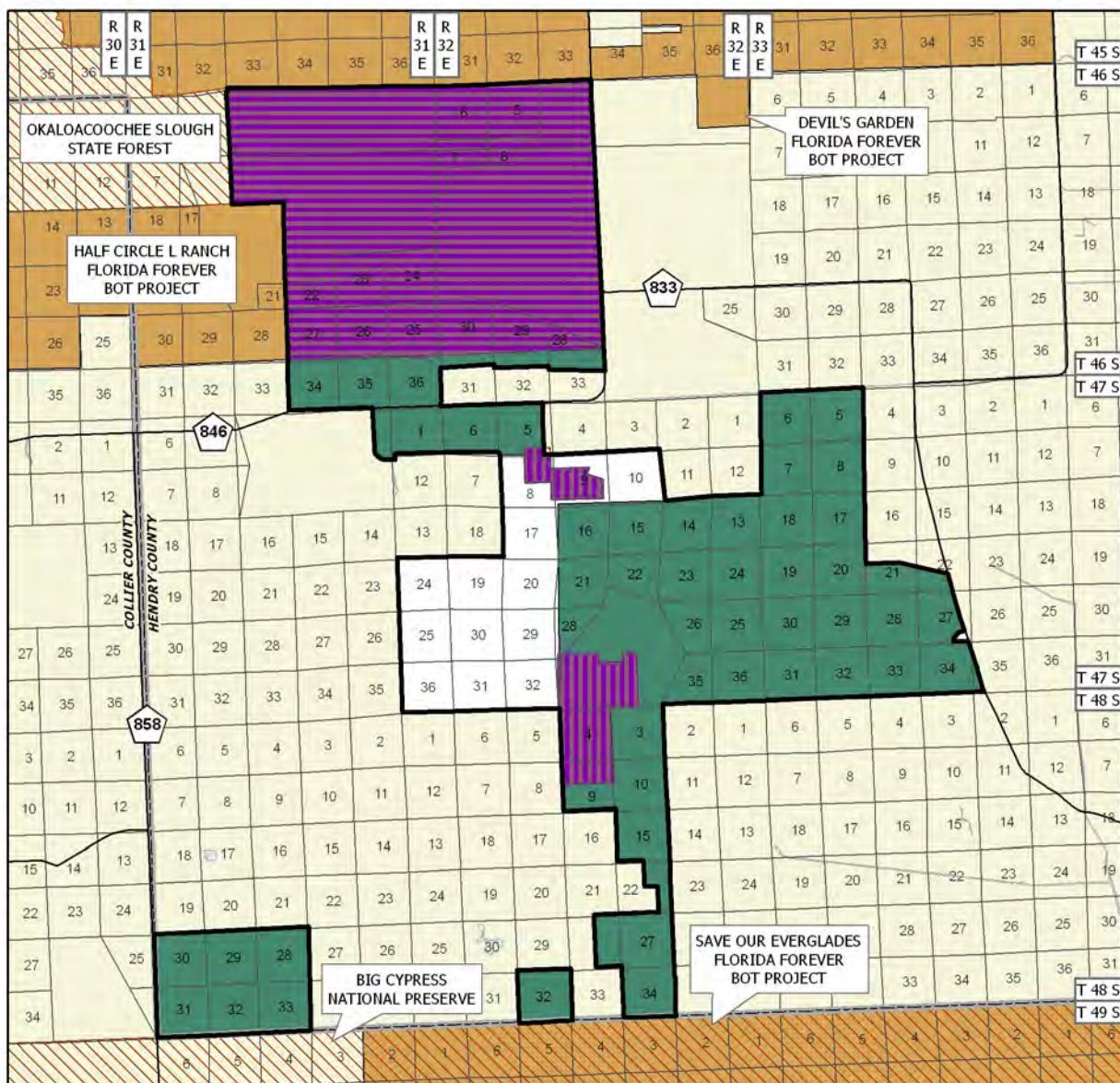
**Qualification for State Design** The Panther Glades project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity Of Management** Some portions of the project include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. A significant portion of the uplands have been developed for agriculture or other purposes; therefore, restoration activities are contemplated for some of the acreage. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities would involve the introduction of prescribed fire and control of human access. Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many taxa of rare or listed species. Development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration activities would focus around reforestation of pasturelands and hydrological restoration following a full assessment of the necessity for such activities. Invasive non-indigenous species can likely be controlled if control activities are implemented hastily.

### Timetable For Implementing Management Provisions

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, exotic

## Panther Glades

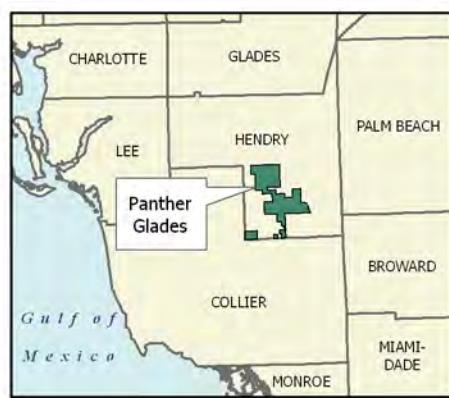


## PANTHER GLADES

### HENDRY COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands

0    1    2    4  
Miles



NOVEMBER 2009

## Panther Glades

species control, and removal of refuse. A management plan will be developed by the FWCC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management. The management plan will also establish future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies and other stakeholders.

Longer-range plans will stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to the FWCC objective-based vegetation management process. Additionally, the Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery program of FWCC would provide assessment, recovery, and planning support for project and to enhance management of focal species and recovery of listed species.

An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented.

Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the property. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR).

***Estimate Of Revenue-Generating Potential*** The revenue generating potential is not known and

will depend upon future uses to be approved in the management plan. Since very little of the project is currently appropriate for forest products production, future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of the restored pasturelands and other disturbed areas. If managers' assessments indicate it would be appropriate, some revenues might be generated from grazing leases in flatwoods or pastured areas not restored in the interest of habitat diversity or due to lack of funding. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits and user fees. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Long-term value of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant if the Legislature appropriates funds for land management.

***Recommendations As To Other Governmental Agency Involvement*** FWCC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including FFS, DEP, and SFWMD in management of the property.

*Updated 2/6/2012*

# Peace River Refuge

## Desoto County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for the proposed acquisition is to buffer and preserve the water quality and habitat of the Peace River and its creeks; to protect the water quality for the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary; to protect aquatic and upland wildlife associated with the floodplains, rivers, creeks and estuary; and to provide for a diverse array of natural-resource-based recreational opportunities for Florida residents and visitors if any of the fee-simple parcels are offered for purchase.

The Peace River Refuge project meets Florida Forever measures of using alternatives to fee-simple acquisitions; of protecting strategic habitats, natural floodplains and significant surface waters.

### Manager

Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands (DSL), or its successor, would serve as the conservation-easement monitor unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The Peace River Refuge Florida Forever proposal is in central DeSoto County, southwest of the city of Arcadia. Beginning at SR 70 in Arcadia, the proposal extends a total of approximately seven miles south, flanking the Peace River on both sides for six river miles and then bordering only the east side of the river for four more river miles south of CR 760. Additionally, the eastern portion of the proposal contains frontage along Joshua Creek, a Peace River tributary. Most of the proposal's eastern boundary is formed by an abandoned railroad grade located less than one mile west of US 17. Although the proposal is mainly contiguous, it contains inholdings consisting of a six-acre parcel fronting the east side of the river and

many smaller lots on the western half of the property. Overall, the site is primarily hardwood forested uplands; however, bottomland forests and open point bars are associated with the river and old meander features of the floodplain. Approximately 88 percent of the proposal can be classified as natural communities.

Most uplands on the proposal are mesic hammock with a live oak canopy over a predominantly saw palmetto understory. While flooding from the Peace River likely inundates many of these hammocks occasionally or even annually, the land is dry for most of the year.

Much of the land on the northeastern portion of the proposal has been converted to improved pastures. Scattered oaks are common throughout these pastures. Various other clearings are scattered on the property, including areas with standing structures (hunt camps, bridges, and remnants of old buildings such as a saw mill on the western side of the property).

### Public Use

If acquired as a less-than-fee property, public access would depend on the terms of access permitted by the owner as part of the conservation easement agreement. The landowners have indicated that they are open to some portions of their property being acquired in fee-simple.

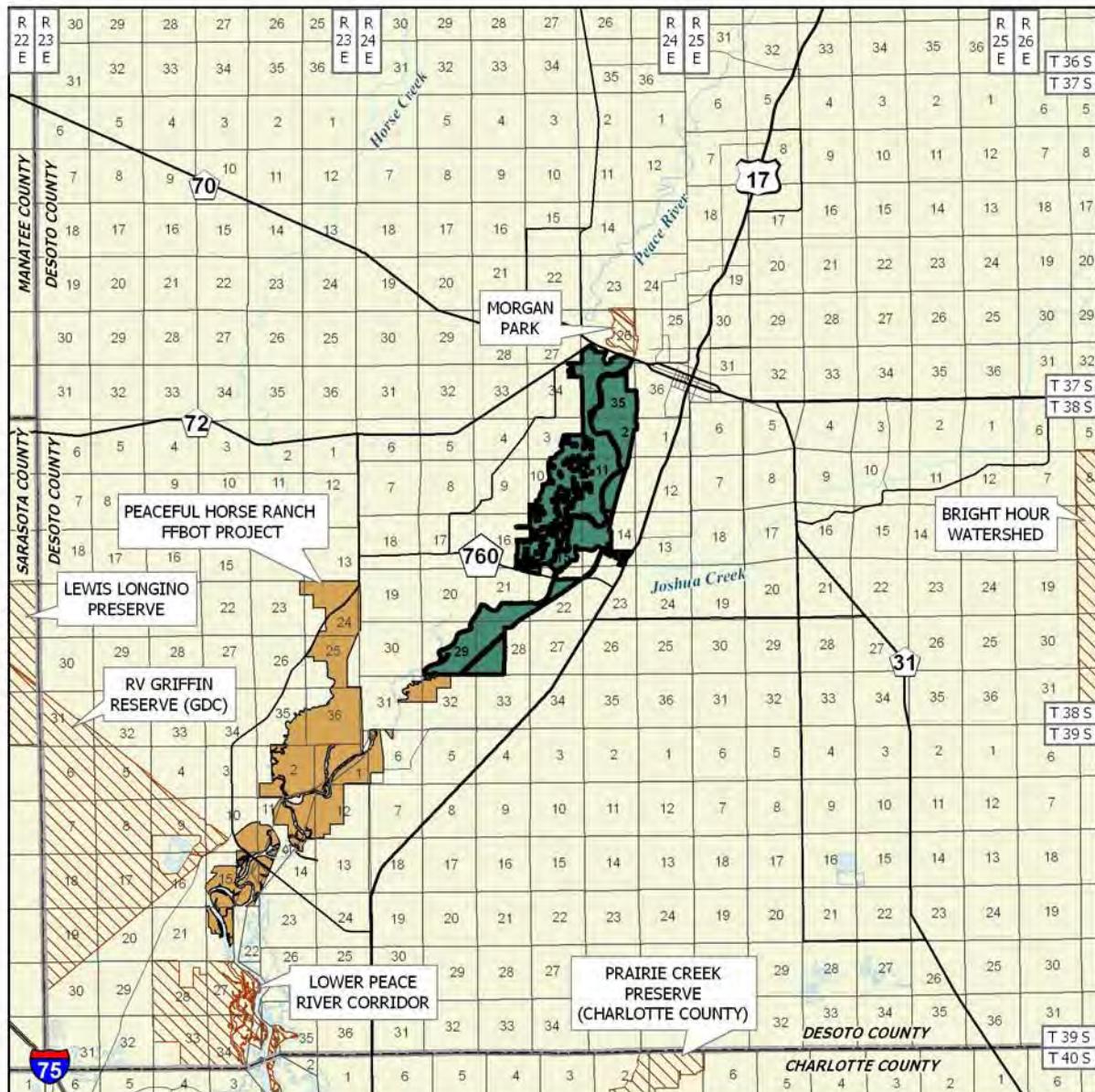
### Acquisition Planning

On 6/11/2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Peace River Refuge project to the Florida Forever list in the Less-Than-Fee category.

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>3,846</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>3,846</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$12,567,267</b>

Peace River Refuge	
FNAI Elements	
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
2 rare species are associated with the project	

# Peace River Refuge

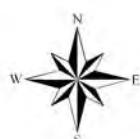


## PEACE RIVER REFUGE

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***DE SOTO COUNTY***

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - Other Conservation Lands



0 1.5 3 6 Miles



JUNE 2010

### **Coordination**

There are no known acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions under the agreement. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Peace River Refuge project meets Florida Forever measures of using alternatives to fee-simple acquisitions and of protecting Strategic Habitats, natural floodplains and significant surface waters. It is important to buffer and preserve the water quality and habitat of the Peace River and its creeks and to protect the water quality for the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary.

**Manager** Landowner with the OES, or its successor, would serve as the conservation easement monitor.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Property is impacted by historical phosphate mining in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and logging operations and agriculture and wildlife game farming which have resulted in a sub-par classification for all the native habitat types. Removal of the high fence enclosures used to cage exotic animals (elk and buffalo) would leave the property open for a black bear passageway. Clearings and low meander features appear to have been deepened. Disturbed areas include pasture; clearings; roads (including abandoned railroad grade); canal/ditch

or impoundment; and utility corridor. Additionally, the upland habitat at the Peace River Refuge was platted for development in the 1970's; although development did not occur, roads and culverts were added, altering the natural hydrology. The timber harvests during the 1970's and lack of prescribed fire have left the mixed-pine hardwood forest devoid of any pine trees.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Not applicable to a conservation easement.

**Revenue-generating potential** None under a conservation easement.

**Cooperators in management activities** The landowner and staff of the OES.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** Purchase of a conservation easement over the property would be most beneficial for protecting the Peace River and for providing habitat for rare plants and animals. The cost of the monitoring contractor plus staff time in the OES would add to the administrative costs of the easement. No sources of revenue are known at this time.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Peaceful Horse Ranch

## DeSoto County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Peaceful Horse Ranch has Florida Forever qualifications of helping preserve the water quality of the Peace River and its creeks as these waters flow into the Charlotte Harbor estuary; to protect fish and other wildlife associated with the floodplains, rivers, creeks and estuary; and to provide for a diverse array of resource-based recreational opportunities. This project also meets goals of helping establish links with other conservation areas, protecting biodiversity and wildlife, preserving a natural flood plain and establishing sustainable forestry. This property provides for access to 7.6 miles of the Peace River and 5.6 miles of Horse Creek, the Peace River's major tributary. This land would assist in the creation of a trail corridor from the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD) Deep Creek area north along the river, then to Myakka State Park. It would also buffer the Peace River minimizing development.

This project contains two recorded archaeological sites: (1) DE29—remnants of a historic house, farmstead and trash dump and (2) DE38—a prehistoric artifact scatter. Based on its ten mile of frontage along the Peace River, the property is expected to contain many more potentially significant archaeological sites.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

### General Description

The Peaceful Horse Ranch project includes some 4,414 acres, with a tax-assessed just value of \$13.99 million with access to 7.6 miles of the Peace River and 5.6 miles of Horse Creek, the Peace River's major tributary. The shoreline forest is largely pristine with a wetlands corridor consisting mostly of sabal palms, cypress, and live

oak. Existing cleared primitive campsites are currently open for public use and frequently used by area boaters on weekends with the general understanding that no hunting will occur on the property without permission.

Four parcels of the project are located along both sides of the Peace River in southwestern Desoto County. The easternmost two parcels total about 255 acres of floodplain forest, and are largely inaccessible except by river. There is potential connectivity with other publicly-owned lands stretching from Myakka State Park to the water management district's Deep Creek site, as the district pursues some conservation easements within that corridor. The southernmost parcel consists of approximately 704 acres of floodplain forest bisected by the Peace River and C.R. 761. It is separated from the largest parcel by Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BTIITF) lands. The entire project includes nearly eight miles of Peace River frontage (four on the primary tract) and nearly six miles of Horse Creek frontage (entirely on the primary tract). This includes the confluence of Horse Creek and Peace River.

The Peace River transitions from entirely freshwater at the northern end of the project area to somewhat brackish with some tidal influence at the southern end. At this point, the Peace River is approaching its terminus at Charlotte Harbor.

### Public Use

Currently, there are no public lands along the Peace River. Peaceful Horse Ranch could create a destination park due to the location of the site, access to the river and infrastructure on the upland acres. The structures

**Placed on List** 2010

**Project Area (GIS Acres)** 4,177

**Acres Acquired (GIS)** 0

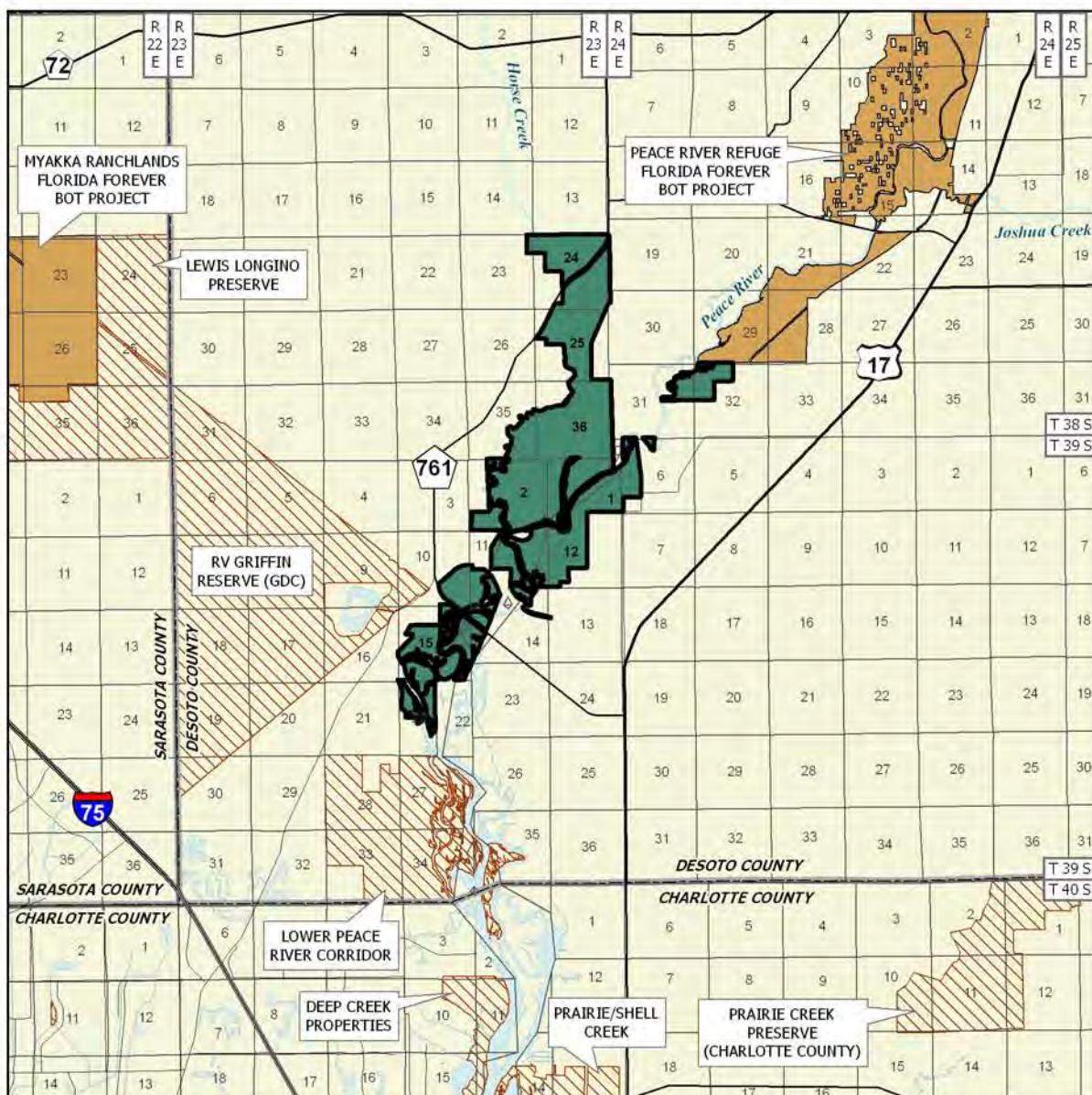
**at a Cost of** \$0

**Acres Remaining (GIS)** 4,177

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of** \$13,991,630

Peaceful Horse Ranch FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
1 rare species is associated with the project	

## Peaceful Horse Ranch

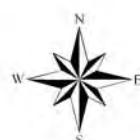


## PEACEFUL HORSE RANCH

### DESOTO COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands

0      1      2      4  
Miles



JUNE 2010

## **Peaceful Horse Ranch**

in place are in very good condition and could provide equestrian opportunities, picnic shelters, information or educational center, shop area, and the two small houses could provide ranger residences. Interpretive kiosks of the history of phosphate industry could be developed within the park and along the hiking and paddling trail. The property along the river and creek could provide one or more stop-off points with a unique opportunity for primitive camping and picnicking.

Some of the roads and trails throughout the property would provide off-road bicycling, hiking, horseback riding and beautiful vistas along the river. Nature appreciation, geocaching and wildlife observation could also be enjoyed along the hiking trails and bluffs along the river. Camping (primitive and RV), cabins, picnicking, canoe/kayak access, and boating and fishing opportunities would also provide outdoor recreation activities of regional significance.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 6/11/2010, The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Peaceful Horse Ranch project to the Florida Forever priority list in the Climate Change Lands category.

### **Coordination**

No acquisition partners are known for this project at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The DRP will manage the property under a single-use concept. The primary objective of the management of the Peaceful Horse Ranch is to preserve the water quality of the Peace River and its nearby creeks and ensure that the resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities of the park will continue to be enjoyed by the public. The Peace River contributes the bulk of freshwater entering Charlotte Harbor, one of the largest and most productive estuaries in Florida. Precluding major residential and commercial development along the river will assist efforts to preserve water quality flowing to the estuary as well as protecting fish and wildlife resources, river access, significant historical sites, and natural-resource-based recreation in this developing region.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** A significant portion of the acreage within this project is floodplain,

and the project has frontage on both sides of the Peace River for recreational access. This large size project has great potential for providing diverse resource-based recreational experience of a regional context. Public use of the infrastructure already developed on the property may be continued for recreational uses. It is the combination of all these factors that makes the project desirable as a unit of the state park system.

**Manager** DRP is the recommended manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The portions of the project along the river will be managed with emphasis on public recreational use and development compatible with resource protection and management. An evaluation of the condition of existing structures will need to be completed. Public use of existing structures will increase the intensity of management. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use area with more substantial infrastructures.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Resource management activities in the first year will concentrate on site security, protection of natural and cultural resources, development of a resource inventory, and development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management. Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Particular emphasis will be given to the protection of water quality of the adjacent river and creeks and their access points. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will in great part depend on establishment of a management plan for the property and funding for positions and infrastructure.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after fee title acquisition, and the amount of future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the facilities existing or developed in the future.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project; however, the DRP will, as appropriate, liaise with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park purposes.

Management Cost Summary

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$436,275	\$148,685
OPS	\$45,000	\$20,000
Expense	\$50,000	\$30,000
OCO	\$237,000	\$0
FCO	\$50,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$530,685</b>	<b>\$486,275</b>

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie

Escambia County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The pine flatwoods and swamps west of Pensacola are interrupted by wet grassy prairies dotted with carnivorous pitcher plants that are some of the last remnants of a landscape unique to the northern Gulf Coast. The Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project will conserve these prairies and the undeveloped land around them, helping to protect the water quality of Perdido Bay and Big Lagoon, and giving the public a wealth of opportunities to learn about and enjoy this natural land.

Acquisition of this project is essential to the US Navy's base-buffering initiative.

### Manager

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

### General Description

The project covers a large undeveloped area of undulating topography where low ridges, remnants of ancient dune lines, alternate with slightly lower intervening swales that drain east or west, parallel to the Gulf coast; and includes 2.5 miles of frontage on Perdido Bay. The Wet Prairies in this area are some of the last examples of perhaps the most diverse plant community in the southeast. They support one of the largest stands of white- topped pitcher plants in Florida along with almost 100 other plant species.

The prairies still have intact ecotones to basin swamp, scrub, sandhill, and mesic flatwood communities. The

large expanses of flatwoods and Basin Swamps in the proposal provide habitat for many species of animals. No archaeological sites are known from the project. The uplands on the site are moderately vulnerable to development, particularly in the Tarkiln Bayou area.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a state park, providing opportunities for swimming, fishing, boating, camping, hiking and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/7/1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), consisted of approximately 5,515 acres, multiple owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$3,210,940.

On 10/15/1998, LAAC redefined the essential parcels to include all areas except those indicated on map. On 12/3/1998, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 385-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Friends of the Prairie group, consisted of 23 owners, and a 1997 taxable value of \$380,371.

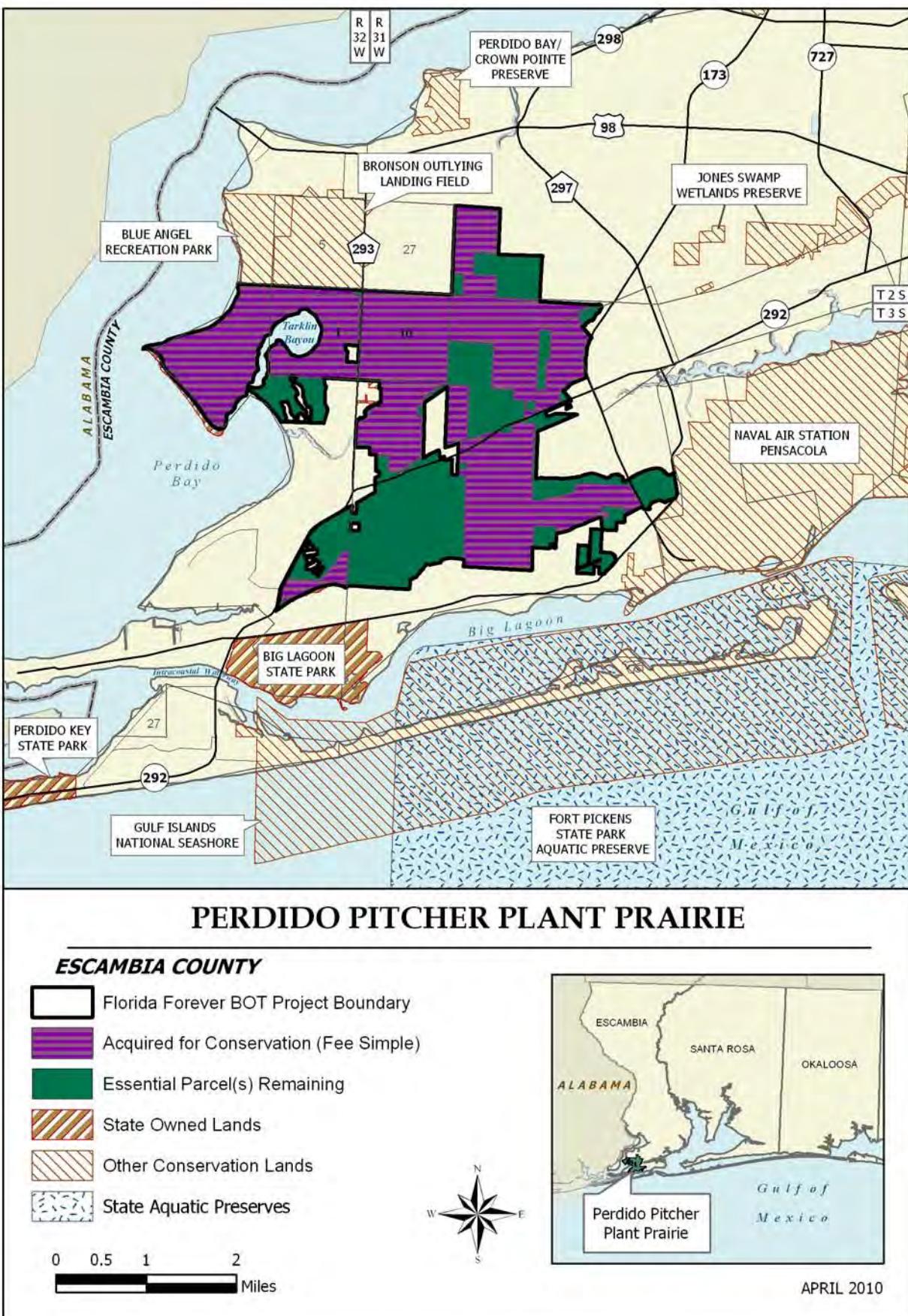
Acquisition work is proceeding on the important resource areas and in areas needed for connectivity and optimum management. Two large ownerships within the project boundary remain, along with several

Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie FNAI Elements	
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
<i>Sweet Pitcherplant</i>	G4/S3
<i>Large-leaved Jointweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Spoon-leaved Sundew</i>	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1995
Project Area (GIS Acres)	6,813
Acres Acquired (GIS)	4,401
at a Cost of	\$27,299,939
Acres Remaining (GIS)	2,412

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$11,544,945  
Note: 658 acres removed on 4/16/2010 due to residential/commercial infrastructure/development.

## Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie



## **Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie**

smaller parcels. Significant pitcher plant prairies in sections 11,12,20 and 21 and the area surrounding Tarkiln Bayou and Garcon Swamp are important first priorities.

In 4/2010, ARC voted to remove 658 acres due to residential/commercial/infrastructure/development.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy, as an intermediary in this project, is considered a partner as well as the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWM).

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect. Secondary goals are to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the size and resource diversity to provide for uses and natural-resource-based recreational activities that are

compatible with the protection of rare and sensitive resources under the state park system.

**Manager** DRP is the recommended manager. Lands acquired within the project boundary are being managed as Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park.

### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

The Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie Project is a high-need management area requiring intensive resource management and protection. Depending on the nature and extent of public use determined by the management plan process, there may be additional needs for management of public-use activities and facilities.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management consistent with the stated goals and objectives of the approved Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie Project Assessment.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After the initial acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public-use facilities are developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. Revenue generated by Big Lagoon State Recreation Area for Fiscal Year 1993-1994 was \$127,895.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

<b>Management Cost Summary/DRP</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$50,515</b>	<b>\$50,515</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$61,307</b>	<b>\$61,307</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$106,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$178,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$405,822</b>	<b>\$122,822</b>

# Pierce Mound Complex

Franklin County

## Critical Historical Resources

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The group of mounds near the salt marsh north of Apalachicola, left by people who lived here for over a thousand years, is one of the most important historical sites in Florida. The Pierce Mound Complex project will preserve this site and the pinelands, hammocks, and marshes around it, giving archaeologists opportunities to examine it and the public opportunities to learn about the prehistory of this region and to enjoy the scenic natural landscape.

### Manager

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA). The DEP's Division of Recreation & Parks (DRP) will manage the Orman site.

### General Description

The Pierce Mound Complex site served as both a secular and ritual center during its centuries of use. It has the potential to yield considerable data to researchers using present-day methodology. An aspect of the site not previously considered is the potential for normally perishable organic artifacts of wood and fibers in the saturated anaerobic wetland soils adjacent to the uplands portion of the site. The extensive shell midden contains subsistence data and artifacts, and reflects changing environmental conditions over a thousand-year period. Salt marsh covers nearly three fourths of the project. Hydric Hammock and dense Mesic Flatwoods and Scrub, overgrown with shrubs in some places from suppression of fire, cover most of the southern quarter. The upland is threatened by residential development.

### Public Use

The project will be designated as an archaeological site. It will give the public an opportunity to learn about the archaeological remains, hike and picnic.

<b>Pierce Mound Complex</b>
FNAI Elements
no rare species are associated with the project

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/7/1994, the Land Acquisition and Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Pierce Mound Complex project to the Conservation & Recreation Lands (CARL) 1995 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Division of Historical Resources (DHR), consisted of approximately 559 acres, nine owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$877,311. The nine landowners are as follows: David Miller (Mahr), John G. Hodges, Sharon Delores Connell Shuler, Joe Lindsey, Franklin County, Alvin Pines, Christene Rhodes, ANRR Company, and the City of Apalachicola. The essential parcel to acquire is the Mahr tract.

On 6/27/2000, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 10-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the City of Apalachicola, consisted of four owners (Roger Ingram, Apalachicola Oyster Works Inc., Douglas Gaidry, and the City of Apalachicola), and a 1999 taxable value of \$787,585. The addition included the Orman House, Chapman Botanical Garden (owned by the City), and two other parcels. The historic Orman house (1-acre) has been acquired.

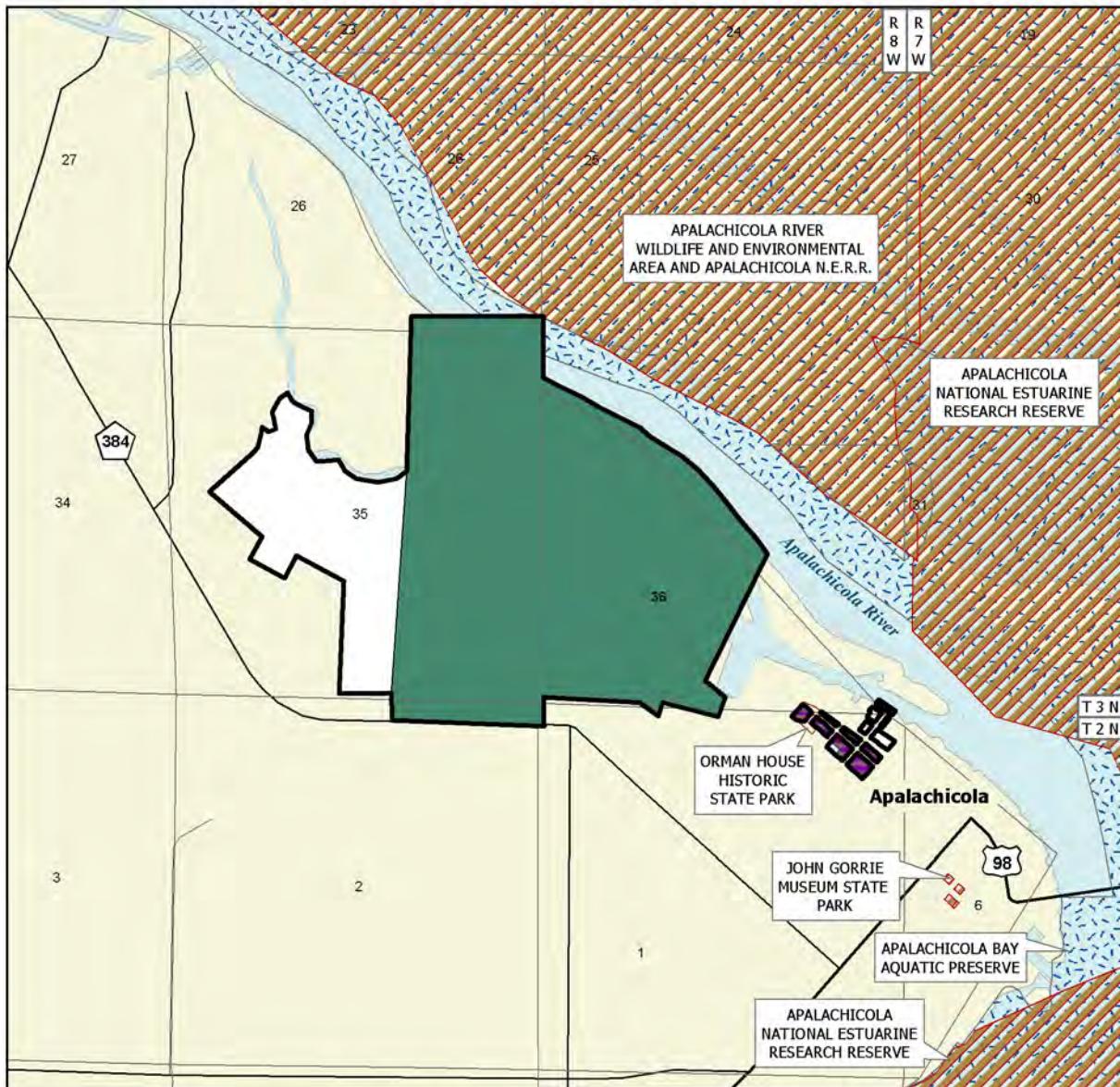
On 6/9/2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever (FF) Priority list. On 12/10/2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, "Critical Historical Resources."

### Coordination

The portion of the project within the City of Apalachicola is in the Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern.

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>568</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$810,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>561</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,661,968</b>

## Pierce Mound Complex



### PIERCE MOUND COMPLEX

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves



0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



OCTOBER 2010

**Management Policy Statement**

Management should provide for uses and recreational activities that are compatible with the protection of any rare and sensitive resources, particularly the mounds. The major activity will be interpretation of the cultural resources on the site in such a way that they are not degraded. The old railroad grade is suitable for a hiking trail.

**Management Prospectus**

The Pierce Mound Complex is one of the most important archaeological sites on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Major natural communities in the project include estuarine tidal marsh, hydric hammock, mesic flatwoods, and scrub.

**Qualifications for state designation** The Pierce Mound Complex has the archaeological resources to qualify as a state archaeological site.

**Manager** DEP's CAMA is recommended as lead manager. Staff of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will serve as on-site managers. The Division of Historical Resources is recommended as the cooperating manager.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**  
Within the first year after acquisition, initial or intermediate activities will concentrate on site security, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. The CAMA will provide appropriate access to the public while

protecting environmental and archaeological resources on-site. Management of the site will be incorporated into the existing management plan of the Research Reserve. Long-range plans for this property involve its use for research and education activities. A future trail will link the property with the environmental education complex of the reserve. The habitat diversity (estuarine tidal marsh, mesic flatwoods, hydric hammock, scrub, maritime hammock and scrubby flatwoods) combines with one of the most important archaeological sites on the Gulf coast of Florida to produce an exceptional opportunity for public education.

**Revenue-generating potential** There are no plans for revenue generation from this site.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Division of Historical Resources will cooperate in managing the archaeological resources of the site.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

Management Cost Summary/CAMA		
Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$0	\$8,000
OPS	\$14,500	\$6,500
Expense	\$0	\$6,500
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$50,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,500</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>

# Pine Island Slough Ecosystem

Osceola and Indian River Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – preserves habitat for several rare species of vascular flora and rare animals; (2) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities – provides a potential for a diverse recreational experiences such as hiking, camping, nature appreciation; bird watching, & horse-back riding, to name a few; (3) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state – constitutes an intact example of an endemic Florida ecosystem. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) has been designated as the lead manager.

### General Description

The Pine Island Slough project consists of approximately 48,902 (GIS) acres in Osceola and Indian River Counties, Florida. This landscape - intact ecological upland and wetland habitat - is reminiscent of the kind of landscape that once dominated Central Florida in pre-European settlement times. It is contiguous with the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, which is noted for its high quality resource values, and the

project's acquisition would allow for the protection of and management of additional high ecological quality habitats in an area of Florida with significant vertebrate wildlife, hydrological values and other important natural resource attributes.

### Public Use

The size, resource values and location of the Pine Island Slough project provides a potential for a diverse recreational experience. The size, location and high resource quality of Pine Island Slough provides a potential for those recreational activities typically envisioned on high quality state-owned conservation land (i.e., this would not include the more intensively developed uses like ball fields, playgrounds, off-road-vehicle or motocross tracks. Since principal purposes of the project, however, include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to careful control of public uses. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

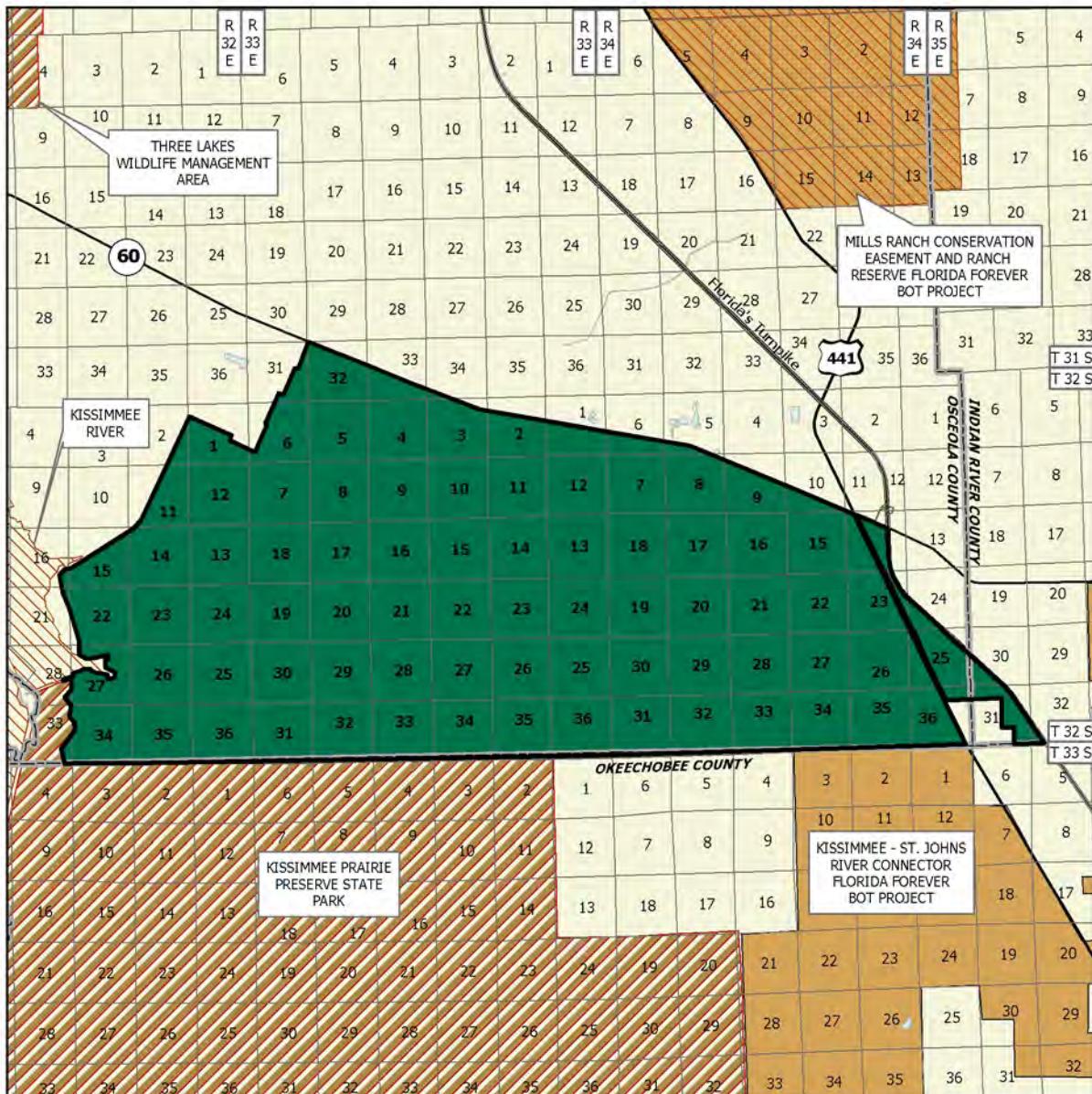
### Acquisition Planning

On 8/20/2004, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Na-

Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Large-flowered Rosemary</i>	G3/S3
<i>Nodding Pinweed</i>	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (GIS Acres)	48,902
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	48,902
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$13,144,221

## Pine Island Slough Ecosystem



## PINE ISLAND SLOUGH ECOSYSTEM

### OSCEOLA AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- \ / State Owned Lands
- \ / Other Conservation Lands



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Miles

OCTOBER 2006

## Pine Island Slough Ecosystem

ture Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 49,583 acres, a single owner, Latt Maxcy Corp., and a 2003 taxable value of \$13,144,221.

On 6/5/2005 ARC moved Pine Island Slough Ecosystem to the Group B list.

### Coordination

The Office of Environmental Services is pursuing partnerships with South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the counties. TNC is considered a partner on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The FWCC proposes to manage the Pine Island Slough projects for protection of, and management of, high ecological quality habitats in an area of Florida with significant vertebrate wildlife, hydrological values and other important natural resource attributes. It is contiguous with the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, which is noted for its high quality resource values. This area should be restored to a natural character to the greatest extent possible. The placement of facilities shall be restricted to and within existing disturbed areas. Uses, public or private, which are incompatible or would interfere with the protection, restoration or management of the natural resources, for which this project is to be acquired, shall be prohibited."

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** The proposed project would be expected to provide additional habitat for many focal species, which according to the FWC, are indicators of natural communities, and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. The list of species documented or reported to occur within the proposal predicts that as many as five focal species may occur on the property. The FWCC environmental resource analysis shows strategic habitat conservation areas to exist within the Pine Island Slough proposed project for three species: crested caracara, Florida grasshopper sparrow and the mottled duck.

Many important conservation lands have become increasingly isolated and no longer support viable populations of large widely ranging mammals and other species of wildlife. The Florida Forever Program identifies projects which provide for increased connectivity across the landscape, and which serve

as ecological greenways, which provide improved habitats for fish and wildlife, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and improved conservation of other natural resources. The Pine Island Slough Ecosystem proposed project would contribute to landscape connectivity by means of linkage to existing managed areas, and especially if acquisition of adjoining or nearby Florida Forever projects can be accomplished. These Florida Forever projects in the conservation landscape surrounding the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem proposal include the Bombing Range Ridge project, the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project, and the Ranch Reserve project.

**Manager** FWCC has been designated as the lead manager.

### Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Some portions of the project include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring application of resource management methods, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. However, since an estimated 47% of the project area has been disturbed for silviculture or other purposes, additional methods would be necessary for some management units in order to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The FWCC would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions, objectives, and restoration methods. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities might involve, for example, the reintroduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Although exotic plants have not yet been observed to pose an imminent threat to the ecological integrity of the proposed project, there will be surveillance for, and removal of such infestations of exotic invasive species.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** During the first year after acquisition, emphasis would be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan would be developed by the FWC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Long-range goals would emphasize ecosystem management and the conservation of fish and wildlife. Following completion of plant community inventory

and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to the FWCC objective-based vegetation management process. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan would be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable methods. Management activities would strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives, these resources would be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources (DHR). There is reported to

be moderate potential for these sites to occur in the project area.

**Revenue Generating Potential** Management would seek to improve the revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Capital Project Expenditures** Projections of Florida Forever capital project expenditures believed to be needed for this project are not available at this time.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

### ***Management Costs and Sources of Revenue***

Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

#### **REVENUE SOURCES, MANAGEMENT COSTS AND EMPLOYEES NEEDED\***

Category	Start-up	Recurring
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<b>\$598,900</b>	<b>\$790,661</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$75,494</b>	<b>\$25,133</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$149,080</b>	<b>\$31,566</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,091,187</b>	<b>\$137,415</b>
<b>Visitor Svcs/Recreation</b>	<b>\$1,888</b>	<b>\$141</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>\$34,511</b>	<b>\$34.511</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,951,060</b>	<b>\$1,019,426</b>

\*Figures include salary for 10 FTEs.

# Pineland Site Complex

## Lee County

## Critical Historical Resources

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Among the rich remains of the Calusa and earlier peoples around Charlotte Harbor, the Pineland Site Complex, with its large mounds and canals and well-preserved remains dating back almost 2000 years, may be the most important—but it is also one of the more desirable areas for development on Pine Island. The Pineland Site Complex project will protect the archaeological site and mangrove swamps near it, preserving a link of natural land to the Charlotte Harbor State Reserve, giving archaeologists the opportunity to continue their research at the site, and giving the public an opportunity to learn how the ancient inhabitants of this fast-growing area lived.

### Manager

The University of Florida Foundation.

### General Description

This internationally significant archaeological site was inhabited by the Calusa for over a thousand years, and includes substantial midden mounds, a burial mound, remnants of an Indian-engineered canal, and buried deposits containing organic remains. Natural habitats within the project area include tidal saltern, a tidal creek, intertidal shoreline, and a large tract of mangrove wetland. Ponds on the property are important to white ibis, egrets, herons, and wood stork. The intertidal shoreline has an eastern oyster bar community, numerous species of gastropods and bivalves, and black and red mangroves. Shoreline shell mounds exhibit a distinctive plant community. A third of the project area is pasture land. There are several species of exotic plants in the project. It is threatened by residential construction on the mounds. The project is adjacent to the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

### Public Use

The Florida Museum of Natural History plans to provide

<b>Pineland Site Complex</b>
FNAI Elements
no rare species are associated with the project

a research and educational center on the site.

### Acquisition Planning

Essential parcels include all ownerships except: American Bible Church, Sapp, Samadani, and Celec. Several houses, built on significant archaeological mounds, are included within the project boundary. These tracts with improvements should be acquired, if possible. If not, life-estates should be pursued. One tract has been acquired with Emergency Archaeological Trust funds. Another is being negotiated as a conservation easement. Negotiations on the core parcel have begun.

On 10/15/1998, the LAMAC revised the designation of the following parcels to essential: The Cloisters and Jessy Chris. On 12/10/2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, “Critical Historical Resources.”

### Coordination

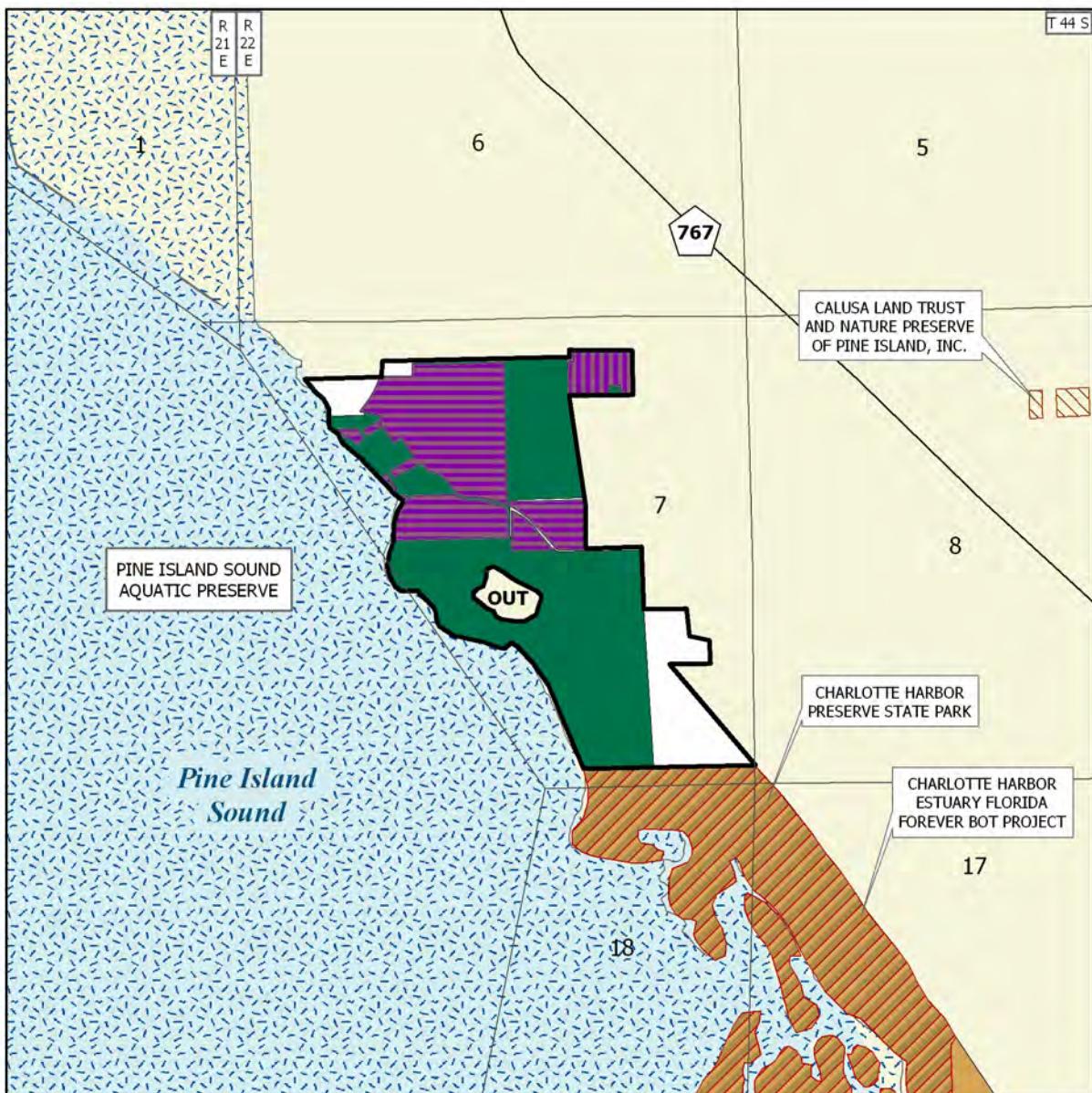
The Archeological Conservancy was an intermediary in the acquisition of the acreage that has been acquired. In addition, the University of Florida Foundation, Lee County, and Calusa Land Trust are considered partners on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Pineland Site Complex project is to preserve the Pineland Site Complex, an archaeological site of national significance. Achieving this objective will allow further scientific research on this site and provide the public with

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$1,355,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,308,148</b>

## Pineland Site Complex



### PINELAND SITE COMPLEX

#### **LEE COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles



OCTOBER 2009

## Pineland Site Complex

opportunities to learn about the prehistoric inhabitants of Pine Island.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of the archaeological resources of the site. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to a small part of the area; thoroughly inventory the resources; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually protecting the archaeological resources and maintaining or improving the quality of any natural communities, such as mangrove swamps, on site. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project area includes the known components of the Pineland Site Complex and therefore has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Pineland Site Complex is an internationally significant archaeological site listed on the National Register of Historic Places; it qualifies as a state historic site.

**Manager** The University of Florida Foundation is recommended as the lead manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** needs will include maintenance (fences, week and exotic plant control, etc.) and security (periodic patrol of the more remote wetlands areas, active surveillance of the central site area).

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, initial or intermediate activities will concentrate on site security, resource

inventory, and property maintenance (cleaning up of dumped materials, exotic plant eradication, etc.). A master plan (now being drafted) will be in place to guide a phased development process leading to a permanent research/education center open regularly to the public within five years. Initial development will concentrate on public safety, security, and resources assessment, including inventory of endangered and threatened species. A plan for conservation and enhancement of significant habitats identified in this process will be developed.

**Revenue-generating potential** In addition to the income produced by the invested endowed funds, the Center's director will be responsible for bringing in grant funds from public and private sources and for establishing and maintaining reciprocal relationships with local and regional schools, colleges, universities, museums, nature centers, and conservation societies. With the establishment of a visitor's center, a book store and gift shop will be operated to offset expenses of center operation and provide funds to enhance center programs. A local support organization has already been formed and is operating under the auspices of the University of Florida Foundation. It will continue to raise funds to support specific center programs and initiatives.

**Cooperators in management activities** Activities to enhance natural resources will be undertaken in consultation with qualified conservation personnel, including staff from the Lee County Division of Environmental Sciences and the cooperating manager, the DEP Aquatic and State Buffer Preserve.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

Management Cost Summary			
Category	Startup	Development	Implementation
Source of Funds	Grants	Grants	Grants
Salary	\$44,450	\$45,809	\$71,752
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,500
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,450</b>	<b>\$47,009</b>	<b>\$74,252</b>

# Pinhook Swamp

## Baker and Columbia Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Pinhook Swamp: The pine flatwoods and swamps between the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge have been logged, but are otherwise undisturbed. The Pinhook Swamp project will protect and restore a natural area linking those two conservation lands and the Suwannee River, providing a huge unpopulated tract of land for such wildlife as the Florida black bear and sandhill crane; maintaining the water flows from this area to the Okefenokee Swamp, Suwannee River, and St. Mary's River; and giving the public a large, near-wilderness tract in which to enjoy various recreational activities, from simple nature appreciation to active hunting and fishing.

Suwannee Buffers (Deep Creek Site): The Suwannee River, for all its beauty, flows through pine plantations and farms for much of its course, and only its high limestone banks are in close to a natural state—and they are prime sites for residential development. The Deep Creek Site will protect two natural areas along the river or its tributaries, protecting the highest waterfall in the peninsula and the highest bluffs on the river, enhancing the water quality of the river and its tributaries; protecting northern plants that grow along the river and rare fish that live in the river; and giving the public scenic areas to enjoy for years to come. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a

congressionally designated national scenic trail

### Managers

Pinhook Swamp: United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (southern Deep Creek); the FFS (northern Deep Creek).

### General Description

Pinhook Swamp: The project consists of a large tract of mostly wet flatwoods, floodplain swamp, and floodplain forest between Osceola National Forest and Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. It provides a linkage between these managed areas as well as increased protection for this wetlands/flatwoods ecosystem, which is important for the long-term conservation of the state-threatened Florida black bear and other animals. Pinhook Swamp also provides excellent habitat for other wetland-dependent species such as the state-threatened Florida sandhill crane. The Swamp is connected to the Suwannee River, St. Mary's River and the Okefenokee Swamp. The archaeological and historic value of the project is low to moderate. The greatest threats to the area are intensive silviculture and mining.

The Deep Creek Drainage Tract protects buffer areas of four tributaries of the Suwannee River and much of the watershed of Deep Creek and serves as a corridor between the Osceola National Forest, Big Shoals State Park, and Suwannee River Water Management District lands along the River.

### Pinhook Swamp

#### FNAI Elements

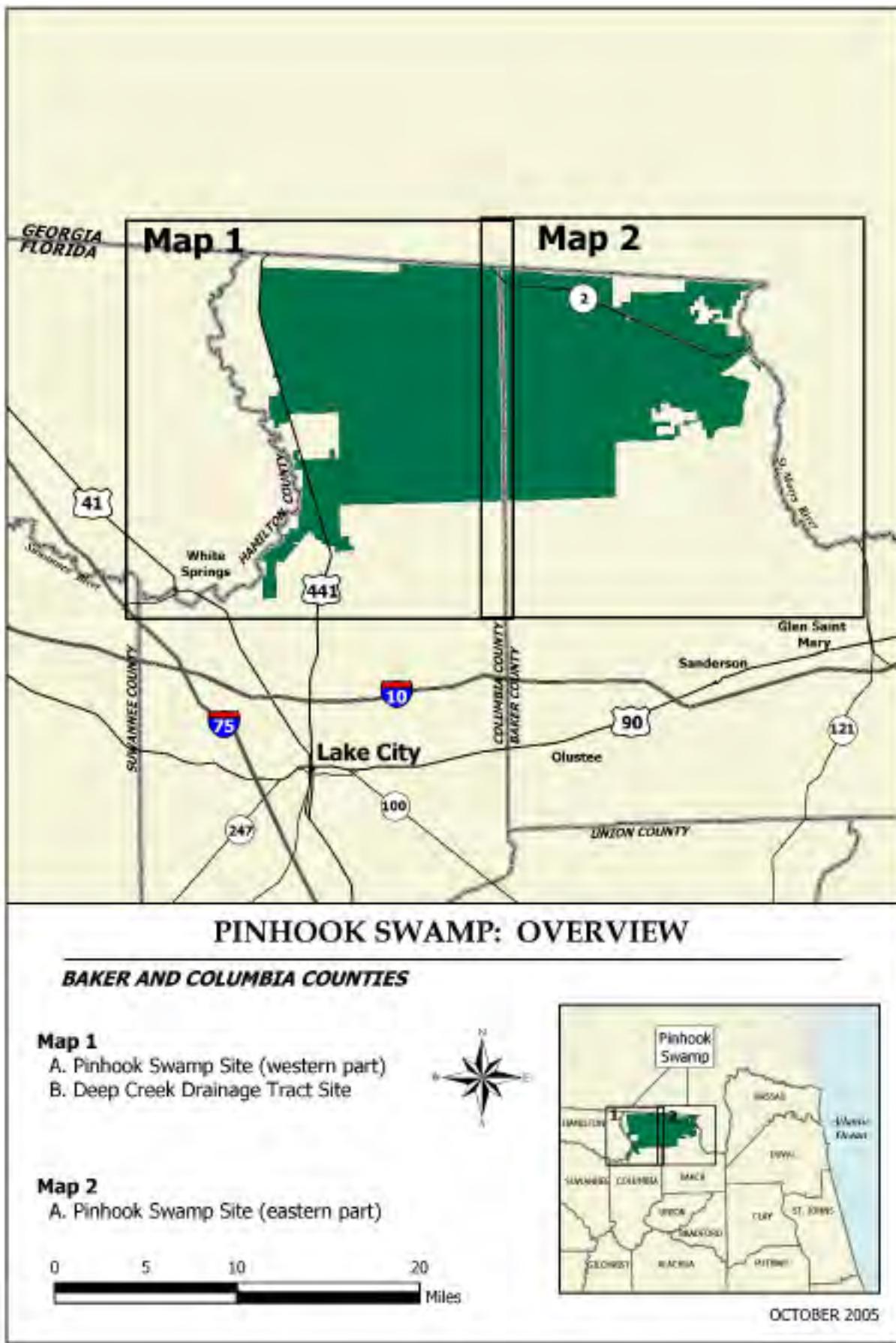
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Okefenokee Zale Moth	G2/S1
<i>Large Rosebud Orchid</i>	G4/S1
Many-lined Salamander	G5/S1
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Carpenter Frog	G5/S2
Timber Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Blackbanded Sunfish	G4/S3
Spotted Turtle	G5/S3?

17 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1992
Project Area (GIS Acres)	183,991
Acres Acquired (GIS)	126,890*
at a Cost of	\$65,183,376
Acres Remaining (GIS)	60,420
w/Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$16,469,070

\*Includes acreage acquired by the Suwannee River Water Management District

## Pinhook Swamp



**Public Use**

The Pinhook Swamp is designated as a forest with such uses as fishing, hunting, canoeing, camping and hiking.

The Deep Creek site will be designated for use as a state park and a state forest, with such public uses as fishing, boating, hunting, camping, hiking and environmental education.

**Acquisition Planning**

The large Rayonier tract connecting the Osceola National Forest to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has been acquired by the state. It will be used as the basis for a land-and-minerals exchange (projected to close in 2003) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

Pinhook Swamp: Phase I (essential) consists of large tracts adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Osceola National Forest—J.W. Langdale Woodlands, Inc. and Jefferson Smurfit Corp./Carnegie US Steel Pension Funds. Phase II is the “Impassable Bay” tract—ITT Rayonier/Sam Summers (acquired by USFS through The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and all remaining owners.

On 7/16/1996, the LAMAC added 18,100 acres to the project boundary. Additionally, the LAMAC approved the addition of federal mineral rights under state-owned lands to the Pinhook project for exchange purposes.

On 8/22/2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 25,000 acres to the Pinhook Swamp project

At the 4/6/2001, Council meeting, the Suwannee Buffers, Deep Creek Site was combined with the Pinhook Swamp Project.

On 10/24/2002 the Council added 4,585 acres to the project boundaries.

On 6/4/2004 the Council added 31,225 acres in Baker County, previously assumed to be included, as part of a 2000 boundary amendment, in the boundaries of the Pinhook Swamp project.

The BOT acquired 8,311 acres in August 2005 through five conservation easements.

**Coordination**

Pinhook Swamp is a shared acquisition with the USFS. TNC is an intermediary in the purchase of some tracts for the federal government. The Deep Creek site is on the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) five-year plan for land acquisition. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is also considered a partner.

**Management Policy Statement**

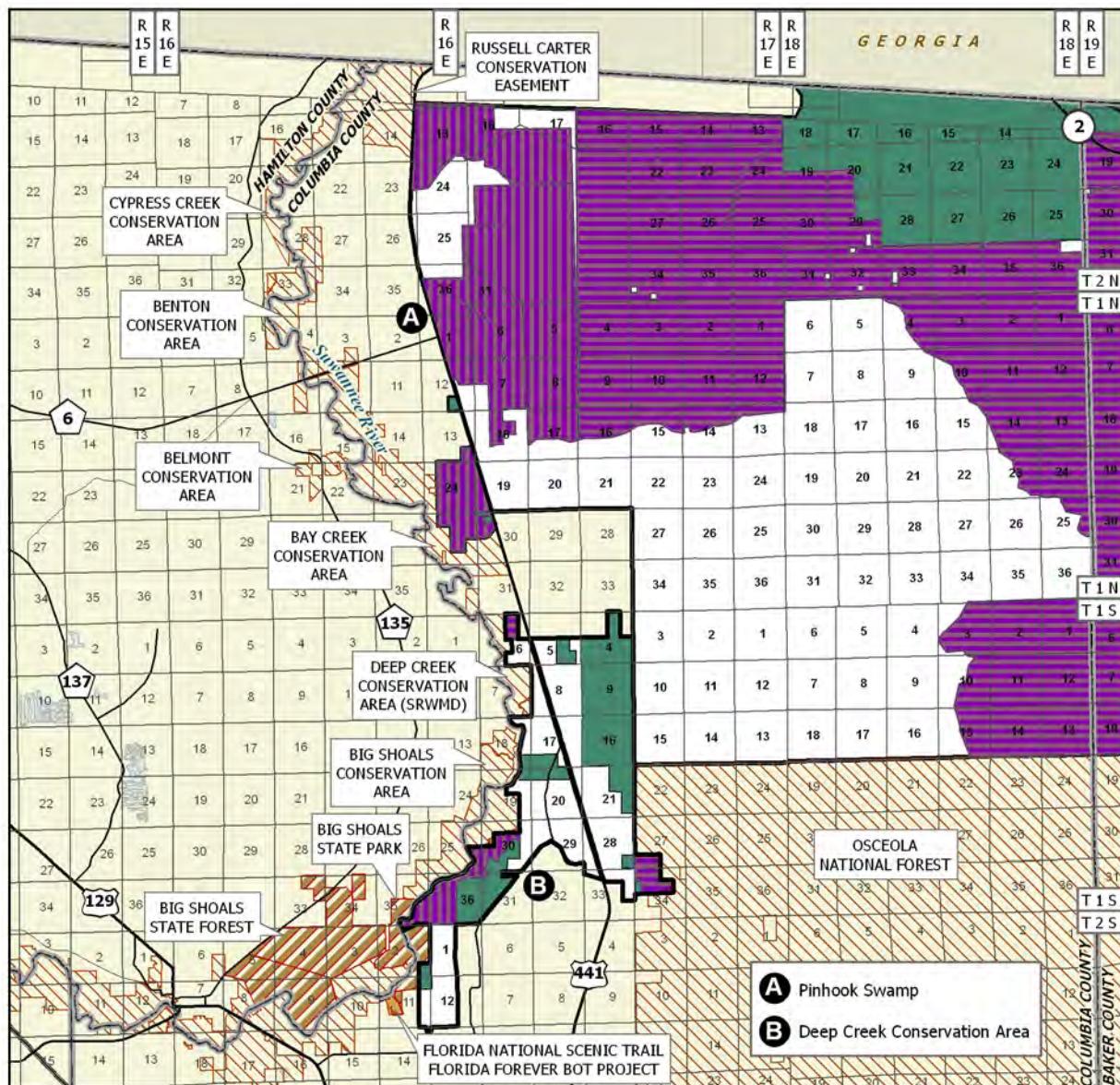
Pinhook Swamp: The primary goals of management of the Pinhook Swamp project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

Suwannee Buffers (Deep Creek): The primary goals of management of this part of the project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

**Management Prospectus*****Pinhook Swamp:***

***Qualifications for state designation*** The Pinhook Swamp is a large area of timbered flatwoods and swamps between the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Its large size, strategic location, and forest and wildlife resources qualify it as a state forest and state wildlife management area.

## Pinhook Swamp



**Managers (Monitor)** The DOF and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service are the recommended Managers.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Pinhook is a low-need (moderate need) tract.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** A portion of the site would immediately fall under the National Forests in Florida's Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and a portion under state protection. Management activities will focus on site security, resource inventory and management, plus any necessary prescribed fire management.

**Revenue-generating potential** In cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), this area may one day provide revenues from quota hunts. The Forest Service and DOF will soon be working with FWC to obtain a projected revenue. State and National Forest user fees are other sources of revenue.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which manages the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to Pinhook's northern boundary, will be cooperators in managing the area.

#### *Suwannee Buffers:*

**Qualifications for state designation** The southern part of the Deep Creek Drainage tract has unique resources that qualify it as a unit of the state park system. The project's size and diversity also makes it highly desirable for use and management as a state forest.

**Manager** The DRP is recommended as Manager of Deep Creek. The FFS is recommended as Manager of the northern three-quarters of the Deep Creek Drainage tract.

#### *Conditions affecting intensity of management*

The southern portion of the Deep Creek Drainage tract is a high-need management area including public recreational use and development compatible with resource management. On the areas to be managed by the FFS there are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

#### *Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

Within the first year after acquisition of the areas to be

managed by the DRP, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

The DOF will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The DOF will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

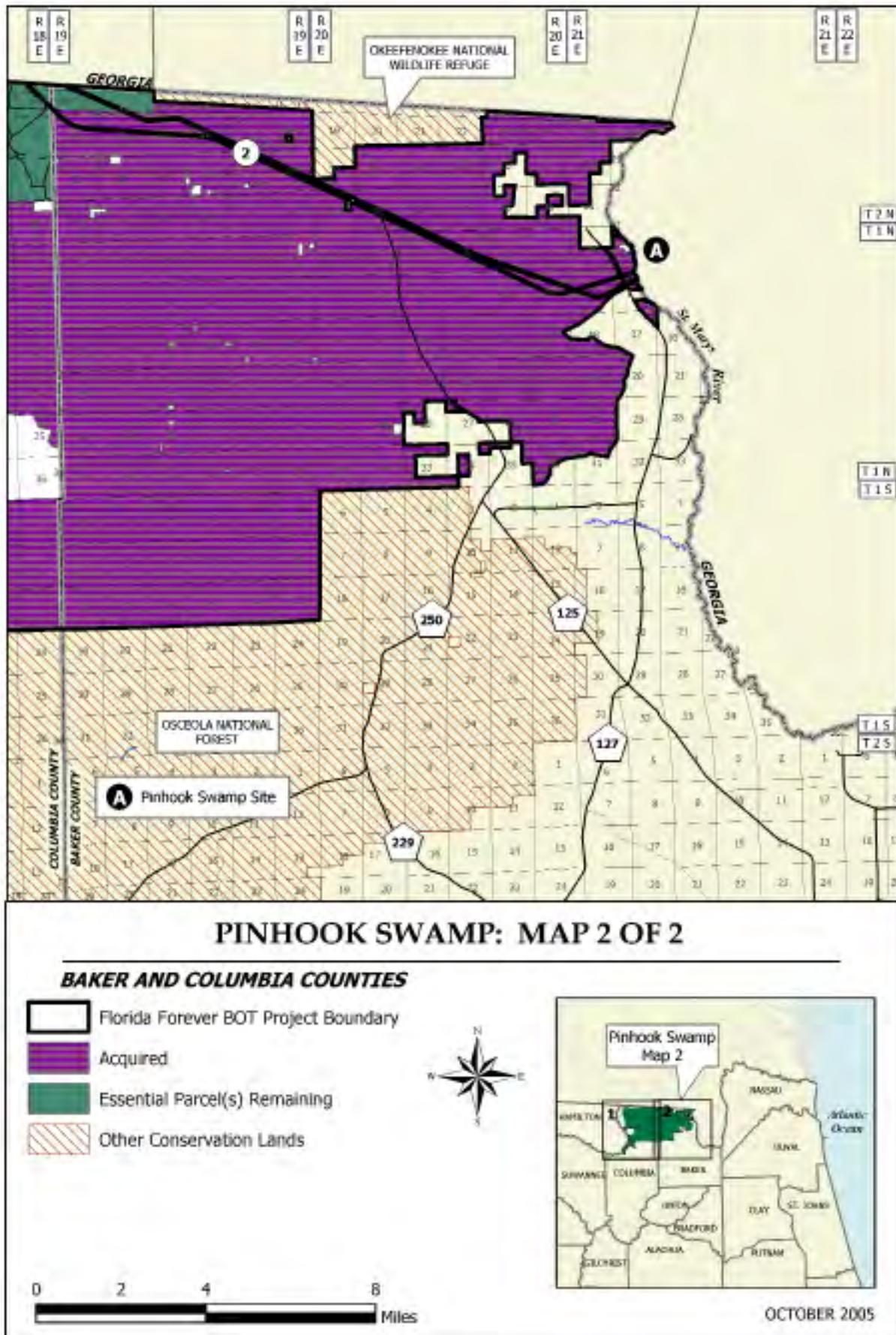
Long-range plans of the DOF will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The FFS will promote environmental education.

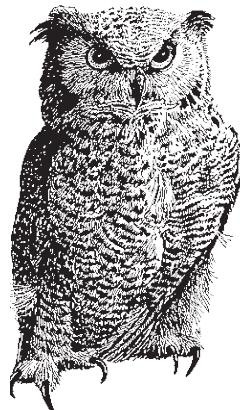
**Estimate of revenue-generating potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public facilities are developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of these project areas.

(continued)

## Pinhook Swamp



**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

<b>Category Source of Funds</b>	<b>Startup CARL</b>	<b>Recurring CARL</b>
Salary	\$22,167	\$22,167
OPS	\$14,560	\$14,560
Expense	\$11,400	\$11,400
OCO	\$55,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$85,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$188,127</b>	<b>\$49,127</b>

**Management Cost Summary/FFS**

<b>Category Source of Funds</b>	<b>Startup CARL</b>	<b>Recurring CARL</b>
Salary	\$28,140	\$28,140
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$13,000	\$5,000
OCO	\$81,100	\$2,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$122,140</b>	<b>\$35,140</b>

*Updated 2/3/2012*

# Pumpkin Hill Creek

## Duval County

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The growth of the city of Jacksonville and its outlying developed areas has inevitably reduced the natural lands in Duval County to a fraction of their original extent. The Pumpkin Hill Creek project will protect one of the larger natural uplands left in the county, helping to maintain the water quality of the Nassau and St. Johns Rivers and their fringing marshes—the foundation of an important fishery—protecting wading bird rookeries, and giving the public in this urban area opportunities to fish, hunt, hike, and canoe.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), City of Jacksonville and the federal government all manage lands within the project boundaries.

### General Description

As a remnant of relatively intact natural communities in the urban landscape of Duval County, the Pumpkin Hill Creek project will protect upland buffer to the Nassau River—St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve, an Outstanding Florida Water that supports a significant commercial and recreational fishery. Besides sandhill, large areas of scrubby flatwoods of diverse quality, wet flatwoods, and salt marsh, the project contains nearly pristine maritime hammock. It provides habitat for several rare species and contains two colonial wading bird rookeries, one of which is used by the federally

endangered wood stork. Manatees frequent both the St. Johns and Nassau Rivers and move into tidal creeks, such as Hill Creek and Clapboard Creek, adjacent to the project. Fourteen archaeological sites are known from the project, including the ruins of the early 19th century Fitzpatrick Plantation house. The cultural resource value of the project is high. The area is threatened by urban development.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/9/1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Pumpkin Hill Creek project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and the SJRWMD, consisted of approximately 6,292 acres, 25 parcels, 12 owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$9,383,700. The essential parcels included North Shore (acquired by TNC using Cedar Bay Cogeneration Project mitigation funds), Verdie Forest and Penland (acquired jointly with SJRWMD), and Tison and Birchfield (acquired by the SJRWMD).

On 3/14/1997, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 635-acre addition (aka Sample Swamp property) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, consisted of multiple owners & parcels, and a 1996 taxable value of \$995,638.

On 10/15/1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) designated an additional 1,419 acres as essential including Sample Swamp, City

Pumpkin Hill Creek FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow	G4T2/S2
<i>Pondspice</i>	G3/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Least Tern	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Great Egret	G5/S4
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
10 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1994
Project Area (GIS Acres)	24,348*
Acres Acquired (GIS)	13,498*
at a Cost of	9,868,766*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	10,850
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$14,784,841	

\*includes expenditures of SJRWMD

National, Beasly, Wingate, and two small connecting parcels.

On 10/17/2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 18,995-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) and consisted of 93 owners, 176 parcels, and a 1999 taxable value of \$7,624,669.

On 2/7/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 73-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of 3 owners, Caldwell Trust (37 acres), the Cambridge A&E Ltd, & Squires (36 acres), 5 parcels, and a 2002 taxable value of \$399,726.

On 12/5/2003, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority list.

On 12/3/2004, the ARC approved a 658.3-acre deletion to the project boundary. The deletion consisted of 4 parcels (D2, D3, D4, and the southern 2/3rds of D7) with a taxable value of \$541,781. The project was moved to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority list.

On 12/9/2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority list.

On 8/11/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 713-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of Recreation & Parks, in coordination with the City of Jacksonville Preservation Project, consisted of 41 ownerships, 50 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$4,180,827. DRP will manage the addition, with the exception of 24.75 acres in Component 11, owned by Hughes, which will be managed by the City of Jacksonville. The parcels have been designated as essential.

### Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an intermediary in the project. Resolutions in support of this project include SJRWMD in support of a shared acquisition. SJRWMD, CAMA, the Florida Communities Trust (FCT), and the City of Jacksonville are acquisition partners.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Pumpkin Hill Creek project are to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Pumpkin Hill Creek project includes uplands centrally located in the Nassau River-St.. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve. The project qualifies as a state buffer preserve because it will protect uplands important to the hydrology of the sensitive tidal marshes of the aquatic preserve.

**Manager** Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is recommended as the lead Manager.

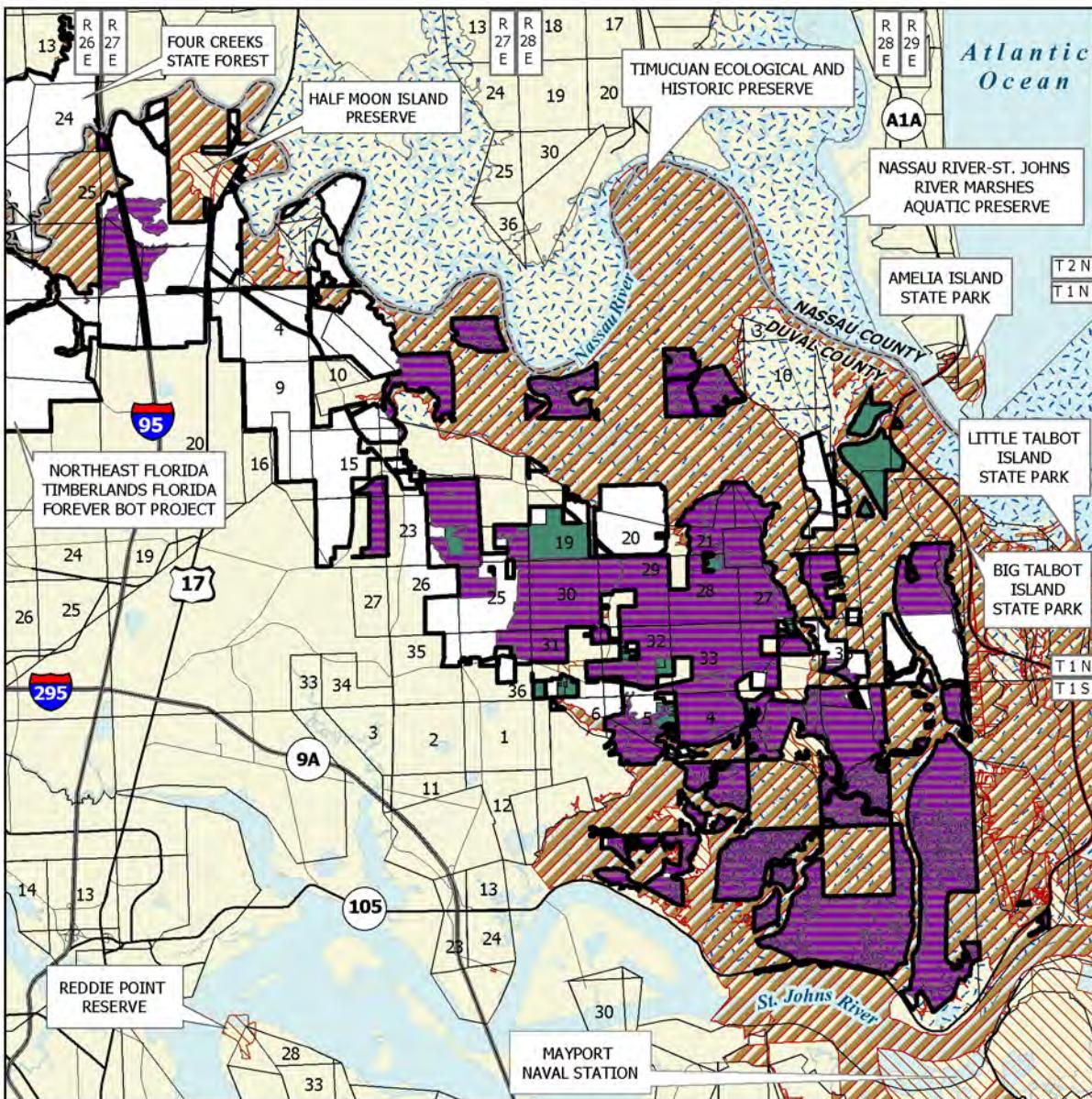
**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Pumpkin Hill Creek Project generally includes lands that are “low-need” tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Infrastructure will be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum needed for management and public access.

**Revenue-generating potential** Portions of this project are composed of manageable pinelands that could be used to help offset operational costs. Any estimate of the revenue from the harvest of these pinelands depends upon a detailed assessment of the value of the timber and upon the amount of harvesting that is consistent with protection of natural resources on this project. No revenue is expected to be generated for some years.

**Cooperators in management activities** The SJRW MD will cooperate in managing the project.

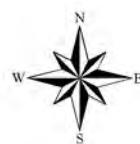
## Pumpkin Hill Creek



### PUMPKIN HILL CREEK

#### DUVAL COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Brown Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Dashed Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles



APRIL 2011

*Updated 2/29/2012*

**DRP Management Cost Summary, 1998/1999**

<b>Source of Funds:</b>	<b>CARL/LATF</b>
<b>Salary:</b>	<b>\$62,079.65</b>
<b>OPS:</b>	<b>\$28,631.85</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	<b>\$24,762.68</b>
<b>OCO:</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Special:</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FCO:</b>	<b><u>\$50,000.00</u></b>
 <b>Total:</b>	 <b>\$165,474.18</b>

# Raiford-Osceola Greenway

Baker and Union Counties

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Raiford-Osceola Greenway Florida Forever Project was created at the request of the Office of Greenways and Trails from a 67,701-acre portion of the 2003 Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project. Public acquisition of the Raiford-Osceola Greenway project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels - provide a landscape connector between Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway project on the east which connects to the Northeast Florida Timberlands further east, the Raiford Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on the south, and Osceola National Forest on the northwest; (2) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state - four major blackwater streams from three major river basins originating within the project area, as well as several headwaters and tributaries; and (3) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources, many of these areas are in pine plantation. In addition, natural areas of floodplain, basin, and baygall swamp can be found on more than 32,000 acres. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

## Manager

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Environmental Services (OES) monitors conservation easements unless otherwise noted. The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/

DOF) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) offered a management statement on the original project, Camp Blanding-Osceola Florida Forever Greenway.

## General Description

The Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway project was subdivided to create two projects: Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway CB-RG) and Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG). The Raiford-Osceola Greenway project consists of approximately 67,457 acres of land abutting the Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway project on the east to the southeast boundary of the Osceola National Forest. It connects several managed areas in Baker and Union Counties, resulting in a potential contiguous area of more than a half a million acres of publicly owned, managed, or planned to own/managed lands in north-central Florida. Physiographic features of interest include: the Trail Ridge, the eastern portions of the Cody Scarp, and several large wetlands that have been ecologically devalued by silvicultural activities or mining.

## Public Use

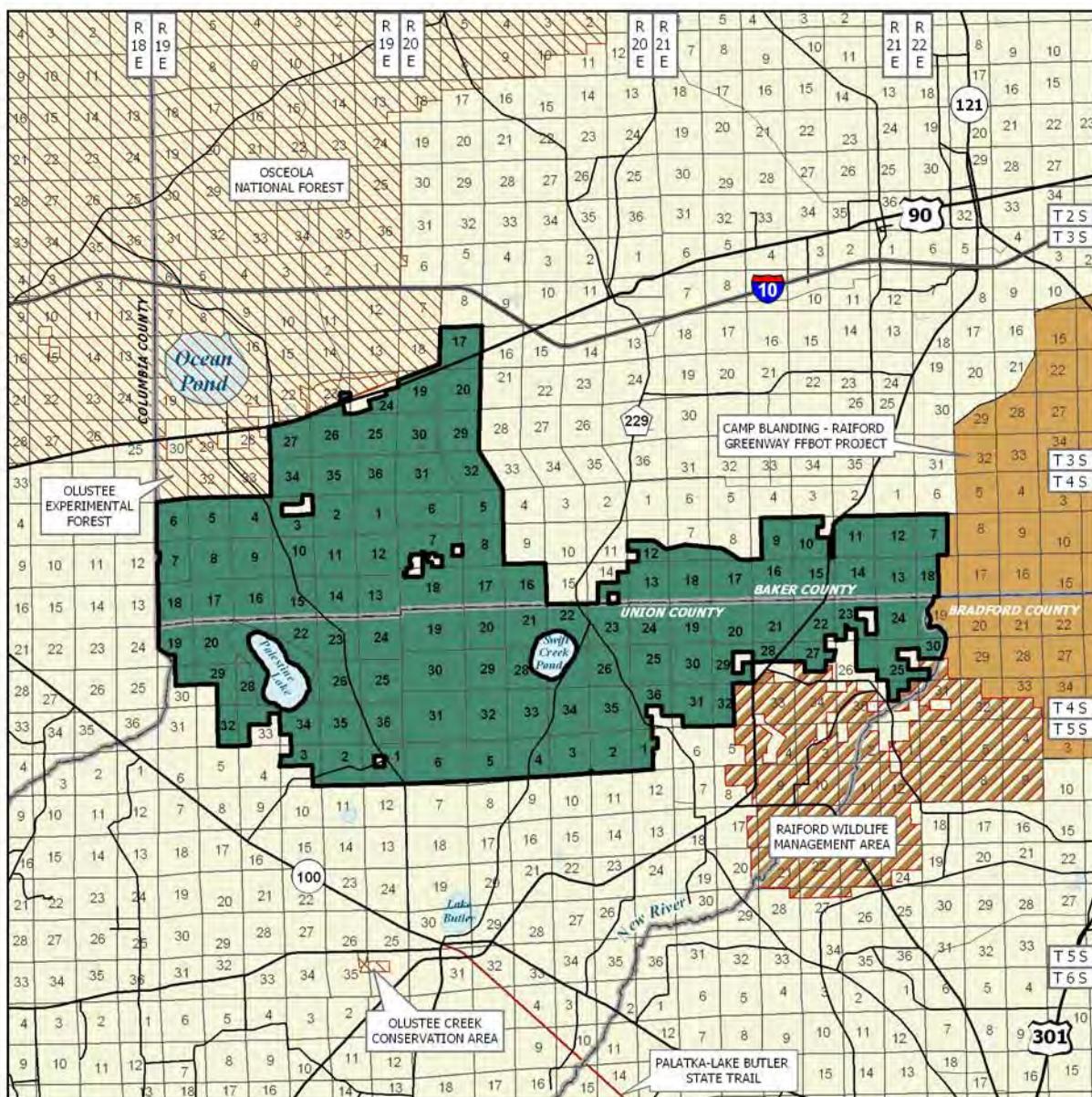
The Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG) project is an expansive area, which could have significant natural resource-based potential if portions of the project were available to the public. Most particular is the block of land west of SR 231 containing Palestine Lake.

This project is being offered as less-than-fee with limited public access. Through discussion, representatives of the landowner have indicated that they will consider

Raiford-Osceola Greenway FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Many-lined Salamander	G5/S1
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Timber Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	

Redesigned for List	2010
Projects Area (GIS acres)	67,701
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
At a Cost Of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	67,701
with Estimated (tax assessed) Value of	\$193,255,020

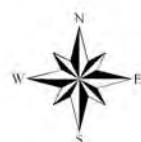
## Raiford-Osceola Greenway



### RAIFORD - OSCEOLA GREENWAY

#### BAKER AND UNION COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Hatched Box] Other Conservation Lands



0      2      4      8  
Miles



JUNE 2010

## Raiford-Osceola Greenway

allowing continued limited public uses that are being allowed today.

All trails throughout the project have potential for being multiple-use trails with hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. Of the activities mentioned, the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies hunting within the Union County portion of the project as having a high need for the year 2005 for the region in which these counties are located.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Camp Blanding–Osceola Greenway project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee project, sponsored by the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) and the Conservation Trust of Florida (CTF), consisted of approximately 153,000 acres, multiple ownerships, and a 2002 taxable value of \$28,508,089.

The essential parcels were identified as the Plum Creek and Wachovia ownerships.

On 10/13/2006, the ARC adopted a redesign to the essential parcels within the original project. The number and acreage of essential parcels was revised by removing 106 parcels (64,250 acres) and adding 52 parcels (10,180 acres) which resulted in a declassification of 54,070 acres currently designated essential. The new essential parcel configuration will connect Camp Blanding to the Raiford WMA, then to the Osceola National Forest.

On 6/11/2010 the ARC adopted a redesign to the Camp Blanding–Osceola Greenway project that identified 33,861-acres in the Raiford–Osceola Greenway as well as 67,457-acres in the Camp Blanding–Raiford Greenway.

### Coordination

CTF and OGT are considered acquisition partners on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The owners of the property have indicated they want to continue the operation of their property under the protection and guidance of a conservation easement. Should this request change to full-fee, FFS and FWCC have agreed to be cooperating managers. FWCC offers the Species Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) 2009 for the American swallow-tailed kite, the Cooper's hawk, and the Florida black bear. Total SHCA 2009 area is 42,403.2 acres, or 63.1%. Focal species overlap: 1-3 species 20,544.4 acres (60.2%); 4-6 species 9,861.5 (28.9%); 7-9 species 850.3 acres (2.5%); 10-12 species 30.0 acres (0.09%) for a total 65,573.5 acres or 95.4%. The Division of Historical Resources reports the new configuration of the R-OG project holds 92 archaeological sites and 2 historical sites with no historical cemeteries.

### Management Prospectus

This project is being offered as less-than-fee with limited public access. The property is currently managed as a commercial timber operation, and it will continue to be managed as such if a conservation easement over the property is purchased. Representatives of the landowner have indicated that they will consider allowing continued limited public uses that are being allowed today. Details of the level of public access would be negotiated with the landowner during the development of a conservation easement. The Office of Environmental Services will be responsible for monitoring the property to ensure that the terms of the conservation easement are met.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Rainbow River Corridor

Marion and Citrus Counties

**Partnerships**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Rainbow River Corridor project is designed to protect most of the undeveloped or minimally developed private land remaining along the Rainbow River. The southern parcels would bring a remaining large portion of undeveloped shoreline along the eastern side of the river into state ownership, and provide a connection to the southern end of the Rainbow Springs State Park. Public acquisition of these lands will prevent further development and conflicting land uses that could further degrade the ecological value of this area. In addition, the potential restoration of altered habitats would help restore and maintain water quality and habitat along one of Florida's largest spring-run streams.

This project meets several Florida Forever goals, including those of increasing biodiversity protection by conserving 916 acres of rare species habitat, of preserving landscape linkages and conservation corridors by preserving 1,062 acres of ecological greenways, of protecting surface waters of the state by preserving 1,154 acres that provide surface-water protection, of preserving aquifer recharge areas, and by increasing natural-resource based recreation opportunities by filling several land gaps between sections of the Rainbow River State Park.

## Manager

The property is proposed to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT). DRP would assume management of the parcels east of the river and a parcel identified as the FNAI A1 addition, which is adjacent to the state park. The A1 addition is in Section 12 of Township 16 South, Range 18 East, on the north side

of Southwest 77<sup>th</sup> Loop.

OGT is recommended as lead manager for the parcels on the west side of the Rainbow River and parcels on the south side of the Withlacoochee River.

The DRP notes that much of this is a full-fee acquisition adjacent to the park, which will mean that public access will be provided across the acquired parcel for varied natural resource recreation currently offered within the park, along with water-based recreation.

## General Description

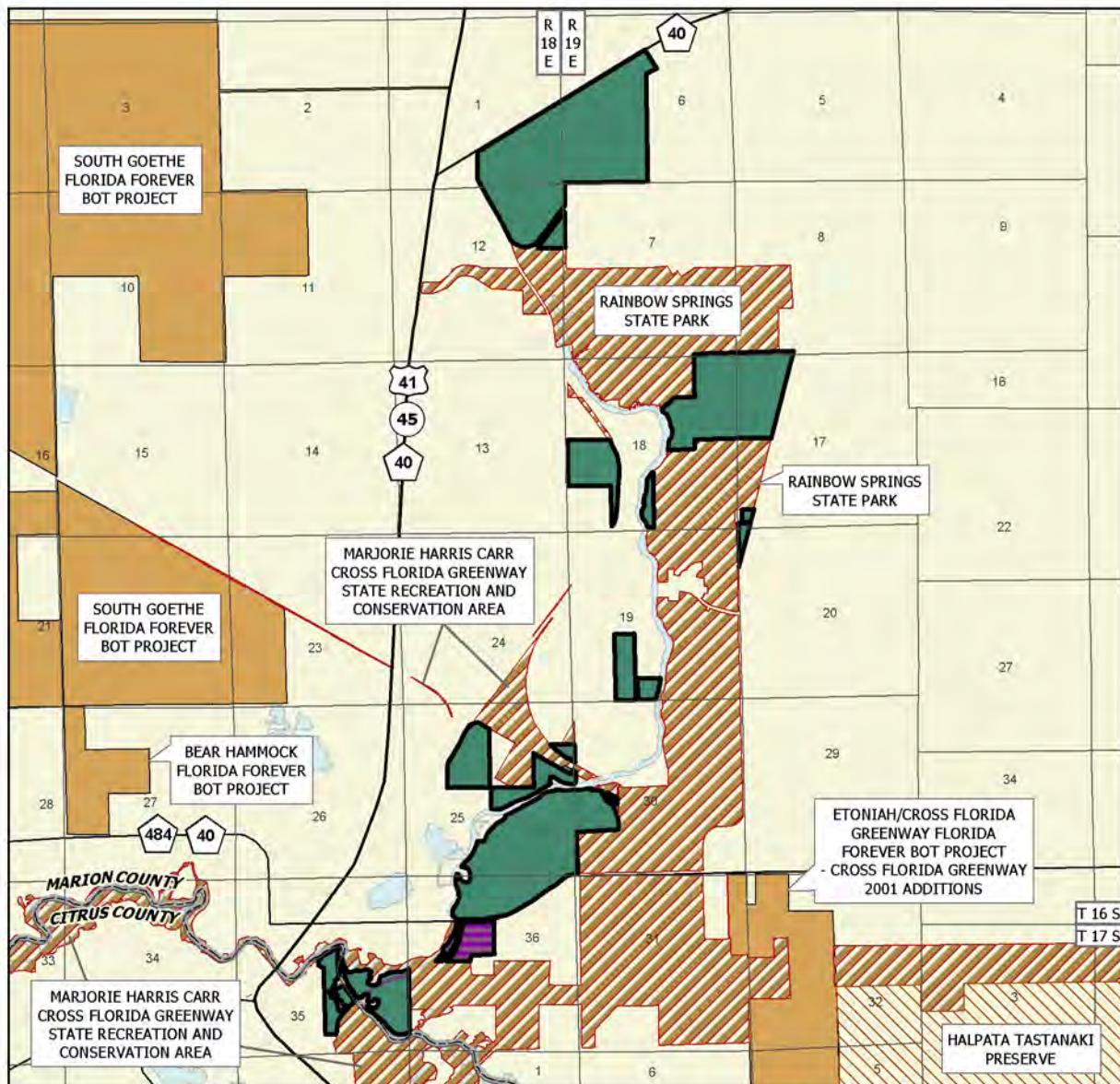
The Rainbow River, actually a large spring-run stream, is a state-designated Aquatic Preserve and Outstanding Florida Water that runs southward for approximately six miles before entering the Withlacoochee River at Dunnellon. The State Park encompasses the headwaters, with a first magnitude spring considered Florida's fourth largest, as well as much of the eastern side of the northern 60 percent of the river. This river is one of the longest spring runs in the world and represents a rare and unique natural resource world wide. The Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area adjoins a short stretch of the river at Dunnellon, then extends eastward to include a 3/4 mile common boundary inland with the state park; it also includes a tract on the western side of the river but with only two very narrow connections with the river itself.

Two of the main goals of acquiring these land parcels are to fill the gaps in existing public lands, Rainbow Springs State Park (RSSP) and M. H. Carr Cross Florida Greenway (CFG), that are adjacent to the

Rainbow River Corridor FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2007
Project Area (GIS Acres)	1,166
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	1,166
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$1,157,483

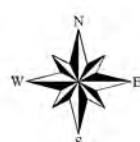
## Rainbow River Corridor



## RAINBOW RIVER CORRIDOR

### MARION AND CITRUS COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Hatched Box] State Owned Lands
- [Light Blue Box] Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



JANUARY 2012

proposed properties and to provide added protection to this river and the ecosystem that it supports. It would connect the current northern and southern parcels of the park. The proposed acquisitions would provide a more contiguous system of natural areas by creating an intact corridor between conservation lands. It would also provide added protection for the river by safeguarding the remaining undeveloped lands in the already significantly altered waterway.

RRC encompasses a number of disjunct tracts lying to the north of as well as along both eastern and western sides of the river. Nearly all tracts (but not necessarily all ownerships) are contiguous with public lands. The Headwaters Property Group (370 acres) lies north of the river and runs from the state park to SR 40. The Indian Creek Property Group (193 acres), which lies along the eastern side of the river and includes about 1,264 feet of river frontage, shares its northern and southern boundaries with the state park. The Meredith Property (63 acres) is a split parcel with a small tract along the eastern side of the river (ca. 1849 feet frontage) that is completely surrounded by the state park. The larger tract to the west of the river is isolated from the water. The Rainbow River Ranch Property (ca. 247 acres) is north of SR 484 with 5390 feet of frontage along the eastern side of the Rainbow River. The Greenberg Property (89 acres) has ca. 3,298 feet of frontage along the western side of the river, north of Dunnellon. The Blue Run of Dunnellon Property (24 acres) is on the southern side of SR 484, east of the river across from Dunnellon, and has ca. 1,322 feet of river frontage. The Nature Preserves of America property (47 acres) is at the confluence of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee rivers, with the Rainbow River forming ca. 2,813 feet of its northern boundary, and the Withlacoochee River forming ca. 3,409 feet of its southern boundary. The FWC has calculated the river frontage as encompassing 15,935 feet.

### Public Use

Potential recreation would include hiking, biking, and picnicking. The river frontage could be used as a rest stop for canoeists, kayakers and tubers. The southern triangular 47-acre parcel is heavily forested and has several wetland areas. This property is currently used as the Rainbow River Club and includes several buildings including a clubhouse, cabins for lodging, and boating and cookout facilities. The acquisition and use of the facilities could be continued as park

lodging, administration, park residence and low impact recreation such as hiking, bird watching, kayaking and education if the membership of the current club is dissolved. The northwest, 374-acre parcel would help protect the headsprings recharge area and could provide a suitable site for future park development. The 110-acre Priest parcel is a wetland area and would be limited to passive activities such as hiking, bird watching and kayaking.

### Acquisition Planning

On 6/15/2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Rainbow River Corridor project to the A-list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This full-fee project was sponsored by the Rainbow River Conservation, incorporated as RRC, Inc. in a proposal submitted on 12/30/2006. It has about 1,183 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$1,157,483.

### Coordination

Rainbow River Conservation Inc. is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and has submitted an application to the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) for assistance acquiring the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property. The Division of State Lands is already pursuing a portion of this area (Rainbow River Ranch property) that is within the park optimum boundary, on behalf of the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

### Management Policy Statement

This property managed by DRP will be managed under a single-use concept as part of Rainbow River State Park. The OGT-managed portion will be managed under the single-use concept as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. The primary objective of management of the Rainbow River project is to preserve the water quality of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers and Rainbow Springs by protecting the land above the underground conduits that supply the spring and providing and ensuring that the resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities of the park will continue to be enjoyed by the public. Precluding major residential and commercial development along the river will assist efforts to preserve water quality, as well as wildlife habitat in this fast developing region.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project

## Rainbow River Corridor

will be included in the management of the Rainbow River State Park. The site can be used for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As a part of the Rainbow River State Park, hunting would not be permitted. Public use of the cabins and recreational facility on the southern parcel may be continued. Portions managed by OGT will be included in the management of the Greenway. The site can be utilized for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As a part of the Greenway, hunting would not be permitted.

**Manager** DRP is recommended as the lead manager for the parcels on the east side of the river. OGT is recommended as lead manager for the parcels on the west side of the Rainbow River and parcels on the south side of the Withlacoochee River.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Rainbow River project will be a high-need management area with emphasis on perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly as related to the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, the springs of the Rainbow River, and compatible resource-based recreation. An evaluation of the condition of existing structures will need to be completed. The OGT portion of the Rainbow River project will emphasize perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, the springs of the Rainbow River, and compatible resource-based recreation. Both managing agencies will need an evaluation of the condition of existing structures. Public use of existing structures, such as those existing on the southern parcel, and the addition of any other infrastructure for the lands added to the park will increase the intensity of management. Restoration would require an intensity of management as dictated by study of the site.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Particular emphasis will be given to the protection of water quality of adjacent rivers and springs. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate on site security and development of a resource inventory. Long-term management may include a wide range of resource-based recreation and associated facilities. The integration of appropriate public uses will create a recreational linkage between the State Park and land managed by the Office of Greenway and Trails.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DRP and the OGT expect no significant revenue from this property immediately after fee title acquisition, and the amount of future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the facilities existing or developed in the future.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DRP and the OGT will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park and for Greenway purposes.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

Management Cost Summary/DRP	
Category	Startup
Salary	\$0
OPS	\$20,000
Expense	\$5,000
OCO	\$26,000
FCO	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>

Management Cost Summary/OGT	
Category	Startup
Salary	\$0
OPS	\$25,000
Expense	\$5,000
OCO	\$20,000
FCO	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

# Ranch Reserve

Brevard, Indian River and Osceola Counties

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Large cattle ranches in Osceola County conserve a vast area of open lands—pastures, pine flatwoods, palmetto prairies, and marshes—west of the St. Johns River. These flatlands are important for wildlife like sandhill cranes, caracara, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and an experimental group of extremely rare whooping cranes. The Ranch Reserve project will acquire certain rights from ranch owners to ensure that a large part of these lands will remain as they are today, to preserve a connection of open land with public lands to the north and east, and to maintain or increase the diversity of wildlife on this wide plain.

## Manager (Monitor)

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJWMD) will monitor compliance with the terms of the less-than-fee-simple purchase.

## General Description

The four cattle ranches in the project lie on the Osceola Plain west of and above the St. Johns River marshes. Mesic flatwoods interrupted by depression marshes cover about 40% of the project area. Swamps and hammocks make up much of the remaining natural communities. Improved pastures cover about 30% of the area. At least 24 Florida Natural Areas Inventory(FNAI)-listed animals are known or reported from the project, including red-cockaded woodpeckers and one of the largest populations of sandhill cranes

in Florida. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) has released whooping cranes on Escape Ranch in an attempt to reestablish the species in Florida. The project includes the headwaters of several streams that flow into the St. Johns River marsh. No archaeological sites are known. The wildlife habitat in the project is threatened by harvest of old-growth pines and conversion to more intensive agriculture or to non-agricultural use.

## Public Use

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area; the amount and type of public use will be negotiated with the landowners.

## Acquisition Planning

On 10/30/1996, Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee acquisition category: 1) resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; 2) seller is willing to accept a less-than-fee-simple instrument and LAMAC has determined that the project's or site's acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and 3) manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee-simple instrument.

On 12/5/1996, LAMAC transferred the remaining ownerships within the Ranch Reserve project boundary—Campbell (acquired), Mills (acquired), Kelly/Bronson and Kaup—to the Less-Than-Fee group.

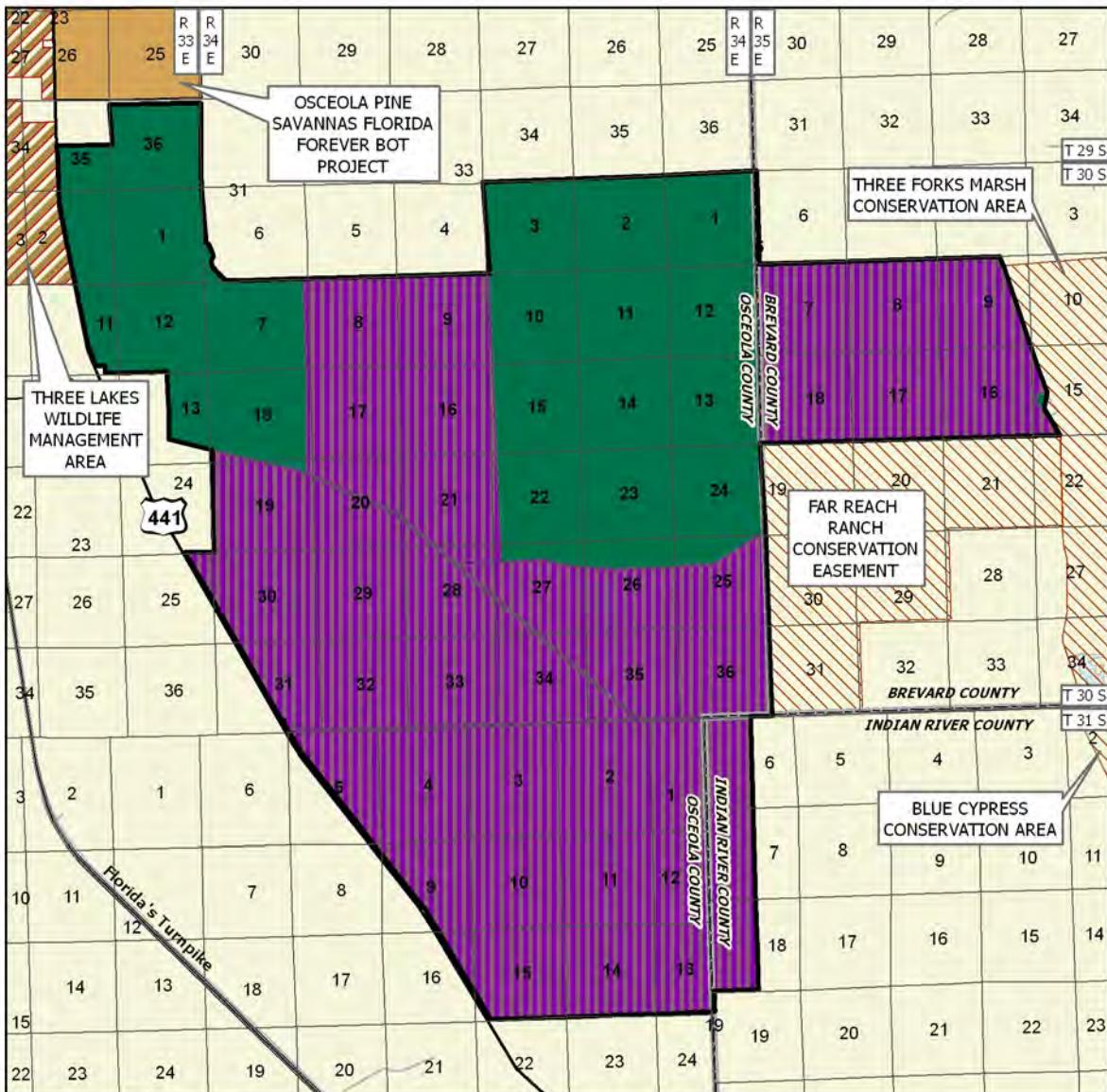
Ranch Reserve	
FNAI Elements	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Whooping Crane	G1/SNR
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3

10 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1997
Project Area (GIS Acres)	36,410
Acres Acquired (GIS)	23,818*
at a Cost of	\$10,773,500*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	12,592
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$11,566,678

\*includes funds spent and acreage acquired by the BOT and the SJRWMD

## Ranch Reserve



### RANCH RESERVE

**BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES**

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/White Striped Box] State Owned Lands
- [Yellow/White Striped Box] Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



SEPTEMBER 2009

The SJRWMD has acquired a conservation easement over the large central tract—Escape Ranch. In 2000 the Board of Trustees acquired a conservation easement over the Mills Ranch.

### **Coordination**

SJRWMD is an acquisition partner with the state and has acquired substantial acreage within the project area. TNC is an acquisition partner also.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Ranch Reserve project is to preserve and restore the mosaic of pine flatwoods and wetlands in southeastern Osceola County (and contiguous portions of Brevard and Indian River counties), along with the populations of wildlife that use these lands. Achieving this objective will provide a refuge for threatened animals like the red-cockaded woodpecker, sandhill crane, and many others.

The project should be managed to foster, preserve and protect in perpetuity the natural, ecological, wildlife and plant life features and values of the property and to prevent any use of the property that will significantly impair its conservation values. The conservation easement allows the landowner to continue to use the property for commercial cattle operation, hunting, fishing and other activities that are not inconsistent with the terms of the conservation values of the property.

The project includes 35,300 acres of contiguous property, including nearly 23,800 acres of the highest-quality land in the southeastern Osceola and adjacent areas of Brevard and Indian River counties. Consequently, it has the size and location to achieve its primary objective.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The size of the Ranch Reserve project and its importance to wild-

life, particularly to birds such as sandhill cranes and red-cockaded woodpeckers, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The SJRWMD will monitor to ensure compliance with the conservation easement.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project generally includes lands requiring monitoring only and minimum-intensity management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, the District will take aerial photographs to record the condition of each ranch and begin to inventory natural resources on site. Landowners will develop management and monitoring plans to address site security, monitor and control public access, and implement fire management. Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of rare species. Forest communities will be managed using techniques recommended by the Florida Forest Service. Appropriate protections will be provided to environmentally sensitive areas. Minimal infrastructure development will be required.

**Revenue-generating potential** The underlying fee ownership will remain with the present landowners, so no public revenue is anticipated from this area.

**Cooperators in management activities** The District will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in monitoring land in the project.

### **Management Cost Summary**

Water Management District funding is available to develop detailed management plans and to monitor compliance with those plans.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# San Felasco Conservation Corridor

Alachua County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The primary purposes for acquiring conservation easements from landowners in this project are to facilitate the development of a greenway conservation corridor in northeast Alachua County, and to protect significant natural and cultural resources.

## Manager

As a proposed less-than-fee acquisition project, the project will be managed by the private landowner and monitored and overseen by Alachua County or by a local land trust.

## General Description

The San Felasco Florida Forever proposal consists of three separate tracts of land totaling approximately 379 acres. Alone these three parcels do not create a viable project, but when combined with a larger Conservation Corridor project the importance of these pieces is seen. The tracts proposed for this Florida Forever project include a narrow fringe of hardwood forest bordering (but not including) a shallow lake, a small parcel of hardwood forest along a blackwater stream bordered by development and a four-lane highway, and a pine plantation with a few isolated wetlands and a blackwater stream. The western tract (roughly 30 acres), the undeveloped Burnett Lake Subdivision property, consists principally of a narrow strip of land bordered on the northwest by a railroad and partially surrounding, but only very narrowly abutting, the north and west sides of Burnett Lake. About two-thirds of the tract supports a predominantly second-growth hardwood forest. The small (roughly 15-acre) central parcel lies between U.S. 441 on the south, a railroad on the north, Mol-Tech battery manufacturing plant on the west, and the small residential area of Hague on the east. The

south flowing Cellon Creek flows through this parcel from state owned IFAS property. The tract supports second-growth hardwood forest and other hardwoods, growing along the small floodplain and slopes of a blackwater stream. Though narrow and disturbed, this tract may have some, though certainly limited, value as a wildlife corridor.

## Public Use

Its small size, separation into three disjunct parcels, limited uplands and status as a less-than-fee (LTF) acquisition limit the public resource-based recreation potential of this project. Generally, owners do not allow public recreation on LTF lands. However, there is an indication that limited fishing and nature appreciation may be allowed on the project. Some environmental education potential may also be possible as part of the nature appreciation aspect. As a part of a larger multiple agency cooperative effort to protect forests and wetlands connecting San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park with the Gainesville Wellfield and the Santa Fe River, these properties would also lend support to any trail that might eventually be made possible through other acquisitions.

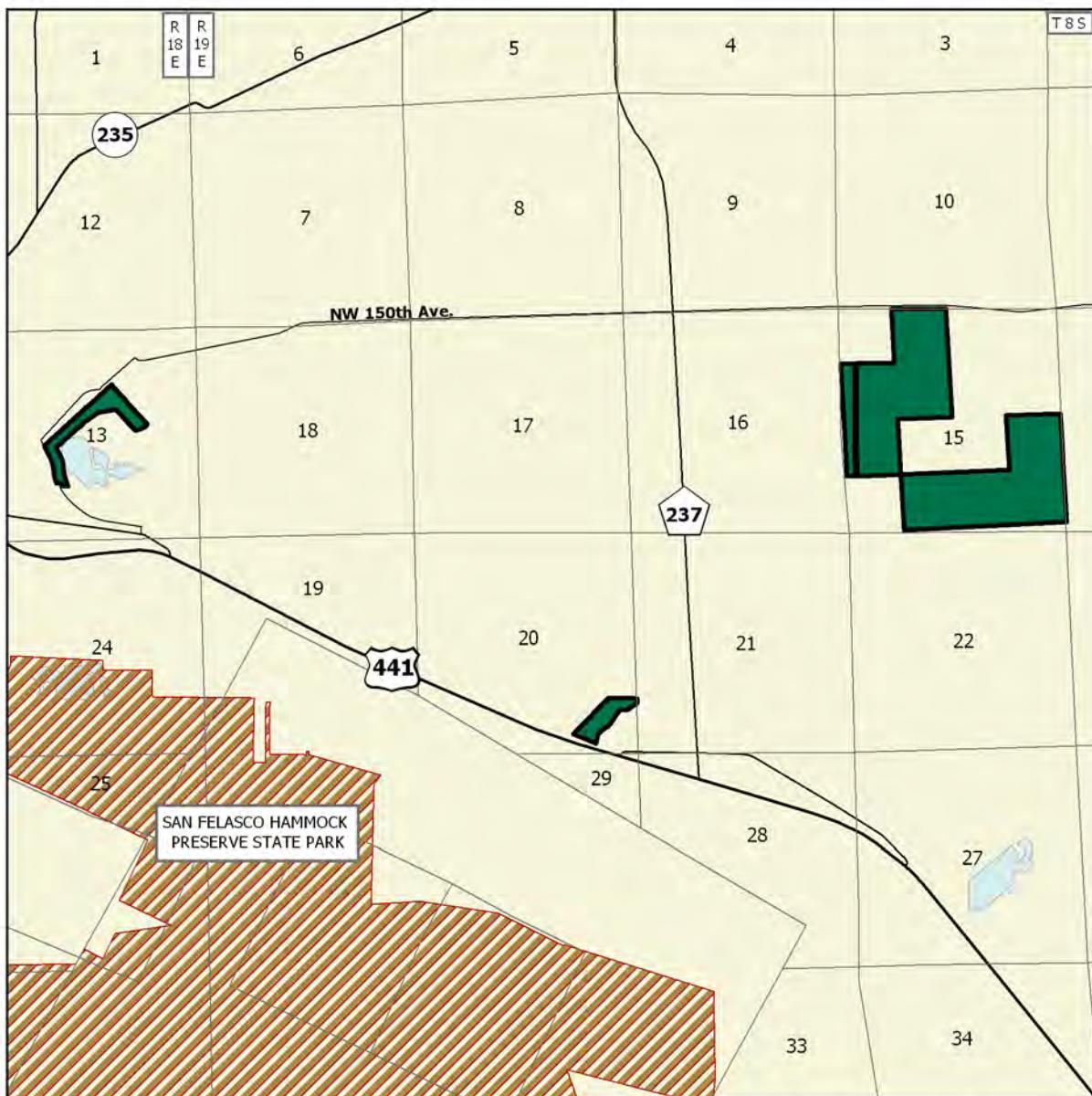
## Acquisition Planning

The project consists of multiple parcels and multiple owners. The project has been proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. On 6/6/2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the A list of Florida Forever projects.

San Felasco Conservation Corridor	
FNAI Elements	
no rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	379
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost Of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	379
with Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: n/a	

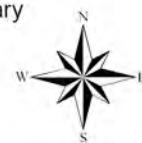
## San Felasco Conservation Corridor



### SAN FELASCO CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

#### ALACHUA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands



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Miles



JULY 2006

## **San Felasco Conservation Corridor**

### **Coordination**

The San Felasco Land Trust has created a large 25,000-acre Corridor project and brought together the Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District, The Florida Communities Trust, and the Alachua Forever land acquisition program to cooperatively acquire the Conservation Corridor. There are no adjacent land acquisition projects begun under the CARL, P2000 or Florida Forever programs. The San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park and the TTC/Gainsville Wellfield Conservation Easement are adjacent to the larger 25,000-acre Corridor project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

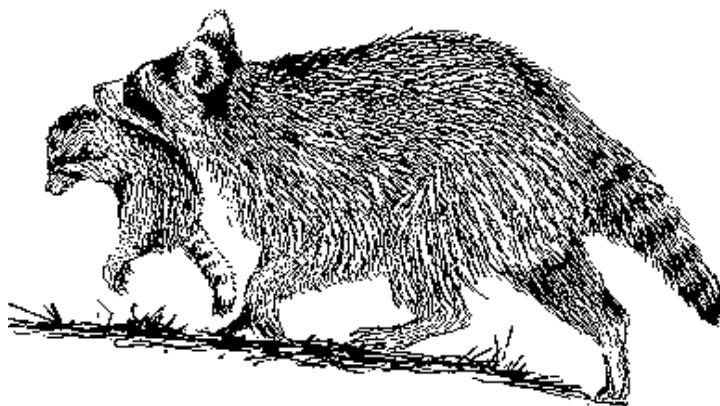
As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of

development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the San Felasco Conservation Corridor will likely be monitored and overseen by Alachua County or by a local land trust. As such, questions about intensity of the management of the property, a timetable for implementing management, cooperators in the management activities or revenue-generating potential of the project cannot be detailed at this time.

*Updated 2/27/2012*



# San Pedro Bay

## Madison and Taylor Counties

# Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for Acquisition

This project constitutes one of the largest undeveloped areas of the state not in public ownership and is essentially unoccupied by humans. It is clearly a landscape scale system and would constitute a significant wilderness. A large part of this project is within the existing San Pedro Bay Wildlife Management Area. Acquisition would expand that area and broaden hunting opportunities in the region. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Managers

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestr/DOF) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired.

### General Description

This fee simple acquisition proposal is owned by Wachovia and the Foley Timber and Land Company, and consists primarily of wet timberland interspersed with basin swamps and baygalls. The proposal has been revised to include two parcels: a large parcel in Taylor and Madison counties between CR 14 and CR 53, and a smaller, 3,000 acre parcel in Taylor County. Conservation lands in close proximity to the proposal include the Hixton Swamp Florida Forever project and several Conservation Areas of the Suwannee River Water Management District.

### Public Use

Current consumptive recreational uses on the area consist primarily of hunting with a limited amount of

bank fishing. The game species hunted are primarily deer, hog, and turkey hunting. Deer populations are low, but could increase with added protection and habitat improvement. Protection could be improved by securing boundaries, limiting access roads, and installing entrance gates. Wading birds and aquatic animals such as amphibians and reptiles that are present would benefit from applied management such as prescribed burning. State ownership would offer potential for wildlife viewing and nature study that could be improved with viewing towers or elevated walkways to offer vistas of the swamp habitat. Resource-based outdoor recreation activities that can be accommodated on the property would be hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and picnicking. The extent of these uses will greatly depend on the wet and dry conditions of the property.

The 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan reflects hunting as having a high need for the year 2005 for the region in which the project is located.

The resource-based recreation potential for the project is generally low, except for the hunting potential, which the FWC advises is moderate to high.

### Acquisition Planning

The San Pedro Bay project is approximately 44,998 (GIS) acres in tracts in Madison and Taylor counties. The Wachovia ownership includes the Madison tract (about 19,742 acres) and the Taylor tract (about 3,120 acres), and has been acquired by Regions Bank. The Foley tract is about 25,900 acres. This proposal is

San Pedro Bay	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Great Egret	G5/S4
2 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	44,998
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	44,998
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$7,898,471

## San Pedro Bay

being offered for a fee simple acquisition for the two ownerships. The Wachovia tract was acquired from the Gilman Trust in 1999, and has historically managed the pine timber for chip-n-saw rotations. The Foley tract is adjacent to the Wachovia Madison tract on the western border. Currently the FWCC has a lease over this area for a Wildlife Management Area. The tax-assessed value is \$7,898,471. On 12/5/2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the project to the Florida Forever project list.

### Coordination

FWCC and FFS are acquisition partners on this project.

### Unified Management Policy

The San Pedro Bay Florida Forever Project comprises 44,787 acres located in Madison and Taylor counties. This project is part of San Pedro Bay, a distinct wetland system extending between the Suwannee and Econfina rivers. It is the largest area of privately owned roadless land remaining in Florida. The San Pedro Bay project includes two owners, and is designed to protect a large wetland system and the waters that receive its flow. Two parcels are proposed for fee simple acquisition as follows: The first parcel has two owners, and comprises 41,666 acres in Madison and Taylor counties, stretching 16 miles from east to west between County Road 14 and County Road 53. The second parcel has one owner, and comprises 3,121 acres located in Taylor County, 2 miles south of the first parcel. One part of the proposed project drains westward to the Gulf of Mexico via the Fenholloway and Econfina Rivers; the other part of the project drains eastward via canals to the Suwannee River. Much of the central area of the proposed project has no clear drainage pattern. The project is located approximately 5 miles south of Madison, 7 miles northeast of Perry, and 45 miles east of Tallahassee.

The project consists primarily of wetlands resulting from a water table perched on top of a clay layer, which retains water on the surface and impedes movement of water into the underlying Floridan aquifer. Natural communities make up about 49% of the San Pedro Bay proposal; the remaining 51% is in silvicultural operations. Natural communities within the project include basin marsh, baygall, dome swamp and wet flatwoods. Most of the larger baygalls and dome swamps have been selectively logged in recent years. Basin marsh, including some interspersed wet flatwoods, comprises 5,653 acres of the project, and appears to be largely in a natural condition. Wet flatwoods comprises

22,822 acres interspersed with 16,252 acres of baygall and dome swamp. In the area where silvicultural operations occur, planted wet flatwoods includes an understory of native herbs and shrubs. Raised beds are used to improve growth of pine trees on poorly drained soils. The resulting cypress-pine association (*Pinus spp.-Taxodium ascendens*), also referred to as titi or titi bay, is typified by a dense, shrubby understory of titi (*Cliftonia monophylla*; *Cyrilla racemiflora*), greenbrier (*Smilax spp.*), fetterbush (*Lyonia spp.*), holly (*Ilex spp.*), and many other wetland plants. About 70 acres are classified as disturbed land. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 20% (8,756 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), the little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Other imperiled or rare animal species that are expected to occur in the project include Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), and swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) has also been observed on the project.

Game species are present in relatively low densities among scattered habitat for white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Other game species having been observed on the area include the common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), and rabbits (*Sylvilagus spp.*).

This project provides habitat for larger, more widely ranging species such as the Florida black bear, and is significant as an ecological greenway, with the entire project area (44,787 acres) qualifying as either priority 3 or 7 in potential importance, according to the FNAI. The project would improve feasibility of establishing a landscape linkage with coastal publicly owned bear habitat on the Aucilla and Big Bend wildlife management areas (WMAs), and the St. Marks National

Wildlife Refuge. Other nearby conservation lands include: Hixtown Swamp Florida Forever project 3 miles northeast of the project; Twin Rivers State Forest along the Suwannee River, 6 miles to the east; and the Econfina Conservation Area along the Econfina River, 5 miles to the west.

The rare plant species occurring in the project area include pitcher plants (*Sarracenia spp.*) within smaller areas of herbaceous wetlands. It is expected that additional rare and imperiled biota, yet to be documented, occur in the project area.

The San Pedro Bay project is of sufficient size for large-scale ecosystem management and restoration programs, as part of the larger San Pedro Bay wetland system. Successful restoration of important ecological and hydrological functions might require additional project design. Hydrological restoration would improve fish and wildlife resources, as well as opportunities for outdoor recreation. However, hydrological restoration could diminish certain types of public access due to increased water levels and wetland function.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** San Pedro Bay is one of several examples across North Florida of where a predominantly hydric community has been dramatically altered to promote silvicultural conversion. Extensive ditching and drainage works overlay a relatively flat topography that was once composed of hydric pine flatwoods, baygalls, bay swamp, and cypress swamp. The principal land management challenges at San Pedro Bay center on the hydrological restoration of surface waters to predrainage conditions, the gradual restoration of native land cover types, and the protection and enhancement of remnant natural plant and wildlife communities. Due to the multi-disciplinary approach that will be required to achieve successful restoration, it is recommended that the project be placed under unified management involving both the FFS and the FWCC. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land and timber resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities.

The landscape ecology of this project provides connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands, large areas of forest, functional wetlands (71 percent, or 31,936 acres of project area), and

protection of surface water (57 percent, or 25,379 acres of project area) and natural floodplain function (11 percent, or 4,833 acres of project area). Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed that serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

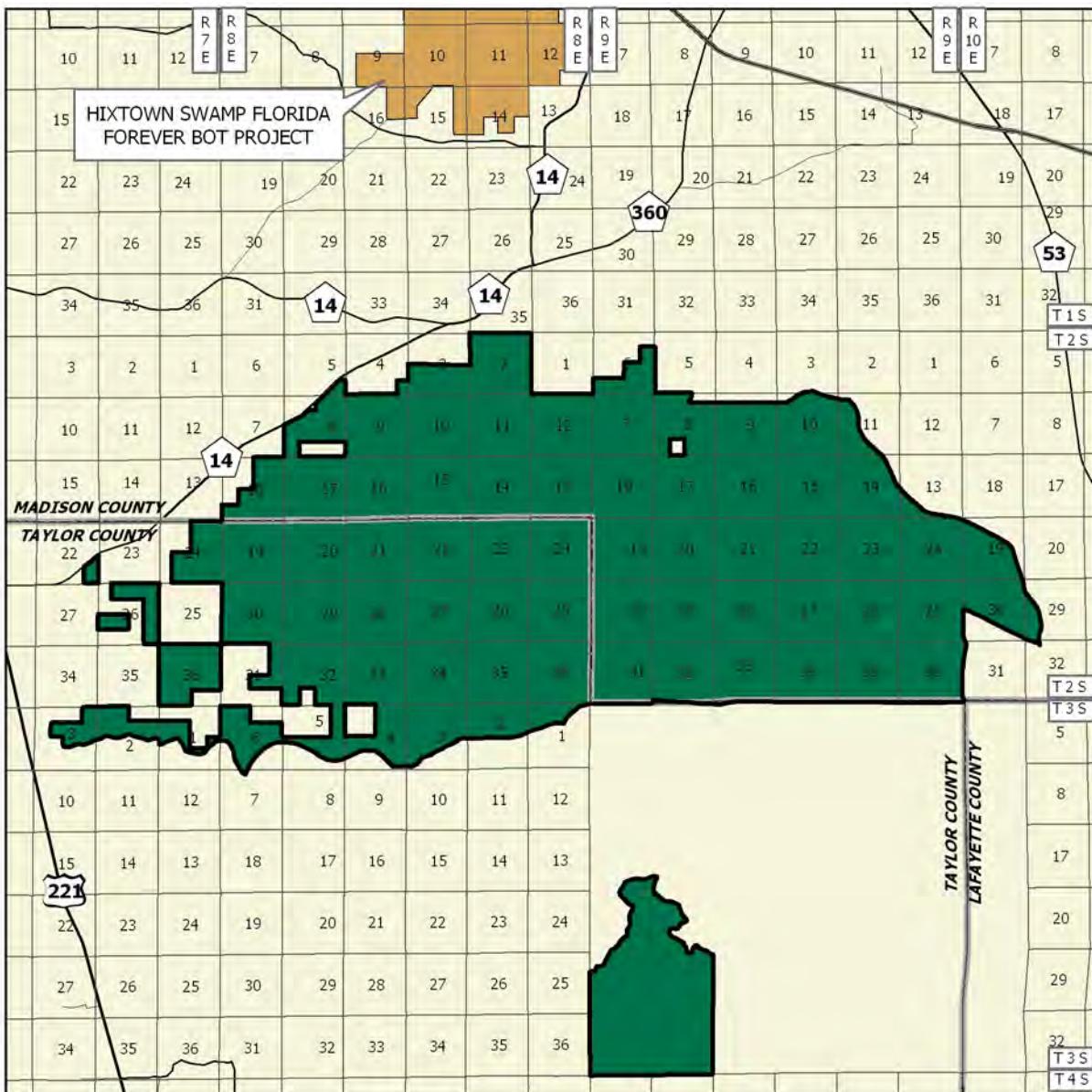
Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and rare or imperiled species would be an important management goal. Management programs would conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources. Stands of timber would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes and canopy conditions that promote ground cover development and enhancement of wildlife. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The project area will be managed to provide for those recreation opportunities that are best suited to the characteristics of the site, as well as the needs of user groups. Currently, recreational use of the site consists of bicycling, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Trails may be used as multi-use trails. The Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 66 percent (29,340 acres) of the project area suitable for priority 1 recreational trails. The managing agencies would promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment.

This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

- (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels;
- (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state;
- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are

## San Pedro Bay



### MADISON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



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AUGUST 2006

available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state;

(e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities;

(g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

**Managers** FWCC and FFS will be unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** Most of the project area is a high-need tract, requiring significant up-front design and engineering analysis to restore natural hydrologic functions. Under unified management, FFS and FWCC will utilize in-house expertise in areas of plant community restoration to develop long-term hydrologic goals and objectives that will be featured in the conceptual management plan (CMP). Much of the project's wet flatwoods has been managed for silvicultural operations, and will require restoration. Off-site timber species may require thinning or removal to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species. Areas where pine has been harvested, but not yet replanted, will require reforestation of native pine species best suited for soil and moisture conditions, and at stocking levels that restore natural plant and wildlife community characteristics. Under unified management, the managing agencies would conduct historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and restoration methods and tools. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods and tools for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities might include the introduction of prescribed fire, control of human uses and removal of invasive exotic species. Because many imperiled or rare species are expected to occur in the project, biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Development of facilities for public use and administrative purposes would feature rustic facilities, and be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience. Any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

**Timetable for Implementing Management Provisions** It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will

meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of imperiled or rare species of flora and fauna. Due to the nature of past drainage and dewatering activities associated with silvicultural operations, an extensive hydrologic analysis will be performed to guide long-term restoration strategies. Other concurrent assessments will include completion of a plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis. Based on the results of these assessments, both agencies will develop quantified vegetation management objectives and desired future condition profiles to direct restoration in a manner consistent with the objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems.

Management will emphasize enhancement of abundance and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented. An all season prescribed burning management plan would be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable methods and tools. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of unified management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Both agencies will work cooperatively towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other

## San Pedro Bay

existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, and would include provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

**Estimate of Revenue-Generating Potential** Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 44 percent (19,834 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees, and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15 percent) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated.

### **Recommendations as to Other Governmental**

**Agency Involvement** The unified managers (FFS and FWCC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Suwannee River Water Management District, in managing the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

**Revenue Sources, Management Costs and Employees Needed\*** Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the FFS and FWCC.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

Category Source of Funds	Start-up CARL	Recurring CARL
Resource Management	\$548,732	\$719,677
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$2,187,189	\$316,190
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$3,756	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$31,351	\$31,351
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,995,601*</b>	<b>\$1,124,056*</b>

\*includes employee salaries

WLD 8-5-2

BWM\PROSPECTUS\Unified Management\Revised San Pedro Bay Prospectus UM 7.13.2004

# Sand Mountain

Washington and Bay Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Until the early part of this century, the country north of St. Andrews Bay was a high longleaf-pine sandhill interrupted by deep depressions holding shallow sand-bottomed lakes. The lakes still pock the area, but pine plantations and residential developments have replaced most of the sandhill. The Sand Mountain project will conserve and restore part of this land, still one of the largest tracts of sandhill in the Florida panhandle; protect the watersheds of the lakes and of Econfina Creek (the source of Panama City's water); maintain habitat critical to the survival of several rare plants that grow only around these lakes; and provide a large scenic area where the public can enjoy many recreational activities, from hiking to hunting. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### General Description

This project protects the largest remaining tract of high quality, natural xeric uplands of Florida's New Hope Ridge and Fountain Slope physiographic regions. The high rolling pinelands drop down to classic examples of steephead ravines, unique Sandhill Upland Lakes,

and a portion of a nearly pristine stream. Much of the sandhills are of excellent quality, having a nearly intact ground cover of wiregrass and dropseed, but those owned by the Rosewood Timber Company have been cleared and planted in sand pine. At least 18 species of rare or endangered plants inhabit the project. The Slope Forests in the steepheads shelter several species, while around the Sandhill Upland Lakes are four globally imperiled plant species found nowhere else in the world. The project also contains a large part of the watershed of Econfina Creek, nearly pristine in terms of water quality. Three archaeological sites are known from the project and there is moderate potential for more. Development threatens the northern part and the lakes in the southern part.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a state forest with such uses as hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, camping and environmental education.

### Acquisition Planning

The larger longleaf pine sandhill tracts (essential)—Deltona, St. Joe and John Hancock Mutual Life Ins. Co.—should be acquired first. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) has acquired the Rosewood ownership in Phase II and a portion of the Deltona ownership.

### Coordination

The NFWFMD is an acquisition partner.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Sand Mountain project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural

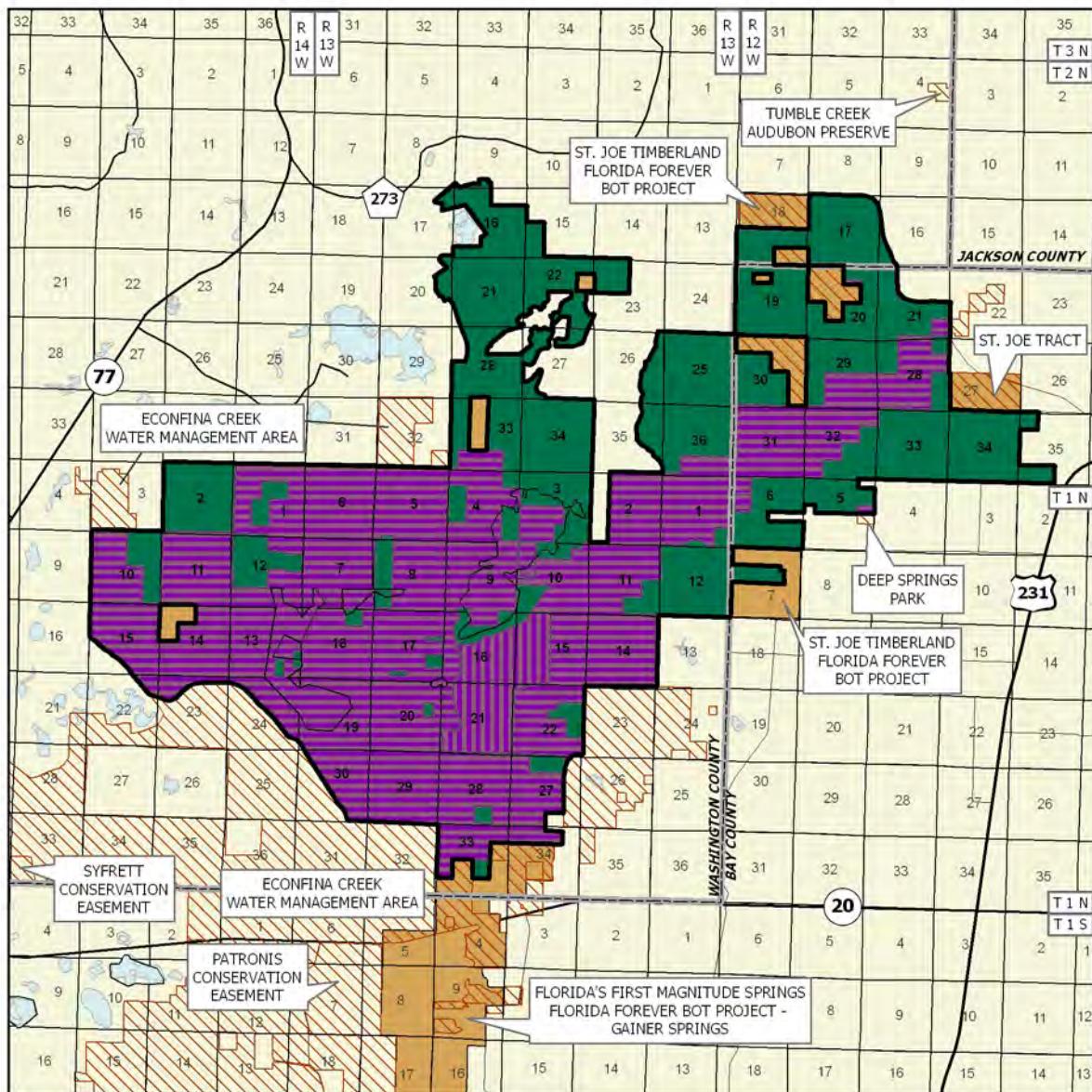
Sand Mountain FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Quillwort Yellow-eyed Grass</i>	G1/S1
<i>Crystal Lake Nailwort</i>	G3T1/S1
Econfina Springs Cave Isopod	G1/S1
Shaggy Ghostsnail	G1/S1
Oval Pigtoe	G2/S1S2
<i>Smoothbark St. John's wort</i>	G2/S2
<i>Panhandle Meadowbeauty</i>	G2/S2
<i>Thread-leaf Sundew</i>	G4/S1
<i>Karst Pond Xyris</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Florida Flame Azalea</i>	G3/S3
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3

30 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1994
Project Area (GIS Acres)	33,723
Acres Acquired (GIS)	19,228
at a Cost of	\$26,637,412*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	14,495
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$10,363,475

\*By the Northwest Florida Water Mgt. District

## Sand Mountain



## SAND MOUNTAIN

### WASHINGTON AND BAY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



APRIL 2010

area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The large areas of natural longleaf pine sandhills and restorable pine plantations in the Sand Mountain project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The FFS is recommended as the lead Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The pine plantations in the project will require restoration. Other than this, there are no known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the core area is acquired, the FFS will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural

resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Much of the pine-lands has been cleared and planted in sand pine and requires restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructures will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The FFS will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable amounts of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The NWF-WMD has purchased land along Econfina Creek within the project boundary. The District will cooperate with the FFS in the management of this corridor. The FFS will also cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

*Updated 2/29/2012*

### **Management Cost Summary/FFS**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$148,370	\$148,370
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$70,000	\$50,000
OCO	\$234,900	\$15,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$453,270</b>	<b>\$213,370</b>

### **Management Cost Summary/NWFWM**

<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>
Salary	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
OPS	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Expense	\$39,222	\$49,028	\$61,284
OCO	\$27,838	\$34,798	\$43,498
FCO	\$36,000	\$34,750	\$43,438
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$143,060</b>	<b>\$183,576</b>	<b>\$213,220</b>

# Save Our Everglades

## Collier County

## Substantially Complete

### Purpose for State Acquisition

West of the huge sawgrass marsh of the central Everglades spreads a landscape of cypress swamps, marshes, slash-pine flatwoods, and tropical hammocks, through which water slowly flows to the mangrove swamps of the Ten Thousand Islands. The Save Our Everglades project will conserve three large pieces of this landscape, connecting and extending existing conservation lands, helping to save the last of the Florida panthers and a host of other rare animals and tropical plants, preserving the flow of water to the rich estuaries of the Gulf coast, and allowing the public to enjoy this unique landscape for years to come. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

National Park Service (NPS) will manage Big Cypress Addition; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will manage Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) will manage all of the Golden Gate Estates South - less that portion east of the Fakaunion Canal to be managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP); and DRP will manage that portion of the

Golden Gate Estates South lying east of the Fakaunion Canal - less the old resort hotel, its associated compound and the sewage treatment plant.

### General Description

This project includes important hydrological connections among Big Cypress National Preserve, Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, and Everglades National Park. It serves as the headwaters of the largest strand swamp in the nation—the Fakahatchee Strand. It is also an excellent natural area in its own right. Natural communities on the property include cypress forest, pine forest, hammock, mixed swamp forest, wet and dry prairies and freshwater marsh. The area is known to support many endangered, threatened or rare species including a large variety of rare orchids and other epiphytes, as well as the endangered Florida panther. There is believed to be good potential for archaeological sites here. The project is threatened by drainage and other changes in water flow through the area, by oil and gas exploration, and perhaps by limerock mining.

### Public Use

The project will provide a preserve/reserve, wildlife and environmental area, and a forest, allowing such uses as fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

The finalization of the Collier Exchange on December 18, 1996, resulted in public protection of an additional 83,070 acres in the Big Cypress Addition and an additional 4,110 acres in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

Save Our Everglades FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida bonneted bat	G1/S1
<i>Tampa Vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Clamshell Orchid</i>	G4G5T2/S2
<i>Pineland Jacquemontia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida Royal Palm</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Narrow-leaved Carolina Scalystem</i>	G4T2/S2
<i>Fuzzy-wuzzy Air-plant</i>	G4/S1
<i>Many-flowered Catopsis</i>	G3G5/S1
32 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1984
Project Area (GIS Acres)	217,677
Acres Acquired (GIS)	217,306
at a Cost of	\$132,018,455
Acres Remaining (GIS)	371
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$4,050,796

On April 18, 2003 ARC transferred 1,615 acres in Hendry County to the Panther Glades Florida Forever project.

The NPS continues to pursue consolidation efforts in the Big Cypress Preserve Addition. The Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program continues to focus on acquiring land in Golden Gate Estates South. The USFWS has acquired and manages 28,410 acres (including Collier Exchange lands). The CARL Program received \$25 million of Federal "Farm Bill" funds for the Golden Gate portion of this project. All of the acreage in this project is considered essential.

In June 2009, approximately 3 platted acres were purchased for \$8,276.

### **Coordination**

The NPS, USFWS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and DOT are all acquisition partners in this project area. Resolutions in support of this project include EO 88-25: Governor's Executive Directive for Interagency Joint Participation Agreement.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Save Our Everglades project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The sensitive resources of the Big Cypress National Preserve qualify it as a state preserve. The extremely rare Florida panther and the undisturbed habitat needed to protect it qualify the Panther National Wildlife Refuge as a wildlife and environmental area. The size and diversity of Golden Gate Estates South, and its twelve miles of common border with the Belle Meade project (to be managed by the FFS), make it highly

suitable for use and management as a state forest.

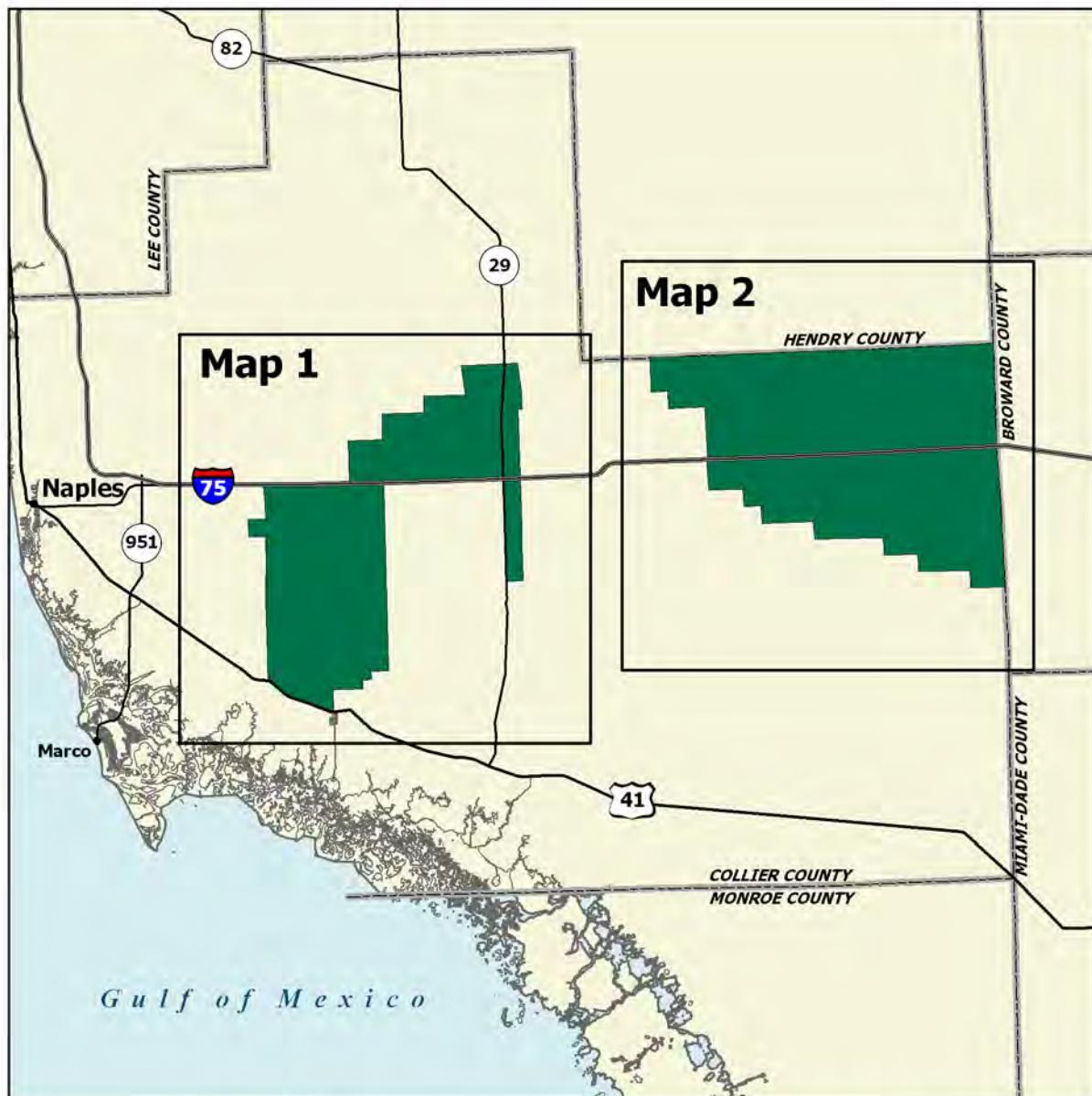
**Manager** NPS (Big Cypress Addition), USFWS (Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge), FFS (all of the Golden Gate Estates South, less that portion east of the Fakaunion Canal to be managed by the DRP), and DRP (that portion of the Golden Gate Estates South lying east of the Fakaunion Canal, less the old resort hotel, its associated compound and the sewage treatment plant).

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Panther National Wildlife Refuge is a low-need management area, requiring basic resource management and protection. Portions of Golden Gate Estates may require hydrological restoration, but the local water management district will probably conduct these activities. There is a major road network that might eventually require partial removal. If this restoration effort is attempted, it will probably require funding beyond what is typically expected for a state forest.

**Manager** NPS will manage Big Cypress Addition; USFWS will manage Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge; DOF will manage all of the Golden Gate Estates South - less that portion east of the Fakaunion Canal to be managed by the DRP; and DRP will manage that portion of the Golden Gate Estates South lying east of the Fakaunion Canal - less the old resort hotel, its associated compound and the sewage treatment plant.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The Panther National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989. In 1991, the USFWS began management programs of protection, prescribed burning and food plot management. The area is not open for public use. For the first four years, the refuge was burned to reduce accumulated fuel loads. Burns were confined to the winter and spring. The refuge will experiment with early summer burns in the future. Approximately 6,000 acres of Golden Gate Estates South have already been acquired within the project boundaries; however, this acreage is composed of thousands of lots scattered throughout the area so management for public access and use is not feasible at this time. Once sufficient area has been acquired, the FFS will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions,

## Save Our Everglades



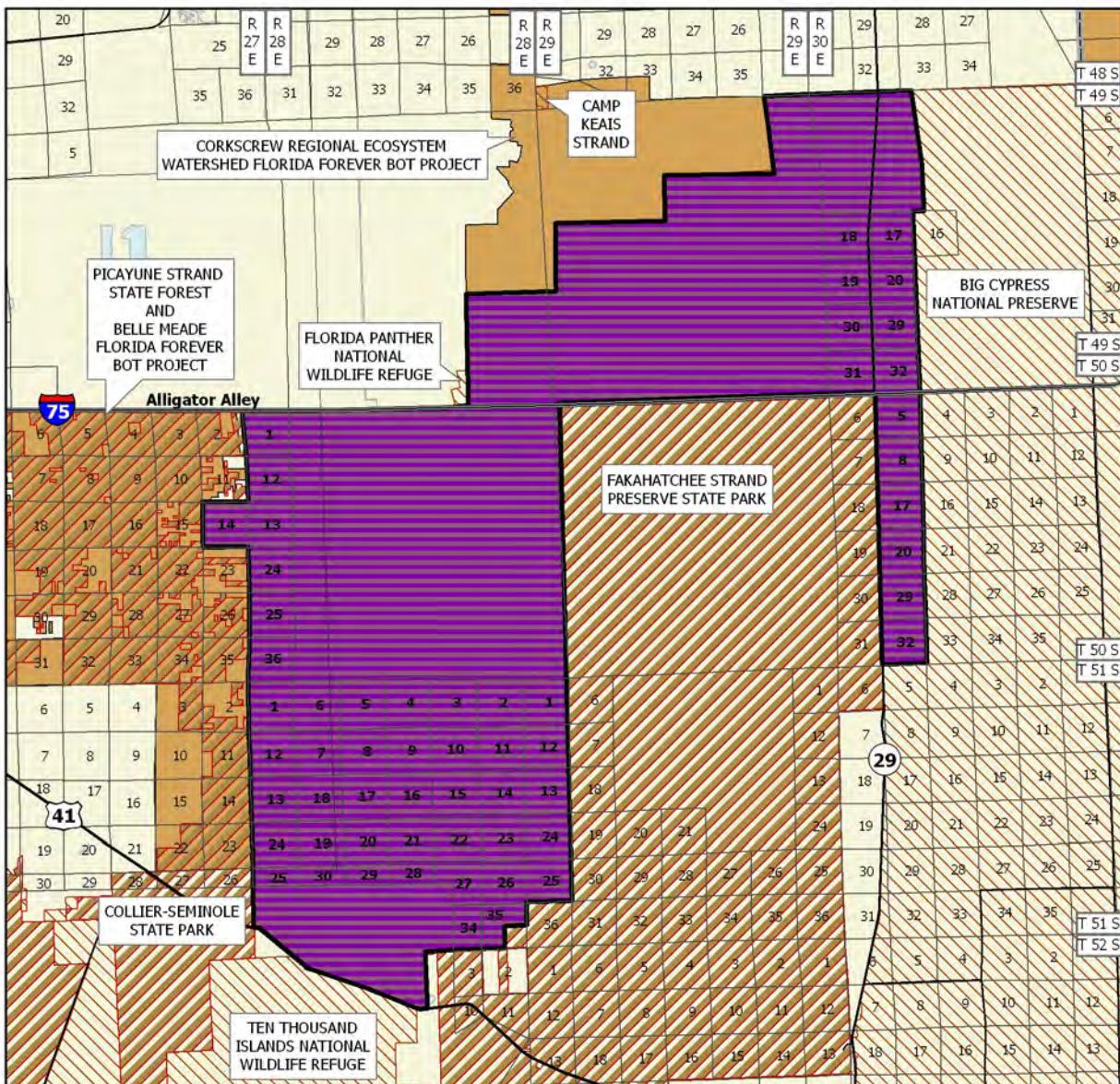
### SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: OVERVIEW

#### COLLIER COUNTY



0      5      10      20  
Miles





# SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 1 OF 2

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***COLLIER COUNTY***

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  -  Acquired
  -  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  -  State Owned Lands
  -  Other Conservation Lands

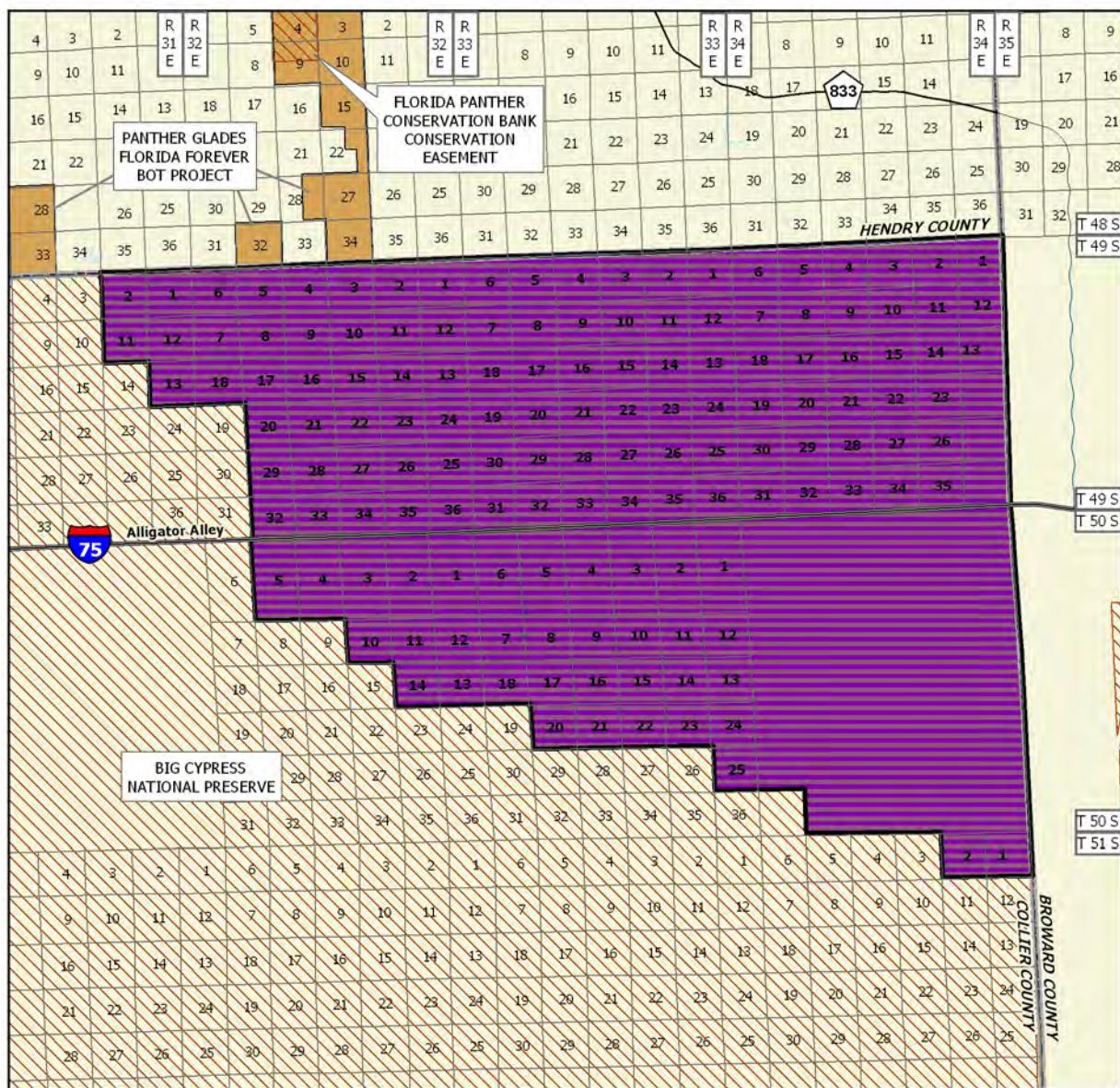


0 1 2 4 Miles



NOVEMBER 2008

## Save Our Everglades



## SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 2 OF 2

### COLLIER COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Other Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4 Miles



JUNE 2009

as fast as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected from the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. In Golden Gate Estates, the FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable amounts of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), FFS, Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW), Collier County, and the NPS are cooperators in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

*Updated 2/3/2012*

**Management Cost Summary/FFS**

Category Source of Funds	1995/96 CARL	1996/97 CARL	1997/98 CARL
Salary	\$35,376	\$50,658	\$85,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$24,975	\$34,125	\$60,000
OCO	\$4,190	\$40,000	\$46,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,541</b>	<b>\$124,783</b>	<b>\$191,000</b>

**Management Cost Summary/NPS**

Category Source of Funds	Startup NPS	Recurring NPS
Salary	\$110,000	\$110,000
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$115,000	\$70,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>

**Management Cost Summary/SFWMD**

Category Source of Funds	Startup WMLTF	Recurring WMLTF
Salary	\$3,265	\$3,265
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,265</b>	<b>\$3,265</b>

**Management Cost Summary/USFWS**

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 FWS	1997/98 FWS	1998/99 FWS
Salary	N/A	N/A	N/A
OPS	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expense	N/A	N/A	N/A
OCO	N/A	N/A	N/A
FCO	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$642,600</b>	<b>\$747,300</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# Seven Runs Creek

Walton County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Combining the North Nokuse Plantation (11,961 acres) and the Seven Runs Creek (14,649 acres) Florida Forever Projects facilitates restoration efforts and overall management of the property as one management unit. The combined project meets the Florida Forever goals of creating contiguous conservation areas, protecting groundwater resources, using alternatives to fee-simple acquisition to protect open lands, conserving significant Strategic Habitat Conservation areas for rare species, and ecological restoration of lands that were changed by tree-farming and other activities, as well as offers an important expansion to the existing connection between Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) and the Choctawhatchee Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Also, several listed species could potentially benefit from ongoing restoration of historic and current sandhill habitats on the property.

## Manager

The property will be managed as a conservation easement (less-than-fee acquisition) by the landowner with restrictions established in a negotiated conservation easement agreement. The Department of Environmental's Office of Environmental Services (OES) will be responsible for monitoring compliance under the terms and conditions of the easement.

## General Description

The project is in the Northern Highlands region of the Florida panhandle. It has high (to 180 feet above mean sea level), xeric, mostly sandy ridges that once supported longleaf pine-dominated sand hills. Part of its western boundary is bordered by Eglin AFB. The southern property line borders the Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area and the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Most of the uplands have been ecologically degraded by decades of silviculture and agriculture (row crops, especially soy beans). Under the current ownership, most of these lands are being restored through replanting of longleaf pine and by using prescribed fire. As part of this effort, the current owner has started an experimental, large-scale effort to restore populations of gopher tortoises throughout the property.

The owner is actively engaged in an aggressive program aimed at the ecological restoration of the tract through the removal of off-site pines--such as sand pine and slash pine; the planting of over 15,000 acres of longleaf pines; the use of prescribed fire in an all-season burning regime; the reintroduction of gopher tortoises; and the control of invasive exotic plant species.

Part of the property is considered to be a groundwater recharge area; the area has been mapped by the Northwest Water Management District (WMD) as a groundwater rich area. In a presentation to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) in August 2008, the sponsor said operation of the eight wells that will provide water

<b>Combined on List</b>	<b>2010*</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>26,042</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>2,173</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$342,950</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>23,869</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$2,485,019</b>

\*Combined with North Nokuse Plantation.

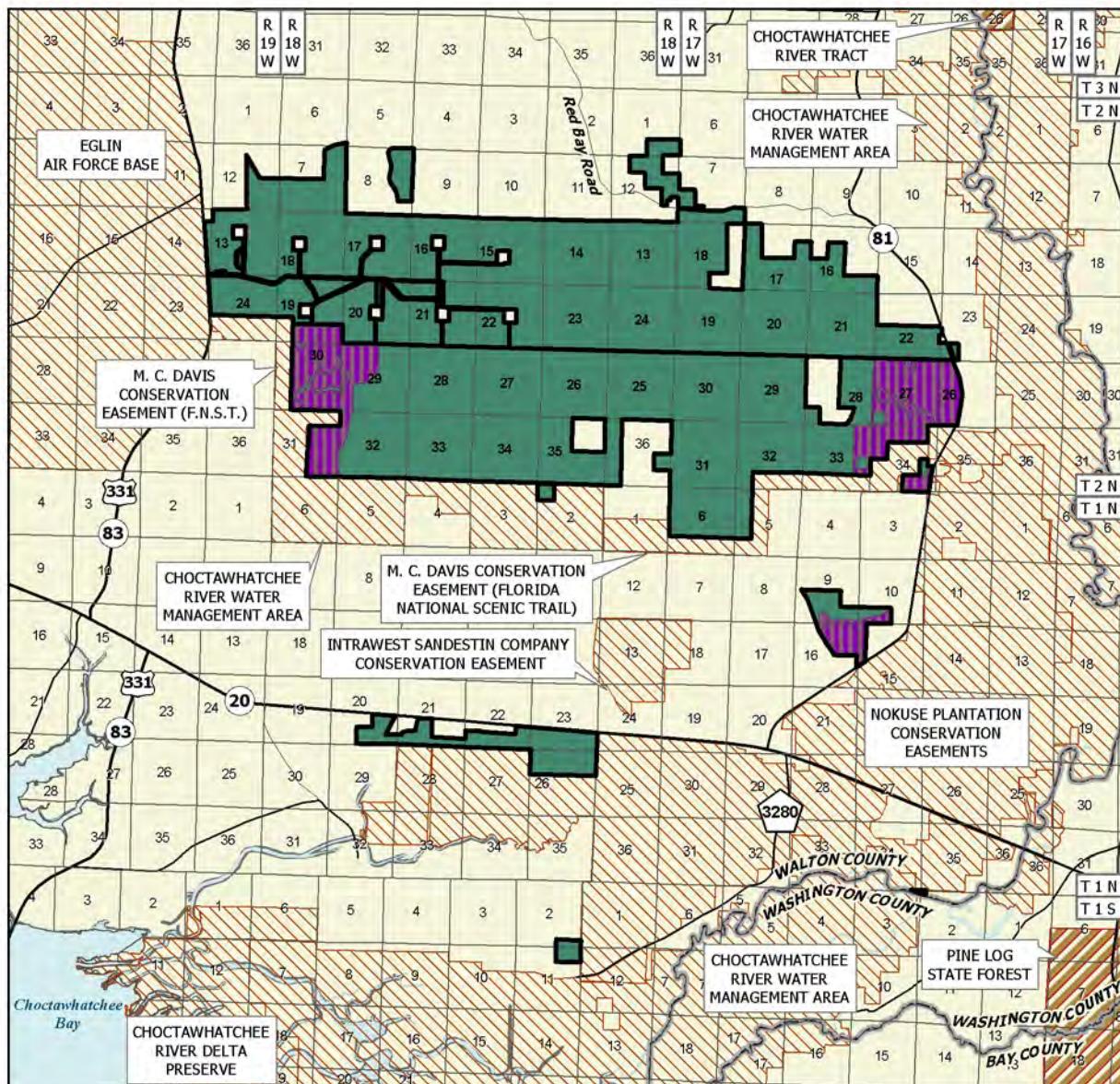
## Seven Runs Creek

### FNAI Elements

Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
<i>Baltzell's Sedge</i>	G3/S3
<i>Large-leaved Jointweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Pineland Hoary-pea</i>	G3/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
<i>Silky Camellia</i>	G4/S3
Pine Barrens Treefrog	G4/S3
<i>Mountain Laurel</i>	G5/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
<i>Sandhill Sedge</i>	G5?/S3

14 rare species are associated with the project

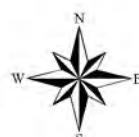
## Seven Runs Creek



### SEVEN RUNS CREEK

#### WALTON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0    1    2    4  
Miles



OCTOBER 2011

## **Seven Runs Creek**

to Walton County would not be detrimental to the area's restoration. But allowing them would encourage local government support for the expansion of the owner's longleaf habitat restoration effort.

### **Public Use**

The property has been offered as a less-than-fee acquisition. No public access will be planned under the terms of the easement except for research and education purposes.

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is surrounded by the Seven Runs Creek project. Opened in 2009, it provides educational opportunities for high school students as well as opportunities for researchers to investigate and document the diverse aspects of the ecosystems on the surrounding lands. The Center's site, as well as several residences for managers and staff, and office space are not within the project boundary.

### **Acquisition Planning**

The ARC recommended the North Nokuse Plantation (LTF) Florida Forever project for the priority list in June 2006 and the Seven Runs Creek (LTF) Florida Forever project in December 2008. In December 2009 ARC approved the landowner's request that the two projects be combined under the name of Seven Runs Creek (LTF).

On 8/29/2011 DSL partnered with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to purchase 378.45 acres (\$342,950 Florida Forever funds) and DOD purchased 725.05 acres (\$657,050) for a total of 1,103.50 acre CE.

### **Coordination**

The U.S. Air Force, through a Memorandum of Agreement, is an acquisition partner. U.S. Forest Service

became an acquisition partner by purchasing the trail easement as part of the National Scenic Trail, reducing the amount of acreage that would be considered for purchase with Florida Forever funds.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The owner of the property has been working to restore the sand hills of the property to their historical condition. As a conservation easement, or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with some restrictions and monitored by the OES, Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection. Restoration of the property to historic composition is the documented overall goal of the landowner.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** A large portion of the project was converted to agricultural fields around the turn of the last century. These fields were in use up to the 1970's when they were abandoned. During the last twenty years many of these fields have been replanted with longleaf pines and a fire regime initiated to begin the restoration of the mesic flatwoods and sandhill natural communities. The landowner has already made efforts to restore the forest ecosystems that once dominated the area. The restoration with longleaf pines and appropriate understory species will be difficult.

**Manager** The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement unless otherwise noted.

*Updated 2/3/2012*

# Shoal River Buffer

## Okaloosa County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Shoal River Buffer project would advance Florida Forever goals of increasing biodiversity; preserving landscape linkages, habitat for rare species, and water and wetland systems of the state by protecting 1,768 acres of rare species habitat; 2,062 acres of ecological greenways; 1,419 acres of surface waters; 1,443 acres of functional wetlands, and land that has a record of supporting black bears, the alligator snapping turtle, the sweet pitcher plant and the hairy indigo. Acquisition of this property would contribute to protecting the water quality of the Shoal River drainage area which harbors a number of rare plant and animal species; to sustain wildlife in the area, particularly to provide long-term benefits to imperiled species; and to provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities. The Shoal River is labeled an Outstanding Florida Water.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is the recommended manager for lands within this project acquired by both the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWM). NWFWM has indicated it will convey any lands the agency acquires within this project to the BOT at no cost.

### General Description

Encompassing approximately 2,097 (GIS) acres in eastern Okaloosa County, the Shoal River Buffer Florida Forever project is offered as a “fee simple” acquisition.

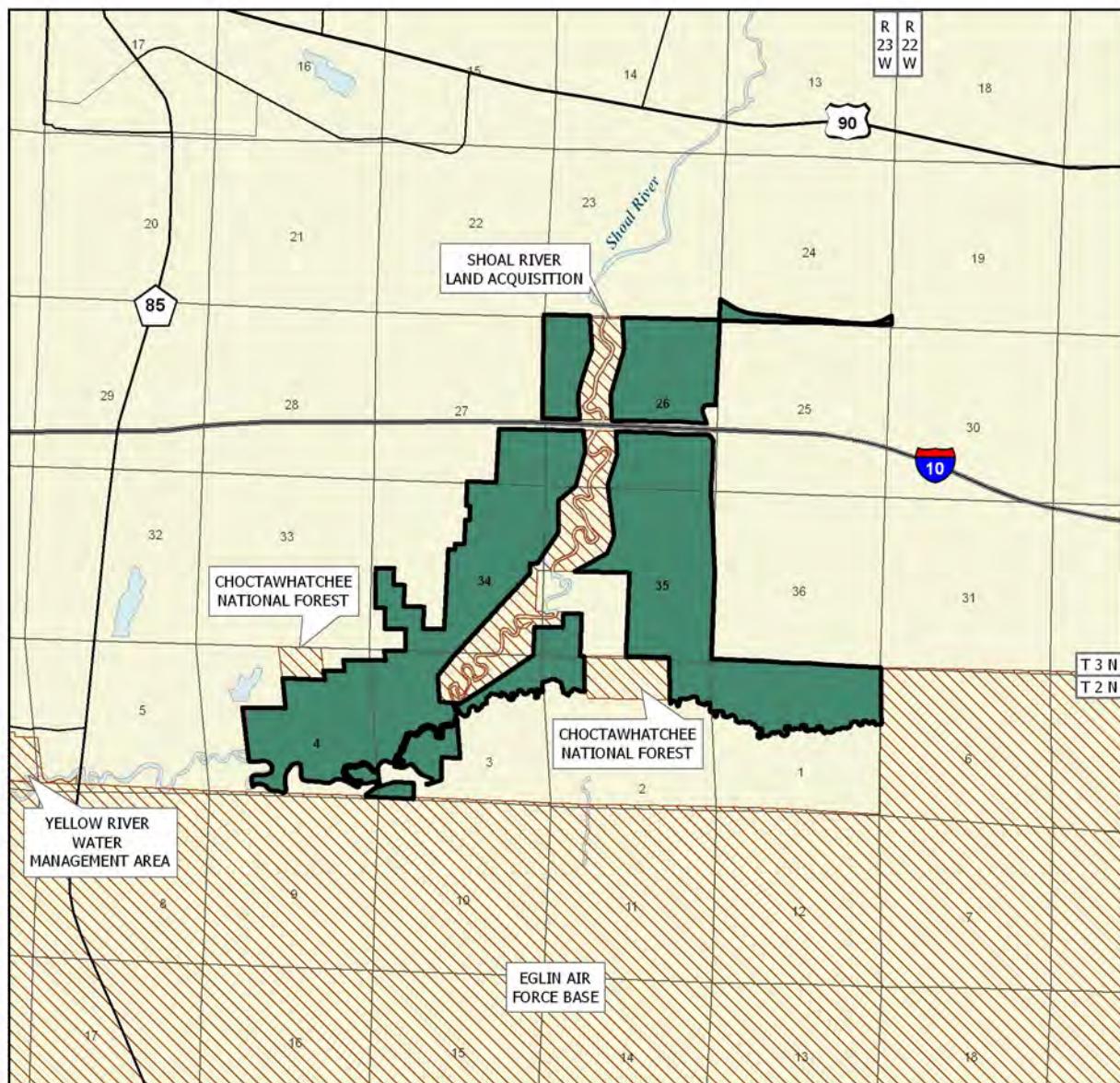
The tract is divided into two distinct parcels lying east and west of the Shoal River and 5.5 miles from the con vergency of the Yellow River. It is bisected by land owned by Okaloosa County that consists of the immediate floodplain bordering the Shoal River. A portion of the western tract is adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) to the south and the city of Crestview to the west. The eastern portion is bordered by Titi Creek to the south and agricultural lands to the north. Natural communities located within the project include upland hardwood forest, sandhills, mesic/wet flatwoods, floodplain forest, basin swamp, and blackwater stream. The site also has intact seepage slopes. The wetland types on both tracts have intact forest cover and are typical for the region. Timber species include oaks, cypress, Atlantic White Cedar, maple, and titi. The upland areas vary from excessively well drained to poorly drained sites. The extremely xeric sites are predominately longleaf pine with scattered sand pine. Understory tree species include typical xeric oaks and shrubs. Mesic sites contain slash, longleaf and loblolly pines with oaks, sweetgum and maple intermixed. Slash pine is the predominate pine species on the mesic sites. Desirable groundcover species were noticed in all types; however, the absence of prescribed fire has severely suppressed their development. The tract provides the AFB with a critical buffer for both military operations and smoke generated from burning operations on base. The property has potential for some varied resource-based recreation; however, access to the property is through a series of obscure private woods roads that are difficult to follow. The Shoal River Paddling Trail (designated

Shoal River Buffer FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
<i>Hairy Wild Indigo</i>	G3T3/S3
Alligator Snapping Turtle	G3G4/S3
Lavender Burrowing Crayfish	G4/S2S3
<i>Sweet Pitcherplant</i>	G4/S3
<i>Spoon-leaved Sundew</i>	G5/S3

8 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2010
Project Area (GIS Acres)	2,097
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	2,097
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$3,841,189

## Shoal River Buffer



## SHOAL RIVER BUFFER

### OKALOOSA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands



0    0.5    1    2  
Miles



DECEMBER 2009

by Office of Greenways and Trails) stretches nine and half miles through the property with access points north (Ray Barnes Boat Ramp) and southwest (Bill Duggar Jr. Park) of the property. The property has potential for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking, primitive camping, nature interpretive trails and geocaching.

### **Public Use**

As on all FWCC-managed areas, development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources, while providing for compatible recreational opportunities. Any such minimal development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The tract is currently leased to hunt clubs.

### **Acquisition Planning**

The project is owned by the Haiseal Timber company and is proposed for fee-simple acquisition. On 12/11/2009 ARC voted to add this project with a tax assessed value of \$3,841,189 to the March 2010 Florida Forever list.

### **Coordination**

The Department of Defense (DOD) is interested in partnering with the state in acquiring this land. Furthermore, the NFWFMD has expressed to the DOD that it has interest in 500 acres or more of the property located along the county's riverfront ownership.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The purpose for acquisition would be to protect the water quality of the Shoal river drainage area which harbors a number of rare plant and animal species; to sustain wildlife in the area, particularly to provide long-term benefits to imperiled species; and to provide natural resource-based recreationl opportunities. Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled and rare species, will be important management goals for the project. A prescribed fire management regime would likely be a primary management goal. Dense stands of regenerated pines will probably need to be thinned before introducing fire.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** About 68 percent of the project is habitat for a range of at least 3-7 or more focal species (imperiled or rare wildlife). About 76 percent of the Shoal River Buffer tract lies within a

designated FWCC Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) for the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), listed as threatened by the State. In addition, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory's 2008 GIS data indicates potential habitat for blackmouth shiner (*Notropis melanostomus*), Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Escambia map turtle (*Graptemys ernsti*), Florida black bear, and red-cockaded woodpecker. The eastern tract consists mainly of a sandhill and pine-land habitat dominated by longleaf with scattered sand pine. The understory consists mainly of xeric oaks and shrubs. Several listed species could potentially benefit from ongoing restoration of historic and current sandhill habitats on the proposed lands. The State listed species of special concern the fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*) and the State threatened southeastern American kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*) use sandhill habitats, as do red-cockaded woodpeckers, a federally endangered species. Sandhills also support populations of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*), which are listed by the State of Florida as threatened. Bears have been documented utilizing riparian corridors of the Shoal River and its tributaries in Okaloosa County and are well documented on Eglin AFB, a primary breeding range for bears in the state.

**Manager** The FWCC has agreed to manage this property.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Shoal River Buffer project includes natural areas likely requiring application of resource management activities, such as ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive and exotic species, reforestation, and prescribed fire where appropriate. Such activities may be necessary to accomplish management objectives to attain the desired future condition for the area. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape-scale ecology and management concerns may also need to be considered. Land use changes in the vicinity of a managed area may affect attainment of resource conservation goals for the area, and effectiveness of resource management projects.

**Timetable for implementing management provisions** During the first year following acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, prescribed fire management, resource inventory, exotic species control, and removal of refuse. Within one year, a 10-year management plan will be developed by FWCC describing short-term

## Shoal River Buffer

objectives with associated timelines for completion.

**Revenue-generating potential** The revenue generating potential of the Shoal River Buffer is not known and will depend upon future uses to be approved in the management plan. However, revenue from such environmental lands might include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Cooperators in Management** FWCC may partner and cooperate with other State and local governmental agencies including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); the Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Forestry/DOF); the NFWFMD; Eglin AFB; and Okaloosa County in management of the property.

and long-term management goals, and measurable

### Management Cost Summary

Category	Start-up	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$74,548	\$48,848
Administration	\$82,345	\$33,072
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$45,000	\$38,689
Visitor Services/		
Recreation	\$1,452	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$1,474	\$1,474
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$353,990</b>	<b>\$153,674</b>

*Updated 12/27/2012*

# South Goethe

Marion and Levy Counties

## Purpose for State Acquisition

This addition provides a corridor from the Goethe State Forest to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area along the Withlacoochee River and also forms a linkage to the Etoniah Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project. One of the primary concepts of this project is to protect the Withlacoochee River's watershed by connecting Goethe State Forest with the greenway. Another stated goal of the project is provide a significant buffer along the southern boundary of the forest while eventually enhancing the forest and its associated habitat through restoration.

## Manager

The property is proposed to be managed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF).

## General Description

The South Goethe Florida Forever project (SGFFP) includes two ownerships to be considered for fee-simple acquisition and principally separated by highway CR 40. The Robinson tract (north of CR 40) is a single, one-owner tract of 5,722 acres (5,692 acres calculated in GIS) contiguous with the southern boundary of Goethe State Forest in southeastern Levy County. The 3.6-mile shared boundary runs along an unpaved woods road for much of its length. The Marino tract (GIS-calculated area of 460 acres) is south of the Robinson tract, mostly on the south side of highway CR 40; however, the tract extends northward across CR 40 and shares a common boundary of 0.25 mile with the Robinson tract. At its closest point, the Robinson tract approaches to within 0.46 mile of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area,

## Critical Natural Lands

which lies along Lake Rousseau (impounded in the Withlacoochee River) to the south.

This project addresses Florida Forever goals of acquiring acreage to complete the Preservation 2000 projects that predated the Florida Forever program, increasing the conservation of Florida's highest priority conservation areas, increasing the number of acres of conserved conservation corridors and landscape linkages, increasing the amount of acreage needing restoration, and increasing the amount of land preserved that protects floodplain functions, protects surface waters and protects functional wetlands.

## Public Use

Since principal purposes of the project include protecting biodiversity, protecting the quality and natural functions of the land and water systems, ensuring sufficient quantities of water are available, providing resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, and providing forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to carefully control public uses. The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values; harmonious

South Goethe FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Longspurred Mint</i>	G1/S1
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3

5 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2006
Project Area (GIS Acres)	11,652
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	11,652
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$11,574,303

## **South Goethe**

and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment.

FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed in the more natural or restored areas of the tract. In the more heavily impacted areas of the tract, FFS will explore the possibility of an off highway vehicle trail system. While portions of these impacted areas will be restored to a natural state, other portions could potentially provide a network of trails for off highway enthusiasts.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 12/8/2006 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the South Goethe Forest Addition to Group A of the Florida Forever priority list. This full-fee project was sponsored by the FFS. The project has 6,152 acres and that land has a tax-assessed value of \$1,157,483.

On 6/15/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 5,553-acre addition (aka Cold Springs Tract Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the Rainbow River Conservation, Inc., consisted of 33 parcels, a single ownership, Throgmartin-Henke Development LLP, and a taxable value of \$10,416,820. FFS is the recommended manager. The parcels have been designed as essential.

### **Coordination**

This property is proposed as fee simple acquisition. No acquisition partnerships have been proposed at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation** The project's

size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted mesic and wet flatwoods, and sandhills. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silvicultural values to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits.

**Manager** The FFS.

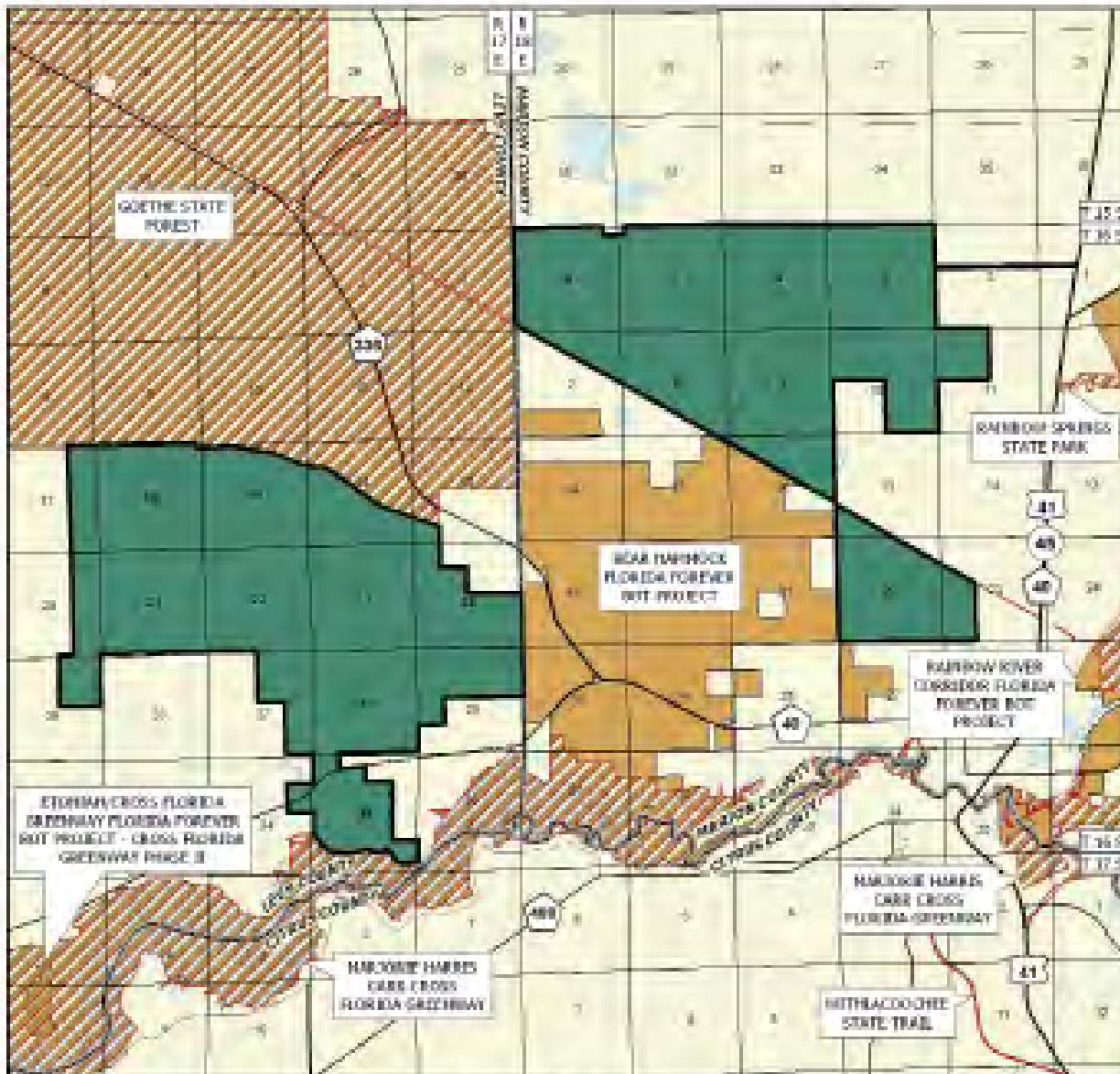
**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** Much of the project's flatwoods and sandhill areas have been disturbed by silvicultural operations, and will require restoration efforts. Timber thinning will provide revenue for restoration activities as well as promote the re-generation of native ground covers and canopy. Development of facilities, as on all conservation lands, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

Protection and restoration of sensitive wetlands on this project will be a priority. Restoration efforts will focus on introducing prescribed fire and thinning dense pine stands, and on restoring native groundcovers.

The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to initially be high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a State Forest. Once this is done, long-term management costs are expected to be light to moderate to maintain this area as a State Forest.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** The initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoring and reforesting areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrological restoration, providing site security, and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property require developing a plan to identify those roads to be used for vehicular access by the public and roads required for administrative use. Roads that are determined to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed. Steps will be taken to ensure the public is provided appropriate access.

Burning goals for this project will be to establish an all season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible,



## SOUTH GOETHE

### MARION AND LEVY COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcels Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Brown Diagonal Hatching Box] State Owned Lands



0 0.5 1 2  
Miles



MAY 2009

## **South Goethe**

existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be used to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of restoration harvests and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment, and enhance and maintain biodiversity. FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed in the more natural or restored areas of the tract. In the more heavily impacted areas of the tract DOF will explore the possibility of an off-highway vehicle trail system. While portions of these impacted areas will be restored to a natural state, other portions could potentially provide a network of trails for off-highway enthusiasts. There is also potential for obtaining funding for both acquiring the parcel as well as the implementing the trail system. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

**Revenue Generating Potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber

resources on the property, revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate to high. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Capital Project Expenditures** Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use, and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horse back riding and biking. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, the FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.

**Management Costs and Sources of Revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

<b>SALARY (2FTE)</b>	<b>\$72,104</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$263,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL</b>	
<b>OUTLAY</b>	<b>\$593,720</b>
 <b>TOTAL</b>	 <b>\$928,824</b>

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# South Walton County Ecosystem

## Substantially Complete

### Walton County

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

Where the Gulf of Mexico meets the coast of Walton County is a line of some of the most beautiful beaches and dunes in the world, backed by sparkling freshwater lakes and pine flatwoods and marshes spreading to Choctawhatchee Bay—one of the largest natural areas on the northern Gulf coast. The South Walton County Ecosystem project will conserve a part of this unique coast and the forests behind it, linking three state parks; protecting several rare plants and rare animals such as the Choctawhatchee beach mouse and red-cockaded woodpecker; and providing residents and tourists a scenic area in which to enjoy many recreational activities, ranging from hunting and fishing to hiking, picnicking, and sunbathing.

#### Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Topsail Hill, Grayton Beach and Deer Lake), and Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Point Washington).

#### General Description

This project includes much of the undeveloped land in Walton County south of Choctawhatchee Bay. This land is covered with a diverse mix of flatwoods, sandhills,

and wetlands in the interior and superb sand-pine scrub, unique coastal dune lakes (occurring only in Florida and globally critically imperiled), and beach dunes on the Gulf Coast. Most of the interior has been logged and planted in slash pine, but is restorable. The Topsail Hill and Deer Lake tracts are some of the most scenic and ecologically intact coastal areas in the panhandle, and shelter the endangered Choctawhatchee beach mouse and red-cockaded woodpecker, as well as several other rare plants and animals (13 rare plant species, six rare animal species, and 14 natural communities). Seven archaeological sites are known from the project. The explosive coastal development of Walton County is a serious threat to this project, particularly the sensitive coastal areas.

#### Public Use

The interior will be managed as a state forest, and the Topsail Hill and Deer Lake tracts will become state parks. The project will provide many recreational opportunities, including hiking, hunting, freshwater and saltwater fishing, camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, and beach activities.

#### Acquisition Planning

On 7/16/1996, LAMAC directed staff to hold two public hearings to receive public input on the potential revision of the South Walton County Ecosystem project boundary. Public hearings were held on August 23 and 30, 1996. As a result of the public hearings and input from other interested parties and managing agencies, LAMAC modified the project boundary on 12/5/1996, by adding

South Walton County Ecosystem FNAI Elements	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse	G5T1/S1
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Snowy Plover	G4/S1
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Godfrey's Goldenaster</i>	G2/S2
<i>Panhandle Spiderlily</i>	G2/S2
<i>Southern Milkweed</i>	G2/S2
<i>Cruise's Goldenaster</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
<i>Wiregrass Gentian</i>	G3/S3
<i>Chapman's Crownbeard</i>	G3/S3

25 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1995*
Project Area (GIS Acres)	22,866
Acres Acquired (GIS)	19,623
at a Cost of	\$188,506,210
Acres Remaining (GIS)	3,243
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$7,795,905

\* Point Washington and Topsail Hill projects combined in 1995  
Note: Donation from DOT in 6/2009.

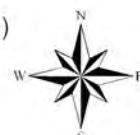
## South Walton County Ecosystem



## SOUTH WALTON COUNTY ECOSYSTEM

### WALTON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0    1    2    4  
Miles



OCTOBER 2009

## South Walton County Ecosystem

approximately 41 acres and removing 820 acres from the project boundary.

**Point Washington:** inholdings (approximately 1,150 acres) within the State forest (SF) and parcels connecting Topsail to the Choctawhatchee Bay remain to be acquired. Acquisition of parcels (approximately 210 acres) along the State Forest to State Park trail/greenway is needed to better connect portions of the trail/greenway.

**Topsail:** most tracts have been acquired but the remainder are extremely vulnerable. Several ownerships were acquired through eminent domain.

**Deer Lake:** a 172-acre tract was acquired through eminent domain. The remaining property in the Deer Lake project was removed from the overall project boundary as part of the court settlement.

**Grayton Beach:** a small 20-acre inholding remains to be acquired in the Grayton Beach State Recreation Area. Not included in the totals on the previous page are the acres acquired (1,129) and funds spent (\$38,709,943) for the acquisition of the state recreation area. On 12/9/1999, the Council added 90 acres to the project boundary as an essential parcel. The addition included several hundred feet on Choctawhatchee Bay.

On 8/15/2002 the Council added 75 acres (the Coldeway Tract) to the project boundaries. On 10/24/2002 the Council added 90 acres (the Davie Tract) to the project boundaries.

In 12/2008, FFS purchased 38.99 acres for \$2,600,000 to add to the Point Washington SF. In 6/2009 a 2-parcel donation (39 ac.) from the Department of Transportation was accepted in Pt. Washington SF.

### Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was an intermediary in the acquisition of the 100-acre tract in Topsail Hill held by the Resolution Trust Corporation.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the South Walton County Ecosystem project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant

surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Point Washington project has the large size and forest resources—flatwoods and sandhills, some cut over but restorable—to qualify as a state forest. The exceptional flatwoods, dunes, and coastal dune lakes of the areas around Deer Lake, Grayton Beach and Topsail Hill have the diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as units of the state park system.

**Manager** DOF is managing the majority of the project. DRP is recommended as the manager for the Deer Lake tract, areas next to Grayton Beach State Recreation Area and Topsail Hill.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Large cutover areas in the project will require reforestation and restoration efforts beyond the level typical for a state forest. Consequently, management intensity and related management costs might be slightly higher than normal for a state forest. The portions to be managed by DRP are high-need management areas with an emphasis on public recreational use and development compatible with resource conservation.

### Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

The FFS is providing public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation, while protecting sensitive resources. Initial activities include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Large areas of pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for

## South Walton County Ecosystem

management and public access. The FFS will promote environmental education. In the first year after acquisition of its parcels, the DRP will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable amounts of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low. The DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. Any significant public use facilities will take several years to develop, and the amount of any revenue generated will depend on the extent of these facilities. Revenues for fiscal year 1993-1994 for the nearby Grayton Beach State Recreation Area were slightly more than \$162,000.

**Cooperators in management activities** FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments and interested parties as appropriate. The DRP does not recommend that any local governments or others assist in management of the Deer Lake, Grayton Beach or Topsail Hill tracts.

Management Cost Summary/DRP		
Category	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Source of Funds		
Salary	\$47,711	\$47,711
OPS	\$24,500	\$24,500
Expense	\$6,000	\$6,000
OCO	\$15,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$44,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,271</b>	<b>\$195,277</b>

Management Cost Summary/DRP			
Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	SPTF/ CARL	SPTF/ CARL	SPTF/ CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$1,197	\$745	\$745
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$10,918	\$0	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,116</b>	<b>\$745</b>	<b>\$200,745</b>

Management Cost Summary/FFS			
Category	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Source of Funds	CARL/GR	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$61,016	\$99,676	\$102,667
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$48,550	\$68,152	\$45,777
OCO	\$89,702	\$11,500	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$199,348</b>	<b>\$179,328</b>	<b>\$148,444</b>

Updated 2/27/2012



# Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves

Jackson, Alachua, Marion,  
Citrus and Sumter Counties

Critical Natural Lands

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Caves where southeastern bats rear their young also protect several other rare animals, such as the gray bat and cave-dwelling crayfish, and are easily damaged by vandals. The Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves Priority project will limit access to six of these caves by protecting land around them, helping to ensure the survival of the bats and the other unique denizens of these lightless worlds.

## Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will manage the full fee acquisitions and monitor the less than fee.

## General Description

Every spring, adult female southeastern bats leave their colonies and move to certain caves where they bear and raise their young. For the species to survive, these maternity roosts must be protected from human disturbance. The six caves in this project are or were used as maternity roosts by the bats. The caves also harbor several other rare and endangered animals and plants, including the federally endangered gray bat and rare cave-dwelling crayfish and amphipods. The sites are generally too small to have important vegetative communities, but the Gerome's Cave site has an outstanding example of Upland Hardwood Forest, the Jenning's Cave site has intact Sandhill, and the Sneads Cave site supports good Floodplain Forest and Flood-

plain Swamp. Three archaeological sites are known from Gerome's Cave. Vandalism is the greatest threat to the caves.

## Public Use

The caves will be managed as wildlife and environmental areas. They are generally not suitable for recreation, but some could have nature trails. Grant's Cave, the less than fee parcel, qualifies as a wildlife and environmental area. Any public use will be negotiated with the landowner, but this cave is probably not suitable for public recreation.

## Acquisition Planning

Overall, acquisition efforts should concentrate on purchasing occupied caves first. Sneads Cave—Occupied; Catacombs—Occupied; Sumter County Cave—Vacant; Sweet Gum Cave—Vacant; Gerome's Cave—Vacant; Jenning's Cave—Vacant.

On 10/30/1996, LAMAC adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee category: 1) resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; 2) seller is willing to accept a less-than-fee-simple instrument and LAMAC has determined that the project's or site's acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and 3) manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee simple instrument. On 12/5/1996, LAMAC transferred Grant's Cave, consisting of two ownerships, to the Less-Than-Fee category. On June 6, 2002 the Council combined

Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves FNAI Elements	
Gray Bat	G3/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
North Florida Spider Cave Crayfish	G2/S2
Dougherty Plain Cave Crayfish	G2G3/S2
<i>False Rue-anemone</i>	G5/S1
Hobbs' Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Light-fleeting Cave Crayfish	G2G3/S2S3
Florida Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Southeastern Bat	G3G4/S3
9 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1994
Project Area (GIS Acres)	591
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	591
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$1,931,170

## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: OVERVIEW

**JACKSON, ALACHUA, MARION, CITRUS, AND SUMTER COUNTIES**

**Map 1: Jackson County**  
Geromes Cave Site

**Map 5: Marion County**  
Catacombs Cave Site

**Map 2: Jackson County**  
Sneads Cave Site

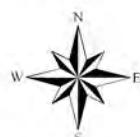
**Map 6: Citrus County**  
Sweet Gum Cave Site

**Map 3: Alachua County**  
Grants Cave Site

**Map 7: Sumter County**  
Sumter County Cave Site

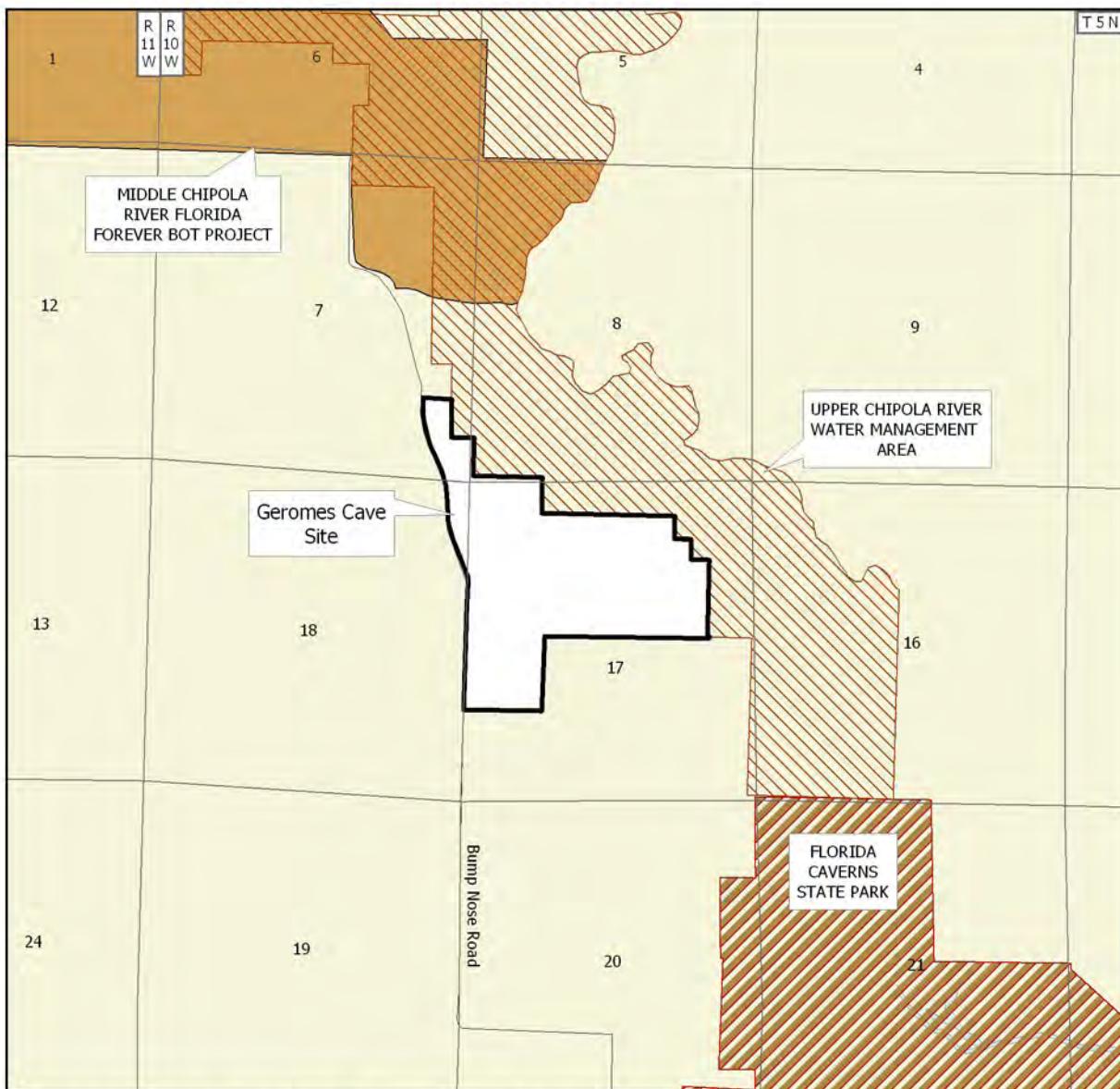
**Map 4: Marion County**  
Jennings Cave Site

0      20      40      80  
Miles



JULY 2007

## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 1 OF 7

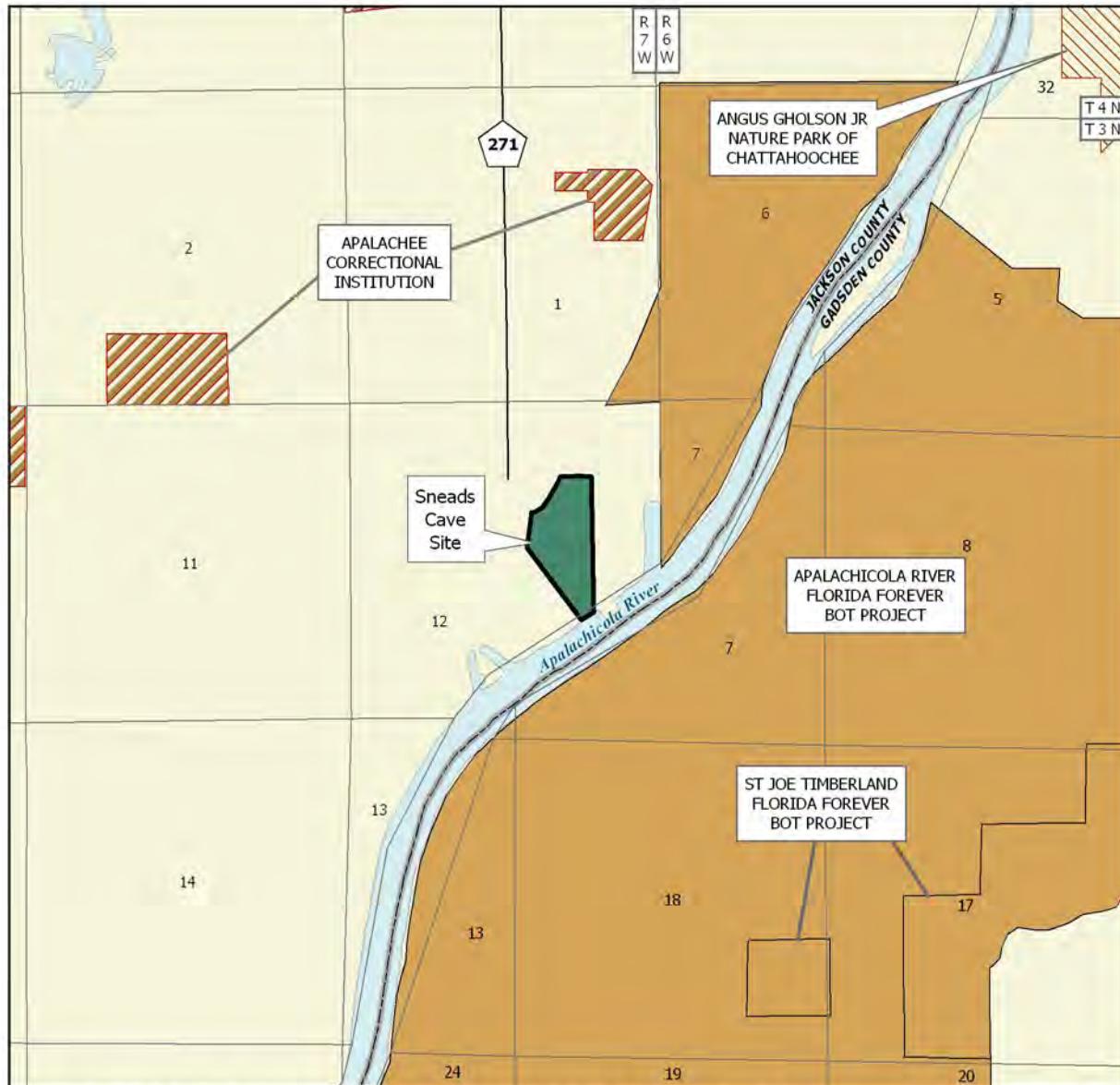
#### JACKSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2007

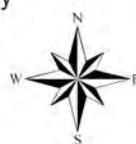
## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 2 OF 7

#### JACKSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

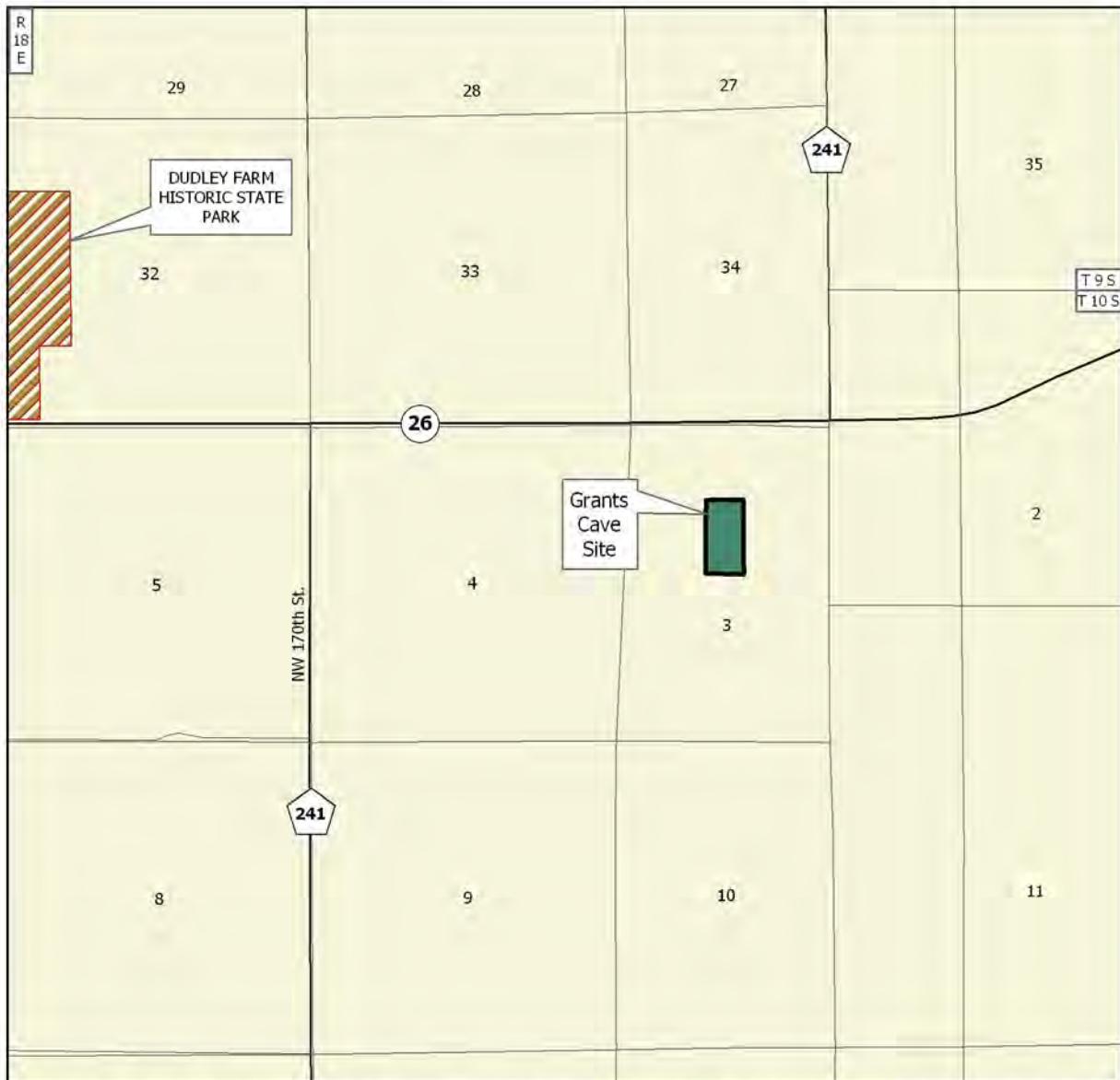


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Miles



JULY 2007

## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 3 OF 7

#### ALACHUA COUNTY



Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary



Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



State Owned Lands



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 4 OF 7

#### MARION COUNTY

Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary

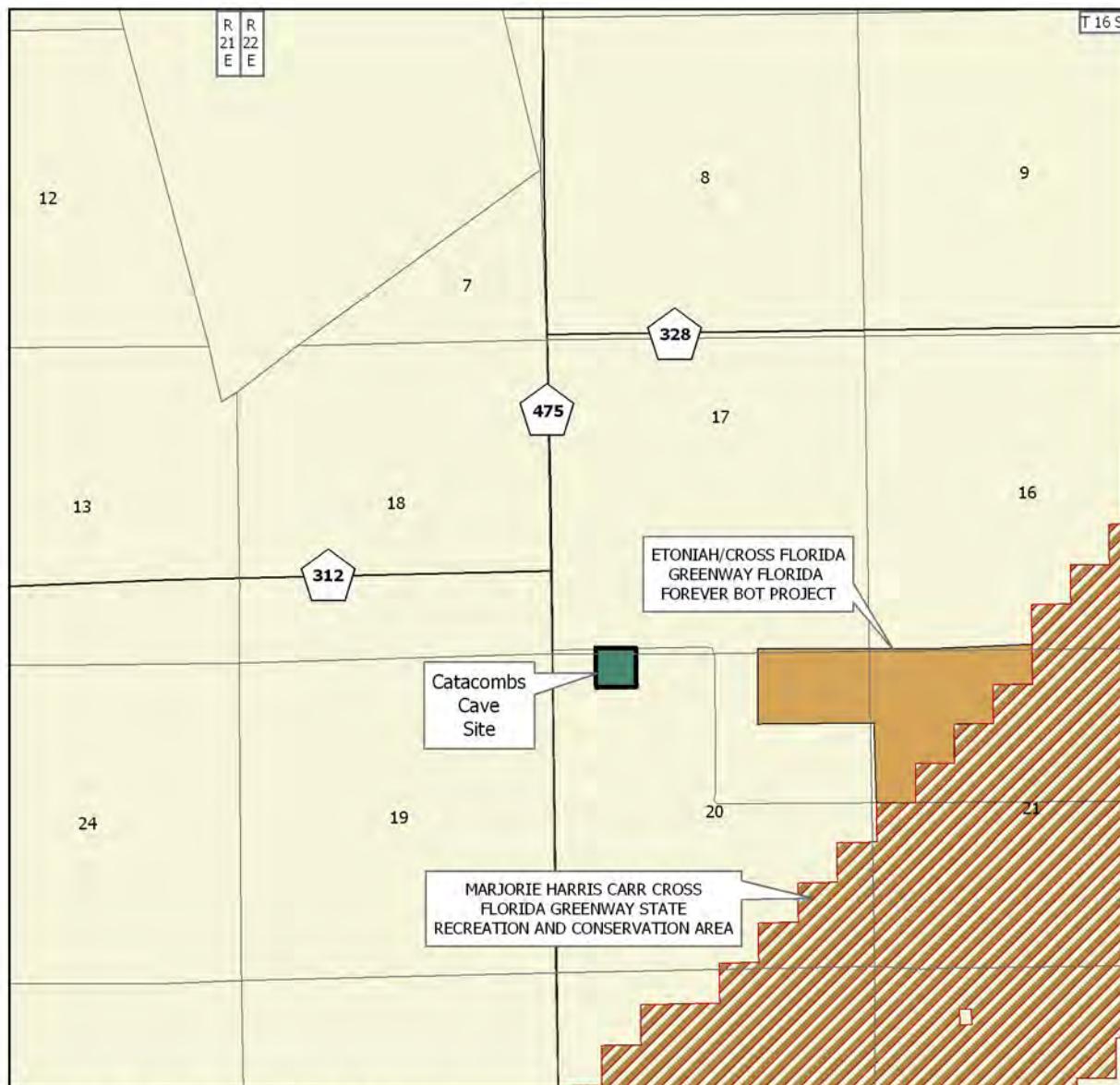


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Miles



JULY 2007

## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 5 OF 7

#### MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands

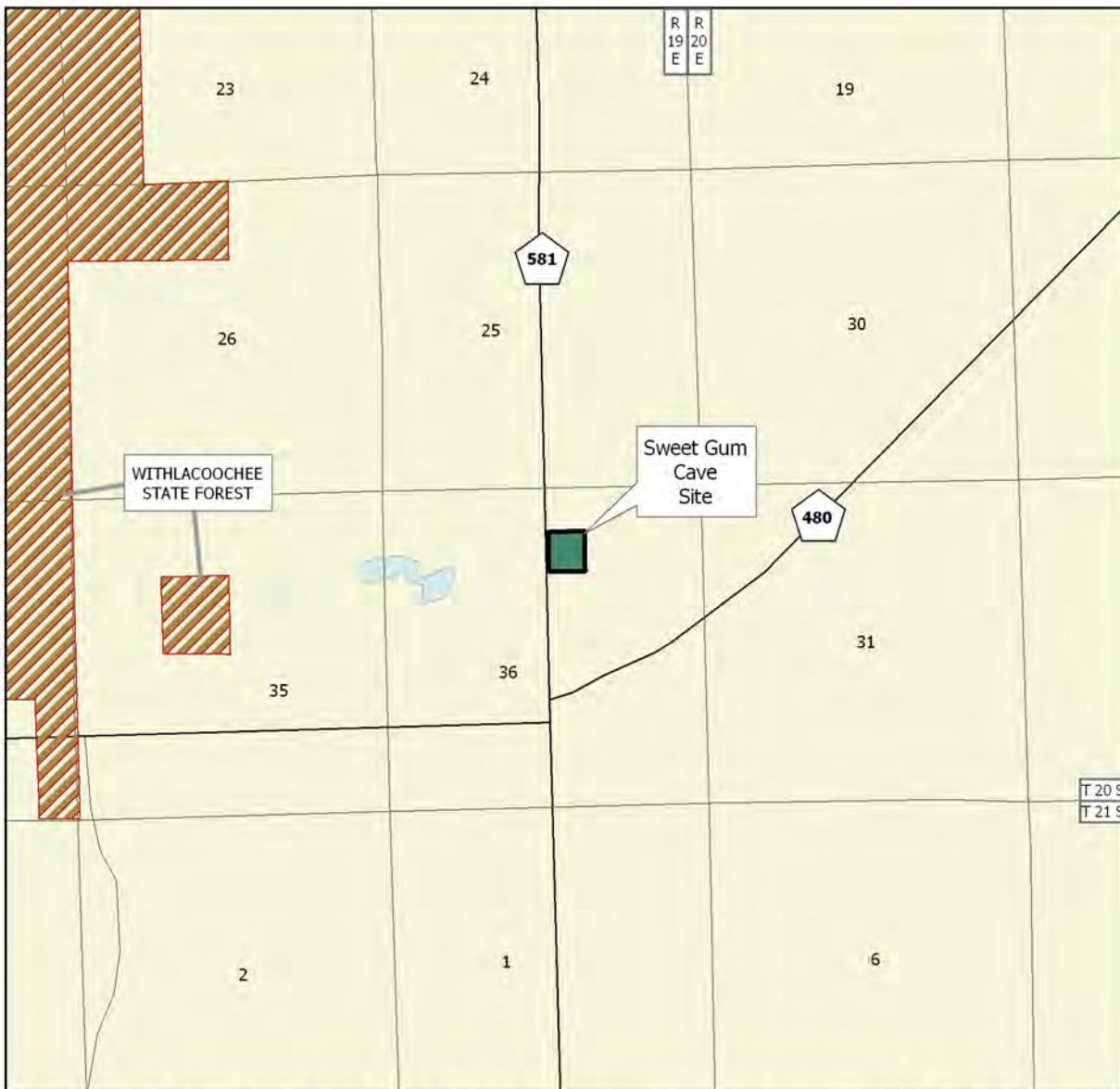


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JULY 2007

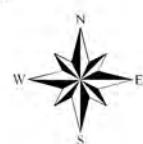
## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 6 OF 7

#### CITRUS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands

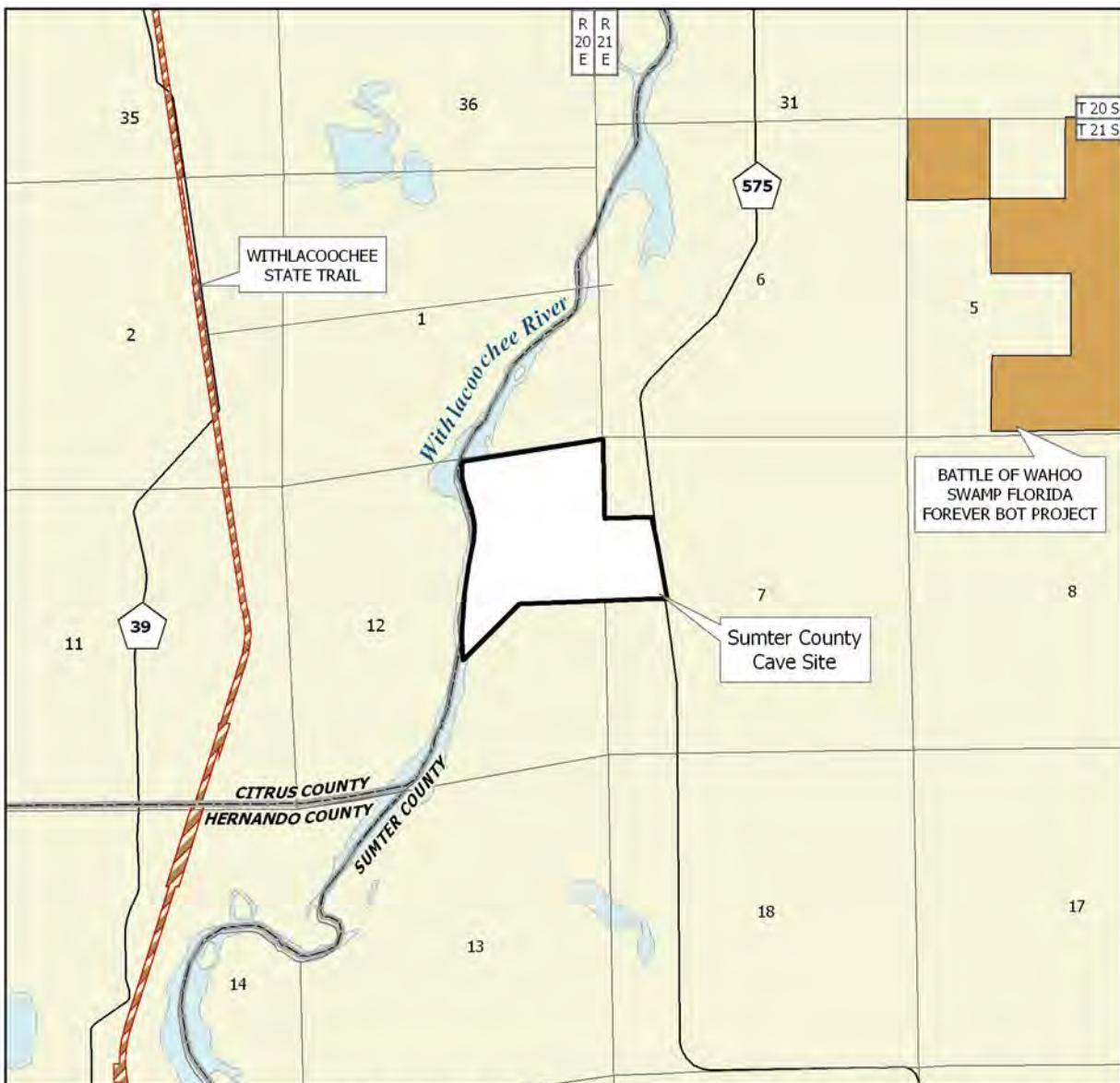


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Miles



JULY 2007

## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves



### SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 7 OF 7

#### SUMTER COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands



0    0.25    0.5    1  
Miles



JULY 2007

## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves

the Less-Than-Fee project to the Group B Full Fee project. On 12/5/2003 the Council moved the project to the Group A list.

Sweet Gum Cave (Citrus County)—the site consists of approximately 10 acres, 1 parcel and 1 owner. Gerome's Cave (Jackson County)—the site consists of approximately 160 acres, 5 parcels, and 4 owners. Sneads Cave (Jackson County)—the site consists of approximately 80 acres, 1 parcel, and 1 owner. Catacombs Cave (Marion County)—the site consists of approximately 10 acres, 2 parcels, and 2 owners. Jenning's Cave (Marion County)—the site consists of approximately 89 acres, 79 parcels, and 70 owners. Sumter County Cave (Sumter County)—the site consists of approximately 362 acres, 4 parcels, and 3 owners.

### Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District will be an acquisition partner on the Gerome's Cave site. There are no acquisition partners for the less-than-fee parcels.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goal of management of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project is to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The sensitive wildlife resources of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves—southeastern bats and other rare cave-dwelling animals—qualify them as wildlife and environmental areas.

**Manager** The FWCC will manage the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The caves will require protection from vandalism. Natural communities around some of the cave entrances will require restoration.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Initial management activities will concentrate on securing each cave site with chain link fencing, posting signs, and removing trash and debris from the caves and surrounding areas. Each cave also will be monitored to determine its current usage by bats and each site's natural resources, including listed species of flora and fauna, will be inventoried. Current management is based on ongoing and previous monitoring information. A management plan will be developed outlining long-term management strategies for the project on a cave-by-cave basis. Management considerations will include, but will not be limited to, site protection, biological monitoring, educational and recreational opportunities, and habitat restoration or enhancement.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is currently being generated. However, future management activities will include educational and recreational opportunities that could possibly generate revenue.

**Cooperators in management activities** No other local, state or federal agencies are currently participating in the management of this project. The Northwest Florida Water Management District proposes to cooperate in the management of Gerome's Cave in Jackson County.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

Management Cost Summary/FWC		
Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$14,784	\$14,784
Expense	\$4,725	\$4,725
OCO	\$30,240	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,749</b>	<b>\$19,509</b>

# Spruce Creek

## Volusia County

## Substantially Complete

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Natural areas along the coast of Volusia County are becoming scarce as residential developments expand from Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach. The Spruce Creek project protects one of the largest tracts of undeveloped land left in this region along the estuary of Spruce Creek and helps to maintain the water quality of the creeks and bays here, thus protecting a fishery. Additionally, this project will conserve what may be the site of Andrew Turnbull's 18th-century plantation and provide a recreational area where people can do anything from hiking and fishing to simply learning about the plants and animals of this scenic landscape.

### Manager

Volusia County.

### General Description

The original Spruce Creek project area, north and west of Strickland Bay, contains good estuarine tidal swamps, hammocks, scrub, and flatwoods. It protects habitat for such endangered or threatened species as bald eagles, wood storks and manatees. The addition, between U.S. 1 and Turnbull Bay, contains good Maritime or Xeric Hammock, with live oaks, cabbage palms, and several tropical shrubs near their northern limits. Flatwoods also cover a large part of the addition, and tidal marsh with remnants of black mangrove fringes it. Disturbed areas include an historic house at the north end and the remains of a fish camp and marina east of U.S. 1. No FNAI-listed plants are known from the addition; of FNAI-listed animals, gopher tortoises have been found. The area is adjacent to several Outstanding

Florida Waters, and the aquatic resources are important to both recreational and commercial fisheries. There are two archaeological sites recorded within the project area: Spruce Creek Mound site, a prehistoric and historic burial mound; and J. D. site, a prehistoric and historic shell midden and burial site. The project may also contain historic archaeological sites related to the British Colonial Period occupation in this area of NE Florida (ca. 1763–1783 AD). The area is experiencing significant growth, so developable acreage is likely to be lost relatively soon.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a recreation area with uses such as cultural and environmental education, hiking, fishing, camping and picnicking.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/1/1989, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the original Spruce Creek project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Volusia County, consisted of approximately 1,718 acres, nine owners, and a 1989 taxable value of \$2,675,000. On 12/7/1990, an owner sponsored 54-acre parcel was added to the boundary. The project was removed on 12/10/1992 due to unwilling sellers. At that time, it was less than 90% complete.

On 12/6/1994, LAAC added the current Spruce Creek project to the 1995 CARL Priority list. This

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>1990*</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>2,867</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>2,418**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$19,118,050**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	
<b>449</b>	
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$10,068,445</b>	

\* Combined with Spruce Creek Addition in 1994

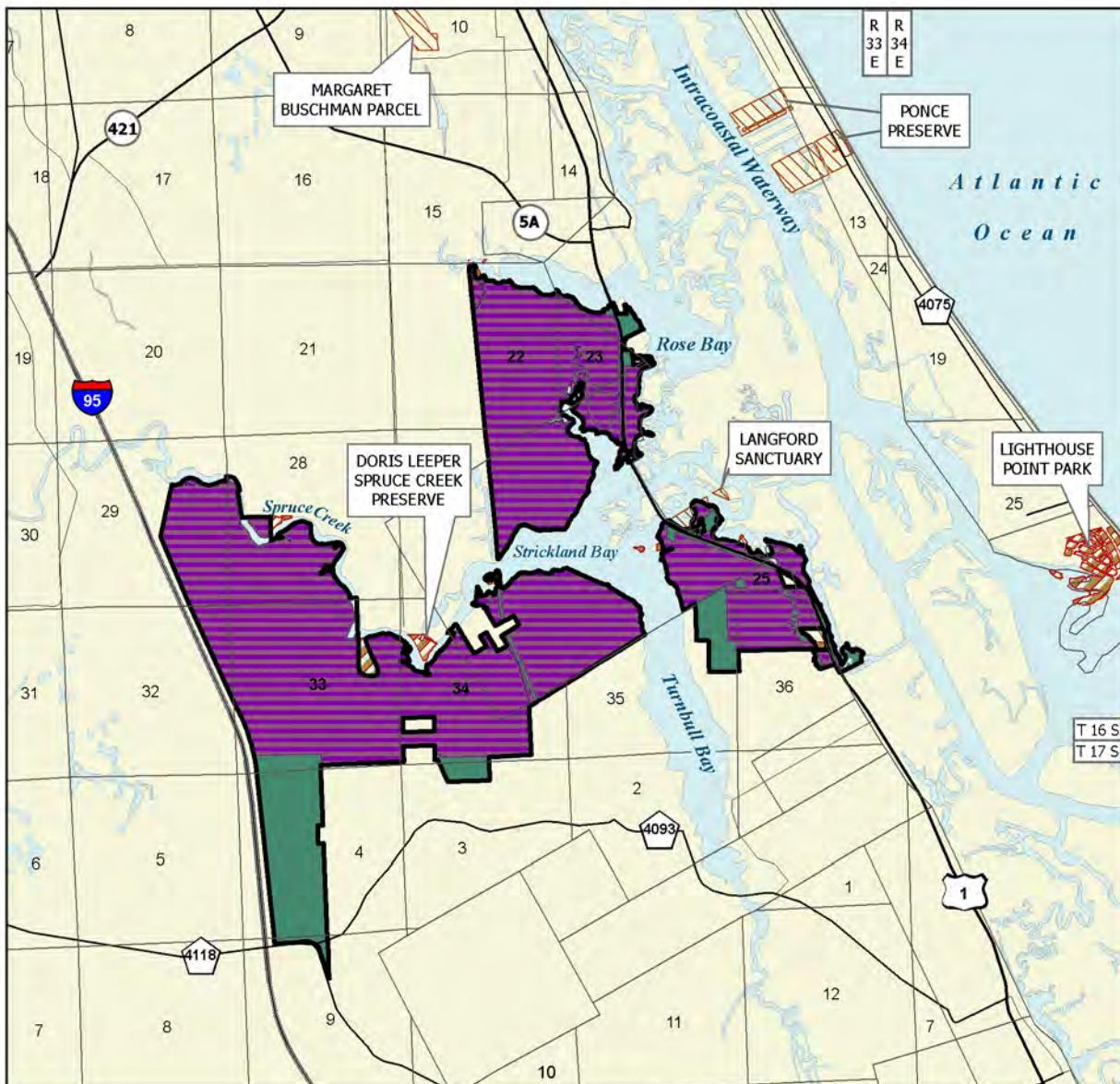
\*\*includes funds spent and acreage acquired by BOT, SJRWMD, Volusia County, and the City of Port Orange.

Note: 97 acres removed 10/2009 due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

Spruce Creek FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Florida Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3

4 rare species are associated with the project

## Spruce Creek



## SPRUCE CREEK

### VOLUSIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



OCTOBER 2010

fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Volusia County, consisted of a 208-acre portion of the original project and a 316-acre addition totaling 524 acres, multiple owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$2,124,141. The project boundary, however, included the portions of the project that had already been acquired. The resulting project acreage equaled 1,593 acres with a taxable value of \$3,406,991.

On 10/24/2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 648-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Volusia County, consisted of five owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$1,297,592.

On 10/10/2006, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), in partnership with Volusia County, closed on a 40-acre parcel known as the Eubank/Rosier tract. The total purchase price was \$915,535.

In 8/2007 Volusia County acquired 7.08 acres from the Blanchette family. In 12/2007, the City of Port Orange acquired 225 acres on the western boundary from ICI.

On 9/19/2008, the SJRWMD acquired 58.02 acres from the Ford family.

On 10/9/2009, ARC voted to remove 6 sites with 54 individual parcels (97 acres) containing residential and commercial buildings or infrastructure. The total acreage has a just tax-assessed value of \$9,166,381.

### **Coordination**

Volusia County is a partner in the acquisition of this project as well as the manager. SJRWMD and City of Port Orange are acquisition partners also.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Spruce Creek project are to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Spruce Creek Recreation Area has the size, natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and surrounding population density

to qualify as a State Recreation Area.

**Manager** Volusia County in cooperation with the State of Florida.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project includes moderate-need tracts requiring more than basic resource management and protection. These lands will contain more highly developed resource-related recreation facilities. Large portions of the property, however, would be considered low-need tracts requiring only basic resource management and protection. Recreation use will be incorporated but in a more dispersed and less intensive manner.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security and resource inventory. Volusia County will provide appropriate access to the site to maintain existing and historic uses while protecting sensitive resources on the site. The site's natural resources and listed plants and animals will be inventoried, recreational opportunities and uses identified, and a management plan formulated.

Long-range plans for Spruce Creek will be specified in the management plan and will generally be directed as follows: Development of recreational facilities, a comprehensive trail management program, a comprehensive educational and interpretive program, and a comprehensive historic resource management program; restoration of disturbed areas; maintenance of natural communities through a program of selected harvest and fire management; and habitat enhancement for listed species.

**Revenue-generating potential** will be determined by the concepts in the Management Plan. Some revenues will probably be generated by user and concession fees at recreation sites. Some revenues may be generated through sale of forest products, but any such revenues will be minimal. Use of small portions of the area as mitigation for development elsewhere would not only restore damaged areas on-site, but would yield revenue as well. It will be several years before potential revenue sources could be fully developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** Port Orange and New Smyrna Beach both will be involved in the planning of the project. The Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Atlantic Center for the Arts may prove to be valuable partners in optimizing the educational and interpretive opportunities on this site. The Nature Conservancy still owns the 150 acres that is managed by the Museum of Arts and Sciences. The Environmental Council and Sierra Club have played important roles

## **Spruce Creek**

in the early protection of the creek including sponsoring OFW status in 1986. The Southeast Volusia Historical Society and Volusia Anthropological Society have had long-standing interest in protection and interpretation of the cultural, historical and archaeological resources located on the project site. Volunteers will be invaluable in developing, managing, and interpreting this site.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

### **Management Cost Summary**

<b>Category</b> <b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>1996/97</b> <b>Volusia County</b>	<b>1997/98</b> <b>Volusia County</b>	<b>1998/99</b> <b>Volusia County</b>
Salary	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$6,240
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$7,712
Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,240</b>	<b>\$6,240</b>	<b>\$13,952</b>

# St. Joe Timberland

Bay, Walton Washington, Gadsden, Liberty,  
Gulf, Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson  
and Taylor Counties

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The St. Joe Company is one of the largest landowners in Florida. The St. Joe Timberland project will consolidate the St. Joe ownerships already included in other projects, thus helping to preserve large undeveloped tracts of land for native plants and animals and giving the public an opportunity to experience large natural areas throughout north Florida. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

The sites will be managed by various agencies. See the summaries for the projects listed below.

### General Description

The St. Joe Timberlands project includes the St. Joe Company ownerships in the following projects: Apalachicola River (Sweetwater Creek 7,040 acres, Gadsden Glades 360 acres, and Aspalaga Landing 600 acres sites); Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (Tico site 1,780 acres); Dickerson Bay/Bald Point (Bald Point site 3,840 acres); Florida's First Magnitude Springs (River Sink 40 acres and St. Marks 700 acres springs sites); Lake Powell 600 acres; St. Joseph Bay Buffer 250 acres; Sand Mountain 1,680 acres; Tates Hell/Carrabelle Tract

16,000 acres; Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks 19,840 acres; and Wakulla Springs Protection Zone 2,240 acres. The sites lie in the Panhandle from Bay and Washington Counties to Taylor County, except for the Tico site in Brevard County. They include samples of almost all the natural communities of north and central Florida, from scrub to swamps and springs. See the general descriptions for the projects listed above.

### Public Use

The sites are designated for various public uses. See the summaries for the projects listed above.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/9/1999, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved the creation of the St. Joe Timberland project and added it to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. The project was sponsored by the St. Joe Company, Division of State Lands (DSL), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and initially consisted of individual tracts owned by St. Joe Company within existing projects. Other sites will be proposed for addition to the project. Approval was given to add an additional 1,318 acres (18 to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project and approximately 1,300 to the Apalachicola River Project – Lake Wimico site) to the project boundary as essential parcels. The initial project consisted of approximately 56,218 acres and a Tax Assessed Value of \$34,614,545. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWM) has acquired the majority of the Sand Mountain site.

St. Joe Timberland FNAF Elements	
<i>Florida Torreya</i>	GI/S1
<i>Florida Black Bear</i>	GS1/GS2
<i>Gopher Tortoise</i>	GS/S1
<i>Swallow-tailed Kite</i>	GS/S2
<i>Apalachicola Rosemary</i>	GI/S1
<i>Chapman's Rhododendron</i>	GI/S1
<i>Clematis' Blazing Star</i>	GI/S1
<i>Quillwort Yellow-eyed Grass</i>	GI/S1
<i>Telephus Spurge</i>	GI/S1
<i>Currie's Loeselia</i>	GI/S1
<i>Big Blue Spring Cave Crayfish</i>	GI/S1
<i>Woodville Karst Cave Crayfish</i>	GI/S1

87 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2000
Project Area (GIS Acres)	170,571
Acres Acquired (GIS)	80,595*
at a Cost of	\$76,054,595
Acres Remaining (GIS)	89,976

with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$48,576,562  
\*NWFWM has purchased acreage in project boundary.

## St. Joe Timberland



### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: OVERVIEW

**BAY, WALTON, WASHINGTON, GADSDEN, LIBERTY, GULF, FRANKLIN, WAKULLA,  
LEON, JEFFERSON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES**

#### Map 1

A. Lake Powell Site

#### Map 2

A. Sand Mountain Site

#### Map 3

A. Apalachicola River - Gadsden Glades Site

B. Apalachicola River - Aspalaga Landing Site

C. Apalachicola River - Crooked/Short Creek Site

D. Apalachicola River - Sweetwater Creek Site

#### Map 4

A. St. Joseph Bay Buffer Site

B. St. Vincent Sound-to-Lake Wimico Ecosystem Site

C. Lake Wimico Site

#### Map 5

A. Tates Hell/Carrabelle Site

#### Map 6

A. Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Site

#### Map 7

A. Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Site  
B. Florida's First Magnitude Springs - River Sink Spring Site

#### Map 8

A. Florida's First Magnitude Springs - St. Marks Springs Site

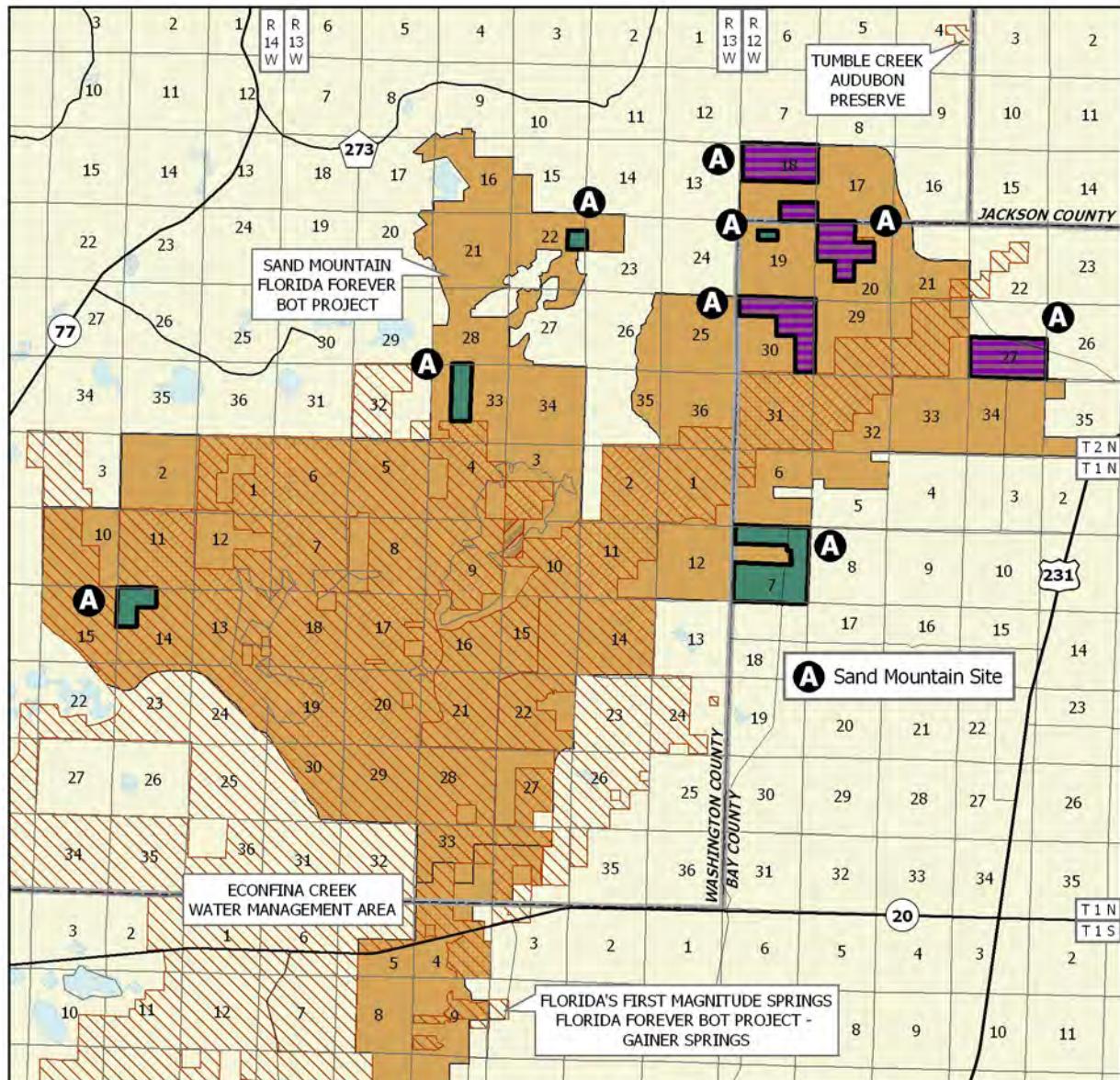
#### Map 9

A. Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Site





## St. Joe Timberland



### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 2 OF 9

#### BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

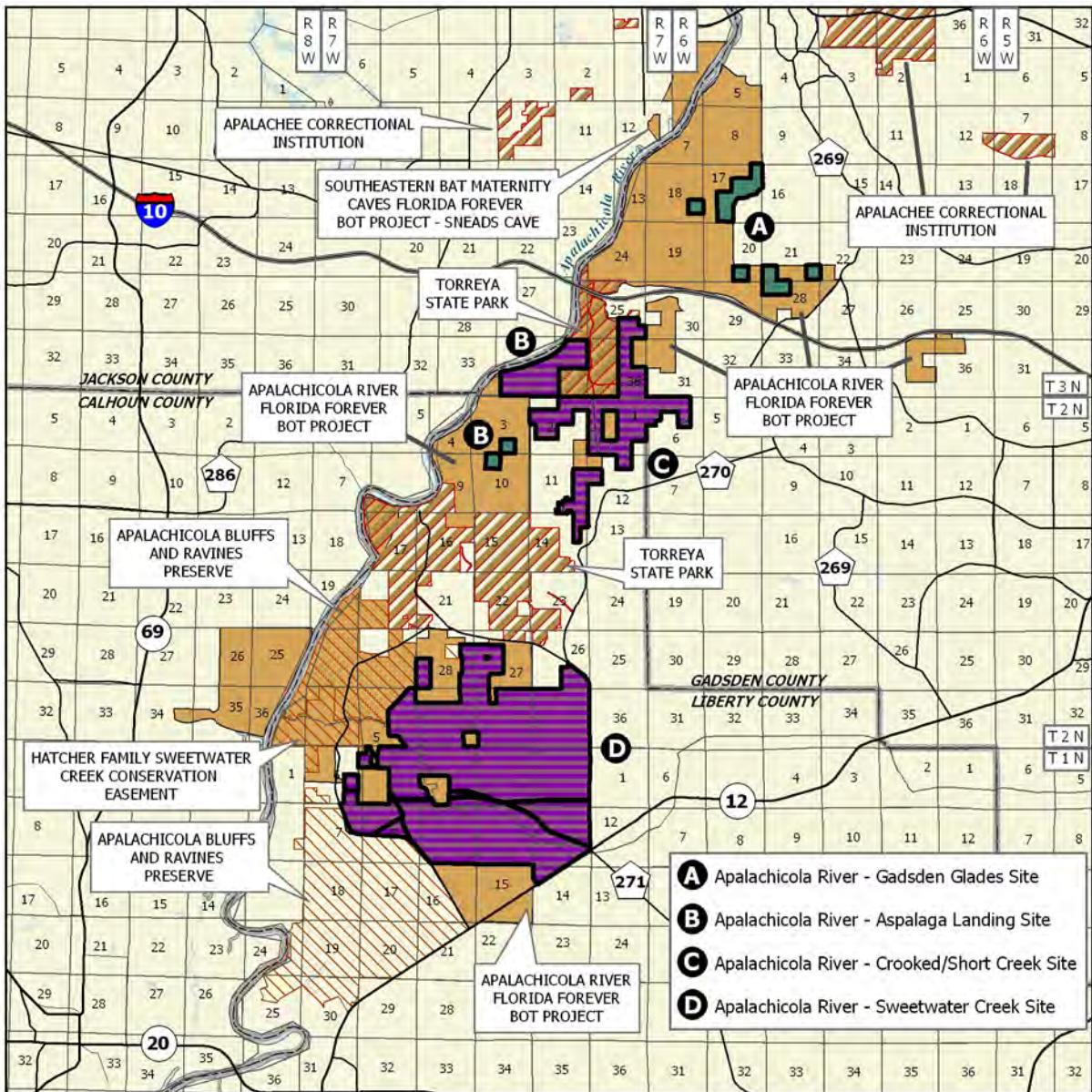


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JUNE 2007

## St. Joe Timberland



### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 3 OF 9

#### GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Yellow Box with Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands

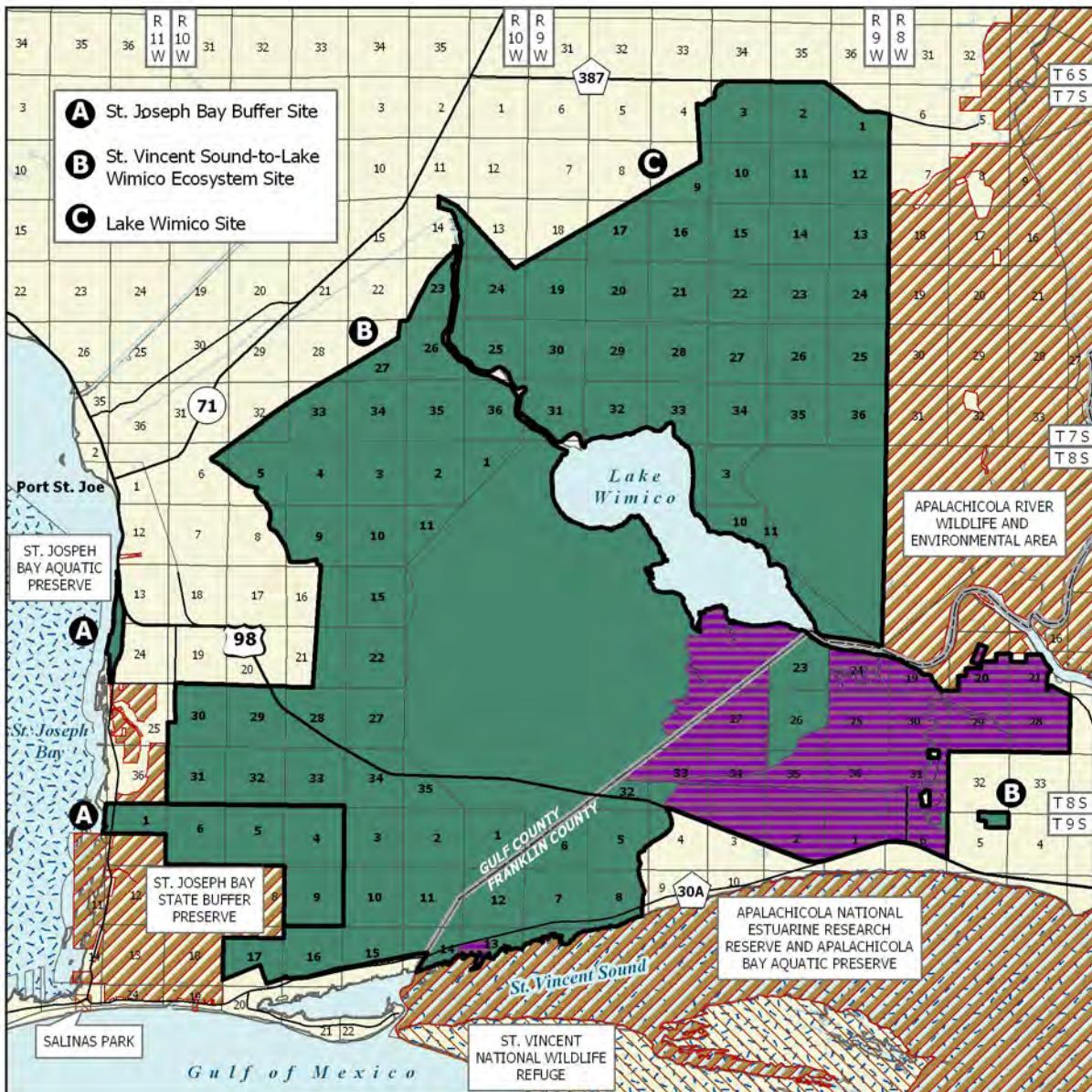


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MAY 2006

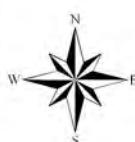
## St. Joe Timberland



### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 4 OF 9

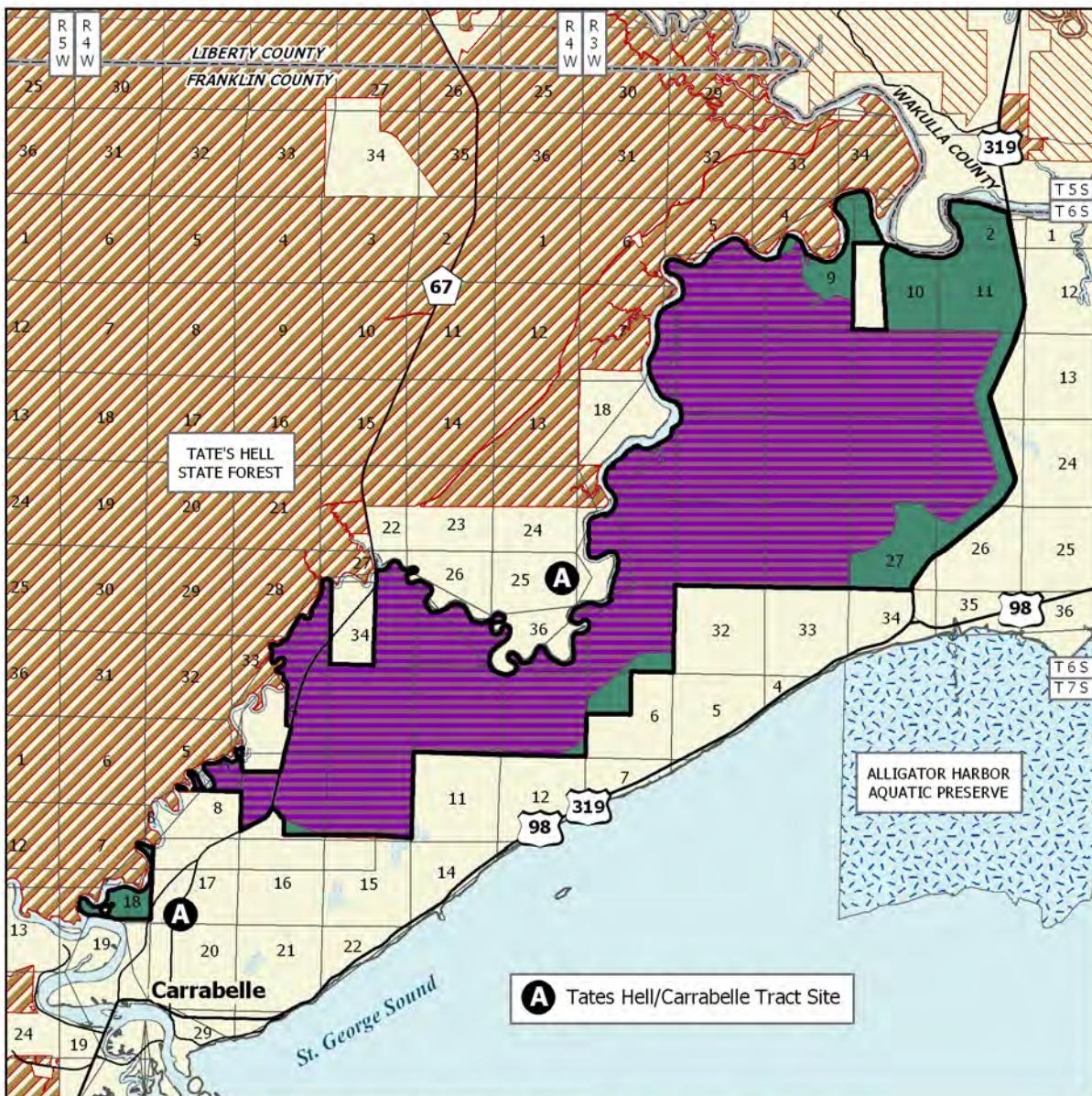
#### GULF AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Hatched Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Hatched Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Dashed Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserve



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APRIL 2007



## ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 5 OF 9

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

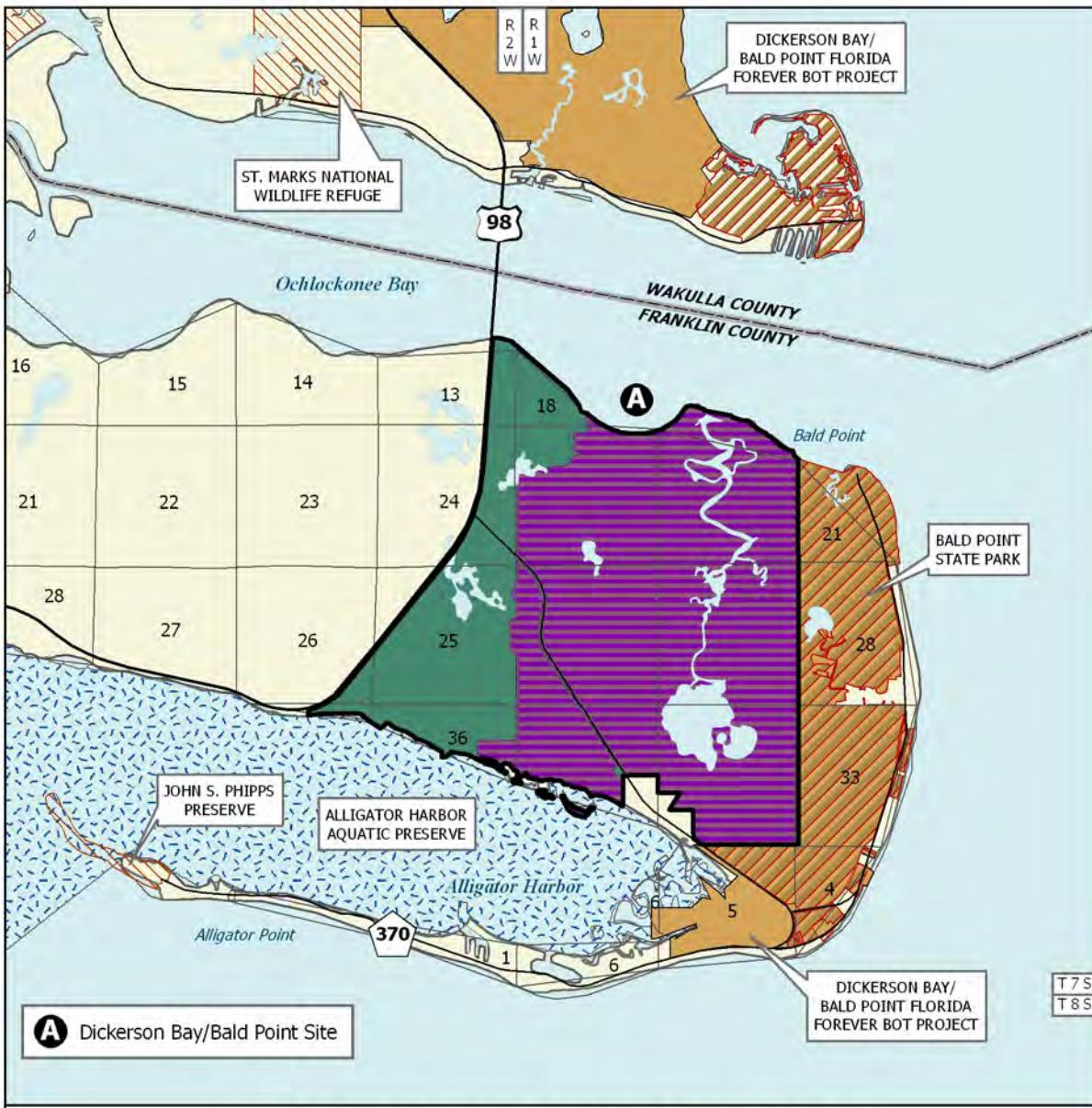
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



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MAY 2006

## St. Joe Timberland



### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 6 OF 9

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with diagonal lines] State Owned Lands
- [Yellow Box with diagonal lines] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box with cross-hatch pattern] State Aquatic Preserve

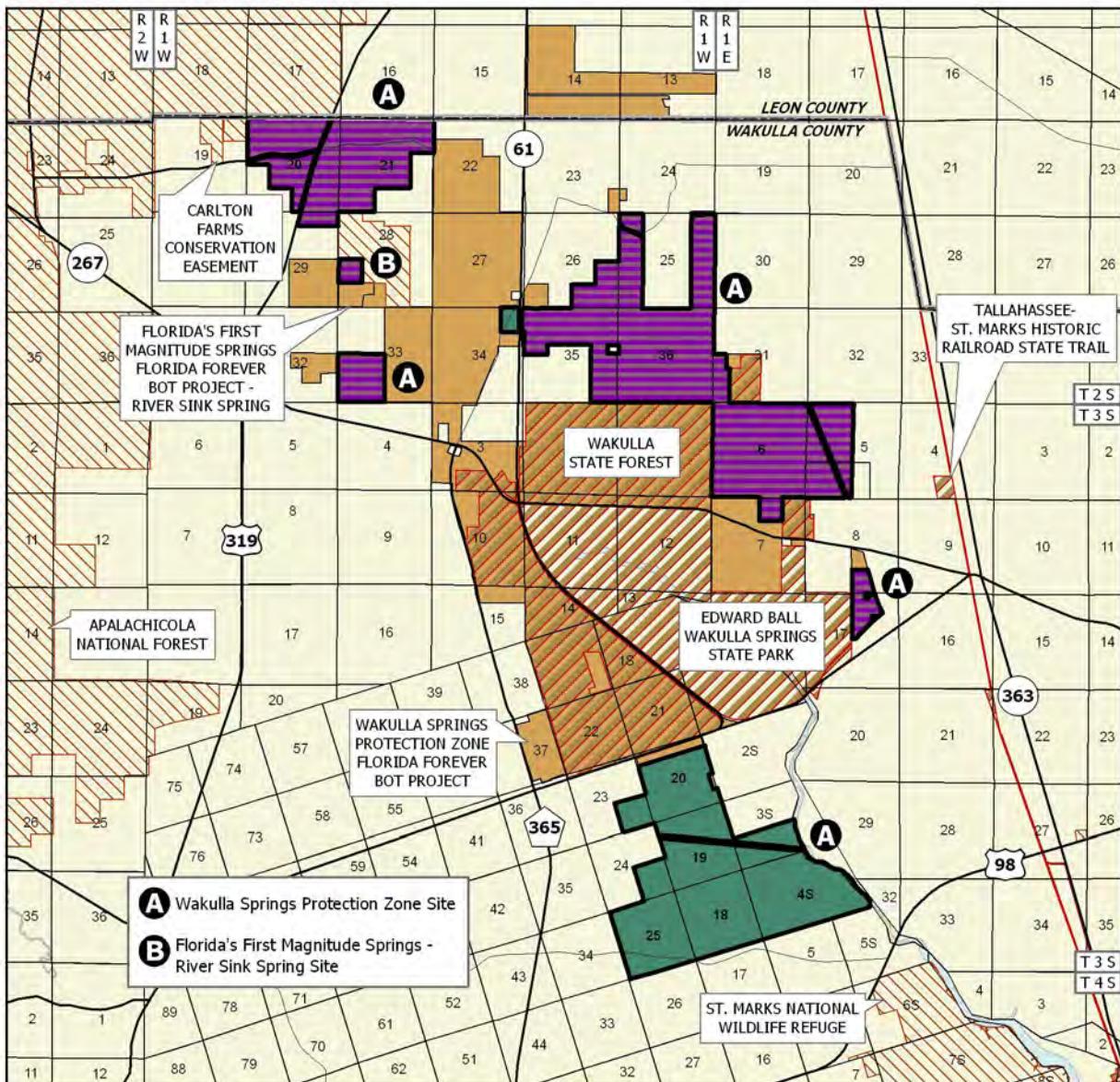


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MAY 2006

# St. Joe Timberland



## ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 7 OF 9

### WAKULLA COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundaries
- [Purple Stripes] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Lines] State Owned Lands
- [Brown Diagonal Lines] Other Conservation Lands

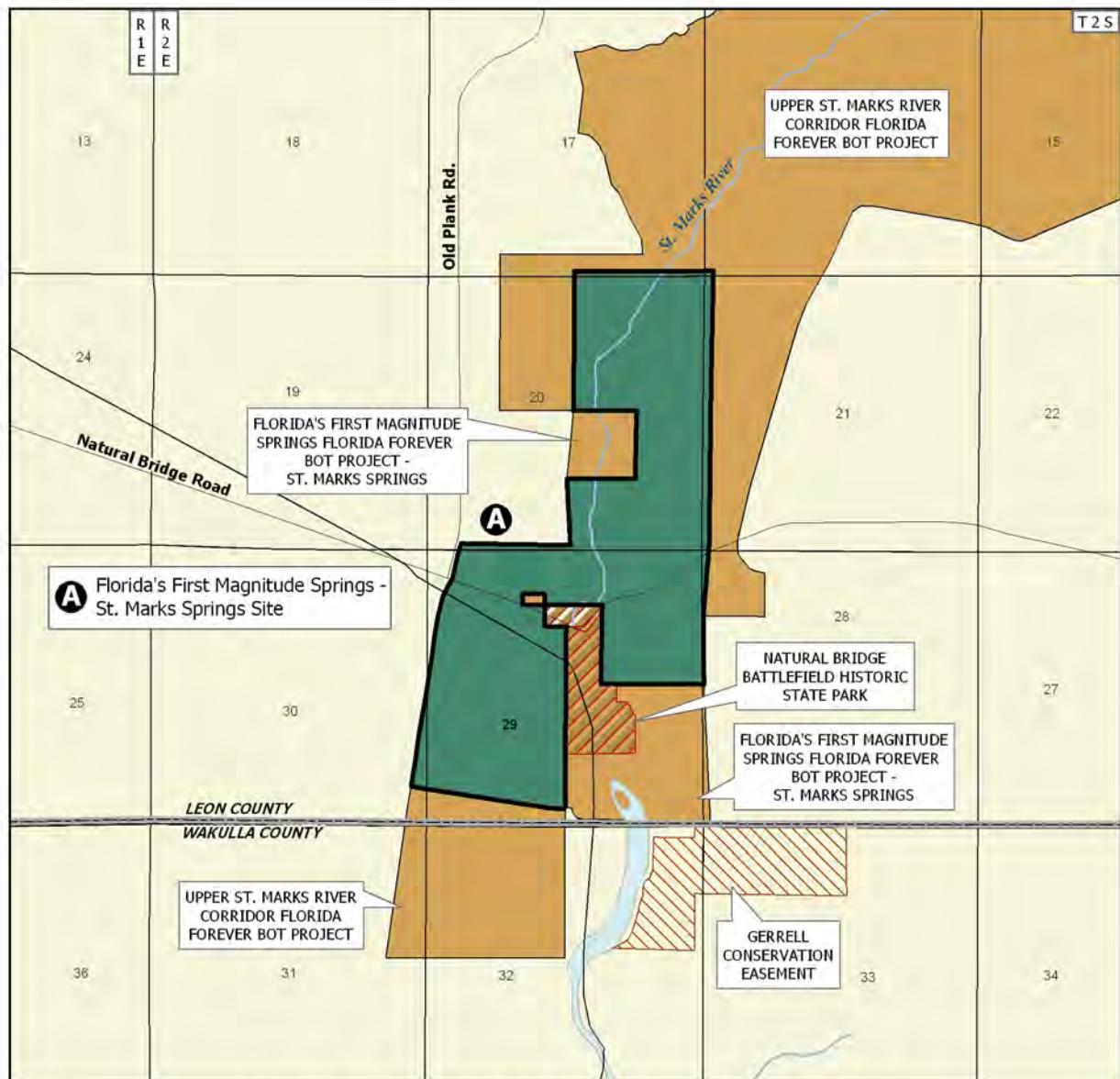


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JANUARY 2008

## St. Joe Timberland



### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 8 OF 9

#### LEON COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands

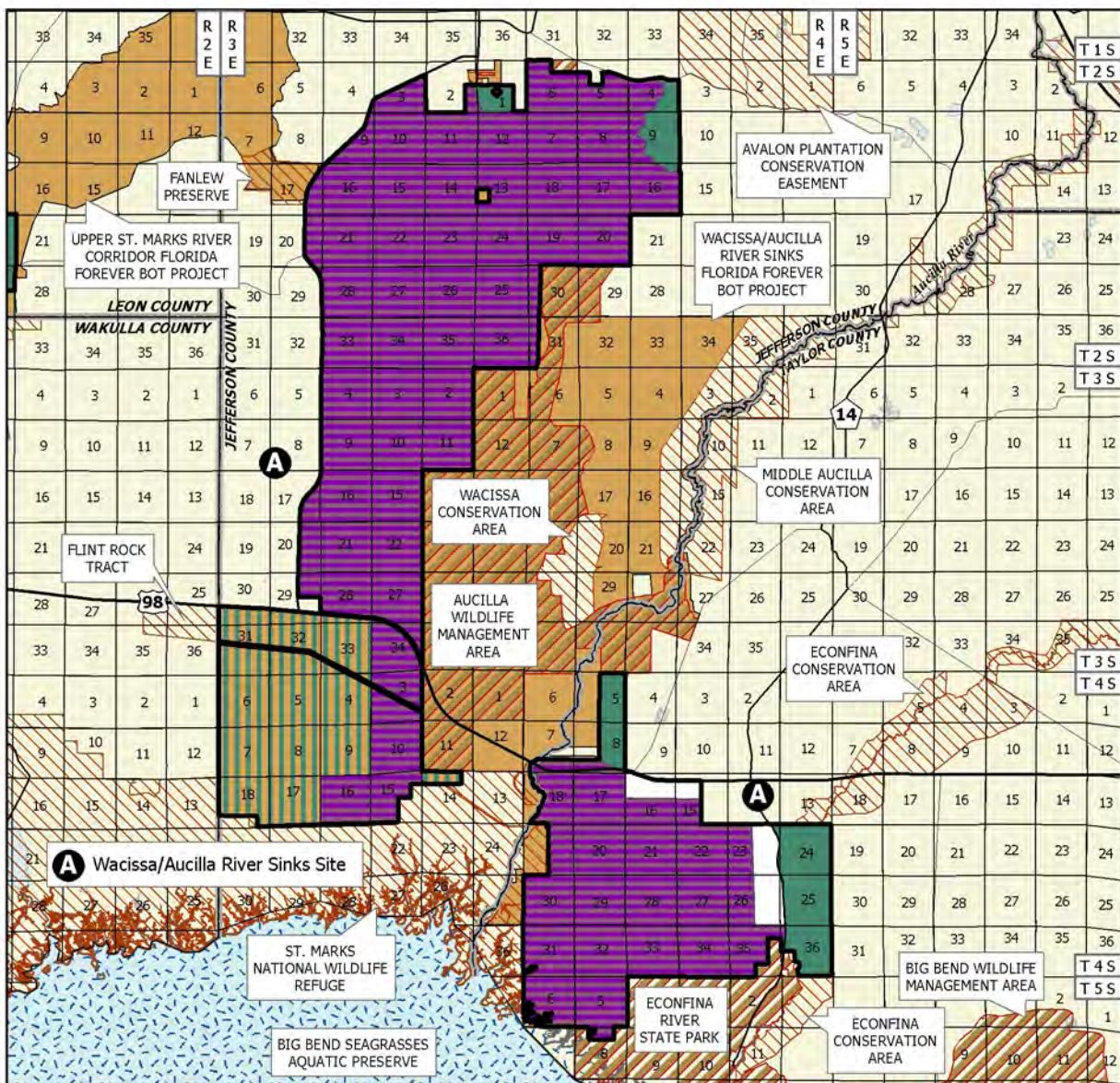


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JULY 2009

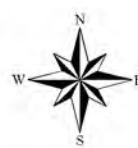
## St. Joe Timberland



**ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 9 OF 9**

### JEFFERSON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Blue Box with Stripes] TNC Owned Lands Within the Project
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Dark Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red Box with Stripes] State Owned Lands
- [Yellow Box with Stripes] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box with Dots] State Aquatic Preserves



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AUGUST 2010

## **St. Joe Timberland**

On 8/22/2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 12,360-acre addition, known as Lake Wimico site, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 1999 taxable value of \$1,118,790. On 8/22/2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,592-acre addition, known as Snipe Island, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 1999 taxable value of \$1,940,906. The FWCC proposed 12,360-acre addition which was approved to be added to the Lake Wimico site.

On 7/12/2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 22,260-acre addition, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWCC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2000 taxable value of \$5,565,000. 19,445 acres are located in Jefferson County, the remainder in Taylor County. On 7/12/2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 2,560-acre addition, to the St. Joseph Bay buffers project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2000 taxable value of \$210,880. The property is located in Gulf County.

On 4/25/2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 2,194-acre addition, known as the Tiger Hammock Conservation Area, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Dr. John Epler, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2002 taxable value of \$1,243,672.

On 4/25/2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,656-acre addition, known as Crooked Creek (1,365 acres, Gadsden/Liberty Counties) and Short Creek (291 acres, Liberty County), to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2001 taxable value of \$241,410.

On 6/6/2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 49,565-acre addition, known as St. Vincent Sound to Lake Wimico, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2002 taxable value of \$3,213,760.

On 6/4/2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 10,444-acre addition, known as the Flint Rock tract, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2002 taxable

value of \$1,007,366.

In 1/2008 TNC acquired 10,905 acres known as Flint Rock.

On 4/6/2010, the FWCC acquired from TNC approximately 2,836 acres of the Flint Rock site for \$5,246,371.

### **Coordination**

TNC is an acquisition intermediary for this project.

*Updated 2/17/2012*

# St. Johns River Blueway

St. Johns County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This project is located in one of the fastest areas of growth in the state. The project is designed to preserve the last remaining shorelines of the St. Johns River and several of its tributaries. The project also has numerous recorded archaeological and historical resources, and has the potential for many more.

### Manager

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) proposes to manage a portion of the site as part of Watson Island State Forest, and the remainder as a new state forest. Bunnell District personnel will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use for all areas.

### General Description

The St. Johns River Blueway runs along the eastern shore of the St. Johns River between Green Cove Springs and Palatka. It includes considerable forested wetlands by the river and around six tributary creeks, plus mesic flatwoods, freshwater marsh, and a portion of disturbed uplands. The project also bounds the Watson Island State Forest on the west bank of the St. Johns River.

### Public Use

The degree of ownership acquired and whether there are usable uplands that will accommodate resource-based recreation activities will determine the degree of public access and use that can be assured. Both fee and less-

than-fee acquisition approaches are recommended in the proposal. The resource-based recreation potential for the project is considered low to moderate, depending on what title rights and uplands can be obtained. Much of the project area is wetland or floodplain adjacent to the St. Johns River and its tributary creeks. These public waterways have boating and canoeing opportunities. Acquiring adjacent lands will help to ensure the preservation of the quality recreational experience that presently exists. If there is success in acquiring upland sites along these waterways, these uplands could provide access for the boating public and/or opportunities for environmental education and wildlife viewing. Success in acquiring lands with relatively dry upland areas will determine the ability to provide any kind of comprehensive hiking or bicycle trail system, or facilities to accommodate camping or picnicking. Creating a comprehensive bicycle trail system between parcels will require use of the public road system. Lands adjacent to existing public areas may enhance access, usability and the recreational experience of those public areas.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the St. Johns River Blueway project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by St. Johns County, consisted of approximately 27,997 acres, 290 landowners, and a taxable value of \$58,229,721. Six entities own more than 15,000 of the acres in the project: Rayonier, Meldrim, SJ Land Associates LLC, Klaerich, Ringhaver, and Plum Creek Timberlands LP.

On 6/16/2005 the Board of Trustees (BOT) approved buying 231.8 acres of the Warner ownership

St. Johns River Blueway	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Creek Siltsnail	G2/S2
<i>Thorne's Beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2
<i>Bartram's Ixia</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4

9 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2002
Project Area (GIS Acres)	27,952
Acres Acquired (GIS)	1,740
at a Cost of	\$3,112,640
Acres Remaining (GIS)	26,212
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$56,230,980

## St. Johns River Blueway



### ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

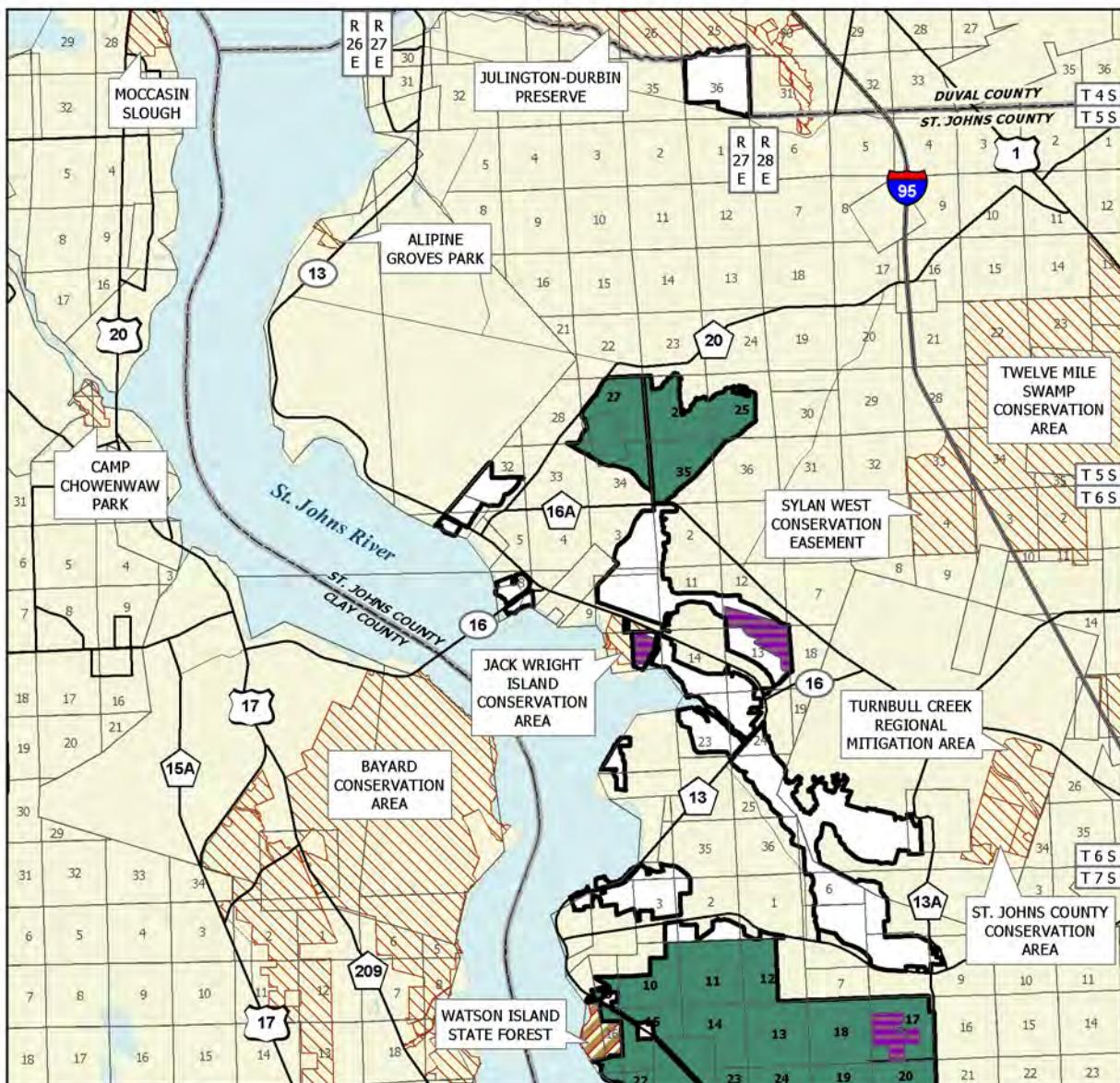


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JANUARY 2012

## St. Johns River Blueway



### ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 2

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Stripes Box] Other Conservation Lands

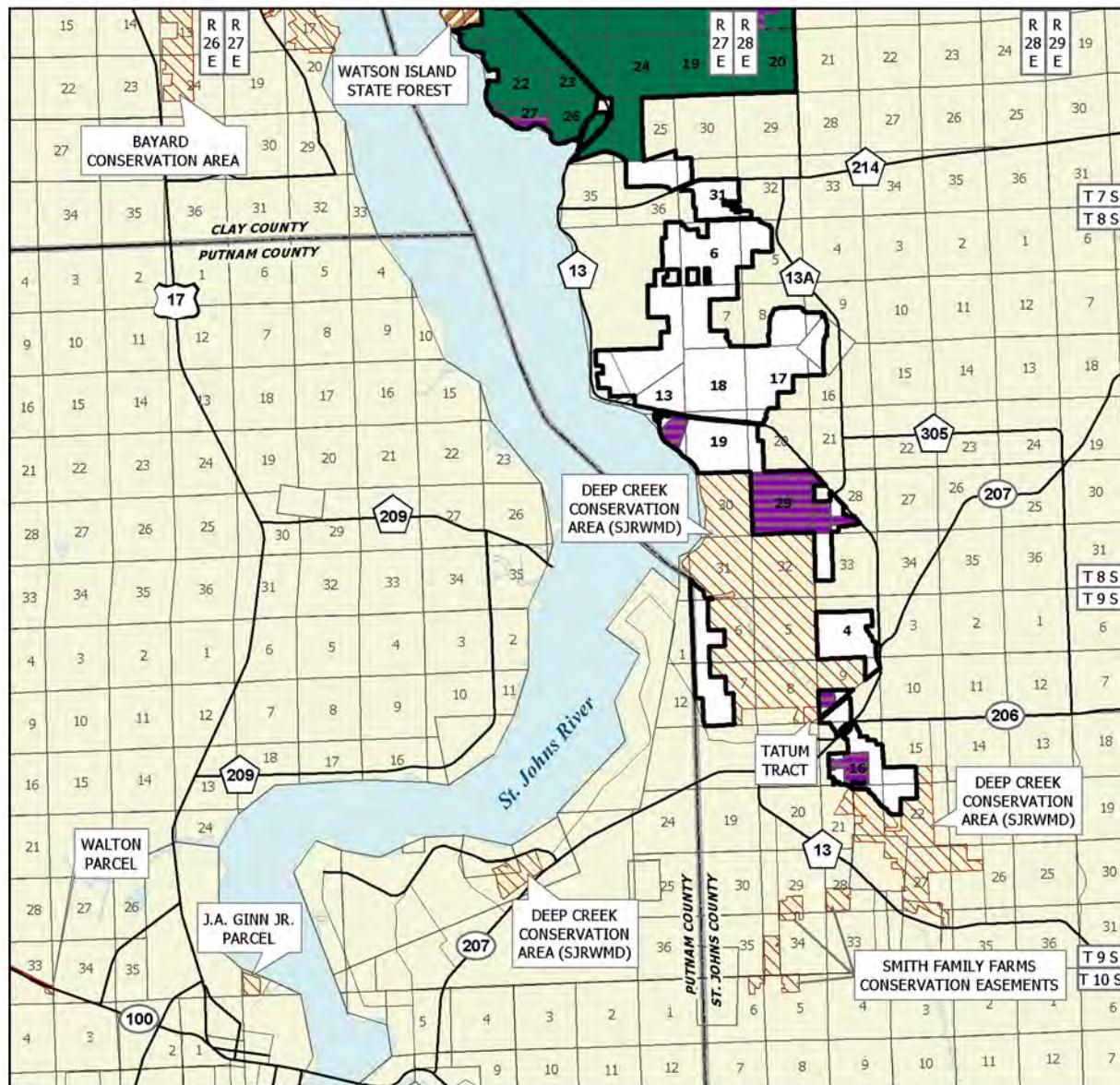


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JANUARY 2012

## St. Johns River Blueway



### ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 2

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Diagonal Hatching] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Diagonal Hatching] Other Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4 Miles



JANUARY 2012

for \$1,112,640. The BOT also acquired 736 acres of the Lambert ownership in August 2005 for \$2,000,000.

On 6/11/2010, the ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category for the August priority list. On 12/9/2011 the ARC recommended a 1656-acre reduction to the project boundary containing residential development, commercial buildings or infrastructure.

### **Coordination**

Portions of the project may be acquired in partnership with St. Johns County. The St. Johns River WMD is also interested in the acquisition of the project. The acquisition partnership may include local and state funding sources. Contribution percentages have not been determined.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project. These goals and measures are referenced later in this prospectus. The primary land management goal for the FFS is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS's management activities on this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project's location, size, and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. State Forest designation requires that certain criteria be met, such as public access and acreage available for many types of recreational activities. Designation as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring property rights which are consistent with these criteria.

**Manager** The FFS proposes to manage a portion of the site as part of Watson Island State Forest, and the remainder as a new state forest. Bunnell District personnel will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use for all areas.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the project's upland areas have been disturbed, and will require various levels of restoration. Natural communities that have been converted to pine plantation will require removal of off-site species and reforestation with native species.

Protection and restoration of wetland communities will be a priority for the FFS. Restoration efforts will concentrate on the removal or filling of ditches and corrections of other hydrological alterations. Public use will be limited to activities that are compatible with any sensitive resources.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrological restoration, as well as site security, public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for formulation of a management plan.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low-medium.

**Cooperators in management activities** FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (X FTE)</b>	<b>\$173,346</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>\$361,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$659,346</b>

*Updated 2/29/2012*

## Suwannee County Preservation

# Suwannee County Preservation

### Suwannee County

#### Less-Than-Fee

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

The acquisition of the Less-Than-Fee Suwannee County Preservation project will protect the water quality of the Suwannee River drainage area which harbors a number of rare plant and animal species; provide for continued protection of Rocky Creek; sustain wildlife in the area, provide long-term benefits to imperiled species; and perhaps to provide natural resource-based recreational opportunities. The project will provide land area for Florida black bear movement.

Acquiring the Suwannee County Preservation project fulfills the Florida Forever goals of acquiring conservation land with means other than fee-simple purchase, of acquiring significant strategic habitat conservation areas, of protecting floodplains in the Rocky Creek and in the Suwannee River areas, and of protecting the surface waters of the state. The landowner is open to fee simple purchase as well.

#### Manager

Landowner with Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands (DSL), or its successor, would serve as the conservation easement monitor.

#### General Description

Located in northeastern Suwannee County, just east of Live Oak and north of the Houston community, the Suwannee County Preservation project is a range of parcels in two primary locations—one parcel on the Suwannee River, and a cluster of parcels east of Live Oak, on both sides of Interstate-10. The original parcels total 1,660 acres, but the staff of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended that only the larger tract and one of the four isolated parcels, which fronts

on the river, be included in the final boundary of 1,254 (GIS) acres with a tax assessed value of \$2,995,178. All are considered essential parcels. Rocky Creek, a perennial stream, crosses two of the largest parcels in the larger tract, then flows north for just over three miles before its confluence with the Suwannee River. The last stretch of Rocky Creek crosses through the Suwannee River Water Management District's (SRWMD's) Rocky Creek tract, which adjoins the Suwannee River.

The larger tract and three nearby parcels are just south of secondary habitat for Florida black bear. A significant population of black bears exists approximately 20 miles east of the area within the Osceola National Forest. The Suwannee River, just north of the Rocky Creek Tract is a known corridor for the black bear. In addition, black bears have been observed just a few miles south of the area near the town of Wellborn.

The Eastern Tracts consist principally of disturbed uplands and more naturally vegetated bottomland along the Rocky Creek system, which flows northward through the property on its way to the Suwannee River. Most of the better-drained uplands have been converted to pine plantation or have been timbered.

The 139-acre River Tract on Suwannee River is undeveloped, other than a decrepit shed, a cement boat ramp covered with sediment at the lower end, and the existence of electrical power and a well. Rising abruptly from the river's eastern bank is a natural levee, behind which is a broader band of bottomland forest supporting

**Placed on List** 2010

**Project Area (GIS Acres)** 1,254

**Acres Acquired (GIS)** 0

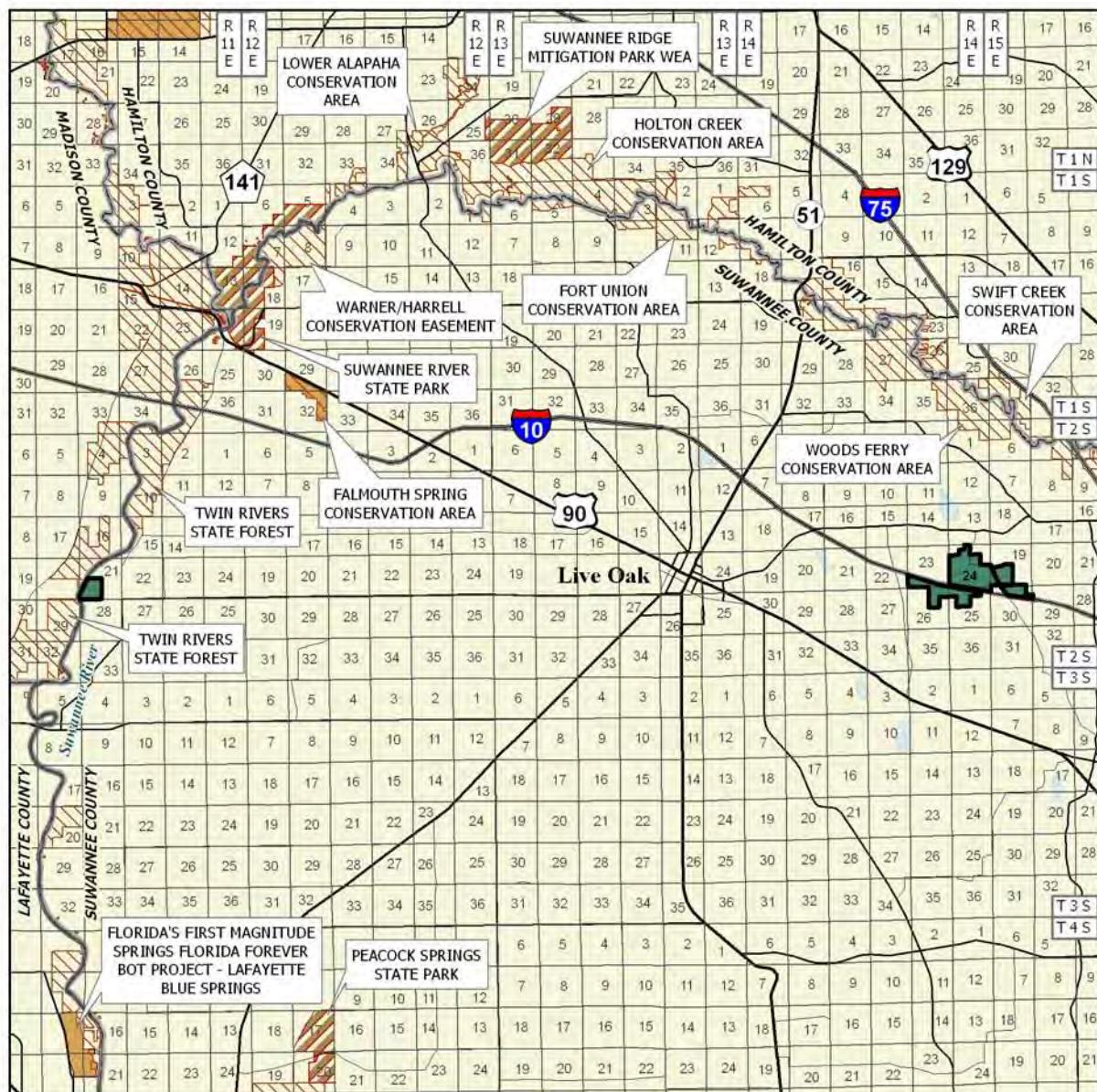
**at a Cost of** \$0

**Acres Remaining (GIS)** 1,254

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of** \$2,995,178

Suwannee County Preservation FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
1 rare species is associated with the project	

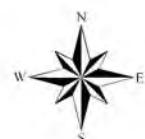
## Suwannee County Preservation



### SUWANNEE COUNTY PRESERVATION

#### SUWANNEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0    1.5    3    6  
Miles



JUNE 2010

## Suwannee County Preservation

a variety of hardwoods. Inland of this, the upland portion of the tract, about 99 acres, is mostly pine plantation.

### Public Use

If acquired as a less-than-fee property, public access would depend on the terms of access permitted by the owner as part of the conservation easement. The landowners have indicated that they could be willing to sell their property in fee-simple. If acquired in fee-simple, the eastern tract bisected by Interstate 10 could provide many trail opportunities for hiking, off road biking, horseback riding, nature/interpretive and off-highway vehicle riding. The project could also provide picnicking, primitive camping, hunting and geocaching. The river tract located on the Suwannee River could potentially provide, in addition to the activities listed above, freshwater boating, fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

### Acquisition Planning

On 6/11/2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Suwannee County Preservation project to the Florida Forever priority list in the Less-Than-Fee category.

### Coordination

No acquisition partners known at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary foci of the conservation easement. The current use of the property is primarily production of pine trees and pine straw. Purchase of a conservation easement over the property would allow continuation of these activities while allowing for continued maintenance of natural areas on the property. A conservation easement over the tract bordering the Suwannee River would allow continued protection of natural areas along the river and prevent development from contributing to the degradation of the river.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** Acquiring the Suwannee County Preservation project fulfills the Florida Forever goals of acquiring conservation land with means other than fee-simple purchase, of acquir-

ing significant strategic habitat conservation areas, of protecting floodplains in the Rocky Creek and in the Suwannee River areas, and of protecting the surface waters of the state.

**Manager** Landowner with the OES, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Disturbed acreage includes pine plantation and associated facilities, power line rights-of-way, roads, and ruderal sites, some of which now support successional hardwood forest and row crops. Despite the high level of disturbance to uplands throughout the site, no exotic species listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council were observed. Restoration of natural habitat would be extensive and prolonged due to the current land use. The small size and proximity of the tract to I-10 excludes the use of prescribed fire as a habitat management tool. Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) notes that the upland pine (sandhill or upland pine forest) natural community (and perhaps some mesic flatwoods) that usually occupy most of the higher, well drained uplands on site has been all but eliminated by silviculture and fire exclusion. Restoration to historic conditions would require removal of off-site pine, replanting with longleaf pine, and attempting to restore native groundcover and shrubby vegetation by seeding or planting. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) notes that substantial and prolonged habitat restoration would be necessary for the area to become beneficial to a more diverse variety of wildlife.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Not applicable to Conservation Easement.

**Revenue-generating potential** None available under the conservation easement.

**Cooperators in management activities** The landowner and staff of the OES.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** Purchase of a conservation easement over the property would be most beneficial for protecting floodplains in the Rocky Creek and the Suwannee River areas. The cost of the monitoring contractor plus staff time in the OES would add to the administrative costs of the easement. No sources of revenue are known at this time.

Updated 2/27/2012

# Terra Ceia

Manatee County

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The mangrove swamps and flatwoods on the islands and mainland around Terra Ceia Bay are some of the last natural lands left on the southeast shore of Tampa Bay. The Terra Ceia project will protect and restore this natural area, helping to preserve the fishery and manatee feeding grounds in Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve and giving the public an area in which to fish, boat, and enjoy the original landscape of Tampa Bay.

## Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP). Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) will continue to be managed by that agency.

## General Description

The Terra Ceia project is two-thirds mangrove swamp and one-third a mix of xeric hammock, and flatwoods and old fields colonized by Brazilian pepper. The area is particularly significant for the protection it offers to bird rookeries (including nearby Bird Island, one of the top two rookeries in Florida) and to the adjacent Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve (an Outstanding Florida Water), with its seagrass beds used heavily by manatees, its nursery areas for fish and invertebrates, and its important fishery. Sixty-nine archaeological sites, mostly middens, are known from the project, and more are likely. The natural resources of the project are vulnerable to alteration or destruction by development and invasion by exotic plant species. Growth pressures are intense, so endangerment is high.

## Public Use

This project qualifies as a buffer preserve, with uses

Terra Ceia FNAI Elements	
Manatee	G2/S2
<i>Hairy Beach Sunflower</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>Wild Cotton</i>	G4G5/S3
<i>Banded Wild-pine</i>	G5/S3
4 rare species are associated with the project	

## Climate Change Lands

such as boating and fishing, and—in accessible uplands—activities like picnicking and hiking.

## Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Terra Ceia project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserve, consisted of approximately 2,612 acres, multiple owners, and a 1995 taxable value of \$8,059,357. The essential parcels were identified as: Hendry Corp; Reeder; Schater; Huber; Blalock; and First Union/Larson. Prior to the project's addition to the CARL list, our acquisition partner, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) acquired Terra Ceia Isles. The District acquired the Reeder (20-acres) and Schater parcels (39.1-acres) in 2000 with the State contributing half of the funding.

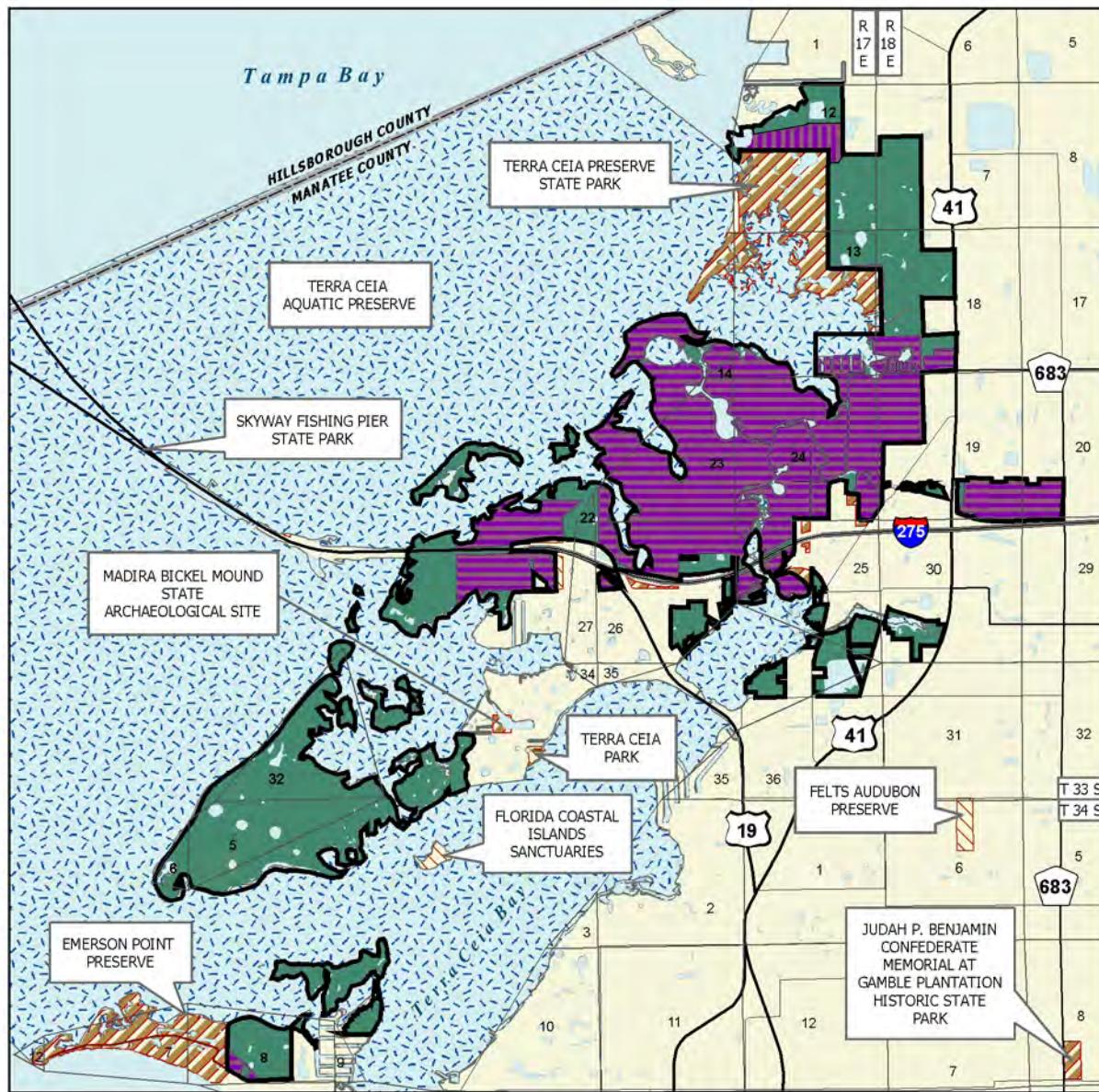
On 10/15/1998, the LAAC designated an additional 843 acres as essential.

On 6/15/2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 395-acre addition (aka Frog and McMullen Creek Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the DEP's Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) and the DRP and the SWFWMD. The addition consisted of 33 landowners, 61 parcels, and a taxable value of \$5,700,188. The DRP is the recommended manager for most of the site. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by the SWFWMD will continue to be managed by them.

On 6/2009, a donation of 40.06 acres was received from SWFWMD.

Placed on List	1996
Project Area (GIS Acres)	4,281
Acres Acquired (GIS)	1,807*
at a Cost of	\$4,962,500*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	2,474
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$7,137,528
* inclds. acreage/expenditures/donation by SWFWMD.	

## Terra Ceia

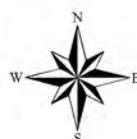


## TERRA CEIA

### MANATEE COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Stripped Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less Than Fee)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red/Orange Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Dotted Box] State Aquatic Preserves

0    0.5    1    2  
Miles



JANUARY 2011

On 8/13/2010 ARC approved a 251-acre (\$51,544,946 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

### **Coordination**

SWFWMD is an acquisition partner. DEP received a grant of \$504,731 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the acquisition of Rattlesnake Key and Joe's Island.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Terra Ceia project is to preserve and restore the coastal natural communities, ranging from xeric and maritime hammocks to coastal strand and mangrove swamps, that remain around the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve. Achieving this objective will protect the resources of the aquatic preserve (its seagrass beds used heavily by manatees, its nursery areas for fish and invertebrates, and its fishery). It will also play an important part in the protection and restoration of the Tampa Bay estuary, the largest open-water estuary in Florida. The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward preservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as fishing. Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn any fire-dependent communities in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; strictly limit timbering; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving the resources of the aquatic preserve. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project includes nearly all the coastal undeveloped land south of Port Manatee and around Terra Ceia Bay, and consequently has the size and location to achieve its primary objective.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** This project qualifies as a state buffer preserve to protect the resources

of the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve.

**Manager** The DRP is the designated manager. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by SWFWMD will continue to be managed by them.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Terra Ceia Project generally includes lands that are "low-need" tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The goals of management of the Terra Ceia Project are (1) to protect the water quality and the highly productive marine habitat of the aquatic preserve by maintaining the project area in a substantially natural condition; (2) to preserve and protect significant endangered and threatened species which include the West Indian manatee, Roseate Spoonbill, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Least Tern, Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret, American Oystercatcher; (3) to preserve and protect significant archaeological sites; (4) to restore islands to a natural state which will include removal of exotic vegetation and habitat restoration activities; and (5) to establish a self-guided canoe trail between the islands for use by the general public. Within the first year after state acquisition, initial and intermediate activities will concentrate on the site security of the mainland property and resource inventory. The site's natural resources will be inventoried and a management plan will be formulated. Long-range plans for this property will be directed toward exotic plant removal/restoration of disturbed areas and the perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Management practices will also stress the protection of the water quality of the aquatic preserve by maintaining the project area in a substantially natural condition, the protection of threatened and endangered species and the preservation of the significant archaeological sites for professional investigation.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated from this property.

*Updated 2/3/2012*

<b>Management Cost Summary/Start-Up</b>	
<b>Salary (2 FTE)</b>	\$ 62,000
<b>OCO – Park design</b>	\$100,000
<b>Expenses stabilizing ruins</b>	\$ 10,000
<b>Fixed capital – Parking lots, trails</b>	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$672,000</b>

# Three Chimneys

## Volusia County

### Purpose for State Acquisition

An old live-oak hammock in the City of Ormond Beach protects the remains of a British sugar and rum factory from the 1700's. The Three Chimneys project will protect the hammock and these remains—some of the few from the British period in Florida—and will give the public an opportunity to see and learn about this site.

### Manager

Ormond Beach Historical Trust (OBHT).

### General Description

High-quality, old-growth hydric hammock, dominated by live oak, laurel oak, sweetgum, huckleberry, elm, cabbage palm, and other trees, occupies nearly all the site. No FNAI-listed plants or animals are known from the site, but migrating songbirds may use the hammock as a stopover. The site includes the ruins of a sugar and rum factory from the 18<sup>th</sup>-century British period, with two of the original three chimneys remaining. Few sites from Florida's British period are now publicly owned. There are also early 20<sup>th</sup>-century remains on the site.

The site is vulnerable to further neglect and is surrounded by development. It is in danger of development.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a state historic site, with uses such as historic interpretation and possibly picnicking or walking.

### Acquisition Planning

The project includes eight parcels and five owners. The Segev parcel is essential.

On 12/5/2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to the Group B list.

On 12/10/2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category

<b>Three Chimneys</b>
FNAI Elements
no rare species are associated with the project

## Critical Historical Resources

called, "Critical Historical Resources."

### Coordination

City of Ormond Beach and the Ormond Beach Historical Trust are acquisition partners for this project.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State-designation** The Three Chimneys project, designated 8 Vo196, encompasses 54.5 acres of land currently owned by four private owners. Prehistoric Indian middens have been unearthed on the property as well as an historic coquina repository. Likewise, archaeological ruins of America's first rum distillery (circa 1764) have been excavated and over 50 large trees and rare plants identified which will enhance the quality of the project. The tract is a mature mesic hardwood hammock of massive live oaks—some up to 22 feet in circumference and over 200 years old—elms, hickories and magnolias located on the north side of State Road (SR) 40, or West Grenada Boulevard, in urban Ormond Beach, Volusia County, Florida.

Consisting of jurisdictional wetlands with elevations of 4-7 feet, the proposed park is situated one mile west of US 1. The site was originally included in King George III's 20,000 acre land grant to Richard Oswald, dated Wednesday, July 23, 1763, and it was the first settlement in what was to become Ormond Beach. The subject area is the only large green space remaining in the six miles between I-95 and the Atlantic Ocean, a rapidly developing commercial and residential district.

This Management Prospectus is based on a 1995 archaeological study paid for by the Ormond Beach Historical Trust (OBHT) and city of Ormond Beach, aerial photographs, a site visit by Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) ecologist Dr. A. Johnson (5/19/1999), and a Preservation Plan (7/7/1999) prepared by Dr. L. Wayne of SouthArc in

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Acres Acquired (GIS)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$889,900</b>
<b>Acres Remaining (GIS)</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$975,700</b>

Gainesville. In addition to the unique historic ruins and large trees, introduced exotics include air potato, bamboo, camphor, Chinese tallow, grapefruit and Cherokee rose. The invasive exotics will be removed.

The size and diverse resources of the Three Chimneys site will provide a much-needed green-space buffer of state-owned lands in a busy commercial corridor which conforms with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan developed pursuant to §375.021, the state management plan §253.03(7), state land acquisition plan §259.04(1)(a), and, lastly, the site qualifies under Rule 18-8.009(6)(c). Once the state obtains title to the property, the OBHT is recommended as lead manager. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is recommended as the cooperating manager.

#### **Manager OBHT**

**Management Goals** The management goals of the Three Chimneys project are threefold: (1) To stabilize, preserve, restore, protect, maintain, interpret and manage in perpetuity the prehistoric middens and archaeological resources of the site, dating from the British Period. The OBHT aims to enhance public education, visitor appreciation and simultaneously allow compatible passive guest access. Sun-driven salt intrusion and tree root-caused damage has caused significant decay at Three Chimneys and must be stopped immediately; (2) to enhance conservation and protection and perpetuate an irreplaceable old-growth hardwood forests, a natural hammock growing ever more scarce in Florida today. This action will include the development of a plan to protect and restore surface water resources and encourage wild life; and (3) to provide recreational activity areas and walking trails to be connected to the state/county/city and East Coast Greenway Association's (ECGA) network of hiking/biking trails extending along the east coast of America, Maine to Key West and promote this first settlement of slaves in Volusia County.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** Although most of the Three Chimneys Project includes a hardwood hammock that is a low-need tract requiring only basic resource management and protection, there is a more costly aspect to this proposal. The archaeological areas containing extant ruins, has a subsurface nail scatter, glass and metal objects to be studied. In addition, areas around the prehistoric Indian middens and coquina pits will require prudence to preserve their intrinsic value and shelter them, intact, for future generations to experience. These factors will result

in higher than typical costs compared to management of only a state forest devoid of an archaeological site.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Within a year after the 54.5 acres is acquired and assigned to the OBHT to manage, initial activities will concentrate on site security from vandals and looters, i.e., installing a security fence around the boiling house, two-kettle distillery and large upright chimney and Indian midden. The site will immediately be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, removing tree roots, stumps and all encroaching vegetation from the masonry ruins will begin at once. Deteriorated masonry joints will be re-pointed with tabby or mortar of matching composition and colors and root-damaged sections of the distillery will be reconstructed by a trained mason. A temporary protective roof will be installed over all ruins once they have been stabilized. A dilapidated 20th-century farm house and out buildings will be removed along with all other trash, and an open cesspool will be filled. A resource inventory will be completed using the OBHT's Preservation Plan, completed by SouthArc, Inc. in June, 1999. This Plan also identified many biologic species on the site. Invasive exotic plants such as air potato, Chinese tallow, camphor and bamboo will be removed. Public and fire management access will be addressed.

As soon as possible, the OBHT will provide appropriate, albeit limited, access to the public while protecting sensitive resources and site work continues.

Future goals include firmly establishing and promoting Three Chimneys as a heritage resource similar to those found in St. Augustine and at Bulow State Park. This work will begin by the cataloging of recovered material and documenting of the completed professional archaeologist's excavations since 1995 along the south side of the boiling house; excavations north of the boiling house to identify pier locations of other structures such as the grinding mill and fermentory; investigation of the existing well to identify any old well beneath it and placing on-site signage with pictures, schematic drawings and interpretive displays, to be installed along with a demonstration cane field and miniature sugar works, a living history display, in an area used as cattle pasture 30 years ago. Other on-site usages will include building a vandal-proof Interpretive Center, parking lot, picnic area/playground, nature trails and an earthen berm along SR 40 to buffer the site from traffic noise. Finally, Three Chimneys will be tied into the East Coast Greenway Association's network of hiking/biking trails.

## Three Chimneys



### THREE CHIMNEYS

#### VOLUSIA COUNTY



0    0.125    0.25    0.5  
Miles



JULY 2006

**Revenue Generating Potential** The approximate tax value of the 54.5-acre parcel in the project is \$1.3 million, indicative of its choice location in the busy commercial corridor of Ormond Beach. This high value also has a positive advantage. The Three Chimneys Park will be the eighth state-owned Florida British Period site and a valued addition to this inventory of cultural resources as it is located in an urban location. A similar-sized historic park in Barberville, 25 miles to the west on SR 40, attracts over 31,000 visitors a year. Given Three Chimneys locale and tremendous educational opportunities for central Florida-area school children and tourists, substantial visitors' revenues are anticipated.

There will be a small amount of revenue obtained from stumpage sold in areas designated for public parking and picnic grounds.

**Management Costs and Sources of Revenue** The new mayor and commissioners of Ormond Beach have indicated a positive attitude toward assisting the OBHT with the development and management of Three Chimneys.

*Updated 9/30/2011*

**Management Cost Summary**

<b>Salary (2 FTE)</b>	<b>\$62,000</b>
<b>OCO - Park design</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Expenses stabilizing ruins</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Fixed capital - Parking lots, trails</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$672,000</b>



# Tiger Cattle Company Ranch

Okeechobee County

Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the conservation easement over the Tiger Cattle Company Ranch fulfills Florida Forever goals of increasing the number of acres protected with alternatives to fee-simple acquisition; increasing the number of acres of preserved Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas; creating significant landscape linkages by helping connect the preserved lands of the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Florida Forever project and the Pine Island Slough Florida Forever project; and protecting 733 acres of surface-water protection.

## Manager

As a conservation easement, the management of this property would be monitored by the Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services (OES).

## General Description

The proposal is comprised of two large, impressive, basin marshes (making up approximately 20 percent of the site's landcover), along with scattered depression marshes, dry prairie, mesic flatwoods, and mesic hammock and remnant upland natural communities, imbedded in a matrix of extensive areas of improved pasture (approximately 50 percent). The basin marshes are oriented north-south through the middle third of the site and most of the remaining natural areas occur adjacent to these marshes. Improved pastures make up most of the eastern and western thirds of the property. A network of relatively shallow ditches/canals and roads have altered hydrology to some extent. Currently, family and friends utilize the land for recreation and wildlife viewing. There is no hunting lease on the property.

Tiger Cattle Company Ranch	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
5 rare species are associated with the project	

While the largest marsh and some of the flatwoods have burned recently, prescribed burning apparently is not used on a regular basis.

## Public Use

If the proposal is acquired as a less-than-fee acquisition, there will likely not be any public access granted under the terms of the easement except for possible planned research and educational purposes. With only the possible public access for these planned purposes, there would not be any public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project.

## Acquisition Planning

On 12/12/2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Tiger Cattle Company Ranch to the Florida Forever acquisition list as a less-than-fee project.

## Coordination

There are no acquisition partnerships at this time.

## Management Policy Statement

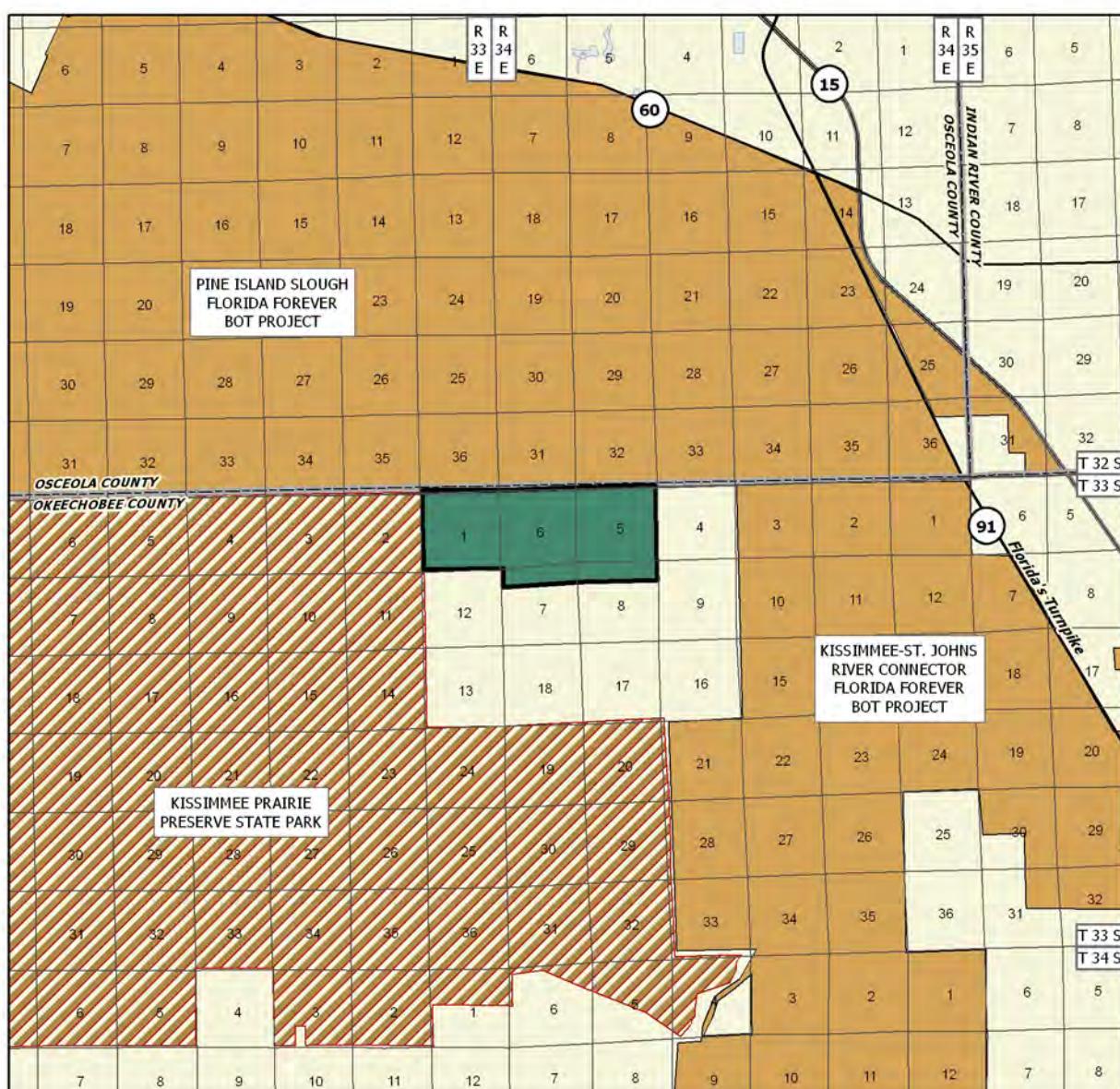
The property will continue to be managed by the land-owner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The OES of the Division of State lands will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement.

## Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** This project meets the following public purposes: enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the

Placed on List	2008
Project Area (GIS Acres)	2,230
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	2,230
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$4,524,903

# Tiger Cattle Company Ranch

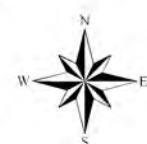


## TIGER CATTLE COMPANY RANCH

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*OKEECHOBEE COUNTY*

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - State Owned Lands



JANUARY 2009

## **Tiger Cattle Company Ranch**

species, natural community, and landscape levels; protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state; ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state ; increase natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities; preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and, increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. This project meets Florida Forever measures of using alternatives to fee-simple acquisitions, protecting strategic habitats, natural floodplains and significant surface waters.

**Manager** The landowner would manage the site. OES is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Half of this property has been managed for silviculture for the last century. Sustainable timber management practices have evolved over the years and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative bolsters conservation None under a conservation easement.

### ***Estimates of revenue-generating potential***

None under a conservation easement.

**Capital project expenditures** Not applicable under a conservation easement therefore none are anticipated.

**Recommendations for other governmental agency involvement** Other state agencies will share management suggestions with owner should they be asked.

***Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed*** The cost of the time involved in coordinating the monitoring by OES staff and the cost of the contract for monitoring services would add to the administrative costs of the easement. No sources of revenue are projected at this time.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island

## Nassau County      Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The acquisition of the Tiger and Little Tiger Island proposal would provide a missing link in a network of national and state preserves and parks that stretch from St. Andrews Sound in Georgia to the St. Johns River in Florida. Roughly three-quarters of the proposal appears to be estuarine tidal marsh along the St. Mary's River, Amelia River, and a network of smaller connecting rivers and creeks. The remainder primarily represents upland maritime hammock on the elevated islands in the extensive tidal marsh ecosystem. The marsh and adjoining sand and mud flats are important feeding and nesting areas for many species of shorebirds, wading birds, and songbirds. A recent survey by FNAI biologists showed Little Tiger Island to have one of the highest nesting concentrations of Worthington's marsh wren and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow along the Florida Coast. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to designate the Cumberland Sound side of Tiger and Little Tiger Islands as critical habitat for the wintering populations of the piping plover. The Tiger Islands have been occupied since aboriginal times and archaeological excavations in the area show that pottery-making aboriginal populations inhabited the coastal islands as early as the second millennium B.C.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection.

Tiger/Little Tiger Island FNAI Elements	
Piping Plover	G3/S2
Manatee	G2/S2
Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow	G4T2/S2
Worthington's Marsh Wren	G5T3/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Atlantic Salt Marsh Mink	G5T3/S3
American Oystercatcher	G5/S2
Least Tern	G4/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Painted Bunting	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
White Ibis	G5/S4

12 rare species are associated with the project

### General Description

Natural communities include: Estuarine Tidal Marsh, Maritime Hammock, Coastal Strand and Beach Dune. The Tiger Islands have been occupied since aboriginal times. Archaeological excavations in the area show that pottery-making aboriginal populations inhabited the coastal islands as early as the second millennium B.C. The primary problems on the islands have been rampant looting of archaeological sites.

### Public Use

Potential recreational or other public uses of the land include: walking trails, picnicking, primitive camping, shoreline fishing and environmental education.

The surrounding marshes with their intertwining creeks could provide a system of canoe or kayak trails. The islands could be a part of that trail system for primitive overnight visitation and provide limited trails on each.

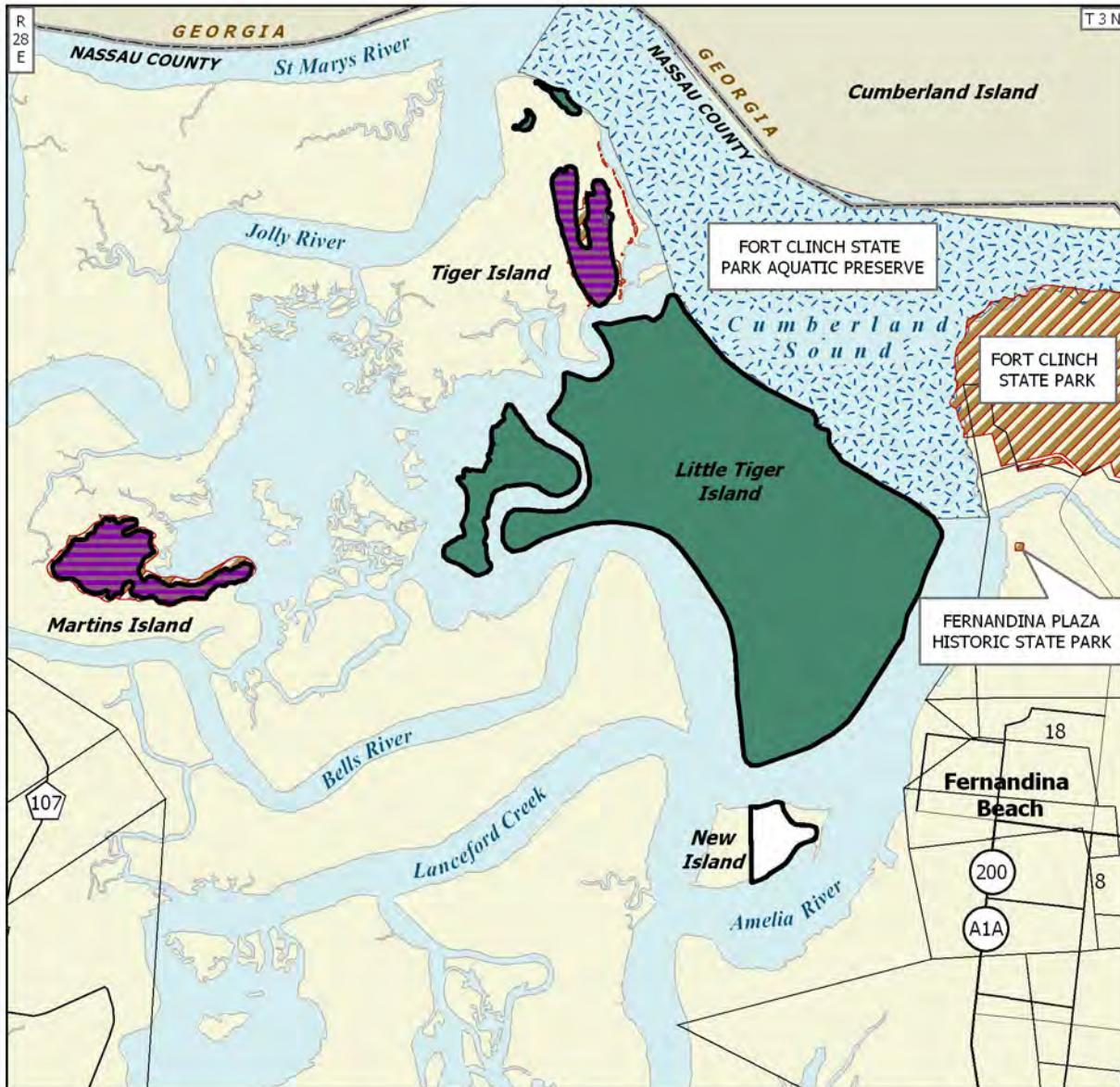
### Acquisition Planning

On 1/21/2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the owners' representative, Jacobs & Associates PA, consisted of approximately 1,280 acres, multiple owners, and a 1998 taxable value of \$68,835.

All parcels were identified as essential except the eastern half of New Island, which was used as a spoil site. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) donated the western half of the island to the State in the 1970s.

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GSI Acres)	1,291
Acres Acquired (GIS)	150
at a Cost of	\$4,184,000
Acres Remaining (GIS)	1,141
1998 Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$3,598,894

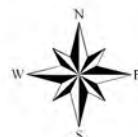
## Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island



### TIGER ISLAND/LITTLE TIGER ISLAND

#### NASSAU COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Diagonal Stripes Box] State Owned Lands
- [Dotted Pattern Box] State Aquatic Preserve



0      0.5      1      2  
Miles



JULY 2007

In 6/2002, the project was moved to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

### **Coordination**

The City of Fernandina voted 4/10/2001 to approve a \$6 million bond initiative for conservation lands. Nassau County will have a November initiative for \$3 million a year bond issue to be spent on conservation lands. As a consequence, both may be able to contribute some funding.

### **Management Policy**

To conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of the state or a larger geographic area. To conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species. To conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources. Finally, to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Composed of a number of islands interspersed within a salt marsh system just west of Fort Clinch State Park and partially adjacent to Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve, the project has the capacity to provide protection of marine communities and provide resource-based recreational opportunities. As such the project would be suitable as an extension of Fort Clinch State Park.

**Manager** DRP, Department of Environmental Protection.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** The project will be a high-need management area. Public recreational use and development of compatible facilities on the islands will be an integral aspect of management.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Upon fee acquisition, management will concentrate on site security and development of a resource inventory. As a part of Fort Clinch State Park, hunting, an activity presently allowed on the uplands, will not be allowed. Access to the islands will be confined to designated points and routes. Low-intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation will be provided to allow for compatible public access. Long-term management may include a range of resource-based recreational and associated facilities. High impact recreational areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural systems.

**Revenue Generating Potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after acquisition and the amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed.

**Cooperators on management activities** The DRP will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park purposes.

### **Management Costs and Sources of Revenue**

<b>Category</b>			
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>Startup</b>		<b>Recurring</b>
Expense	\$20,000		\$25,000
OCO	50,000		22,000
OPS	4,500		32,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$79,500</b>		<b>\$79,500</b>

*Updated 2/29/2012*

# Triple Diamond

## Okeechobee County

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The acquisition of this project would preserve significant dry prairie, important in the long-term protection of this endemic natural community and the rare species that it supports, as well as provide recreational and research opportunities. Additionally, preserving this intact and well-managed landscape would allow for the protection and management of thousands of acres of additional high quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities, and significant hydrological values. This project is bordered on the north by the Kissimmee River Prairie Preserve State Park. Other public lands in the near vicinity include Avon Park Air Force Range, Bombing Range Ridge, and the Kissimmee River to the west and Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area and Blue Cypress Conservation Area to the east. The Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Florida Forever Project is also located within 7 miles to the east of the property. Triple Diamond, along with existing conservation lands, would contribute to a large, contiguous landscape-sized protection area of more than 200,000 acres.

### Manager

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is the recommended manager of this site.

### General Description

Triple Diamond, owned by the Wold family, is a working ranch and is exemplary in its retention of Florida's native prairie. Natural communities comprise 80 percent of the property and include basin marsh, depression marsh, dome swamp, dry and wet prairie, mesic hammock, and swales or sloughs. Dry

Triple Diamond FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Loammi Skipper	G1/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Great Egret	G5/S4
6 rare species are associated with the project	

### Critical Natural Lands

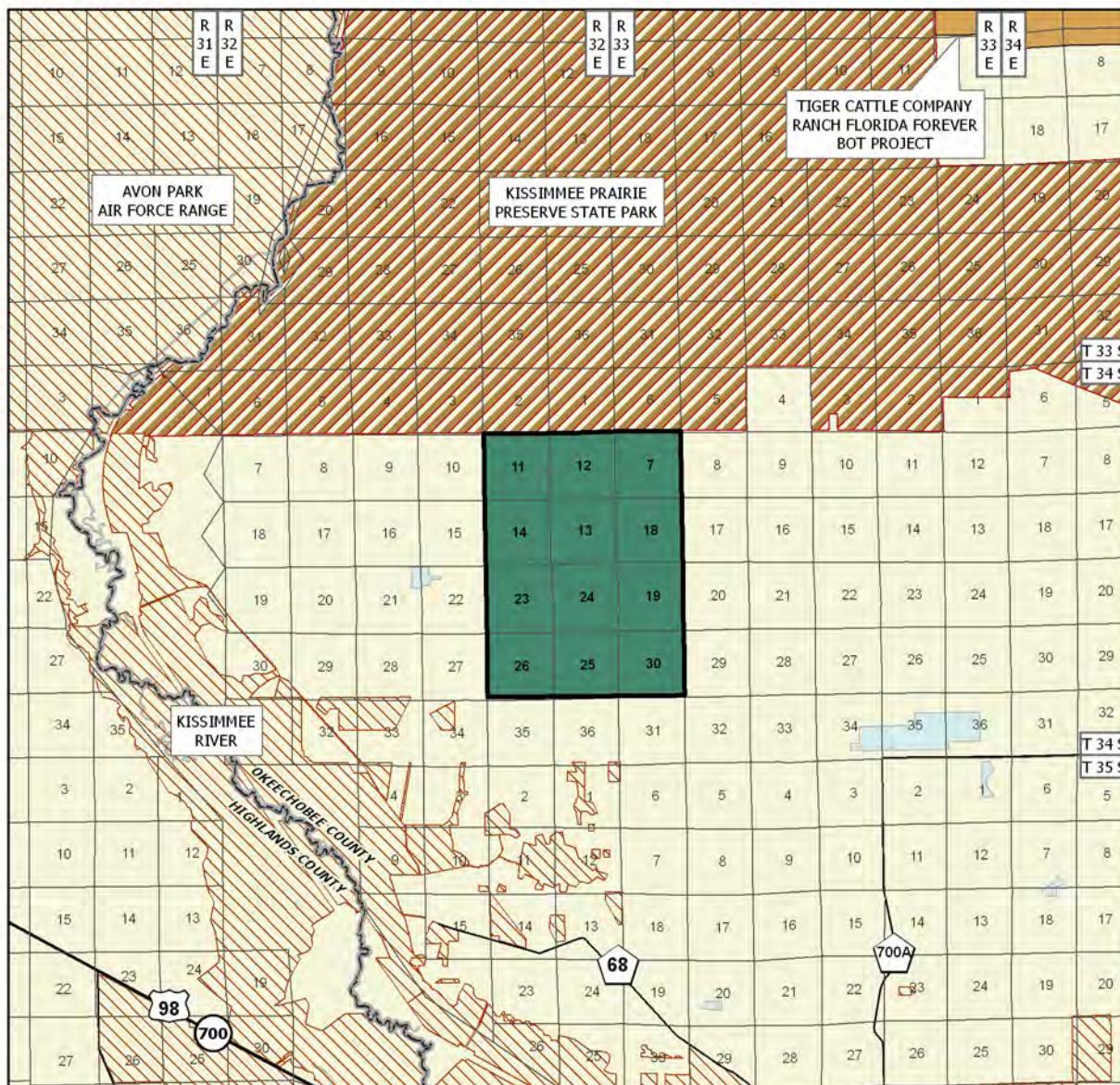
prairie, endemic to this region of the state, is the most prevalent natural community on the proposed site. A smaller acreage of wet prairie occurs as open, herbaceous areas occupying lower spots in the dry prairie and in ecotones between wetlands and the dry prairie. The dry prairie provides habitat for state and federally-listed animal species such as gopher tortoise, Florida grasshopper sparrow and crested caracara. Together dry and wet prairies make up approximately 42% of the property's acreage and comprise one of the largest and perhaps highest quality blocks of native prairie remaining on private lands. Much of the Triple Diamond prairie has been burned frequently, often in the growing season, and is in excellent condition. Interconnected swale/slough and depression marsh wetlands form a branching network that spreads over the length and breadth of Triple Diamond. There are also isolated depression/basin marshes scattered over the property. One small dome swamp is located in the northeastern portion of the project. The canopy is dominated by mature pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) surrounding a small disturbed pond. A large, modern two-story home is located in the southwestern part of the site as part of a complex of management facilities that also includes an equipment barn and horse stables.

### Public Use

The Triple Diamond project has the potential of providing a diverse recreational experience. There is already a well maintained road system occurring throughout the property and all the existing facilities can greatly enhance the recreational and research potential of the property. There is a potential for a full range of trail activities including short distance nature trails, long distance hiking trails, bicycle trails and equestrian trails can be accommodated. Nature

Placed on List	2009
Project Area (GIS Acres)	7,997
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	7,997
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$23,007,107

## Triple Diamond



### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4 Miles



JUNE 2009

## **Triple Diamond**

appreciation and wildlife observation as well as both primitive and facility camping could be supportive. The infrastructure already on the property is in excellent shape and the existing residence could be converted to a spacious visitor/educational center. The barn and corrals could be used as part of an equestrian center for trail rides.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 6/12/2009 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended that the Triple Diamond Ranch be added to the Florida Forever list as an A list project. On 6/11/2010, the ARC placed this project into the Critical Natural Lands category.

### **Coordination**

TNC is considered an acquisition partner on this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of managing the Triple Diamond Ranch are to protect and manage thousands of acres of additional high quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities, and significant hydrological values.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** This intact and well-managed landscape would allow for the protection and management of thousands of acres of additional high quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities, and significant hydrological values. This project has the potential for providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience.

**Manager** The DRP is recommended as the manager of this site.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The property should not require intense management in the short term; however, the buildings on the property will need to be maintained. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a

broader public use area with more use of the substantial infrastructure already on the property.

### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the property is acquired and assigned to the DRP, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicle access and management planning. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park will serve initially as a point of access for low intensity resource-based recreation, such as hiking. Consideration will be given in the management planning process for the provision of access from other locations to accommodate recreation development. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will in great part depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions and the use of the established infrastructure.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the use of the facilities already on the property. Vendors for the future operation of the equestrian facility and two-story house will be considered.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project. The DRP will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1-FTE -1-OPS)</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>Outsourcing</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$272,000</b>

**Updated 2/27/2012**

# Twelvemile Slough

## Hendry County

# Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The most prominent feature of this project is that it contains a twelve-mile long slough. The swale, or “river of grass” natural community, forms the broad band of emergent sedges, grasses, and herbs that runs east through the southern part of the project. The Twelvemile Slough project is important to many wildlife species, particularly those that require extensive areas of habitat to maintain viable populations.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is recommended as lead manager. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service/FFS (formerly Division of Forestry/DOF) is recommended as a cooperating agency.

### General Description

The drainage basin of the proposal flows into the Okaloacoochee Slough project acquired by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the FFS. The Okaloacoochee Slough and its associated watershed ultimately flow into the Fakahatchee Strand.

### Public Use

The Twelvemile Slough is primarily a wetland system joining with the Okaloacoochee Slough that could provide excellent opportunities for wildlife and natural resource observation. To achieve maximum potential

for these activities, however, airboats and other motorized equipment that disrupt the quiet atmosphere of the site or infringe on the sensitivity of the wetlands should not be allowed. This is not to say that a manager should not be allowed to make appropriate use of such equipment in a controlled fashion, if such were to enhance management and public use programs without causing undue damage or disruption. Other natural resource-based recreational opportunities supportable on the project would include picnicking, camping, nature study trails, hiking trails and non-boat freshwater fishing. Hunting might also be considered appropriate if further review of the effect of hunting on observable wildlife indicates this activity will not have an adverse impact on this activity.

### Acquisition Planning

On 4/6/2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Twelvemile Slough project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 14,419 acres, multiple parcels, four landowners (A&M of Hendry County LTD, Richard H. Roberts, Alico Inc., McClure Properties LTD), and a 2000 taxable value of \$1,384,030. The Roberts and Albritton parcels were designated as essential.

On 4/25/2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,416-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of State Lands (DSL), consisted of one owner, McClure Properties LTD, 4 parcels, and a 2001 taxable value of \$669,938. The landowner, with property already in the original boundary, requested the remainder of his ownership be added.

Twelvemile Slough	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Glossy Ibis	G5/S3
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4

13 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	15,967
Acres Acquired (GIS)	7,797
at a Cost of	\$11,000,000
Acres Remaining (GIS)	8,170
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$1,031,339

## **Twelvemile Slough**

On 6/9/2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 FF Priority list.

On 5/27/2011, panther mitigation added 310.08 acres from AGBLLC of Florida. FFS will manage. On 4/15/2011 ARC recommended an 87-acre reduction containing residential development, commercial buildings, or infrastructure.

### **Coordination**

TNC and since the SFWMD-Twelve Mile Slough-Save Our Rivers project includes the Roberts ownership, there is some potential for cost sharing with the District.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The principal purposes of the project are to protect significant natural habitat important to the Florida panther and numerous other species of concern, as well as to preserve the hydrological connection with protected lands to the east and south. The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept whenever possible -management activities should be directed first toward conservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses. Managers should control access to the project, thoroughly inventory the resources, and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually conserving both the archaeological and natural resources. Managers should limit the number and size of educational and recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

### **Management Prospectus**

This project is part of the larger Okaloacoochee (OK) Slough wetlands that partially serve as the headwaters of the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and the Big Cypress National Preserve. The land in this project serves to protect or recharge groundwater, and is important habitat for the Florida Panther, snail kite and many other wildlife species. Strategic habitat conservation areas (SHCAs) for some of these species comprise roughly a quarter of the project lands. The entire length of the eastern boundary of the project area is contiguous with the 32,162-acre Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest/Wildlife Management Area.

**Qualifications for state designation** The Twelvemile Slough project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife and environmental area (WEA).

**Manager** FWCC is recommended as lead manager. FFS is recommended as a cooperating agency.

**Management goals** The following purposes should guide development of management goals: (1) assessment of current land use and natural resources to determine existing conditions and future requirements for inventory and monitoring; (2) conservation, protection, and restoration of cultural resources, landscapes, forests, water resources, and other elements important to ecosystem functions; (3) conservation, protection and restoration of the characteristic biological diversity original to natural communities, including protection of, maintenance, or enhancement of conditions for rare, threatened and endangered species; (4) development and adaptation of project plans, procedures and techniques for improved success in meeting management goals, including the Florida Panther Habitat Preservation Plan; and (5) establishment of multiple-use natural resource-based recreational opportunities that are mutually compatible, and which are consistent with the other resource conservation purposes and management goals for the area.

The following purposes should guide development of management goals: (1) assessment of current land use and natural resources to determine existing conditions and future requirements for inventory and monitoring; (2) conservation, protection, and restoration of cultural resources, landscapes, forests, water resources, and other elements important to ecosystem functions; (3) conservation, protection and restoration of the characteristic biological diversity original to natural communities, including protection of, maintenance, or enhancement of conditions for rare, threatened and endangered species; (4) development and adaptation of project plans, procedures and techniques for improved success in meeting management goals, including the Florida Panther Habitat Preservation Plan; and (5) establishment of multiple-use natural resource-based recreational opportunities that are mutually compatible, and which are consistent with the other resource conservation purposes and management goals for the area.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many taxa of rare or listed species. Some portions of the Twelvemile Slough proposal include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. However, since 57% of the uplands have been developed for agriculture or other purposes, significant restoration activities are proposed for at least some of this acreage. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities would involve hydrological restoration,

re-establishment of native groundcover, exotic vegetation control, prescribed fire and control of conservation-compatible access by the user community. Proposed uses of the area would include opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education, and other natural resource-based recreational activities. Since the principal purposes of the acquisition project are to protect habitat for the Florida panther and other species of concern, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species, and to education and regulation of the user community. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration activities would be guided by established procedures and techniques, improved through use of adaptive management themes, and will emphasize re-establishment of native plant communities on pasturelands and hydrological restoration, pending detailed analysis of the necessity and feasibility of such activities. Infestations of invasive exotic species, including Brazilian pepper, water hyacinth and tropical soda apple, occur locally within the area. Therefore, efforts to eradicate or control such infestations will be undertaken to reduce the potential for further spread.

**Timetable for implementing management provisions**  
During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, relationships with stakeholders, public use assessments, fire management, resource inventories, exotic species control and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan, to be developed by the FWCC in coordination with a stakeholder-based management advisory group, shall specify the management goals and objectives necessary to accomplish the purposes which the management area is to serve.

Longer-range activities would focus on implementing goals and objectives specified in the conceptual management plan. Such goals and objectives should address, at a minimum: prescribed fire, habitat restoration, protection or propagation of critical habitat for listed species, and expanding recreational opportunities. Essential roads would be stabilized and maintained for public and management access. Floral and faunal inventories and evaluations of the efficacy of management projects would be continually updated by FWCC biologists and would be supplemented as available with data from other sources. Timber

resources consist of South Florida slash pine in areas of mesic flatwoods. Pursuant to wildlife habitat management objectives, sustainable timber harvests will be conducted using acceptable silvicultural practices in consultation with the FFS.

Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the property.

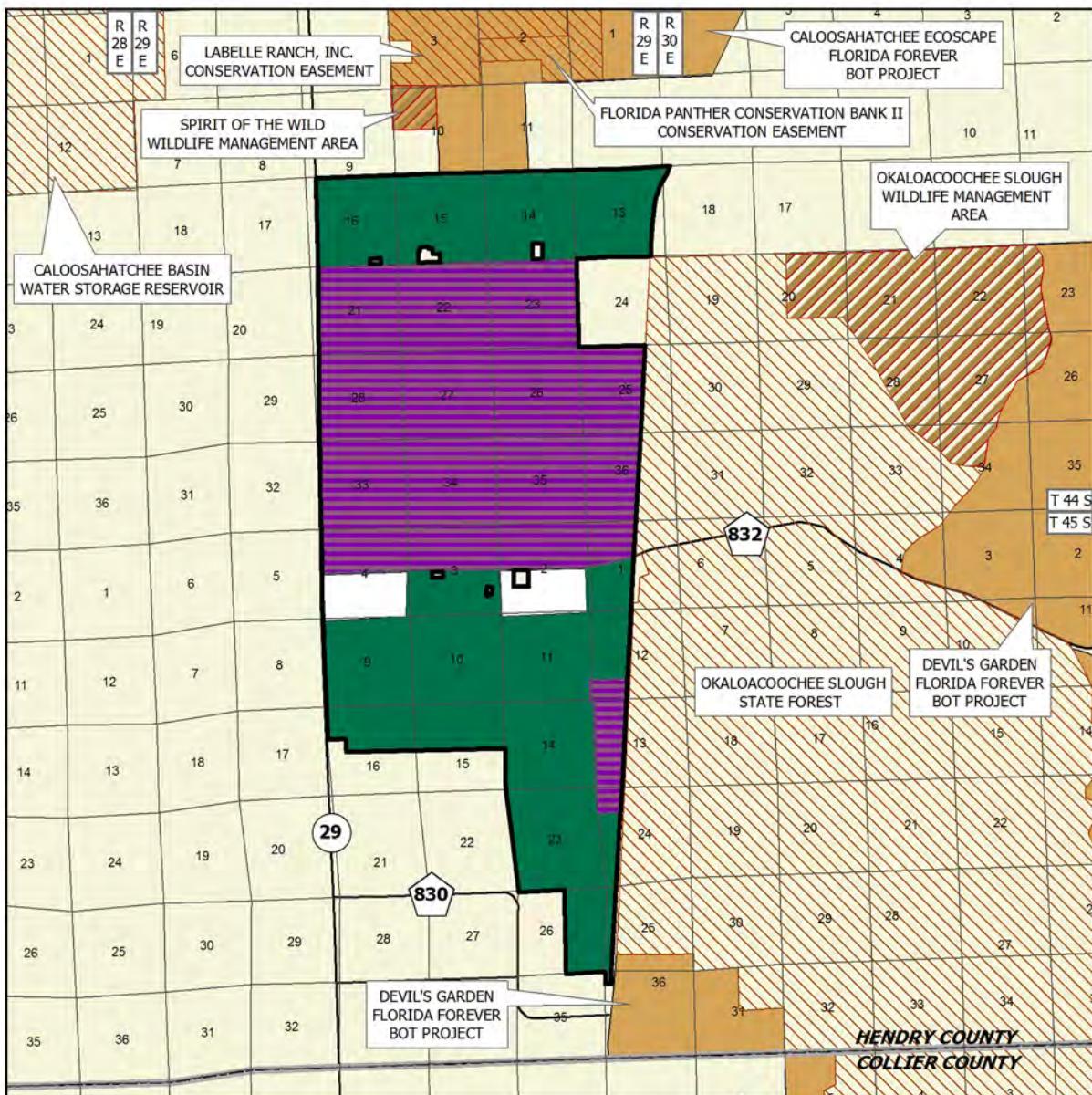
**Estimate of revenue-generating potential** Currently, forest products production is limited on the project area. Revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some future revenues might be realized from other nature-based recreational opportunities, and cattle-grazing contracts. Approximately 13% of the Twelvemile Slough Acquisition Project consists of pine flatwoods that could be managed to offset operational costs. However, future revenue from timber resources will depend on appropriate plant-community and hydrological restoration.

**Recommendations as to other governmental agency involvement** The FWCC shall cooperate with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations, to the greatest extent possible in the interest of serving management purposes of mutual interest. It is anticipated that the FWC shall be in greatest need of assistance and cooperation from the following: (1) FFS; (2) SFWMD; (3) the Florida Natural Areas Inventory; (4) the Florida Division of Historical Resources; (5) U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and (6) the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Such assistance shall relate to management of biological resources, cultural resources, fire, timber and water.

The FWCC will require three positions (FTEs) to manage this area and will contract with various private entities to procure services and materials to conduct resource management, capital improvements and visitor services on the area. Funding sources include the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund and Florida Forever Trust Fund.

*(continued)*

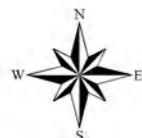
## Twelvemile Slough



## TWELVEMILE SLOUGH

### HENDRY COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



JULY 2011

**Management Cost Summary/FFS**

Category	Startup	Recurring
Resource Management	\$ 273,692	\$ 328,199
Administration	125,926	125,926
Support	106,207	25,441
Capital Improvements	565,196	51,763
Visitor Services/Recreation	192,565	10,323
Law Enforcement	9,350	9,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,272,936</b>	<b>\$ 551,002</b>

*Updated 2/21/2012*

# Upper Shoal River

Walton County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The two parcels that make up this proposal have been managed for silviculture in a less obtrusive manner than is often found on commercial timberlands. The resulting scatter of intact groundcover provides good opportunity for restoration of habitat and attendant biota. Four rare plants and two rare animals have been documented on the property. Drainages and creeks on the sites appear to be unaltered and intact. Activities that may be undertaken on the sites should be restricted to those that do not interfere with existing function or prevent the restoration of any impaired upland function. Both of these sites have potential to provide quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Portions of these parcels lie within the Eglin to Blackwater Critical Ecological Linkage area and the Northwest Florida initiative combining the protection of buffer lands surrounding Eglin Air Force Base and the connection of conservation lands in the Florida Panhandle.

### Manager

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) and Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be co-managers. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will manage the Gum Creek tract.

### General Description

The Upper Shoal River proposal does not include the river or its floodplain; however, it is comprised of two tracts of land that are within the river's watershed. The first of the two tracts, The Pine Log Creek tract (PLC),

is about 3.5 miles north of the river and abuts the Okaloosa County line. The PLC contains 9,727 (GIS) acres. The remaining 2,300 acres are included in the Gum Creek tract (GC), which is about 5 miles southeast of the PLC tract. Both tracts are characterized by high, rolling sandy hills that drain downward through former mesic flatwoods and wet flatwoods and slope forests into bottomland and floodplain forests. Combined, the two tracts contain approximately 20 miles of headwater tributary streams. Most of the site's original pinelands have been disturbed by conversion to pine plantations that comprise the majority of the proposal. Some of this acreage includes natural understory and ground cover vegetation that may be sufficient for reclassification as appropriate natural communities.

### Public Use

The Upper Shoal River has the potential of providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience. Both parcels have good boundary configurations that will enhance management efforts and they are easily accessible from paved and unpaved public roads. Both tracts can support a diversity of resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities. Greater effort will be required to enhance the aesthetic qualities of the Pine Log tract, than will be needed for the Gum Creek tract. As the resources recover, however, the natural experience will be more and more enjoyable. Hiking, off-road bicycling and horseback riding can be accommodated on both tracts. Horseback riding may be more appropriate for the larger Pine Log tract. Depending on management emphasis, hunting would be suitable on the larger Pine Log tract. The smaller Gum Creek tract is closer to residential areas and would

Upper Shoal River FNAI Elements	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
White-top Pitcherplant	G3/S3
Arkansas Oak	G3/S3
Sweet Pitcherplant	G4/S3
Pine Barrens Treefrog	G4/S3
Mountain Laurel	G5/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	12,027
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	12,027
with Estimated (tax assessed) Value of:	\$1,395,031

not be as suitable for this activity. Other activities supportable by both tracts could include natural resource appreciation and camping. Two small man-made ponds exist on the Gum Creek tract that could provide limited fishing in addition to the properties' main creeks. Neither tract is expected to provide extensive opportunities for this activity.

Of the activities mentioned, the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies bicycling, hiking and natural resource appreciation through short nature hikes (nature study) as having needs for the year 2005 in the region in which the project is located.

### **Acquisition Planning**

This project is contemplated for fee-simple acquisition. This project consists of two owners with multiple parcels totaling 12,035 acres. The tax-assessed value is \$1,395,031. On 12/5/2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project on the Florida Forever project list.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD) are acquisition partners for this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goal for the FFS is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS's management activities on this project.

### **Unified Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The Upper Shoal River Florida Forever project comprises approximately 12,027 (GIS) acres in northwestern Walton County. The project area consists of two separate tracts and ownerships situated in the Northern Highlands physiographic province, where some of Florida's highest elevations occur. The two ownerships each include headwater streams and creeks connected to the Shoal River system, and are entirely within its watershed. The northernmost and largest parcel, the Pine Log Creek tract contains about 9,700 acres. It is located 5 miles north of the smaller Gum Creek tract, which contains about 2,300 acres. The DEP's DRP

has expressed a strong interest in managing the Gum Creek tract. The FFS and the FWCC will enter in to discussions with DRP to facilitate management of this 2,300 acres as a possible State Park. The project is located approximately 10 miles northeast of Crestview, where the Pine Log Creek tract borders the Okaloosa County line. The Gum Creek tract is about 5 miles southeast of the Pine Log Creek tract, and 5 miles northwest of DeFuniak Springs. The project area is distributed across a distance of about 15 miles because of the separation between the two tracts. Other conservation lands in the vicinity of the project include those on nearby Eglin Air Force Base, and the Yellow River Water Management Area and Upper Yellow River Florida Forever project. The easternmost boundary of the Blackwater River State Forest is approximately 14 miles west of the project. This project is significant for ecological greenways, with 99% of the project area qualifying as priorities 6 and 7 in potential importance, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation.

Approximately 75% of the project area has been converted to silvicultural operations. Water drains through rolling sandy hills downward through mesic or wet flatwoods, and through slope forests into bottomland and floodplain forests along the seepage streams that are tributaries of the Shoal River. Upland communities include approximately 750 acres of sandhill, and 300 acres of upland hardwood forest or slope forest. Approximately 100 acres of mesic and wet flatwoods are interspersed around these other natural community types. The sandhill communities are in moderately good condition with an intact diverse indigenous groundcover including wiregrass. The slope forest and wetland communities displayed a relatively intact understory and canopy.

Forested wetlands comprise 1,550 acres of baygall, floodplain or bottomland forest. The actual seepage stream communities comprise approximately 10 acres. About 75 acres have been classified as disturbed. The FNAI indicates that 22% (3,202 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities. Functional wetlands comprise 8% (1,216 acres) of the project area, and help conserve areas for aquifer recharge (35%, or 5,148 acres of project area), provide fish and wildlife habitat, and provide for natural floodplain function (13%, or 1,895 acres of project area). The FNAI Florida Forever Measures Evaluation also indicates that the entire project area (100%, or 14,483 acres) would serve for surface water protection. Both tracts have been managed for silviculture

## Upper Shoal River

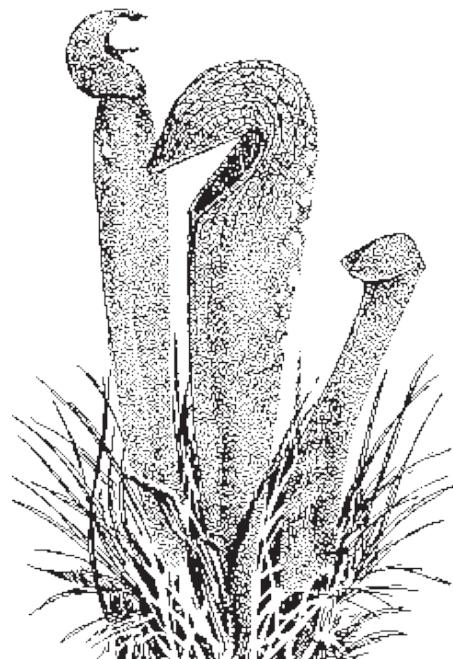
operations. Neither tract shows evidence of intensive management activities. Scattered longleaf pine (*P. palustris*) regeneration is present on both tracts. Most of the pine stands are planted in evenly aged compartments, with some compartments including uneven-aged stands, and a greater diversity of pine species. Past thinning of stands of loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), longleaf pine, and slash pine (*P. elliottii*) has occurred throughout both parcels. Stands of sand pine (*P. clausa*) also occur in the project area. Fire has not occurred on the tracts for several years, resulting in increased fuel loads. Ecotones adjacent to forested wetlands and seepage streams appear intact and undisturbed.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species either occurring or likely to occur within the project, include the blackmouth shiner (*Notropis melanostomus*), eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), gopher frog (*Rana capito*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), pine barrens treefrog (*Hyla andersonii*), Sherman's fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*), southern pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*), and white ibis (*Eudocimus alba*). Gopher tortoise burrows are of particular importance, because they often provide refugia for a suite of declining wildlife species, including the eastern indigo snake and gopher frog. Available groundcover may provide a sufficient forage base for the gopher tortoise population. Slope forests, forested wetlands and seepage streams may support a number of listed plant and animal species, such as the pine barrens treefrog, which has been documented to occur in the project area. This project is located within two miles of wading bird rookeries, which support colonies of little blue herons and great egrets (*Ardea alba*). This project may provide important foraging areas that support these wading bird rookeries. The floodplain swamp may provide ephemeral breeding locations for rare amphibian species.

Game species observed, or for which sign was available in the project area, included mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Both tracts appear to have recently been used for hunting and fishing. Access to both sites is good.

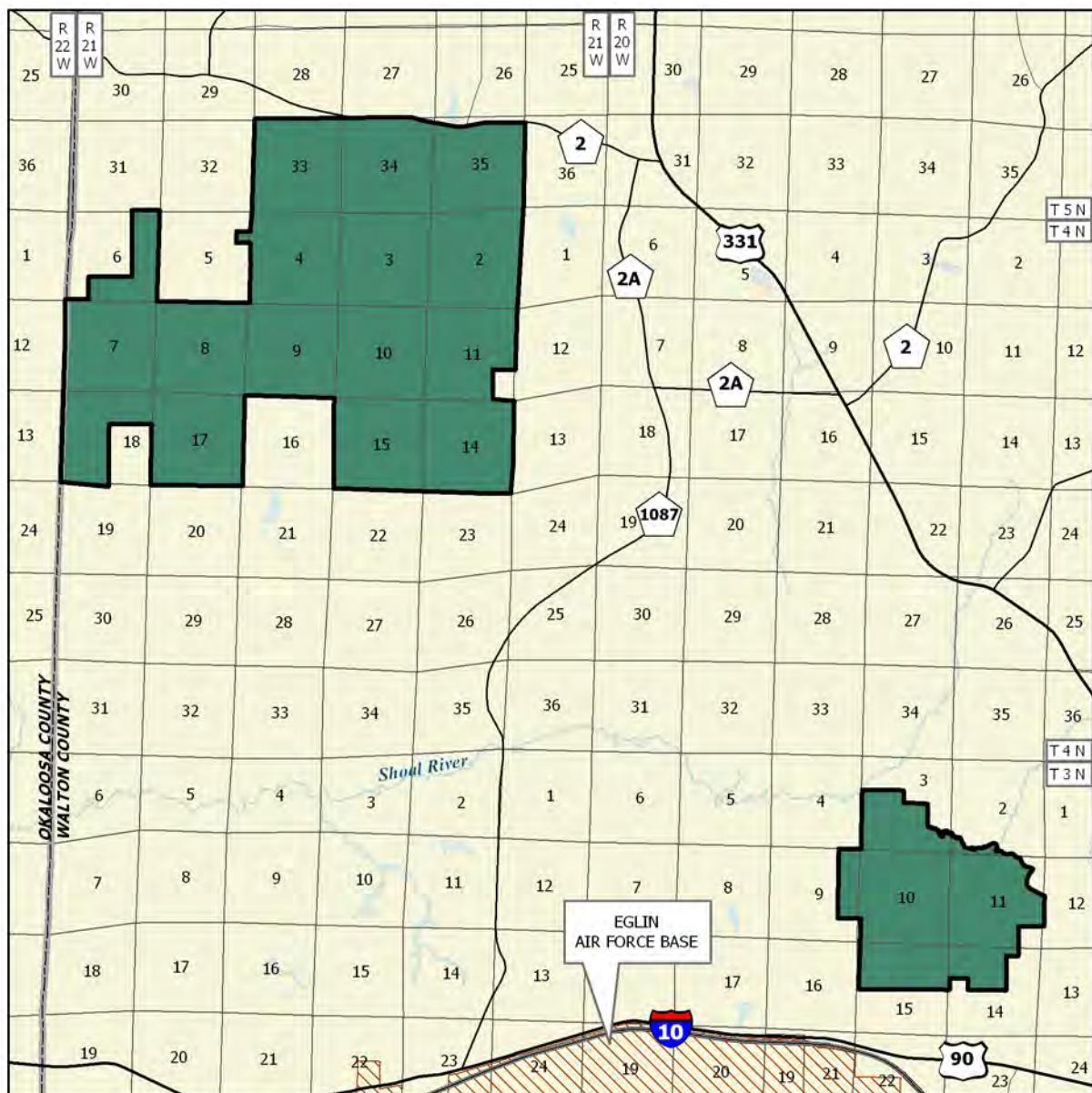
Imperiled or rare plant species documented to occur in the proposed project include Arkansas oak (*Quercus arkansana*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), red

pitcher plant (*Sarracenia rubra*), and white-top pitcher plant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*). Other imperiled or rare plant species known to occur nearby that may occur in the proposed project include: bog button (*Lachnocaulon digynum*), Florida flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*), hairy wild indigo (*Baptisia calycosa var villosa*), Harper's yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris scabrifolia*), panhandle lily (*Lilium iridollae*), sandhill sedge (*Carex tenax*), silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*), umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*), and yellow fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integra*).



According to the Florida FWC, approximately 349 acres (2%) of the Upper Shoal River project is classified as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA). However, a large portion of the project provides habitat for many focal species, which according to the FWC, are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife. Approximately 65% (9,512 acres) of the project includes at least seven focal species. Another 6% (849 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI. Due to the biological importance and high protection priority associated with this site, management goals developed for this site should take into account the need for proactive habitat management to protect and enhance focal species habitat. Additionally, large tracts of habitat are important for conservation of widely ranging species

## Upper Shoal River



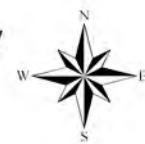
### UPPER SHOAL RIVER

#### WALTON COUNTY

 Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary

 Essential Parcel(s) Remaining

 Other Conservation Lands



0      1      2      4  
Miles



APRIL 2006

## **Upper Shoal River**

such as the eastern indigo snake and the Florida black bear. Bears have been documented to use riparian corridors of the Shoal River and its tributaries in Okaloosa County, and to occur in Walton County. These are likely migratory routes for the Florida black bear.

**Manager** The FWCC and the FFS will be co-managers. DRP will manage the Gum Creek tract.

**Management goals** The FFS and the FWCC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Upper Shoal River under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. The project has the capability to provide important fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices.

Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed that serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. Particular attention should be directed to the protection of upstream riparian systems that are an important habitat for imperiled fish and invertebrates. Under the unified management approach, a broad-scale management program will be developed that will manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources, and promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain

biodiversity. The project area is proximal to a large number of users that enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows that 9% (1,322 acres) of the project area is suitable for either priority 1 or priority 3 recreational trails. This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the lettered measures in the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

- (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels;
- (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state;
- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state;
- (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities;
- (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Upper Shoal River is a medium-need tract that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately, 75% of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity, consequently additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The FFS and FWCC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that may require cooperative effort include restoration of mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal or thinning of off-site timber species to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforestation of recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct a historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection and restoration of sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species.

The principal land management activities slated to occur

on less disturbed natural communities will include the introduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Reintroduction of a prescribed fire regime, an important ingredient to restoring a more natural system on both tracts, is more feasible on the larger of the two tracts, since it is situated farther from Interstate 10, US Highway 90 and densely populated neighborhoods. Restoration methods will also include thinning of dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and facilitate the restoration of native groundcovers. An adequate road system exists on both sites to assist with prescribed burning operations.

Because many imperiled or rare species are expected to occur in the project, biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

**Timetable for implementing management provisions** It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of listed species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally

functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Most of this project area has not been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. It is also possible that recreational trails on the parcels could function as back up firelines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment, and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, including provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

**Estimate of revenue-generating potential** Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 76% (11,054 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry, and that

## Upper Shoal River

19% (2,829 acres) of the project serves as forestland for aquifer recharge. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15%) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated.

**Recommendations as to other governmental agency involvement** The unified managers (FFS and FWCC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Northwest Florida Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

**Revenue sources, management costs and**

Category Source of Funds	Start-up CARL	Recurring CARL
Resource Management	\$212,891	\$244,479
Administration	\$82,345	\$33,072
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$2,187,189	\$58,179
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$1,636	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$10,191	\$10,191
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,643,331</b>	<b>\$377,628</b>

\*includes employee salaries

WLD 8-5-2

BWM\PROSPECTUS\Unified Management\Revised Upper Shoal River Prospectus UM  
7.13.2004

*Updated 2/27/2012*

# Upper St. Marks River Corridor

Leon, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the Florida Forever goals of increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels and providing the beginning of a long-sought and permanent wildlife corridor along the St. Marks River. The project forms a corridor to conservation lands to the north and south, thereby helping to form a contiguous landscape-sized Protection Area. This project is also important to aid in the protection of water resources within this project and the surrounding area, protection of twelve known historic sites, as well as increase public recreational and education opportunities.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is recommended as manager. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will manage the Wood Sink Tract.

### General Description

This project covers 15,670 acres located in Wakulla, Jefferson and Leon Counties that extend from the Wood Sink property north of U.S. Highway 27, along both sides of the St. Marks River, south to the Natural Bridge Battlefield State Historic Site. The majority of the project is owned by the St. Joe Company. The corridor ranges from 1 to 3 miles wide along approximately 15 miles of the upper St. Marks River. Approximately fifty percent of the proposal is in natural condition and consists of forested wetland communities, and upland hardwood forest/mesic hammocks. The natural communities are considered to be in good condition, and include an old-growth stand of cypress. The majority

of the remaining uplands are in pine plantations of varying ages. Acquisition of the project would also assist with the protection of the water quality in the river and numerous springs in the area.

The majority of the project is located within the ecological greenways network identified by the Office of Greenways and Trails and the University of Florida.

### Public Use

The landscape connectivity and diversity provided by the Upper St. Marks River Corridor project has the potential for many resource-based public outdoor recreation activities, including canoeing, fishing, hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing. This project is an excellent recreational trail opportunity, which provides a connection to other conservation and recreation lands in Leon County, such as the J.R. Alford Greenway, L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area, Lafayette Heritage Trail Park, Tom Brown State Park, and Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park.

### Acquisition Planning

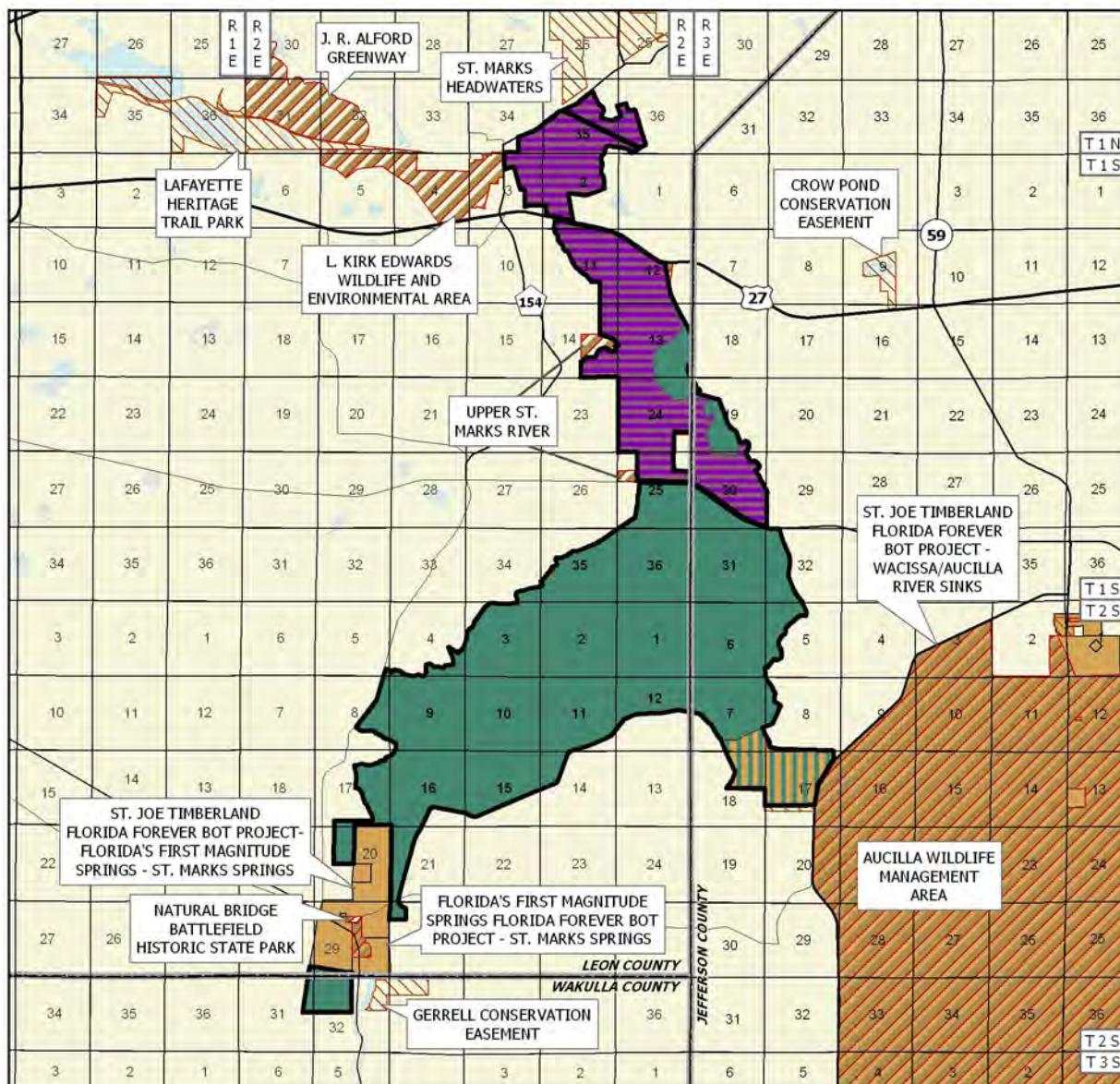
On 6/6/2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Upper St. Marks River Corridor project to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 13,999 acres, a single owner, St. Joseph Land & Development Company, and a 2001 taxable value of \$1,490,170, and was considered essential.

On 4/21/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple 1,671-acre addition to the project boundary. TNC sponsored the addition that consisted of multiple

Upper St. Marks River Corridor FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Alabama Rhododendron</i>	G4/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?
Dusky Shiner	G5/S4
6 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (GIS Acres)	14,570
Acres Acquired (GIS)	3,545
at a Cost Of	\$15,711,316
Acres Remaining (GIS)	11,025
with estimated 2001 (tax assessed) value	\$3,497,344

## Upper St. Marks River Corridor



### UPPER ST. MARKS RIVER CORRIDOR

#### LEON, JEFFERSON, AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



MAY 2009

parcels owned by St. Joe Company, and a 2005 taxable value of \$2,733,589. Two tracts made up the addition: Wood Sink Tract with 1,057 acres and Fanlew Tract with 614 acres. Management for the two tracts will be DRP for Fanlew and FWC for Wood Sink. All parcels within the addition were designated as essential.

On 6/30/2006, the BOT acquired 2,589.67 acres from the St. Joe Land Development Company for \$10,617,647; 112.26 acres were added and acquired under *De minimis* rule. In 9/2006 TNC acquired 611 acres known as Fanlew Preserve.

In 3/2007 TNC acquired 1,064 acres known as Wood Sink.

In 12/2008, the BOT acquired the Wood Sink (1,064 acres) from TNC for \$5,093,669.37.

### **Coordination**

TNC, NFWFMD, Leon County are acquisition partners for this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

A primary goal of the Upper St. Marks River Corridor proposal is to buffer the upper St. Marks River from development and preserve its water quality, while also protecting the natural communities in its floodplain. Presumably this would also protect, at least to some extent, the water quality of the first magnitude St. Marks Spring just south of the proposal boundary. The proposal encompasses all but 270 acres of the 940-acre Florida Forever First Magnitude Springs project surrounding St. Marks Spring. The Florida black bear, a threatened species, is also known to occur on the project area. Black bears need large contiguous tracts of land in order to ensure a viable breeding population of more than 200 individuals (COX et al. 1994). Special deliberation should be given to this fact when considering the value of this property as conservation lands. Considering the importance of the Upper St. Marks River Corridor as black bear habitat, together with its diverse plant and animal communities and the potential for resource-based public outdoor recreation, acquisition of this tract is warranted.

### **DRP Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** A significant portion of the acreage within this project is floodplain. The project has frontage on both sides of the upper

portion of the St. Marks River south of US 27. The project is defined as Phases I and II, with Phase II being the more southern portion. Of the two phases, Phase II has the greater potential for providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience of a regional context. This project is also adjacent to and fast becoming part of the Tallahassee urban area and the already existing Natural Bridge Historic State Park. It is the combination of all these factors that makes Phase II desirable as a unit of the state park system.

**Manager** DRP is recommended as manager. FWCC will manage the Wood Sink Tract.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Portions of Phase II are in planted pine that will require thinning over time to provide for a natural looking landscape. Otherwise the property should not require a high level of management intensity in the short term, except for the possible need to construct or maintain existing bridges or elevated pathways to provide access within the floodplain of the river. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use area with more substantial infrastructure.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Once the property is acquired and assigned to the DRP, the acquired lands will be secured and management planning implemented. Natural Bridge Historic State Park will serve initially as a point of access for low intensity resource-based recreation, such as canoeing and hiking. Consideration will be given in the management planning process for the provision of access from other locations as such may be considered necessary to accommodate recreation demand. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will in great part depend on establishment of a management plan for the property and funding for positions and infrastructure.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. Some revenue may be generated through timber sales as the land is being restored. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities placed on the land.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project. The DRP will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government

## Upper St. Marks River Corridor

entities and interested parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1-FTE,1-OPS)</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$84,000</b>

### FWC Management Prospectus

#### Wood Sink Tract

The Wood Sink Tract proposed addition to the Upper St. Marks River Corridor Florida Forever Project (FFP) consists of approximately 1,057 acres located in Leon County, extending from Capitola Road on the north, Cap Tram Road (State Highway 364) and private lands in the St. Marks River Basin on the east, Apalachee Parkway (U. S. Highway 27) on the South, and private lands and Chaires Cross Road adjacent to L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) on the west. The addition is located approximately 1.5 miles east of Tallahassee city limits and 15 miles southwest of Monticello. The greatest east-west extent of the project area is approximately 1.8 miles, and the greatest north-south extent of the project is approximately 1.5 miles. Acquisition of the Wood Sink Tract conserves river corridor to protect resources of the St. Marks River ecosystem, and provide landscape connectivity to other conservation lands.

This addition is approximately 52% forested uplands and pasture, and 48% forested wetlands extending along the Upper St. Marks River. The outflow canal entering the western boundary of the tract is the hydrological connection to Lower Lake Lafayette and L. Kirk Edwards WEA. The uplands consist primarily of pine plantations, upland mixed forest, upland hardwood forest, and perhaps some bottomland forest. The pine plantations, although disturbed, include native midstory trees such as flowering dogwood and American holly as well as other native shrubs and herbs. The upland hardwoods are dominated by live oak and other hardwoods in the tree canopy, and an open understory consisting of saw palmetto, sparkleberry, American beautyberry, and other native shrubs and

herbs. The wetlands consist of relatively less disturbed natural communities including bottomland forest and floodplain swamp, the latter mostly dominated by bald cypress mixed with more sparse swamp hardwood species including red maple and swamp magnolia. A diversity of native trees, including southern magnolia, in better drained areas, occur in the bottomland forest. These natural communities offer a protective buffer for the St. Marks River, an Outstanding Florida Water, and a habitat mosaic for wildlife. This addition is named after Wood Sink, a small (approximately 60 ft diameter) sinkhole which occurs on the tract, and which provides a direct connection to the Floridan aquifer.

The Wood Sink addition is habitat for rare and listed species. Gopher tortoise and swallow-tailed kite been observed to occur on the property. The mosaic of pine and upland hardwood communities could provide habitats for fox squirrels and other species which occur elsewhere on the Upper St. Marks River Corridor FFP. This tract constitutes secondary range for the Florida black bear (Much of the remainder of the Upper St. Marks River FFP is primary range for the Apalachicola population of the Florida black bear.)

Neotropical migrant species, in decline due to loss of habitat, utilize these hardwood forests during spring and fall migration as stopover and foraging habitat. Breeding passerines, thought to be in decline in these habitats, include the following species: prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, hooded warbler, Swainson's warbler, wood thrush, and yellow-billed cuckoo. The floodplain swamp provides potential habitat for the Louisiana waterthrush at the southern edge of its breeding range. This species is in decline and prefers contiguous forest tracts and unpolluted headwater streams. Wading birds likely feed in shallows along the length of the St. Marks River. The floodplain swamp may also provide ephemeral breeding habitats for rare amphibian species. Other species occurring on the Wood Sink Tract are northern bobwhite, Virginia white-tailed deer, and wild turkey. Protection of this headwaters part of the St. Marks River helps preserve aquatic habitats for numerous species in this river system.

The restoration of the degraded upland natural communities of Wood Sink and protection of intact natural floodplain hardwood communities supports functioning ecosystem for perpetuating wildlife diversity. This addition has the potential for many resource-based public outdoor recreation activities including bicycling, canoeing, environmental education,

fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) is recommended as lead manager, with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District as cooperating agencies.

**Goals of the Florida Forever Act (259.105, Florida Statutes)** This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

- (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels.
- (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state.
- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state.
- (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities.
- (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.
- (h) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas.

**Management goals** Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Management goals will conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, forests, landscapes, water resources, and wildlife populations as intended by the Florida Forever Act. Management goals will seek to provide harmonious coordination among uses, especially conservation and protection of archaeological and historic sites, fish and wildlife resources, forage, habitat, timber, and water resources for their long-term benefits to the user community.

The configuration and location of the Wood Sink addition within the landscape provides areas of functional wetlands for protection of surface water and natural river floodplain, and important habitat for wildlife populations. It provides unique opportunities for outdoor recreation. Management goals will conserve and protect resources, and provide for resource-oriented public uses.

Priority will be given to use of an objective-based vegetation management process for the project area. Objective-based management includes the delineation of vegetation management units, determination of the desired future condition for each unit, selection of an

indicator-based management objective for each unit, and monitoring of the indicator to determine attainment or progress towards accomplishing the objective. In this way, management can be adapted to best accomplish the management objective for each vegetation management unit. Management objectives, which apply to several vegetation management units, or the entire management area, may also be developed through a similar process.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Parts of the Wood Sink addition include lands that require resource management actions such as conservation of soil and water, resource protection, and use of prescribed fire. Ecological restoration activities will be planned for areas previously disturbed for silviculture or other purposes. Management of the less disturbed natural communities may include control of human access, removal of invasive exotic species, and use of prescribed fire.

Biotic surveys will be a priority, since many rare or listed species are expected to be present. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, will be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience. Any such development will be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration activities will be guided by techniques recommended by specialists experienced in ecological restoration and the most recent advancements in methods and approaches to such restoration.

**Timetable for implementing management provisions** During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWCC including management goals and objectives for the area. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will be implemented. Project plans for resource inventory, monitoring and management will be developed, implemented and adapted using conventional land management and scientific guidance. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources and to conserve soil and water. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives, these resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the FFS. Archaeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources. Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified

## Upper St. Marks River Corridor

and protected. Unnecessary hydrological alterations, fire lanes, and roads will be abandoned or restored as practical. Existing infrastructure will be protected to the extent possible and utilized to accomplish goals for the area. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to provide public access, facilities, law enforcement, and management of the property. Appropriate coordination with managers of existing infrastructure on or adjacent to the Wood Sink addition will be conducted as necessary.

**Estimate of revenue-generating potential** The FWC will conduct resource management activities to promote revenue-generating potential by conserving cultural and natural resources and providing opportunities for resource-based recreation on the Wood Sink tract. No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. Resource management that conserves and maintains environmental quality ecosystem-wide will best support future revenue generation. Revenue-generating sources may include sales of daily use fees, fishing licenses, and other revenues from recreational uses. Long-term economic value accruing from conservation of resources, and provision of high quality resource-based recreation will be sought. Some revenue may be generated through timber sales as the land is being restored.

**Recommendations as to cooperators in management Activities** The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District in managing the area.

**Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed** The Wood Sink Addition, when acquired by the State, will require one FTE position to manage the project area, as shown in the following cost estimate:

### FWC Management Prospectus: Cost Estimate for single-year expenditure for the Upper St. Marks River Wood Sink Tract--1,057 acres

	Startup	Recurring
<b><u>Resource Management</u></b>		
Exotic Species Control	\$4,228	\$8,456
Prescribed Burning	\$645	\$1,290
Hydrological Management	\$40,000	\$4,475
Other	\$18,021	\$18,021
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$62,893</b>	<b>\$32,241</b>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
Central Office/HQ	\$57,642	\$23,151
Districts/Regions	\$24,704	\$9,922
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$82,345</b>	<b>\$33,072</b>
<b><u>Support</u></b>		
Land Management Planning	\$28,000	\$1,000
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$25,836	\$3,691
Vehicle Operation/Mainten.	\$13,230	\$13,230
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$67,066</b>	<b>\$19,421</b>
<b><u>Capital Improvements</u></b>		
New Facility Construction	\$236,074	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$19,598
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$236,074</b>	<b>\$19,598</b>
<b><u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u></b>		
Operations	\$50,243	\$38,178
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$50,243</b>	<b>\$38,178</b>
<b><u>Law Enforcement</u></b>		
All Activities	\$740	\$740
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$499,362</b>	<b>\$143,251</b>

**Figures include the salary  
of 1 Full Time Employee**

*Updated 2/3/2012*

# Volusia Conservation Corridor

Volusia and Flagler Counties

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels and provides a continuous corridor of environmentally significant land from the Tiger Bay State Forest, through the central wetlands and flatwoods of Volusia County, to the marshes of the St. Johns River. This project will also increase natural resource-based public recreation, educational opportunities, and potential for recreational or other public uses on the fee simple acquisition lands. This project will help ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state. Some areas contain moderate to good recharge to the Florida aquifer, which mainly occurs through the rainfall events.

## Manager

St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD); Volusia County.

## General Description

The property is located in central Volusia County, stretching from north of SR44, fourteen miles south to the St. Johns River. It is generally low and wet, consisting of alternating flatwoods and swamp, which occupy the northwest/southeast-trending ridge and swale topography that borders the eastern edge of the DeLand Ridge. It includes the parallel, southward-flowing drainages of Deep Creek and Lake Ashby canal, which empty into the St. Johns River. Natural communities include: Basin Swamp and Hydric Hammock, Mesic

Flatwoods, Scrub, and Dome Swamp.

## Public Use

Fee acquisition areas have the potential of providing a variety of resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities such as, but not necessarily limited to, hiking, nature study, horseback riding, bicycling, camping, picnicking, freshwater fishing and hunting. Further review may reflect cabins to be suitable, particularly if a combination of lands is acquired that would allow for a more complete park or environmental education center atmosphere.

## Acquisition Planning

On 1/25/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Volusia Conservation Corridor project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of approximately 33,503 acres, multiple owners, and a 2000 taxable value of \$20,409,504. The essential parcels were defined as Leffler Co., Le Fils Corp. (easement acquired), Julia Menard (acquired), GJPS Lukas Inc., Jonathan S. Lukas, Gertrude G. Lukas, Donald Ray Fore (acquired), Norman N. Fore (acquired), Marvin Kelley Fore (acquired), Mark Fore et al., Lynda Russell Schroeder, and JAS Properties LTD ownerships.

On 6/6/2002, the ARC moved the project to Group A of the FF 2002 Priority list.

On 8/15/2002, the ARC approved a less-than-fee 11,723-acre and fee-simple 7,654-acre addition to the

Volusia Conservation Corridor FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>Lake-side Sunflower</i>	G1G2/S1S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Large-flowered Rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	79,206
Acres Acquired (GIS)	51,438*
at a Cost of	\$76,566,247*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	21,325
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$11,598,844

\*Includes acreage and expenditures by the SJRWMD, Volusia County, and USDA through 11/2011.

## Volusia Conservation Corridor



### VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: OVERVIEW

#### VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

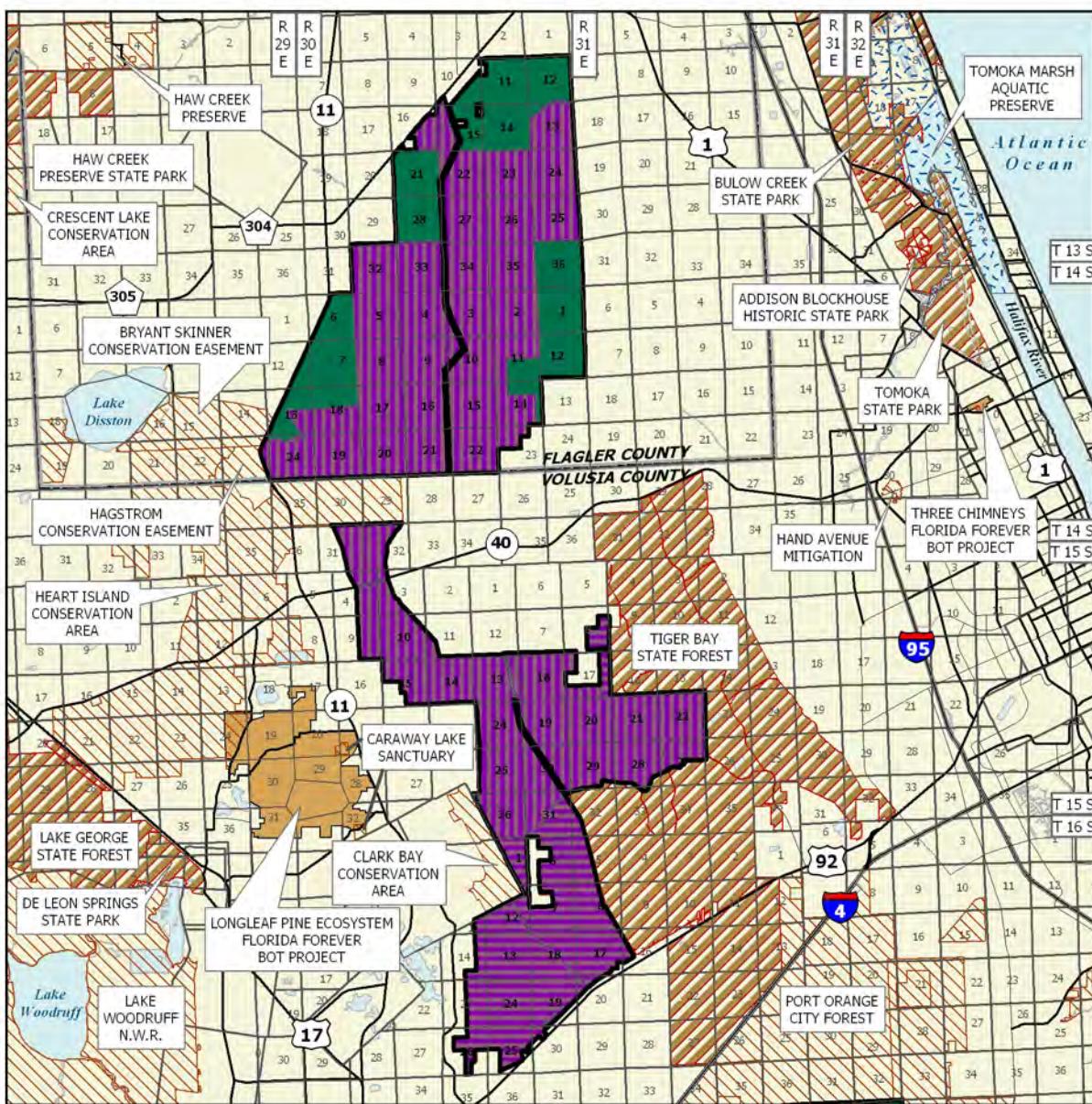


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MAY 2006

## Volusia Conservation Corridor



### VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 1 OF 2

#### VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

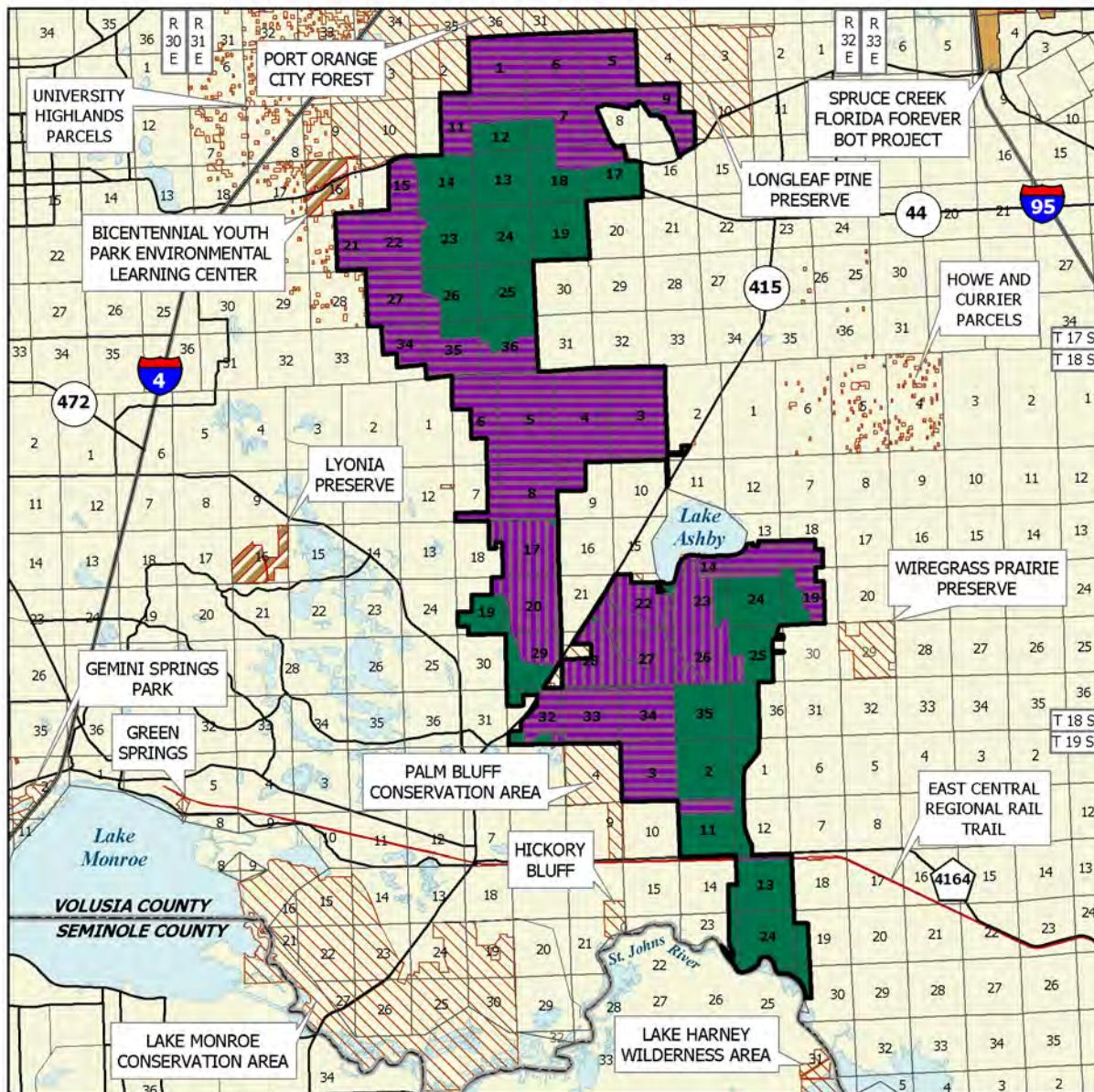


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Miles



SEPTEMBER 2009

## **Volusia Conservation Corridor**



VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 2 OF 2

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**VOLUSIA COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
  - Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - State Owned Lands
  - Other Conservation Lands

A horizontal scale bar with tick marks at 0, 1, 2, and 4. The distance between 0 and 1 is shaded black.



APRIL 2012

project boundary. The 19,369-acre addition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of two owners, Plum Creek and Rayonier, and with a 2002 taxable value of \$8,932,495.

On 6/6/2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee addition, in Flagler and Volusia counties, to the project boundary. The 26,740-acre addition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one owner, Plum Creek Timberlands LP, with a 2002 taxable value of \$3,830,639.

In 12/2004, Volusia County, with help from SJRWMD and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), acquired a 1,711-acre conservation easement over the Le Fils Corporation property.

In 4/2007, the SJRWMD and Volusia County acquired 2,272 acres as a joint-acquisition. Each partner owns an undivided 50-percent interest in the property acquired from State Road 44 Properties, LLC for \$10,850,420.

On 12/15/2010, Volusia County closed on the 4,806-acre Leffler Ranch for \$28.8 million. The County will manage this property.

On November 22, 2011 SJRWMD purchased the Lukas Ranch Conservation Easement (1,093 acres) from Jonathan S. Lukas, as Trustee of the Jonathan S. Lukas Trust Agreement for \$1,912,697.50, comprised of a donation of value (\$478,174.38) from the Seller, \$956,348.75 from a USDA/NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program grant, and \$478,174.38 from SJRWMD.

### Coordination

The SJRWMD, the Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Volusia County and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are acquisition partners. Volusia County passed two bond measures in 2000 that will generate approximately \$80 million for open space land acquisition, historic preservation and improvements over the next twenty years.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Volusia Conservation Corridor project are to conserve and protect significant water resources in a priority water resource caution area; and to conserve, protect, manage,

or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant timber, recreation, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The need to protect water resources within the caution area, combined with the restorable pine plantations, make it desirable for management by the SJRWMD.

**Manager** The SJRWMD is recommended as Manager.

#### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

The wildfires of 1998 did impact properties within the boundaries of the project, but most of the affected areas have been salvaged and replanted. Consequently, there are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so management intensity is expected to be typical for water management district lands.

#### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the core area is acquired, the SJRWMD will provide public access for low intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The District will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The site's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and wildfire and will require restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructures will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access.

**Revenue-generating potential** The District will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating

## **Volusia Conservation Corridor**

potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The District will cooperate with Volusia County and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

### **Management Cost Summary/SJRWMD**

<b>Category Source of Funds</b>	<b>Startup WMLTF</b>	<b>Recurring WMLTF</b>
Salary	\$45,000	\$45,000
OPS	0	0
Expense	\$80,000	\$80,000
OCO	\$20,000	\$60,000
FCO	\$100,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$345,000</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>

*UPDATE 4/12/2012*

# Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks

Jefferson and Taylor Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The tea-colored Aucilla River and the crystal-clear Wacissa River flow through rich swamps and marshes on their way to meet each other before emptying into the Gulf. The Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project will protect the Wacissa River and the lower course of the Aucilla River, thereby maintaining the water quality of these streams, protecting aquatic caves and sinkholes, preserving important archaeological sites, and giving the public the opportunity to enjoy these rivers in their natural state for years to come. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC).

### General Description

This project comprises parcels needed to protect the headwaters of the Wacissa River to the north and provide a link to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on the south. It encompasses much of the Aucilla River, a blackwater stream, and the Wacissa River, a spring-fed stream. Both are in good condition and are popular canoe trails. Although the surrounding areas are part of a commercial timber operation, the natural resources at the site remain in good condition. Ten natural com-

munities in the project, some rare in Florida, create a diverse natural area with an abundance of water birds, and rare invertebrates and turtles. The project boasts several unique geological features including the Aucilla River Sinks, where the Aucilla River alternately flows through subterranean passageways and reappears at the surface. Numerous aboriginal sites are known from both rivers. Twelve-thousand-year-old mastodon tusks from the Aucilla are the oldest evidence of butchering in North America. The project is threatened by river-front development.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a wildlife management area, providing opportunities for canoeing, swimming, fishing, hunting and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

In 1985, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) added the original Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), consisted of approximately 13,668 acres, 3 major ownerships (the largest with 13,000 acres), and a 1984 taxable value of \$6,900,000.

On 3/21/1986, the LASC approved the project design for 20,258 acres that includes the original proposal and additional acreage.

On 12/1/1989, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved a fee-simple, 320-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by the Division of Historical Resources (DHR), the addition

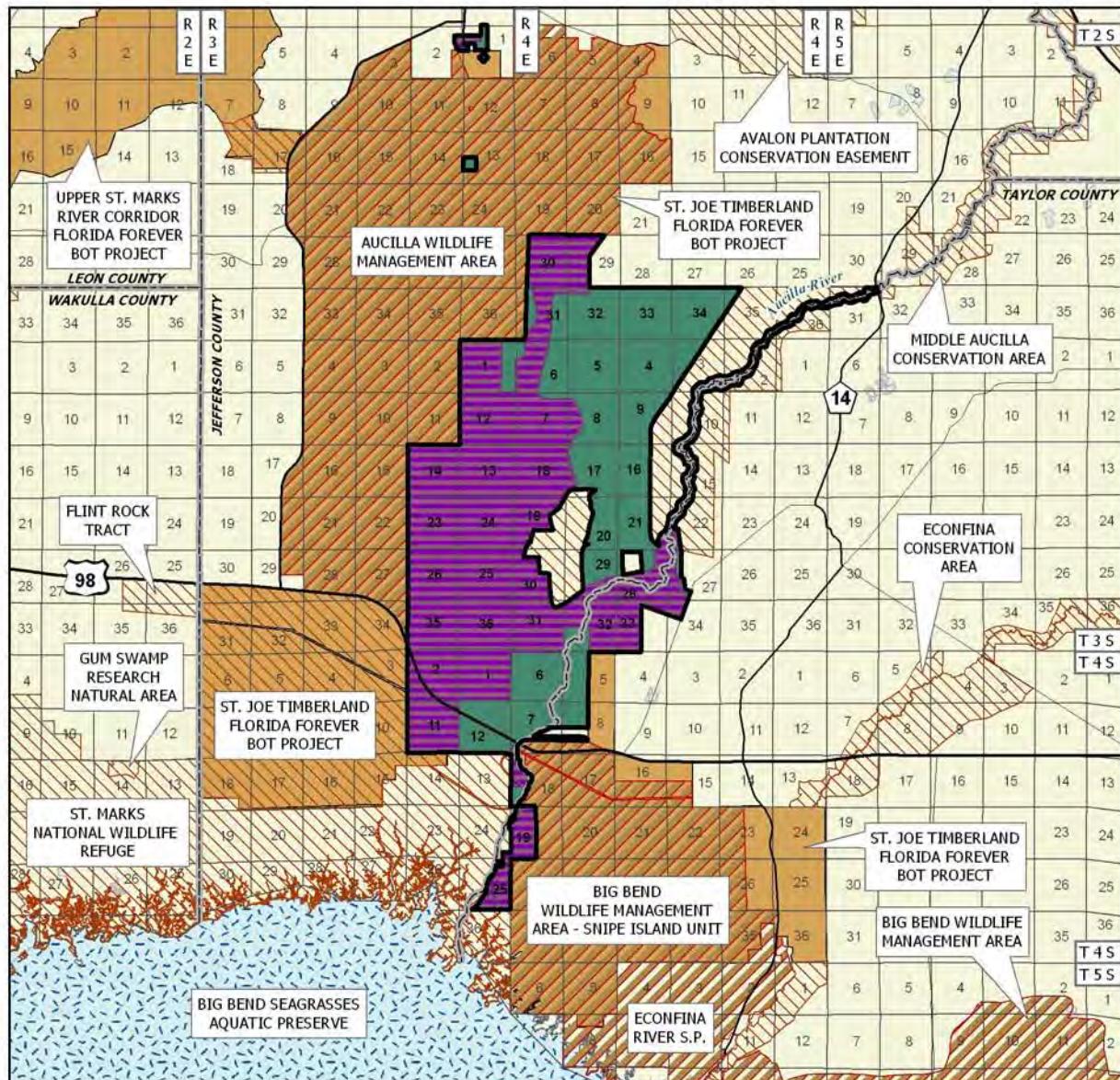
Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Florida Willow</i>	G2/S2
Florida Olive Hairstreak	G5T2/S3
<i>Chapman's Sedge</i>	G3/S3
<i>Corkwood</i>	G3/S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Alligator Snapping Turtle	G3G4/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3

14 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on list	1985
Project Area (GIS Acres)	25,327
Acres Acquired (GIS)	15,430*
at a Cost of	\$5,886,137*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	9,897
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$3,413,439

\*includes acreage and expenditures by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)

## Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks



## WACISSA/AUCILLA RIVER SINKS

### JEFFERSON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Orange Box] Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Red/Orange Hatched Box] State Owned Lands
- [Light Green Hatched Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Dotted Box] State Aquatic Preserves

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APRIL 2010

consisted of one landowner, St Joe Land & Development Co., and a 1988 taxable value of \$79,840. The landowner already has property in the project boundary. This addition will bring into State ownership and management the remainder of the archaeologically significant feature known as Calico Hill.

On 4/7/1992, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 4,500-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition consisted of two ownerships, St. Joe Paper and Proctor & Gamble Cellulose, and a 1991 taxable value of \$2,692,320. This addition will provide continuity between St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, the Big Bend WMA, and the project. St. Joe Paper is already in the project boundary.

On 3/26/1999, the Land Acquisition & Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 11,920-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of one landowner, the St. Joe Company, and a 1998 taxable value of \$5,364,000. The landowner is already in the boundary. This addition would provide connectivity with the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

In 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the transfer of approximately 20,036 acres to the St. Joe Timberland FF project. This acreage is portions of the original project owned by the St. Joe Company.

On 10/25/2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 7,068-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWCC, consisted of one landowner, the Foley Land & Timber Company, and a 2000 taxable value of \$1,790,000. This tract fills a critical gap in the regional landscape of protected conservation areas, by billing the hole between Trustees ownership along the Wacissa River, and District ownership along the Aucilla. These parcels were designated as essential.

On 10/25/2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 117-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of State Lands (DSL), consisted of seven small ownerships, and a 2000 taxable value of \$238,169. This addition will protect Aucilla Spring and the other springs in the Wacissa springhead group as

well as provide buffer areas for the associated spring run. These parcels were designated as essential.

### Coordination

TNC, the FWCC, and the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) will be acquisition partners for this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project are to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** Much of the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project is within the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This, together with the rivers' value as wildlife habitat, qualifies the project as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The FWCC is the recommended project manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The nature of these two river corridors and their attendant floodplains indicates a relatively low need for intense management. The unique beauty of the area, and the presence of numerous cultural sites indicate a need for intense protective measures and a need to focus on control of public access.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Most public-access points are already in place, including a county park at the head spring of the Wacissa. Therefore, immediate management control could be assumed by FWCC. First-year activities would include posting the boundaries, establishing control at public-access points, and beginning the planning process. Long-term management (second year and following) would entail management of these lands as an integral part of the Big Bend/Aucilla WMA recreational complex.

**Revenue-generating potential** Without new WMA fees

## **Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks**

charged for non-consumptive uses of this area, the revenue potential appears low, while recreation values are quite high. If a method for charging canoeists, nature enthusiasts, fishermen and hikers could be devised, the revenue potential would be moderate.

**Cooperators in management** The DHR and the FFS are expected to cooperate in the management of this property. Jefferson County may also be involved since it manages a county park at the head spring.

*Updated 2/3/2012*

<b>Management Cost Summary/FWCC</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$0	\$11,133	\$63,575
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$5,500
Expense	\$126	\$2,000	\$25,000
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$83,600
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$126</b>	<b>\$13,133</b>	<b>\$177,675</b>



# Wakulla Springs Protection Zone

Wakulla and Leon Counties

Partnerships

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Just south of Tallahassee, Wakulla Springs - one of the largest and deepest artesian springs in the world - is now protected by a state park, but the enormous caverns that feed the spring spread far to the north and west of the park. The Wakulla Springs Protection Zone will protect the spring by protecting the land above the conduits that feed it, connect the state park with the Apalachicola National Forest, and provide the public an area for camping, hiking, and hunting.

## Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC). See Management Prospectus for areas of management.

## General Description

Over 70 percent of the project is in intensive silviculture or pasture; remnant natural areas include floodplain swamps and forests, upland pine or upland mixed forests, and unique features like sinkholes, aquatic caves, and spring-run streams. The project is important to protecting the subterranean headwaters of Wakulla Springs, the state's largest first magnitude spring and source of the Wakulla River. It is one of the largest and deepest artesian springs in the world and an Outstanding Florida Water. At least five rare animals, including three crustaceans in the aquatic caves, have been found

here. Eight archaeological sites, including four mounds, are known from the site, and more can be expected. There is also a historic cemetery in the project. The sinkholes in the project are vulnerable to trash dumping and development, which may degrade the quality of water flowing into Wakulla Spring; endangerment of the area is moderate.

## Public Use

Portions of the project qualify as state park, state forest, and wildlife management area. Hiking or bicycling trails could link the park with the Apalachicola National Forest, and the project could also be suitable for camping, horseback riding, and perhaps hunting.

## Acquisition Planning

On 12/5/1996 the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project to the 1997 CARL priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the DRP, consisted of approximately 10,243 acres, multiple owners and a 1995 taxable value of \$7,151,888.

The essential parcels are the Ferrell tract, McBrides Slough tract and smaller tracts between the Edward Ball—Wakulla Springs State Park and Ferrell Tract. The McBrides Slough tract has been mapped previously as a DRP Inholdings and Additions project.

On 10/15/1998, the LAMAC revised the designation of the following area to essential: approximately 1,004 acres that would connect the Ferrell tract with the Apalachicola National Forest.

Wakulla Springs Protection Zone FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Woodville Karst Cave Crayfish	G1/S1
Florida Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Hobbs' Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5/S3

9 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1997
Project Area (GIS Acres)	7,421
Acres Acquired (GIS)	3,452
at a Cost of	\$7,372,678
Acres Remaining (GIS)	3,969
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$7,372,678

## **Wakulla Springs Protection Zone**

In 12/1999 the St. Joe Timberland FF project was created. Approximately 3,702 acres were transferred from this project into the St. Joe project.

On 10/25/2001 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 59-acre addition to the project boundaries. The addition, sponsored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES), consisted of multiple owners and a 2001 taxable value of \$146,181. The Stansbury Sink is located within this addition.

On 6/9/2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 152-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FDEP, Florida Springs Initiative, consisted of seven owners, and a 2005 taxable value of \$94,268. One owner, Linderand, Inc., already holds title to property within the current project boundary. These parcels were designated as essential since they are important to the future water quality of Wakulla Springs. FDEP is recommended manager of the addition.

On 12/14/2007 the ARC approved a fee-simple 700-acre one-parcel addition, known as Chason Woods, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Jerry Parrish Realty and owned by one landowner, with a taxable value of \$1,392,980. The FFS agreed to manage the parcel. Originally this parcel was not identified as essential, and required matching funds for acquisition.

On 12/12/2008 ARC approved a request to identify the Chason Woods parcel as an essential parcel.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), DRP, the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) are acquisition partners for this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project is to preserve the water quality of Wakulla Springs by protecting the land above the underground conduits that supply the spring. Achieving this objective will provide a refuge for extremely rare cave-dwelling crustaceans, preserve wildlife habitat in this developing region, and provide various recreational opportunities, such as camping and hiking, to the public.

Management activities should be directed toward the protection of surface-water and groundwater quality. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few major roads

and route them away from sinkholes; thoroughly inventory the resources; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving the quality of the groundwater. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, particularly sinkholes and spring runs, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

If less than fee purchases are made within the project, any activities, such as silviculture, road improvements, or any development, should be strictly monitored to ensure that surface-water and groundwater quality in the project area is maintained or improved.

For areas managed by FFS, the primary land management goal is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use, and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS's management activities on this project. For areas managed by FWCC, priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Under FWCC management, the tract will also provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking, and other natural resource-based recreational activities.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Its unique subterranean resources connected with Wakulla Springs, one of Florida's most significant artesian springs and already managed as a state park, qualify this project as a unit of the state park system. The project's size and diversity of resources makes portions of it also desirable for use and management as a state forest and a wildlife management area. Management by the FFS as a state forest is contingent upon the state acquiring fee-simple title to the core parcels.

**Manager** The DRP will manage areas south of State Road 267 and west of State Road 61, except for that portion of the Ferrell property in sections 22 and 27, T2S, R1W, consisting of approximately 120 acres of agricultural fields and the 152-acre boundary addition. The FWC is recommended as lead manager for the 120-acre portion of the Ferrell property described above. The FFS is recommended as lead manager for the remainder of the project.

### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

#### *A. Division of Recreation and Parks*

Under fee title acquisition, the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone will be a high-need management area. Resource restoration, public recreation, environmental

## **Wakulla Springs Protection Zone**

education and development compatible with long-term resource protection will be an integral aspect of management. The areas around karst windows, springs and associated sloughs are often, and in some cases currently are being, subjected to inappropriate uses and levels of use that degrade the resource. In particular, the lands between the park and the national forest, west of State Road 61, contain a significant number of hydrological features which will require intensive management of people to ensure against resource degradation by users and allow for restoration where needed. Springs, karst windows and sinks are popular recreation sites. Hence, there will be a demand for their use. Close monitoring and study will be needed to decide which are suitable for public use and at what levels, followed with appropriate management measures.

The Ferrell Property represents a relatively intact long-leaf pine/wire grass community. Land uses in the general area have severely impacted this community type. Close attention will need to be paid to ensure the perpetuation of this community through appropriate burning and other management practices, if acquired in fee title. This concept also applies to other areas of the project managed by the DRP where the natural regime has been disturbed by silviculture and other land uses.

### *B. Florida Forest Service*

Many areas of the project will require considerable restoration efforts. Until these efforts are completed, the level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be somewhat higher than what would be expected on a typical state forest.

### *C. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

The proposal generally includes lands that are low-need tracts requiring basic resource management, including the frequent use of prescribed fire. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the natural communities on the area is the introduction of all-season prescribed fire and control of human access. On portions of existing disturbed areas such as the agricultural fields, native and non-native agronomic plantings will be used to benefit both game and non-game wildlife on the area and to promote special hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the general public. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level to assure a high-quality recreational experience for those members of the public interested in less infrastructure and other disturbance factors.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

#### *A. Division of Recreation and Parks*

Upon fee title acquisition, public access will be pro-

vided for low-intensity, non-facility-related outdoor recreation. As a part of the Wakulla Springs State Park, hunting would not be permitted. Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Particular emphasis will be given to protection of springs and associated sloughs, sinks and karst windows. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate on site security (including posting boundaries) and development of a resource inventory in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive management plan. Long-term management may include a wide range of resource-based recreation and associated facilities. The integration of appropriate public uses will create wildlife and recreational linkages between the State Park and the national forest.

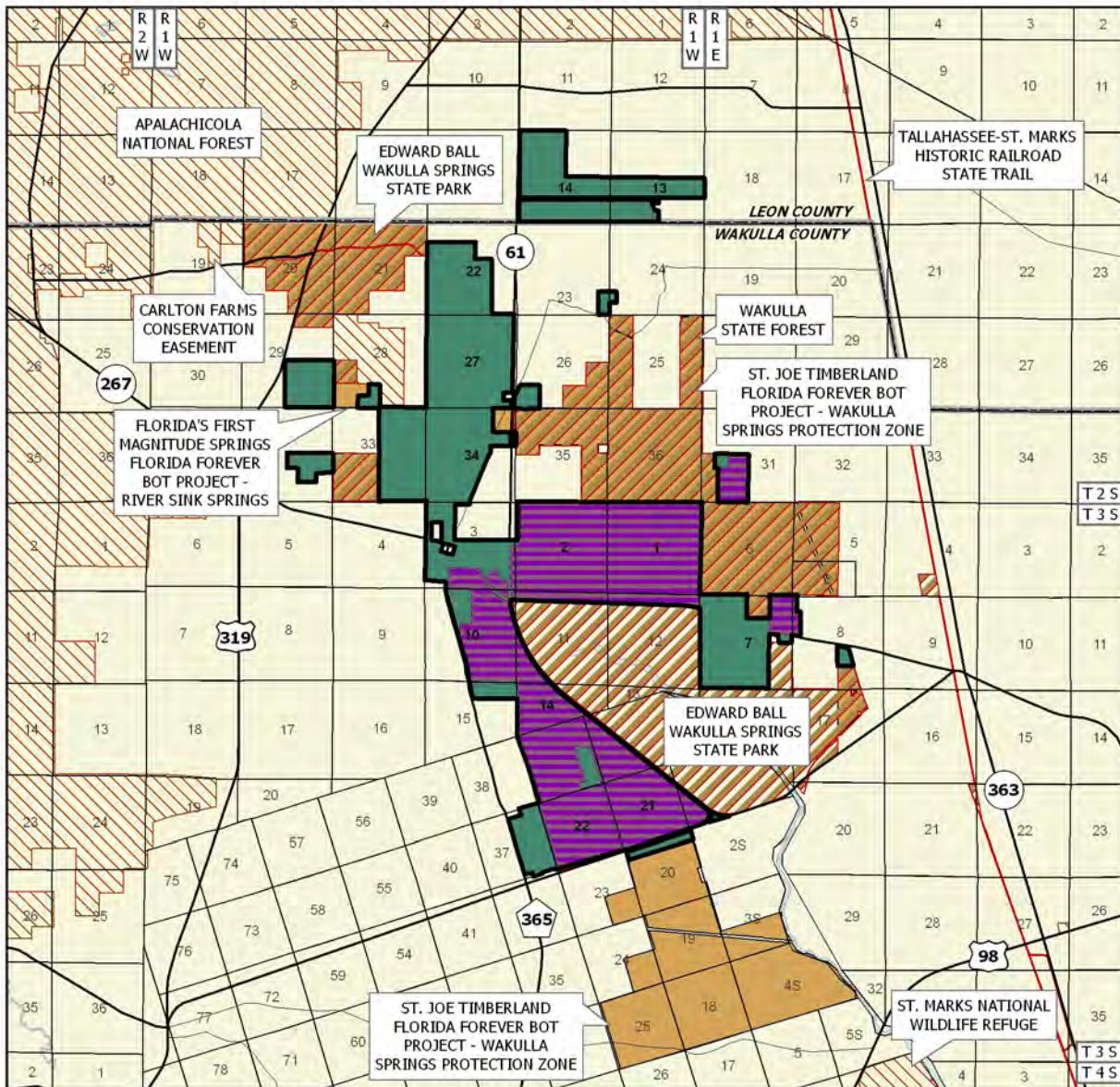
#### *B. Florida Forest Service*

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be provided for non-facilities-related, low-intensity outdoor recreation. Until specific positions are provided for the project, public access will be coordinated through the FFS's Tallahassee District Headquarters and management activities will be conducted with district personnel.

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads. Any unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Pine plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on the site. An all-season burning program will be established, utilizing practices that incorporate recent research findings.

## Wakulla Springs Protection Zone



## WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE

### WAKULLA AND LEON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



JANUARY 2009

## Wakulla Springs Protection Zone

Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is not anticipated that recreational facilities will be developed. However, if it is determined that facilities are needed, the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact, organized recreation areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

*C. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*  
 During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of existing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWCC, describing the goals and objectives of future resource management. Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management, the protection and management of threatened and endangered species and the management of small game hunting opportunities. Essential roads will be stabilized

to provide all weather public access and manage operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources.

Where appropriate and practical, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the FFS. These practices will include reforestation of cleared pinelands and natural regeneration of pine plantations.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after fee title acquisition, and the amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed. The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate. The FWCC may also sell timber to help offset operational costs. Future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of cleared pinelands. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps or permits.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DRP will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park purposes. The FFS and the FWCC will also cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area.

*Updated 2/29/2012*

### Management Cost Summaries:

DRP Category Source--Funds			FFS Category Source--Funds			FWC Category Source--Funds		
	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL		Startup CARL	Category Source--Funds		Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$48,840	\$48,840	Salary	\$65,343	Salary	\$37,170	\$74,340	
OPS	\$10,000	\$10,000	OPS	\$0	OPS	\$7,000	\$7,000	
Expense	\$86,342	\$6,342	Expense	\$90,000	Expense	\$45,000	\$60,000	
OCO	\$58,956	\$0	OCO	\$129,000	OCO	\$38,500	\$38,500	
FCO	\$0	\$0	FCO	\$0	FCO	\$75,000	\$0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204,138</b>	<b>\$65,142</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$284,343</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$202,670</b>	<b>\$179,840</b>	

# Watermelon Pond

Levy and Alachua Counties

## Partnerships

### Purpose for State Acquisition

In southwestern Alachua County, the original landscape of dry longleaf-pine sandhills pocked with marshes and lakes, important for wildlife, has been much reduced by agriculture and encroaching ranchettes. The Watermelon Pond project will conserve part of this original landscape for wildlife such as fox squirrels and sandhill cranes and for plants like the scrub bay; for the protection of the groundwater supply of the county; and for the public to enjoy for years to come.

### Manager

Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### General Description

The project is important for its extensive tract of xeric uplands (sandhill and scrub natural communities) and seasonally interconnected wetlands of the Brooksville Ridge physiographic province. The complex of these uplands with their marshes and lakes is regionally significant to vertebrate fauna in an area of the state subject to extensive development pressures. No comparable complex is protected in north-central Florida. The project is also the major aquifer recharge area in Alachua County. No archaeological sites are known from the project. The uplands are threatened by subdivision for agriculture and ranchette developments.

### Public Use

This project will be designated as a state forest with such public uses as hiking, fishing, horseback riding and camping.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I:(essential) Loncala (acquired) and other large sandhill and xeric tracts including Gladman, Burch, Matson, Hart, Barry, O'Steen and Outler. Phase II: Remaining tracts.

On 10/15/1998, the Council designated the unsubdivided portion of section 36 and 11 other "corridor" parcels as essential.

On 2/7/2003 the Council added 250 acres in Alachua County to the project boundaries.

On 12/5/2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to the Group B list.

In 4/2007 the FWC acquired 1,288 acres, identified as Barry Ranch, for \$10,600,000 (LATF). Of these acres, 607 are within the Watermelon Pond Florida Forever project boundary.

On 8/13/2010 ARC approved a 3,161-acre (\$41,763,028 just value) reduction in the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

### Coordination

Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Alachua County are acquisition partners.

**Placed on List** 1994

**Project Area (GIS Acres)** 11,977

**Acres Acquired (GIS)** 6,044\*

**at a Cost of** \$8,707,029\*

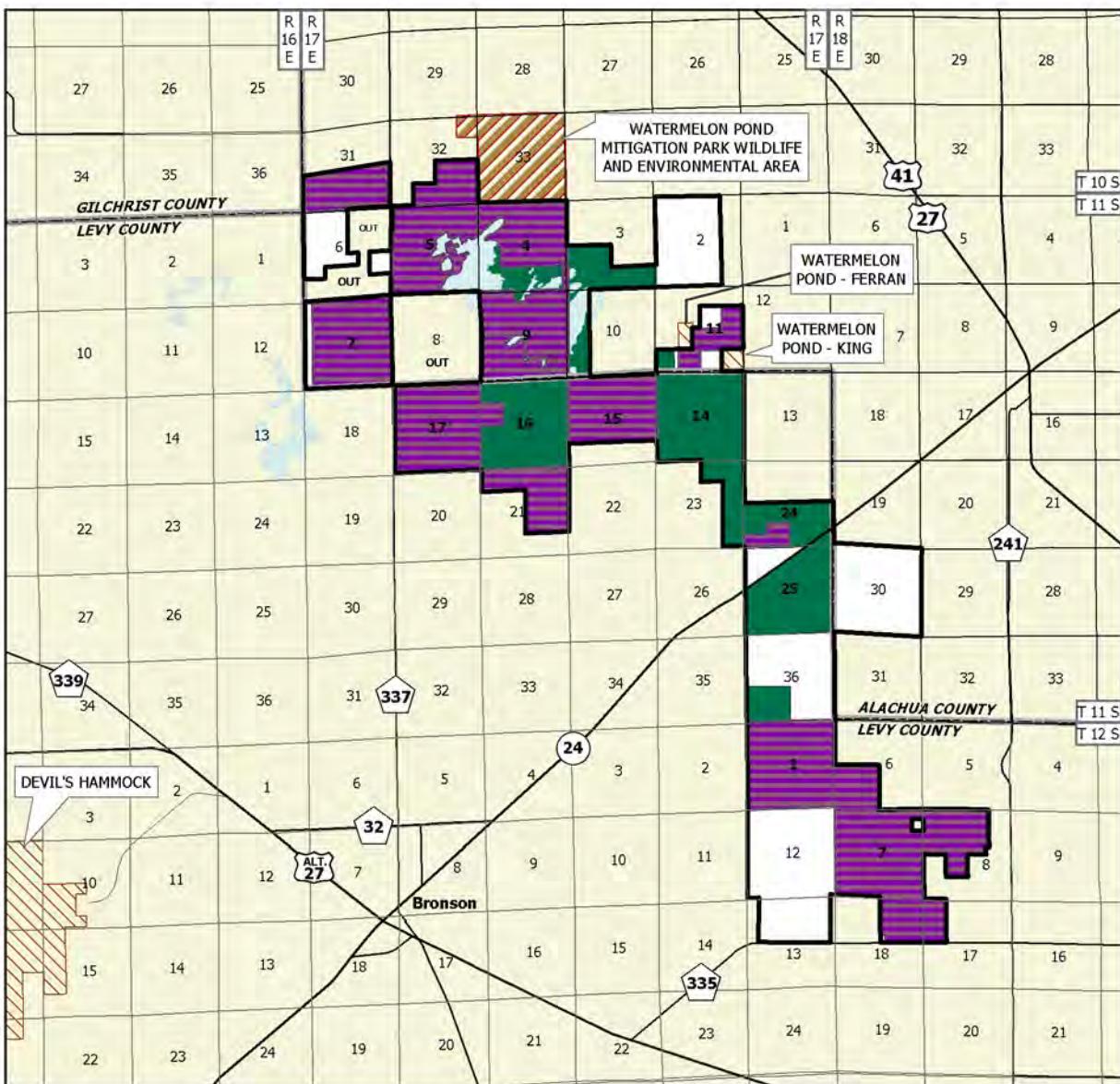
**Acres Remaining (GIS)** 5,933

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of** \$5,293,910

\*includes acreage and expenditures by the FWC.

Watermelon Pond FNAI Elements	
Striped Newt	G2G3/S2S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Skelley's June Beetle	G2/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Short-tailed Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
23 rare species are associated with the project	

## Watermelon Pond



### LEVY AND ALACHUA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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Miles



SEPTEMBER 2010

## Watermelon Pond

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Watermelon Pond CARL project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The natural pine forests and the restorable pine plantations of the Watermelon Pond project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The FFS is recommended as manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The areas of pine plantation and agricultural land in the project will require reforestation and restoration efforts beyond the level typically expected on a state forest. Consequently, management intensity and related management costs might be slightly higher than what would normally occur on a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Once the core area is acquired, the FFS will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration.

An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age.

Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management

and public access. FFS will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low to moderate.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Updated 2/29/2012

### Management Cost Summary/FFS

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$80,530	\$80,530
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$30,000	\$20,000
OCO	\$112,500	\$6,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$223,030</b>	<b>\$106,530</b>



# Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

## Lake, Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The springs, rivers, lakes, swamps, and uplands stretching north from Orlando to the Ocala National Forest are an important refuge for the Florida black bear, as well as other wildlife such as the bald eagle, swallow-tailed kite, Florida scrub jay, and wading birds. The Wekiva-Ocala Greenway will protect these animals and the Wekiva and St. Johns River basins by protecting natural corridors connecting Wekiwa Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run State Reserve, the Lower Wekiva River State Reserve, and Hontoon Island State Park with the Ocala National Forest. It will also provide the people of the booming Orlando area with a large, nearby natural area in which to enjoy camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, canoeing, and other recreational pursuits. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (BMK Ranch, Seminole Springs, St. Johns River and portions of the Wekiva-Ocala Connector); Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF), Florida Department of

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Seminole Springs and portions of the Wekiva-Ocala Connector).

### General Description

This project provides an important link between Ocala National Forest and the extensive state holdings along the Wekiva River. It is habitat for many rare animal species including the Florida black bear, the Florida sandhill crane, bald eagle, Eastern indigo snake, Florida scrub jay, Sherman's fox squirrel, Florida scrub lizard and gopher tortoise. It incorporates most of the forested wetlands along the St. Johns and Wekiva Rivers between Orlando and the Ocala National Forest. The St. Johns River site consists of three large bottomlands and adjacent uplands between three existing state ownerships. The Seminole Springs/Woods site is reported to have 50-75 springs within its boundary. The Wekiva-Ocala Connector site provides a wildlife movement corridor between the Ocala National Forest and the other portions of the project along the Wekiva River.

### Public Use

The project sites are designated as state reserves or preserves and state forests, offering opportunities for canoeing, hiking, fishing and camping.

### Acquisition Planning

On 11/18/1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved combining the Seminole Springs/Woods, Wekiva-Ocala Connector, St. Johns River, and BMK Ranch projects and renaming the project Wekiva-Ocala Greenway. Based on GIS, the approximate total project acreage was 67,585 acres.

Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Okeechobee Gourd</i>	G1/S1
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
<i>Florida Hasteola</i>	G1/S1
Seminole Spring Siltsnail	G1/S1
<i>Florida Willow</i>	G2/S2
<i>Star Anise</i>	G2/S2
Wakulla Springs Vari-colored	G2/S2
Microcaddisfly	

30 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	1995
Project Area (GIS Acres)	81,170
Acres Acquired (GIS)	55,682*
at a Cost of	\$183,142,325*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	25,488
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$31,792,123

\*Includes acreage and expenditures by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Orlando-Orange County Transportation Authority.

## Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

Seminole Springs/Woods: Seminole Springs—core tracts include Strawn Tract, M.S. Carter (acquired), and Brumlick parcels (acquired through eminent domain). The Strawn tract is the largest and most significant ownership remaining to be acquired.

Wekiva-Ocala Connector: Core Tracts West—Maxwell and Holman (acquired), Shockley (acquired), Harper (acquired by SJRWMD 2,228 acres/2.1 million), Alger Enterprises (acquired), Fisch (acquired by SJRWMD), Southland Gardens (contingent upon the acquisition of Harper and Fisch), Clemmons (acquired), Blaskovic (acquired), Kittridge (acquired). Core Tracts East—Stetson University (acquired), Stein, Lenholt Farms, Francolino (acquired), Jung (acquired), and Hollywood Pines, Inc.

St. Johns River: New Garden Coal, the largest ownership, was acquired in 2005.

The BMK Ranch parcel has been acquired.

On 10/30/1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, ± 5,616-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Eastern Marketing Inc, representative for several owners, consisted of multiple landowners and parcels, and a taxable value of approximately \$10,247,684. All tracts were designated as essential. In addition, the project phasing was removed.

On 10/30/1996, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 425-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of State Lands, consisted of seven landowners (Jung, Hollywood Pines, Miranda Trust, Overstreet, New Garden Coal, Seminole Springs, and Fisch), 12 parcels, and a taxable value of \$645,000.

Other acquisitions in the Wekiva Basin are Wekiva Buffers, Wekiva Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run, Lower Wekiva River State Park, Hontoon Island State Recreation Area, and Blue Spring State Park. These acquisitions total 18,400 acres.

On 7/18/1997, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 128-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Conway Kittredge, who already has 20 acres in the current project boundary. The addition has a taxable value of \$450,542 and any portion of the addition that is not needed for resource protection or management will be surplussed.

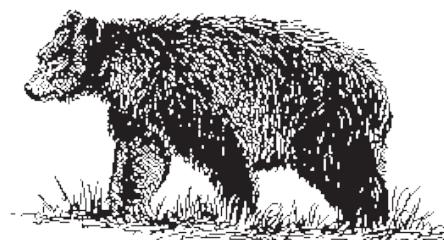
On 12/3/1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple,

1,507-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of Recreation and Parks, and consisted of 20 parcels with a total taxable value of \$1,224,358. At the time of the boundary addition, the parcels were owned by Neighborhood Lakes LTD and Lake Lerla LTD Partnership, and were designated as essential parcels. They were subsequently purchased by BARN, LLC. These parcels were acquired in a transaction approved by the Board of Trustees on 12/19/2006. The total acquisition area contained 1,584 acres.

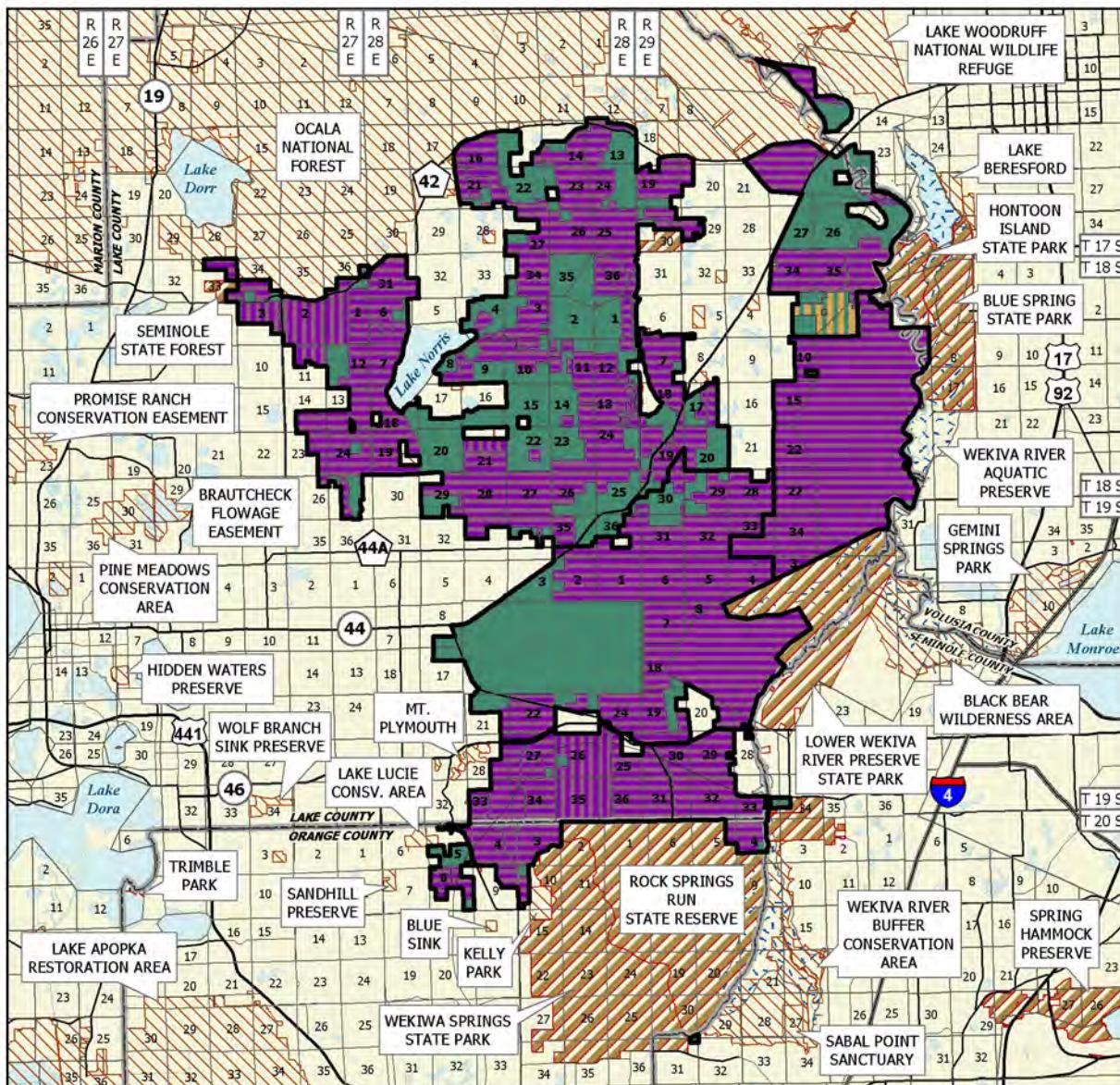
On 12/6/2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 5,455-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Wekiva Basin Working Group, consisted of 14 sites, multiple landowners and parcels, 13 tracts, and a taxable value of \$9,972,067.

On 6/4/2004, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 572-acre addition to the project boundary. The property was owned by Robert Maxwell, and consisted of two parcels with a taxable value of \$758,000. The boundary amendment was sponsored by the owner's representative, Roland Pacetti Realty. On August 15, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a conservation easement covering these two parcels.

On 12/8/2006 the ARC approved a fee-simple 77-acre addition in Lake County (a.k.a. the Ellis and Windsor tracts) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of two parcels with two owners (Natalie Windsor and Jerry Ellis) and has a 2006 taxable value of \$71,487. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage the 17-acre Windsor tract as part of the Lower Wekiva River Preserve State park. The 60-acre Ellis tract will be managed by the FFS as part of the Seminole State Forest.



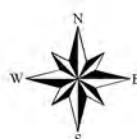
## Wekiva-Ocala Greenway



### WEKIVA-OCALA GREENWAY

#### *LAKE, ORANGE, SEMINOLE AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES*

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Purple Box] Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- [Yellow Box] Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- [Yellow Stripes Box] TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Red Box] State Owned Lands
- [Orange Box] Other Conservation Lands
- [Blue Box] State Aquatic Preserves



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Miles



JANUARY 2012

## **Wekiva-Ocala Greenway**

On 12/14/2007, ARC approved a fee-simple 675-acre addition, known as the Pine Plantation Addition, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Henry Dean Esq., and consisted of five parcels, four landowners, and a taxable base of \$1,228,740. The Division of Recreation and Parks agreed to manage the parcels. The parcels have been designated essential. To date, 421 acres of this addition have been purchased.

On 9/30/2008, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of 385 acres from Project Orlando LLC; Pines-taw Partners LLC; and Herscho Properties, Inc. This acquisition was for a portion of the Pine Plantation property. On November 20, 2008, the Board of Trustees approved a 36-acre purchase from Project Orlando LLC which was part of the boundary amendment that included the Pine Plantation property. On 10/3/2008, from the Division of State Lands (DSL) Florida Forever funds 345-acre parcel was purchased from Palmer ownership in Pine Plantation for \$24,930,304 (40 acres in the SE corner of the Palmer parcel was acquired by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority for a future conveyance to Orange County for a park. In 11/2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to buy 35.7 acres of the Project Orlando, LLC ownership, for \$2,000,000. DRP will manage this site.

On 3/27/09, 307.17 acres were purchased for \$7,860,410 from the OOCEA for BARN, LLP parcel (payback of \$10M paid by the Authority--Neighborhood Lakes, Phase II).

### **Coordination**

TNC, Florida Communities Trust (FCT), Lake County Water Authority, SJRWMD, DOT, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority are acquisition partners in this project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect

significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The large size, variety of forest resources, and diversity of the former Seminole Springs project and the western Wekiva-Ocala Connector make them highly desirable for management as a state forest. The quality of resources on the remainder of the project make them suitable for state preserves.

**Manager** The FFS proposes to manage the Seminole Springs and western connector portions of the project. The remainder will be managed by the DRP. The DRP may elect to assume management of the western portion of the Strawn property at a later date if it is purchased.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** On the portion to be managed by the FFS, there are no known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. On the portion to be managed by the DRP, the BMK Ranch is a high-need management area, while the Eastern Connector of the former Wekiva-Ocala Connector project and the former St. Johns River project are low-need management areas. The BMK Ranch project anticipates a higher level of recreational use and development compatible with resource management than does the other properties.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** About 8,000 acres have been purchased by the State of Florida and the SJWMD and have been assigned to the FFS for management as the Seminole State Forest (SSF). The FFS is currently providing for public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines,

foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The DRP will promote recreation and environmental education. For the DRP, within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low. The DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any

significant public facilities are developed on the BMK Ranch properties, and public facilities will probably not be a major emphasis on the eastern connector properties. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. The DRP recommends no local governments or others for management of its project area.

*Updated 2/27/2012*

**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 SPTF/LATF/ CARL	1997/98 SPTF/CARL	1998/99 SPTF/CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$425	\$425	\$425
Expense	\$5,739	\$5,739	\$5,739
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$38,798	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,962</b>	<b>\$6,164</b>	<b>\$6,164</b>

**Management Cost Summary/FFS (Seminole State Forest)**

Category Source of Funds	1995/96 CARL	1996/97 CARL	1997/98 CARL
Salary	\$35,440	\$64,440	\$105,000
OPS	\$0	\$4,500	\$5,000
Expense	\$22,600	\$40,225	\$51,000
OCO	\$0	\$29,270	\$48,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,040</b>	<b>\$138,435</b>	<b>\$209,000</b>

**Management Cost Summary/FFS (Wekiva-Ocala Connector: West Corridor)**

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$28,140	\$28,140
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$20,000	\$15,000
OCO	\$90,400	\$4,500
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$138,540</b>	<b>\$47,640</b>

# West Aucilla River Buffer

## Jefferson County

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The West Aucilla River Buffer Florida Forever project (WARB) is a single ownership of 721 acres to be acquired as less-than-fee acquisition, in northeastern Jefferson County, located approximately four miles north of US 90, and east of County Road 257. The project is designed to help protect the Aucilla River watershed.

This project meets Florida Forever goals of increasing the number of acres protected with alternatives to fee-simple purchase by establishing a conservation easement over the property, and increases the acreage of landscape and landscape linkages by preserving 544 acres of Priority 4 Ecological Greenway habitat. The project also protects 37 acres with natural floodplain functions, and a total of 683 acres that provide surface water protection. There is a total of 130 acres of functional wetlands that would be protected in this proposal, with 36 acres being ranked Priority 1.

The majority of the project is within the Florida Forever Needs Assessment Aquifer Recharge and Surface Water Protection GIS overlays. The property is also largely within the Ecological Greenways, Sustainable Forestry and Forestland for Recharge areas.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services (OES), or its successor, would serve as the conservation-easement monitor unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The 721-acre project is in two parcels. The northeast tract (253 acres) adjoins a segment of the Upper Aucilla Conservation Area (UACA) of the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) for about 0.4 miles along the project's eastern boundary. The second tract (468 acres), approximately 0.5 miles southwest of

the first, is 0.6 miles due west of another segment of the UACA. It does not include any river frontage.

Approximately 70 percent of the proposal has been heavily altered by past land management practices, and includes pine plantations, wildlife food plots, pastures and other clearings, and an artificial lake. Approximately 30 percent of the proposal is in relatively intact natural communities on both tracts. These are primarily isolated forested wetlands (dome and basin swamps), Aucilla River floodplain forest, and small fragments of upland hardwood forests on upland slopes.

The northern tract contains a portion of Parker Pond, a 24-acre artificial lake created by a stream impoundment. The lake is bisected by Government Farm road. The western shoreline of the lake grades into a cypress and black gum swamp, with some dead trees scattered into the lake edge, a result of impoundment long ago. At the eastern end of the lake is an overflow ditch that runs in an east-west orientation, through uplands to the Aucilla River floodplain. An assessment of the potential impacts of the hydrology of the impoundment on nearby wetlands may be warranted if a conservation easement is pursued.

Wildlife food plots, pastures, and other clearings make up the remainder of the site's disturbed uplands.

### Public Use

The project is a less-than-fee purchase with public access for hunting being offered to the handicap. The landowner has committed to allowing handicap-access

Placed on List	2007
Project Area (GIS Acres)	721
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	721
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$322,849

### West Aucilla River Buffer FNAI Elements

no rare species are associated with the project

## West Aucilla River Buffer



### **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands



0      0.5      1      2  
Miles



JUNE 2007

## **West Aucilla River Buffer**

hunting as the only form of public access.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 6/15/2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the West Aucilla River Buffer project to the B list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was submitted by the landowner, Mr. Carl Joiner, in a proposal submitted on December 29, 2006. It has about 721 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$322,849. On 12/14/2007 ARC voted to move the West Aucilla River Buffer to Group A of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

### **Coordination**

No partnerships for acquisition have been proposed. A logical partner would be SRWMD which has expressed no interest in the property because it lacks river frontage.

### **Management Policy Statement**

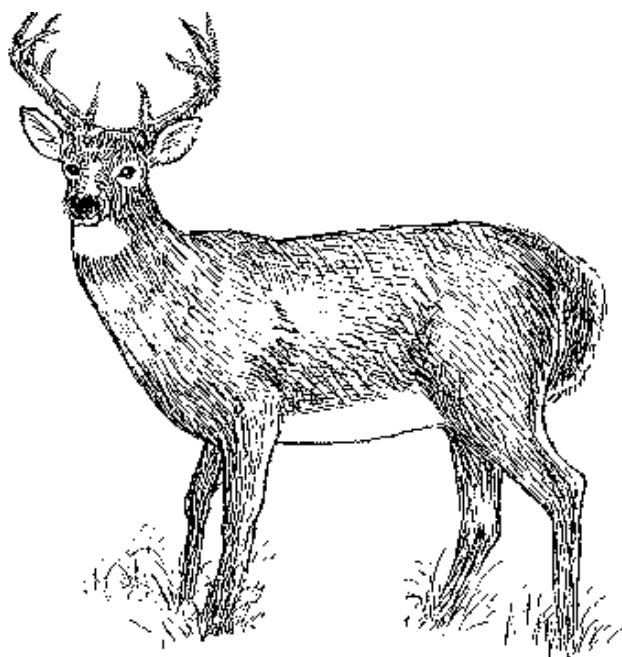
As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the

private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

Any conservation easements acquired in this project will be monitored by the OES. The primary focus of any negotiated conservation easements will be maintenance of intact natural areas, low intensity silviculture and control of invasive exotic plants. The landowner has committed to allowing handicap-access hunting as a form of public access.

*Updated 2/27/2012*



# West Bay Preservation Area

Bay County

## Climate Change Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose of State acquisition is to protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of the land, water, and wetlands systems and to increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities. Acquisition of the project area, whether in fee or less-than-fee would contribute to the protection of the natural shoreline, water quality, and aquatic resources of West Bay as well as Crooked Creek and Burnt Mill Creek.

### Manager

Bay County would manage the project if acquired in fee. If acquired in less-than-fee, the easement would be monitored by the Division of State Lands/Office of Environmental Services (OES).

### General Description

The West Bay Preservation Area includes approximately 4,502 acres (FNAI GIS) of St. Joe Company property in Southwestern Bay County. The three parcels border the 9,600-acre Panama City Airport Conservation Easement managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It is bounded on the north by CR 388, on the south by West Bay and CR 2300, on the west by Crooked Creek, and on the east by North Bay and the west boundary of the Fanning Creek Water Basin. The entire project area is undeveloped.

West Bay Preservation Area encompasses about 6 miles of frontage on West Bay and 1.7 miles on North Bay. It includes 6.1 miles of creek bank of Crooked and Burnt Mill Creeks. Both creeks are major sources of fresh water draining into West Bay. Protection of the

project lands, when added to the Panama City Airport Conservation Easement and Breakfast Point Mitigation Bank lands, would preserve in natural condition a total of roughly 14.4 miles of the 30-mile West Bay shoreline.

About 40 percent of the project is in natural condition and the rest is in pine plantation. Most of the land in natural condition is concentrated near the coast and along the creek shores. The remainder is in inland freshwater wetlands and embedded pine plantation. Of the natural communities, salt marsh makes up the largest acreage. Extensive tidal flats are found in the upper portion of the salt marshes, and an approximately 100 foot wide band of seagrasses was observed in 2011 between Burnt Mill and Crooked Creeks. Archaeologically, there are 17 sites on the Florida Master Site File located within the project boundary.

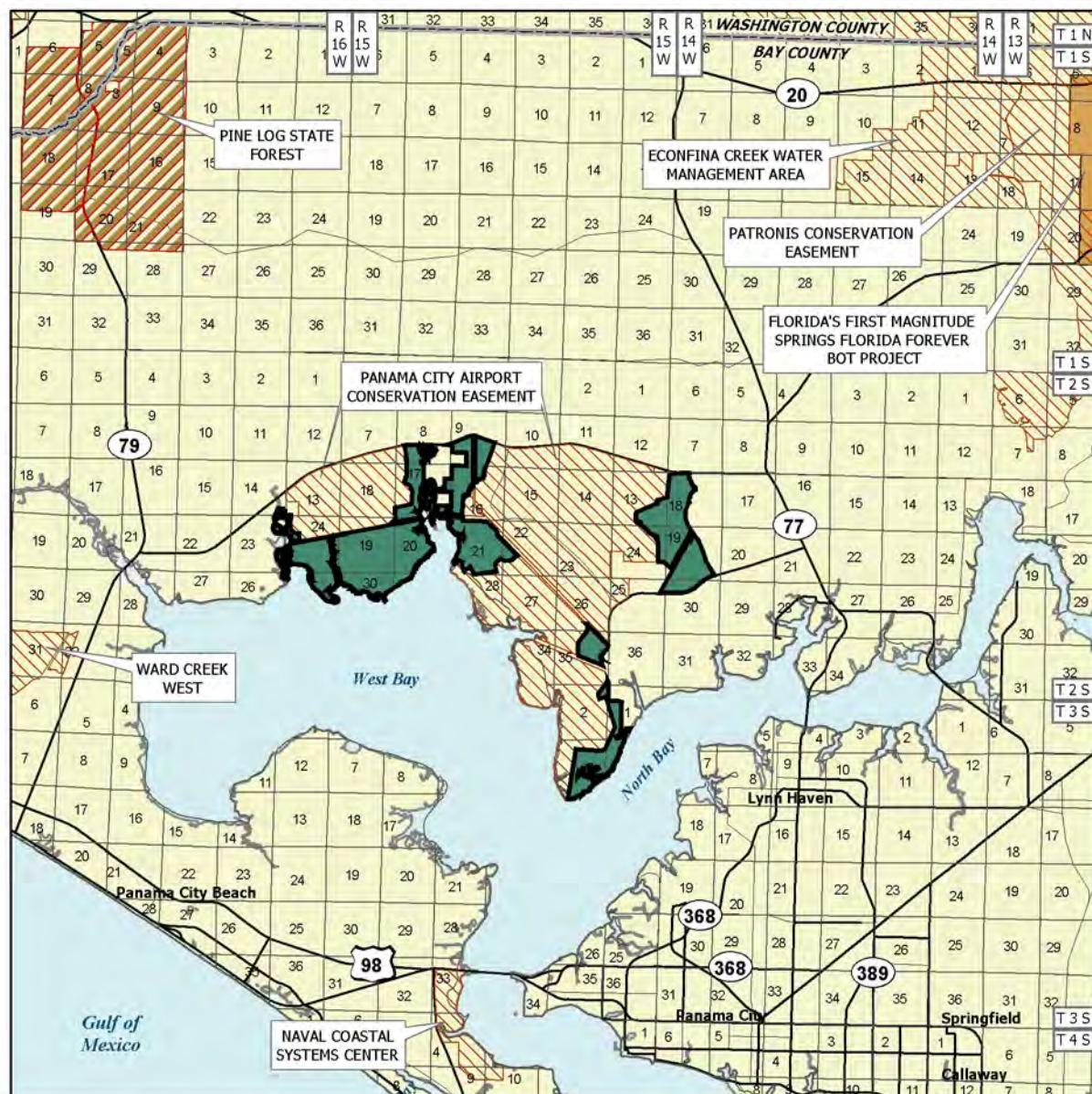
Approximately 96 percent of the proposal is habitat for between three and seven focal species (imperiled or rare wildlife). Approximately 60 percent of the West Bay Preservation Area lies within a designated FWC Species Habitat Conservation Area for the America swallow-tailed kite Coopers hawk, and Gulf salt marsh snake.

There are hunting leases and timbering agreements on the property. Numerous dirt roads provide access to the project parcels, however easement rights would be needed to cross St. Joe Company land and access the project parcels. Gulf Power owns the entire 200 foot wide utility corridor extending in a westerly direction from their nearby power plant. It divides the three portions of the project and establishes the northerly boundaries for several of the project parcels.

West Bay Preservation Area	
FNAI Elements	
bald eagle	G4/S3
brown pelican	G4/S3
Florida clapper rail	G5T4?/S3?
royal tern	G5/S3
osprey	G5/S3S4
little blue heron	G5/S4
tricolored heron	G5/S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2012
Project Area (GIS Acres)	4,502
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	4,502
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$6,300,000

## **West Bay Preservation Area**



## WEST BAY PRESERVATION AREA

## **BAY COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
  - Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
  - Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
  - State Owned Lands
  - Other Conservation Lands



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



JANUARY 2012

## West Bay Preservation Area

These lands have been designated by the County to have a Future Land Use of Conservation and are bound by a Stipulated Settlement Agreement requiring St. Joe Company to make the properties available for purchase for preservation, and to assist Bay County with the acquisition for preservation.

### Public Use

The management prospectus prepared by Bay County states that, if the property is acquired in fee, the primary management purpose will be protection of West Bay and restoration of the natural communities, while encouraging natural resource-based recreation that does not detract or interfere with that purpose. With easements and public access to the different areas, the resource-based recreation activities that were identified to be most suitable for the project would be hiking, off-road bicycling, picnicking, primitive camping, nature study trails, canoe/kayaking, geocaching, and horseback riding trails.

### Acquisition Planning

On 12/9/2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the Florida Forever priority list. This is a one ownership project, and the owner is anticipating selling it in one transaction.

### Coordination

There is potential for partnerships both in funding and in management. The Department of Defense (DOD) has expressed support for this project, and will apply for federal acquisition dollars to partner in its purchase. The County has also expressed interest in partnering with the Gulf Coast State College for management and use of the part of the property (easternmost segment) for natural resource appreciation, education, and restoration.

### Management Policy Statement

This project will be managed to buffer and enhance West Bay, while providing compatible recreational and

educational opportunities.

### Management Prospectus

*Qualifications for State Designation* his project meets the following goals for Florida Forever projects as required in statute: (A) Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; (B) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape level; (C) Protect, restore and maintain the quality of natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the State; (D) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; (E) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities; (F) Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and (G) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. There could be the possibility of matching funds for this proposal through a Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) grant from the DOD. This project overlaps with the military's need to protect lands, water, and habitat to ensure the sustainability of military missions, protecting areas underlying low-level military operating areas, described in 259.105(10)(b). *Manager* Bay County or current landowner with Division of State Land monitoring a conservation easement.

*Updated 1/17/2012*

# Windover Archaeological Site

## Brevard County

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Windover Archaeological Site would preserve this most significant historic and archaeological property, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources describes the Windover Archaeological Site as one of the world's most significant archaeological sites. The site contains over 160 human skeletal remains, buried between 8,100 and 6,900 years ago, as well as cloth fragments, and other artifacts made from bone and wood.

### Manager

Brevard County.

### General Description

The Windover Archaeological Site is part of the Windover Farms subdivision, which is about two miles from the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge and 10 miles from the Kennedy Space Center and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. It covers five subdivision lots. It is considered to be one of the world's most significant archaeological sites and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. The site contains 168 human burials that date to the late Early Archaic period—about 7,500 B.P. This site has been well documented in a book edited by Dr. Glen Doran—Windover: Multidisciplinary Investigations of an Early Archaic Cemetery as well as featured in many films. The Windover site remains a natural sanctuary, with undulating terrain and a canopy of majestic oaks and an array of native plants.

Along with human burials (some with brain tissue and DNA) at Windover, woven fibers, wooden and bone tools, and botanical remains were preserved in the peat deposits on the bottom of the pond. The burials were placed in a charnel, or mortuary pond. This shallow

### Critical Historical Resources

pond is underlain by peat sediments into which burials were placed more than 7,000 years ago. The peat and water chemistry was such (anaerobic and neutral pH) that it allowed the human remains and associated grave goods to be well preserved. Also, bottle gourds were found at Windover and pushed the date back for these semi-domesticated plants by 3,000 years in the Western Hemisphere. The hand-woven fabrics, used for mats, bags and clothing, indicate that the stereotypes of early hunter-gatherers clad in skins is inaccurate. The fabrics indicate at least four different types of weaving at this site. Botanical samples from Windover have allowed scientists to reconstruct what early plant communities in East Central Florida were like from the late Pleistocene to early Holocene periods—mixed deciduous forest—and has given us an inventory of plants that occurred in the region during that span. Many of the plants were used either for food or for medicinal purposes. According to Dr. Doran, only about half of the Windover Pond has been excavated. He estimates that another 168 or so individuals may still lie buried within the peat and covered by the pond.

### Public Use

If acquired, Brevard County would manage the site through their Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program to preserve the state's only designated State Archaeological Landmark. The manager proposed interpretive panels for the site. A management plan will be developed in coordination with Windover Farms subdivision and it will be managed as part of Brevard County's Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Guided tours will be provided to the site, coordinated through the Enchanted Forest or the Brevard Museum.

Windover Archaeological Site
FNAI Elements
no rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2009
Project Area (GIS Acres)	8
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	8
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$2,500

## Windover Archaeological Site



### WINDOVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

#### BREVARD COUNTY

- [White Box] Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- [Green Box] Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- [Yellow Box] Florida Forever BOT Projects
- [Hatched Box] Other Conservation Lands



0    0.1    0.2    0.4  
Miles



DECEMBER 2009

## Windover Archaeological Site

### Acquisition Planning

On 6/12/2009 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended to add the project to the A list of the Florida Forever projects contingent upon the Brevard County Commission's approval of a management prospectus. The management prospectus was delayed until the County had an agreed upon plan. At the 12/11/2009 ARC Meeting, the Council accepted the county's management prospectus submitted at that meeting.

On 12/10/2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, "Critical Historical Resources."

### Coordination

No acquisition partnerships have been proposed. Brevard County will manage the site.

### Management Policy Statement

To protect a valuable historical and cultural resource which is considered one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world and is designated a National Landmark.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** It is the burial site of more than 200 Native Americans who lived in the area about 7,000 years ago. The discoveries made at the Windover site have caused archaeologists to revise many long-accepted theories of early man in North America. The ancient pond's muck preserved the bones and even some of the brain material of those ancient people. While the pond is protected as a National Landmark, it would be possible for the remaining forested lot to be developed for residential use; each lot has designated access within the subdivision plat.

The site was discovered in 1982 when a backhoe operator discovered human bones in the black peat he was digging from the bottom of a pond. The developers, after being advised by the county medical examiner that the bones were very old and not the product of a recent mass murder, realized that the materials might be of archaeological significance. They then contacted the anthropology department of Florida State University. The developers—EKS Corporation—paid for radiocarbon dating on two samples. The first piece showed an age of 7,330 years, plus or minus 100 years, and the

second showed an age of 7,210 years, plus or minus 100 years. Radiocarbon dating over the three seasons of excavation indicated ages ranging from 6,990 years to 8,120 years, plus or minus 70 years. Scientists from around the world have taken part in the study, preservation, and analysis of materials taken from the pond.

**Manager** The EEL Program Selection and Management Committee (PSMC) reviewed this at their meeting on 4/29/2009 and made a motion to accept management of the site if acquired. On 8/18/2009, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners agreed with the EEL PSMC, contingent upon management stipulations referenced at the Board meeting. The EEL program is agreeable to managing the site under the following conditions and in accordance with applicable laws:

1. Brevard County will manage the property consistent with the covenants and deed restrictions of Windover Farms.
2. The EEL Program will designate the site as a Category 3 Sanctuary, that limits access and development of recreational amenities.
3. Public use will be limited to supervised (guided) tours only with supervision by the EEL Program.
4. Public use would be for educational or scientific purposes only, and not exceed the current levels of use.
5. The boundary will be marked in an aesthetically pleasing and unobtrusive manner that is consistent with the Windover Covenants and Deed Restrictions.
6. The physical location of the site should not be advertised on any maps, graphs or other literature.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Windover Archaeological Site is south of Titusville in Brevard County. It is part of Windover Farms subdivision and is approximately two miles from the St. Johns Wildlife refuge, 10 miles from Kennedy Space Center and Merritt Island National Wildlife refuge and 15 miles from the Canaveral National Seashore. The pond is located on part of one of the five lots, surrounded by a beautiful oak hammock. The property is located between Windover Way, the main street in the subdivision and Bird Lake Marsh, a 600-acre property owned by the St. John's Water Management District. The property remains a natural sanctuary, has undulating terrain, with a canopy of oaks and contains a diverse selection of native plants. There is no other public access to Bird Lake Marsh. This is one of the few remaining undeveloped parcels within the subdivision. It is located one mile from the intersection of

Interstate 95 and State Road 50.

### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

A management plan for the site would be developed within one year. Approval of the plan by the Brevard County Commission would be required prior to submittal to ARC. In addition, the County Commission will expect support for the plan from the Windover Community Association prior to approval. The State Bureau of Historic Preservation would be contacted during the restoration planning process for input. In addition, the State would be contacted with regards to the development of appropriate interpretive signage. There would be no additional staff added to the EEL Program to manage this site.

***Revenue-generating potential*** There is no revenue-generating potential for this site.

***Cooperators in management activities*** Brevard County would be the management entity.

***Management Costs and sources of revenue*** The management costs for the site would be included in the operating budget for the EEL Program as may be determined by the Board of County Commissioners. The revenue source would be property taxes.



Hand tools found while excavating the Windover Archaeological Site show clues to lives lived as far back as 8,000 years ago. Photo from the Florida Photographic Archives, Florida Department of State.

*Updated 2/23/2012*

# Wolfe Creek Forest

## Santa Rosa County

## Critical Natural Lands

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Wolfe Creek Forest project will conserve and protect wildlife species, and protect and provide opportunities for carefully controlled public uses, including sustainably managed silvicultural practices.

Purposes of acquisition include protection of the biodiversity, protection of the quality and natural functions of the land and water systems, protection of the surface waters of the state, provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, and provision of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Conservation of lands within the project would afford protection to numerous seepage and blackwater stream systems that are contiguous with these conservation lands and the Blackwater River. These stream systems support numerous rare aquatic flora and fauna, and are considered a focal habitat of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation commission's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Twelve archaeological sites, two of which are historic and ten of which are prehistoric, one of which is Wolfe Creek Mill, are within the project.

### Manager

The Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/DOF) is recommended as manager of the project.

### General Description

The Wolfe Creek Forest project for fee-simple acquisition includes approximately 10,075 (GIS) acres in central Santa Rosa County, between Blackwater River State Forest (Forest) to the east, and Whiting Field

Naval Air Station to the southwest. It has a tax assessed value of \$14,080,729; all essential parcels. This project shares 5.7 miles of its southern boundary with two disjunct tracts of the state forest, forming a connection between all three tracts. Within it run 35 miles of streams that feed into Big Coldwater Creek and Big Juniper Creek, two major tributaries of the Blackwater River. The nearest city is Milton, Florida. The property is owned by Conservation Forestry of Florida, LLC, and is managed by American Forest Management.

Most of the site (82%) is in various stages of intensively managed pine plantation in areas that historically supported upland pine forest and sandhills. Approximately 18% of the site can be readily classified into natural communities. The most prominent and those in the best condition are wetlands that include seepage and blackwater streams, and associated bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, and baygall. A few dome swamps occur with the plantations. Upland natural communities include a few small areas of mesic flatwoods and mesic hammock. The highest elevations, 220 feet above mean sea level, occur in the northernmost portion of the project (upper Wolfe Creek), and on either side of County Road 191 in the easternmost portion. The lowest elevations, around 30 feet above sea level, are in the Coldwater Creek floodplain in the western part of the proposal. From CR 191 the terrain generally slopes downward to the east, toward Big Juniper Creek. West of the road, and from north to south, the terrain slopes downward in a southwesterly direction toward Coldwater Creek.

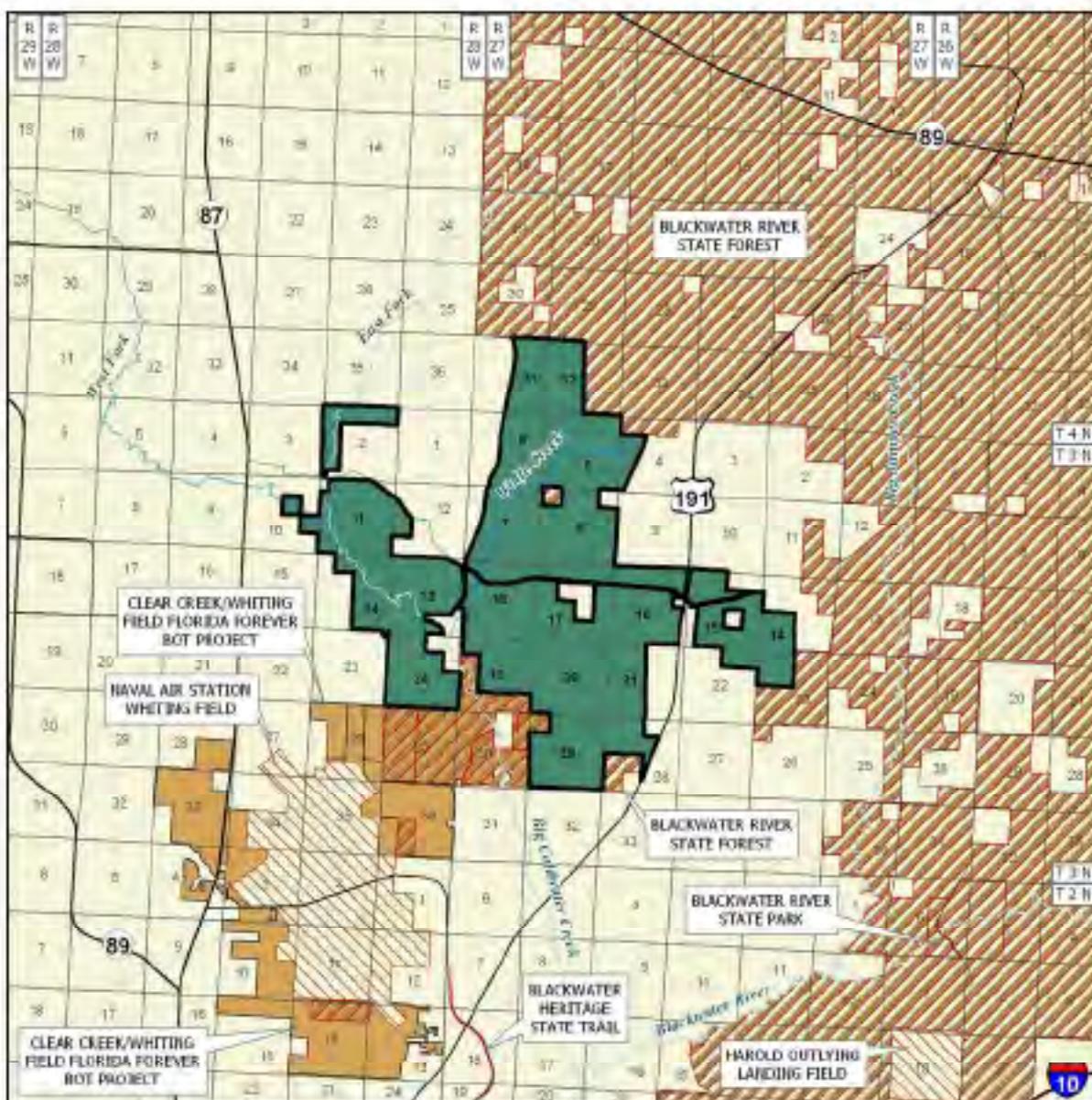
The project is within a large gap in conservation lands between Whiting Field, outparcels of Blackwater River

Wolfe Creek Forest	
FNAI Elements	
<i>Hairy-peduncled Beaksedge</i>	G2/S2
<i>Pescador's Bottle-Cased Caddisfly</i>	G1G3/S3
<i>Southeastern Weasel</i>	G5T4/S3?
<i>Spoon-leaved Sundew</i>	G5/S3
<i>Little Blue Heron</i>	G5/S4

9 rare species are associated with the project

Placed on List	2010
Project Area (GIS Acres)	10,075
Acres Acquired (GIS)	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining (GIS)	10,075
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$14,080,729

## Wolfe Creek Forest

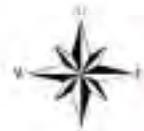


### WOLFE CREEK FOREST

#### **SANTA ROSA COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands

0      1      2      4  
Miles



JUNE 2010

## **Wolfe Creek Forest**

State Forest, and the main tract of the Forest. The Wolfe Creek Forest tract, according to the Florida Master Site File, holds 12 archaeological sites, two of which are historic and ten of which are prehistoric, one of which is Wolfe Creek Mill.

### **Public Use**

The project has potential for a variety of forest related recreational activities including activities such as canoeing, bird watching, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, biking, environmental education, nature study and photography. Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor resource based recreation activities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On 6/11/2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Wolfe Creek Forest project to the Florida Forever priority list in the Climate Change Lands category.

### **Coordination**

The Department of Defense (DOD) has been interested in partnering with the state for nearby lands, however, they have not expressed a specific interest in assisting in the acquisition of this tract. Furthermore, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) does not have interest in acquisition of this tract at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The FFS has submitted a management prospectus for this project, with the primary land management goals of restoration, maintenance and protection in perpetuity of all native ecosystems; integration of compatible human uses; and insurance of long-term viability of populations and species considered rare.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The tract is dominated by silviculture, but many of the plantations have retained some of the understory including wiregrass, bluestem grass, gallberry, and yaupon holly. With thinning, prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silviculture to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits. With the removal of offsite pine species, re-planting of longleaf pines, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices,

this project could be restored to a more natural state. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

**Manager** The FFS is recommended as manager of the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the project's upland pine and sandhill areas have been altered by silvicultural operations, and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber species are off-site species will necessitate removal as well as the restoration of native ground covers and canopy. Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development and implementation, because several rare or listed species are expected to occur in the project. Development of facilities, as on all conservation lands, would be kept to a level necessary to assure a high quality experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration efforts will focus on introduction of prescribed fire, removal of off site pine species, exotic species treatment, facilitating the restoration of native groundcovers, and possibly wetland restoration. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be moderate to high initially to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a State Forest. Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain this area as a State Forest.

### **Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor resource based recreation activities such as hiking, hunting and fishing. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a State Forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use.

Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, providing site security, and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a road plan to identify those roads to be utilized for vehicular access by the public, those roads that are required for administrative use, and roads that are determined to be unnecessary for

management or access should be closed. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project are conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas, maintenance of natural communities, and responsible public access. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on those specific sites. Very little of this project area has been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Burning goals for this project will be to eventually establish an all-season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Timber management activities will primarily consist of re-introducing longleaf pines, restoration harvests and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to identify areas that are appropriate for responsible recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be at a minimum required to allow suitable public access, provide facilities for public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated

that interpretative and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderately high.

**Capital Project Expenditures** Florida Forever capital project expenditures are needed on this tract for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use, and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horse back riding and biking. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, the FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

<b>SALARY (4 FTE)</b>	<b>\$132,141</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$315,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>\$188,600</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$635,741</b>

*Updated 2/27/2012*

Information about the Florida Forever program is available at the Department of Environmental Protection web site at:

<http://floridaforever.org/>

These project descriptions, maps and summaries are stored as Adobe PDF files to reduce their size and make them more widely readable. If your computer is not fitted with Adobe PDF reader, you can get it free at the Adobe company web site at:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

To receive e-mail announcements about the meetings and agendas for the Acquisition and Restoration Council, please send an e-mail to:

[arc\\_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:arc_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us)

Type “Add me to the ARC e-mail list” on the subject line of your e-mail.

## Ranking History of the Florida Forever Projects, 2003 - 2012

To follow the status of these projects in the last 10 years, please refer to the Symbols and Notes described below. For example, projects marked "BF" in one year were on the B List of priorities to be purchased as full-fee.

### Explanation of Symbols:

Projects ranked in the following groups beginning June 2010:

CC = Climate Change	S = Substantially Complete
CN = Critical Natural	L = Less-Than-Fee
P = Partnerships	CH = Critical Historical

Projects ranked in the following Groups in 2001-2009:

AF / BF = Full Fee project in "A" or "B" group
AL / BL = Less-Than-Fee project in "A" or "B" group
ASm / BSm = Small Parcels project in "A" or "B" group

Notes: (1) Ranking is based on Council's annual voting @ December meeting; interim vote not included.

(2) Projects 90% or more complete qualify for continued funding pursuant to Section 259.032(8), F.S.

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adams Ranch (6/2007-added)						AL	AL	AL	1L	1L
Alderman's Ford Addition (2003-last on list)	BF	BF								
Alford Arm (2001-100% acquired)										
Allapattah Flats (6/2005-removed)	BF	AF	AF							
Andrews Tract (1990-acquired)										
Annutteliga Hammock	BF	8P	8P							
Apalachicola Bay (1991-more than 90 percent complete)										
Apalachicola River	AF	4CN	4CN							
Apalachicola River & Bay (1991-split into Apalachicola River project & Apalachicola Bay project)										
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	10CC	10CC
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	19P	20P
Atsena Otie Key (1996-last on list)										
Avalon Tract (1992-more than 90% complete)										
Ayavalla Plantation							AL	AL	4L	5L
B J Bar Ranch (12/2010-more than 90% complete; removed)						AL	AL	AL	2L	
Babcock Ranch (2006-complete)		AL	AL	AL	AL					
Bald Point Road (1999-renamed Dickerson Bay/Bald Point)										
Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River		AF	AF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	27P	27P
Balm-Boyette Scrub (1992-more than 90% complete)										
Barnacle Addition, The (2000-last on list)										
Battle of Wahoo Swamp (1/2005-removed; 6/2005-restored)		AF	AF		BF	BF	BF	BF	5CH	5CH
Bear Creek Forest (Interim 2004-added; 6/2005-moved to B list)				BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	23CN	21CN
Bear Hammock								BF	22CN	22CN
Beaverdam / Sweetwater Creeks (1994-added to Apalachicola River project)										
Belle Meade (6/2006-moved to A list)	AF	AF	AF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	9CN	9CN
Big Bend Coast Tract (1997-last on list)										
Big Bend Swamp / Holopaw Ranch	AL	8L	8L							
Big Mound Property (1986-100% complete)										
Big Shoals Corridor/Brown Tract (1988-more than 90% complete)										

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Blackwater River (1995-renamed Juniper Creek Watershed)										
Bluehead Ranch (1987-last on list)										
BMK Ranch (1995-renamed Wekiva-Ocala Greenway)										
Bombing Range Ridge	AF	3CN	2CN							
Bower Tract (aka Double Branch Bay; 1986-100% complete)										
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	ASm	3P	3P							
Brevard Turtle Beaches (1991-added to Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge)										
Caber Coastal Connector (12/2004-added)			AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	2CC	2CC
California Swamp (2001-last on list)										
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	11CN	12CN
Camp Blanding-Osceola NF Greenway (6/2010-redesigned; see Raiford-Osceola)			AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF		
Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway (9/2010-renamed)									16CN	18CN
Canaveral Industrial Park (aka St. Johns River Marshes; 1988 last on list)										
Cape Haze / Charlotte Harbor (renamed Charlotte Harbor Estuary)										
Caravelle Ranch (1991-more than 90% complete)										
Carlton Half-Moon Ranch (1989-more than 90% complete)										
Carr Farms / Price's Scrub	BF	25P	29P							
Catfish Creek	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	21P	18P
Cayo Costa Island / North Captiva Island (2001-more than 95% complete)										
Cedar Key Scrub / Cedar Key Additions (1996-last on list)										
Cedar Swamp (1/2005-removed)	BF	BF	BF							
Charlotte Harbor (2001-added to Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor)										
Charlotte Harbor Estuary (6/2005-moved to A list)	ASm	3S	2S							
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	BF	16P	18P							
Chassahowitzka Swamp (1993-100% complete)										
Clay Ranch (6/2006-added)					AL	AL	AL	AL	9L	10L
Clear Creek / Whiting Field (Interim 2004-added; 2005-split into Phases I,II)				BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	9P	7P
Cockroach Bay Islands (1995-more than 90% complete)										
Consolidated Ranch (aka Rock springs Run; 1984-100% comp)										
Cooper's Point (joint acquisition by City of Clearwater & Pinellas Co.; 1987-100% complete)										
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	AF	6P	6P							
Cottee Point - (removed-unwilling seller; 1987-last on list)										
Coupon Bight / Key Deer	ASm	6CC	6CC							
Cross Florida Greenway (1996-renamed Etoniah/Cross FL Greenway)										
Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch					AF	AF	AF	AF	26P	24P
Crystal Cove & Crystal River II (1996-added to Crystal River)										
Crystal River (1995-renamed FL Springs Coastal Greenway)										
Crystal River State Reserve Additions (1986-added to Crystal R.)										
Curry Hammock (1991-more than 90% complete)										

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Cypress Creek (2000-last on list)										
Cypress Creek / Loxahatchee (2002-100% complete)	AF									
Cypress Gardens (2004-complete; removed)		AL								
Dade County Archipelago	BF	12P	14P							
Deering Estate Addition (1991-more than 90% complete)										
Deering Hammock (1986-100% complete)										
DeSoto Site (1988-100% complete)										
Devil's Garden		AF	18CN	15CN						
Devils Hammock (1997-last on list)										
Dickerson Bay / Bald Point	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	11CC	11CC
Dog Island (1982-last on list)										
Dunn's Creek (1/2005-removed)	BF	BF	BF							
East Everglades (1/2005-removed)	BSm	BF	AF							
Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem (6/2006-moved to A)	BF	BF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF		
Econ-St. Johns River Corridor (1995-renamed Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem; 6/2010-no more willing sellers-removed)										
El Destino (1988-last on list)										
Emerald Springs (aka Gainer Springs; ranked in 1987; 1991 added to Florida's 1st Magnitude Springs)										
Emeralda Marsh (12/2003-removed)	BF	BF	BF							
Emerson Point (1991-more than 90% complete)										
Enchanted Forest (1994-more than 90% complete)										
Escambia Bay Bluffs (1987-100% complete)										
Escribano Point		AF	5P	5P						
Estero Bay (6/2005-moved to A list)	AF	1S	1S							
Etoniah Creek (1995-rename Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway)										
Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway	AL	AF	13CN	10CN						
Everglades Agricultural Restoration Area (aka Talisman Sugar) (1999-last on list)										
Fakahatchee Strand (12/2003-removed)	ASm	ASm								
Fechtel Ranch (1986-renamed St. Johns River Forest Estates/Fechtel Ranch)										
Fisheating Creek	AL	5L	2L							
Flagler County Blueway			BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	13P	13P
Florida Keys Ecosystem	AF	1CC	1CC							
Florida National Scenic Trail						AF	AF	AF	28P	31P
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	BSm	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	8CC	8CC
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	AF	1P	1P							
Fort George Island (acquired) (1990-last on list)										
Fort San Luis (1982-100% complete)										
Freedom Tower (last on list 2000)										
Gadsden County Glades (1991-added to Apalachicola River)										
Galt Island (1998-last on list)										
Garcon Ecosystem	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	12CC	13CC
Garcon Point (1995-renamed Garcon Ecosystem)										

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Gasparilla Island Port Property (1986-last on list)										
Gateway (1985-100% complete)										
Gills Tract (1990-more than 90% complete)										
Golden Aster Scrub (1995-more than 90% complete)										
Goldhead Branch Addition (transferred to the LATF program; 1990-last on list)										
Goldy / Bellemead (1992-removed; less than 90% complete)										
Goodwood (1987-last on list)										
Grayton Dunes (1984-more than 90% complete)										
Green Swamp (9/2011-redesigned into 4 projects)	AL	23L								
Green Swamp - Hilochee Corridor (12/2011-added to list)										11P
Green Swamp - Peace River Headwaters (12/2011-added to list)										15L
Green Swamp - Pine Island Recharge Area (12/2011-added to list)										13L
Green Swamp - Withlachoochee River (12/2011-added to list)										19P
Grove, The (aka Governor Collins' Mansion; 1984-100% comp)										
Guana River (1985-acquired)										
Gulf Hammock (Interim 2004-added to list)				BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	13L	12L
Half Circle L Ranch (Interim 2003-added to list)			AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	20CN	19CN
Hall Ranch	BF	30P	30P							
Hammocks of the Lower Keys (1996-added to Florida Keys Ecosystem)										
Harris School, The (6/2005-moved to B List; 12/2007-removed)			AF	BF	BF					
Heather Island / Oklawaha River		AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	11P	12P
Highlands Hammock Addition (1996-last on list; acquired)										
Hixtown Swamp	BF	32CN	31CN							
Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property (ranked 1994-renamed FL Springs Coastal Greenway)										
Homosassa Springs (1988-more than 90% complete)										
Horr's Island / Barfield Bay (1988-last on list)										
Horse Creek Ranch (added 12/2010)									23L	24L
Horse Creek Scrub (1996-added to Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem)										
Horton Property (1980-last on list)										
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	16L	16L
Hutchinson Island-Blind Creek (1999--100% complete)										
Ichetucknee Trace (aka Ichetucknee Trace Limerock Mines)	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	31CN	32CN
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	BF	AF	4P	4P						
ITT Hammock (aka Snapper Creek; R. Hardy Matheson Preserve; 1980-100% complete)										
Jordan Ranch (1997-more than 90% complete)										
Josslyn Island (1989-more than 90% complete)										
Julington / Durbin (Creeks) Peninsula (1997-more than 90% comp)										
Juniper Creek Watershed (aka Blackwater River; 1997-more than 90% complete)										
Juno Hills (2000-more than 90% complete)										
Jupiter Ridge (1993-last on list)										

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Key West Customs House (1992-100% complete)										
Key West Salt Ponds (1988-last on list)										
Kissimmee Prairie / River Ecosystem (1997-more than 90% complete)										
Kissimmee - St. Johns River Corridor (Interim 2002-added to list)	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	21CN	20CN
Lafayette Forest (Interim 2004- added to list)			BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	29P	28P
Lake Arbuckle (1986-last on list; acquired)										
Lake Forest (1986-last on list)										
Lake George (1997-last on list; acquired)										
Lake Hatchineha Watershed	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	24CN	24CN
Lake Powell (aka Camp Helen; 2000-last on list)										
Lake Santa Fe (12/2003-added)			AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	20P	21P
Lake Talquin / Rocky Comfort Creek (12/2003-added; 1/2005-removed)			AF							
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	AF	1CN	1CN							
	AL									
	ASm									
Largo Narrows (1984-100% complete)										
Latt Maxcy Tract (see Kissimmee Prairie / River Ecosystem; 1980-last on list)										
Letchworth Mounds (12/2005-removed; 100% complete)	BF	BF	AF	AF						
Levy County Forest / Sandhills (1997-last on list)										
Little Gator Creek / Wood Stork Rookery (1982-100% complete)										
Little River Conservation Area (12/2004-added to list)				BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	21L	22L
Liverpool Park (2001-removed; SWFWMD pursuing acquisition)										
Lochloosa Wildlife (1994-added to list)	BSm	6S	6S							
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem (1993-added to list)	AF	BF	12CN	11CN						
Lower Apalachicola (1991-renamed Apalachicola Bay)										
Lower Econlockhatchee River (1995-renamed Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem)										
Lower Perdido River Buffer (2002-added to list)	AL	AL	AL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	17L	18L
Lower Suwannee River & Gulf Watershed (12/2010-added to list)									6L	6L
M.K. Ranch (1984-100% complete; later added to Apalachicola Bay)										
Mallory Swamp (1999-100% acquired by SRWMD)										
Manatee Estech (1987-100% complete)										
Maritime Hammock Initiative (added to Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge; 1997-last on list)										
Mashes Sands (1983-100% complete)										
Maytown Flatwoods (2010-added to list)									15L	20L
McKeithan Site (2001-100% acquired)										
Miami Rockridge Pinelands (1995-renamed Dade Co. Archipelago)										
Middle Chipola River (1996-added to list)		AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	14P	17P
Mill Creek (12/2003-added; 6/2005-moved to A list)		AL	14L	17L						
Millstone Plantation	AL	AL	AL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	24L	27L

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mullet Creek Islands (see Indian River Lagoon Blueway; 1988-last on list)										
Myakka Estuary (2001-renamed Charlotte Harbor Estuary)										
Myakka Prairies / MacArthur Tract (1994-100% complete)										
Myakka Ranchlands							AF	AF	7L	7L
New Mahogny Hammock (1984-added to No. Key Largo Hammocks)										
Newnan's Lake (2000-last on list)										
Nokuse Plantation (Interim 2003-added to list; 6/2005-removed; less than 90% complete)		AL	AL							
North Beach (1982-100% complete)										
North Fork St. Lucie Rive/North Port Marina (aka North Fork St. Lucie River; 12/2003-removed; less than 90% complete)										
North Indian River Lagoon (1999-added to Indian River Lagoon Blueway)										
North Key Largo Hammocks	ASm	3CC	3CC							
North Key Largo Hammocks Additions (1987-added to No. Key Largo Hammocks)										
North Layton Hammock (1993-added to Tropical Flyways)										
North Nokuse Plantation (6/2006-added to list; 12/2009-merged with Seven Runs Creek)					AL	AL	AL	AL		
North Peninsula (1993-more than 90% complete)										
Northeast Florida Blueway	AF	55CC	4CC							
Northeast Florida Timberlands & Watershed Reserve (Interim 2002-added)		AF	2P	2P						
Oaks, The (1980-last on list)										
Ochlockonee Bluffs (6/2006-added)					AL	AL	AL	AL		
Ochlockonee River Conservation Area (12/2004; 8/2009-comp)				AL	AL	AL	AL	AL		
Ohio Key South (1988-last on list)										
Okaloacoochee Slough (2000-more than 90% complete)										
Okeechobee Battlefield (Interim 2002-added)		AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	4CH	4CH
Old Leon Moss Ranch (1988-last on list)										
Old Town Creek Watershed	BL	18L	21L							
Oscar Scherer Addition (1991-more than 90% complete)										
Osceola Pine Savannas	AF	15CN	14CN							
Otter Mound (6/2004-removed)		AF	AF							
Owens-Illinois Property (1986-last on list)										
Pal-Mar	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	22P	22P
Panther Glades (8/2009-moved to A list)	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	BL	AL	5CN	5CN
Paynes Prairie (Additions) (1997-last on list)										
Peace River Refuge (9/2010-ARC added to list)									19L	19L
Peaceful Horse Ranch (9/2010-added)									13CC	14CC
Peacock Slough (1998-last on list)										
Perido Pitcher Plant Prairie	AF									
Pierce Mound Complex (6/2006-moved to A list)	BF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	20CN	2CH
Pillsbury Mound (12/2009-removed; acquisition complete)					AF	AF	AF			
Pine Island Ridge (1989-more than 90% complete)										
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem (Interi 2004-added)			AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	14CN	13CN

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Pineland Site Complex	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	6CH	6CH
Pineola Fem Grotto (1996-last on list)										
Pinhook Swamp	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	26CN	26CN
Placid Lakes Tract (1992-more than 90% complete)										
Point Washington (aka Deer Lake; 1996-renamed South Walton County Ecosystem)										
Ponce de Leon Springs (1980-last on list)										
Princess Place (1988-last on list)										
Promise Ranch (12/2004-added; 8/2009-acquired)			AL	AL	AL	AL				
Pumpkin Hill Creek	BF	AF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	24P	26P
Putnam County Sandhills (2000-last on list)										
Raiford-Osceola Greenway (6/2010-redesign for list)									11L	14L
Rainbow River (1990-last on list)										
Rainbow River Corridor (6/2007-added)						AF	AF	AF	15P	23P
Ranch Reserve (aka Escape Ranch; 1997-added to list)	BL	10L	11L							
Rookery Bay (1983-Additions II added; 2000-more than 90% complete)										
Rotenberger / Holey Land / Seminole Indian Lands (2000-more than 90% complete)										
Saddle Blanket Lakes Scrub (1994-last on list)										
St. George Island, Unit 4 (1982-100% complete)										
St. Joe Timberland (2000-created)	AF	4CC	5CC							
St. Johns River (1995-added to Wekiva-Ocala Greenway)										
St. Johns River Blueway (mvd to A Jun 2005)		AF	7CC	7CC						
St. Johns River Forrest Estates (1986-renamed St. Johns River Forrest Estates/Fechtel Ranch)										
St. Johns River Forrest Estates / Fechtel Ranch (1987-renamed St. Johns River)										
St. Joseph Bay Buffer (6/2005-removed; 90% complete)	AF	AF	AF	BF						
St. Martins River (1995-renamed Florida springs coastal Greenway)										
St. Michael's Landing (1996-last on list)										
Samson Point (1987-last on list)										
San Felasco Additions (1982-acquired)										
San Felasco Conservation Corridor (Interim 2003-added to list)			AL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	22L	23L
San Felasco Hammock State Preserve Addition (1991-more than 90% complete)										
San Pedro Bay (12/2003-added to list)			AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	27CN	27CN
Sand Mountain	BF	17P	25P							
Sandpiper Cove (1987-last on list)										
Save Our Everglades (Golden Gate Estates, Big Cypress, etc.)	ASm	ASm	ASm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	5S	5S
Scrub Jay Refugia (1997-added to Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem)										
Seabranch (1991-more than 90% complete)										
Searcy Estate (12/2003-added; 12/2005-removed; 100% complete)			AF	BF						
Sebastian Creek (2000-more than 90% complete)										

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Seminole Springs / Woods (1995-renamed Wekiva-Ocala Greenway)										
Seven Runs Creek (12/2009-combined with North Nokuse project)								AL	3L	3L
Shell Island (1983-100% complete)										
Shoal River Buffer (2010-added to list)									29CN	29CN
Silver River (1993-more than 90% complete)										
Six Mile Cypress Swamp (1980-last on list)										
South Goethe (2006-added to list)						AF	AF	AF	19CN	23CN
South Savannas (2000-less than 90% complete)										
South Walton County Ecosystem	ASm	ASm	ASm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	4S	4S	
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	BF	BF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	28CN	28CN	
Spring Hammock (1989-last on list)										
Spruce Creek	ASm	2S	3S							
Stark Tract (1987-100% complete)										
Stoney-Lane Tract (see FL Springs Coastal Greenway; 1987-100% complete)										
Suwannee Buffers (added to Pinhook Swamp; 2000-last on list)										
Suwannee County Preservation (6/2010-added to list)								25L	25L	
Tate's Hell / Carrabelle Tract (2004-more than 90% complete)	AF	AF								
Tequesta Site (added 1999 Interim #1; aka Miami Circle)(2000-100% complete)										
Terra Ceia (1996-added to list)	AF	9CC	9CC							
Three Chimneys (2000-added to list)	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	3CH	3CH	
Three Lakes / Prairie Lakes Addition (1992-less than 90% complete)										
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch (12/2008-added to list)								AL	12L	9L
Tiger Island / Little Tiger Island (2001-added to list)	AF	14CC	15CC							
Topsail Hill (added to Point Washington; 1996-renamed So. Walton Co. Ecosystem)										
Triple Diamond (2009-added to list)								AF	8CN	7CN
Tropical Flyways (added-Hammocks of Lower Keys; 1996-renamed FL Keys Ecosystem)										
Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands (1995-renamed Dade County Archipelago)										
Tsala Apopka Lake (1986-100% complete)										
Twelve Mile Swamp (6/2010-removed-no more willing sellers)	BF									
Twelvemile Slough (6/2006-moved to A list)	AF	AF	AF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	17CN	16CN
Upper Black Creek (1992-100% complete)										
Upper Econ Mosaic (1/2005-removed from list)	BF	BF	BF							
Upper St. Marks River Corridor (Interim 2003-added to list)			AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	7CN	8CN
Upper Shoal River (12/2003-added to list)			AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	30CN	30CN
Upper Yellow River (1/2005-removed)		AF	AF							
Volusia Conservation Corridor (2001-added to list)	AF	AF	AF	AL	AL	AL	AL	10P	10P	
Volusia EEL Addition (aka Woody Property)(1988-last on list)										
Wabasso Beach (1991-renamed Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge)										

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

### Addendum: Ranking History for All CARL / Florida Forever Projects (2003-2012)

Project Name	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Waccasassa Flats (1997-last on list)										
Wacissa / Aucilla Rivers Sinks (1985-added to list)	AF	6CN	6CN							
Waddell's Mill Pond (1996-added to Middle Chipola River)										
Wakulla Springs (1997-added to Wakulla Springs Protection Zone)										
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone (1996-added to list)	AF	7P	9P							
Warea Archipelago (1995-added to Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem)										
Warm Mineral Springs (1989-last on list)										
Watermelon Pond	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	16P	15P
Wekiva-Ocala Connector (1995-renamed Wekiva-Ocala Greenway)										
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway (1994-added to list)	AF	2CN	3CN							
Wekiva River Buffers (1993-100% complete)										
West Aucilla River Buffer (6/2007-added)					BL	BL	BL	20L		26L
West Bay Preservation Area (12/2011-added)										12CC
West Lake (1986-100% complete)										
Wetstone / Berkovitz (1992-100% complete)										
White Belt Ranch (1986-100% complete)										
Windley Key Quarry (1986-100% complete)										
Windover Archeological Site (12/2009-added)									1CH	1CH
Withlacoochee EEL Additions (aka Mondello/Cacciatore/Jumper Crk; 1997-last on list)										
Wolfe Creek Forest (9/2010-added to list)									25CN	25CN
Yamato Scrub (1997-more than 90% complete)										
Ybor City Addition (1989-more than 90% complete)										
Yellow River Ravines (12/2009-removed: >90% complete)	AF									

To follow the status of these projects in the last 10 years, please refer to the Symbols and Notes described below. For example, projects marked "BF" in one year were on the B List of priorities to be purchased as full-fee.

#### Explanation of Symbols:

Projects ranked in the following groups beginning June 2010:

CC = Climate Change	S = Substantially Complete
CN = Critical Natural	L = Less-Than-Fee
P = Partnerships	CH = Critical Historical

Projects ranked in the following Groups in 2001-2009:

AF / BF = Full Fee project in "A" or "B" group	AL / BL = Less-Than-Fee project in "A" or "B" group
ASm / BSm = Small Parcels project in "A" or "B" group	

Notes: (1) Ranking is based on Council's annual voting @ December meeting: interim vote not included.

(2) Projects 90% or more complete qualify for continued funding pursuant to Section 259.032(8), F.S.

**SUMMARIES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS**  
**ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL (ARC)**  
**JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2011**

**Public Hearing/Council Meeting, Friday, February 10, 2011** After hearing announcements and approving the meeting summaries of December 9 and 10, 2010, the ARC approved the following: an initial 10-year management plan for Indian Lake State Forest (Florida Forest Service [FFS]/Marion); a 10-year management plan update for Lake Talquin State Forest (FFS/Leon/Gadsden/Liberty/Wakulla); a  $3.86\pm$ -acre, 30-foot-wide, 50-year underground electrical utility easement to Clay Electric Cooperative, within the Caravelle Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission [FWCC]/Putnam) (Linear Facilities Policy [LFP]); a  $0.22\pm$ -acre, 50-year easement for natural gas pipeline pig launcher and access, and a  $1.082\pm$ -acre, five-year easement for construction purposes within the Wakulla State Forest (FFS/Leon) (Incompatible Use Policy [IUP]); a  $0.84\pm$ -acre, 30 $\pm$ -foot-wide access easement within the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (Putnam/IUP; a  $0.73\pm$ -acre, 50-year public easement for a proposed wastewater transmission line within the Cady Way Trail (OGT/Orange/Seminole/LFP; an  $80\pm$ -acre parcel of state-owned land currently part of the J.M. Bethea State Forest for surplus, pursuant to section 253.034(6), F.S., to be used as an exchange between the BTIITF and Mr. James M. Coleman for  $80\pm$  acres.

The ARC discussed management agreement amendments for the Babcock Ranch Preserve (Charlotte/Lee). The ARC determined the following fulfilled a clearly delineated state conservation policy and yielded a significant public benefit: a 69.59-acre conservation easement with 24.99 acres in Leon County, FL, and 44.60 acres in Grady County, GA, (property belonging to D. Lane Green and John C. Green); and a 31.23-acre conservation easement in Putnam County (property belonging to David Wiles and Danny R. Culbertson). No small management plans, minor adjustments to management plans, or emergency requests were made. No comments were offered during the public comment period.

**Public Hearing/Council Meeting, Friday, April 15, 2011** After hearing announcements (Howard Gregg retired/plaque sent to his new address) and approving the meeting summary of February 10, 2011, the ARC approved the following: a 2,071-acre reduction to the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Lake/Osceola/Polk/Highlands); a 6,211-acre reduction to the Annutelliga Hammock Florida Forever project boundary (Citrus/Hernando); an 87-acre reduction to the Twelvemile Slough Florida Forever project boundary (Hendry); with modifications, a request to authorize the Division of State Lands (DSL) to recommend certain access and utility easements under specific limited criteria to the Board of Trustees on behalf of the ARC; and a 10-year management plan update for Oscar Scherer State Park (Division of Recreation and Parks [DRP]/Sarasota).

The ARC deferred until the June meeting a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) 4.17-acre easement (parcel A) and a 10.33-acre easement (parcel B) within the St. Sebastian River State Park (DEP/DRP) plus a 1.4-acre easement (parcel C) within Valkaria Scrub/Cruickshank Preserve (Brevard) and a 2.48-acre easement (parcel D) within the Salt Lake WMA (FWCC) for I-95 storm water run-off retention areas (Brevard) (LFP). The ARC considered the final Land Management Review Team Reports without comment. The Council reviewed a management plan for a property 160 acres or smaller—Abercrombie Boat Ramp, 7.89 acres (Franklin). No amendments to plans or any emergency requests were on the agenda. No comments were offered during the public comment period.

**Public Hearing/Council Meeting, Friday, June 10, 2011** After hearing announcements (Tim Breault moving to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]; Scott Stroh, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) moving to a museum in Wisconsin; and Ken Reecy moving to the Department of Economic Opportunity and the rest of the Florida Communities Trust [FCT] staff moving to the Department of Environmental Protection [DEP]); and approving the meeting summary of April 15, 2011, the ARC approved the following agenda items: a 14,448-acre reduction to the Green Swamp Florida Forever project boundary; the conceptual redesign of Green Swamp Florida Forever project (Lake/Polk/Pasco) into four projects; a 10-year initial management plan for Crooked Lake Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) (FWCC/Polk); and a 10-year initial management plan for St. Marks River Preserve State Park (DRP/Jefferson/Leon).

The ARC approved with modifications the following: a request by DEP/DRP for an accelerated process for amending land management plans to develop new public camping facilities in state parks (DRP/statewide); and the deferred item from April's agenda--an easement request from the FDOT for the addition of four storm water management facilities along I-95 (Brevard) (LFP). The ARC reviewed minor amendments to management plans to expand optimum boundaries of Escribano Point Element of the Yellow River WMA (FWCC/Santa Rosa) and Florida Keys WEA (FWCC/Monroe); and an emergency request amendment to the Capital Improvements Work Plan to fund road improvements at the Dinner Island WMA (FWC/Hendry).

The ARC discussed easement requests over BTIITF conservation land as an informational item only. No comments were offered during the public comment period.

**Public Hearing/Council Meeting, Friday, August 19, 2011** After hearing announcements (Bob Ballard noted that the FPS would not be using the expedited process to amend unit management plans for family camping; Eric Sutton appointed new director of Habitat and Species Conservation/FWC ARC member) and approving the meeting summary of June 10, 2011, the ARC received public testimony and voted 8 to 1 (DEP) to further evaluate the West Bay Preservation Area/Bay County Florida Forever proposal. The ARC approved the following items: the FY 2011-2012 DSL Annual FF Work Plan for presentation to the BTIITF; a 10-year management plan update for the Nature Coast State Trail (OGT/Dixie/Gilchrist/Levy); and a  $0.56\pm$ -acre easement request from AT&T Mobility Corp for underground utilities and access, within Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve (DRP) (LFP); and with modification, a  $0.07\pm$ -acre easement request from FDOT for a public road right-of-way, within Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem/Mountain Lake Cutoff (FWC/Polk) (LFP). After a presentation, the ARC discussed the design of proposed storm water ponds located on BTIITF conservation land with recommendations for a checklist and a return discussion at a later date. The ARC was informed of a management plan for a property 160 acres or less—24-acre State Road 207 Mussallem Trailhead (St. Johns). No amendments to small acreage plans nor any emergency requests were received. No comments were offered during the public comment period.

**Public Hearing, Thursday, October 13, 2011** After hearing announcements (welcome to Clay Smallwood), the ARC placed the following items on the consent agenda: the meeting summary of August 19, 2011; the resource evaluations, prospectuses, and categories for the four projects created from the original Green Swamp Florida Forever project (Lake/Polk/Pasco); a 182-acre reduction to the Flagler County Blueway Florida Forever project boundary; a 10-year management plan update for Caloosahatchee Regional Park (DPR/Lee); a 10-year management plan update for Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve (Volusia); and an initial 10-year management plan for L. Kirk Edwards WEA (FWCC/Leon). The ARC reviewed the f

following 2011 annual reports: Update on the Status of Conservation Easements monitored by DSL; the Land Management Review Team Findings; and the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council. The ARC heard public testimony on the current Florida Forever projects and the new proposal (West Bay Preservation Area). The agenda included no requests for management plans for properties 160 acres or smaller; incompatible use policy/linear facilities policy evaluations; or emergency situations. During the comment period, Ms. Bonnie Basham, Florida Airboat Association and Everglades Coalition, spoke.

**Council Meeting, Friday, October 14, 2011** After hearing announcements (introduction of new members--Erma Slager/DEP Acting Deputy Secretary for the DEP Lands and Recreation/Chair of ARC; Eric Sutton/FWCC; Rob Bendus/DHR; Clay Smallwood/DSL Director; presentation of plaque to Tim Breault for service to the ARC), consent items from the previous day were approved unanimously. The reports discussed on 10/13 were offered for further discussion. The ARC heard presentations on the following: the Florida Forever Goals and Measures, Benchmarks, and the priority list by Gary Knight (Florida Natural Areas Inventory [FNAI]); and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives by Tim Breault (USFWS). During the public comment period, Colleen Castille (Doster Bunker group) spoke on the River Ridge property, part of Ochlockonee Bluffs Florida Forever project; Vickie Larson requested the public to contact her about ranking; and Dr. Frederick asked about a “user’s guide” to the spreadsheet on the DSL website).

**Public Hearing Meeting, Thursday, December 8, 2011** After hearing announcements, the ARC placed the following on the Consent Agenda: the meeting summaries of October 13 and 14, 2011; the proposed 2011 meeting calendar; the project evaluation report on West Bay Preservation Area; boundary reductions to two Florida Forever projects--Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway (1509 acres/Clay-Putnam-Marion) and St. Johns River Blueway (1656 acres/St. Johns); a surplus/sale of  $4.23\pm$ -acre parcel of state-owned property, part of the Cross Seminole Trail Corridor (Seminole County and OGT managed); and with modification, a 10-year management plan update for Seminole State Forest (Lake). The final Land Management Review Team Reports were presented to the ARC. The ARC was also informed of the following amendments to management plans: at Seabranch Preserve State Park, Phase II construction of a recreational trail, a trailhead and parking (DRP/Martin); and at Savannas Preserve State Park, construction of a recreational trail (DRP/Martin); and an 0.0243-acre easement across the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (OGT/Marion). No comments were offered during the public comment period.

**Council Meeting, Friday, December 9, 2011** After hearing announcements (presenting a plaque to Bob Ballard for his service on the Council), the ARC approved the Consent Agenda. The ARC then developed and approved the 2012 Florida Forever Priority List. No comments were offered during the public comment period.

## Partnership Agencies working with Florida Forever Projects

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Adams Ranch	TNC, Osceola Co., FNAI, DACS
Annutteliga Hammock	FDOT, Hernando County, SWFWMD, TNC, DOF, FWC
Apalachicola River	NWFWMD, TNC, FCT, DRP
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	USFWS, Mellon Foundation, Indian River/Brevard Counties, Archie Carr Working Group, DRP
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	SFWMD, Martin Co.
Ayavalla Plantation	TNC
Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River	Duval Co., SJRWMD, The Conservancy, Inc.
Battle of Wahoo Swamp	Sumter County Historical Society
Bear Creek Forest	DOF, TNC
Bear Hammock	FWC
Belle Meade	The Conservancy of SW Florida, FCT, Belle Meade Wrk Grp, FWC
Big Bend Swamp / Holopaw Ranch	FNAI, Osceola Co, FWC.
Bombing Range Ridge	SWFWMD, Polk Co., US Air Force, TNC, Brevard Co.
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	Brevard County, SJRWMD, City of Titusville, TNC, CAMA
Caber Coastal Connector	DRP, TNC
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	TNC
Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway	Conservation Trust of Florida, OGT
Carr Farm / Price's Scrub	OGT, Alachua County
Catfish Creek	TNC, SFWMD, DRP
Charlotte Harbor Estuary	SWFWMD, FCT, Charlotte/Lee Counties
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	FWC, FCT
Clay Ranch	TNC
Clear Creek/Whiting Field	TNC, OGT, DOF, Santa Rosa Co., US Navy, USDOJ
Corkscrew Reg. Ecosystem Watershed	SFWMD, TNC, TPL, Lee/Collier Counties, FCT, CREW Ld/Water Trust, City of Bonita Springs
Coupon Bight / Key Deer	SFWMD, USFWS, TNC, FCT, Monroe Co.
Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch	SWFWMD, Pasco Co.
Dade County Archipelago	FCT, Miami-Dade Co.
Devil's Garden	TNC, DOF
Dickerson Bay / Bald Point	TPL, USFWS, FCT, Wakulla Co.
Escribano Point	NWFWMD, USAF
Estero Bay	TNC, CAMA, USFWS
Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway	SJRWMD, OGT, DOF
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	TNC, FWC
Flagler County Blueway	SJRWMD, Flagler Co.
Florida Keys Ecosystem	TNC, SFWMD, USFWS, FCT, Monroe Co., DRP
Florida National Scenic Trail	OGT, USFS, Florida Trail Association, SRWMD
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	USFWS, SWFWMD, FCT, DRP
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	SRWMD, NWFWMD, FCT, SWFWMD, DRP
Garcon Ecosystem	NWFWMD, Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority
Green Swamp-Hilcohee Corridor	SWFWMD, SJRWMD, FWC, FCT, Polk Co., FL Audubon Society
Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters	Polk Co., SWFWMD
Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area	Lake Co.
Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters	FWC, Lake/Polk Counties, SWFWMD
Gulf Hammock	Conservation Fund
Half Circle L Ranch	No Partners
Hall Ranch	FWC
Heather Island / Ocklawaha	SJRWMD, TNC

## Partnership Agencies working with Florida Forever Projects

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Hixtown Swamp	SRWMD
Horse Creek Ranch	TNC
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	TNC, FNAI
Ichetucknee Trace	Columbia Co., TPL
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	Brevard, Ind. R./Martin/St. Lucie Counties, SJRWMD, FCT, NOAA
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	SJRWMD, Indian River Co.
Lafayette Forest	Conservation Fund, DOF, SRWMD
Lake Hatchineha Watershed	TNC
Lake Santa Fe	TNC, Alachua Co.
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	USFWS, TNC, SWFWMD, SFWMD, SJRWMD, FCT, FWC, Polk&Orange Co., NRCS, City of Orlando
Little River Conservation Area	No Partners
Lochloosa Wildlife	SJRWMD, FDOT, Alachua Co.
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	TNC, DOF, TPL, FL Audubon Society
Lower Perdido River Buffer	NWFWM, Conservation Fund, Escambia Co.
Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	SRWMD, The Conservation Fund
Maytown Flatwoods	TNC
Middle Chipola River	NWFWM, OGT
Mill Creek	No Partners
Millstone Plantation	TNC, TPL
Myakka Ranchlands	SWFWMD, Sarasota Co., TNC, Sarasota Conservation Foundation
North Key Largo Hammocks	USFWS, DRP, Monroe Co.
Northeast Florida Blueway	Duval/St. Johns Counties, SJRWMD, FCT, NOAA
Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	TNC, City of Jacksonville, Duval Co., SJRWMD, FCT, US Navy, US Army National Guard
Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	Tall Timbers
Okeechobee Battlefield	Archaeological-Historical Conservancy, Inc.
Old Town Creek Watershed	SWFWMD
Osceola Pine Savannas	SJRWMD, FWC
Pal-Mar	SFWMD, FCT, Palm Beach/Martin Counties
Panther Glades	TNC, FWC
Peace River Refuge	Wildlands Conservation
Peaceful Horse Ranch	SWFWMD, DRP
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	TNC, NWFWM, US Navy
Pierce Mound Complex	City of Apalachicola, FWC
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	TNC
Pineland Site Complex	UF Foundation, Lee Co., Calusa Land Trust, The Archaeological Conservancy
Pinhook Swamp	SRWMD, SJRWMD, USFS, TNC
Pumpkin Hill Creek	SJRWMD, TNC, FCT, City of Jacksonville, CAMA, Duval Co.
Raiford-Osceola Greenway	OGT, Conservation Trust of Florida
Rainbow River Corridor	DRP, Rainbow River Conservation Inc.
Ranch Reserve	SJRWMD, TNC, FWC
San Felasco Conservation Corridor	Santa Fe Land Trust, Alachua Co.
San Pedro Bay	FWC, DOF
Sand Mountain	NWFWM
Save Our Everglades	NPS, USFWS, DOT, USDA
Seven Runs Creek	USAF, TNC
Shoal River Buffer	TNC, USDOD

## Partnership Agencies working with Florida Forever Projects

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Partners</b>
South Goethe	DOF, TNC
South Walton County Ecosystem	TNC, DRP, DOF, FCT
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	NWFWMD, TNC, FWC, Alachua Co.
Spruce Creek	TPL, FCT, Volusia Co., SJRWMD
St. Joe Timberland	TNC, FWC, CAMA, DOF, DRP
St. Johns River Blueway	SJRWMD, FCT, St. Johns Co.
Suwannee County Preservation	No Partners
Terra Ceia	SWFWMD, USFWS
Three Chimneys	City of Ormond Beach, Ormond Beach Historical Trust
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch	No Partners
Tiger Island / Little Tiger Island	TPL
Triple Diamond	TNC
Twelvemile Slough	TNC
Upper Shoal River	TNC, USDOD
Upper St. Marks River Corridor	TNC, NWFWMD, Leon Co.,
Volusia Conservation Corridor	SJRWMD, Volusia Co., USDA
Wacissa / Aucilla River Sinks	SRWMD, FWC, TNC
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	DRP, TNC, TPL, Wakulla Co.
Watermelon Pond	Alachua Co., FWC
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	FCT, Lake County Water Authority, SJRWMD, FDOT, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority
West Aucilla River Buffer	TNC
West Bay Preservation Area	Bay Co., DOD, West Bay Preservation Area Advisory Committee
Windover Archaeological Site	Brevard Co.
Wolfe Creek Forest	TNC, DOF

\*Partnership: An entity providing funds for purchase or significant staff contribution to assist in the purchase; for example, a non profit preparing the application, as a minimum.

FNAI--Florida Natural Areas Inventory	NWFWMD--Northwest Florida Water Management District
DOD--Department of Defense (U.S.)	SFWMD--South Florida Water Management District
DOF/DACS--Div. of Forestry/Dept. of Agricultural & Consumer Services	SJRWMD--St. Johns River Water Management District
FFS/DACS--(7/1/2011) Florida Forest Service/DACS	SWFWMD--Southwest Florida Water Management District
DRP--Division of Recreation and Parks aka Florida Park Service	SRWMD--Suwannee River Water Management District
OGT--Office of Greenway and Trails/(7/1/2011) DRP	NOAA--National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
DOT--Florida Department of Transportation	NRCS--Natural Resources Conservation Service
FWC--Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	NPS--National Park Service
FCT--Florida Communities Trust/(7/1/2011) DEP	USAF--US Air Force
CAMA--Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas/DEP	USACOE--US Army Corps of Engineers
TNC--The Nature Conservancy	USDOD--US Department of Defense
TPL--Trust for Public Lands	USDA--US Department of Agriculture
	USDOJ--US Department of Justice
	USFS--US Forest Service
	USFWS--US Fish and Wildlife Service

## Conservation Land Acquisition Programs of Local Governments

County/City	Year	Revenues <sup>1</sup>	Source
Alachua	2000, 2008	\$29 + \$40	¼ mil ad valorem; .005 sales tax for two years
Boca Raton (Palm Beach County)	1991	\$12	¼ mil ad valorem
Brevard	1990, 2004	\$55 + \$60	¼ mil ad valorem & <b>1/5</b> mil ad valorem
Broward	1989, 2000	\$75 + \$200 <sup>2</sup>	¼ mil ad valorem
Charlotte	1992, 2006	<b>\$1.2</b> + \$77	1/20 mil ad valorem & <b>1/5</b> mil ad valorem
Collier	2002, 2006	\$75 + \$110	¼ mil ad valorem (cap increased from \$75 in 2006)
Davie	1998, 2005	\$12 + \$25	¾ mil ad valorem
Fernandina Beach (Nassau County)	2001	\$4.75	ad valorem <sup>3</sup>
Flagler	1988, 2002, 2008	\$7.8 + \$6.7 + \$70	1/3 mil ad valorem & 3/10 mil ad valorem
Hernando	1993	<b>\$0.3/yr</b>	annual appropriation (ad valorem)
Hillsborough	1987, 1990, 2008	<b>\$21</b> + \$100 + \$200	¼ mil ad valorem, ad valorem (no limit)
Indian River	1992, 2004	\$26 + \$50	½ mil ad valorem
Jacksonville-Duval	1990, 2000	\$13.5 + <b>\$0.3</b> + \$16.5 + <b>\$5</b> + \$50	general revenue & utility assessment & ½¢ sales tax
Jupiter (Palm Beach County)	2004	\$17	.22 mil ad valorem (subject to change)
Lake	2004	\$36	1/3 mil ad valorem
Lake Co. Water Authority	2002	\$1.5	½ mil ad valorem (changes yearly)
Lee	1996	\$80-90	½ mil ad valorem
Leon	2000	\$50	1¢ sales tax
Manatee	1984	\$37	\$500,000 annually
Marion	1989	\$20	½ mil ad valorem
Martin	1988, 1998, 2006	\$20, <b>\$47, \$30</b>	⅛ mil ad valorem, 1 cent sales tax, <sup>4</sup> ½ cent sales tax
Miami-Dade	1990, 1996, 2004	<b>\$80</b> , \$8, (\$90+\$30+\$10)	¾ mil ad valorem, 1/10 mil ad valorem, millage rate undecided
Monroe	1987	<b>\$1.5/yr</b>	resort tax & state park surcharge (s. 380.0685, F.S.) & land authority (s. 380.0663, F.S.)
Orange	1992, 2003, 2006	\$25 + <b>\$2</b> + \$20 + <b>35</b>	\$2 million utility tax, public service tax bond, cash and bonds
Osceola	2004	\$60	¼ mil ad valorem
Oviedo (Seminole County)	2003	\$4.5	¼ mil ad valorem
Palm Beach	1991, 1999	\$100 + \$150	¼ mil ad valorem
Pasco	2004	\$36.5	¼ ¢ sales tax
Pinellas	1972, 1981, 1987, 1990, 2000	<b>\$15.9</b> + <b>\$7.9</b> + <b>\$24</b> + <b>\$35.2</b> + <b>\$78.4</b>	1 mil + ¼ mil + ½ mil ad valorem + 1¢ + 1¢ sales tax
Polk	1995	\$20+	<b>1/5</b> mil ad valorem
Sarasota	1999, 2005	\$53, \$170	¼ mil ad valorem, 10 year extension
Seminole	1990, 2000	\$20.3, \$5	¼ mil ad valorem
St. Augustine (St. Johns County)	2004	\$1.4	1/10 mil ad valorem
St. Lucie	1995, 2002	\$20 & \$56.9	¼ mil ad valorem
Titusville (Brevard County)	2004	\$10.3	<b>3/5</b> mil ad valorem
Venice (Sarasota County)	2003	\$10	.205 mil ad valorem for land and outdoor facilities
Volusia	1986, 2000	\$20 + \$40	¼ mil + 2 mil ad valorem

<sup>1</sup> Revenues in millions; non-bonded revenues are ***italicized-bold***. Over \$2 billion raised by local governments.

<sup>2</sup> Additional \$30 million approved for acquiring active recreational parks, and another \$170 million approved for capital improvements to construct or improve facilities on existing and new parks.

<sup>3</sup> Set aside from City's general ad valorem revenues.

<sup>4</sup> Split between County and four municipalities.

Updated January, 2010

## CRITERIA FOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS

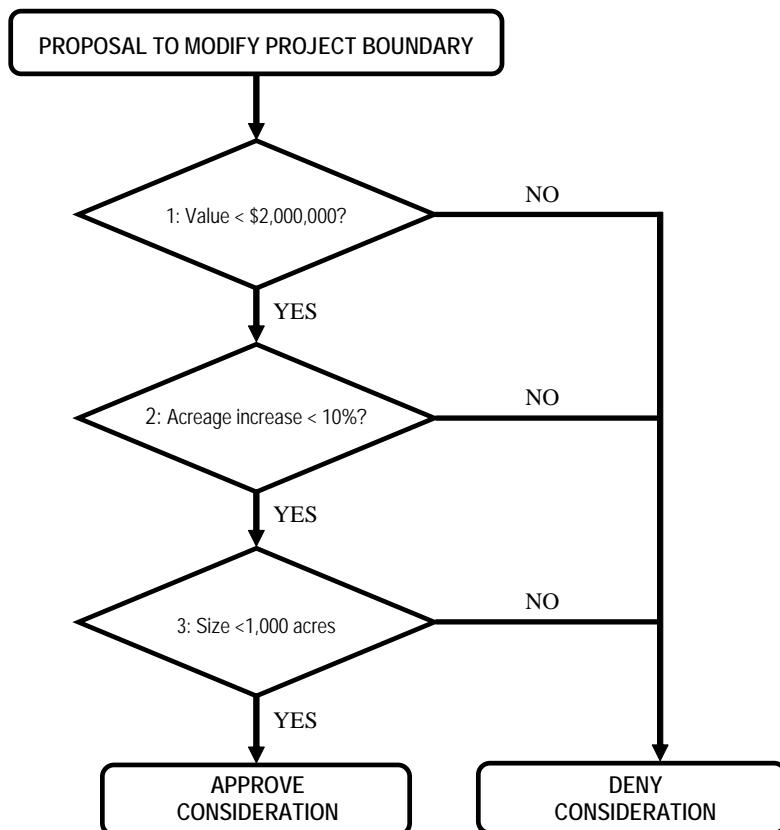
### ARC Criteria for Considering Boundary Additions:

Proposals for expanding a Florida Forever project boundary will be presented to the ARC for consideration if all of the following criteria are met:

1. Tax valuation of the proposed addition is less than \$2 million; and
2. Acreage of proposed addition is less than 10% of the size of the existing project boundary, including areas previously acquired; and
3. Acreage of proposed addition is less than 1,000 acres.

Proposals not meeting all three criteria will be considered by the Council as a new proposal during the next Florida Forever evaluation cycle if properly submitted pursuant to Rule 18-24, F.A.C.

Sponsors of proposed boundary additions shall provide documentation that the owners have been notified and have not indicated opposition to being included on the state's list.



### Factors to Consider when Developing Staff Recommendations:

In developing recommendations for proposals approved for consideration by the Council, staff will analyze each proposal using the following factors:

- The quality and importance of the resources within the proposed addition, including how the proposed addition meets the goals and measures of the Florida Forever program.
- The designated management agency's recommendations regarding the addition and its necessity to accomplish a specific management objective.
- The size, ownership, and estimated cost of the proposed addition, including the feasibility of the state acquisition.
- The availability of other funds to acquire the property.
- The adequacy of resource description and ownership information (including tax I.D. numbers, parcel acreages, and tax valuations).
- The relative urgency of action required, assessing the state's potential for losing an opportunity for acquiring the property or for acquiring it at a lower cost.

Project Name	Acreage	Project Counties
Save Our Everglades	222,691	Collier
Pinhook Swamp	183,991	Baker/ Columbia
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	176,876	Glades/ Highlands
St. Joe Timberland	170,341	Bay/ Walton/ Washington/ Gadsden/ Liberty/ Gulf / Franklin/ Wakulla/ Leon/ Jefferson/ Taylor
Northeast Florida Timberland & Watershed Reserve	146,164	Nassau/ Duval/ Clay
Bear Creek Forest	104,461	Calhoun/ Bay/ Gulf
Etoniah / Cross Fla. Greenway	89,907	Putnam/ Marion/ Clay/ Levy/ Citrus
Devil's Garden	82,508	Hendry/ Collier
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	82,048	Lake/ Orange/ Seminole/ Volusia
Volusia Conservation Corridor	79,612	Volusia/ Flagler
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	69,500	Collier/ Lee
Raiford-Osceola Greenway	67,457	Baker/ Union
Panther Glades	64,701	Hendry
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	60,117	Highlands/ Polk/ Lake/ Osceola
Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor	55,894	Lake/ Polk
Lower Suwannee River-Gulf Watershed	54,126	Dixie
Big Bend Swamp/ Holopaw Ranch	52,996	Osceola
Green Swamp-Withlacoochee R Hdwtrs	52,115	Lake/ Pasco/ Polk
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	49,583	Osceola/ Indian River
Osceola Pine Savannas	46,093	Osceola
Bombing Range Ridge	45,474	Polk/ Osceola
Charlotte Harbor Estuary	45,239	Charlotte/ Lee/ Sarasota
San Pedro Bay	44,763	Madison/ Taylor
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	41,872	Brevard
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	41,108	Citrus
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	36,216	Okeechobee/ Indian River
Ranch Reserve	36,116	Osceola/ Brevard/ Indian River
Pal-Mar	35,668	Palm Beach/ Martin
Sand Mountain	34,361	Washington/ Bay
Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway	33,861	Baker/ Bradford/ Clay
Northeast Florida Blueway	32,564	Duval/ St. Johns/ Flagler
Lochloosa Wildlife	31,807	Alachua
Annutteliga Hammock	31,250	Hernando/ Citrus
Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area	30,485	Lake
St. Johns River Blueway	27,997	St. Johns
Belle Meade	27,787	Collier
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	26,610	Volusia/ Brevard/ Indian River/ St. Lucie/ Martin
Seven Runs Creek	26,610	Walton
Pumpkin Hill Creek	26,050	Duval
Gulf Hammock	25,600	Levy
Hixtown Swamp	24,344	Madison
Wacissa / Aucilla River Sinks	24,147	Jefferson/ Taylor
Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters	23,719	Polk
South Walton County Ecosystem	22,674	Walton
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	22,025	Gilchrist/ Hamilton/ Marion/ Volusia
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	20,727	Lee/ Charlotte
Heather Island / Oklawaha River	19,828	Marion
Apalachicola River	18,940	Liberty/ Gadsden/ Calhoun/ Jackson
Myakka Ranchlands	18,739	Sarasota
Catfish Creek	18,641	Polk
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	18,497	Hendry/ Glades
Horse Creek Ranch	16,510	Desoto/ Hardee
Twelvemile Slough	15,835	Hendry
Upper St. Marks River Corridor	15,670	Leon/ Jefferson/ Wakulla
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	14,470	Martin
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	14,081	Bay/ Hernando/ Jackson/ Lafayette/ Leon/ Levy/ Madison/ Marion/ Wakulla/ Suwannee/ Washington/ Walton/ Hamilton
Estero Bay	13,925	Lee

Middle Chipola	13,538	Jackson/ Calhoun
Lafayette Forest	12,800	Lafayette
Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch	12,432	Pasco
Mill Creek	12,285	Marion
Watermelon Pond	12,174	Levy/ Alachua
Upper Shoal River	12,035	Walton
Florida Keys Ecosystem	11,849	Monroe
South Goethe	11,705	Levy/ Marion
Half Circle L Ranch	11,269	Collier/ Hendry
Adams Ranch	11,057	Osceola
Lake Santa Fe	10,735	Alachua/ Bradford
Wolfe Creek Forest	10,645	Santa Rosa
Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River	9,500	Nassau/ Duval
Hall Ranch	8,520	Charlotte
Triple Diamond	7,991	Okeechobee
Lower Perdido River Buffer	7,800	Escambia
Caber Coastal Connector Tract	7,761	Levy
Garcon Ecosystem	7,735	Santa Rosa
Maytown Flatwoods	7,598	Brevard
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	7,452	Wakulla/ Leon
Old Town Creek Watershed	7,285	Hardee/ Polk
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	6,907	Gadsden/ Liberty
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	6,794	Escambia
Ayavalla Plantation	6,097	Leon
Dickerson Bay / Bald Point	5,851	Wakulla/ Franklin
Lake Hatchineha Watershed	5,443	Osceola/ Polk
Clear Creek / Whiting Field	5,291	Santa Rosa
Bear Hammock	4,811	Marion
North Key Largo Hammocks	4,621	Monroe
West Bay Preservation Area	4,494	Bay
Flagler County Blueway	4,429	Flagler/ Volusia
Peaceful Horse Ranch	4,414	Desoto
Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	4,161	Leon/ Gadsden
Terra Ceia	4,065	Manatee
Peace River Refuge	3,855	Desoto
Escribano Point	2,914	Santa Rosa
Spruce Creek	2,831	Volusia
Coupon Bight / Key Deer	2,830	Monroe
Ichetucknee Trace	2,590	Columbia
Clay Ranch	2,380	Putnam
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch	2,230	Okeechobee
Little River Conservation Area	2,119	Gadsden
Shoal River Buffer	2,106	Okaloosa
Suwannee County Preservation	1,449	Suwannee
Tiger Island / Little Tiger Island	1,280	Nassau
Carr Farm / Price's Scrub	1,245	Alachua/ Marion
Rainbow River Corridor	1,183	Marion/ Citrus
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	970	Brevard/ Indian River
Dade County Archipelago	884	Miami-Dade
Battle of Wahoo Swamp	850	Sumter
West Aucilla River Buffer	721	Jefferson
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	590	Jackson/ Alachua/ Marion/ Citrus/ Sumter
Pierce Mound Complex	569	Franklin
San Felasco Conservation Corridor	379	Alachua
Okeechobee Battlefield	211	Okeechobee
Pineland Site Complex	206	Lee
Millstone Plantation	166	Leon
Florida National Scenic Trail	80	Columbia
Three Chimneys	62	Volusia
Windover Archaeological Site	8.5	Brevard



## Florida Forever Comparative Analysis & Scoring Worksheets

November 2011

This report is produced annually by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to provide scientific support to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) in advance of their vote on Florida Forever land acquisition projects. The *Comparative Analysis* summarizes how well projects are meeting natural resources measures of the Florida Forever Program. A Single Resource Evaluation is provided for each of eleven resource types outlined in the Florida Forever Act. The F-TRAC 2020 Scenarios show which projects offer the greatest return in resource protection given the estimated acreage likely to be acquired by Florida Forever. As resources are acquired statewide, the protection needs of remaining resources change. The F-TRAC analysis is dynamic in that it identifies the places that best meet those changing protection needs in each evaluation cycle. Complete documentation as well as other formats of the *Comparative Analysis* may be downloaded from the FNAI website ([www.fnai.org/FlForever.cfm](http://www.fnai.org/FlForever.cfm)).

The Resource Evaluation Scoring Worksheets are an MS Excel workbook to be used in conjunction with the *Comparative Analysis*. Each worksheet contains the underlying data and methods used to score and group projects for each resource type shown on the *Comparative Analysis*. Each worksheet is sorted by how well projects meet a resource goal. The sort order is intended to help the user understand how projects were assigned a value in the *Comparative Analysis* but users may sort the tables in other ways (alphabetical by project name, within categories, etc). The worksheets may be downloaded from the FNAI website ([www.fnai.org/FlForever.cfm](http://www.fnai.org/FlForever.cfm)).

### Data and Methodology Updates

This evaluation is based on Version 3.32 of the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment data layers. The Florida Forever Technical Expert Advisory Group met in December 2009, October 2010, and November 2011 to review data and methods that contribute to this report. Based on their recommendations, several data and methodology updates have occurred since the previous *Comparative Analysis* in November 2010:

- 1) Data Updates: Sustainable Forestry, Natural Communities, Wetlands (see FFCNA Technical Report v3.32)
- 2) New Data Development: Climate Change – Sea Level Rise Mitigation (see FFCNA Technical Report v3.32)  
The scores indicate the potential for a project to provide an inland refuge/corridor for existing conservation lands or natural areas likely to be inundated at 1 meter of sea level rise.
- 3) Revised Single Resource Evaluation Methods: Landscapes; Population within 100 miles (see Single Resource Evaluation Documentation)
- 4) Revised F-TRAC Methods: Inclusion of Ecological Greenways Critical Linkages; Adjustment of input parameters for natural communities and species. (see F-TRAC Documentation)

More detailed description of these changes may be found in the reports referenced above which may be downloaded from the FNAI website ([www.fnai.org/FlForever](http://www.fnai.org/FlForever)).

### Acreage Threshold

Based on estimates of Board of Trustees (BOT) and other agency Florida Forever acquisitions, approximately 826,200 acres are expected to be acquired on FFBOT projects through the 20-year extent of the Florida Forever program. The estimated acreage likely to be acquired during the remaining life of the program (through FY 2020-21, assuming full funding) is approximately **473,700 acres**. This acreage threshold was used as the amount of land to be identified by the current F-TRAC 2020 Scenarios.

### F-TRAC 2020 Statewide Scenario

This F-TRAC scenario is a statewide analysis to determine the best places to acquire resources. This score is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context and might best be used to help determine if new proposals should be added to the list or existing projects should be removed.

### F-TRAC 2020 on Florida Forever Projects

This scenario evaluates only within existing and proposed Florida Forever-BOT projects for the best places to acquire resources. That is, the 473,700 acres likely to be acquired by Florida Forever-BOT is allocated completely within the remaining acres of projects. This score compares projects relative to each other, essentially grading projects on a curve, rather than providing information about the larger statewide context. Each project's score may change based on number, size, or resource value of other projects on the list. This score might best be used to help inform project ranking.

### Documentation

Complete documentation for Single Resource Evaluation, F-TRAC analysis and Decision Support Data Layers, as well as other formats of the *Comparative Analysis* (spreadsheet, bubble symbols, etc) may be downloaded from the FNAI website (<http://www.fnai.org/FlForever.cfm>).

1. **Florida Forever Data Layer Maps** [www.fnai.org/PDF/FF\\_Needs\\_Assessment\\_Overview\\_Maps\\_Nov2011.pdf](http://www.fnai.org/PDF/FF_Needs_Assessment_Overview_Maps_Nov2011.pdf)  
This document contains summary descriptions, maps and acreage tables of GIS resource data layers.
2. **Single Resource Evaluation Documentation** [www.fnai.org/PDF/SingleResourceEval\\_documentation\\_Nov2011.pdf](http://www.fnai.org/PDF/SingleResourceEval_documentation_Nov2011.pdf)  
This document describes the standard method of scoring projects for a single resource, the weights and rules applied to each resource. Note that the Resource Scoring Worksheets referenced above are also included as an Appendix to the Single Resource Evaluation Documentation.
3. **F-TRAC Documentation** [www.fnai.org/PDF/FTRAC\\_documentation\\_rev\\_Nov2011.pdf](http://www.fnai.org/PDF/FTRAC_documentation_rev_Nov2011.pdf)  
This document provides detailed methods and results for the F-TRAC analysis.
4. **Decision Support Data Documentation**  
[www.fnai.org/PDF/FF\\_Decision\\_Support\\_Data\\_documentation\\_Nov2011.pdf](http://www.fnai.org/PDF/FF_Decision_Support_Data_documentation_Nov2011.pdf)  
The Decision Support data are those GIS layers used in the Single Resource Evaluation and/or F-TRAC analyses. Note that some of the decision support data layers result from combining related measures (e.g. Species decision support data is a combination of FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Priorities and FNAI Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities). This document describes the decision support data.
5. **Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report v 3.33** [www.fnai.org/PDF/FFCNA\\_TechReport\\_v3\\_33.pdf](http://www.fnai.org/PDF/FFCNA_TechReport_v3_33.pdf)  
This report provides detailed technical documentation of all Needs Assessment data.

**The information contained in this report is in no way intended to substitute for the informed judgment of expert decision makers. This report is a tool to guide decision-making, not a final conservation plan that must be followed. Nevertheless, this report provides sound direction for the program, and decisions made to the contrary should be justifiable.**

### Florida Forever Project Evaluation Comparative Analysis, November 2011

NOTE: This table evaluates ONLY the remaining acres of projects according to the numerical performance measures listed. Other considerations such as willing sellers, active negotiations, completing projects, development threat, etc., are always part of any decision regarding project status. Please note that all values are assigned based on F-TRAC and single resource analyses without regard to Acquisition Categories.

Category*	Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	F-TRAC 2020 Statewide				F-TRAC 2020 on FL Forever Projects				Resources included in F-TRAC 2020 Scenarios				Resources and other Measures not included in F-TRAC 2020 Scenarios			
				F-TRAC 2020 Species	F-TRAC 2020 on Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Archaeological	Historic	Trails Network	FL Natl. Scenic Trail Corridor	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change	Sea Level Rise	
CNL	11,214	40%	Apalachicola River	●	★	★	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	
CNL	<b>100,424</b>	0%	<b>Bear Creek Forest</b>	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	○	○	○	
CNL	4,680	0%	Bear Hammock	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>7,336</b>	74%	<b>Belle Meade</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	32,717	31%	Bombing Range Ridge	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	
CNL	<b>13,515</b>	27%	<b>Caloosahatchee Ecoscape</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	33,973	0%	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>82,994</b>	0%	<b>Devil's Garden</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
CNL	66,302	29%	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>11,176</b>	0%	<b>Half Circle L Ranch</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	22,429	8%	Hixtown Swamp	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>1,887</b>	31%	<b>Ichetucknee Trace</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	34,589	4%	Kissimme-St. Johns River Connector	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>5,416</b>	1%	<b>Lake Hatchineha Watershed</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
CNL	24,237	59%	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>9,693</b>	55%	<b>Longleaf Pine Ecosystem</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	27,572	41%	Osceola Pine Savannas	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>40,634</b>	37%	<b>Panther Glades</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	2,412	65%	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>48,902</b>	0%	<b>Pine Island Slough Ecosystem</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	60,420	67%	Pinhook Swamp	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>44,998</b>	0%	<b>San Pedro Bay</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	2,095	0%	Shoal River Buffer	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>11,651</b>	0%	<b>South Goethe</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	591	0%	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>7,997</b>	0%	<b>Triple Diamond</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	8,170	49%	Twelvemile Slough	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>12,027</b>	0%	<b>Upper Shoal River</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	11,025	24%	Upper St. Marks River Corridor	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>9,897</b>	61%	<b>Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
CNL	25,488	69%	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
CNL	<b>10,068</b>	0%	<b>Wolfe Creek Forest</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CHR	853	0%	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CHR	<b>89</b>	62%	<b>Okeechobee Battlefield</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CHR	561	1%	Pierce Mound Complex	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CHR	<b>148</b>	30%	<b>Pineland Site Complex</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CHR	56	12%	Three Chimneys	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
CHR	<b>8</b>	0%	<b>Windover Archaeological Site</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	10,340	6%	Adams Ranch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>6,081</b>	0%	<b>Ayavalla Plantation</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	50,480	11%	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>2,460</b>	0%	<b>Clay Ranch</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	108,904	38%	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>23,719</b>	41%	<b>Green Swamp - Peace River Headwaters</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	30,485	0%	Green Swamp - Pine Island Recharge Area	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>25,611</b>	0%	<b>Gulf Hammock</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	16,316	0%	Horse Creek Ranch	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>6,921</b>	0%	<b>Hostford Chapman's Rhododendron Prot. Zone</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	2,057	0%	Little River Conservation Area	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>2,356</b>	69%	<b>Lower Perdido River Buffer</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	46,461	0%	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>7,187</b>	0%	<b>Maytown Flatwoods</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	12,293	0%	Mill Creek	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>56</b>	58%	<b>Millstone Plantation</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	11,239	40%	Myakka Ranchlands	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>3,269</b>	25%	<b>Ochlockonee River Conservation Area</b>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	7,303	0%	Old Town Creek Watershed	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>3,846</b>	0%	<b>Peace River Refuge</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	67,673	0%	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>12,592</b>	65%	<b>Ranch Reserve</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	376	0%	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>23,869</b>	8%	<b>Seven Runs Creek</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●	●	●	
LTF	1,254	0%	Suwannee County Preservation	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	<b>2,229</b>	0%	<b>Tiger Cattle Company Ranch</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
LTF	721	0%	West Aucilla River Buffer	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

\*CNL = Critical Natural Lands; CHR = Critical Historical Resources; LTF = Less-Than-Fee; PRI = Partnerships & Regional Incentives; CLC = Climate Change Lands

SC = Substantially Complete; TBR = To Be Removed

**The F-TRAC 2020 scenario looks statewide for the best 473,700 acres of unprotected resources – not necessarily on current projects.**

- Projects are scored relative to the entire state. A project's score is not influenced by the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context, and can help inform decisions on adding or removing projects from the FFBOT list.

**The F-TRAC 2020 on FFBOT Projects scenario looks only at the list of existing and proposed projects for the best 473,700 acres of resources.**

- Projects are scored relative to one another – they are "graded on a curve". Each project's score may change based on the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for comparing projects to each other, and can help inform decisions on project ranking.

**Key**

- ★ Very High
- High
- Medium
- Medium-Low
- Low



Archaeological and Historic resource values were provided by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources.

Remaining acres and Percent Complete based on FNAL managed areas database and FF\_acquired database as of 30 September 2011.

Category*	Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	Resources included in F-TRAC 2020 Scenarios						Resources and other Measures not included in F-TRAC 2020 Scenarios							
				F-TRAC 2020 Statewide	F-TRAC 2020 On FF Forever Projects	Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Archaeological	Historic	Trails Network	FF Area Scenic Trail Corridor	Population w/in 100 mi
PRI	12,540	49%	Annnuteliga Hammock	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	8,043	43%	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	9,129	0%	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	23,160	43%	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	305	76%	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	9,162	53%	Catfish Creek	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	3,906	80%	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	3,416	34%	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	38,532	44%	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	12,371	0%	Crossbar/AI Bar Ranch	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	311	65%	Dade County Archipelago	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	1,798	40%	Escrabano Point	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	4,082	29%	Flagler County Blueway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	5,771	59%	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	7	91%	Florida National Scenic Trail	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	55,894	39%	Green Swamp - Hilochee Corridor	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	52,115	50%	Green Swamp - Withlacoochee River Headwaters	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	8,519	0%	Hall Ranch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	19,549	2%	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	19,847	27%	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	10,261	22%	Lafayette Forest	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	9,785	7%	Lake Santa Fe	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	11,877	15%	Middle Chiplola River	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	87,481	40%	Northeast FL Timberlands & Watershed Res.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	9,954	70%	Pal-Mar	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	10,850	55%	Pumpkin Hill Creek	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	1,138	2%	Rainbow River Corridor	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	14,495	57%	Sand Mountain	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	22,418	72%	Volusia Conservation Corridor	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	3,969	47%	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRI	5,933	50%	Watermelon Pond	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	245	73%	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	7,804	0%	Caber Coastal Connector	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	1,641	51%	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	2,972	44%	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	8,571	34%	Florida Keys Ecosystem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	9,930	77%	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	3,835	50%	Garcon Ecosystem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	864	83%	North Key Largo Hammocks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	13,118	54%	Northeast Florida Blueway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	4,177	0%	Peaceful Horse Ranch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	89,976	47%	St. Joe Timberland	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	26,212	6%	St. Johns River Blueway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	2,474	42%	Terra Ceia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	1,141	12%	Tiger/Little Tiger Island	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
CCL	4,494	0%	West Bay Preservation Area	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SC	6,874	85%	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SC	2,359	83%	Estero Bay	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SC	4,828	85%	Lochloosa Wildlife	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SC	371	99%	Sav's Our Everglades	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	x	●
SC	3,243	86%	South Walton County Ecosystem	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
SC	449	84%	Spruce Creek	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

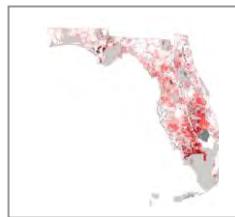
\*CNL = Critical Natural Lands; CHR = Critical Historical Resources; LTF = Less-Than-Fee; PRI = Partnerships & Regional Incentives; CLC = Climate Change Lands  
SC = Substantially Complete; TBR = To Be Removed

Acreage Summary	
Category	Remaining Acres
Critical Natural Lands	786,529
Critical Historical Resources	1,716
Less-Than-Fee	486,097
Partnerships & Reg. Incentives	476,617
Climate Change Lands	177,453
Substantially Complete	18,124
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,946,536</b>

Key
★ Very High
● High
○ Medium
◎ Medium-Low
○ Low

Archaeological and Historic resource values were provided by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources.  
Remaining acres and Percent Complete based on FNAI managed areas database and FF\_acquired database as of 30 September 2011.



**SPECIES****PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI, FWC**

The Species data layer combines species information contained in the 2009 Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCA) and the FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (HCP) Version 3.1 data layers. The SHCA identify important remaining habitat conservation needs on private lands for 62 terrestrial vertebrates and are prioritized by rarity. The FNAI HCPs include habitat for 248 rare species, including plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, and freshwater aquatic species and are prioritized by rarity and richness. The 2 datasets are combined to minimize redundancy.

**NATURAL COMMUNITIES****PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI**

The Natural Community data layer is made up of natural communities under-represented on conservation lands, which include upland glades (Global Rank = G1), pine rocklands (G1), scrub (G2), rockland hammock (G2), dry prairie (G2), seepage slope (G2), sandhill (G3), sandhill upland lake (G3), upland hardwood forest (G5), and pine flatwoods (G4); and fragile coastal upland resources, which include beach dune (G3), coastal scrub (G2), coastal grasslands (G3), coastal strand (G2), and maritime hammock (G3). Mangrove wetlands and salt marsh (G5) are included in the Wetlands data layer. This data layer is prioritized based on the Global Rank of the natural communities.

**SURFACE WATERS****PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI**

The Surface Waters data layer identifies lands that protect natural floodplain and significant surface waters of the state, which include Outstanding Florida Waters, National Scenic Waters and National Estuaries, shellfish harvesting areas, seagrass beds, springs, water supply and waters important for imperiled fish. The data are prioritized based on proximity to a water body, stream order, downstream length, basin size and other factors.

**FUNCTIONAL WETLANDS****PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI**

The Functional Wetlands data layer is based on wetlands identified in the Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map. Functional wetlands are defined as those in a more natural state and the prioritization is based on overlap with Land Use Intensity index and FNAI Potential Natural Areas.

**FORESTRY****PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI, DOF**

The Sustainable Forestry data layer identifies existing pinelands (natural and planted) and former pinelands that are potentially available for forest management. Prioritization is based on 4 criteria set by the Florida Forest Service: whether trees are natural or planted, size of tract, distance to market, and hydrology. Large tracts of natural pine on mesic soils (versus xeric or wet) that are within 50 miles of a mill receive the highest priority. Former pinelands that currently do not have trees receive the lowest priority.

**LANDSCAPE LINKAGES****PRIMARY SOURCE: Univ. Florida**

Landscape Linkages is represented by the Ecological Greenways Network, a statewide system of landscape hubs, linkages, and conservation corridors. Prioritization is based on factors such as importance for wide-ranging species, importance for maintaining a connected reserve network, and riparian corridors. Critical Linkages are considered most important for completing a statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands.

**TRAILS****PRIMARY SOURCE: Univ. Florida, DEP/OGT**

The Trails data layer is based on the Trail Opportunities Network developed as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System to identify a set of potential trail corridors that provide a connected set of linear recreational opportunities statewide. Sub-network corridors for hiking and multi-use are included and prioritization is based on the 2008 Update and Prioritization of Florida's Trail Network ([http://www.floridatrailsnetwork.com/opp\\_update.html](http://www.floridatrailsnetwork.com/opp_update.html)).

**RECHARGE****PRIMARY SOURCE: FL Geological Survey, FNAI**

The Aquifer Recharge data layer identifies areas of potential recharge important for natural systems and human use. The data are prioritized based on features that contribute to aquifer vulnerability such as thickness of the intermediate aquifer confining unit and closed topographical depressions, as well as areas within springshed protection zones and in proximity to public water supply wells.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES**

These data are maintained by the Dept.of State/Division of Historic Resources who also prioritize Florida Forever Projects based on their contribution to protection of these resources.

## Florida Forever Land-Acquisition Projects Listed by County

<b>Alachua:</b>	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Lake Santa Fe Lochloosa Wildlife San Felasco Conservation Corridor Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves Watermelon Pond	<b>Columbia:</b>	Florida National Scenic Trail Ichetucknee Trace Pinhook Swamp
<b>Baker:</b>	Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway Pinhook Swamp Raiford-Osceola Greenway	<b>DeSoto:</b>	Horse Creek Ranch Peace River Refuge Peaceful Horse Ranch
<b>Bay:</b>	Bear Creek Florida's First Magnitude Springs Sand Mountain St. Joe Timberland West Bay Preservation Area	<b>Dixie:</b>	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed
<b>Bradford:</b>	Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway Lake Santa Fe	<b>Duval:</b>	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River Northeast Florida Blueway Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Pumpkin Hill Creek
<b>Brevard:</b>	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Indian River Lagoon Blueway Maytown Flatwoods Ranch Reserve Windover Archaeological Site	<b>Escambia:</b>	Lower Perdido River Buffer Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie
<b>Broward:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Flagler:</b>	Flagler County Blueway Northeast Florida Blueway Volusia Conservation Corridor
<b>Calhoun:</b>	Apalachicola River Bear Creek Middle Chipola River	<b>Franklin:</b>	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Pierce Mound Complex St. Joe Timberland
<b>Charlotte:</b>	Charlotte Harbor Estuary Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hall Ranch	<b>Gadsden:</b>	Apalachicola River Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone Little River Conservation Area Ochlockonee River Conservation Area St. Joe Timberland
<b>Citrus:</b>	Annutteliga Hammock Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Rainbow River Corridor Southeast Maternity Bat Caves	<b>Gilchrist:</b>	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
<b>Clay:</b>	Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	<b>Glades:</b>	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Fisheating Creek
<b>Collier:</b>	Belle Meade Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Devil's Garden Half Circle L Ranch Save Our Everglades	<b>Gulf:</b>	Bear Creek St. Joe Timberland
		<b>Hamilton:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
		<b>Hardee:</b>	Horse Creek Ranch Old Town Creek Watershed
		<b>Hendry:</b>	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Devil's Garden

## Florida Forever Land-Acquisition Projects Listed by County (continued)

<b>Hendry:</b>	Half Circle L Ranch Panther Glades Twelvemile Slough	<b>Levy:</b>	Upper St. Marks River Corridor Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Caber Coastal Connector Tract Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway
<b>Hernando:</b>	Annutteliga Hammock Florida's First Magnitude Springs		Florida's First Magnitude Springs Gulf Hammock South Goethe
<b>Highlands:</b>	Bombing Range Ridge Fisheating Creek Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem		Watermelon Pond
<b>Hillsborough:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Liberty:</b>	Apalachicola River Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone St. Joe Timberland
<b>Holmes:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Madison:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Hixtown Swamp San Pedro Bay
<b>Indian River:</b>	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge Indian River Lagoon Blueway Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Pine Island Slough Ecosystem Ranch Reserve	<b>Manatee:</b>	Terra Ceia
<b>Jackson:</b>	Apalachicola River Florida's First Magnitude Springs Middle Chipola River Southeast Maternity Bat Caves	<b>Marion:</b>	Bear Hammock Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida's First Magnitude Springs Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Mill Creek Rainbow River Corridor South Goethe Southeast Maternity Bat Caves
<b>Jefferson:</b>	St. Joe Timberland Upper St. Marks River Corridor Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks West Aucilla River Buffer	<b>Martin:</b>	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Indian River Lagoon Blueway Pal-Mar
<b>Lafayette:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Lafayette Forest	<b>Miami-Dade:</b>	Dade County Archipelago
<b>Lake:</b>	Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	<b>Monroe:</b>	Coupon Bight/Key Deer Florida Keys Ecosystem North Key Largo Hammocks
<b>Lee:</b>	Charlotte Harbor Estuary Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Estero Bay Pineland Site Complex	<b>Nassau:</b>	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island
<b>Leon:</b>	Ayavalla Plantation Florida's First Magnitude Springs Millstone Plantation Ochlockonee River Conservation Area St. Joe Timberland	<b>Okaloosa:</b>	Shoal River Buffer
		<b>Okeechobee:</b>	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Okeechobee Battlefield Tiger Cattle Company Ranch Triple Diamond

## Florida Forever Land-Acquisition Projects Listed by County (continued)

<b>Orange:</b>	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	<b>Sarasota:</b>	Charlotte Harbor Estuary Myakka Ranchlands
<b>Osceola:</b>	Adams Ranch Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Bombing Range Ridge Lake Hatchineha Watershed Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Osceola Pine Savannas Pine Island Slough Ecosystem Ranch Reserve	<b>Seminole:</b>	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
<b>Palm Beach:</b>	Pal-Mar	<b>Sumter:</b>	Battle of Wahoo Swamp Southeast Maternity Bat Caves
<b>Pasco:</b>	Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters	<b>Suwannee:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Suwannee County Preservation
<b>Pinellas:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Taylor:</b>	San Pedro Bay St. Joe Timberland Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks
<b>Polk:</b>	Bombing Range Ridge Catfish Creek Green Swamp-Hilcohee Corridor Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters Green Swamp-Withlachoochee River Headwaters Lake Hatchineha Watershed Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Old Town Creek Watershed	<b>Union:</b>	Raiford-Osceola Greenway
<b>Putnam:</b>	Clay Ranch Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	<b>Volusia:</b>	Flagler County Blueway Indian River Lagoon Blueway Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Spruce Creek Three Chimneys Volusia Conservation Corridor Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
<b>St. Johns:</b>	Northeast Florida Blueway St. Johns River Blueway	<b>Wakulla:</b>	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Florida's First Magnitude Springs St. Joe Timberland Upper St. Marks River Corridor Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
<b>St. Lucie:</b>	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	<b>Walton:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Seven Runs Creek (includes N. Nokuse) South Walton County Ecosystem St. Joe Timberland Upper Shoal River
<b>Santa Rosa:</b>	Clear Creek / Whiting Field Escribano Point Garcon Ecosystem Wolfe Creek Fores	<b>Washington:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Sand Mountain St. Joe Timberland



“The beaches and the oceans are the marvels that attract the tourists. The springs are the marvels that attract Floridians who have a larger sense of this unusual state.” -- *Al Burt, Florida journalist and author*

The St. Marks River winds south through eastern Leon County and goes underground just north of the Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park (NBBHSP). The river then emerges on this property (above), within the NBBHSP, forming a “natural bridge” through a series of intervening sinkholes on the property. This bridge appears to contain extensive historical remains, particularly of Florida’s second largest battle of the Civil War and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The river ultimately emerges a half mile to the south forming the River Rise within the State Park. These land conservation purchases made through the Florida Forever program will allow future generations to enjoy this natural wonder. *Photo offered by Tom Butler, DEP Division of State Lands.*