2026 Florida Forever Plan

Summary of Recommendations and Status as of December 31, 2025

Division of State Lands

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

As submitted to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund

May 2026

2026 Florida Forever Plan
Executive Summary

Introduction

Florida Forever is the state's blueprint for conserving our natural and cultural resources and one of the most successful programs of its kind in the United States. The Florida Forever Act recognizes the importance of conserving Florida's natural and cultural heritage, providing urban open space, increasing public recreation opportunities and providing quality stewardship of the lands acquired.

Through strategic land acquisition, Florida Forever advances a range of statewide conservation goals, including the protection of water resources; preservation of working landscapes; sustainable forestry; protection of biodiversity and ecological greenways; environmental restoration; expansion of public recreation; public lands management and maintenance; and increased protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements.

Over the past 25 years, Florida has invested more than $4.2 billion in Florida Forever, underscoring a generational commitment to conservation and the long-term stewardship of the state's natural resources. This investment supports a versatile approach to land protection, allowing acquired lands to serve a wide range of public purposes from state parks and forests to wildlife management areas, conservation easements, military buffer zones and local green spaces. Together, these outcomes deliver enduring benefits for both Florida's landscapes and its communities.

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 for another 10 years in 2008 for a total of $6 billion. In 2014, Florida voters amended the state constitution with a constitutional amendment that dedicated 33 percent of documentary stamp taxes to finance acquisition and improvement of land and water areas for the purposes of habitat conservation and restoration, protection of water resources, protection of rural landscapes, protection of beaches and shorelines and providing for public outdoor recreation. Florida Forever's impact has been made possible through significant investment over time. As Florida continues to grow, maintaining sufficient and predictable legislative funding is key to delivering meaningful conservation outcomes.

The Florida Ecological Greenways Network and the Florida Wildlife Corridor

The Florida Ecological Greenways Network is an ecological model that identifies and prioritizes a functionally connected, statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands. The Florida Ecological Greenways Network has been a key component of the evaluative criteria for Florida Forever projects since 2003.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Act, signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis 2021, defines the Florida Wildlife Corridor as Priority 1, Priority 2 or Priority 3 areas of the Florida Ecological Greenways

Network and supports conservation land acquisition for the benefit of wildlife, Floridians and the economy.

The Florida Forever program has received an unprecedented number of applications every year since the passage of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act. In 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved 61 new Florida Forever proposals representing 89,437 acres of land of which 76,190 acres are within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Florida Forever successfully acquired over 98,000 critical acres within the Florida Wildlife Corridor in 2025. Land acquisitions occurred in the following projects:

- 23,579 acres Waccasassa Watershed
- 14,648 acres Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway
- 12,262 acres Bear Creek Forest
- 10,023 acres St. Joe Timberland
- 7,514 acres Ranch Reserve
- 5,828 acres Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest
- 4,273 acres Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed
- 3,099 acres Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway
- 2,034 acres Indian River Lagoon Blueway
- 1,994 acres Osceola Pine Savannas
- 1,621 acres Pinhook Swamp
- 1,340 acres Volusia Conservation Corridor
- 1,052 acres Fisheating Creek Ecosystem
- 934 acres Red Hills Conservation
- 1,205 acres Green Swamp
- 664 acres Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
- 910 acres Heartland Wildlife Corridor
- 515 acres Florida's First Magnitude Springs
- 460 acres Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem
- 340 acres Annutteliga Hammock

Partnerships & Sentinel Landscapes

The success of Florida Forever represents over 25 years of cooperative partnerships with state agencies, land trusts, conservation organizations, local governments and federal agencies. Specific partnerships may involve a local or regional cost-share agreement that lowers acquisition costs or the interim purchase of critical conservation land for subsequent purchase by the state. Partner agencies at the state-level provide valuable contributions to the Florida Forever evaluation and selection process. One important partnership is working alongside the U.S. Department of Defense through the Readiness and

Environmental Protection Integration program and the Sentinel Landscape Partnership program. These programs help protect military missions by minimizing land use conflicts and acquiring land near installations and ranges to preserve compatible land use and natural habitats.

Acquisition and Restoration Council

The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) makes recommendations regarding the acquisition, management and disposition of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes four state agency representatives, in addition to members of the public with backgrounds in land, water or other environmental sciences as well as wildlife management, forestry management and recreation.

The Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees) are responsible for acting on ARC's recommendations. The Board of Trustees approves the acquisition of each parcel and has ultimate oversight over all state-owned land. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands provides primary staff support for ARC and the Board of Trustees.

The Florida Forever Plan

The 2026 Florida Forever Plan provides an overview of the status of each of the 138 land acquisition projects approved by ARC and included on the Florida Forever Priority List. The plan includes a description of how each project will conserve, protect and restore environmentally endangered lands and ecosystems; and contribute lands for the provision of public outdoor recreation. This plan is kept current through annual reevaluation and revision.

Although updated annually, the information provided in the Florida Forever Plan guides implementation of land acquisition projects over the long-term, as work on any individual Florida Forever project may span multiple years.

Explanation of Project Information

A comprehensive project evaluation report is approved by ARC for each project as part of the process and vote to be included on the Florida Forever Priority List. These evaluation reports contain extensive resource and planning information compiled from our partner agencies and a management prospectus from the recommended land manager (for proposed fee simple projects) that includes a management cost summary. To summarize the pertinent information from the project evaluation reports and track acquisition progress/changes over time, each project description in this plan includes:

- A general overview of significant natural and cultural resources;
- The recommended land manager;
- The purpose for state acquisition;
- Whether the project would allow public use;
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory element occurrences;
- Project/parcel acres, acquisition history and boundary modifications;
- A management policy statement and summary of anticipated management costs (fee simple), and;
- A project map showing project boundaries and essential parcels.

The project acres, acres acquired and acres remaining included with each summary are based on the initial project proposal and are an approximation. Acres within a project may be refined over time as improved data is available and once parcels are acquired. Acres presented at the beginning of a project summary may fluctuate slightly throughout the life of a project. Therefore, acreage from this report should be cited as an approximation until such time actual parcels are fully acquired, and final acres are determined as part of the official closing process.

Florida Forever Priority List changes

ARC approved the following changes to the 2026 list:

- Added eight new projects.
- Added six new projects to existing project boundaries.
- Amended boundaries of 43 existing projects boundaries.
- Removed three projects from the list.

New Projects Added to the List	Acres +/-	County
Camp Hammock	8,982	Osceola
Creeks to Choctawhatchee River	2,231	Walton
Gooski Prairie	12,880	Marion
Hawkins Ranch	3,311	Sarasota
Mays Island Conservation Corridor	3,827	Jefferson/ Madison
Ridge Manor Gap	2,894	Hernando
St. Marks River Basin	4,711	Wakulla
Star Lake Connector	4,807	Putnam

New Projects Added to Existing Project Boundaries	Acres +/-	County
Hog Island (St. Johns River Blueway)	204	Putnam
Myakka Corridor Addition (Myakka Ranchlands)	555	Sarasota
Teal Timber (Apalachicola River)	18,553	Calhoun/Gulf/ Liberty
Davis and Ingram Ranches (Catfish Creek)	604	Polk
Peace River State Forest (Peace River Refuge)	1,321	DeSoto
X Bar Ranch (Fisheating Creek Ecosystem)	906	Glades

Projects with Boundary Amendments	Acres +/-	County
Annutteliga Hammock	-412	Citrus/Hernando
Apalachicola River	655	Gadsden/Jackson
Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	1,799	Jefferson/ Madison
Bombing Range Ridge	-181	Polk
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	-6,347	Brevard
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	151	Hendry
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	-72	Charlotte/Lee
Crayfish Habitat	114	Bay

Projects with Boundary Amendments (*cont.*)	Acres +/-	County
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	-602	Collier
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	1,575	Putnam
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	787	Glades/Highlands
Florida Keys Ecosystem	9	Monroe
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	-14,537	Citrus/Levy
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	667	Hamilton/ Hernando/ Lafayette/Leon
Green Swamp	2,818	Lake/Polk
Hixtown Swamp	-1	Madison
Hosford Chapmans Rhododendron Protection Zone	80	Gadsden
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	-499	Highlands/Lake/ Osceola/Polk
Little Orange Creek Corridor	592	Putnam
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	-1,093	Marion
Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	2,739	Flagler/Putnam
Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	-6,975	Clay/Duval/ Nassau
Old Town Creek Watershed	802	Hardee
Pal Mar	-168	Martin/Palm Beach
Peace River Refuge	593	DeSoto/Hardee
Pierce Mound Complex	-21	Franklin
Pinhook Swamp	772	Columbia/ Hamilton
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	-4	Osceola
Pumpkin Hill Creek	-2,518	Duval
Ranch Reserve	818	Brevard
St. Joe Timberland	-641	Gulf/Wakulla
St. Johns River Blueway	-1,796	Putnam/St. Johns
San Pedro Bay	2,972	Madison/Taylor
Sand Mountain	-2,068	Bay/Washington
Strategic Managed Area Lands List	-493	Brevard/ Charlotte/Collier/ Dixie/Gulf/ Hamilton/Lee/ Madison/Miami-Dade/Polk/Taylor /Volusia
South Goethe	1,305	Marion
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	4	Jackson
Terra Ceia	-499	Manatee
Volusia Conservation Corridor	103	Flager/Volusia
Watermelon Pond	-1,964	Alachua/Levy
Wekiva Ocala Greenway	-1,953	Lake/Orange/ Seminole/Volusia
Williamson Cattle Company	558	Okeechobee

The following projects were removed from the list because they were considered 90 percent or more complete:

- Deer Creek Ranch (DeSoto County).
- Eight Mile Property (Dixie County).
- Floyd's Mound (Madison County).

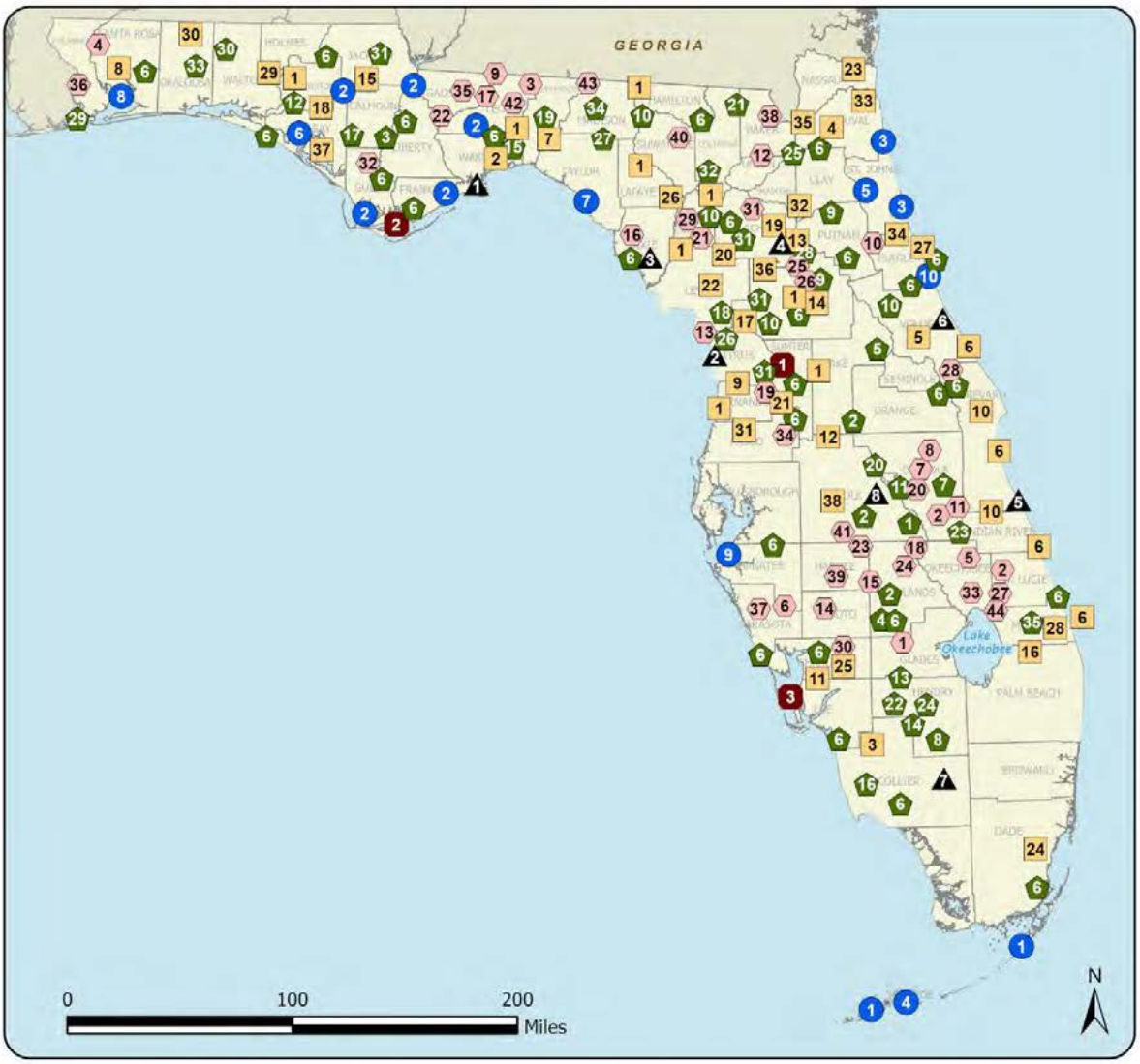
Consistent with section 259.032(8), Florida Statutes, and Rule 18-24.002(2)(b), Florida Administrative Code, removing projects from the list does not prevent Florida Forever funds from being used to purchase the remaining acres.

Program Accomplishments

Since 1963, Florida has conserved more than 4 million acres of land for environmental, recreational and preservation purposes. This has been accomplished through Florida Forever and its predecessor programs.

During Florida Forever's span, the program has protected over 1 million acres, expanding public recreation opportunities across more than 50 state parks and trails, 23 state forests, 20 wildlife management areas and three aquatic preserves. Florida residents and visitors can now enjoy and explore the natural beauty of Florida on over 3 million acres of public land through activities such as kayaking, fishing, camping, hunting and hiking. Since its inception in July 2001, the state's Florida Forever land acquisition program provided protection for the following:

- 1,029,300 acres of strategic habitat conservation areas.
- 793,250 acres within rare species habitat conservation areas.
- 1,069,800 acres within ecological greenways.
- 201,530 acres of rare natural communities.
- 665,775 acres within landscape-size protection areas.
- 598,060 acres of natural floodplain.
- 1,091,790 acres important to the protection of surface waters.
- 603,830 acres to minimize damage from flooding events.
- 12,090 acres of fragile coastline.
- 418,850 acres of functional wetlands.
- 1,053,350 acres of significant groundwater recharge areas.
- 550 miles towards the completion of priority recreational trails.
- 448,070 acres of sustainable forest land.
- 1,334 acres archaeological/historic sites.
- 14,780 acres within designated urban service areas.



STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS JANUARY 2026

Florida Forever Project Categories

- Climate Change Lands Category
- Critical Historic Resources Category
- Critical Natural Lands Category
- Less-Than-Fee Category
- Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category
- Substantially Complete Category

NOTE: Numerals within the symbols represent the project rank within each category. See priority list for project name and details.



FLORIDA FOREVER PROJECTS NEWLY ADDED TO THE PRIORITY LIST, EXPANDED, REDUCED OR REMOVED DURING 2025

2026 Florida Forever Priority List for Land Acquisition Projects

A project evaluation report is approved by ARC for each project on the Florida Forever Priority List. The report contains resource and planning information compiled by partner agencies along with a management prospectus (for proposed fee simple projects) that includes a management cost summary. Each project description in this plan includes:

- An overview of significant natural and cultural resources.
- The recommended land manager.
- The purpose for state acquisition.
- Public use opportunities.
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory element occurrences.
- Project/parcel acres, acquisition history and boundary modifications.
- A management policy statement and summary of anticipated management costs (fee simple).
- A map showing project boundaries and essential parcels.

The project acres, acres acquired and acres remaining included with each summary reflect the project status as of Dec. 31, 2025. This information is based on the initial project proposal and reflects acquisitions within a project boundary made by the Board of Trustees as well as local governments, federal agencies and private conservation organizations. Project acreage figures may be refined over time as improved data is available and as parcels are acquired. Acreage from this plan should be cited as an approximation until such time actual parcels are fully acquired, and final acres are determined as part of the official closing process.

Critical Natural Lands

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
1	Bombing Range Ridge	Osceola, Polk	25,721	25,721	High
2	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	Highlands, Lake, Osceola, Polk	18,206	43,927	High
3	Apalachicola River	Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty	68,367	112,294	High
4	Blue Head Ranch	Highlands	40,936	153,230	High
5	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia	20,962	174,192	High
6	Strategic Managed Area Lands List	Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Lucie, Sumter, Union, Volusia, Wakulla	9,281	183,473	High
7	Osceola Pine Savannas	Osceola	20,837	204,310	High
8	Panther Glades	Hendry	38,191	242,500	High/Med
9	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	Clay, Marion, Putnam	48,933	291,433	Medium

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
10	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	Gilchrist, Marion, Volusia	7,910	299,343	Medium
11	Gardner Marsh	Osceola	5,913	305,256	Medium
12	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	Bay, Washington	54,862	360,118	Medium
13	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	Glades, Hendry	7,244	367,362	Medium
14	Half Circle L Ranch	Collier, Hendry	11,182	378,544	Medium
15	St. Marks River Basin	Wakulla	4,711	383,255	Medium
16	Belle Meade	Collier	4,648	387,903	Medium
17	Bear Creek Forest	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf	86,391	474,293	Medium
18	South Goethe	Levy, Marion	11,865	486,158	Med/Low
19	Avalon	Jefferson	2,957	489,115	Low
20	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	Osceola, Polk	3,384	492,499	Low
21	Pinhook Swamp	Baker, Columbia, Hamilton	38,653	531,152	Low
22	Twelvemile Slough	Hendry	7,251	538,403	Low
23	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	Indian River, Osceola	21,783	560,186	Low
24	Devil's Garden	Collier, Hendry	29,722	589,908	Low
25	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	Baker, Bradford, Clay	12,147	602,055	Low
26	Bear Hammock	Marion	4,689	606,743	Low
27	San Pedro Bay	Madison, Taylor	49,824	656,567	Low
28	Star Lake Connector	Putnam	4,807	661,374	Low
29	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	Escambia	2,165	663,539	Low
30	Upper Shoal River	Okaloosa, Walton	11,208	674,747	Low
31	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	Alachua, Citrus, Jackson, Marion, Sumter	583	675,329	Low
32	Ichetucknee Trace	Columbia	1,708	677,037	Low
33	Shoal River Buffer	Okaloosa	959	677,996	Low
34	Hixtown Swamp	Madison	18,500	696,496	Low
35	Bar-B Ranch	Martin	1,910	698,406	Low

Partnerships & Regional Incentives

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
1	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	Bay, Citrus, Columbia, Hamilton, Hernando, Jackson, Lafayette, Lake, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Wakulla, Washington	6,916	6,916	High

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
2	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Leon, Wakulla	6,359	13,275	High
3	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	Collier, Lee	29,485	42,760	High
4	Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	Clay, Duval, Nassau	58,946	101,706	High
5	Volusia Conservation Corridor	Flagler, Volusia	21,152	122,858	High
6	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Volusia	14,373	137,231	High
7	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	Jefferson, Madison, Taylor	33,442	170,673	High
8	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	Santa Rosa	2,474	173,146	High
9	Annutteliga Hammock	Citrus, Hernando	7,565	180,711	High
10	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	Brevard	11,881	192,593	High/Med
11	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	Charlotte, Lee	6,343	198,936	Medium
12	Green Swamp	Lake, Pasco, Polk	152,813	351,749	Medium
13	Little Orange Creek Corridor	Alachua, Putnam	4,518	356,267	Medium
14	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	Marion	9,671	365,937	Medium
15	Middle Chipola River	Calhoun, Jackson	12,084	378,022	Med/Low
16	Pal-Mar	Martin, Palm Beach	7,040	385,062	Low
17	Rainbow River Corridor	Citrus, Marion	900	385,961	Low
18	Sand Mountain	Bay, Washington	15,002	400,963	Low
19	Lochloosa Forest	Alachua	4,693	405,657	Low
20	Watermelon Pond	Alachua, Levy	3,878	409,535	Low
21	Ridge Manor Gap	Hernando	2,307	411,842	Low
22	Waccasassa Watershed	Levy	7,725	419,567	Low
23	Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor	Nassau	54,598	474,165	Low
24	Dade County Archipelago	Miami-Dade	218	474,384	Low
25	Hall Ranch	Charlotte	7,415	481,798	Low
26	Lafayette Forest	Lafayette	10,256	492,055	Low
27	Flagler County Blueway	Flagler, Volusia	2,838	494,893	Low
28	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	Martin	8,179	503,071	Low
29	Creeks To Choctawhatchee River	Walton	2,231	505,303	Low
30	Welannee Watershed Forest	Okaloosa	9,207	514,509	Low
31	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	Pasco	12,415	526,924	Low
32	Lake Santa Fe	Alachua, Bradford	8,405	535,329	Low
33	Pumpkin Hill Creek	Duval, Nassau	6,147	541,476	Low
34	Pringle Creek Forest	Flagler	8,387	549,863	Low

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
35	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	Duval, Nassau	8,374	558,238	Low
36	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	Alachua, Marion	458	558,696	Low
37	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	Bay	2,462	561,158	Low
38	Wilson Ranch	Polk	451	561,609	Low

Less-Than-Fee

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
1	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	Glades, Highlands	99,738	99,738	High
2	Adams Ranch	Osceola, St. Lucie	24,068	123,806	High
3	Red Hills Conservation	Leon, Jefferson	8,151	131,957	High
4	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	Escambia, Santa Rosa	87,971	219,928	High
5	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	Okeechobee, Indian River	28,541	248,469	High/Med
6	Myakka Ranchlands	DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota	26,831	275,300	Medium
7	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	Osceola	31,463	306,763	Medium
8	Conlin Lake X	Osceola	3,522	310,285	Medium
9	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	Leon	3,060	313,345	Medium
10	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns	91,250	404,595	Medium
11	Ranch Reserve	Brevard, Osceola	5,927	410,522	Medium
12	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	Baker, Union	67,311	477,833	Med/Low
13	Gulf Hammock	Levy	25,611	503,444	Low
14	Peace River Refuge	DeSoto, Hardee	6,458	509,902	Low
15	Heartland Wildlife Corridor	Hardee, Highlands	4,263	514,165	Low
16	Big Bend Forest	Dixie	53,510	567,674	Low
17	Ayavalla Plantation	Leon	5,695	573,370	Low
18	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	Highlands	2,214	575,584	Low
19	Withlacoochee River Corridor	Citrus, Hernando	2,482	578,065	Low
20	Camp Hammock	Osceola	8,982	587,047	Low
21	Gilchrist Club	Gilchrist	23,298	610,344	Low
22	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	Gadsden, Liberty	5,847	616,192	Low
23	Old Town Creek Watershed	Hardee, Polk	2,064	618,256	Low
24	Lettuce Creek Cattle Company	Highlands	377	618,633	Low

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
25	Mill Creek	Marion	12,144	630,777	Low
26	Gooski Prairie	Marion	12,880	643,657	Low
27	Bluefield to Cow Creek	Okeechobee, St. Lucie	2,745	646,403	Low
28	Maytown Flatwoods	Brevard, Volusia	1,612	648,015	Low
29	North Waccasassa Flats	Gilchrist	15,065	663,080	Low
30	Welles Ranch	Charlotte	1,183	664,263	Low
31	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	Alachua	376	664,639	Low
32	Tupelo Honey Timberlands	Gulf	2,179	666,817	Low
33	Williamson Cattle Company	Okeechobee	4,960	671,777	Low
34	Larkin Ranch	Pasco	1,075	672,852	Low
35	Little River Conservation Area	Gadsden	2,293	675,145	Low
36	Lower Perdido River Buffer	Escambia	2,271	677,415	Low
37	Hawkins Ranch	Sarasota	3,311	680,727	Low
38	Baker County Timberlands	Baker	1,155	681,881	Low
39	Limestone Ranch	Hardee	6,382	688,264	Low
40	Suwannee County Preservation	Suwannee	1,254	689,518	Low
41	Bowlegs Creek Watershed	Polk	1,016	690,533	Low
42	Millstone Plantation	Leon	83	690,617	Low
43	Mays Island Conservation Corridor	Madison, Jefferson	3,826	694,443	Low
44	Fair Bluff	Martin	639	695,082	Low

Climate Change Lands

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
1	Florida Keys Ecosystem	Monroe	5,277	5,277	High
2	St. Joe Timberland	Franklin, Gulf, Leon, Liberty	35,129	40,406	High/Med
3	Northeast Florida Blueway	Duval, Flagler, St. Johns	4,656	45,062	Medium
4	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	Monroe	629	45,691	Medium
5	St. Johns River Blueway	Clay, Putnam, St. Johns	14,229	59,920	Med/Low
6	West Bay Preservation Area	Bay	4,598	64,518	Low
7	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	Taylor	4,079	68,597	Low
8	Garcon Ecosystem	Santa Rosa	2,944	71,541	Low
9	Terra Ceia	Manatee	1,915	73,456	Low
10	Ford Marsh	Volusia	1,171	74,628	Low

Substantially Complete

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
1	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	Franklin, Wakulla	2,778	2,778	High
2	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	Citrus, Levy	6,119	8,897	High/Med
3	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	Dixie, Levy	7,626	16,523	Med/Low
4	Lochloosa Wildlife	Alachua	3,877	20,329	Low
5	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	Brevard, Indian River	111	20,400	Low
6	Spruce Creek	Volusia	336	20,511	Low
7	Save Our Everglades	Collier	12	20,847	Low
8	Catfish Creek	Polk	2,989	23,859	Low

Critical Historical Resources

Rank	Project	County[1]	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres[2]	Work Plan Priority[3]
1	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	Sumter	1,154	1,154	High/Med
2	Pierce Mound Complex	Franklin	357	1,511	Low
3	Pineland Site Complex	Lee	136	1,647	Low

[1] Counties with no remaining acreage to acquire in a project not listed here. See project summaries for counties in which acquisitions are complete.
[2] Cumulative acres used to calculate which Priority Group of the Acquisition Work Plan each project will qualify.
[3] Work Plan Priority Groups pursuant to Rule 18-24.006(6), F.A.C.

High Priority = top 1/3 acreage within each Category	High/Medium Priority = portion of project in High Priority Group and portion in Medium Priority Group	Medium Priority = middle 1/3 acreage within each Category	Medium/Low Priority = portion of project in Medium Priority Group and portion in Low Priority Group	Low Priority = bottom 1/3 acreage within each Category

ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL (ARC)	
AGENCY COUNCIL MEMBERS	**AGENCY STAFF**
Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Chair	
Bryan Bradner Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation FloridaDEP.gov/land-and-rec	Bradley Perry, Director Division of State Lands FloridaDEP.gov/lands
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	
George Warthen Chief Conservation Officer MyFWC.com	Larame Ferry Land Conservation and Planning Administrator MyFWC.com
Florida Forest Service	
Rick Dolan Director FDACS.gov	Cat Ingram Intergovernmental Liaison FDACS.gov
Division of Historical Resources	
Alissa Lotane Director DOS.fl.gov/historical	Brandon Ackermann Senior Archaeologist DOS.fl.gov/historical

ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL (ARC)	
AGENCY APPOINTEES	
Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (Vice Chair)	**Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**
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Elva Peppers President Florida Environmental and Land Services FELSI.net	Will Watts, P.E. Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations Florida Department of Transportation FDOT.gov
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Division of State Lands **Office of Environmental Services** 850-245-2555 Sine Murray Program Administrator **ARC** Hank Vinson **Land Conservation Planning** Diana Pepe	**Land Stewardship** Keith Singleton James Parker **Florida Natural Areas Inventory** Institute of Science and Public Affairs Florida State University Frank Price Director FNAI.org

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CRITICAL NATURAL LANDS

Apalachicola River

Critical Natural Lands

Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson and Liberty Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1991*
Project Acres	*77,993*
Acquired Acres	*9,625*
Remaining Project Acres	*68,367*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$101,768,878*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Apalachicola River project will protect the water quality of the river, preserve the productive and unique habitat of Apalachicola Bay and provide the public with scenic outdoor recreation opportunities from Torreya State Park south to Wewahitchka and Dead Lakes. The project will protect much of Florida's remaining upland glades natural community that is not already located within state-owned conservation lands. The project's rare plant community supports 16 endemic plant species and occurs nowhere else in Florida. 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 and the region is home to many rare and endemic plants and animals, such as the endangered and nearly extinct Florida Torreya tree (*Torreya taxifolia*).

General Description

The project consists of an upper and lower section along the Apalachicola River. The upper section on the east side of the Apalachicola River includes a large tract on the east bank, running south from near Chattahoochee to Torreya State Park, including rich upland and floodplain forests and most of the upland glades in the state. It shelters several rare plants such as the Florida Torreya tree. The Land property, west of the former area, contains floodplain forest important for southeastern bat (*Myotis austroriparius)* and gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*). The tract is part of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves Florida Forever project. The Sweetwater Creek tract connects Torreya State Park with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve and 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 that can be restored to longleaf pine.

The lower western section, located mostly south of State Road 20, is owned by a single landowner and includes approximately 44,000 acres of floodplain and bottomland forest with some areas of uplands. These lands along the Apalachicola River have a high potential for discovery of archaeological sites not yet documented by the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. All these areas are

threatened by timbering and unrestricted vehicular access. The Teal Timber addition lies mainly within the lower section, though the northern tract is within the upper section.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Florida torreya**	G1/S1
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Apalachicola rosemary**	G1/S1
Fat threeridge	G1/S1
Chipola slabshell	G1/S1
*Gholson's blazing star**	G1/S1
*Pinewoods aster**	G1?/S1?
Southern elktoe	G1/S1
Torreya pygmy grasshopper	G1/S1

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Apalachicola River project is proposed for both fee and less-than-fee acquisition. In either acquisition scenario, the project will provide habitat for wildlife including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus)* and buffers other conservation lands such as the St. Joe Timberland project and the Southeastern Maternity Bat Caves project. Forestry uses could continue under a well-crafted forest stewardship management plan. Portions of the project purchased in fee simple would be managed as state parks or preserves, wildlife management areas or state forests, and allow such uses as hiking, nature appreciation, limited hunting and fishing and boat launching. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

1990

On December 7, 1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council separated the Apalachicola River and Bay Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) project into two projects: Apalachicola Bay and Apalachicola River, Phase I. The Apalachicola River, Phase I project included the Aspalaga Landing tract (800 acres/two owners), Atkins tract (3,210 acres/seven owners) and Gadsden County Glades (1,912 acres/13 owners) and had an estimated tax value of $4,532,300.

1992

On April 7, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 4,570-acre addition to the project boundary. It consisted of 30 owners and a taxable value of $1,813,157.

1995

On July 14, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 Cave site of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project.

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council 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.

1999

On May 6, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council designated an additional 11,800 acres (Lake Wimico) as essential.

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed lands owned by The St. Joe Company in Gadsden Glades (360 acres), Aspalaga Landing (600 acres) and Sweetwater Creek (7,040 acres) and placed them in the St. Joe Timberland CARL project.

2001

On April 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.

2002

On April 25, 2002, ARC approved a less-than-fee, 2,242-acre addition (Corbin/Tucker site) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by TNC and consisted of two owners, David Corbin and Ken Tucker, with a taxable value of $1,106,820.

On August 15, 2002, 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 April 6, 2001) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Trammel, and had a taxable value of $430,000.

2003

On February 7, 2003, ARC approved a fee-simple and less-than-fee 3,113-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by TNC, the addition consisted of four landowners, five tracts and had a taxable value of $764,996. The tracts break down as follows: Soterra Crooked Creek tract, Soterra Connector tract, Thompson tract, Hatcher tract and TNC Dupuis/Traveler's tract.

On October 17, 2003, 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.

2007

On December 23, 2007, the Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 easement is known as the Trammell tract.

2010

On September 30, 2010, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) purchased 553 acres, known as Torreya State Park Addition, for $1,418,000 from Plum Creek. DRP will manage the addition.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the project under Florida Forever's Critical Natural Lands category.

2017

In 2017, The Forestland Group proposed a less-than-fee project of more than 37,000 acres in the upper Apalachicola River. Approximately 700 acres of the Skyland Ranch tract was also added, proposed for fee simple acquisition. The proposal totaled 37,895 acres and had a tax-assessed value of $5,756,412. In October 2017, ARC approved this as a stand-alone project, naming it the Upper Apalachicola River Ecosystem Florida Forever project.

In December 2017, ARC moved to combine the newly approved Upper Apalachicola River Ecosystem project into the boundary of the existing Apalachicola River project.

In 2017, 288.26 acres in the project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2020

On August 21, 2020, ARC approved an addition of 347 acres to the project boundary adjacent to the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area in Gulf County.

2021

In 2021, DEP's Division of State Lands was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund for $31 million to acquire, in fee, approximately 32,000 acres within the project. Additional funds were awarded to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to assist with start-up management of the land once acquired.

2023

On June 9, 2023, ARC approved the addition of seven parcels totaling 424 acres to the project boundary adjacent to the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area in Calhoun County.

On October 13, 2023, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling 665 acres to the project boundary in Jackson County.

DEP acquired, in fee, 758.5 acres in Liberty County from TNC.

2025

On April 11, 2025, ARC approved the addition of the Teal Timber project (18,553 acres) in Calhoun, Gulf and Liberty counties to the project boundary.

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 179 acres in Jackson County and four parcels totaling approximately 476 acres in Gadsden County to the project boundary.

On July 23, 2025, DEP acquired a 423.4-acre conservation easement in Jackson County from Keene Farm Trust and a 141-acre conservation easement in Jackson County from J Neil Keene.

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of 533 acres as a part of the St. Joe Timberland project reorganization effort.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the Apalachicola River project are to conserve the rich bluffs and ravines along the upper Apalachicola River which are unique in North America and provide important habitat for many rare plants and animals; to conserve and restore these important ecosystems and their plant and animal resources; 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 the restoration of natural pine forests. When complete, the project will include most of the bluffs and ravines in private ownership and will connect Torreya State Park, TNC's Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravine Preserve, Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area, Apalachicola River Water Management Area and Apalachicola National Forest. Protection of the ecosystem will also help conserve Apalachicola Bay and the Gulf of America. It has the appropriate size and location to achieve landscape-scale management goals.

Manager(s)

If acquired fee simple, the lower and middle sections of the project would be managed by FWC as part of the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area, while the upper section (north of State Road 20) would be managed by DRP as part of Torreya State Park. The portions of the project near the Torreya State Park and east of the Apalachicola River will be high-need management areas with an emphasis on public recreational use and development compatible with resource protection and management. During an initial 10-year pine restoration period, the Sweetwater Creek tract will be a low-need management area.

Management Prospectus

Purpose and Scope

If acquired, DRP would manage the Teal Timber North Tract as a part of the Florida State Park System. Consistent with the purposes of the Florida Forever land acquisition program and the mission of the Florida Park Service, goals and objectives would include:

- Protection and improvement of remnant intact natural communities;
- Formation of continuous and bilateral wildlife corridors along the Apalachicola River watershed;

- Restoration of large areas of altered landcover; and
- Provision of outdoor resource-based recreation and interpretation opportunities along the western banks of the Apalachicola River to fulfill a public lands and recreation need and complement existing parklands located on the eastern banks of the Apalachicola River.

If acquired, FWC would manage Teal Timber South Tract as a part of the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system to:

- Conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, recreational, timber, and fish and wildlife resources;
- Conserve and protect significant landscape-scale habitat and provide wildlife corridors for rare and imperiled species by increasing linkages and conservation corridors between public land and private conservation easements in the region;
- Provide surface and groundwater protection and protect natural floodplain functions; and
- Provide opportunities for fish and wildlife-focused public outdoor recreation.

Qualifications for State Designation

Florida state parks must represent aspects of Florida's natural landscape and cultural inheritance. Additionally, a broad goal of DRP is to extend parklands equitably across the state of Florida wherever the natural and cultural resources are of statewide significance. The Teal Timber North Tract offers both significant natural characteristics and opportunity for substantial public access where parklands are currently lacking. The landscape is comprised of nearly a half mile of frontage along the Apalachicola River, floodplain swamps/alluvial forest and pronounced upland topography, which — in conjunction with potential acquisition of adjacent lands — could be experienced by hiking, riding and paddling.

The North Tract would also complement Torreya State Park, a large portion of which is located due east across the Apalachicola River. Accordingly, the viewshed from the high bluff where the Gregory House is located would be perpetually protected. It is also important to note that the North Tract encompasses Ocheesee Landing where the Gregory House originally stood before relocation by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935.

The Teal Timber South Tract (FWC) would be established as a part of the WMA system and would further FWC's mission to manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people by protecting habitat for fish and wildlife species, including imperiled and rare species, within the biologically diverse Apalachicola River Basin, and by providing the public with a variety of fish and wildlife-focused recreation opportunities.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The unique and sensitive forests, glades and streams on the east side of the Apalachicola River qualify these lands as wildlife management areas, state forests, parks and preserves. The Atkins tract on the west side of the river has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area.

The Teal Timber North Tract (DRP) is in silvicultural condition with extensive loblolly and slash pine rows, areas of clear-cutting, ground disturbance and long-term fire exclusion. Although wiregrass and longleaf occur sporadically throughout the uplands, groundcover is lacking. Evidence of bedding and some ditching is visible. Few invasives were observed at the time of the site visit, but at least some areas of infestation are anticipated.

If acquired, extensive upland restoration would be required to bring the landscape into park-quality condition. Comparable restoration projects have been undertaken by DRP throughout Northwest Florida, such that DRP may be well prepared for this type of analysis and implementation logistics. Funding and staffing, however, may present a challenge and may require further analysis. Restoration objectives would be outlined in a unit management plan, plausibly including actions such as mechanical removal/thinning of pine and hardwood, regrading bedded terrain, reintroducing fire according to estimated return interval needs, invasive plant treatments and plantings of wiregrass and longleaf.

The Teal Timber South Tract (FWC) is typical of commercial pinelands excluded from fire. Groundcover is lacking in uplands due to dense pine stands and overgrown hardwood midstory. A large portion contains clearcuts with bedding. Additionally, the property contains invasive species and ditches. Due to the altered condition, restoration of natural communities will be a long-term process. Historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, if deemed necessary, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. The 10-year management plan will outline short-term and long-term actions for natural community restoration that will improve wildlife habitat. These actions may include flattening timber beds, removing hurricane debris piles, mechanical and chemical treatments of overgrown hardwoods, applying prescribed fire at intervals appropriate for each community type, treatment of invasive plant species, establishing longleaf pine and hydrological restoration.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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.

As to the Teal Timber North Tract (DRP), specific short-term and long-term objectives would be the product of a thorough resource management and land use planning process. Analogous experience and data from Torreya/Sweetwater and Bald Point/St. Teresa would be applied. Both planning and implementation would entail interagency cooperation. Land use planning would consider the existing facilities of nearby park units and gauge levels of demand for certain modes of recreation. During phases of intensive restoration, low-infrastructure and passive recreation would be necessary. The existing county road that terminates at Ocheesee Landing may be utilized, at least initially, for the primary point of access to accessible upland trails and the river. Considerable site analysis, however, would be needed to determine appropriate ingress/egress and road alignments. Some existing silvicultural roads that

extend along uplands may provide long-term access, while other roads (especially any that traverse bottomlands) may be abandoned for hydrological/natural communities restoration. Fencing, gates and park boundary signage would be placed to guide appropriate access and for general security. No structures exist on the North Tract that require protection at this time.

Once the Teal Timber South Tract is leased to FWC, a management plan will be developed within one year that describes the management goals and objectives necessary to implement resource management programs. Goals will address general wildlife habitat management; imperiled species habitat restoration and management, or population restoration; species monitoring; invasive species management; public access and recreational opportunities; hydrological restoration; forest resource management; cultural resource protection; facilities and infrastructure; and partnerships or collaborative management opportunities. Short-term and long-term objectives will be developed to address these goals.

Essential roads will be maintained to provide public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security and management of the property.

Revenue-generating Potential

No significant revenue is expected to be generated in the first several years, nor any significant facilities developed initially after the lands are placed under the management of DRP. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

During early phases, timber removal on the Teal Timber North Tract (DRP) could generate revenue with potential for funding further restoration activities. Generating revenue from visitation, however, would mostly be achieved after considerable restoration progress and construction of substantial public access infrastructure. Depending on which forms and volumes of visitation are planned, eventual concession partnerships may also yield revenue.

Revenue on the Teal Timber South Tract (FWC) 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. Timber sales from thinning operations and restoration of off-site pine plantations may yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of the FWC's Apiary Policy. Additionally, acquisition would provide long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources and to human health.

Potential Multiple-Use Activities

If managed by DRP, multiple-use would not be applicable to the Teal Timber North Tract as DRP functions as a single-use land manager. Removal of pine and hardwood may generate revenue only for the purposes of ongoing habitat restoration at this site.

Following acquisition, FWC will consider implementing multiple fish and wildlife-focused recreational uses through the Commission approval process as needed and following planning considerations. The 10-year management plan will identify approved and conditional multiple-use activities that will provide access and compatible recreation while protecting the resources.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Consistent with analogous restoration projects at Torreya/Sweetwater and Bald Point/St. Teresa, DRP may coordinate restoration efforts with the Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance (ARSA), established in 2003 by TNC. Specific partners under ARSA would likely include the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional partnerships might include Florida Forest Service (FFS), FWC and the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

FWC will cooperate with other agencies as needed to achieve management goals and objectives for the Teal Timber South Tract. Examples include cooperating with the Division of Historical Resources to ensure cultural resources are protected during management activities, FFS to provide technical assistance on forest resource management, Northwest Florida Water Management District and DEP for the monitoring and management of ground and surface water resources, and Gulf and Calhoun counties on road maintenance.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	$105,910	$105,910
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$30,000	$30,000
OCO	$168,000	$13,000
TOTAL	$303,910	$148,910

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP (Sweetwater)	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$83,306	$72,319
OPS	$24,960	$44,720
Expense	$16,800	$49,730
OCO	$101,252	$1,000
TOTAL	$226,318	$167,769

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP (North)	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$72,319	$72,319
OPS	$44,720	$44,720
Expense	$49,730	$49,730
OCO	$81,527	$1,000
TOTAL	$248,296	$167,769

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

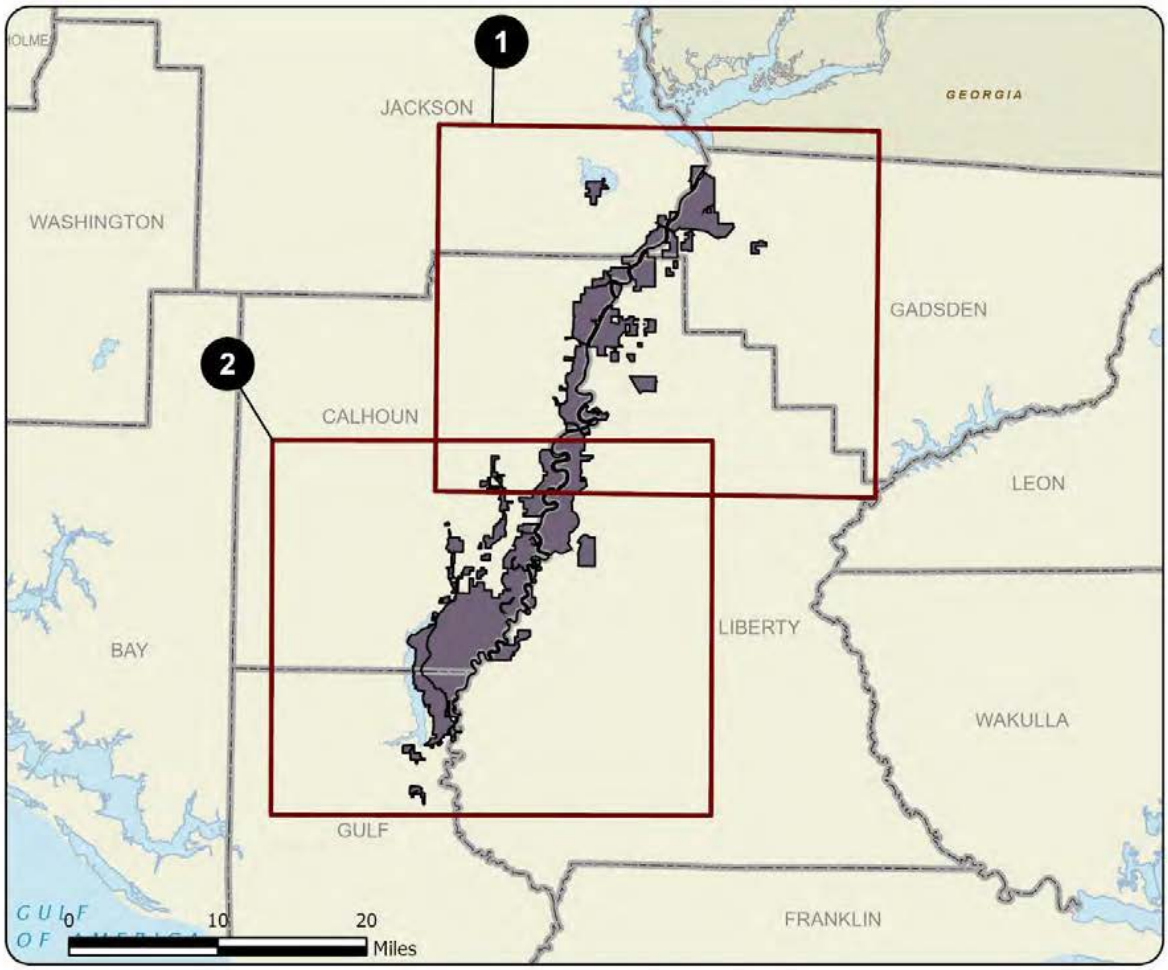
DRP (Teal Timber North Tract)	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Florida Forever, legislative appropriation, etc.	“”
Salary (# FTE)	2 FTE; $150,000	6 FTE; $430,000
OPS (# OPS)	2 OPS; $110,000	4 OPS; $220,000
Resource Management	$1,500,000	$50,000
Capital Improvements	$11,000,000	$35,000
Visitor Services/Recreation	$200,000	$75,000
Support	$550,000	$50,000
Administration	$45,000	$5,000
TOTAL	$13,555,000	$865,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FWC (Teal Timber South Tract)	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Florida Forever, legislative appropriation, etc.	“”
Salary (# FTE)	not provided	not provided
OPS (#OPS)	not provided	not provided
Resource Management	$990,000	$650,000
Capital Improvements	$437,000	$97,000
Visitor Services/Recreation	$401,000	$61,000
Support	$518,000	$178,000
Administration	$354,000	$14,000
TOTAL	$2,700,000	$1,000,000

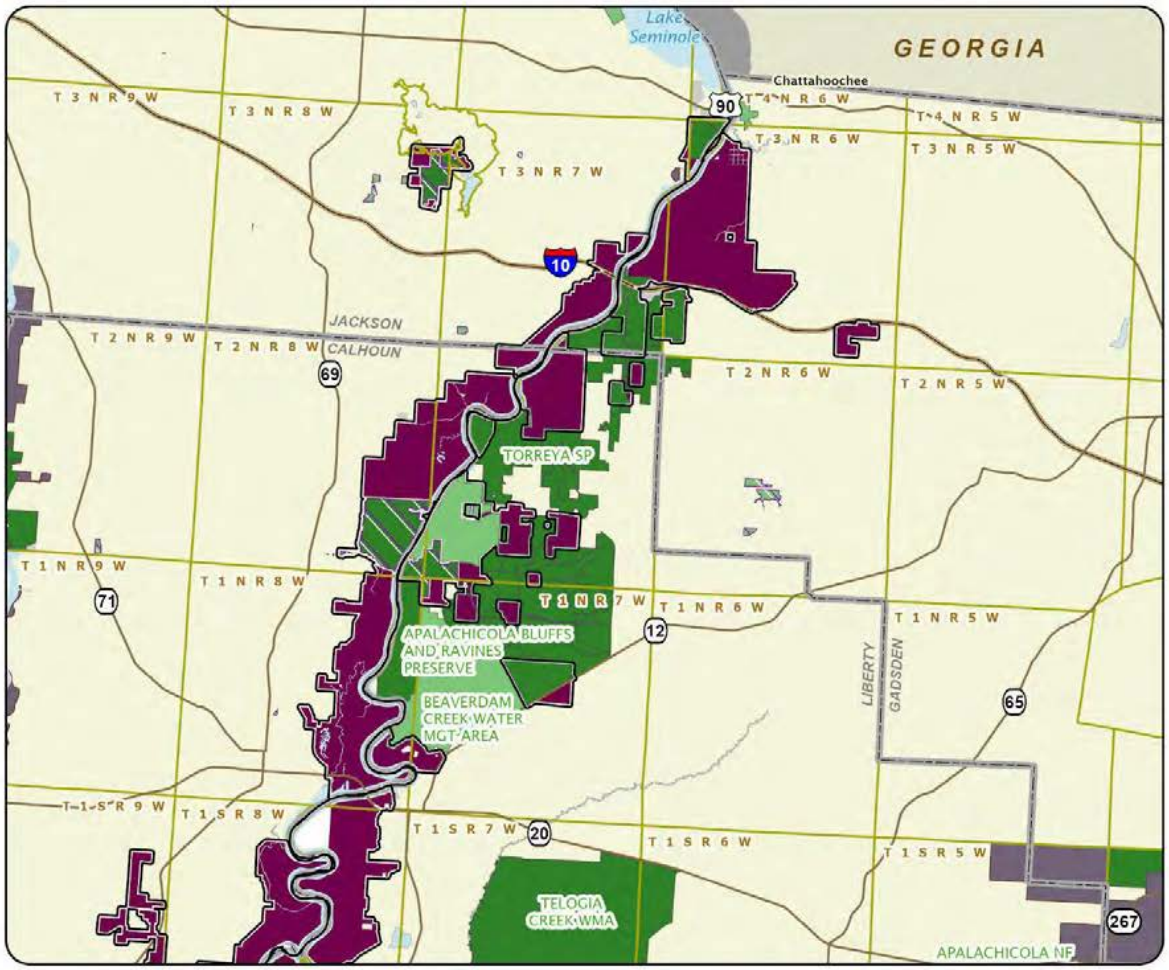
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



APALACHICOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

CALHOUN, GADSDEN, GULF, JACKSON, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES





APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 1

CALHOUN, GADSDEN, JACKSON, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

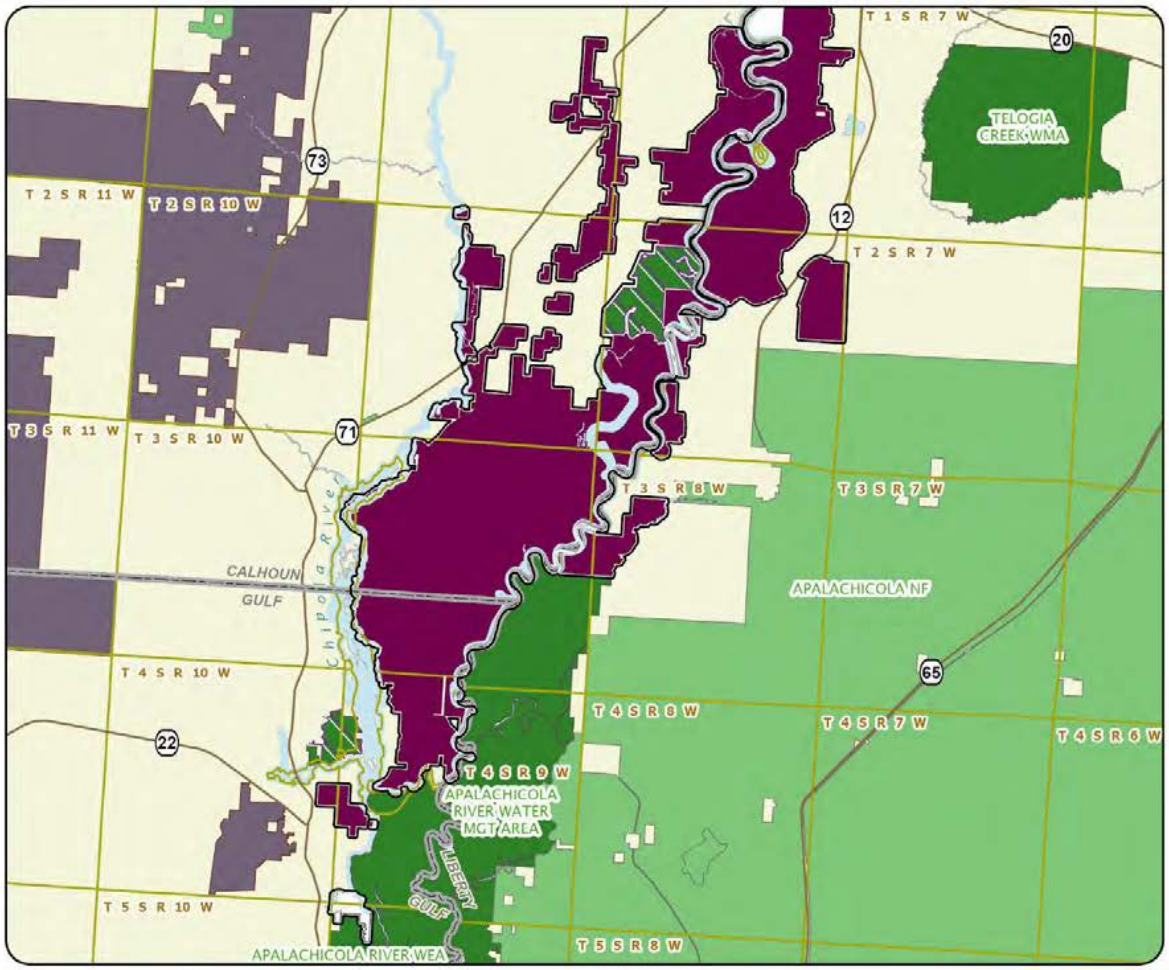
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 6 12 Miles

N





APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 2

CALHOUN, GULF, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Avalon

Critical Natural Lands

Jefferson County

Year Added to Priority List	*2022*
Project Acres	*14,683*
Acquired Acres	*11,726*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,957*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$7,938,110*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Avalon project will provide a substantial contribution to the long-term protection of forestland and wetland systems characteristic of the Red Hills region of Florida. The project will protect high-quality ecological communities that provide critical habitat for the region's rare and imperiled species and contribute to a contiguous corridor of conservation lands to provide important ecological connectivity in a rapidly growing region of the state.

General Description

The Avalon project contains 55 parcels totaling 13,270 acres in Jefferson County. The project is bisected by U.S. Highway 27 and U.S. Highway 19/State Road 57, extending from County Road 59 to the town of Lamont. The project largely falls within the Red Hills region, with eastern portions of the Turner-Avalon amendment located in the Aucilla lowlands.

Most of the uplands in Avalon are "old field" pine community (dominated by loblolly pine) with occasional longleaf pines and groundcover that exhibits some native components. Pine plantation is very common, and some portions of the project area have been impacted by past agricultural activities including cotton and tung oil production.

Large areas of good quality upland hardwood forest and bottomland forest are present in the project area. These forests often support a mature tree canopy and include small seepage streams. Currently, all properties are managed to support silviculture and hunting activities for game such as northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and are regularly managed with prescribed fire. Because the land is in good condition, several rare species of plants and animals have been recorded in the project area.

The project is located within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape, a component of the U.S. Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
*Florida mountain-mint**	G3/S3
*Fever tree**	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
White-breasted nuthatch	G5/S2
*Little brown jug**	G5/S3
One-toed amphiuma	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

The Avalon project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Avalon project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

2023

On April 14, 2023, ARC approved adding the 1,384-acre Avalon Phase II project in Jefferson County to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. Avalon Phase II was proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition and had a tax-assessed value of $3,158,220. After its approval, ARC added it to the existing Avalon project.

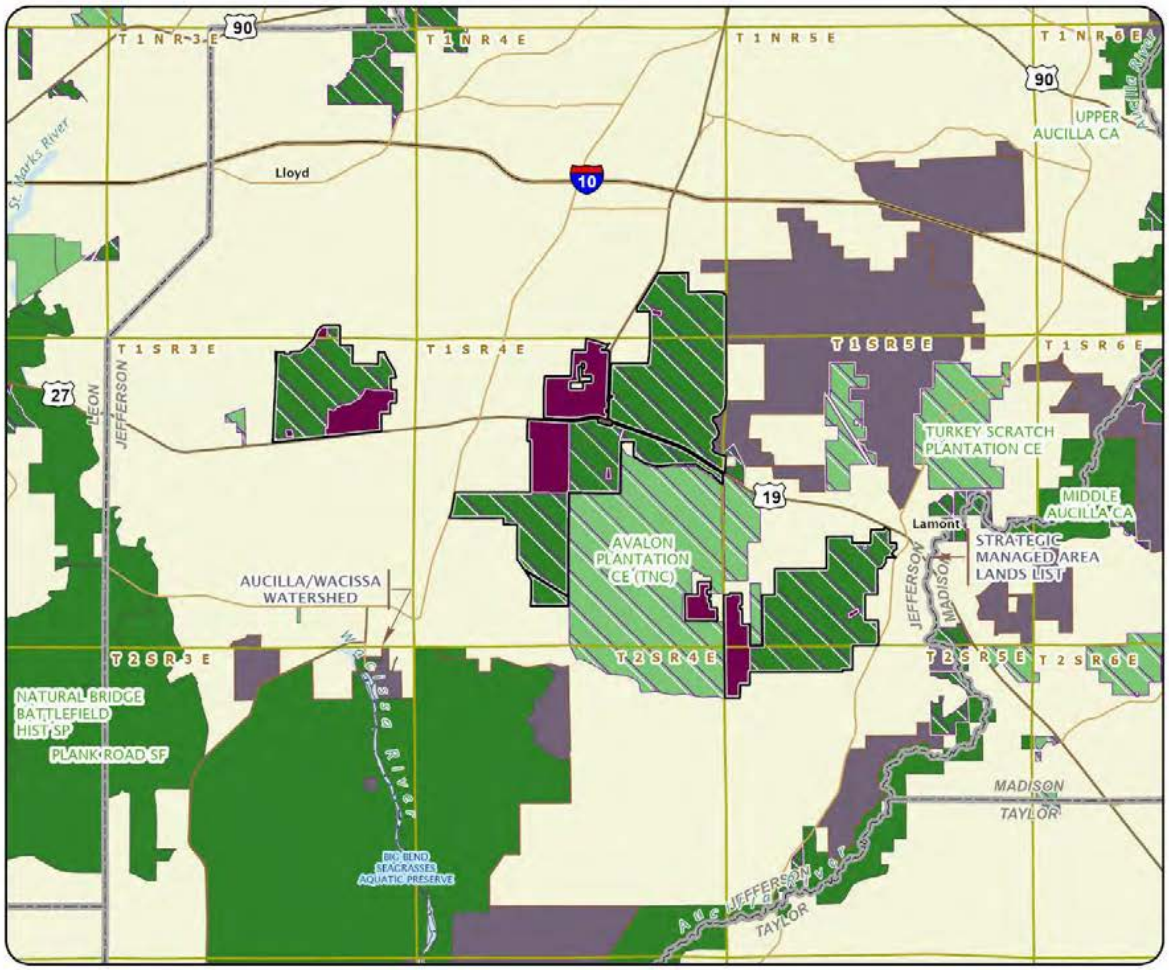
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired conservation easements over 11,692 acres in Jefferson County from Avalon Plantation, LLC.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Avalon project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.



AVALON

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Bar-B Ranch

Critical Natural Lands

Martin County

Year Added to Priority List	*2022*
Project Acres	*1,910*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,910*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$11,374,882*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The goal of the Bar-B Ranch project is to protect the hydrologic connection between the St. Johns River and Everglades watershed, provide valuable wildlife habitat and preserve wildlife corridors extending from South Florida to Central Florida. The project also provides an opportunity for the restoration of naturally occurring water storage that would benefit the water quality of the St. Lucie River Estuary, Indian River Lagoon, Lake Okeechobee and the Florida Everglades.

General Description

Bar-B Ranch is in central Martin County within the Allapattah Flats, adjacent to the C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area. The site is currently utilized as an active cattle ranch, characterized by improved and semi-improved pasture with some mesic and hydric pine flatwoods, wet prairies, and depression marshes.

Bar-B Ranch is within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network and is part of a greenway corridor extending from Palm Beach County north to Central Florida. Rare species documented or reported within the proposed project area include common wild-pine (*Tillandsia fasciculata*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), tricolored heron (*Egretta tricolor*) and roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*). No archaeological or historical resources have been identified at Bar-B Ranch.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Wood stork	G4/S2

Public Use

Bar-B Ranch is proposed for fee simple acquisition and would provide public outdoor recreation opportunities. The South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) main objective is to manage

and protect the property's resources while still allowing public use. Activities consistent with these goals include hiking, biking, camping, fishing, equestrian use and environmental education programs.

Acquisition Planning

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Bar-B Ranch project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

SFWMD will coordinate with Martin County and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to manage the property. If acquired, the federal government will be required to match what is spent on the property for utilization on other Everglades restoration efforts.

Management Policy Statement

Management will focus on the preservation and restoration of the resources on-site with an emphasis on the water resources. Where compatible with the site's resources, passive resource-based recreation will be provided to the public.

The following management goals and objectives were identified:

- To preserve, maintain, enhance, and restore natural communities and wildlife habitat.
- To allow restoration of the wetland systems.
- To provide connectivity to adjacent conservation lands.
- To provide appropriate nature-based recreation that offers public enjoyment of the site without damaging the unique natural habitats.

Manager(s)

The recommended manager is SFWMD.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

This project is critical to the water quality and quantity of the Everglades and related waterbodies. The project also helps to create a wildlife corridor between the St. Johns River and the Everglades. Acquisition would increase the state's contribution to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

SFWMD plans to restore the Bar-B Ranch property through various management methods. Ditches and drainage features are scattered across the property and have impacted the property's wetlands. SFWMD plans to selectively fill or plug the drainage ditches to restore a natural hydrologic regime to the area. They also plan to reintroduce fire to the wet prairie and

pine flatwoods plant communities by utilizing prescribed burns. Prior to initial burning activities, mechanical vegetation control will be used to address high fuel load conditions.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

SFWMD will provide site security and resource protection measures by utilizing existing infrastructure, posting signage and having law enforcement patrols. Public access to the property can be found through a gated secondary road (owned by SFWMD) connecting to Southwest Citrus Boulevard.

Revenue-generating Potential

Bar-B Ranch expects to generate approximately $12,500 annually due to the ongoing cow and calf operation on the property. Because SFWMD does not charge user fees to recreationally utilize public lands, no other sources of revenue are expected.

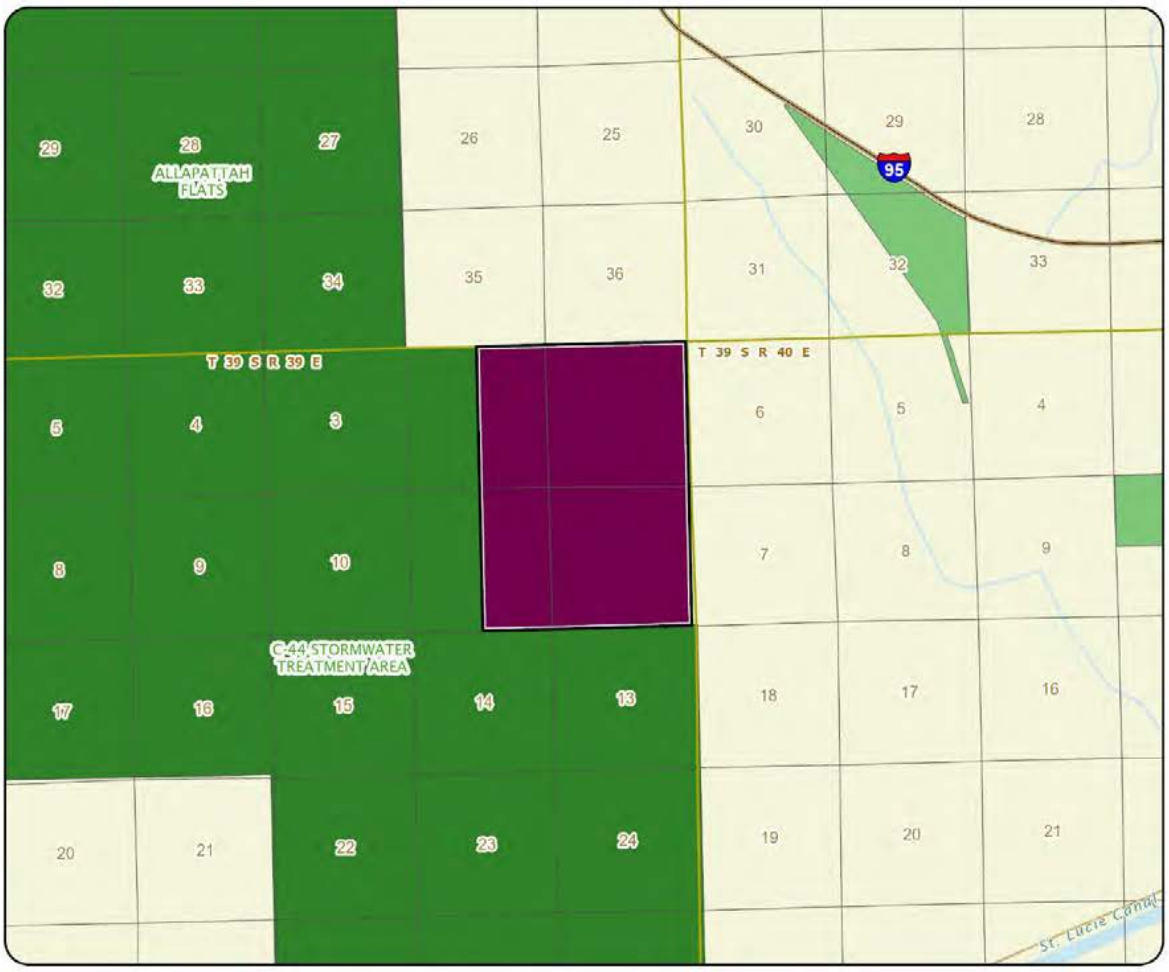
Cooperators in Management Activities

SFWMD will partner with Martin County and FWC to develop and operate public use and land management programs, allowing the property to be managed for the benefit of the resource and the public.

Management Cost Summary

SFWMD	Startup	Recurring
Salary	$61,689	$61,689
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$75,000	$75,000
OCO	$42,020	$0
Other	$125,000	$125,000
TOTAL	$303,709	$261,689

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BAR-B RANCH

MARTIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Bear Creek Forest

Critical Natural Lands

Bay, Calhoun and Gulf Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2004*
Project Acres	*101,659*
Acquired Acres	*15,268*
Remaining Project Acres	*86,391*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$89,523,083*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Bear Creek Forest project will help to establish the Northwest Florida Ecological Greenway, a proposed system of natural areas forming a significant corridor connection between conservation lands in the central Florida Panhandle. The project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity through the protection, restoration and maintenance of the quality and function of the state's diverse ecosystems. The project will help to ensure that enough quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural ecosystems and the public.

General Description

The Bear Creek Forest project is in Bay, Calhoun and Gulf counties. This landscape consists of pine plantations interspersed with wet prairies and forested wetlands including baygalls, dome swamps, basin swamps and floodplain swamps. The site also contains upland forests, including sandhill, scrubby and mesic flatwoods. The Bear Creek Forest project is located 6 miles southeast of the Econfina Creek Water Management Area, 6 miles north of Tyndall Air Force Base and 2 miles southwest of the Middle Chipola River Florida Forever project. The Chipola Experimental Forest, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, is adjacent to the project on its northwest side near State Road 20.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Dark-headed hatpins**	G1/S1
*Pinewoods aster**	G1?/S1?
*Godfrey's butterwort**	G2/S2
Yellow-sided clubtail	G2/S2
*Giant water cowbane**	G5T2/S2
*Mock pennyroyal**	G2G3/S2S3
*Narrow-leaved phoebanthus**	G3/S3
*Fever tree**	G4/S2
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Public use will include resource-based recreation and educational opportunities. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) anticipates that interpretive and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. The project is accessible from public roadways and near the major urban area of Panama City.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Bear Creek Forest project to Group B of the Florida Forever 2004 Interim Priority List. This fee simple project, sponsored by FFS and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 104,461 acres owned by the Great Western Timber Company. In 2004, the project had an estimated tax-assessed value of $15,041,536.

2005

On January 27, 2005, ARC moved the project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

On June 3, 2005, ARC moved the project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Interim Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Florida Forever category of Critical Natural Lands projects.

2024

In December 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 1,211.47 acres in Bay County to the project boundary.

2025

On June 10, 2025, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection acquired, in fee, 12,262.2 acres in Bay County from Bear Creek Timber, LLC. This acquisition created the Sandy Creek State Forest.

Coordination

FFS and TNC are acquisition partners.

Management Policy Statement

The principal purposes of the project include the protection of biodiversity and the provision of resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities; and management would be oriented to conserving and protecting wildlife species, and careful control of public uses.

Manager

FFS will manage the proposed project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Most of the acreage of this project consists of slash and loblolly pine plantations. Some of the pine plantations have been bedded, but several areas still have native groundcover and understory species. With thinning, the introduction of prescribed fire and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from silviculture to an area managed for ecological and recreational benefits. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

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 require thinning or removing trees to help regenerate native ground covers and canopy.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Public access will be immediately provided for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. FFS proposes to manage the site as a state forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. FFS will cooperate with other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. 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.

Revenue-generating Potential

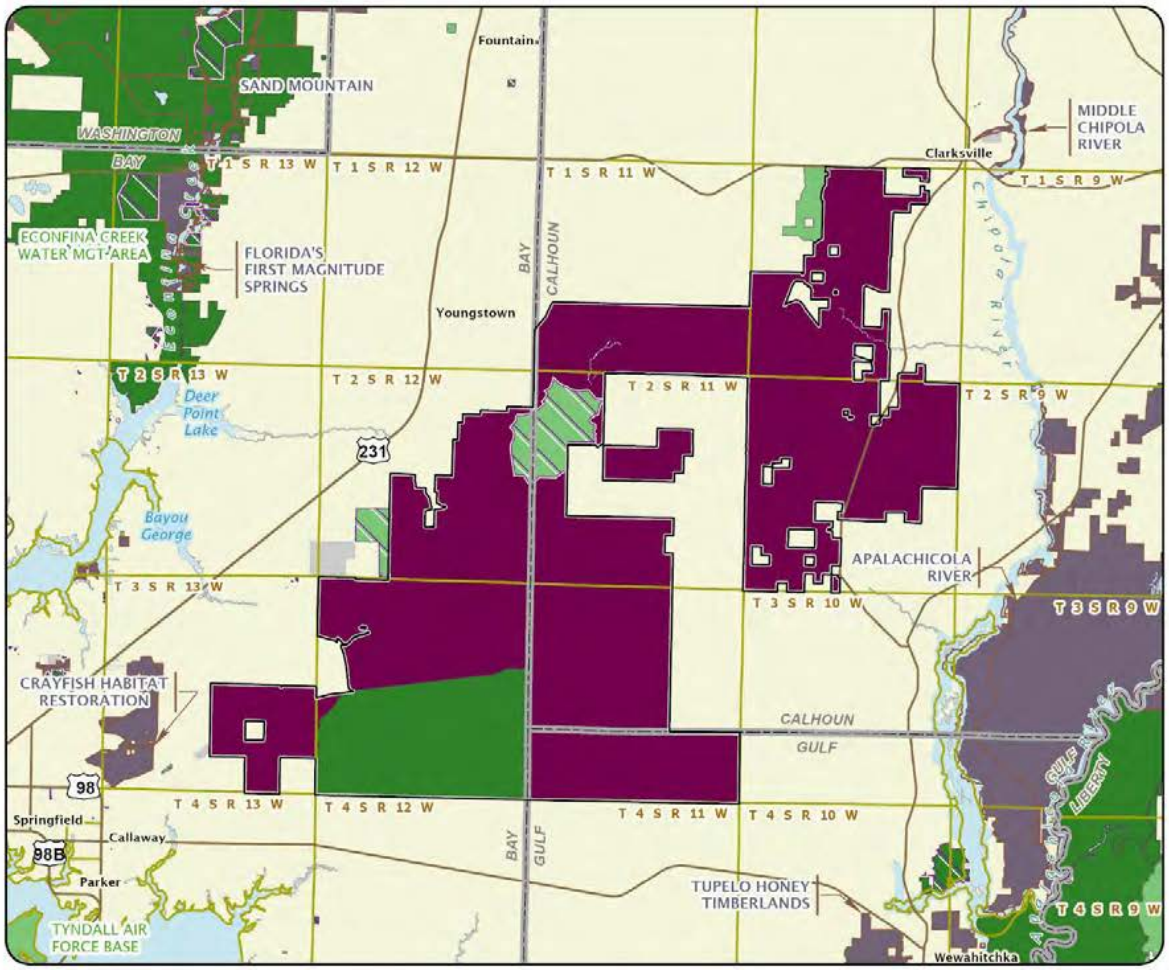
Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue

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.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund	not provided
Salary (9 FTE)	$293,345	not provided
OPS	$0	not provided
Expense	$797,000	not provided
OCO	$852,260	not provided
TOTAL	$1,942,605	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BEAR CREEK FOREST

BAY, CALHOUN, AND GULF COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Bear Hammock

Critical Natural Lands

Marion County

Year Added to Priority List	*2008*
Project Acres	*4,689*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,689*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$19,851,637*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Bear Hammock project will provide an important connection between Goethe State Forest and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, helping to create a continuous stretch of over 200,000 acres of conservation land. Located in southern Marion County, this project will enhance coordination of land acquisition efforts by linking conservation lands and preserving rare species habitat. Bear Hammock is known to be habitat for species such as wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus).* The property has a high potential to provide recreational trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding, and other recreational activities including camping, picnicking and water access.

General Description

Bear Hammock is in the valley of the Withlacoochee River, near Dunnellon and Brooksville. About two-thirds of the site is 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 shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*) and gallberry (*Ilex glabra*). 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3

Public Use

Bear Hammock has many potential resource-based recreational opportunities. It is within a few miles of Dunnellon, adjacent to Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and borders the South Goethe Florida Forever project and Goethe State Forest. This land contains seven lakes. Access to the lakes and rivers would provide canoeing, kayaking, sailing and fishing. 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 connect with trails and recreational opportunities from other nearby public lands. The property has over 3 miles of access from County Road 40 and County Road 363. This easy access could bolster the project as a full-service recreation area by providing camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, environmental education and water access. Hunting could also be supported.

Acquisition Planning

2008

In 2008, the project had an estimated tax value of $32,576,529.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Critical Natural Lands projects.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (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 wood storks, bald eagles, diamondback rattlesnakes and gopher tortoises. Another major goal is to provide public outdoor resource-based recreation.

Manager(s)

FWC is the recommended manager except for a separate island in Lake Rousseau, which would be managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks as part of Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Bear Hammock will increase the connectivity within the conservation landscape extending from north central peninsular Florida to the 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project requires resource management methods such as prescribed fire where appropriate. FWC would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions, objectives and restoration methods. This is especially important for the conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species.

Potential methods for the perpetuation of less disturbed natural communities include control of human uses, ecological restoration, exotic species removal and prescribed burning, and other important methods for the 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 accomplished during the early part of plan development and implementation due to the expected presence of imperiled or rare species. Facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources and compatible recreational experiences. Any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

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

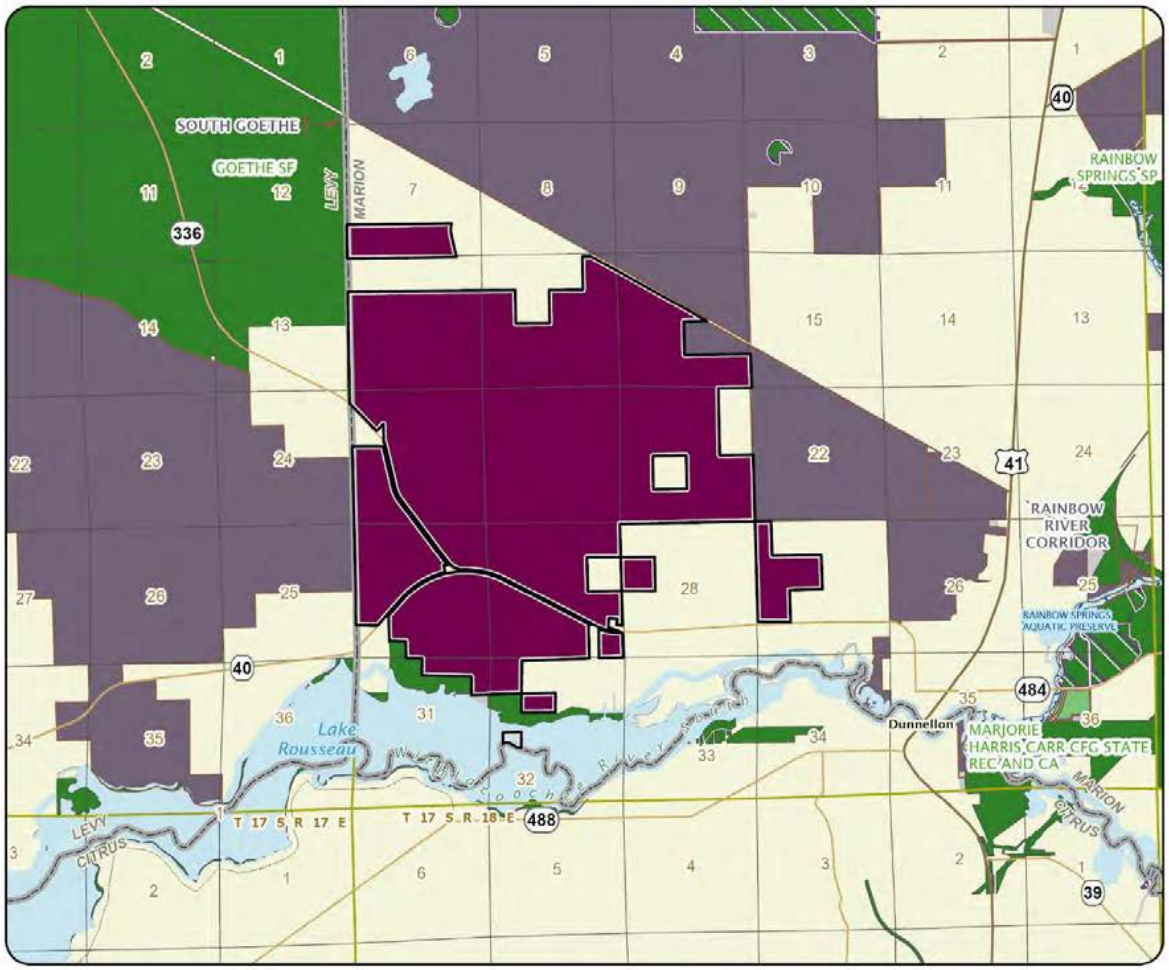
Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including DEP, the Florida Forest Service and the St. Johns River Water Management District in the management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source	not provided	not provided
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$217,898	$88,179
OCO	$378,630	$173,518
TOTAL	$596,628	$261,697

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BEAR HAMMOCK

MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Belle Meade

Critical Natural Lands

Collier County

Year Added to Priority List	*1993*
Project Acres	*27,706*
Acquired Acres	*23,058*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,648*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$39,361,295*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Belle Meade project will help preserve the Rookery Bay estuary and conserve one of Southwest Florida's last large natural areas. The project's undeveloped cypress swamps and old-growth wet flatwoods are a significant component of the Rookery Bay watershed and provide important habitat for endangered wildlife such as the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). The project will provide resource-based recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of a rapidly urbanizing Southwest Florida.

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. The hydrology of the hydric pine flatwoods and dwarf cypress communities within the project is relatively intact and these natural communities are vulnerable to hydrological disturbance.

The project will protect the habitat of at least 20 Florida Natural Areas Inventory-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 threatened by residential and commercial development, spreading from Naples.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Ghost orchid**	G1/S1
*Narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem**	G4T2/S2
*Fuzzy-wuzzy air-plant**	G4/S1
*Florida dancing-lady orchid**	G4/S1
*Cowhorn orchid**	G5?/S1
*Powdery catopsis**	G5?/S1
*Tailed strap fern**	G5/S1
*Hand fern**	G4/S3
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1992

On December 10, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Belle Meade project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This fee simple acquisition was sponsored by the former Department of Natural Resources and The Conservancy, Inc.; it consisted of approximately 40,846 acres, 762 parcels, 504 landowners and a taxable value of $62,933,000.

1994

On July 20, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council deleted approximately 11,985 acres located north of Interstate 75 from the project area at the request of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This also removed the Collier property and the property to the south adjacent to State Road 951. The approximate taxable value of the deletion was $18,465,769.

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council removed approximately 640 acres in the southwest corner and 160 acres in the southeast corner. Approximately 500 landowners remained in the revised boundary, with parcels ranging from less than 10 acres in size to over 100 acres in size.

1995

On July 14, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee simple 2,220-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by three landowners and consisted of 20 parcels. 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 Land Acquisition Advisory Council in 1994). The work group consisted of landowners and representatives of local government, the South Florida Water Management District, state agencies and other experts. The final boundary recommended by the work group contained approximately 500 ownerships.

1996

On July 16, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee simple 1,240-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by eight landowners and consisted of nine parcels.

On October 30, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a "Landowner Request Zone." The zone defined areas in which a landowner may request inclusion in the boundary in writing. Highest priority was given to parcels within Land Acquisition Advisory Council-approved boundaries.

2006

On June 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 November 20, 2006, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory removed 490 acres from the project boundary at the request of private landowners Howard N. Galbut and Gary R. Edwards.

2007

In September 2007, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida donated 147 acres (value of $2,310,000).

2009

On October 9, 2009, approximately 650 acres were donated by Estates at Twin Eagles, LTD (estimated donation value of $10,457,520). The Florida Forest Service (FFS) agreed to manage all acres.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 348-acre ($19,232,935 just value) reduction to the boundary due to commercial development and infrastructure.

2011

In August 2011, Citigate Development donated 86.34 acres in Picayune Strand State Forest. This donation, valued at $274,785, was to be managed by FFS.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Critical Natural Lands project category.

2020

Mr. Bernard F. Gallagher, Jr., donated 1.29 acres in August 2020 to Picayune Strand State Forest with a donation value of $4,567.

2021

DEP purchased 5.13 acres from the Estate of Brigida Gargiulo Green that will be managed by FFS as an addition to Picayune Strand State Forest.

2023

In October 2023, ARC voted to remove approximately 56 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

Coordination

Recent acquisition partners include The Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the Belle Meade project are to conserve, protect and restore critical habitats within the project area. These habitats include wet flatwoods and cypress swamps, which provide habitat for many rare and endangered species. The project will be managed under the multiple-use concept, with management activities directed toward protecting old-growth forests (using growing-season burns where necessary) and restoring natural surface water flows. When complete, the project will link Collier-Seminole State Park and Picayune Strand State Forest, approaching the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Manager(s)

FFS is recommended as manager.

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 (12 miles of common border with the Picayune Strand) to make it highly suitable for management as a state forest.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Portions of the project may require hydrological restoration, but these activities will likely be conducted by the South Florida Water Management District. No other notable disturbances are known. FFS expects its management efforts to be typical for a state forest.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

After the core area is acquired, FFS will provide access for low-intensity outdoor recreation. Initial activities include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, conducting an inventory of resources and removing trash.

The sites' natural resources and threatened and endangered species will be inventoried to develop a management plan. Long-range plans for this project are to restore disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protect 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 in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education. Budget needs for interim management are covered under the Save Our Everglades/Golden Gate Project.

Revenue-generating Potential

FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but FFS expects the revenue-generating potential for this project to be low.

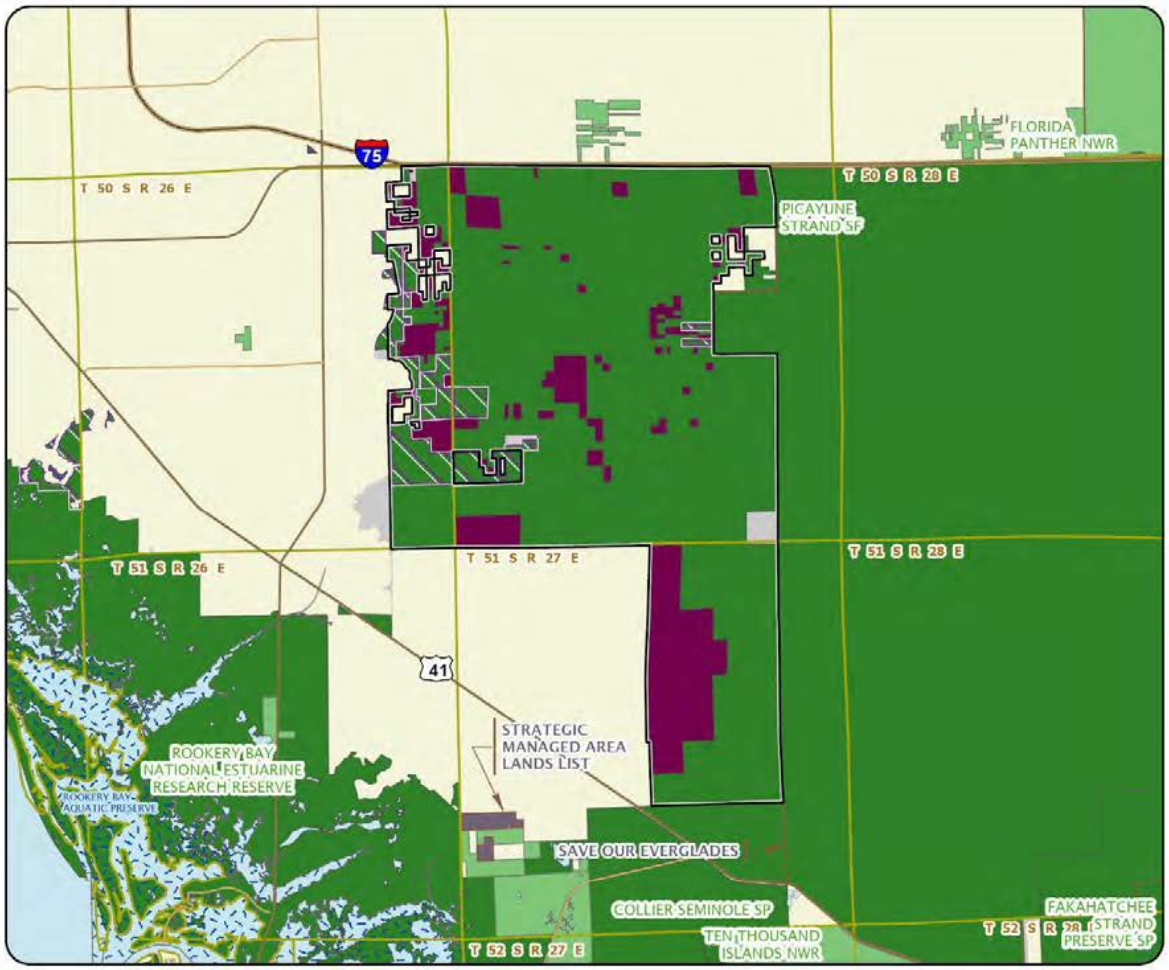
Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS will collaborate with other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	$0	$0
OPS	$9,140	$9,140
Expense	$0	$0
OCO	$44,000	$0
TOTAL	$53,140	$9,140

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BELLE MEADE

COLLIER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Blue Head Ranch

Critical Natural Lands
Highlands County

Year Added to Priority List	*2012*
Project Acres	*43,051*
Acquired Acres	*2,116*
Remaining Project Acres	*40,935*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$289,615,698*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Blue Head Ranch project will protect a large portion of the Fisheating Creek watershed, including Fisheating Creek and its important tributaries to naturally capture, store and slowly release water that migrates to the interconnected downstream ecosystems of Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. The project expands land conservation efforts in a region of the state with renowned, high-quality natural resources. The project protects a diversity of high-quality natural communities, including large areas of endemic dry prairie and mesic flatwoods.

General Description

Blue Head Ranch is in the heart of the native, endemic Florida grassland that stretches north and west of Lake Okeechobee. The entire Blue Head Ranch ownership straddles the northern and southern sides of State Road 70. Blue Head Ranch is a working ranch with approximately 4,000 head of cattle along with associated facilities and employee residences.

Pasture is interspersed among prairie, hammocks and depressional wetlands, with the largest pasture occurring in the southern quarter of the proposal. Fisheating Creek has been channelized for about 75 percent of its length through the property but retains a more natural flow at the southern end of the project. Other ditching, some substantial, is present throughout the ranch along roads and through wetlands. There are roads throughout most of the property and several regularly graded limerock roads.

A large block of improved pasture along the southern boundary was the site of the old Graham Dairy. Although highly disturbed, the pasture areas still support an abundance of wildlife, including several rare species.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida Keys sweat bee	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Edison's ascyrum**	G2G3/S2S3
Short-tailed hawk	G4G5/S1
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
*Cutthroatgrass**	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Public use would depend on the acquisition type (fee simple or less-than-fee). If acquired as less-than-fee, public access would be dependent on the landowner's consent. The property could be used for hiking, geocaching, bird watching and primitive camping if it were publicly accessible.

Acquisition Planning

1987

Much of this area was submitted as a proposal and approved as a project in 1986. However, the landowner requested its removal from the list in 1987 because he was not interested in selling the land.

2012

On August 17, 2012, the current project was presented to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) by The Nature Conservancy and Realtor Dean Saunders (representing the landowner). The proposal was approved by ARC as a Florida Forever project in the Critical Natural Lands category on December 14, 2012. It had an estimated tax assessed value of $5,559,153.

2015

On June 19, 2015, ARC approved evaluation of a new project proposal for A.P. Ranch, consisting of 822 acres in Highlands County adjacent to the Blue Head Ranch Florida Forever project.

On October 16, 2015, ARC approved the A.P. Ranch project, which had a tax assessed value of $255,910. Because of its compatibility, ARC added this acreage to the boundary of the Blue Head Ranch Florida Forever project. This proposal contains three parcels south of Lake Placid, all bordering the Blue Head Ranch Florida Forever project, and is hydrologically connected to the Fisheating Creek area. The land is a mix of improved pasture that has been regularly burned (694 acres), scattered natural pines (467 acres) and wetland forests (448 acres).

2023

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 1,291-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from LTL Real Estate Holdings, LLC.

Coordination

This project would help establish a wildlife corridor between the Lake Wales Ridge and the South Florida Water Management District's Bright Hour Watershed Conservation Easement. There are no acquisition partners currently.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of managing Blue Head Ranch are to establish a connection with adjacent conservation properties, ensure the health of the Florida Everglades Ecosystem and protect and restore rare and imperiled species' habitat.

Manager(s)

The project could be acquired through less-than-fee acquisition. If acquired fee simple, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) would be the designated manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Blue Head Ranch project would conserve, manage and restore important ecosystems; protect and enhance significant hydrological resources; and conserve, manage and restore Fisheating Creek and other area watersheds. The project would also establish beneficial wildlife corridors.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The intensity of Blue Head Ranch's management would depend on the conditions of its acquisition or its monitoring. Much of the area used for cattle ranching is dry prairie that has been converted to improved pasture, having been ditched, cleared, tilled and reseeded with specific grasses.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

If acquired and leased to FWC for management, a management plan will be developed describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue from conservation lands (such as Blue Head Ranch) can include permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on the area meeting the criteria of the FWC's Apiary Policy. Additionally, cattle

grazing leases may also be considered contingent upon the suitability of the site within FWC's cattle grazing criteria.

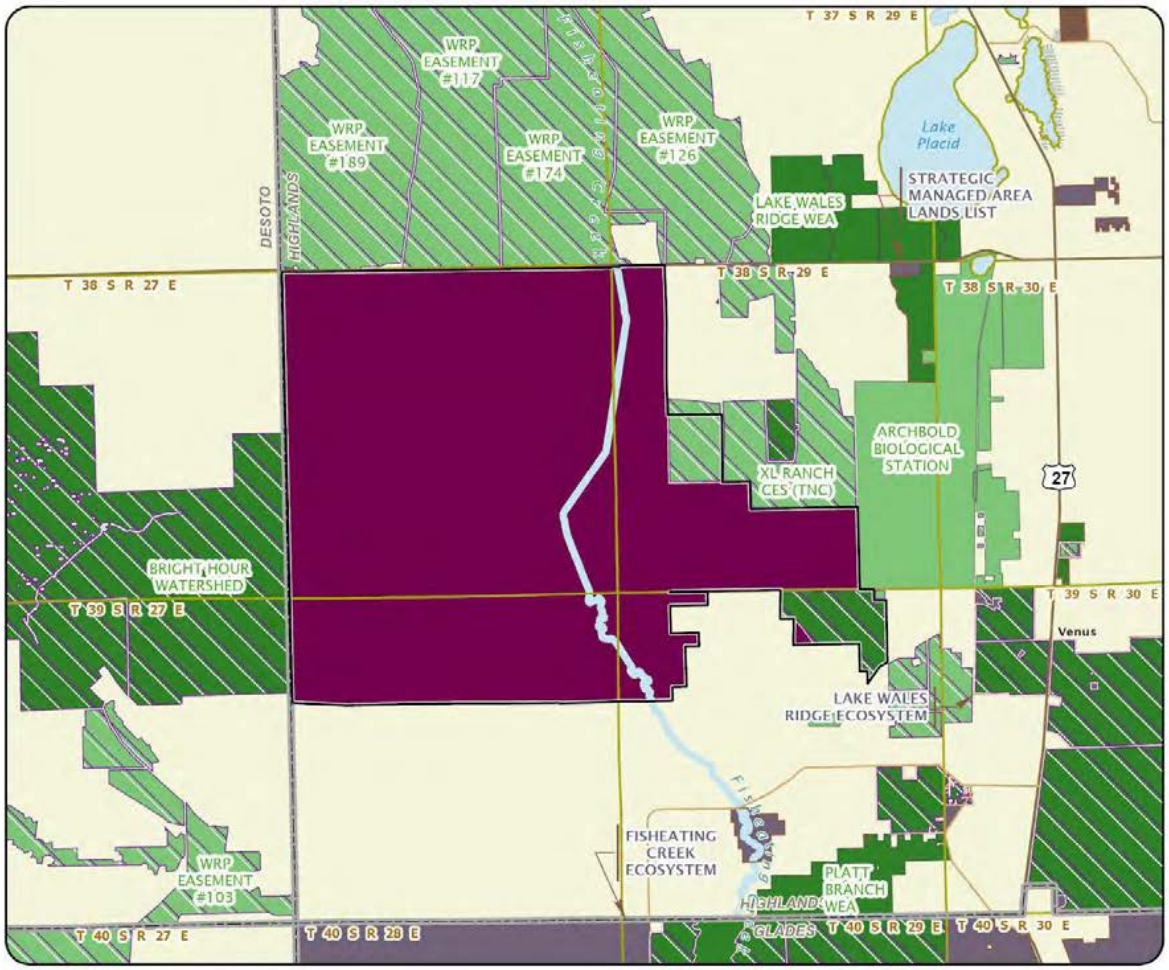
Cooperators in Management Activities

If Blue Head Ranch is acquired and leased to FWC for management, FWC will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies. These agencies may include DEP, Florida Forest Service, Highlands County, South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (among others).

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	not provided	not provided
OCO	$0	$1,992,098
FCO	$6,490,240	$424,299
TOTAL	$6,490,240	$2,416,397

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted in 2012



BLUE HEAD RANCH

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Bombing Range Ridge

Critical Natural Lands

Highlands, Osceola, and Polk Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1998*
Project Acres	*46,974*
Acquired Acres	*21,253*
Remaining Project Acres	*25,721*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$86,955,414*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Bombing Range Ridge project will protect flatwoods, marshes, swamps, hammocks and scrub ridge that provide critical habitat for rare species including Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*). The project would contribute to the protection of significant water resources including the Kissimmee River, Lake Rosalie, Tiger Lake and Lake Walk-in-Water and protect the ruins of Sumica, a small turpentine and timber community built and then abandoned in the early 20th century. The project will connect Avon Park Air Force Range with adjacent state conservation lands and provide areas for outdoor resource-based recreation.

General Description

The project is in southeastern Polk County, 15 miles east of Lake Wales and adjacent to the west side of Lake Kissimmee. The project's namesake, the Bombing Range Ridge, is a prominent relic sand bar that separates the Kissimmee River and Arbuckle Creek. The project includes most of the ridge's unprotected portions that are not within Avon Park Air Force Range. Scrubby flatwoods and scrub occur on higher elevations of the project. Mesic flatwoods within the project area are interspersed with rarer community types like seepage slope and wet prairie. East of Tiger Lake, the project contains portions of scrub ridge, mesic flatwoods, depression marshes, large basin marsh systems and a broad floodplain marsh associated with Lake Kissimmee. Both areas are controlled by a hunt club and numerous modular homes, parked recreational vehicles and other similar type structures are scattered throughout.

Areas of the project south of Lake Rosalie and northeast of Lake Weohyakapka contain sections of Weohyakapka Creek (a blackwater stream) and associated wetlands, including an extensive floodplain swamp and hydric hammock. Uplands in this portion of the project support mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods and dry prairie. The large tract that sits northeast of Lake Weohyakapka has been well-managed and is relatively undisturbed. This is the site of an old railroad grade and the remains of the Sumica settlement.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Snail kite	G5/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Florida hartwrightia**	G2G3/S2S3
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
*Scrub pigeon-wing**	G2G3/S2S3
*Nodding pinweed**	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1997

On August 19, 1997, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners signed a resolution that gave high priority to the Bombing Range Ridge project and supported the acquisition through the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) program.

In December, the project was added to the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council CARL Priority List. This fee simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), consisted of approximately 39,073 acres, multiple owners and a 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.

1998

In 1998, Polk County and the South Florida Water Management District acquired the Sumica tract. The tract totaled approximately 4,167 acres.

2001

On May 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 taxable value of $3,256,856.

2002

In 2002, ARC removed an estimated 1,000 acres at various locations in the project, which were owned by approximately 400 landowners who no longer wanted to be included in the project.

2003

On August 15, 2003, ARC approved a less-than-fee 1,691-acre addition (Brahma Island tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Saunders Realty, consisted of one owner, Cary and Layne Lightsey, and had a taxable value of $176,180.

2005

In April 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund acquired the Brahma Island Tract (approximately 1,063.40 acres) through a conservation easement.

2006

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

2007

On April 17, 2007, the project boundary was modified to exclude a <0.5-acre parcel at the request of the landowner.

2011

On August 15, 2011, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands purchased a 2,674-acre easement in the project from TNC.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2013

On April 19, 2013, ARC approved the removal of 14 parcels in five sites totaling 63.98 acres.

2015

On August 19, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) established the 85.87-acre Idols Aside conservation easement, of which 13.69 acres are within the project boundary.

2016

On October 6, 2016, USFWS purchased a 201.5-acre conservation easement.

2018

On November 30, 2018, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services closed on a 4,468-acre easement owned by the Goolsby Ranch.

2020

On February 14, 2020, ARC approved a 0.94-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.

On June 12, 2020, ARC approved a 2.53-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.

2021

On February 12, 2021, ARC approved a 1.27-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.

2022

On February 11, 2022, ARC approved a reduction of 16.38 acres (13 parcels within the River Ranch Subdivision) in Polk County from the project boundary.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 181 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

Coordination

About two percent of the parcels within the project are either county-owned or county tax certificates. Polk 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.

Manager(s)

FFS and FWC will manage all but 540 acres in the north portion of the project adjacent to Rosalie Creek; this portion will be managed by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

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 project on the shore of Tiger Lake is adjacent to Lake Kissimmee State Park. The area contains Rosalie Creek, a drainage joining Lake Rosalie with Tiger Lake, a portion of which the creek is already a part of the park. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for a state forest. Management by FFS as a state forest depends on the state obtaining legal public access to the site and acquiring fee simple title to the core parcels.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project is mostly composed of small lots with several thousand owners. Numerous properties contain structures and accessory structures. This will complicate fire management and exotic species control on all but the largest, most contiguous properties and create numerous challenges with encroachment, illegal dumping and unauthorized trespass.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Upon fee-simple acquisition, DRP proposes to provide public access for low-intensity, non-facility-related outdoor recreation activities. FFS proposes to manage the site as a unit of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest, and management activities will be done with district and state forest personnel. Initial or intermediate efforts of FFS will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory and removing trash. The public will have appropriate access, but sensitive resources will also be affordably protected. Vehicle 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 imperiled species will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan. 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 on site security, including posting boundaries and developing a resource inventory in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive management plan. Long-term management by DRP 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.

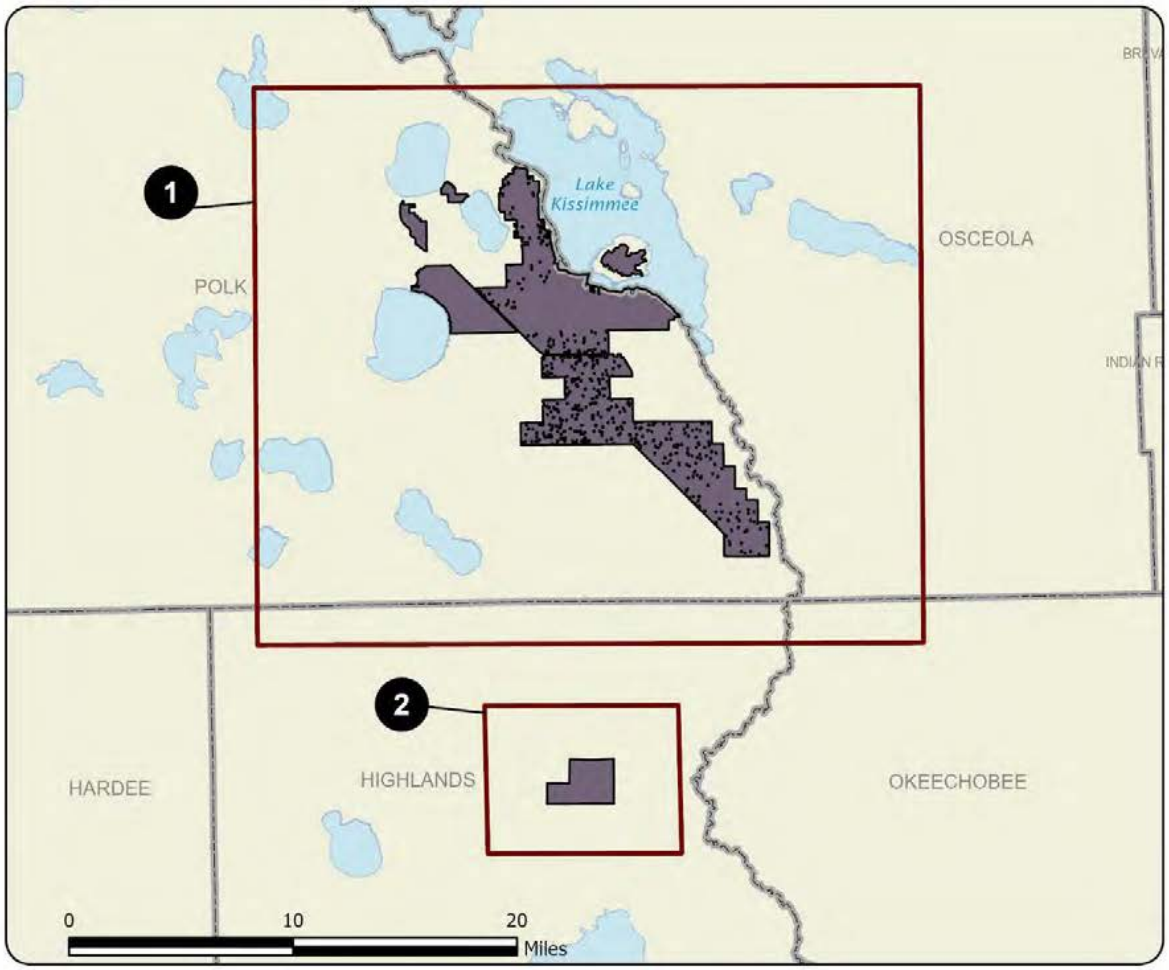
Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS and DRP will cooperate with local governments, state agencies and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the use of the lands for state park purposes.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source	Land Acquisition Trust Fund	
Salary	$86,412	not provided
OPS	$0	not provided
Expense	$70,000	not provided
OCO	$136,400	not provided
TOTAL	$292,812	not provided

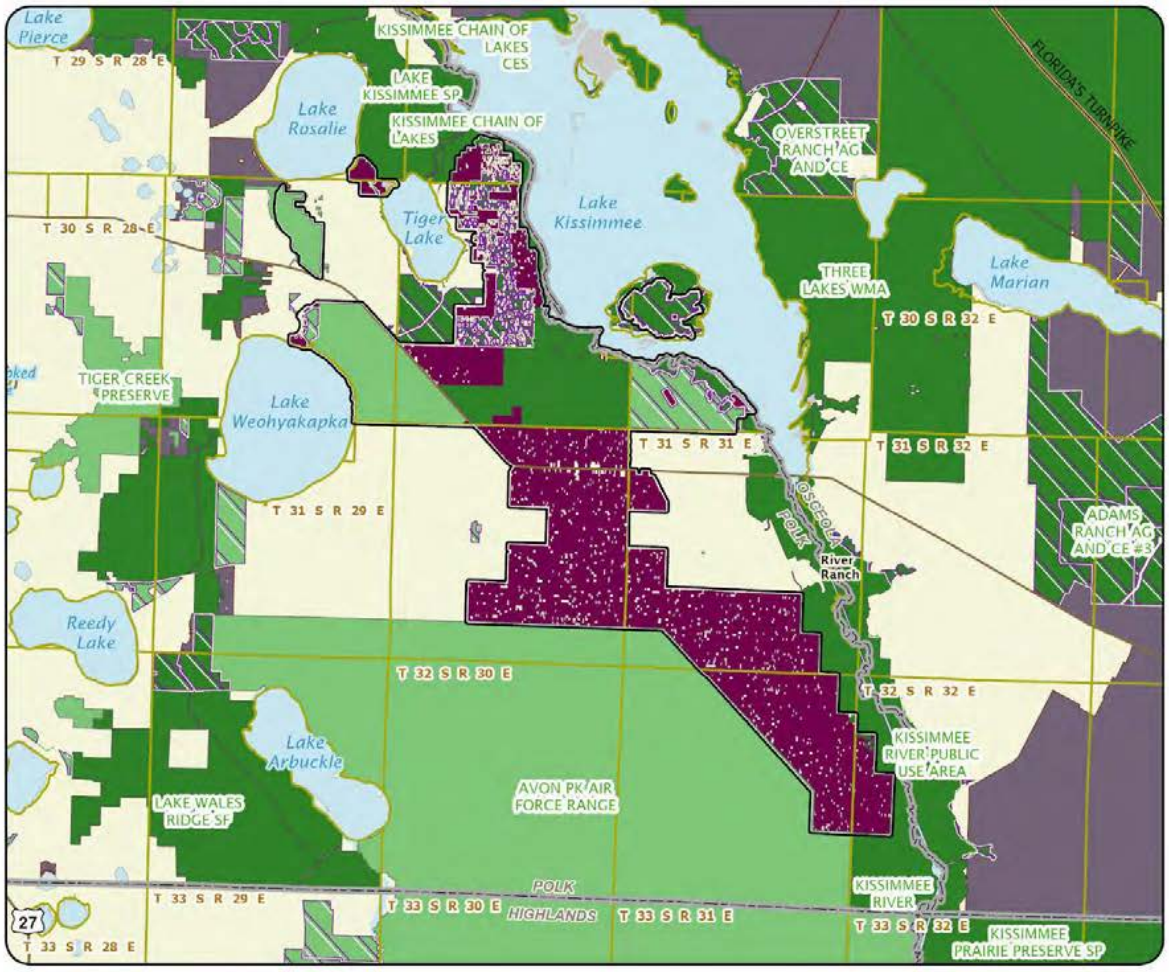
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: OVERVIEW

HIGHLANDS, POLK, AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES





BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 1

POLK AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

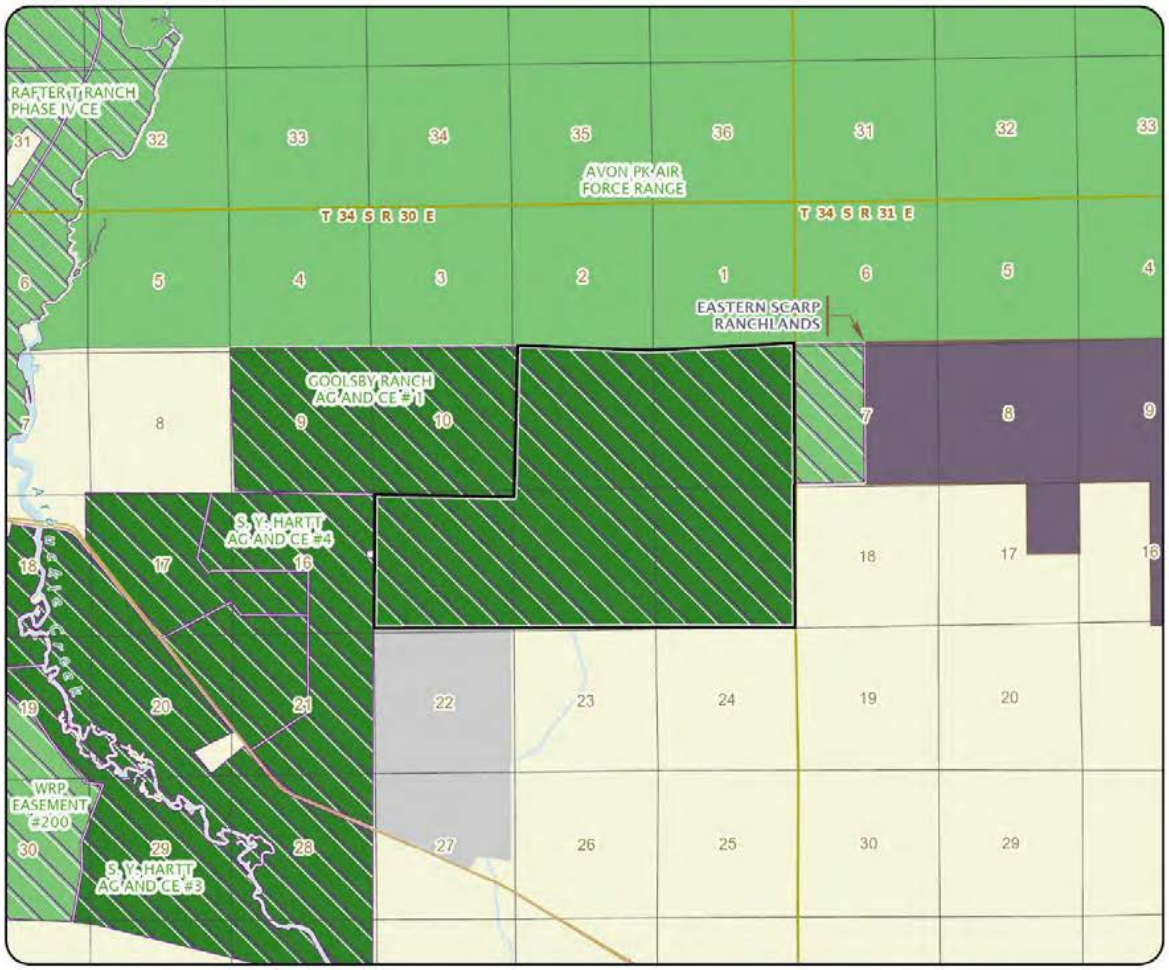
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 2

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Caloosahatchee Ecoscape

Critical Natural Lands

Glades and Hendry Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1998*
Project Acres	*19,775*
Acquired Acres	*12,531*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,244*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$54,559,572*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project will provide a large landscape link within the citrus groves and cattle ranches of rural Hendry County. The project includes critical habitat within the primary dispersal zone for the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) and will preserve a connection of natural land between the Okaloacoochee Slough to the south and additional private and public conservation land to the north that is under increasing threat of development.

General Description

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

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Big cypress fox squirrel	G5T2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4

Public Use

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area with uses such as hunting, hiking, camping, picnicking and other resource-based recreation activities.

Acquisition Planning

1998

The initial proposal is 16,055 acres. The three largest ownerships, IMC Agrico, Floriland Dairy (Milicevic) and Atlantic Gulf Communities, are designated essential. The owners of the Floriland Dairy tract (Milicevic) have indicated they would consider negotiating a less-than-fee sale.

1999

On March 26, 1999, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 2,400 acres to the project.

2002

In 2002, a 2,994-acre conservation easement was placed on the LaBelle Ranch for $2,320,700.

2003

In 2003, 161 acres of land were acquired fee simple by the state for $290,000.

2006

On May 30, 2006, the South Florida Water Management District established the Verandah West conservation easement (304.78 acres).

2008

On June 13, 2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project to the A List of Florida Forever projects to expedite acquisition.

2009

On November 4, 2009, the 1,292-acre Panther Passage Conservation Bank conservation easement was purchased and managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

2010

On April 28, 2010, Florida Panther Conservation Bank Endowment Fund Trust established the Florida Panther Conservation Bank II conservation easement (472.44 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On May 16, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established a 718-acre conservation easement as part of its Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetlands Reserve Program.

On May 17, 2012, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) established two Lone Ranger Ranch conservation easements totaling 538.46 acres.

2013

On June 28, 2013, TNC established an additional Lone Ranger Ranch conservation easement (20.16 acres).

2015

On May 21, 2015, TNC established the Black Boar Ranch conservation easement (1,527.83 acres).

2020

On June 12, 2020, ARC approved the Amtel Farms addition of 2,207 acres in Glades and Hendry counties to the project boundary.

On December 11, 2020, ARC approved the removal of 2,213 acres in Glades and Hendry counties from the project boundary at the request of the owner (Amtel Farms).

2022

On October 14, 2022, ARC approved the Goodno Ranch (1,185 acres) project proposal and added it to the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project boundary.

2024

In May 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 1,130.59-acre conservation easement in Glades County from Dwayne A. House Revocable Trust, an 836.31-acre conservation easement in Glades County from Dwayne A. House Revocable Trust and a 1,428.3-acre conservation easement in Hendry County from Ferguson-House Farms Inc.

2025

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 151 acres in Hendry County to the project boundary.

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. Management goals include the restoration and maintenance of native plant and animal communities to the extent feasible and the provision of compatible, nature-based recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and nature study.

For less-than-fee acquisitions, the property would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

FWC is the managing agency for this project.

If the property is acquired less-than-fee, management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project will provide refuge for imperiled species like the Florida panther, Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus),* sandhill crane (Grus canadensis), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and crested caracara (*Caracara plancus*). The project is also within an area where the FWC has conducted significant panther and bear research. Additionally, it will protect habitat for game species and provide natural recreation opportunities for the public.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Hydrologic manipulation and conversion of native range to improved pastures will require 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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.

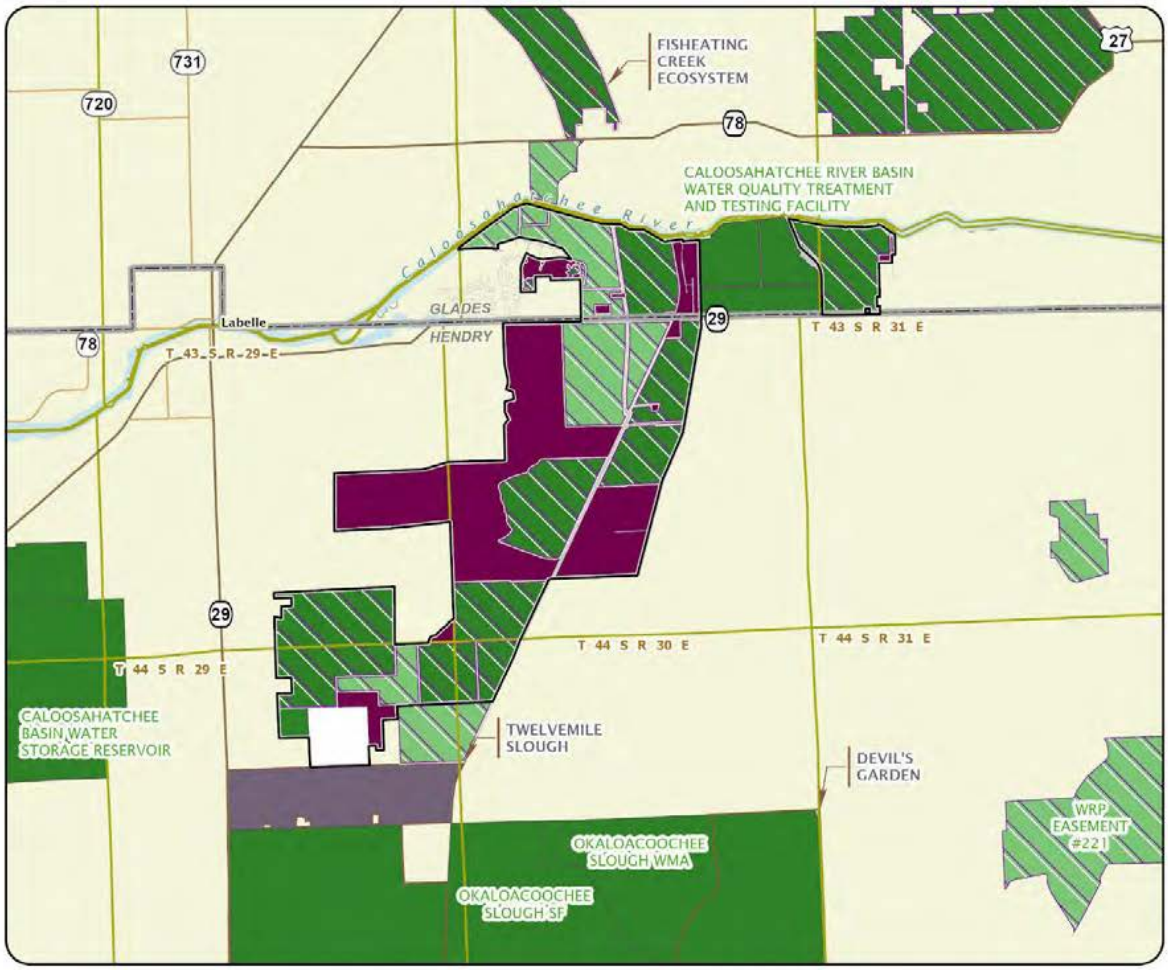
Cooperators in Management Activities

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.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds and State Game Trust Fund	Land Acquisition Trust Fund	
Salary	$136,392	$140,483
OPS	$7,912	$8,149
Expense	$49,730	$49,730
OCO	$81,527	$1,000
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$275,561	$199,362

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CALOOSAHATCHEE ECOSCAPE

GLADES AND HENDRY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway

Critical Natural Lands

Baker, Bradford, and Clay Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2010*
Project Acres	*28,614*
Acquired Acres	*16,467*
Remaining Project Acres	*12,147*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$33,350,979*

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of the Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway project will expand opportunities for outdoor resource-based recreation by establishing landscape connectivity between the lands within Camp Blanding, the Northeast Florida Timberlands Florida Forever project and the Raiford to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project. A key focus of the project is to permanently link fragmented wildlife habitat and protect the extensive wetland systems and multiple blackwater streams, including the New River and its headwaters.

General Description

The original Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project was divided to create two projects that maintain ecological connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands: Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway and Raiford to Osceola Greenway. The original project, east of Lake City and north of Gainesville, is in Baker, Bradford and Clay counties. Together, these projects form a continuous conservation corridor that adjoins the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Osceola National Forest and Northeast Florida Timberlands Florida Forever project. The Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway Florida Forever project has multiple landowners and will be acquired in fee simple.

The most common community type within the project boundary is mesic flatwoods. Most of these flatwoods are used in silviculture; however, some remain in a relatively natural condition. Sandhill communities total only about 230 acres but have substantial ecological value. The forested wetlands are the least disturbed natural areas. There are several large basin swamps, including Turkey Creek Swamp and New River Swamp. Dome swamps, wet flatwoods and baygalls represent the remaining acreage. Floodplain swamps extend over approximately 4,000 acres of the project area. Several flatwoods lakes and an important blackwater stream (New River) are also present. Physiographic features of interest include the Trail Ridge, the eastern boundary of the Cody Scarp.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Southeastern weasel	G5T4/S3?

Public Use

This project has significant nature-based recreational and educational potential if available to the public. All trails throughout the project have potential for being multiple-use trails with hiking, horseback riding and bicycling. Other recreational opportunities could include camping, picnicking and hunting.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple and less-than-fee project, sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails and Conservation Florida, consisted of approximately 153,000 acres, multiple ownerships and a taxable value of $28,508,089. The essential parcels were identified as the Plum Creek and Wachovia ownerships.

2006

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a redesign to the essential parcels within the project. The number and acreage of essential parcels were revised by removing 106 parcels (64,250 acres) and adding 52 parcels (10,180 acres) which resulted in 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 Osceola National Forest.

2010

On June 11, 2010, ARC approved a redesign of the Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project that divided and reduced the expansive project into Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway (33,973 acres) and Raiford to Osceola Greenway (67,673 acres). After the most recent boundary change in 2010, the Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway project had a historic estimated tax-assessed value of $92,890,463.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2018

On October 29, 2018, the North Florida Land Trust purchased a 1,994.1-acre conservation easement, of which 168 acres are in the project boundary.

2024

In September 2024, ARC approved the removal of approximately 5,530.01 acres in Baker County at the landowner's request.

2025

On December 23, 2025, DEP acquired a 14,648.01-acre conservation easement in Baker and Bradford Counties from Blackbottom Holdings, LLC.

Coordination

Conservation Florida and DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails are 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 the public with quality resource-based recreational opportunities.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are the designated managers.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project would contribute to a substantial landscape linkage and is a critical component of a conservation corridor extending from central Florida to southeast Georgia. Sizable populations of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and other game species occur within the project and portions of the project are within a designated Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for Florida black bear (Ursus americanus floridanus), Florida mouse (*Podomys floridanus*) and striped newt (*Notophthalmus perstriatus*). The project provides habitat for many focal species, which are indicators of natural communities and other wildlife. Most of the project's acreage consists of slash and loblolly pine plantations. Through thinning, the introduction of prescribed fire and sustainable forestry management practices, the project will quickly transform into an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits rather than its silvicultural uses. The project's size and diversity make it suitable for use and management as a state forest and wildlife management area, contingent upon fee simple acquisition.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project contains medium-need tracts that will require up-front resource management, including frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Over half of the project area has disturbed ground cover due to past silviculture. FWC and FFS propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan for the site. Examples of situations that may require cooperative effort include restoring mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production; removing or thinning off-site timber species to promote regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species; and reforesting recently harvested areas. The managing agencies will also conduct a historic vegetation analysis to help determine desired future conditions and identify appropriate restoration methods.

Other unified management priorities will include protecting and restoring sensitive wetlands, as well as identifying, controlling and monitoring exotic species. Restoration methods will include the thinning of dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and increase native ground cover. Recreational trails developed on the parcels could function as fire lines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Infestations of exotic plant species (tung oil tree, air potato, mimosa and others) appear to pose no imminent threat to the ecological integrity of the project; however, there would be surveillance for, and removal of, infestations of exotic invasive species.

Due to the anticipated presence of imperiled or rare species within the project area, 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. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, both agencies — operating under the unified management approach — anticipate emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory and removing trash. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both agencies will participate in specifying area management goals and objectives. Long-term goals would emphasize ecosystem multiple-use management and conserving the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife and water. These goals would include restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting listed species of flora and fauna.

Following the completion of a 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 maximize natural resource protection and enhancement. Where appropriate, timber resources will be managed using best silvicultural practices. Thinning timber, introducing 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 Division of Historical Resources. There are 12 archaeological and historic sites within the project area.

Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored. The road plan would ensure that the public has appropriate access and sensitive resources are protected. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve the needs of the public, including 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. Management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving 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 feasible. Of all gross revenues, 15 percent will be returned to the county from which those funds were generated. Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all management funds, site generated revenues and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between FFS and FWC.

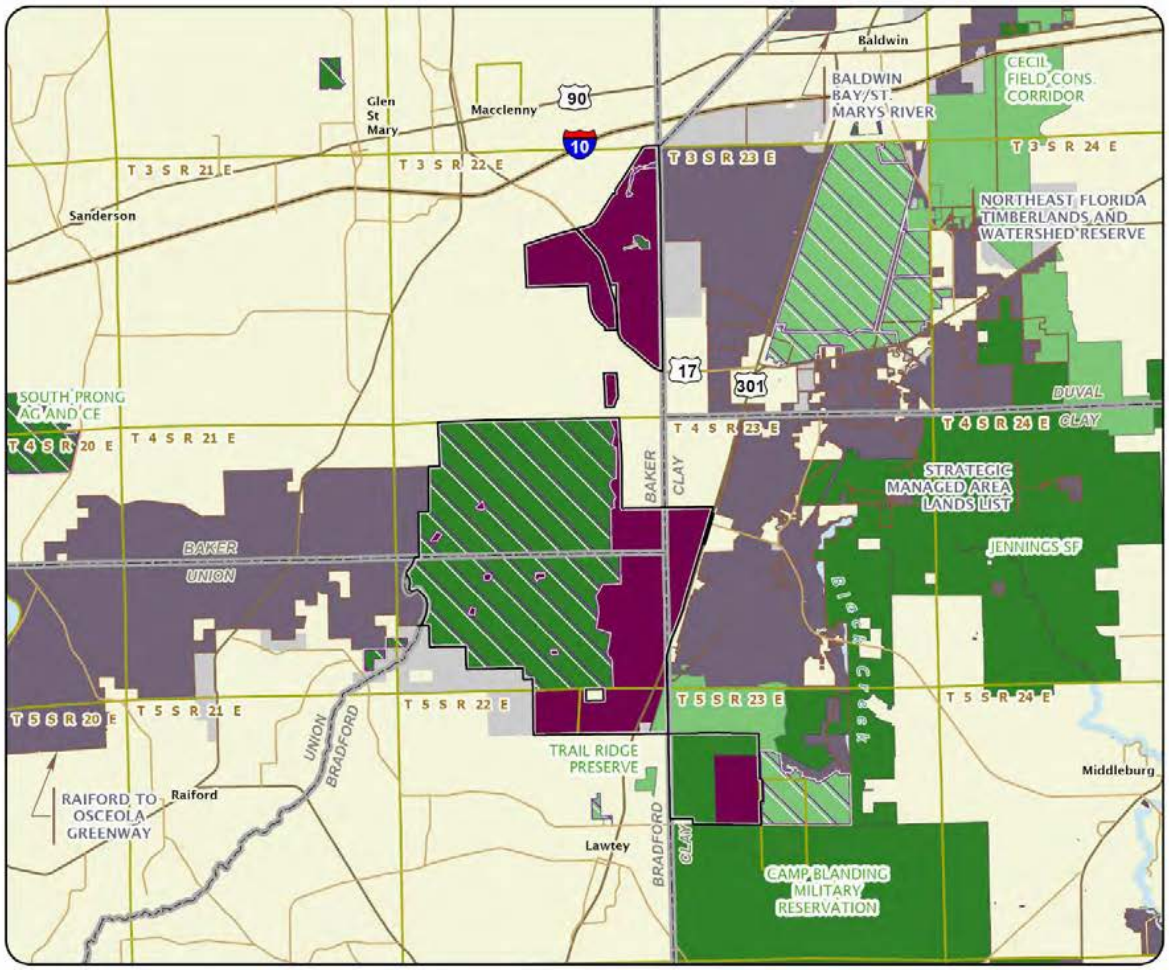
Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS and FWC have agreed to a unified management framework where all management funds, site-generated revenues and management expenditures are evenly divided. The managers 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 U.S. Forest Service in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$3,441,310	$323,273
OCO	$1,995,010	$1,035,807
TOTAL	$5,436,320	$1,359,080

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CAMP BLANDING TO RAIFORD GREENWAY

BAKER, BRADFORD, AND CLAY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Devil's Garden

Critical Natural Lands

Collier and Hendry Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*83,035*
Acquired Acres	*53,313*
Remaining Project Acres	*29,722*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$130,463,024*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Devil's Garden project will help to protect Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels and fill a gap in a critical landscape corridor for the federally endangered Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). Numerous records of panthers and other rare and threatened species have been noted on site. The project borders the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (OSSF) on the west and Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area to the south, providing crucial connectivity between existing conservation lands and increasing the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

General Description

The Devil's Garden project is in Hendry and Collier counties. The project's major parcel (71,608 acres) adjoins the eastern boundary of OSSF and is roughly 18 miles long (east-west) and 6 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 (OSWMA). Two smaller parcels (3,328 acres and 1,127 acres) border the southwestern boundary of OSSF.

Devil's Garden is a huge tract of ranch land that has been heavily impacted by pasture conversion and other agricultural activities. Non-forested wetlands, including basin marsh, depression marsh, swale and wet prairie, make up the dominant natural communities still present on the property. Mesic and wet flatwoods have been mostly cleared and converted to pasturelands. Prairie hammocks were scattered throughout the property and formed irregularly shaped forests, usually with basin and depression wetlands. In a helicopter survey, a few small patches (approximately 15 acres) of dome swamp fringing swale systems could be seen in the project's southwestern parcels. These parcels have few remaining upland natural communities except for narrow fringes adjacent to wetlands and some remnant hammock.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Wood stork	G4/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

The property can accommodate resource-based recreation, including camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, wildlife observation, bicycling, horseback riding and environmental education. Depending on management emphasis, the land could provide significant hunting opportunities. Careful planning is required to coordinate hunting and wildlife observation.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Devil's Garden project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple project, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Forest Service (FFS), consisted of approximately 82,508 acres with a single owner, Alico Inc., and a taxable value of $9,483,649.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move Devil's Garden to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, Devil's Garden was classified as a Critical Natural Lands project.

2013

On June 17, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established a 11,591.18-acre conservation easement as part of its Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetlands Reserve Program.

2020

In September 2020, Phase 1B (consisting of the project's central and western parcels) was acquired fee simple from Alico, Inc. The acquisition contained 10,702.03 acres and was purchased at a cost of

$28,500,000. These parcels will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as part of OSWMA.

2021

In 2021, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired 7,355.86 acres fee simple from Alico, Inc. It will be managed by FWC as part of OSWMA.

2023

DEP acquired, in fee, a total of 17,159 acres in Hendry County from Alico, Inc. FWC will manage the property as part of OSWMA.

2024

In November 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 41.73 acres in Hendry County.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is the intermediary and is working to find a purchaser for the eastern portion of the tract (farmland).

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management for the Devil's Garden project are to increase protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels; protect, restore and maintain the quality and natural functions of the state's land, water and wetland systems; increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities; and increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Manager(s)

FWC is the recommended lead manager for most of the area (approximately 71,608 acres). FFS will manage the two westernmost parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) adjoining OSSF.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Due to the diversity, and connectivity to OSSF, the two westernmost parcels qualify as state forests. The high wildlife resource values and the designation of primary or secondary panther habitat zones on the project qualify the eastern parcel as a wildlife management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the project's drier natural community types have been disturbed, with many converted to some improved form of agriculture. This conversion usually involves some type of hydrologic alteration for

water management. This property contains vast areas of wetlands with sensitive natural resources. Land management and public use will specifically be structured to improve and protect these areas.

Surrounding land uses are not expected to affect 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.

The Devil's Garden project will require additional FTE positions to manage the project area. Certain activities may be privatized, reducing the number of FTE positions required. Funding for natural-resource management and public use administration would come from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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.

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. Disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also emphasize enhancing abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species. Multiple-use principles will be practiced with resource management goals and acquisition purposes in mind. 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 come from sales of hunting licenses, wildlife 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.

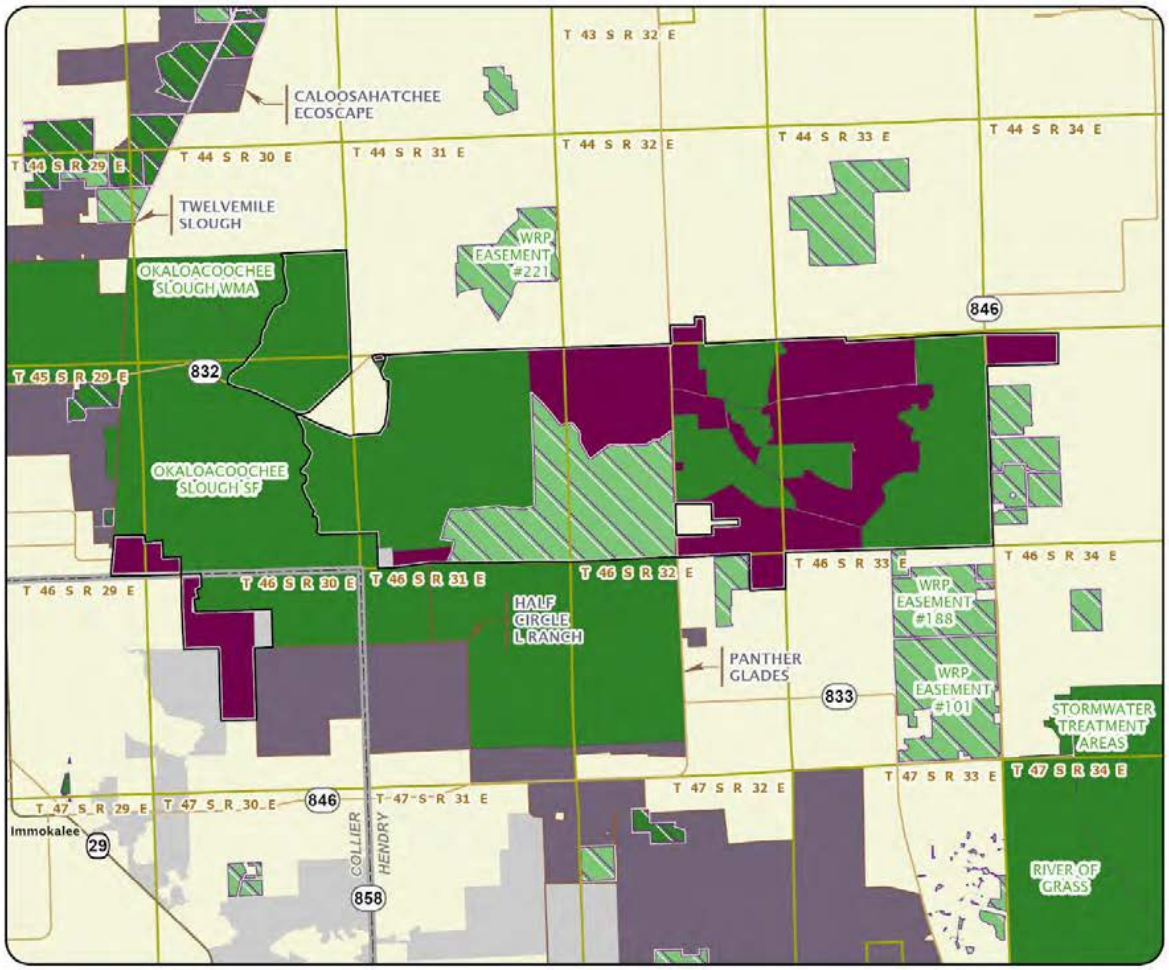
Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC and FFS will cooperate with other federal, state and local government agencies, including the South Florida Water Management District.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	not provided
Salary (six FTE)	$216,639	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$725,000	not provided
OCO	$418,200	not provided
TOTAL	$1,359,839	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



DEVIL'S GARDEN

COLLIER AND HENDRY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

Critical Natural Lands

Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion and Putnam Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*98,290*
Acquired Acres	*49,357*
Remaining Project Acres	*48,933*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$214,407,666*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will protect large expanses of flatwoods, sandhills and scrub in central Putnam County, extending to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (MHCCFG) along the Ocklawaha River. The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will fill gaps in the greenway and guarantee habitat for imperiled species like the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and Etoniah rosemary (*Conradina etonia*). The project will support the expansion of outdoor resource-based recreation along the greenway, which is a unique piece of public conservation land that crosses the entire Florida peninsula from the Withlacoochee River to the St. Johns River and provides opportunities for long-distance hiking, fishing, camping and hunting.

General Description

The project consists of a large tract extending north from MHCCFG to Clay County, and four smaller tracts designed to fill in gaps in state ownership along the greenway. The original Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project is important habitat for the Florida black bear in northeast Florida. The site includes many acres of pine plantation and cutover 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 southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Florida pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*), rare crayfish species and seven rare plants, including the only known site of the federally listed Etoniah rosemary. The smaller tracts include high-quality floodplain swamps along the Ocklawaha River, mixed forest land near U.S. Route 441 south of Ocala, and disturbed pinelands between the old Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Withlacoochee River. Eight archaeological sites are known on the project.

The greatest threat to the project area is intensive logging, but the uplands on the larger tracts are suitable for residential development. The smaller sites would lose their value as connectors if developed for residences.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Etonia rosemary**	G1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
*Boom's quillwort**	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise acrolophus moth	G1/S1
Blind pocket gopher cave cricket	G1G2/S1S2
Black Creek crayfish	G2/S2
*Bog spicebush**	G3/S1

**Plant species are in italics*

The Cross Florida Greenway connectors will form part of a conservation and recreation area, and the majority of the Etoniah tract will become a state forest. The various parts of the project will offer opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, and nature appreciation. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

Etoniah Creek

Phase I tracts include Stokes and Agricola, formerly Deltona, Union Camp, Manning 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 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 within this portion of the project is the Inglis Island site acquired by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails.

1994

On July 20, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 210 acres to the boundaries of the predecessor projects.

1995

On December 7, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory 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.

1996

On March 15, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved adding 141 acres to the project boundaries.

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council transferred the Georgia-Pacific ownership (18,146 acres) to the Less-Than-Fee category.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Advisory 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).

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 2,110 acres to the project.

2001

On January 25, 2001, ARC added 1,543 acres to the project boundary in the Deep Creek area.

On May 1, 2001, ARC added 1,110 acres to the boundaries of the project.

2003

On February 25, 2003, the project was added to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2007

On April 13, 2007, ARC approved an 85-acre fee simple addition (known as Foxtrotter Ranch) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails, consisted of one landowner, Richard Simon, and had a taxable value of $2,267,908. DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails 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.

2008

In June 2008, 1.19 acres (owned by the Harrington's) were purchased by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) for $15,000 using Florida Forever funds.

In September, October and November 2008, 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; (Land Reclamation, Inc.) for $15,000; (Cann) for $23,000; 1.21 acres (Martin) for $14,000; 1.27 acres (Vehoski) for $14,000; 1 acre (Murray) for $15,000; 1.25 acres (Uttech) for $11,500; 2.5 acres (Lachmansingh) for $25,000; 3.61 acres (Chapman) for $37,500; 2.53 acres (Thornton) for $23,000;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.

2009

On January 21, 2009, SJRWMD purchased 208 acres for $474,363 (Plum Creek).

On June 1, 2009, the Nochaway Mitigation Bank was created (4,075.77 acres).

In October 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 December 10, 2009, FFS purchased 1.43 acres for $13,500 and will manage this tract.

2010

On November 4, 2010, FFS purchased 106 acres (Moore) for $405,000 using Florida Forever funds. FFS will manage this tract.

2011

On January 3, 2011, FFS purchased 1.29 acres (Williams) for $18,000 using Florida Forever funds.

On May 2, 2011, FFS purchased 1.25 acres (Cearley) for $12,000.

On August 3, 2011, FFS purchased 3.69 acres (Interlachen Lakes Estates) for $27,500.

On August 30, 2011, Florida Communities Trust purchased 1,268 acres to create Nine Mile Swamp Park. Approximately 1,216 acres of the park are within the project boundary.

On December 9, 2011, ARC recommended a 1,509-acre reduction to the project boundary containing residential development, commercial buildings, and other infrastructure and placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On September 21, 2012, the Board of Trustees acquired 1.25 acres for $6,000 to be managed as part of the Etoniah Creek State Forest.

On December 27, 2012, SJRWMD acquired the Bear Track Bay tract (625 acres) as Florida Department of Transportation mitigation.

2013

On December 20, 2013, SJRWMD acquired the Highbrighton conservation easement on approximately 2,478 acres, of which approximately 849 acres are within the project boundary.

2015

On April 30, 2015, SJRWMD exchanged the Bear Track Bay tract (625 acres) for two new parcels and retained a conservation easement on the property.

2018

On August 24, 2018, ARC members voted to amend the project by adding two parcels in Putnam County, totaling 48 acres, to the project boundary. The addition was proposed by Patrick E. Troxel and is near the town of Satsuma.

On October 19, 2018, ARC added the O'Connor Tract, comprised of 10 parcels totaling approximately 821 acres in Putnam County, to the project boundary. This includes approximately 120 acres that are submerged by the Rodman Reservoir.

2020

In January 2020, a 3,562-acre conservation easement was acquired from Wetlands Preserve, LLC in Putnam County for $3,380,000. DEP's Division of State Lands will serve as the easement monitor for the property.

In February 2020, a 47.96-acre property was acquired fee-simple from the Estate of Eddie Elray Troxel for $22,500. This will be managed by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks as part of MHCCFG. Two donations containing 74.77 acres were acquired and will be managed by FFS as part of Etoniah Creek State Forest.

2021

DEP acquired fee simple 1,889.71 acres in Marion County from Florida Power and Light Company that will be managed by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks as an addition to MHCCFG.

2022

On December 9, 2022, ARC voted to add approximately 1,469 acres (Interlachen Timberlands, 906 acres, and J-Mil, 563 acres) to the project boundary.

DEP acquired a conservation easement in Putnam County totaling 215.91 acres from Wetland Preserve, LLC.

2023

DEP acquired a conservation easement in Putnam County totaling 2,393 acres from Green Ox LLC, Putnam LLC and Sapwood LLC.

DEP acquired, in fee, 2,231 acres in Putnam County from Susan Miller Calkins, Willy the Losen and Putnam County.

2024

On April 12, 2024, ARC approved the addition of the Suttlemyre Forest project proposal (1,513 acres) in Putnam County to the project boundary.

In May 2024, DEP acquired an 855.35-acre conservation easement in Putnam County from Charles O'Connor Jr. Trust and a 226.87-acre conservation easement in Clay County from Gator Timber & Land, LLC.

In June 2024, ARC approved the addition of four parcels totaling approximately 495.96 acres in Putnam County. ARC also approved the addition of four parcels totaling approximately 397.2 acres in Putnam County.

On July 15, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 30.07 acres in Putnam County from Daniel and Judi Tilton.

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 60.28 acres in Putnam County. ARC also approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 9.98 acres in Putnam County.

In November 2024, ARC approved the addition of six parcels totaling approximately 71 acres in Marion and Putnam counties, and the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 28.86 acres in Marion and Putnam counties.

In December 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 26.2 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

2025

In January 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 50.53 acres in Putnam County from the Trustees of the Tim and Geri Motes Revocable Trust and 30.45 acres in Putnam County from William H. and Nathaniel M. Stewart.

In April 2025, ARC approved the addition of 22 parcels totaling approximately 1,295 acres in Putnam County to the project boundary. Also in April 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 10.24 acres in Putnam County from Terry E. Diggett and Payton S. Tilton and 20.08 acres in Putnam County from Scott and Melissa Motes.

On May 21, 2025, DEP acquired a 384.76-acre conservation easement in Putnam County from Jeannine O'Connor Revocable Living Trust and Charles Revocable Living Trust.

On June 9, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 7.63 acres in Marion County from Keith M. Herndon and Shelba A. Farmer.

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 58 acres in Putnam County to the project boundary. Also in August 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 26.61 acres in Marion County from the Zugar Family Trust, and 65.35 acres in Putnam County from the Tim and Geri Motes Revocable Trust.

In September 2025, DEP acquired a 1,534.93-acre conservation easement in Putnam County from Suttlemyre Limited Partnership LLLP. DEP also acquired, in fee, 1,083.63 acres in Putnam County from the Conservation Fund.

In October 2025, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 141.21 acres in Putnam County and ten parcels totaling approximately 80.66 acres in Putnam County.

Coordination

SJRWMD was the intermediary in the acquisition of the Manning tract and has provided information and expertise on several other tracts. DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails used additions and inholding funds to acquire Inglis Island. DEP's 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, endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in order to enhance or protect significant natural resources; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

Manager (s)

FFS proposes to manage the 57,000-acre Etoniah Creek portion of the project and DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the remaining lands near the old Cross Florida Barge Canal. FFS will monitor compliance with the terms of any less-than-fee purchase agreement.

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. MHCCFG includes scenic and historic rivers, lakes, wetlands and uplands. It is also near, or contiguous with, many other state-owned lands. The MHCCFG portion of this project (along with the lands already in the greenway) has the configuration, location and the resources to qualify as a state recreation area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Because there are no known major disturbances in the Etoniah Creek portion that will require extraordinary attention, management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. Lands in the MHCCFG portion are generally moderate-need tracts.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the core area of the Etoniah Creek portion is acquired, FFS will provide access to the public for low-intensity outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the tract, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources and removing trash. FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The tract's natural resources and threatened and endangered species 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 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 in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education. For the MHCCFG 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 multi-purpose trail and facilities for public access.

Revenue-generating Potential

In the Etoniah Creek portion of the project, 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 MHCCFG portion, no revenues are expected to be generated within the first three years after acquisition. However, as the portion 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

FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Currently, properties along MHCCFG are managed in partnership with Marion County, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and private individuals for recreational purposes.

Management Cost Summary

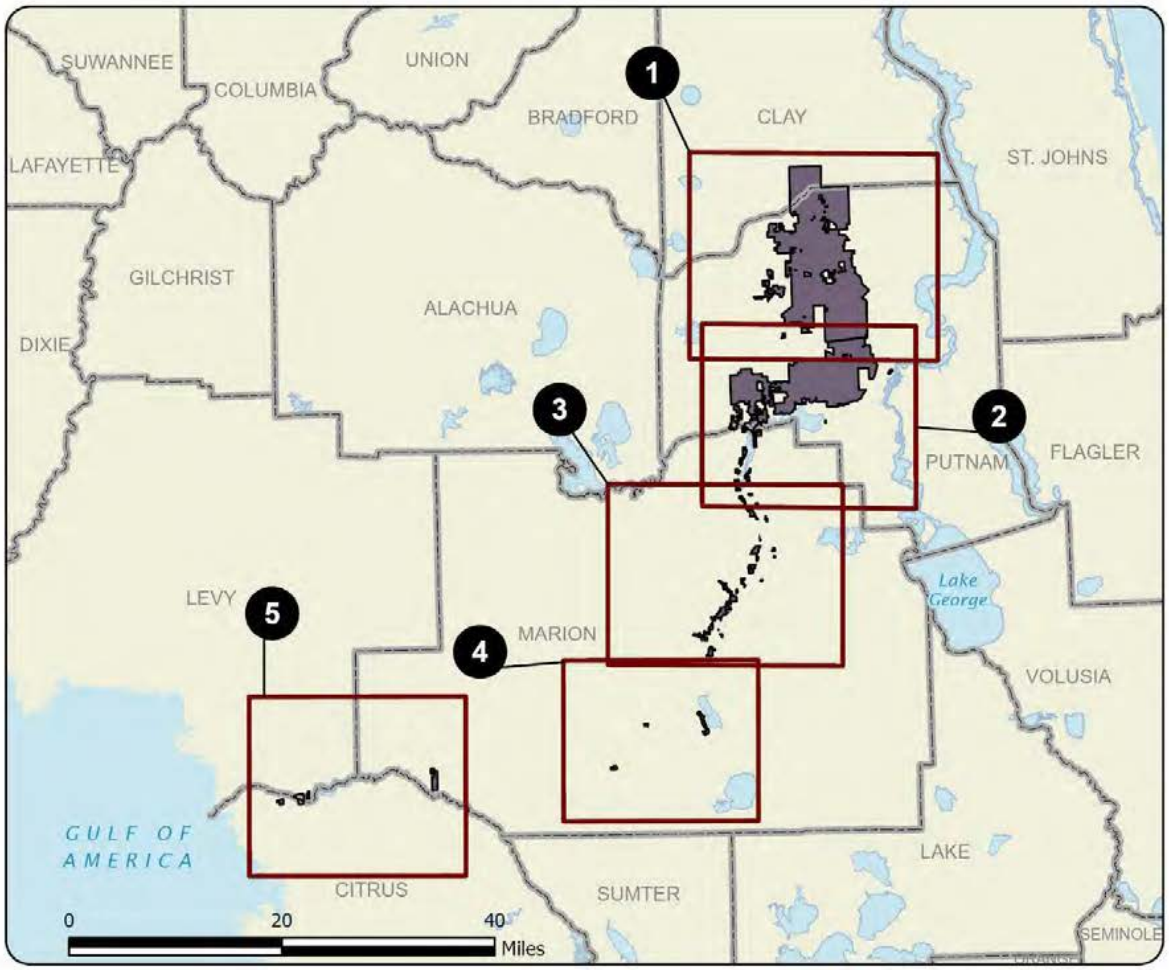
DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	$36,380	$36,380
OPS	$72,660	$72,660
Expense	$62,301	$46,362
OCO	$3,167	$0
FCO	$100,000	$0
TOTAL	$274,508	$155,402

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	$45,337	$56,487
OPS	$0	$3,000
Expense	$11,225	$22,825
OCO	$43,320	$50,500
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$99,882	$132,812

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

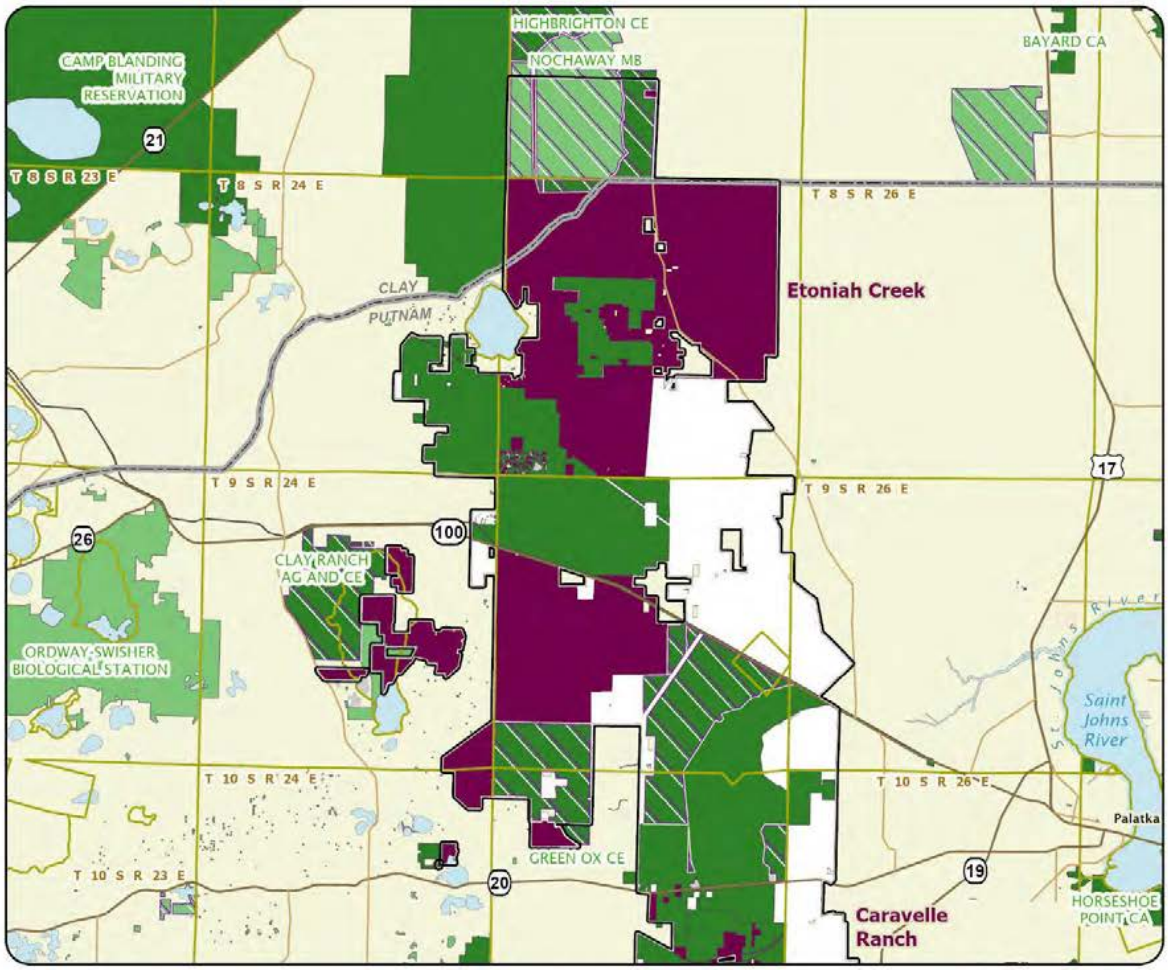


ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

CITRUS, CLAY, LEVY, MARION, AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Caravelle Ranch
- ☐ Map 1 Etoniah Creek
- ☐ Map 2 Caravelle Ranch
- ☐ Map 2 Cross Florida Greenway FPL Additions
- ☐ Map 2 Etoniah Creek
- ☐ Map 2 O'Connor Tract
- ☐ Map 2 Zugar
- ☐ Map 3 Cross Florida Greenway 2001 Additions
- ☐ Map 3 Cross Florida Greenway FPL Additions
- ☐ Map 3 Cross Florida Greenway Phase II
- ☐ Map 3 Zugar
- ☐ Map 4 Cross Florida Greenway 2001 Additions
- ☐ Map 4 Cross Florida Greenway Phase II
- ☐ Map 5 Cross Florida Greenway 2001 Additions
- ☐ Map 5 Cross Florida Greenway Phase II





ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 1

CLAY AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

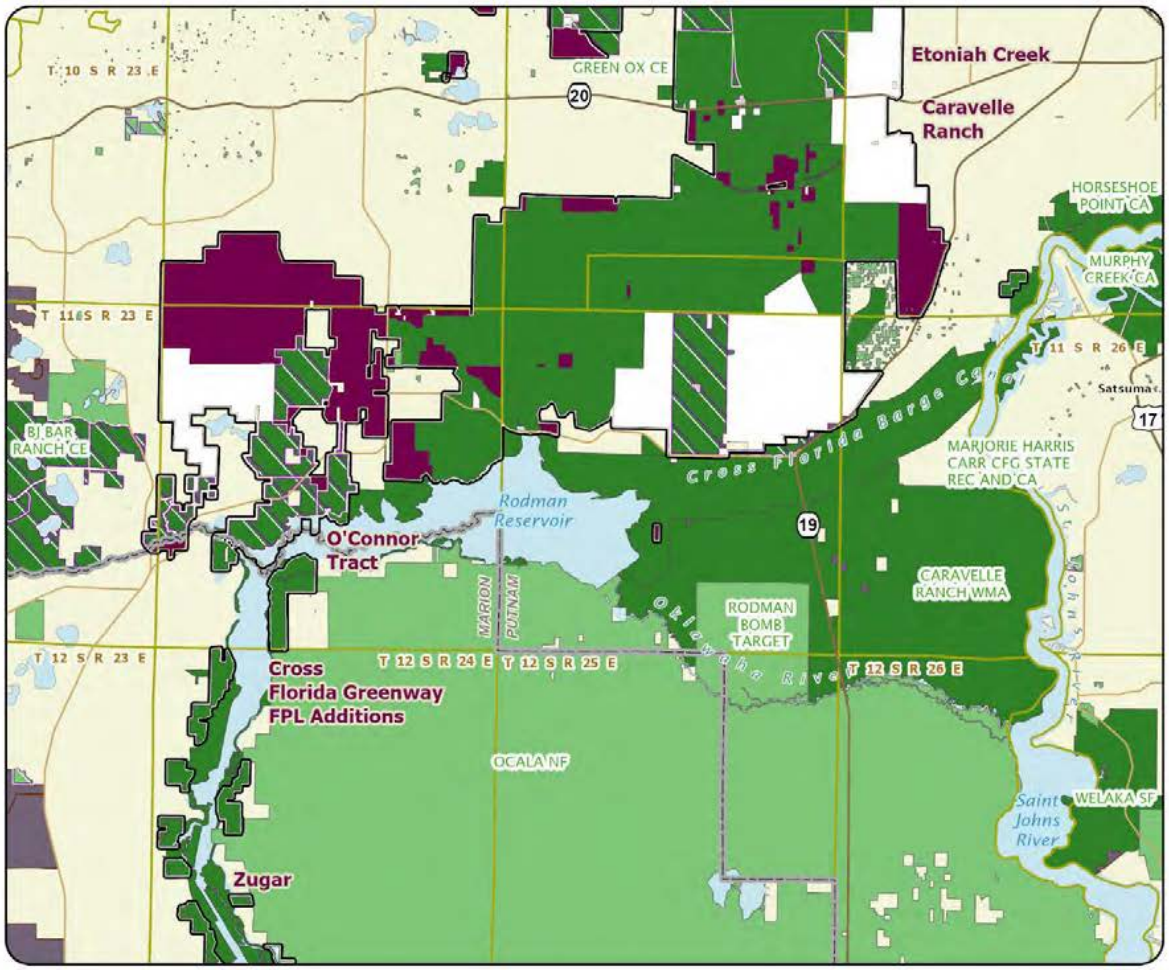
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 2

MARION AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

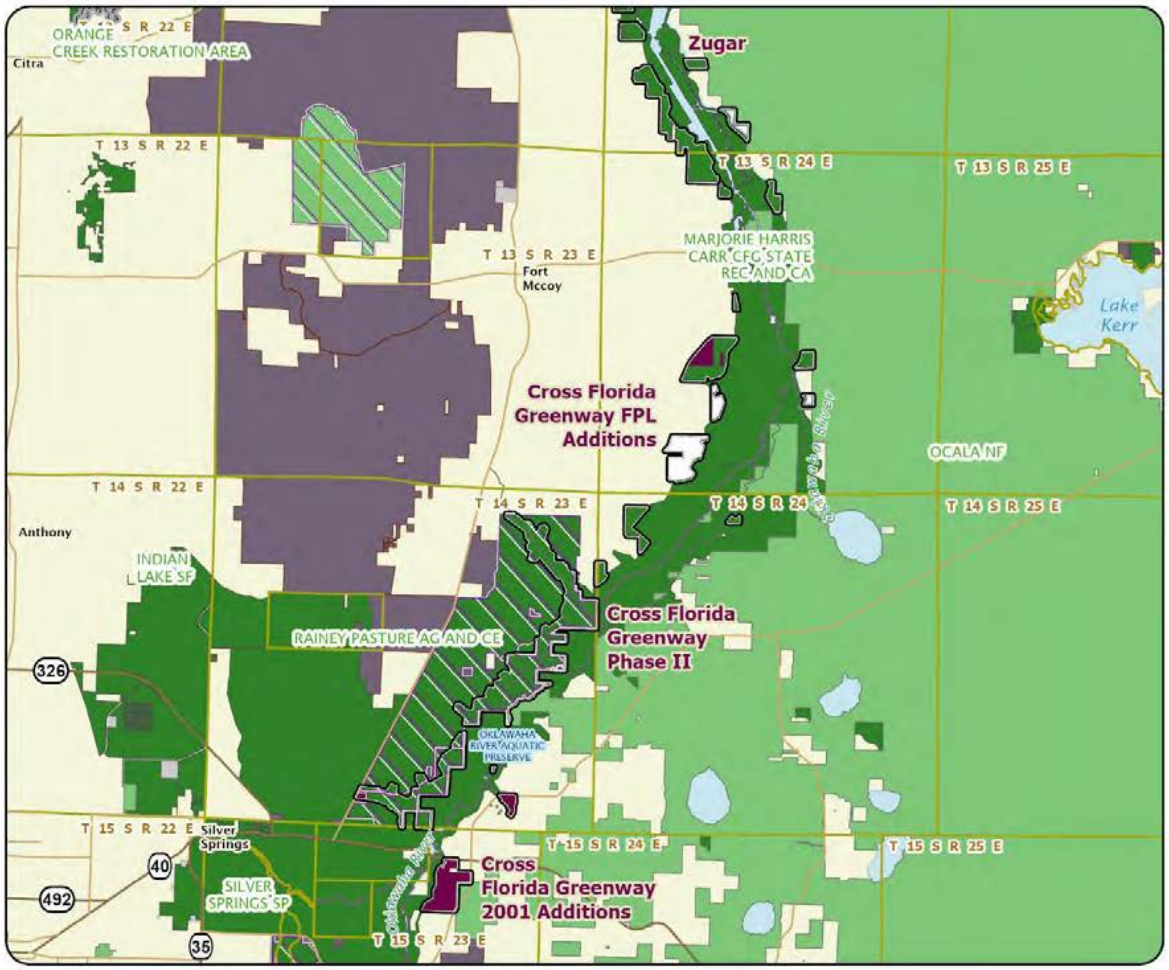
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 3

MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY

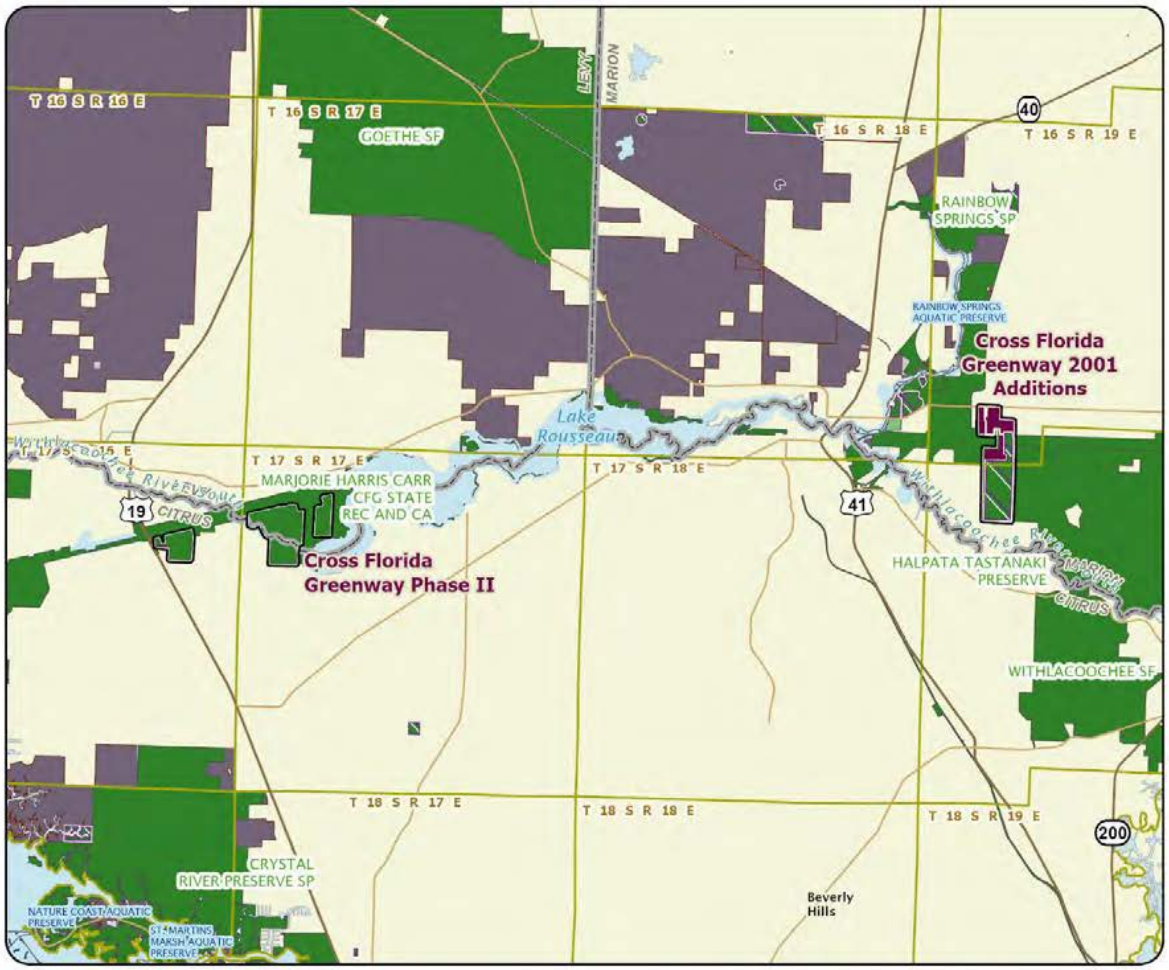
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 5

CITRUS, LEVY, AND MARION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Forest and Lakes Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Bay and Washington Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2019*
Project Acres	*54,862*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*54,862*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$74,507,539*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Forest and Lakes Ecosystem project will help to protect significant water and timber resources within a rapidly developing area of Florida. The project would contribute to the creation of a contiguous conservation corridor that would extend from Econfina Creek, westward to Eglin Air Force Base, and north to the Conecuh National Forest. The project will provide public access for a wide variety of recreational uses and provide critical habitat protection for the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*).

General Description

The Forest and Lakes Ecosystem project spans portions of Washington and Bay counties in the Florida Panhandle. It is located south of Interstate 10, between the city of Vernon and the town of Ebro. A portion of the southwestern boundary is contiguous with the Pine Log State Forest. Other Florida Forever projects nearby include Sand Mountain, West Bay Preservation Area and Florida's First Magnitude Springs.

The Forest and Lakes Ecosystem has significant hydrological features that make it essential to the protection of the region's water quality. The property provides important surface water protection and a high volume of aquifer recharge. The project area contains more than 50 miles of river and stream corridors and has over 150 lakes, ponds, and depressions; the largest lake on-site is Big Blue Lake, totaling approximately 635 acres. The project also has several miles of direct frontage on Holmes Creek and the Choctawhatchee River.

This area is considered a significant linkage, providing landscape connectivity in the northwest Florida Panhandle. Much of the area remains intact, supporting a variety of habitats sustaining the biodiversity of the region. While there are impacts of commercial pine plantations and other alterations within the uplands, the site's wetlands are in near-pristine condition. These wetlands include rare sandhill lakes, blackwater streams, seepage springs, seepage slopes, springs and spring runs. A variety of species have

been reported and are known to occur within the project. More than 40 species of imperiled plants, 21 species of amphibians and a multitude of insect, fish and crustacean species have been identified in the project area.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Crystal Lake nailwort**	G1/S1
Georgia blind salamander	G1G2/S1S2
Tapered pigtoe	G2/S1
Purple skimmer	G1G2/S1S2
*Morzenti's spleenwort**	G2/S1
Apalachicolan cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	G3/S1
Gulf lilliput	G2/S2
Karst pond xyris	G2/S2
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

Public access for canoeing, kayaking, boating, fishing, bird watching, nature photography, limited camping, hunting, horseback riding, hiking and biking could all be enjoyed within this project acreage. Public recreational uses will be determined during the project's design. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

2019

In October 2019, the Forest and Lakes Ecosystem proposal was approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a fee and less-than-fee project.

During the interim between the proposal's submittal and approval by ARC, the owner, Northern Trust Company, sold the property to a consortium of entities. The new owners are willing to include this acreage in the Florida Forever program. Due to the project's size, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Forest Service (FFS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have all submitted management proposals. Each management prospectus has been provided below.

Coordination

Because of this project's location and role in ensuring a wildlife linkage and corridor for the Panhandle, conservation of the project area would be done in coordination with the Northwest Florida Water

Management District, FFS, Seven Runs Creek Conservation Easement's management and U.S. Department of Defense. However, additional entities could assist with management or acquisition going forward.

Management Policy Statement

The protection of the Forest and Lakes Ecosystem project will conserve valuable natural resources, wildlife corridors, native habitats and regionally important waters within an area of renowned biodiversity, rare and imperiled species, and significant hydrological and archaeological resources. The project will conserve portions of the forested floodplain along the Choctawhatchee River and Holmes Creek that provide habitat, recreational opportunities and increase the overall management efficiency of the contiguous managed areas already protected by the state and Northwest Florida Water Management District. These lands protect waters that will help to maintain water supplies, enhance water quality, provide aquifer recharge, protect biodiversity and other crucial ecosystem services for the residents of North Florida.

Manager(s)

DRP, FWC and FFS each submitted a management prospectus for this project. The understanding was that the project would work best if divided among these managers, depending on natural resources, opportunities, protection and restoration needs; however, division and changes have not been settled. The agreement was that recommended management would be resolved prior to pursuit. The Nature Conservancy identified FFS as a logical manager for the site's timber resources.

Management Prospectus: Division of Recreation and Parks

Qualifications for State Designation

DRP proposes to manage the entirety of the acquisition as a new state park given the distribution of significant natural features that offer conservation and recreation values.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Wetland resources on the property are in near-pristine condition. These resources include rare sandhill lakes, blackwater streams seepage streams, springs and spring runs require protection, but not restoration. The existing network of roads, bridges, culverts and utility easement provides the necessary access infrastructure and compartmentalization for restoration zones. The site's industrial forests will be converted to their former natural communities using the Torreya (Sweetwater Tract) model, emphasizing native groundcover reintroduction.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Provision would be made to ensure the protection and security of the project's resources and infrastructure. A complete inventory of the site would occur once the property was assigned to DRP for management. Any areas requiring immediate management attention, security or protection will be identified and addressed. A complete survey and subsequent fencing of critical property boundaries

would be a top priority. Initial focus would be on the development of low-intensity passive recreation such as hiking and fishing. “Starter kits” would be installed at strategically located points within the property and provide access to a preliminary system of hiking trails. DRP “starter kits” also include a composting restroom, picnic pavilion and trailhead kiosk.

Revenue-generating Potential

Park entrance fees, other fees and charges associated with enhancement of resource recreational experiences and timber harvest profits are potential revenue sources.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Cooperators will include other regional park management, as well as FFS, FWC and the Florida Department of State’s Division of Historical Resources. These other state agencies would assist in the development of wildfire emergency plans, enforcement of state wildlife laws, implementation of wildlife management programs and protection and interpretation of archaeological and historical sites.

Management Costs and Sources of Revenue

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

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of funds	State of Florida Visitor entrance fees and charges	
Salary	$293,300 (7 FTE)	$293,300
Expense	$100,000	
OCO	$50,000	$50,000
FCO	$1,000,000	$200,000
TOTAL	$1,443,300	$543,300

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Prospectus: Florida Forest Service

Qualifications for State Designation

FFS management will allow for restoration and sustainable management of the vast timber resources, provide protection to the Choctawhatchee River basin and surrounding waterbodies and provide for a diverse array of dispersed, resource-based recreational opportunities.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The property should not require intensive management in the short term. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts

from protection and planning to restoration efforts and broader public use (with more use of the infrastructure already present).

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the property is acquired and assigned to FFS, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicle access and management planning. Consideration will be given during the management planning process to accommodate a variety of recreational developments. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions and using established infrastructure. FFS will expedite short-term management on portions of the property that are near existing FFS-managed lands including Pine Log State Forest, Blackwater River State Forest and Point Washington State Forest by utilizing existing resources. Additional equipment required to manage the property includes, but is not limited to, two 4x4 pickups, one tractor plow/transport, one farm tractor with implements, one road grader and two UTVs.

Revenue-generating Potential

FFS predicts that the property will generate revenue. The amount of future revenue generated from silviculture will depend on the acreage that is managed as such. Due to the high recreational potential of the property, revenue generated by visitor fees will increase as time progresses and opportunities are established.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS will work with DRP and FWC as cooperating managers, as well as other federal, state and local agencies, to further resource management and public use opportunities.

Management Costs and Sources of Revenue

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

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Salary	$165,000 (3 FTE)	$165,000
Expense	$120,000	$120,000
OCO	$693,250	
Outsourcing	$25,000	
TOTAL	$1,003,250	$285,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Prospectus: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Qualifications for State Designation

This project would serve to: conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests to enhance or protect significant surface water, recreational, timber and fish and wildlife resources; conserve and protect significant landscape-scale habitat and provide wildlife corridors for rare and imperiled species and increase linkages and conservation corridors between public land and private conservation easements in the region; conserve, protect manage or restore coastal habitat in Northwest Florida; provide surface and groundwater protection protect natural floodplain functions; and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife resource-based public outdoor recreation.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Resources described in this management prospectus indicate conditions affecting management intensity. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas and wetlands, shall be identified, managed and protected.

FWC conducts analysis of historic vegetation of natural community types when necessary to determine desired future conditions. Upland wildlife management concentrates on appropriate vegetative manipulations guided by FWC's Objective Based Vegetative Management program, which includes the application of prescribed fire to achieve conditions acceptable to a broad range of wildlife species within the area's fire-adapted natural communities. Some areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive and exotic species and thinning or reforestation. Such resource management projects may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives. This is especially important for the conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape ecology is also important as land use changes in the vicinity of the area.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

If acquired and leased to FWC for management, FWC will develop a management plan describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on the property. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including DRP, FFS and other governmental and non-governmental parties.

Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of locally important, rare and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. FWC will also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species in the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to 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 following acquisition. These potential uses will enhance the public's opportunities for 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 limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

Revenue-generating Potential

If feasible, revenue from conservation lands could include permit sales, recreational user fees and ecotourism activities. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of FWC's Apiary Policy. In addition, the Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC will work with DRPs and FFS, along with other federal, state and local agencies, as cooperating managers to further resource management, and recreational and educational opportunities.

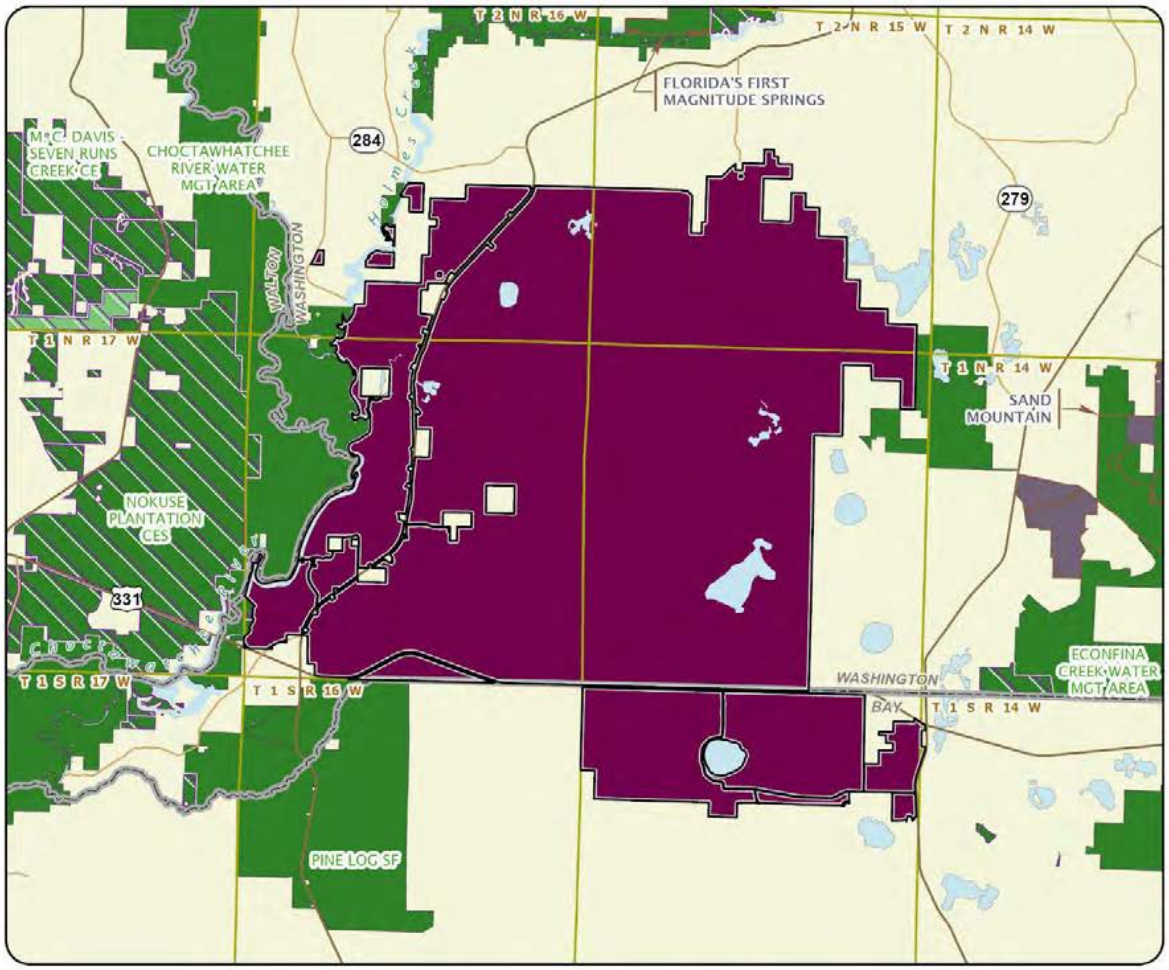
Management Costs and Sources of Revenue

The initial non-recurring start-up cost for the Forest and Lakes Ecosystem project is estimated to be $8,751,840, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Optimal management of the area would require 11 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. Salary requirements for these FTE positions, as well as those of other needed FWC staff, and costs to operate and manage the project are reflected in the cost estimate below. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Resource Management	$2,090,596	$2,090,596
Administration	$45,400	$45,400
Support	$45,400	$45,400
Capital Improvements	$318,348	$318,348
Visitor Services/Recreation	$200,745	$200,745
Law Enforcement	$42,118	$42,118
TOTAL	$2,742,607	$2,742,607

Source: Legislative appropriations



FOREST AND LAKES ECOSYSTEM

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Gardner Marsh

Critical Natural Lands

Osceola County

Year Added to Priority List	*2022*
Project Acres	*5,958*
Acquired Acres	*45*
Remaining Project Acres	*5,913*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$23,648,419*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gardner Marsh project will help conserve a swath of high-quality ecological communities located between Lake Hatchineha and Lake Kissimmee that protect the headwaters of the Kissimmee River and provide critical habitat for rare and imperiled species. The project will help to complete a corridor of protected conservation lands in a rapidly growing region of the state.

General Description

The Gardner Marsh project is in Osceola County within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, between Lake Hatchineha and Lake Kissimmee.

Gardner Marsh is characterized by a nearly intact landscape of healthy and diverse natural communities including high quality examples of scrub and dry prairie. The property is actively managed with fire and current land management practices have maintained the quality of the site's natural communities. A multitude of rare and imperiled species are documented or reported on-site including the Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and the rare nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*). Nearly all (99 percent) of the property is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

The project is within the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape and the Everglades Headwaters Conservation Partnership Area, an area established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and one of the great grassland and savanna landscapes of eastern North America.

The property has been in the same ownership for several generations and has historically served as ranchland for family cattle operation. The landowners have been working the lands of the Kissimmee Prairie since 1867 when cattle were free ranging on the Osceola Plain. According to the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, there are three archaeological sites located within or intersecting the boundary of the proposed project that collectively contain evidence of pre-Columbian occupations spanning over 3,000 years of Florida history.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
*Nodding pinweed**	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Gardner Marsh project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2022

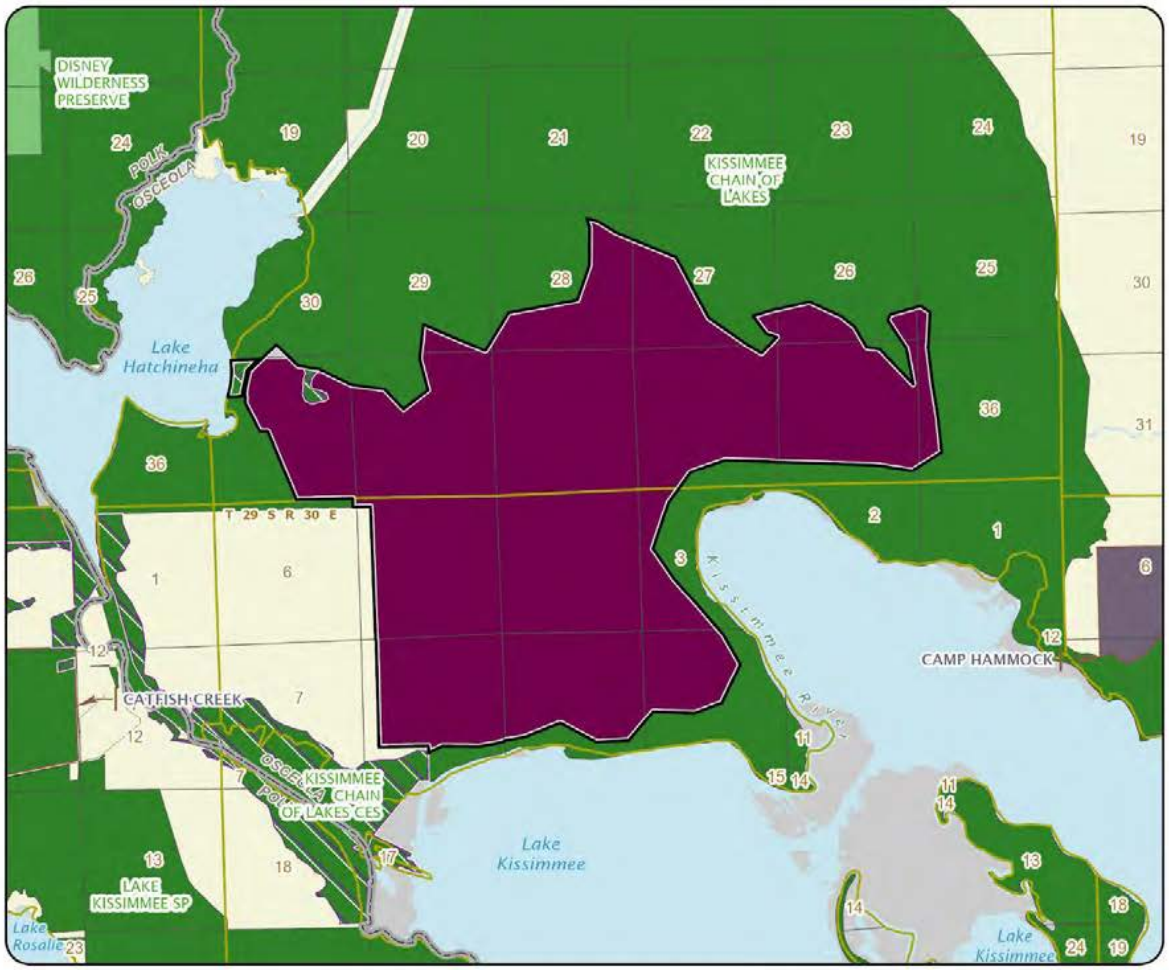
On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Gardner Marsh project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Gardner Marsh project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Gardner Marsh would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



GARDNER MARSH

OSCEOLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Half Circle L Ranch

Critical Natural Lands

Collier and Hendry Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2003*
Project Acres	*11,182*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*11,182*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$49,559,972*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Half Circle L Ranch project will protect the primary habitat zone for the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). The project will complement the ongoing conservation efforts in this region of the state for imperiled species, restore the habitat and hydrology of disturbed areas and provide public recreation compatible with resource protection.

General Description

Half Circle L Ranch adjoins 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/Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area in Collier and Hendry counties. The dominant communities on the property are basin and depression marshes, wet prairies, hydric and mesic hammocks and wet and mesic flatwoods. Almost half of the project has been converted to improved pasture, row crops and citrus.

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, the project area is home to several rare species. More than 60 percent of the lands within the Half Circle L Ranch project proposal are designated as Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas. A majority of the site is classified as a Primary Zone for Florida panther and 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Narrow-leaved strap fern**	G4G5/S1
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
*Hand fern**	G4/S3
White ibis	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Due to its extensive wetlands, the project is limited in its ability to provide recreational opportunities. Hiking and horseback trails would be traversable in limited dry season conditions. In upland sites, the project can potentially accommodate camping, picnicking, wildlife observation and environmental education. Depending on management emphasis, hunting can also be supported.

Acquisition Planning

2002

The project consists of 11,182 acres, multiple parcels and two owners. The 2002 tax assessed/taxable value was $2,811,833.

2003

On June 6, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the A List of the Florida Forever projects.

2004

In 2004, ARC moved this project to the B List of the Florida Forever projects.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

This project is adjacent to Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area. The Panther Glades and Devil's Garden Florida Forever projects are also adjacent to the site.

Management Policy Statement

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

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the designated lead manager for the project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest or 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 property. 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 wildlife management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the project's drier natural community types have been disturbed; many have been converted to some improved form of agriculture. This conversion usually means some type of hydrologic alteration has occurred. This property contains vast areas of wetlands with sensitive natural resources; accordingly, land management and public use will be structured to improve and protect these areas. 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 part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest or Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area.

Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate. FWC 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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 also affording protection of sensitive resources. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact on these areas. Long-range goals will emphasize 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 appropriate 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 Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Revenue-generating Potential

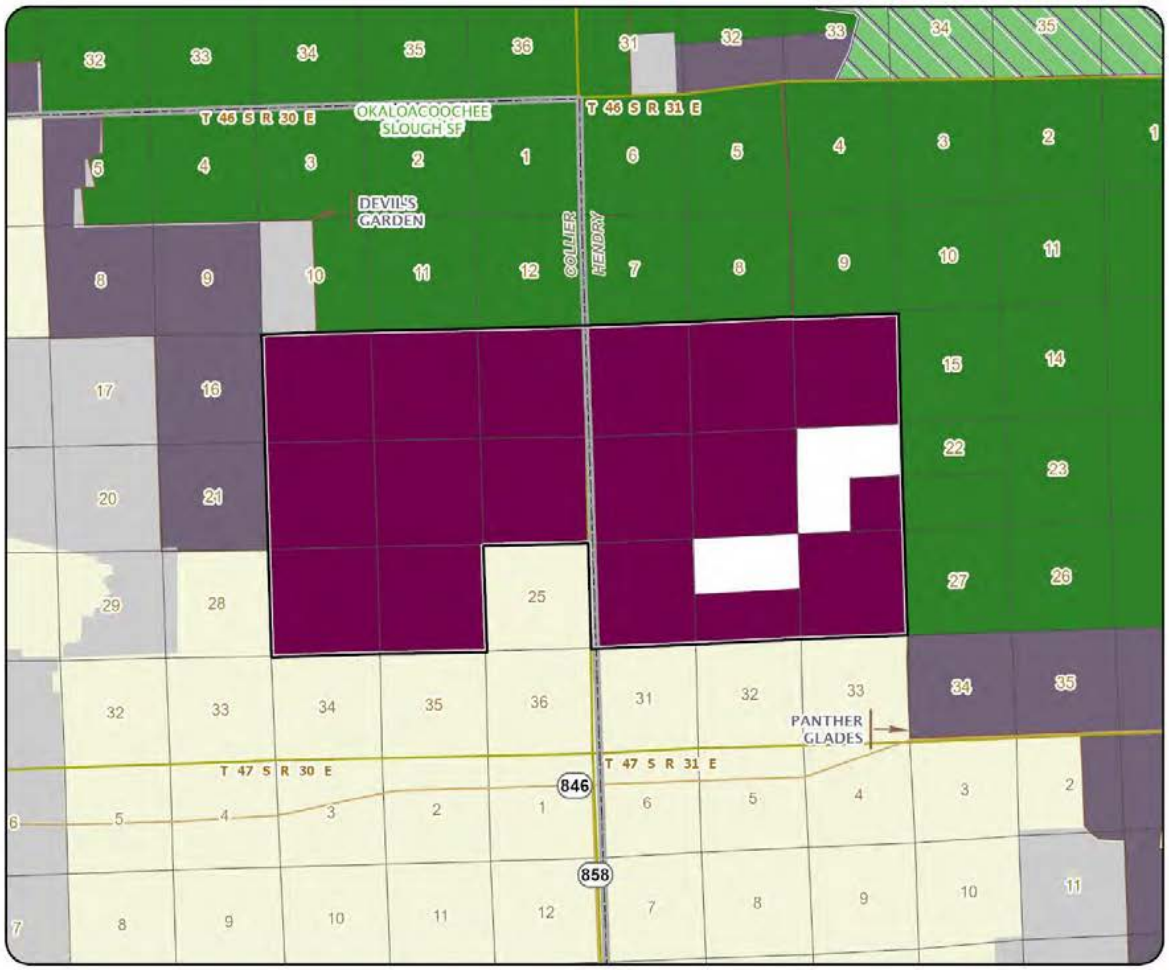
Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue. Because of the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of 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.

Florida Forever capital project expenditures will be needed on this parcel for hydrological restoration, 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 of the existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road bicycling. Management funding will come from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund or its successor.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Land Program	not provided
Salary (2 FTE)	$70,751	not provided
OPS	$0	not provided
Expense	$261,372	not provided
OCO	$300,600	not provided
TOTAL	$632,723	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



HALF CIRCLE L RANCH

COLLIER AND HENDRY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Hixtown Swamp

Critical Natural Lands

Madison County

Year Added to Priority List	*1993*
Project Acres	*23,884*
Acquired Acres	*5,383*
Remaining Project Acres	*18,501*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$34,504,288*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Hixtown Swamp project consists of a complex of cypress swamps, marshes and ponds that were spared the intensive silvicultural practices of the surrounding uplands and serves as an important over-wintering and nesting site for rare and imperiled wading birds. By conserving these wetlands, the project will protect wildlife habitat and cultural resources, while providing the public with opportunities to hunt, hike and observe wildlife.

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, open marsh ponds, shrub swamp and disturbed uplands used for silviculture and agriculture. There are no well-defined channels or streams associated with the swamp. However, 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 non-game wildlife. It is particularly important as an over-wintering area for waterfowl and supports large numbers of Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*). The project has high cultural-resource value, and 21 archaeological or historical sites are recorded within the project boundary. The site continues to be threatened by timber harvest.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Colonial Wading Bird Colony	G5/SNRB
*Incised groove-bur**	G3G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hiking, picnicking, camping and wildlife observation.

Acquisition Planning

1993

Phase I (essential): Mitchell (Musselwhite), G and G, Miller, Collins, Genecer, Muggee and Gillman (contingent upon 50 percent donation). In 1993, the project had a tax assessed value of $9,542,800.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2020

On November 23, 2020, Tall Timbers acquired a 211.7-acre conservation easement (Fritz Tract) in the project boundary.

2025

On May 22, 2025, DEP acquired a 2,865.64-acre conservation easement in Madison County from Two Crows Ranch LLC.

In August 2025, approximately 1 acre was removed from the project boundary that was deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

The Suwannee River Water Management District 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.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the designated manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The size of the project and its importance to wildlife (particularly its value as an over-wintering area for waterfowl) qualify it as a wildlife management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

This natural wetland system currently requires basic resource management and protection. However, it is in danger of being hydrologically modified to drain the area for timber and agricultural production. Pine plantations and agricultural areas on the uplands will require restoration. There may be additional management needs for public-use facilities.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 subsequent years.

Revenue-generating Potential

No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use increases, modest revenue may be generated.

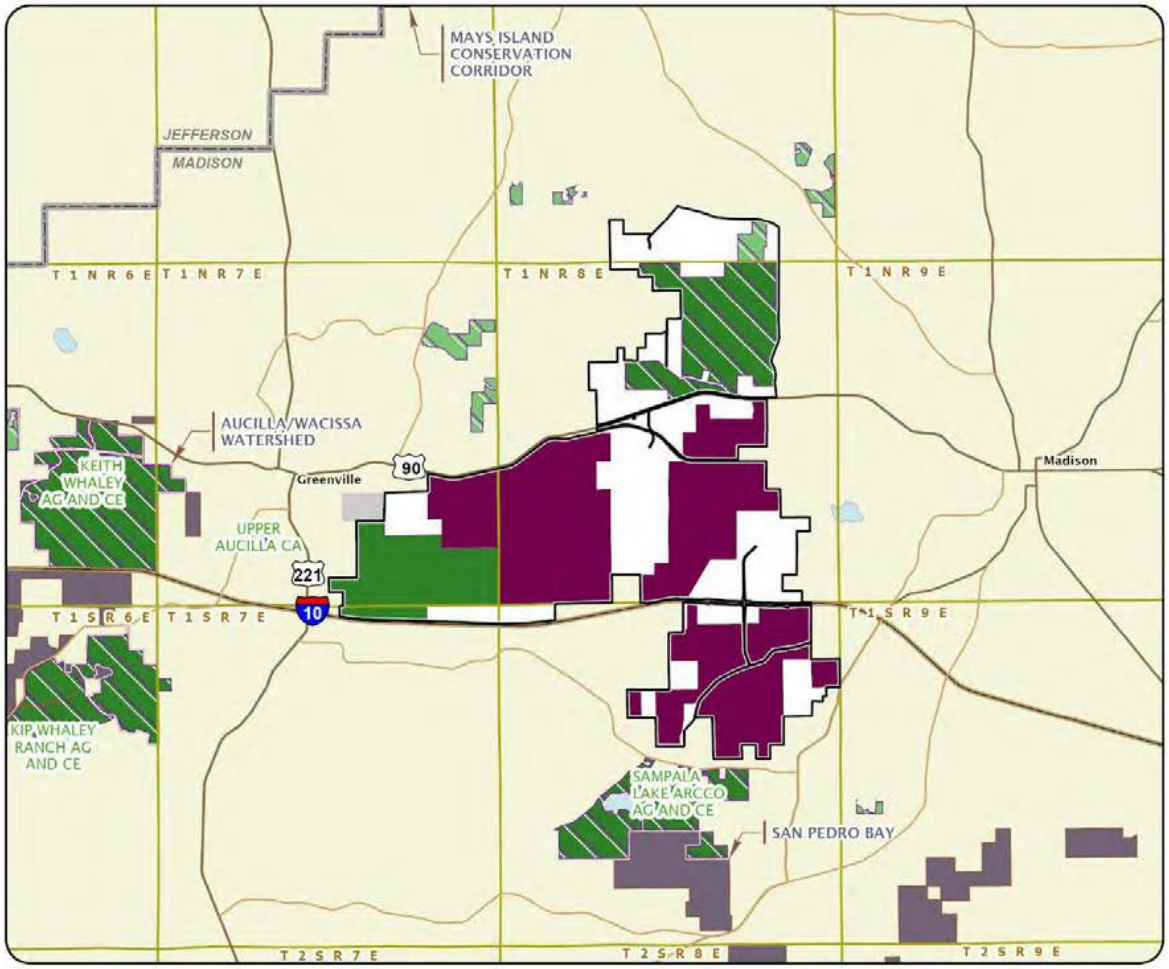
Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service is recommended as a cooperator to assist in the reforestation of upland areas.

Management Cost Summary

FWC		Startup	Recurring
	Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program or successor	CARL or successor
	Salary	$180,000	$180,000
	OPS	$5,500	$5,500
	Expense	$45,500	$40,000
	OCO	$124,800	$10,000
	FCO	$0	$0
	TOTAL	$355,800	$235,500

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



HIXTOWN SWAMP

MADISON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Ichetucknee Trace

Critical Natural Lands

Columbia County

Year Added to Priority List	*1997*
Project Acres	*2,786*
Acquired Acres	*1,078*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,708*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$20,595,542*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ichetucknee Trace project will protect the route of a major underground conduit supplying local springs with fresh water and will improve the quality and quantity of water within Ichetucknee Springs State Park. Acquisition will also provide the public with recreational and geological education opportunities.

General Description

A dry valley known as the Ichetucknee Trace runs north and east of Ichetucknee Springs marking the path of a major underground channel that delivers groundwater to local springs. Though Ichetucknee Springs State Park protects the springs and much of the Ichetucknee River, limerock mining and other land uses near the area's sinks pose a threat to the channel that flows to the springs. Limerock mines and sinks along the trace have exposed the conduit in some areas, leaving these areas vulnerable to pollutants from mining and encroaching development.

The goal of the Ichetucknee Trace project is to preserve the quality and quantity of water flowing into the first magnitude Ichetucknee Springs by protecting the trace. The Ichetucknee Trace project includes two active limerock mines and seven sinkhole sites. More than 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 include some fair quality forests.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Santa Fe cave crayfish	G1/S1
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Pallid cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Hobbs's cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3

Public Use

This project qualifies for use as a fish management area, recreation park or geologic site. With appropriate contouring, the water-filled mine pits could serve as a recreational fishery or fish hatchery and a county park.

Acquisition Planning

1996

This project was ranked for the first time on December 5, 1996.

1999

On July 29, 1999, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 636 acres: Rose Sink (since acquired); Saylor Sink (acquired); and Clay Hole Creek.

2000

In January 2000, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund authorized the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands to purchase 60 acres outside the project boundary.

On July 18, 2000, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 200 acres to the project.

2002

On August 9, 2002, TPL donated a two-acre parcel around Rose Sink to the state.

2003

On August 15, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 7.8 acres to the project boundary.

On August 15, 2003, ARC approved the acquisition of the McCormick Sink Site (147 acres) within the project boundary.

2006

On December 8, 2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2007

On February 16, 2007, 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 one parcel with a taxable value of $26,160. DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage this essential parcel.

On June 15, 2007, ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,050-acre addition (Sinks Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by 1000 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. DRP will manage these essential parcels.

2010

On December 29, 2010, 12.96 acres in Rose Sink (Kirby Mine Area), valued at $214,372, was donated by TPL. DRP will manage this acreage.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

Columbia County is considered an acquisition partner for this project. TPL is an intermediary.

Management Policy Statement

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; 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.

Manager(s)

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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as co-manager for the limerock mine site.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project site can be used for a variety of compatible recreational activities such as canoeing, hiking, biking, picnicking, environmental education and nature studies. It also qualifies as a fish management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Habitat restoration will require intense management activities involving extensive earthmoving 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. Considerable mining refuse is anticipated to be present and will need to be removed. Some actual salvage or demolition may be necessary. Earthmoving to abolish some roads and spread available soil will be extensive but will allow plant succession to proceed. Because there is no valuable habitat to manage, succession is the appropriate strategy. Earthmoving will allow work on planned vehicle access and parking in areas where eventual erosion to lakes can be precluded. Some fencing to prohibit or 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 secondary to major initial physical reconfiguration of the landscape and mine pits.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be on site security, posting boundaries, fencing, public access, resource inventory and removal of existing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by DRP, Columbia County and FWC 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. The second year will concentrate on accomplishment of initial phases of conceptual plan (earthmoving and excavation). This work will proceed into the third year, when some infrastructure work on facilities will commence. Long-range plans will stress fish and wildlife habitat creation and management and family fishing opportunities. Future infrastructure may include a universally accessible fishing pier, docks for canoes and small boats, an informational pavilion and designated hiking and biking trails. However, it is important to note that management activities will stress protection of water quality.

Revenue-generating Potential

Some potential for the sale of timber exists on this property. Additional revenue-generating potential would be the sale of fishing licenses, special use or entrance fees.

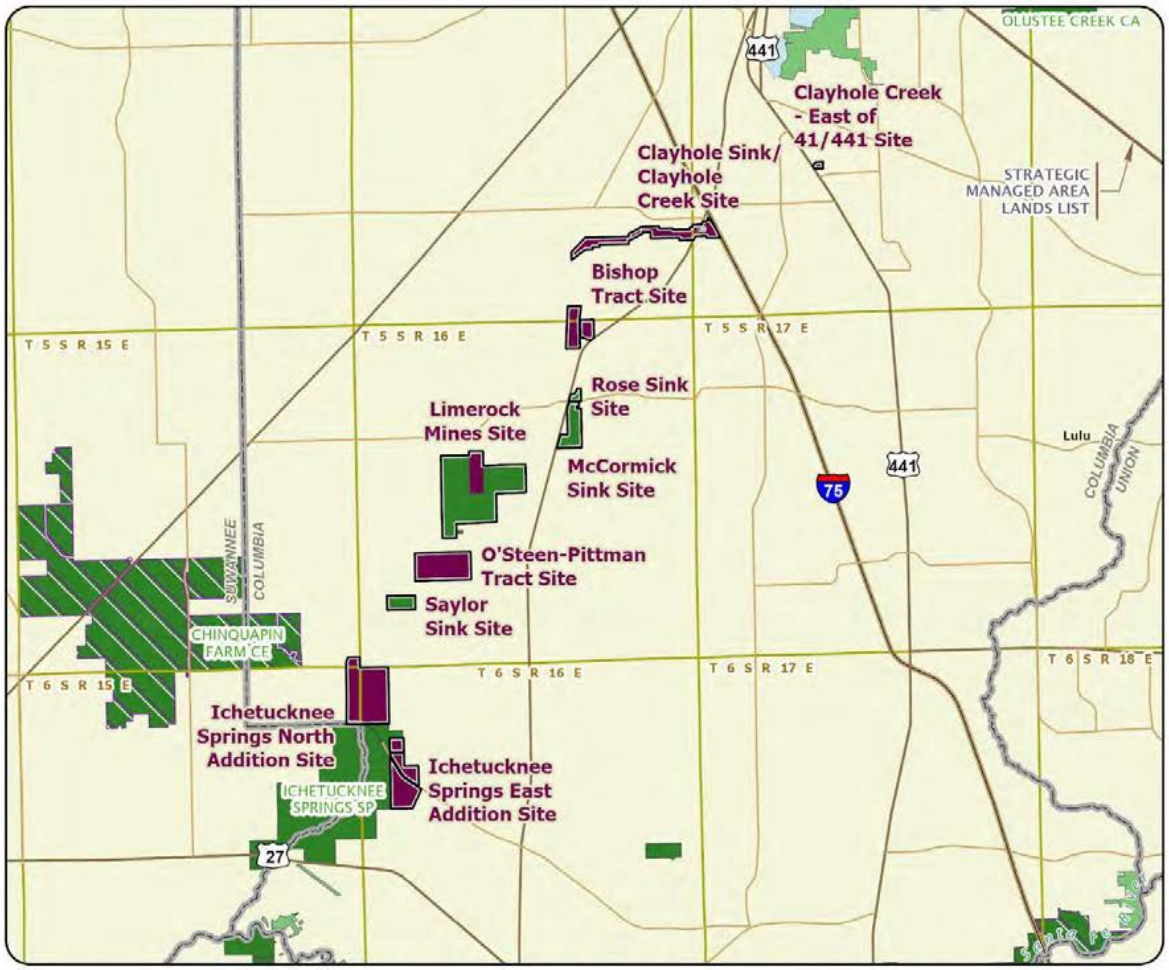
Cooperators in Management Activities

DRP, Columbia County and FWC will cooperate with various government agencies in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

FWC		Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program/State Game Trust Fund (SGTF)		CARL/SGTF
Salary		$40,000	$75,000
OPS		$10,000	$10,000
Expense		$20,000	$200,000
OCO		$35,000	$20,000
FCO		$0	$20,000
TOTAL		$105,000	$325,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ICHETUCKNEE TRACE

COLUMBIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Lake Hatchineha Watershed

Critical Natural Lands

Osceola and Polk Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*6,764*
Acquired Acres	*3,380*
Remaining Project Acres	*3,384*
2024 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$202,180,777*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lake Hatchineha Watershed project will 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 lowlands. Project acquisition would protect thousands of acres essential to the state's surface and groundwater supply and provide outdoor resource-based recreation.

General Description

The Lake Hatchineha Watershed project is in Osceola and Polk counties, east of Haines City. The project area 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 eastern boundary of the southeastern parcel adjoins the Disney Wilderness Preserve in Osceola County.

The northernmost parcel, the Beagle Tract, is 3,350 acres of mesic flatwoods, dome swamps and pasture that straddle 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 includes a high scrubby ridge with sudden changes in elevation throughout. Approximately 4,778 acres in the project area would protect surface waters of the state. Approximately 777 acres of the project are designated groundwater recharge areas.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida scrub lizard	G2G3/S2S3
*Celestial lily**	G3/S3
*Cutthroatgrass**	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area and could provide the public with many different recreational activities including hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping and cultural resource interpretation. Other land uses that may be compatible with site management include cattle grazing and apiaries. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

2002

The Lake Hatchineha Watershed project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the June 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.

2003

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved the project to the Group B list.

2010

On October 15, 2010, ARC approved a 994-acre boundary reduction (valued at $158,208,631) to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure developments.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2015

On November 9, 2015, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) established the Lake Hatchineha conservation easement (2,997.55 acres).

2023

On April 14, 2023, ARC approved adding 1,295-acre Creek Ranch project in Polk County to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. Creek Ranch was proposed as a fee simple acquisition and had a tax-assessed value of $3,839,967. After its approval, ARC added it to the existing Lake Hatchineha Watershed project.

2024

On August 16, 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired, in fee, 1,341.96 acres in Polk County from Creek Legacy Ranch, LLC.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is considered an acquisition partner on this project. No alternative funding resources have been identified.

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 natural resource opportunities like hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education. Because one of the principal purposes of the proposal is water conservation, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will cooperate with SFWMD and other conservation agencies to achieve that purpose.

Manager(s)

FWC will manage the Lake Hatchineha Watershed Florida Forever project, in cooperation with other state and local agencies.

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, bicycle trails, horseback riding, camping and wildlife observation.

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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 FWC describing management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Revenue-generating Potential

If appropriate, some revenue might be generated from grazing leases in flatwoods or pasture areas not restored. Additional revenue could be generated from the sale of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues in the future might also be realized from ecotourism activities.

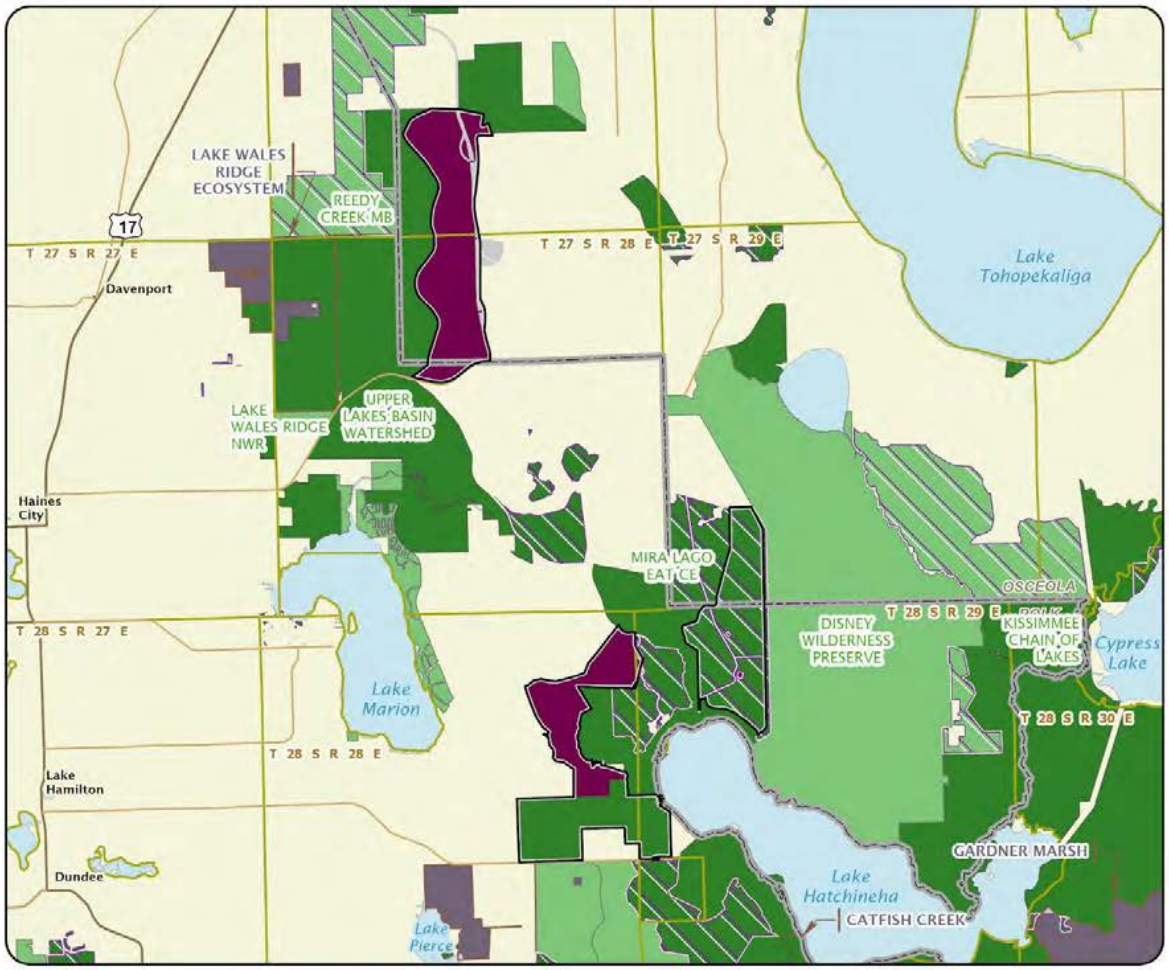
Cooperators in Management Activities

The cooperators in management activities on this project include DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks and SFWMD.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source	not provided	not provided
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$0	$47,481
OCO	$249,373	$169,303
FCO	$582,765	$11,986
TOTAL	$832,138	$228,770

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LAKE HATCHINEHA WATERSHED

OSCEOLA AND POLK COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Highlands, Lake, Osceola and Polk Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1992*
Project Acres	*66,050*
Acquired Acres	*47,844*
Remaining Project Acres	*18,206*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$169,589,347*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The high, sandy Lake Wales Ridge, stretching from the Orlando area to the Lake Okeechobee region, was originally covered with a mosaic of scrub, flatwoods, wetlands and lakes. The scrub is ecologically unique — inhabited by plants and animals found nowhere else — but 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.

General Description

Due to 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 this ancient scrub ridge. The sites contain the best remaining examples of unprotected Florida 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. There are 75 rare elements 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, and vulnerable to mismanagement and disturbance. They are also seriously threatened by conversion to citrus groves and immediate development pressure.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Clasping warea**	G1/S1
*Garrett's scrub balm**	G1/S1
*Scrub ziziphus**	G1/S1
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Avon Park rabbit-bells**	G1/S1
*Carter's warea**	G1/S1
*Wedge-leaved button-snakeroot**	G1/S1

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Sites within this project are designated for use as state parks, state forests, botanical sites and preserves. These sites could provide opportunities for natural-resource education, hiking, camping, picnicking, hunting and fishing.

Acquisition Planning

1991

On December 6, 1991, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Priority List. This fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (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 Apthorpe (1,722 acres); Highlands Park Estates (232 acres); Holmes Avenue (1,199 acres); Lake June West (897 acres); Sun 'N Lakes South (503 acres); and Gould Road (343 acres). The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) acquired 1,309 acres within the Henscratch Road/Jack Creek site for $1,540,000.

TNC is an intermediary in most of the ridge sites. Lake Walk-in-Water (8,615 acres): major owner, Alico, has been acquired; 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.

Henscratch Road (2,869 acres): largest tracts acquired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the CARL program. Silver Lake (2,020 acres): largest tracts acquired. Lake

McLeod (55 acres): at least 45 acres acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Lake Blue (65 acres) has been acquired. Hesperides (2,696 acres) has been acquired from Babson. Boy Scouts West (335 acres): acquired. Horse Creek (1,325 acres): SFWMD has acquired the major ownerships within this site. Eagle Lake (10 acres): removed from list — developed. McJunkin Ranch (750 acres): acquired.

Priority phasing for the Warea Archipelago sites is Scofield Sandhill (120 acres). Flat Lake (120 acres): acquired. Ferndale Ridge (104 acres): removed from list due to site fragmentation and habitat destruction. Sugarloaf Mountain (52 acres): southernmost tract acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District. TNC was unable to reach agreements with a large ownership at the northern end and owners of small tracts in between.

Carter Creek (4,630 acres): most of this parcel is acquired, and 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. Avon Park Lakes (225 acres): subdivided, TNC projects a three-year 70 percent success rate. Sun ‘N Lakes South (570 acres): more than 200 acres acquired, remaining developed and fragmented. Lake Apthorpe (2,503 acres): larger ownerships acquired, several lots important for management acquired as well.

1993

On July 23, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved an 848-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition in Highlands County was sponsored by TNC, consisted of two ownerships, Clements Family (four parcels) and Michael Rider (one parcel), with a taxable value of $313,910.

On September 20, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 Land Acquisition Advisory Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

In 1993, the USFWS established the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge (1,865 acres), of which 1,692 acres are within the project boundary.

1994

On March 9, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 Land Acquisition Advisory Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

In July 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 two 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 Land Acquisition Advisory Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

In November 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council combined the Warea Archipelago project (1,021 acres with a taxable value of $4,552,797 in Lake and Osceola counties) with the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project. The Warea Archipelago project contained six 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); and Sugarloaf Mountain (52 acres).

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 2,336-acre addition to the project boundary, located in Highlands County. It was sponsored by TNC with a taxable value of $2,201,330. The breakdown is as follows: 400 acres to the Silver Lake site; 76 acres to the Gould Road site; and the 1,860-acre McJunkin Ranch.

1995

On July 14, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved an 850-acre (sponsored by TNC with a 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 December 7, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved combining the Horse Creek Scrub project (2,365 acres with a taxable value of $3,330,700 in Polk County) with the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project. The SFWMD made the request to expand the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project boundary.

On December 7, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved combining the Highlands Ridge project (6,318 acres with a taxable value of $11,980,140 in Highlands County; several thousand parcels; 600-700 landowners) with the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project. TNC sponsored the project in 1994.

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 County ownerships total 2,407 acres and have a taxable value of $2,407,000.

1997

In September 1997, Polk County acquired Hickory Lake Scrub County Park (59 acres in project boundary).

On December 5, 1997, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council 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).

1998

On July 15, 1998, Orange County acquired the Schofield Tract (80 acres).

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a 580-acre addition to the project boundary, sponsored by TNC. It totaled 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 were as follows: Lake Apthorpe site (.34 acre, Levingston); 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. The Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council 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.

2001

On July 12, 2001, the Acquisition and 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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), consisting of one landowner owner, Raymond Royce, with a taxable value of $1,230,591. FWC will manage the addition.

2002

On November 11, 2002, 1.25 acres were acquired in Carter Creek (Benvenuti) to be managed by FWC.

2003

On May 21, 2003, FWC established the Westside conservation easements (291 acres), of which 205 acres are within the project boundary.

On October 17, 2003, ARC approved a less-than-fee 2,330-acre addition (Henscratch Ranch), sponsored by a representative for the landowner, Highlands Farms, Inc., to the project boundary. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands will monitor the easement.

2004

On August 20, 2004, ARC approved a less-than-fee, 520-acre addition (Lake Josephine), sponsored by representatives of the landowner, E. P. Jones Jr., to the project boundary. DEP's Division of State Lands will monitor the easement.

2005

On January 26, 2005, TNC acquired Southern Lake Wales Ridge (0.26 acres).

2006

On June 26, 2006, Orange County transferred 50 percent undivided interest on Schofield Tract to city of Orlando.

On July 26, 2006, SFWMD established the Henscratch (657 acres) conservation easement.

On October 13, 2006, 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, FWC and SWFWMD. The addition, in Polk County, consisted of 1,430 parcels; 1,120 landowners; and a taxable value of $6,612,464. The parcels have been designated as essential.

On October 26, 2006, SFWMD established a second Henscratch conservation easement (650 acres).

2007

On May 7, 2007, TNC established two conservation easements on Bass Ranch (945 acres), of which 22 acres are within the project boundary. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided funding for one of the easements.

On May 10, 2007, TNC acquired the Hancock Commons Tract (21.47 acres).

2008

On January 25, 2008, TNC acquired TNC/Dellock (10.1 acres).

On May 2, 2008, TNC acquired a second Hancock Commons Tract (20.65 acres).

In June 2008, FWC purchased: McKay (0.9 acre) in Carter Creek for $11,500; and Dunham Ranch known as Gopher Tortoise Mitigation Park (1,146.91 acres) for $12,353,761.

In September 2008, DEP purchased the following acreages (ownerships) within Carter Creek: 1.19 acres (Boise) for $11,500; 1.3 acres (Carpinello) for $11,500; and 1.3 acres (O Such) for $11,500.

In October 2008, DEP purchased 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.

On October 3, 2008, DEP purchased a 345-acre parcel from the Palmer ownership in Pine Plantation for $24,930,304 (40 acres in the southeast corner of the parcel were acquired by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to be conveyed to Orange County for a park).

On October 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 November 2008, DEP purchased 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.

2009

From December 2008 through May 2009, 46 acres were purchased for $445,161.

In January 2009, SWFWMD ($5,369,950) and Polk County ($2,000,000) acquired 3,510 acres (Crooked Lake West site), with an additional $12,239,500 from NRCS. In June 2009, 5 acres were purchased in the Carter Creek site for $46,000.

In July 2009, another acre was received as a donation from C.L./Vera Stegmaier in Lake Apthorpe. In October 2009, a little over 2 acres were purchased for $24,000 in the Carter Creek site. All of these are to be managed by FWC.

On December 29, 2009, 1.1 acres were purchased by DEP for $11,500. FWC will be the manager.

2010

On January 22, 2010, Collany Wetland Mitigation Bank (153.5 acres) was established with the easement signed by Falling Springs LLC.

On July 8, 2010, NRCS established Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #155 (184 acres).

2011

On February 22, 2011, the Morgan Lake Wales Preserve Conservation Bank (487 acres) is certified to sell credits.

On March 29, 2011, 0.5 acres on Holmes Avenue was donated (Dorothy A. Sanders Revocable Trust). FWC will be the manager.

On April 5, 2011, 16.21 acres were purchased (TNC/Lawson). The Florida Forest Service (FFS) will be the manager.

On April 15, 2011, ARC recommended a 2,071-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/rural/commercial development.

On May 23, 2011, NRCS established Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #157 (1,125 acres).

On July 20, 2011, DEP purchased 1.87 acres on Holmes Avenue for $8,422.

In August 2011, DEP bought 13.53 acres on Holmes Avenue via tax deed sales for $40,429.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On December 1, 2012, Collany Conservation Bank (134.8 acres) was established by Wildlands Conservation, Inc.

2013

On January 3, 2013, USFWS approved the Collany Conservation Bank.

2015

In 2015, USFWS purchased 1 acre to expand the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge.

2016

In 2016, USFWS purchased 0.23 acres to expand the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge.

On December 28, 2016, FX Bar Ranch conservation easement (500 acres) was established in Avon Park Air Force Range, of which 150 acres are within the project boundary.

2017

In 2017, USFWS purchased 0.75 acres to expand the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge. In 2017, 21.49 acres in this project were acquired with Florida Forever program funding.

2018

On October 4, 2018, U.S. Land Conservancy established the Lake Wales Ridge Conservation Bank – Sullivan Tract (110.2 acres).

On December 8, 2018, a second FX Bar Ranch conservation easement (300 acres) is established in Avon Park Air Force Range, of which 98 acres are within the project boundary.

2019

On November 21, 2019, Ancient Islands Conservation Bank (403.5 acres) was established with a conservation easement in favor of Wildlands Conservation, Inc.

On December 4, 2019, the Lake Wales Ridge Conservation Bank – Sullivan Tract is approved.

2020

On June 12, 2020, ARC approved the Hendrie Ranch addition of 7,229 acres in Highlands County to the project boundary.

On October 9, 2020, ARC approved an addition of the Stephens Property (79.63 acres) in Polk County, Larson Ranch (221 acres) in Highlands County and the Miller Properties (354 acres) in Highlands County to the project boundary.

2021

On June 11,2021, ARC approved an addition of 913.2 acres in Polk County to the project boundary.

DEP acquired, in fee-simple, a total of 5.67 acres from 14 individual property owners (Brown, Amador, Badillo, Reinhart, Lowe, Polynice, Seery, Antonacci, Valianes, Rosa Family, Cepero, Shuck 3 LLC, Sanders

and Miguel) and received donations of 0.83 acres from Cardani (one parcel) and Prager Family Trust (one parcel).

2022

On December 9, 2022, ARC approved an addition of the Ridgeland property (431 acres) in Highlands County.

DEP acquired 27 parcels in fee from individual owners in Highlands County (12.08 acres) within the Lake Apthorpe, Sun N' Lakes and Holmes Avenue project areas.

DEP acquired a conservation easement over two parcels totaling 366.42 acres (Miller).

2023

In December 2023, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 285.23 acres in Highland County.

DEP acquired, in fee, 79.6 acres in Highlands County from several individual owners.

2024

On January 3, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 1.03 acres in Highlands County from Hildegard Jorgensen, Kirsten Kirkman and Christopher Jorgensen.

In February 2024, ARC approved the addition of 507 acres in Highlands County to the project boundary.

In March 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.52 acres in Highlands County from Victor Fernandez and 1.06 acres in Highlands County from Stacy Jones.

In April 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.36 acres in Highlands County from Carl and Patricia Hagglund, 0.52 acres in Highlands County from Chun-Chieh Lin and 0.23 acres in Highlands County from Arthur Clemente.

In April 2024, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 88.7 acres in Highlands County and two parcels totaling approximately 120.23 acres in Polk County to the project boundary.

In May 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.26 acres in Highlands County from Michael Mathis, 1.06 acres in Highlands County from W.B. and Delilah B. Hampton and 0.23 acres in Highlands County from Julio Cesar Biaggi Lugo.

In June 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.26 acres in Highlands County from John Fargnoli Jr. and Sherry Hogan Fargnoli, 0.23 acres in Highlands County from Rosemary Quick and 0.26 acres in Highlands County from Boniface B. and Mayela D. Louima.

In July 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.46 acres in Highlands County from Barbara Buday and 0.23 acres in Highlands County from Patricia K., William J. and John J. Fox.

On August 28, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.32 acres in Highlands County from Tyler Nelson.

On September 3, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.59 acres in Highlands County from Christopher and Tonya Smith.

On December 19, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 100 acres in Highlands County from JJW Inc.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 499 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

On March 7, 2025, DEP acquired a 420.22-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from Ridgeland Ag Corp.

In April 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 100 acres in Highlands County from Perry Mason Groves Inc. and 267.2 acres in Highlands County from Windmill Farms Nurseries Inc.

On May 30, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 2.17 acres in Highlands County from Madd Assets, LLC.

In June 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.55 acres in Highlands County from Madd Assets, LLC, 63.7 acres in Highlands County from Watters Grove, Inc., and 12.46 acres in Polk County from Hughie and Virginia Chumney.

In July 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 5.35 acres in Highlands County from Sun N Lake of Sebring Improvement District.

On September 9, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 1.23 acres in Highlands County from the Florida Power and Light Company and 1.54 acres in Polk County from Imperial Polk County Government Board of County Commissioners.

On October 21, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 12.36 acres in Highlands County from William K. Brantley and 5.77 acres in Highlands County from William and Denise Brantley.

Coordination

The Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project sites are included within USFWS' Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, which is the service's top priority endangered species project. USFWS will also participate in management. TNC is an intermediary for non-mega parcel sites on this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Lake Wales 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; 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.

Manager(s)

Managers include the DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (Lake June West); FFS (Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and five Warea sites) and FWC (remaining sites). FFS will monitor the less-than-fee portion. DEP's Division of State Lands will monitor some conservation easements.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The full fee sites of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project qualify as single use wildlife and environmental area 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. The small parcels sites of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project qualify as single-use wildlife and environmental area because of its high concentration of threatened or endangered species, particularly plants. Thirty percent of the plants and animals of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project occur nowhere else in the world.

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 near residential areas.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 managing some of the sites.

Management Cost Summary

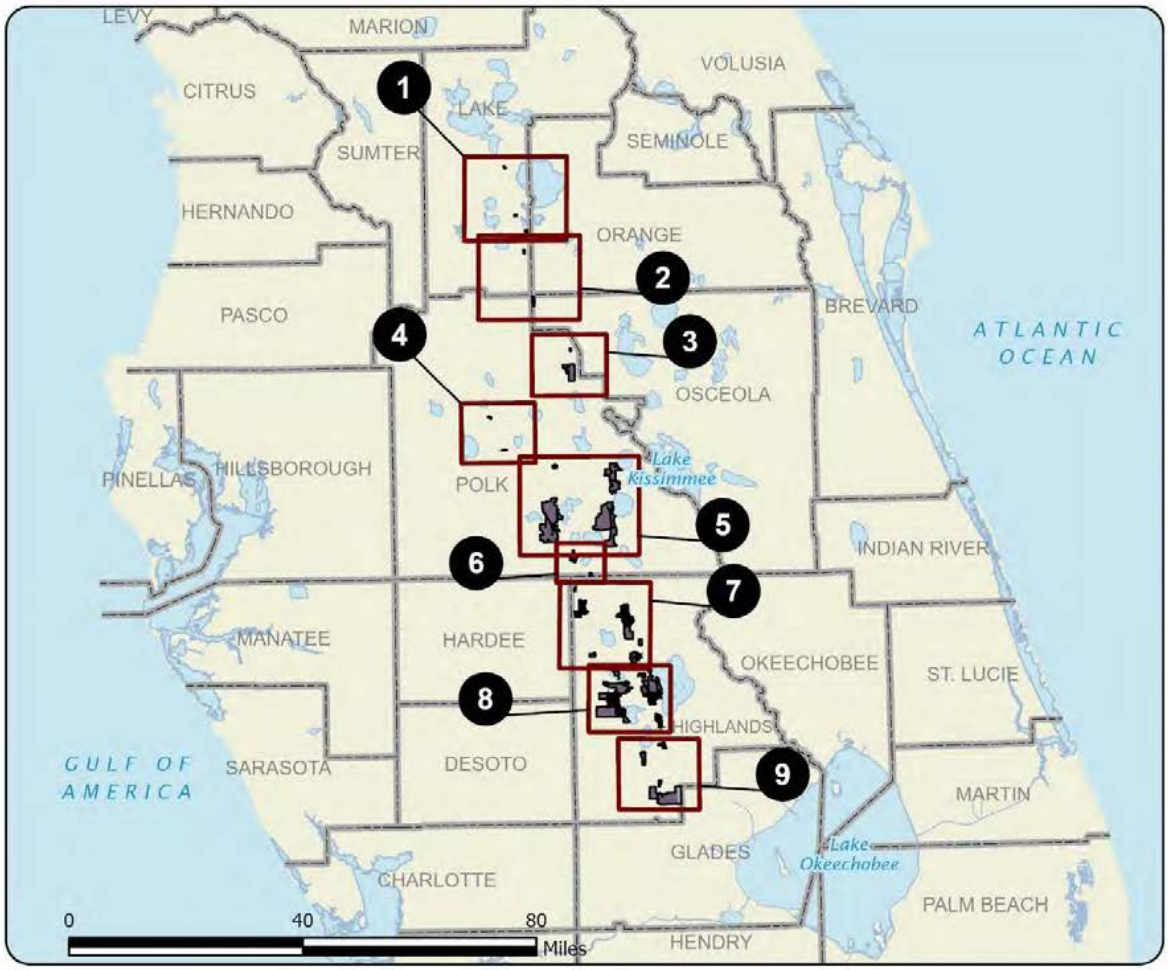
DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (Lake June West) and FFS (Warea)	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$44,334	$97,575
OPS	$14,560	$12,000
Expense	$23,000	$24,000
OCO	$67,000	$1,000
FCO	$57,720	$0
TOTAL	$206,614	$134,575

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS (Hesperides)	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
TOTAL	$195,140	$90,440

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

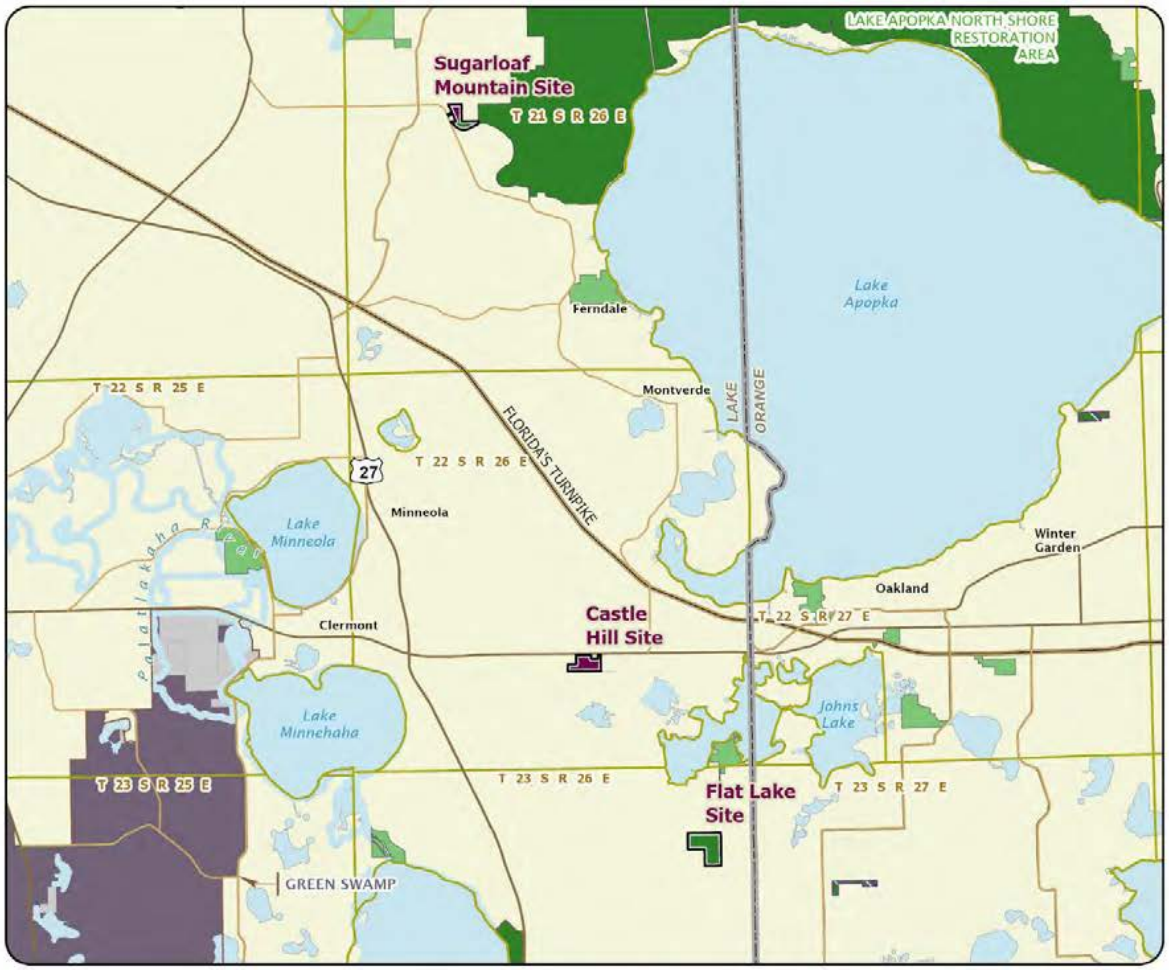


LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

HIGHLANDS, LAKE, OSCEOLA, AND POLK COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Castle Hill Site
- ☐ Map 1 Flat Lake Site
- ☐ Map 1 Sugarloaf Mountain Site
- ☐ Map 2 Lake Davenport Site
- ☐ Map 2 Schofield Sandhill Site
- ☐ Map 3 Horse Creek Scrub Site
- ☐ Map 3 Ridge Scrub Site
- ☐ Map 4 Lake Blue Site
- ☐ Map 4 Lake McLeod Site
- ☐ Map 5 Crooked Lake West Site
- ☐ Map 5 Hesperides Site
- ☐ Map 5 Lake Walk-in-the-Water Site
- ☐ Map 5 Mountain Lake Cutoff Site
- ☐ Map 6 Sunray/Hickory Lake South Site
- ☐ Map 6 Trout Lake Site
- ☐ Map 7 Avon Park Lakes Site
- ☐ Map 7 Carter Creek Site
- ☐ Map 7 Flamingo Villas Site
- ☐ Map 7 Miller Tract Site
- ☐ Map 7 Silver Lake Site
- ☐ Map 8 Henscratch Ranch Site
- ☐ Map 8 Henscratch Road/Jack Creek Site
- ☐ Map 8 Highlands Groves Site
- ☐ Map 8 Highlands Ridge Site
- ☐ Map 8 Holmes Avenue Site
- ☐ Map 8 Lake Apthorpe Site
- ☐ Map 8 Lake Josephine Site
- ☐ Map 8 Lake June West Site
- ☐ Map 8 Larson Ranch Site
- ☐ Map 8 Royce Ranch Addition Site
- ☐ Map 9 Gould Road Site
- ☐ Map 9 Hendrie Ranch Site
- ☐ Map 9 McJunkin Ranch Site
- ☐ Map 9 Sun N Lakes South Site
- ☐ Map 8 Ridgeland





LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

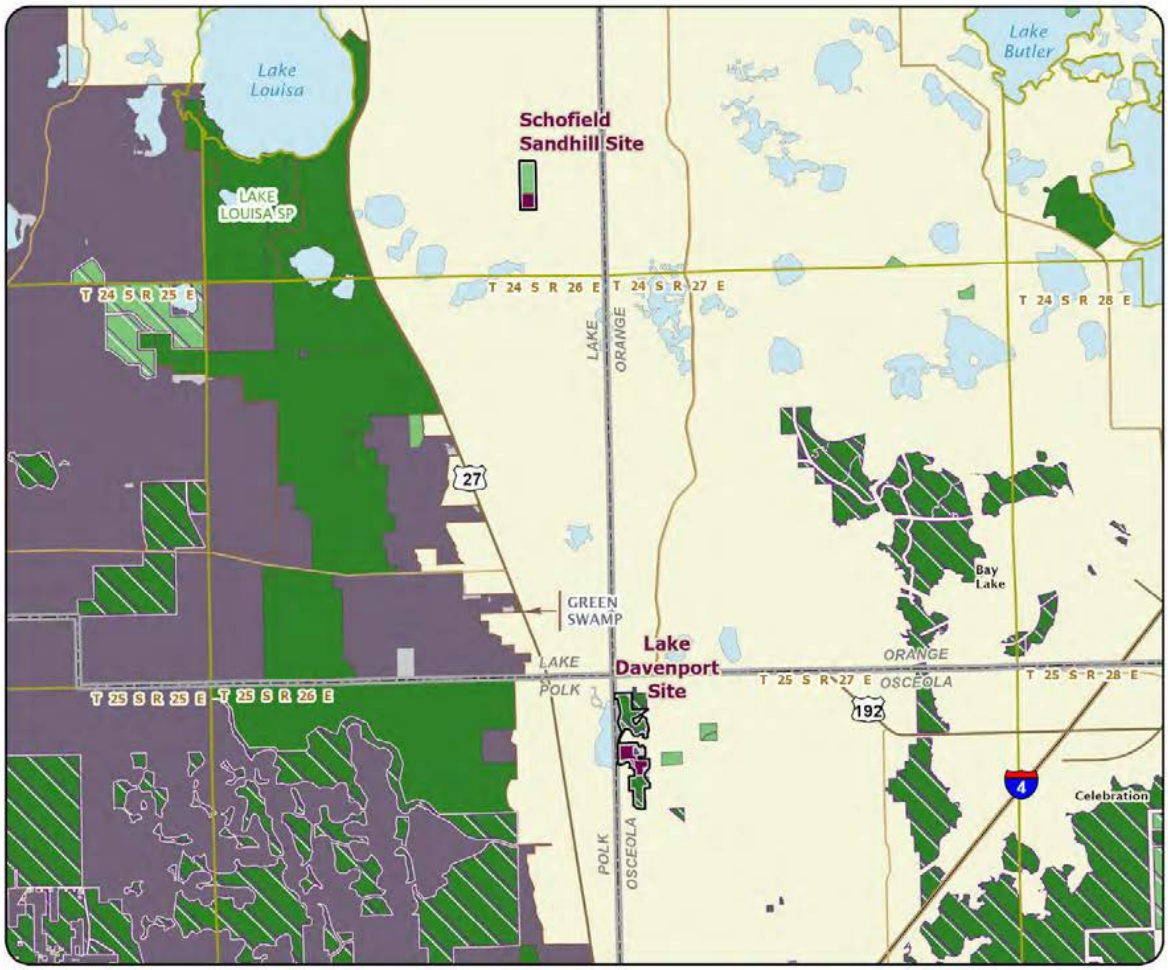
LAKE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 3.5 7 Miles

N





LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

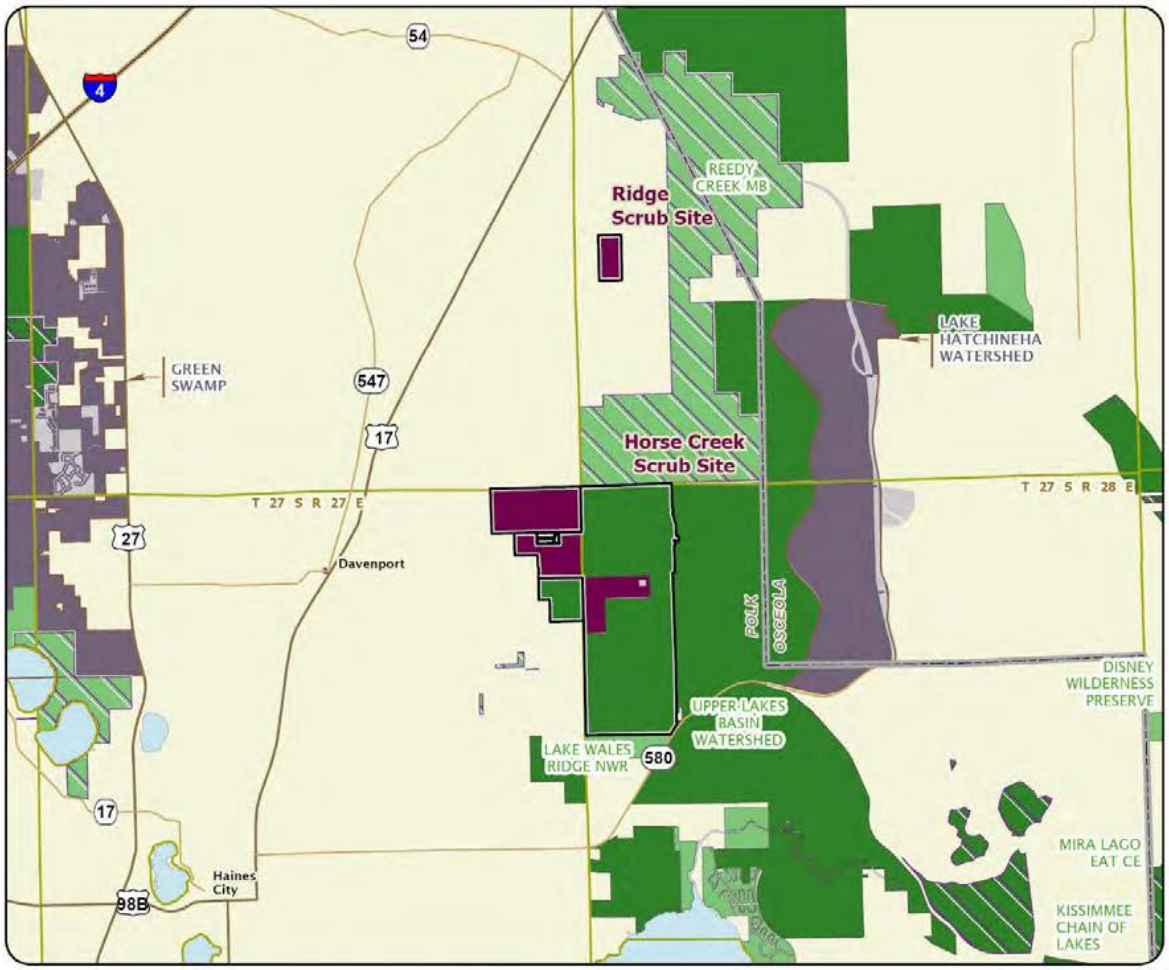
LAKE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 3.5 7 Miles

N





LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

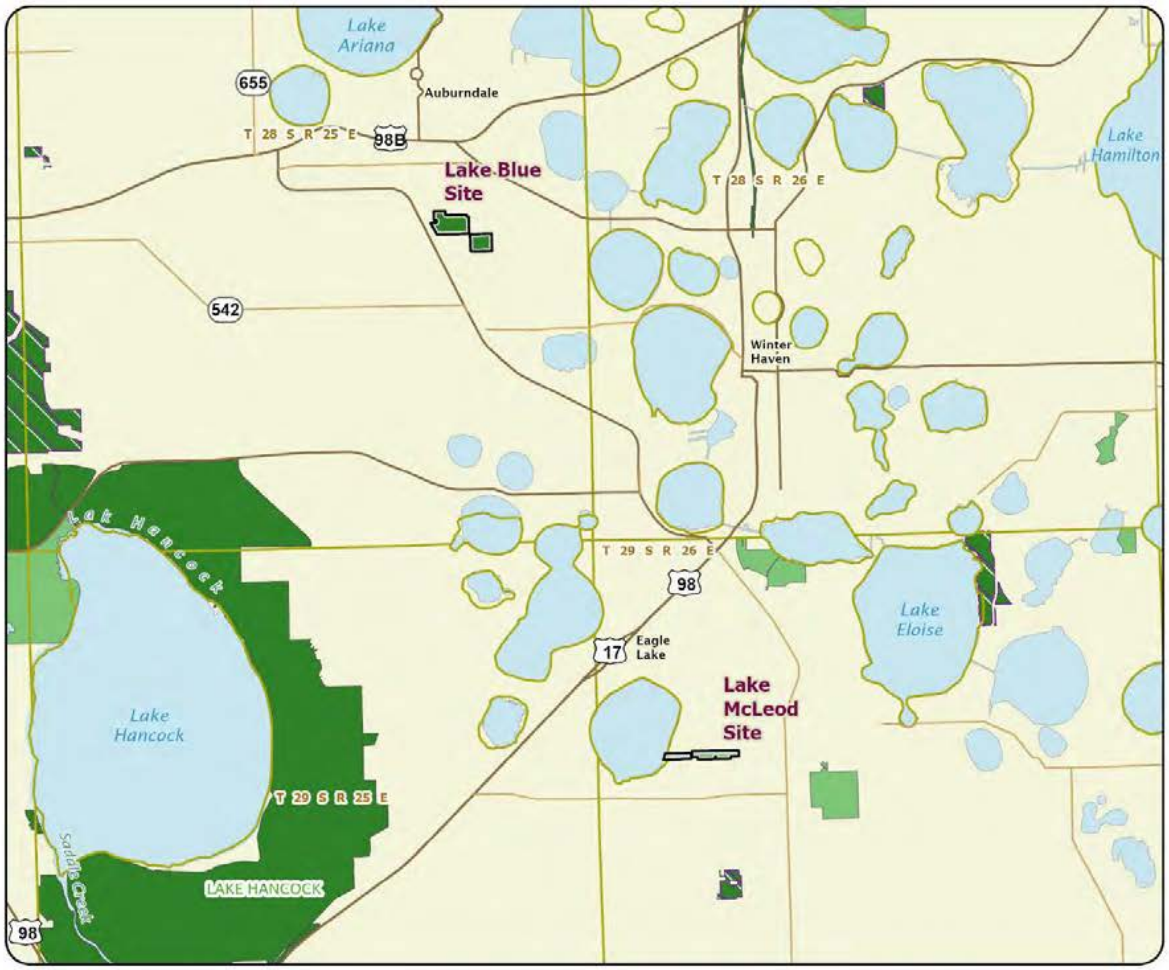
POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 2.5 5 Miles

N





LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

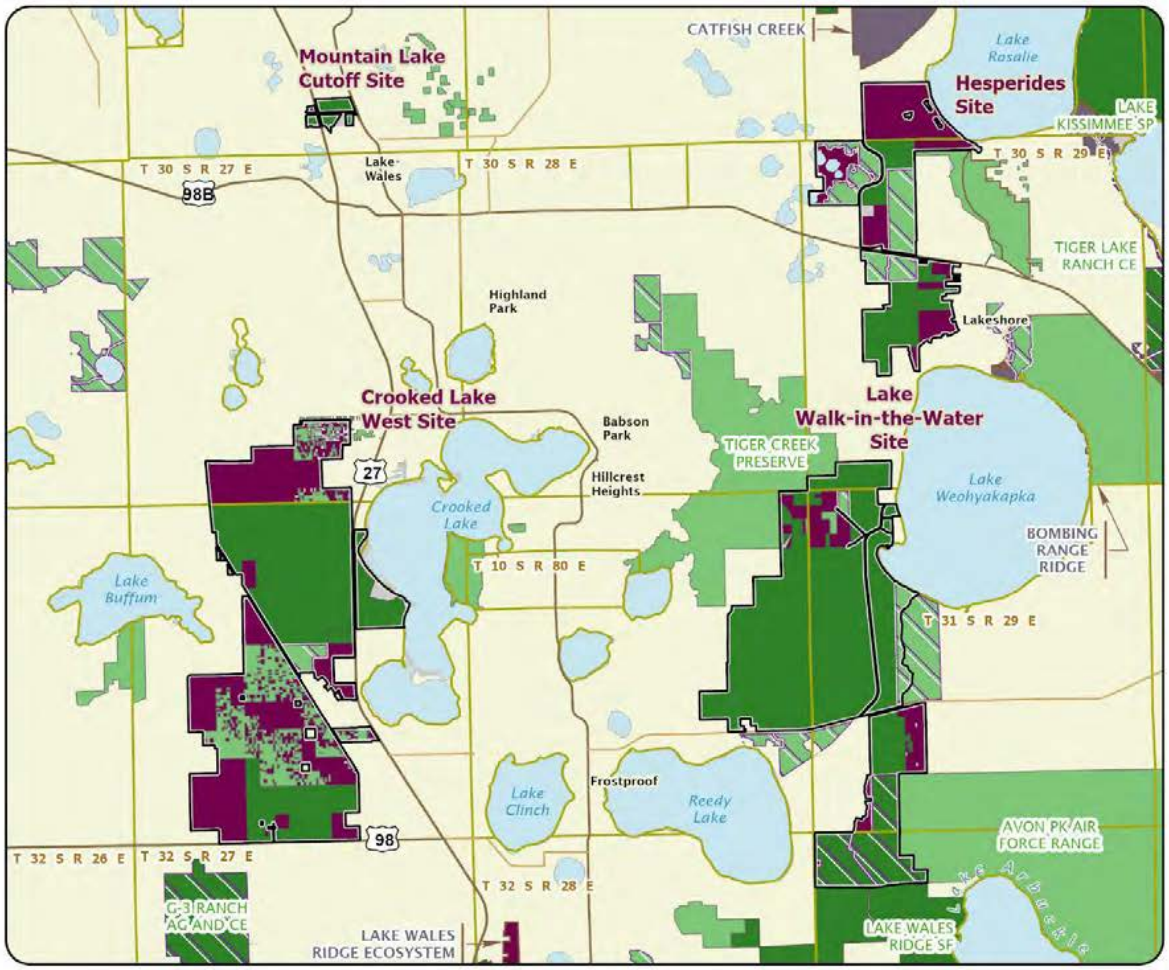
POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



N

0 2.5 5 Miles



LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

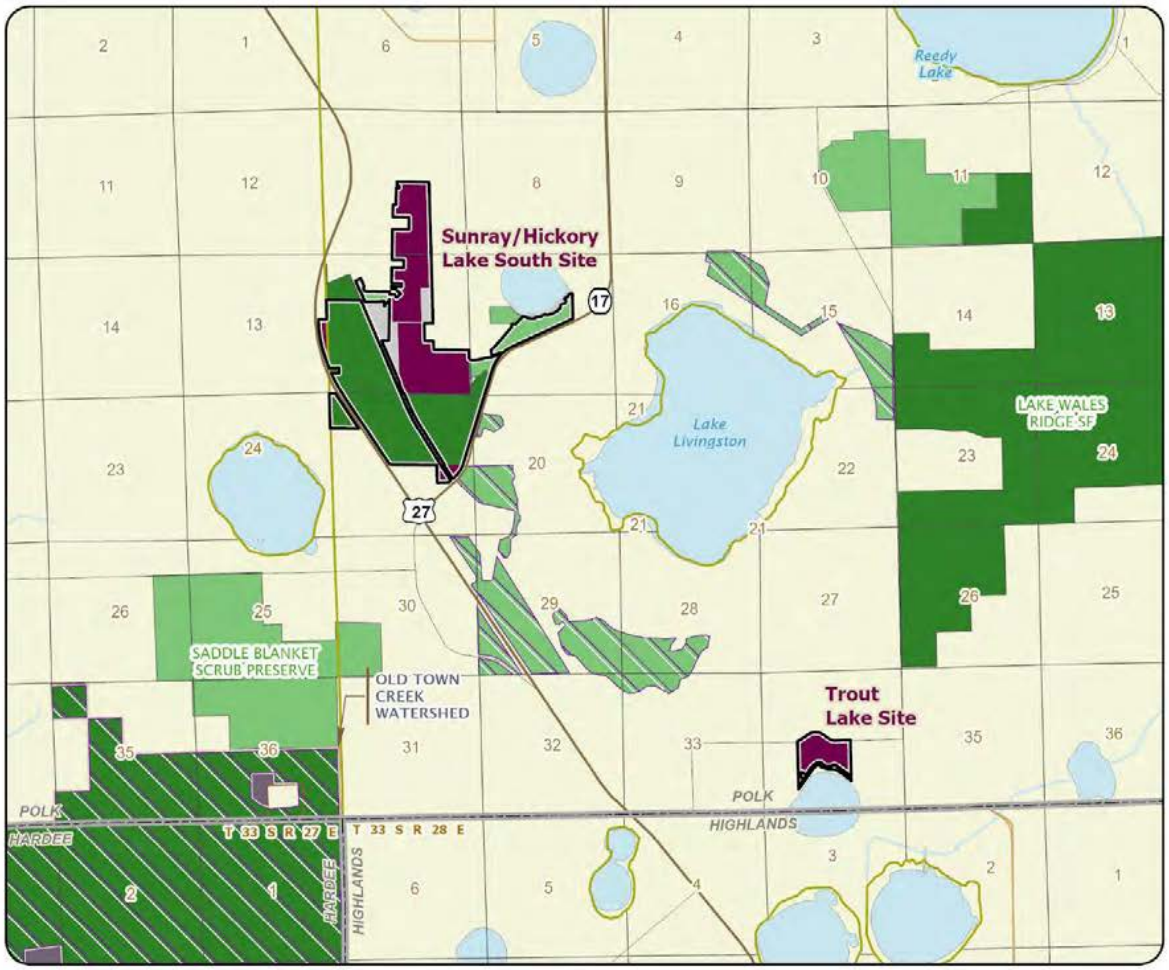
POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 4 8 Miles

N





LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

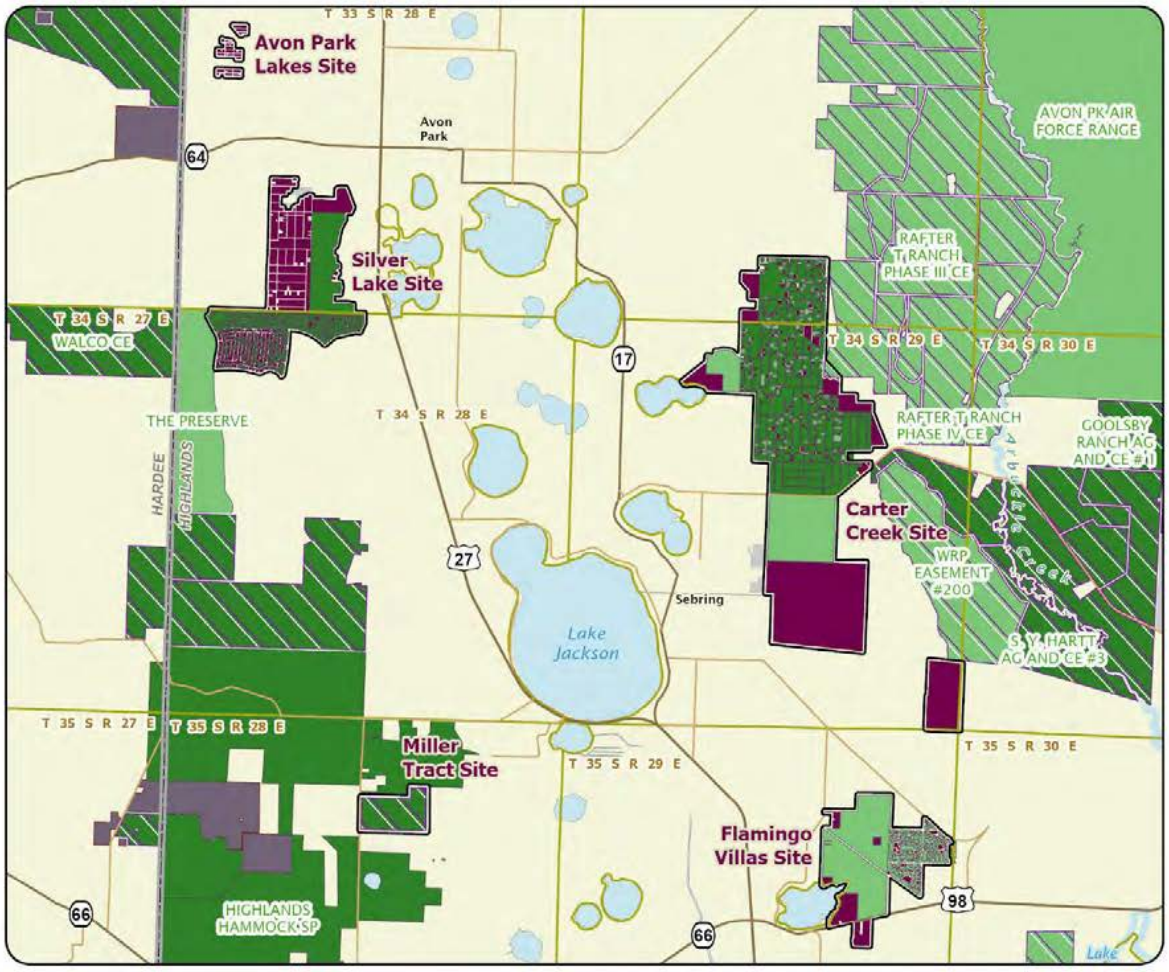
POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 1.5 3 Miles

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LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

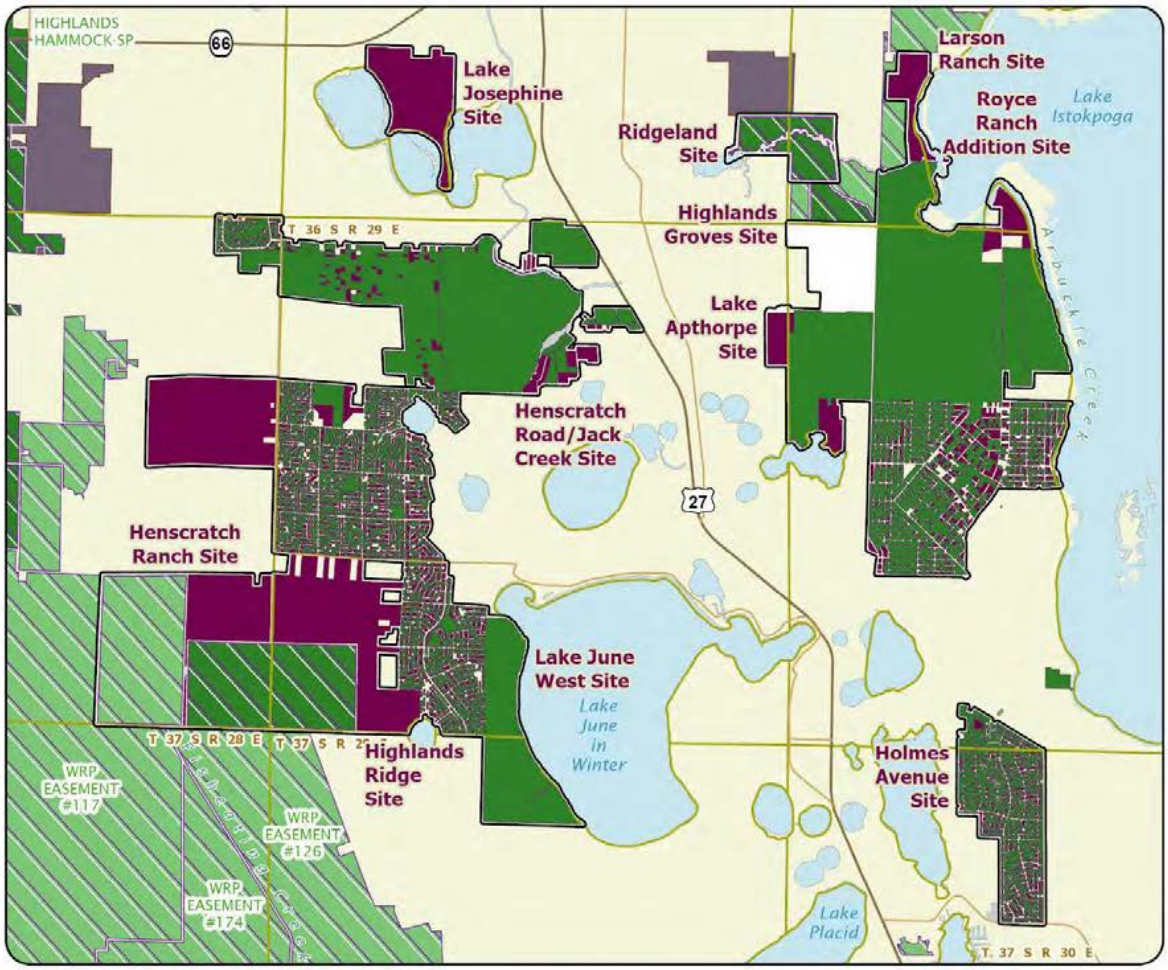
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 3.5 7 Miles

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LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

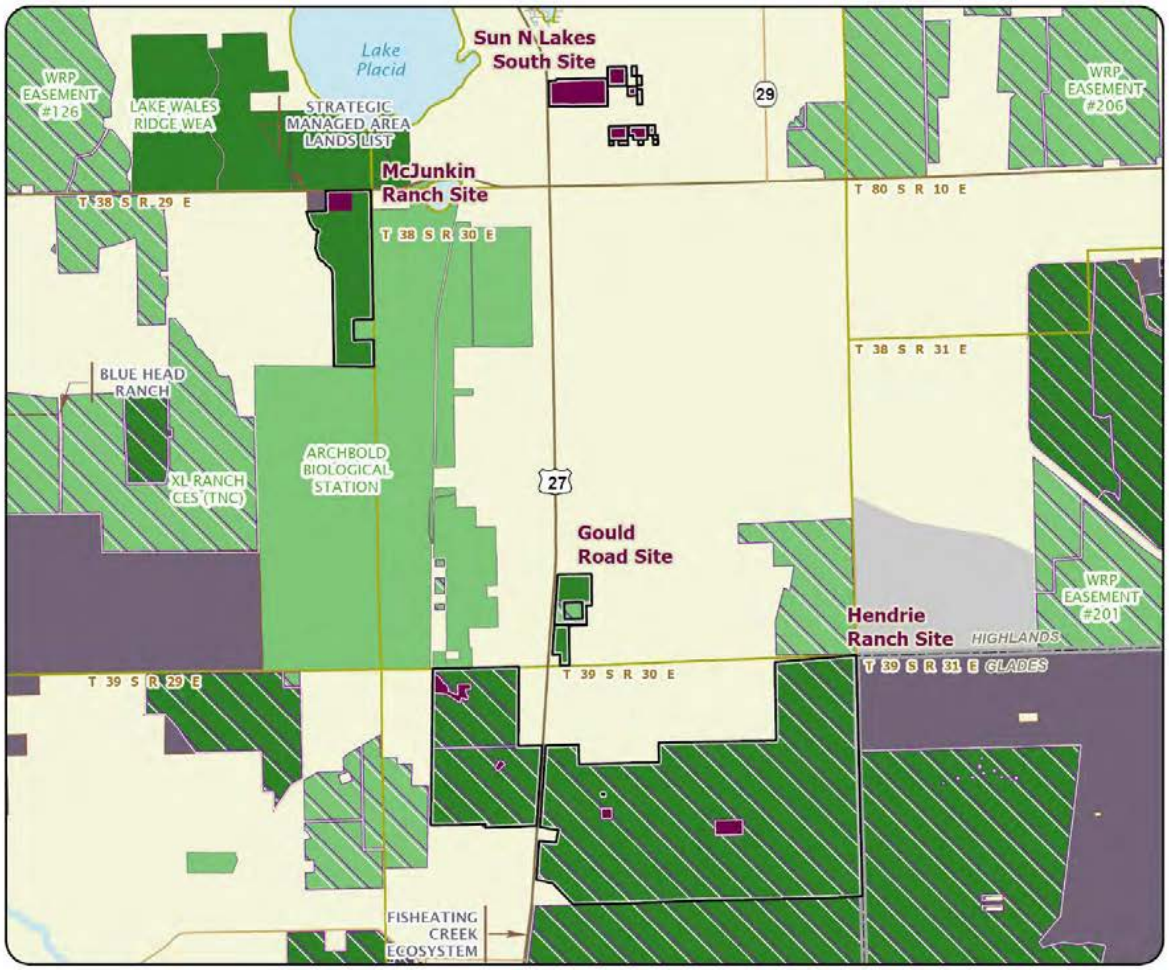
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2.5 5 Miles

N





LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 3 6 Miles

N



Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Gilchrist, Hamilton, Marion and Volusia Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1993*
Project Acres	*22,994*
Acquired Acres	*15,084*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,910*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$127,189,322*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project is to conserve the largest and highest quality fragments of old-growth longleaf pine sandhills; one of Florida's most distinctive and endangered forest types. State acquisition will help to ensure the survival of numerous imperiled plant and animal species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and provide the public an opportunity to experience the original and increasingly rare Florida sandhill community.

General Description

The original Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project 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. The project will protect a multitude of imperiled species. Archaeological sites are known to occur in the Ross Prairie tract. These sites are vulnerable to logging and fire suppression as well as development.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Orange Lake cave crayfish	G1/S1
*Longspurred mint**	G2/S2
Short-tailed snake	G2/S2
Equal-clawed gopher tortoise hister beetle	G2/S2
*Sand butterfly pea**	G2Q/S2
Gopher tortoise burrow fly	G2/S2S3
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project is suitable for state parks, state forest and wildlife management areas, with opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping and nature appreciation. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

1988

On December 15, 1988, Florida Audubon Society received Caraway Lake Sanctuary (15 acres) as a donation, all of which would be in the project boundary when it was created.

1990

On November 15, 1990, Florida Audubon Society received a donation of three parcels (49.3 acres) to expand Caraway Lake Sanctuary, all of which would be in the project boundary when it was created.

1993

On July 23, 1993, Blue Spring Longleaf was added to the project boundary. Deland Ridge (35 acres) was also added to the project boundary.

On November 19, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved the addition of 320 acres to the Ross Prairie Sandhill site.

1998

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council transferred the Deland Ridge and Chassahowitzka Sandhill sites to the Negotiation Impasse group.

In 1998, Florida Audubon Society acquired Clifton Sanctuary (41 acres), of which approximately 10.59 acres are within the project boundary.

1999

On July 29, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added the 3,040-acre Ross Prairie Addition project to the project boundary.

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved the Bell Ridge project to be added to the project boundary.

2003

On May 29, 2003, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission established the On Top of the World Development of Regional Impact Conservation Area (260.2 acres), of which approximately 207 acres are within the project boundary.

2010

On August 13, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a 3,612-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure disturbances.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On July 3, 2012, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund acquired 5.16 acres in the Ross Prairie area for $8,000.

2013

On April 19, 2013, ARC approved adding the 986-acre Ellaville Sandhill Tract to the project boundary, bringing the total project acreage to 22,299.

2021

On April 9, 2021, ARC members approved adding the 541-acre Big Pine Preserve project, located in Marion County, to the project boundary.

2023

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired, in fee, 470 acres in Marion County from Swan-Smiley Preserve, LLC.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 1,093 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy, the Florida Department of Transportation, Trust for Public Land and Florida Audubon Society are acquisition partners on this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project are to conserve and protect environmentally-unique lands that contain native, relatively-unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to a region of this state or a larger geographic area; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests; and enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulator programs cannot adequately protect.

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 recreation 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 site; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; conduct prescribed burning of fire-dependent communities to mimic natural lightning-season fires, using existing fire lines, natural firebreaks, existing roads or foam lines for control; strictly limit timber harvesting in mature stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are conserving resources. Managers will limit the number and size of recreation facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project 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.

The Florida Forest Service (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 ARC. These goals and measures are hereby incorporated by reference. The primary land management goal for FFS is to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems in perpetuity; to integrate compatible human use; and to ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide FFS management activities on this project.

Manager(s)

FFS will manage the Blue Spring Longleaf, Bell Ridge and Ross Prairie sites; this excludes the sites that are part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and are under an approved management lease to DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks. FFS will manage Bell Ridge under a multiple-use management regime.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The quality, size and diversity of the pine forests on the Blue Spring Longleaf and Ross Prairie sites make them suitable for state forests. The major community represented on the Bell Ridge site is sandhill. This site is also desirable for use and management as a state forest due to its size and diversity. Management by 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

Blue Spring Longleaf Tract

There are no known major disturbances that will require significant attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. However, on Ross Prairie, the construction of an extension of the Florida Turnpike may hinder fire management activities and public access to the forest.

Bell Ridge

There are portions of the parcel that have been disturbed and 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 may be sensitive to certain uses and their intensity. As such, any additional facilities other than those that already exist on the project are considered incompatible with this project.

Residential Developments

Adjacent residential developments pose management concerns associated with prescribed burning, public use, unauthorized uses and other natural resource management activities. Areas that have refuse and debris should be removed prior to closing on the core parcel. There are no other known major disturbances that require attention. The initial level of management intensity and related management cost is expected to be moderately high to establish the project as a state forest. Some existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road biking.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The Blue Spring Longleaf tract and part of the Ross Prairie Sandhills tract have been acquired. 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.

On all three tracts, FFS will provide public access. Long-range plans will address restoring disturbed areas, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use 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 reforested where appropriate. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education.

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.

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 of 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 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. 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, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Revenue-generating Potential

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 these tracts is expected to be low. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Conservation and Recreational Lands Trust Fund or its successor.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS will cooperate with other state agencies, local government entities and other appropriate groups.

Management Cost Summary

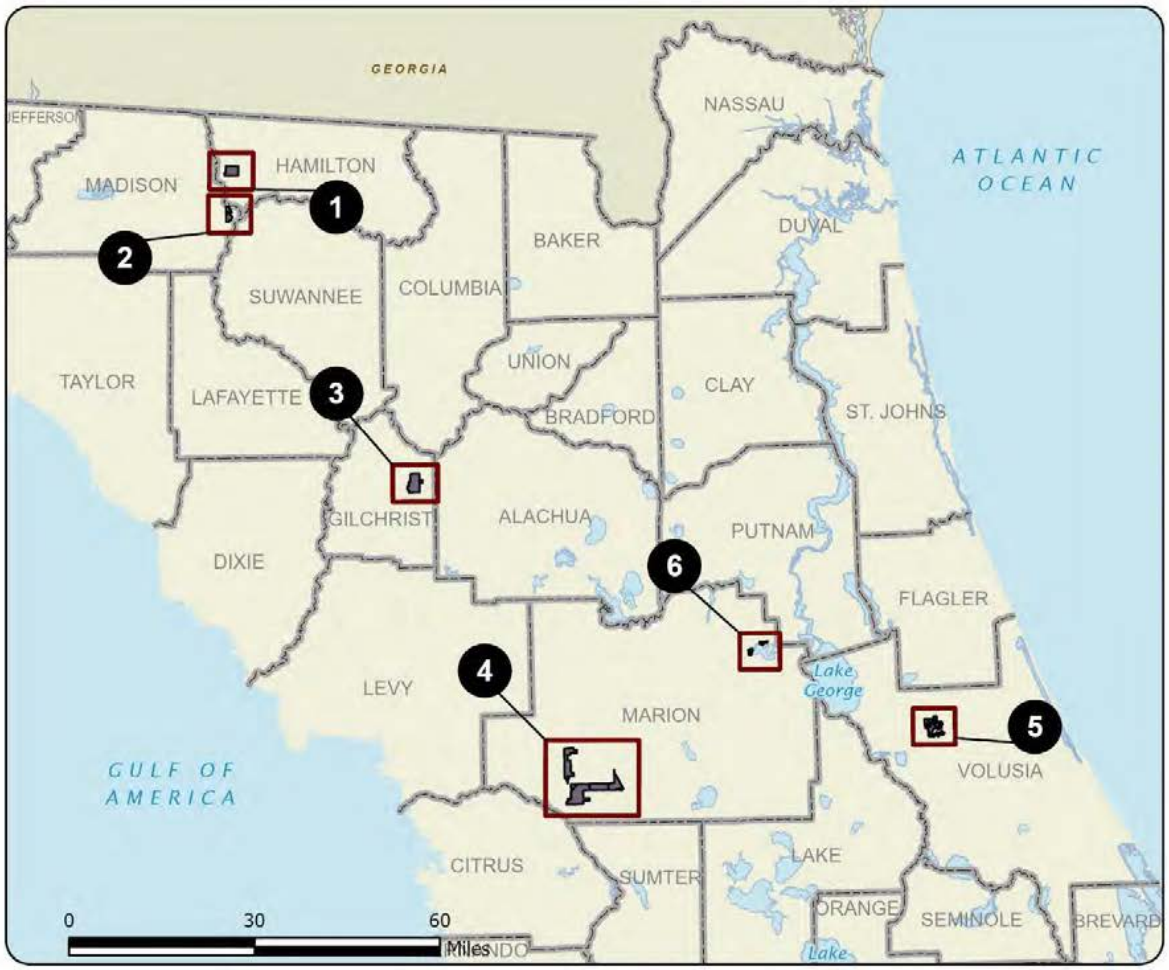
FFS (Bell Ridge)	1995/96	1996/97
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$31,080	$41,013
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$25,505	$11,302
OCO	$40,626	$0
TOTAL	$97,211	$52,315

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS (Deland Ridge)	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$0	$0
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$7,000	$5,000
OCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$7,000	$5,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

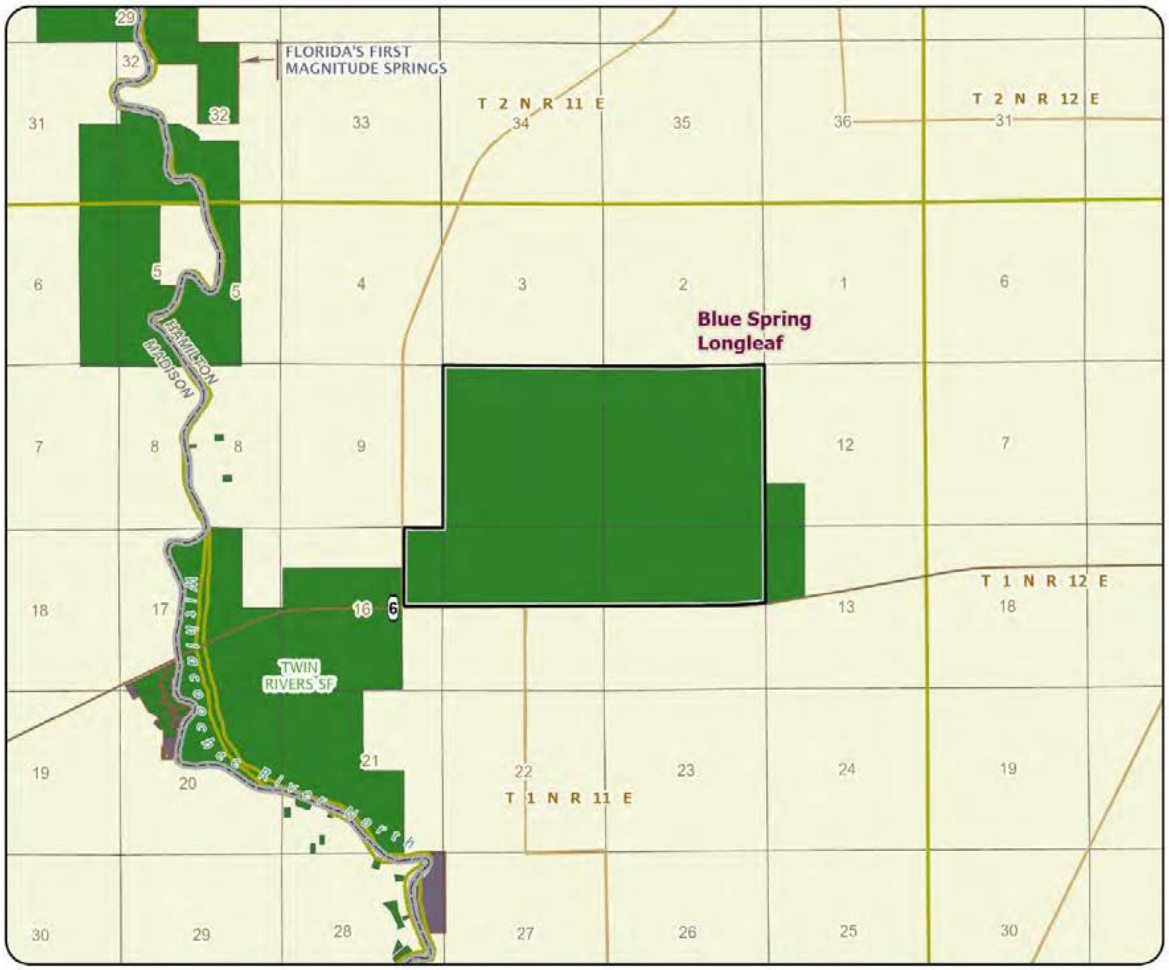


LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, MADISON, MARION AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Blue Spring Longleaf Site
- ☐ Map 2 Ellaville Sandhill Site
- ☐ Map 3 Bell Ridge Sandhills Site
- ☐ Map 3 Ross Prairie Sandhills Site
- ☐ Map 5 DeLand Ridge Sandhill Site
- ☐ Map 6 Big Pine Preserve Site





LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

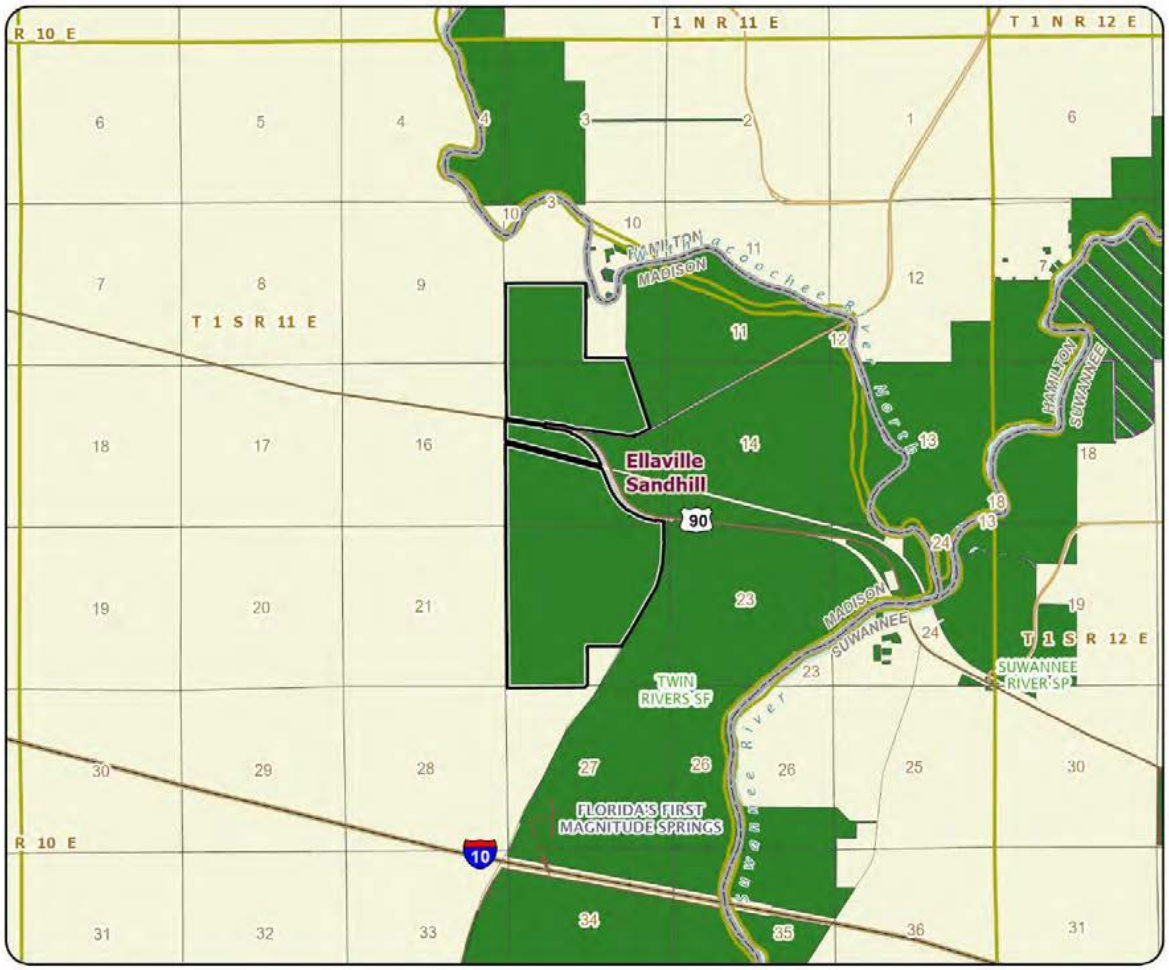
HAMILTON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

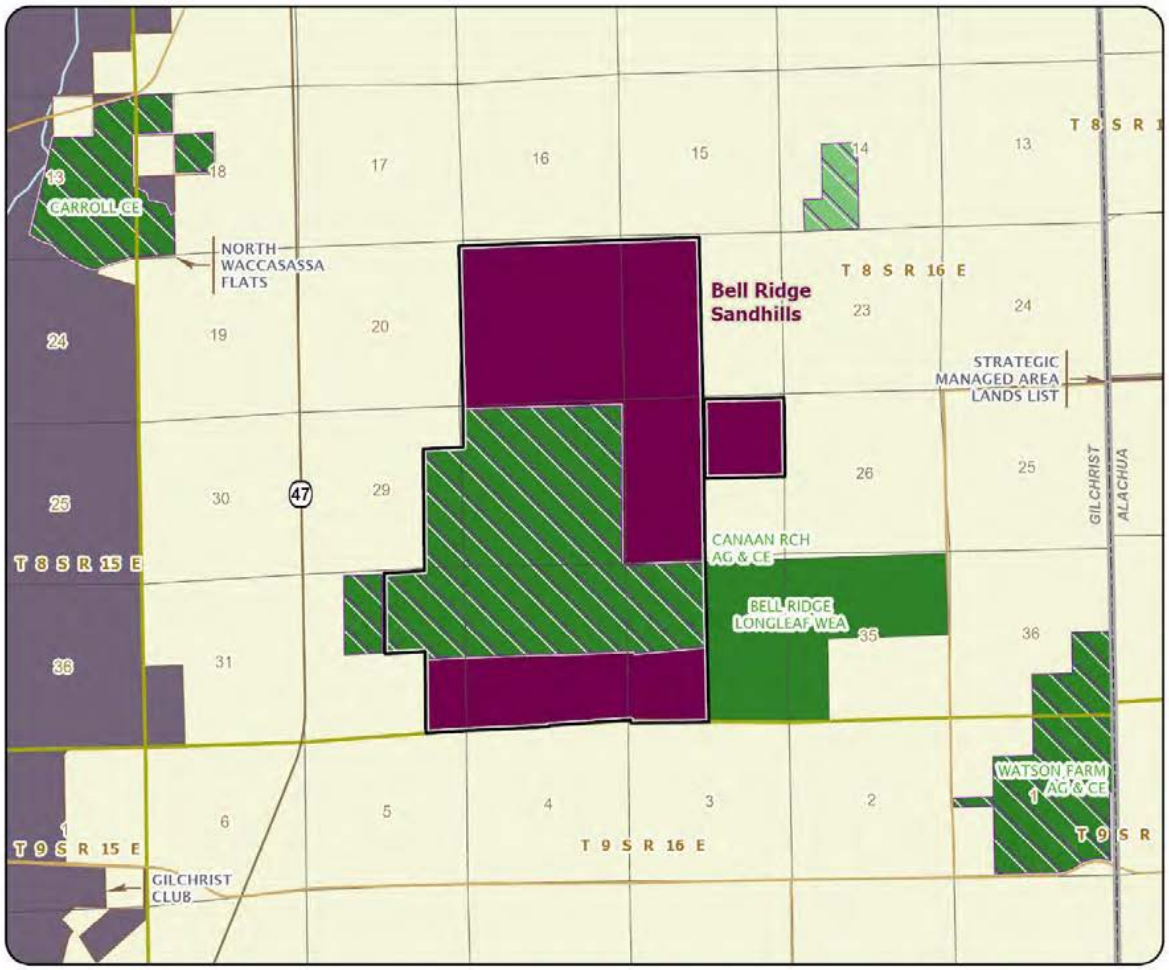
MADISON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

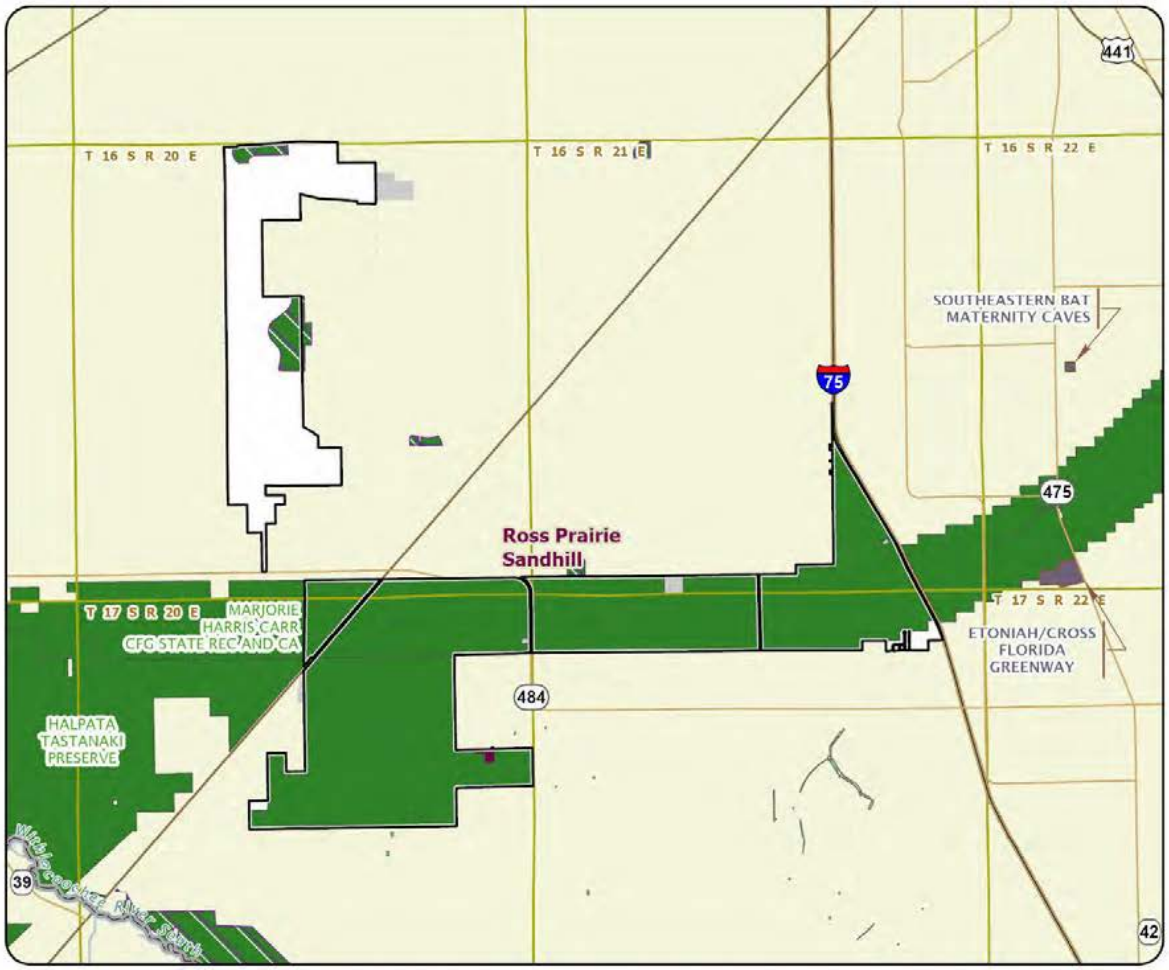
GILCHRIST COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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0 1 2 Miles



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

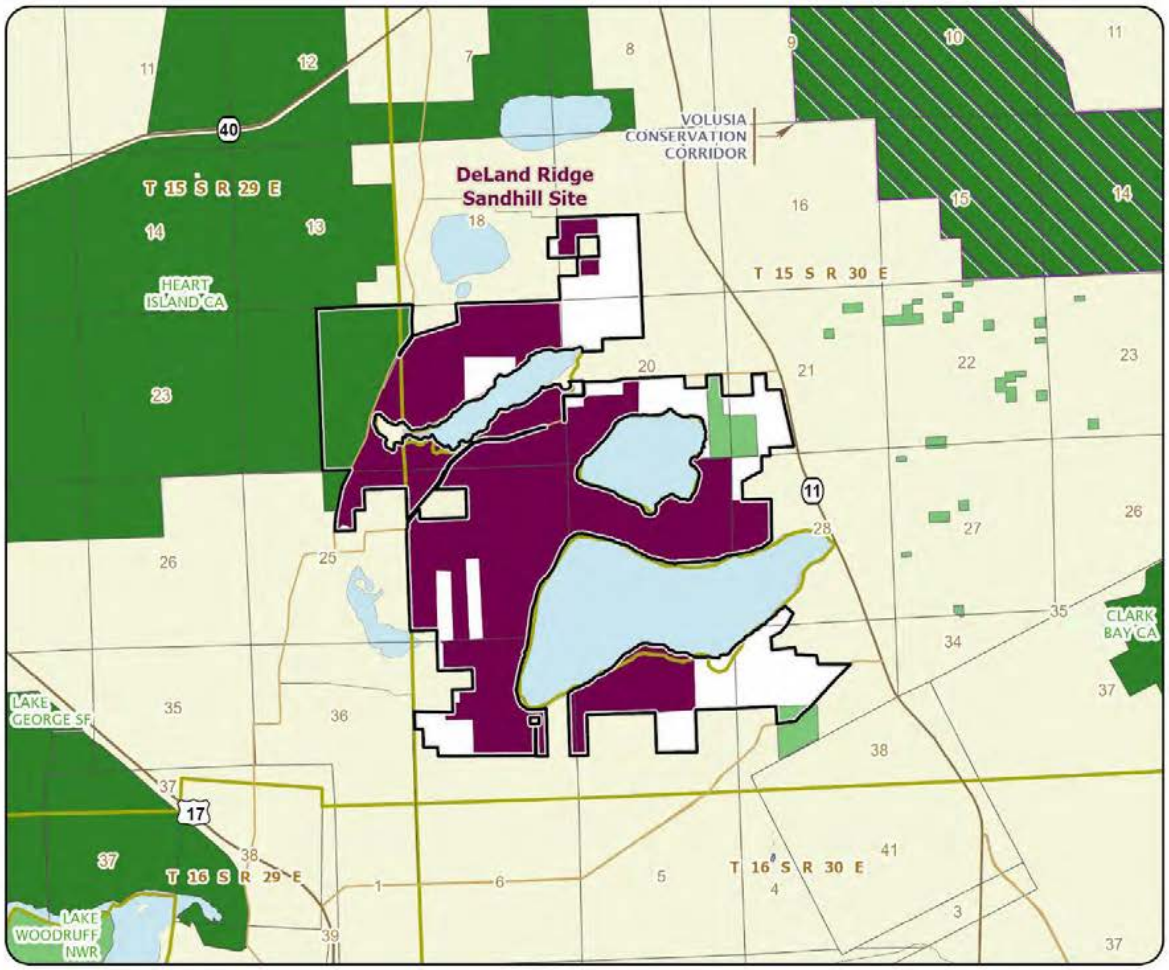
MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

VOLUSIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 1 2 Miles

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LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Osceola Pine Savannas

Critical Natural Lands

Osceola County

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*46,642*
Acquired Acres	*25,805*
Remaining Project Acres	*20,837*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$102,642,171*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Osceola Pine Savannas project will conserve open rangelands, pine flatwoods and palmetto prairies in Osceola County, maintaining a link of natural lands between Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Preserving these lands will help ensure the survival of native and imperiled species. The project will also provide public access for recreational activities like hunting, hiking and wildlife observation.

General Description

The project is characterized by 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 habitat for species like Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) and crested caracara (*Caracara plancus*), as well as the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*). Much of the land is used as unimproved range and disturbed areas are mainly improved pastures located to the south. Two archaeological sites are known on the property.

Floria Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida grasshopper sparrow	G5T1/S1
Striped newt	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Scrub bluestem**	G1G2/S1S2
Arogos skipper	G2G3T1T2/S2
Loammi skipper	G2/S2?
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project will be designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hiking, wildlife observation and hunting. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Acquisition Planning

1994

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Osceola Pine Savannas project to the 1995 Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Florida Natural Areas Inventory, was 42,491 acres with multiple owners and a taxable value of $32,430,057.

Essential tracts were owned by Robertson, McNamara, Equitable Life (acquired), Donovan, Montsococa, Redding, Keen, Kennedy, Henderson, Campos, Broussard and the Mormon Church.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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.

2002

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved the project to Group A of the 2002 Florida Forever 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 taxable value of $695,238. The Broussard property consisted of 1,282 acres and will be acquired as less-than-fee; the Vanosdol property consisted of 997 acres and will be acquired as fee simple.

2006

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) acquired 904 acres of property in 2006.

On August 11, 2006, ARC approved a 5,529-acre addition (Lucky L Ranch) to the project boundary. Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and FWC, it consisted of five ownerships and 25 parcels, was proposed fee-simple and less-than-fee and had a taxable value of $1,504,685. The parcels have been designated as essential.

On December 22, 2006, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) established the Kaschai conservation easement (45.16 acres). A small portion of the conservation easement is within the project boundary.

2007

In October 2007, the Board of Trustees acquired 1,430 acres from William Broussard to be managed as a conservation easement.

2008

In June 2008, 1,649.8 acres were purchased in Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (Lucky L Ranch) for $11,651,000. FWC will manage the property.

2010

On October 15, 2010, ARC approved a 557-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On May 1, 2012, FWC established a conservation easement and Phase I of a long-term gopher tortoise recipient site in the Allen Broussard Conservancy, which lies entirely within the project boundary.

2013

On April 4, 2013, FWC established a conservation easement and Phase II of a long-term gopher tortoise recipient site in the Allen Broussard Conservancy, which lies entirely within the project boundary.

On October 7, 2013, FWC established a conservation easement and Phase III of a long-term gopher tortoise recipient site in the Allen Broussard Conservancy, which lies entirely within the project boundary.

2015

On October 12, 2015, SJRWMD added 4.34 acres to the Kaschai conservation easement (for a total of 49.5 acres) as part of an exchange. Approximately 9 acres of the conservation easement are within the project boundary.

2016

On October 14, 2016, the South Florida Water Management District established the Lucky L Ranch conservation easement on approximately 1,152.35 acres, all of which are in the project boundary.

2023

In June 2023, ARC approved the addition of seven parcels totaling 9 acres to the project boundary in Osceola County.

In December 2023, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling 4.88 acres to the project boundary in Osceola County.

The Department of Environmental Protection acquired a 285-acre conservation easement in Osceola County from Mark W. Collins and Catherine E. Murtha.

2024

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling 0.29 acres to the project boundary in Osceola County.

2025

In April 2025, DEP acquired a 979.73-acre conservation easement in Osceola County from Bull Creek Investment Properties, LLC and a 1,014.05-acre conservation easement in Osceola County from David M. McCorkle.

Coordination

SJRWMD and FWC have acquired over 19,007 acres (Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area) in the northern one-third of the project area. 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 management objective is to preserve and restore the integrity of the extensive functional ecosystems that now extend from Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Achieving this objective will protect habitat for several endangered species that need large natural areas to survive (such as the Florida grasshopper sparrow). It will also provide the public with over 100,000 acres to enjoy natural-resource-based recreation like hiking and hunting.

The project would 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 them in already disturbed areas when possible. The 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.

Manager(s)

FWC will manage the Osceola Pine Savannas project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Osceola Pine Savannas project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project primarily includes lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, activities will concentrate on site security, public access, fire management, resource inventory and litter removal. A conceptual management plan will be developed that describes the goals of future resource management on the site. Long-term plans for the property will stress the protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Programs for recreational uses will also be implemented. A burn management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable providing multiple guidelines. Management activities will also strive to manage natural plant communities for the benefit of native wildlife. Forest resources will be managed using appropriate silvicultural practices as recommended by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). A resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection, or management. Unnecessary roads, fire lines 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 wildlife is even greater. A purchased management area stamp would be required to hunt on the area; this 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.).

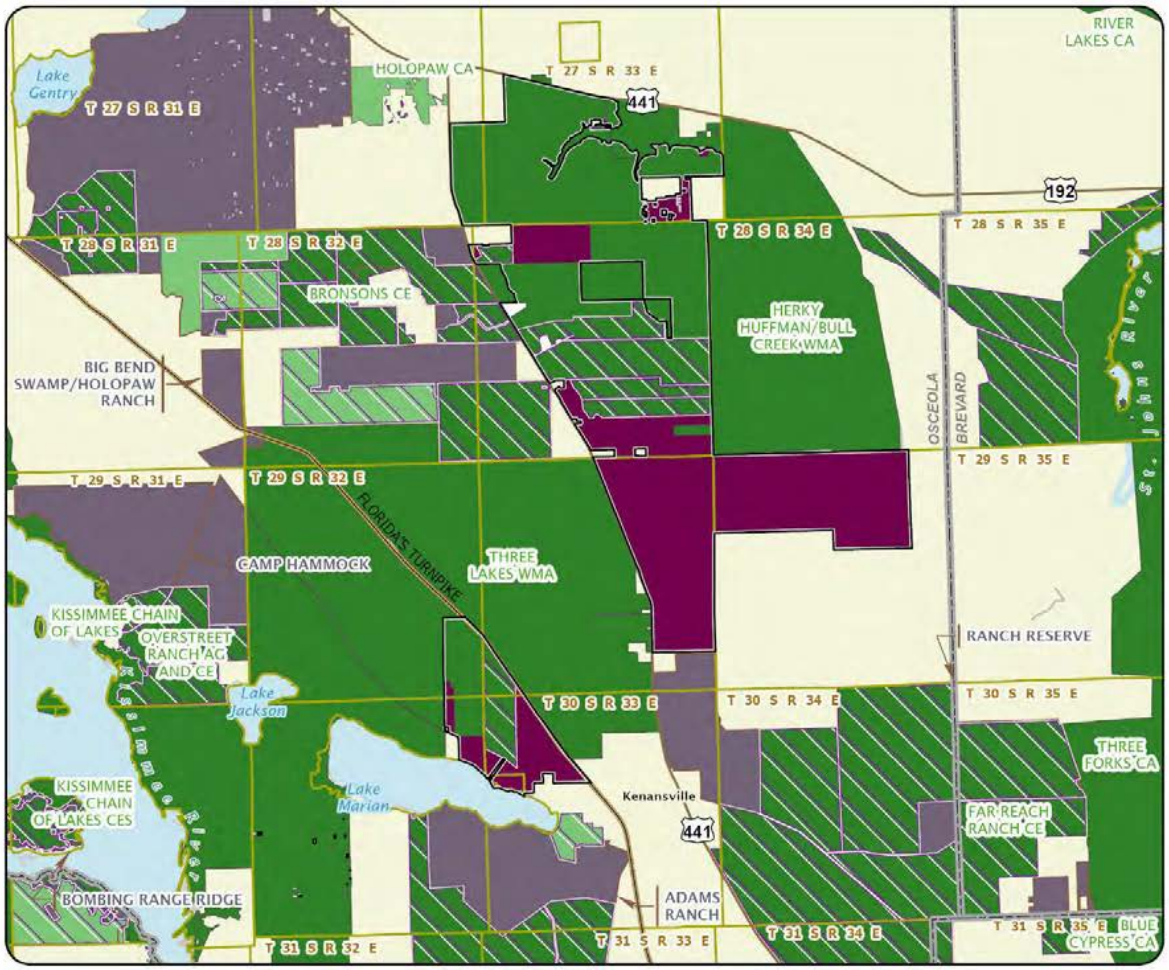
Cooperators in Management Activities

SJRWMD and FFS are recommended as cooperating managers.

Management Cost Summary

FWC		1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program		CARL
Salary		$74,645	$114,485
OPS		$0	$30,500
Expense		$55,473	$131,525
OCO		$0	$308,148
TOTAL		$130,118	$584,658

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



OSCEOLA PINE SAVANNAS

OSCEOLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 6 12 Miles

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Panther Glades

Critical Natural Lands

Hendry County

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*67,506*
Acquired Acres	*29,315*
Remaining Project Acres	*38,191*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$171,519,710*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Panther Glades project is large landscape and watershed in south-central Hendry County that forms a wildlife corridor between multiple Florida Forever projects, including Devil's Garden, Half Circle L Ranch and Save Our Everglades. This region is essential to maintain a viable population of the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) and additional native wildlife species that require extensive swaths of habitat such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus)* and the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*).

General Description

Located in south-central Hendry County, the Panther Glades project is a mosaic of forested uplands interspersed among forested wetland communities. A portion of the project's southwestern boundary shares one mile with the Save Our Everglades Florida Forever project, and a portion of the southeastern boundary borders the Big Cypress National Preserve.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Snail kite	G5/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Redmargin zephyrlily**	G2G3/S2S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
*Hand fern**	G4/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Portions of the project acquired in fee simple have the potential for outdoor resource-based recreation such as hiking, hunting, camping and wildlife viewing. Ecosystem tourism may be appealing to landowners willing to consider conservation easements. Further study will need to be accomplished to determine the desirability of cultural resource interpretation.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Panther Glades project to Group A of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 21,223 acres, multiple owners and had a taxable value of $3,947,680.

On July 12, 2001, ARC approved a fee-simple, 20,895-acre addition (Dinner Island) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of one owner, Hilliard Bros. of Florida LTD, and had a taxable value of $5,364,370.

2002

On December 5, 2002, ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,860-acre addition (Barfield Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of one owner and had a taxable value of $3,098,640.

2003

On April 18, 2003, ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,615-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by ARC Vice Chair Jack Moller, it consisted of one owner and had a taxable value of $1,550,990. The addition was a transfer of acreage from the Save Our Everglades Florida Forever project into this project.

On June 6, 2003, ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,711-acre addition (Crow's Nest Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner and had a taxable value of $8,630,020.

On August 27, 2003, ARC approved the removal of approximately 3,075.4 acres from the project at the request of the landowner, the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move the Panther Glades project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2008

On January 7, 2008, the Florida Panther Conservation Bank Endowment Fund Trust established a conservation easement on 1,930.05 acres within the project boundary.

On December 12, 2008, ARC voted to extend the boundary of the Panther Glades project by adding a less-than-fee 4,208-acre parcel (McDaniels Ranch Reserve) with a tax value of $20,456,810. This proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.

2009

On June 12, 2009, ARC voted to add the Kissimmee Billy Strand project (fee simple), including the Green Glades/Bergeron (less-than-fee) property, to the Panther Glades project. The proposal consisted of 4,694 acres with a taxable value of $12,300,000. It was initially submitted as a stand-alone project and was later amended into the Panther Glades project boundary.

2011

On April 13, 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established a 1,288.82-acre conservation easement as part of its Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetlands Reserve Program.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands project category.

2024

On April 12, 2024, ARC approved the addition of the Finca Vigia project proposal (1,886 acres) in Hendry County to the project boundary.

In November 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 650.54 acres in Hendry County to the project boundary.

In December 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 194.23 acres in Hendry County to the project boundary.

Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner. Efforts will be made to coordinate with state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service (FFS), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the South Florida Water Management District in management of the property.

Management Policy Statement

The principal purposes of the project are to protect habitat important to imperiled and rare species (like the Florida panther and Florida black bear) and to preserve the hydrological connection to protected lands to the south.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as the manager. FFS is recommended as a cooperating agency.

Management Prospectus

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 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. Due to the project's purpose, management goals will be oriented toward conservation of imperiled species.

Qualifications for State Designation

The Panther Glades project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife and environmental area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Some project tracts are low need, 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 a minimum to ensure high-quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration activities would focus on pastureland reforestation and hydrological restoration following a full assessment of the necessity for such activities. Invasive species can likely be controlled if control activities are implemented hastily.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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

management plan will be developed by FWC 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 emphasize ecosystem management and the protection of threatened and endangered species. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to FWC's objective-based vegetation management process. Additionally, FWC's Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery Program would provide assessment, recovery and project planning support 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 in 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 Division of Historical Resources. FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including FFS, DEP and South Florida Water Management District in management of the property.

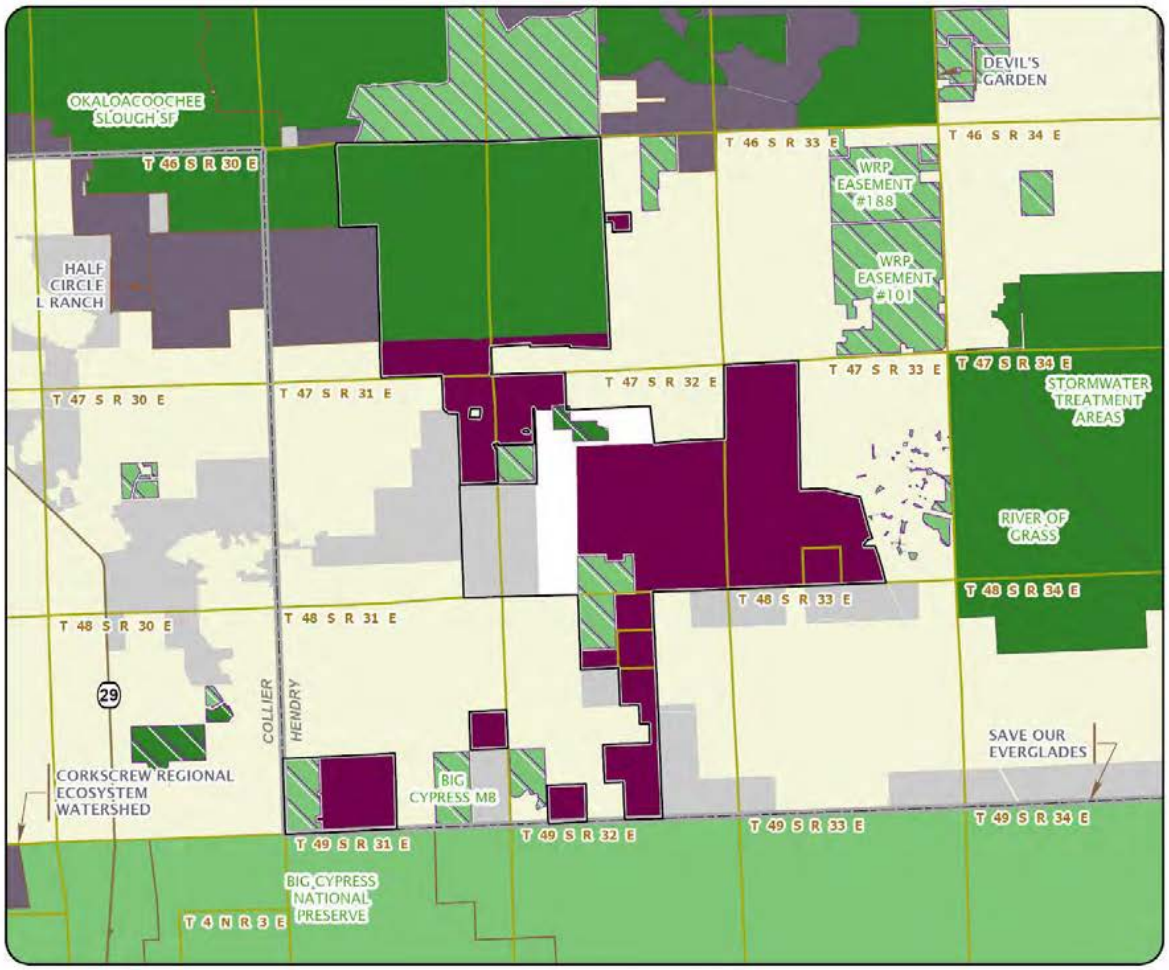
Revenue-generating Potential

The revenue-generating potential is not known and will depend upon future uses 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 appropriate, revenue 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 revenue might also be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities. Long-term value of ecosystem services to local land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant if the Legislature appropriates funds for land management.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$659,684	$53,130
OCO	$554,258	$329,110
TOTAL	$1,213,942	$382,240

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PANTHER GLADES

HENDRY COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie

Critical Natural Lands

Escambia County

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*6,880*
Acquired Acres	*4,715*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,165*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$45,284,409*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project will conserve some of the last remnants of a landscape of wet grassy prairies, pine flatwoods and swamps found in the western Panhandle of Florida and unique to the northern Gulf Coast. The project will protect important habitat for imperiled pitcher plants and protect the water quality of Perdido Bay and Big Lagoon and provide the public with opportunities to learn about this unique ecosystem. Acquisition of this project is also essential to the U.S. Navy's base-buffering initiative.

General Description

The project covers a large undeveloped area where low ridges of ancient dune lines alternate with slightly lower intervening swales. The project also includes over two miles of frontage on Perdido Bay. The wet prairies in this area are some of the last examples of one of the most diverse plant communities in the Southeast. They support one of the largest stands of white-topped pitcher plants (*Sarracenia leucophylla*) in Florida, along with almost 100 other plant species. The prairies have intact ecotones of basin swamp, scrub, sandhill and mesic flatwood communities. The large expanses of flatwoods and basin swamps on the site provide habitat for many species. However, the site's uplands are vulnerable to development (particularly in the Tarkiln Bayou area). No archaeological sites are known in the project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
*Wherry's redflower pitcher plant**	G3T1?/S1
Escambia crayfish	G2/S1S2
*Large-leaved jointweed**	G3/S3
*Narrowleaf hornpod**	G4G5/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

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

1994

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Priority List. This fee-simple acquisition proposal, sponsored by FNAI, consisted of approximately 5,515 acres, multiple owners and had a taxable value of $3,210,940.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council redefined the essential parcels.

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee-simple, 385-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Friends of the Prairie group, consisting of 23 owners and had a 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 to be acquired, along with several 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.

2010

In April 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to remove 658 acres because of existing residential, commercial and infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2023

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired, in fee, 23.85 acres in Escambia County from Pleasant Gove Investments LLC.

2024

On December 5, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 6.68 acres in Escambia County from Sue Anne Spychala.

2025

In August 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 40 acres in Escambia County from Thelma E. Andrews Trust and 24.02 acres in Escambia County from Tom Bramlette, Steve Wilson and Mary Staples.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy, as an intermediary in this project, is considered a partner as well as the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie 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, a region of this state; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native and imperiled species; and to conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems and landscapes to enhance or protect significant natural 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.

Manager(s)

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks is the recommended manager. Lands acquired within the project boundary are being managed as Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project will enhance the protection of rare and sensitive resources. The project will also contribute to providing the public with natural resource-based activities and critical open space.

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, there may be additional needs for management of activities and facilities.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and 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 likely 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.

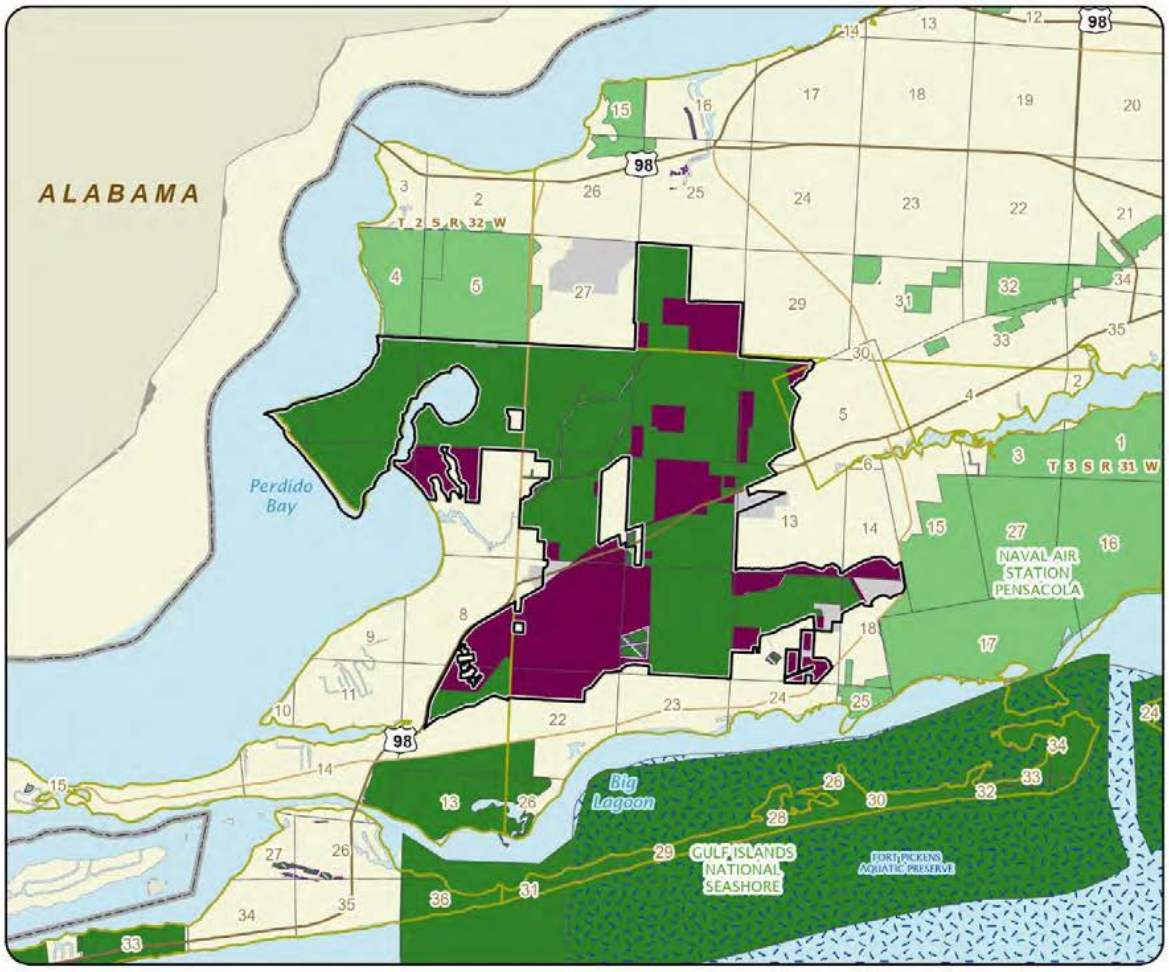
Cooperators in Management Activities

No other agencies are recommended for management of this project.

Management Cost Summary

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$50,515	$50,515
OPS	$10,000	$10,000
Expense	$61,307	$61,307
OCO	$106,000	$1,000
FCO	$178,000	$0
TOTAL	$405,822	$122,822

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PERDIDO PITCHER PLANT PRAIRIE

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Pine Island Slough Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Indian River and Osceola Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2004*
Project Acres	*48,931*
Acquired Acres	*27,148*
Remaining Project Acres	*21,783*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$87,212,530*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project will increase protection of Florida's biodiversity through the preservation of habitat for several rare species including the Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) and Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). The project will preserve a unique and intact endemic Florida ecosystem and provide landscape connectivity to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. The project will also provide the public with resource-based recreation and educational opportunities such as hiking, camping, bird watching and equestrian trails.

General Description

The Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project is located within Indian River and Osceola counties. This landscape of intact ecological upland and wetland habitat is reminiscent of the landscape that once dominated Central Florida. The project's acquisition would allow for the protection and management of additional high-quality habitats that have an abundance of biodiversity. It is also contiguous with the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida grasshopper sparrow	G5T1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
*Florida ladies'-tresses**	G1/S1
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
*Large-flowered rosemary**	G3/S3
*Nodding pinweed**	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Pinesnake	G4/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The size, resource values and location of the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project provides a potential for a diverse recreational experience. The size, location and high resource quality of Pine Island Slough offers potential for nature-based recreational activities typical of state-owned conservation land. Programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, with careful control of public uses. Development of facilities should be minimal and confined to areas of previous disturbance. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On August 20, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee-simple acquisition, proposed by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of approximately 49,583 acres, a single owner and had an estimated tax assessed value of $13,144,221.

2005

On June 5, 2005, ARC moved Pine Island Slough Ecosystem to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2020

On November 28, 2020, the DeLuca Preserve was gifted to the University of Florida Foundation, with a conservation easement belonging to Ducks Unlimited. The DeLuca Preserve is approximately 27,000 acres and preserves over half of the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 4 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands is pursuing partnerships with the South Florida Water Management District and local governments. The Nature Conservancy is considered a partner on this project.

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) proposes to manage the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project for protection and management of high-quality habitats. This area should be restored to the greatest extent possible. The placement of facilities will be restricted to existing disturbed areas, and land uses that are incompatible with the site shall be prohibited.

Manager(s)

FWC has been designated as the lead manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project would protect and provide additional habitat for many focal species. The list of species documented or reported to occur within the project area shows that several focal species may occur on the property. Many conservation lands have become increasingly isolated and no longer support viable populations of certain species. The Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project would contribute to landscape connectivity by linking existing managed areas as well as nearby Florida Forever projects including the Bombing Range Ridge project, Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project and the Ranch Reserve project.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

For low-need tracts, resource management methods such as prescribed fire may be appropriate. Because approximately 50 percent of the project area has been disturbed for silviculture or other purposes, additional methods would be necessary for some management units to accomplish objectives for ecological restoration. 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. The primary methods for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities might involve the reintroduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Although exotic plants have not yet posed an imminent threat to the ecological integrity of the project, there will be surveillance for and removal of such infestations of exotic invasive species.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 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. After the inventory of the plant community and historic vegetation is finished, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed using FWC's 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. Natural plant communities would be managed to benefit native wildlife resources. Prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. These resources would be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. Potential for these sites to occur in the project area is moderate.

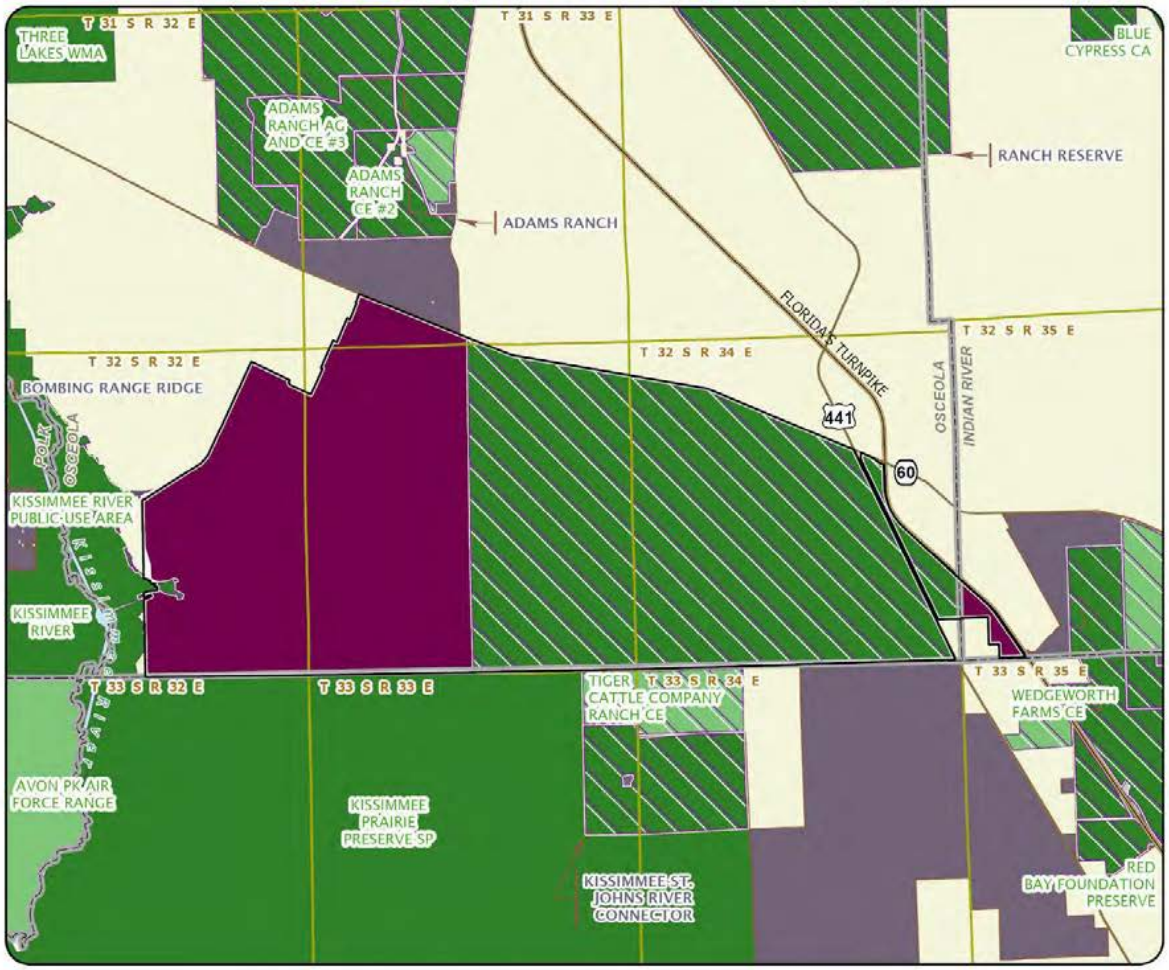
Revenue-generating Potential

Management would seek to improve the revenue-generating potential of areas currently in forest product production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues may also come from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$1,091,187	$137,415
OCO	$859,873	$882,012
TOTAL	$1,951,060	$1,019,427

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PINE ISLAND SLOUGH ECOSYSTEM

INDIAN RIVER AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Pinhook Swamp

Critical Natural Lands

Baker, Columbia and Hamilton Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1992*
Project Acres	*189,631*
Acquired Acres	*150,979*
Remaining Project Acres	*38,652*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$69,898,247*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pinhook Swamp project will protect and restore a natural area of pine flatwoods and swamps linking the Osceola National Forest, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Suwannee River. The project will conserve a huge unpopulated tract of land for wildlife including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The project will help to maintain the water flows to the Okefenokee Swamp, Suwannee River and St. Marys River and provide the public with a large, near-wilderness tract to enjoy recreational activities such as hunting and fishing.

General Description

The Pinhook Swamp 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 landscape linkage between these managed areas, increases protection for wetlands and flatwoods and preserves and provides habitat for numerous rare and imperiled species. The project is connected to the Suwannee River, St. Marys River and 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; it also serves as a corridor between the Osceola National Forest, Big Shoals State Park and Suwannee River Water Management District lands along the river.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Suwannee alligator snapping turtle	G2/S2
Carpenter frog	G4/S1
*Large rosebud orchid**	G4/S1
*Pondspice**	G3/S2
Many-lined salamander	G5/S1
Blackbanded sunfish	G3/S1S3
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Pinhook Swamp project 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 uses like fishing, boating, hunting, camping, hiking and environmental education. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

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 with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). 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 U.S. 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.

1996

On July 16, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 18,100 acres to the project boundary. Additionally, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved the addition of federal mineral rights under state-owned lands to the Pinhook Swamp project for exchange purposes.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 25,000 acres to the Pinhook Swamp project boundary.

2001

At the April 6, 2001, ARC meeting, the Suwannee Buffers, Deep Creek Site was combined with the Pinhook Swamp project boundary.

On August 30, 2001, Suwannee River Water Management District established the Deep Creek Plantation conservation easement (1,192 acres), of which approximately 667 acres are within the project boundary.

2002

On October 24, 2002, ARC added 4,585 acres to the project boundary.

2004

On June 4, 2004, ARC added 31,225 acres in Baker County, previously assumed to be included as part of a 2000 boundary amendment, to the project boundary.

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund acquired 8,311 acres in August 2005 through five conservation easements.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2020

On December 11, 2020, ARC approved the addition of 147.5 acres in Hamilton County to the project boundary.

2022

On October 14, 2002, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 950.5 acres in Columbia County with a tax assessed market value of $889,668 (Greene Addition).

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired in fee 141.96 acres in Hamilton County that will be managed as part of Big Shoals State Forest.

2023

In October 2023, ARC approved two boundary amendments to the project boundary. The first boundary amendment added six parcels with approximately 523 acres in Columbia County and the second amendment added four parcels with 456 acres also in Columbia County.

In December 2023, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 996.5 acres in Columbia County.

2024

In February 2024, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 978 acres in Columbia County.

In June 2024, ARC approved the addition of 10 parcels totaling approximately 637.47 acres in Hamilton County.

On August 26, 2024, DEP acquired a 1,474.47-acre conservation easement in Columbia County from Audrey Ann Greene and Mary Ann Greene.

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 372.79 acres in Columbia County.

2025

In February 2025, ARC approved the addition of seven parcels totaling approximately 731 acres in Columbia County and one parcel totaling approximately 41 acres in Hamilton County to the project boundary.

On February 6, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 1,620.5 acres in Columbia County from Sidney Lord Jackson Jr.

Coordination

Pinhook Swamp is a shared acquisition with USFS. TNC is an intermediary in the purchase of some tracts for the federal government. The Deep Creek site is on Suwannee River Water Management District's five-year plan for land acquisition. The St. Johns River Water Management District 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 to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources; and to provide areas for nature-based recreation.

Suwannee Buffers (Deep Creek): The primary goals of management of this part of the project are: to conserve and protect 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 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 for nature-based recreation.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS), DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and USFS are the recommended managers.

Management Prospectus: Pinhook Swamp

Qualifications for State Designation

Pinhook Swamp is a large area of timbered flatwoods and swamps between the Osceola National Forest and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Its large size, strategic location and natural resources qualify it as a state forest, state park and state wildlife management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Pinhook Swamp is a low-to-moderate-need tract.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

A portion of the site would be managed under National Forests in Florida's Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and a portion would be managed by the state. Management activities will focus on site security, resource inventory and management and prescribed fire.

Revenue-generating Potential

In cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), this area may provide revenues from quota hunts. FFS will be working with FWC to obtain a projected revenue. State and national forest user fees are other sources of revenue.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be cooperators in managing the area.

Management Prospectus: 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 make it highly desirable for use and management as a state forest.

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. Areas to be managed by FFS have no known major disturbances. The management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition of the areas to be managed by 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. 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. FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered species will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans of FFS will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires when possible. Timber management will include improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and reforested with appropriate species. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating Potential

DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will 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. 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.

Management Cost Summary

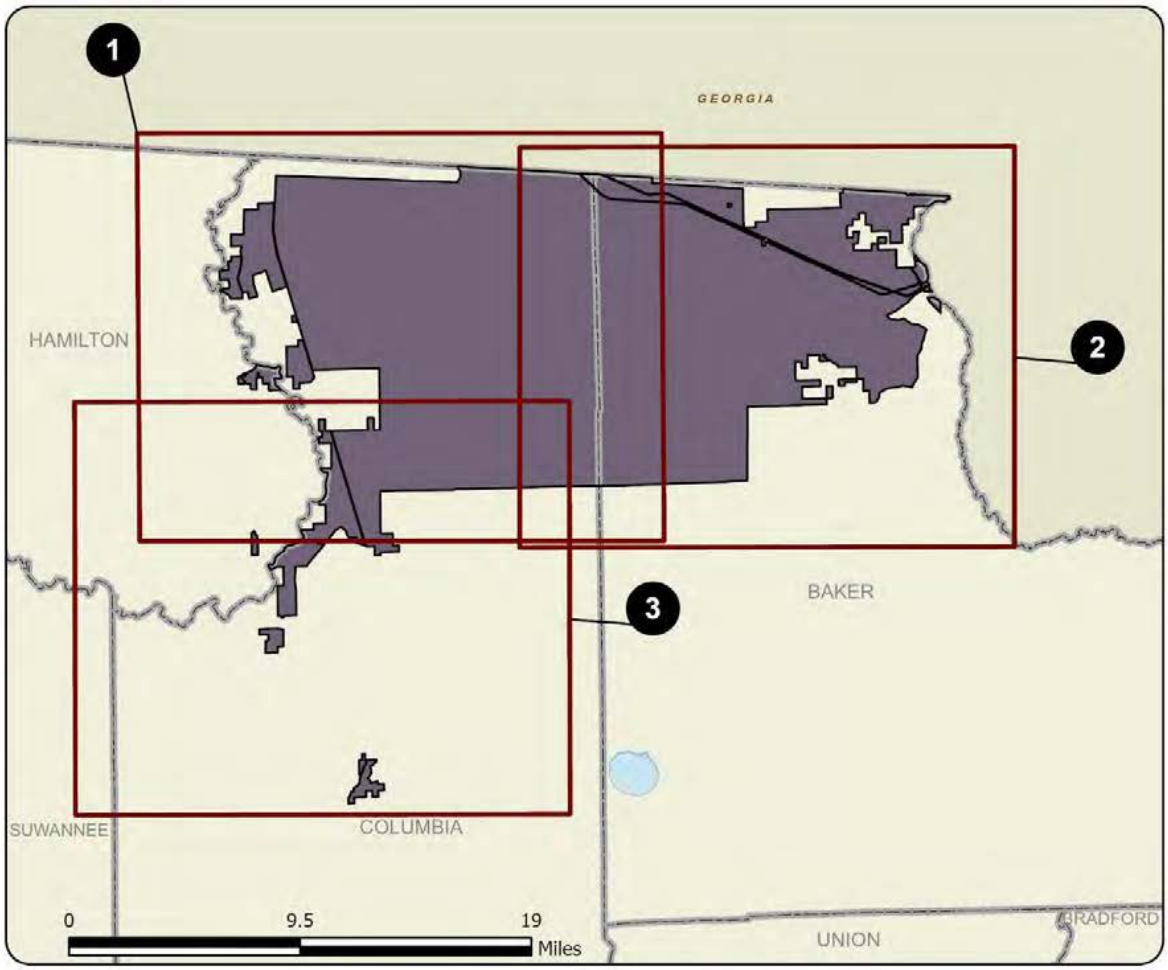
DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	$22,167	$22,167
OPS	$14,560	$14,560
Expense	$11,400	$11,400
OCO	$55,000	$1,000
FCO	$85,000	$0
TOTAL	$188,127	$49,127

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	$28,140	$28,140
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$13,000	$5,000
OCO	$81,100	$2,000
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$122,140	$35,140

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

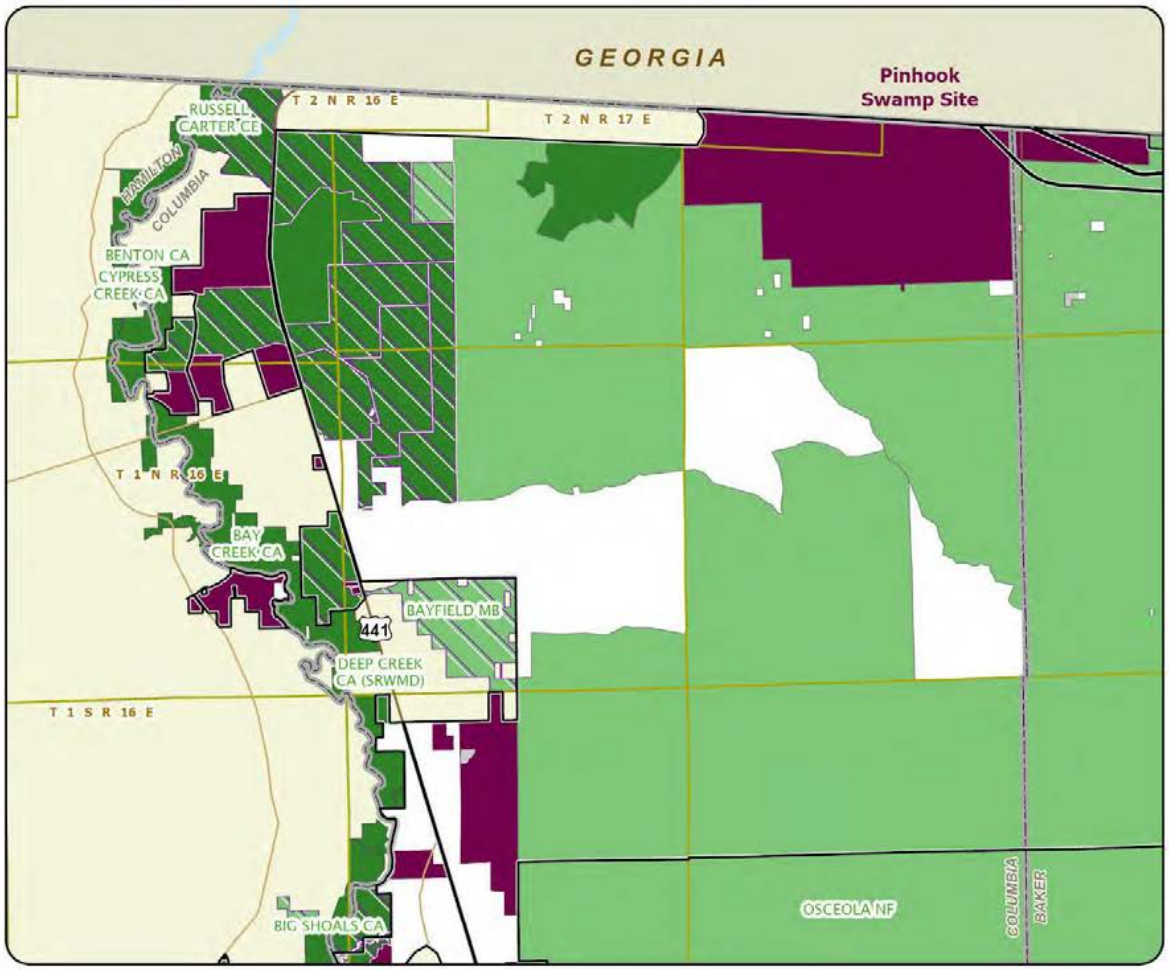


PINHOOK SWAMP: OVERVIEW

BAKER, COLUMBIA, AND HAMILTON COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Pinhook Swamp Site
- ☐ Map 2 Pinhook Swamp Site
- ☐ Map 3 Deep Creek Drainage Tract Site





PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 1

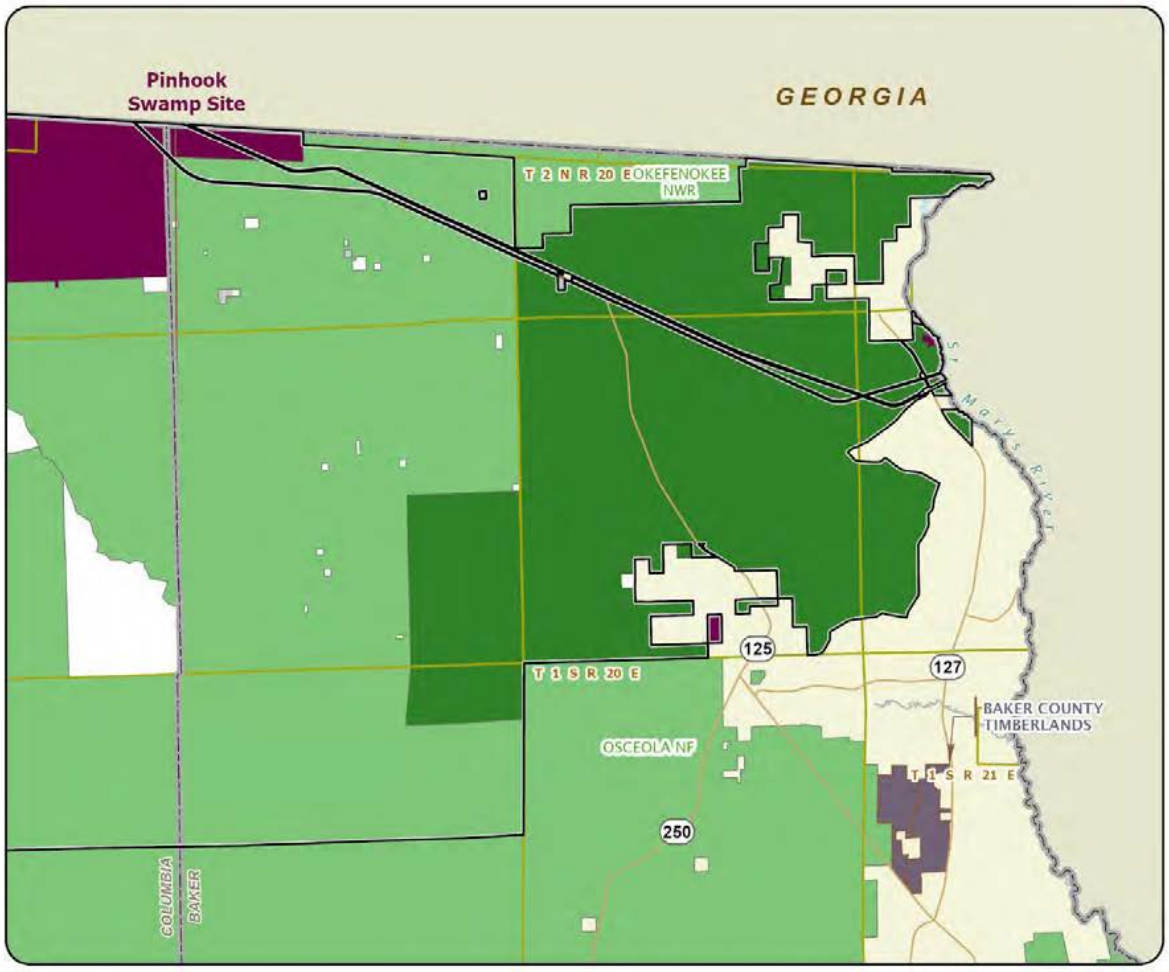
BAKER, COLUMBIA, AND HAMILTON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 2

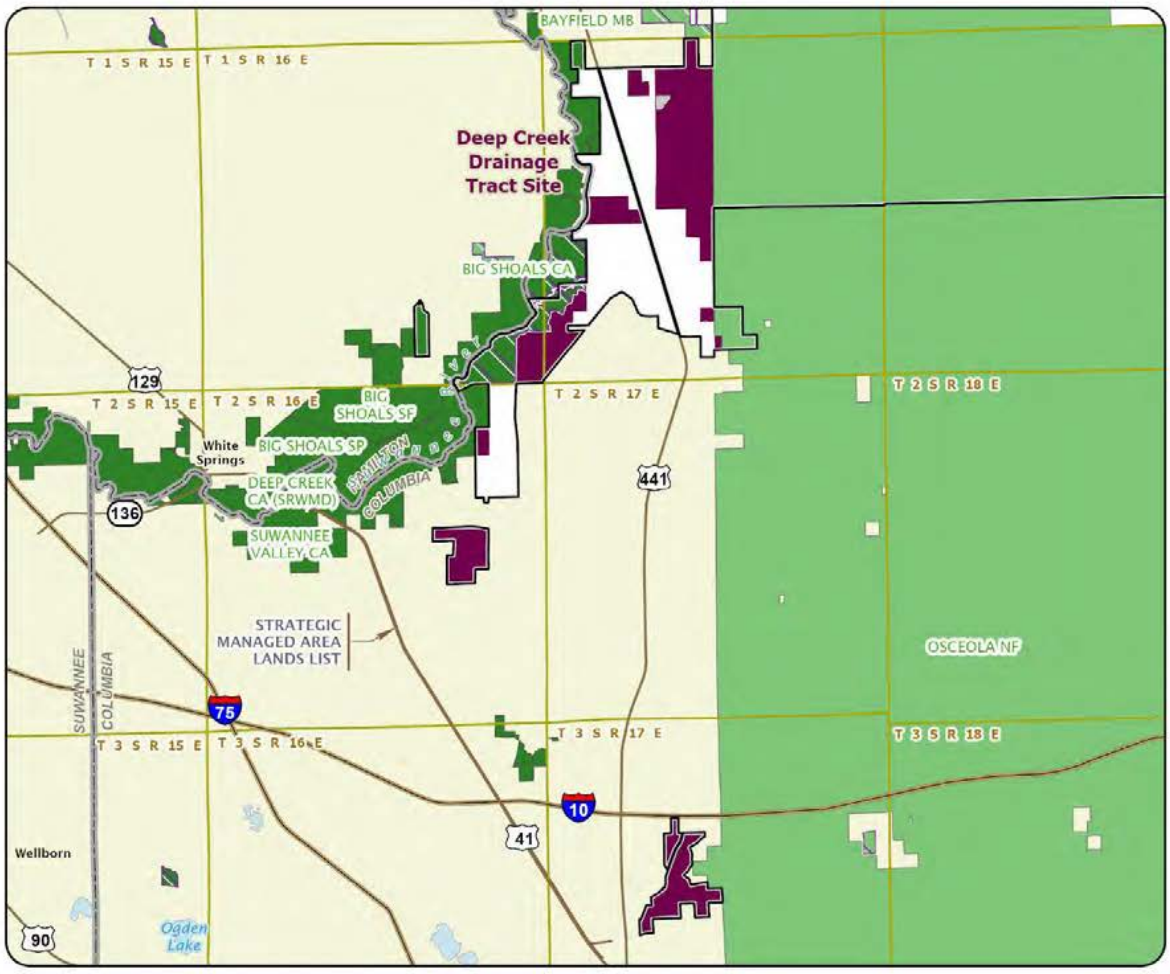
BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

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PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 3

COLUMBIA AND HAMILTON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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St. Marks River Basin

Critical Natural Lands

Wakulla County

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*4,711*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,711*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$14,092,126*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The St. Marks River Basin project will help protect nearly five miles of frontage on the St. Mark's River, sensitive karst features — including Newport Spring and sinkholes — associated with the region as well as enhance the water quality of the St. Marks River and Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve. The project will protect significant cultural resources including the remnants of the historic town of Magnolia and provide opportunities for outdoor resource-based public recreation.

General Description

The St. Marks River Basin project is located 10 miles south of Tallahassee in eastern Wakulla County, north of Highway 98 and the community of Newport. The western edge of the tract fronts State Road 267 (Bloxham Cutoff Road) for about 2.4 miles and Old Plank Road bisects the property for about 3 miles. The project is proposed for both fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition. The parcels owned by Walton Accommodations 167 LLC (64 percent of total project) are proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and the parcels owned by Lynniam Farms LLC (36 percent of total project) are proposed for fee simple acquisition to be managed by Florida Forest Service (FFS). The project is not adjacent to any conservation lands but is less than 5 miles away from San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park, Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad Trail State Park, Wakulla State Forest, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Natural Bridge Battlefield State Park.

The project lies within Priorities 1 and 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenway Network and the Woodville Karst Plain, a geologic region characterized by karst features along with remnant dunes and sand ridges resulting from ancient coastal processes. As such, the project includes a variety of karst features, namely, springs and 4.5 miles of frontage along the St. Marks River, an Outstanding Florida Water. There are two short spring-run streams within the bottomland forests in the project and Newport Spring, a third

magnitude sulphur spring, is located along Old Plank Road. Newport Spring, although privately owned, has been a local gathering place for many years.

The primary landcover type found on the property is pine plantation, making up approximately two-thirds of the property. Almost all the timber was harvested 10 years ago and have been re-planted. Bottomland forest is the most extensive natural system within the project, essentially undisturbed and mostly associated with the St. Marks River floodplain. Approximately 53 acres of blackwater stream include part of the main channel as well as the tributaries to the river. According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, wet areas that have been cut (±405 acres within basin swamp, dome swamp and a small portion of wet flatwoods) are now classified as successional hydric shrubland/forest. Approximately 400 acres of pine plantation in the northwestern corner of the project is in the process of conversion to improved pasture, which at the time of the site visit had been raked and plowed in preparation for seeding of pasture grasses.

The St. Marks River Basin project could provide habitat for a variety of rare and imperiled species, such as the fontal dwarf crayfish (*Cambarellus schmitti*), Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) and the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The landowners have reported seeing bears, manatee, river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) and diversity of common wildlife throughout the property.

Eleven archaeological sites and one historic cemetery, including the site of the former town of Magnolia, are located within the project boundary. The town of Magnolia (1820s-1840s) was significant in the development of Territorial Florida. The Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources notes the possibility of unrecorded archaeological and historical sites, due to the project's location and inclusion of other sites.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Fontal dwarf crayfish	G2G3/S2S3

Public Use

If acquired in fee, the eastern tract of the St. Marks River Basin will be managed as part of Wakulla State Forest. The western portion of the project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and therefore does not provide public access.

Acquisition Planning

2025

On April 11, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the St. Marks River Basin project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

The purpose of acquiring this tract is to conserve forestland in Florida. Additionally, the St. Marks River Basin project contains historic and cultural resources including the extinct city of Magnolia and existing historical cemeteries linking back to when the town was established as a viable river port town on the St. Marks River, circa 1820s. State acquisition of the project would provide water quality protection along the St. Marks River, an Outstanding Florida Waterway.

Manager(s)

FFS will manage the eastern tract as part of Wakulla State Forest.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

FFS' mission is to "…manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations." By acquiring more forestland that is suitable to provide forest resources for future generations, state acquisition of the eastern 1,714-acre portion of the St. Marks River Basin project aligns with FFS' management mission. The additional tract is suitable for multiple-use management activities including silviculture, the use of Best Management Practices which will benefit the St. Marks River water quality, public access and recreation, and restoration. Benefits the Wakulla State Forest would gain through the addition of this tract include increased acreage for recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, kayaking/canoeing, horseback riding, photography and Operation Outdoor Freedom events. Additionally, the management of timber on the tract would provide an economic return on the state forest and support the local wood industry.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Most of this tract was harvested approximately 10 years ago and densely reforested with loblolly pine. Prescribed fire should be applied following the first thinning and during the dormant season to reduce pine mortality and to help mitigate wildfire.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Management strategies will center on the multiple-use concept, as defined in sections 589.04(3) and 253.034(2)(a), Florida Statutes. Implementation of this concept will utilize and conserve state forest resources in a harmonious and coordinated combination that will best serve the people of the State of Florida, and that is consistent with the purpose for which the forest was acquired. Multiple-use management for the tract will be accomplished with the following strategies:

- Practice sustainable forest management for the efficient generation of revenue and in support of state forest management objectives.
- Provide for resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities for multiple interests.

- Restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems ensuring the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened, or rare, and other components of biological diversity including game and nongame wildlife and plants.
- Protect known archaeological, historical, cultural and paleontological resources.
- Restore, maintain, and protect hydrological functions related to water resources and the health of associated wetland and aquatic communities.

Additionally, short-term management goals may include site security measures, public access and establishing short-term management goals regarding timber inventory and stand information. The establishment of long-term goals may include consideration of additional positions, infrastructure and equipment funding.

FFS uses a multiple-use management concept when managing state lands. On-site acreage suitable for timber management may also be used for public recreational activities, historical preservation and potential interpretation, and habitat diversity. Various management methods such as prescribed fire allow multiple uses, like recreation and habitat management, to blend together on a healthy and balanced landscape.

Public recreation opportunities on this tract will be evaluated and may include horseback riding and passive resource-based activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature study, paddling on the river and primitive camping. Public hunting and Operation Outdoor Freedom event opportunities will be evaluated in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Research projects or other opportunities for scientific study for the purpose of obtaining information which expands the knowledge of and assists in restoration and management of this ecosystem may exist. Additionally, in cooperation with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, historical and cultural assessments, documentation, study, monitoring, future planning and possible interpretation related to the extinct river port of Magnolia and its remnants, as well as historical usage of Newport Spring and the remains of what was reportedly Edward Ball's personal hunt lodge, may be explored. Research may be conducted through cooperation with other governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and/or educational institutions where feasible.

Timber resources will be managed to promote forest health. Timber sales on a rotational basis will provide a source of ongoing revenue, while improving forest health by eradicating diseased and weakened trees, reducing competition for light, and providing wildlife with various diverse areas suitable for nesting and foraging. Timber management including prescribed fire provides invasive treatment and nutrient replenishment for ecosystem health.

Revenue-generating Potential

The potential to generate revenue from the tract is high. User fees, silviculture and miscellaneous forest products may be considered for revenue-generating potential. Staff may evaluate other potential revenue-generating opportunities as appropriate.

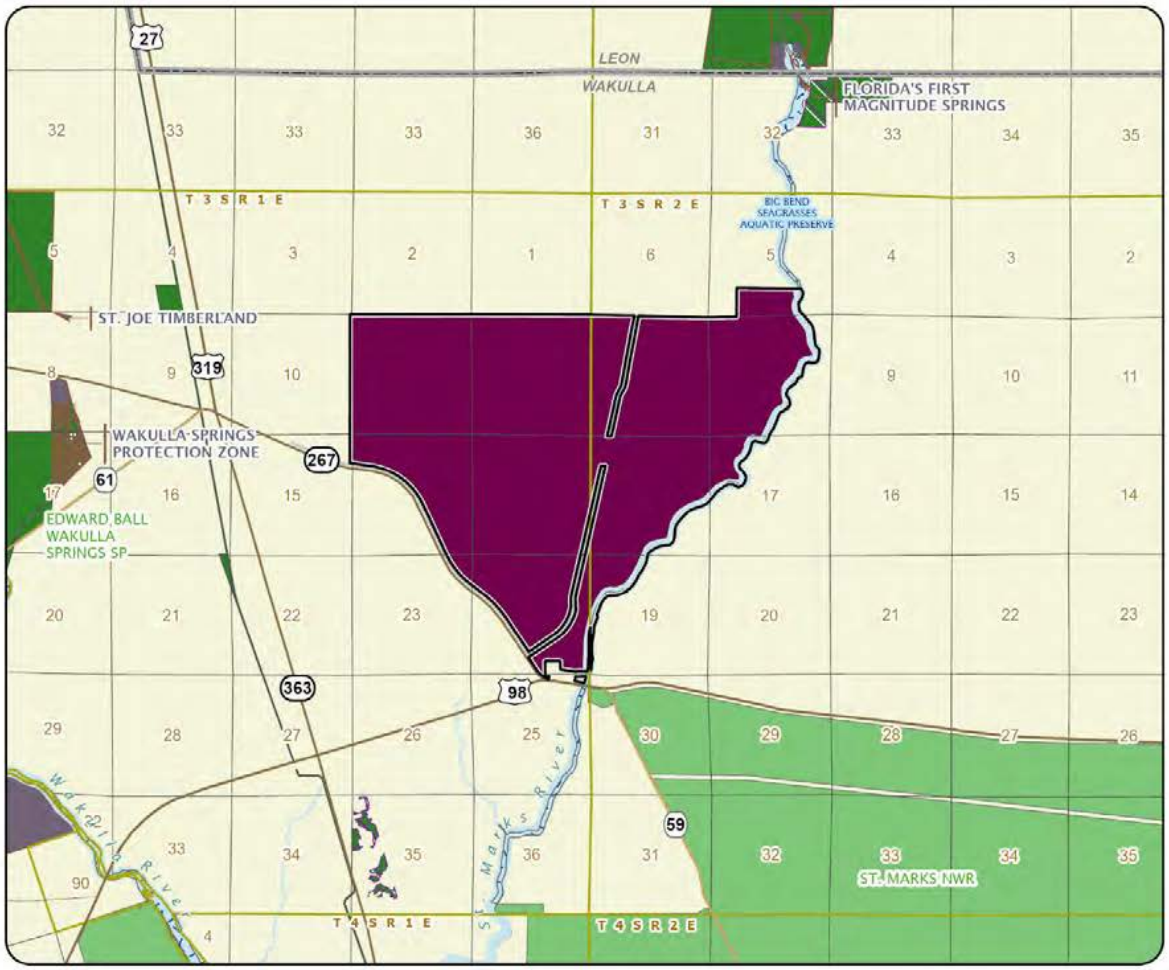
Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS may work with FWC to develop a wildlife management area and associated hunting seasons and regulations. The Northwest Florida Water Management District may be consulted regarding water resources. The Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources may be consulted regarding historical resources on-site.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Resource Management	$10,000	$10,000
Capital Improvements	not provided	not provided
Visitor Services/ Recreation	$2,000	$2,000
Support	$50,000	$8,000
Administration	not provided	not provided
TOTAL	$62,000	$20,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ST. MARKS RIVER BASIN

WAKULLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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San Pedro Bay

Critical Natural Lands

Madison and Taylor Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2003*
Project Acres	*49,824*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*49,824*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$44,555,212*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The San Pedro Bay project will protect a large area between the Econfina and Suwannee Rivers that contains pine plantations interspersed with basin swamps and baygalls and the largest area of privately owned roadless area remaining in Florida. The project will provide important habitat connectivity for wide-ranging wildlife species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and provide water quality protection for the Econfina and Suwannee Rivers. Acquisition would expand hunting access and other opportunities for public resource-based recreation.

General Description

The project is about 5 miles south of Madison, 7 miles northeast of Perry and 45 miles east of Tallahassee.

The project is part of San Pedro Bay, a distinct wetland system extending between the Econfina and Suwannee Rivers. The project includes multiple owners and is designed to protect this 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 is 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 has 3,121 acres located in Taylor County, two miles south of the first parcel. One part of the proposed project drains westward to the Gulf of America 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 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 half of the San Pedro Bay proposal; the remaining half is used for silviculture. 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. In the area where silviculture occurs, 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 Florida Natural Areas Inventory indicates that 20 percent of the project area contains under-represented natural communities. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the Florida black bear, 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 may 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*). American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) has also been observed on the project. Game species such as white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are present in relatively low densities among scattered habitats.

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 within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. 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 and the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Other nearby conservation lands include Twin Rivers State Forest and Econfina Conservation Area. Rare pitcher plants occur in smaller areas of herbaceous wetlands on-site.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

Public Use

Consumptive recreational uses within the project include hunting with a limited amount of bank fishing. The game species hunted are primarily white-tailed deer, hog (*Sus scrofa*) and wild turkey. 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 that are present would benefit from management activities 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. Outdoor recreation opportunities on the property include hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and picnicking. The project may help to complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

The Wachovia tract was acquired from the Gilman Trust in 1999 and was historically managed pine timber for chip and saw rotations. Currently, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a lease over the project area for a wildlife management area.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the San Pedro Bay project to the Florida Forever Project List. The project had a 2003 estimated tax assessed value of $7,898,471.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2022

On April 8, 2022, ARC approved the Lake Sampala Timber and Land project (1,345.96 acres) and added it to the project.

2024

In April 2024, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 498.6 acres in Taylor County to the project boundary.

2025

In October 2025, ARC approved the addition of 12 parcels totaling approximately 2,970 acres in Madison and Taylor counties to the project boundary.

Coordination

FWC and Florida Forest Service (FFS) are acquisition partners on this project.

Management Policy Statement

The San Pedro Bay project is of sufficient size for large-scale ecosystem management and restoration, 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. It is expected that additional rare and imperiled biota, yet to be documented, will occur in the project area.

Manager(s)

FFS and FWC are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The landscape ecology of this project provides connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands, large areas of forest, functional wetlands (71 percent), protection of surface water (57 percent) and natural floodplain function (11 percent). Due to the project's goals, programs would be developed that serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. 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 groundcover development and enhancement of wildlife. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area will be managed to provide recreation opportunities 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 managing agencies would promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment.

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 FWC will utilize in-house expertise in plant community restoration to develop long-term hydrologic goals and objectives in the conceptual management plan. Areas where pine has been harvested but not replanted will require reforestation of native pine species best suited for the site. Managing agencies would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine desired future conditions and restoration methods. This is especially important for conserving habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods and tools for perpetuating less disturbed natural communities might include introducing prescribed fire, controlling human uses and removing 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. Facilities for public use and administration would feature rustic facilities and be kept to the minimum necessary to assure a high-quality recreational experience. Such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies under the unified management approach will emphasize site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory and removing refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments and will cooperate with other state agencies, local governments and other entities as appropriate.

Goals for the long-term would emphasize multiple use management and conserving the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife and water. These goals would include restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting imperiled or rare species. Because of past drainage and dewatering activities for silviculture, an extensive hydrologic analysis will be performed to guide long-term restoration strategies. Other concurrent assessments will include completing a plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur naturally. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing recreational uses would also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan would be developed and implemented. Timber resources will be managed using acceptable silviculture practices. Thinning of timber 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 Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. Infrastructure development would be the minimum to serve the needs of the public and would include facilities for the security and management of the project area.

Revenue-generating Potential

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. FNAI indicates that almost half (44 percent) of the project area are 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. Fifteen percent of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated. Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between FFS and FWC.

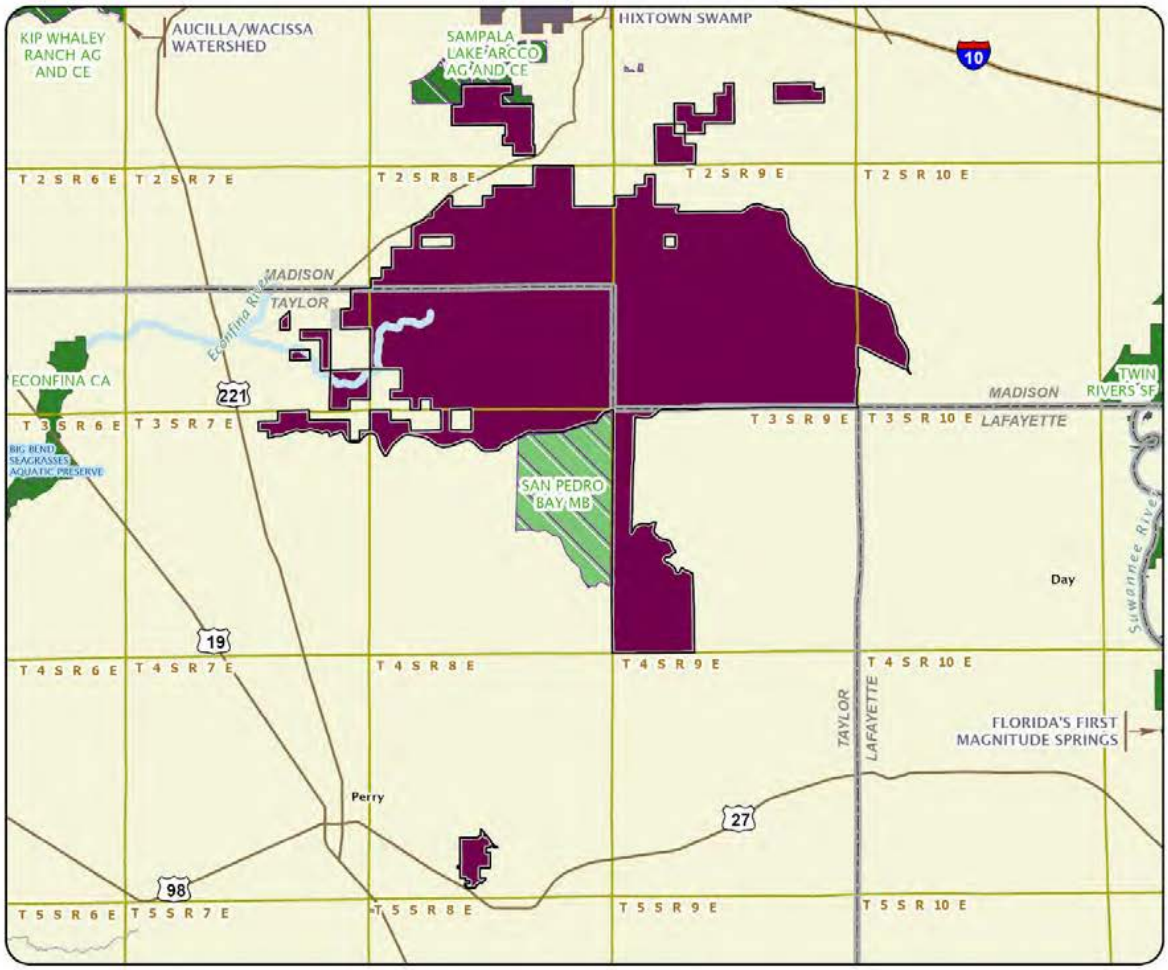
Cooperators in Management Activities

The unified managers (FFS and FWC) 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.

Management Cost Summary

FWC and FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL)	CARL
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$2,187,189	$316,190
OCO	$808,413	$807,868
TOTAL	$2,995,602	$1,124,058

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SAN PEDRO BAY

MADISON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Shoal River Buffer

Critical Natural Lands

Okaloosa County

Year Added to Priority List	*2010*
Project Acres	*2,188*
Acquired Acres	*1,229*
Remaining Project Acres	*959*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$892,873*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Shoal River Buffer project will protect the water quality of the Shoal River, an Outstanding Florida Water and support landscape connectivity. The project protects habitat for imperiled species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and will provide the public with natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

General Description

The Shoal River Buffer project is proposed as a fee simple acquisition in eastern Okaloosa County. The tract is divided into two distinct parcels east and west of the Shoal River and 5.5 miles from the convergence 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 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 oak, 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.

The tract provides Eglin Air Force Base with a critical buffer for both military operations and smoke generated from burning operations on base. The Shoal River Paddling Trail, designated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails, stretches nine and one-

half miles through the property with access points north (Ray Barnes Boat Ramp) and southwest (Bill Duggar Jr. Park) of the property.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Pygmy sandhill grasshopper	G2/S2
*Gulf Coast redflower pitcher plant**	G3G4T2T3/S2S3
*Hairy wild indigo**	G3T3/S3
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Lavender burrowing crayfish	G4/S2
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3
Purple pigtoe	G3G4/SNR

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

As on all lands managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources, while providing for compatible recreation opportunities. Any such minimal development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The property has potential for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking, primitive camping, nature interpretive trails and geocaching.

Acquisition Planning

2009

On December 11, 2009, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add this project with a tax assessed value of $3,841,189 to the 2010 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC added 80 acres to the project that had been authorized for sale as surplus by the U.S. Forest Service.

Coordination

The U.S. Department of Defense expressed interest in partnering with the state in acquiring this land. Furthermore, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) has expressed to U.S. Department of Defense that it has interest in 500 acres or more of the property located along the county's riverfront ownership.

Management Policy Statement

The purpose of the project is to protect the water quality of the Shoal River drainage area which harbors rare species; to sustain wildlife in the area, particularly to provide long-term benefits to imperiled species; and to provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats along the river that support imperiled and rare species will be an important management goal for the project. Establishing 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.

Manager(s)

FWC is the recommended manager for lands within this project acquired by both the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) and NWFWMD. NWFWMD has indicated it will convey any lands the agency acquires within this project to the BOT at no cost.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

About 68 percent of the project is habitat for a range of at least three to seven, or more, focal imperiled species. About 76 percent of the Shoal River Buffer tract lies within a designated FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for the Florida black bear, listed as threatened by the state. In addition, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory 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 (*Picoides borealis*). The eastern tract consists mainly of a sandhill and pineland habitat dominated by longleaf pine with scattered sand pine. The understory consists mainly of xeric oaks and shrubs. Several listed species could benefit from ongoing restoration of sandhill habitats within the project boundary. Listed species of concern that utilize sandhills include the southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*), southeastern American kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Bears have also been documented utilizing riparian corridors of the Shoal River and its tributaries in Okaloosa County and are well documented on Eglin Air Force Base, a primary breeding range for bears in the state.

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. 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 ecology and management concerns may also need to be considered.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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 FWC describing short-term and long-term management goals, and measurable inventory, exotic species control and removal of refuse. Within one year, a 10-year management plan will be developed by FWC describing short-term 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 sources might include sales of various permits, recreational user fees and ecotourism activities.

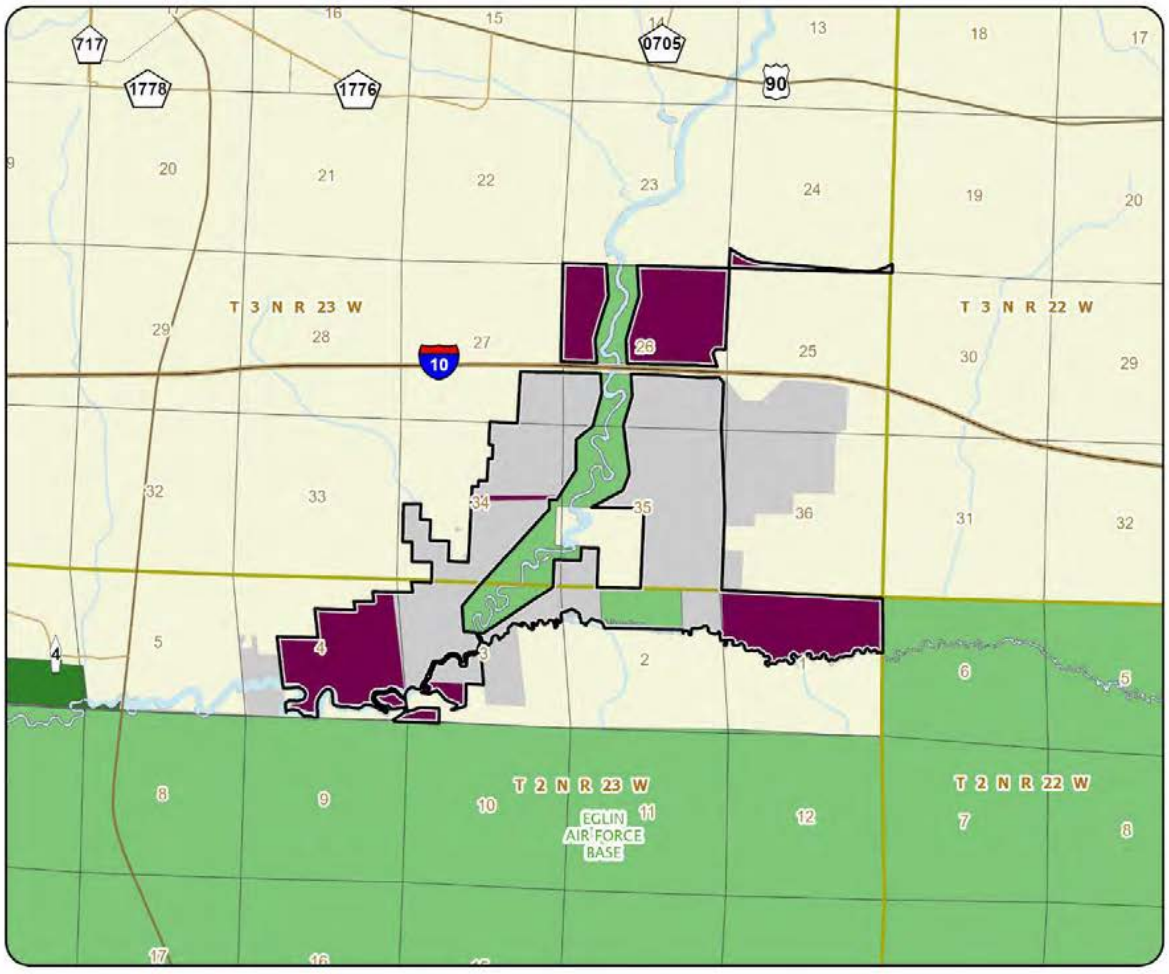
Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC may partner and cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including DEP, U.S. Department of Defense, the Florida Forest Service, NWFWMD and Okaloosa County in management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$45,000	$38,689
OCO	$308,899	$115,101
Total	$353,899	$153,790

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SHOAL RIVER BUFFER

OKALOOSA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves

Critical Natural Lands

Alachua, Citrus, Jackson, Marion and Sumter Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1994*
Project Acres	*602*
Acquired Acres	*19*
Remaining Project Acres	*583*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$8,837,505*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project will conserve seven caves and surrounding lands to ensure the survival of both bats and other species that rely on these caves for protection and breeding. Caves where the southeastern bat (*Myotis austroriparius*) rears its young also protect a variety of imperiled animals such as the federally endangered gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) and a multitude of cave-dwelling invertebrates. Because these caves are easily damaged by vandals, the project would limit access to the caves and help to preserve a portion of this unique, lightless world.

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 seven caves in this project are used as maternity roosts by these bats. The caves also harbor several other rare and imperiled species, including the federally endangered gray bat and rare cave-dwelling crayfish and amphipods. The Gerome's Cave site has an outstanding example of upland hardwood forest, the Jennings's Cave site has intact sandhill and the Sneads Cave site supports good floodplain forest and floodplain swamp. Three archaeological sites are known to be located at Gerome's Cave. Vandalism is the greatest threat to the caves.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gray bat	G3G4/SX
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Georgia blind salamander	G1G2/S1S2
Florida cave isopod	G1G2/S1S2
Light-fleeing cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Dougherty Plain cave crayfish	G2G3/S2
Florida cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Hobbs's Cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
*False rue-anemone**	G5/S1
Tricolored bat	G3G4/S2S3
Southeastern myotis	G4/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

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, a less-than-fee parcel, also 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.

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council transferred Grant's Cave, consisting of two ownerships, to the Less-Than-Fee category.

2002

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) combined the Less-Than-Fee project to the Group B Full Fee project. It included the following:

1) Sweet Gum Cave (Citrus County) — consists of approximately 10 acres, one parcel and one owner.
2) Gerome's Cave (Jackson County) — consists of approximately 160 acres, five parcels and four owners.
3) Sneads Cave (Jackson County) — consists of approximately 80 acres, one parcel and one owner.
4) Catacombs Cave (Marion County) — consists of approximately 10 acres, two parcels and two owners.
5) Jenning's Cave (Marion County) — consists of approximately 89 acres, 79 parcels and 70 owners.

6) Sumter County Cave (Sumter County) — consists of approximately 362 acres, four parcels and three owners.

2003

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved the project to Group A.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2025

In April 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 4 acres in Jackson County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) will be an acquisition partner on the Gerome's Cave site. There are no acquisition partners for 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, rare and imperiled species.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the full fee acquisitions, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will monitor the less-than-fee acquisitions.

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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The caves will require protection from vandalism. Natural communities around some of the cave entrances will require restoration.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 to inventory each site's natural resources. Current management is based on both current 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 are not 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 may include educational and recreational opportunities that could generate revenue.

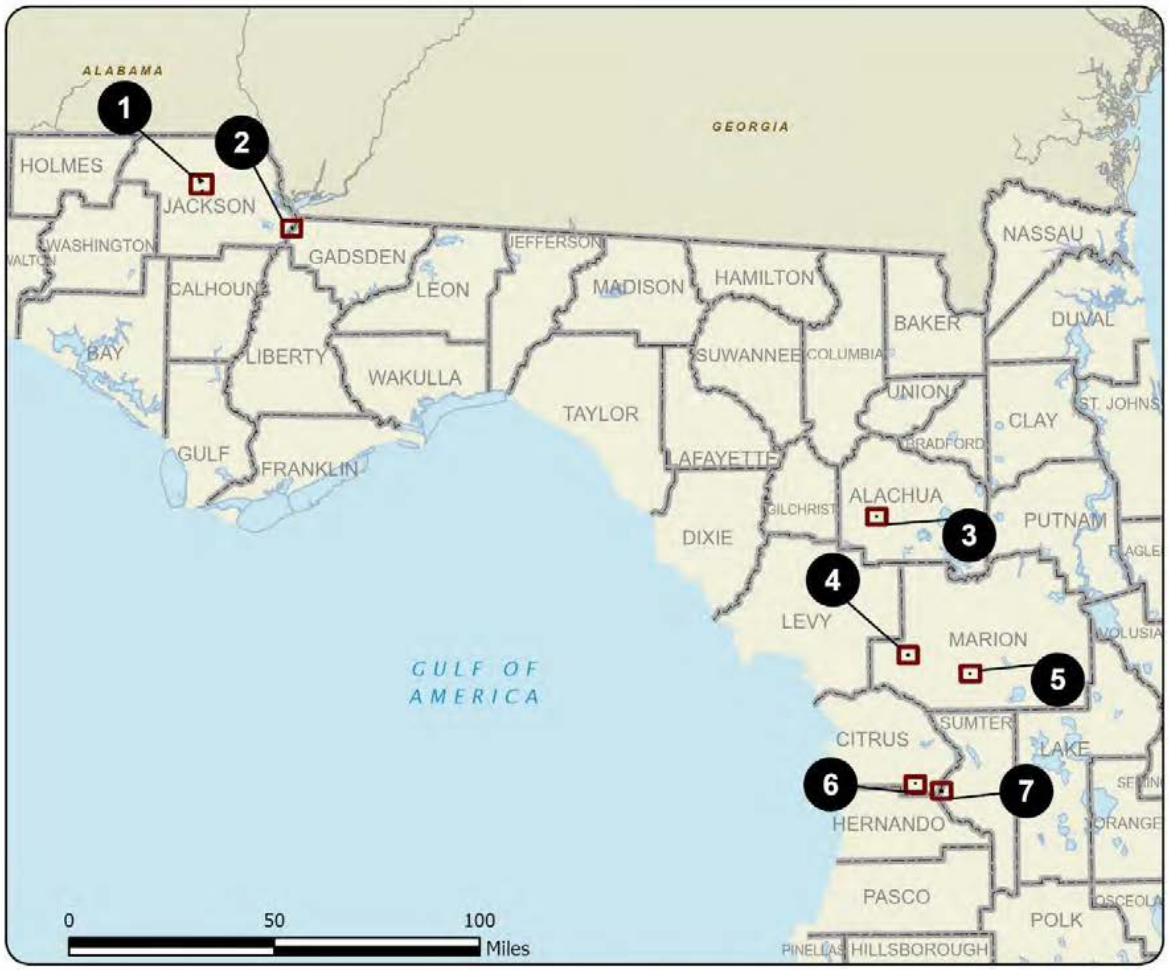
Cooperators in Management Activities

No other local, state, or federal agencies are currently participating in the management of this project. NWFWMD proposes to cooperate in the management of Gerome's Cave in Jackson County.

Management Cost Summary

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission		Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program		CARL
Salary		$0	$0
OPS		$14,784	$14,784
Expense		$4,725	$4,725
OCO		$30,240	$0
TOTAL		$49,749	$19,509

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

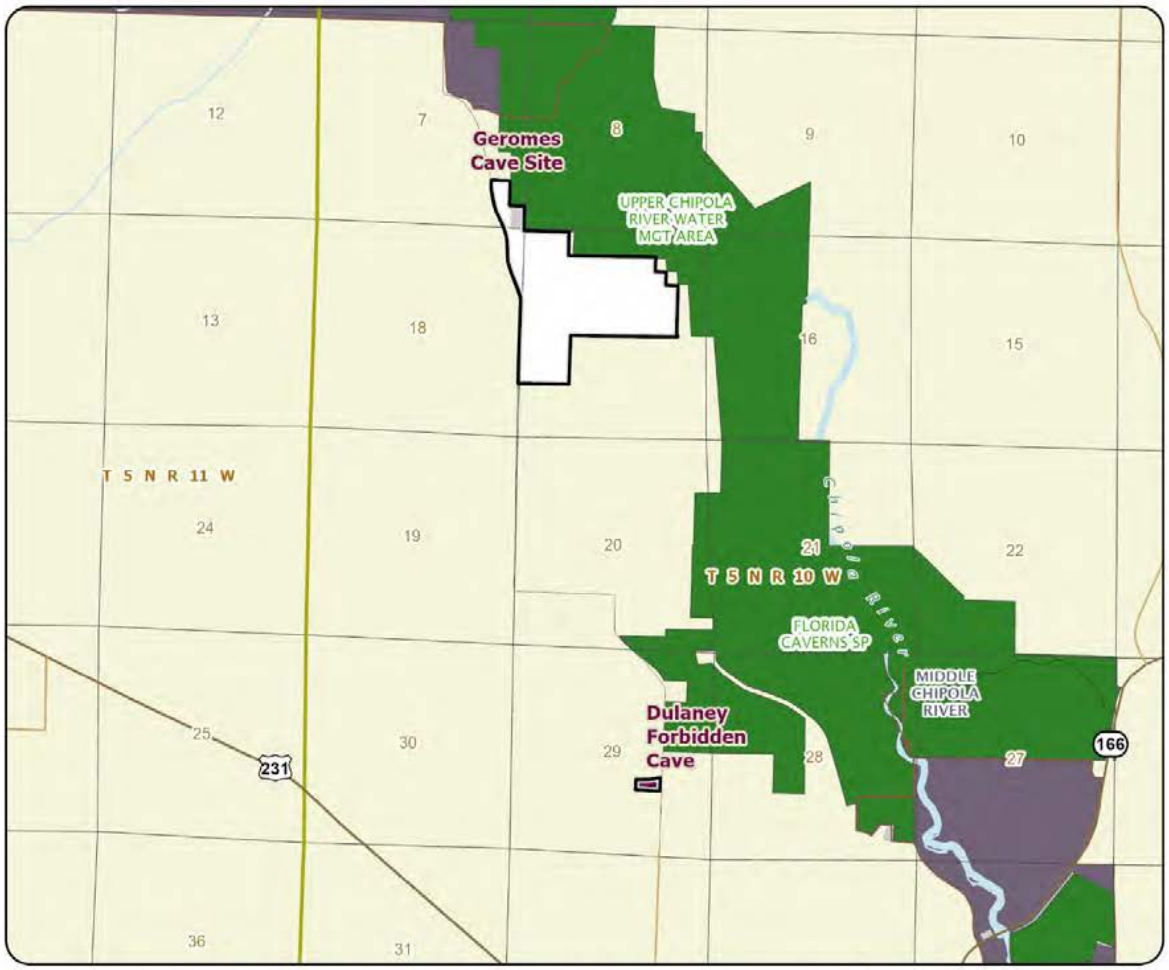


SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: OVERVIEW

ALACHUA, CITRUS, JACKSON, MARION, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Dulaney Forbidden Cave Site
- ☐ Map 1 Geromes Cave Site
- ☐ Map 2 Sneads Cave Site
- ☐ Map 3 Grants Cave Site
- ☐ Map 4 Jennings Cave Site
- ☐ Map 5 Catacombs Cave Site
- ☐ Map 6 Sweet Gum Cave Site
- ☐ Map 7 Sumter County Cave Site





SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 1

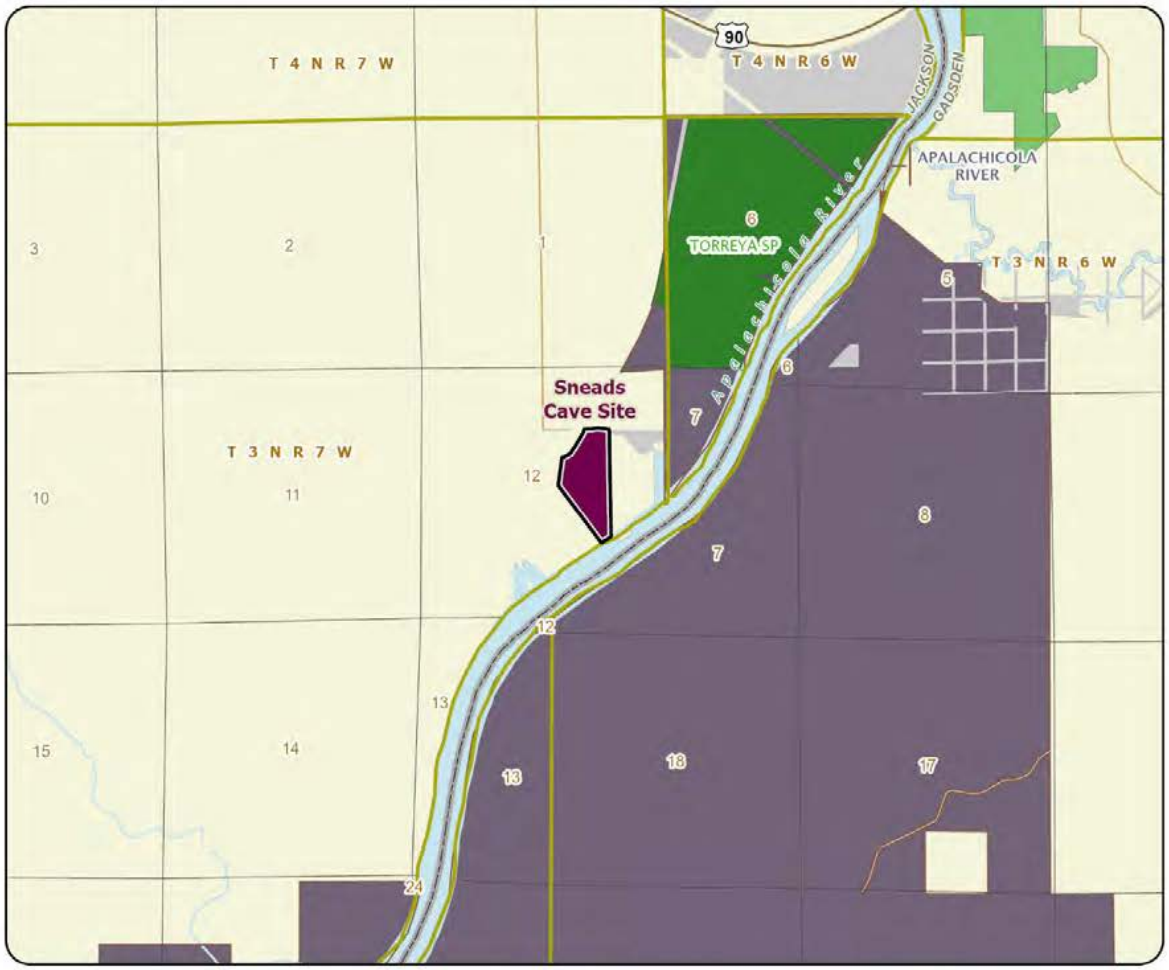
JACKSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 2

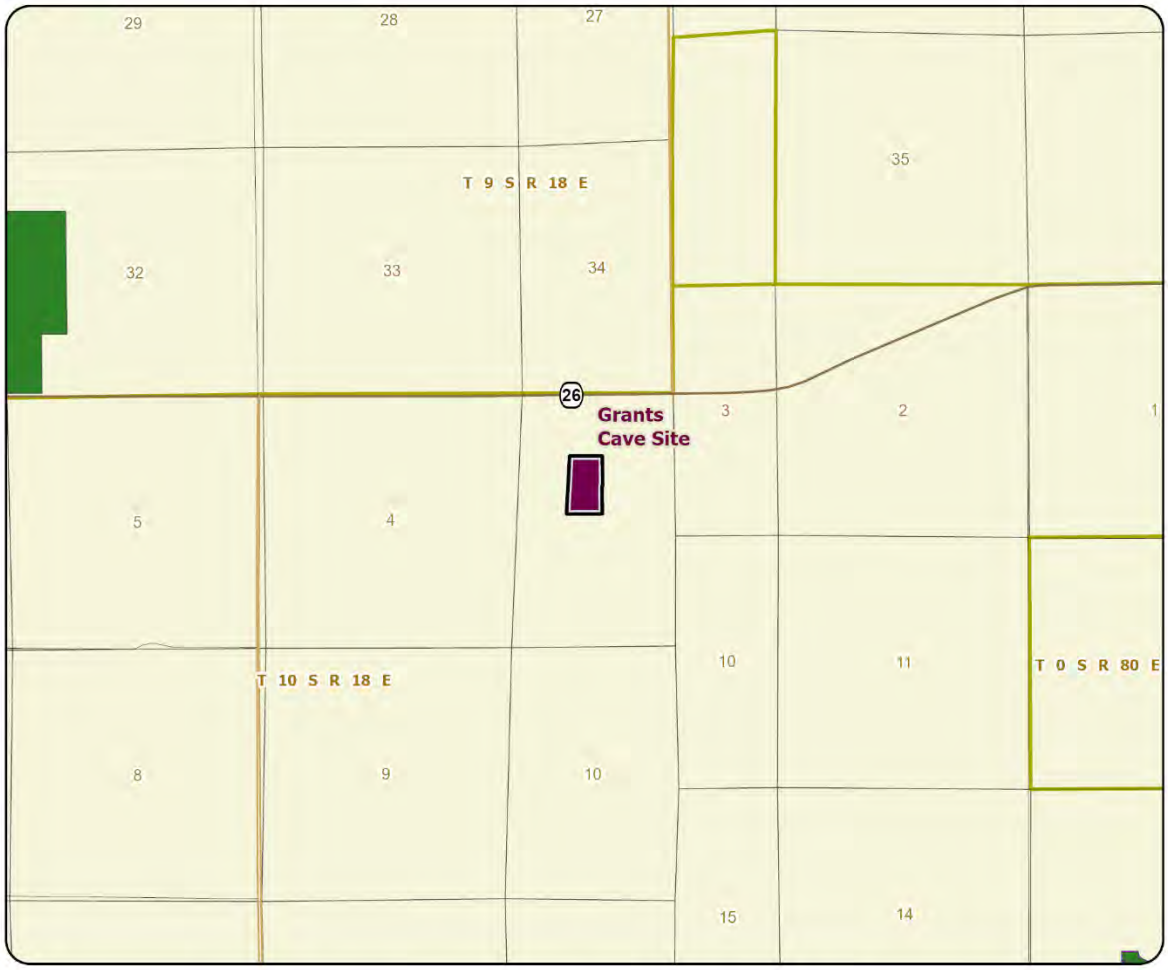
JACKSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 3

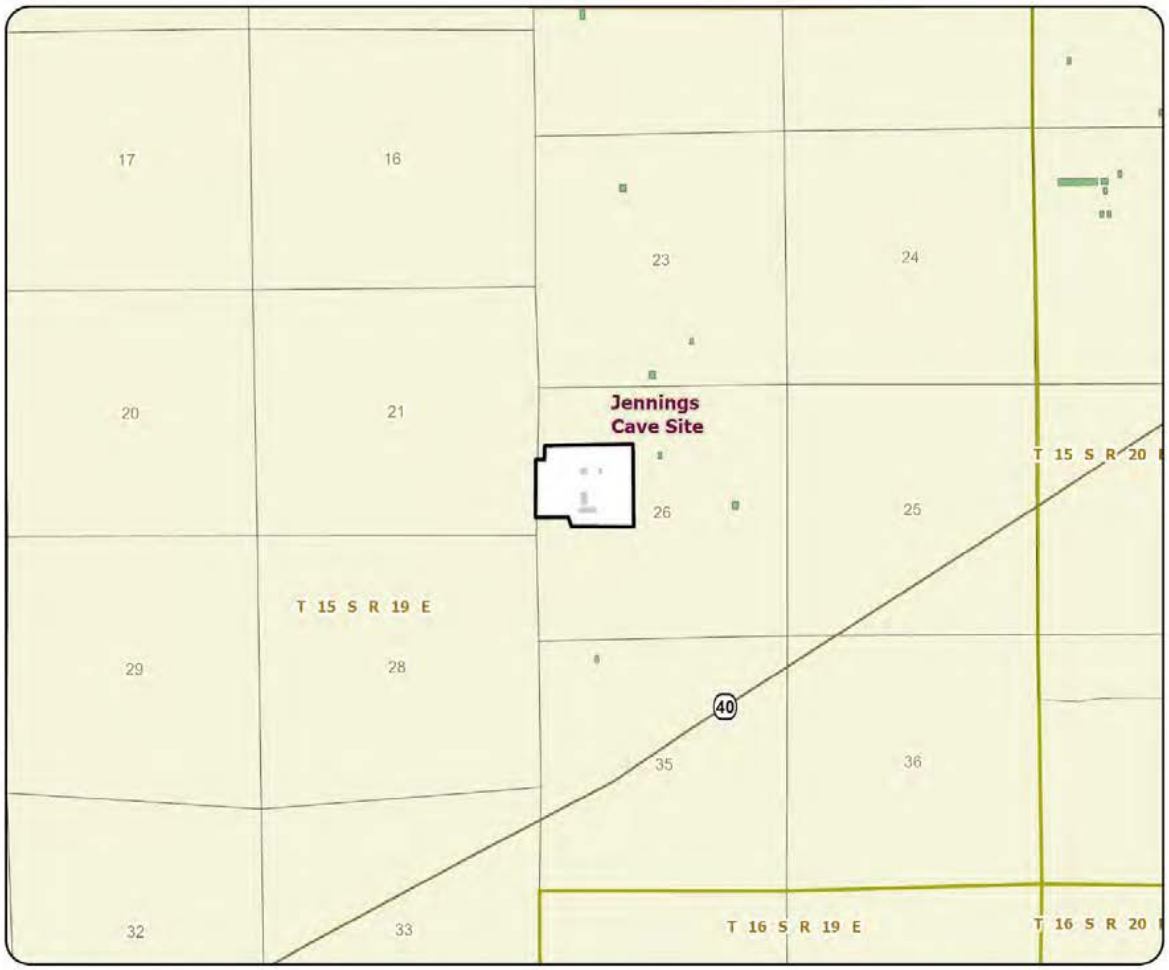
ALACHUA COUNTY

Florida Forever Project Boundary
Essential Parcels Remaining
State Conservation Lands
Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 4

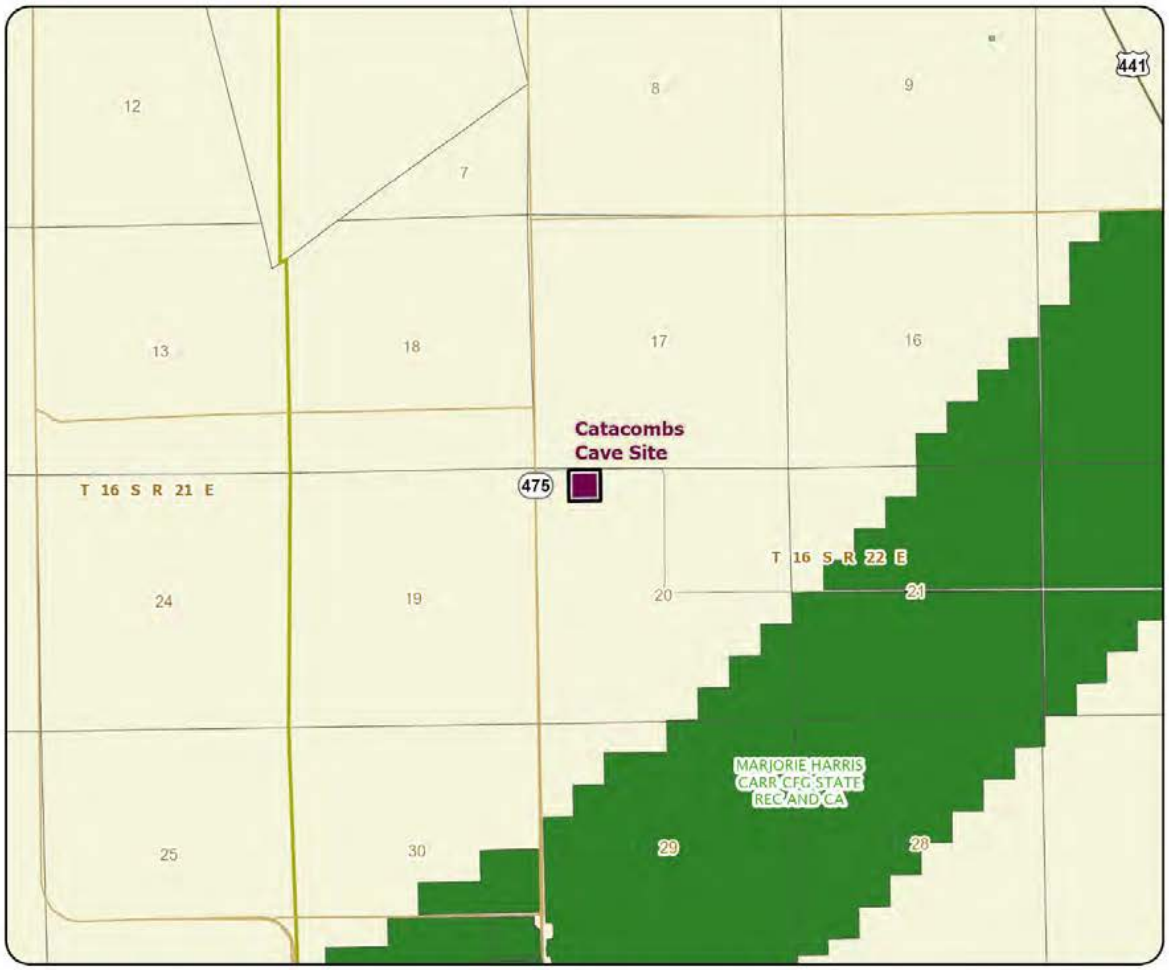
MARION COUNTY

Florida Forever Project Boundary
Other Conservation Lands
Other Public Lands



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SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 5

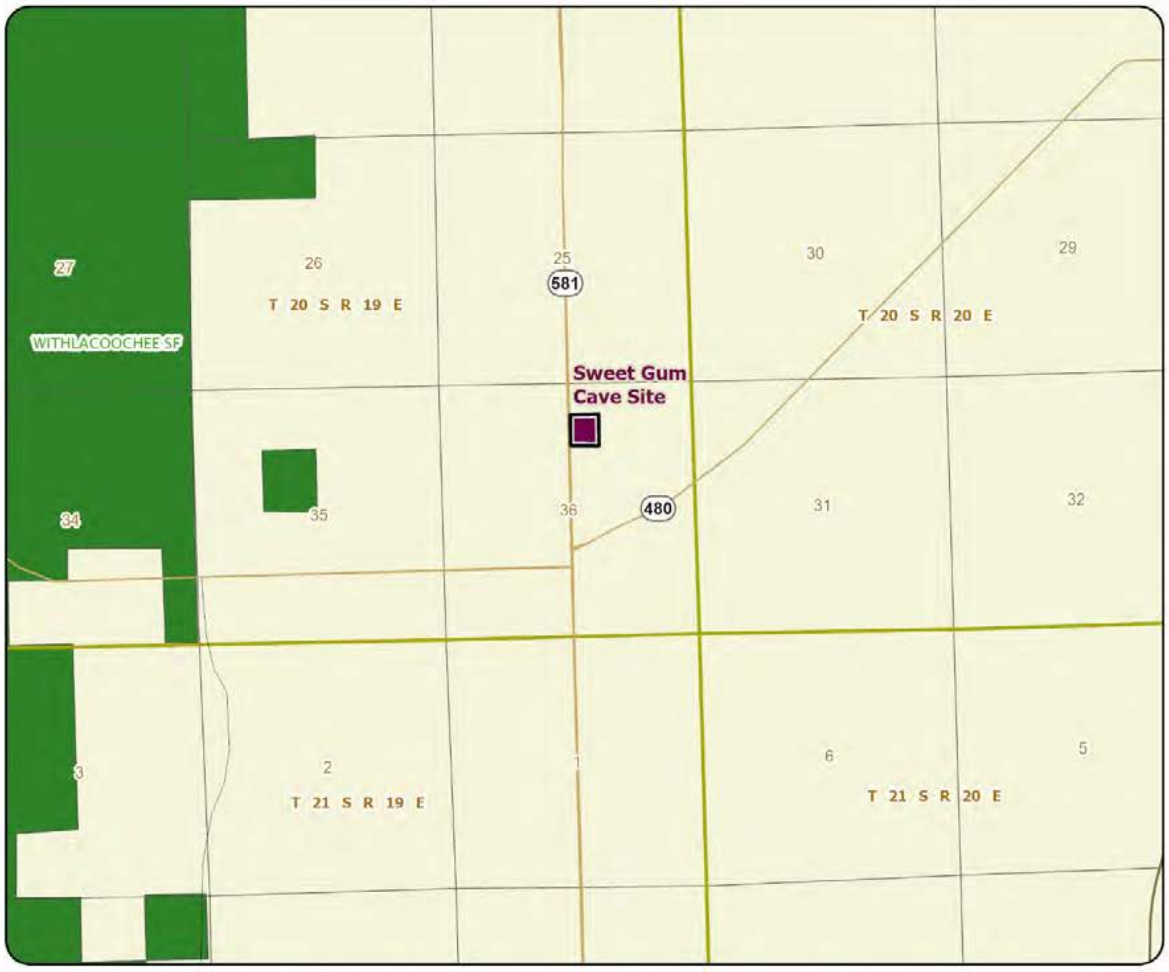
MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



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SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 6

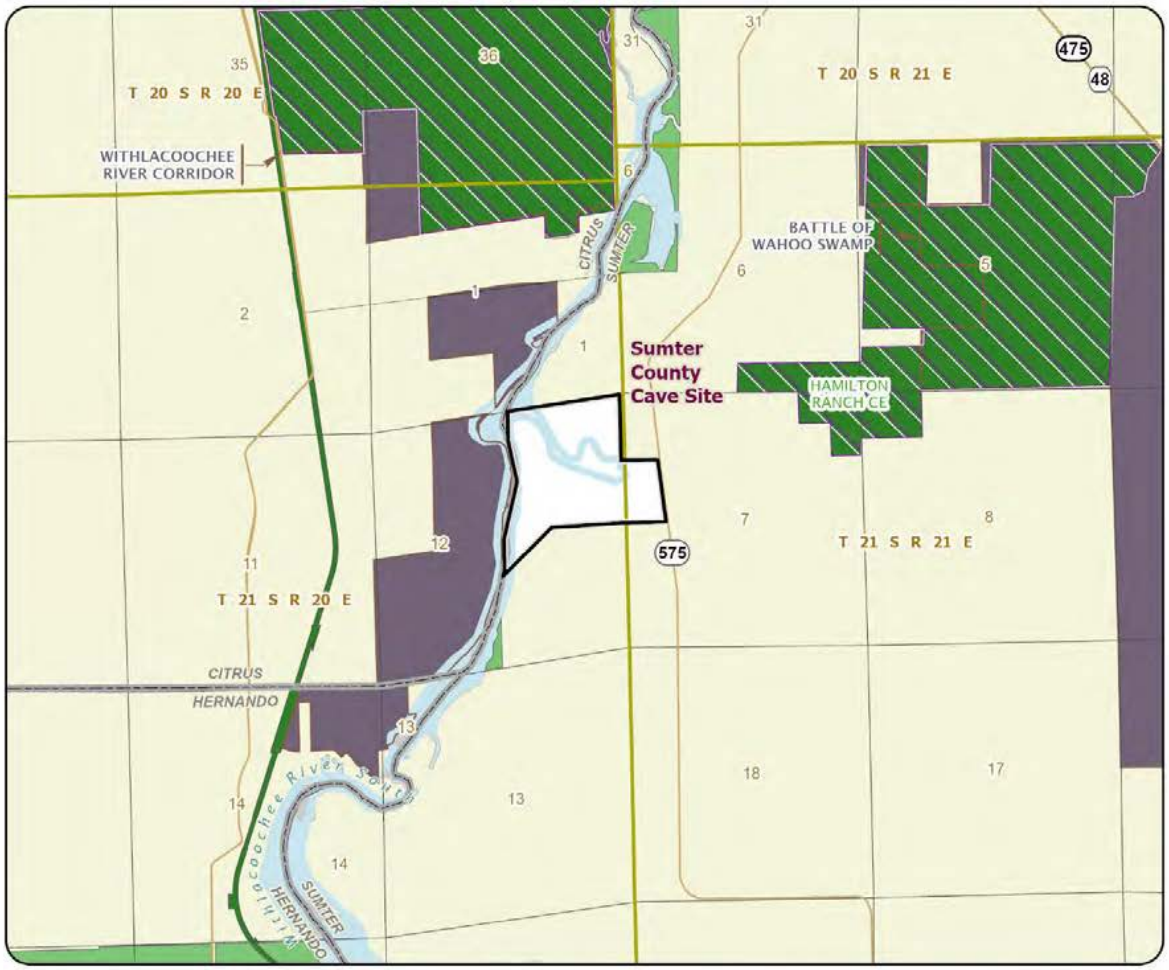
CITRUS COUNTY

Florida Forever Project Boundary
Essential Parcels Remaining
State Conservation Lands



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SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 7

SUMTER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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South Goethe

Critical Natural Lands

Levy and Marion Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2006*
Project Acres	*12,221*
Acquired Acres	*356*
Remaining Project Acres	*11,865*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$38,708,740*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The South Goethe project will provide a landscape corridor from Goethe State Forest to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area along the Withlacoochee River. The project will provide a significant buffer along the southern boundary of the state forest while enhancing the forest and its associated habitat through restoration.

General Description

The South Goethe Florida Forever project is to be considered for fee simple acquisition. The two tracts are principally separated by County Road 40. The Robinson tract (north of County Road 40) is 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 is south of the Robinson tract, mostly on the south side of County Road 40; however, the tract extends northward across County Road 40 and shares a common boundary of 0.25 mile with the Robinson tract. At its closest point, the Robinson tract approaches within 0.46 miles of Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, which lies along Lake Rousseau (impounded in the Withlacoochee River) to the south.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Longspurred mint**	G2/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Management programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species. The primary land management goals are to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to ensure long-term viability of species considered rare.

The Florida Forest Service (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 natural or restored areas of the project. In more heavily impacted areas, 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

2006

On December 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 FFS. The project has 6,152 acres and a tax-assessed value of $1,157,483.

2007

On June 15, 2007, ARC approved a fee-simple, 5,553-acre addition (Cold Springs Tract) 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 designated essential.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2021

A 350-acre conservation easement (Cold Springs Villages Conservation Easement) was acquired by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the establishment of a gopher tortoise recipient site.

2025

In May 2025, ARC approved the addition of 10 parcels totaling approximately 1,305 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

Coordination

This property is proposed as a 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 ensure long-term viability of species considered native, rare and imperiled. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

Manager(s)

The property is proposed to be managed by FFS.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Most 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.

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 would be kept to a minimum to assure a high-quality recreational experience. As 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, thinning dense pine stands and 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 accomplished, long-term management costs are expected to be light to moderate to maintain this area as a state forest.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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 and imperiled species will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. Because of the numerous roads throughout the property, a plan will be needed to identify which roads will be needed for vehicular access by the public, for administrative use and which are unnecessary and 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 the fire dependent

community types. Whenever possible, 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. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance biodiversity. FFS will promote recreation and environmental education. 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 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. There is also potential for obtaining funding for both acquiring the parcel as well as implementing the trail system. Unnecessary roads, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

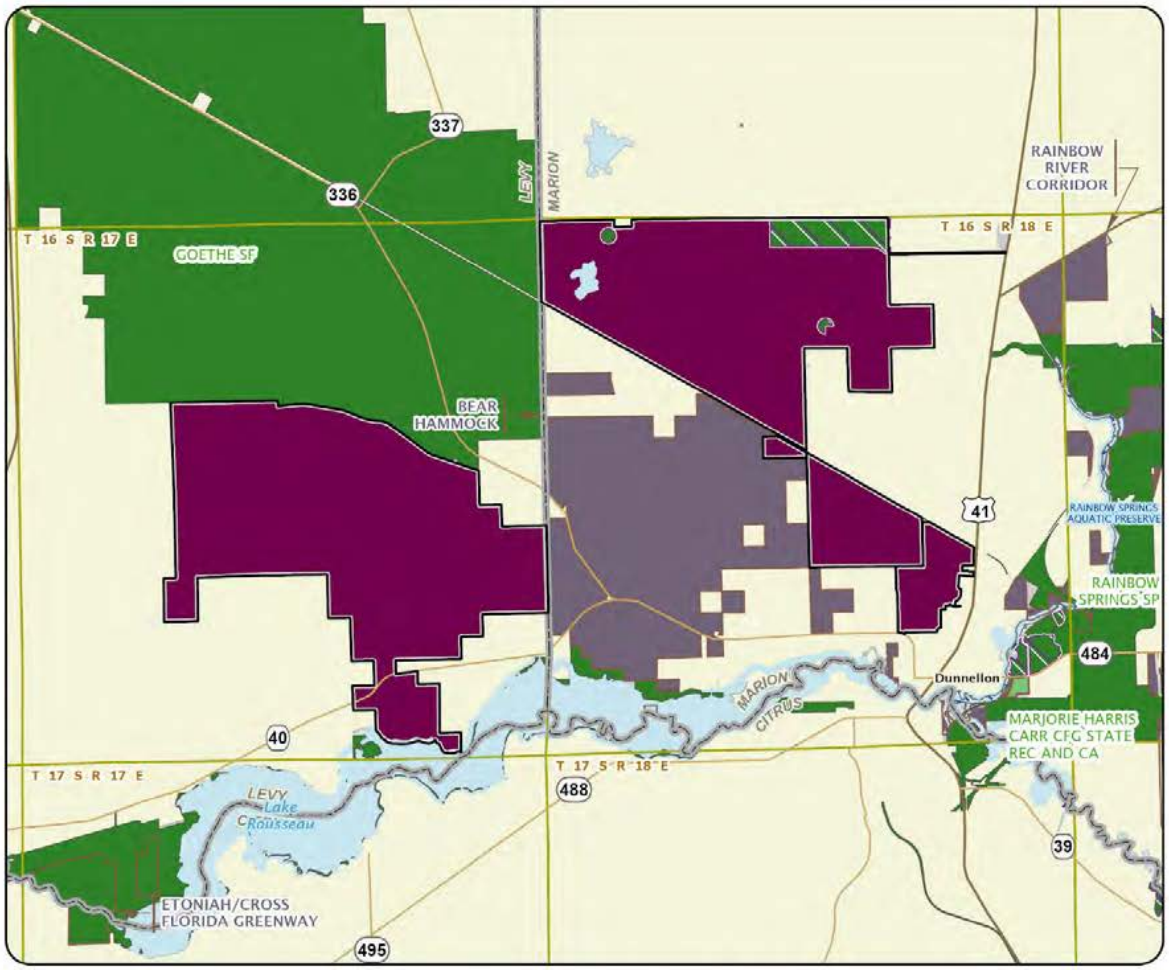
Revenue-generating Potential

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 moderate to high. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities. 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, FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary (2 FTE)	$72,104	not provided
OPS	$0	not provided
Expense	$263,000	not provided
OCO	$593,720	not provided
TOTAL	$928,824	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SOUTH GOETHE

LEVY AND MARION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Star Lake Connector

Critical Natural Lands

Putnam County

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*4,807*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,807*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$14,279,203*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Star Lake Connector project would close a significant gap between conservation lands extending from southern Alachua County eastward to Ocala National Forest. The project would also protect actively being restored habitat that could support a variety of imperiled wildlife species including gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). In addition, the project would contribute to the surface water and floodplain protection of Orange Creek, an important tributary of the Ocklawaha River.

General Description

The Star Lake Connector project is located 2.5 miles southeast of Hawthorne and would connect two large managed areas: Lochloosa Slough Preserve and Fox Pen Preserve (both owned by Alachua County) to the west, and Twin Creek Ranch Gopher Tortoise Longterm Recipient Site, Morrison and BJ Bar Ranch conservation easements to the east (both managed by St. Johns River Water Management District). The property surrounds a 900-acre area that includes Star Lake, Riley Lake and associated properties not included in the project boundary.

The property is currently used for a cow/calf operation, private recreation and wildlife management. Improved pasture is the dominate land cover (40 percent) within the project, with a portion being used for sod cultivation (±300 acres). The only improvements on site are a hunt camp and cow pens. Invasive species include cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), which the landowner is currently working to eradicate.

Approximately one-third of the property contains natural or semi-natural (restoration) communities. The landowner is working to restore former pine plantations to historic sandhill and flatwoods with hopes of eventually becoming a gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) recipient site. Some areas have intact native groundcover and shrubs such as southern wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*) and Florida rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*). Predominant wetland communities include baygall, bottomland forest and

floodplain swamp associated with Orange Creek, which flows through the southern portion of the property and is a major tributary of the Ocklawaha River, an Outstanding Florida Water.

The Star Lake Connector project lies within Priority 3 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network and both the Upper Silver River and Orange Creek Basin Management Action Plans. Despite historical land uses, the project provides habitat that could potentially support several rare and imperiled species such as the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Florida sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*), Southeastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*) and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). During the site visit, gopher tortoise, wood stork, Florida sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis*), little blue heron (Egretta caerulea) and tricolored heron (*Egretta tricolor*) were observed. In addition, the project contains drainages that support habitat for rare fish such as the bluenose shiner (*Pteronotropis welaka*) and the endemic southern tessellated darter (*Etheostoma olmstedi maculaticeps*) that only occurs within the Ocklawaha River watershed.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Piedmont jointgrass	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

Public Use

The Star Lake Connector project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2025

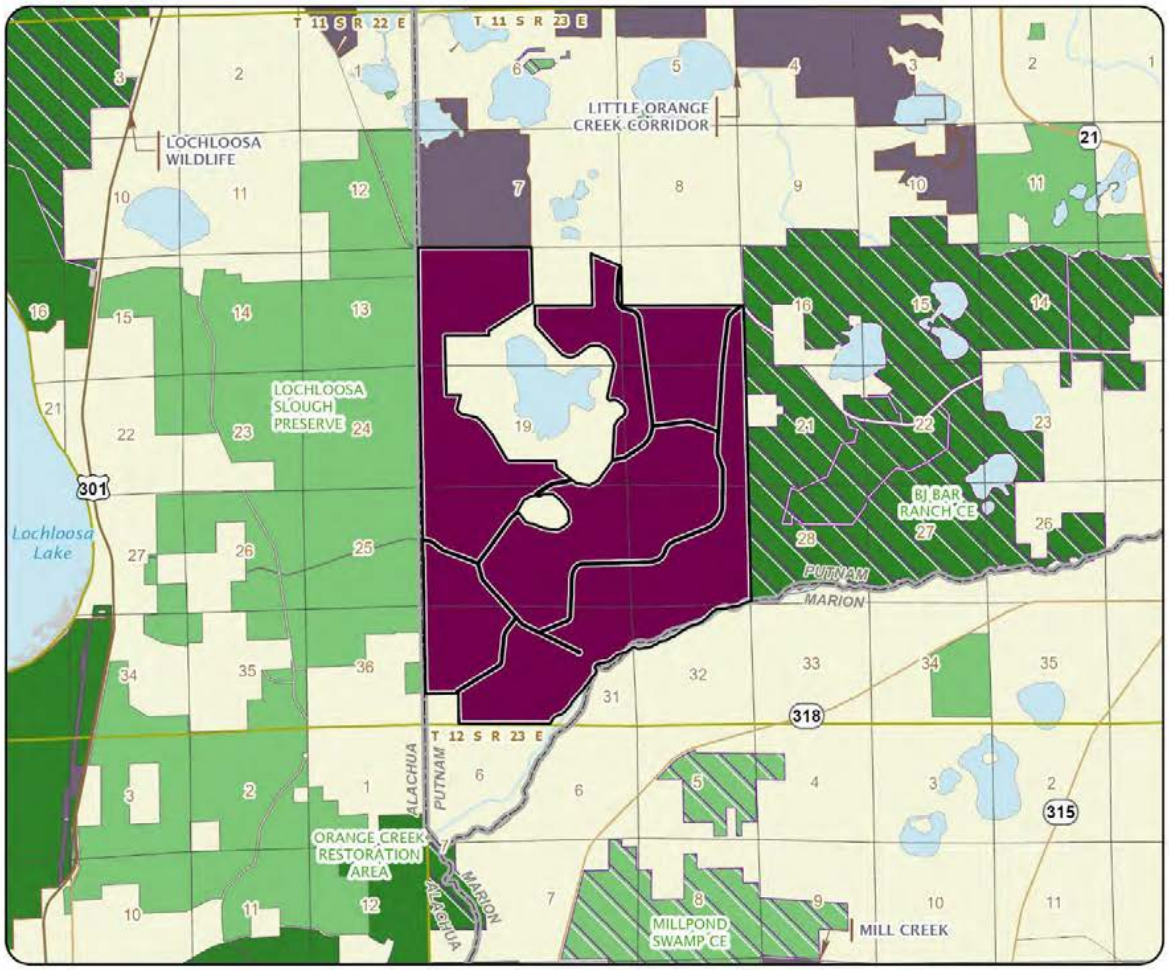
On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Star Lake Connector project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Star Lake Connector project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Star Lake Connector project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



STAR LAKE CONNECTOR

PUTNAM COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Strategic Managed Area Lands List

Critical Natural Lands

Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Liberty, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Putnam, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Taylor, Union, Volusia and Wakulla Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2018*
Project Acres	*10,122*
Acquired Acres	*841*
Remaining Project Acres	*9,281*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$194,366,717*

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of these specific inholding parcels would enhance or facilitate management of properties already under public ownership. Collectively, acquisition of these fee simple parcels will meet the Florida Forever goal of enhancing the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects (essential natural resources, ecosystem service parcels and connecting linkage corridors as identified and developed by the best available scientific analysis).

General Description

The Strategic Managed Areas Lands List (SMALL), sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks, DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails, DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (ORCP), Florida Forest Service (FFS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), is a collection of single-owner parcels statewide that would augment or improve management of existing state-managed conservation lands. The parcels included have been identified as part of the optimum management boundary within the approved management plans of state parks, state trail corridors, state forests and wildlife management/environmental areas. None of these parcels are located within the boundary of another Florida Forever project on the priority list. The largest parcel in this project would become part of Blackwater River State Forest in Santa Rosa County. The smallest parcel is 0.03 acres which would expand the Newberry to High Springs Corridor in Alachua County. Over 7,000 acres of these proposals are in Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas.

The properties identified for better management for DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks are properties adjoining existing state parks or railroad rights of way identified by DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails that would extend or further connect existing recreation trails such as the existing Palatka to Lake City Corridor or the new Georgia to Cross City Corridor.

Properties chosen for better management by FFS augment existing state forests. Properties that would augment FWC lands would improve the management of such areas as Andrews Wildlife Management Area in Levy County or Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area in Lafayette County.

Listed species element occurrences were reported by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory by parcel. More than 40 listed species have been identified overall, but some species may be counted more than once as this is a statewide, multi-parcel, multi-county project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Fat threeridge	G1/S1
*Fragrant prickly apple**	G1/S1
Ochlockonee moccasinshell	G1/S1
Chipola slabshell	G1/S1
*Miami indigo-bush**	G4T1/S1
Southern elktoe	G1/S1
Gulf moccasinshell	G2/S1
Oval pigtoe	G2/S1
Shiny-rayed pocketbook	G2/S1
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

Because these lands are to be acquired in full fee, they would increase the size of conservation or recreation areas and enhance the experience of such lands for members of the public. The public use would be predicated on the existing management of the adjoining areas. The parcels on this list all help to enhance essential natural resources, providing better operational or environmental management. The resource-based potential public use of the project is generally high, as the various parcels acquired in fee title can accommodate such activities as hiking, natural resource appreciation and education, picnicking, camping, bicycling and horseback riding. Depending on management emphasis, fishing and hunting is also supportable.

Acquisition Planning

As the application requires, the owners of parcels in this project were notified by mail that the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) would be considering a Florida Forever proposal that included their parcel in the boundary, and that if or when they wished to sell their parcel, state acquisition could

be possible using Florida Forever funding. They were also made aware that they could remove their parcels from the project's boundary at any time, but that removing the parcel from the boundary would make it ineligible for state acquisition. Florida statute requires that they send a certified letter requesting removal to DEP's Division of State Lands.

2018

In October 2018, this project was approved by ARC. All the parcels within the boundary are considered essential. The parcels are proposed for fee-simple acquisition.

2019

In September 2019, 10 parcels under a single ownership containing 120.19 acres (FWC Parcel One/FWC-1) were acquired fee simple from Zemel Family Ventures, LLC with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (79 percent) and Florida Forever funding (21 percent). The property will be managed by FWC as part of Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA.

2020

On August 21, 2020, ARC approved a FWC addition of 249.5 acres in Hernando County (Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area) and Palm Beach County (J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area) to the project boundary.

ARC also approved a FFS addition of 41 acres in Lake County (Seminole State Forest) to the project boundary. One parcel was simultaneously removed (FFS Parcel Seven — HAU II LLC, 473.28 acres) to maintain a list of 10 agency parcels.

In 2020, DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks Parcels Four, Five and Eight containing a total of 66.34 acres were acquired. Parcel Four (River Rise State Park) contains 17.10 acres, Parcel Five (Silver Springs State Park) contains 9.86 acres and Parcel Eight (Dade Battlefield Historic State Park) contains 39.38 acres and will all be managed by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks as part of the adjacent managed areas.

2021

On April 9, 2021, ARC approved a Division of Recreation and Parks addition of 184 acres in Columbia and Sumter counties, and a reduction of 91 acres in Washington County. ARC also approved an FWC addition of 158 acres in Charlotte County and a reduction of 40 acres in Taylor County.

On August 4, 2021, ARC approved modifications to the project to include DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, remove the limitation on the timing of boundary amendment proposals and increase the number of "ownerships" each agency could include within the project from 10 to 15.

On October 8, 2021, ARC approved a Division of Recreation and Parks addition of 2.86 acres in Flagler County and an Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection addition of 198.51 acres in Charlotte County.

2022

On July 27, 2022, 160 acres (Division of Recreation and Parks – Martin, Revels and Porter) was purchased from the Alachua Conservation Trust and will be managed as part of River Rise Preserve State Park.

On August 12, 2022, ARC approved two FWC additions; one for 40.89 acres in Franklin County and one for 123 acres in Glades County.

On December 9, 2002, ARC approved an FWC addition of 297 acres in Gadsden County.

2023

In February of 2023, ARC approved the addition of one 40-acre parcel in Santa Rosa County.

In June of 2023, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 249 acres in St. Lucie and Wakulla Counties.

In October of 2023, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 16 acres in Pasco County.

In December of 2023, ARC approved to add four parcels totaling approximately 21.51 acres in Hillsborough, Charlotte, Lee and Miami-Dade counties and approved to add one parcel totaling approximately 7.25 acres in Brevard County. ARC also approved adding the 103-acre Lake Powell North project in Bay County to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. Lake Powell North was proposed as a fee-simple acquisition and had a tax-assessed value of $1,436,938. After its approval, ARC added it to SMALL.

2024

In February 2024, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 735.5 acres in Santa Rosa County to the project boundary.

In April 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling 5.05 acres in Bay County to the project boundary.

On May 6, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 2.44 acres in Flagler County from Hal Smith Hansford.

In June 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 0.23 acres in St. Lucie County. ARC also approved the addition of four parcels totaling approximately 35.4 acres in Charlotte County, one partial parcel totaling 41.75 acres in Liberty County and one partial parcel totaling approximately 341.38 acres in Orange County.

On July 30, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 9.45 acres in Putnam County from Ann Van Landingham and Ruth King.

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling 38.34 acres in Highlands County.

On October 29, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 7.18 acres in Charlotte County from Nosilla Properties LLC, et. al.

In November 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 7.16 acres in Brevard County from Helene Batson and 0.19 acres in Miami-Dade County from the Land Trust of Dade County Inc.

In December 2024, ARC approved the removal of FWC-15 (McLaughlin Property) and FWC-3 (Arnold) and the subsequent additions to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem and Lafayette Forest projects (respectively).

ARC also approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 10 acres in Highlands County.

2025

In February 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 16.02 acres in Pasco County from Joe Ann Hill and 34.1 acres in Charlotte County from Beach Property Investment Group LLC.

On May 27, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 40.41 acres in Liberty County from Scott Kady et. al.

In June 2025, ARC approved the removal of OGT-2 (Georgia to Cross City) and OGT-10 (Morgan Property) and approved the addition of 16 parcels totaling approximately 178 acres in Collier and Lee counties. ARC also approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 14 acres in Volusia County and one parcel totaling approximately 52 acres in Charlotte County.

On July 23, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 10.08 acres in Highlands County from Deborah Walden.

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 10 acres in Brevard County and one parcel totaling approximately 104 acres in Gulf County to the project boundary.

In December 2025, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 29.88 acres in Polk County and one parcel totaling approximately 27.38 acres in Miami-Dade County to the project boundary.

Coordination

These parcels are eligible for Florida Forever program funding. While opportunities for partnerships may present themselves in the years ahead, Florida Forever is the primary funding source.

Management Policy Statement

These acquisitions would fall under the management plan of the existing conservation lands and projects they would be attached to. These are parcels that will improve resource management of state conservation lands.

Manager(s)

Each parcel would be managed by the applicable state agency manager as part of the site they are adjacent to. The managing agencies would be FFS, FWC, DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks, DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails and DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

What qualifies this fee simple project for state designation is the intent is to improve management efficiency and effectiveness of state-managed conservation lands for citizens, visitors, natural systems and wildlife by adding strategic parcels or ownerships to the management units. These additions will make for more seamless operation and maintenance at the various sites.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

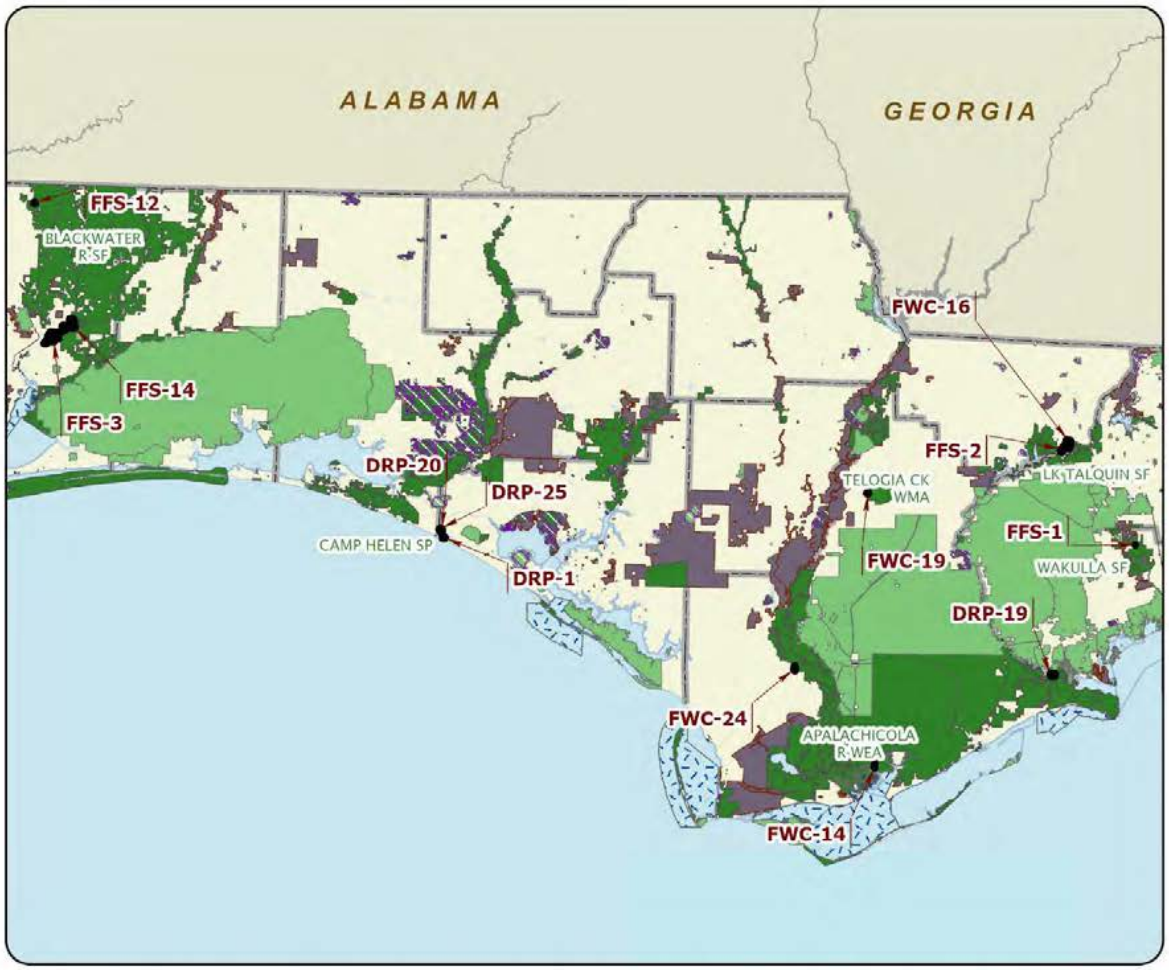
The conditions affecting intensity of management would vary by parcel but would reflect those of the conservation land management unit contiguous with each parcel.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure would become part of the general management of the larger management unit upon acquisition.

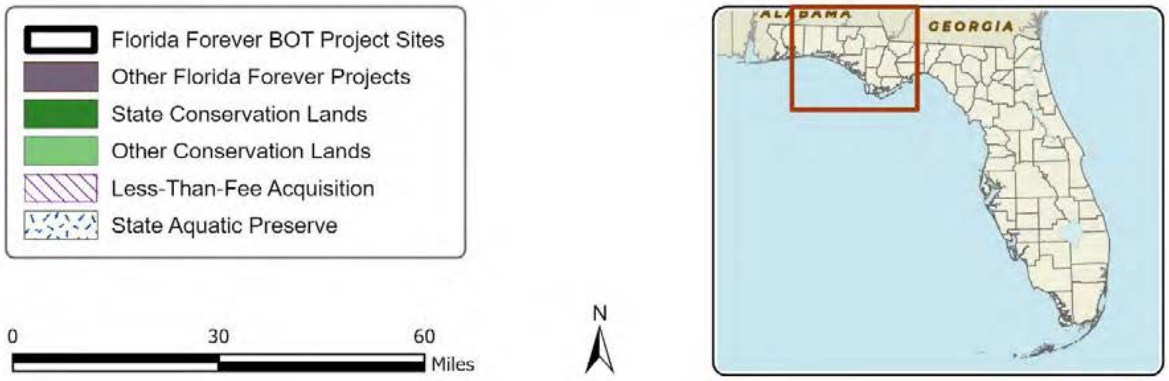
Revenue-generating Potential

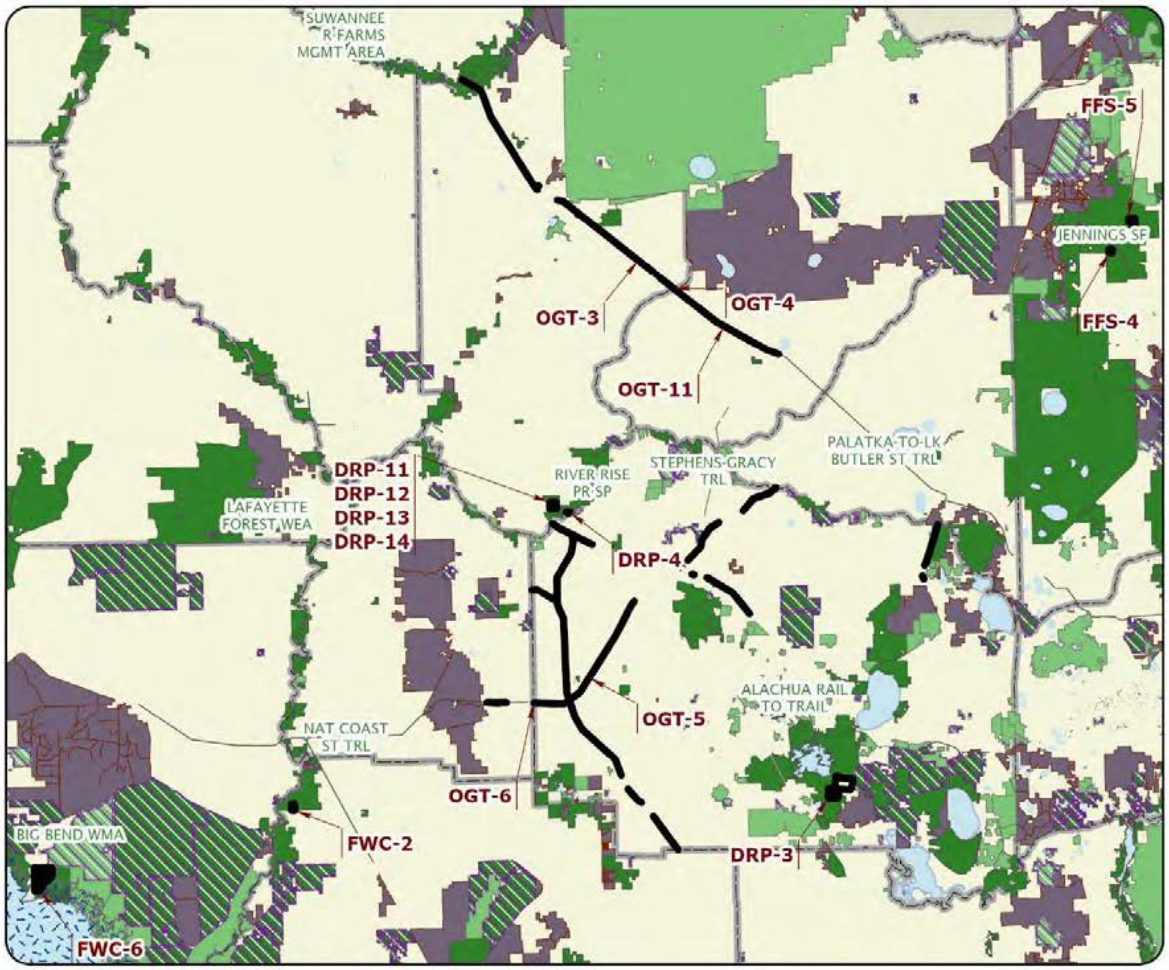
Revenue-generating potential for each parcel would vary, but management efficiencies from these acquisitions could result in a reduction of some management costs.



STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 1

BAY, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, GULF, LIBERTY, SANTA ROSA, AND WAKULLA COUNTIES





STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 2

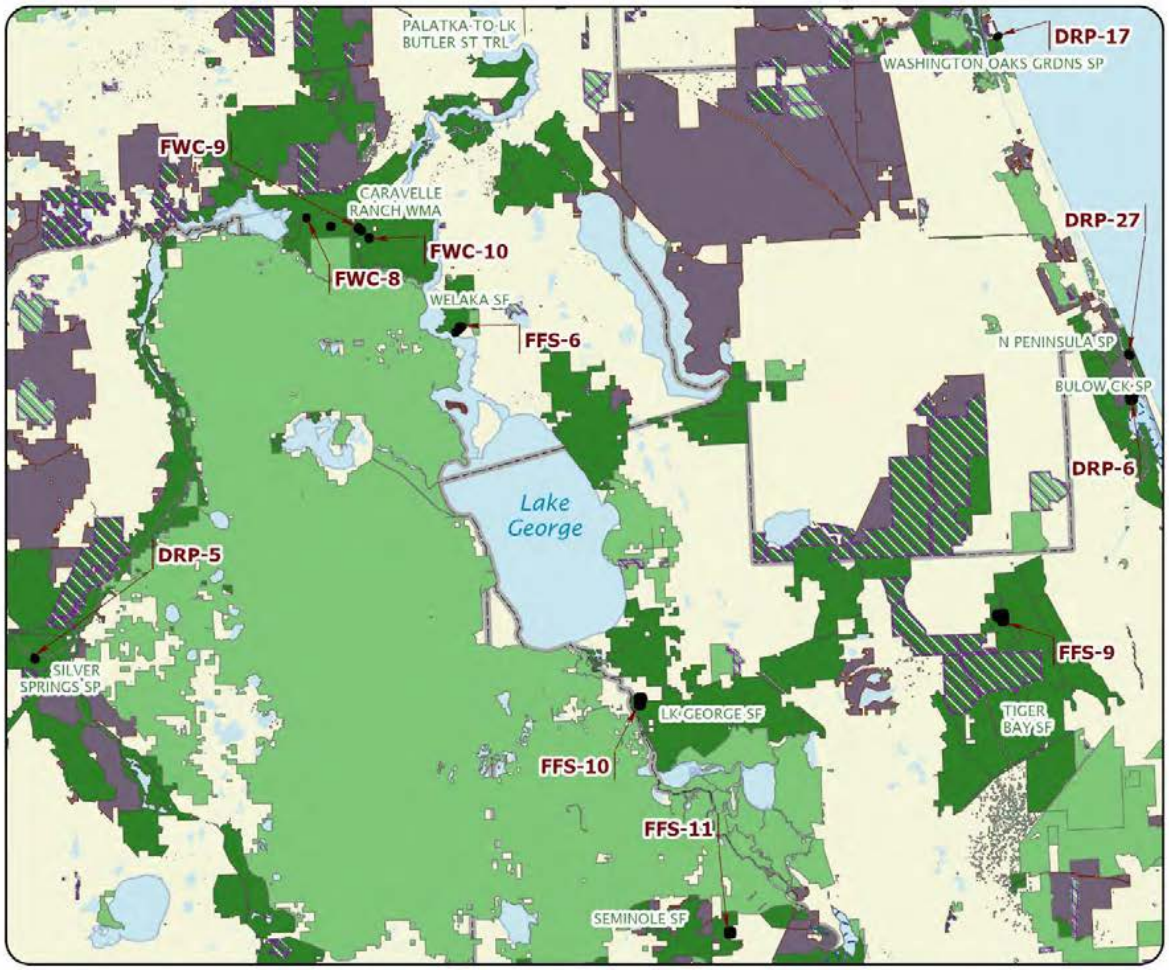
ALACHUA, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DIXIE, GILCHRIST, LEVY, AND UNION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Sites
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 3

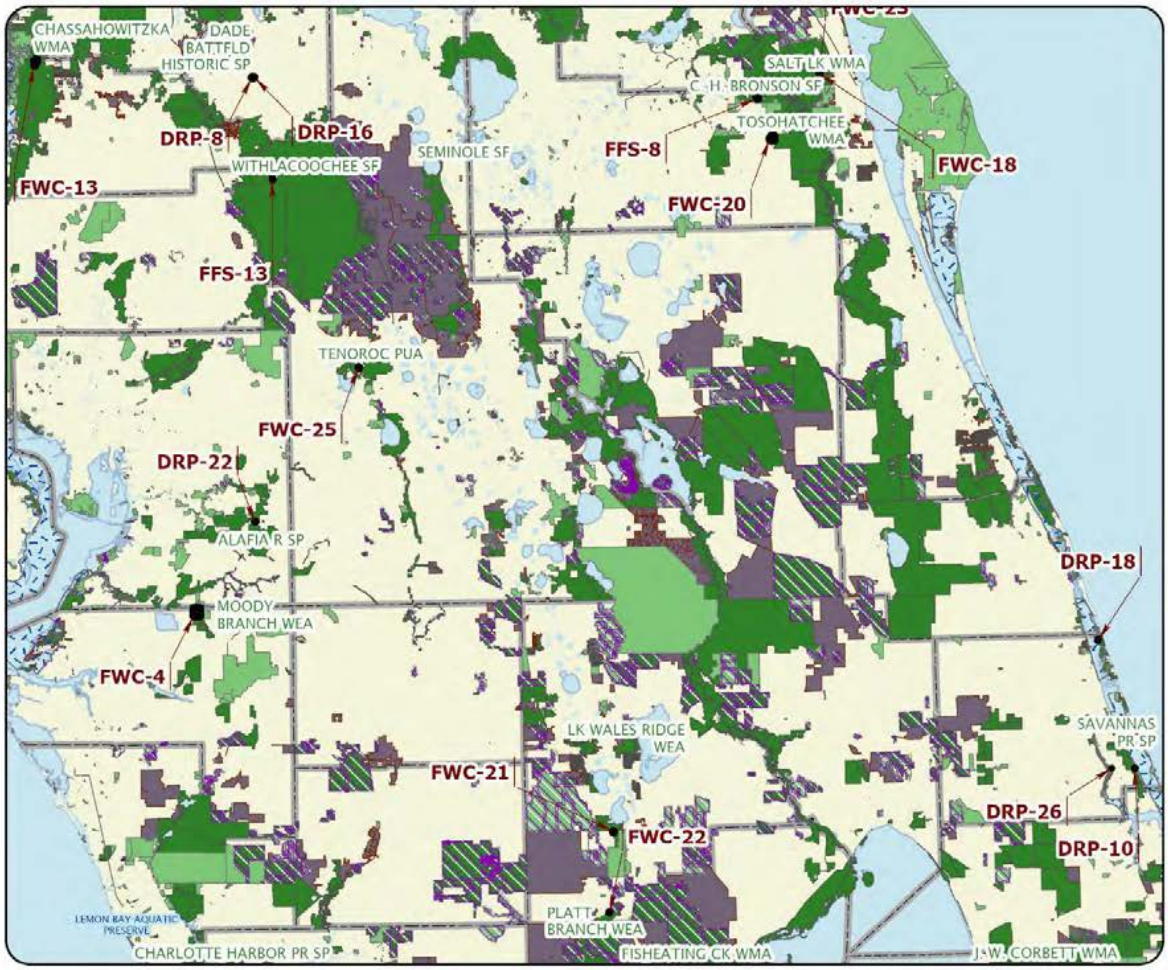
FLAGLER, LAKE, MARION, PUTNAM, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Sites
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 10 20 Miles

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STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 4

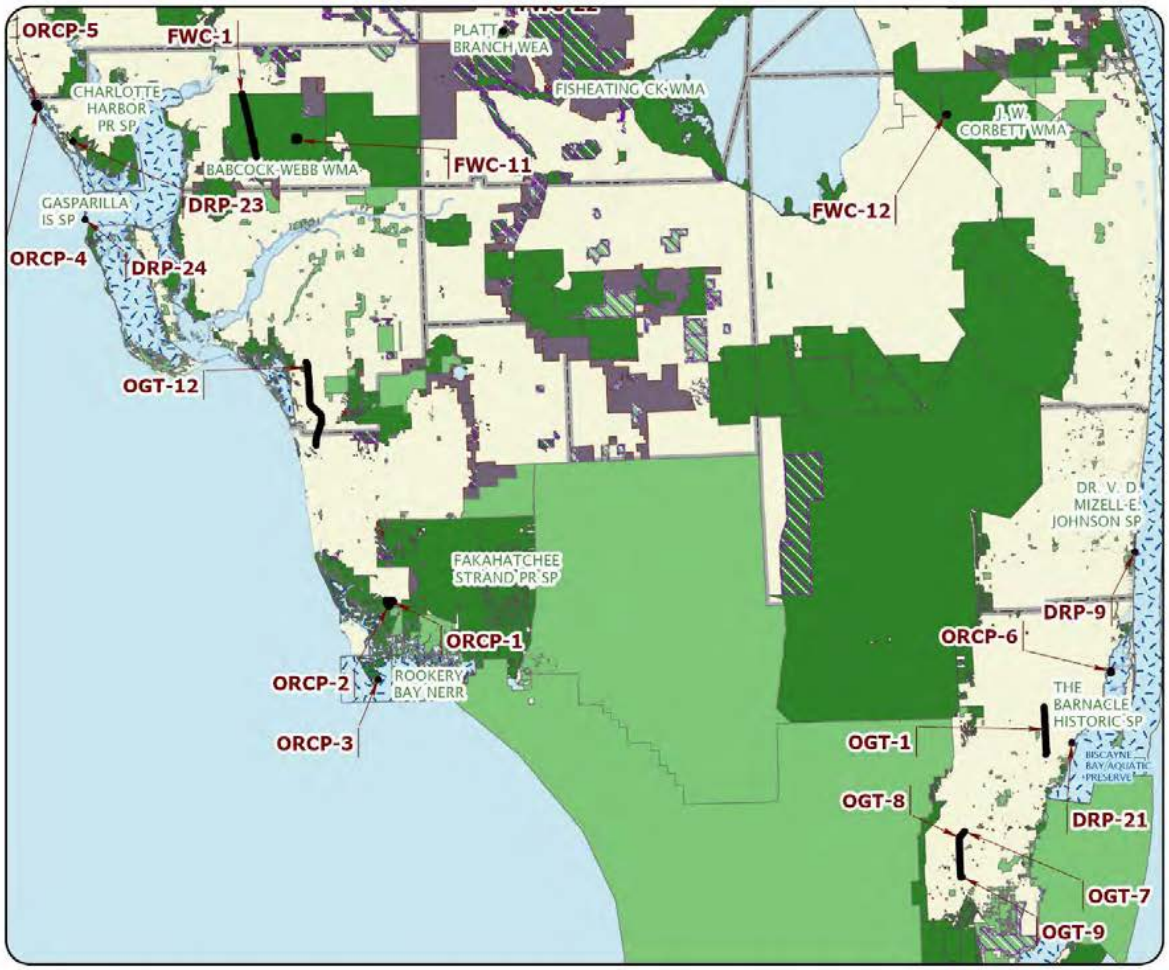
BREVARD, HERNANDO, HIGHLANDS, HILLSBOROUGH, MANATEE, ORANGE, PASCO, POLK, ST. LUCIE, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Sites
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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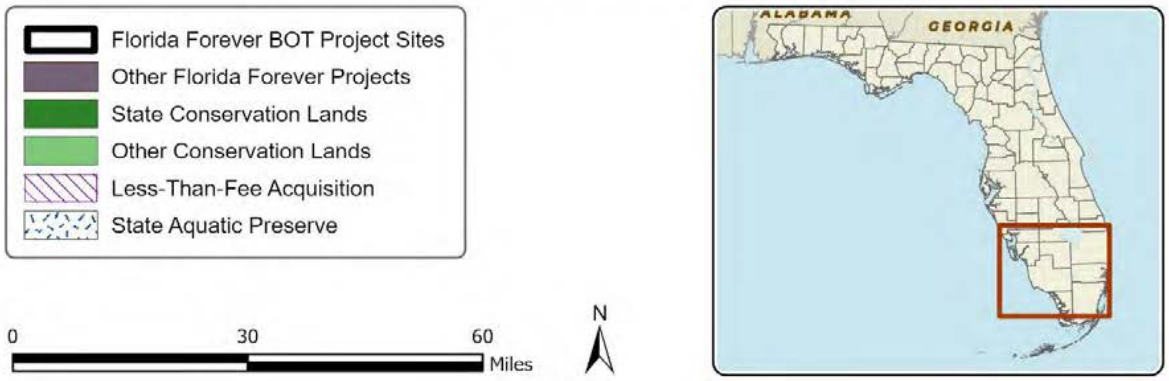
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STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 5

BROWARD, CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, MIAMI-DADE, AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES



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Twelvemile Slough

Critical Natural Lands

Hendry County

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*15,968*
Acquired Acres	*8,717*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,251*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$56,579,947*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Twelvemile Slough project will protect an exemplary twelve-mile-long slough, or "river of grass" natural community, that forms a broad band of emergent sedges, grasses and herbs running east through the southern part of the project. The Twelvemile Slough provides important habitat for many species, but particularly those that require extensive areas of habitat to maintain viable populations, such as the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*).

General Description

The drainage basin of the proposal flows into the Okaloacoochee Slough project acquired by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Florida Forest Service (FFS). The Okaloacoochee Slough and its associated watershed ultimately flow into the Fakahatchee Strand.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Redmargin zephyrlily**	G2G3/S2S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Eastern spotted skunk	G4/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Twelvemile Slough project 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, airboats and other motorized equipment that disrupt the quiet atmosphere or disturb wetlands should not be allowed. Other recreational activities could include picnicking, camping, nature study trails, hiking trails and freshwater fishing. Hunting might also be considered appropriate if further review indicates this activity will not have an adverse impact on the property.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Twelvemile Slough project to Group B of the Florida Forever 2001 Priority List. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition project, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 14,419 acres, multiple parcels and four landowners (A and M of Hendry County LTD, Richard H. Roberts, Alico Inc. and McClure Properties LTD). The Roberts and Albritton parcels were designated as essential.

2002

On April 25, 2002, ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,416-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands and consisted of one owner, McClure Properties LTD. The landowner, with property already in the original boundary, requested the remainder of his ownership be added.

In June 2002, the state acquired 7,486 acres (Albritton tract) with Florida Forever Land Acquisition Program funds of $11 million to be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as the Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife Management Area.

2003

In December 2003, an additional 160-acre northern tract was acquired.

2006

On June 9, 2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority List.

2008

In May 2008, a correction to the boundary was warranted and the 160 acres of land purchased in 2003 was officially incorporated into the Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife Management Area boundary.

2011

On April 15, 2011, ARC recommended an 87-acre boundary reduction for land occupied by residential development, commercial buildings or infrastructure.

On May 27, 2011, a donation of 310.08 acres was received from AGBLLC of Florida as the result of panther mitigation. FFS will manage this property as part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

There is some potential for cost sharing with SFWMD and TNC.

Management Policy Statement

The principal purposes of the project are to protect habitat important to the Florida panther and other species of concern, as well as to preserve the hydrologic connection between 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 carefully controlled consumptive uses. Managers should control access to the project, thoroughly inventory resources and monitor management activities to ensure that they are conserving site resources. Managers should limit educational and recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

Manager(s)

FWC is recommended as lead manager. FFS is recommended as a cooperating agency.

Management Prospectus

This project is part of the larger Okaloacoochee Slough wetlands that partially serve as headwaters of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve. The land in this project serves to protect groundwater and habitat for species like the Florida panther and snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*). Strategic habitat conservation areas for some of these species comprise roughly a quarter of the project lands. The entire length of the eastern boundary of the project is contiguous with the 32,162-acre Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest/Wildlife Management Area. The following purposes should guide development of management goals: assessing current land use and natural resources to determine existing conditions and future requirements for inventory and monitoring; conserving, protecting and restoring cultural resources, landscapes, forests, water resources and other elements important to ecosystem functions; conserving, protecting and restoring characteristic biological diversity original to natural communities, including protecting, maintaining or enhancing conditions for rare, threatened and endangered species; developing and adapting project plans, procedures and techniques for improved success in meeting management goals, including the Florida Panther Habitat Preservation Plan; and establishing multiple-use natural resource-based recreation opportunities that are compatible, and which are consistent with the other resource conservation purposes and management goals for the area.

Qualifications for State Designation

The Twelvemile Slough project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management and environmental area. In 2002, a portion acquired became the Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife Management Area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many 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, because 57 percent 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-establishing native groundcover, exotic vegetation control, prescribed fire and control of conservation-compatible access by the user community.

Proposed uses of the area include opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education and other recreation activities. Since the principal purpose of the project is 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 would 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.

Restoration would be guided by established procedures and techniques, improved through adaptive management themes, and would emphasize re-establishing native plant communities on pasture and hydrological restoration. Infestations of invasive exotic species, including Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia),* water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), occur within the area. There will be efforts to eradicate or control the infestations to reduce the potential for further spread.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be on site security, posting boundaries, relationships with stakeholders, public-use assessments, fire management, resource inventories, exotic species control and removing refuse. A conceptual management plan, developed by FWC with a stakeholder-based management advisory group, will specify management goals and objectives.

Longer-range activities would focus on meeting goals and objectives in the conceptual management plan. They include prescribed fire, habitat restoration, protecting or propagating critical habitat for listed species and expanding recreation opportunities. Essential roads would be stabilized and maintained for public and management access. Floral and faunal inventories and evaluations of the management projects would be continually updated by FWC 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.

To meet wildlife habitat management objectives, sustainable timber harvests will be conducted using acceptable silviculture practices in consultation with 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 from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some future revenues might be from other nature-based recreation opportunities and cattle-grazing contracts. About 13 percent of the project is pine flatwoods that could be managed to offset operational costs. But future revenue from timber resources will depend on appropriate plant-community and hydrologic restoration. FWC will cooperate with federal, state and local government agencies and non-government organizations, to the greatest extent possible. It is anticipated that FWC will need the most assistance and cooperation from the following: FWC will require three full-time positions 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 within the project.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$565,196	$51,763
OCO	$707,740	$499,239
TOTAL	$1,272,936	$551,002

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



TWELVEMILE SLOUGH

HENDRY COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 2.5 5 Miles

N



Upper Shoal River

Critical Natural Lands

Walton County

Year Added to Priority List	*2003*
Project Acres	*13,702*
Acquired Acres	*2,495*
Remaining Project Acres	*11,207*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$42,983,156*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Upper Shoal River project will conserve fragile resources within the Upper Shoal River watershed, protect unaltered and intact natural seepage streams and enhance habitat for rare and imperiled species. The project will support the creation of a connected landscape corridor with nearby conservation lands including important buffer lands surrounding Eglin Air Force Base.

General Description

The Upper Shoal River project is comprised of four tracts which include part of the river and its floodplain. The first of the two tracts, the Pine Log Creek tract contains 9,727 acres and is located about 3.5 miles north of the river and abuts the Okaloosa County line. The second tract, Gum Creek, contains 2,300 acres and is located about five miles southeast of the Pine Log Creek tract. Combined, the two tracts contain approximately 20 miles of headwater tributary streams. The Permenter tract adds 329 acres just downstream of where the river forms from the confluence of Gum and Big Swamp creeks. The Shoal River Camp is a 1,338-acre tract situated along the river and mostly contains river floodplain. Conservation lands near the project include those on nearby Eglin Air Force Base, Yellow River Water Management Area and Blackwater River State Forest.

The project is characterized by high, rolling sandy hills that drain 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. Most of the site's original pinelands have been disturbed by conversion to pine plantations that comprise most of the proposal. The Permenter tract features isolated areas of longleaf pine regeneration, with some areas of native groundcover remaining. Uplands in the southeastern section of the Shoal River Camp tract appear to represent sandhill or possibly upland pine.

Upland communities in the Pine Log and Gum Creek tracts 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. Forested wetlands have 1,550 acres of baygall, floodplain or bottomland forest. The actual seepage stream communities are about 10 acres. Neither of the tracts show evidence of intensive management activities. Fire has not occurred on the tracts for many years, resulting in increased fuel loads.

Imperiled or rare animal species either occurring or likely to occur within the project, include the blackmouth shiner (*Notropis melanostomus*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Bear have been documented to use riparian corridors of the Shoal River and its tributaries in Okaloosa County, and to occur in Walton County. Slope forests, forested wetlands and seepage streams may support several listed plant and animal species, such as the pine barrens tree frog (*Hyla andersonii*), which has been documented to occur in the project area. 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 Florida flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*), hairy wild indigo (*Baptisia calycosa var. villosa*) and yellow fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integra*).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Wherry's redflower pitcherplant**	G3T1?/S1
Pine barrens treefrog	G3/S2S3
*Arkansas oak**	G3/S3
*Mountain laurel**	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Upper Shoal River project has the potential to provide a diverse resource-based recreational experience. The project parcels have good boundary configurations that will enhance management efforts and are easily accessible from paved and unpaved public roads. The tracts can support a diversity of resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities. Hiking, off-road bicycling and horseback riding can be accommodated.

Horseback riding may be more appropriate for the larger Pine Log Creek tract. Depending on management emphasis, hunting would be suitable on the Pine Log Creek tract. The smaller Gum Creek

tract is closer to residential areas and would not be as suitable for this activity. However, both tracts could support camping, natural resource appreciation and educational activities.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this fee-simple project on the Florida Forever project list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2024

In June 2024, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 329.26 acres in Walton County.

In December 2024, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 1,338.42 acres in Walton County to the project boundary.

2025

On March 11, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 2,479.84 acres in Walton County from The Trust for Public Land.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Department of Defense are acquisition partners for this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goal for the Florida Forest Service (FFS) 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. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS management activities on this project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and FFS will be co-managers. The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the Gum Creek tract.

Management Prospectus

FFS and FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Upper Shoal River under a unified management concept. The project has the capability to provide important fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with silviculture. Since the project goals include protecting biodiversity and providing natural resource-based recreational and educational opportunities, programs

would be developed that serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Conservation and protection of native habitats and rare or imperiled 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, timber stands would be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This would provide habitat for species that would be found in the natural environment, therefore benefitting biodiversity. The project area is near many users that enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing.

Qualifications for State Designation

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 project includes headwater streams and creeks connected to the Shoal River system and is entirely within its watershed.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Upper Shoal River is a medium-need tract that will require up-front resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately 75 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance from past silvicultural activity; additional effort will be required to accomplish restoration. FFS and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan 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 determine appropriate desired future conditions and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools.

Other unified management priorities will include protection and restoration of sensitive wetlands along with 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. 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies will emphasize site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory and removing refuse. The managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task

assignments and other related management duties. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a conceptual management plan specifying area management goals and objectives.

Long-term goals would emphasize management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, wildlife and water. These goals would include restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting listed species.

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. 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, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices.

Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources. A plan identifying road for vehicular access by the public, and roads required for administrative use will be developed. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. 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.

Revenue-generating Potential

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. Additional revenue could come from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might come from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated. Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all management funds, site-generated revenues and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between FFS and FWC.

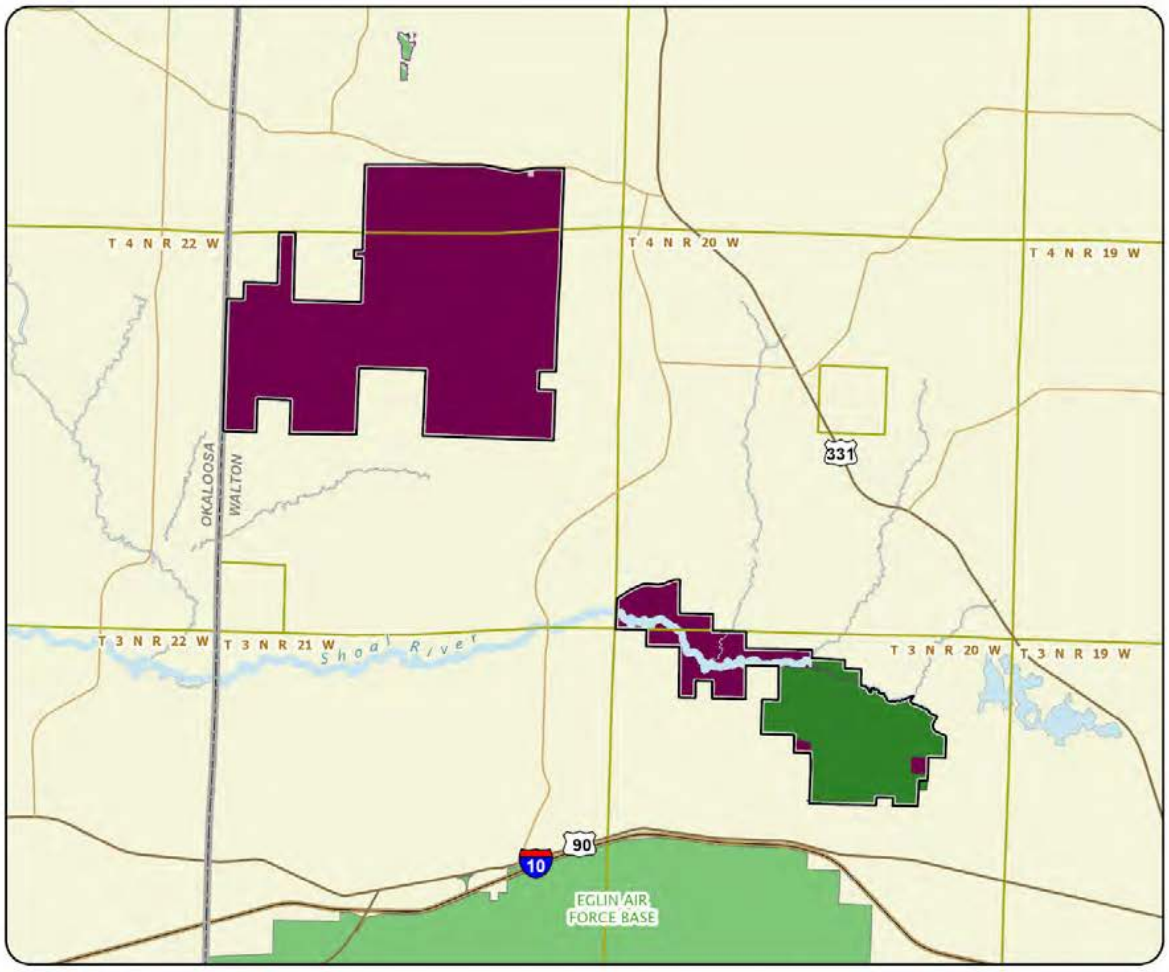
Cooperators in Management Activities

The unified managers (FFS and FWC) 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.

Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	$82,345	$33,072
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$2,187,189	$58,179
OCO	$372,162	$286,236
TOTAL	$2,641,696	$377,487

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



UPPER SHOAL RIVER

WALTON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

Critical Natural Lands

Lake, Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*80,224*
Acquired Acres	*59,262*
Remaining Project Acres	*20,962*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$198,384,210*

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 (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and a variety of other wildlife. The Wekiva-Ocala Greenway project will protect these species and the Wekiva and St. Johns River basins by creating natural corridors connecting the Wekiva Basin state parks with the Ocala National Forest. It will provide the people of the Orlando area with access to outdoor resource-based recreation and support the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

General Description

The 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 Florida black bear, Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Florida scrub-jay, southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*), Florida scrub lizard (*Sceloporus woodi*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). It incorporates most of the forested wetlands along the St. Johns River and Wekiva River between Orlando and 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 between 50-75 springs within its boundary. The Wekiva-Ocala Connector site provides a critical wildlife corridor between Ocala National Forest and the other portions of the project along the Wekiva River.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Okeechobee gourd**	G1/S1
Striped newt	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
*Florida hasteola**	G1/S1
Seminole spring siltsnail	G1/S1
St. Johns elephantear	G1G2/S1S2
Short-tailed snake	G2/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project sites are designated as state reserves or preserves and state forests, offering opportunities for canoeing, hiking, fishing and camping. Acquisition would also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Acquisition Planning

1994

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 data, the approximate total project acreage was 67,585 acres. Seminole Springs/Woods: Seminole Springs - core tracts include Strawn Tract; M.S. Carter (acquired); and Brumlick parcels (acquired through eminent domain). Wekiva-Ocala Connector: Core Tracts West - Maxwell and Holman (acquired); Shockley (acquired); Harper (acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District; SJRWMD); 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); Hollywood Pines, Inc. St. Johns River: New Garden Coal, the largest ownership, was acquired in 2005. The BMK Ranch parcel has been acquired.

1995

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee-simple, ± 5,616-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Eastern Marketing Inc. and consisted of multiple landowners and parcels. All tracts were designated as essential. In addition, the project phasing was removed.

In 1995, the Lake Tracey parcel (441 acres) was donated to the Lake County Water Authority.

1996

On October 30, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee-simple, 425-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands, consisted of seven landowners (Jung, Hollywood Pines, Miranda Trust, Overstreet, New Garden Coal, Seminole Springs and Fisch) and 12 parcels. Other acquisitions in the Wekiva Basin totaled 18,400 acres and included Wekiva Buffers, Wekiwa Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run, Lower Wekiva River State Park, Hontoon Island State Recreation Area and Blue Spring State Park.

1997

On July 18, 1997, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee-simple, 128-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Conway Kittredge, who already had 20 acres in the current project boundary. Any portion of the addition that is not needed for resource protection or management will be surplus.

1998

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee-simple, 1,507-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and consisted of 20 parcels. At the time, 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.

On December 16, 1998, SJRWMD established the Holman conservation easement (1,041 acres) in the project boundary.

2001

On December 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 and 13 tracts.

2002

On December 5, 2002, ARC approved a fee-simple, 5,455- acre addition to the project boundary.

2003

On June 12, 2003, Florida Communities Trust (FCT) acquired Kelly Park (109.39 acres).

2004

On June 4, 2004, ARC approved a less-than-fee, 572-acre addition to the project boundary. The property, owned by Robert Maxwell, consisted of two parcels and was sponsored by the owner's representative, Roland Pacetti Realty.

2006

On August 15, 2006, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) approved the purchase of a conservation easement from Robert Maxwell.

On December 8, 2006, 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) and consisted of two parcels with two owners (Natalie Windsor and Jerry Ellis). DRP will manage the 17-acre Windsor tract as part of Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park. The 60-acre Ellis tract will be managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) as part of Seminole State Forest.

On December 19, 2006, the BOT acquired approximately 1,584 acres.

2007

On March 2, 2007, Neighborhood Lakes (210.5 acres) was created in the project boundary by SJRWMD and Lake County.

On October 10, 2007, Lake County acquired Peavy/Cardinal Homes (74 acres) in the project boundary.

On December 14, 2007, ARC approved a fee-simple 675-acre addition to the project boundary. Known as the Pine Plantation Addition, it was sponsored by Henry Dean Esq. and consisted of five parcels with four landowners. DRP will manage the parcels. The parcels have been designated essential. Approximately 421 acres of the addition have been acquired and are being managed as part of the greenway.

2008

On June 10, 2008, Lake County acquired the Ellis Acres Reserve (410 acres), of which 121 acres are in the project boundary.

On September 30, 2008, the BOT approved the purchase of 385 acres from Project Orlando LLC; Pinestraw Partners LLC; and Herscho Properties, Inc.

On October 3, 2008, a 345-acre parcel was purchased from Palmer ownership in Pine Plantation for $24,930,304. About 40 acres in the southeast corner of the Palmer parcel was acquired by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority for a future conveyance to Orange County for a park.

On November 20, 2008, the BOT approved a 36-acre purchase from Project Orlando LLC.

In November 2008, 35.7 acres of the Project Orlando, LLC ownership were purchased. DRP will manage the site.

2009

On March 27, 2009, 307.17 acres were purchased from the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority for BARN, LLP parcel (reimbursement of $10 million paid by the Authority—Neighborhood Lakes, Phase II).

In June 2009, Orange County acquired the Pine Plantation Property (40 acres) in the project boundary.

2011

On March 15, 2011, TNC acquired the Hollywood Pines Tract (651 acres) in the project boundary.

On July 27, 2011, SJRWMD established the Sutton Ranch conservation easement (198 acres), of which 186 acres are in the project boundary.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2016

On August 8, 2016, ARC added the Shell Creek/Ginsbach parcel (30 acres) to the project boundary.

2017

In 2017, a total of 236.26 acres in the project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2020

In September 2020, the 4.6-acre "Arnold" parcel was acquired for $253,300 and will be managed by FFS as part of Seminole State Forest.

On December 11, 2020, ARC approved the addition of 9 acres (Wekiva River Islands) in Seminole County and a 170-acre parcel (St. Johns Riverbend) in Volusia County to the project boundary.

2022

In 2022, DEP acquired 150.21 acres in fee in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and FFS from Ann and Fred Hunter that will be managed as part of Seminole State Forest.

2023

In December 2023, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 138.2 acres in Lake County to the project boundary.

2024

On January 29, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 9.7 acres in Lake County from Sue Lee.

On April 10, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 31.8 acres in Lake County from the estate of Mercedes Murrell.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 1,953 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

On June 20, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.02 acres in Lake County from LJR Property Solutions, LLC.

On November 5, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 664 acres in Lake County from TNC.

Coordination

Department of Transportation, FCT, Lake County Water Authority, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, SJRWMD and TNC are all acquisition partners in the project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway project are: to conserve and protect lands that contain native, relatively unaltered species 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 or imperiled species; to conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in order to enhance or protect significant water, recreational, timber or wildlife resources; to provide areas for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Manager(s)

FFS proposes to manage the Seminole Springs and western connector portions of the project. The remainder will be managed by DRP. DRP may elect to assume management of the western portion of the Strawn property later if it is purchased.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The large size, variety of forest resources and diversity of the former Seminole Springs and the western Wekiva-Ocala Connector projects make them highly desirable for management as a state forest. The quality of resources on the remainder of the project makes them suitable for state preserves.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

On the portion to be managed by 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. The portion to be managed by DRP, the BMK Ranch (acquired), 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 is expected to have a higher level of recreational use and development compatible with resource management than the other properties.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

About 8,000 acres have been purchased by the state and SJRWMD and have been assigned to FFS for management as Seminole State Forest. 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 refuse. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered species will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for the property will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires wherever

possible. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. DRP will promote recreation and environmental education. For 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

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 the project is expected to be low. 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. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. DRP recommends no local governments or others for management of its project area.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	SPTF/LATF/CARL	SPTF/LATF/CARL
Salary	$0	$0
OPS	$425	$425
Expense	$5,739	$5,739
OCO	$0	$0
FCO	$38,798	$0
TOTAL	$44,962	$6,164

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

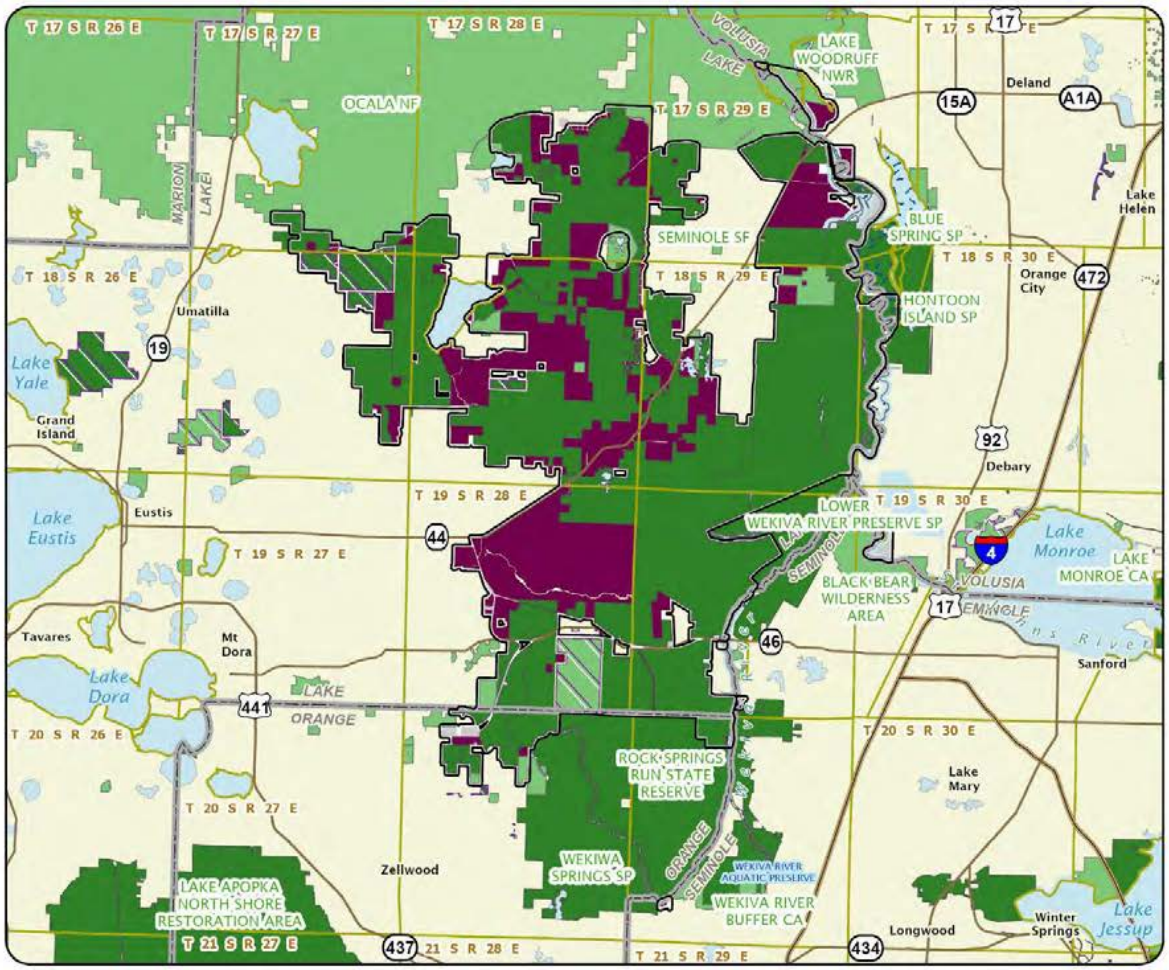
FFS (Seminole State Forest)	1995/96	1996/97
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$35,440	$64,440
OPS	$0	$4,500
Expense	$22,600	$40,225
OCO	$0	$29,270
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$58,040	$138,435

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS (Wekiva-Ocala Connector: West Corridor)	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$28,140	$28,140
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$20,000	$15,000
OCO	$90,400	$4,500
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$138,540	$47,640

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



WEKIVA-OCALA GREENWAY

LAKE, ORANGE, SEMINOLE, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL INCENTIVES



Annutteliga Hammock

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Citrus and Hernando Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*19,023*
Acquired Acres	*11,458*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,565*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$165,505,578*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Annutteliga Hammock project will conserve the remaining forestland between the Withlacoochee State Forest and Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area. 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. This project will protect habitat for a variety of rare and imperiled wildlife and many sandhill-dwelling plants including giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*). The project will also provide the public with a large area for outdoor recreation in this fast-growing region.

General Description

This project is defined by its quality sandhill and upland hardwood forest. Remnants of Annutteliga Hammock on steep-sided hills and in small valleys cover approximately 15 percent of the project area. The project's hardwood forests resemble 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 approximately 64 percent of the project. It is an excellent habitat for many rare vertebrates adapted to xeric communities and for several rare plant species. Additionally, 20 archaeological sites that attest to the long history of Native American occupation are located within the project area.

Limerock mines, golf courses and residential developments are now seriously fragmenting these natural areas, but excellent examples of the original vegetation and wildlife remain. The Suncoast Parkway was constructed and bisects this project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Brooksville bellflower**	G1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Floyd's sandhill millipede	G1/S1
*Scrub bluestem**	G1G2/S1S2
*Cooley's water-willow**	G2Q/S2
Short-tailed snake	G2/S2
*Pinkroot**	G2/S2
*Pygmy pipes**	G2/S2
**Plant species are in italics*	

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 Florida Forest Service; FFS)], Florida Crushed Stone, Orange Meadow Corp./Seville (acquired), Blackwell (westernmost tract – acquired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District), Tooke's Lake Joint Venture and other large hammock and sandhill parcels.

1994

In 1994, Hernando County established the Fickett Hammock Preserve (148 acres), all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

1995

On March 10, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved the addition of 990 acres to the project boundary.

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council transferred 773 acres from the priority category to the less-than-fee category.

1999

On July 29, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council combined Lecanto Sandhills (2,029 acres of sandhills, xeric hammocks and depression marshes in Citrus County) with the Annutteliga Hammock project.

2001

In 2001, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired the Lecanto Sandhills to be managed by FFS/Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

2011

On April 15, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended a 6,211-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/rural/commercial development.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2016

On June 17, 2016, ARC approved a boundary reduction of 5,348 acres. ARC approved the removal of 4,125 parcels that had a total 2015 market value of $37,692,703. ARC removed sites in 10 areas that had a total of 4,125 parcels.

2018

On June 15, 2018, ARC members voted to add 403 acres in Hernando County (Buckner/Coastal Trails Partnership Property). This is an inholding of the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.

2020

In 2020, a 0.52-acre inholding of Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area was acquired to be managed by FWC.

On December 11, 2020, ARC approved an addition of 48.3 acres in Hernando County to the project boundary.

2021

On June 11, 2021, ARC approved an addition of 15 acres in Hernando County to the project boundary.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 452 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

On November 24, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 339.78 acres in Hernando County from Cabot Citrus OPCO, LLC.

In December 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 40.17 acres in Hernando County to the project boundary.

Coordination

On August 3, 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Florida Department of Transportation and DEP for the future conveyance of a portion of the Annutteliga Hammock project within the proposed alignment for the Suncoast Parkway was signed. This project is also included within the Southwest Florida Water Management District'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 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 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.

Manager(s)

FFS will manage acreage acquired in the northeastern and southeastern portion of the project. FWC will manage acreage acquired in the western portion.

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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

FFS identifies no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention. The level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

FWC expects that the Annutteliga Hammock will be heavily used for wildlife-oriented recreation as it lies within 40 miles of the St. Petersburg/Tampa metropolitan area. 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The primary land management goal for FFS 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. This total resource concept will guide FFS management activities on this project.

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

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory and removing refuse. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously protecting 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 formulating a management plan.

Prior to the collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project are conceptual. 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 using practices that incorporate recent research findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be used to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Timber activities will primarily consist of improvement thinning and regeneration harvests to maintain and perpetuate 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 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. 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 restored to the greatest extent practical.

During the first year after acquisition, FWC's 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

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

FWC may harvest some pinelands to 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.

Management Cost Summary

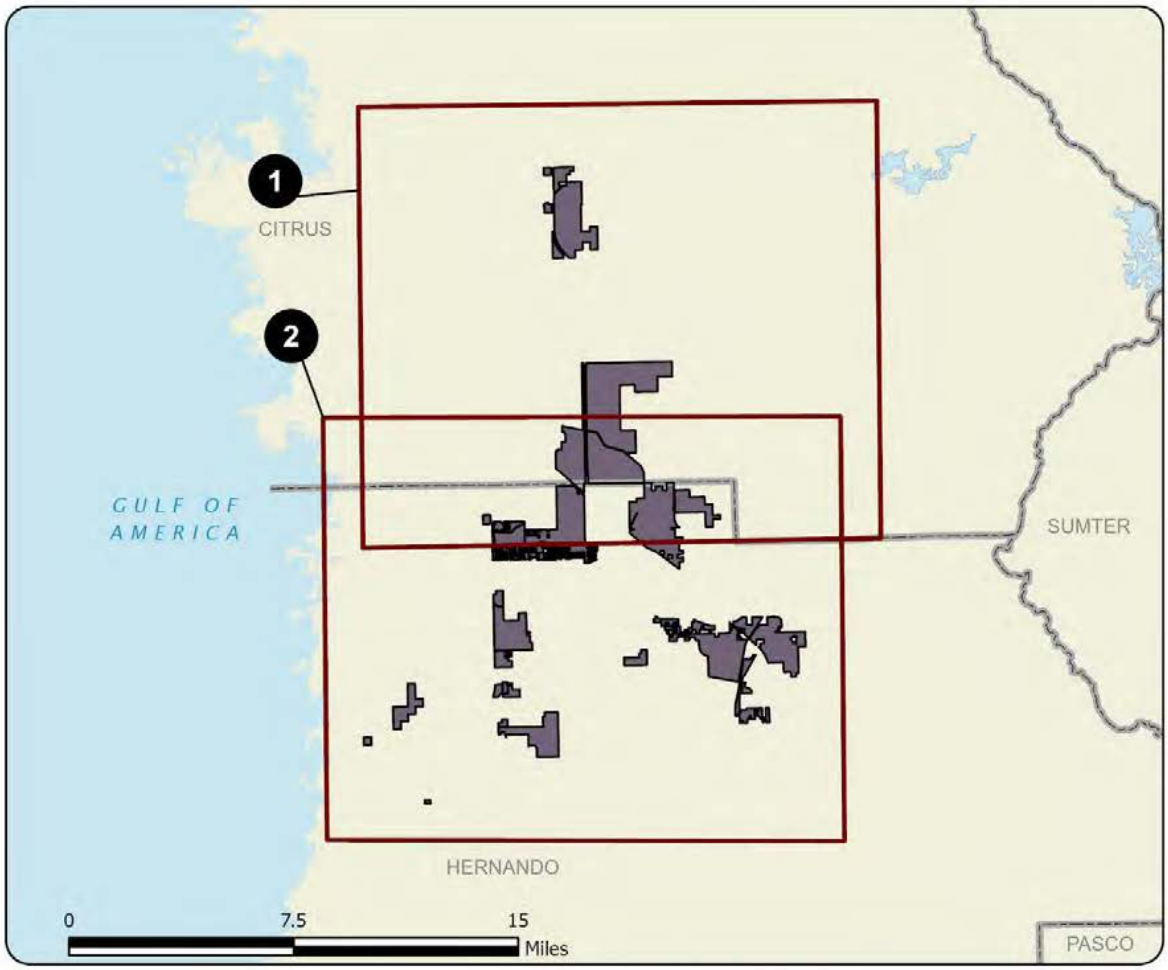
FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	$85,020	$85,020
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$25,000	$25,000
OCO	$116,800	$10,000
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$226,820	$120,020

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	$78,353	$78,353
OPS	$10,500	$5,250
Expense	$52,500	$42,000
OCO	$124,000	$10,000
FCO	$150,000	$0
TOTAL	$415,353	$135,603

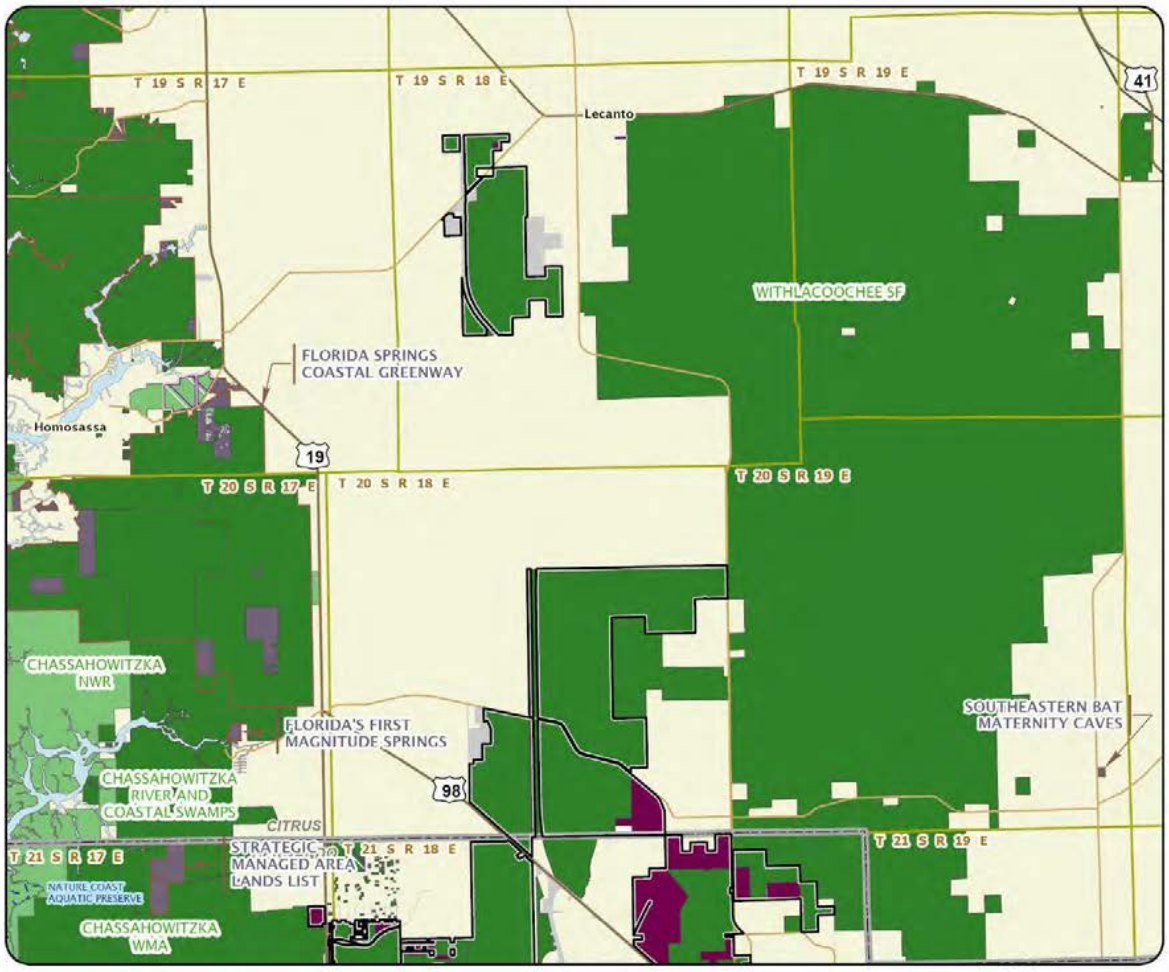
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK: OVERVIEW

CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES





ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK: MAP 1

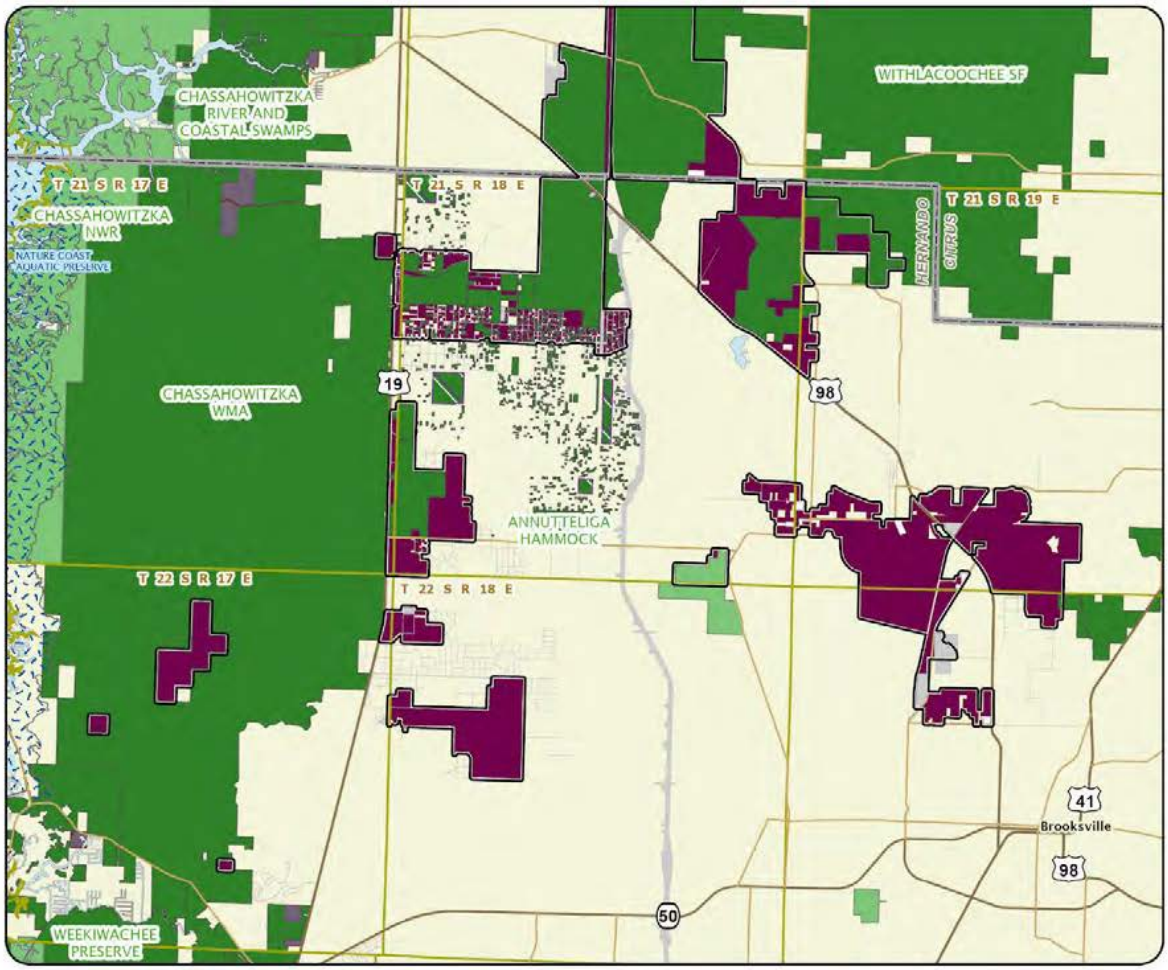
CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK: MAP 2

CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 3.5 7 Miles

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Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Martin County

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*14,403*
Acquired Acres	*6,225*
Remaining Project Acres	*8,178*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$281,908,364*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project will conserve some of the last remaining scrub, pine flatwoods, marshes and South Fork's floodplain along the St. Lucie River. The project contributes to the protection of the quality of water in the St. Lucie and Loxahatchee River basins and will provide the public with the opportunity to enjoy the original landscape of this fast-growing area.

General Description

Mesic to wet flatwoods, which cover almost half 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 species associated with the project inhabit the scrub, including the Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and extremely rare and federally listed perforate reindeer lichen (*Cladonia perforata*). However, scrub habitat is being lost to development. The area also includes the headwaters of the South Fork St. Lucie River (a part of the drainage basin of the Loxahatchee River) which is important for Martin County's water supply. No archaeological sites are known to occur in the project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Perforate reindeer lichen**	G2G3/S2S3
*Nodding pinweed**	G3/S3
*Piedmont jointgrass**	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

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

1995

On February 14, 1995, the Governor and Cabinet directed the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council 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 "Conservation and Recreation Lands Program committee report to the Cabinet with their determination prior to any purchases on that particular tract of land." Public meetings were held on June 12, 1995, and October 5, 1995.

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed approximately 480 acres from the project boundary due to input received at the public meetings. The tracts had been recently developed.

1996

On July 16, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 41 acres to the project boundary and approximately 2,118 acres were marked as the minimum acceptable acquisition boundary for the Mobil (Seawind) ownership within the project boundary.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council designated the Phase II corridor to Jonathan Dickinson State Park as essential.

1999

On October 21, 1999, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 598 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

2000

On August 22, 2000, ARC added 1,920 acres to the project boundary.

2005

On February 11, 2005, ARC approved adding 304 acres in 16 parcels (Kitching Creek Addition) to the boundaries of the project.

2006

On December 8, 2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2008

On July 16, 2008, Martin County acquired the Canopus property (5.75 acres) for access to Kitching Creek.

2009

On April 24, 2009, Martin County acquired the Datillio property (44.98 acres).

2010

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

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

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, rare and imperiled species; to conserve, protect, manage or restore ecosystems; to enhance or protect significant natural resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas for recreational uses.

Manager(s)

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks is the recommended manager for this project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

This project has the size and quality of resources desired for management under the state park system.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project is a high-need management area requiring intensive resource management and protection. Depending on the types of public use, there may be additional needs for management of public use activities and facilities.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

After acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural resource protection and efforts to develop 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 likely 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.

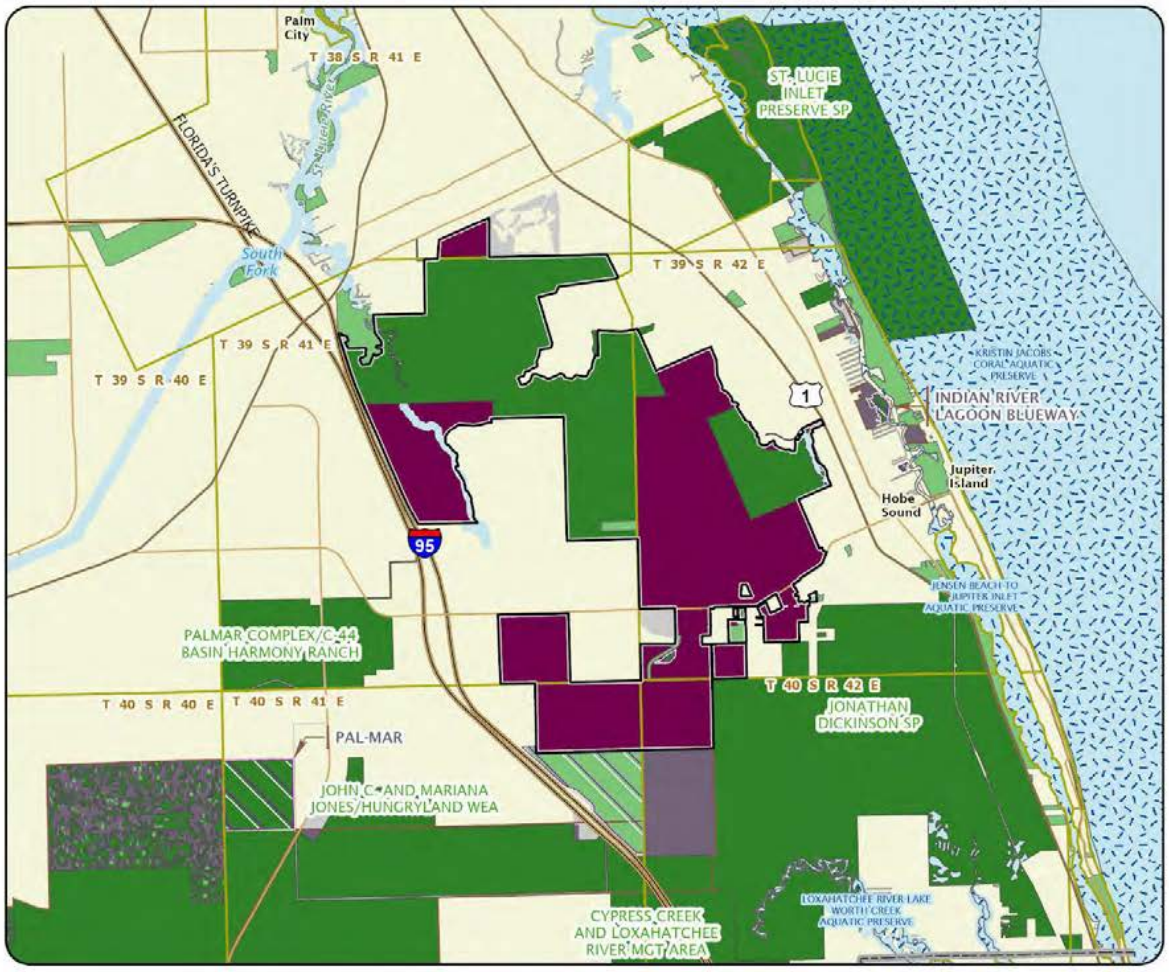
Cooperators in Management Activities

No local government or others are recommended for management of this project.

Management Cost Summary

Division of Recreation and Parks	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	$52,994	$52,994
OPS	$8,000	$8,000
Expense	$26,307	$26,307
OCO	$129,212	$129,212
TOTAL	$216,513	$216,513

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ATLANTIC RIDGE ECOSYSTEM

MARTIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Nassau County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*55,845*
Acquired Acres	*1,247*
Remaining Project Acres	*54,598*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$268,690,056*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor project will create an ecological corridor between the Okefenokee Swamp and the Atlantic Ocean by connecting a variety of private and public conservation lands extending from Amelia Island and along the St. Marys River to northwestern Nassau County. The project will contribute to the protection of water quality for the St. Marys and Nassau Rivers along with their tributaries and estuaries, important spawning habitat for the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*).

General Description

The Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor project represents a partially contiguous assemblage of privately-owned properties that span the northern edge of Nassau County, stretching from near the community of Boulogne to the mouth of the St. Marys River at the Atlantic Ocean. The proposal has an estimated 27 miles of frontage on the St. Marys River and provides multiple scenic vistas of Georgia at Roses Bluff and Reids Bluffs.

The properties are under multiple ownerships, with a large portion (38,844 acres or approximately 70 percent of the proposal) owned by either Rayonier Forest Resources or its real estate subsidiary Raydient LLC and are proposed for a combination of fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition.

Pine plantations occupy most of the uplands and are the most abundant landcover type both on the Rayonier tracts and throughout the proposal overall. On the Rayonier Inc. tracts, these plantations consist of improved slash pine, longleaf pine or loblolly pine, and span many stages of the growth cycle from recently harvested stands to mature thinned stands. The extent and structure of vegetation within these plantations varies greatly with the stage in the timber rotation and management history. Rayonier Inc.'s tracts have historically been managed to Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards. Significant naturally vegetated areas persist along wetland drainages throughout the tracts, and more notably, on upland bluffs near the river.

Mature upland hardwood forest is found on the bluffs occurring above bottomlands, swamps and along the river including on the Tompkins Landing Tract, the Land Trust UAD tract, and at Roses Bluff. Sandhill is also present on the most well drained upland soils in some areas of the proposal. A stand of mature mesic hammock on the Philips tract is one of very few examples of this community in the proposal.

The Rayonier Inc. tract contains an extensive area (approximately 500 acres) of former pine plantation that appears to have been cleared and planted to a continuous stand of turf/pasture grass. As many of the properties within the proposal are working or former agricultural lands, substantial areas of improved pasture and semi-improved pasture are frequent throughout the proposal.

Interconnected complexes of floodplain swamp, bottomland forest, baygall, and basin swamp surround or form the headwaters of several blackwater streams that flow to the St. Marys River or to the Nassau River. Floodplain swamp occurs in broad areas adjacent to the St. Marys River, as well as along several smaller streams, including Wilder Swamp, McQueen Creek and the Little St. Marys River. Numerous isolated small swamps are common over much of the proposal but are most numerous on the Rayonier Inc. properties.

Baygall and bottomland forest communities both occur on lower slopes between uplands and swamps, and in slight rises within swampy areas. Close to the river and in western portions of the proposal, bottomland forests are more common than baygalls, although baygalls are common in eastern parts of the Rayonier properties and wherever soils at the base of slopes are saturated by groundwater seepage. Basin swamp is found within in the proposal and is common on the Rayonier Inc. tracts. This community predominates in the lowest-lying areas of poorly defined drainages inland from the river. Many of the forested wetland communities in the proposal have been logged.

Moving downstream along the St Marys, marshes become increasingly abundant in the river floodplain. Floodplain marshes dominated by sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*), eventually yield to salt marshes dominated by needle rush (*Juncus roemerianus*) and saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) nearer to the river mouth. The Thornton tract adjacent to Fort Clinch State Park is predominately salt marsh, although areas of unconsolidated substrate — unvegetated sandy mud within the salt marsh — and a small fringe of maritime hammock is also present.

Invasive plants vary widely in their frequency on the site. In the communities bordering the river, they were observed to be largely absent; but were observed in interior areas of some tracts.

Several rare or imperiled species have been documented on the project site including eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

The project includes 15 archaeological sites and six historical cemeteries. Standing on the bank of the St. Marys looking north, one can see the former historic landing at Crandall, Port Henry, a post-Civil War lumber and turpentine river port and the site of a Gullah Geechee African American cemetery. Sites within the project vary in age but are from the pre-Columbian and historic period.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Pineland scurfpea**	G1/S1
*Ciliate-leaf tickseed**	G2/S2
*Florida toothache grass**	G2/S2
Painted bunting, eastern population	G5T3Q/S1S2
*Nightflowering wild petunia**	G3?/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
*Little brown jug**	G5/S3
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
White ibis	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project includes inholdings in Fort Clinch State Park and Ralph E. Simmons State Forest. As such, these parcels will expand opportunities such as paddling, wildlife viewing and hiking.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On June 7, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

Nassau County's Conservation Land Acquisition and Management program is an acquisition partner.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor are: to restore the health and vigor of the project's natural communities; to mitigate the previous impacts to the saltmarsh; to provide resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities for multiple interests; to restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems ensuring the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened or rare, and other components of biological diversity including game and nongame wildlife and plants; and to restore, maintain, and protect hydrological functions related to water resources and the health of associated wetland and aquatic ecosystems.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) will manage acreage acquired within the optimum boundary of the Ralph E. Simmons State Forest. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation

and Parks (DRP) will manage lands acquired in the optimum boundary of the Fort Clinch State Park. Nassau County will manage any properties acquired that are not added to a state-managed area.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project includes inholdings in Ralph E. Simmons State Forest and Fort Clinch State Park. Acquisition of these inholdings will enhance management of the state forest and state park.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

FFS notes that there is no known history of fire on the property. Ideally, prescribed fire will be one of the primary tools utilized for resource management on the forest. The level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. All silvicultural activities may be conducted in compliance with the most recent edition of the Silviculture Best Management Practices Manual.

DRP expects that the protection of saltmarsh wetlands from disturbance is sufficient for management of the systems. A hydrological assessment would be needed to identify past impacts and to develop any necessary restoration plans.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The primary land management goals for FFS are to practice sustainable forest management, provide for resource-based outdoor recreation, restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems, protect known archaeological and historical sites, and restore and maintain hydrological functions related to water resources.

The short-term goals of FFS are to focus on site security and control of vehicle access to the site. Acquisition of areas within the Ralph E. Simmons State Forest optimum boundary would provide additional opportunities for nature-based recreation. Potential recreational activities may include fishing, kayaking/canoeing, boating, hiking, camping or Operation Outdoor Freedom events. FFS also mentions the potential for scientific study on the site.

During the first year after acquisition, DRP‘s emphasis will be placed on restoring saltmarsh on the property and expanding passive recreational opportunities namely, paddling access. Acquisition of this inholding would expand access directly to Egan’s Creek. A ramp could be developed in the future to avoid motorized vessels on the Amelia River. This development would need to be sensitive to preserving the nature and quality of the Fort Clinch State Park shoreline.

DRP plans to inventory the resources on the property and identify areas that may need additional security or protection. Further long-term plans will be addressed in the park’s management plan.

Revenue-generating Potential

FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. Revenue from these sales will vary, but FFS expects the revenue-generating potential of this project to be low to moderate. Additionally, collection of recreation-based fees may be collected where applicable.

DRP will continue to collect entrance fees for the Fort Clinch State Park.

Management Cost Summary

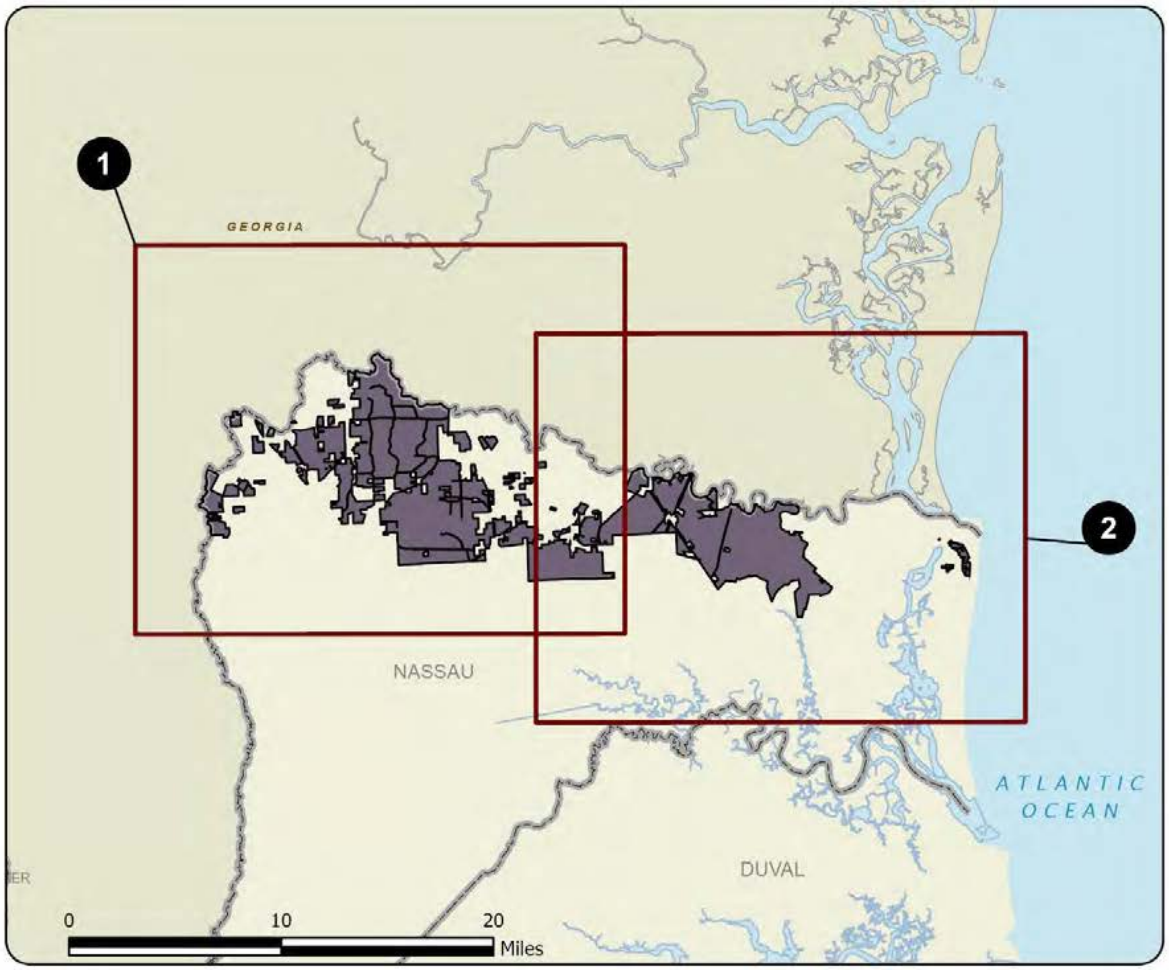
FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	Not Provided	$49,000
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	$18,000	Not Provided
OCO	$6,000	Not Provided
FCO	Not Provided	Not Provided
TOTAL	$24,000	$49,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source	LATF	LATF
Salary	Not Provided	$41,000
OPS	Not Provided	$30,000
Expense	$15,000	Not Provided
OCO	Not Provided	Not Provided
FCO	Not Provided	Not Provided
TOTAL	$15,000	$71,000

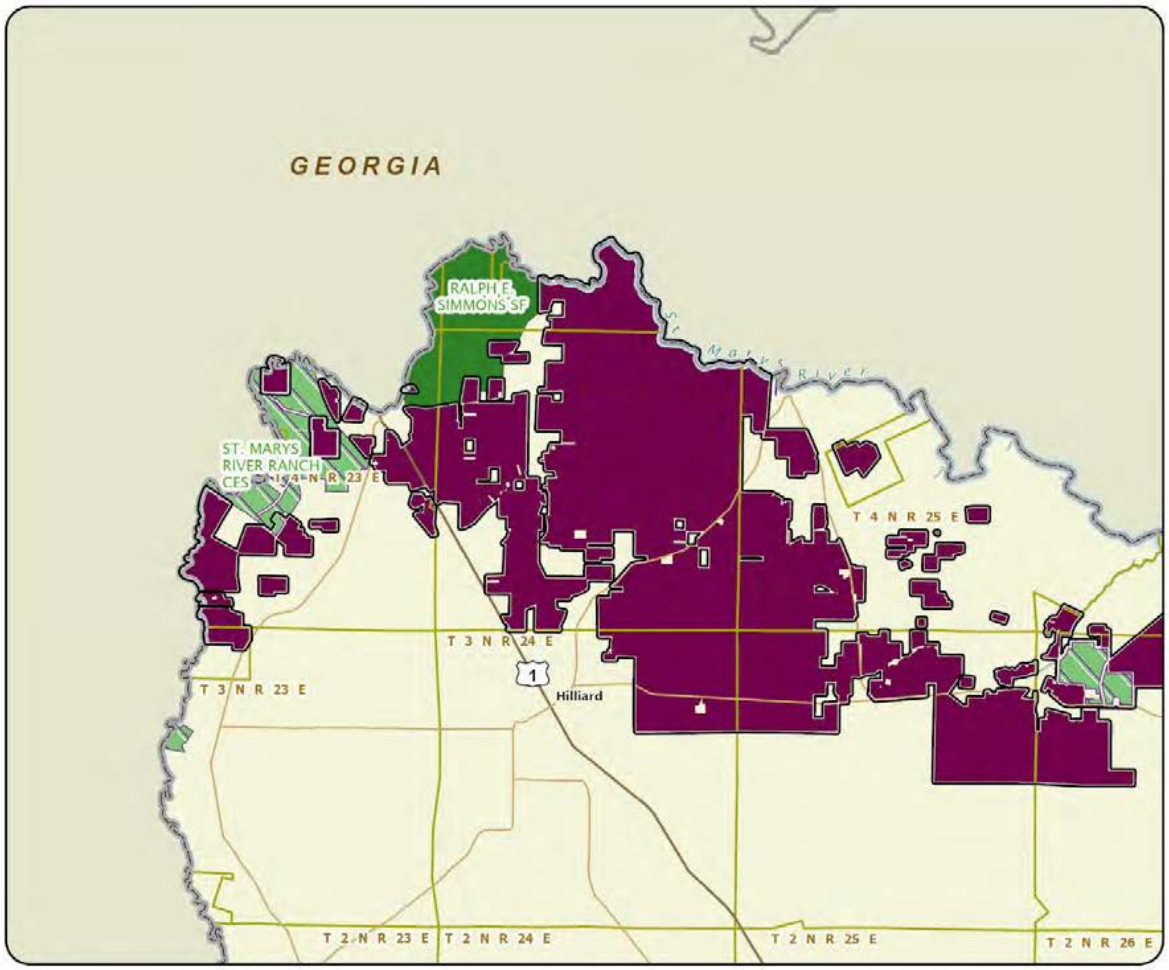
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ATLANTIC TO OKEFENOKEE CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: OVERVIEW

NASSAU COUNTY





ATLANTIC TO OKEFENOKEE CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 1

NASSAU COUNTY

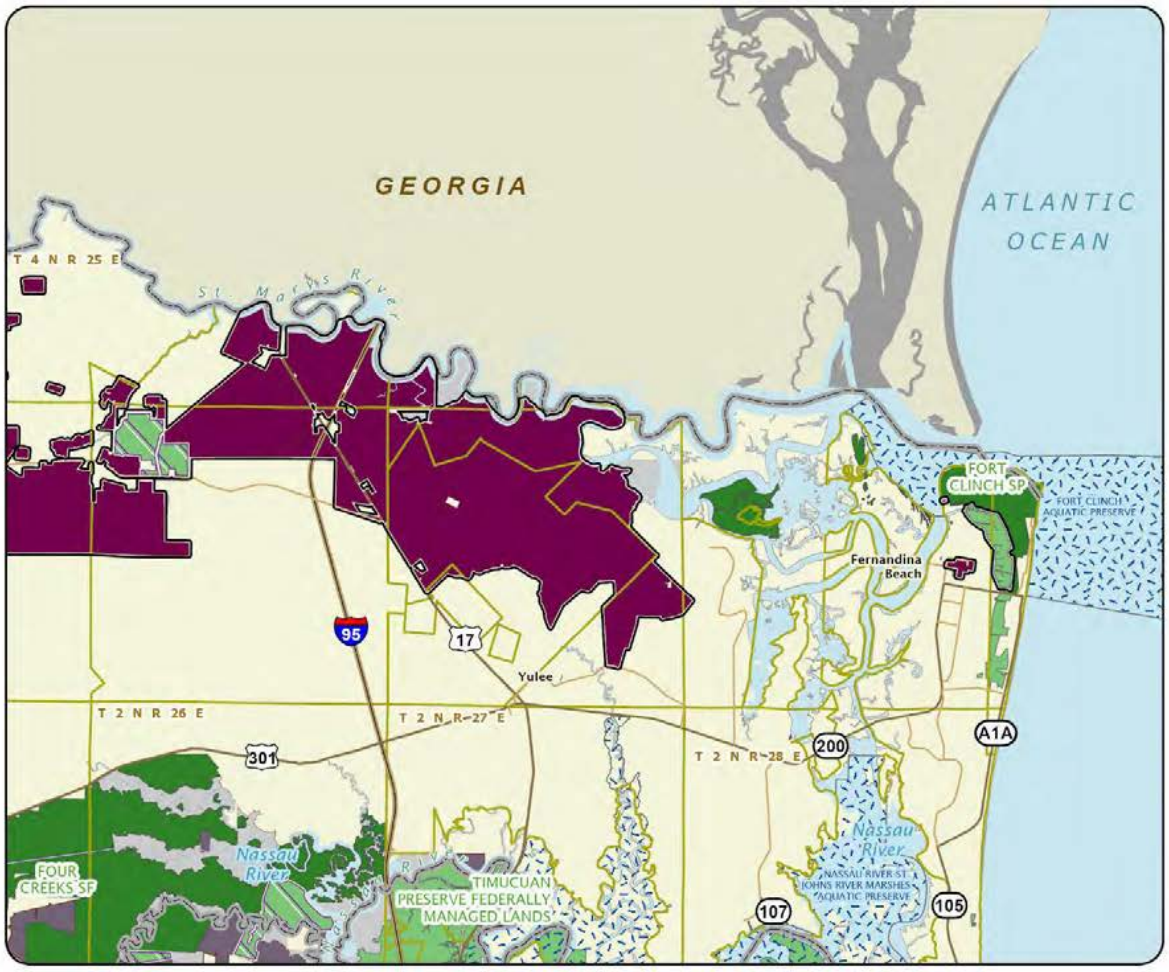
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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ATLANTIC TO OKEFENOKEE CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 2

NASSAU COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2022*
Project Acres	*106,979*
Acquired Acres	*73,537*
Remaining Project Acres	*33,442*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$73,064,753*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project aims to protect the hydrological integrity of critical waterbodies by connecting a series of public and private conservation lands extending from the Georgia border to the Gulf Coast. Waterbodies in the watershed include the Aucilla River (an Outstanding Florida Water), Little Aucilla River, Wacissa River and related springs and tributaries. The project will promote sustainable forestry, protect critical wildlife habitat, protect aquatic caves and sinkholes, preserve important archaeological sites and provide the public with resource-based recreational opportunities.

General Description

The Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project is in Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties and is owned by over 100 landowners. It encompasses much of the Aucilla River, a blackwater stream and the Wacissa River which is a spring-fed stream. Over 27,000 acres of the project are within the Wacissa Springs Group Basin Management Action Plan boundary and over 17,000 acres occupy the Priority Focal Area for the Wacissa Springs Group. 22 springs are known to exist within the project area, as well as several unique geological features including the Aucilla River Sinks (where the Aucilla River flows underground and then reappears at the surface several times). The project also contains at least 40 documented cultural or archaeological sites, as well as multiple historic buildings, structures and bridges.

Much of the project area is primarily utilized for silviculture with some cattle ranching. Though some of these activities have impacted the landscape, the natural resources in the project are in good condition and even native perennial grasses such as wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*) persist.

Natural communities such as mesic flatwoods, upland hardwood forests, freshwater forested wetlands, coastal wetlands, marshes, floodplain swamps, prairies and bogs are exhibited in the project area. These habitats are highly important for a diverse array of rare plants and animals, including birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Frosted flatwoods salamander	G1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Big Blue Spring cave crayfish	G1/S1
Florida Big Bend cave amphipod	G1G2/S1S2
Florida red-bellied turtle, Panhandle population	G5T2Q/S2
*Pinewoods dainties**	G4T2/S2
Barbour's map turtle	G2G3/S2
*Large rosebud orchid**	G4/S1
Florida cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project is proposed for both fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition. Parcels that are acquired fee simple could provide public use opportunities, such as canoeing, swimming, fishing, hunting and nature appreciation. The project area contains a multitude of historically significant places, which would be preserved for public use by the state if acquired. Land acquired as less-than-fee would not provide public use opportunities. However, the landowner of the West Aucilla River Buffer property has committed to allowing access to hunting for persons with disabilities. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

1985

In 1985, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee added the original Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This fee simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, consisted of approximately 13,668 acres, and three major ownerships (the largest with 13,000 acres).

1986

On March 21, 1986, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee approved the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project design for 20,258 acres that includes the original proposal and additional acreage.

1989

On December 1, 1989, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee simple 320-acre addition to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary. Sponsored by the Florida Department of State's

Division of Historical Resources, the addition consisted of one landowner: St. Joe Land and Development Company. 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.

1992

On April 7, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee simple 4,500-acre addition to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary. The addition consisted of two ownerships, St. Joe Paper and Proctor and Gamble Cellulose. This addition will provide continuity between St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Big Bend Wildlife Management Area and the project. St. Joe Paper is already within the project boundary.

1999

On March 26, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple 11,920-acre addition to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary. It was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and consisted of one landowner (The St. Joe Company). The landowner is already in the boundary. This addition would provide connectivity with the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 19,840 acres owned by The St. Joe Company from the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project and moved it to the St. Joe Timberland project. The Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council also approved the addition of 18 acres to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary.

2000

In 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the transfer of approximately 20,036 acres from the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project to the St. Joe Timberland Florida Forever project. This acreage is portions of the original project owned by The St. Joe Company.

2001

On October 25, 2001, ARC approved a fee simple 7,068-acre addition to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and consisted of one landowner (Foley Land and Timber Company). This tract fills a critical gap in the regional landscape of protected conservation areas by filling the hole between the Board of Trustees ownership along the Wacissa River and Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) ownership along the Aucilla River. These parcels were designated as essential.

On October 25, 2001, ARC also approved a fee simple 117-acre addition to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands and consisted of seven small ownerships. 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.

2007

On June 15, 2007, ARC added the West Aucilla River Buffer project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was submitted by the landowner, Mr. Carl Joiner. In 2007, the 721-acre project had a tax assessed value of $322,849.

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move the West Aucilla River Buffer to Group A of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the West Aucilla River Buffer project in the Less-Than-Fee category and the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the 2,836-acre Flint Rock tract was transferred to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Florida Forever project from the St. Joe Timberland project. After this most recent boundary change in 2012, the project had a combined historic estimated tax assessed value of $3,413,439.

2019

On October 18, 2019, ARC added Econfina Timberlands, a 1,665-acre project, to the Florida Forever project list as a fee simple project. This project was sponsored by FWC and had a tax assessed value of $2,368,711. All land within the approved boundary was designated essential.

2020

In 2020, The Nature Conservancy sold 3,121.55 acres of the Flint Rock tract (a part of the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

2022

On April 8, 2022, ARC added the 18,575-acre Aucilla River Corridor project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

On August 12, 2022, ARC voted to combine the Aucilla River Corridor, Econfina Timberlands, West Aucilla River Buffer, Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Florida Forever projects and the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks tracts of the St. Joe Timberlands Florida Forever project and create a new Florida Forever project. This project, named the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project, was added to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

2023

In October 2023, ARC voted to amend the project boundary by adding one parcel totaling approximately 305 acres in Jefferson County.

2024

In February of 2024, ARC approved the addition of 114.3 acres in Jefferson County.

On April 12, 2024, ARC approved the addition of the Wooten Timberlands project proposal (3,049 acres) in Jefferson County to the project boundary.

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of six parcels totaling approximately 408.39 acres in Madison County.

On December 20, 2024, DEP acquired a 114.18-acre conservation easement in Jefferson County from Curtis and Sara Kiser.

2025

In February 2025, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 522 acres in Jefferson County and seven parcels totaling approximately 1,249 acres in Jefferson and Madison counties.

On October 10, 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 27.74 acres in Jefferson County to the project boundary.

On November 20, 2025, DEP acquired a 1,087.26-acre conservation easement in Madison County from Adams Moon Lake Ranch LLC, and a 225-acre conservation easement in Madison County from Scott and Ngoc Phem Adams.

On December 31, 2025, DEP acquired a 2,961.21-acre conservation easement in Jefferson County from Oliver Olin Wooten and Angela Marie Wooten, Co-trustees of Olin Wooten Trusts.

Coordination

FWC, SRWMD, USFWS and The Nature Conservancy are acquisition partners for various portions of this project. The project is adjacent to existing DEP, SRWMD and USFWS lands, as well as privately held conservation easements.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project are to conserve, protect, manage and restore important ecosystems that make up the watershed, with an emphasis on the water resources. Where compatible with a site's resources and management, recreation opportunities will be provided to the public.

Less-than-fee acquisitions will be managed for conservation purposes by the landowners as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

FWC, SRWMD, USFWS and The Nature Conservancy currently manage different parts of the project. As other acquisitions are made by the state, one of the state agency managers will take on management responsibilities for new parcels.

Management responsibility for less-than-fee properties within the project boundaries would remain with the landowners. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

This project will conserve, protect and restore important ecosystems that will enhance and protect significant natural resources. The Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project will also provide wildlife corridors for rare and imperiled species by increasing linkages between public lands and private conservation easements in the region. Large portions of the project will also provide opportunities for nature-based public outdoor recreation.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Natural community types, topography, soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance and already existing improvements are conditions that may affect the intensity of management in the project area. Environmentally sensitive areas (such as erosion-prone sites, outstanding natural areas and wetlands) will be identified, protected and appropriately managed.

Some areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive species, thinning or reforestation. Such resource management projects may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives and to attain the desired future conditions for communities. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape ecology is also important, as land use changes in the vicinity may also affect resource conservation goals and the effectiveness of resource management projects.

Other areas indicate a relatively low need for intense management. The project's unique resources and presence of numerous cultural sites indicates a need for intense protective measures and a need to focus on control of public access.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

If acquired and leased to FWC for management, an amendment to the existing Aucilla Wildlife Management Area Management Plan will include management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on some sites in the project area. The management

plan 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 locally important, rare, and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. FWC would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management and recovery of locally important and imperiled species. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

With several public-access points already in place, programs providing resource-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation following acquisition. These potential recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for 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 limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security and management of the property. 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 Wildlife Management Area recreational complex. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue from this public conservation land can 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. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of FWC's Apiary Policy. In addition, the Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant.

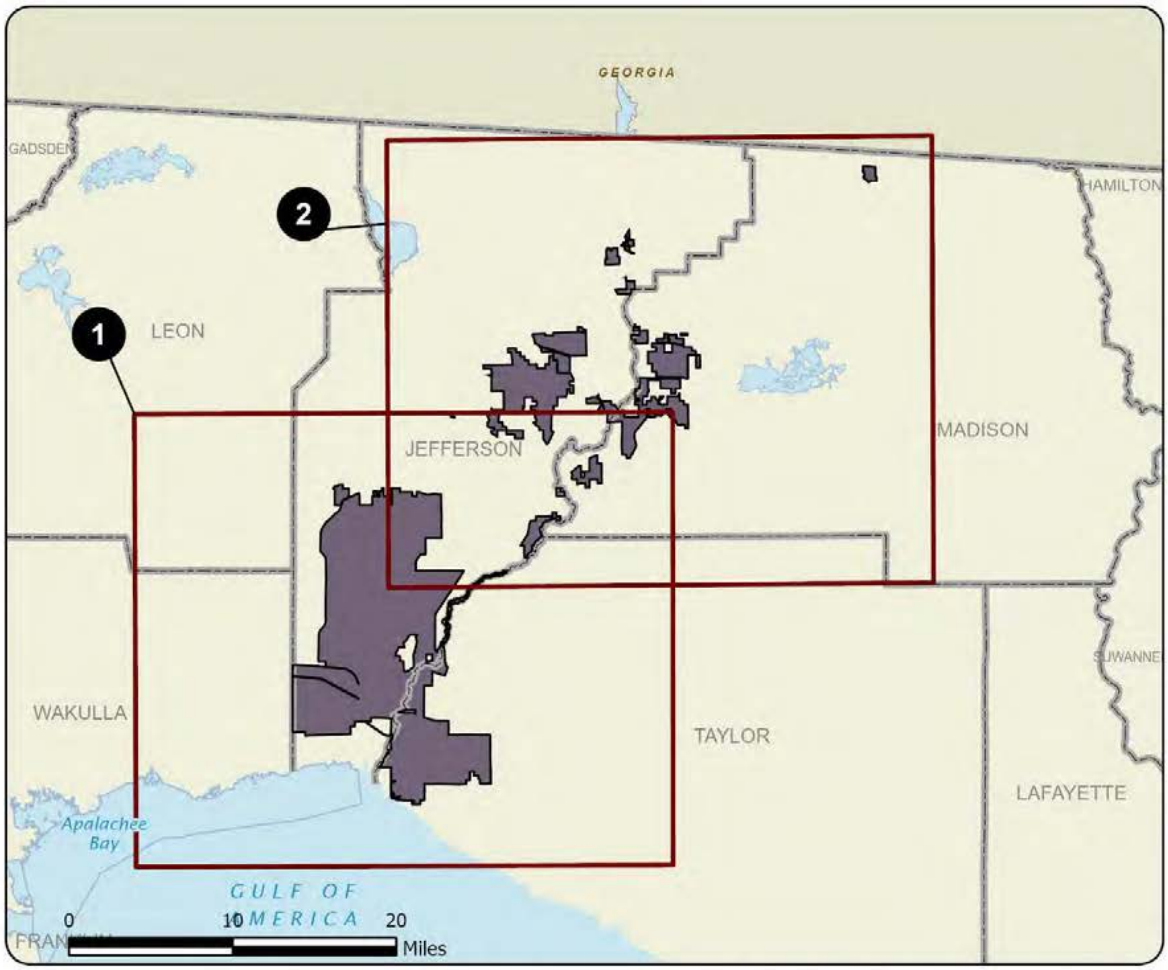
Cooperators in Management Activities

State, federal and local governmental agencies will cooperate with each other and private conservation organizations in the continued management of the properties in this project.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source	LATF	LATF
Salary	Not Provided	$38,267
OPS	Not Provided	$0
Expense	Not Provided	$19,925
OCO	Not Provided	$277,220
FCO	$70,988	$266,400
TOTAL	$70,988	$601,812

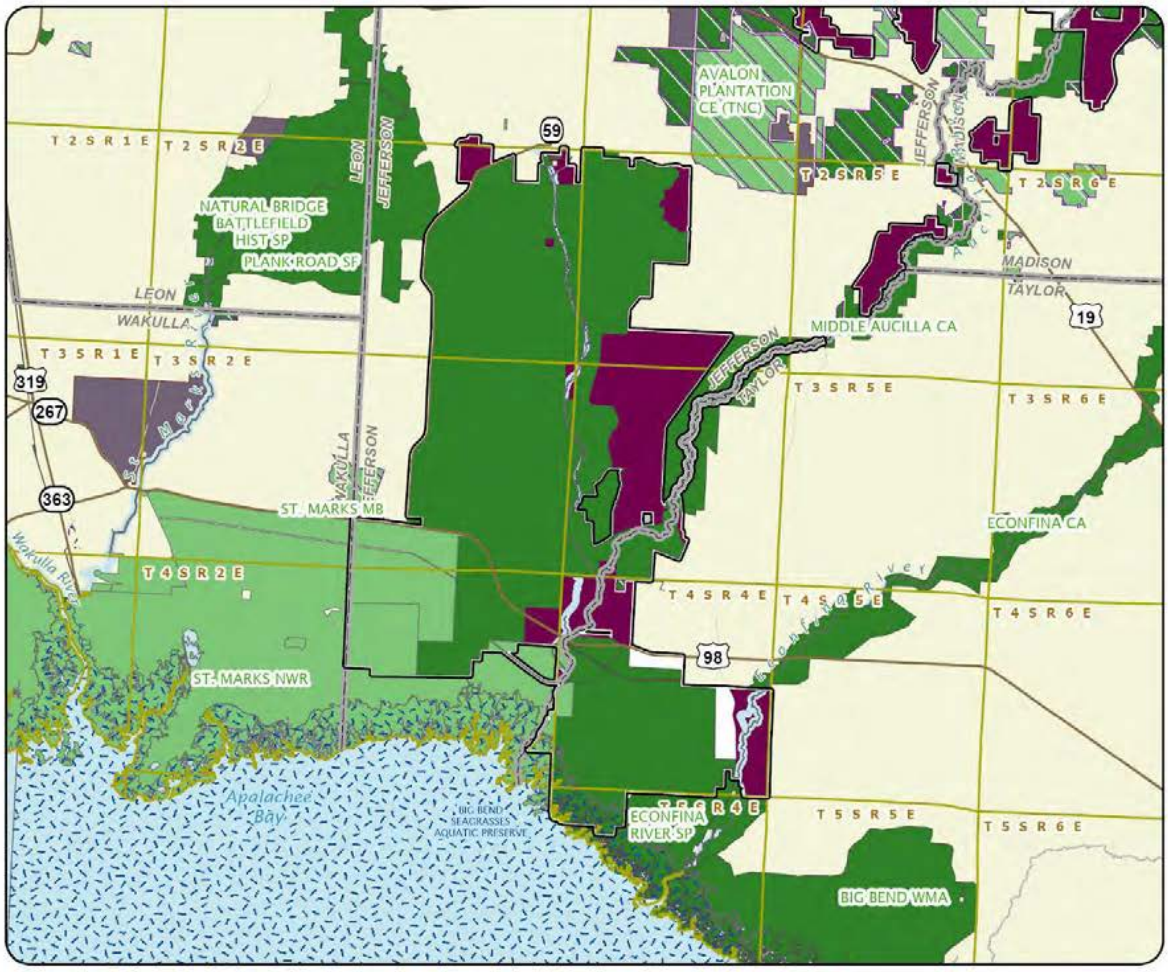
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted for Econfina Timberlands, Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks and Aucilla River Corridor



AUCILLA/WACISSA WATERSHED: OVERVIEW

JEFFERSON, MADISON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES





AUCILLA/WACISSA WATERSHED: MAP 1

JEFFERSON, MADISON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

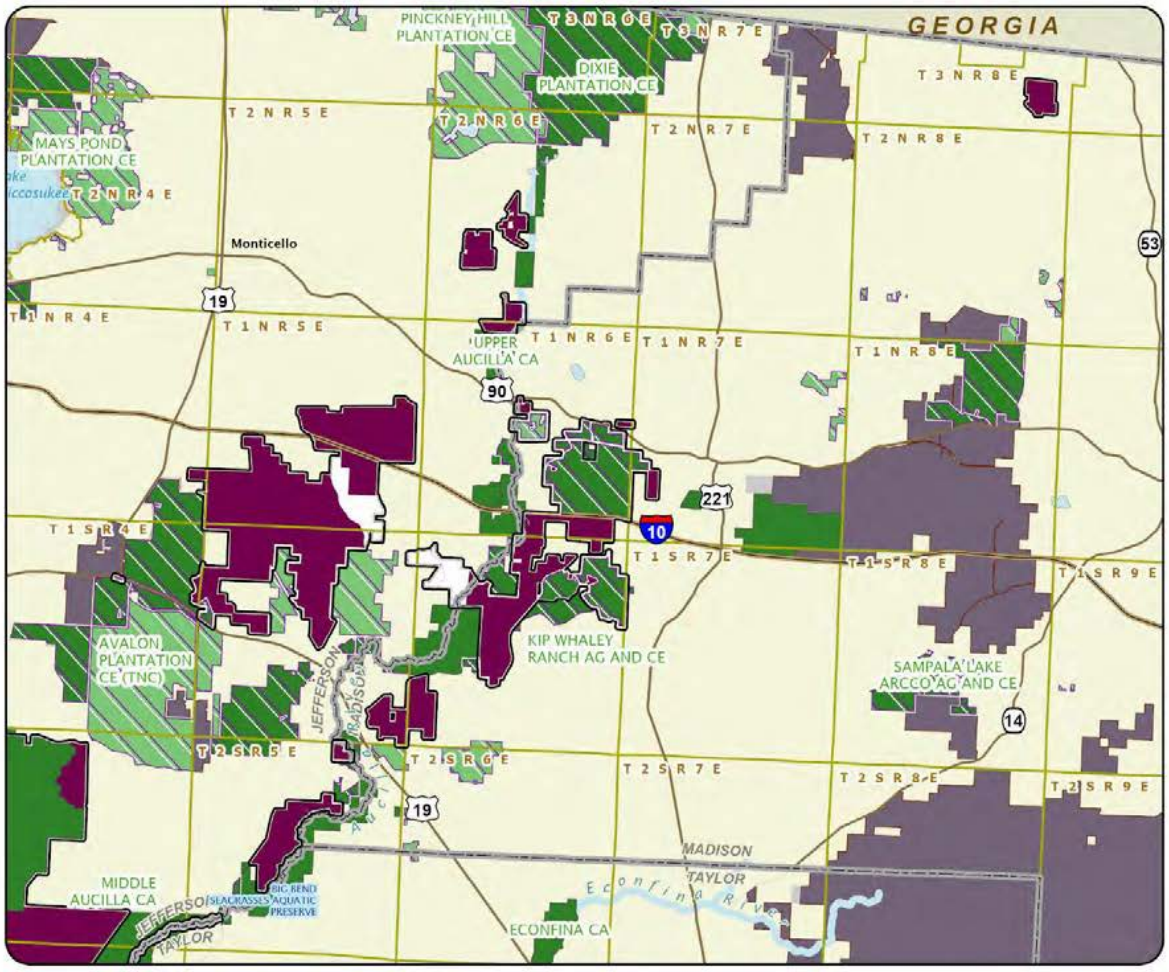
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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AUCILLA/WACISSA WATERSHED: MAP 2

JEFFERSON, MADISON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Duval and Nassau Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*9,108*
Acquired Acres	*734*
Remaining Project Acres	*8,374*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$47,508,762*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project will preserve stands of relatively intact old growth forests and flatwoods, supporting ecological connections between Cary State Forest, Jennings State Forest, the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Florida Forever project and the St. Marys River. The project will also connect to the Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail, increasing recreational opportunities for trail users.

General Description

The Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project is in Nassau and Duval counties and is proposed for fee simple acquisition. The proposal is characterized by its bottomland forests and wet flatwoods that contain numerous old growth trees. These communities have high species diversity and would provide habitat for numerous rare 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Spiny softshell	G5/S3

Public Use

If 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 has potential for diverse forms of resource-based recreation. For areas acquired in fee, the project could accommodate such activities as hiking, environmental education, camping, bicycling and horseback riding.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project was added to the 2003 Florida Forever project list. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of $3,587,753. The essential parcels were identified as the Baldwin Bay LLC, Brandy Branch LLC, International Paper and International Paper Realty ownerships. The parcels are being offered fee simple.

2006

On December 8, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2014

On October 15, 2014, the Brandy Branch Mitigation Bank and associated permanent conservation easement were established within the project boundary.

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 Florida Forest Service (FFS) is to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems in perpetuity; to integrate compatible human use; and to ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS management activities on this project.

Manager(s)

FFS is the proposed manager for the project with a multiple-use management regime consistent with the state forest system. Management will accomplish the goals and measures for this project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

This project meets goals and measures for significant landscapes, increasing natural resource-based recreation and restoring such natural functions such as protection of the floodplain, surface waters and functional wetland systems. This project also has a great prospect for sustainable forestry.

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 hydrology of the entire site is affected by logging roads and ditches. 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 preparation 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 species were documented on the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River site but can be controlled with reasonable effort if pursued soon. There were also numerous signs of feral hog digging within the site.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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

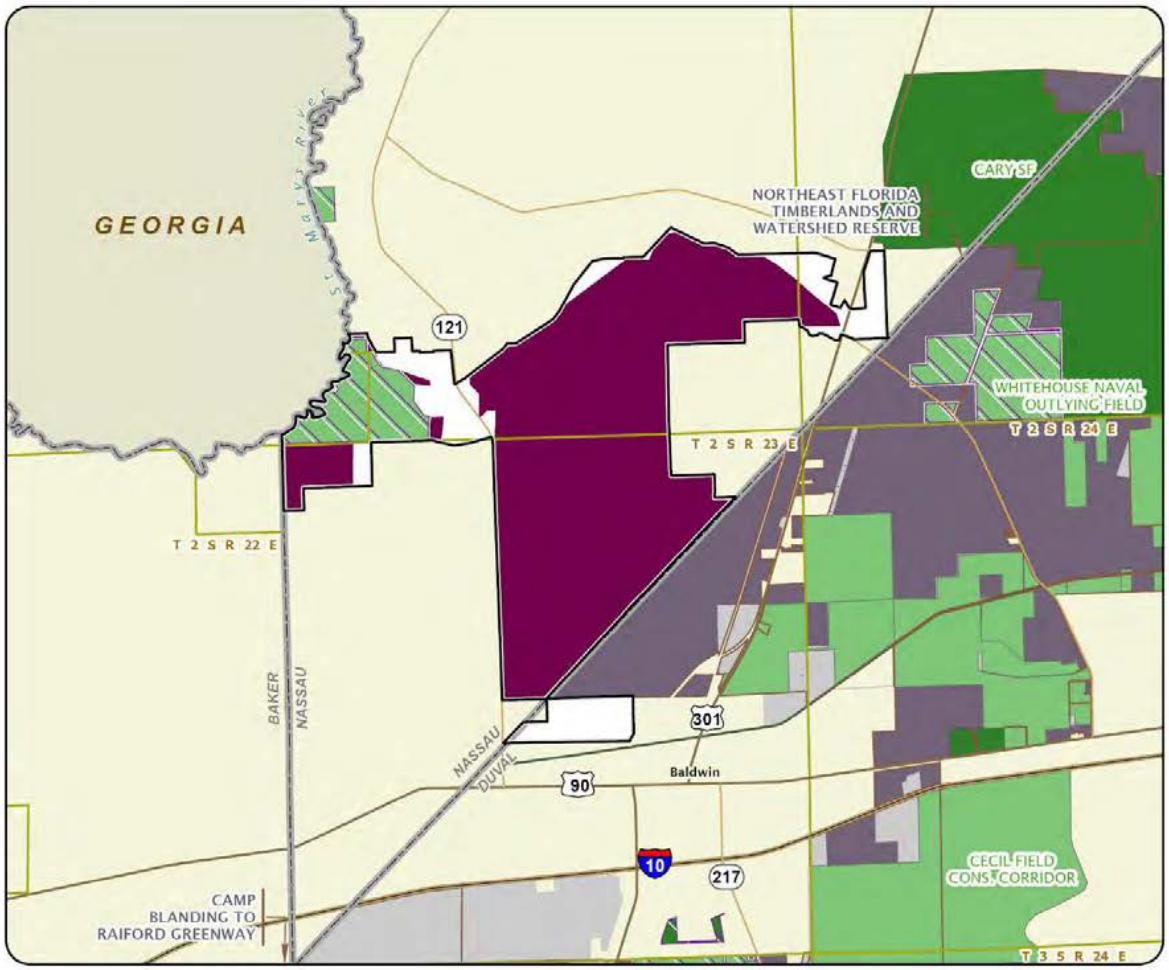
Revenue-generating Potential

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. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low to medium.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands Program	Not Available
Salary	$231,839	Not Available
OPS	$0	Not Available
Expense	$140,000	Not Available
OCO	$354,600	Not Available
FCO	$0	Not Available
TOTAL	$726,439	Not Available

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BALDWIN BAY/ST. MARYS RIVER

DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Brevard County

Year Added to Priority List	*1993*
Project Acres	*34,187*
Acquired Acres	*22,306*
Remaining Project Acres	*11,881*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$119,942,804*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project will protect some of the best scrub fragments in the county, aiding the survival of the state-threatened Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and providing areas where the public can appreciate and learn about the unique landscape. 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 and this project will ensure the preservation of remaining scrub habitats. In addition to the Florida scrub-jay, the project will also provide habitat for a variety of imperiled wildlife.

General Description

The project includes 20 areas considered essential to the preservation of scrub, mesic and scrubby flatwoods, floodplain marsh and marsh lake along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge and St. Johns 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 project also supports several rare vertebrates and at least eight rare plant species, including a very rare mint. The project is surrounded by development, and several peripheral areas are already being destroyed. The rapid encroachment of housing developments is likely to eliminate any unprotected scrub and adjacent flatwoods communities of Brevard County in the very near future. No archaeological sites are recorded within the project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Titusville balm**	G1Q/S1
Horn's aethecerinus long-horned beetle	G2/S2
*Pine pinweed**	G2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
*Sand butterfly pea**	G2Q/S2
*Tampa vervain**	G2/S2
*Sand-dune spurge**	G2/S2
*Redmargin zephyrlily**	G2G3/S2S3
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1992

On December 10, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Scrub Jay Refugia project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. The 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, which contained five sites: Tico (± 2,421 acres with Grand Central being a major owner, Brevard County has acquired 52 acres); Valkaria (± 2,764 acres with multiple owners, Brevard County has acquired 155 acres); Rockledge (± 2,591 acres with three major owners: Barge and Tabacchi, Duda, and Grand Central, Brevard County has acquired 141 acres); Condev (52 acres with two owners: Nelson and SR 405 Ltd).; and South Babcock (529 acres with multiple owners).

1993

On February 17, 1993, Baytree Preserve (54.47 acres) conservation easement was established.

In May 1993, Brevard County acquired 60 acres in Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.

In July 1993, Brevard County acquired 285 acres in Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.

On July 23, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee simple, 179-acre addition (Rockledge Scrub Sanctuary) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District, consisted of six landowners (T. Barge and M. Tabacchi, L.R. Pierce Trust, N. Schopke and M. Tabacchi, TCM Investment, Inc., A.L. and M. Jacoboski, and Florida Power and Light (FPL) Co.), and had a taxable value of $3,600,000.

In December 1993, Brevard County acquired Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary (44 acres).

1994

In January 1994, Brevard County acquired 30.86 acres in Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.

On March 9, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee simple, 1,322-acre addition (Micco Scrub) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Brevard County, consisted of one landowner, Kentucky Central Life Ins. Co., and had a taxable value of $1,500,120. Brevard County acquired the site.

In October 1994, Brevard County acquired 20 acres in Malabar Scrub Sanctuary.

1995

On July 14, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 the addition, which consisted of multiple landowners and a taxable value of $13,283,659. Brevard County has acquired the Malabar and the Dicerandra Scrub sites.

1996

In 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council combined the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Initiative project with the Scrub Jay Refugia project, bringing the new total acres to 27,745 with a tax assessed value of $86,847,875. On December 5, 1996, it was renamed the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project. The Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Initiative consisted of six sites totaling 16,307 acres with a tax assessed value of $40,780,060: 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)

1998

On December 3, 1998, the Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved the transfer of the Valkaria, South Babcock, Ten Mile Ridge and Grissom Parkway sites to the Mega-Multiparcel List (which was renamed Small Holdings in 2001).

1999

On March 26, 1999, Brevard County acquired the South Lake Conservation Area (155 acres).

2000

On December 19, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee simple 9,528-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL), it consisted of 2,250 landowners at a taxable value of $23,819,800. The addition

consisted of two sites: Malabar Expansion – 959.85 acres (Bargain/Shared); and Valkaria/Micco Expansion – 4,144.48 acres (Bargain/Shared) and 4,739.48 acres (Mega/Multiparcel).

In 2000, the following sites were removed from the project due to development/improvement, habitat fragmentation or isolation: Canova Beach – 152.34 acres; Condev – 52.52 acres; Wickham Road Complex – 809.62 acres.; and Rockledge (select properties) – 860 acres.

2001

On May 17, 2001, ARC approved a fee simple 3,529-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, consisted of 11 landowners with a taxable value of $3,456,290.

2002

On April 25, 2002, 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; Valkaria/Micco Expansion – 50 acres), multiple landowners and a taxable value of $199,070.

On November 12, 2002, Mary A Ranch Mitigation Bank (2,068 acres) was issued.

On December 5, 2002, ARC moved the project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List.

2003

On October 3, 2003, DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails acquired South Brevard Trail Connector parcel (14.72 acres) in Turkey Creek Sanctuary.

On December 5, 2003, ARC approved a fee simple 7,444-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Brevard County EEL, 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.

2005

On May 27, 2005, Brevard County acquired Capron Ridge Sanctuary (20.55 acres), of which 4.5 acres are within the project boundary.

2006

In 2006, Brevard County acquired the Brookhollow piece (173.09 acres) of Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, bringing the total acquired at the Malabar Scrub site by the county to 568.95 acres.

On April 18, 2006, Brevard County acquired Indian Mound Station Sanctuary (118.62 acres).

On September 21, 2006, DEP purchased 5.52 acres in the Valkaria section at a tax deed sale (Oxford Finance Co., $83,000).

2007

In June 2007, Brevard County acquired 41 acres from Vero-Pittsburgh Partners LLC and added it to the boundary of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

In December 2007, Brevard County acquired Fox Lake Sanctuary (2,568 acres).

2008

On June 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 seven 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. The project is also known as Tortoise Ridge, a name chosen by Brevard County students for its Florida Communities Trust application.

In September 2008, DEP purchased 1.29 acres of the Hightower/Frasier ownership at Grissom Parkway for $5,500. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage the section.

In October 2008, TNC donated 2.71 acres, valued at $40,000, which will be managed by the Brevard County EEL.

2009

On December 11, 2009, ARC removed 1,667 acres located within the Malabar Expansion and Valkaria/Micco Expansion from the boundary at the following landowners' request: John S./John D. Copanos (20 acres); John Copanos/Sebastian Resources 400, LP (902 acres); and Nick Dionisio/Brevard Landvest, LLC (745 acres).

2010

In April 2010, ARC removed 3,694 acres due to residential/commercial infrastructure and development. An additional 183 acres were removed at the request of Mr. Wilton Banack, landowner.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2020

In February 2020, the 63.45-acre Grissom Parkway parcel was acquired from The School Board of Brevard County for $288,000.

2021

In 2021, DEP acquired 1.40 acres fee simple via donation from the Estate of Margie D. Mollenauer.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 6,347 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

On July 15, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 3.17 acres in Brevard County from Franklin Kelley II.

Coordination

Brevard County, an acquisition partner, committed $10 million towards the acquisition of the project and $2.6 million for site management. TNC is under contract with Brevard County to help 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 the state or a larger geographic area; and to conserve and protect significant habitat for native and imperiled species.

Manager(s)

Brevard County will manage the original six sites, as well as the Valkaria/Micco Expansion Site (added in 2002). FWC will manage the six sites added in 1996 and the Ten Mile Ridge site added in 2002. ORCP will manage one site added in 2001. The city of Titusville will manage the Falcon Woods portion added in 2008.

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.

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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The Brevard County EEL is preparing a Conceptual Natural Areas Management Manual for all sanctuary sites. Once these sites are acquired, EEL will work with local, state and federal agencies to develop a Comprehensive Management Plan for long-term management. Initial management activities in the project 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

about 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 the project, beginning approximately one year after acquisition is complete, 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 and firebreaks will be cleared where necessary. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be low impact. An interagency partnership among the participating agencies provides opportunities for revenue sharing. The Brevard County EEL proposed to set aside $2.6 million from their excess ad valorem revenues to begin a management endowment for the EEL sanctuary network. EEL will work to increase funds for management consistent with or exceeding state management appropriations.

Revenue-generating Potential

No significant revenue sources are anticipated from the project at this time. Mitigation agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have generated some funds 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 may be sold on some sites where habitat restoration requires thinning.

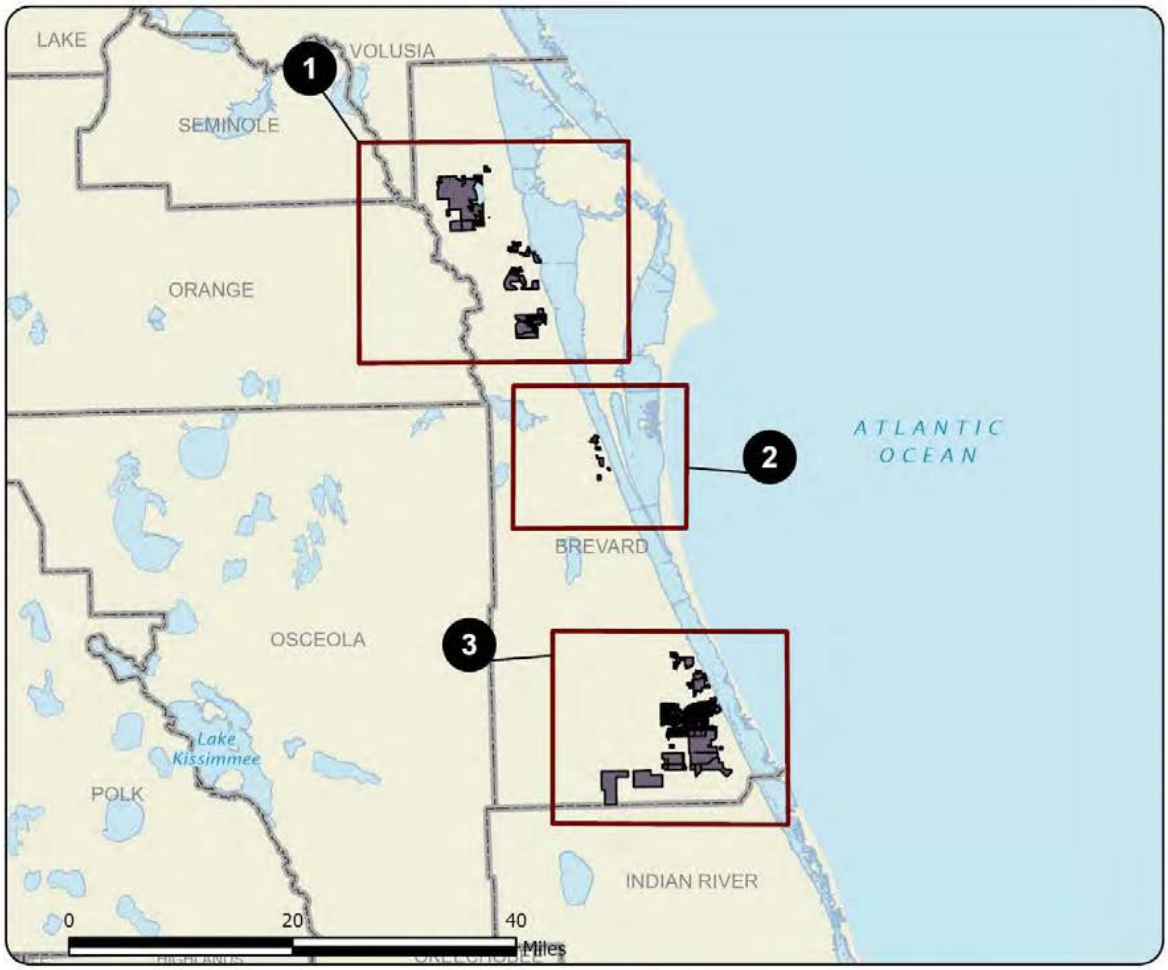
Cooperators in Management Activities

Brevard County will require support from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (, Florida Forest Service, FWC and TNC to implement a quality management program for scrub communities. EEL Selection Committee will aggressively seek matching funds for site management, development of environmental education programs and necessary research and monitoring.

Management Cost Summary

Brevard County, FWC, City of Titusville, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection 1994/95	1995/96
Source of Funds	County	County
Salary	$0	$3,500
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$500	$1,000
OCO	$0	$0
FCO	$0	$125,700
TOTAL	$500	$130,200

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

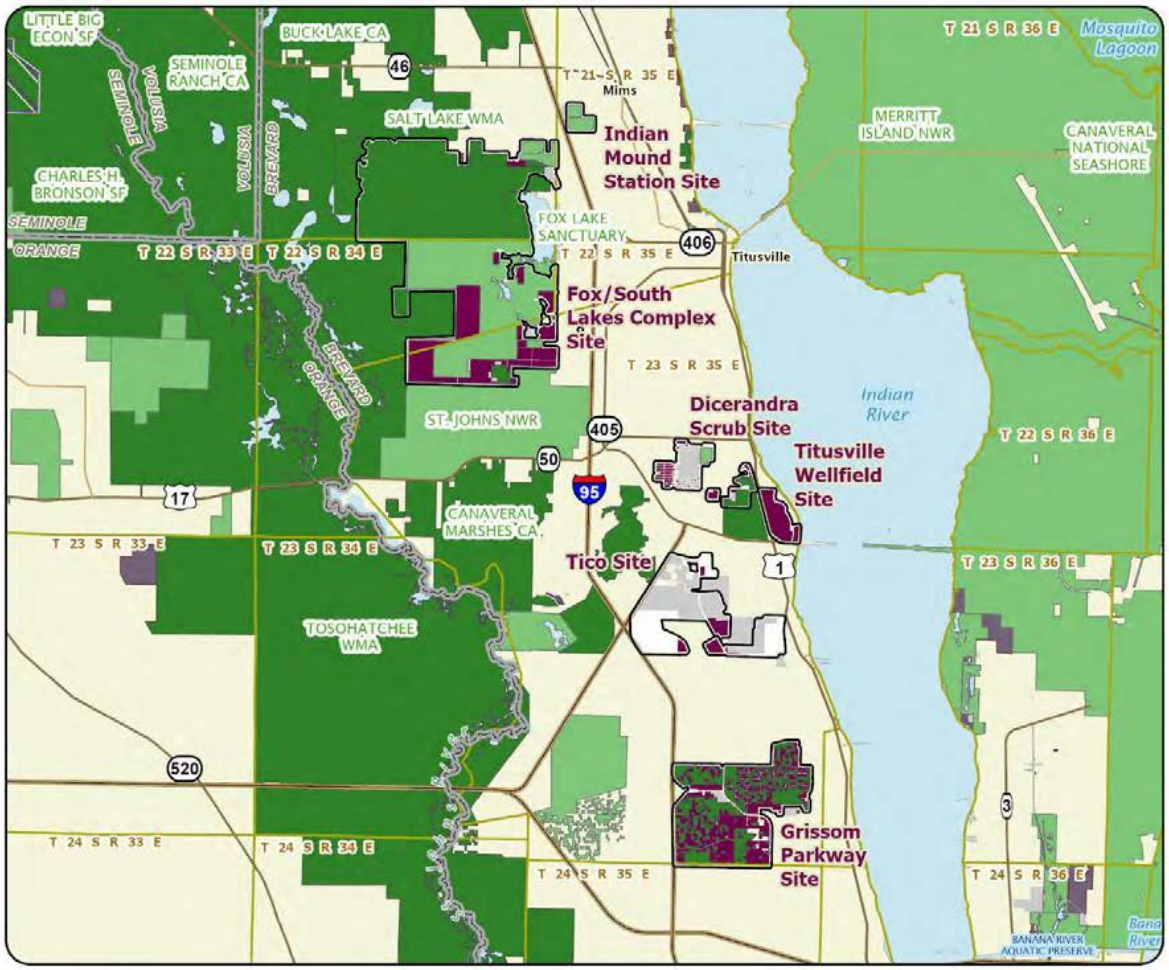


BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

BREVARD COUNTY

- ☐ Map 1 Dicerandra Scrub Site
- ☐ Map 1 Fox/South Lakes Complex Site
- ☐ Map 1 Grissom Parkway Site
- ☐ Map 1 Indian Mound Station Site
- ☐ Map 1 Tico Site
- ☐ Map 1 Titusville Wellfield Site
- ☐ Map 2 Rockledge Site
- ☐ Map 3 Jordan Boulevard Site
- ☐ Map 3 Malabar Expansion and Valkaria/Micco Expansion Sites
- ☐ Map 3 Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Site
- ☐ Map 3 Micco Expansion Site
- ☐ Map 3 Micco Site
- ☐ Map 3 South Babcock Site
- ☐ Map 3 St. Sebastian-St. Johns River Greenway Site
- ☐ Map 3 Ten Mile Ridge Site
- ☐ Map 3 Valkaria Site





BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

BREVARD COUNTY

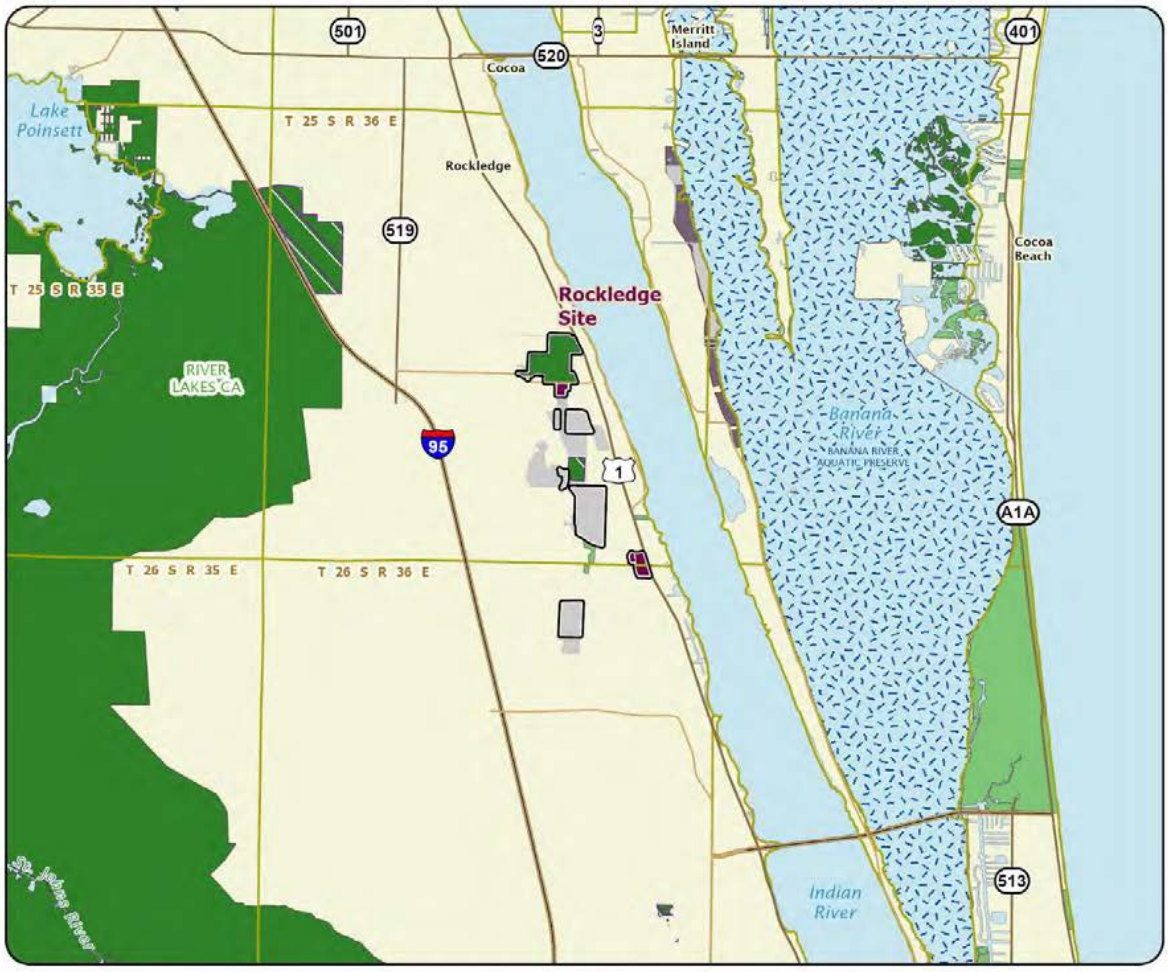
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

BREVARD COUNTY

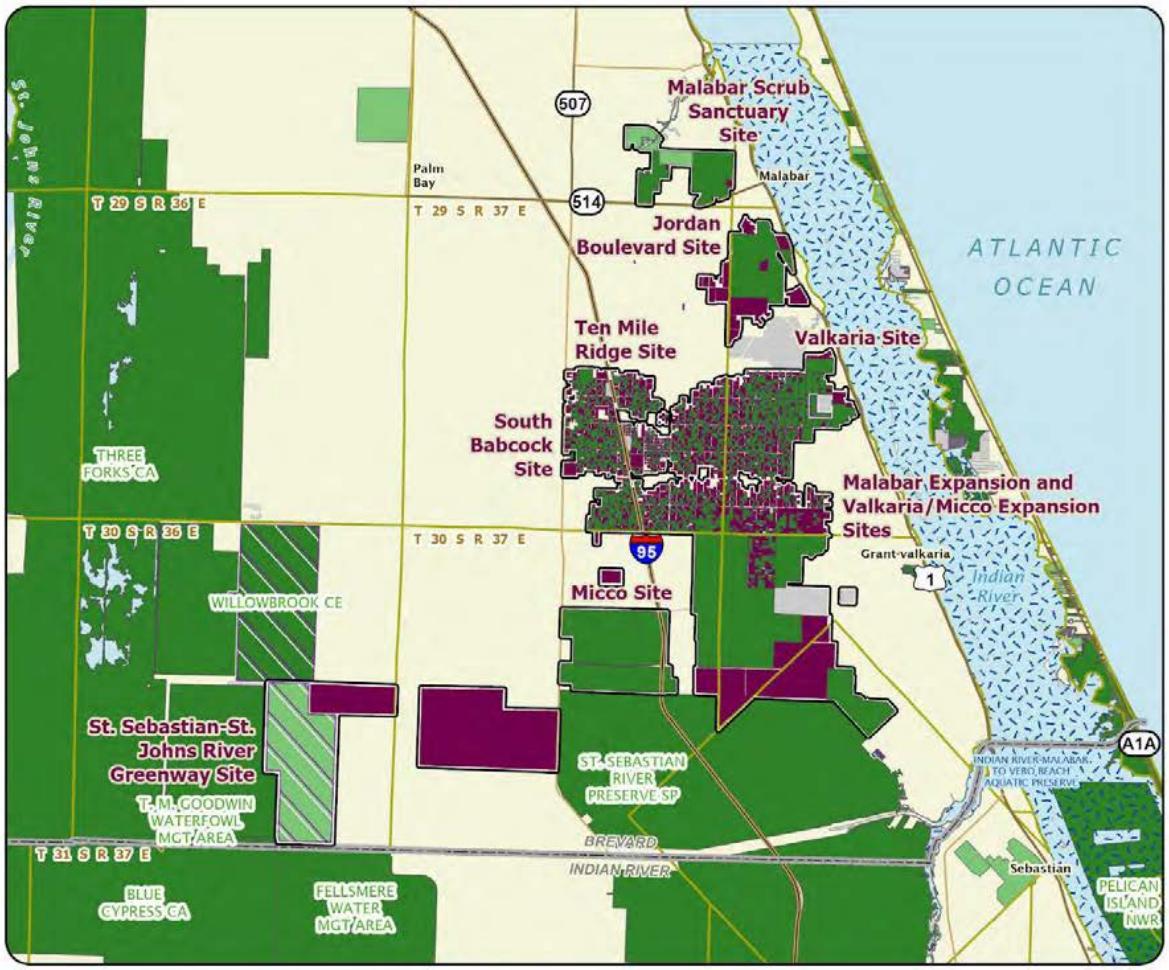
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Carr Farm/Price's Scrub

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua and Marion Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*1,662*
Acquired Acres	*1,204*
Remaining Project Acres	*458*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$4,530,451*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Carr Farm/Price's Scrub project will preserve one of the northernmost examples of scrub in peninsular Florida along with upland mixed forest, scrubby flatwoods, wet flatwoods, depression marsh, marsh lake and sinkhole lake. These natural communities provide habitat for a variety of imperiled wildlife. The project will also protect many isolated seasonal ponds, which are potential habitats for the gopher frog (*Lithobates capito)* and other imperiled amphibians.

General Description

The Carr Farm/Price's Scrub project in Alachua and Marion counties consists of three tracts owned by the family of 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 is marked by a change in soil types. The property slopes from an elevation of 200 feet on the southern boundary to 90 feet on the northeastern border. The 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Sand butterfly pea**	G2Q/S2
*Florida spiny-pod**	G2G3/S2
Hobbs's Cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
*Pondspice**	G3/S2
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

The varied topography and resources of the site would provide opportunities for limited freshwater fishing, canoeing, primitive camping, hiking, biking and equestrian trails. Picnicking and environmental education would also be suitable for this property. The Carr Farm site has potential for an interpretive site about the life of one of the leading naturalists of Florida, Archie Carr.

Acquisition Planning

2001

This project was ranked for the first time on April 6, 2001. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails purchased the Price's Scrub portion, now Price's Scrub State Park.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2021

On October 8, 2021, ARC approved an addition of 125 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

2023

In August 2023, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 94 acres in Marion County.

In December of 2023, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 46.27 acres in Marion County.

DEP acquired, in fee, 14 acres in Marion County from Susan Carr and 110.5 acres from Marcia Green.

2024

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 132.45 acres in Marion County.

2025

On March 11, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 46.41 acres in Marion County from Anmarc Properties LLC.

Coordination

Alachua County is willing to consider funding toward the project. Mitigation funds from the Florida Department of Transportation may be available through the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands containing native, rare and imperiled species; provide areas for natural-resource-based recreation; and preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Manager(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project has 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 complement the cultural-resource aspect of the site.

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 proximity of Interstate 75 and the lack of prescribed fire on the site will require more intensive preparation prior to burning.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Upon fee acquisition, management will concentrate on site security and the 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 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.

Revenue-generating Potential

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

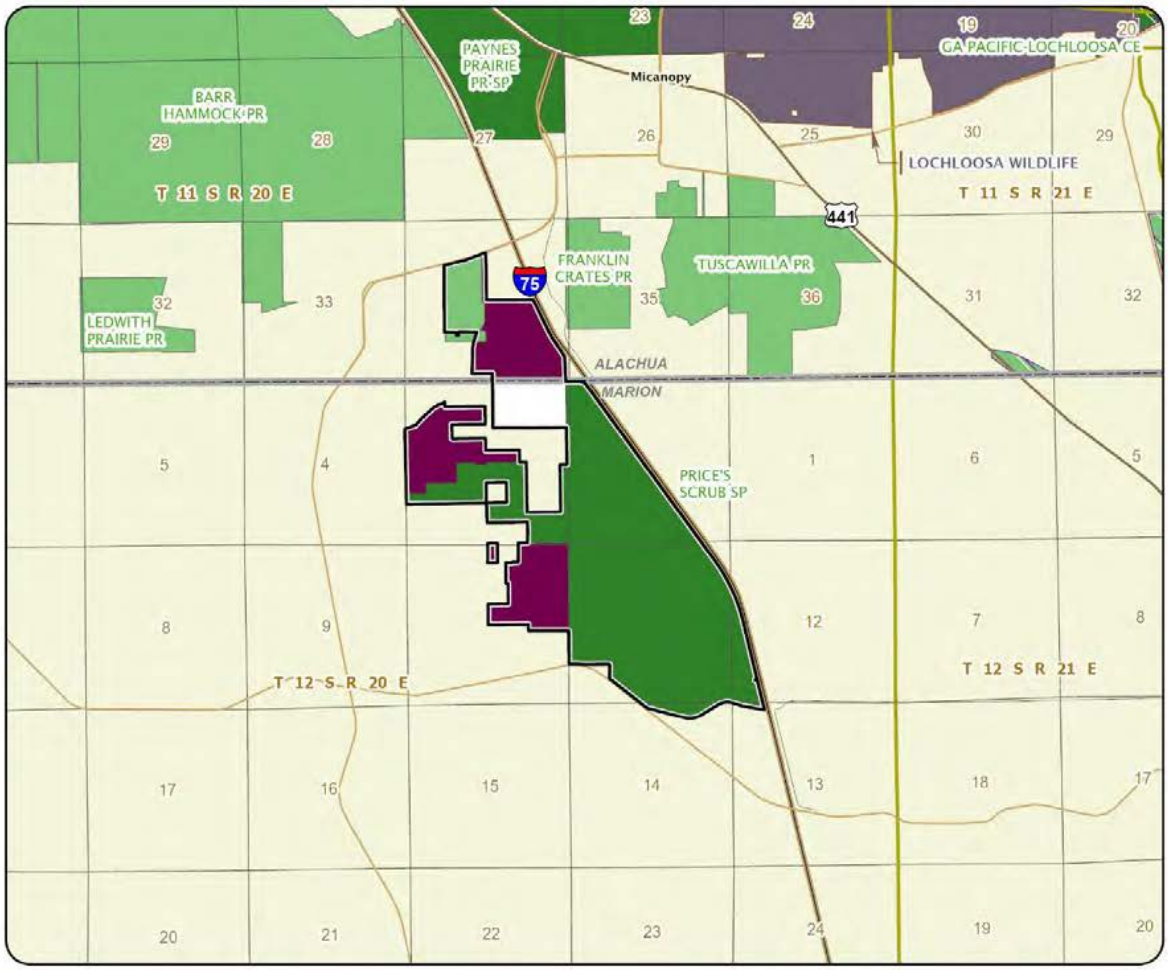
Cooperators in Management Activities

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

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Salary	$0	$0
OPS	Not Provided	$15,000
Expense	Not Provided	$28,000
OCO	$124,000	$0
FCO	$298,000	$0
TOTAL	$422,000	$43,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CARR FARM/PRICE'S SCRUB

ALACHUA AND MARION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Charlotte and Lee Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1992*
Project Acres	*23,497*
Acquired Acres	*17,154*
Remaining Project Acres	*6,343*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$83,307,561*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project will protect an area with some of the largest and highest-quality slash pine flatwoods left in southwest Florida and connect the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park with the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area, thus supporting the management of these areas and protecting the water quality of the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

General Description

This project encompasses the largest remaining tract of intact pine flatwoods in southwestern Florida. The old-growth south Florida slash pine forests within the project are home to at least ten rare animals including the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). The tract also provides important habitat for several rare plants, including the critically imperiled beautiful pawpaw (*Deeringothamnus pulchellus)*. The project provides additional protection for the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and will connect the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
*Beautiful pawpaw**	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida kingsnake	G2/S2
*Florida beargrass**	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

Phase I

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.

1995

On July 14, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 135 acres to the project.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 165 acres from the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods and added it to the Charlotte Harbor Estuary project (then called Charlotte Harbor) as part of a 490-acre increase of that project.

1999

On February 11, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 333 acres.

On October 21, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 1,793 acres as essential parcels.

2007

In June 2007, the 9-acre Honenberg Parcel was purchased by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and added to the Yucca Pens Unit of the project.

2008

On December 12, 2008, the project boundary was modified to exclude the Zrev Farm, LLC property (2,410 acres) per private citizen request.

2009

On February 26, 2009, FWC purchased 37.63 acres (Yucca Pens) for $298,000 from Allcoat, Inc. to add to Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area.

On June 12, 2009, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved removal of 3,035 acres (2,352 of ZREV at the owner's request and 683 isolated/disturbed acres) from the boundary with a tax assessed value of $43,524,121.

2010

On February 19, 2010, ARC added approximately 50 acres to the project boundary. These acres were moved from the Charlotte Harbor Estuary project to this project.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2014

On August 15, 2014, ARC approved adding Bond Ranch to the project. This increased the boundary by 670 acres and will help restore sheet-flow conditions in south Charlotte County.

2016

On October 21, 2016, ARC approved the 557-acre Hog Branch/Bear Branch proposal as a new Florida Forever project with a tax assessed value of $837,602. This area is east of Burnt Store Road in Charlotte County. This is part of an effort to restore traditional sheet flow of water in Charlotte County that was disrupted over the years by the roadbeds for railroads and highways, which flooded areas in adjoining Lee County and degraded the tidal creeks that are important to snook, redfish and tarpon. After approving this for Florida Forever, ARC then added these lands to the boundary of Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project.

2019

On June 14, 2019, ARC approved the addition of 142-acres to the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Florida Forever project located in Charlotte County with a 2019 tax assessed value of $593,013. This amendment was called the Charlotte 580 amendment and proposed to be acquired in fee simple. It will provide

water to the Yucca Pens area. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. It would be managed by FWC if acquired.

On October 18, 2019, ARC approved adding the 2,752-acre (GIS) Stolle Ranch project proposed for fee simple acquisition in Charlotte and Lee counties to the 2020 Florida Forever Priority List, then moved to incorporate the lands within the Stolle Ranch project boundary into the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project boundary. The proposal had a 2019 tax assessed value of $6,954,550. The proposal connects two managed areas. Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area is contiguous with the north and northwest boundaries of the property, and Prairie Pines Preserve is located immediately southwest of the I-75 corridor contributing to both connectivity as well as enhancing wildlife habitat.

2020

In 2020, six parcels [Kaiser, Spreen (one parcel each); Willden, Slagle (two parcels each)] within the Yucca Pens Unit were acquired containing 338.42 acres at a cost of $652,500. The parcels will be managed by FWC as part of the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area.

In March 2020, FWC acquired a 5-acre parcel from Bear Investments, LLC at a cost of $13,400. The parcel was acquired using Florida Forever funds and will be managed as part of Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area.

2021

In 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection acquired 205.24 acres in fee simple within the Yucca Pens Unit from Jefferson Parnell. The property will be managed by FWC as part of the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 72 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

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 and imperiled species; conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems to enhance or protect significant natural resources; and provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation.

Manager(s)

FWC is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project meets the qualifications of a wildlife management area. This is due to the project's size (more than 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 woodpecker, Florida panther and Florida black bear, among others).

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Development, both 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 Wildlife Management Area.

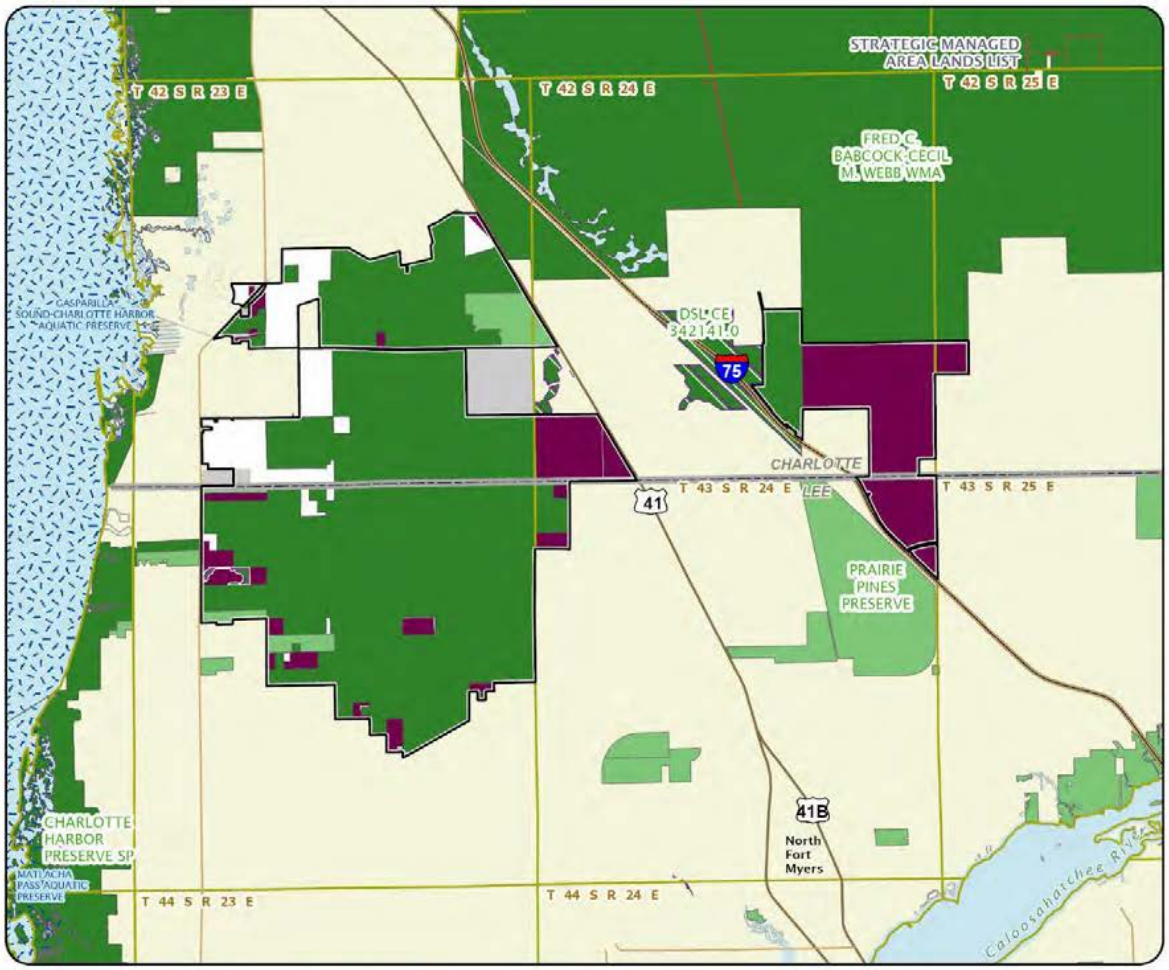
Revenue-generating Potential

Though this property contains significant timber resources, the timber revenue potential is low. There is little or no market for timber in Southwest Florida (particularly south Florida slash pine). Nevertheless, the potential for generating recreational revenue would be significant if new recreational user fees were to be implemented in this wildlife management area.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program 1996/1997	CARL 1997/1998
Salary	$54,200	$54,200
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$10,000	$10,000
OCO	$0	$0
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$64,200	$64,200

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS

CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Clear Creek/Whiting Field

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Santa Rosa County

Year Added to Priority List	*2004*
Project Acres	*5,045*
Acquired Acres	*2,571*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,474*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$23,687,747*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Clear Creek/Whiting Field project will support conservation and regional protection through the creation of a significant wildlife corridor between conservation lands. The project will provide open space in an urbanizing area and protect habitat for native and imperiled species. The project will also stabilize the land use around the Whiting Field Naval Air Station to forestall encroachment that could be incompatible with the continued function of this military installation.

General Description

The project is 3 miles north of the Blackwater River Wildlife Management Area, 12 miles east of the Lower Escambia River Wildlife Management Area and 8 miles north of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area. The project is close to the city of Milton. It adjoins Whiting Field Naval Air Station, used to train Navy pilots on T-34 aircraft and helicopters. Most of the project is upland pine forests, sandhills, mature and young pine plantations, recent clear-cuts 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. Approximately 5 percent of the site is in a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Hairy-peduncled beaksedge**	G3/S3
*Panhandle lily**	G3/S3
*Trailing arbutus**	G5/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Potential recreational uses include canoeing, camping, hiking, biking, wildlife observation, environmental education, nature photography and scientific research. Hunting may also be done in some areas. The site is particularly appropriate for extending the Blackwater River Heritage State Trail to expand the growing recreational trail network in this region.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Clear Creek/Whiting Field project to Group B of the 2004 Florida Forever 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.

2005

On December 9, 2005, ARC approved a project design change to allow acquisition phasing. Phase I was added to Group A, consisting of seven landowners, approximately 2,029 acres and a taxable value of $665,593. The ownership acreage is as follows: International Paper Company (1,154 acres); Phillips (121 acres); Leonard (160 acres); Florimor Inc. (320 acres); Blue Sky (120 acres); Lowery (74 acres); and Jernigan (80 acres).

Phase II remained in Group B, consisting of 38 landowners and about 2,996 acres with a taxable value of $982,808.

2006

On June 9, 2006, ARC moved the Group B portion of this project to Group A.

2008

On December 12, 2008, 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 as fee simple, and the parcels were approved as essential.

2009

On March 10, 2009, 210.48 acres were purchased from TNC for $1,158,258 (with the help of the U.S. Navy).

On September 30, 2009, 1,401 acres were purchased from TNC by Florida Forever ($2,625,000), Florida Forest Service(FFS)/Incidental Trust Fund ($1,200,000), a.k.a. off-highway vehicle funds, and the U.S. Navy and U.S. Department of Justice ($1,275,000).

2011

On June 30, 2011, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands purchased 172.59 acres to be managed by FFS.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, ARC removed 163 acres from the project because staff analysis found these lands were either developed or not contiguous to the project.

Coordination

Acquisition partners are the U.S. Navy, Santa Rosa County, DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails and FFS. Developing the management plan will be conducted among the project partners (Whiting Field, FFS and Santa Rosa County).

Management Policy Statement

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks proposes to manage the project with FFS, Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County to: protect habitat for native and imperiled species; protect water quality in wetlands and surface waters, notably Clear Creek and Coldwater Creek; provide interpretive and recreation 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 protect archaeological and historical sites. In general, the project area will be managed to protect its environmental and natural resource values, drawing upon its natural characteristics to provide appropriate recreation opportunities, and enhancing other adjacent managed lands, such as Whiting Field and the Blackwater River State Forest. The project will be managed consistent with the appropriate goals and objectives of Florida Forever, as well as consistent with other projects that are part of the statewide system of greenways and trails.

Manager(s)

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks will accept management responsibility for the Clear Creek project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project will 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, specifically the Blackwater Multi-Use Trail. This project will help enhance the resource and recreation value 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 intense management beyond that typically associated with a managed greenway or trail project. But the intensity of long-term management will depend on the ability to acquire as intact an area surrounding Whiting Field as possible. Areas with adjacent residential properties will require more management.

The intensity of management will increase as recreation facilities and trails are developed and public usage increases. Other issues that will determine intensity of management include exotic plant removal, with particular attention to areas where imperiled species exist; water quality protection and enhancement, particularly related to Clear Creek; and protecting archaeological sites and historical structures.

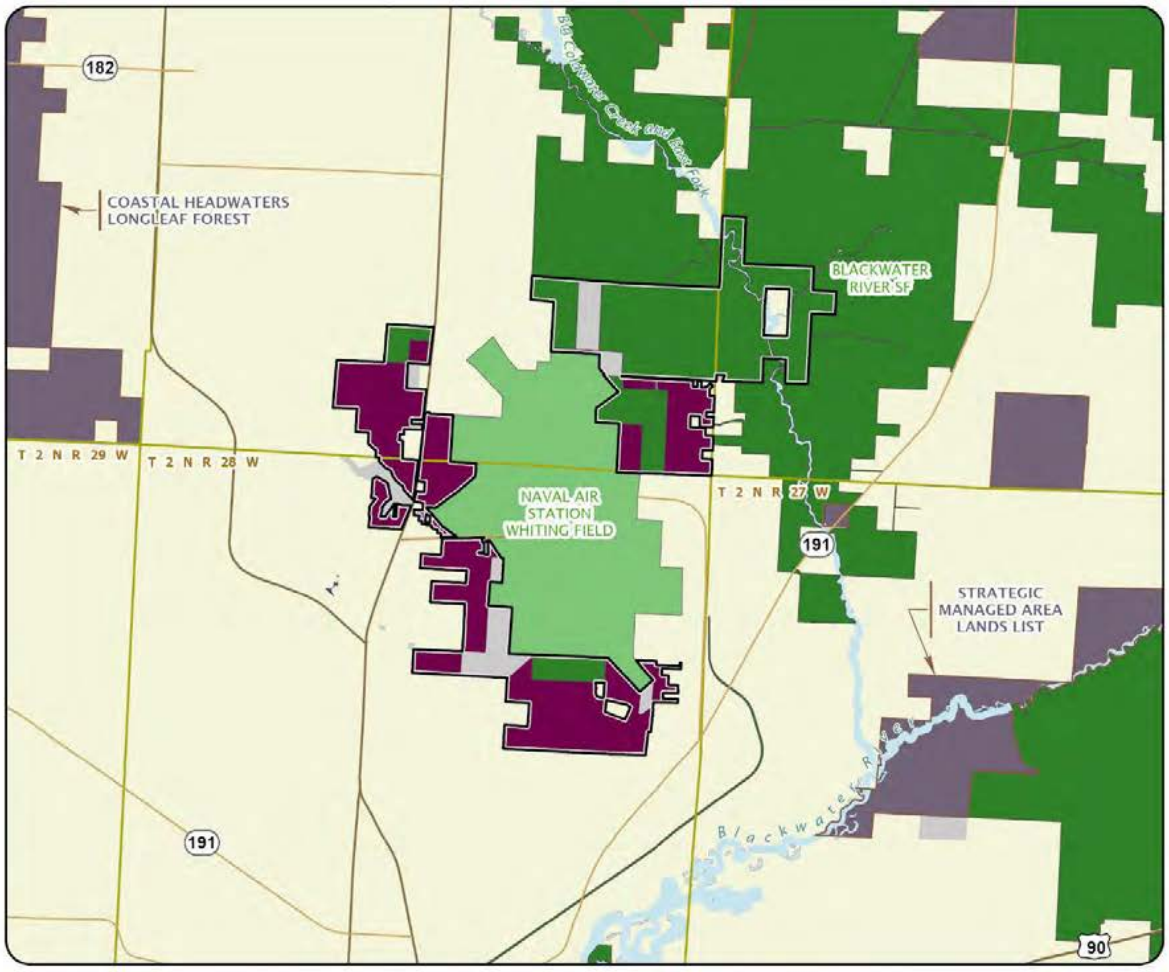
Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Following acquisition, issues to be addressed in the first year would include site security, posting boundaries and fencing, and conducting assessments/inventories to better determine resource management needs. Those needs include 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 the area for resource protection and recreation 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 and 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 FFS for timber production.



CLEAR CREEK/WHITING FIELD

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Collier and Lee Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1991*
Project Acres	*69,703*
Acquired Acres	*40,218*
Remaining Project Acres	*29,485*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$180,529,200*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project will create conservation connections between the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The project will provide critical habitat protection for rare and imperiled wildlife such as the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). The project will also protect the flow of water feeding the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand and other hydrologically connected systems.

General Description

The Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project, located in Collier and Lee counties, consists of quality cypress swamps and marshes along with some upland areas that are vulnerable to agricultural and residential development. The project will connect the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary together to secure important habitat for the Florida panther and Florida black bear. The large expanses of wetlands within the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed are believed to be important to the survival of many rare and critically imperiled species, including at least two species of rare and endangered orchids and an unusual stand of dwarf bald cypress.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
*Fakahatchee ladies'-tresses**	G4T1/S1S2
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	G3/S1
*Clamshell orchid**	G4G5T2/S2
*Narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem**	G4T2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Yellow-crowned night heron	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1990

On December 7, 1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This project, sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), consists of 18,205 acres, 73 landowners and a taxable value of $23,704,330. The entire project is in both Lee and Collier counties and 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 Camp Keis Strand Corridor. If fee simple acquisition is not negotiable, then conservation easements or other less-than-fee acquisition techniques will be pursued.

1992

On November 20, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council amended the project design to allow matching funds anywhere within the project for “new” acquisitions (acquired after November 20, 1992) by its partners, Lee County and SFWMD.

1993

On September 20, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 3,182-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by SFWMD, consisted of four tracts and multiple landowners, and a

taxable value of $8,636,331. The original amendment was for 4,022 acres; however, 840 acres of one tract was already in the current boundary.

1995

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 612-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by 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.

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 3,040-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by SFWMD, consisted of two sites and had a taxable value of $9,029,712. The original amendment was for four sites and 4,040 acres; however, only sites three (excluding the south half of section 35) and four were approved.

1999

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a 2,560-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by SFWMD and the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Trust, consisting of 353 parcels, 260 landowners and had a taxable value of $10,500,000. The parcels were designated as essential.

2002

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

2007

On December 17, 2007, Collier County acquired the 367.7-acre Caracara Prairie Preserve, of which approximately 40 acres are in the project boundary.

2009

On February 6, 2009, Collier County acquired 2,499 acres, known as Pepper Ranch, for $32,525,080 via the Conservation Collier Program.

In October 2009, Lee County acquired approximately 15 acres for $136,500 for their 20/20 program. SFWMD donated 10 acres to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in the same month. The following lands were bought by SFWMD: June 2009 and November 2009 (58 GIS acres/$661,250); three easement tracts (15) were donated by Bonita Springs Utility Company; November 2010 (191 acres/$3,828,890); and December 2010 (5 acres/$75,000).

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC added this project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, ARC approved the removal of 468 developed or non-contiguous parcels totaling 1,541.2 acres.

2013

On February 15, 2013, ARC removed 77 acres from the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed in Lee and Collier counties because development has already disturbed the property.

2015

In 2015, township-range-sections 47S27E6 (632.96 acres) and 47S27E7 (627.75 acres) were added to Corkscrew Sanctuary. Approximately 478 acres of section six and all of section seven are in the project boundary.

2016

On October 21, 2016, ARC voted to add the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Headwaters proposal to the existing Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project as an amendment. This adds 2,841 acres to the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed in the southeastern corner of Lee County in a plan to use willing sellers of groves to make hydrologic fixes to drainage areas that affected downstream areas. The goals for the addition include conserving fresh water that has run off into other areas, restoring water levels of the Corkscrew Swamp, improving habitat for such species as the Florida panther and the wood stork and creating public recreation opportunities. The Florida Department of Transportation is coordinating with SFWMD staff to possibly use this area as mitigation for the widening of State Road 82.

2017

On December 4, 2017, Lee County acquired Larry Kiker Preserve (4,000 acres) via the Lee County Conservation 20/20 program, of which 2,690 acres are within the project boundary.

2025

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 602 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

Acquisition partners are SFWMD and Lee and Collier counties. Both The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land 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 management goals of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native and imperiled species; and conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems to enhance or protect significant natural resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

Manager(s)

SFWMD is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project's size, natural communities and extremely sensitive wildlife resources qualify it as a wildlife management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

There are various intensities of management required for lands in the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed. There are low-need parcels such as virgin stands of cypress that require little or no management. There are also 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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

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.

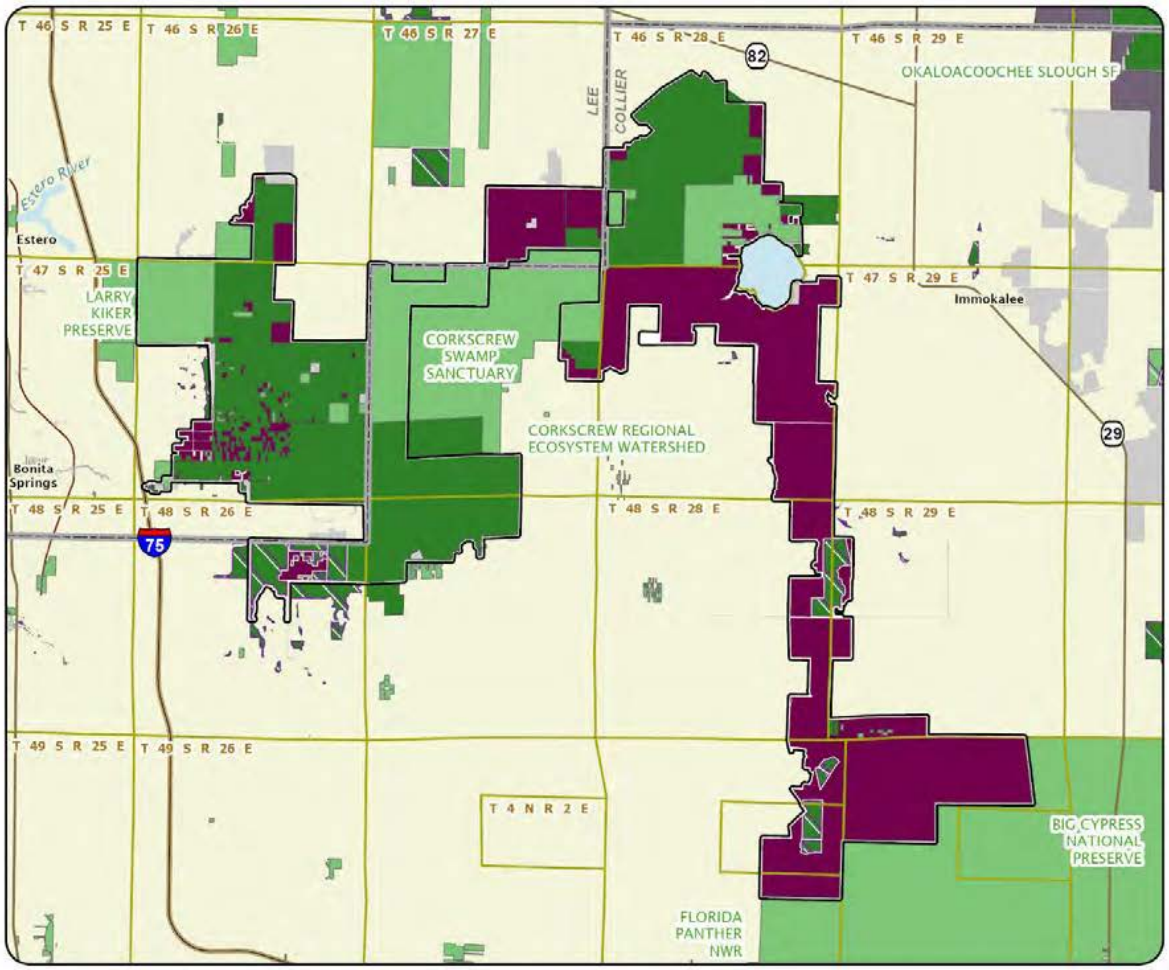
Cooperators in Management Activities

A cooperative management agreement with FWC was executed on September 6, 1994. The project now receives regular inspections by SFWMD staff and law enforcement patrol by FWC Reserve program. Under the agreement, FWC will enforce all laws, rules and regulations applicable to the management of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed. Additional land acquired will be given the same protection.

Management Cost Summary

SFWMD	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	Water Management Lands Trust Fund	
Salary	$107,238	$117,961
OPS	$35,000	$38,500
Expense	$197,250	$216,915
OCO	$0	$28,000
FCO	$0	Not Provided
TOTAL	$339,488	$401,376

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED

COLLIER AND LEE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Crayfish Habitat Restoration

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Bay County

Year Added to Priority List	*2020*
Project Acres	*2,462*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,462*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$6,569,834*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Crayfish Habitat Restoration project will provide habitat protection for the federally designated threatened Panama City crayfish (*Procambarus econfinae*), narrowly endemic to a small region of Bay County, and enhance the conservation of coastal resources. The project will restore coastal habitat in northwest Florida, provide surface and groundwater protection, protect natural floodplain functions, and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife resource-based public outdoor recreation.

General Description

The Crayfish Habitat Restoration project comprises multiple parcels located in eastern Bay County in urban/suburban Panama City. The project is comprised of three properties in the St. Andrews Bay watershed and consists of a 40-acre parcel (Highpoint tract), a 130-acre parcel (Lynn Haven tract), and a 2,178-acre property (Star Avenue tract). The predominant current land use is silviculture. Historically, the site supported wet and mesic flatwoods along with baygalls, basin swamps, dome swamps and other wetlands. Silvicultural activities replaced former open savannas with short-rotation slash pine in bedded plantations; consequentially, there has been a loss of native groundcover and altered hydrological regimes which have been detrimental to the Panama City crayfish.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Panama City crayfish	G1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Narrowleaf Naiad**	G3/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project will provide passive public recreation such as hiking trails within a mile of Panama City. The habitats are very attractive to birders and plant enthusiasts due to the number of threatened and endangered species thought to exist in the Mill's Bayou Watershed area. This project can help to educate the public and raise awareness of the importance of the Mill's Bayou Watershed and its relation to St. Andrew's Bay. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Acquisition Planning

2020

In October 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple project was proposed by Bay County and consists of three disjunct sites. All parcels intersected by the proposed 2,348-acre restoration sites total 4,085 acres and were valued at $6,473,145 in 2019. The proposed restoration site currently includes partial parcels which Bay County will re-record at the time of survey/acquisition.

2024

On September 12, 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired, in fee, 9.57 acres in Bay County from Benny Leonard.

2025

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 114 acres in Bay County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has pledged $3.73 million toward the development and management of the project.

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) could manage the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project for the purposes of operating a wildlife management area and providing ecological diversity, managed wildlife habitat and public recreational opportunities. All natural and historical resources would be managed under a management plan approved by ARC.

Manager(s)

FWC is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Crayfish Habitat Restoration project will help to protect habitat for the Panama City crayfish, offer recreational greenspace and provide watershed protection for St. Andrews Bay. Long-term management will be facilitated by funds pledged by USFWS and two private partners.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Resources described in this management prospectus indicate conditions affecting intensity of management. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas (such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas, wetlands or cultural sites) shall be identified, appropriately managed and protected.

FWC conducts analysis of historic vegetation of natural community types when necessary to determine appropriate desired future conditions. Upland wildlife management concentrates on appropriate vegetative manipulations guided by FWC's objective-based Vegetation Management program, which includes the application of prescribed fire to achieve conditions acceptable to a broad range of wildlife species within the area's fire-adapted natural communities. Some areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive and exotic species and either thinning or reforestation. Such resource management projects, including hydrologic restoration, may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives and attain the desired future conditions for communities. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape ecology is also important as land use changes in the vicinity of the area, such as intensive residential, commercial, and industrial developments; the roads that often accompany them may also affect the attainment of resource conservation goals for the area and the effectiveness of necessary resource management projects.

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure

If acquired and leased to FWC for management, FWC will develop a management plan describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on the project. The management plan 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 locally important, rare and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. FWC would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species in the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

FWC set a long-term conservation goal of increasing the total area of occupied Panama City crayfish habitat to 2,000 acres. USFWS has estimated that approximately 2,200 acres of actively managed and permanently protected habitat is needed for the persistence of the Panama City crayfish. Under the proposed environmental site assessment listing, the establishment of approximately 2,200 acres would meet the projected goal for the species.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from conservation lands can 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. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of FWC's Apiary Policy.

The Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. In addition, the project sponsor, Bay County, has received commitments from partners to restore and manage the property. Approximately $3.7 million has been pledged for an endowment as mitigation for the restoration and site management of Panama City crayfish habitat.

The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, as well as to human health, are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in management activities

FWC will continue to cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including DEP, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, Northwest Florida Water Management District, USFWS and Bay County in management of the property.

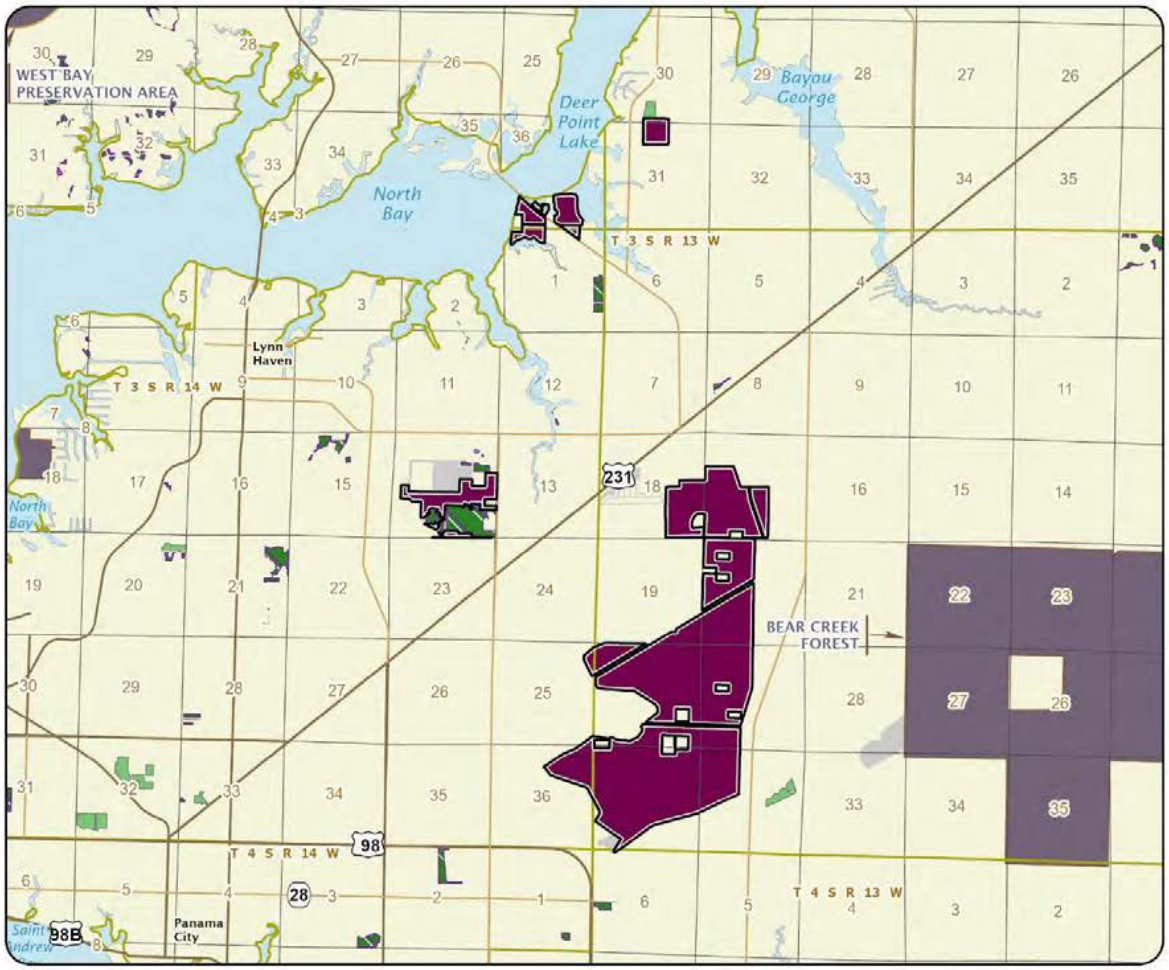
Management costs and sources of revenue

The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project is estimated to be $375,680, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Below is an estimate of the recurring annual operating costs to operate and manage the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project. Optimal management of the area would require one full-time equivalent position. Salary requirements for these positions, as well as those of other needed FWC staff, and costs to operate and manage the project are reflected in the cost estimate below. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Salary	Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	Not Provided	$13,665
OCO	Not Provided	$131,911
FCO	Not Provided	Not Provided
TOTAL	Not Provided	$145,576

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CRAYFISH HABITAT RESTORATION

BAY COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Creeks to Choctawhatchee River

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Walton County

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*2,231*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,231*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$6,157,231*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Creeks to Choctawhatchee River project would contribute to the surface water protection of the creeks and tributaries that drain into the Choctawhatchee River, an Outstanding Florida Waterway. The project would also increase the amount of forestland available for the sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, the project would protect functional wetlands and groundwater recharge areas critical to the military readiness of Eglin Air Force Base and the ecologically diverse landscape that overlaps its mission footprint.

General Description

The Creeks to Choctawhatchee River project contains three tracts situated about 2.5 miles away from each other. The project is not adjacent to any existing conservation lands but is west of a conservation corridor along the Choctawhatchee River and north of a swath of conservation lands connecting Eglin Air Force Base to the river. The nearest managed area is Ponce de Leon Springs State Park, approximately 1 mile east. The property has been used for silviculture and recreation since the 1970s. As such, 73 percent of the upland was converted to pine plantation. Improvements include a single-family home and barn located together on one parcel. A utility corridor traverses the northern two tracts.

Bottomland forest is the most common natural community on the property, located along small, meandering creek drainages. Upland hardwood forest, located at the upper reaches of creek drainages, feature a very diverse tree canopy. Native groundcover species were observed on an approximately 4-acre area of remnant sandhill in the footprint of the utility corridor. These habitats are highly important for a diverse array of rare plants and animals, including *Matalea*, Florida mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum floridanum*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). Invasive species, including Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) and cogon grass (Imperata cylindrica), were observed at the time of the site visit.

Several creeks can be found on the property including Oak Grove Branch, which feeds into Sandy Creek; White Creek, Crooked Creek and Peavy Creek, which feed into Bruce Creek; and an unnamed tributary of Mill Creek. All these creeks eventually drain into the Choctawhatchee River, an Outstanding Florida Water. Additionally, the Creeks to Choctawhatchee River project overlaps with the Northwest Florida Water Management District's Choctawhatchee River and Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan designed to protect the state's priority surface waterbodies.

Almost the entirety of the project (96 percent) is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. The project also lies within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape; a regional partnership planning boundary focused on limiting threats to military installations across the panhandle.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Florida mountain-mint**	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

If acquired, the Creeks to Choctawhatchee River project will be managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) as a part of Pine Log State Forest.

Acquisition Planning

2025

On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Creeks to Choctawhatchee River project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

The Trust for Public Land proposed this project.

Management Policy Statement

The purpose of acquiring this tract is to conserve forestland in Florida. State acquisition of the natural resources would provide essential water quality protection along the Choctawhatchee River, a state-designated Outstanding Florida Water.

Manager(s)

FFS is the identified manager for the Creeks to Choctawhatchee River project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

FFS' mission is to "…manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations." By acquiring more forestland that is suitable to provide forest resources for future generations, state acquisition of the subject property does align with FFS' management mission. The property is suitable for multiple-use management activities including silviculture, the use of Best Management Practices which will benefit the Choctawhatchee River water quality, public access and recreation, and restoration. Benefits the public would gain through the addition of this tract to Pine Log State Forest include increased acreage for recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, kayaking/canoeing, horseback riding, photography and Operation Outdoor Freedom events. Additionally, the management of timber on the tract would provide an economic return on the state forest and support the local timber industry.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The planted pine stands have been rotationally cut and reforested for more than 40 years. The most recent cut was approximately 120 acres in fall 2024 and has not yet been replanted. Approximately 1,000 acres were cut in 2018 and have been reforested. Prescribed fire should be applied following the first thinning and during the dormant season to promote habitat diversity, increase wildlife browsing, promote plant diversity and help mitigate wildfire.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Management strategies will center on the multiple-use concept, as defined in sections 589.04(3) and 253.034(2)(a), Florida Statutes. Implementation of this concept will utilize and conserve state forest resources in a harmonious and coordinated combination that will best serve the people of the State of Florida, and that is consistent with the purpose for which the forest was acquired. Multiple-use management for the tract will be accomplished with the following strategies:

- Practice sustainable forest management for the efficient generation of revenue and in support of state forest management objectives.
- Provide for resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities for multiple interests.
- Restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems ensuring the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened or rare, and other components of biological diversity including game and nongame wildlife and plants.
- Protect known archaeological, historical, cultural and paleontological resources.
- Restore, maintain and protect hydrological functions related to water resources and the health of associated wetland and aquatic communities.

Additionally, short-term management goals may be established regarding site security measures, public access, timber inventory and stand information. The establishment of long-term goals may include consideration of additional positions, infrastructure and equipment funding.

FFS uses a multiple-use management concept when managing state lands. On-site acreage suitable for timber management may also be used for public recreational activities, historical preservation and potential interpretation and habitat diversity. Various management activities such as prescribed fire allow multiple uses, like recreation and habitat management, to coexist on a healthy and balanced landscape.

Public recreation opportunities on this tract will be evaluated and may include horseback riding and passive resource-based activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature study, paddling and primitive camping. Public hunting and Operation Outdoor Freedom event opportunities will be evaluated in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Research projects or other opportunities for scientific study for the purpose of obtaining information which expands the knowledge of and assists in restoration and management of this ecosystem may be appropriate once evaluated.

Timber resources will be managed to promote forest health. Timber sales on a rotational basis will provide a source of ongoing revenue, while improving forest health by eradicating diseased and weakened trees, reducing competition for light and providing wildlife with various diverse areas suitable for nesting and foraging. Timber management including prescribed fire provides invasive treatment and nutrient replenishment for ecosystem health.

Revenue-generating Potential

The potential to generate revenue from the tract is high. User fees, silviculture and miscellaneous forest products may be considered for revenue-generating potential. Staff may evaluate other potential revenue-generating opportunities, as appropriate.

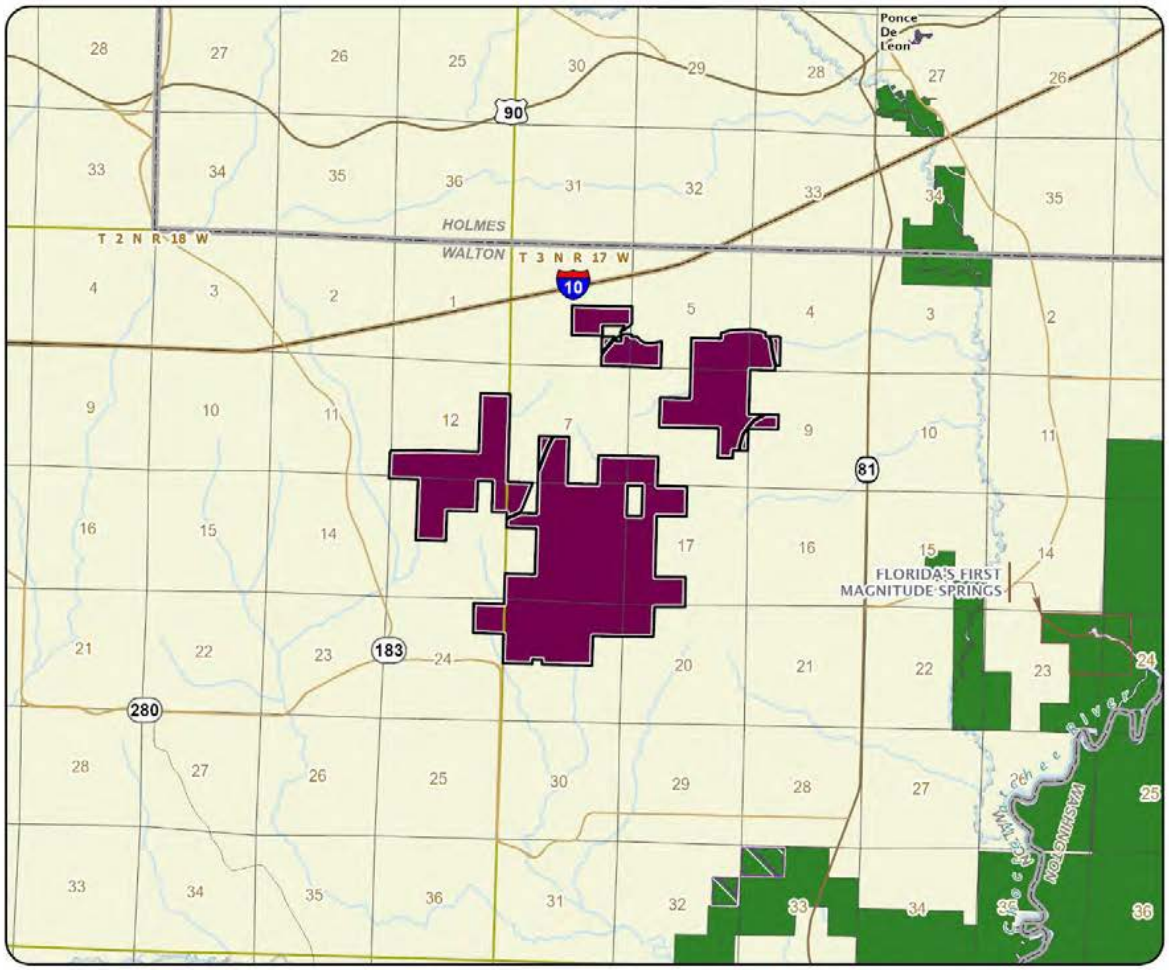
Cooperators in Management Activities

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF), or other funding opportunities as appropriate. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source	LATF	LATF
Salary (2 FTE)	$205,000	$205,000
OPS (2 OPS)	$75,000	$75,000
Resource Management	$10,000	$15,000
Capital Improvements	$15,000	$10,000
Visitor Services/ Recreation	$2,000	$5,000
Support	$50,000	$10,000
Administration	$5,000	$2,500
TOTAL	$362,000	$322,500

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted.



CREEKS TO CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER

WALTON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch

Partnerships and Regional Incentives
Pasco County

Year Added to Priority List	*2007*
Project Acres	*12,440*
Acquired Acres	*25*
Remaining Project Acres	*12,415*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$82,195,460*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch project will preserve habitat for rare and imperiled species. The project will also protect, restore and maintain the quality of land and water at the site as well as increase the acreage of a groundwater recharge area. The property has the potential to be a regional park, which would increase local resource-based recreation opportunities.

General Description

The Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch project is in north-central Pasco County but contains property 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. Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch supports cattle, timber, a 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 Crossbar Ranch portion of the property. The Al Bar portion of the ranch 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 planted pine and improved pasture. (There are approximately 3,602 acres of pine plantation on Crossbar Ranch and about 1,514 acres on Al Bar Ranch.) The natural communities present on-site include xeric hammock and remnant sandhill, depression marsh, mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, dome swamp, flatwoods lake, mesic hammock, baygall and sinkhole.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Pinesnake	G4/S3
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Tricolored heron	G5/S4

Public Use

A resource inventory will be used to identify areas that are appropriate for responsible recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will be primarily located in disturbed areas. It is anticipated that interpretive and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed.

Acquisition Planning

2007

On December 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 would focus on the Crossbar portion of the acquisition and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands would focus on the Al Bar portion of the acquisition (both in partnership with Pasco County and others). In 2007, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of $3,730,476.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

Coordination

Southwest Florida Water Management District (indicated that 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 of the project are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; integrate compatible human use; and ensure long-term viability of rare and imperiled species. This multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) will manage the Crossbar Ranch portion of the project. At the December 2007 ARC meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission expressed interest in managing the Al Bar Ranch portion of this project (about one-third of the project area).

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

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 understory 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 make it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

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. Most 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 pine straw and cattle operations. The pine straw production area is 4,100 acres of slash pine and the pines are 15 to 20 years old. There are an additional 500 acres of planted longleaf pine in areas to be restored before the pine straw production area is restored. The improved pastures total about 2,100 acres with multiple combinations of grasses planted in them. 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 groundcover and possible wetland restoration. 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to FFS, public access will be 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 and imperiled species 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. The burning goals for this project will be to eventually establish an all-season prescribed burning program on all the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed burns and natural fires. Timber management activities will primarily consist of re-introduction of 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.

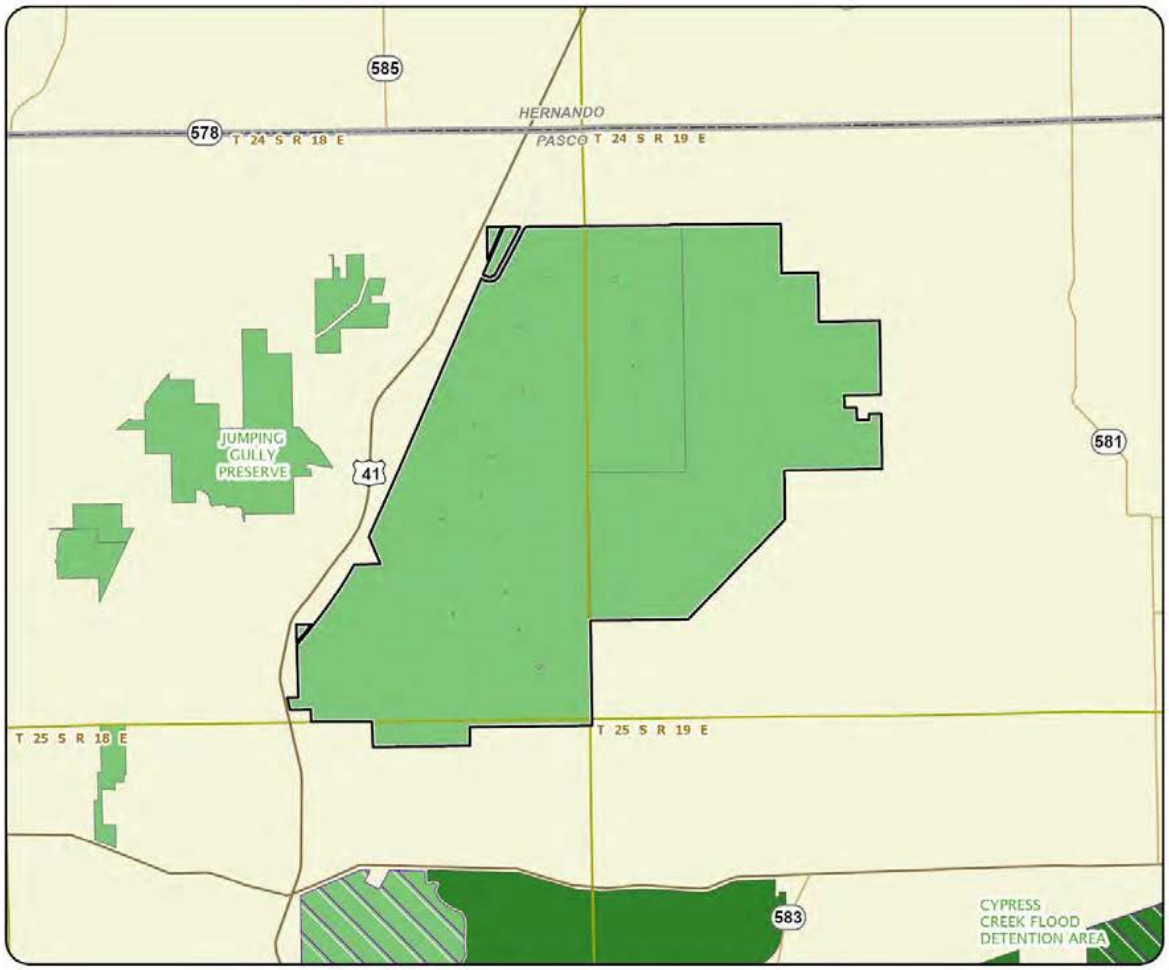
Revenue-generating Potential

As mentioned above, timber sales from the Crossbar Ranch by FFS 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. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Conservation and Recreational Lands trust fund.

Management Cost Summary

FFS and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Startup	Recurring
Source	Not Provided	Not Provided
Salary (3 FTE)	$108,341	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$500,000	Not Provided
OCO	$450,000	Not Provided
FCO	Not Provided	Not Provided
TOTAL	$1,058,341	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CROSSBAR/AL BAR RANCH

PASCO COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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Dade County Archipelago

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Miami-Dade County

Year Added to Priority List	*1994*
Project Acres	*853*
Acquired Acres	*635*
Remaining Project Acres	*218*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$42,366,611*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Dade County Archipelago project will protect some of the last remaining subtropical pinelands and hardwood hammocks unique to the United States. These forests were once abundant on a limestone ridge east of the Everglades, where Miami and Homestead along with surrounding farms now stand. Today, only tiny pieces of the forests remain, the best of which the Dade County Archipelago project will protect. The project will conserve habitat for rare and imperiled species (many found nowhere else in the world) and will provide areas where residents and visitors can learn about and appreciate this ecosystem.

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 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 as well as numerous rare animal species. Several of the hammocks contain significant archaeological sites. These remaining sites are threatened by agriculture and urban development.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
*Florida lantana**	G2T1/S1
*Beach jacquemontia**	G1/S1
Bartram's scrub-hairstreak	G4T1/S1
*Carter's small-flowered flax**	G1/S1
*Florida brickell-bush**	G5T1/S1
*Florida filmy fern**	G4G5T1/S1
*Modest spleenwort**	G1/S1
*Rockland hoary-pea**	G1/S1
*Cuban snakebark**	G2G3T1/S1
*Gould's wedge sandmat**	G2T1/S1
*Pinelands spurge**	G2T1/S1
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1994

The Dade County Archipelago dates from 1994 when the former Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands and Miami Rockridge Pinelands, both in Miami-Dade County, were combined.

Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands

Phasing of the hammocks in order of priority: Silver Palm (two of three tracts purchased through The Nature Conservancy); Castello Extension; Loveland; Big and Little George; Meissner Ross; Southwest Island; Holiday; Lucille; Ross; and Madden's. All sites are essential. Miami-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); and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory addition to Site 10 and Site 9. The Ludlam Pineland (10 acres) was added on July 20, 1994. Miami-Dade County has acquired the tract. All sites are essential.

1995

In December 1995, Miami-Dade County proposed adding 16 sites to the project area. All of the sites were assessed during the 1995 cycle with the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approving in December 1995. The sites added were Boystown (77 acres); Tamiami Addition; Wilkins-

Pierson Addition; Whispering Pines; Castellow Complex #28; Castellow Complex #31; Castellow Complex #33; Goulds, Hardin, Owaissa Bauer Addition; Fuchs; Navy Wells #2; Navy Wells #23; Navy Wells #39; Round Hammock; and Bauer Drive Pineland. Miami-Dade County acquired approximately 348 acres within the project at a cost of $21,889,314.

2005

On December 28, 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund acquired the Yang parcel (9.47 acres) from Miami-Dade County.

2008

On December 17, 2008, the Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resources Management acquired Wilkins-Pierson Pineland (10.56 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2023

In October 2023, ARC voted to remove approximately 42 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

Miami-Dade County is the acquisition partner. In May 1990, county voters approved a referendum, which increased ad valorem tax by 0.75 mills for two years, generating approximately $90 million 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. The Nature Conservancy has been an intermediary in the acquisition of some sites. Miami-Dade County continues with acquisition of the remaining tracts. Resolutions in support of this project included a pledge from the Miami-Dade County Commission to participate in providing 50 percent 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 Miami-Dade County. Achieving this objective will protect over 50 rare plant species, several of which are found nowhere else in the world and will 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 that 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 effective. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as interpretive trails, to ensure that they do not harm the most sensitive resources. Recreational facilities should be sited in already disturbed areas when possible. With intensive management, this project has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.

Manager(s)

Miami-Dade County is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project generally includes high-need tracts requiring site-specific resource management and protection.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

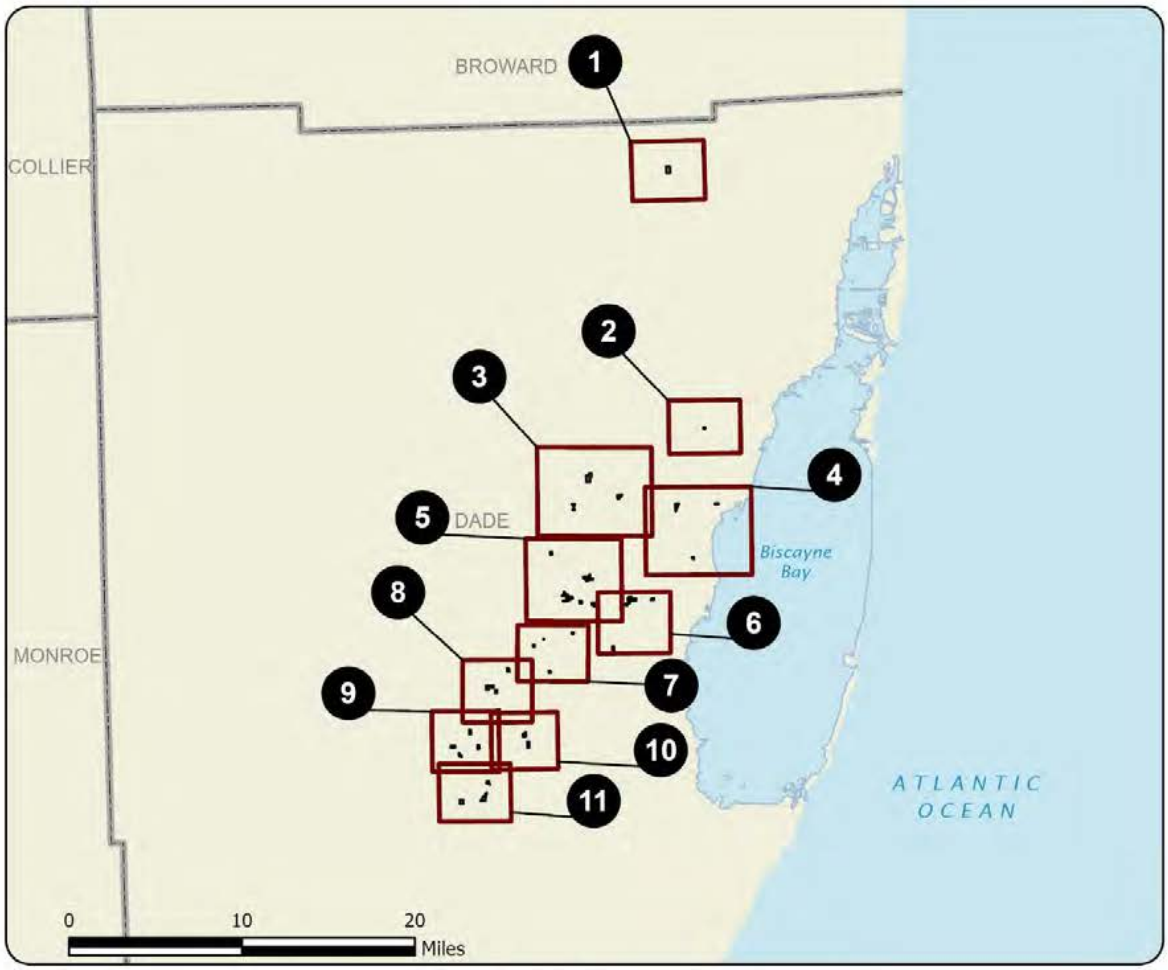
Within the first year after acquisition, initial activities concentrate on site security, removing existing trash, public and fire management access and resource inventory (including areas of special concern such as archaeological sites, rare species sites, and fern-, vine- and exotic-dominated areas). Long-range plans will generally be toward restoring disturbed areas and perpetuating and maintaining natural communities.

Management activities will also stress protecting 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

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

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

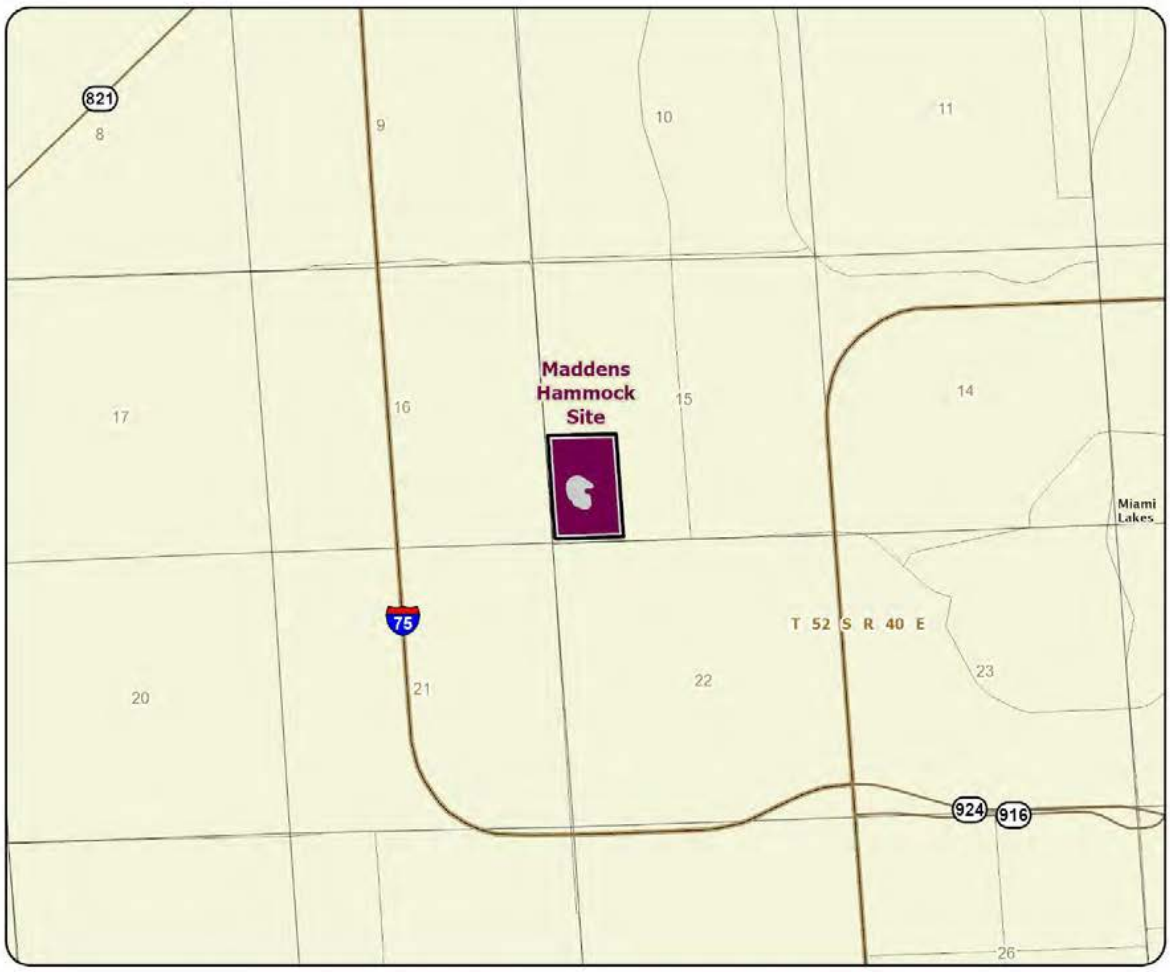


DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: OVERVIEW

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- ☐ Map 1 Maddens Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 2 Trinity Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 3 Big and Little George Hammocks Site
- ☐ Map 3 Boystown Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 3 Tamiami Pineland Complex Addition Site
- ☐ Map 4 Ludlam Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 4 Rockdale Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 4 Whispering Pines Site
- ☐ Map 5 Castellow Hammock #28 Site
- ☐ Map 5 Castellow Hammock #31 Site
- ☐ Map 5 Castellow Hammock #33 Site
- ☐ Map 5 Castellow Hammock Addition Site
- ☐ Map 5 Quail Roost Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 5 Ross Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 5 Silver Palm Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 5 Silver Palm Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 5 Wilkins Pierson Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 6 Coulds Pineland Addition Site
- ☐ Map 6 Coulds Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 6 Harden Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 6 Pine Island Lake Park Site
- ☐ Map 7 Bauer Drive Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 7 Camp Owaissa Bauer Pineland Addition Site
- ☐ Map 7 Ingram Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 7 Plummer Drive Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 8 Fuchs Hammock Addition Site
- ☐ Map 8 Fuchs Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 8 Meissner Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 8 Navy Wells Pineland #2 Site
- ☐ Map 8 West Biscayne Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 9 Loveland Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 9 Lucille Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 9 Navy Wells Pineland #39 Site
- ☐ Map 9 Palm Drive Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 10 Florida City Pineland Site
- ☐ Map 10 Navy Wells Pineland #23 Site
- ☐ Map 11 Holiday Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 11 Round Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 11 Southwest Hammock Site





DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 1

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Florida Forever Project Boundary
Essential Parcels Remaining
Other Public Lands



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0 0.8 1.6 Miles



DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 2

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 3

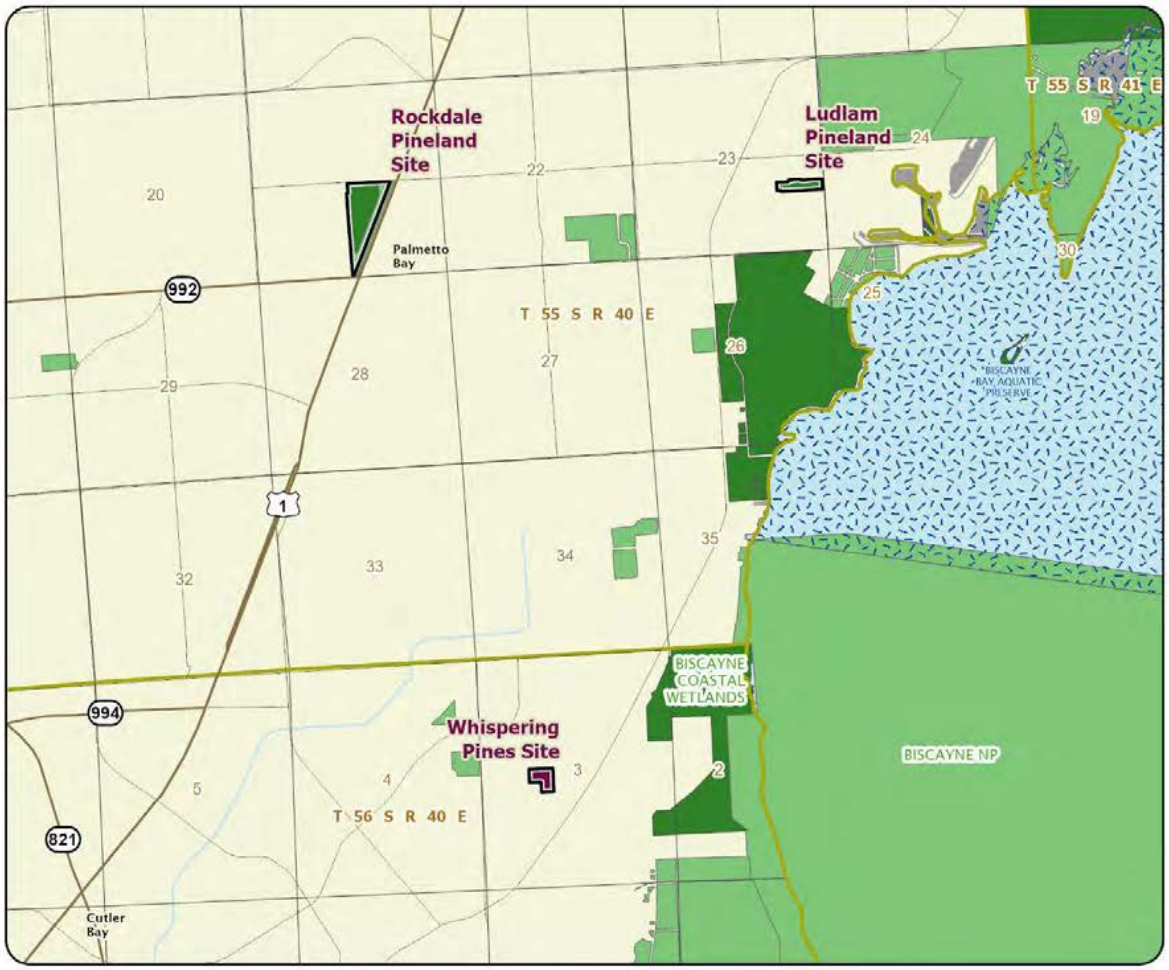
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 4

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 5

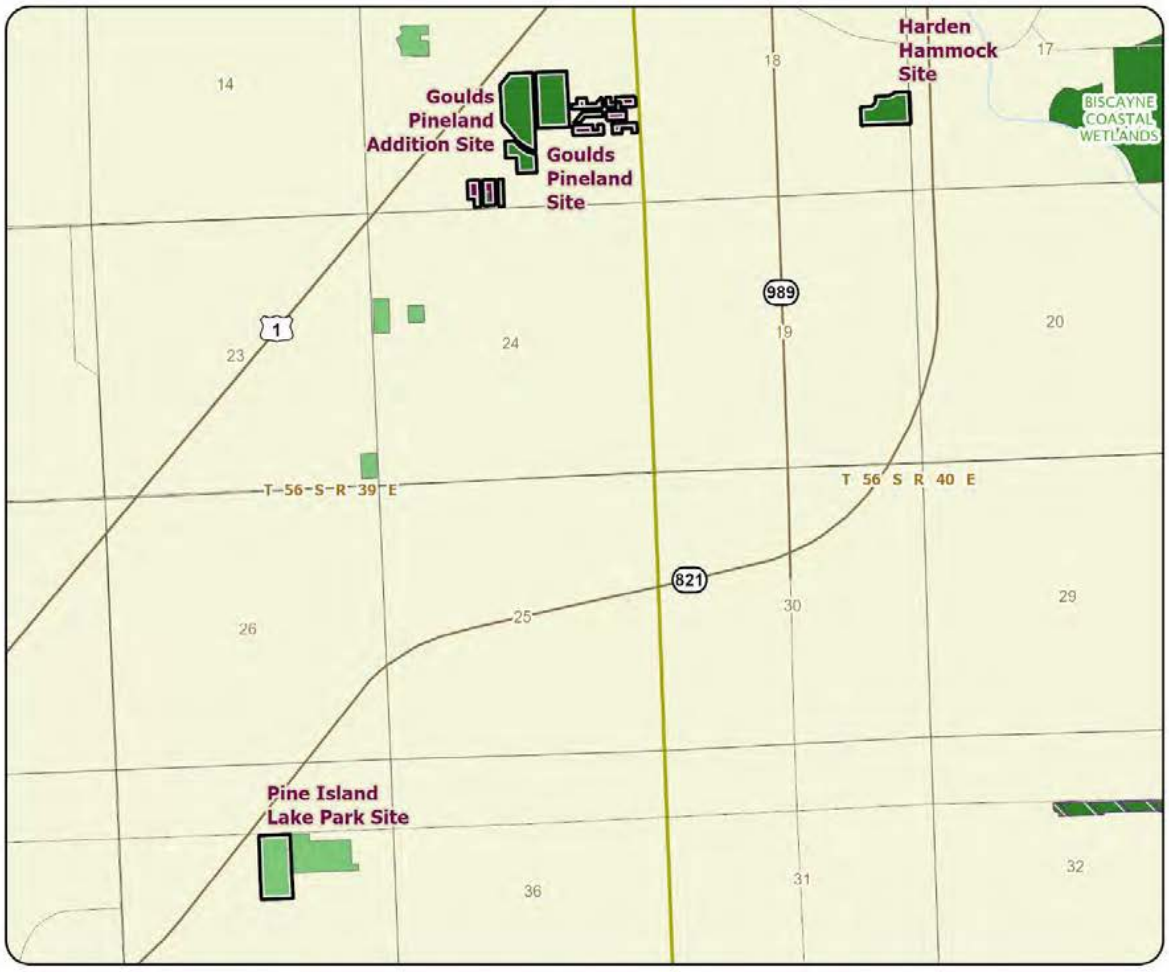
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 6

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 7

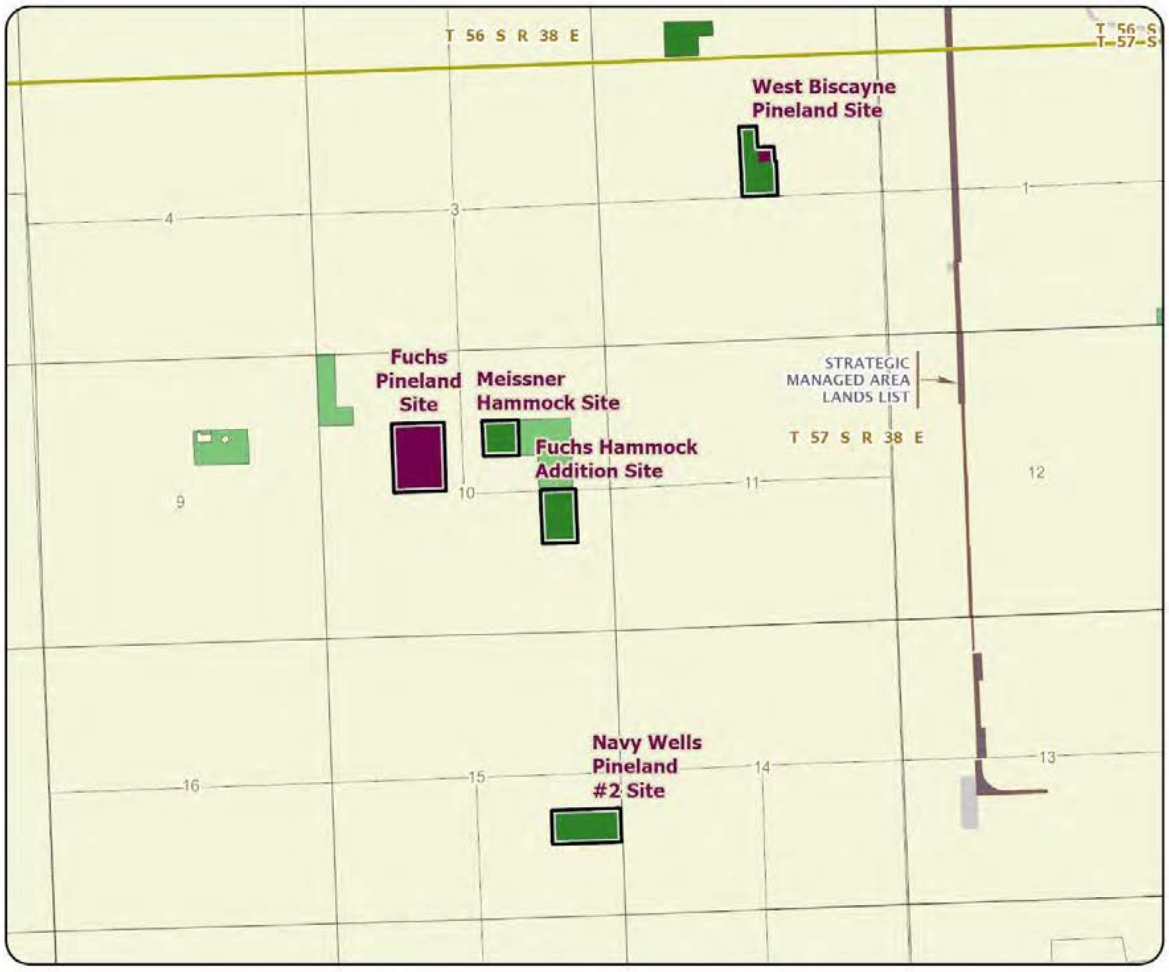
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 8

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 9

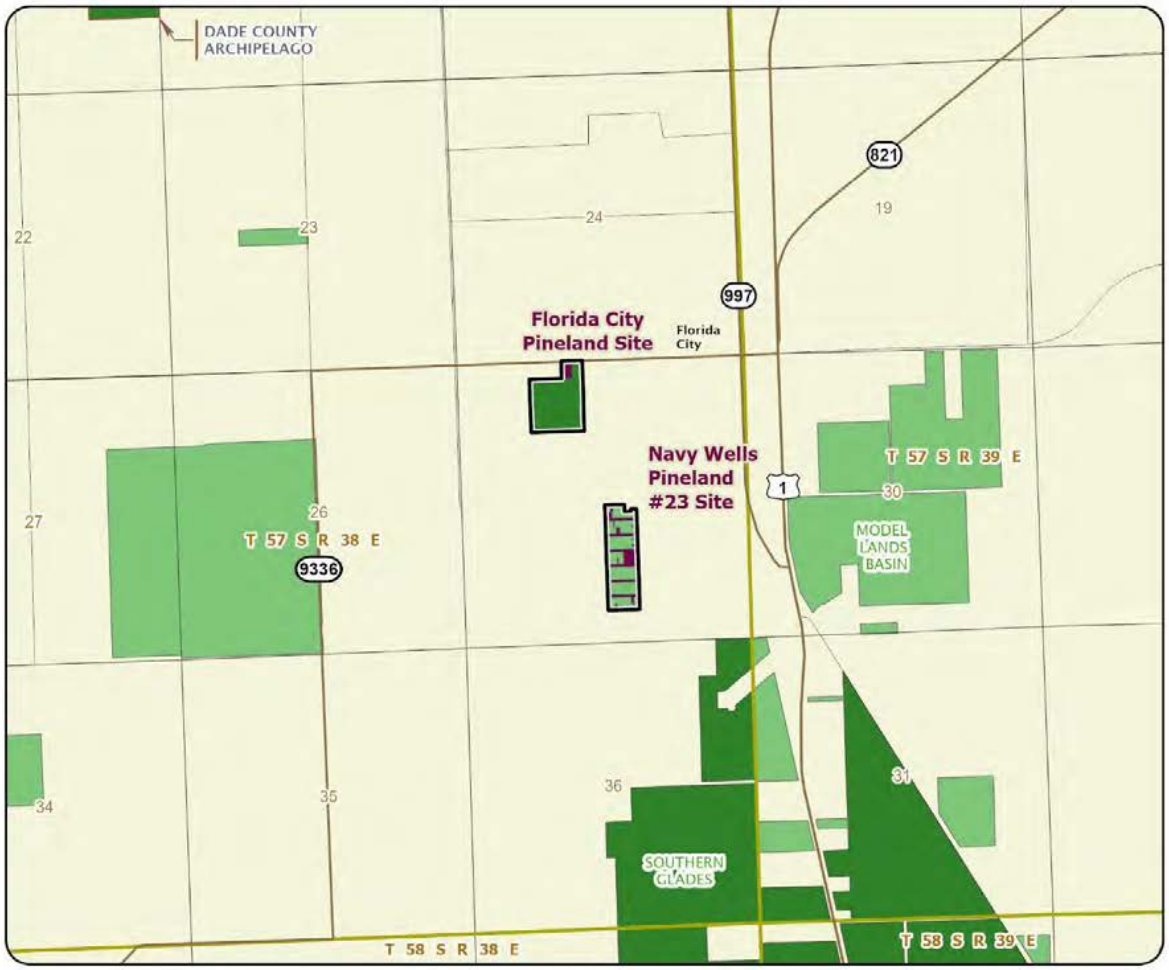
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 10

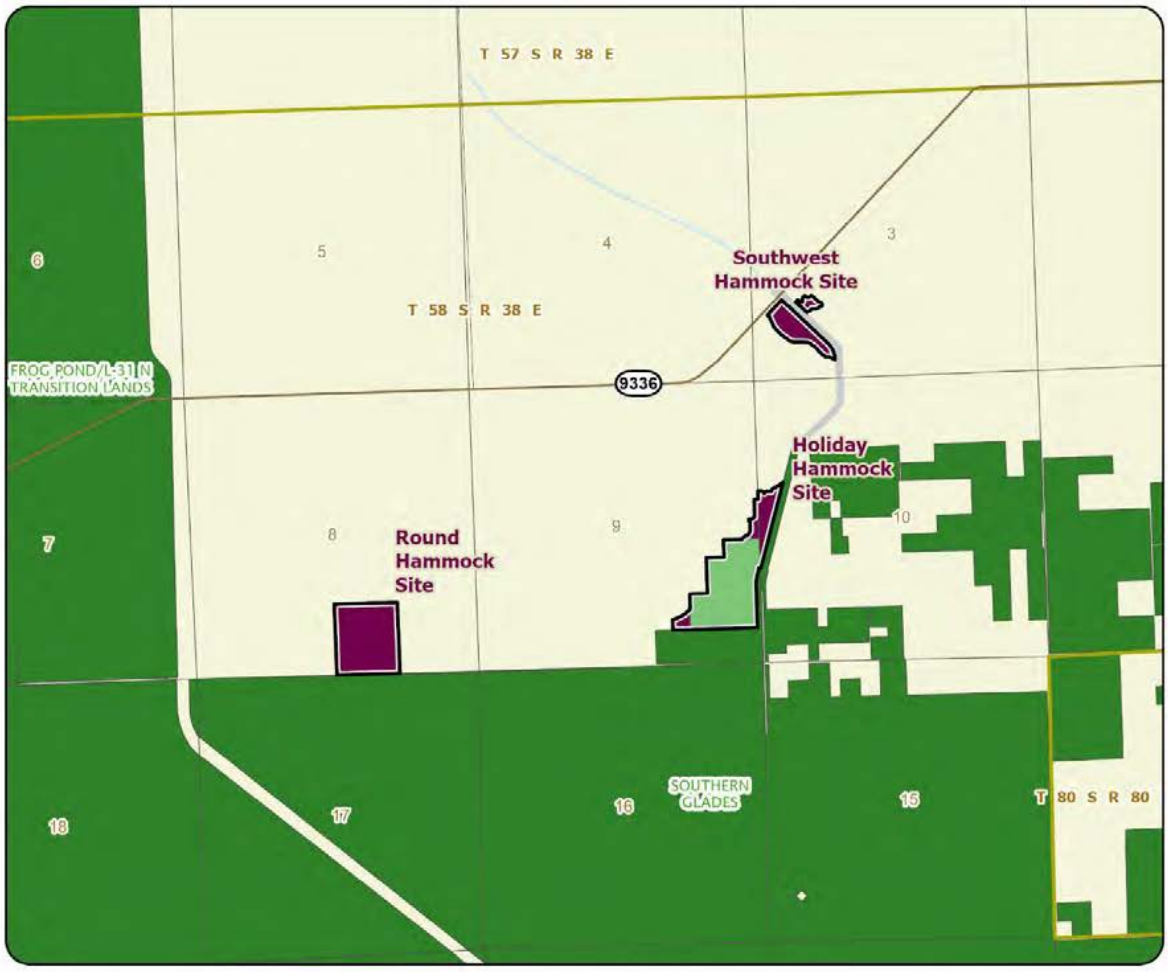
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 11

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Flagler County Blueway

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Flagler County

Year Added to Priority List	*2003*
Project Acres	*4,260*
Acquired Acres	*1,422*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,838*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$396,876,097*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Flagler County Blueway project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity through the preservation of natural ecological communities that provide wildlife habitat for rare species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus).* The project will provide valuable urban open space and opportunities for public resource-based recreation in a rapidly growing area of the state.

General Description

The Flagler County Blueway project stretches from near Pellicer Creek down south to the Flagler County line. The project follows the Intracoastal Waterway and includes most undeveloped and available land east of I-95 in Flagler County.

The Flagler County Blueway project has multiple parcels in the Matanzas River ecosystem watershed, which includes the Intracoastal Waterway. The size of private lands in this project vary greatly in size, from 10 to 1,056 acres and vary in type and quality of habitats. The project extends from the headwaters of Pellicer Creek and the Princess Place Preserve in the north, past the Graham Swamp Conservation Area, to Bulow Creek State Park, just south of the Flagler County line. Project lands are primarily west of the Intracoastal Waterway, with a smaller acreage on the eastern shore of the Intracoastal Waterway. Other nearby conservation lands in addition to those mentioned above include the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park, Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve, Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserve, Tomoka State Park and Washington Oaks Gardens State Park.

Approximately 48 percent of the project are uplands. Scrub is 132 acres of the project area, with mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods totaling 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 comprise 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 is a southern extension of the Graham Swamp Conservation Area and is the largest natural area in the project. About 51 acres are depression marsh. Functional wetlands are 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 protect fragile coastal resources (28 percent, or 2,300 acres of project area). The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) states 84 percent (6,963 acres) of the project would provide surface water protection. There are 1,222 acres of estuarine tidal marsh, mostly along the Intracoastal Waterway, Matanzas River and Smith Creek. There are 218 acres classified as open water. FNAI states 25 percent (2,075 acres) of the project area contains under-represented natural communities.

Imperiled or rare animal species documented by FNAI to occur on the project include the gopher tortoise and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus macgillivrii*). The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* has been reported to nest near the project area. The West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) occurs nearby in the Intracoastal Waterway. Many other vertebrate species are expected to occupy habitat within the project area. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), approximately 42 percent (3,486 acres) of the project area is within Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas. According to FNAI, another 31 percent (2,583 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

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. 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. The Flagler County Blueway project has tracts of land adjacent to or very near the following managed areas: Bulow Creek State Park, Faver-Dykes State Park, Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area, Graham Swamp Conservation Area, Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, North

Peninsula State Park, Pellicer Creek Corridor Conservation Area, Princess Place Preserve, Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve and Washington Oaks Gardens State Park.

Acquisition Planning

1994

On December 15, 1994, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the 105.39-acre Matanzas Shores conservation easement, all of which was inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Flagler County Blueway project to Group B of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. While fee simple acquisition is preferred, there may be parcels that are not 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 and multiple owners with a 2002 taxable value of $20,502,164.

2004

On June 3, 2004, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List.

2006

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a project redesign that included a reduction of the project boundary by 606 acres and approved the addition of 4.5 acres. All parcels removed had been developed or become isolated since the original boundary was identified.

In 2006, ARC approved a fee simple, 20-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Flagler County, consisted of one parcel and landowner (Kitteridge Investments) and had a 2002 taxable value of $6,800. The addition is considered important, but not critical to the project. If acquired, it will be managed by Flagler County as part of Princess Place Preserve.

2008

In October 2008, 59.19 acres of the Emerald Coast Development Partners, LLC ownership were purchased for $790,000 ($395,000 from Florida Forever funds and $395,000 from Flagler County). Flagler County will manage this site as part of the Betty Steflik Memorial Preserve (320 acres).

2011

On October 14, 2011, ARC recommended a 182-acre reduction to the project boundary because of residential development/commercial buildings/infrastructure.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2021

On August 13, 2021, ARC approved a reduction of 19.26 acres in Flagler County from the project boundary.

Coordination

St. Johns River Water Management District and Flagler County are considered partners on this project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) and FWC are to be cooperating managers for this project, while Flagler County will manage the Emerald Coast parcel.

Management Prospectus

FFS and FWC will share all management responsibilities for Flagler County Blueway under a unified management concept. 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.

Project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, so programs would be developed to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means 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 used to best serve the people of the state, making judicious use of the land for some or all these resources and considering the relative values of the various resources.

Conserving and protecting the unique coastal maritime community, xeric oak scrub community and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. A broad-scale management program will be developed to 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 found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The project area is near many users who 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.

Qualifications for State Designation

Some tracts in this project adjoin and provide connectivity among federal, state and local conservation lands. This project is significant as an ecological greenway.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The disjunct nature of parcels comprising the Flagler County Blueway creates a special management consideration to be addressed by the unified managers. FFS and FWC will need to devise a strategy to deploy manpower, equipment and other management resources in a coordinated and efficient manner. Some portions of Flagler County Blueway are low-need areas that will require up-front implementation of resource management, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. About 23 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silviculture, consequently, additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoring to a desired future condition.

FFS and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop a conceptual management plan for the site. Examples of situations requiring cooperative effort include restoring mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removing or thinning off-site timber species to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforesting recently harvested areas. 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 conserve habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protecting maritime hammock communities, restoring sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species. Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*), a Category I exotic (most adversely affecting Florida's ecology), is an established shrub in the project area and deserves aggressive control.

The principal land management activities slated for less disturbed natural communities include introducing 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 restoring native groundcovers. Biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. With imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the project, 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, would be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will emphasize 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 conceptual management plan specifying area management goals and objectives. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments and to cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, other state agencies, local governments and other appropriate participants affecting management of the project site. Goals for the long term emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoring 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 fire lines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources whom 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 ensure 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 the 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 Emerald Coast parcel, already purchased, will be separately managed by Flagler County.

Revenue-generating Potential

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. FNAI indicates that 27 percent (2,260 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 2, 3 and 5 for sustainable forestry. FNAI's estimate is 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 of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which those funds were generated. Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all management funds, site generated revenues and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between FFS and FWC.

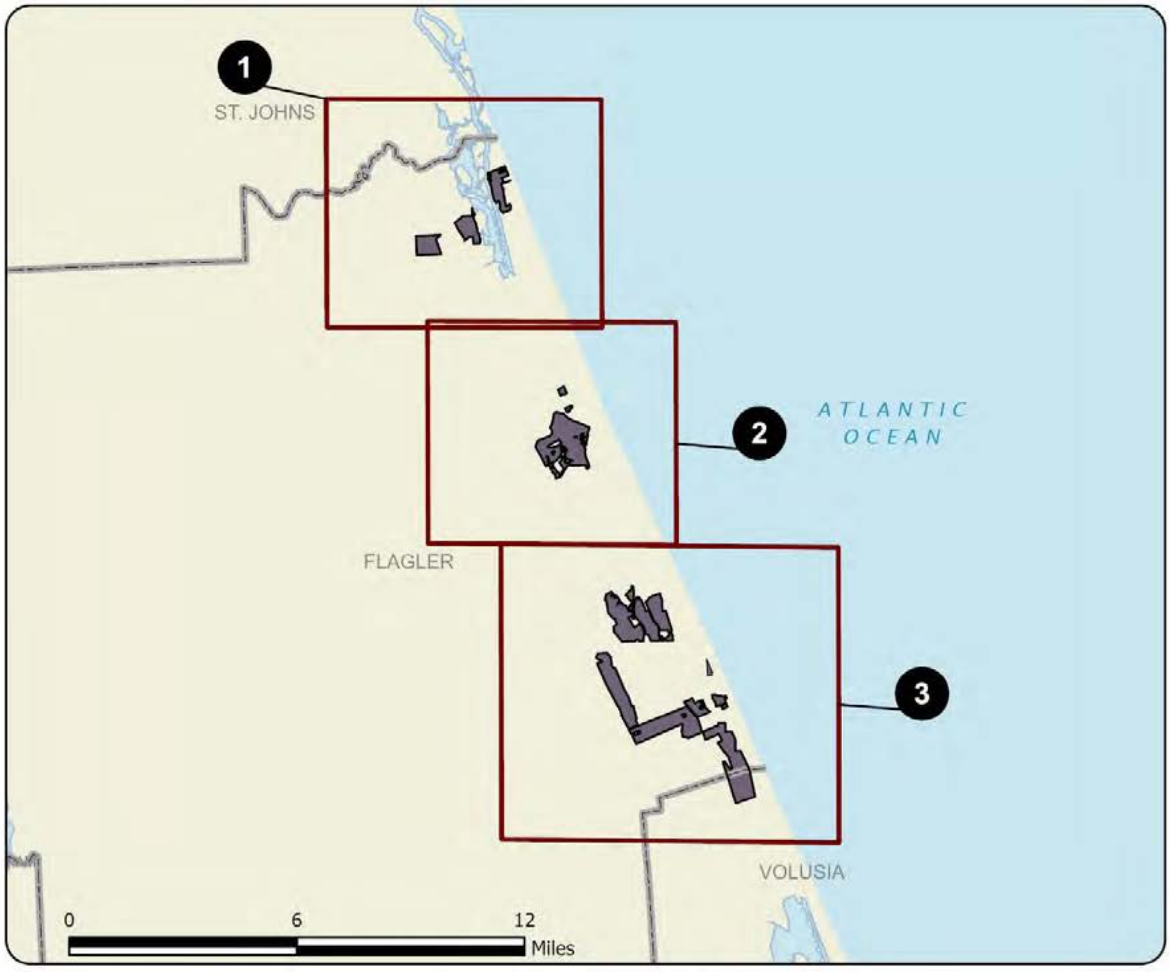
Cooperators in Management Activities

The unified managers (FFS and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including St. Johns River Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as both a state forest and a wildlife management area.

Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	$988,553	$85,164
OCO	$375,896	$208,493
TOTAL	$1,364,449	$293,657

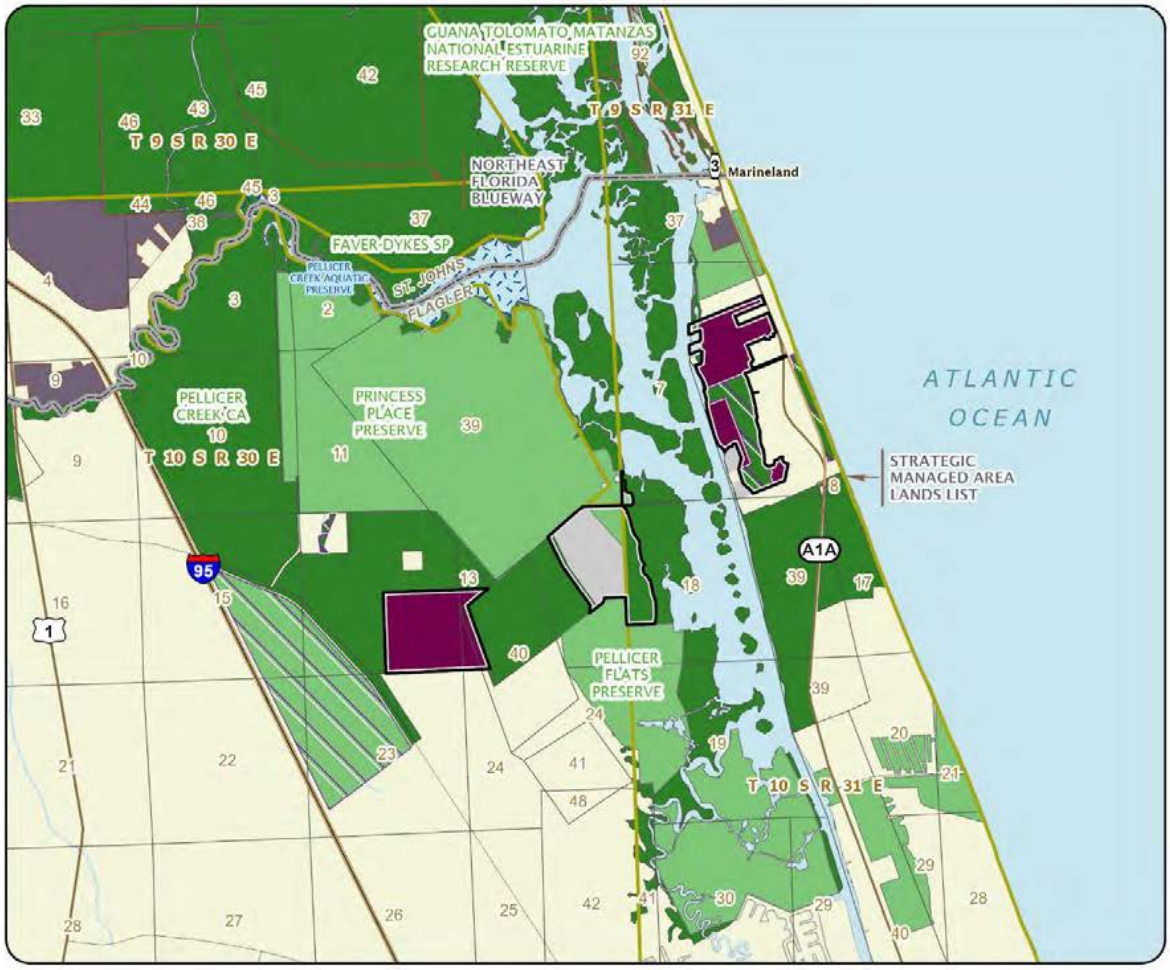
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES





FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 1

FLAGLER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 2

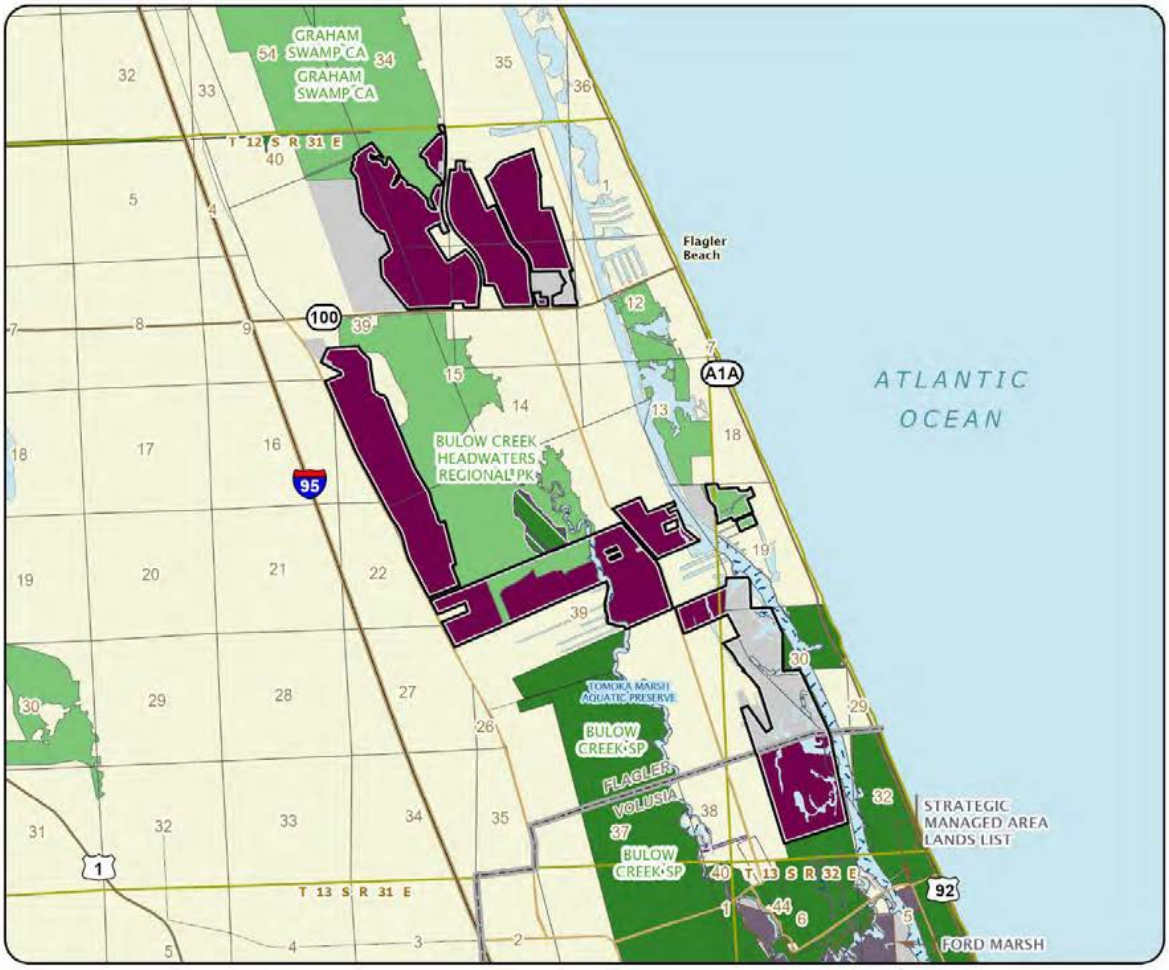
FLAGLER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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0 1 2 Miles



FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 3

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Florida's First Magnitude Springs

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Bay, Citrus, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jackson, Lafayette, Lake, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Wakulla, Walton and Washington Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1991*
Project Acres	*18,904*
Acquired Acres	*11,988*
Remaining Project Acres	*6,916*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$61,406,872*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Florida's First Magnitude Springs project will protect large springs of clear, continuously flowing water that are among Florida's most famous and important natural and recreational resources. The cavernous, water-filled rock of the Floridan Aquifer supplies the largest springs. By preserving land around the 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.

General Description

The thick, water-filled limestone underlying Florida has created more large springs (including river rises and karst windows) than any other state or country. Those discharging an average of 100 cubic feet of water per second are called first-magnitude springs. The 33 recognized first-magnitude springs in Florida are scattered in the northern peninsula and the eastern panhandle, where the limestone of the Floridan Aquifer arches 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 are famous tourist attractions. The tracts harbor at least seven Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) listed plants and 18 animals. The Weeki Wachee tract includes one of the best remaining scrubs on Florida's West Coast. Several archaeological or historic sites are also known from these springs, with some remains dating to over 2,000 years ago. All these springs are vulnerable to development and unsupervised use.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G1/S1
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Suwannee moccasinshell	G1/S1
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1
Withlacoochee tiny sand-loving scarab	G1/S1
Dougherty Plain cave amphipod	G1G2/S1
Tapered pigtoe	G2/S1
Coastal lowland cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Florida Big Bend cave amphipod	G1G2/S1S2

Public Use

The project sites are designated for use as state parks, geological sites and wildlife and environmental areas with high recreational potential for swimming, canoeing, camping and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

1990

On December 7, 1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Florida's First Magnitude Springs – Phase I project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Priority List. This fee simple acquisition, sponsored by the former Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, consisted of approximately 2,907 acres, 36 landowners, 136 parcels and a taxable value of $5,718,493.

In 1990, five springs made up the project: Falmouth Spring (Suwannee County, 75 acres, one parcel, one landowner, $45,000 taxable value); Fanning Springs (Levy County, 525 acres, 98 parcels, 17 landowners, $1,187,610 taxable value); Gainer Springs (Bay County, 1,258 acres, 19 parcels, seven landowners, $3,256,739 taxable value); River Sink Spring (Wakulla County, 105 acres, four parcels, four landowners, $64,956 taxable value); and St. Marks Springs (Leon County, 890 acres, 19 parcels, six landowners, $1,164,188 taxable value).

According to the 1990 Project Design document, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage St. Marks Springs. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will manage River Sink Spring. DRP and the Suwannee River Water Management District will manage Fanning Springs. A lead manager has not been determined for Falmouth Springs. The lead manager is still unclear for Gainer Springs; however, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) and Bay County both expressed an interest. A portion of the Fanning Springs sites have been acquired. NWFWMD has acquired 214 acres of the Gainer Springs sites.

1991

On June 28, 1991, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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. Suwannee River Water Management District will manage if acquired.

1992

On December 10, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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, three parcels, two landowners, $256,556 taxable value); Troy Spring (Lafayette County, 265 acres, six parcels, two landowners, $261,897 taxable value); and Weeki Wachee Springs (Hernando County, 1,267 acres, 59 parcels, 24 landowners, $4,661,999 taxable value). DRP will manage the Weeki Wachee Springs and Troy Spring site. Jackson County will manage the Jackson Blue Springs sites. Portions of Troy Spring, Weeki Wachee Springs and Jackson Blue Springs sites have been acquired.

On December 10, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council also approved a fee simple 1,635-acre addition (Gainer Springs Expansion) and combined it with the Gainer Springs site. Most 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 in Bay and Washington counties. NWFWMD will manage the 214-acre Harder tract that it acquired.

1995

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 Merritt's Mill Pond in Jackson County, and has a taxable value of $258,790. Jackson County will manage the addition. Both properties were acquired in 1997.

1998

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council transferred the St. Marks Springs, River Sink Spring, Fanning Springs and Gainer Springs sites to the Negotiation Impasse group.

1999

On July 29, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple 65-acre addition (Madison Blue Springs) in Madison County to the project, sponsored by the landowners' representative. It contains 45 parcels, 22 landowners and a taxable value of $604,000. The addition was

designated essential and added to the Priority portion of the project. Madison County committed to managing back in 1999, of which at that time approximately 44 acres had been acquired. DRP now manages as part of Madison Blue Spring State Park.

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed land owned by the St. Joe Company (740 acres) from the project and placed it in the St. Joe Timberland CARL project.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (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 to manage it if acquired; however, the property was sold to a third party in 2002.

2003

On April 18, 2003, 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. Also on April 18, 2003, ARC approved a fee simple 4,552-acre addition (Silver Springs Addition) north of Silver Springs in Marion County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the Silver Springs Basin Working Group, consisting of one landowner, Avatar Properties Inc., and had a taxable value of $3,406,945. FFS will manage this if acquired.

On August 15, 2003, 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, consisting of one landowner, Union Land and Timber Corp., nine parcels and a taxable value of $97,000. Lafayette County committed to managing back in 2003, if it were to be acquired. DRP now manages as part of Lafayette Blue Springs State Park.

On October 17, 2003, 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, two parcels and a taxable value of $2,889,223. Marion County will manage the site. In 2005, 330 acres were acquired.

On December 5, 2003, 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, five landowners (Edinburgh Investment Corp; AJ Green; Howard Muncaster Partnership; LH Alford Farms Inc.; and Doyle Green), and a taxable value of $303,367. Jackson County will manage it if acquired.

2004

On October 15, 2004, 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, and consisted of one parcel, and a taxable value of $47,700. Leon County will manage if acquired.

2006

On April 17, 2006, NWFWMD established the Patronis conservation easement (882 acres), of which approximately 27.5 acres are within the project boundary.

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a fee simple 305-acre addition (Hardee Spring) to the boundary in Hamilton County. The addition was sponsored by Harold Hardee and involved one parcel with a taxable value of $57,001. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) would manage the site as part of the Twin Rivers State Forest if acquired. In July 2007, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) acquired 4,471 acres of the Avatar property in Marion County.

2009

On February 25, 2009, the BOT acquired 54.74 acres from the Rakestraw family in the St. Marks Site.

2010

On January 6, 2010, FFS purchased approximately 1 acre for $16,065 from Kaiser/The Nature Conservancy in the Indian Lake State Forest. FFS will manage the purchase.

On May 11, 2010, FFS purchased 0.12 acres for $2,550 and will manage the purchase.

In July 2010, FFS purchased two parcels (0.23 acres for $5,100 and 0.12 acres for $2,800) and will manage both.

On November 15, 2011, FFS purchased 0.23 acres in Indian Lake State Forest (Potter - $5,100) and will manage the purchase.

In October 2010, FFS purchased five parcels (Silver Spring Addition - Bloom, Dinkins, Dupras, Hanson and Szymialis ownerships) making 0.5 acres for a combined $10,200 and will manage all.

In November 2010, FFS purchased two parcels (Silver Spring Addition - Stovall, Landry) totaling 0.29 acres for $6,375 and will manage these.

2011

On May 2, 2011, FFS purchased and will manage 0.23 acres (Jean and Giselle Raymond - $12,000).

On August 3, 2011, the Felburn Foundation donated 2.42 acres in Silver Springs (valued at $100,000) for FFS to manage.

On September 16, 2011, DRP purchased 55.73 acres (Gerrell Plantation, Inc. - $457,000) and will manage as an addition to Natural Bridge Historic State Park.

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC added 63.4 acres to the project that had been authorized for sale from USFS.

2013

On February 15, 2013, ARC changed the design of the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project in Madison County to add the 608-acre Damascus Peanut Tract, then found that conveying the tract to Suwannee River Water Management District in exchange for the 670-acre Ellaville tract would make a greater conservation value and that the Damascus Peanut Tract was no longer needed for conservation by the BOT.

2014

In April 2014, ARC agreed to add the 360-acre Brunson Landing Tract on Holmes Creek, north of Vernon, to the project boundary to protect water resources from development. It provides over 2,200 feet of frontage along Homes Creek and is adjacent to NWFWMD land. It would also be managed by NWFWMD if acquired.

2015

On June 19, 2015, ARC voted to add the 405-acre Gilchrist Blue Springs Park on the Santa Fe River in Gilchrist County to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project. The park has a just value of $1,361,547 and has a second-magnitude spring and two smaller springs. Gilchrist Blue Springs was then added by ARC to the boundary of the existing Florida's First Magnitude Springs project. The 470-acre Silver Springs Sandhill on the edge of the city of Ocala was approved by ARC for fee simple acquisition and combined with the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project.

2017

On October 2, 2017, the state purchased 465 acres of the Sandhill tract to be managed by Marion County as part of Coehadjoe Park.

On October 6, 2017, DEP closed on 399 acres in Gilchrist County, which became Florida's newest state park, Ruth B. Kirby Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park.

On October 20, 2017, ARC approved the Springs Coast Research Station as a Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax value of $643,154. This 28-acre parcel in southwest Citrus County is north of the town of Chassahowitzka. It shares northern and western boundaries with the Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps, which is managed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The parcel is at the edge of Crab Creek, which is the site of Crab Spring, part of the Chassahowitzka first magnitude spring group. The facilities on the property have been well maintained, and the campus layout and functions of the residence and satellite buildings would make it suitable as a research center

for springs systems and habitats. The project was proposed by Wildlands Conservation, a nonprofit conservation group based in Tampa, who would manage the property as a springs research campus in coordination with several educational institutions, as well as protecting the surrounding public lands and underwater acreage.

On December 14, 2017, ARC voted to add the 28-acre Springs Coast Research Station Florida Forever project boundary to that of the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project.

In 2017, a total of 863.45 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2018

On May 23, 2018, NWFWMD established the Hodson conservation easement (228.9 acres), of which approximately 171.9 acres are within the project boundary.

On June 15, 2018, ARC members voted to add 556 acres, the Santa Fe Springs Tract that is on the north side of the Santa Fe River in Columbia County, to the project. FFS will manage this site through FFS' Suwannee Forestry Center if acquired; however, it may be managed as a standalone forest property. FFS estimates the budget needs for the one year of interim management to require a total of $284,348 from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (one full-time employee at $44,439, expenses of $71,935 and Operating Capital Outlay of $167,974).

2020

On October 9, 2020, ARC approved the addition of 37.6 acres that includes Mud Spring in Hernando County to the project boundary.

2022

On April 8, 2002, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 486 acres in Levy County with a tax assessed value of $1,745,229 (Manatee Springs Addition).

On October 14, 2022, ARC approved the addition of 742 acres to the project boundary. This addition was located along the Suwannee River in Suwannee and Lafayette counties, contained multiple springs and had a combined tax assessed value of $1,987,808.

2023

In December of 2023, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 310.07 acres in Levy County.

2024

On January 31, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 288.64 acres in Levy County from the Alachua Conservation Trust.

In June of 2024, ARC approved the addition of 25 parcels (Blais-Sorrel Spring) totaling approximately 50.22 acres in Columbia County.

2025

In February 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 732 acres in Leon County to the project boundary.

On June 20, 2025, DEP acquired a 514.51-acre conservation easement in Levy County from Crimson Swamp, LLC.

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 50 acres in Hamilton County to the project boundary. ARC removed approximately 115 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

Hernando County has limited acquisition funds but is very supportive of state acquisition efforts. NWFWMD has acquired the 214-acre Harder tract in Gainer Springs.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the 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.

Manager(s)

Mud Spring (Hernando County); Jackson Blue Springs (Jackson County); Church Sink (Leon County); Silver Springs Sandhill (Marion County); Morrison Spring (Walton County); Gilchrist Blue Springs Park, St. Marks Springs, Madison Blue Springs, Troy Spring, Lafayette Blue Springs, Weeki Wachee Springs and Horn Spring (DRP); Hardee Spring (FFS); River Sink Spring (USFS); Brunson Landing and Cypress Spring (leased from owner, managed by NWFWMD); Damascus Peanut Tract and Falmouth Spring (NWFWMD); Gainer Springs, Fanning Springs (DRP/NWFWMD); and Springs Coast Research (Wildlands Conservation).

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Gilchrist Blue Springs has a diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as a state park. The location of the Weeki Wachee project adjacent to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife and Environmental Area, as well as its sensitive natural resources, qualifies it as a wildlife and environmental area. 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

River Sink Spring and Blue Springs are moderate-need tracts, 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. FFS would manage the Santa Fe Spring parcel for Operation Outdoor Freedom Hunts.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Jackson Blue Springs is now being used by the public and Jackson County has no plans to curtail activities. The county would continue to open the swimming 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 swimming area is open. Access will be controlled primarily by fences. River Sink Spring 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, DRP 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 swimming 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 Spring may become a national recreational fee area. Fees collected from the 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.

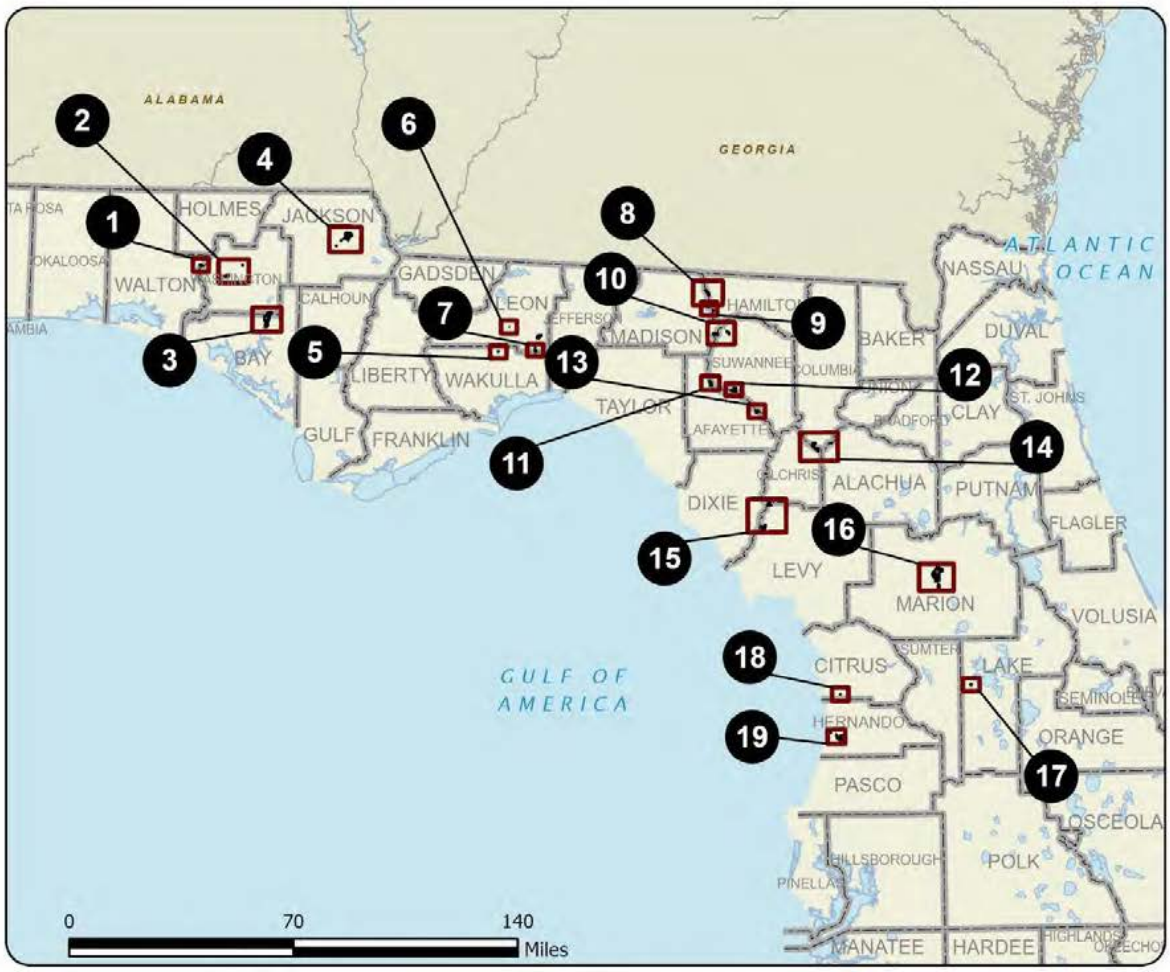
Cooperators in Management Activities

Jackson County expects FWC to cooperate in managing wildlife on the Jackson Blue Springs project area. Other appropriate agencies may wish to become involved in the project. As funds become available and subject to public approval, USFS may enter into a cooperative agreement to manage the property.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Federal	Federal	CARL	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
TOTAL	$3,000	$10,000	$41,849	$41,849

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

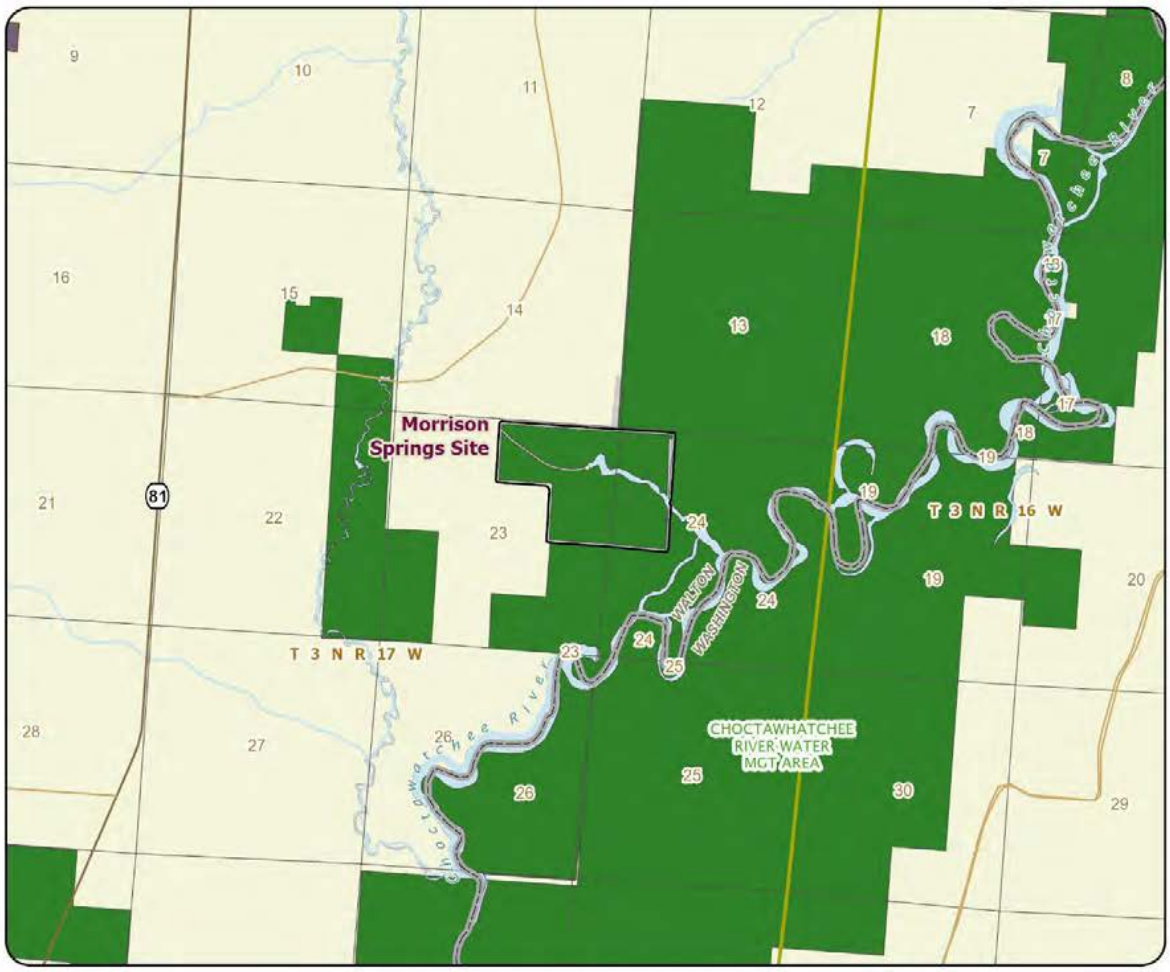


FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: OVERVIEW

BAY, CITRUS, COLUMBIA, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, HERNANDO, JACKSON, LAFAYETTE, LAKE, LEON,

- ☐ Map 2 Brunson Landing Tract Site
- ☐ Map 2 Cypress Spring Site
- ☐ Map 4 Jackson Blue Springs Site
- ☐ Map 5 River Sink Spring Site
- ☐ Map 6 Church Sink Site
- ☐ Map 7 Rose Woodland Tract Site
- ☐ Map 7 St. Marks Springs Site
- ☐ Map 8 Hardee Spring Site
- ☐ Map 9 Madison Blue Springs Site
- ☐ Map 9 Tanner Spring Site
- ☐ Map 1 Morrison Springs Site
- ☐ Map 3 Gainer Springs Site
- ☐ Map 10 Damascus Peanut Tract Site
- ☐ Map 10 Falmouth Spring Site
- ☐ Map 11 Lafayette Blue Springs Site
- ☐ Map 12 Suwannee Springs Site
- ☐ Map 13 Troy Spring Site
- ☐ Map 14 Blue Springs Park Site
- ☐ Map 14 Santa Fe Springs Site
- ☐ Map 14 Sorrell Spring Site
- ☐ Map 15 Fannin Springs Site
- ☐ Map 15 Manatee Springs Site
- ☐ Map 16 Silver Springs Site
- ☐ Map 17 Bugg Spring Site
- ☐ Map 18 Springs Coast Research Station Site
- ☐ Map 19 Mud Spring Site
- ☐ Map 19 Weekiwachee Springs Site





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 1

WALTON COUNTY

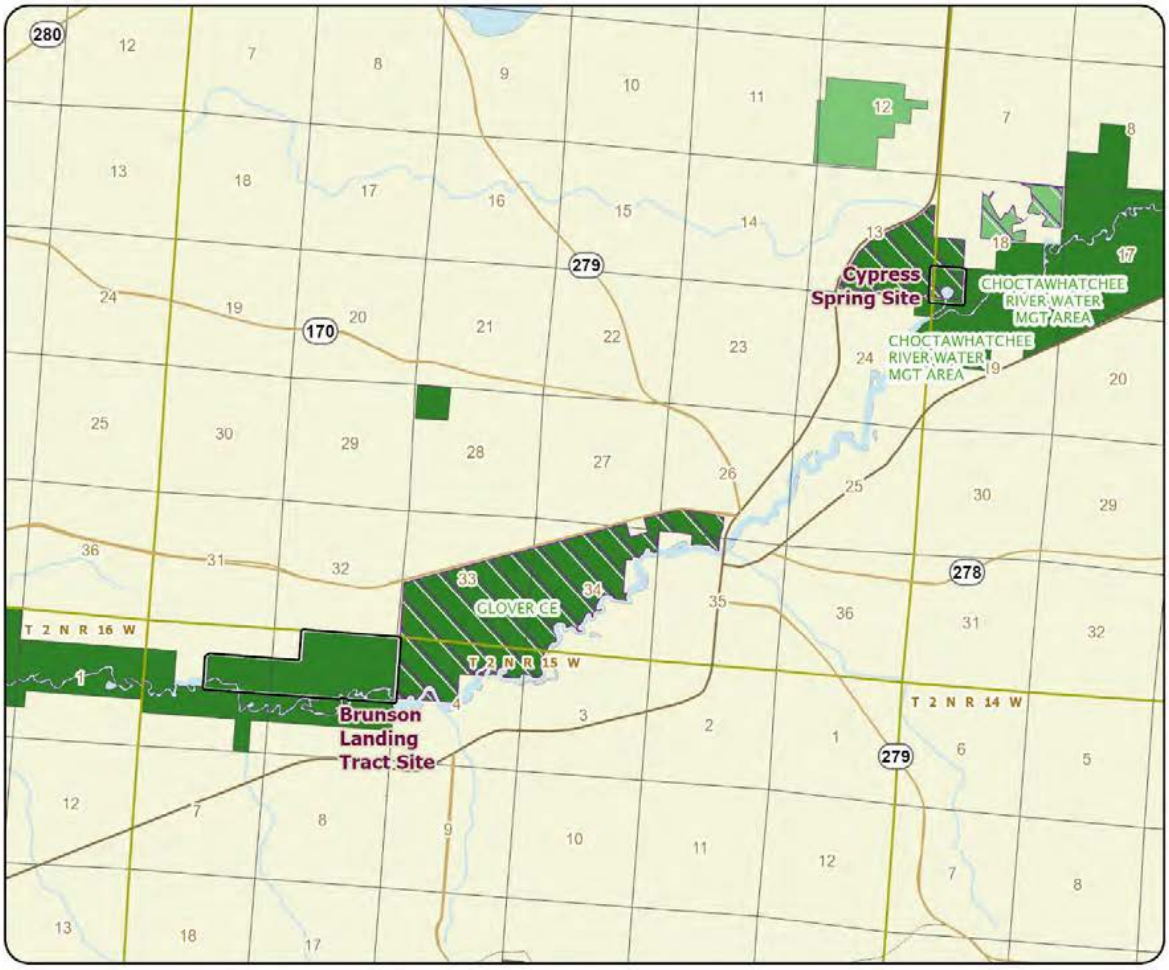
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1 2 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 2

WASHINGTON COUNTY

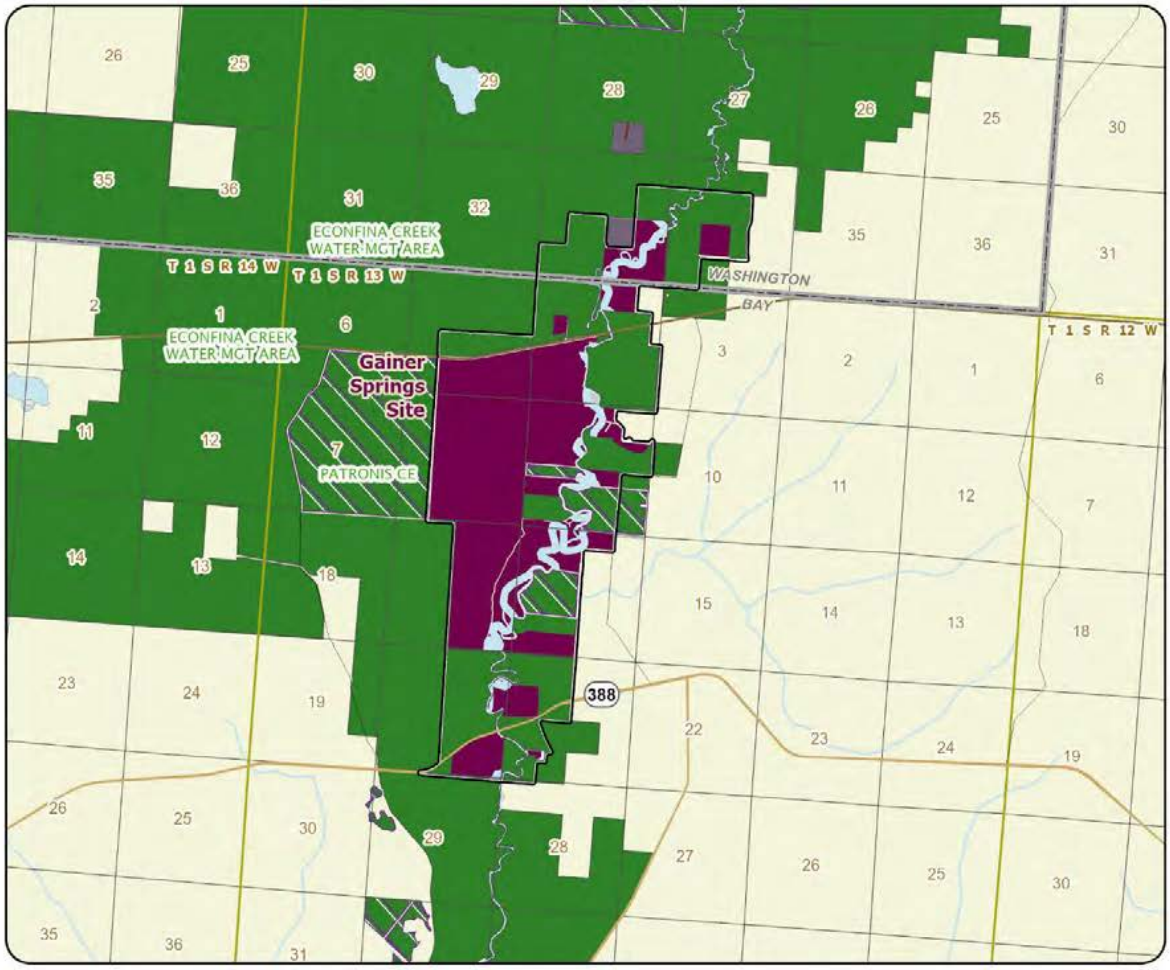
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1.5 3 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 3

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

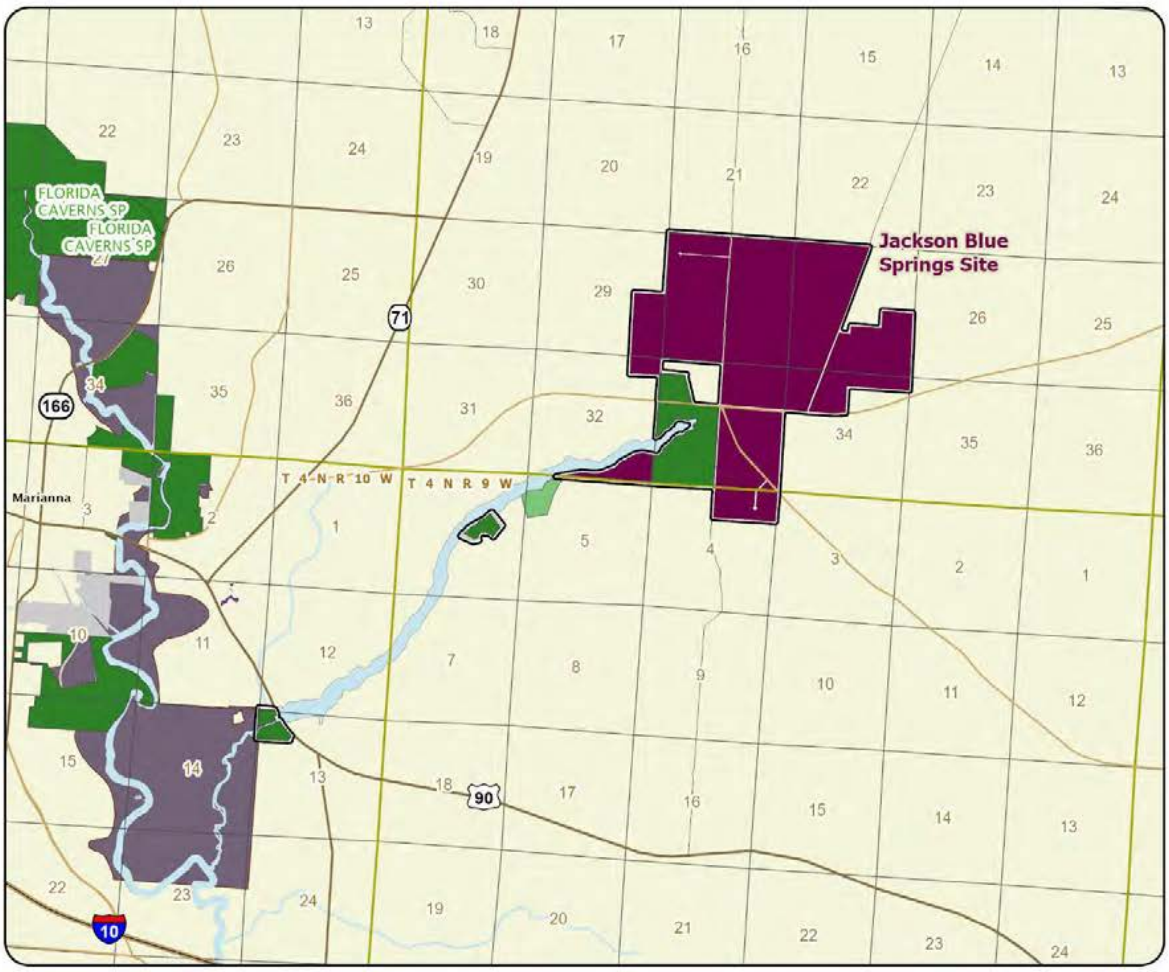
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1.5 3 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 4

JACKSON COUNTY

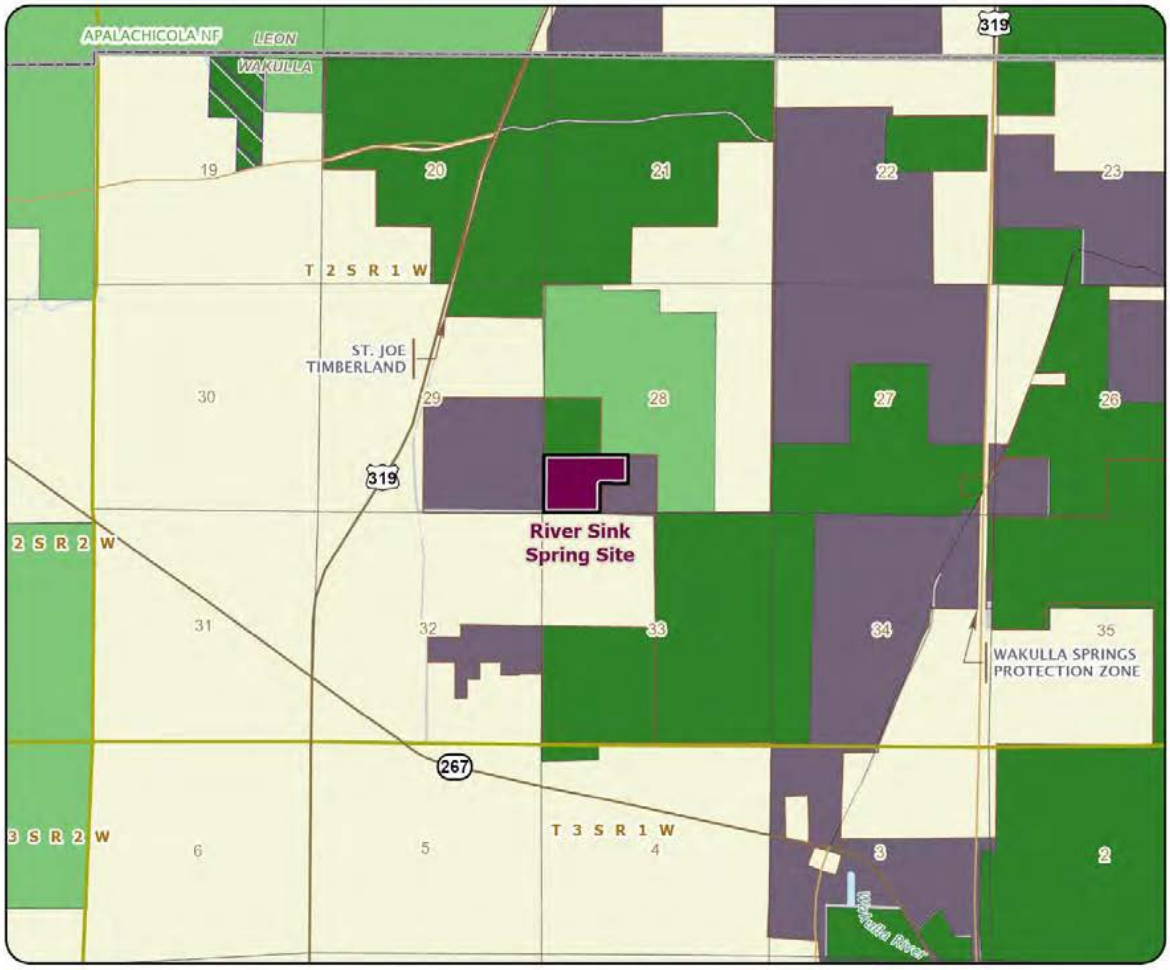
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1.5 3 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 5

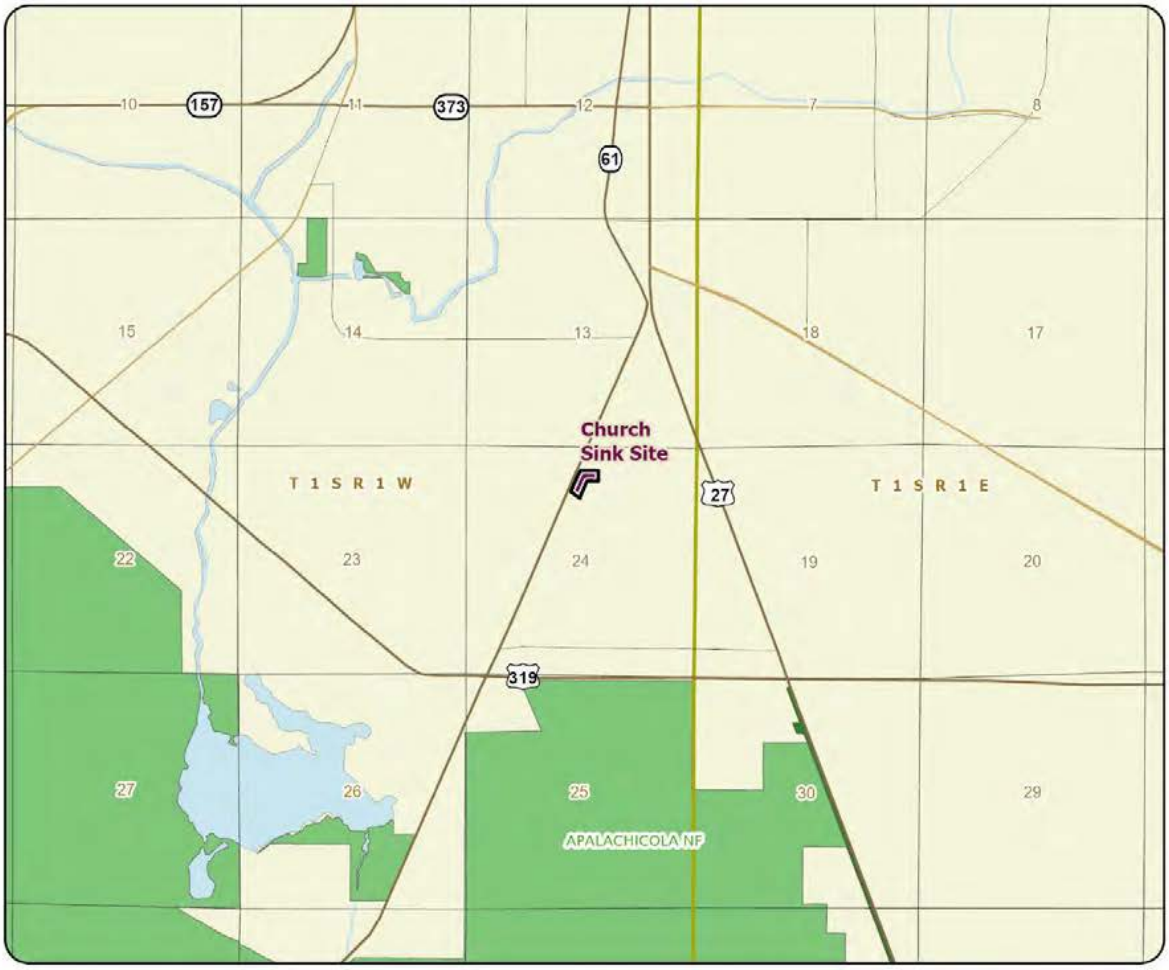
WAKULLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 1 2 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 6

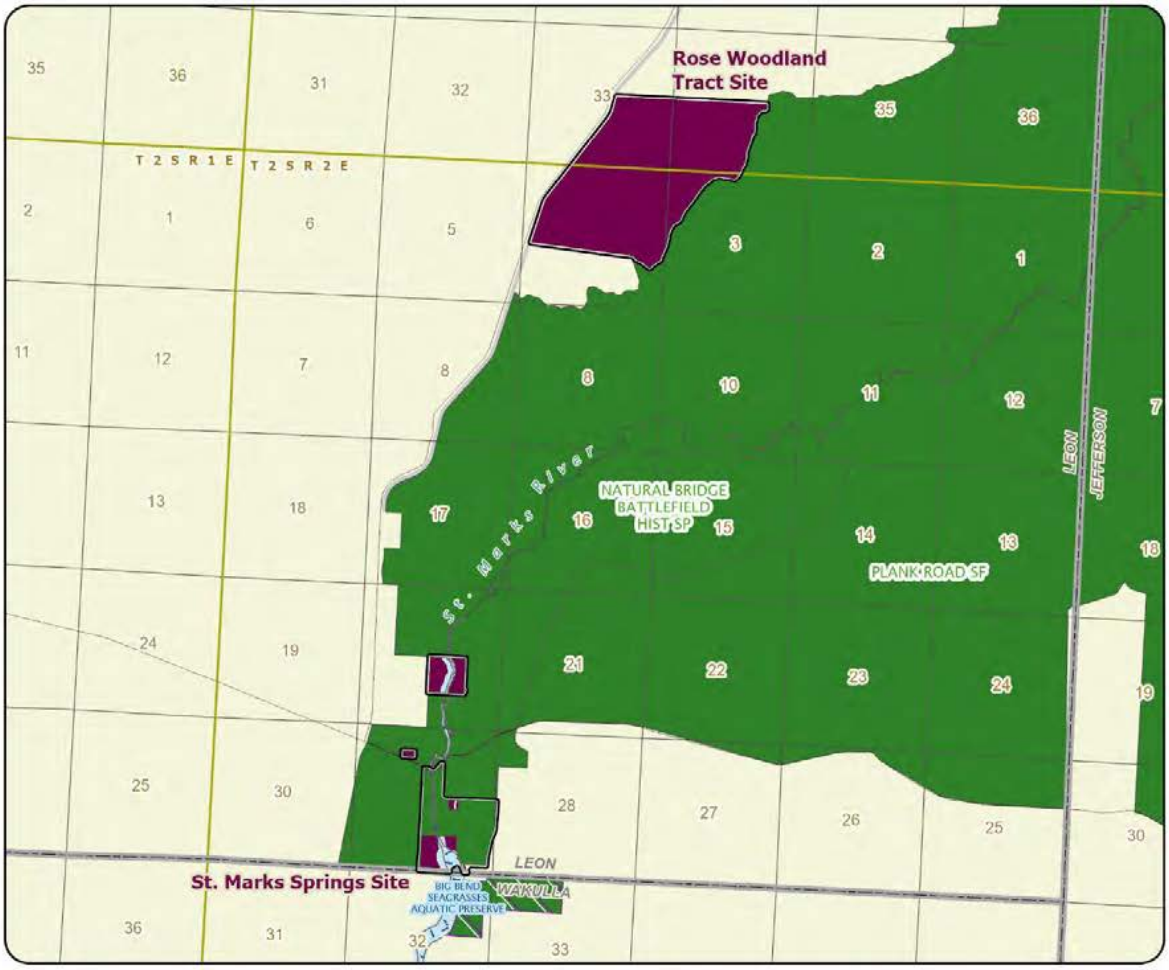
LEON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



N

0 1 2 Miles



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 7

LEON COUNTY

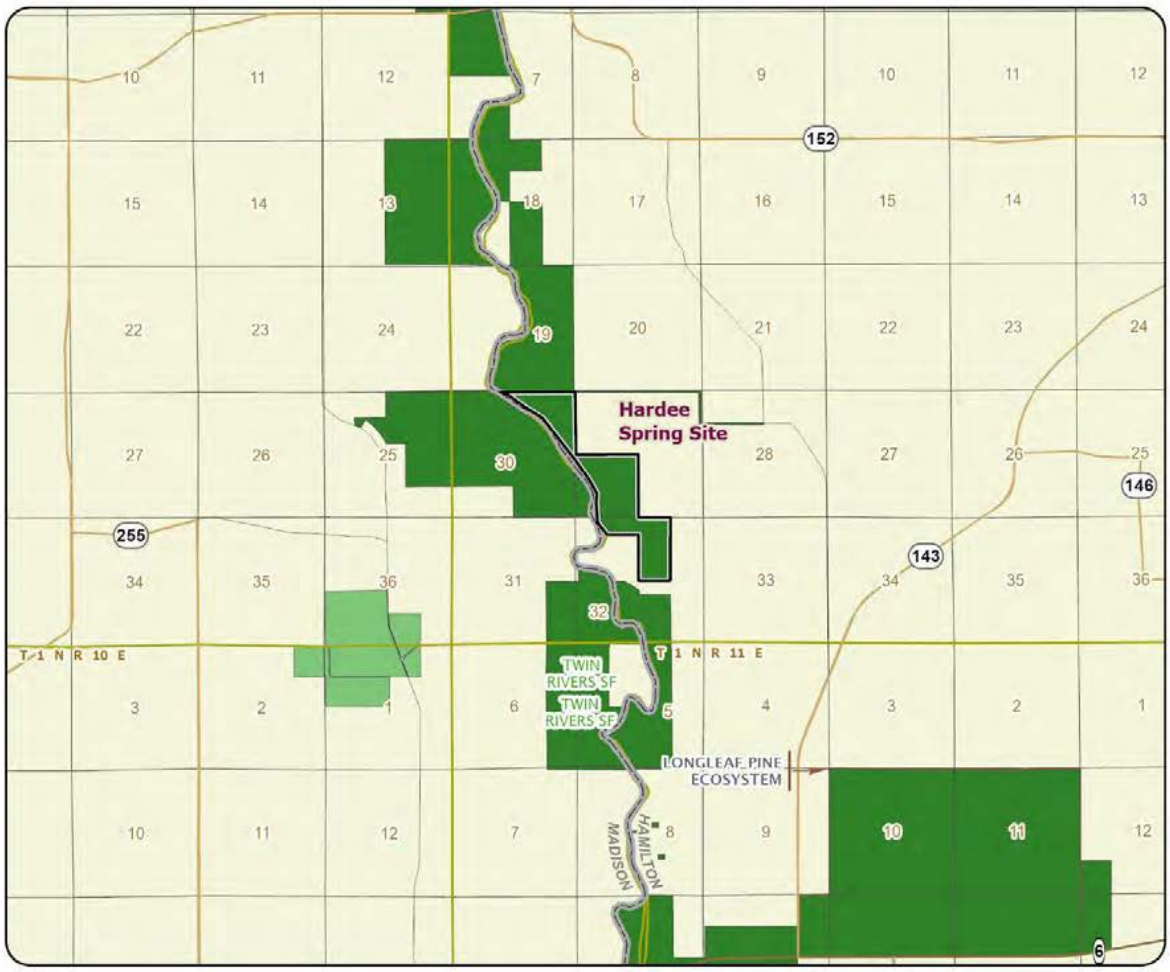
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1.5 3 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 8

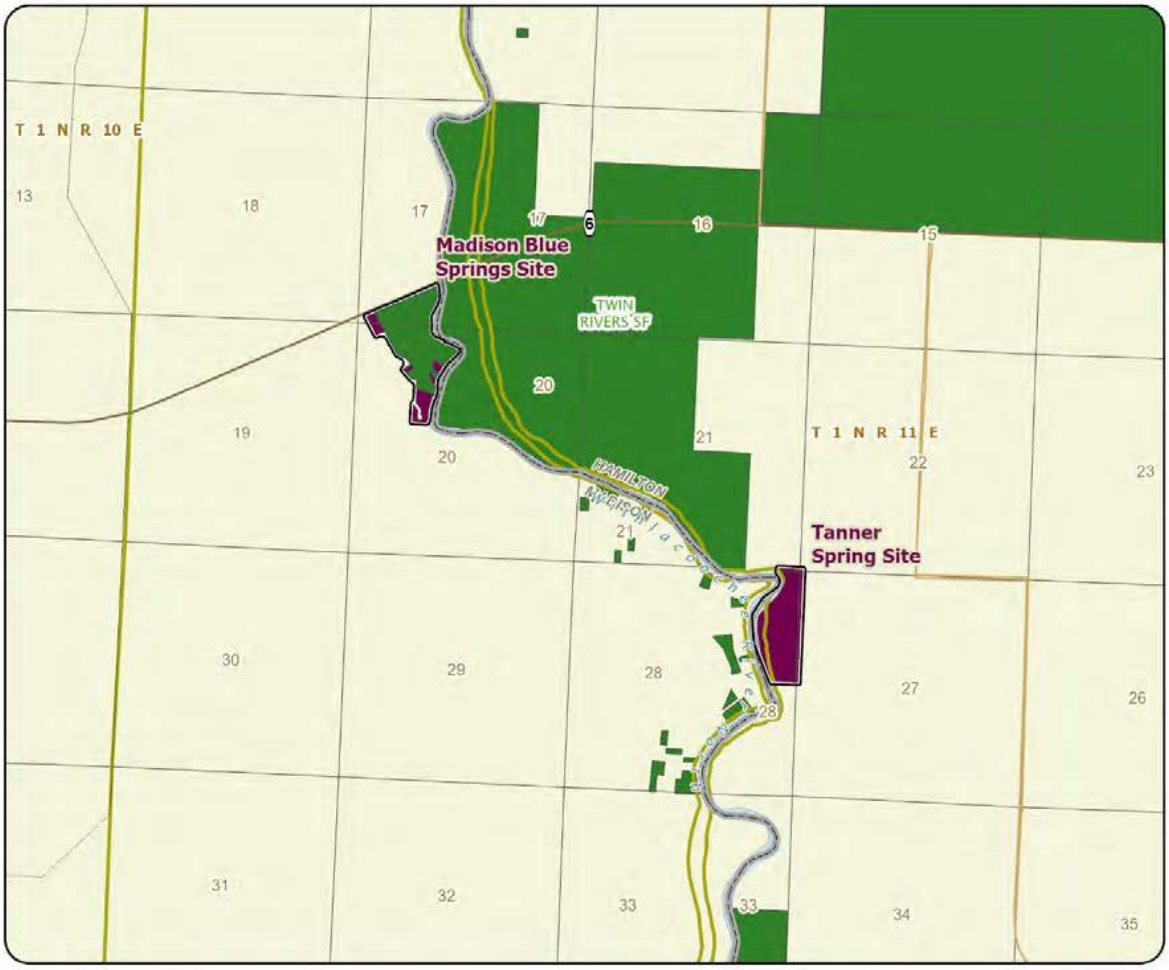
HAMILTON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

0 1.5 3 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 9

HAMILTON AND MADISON COUNTIES

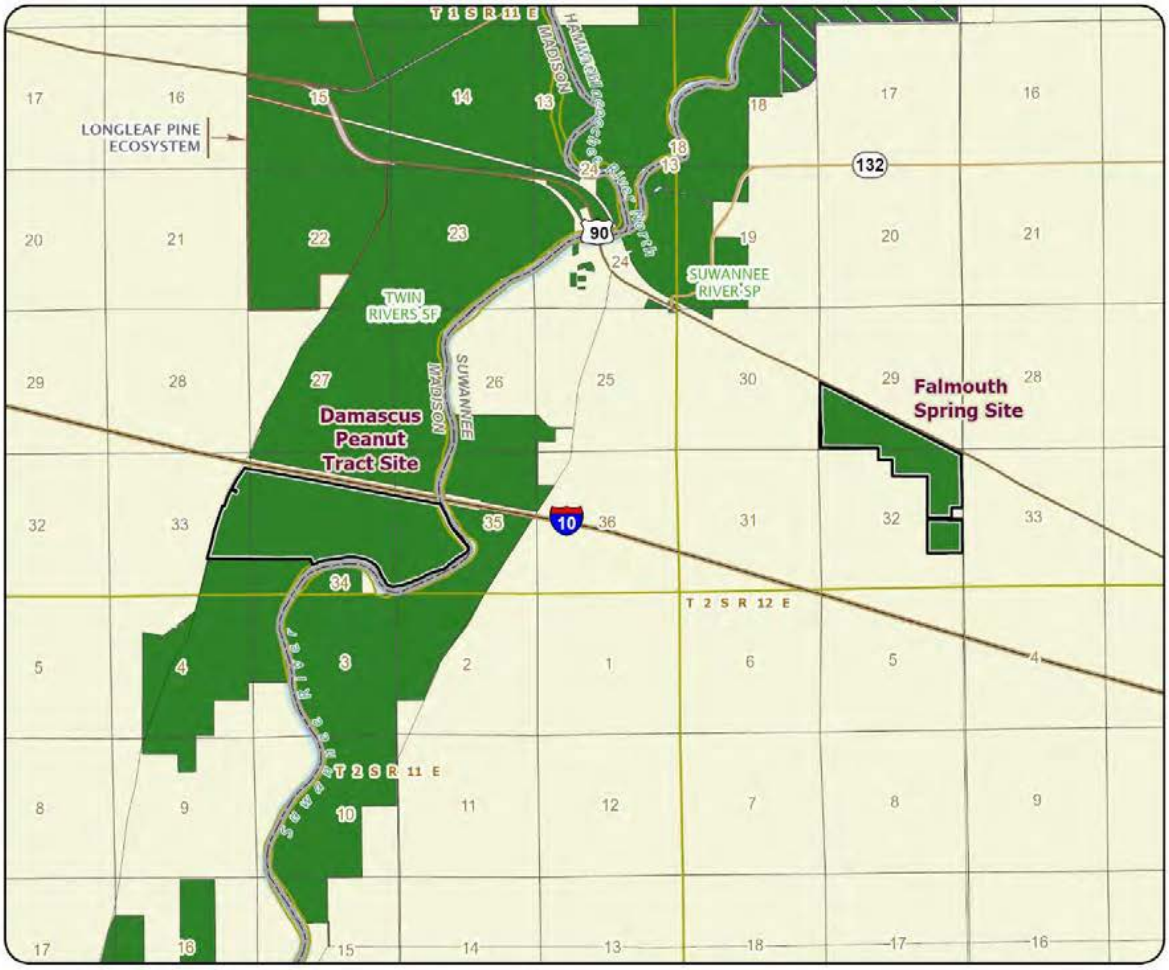
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1 2 Miles

N

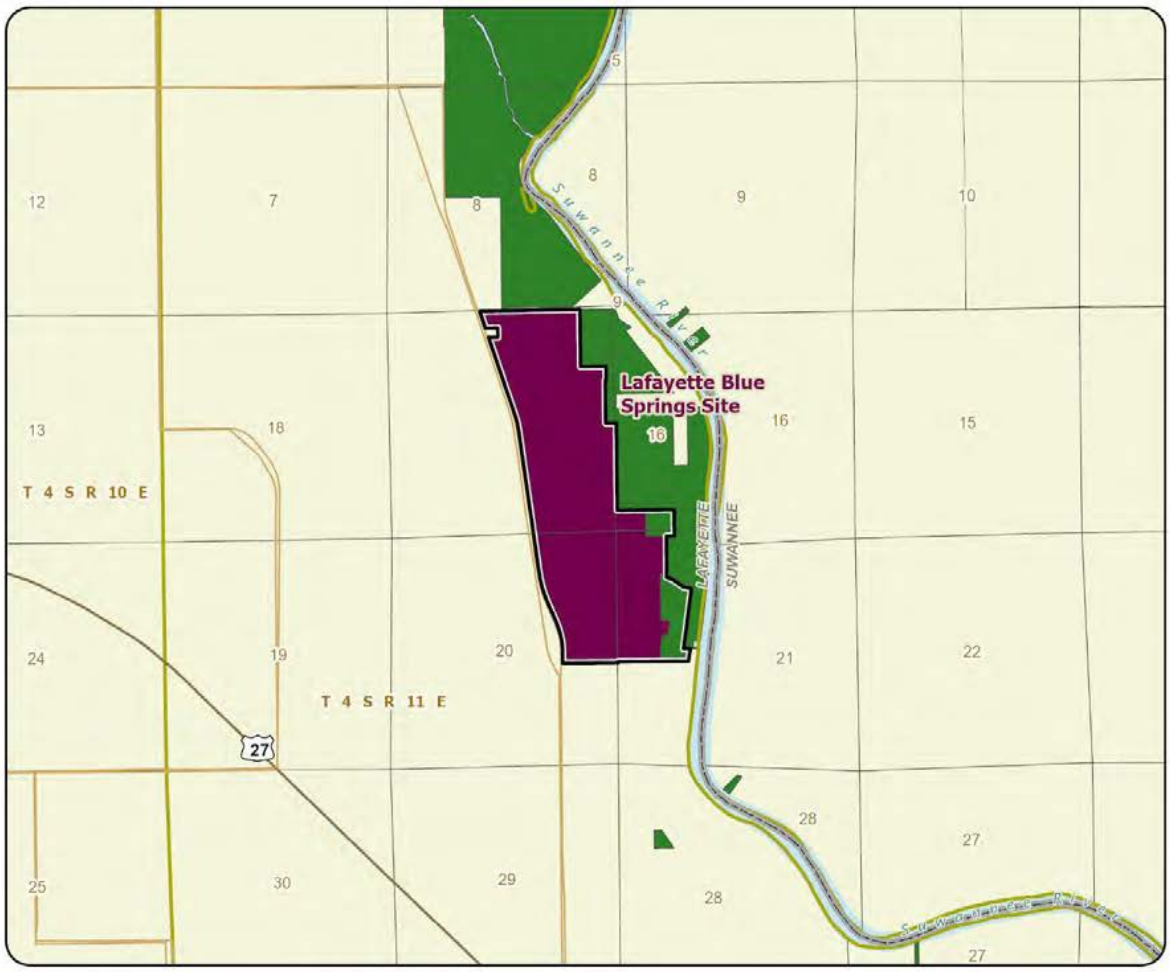




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 10

MADISON AND SUWANNEE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 11

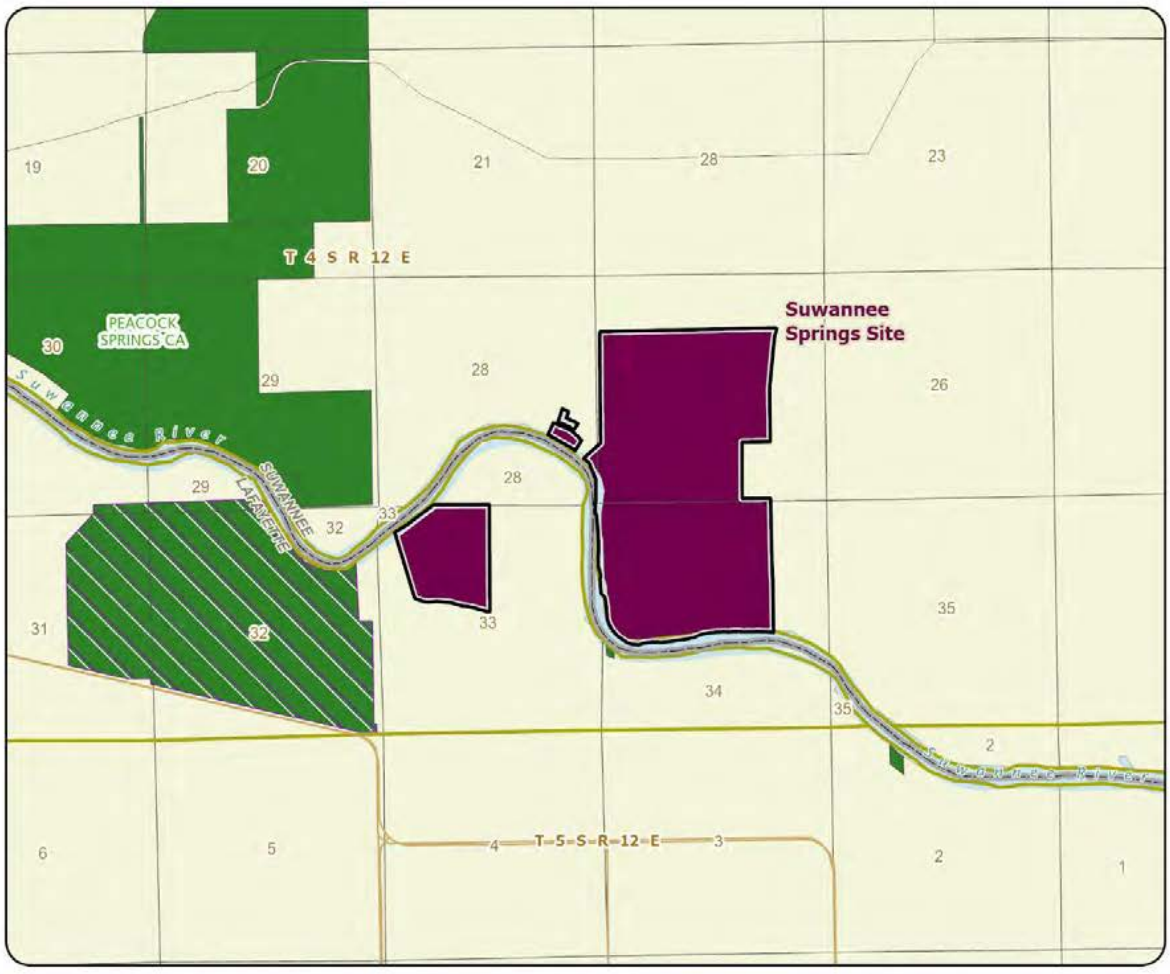
LAFAYETTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



N

0 1 2 Miles



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 12

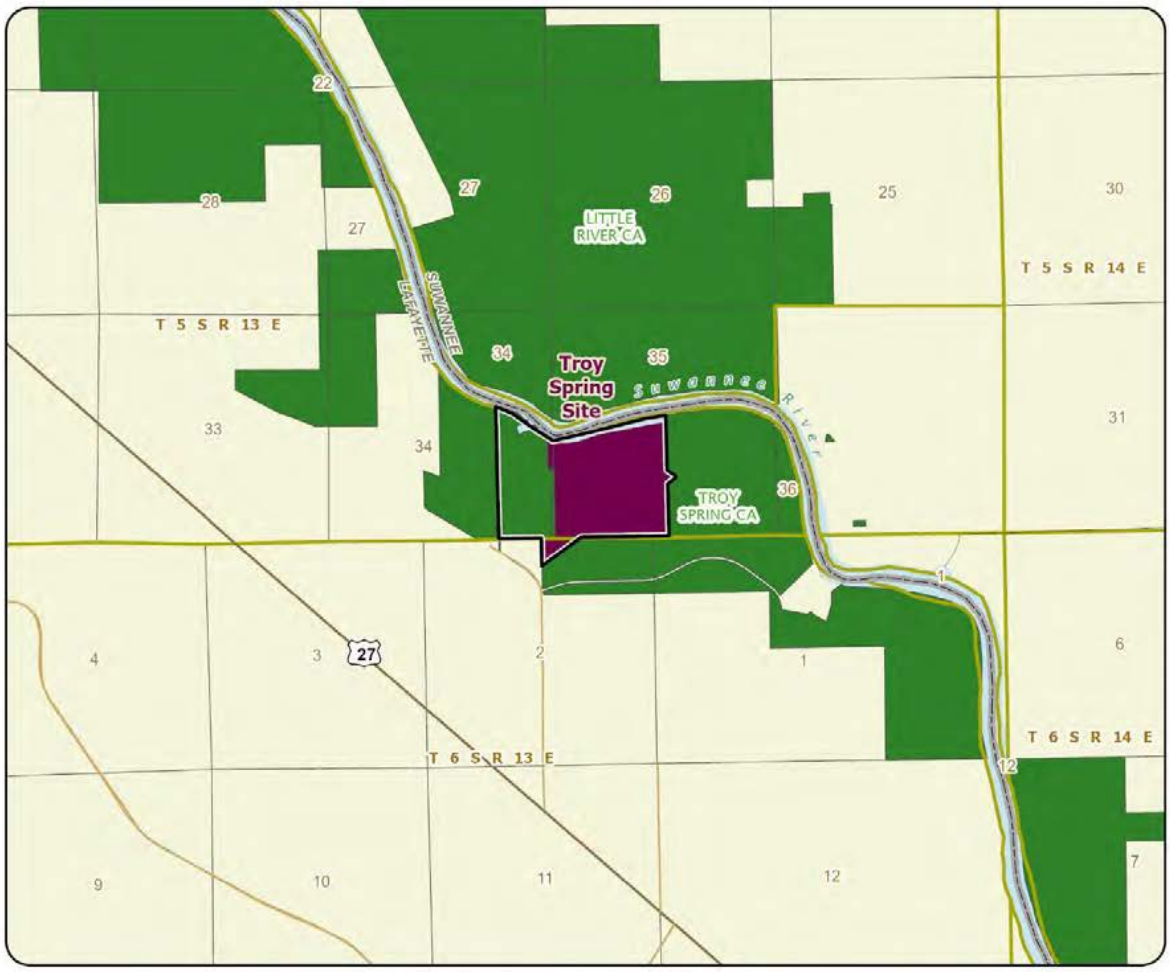
LAFAYETTE AND SUWANNEE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



N

0 1 2 Miles



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 13

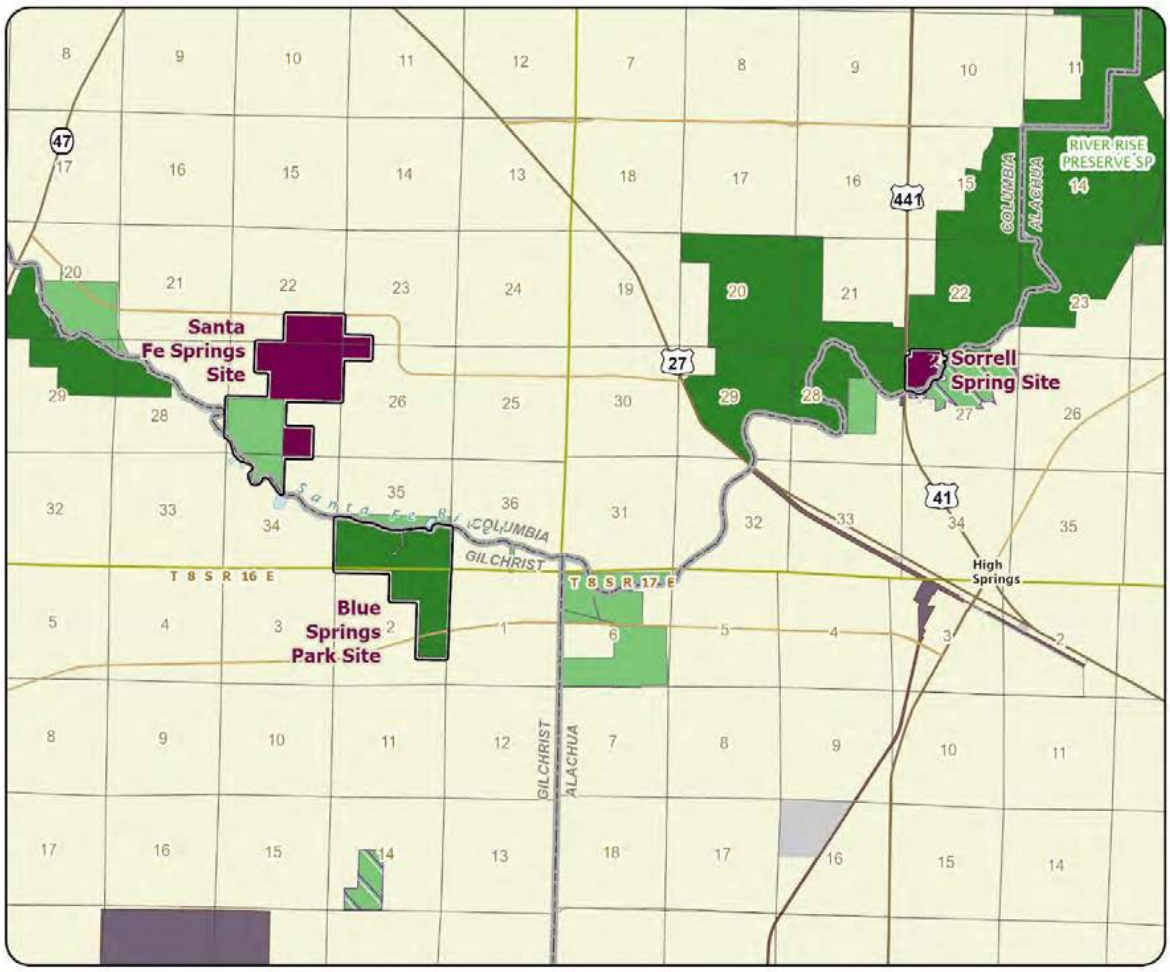
LAFAYETTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



N

0 1 2 Miles



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 14

COLUMBIA AND GILCHRIST COUNTIES

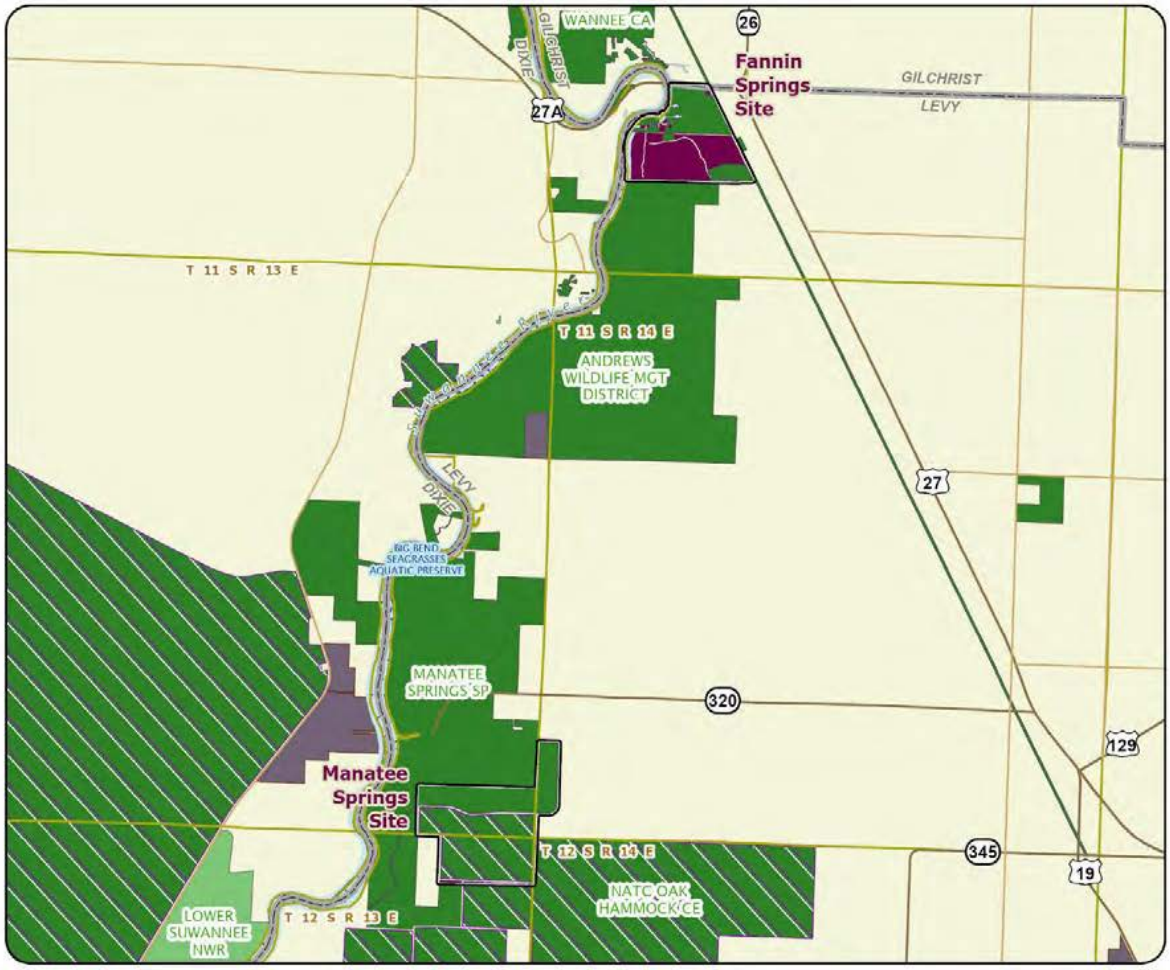
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2 4 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 15

LEVY COUNTY

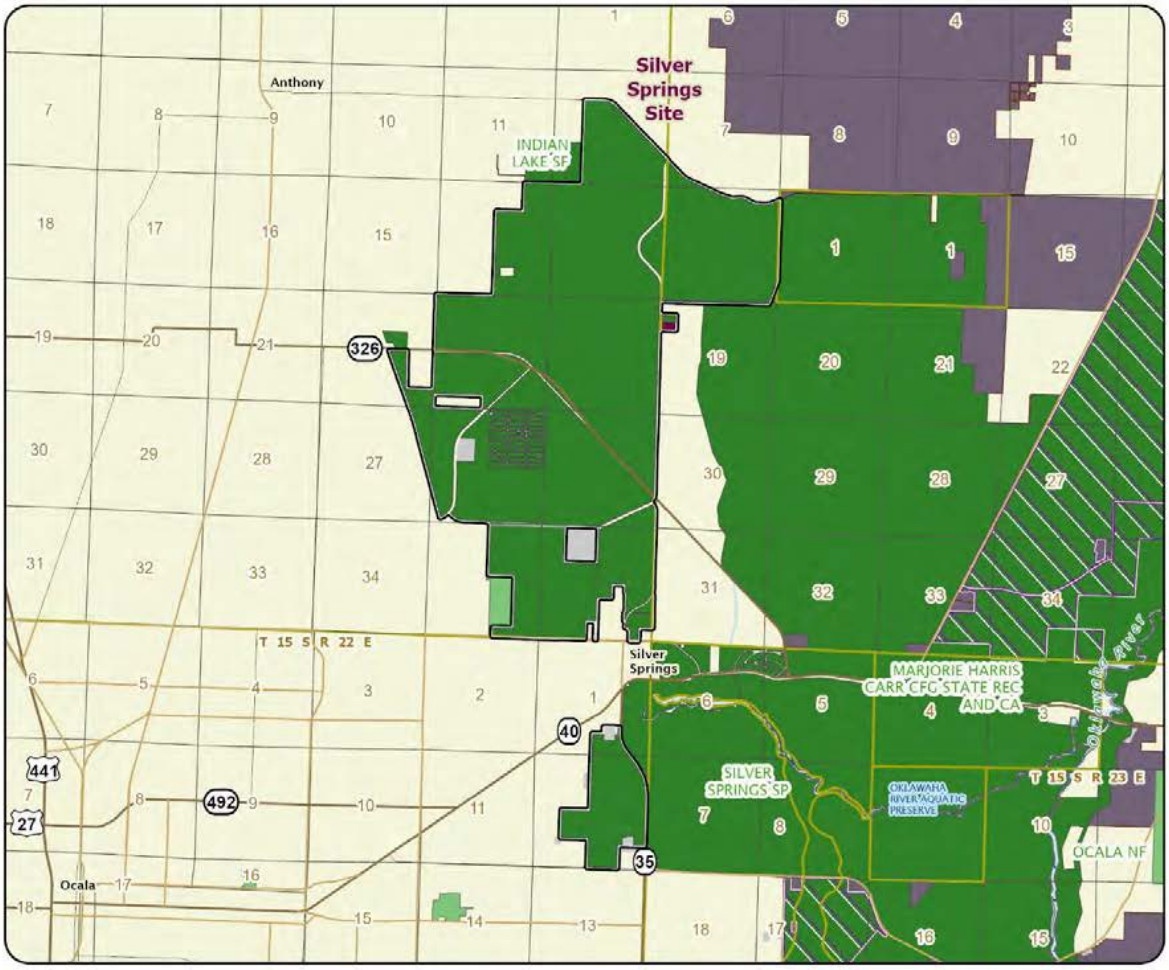
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2.5 5 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 16

MARION COUNTY

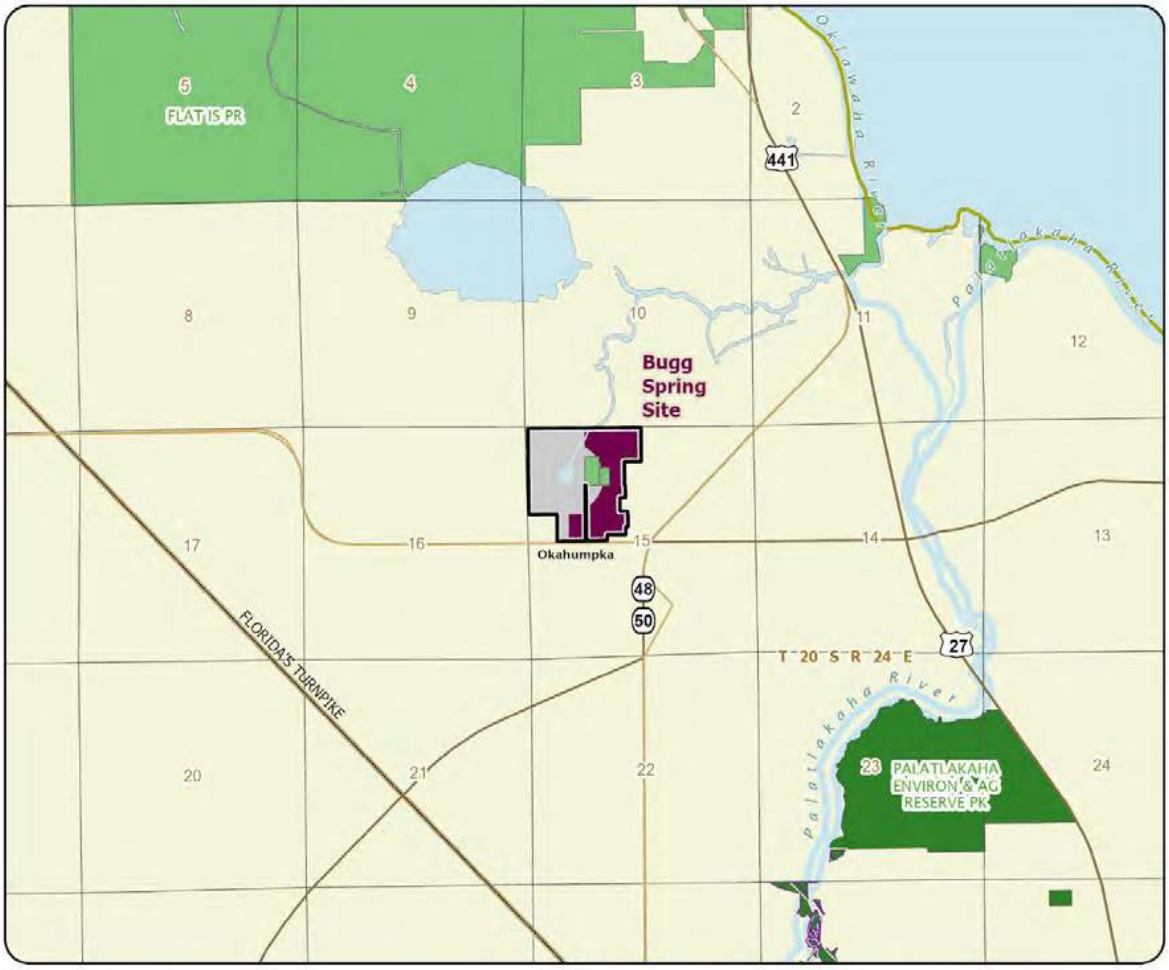
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2 4 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 17

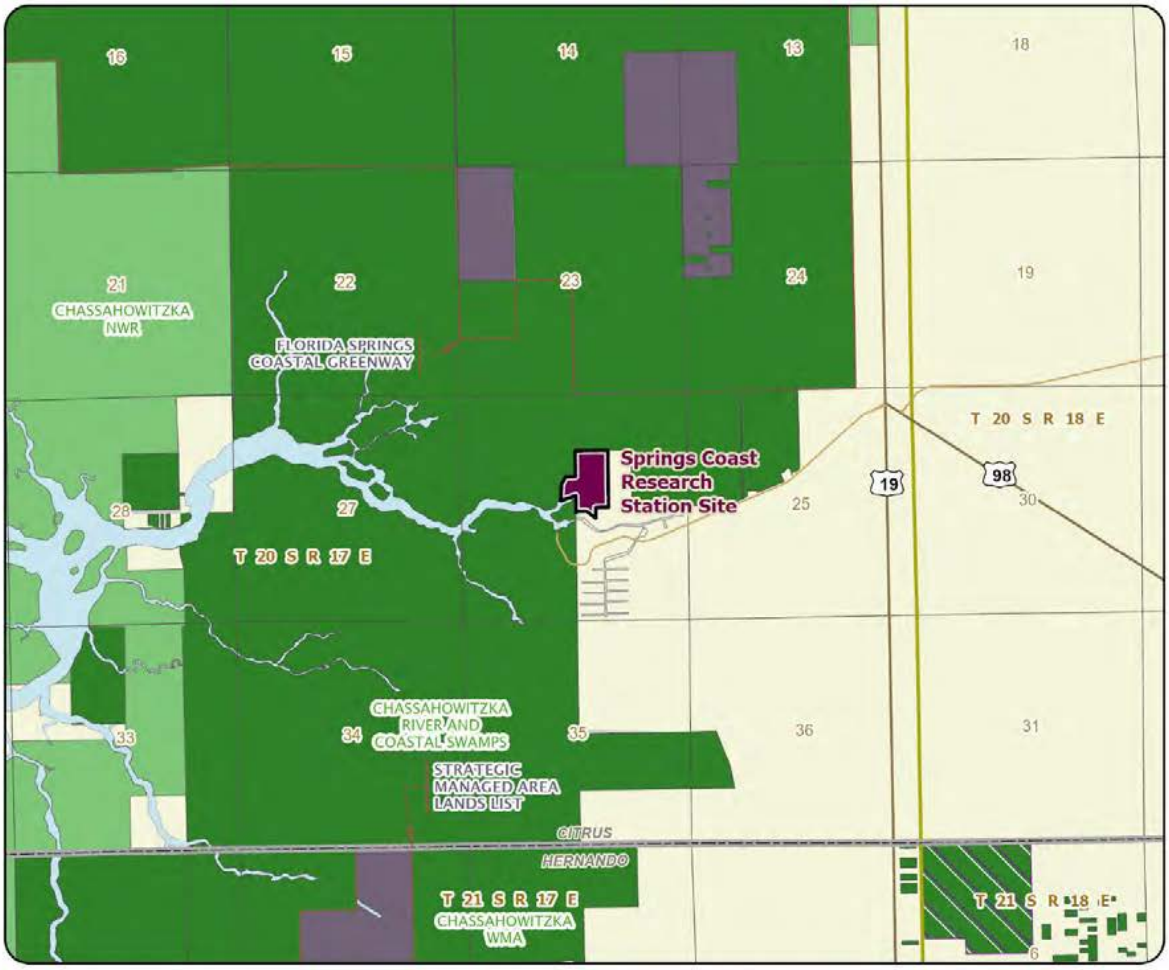
LAKE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 1 2 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 18

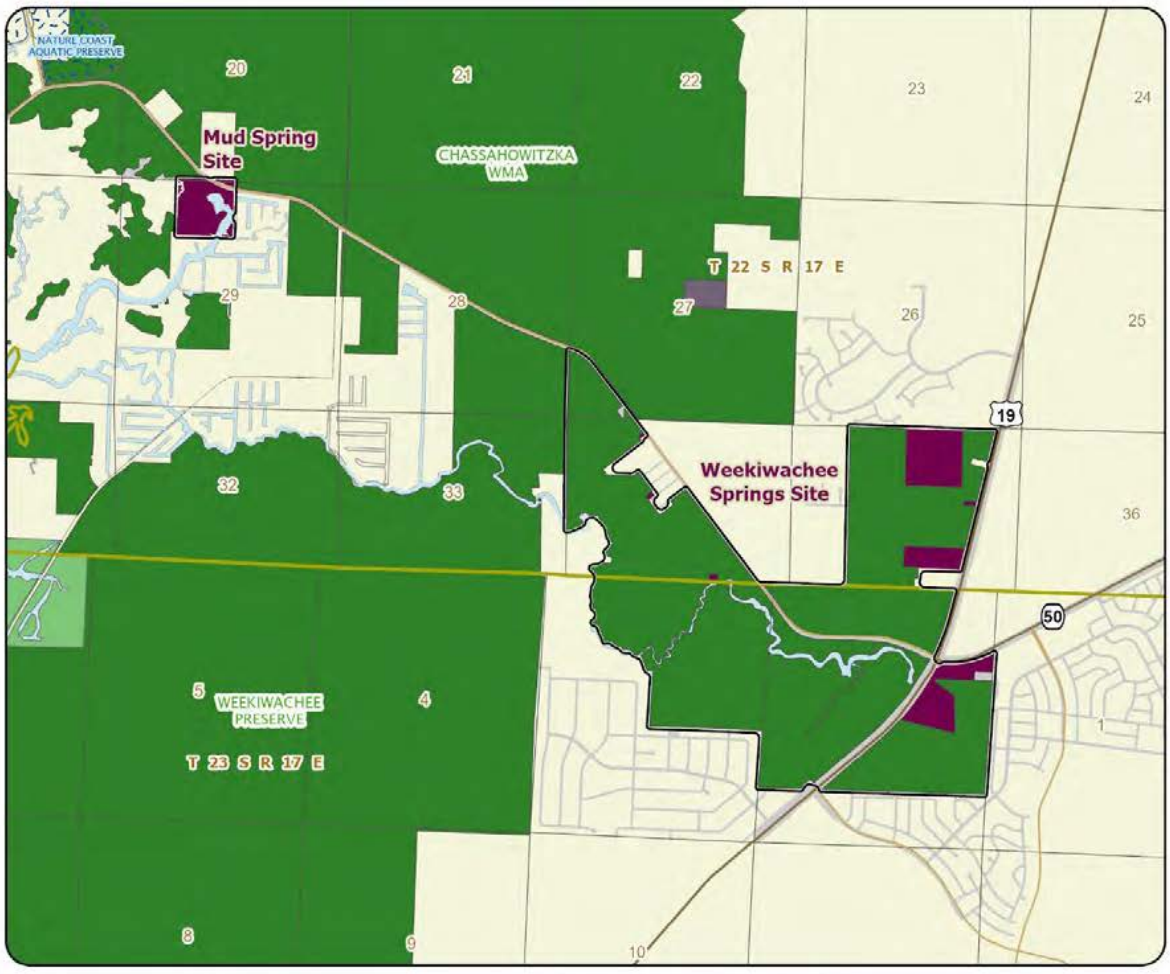
CITRUS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 1 2 Miles

N





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 19

HERNANDO COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1 2 Miles

N



Green Swamp

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Lake, Pasco and Polk Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2015*
Project Acres	*272,104*
Acquired Acres	*119,291*
Remaining Project Acres	*152,813*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$3,279,845,380*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The mosaic of cypress swamps, pine forests and pastures known as the Green Swamp is vital to the water supply of central Florida. The Green Swamp gives rise to four major river systems and is important for maintaining the flow of water from the Floridan Aquifer. By preserving the combination of land uses in this region, the Green Swamp project will protect the Floridan Aquifer and several rivers, preserve a large area for wildlife to inhabit and use as wildlife corridors, and provide areas for public recreation in the rapidly growing region between Tampa and Orlando.

General Description

The Green Swamp is a critical hydrological resource. It encompasses the headwaters of four major rivers, the Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha, Hillsborough and Peace rivers, and has the highest groundwater elevation in Florida's Peninsula. It is therefore critical to the recharge of the Floridan Aquifer. For this reason, it has been designated as an Area of Critical State Concern. The Green Swamp has the size and the wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area, thereby preserving a large area for wildlife and public recreation in the part of the state between Tampa and Orlando. The area is a complex ecosystem of disturbed uplands and wetlands intermixed with high-quality swamps. It is estimated that 90 percent of the native upland vegetation in this project has been disturbed by agriculture and development, but the project does contain some uplands with 15 distinct natural communities and other community types. These include scrub, sandhill and pine flatwoods, which are natural communities underrepresented in state conservation holdings.

Geographically, the Green Swamp project is located within the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern but does not include the entire Area of Critical State Concern. The project extends from the southwest corner of the city of Clermont, west and south to U.S. Highway 98, south to Polk City, almost to Haines City on the southeast side and east to Lake Louisa State Park.

Biologically, at least six rare plant species and 17 rare animal species have been documented within the project boundary. Based on habitat, there is potential for 35 rare species to occur within the project, especially within the Pine Island Recharge section. A total of 23 sites are listed in the Florida Master Site files in the project area. Extensive lakes and wetlands suggest a moderate to high potential for archeological and historical sites that have not yet been discovered in the portion of the project formerly identified as the Pine Island Recharge area, which is bordered in the southeast by the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area, and to the northeast by Lake Minnehaha. Florida Highway 50 serves as the northern border of this project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Clasping warea**	G1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Arogos skipper*	G2G3T1T2/S2
*Scrub buckwheat**	G4T2?/S2?
*Redmargin zephyrlily**	G2G3/S2S3
Peninsular floater	G2G3/S2S3
Short-tailed hawk	G4G5/S1

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Portions of the project will become a wildlife management area and a state park, providing such activities as hunting, hiking and nature appreciation. The project will also include numerous conservation easements. For the less-than-fee acquisitions, the degree and type of public use will be negotiated with the landowners and is expected to be minimal. Monitoring easements and agreements will be done by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

1992

A large Green Swamp project was added to the Conservation and Recreational Lands list in 1992. That project was associated with the Green Swamp Land Authority, which worked with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in acquired lands within the boundary.

1995

On October 10, 1995, Lake Louisa and Green Swamp Mitigation Bank (1,007 acres) was approved with a conservation easement held by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

1999

In 1999, the Green Swamp Land Authority's responsibilities were passed to DEP.

In 1999, Florida Audubon Society established Boggy Marsh Sanctuary (62 acres), all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

In March 1999, Polk County acquired Gator Creek Reserve (592 acres) with Florida Communities Trust funding, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2001

On December 7, 2001, Polk County acquired Lake Bonnet Marsh (159 acres), all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2002

On February 28, 2002, Polk County and SWFWMD acquired Lake Lowery Marsh (397 acres), all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

In October 2002, Polk County acquired 494 acres to add to the Gator Creek Reserve, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2006

In March 2006, Polk County acquired 1,622 acres to add to the Gator Creek Reserve, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started. Florida Communities Trust reimbursed Polk County for the purchase.

2007

On September 7, 2007, Lake County acquired The Pasture (823.21 acres).

2008

On August 8, 2008, Hammock Lake Mitigation Bank (819 acres) was issued with a conservation easement held by SWFWMD, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2011

In 2011, the project was reduced in size to eliminate isolated and otherwise unmanageable parcels and divided into four projects. Those four projects were placed on the list, and the single Green Swamp project was removed from the list. The Green Swamp project described here comprises less acreage than the original 1992 Green Swamp project. Descriptions and maps of each of the four areas that had been

considered projects follow the overarching project description, as they provide more detailed information on resources and management.

2015

In December 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to combine the four Green Swamp projects on the priority list and create a single Green Swamp project. This 266,895-acre project was placed and ranked in the Partnerships and Regional Initiatives category. It includes all lands found within the 2011 Florida Forever project boundaries of the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor, the Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters, the Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge and the Green Swamp-Withlacoochee Headwaters. The descriptions of the four sites that were combined in 2015 have been retained here to better inform future pursuits for acquisition within this extremely large project.

2017

On June 8, 2017, Hilochee Mitigation Bank (879.3 acres) was approved.

On July 26, 2017, Crooked River Mitigation Bank (322.13 acres) was approved with a conservation easement held by SWFWMD.

2018

On February 25, 2018, SWFWMD and DEP acquired a conservation easement on Crooked River Mitigation Bank. On April 13, 2018, SWFWMD established a conservation easement on Hilochee Mitigation Bank.

As of 2018, approximately 4,111 acres of SWFWMD's Green Swamp conservation easements are inside the project boundary.

2020

On September 9, 2020, DEP acquired a 703.76-acre conservation easement in Polk County from AVT Ranch Inc.

2023

On August 14, 2023, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.55 acres in Polk County as a donation on behalf of Joseph Pipitone.

2024

On January 26, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 80.13 acres in Lake County from Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

2025

On January 21, 2025, DEP acquired a 763.86-acre conservation easement in Polk County from Osprey Unit LLC.

In May 2025, ARC approved the addition of 10 parcels totaling approximately 347 acres in Polk County and 26 parcels totaling approximately 2,470 acres in Lake County to the project boundary.

In August 2025, DEP acquired a 353.7-acre conservation easement in Polk County from Earl Lee and Kathy Watkins. DEP also acquired an 87.3-acre conservation easement in Polk County from Christopher and Amy Skaggs, and Joshua and Brenda Vinson.

Hilochee Corridor

General Description

The Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor portion is the easternmost of the four sub-units in the Green Swamp Florida Forever Project. Covering 91,456 acres in northern Polk and southern Lake counties, it has 5,138 parcels with multiple owners. About 39 percent of the land within its boundary (36,000 acres) has been acquired for conservation.

Hydrologically and geologically, this section of the Green Swamp 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. Another sliver of the area joins the drainage basin to the Kissimmee River drainage to the east and south. For the most part, elevations range between 120 and 175 feet above mean sea level. The marshes and swamps are generally lower than 120 feet mean sea level.

Five rare plants are documented within the boundary. 10 rare animal species are documented on site. From an urban planning perspective, this area 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 U.S. Route 27 corridor on the Lake Wales Ridge.

Florida Highway 50 serves as the northern border of this project.

Management Policy Statement

Plans are to manage the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor to 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 to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources that local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

The 84-acre portion of the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor within the optimum boundary of Lake Louisa State Park will be managed consistently with the goals and objectives in the park's 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.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as the manager for most of the area acquired in fee simple. DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage the Overstreet Ranch and the area within the optimum boundary of Colt Creek State Park and Lake Louisa State Park. Land purchased in less-than-fee will be monitored by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Archeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. DRP anticipates any shift from protection and restoration efforts with limited public use to broader public use with more infrastructure will require a greater intensity of management.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Hilochee Corridor has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area. Its variety of land uses helps protect the Floridan Aquifer and the headwaters of several rivers that start in this region. The corridor preserves a large area for wildlife and provides areas for public recreation in a fast-growing region between Tampa and Orlando.

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 effectiveness of the necessary resource-management. Biotic monitoring is necessary to achieve resource-management goals. Infrastructure development will be appropriate to allow public access, and to provide facilities, security and property management.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

When acquired, FWC 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 protecting and managing rare or imperiled species. FWC will assess 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, the development of facilities is to be kept to the minimum level necessary to ensure protection of resources and to ensure recreational experience. Where possible, such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. DRP resource

management activities in the first year will concentrate on site security, protecting natural and cultural resources and developing a resource inventory. 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 the water resources 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 activities 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. 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

FWC will cooperate in managing the Hilochee Corridor of the Green Swamp with SWFWMD, Florida Forest Service (FFS) and Lake and Polk counties.

Peace River

General Description

This portion is 39,977 contiguous acres and is composed of 15 distinct natural communities and other landcover. It is primarily basin swamps, depression marshes, pine flatwoods, pastures and other agricultural lands. Pine flatwoods are underrepresented in state conservation holdings. About 51 percent of the area is in natural condition, while 49 percent is disturbed (ruderal, improved and semi-improved pasture and about 400 acres of pine plantation). Geographically, it is between Dean Still Road and Interstate 4. It is bounded on its east, north and west sides with the Hilochee Corridor and the Withlacoochee River Headwaters. State Road 33 bisects the proposal from north to south. Old Grade Road (County Road 557) serves as the area's eastern edge.

Hydrologically, most of the site 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, though in the northwest corner, where the land slopes down towards the river, the elevation drops to 115 mean sea level. Most of the area meets the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation 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 this area. Based on habitat, there is potential for several rare species to occur here. About 98 percent of the area meets the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation for Ecological Greenways, and 82 percent is within an FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

From an urban planning perspective, this portion has moderate potential for being developed or subdivided, and a moderate-low potential for loss of significant natural attributes or open spaces. 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.

A disjunct portion of Hilochee Wildlife Management Area and some of General James A. Van Fleet State Trail is within the boundary. It also includes DEP's Green Swamp Land Authority land protection agreements and Green Swamp conservation easements.

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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The intensity of management will be decided in the negotiation of the agreement or conservation easement.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The landowner will provide security and infrastructure protection.

Revenue-generating Potential

There is no revenue-generating potential for this portion of the Green Swamp.

Management costs and sources of revenue

DSL is responsible for periodic monitoring of land use agreements and conservation easements.

Pine Island Recharge

General Description

The Pine Island Recharge area has 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 Pine Island Recharge Area is south of State Road 50, north of County Road 474, and west of Lake Minnehaha and Lake Louisa. Much like the Hilochee Corridor, it is bounded to the west, south and southeast by two other portions of the Green Swamp Florida Forever project (Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor and Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters). Its boundary is contiguous with five publicly managed conservation areas. Hydrologically, it is split lengthwise (north south) into two major drainage basins. Almost three-quarters of this area is in the Ocklawaha River watershed, draining east and northeast. The remaining quarter is the Withlacoochee River watershed which drains west. The northern portion of the Pine Island Recharge 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 principal recharge area of the Floridan Aquifer. Most of the area (98 percent) meets the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation 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 this area. 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 percent of the area meets the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation for Ecological Greenways and 10 percent is within an FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

From an urban planning perspective, the Pine Island Recharge 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 Groveland is designated for one dwelling unit per five acres.

Management Policy Statement

The 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/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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The intensity of management will be decided in the negotiation of the agreement or easement.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The landowner will provide security and infrastructure protection.

Revenue-generating Potential

There is no revenue-generating potential for the Pine Island Recharge area.

Management costs and sources of revenue

DEP's Division of State Lands is responsible for periodic monitoring of land use agreements and conservation easements.

Withlacoochee River Headwaters

General Description

The Withlacoochee River Headwaters has 103,458 acres, composed of 13 distinct natural communities and four other landcover types. The natural communities include pine flatwoods, scrub and sandhill, which are underrepresented in state conservation holdings. About 61 percent of the area is in natural condition, while 39 percent is disturbed (most in improved and semi-improved pasture and smaller acreages in ruderal and pine plantation). Geographically, this area is located between State Road 50 on the north and US 98 on the south. It is close to Lakeland and Clermont. Its northwestern boundary is contiguous with the Withlacoochee State Forest and SWFWMD-managed Green Swamp land. To the east and the south are the other three sections of the Green Swamp Florida Forever project. The western two-thirds 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, most of this portion of the overall Green Swamp Florida Forever project is within the Withlacoochee River watershed. A small portion along the southern boundary is within the Hillsborough River watershed to the southwest. The Withlacoochee River bisects the area 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 to less than 100 feet above mean sea level, but most of the area is below 115 feet mean sea level. Six rare plants and 17 rare animals are documented as

occurring within this portion of the Green Swamp project, mostly associated with existing conservation lands in the southwestern part.

From an urban planning perspective, the Withlacoochee River Headwaters 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 Withlacoochee River Headwaters is within an Area of Critical State Concern.

Management Policy Statement

The Withlacoochee River Headwaters area 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 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 that local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Withlacoochee River Headwaters has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area. 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

For FWC-managed lands, environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats and outstanding natural areas and wetlands, would be identified, appropriately managed and protected, if acquired.

The Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters includes natural areas requiring application of resource management methods, such as prescribed fire, where appropriate. Other areas may require restoring ground cover, controlling invasive species and reforesting. Such resource management actions may be necessary to accomplish restoration 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, the 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. DRP management costs will increase when parcels near Colt Creek State Park are acquired and will increase

over time as work shifts from protection and restoration to broader public use. FFS restoration efforts will focus on introducing prescribed fire, removing off-site pine species and exotic species, restoring native groundcovers and possibly wetlands.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

If acquired, a management plan will be developed by FWC describing the management goals and objectives necessary for resource management. The management plans will 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. FWC would 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 Withlacoochee River Headwaters and managed by FWC. 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 Withlacoochee Headwaters is acquired. These potential public outdoor fish- and wildlife-based recreational uses will enhance public understanding of the region while providing recreation. 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 provide facilities, security and management of the property. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. DRP will develop short-term management goals of security, protection of resources and resource inventory for its parcels. FFS proposes to manage parcels within the optimum boundary of the Withlacoochee State Forest as a state forest. Burn goals of FFS will be to eventually establish an all-season prescribed burning program.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue from FWC-managed conservation lands, such as an acquisition within the Withlacoochee River Headwaters for a wildlife management area, could include selling permits and recreation fees, and ecotourism activities, if such activities 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. DRP expects no significant revenue immediately after acquisition. Future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC will cooperate with other governmental agencies including SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, FFS and Lake, Pasco and Polk counties in management of the property. DRP plans to cooperate with state agencies in their management.

Management costs and sources of revenue*

Below is FWC's estimate of costs to operate/manage the area yet to be acquired within the Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters that is outside the Colt Creek State Park and the Withlacoochee State Forest optimal boundaries. Costs listed below are projected estimates necessary to fully implement management activities within the area and reflect an estimate of the potential annual operating budget.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Salary	Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	$1,452,828	Not Provided
OCO	$321,948	Not Provided
FCO	$158,127	Not Provided
TOTAL	$1,932,903	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

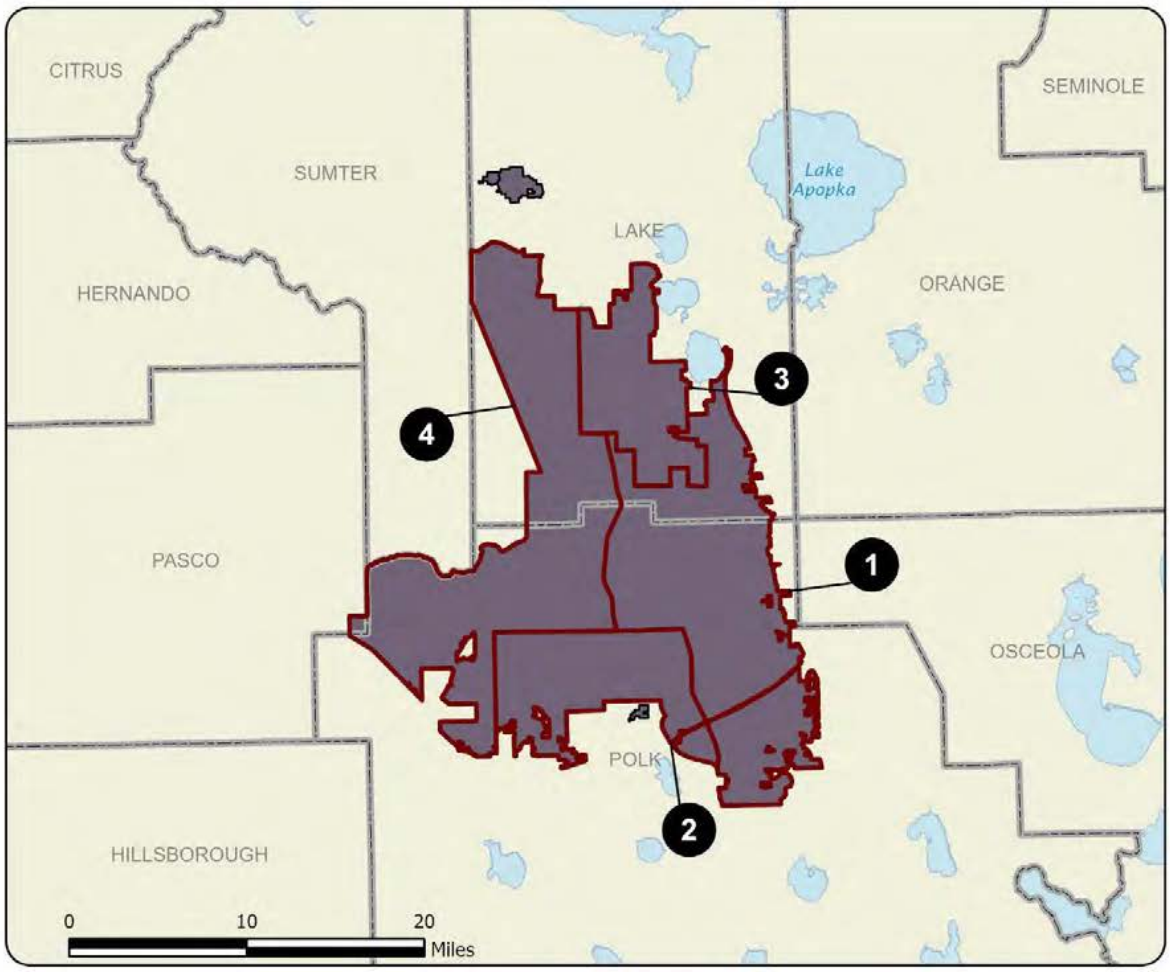
FFS	Startup	Recurring
Salary (4 FTE)	$132,141	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$315,000	Not Provided
OCO	$188,600	Not Provided
FCO	$0	Not Provided
TOTAL	$635,741	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Salary (1 FTE)	$33,000	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$10,000	Not Provided
OCO	$25,000	Not Provided
FCO	$0	Not Provided
TOTAL	$68,000	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

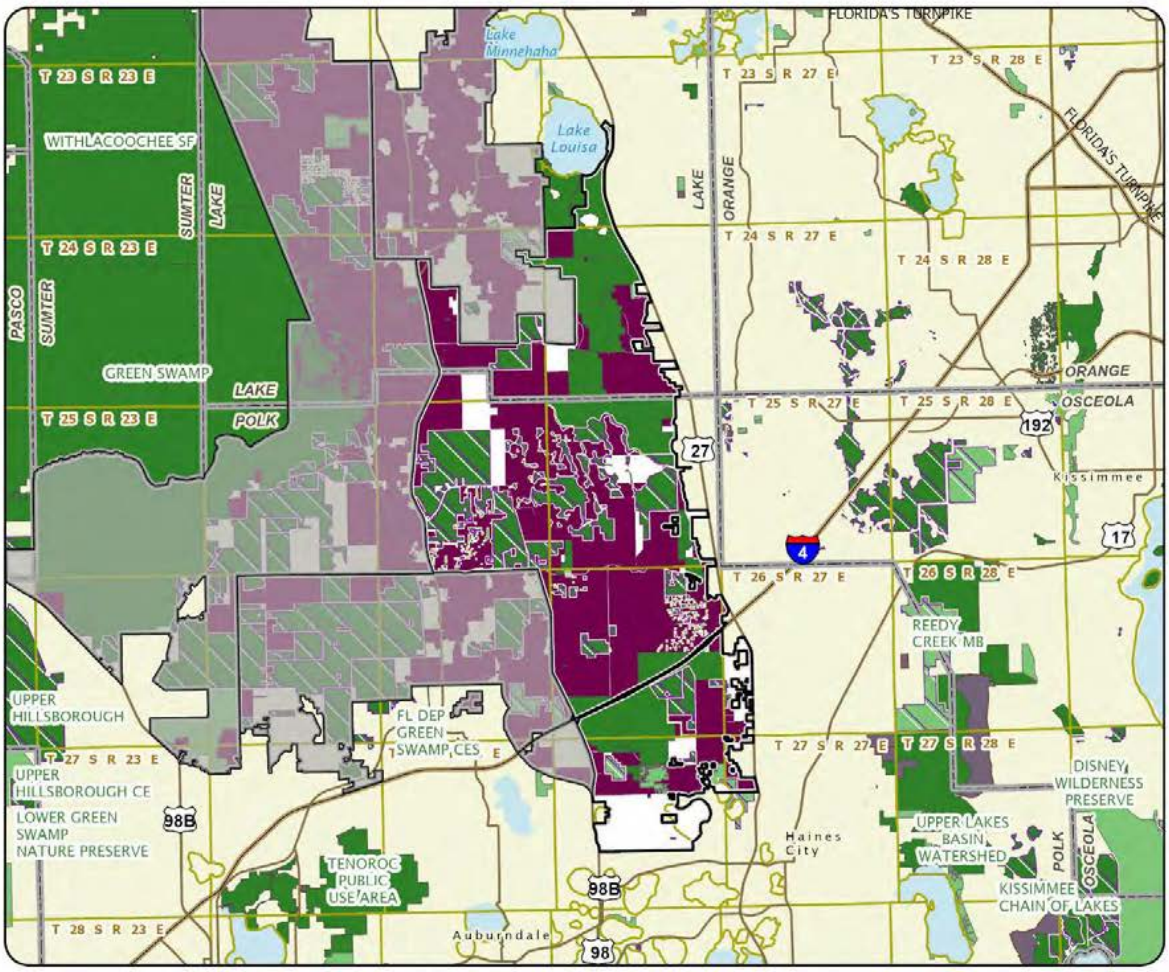


GREEN SWAMP: OVERVIEW

LAKE, PASCO, AND POLK COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Hilochee Corridor
- ☐ Map 2 Peace River Headwaters
- ☐ Map 3 Pine Island Recharge Area
- ☐ Map 4 Withlacoochee River Headwaters





GREEN SWAMP: MAP 1
(HILOCHEE CORRIDOR)

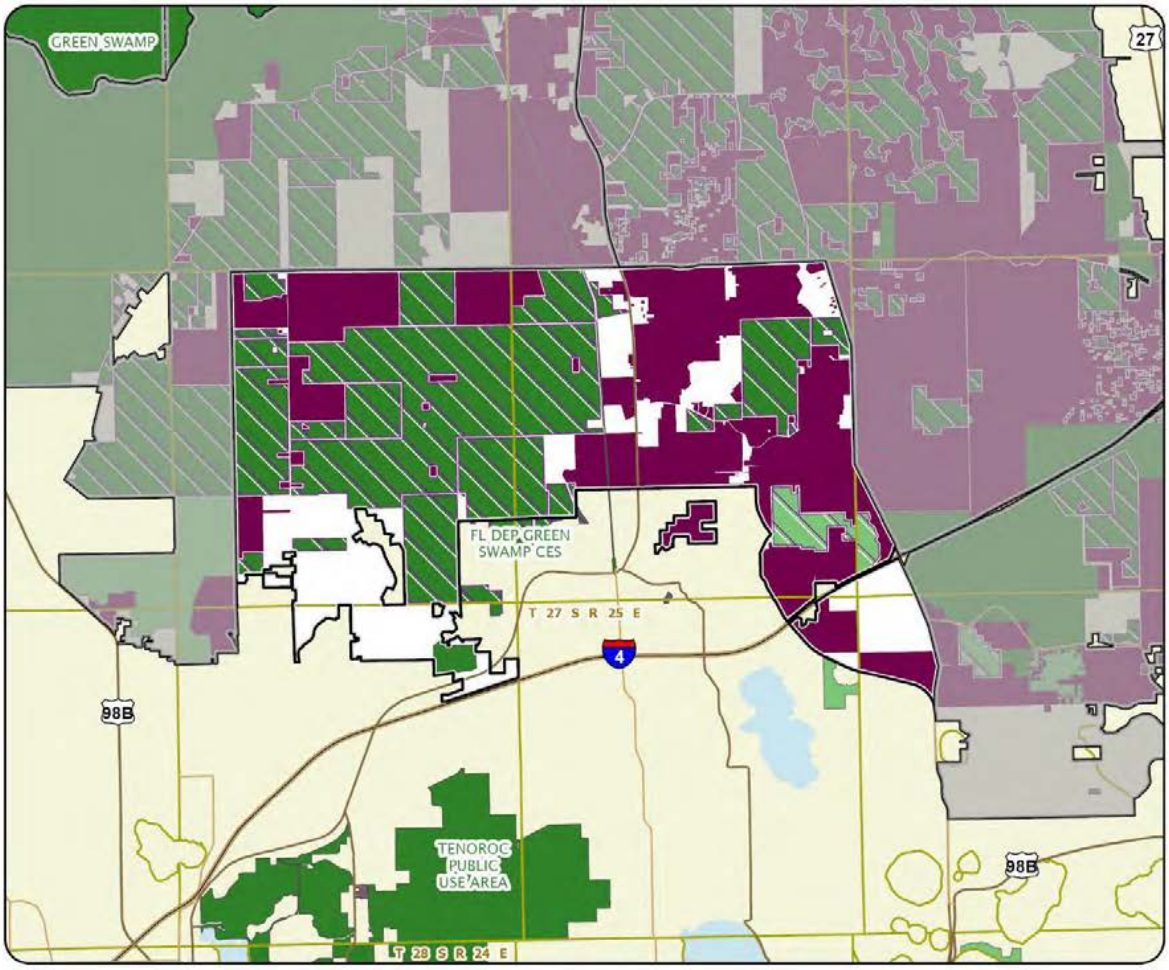
LAKE AND POLK COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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GREEN SWAMP: MAP 2
(PEACE RIVER HEADWATERS)

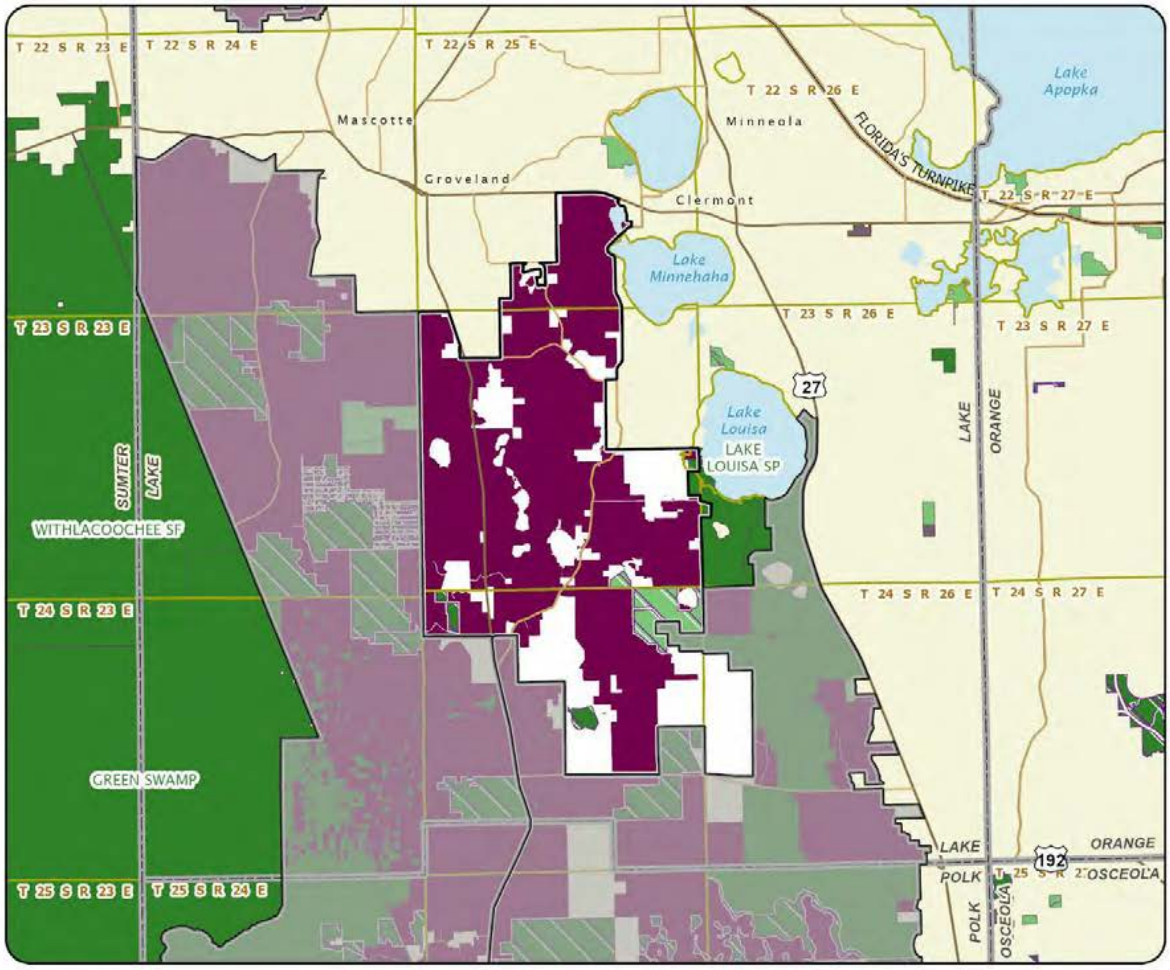
POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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GREEN SWAMP: MAP 3
(PINE ISLAND RECHARGE AREA)

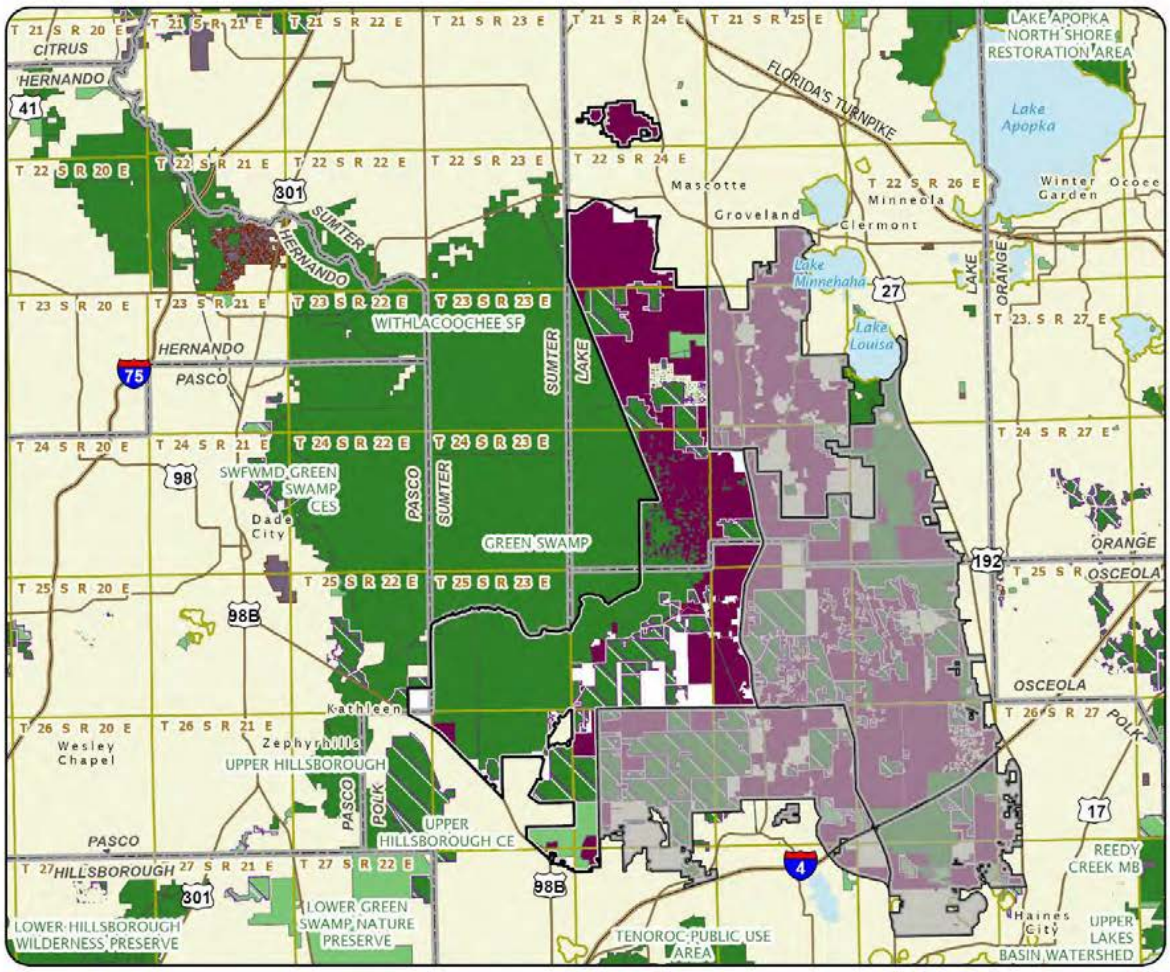
LAKE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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GREEN SWAMP: MAP 4
(WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER HEADWATERS)

LAKE, PASCO, AND POLK COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Hall Ranch

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Charlotte County

Year Added to Priority List	*1997*
Project Acres	*8,519*
Acquired Acres	*1,104*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,415*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$37,154,803*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Hall Ranch project will preserve a corridor of natural slash pine flatwoods, marshes and cypress swamps from Charlotte Harbor to Telegraph Swamp. The project will add land to the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area and protect habitat for species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The project will expand public resource-based recreation within the rapidly growing region of southwest Florida.

General Description

Hall Ranch is in Charlotte County, adjacent to Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area. It includes good quality South Florida slash pine flatwoods and depression marshes, with 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 Telegraph Swamp. It would contribute significantly to the wildlife corridor coming from the wildlife management area. No archaeological sites are known to occur on-site, but the area is vulnerable to development and conversion to intensive agriculture.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

Public Use

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area with uses such as hunting, hiking, camping and picnicking.

Acquisition Planning

1996

Negotiations on the 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 State Road 74. This project was ranked for the first time in December 1996.

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council transferred this project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2014

On January 16, 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established a 638.77-acre conservation easement as part of its Natural Resources Conservation Service Grassland Reserve Program.

2018

In 2018, a 592-acre easement was acquired through the Grassland Reserve Program. The 1,000-acre increase noted for 2018 also includes a 409-acre adjustment that was made to GIS data layer and maps for acreage acquired in the project where the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area boundary line overlaps this project boundary.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 resources; restore the 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.

Manager(s)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) is the recommended manager.

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 recreational activities.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The Hall Ranch project 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 in 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 nonnative agronomic plantings may be used to benefit both game and nongame wildlife in the area and to promote special hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the general public. Development of facilities, as in 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 FWC describing the goals and objectives of future resource management.

Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management and 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 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 percent), cypress domes/strands (4 percent) and xeric hammock (2 percent). 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 percent 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

FWC will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	$59,415	$59,415
OPS	$5,000	$5,000
Expense	$32,000	$32,000
OCO	$48,128	$0
TOTAL	$144,543	$96,415

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



HALL RANCH

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Heather Island/Ocklawaha River

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Marion County

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*20,509*
Acquired Acres	*10,838*
Remaining Project Acres	*9,671*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$63,618,803*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project will support connectivity with existing public conservation lands, preserve habitat for rare species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), and create corridors for wildlife dispersal and floodplain protection. Given its diversity of wildlife species, quality of plant communities and strategic location, this project has substantial conservation attributes.

General Description

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project is in Marion County and 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 Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, border the project. The project will protect and restore the floodplain and adjacent upland forests along the Ocklawaha River. The project area provides suitable habitat for the Florida black bear and the rare pinkroot plant (*Spigelia loganioides*). The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project was previously on the Conservation and Recreational Lands (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 River Water Management District (SJRWMD). To date, SJRWMD has acquired approximately 4,465 acres within the original CARL project boundaries.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Pinkroot**	G2/S2
Sand skink	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project can accommodate a diversity of resource-based recreation opportunities such as hiking, environmental education, picnicking, camping, horseback riding and bicycling. Depending on management emphasis, the property will also support hunting. The project abuts the Ocklawaha River and public lands adjacent to the river that could accommodate shoreline freshwater fishing and/or boat launching sites. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2003 Priority List. This fee simple project, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails and SJRWMD, consisted of approximately 19,949 acres, two landowners (Rayonier Timberland Corp. and Alawest-Al LLC) and had a taxable value of $32,234,776. The essential parcels were identified as the Rayonier ownership; these should be mapped and appraised first.

2005

On January 25, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Initiatives category.

On January 11, 2011, approximately 400 acres (The Nature Conservancy/Rayonier Forest Resources LP – – $1,165,000) were purchased by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) as the Silver River Addition. This purchase is to be managed by DRP.

2023

In December 2023, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 149.54 acres in Marion County.

2024

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 409.62 acres in Marion County.

2025

On May 8, 2025, DEP acquired a 569.07-acre conservation easement in Marion County from Marshall Swamp LLC.

Coordination

This project will be acquired in partnership with SJRWMD, with a mixture of state and water management district funding. Contribution percentages have not been determined.

Management Policy Statement

Priority will be given to conserving and protecting environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important landscapes and natural resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for biking, camping, canoeing, environmental 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 purpose of the project is to protect habitat for wildlife, management goals will be oriented to conserving and protecting these species and carefully managing public access.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the 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) will be managed by DRP (portions between Sharpes Ferry Road and the Silver River) and the Florida Forest Service.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project will increase nature-based recreation; 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; and increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

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 half of the project area has been disturbed for silviculture or other purposes, significant restoration activities are possible for acreage acquired fee simple. FWC 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 to preserve the less disturbed natural communities will involve introducing prescribed fire and carefully managing public use. Biotic surveys will be a priority as many rare and listed species are expected to be present.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by FWC describing management goals and specific objectives to implement future resource management. Long-range plans will emphasize restoring and maintaining ecosystem functions; restoring native wildlife populations and wildlife diversity, including protecting and managing 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.

Revenue-generating Potential

The harvest and sale of forest products should continue to provide revenues under state management, where silvicultural activities are consistent with wildlife habitat management objectives. FWC, 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. When acquired by the state, the project will require one full-time position to manage the site. However, if certain activities are privatized, it would reduce the number of positions required. Funding for natural resource management and public use administration would come from the CARL Trust Fund. See the anticipated costs below. Revenue sources would likely include public use fees and timber harvests.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including DEP, Florida Forest Service and SJRWMD in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Salary	Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	$1,130,236	Not Provided
OCO	$512,154	Not Provided
TOTAL	$1,642,390	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

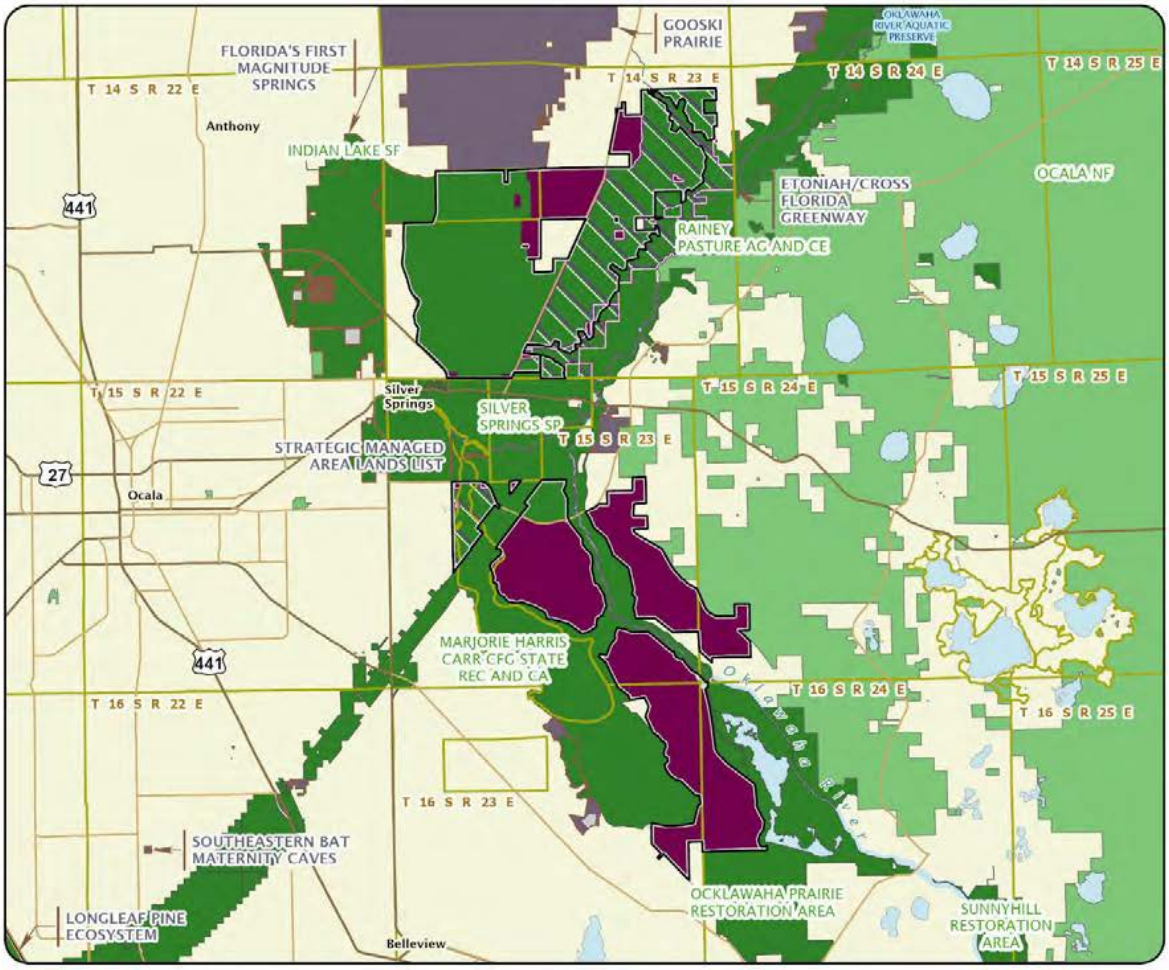
Florida Forest Service	Startup	Recurring
Salary (2 FTE)	$80,870	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$117,500	Not Provided
OCO	$225,600	Not Provided
TOTAL	$423,970	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Salary	$0	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$0	Not Provided
FCO	$268,000	Not Provided
TOTAL	$268,000	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



HEATHER ISLAND/OCKLAWAHA RIVER

MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 4.5 9 Miles

N



Indian River Lagoon Blueway

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Volusia Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1998*
Project Acres	*28,060*
Acquired Acres	*13,688*
Remaining Project Acres	*14,372*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$853,586,258*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Indian River Lagoon Blueway project will preserve and improve the aquatic natural communities of the Indian River Lagoon, one of the country's most productive, diverse, and recreationally important estuaries. A third of the country's manatee population lives in the Indian River; the area is also important for many oceanic fishes, migratory birds and estuarine fishes. Additionally, public acquisition would provide natural resource-based recreation in a developing area of Florida.

General Description

The project is in five counties, includes 36 separate areas (combined into 20 sites), and lies within the jurisdiction 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 percent of the project; 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 Surface Water Improvement and Management priority water body 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead sea turtle	G2G4/S3
Green sea turtle	G4/S2S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Fragrant prickly apple**	G1/S1
Atlantic salt marsh snake	G3G4T1Q/S1
*Lakela's balm**	G1T1/S1
*Atlantic Coast Florida lantana**	G2T1T2/S1S2
*Curtiss's hoary-pea**	G2/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Parcels in 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

1963

On August 28, 1963, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (131,704 acres) was established, of which 1,210 acres would be in the project boundary when it was created.

1970

On June 26, 1970, the state dedicated Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary (884.2 acres) to Brevard County.

1992

In February 1992, Brevard County acquired the original Kabboord Sanctuary (449 acres) property, of which approximately 78 acres would be in the project boundary when it was created.

1996

In December 1996, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and Brevard County acquire the original parcels of Pine Island Conservation Area (836.16 acres).

1997

In October 1997, Brevard County acquired the Washburn Cove Sanctuary (39 acres).

On December 12, 1997, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Indian River Lagoon Blueway project to the 1998 Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This fee simple acquisition, sponsored by multiple sponsors, consisted of approximately 5,136 acres, 460 owners and had a 1996 taxable value of $24,519,173.

1998

On November 10, 1998, SJRWMD acquired a 98.85-acre mitigation parcel in Pine Island Conservation Area.

1999

In June 1999, Brevard County acquired the BRB Enterprise property (53 acres) in Kabboord Sanctuary, of which approximately 37 acres are in the project boundary.

On June 17, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple 42-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Brevard County, consisted of multiple owners and had a 1998 taxable value of $865,400.

In November 1999, Brevard County acquired a 11.36-acre mitigation parcel in the Pine Island Conservation Area.

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council 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.

2000

On December 19, 2000, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple 186-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by multiple sponsors, consisted of multiple owners and had a 1999 taxable value of $4,205,800. The addition was broken down as follows: (1) Brevard County Snagg Point, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of 125 acres with a taxable value of $1,246,520. 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.

2001

In March 2001, Indian River County acquired approximately 100 acres to create the Oyster Bar Salt Marsh.

On April 16, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) established Groups A and B and moved this project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List.

2002

On December 5, 2002, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. On August 15, 2003, ARC approved a fee simple 15-acre addition (Old Oak Lodge Preserve) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Institute of Technology, Department of Marine and Environmental Systems, consisted of one owner, Indian River No. 1 Developer and had a 2002 taxable value of $685,170.

2003

On August 15, 2003, ARC approved the addition of Old Oak Lodge Preserve (14.8 acres) to the project.

2005

On February 11, 2005, ARC approved a fee simple 297-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of four owners and had a 2004 taxable value of $1,137,380.

On July 20, 2005, Martin County acquired the Jensen Beach Impoundment (93 acres).

2007

On February 16, 2007, ARC approved a fee simple 194-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL), consisted of nine ownerships, 10 parcels and had a taxable value of $984,310. Brevard County will manage these parcels, which are considered essential to the project.

On April 13, 2007, ARC approved a fee simple 296-acre addition, known as Harbor Branch, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by St. Lucie County, consisted of three landowners, 12 parcels and had 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.

In June 2007, Brevard County acquired Indian River Sanctuary (43 acres), of which 5.7 acres are within the project boundary.

On August 16, 2007, ARC approved a fee simple 47-acre addition (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 of the parcel overlaps the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge Florida Forever project site in Indian River County.

2008

On July 24, 2008, Brevard County acquired the Boyd (148 acres) and Dichristopher (147 acres) parcels to expand Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary. The Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary totals 1,179.2 acres, of which approximately 532.89 acres are within the project boundary.

On July 24, 2008, Volusia County established the Fisherman's Cove (1 acre) conservation easement.

In August 2008, 41.88 acres of the Kaufman/Young ownership were purchased for $1,969,999 ($1,313,333 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Florida Forever funds and $656,666 from SJRWMD). DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage this addition.

On December 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, part of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic campus. The proposal, which was submitted as a stand-alone project, was designated as essential and immediately added to the project boundary.

2009

In November 2009, the Indian River Land Trust acquired a 1.6-acre parcel in Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail.

In December 2009, the Indian River Land Trust acquired a 6.7-acre parcel in Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail.

2010

On March 10, 2010, two parcels — about 384 acres (136 acres by DEP's Division of State Lands and 248 acres by the former Florida Department of Community Affairs, now Florida Department of Economic Opportunity) — were purchased from Harbor Branch for $24,040,488 (funding source from FF-HB-Other). These parcels are to be managed by Florida Atlantic University.

In August 2010, the Indian River Land Trust acquired Quay Dock Kayak Launch (4 acres), of which approximately 2.3 acres are within the project boundary.

2011

In September 2011, the Indian River Land Trust acquired the initial tracts of Coastal Oaks Preserve (134.75 acres).

In November 2011, the Indian River Land Trust acquired Winter Beach Salt Marsh (50.3 acres), of which approximately 47.74 acres are within the project boundary.

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2014

On July 24, 2014, SJRWMD surplused 31.87 acres to Indian River County; SJRWMD received a conservation easement on Toni Robinson Waterfront Trail in the exchange.

2015

In 2015, Indian River Land Trust acquired the Baker and Sapphire parcels (5.16 acres total) to expand the Coastal Oaks Preserve; the VBF Investment LLC parcels (25.88 acres) to expand the Oyster Bar Salt Marsh; and Reed Cut (9.5 acres, of which 4.75 acres are within the project boundary).

2016

On November 22, 2016, the Indian River Land Trust acquired 26.1 acres to expand the Coastal Oaks Preserve.

2017

In 2017, SJRWMD established a conservation easement on the Coastal Oaks Preserve.

2018

On October 16, 2018, the NeoVerde Basin 21 Mitigation Bank (1,321 acres) was approved, of which 1,272 acres are in the project boundary.

2019

On May 30, 2019, SJRWMD and DEP established a conservation easement on the NeoVerde Basin 21 Mitigation Bank.

2025

On April 14, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 2,033.7 acres in Volusia County from the Volusia County.

Coordination

Acquisition of this project will be a coordinated effort between directly involved local governments, water management districts and the state. The five counties (Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties) and the two water management districts (SJRWMD and South Florida Water Management District) have sent resolutions in support of this project. SJRWMD 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 is in place over the tracts in the SJRWMD.

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.

Manager(s)

DRP management centers around the Mullet Creek area. DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection 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 funding and other sources, and they would like to manage the land under a single plan. Other agencies participating as cooperating managers are the Brevard County EEL, 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, SJRWMD and South Florida Water Management District will likely be cooperating managers on some sites as part of their Surface Water Improvement and Management Program. 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 will manage the Harbor Branch sites. Management of land previously owned by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute will be divided among several entities. Some of the unimproved uplands will be managed by the St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Division and some of the unimproved wetlands by the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District. Much of the improved acreage will be leased by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for management by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Foundation or Florida Atlantic University.

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 hydrologically 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

All acquisitions will initially be of "high need." Most of the wetlands are impounded, some are connected to Indian River Lagoon and managed, and others are not. The long-term goal will be to reconnect all impoundments to Indian River Lagoon through control structures. Structures will have to be installed and maintained in many areas and dikes repaired or removed if 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 planning for management activities such as impoundment management, restoration, 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 waterfowls and wading birds and viewing opportunities for the public.

Revenue-generating Potential

No revenue is expected to be directly 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.

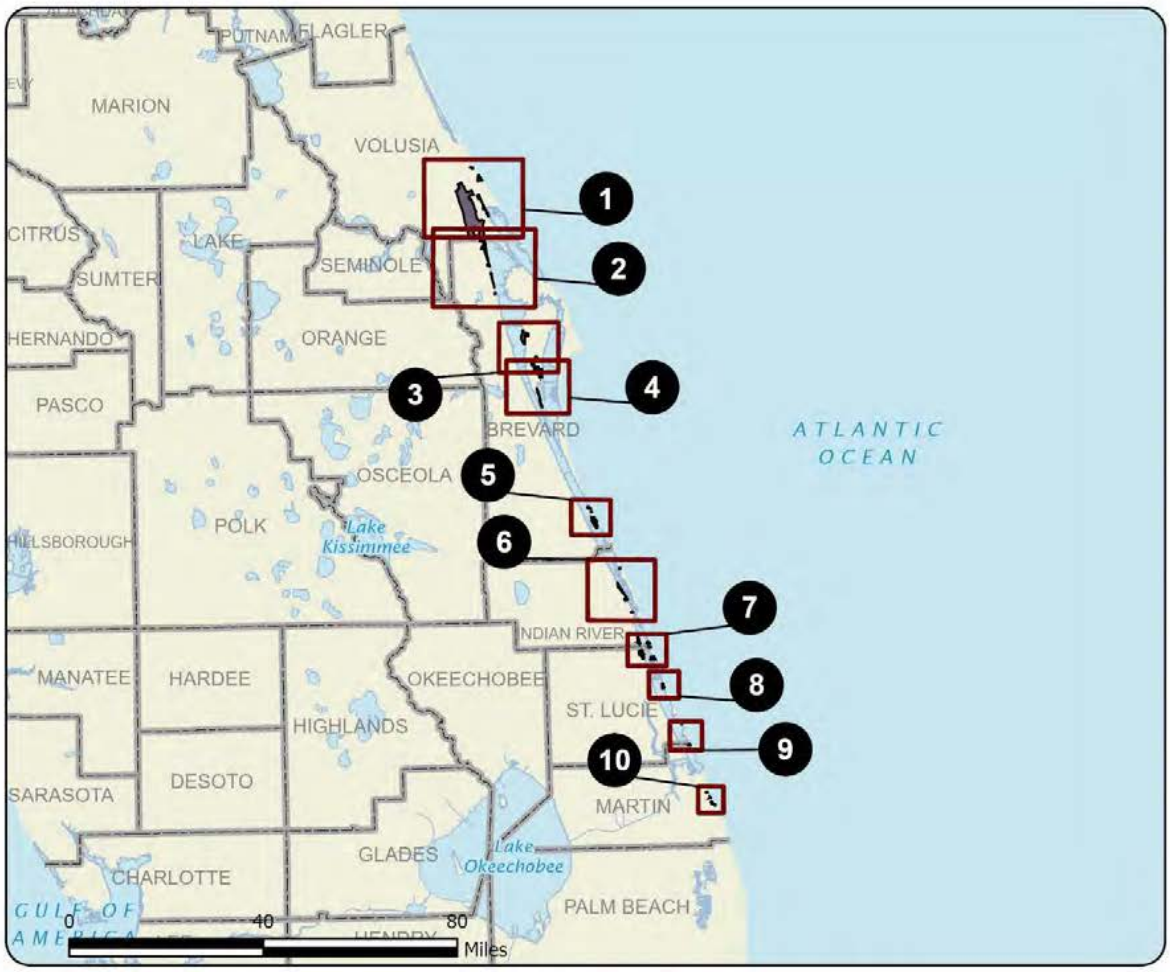
Cooperators in Management Activities

This project will require a great deal of coordination between the affected parties. SJRWMD, South Florida Water Management District, Volusia/Brevard/Indian River/St. Lucie/Martin counties and local 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 compatible 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.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Salary	$64,805	Not Provided
OPS	$36,100	Not Provided
Expense	$16,146	Not Provided
OCO	$27,692	Not Provided
FCO	$0	Not Provided
Other - Grant	$15,000	Not Provided
Other - Special	$20,311	Not Provided
TOTAL	$180,054	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

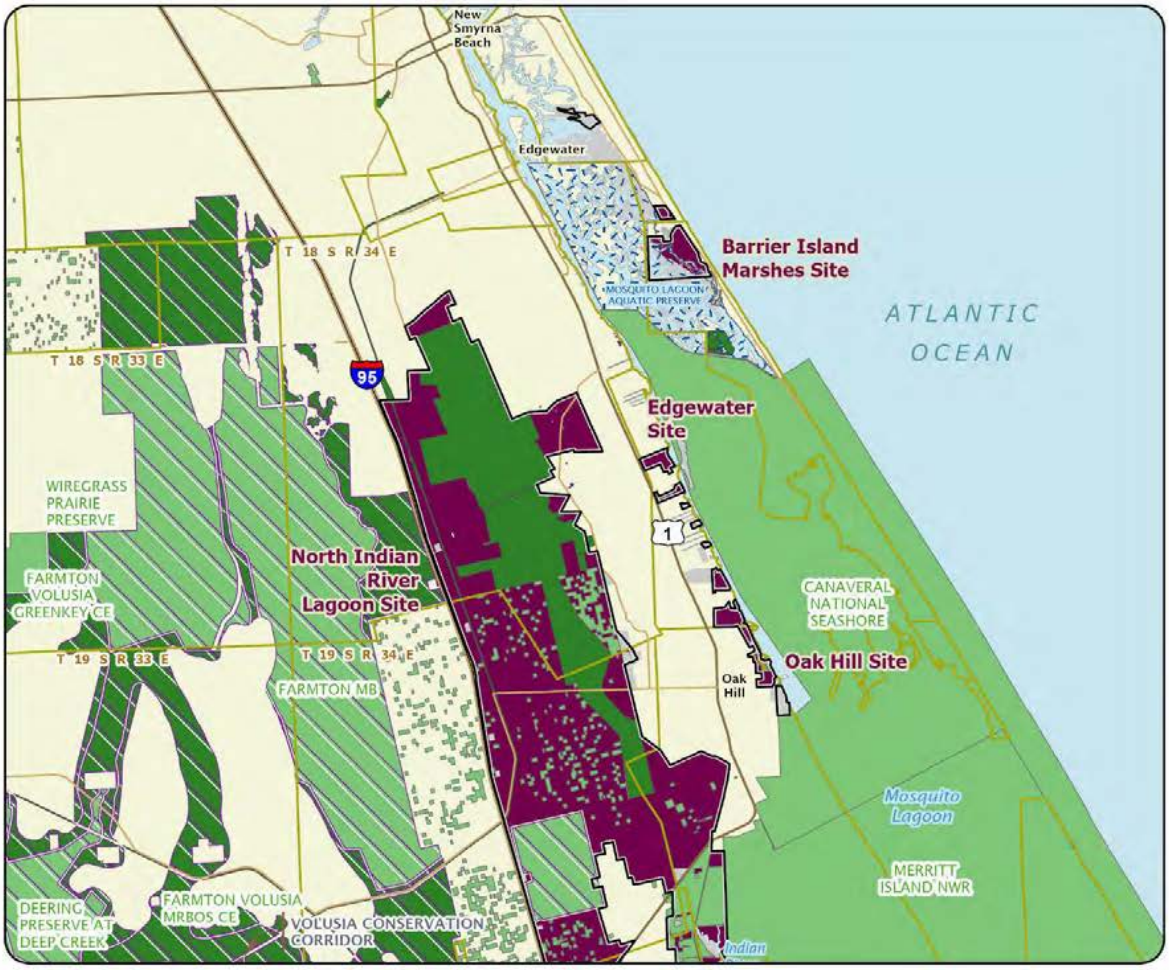


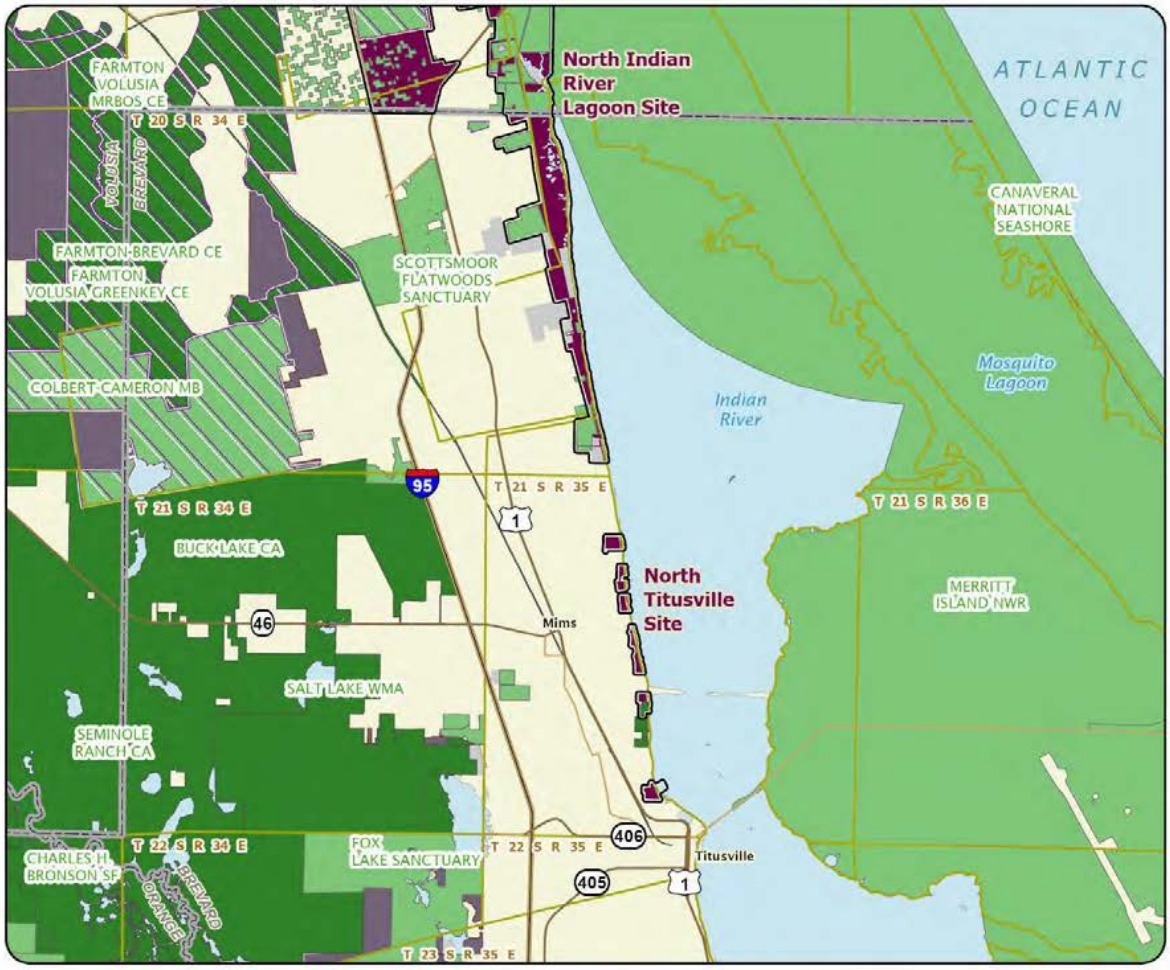
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Barrier Island Marshes Site
- ☐ Map 1 Edgewater Site
- ☐ Map 1 North Indian River Lagoon Site
- ☐ Map 1 Oak Hill Site
- ☐ Map 2 North Indian River Lagoon Site
- ☐ Map 2 North Titusville Site
- ☐ Map 3 Pine Island Site
- ☐ Map 3 Sykes Creek Site
- ☐ Map 4 East Merritt Island Impoundment Sites
- ☐ Map 5 Hog Point Site
- ☐ Map 5 Mullet Creek Site
- ☐ Map 5 Old Oak Lodge Preserve Site
- ☐ Map 5 Snagg Point Site
- ☐ Map 5 Washburn Cove Site
- ☐ Map 6 Morgan's Impoundment Site
- ☐ Map 6 Pelican Island Addition Site
- ☐ Map 6 Vossinbury Site
- ☐ Map 6 Winter Beach Marsh Site
- ☐ Map 7 Avalon Site
- ☐ Map 7 Diamond Site
- ☐ Map 7 Harbor Branch Site
- ☐ Map 7 Martin Site
- ☐ Map 7 Oyster Bar Impoundment Site
- ☐ Map 7 Pappas Site
- ☐ Map 7 Queens Island Site
- ☐ Map 8 Bear Point Site
- ☐ Map 9 Hutchinson Island Addition Site
- ☐ Map 9 Jensen Site
- ☐ Map 10 Corset Sound Site
- ☐ Map 10 Gomez Site
- ☐ Map 10 Hobe Sound Site
- ☐ Map 10 Palmer Sound Site




New Smyrna Beach
Edgewater
Barrier Island Marshes Site
MOSQUITO LAGOON AQUATIC PRESERVE
ATLANTIC OCEAN
T 18 S R 34 E
T 18 S R 33 E
95
Edgewater Site
1
WIREGRASS PRAIRIE PRESERVE
North Indian River Lagoon Site
FARMTON VOLUSIA GREENKEY CE
CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE
T 19 S R 33 E
T 19 S R 34 E
FARMTON MB
Oak Hill
Oak Hill Site
Mosquito Lagoon
MERRITT ISLAND NWR
DEERING PRESERVE AT DEEP CREEK
FARMTON VOLUSIA MRBOS CE
VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR
Indian
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 1
VOLUSIA COUNTY
Florida Forever Project Boundary
Essential Parcels Remaining
Other Florida Forever Projects
State Conservation Lands
Other Conservation Lands
Other Public Lands
Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
State Aquatic Preserve
0
4
8
Miles
N
ALABAMA
GEORGIA



INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 2

BREVARD AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

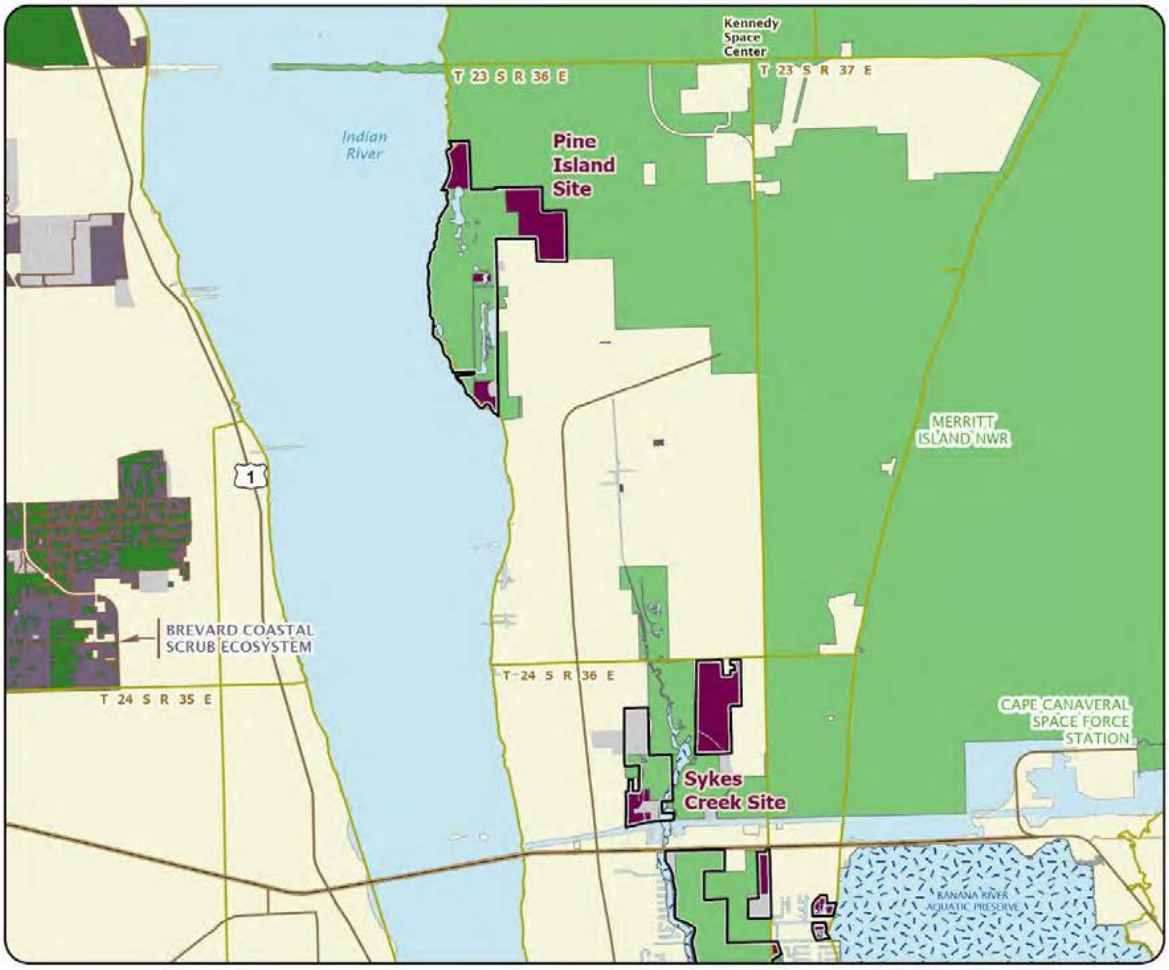
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 4 8 Miles

N





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 3

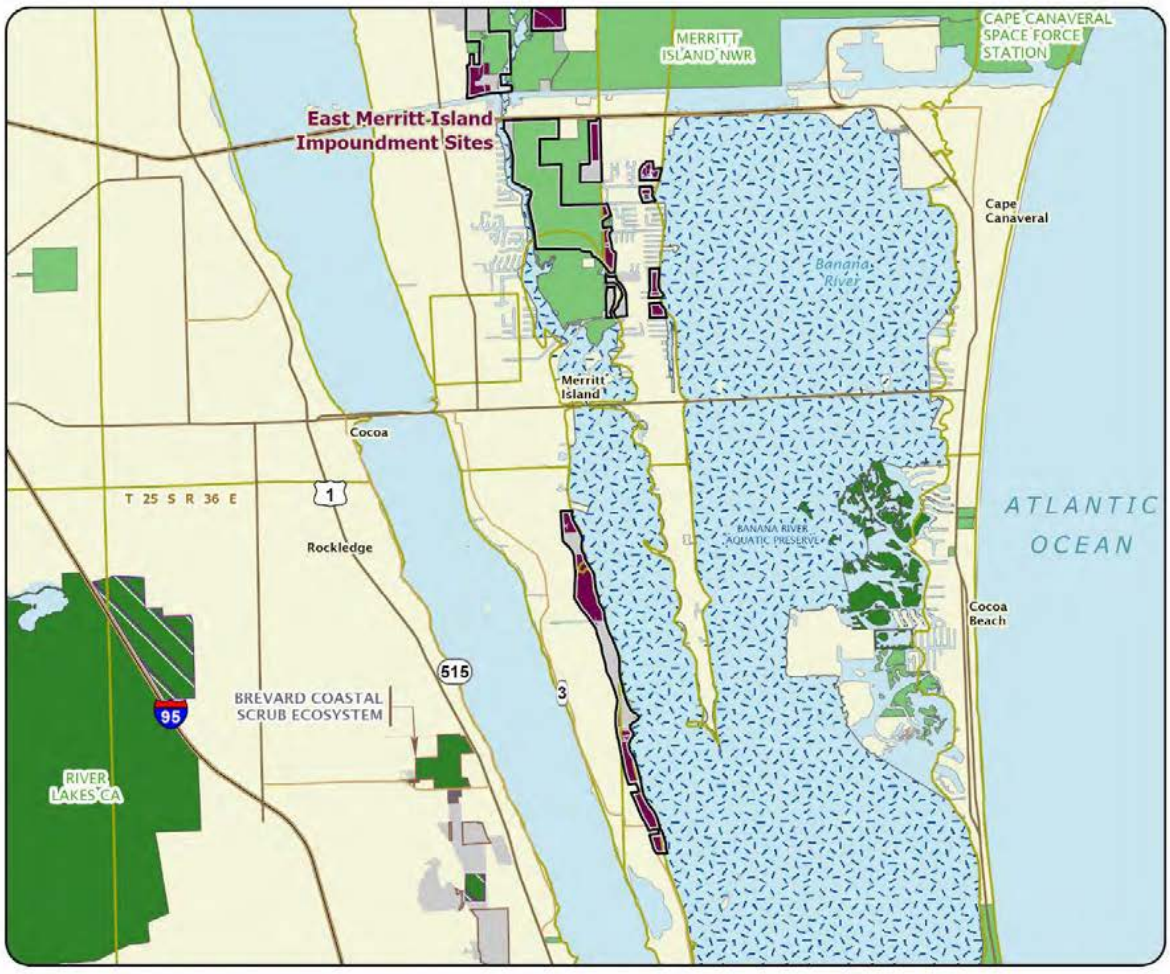
BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 2.5 5 Miles

N





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 4

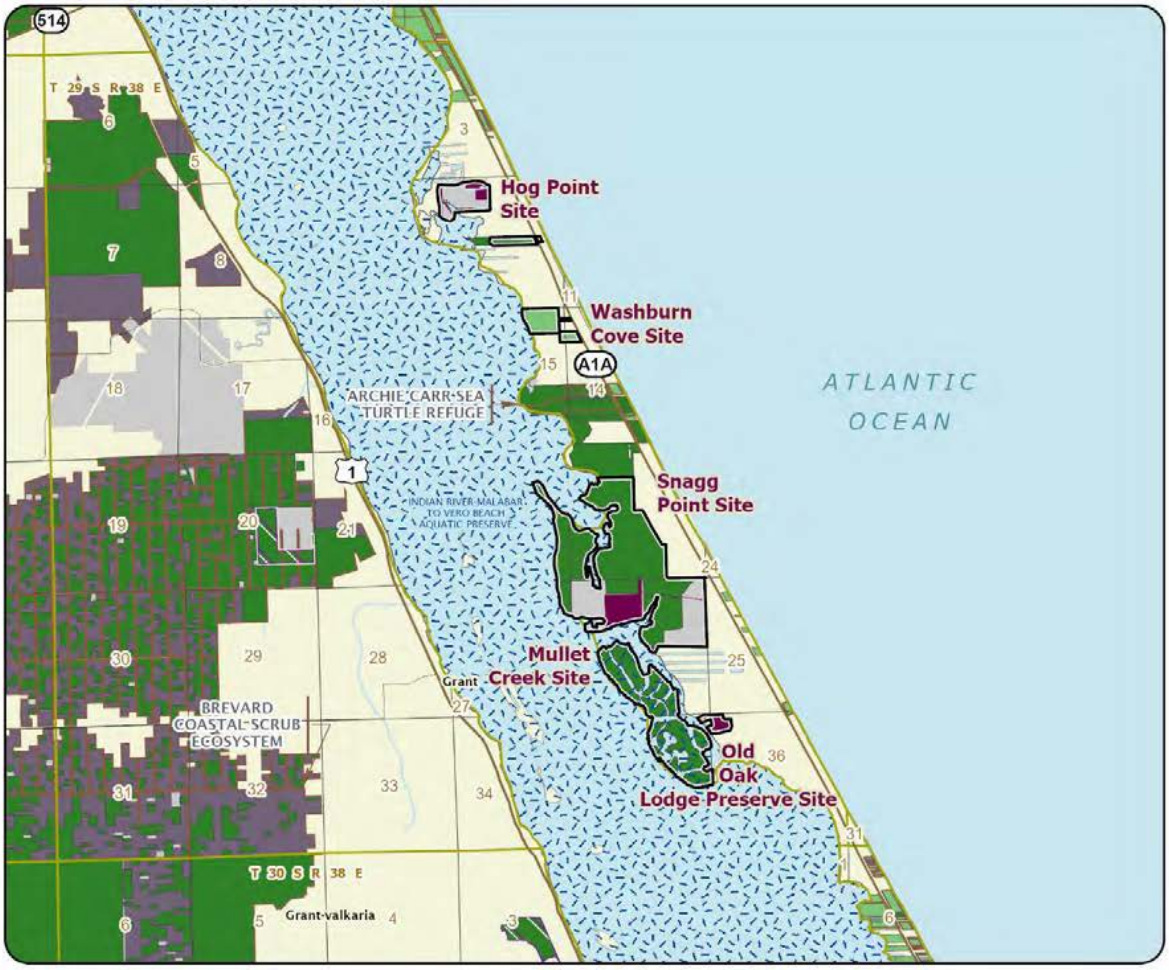
BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 2.5 5 Miles

N





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 5

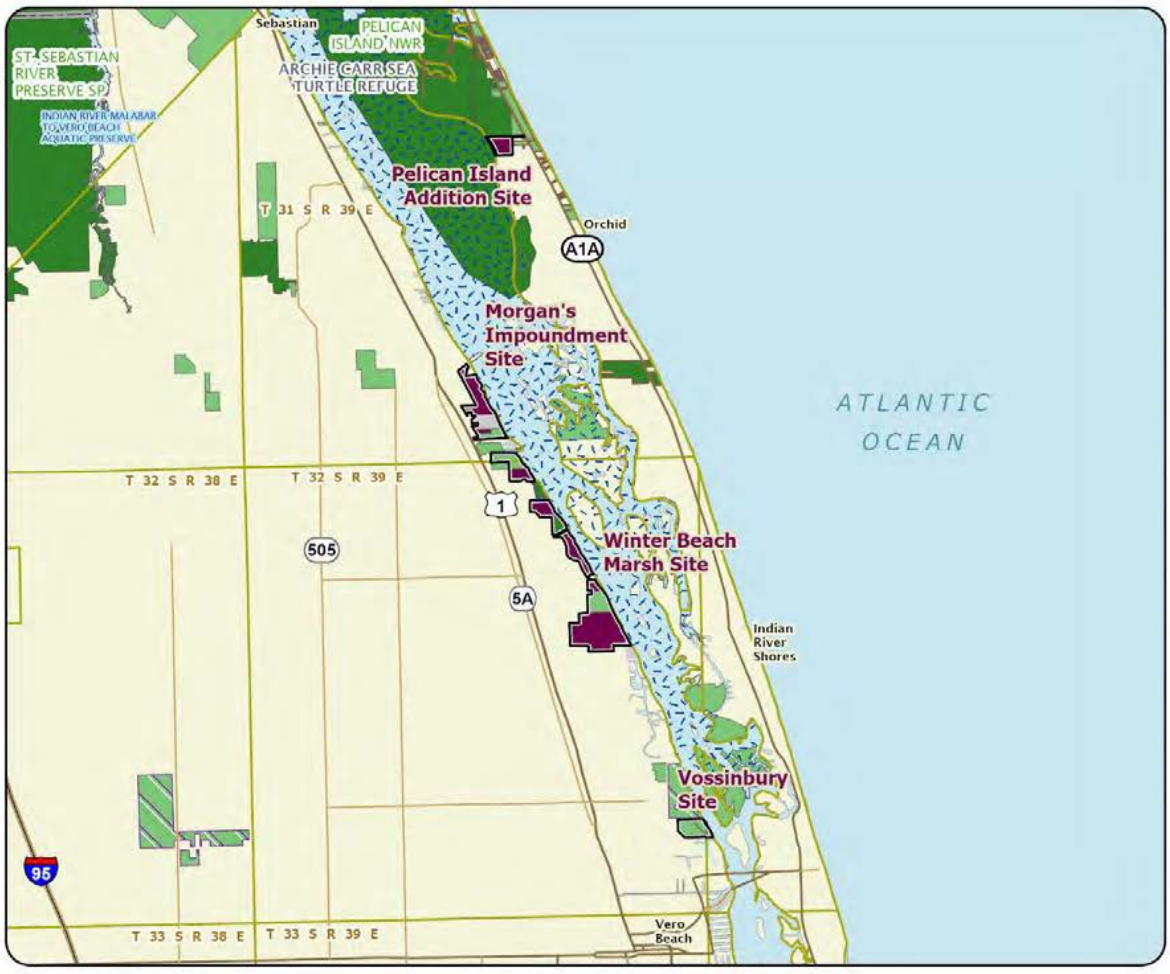
BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 1.5 3 Miles

N





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 6

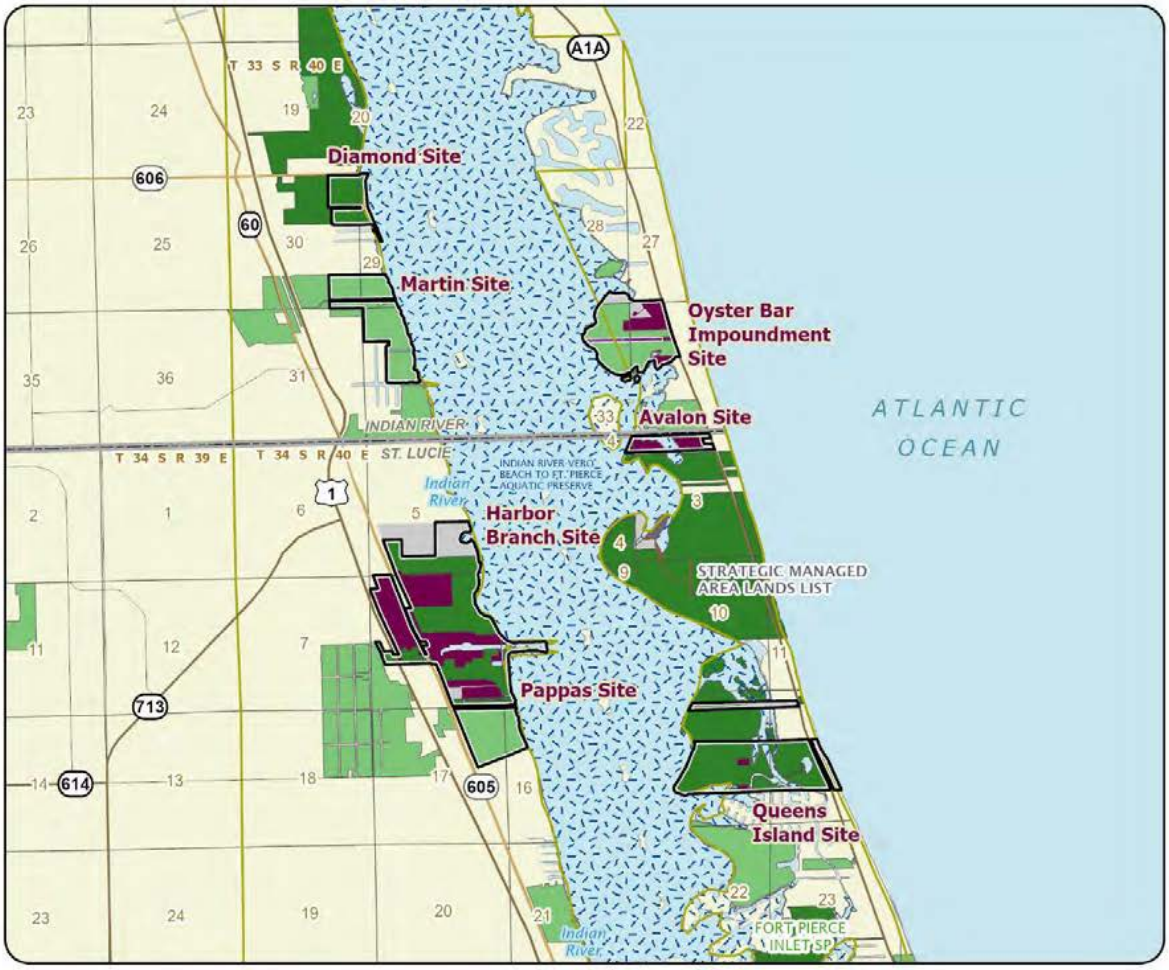
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 7

INDIAN RIVER AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 8

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 9

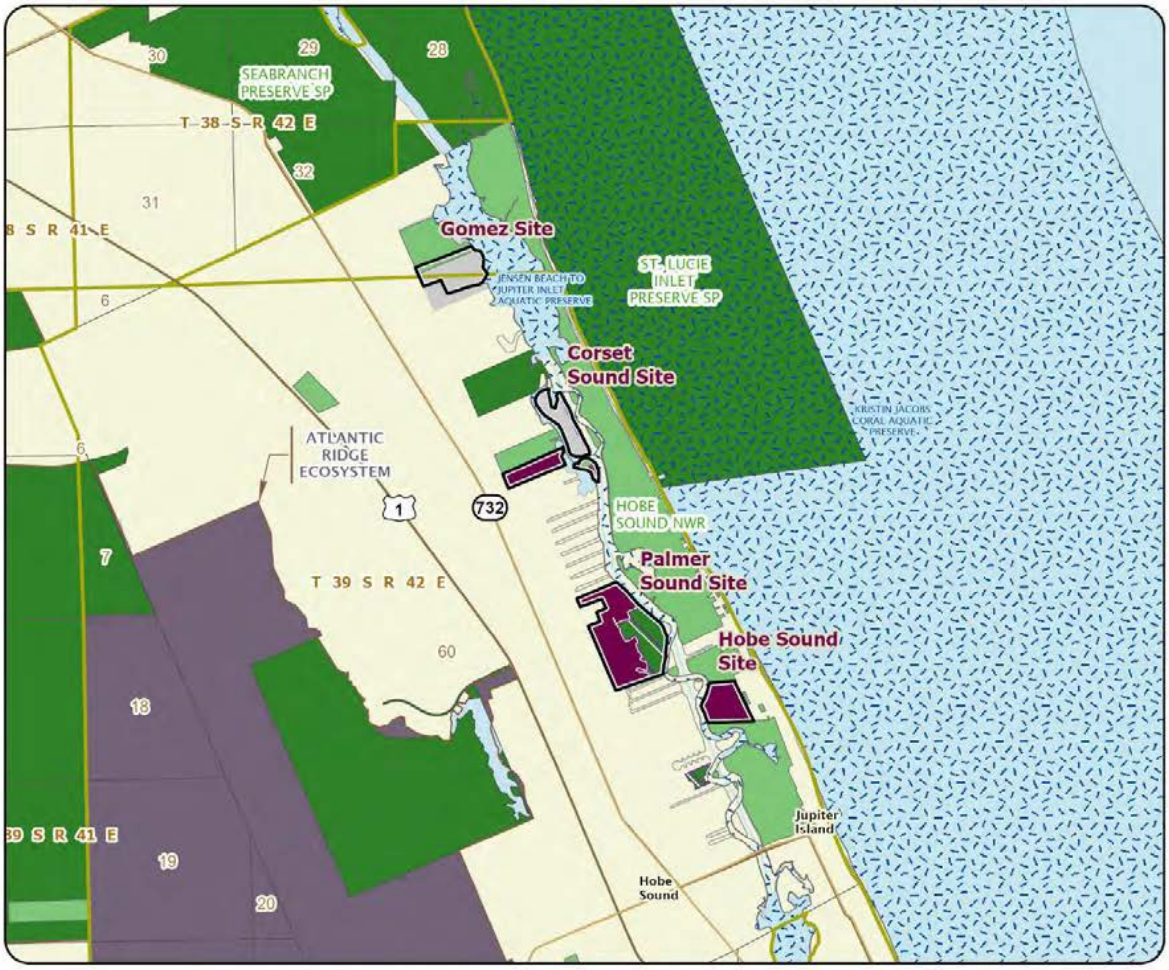
MARTIN AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 10

MARTIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Lafayette Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Lafayette County

Year Added to Priority List	*2004*
Project Acres	*13,217*
Acquired Acres	*2,960*
Remaining Project Acres	*10,257*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$11,386,942*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lafayette Forest project creates a significant corridor connection between state and private conservation lands, creating a 70,000-acre block of conservation lands. The project will increase the protection of biodiversity as the project area is known to support rare species. The project will protect and restore the natural function of land and water by restoring the natural, pre-existing hydrology and preserving wetlands that aid surface retention of water. The Lafayette Forest project will increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management by managing existing natural communities to perpetuate natural species.

General Description

The Lafayette Forest project is in eastern Lafayette County on the western side of the Suwannee River, extending south to the Levy County line. The project consists of basin swamps, wet prairies, floodplain swamps, interspersed between pine silviculture plantations established on disturbed mesic and hydric flatwoods and sandhill community types.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Pinesnake	G4/S3
Eastern tiger salamander	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems in perpetuity; integrate compatible human use; and ensure 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 on these areas.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lafayette Forest project to Group B of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple project, sponsored by the Conservation Fund and the Florida Forest Service (FFS), consisted of approximately 13,176 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.

2005

On January 25, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2024

In December 2024, ARC approved the removal of FWC-3 (Arnold) from the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project and its subsequent addition to the Lafayette Forest Florida Forever project.

Coordination

The Suwannee River Water Management District acquired 820 acres in 2007.

Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goals for managing the tract are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; integrate compatible human use; and ensure long-term viability of populations and species that are 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 consider the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including 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.

Manager(s)

FFS is recommended as the lead manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Much 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 62 percent of the project area has been converted to planted pines. The tract has been managed for silviculture production for several years. The current silviculture objectives are pulpwood and chip-n-saw production and range in age from 1 to 25 years. With thinning, introducing 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the project's flatwoods, mesic hammock and upland mixed forest areas have been disturbed by silviculture operations and will require restoration. Areas where timber species are off-site may require thinning or removal to promote the re-generation of native ground covers and canopy.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. FFS proposes to manage the site as a state forest and will manage activities and coordinate public access and use. Initial and intermediate management 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, its 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 so the public is provided with 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

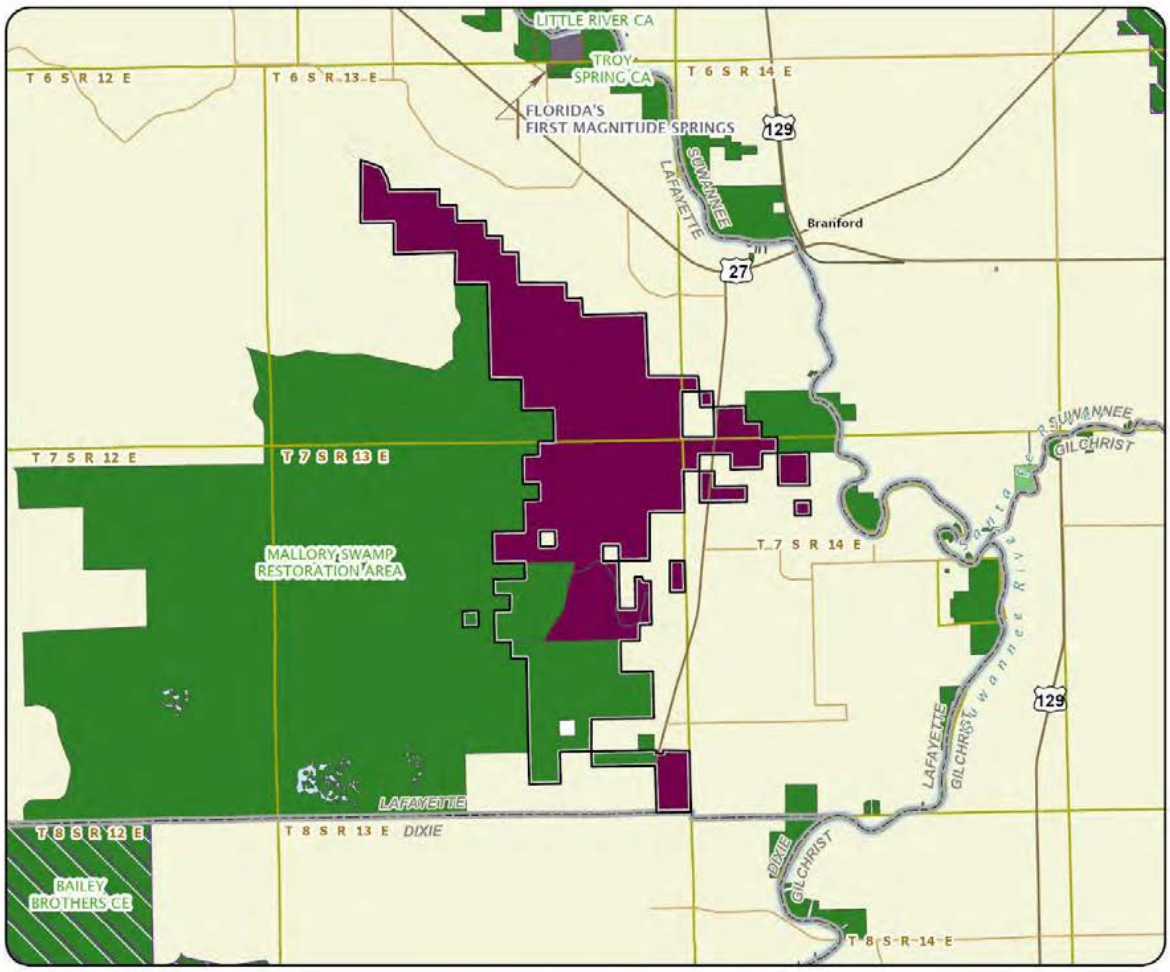
volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities if such projects could be economically developed.

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, FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands Program	Not Provided
Salary (3 FTE)	$77,035	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$123,300	Not Provided
OCO	$423,725	Not Provided
FCO	$0	Not Provided
TOTAL	$624,060	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LAFAYETTE FOREST

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Lake Santa Fe

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua and Bradford Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2004*
Project Acres	*10,529*
Acquired Acres	*2,125*
Remaining Project Acres	*8,404*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$52,631,494*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lake Santa Fe project will provide protection to the only remaining shoreline of Lake Santa Fe that supports wading bird nesting, natural shoreline fauna, historic cypress fringe, swamps and mostly undisturbed wetlands. It will protect existing publicly owned wetlands and swamp systems by maintaining water quality and preventing additional development. Acquisition of these lands will support the health and function of the Santa Fe Swamp and ensure adequate water quality and quantity.

General Description

The Lake Santa Fe project is proposed as fee simple, with possible use of less-than-fee on some parcels. The project 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 undeveloped portions of the Lake Santa Fe shoreline, as well as the surface headwaters of the swamps through prevention of further development and septic input. The project is segmented by lakefront residential development, limiting the lake edge protection and recreational opportunities.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Narrowleaf Naiad**	G3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Several of the parcels in the project qualify for passive recreational opportunities including picnicking and nature trails. One parcel may provide for more diverse opportunities such as canoeing, fishing and bird watching. Most parcels in this project boundary are in or near a medium priority multi-use trail corridor. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Lake Santa Fe project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple project, sponsored by the Lake Santa Fe Dwellers Association and The Nature Conservancy, consisted of approximately 10,574 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 as a concurrent priority.

2008

On February 7, 2008, Alachua County and SRWMD acquired the Lake Alto LLC (120 acres) tract in Lake Alto Preserve North.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC removed 174.5 acres from the project at the landowner's request.

2020

On March 6, 2020, Alachua County acquired the Padgett Tract (318 acres) in Lake Alto Preserve North, of which 284 acres are within the project boundary.

On June 5, 2020, Alachua County purchased Black Lake Preserve (288 acres), of which 282 acres are within the project boundary.

2021

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired in fee simple 69.42 acres from Milledge Murphy and Kathryn Murphy that will be managed for conservation purposes by Alachua County.

2022

On February 8, 2022, Alachua County acquired one additional acre of the Padgett Tract in Lake Alto Preserve North, of which 285 acres are within the project boundary.

Coordination

SRWMD and Alachua County are acquisition partners. Originally, SRWMD expressed an interest in buffering the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals for the Lake Santa Fe project are: protect Florida's surface water quality; protect wetland and aquatic habitat for species associated with freshwater swamps and lakes; preserve nesting and resting habitat for upland and aquatic species; provide natural resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Florida, including fishing, boating, hiking, camping and nature appreciation; help buffer and protect existing conservation lands at the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area; and protect Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project. Alachua County and SRWMD purchases will be managed by those entities.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

This project is proposed for a unified Management Prospectus. Several parcels are adjacent to, and would provide buffer for, SRWMD's Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area and 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).

FFS and FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Lake Santa Fe under the unified management concept that both agencies are developing. Under unified management, 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 protecting biodiversity and providing resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species should

also 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 (*Ambystoma* spp.); wetland drainage and silviculture conversion has contributed to the decline of this species throughout its range.

The project area will be managed to provide opportunities for bicycling, boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, kayaking, picnicking and wildlife viewing. DEP and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows approximately 27 percent 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Most of the project is a medium-need tract that will require up-front resource management, including frequent prescribed fire where appropriate. About 60 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silviculture. Consequently, additional effort will be required to restore to a desired future condition.

FFS and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the Conceptual Management Plan for the site. Examples of situations that require cooperative effort include restoring flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removing off-site species, promoting regeneration of native ground cover and reforesting ruderal and recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. Other unified management priorities include protecting and restoring 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 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 the design and implementation of recreational use programs.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will emphasize site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory and removing refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments and cooperate with other state agencies, local governments and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both management agencies will

participate in the joint development of a Combined Management Plan 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 include restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting imperiled or rare species. 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 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 both prescribed and natural fires. Growing season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve 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 Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Both agencies will work to develop a road plan that identifies the roads to be used for access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be restored as practical. The road plan would ensure that the public has appropriate access and 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 the 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. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits and other special hunting permits. Future revenues might also be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities. Fifteen percent of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated.

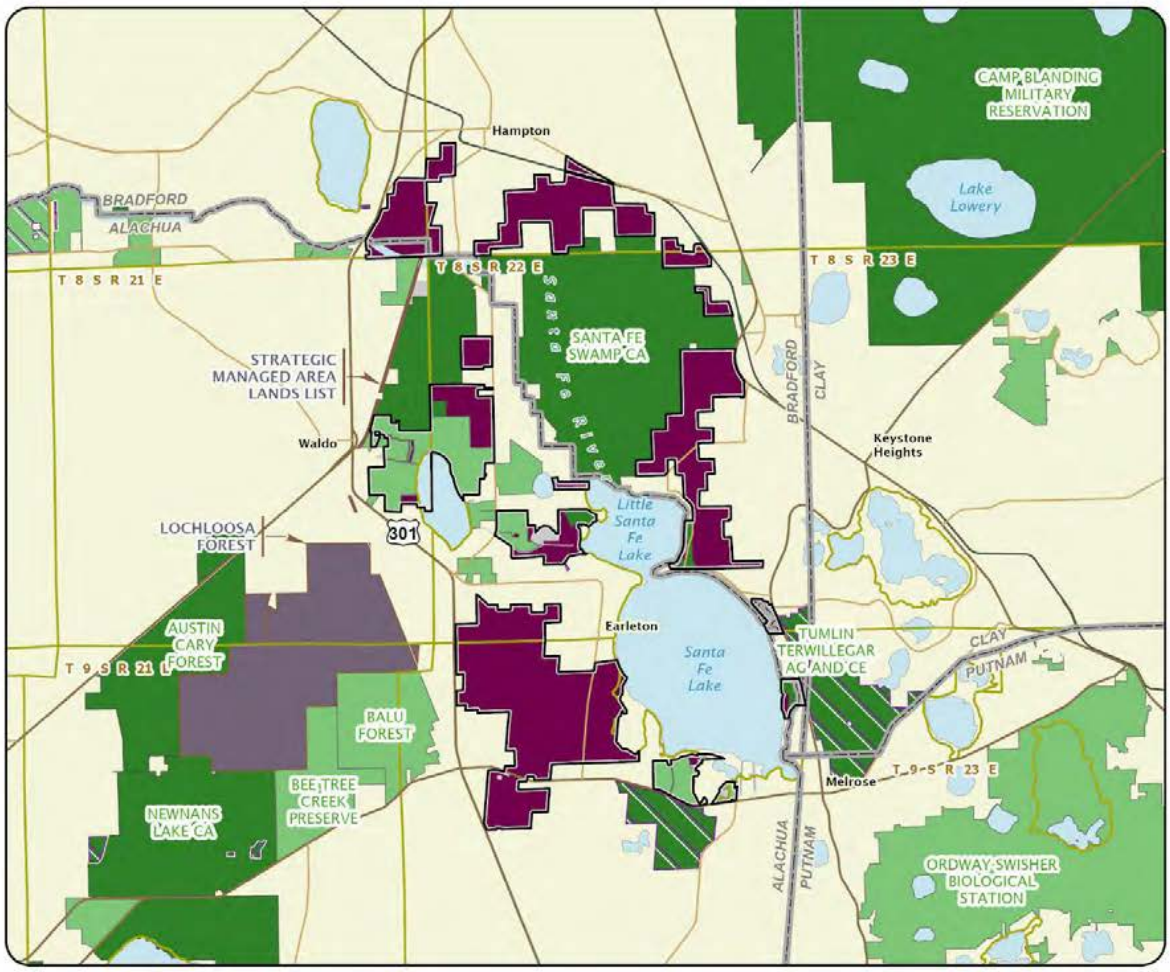
Cooperators in Management Activities

The unified managers (FFS and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including SRWMD, to manage the project area.

Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	$1,412,903	$124,743
OCO	$404,974	$248,465
TOTAL	$1,817,877	$373,208

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LAKE SANTA FE

ALACHUA AND BRADFORD COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Little Orange Creek Corridor

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua and Putnam Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*4,518*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,518*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$12,695,679*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Little Orange Creek Corridor project fills a gap between existing conservation lands in Alachua and Putnam counties. The project will help facilitate wildlife movement between existing protected areas and protect flatwoods and sandhill habitat critical to a variety of rare and imperiled species including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). Acquisition of the Little Orange Creek Corridor project will also help protect the water resources of Little Orange Creek and expand resource-based recreational opportunities in the region.

General Description

The Little Orange Creek Corridor project contains 42 parcels, totaling 3,925 acres, distributed among seven landowners in Alachua and Putnam counties. As indicated by its name, the project would establish a corridor of undeveloped land between Little Orange Creek Nature Park and Putnam Lakes Preserve, both of which are further connected to other conservation lands including Little Orange Creek Preserve and BJ Bar Ranch conservation easement. A portion of the project is located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

The property lies within the Hawthorne Lakes Geomorphological Province within the Lakes District, a region characterized by widespread lakes and wetlands resulting from sinkhole formation. Little Orange Creek, which originates northeast of Hawthorne, flows through the northwest edge of the property and into Little Orange Lake. East of Little Orange Lake, the creek re-emerges and feeds a series of marshes and swamps before leaving the south-central portion of the property feeding Redwater Lake.

Covering more than 1,300 acres, the most extensive and impressive landcover type is restoration sandhill. Formerly successional hardwood forest and severely hardwood-encroached sandhill, the landowner has begun to restore using a combination of mechanical removal and prescribed fire. The owner intends on making the property a gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) recipient site. A large

proportion of the restoration area was burned during the week of the agency site visit. Remnant longleaf pines of varying ages are sparsely distributed across the restoration area.

Restoration mesic flatwoods is present in areas peripheral to the restoration sandhill and covers approximately 230 acres. A couple of large basin marshes, totaling more than 800 acres are present. Successional hardwood forest is the most extensive and widespread altered landcover type on the project, covering 225 acres. Invasive species are present in isolated areas.

Listed species observed during the site visit included wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) foraging in a wetland and a Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) vocalizing. A few gopher tortoise burrows were also observed. The imperiled southern tessellated darter (*Etheostoma olmstedi maculaticeps*) occurs in Orange Creek and there are historic records from Little Orange Creek.

This project contains five recorded archaeological sites. These sites collectively represent 4,000 years of Florida's history. Notably, there is a largely intact cattle pen likely originating from the early 20th century, unrecorded prior to the site visit.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

Public Use

If acquired in fee, lands in Alachua County will be managed by the county for conservation, restoration and public recreation. Portions of the Little Orange Creek Corridor project are proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and do not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On November 1, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Little Orange Creek Corridor to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

2025

In December 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 592.38 acres in Putnam County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The project was proposed by Putnam Land Conservancy.

Management Policy Statement

The primary objectives of the Little Orange Creek Corridor project are to restore the ecology and function of onsite communities. Acquired lands will be managed to maintain or improve environmentally significant natural resources, and to protect water quality, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Manager(s)

Alachua County will manage acreage acquired within its county.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Little Orange Creek Corridor project helps protect five recorded archaeological sites and enhances connectivity amongst conservation lands. This project also helps to protect flatwoods and restoration sandhill.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

An in-depth assessment will need to be conducted to ground-truth existing natural communities and assess historic disturbance to determine appropriate future desired conditions. Past, present and predicted land use changes of onsite and surrounding landscapes will need to be taken into consideration to determine the feasibility or effectiveness of potential restoration and management objectives, as development patterns or hydrological changes in the vicinity may make some restoration goals impractical to achieve. Many areas are anticipated to require ecological restoration to achieve desired future conditions and may include groundcover restoration, reforestation and implementation of an appropriate prescribed fire regime. The treatment of invasive species will also affect management intensity. These considerations and others will be included in the site assessment and incorporated into the 10-year management plan.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Because the Alachua County portion of the Little Orange Creek Corridor project contains parcels under multiple separate ownerships, both acquisition and subsequent management will likely be done as the individual properties are acquired. As acquisition is completed, site assessments will be conducted to draft a management plan which will establish current site conditions, future goals, and any potential role cooperating agencies and stakeholders may play in future management.

During the planning process, site security measures will be implemented, and low impact accessibility improvements will be assessed. The site will be monitored for trespassing and illegal dumping, and appropriate boundary marking signs will be posted. Assessments will be made to determine the condition of existing infrastructure and ascertain what improvements will need to be made in the future. Essential roads will be maintained to provide management access, and public access where appropriate, and unnecessary roads, fence lines and firebreaks will be abandoned and restored as practical. If any

new fencing is needed for site security purposes, fencing methods and materials will consider impacts to wildlife movement and ecological connectivity. Cultural sites will be managed in accordance with Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources policies. Long-term plans will focus on protection and management of the natural and cultural resources on-site as well as providing appropriate recreational opportunities. Any extensive site improvements for restoration or allowing for public access will not be initiated until the final management plan is accepted by the state and Alachua County, if the property is acquired.

Recreational activities on the site may include hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, wildlife viewing and environmental education. Recreational activities will be evaluated to minimize degradation or alteration of natural resources and habitats on-site. Trailheads and observation areas may include educational signage describing the ecological significance of the site, it's ecological value to the Little Orange Creek Watershed, and its importance in landscape-wide connectivity efforts across multiple counties. Potential initial improvements and possible future amenities include parking area(s), hiking and multi-use trails, paddling access points, fencing and other site security measures and invasive species removal.

Revenue-generating Potential

Alachua County anticipates that there will likely be no plans to generate revenue from this site other than potential revenue generated from timber harvests should such activities be a part of restoration plans for the site. Any revenue generated from such activities would be utilized for continued future maintenance of the site, in accordance with the County's Board-adopted Timber Management Business Plan. However, since this area is close to the city of Hawthorne, and it is also within an area the County identified as a priority need area for a rural Community Park in the Alachua County Parks and Open Space Master Plan (adopted in 2023), consideration may be given to joint management strategies which might generate revenue to enhance tourism and provide recreational amenities to local residents. Such activities could include a kayaking or paddle boarding concession to allow recreational access to Little Orange Lake. Any plans to generate revenue on the property will be addressed as a part of the ten-year management plan once appropriate acquisition is complete.

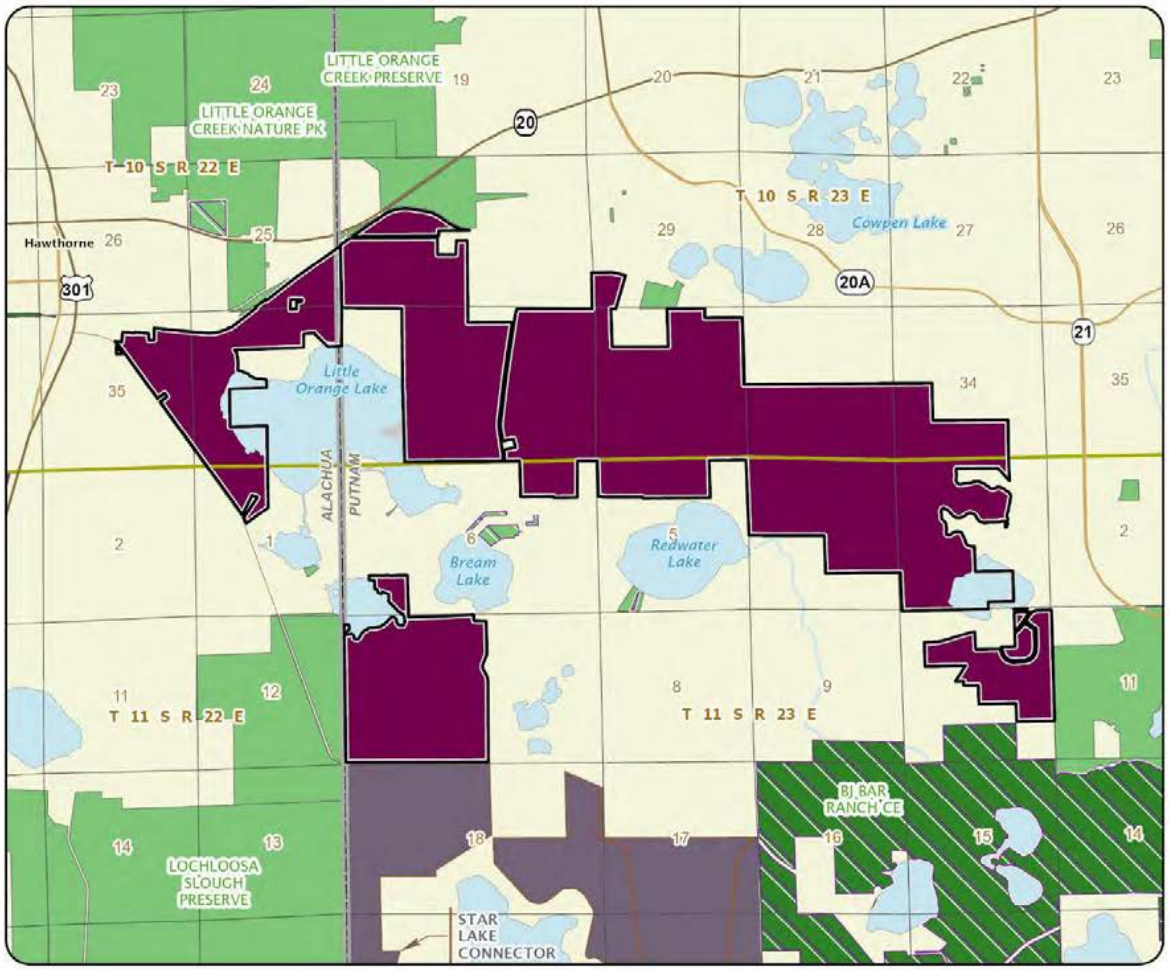
Cooperators in Management Activities

Alachua County will be primarily responsible for managing the property along with writing and implementing the management plan. Portions of the site may be managed or co-managed with other agencies such as the city of Hawthorne or the Alachua County Parks and Open Spaces department.

Management Cost Summary

Alachua County	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Not Provided	Not Provided
Salary	Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	$178,900	Not Provided
OCO	$56,198	Not Provided
TOTAL	$235,098	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LITTLE ORANGE CREEK CORRIDOR

ALACHUA AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 1.5 3 Miles

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Lochloosa Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua County

Year Added to Priority List	*2016*
Project Acres	*4,693*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,693*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$5,242,858*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lochloosa Forest project will help to establish a wildlife corridor along the eastern lakes portion of Alachua County to the Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway and Lake Santa Fe Florida Forever projects. The project closes a gap between Austin Cary Forest in Gainesville and Balu County Park in Waldo. The project will also contribute to the protection of water resources and important wildlife habitat.

General Description

Lochloosa Forest is an area of upland terraces where flatwoods, swamps and marshes predominate. The project also has two creeks flowing through it: Hatchet Creek from northwest to southeast and Bee Tree Creek from north to south.

Historically, most of the plantation areas supported a mosaic of mesic and wet flatwoods and a few small pockets of sandhill. Wetlands associated with the creek system and scattered dome swamps throughout the plantation make up approximately one-fifth of the site. Bee Tree Creek has several large floodplain swamp wetlands in the eastern part of Lochloosa Forest, the largest being just north of where Bee Tree Creek enters Balu Forest. A large swath of the western side of the swamp and smaller areas north and south totaling nearly 100 acres have been logged in the past for cypress and hardwoods.

Structure and species composition vary considerably between timber stands and generally reflect the amount of heavy shading or severe soil and vegetation disturbances associated with forestry operations. Very little natural groundcover remains in the pine plantations; although many are dominated by native shrubs indicative of the natural communities the pines were planted on. This is especially true of the older stands; younger stands have a very sparse shrub layer as well as a needle-dominated groundcover. One area, located on former sandhill, has retained some native groundcover, and would greatly benefit from the reintroduction of prescribed fire.

Forested wetlands make up most of the existing natural communities on the property. Bottomland forest is the predominant natural community that borders Hatchet Creek and its tributaries and the narrower parts of Bee Tree Creek. Floodplain swamp is present in the larger wetlands associated with Bee Tree Creek, where the canopy is dominated by cypress.

Numerous dome swamps are scattered throughout the pine plantations. Cypress and hardwoods have been heavily harvested from many of the dome and floodplain swamp natural communities and scattered large stumps can be seen in the bottomland forest, indicative of past logging. Hydrology has been disrupted in some wetlands by ditches that drain formerly isolated dome swamps into the larger creeks.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

Public Use

Because more than 80 percent of the area has been managed over the years as a pine plantation, the fire dependent character of the Lochloosa Forest and the potential for ongoing silviculture may preclude development of recreation access or interpretive facilities. The altered landcover sites may be best suited for restoration, operational support or small-scale education facilities. The ridgeline ecotone and creek system are scenic features of the proposal and offer significant conservation value. Hatchet Creek yields a scenic bottomland forest and basin swamp, which would be well-protected under forest-wide management as an educational “outdoor classroom/laboratory” comparable to the University of Florida’s adjacent Austin Cary Forest. The Austin Cary Forest currently performs the conservation and education functions, which could be fittingly extended to the Lochloosa Forest.

Significant recreational opportunities that may be offered by the acquisition would include hiking, nature interpretation and primitive camping. Integration of teaching opportunities may be feasible with trail development and sustainable recreation management.

Also, managers at the University of Florida’s Austin Cary Forest noted that hunting may be an appropriate compatible multiple use on the tract. The forest manager’s suggestion was to use the activity as part of an educational opportunity for wildlife management studies, and the Florida Forest Service (FFS) noted that it could also be a site for Operation Outdoor Freedom hunts.

Acquisition Planning

2016

Lochloosa Forest was submitted as a much larger project comprising parcels across eastern Alachua County but was redesigned to its current acreage once the perpetual conservation easements that were

already acquired and the Weyerhaeuser property were eliminated from the boundary. It was approved as a 4,693-acre project adjoining the Austin Cary Forest. The project was introduced to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) for evaluation on June 17, 2016, and advanced to the next phase of review.

On October 21, 2016, ARC added the proposal to Florida Forever Priority List. It had a tax assessed value of $894,300.

Coordination

Partners in funding and in acquiring the Lochloosa Forest are likely to include Alachua County, Alachua Conservation Trust and the University of Florida.

Management Policy Statement

The goals of managing the Lochloosa Forest are to establish a connectivity of managed lands among conservation lands in North Florida that include Balu Forest, Ocala National Forest and Camp Blanding. Lochloosa Forest represents a missing piece needed to create a conservation land corridor in northeast Florida. State acquisition of the site would also allow regional watershed protection and continuation of wildlife corridors, revenue from timber harvests and recreation.

Manager(s)

The University of Florida will manage the site as part of Austin Cary Forest, with emphasis on wildlands education and training. FFS has offered to participate in the management of the forest, if necessary, possibly managing it as part of the Newnan's Lake State Forest. The property was under a timber lease until 2023.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Lochloosa Forest would support the education, research and public outreach role of the University of Florida. This includes developing diverse conditions for students and professionals learning land management techniques; researchers studying impacts of different land management techniques on hydrology, wildlife, recreation, ecotourism and financial outcomes of management; and for the public to learn about scientific and systematic resource management.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Management of the property was limited through 2023 by the existing timber and hunting leases with the owner of the property. Management intensity can be expected to increase gradually toward the termination of the leases. In keeping with sustainable forestry practices, the pines will be replanted before the lessee cedes the site.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The first step of the project would be to develop a management plan among Alachua County and the University of Florida that would meet teaching, research and outreach goals, and guide coordination with the current owner of the land to the termination of the timber leases. The second step would be adjusting reforestation under access limited by the timber leases from 2018 to 2023. The third step would be to fully implement a land-management plan with specific activities to support teaching, research and public access. Because the project is adjacent to Austin Cary Forest, it is anticipated to be secured.

Revenue-generating Potential

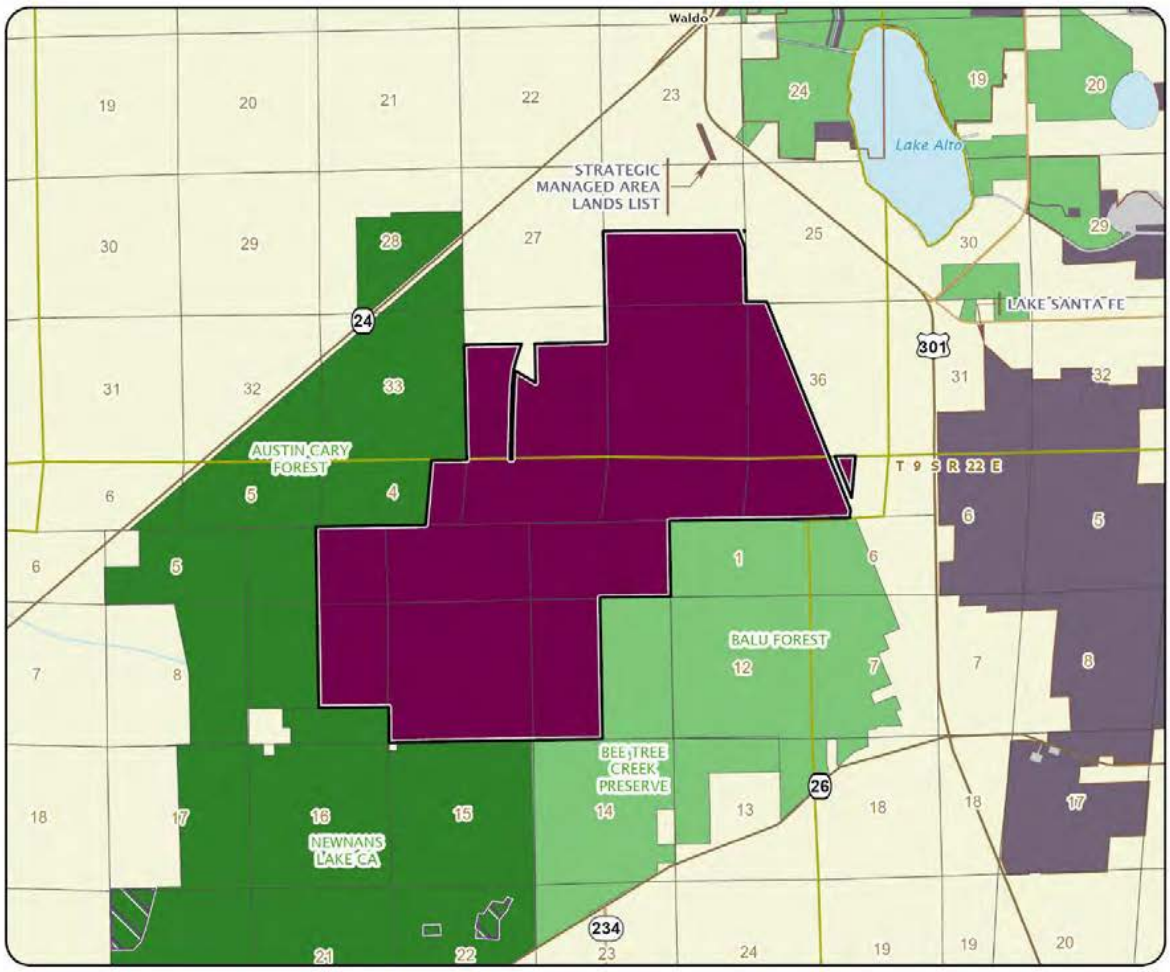
The prospective managers estimate that when the existing leases expire in 2023, about 30 percent of the property will have been clear-cut and will need reforestation. Another 30 percent will have timber from 10 to 14 years old, which could provide revenue over the subsequent five years. The remaining 40 percent of the property will have trees less than three years old and not yet of harvestable size.

Otherwise, the addition of the Lochloosa Forest to Austin Cary Forest is expected to require one additional technical staff member at an estimated $40,000 annually and three to five student employees at $15,000 to $26,000 annually. The staff would also need about $10,000 annually in fuel, equipment and operations expenses. The University of Florida would be responsible for these costs, which would be periodically offset with such revenue as timber sales, hunting leases, pine straw harvesting and other sales.

Management Cost Summary

University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences	Annual
Source of Funds	UF/IFAS
Salary	$40,000
OPS/ Student Employees	$15,000 -$26,000
Expense	$0
OCO	$0
TOTAL	$55,000-$66,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LOCHLOOSA FOREST

ALACHUA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Middle Chipola River

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Calhoun and Jackson Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1996*
Project Acres	*14,760*
Acquired Acres	*2,676*
Remaining Project Acres	*12,084*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$46,335,248*

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 in this region for 30 miles along the high banks of the river and maintain water quality. The project provides habitat for several rare plants and animals including mussels, turtles and cave-dwelling crayfish. The Middle Chipola River project will preserve the abundant archaeological remains in and along the river and ensure public access to the river for fishing, swimming and simple enjoyment.

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, 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 tickseed (*Coreopsis integrifolia*); it is among eight plants of conservation concern on the site. Rare to imperiled animal species include alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), at least four bivalve mollusks, five rare fishes, three rare salamanders and Barbour's map turtle (*Graptemys barbouri*). 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. The project contains 43 archaeological sites, mostly underwater scatters, and the potential for more is high. The scenic riverbanks are attractive for development, and the river is vulnerable to intensive agriculture and mining.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Chipola slabshell	G1/S1
Southern elktoe	G1/S1
Gulf moccasinshell	G2/S1
Oval pigtoe	G2/S1
Shiny-rayed pocketbook	G2/S1
Georgia blind salamander	G1G2/S1S2
Southern snaketail	G1G2/S1S2
Miccosukee mayfly	G1G2/S1S2
*Nettle-leaved sage**	G2/S1
Rayed creekshell	G2G3/S1
Alabama shad	G2?/S1S2

**Plant species are in italics*

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. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Acquisition Planning

1996

Middle Chipola 1996: Essential tracts are Land (acquired), Trammell (impasse) and Florida Public Utilities Co. (acquired). Waddell's Mill Pond: Essential tracts are Waddell Plantation ownership and smaller archaeologically significant parcels west and adjacent to Waddell Plantation.

On October 30, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee acquisition category: resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; seller is willing to accept a conservation easement and the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council has determined that the projects or site's acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee simple instrument.

In 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council combined the Middle Chipola project with the Waddell's Mill Pond project and added 170 acres to the Middle Chipola boundary.

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory 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.

1998

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 3,415 acres to the project boundary.

1999

On February 11, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 5 acres to the project boundary. The addition includes two entrances to the Hollow Ridge Cave system and is adjacent to other public land.

2002

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) combined the Less-Than-Fee Middle Chipola project with the Full Fee Middle Chipola project, and moved both projects to Group A.

2005

In 2005, ARC moved the project to the Group B list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the Middle Chipola River project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2017

On October 20, 2017, ARC amended the boundary of the project near U.S. Highway 90, adding 6 acres, placing a single-ownership parcel near a popular access to the river completely within the boundary for future acquisition.

2018

On August 24, 2018, ARC members voted to add four parcels totaling 156 acres in Jackson County to the project; these parcels surround the Peacock Bridge boat ramp. FNAI reports that this addition contributes to Ecological Greenways, Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Natural Floodplain Function, Surface Water Protection and Aquifer Recharge. More than half 85 percent contributes FNAI's Habitat Conservation Priorities and Sustainable Forestry.

2020

On December 11, 2020, ARC approved an addition of 49.41 acres in Jackson County to the project boundary.

2024

On December 2, 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired, in fee, 49.85 acres in Jackson County from Mark Edward Hinson, Richard Hinson III and James Hinson.

Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) has acquired portions of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York parcels (Waddell's Mill Pond), 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. NWFWMD will retain title to the Mutual Life Insurance Company parcels. There are no acquisition partners for less-than-fee parcels.

Management Policy Statement

The primary objectives of management of the project are to conserve a corridor of natural communities along the Chipola River and provide the public with controlled recreation access to the river. Achieving these will protect the unique collection of rare plants and animals 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) to 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 has the configuration, location and size to achieve its primary objectives.

Manager(s)

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (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 in this project will be monitored by DEP's Division of State Lands. NWFWMD will manage the properties to which they hold title.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The portion of the Middle Chipola River project lying between Florida Caverns State Park and the State Road 167 bridge downriver 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 expected to occur in natural systems. 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 of the floodplain along the Chipola River, maintenance of natural areas and control of invasive exotic plants.

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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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 likely 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.

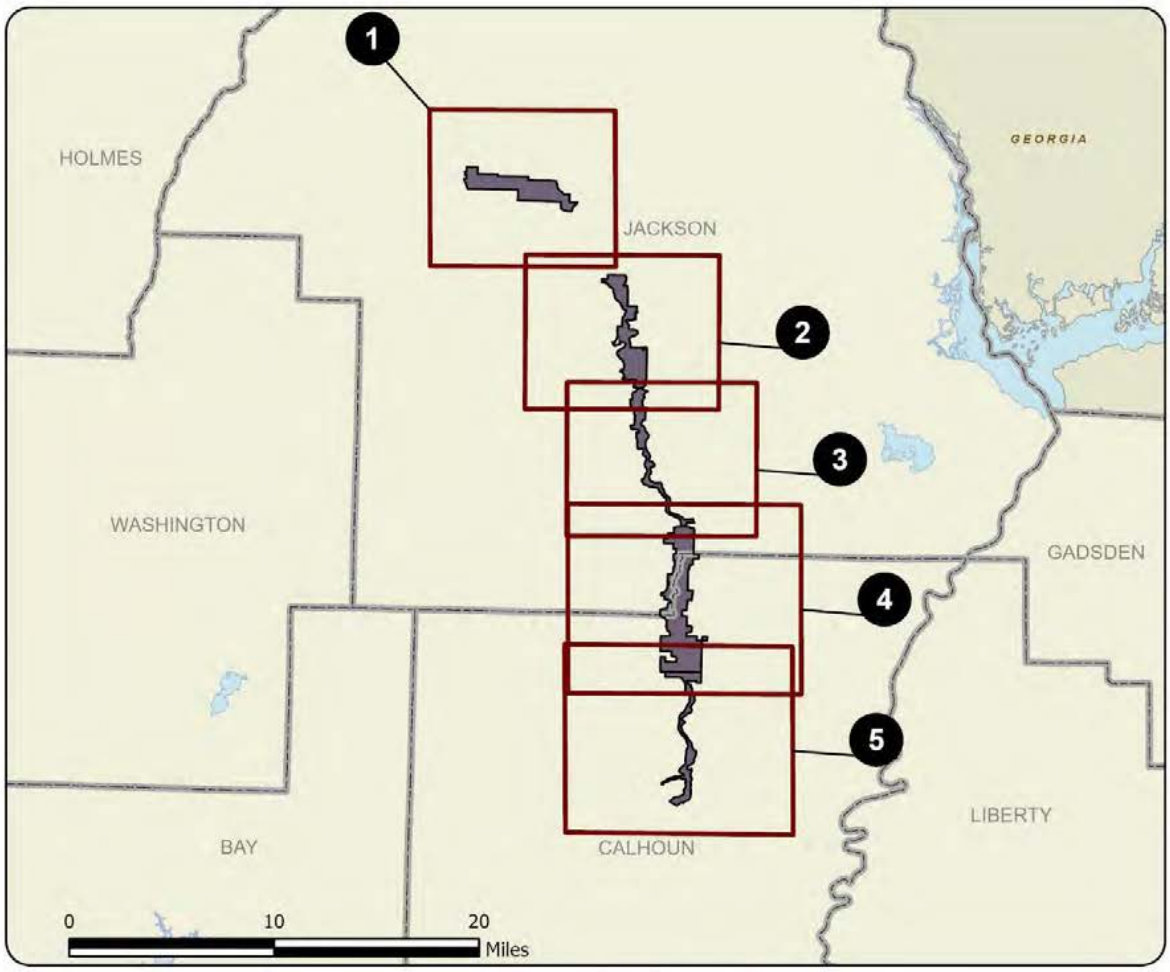
Cooperators in Management Activities

No cooperators are recommended for this tract. However, consultation with NWFWMD on water-related matters and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on wildlife issues will be enlisted as needed.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	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
TOTAL	$40,050	$19,850

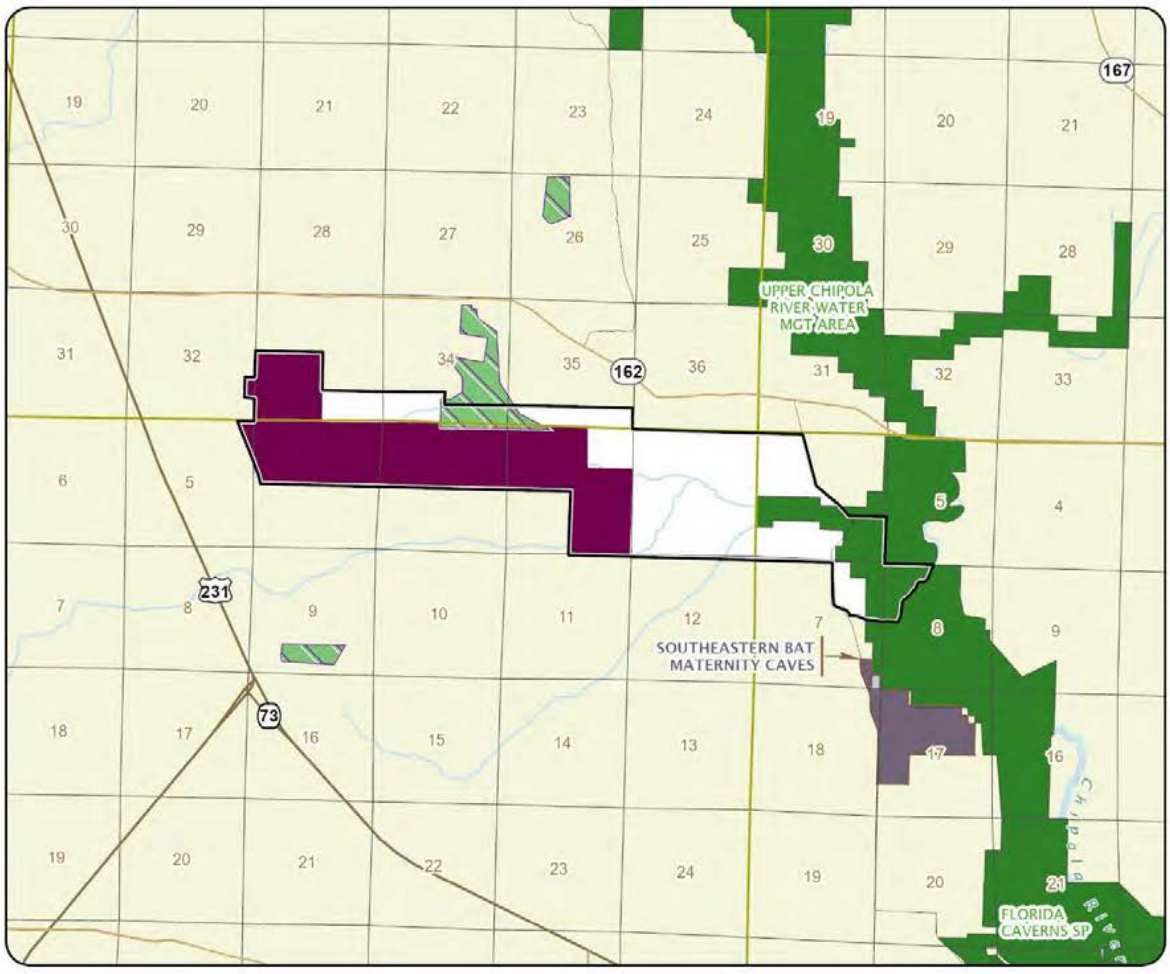
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

CALHOUN AND JACKSON COUNTIES





MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 1

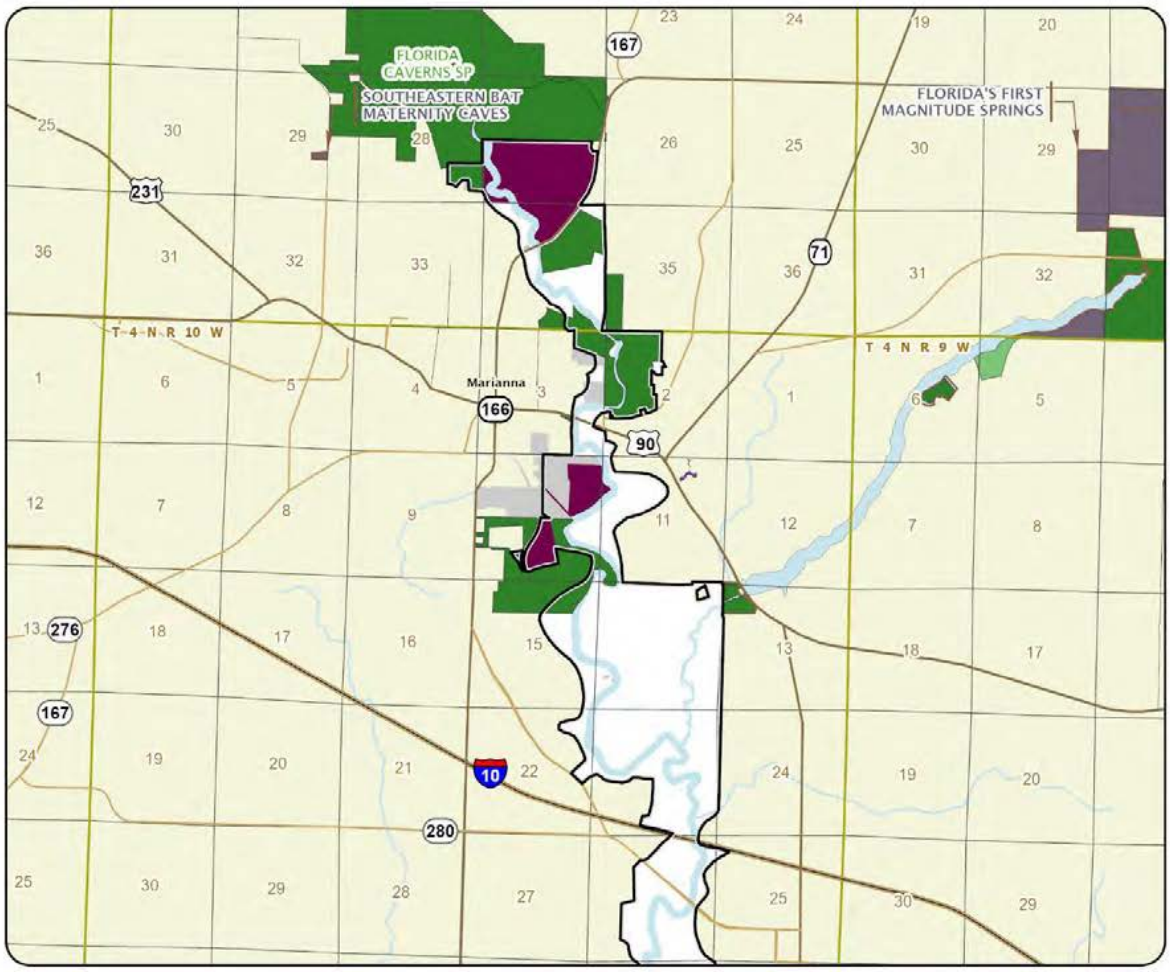
JACKSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 2

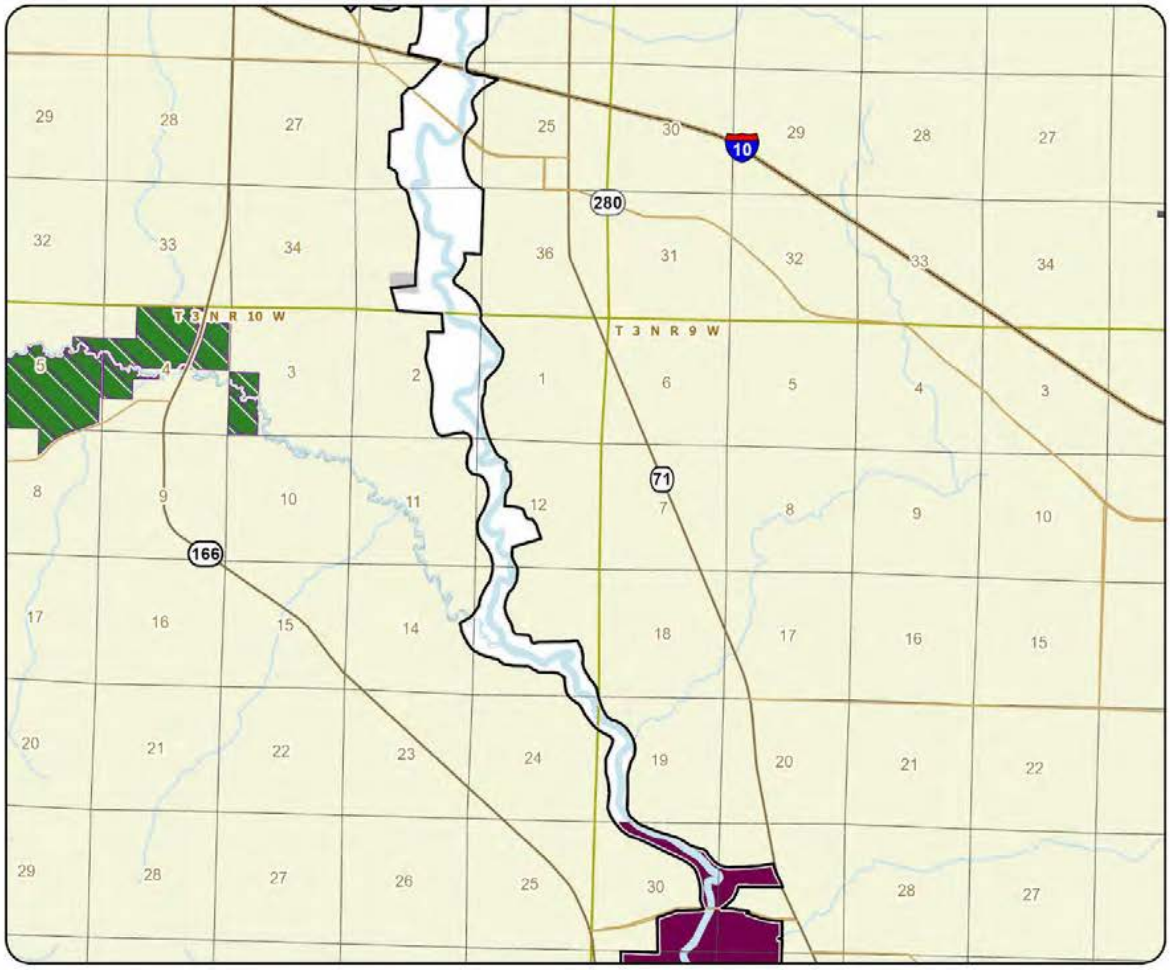
JACKSON COUNTY

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- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
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MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 3

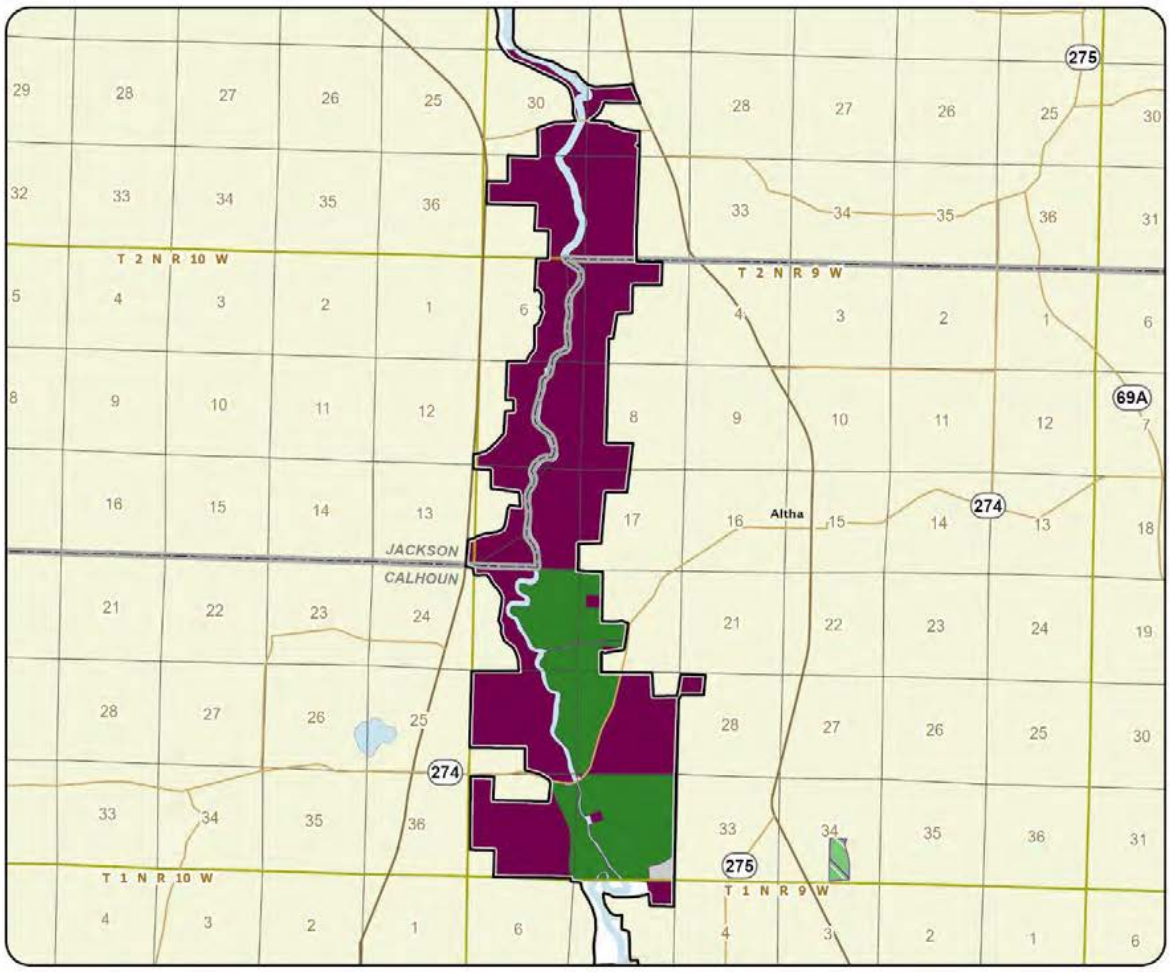
JACKSON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 4

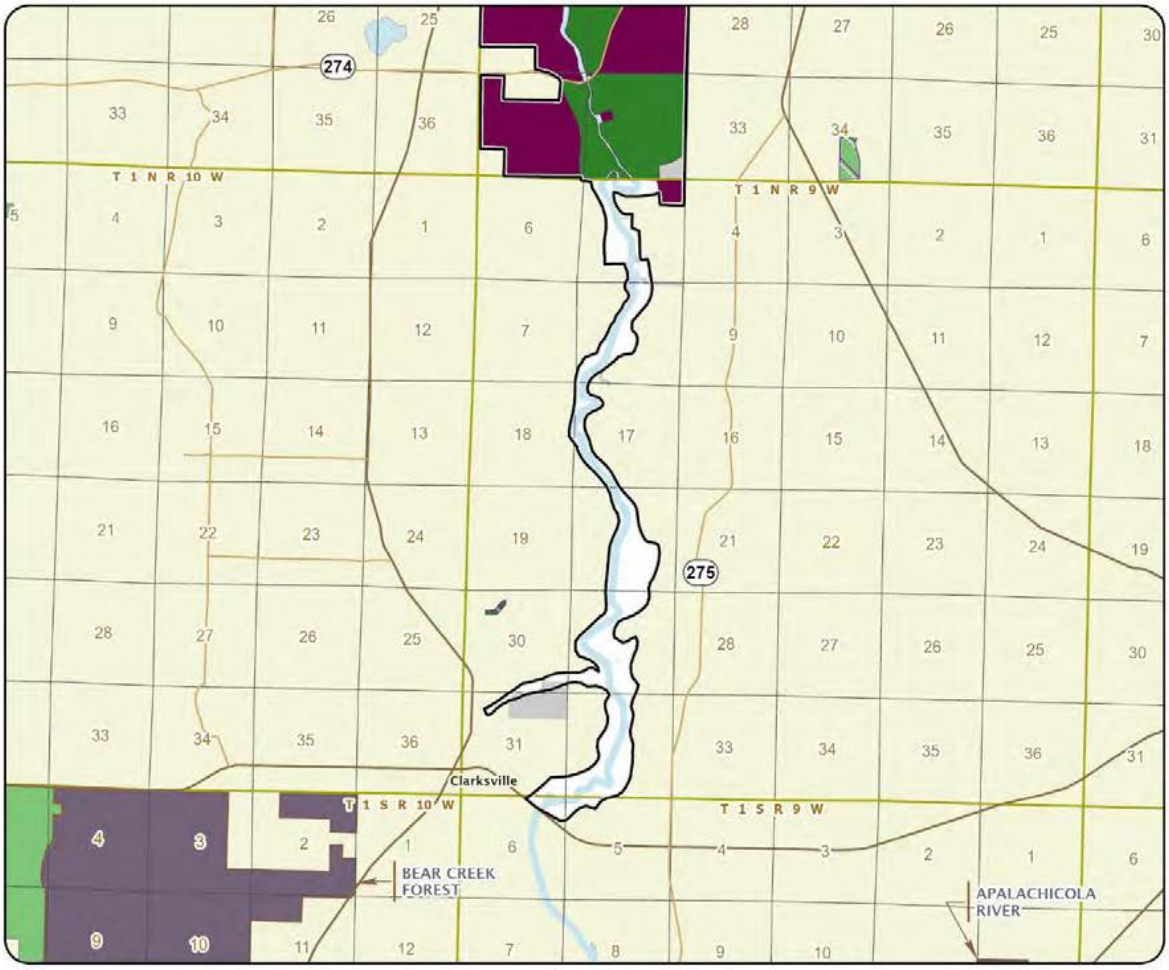
CALHOUN AND JACKSON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 5

CALHOUN COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*138,243*
Acquired Acres	*79,296*
Remaining Project Acres	*58,947*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$973,371,263*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity by protecting habitat for rare and imperiled species including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The project will conserve spaces suitable for greenways or outdoor recreation that are compatible with conservation purposes such as camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, hiking and horseback riding. The project also has the potential to restore the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems due to most of the land being disturbed, with restoration as a primary objective.

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 three-fourths 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Holbrook's southern dusky salamander	G2G3/S1
Black Creek crayfish	G2/S2
*Ciliate-leaf tickseed**	G2/S2
*Florida toothache grass**	G2/S2
*Variable-leaf crownbeard**	G2/S2
*Thorne's beaksedge**	G3/S1S2
Painted bunting, eastern population	G5T3Q/S1S2
*Florida hartwrightia**	G2G3/S2S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) 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, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On December 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve project for Group A of the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple and less-than-fee project was in Clay, Duval and Nassau counties and sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the City of Jacksonville and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). It consisted of approximately 132,450 acres, more than 150 landowners and a taxable value of $50,158,195.

The following 37 ownerships were identified as essential: Gilman, Jackson, Carter, Owen, Nemours, Miller, Bostiwick, Klieg, Bullock, 1st Bank and Trust, Rayonier, International Paper, Motes, Boyd, Southern Region Industrial Realty, Inc., 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 and Roberts, Grey, Sythe, Pharr, Wilkinson and Helmer.

2002

On January 18, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired Thomas Creek Fish Camp (9.26 acres).

On February 4, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired the Campbell parcel (18.69 acres).

On February 21, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired the Scarborough parcel (86.45 acres) of the Otis Road Trail Head.

On June 2, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired Thomas Creek Preserve (125.46 acres).

On June 14, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired the Block parcel (401.35 acres) of the Otis Road Trail Head.

On October 11, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired Monticello A (406.17 acres).

On October 24, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired the Peterson Farm tract of Yellow Water Branch Trail Head (96.96 acres).

On October 31, 2002, the City of Jacksonville acquired the Corwith Davis tract of Yellow Water Branch Trail Head (169.46 acres).

2003

On June 6, 2003, 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 a taxable value of $408,700.

On July 9, 2003, the Monticello Wildlands conservation easement (1,054 acres) is established.

On July 29, 2003, the City of Jacksonville acquired the International Paper (Ware) tract (825 acres).

On August 4, 2003, the City of Jacksonville acquired Livestock Farms (114.8 acres) and the Ellis parcel (108.5 acres) in the Camp Milton Historic Preserve.

On December 3, 2003, the City of Jacksonville acquired Loblolly Mitigation Preserve (6,222 acres) and Loblolly Park (500 acres). SJRWMD established a conservation easement on the Loblolly Mitigation Preserve.

On December 5, 2003, 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 SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, Rayonier Timberlands Operating Co. LP and a taxable value of $1,478,838.

2004

On August 26, 2004, the City of Jacksonville acquired the Forbes parcel (77.94 acres) of the Otis Road Trail Head.

On August 27, 2004, the City of Jacksonville acquired the Walker parcel (125.87 acres) of the Otis Road Trail Head.

On December 3, 2004, 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 SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, Ventura LLC, and a taxable value of $760,646.

2005

On December 28, 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund purchased 3,939 acres from the City of Jacksonville, to be added to Cary State Forest.

2006

On June 30, 2006, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund purchased 1,651 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

2007

On February 16, 2007, ARC approved a fee simple 2,665-acre addition to the Bull Creek portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, 1621 Venture II LLC, nine parcels and a taxable value of $445,189. FFS will manage these essential parcels.

On April 9, 2007, Thomas Creek Mitigation Bank (598 acres) is issued.

On September 14, 2007, SJRWMD established the Longbranch Crossing conservation easement (2,684.7 acres).

2008

On December 19, 2008, SJRWMD established the Arahatchee conservation easement (900 acres).

2009

On September 22, 2009, SJRWMD established the Halloran Conservation Area conservation easement (131.66 acres).

2010

On April 20, 2010, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission established the Longbranch Crossing Gopher Tortoise Recipient Site (293 acres), all of which is part of the Longbranch Crossing conservation easement.

On August 1, 2010, the Highlands Ranch Mitigation Bank (1,575.5 acres) was issued.

On November 5, 2010, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands purchased 15 acres (Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P.--$18,108 with Florida Forever funds) for FFS to manage.

2011

On April 25, 2011, the Pacett tract (3.95 acres) was donated to be included in Four Creeks State Forest.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2013

On June 3, 2013, Seaton Creek Historic Preserve (857.88 acres) was acquired by the City of Jacksonville, approximately 671.7 acres of which are within the project boundary.

2014

On March 20, 2014, SJRWMD established the Phase I conservation easement (554.5 acres) on Highlands Ranch Mitigation Bank.

2016

On April 20, 2016, SJRWMD established the Phase II conservation easement (547.42 acres) on Highlands Ranch Mitigation Bank.

2018

On February 16, 2018, ARC voted to expand the boundary of the project to include approximately 300 acres in Nassau County (Studdard Tract), a partial inholding within Four Creeks State Forest.

On August 24, 2018, ARC voted to add a parcel to the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve project. This 52-acre parcel in Nassau County is an inholding in Four Creeks State Forest near Highway A1A.

On September 20, 2018, the North Florida Land Trust acquired the Bear Bay Timber conservation easement (2,057 acres) and the McArthur Family Trust conservation easement (494.68 acres).

On October 29, 2018, the North Florida Land Trust acquired Trail Ridge Preserve (1,994.1 acres), of which 1,826.1 acres are in the project boundary.

2025

On May 7, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 1,265 acres in Duval County from Acree JV, LLC.

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 6,975 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

On December 10, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 542.74 acres in Duval County from NBM Enterprises, LLC.

Coordination

In 1992, the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail was acquired with Florida Greenways and Trails funds. This trail, which meanders through the project, is managed by the City of Jacksonville. SJRWMD is an acquisition partner in areas of the project to help protect multiple creeks and rivers. The National

Guard Bureau, through a Memorandum of Agreement, is an acquisition partner in areas of the project to help buffer and prevent encroachment of Camp Blanding. TNC, the City of Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida Communities Trust and the U.S. Navy are also considered partners in this project.

Management Policy Statement

FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with FFS management of Cary State Forest, 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.

Manager(s)

FFS will be the primary manager. The City of Jacksonville is the manager for the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the parcel has been disturbed by past pine plantings and will require restoration work. Because this area of Florida is experiencing rapid urban growth, prescribed burning to restore the forest will have to be carefully planned. The level of management and the related management costs are expected to be high initially to obtain the 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 continue producing forest products for Florida's economy, while protecting the property from conversion to urban growth.

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure

Once the core areas of the project are acquired and assigned to 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 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 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. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund.

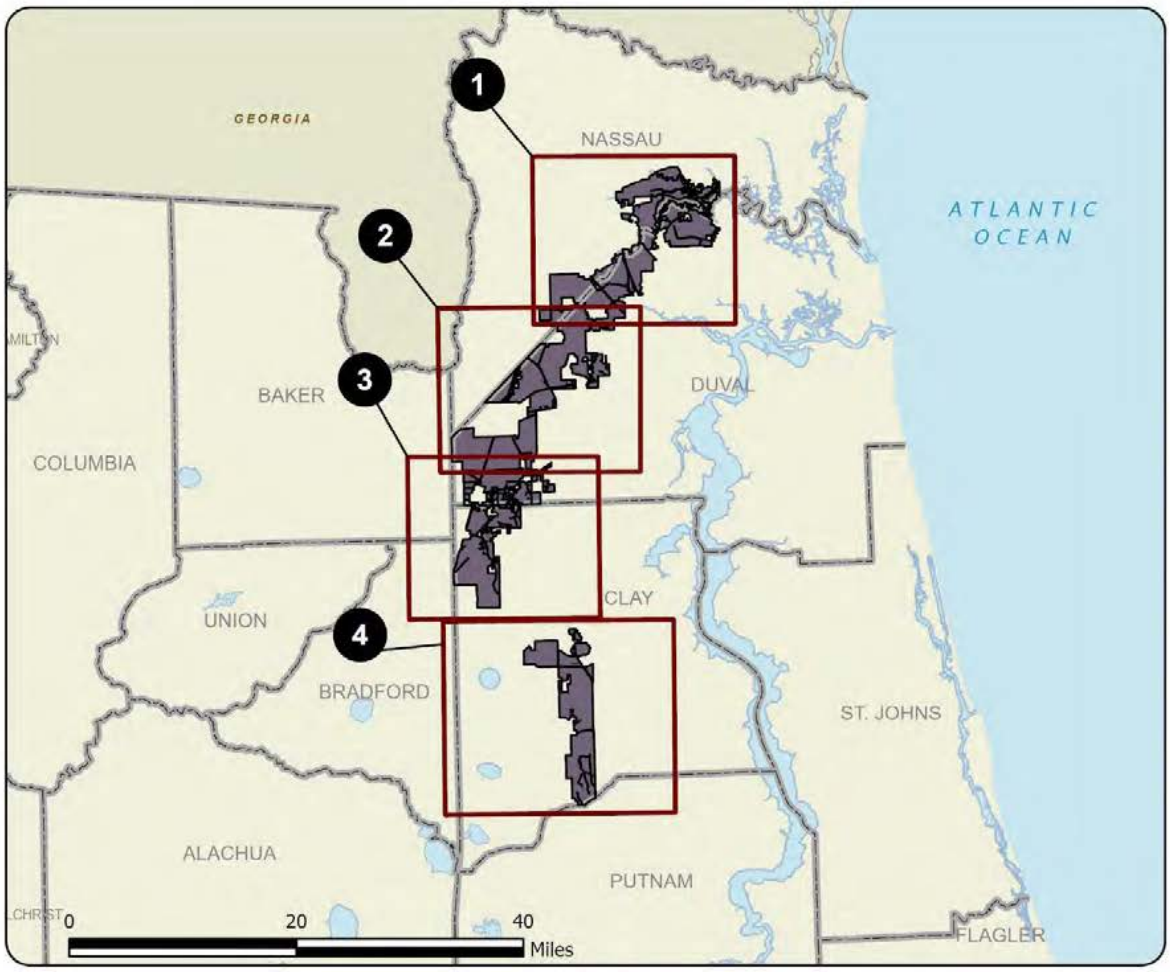
Cooperators in management activities

FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government agencies and other interested parties as appropriate. FFS intends to coordinate with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding game and non-game management activity and related public use of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	Not Provided
Salary (4 FTEs)	$154,357	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$620,000	Not Provided
OCO	$148,075	Not Provided
FCO	Not Provided	Not Provided
TOTAL	$922,432	Not Provided

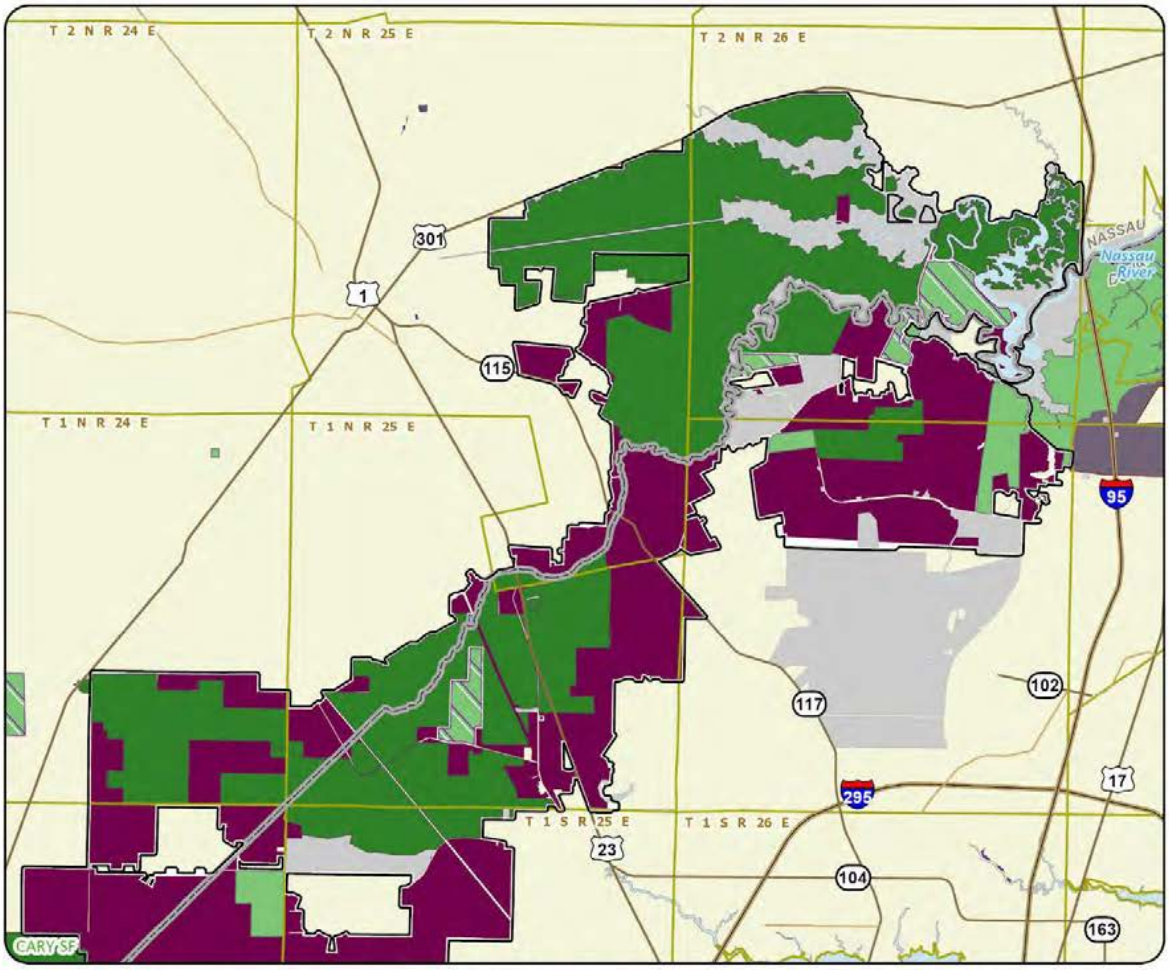
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: OVERVIEW

CLAY, DUVAL, AND NASSAU COUNTIES





NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 1

DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

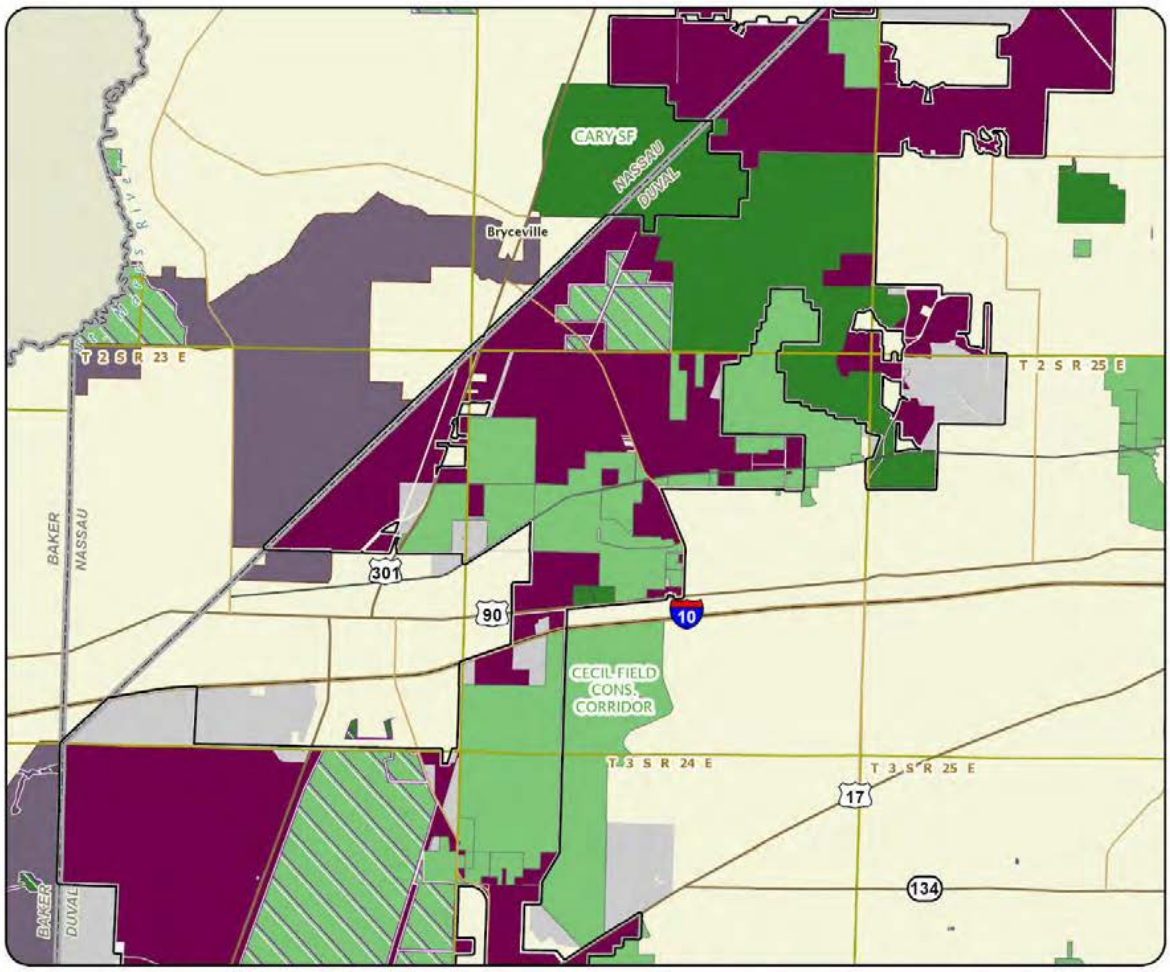
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 2

DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

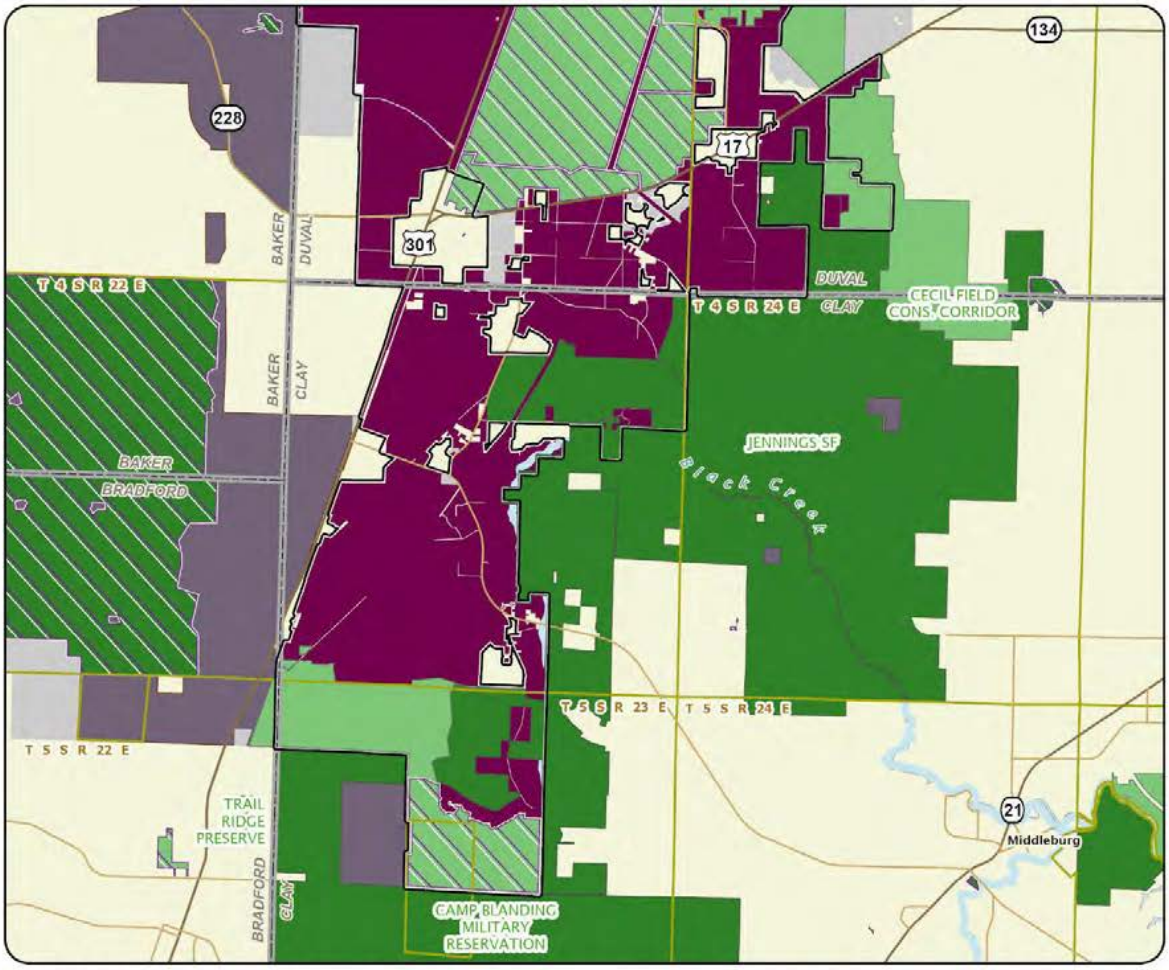
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 3

CLAY AND DUVAL COUNTIES

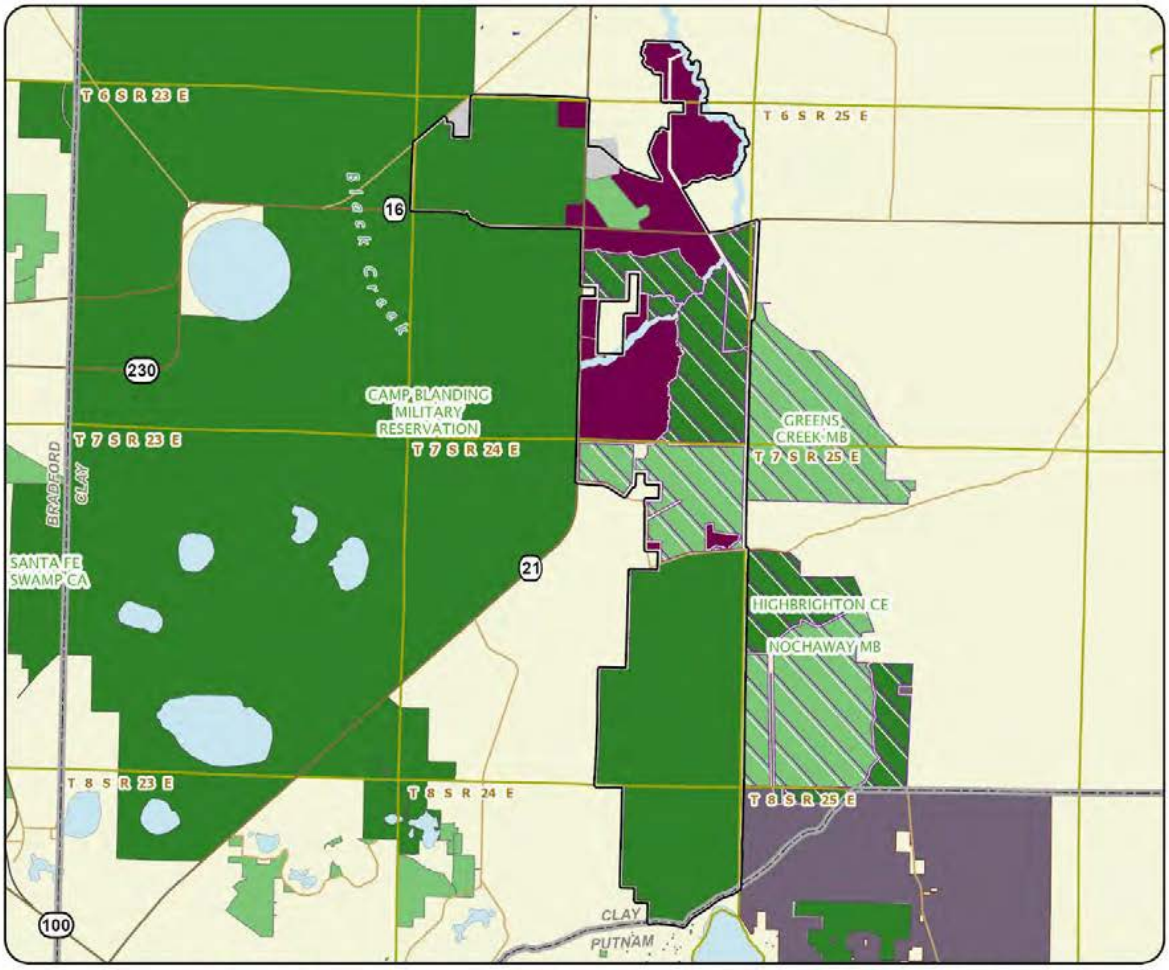
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 4

CLAY COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Pal-Mar

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Palm Beach and Martin Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1992*
Project Acres	*35,603*
Acquired Acres	*28,563*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,040*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$55,582,714*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pal-Mar project will protect one of the largest, high-quality natural areas left in southeast Florida that was once a transition zone between uplands dominated by pine flatwoods and the sawgrass marshes of the Everglades. This project will ensure habitat for rare and imperiled species and protect the Loxahatchee River (a federally designated National Wild and Scenic River). Additionally, the project will provide critical connectivity between the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, Jonathan Dickinson State Park and other public conservation lands and supply outdoor recreational opportunities to the public in this fast-growing region.

General Description

The Pal-Mar project is within 100 miles of the three most populous counties in the state and includes some of the highest quality, most intact pine flatwoods in southern Florida. The project also protects an ecotone between these flatwoods and the treeless Everglades. The project includes high-quality examples of basin marsh, depression marsh, wet prairie, dome swamp, and mesic and wet flatwoods (all with exceptional ground-cover diversity). The project provides habitat for at least eight federally endangered or threatened animals including the Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). The project area includes Pine Glades Natural Area and Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area and is contiguous with J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, the private Pratt-Whitney Preserve and Cypress Creek conservation lands (owned by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Martin County and Palm Beach County); Pal-Mar also includes a mile-wide connector to Jonathan Dickinson State Park and a segment of the historic Jupiter-Indiantown Road. Urbanization is rapidly impacting the surrounding public conservation lands.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Snail kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
*Many-flowered grass-pink**	G3/S2S3
*Piedmont jointgrass**	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
*Celestial lily**	G3/S3
*Meadow jointvetch**	G4T3/S3
*Banded wild-pine**	G5/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Most of this project has been designated for use as a wildlife management and environmental area. Plans are for the easternmost portion of the project area to be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Public uses allowed within the wildlife and environmental area include hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, environmental education and nature appreciation. The project area south of Indiantown Road is part of the Pine Glades Natural Area which is managed by Palm Beach County. Public use permitted within Pine Glades Natural Area includes hiking, fishing, canoeing, environmental education and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

Phase I of this project consisted of approximately five larger ownerships, including tracts adjacent to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (acquired by SFWMD and Martin County), MacArthur (acquired by Palm Beach County), Pal-Mar Water Control District (acquired), Lara (acquired by Palm Beach County) and Florida National Bank. The MacArthur lands north of Indiantown Road were sold to the state by Palm Beach County. Phase II consists of subdivided areas and a corridor to Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

1992

In 1992, the MacArthur Settlement Agreement (100 acres) in the Pine Glades Natural Area (6,646 acres total; 5,992 acres within the project boundary) is recorded.

1994

On July 20, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 1,992 acres to the project boundary.

1999

On March 30, 1999, the MacArthur Tract (6,844 acres) and WCI Tract (399.05 acres of outparcels) are acquired in the Pine Glades Natural Area (6,646 acres total; 5,992 acres within the project boundary).

On October 21, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 1,280 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

There is very little property remaining to acquire in the Palm Beach County side of the project. Martin County and SFWMD have acquired most of the property on the Martin County side of the project.

2003

On January 9, 2003, the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank (638 acres) was issued.

On February 25, 2003, SFWMD established Phase I (168 acres) of a conservation easement on the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank.

2007

In July 2007, SFWMD acquired a 427-acre parcel from Indiantown Realty Partners LP. The parcel is part of the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever.

2019

On March 27, 2019, SFWMD established Phase II (470 acres) of a conservation easement on the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank.

On November 18, 2019, the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank was withdrawn.

2025

In February 2025, ARC approved the removal of approximately 168 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

SFWMD, Palm Beach County and Martin County are acquisition partners in this project. Most of the larger ownerships have been acquired. Palm Beach County has acquired several 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 lands that contain native, relatively unaltered species representing a natural area unique to, or scarce

within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; conserve and protect significant habitat for native, rare and/or imperiled species; 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; and provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road (John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) manages east of I-95. Palm Beach County manages south of Indiantown Road.

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 Wildlife Management Area on the west with SFWMD/Palm Beach County Cypress Creek lands and Jonathan Dickinson State Park on the east. The size, quality of wildlife resources and location next to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area qualify it as a wildlife management area. The part that lies south of Indiantown Road is part of Palm Beach County's Pine Glades Natural Area. The portion of the project east of I-95 is adjacent to Jonathan Dickinson State Park and is a logical addition.

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 wildlife management area 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 Palm Beach County (who also completed a multi-year restoration program within this portion of the project).

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 the existing John C. and Mariana Jones /Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area. Management activities (after acquisition of the eastern part) were concentrated on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a long-term plan for public use and resource management.

Most of the remaining lands to be acquired would represent an addition to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area or John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue potential for the western part (excluding the lands owned by Palm Beach County) 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 FWC) if the Legislature could approve user fees for non-consumptive recreational 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 Activities

Palm Beach County manages the property south of Indiantown Road called the Pine Glades Natural Area.

Management Cost Summary

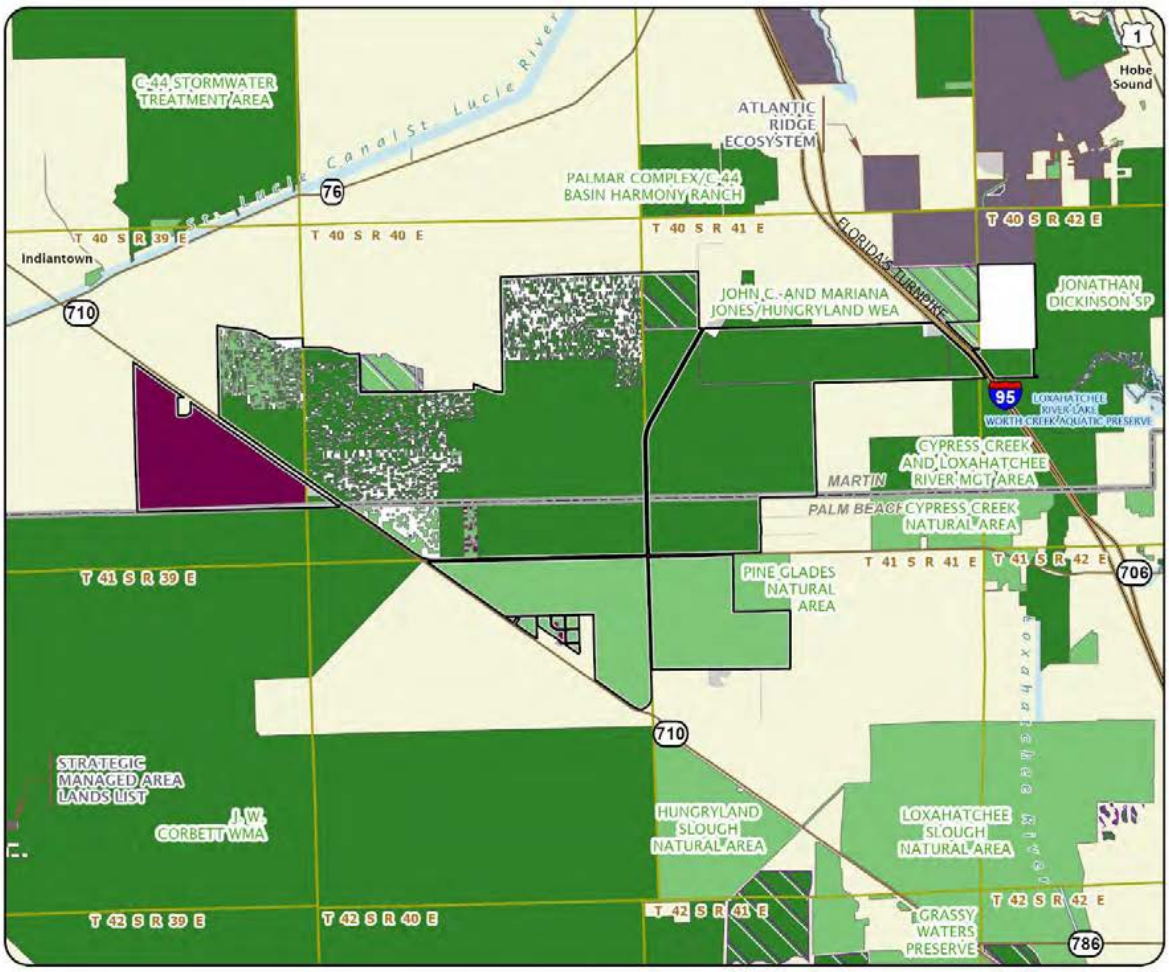
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	$45,000	$100,000
OPS	$5,000	$5,000
Expense	$30,000	$65,000
OCO	$30,000	$15,000
FCO	$0	$40,000
TOTAL	$110,000	$225,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$0	$0
OPS	$12,000	$12,000
Expense	$0	$0
OCO	$20,000	$1,000
FCO	$60,000	$5,000
TOTAL	$92,000	$18,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PAL-MAR

MARTIN AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Pringle Creek Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Flagler County

Year Added to Priority List	*2012*
Project Acres	*8,446*
Acquired Acres	*58*
Remaining Project Acres	*8,388*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$13,165,246*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pringle Creek Forest project will enhance the landscape mosaic of conservation lands that provide protection of the Pellicer Creek watershed and its tributaries. The acquisition of the project would contribute to surface water protection of Pringle and Pellicer creeks as well as the Matanzas River. Acquisition will retain functioning natural systems that reduce the possibility of flood damage and water supply shortages and ensure and improve upon the ecosystem services this property provides for capturing, storing, filtering and slowly releasing clean water to Pellicer Creek and its significant downstream estuary. The project will protect numerous native, rare and imperiled plant and animal species and imperiled natural communities.

General Description

Pringle Creek originates in the northern portion of the project and flows north into Pellicer Creek, which then flows eastward into the estuarine waters of the Matanzas River. Pringle Creek itself is surrounded by a mostly natural forested wetland corridor. Aquifer recharge is thought to be high on this site due to the functional wetlands.

Over one-half of Pringle Creek Forest consists of North Florida slash pine plantations planted on former mesic and wet flatwoods communities. Over one-third of the project is represented by dome and basin swamps impacted by logging of cypress. The rest of the property is categorized as baygall, blackwater stream, hydric hammock, mesic/wet flatwoods, floodplain swamp, marsh/prairie, scrubby flatwoods and mesic hammock natural communities.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Celestial lily**	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The property has potential for public use such as hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking, primitive camping, nature interpretive trails and geocaching. At this time, some of these activities could be offered on existing roads without the need for major development. The current roads could serve as trails suitable for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Currently, there is a hunting lease on the property.

Acquisition Planning

Pringle Creek Forest was submitted by Flagler County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. Being on the Florida Forever Priority List is a requirement for getting acquisition grant funding with the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. Flagler County and Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve plan to pursue Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funding for this project. This project was placed on the Florida Forever Priority List as a Partnerships and Regional Incentives project.

Coordination

Flagler County is anticipating being an acquisition partner on this site, but with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association rather than the state. The St. Johns River Water Management District is supportive of this project. However, they have not committed any assistance with funding the acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

This proposal meets the following public purposes as identified in section 259.032(3), Florida Statutes, to varying degrees: 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, groundwater, coastal, recreational, timber, or fish or wildlife resources which cannot otherwise be accomplished through local and state regulatory programs; to promote water resource development that benefits natural systems and citizens of the state; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation and other outdoor recreation on any part of any site compatible with conservation purposes; and to conserve open spaces suitable for greenways or outdoor recreation which are compatible with conservation purposes.

Manager(s)

Flagler County is the proposed manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Most of the property (77 percent) is wetlands, with most uplands in silviculture and about 2,500 acres of jurisdictional wetlands also in silviculture production. Flagler County plans to, over time, convert silviculture areas back to their historic natural communities.

Pringle Creek Forest is within the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program's targeted watershed boundary. This will qualify the parcel for federal acquisition funding under the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program reserves 15 percent of its appropriated funds for acquisitions within National Estuarine Research Reserve-targeted watersheds. The Florida Forever listing is a prerequisite for funding through the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. Additional management obligations and details will be presented in a later comprehensive land management plan.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Managing this property is not anticipated to require intense management due to the proposed activities.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Implementing the intended uses of this property would begin immediately upon acquisition. It is anticipated that environmental studies and archaeological and cultural resource surveys would be initiated as part of or immediately following the acquisition process. The development of passive recreation plans, permitting and construction of the improvements would have a goal of initiation within 5 years.

No infrastructure other than pumphouses for the wells is presently on the property. Planned infrastructure includes the installation of restroom facilities, a parking facility, picnic tables, limited camping facilities, and nature trails with bird watching stations. Flagler County Parks and Recreation will perform groundskeeping and maintenance on the facilities and improvements. Flagler County Land Management will oversee natural community restoration and maintenance. Security will be provided by the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office.

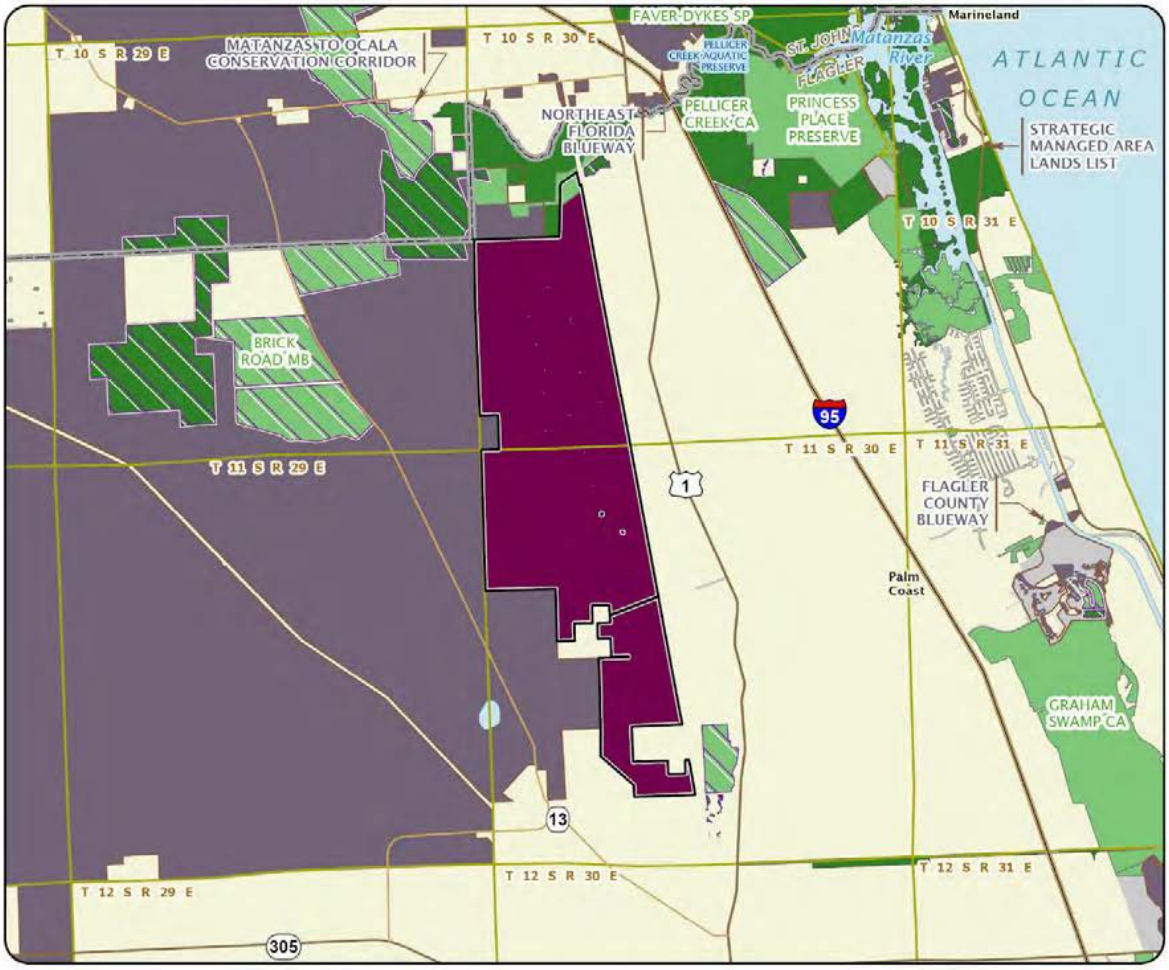
Revenue-generating Potential

The revenue generating potential is limited to the harvesting of existing silviculture stands. It is premature to speculate on the revenue potential as it is unknown whether the current owner intends to harvest merchantable timber as part of the purchase and sale terms. Development, operation and maintenance costs for natural communities, activities, passive recreation and camping will be provided by Flagler County via grants and general revenue funding. The county will assume responsibility for managing the park utilizing existing staff. Flagler County Parks and Recreation personnel will maintain park features and facilities, and the county’s Land Management Department will monitor and conduct

natural resource activities. Volunteer and educational groups will be welcomed and encouraged to become involved in the management and care of the park.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve is an anticipated co-manager of the Pringle Creek Forest property. However, these obligations and restrictions may shape future management activities and partnerships.



PRINGLE CREEK FOREST

FLAGLER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Pumpkin Hill Creek

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Duval County

Year Added to Priority List	*1994*
Project Acres	*20,982*
Acquired Acres	*14,835*
Remaining Project Acres	*6,147*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$121,798,517*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pumpkin Hill Creek project will protect one of the larger areas of natural uplands left in Duval County and will enhance water quality and protection for the Nassau and St. Johns Rivers. The project will support the foundation of an important fishery, protect wading bird rookeries, and provide the public with opportunities for resource-based recreation such as fishing, hunting, hiking and canoeing.

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 buffers to the Nassau River-St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve. The Aquatic Preserve (an Outstanding Florida Water) supports a significant commercial and recreational fishery. Besides sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, wet flatwoods and salt marsh, the project contains high quality maritime hammock. It also provides habitat for several rare species and contains two colonial wading bird rookeries, one of which is used by the state and federally threatened wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) frequent both the St. Johns and Nassau Rivers and move into tidal creeks (such as Hill Creek and Clapboard Creek) adjacent to the project. The cultural resource value of the project is high, as the project contains 14 archaeological sites including the ruins of the early 19th century Fitzpatrick Plantation house.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Striped newt	G2/S2
Piping plover	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Colonial Wading Bird Colony	G5/SNRB
Worthington's marsh wren	G5T3/S2
*Pondspice**	G3/S2
Atlantic salt marsh mink	G5T3/S2
Macgillivray's seaside sparrow	G4T3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Least tern	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project is designated as a state buffer preserve.

Acquisition Planning

1983

In 1983, Duval Audubon Society acquired Cedar Point Sanctuary (7.69 acres).

1993

On December 9, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added Pumpkin Hill Creek to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This fee simple acquisition [(sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)] is approximately 6,292 acres consisting of 25 parcels, 12 owners and a taxable value of $9,383,700. Essential parcels included North Shore (acquired by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) using Cedar Bay Cogeneration Project mitigation funds), Verdie Forest and Penland (acquired jointly with SJRWMD), and Tison and Birchfield (acquired by SJRWMD).

1996

On May 2, 1996, the City of Jacksonville acquired 352 acres to create Cedar Point Preserve.

1997

On March 14, 1997, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a fee simple 635-acre addition (Sample Swamp property) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and consisted of multiple owners, parcels and a taxable value of $995,638.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council designated an additional 1,419 acres as essential including Sample Swamp, City National, Beasly, Wingate and two small connecting parcels.

2000

On October 17, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee simple 18,995-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, TNC and the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, consisted of 93 owners, 176 parcels and a taxable value of $7,624,669.

2002

On December 13, 2002, the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) acquired Pescatello Island (25.12 acres).

On December 27, 2002, Timucuan Trails Parks Foundation (formerly Preservation North Florida, Inc.) acquired Starratt Road (207.1 acres).

2003

On January 6, 2003, Duval County/City of Jacksonville acquired Betz Tiger Point Preserve (548 acres), of which 517 acres are within the project boundary.

On February 7, 2003, ARC approved a fee simple 73-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and consisted of three owners, five parcels and a taxable value of $399,726.

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List.

2004

On December 3, 2004, ARC approved a 658.3-acre deletion to the project boundary. The deletion consisted of four parcels with a taxable value of $541,781. The project was moved to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

2005

On December 9, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority List.

2006

On August 11, 2006, ARC approved a fee simple 713-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) in coordination with the City of Jacksonville Preservation Project and consisted of 41 ownerships, 50 parcels and a taxable value of $4,180,827. DRP will manage the addition (except for 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

On December 20, 2011, NFLT acquired 7.14 acres and created the Big Talbot Island Preserve.

2012

On December 13, 2012, NFLT acquired 442.67 acres in Big Talbot Island Preserve.

2013

On June 3, 2013, the City of Jacksonville acquired Seaton Creek Historic Preserve (857.88 acres), of which 186 acres are within the project boundary.

On September 9, 2013, NFLT acquired Noble Enge Jr. Preserve (410.76 acres) as a donation.

2014

On April 11, 2014, ARC approved the deletion of 888.46 acres from the project.

2015

On March 26, 2015, NFLT acquired 1.23 acres in Big Talbot Island Preserve.

On December 21, 2015, NFLT acquired Nassau River Marshes Preserve (2,586.44 acres), of which 1,163.51 acres are within the project boundary.

2016

On March 3, 2016, NFLT acquired 6.5 acres and created Bogey Creek Preserve.

On April 22, 2016, NFLT acquired 598.51 acres in Big Talbot Island Preserve.

On December 5, 2016, NFLT acquired 6.43 acres in Big Talbot Island Preserve.

2017

On October 5, 2017, NFLT acquired 62.5 acres in Bogey Creek Preserve.

2022

DEP acquired in fee 239.83 acres from The Trust for Public Land that will be managed as part of Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park.

2023

In October of 2023, ARC voted to amend the project boundary to add two parcels totaling approximately 129 acres in Nassau County.

2024

On January 31, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 1,048.80 acres in Duval County from NFLT.

2025

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 7 acres in Duval County to the project boundary.

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 2,525 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

TNC is an intermediary in the project. Resolutions in support of this project include SJRWMD in support of a shared acquisition. SJRWMD, DEP 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 and/or restore important ecosystems to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Manager(s)

DRP, SJRWMD, the City of Jacksonville and the federal government all manage lands within the project boundary.

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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Pumpkin Hill Creek Project generally includes lands that are “low-need” tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to (or close to) their original conditions, as well as protecting rare and imperiled species. An all-season burning program will use existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires whenever possible. Infrastructure will be 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.

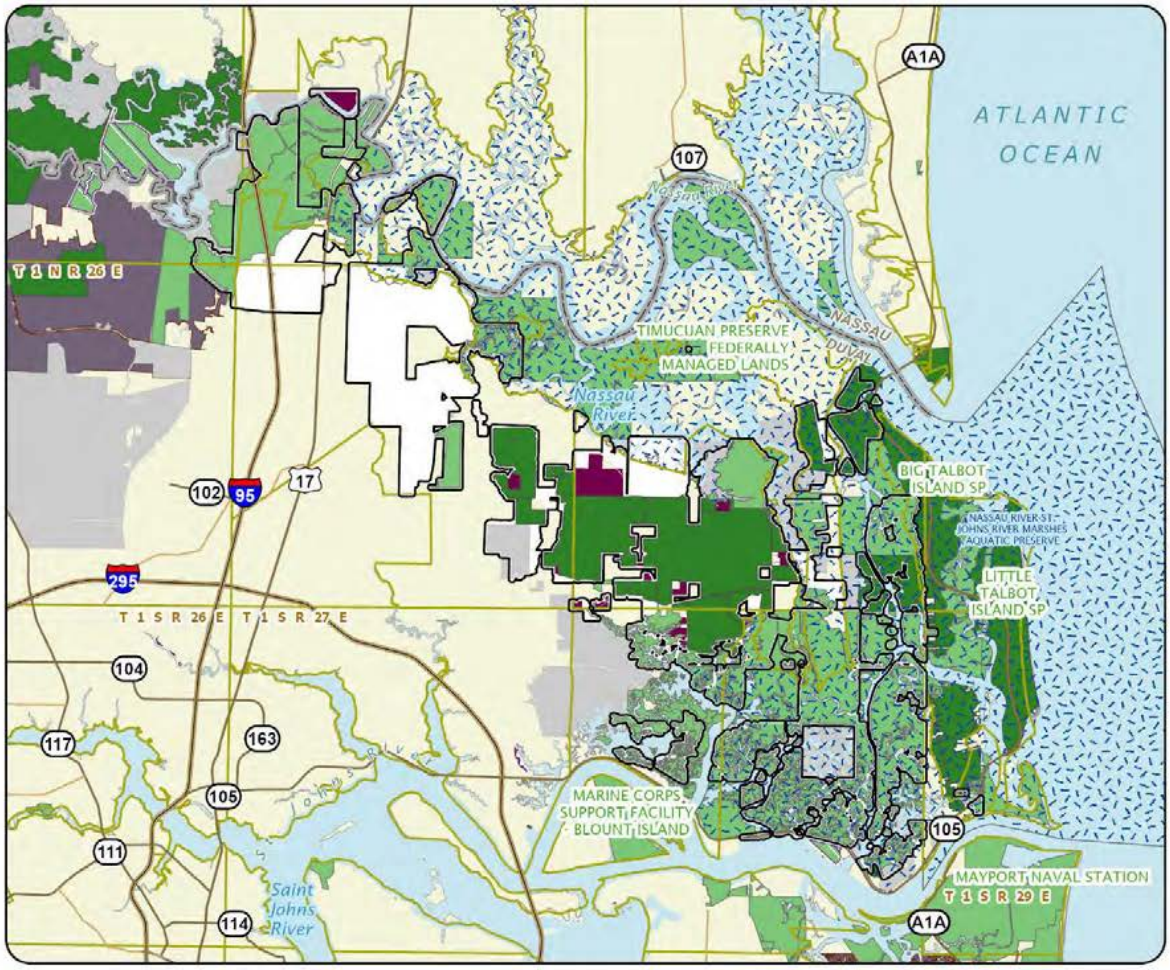
Cooperators in management activities

SJRWMD will cooperate in managing the project.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL/LATF	Not Provided
Salary	$62,079.65	Not Provided
OPS	$28,631.85	Not Provided
Expense	$24,762.68	Not Provided
OCO	$0	Not Provided
FCO	$50,000.00	Not Provided
TOTAL	$165,474.18	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PUMPKIN HILL CREEK

DUVAL COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Rainbow River Corridor

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Citrus and Marion Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2007*
Project Acres	*1,231*
Acquired Acres	*331*
Remaining Project Acres	*900*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$12,109,389*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Rainbow River Corridor project will protect most of the undeveloped or minimally developed private land remaining along the Rainbow River. The project's southern parcels will preserve a remaining large portion of undeveloped shoreline along the eastern side of the river and provide a connection to the southern end of the Rainbow Springs State Park. In addition, the potential restoration of altered habitats would help to restore and maintain water quality and habitat along one of Florida's largest spring-run streams. This project will increase biodiversity protection, preserve landscape linkages and conservation corridors, protect surface waters of the state, preserve aquifer recharge areas and increase natural resource-based recreation opportunities by filling several land gaps between sections of Rainbow Springs State Park.

General Description

Rainbow River, a large spring-run stream, is a state-designated aquatic preserve and Outstanding Florida Water that runs southward for approximately 6 miles before entering the Withlacoochee River at Dunnellon. Rainbow Springs State Park encompasses the river's headwaters, much of the northern portion of the river and a first magnitude spring (considered Florida's fourth largest). Rainbow River is one of the longest spring runs in the world and represents a rare and unique natural resource worldwide.

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 0.75-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 and Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, that are adjacent to the proposed properties and to provide added protection to this river and the ecosystem that it supports. The Rainbow River Corridor project would

connect the current northern and southern parcels of the park, providing 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.

The Rainbow River Corridor project encompasses several 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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has calculated the river frontage as encompassing 15,935 feet.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3

Public Use

Much of the project is identified for full-fee acquisition adjacent to the state park, which will provide public access across the acquired parcel for various recreational opportunities currently offered within the park. Potential recreation would include hiking, biking and picnicking. The river frontage could also 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, 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, birdwatching, 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

2007

On June 15, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Rainbow River Corridor project to Group A 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 December 30, 2006. It is approximately 1,183 acres and has an assessed taxable value of $1,157,483.

2008

On March 28, 2008, the City of Dunnellon acquired 32.4 acres of this project for Blue Run of Dunnellon Park on the south side of Highway 484 (the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property). Funds came from

the City ($320,000) and a grant from the Florida Communities Trust ($2,606,164). The City of Dunnellon manages this site.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2017

In 2017, a total of 5.09 acres in this project were acquired fee simple using Florida Forever program funding.

2021

On June 11, 2021, ARC approved an addition of 47.78 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

2023

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 139-acre conservation easement in Charlotte County from Gissy Rainbow River Ranch, LLC.

Coordination

Rainbow River Conservation Inc. worked with The Trust for Public Land and applied to Florida Communities Trust to acquire the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property. DEP's Division of State Lands has been pursuing a portion of this area that is within the park's optimum boundary on behalf of DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

Management Policy Statement

DRP will manage its property under a single-use concept as part of Rainbow Springs State Park and Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area. The primary objective of management of the Rainbow River Corridor 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 and wildlife habitat in this fast-developing region.

Manager(s)

The property is to be managed by DRP. DRP notes that much of this is a full-fee acquisition adjacent to the park, and public access will be provided across the acquired parcel for varied natural resource recreation currently offered within the state park.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project will be included in the management of Rainbow Springs State Park. The site can be used for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As part of Rainbow Springs State Park, hunting would not be permitted. Public use of the cabins and recreational facility on the southern parcel may be continued. The site can be utilized for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As part of Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, hunting would not be permitted.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The Rainbow River Corridor project will be a high-need management area with an emphasis on perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly as related to the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, Rainbow Springs, and compatible resource-based recreation. An evaluation of the condition of existing structures will need to be completed. 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. 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 Rainbow Springs State Park and Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area.

Revenue-generating Potential

DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after fee title acquisition. The amount of future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the facilities existing or developed in the future.

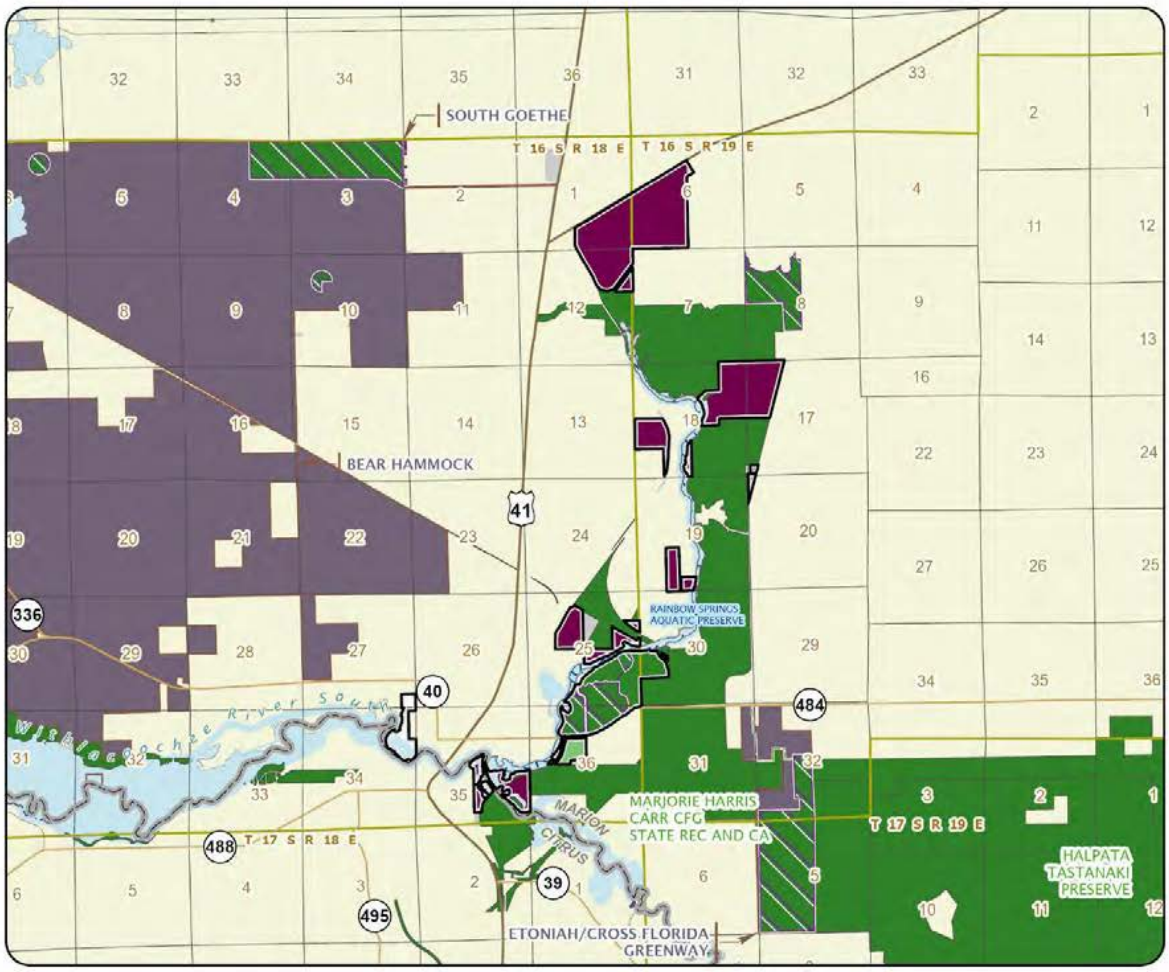
Cooperators in Management Activities

DRP will cooperate with local governments, other state agencies and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park and greenway purposes.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Salary	$0	Not Provided
OPS	$45,000	Not Provided
Expense	$10,000	Not Provided
OCO	$46,000	Not Provided
FCO	$10,000	Not Provided
TOTAL	$111,000	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted by the DRP and DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails



RAINBOW RIVER CORRIDOR

CITRUS AND MARION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Ridge Manor Gap

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Hernando County

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*2,894*
Acquired Acres	*587*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,307*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$49,096,398*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ridge Manor Gap project would connect two existing tracts of Withlacoochee State Forest; protecting wildlife habitat and providing opportunity for wildlife dispersal over a significant existing gap in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. In addition, acquisition would enhance outdoor-based public recreation opportunities on a regional and statewide scale, with the potential to bridge a gap in the Florida National Scenic Trail. The project would also promote natural floodplain attenuation by precluding commercial and residential conversion in an area facing imminent development pressure.

General Description

The Ridge Manor Gap project is located 1 mile north of Ridge Manor and 10 miles east of Brooksville in eastern Hernando County. The project is a strategic effort to connect two currently disjunct tracts of Withlacoochee State Forest; the Richloam and Croom units to the east and west, respectively. Two units of the state forest are within the project area (±150 acres and ±40 acres) and Hernando County's Cypress Lakes Preserve borders the southwestern edge of the project.

The project area was platted in the 1960s and 1970s and has been heavily subdivided into what is now known today as Ridge Manor Estates, with most parcels having an average size of less than 2.5 acres. All lots are vacant, except for two which contain improvements. Due to the nature of these lots being vacant for decades, the natural communities present have not been managed and as such, over one-third of the project area is largely successional in composition and many vacant lots in the project area are being cleared and listed for sale

Approximately 45 percent of the project area is vegetated with intact natural communities, with xeric hammock being the predominant natural community, largely found in higher elevations where scrub historically occurred. Bottomland forest occupies five percent of the project, with a particularly large area and some smaller patches near the Withlacoochee River. Sandhill varies in quality but is generally

overgrown due to fire suppression and a few areas disturbed by ATV use. One sandhill upland lake was identified during the site visit, but it has been heavily impacted by off-road vehicles. Four percent of the project area consists of improved pasture; one such pasture contained a gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrow at the time of the site visit. Invasive plants are common, with the most abundant being cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*). As much as 394 acres (14 percent) of the project contain road shoulders and road-related clearings

The northern border of the Ridge Manor Gap abuts the Little Withlacoochee River, and its western boundary borders the Withlacoochee River, an Outstanding Florida Water. Due to the site's proximity to these two rivers, the area is prone to flooding and in 2024, Hurricane Milton caused prolonged high-water levels.

The Florida National Scenic Trail extends along the southern and western border of the project along Ridge Manor Boulevard and State Road 50. This causes users to travel along busy roads for over 2.5 miles, which could potentially be eliminated by connecting the two disjunct tracts of the Withlacoochee State Forest should the project be acquired.

There are three recorded archaeological sites within the Ridge Manor Gap. Notably, the project includes the former location of Rerdell, an early Florida settlement.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Floyd's sandhill millipede	G1/S1
*Florida spiny-pod**	G2G3/S2
Southern hognose snake	G2G3/S2S3
Tricolored heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

If acquired, the Ridge Manor Gap project will be managed by Florida Forest Service (FFS) as a part of Withlacoochee State Forest.

Acquisition Planning

2025

On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Ridge Manor Gap project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

The project was proposed by Putnam Land Conservancy (PLC) through a grant funded by the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation. PLC will begin initial acquisition of individual parcels. Through private sector aggregation and owner consolidation, PLC could then present sections to the state via a phased approach, thereby making state acquisition more attainable.

Management Policy Statement

The purpose for acquisition is to connect two major tracts of the Withlacoochee State Forest — the Richloam Tract and the Croom Tract — under one ownership and management regime. This would provide a natural corridor for wildlife across the landscape. Additionally, more desirable corridors for the Florida National Scenic Trail may become available with this potential acquisition.

Manager(s)

If acquired, FFS will manage the Ridge Manor Gap project as part of Withlacoochee State Forest.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Acquisition of the land within this project aligns with FFS' mission and strategic goals. A vital part of the mission is to "manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations." FFS strategic goals are to promote sound forest management practices to maintain the integrity of the environment and provide for future natural resource needs, and to manage public lands for their unique character while providing multiple benefits to the public.

Acquisition of this project by the state would be significant because it will provide a terrestrial corridor between two currently distinct tracts. It will provide a buffer around two parcels on the Croom Tract that are isolated and difficult to manage with fire. The addition of management resources will enhance management of the two distinct parcels in terms of prescribed burning and invasive species management, creating a cohesive balanced landscape. This terrestrial corridor will additionally improve the western half of the Florida National Scenic Trail, providing a better experience for recreational users.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Development exists within the project, complicating management. Cogon grass infestations will require treatment. Developed areas may allow for unauthorized off-road vehicle access which may result in erosion, the spread of invasive species and noise pollution. Heavy rain events may cause flooding at some locations.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Management strategies will center on the multiple-use concept, as defined in sections 589.04(3) and 253.034(2)(a), Florida Statutes. Implementation of this concept will utilize and conserve state forest resources in a harmonious and coordinated combination that will best serve the people of the State of

Florida, and that is consistent with the purpose for which the forest was acquired. Multiple-use management for the tract will be accomplished with the following strategies:

- Practice sustainable forest management for the efficient generation of revenue and in support of state forest management objectives.
- Provide for resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities for multiple interests.
- Restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems ensuring the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened or rare, and other components of biological diversity including game and nongame wildlife and plants.
- Protect known archaeological, historical, cultural and paleontological resources.
- Restore, maintain and protect hydrological functions related to water resources and the health of associated wetland and aquatic communities.

Security may be a challenge due to the amount of paved and unpaved roads within the proposal.

Revenue-generating Potential

State acquisition of this area overtime may enhance the site's revenue-generating potential through additional recreational users, leases, timber operations, nature center development and/or campgrounds.

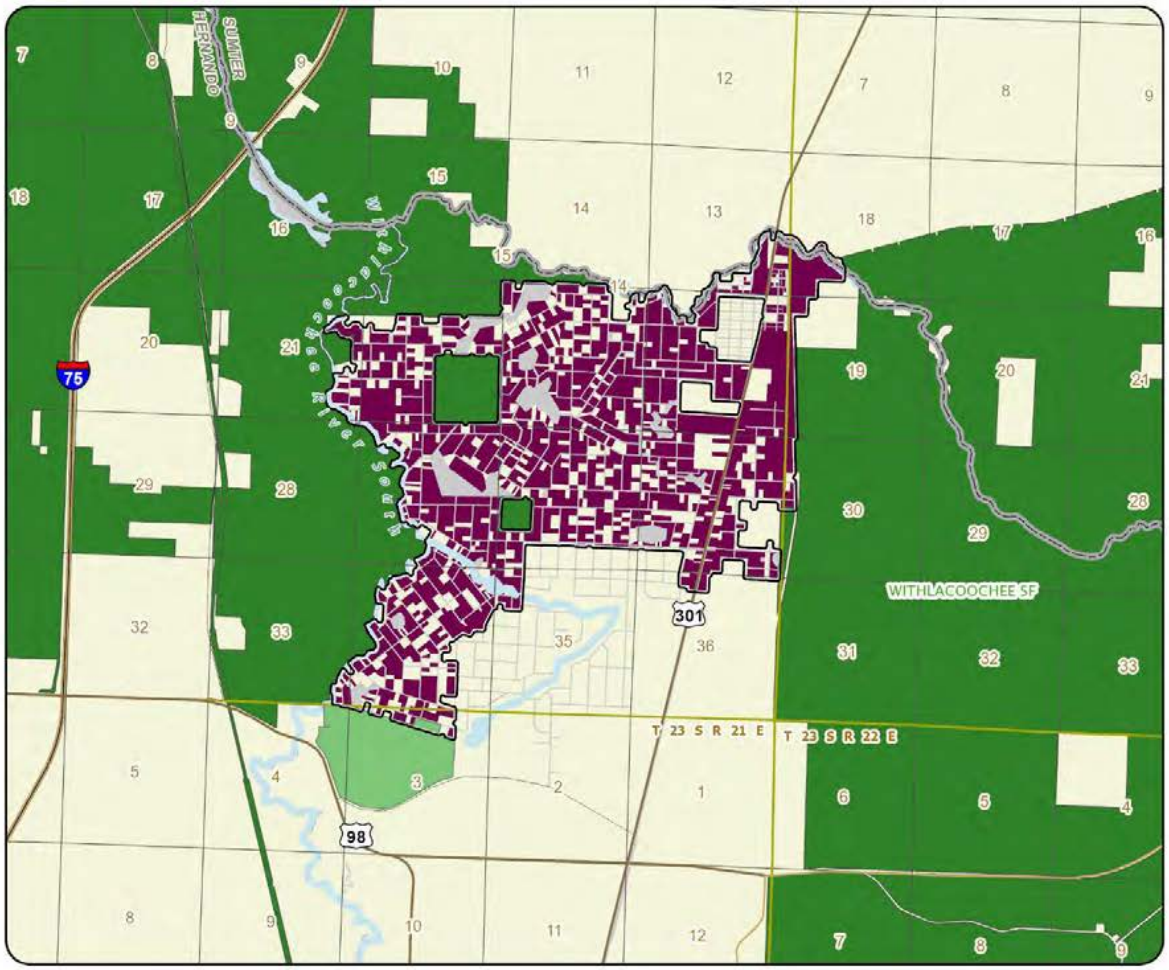
Cooperators in Management Activities

Cooperators may include FWC regarding additional acreage into the Wildlife Management Area system as well as general law enforcement in the state forest, U.S. Forest Service, Florida Trail Association regarding the Florida National Scenic Trail and the Southwest Florida Water Management District regarding water management. Depending on ownership across the landscape, as well as the potential visitor-directed infrastructure additions such as a nature center, Hernando County may be consulted, as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Further, the trail users may be of local assistance regarding potential trail consultation for multi-use.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary (1 FTE)	$75,000	$75,000
OPS (1 OPS)	$50,000	$50,000
Resource Management	$100,000	$35,000
Capital Improvements	$20,000	$10,000
Visitor Services/ Recreation	$15,000	$10,000
Support	$50,000	$15,000
Administration	WFC supervision	WFC supervision
TOTAL	**$310,000**	**$195,000**

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



RIDGE MANOR GAP

HERNANDO COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Sand Mountain

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Bay and Washington Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1994*
Project Acres	*33,615*
Acquired Acres	*18,613*
Remaining Project Acres	*15,002*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$48,780,453*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Sand Mountain project will conserve and restore one of the largest remaining tracts of longleaf pine sandhill in the Florida panhandle. The project will protect the watersheds of the lakes and of Econfina Creek (the source of Panama City's water) and will maintain habitat critical to the survival of several rare species that live only around these lakes such as Gholson's blazing star (*Liatris gholsonii*) and Panhandle meadowbeauty (*Rhexia salicifolia*). The project will provide a large scenic area where the public can enjoy recreation activities including hiking and hunting.

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 sandhill is 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 with 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 there 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. Three archaeological sites are known from the project with the potential for more to be discovered. Development threatens the entire northern portion of the project, as well as the lakes in the southern portion.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Crystal Lake nailwort**	G1/S1
*Gholson's blazing star**	G1/S1
Shaggy ghostsnail	G1/S1
Oval pigtoe	G2/S1
Gurney's spurthroat grasshopper	G1G2/S1S2
Apalachicolan cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2
*Karst pond xyris**	G2/S2
*Quillwort yellow-eyed grass**	G2/S2
*Smoothbark St. John's wort**	G2/S2
Dougherty Plain cave crayfish	G2G3/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project would be designated as a state forest with such uses as hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, camping and environmental education. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Acquisition Planning

1995

The larger longleaf pine sandhill tracts, Deltona, St. Joe and John Hancock Mutual Life Ins. Co., should be acquired first. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) has acquired the Rosewood ownership in Phase II and a portion of the Deltona ownership.

1999

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 2,104 acres owned by the St. Joe Paper Company and placed them into the St. Joe Timberland Conservation and Recreational Lands project.

2003

On September 11, 2003, the U.S. Forest Service acquired the Dees Tract (40.55 acres).

On October 3, 2003, NWFWMD established the Urquhart/Perry conservation easement (1,173.05 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2024

In June 2024, ARC approved the addition of eight parcels totaling approximately 572.01 acres in Washington County. ARC also approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 348.45 acres in Washington County.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 2,068 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of 681 acres as a part of the St. Joe Timberland reorganization effort.

Coordination

NWFWMD is an acquisition partner.

Management Policy Statement

The management goals of the project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered species; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or imperiled species; conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems to enhance or protect significant natural resources; and provide outdoor recreational areas.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project's large areas of natural longleaf pine sandhills and restorable pine plantations make it desirable for management as a state forest.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The pine plantations on-site will require restoration. There are no other known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the core area is acquired, 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. FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and imperiled species 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 or close to their original conditions, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Much of the pinelands have been cleared and planted in sand pine and require restoration. An all-season burning program will use existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires whenever possible. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and reforested with native species as appropriate. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating Potential

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.

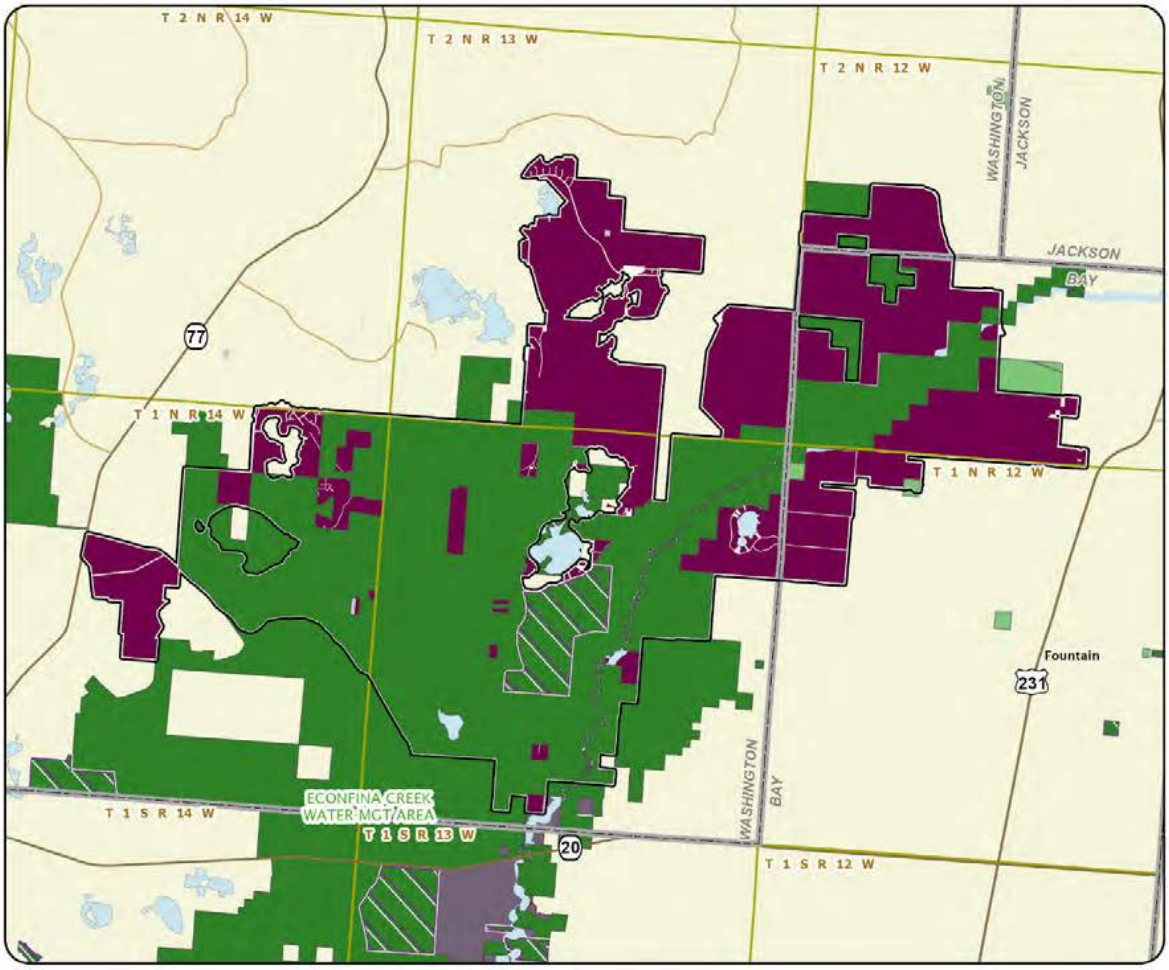
Cooperators in Management Activities

NWFWMD has purchased land along Econfina Creek within the project boundary. NWFWMD will cooperate with FFS in the management of this corridor. FFS will also cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	$148,370	$148,370
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$70,000	$50,000
OCO	$234,900	$15,000
TOTAL	$453,270	$213,370

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SAND MOUNTAIN

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Volusia Conservation Corridor

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Flagler and Volusia Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*85,834*
Acquired Acres	*64,682*
Remaining Project Acres	*21,152*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$90,364,686*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Volusia Conservation Corridor project will provide a continuous corridor of environmentally significant land from 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 and education opportunities. This project will help ensure that enough water is available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state.

General Description

The project is in central Volusia County, stretching from north of State Road 44 south to the St. Johns River. It is generally low and wet, consisting of alternating flatwoods and swamp; these habitats occupy the northwest/southeast-trending ridge and swale topography on the eastern edge of the DeLand Ridge. Natural communities within the project boundary include basin swamp, hydric hammock, mesic flatwoods, scrub and dome swamp. The project also includes the drainages of Deep Creek and Lake Ashby canal, which both empty into the St. Johns River. Some areas contain moderate to good recharge to the Florida aquifer, mainly occurring through rainfall.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Rugel's pawpaw**	G1/S1
*Lake-side sunflower**	G1G2/S1S2
St. Johns elephantear	G1G2/S1S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Florida beargrass	G3/S3
*Large-flowered rosemary**	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
*Narrowleaf hornpod**	G4G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

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

2000

On November 28, 2000, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) acquired the Fourth Volusia tract (417.4 acres) of the Longleaf Pine Preserve, all of which would be in the project boundary when it was created.

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Volusia Conservation Corridor project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by SJRWMD, consisted of approximately 33,503 acres and multiple owners. 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.

2002

On June 6, 2002, ARC moved the project to Group A of the 2002 Florida Forever Priority list.

On June 14, 2002, SJRWMD and Volusia County split the acquisition of the Menard parcels (1,347.03 acres) in the Wiregrass Prairie Preserve.

On July 30, 2002, SJRWMD established the Plum Creek Rayonier/Hutton (4,780.44 acres) and Plum Creek Volusia/Pineland (6,947.09 acres) conservation easements.

On August 15, 2002, ARC approved a less-than-fee 11,723-acre and fee simple 7,654-acre addition to the project boundary. The 19,377-acre addition, sponsored by SJRWMD, consisted of two owners, Plum Creek and Rayonier.

2003

On February 28, 2003, SJRWMD established three conservation easements in the project boundary: Hartford Ranch (461.89 acres; all in the project), Marvin K. Fore (741.92 acres total; 687.8 acres in the project) and W. T. Ranch (349.35 acres total; 346.35 acres in the project). The latter two conservation easements were secured with Florida Forever funding.

On March 12, 2003, Volusia County joined SJRWMD as a co-owner of the Plum Creek Rayonier/Hutton and Plum Creek Volusia/Pineland conservation easements.

On June 6, 2003, ARC approved a less-than-fee addition to the project boundary in Flagler and Volusia counties. The 26,740-acre addition, sponsored by SJRWMD, consisted of one owner, Plum Creek Timberlands LP.

On October 31, 2003, the Fore Children (124.57 acres) and Norman M. Fore (691.5 acres) conservation easements were established using Florida Forever and Volusia Forever funds.

2004

On May 20, 2004, the first two Le Files (1,722.8 acres) conservation easements were established by SJRWMD and Volusia County, of which 1,645.09 acres are within the project boundary. SJRWMD used Florida Forever funds for their part of the acquisition.

In December 2004, Volusia County, with assistance from SJRWMD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), acquired a 1,711-acre conservation easement over the Le Files Corporation property.

2005

On September 27, 2005, ARC approved the removal of 686 acres from the project at the request of the landowner, E.C. Lunsford.

In November 2005, Volusia County acquired the Lunsford Tract (1,644 acres) of the Longleaf Pine Preserve.

2007

In April 2007, 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.

On May 23, 2007, Volusia County acquired the Amy Brooks parcel of Wiregrass Prairie Preserve. The total acreage for the Wiregrass Prairie Preserve grew to 1,423.23 acres, with 911.92 acres in the project boundary.

2008

On May 8, 2008, Volusia County established the Marvin Fore conservation easement (152.42 acres), with 9.9 acres inside the project boundary.

2009

On December 29, 2009, SJRWMD purchased 324.35 acres fee simple, leaving 25 acres in the W. T. Ranch conservation easement. SJRWMD also purchased 2,996 acres adjacent to the W. T. Ranch purchase. These acres were combined to create the Palm Bluff Conservation Area. Approximately 2,466 acres of the total 3,321 acres in the Palm Bluff Conservation area are within the project boundary.

2010

On July 23, 2010, SJRWMD established another Le Files conservation easement (9.73 acres).

On December 15, 2010, Volusia County closed on the 4,806-acre Leffler Ranch. Volusia County will manage this property.

2011

On May 27, 2011, SJRWMD acquired the Kemcho Tract (3,200 acres) of Deep Creek Preserve with Florida Forever funding.

On October 18, 2011, SJRWMD established another Le Files conservation easement (2.28 acres).

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; this acquisition was comprised of a donation valued at $478,174.37 from the seller, $956,348.75 from a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program grant, and $478,174.38 from SJRWMD.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

In April 2012, Volusia County and SJRWMD signed a management agreement for Volusia County to manage the Kemcho Tract of Deep Creek Preserve.

2022

On July 12, 2022, Volusia County and SJRWMD purchased 857 acres in the Palm Bluff Conservation Area with Volusia Forever funds.

In 2022, Volusia County and SJRWMD established a 425-acre conservation easement in the Palm Bluff Conservation Area with Volusia Forever funds.

2023

On April 14, 2023, ARC approved the addition of the Carter Quail Ranch project proposal (1,344 acres) in Volusia County to the project boundary.

2024

On April 12, 2024, ARC approved the addition of the Lake Harney project proposal (5,424 acres) in Volusia County to the project boundary.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 396 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

On March 18, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 1,339.66 acres in Volusia County from M L Carter Services, Inc.

In December 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 292.84 acres in Volusia County to the project boundary.

Coordination

SJRWMD, Florida Forest Service, Volusia County and 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 20 years.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the project are to conserve and protect significant water resources in a priority water resource caution area, as well as important ecosystems that benefit significant natural resources.

Manager(s)

SJRWMD and Volusia County are the recommended managers.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The need to protect water resources within the caution area, combined with the restorable pine plantations, makes it desirable for management by SJRWMD.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The wildfires of 1998 impacted properties within 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the core area is acquired, SJRWMD will provide public access for low intensity, non-facilities related to outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources and removing trash. SJRWMD 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 be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, 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 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 native species. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access.

Revenue-generating Potential

SJRWMD 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.

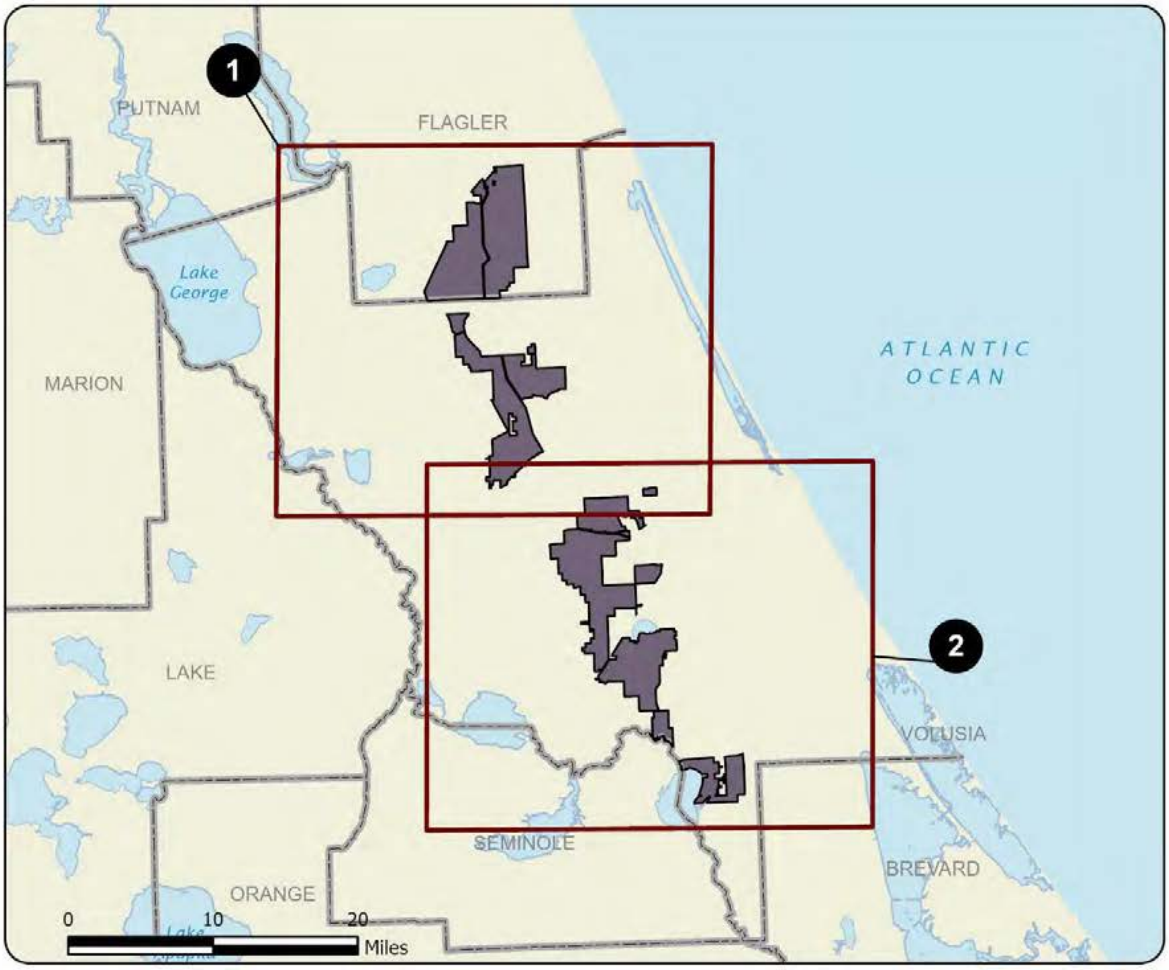
Cooperators in Management Activities

SJRWMD will cooperate with Volusia County and seek assistance from other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

SJRWMD	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Water Management Lands Trust Fund (WMLTF)	WMLTF
Salary	$45,000	$45,000
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$80,000	$80,000
OCO	$20,000	$60,000
FCO	$100,000	$0
TOTAL	$245,000	$185,000

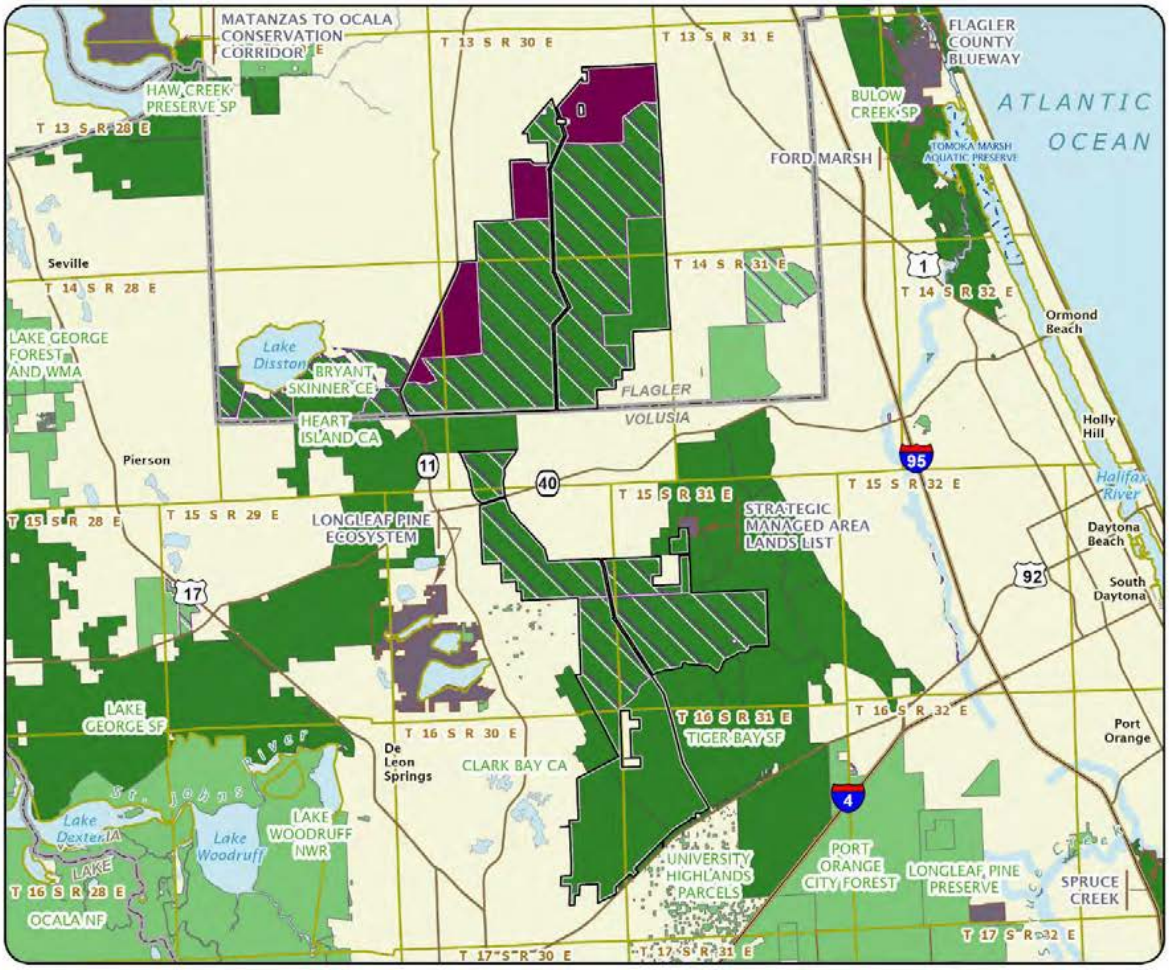
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: OVERVIEW

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES





VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 1

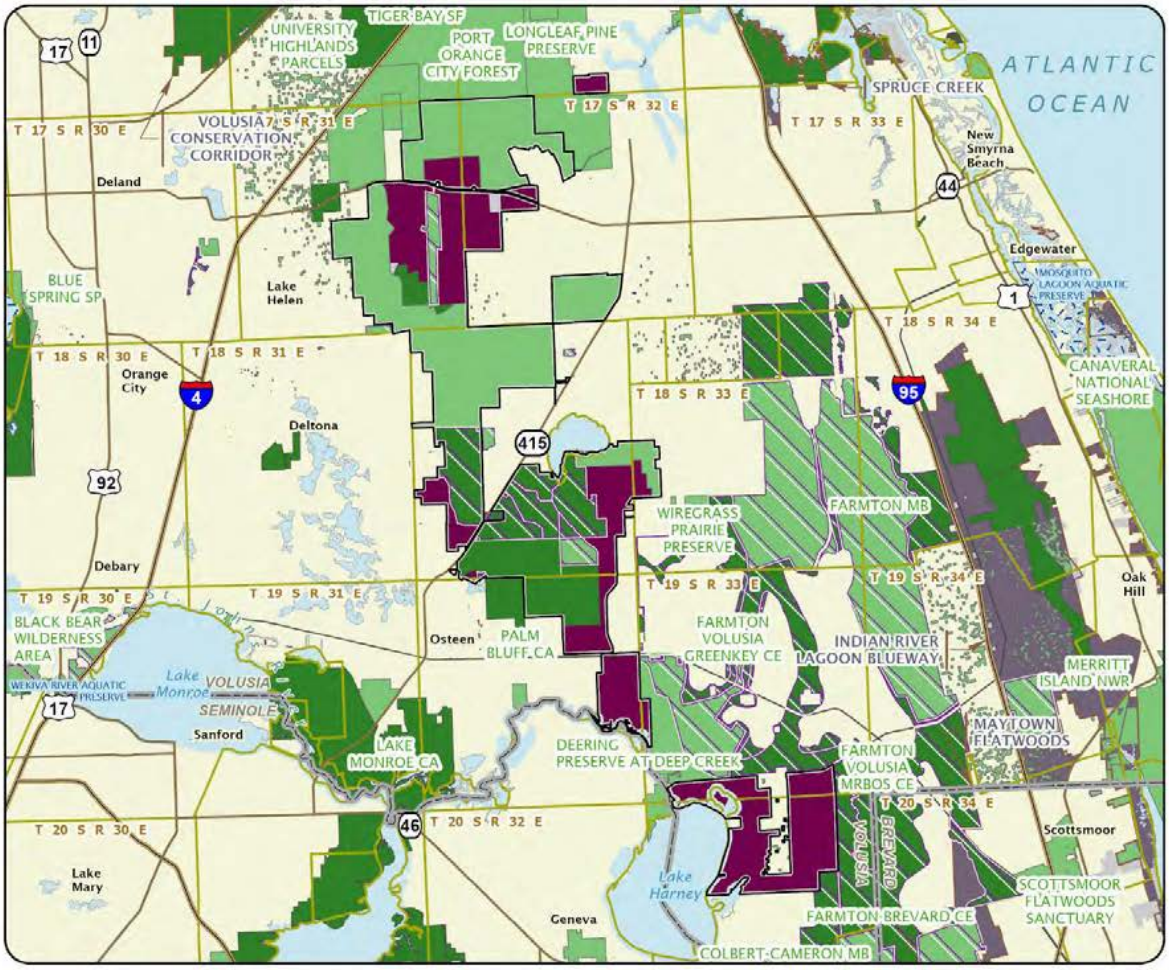
FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 6 12 Miles

N





VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 2

VOLUSIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 6 12 Miles

N



Waccasassa Watershed

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Levy County

Year Added to Priority List	*2023*
Project Acres	*44,893*
Acquired Acres	*37,168*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,725*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$26,480,714*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Waccasassa Watershed project will help ensure the water quality and quantity of Chunky Pond, the Waccasassa River and Waccasassa Bay, which drain into the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve before emptying into the Gulf of America. The project will also help expand ecological connections among existing conservation lands in the region, extending from Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park to Goethe State Forest.

General Description

The Waccasassa Watershed project was created by combining several proposals, including Chunky Pond, Little Pine Ranch, Trailhead Blue Springs, Waccasassa Bay Headwaters and Waccasassa Flatwoods. The Waccasassa Watershed project surrounds Devil's Hammock Wildlife Management Area and the Upper Waccasassa Conservation Area. Goethe State Forest adjoins the southeastern border of the project.

The Waccasassa Watershed project will help to conserve several natural community types including hydric hammock, basin swamp, mesic hammock, wet flatwoods and floodplain swamp, among others. A variety of rare species have been documented on the project including swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Florida hasteola (*Hasteola robertiorum*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

The Chunky Pond property includes the headwaters of Mule Creek, which flows into the Waccasassa River. This property also includes portions of wetlands with little alteration, these areas likely host a variety of migratory birds, reptiles and amphibians.

The Little Pine Ranch property features basin swamps on about a third of the site, with evidence of past logging. However, pond cypress was codominant in the canopy, along with slash pine and red maple. This property is predominantly made up of pine plantations and mixed scrub-shrub wetland.

The Trailhead Blue Springs property is a working cow/calf cattle ranch, with the Waccasassa River crossing the northern portion of the site. Levy Blue Springs Park surrounds three sides of the property

and features two springs, one of which is second magnitude. The acquisition of Trailhead Blue Springs would help maintain the water quality of the spring, the river, and the watershed.

The Waccasassa Bay Headwaters property is mostly made up of pine plantation and hydric hammock. There are also wetlands in good condition on site, which are likely to provide habitat for migratory birds, amphibians and reptiles.

The Waccasassa Flatwoods property is a working timber operation also used for hunting and recreation. In silviculture since the 1940s, the property's uplands have largely been converted to pine plantation, interspersed with cypress-dominated dome swamps, hydric hammock and bottomland forest. Two tributaries of the Waccasassa River, Magee Branch and Otter Creek, flow through the property.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
*Florida hasteola**	G1/S1
*Florida willow**	G2G3/S2S3
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
*Variable-leaved Indian-plantain**	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Property within the Waccasassa Watershed project is proposed for both fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition. The Waccasassa Flatwoods portion of the project would provide public access as an addition to Goethe State Forest, if acquired.

Acquisition Planning

2023

On October 13, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to combine the Chunky Pond, Little Pine Ranch, Trailhead Blue Springs and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters proposals to create the Waccasassa Watershed Florida Forever project. The project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition.

2024

In November 2024, ARC approved the addition of 16 parcels totaling approximately 948.60 acres in Levy County, five parcels totaling approximately 795.72 acres in Levy County and eight parcels totaling approximately 1,030.04 acres in Levy County.

On November 1, 2024, ARC approved the addition of the Waccasassa Flatwoods project proposal (21,664 acres) in Levy County to the project boundary. With this addition, the Waccasassa Watershed project is proposed for fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition.

2025

On June 18, 2025, DEP acquired a 1,978.4-acre conservation easement in Levy County from WMB Land LLC.

In September 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 21,600.85 acres in Levy County from Rayonier Forest Resources. DEP also acquired a 794.58-acre conservation easement in Levy County from M3BLT, LLC and a 1,028.07-acre conservation easement in Levy County from Rocky Hammock Timber Corporation.

Coordination

This project was proposed by Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT), Florida Conservation Group, and the landowner. ACT through its partnership with the National Resources Conservation Services Regional Conservation Partnership Program may be partners in acquisition of the project. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is proposed to manage the Waccasassa Flatwoods, if acquired.

Management Policy Statement – Waccasassa Flatwoods

The primary goals of the Waccasassa Flatwoods portion of the Waccasassa Watershed project are to practice sustainable forest management; provide resource-based recreation opportunities; restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems; protect archaeological, historical and cultural resources; and to restore, maintain and protect hydrological functions.

Manager – Waccasassa Flatwoods

FFS is the identified manager of the Waccasassa Flatwoods portion of the Waccasassa Watershed project.

Management Prospectus – Waccasassa Flatwoods

Qualifications for State Designation

This property is adjacent to the Black Prong Tract on Goethe State Forest along County Road 343. FFS may manage this as a new tract on Goethe State Forest. The subject site will be managed with an emphasis on sustainable forest management.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Soil and Water Protection: Management activities will be executed in a manner to minimize soil erosion and impacts to both surface and groundwater. All silvicultural activities will be conducted in compliance with current Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' FFS Silviculture Best Management Practices.

Fire Management: Ideally, prescribed fire will be the primary tool utilized for resource management on the forest. The long-term goal of prescribed burning will be healthy forest ecosystem improvement which will include both dormant and growing season burns. Natural fire frequencies will be implemented when possible for each community once in maintenance status. Due to the absence of fire from the property, fuel loads on the property are high in most areas. Therefore, fire must be carefully reintroduced in a way that prevents/minimizes damage to the forest structure. As such, initial burns should be confined to the dormant season on days with lower temperatures and within a few days following a rain event. Areas with particularly heavy fuel loads may require mechanical treatment, such as mowing or roller chopping, prior to the reintroduction of fire.

Silvicultural Operations: Waccasassa Flatwoods will be managed to promote and improve overall forest health. Timber is a valuable economic resource, and timber harvesting for the purposes of ecological restoration, forest health improvement and revenue generation are recognized silvicultural objectives. Proposed silvicultural activities include both commercial timber harvests and timber stand improvement activities. Commercial timber harvests shall focus on removal of undesirable pine species to promote the health and vigor of the overstory and to promote natural or artificial regeneration of desired pine species. Timber stand improvement projects may include both mechanical and chemical control of unwanted vegetation to promote healthy forests and habitat as appropriate for all natural communities. Care should be taken to both improve and maintain the existing road system throughout the site for practical management access.

Wildlife Management: Management of the wildlife resource on Waccasassa Flatwoods will largely focus on the rare species found in and around the property. A key attribute of this tract is adjacent or close in proximity to several existing conservation areas, including the Waccasassa Watershed project, Devil's Hammock, Upper Waccasassa Conservation Area and Sheppard Sanctuary. Waccasassa Flatwoods has the potential to provide habitat for Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), as under-represented natural communities exist on-site including mesic/wet flatwoods and upland hardwood forest. Dome swamps and marshes exist on site and play an important role in supporting a variety of Florida's endangered species. Rare plants documented and others found on adjacent conservation lands include the Florida willow (*Salix floridana*), Godfrey's swamp privet (*Forestiera godfreyi*), variable-leaved Indian-plantain (*Arnoglossum diversifolium*) and diverseleaf crownbeard (*Verbesina heterophylla*). Reintroduction of fire into the flatwoods will further improve habitat for Florida black bear and bald eagle. It will be imperative to evaluate the effects management may have on the habitat of these and other rare species when conducting operations on site.

Non-native Invasive Species: Prevention should be the focus of non-native invasive species management. When such species are discovered, an eradication plan will be developed and implemented based upon the severity of the infestation and the availability of personnel and funding. At present, the only observed non-native species onsite are areas of wild hog (*Sus scrofa*) damage. Potentially, cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) and climbing fern (*Lygodium* sp.) may exist along major rights of way.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the property is acquired and FFS assumes management, short-term efforts will concentrate on onsite security and management planning. Consideration will be given in the management planning process to accommodate recreational development. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions, and potential funding for and usage of infrastructure.

Revenue-generating Potential

Most uplands on Waccasassa Flatwoods are pine plantation. In accordance with the management plans, staff will conduct timber harvests and other management activities to achieve or maintain uneven-aged or even-aged forest structure, as appropriate. Given the proximity to forest product processing facilities, timber harvests should provide significant revenue over time. However, the planted pine stands on the tract have been thoroughly merchandised over the last 3-8 years. Marketable timber has been thinned or harvested followed by reforestation. As such, the planted pine stands on the tract are of a young age. The estimated average age the current aggregate of planted pine stands is between 6 and 8 years. Recreation developments will provide long-term opportunities for revenue while providing access to the public. Additionally, there may be opportunities for apiary leases and fuelwood harvests.

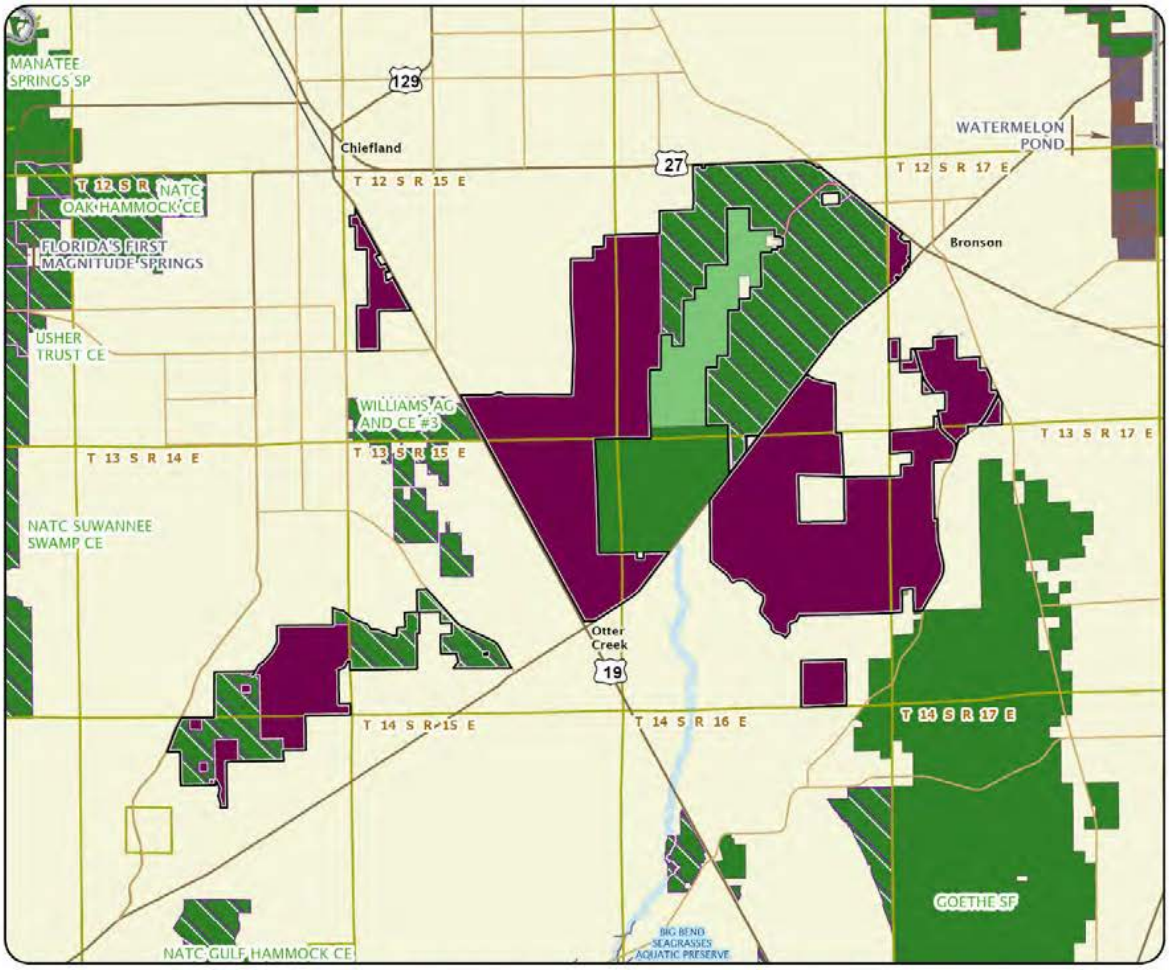
Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS may liaise with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, local governments, other state agencies and the Suwannee River Water Management District to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source	LATF	Not Provided
Salary (1 FTE)	$53,000	Not Provided
Expense	$60,000	Not Provided
OCO	$10,000	Not Provided
TOTAL	$123,000	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted.



WACCASASSA WATERSHED

LEVY COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 5 10 Miles

N



Wakulla Springs Protection Zone

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Leon and Wakulla Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1997*
Project Acres	*11,971*
Acquired Acres	*5,611*
Remaining Project Acres	*6,360*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$126,865,209*

Purpose for State Acquisition

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 project will protect Wakulla Springs by conserving the land that is above the conduits that feed it, connecting the state park with the Apalachicola National Forest, and providing public areas for camping, hiking and hunting.

General Description

Most of the project is in intensive silviculture or pasture. The Upper Lake Lafayette portion of the project is mixed pines and hardwoods on hills sloping down to Lake Lafayette. Remnant natural areas include floodplain swamps and 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, which 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 aquatic caves, have been found here. Eight archaeological sites, including four mounds, are known on 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1
Florida Big Bend cave amphipod	G1G2/S1S2
Sparkleberry hairstreak	G5T1T2/S1S2
Florida cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
*Flyr's brickell-bush**	G3/S2
*Incised groove-bur**	G3G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3
Pinesnake	G4/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Portions of the project qualify as state park, state forest and wildlife management area. Hiking or bicycling trails could link the park through this area with the Apalachicola National Forest, and the project could also be suitable for camping, horseback riding and perhaps hunting. The Upper Lake Lafayette land could be linked to such areas as the Lafayette Heritage Trail Park, Fallschase Greenway and L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area.

Acquisition Planning

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project to the 1997 Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This fee simple acquisition, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), consisted of approximately 10,243 acres and multiple owners. 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 as a DRP Inholdings and Additions project.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council designated approximately 1,004 acres that would connect the Ferrell tract with the Apalachicola National Forest as essential.

1999

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 3,883 acres owned by the St. Joe Paper Company and placed them into the St. Joe Timberland CARL project.

2001

On October 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the addition of 59 acres to the project.

2006

On June 9, 2006, ARC approved a fee simple 152-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by DEP's 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.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC approved the addition of 700 acres to the project.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the new Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2014

In 2014, a Tallahassee citizens' group – the Buck Lake Alliance – proposed making the 373-acre Upper Lake Lafayette Aquifer Protection Proposal a Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of $3,599,447.

On December 12, 2014, ARC voted to add this area to the Florida Forever list and then incorporated its boundary into the boundary of this Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project.

2018

On February 16, 2018, ARC approved the addition of Revell Sinks (228 acres) to the project.

2019

On December 12, 2019, ARC approved the addition of 801 acres in Wakulla County to the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Florida Forever project boundary for fee simple acquisition. The proposal had a 2019 tax assessed value of $1,925,754. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is the recommended manager, and the lands would be managed as part of Wakulla State Forest. The addition would contribute to landscape linkage between existing public lands, provide aquifer protection for Wakulla Springs and enhance wildlife habitat as well as public recreation. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. It would be managed by FFS if acquired.

2020

On August 19, 2020, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) established the Revell conservation easement (124.74 acres).

2022

DEP acquired 405.79 acres fee simple from six property owners that will be managed as part of Wakulla State Forest.

2025

On January 16, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 19.9 acres in Wakulla County from Mickey D and Liza G Bryant.

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of 3,086 acres as a part of the St. Joe Timberland reorganization effort.

Coordination

Considering this project's linkages and connections above and below ground, coordination would be among the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), DRP, FFS, Florida Wildlife Federation, Florida Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, local governments and nonprofit conservation groups.

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; inventory resources; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are 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, 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. In 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 ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide FFS management activities on this project. For areas managed by FWC, priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Under FWC management, the tract will also provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking and other natural resource-based recreational activities.

Manager(s)

Managers include DRP, FFS and FWC. The Upper Lake Lafayette Aquifer Protection Area site added to the project in 2014 may also be managed with the help of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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 as a state forest is contingent upon the state acquiring fee simple title to the core parcels.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

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 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. 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 by appropriate management measures. This concept also applies to other areas of the project managed by DRP where the natural regime has been disturbed by silviculture and other land uses.

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.

Florida 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 Ferrell Property represents a relatively intact long-leaf pine/wire grass community. Land use in the general area has 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. 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 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.

Florida Wildlife Federation

This property is adjacent to commercial and residential development on the urban fringe. There is a platform mound on the property, which is incompletely fenced, and completed fencing will be needed. There are invasive plant species on the property, which will have to be managed. Managing the site for soil protection and for vegetative cover will offer the best protection for Upper Lake Lafayette.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Division of Recreation and Parks

Upon fee title acquisition, public access will be provided for low-intensity, non-facility-related outdoor recreation. As part of Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, hunting would not be permitted.

Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Emphasis will be given to the 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.

Florida Forest Service

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to 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 FFS 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 ensure 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.

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. 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.

Recreation and environmental education in the natural environment by FFS, though no recreational facilities are planned. However, if it is later 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, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Florida 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 FWC, 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 FFS. These practices will include reforestation of cleared pinelands and natural regeneration of pine plantations.

Florida Wildlife Federation

It will take a minimum of one year to develop a management plan for the Upper Lake Lafayette acreage after this area is acquired. Fencing the east and west boundaries will be necessary to create limited access points. Cultural resource sites will have to be identified and fenced off from general access.

Revenue-generating potential

Division of Recreation and Parks

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.

Florida Forest Service

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.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FWC 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.

Florida Wildlife Federation

The Florida Wildlife Federation does not expect the Upper Lake Lafayette property to generate revenue from admissions, but it will contribute to the local economy by spurring sales of outdoor goods and services.

Cooperators in management activities

Division of Recreation and Parks

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

Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FFS and FWC will also cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area.

Florida Wildlife Federation

The Florida Wildlife Federation developed a Management Prospectus for the Upper Lake Lafayette portion of the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone and suggests that its volunteers can help see that trails are properly maintained.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$48,840	$48,840
OPS	$10,000	$10,000
Expense	$86,342	$6,342
OCO	$58,956	$0
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$204,138	$65,182

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

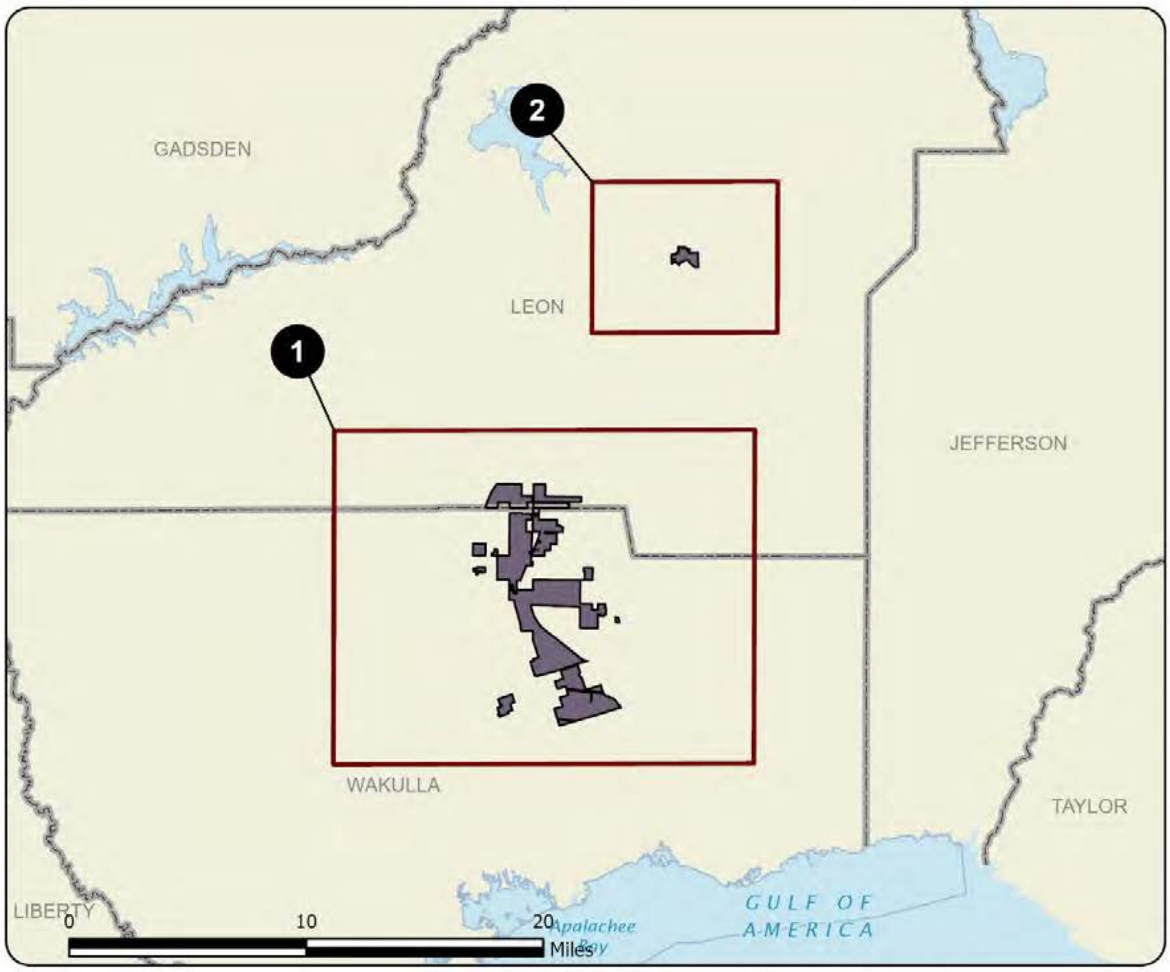
FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	Not Provided
Salary	$65,343	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$90,000	Not Provided
OCO	$129,000	Not Provided
FCO	$0	Not Provided
TOTAL	$284,343	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$37,170	$74,340
OPS	$7,000	$7,000
Expense	$45,000	$60,000
OCO	$38,500	$38,500
FCO	$75,000	$0
TOTAL	$202,670	$179,840

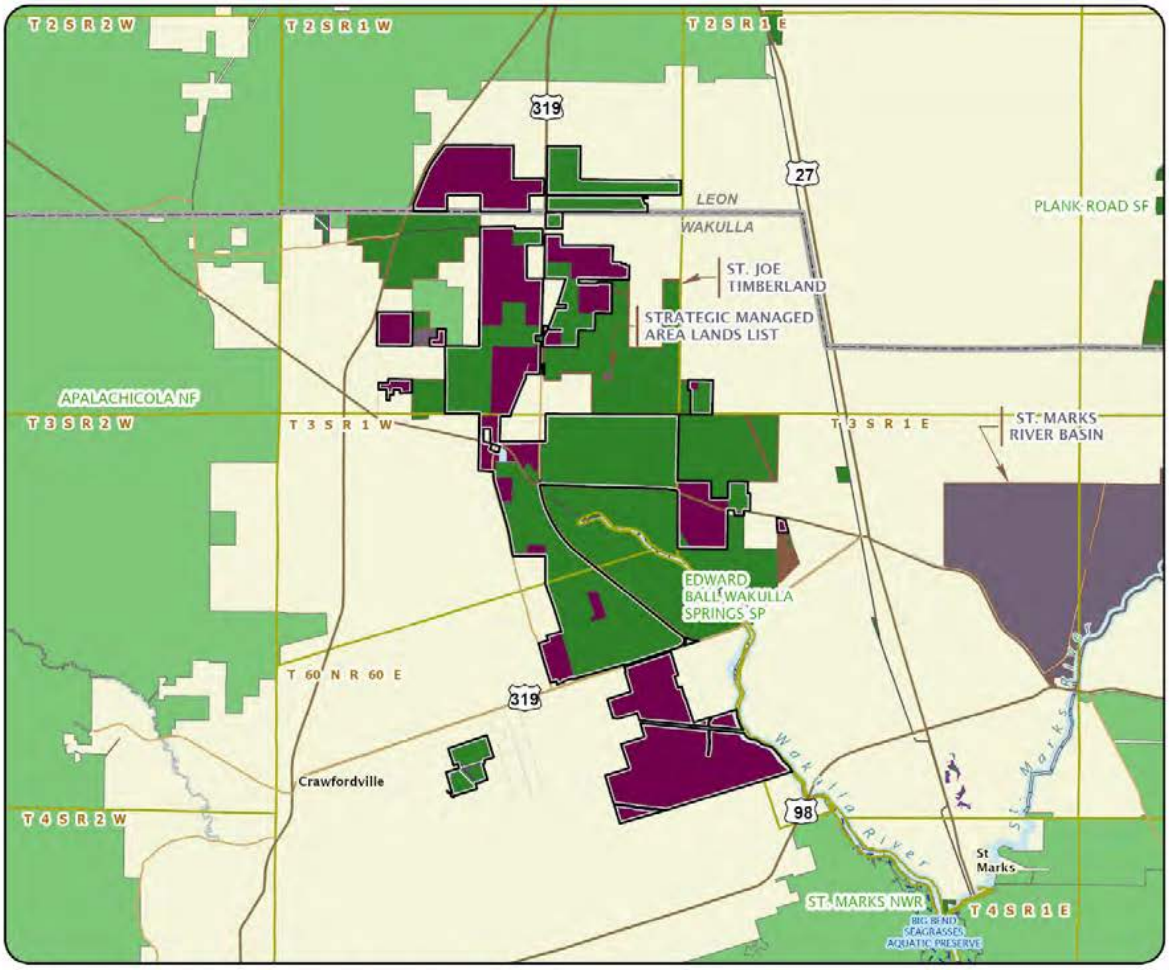
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: OVERVIEW

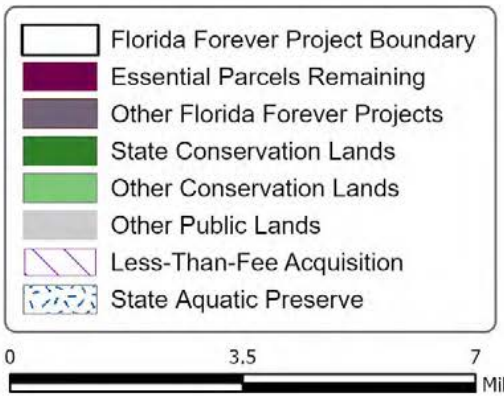
LEON AND WAKULLA COUNTIES



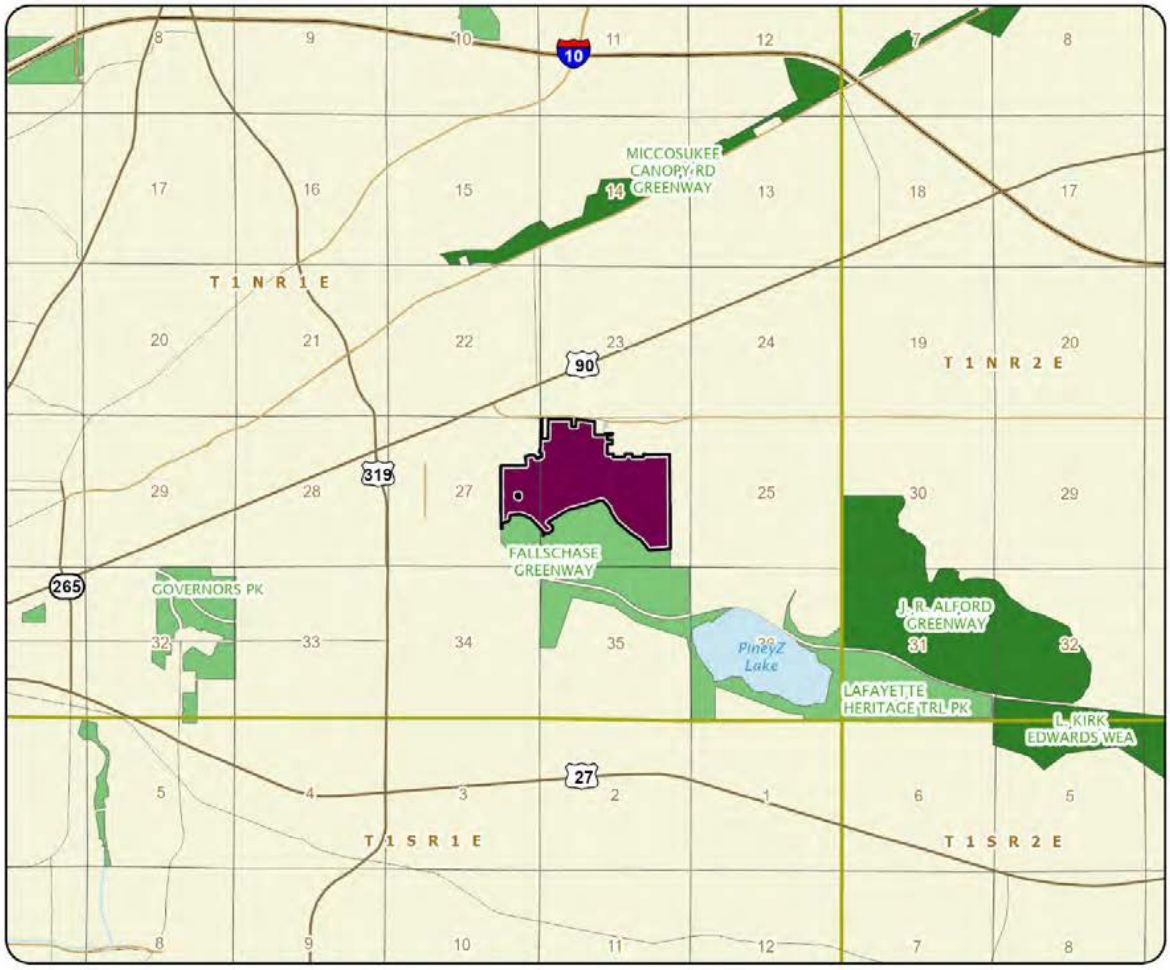


WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: MAP 1

LEON AND WAKULLA COUNTIES







WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: MAP 2

LEON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Watermelon Pond

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua and Levy Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1994*
Project Acres	*10,842*
Acquired Acres	*6,964*
Remaining Project Acres	*3,878*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$38,424,573*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Watermelon Pond project will conserve one of the best remaining landscapes of longleaf pine sandhill pocked with marshes and lakes. The project will conserve critical habitat for imperiled species such as the southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*), Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) and Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). The project will also protect groundwater supply and provide the public with natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

General Description

Conservation of the project is important for its 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Striped newt	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Short-tailed snake	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise copris beetle	G2/S2
*Sand butterfly pea**	G2Q/S2
Skelley's june beetle	G2/S2
Southern hognose snake	G2G3/S2S3

**Plant species are in italics*

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.

1996

In 1996, Ashton Biological Preserve (100 acres) was acquired by Ray Ashton.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council designated the non-subdivided portion of section 36 and 11 other "corridor" parcels as essential.

2003

On February 7, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 250 acres in Alachua County to the project boundaries.

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved this project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2007

In April 2007, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) acquired 1,288 acres, identified as Barry Ranch. Of these acres, 607 are within the project boundary.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 3,161-acre reduction in the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On April 11, 2012, Watermelon Pond Preserve – Metzger (640 acres) was acquired by Alachua County Forever Program, of which approximately 234 acres are within the project boundary.

2021

On June 4, 2021, Alachua County acquired Watermelon Pond Preserve – Warny (79.4 acres).

2024

In April 2024, ARC approved the addition of 279 acres in Levy County.

On April 18, 2024, the Department of Environmental Protection acquired, in fee, 292.76 acres in Levy County from Forrest Path, LLC.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 1,964 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

FWC and Alachua County are acquisition partners for this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems to enhance or protect significant natural resources; and provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The natural pine forests and the restorable pine plantations of the project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

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 would normally occur on a state forest.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the core area is acquired, 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. FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and imperiled species 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 much 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 utilize 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 reforested as appropriate with native species. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating Potential

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.

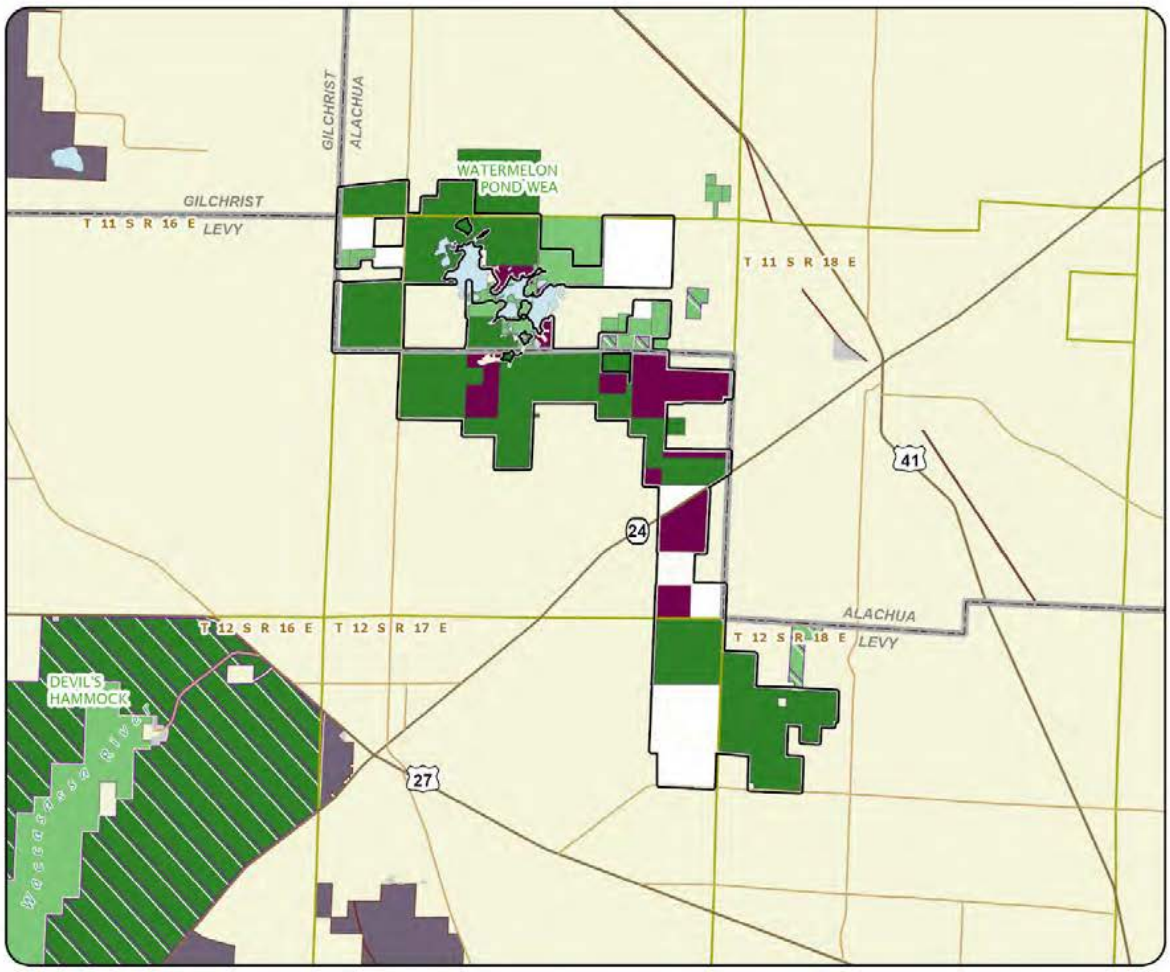
Cooperators in Management Activities

FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	$80,530	$80,530
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$30,000	$20,000
OCO	$112,500	$6,000
TOTAL	$223,030	$106,530

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



WATERMELON POND

ALACHUA AND LEVY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Welannee Watershed Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Okaloosa County

Year Added to Priority List	*2020*
Project Acres	*9,207*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*9,207*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$11,237,675*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Welannee Watershed Forest project will protect upper stretches of the Yellow River and provide connectivity to adjacent conservation lands such as the Yellow River Water Management Area, Blackwater River State Forest, Conecuh National Forest and Eglin Air Force Base. The project will also preserve habitat critical to native species such as the Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*).

General Description

The Welannee Watershed Forest project consists of floodplain and adjacent upland habitat along the Yellow River, from the Florida-Alabama state line extending downstream for approximately 11.5 straight-line miles (estimated 15-16 river miles). The project contains two large timber tracts: the first is owned by H.T.L. Family Limited Partnership that stretches along both sides of the Yellow River from the north boundary of the Yellow River Water Management Area to the Alabama state line; the second tract is owned by U.I.L. Family Limited Partnership and is located on the east side of the Yellow River (which it borders for 3.6 miles). There is a small discontinuity within the northern tract at State Road 2. Blackwater River State Forest lies generally 0.5 to 2 miles west of the northern tract, which encompasses both banks of the Yellow River, although the forest and project share a small common border. The Yellow River Water Management Area lies immediately downstream of the northern tract (sharing a short common border) and directly across the Yellow River from the southern tract, which itself is restricted to the eastern side of the river.

The project is comprised of approximately 30 percent floodplain forest and wetlands and 70 percent uplands, most of which is planted pine plantation that has been historically planted with loblolly pine. The project contains more than 500 acres of longleaf pine and, as loblolly pine is harvested, the owners are transitioning suitable uplands to longleaf pine. The project is managed under a very active prescribed fire regime, with the longleaf burned on a two-year rotation and other upland areas burned on a three-year rotation. The facilities and equipment for the management of the project's forest resources are

located on-site. The project is managed not only for its timber resources, but also with the purpose of restoring longleaf pine habitat (particularly groundcover for wildlife). The property is managed to promote healthy populations of game species such as white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

Welannee Watershed Forest includes the same properties as the original Upper Yellow River Florida Forever project, which was removed from the priority list in 2011 when the land was no longer available for acquisition.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Narrow pigtoe	G1G2/S1
Choctaw bean	G2G3/S1S2
Escambia map turtle	G2/S2
Gulf lilliput	G2/S2
Gulf sturgeon	G2G3/S2?
Pine barrens treefrog	G3/S2S3
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
*little brown jug**	G5/S3
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

As the project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition, public access is not available. However, upon coordination with the landowner, the Florida Forest Service could provide Operation Outdoor Freedom events and/or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission could organize youth hunting opportunities.

Acquisition Planning

2020

On October 9, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Welannee Watershed Forest project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was proposed by Conservation Florida and consists of 11 parcels among two ownerships.

2023

In December of 2023, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 830.41 acres in Okaloosa County.

Coordination

Additional funding to assist with acquisition has been secured through federal grants from the Forest Legacy Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The program requires a non-federal match of 25 percent which could be met with Florida Forever funds.

Management Policy Statement

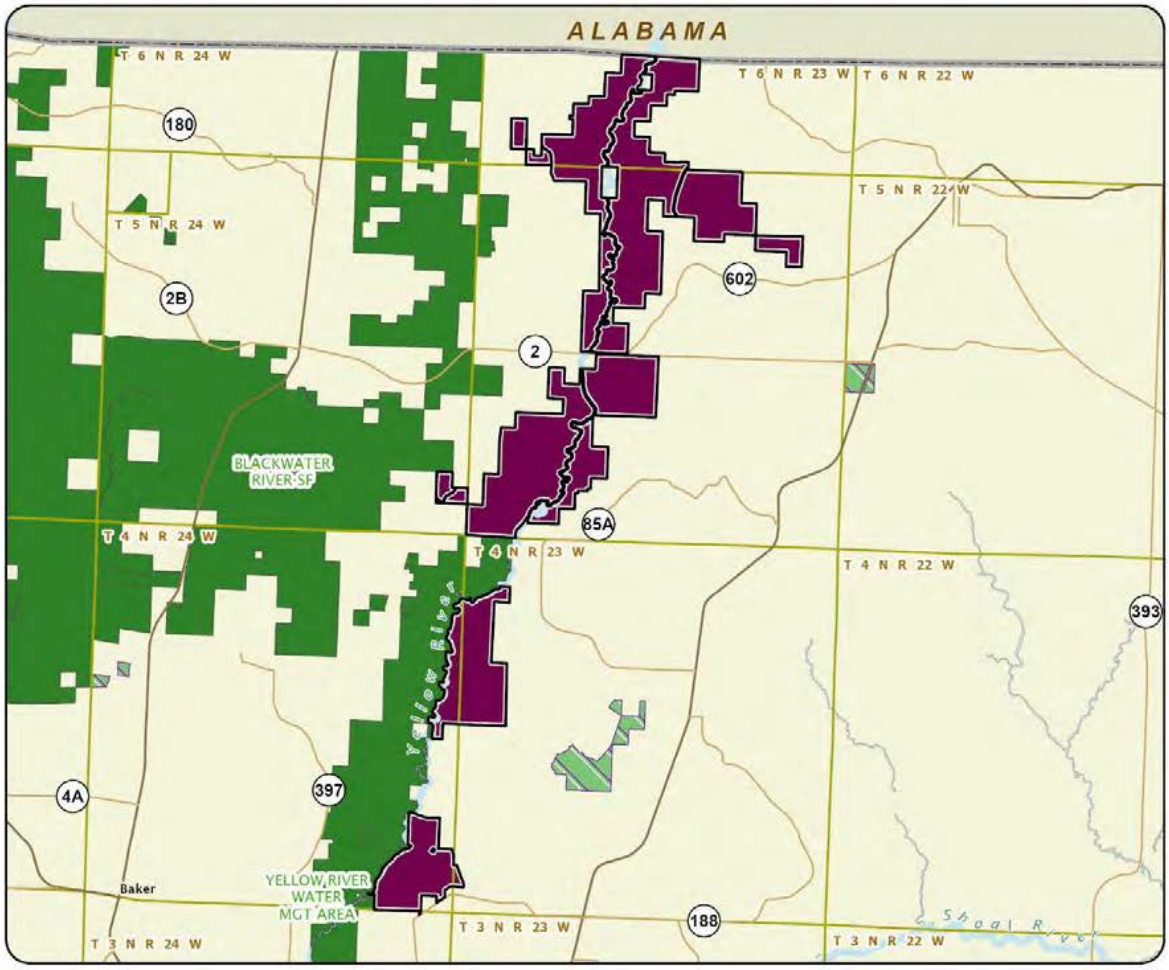
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Welannee Watershed Forest project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Welannee Watershed Forest would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated with the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the primary management will be conducted by the property owner.



WELANNEE WATERSHED FOREST

OKALOOSA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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0 3.5 7 Miles

Wilson Ranch

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Polk County

Year Added to Priority List	*2021*
Project Acres	*451*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*451*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$1,134,607*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The goal of the Wilson Ranch project is to protect and restore the Peace River headwaters, valuable wildlife habitat, regionally significant wetlands, water resources and natural floodplain function along the Upper Peace River. The project represents an important link in a critical conservation corridor of existing public land and private conservation easements and will expand opportunities for resource-based public outdoor recreation within the Peace River Basin.

General Description

Wilson Ranch is in Polk County and is currently utilized as an active cattle ranch, characterized by pasture, upland forest, bottomland forest and swampland. Wilson Ranch is located within the Peace River Basin and contains the confluence of Peace Creek and Saddle Creek (the headwaters of the Peace River). The project lies along the Atlantic Flyway and provides habitat for state and federally listed species. Over half of the site also lies within a designated Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for species such as the snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). Despite past hydrological alterations at Wilson Ranch, many of the species found on-site are associated with natural wetland communities. Three archaeological sites and two Linear Resource Groups have also been documented within the project area.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

The Wilson Ranch project is proposed for fee simple acquisition and may be utilized for public outdoor recreation if acquired. A primary objective is to protect the resources on-site while providing access and compatible passive recreation opportunities. Potential activities include hiking, bicycling, fishing and environmental education. Recreation activities will be evaluated to limit impacts to natural resources and alteration of natural habitats. Observation areas may include educational signage describing the importance of the site, mainly its ecological value to the Peace River, Saddle Creek and the Peace River Basin.

Acquisition Planning

2021

On April 9, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Wilson Ranch project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

Management Policy Statement

Management will focus on the preservation and restoration of the resources onsite with an emphasis on the water resources. Where compatible with the site's resources, passive resource-based recreation will be provided to the public. The following management goals and objectives were identified: preserve, maintain, enhance and restore natural communities and wildlife habitat; protect and sustain populations of threatened and endangered species; allow restoration of wetland systems; provide connectivity to adjacent conservation lands; provide appropriate nature-based recreation that offers public enjoyment of the site without damaging the unique natural habitats; and periodically review, evaluate and modify the management of the Wilson Ranch property.

Manager

The recommended manager is the Polk County Environmental Lands Program.

Management Prospectus

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The conditions which will affect the intensity of management will be directly related to the goals for the site. A full assessment will need to be conducted to determine the condition of the natural resources described above and the extent of restoration feasible at the site. Implementation of compatible recreation will also affect the intensity of management. This will be included in the site assessment and incorporated into the 10-year management plan.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once acquisition is completed, a site assessment will be conducted and the management plan will be drafted. As the plan is created, securing the site and low impact accessibility improvements will begin. Any extensive improvements for restoration or allowing public access will not be initiated until the final management plan is accepted by the state.

Revenue-generating Potential

The Polk County Environmental Lands Program currently manages 13 natural areas that protect and restore water, wildlife and wilderness while allowing passive outdoor recreation. There are no plans to generate revenue from this site. If plans to generate revenue come to light, they will be addressed in the management plan.

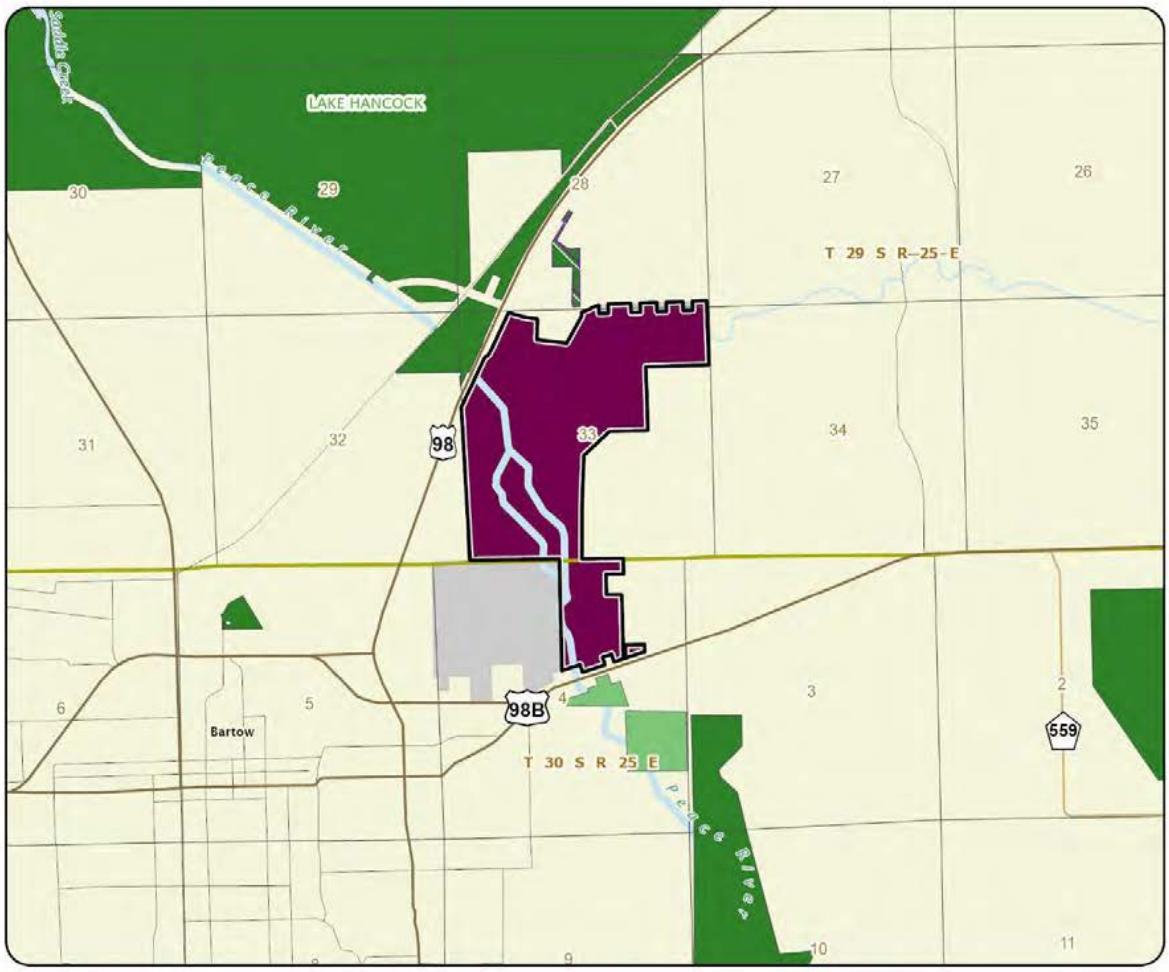
Cooperators in management activities

Polk County will manage the subject property and implement the management plan. Other agencies that may cooperatively assist include the Florida Forest Service, the Department of Environmental Protection, FWC and Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Management Cost Summary

Polk County	Startup	Recurring
Salary	Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS	Not Provided	Not Provided
Expense	$10,000	Not Provided
OCO	$45,000	Not Provided
FCO	Not Provided	Not Provided
TOTAL	$55,000	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



WILSON RANCH

POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 0.9 1.8 Miles

N



LESS-THAN-FEE



Adams Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola and St. Lucie Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2007*
Project Acres	*34,540*
Acquired Acres	*10,472*
Remaining Project Acres	*24,068*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$101,975,611*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The goal of the Adams Ranch Florida Forever project is to protect the site's open rangeland, native prairie and portions of working ranchland managed to allow for the continued protection of rare and imperiled species. The project will also buffer the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area from development and landscape fragmentation and facilitate resource management practices.

General Description

The Adams Ranch project is comprised of two disjunct parcels in southern Osceola County and northern St. Lucie County. Adams Ranch is a working ranch with large areas of improved pasture used for beef cattle and sod production.

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 the Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever project is no more than 10 miles to the west of the project. The Mills Ranch and Escape Ranch conservation easements (St. Johns River Water Management District) lie approximately 3.5 miles to the east. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park is approximately 8.5 miles to the south.

The natural communities present within the matrix of improved pasture 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 the hydrology.

Nearly 60 percent of the area is designated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for listed species. Adams Ranch also provides habitat for many

neotropical migrant bird species and game species like wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4

Public Use

Adams Ranch is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide 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

Adams Ranch was originally part of a larger proposal (55,000 acres) submitted to the Conservation and Recreational Lands program in 1986 by FNAI. A portion of the original proposal is now part of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, but the majority remains in private ownership.

2007

On June 15, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added Adams Ranch to the Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy in a proposal submitted on December 29, 2006, with 11,023 acres. After a request from landowners to remove the 4-H Ranch, the project had about 7,159 acres and a tax assessed value of $10,638,040.

2010

In 2010, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) closed on a 795-acre easement owned by the Adams family for $1,603,510. A portion of this Rural and Family Lands Protection Program easement acquisition (698 acres) was within the boundary of this Florida Forever project.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Less-than-Fee category.

2015

In 2015, FDACS' Rural and Family Lands Protection Program closed on an additional 1,536 acres, 154 of which were within the project boundary.

On October 9, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Adams Ranch conservation easement (662.73 acres).

2017

On December 15, 2017, ARC approved reduction of the project boundary by 3,898 acres. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received a request from the new owners of what had been the 4-H Ranch, the Bexley Ranch Land Trust, to remove the land they had purchased from the project boundary. This change eliminates a potential connection to the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. The project still connects the existing DACS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Adams Ranch conservation easements to the southeast.

2021

On October 8, 2021, ARC members approved the Adams Ranch II proposal and voted to add 27,342 acres in Osceola and St. Lucie counties to the boundary of the Adams Ranch project.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and Osceola County are partners in this project.

Management Policy Statement

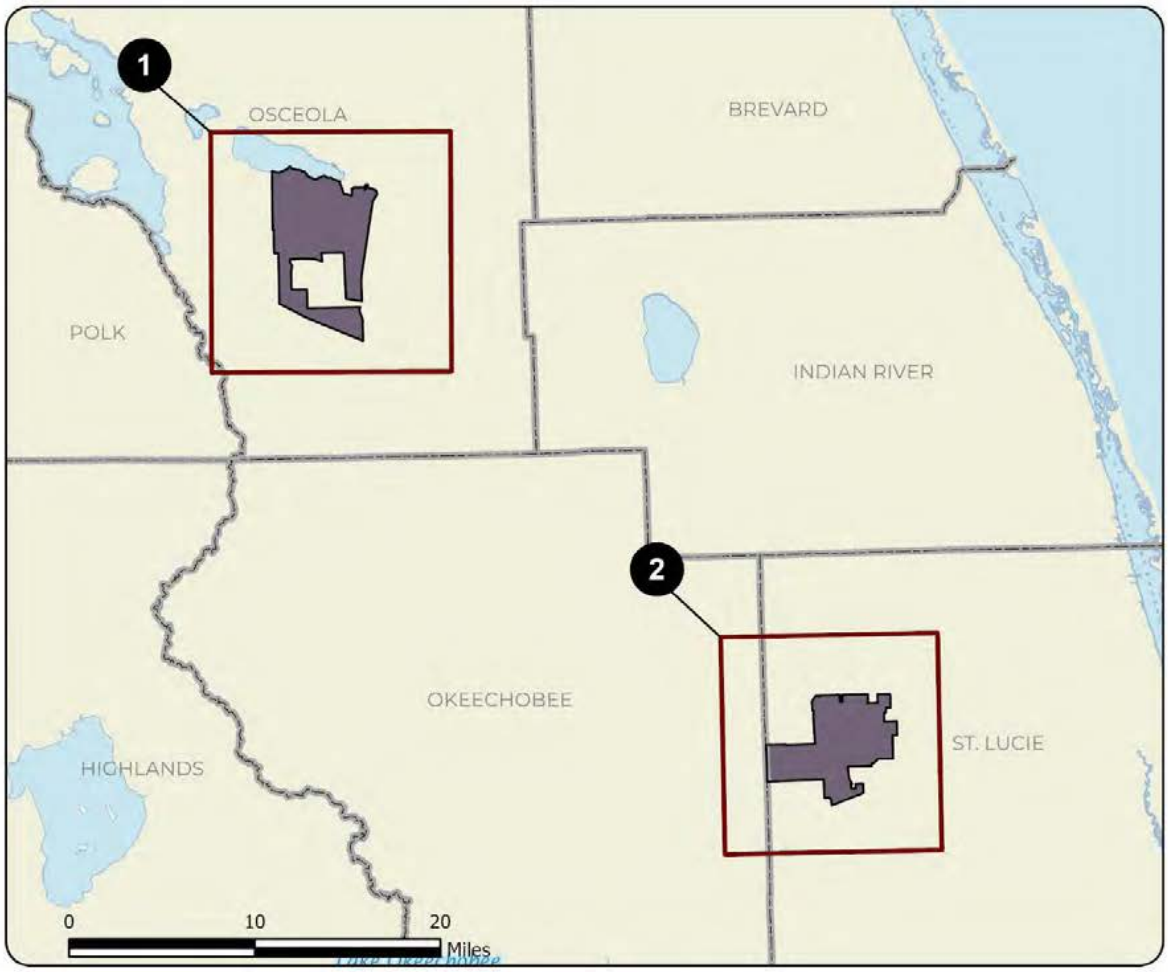
As a less-than-fee acquisition, Adams Ranch would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of Adams Ranch would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

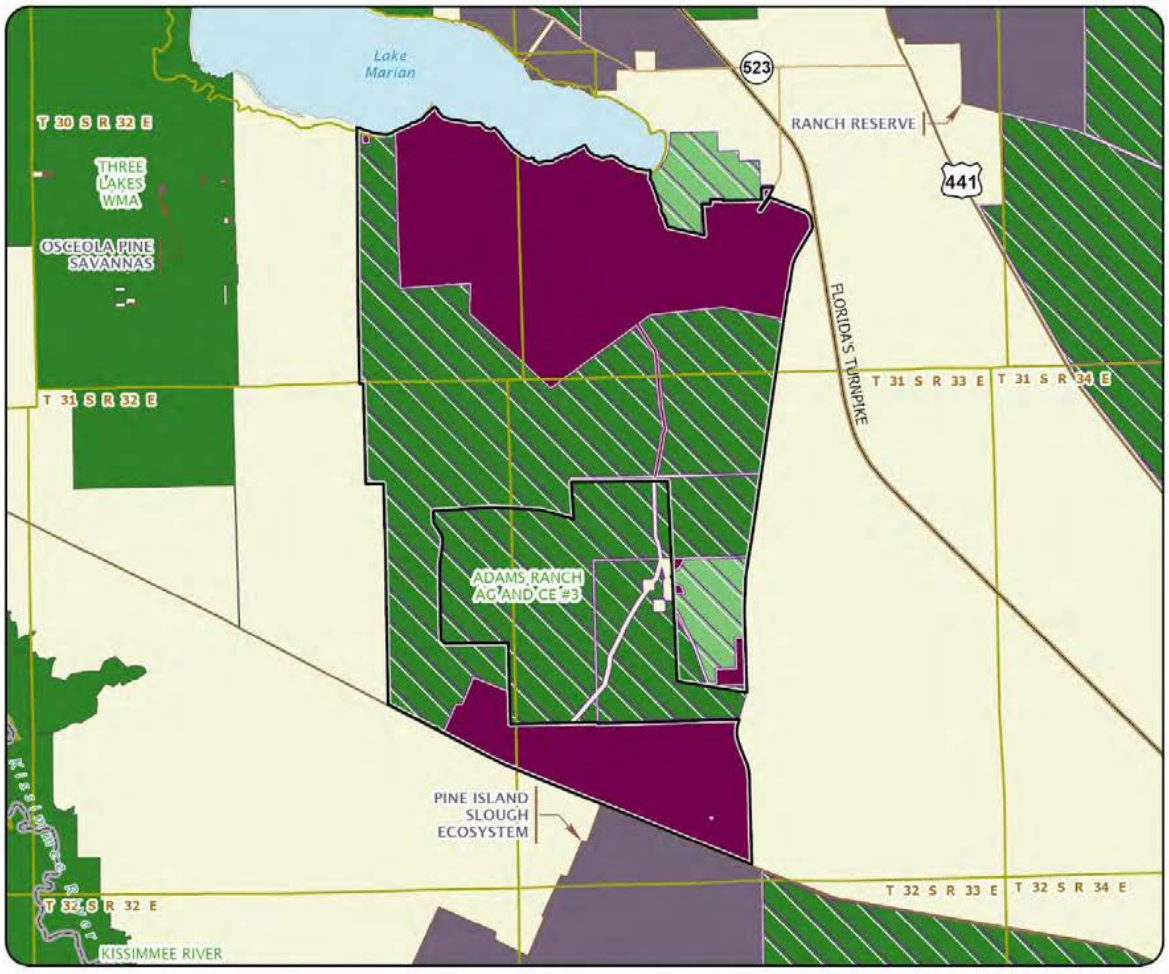
DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



ADAMS RANCH: OVERVIEW

OSCEOLA AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES





ADAMS RANCH: MAP 1

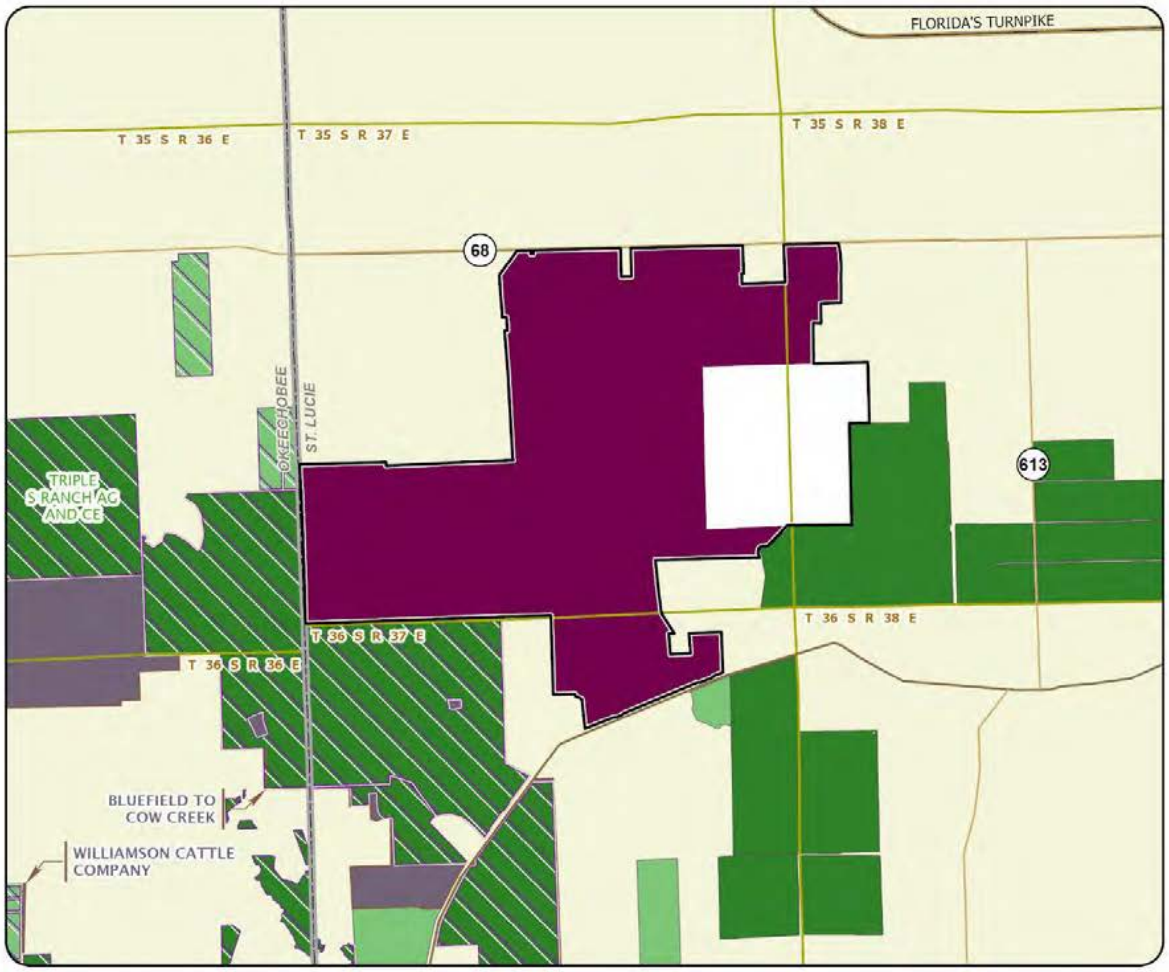
OSCEOLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 2.5 5 Miles

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ADAMS RANCH: MAP 2

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 2.5 5 Miles

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Ayavalla Plantation

Less-Than-Fee

Leon County

Year Added to Priority List	*2008*
Project Acres	*6,098*
Acquired Acres	*402*
Remaining Project Acres	*5,696*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$19,483,564*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ayavalla Plantation project in northern Leon County will assist in the coordination of conservation linkages between properties by connecting the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area Florida Forever project to properties near Lake Jackson. The projects will also increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, habitats and natural community levels through the preservation of large natural landscapes. The Ayavalla Plantation project will support state water quality and quantity by protecting the site's surface waters and wetlands.

General Description

The Ayavalla Plantation project is located in northern Leon County, bordering the Ochlockonee River and stretching from Old Bainbridge Road eastward to the northern edge of Lake Jackson. It has many 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.

The project includes more than 5 miles of river frontage. The southeastern boundary is partly defined by Meridian Road (County Road 155) and the western boundary partly fronts on Old Bainbridge Road (County Road 157). The project is also adjacent to Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park managed by the City of Tallahassee.

The Ayavalla Plantation project landscape is part of the Red Hills Physiographic Province, characterized by rolling terrain and clay soils that rest upon limestone. The wetlands on the property include a variety of freshwater lake and riparian systems. Elevations range from approximately 90 to 200 feet above mean sea level and are lower near the river. The principal native landcover was once upland longleaf pine forest but has been heavily disturbed by centuries-long agriculture and timber production, food plots and clearing. However, a pine component is once again prominent, including shortleaf, loblolly and slash

pine. Roughly one-third of these pinelands are now in intensive silviculture. The remainder closely resembles upland pine forest at a structural level (although it is not considered a native upland pine forest community).

Approximately 15 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, far-roaming listed species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). Other rare and imperiled species that are likely to occur within this project include the southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*), gopher frog (*Lithobates capito*), pine barrens treefrog (*Hyla andersonii*), Florida pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). There is potential for restoration of gopher tortoise habitat.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Purple bankclimber	G2/S1
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
Barbour's map turtle	G2G3/S2
*Narrowleaf naiad**	G3/S2
Inflated spike	G3/S2
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3
Southeastern weasel	G5T4/S3?
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Ayavalla Plantation project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, upon coordination with the landowner, the site could possibly be used for special events and activities.

Acquisition Planning

2008

On June 13, 2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the Ayavalla Plantation Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of $23,675,453.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Less-than-Fee category.

Coordination

Leon County is supportive of the goals of the acquisition but is not a partner in the acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

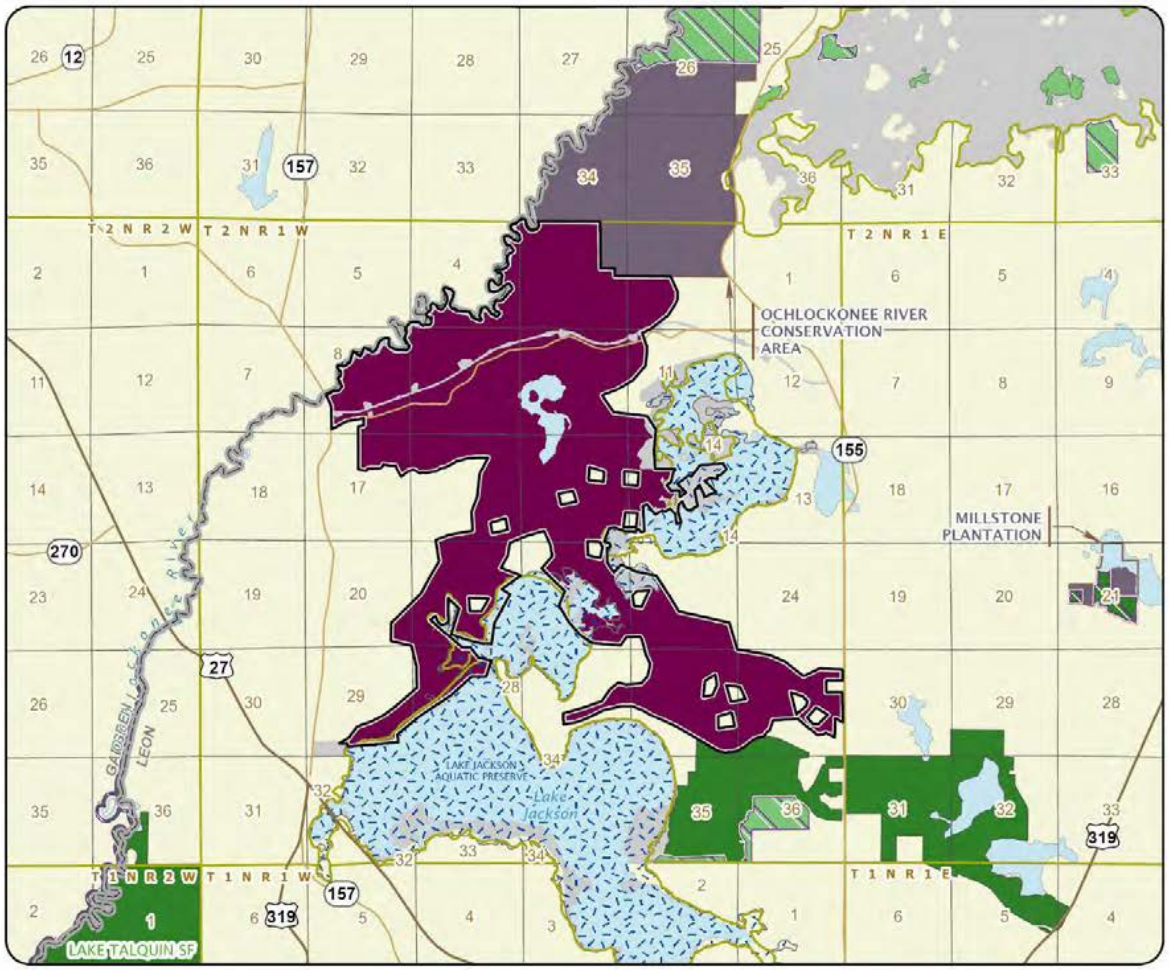
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ayavalla Plantation project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



AYAVALLA PLANTATION

LEON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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N



Baker County Timberlands

Less-Than-Fee

Baker County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*1,155*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,155*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$1,641,154*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Baker County Timberlands project will serve as a strategic buffer for the adjacent Osceola National Forest. This project will help to conserve habitat for long-ranging species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) that utilize the property as a travel corridor. The project will also contribute to the protection of water resources of Bluff Creek and the greater St. Marys River Basin.

General Description

The Baker County Timberlands project contains one parcel, totaling 1,154 acres, situated along the eastern border of the Osceola National Forest. The St. Marys River lies approximately 1.5 miles to the east. The county-managed St. Marys Shoals Park lies 1.9 miles to the southeast and John M. Bethea State Forest lies 2.6 miles to the north. Most of the project is located within a region of the state considered frequent black bear range. The property provides cover for these and other wide-ranging species moving through the region's conservation lands.

The property is situated on the Ocean Pond Plain Province of the Okefenokee Basin District, a broad east-sloping terrace characterized by extensive flatwoods and basin swamp. Elevations range from 118 feet above mean sea level to 100 feet where Bluff Creek exits the property along its eastern border. Predominant soils include Sapelo fine sands, Olustee-Pelham complex and Pantego-Pamlico complex. A series of branches coalesce on the property to form Bluff Creek, a small tributary of the St. Marys River. The St. Marys River is an important spawning habitat for the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*).

Land use on the property is primarily plantation forestry, which covers approximately 80 percent of the site. Most of the plantations have been harvested within the past five years and not yet replanted. Cypress was selectively thinned from at least half of the swamps more than 30 years ago. Ten percent of

the property remains in natural condition; most of this acreage is wetlands that were not included in tree harvesting.

Pine plantation is the most extensive landcover on the property. Natural regeneration is present, seeded in from remnant slash pines. The shrub layer height is remarkably low given the lack of prescribed fire. A small, mostly intact patch of wet flatwoods features a dense canopy of slash pine with many large trees. Bottomland forest occurs along with floodplain swamp as a narrow band along the headwaters of Bluff Creek. Basin swamp is present in some parts of the large depressional wetlands that were not cut or substantially thinned and dome swamps are scattered throughout the property, often with an open canopy of pond cypress. Successional hydric shrubland/forest is present where all portions of the former basin swamps were harvested.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

Public Use

The Baker County Timberlands project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On November 1, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Baker County Timberlands project to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

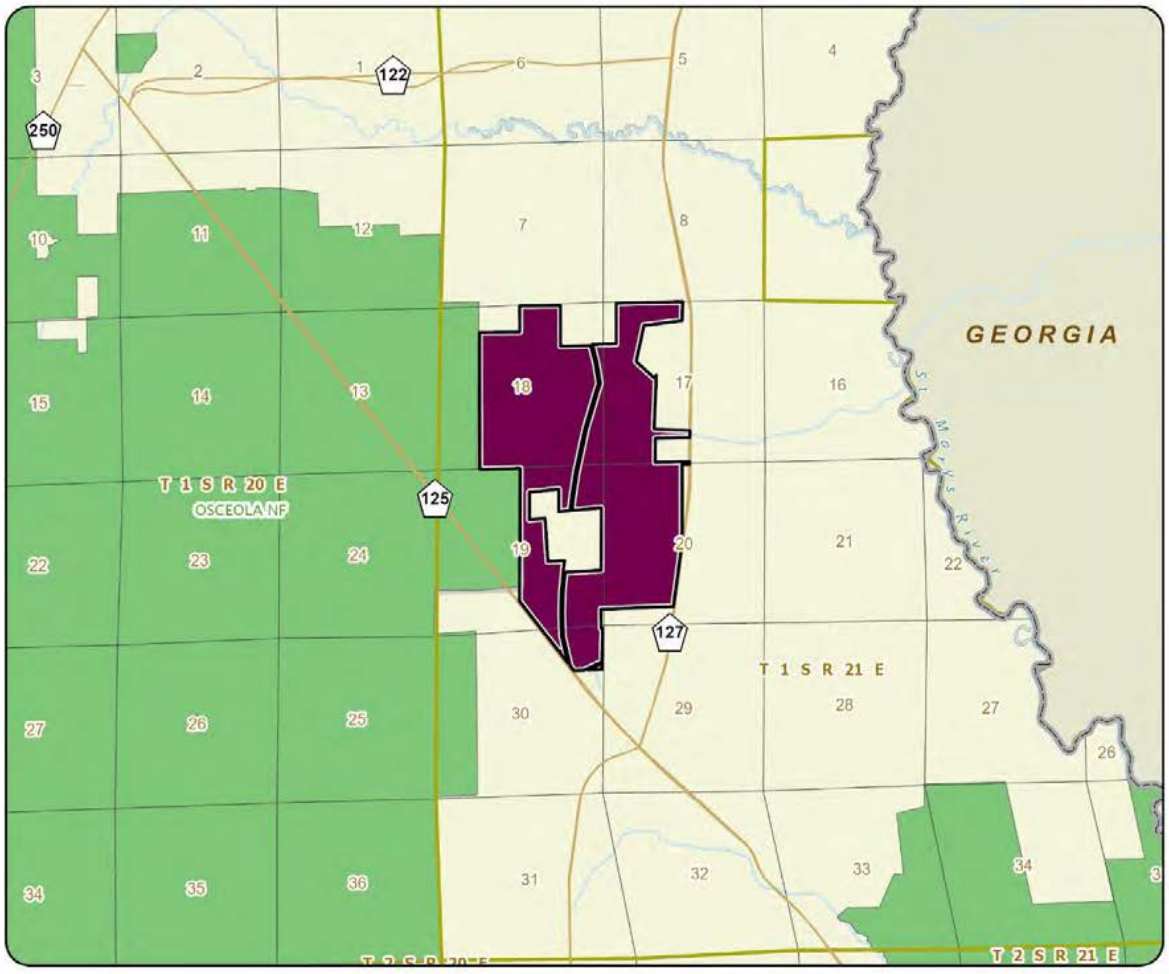
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Baker County Timberlands project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Baker County Timberlands project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance will be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Baker County Timberlands project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



BAKER COUNTY TIMBERLANDS

BAKER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Big Bend Forest

Less-Than-Fee

Dixie County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*53,510*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*53,510*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$77,140,552*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Big Bend Forest project will help protect the water quality and quantity of the Suwannee River, Steinhatchee River and Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve. The project will also help enhance connectivity among a network of public and private conservation lands in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Furthermore, the project will increase the amount of forestland available for continued management of habitats and natural resources for wide ranging species as well as prevent conversion to more intense agricultural uses.

General Description

The Big Bend Forest project is a single contiguous tract immediately west of Cross City extending to about 2.7 miles east of Steinhatchee. Almost all the southern edge of the tract borders various federal and state-managed conservation easements, through which the property further connects to the Lower Suwannee River National Wildlife Refuge and a network of conservation lands along the Suwannee River, including the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area.

Like much of the surrounding landscape, the property has been used predominantly for timber production for decades, and uplands have been almost entirely converted to pine plantation. Typically, the plantations are bedded slash pine in areas that were formerly mesic and wet flatwoods, and they vary from newly planted seedings to mature stands. A few stands on the west side of the site, including within the approximately 5,000 acres of plantation leased for cattle grazing, have a significant complement of native sub-shrubs and grasses. Southern wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*) was noted in one stand but was not common.

Of the areas that remain relatively natural, most consist of a network of forested wetlands spread evenly throughout the tract. These forests have been at least partially logged in the last half-century and are regenerating naturally, with the majority mapped as a mixture of bottomland forest and hydric

hammock. Two depression marshes were visited during the site tour; these are in good to excellent condition and are densely vegetated with a wide variety of native herbaceous plants.

On the north side of the property, water from Pumpkin Swamp to the east drains through forested wetlands and west as Sand Hill Creek, which flows to the Steinhatchee River. Moving south, portions of the tract are part of three watersheds that drain directly to the Gulf of America north and south of Horseshoe Beach. Most of the eastern edge of the tract drains south to Fishbone Creek, which meets California Creek to form Sanders Creek, also draining to the Gulf of America. Water flowing through the tract's wetlands thus has the potential to influence a 20-mile stretch of coastal seagrass habitats in the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve.

Developed areas — mainly hunt camps associated with several hunting leases — make up a small portion (less than 1 percent) of the project. These typically have a scattering of small temporary and permanent housing and sheds. A small cemetery and a telecommunications tower are also present on-site. No invasive plants were found at the time of the site visits. Some damage by feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) was seen at the edges of one of the depression marshes and in the adjacent pine plantation but does not appear to be widespread.

The property contains habitat for an abundance of wildlife. Several gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*), eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*) and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) were observed during the site visits.

There are three recorded archaeological sites within the Big Bend Forest project. These sites contain evidence of pre-Colombian and historic-period occupations, representing at least 3,000 years of Florida's history.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3

Public Use

The Big Bend Forest project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On June 7, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add Big Bend Forest as a Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of $77,941,854.

Coordination

This project is near several state-owned conservation lands, including the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area and the Lower Steinhatchee Conservation Area. As a less-than-fee acquisition, there would be no direct governmental management of the site.

Management Policy Statement

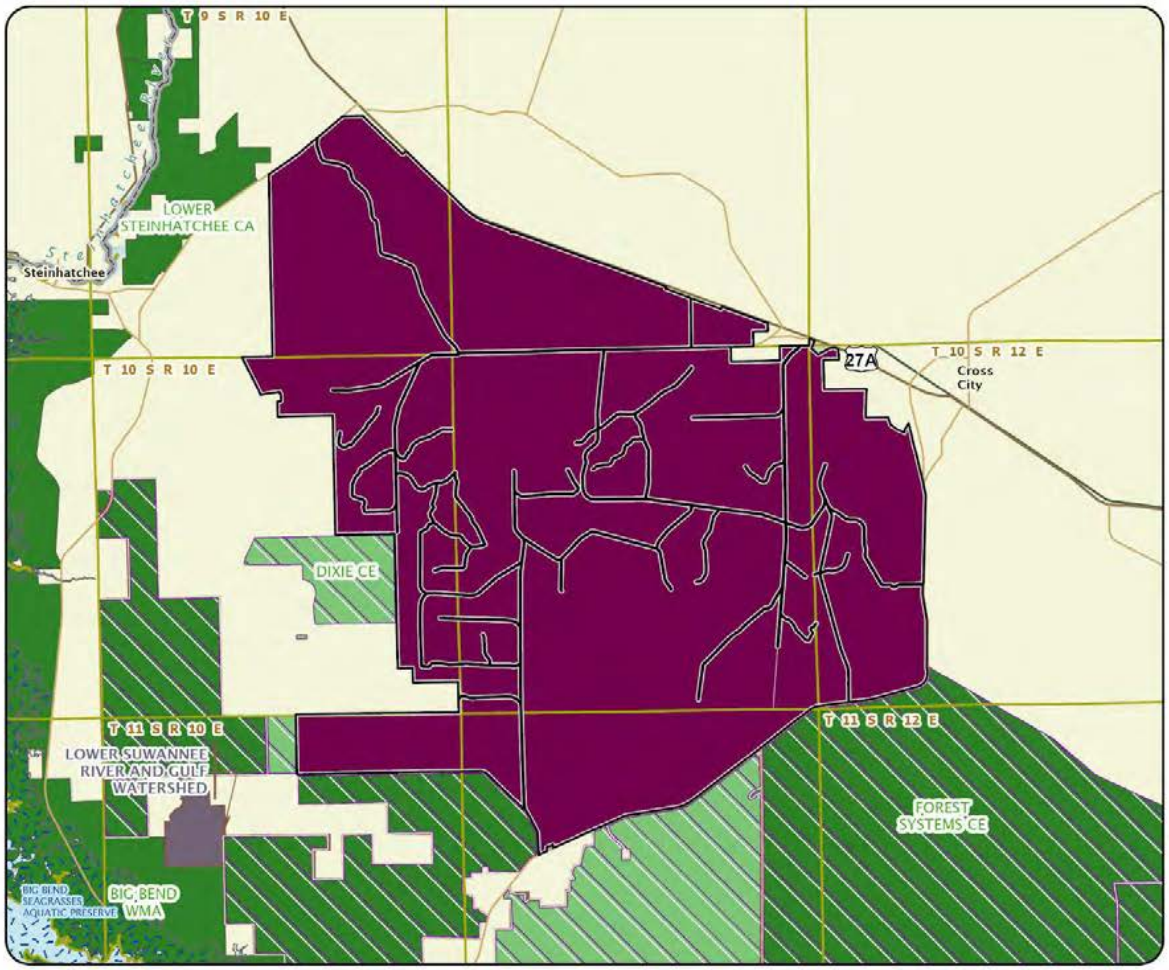
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Big Bend Forest project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Big Bend Forest would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Big Bend Forest project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



BIG BEND FOREST

DIXIE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 4 8 Miles

N



Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola County

Year Added to Priority List	*2000*
Project Acres	*54,089*
Acquired Acres	*22,626*
Remaining Project Acres	*31,463*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$214,996,040*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch project is located in Osceola County and will protect and maintain a link of natural lands between the Herky Huffman/Bull Creek and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Areas. Numerous wildlife species live in the project's palmetto prairies, pine flatwoods and cypress swamps such as crested caracara (*Caracara plancus*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*).

General Description

The project includes a diverse range of natural environments native to Central Florida. Natural communities within the project are in good condition because the uplands have been managed and burned regularly. Mesic flatwoods and dry prairie cover 40 percent of the project area. These communities are interrupted by Big Bend Swamp (a large cypress-dominated strand swamp) and smaller dome swamps, depression marshes, wet prairies and hydric hammocks. Fire-suppressed scrub also occurs in patches throughout the property. Disturbed areas, largely improved pasture or sod farms, cover 18 percent of the project. The project area may be particularly important for up to 30 rare animal species that require large areas of flatwoods, prairie and wetlands, such as red-cockaded woodpecker, Florida sandhill crane, Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*), southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*) and swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
*Narrowleaf Naiad**	G3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. As a proposed wildlife management area, the project will provide a variety of multiple-use activities including hunting, fishing, camping, boating, hiking, horseback riding, environmental education and ecotourism. Public use will depend on agreements with landowners. 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.

Acquisition Planning

1999

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added the Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch project to the Less-Than-Fee group of the 2000 Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Priority List.

The less-than-fee project, sponsored by FNAI, consisted of approximately 56,710 acres with multiple owners. 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.

2001

On July 12, 2001, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) established the first conservation easement of Birchwood Acres Preserve.

2002

On April 25, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a less-than-fee addition of 5,714 acres to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by Holland and Knight Consulting, consisted of one owner (Birchwood Acres Limited Partnership).

On October 9, 2002, FWC established the second conservation easement of Birchwood Acres Preserve, now totaling 45.07 acres. Approximately 13.97 acres of the preserve are within the project boundary.

2003

On July 11, 2003, FWC established a conservation easement named Omni Waste Conservation Area. Approximately 969.22 acres of the total 1,089.42 acres are within the project boundary.

2007

On June 28, 2007, Osceola County acquired the 342-acre Camp Lonesome Ranch property through the county's Environmental Lands Conservation Program; the county will manage it.

On November 2, 2007, Osceola County purchased an additional 2,100 acres that will be managed as part of the Camp Lonesome Ranch Conservation Area.

2010

On April 16, 2010, ARC voted to remove 7,722 acres from the boundary because they have already been developed with residential and commercial structures.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Less-than-Fee category.

2015

On October 15, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Camp Lonesome conservation easement (1,285.33 acres).

2017

On August 16, 2017, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund approved a 1,100-acre conservation easement on the Camp Lonesome tract of the project.

In 2017, a total of 1,109.68 acres in the project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2019

On June 14, 2019, ARC voted to remove 4,255 acres from the project boundary after receiving a certified letter from the owner(s) requesting its removal.

2023

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 4,196-acre conservation easement in Osceola County from Bronsons LLP.

2024

On April 12, 2024, ARC approved the addition of the Lytal Conservation Area project proposal (1,579 acres) in Osceola County to the project boundary.

Coordination

Osceola County is an acquisition partner in this project.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement. The Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch proposal has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area. FWC is recommended as lead manager with the Florida Forest Service (FFS) as a cooperating manager.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management would be coordinated by the DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The lands within this proposal are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management (including the use of prescribed fire). However, special precautions and frequent coordination will be necessary for any restoration projects or prescribed burns since ranchers and other landowners will continue to maintain a presence on many of these properties. If negotiated provisions allow, some low-level public-use activities may be allowed on lands acquired under conservation easements.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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, using prescribed fire and establishing relationships with adjacent landowners. A management plan for the tract will be prepared, including the formation of an appropriate Management Advisory Group with stakeholders in the management of these lands. Long-range activities on the property will include securing and stabilizing roads for public access, developing hiking and horseback riding trails, and developing camping and nature interpretive programs.

Infrastructure development will be kept to the minimum required to allow public access, provide facilities and manage the property. For the long-term, FWC will try to maintain and establish rapport with landowners adjacent to the wildlife management area, provide technical assistance and advice to

assure the welfare of such ecosystem components as wetlands, and establish working relationships with local representatives of regulatory agencies such as the St. Johns River Water Management District , South Florida Water Management District, DEP, Osceola County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This will ensure solutions if conflicts arise.

An all-season prescribed burning program will be established. Whenever possible, existing roads, trails and firebreaks will be used to control both prescribed and natural fires. Species inventories will be continually updated by FWC biologists with observations and systematic surveys. Inventory data will be supplemented as available with data from other sources which may include, but not be limited to, FWC, DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks, FFS, FNAI, The Nature Conservancy, St. Johns River Water Management District, South Florida Water Management District and 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 provide dove hunting opportunities; provide high-quality forage for quail, dove, deer and wild turkey; and enhance wildlife viewing opportunities.

Revenue-generating potential

Much of the proposed area is current or former ranch lands and mesic flatwoods with scattered longleaf or slash pine. Some revenue might be generated on fee-simple portions of the acquisition by stocking cattle, or with timber management by means of a wildlife-oriented forest management plan developed with the assistance of FFS. Also, fees could be established for touring the area to view plant and animal communities through ecotourism programs being developed on the adjacent wildlife management area. A $25 wildlife management area stamp would be required to hunt on those 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 DEP. 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.

Funding of requisite positions, Other Personal Services positions, expenses and Operating Capital Outlay would come from the CARL Trust Fund, and the State Game Trust Fund as needed. Since these lands are adjacent to an existing land complex managed by FWC, initial staffing would be limited to one Biological Scientist III and one Fish and Wildlife Technician.

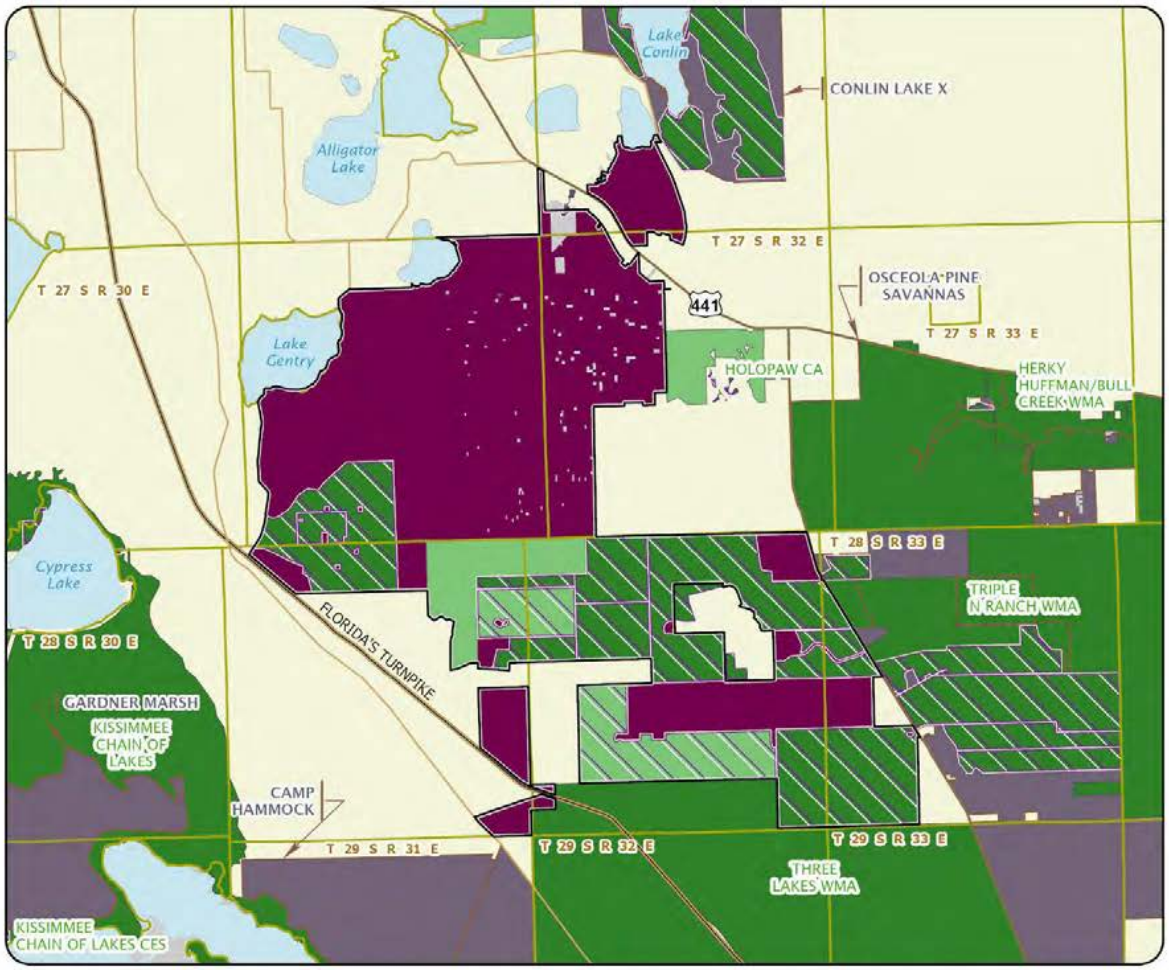
Cooperators in management activities

FWC will cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area but will seek special assistance from FFS in managing forest resources and implementing prescribed burning programs.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	2000/01	2001/02
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salaries	$72,311	$74,480
OPS	$5,500	$5,500
Expense	$32,424	$32,424
OCO	$72,500	$0
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$182,735	$112,404

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BIG BEND SWAMP/HOLOPAW RANCH

OSCEOLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Bluefield to Cow Creek

Less-than-Fee

Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2020*
Project Acres	*13,164*
Acquired Acres	*10,419*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,745*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$20,279,131*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Bluefield to Cow Creek project will protect a significant portion of South Florida's rural landscape, high-quality natural wetlands, wildlife habitat and water resources of the region. The entire project is within the Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge Natural Storage and Water Quality Area as identified in the Indian River Lagoon-South Restoration Plan (a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan). The conservation of this expansive, undeveloped area will protect the water quality of the St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon.

General Description

Bluefield to Cow Creek is in eastern Okeechobee County and western St. Lucie County, approximately 12 miles northeast of the town of Okeechobee on State Road 70. Over two-thirds of the project is in St. Lucie County with the remaining one-third located in Okeechobee County. All lands within the project are working cattle ranches. As such, nearly half of the acreage in the project is improved pasture. Large blocks of improved pasture occur on the eastern side and in the northern portion of the western side of the topographic break that runs generally north/south through the project. Some portions of the improved pastures were previously in row crops and now contain extensive systems of ditches and dikes.

The dominant natural feature of the project is the large system of basin swamp and hydric hammock that generally extend along the entire western boundary continuing to the north and south of the proposal. Wetlands comprise approximately one-third of the project and include forested swamps and marshes scattered throughout improved pasture. Two notably large swamps occur within the project: one to the north associated with Cow Creek and another to the south associated with Cypress Creek. The core of the Cypress Creek swamp is in the southwest portion of the project just east of Bluefield Road, extending north of State Road 70. The swamp has seen little disturbance and is composed primarily of cypress with mixed hardwood (with some cypress reportedly up to 5 feet in diameter).

The Bluefield to Cow Creek project provides habitat for several rare species. Large populations of air plants are present, including at least three rare species. Numerous bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and other wading birds also utilize the project area. A known wading bird rookery is located less than 0.5 miles south of the project boundary. The project area also has a robust population of southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Scrub bluestem**	G1G2/S1S2
*Large-flowered rosemary**	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
*Blunt-leaved peperomia**	G5TNR/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Bluefield to Cow Creek is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. The project will provide public benefit through water quality protection, rural landscape conservation and wildlife corridor creation.

Acquisition Planning

2020

In October 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

2023

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 3,153-acre conservation easement in Saint Lucie County from Ru-Mar, Inc.

2024

On April 12, 2024, ARC approved the addition of Dark Hammock Ranch project proposal (2,166 acres) in Okeechobee County to the project boundary.

Management Policy Statement

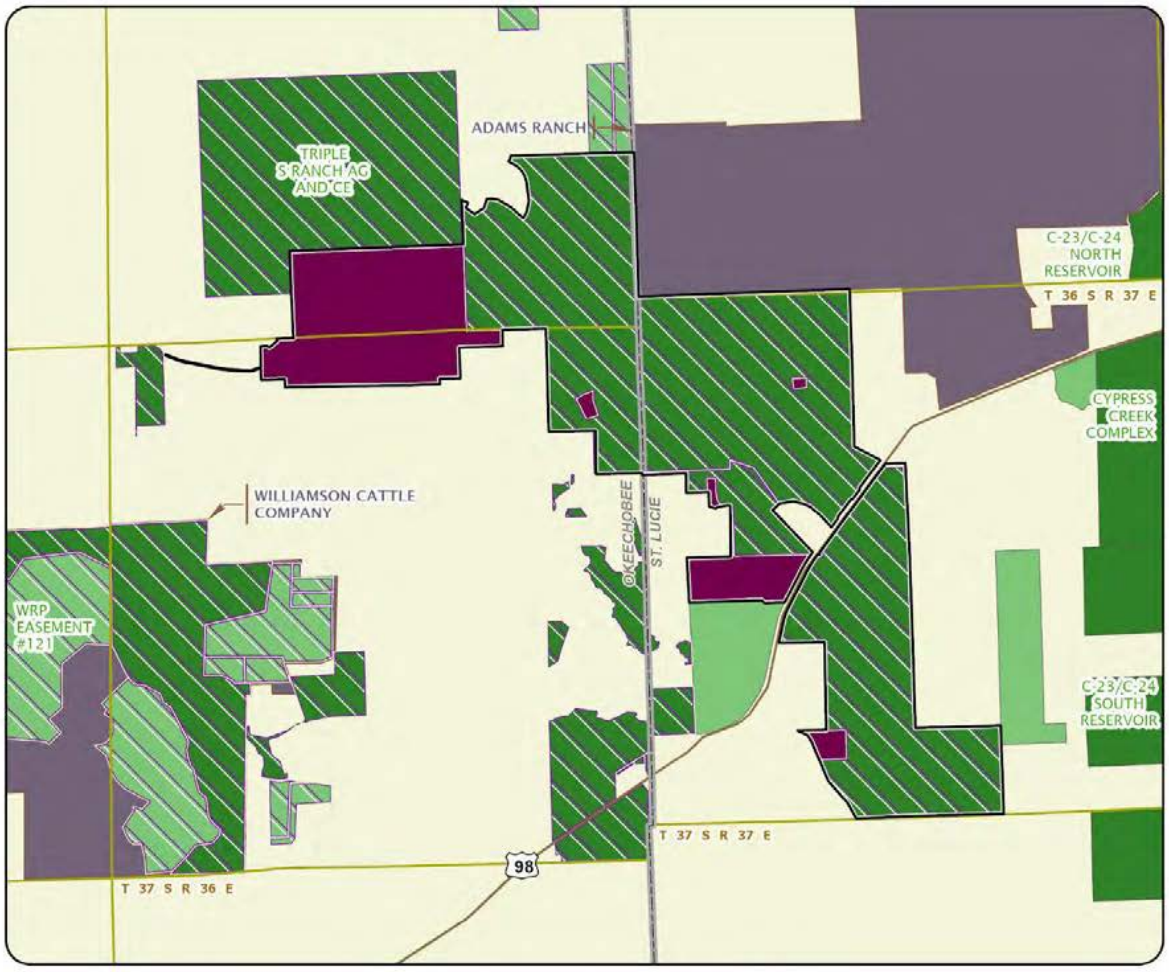
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Bluefield to Cow Creek project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of Bluefield to Cow Creek would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



BLUEFIELD TO COW CREEK

OKEECHOBEE AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 2.5 5 Miles

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Bowlegs Creek Watershed

Less-Than-Fee

Polk County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*1,016*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,016*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$3,461,964*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Bowlegs Creek Watershed project will help to protect the water resources of Bowlegs Creek, a tributary of the Peace River. This project will also protect foraging areas and potential nesting sites for imperiled wading birds and conserve open space within the Florida Wildlife Corridor to benefit a variety of wildlife species in an area with a high potential for development.

General Description

The Bowlegs Creek Watershed project comprises two disjunct parcels and is located about 3.5 miles southeast of Fort Meade. The two tracts flank the floodplain of Bowlegs Creek.

Approximately 10 percent of the property is in natural condition, consisting primarily of bottomland forest. The remaining 90 percent of the property is altered due to historic phosphate mining activity on the property. The majority of the property is actively used for cattle grazing. Invasive plants are common, with the most abundant and widespread being cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*). Improved pastures often form a patchwork with large areas of invasive exotic monoculture. A small portion of the of the property (8 percent) consists of defunct citrus groves.

Borrow areas encompass a significant area (16 percent) of the property. While variable in composition, they are well established with recruited vegetation from adjacent and historic wetlands on site. These were observed to be in use by a variety of waterfowl, listed wading birds including roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*), Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*) and several gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*). Successional hardwood forest occupies 6 percent of the site and presents as small, disjunct stands adjacent to borrow areas and bottomland forest.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
*Redmargin zephyrlily**	G2G3/S2S3
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Gull-billed tern	G5/S2
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Bowlegs Creek Watershed project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On November 1, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Bowlegs Creek Watershed project to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

The Bowlegs Creek Watershed project was approved for the Polk County Forever program in 2024. Polk County is a potential acquisition funding partner.

Management Policy Statement

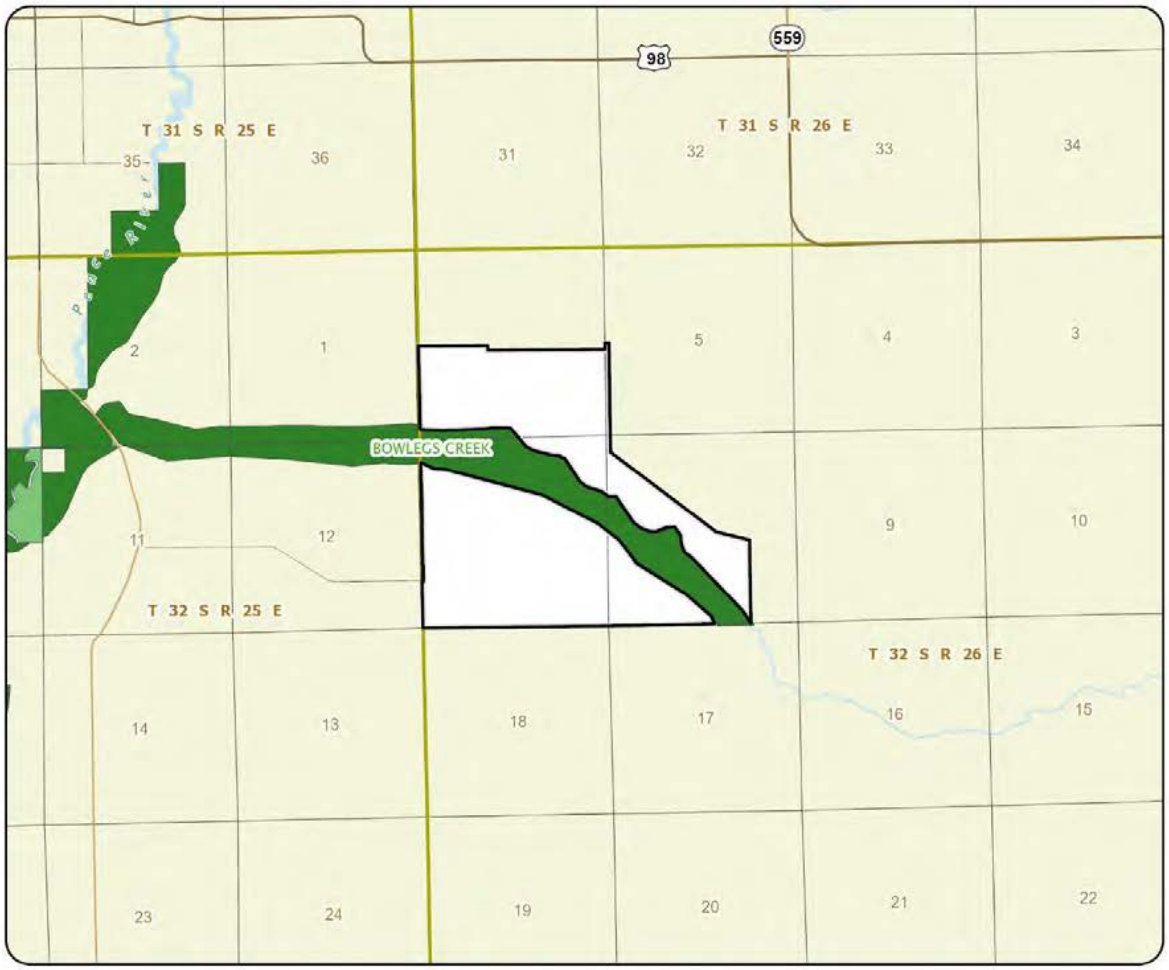
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Bowlegs Creek Watershed project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the Bowlegs Creek Watershed project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Bowlegs Creek Watershed would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



BOWLEGS CREEK WATERSHED

POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Camp Hammock

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola County

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*8,982*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*8,982*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$35,998,173*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Camp Hammock project would contribute to the water quality and quantity of Lake Kissimmee; a major source of headwaters feeding the Everglades and protect nearly 3 miles of lake shoreline. In addition, the project would conserve remnant dry prairie; an increasingly rare ecological community that provides habitat for a variety of imperiled wildlife, including the Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*) and crested caracara (*Caracara plancus audubonii*). The project would also strengthen the military readiness and resilience of Avon Park Air Force Range by sustaining the current landscape to limit the potential for incompatible land uses.

General Description

The property supports a working cow/calf operation, sod production, haying and private recreation. The property is located about 12 miles northwest of Kenansville and lies adjacent to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Overstreet Ranch Agricultural and Conservation Easement. Camp Hammock lies approximately 0.25 miles away from Lake Kissimmee, separated by the South Florida Water Management District's Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Additionally, the project lies within the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan. Due to the project's proximity to Lake Kissimmee, the entirety of the Camp Hammock project contributes to the protection of groundwater recharge areas and conservation of the site will help to protect the headwaters of the Everglades. The project contains over 3 miles of Lake Kissimmee shoreline, and with significant residential development advancing south from St. Cloud, the risk of fragmentation, subdivision and/or habitat loss is foreseeable without protection.

As a working cattle operation, most of the property is modified for agricultural uses, with the most common landcover type being improved pasture (±6,077 acres) dominated by Bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*). The predominant natural community is depression marsh found in small but intact patches making up approximately 568 acres of the property. Camp Hammock also features about 117 acres of

under-represented remnant dry prairie, which represents the largest contiguous natural community on site. This rare and imperiled habitat is in very good condition, containing a low shrub layer and rich herbaceous layer of wiregrass, pinweed and other groundcover species. Improvements include several office buildings and equipment storage structures associated with the agricultural operations on site.

Eighty-five percent of the project lies within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. Several rare and imperiled species were observed during the site visit, including the Florida burrowing owl, Florida sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*), crested caracara, Balbis' airplant (*Tillandsia balbisiana*) and Southeastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*). Invasive species, notably cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) and old-world climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*), were widespread on the property at the time of the site visit. The entirety of the Camp Hammock project is within the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape, a regional partnership focused on natural resource and working lands protection, military readiness and recreation.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Snail kite	G5/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

Public Use

The Camp Hammock project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2025

On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Camp Hammock project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

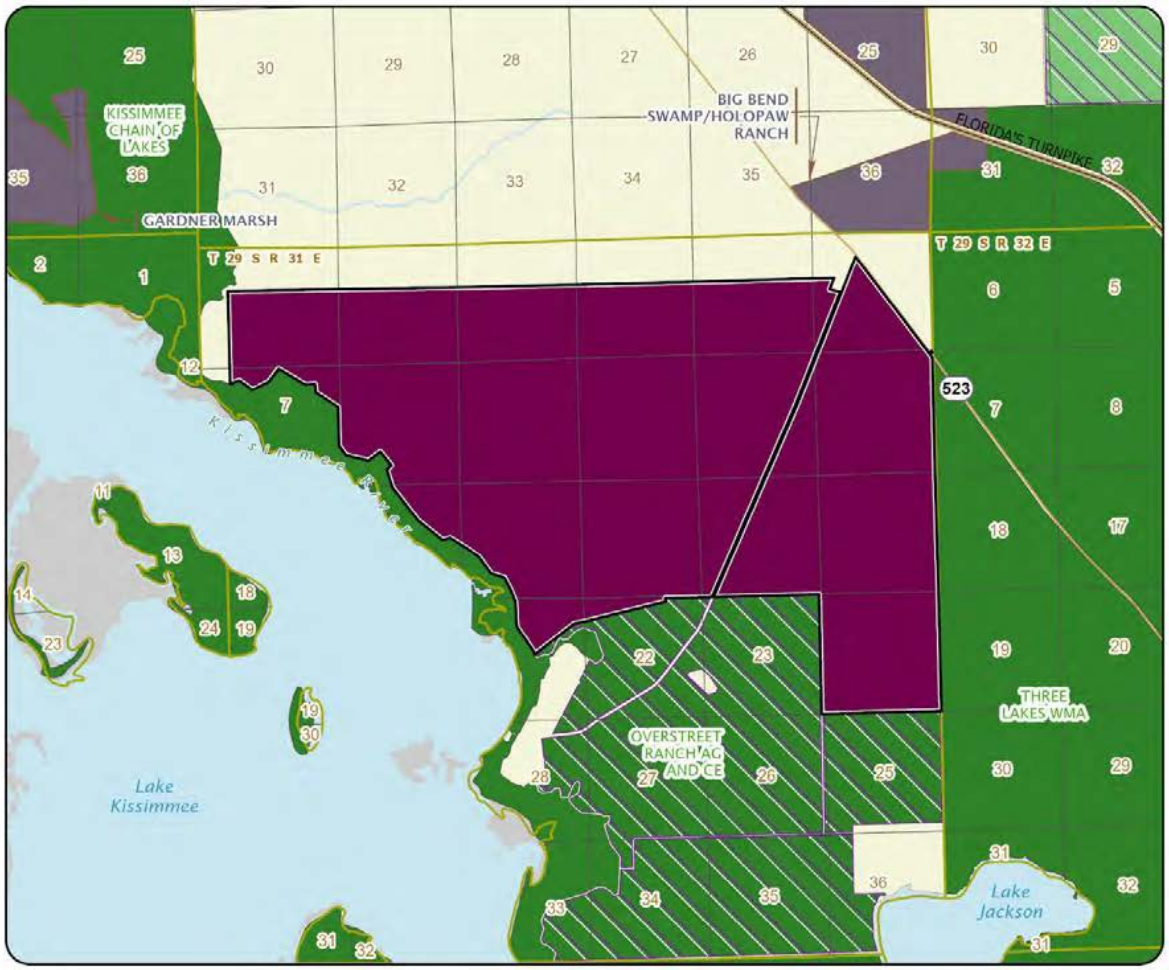
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Camp Hammock project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the Camp Hammock project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Camp Hammock would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.



CAMP HAMMOCK

OSCEOLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest

Less-Than-Fee

Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2014*
Project Acres	*100,383*
Acquired Acres	*12,413*
Remaining Project Acres	*87,971*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$328,698,967*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest project would preserve working forest lands and provide resource protection for the Escambia River watershed. The project will enhance coordination and completion of adjacent conservation land acquisitions and increase the amount of forest land available for sustainable resource management. The project will support state water quality and quantity by maintaining the quality and natural functions of the land, water and wetland systems.

General Description

The Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest project is in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The Lower Escambia River Water Management Area bisects the two main tracts of the proposal. The Perdido River Water Management Area is about 6 miles south of the proposal in Escambia County. Two of the easternmost tracts of the proposal are adjacent to the western boundary of Blackwater River State Forest. These two tracts are adjacent to the Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever Project, which, in conjunction with the Clear Creek/Whiting Field Florida Forever Project, would form a continuous corridor between Blackwater River State Forest and Naval Air Station Whiting Field. State Road 89 passes through the proposal area.

The property has been managed for commercial timber production and, to a much lesser extent, private hunting, fishing, camping and other outdoor recreation. Prescribed fire is used to prepare the land for planting, particularly of longleaf pine stands. If a conservation easement is established on the property, the application outlines a plan to plant longleaf pine stands for the purposes of ecological restoration and sustainable forestry with a five-year rotation of prescribed fire. The proposed project is located on the Escambia Terraced Lands and on the western side of the Blackwater Hills (uplands that are underlain by sand, gravel, silt and clay).

A small, fragmented proportion of the upland areas (totaling less than 450 acres) remains as upland pine in somewhat natural condition. Before it was converted to pine plantations, upland pine was the dominant natural community within the proposed project. Bottomland forest is the most extensive natural community within the project boundary, occurring as a closed-canopy forest on terraces and levees in floodplains of larger streams and rivers. Loblolly pine had been planted on the upper slopes of the community, creating moderately dense pine stands.

Agricultural land and pastures comprise only a small part of the proposal and include food plots for wildlife. Other ruderal areas include cemeteries, utility rights-of-way, sand pits, clearings and successional hardwood forests that often develop between planted pine stands and adjacent agricultural land.

Rare plants such as the Florida flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*) and white-top pitcher plant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*) are found in the forest. Rare animals that have been documented on-site include gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphelmus), alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) and Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Narrow pigtoe	G1G2/S1
Choctaw bean	G2G3/S1S2
Escambia map turtle	G2/S2
Gulf lilliput	G2/S2
Gulf crayfish	G4/S1
*Turk's cap lily**	G5/S1
Harlequin darter	G5/S1
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
*Florida flame azalea**	G3/S3
*hairy-peduncled beaksedge**	G3/S3
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the owner has indicated an interest in making the site available for some limited research or educational efforts.

Acquisition Planning

The Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest was submitted as a conservation easement by The Conservation Fund and Resource Management Services, LLC; Resource Management Services, LLC is a timber investment and management organization that conducts silvicultural operations on multiple continents.

2014

On August 15, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to approve the evaluation of this proposal.

On December 12, 2014, ARC voted to add this project to the Less-than-Fee category.

2021

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired 2,115 acres fee simple from Evergreen Timberco FL, LLC to be managed by the Florida Forest Service as an addition to Blackwater River State Forest.

2024

In April 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 170.80 acres in Santa Rosa County.

In November 2024, ARC approved the addition of nine parcels totaling approximately 668.27 acres in Santa Rosa County.

2025

On June 30, 2025, DEP acquired a 5,827.97-acre conservation easement in Santa Rosa County from Shades Mountain Timber Co. FL, LLC.

Coordination

There were no confirmed acquisition partners when this project was added. However, the landowner is in contact with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to match some federal funding with Florida Forever funding. The applicants may explore other less-than-fee acquisition opportunities as well. The landowner is interested in phased acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

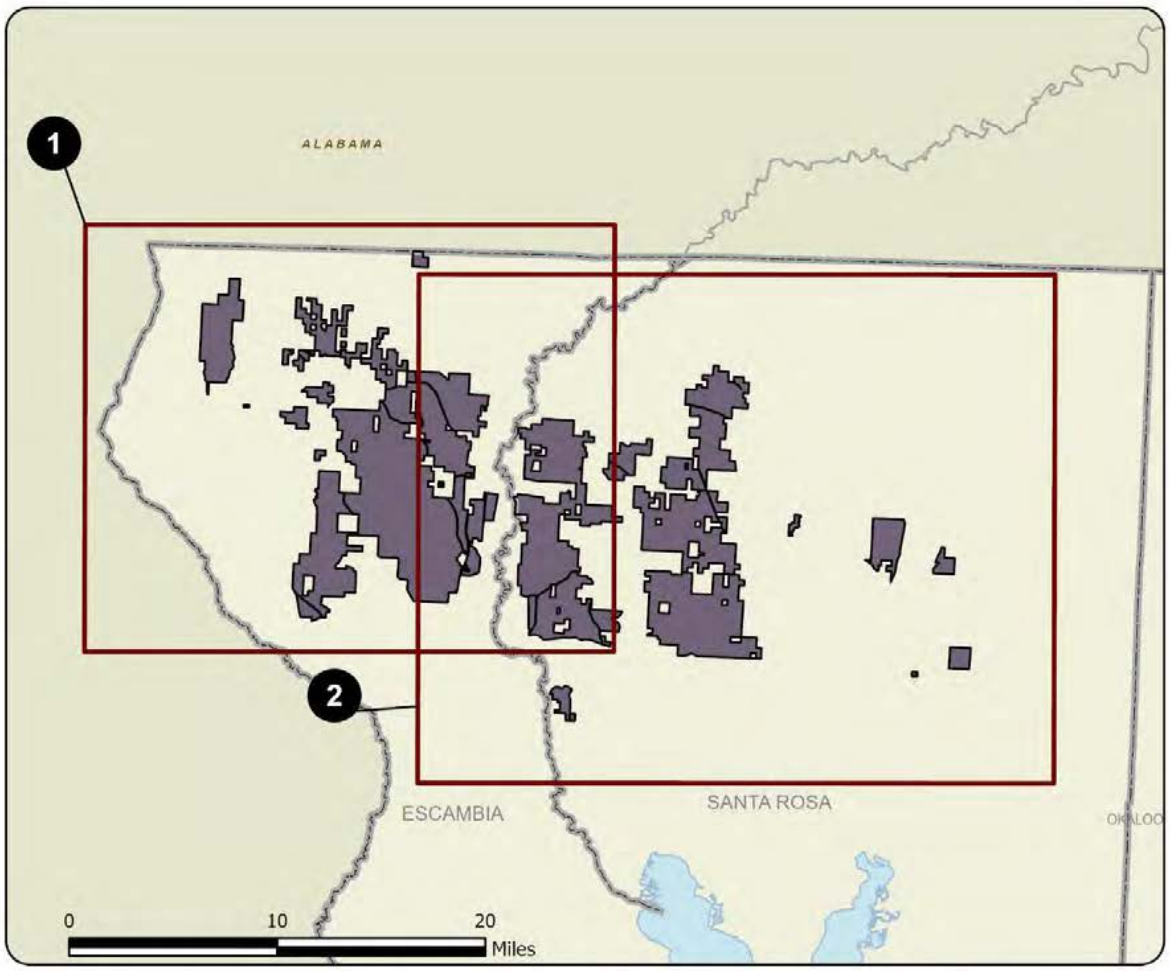
Manager(s)

If acquired less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued

compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

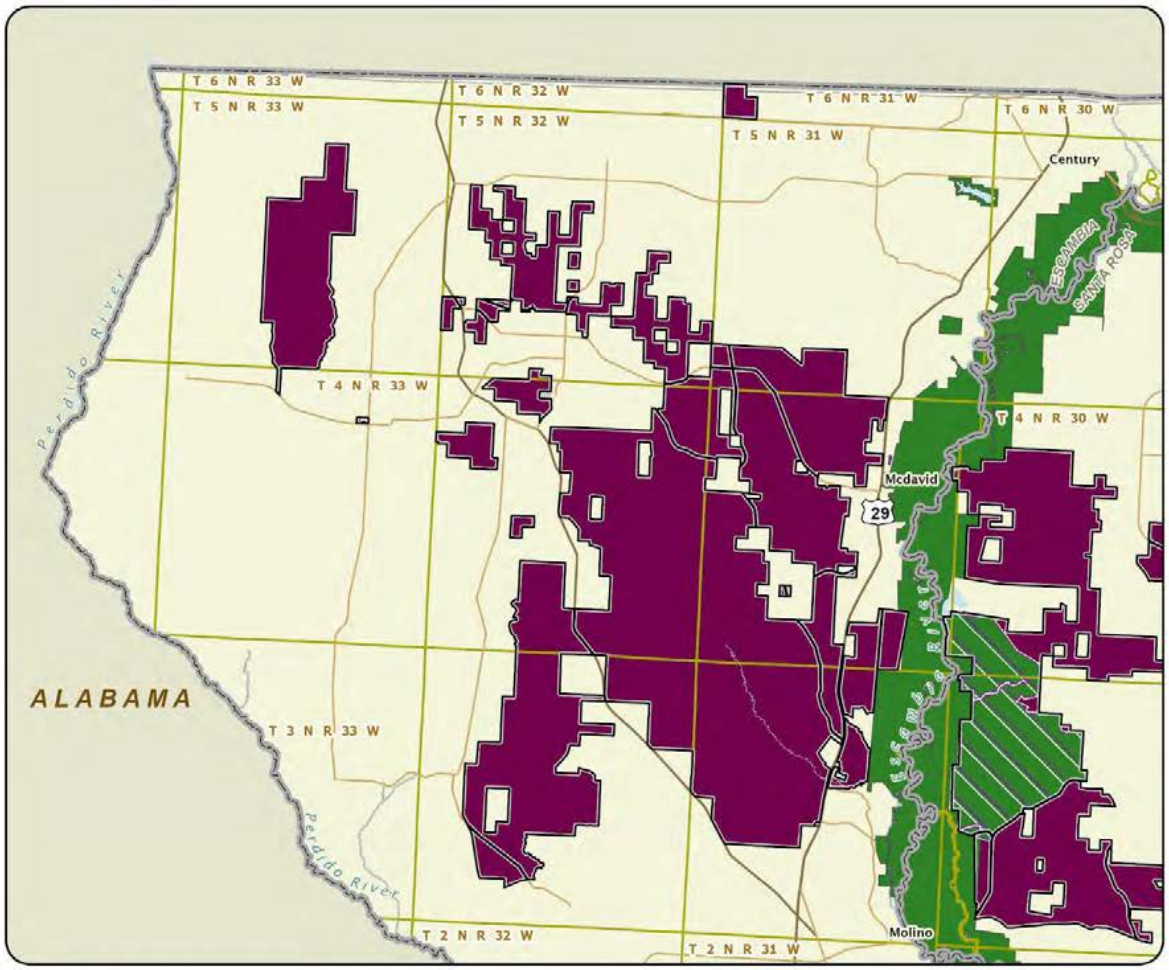
DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: OVERVIEW

ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES





COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: MAP 1

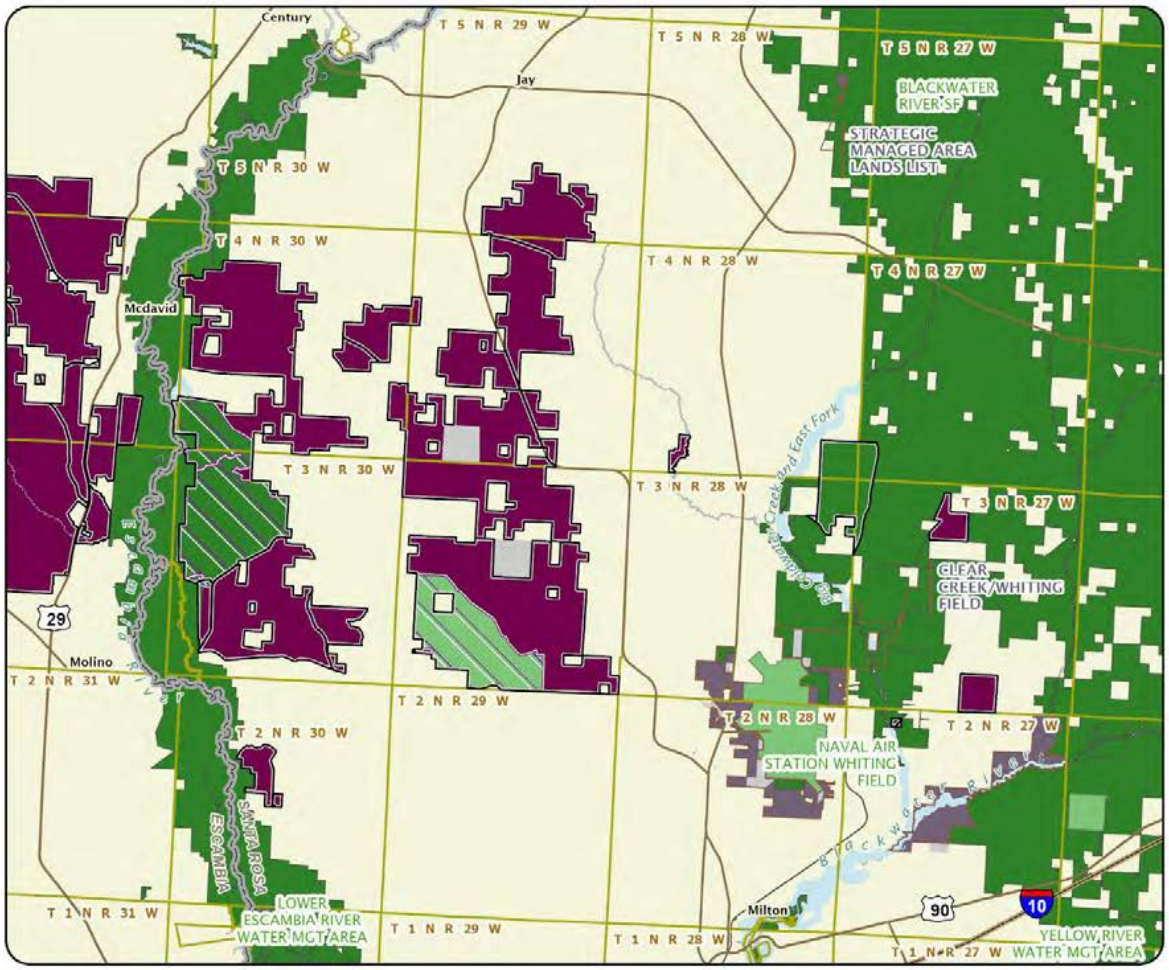
ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: MAP 2

ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Conlin Lake X

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola County

Year Added to Priority List	*2015*
Project Acres	*9,075*
Acquired Acres	*5,553*
Remaining Project Acres	*3,522*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$5,525,260*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Conlin Lake X project will support the state's water quality and quantity by preserving the natural functions of the land, surface waters and wetlands associated with Lake Conlin. The project will protect biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels and increase natural resource-based public recreation opportunities in this fast-developing region of Florida.

General Description

Nine miles east of the City of St. Cloud is the Conlin Lake X project, which features a well-maintained basin swamp and the 1,000-acre meandered, freshwater Lake Conlin owned by the state. This sovereign lake was formerly used by Mercury Marine for developing and testing motorboats. The project is bordered by Deseret Ranch to the north and east, Birchwood Acres Limited Partnership on the south, and Bay Lake Ranch Subdivision to the west. Important nearby conservation areas include the Lake Lizzie Conservation Area, Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area, Herky Huffman/Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. The Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Florida Forever project abuts the southern boundary of the project and the Osceola Pines Florida Forever project is 7 miles to the south. The property is a high-quality, well-managed mosaic of uplands and wetlands surrounding the large, mostly undeveloped Lake Conlin. The project is dominated by large cypress swamps, intermixed with mesic pine flatwoods (including scrubby and wet flatwoods) dotted with smaller dome swamps and depression marshes. The property surrounds Lake Conlin and is bisected by a 2,215-acre basin swamp that serves as the eastern floodplain of the lake. The lake border is undeveloped except for a small area of pasture and facilities on its southwestern side. Lake Conlin is reported to be in good health regarding water quality and natural biota. Species documented on-site include sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*) and Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Colonial Wading Bird Colony	G5/SNRB

Public Use

The Conlin Lake X project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the manager currently provides environmental education classes to students at Osceola County schools and week-long camp opportunities for at-risk children during the summer. These activities are expected to continue if this property is acquired as less-than-fee.

Acquisition Planning

2015

On June 19, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add this property to the Florida Forever Priority List in the Less-than-Fee category. The owner is anticipating selling an easement on this parcel as one transaction. The entire acreage would be designated as essential. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of $33,907,500.

2017

On December 6, 2017, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) established Lake X conservation easements (5,500.47 acres).

Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowners as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

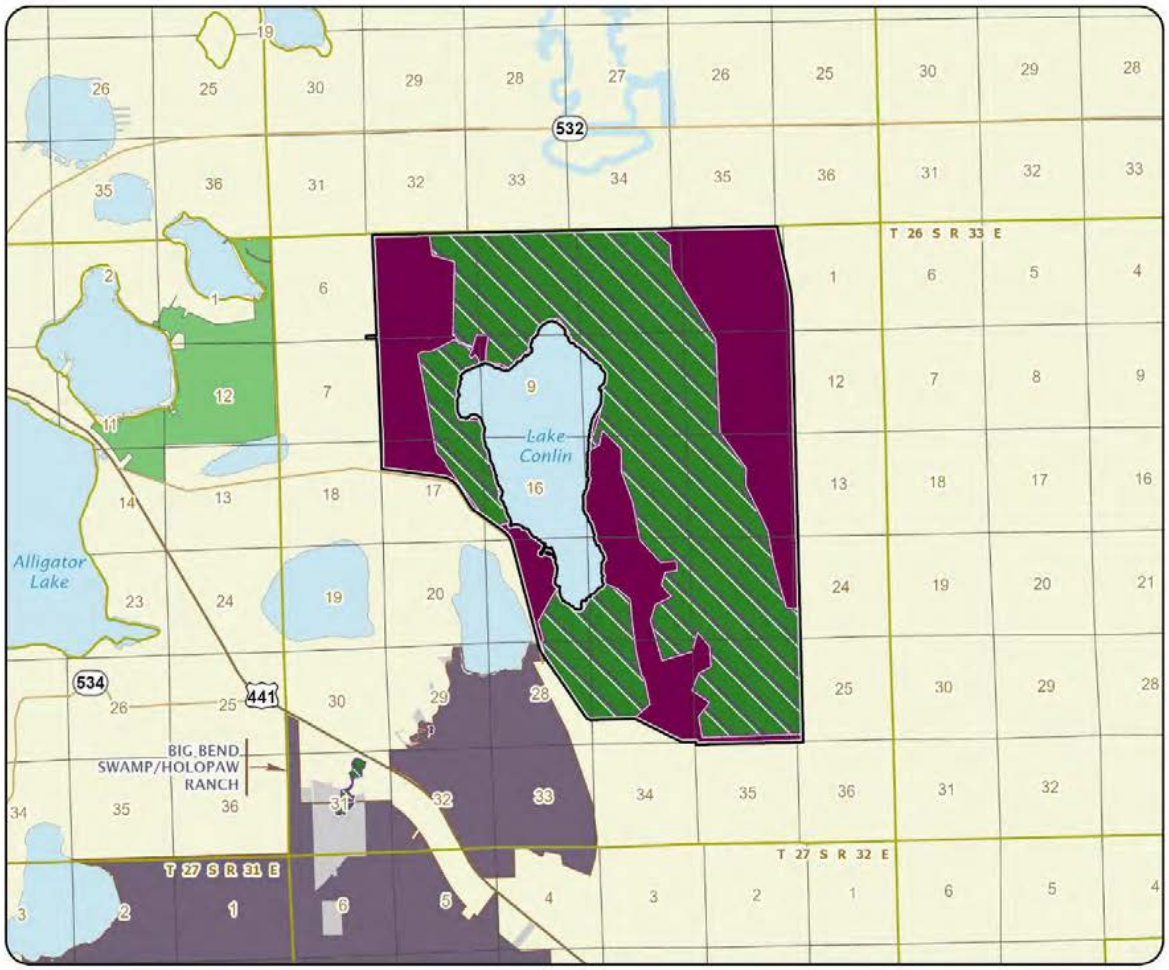
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

Protection of the Conlin Lake X project would contribute to the goals of protecting imperiled species, natural floodplains, surface waters and groundwater recharge sites. The project would also help to form a corridor to the Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch project.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Due to a long history of no cattle grazing, limited public use and an ecological focus of land management, the field review showed that most of the natural communities within the project area are in good to outstanding condition. Frequent prescribed fire (on a two-year rotation) with a focus on growing season burns has resulted in a healthy herbaceous layer. The property is also often used as a site for native seed collection. Invasive plants were found to be under control.



CONLIN LAKE X

OSCEOLA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Eastern Scarp Ranchlands

Less-Than-Fee

Highlands County

Year Added to Priority List	*2013*
Project Acres	*2,214*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,214*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$15,656,022*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Eastern Scarp Ranchlands project will protect the Avon Park Air Force Range against encroachment and changing land uses. The project will also support state water quality and quantity by preserving floodplains and strategic areas for the Kissimmee River and Lake Istokpoga.

General Description

The Eastern Scarp Ranchlands project, proposed by The Nature Conservancy, is in Highlands County. The project has three parcels that can be accessed from Scrubpens Road, part of which is a county-maintained road. The project's name is taken from its unique geology as it spans a slope that descends 50 feet in elevation over the course of 2 miles. The western side of the property occupies part of the southern tip of Bombing Range Ridge, a narrow sand ridge of Pleistocene origin. On this ridge, which reaches an elevation of about 95 feet above sea level, soils are moderately well-drained. A broad slope (about 300 meters wide going from west to east) descends from the ridge. From this point eastward, the plain begins a very gradual descent, eventually dropping to an elevation of about 50 feet along the edge of the Kissimmee floodplain.

The project is also adjacent to the Avon Park Air Force Range which forms the northern boundary of the site. Floodplain lands adjacent to the east side of the proposal are managed by the South Florida Water Management District. Northeast of the property on the other side of the Kissimmee River is Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. The project area is a working ranch, with almost 80 percent converted to improved Bahia grass-dominated pasture. Most of the pasture occupies former dry prairie that once stretched unbroken from the cutthroat seep located in the western portion of the property to the Kissimmee River floodplain that forms the eastern boundary of the site. The pasture is dotted with numerous depression marshes, many of which have been dug to form watering holes for cattle or drained via a network of ditches. The largest remaining natural community is a zone of wet prairie-cutthroat grass seep (164 acres) on the eastern slope of the Bombing Range Ridge.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

The Eastern Scarp Ranchlands project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. The project could act as a military buffer area and would create a corridor between other conservation lands within the Kissimmee River watershed.

Acquisition Planning

2013

On December 13, 2013, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Eastern Scarp Ranchlands project to Florida Forever's Less-than-Fee category. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of $938,262.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy has been working with the U.S. Department of Defense and Highlands County and has secured 1,382 acres in this region contiguous with the Avon Park Air Force Range. The Nature Conservancy confirmed in late 2013 that an application has been submitted for additional U.S. Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration funding to match Florida Forever funding to acquire this project.

Management Policy Statement

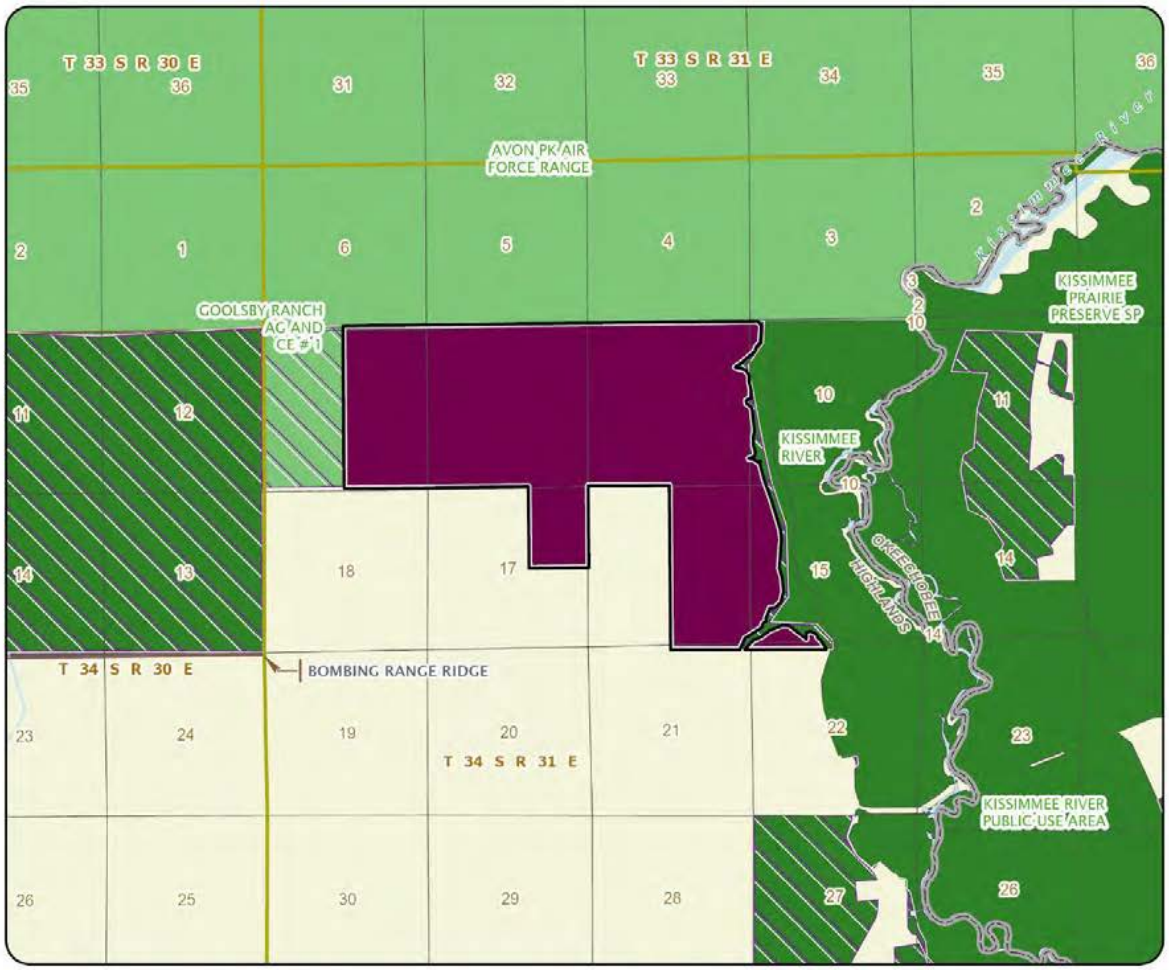
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Eastern Scarp Ranchlands project would be managed for conservation by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Eastern Scarp Ranchlands would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while management will be conducted by the property owner.



EASTERN SCARP RANCHLANDS

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Fair Bluff

Less-Than-Fee

Martin County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*639*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*639*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$3,924,539*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Fair Bluff project will expand ecological greenways in the Florida Wildlife Corridor on the east side of Lake Okeechobee**.** The project will also aid in the ongoing Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan by helping to increase the water storage capacity of Lake Okeechobee and protect water quality of the Greater Everglades Watershed at both a local and regional scale.

General Description

The Fair Bluff project contains one parcel owned by a single landowner, totaling 639 acres, 12 miles east of the town of Okeechobee. The property is adjacent to the southern border of the Walpole Ranch agricultural and conservation easement (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services), which itself is contiguous with a corridor of conservation lands including Bluefield Ranch Mitigation Bank and Bluefield Ranch (St. Lucie County). This project is within the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Basin area of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan designed to improve the water quantity of Lake Okeechobee. Currently, the property is used for cattle ranching (40 cow/calf pairs), hunting and recreation.

Water flows across this essentially flat property from the northeast to the southwest via a ditch following a natural flow-way through a series of wetlands that form the headwaters of an unnamed tributary of Lettuce Creek, which flows into Lake Okeechobee approximately 3 miles from the property.

Uplands comprise the majority (83 percent) of the property, dominated by mesic hammock (35 percent) and mesic flatwoods (22 percent). The current coverage of mesic hammock has expanded as former mesic flatwoods have undergone succession due to an absence of fire. Mesic flatwoods on the subject property are highly variable in species composition, corresponding with the recency and frequency of fire or other disturbance.

Wetlands comprise a minority (17 percent) of the site. Marshes appear to have been managed for grazing by mowing, and the species composition of the marshes is variable depending on the intensity of cattle grazing. Semi-improved pasture occupies approximately 14 percent of the property and improved pasture occupies a lesser (12 percent) extent of the property. Successional hydric shrubland/forest occupies natural wetlands that have undergone historic harvest or hydrological disturbances and have since been left to natural succession. Invasive plant cover is moderately low on the property and is actively being managed by the landowner using a combination of chemical and mechanical methods.

A number of listed species have been documented on the property including gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and redmargin zephyrlily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*). Several active gopher tortoise burrows were observed during the site visit.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Redmargin zephyrlily**	G2G3/S2S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Fair Bluff project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On November 1, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Fair Bluff project to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

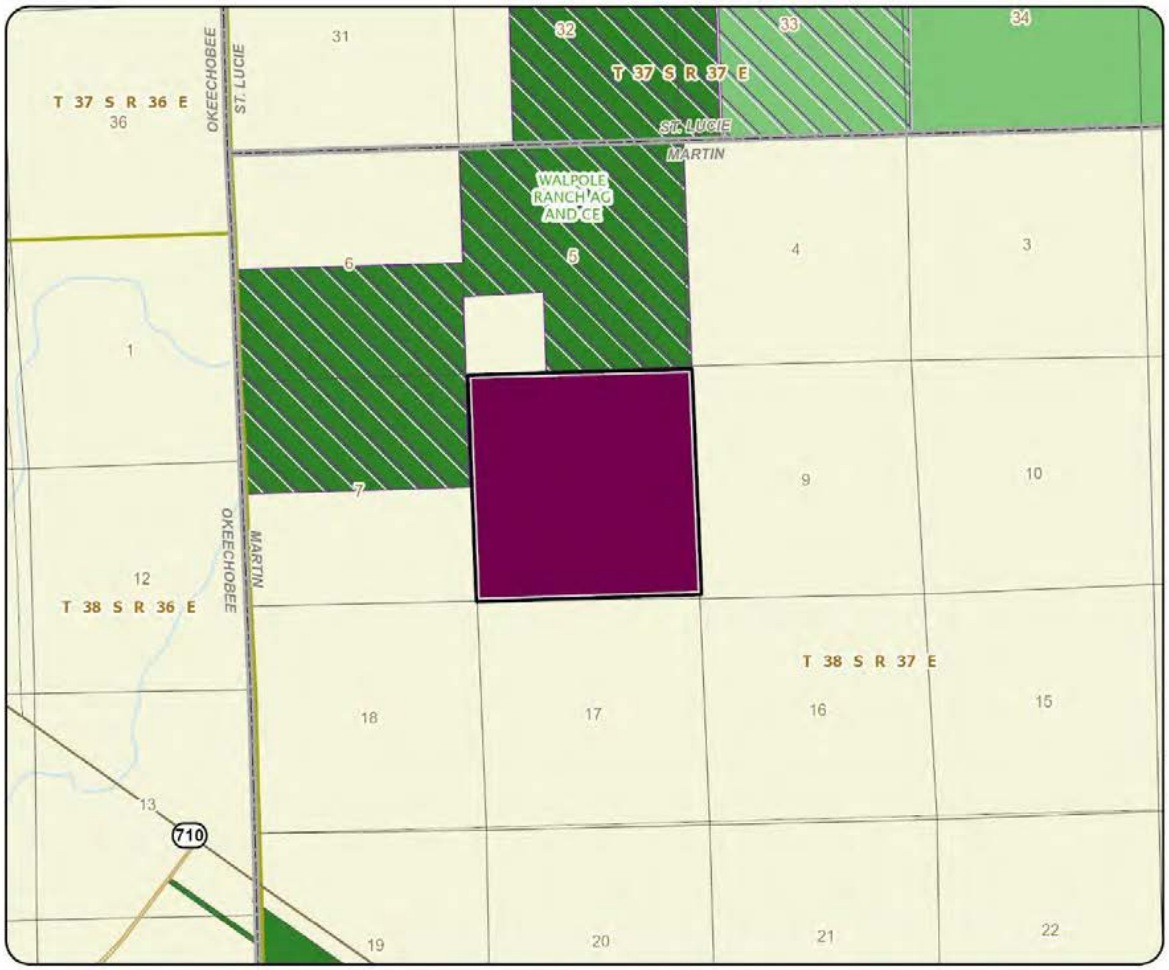
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Fair Bluff project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Fair Bluff project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance will be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



FAIR BLUFF

MARTIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Fisheating Creek Ecosystem

Less-Than-Fee

Glades and Highlands Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1999*
Project Acres	*193,653*
Acquired Acres	*93,915*
Remaining Project Acres	*99,738*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$811,145,774*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project contains Fisheating Creek, the only undammed tributary to Lake Okeechobee. The creeks flow through vast prairies and flatwoods, linking the Okaloacoochee Slough, Big Cypress Swamp, Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area and Lake Okeechobee. The project will help to ensure the survival of the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*), crested caracara (*Caracara plancus*) and other native plant and animal species that depend on these critical lands.

General Description

Natural communities in the project area include dry prairies and flatwoods interrupted by numerous freshwater marshes, including seepage slopes, wet prairies and depression marshes. Diverse prairie hammocks occur east of U.S. Highway 27. Hydric hammocks, bottomland forests and floodplain swamp along Fisheating Creek comprise the remaining natural communities. Large areas of the project include improved pasture, former and current eucalyptus plantations, and current pine plantations. Invasive exotic plants are largely confined to the Hoover Dike system around Lake Okeechobee. While the water quality of Fisheating Creek and Gator Slough is good, agricultural runoff has impaired some of the site's canals.

As one of the largest natural areas in the Florida peninsula, the project area is important for the protection of rare plants and animals through habitat connectivity. The project includes large populations of plants endemic to central Florida including Edison's ascyrum (*Hypericum edisonianum*), cutthroat grass (*Panicum abscissum*) and nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*). The project also provides habitat for the Florida panther, swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), crested caracara, snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*), Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), mottled duck (*Anas fulvigula*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), short-tailed hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).

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 is potential for many more to be discovered in the project. The Fort Center Complex also offers an opportunity for an interpretive center.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Wedge-leaved button-snakeroot**	G1/S1
*Carter's warea**	G1/S1
*Florida blazing star**	G2/S2
*Highlands Scrub hypericum**	G2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
Southwest Florida stelis bee	G2/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project is proposed as a wildlife management area with uses such as hunting, hiking and wildlife observation. A portion of the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the fee-simple portion of the project could support activities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing and canoeing. It may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Acquisition Planning

1999

On May 6, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This project was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and consisted of approximately 168,360 acres with a single owner (Lykes Bros. Inc.). The property had a taxable value of $22,297,408.

On May 25, 1999, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) approved a settlement agreement with Lykes Bros. Inc. in the case of the BOT v. Lykes Bros. Inc. The settlement agreement was partly contingent upon a multiple-phase and combined less-than-fee acquisition.

2000

On December 12, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a less-than-fee addition to the project boundary. This 8,400-acre addition, also known as the Venus Ranch, is in Glades County and sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. It had a single owner and a taxable value of $667,863. The Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project was also moved to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2002

On August 15, 2002, ARC approved a 0.46-acre addition to the project boundary. The parcel, referred to as Lucky Whidden, is in Glades County. It was sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and had a taxable value of $4,000.

2003

In 2003, the Venus Ranch tract was acquired by the BOT.

2004

On June 16, 2004, ARC approved a 115.4-acre fee-simple addition to the project boundary in Glades County. The addition, known as Journigan Place, was sponsored by the two owners and had a taxable value of $207,692.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in Florida Forever's Less-than-Fee category.

2015

On June 19, 2015, ARC voted to add a new project proposal, Chaparral Slough (6,859 acres), to the Florida Forever Priority List. Chaparral Slough is an 11-mile long and 1-mile wide tributary to Cypress Branch. ARC then immediately added this new project boundary to the boundary of the existing Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project. Chaparral Slough was originally proposed by Lykes Bros. Inc. as a standalone less-than-fee project to provide habitat preservation, an ecological greenway and preserve lands for aquifer recharge. The land has been used for cattle ranching, silviculture and hunting. It includes 1,919 acres of pine plantation and a 669-acre eucalyptus plantation that is harvested and replanted several times a year.

2020

On June 12, 2020, ARC approved adding 6,560 acres to the project boundary. This addition, referred to as Buck Island Ranch, is in Highlands County.

2022

DEP acquired a conservation easement over Chaparral Slough totaling 6,864 acres that provides a protected corridor from the Caloosahatchee River to the Fisheating Creek/Lykes conservation easement and Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area.

2023

On October 13, 2023, ARC approved the addition of the Venus Project proposal (1,110 acres) in Highlands County to the project boundary.

2024

On February 9, 2024, DEP acquired a 10,461.43-acre conservation easement in Glades County from Lykes Bros., Inc.

In December 2024, ARC approved the removal of FWC-15 (McLaughlin Property) from the Strategic Managed Area Lands List project and its subsequent addition to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project.

2025

In February 2025, ARC approved the addition of six parcels totaling approximately 435 acres in Highlands County to the project boundary.

In May 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 352 acres in Glades County to the project boundary.

On June 17, 2025, DEP acquired a 1,051.6-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from Virginia, Woodrow, and Wilis Peeples.

On October 10, 2025, ARC approved the addition of the X Bar Ranch project (906.39 acres) in Glades County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is considered an acquisition partner and there may be potential for joint acquisition with the South Florida Water Management District.

Management Policy Statement

The primary objectives of the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project are to conserve and protect natural communities along Fisheating Creek, thereby maintaining and improving the status of several rare species. For less-than-fee portions of the project, the project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

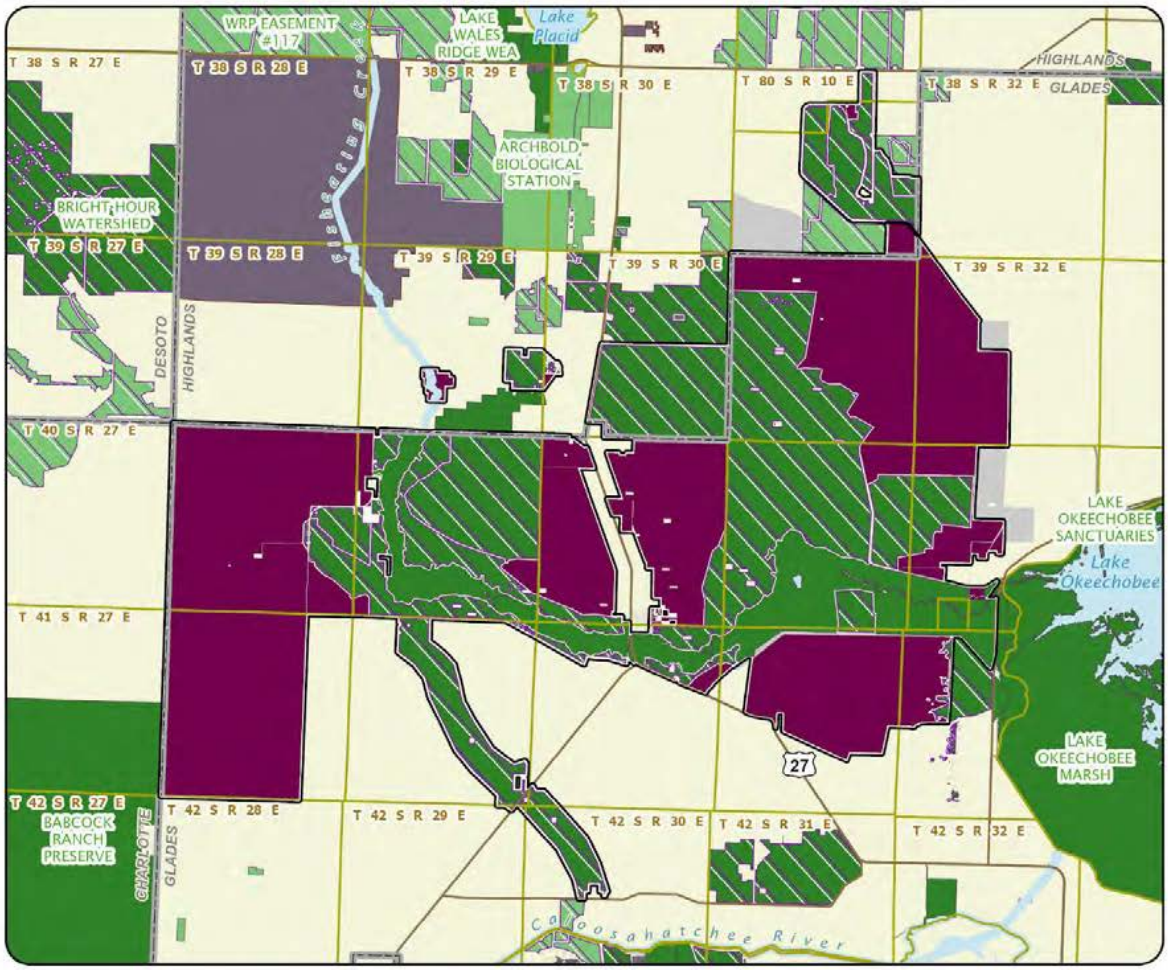
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued

conservation easement compliance will be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands. FWC will manage the fee-simple acquisitions unless otherwise noted.

Management Prospectus

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the BOT will lease the sovereign submerged lands and the fee lands to FWC, as the designated managing agency and as the easement monitor for the conservation easement. The sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands will be managed as Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. The Settlement Agreement outlining specific management guidelines is on file with DEP's Division of State Lands.



FISHEATING CREEK ECOSYSTEM

GLADES AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Gilchrist Club

Less-Than-Fee

Gilchrist County

Year Added to Priority List	*2022*
Project Acres	*23,298*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*23,298*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$119,479,660*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gilchrist Club project would conserve a large expanse of natural communities at the junction of the Santa Fe, Suwannee and Waccasassa river basins. The project will provide important water quality benefits to these riverine systems, protect valuable habitat for native species and improve the connectivity of existing conservation lands that stretch from Goethe State Forest to the Suwannee River.

General Description

The Gilchrist Club project is in Gilchrist County, south of County Road 232, east of U.S. Highway 129 and west of U.S. Highway 41. Since the 1980s, the Gilchrist Club property has been utilized for forest products and as a private hunting and fishing club.

The property is adjacent to the North Waccasassa Flats Florida Forever project, which is just to its north. The Nature Coast State Trail, managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks, crosses the property east-west at the approximate midline. Other conservation lands in the vicinity include Bell Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area, Goethe State Forest, and Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area. Nearly all the proposed project area falls within Priority 4 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

Water moves through the property as a series of swamps and other wetlands within three separate drainage basins. Due to its low-lying topography, more than half of the project area is characterized by various wetland communities in natural condition. The remaining acreage is largely pine plantation. Some planted pine stands can be considered as natural communities in active restoration. Multiple rare species have been documented on-site. No archaeological or historical resources were identified within the project area.

Developed portions of the property contain multiple cabins, a clubhouse and a lodge, as well as roads, pole barns, shop buildings, wildlife feeders, equipment storage and dog pens.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Bald eagle	G5/S3

Public Use

The Gilchrist Club project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Gilchrist Club project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

The owners of the Gilchrist Club have been in discussions with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a youth conservation center on the property.

Management Policy Statement

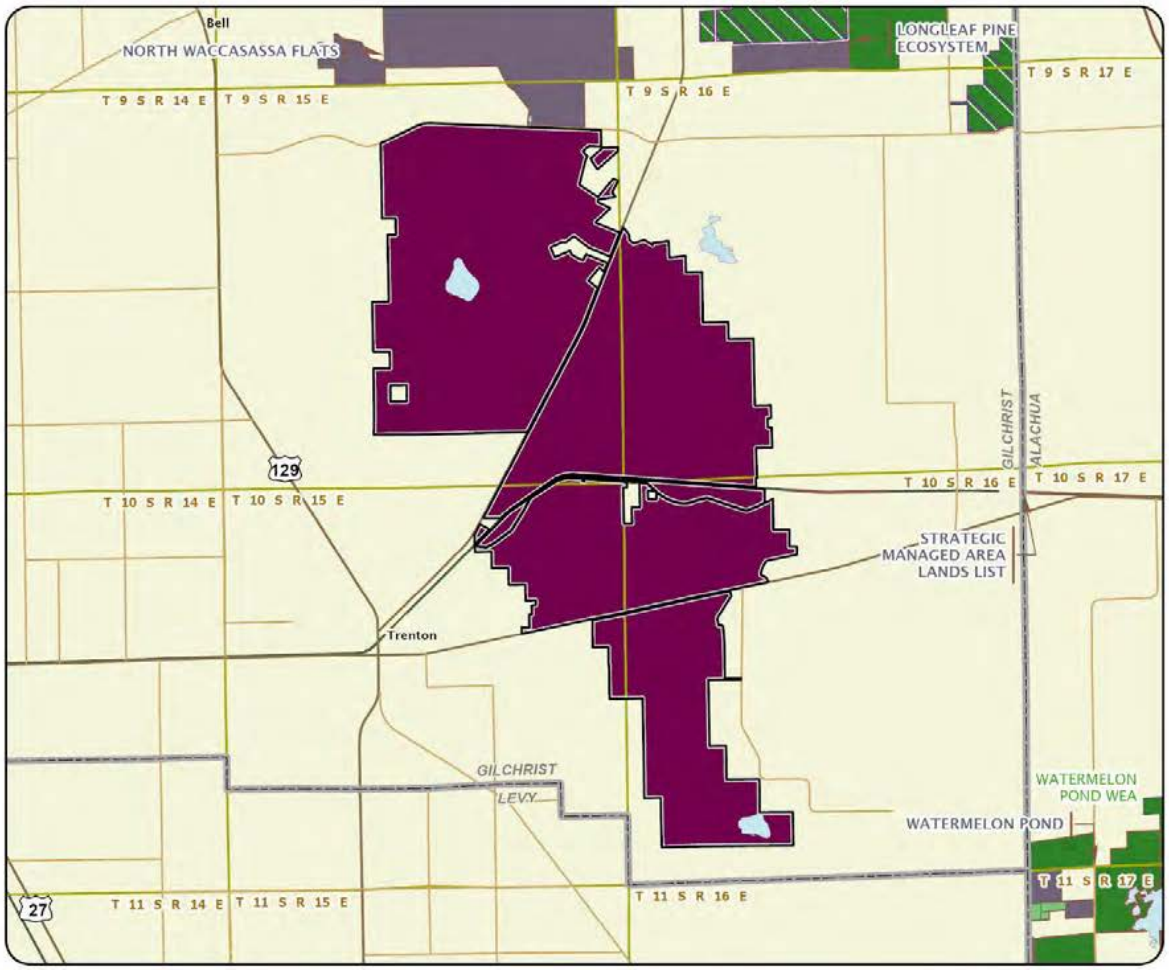
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Gilchrist Club project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Gilchrist Club project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while management will be conducted by the property owner.



GILCHRIST CLUB

GILCHRIST COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Gooski Prairie

Less-Than-Fee

Marion County

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*12,880*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*12,880*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$46,211,748*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gooski Prairie project would close a strategic gap in an extensive ecological corridor of managed lands connecting the Ocala National Forest northward into southeastern Alachua County. The project would indirectly support outdoor recreation opportunities on nearby public lands by enhancing regional biodiversity within a rapidly growing region of the state. The project would also contribute to the protection of the headwaters of Daisy Creek, a tributary of the Ocklawaha River, which is an Outstanding Florida Waterway.

General Description

The Gooski Prairie project lies just south of Fort McCoy, 4 miles northeast of Silver Springs. The project shares its southern border with the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Florida Forever project and the St. Johns River Water Management District's Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area, connecting this property to a network of conservation lands spanning to the Ocala National Forest. The property is currently used for silviculture and cattle ranching. A portion of the property was historically used for a haying operation. The previous landowner, Sleepy Creek Lands, LLC, began the process of converting coniferous plantations to improved pasture with the goal of transitioning to cattle ranching. Gooski LLC has invested significant resources in continuing the improvement of pastures. Improvements are limited to structures related to agricultural operations. The property has an extensive network of internal roads for management access. A utility corridor crosses the site from north to south.

As a working timber operation, the most common landcover type on the property is pine plantation (±6,432 acres), followed by improved pasture (±1,679 acres). Over 1,000 acres of the property is defined as clearing/regeneration; these areas have been clearcut and were largely not re-planted at the time of the site visit. The landowner plans to create food plots for wildlife in areas that were formerly used as fishponds.

The most notable natural areas within the project are Gooski Prairie and Indian Lake Prairie, both of which contain multiple wetland community types including marsh lake, wet prairie and basin marsh. Gooski Prairie and Indian Lake Prairie are both poljes; large flat-bottomed wetlands that are formed when multiple sinkholes coalesce. The single largest natural community type on-site (541 acres) is wet flatwoods. Additionally, the site includes approximately 15 acres of remnant sandhill in fair condition where multiple gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows and pocket gopher (*Geomys pinetis*) mounds were observed at the time of the site visit.

The Gooski Prairie project is almost entirely (99 percent) within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. Imperiled bird species were observed on site during the site assessment, including Florida sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*) and white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). Additional observations included common songbirds, warblers, frogs and even a bobcat (*Lynx rufus floridanus*).

There are six recorded archaeological or historical sites within the project, cumulatively representing 3,000 years of Florida's cultural history. One new site was identified during the field review, containing remnant lithic debitage from stone tool production.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

Public Use

The Gooski Prairie project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2025

On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Gooski Prairie project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Gooski Prairie project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

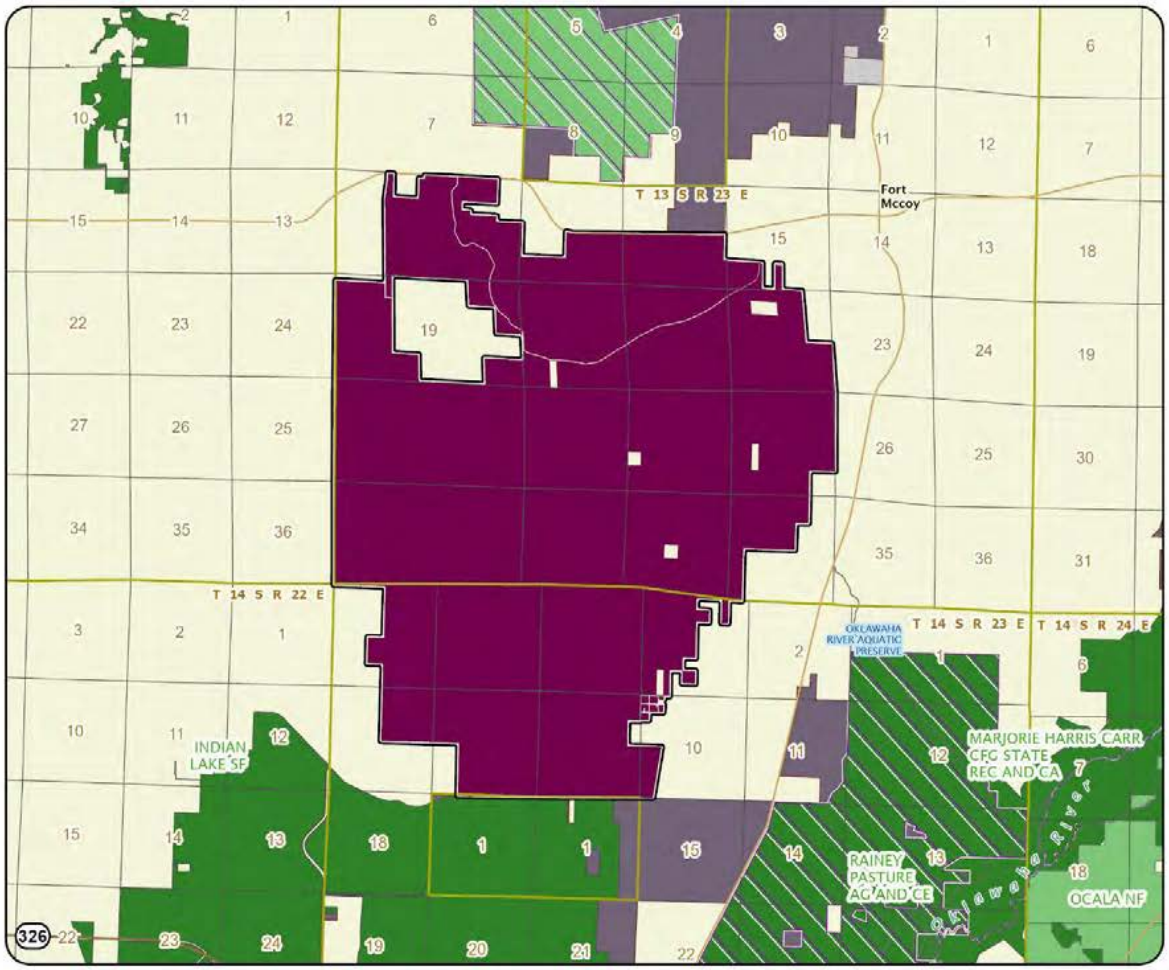
Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the Gooski Prairie project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm compliance with the conditions of

the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Gooski Prairie would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.



GOOSKI PRAIRIE

MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2 4 Miles

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Gulf Hammock

Less-Than-Fee

Levy County

Year Added to Priority List	*2004*
Project Acres	*25,611*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*25,611*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$66,258,975*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gulf Hammock project will protect the uplands and wetlands that lie within the Withlacoochee River watershed, eventually draining into multiple coastal preserves. The project will also protect habitat critical for rare and imperiled species and aid in the increase of biodiversity. The project will support and rehabilitate natural functions of the land and water by restoring the hydrology that existed before silvicultural operations. The project has the potential to increase public recreation by providing passive recreation, including picnicking, hiking trails and environmental education.

General Description

Located in southwest Levy County, the Gulf Hammock project aims to protect, manage and restore wildlife habitat and water resources. Approximately 3,652 acres of the project are proposed for full-fee sale. The remaining acres would be protected by a less-than-fee conservation easement. Approximately 23,248 acres of land within the project area are currently managed in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area, the state's oldest wildlife management area (established in 1948).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	G3/S1
*Tampa vervain**	G2/S2
Eastern kingsnake	G5/S1S2
*Variable-leaved Indian-plantain**	G3/S3
*Wood spurge**	G5/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The portion of Gulf Hammock proposed for less-than-fee acquisition does not provide for public access. However, hunting, hiking and primitive camping might be considered the most prominent public uses of the area proposed for full-fee purchase.

Acquisition Planning

2004

Of this project, 21,959 acres are 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 being offered in fee are located at the west end of the property and is more hydrologically and environmentally intact; it would be an addition to or buffer for the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park. The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) staff is continuing project development work with landowners to determine optimum boundaries and uses of the fee and less-than-fee portions of the project. The project had an estimated tax-assessed value of $11,524,000.

On June 4, 2004, ARC added this project to Group B of Florida Forever projects.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

Coordination

FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the management of the property.

Management Policy Statement

Since the principal purposes of the project include protecting biodiversity and providing resource-based public recreation and education opportunities, 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 portion of Gulf Hammock proposed for less-than-fee acquisition would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Gulf Hammock would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

FWC is recommended as lead manager for the portion of the project that would be acquired in full fee (3,652 acres); located at the west end of the property and being more intact both hydrologically and environmentally, it would be an addition to or buffer for the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park. FWC currently manages most of the project area as the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner. FWC submitted the following management plans for any full-fee purchases in this project:

Qualifications for State Designation

According to FNAI, the entire project area is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need. The project also provides habitat for many focal species, which are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. FWC indicates that 43 percent (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, wide-ranging mammals. The Gulf Hammock project would provide landscape connectivity that should benefit fish and wildlife resources by linking large areas of natural habitat. The project could also provide diverse outdoor recreational opportunities.

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. FWC would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine desired

future conditions, objectives and restoration methods. This is especially important for conserving habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species.

The primary methods for the perpetuation of less disturbed natural communities might include reintroducing 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 would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high-quality recreational experience and such development would be confined to previously disturbed areas.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 FWC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Long-range goals would emphasize ecosystem management and wildlife conservation. Following the completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to FWC's 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. These resources would be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as appropriate. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources whom lists two sites within the project area.

Environmentally sensitive areas (such as erosion-prone sites, 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 where possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to provide public access, public facilities and security/management of the project area.

Revenue-generating Potential

Substantial revenue from forest product production (as it currently occurs) should continue. Management would seek to improve 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 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.

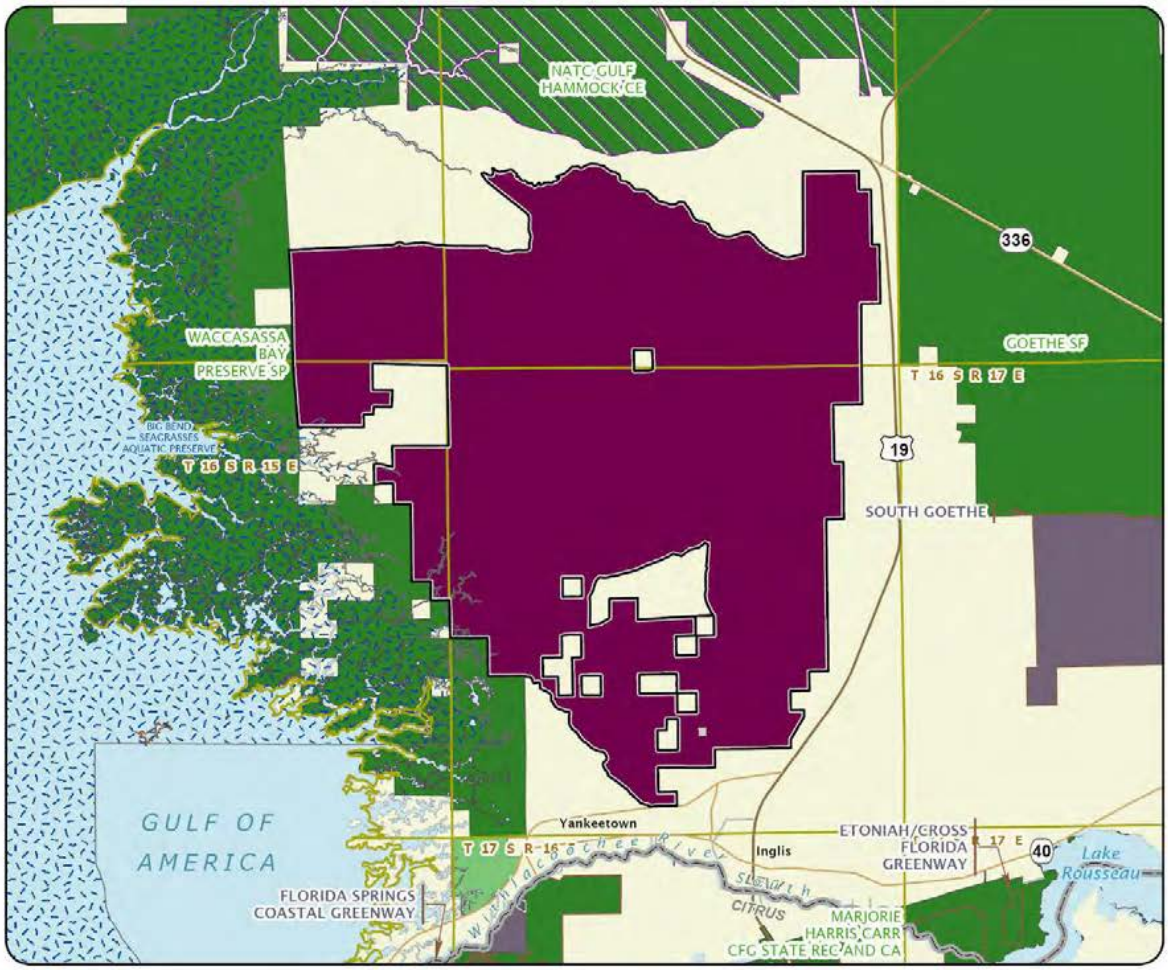
Cooperators in management activities

FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies (including Florida Forest Service (and DEP) in management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	State and/or federal	State and/or federal
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
TOTAL	$505,345	$157,253

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



GULF HAMMOCK

LEVY COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Hawkins Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Sarasota County

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*3,311*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*3,311*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$83,215,320*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Hawkins Ranch project would help safeguard the natural and scenic resources of the Myakka River State Park and provide a critical landscape buffer for the park's Deep Hole Wilderness Area. The project would provide wildlife habitat and critical water quantity and quality protection for the Myakka River, Cow Pen Slough, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor.

General Description

The Hawkins Ranch is the final large, undeveloped property between Myakka River State Park and nearby suburban development. Hawkins Ranch shares its southern border with Sarasota County's Pinelands Reserve and its eastern boundary with Myakka River State Park. This project joins a network of existing conservation lands stretching to the Peace River.

Drainage from the eastern portion of Hawkins Ranch flows into the Myakka River and eventually drains into Charlotte Harbor. The western portion of the site drains to Cow Pen Slough and ultimately to Sarasota Bay. Hawkins Ranch lies within the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Southern Planning Region for water supply and the Southern Water Use Caution Area. This property is also identified as critical for conservation as part of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Charlotte Harbor Watershed Project.

The Hawkins Ranch is a working cow/calf operation. As such, much of the property is improved pasture, dominated by bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*). Approximately 4 acres are used for haying. Improvements on-site include four homes, two pools and barns and sheds used to support the cattle operation. A utility corridor crosses the proposal from north to south and a network of drainage ditches has been installed throughout the pastures. Invasive species such as Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) and tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), although widespread, were observed to occur at low densities.

Approximately 42 percent of the property is in relatively natural condition. Large depression marshes comprise the predominant natural areas on Hawkins Ranch. These areas have generally been affected by grazing, although marshes in the northeastern part of the ranch reflect more native species diversity than marshes elsewhere on site. Mesic flatwoods were likely the historic dominant landcover on-site, with a few areas remaining on-site and in fair condition.

Approximately 94 percent of Hawkins Ranch is within Priority 3 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. A wide diversity of wildlife and plant species were observed during the site assessment including the river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) and Florida butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*). Imperiled bird species observed include the sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*) and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the federally designated threatened crested caracara (*Caracara plancus*) may also use the property.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

Public Use

The Hawkins Ranch project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2025

On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Hawkins Ranch project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

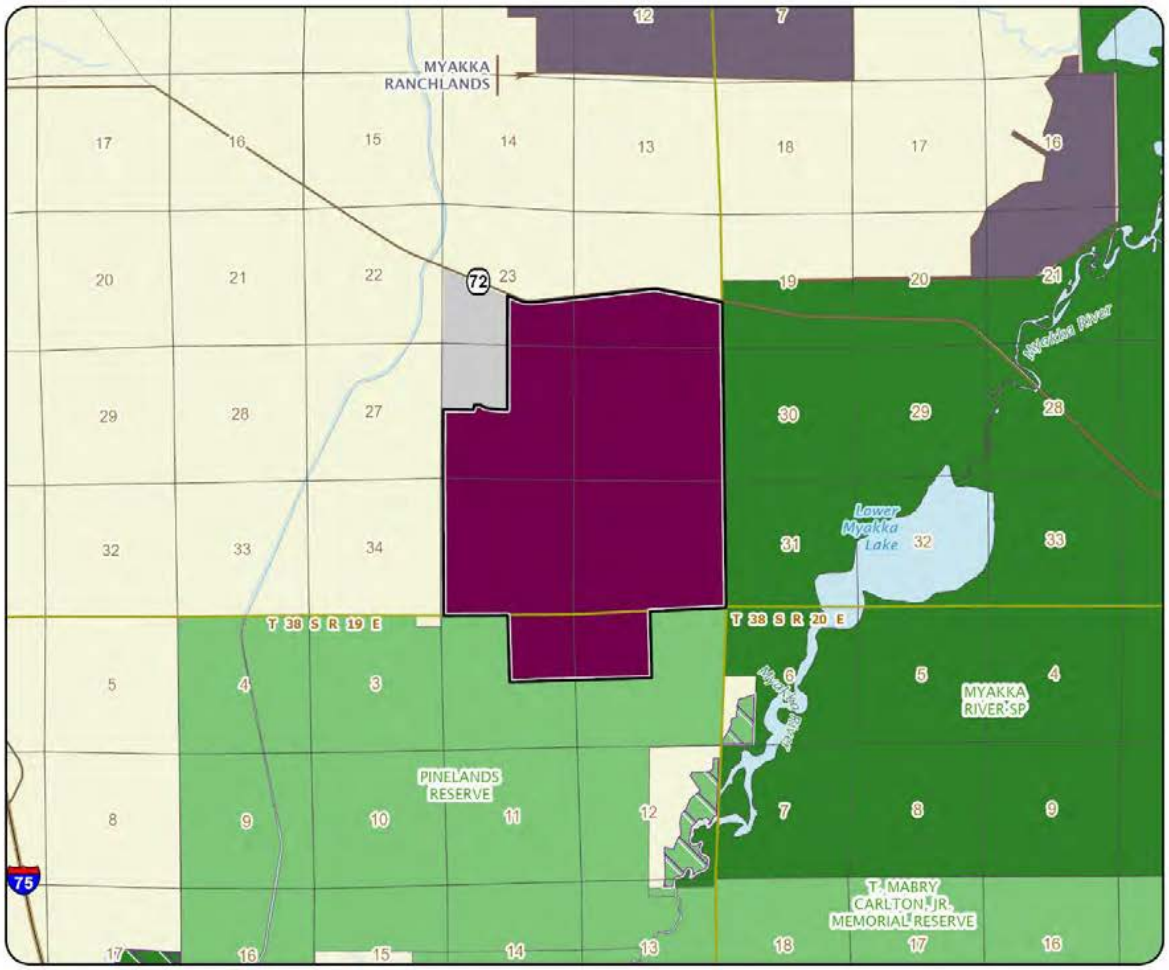
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Hawkins Ranch project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the Hawkins Ranch project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Hawkins Ranch would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.



HAWKINS RANCH

SARASOTA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Heartland Wildlife Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Hardee and Highlands Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2022*
Project Acres	*10,735*
Acquired Acres	*6,471*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,264*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$32,622,782*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Heartland Wildlife Corridor project will create a contiguous landscape of working lands and conservation areas to provide a critical wildlife corridor along the western edge of Lake Wales Ridge. The project will protect a mix of open rangeland, wetlands, forests, hammocks, and prairie that provide valuable habitat for wildlife and important water quality protection for the Peace River, Charlotte Harbor, Fisheating Creek and Lake Okeechobee.

General Description

The Heartland Wildlife Corridor project is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition containing over 60 parcels, owned by multiple landowners. The project is located along the Hardee-Highlands County border, south of State Road 66. Almost all the properties included in the project are working cattle ranches, except one property that is a wholesale plant nursery.

The project area contains mostly pasture and altered landcovers. The most abundant natural community in the project is mesic hammock. Depression marshes occur throughout the project area, often found in the pastures, and occasionally embedded within flatwoods. Mesic flatwoods within the project vary significantly in their condition and management. In several locations, active management through fire, mowing and/or chopping has allowed a relatively complete assemblage of native plants to persist, including dense wiregrass in some areas. Wetland communities include hydric hammock and occasional basin swamps. A small, ditched blackwater stream found on Dark Hammock Ranch forms the headwaters of Fisheating Creek.

This assemblage of properties along with existing conservation lands provides a vital ecological corridor along the western edge of Lake Wales Ridge to support several imperiled species. Most of the proposed project area falls within Priority 1 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Cutthroatgrass**	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Heartland Wildlife Corridor project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Heartland Wildlife Corridor project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

2024

In April 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 195.2 acres in Hardee County.

In September 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 226.95-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from Rocking Cross Ranch Inc., a 195.3-acre conservation easement in Hardee County from Rocking Cross Ranch, Inc, and a 467.16-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from Skipper Cattle Corp.

On October 30, 2024, DEP acquired a 1,987.09-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from Dark Hammock Legacy Ranch, LLC.

On November 1, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the Highlands Hammock Corridor project proposal (960 acres) in Highlands County to the project boundary.

2025

On January 8, 2025, DEP acquired a 593.26-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from Cracker Hammock LLC.

On February 19, 2025, DEP acquired a 192.73-acre conservation easement in Hardee County from Jane M. Stevens and Charles R. Stevens Jr.

On May 29, 2025, DEP acquired a 123.82-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from Circle 9 Ranch LLC.

Management Policy Statement

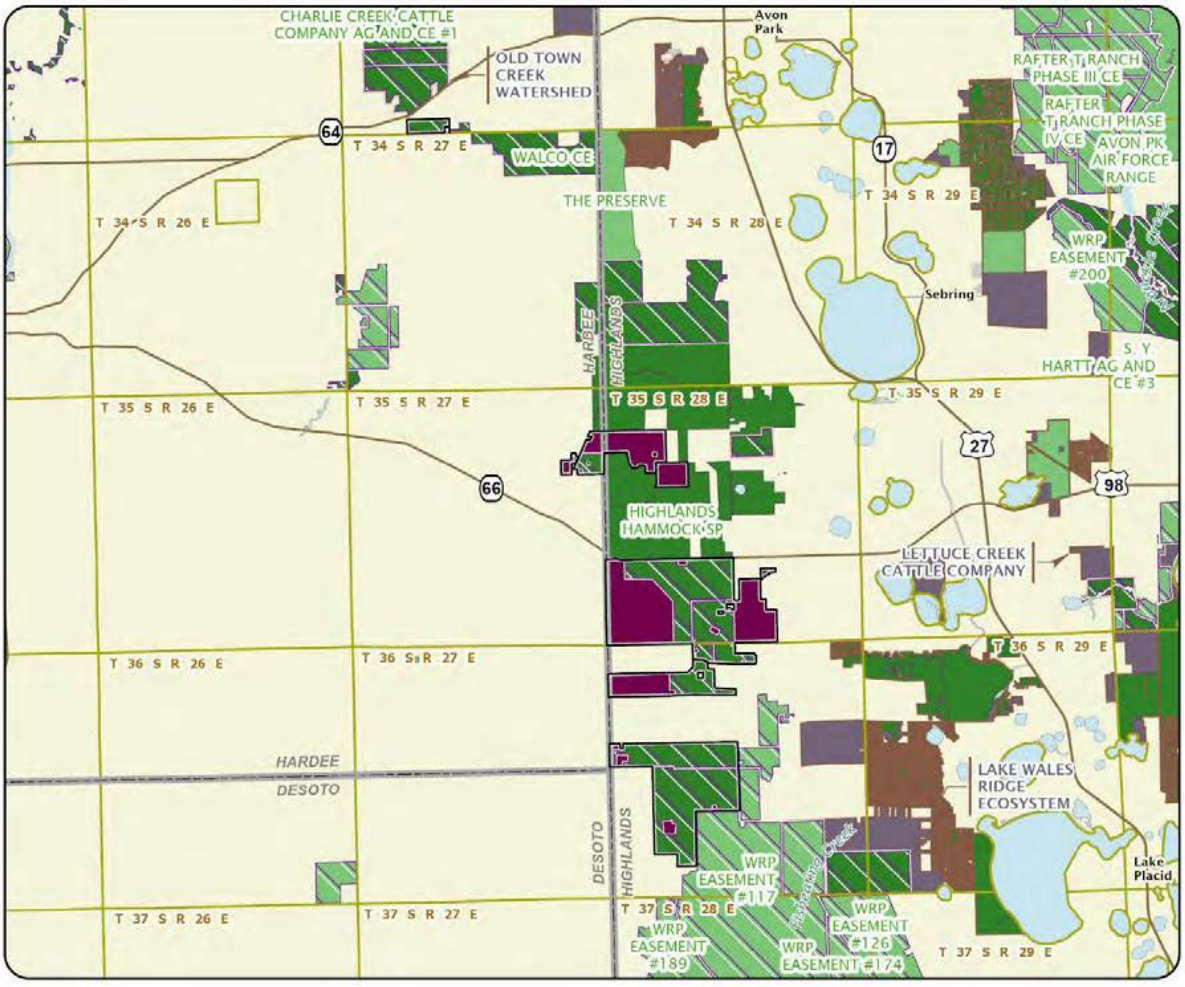
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Heartland Wildlife Corridor project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Heartland Wildlife Corridor project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



HEARTLAND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

HARDEE AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 5.5 11 Miles

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Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone

Less-Than-Fee

Gadsden and Liberty Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*6,791*
Acquired Acres	*943*
Remaining Project Acres	*5,848*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$21,686,162*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone will preserve habitat for one of only two core populations of the rare Chapman's Rhododendron (*Rhododendron chapmanii*), which is a federally listed plant that is endemic to only Gulf, Gadsden and Liberty counties. The western portion of the project would cover about 70 percent of the known Hosford area's Chapman's Rhododendron. The project, which is also located within a priority ecological greenway, would augment the value of the Lake Talquin State Forest and support resource-based recreational opportunities. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission identifies this area as potential habitat for numerous rare and imperiled species.

General Description

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 south of this site. Roughly half of this site was historically flatwoods. However, most of this has been converted to pine plantations, with nearly 75 percent of the site now cultivated as such. Approximately 15 percent of the site is pine flatwoods. The project also has about 1,414 acres of functioning wetlands that would be protected by this project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Chapman's rhododendron**	G1/S1
Ochlockonee moccasinshell	G1/S1
Purple bankclimber	G2/S1
*Southern sedge**	G3G4/S1
*Narrowleaf Naiad**	G3/S2
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
*Zigzag silkgrass**	G3/S3
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3
Pinesnake	G4/S3
Spiny softshell	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, upon coordination with the landowner, the project has the potential for a variety of forest-related activities. Currently, the property is within the Robert Brent Wildlife Management Area, which is open to hunting, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and nature-appreciation activities.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On June 6, 2002, the Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone project was added to Group B of the 2002 Florida Forever Priority List. The essential parcel is the St. Joe Timberlands and Blairwoods tract which makes the connection to the Lake Talquin State Forest (3,249 acres).

On October 24, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 3,648 acres to the project boundary, bringing the project total to 6,923 acres. This addition formed the connection from the Lake Talquin State Forest to the Apalachicola National Forest.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.

2024

In December 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the removal of approximately 216.88 acres in Gadsden County from the project boundary.

On December 27, 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired, in fee, 701.1 acres in Gadsden County from Blairwoods, Inc.

2025

On February 13, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 227.45 acres in Gadsden County from Seminole Wind Land and Timber Co., LLC.

In October 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 84.1 acres in Gadsden County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and the FNAI are considered acquisition partners. No alternative funding sources have been identified for the project.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

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 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.

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 the propagation of rhododendrons. This would preclude more intensive restoration, such as some types of mechanical understory control and site preparation. If acquired, certain types of public use 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 project.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

If acquired less-than-fee, 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 access while also protecting 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. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on this property, the revenue potential of this project is expected to be medium.

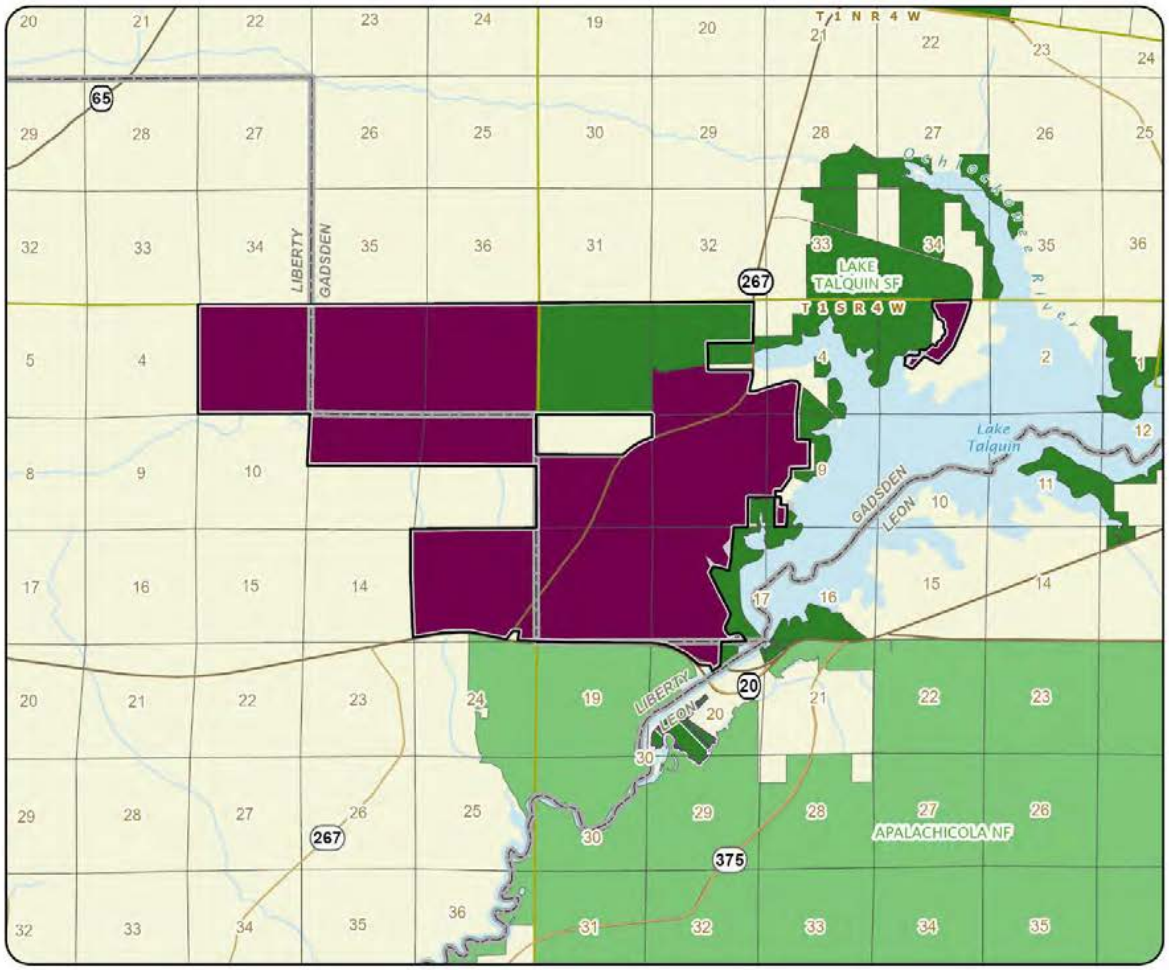
Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

Florida Forest Service	Recurring
Salary (1 FTE)	$29,000
OCO	$40,900
TOTAL	$69,900

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



HOSFORD CHAPMAN'S RHODODENDRON PROTECTION ZONE

GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector

Less-Than-Fee

Indian River and Okeechobee Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*44,400*
Acquired Acres	*15,859*
Remaining Project Acres	*28,541*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$254,553,835*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector is to provide an ecological and hydrological connection between the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park and Ordway-Whittell Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary. The project will protect strategic habitat for numerous rare species such as the Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*). Acquisition of this project will meet the 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.

General Description

The project consists of a landscape mosaic primarily comprised of improved pasture. It also contains mesic flatwoods, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and dry and wet prairie. 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 several ditches. The remaining natural communities are fragmented across the proposal.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
*Cutthroatgrass**	G3/S3
*Large-flowered rosemary**	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
*Hand fern**	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, recreational activities could be possible upon coordination with the landowner. This project has the potential to support the completion of the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On December 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Kissimmee-St. Johns Connector project to Group A of the 2002 Florida Forever Priority List. The project consisted of 91 parcels under 11 owners. The essential parcels were identified as the Okeechobee Partnership, Oliver, Callaway, LOR, Russakis Ranch, Wedgeworth, Padgett Creek LLC and the Triple S Cattle Company ownerships.

2007

In December 2007, Indian River County closed on two easements on two adjacent ranches (Triple S Cattle Company and Padgett Creek LLC). The combined purchases, known as the Padgett Branch Conservation Easement, totaled 1,585 acres for $11,095,000.

2011

On August 16, 2011, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) established Phase I of the Russakis Ranch Gopher Tortoise Long-term Recipient Site (640.05 acres).

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.

2013

On May 7, 2013, FWC established Phase II of the Russakis Ranch Gopher Tortoise Long-term Recipient Site (694.04 acres).

2016

On April 22, 2016, ARC voted to add the Lewis Friend Farm (1,088 acres) proposal into the boundary of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project.

2020

On October 9, 2020, ARC approved adding the Abington Ranch addition of 3,656 acres in Okeechobee County to the project boundary.

2021

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a perpetual conservation easement of over 6,670.20 acres known as Osowaw Ranch from Wedgeworth Farms, Inc.

2022

On October 14, 2022, ARC voted to add the CNC Ranch project proposal (3,557 acres) to the project boundary.

DEP acquired a perpetual conservation easement over 615.34 acres known as Crippen Ranch from Crippen Properties, LLC.

DEP acquired a perpetual conservation easement over 3.637 acres known as Abington Preserve from Abington Preserve, LLC

2024

On June 26, 2024, DEP acquired a 385.25-acre conservation easement in Okeechobee County from Double K Ranch LLC.

On September 18, 2024, DEP acquired a 647.22-acre conservation easement in Okeechobee County from Padgett Creek LLC.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is partnering with DEP's Division of State Lands on this project.

Management Policy Statement

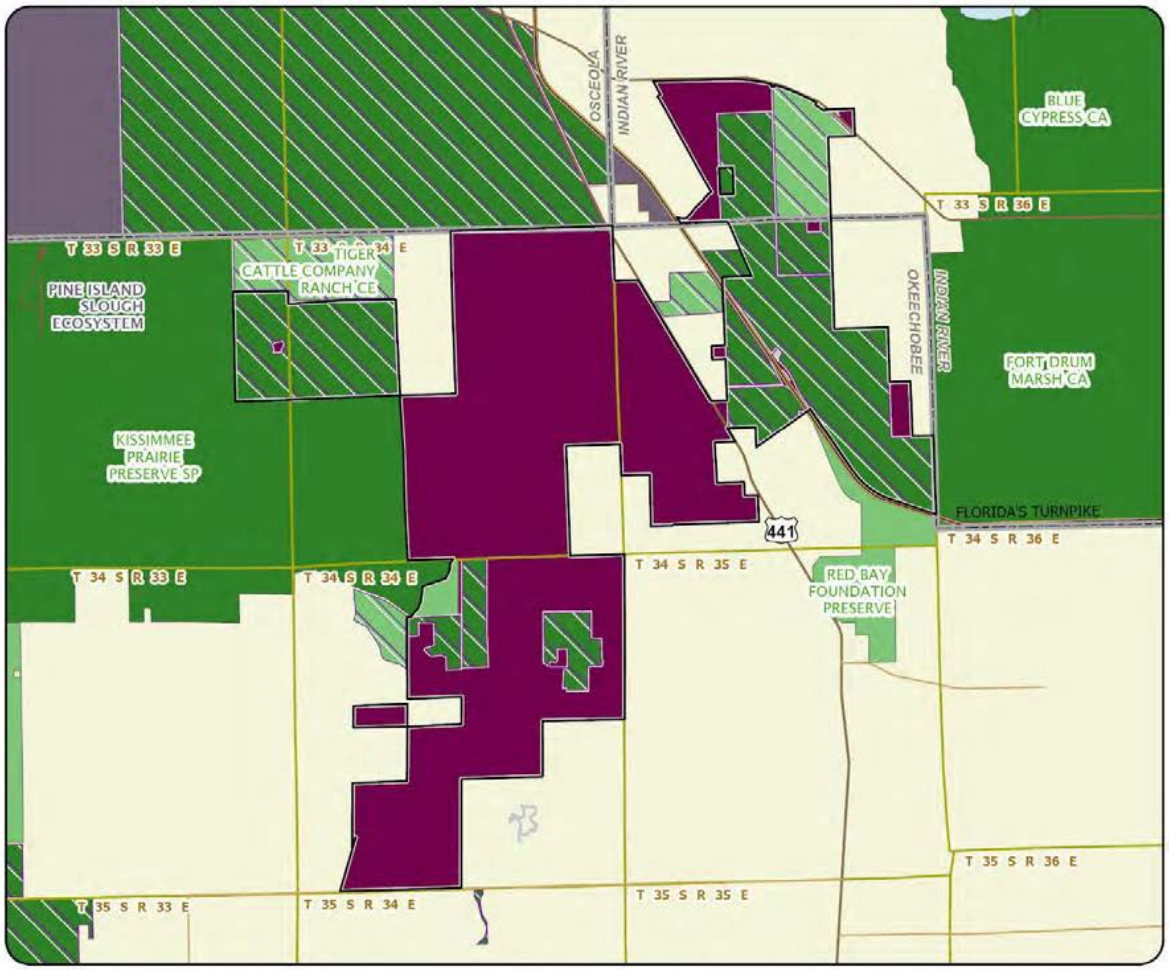
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



KISSIMMEE-ST. JOHNS RIVER CONNECTOR

INDIAN RIVER AND OKEECHOBEE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Larkin Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Pasco County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*1,075*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,075*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$3,499,675*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Larkin Ranch project provides habitat for species of conservation concern including gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*) and southeastern American kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*). Additionally, the project protects groundwater recharge areas and a working landscape that provides a strategic buffer to nearby conservation areas in a rapidly growing area of Pasco County.

General Description

The Larkin Ranch project is a single tract held by a single owner, totaling 1,067 acres one mile west of Dade City. The property is a few miles west of a complex of managed areas including Withlacoochee State Forest, Green Swamp, Colt Creek State Park and Little Gator Creek Wildlife and Environmental Area.

Approximately 38 percent of the project is in natural or semi-natural condition, the primary natural feature being a complex of marshes and open water that includes Sandbar Lake and Knee Deep Lake. There are a few isolated areas of xeric hammock and mesic flatwoods, the latter of which shows former evidence of fire.

As a working cattle ranch, the largest landcover type on the property (47 percent) is improved pasture, surrounding the Sandbar Lake/marsh complex on virtually all sides. A few upland areas not in pasture are successional hardwood forest, likely former pine savannas historically cleared. Small, developed areas are found in several parts of the property including a complex of farm buildings, residence, dining/common building and associated bunk house, and ranch headquarters building. Invasive plants are widespread over much of the property, although pastures are relatively free of invasive plants.

Evidence of imperiled and rare species observed on site include southern fox squirrel, gopher tortoise burrows and southeastern pocket gopher (*Geomys pinetis pinetis*) mounds.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

Public Use

The Larkin Ranch project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On April 12, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Larkin Ranch project to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

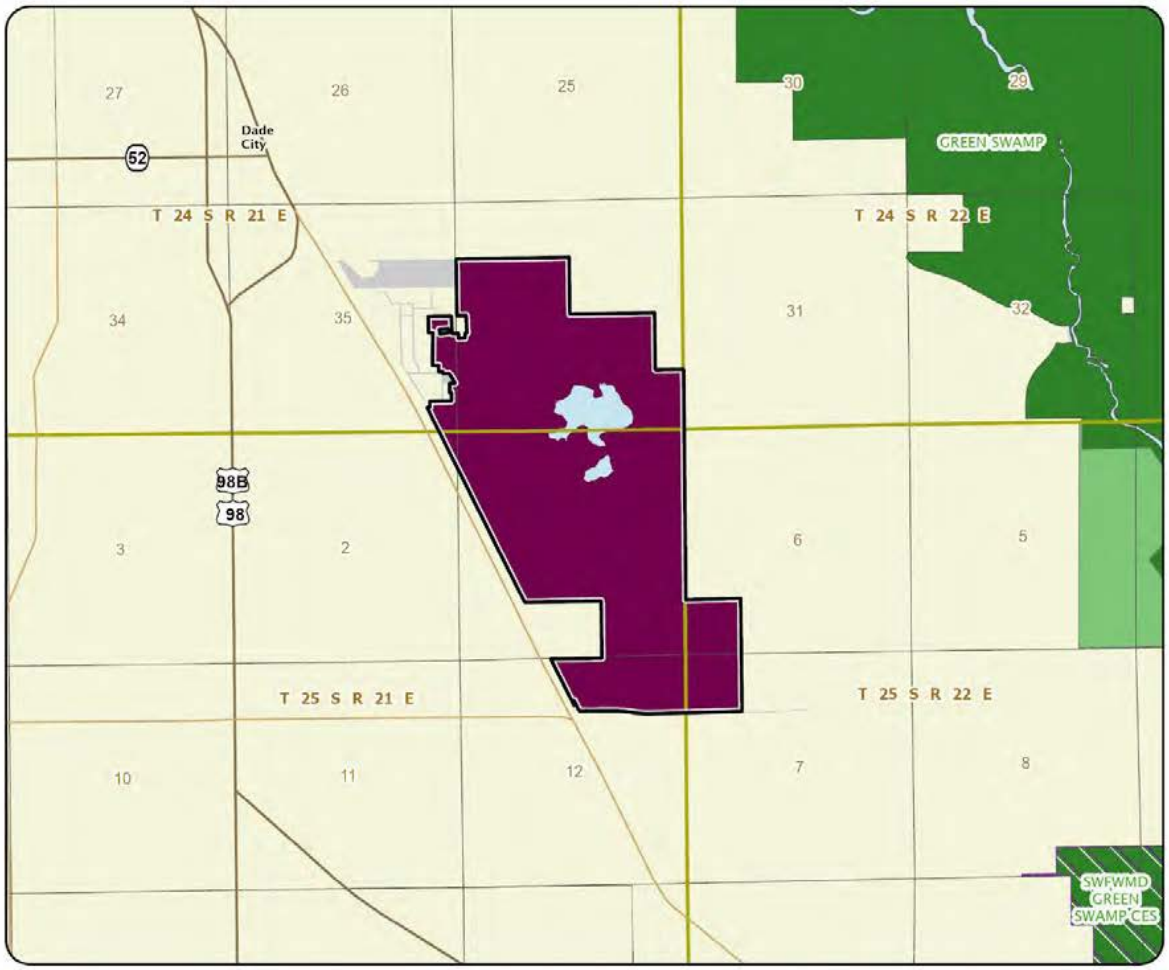
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Larkin Ranch project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Larkin Ranch project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Larkin Ranch project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



LARKIN RANCH

PASCO COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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Lettuce Creek Cattle Company

Less-Than-Fee

Highlands County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*377*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*377*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$2,687,585*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lettuce Creek Cattle Company project will contribute to the protection of water resources within the Yellow Bluff Creek floodplain draining into Lake Istokpoga. The project will also protect rare natural communities and enhance ecological connectivity for a variety of imperiled wildlife species including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). Additionally, the project will support military missions of nearby Avon Park Air Force Range by preventing incompatible development by reducing encroachment on sensitive conservation lands.

General Description

The Lettuce Creek Cattle Company project is a nearly square tract of approximately 377 acres under one ownership, less than 2 miles west of Lake Istokpoga. The project's southern boundary abuts an unacquired portion of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever project, which itself connects to other public and private conservation lands to the southeast. The project is within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape.

The project is situated on the eastern edge of the Lake Wales Ridge, where the high, sandy ridge gives way to the Osceola Plain to the east. Yellow Bluff Creek enters the tract from the north and flows southeastward, where it converges with Josephine Creek a quarter mile east of the project.

The most widespread natural community on site is baygall (46 percent), which dominates the large wetland area in the eastern portion of the property. Scrub makes up about 12 percent of the tract, in a single area on the western edge of the property. Although somewhat overgrown from a lack of fire and evidence of grazing, the scrub community contains a diversity of herbs including Florida Alicia (*Chapmannia floridana*). Wet flatwoods also comprise 12 percent of the property, varying in composition and structure. Mesic flatwoods intergrade with wet flatwoods on higher elevations and are the predominant vegetation on the banks above Yellow Bluff Creek.

The property is mainly used for cattle ranching. Improved pasture makes up 20 percent of the property and semi-improved pasture comprises 5 percent of the property. Invasive species were observed in isolated areas during the time of the site visit.

Several active gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows were observed during the site visit. The property's marshes and wetlands potentially support species of imperiled wading birds.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Scrub buckwheat	G4T2?/S2?
Florida jointweed	G3/S3
Paper nailwort	G3/S3
Cutthroatgrass	G3/S3
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

The Lettuce Creek Cattle Company project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On November 1, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Lettuce Creek Cattle Company project to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

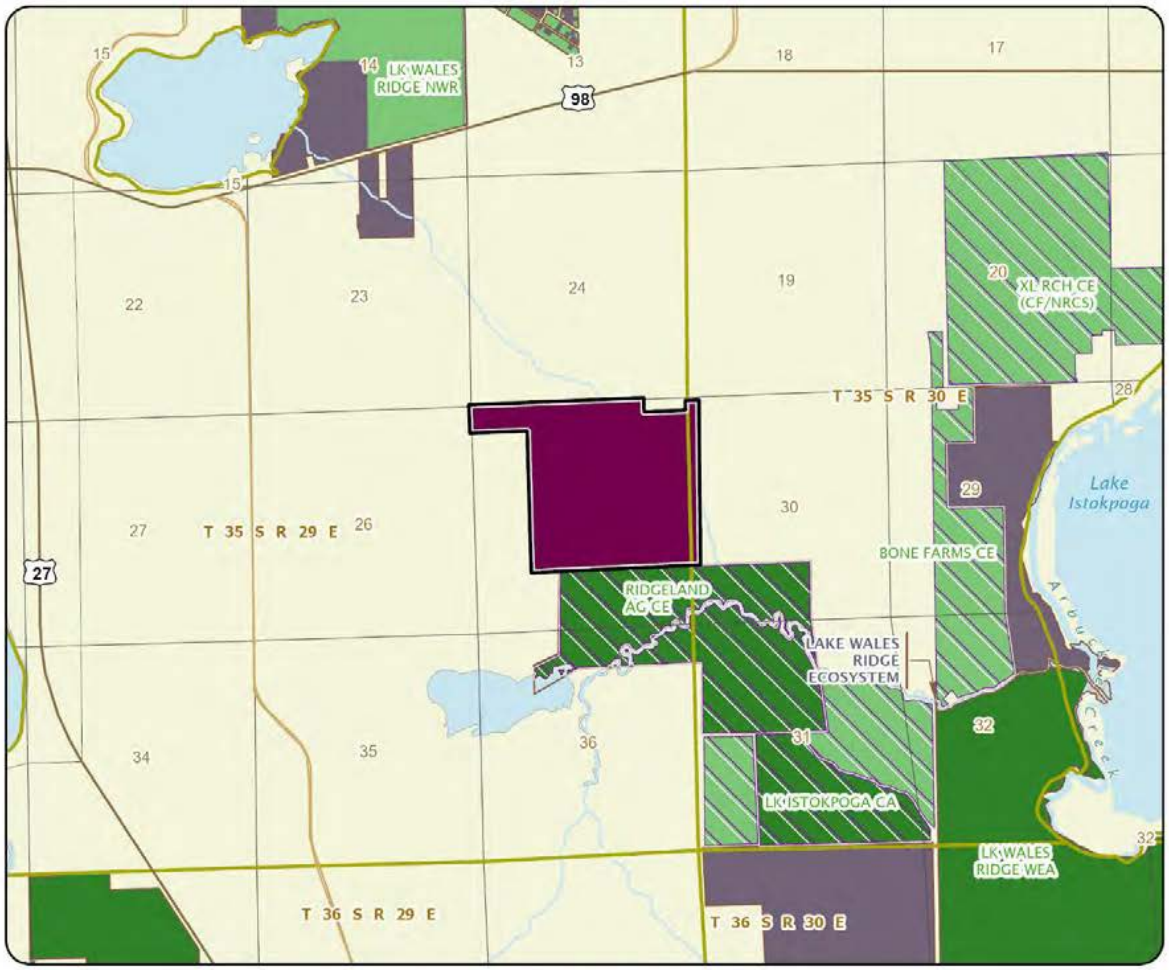
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Lettuce Creek Cattle Company project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Lettuce Creek Cattle Company project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance will be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Lettuce Creek Cattle Company project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.



LETTUCE CREEK CATTLE COMPANY

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Limestone Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Hardee County

Year Added to Priority List	*2012*
Project Acres	*6,382*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*6,382*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$49,981,308*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Limestone Ranch project will afford additional resource protection for the Peace River and its associated natural communities. The project will do this by providing a buffer for Limestone Creek, a tributary of the Peace River, and protecting floodplain and aquifer recharge areas. The project will also protect habitat for numerous imperiled and rare species such as the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon cooperi)*.

General Description

Limestone Ranch is located just west of the Peace River, with the southeast corner straddling a half-mile section of the river. The property is bisected by Limestone Creek, which flows eastward into the Peace River. The proposed project is adjacent on its western boundary to Horse Creek conservation easement (Florida Department of Environmental Protection) and north of the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project. Access to the property is east of the community of Limestone off County Road 663 (which also runs through the western portion of the project).

Limestone Ranch is a mosaic of flatwoods, forested wetlands and pastures. Major natural communities include mesic and scrubby flatwoods, bottomland forest and widely scattered depression marshes. Over half of the tract is dominated by natural communities that appear to be in good to very good condition. Invasive exotic plants are relatively infrequent on the property.

The disturbed portion of the land comprises improved pastures and agricultural fields. For the ranch's cow-calf operation, cattle grazing is the primary use of the improved pasture. However, there is a 92-acre citrus grove outparcel in the southeast section of the property at the end of Jim Williams Road.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3

Public Use

Limestone Ranch is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the owner has hosted Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-coordinated youth hunts annually on the property and expressed interest in continuing to offer that periodic recreational opportunity.

Acquisition Planning

2012

On June 15, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added this project to the Florida Forever Priority List as a Less-than-Fee project with an estimated tax-assessed value of $18,830,416. The property is in one ownership and the owner is anticipating selling it in one transaction.

Coordination

No acquisition partners have been identified.

Management Policy Statement

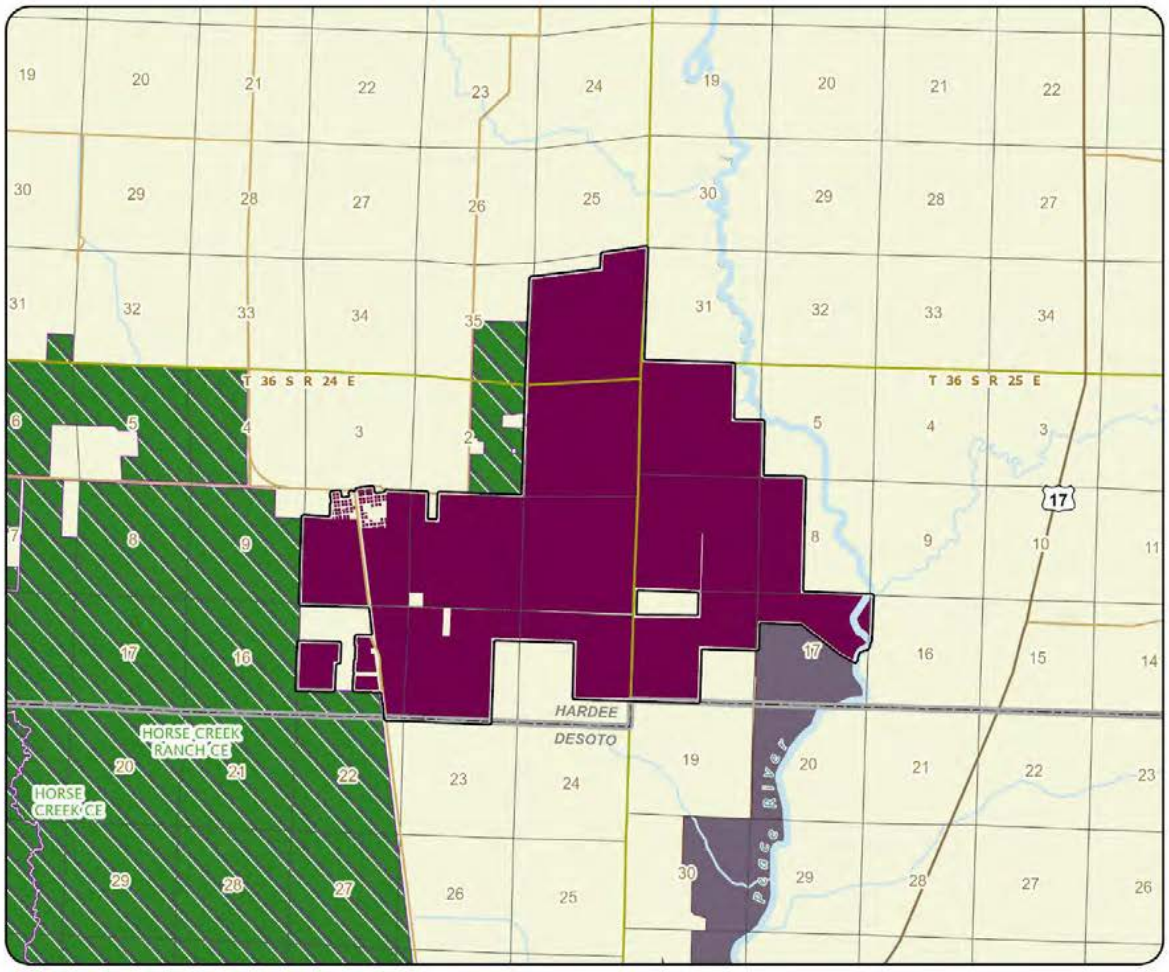
As a less-than-fee acquisition, Limestone Ranch would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Limestone Ranch would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



LIMESTONE RANCH

HARDEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Little River Conservation Area

Less-Than-Fee

Gadsden County

Year Added to Priority List	*2004*
Project Acres	*2,293*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,293*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$12,094,022*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Little River Conservation Area project would aid in the protection of the Little River watershed while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area. The project will preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community. Due to its proximity to the Lake Talquin State Forest and Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area, acquiring Little River Conservation Area will enhance the coordination and completion of other land acquisition projects.

General Description

The Little River Conservation Area project is in the Tallahassee Red Hills region. This project forms the drainage divide between the Little River on its northwest side and its tributary, Hurricane Creek, on the southeast side. The original upland natural community was upland pine forest or sandhill. Currently, approximately two-thirds of the southern end of the property is pine plantation. Hardwood slope forest occupies the steeper slopes that extend for nearly a mile above the Little River; the project also contains an upland ridge about 2.4 miles long and 0.75 miles wide. The remainder of the project is occupied by floodplain, bottomland forest and floodplain swamp. The western portion of the project encompasses about 375 acres of floodplain along Little River at its confluence with Quincy Creek.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Sculptured pigtoe	G3?/S1
*Mountain laurel**	G5/S3
*Pyramid magnolia**	G4/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Little River Conservation Area project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide public access.

Acquisition Planning

2004

In 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the project for addition as a Less-Than-Fee project. The project had a tax-assessed value of $355,820.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.

2021

On June 11, 2021, ARC approved an addition of 208 acres in Gadsden County to the project boundary.

Coordination

There are no acquisition partnerships.

Management Policy Statement

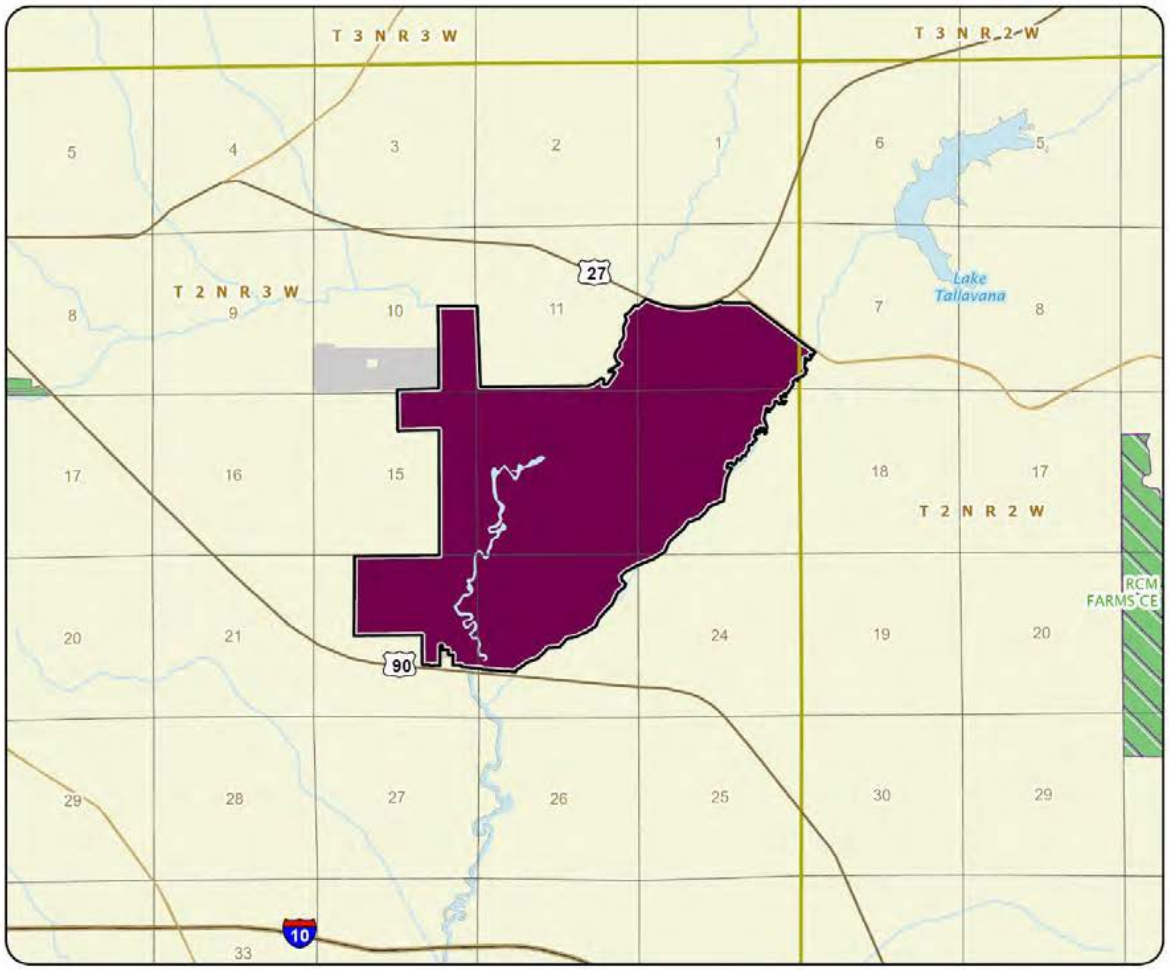
As a less-than-fee acquisition, Little River Conservation Area would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Little River Conservation Area would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



LITTLE RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

GADSDEN COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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Lower Perdido River Buffer

Less-Than-Fee

Escambia County

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*7,728*
Acquired Acres	*5,458*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,270*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$5,723,869*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lower Perdido River Buffer project will increase public recreational and educational opportunities by enhancing access to the Perdido River. The Lower Perdido River Buffer project will preserve a riverine area, providing a scenic viewshed for canoeing and kayaking. Additionally, the project will preserve forest land for sustainable management of natural resources.

General Description

The Perdido River, a focus of this project, is a 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. The river has no first-magnitude or second-magnitude springs but depends on rainfall for most of its water, and its flow has substantial fluctuations. The high flows have caused erosion bends upstream that created large and medium-size sandbars, suitable for camping, along much of the river's inner upstream of State Road 184. The river is exceptionally winding, with few straight stretches of more than 200 yards. There are numerous fallen trees (generally Atlantic white cedar) but most have been cut to allow small boats to pass below Barrineau Park. The river is about 100 yards wide at the mouth of Perdido Bay but is only about 30 yards wide near Barrineau Park. The Lower Perdido River Buffer project includes land on the eastern 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 through acquisition. Approximately 2,094 acres have been identified that provide groundwater recharge, and approximately 1,056 acres of forest have been identified that maintain natural groundwater recharge functions.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Florida pondweed**	G1/S1
Escambia crayfish	G2/S1S2
*Louisiana yellow-eyed grass**	G2G3/S1
*West Florida cowlily**	G5T2T3/S2
Rusty grave digger	G3/S3
*Primrose-flowered butterwort**	G3G4/S3
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Lower Perdido River Buffer project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the owner is willing to sell limited access points to the Perdido River fee simple; this would allow river access for launching and landing canoes and small boats.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Lower Perdido River Buffer project to Group A of the 2002 Florida Forever Project List. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of $217,336.

The project property was entirely owned by International Paper when the project was added to the list. The specific locations of the small access sites along the river for fee-simple will be determined during the negotiation process.

2006

On May 31, 2006, the Northwest Florida Water Management District purchased 5,456 acres to create Perdido River Water Management Area. Almost all this acreage was within the project boundary.

2009

On January 27, 2009, Northwest Florida Water Management District established the 4.2-acre Herndon conservation easement.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Less-Than-Fee category.

Coordination

The acquisition partnership is expected to include local, state and Northwest Florida Water Management District funding sources. Contribution funding percentages have not been determined.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Lower Perdido River Buffer project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

Escambia County will manage the access points on fee-simple portions of the project once they are determined. If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Lower Perdido River Buffer would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands. Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

Acquisition of the Lower Perdido River Buffer project with a combination of a conservation easement and the outright purchase of select access points will benefit the public in several major ways including: keeping wetland and marsh habitats located within a major metropolitan statistical area free from the pressures of development; using the conservation easement to keep the majority of the land in private hands; and allowing, at selected points, riverine access for the public for boating and fishing.

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 and highway crossings) should be examined in the future to determine if they are contributing to erosion, siltation or pollution.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

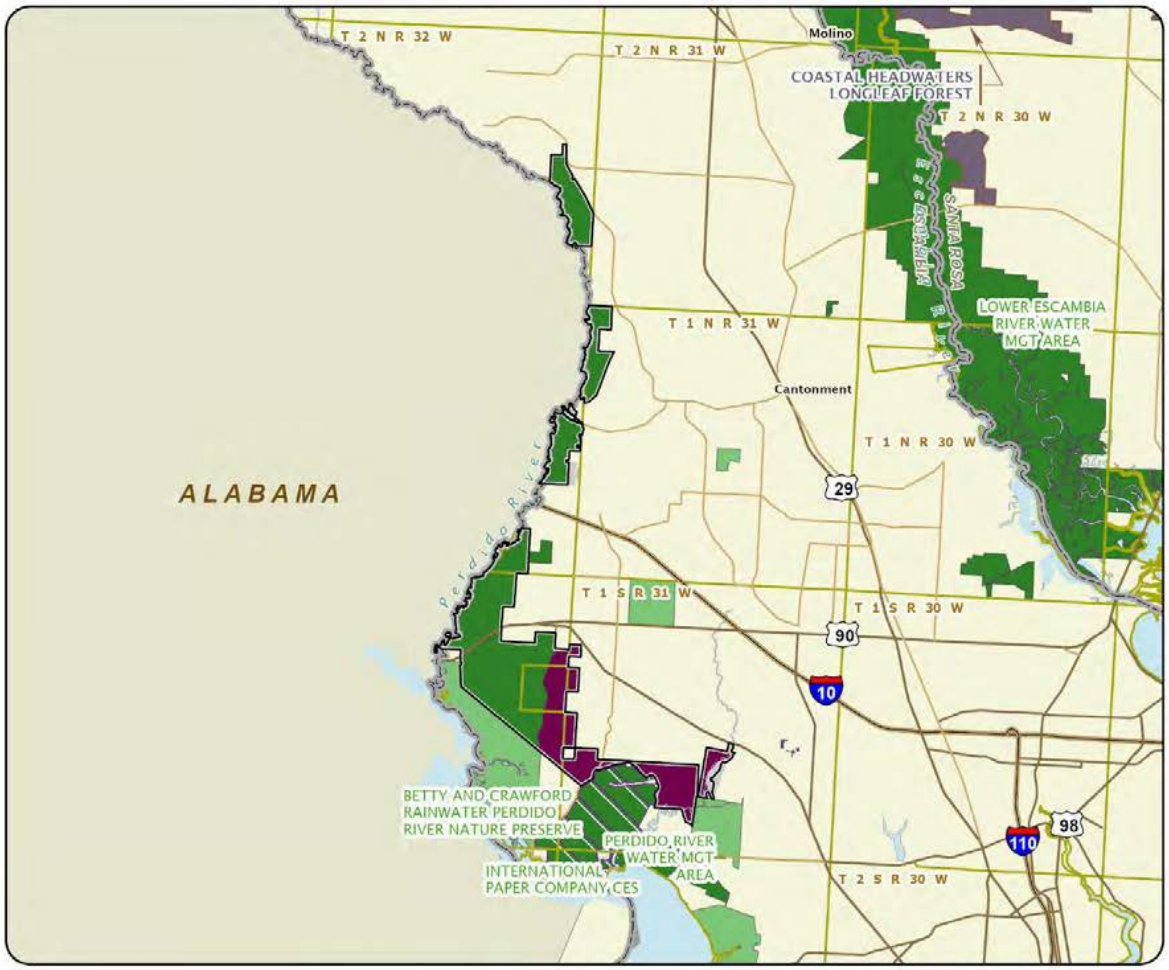
Management of the property would depend on the nature and provisions of the conservation easement.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue generation potential is minimal since the project is to be acquired less-than-fee. Areas acquired fee simple would not be expected to generate revenue.

Cooperators in management activities

Escambia County would manage access points to the river.



LOWER PERDIDO RIVER BUFFER

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2016*
Project Acres	*97,790*
Acquired Acres	*6,539*
Remaining Project Acres	*91,251*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$165,337,843*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor project will enhance connections between multiple conservation lands extending from the Matanzas River to the Ocala National Forest. The project will also protect the hydrological resources of the lake and riverine systems of northeast Florida. As a wildlife corridor among other conservation lands, the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor would help the long-term survival of wide-ranging wildlife such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*).

General Description

The Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor is located in Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties in the Eastern Flatwoods physiographic district; this district is described as coastal lowlands with flatwoods and swamps on silty sand soils. There are several public conservation lands adjacent to this project, including Dunns Creek State Park, Pellicer Creek Conservation Area, Lake George Conservation Area and Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Pringle Creek Forest Florida Forever project borders this project on its eastern side.

Historically, the project was a mix of mesic and wet pine flatwoods. Currently, the trees on this land are mainly stands of slash pine up to 40 years old with an understory that ranges from heavily wooded with shrubs to no understory in areas where the pines are bedded. Commercial pine plantations account for about half of the project area. Natural uplands are about five percent of the project, with small patches of wet and mesic flatwoods.

Wetland communities make up most (40 percent) of the natural communities on the property. Vegetation is generally dominated by bald cypress or swamp tupelo and isolated wetlands are abundant throughout the property. Dome swamps dominated by pond cypress and open depression marshes are common within the pine plantation and flatwoods uplands.

Several natural lakes occur on the property: Speckled Perch Lake, Black Lake and Tank Lake. They are in a higher, more xeric portion of the property. Baygall vegetation dominated by loblolly bay and slash pine surrounding these lakes indicates the increased seepage originating from the xeric uplands.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Lake-side sunflower**	G1G2/S1S2
*Nodding pinweed**	G3/S3
*Florida mountain-mint**	G3/S3
*Celestial lily**	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
*Chapman's skeletongrass**	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, some parts of the property could be acquired in fee-simple, opening the opportunity for public uses. Fee simple acquisitions would be managed by the adjacent conservation land manager(s).

Acquisition Planning

2010

On December 1, 2010, Fish Tail Swamp Mitigation Bank (1,061.28 acres) was issued, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2015

This project was sponsored in a proposal by the Conservation Trust of Florida and was presented to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) at their October 16, 2015, meeting.

2016

On April 29, 2016, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Wilson Green — Dave Branch conservation easement (5,326.92 acres), of which approximately 3,396.92 acres are in the project boundary.

2018

On April 20, 2018, ARC approved the removal of 7,468 acres from the project boundary at the request of the landowner.

2023

In October 2023, ARC approved the removal of 8,991 acres from the project boundary.

In December 2023, ARC approved to add 34 parcels totaling approximately 422.86 acres in Putnam County.

2024

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 532.19 acres in Putnam County.

2025

In April 2025, ARC approved the addition of nine parcels totaling approximately 1,623 acres in Flagler County to the project boundary.

On July 23, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 2.57 acres in Putnam County from Lorelle and Tomm Friend.

In December 2025, ARC approved the addition of 11 parcels totaling approximately 1,117.35 acres in Flagler and Putnam counties to the project boundary.

Coordination

No partners in the acquisition were identified for this project.

Management Policy Statement

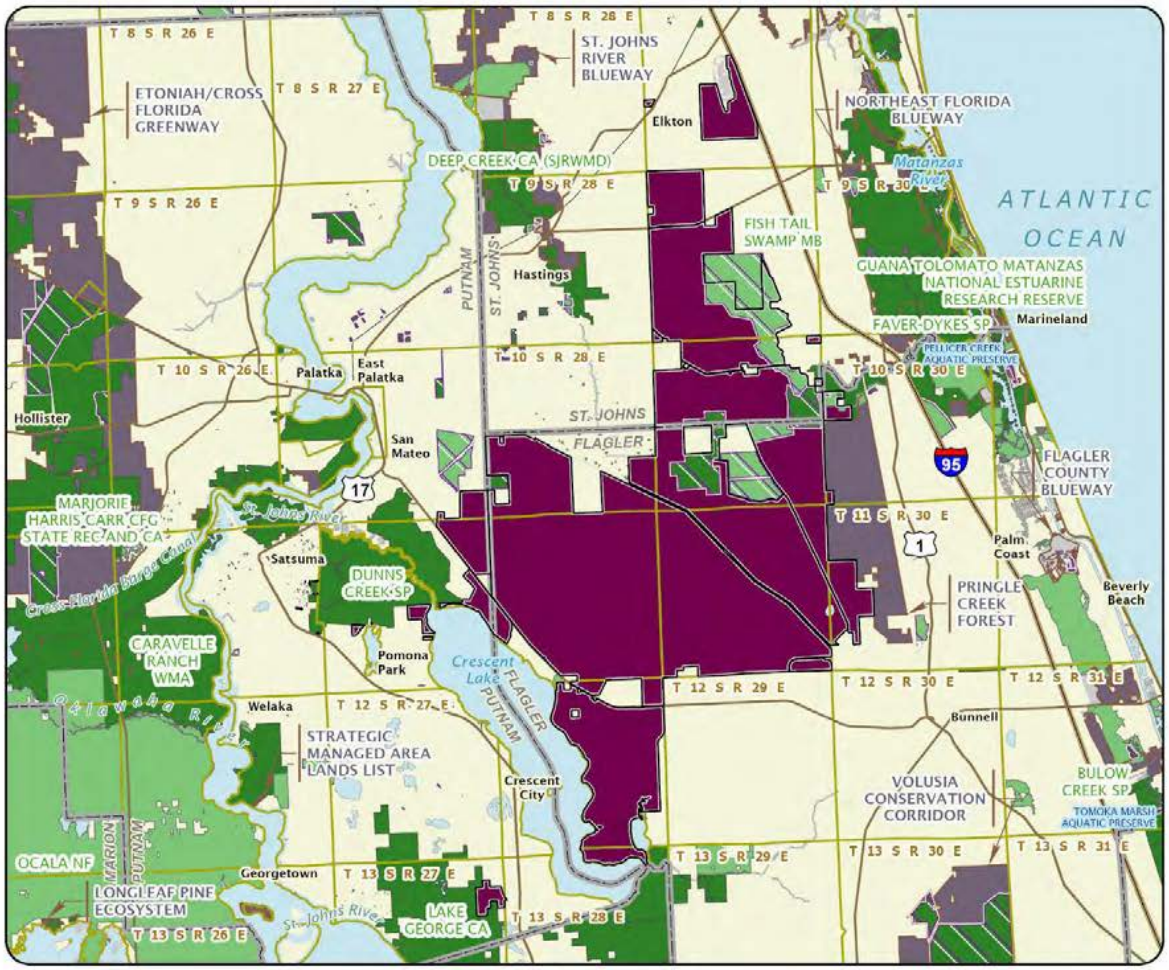
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands. There is a possibility that some project parcels could be acquired in fee-simple.

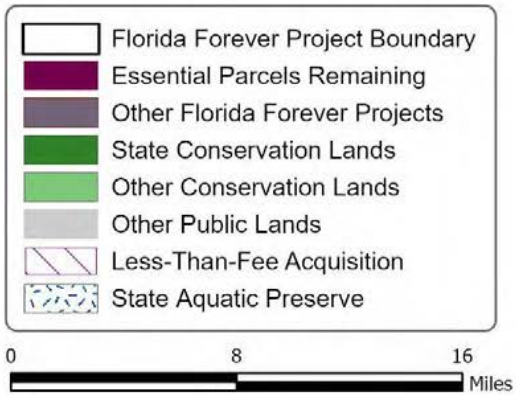
Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



MATANZAS TO OCALA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

FLAGLER, PUTNAM, AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES





Mays Island Conservation Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Jefferson and Madison Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2025*
Project Acres	*3,826*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*3,826*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$7,086,024*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Mays Island Conservation Corridor project would conserve a large, intact landscape that contributes to the protection of groundwater recharge areas and functional wetlands associated with Gum Creek, a tributary of the Aucilla River. The project would protect foraging areas and potential nesting sites for rare plant and animal species such as the Florida spiny-pod (*Matalea floridana*), Bachman's sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*) wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) and white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*).

General Description

The Mays Island Conservation Corridor project is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Monticello along the Florida-Georgia border. While the majority is in northwestern Madison County, a portion of the property (±256 acres) is in northeastern Jefferson County. This region of the state is underrepresented in conservation lands, with only a few isolated conservation easements in the vicinity. The entirety of the project lies within the Aucilla River watershed, the Wacissa Springs Priority Focus Area and the Wacissa Basin Management Action Plan.

The property square-foot main house, 1,296 square-foot guest cabin, 1,124 square-foot manager home and 2,272 square-foot mobile home.

About 27 percent of the property (most of the uplands) is occupied by pine plantation. These include plantations of slash and loblolly pine in a variety of stages. A large proportion of the project (about 12 percent) is considered successional hardwood forest and occurs mainly in areas at the transition between pine plantations and the bottomlands and swamps at lower elevations. Intensity of past logging varies greatly, and it should be noted that not all forested wetlands that have been logged in recent decades are included in this designation. Areas of basin swamps that were partially logged but have recovered their closed canopy are still generally classified as basin swamp.

Three main areas of basin swamp, in addition to a few smaller patches, make this the largest natural community type (32 percent) within the project. Much of this community is associated with the Gum Creek drainage. Formerly logged areas of basin swamp are now largely devoid of cypress and dominated by shrubs, small trees and vines. These areas are considered successional hydric shrubland/forest. Although most of the uplands have been converted to other uses, one area near the center of the project contains under-represented upland hardwood forest dominated by mature pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) and Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). Dome swamps with large cypress were observed on-site and provide habitat for a variety of wading birds such as the federally threatened wood stork. An area of abandoned field, once presumably a former area of upland pine, was notable in that it exhibited diverse pine-associated groundcover species and a patch of particularly healthy state-endangered Florida spiny-pod. During the site assessment, a deep, steep-sided 0.5-acre sinkhole was discovered in a forested area near the main house.

The Mays Island Conservation Corridor project almost entirely (94 percent) lies within Priority 5 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. Several rare and imperiled species have been documented on-site, including mud sunfish (*Acantharchus pomotis*) and Eastern mudminnow (*Umbra pygmaea*). During the site assessment, a Bachman's sparrow was heard vocalizing in a recently harvested (but grass-dominated) pine stand.

is currently used for timber, wildlife management and row crops (corn and peanuts). Approximately 300 acres are in agriculture in two disjunct areas of the property; a portion of this acreage in the northern section is leased to a local peanut farmer, while the southern end was planted in corn at the time of the site visit. The property was also historically used for a cow/calf operation. Improvements include those associated with agricultural operations, including irrigation infrastructure (center pivot) and approximately 3,233 linear feet of high fencing once used for a captive breeding program for white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) that is no longer in operation. Several houses are also on site including a 3,509

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Wood stork	G4/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
White ibis	G5/S4
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Mud sunfish	G4G5/S3
Eastern mudminnow	G5/S3

Public Use

The Mays Island Conservation Corridor project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2025

On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Mays Island Conservation Corridor project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

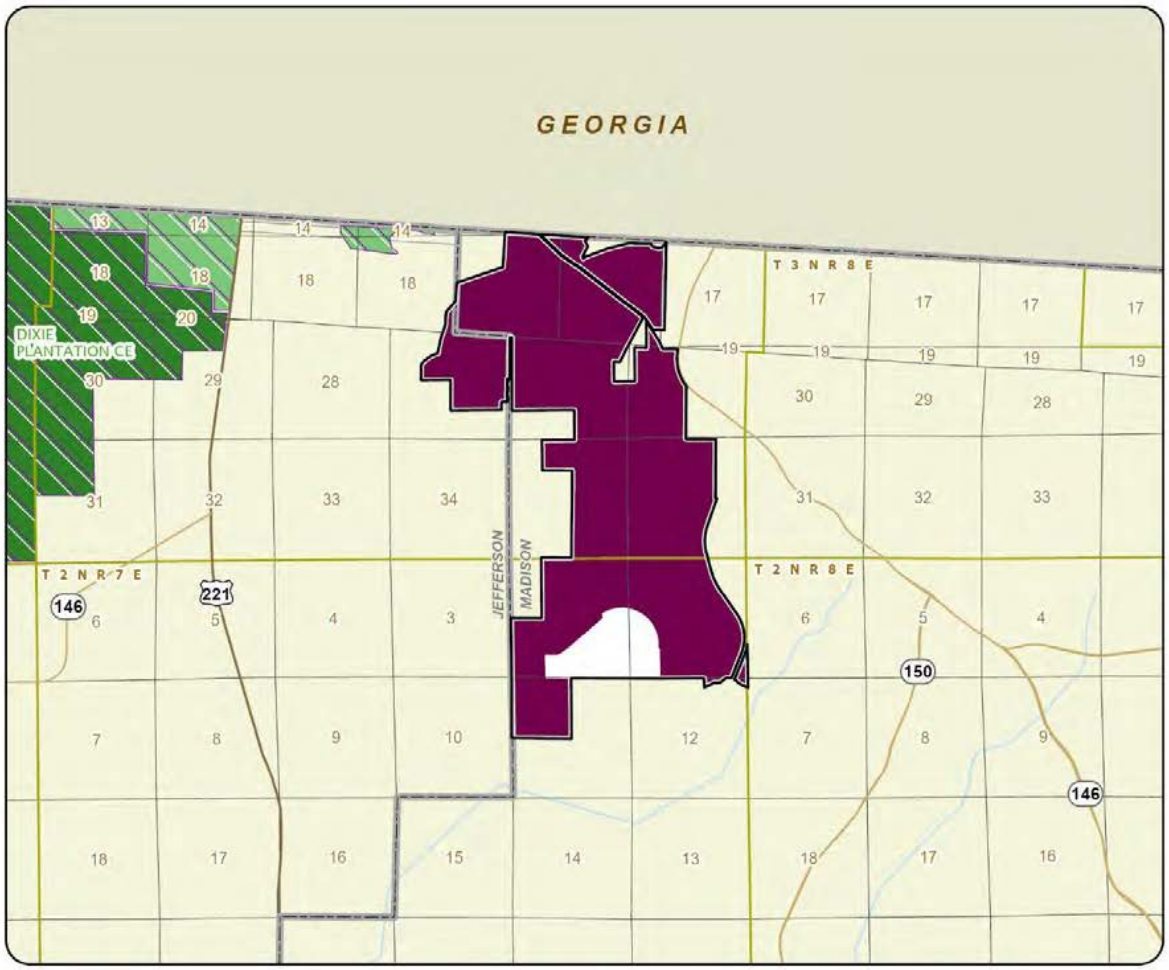
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Mays Island Conservation Corridor project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the Mays Island Conservation Corridor project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Mays Island Conservation Corridor would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.



MAYS ISLAND CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

JEFFERSON AND MADISON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



N

0 2 4 Miles

Maytown Flatwoods

Less-Than-Fee

Brevard and Volusia Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2009*
Project Acres	*7,837*
Acquired Acres	*6,225*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,612*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$934,547*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Maytown Flatwoods project will contribute to the preservation of strategic and rare species habitat. The project will protect thousands of acres of natural floodplain and water recharge lands benefiting natural features like springs and sinks and providing groundwater protection.

General Description

The Maytown Flatwoods project is in northern Brevard County, adjacent to the Buck Lake Conservation Area and Farmton-Brevard conservation easement, both managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Other conservation properties in the area include Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary. Charles H. Bronson State Forest, Little Big Econ State Forest, Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area and Seminole Ranch Conservation Area. The property is currently under a long-rotation silvicultural management regime.

The project's natural communities include wet prairie, depression marsh, basin marsh, basin swamp, hydric hammock, dome swamp and pine plantation. Several listed species are likely to occur on the property including Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

In 1998, the project area was devastated by wildfires that consumed most of the timber on the tract. Following this event, the tract was aerially seeded with slash pine creating an even-age stand. Mechanical treatments to control the understory have been used in lieu of prescribed fire.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Pine pinweed**	G2/S2
*Celestial lily**	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Maytown Flatwoods project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the already-established Rails-to-Trails project runs along an abandoned Florida East Coast Railway right-of-way.

Acquisition Planning

2008

On July 14, 2008, the Farmton Mitigation Bank (23,922 acres) was issued. Approximately 4,052 acres of this bank would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2009

On December 11, 2009, the Acquisition and Restoration Council recommended that this project be added to the 2010 Florida Forever Priority List as a Less-than-Fee project.

2013

On April 25, 2013, the Farmton-Brevard conservation easement (4,800 acres) was donated to St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Audubon Society and Brevard County by Swallowtail LLC (a subsidiary of Miami Corp) to satisfy the Farmton Local Plan Agreement. Approximately 2,250 acres of that easement are within the project boundary.

2021

On December 10, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 554.75 acres in Volusia County to the project boundary.

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

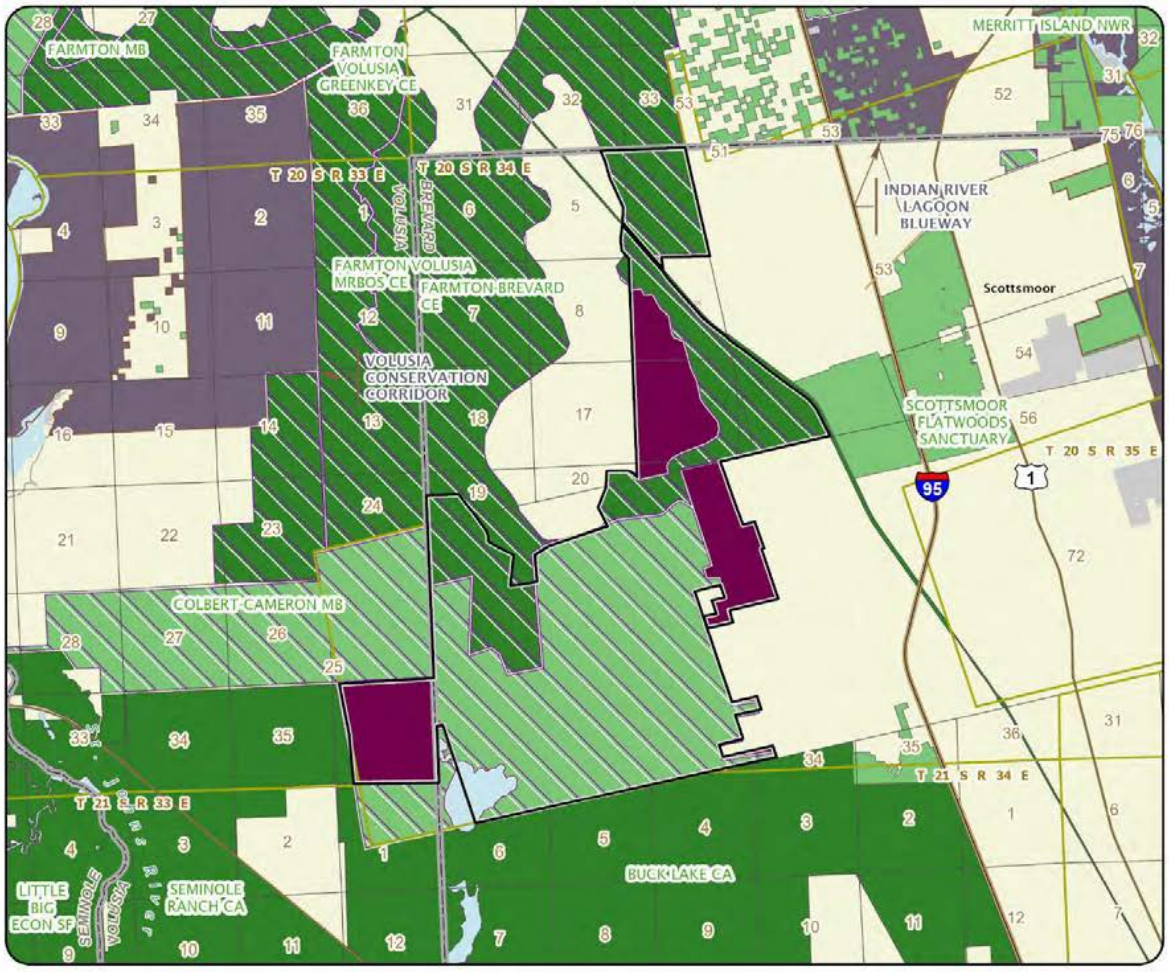
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Maytown Flatwoods project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Maytown Flatwoods project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



MAYTOWN FLATWOODS

BREVARD AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 2 4 Miles

N



Mill Creek

Less-Than-Fee

Marion County

Year Added to Priority List	*2003*
Project Acres	*14,300*
Acquired Acres	*2,156*
Remaining Project Acres	*12,144*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$43,623,022*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Mill Creek project will increase Florida's biodiversity by preventing the conversion of natural areas to alternative uses. The project will also increase the amount of forestland available for natural resource management, enhance existing wetlands through the prohibition of future timber harvesting, and benefit water quality and quantity by protecting property adjacent to the Orange Creek Restoration Area which flows to Orange Creek.

General Description

The Mill Creek project is in northern Marion County adjacent to Orange Creek Restoration Area and the Millpond Swamp conservation easement (Conservation Florida). The project is also near the Quail Roost conservation easement (Conservation Trust for Florida), Lochloosa Slough Preserve, Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and Ocala National Forest. The Mill Creek property has been impacted by cattle and timber operations such as conversion to pasture, pine plantation and cypress harvesting.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

The Mill Creek project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the eastern portion of the property is leased for hunting.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Mill Creek project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. This Less-than-Fee acquisition, sponsored by the Conservation Real Estate Group, consisted of approximately 12,285 acres, multiple owners and a tax-assessed value of $13,694,672.

2005

On January 27, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

On June 3, 2005 ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Interim Priority List.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move the Mill Creek project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the Mill Creek project in the Less-than-Fee category.

2019

On December 19, 2019, the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank (2,159 acres) was approved.

2020

On June 25, 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired a conservation easement on the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank.

2025

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 689 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

In October 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 1,318 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

Coordination

There are no acquisition partners currently.

Management Policy Statement

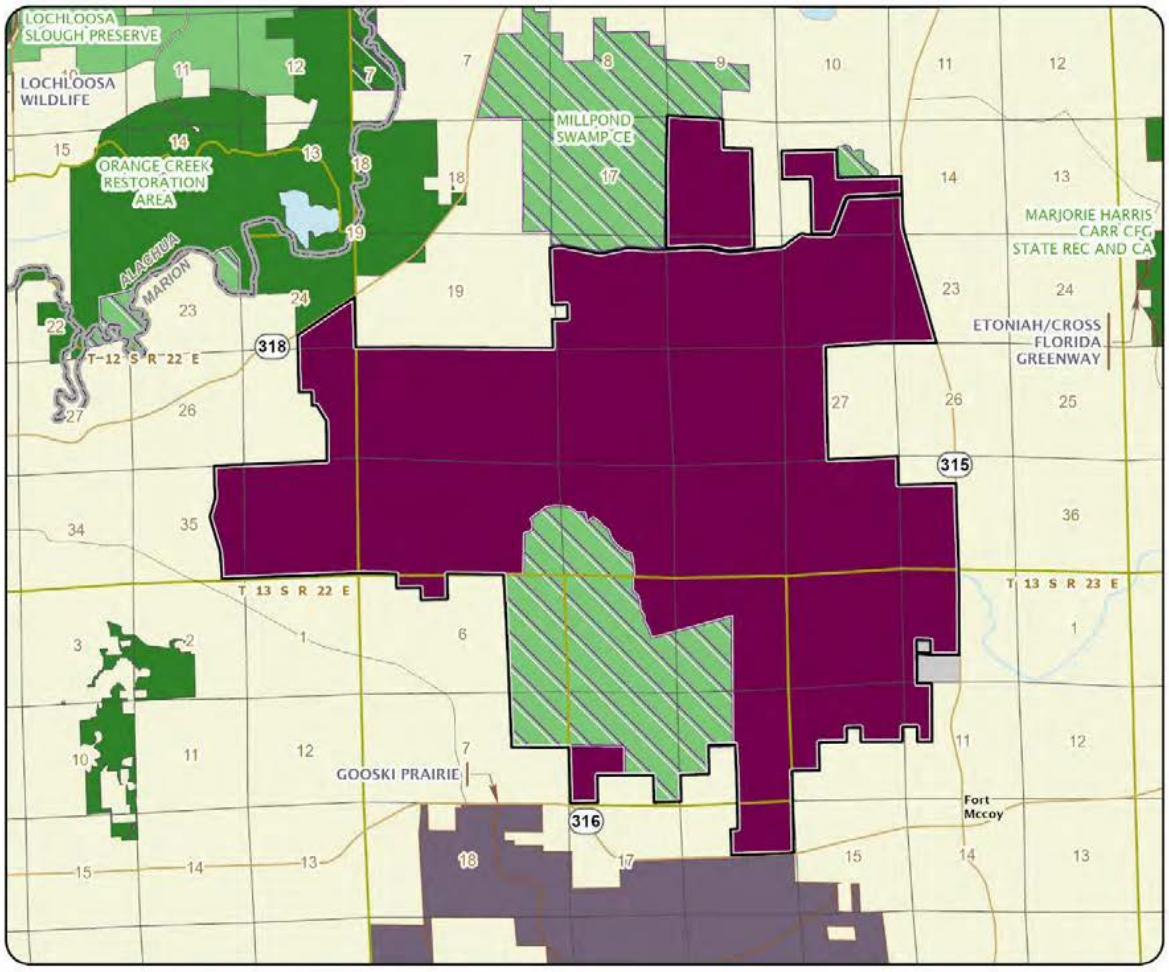
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Mill Creek project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Mill Creek project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



MILL CREEK

MARION COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 2 4 Miles

N



Millstone Plantation

Less-Than-Fee

Leon County

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*176*
Acquired Acres	*93*
Remaining Project Acres	*83*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$3,934,367*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Millstone Plantation project will support the state's water quality and quantity through the protection of Lake McBride, a critical recharge area for the Floridan aquifer. 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 Floridan aquifer; therefore, it is important that they are afforded protection from runoff through the acquisition of this project.

General Description

The property consists of a mosaic of vegetated communities, a deeply incised seepage stream, open pasture and a portion of Lake McBride. The project falls within the Red Hills physiographic region, which consists of pine-dominated uplands, numerous karst sinkholes and lakes. These habitats are breeding, nesting and foraging areas for numerous wildlife species, including bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Millstone Plantation is also rich in archaeological sites.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

Public Use

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the project would not provide traditional public uses. A limited walking trail exists throughout the project.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the Millstone Plantation project consisting of approximately 134 acres and one ownership. The project had an estimated tax-assessed value of $69,970. Public access would include access for environmental education opportunities. Money from the conservation easement would go to management and outreach programs for the Millstone Institute.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

Coordination

The Trust for Public Land will be the intermediary for acquisition of the conservation easement.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Millstone Plantation project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Millstone Plantation project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

Due to the site's unique archaeological resources, the site may qualify for designation as a State Historical Site. These resources include historical structures (i.e., the Millstone Plantation House) and a continuous pattern of human settlement.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

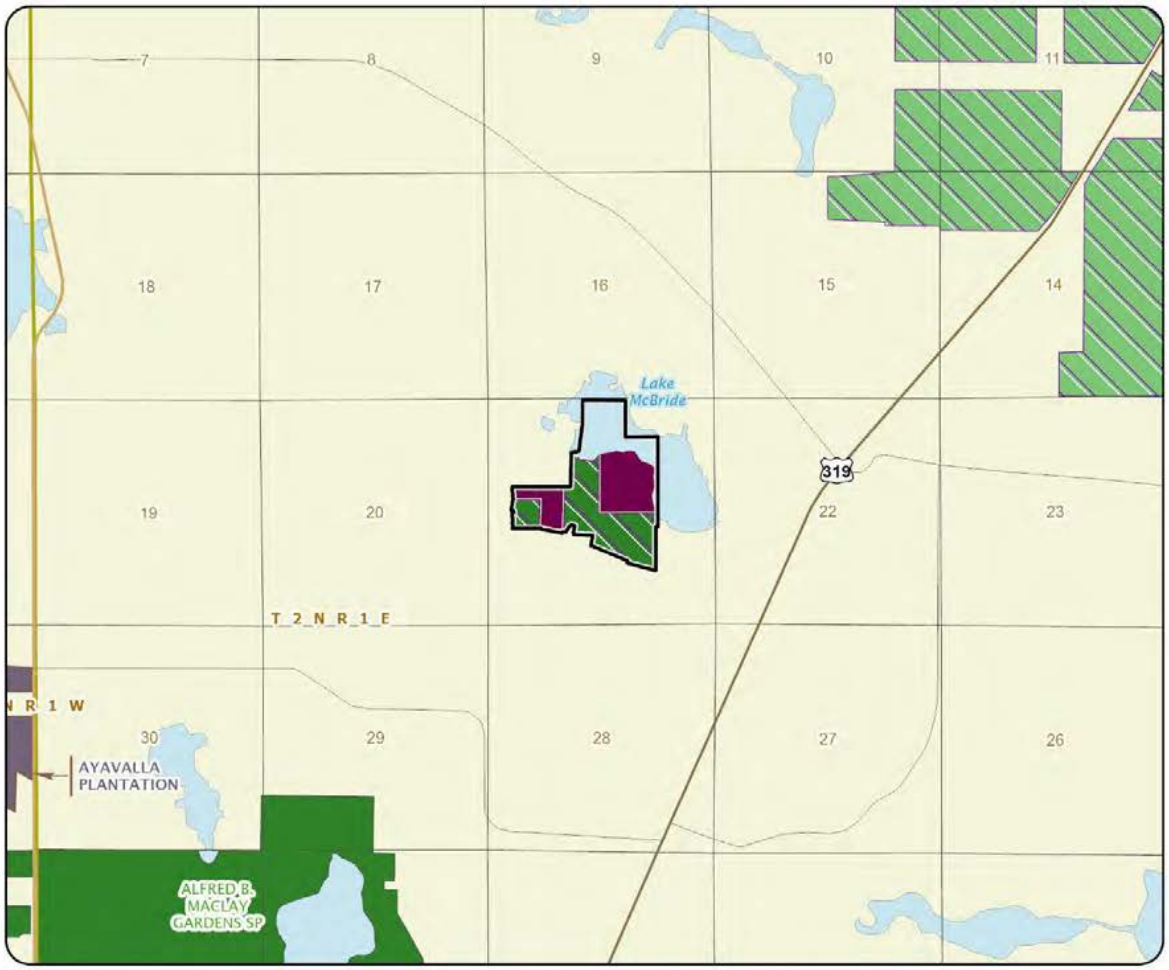
The greatest challenge affecting the management of the Millstone Plantation project is the tremendous number of archaeological resources on the property. Developing a plan for the ongoing systematic survey, investigation and interpretation of the site's archaeological resources will be essential. The proximity of highways and residential and commercial development to the site may pose fire and smoke management problems for the restoration of Millstone's natural communities. Due to development pressure in the Lake McBride Basin, accelerating the timeline for aquatic research is important.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Archaeological surveys and investigation(s) are ongoing; initial management activities should concentrate on identifying and researching these resources. In subsequent years, the Millstone Institute intends to implement a management plan for the property that will include measures for longleaf pine and native groundcover restoration within 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 the eradication of exotic and pest plants including Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) and tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), as well as the implementation of prescribed burning and re-vegetation. The Millstone Institute has and will continue to sponsor scientific aquatic research related to Lake McBride. Existing nature trails on the property will be improved and expanded to enhance public access.

The Millstone Institute will also continue and expand its existing public education programs, including traditional, sustainable, organic agricultural practices and North Florida farm arts (i.e., spinning and weaving). Plans will also be made for historically accurate and appropriate preservation and restoration of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures.



MILLSTONE PLANTATION

LEON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



N

0 1 2 Miles

Myakka Ranchlands

Less-Than-Fee

DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2007*
Project Acres	*56,607*
Acquired Acres	*29,776*
Remaining Project Acres	*26,831*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$399,114,451*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Myakka Ranchlands project contains land areas on opposite sides of the Myakka River State Park, creating a corridor of conservation lands in southwest Florida. Acquiring these lands will add significant acreage to the conservation lands already protecting the Myakka River watershed and Charlotte Harbor Estuary. Additionally, the project will protect lands known to support habitat for numerous rare and imperiled species including the Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

General Description

The original Myakka Ranchlands project contained 18,739 acres consisting of three ownerships in two disjunct tracts: 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 in northern Sarasota County, about five miles east of the city of Sarasota. The Longino/Walton tract is in eastern Sarasota County, about 13 miles southeast of Hi Hat Ranch, between State Road 72 and Interstate 75. The eastern edge of the tract abuts the Lewis Longino Preserve, a 3,895-acre conservation easement purchased by Sarasota County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to protect regional water supplies.

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 SWFWMD for the withdrawal of 6-7 million gallons of groundwater per day at the ranch. The properties are crisscrossed with internal roads, accessways and ditches associated with ranch and farming operations. Approximately half of the Hi Hat, Longino and Walton ranches have been converted to pasture, agriculture or various uses such as impoundments, canals, roads and buildings. Most of these areas are improved pasture. The remaining natural areas support a mosaic of mesic flatwoods, depression and basin marshes, prairie and hydric hammocks. Approximately 70 percent of the Myakka-

Peace River Watershed Connector ranches are in natural condition. The quality of these natural communities is variable, depending upon the fire history and levels of physical disturbances or invasive exotic plant encroachments. The Myakka Island Conservation Corridor consists of three ranches: Triangle Ranch (1,067 acres) and Sheps Island Ranch (723 acres) are along the Manatee River where Sarasota and Manatee counties join; Orange Hammock Ranch (5,774 acres) borders existing conservation lands on the DeSoto County line. The working ranches have cattle operations, sod farms, row crops, citrus groves, pine and cabbage palm harvesting, and hunting. About 90 percent of the land for the Myakka Island Conservation Corridor parcels is in various degrees of natural condition, with some improved pasture.

The Myakka Corridor Addition is 555 acres located approximately 3 miles west of Myakka City. This property lies adjacent to the Triple Oak Preserve (Manatee County) and within both the Florida Wildlife Corridor and the Scrub Jay Focal Landscape, a strategic approach designed to recover and protect the long-term viability of the M4 metapopulation of the federally listed Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). The Myakka Corridor Addition is largely made up of pasture (67 percent), and Manatee County plans to restore to historic conditions if acquired. The most common natural landcover type on the property is scrub, where Florida bonamia (*Bonamia grandiflora*) and nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*) were observed.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
*Manasota pawpaw**	G1/S1
*Large-plumed beaksedge**	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Many-flowered grass-pink**	G3/S2S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
*Nodding pinweed**	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

Within the 802 acres comprising the Hi Hat Ranch (to be managed by Sarasota County), some existing roads and trails may become multi-use trails for hiking and horseback riding. Uses such as camping, picnicking, hiking and boating will be compatible with the protection of the area. The Myakka Corridor Addition is to be managed by Manatee County for passive uses including birding, hiking, biking and equestrian access. Longino Ranch, Walton Ranch, the remainder of Hi Hat Ranch, and the ranches of the Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector and the Myakka Island Conservation Corridor are proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and do not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2007

On December 14, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Myakka Ranchlands to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List. The application proposes a combination of full-fee and less-than-fee acquisition. Longino Ranch is less-than-fee; Hi-Hat is fee-simple 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.

2010

On July 15, 2010, Sarasota County and SWFWMD purchased 3,760 acres in partnership. Known as Walton Ranch, the properties were purchased as both fee and less-than-fee; lands purchased as less-than-fee are held jointly by SWFWMD and Sarasota County.

On August 19, 2010, SWFWMD and Sarasota County acquired 3,981 acres in partnership. Known as Longino Ranch, the property was acquired less-than-fee and the easement is held jointly by SWFWMD and Sarasota County. This easement has a provision for public access to a recreational trail along the southern property boundary that if developed would connect public ownerships from the Myakka River to the Peace River.

2011

On September 27, 2011, SWFWMD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service purchased 1,237 acres in partnership known as Horton Ranch for $2,230,000.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

2014

On June 27, 2014, ARC approved the proposed Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector and voted to combine it with the Myakka Ranchlands project.

On December 12, 2014, ARC added the proposed Myakka Island Conservation Corridor as an addition to the Myakka Ranchlands, bringing the project to a total of 31,853 acres.

2015

On August 21, 2015, ARC approved a boundary amendment to add the 543-acre Murphy Marsh parcel to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project.

On October 16, 2015, ARC added the 1,356-acre Myakka Addition Lands project in Sarasota County and the 2,659-acre Upper Myakka Watershed project in Manatee County to the Florida Forever Priority List. ARC then combined the two projects into the existing Myakka Ranchlands project.

2016

On May 16, 2016, SWFWMD established the Upper Myakka River Watershed – Triangle Ranch conservation easement (1,142.31 acres).

On October 21, 2016, ARC approved the 4,530-acre Blackbeard's Ranch project in southern Manatee County, then added it to the existing Myakka Ranchlands project.

2019

On April 19, 2019, ARC approved adding the 4,044-acre BR Ranch project in DeSoto County to the 2020 Florida Forever Priority List. BR Ranch was proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition and had a tax-assessed value of $11,700,000. After its approval, ARC added it to the existing Myakka Ranchlands project.

On October 18, 2019, ARC approved adding the 2,393-acre MJ Ranch project in Manatee County to the 2020 Florida Forever Priority List. ARC then moved to incorporate the lands within the MJ Ranch into the Myakka Ranchlands project boundary. MJ Ranch was proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition and had a tax-assessed value of $5,800,632.

2020

On May 4, 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 559.1-acre conservation easement in Manatee County from Matthew Pallardy.

On May 29, 2020, DEP acquired, in fee, 5,776.3 acres in Sarasota County from B Becker Partners, LTD., TCC Partners, L.P. and Michael George. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages the property as Orange Hammock Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

2021

In 2021, DEP acquired a 380.2-acre conservation easement in DeSoto County from the Rawls family.

On August 13, 2021, ARC approved the addition of J Bar C Ranch — East (996 acres) in Manatee County to the project boundary.

On December 10, 2021, ARC approved the addition of J Bar C Ranch — West (576.05 acres) in Manatee County to the project boundary.

2022

On October 14, 2022, ARC approved the addition of the Keen Ranch project proposal (995 acres) to the project boundary.

On December 9, 2002, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 748 acres in DeSoto and Manatee counties with a tax-assessed value of $1,314,040 (Flint Ranch).

2023

On April 14, 2023, ARC approved the addition of the Quail Creek Ranch project proposal (2,698 acres) in Hardee County to the project boundary.

On October 13, 2023, ARC approved the addition of the Myakka Ranch project proposal (998 acres) in Manatee County to the project boundary.

In December of 2023, ARC approved the addition of 34 parcels totaling approximately 433.87 acres in Manatee County.

DEP acquired a 557-acre conservation easement in Manatee County from Big Slough Ranch, LLC. DEP also acquired a 1,045-acre conservation easement in Manatee County from Land South Manatee, LLC.

2024

In April 2024, DEP acquired a 402.38-acre conservation easement in Manatee County from Flint Properties II, a 324.1-acre conservation easement in DeSoto County from Gwen Flint Trust and a 1,515.7-acre conservation easement in DeSoto County from 4L's Ranch.

On November 25, 2024, DEP acquired a 2,646.45-acre conservation easement in Hardee County from Quail Creek Farms, Inc.

In December of 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 546.71 acres in Manatee County.

2025

On April 11, 2025, ARC approved the addition of the Myakka Corridor Addition project (555 acres) in Manatee County to the project boundary.

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 660 acres in Hardee County to the project boundary.

Coordination

Acquisition of the Myakka Ranchlands would be a shared acquisition with Manatee County, Sarasota County and SWFWMD. It is already part of SWFWMD's Work Plan and abuts Myakka River State Park. The Myakka Corridor Addition tract may be acquired in partnership with Manatee County, who has committed to contribute 50 percent of the purchase amount, or $5 million dollars, of available Conservation and Parks Projects Referendum funds. The rest of the project is recommended for less-than-fee acquisition and would be monitored through DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Policy Statement

Principal purposes of the project include the 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 with careful control of public uses. The primary land management goals are to restore, maintain

and protect native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple-use approach will guide the management activities for this project.

The main purposes for protection of the Myakka Corridor Addition include landscape linkage/corridor creation, watershed restoration in the Myakka River Watershed, and scrub and Florida scrub-jay restoration/recovery.

The proposed less-than-fee acquisitions of Myakka Ranchlands would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

Sarasota County's Natural Resources division is the recommended manager the majority of fee-simple acquisitions, with assistance and cooperation from SWFWMD and DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks. Manatee County is the identified manager for the Myakka Corridor Addition portion of the project. The remainder of Myakka Ranchlands is proposed for less-than-fee acquisitions; management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

Most of the lands acquired fee-simple will be managed by Sarasota County (excluding the Myakka Corridor Addition -see below). DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement(s), while the management will be conducted by the property owner for the less-than-fee tracts.

Qualifications for State Designation

The project's size, diversity and location make it desirable for use and management compatible with the adjacent state park. Most 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 and its pastures are devoid of most native groundcover and understory species.

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 be fenced and the above-ground spray-irrigation equipment will be removed by the landowner. Hydrological alterations in the form of ditches will be analyzed for potential restoration. Such areas may be restored with native ground cover and canopy. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be minimal to obtain the necessary

information and resources required to restore and manage this system compatible with Myakka River State Park. Long-term management costs are expected to be low.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the fee-simple portion of the project is acquired and assigned to Sarasota County for management, existing trails will be evaluated for nature-based recreational use. After the installation of the fence and removal of the above-ground irrigation equipment by Hi Hat Ranch, 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 and rare and imperiled species 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 ensure 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 future revenues might come from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities if such projects could be economically developed. No capital project expenditures will be needed on the full-fee 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.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Sarasota County proposes to manage the 802-acre section of the project (adjacent to Myakka River State Park) and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. Sarasota County will cooperate with and seek the assistance of DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks, SWFWMD and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Prospectus (Myakka Corridor Addition)

Qualifications for State Designation

The Myakka Corridor Addition project is located immediately adjacent to the recently acquired 105-acre Triple Oak Preserve. The project's acquisition would enhance the habitat value and management of Triple Oak Preserve, as well as the value of natural connections to the north (i.e. multiple conservation easements) and south (i.e. Myakka River State Park). The Myakka Corridor Addition could significantly contribute to the solution of regional water resource problems, as have been initiated for Tatum Sawgrass. Fee simple acquisition of the property is a rare opportunity to protect high-quality, under-

represented habitat and protected species within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Acquisition will protect a key portion of a corridor connection from future development.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

There are relatively few barriers to the implementation of a robust adaptive management regime. Fuel loading on site is low due to history of intensive grazing on site. The fact that there are few smoke-sensitive targets in the area, low residential density, and neighboring agricultural land uses means that for the near term the implementation of an active fire regime will be highly feasible. Restoration of improved pasture is both time and labor intensive. We anticipate that restoration of the mesic upland areas will occur along two main trajectories/strategies. The first could be thought of as a "top-down" canopy-first approach where long leaf pine and/or South Florida slash pine will be planted in dense plantations to shade competing grasses and shrubs to promote pine canopy establishment. Over the following 30 years, progressive thinning, invasive plant management and finally under seeding/planting with a diverse mix of native local ecotype seeds of grasses and wildflowers supplemented with potted shrub plant materials will ultimately yield a desired natural density and an assemblage of native shrubs and groundcover. This approach is cheaper and slower and can be used to begin restoration on a larger portion of the site. Manatee County has applied this approach to thousands of acres at Duette Preserve and Headwaters Preserve in northeastern Manatee County.

The second could be thought of as a "bottom-up", groundcover-first approach where intensive site preparation using herbicides, fire, and disking is implemented to prepare smaller areas (20-50 acres per year) for direct seeding using a diverse groundcover mix of native grasses and wildflowers. Manatee County has successfully implemented this strategy on approximately 120 acres to date. This approach is more expensive and labor intensive but greatly reduces the amount of time needed to produce a proxy for extant native longleaf pine or slash pine flatwoods.

Scrub restoration on-site is also needed, although — for the most part — these areas have not had substantial ground disturbance. Restoration of scrub structure is the primary focus where scrub oaks (primarily sand live oak [*Quercus geminata*, Chapman's oak [*Q. chapmanii*], and Myrtle Oak [*Q. myrtifolia*]), are top-killed using chainsaws and/or fire to encourage coppicing or resprouting from roots thereby re-establishing the clonal shrub growth habit of these scrub oaks. Once basic structure has been reestablished and bare ground patches/shrubby aspects have been restored, then supplemental groundcover plantings/seedings can be used to further push these scrub areas towards complete restoration.

In the northern portion of the property, a drastic reduction in wetland and surface water area between 1940 and 2024 appears to have resulted from drainage features.
Hydric soils mapped in the location of historic wetlands indicate a possible opportunity to restore hydrology, recreate wetlands, increase flood storage capacity and improve water quality downstream. Manatee County staff have discussed the potential for hydrologic and habitat restoration with the

SWFWMD. County staff intent to apply to the SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Initiative program in 2025 for a Natural Systems Project, more specifically a Restoration Projects Incorporating Multiple Elements to restore the drained area in partnership with SWFWMD.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

One of the most immediate goals of our management regime would be to establish and maintain site security. Perimeter fences are in relatively good shape with boundaries well delineated. Desktop analysis does show some substantial discrepancies between Manatee County GIS-indicated parcel boundaries and where fence lines have been constructed are substantial. The work of a Professional Survey will be required to reconcile these differences. Manatee County Natural Resources department has a great deal of experience dealing with these issues and working collaboratively with neighbors to resolve boundary issues.

The adjacent Triple Oaks Preserve (approximately 105 acres) currently has a resident ranger who — among other things — is responsible for periodic site patrols for site security. Regular site patrols can begin as soon as the site is acquired. The use of wildlife cameras for areas of suspected unauthorized access and close working relationships with Sherriff's Range Deputies will facilitate resource protection.

The site can be opened for multi-modal public access relatively quickly. Minimal parking improvements, a kiosk with trail map and trail blazing/marking can be completed within several months of acquisition. Since overall site visitation is anticipated to be low in the near-term, pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian use can be supported on the existing interior road network with limited improvements. Redundant and unnecessary trails will be closed off and restored with appropriate signage and plants.

Revenue-generating Potential

Opportunities for revenue generation are somewhat limited for several reasons. With a number of other public lands available for no entry fee, this site will not support the collection of fees for entry. The cost of collecting the fees relative to the anticipated revenue would be prohibitive. There are no significant stands of timber on site that need to be thinned. Cattle leases in this area typically provide only around $15 per acre. Although approximately 350-400 acres of the site could feasibly be leased for cattle, generating up to $6,000 annually, significant up-front investments in fencing and water improvements would need to be made to adequately implement standard Best Management Practices and to address other water quality concerns associated with lands purchased for conservation purposes. These improvements would likely need to be made by the county, and it could be 10-15 years before the county recovered initial investment costs and began to generate positive revenue leasing land for cattle. This will be considered further with a much more in-depth economic analysis and public comment.

Other opportunities for revenue include the sale of palmetto berries and the sale of carbon credits. With the significant needs for reforestation on site we are in a good position to expand our existing partnership with the non-profit The Climate Trust to this site. The American Carbon Registry provides a marketplace for the sale of these credits which are derived under the "Afforestation" protocol. Where lands that have a demonstrated paucity of trees can be both funded for planting and then as the trees

grow, carbon credits are generated through careful documentation by the non-profit partner. The credits are sold on the open market generating revenue to the landowner and a percentage (fee) for the broker.

As restoration progresses, open pastures are reforested, and the site improves with respect to its ability to support game species, we expect that limited special opportunity hunts could be held for quail, turkey, white-tailed deer and/or feral hogs. While the permits sold for these hunts could be set for higher prices than most wildlife management areas, national forests, etc. in Florida due to the lack of public land hunting opportunities in the area, it is unlikely that this revenue would do little else other than cover the cost of staffing and administering them. Nevertheless, these opportunities will be strongly considered to help meet increasing public demand for hunting grounds as opportunities on private lands dwindle in the face of development pressure.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Florida Forest Service (FFS): FFS provides assistance with equipment and training of prescribed fire crews and is a vital cooperator for fire management generally. They currently offer several programs for assistance with reforestation.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC): FWC provides direct funding assistance for the management of upland invasive plant control through its upland invasive working group. Manatee County is a regular recipient (several projects annually) of this funding assistance which has been a decisive factor in landscape level control of Old-World climbing fern, cogon grass, Brazilian pepper and many other invasive plant species. Similarly, the Gopher Tortoise Habitat Assistance Program regularly provides assistance and has been a catalyst for the successful restoration of many scrub and flatwoods areas.

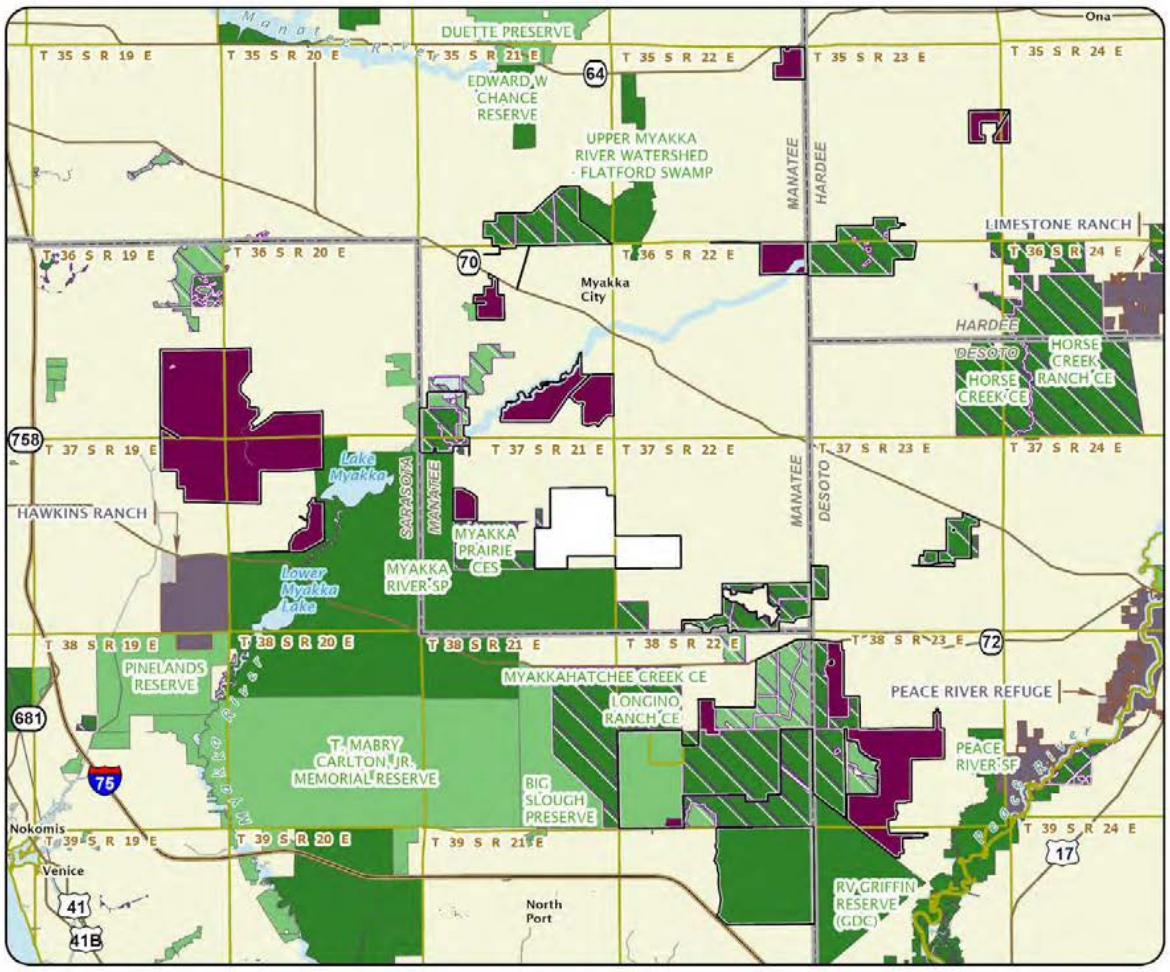
Big Waters Land Trust (formerly Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast): The non-profit Big Waters Land Trust has consistently provided South Florida Ecotype longleaf pine seedlings for the reforestation of Manatee County preserves.

SWFWMD: Restoration and enhancement of historic wetlands could store water to reduce the impacts of flooding, improve water quality downstream and support imperiled species. Such a capital improvement project could be done in coordination with the SWFWMD Surface Water Improvement and Management Program, as well as Tatum Sawgrass restoration and water management plans.

Management Cost Summary

Manatee County	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	County and Grants	County
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Resource Management	$190,000	$47,600
Capital Improvements	$660,000	not provided
Visitor Services/ Recreation	$83,000	$5,000
Support	$100,000	$500
Administration	not provided	$3,000
TOTAL	$1,033,000	$56,100

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



MYAKKA RANCHLANDS

DESOTO, HARDEE, MANATEE, AND SARASOTA COUNTIES









North Waccasassa Flats

Less-Than-Fee

Gilchrist County

Year Added to Priority List	*2018*
Project Acres	*15,606*
Acquired Acres	*541*
Remaining Project Acres	*15,065*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$76,336,254*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The North Waccasassa Flats project will benefit water quality by protecting natural floodplain functions, functioning wetland systems and groundwater recharge areas. The project will also protect the headwaters of a tributary of the Santa Fe River as well as strategic and rare species habitats.

General Description

The project is in Gilchrist County and is bisected by County Road 340. The eastern and western boundaries consist of numerous rural-residential and agricultural properties. The southern boundary is a livestock operation. The project area is also crossed by a highway, a former rail line, a newly constructed pipeline and near utility transmission corridors. Important established conservation areas nearby include Fort White Wildlife and Environmental Area to the north and Bell Ridge Longleaf Wildlife and Environmental Area to the west. There are also numerous state parks, county parks and private conservation easements along the Santa Fe River to the north and along the Suwannee River to the west. Most of the project area is completely undeveloped, though there are many miles of unpaved roads servicing forestry and hunting activities.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2

Public Use

North Waccasassa Flats is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

This area has been considered for conservation projects in the past, including a 1980s proposal under the Conservation and Recreational Lands program for a 56,000-acre state forest. At that time, the landowner did not want to sell in a phased schedule. The Suwannee River Water Management District also proposed a planned 34,000-acre project overlapping this area.

2017

On October 31, 2017, the Conservation Fund sponsored the 14,153-acre proposal for the North Waccasassa Flats.

2018

On April 20, 2018, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add this proposal to the Florida Forever Priority List.

2022

On December 9, 2022, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 562 acres in Gilchrist County with a tax-assessed market value of $1,405,936 (Carroll Property).

2024

On November 22, 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 540.6-acre conservation easement in Gilchrist County from Robert and Lori Carroll.

In December 2024, ARC approved the addition of six parcels totaling approximately 890.47 acres in Gilchrist County to the project boundary.

Coordination

This area has also been considered for acquisition through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Rural and Family Lands Protection Program and by Suwannee River Water Management District; partnership opportunities between the two may be possible.

Management Policy Statement

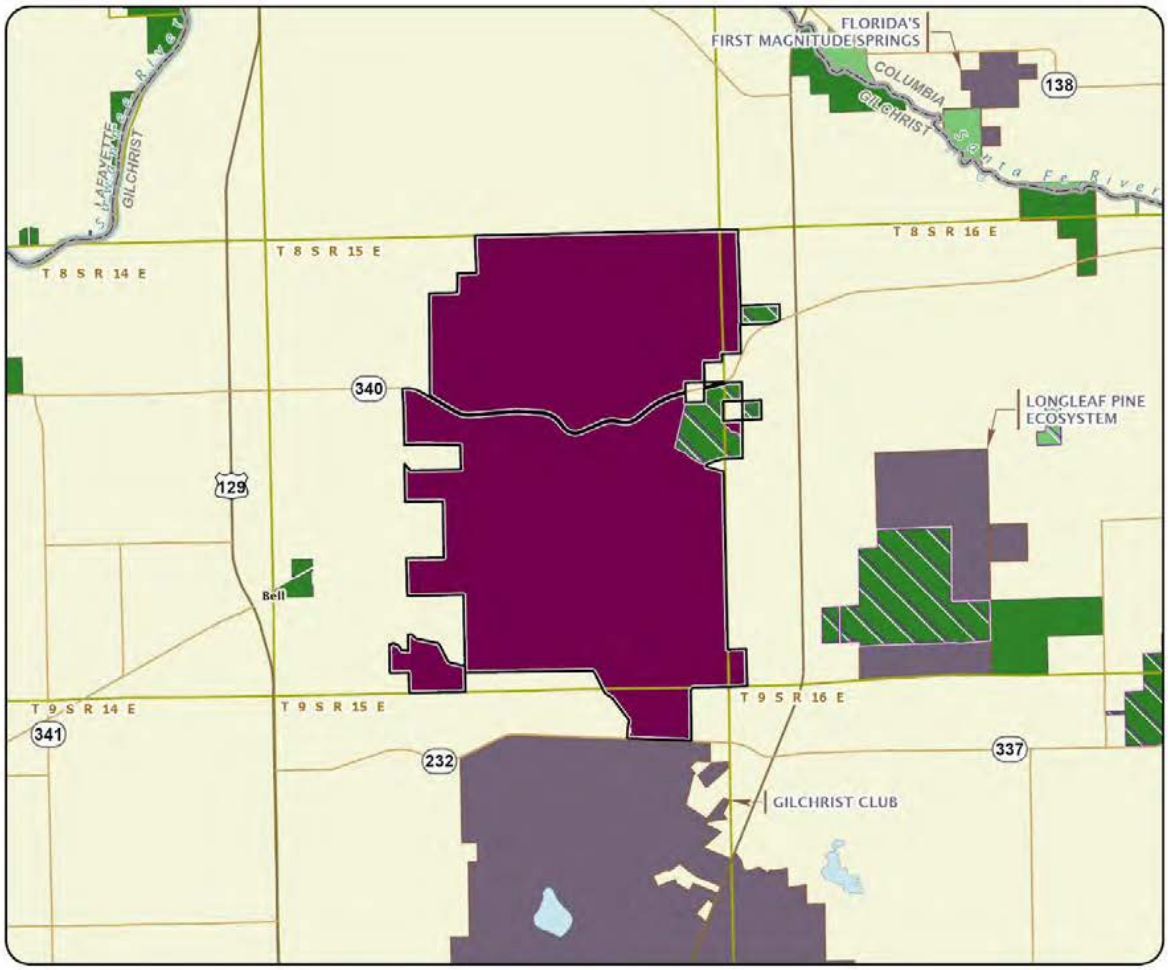
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the North Waccasassa Flats project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



NORTH WACCASASSA FLATS

GILCHRIST COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Ochlockonee River Conservation Area

Less-Than-Fee

Gadsden and Leon Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2005*
Project Acres	*4,994*
Acquired Acres	*1,933*
Remaining Project Acres	*3,061*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$28,254,356*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project will protect a portion of the Ochlockonee River watershed (including 6 miles of river frontage) while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside expanding urbanized areas. The project will preserve habitat for various species, protect forested land and support the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural, longleaf pine community. This project will also provide an opportunity to manage the site in coordination with the adjacent Tall Timbers conservation lands.

General Description

This project is in western Leon County on the eastern bank of the Ochlockonee River. It is connected to the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, contiguous to the east with the Foshalee Plantation conservation easement. The Hiamonee Plantation conservation easement (Tall Timbers) also abuts the project's eastern boundary south of State Road 12. The project area is important to the water quality of the Ochlockonee River, which is an Outstanding Florida Water Body; four tributaries, two of which are partially impounded, run through the project.

Elevations across the proposal range from about 100 feet above mean sea level along the river to 230 feet in the northeastern uplands. Most of the site's uplands likely supported longleaf pine-dominated upland forest with a rich groundcover including wiregrass and other herbs. Most of this has been degraded for agriculture (including silviculture). However, some tracts have returned to a shortleaf/loblolly pine-dominated community with a relatively diverse groundcover. Slopes on-site generally support hardwood forests. Seepage slope communities may also be present.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Purple bankclimber	G2/S1
Barbour's map turtle	G2G3/S2
*Flyr's brickell-bush**	G3/S2
Inflated spike	G3/S2
*Turk's cap lily**	G5/S1
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3
White-breasted nuthatch	G5/S2
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2005

In 2005, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy established the 500-acre River Ridge Plantation conservation easement.

On January 25, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was sponsored by Woodlands Company Inc. and consisted of approximately 3,105 acres, two owners and had a taxable value of $1,067,948.

2006

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a less-than-fee 1,025-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by the Woodlands Company Inc., it consisted of two parcels owned by James Dahl and had a taxable value of $200,198. The parcels are in Gadsden and Leon counties and are designated as essential.

2007

In 2007, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy established a second River Ridge Plantation conservation easement spanning 614.75 acres.

2010

On February 19, 2010, ARC added a 31-acre linear conservation easement to the project boundary. The easement consisted of two parcels, owned by James Dahl, valued at $93,935.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of projects.

2016

On December 16, 2016, ARC approved a boundary amendment that removed 63 acres from the project boundary in Gadsden County, west of the Ochlockonee River. The amendment also added 664 acres in Leon County, east of the Ochlockonee River. In total, the amendment created a net gain of 601 acres to the project boundary with a tax-assessed value of $844,328.

Note: The 31-acre linear easement added in February 2010 remains in the boundary, but this 2016 boundary alteration also included a notice from the landowner rescinding their earlier (2010) commitment to public access.

Coordination

Acquisition of this project will be coordinated with the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy. In 2005, this organization acquired a 497-acre conservation easement through a donation. In 2007, another 615 acres were donated to Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy as part of the River Ridge Plantation Conservation Easement.

Management Policy Statement

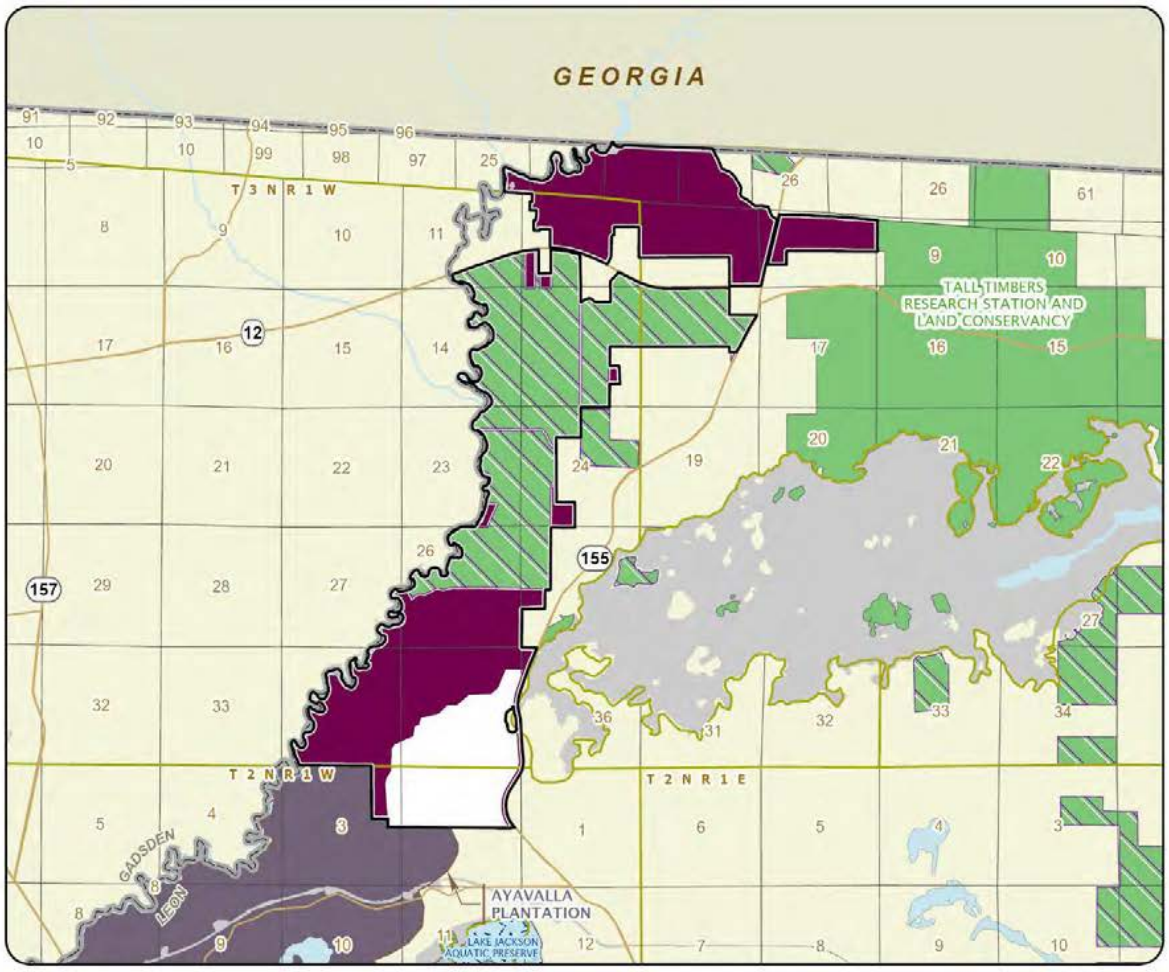
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement. Donated conservation easements will be managed and monitored by the respective conservation group(s).

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands. The Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy currently monitor their conservation easements acquired through donation.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner. The Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy will monitor the River Ridge Plantation easements.



OCHLOCKONEE RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

LEON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Old Town Creek Watershed

Less-Than-Fee

Hardee and Polk Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*9,639*
Acquired Acres	*7,575*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,064*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$16,566,803*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Old Town Creek Watershed project will support the conservation of both natural and working landscapes surrounding Old Town Creek, which feeds into Charlie Creek and ultimately into the Peace River. The northeastern portion of the project includes a portion of Lake Wales Ridge, a physiographic region of the state that is rich in rare and imperiled species.

General Description

The project is in south-central Florida and is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition. However, the Crews Ranch owner has indicated a willingness to consider a fee sale of scrub habitat 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 area was managed as an extension of that preserve, recreational opportunities could be made more readily available.

The site supports many natural communities which are characteristic of the region, including scrub. Although a large percentage of the former flatwoods have been converted to improved pasture, they remain important for several species in the region. The project contains Charlie Creek, a tributary of the Peace River.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Pygmy fringe tree**	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Florida hartwrightia**	G2G3/S2S3
Florida scrub lizard	G2G3/S2S3
*Florida bonamia**	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
*Cutthroatgrass**	G3/S3
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Old Town Creek Watershed project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project on the Florida Forever Priority List. The essential parcels are contained within Crews Ranch. Mallory Ranch (two noncontiguous tracts) is the other ownership within this project boundary. The estimated tax value was $788,200.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-than-Fee category of projects.

2017

On December 19, 2017, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund closed on the over 6,000-acre Crews Ranch conservation easement within the project.

2022

On April 8, 2022, ARC approved the 1,547-acre Charlie Creek project proposal and combined it with the Old Town Creek Watershed project.

2025

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 802 acres in Hardee County to the project boundary.

Coordination

This project has been submitted to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for a Save Our Rivers proposal. Southwest Florida Water Management is a potential acquisition partner.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Old Town Creek Watershed would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Old Town Creek Watershed project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands (DSL).

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

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.

Protecting the watershed and natural habitats surrounding Old Town Creek (which feeds into Charlie Creek and, eventually, the Peace River) from conversion to more intensive uses will help protect the region's water quality.

The ranches in this region contain large areas of natural lands that should be protected if an ecological connection between Big Cypress National Preserve and the Osceola National Forest/Okefenokee Swamp is to be achieved.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

This less-than-fee project includes lands requiring monitoring only. Crews Ranch is a working cattle ranch that is and will continue to be managed by the private landowner. The Nature Conservancy and other land management agencies will provide management advice and guidance to the landowner as necessary to maintain and enhance resource management.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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. The tract's natural resources, threatened/endangered plants and animals, and any archaeological and cultural sites will be inventoried

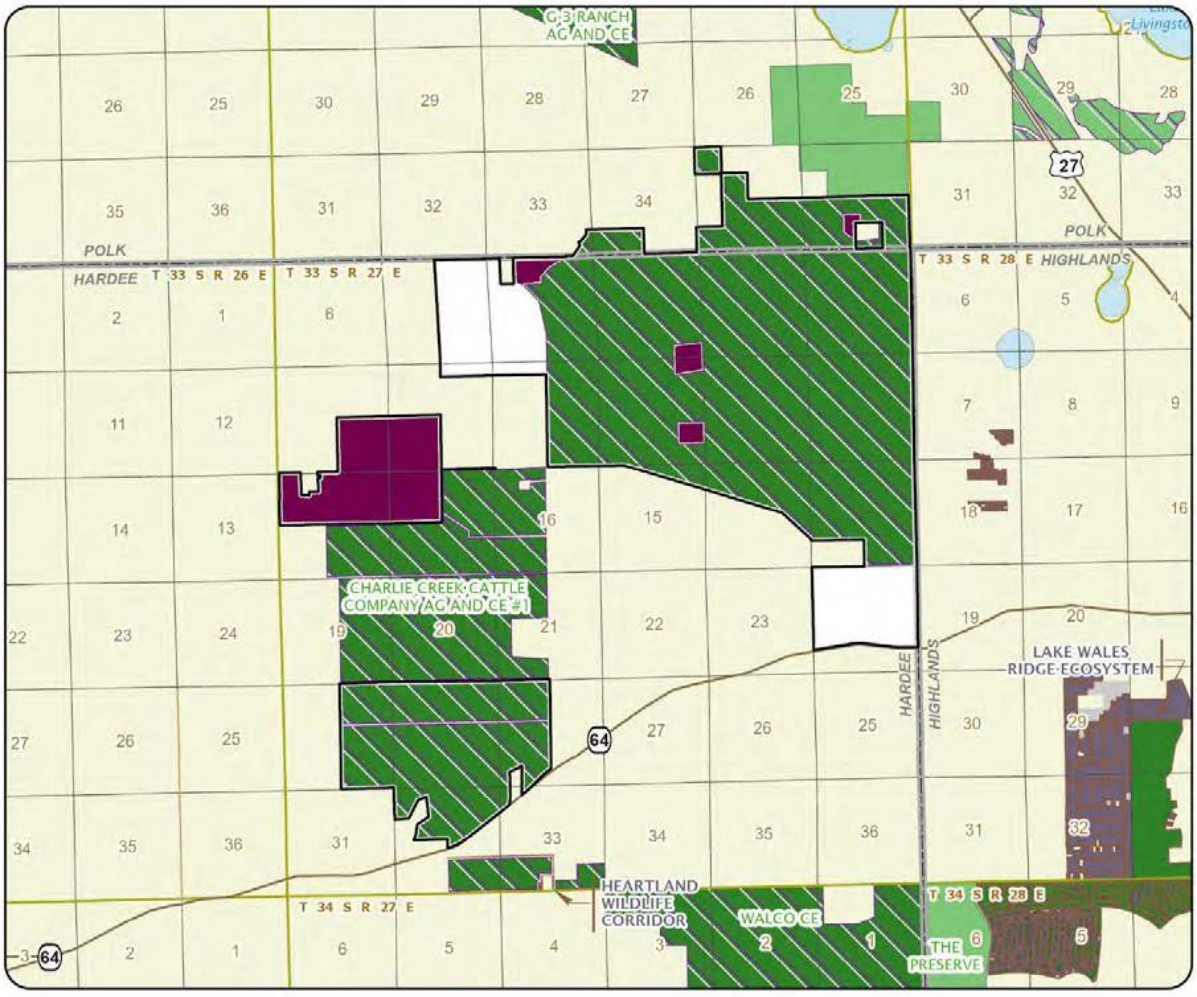
and mapped to provide the basis for the management plan. Protection and security of infrastructure and the property will be the responsibility of the private landowner.

Revenue-generating Potential

No revenue will be generated from this easement.

Cooperators in Management Activities

No cooperators are recommended for this site. However, consultation with Southwest Florida Water Management, The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission could be helpful to the landowner.



OLD TOWN CREEK WATERSHED

HARDEE AND POLK COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Peace River Refuge

Less-Than-Fee

DeSoto and Hardee Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2010*
Project Acres	*7,658*
Acquired Acres	*1,200*
Remaining Project Acres	*6,458*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$36,635,780*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Peace River Refuge project will preserve the water quality and habitat of the Peace River and its tributaries, protect water quality for the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary, and conserve habitat for aquatic and upland wildlife associated with the area's hardwood forested uplands and riverine wetlands.

General Description

The Peace River Refuge is in central DeSoto County, southwest of the city of Arcadia. The project follows the Peace River on both sides for approximately 8 river miles before meeting the Peace River State Forest to the south. The Peace River State Forest Addition is an opportunity to connect and expand the two distinct units of the state forest. The eastern portion of the project also contains frontage along Joshua Creek, a Peace River tributary. Most of the site's eastern boundary is formed by an abandoned railroad grade located less than one mile west of U.S. 17.

Overall, the project consists of primarily hardwood forested uplands; however, bottomland forests and open point bars are associated with the river and old meander features of the floodplain. The forested hardwood and floodplain areas of the Peace River State Forest Addition are designated under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as critical habitat for the federally endangered Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). Approximately 88 percent of the total project can be classified as natural communities.

Most uplands within the project 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 sawmill on the western side of the property).

The Peace River State Forest Addition has been managed with prescribed fire. Scrubby flatwoods are mostly in good condition, and a single band of sandhill in very good condition occurs in the southern part of the tract. The property contains 2.7 miles of land trail opportunities and 3 miles of paddling opportunities along the Peace River.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
Florida spiny-pod	G2G3/S2
*Redmargin zephyrlily**	G2G3/S2S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project is proposed for both fee and less-than-fee acquisition. The Peace River State Forest Addition (fee simple) could provide opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, primitive and group camping, canoeing, kayaking, boating, fish and Operation Outdoor Freedom events.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Peace River Refuge project to the Less-Than-Fee category of the Florida Forever Priority List. The project had an estimated tax-assessed value of $12,567,267.

2021

In 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 771.20-acre conservation easement in DeSoto County from Peace River Preserve, LLC.

2022

On April 8, 2022, ARC approved the 700-acre Johnson Homestead project proposal and combined it with the Peace River Refuge project.

2023

In December of 2023, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 149.11 acres in DeSoto County.

2024

In April 2024, ARC approved the addition of four parcels totaling approximately 259.4 acres in Hardee County to the project boundary.

On November 1, 2024, ARC approved the addition of the Rock Bend Ranch project proposal (658 acres) in DeSoto County to the project boundary.

In December 2024, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 103.82 acres in Hardee County to the project boundary.

2025

On April 17, 2025, DEP acquired a 359.5-acre conservation easement in Hardee County from Rafael and Corina Montalvo.

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of four parcels totaling approximately 593 acres in DeSoto and Hardee counties to the project boundary.

On October 10, 2025, ARC approved the addition of the Peace River State Forest Expansion project (1,320.85 acres) in DeSoto County to the project boundary.

Coordination

For the Peace River State Forest Addition, the Trust for Public Land is working with the Florida Forest Service (FFS) to apply for Forest Legacy funding.

Management Policy Statement

As a primarily less-than-fee acquisition, the project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowners as outlined in the conservation easement. The Peace River State Forest Addition will be managed by FFS as part of the Peace River State Forest, once acquired by the state.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Peace River Refuge would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands. The Peace River State Forest Addition is to be managed by FFS as part of Peace River State Forest.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Management Prospectus – Peace River State Forest Addition

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of acquiring this tract is to conserve and restore the natural ecosystems in Florida while providing recreation for our citizens and tourists. In addition, proper management of the property will also enhance water quality along the Peace River which is a designated Outstanding Florida Waterway that feeds into the Charlotte Harbor and provides drinking water for many Southwest Florida citizens.

Qualifications for State Designation

The acquisition of this land aligns with FFS' mission and strategic goals. A vital part of the mission is to "manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations." FFS strategic goals are to promote sound forest management practices to maintain the integrity of the environment and provide for future natural resource needs, and to manage public lands for their unique character while providing multiple benefits to the public.

This acquisition will allow expanded public access and recreation, ecosystem restoration, and multiple-use silvicultural management activities in line with Best Management Practices to protect water quality. Additional benefits for the Peace River State Forest include increased acreage for recreational opportunities, such as hiking, hunting, kayaking/canoeing, horseback riding, photography and hosting FFS-administered Operation Outdoor Freedom events.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Public river access and securing the property along the Peace River may be difficult. Numerous trails could create issues with prescribed burning but would be corrected over time.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security, Protection of Infrastructure

Management strategies will center on the multiple-use concept, as defined in sections 589.04(3) and 253.034(2)(a) F.S. Implementation of this concept will utilize and conserve state forest resources in a harmonious and coordinated combination that will best serve the people of the State of Florida, and that is consistent with the purpose for which the forest was acquired. Multiple-use management for the tract will be accomplished with the following strategies:

- Practice sustainable forest management for the efficient generation of revenue and in support of state forest management objectives;
- Provide for resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities for multiple interests;
- Restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems ensuring the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened, or rare, and other components of biological diversity including game and nongame wildlife and plants;
- Protect known archaeological, historical, cultural, and paleontological resources;
- Restore, maintain, and protect hydrological functions related to water resources and the health of associated wetland and aquatic communities.

Short-term goals may include:

- Establish and mark state forest boundaries
- Develop timber stands and inventory plots
- Consider additional recreational opportunities
- Evaluate the need for a flora and fauna survey
- Consider various types of leases for potential income
- Consider additional Operation Outdoor Freedom event opportunities

Long-term goals may include:

- Develop and implement a timber management plan
- Conserve, protect, manage, and restore the native natural ecosystems
- Conserve and protect natural resources
- Develop and mark recreational multiple-use trail; continue to consider other recreational opportunities; correct trails to align with prescribed burn activities
- Create infrastructure to support land management goals

Revenue-generating Potential

This property has the means to provide revenue. Possible revenue sources may be:

- Recreational user fees
- Leases
- Non-timber forest products

Other potential revenue-generating opportunities will be evaluated as appropriate.

Potential Multiple-Use Activities

The acquisition of the subject property will allow FFS to enhance the multiple-use activities on the state forest as required by Florida Statutes (253.034 – State-owned Land; Uses and 589.011 – Use of State Forest Lands). State acquisition and FFS management will promote harmonious and coordinated management of timber, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, habitat, water resources, the protection of cultural and other biological resources, and recreational activities to best serve the citizens of the State of Florida.

Recreational usage will be evaluated for provision of the greatest public benefits while allowing for the best conservation of the land, the water, and resources. Recreational activities may include, but are not limited to, multiple-use trails, hiking, wildlife viewing, primitive camping, group camping, canoeing/kayaking/boating, fishing, and Operation Outdoor Freedom events.

Timber resources will be managed to promote and improve forest health and would include prescribed fire, invasive species treatment and eradication, timber thinning and plantings, as appropriate.

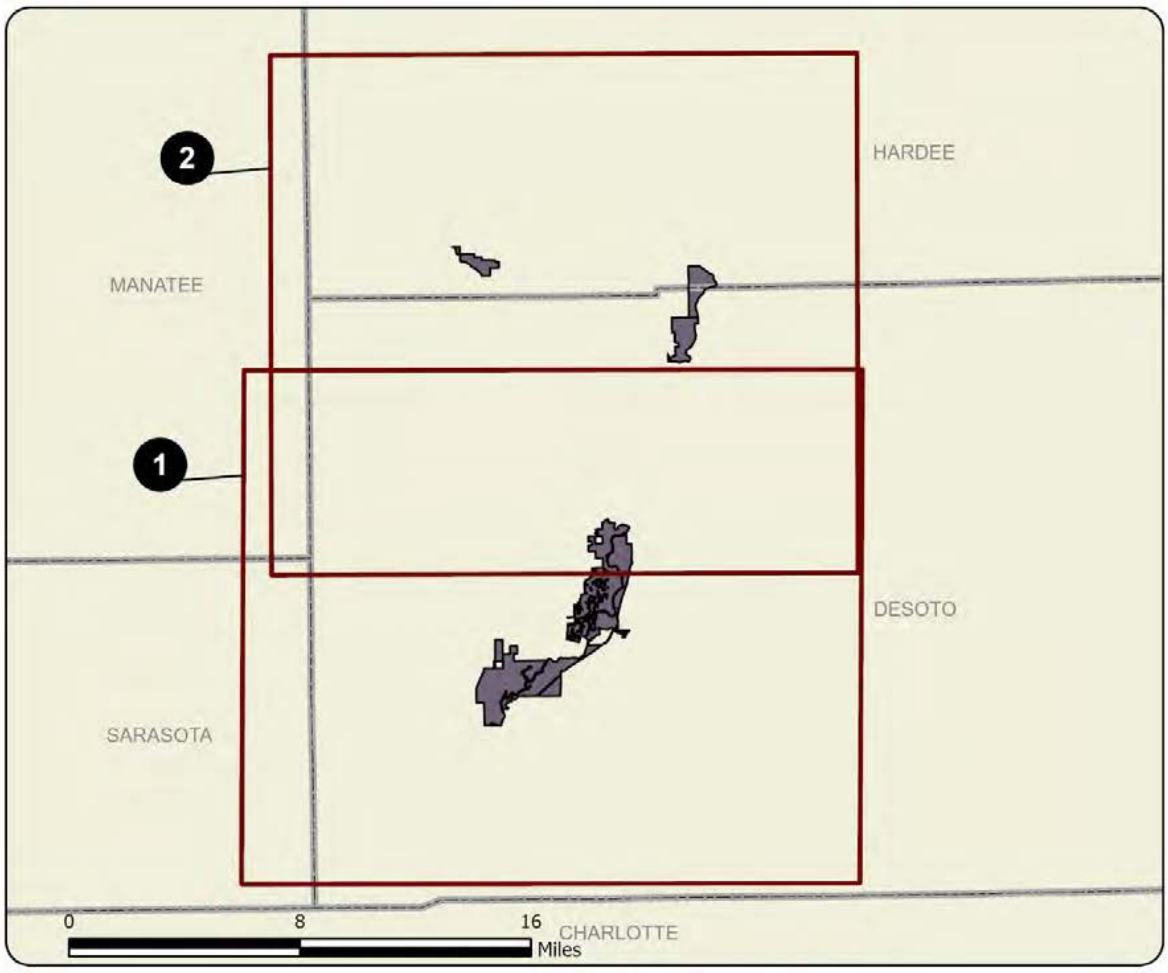
Cooperators in Management Activities

Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Advisory Role
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Advisory Role
Southwest Florida Water Management District	Advisory Role
Peace River Water Authority	Advisory Role

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary (# FTE)	$210,633	$210,633
OPS (# OPS)	$50,000	$50,000
Resource Management	$10,000	$10,000
Capital Improvements	$5,000	$15,000
Visitor Services/ Recreation	$5,000	$5,000
Support	$50,000	$8,000
Administration	-	-
TOTAL	$330,633	$298,633

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

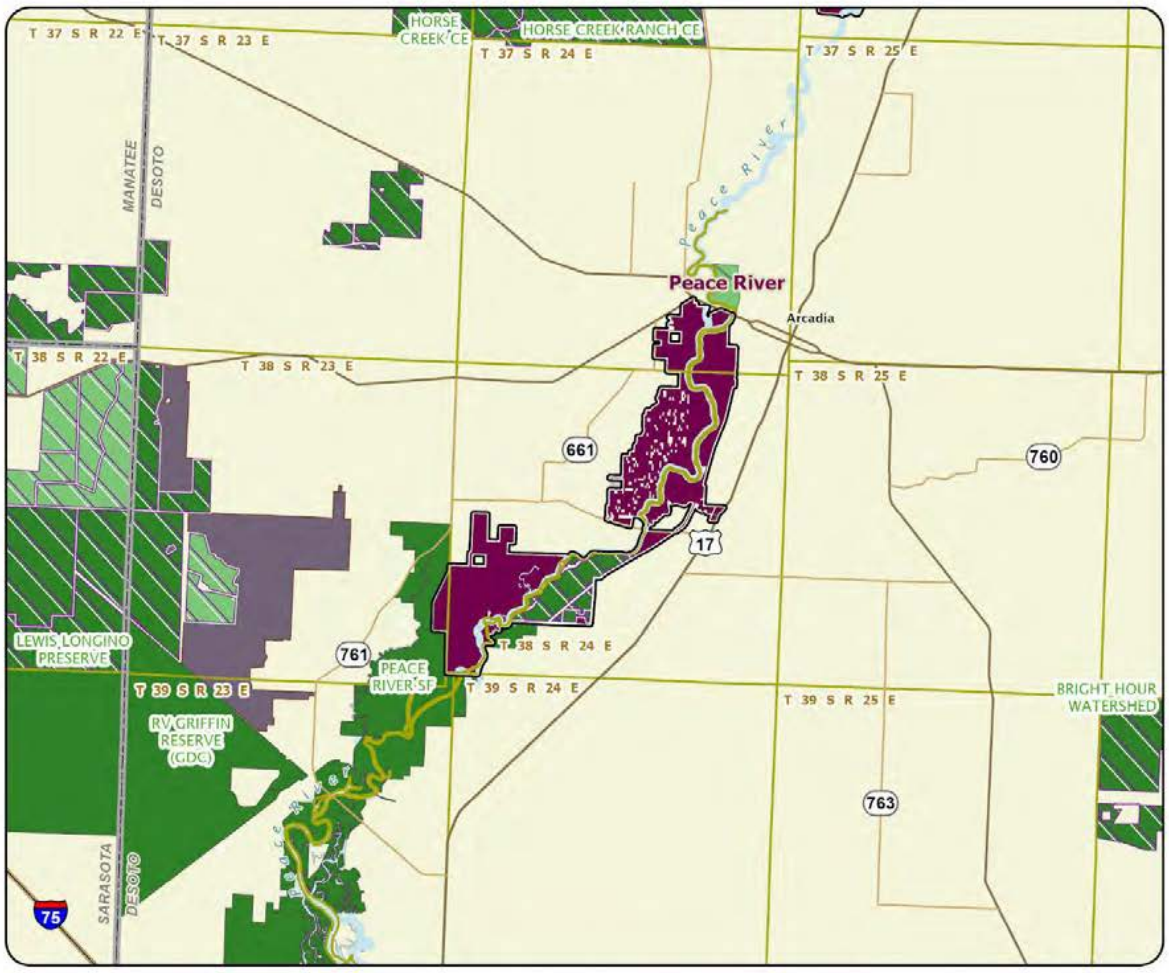


PEACE RIVER REFUGE: OVERVIEW

DESOTO AND HARDEE COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Peace River Site
- ☐ Map 2 Horse Creek Site
- ☐ Map 2 Peace River Site





PEACE RIVER REFUGE: MAP 1

DESOTO COUNTY

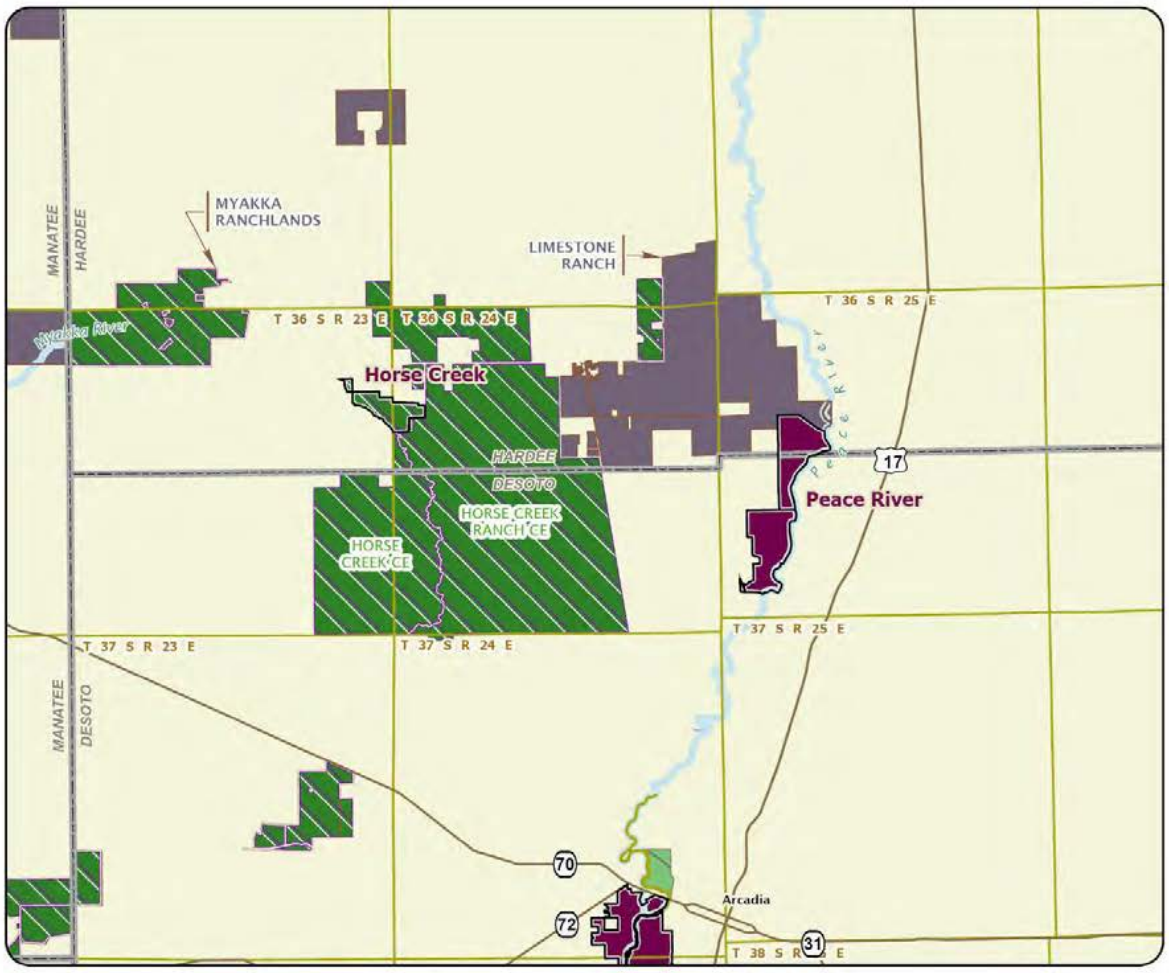
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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PEACE RIVER REFUGE: MAP 2

DESOTO AND HARDEE COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Raiford to Osceola Greenway

Less-Than-Fee

Baker and Union Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2010*
Project Acres	*68,849*
Acquired Acres	*1,538*
Remaining Project Acres	*67,311*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$110,827,582*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Raiford to Osceola Greenway project will provide a landscape connector between the Florida Forever projects to the east, Raiford Wildlife Management Area to the south and Osceola National Forest to the northwest. The project will contribute to the protection, restoration and maintenance of the state's waters by preserving four major blackwater streams from three major river basins, in addition to several headwaters and tributaries. The project will also increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

General Description

The Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway project was subdivided to create two projects: Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway and Raiford to Osceola Greenway. The Raiford to Osceola Greenway project consists of land abutting the Camp Blanding to 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 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. Approximately half of the project area consists of natural floodplain, basin swamp and baygall swamp.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Chapman's fringed orchid	G2G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Pineland scurfpea**	G1/S1
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
*Florida hartwrightia**	G2G3/S2S3
Many-lined salamander	G5/S1
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Timber rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, through discussion, representatives of the landowner have indicated that they will consider continuing the limited public uses that are allowed today. The Raiford to Osceola Greenway project is an expansive area that could have significant natural resource-based potential if portions of the project were available to the public. Particularly significant is the block of land west of State Road 231 containing Palestine Lake. All trails throughout the project have the potential for being multiple-use trails with hiking, horseback riding and bicycling. The corridor of the congressionally designated Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, crosses this project.

Acquisition Planning

2003

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

2006

On October 13, 2006, ARC adopted a redesign of the essential parcels within the original project. The number and acreage of essential parcels were revised by removing 106 parcels (64,250 acres) and adding 52 parcels (10,180 acres); a total of 54,020 acres remaining within the boundary were no longer designated as essential. The new essential parcel configuration will connect Camp Blanding to the Raiford Wildlife Management Area, then to the Osceola National Forest.

2010

On June 11, 2010, ARC adopted a redesign of the Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway project that identified 67,457 acres in the Raiford to Osceola Greenway project as well as 33,977 acres in the Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway project. After a project redesign in 2010, the project had an estimated tax-assessed value of $193,255,020.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the project in the Less-Than-Fee category in the Florida Forever Priority List.

2022

On April 8, 2022, ARC approved the South Prong of the St. Marys River (1,146 acres) project proposal and combined it with the Raiford to Osceola Greenway project.

2024

On August 2, 2024, DEP acquired a 201.86-acre conservation easement in Union County from FWF Acquisitions LLC.

Coordination

The Conservation Trust of Florida and DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails are considered acquisition partners on this project.

Management Policy Statement

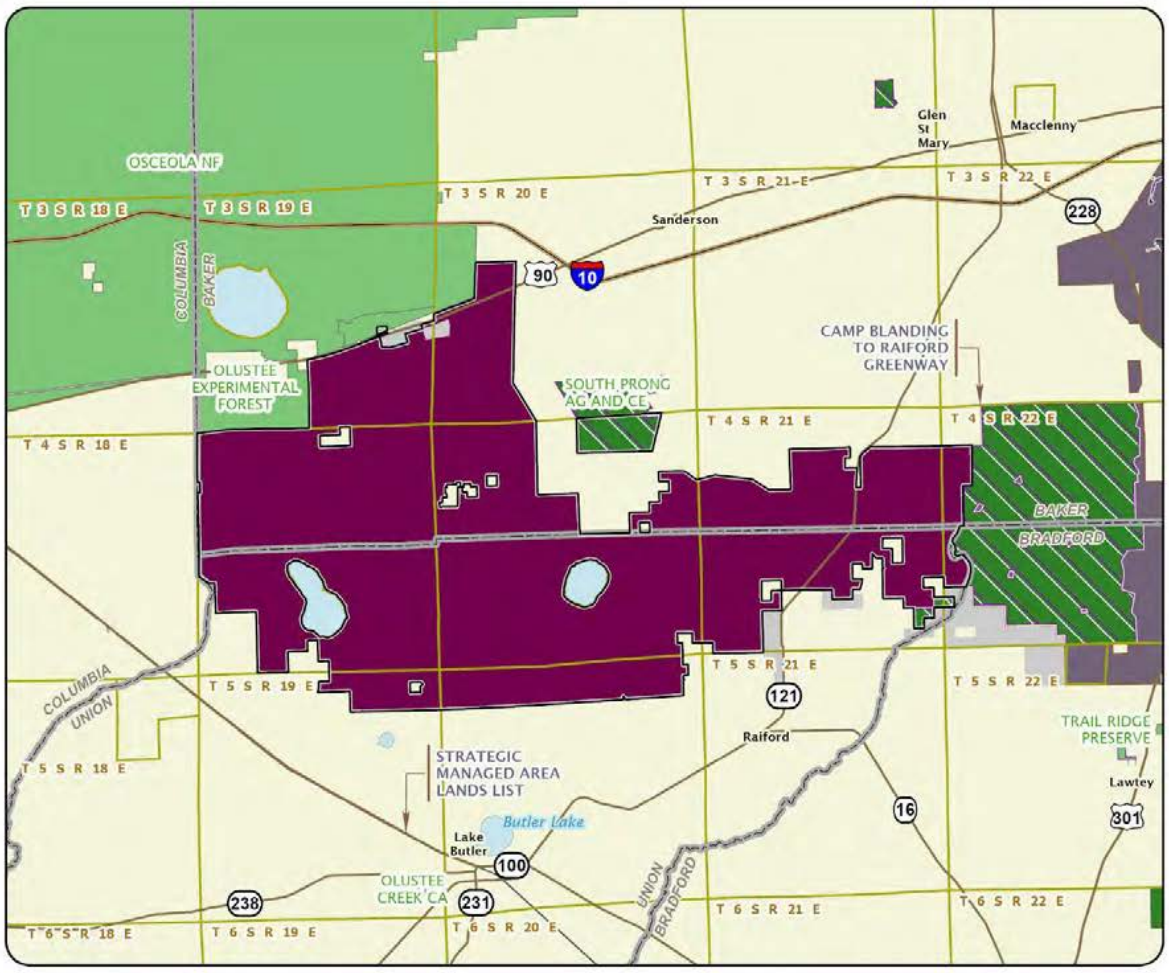
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Raiford to Osceola Greenway project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Raiford to Osceola Greenway project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



RAIFORD TO OSCEOLA GREENWAY

BAKER AND UNION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Ranch Reserve

Less-Than-Fee

Brevard, Indian River, and Osceola Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1997*
Project Acres	*37,227*
Acquired Acres	*31,301*
Remaining Project Acres	*5,926*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$23,422,221*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ranch Reserve project includes 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 such as the Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) and an experimental group of extremely rare whooping crane (*Grus americana*). The Ranch Reserve project will ensure that a large part of these lands remain as they are today, thus preserving a connection with public lands to the north and east.

General Description

The Ranch Reserve's four cattle ranches lie on the Osceola Plain, west of and above the St. Johns River marshes. Mesic flatwoods interrupted by depression marshes cover approximately 40 percent of the project area. Swamps and hammocks make up much of the remaining natural communities. Improved pastures cover approximately 30 percent of the area.

Multiple rare or imperiled species are known or reported to occur within the project, including the red-cockaded woodpecker and one of the largest populations of sandhill crane in Florida. Additionally, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has released whooping crane on the St. Johns River Water Management District's (SJRWMD) Escape Ranch to re-establish the species in Florida. The wildlife habitat within the project is threatened by the harvest of old-growth pines and conversion to more intensive agriculture or non-agricultural use. The project also includes the headwaters of several streams that flow into the St. Johns River marsh.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Whooping crane	G1/S1
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Arogos skipper	G2G3T1T2/S2
Loammi skipper	G2/S2?
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

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

1996

On October 30, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee acquisition category: resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; the seller is willing to accept a less-than-fee-simple instrument and the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council has determined that the acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and the manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee-simple instrument.

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council transferred the remaining ownerships within the Ranch Reserve project boundary—Campbell (acquired), Mills (acquired), Kelly/Bronson and Kaup—to the Less-Than-Fee category.

On December 24, 1996, SJRWMD acquired a conservation easement over the large central tract (Escape Ranch - 11,768 acres).

2000

In 2000, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund acquired a conservation easement over Mills Ranch.

2003

On July 31, 2003, SJRWMD acquired the Wolf Creek Ranch conservation easement (3,810 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Less-than-Fee category on the Florida Forever Priority List.

2025

In February 2025, ARC approved the addition of eight parcels totaling approximately 592 acres in Brevard County to the project boundary.

In April 2025, ARC approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 225 acres in Brevard County to the project boundary.

On August 27, 2025, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a 7,514.25-acre conservation easement in Osceola County from Kenansville Ranch LLC.

Coordination

SJRWMD is an acquisition partner with the state and has acquired substantial acreage within the project area. The Nature Conservancy is also an acquisition partner.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ranch Reserve project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Ranch Reserve project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

The size of the Ranch Reserve project and its importance to wildlife, particularly to birds such as the Florida sandhill crane and red-cockaded woodpecker, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project generally includes lands requiring monitoring only and minimum-intensity management.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, SJRWMD will take aerial photographs to record the condition of each ranch and will 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

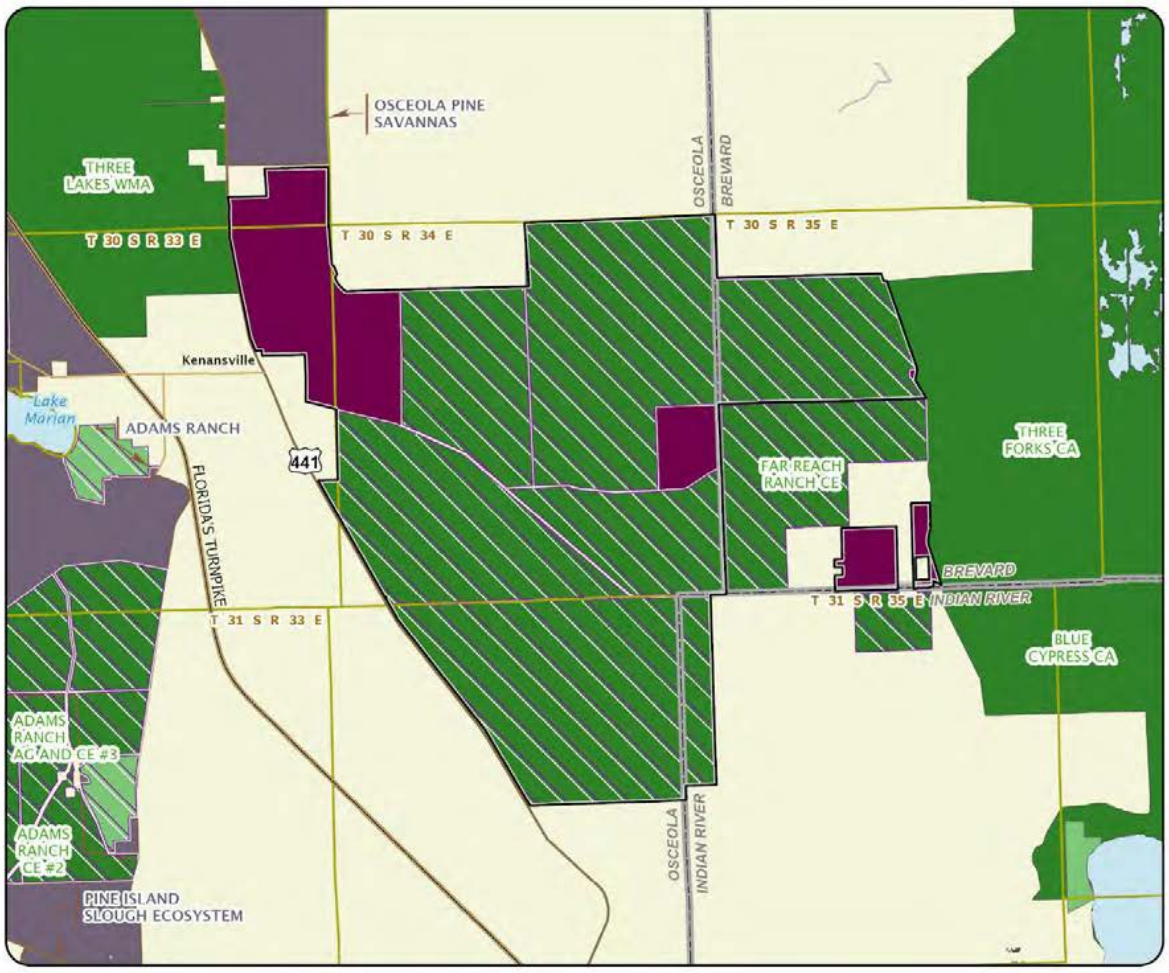
rare species. Forest communities will be managed using techniques recommended by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). Appropriate protection will be provided to environmentally sensitive areas. Minimal infrastructure development will be required.

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

SJRWMD will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in monitoring land in the project.



RANCH RESERVE

BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Red Hills Conservation

Less-Than-Fee

Jefferson and Leon Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2019*
Project Acres	*18,089*
Acquired Acres	*9,938*
Remaining Project Acres	*8,151*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$43,364,293*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Red Hills Conservation project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels through the protection, restoration and maintenance of the uplands and wetlands of the Red Hills region. The project will also increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources and will preserve significant archaeological and historic sites.

General Description

The Red Hills Conservation project originally included lands in three plantations: Cherokee Plantation, Ring Oak Plantation and Norias Hunt Club. In western Leon County, the 5,536-acre Cherokee Plantation extends from Lake Iamonia eastward to Old Centerville Road. Also in Leon County, the 5,322-acre Ring Oak Plantation is located east of State Road 59, adjacent to the town of Miccosukee, and the entire eastern border of the property is the shore of Lake Miccosukee. Lastly, located in both Leon and Jefferson counties, the 5,976-acre Norias Hunt Club (owned by Gem Land Company) is just north of the town of Miccosukee, and a portion of the property's western border also touches the shore of Lake Miccosukee. Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy manages many of the existing conservation lands surrounding the project boundary.

The project is within an area commonly termed the Red Hills region; properties within the project are generally characterized by rolling, moderately well-drained uplands with clay soils overlain by loamy sands, isolated lakes and depressional wetlands. Upland vegetation primarily resembles the upland pine natural community, although much of this was altered historically to support agriculture (primarily cotton). The upland pine, now growing on former old fields, generally supports a flora lacking some key native components, including wiregrass. Although longleaf pine historically dominated the canopy, these sites are now dominated by loblolly, shortleaf and slash pine, with occasional small pockets of mature longleaf pine. There are numerous agricultural food plots and a grid of chopped or mowed lanes to aid hunting activities

within these open canopied pinelands. The pinelands are generally managed with chopping, mowing and prescribed fire.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Miccosukee gooseberry**	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
*Smooth hedgenettle**	G5/S1
*Turk's cap lily**	G5/S1
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

*Plant species are in italics

Public Use

The Red Hills Conservation project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the Tallahassee Astronomical Society supports the acquisition of the Red Hills Conservation project because its continued operation as plantation protects the area from light pollution that comes with residential and commercial development.

The landowner has demonstrated a willingness to ensure public access to Lake Miccosukee by selling land to Leon County to create Cypress Landing and by allowing the public to use its road to access Hopkins Landing. There are several existing conservation easements surrounding these lakes and this project would fill gaps in resource protection in an area of Leon County with high development pressure.

Acquisition Planning

2019

On April 2, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add this project to the Less-than-Fee category on the Florida Forever Priority List.

2022

On April 8, 2022, ARC approved the 945-acre Foshalee Slough project proposal and combined it with the Red Hills Conservation project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired a conservation easement totaling 4,101.78 acres in Jefferson and Leon counties from Gem Land Company.

2024

On February 13, 2024, DEP acquired a 4,777.23-acre conservation easement in Leon County from Gem Land Company.

In December 2024, ARC voted to add five parcels totaling approximately 214.39 acres in Leon County.

2025

On May 2, 2025, DEP acquired a 934.01-acre conservation easement in Leon County from Foshalee Slough, LLC.

Coordination

Establishing the property as a conservation easement would help achieve objectives in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Gopher Tortoise Management Plan that pertain to increasing the amount of protected tortoise habitat on private lands.

Management Policy Statement

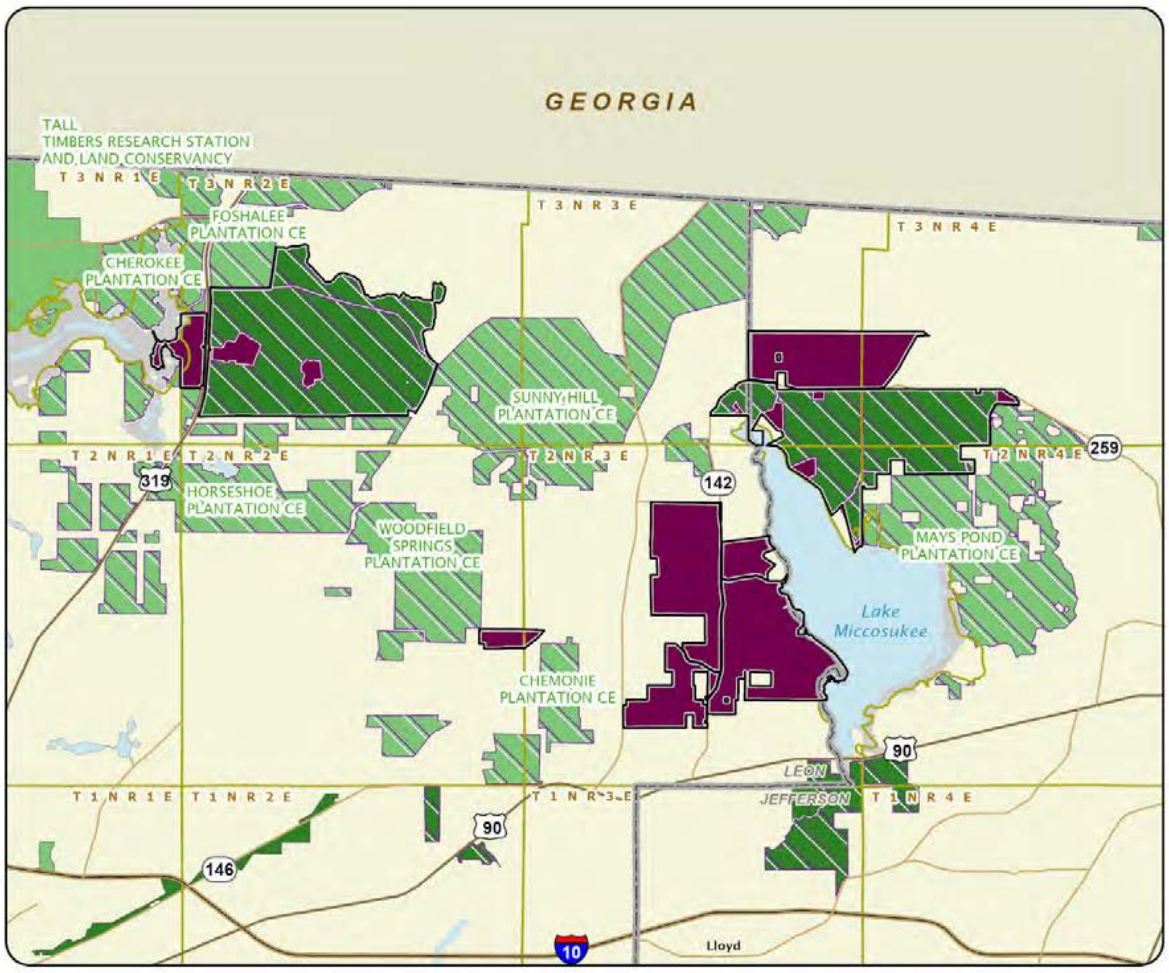
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Red Hills Conservation project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Red Hills Conservation area would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



RED HILLS CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON AND LEON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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0 4 8 Miles

San Felasco Conservation Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Alachua County

Year Added to Priority List	*2003*
Project Acres	*376*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*376*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$1,791,802*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The San Felasco Conservation Corridor project will facilitate the development of a greenway conservation corridor in northeast Alachua County and will help to protect significant natural and cultural resources in the region.

General Description

The San Felasco Conservation Corridor project is located in Alachua County and consists of three separate tracts of land. The tracts proposed for this 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 (including a four-lane highway), and a pine plantation with a few isolated wetlands and a blackwater stream.

The western tract (Burnett Lake Subdivision property) is approximately 30 acres and consists of a narrow strip of land bordered on the northwest by a railroad and partially surrounding the north and west sides of Burnett Lake. About two-thirds of the tract supports a predominantly second-growth hardwood forest.

The central tract is approximately 15 acres and lies between U.S. 41 to the south and a railroad to the north. The south flowing Cellon Creek flows through this parcel from the state-owned University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

no rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The San Felasco Conservation Corridor project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On June 6, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to Group A of Florida Forever projects.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The San Felasco Land Trust has created a large 25,000-acre corridor project and brought together the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Suwannee River Water Management District, Florida Communities Trust and the Alachua Forever land acquisition program to cooperatively acquire the San Felasco Conservation Corridor project. There are no adjacent land acquisition projects begun under Conservation and Recreational Lands, Preservation 2000 or Florida Forever programs. San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park and the TTC/Gainesville Wellfield Conservation Easement are adjacent to the larger 25,000-acre corridor project.

Management Policy Statement

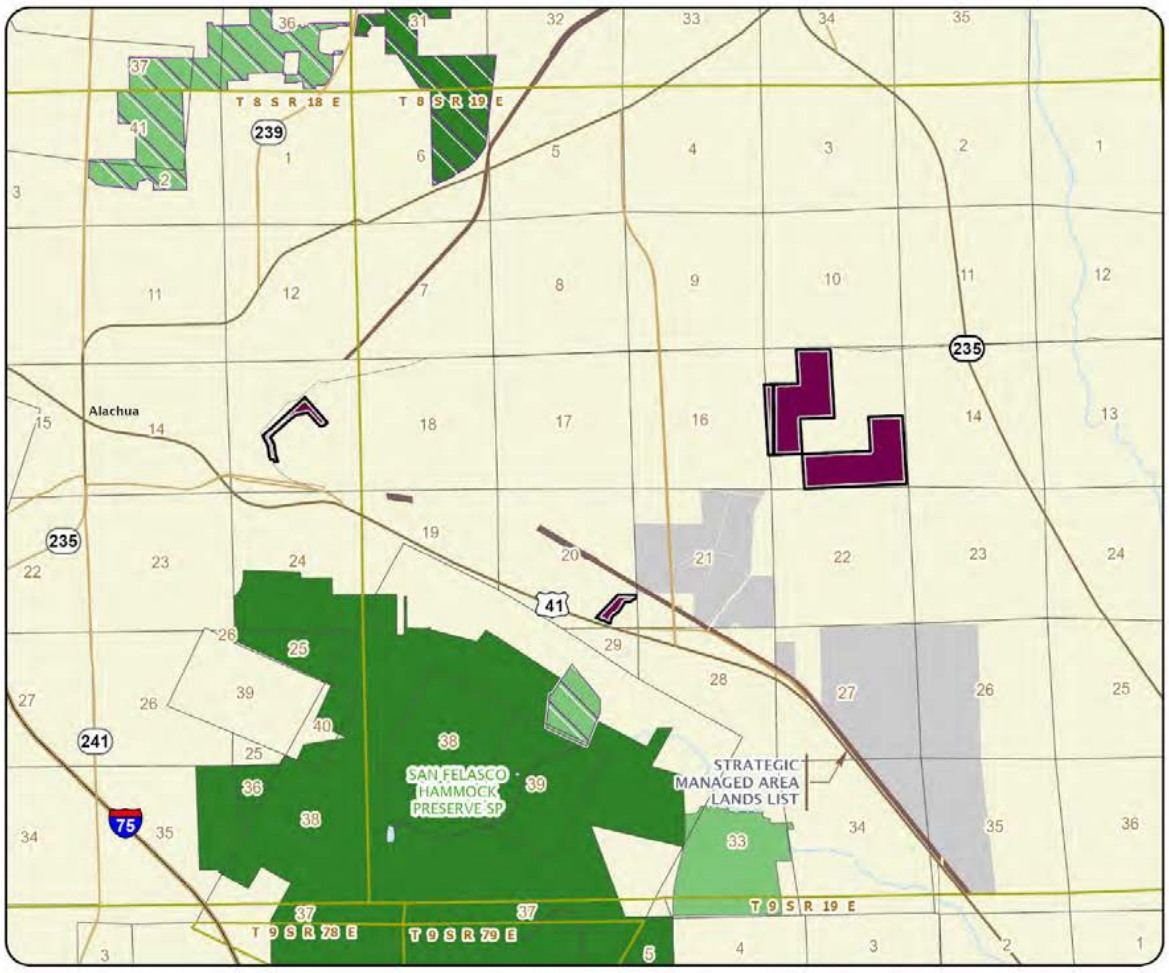
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the San Felasco Conservation Corridor project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the San Felasco Conservation Corridor project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



SAN FELASCO CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

ALACHUA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Suwannee County Preservation

Less-Than-Fee

Suwannee County

Year Added to Priority List	*2010*
Project Acres	*1,254*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,254*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$5,178,881*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Suwannee County Preservation project will protect the water quality of the Suwannee River basin, provide continued protection of Rocky Creek and provide long-term benefits to imperiled wildlife such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*).

General Description

Located in northeastern Suwannee County, just east of Live Oak, lies the Suwannee County Preservation project. The project is 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. Rocky Creek (a perennial stream) crosses two parcels in the larger tract, flowing north before its confluence with the Suwannee River. The last stretch of Rocky Creek crosses through the Suwannee River Water Management District's Rocky Creek tract, which adjoins the Suwannee River. The eastern tracts consist of disturbed uplands and 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 the Suwannee River is undeveloped, except for a decrepit shed, a cement boat ramp covered with sediment, and the existence of electrical power and a well. Rising abruptly from the Suwannee River's eastern bank is a natural levee, behind which is a broader band of bottomland forest supporting a variety of hardwoods. Inland of this, the upland portion of the tract - about 99 acres - is mostly pine plantation.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mapleleaf	G2?/S1
Suwannee alligator snapping turtle	G2/S2
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3

Public Use

The Suwannee County Preservation project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the landowners indicated they could be willing to sell their property in fee simple.

If acquired 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 tract located on the Suwannee River could also provide freshwater boating, fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Suwannee County Preservation project to the Less-Than-Fee category of the Florida Forever Priority List. In 2010, the project had an estimated tax-assessed value of $2,995,178.

Coordination

No acquisition partners have been identified.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Suwannee County Preservation project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Suwannee County Preservation project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

Acquiring the Suwannee County Preservation project fulfills the Florida Forever goals of acquiring conservation land by other than fee-simple purchase; acquiring significant, strategic habitat conservation areas; protecting floodplains in the Rocky Creek and the Suwannee River areas; and protecting the surface waters of the state.

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 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 Interstate 10 excludes the use of prescribed fire as a habitat management tool. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory notes that the upland pine (sandhill or upland pine forest) natural community (and perhaps some mesic flatwoods) has been all but eliminated by silviculture and fire exclusion. Restoration to historic conditions would require the removal of off-site pine, replanting with longleaf pine and attempting to restore native groundcover and shrubby vegetation by seeding or planting. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission notes that substantial and prolonged habitat restoration would be necessary for the area to become beneficial to a more diverse variety of wildlife.



SUWANNEE COUNTY PRESERVATION

SUWANNEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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Tupelo Honey Timberlands

Less-Than-Fee

Gulf County

Year Added to Priority List	*2024*
Project Acres	*2,179*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,179*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$7,874,361*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Tupelo Honey Timberlands project will protect the water resources of the Chipola River and St. Andrew-St. Joseph Bay watersheds, promote sustainable forestry in northwest Florida and expand ecological connectivity for wildlife.

General Description

The Tupelo Honey Timberlands project is adjacent to the western boundary of the city of Wewahitchka. The property is located 1.5 miles from the Apalachicola River Water Management Area and Dead Lakes Park. The project also underlies the Tyndall Air Force Base military operating area and is within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape.

The project lies within the Lower Delta province of the Apalachicola Delta district, where landforms are shaped by fluvial processes related to the Apalachicola River and associated tributaries. The property falls within the St. Andrew-St. Joseph Bay and Chipola River watersheds and provides fresh water to St. Andrews Bay via Little Creek.

Historically, the property has been used for both silviculture and agriculture. The property suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Michael in 2018 and the pine plantations are being actively reforested. Wet flatwoods is the most abundant natural community (16%), with large tracts present in the central, southeastern and western areas of the property. Dome swamps and basin swamps are enveloped by wet flatwoods. Pine plantations make up the largest proportion of the site's land cover overall (68%), and most of the uplands are planted in slash pine or longleaf pine. Planted pines range in age from seedlings to young trees, while the understory composition varies with the recency of site preparation and planting.

An approximately 60-acre artificial pond is present in the central area of the project. The pond is ecologically viable to waterfowl and wading birds, and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) have been observed, per the land managers, using the island at the center of the pond. Invasive plants are common, although largely confined to scattered dense patches in areas with historic or recent disturbance.

The property's various wetlands provide foraging and potential nesting sites for wading birds. Imperiled species known to nest nearby include the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

Public Use

The Tupelo Honey Timberlands project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2024

On April 12, 2024, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Tupelo Honey Timberlands project to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

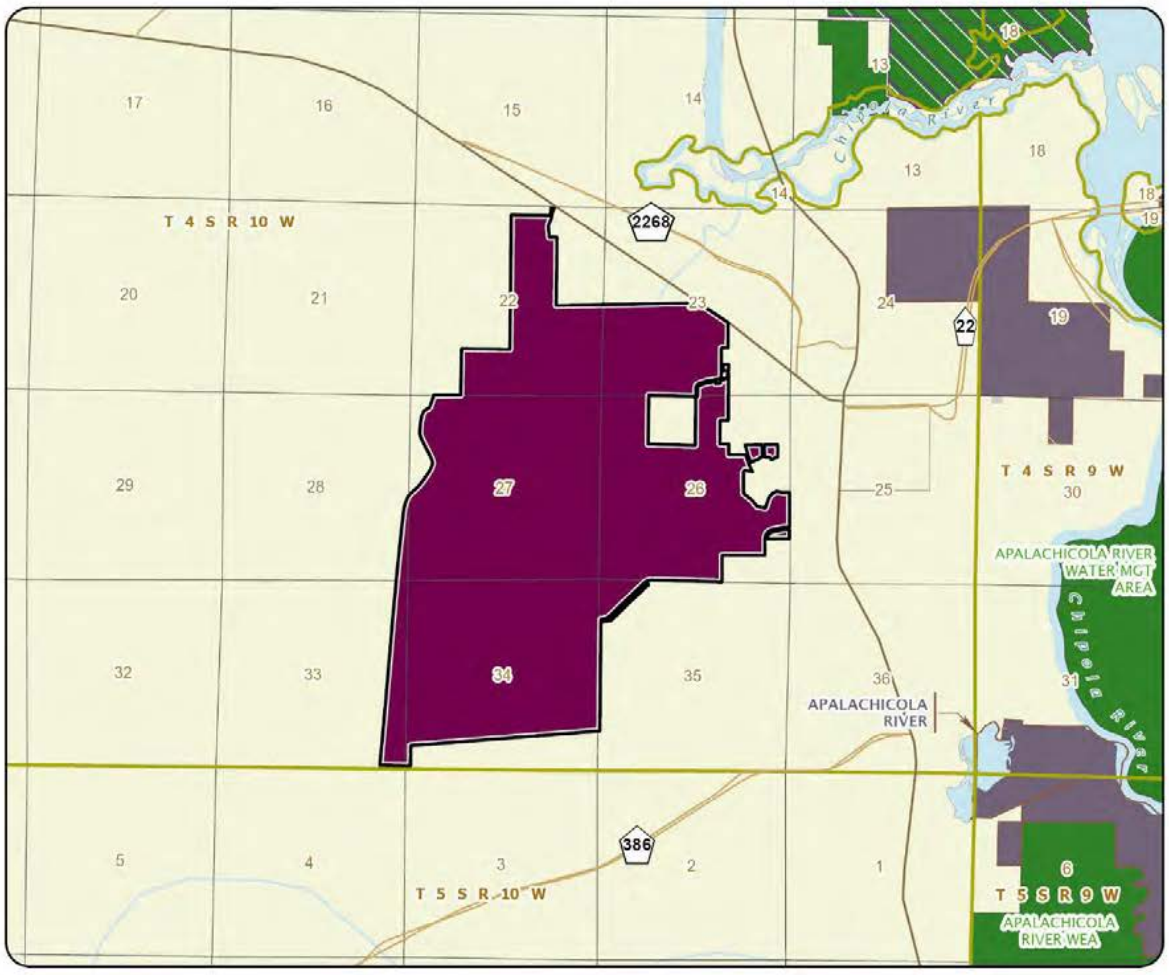
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Tupelo Honey Timberlands project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Tupelo Honey Timberlands project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance will be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Tupelo Honey Timberlands project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.



TUPELO HONEY TIMBERLANDS

GULF COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



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Welles Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Charlotte County

Year Added to Priority List	*2023*
Project Acres	*1,183*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,183*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$5,077,224*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Welles Ranch project will expand conservation lands in the rapidly growing Charlotte County and protect the sensitive species and habitats in southwest Florida. This project will also help protect the water quality of Shell Creek, which provides drinking water for the City of Punta Gorda and unincorporated parts of Charlotte County, along with Prairie Creek.

General Description

The Welles Ranch project contains 77 parcels, totaling 1,183 acres in Charlotte County. The western side of the property shares its boundary with the Hall Ranch Florida Forever project and the southeast corner is near the Babcock Ranch Preserve.

This property lies within the Florida Panther Focus Area and the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The predominant natural communities found on Welles Ranch include dome swamps, mesic flatwoods, and mesic hammock. The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation reports that 100% of this property has been identified as a habitat for several rare species including the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Florida long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata)* and Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*).

Welles Ranch features one mile of Shell Creek on the property. Shell Creek, along with Prairie Creek, provides approximately 8 million gallons of potable water to the thousands of residents in Punta Gorda. Acquisition of Welles Ranch helps to secure the quality and quantity of water for Charlotte County. As such, the property (100%) contributes to both aquifer recharge and surface water protection, according to the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation.

Welles Ranch is a working cattle ranch with a majority of the property being made up of improved and semi-improved pasture. Northern portions of Welles Ranch have been historically managed as a quail preserve with mesic flatwoods dominated by longleaf pine. The property is also used for recreational hunting. There are two cabins and a cattle barn for recreation and farming practices, respectively. The landowner is working to acquire the multiple inholdings within the project boundary prior to pursuing a conservation easement with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2

Public Use

The Welles Ranch project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for 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

2023

On October 13, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Welles Ranch project to the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

There are no identified partners in this project.

Management Policy Statement

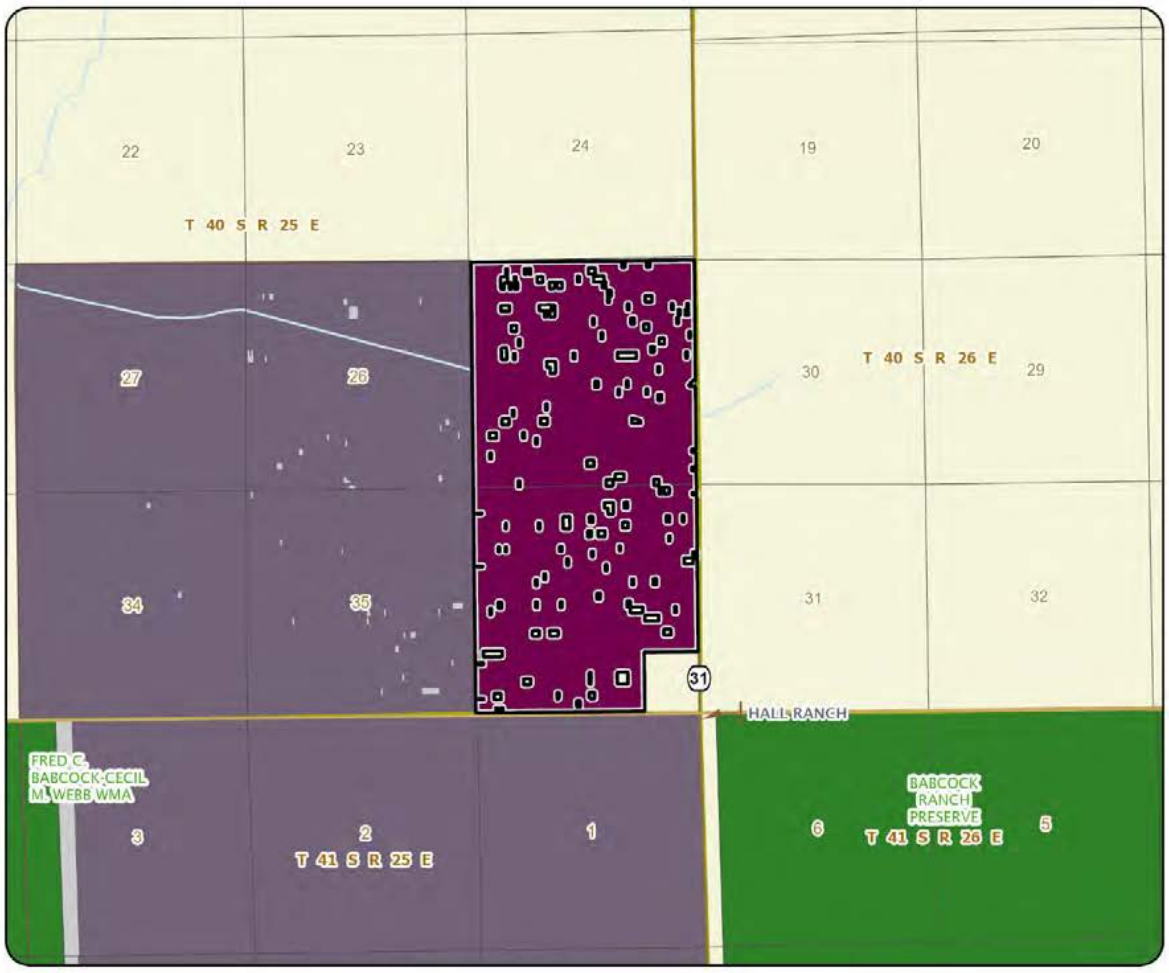
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Welles Ranch project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the Welles Ranch project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



WELLES RANCH

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands



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Williamson Cattle Company

Less-Than-Fee

Okeechobee County

Year Added to Priority List	*2023*
Project Acres	*7,977*
Acquired Acres	*3,017*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,960*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$37,862,396*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Williamson Cattle Company project will protect the quality and quantity of water flowing to Lake Okeechobee. The project is located within a region of the state that is a high ecological priority for conservation, home to a variety of imperiled species such as the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*). Threatened by habitat fragmentation and encroaching development, acquisition of the Williamson Cattle Company project would help facilitate landscape connectivity in the northern Lake Okeechobee watershed and benefit numerous fish and wildlife species.

General Description

The Williamson Cattle Company project contains 23 whole and partial parcels, totaling 7,419 acres in Okeechobee County. This project is about five miles north of Lake Okeechobee and about ten miles east of the Kissimmee River. Taylor Creek, a ditched waterway along the project's western border, separates the project from the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area (South Florida Water Management District). The southwestern portion of the project is adjacent to the District's Lake Okeechobee Water Retention Phosphorus Removal Project. There are three existing U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service Wetland Reserve Easements over two large basin marshes excluded from the center and northeastern portion of the project. Proximity to these prominent water features makes acquisition critical for surface water protection and aquifer recharge.

The predominant natural communities within the project include mesic hammock, basin swamp, depression marsh, and mesic flatwoods. A variety of rare species have been documented on site including the pine pinweed (*Lechea divaricata*), common wild pine (*Tillandsia fasciculata*), crested caracara (*Caracara plancus*) and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). The project's proximity to Taylor Creek also provides critical habitat for a variety of wading birds.

There are two documented historic features within the project: the Williamson Canal System (OB00290) and the Okeechobee Railroad Grade (OB00289). These features record the historic uses of the property and how it is important to the broader culture of Okeechobee County. There are possibly additional unrecorded

historic sites on the Williamson Cattle Company project because only a portion of the property has been professionally surveyed.

The Williamson Cattle Company project is a working cattle ranch, horse farm and citrus grove. As such, much of the property is comprised of improved and semi-improved pasture.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Pine pinweed**	G2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Williamson Cattle Company project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for 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

2023

On April 14, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add Williamson Cattle Company to the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List.

2025

In December 2025, ARC approved the addition of four parcels totaling approximately 557.67 acres in Okeechobee County to the project boundary.

Coordination

This project was proposed by the Florida Conservation Group and Common Ground Ecology. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is a potential partner in acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

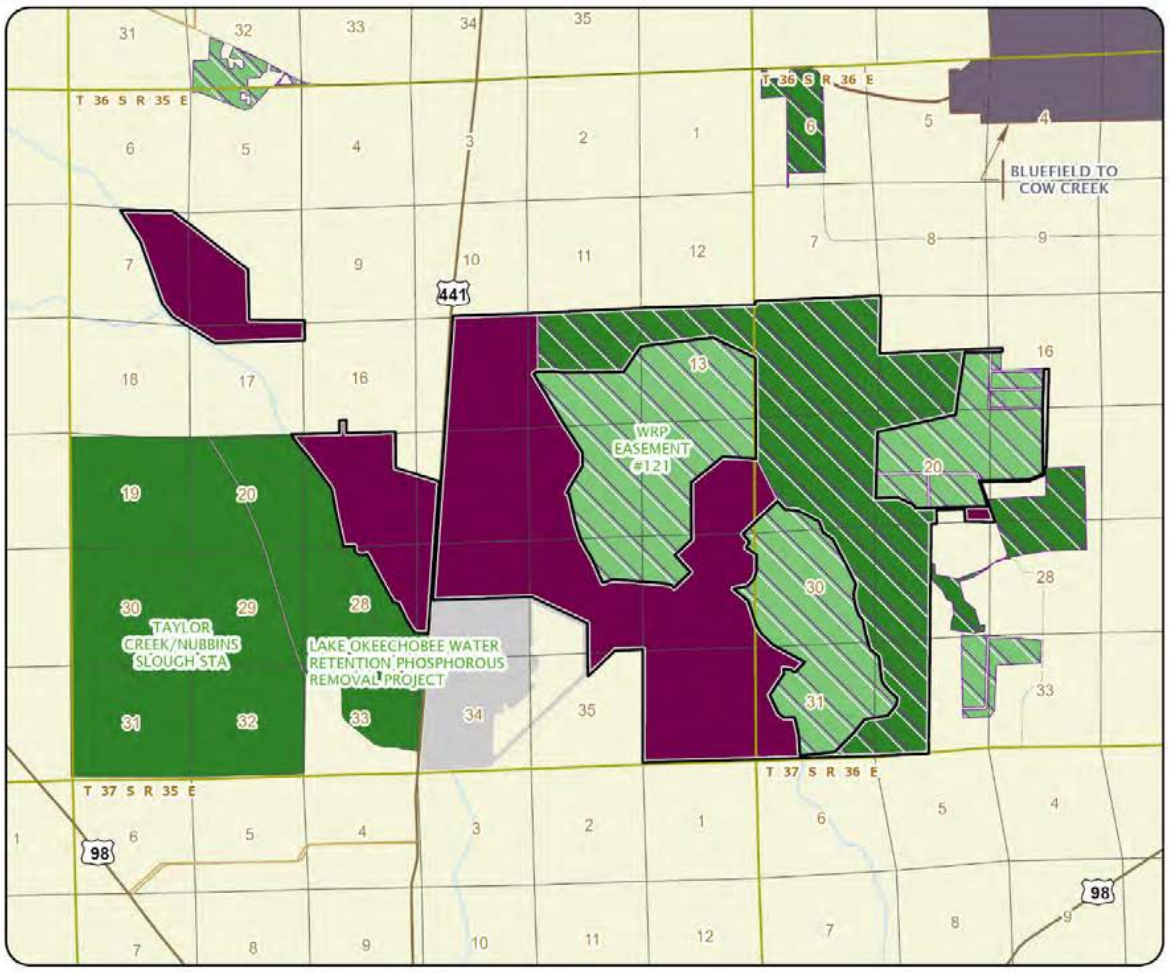
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Williamson Cattle Company project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the property would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



WILLIAMSON CATTLE COMPANY

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Withlacoochee River Corridor

Less-Than-Fee
Citrus and Hernando Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2020*
Project Acres	*3,286*
Acquired Acres	*804*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,482*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$11,030,702*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Withlacoochee River Corridor project will create a conservation corridor along the Withlacoochee River between existing conservation lands. The project will conserve unique habitat for species including the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and rare ferns. Preservation of sandy upland oak hammocks, lowland cypress swamps and willow marshes will contribute to the connectivity and maintenance of natural lands. The project will also support state water quality and quantity by protecting the Withlacoochee River floodplain and associated wetlands.

General Description

The Withlacoochee River Corridor is in Citrus and Hernando counties and is owned by multiple landowners. The project is characterized by dry and sandy uplands with pine forest and oak hammocks, as well as lowlands with mature cypress swamps, willow marshes and basin swamps. This district is referred to as the Lime Sink Region, attributable to its low-rolling limestone plains overlain by thin sands supporting the natural maze of swamps, marshes, flatwoods and lakes.

The project's most outstanding natural features are the limestone caves and canyons (often referred to as "fern grottos”). There are several terrestrial cave entrances as well as a portion of the Pineola Fern Grotto Cave Complex. Rich upland hardwood forests are found in the immediate vicinity of these unique karst features; together, they provide valuable habitat for rare species, including various rare ferns and two rare species of bat. The sandy upland area provides habitat for a large population of gopher tortoise. The striking assemblage of hardwood forests, sandy uplands and rare geological formations has been the subject of interest for botanists for over 100 years. Significant cultural sites from Florida's prehistoric and historic periods are documented throughout the project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
*Curtiss' spleenwort**	G1/S1
*Modest spleenwort**	G1/S1
*Plume polypody**	G5/S2
*Widespread polypody**	G5/S2
*Creeping star-hair fern**	GNR/S2
Southeastern myotis	G4/S3
*Brittle maidenhair fern**	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

The project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the project will protect the scenic resources of the Withlacoochee State Trail located on the westernmost boundary of the project. The project will provide additional public benefit through the protection of imperiled species, unique geological formations, rural landscape conservation and continuation of a wildlife corridor.

Acquisition Planning

2020

In June 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the 1,714-acre Withlacoochee River Corridor project to the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was proposed by Conservation Florida and consists of multiple parcels among two ownerships.

In October 2020, a 1,645-acre addition was approved by ARC and added to the project boundary. It comprised of an additional five ownerships containing acres along the west shoreline of the Withlacoochee River.

Management Policy Statement

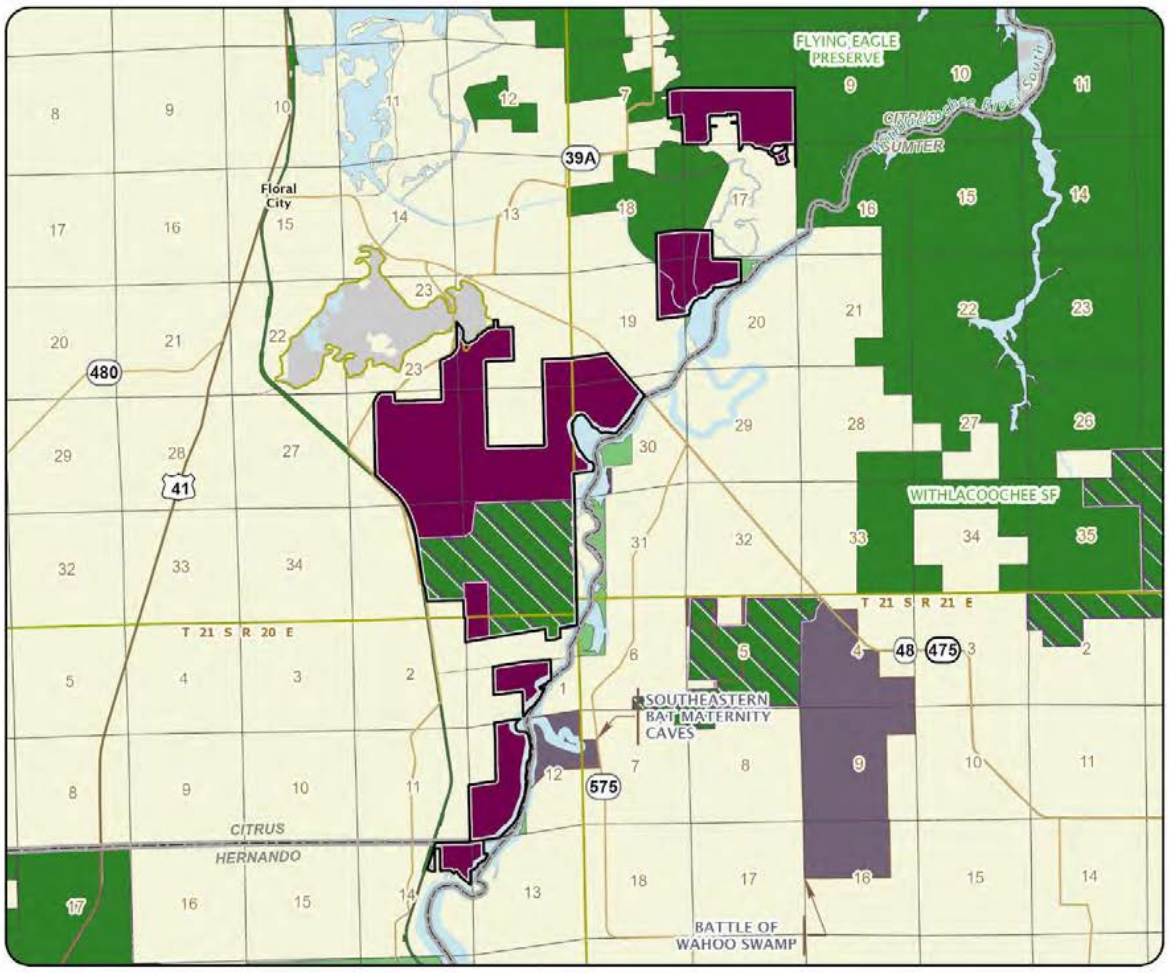
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Withlacoochee River Corridor project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Withlacoochee River Corridor project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the primary management will be conducted by the property owner.



WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER CORRIDOR

CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

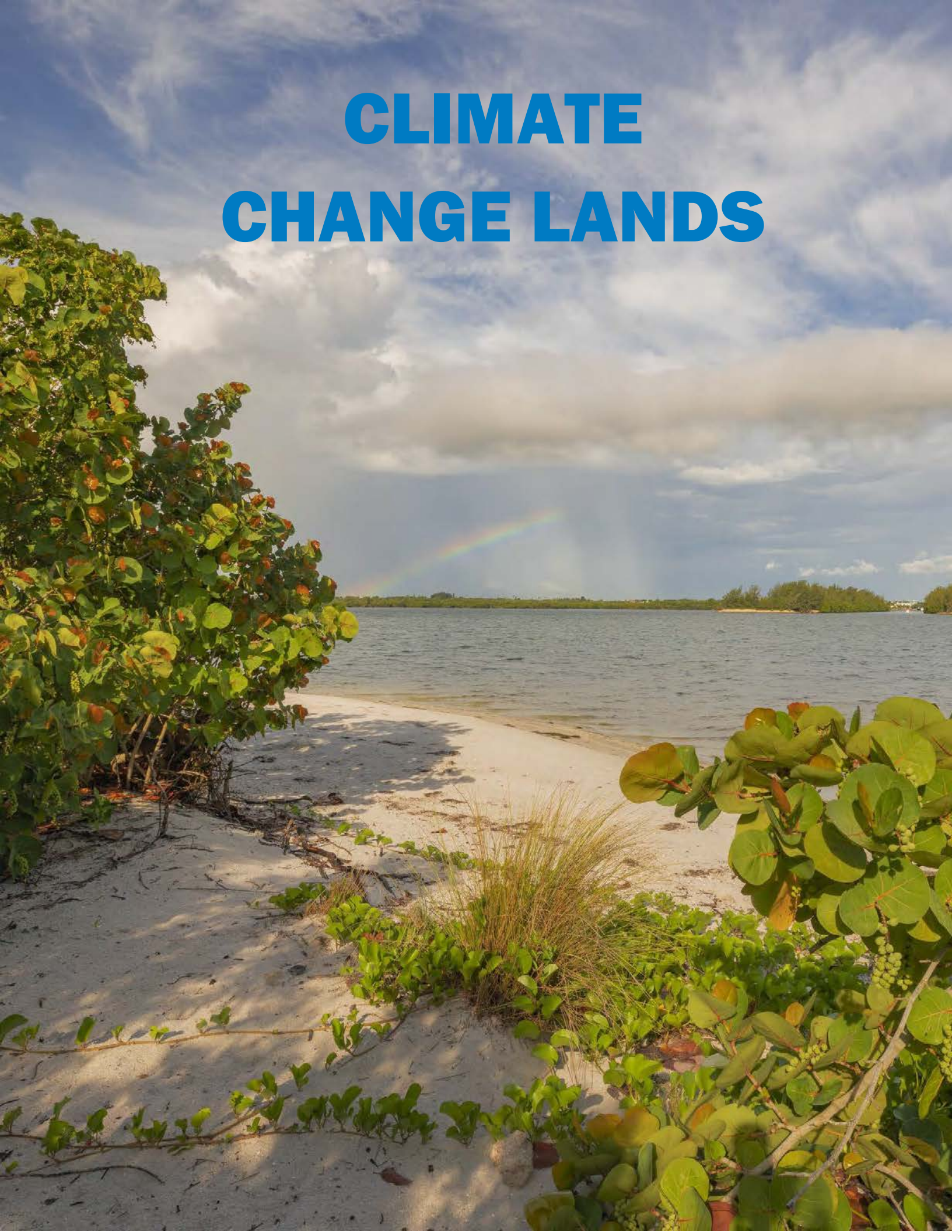
- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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CLIMATE CHANGE LANDS



Coupon Bight/Key Deer

Climate Change Lands

Monroe County

Year Added to Priority List	*1985*
Project Acres	*2,871*
Acquired Acres	*2,242*
Remaining Project Acres	*629*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$107,790,250*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Coupon Bight/Key Deer project will protect the subtropical pine forests of rapidly developing Big Pine Key and surrounding islands that provide habitat for the federally endangered Key deer (*Odocoileus virginianus clavium)* and many Caribbean plants found nowhere else in the country. The project will protect the remaining undeveloped land on Big Pine Key and No Name Key; critical for the survival of the Key deer and to provide a buffer for the National Key Deer Refuge (NKDR). Rich coral reefs and other hardbottom communities flourish in shallow water around the islands. The project will protect the water quality of the Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve and provide the public with an opportunity to appreciate the unique natural world in this part of Florida.

General Description

The project is within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern and encompasses virtually all 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 Key deer. The pine rocklands and associated communities in this project area are the largest and most well-preserved left in the world. At least 36 rare plant species, of which 28 are state-listed as endangered or threatened, are known to occur within the project. Several of these species will most likely go extinct if this area is developed for residential use. At least 17 rare animal species, of which four are state-listed as endangered or threatened, are known to occur within the project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Semaphore pricklypear	G1/S1
Key deer	G5T1/S1
Loggerhead sea turtle	G2G4/S3
Cape Sable thoroughwort	G1/S1
Sand flax	G1/S1
Tree cactus	G1/S1
Garber's spurge	G1/S1
Key silverside	G1Q/S1
Few-flowered fingergrass	G1/S1
Broom Sandmat	G1/S1
Three-spined pricklypear	G1/S1
Lower Keys marsh rabbit	G5T1/S1

**Plant species are in italics*

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

Phases

Coupon Bight Phase I: The Strachley Tract [acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through The Trust for Public Land] and the Brothers tract.

Phase II: Developable uplands (a few larger acreage tracts have been acquired by the state — the Pepper and Papps tracts and some subdivision lots in Piney Point, Tropical Park and Kinercha north of the bight).

Phase III: Jurisdictional wetlands. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands further refined the priority acquisitions to large acreage tracts.

1994

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 258 acres to the project.

1995

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 11.38 acres to the project boundary.

2004

In January 2004, DEP transferred Coupon Bight State Buffer Preserve to USFWS for management as part of the NKDR, at least some of which is within the project boundary.

On January 22, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) removed the Rothdeutsch property (0.33 acres) from the project at the request of the owner.

2005

On February 11, 2005, ARC approved a 376-acre fee-simple addition to the project boundary, with a 2004 total assessed value of $3,240,815.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

Acquisition activity is focusing on tracts providing a viable corridor between the Coupon Bight and Key Deer portions of the project. All the owners have received an offer.

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC removed 271 acres (810 parcels) from the project that a staff review found were disturbed by development.

On October 29, 2012, the Terrestris Preserve (22.56 acres) was donated by the Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) to USFWS, some of which is in the project boundary.

2020

In 2020, six parcels were acquired containing 0.93 acres at a cost of $242,850: Dmoch (one parcel); Gouldy (one parcel); George (one parcel); and Hart (three parcels). They will be managed by Monroe County.

2021

In 2021, DEP acquired 0.15 acres fee simple from the Estate of Sarah Gahm to be managed for conservation purposes by MCLA.

2022

DEP acquired, in fee, parcels from four individual owners totaling 7.56 acres.

2023

In October 2023, ARC voted to remove approximately 231 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

In 2023, DEP acquired, in fee, parcels from Monroe County totaling 3.99 acres.

2024

On January 16, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.14 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On February 8, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.11 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On June 26, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.12 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In July 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 2.05 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In October 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.21 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On December 9, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.99 acres in Monroe County from Michael R. and Rose Elizabeth Hussey.

2025

On February 20, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.25 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On May 23, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 7.1 acres in Monroe County from Tropical Isles, Inc.

On September 11, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.11 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On October 21, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.58 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

Coordination

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

The MCLA is an acquisition partner on this project and has acquired almost 188 acres from January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2024.

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.

Manager(s)

USFWS will manage most of this project; however, MCLA will be a cooperating manager for a small portion of the project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The property will function as a buffer preserve to Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve, NKDR and sovereign submerged lands.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Impediments to management are illegal dumping, vehicular trespass and poaching. Regular patrols, cleanup efforts, posting of the property and management presence would curtail these problems. USFWS land is open to the public but because of limited facilities, minimal resource management and protection would be needed.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, the area north of U.S. Highway 1 would be posted in the same manner as existing NKDR lands and provided protection under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. USFWS 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 nighttime use, pets, camping, use of motorized vehicles or collection of plants and animals. Regular patrols by preserve staff will assist in the detection of potential encroachments and/or violations.

Long-range goals would include the development of a detailed management plan for the 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 allowed on a limited basis. Acquisition has been primarily directed at unimproved properties. If the preserve acquires improved property, efforts would be made to use it for offices, education facilities and/or workshop and storage space.

Revenue-generating Potential

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

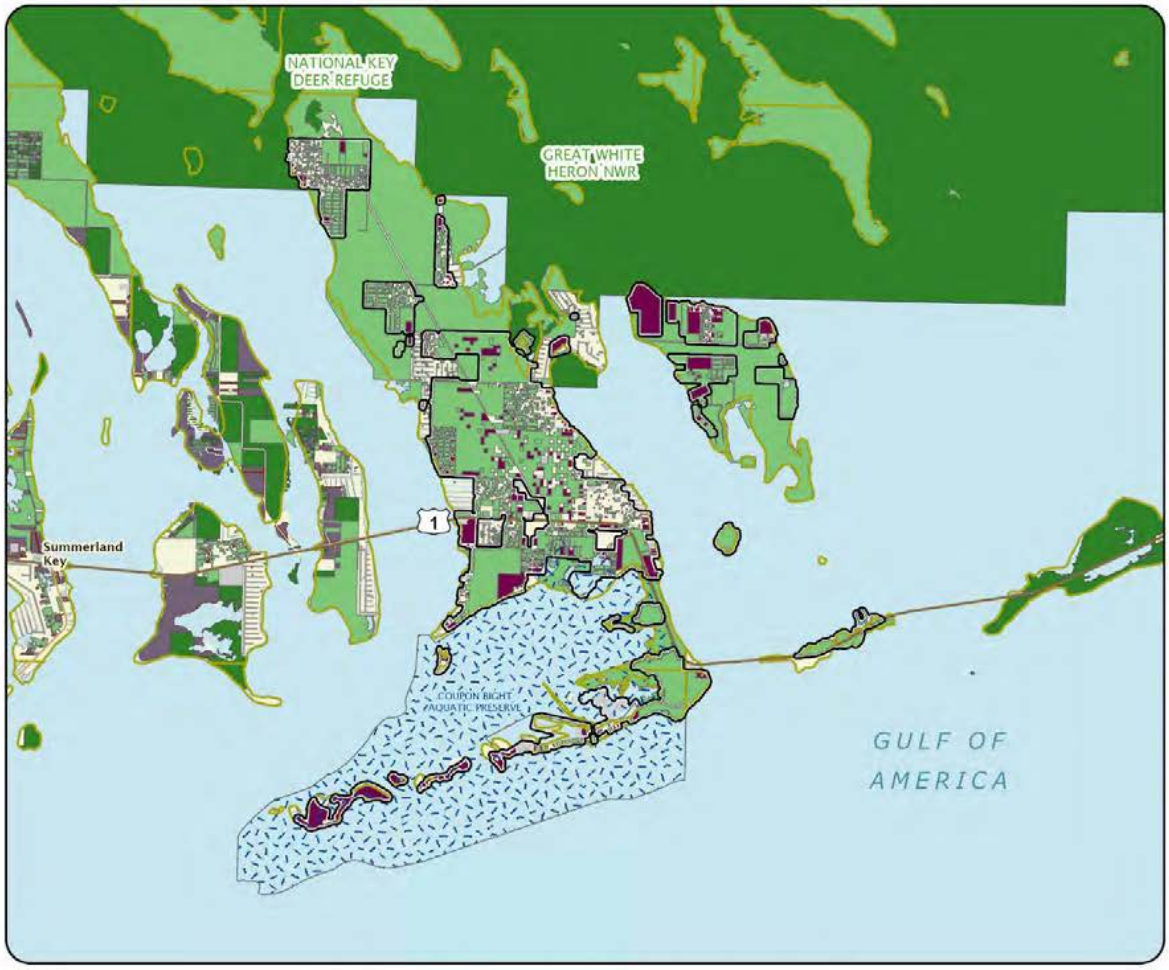
Cooperators in Management Activities

Security of the project area will depend upon the assistance and cooperation of state and local law enforcement.

Management Cost Summary

USFWS, NKDR and MCLA	2000/2001	2001/2002
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$12,048	$21,000
OCO	not provided	not provided
Other – Special Category	$1,445	not provided
TOTAL	$13,493	$21,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



COUPON BIGHT/KEY DEER

MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2.5 5 Miles

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Florida Keys Ecosystem

Climate Change Lands

Monroe County

Year Added to Priority List	*1992*
Project Acres	*13,593*
Acquired Acres	*8,316*
Remaining Project Acres	*5,277*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$530,073,881*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Florida Keys Ecosystem project will protect all the significant unprotected hardwood hammocks left in the Florida Keys and many rare plants and animals, including the Lower Keys marsh rabbit (*Sylvilagus palustris hefneri*) and Key deer (*Odocoileus virginianus clavium*). The unique hardwood hammocks of the Florida Keys and forests of West Indian plants, which provide habitat for several extremely rare animals, are being lost due to the rapid development of these islands. The project will also help protect the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Keys, recreational and commercial fisheries, the reefs around the islands, and give residents and visitors more natural areas for resource-based outdoor recreation.

General Description

This project includes most of the remaining unprotected rockland hammocks (tropical hardwood hammocks) in the Florida Keys from South Key Largo to Sugarloaf Key. This area is critically important to many rare plants and animals; it 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 (*Patagioenas leucocephala*). 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 in the area. All the sites within the project are threatened by incompatible development.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Semaphore pricklypear**	G1/S1
*Silky bluestem**	G1Q/S1
Key deer	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys marsh rabbit	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Loggerhead sea turtle	G2G4/S3
*Cape Sable thoroughwort**	G1/S1
*Sand flax**	G1/S1
*Tree cactus**	G1/S1
*Garber's spurge**	G1/S1
Key silverside	G1Q/S1
*Broom Sandmat**	G1/S1
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

The tracts will become botanical sites, parks, as well as wildlife and environmental areas. Some areas will offer camping, swimming, hiking and boating, while others will be suitable only for nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

1983

In 1983, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) established Lamar Louise Curry Preserve (2.42 acres) on Key Largo, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

1985

On December 24, 1985, the Florida Audubon Society acquired 34.5 acres to create Saddlebunch Key Sanctuary, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

1989

In 1989, TNC established John J. Pescatello Torchwood Hammock Preserve (243 acres) on Little Torch Key, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

1993

On September 20, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 40 acres to the project boundary.

1994

On March 1, 1994, TNC acquired Grassy Key Hammocks (0.5 acres) on Grassy Key, inside the project boundary.

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 29 acres to the project boundary.

1995

On December 7, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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 were acquired for $24,324,425 and 3,973 remained with a taxable value of $9,619,059. No phasing is recommended for the Hammocks of the Lower Keys; however, some sites are extremely vulnerable to imminent development. These sites include Cudjoe Key (Kephart tract); Big Torch Key (Outward Bound/Stelmok tract – acquired); Summerland Key (area around the pond); and Little Torch Key (Torch Key Estates Subdivision – acquired).

Estimated acreage for each site is: Cudjoe Key (38 acres); Big Torch Key (450 acres); Little Torch Key (217 acres); Summerland Key (20 acres); Sugarloaf Key (2,711 acres); Little Knockemdown Key (300 acres); Middle Torch Key (811 acres); Ramrod Key (615 acres); and Wahoo Key (26 acres – acquired). These sites were added at the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council's Dec. 3, 1993, meeting.

No phasing is recommended for Tropical Flyways; all 17 sites are being acquired with the Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) as intermediary. The 17 sites are: North Creek (two large ownerships, remainder subdivided – 16 acres acquired by MCLA), Largo Sound (one major ownership – 68 acres acquired by MCLA), Pennekamp North (one major ownership – acquired by MCLA), Newport (one major ownership, remainder subdivided), Point Charles (one major ownership), Key Largo Narrows (one major ownership – acquired by MCLA), Dove Creek (several large ownerships, remainder subdivided – 187 acres acquired by MCLA), Tavernier Creek (one major ownership), Lake San Pedro (several large ownerships), Snake Creek (one major ownership – acquired by 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) and Stirrup Key (one ownership).

On June 14, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved the addition of 8 acres to the boundary.

1998

On June 11, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee-simple 53-acre addition (Wilson and Cotton Keys) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the William Roberts Estate Trustee and had a taxable value of $115,106. The Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council also removed 11.32 acres from the project boundary.

On December 31, 1998, approximately 230 acres on the Saddlebunch Keys were donated to TNC.

1999

On February 11, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee-simple 955-acre addition (Boot Key) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and consisted of one owner, Azurite Corp, LTD Florida, and had a taxable value of $178,019.

On July 29, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved an owner-requested 6-acre deletion on Ramrod Key from the project boundary.

2003

In 2003, TNC purchased 593.75 acres, known as Tarpon Basin, on the Newport Hammocks site.

On May 14, 2003, TNC acquired Everglades National Park Expansion (1.62 acres) on Key Largo, approximately 1.5 acres of which are within the project boundary.

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (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 taxable value of $17,268.

2004

On June 4, 2004, ARC approved a fee-simple 3,063-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by FWC, consisting of multiple owners and had a 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 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will manage the remaining acres as an addition to the Florida Key Deer Refuge.

2005

On February 11, 2005, ARC approved a fee-simple 3,695-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by multiple entities, consisted of multiple owners and had a taxable value of approximately $31,847,907.

On September 12, 2005, TNC acquired approximately 26.57 acres on Sugarloaf Key in the project boundary.

2006

In July 2006, Islamorada, Village of Islands acquired Green Turtle Hammock Park (10.77 acres) in collaboration with Florida Communities Trust (FCT). Most of the park is within the project boundary.

2007

On October 13, 2007, ARC approved a fee-simple 8.6-acre addition to the Sugarloaf Key portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by FWC, consisting of two parcels under single ownership (Community Sons of the Divine Will) and had 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.

2008

In June 2008, the 67-acre Camilus House exchange with the University of Miami for other Board of Trustees land was completed at no cost to Florida Forever. The following acres (ownerships) were purchased by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands: 0.07 acres of Dove Creek (Cameron) for $46,250; 1.3 acres (Neff) of Grassy Key for $382,000; 0.15 acres (Marrerro) in Newport Hammocks for $235,000; 42.22 acres (MandM 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 will be the manager.

In July 2008, DEP's Division of State Lands acquired 0.11 acres of the Pierce ownership in Charles Hammocks for $46,250. Monroe County will be the manager.

In September 2008, DEP's Division of State Lands acquired 3.03 acres (1.01 acres 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 be the manager.

In November 2008, DEP's Division of State Lands acquired 1.01 acres of the Smith ownership for $37,000. FWC will be the manager.

2009

On February 6, 2009, the Florida Department of Transportation donated a total of 14.18 acres on Sugarloaf Key (0.86 acres within the project boundary) with a total donated value of $9,265,212. In June 2009, ARC accepted a request by the Retus Group LLC to remove 7 acres of their ownership in Marathon from the project.

On June 8, 2009, Islamorada, Village of Islands acquired Key Tree Cactus Nature Preserve (9.05 acres) in collaboration with FCT. Most of the preserve is within the project boundary.

2010

On June 24, 2010, Gary Burchfield donated 1.78 acres on Sugarloaf Key (donated value of $60,000). FWC will be the manager.

On October 15, 2010, ARC approved requests by property owners to remove 7 acres of their ownership within the project boundary ($23,832 just value).

On December 10, 2010, ARC approved an 11.25-acre boundary addition in Boot Key with a tax-assessed just value of $410,544, to assist with a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program grant application. The city of Marathon is interested in purchasing all of Boot Key as proposed in the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program application.

2011

On January 20, 2011, Anne Kirkly donated 7.39 acres (value of $3,208) in Dove Creek Hammocks to be managed by FWC. On June 1, 2011, James D. Hanson, Jr. donated 284.54 acres (Windley Key — value of $200,000) to be managed by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC removed 8.6 acres from the project at the landowner's request. On June 15, 2012, ARC removed a 3.2-acre property on Plantation Key from the project boundary at the request of the landowner. There may be additional small acreage changes (additions and removals) not captured above. However, in 2017, a total of 138.65 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

On August 24, 2012, the city of Layton acquired Peter E. Riley Conservation Area (52.6 acres) as a donation from the former mayor.

2020

On February 14, 2020, ARC approved the removal of 1.07 acres in Monroe County from the project boundary.

2021

On June 11, 2021, ARC approved an addition of 1.3 acres in Monroe County to the project boundary.

In 2021, DEP acquired, in fee simple, 0.34 acres from Stephen and Kathy Rupp and received a donation of 1.01 acres via exchange from Philip Frank and Rowena Garcia. Both parcels will be managed by FWC.

2022

In February 2022, ARC approved the removal of 0.28 acres from the project boundary.

DEP acquired in fee six parcels from individual owners (totaling 16.22 acres) in North Creek Hammock, Cudjoe Key, Marathon, Grassy Key and Sugarloaf Key areas.

2023

In February 2023, ARC approved the removal of 0.12 acres from the project boundary.

DEP acquired, in fee, a total of 42.37 acres in Key Largo Narrows, Dove Creek, Grassy Key – Marathon, Little Torch Key and Sugarloaf Key from Monroe County and individual owners.

2024

On January 25, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 1.01 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On February 8, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.11 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In February 2024, ARC approved the addition of 2.1 acres in Monroe County to the project boundary.

In March 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 37 parcels totaling approximately 8.65 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In June 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 12.11 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On August 27, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.14 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In September 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 12.34 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On November 21, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee 0.34 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On December 19, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 13.35 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

2025

In January 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.14 acres in Monroe County from MCLA and 0.14 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On February 20, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.28 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In March 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.24 acres, 0.25 acres, 0.53 acres, 1.33 acres, 0.11 acres, 0.26 acres and 4.43 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On May 23, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 2.19 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 9 acres in Monroe County to the project boundary.

In July 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 1.01 acres in Monroe County from MCLA and 10.46 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

In August 2025, ARC approved the removal of approximately 0.1 acres in Monroe County.

On September 10, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.24 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

On November 19, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 0.23 acres in Monroe County from MCLA.

Coordination

TNC and the National Audubon Society sponsored this project. TNC, MCLA and USFWS are participants and have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some of the sites within this project.

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; conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and 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 that local or state programs cannot adequately protect.

Manager(s)

FWC is recommended to manage 18 sites: 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; and Upper Sugarloaf Key.

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks is recommended to manage 10 sites: Key Largo Narrows; Grassy Key Site; Point Charles Hammock; Teatable Hammock; Largo Sound Hammock; Pennekamp North; North Creek Hammock; Newport Hammock; Lower Matecumbe Hammock; and North Layton Hammock. USFWS, Monroe County, the city of Marathon and the city of Islamorada also manage some properties.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The unique wildlife, plant and recreational resources of the Florida Keys Ecosystem project sites qualify them as wildlife and environmental areas, botanical sites or preserves and state parks.

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 high-need management areas which, because of their location, size and nature, will require a high level of attention to maintain and perpetuate their individual resources.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, 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 an 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 and for tropical hardwood hammock preservation. Most tracts will provide passive recreational activities for the public. Longer-range goals would include the development of a detailed management plan focused on the 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. First-year management activities 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 FWC will be relatively low because no infrastructure will be provided. For the sites managed by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks, no significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will likely be several years before any significant level of public use facilities are developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

Cooperators in Management Activities

FWC will collaborate with USFWS, other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

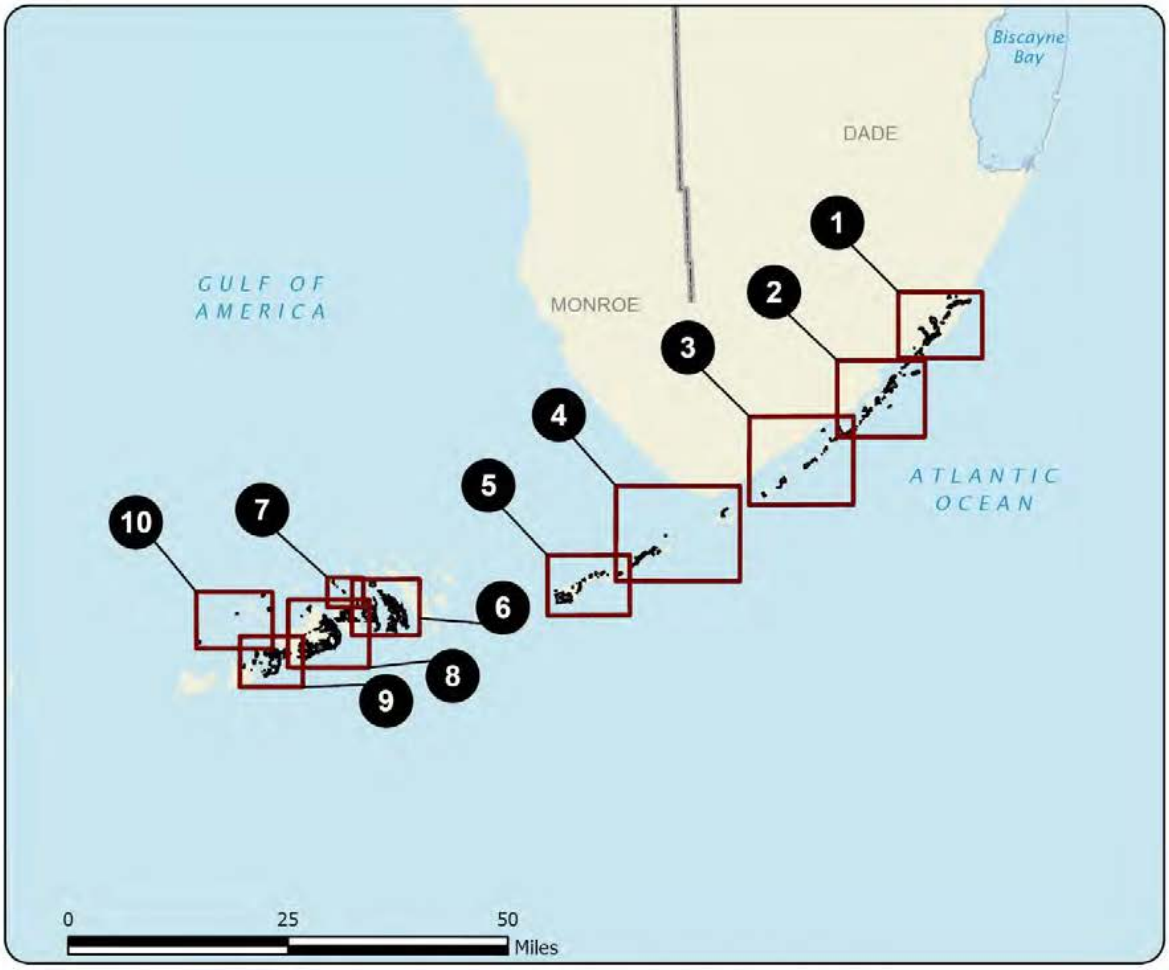
FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) program	CARL
Salary	$85,000	$85,000
OPS	$17,500	$9,000
Expense	$45,000	$35,000
OCO	$75,000	$15,000
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$222,500	$144,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source	CARL	CARL
Salary	$22,167	$285,000
OPS	$24,560	$10,000
Expense	$10,000	$95,000
OCO	$61,978	$1,000
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$118,705	$391,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

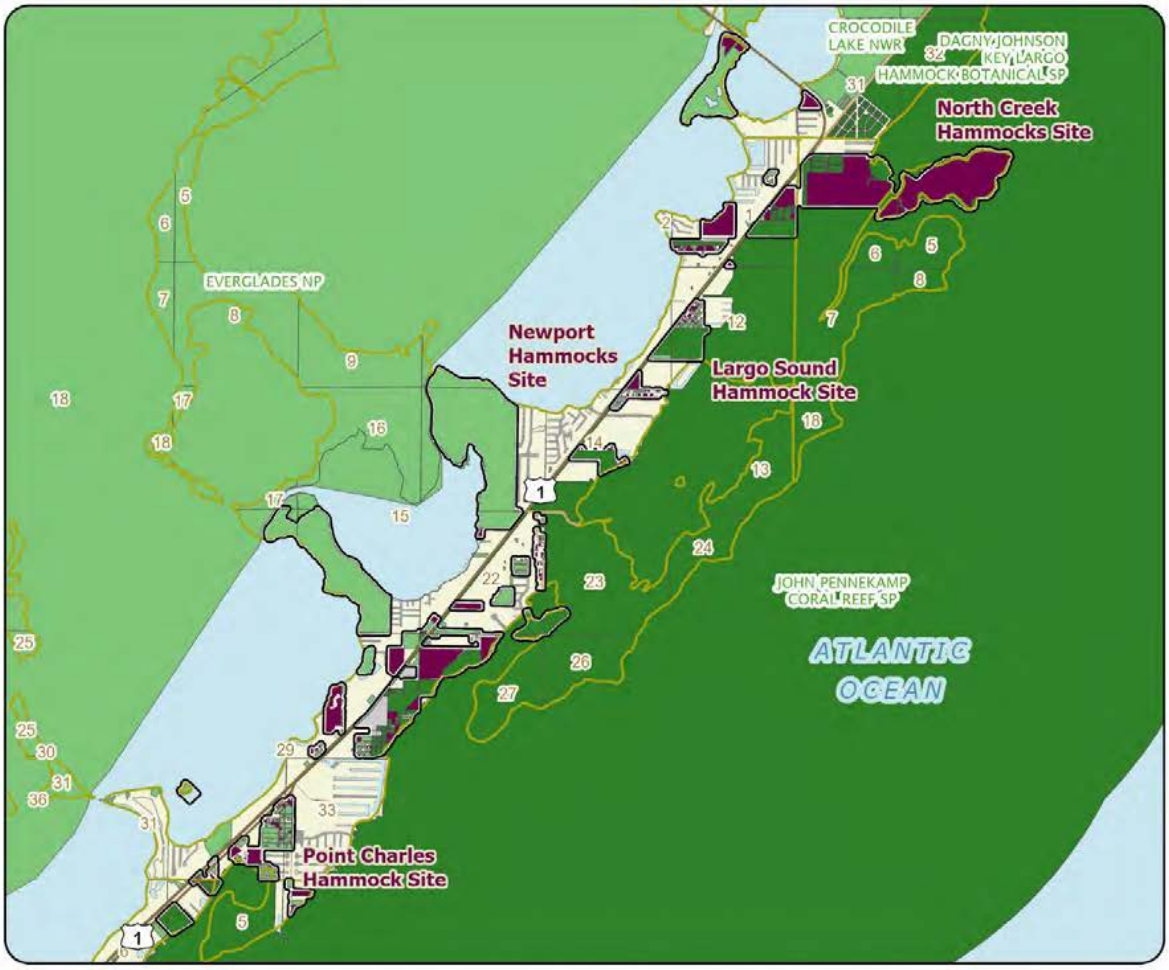


FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

MONROE COUNTY

- ☐ Map 1 Largo Sound Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 1 Newport Hammocks Site
- ☐ Map 1 North Creek Hammocks Site
- ☐ Map 1 Point Charles Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 2 Dove Creek Hammocks Site
- ☐ Map 2 Islamorada/Plantation Key Site
- ☐ Map 2 Key Largo Narrows Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 2 Rodriguez Key Site
- ☐ Map 2 Tavernier Creek Hammocks Site
- ☐ Map 2 Tavernier Key Site
- ☐ Map 3 Cotton Key Site
- ☐ Map 3 Islamorada/Upper Matecumbe Keys Site
- ☐ Map 3 Lower Matecumbe Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 3 Wilson Key Site
- ☐ Map 3 Windley Key Site
- ☐ Map 4 Channel Key Site
- ☐ Map 4 Grassy Key Hammocks Site
- ☐ Map 4 Marathon/Crawl Key Site
- ☐ Map 4 North Layton Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 4 Pennekamp North Hammock Site
- ☐ Map 4 Tom's Harbor Keys Site
- ☐ Map 5 Boot Key Site
- ☐ Map 5 Marathon/Fat Deer Key Site
- ☐ Map 5 Marathon/Vaca Key Site
- ☐ Map 6 Big Torch Key Site
- ☐ Map 6 Little Knockemdown Key Site
- ☐ Map 6 Little Torch Key Site
- ☐ Map 6 Middle Torch Key Site
- ☐ Map 6 Ramrod Key Site
- ☐ Map 6 Summerland Key Site
- ☐ Map 7 Budd Key Site
- ☐ Map 7 Knockemdown Key Site
- ☐ Map 8 Cudjoe Key Site
- ☐ Map 8 Sugarloaf Key Site
- ☐ Map 9 Boca Chica Key Site
- ☐ Map 9 Saddlebunch Keys Site
- ☐ Map 10 Great White Heron Keys Site





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2 4 Miles

N





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2 4 Miles

N





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2.5 5 Miles

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FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

MONROE COUNTY

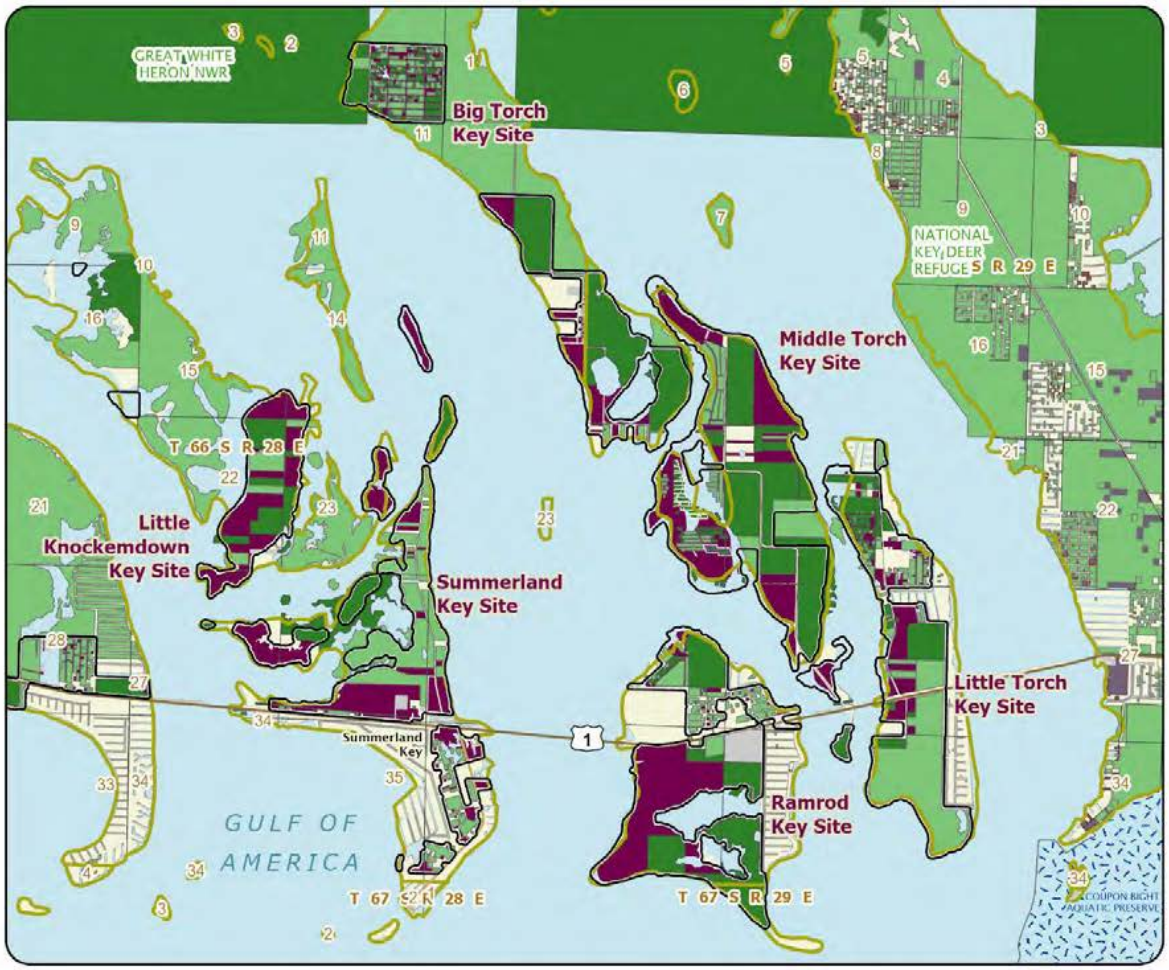
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1.5 3 Miles

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FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

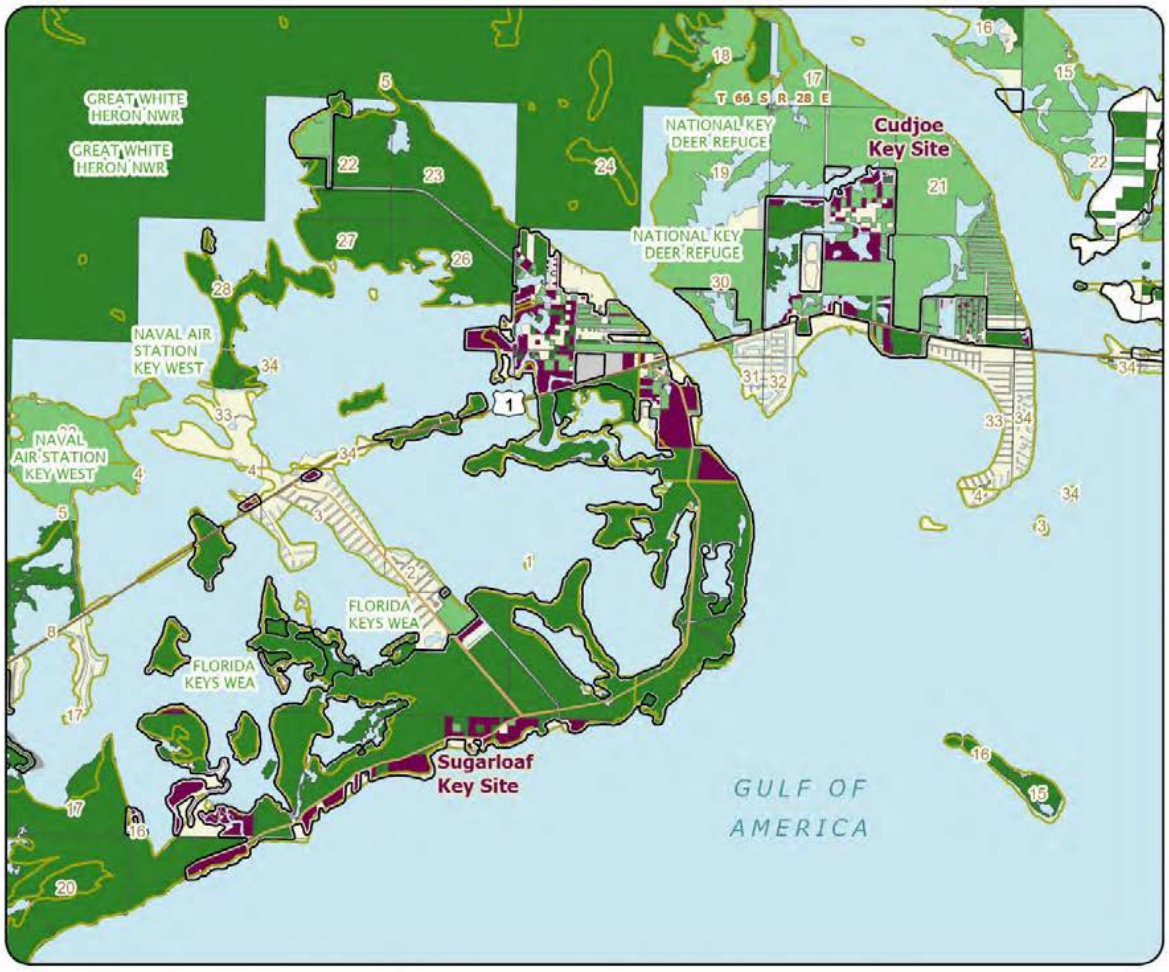
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FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8

MONROE COUNTY

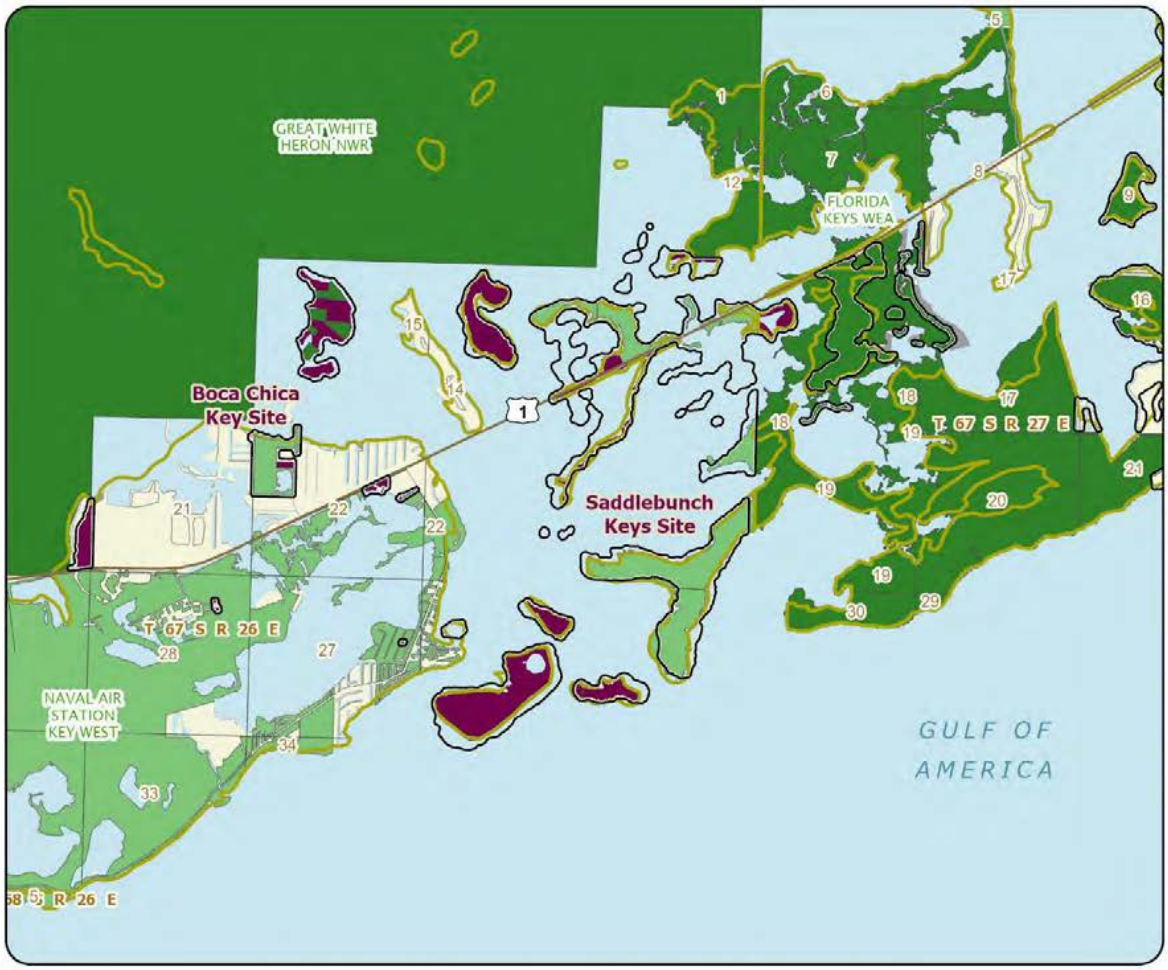
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1.5 3 Miles

N





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9

MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 1 2 Miles

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FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 10

MONROE COUNTY

Florida Forever Project Boundary*
Essential Parcels Remaining
State Conservation Lands

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Ford Marsh

Climate Change Lands

Volusia County

Year Added to Priority List	*2023*
Project Acres	*1,200*
Acquired Acres	*28*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,172*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$385,238*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ford Marsh project will help protect the fragile coastline and wetland areas of Volusia County along the Tomoka River. This property will provide a path for salt marsh migration as sea levels rise. Ford Marsh's proximity to other conservation areas and state parks expands public recreation including paddling and hiking trails once restored. There are three known cultural sites on the property that will be protected if acquired.

General Description

The Ford Marsh project contains 10 parcels, totaling approximately 1,200 acres in Volusia County. Acquisition of Ford Marsh will expand wildlife corridors due to its proximity to other conservation lands. The project is adjacent to North Peninsula State Park and Tomoka Marshes Aquatic Preserve and contiguous to Bulow Creek State Park. This property shares its northern border with the Flagler County Blueway Florida Forever project. The predominant natural communities found at Ford Marsh include salt marsh, estuarine, hydric hammock and mollusk reef.

Acquisition of Ford Marsh will help to further the goals of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative by enhancing the long-term abundance, health and resilience of 1 million acres of estuarine salt marshes in the South Atlantic. This project, if acquired, also increases resilience by creating a path for upland salt marsh migration in response to sea level rise.

In the 1950s, Ford Marsh was channelized, and impoundments were created on the property for mosquito control efforts. Restoration of the wetlands on Ford Marsh can become habitat for a variety of imperiled species including the diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) and the Atlantic saltmarsh snake (*Nerodia clarkia taeniata).* Wetland restoration will also expand public recreation opportunities by allowing visitors to paddle through the property.

There are three known archaeological sites found on Ford Marsh, dating to the pre-Columbian and pre-historic periods. Additional sites near the property have the possibility of undiscovered artifacts on Ford

Marsh. It's estimated that these sites represent at least 3,000 years of Florida history. The acquisition of this property will help to protect and preserve these unique sites and Florida's cultural history.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Wood stork	G4/S2

Public Use

If acquired, Ford Marsh will be managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) as a part of Bulow Creek State Park and will expand the park's hiking and paddling trail systems.

Acquisition Planning

2023

On October 13, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add Ford Marsh to the Climate Change Lands category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

This project was proposed by DRP. The Volusia Forever program, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Resilient Florida are potential partners in the acquisition of Ford Marsh. The St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have been identified as potential partners in restoration of the property.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of Ford Marsh are to protect and restore wetlands; to expand connectivity between conservation lands; to preserve cultural and archaeological resources; to provide appropriate nature-based recreation that offers public enjoyment of the site without damaging the unique natural habitats; and to periodically review, evaluate and modify the management of the Ford Marsh property.

Manager

DRP is the identified manager for Ford Marsh.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Acquisition of Ford Marsh is desirable due to its connectivity between multiple state parks and the opportunity to restore the estuarine and salt marsh habitats on the property.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

A large portion of Ford Marsh is made up of salt marsh that has been impacted by the dredging of canals. The creation of dikes has also disrupted the daily tidal flushing and sediment deposition. There are invasive species on the property that will need managed. The acquisition of this project will require restoration and mitigation.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Multi-use activities on the property will be implemented pursuant to Chapter 258, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 62D-2, Florida Administrative Code. The primary objective will be to protect and restore the resources on-site while providing access and compatible recreation opportunities to the public. Once the property is acquired, resource management activities would be carried out by assigned park staff who would work closely with other DRP land managers and managers of other adjacent conservation lands. Recreational development could occur quickly and would focus on the passive recreational elements discussed above. Hiking and paddling access would need to be sensitive to preserving integrity and ecological function of the estuarine environment.

DRP will ensure the protection and security of the resources and infrastructure of the property. A complete inventory of the site would occur once the property is acquired. A complete survey and subsequent fencing of critical property boundaries will be a top priority. Further long-term and short-term plans for management of the property would be addressed in the unit's management plan.

Revenue-generating Potential

Bulow Creek State Park generates revenue through pavilion rentals.

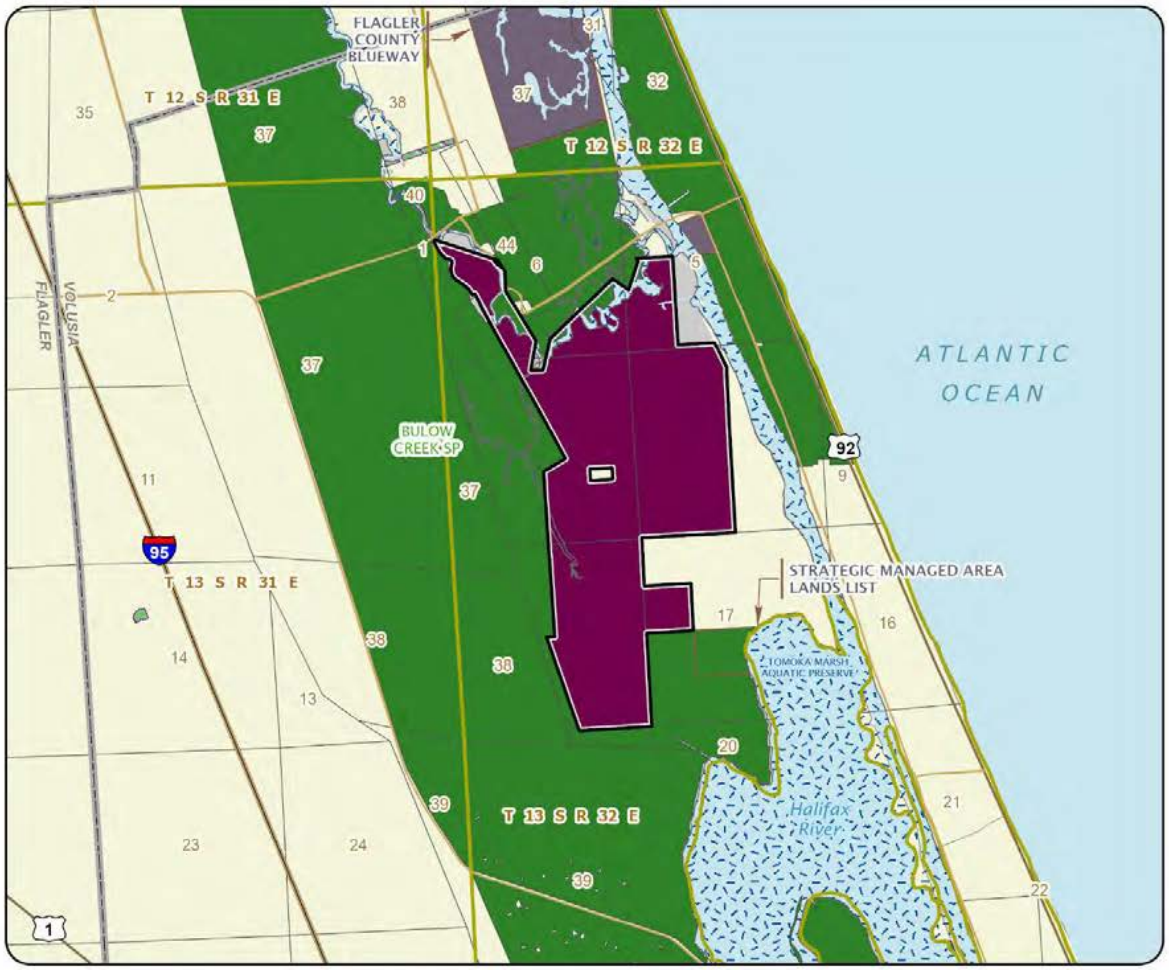
Cooperators in Management Activities

The management strategy includes potential partnerships with state agencies for restoration and monitoring. The management strategy also identifies the USFWS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as potential funding sources.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source	not provided	not provided
Salary (3 FTE)	$150,200	not provided
OPS (10 OPS)	$234,000	not provided
Expense	$15,000	not provided
OCO	Not provided	not provided
FCO	$25,000	not provided
TOTAL	$424,200	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted.



FORD MARSH

VOLUSIA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 1 2 Miles

N



Garcon Ecosystem

Climate Change Lands

Santa Rosa County

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*7,446*
Acquired Acres	*4,502*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,944*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$27,828,905*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Garcon Ecosystem project will preserve ecologically valuable habitat for endangered pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* spp.) and other rare species in the Pensacola Bay area. The Garcon Ecosystem project will protect some of the highest-quality pitcher plant prairies left in Florida, while also maintaining Pensacola Bay's water quality and allowing the public to experience this unique natural environment.

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 carnivorous plants such as pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts and bladderworts. Especially significant are the large populations of state endangered white-topped pitcher plant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*) and the globally imperiled panhandle lily (*Lilium iridollae*). The tracts are also habitat for the federally endangered reticulated flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma bishopi*). Four cultural sites are known in the project area. The area's sensitive prairies are threatened by ditching, plant collecting and residential development.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Louisiana yellow-eyed grass**	G2G3/S1
*Spring hill flax**	G2/S2
Saltmarsh topminnow	G3/S2
Louisiana seaside sparrow	G4T4/S1
*Nightflowering wild petunia**	G3?/S2
*Pond rush**	G5/S1
*Yellow fringeless orchid**	G3G4/S2
*Pinewoods bluestem**	G3/S3
*Panhandle lily**	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project is designated as a preserve and is limited to uses such as nature study, hiking and fishing.

Acquisition Planning

1994

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council combined the Prairies of Garcon and Garcon Point Conservation and Recreational Lands projects and renamed the new project Garcon Ecosystem. This fee simple project consisted of approximately 7,601 acres, multiple owners and had a taxable value of $6,573,507.

Garcon Point – Consisted of approximately 21 owners. Phase I: FDIC [acquired by the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD)]. Phase II: all other ownership except in sections 24 and 25. Phase III: ownership in sections 24 and 25.

Prairies of Garcon – Essential tracts included the larger ownerships of Jenkins (acquired by NWFWMD), Henzelman, Culpepper, Thompson and other ownerships greater than 160 acres. Phase II tracts included smaller ownerships and lots within Avalon Beach Subdivision.

1998

On February 5, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple, 845-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the owners' representative, consisted of five owners and had a taxable value of $483,356 in 1997. NWFWMD will manage this addition that has been designated as non-essential, meaning it is important but not critical to the project.

2001

In 2000 and 2001, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired approximately 850.5 acres for $1,419,955 with Preservation 2000 funding to create Yellow River Marsh Preserve State Park.

2002

On October 25, 2002, NWFWMD acquired 10 acres from Perdido Key, Inc. for $9,000.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List.

2007

On July 10, 2007, 20 acres within the project boundary were donated (Woodlands Ventures of Pensacola for a value of $2,620).

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC moved this project to the Climate Change Lands category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, ARC removed 283 acres from the project because the 89 parcels making up that land had been developed or had become otherwise unmanageable.

2021

DEP acquired, in fee simple, eight parcels (Springer, one parcel; Brown Family, seven parcels) totaling 138.20 acres to be managed as additions to Yellow River Marsh Preserve State Park.

2024

On July 29, 2024, DEP acquired, in fee, 64.46 acres in Santa Rosa County from William O. Smith.

2025

On April 16, 2025, DEP acquired, in fee, 41.05 acres in Santa Rosa County from Santa Rosa Business Holdings, LLC.

Coordination

In November 1995, 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.

Manager(s)

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is the lead manager for the northern portion of the project. NWFWMD is the lead manager for the southern portion of the project.

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 shellfish waters.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The Garcon Ecosystem project includes lands that require prescribed fire management.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 complete 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.

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.

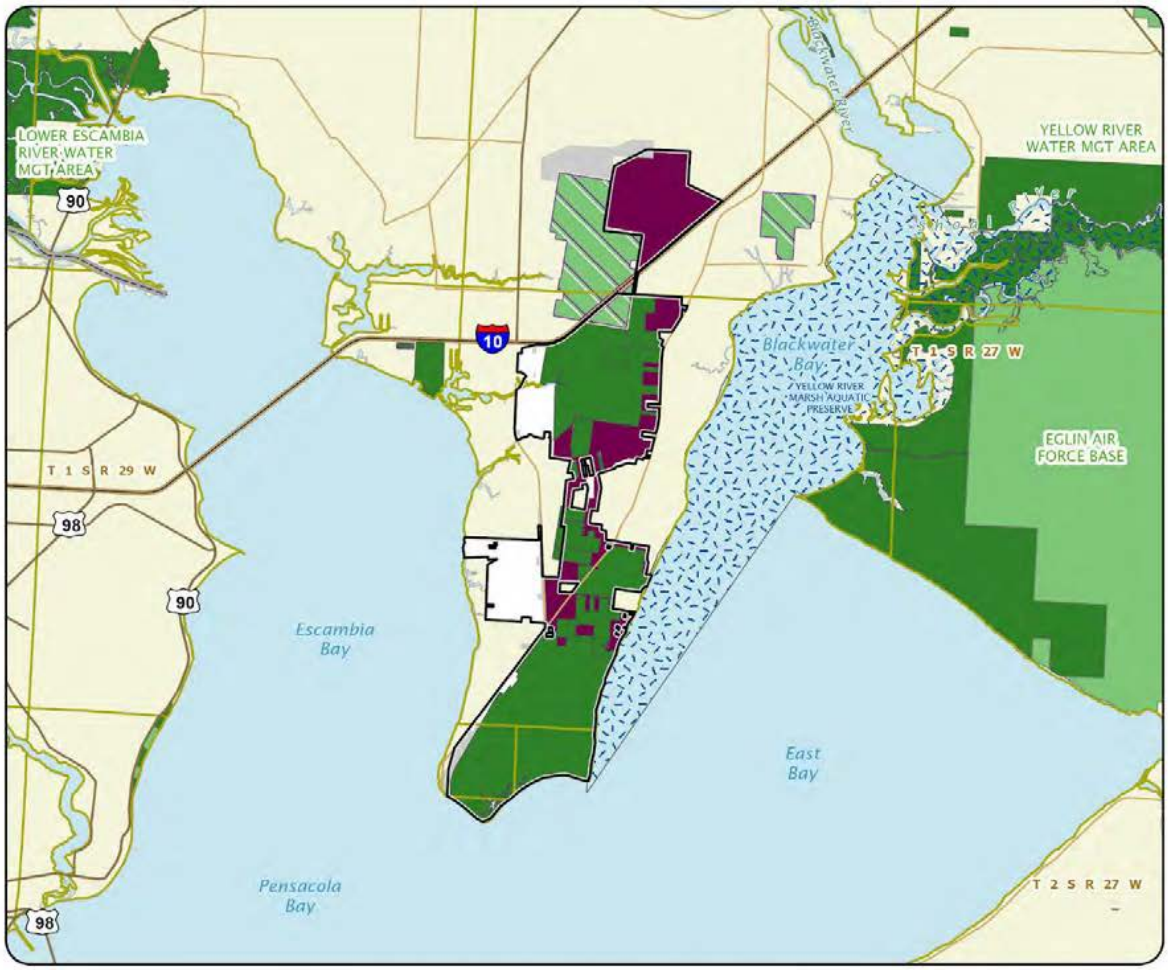
Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service may help with fire management.

Management Cost Summary

NWFWMD Interim Management Budget	2000/2001
Salary	not provided
OPS	not provided
Expense	not provided
OCO	not provided
Other — Special	$38,477
TOTAL	$38,477

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



GARCON ECOSYSTEM

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 3 6 Miles

N



Northeast Florida Blueway

Climate Change Lands

Duval, Flagler and St. Johns Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2001*
Project Acres	*16,454*
Acquired Acres	*11,798*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,656*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$335,788,388*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Northeast Florida Blueway project will protect and maintain shoreline plant communities on the Tolomato and Matanzas rivers, benefiting the endangered Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) by connecting existing natural areas and greenspace to form a conservation lands corridor along portions of both rivers and the Intracoastal waterway. The project will support recreational trail connectivity and contribute to ongoing efforts to protect and restore the region's land and water.

General Description

This project is composed of uplands and wetlands along both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway, the Tolomato and Matanzas rivers, and selected tributaries, ranging from the Duval County line south to the Flagler County line. Marshlands, open water and small islands of shrub and hammock vegetation make up 92 percent of the existing public lands. It is adjacent to the following managed areas: Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, Faver-Dykes State Park, Guana River Wildlife Management Area, Deep Creek State Forest and Fort Matanzas National Monument.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Pygmy pipes**	G2/S2
*Tampa vervain**	G2/S2
*Pondspice**	G3/S2
*Piedmont roseling**	G5/S1S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
*Florida beargrass**	G3/S3
*Coastal vervain**	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
*Florida milkvetch**	G3G4/S2S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project would support primitive camping opportunities 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. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) proposes to manage the St. Johns County portion north of Faver-Dykes State Park and south of a haul road between U.S. Highway 1 and a spoil site on the Matanzas River. This section of the project contains about 5,000 acres and would expand the quality and quantity of recreational activity at Faver-Dykes State Park, including bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, camping, environmental education and picnicking.

The Florida Forest Service (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 protecting archaeological and historic sites.

Acquisition Planning

1985

In 1985, the Duval Audubon Society acquired Palm Island Sanctuary (16.66 acres) by donation, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

1999

On November 1, 1999, the city of Jacksonville acquired 93 acres to create Dutton Island Park and Preserve, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2000

On July 28, 2000, the city of Jacksonville acquired Whitehall parcel (234.7 acres) to create Castaway Island Preserve, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

On September 11, 2000, the city of Jacksonville acquired Bender parcel (25.5 acres) to expand Castaway Island Preserve, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

On December 8, 2000, the city of Jacksonville acquired Moontide parcel (49.14 acres) to expand Castaway Island Preserve, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Northeast Florida Blueway – Phase I project to Group A of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple proposal, 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.

On August 9, 2001, the city of Jacksonville Beach and the city of Jacksonville acquired Cradle Creek Preserve (28.9 acres), all of which is in the project boundary.

On December 6, 2001, ARC approved Phase II, also known as Tolomato and Matanzas Rivers, to the project boundary. The fee simple addition in St. Johns County consisted of approximately 27,929 acres. St. Johns County sponsored this addition.

2002

On April 5, 2002, the city of Atlantic Beach and the city of Jacksonville acquired 31.27 acres to expand Dutton Island Park and Preserve, all of which is in the project boundary.

In June 2002, Northeast Florida Blueway Phase I and Phase II were combined to form the Northeast Florida Blueway Florida Forever project.

2003

On August 14, 2003, the city of Jacksonville acquired 176 acres to expand Dutton Island Park and Preserve, all of which is in the project boundary.

On August 15, 2003, ARC approved two additions to the project boundary. DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection sponsored a 20.26-acre addition in St. Johns County. St. Johns County sponsored a 70-acre addition in Flagler County.

2005

On July 8, 2005, the city of Jacksonville Beach acquired (6.15 acres) to expand Cradle Creek Preserve.

On December 5, 2005, the city of Jacksonville acquired 8.28 acres to expand Dutton Island Park and Preserve, all of which is in the project boundary.

2006

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a redesign of the project boundary. A total of 2,000 acres no longer suitable for conservation were removed from the project, 180 acres in Duval County and 1,820 acres 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.

2007

On March 29, 2007, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) acquired Lastinger parcel (2.45 acres).

On April 5, 2007, BOT acquired 1.11 acres.

2008

On September 15, 2008, St. Johns County acquired Moses Creek Regional Offsite Mitigation Area (454.87 acres), of which approximately 201.32 acres are in the project boundary.

2009

On April 30, 2009, the city of Atlantic Beach acquired River Branch Preserve (278.68 acres) with a conservation easement held by the North Florida Land Trust.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category of projects.

2012

On December 31, 2012, North Florida Land Trust acquired JLC Suncoast (28.88 acres), of which approximately 22.88 acres are in the project boundary.

2013

On August 26, 2013, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) established the Hamilton Trust conservation easement (3.74 acres), of which approximately 2.31 acres are in the project boundary.

2015

On April 23, 2015, St. Johns County granted a conservation easement to SJRWMD on the Moses Creek Regional Offsite Mitigation Area.

2023

In October 2023, ARC approved the removal of 613 acres from the project boundary.

2024

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of 18 parcels totaling approximately 24.77 acres in St. Johns County.

2025

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 14,334 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

Coordination

The city of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, St. Johns County, Florida Communities Trust and SJRWMD may be partners on portions of the project. The Trust for Public Land will be the intermediary for negotiations.

Management Policy Statement

This project would be managed 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, to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Manager(s)

The city of Jacksonville will manage the portion of the project within Duval County. DRP proposes to manage the 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 U.S. 1 to a spoil site on the Matanzas River, east of U.S. 1 and west of the Matanzas River. 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 (approximately 2,500 acres).

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The lands approved in Phase I of this project are rapidly disappearing as Duval County grows. The Preservation Project, the city of Jacksonville'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 ARC standards.

Phase II of the project is of a size and diversity that makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by 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 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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Initial management efforts of Phase I by the city of Jacksonville will concentrate on site security, resource inventory, removing trash and having limited public access to the property. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously protecting sensitive resources. Intensive restoration will be needed on the portion of Phase II managed by DRP to restore natural communities disturbed by timber operations. The intensity of restoration will be dictated by the study of the site. Any immediate action, such as prescribed burning, would increase the early intensity of management. The lands bordering the Guana 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

The city of 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 of Jacksonville will first inventory natural resources and develop a plan to protect and restore resources, including removing invasive and exotic species, before developing access plans. DRP plans that, upon fee title acquisition, public access will be provided for passive outdoor recreation within its portion of Phase II. First year management will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and developing a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

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 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 removing trash.

Revenue-generating Potential

The portion of Phase II to be added to Faver-Dykes State Park will not initially generate any significant revenue for DRP. After acquiring and adding the land to Faver-Dykes State Park, it will likely 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. 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-managed properties in the Northeast Florida Blueway project to ARC 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 Northeast Florida Blueway project 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 develop the property for state park purposes. FFS plans to cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, local government entities, interested parties and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as appropriate. FFS also intends to coordinate the recreational use of the Rayonier parcel with DRP because of the potential for a recreation trail on the eastern portion of the property. FFS will work with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in game and non-game management and related public use of the property.

Other agencies that own lands within the Northeast Florida Blueway project include the U.S. Navy, the National Park Service, the Florida Inland Navigation District, the cities of Jacksonville Beach and Atlantic Beach, the Jacksonville Electric Authority and SJRWMD. It is hoped that the Northeast Florida Blueway project boundary will be the catalyst for a voluntary, joint management approach to publicly owned lands within the corridor.

Management Cost Summary

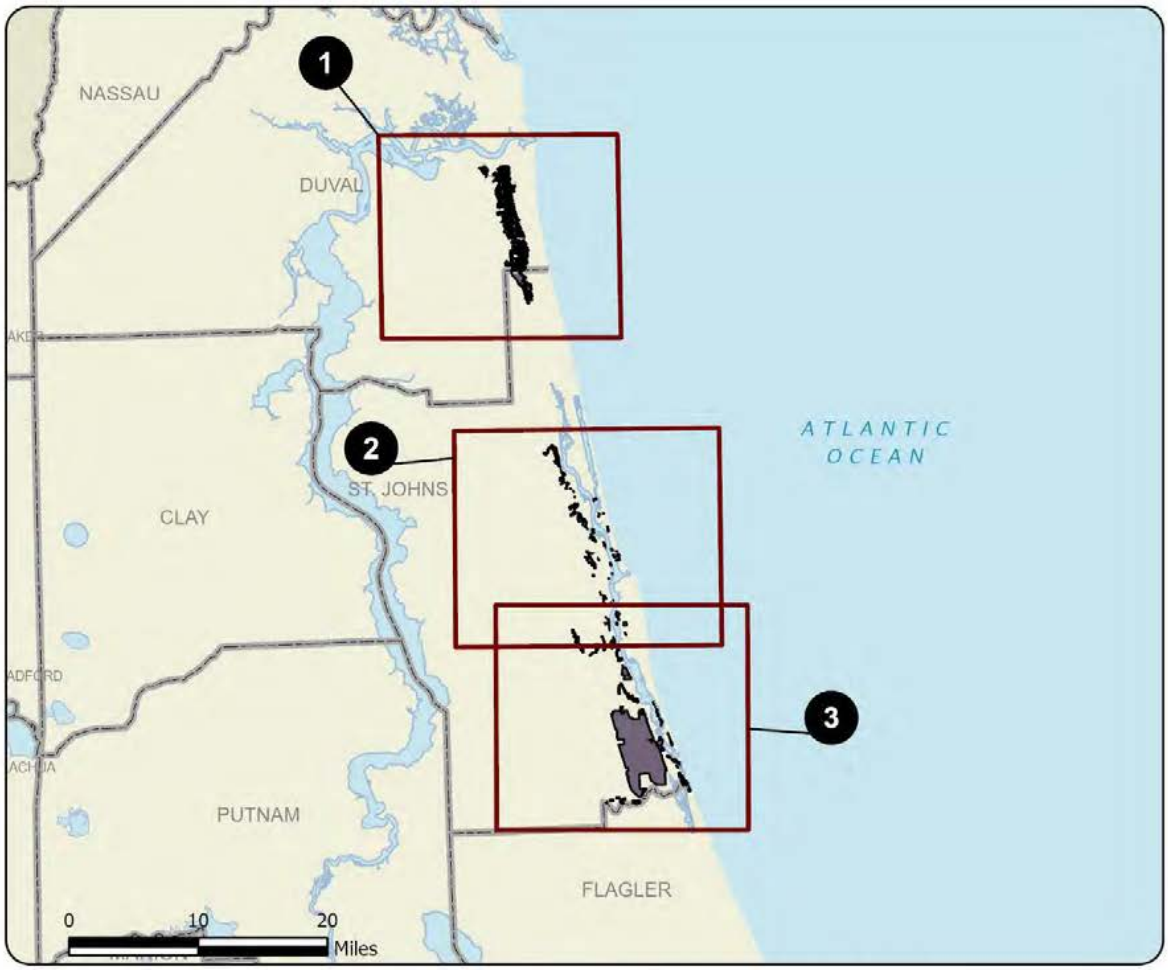
DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL
Salary	$0	$29,000
OPS	$25,000	$8,000
Expense	$18,000	$12,000
OCO	$28,000	$0
FCO	$20,000	$0
TOTAL	$91,000	$49,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (3 FTEs)	$79,518	not provided
OPS	not provided	not provided
Expense	$215,000	not provided
OCO	$37,800	not provided
TOTAL	$332,318	not provided

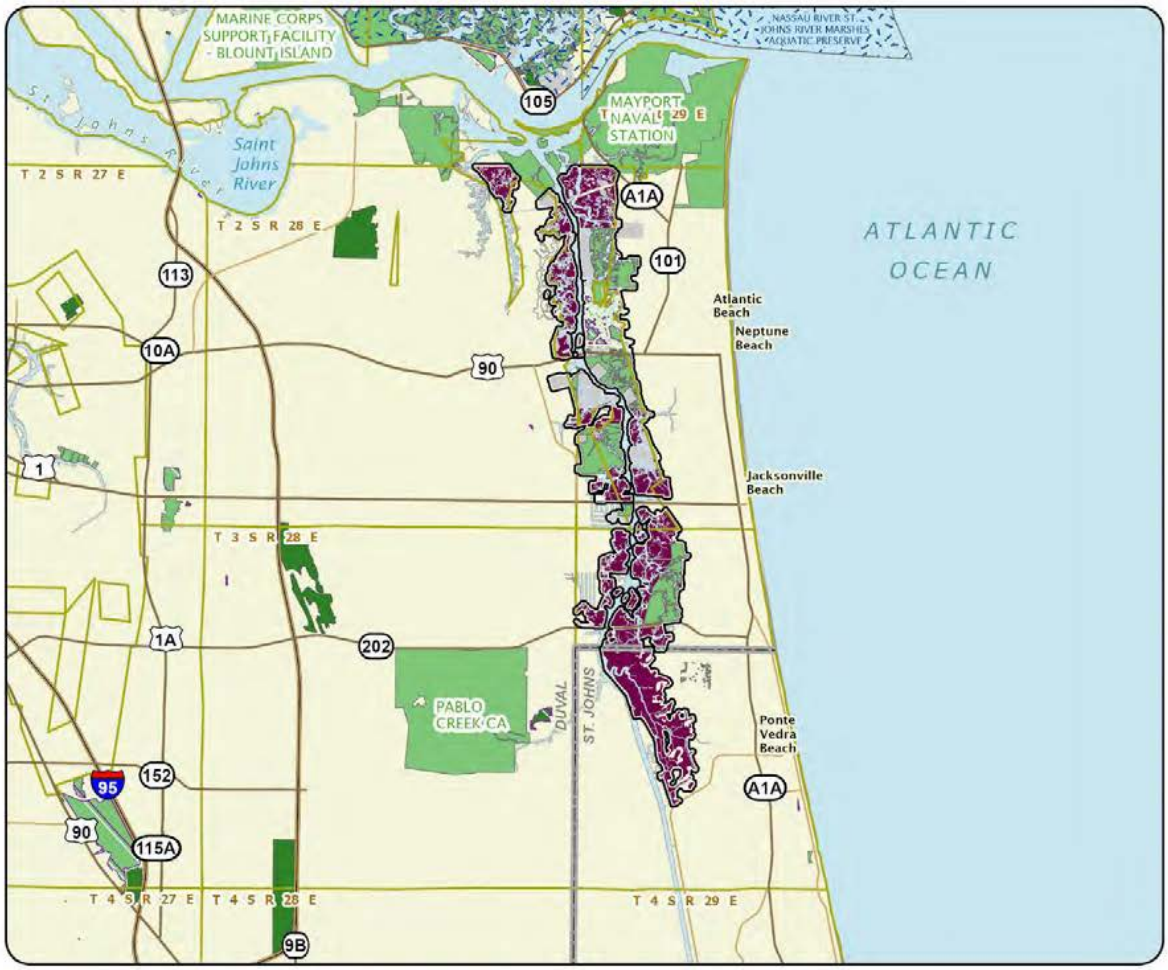
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES





NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 1

DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

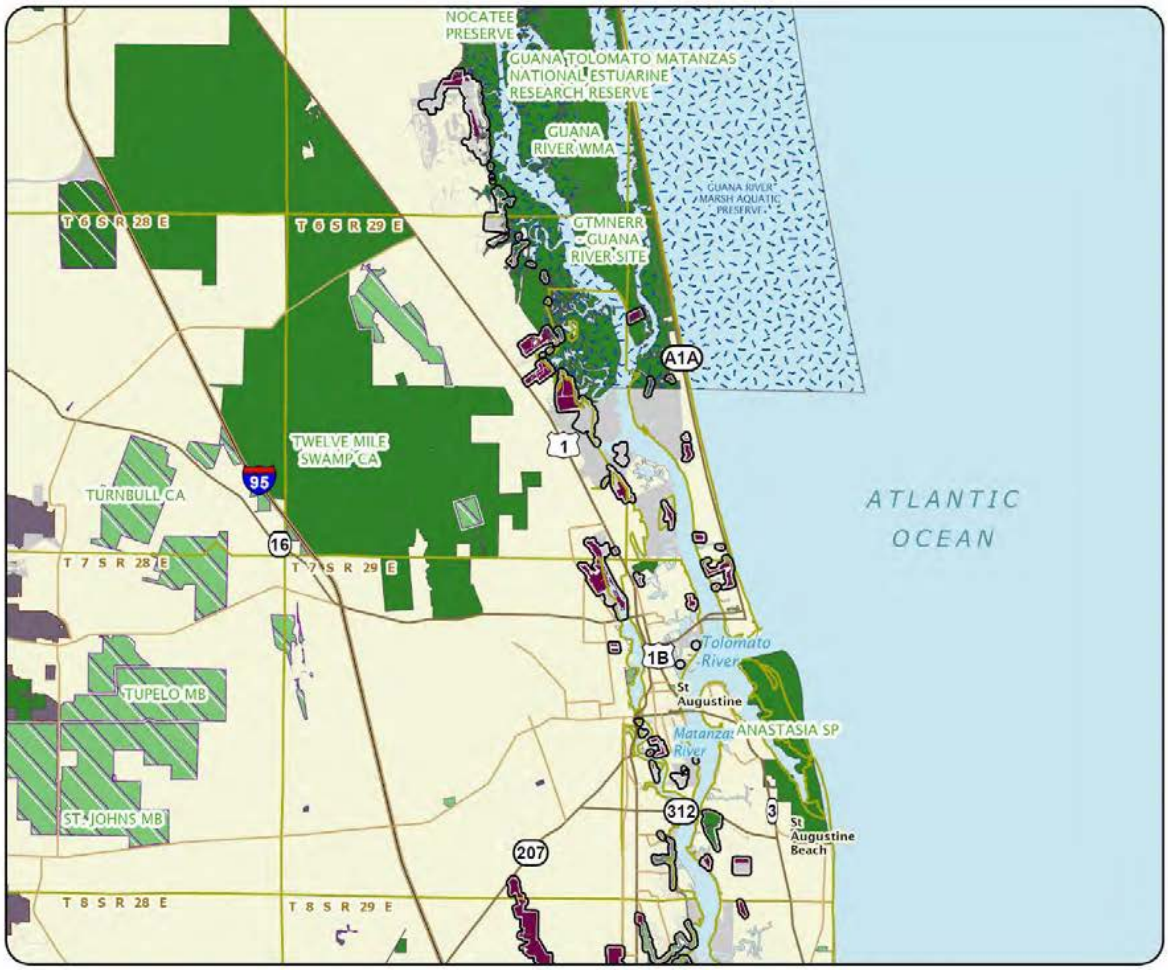
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 4 8 Miles

N





NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 2

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

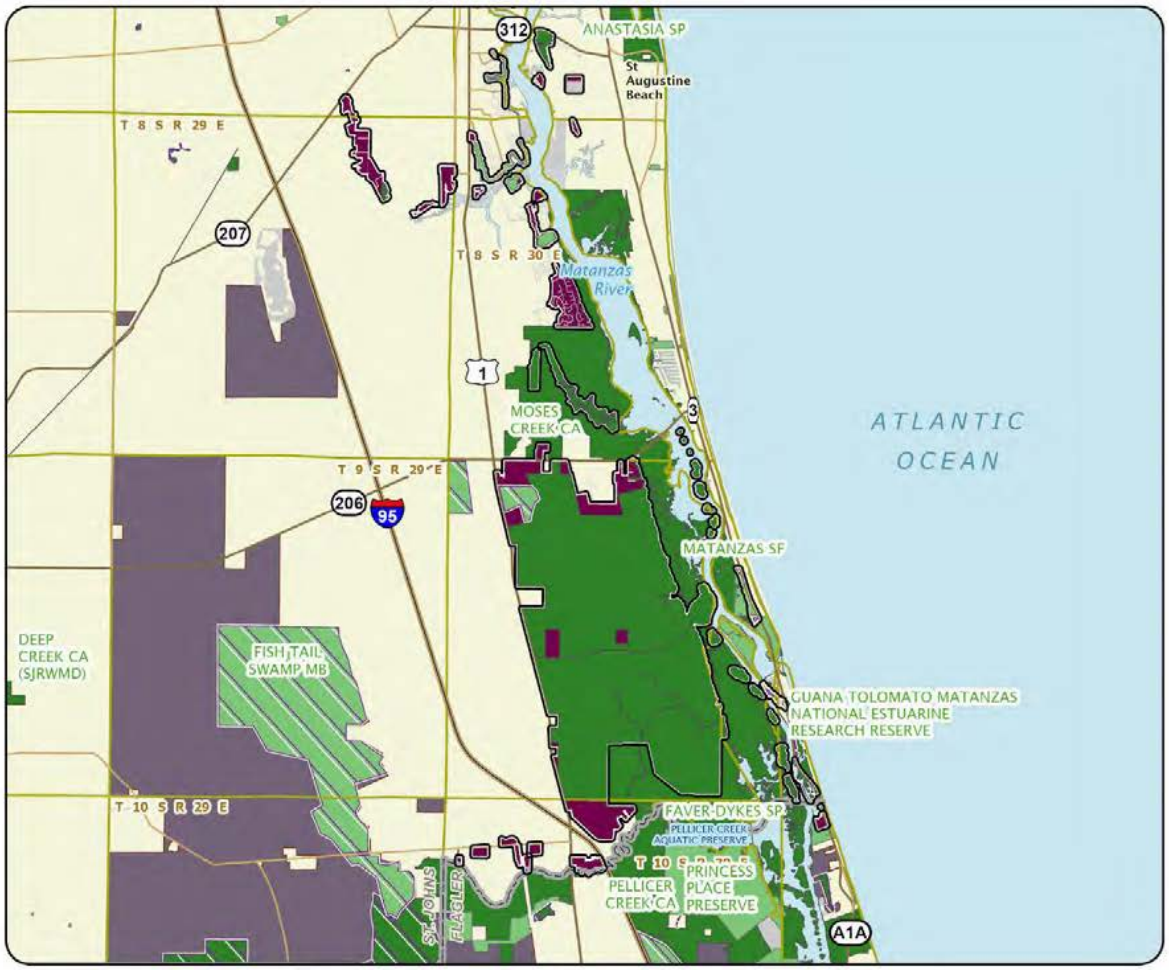
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 4 8 Miles

N





NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 3

FLAGLER AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 4 8 Miles

N



St. Joe Timberland

Climate Change Lands

Bay, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla and Washington Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2000*
Project Acres	*107,497*
Acquired Acres	*72,368*
Remaining Project Acres	*35,129*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$126,837,372*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The St. Joe Timberland project will consolidate the St. Joe Company ownerships already included in other projects, thus helping to preserve large undeveloped tracts of land for native plants and animals in north Florida. The project will provide the public with an opportunity to experience and recreate in large natural areas in the Florida Panhandle.

General Description

The St. Joe Timberland 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); 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); Tate's 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 in North and Central Florida, from scrub to swamps and springs.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
*Florida Torreya**	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Apalachicola rosemary**	G1/S1
*Chapman's rhododendron**	G1/S1
Fat threeridge	G1/S1
Big Blue Spring cave crayfish	G1/S1
*Gholson's blazing star**	G1/S1
*Pinewoods aster**	G1?/S1?
Southern elktoe	G1/S1
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The sites are designated for various public uses. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Acquisition Planning

1999

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved the creation of the St. Joe Timberland project and added it to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. The project was sponsored by the St. Joe Company, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands 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 acres to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project and approximately 1,300 acres to the Apalachicola River Project – Lake Wimico site) to the project boundary as essential parcels. The initial project consisted of approximately 56,218 acres. The Northwest Florida Water Management District has acquired most of the Sand Mountain site.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 12,360-acre addition, known as Lake Wimico site in Gulf County, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

Also on August 22, 2000, ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,592-acre addition, known as Snipe Island, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

2001

On July 12, 2001, ARC approved a fee-simple, 22,260-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by FWC and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company. About 19,445 acres are in Jefferson County, with the remainder in Taylor County. ARC also approved a fee-simple, 2,560-acre addition to the St. Joseph Bay buffers project boundary. It was sponsored by FWC and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company. The property is in Gulf County.

2002

On April 25, 2002, 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 and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

ARC also approved a fee-simple, 1,656-acre addition, known as Crooked Creek (1,365 acres in Gadsden and Liberty counties) and Short Creek (291 acres in Liberty County), to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

2003

On June 6, 2003, ARC approved a fee-simple, 49,565-acre addition, known as St. Vincent Sound to Lake Wimico, to the project boundary in Gulf and Franklin counties. It was sponsored by TNC and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

2004

On June 4, 2004, ARC approved a fee-simple, 10,444-acre addition in Jefferson County, known as the Flint Rock tract, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

2006

On May 1, 2006, the U.S. Forest Service acquired the St. Joe Tract (320 acres).

2008

In January 2008, TNC acquired 10,905 acres known as Flint Rock.

2010

On April 6, 2010, FWC acquired approximately 2,836 acres of the Flint Rock site from TNC.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC voted to place this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever.

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC approved moving the Flint Rock tract to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Florida Forever project, as it was no longer in St. Joe ownership.

2014

On September 23, 2014, the Suwannee River Water Management District acquired Lower Aucilla (119 acres) conservation easement by donation, of which 75 acres are within the project boundary.

2016

On October 21, 2016, ARC transferred 2,456 acres from the Franklin County sites of this project to the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project, as part of the consideration for the Bluffs of St. Teresa Florida Forever proposal.

2017

On April 21, 2017, ARC voted to add 879.5 acres of St. Joe land in two parcels in south Leon County to the project, with a tax-assessed value of $186,620. This addition was proposed by DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP). DRP will manage the western parcel as part of Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park and the Florida Forest Service will manage the eastern parcel as part of Wakulla State Forest.

On August 18, 2017, ARC voted to add an 18-acre inholding in Franklin County within the Box-R Wildlife Management Area, surrounded by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund-owned managed conservation lands, to the project. The addition had a tax-assessed value of $83,800. This fee-simple boundary amendment was submitted by FWC.

In 2017, 10,445 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2019

On October 18, 2019, ARC approved the addition of 564 acres in Franklin County to the St. Joe Timberland Florida Forever project. If acquired, it would be managed by FWC as part of the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area.

2020

In September 2020, two parcels containing 578.23 acres were acquired at a cost of $720,000, of which $200,000 was provided by the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida. The land will be managed by FWC as part of the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area.

The 20,146-acre Lake Wimico addition was acquired via donation from TNC which acquired the property with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Approximately 13,945 acres were added to the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area, and the remaining acres (6,194) were added to Box-R Wildlife Management Area, both of which are managed by FWC.

2021

On December 10, 2021, ARC approved an addition of 370 acres in Franklin County to the project boundary.

2022

On August 12, 2022, ARC transferred the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks site (47,229 acres) from the St. Joe Timberland project to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project, which was created on the same day.

DEP acquired, in fee, 376 acres in Franklin County along Whiskey George Creek that will be managed as part of Tate's Hell State Forest.

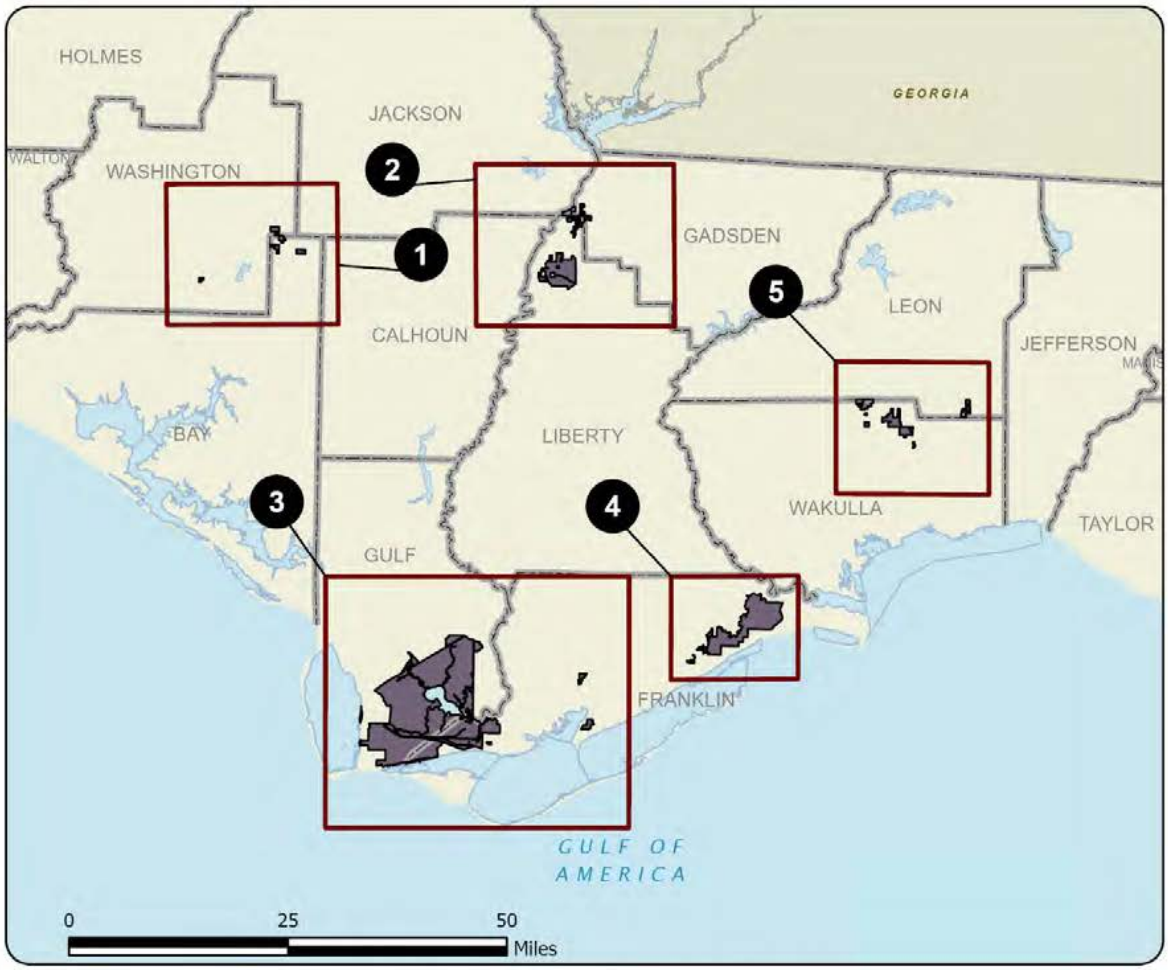
2025

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 641 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition, and an additional 3,867 acres were added to the Apalachicola River, Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Sand Mountain and Wakulla Springs Protection Zone projects.

On December 23, 2025, DEP acquired a 10,023.45-acre conservation easement in Gulf County from The Conservation Fund.

Coordination

TNC has been an acquisition intermediary for this project.

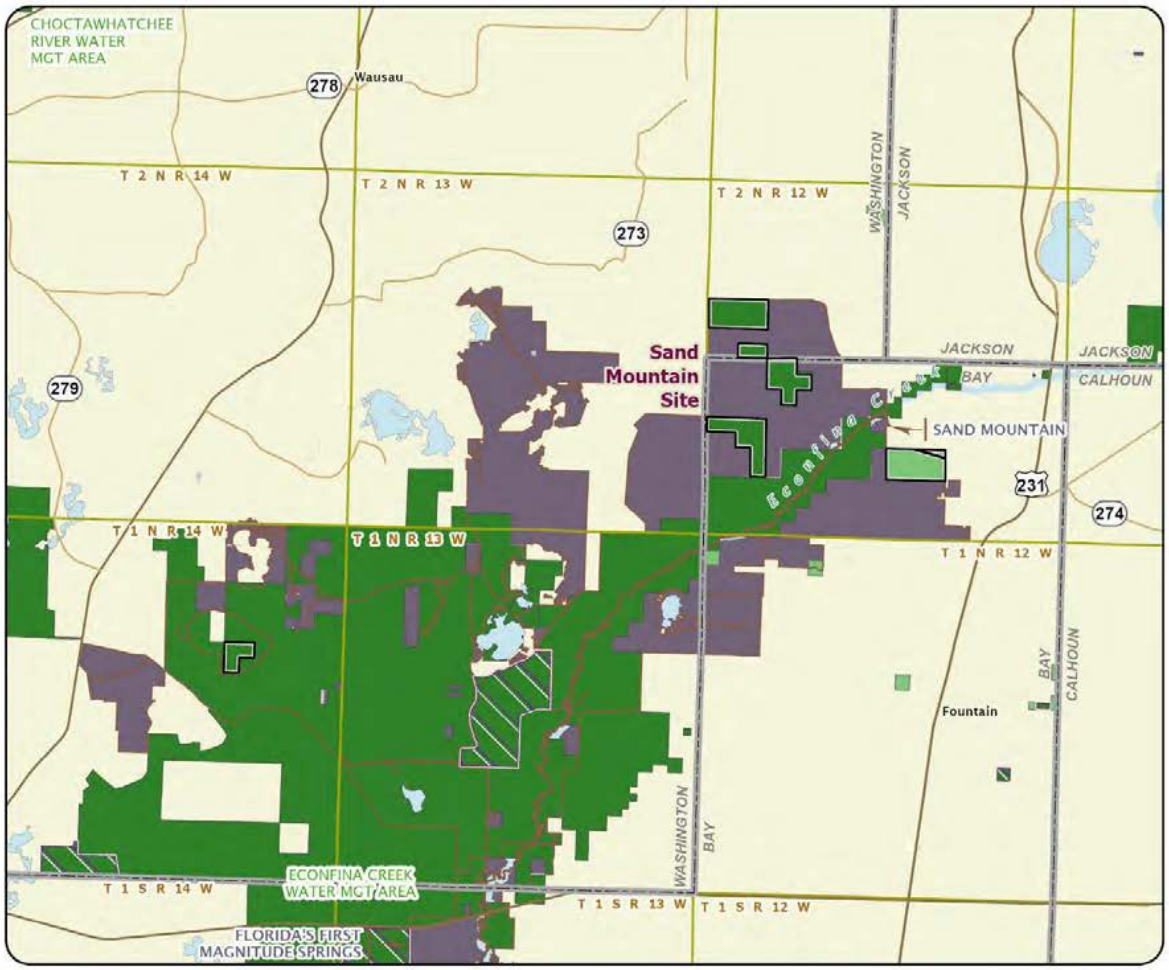


ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: OVERVIEW

BAY, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, GULF, LEON, LIBERTY, WAKULLA, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 Sand Mountain Site
- ☐ Map 2 Apalachicola River Site
- ☐ Map 3 Holt Trustee Tract Site
- ☐ Map 3 Lake Wimico Site
- ☐ Map 3 Whiskey George Creek Timbers Site
- ☐ Map 4 Tates Hell/Carrabelle Tract Site
- ☐ Map 5 River Sink Spring Site
- ☐ Map 5 Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Site
- ☐ Map 6 St. Marks Springs Site





ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 1

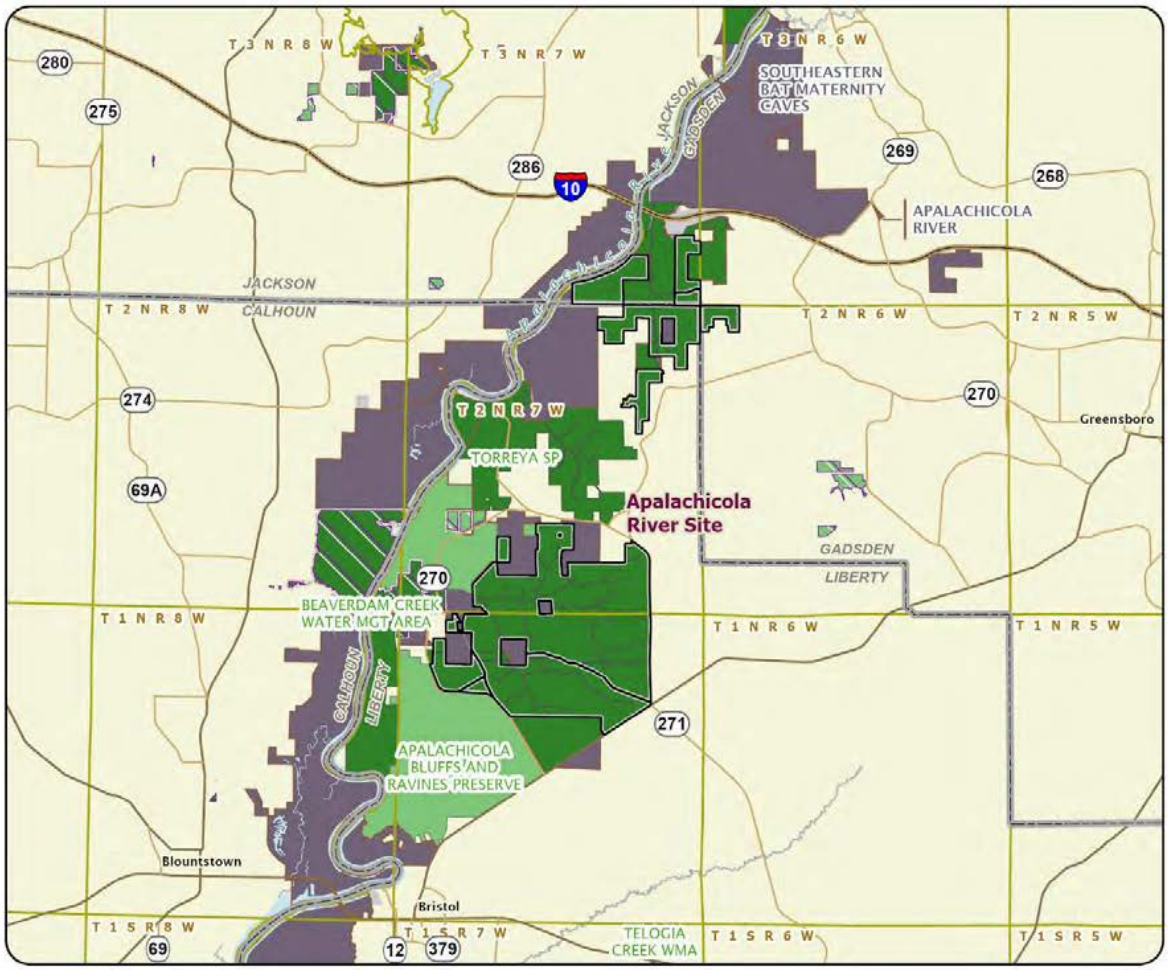
BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 2

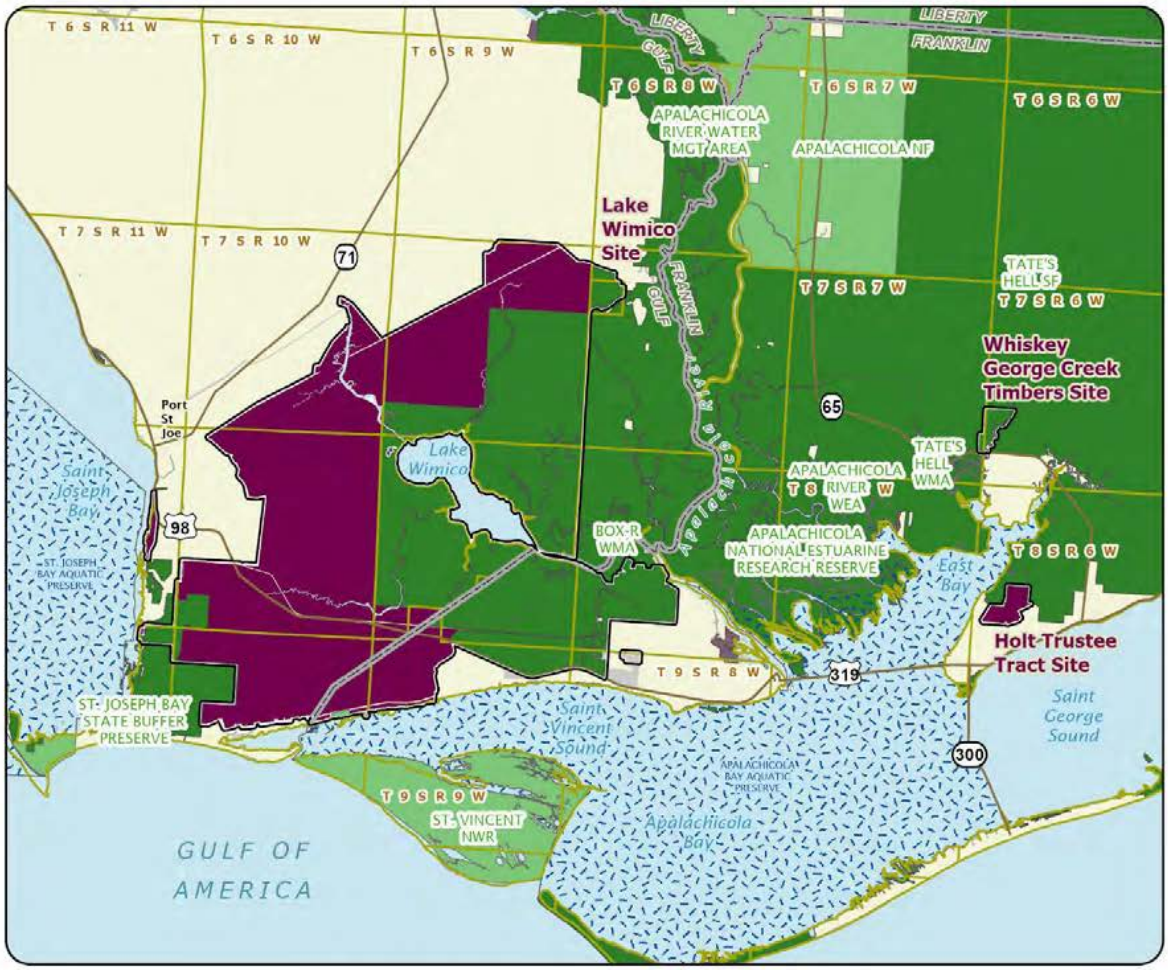
GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 3

FRANKLIN AND GULF COUNTIES

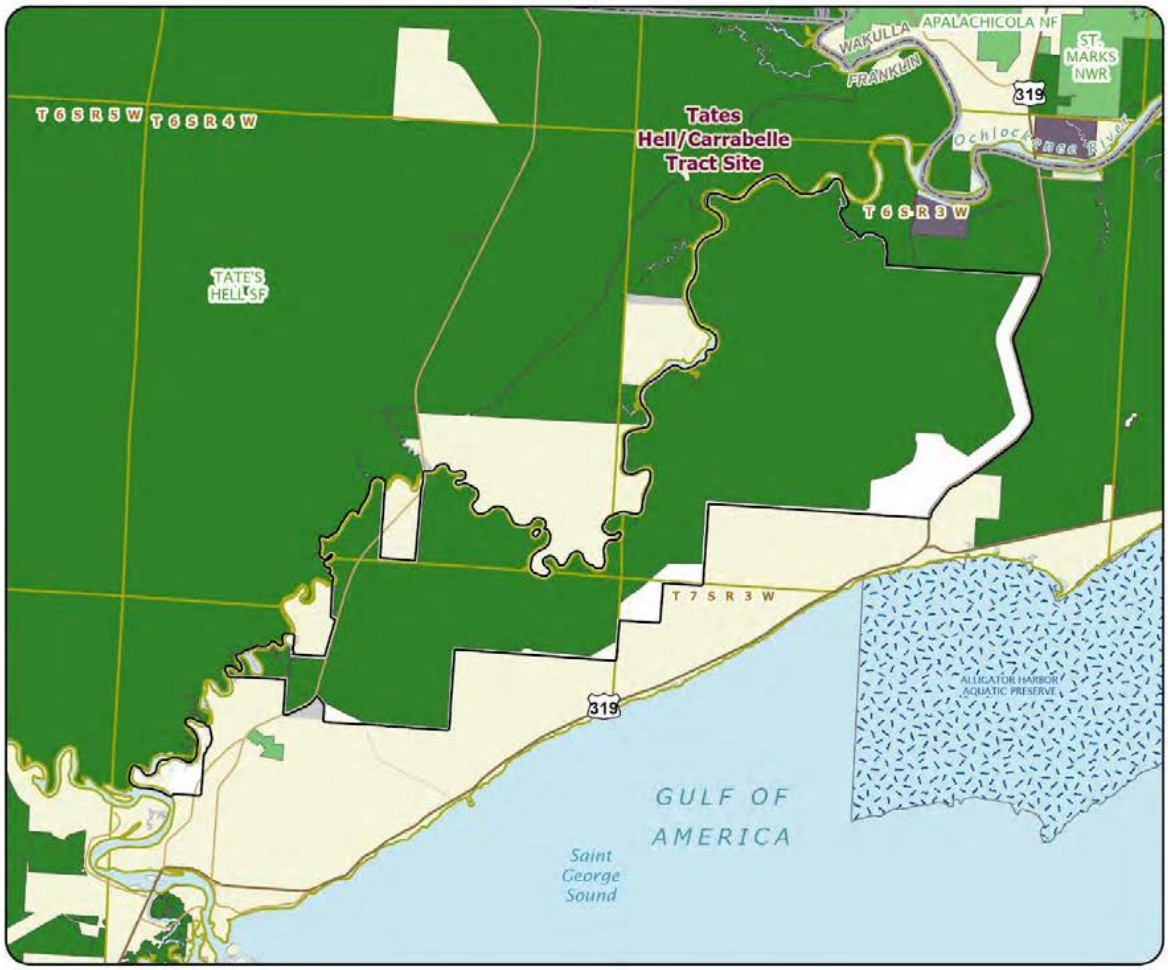
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 4

FRANKLIN COUNTY

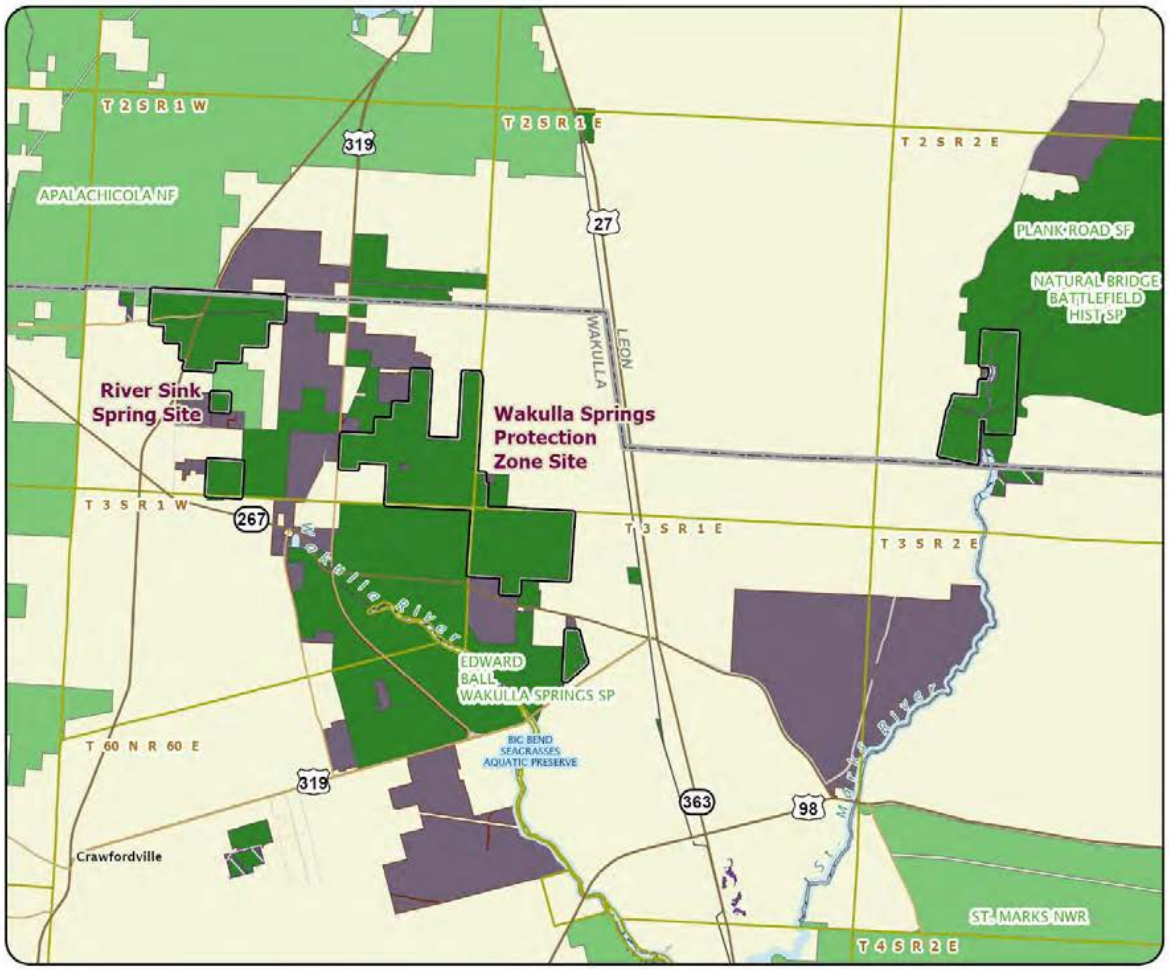
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2.5 5 Miles

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ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 5

WAKULLA AND LEON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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St. Johns River Blueway

Climate Change Lands

St. Johns County

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*24,726*
Acquired Acres	*10,497*
Remaining Project Acres	*14,229*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$285,717,294*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The St. Johns River Blueway project will preserve the last remaining undeveloped shoreline of the St. Johns River and several of its tributaries. The project will also expand access to natural resource-based recreation opportunities including boating, canoeing, hiking, camping and bicycling for northeast Florida visitors. The project contains multiple recorded archaeological and historical resources.

General Description

The St. Johns River Blueway project runs along the eastern shore of the St. Johns River between Green Cove Springs and Palatka and bounds the Bayard Conservation Area on the west bank of the St. Johns River. It also includes Hog Island, the last remaining unprotected and largely undeveloped island on the St. Johns River near the outlet of Lake George. Hog Island consists of two separate tracts: a ± 203-acre island and two mainland parcels containing a dock (totaling 1 acre) in nearby Georgetown that provides boat access to the island. Hog Island is proposed for fee simple acquisition to be managed by the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT).

The project area includes considerable forested wetlands by the river and around six tributary creeks, mesic flatwoods, freshwater marsh and a portion of disturbed uplands. Hog Island predominantly contains floodplain swamp, mesic hammock, mesic flatwoods and xeric hammock. Hog Island also includes three documented archaeological sites of pre-Columbian origin. Further evaluation of the Hog Island Shell Midden has the potential to yield important data relating to the emergence of ceramic technology between 2000-1200 BCE, trade and exchange networks, along with paleoenvironmental adaptation and change. Hog Island is located within the boundary of the U.S. Navy's Pinecastle Range Complex-Lake George Range, one of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) project opportunity areas. Hog Island is located within Priority 5 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Pineland scurfpea**	G1/S1
*Canby's wild indigo**	G3T1/S1
*Curtiss' loosestrife**	G2/S2
*Variable-leaf crownbeard**	G2/S2
Creek siltsnail	G2/S2
*Thorne's beaksedge**	G3/S1S2
*Bartram's ixia**	G2G3/S2S3
*Piedmont roseling**	G5/S1S2
*Florida mountain-mint**	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

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 high, depending on what title rights and uplands can be obtained.

The project area is predominantly wetland or floodplain adjacent to the St. Johns River and its tributary creeks. These public waterways have boating and canoeing opportunities. Upland sites along the waterways could provide public access for boating, opportunities for environmental education, wildlife viewing, hiking, bicycling, camping and picnicking. Recreational opportunities on Hog Island could include hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding, fishing, wildlife viewing and environmental education.

Acquisition Planning

1989

In 1989, Michael Adams acquired the Saturiwa Swamp Conservation Area (94.4 acres), all of which would be in the project boundary when the project was created.

1990

On December 1, 1990, St. Johns County acquired the Watson Island parcel (62.36 acres).

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the St. Johns River Blueway project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by St. Johns County, consisted of approximately 27,997 acres and 290 landowners. 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.

2005

On June 16, 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) approved buying 231.8 acres (Warner). BOT also acquired 736 acres (Lambert) in August 2005.

2010

On June 11, 2010, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC recommended a 1,656-acre reduction to the project, removing residential development, commercial buildings and infrastructure from the boundary.

2014

On December 2, 2014, St. Johns County granted the Deep Creek conservation easement (316 acres) to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), of which 112 acres are within the project boundary.

2016

On August 16, 2016, the 5,237-acre Meldrim ownership was acquired as a perpetual conservation easement for $5,991,803.

On November 29, 2016, NFLT acquired Sixmile Creek Preserve (284 acres), of which 275 acres are within the project boundary.

2018

On July 26, 2018, SJRWMD and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) established a conservation easement on the St. Johns Mitigation Bank (3,580 acres), of which 637 acres are within the project boundary.

On September 25, 2018, St. Johns County acquired McCullough Creek Conservation Area (1,391 acres) from Jacksonville Port Authority, of which 1,376 acres are within the project boundary.

On November 8, 2018, the St. Johns Mitigation Bank was approved.

2020

On December 11, 2020, ARC approved an addition of 112 acres in Clay County to the project boundary.

2025

On April 11, 2025, ARC approved the addition of the Hog Island project (204 acres) in Putnam County to the project boundary.

In May 2025, ARC approved the addition of five parcels (Woodpecker Trail) totaling approximately 272 acres in Putnam County to the project boundary.

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 2,272 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

Portions of the project may be acquired in partnership with St. Johns County. SJRWMD is also interested in the acquisition of the project. The U.S. Navy has been identified as a potential funding partner through the REPI program for the Hog Island parcels.

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) proposes managing the project under multiple use management for 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 FFS 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. This ecosystem approach will guide FFS management activities on this project.

NFLT would be managing the Hog Island parcels based and writing/implementing the management plan contingent upon identifying management funding. Portions of Hog Island may be managed or co-managed with other organizations and agencies.

Manager(s)

FFS has proposed managing part of the site as an addition to Watson Island State Forest and the remainder of the site as a new state forest. FFS Bunnell District personnel will manage the site and coordinate public access and use. NFLT has proposed managing Hog Island for multiple-use activities.

Management Prospectus: FFS

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 that are consistent with these criteria.

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. Protecting and restoring wetland communities will be a priority for FFS. Restoration efforts will concentrate on removing and filling ditches and corrections of other hydrological alterations. Public use will be limited to activities that are compatible with any sensitive resources.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to FFS, public access will be provided for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoring and reforesting areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrologic restoration, site security, and public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the 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, the revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be low to medium. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Conservation and Recreational Lands Trust Fund.

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 Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund	not provided
Salary	$173,346	not provided
OPS	$0	not provided
Expense	$125,000	not provided
OCO	$361,000	not provided
FCO	$0	not provided
TOTAL	$659,346	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Hog Island Management Prospectus: NFLT

Manager

NFLT would be primarily managing the Hog Island property and writing/implementing the management plan contingent upon identifying management funding. Portions of the property may be managed or co-managed with other organizations and agencies.

Purpose and Scope

Management goals will center on the multiple-use concept, as defined in sections 589.04(3) and 253.034(2)(a), Florida Statutes. The management will focus on maintaining or improving environmentally significant natural resources as well as protecting water quality, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation. The infrastructure also factors into the management goals. Key management objectives are as follows:

- Maintain, enhance or restore existing natural communities.
- Inventory natural features of the site, including flora, fauna and natural communities.
- Protect populations of significant and listed plant and animal species.
- Develop and implement a prescribed fire management plan.
- Protect water resources from adverse impacts.
- Effectively and responsibly manage cultural resources.
- Promote public outdoor recreation and environmental education consistent with preserving the historic and natural resources of the site.
- Upkeep and maintenance of the infrastructure.
- Periodically review, evaluate and modify the management of the property as needed.

Qualifications for State Designation

Hog Island is in southern Putnam County in the St. Johns River where the river exits Lake George. The island lies between the Ocala National Forest and Drayton Island. The project also includes a mainland tract that provides access and a mainland base for management operations. The mainland tract (1 acre) is located on the St. Johns River about 1.3 miles to the northeast of Hog Island.

Hog Island is an important part of the broader conservation network along this portion of the St. Johns River. Most of the lands surrounding Lake George are in conservation, Ocala National Forest on the west side and Lake George Conservation Area, Lake George Forest and Wildlife Management Area, and Lake George State Forest on the east side. Hog Island has 16,000 feet of shoreline and buffers the Ocala National Forest from development on nearby Drayton Island and the community of Georgetown on the eastern shore of the St. Johns River.

The primary natural communities on the island are sand pine scrub, mixed hardwood wetlands and mixed hardwood coniferous swamps. The island is also known bald eagle habitat.

Much of the island is undeveloped but there are improvements that will factor into the management. Improvements on the island include two houses, two docks (one at each home site), a helicopter landing pad, various outbuildings near the home sights and a dirt road in the interior of the island. The mainland tract includes a three-bay steel building for boat and equipment storage, a caretaker's residence and a dock with two boat slips and barge mooring. The mainland tract serves as the access for management of the island.

Hog Island is situated within a Department of Defense-controlled area, designated by the Federal Aviation Administration as a “Restricted Area.” It lies approximately 20 miles from three military ranges that form the Pinecastle Range Complex, which includes two land ranges (Pinecastle Range and Rodman Range) and one freshwater range (Lake George Range).

Additionally, Hog Island falls within Range Compatibility Zone II (RCZ-II). This zone defines the area of aircraft armed overflight, marking the point at which an aircraft commits to a target attack. Specifically, RCZ-II applies to air-to-ground operations, beginning when an aircraft with ordnance engages the cockpit arming switch. While less restrictive than RCZ-I, this zone encompasses areas that could be affected by ordnance if inadvertently released after arming.

The conservation of Hog Island not only contributes to broader environmental preservation efforts but also plays a critical role in providing a protective buffer between the public and military operations. By maintaining this buffer, the property enhances safety, minimizes potential conflicts, and supports the Navy’s operational security and mission readiness. The purpose of this Management Prospectus is to provide a brief outline of management activities suitable for the property.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Current onsite conditions and restoration/recreation goals will affect the intensity of management of the site. An in-depth assessment will need to be conducted to ground-truth existing natural communities and assess historic disturbance to determine appropriate future desired conditions. Implementation of an appropriate prescribed fire regime will impact management intensity. Public access and integration of compatible resource-based based recreation opportunities will also affect management intensity. These considerations and others will be included in the site assessment and incorporated into the 10-year management plan.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Monitoring of the island for trespass will be coordinated with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Marine Unit and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers that patrol this section of the St. Johns River. In addition, a law enforcement officer may be sought to reside at the caretaker’s residence on the

mainland parcel. Security cameras may be installed on the island that will alert law enforcement officers of trespass.

Revenue-generating Potential

The most likely revenue-generating potential will be derived from the residences on the island. The houses could be rented to on-site security and research organizations for use as field stations or as day rentals for special occasions such as weddings or retreats, or for short-term use.

Potential Multiple-Use Activities

The primary objective of the site will be to preserve, maintain, and restore the natural and cultural resources onsite while providing appropriate access and passive recreation opportunities to the public. Cooperators in management activities may include local governments, state agencies, SJRWMD and U.S. Forest Service to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities. Potential multiple-use activities of the island include:

Research Projects: Opportunity for scientific study for the purpose of obtaining information which expands the knowledge of and assists in restoration and management of this ecosystem may exist. Research should be conducted through cooperation with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions where feasible.

Cultural Resources: Efforts should be made to locate and document historical and archaeological resources onsite. Management will include a full archaeological assessment and annual monitoring of known sites. After proper identification, a management plan will be created in consultation with the Division of Cultural Resources.

Timber Management: All timber resources will be managed to promote and improve overall forest health.

Recreation: Recreation activities will be evaluated to minimize the degradation or alteration of natural resources and habitats onsite. Recreational activities on the site may include hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding, fishing, wildlife viewing and environmental education. Initiation of more intense management activities or construction of amenities will not take place until more thorough site assessments are completed, and funding sources are identified.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Contactors will be engaged to perform the grounds maintenance and infrastructure maintenance. Cooperators in management activities will be sought and may include volunteer groups, non-profit organizations, local governments, state agencies, SJRWMD and U.S. Forest Service.

Anticipated Costs of Management

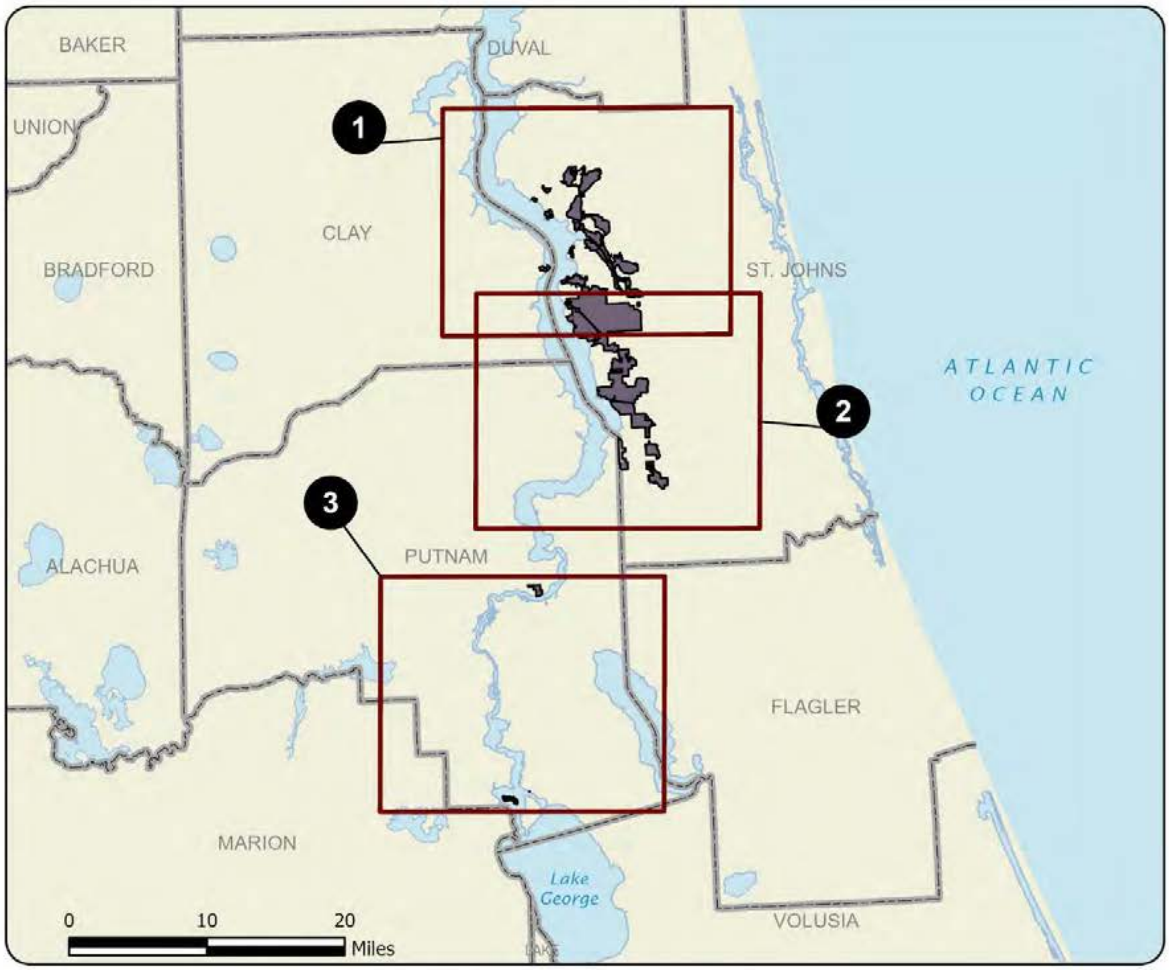
The anticipated management costs for the initial phase of management are listed below. This initial phase of management would be to keep the island secure and maintained in its current condition until a

management plan is approved and implemented. Sources of revenue for the initial phase of management will be from donations, grants, cooperative-assistance funding and in-kind contributions.

Management Cost Summary

NFLT	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds: Donations, grants, cooperative assistance funding, in-kind contributions		""
Salary	not provided	not provided
OPS (# of OPS)	1; $10,000	$15,000
Resource Management	$1,000	$5,000
Capital Improvements	$10,000	$12,000
Visitor Services/Recreation	$2,500	$2,500
Support	$15,000	$4,000
Administration	$2,500	$2,500
TOTAL	$41,000	$41,000

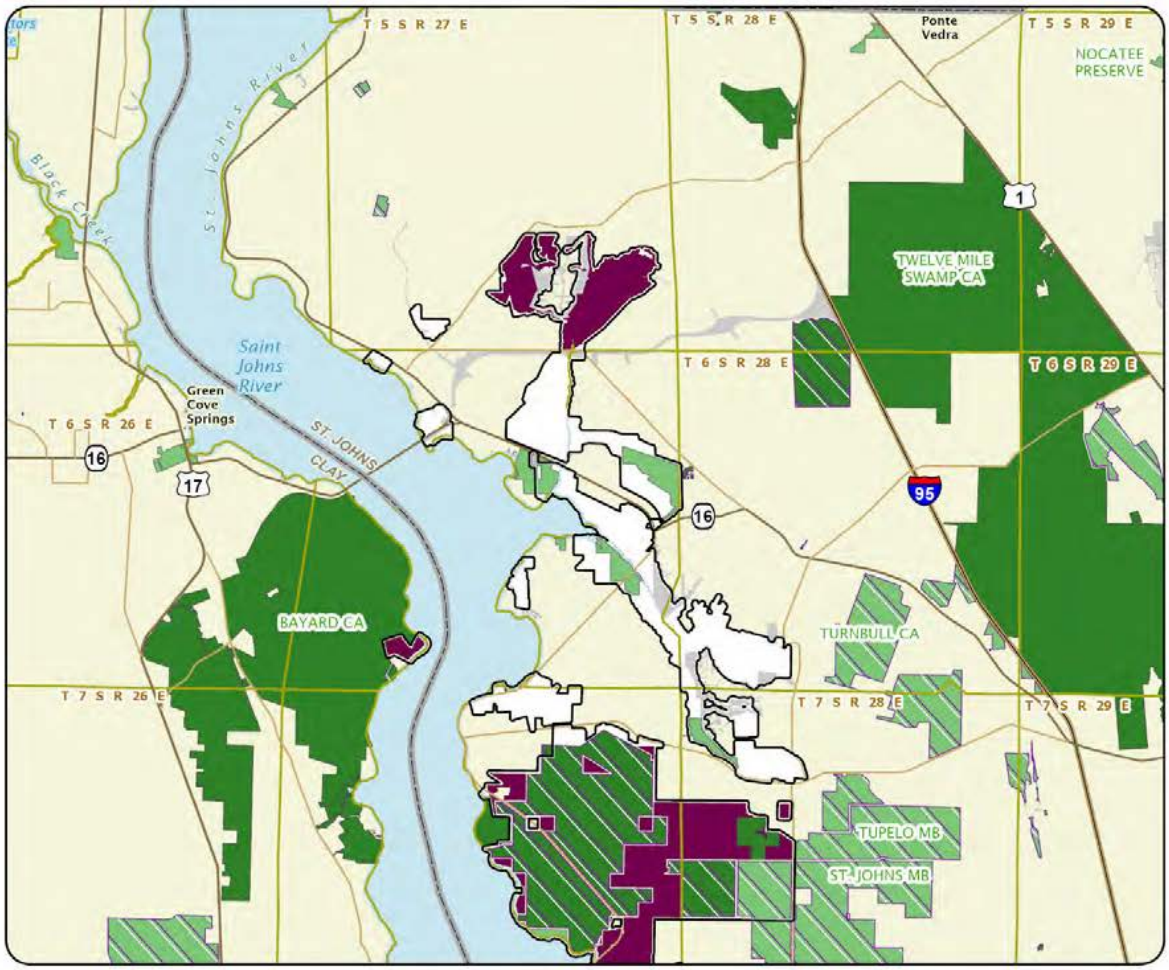
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

PUTNAM AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES





ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 1

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

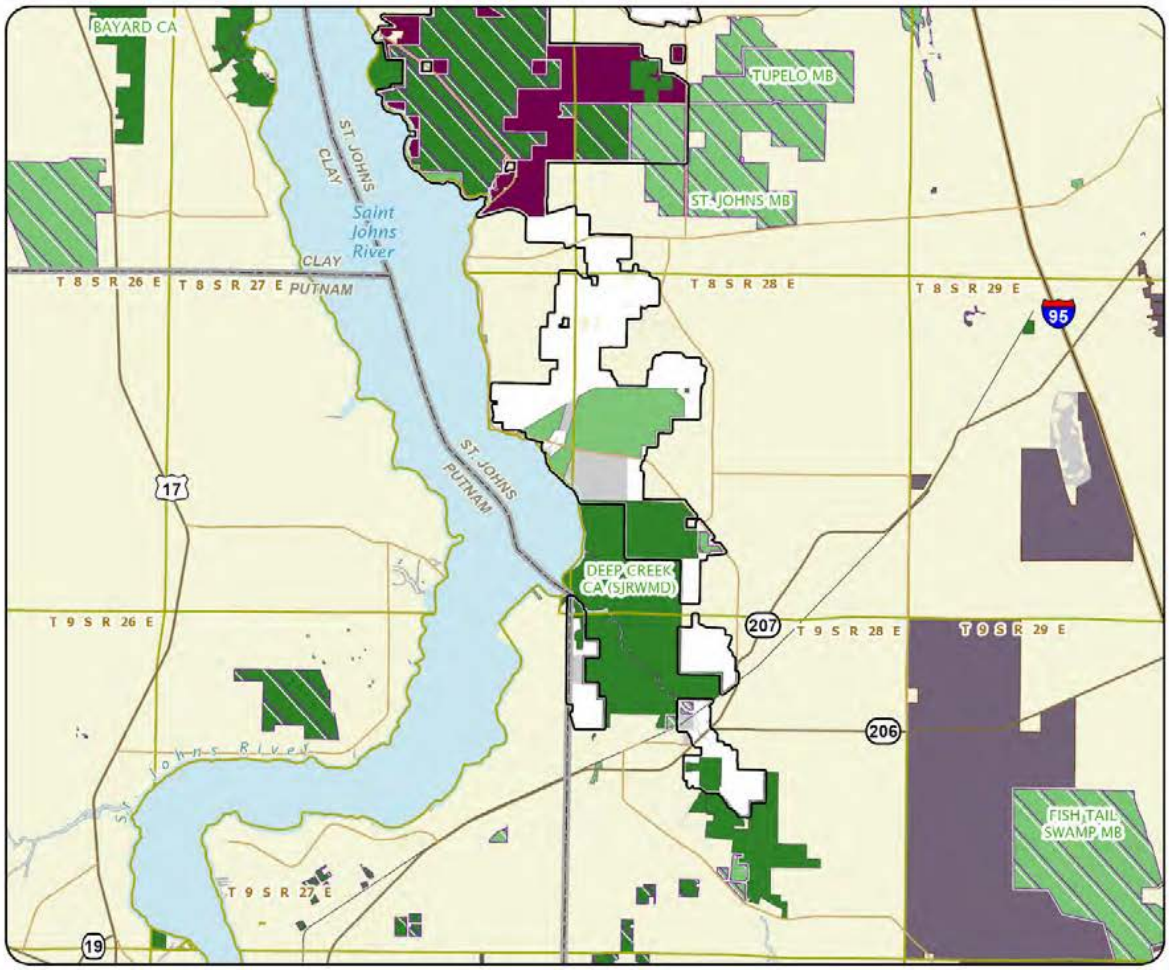
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 2

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

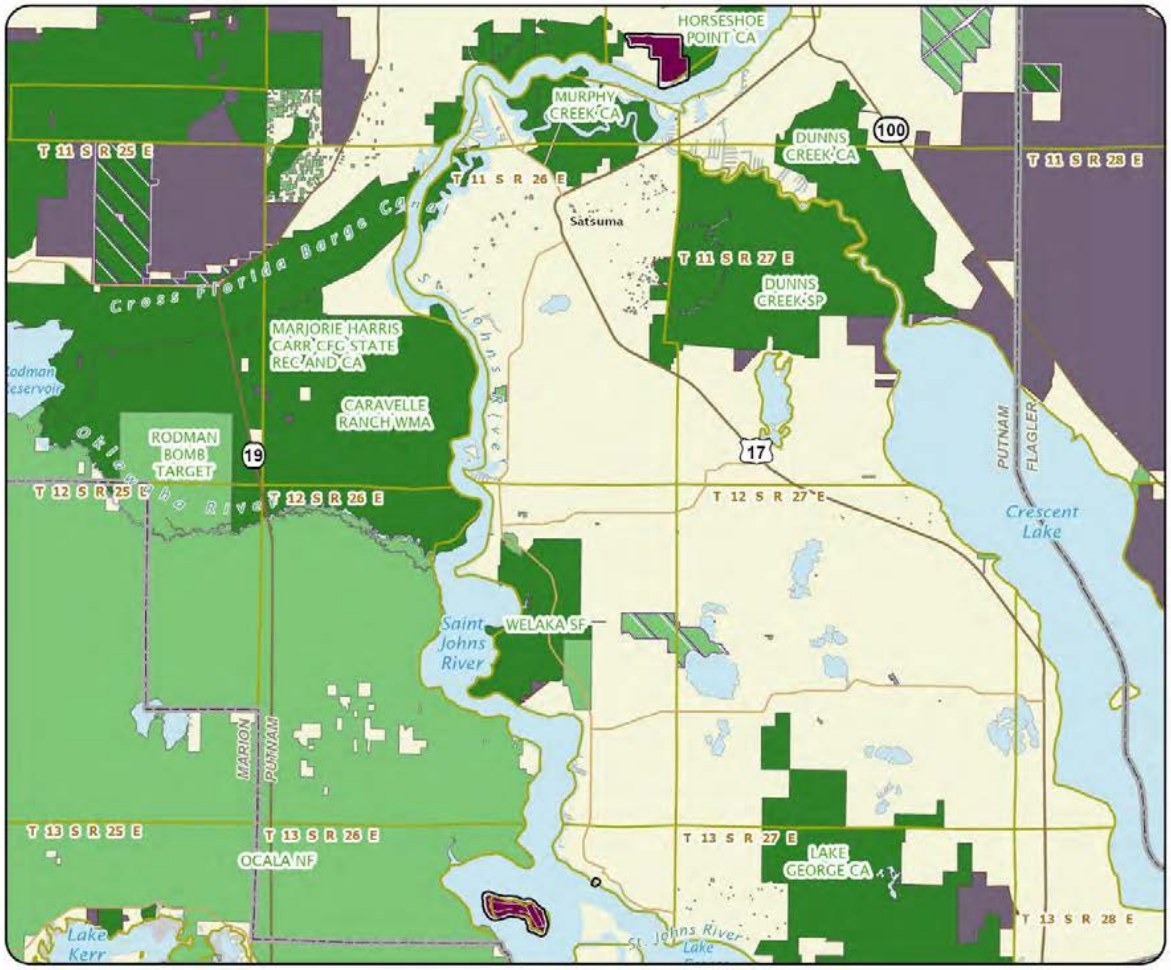
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 4 8 Miles

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ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 3

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Taylor Sweetwater Creek

Climate Change Lands

Taylor County

Year Added to Priority List	*2017*
Project Acres	*4,079*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,079*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$27,130,018*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Taylor Sweetwater Creek project will protect a large swath of undeveloped coastline located between two units of the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. The project conserves a variety of habitat types common in the Big Bend region of Florida, including quality examples of salt marsh and increasingly rare sandhill. The project contains significant wildlife habitat and will contribute to the protection of rare and imperiled species including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The project will also provide surface and groundwater protection for Sweetwater Creek and expand existing opportunities for resource-based public outdoor recreation.

General Description

The project encompasses 3,742 acres in coastal Taylor County near Dekle Beach, about 20 miles south of the city of Perry. It is a mostly contiguous tract of many parcels, split by County Road 361 (Keaton Beach Road), with about two-thirds of the acreage west of the highway. Straight-line Gulf frontage is about 2.3 miles.

The project contains mostly undeveloped coastline, with limestone at or near the surface overlain by sandy flats and rolling hills. The dominant natural communities are hydric hammock, saltmarsh, sandhill, wet flatwoods and mesic flatwoods. Hydric hammock, with a dense canopy and sub-canopy, is the most extensive natural community in the proposal. Salt marsh, dominated by needle rush and salt meadow cordgrass, lies along the many tidal creeks within the project. Sandhill is the most extensive upland natural community. Wet flatwoods, mesic flatwoods and small areas of xeric hammock, depression marshes, successional hardwood forest, improved pasture and sandhill planted with pine are the other natural communities found within the project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
*Florida willow**	G2G3/S2S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The scenic qualities of this project could be excellent. Areas of previous disturbance such as former pasture might support the development of camping opportunities. Considering these factors, the recreational potential of the proposal is considered medium to high. The property may be ideal for recreational scenic hiking trails, equestrian trails on the upland sandhill areas, primitive camping and water-based activities. Acquiring the property strengthens a coastal wildlife corridor linkage and improves opportunities for wildlife appreciation with low-intensity recreation such as bird watching, hiking, boating, snorkeling and managed hunting.

Acquisition Planning

2017

On June 16, 2017, the Taylor Sweetwater Creek project was accepted by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) for in-depth review.

On October 20, 2017, ARC voted to add this proposal as a Florida Forever project.

2024

In September 2024, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 336.97 acres in Taylor County.

Coordination

The proposed property is located between the Spring Creek Unit and Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, which lies 3 miles to the north and 2 miles to the south, respectively. The small (5 acre) Suwannee River Water Management District Spring Warrior Creek Conservation Area is nestled within the general perimeter of the proposal. The Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve lies just offshore of the entire site.

Management Policy Statement

Primary management goals for Taylor Sweetwater Creek are to increase the protection of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, acquire landscapes that link conservation corridors, protect water resources of the state, provide public resource-based recreation and increase the amount of forestland for sustainable natural-resource management.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the designated manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Taylor Sweetwater Creek project adds an extremely valuable link along the west coast of Florida between two very large wildlife management areas that have Gulf of America frontage. If acquired, this would conserve, protect, manage and restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests, as well as protect significant surface-water coastal, recreation, timber and fish and wildlife resources. It would provide opportunities for fishing and wildlife-based public recreation.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Some areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive species and either thinning or reforestation. Such resource management projects may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives and attain the desired future conditions for communities on the area. This is especially important for the conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape ecology is also important, as land use changes in the area, such as intensive residential, commercial and industrial developments and the roads that often accompany them, may also affect the attainment of resource conservation goals for the area and the effectiveness of necessary resource management projects.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

If acquired and leased to FWC for management, a management plan will be developed by FWC describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on the area. The management plan 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 focal, rare and imperiled species. Historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted on the area if deemed necessary and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. FWC would assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance the management of focal species and recovery of imperiled species. Prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation. These recreational uses will enhance public understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for 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

limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue can include the sale of various permits, 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. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of offsite plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets FWC's Apiary Policy criteria. The long-term value of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and human health, are expected to be significant. The initial first-year startup cost is estimated to be $604,480, including public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Below is an estimate of the recurring annual operating costs to operate and manage the Taylor Sweetwater Creek project. Optimal management of the area would require one full-time equivalent position. Salary requirements for this position, as well as those of other needed FWC staff and costs to operate and manage the Taylor Sweetwater Creek project, are reflected in the cost estimate below. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

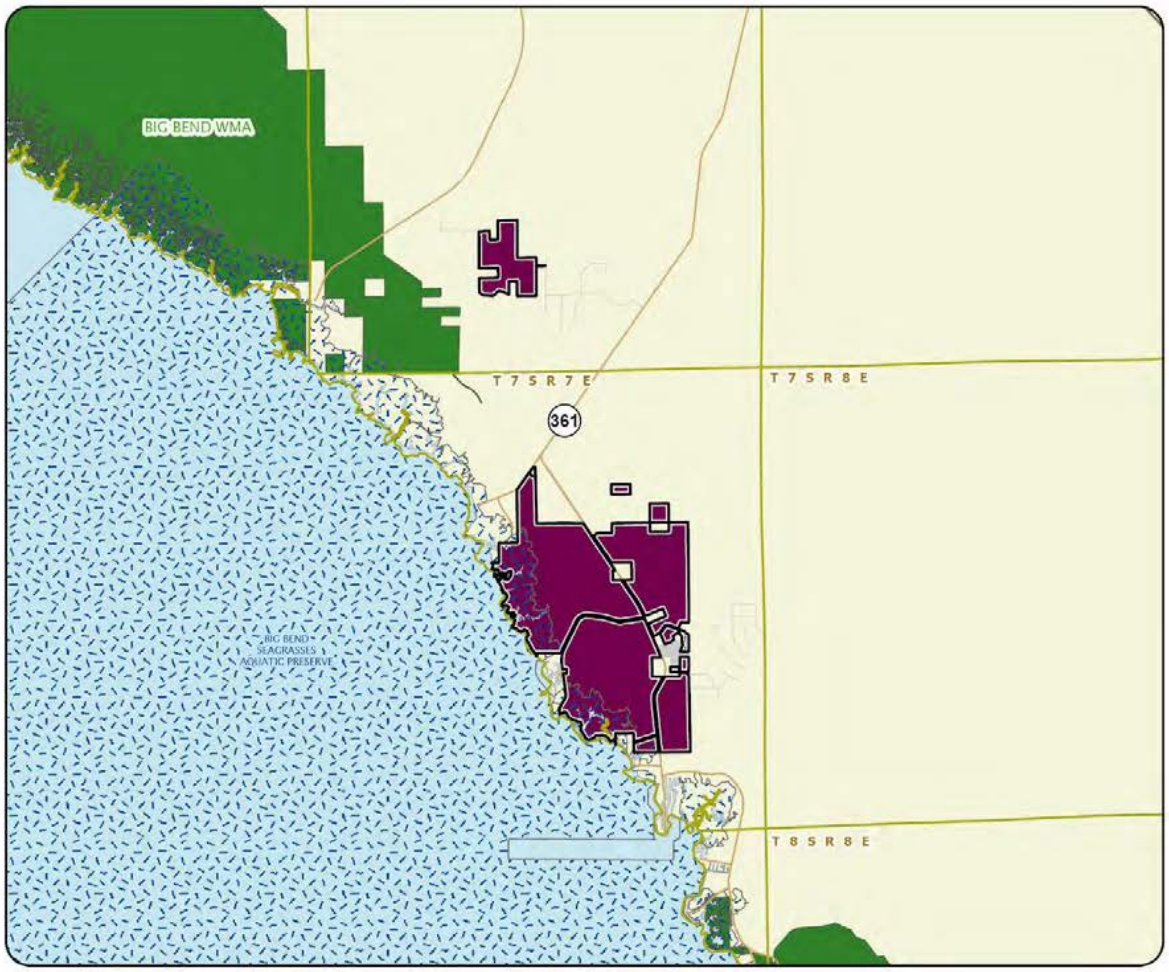
Cooperators in Management Activities

If the project is acquired and leased to FWC for management, FWC will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Suwannee River Water Management District and Taylor County, among others, in the management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup
Source	not provided
Salary	not provided
OPS	not provided
Expense	$60,675
OCO	$150,252
FCO	$15,754
TOTAL	$226,681

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



TAYLOR SWEETWATER CREEK

TAYLOR COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

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Terra Ceia

Climate Change Lands

Manatee County

Year Added to Priority List	*1996*
Project Acres	*4,075*
Acquired Acres	*2,159*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,916*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$29,780,506*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Terra Ceia project will preserve mangrove swamps and flatwoods on the islands and mainland around Terra Ceia Bay, some of the last natural lands left on the southeast shore of Tampa Bay. The project will protect and restore this natural area, preserve the fishery and Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) feeding grounds in Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve and give the public an area in which to fish, boat and enjoy the original landscape of Tampa Bay.

General Description

The Terra Ceia project is two-thirds mangrove swamp and one-third a mix of xeric hammock, flatwoods and old fields colonized by Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*). The area is particularly significant for the protection it offers to bird rookeries, including the nearby Bird Island, one of the top two rookeries in Florida. The project will support the conservation of the adjacent Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve (an Outstanding Florida Water); its seagrass beds are used heavily by manatees, and its nursery areas are crucial for fish and invertebrates within this important Florida fishery. Sixty-nine archaeological sites, mostly middens, are within the project and more are likely to be discovered. The natural resources in the project are vulnerable to alteration or destruction by development and invasion by exotic plant species. Growth pressures are intense, so endangerment is high.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Florida big-headed tiger beetle	G2/S2
*Banded wild-pine**	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

This project qualifies as a state buffer preserve, with uses such as boating and fishing, and activities like picnicking and hiking in accessible uplands.

Acquisition Planning

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Terra Ceia project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserve, consisted of 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. Before the project's addition to the CARL list, the state's acquisition partner, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), acquired Terra Ceia Isles.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council designated an additional 843 acres as essential.

2000

SWFWMD acquired the Reeder (20 acres) and Schater parcels (39.1 acres) in 2000 with the state contributing half of the funding.

2007

On June 15, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 395-acre addition (Frog and McMullen Creek Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and SWFWMD. The addition consisted of 33 landowners and 61 parcels. DRP is the recommended manager for most of the site. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by SWFWMD will continue to be managed by them.

2009

In June 2009, a donation of 40.06 acres was received from SWFWMD.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 251-acre ($51,544,946 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

2025

In February 2025, ARC removed approximately 499 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

SWFWMD is an acquisition partner. DEP received a grant of $504,731 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire 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 and play an important part in protecting and restoring 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 preserving 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; implement prescribed fire management; strictly limit timbering; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are 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.

Manager(s)

DRP is the designated manager. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by SWFWMD will continue to be managed by that agency.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

This project qualifies as a state buffer preserve to protect the resources of the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The Terra Ceia project generally includes lands that are low need tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Management activities will seek 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; preserve and protect significant endangered and threatened species including the Florida manatee, roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), tricolored heron (*Egretta tricolor*), least tern (*Sternula antillarum*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), reddish egret (*Egretta rufescens)* and American oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliates*); preserve and protect significant archaeological sites; restore islands to a natural state which will include removal of exotic vegetation and habitat restoration activities; and establish a self-guided canoe trail between the islands for use by the general public.

Within the first year after acquisition, 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 to remove exotic plants, restore disturbed areas and perpetuate and maintain 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.

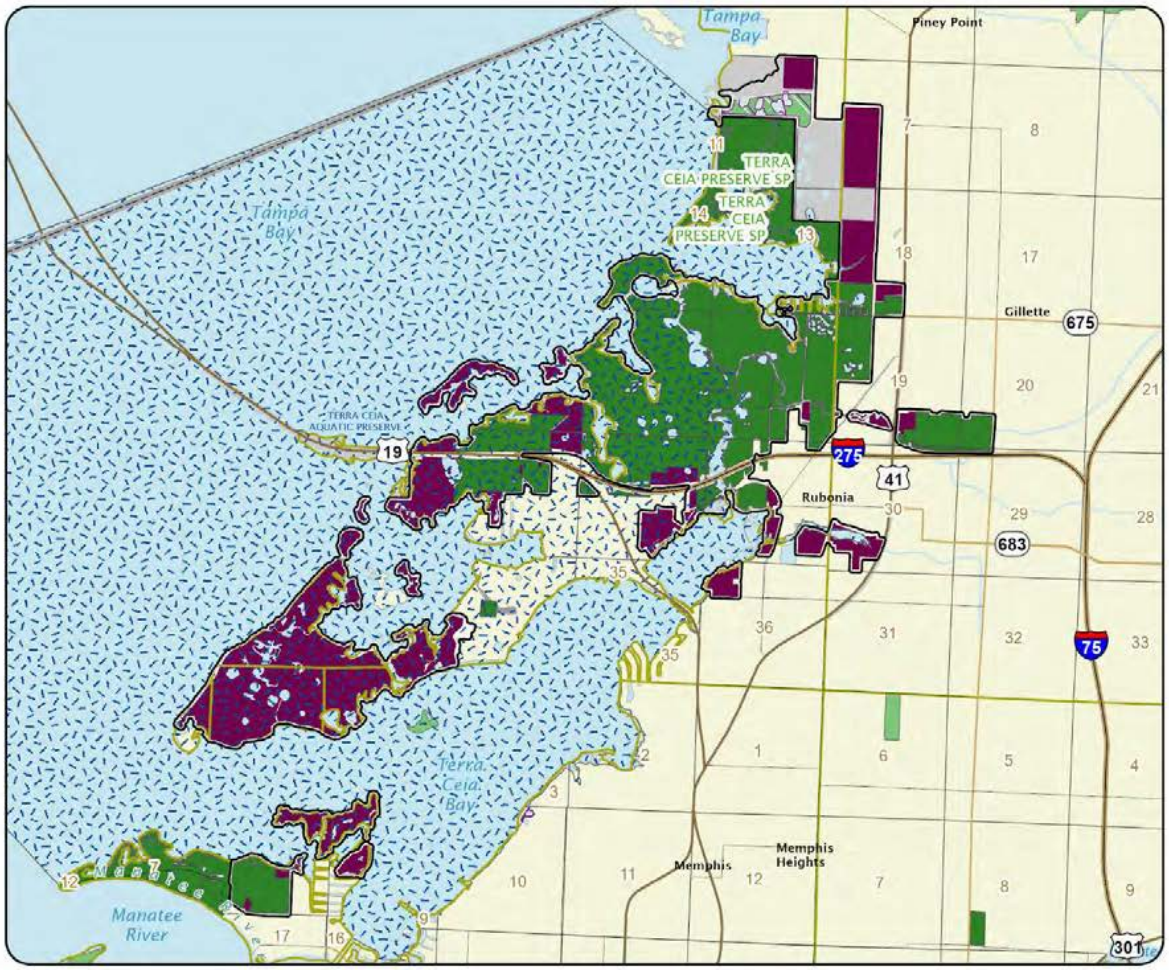
Revenue-generating Potential

No revenue is expected to be generated from this property.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Salary (2 FTE)	$62,000	not provided
OPS	$0	not provided
Expense	$10,000	not provided
OCO	$100,000	not provided
FCO	$500,000	not provided
TOTAL	$672,000	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



TERRA CEIA

MANATEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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West Bay Preservation Area

Climate Change Lands

Bay County

Year Added to Priority List	*2012*
Project Acres	*4,598*
Acquired Acres	*0*
Remaining Project Acres	*4,598*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$3,619,554*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The West Bay Preservation Area project will protect, restore and maintain the quality and natural functions of the land, water and wetlands systems and increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities. The project will 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.

General Description

The West Bay Preservation Area project is in southwestern Bay County and borders the 9,600-acre Panama City Airport Conservation Easement which is monitored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It is bounded on the north by County Road 388, on the south by West Bay and County Road 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.

The West Bay Preservation Area project encompasses about 6 miles of frontage on West Bay and 1.7 miles on North Bay. It includes 6.1 miles of the 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 approximately 14.4 miles of the 30-mile West Bay shorefront.

About 40 percent of the project is in natural condition, 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 Creek and Crooked Creek. 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 imperiled species and approximately 60 percent of the West Bay Preservation Area project lies within a designated Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Species Habitat Conservation Area for the swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and Gulf salt marsh snake (*Nerodia clarkii*).

There are hunting leases and timbering agreements on the property. 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. These lands have been designated by Bay 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. 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 as described in section 259.105(2)(h), Florida Statutes.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida clapper rail	G5T3?/S3?
Royal tern	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4

Public Use

If the property is acquired in fee, the primary management purpose will be the protection of West Bay and the restoration of natural communities, while encouraging natural resource-based recreation that does not detract or interfere with that purpose. 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, canoe/kayaking, geocaching and horseback riding.

Acquisition Planning

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the Florida Forever Priority List in the Less-than-Fee category. This is a one-ownership project, and the owner is anticipating selling it in one transaction. When this project was approved in 2011, it had a tax-assessed value of $6,300,000.

2022

On August 12, 2022, ARC approved a boundary amendment that adds 87.9 acres to the project boundary.

Coordination

There could be matching funds for the acquisition through a Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration grant from the U.S. Department of Defense. Bay County has also expressed interest in partnering with the Gulf Coast State College for the management and use of the easternmost segment of the property 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.

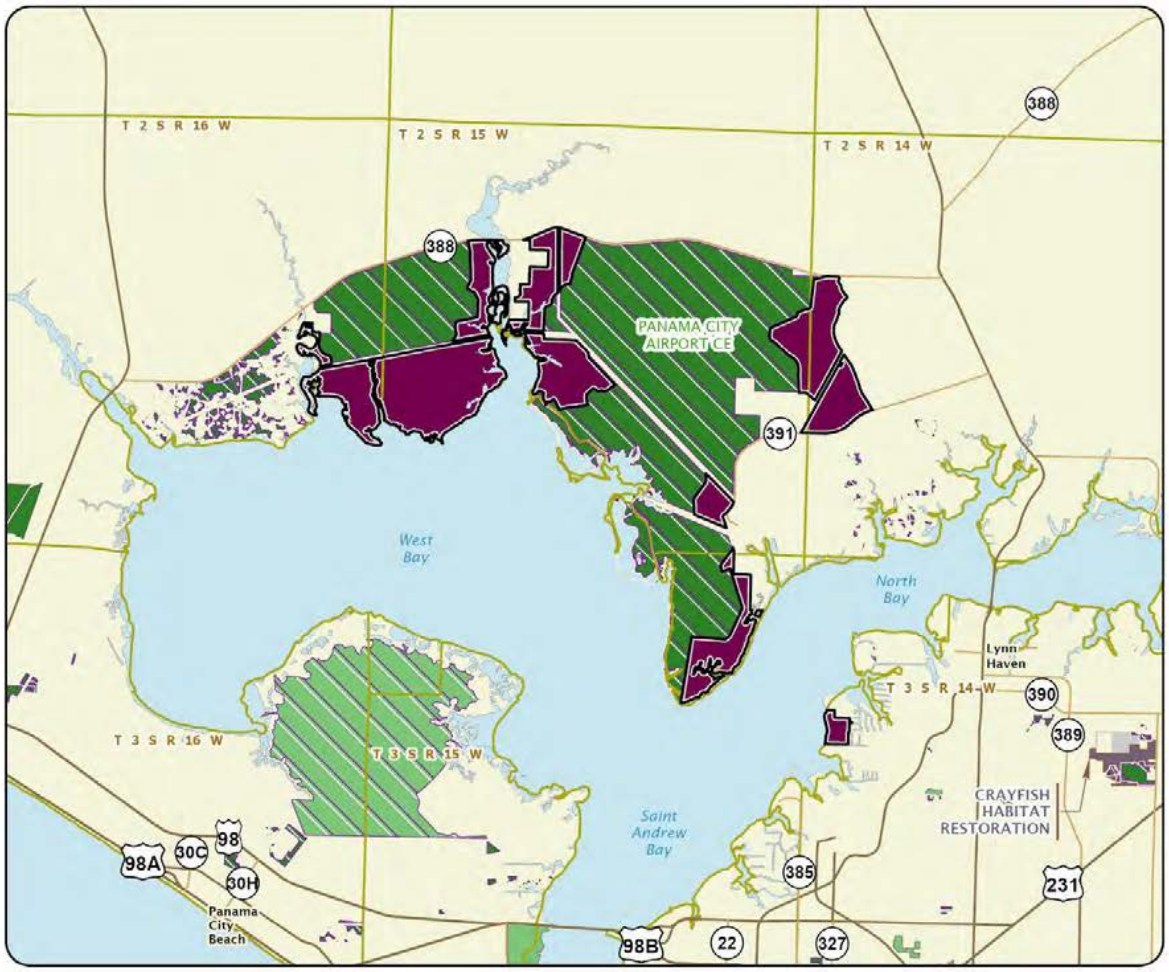
Manager(s)

Bay County would manage the project if acquired in fee. If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the West Bay Preservation Area would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

This project will enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape level; protect, restore and maintain the quality of 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 recreational and educational opportunities; preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.



WEST BAY PRESERVATION AREA

BAY COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 3 6 Miles

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SUBSTANTIALLY
COMPLETE

Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge

Substantially Complete

Brevard and Indian River Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1991*
Project Acres	*890*
Acquired Acres	*779*
Remaining Project Acres	*111*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$113,268,092*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project will protect the most significant nesting area for loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the world, the most significant nesting area for green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas)* in North America, and an occasional nesting area for leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the largest and one of the rarest sea turtles. For thousands of years, sea turtles have returned each year to these beaches to lay their eggs. The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project is designed to protect 20 miles of beach in Brevard and Indian River counties and will help assure the continued survival of these endangered marine turtles as well as other imperiled species.

General Description

The project will consolidate and expand several small public ownerships protecting almost 10 miles of undeveloped Atlantic Coast shoreline. Natural communities within the project area are in good condition and include beach, coastal strand and maritime hammock. However, 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 and is of 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Leatherback sea turtle	G2G3/S2
Loggerhead sea turtle	G2G4/S3
Green sea turtle	G4/S2S3
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Southeastern beach mouse	G5T1/S1
*Atlantic Coast Florida lantana**	G2T1T2/S1S2
*Curtiss's hoary-pea**	G2/S2
*Simpson's prickly apple**	G2/S2
*Coastal vervain**	G3/S3
*Terrestrial peperomia**	G5TNR/S2
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1994

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 85 acres to the project boundary.

1995

On March 10, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved the addition of 112 acres to the project boundary.

1997

In July 1997, 34.22 acres were donated to Brevard County for the site of the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center, of which 24.15 acres are within the project boundary.

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 5 acres to the project.

On April 6, 2001, ARC transferred this project to the Full Fee group from the Negotiated Impasse group.

2009

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

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC decided to reduce the project boundary by 233 acres (a $288,812,490 just value reduction) because of infrastructure and commercial buildings.

2011
On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Climate Change Lands category.

2017
In 2017, a total of 2.6 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever funding.

2021
In 2021, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired 1.01 acres fee simple via donation from the Conservation Fund.

2023
In October 2023, ARC voted to remove approximately 159 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project is now more than 85 percent complete. It was moved into the Substantially Complete category.

Coordination

This project was developed in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In 2000, the federal government approved $2 million for the acquisition of parcels within the project. Indian River County is an acquisition partner on several tracts. The Richard King Mellon Foundation has made a substantial contribution to the overall protection and acquisition of the project area, having acquired several tracts within the project boundary.

In 1994, individuals representing 11 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. This group was still active as of 2016.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the project are to conserve scarce, undeveloped Atlantic Coast shoreline that is a globally important nesting habitat for threatened and endangered sea turtles; to conserve this important ecosystem and its wildlife resources; and to provide areas for natural resource- based recreation.

Manager(s)

USFWS will manage most of the project as a national wildlife refuge. Primary management partners include DEP, Brevard County and Indian River County. The portion of the project immediately north of Sebastian Inlet State Park and west of State Road A1A will be added to the state park.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project contains the most important sea turtle nesting sites in the United States and qualifies as a wildlife and environmental area.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project includes low, moderate and high need tracts as defined by section 259.032(7)(c), Florida Statutes. About 30 percent of the tracts are low need, 50 percent are moderate need and 20 percent are high need properties.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

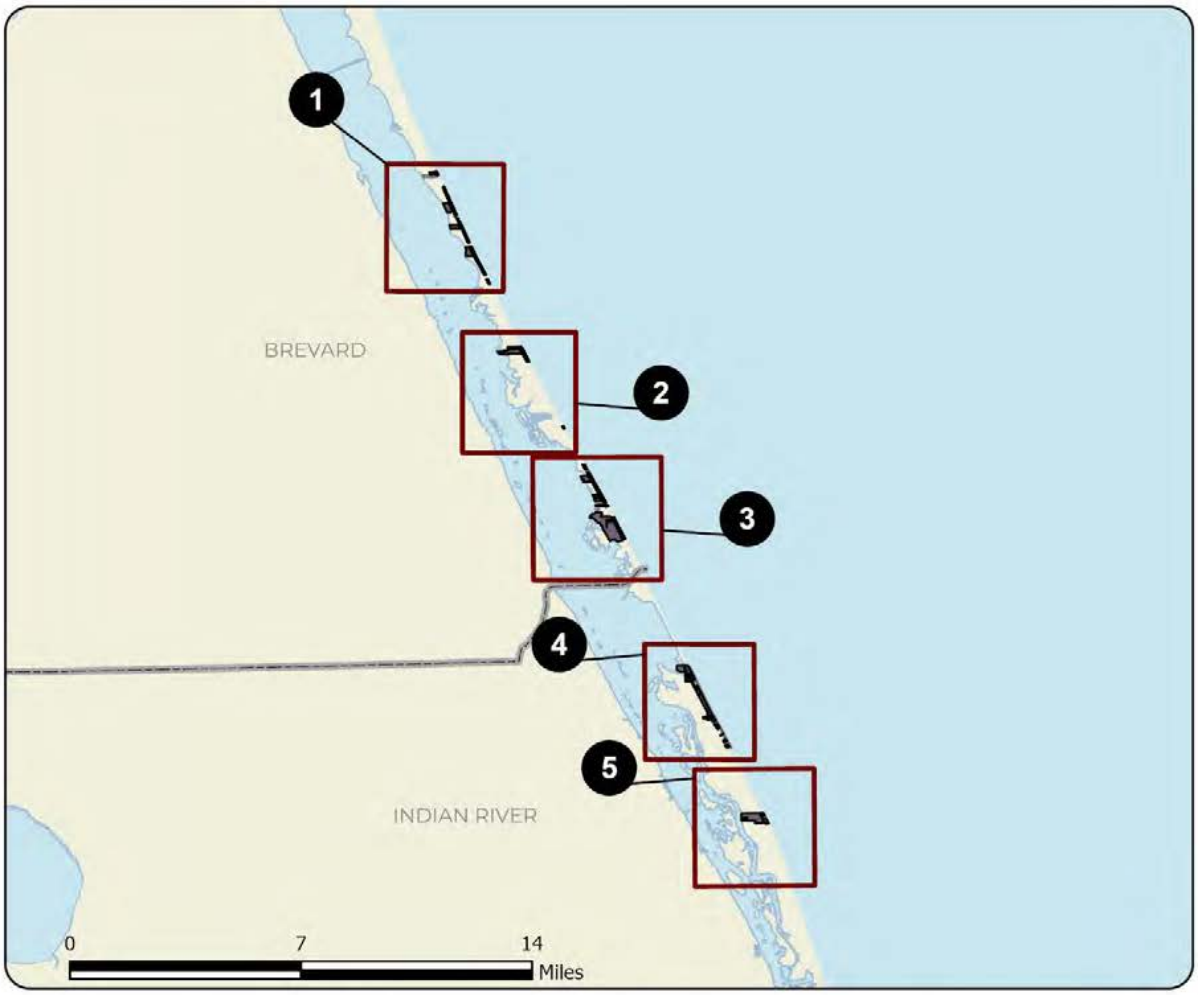
Within the first year after acquisition, activities will concentrate on site security, providing public access, inventorying resources and removing trash. A management plan will be formulated. Brevard County plans to develop an innovative environmental education program for the area. Long-range plans for the properties, beginning one year after acquisition, will be directed toward protecting the nesting beach, restoring disturbed areas, resource inventory, 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 USFWS and by local governments. DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue to be initially generated from the tracts to be added to the state park.

Cooperators in Management Activities

USFWS will collaborate with local governments, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, DEP and non-profit organizations with active management and education interests.



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: OVERVIEW

BREVARD AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES

- ☐ Map 1 ACNWR - Core Segment I
- ☐ Map 1 Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR) Northern Boundary
- ☐ Map 2 ACNWR - Core Segment II
- ☐ Map 3 ACNWR - Core Segment III
- ☐ Map 4 ACNWR - Core Segment IV - Southern Boundary
- ☐ Map 5 Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge Site





ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 1

BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 1 2 Miles

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ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 2

BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 1 2 Miles

N





ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 3

BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 1 2 Miles

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ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 4

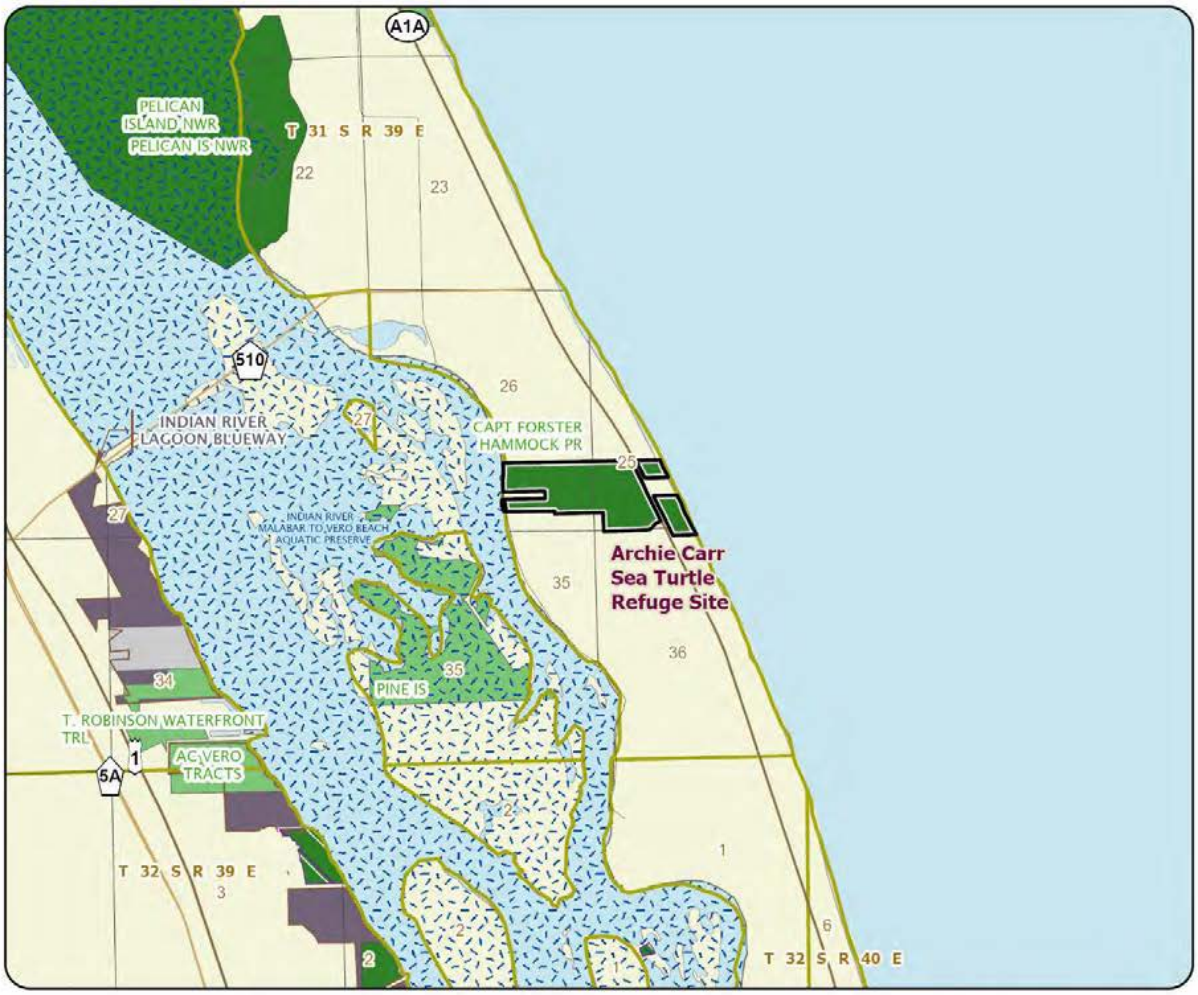
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



N

0 1 2 Miles



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 5

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 1 2 Miles

N



Catfish Creek

Substantially Complete

Polk County

Year Added to Priority List	*1990*
Project Acres	*20,052*
Acquired Acres	*17,064*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,988*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$21,737,030*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Catfish Creek project will conserve a significant portion of the Lake Wales Ridge and a segment of the Lake Pierce shoreline and protect rare Florida scrub that is habitat for many endemic plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. The project will allow the public to enjoy recreational opportunities compatible with the special habitat and protect an important archaeological site on Lake Pierce.

General Description

Catfish Creek is a diverse natural area extending over high scrub ridges that are interspersed with lakes and next to the pristine shore of Lake Pierce. Natural communities include sandhill, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, xeric hammock, bottomland hardwood forest, basin swamp, sandhill upland lake, wet flatwoods, blackwater stream, seepage slopes and floodplain swamp. The project harbors at least 19 rare species that are state listed as endangered or threatened. Rare or endangered animal species include the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). Additionally, the 1993 addition on Snodgrass Island contains a potentially important archaeological site. Currently, the project is threatened by agriculture and residential development.

The Davis and Ingram Ranches addition to the project in 2025 contains two contiguous ownerships proposed for fee simple acquisition to be managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) as an addition to Allen Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park. The property is located 10 miles northeast of Lake Wales, just north of Lake Pierce at an interface between extensive conservation lands associated with the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and an agricultural landscape east of the Lake Wales Ridge under high development pressure. The project area is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network and the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape. A notable natural feature is the complex of wetlands associated with Lake Pierce. Documented species include the Florida panther (Puma concolor coryi) and species observed during the site visit include the federally endangered pygmy fringetree (*Chionanthus pygmaeus*) and state endangered scrub buckwheat (*Eriogonum floridanum*). The Ingram Ranch Site (PO10677) may be

related to the nearby and significant Snodgrass Island Site (PO3866), an important precontact archaeological site spanning multiple culture periods.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Blue calamintha bee	G1/S1
Morris' tiny sand-loving scarab	G1/S1
Archbold bess beetle	G1G2/S1S2
Archbold cebrionid beetle	G1G2/S1S2
Tough buckthorn bee	G1G2/S1S2
*Florida blazing star**	G2/S2
*Lewton's polygala**	G2/S2
*Pygmy fringe tree**	G2/S2
*Scrub buckwheat**	G4T2?/S2?
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

The project is designated for use as a state preserve, with such uses as hiking, camping, fishing and nature study. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross the project. The Davis and Ingram Ranches addition is proposed for fee simple acquisition to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks as an addition to Allen Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park.

Acquisition Planning

Phases

Phase I (essential): Rolling Meadows (acquired), The Nature Conservancy (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).

1992

In 1992, TNC acquired 68 acres in the project.

1993

On November 11, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added 13 acres to the project boundary.

1999

On October 21, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 6,991 acres that were designated as essential to the project boundary.

2002

On August 15, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Rolling Meadows Ranch (2,045 acres) to the project boundary.

On December 5, 2002, ARC added the K-Rocker Tract (3,170 acres) to the project boundary.

2003

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved the project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2007

TNC donated 68 acres (which were acquired in 1992) to the state.

2008

On November 25, 2008, TNC and Hatchineha Ranch, LLC acquired Hatchineha Ranch (2,057 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC moved the project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On January 18, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area with a 10-acre donation of Hatchineha Ranch from TNC.

2015

In February 2015, the United States of America purchased 1,097.2 acres in the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area from TNC.

2016

On December 21, 2016, the United States of America acquired Hatchineha Ranch Conservation Bank (351.03 acres) conservation easement in the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, to be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

2023

In October 2023, ARC removed approximately 44 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

2025

On September 18, 2025, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection acquired, in fee, 74.44 acres in Polk County from the Florida Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation, Inc.

On October 10, 2025, ARC approved the addition of the Davis and Ingram Ranches project (603.6 acres) in Polk County to the project boundary.

The Catfish Creek Florida Forever project is more than 85 percent complete and was moved into the Substantially Complete Category in preparation for project ranking at the December 2025 ARC meeting.

Coordination

TNC sponsored the project, assisted in the preparation of the project and held discussions with some of the major landowners. TNC and the South Florida Water Management District are considered acquisition partners for the project. Polk County could be a potential source of funding for the Davis and Ingram Ranches addition, should there be joint acquisition of the property.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the Catfish Creek project are conserving and protecting 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. Also, the project can conserve and protect significant habitat for native or imperiled species, provide recreational opportunities and preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Manager(s)

The DRP will manage the project (except the portion known as Snodgrass Island).

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The sensitive resources in the Catfish Creek project like sandhills, a large lake and high-quality scrub with its rare species qualify it as a state preserve. Florida state parks must represent aspects of Florida's natural landscape and cultural inheritance. Additionally, a broad goal of the DRP is to achieve connectivity between existing parklands and other conservation lands across the state of Florida. Davis-Ingram Ranch lies wholly within the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, a globally imperiled ecoregion known for its exceptional biodiversity and high rates of endemism. Davis-Ingram Ranch connects multiple state and private conservation areas, including the Catfish Creek Florida Forever BOT Project, the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center (another acquisition currently under consideration) and the Creek Ranch Florida Forever acquisition. The site borders state managed land on Lake Pierce and lies near Snodgrass Island, providing valuable ecological continuity for aquatic and terrestrial systems.

Various ecological features of Davis-Ingram Ranch support a diversity of flora and fauna, also providing essential natural services such as wetland and aquifer recharge. Its position within multiple overlapping conservation priority zones — paired with its intact habitats, wetland systems and strategic location — make it uniquely well suited to support landscape-scale conservation in one of the most ecologically significant regions of Central Florida where tourism demand and high rate of urban/suburban growth support the proposed expansion of an existing state park.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The project is a low-need management area emphasizing resource protection while allowing compatible public recreational use and development. Davis-Ingram Ranch is partially in pasture-ranchland condition.

Although wiregrass and longleaf pine occur sporadically throughout the uplands, native groundcover is lacking across portions where cattle grazing has occurred. Few invasives were observed at the time of the site visit, but the presence of various invasive grasses or vines is anticipated. Among the few invasives that were observed is bamboo, but the extent of bamboo growth is modest. Remnant agricultural/viticultural crops are present, which will be addressed with conversion to conservation.

Pasture grasses are widely present across the cleared landscapes. Over longer management periods — with strategic evaluation — cleared areas will be restored to native upland community types, particularly sandhill. Similar sandhill restoration projects have been undertaken by the DRP on Catfish Creek Preserve, such that the DRP is prepared for the groundcover analysis and implementation logistics. Specific restoration objectives would be outlined in a unit management plan, plausibly including actions such as mechanical treatment of forested areas, longleaf planting and reintroduction of fire.

Longleaf and wiregrass planting objectives are anticipated in conjunction with a prescribed fire regimen. Presently, remnant wiregrass has not been observed on Davis-Ingram Ranch, but the soil types will be favorable for reintroduction.

The scale of this potential acquisition, relative isolation from residential developments and the presence of natural water bodies (e.g., Lake Pierce and other small sandhill lakes) are anticipated to be conducive to restoring the fire regime. Conversely, if Davis-Ingram Ranch is not acquired for conservation, then the fire program on the existing acreage of Catfish Creek Preserve would be constrained.

More advanced resource management or restoration initiatives may be contingent upon additional acquisitions such as the adjacent Bowen Ranch that would enable hydrological restoration across a broader landscape (i.e., not distributing water to private lands).

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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. Specific short-term and long-term objectives would be the product of a resource management and land use planning process. Analogous experience and data from restoration sites on Catfish Creek Preserve would be applied.

Being integrated with a preserve unit, Davis-Ingram Ranch would not be planned for high or intensive visitor use. Sensitive floristic attributes and imperiled species habitat would be prioritized, such that visitor access would be facilitated by way of trailheads, moderate to long distance hiking (and potentially equestrianism) and passive interpretive experiences. Additionally, proximity to significant cultural sites warrants further minimization of direct visitor access in some portions of this potential acquisition to protect any vulnerable artifacts.

Given that under 4% of the Lake Wales Ridge remains in natural condition, preservation will be a priority, consistent with the preserve classification of Catfish Creek Preserve with which the acquisition will be integrated. A major ecological benefit of the project, consistent with the preserve classification, is

aquifer recharge. Accordingly, native groundcover restoration supports maximum aquifer recharge and minimization of impervious surfaces. Accordingly, roads, parking areas and structures may not be compatible with much of the subject uplands.

Trails that may traverse Davis-Ingram Ranch would most likely be linked to existing trails on Catfish Creek Preserve where existing trailheads were serve as the point of access. Consistent with preservation and restoration priorities, new use areas are not anticipated.

Fencing, gates and park boundary signage would be placed to guide appropriate access and for general security. Based on current information, no structures exist on Davis-Ingram Ranch that require protection.

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. During early phases of the Davis and Ingram Ranches addition, modest timber removal could generate revenue to fund further restoration activities; however, most of the acreage has been operated as pasture. Limited ongoing cattle grazing could be considered if it contributes to an invasive plant removal/maintenance regimen, which would yield modest revenue for further resource management.

Generating revenue from visitation would most likely be low as the acquisition would be part of a preserve unit where most of the revenue-generating potential is concentrated in other areas. Additional visitation to Catfish Creek Preserve would be anticipated as the new acreage would offer expanded hiking or riding opportunities. Indirectly, this acquisition would support revenue generation by ensuring that the core of the preserve remains unaffected by suburban growth (i.e., the preserve will continue to be an attractive destination for largescale natural scenery).

Potential Multiple-Use Activities

If managed by DRP, multiple-use would not be applicable to the Davis-Ingram Ranch as DRP functions as a single-use land manager. Limited cattle grazing leases and/or removal of pine and hardwood may generate revenue only for the purposes of ongoing habitat restoration at this site.

Cooperators in Management Activities

For the purposes of restoring a portion of the Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem, DRP may partner with certain state and federal agencies as well as environmental non-profit organizations such as Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (especially for imperiled species reintroductions) and TNC. Bok Tower Gardens is a standing partner in botanical research and plantings and would likely offer cooperation on natural community restoration and enhancement on Davis-Ingram Ranch.

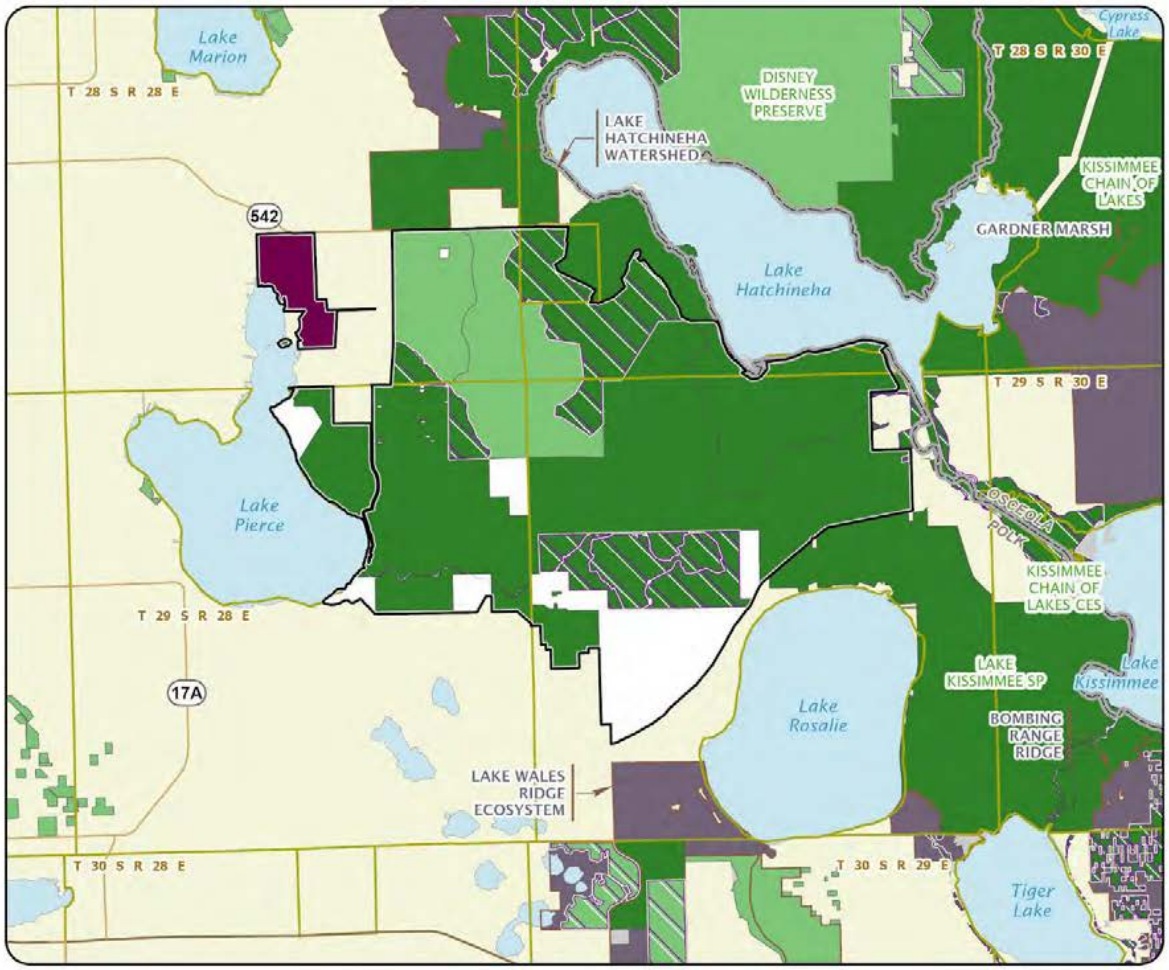
Management Cost Summary

DRP — Overall project		Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program		Not Provided
Salary		$22,167	Not Provided
OPS		$0	Not Provided
Expense		$5,712	Not Provided
OCO		$6,978	Not Provided
FCO		$8,640	Not Provided
TOTAL		$43,497	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

DRP — Davis and Ingram Ranches Addition		Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Florida Forever, legislative appropriation, etc.		“”
Salary		Not Provided	Not Provided
OPS (1)		$35,000	$35,000
Resource Management		$400,000	$50,000
TOTAL		$435,000	$85,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CATFISH CREEK

POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 3 6 Miles

N



Dickerson Bay/Bald Point

Substantially Complete

Franklin and Wakulla Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1996*
Project Acres	*24,598*
Acquired Acres	*21,820*
Remaining Project Acres	*2,778*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$22,317,456*

Purpose for State Acquisition

On the coast of Wakulla and Franklin counties, the shallow Gulf of America 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 (*Lepidochelys kempii*). 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.

General Description

The project is comprised of three separate areas, including uplands around Dickerson, Levy and Ochlockonee Bays. These bays provide foraging habitat for juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles, the world's most endangered marine turtle, and other state or globally rare birds and turtles such as wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The uplands surrounding the three bays are an intricate mosaic of lakes, depression marshes and mesic flatwoods (high quality to disturbed) that support populations of rare animals including southern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*) and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Scrubby flatwoods and scrub relate to the marine communities by numerous tidal creeks, salt flats and salt marshes. The Bald Point site includes beach dunes that support and maintain the quality of marine communities and are used by many species of shore birds. Natural upland communities adjoin similar communities in St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to the north and west. Twelve archaeological sites are known from Bald Point. The Bald Point site is threatened by development.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	G2/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead sea turtle	G2G4/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Ochlockonee moccasinshell	G1/S1
Purple bankclimber	G2/S1
*Godfrey's blazing star**	G1G2/S1S2
*Sandhill jointweed**	G3/S1
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
*Fever tree**	G4/S2
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

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 National Wildlife Refuge. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will provide recreational opportunities within a 17,041-acre addition made to the project in 2016. Access to Ochlockonee Bay, Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve and several of the ponds provide opportunities for paddling and fishing. The extensive network of wooded roads can easily accommodate hiking, biking and nature studies. The extensive highway frontage expands the possibilities for siting of a campground and visitor center.

Acquisition Planning

1996

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1996. All Bald Point parcels are essential. The LGR Investment Fund, LTD. parcel has been acquired.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council designated the Jer Be Lou Development Co. parcel as essential. The parcel has been acquired. Initial acquisition started in 1999 with funds from the Conservation and Recreational Lands/Preservation 2000 acquisition program along Apalachee Bay.

1999

On August 30, 1999, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) purchased 1,349 acres in Franklin County from The Trust for Public Land which later became Bald Point State Park.

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 3,840 acres owned by The St. Joe Company and placed them in the St. Joe Timberland Florida Forever project.

2003

In 2003, Bald Point State Park was expanded when 3,485 acres were purchased from the St. Joe Company.

2006

As of January 2006, Bald Point State Park contained 4,859 acres and is jointly administered with Ochlockonee River State Park.

2011

On September 6, 2011, DRP purchased to manage 0.77 acres (Kennedy-$67,500).

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2016

In October 2016, ARC approved the Bluffs of St. Teresa project and immediately amended that project into the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project. This added 17,041 acres adjacent to Bald Point State Park, across the Ochlockonee River from Ochlockonee River State Park and adjacent to Tate's Hell State Forest. If acquired, this land would be managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) as part of Tate's Hell State Forest and by DRP as part of Bald Point State Park.

2020

On October 1, 2020, the Bluffs of St. Teresa tract was acquired in fee from Ochlocknee Timberlands, LLC. The acquisition contains 16,971.6 acres and was purchased for $43,000,000 with $38,562,000 in Florida Forever funds and $4,438,000 in federal funding. This was the largest Florida Forever acquisition in over a decade. The property, located in Franklin County and part of Wakulla County, will be managed in part by FFS as part of Tate's Hell State Forest, and DRP as part of Bald Point State Park and Ochlocknee River State Park.

The Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Florida Forever project is now more than 85 percent complete. It was moved into the Substantially Complete category by ARC in December 2020.

2021

DEP acquired fee simple 0.15 acres from the Price Family that will be managed as an addition to Bald Point State Park.

2023

In October 2023, ARC voted to remove approximately 1,796 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

2025

In August 2025, ARC approved the addition of 208 acres as a part of the St. Joe Timberland reorganization effort.

Coordination

USFWS is an acquisition partner and coordination between the state and federal governments should be maintained. On August 27, 1998, a portion of the Bald Point project was selected to receive Florida Communities Trust grant funding.

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 the protection of 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.

Manager(s)

DRP will manage that portion of the project in Franklin County; USFWS and Wakulla County will separately manage individual parcels in Wakulla County.

Management Prospectus

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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Upon acquisition and assignment to DRP, public access will be provided for low-intensity, non- facility

related outdoor recreation activities. Also, management will concentrate on site security, fire management and developing a resource inventory and public use plan. Vehicle access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Protecting 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 the infrastructure will be defined by the management plan for the property. Restoring and maintaining 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 before any significant public facilities might be developed. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use in the management plan for the property. The property has the 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 FFS. The site has considerable value and can be expected to provide significant revenue if acquired with the land. No other significant revenue 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, FFS will be consulted on forest management and timber issues related to the 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.

Management Cost Summary

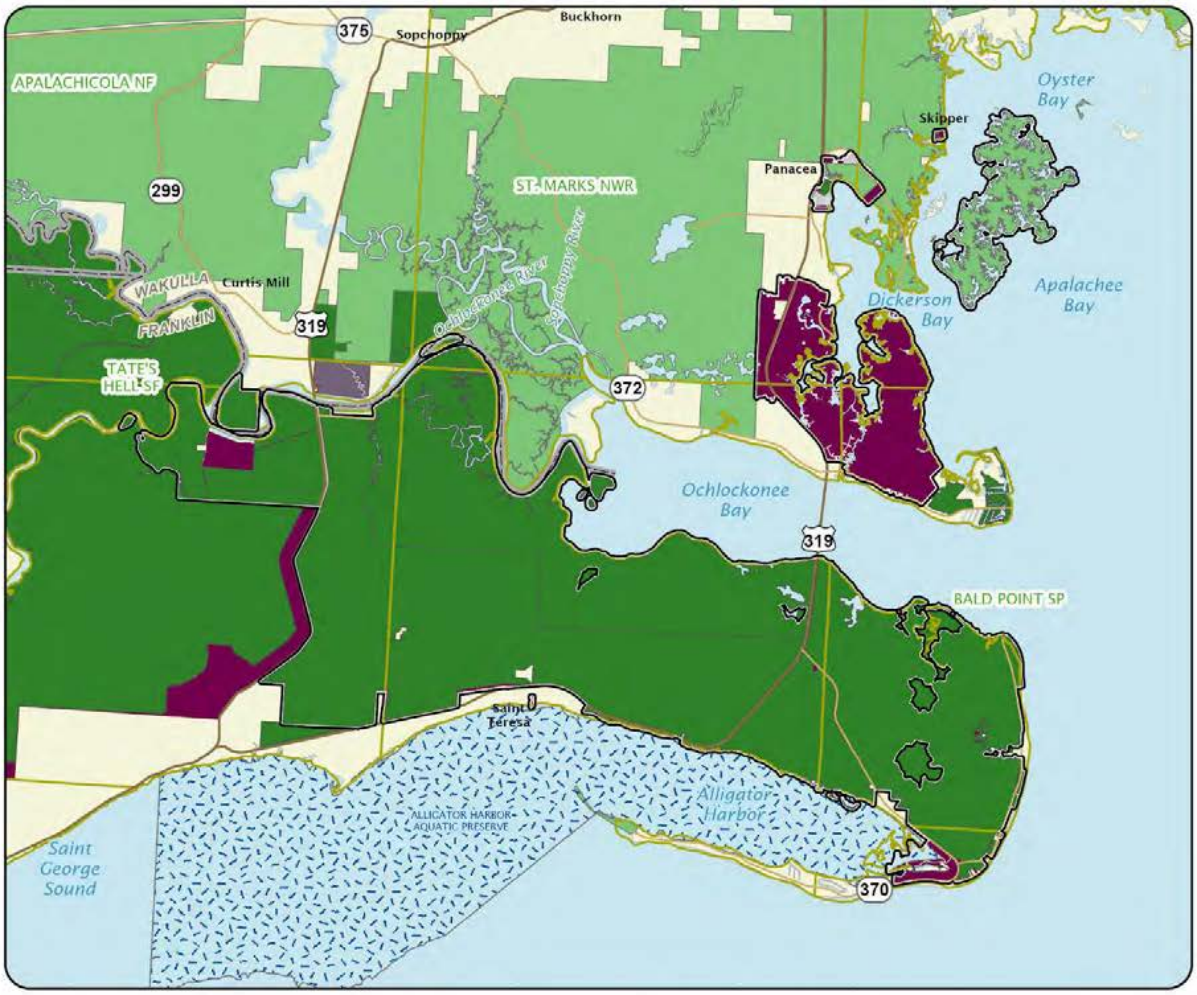
USFWS	Startup	Recurring
Source	USFWS	USFWS
Salary	$7,800	Not Provided
OPS	$0	Not Provided
Expense	$500	Not Provided
OCO	$0	Not Provided
FCO	$0	Not Provided
TOTAL	$8,300	Not Provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source	CARL	CARL
Salary	$0	$0
OPS	$7,092	$7,092
Expense	$13,269	$13,269
OCO	$80,000	$1,000
FCO	$13,269	$0
TOTAL	$262,132	$72,361

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



DICKERSON BAY/BALD POINT

FRANKLIN AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Florida Springs Coastal Greenway

Substantially Complete

Citrus & Levy Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*1995*
Project Acres	*41,880*
Acquired Acres	*35,761*
Remaining Project Acres	*6,119*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$56,082,845*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Florida Springs Coastal Greenway project will conserve the natural coastline of Citrus and Levy Counties and protect the water quality of the spring runs and estuaries where the state and federally threatened Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) congregate. The project aims to conserve the salt marshes, clear spring runs, hammocks and flatwoods affected by rapidly encroaching development in this fast-growing part of the state. The project will preserve natural lands that link with conservation lands to the south to provide public resource-based recreation.

General Description

The project is a critical link between conservation lands needed 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 and a prime nesting location for bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Natural communities within the tract include floodplain marsh, freshwater tidal swamp, tidal marsh and upland hammock. This area 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, and it borders the St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve. Though much of its timber has been harvested and a quarter is in pasture, the Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property is important as a corridor between Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, the Crystal River 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 counties in the state, and residential development is a serious threat. Development will increase boat traffic, which is the greatest current threat to the manatee population.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Hawksbill sea turtle	G3/S1
Gulf salt marsh mink	G5T2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Marian's marsh wren	G5T3/S3
Coastal vervain	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project will be managed as state preserves and a state forest, providing recreational opportunities such as fishing, canoeing, hiking and camping.

Acquisition Planning

1927

In 1927, Bluebird Springs (5.5 acres) was dedicated as a park, all of which would be in the project boundary when it was created.

1943

On June 15, 1943, Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge (30,842 acres) was established, of which 215 acres would be in the project when it is created.

1993

On March 31, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved the addition of 51 acres to the Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) project boundary.

1994

On November 19, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council amended the Crystal River project to add three tracts that include Three Sisters Springs (56 acres). On that date, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council 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: Crystal River (approximately 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 (approximately 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 (approximately 8,577 acres) Phase I: Rooks tract (acquired); the Walker tract [acquired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)] 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 Addition 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 except for the Black ownership, an unwilling seller.

1995

On March 10, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple 424- acre addition (in the former Crystal River project) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowners, James C. and Alice H. Rhoades, and had a 1994 taxable value of $821,700.

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple 200- acre addition (in the 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.

1996

On October 30, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 117 acres from the project and transferred this project to the Substantially Complete Category.

1997

On March 14, 1997, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved a fee simple 80-acre addition (in the 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.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council 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).

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved the addition of 149.34 acres to the project and adopted Group A and Group B to the Florida Forever Priority List and moved this project to Group B.

2003

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List.

2004

On February 6, 2004, ARC approved a fee simple 142-acre addition (in the former Homosassa Reserve project) to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Audubon Society and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas and the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), consisted of two landowners (Hampton Facilities LTD and Barr), two parcels and a 2003 taxable value of $524,000.

2007

On March 27, 2007, the Upper Coastal Mitigation Bank (149 acres) was issued.

2010

On July 28, 2010, SWFWMD closed on the 57-acre Three Sisters Springs property in Crystal River, paying with a combination of water-management district money and Florida Forever funds allocated to the Florida Communities Trust. It is primarily owned by the City of Crystal River and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

2011

On September 30, 2011, NCDC, LLC donated 25.82 acres (Old Greiner Parcel valued at $146,285) to be managed by DRP.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2014

On April 11, 2014, ARC approved a 747.96-acre boundary reduction.

2017

In 2017, a donation of 2.27 acres was made to the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge.

On December 7, 2017, the SWFWMD and DEP established the Nature Coast conservation easement (200 acres).

2019

On June 11, 2019, the Nature Coast Mitigation Bank was approved.

2020

On June 12, 2020, ARC approved an addition of 149 acres in Citrus County to the project boundary.

2023

DEP acquired, in fee, 25.5 acres in Monroe County from Weichang Liu.

2025

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 14,561 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

In October 2025, ARC approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 24.13 acres in Levy County to the project boundary.

Coordination

SWFWMD has acquired a major ownership within the project, as well as tracts adjacent to 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.

Manager(s)

DRP will manage the Crystal River and St. Martins River property and the northern part of the project, adjacent to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) will manage the Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property.

Management Prospectus

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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 the 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 percent 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 placed 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 are assigned, there may be potential for revenue from this source. No potential revenue estimates are available. On the Homosassa Reserve tract, 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.

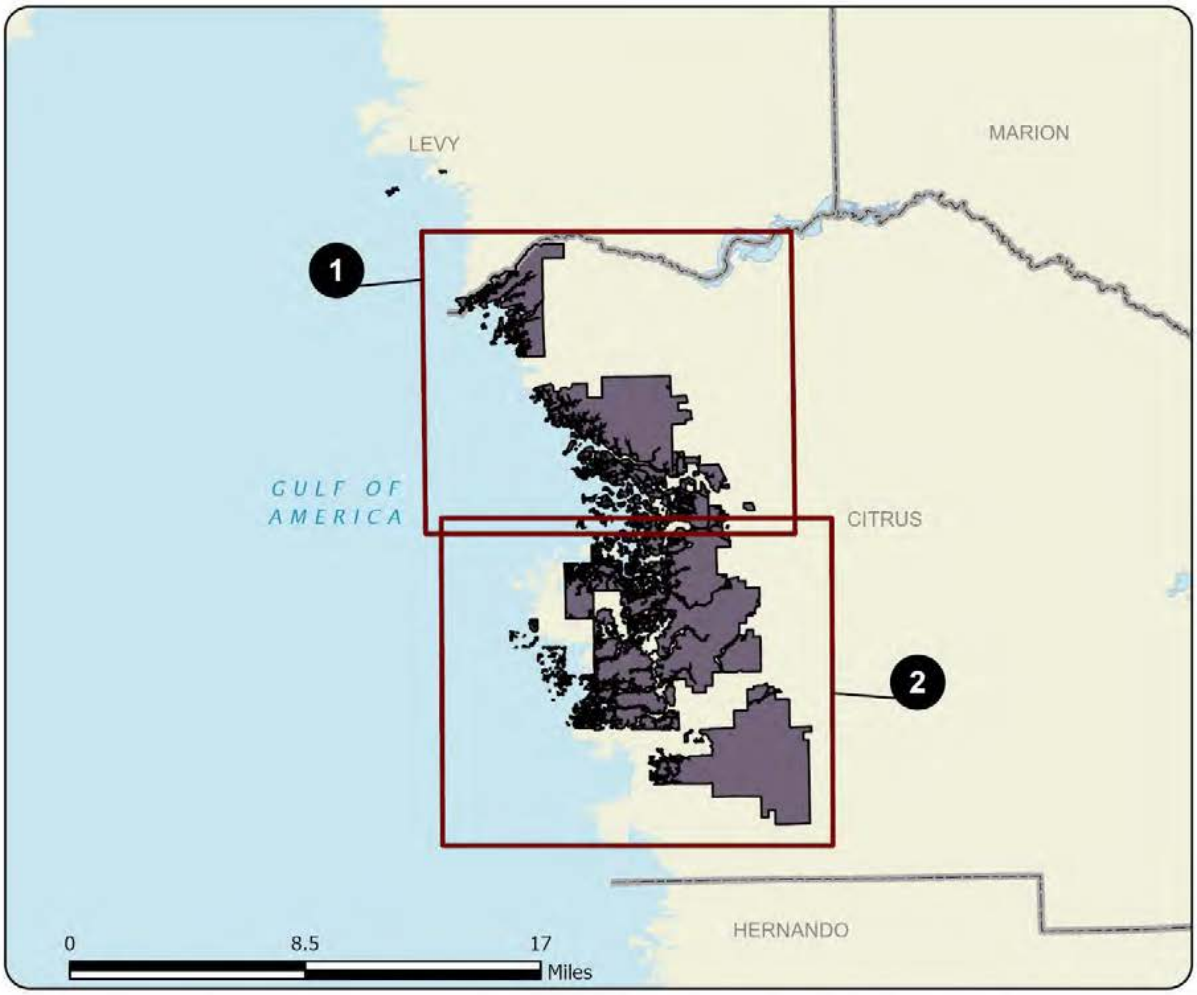
Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended as a cooperating manager for hunts to eliminate feral hog and to manage certain species. Because of the proximity of certain parcels to The Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, DRP and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be cooperative managers on parts of the project. FFS will cooperate with other state agencies, local governments as appropriate. Citrus County and the City of Crystal River may also cooperate in management.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source	CARL/Land Acquisition Trust Fund (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
TOTAL	$335,581	$395,067	$525,103

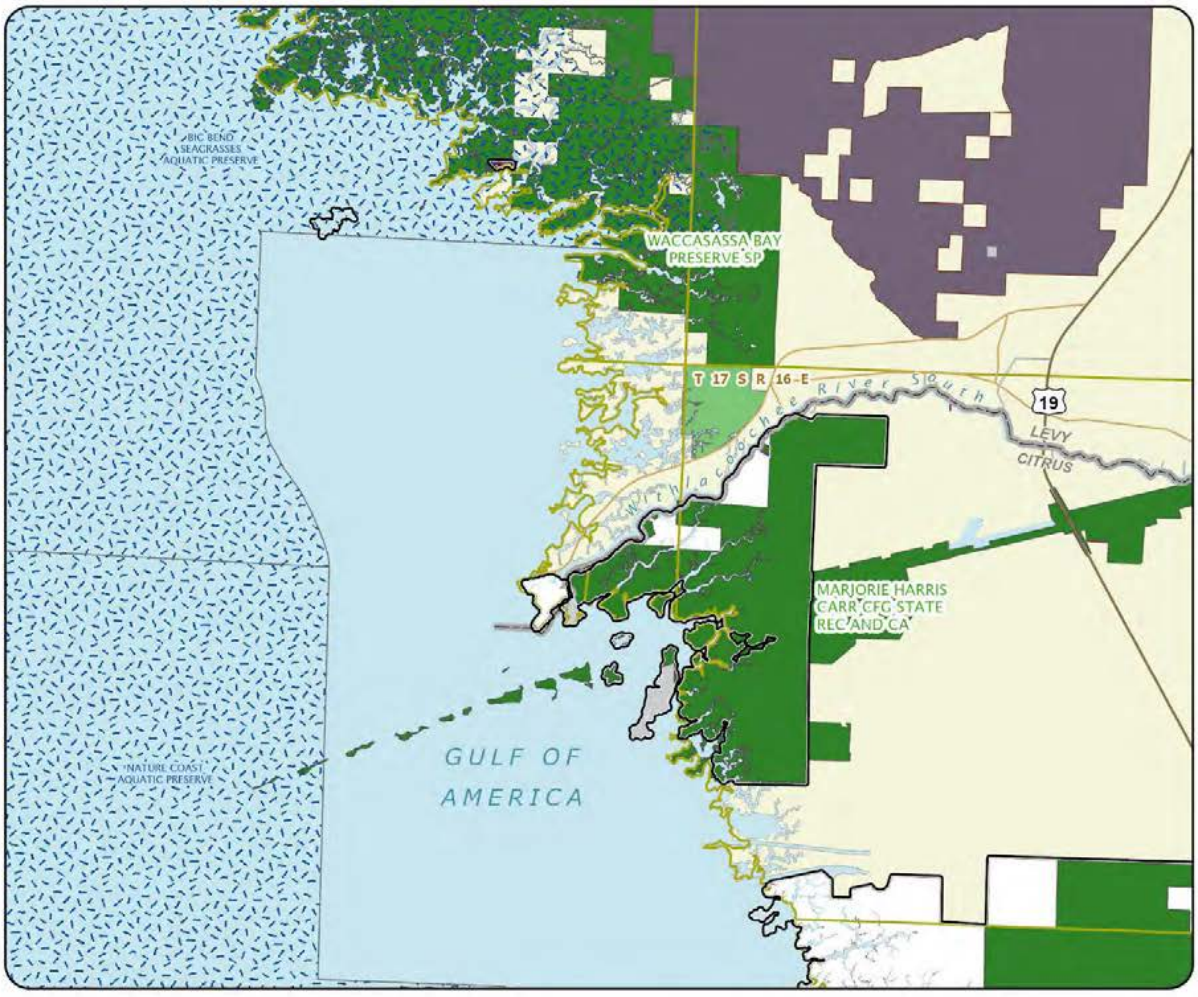
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

CITRUS AND LEVY COUNTIES





FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 1

CITRUS COUNTY

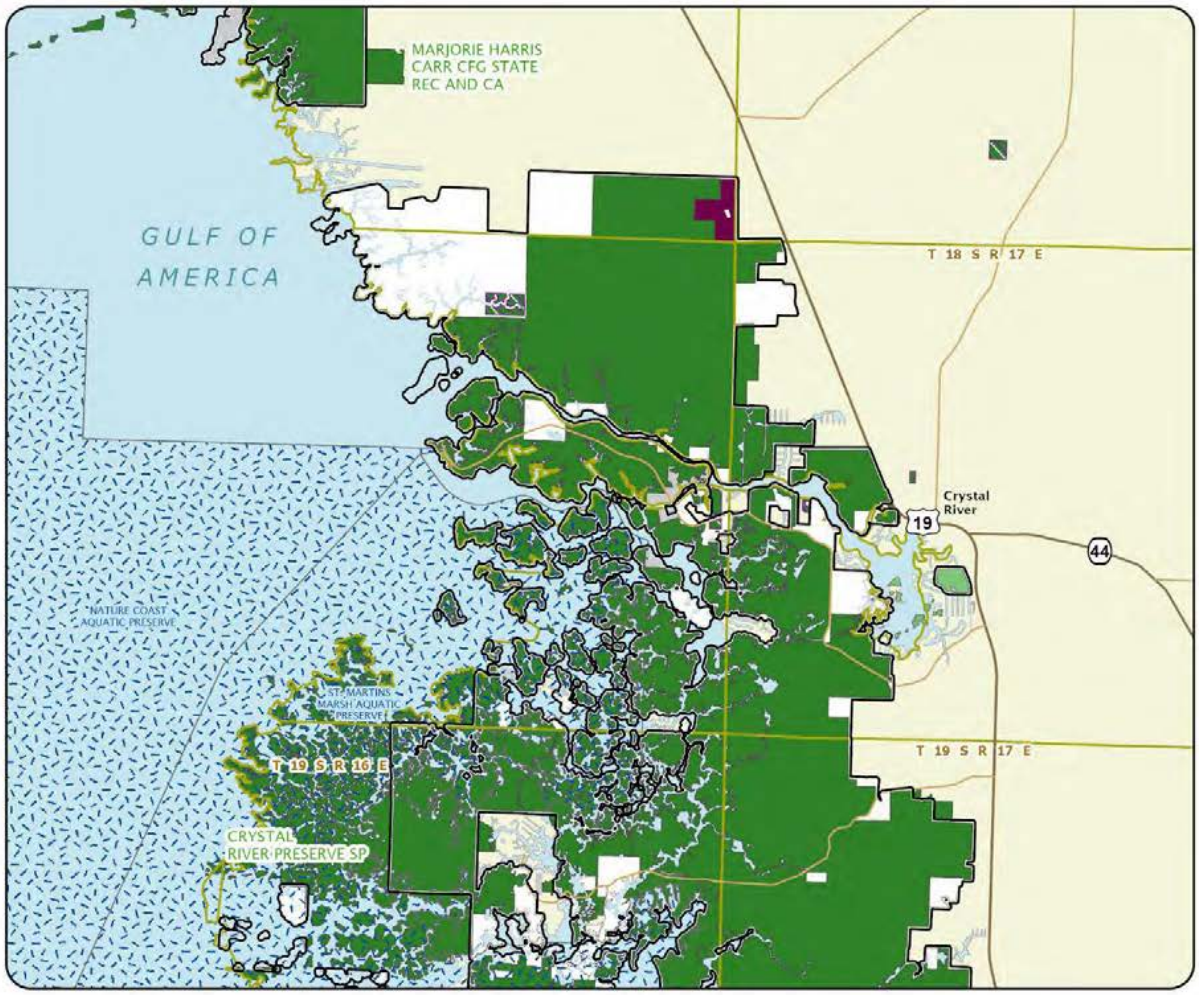
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 2

CITRUS COUNTY

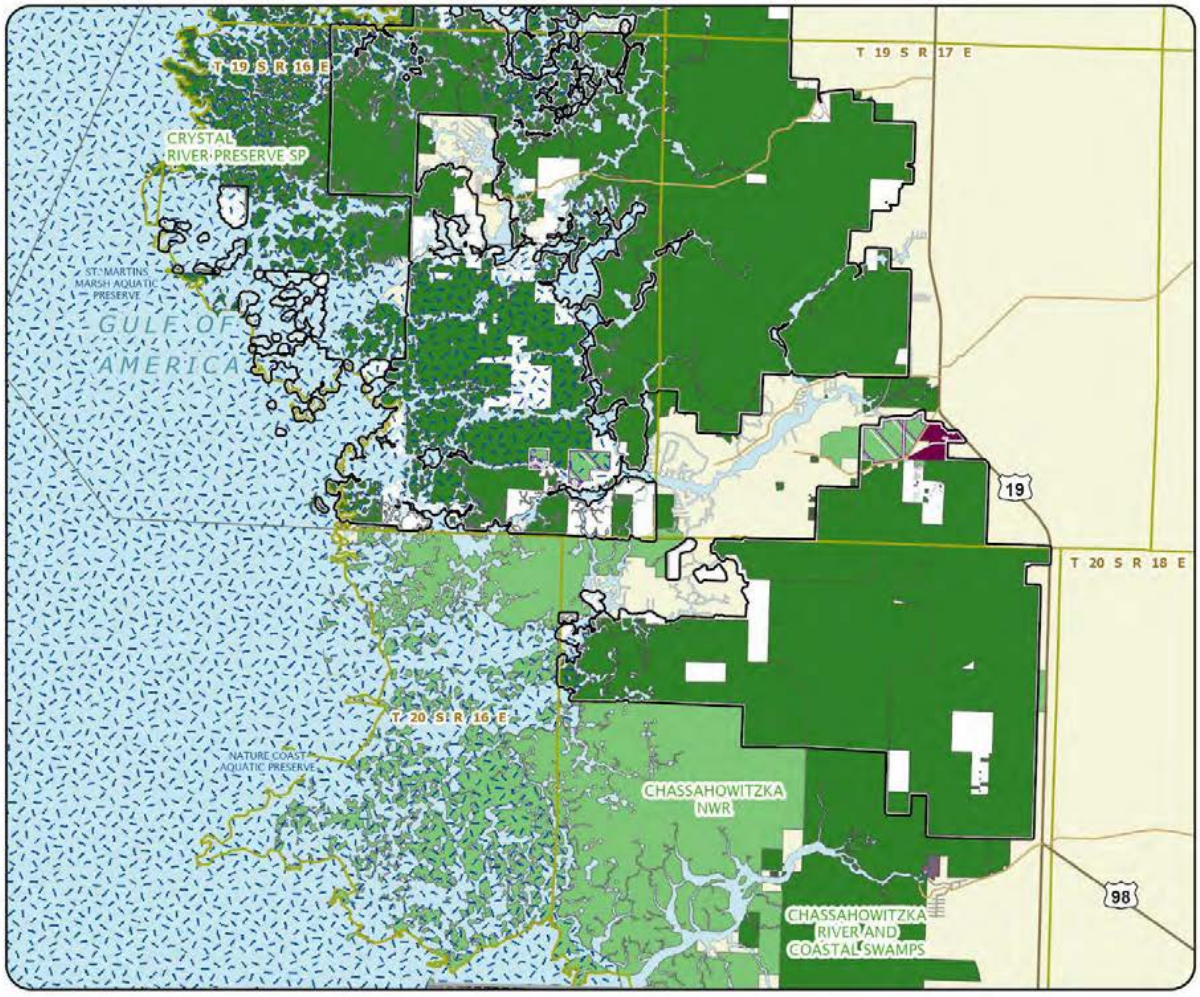
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

0 2.5 5 Miles

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FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 3

CITRUS COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Lochloosa Wildlife

Substantially Complete Alachua County

Year Added to Priority List	*1994*
Project Acres	*33,058*
Acquired Acres	*29,181*
Remaining Project Acres	*3,877*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$8,964,587*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lochloosa Wildlife project will conserve the large lakes, flatwoods and prairies in southeast Alachua County, home to many wildlife species including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The project will also enhance the water quality of the critical wetlands that link Newnan's Lake, Lochloosa Lake, Orange Lake and Paynes Prairie while providing resource-based recreational activities that include boating, fishing, hiking and hunting.

General Description

The project encompasses significant resources associated with Lochloosa Lake (particularly large populations of birds of prey), a bird rookery used by wood stork 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 supports the only known population of the freemouth hydrobe snail (*Aphaostracon chalarogyrus*) in the world. Nineteen other rare or endangered species are known to occur on-site, including the Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*). The good quality surface waters in the project are a significant hydrological resource, and the project will also buffer several Outstanding Florida Waters in the vicinity.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Striped newt	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Osprey	G5/S3S4
*Florida toothache grass**	G2/S2
*Sand butterfly pea**	G2Q/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Blackbanded sunfish	G3/S1S3
*Many-flowered grass-pink**	G3/S2S3
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The project would be designated as a wildlife management area.

Acquisition Planning

1995

On December 28, 1995, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) established the Georgia Pacific-Lochloosa (16,650 acres) conservation easement, of which 14,844 acres are within the project boundary.

2009

On December 15, 2009, Alachua County acquired the Roberts parcel (323.49 acres) in Phifer Flatwoods Preserve with the help of The Nature Conservancy.

2011

Essential tracts within this project include Georgia Pacific (SJRWMD has acquired a conservation easement over 10,300 acres surrounding Lake Lochloosa), Franklin Crates, Concora (Container Corp./Wachovia), Goethe and Brown.

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Substantially Complete list of Florida Forever projects.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to remove approximately 4,737 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

Coordination

SJRWMD is an acquisition partner.

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.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be the manager.

Management Prospectus

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The Lochloosa Wildlife project 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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.

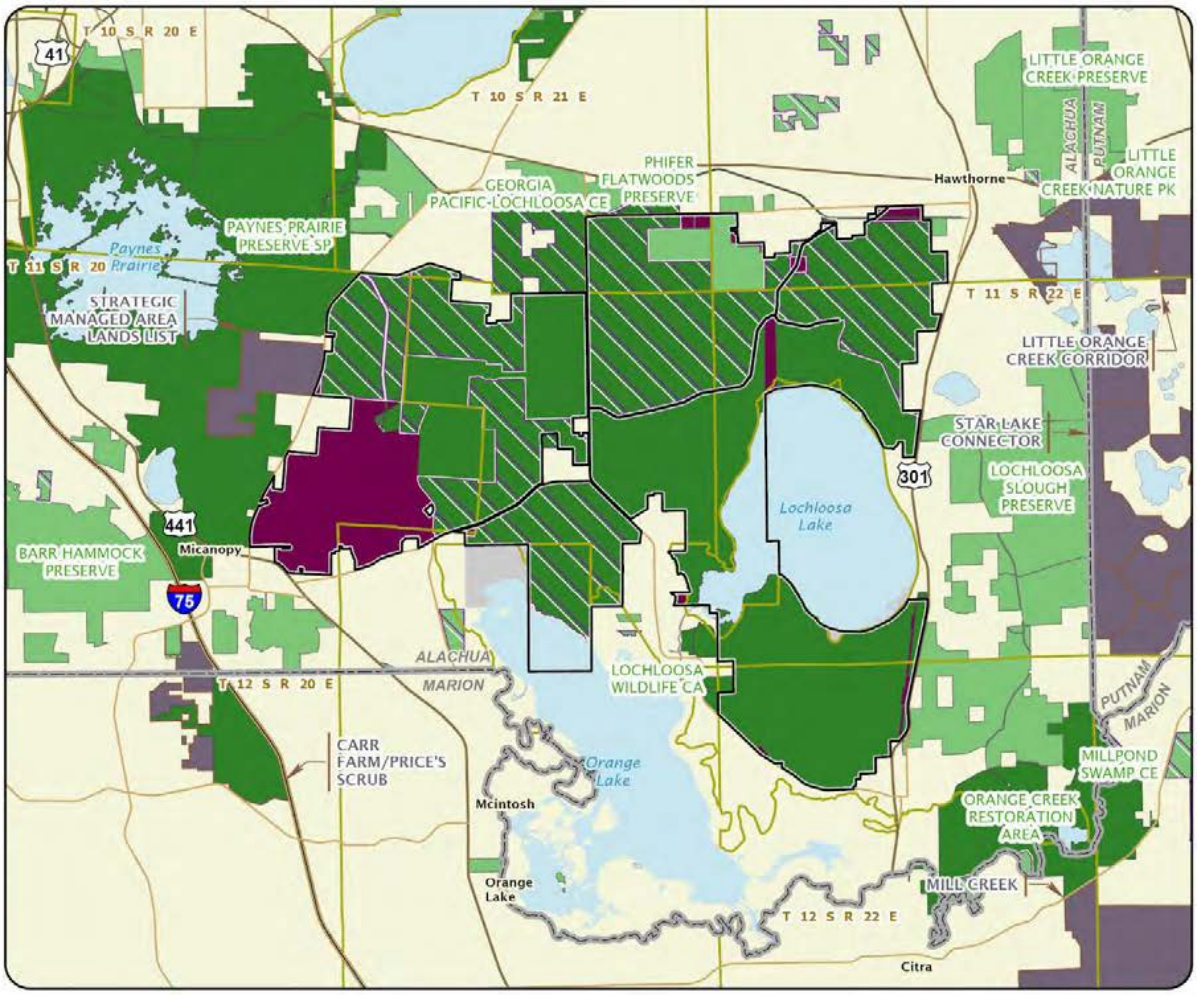
Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service is recommended as a cooperator to assist with forest management.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source	Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) Program	CARL	CARL
Salary	$0	$0	$140,000
OPS	$0	$0	$5,500
Expense	$50	$0	$35,900
OCO	$0	$0	$98,200
FCO	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL	$50	$0	$279,600

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LOCHLOOSA WILDLIFE

ALACHUA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

0 3.5 7 Miles

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Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed

Substantially Complete

Dixie and Levy Counties

Year Added to Priority List	*2010*
Project Acres	*60,554*
Acquired Acres	*52,928*
Remaining Project Acres	*7,626*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$15,432,115*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project will protect and enhance water quality, wetland communities, wildlife habitat and archaeological sites found within the proposal boundary. The project will preserve the natural resources of the Suwannee River and the Gulf of America and provide habitat and natural 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.

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project will protect landscapes essential to the protection of water quality and quantity, as well as archaeological and historical resources.

General Description

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project is located adjacent to the Gulf of America in Dixie County between County Road 358 to the north and County Road 349 to the south. While most of the project area is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition, a 10-acre parcel is proposed for fee simple acquisition for ease of access to Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)-protected California Lake.

The Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve 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 easement, as it is in the adjacent California Lake easement. Considering the importance of hardwood and cypress swamps to many wildlife species, this would provide substantial wildlife conservation benefits. The site is also secondary habitat for the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*).

The site's vast natural wetlands serve to funnel and filter water from uplands to the Suwannee River and the Gulf of America. The topography of the three westernmost properties gradually slopes downward toward the Gulf, forming numerous stream systems that empty into the marshlands and tidal creeks of

the Gulf. About half of the easternmost tract drains westward into the California Creek basin, which eventually empties into the Gulf. Waters on the other half of this tract drain southward, bounded by higher ground along County Road 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 project area has been managed for silviculture. Historically, the site has 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 ground cover, many stands of pines (even recently planted areas) appear to retain good remnant flatwoods vegetation. The property is managed under the 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 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida mapleleaf	G2?/S1
Suwannee alligator snapping turtle	G2/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Suwannee cooter	G5T3/S3
Pinesnake	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
White ibis	G5/S4

**Plant species are in italics*

Public Use

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On December 10, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project to the Florida Forever Priority List in the Less-than-Fee category, ranking it as number six of 25 projects considered in that category.

This less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Conservation Fund and SRWMD. It is approximately 46,441 acres in one ownership with a 2010 market value of $94,249,477. The 10 acres on the SRWMD California Lake conservation easement is for fee simple acquisition.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.

2015

On October 16, 2015, ARC voted to add the 12,023-acre Otter Sinks project located in Dixie County to the Florida Forever Priority List. ARC then voted to make it an addition to the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project.

2016

On September 13, 2016, a conservation easement over 8,075 acres of the Lyme Timber Company was acquired in this project for $4,178,700. The easement will be managed by SRWMD.

2019

On June 26, 2019, a conservation easement over 19,075 acres of the Lyme Timber Company was acquired in this project for $2,400,000.

2020

On April 1, 2020, a conservation easement over 5,785 acres of the Lyme Timber Company was acquired in this project for $2,000,000.

2023

In June of 2023, ARC voted to add one parcel totaling approximately 72 acres in Levy County.

2024

In November 2024, ARC voted to add six parcels totaling approximately 744 acres in Dixie County and nine parcels totaling approximately 494 acres in Dixie County.

In December 2024, ARC voted to add seven parcels totaling approximately 692.65 acres in Levy County.

2025

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project is more than 85 percent complete and was moved into the Substantially Complete Category in preparation for project ranking at the December ARC meeting.

Coordination

SRWMD is a partner in this project. Because SRWMD holds the easement for the California Lake parcel, it may be more appropriate for them to pursue the fee simple acquisition of the 10-acre parcel providing access to California Lake.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

The less-than-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.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

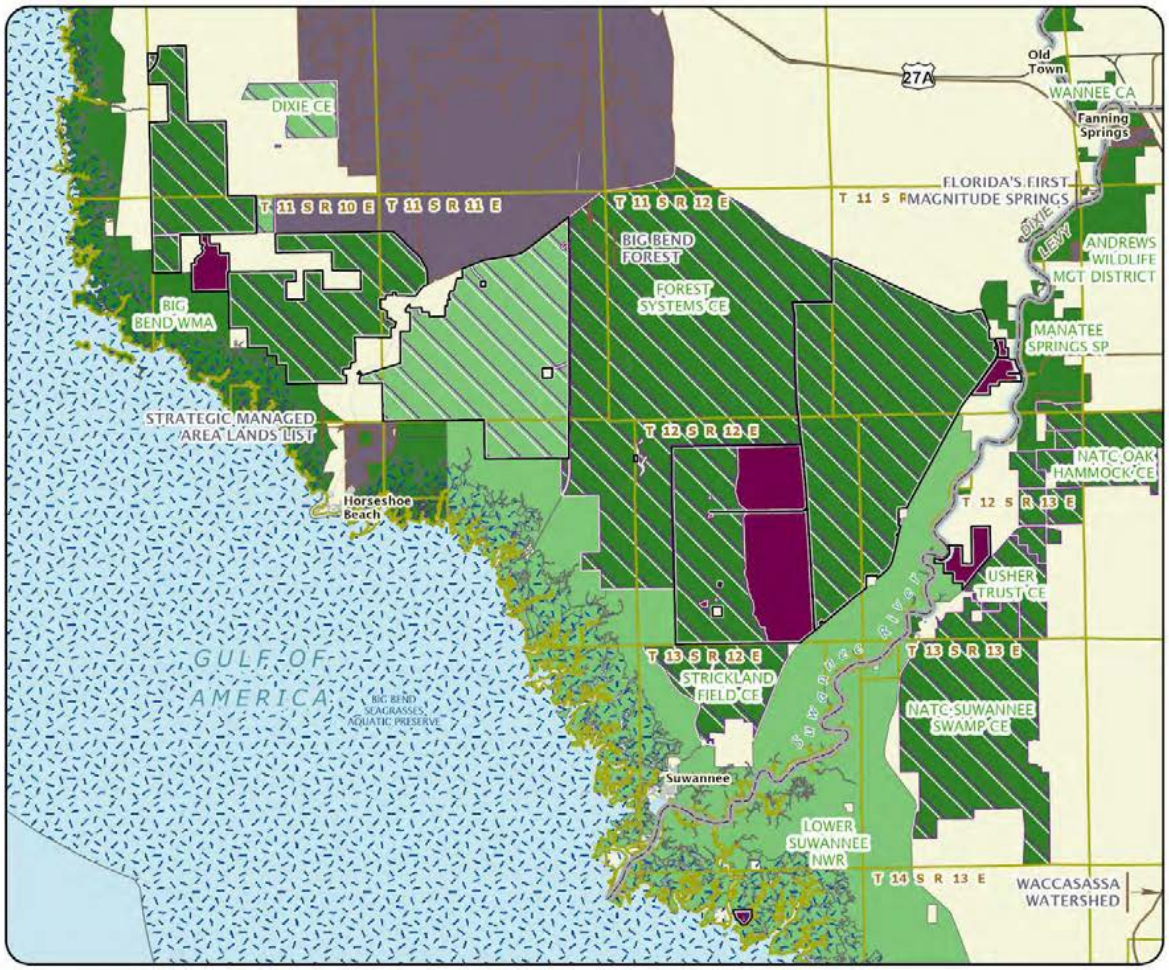
Half of this property has been managed for silviculture for the last century. Sustainable timber management practices have evolved over the years and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative bolsters conservation practices such as providing for buffers around wetlands. The overall historic management of the 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 to maintain a healthy ecosystem. 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.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Management implementation will begin immediately after fee simple title is taken on the 10-acre site 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 Conservation Commission as well as other existing contractors for the maintenance of infrastructure.

Revenue-generating Potential

This project has no direct revenue-generating potential under a conservation easement, nor is any revenue expected from the fee simple acquisition of the 10-acre site.



LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND GULF WATERSHED

DIXIE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

0 6 12 Miles

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Save Our Everglades

Substantially Complete

Collier County

Year Added to Priority List	*1984*
Project Acres	*217,680*
Acquired Acres	*217,668*
Remaining Project Acres	*12*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$121,974*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Save Our Everglades project will conserve three large tracts of a landscape of cypress swamps, marshes, slash pine flatwoods and tropical hammocks. Water slowly flows through the forests to the mangrove swamps of the Ten Thousand Islands, preserving the flow of water to the rich estuaries of the Gulf Coast. The project connects and extends existing conservation lands, which will help to save the last of the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) and a host of other rare animals and tropical plants and allow 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.

General Description

This project includes important hydrological connections among Big Cypress National Preserve, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and Everglades National Park. It serves as the headwaters of the largest strand swamp in the nation: the Fakahatchee Strand. 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 and endangered Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). There is believed to be good potential for archaeological sites within the area. 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.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G2G3/S2?
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida bonneted bat	G1/S1
*Ghost orchid**	G1/S1
*Seminole hoary-pea**	G1/S1
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	G3/S1
*pineland jacquemontia**	G2/S2
*Small's flax**	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
*Tampa vervain**	G2/S2
**Plant species are in italics*	

Public Use

The project will provide a preserve/reserve, wildlife and environmental area, and a state forest, allowing such uses as fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and nature appreciation. The project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Acquisition Planning

1996

Completing the Collier Exchange on December 18, 1996, resulted in public protection of an additional 83,070 acres in the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition and an additional 4,110 acres in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

2003

On April 18, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) transferred 1,615 acres in Hendry County to the Panther Glades Florida Forever project.

2006

In 2006, ARC moved this project from Group A Small Parcels list for acquisition to the Group B Small Parcels list.

The National Park Service continues to pursue consolidation efforts in the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition. The Conservation and Recreational Lands Program focused on acquiring land in Golden Gate Estates South. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) acquired and manages 28,410 acres (including Collier Exchange lands). The Conservation and Recreational Lands Program received $25 million of Federal “Farm Bill” funds for the Golden Gate portion of this project. All the acreage in this project is considered essential. In June 2009, approximately 3 platted acres were purchased for $8,276.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the new Substantially Complete category of Florida Forever projects. This project will remain on the Florida Forever Priority List until all court settlements are resolved.

Coordination

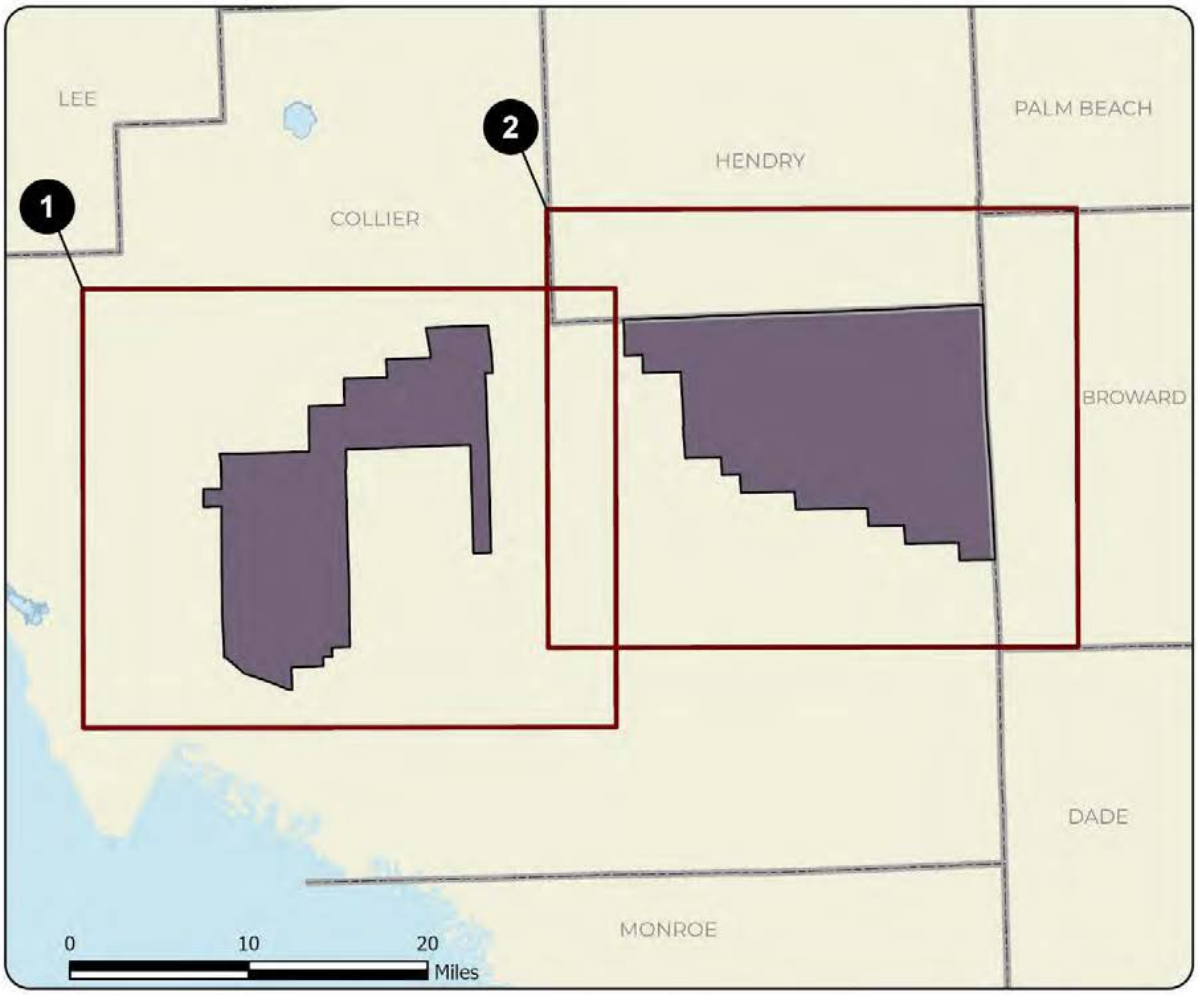
The Florida Department of Transportation, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and USFWS are all acquisition partners in this project area.

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 to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

Manager(s)

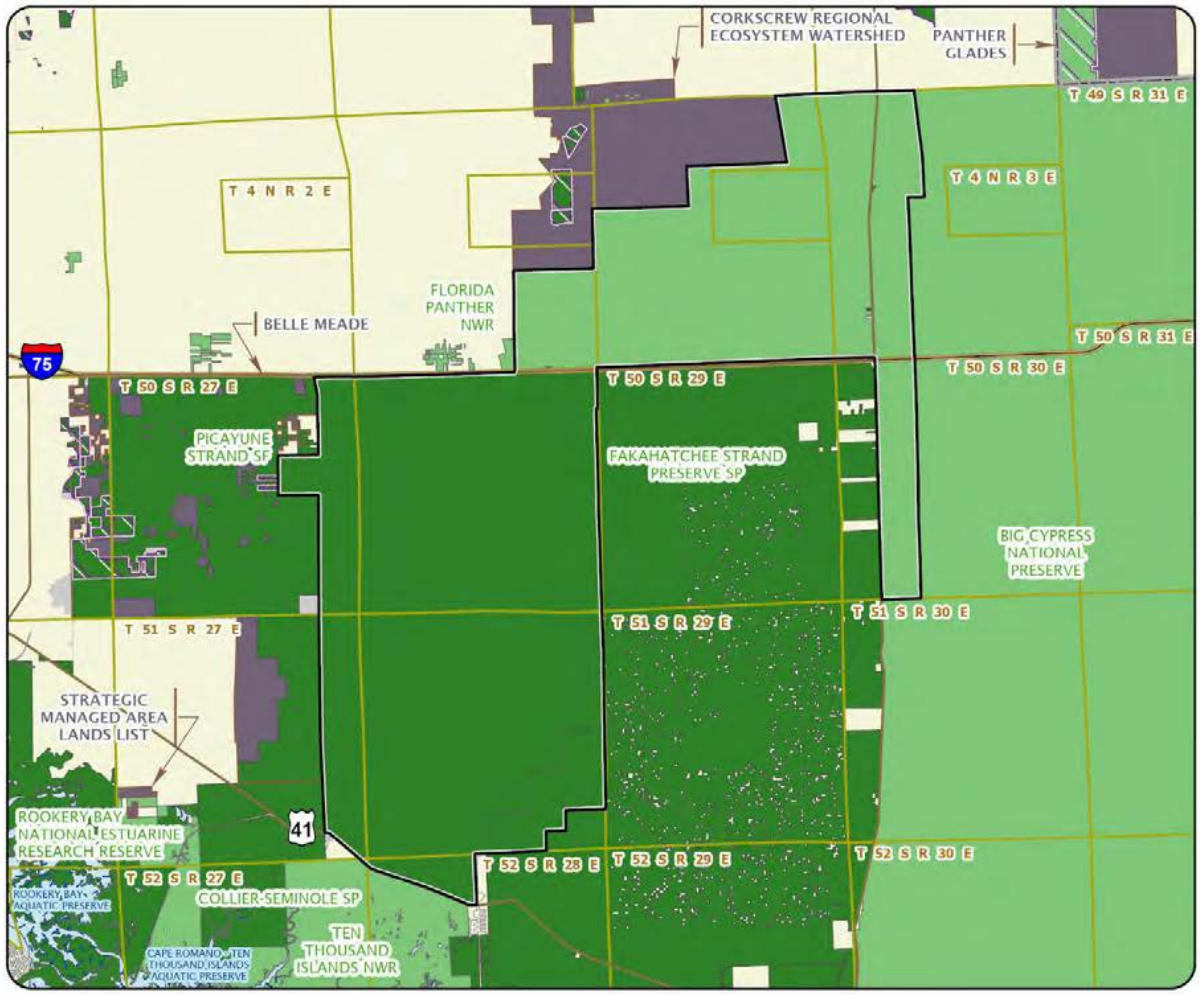
The National Park Service will manage the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition; USFWS will manage the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge; the Florida Forest Service will manage all the Golden Gate Estates South; and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks 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.



SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: OVERVIEW

COLLIER COUNTY





SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 1

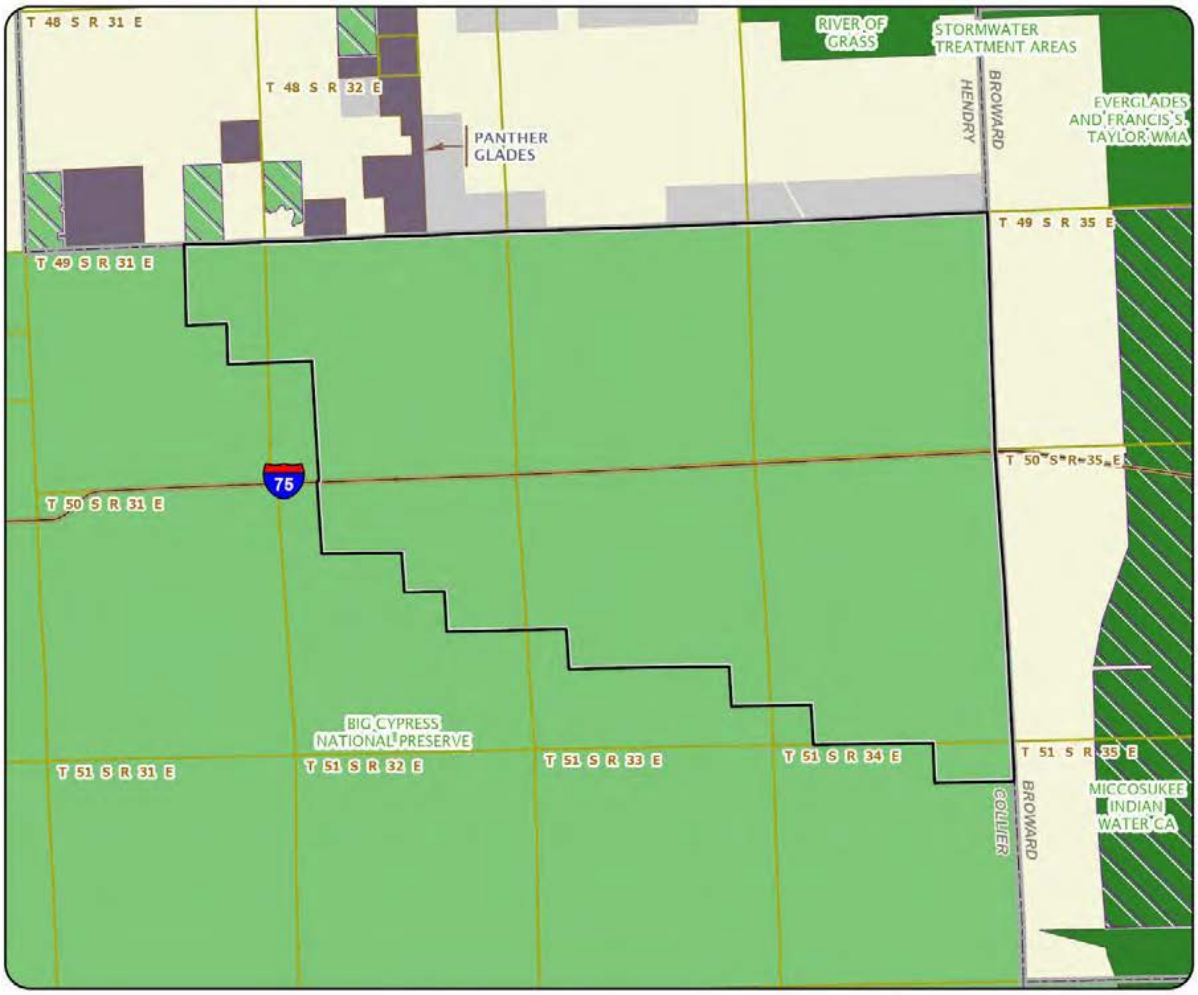
COLLIER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 2

COLLIER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Spruce Creek

Substantially Complete

Volusia County

Year Added to Priority List	*1990*
Project Acres	*2,803*
Acquired Acres	*2,467*
Remaining Project Acres	*336*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$8,488,460*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Spruce Creek project will protect one of the largest tracts of undeveloped land left along the estuary of Spruce Creek, maintain the water quality of the surrounding creeks and bays and protect the fishery. Additionally, this project will protect what may be the site of Andrew Turnbull's 18th century plantation and provide a recreation area for cultural and environmental education, hiking and fishing.

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 endangered or threatened species such as bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The addition, between U.S. Highway 1 and Turnbull Bay, contains good maritime or xeric hammock, with live oaks, cabbage palms and several tropical shrubs near the northern limits. Flatwoods also cover a large part of the addition, and tidal marsh with remnants of black mangrove. Disturbed areas include a historic house at the north end and the remains of a fish camp and marina east of U.S. Highway 1. 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 Northeast Florida (ca. 1763 - 1783 A.D.). The area is experiencing significant growth, and the land is threatened by development.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Atlantic salt marsh snake	G3G4T1Q/S1
*Sand butterfly pea**	G2Q/S2
*Florida beargrass**	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

**Plant species are in italics*

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

1989

On December 1, 1989, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the original Spruce Creek project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands 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.

1990

On December 7, 1990, an owner-sponsored 54-acre parcel was added to the boundary.

1992

The project was removed on December 10, 1992, due to unwilling sellers. At that time, it was less than 90 percent complete.

1994

On December 6, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the current Spruce Creek project to the 1995 Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This fee simple proposal was sponsored by Volusia County, as the previous one had been, and had the same name, but consisted of 524 acres (a 208- acre portion of the original project and a 316-acre addition). The project boundary, as approved by the Land Acquisition Advisory Council, however, included portions of the 1989 project that had already been acquired. The resulting project acreage equaled 1,593 acres with a taxable value of $3,406,991.

1996

In 1996, the Florida Audubon Society acquired Langford Sanctuary (16.4 acres), of which 14.3 acres are within the project boundary.

2002

On October 24, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee simple 648-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Volusia County and consisted of five owners.

2009

On October 9, 2009, ARC voted to remove six sites with 54 individual parcels (97 acres) containing residential and commercial buildings or infrastructure. The total acreage removed had a just value of $9,166,381.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Substantially Complete category of Florida Forever projects.

2023

In October 2023, ARC voted to remove approximately 40 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

Coordination

Volusia County is a partner in the acquisition of this project as well as being identified as the manager. The St. Johns River Water Management District and the City of Port Orange are also acquisition partners.

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

Manager(s)

Volusia County is the recommended manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Spruce Creek project has the size, natural, cultural and recreational resources, and surrounding population density to qualify as a state recreation area.

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. Recreational use will be incorporated but in a more dispersed and less intensive manner.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 may include development of recreation 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

This will be determined by the concepts in the management plan. Some revenue will probably be generated by user and concession fees at recreation sites. Some revenues may be generated through the sale of forest products, but any such revenues will likely be minimal. The 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.

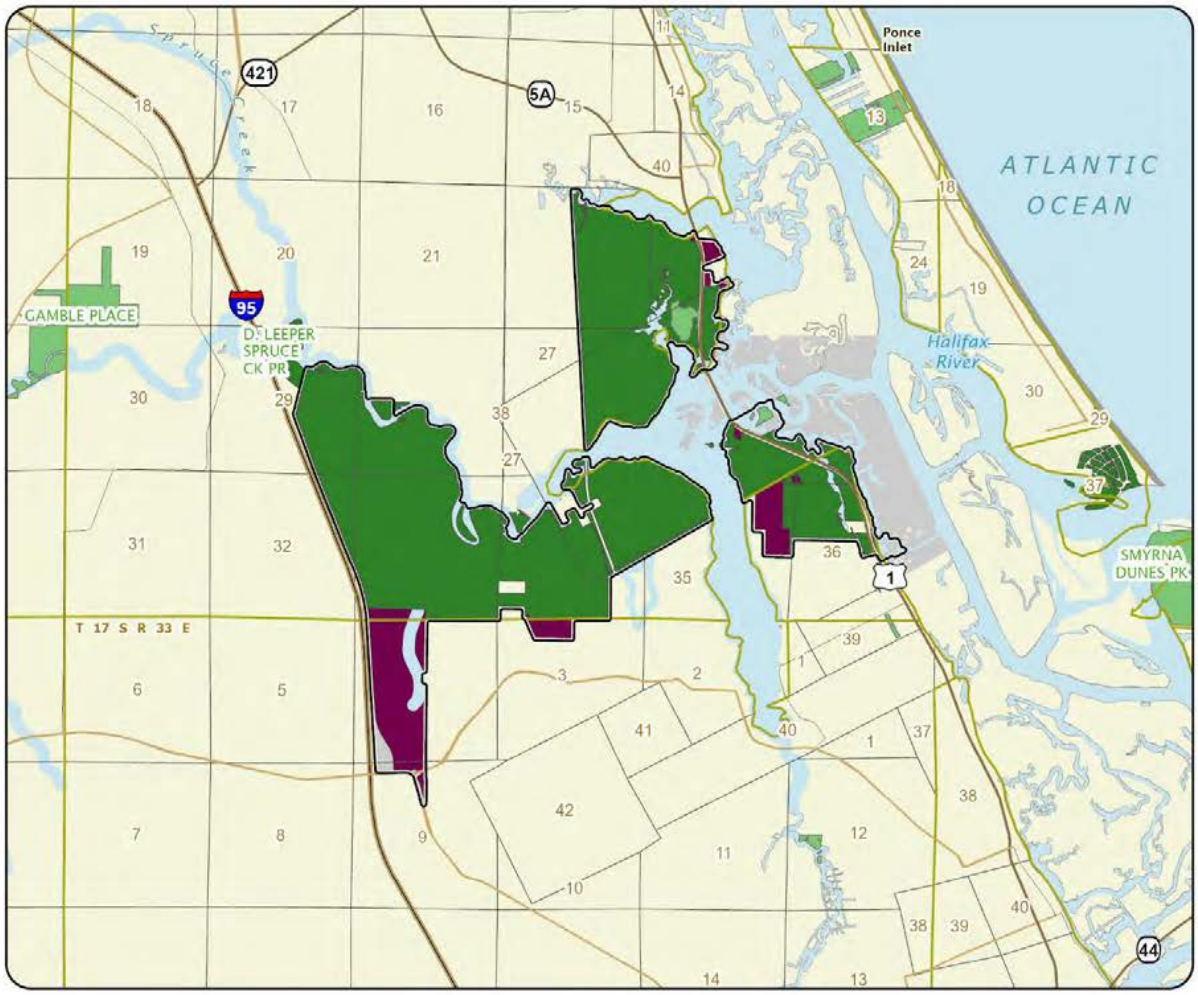
Cooperators in Management Activities

The City of Port Orange and the City of New Smyrna Beach will both 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 are managed by the Museum of Arts and Sciences. The Environmental Council and Sierra Club have played important roles in the early protection of the creek, including sponsoring Outstanding Florida Waters status in 1986. The Southeast Volusia Historical Society and Volusia Anthropological Society have had a long-standing interest in the protection and interpretation of the cultural, historical and archaeological resources located on the project site. Volunteers will be invaluable in developing, managing and interpreting the site.

Management Cost Summary

Volusia County	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	Volusia County	Volusia County
OPS	$0	$0
Expense	$0	$0
OCO	$0	$0
FCO	$0	$0
TOTAL	$0	$0

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SPRUCE CREEK

VOLUSIA COUNTY

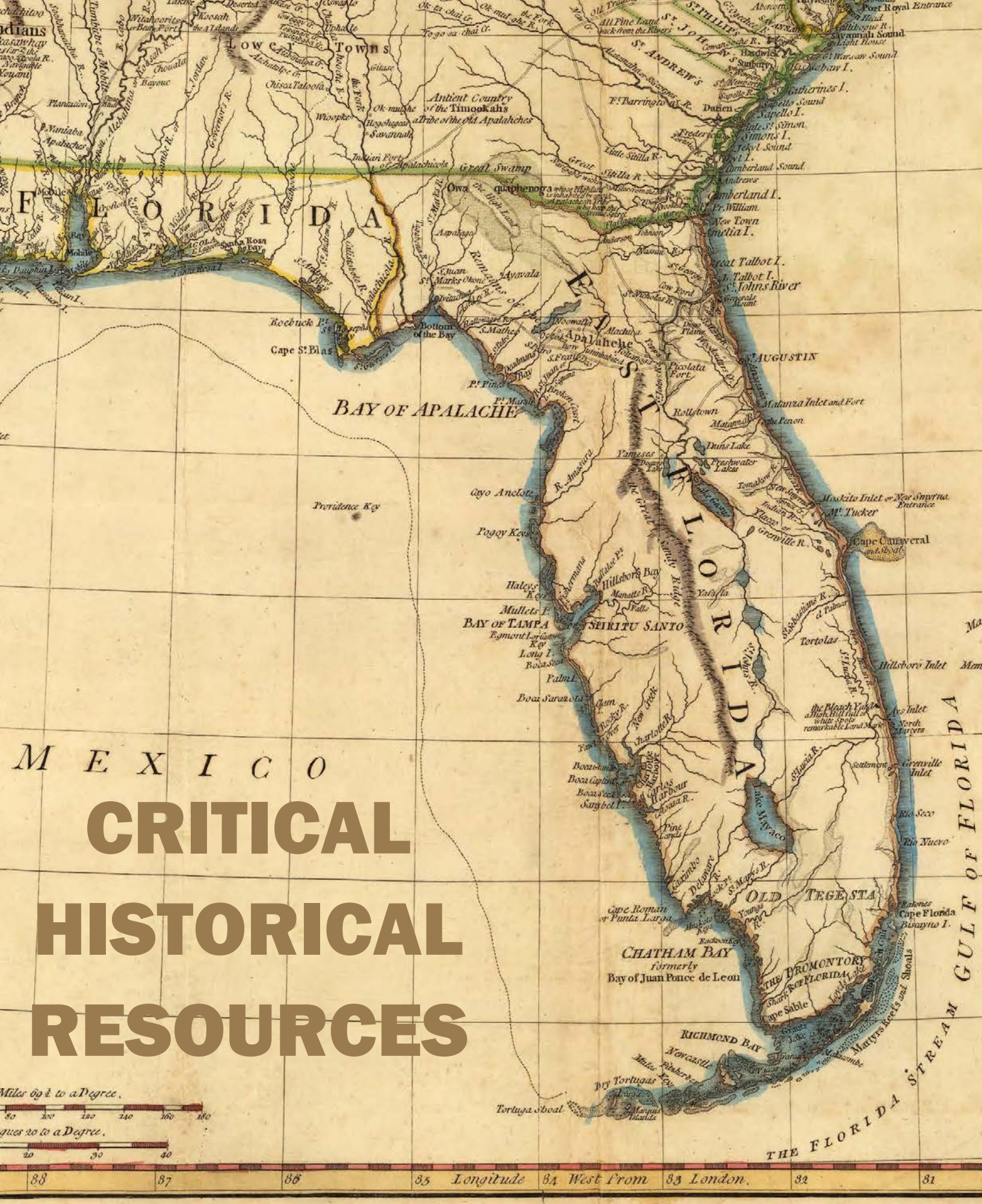
- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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CRITICAL
HISTORICAL
RESOURCES

London Printed for R. Sayer and J. Bennett, Map, Chart and Print sellers No. 53 Fleet Street, as the Act directs, 15th Oct.r 1776.

Battle of Wahoo Swamp

Critical Historical Resources

Sumter County

Year Added to Priority List	*2002*
Project Acres	*1,623*
Acquired Acres	*469*
Remaining Project Acres	*1,154*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$7,348,907*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp project will preserve a Second Seminole War battle site and 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's history during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The battle that occurred on the site on November 21, 1836, was 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, which is about 10 miles from Wahoo Swamp. 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.

General Description

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp site is in eastern Sumter County east of the Withlacoochee River and west of Interstate 75 and Bushnell. The northeast corner of the site that extends across County Road 48 lies 0.2 miles from the southwest corner of the Jumper Creek Tract of Withlacoochee State Forest. Dade Battlefield, a historical site managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), lies about 5 miles southeast of Wahoo Swamp.

Although proposed originally for its archaeological values, the project also supports many rare plant and animal species. 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. High quality hardwood hammocks support a high concentration of rare plant species. Low limestone outcroppings and boulders, scattered throughout the hammock, are densely clothed with mosses, liverworts, ferns, vines and other herbaceous plants, including numerous populations of some of Florida's rarest ferns: cutleaf spleenwort (*Asplenium abscissum*), modest spleenwort (*Asplenium verecundum*), Curtiss' spleenwort (*Asplenium curtissii*), ruffled spleenwort (Asplenium plenum), swamp plume polypody (*Pecluma ptilodon*) and Peters' filmy fern (*Trichomanes*

petersii). A high diversity of orchid species also occurs in the hammocks, including large and healthy populations of two of the rarest plants in Florida, Rickett's nodding-caps (*Triphora rickettii*) and Craighead's nodding-caps (*Triphora craigheadii).* Approximately 73 percent of the original project consists of basin marsh and basin swamp, collectively known as Battle Slough, which flows southwest to the Withlacoochee River. The project consists of a fee simple acquisition of the battlefield area and a less-than-fee acquisition over the remainder of the project.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Craighead's nodding-caps	G1/S1
Curtiss' spleenwort	G1/S1
Modest spleenwort	G1/S1
Rickett's nodding-caps	G1/S1
Ruffled spleenwort	G1Q/S1
Florida spiny-pod	G2G3/S2
Peters' bristle fern	G4/S1S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Comb polypody	G5?TNR/S2
Plume polypody	G5/S2
**Plant species are in italics*	

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 will be on the interpretation of the historic elements of this site to the public. Varied public recreational uses could include camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, hiking and battle reenactments. The project also provides opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature study.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Battle of Wahoo Swamp project to the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. The essential parcel is identified as the Hamilton ownership. The fee simple portion of the project should be mapped and appraised before proceeding with the less-than-fee portion of the project.

2010

On December 10, 2010, ARC voted to move the project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category, Critical Historical Resources.

2022

On October 14, 2022, ARC added the 763-acre Double G Legacy project to the project boundary.

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 originally proposed 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 project represent high-quality examples of a landscape that has been heavily altered throughout central Florida by conversion to pasture and residential development.

Manager(s)

DRP proposes to manage the property.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Although the project shows evidence of 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 forces and Seminole Indians during the Second Seminole War. The battle was fought within the project and complements the history of two nearby state parks, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park and Fort Cooper Historic State Park. It is the complementary 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 based on acquiring fee title.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Management is generally expected to entail basic resource management, such as securing and protecting the property, until 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 historic elements of the site.

Management should provide for uses and recreational activities that are compatible with the protection of rare and sensitive resources.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Once the project is acquired and assigned to DRP, 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, a historic reenactment of the battle may be included in an 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 reenactment programs, are 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.

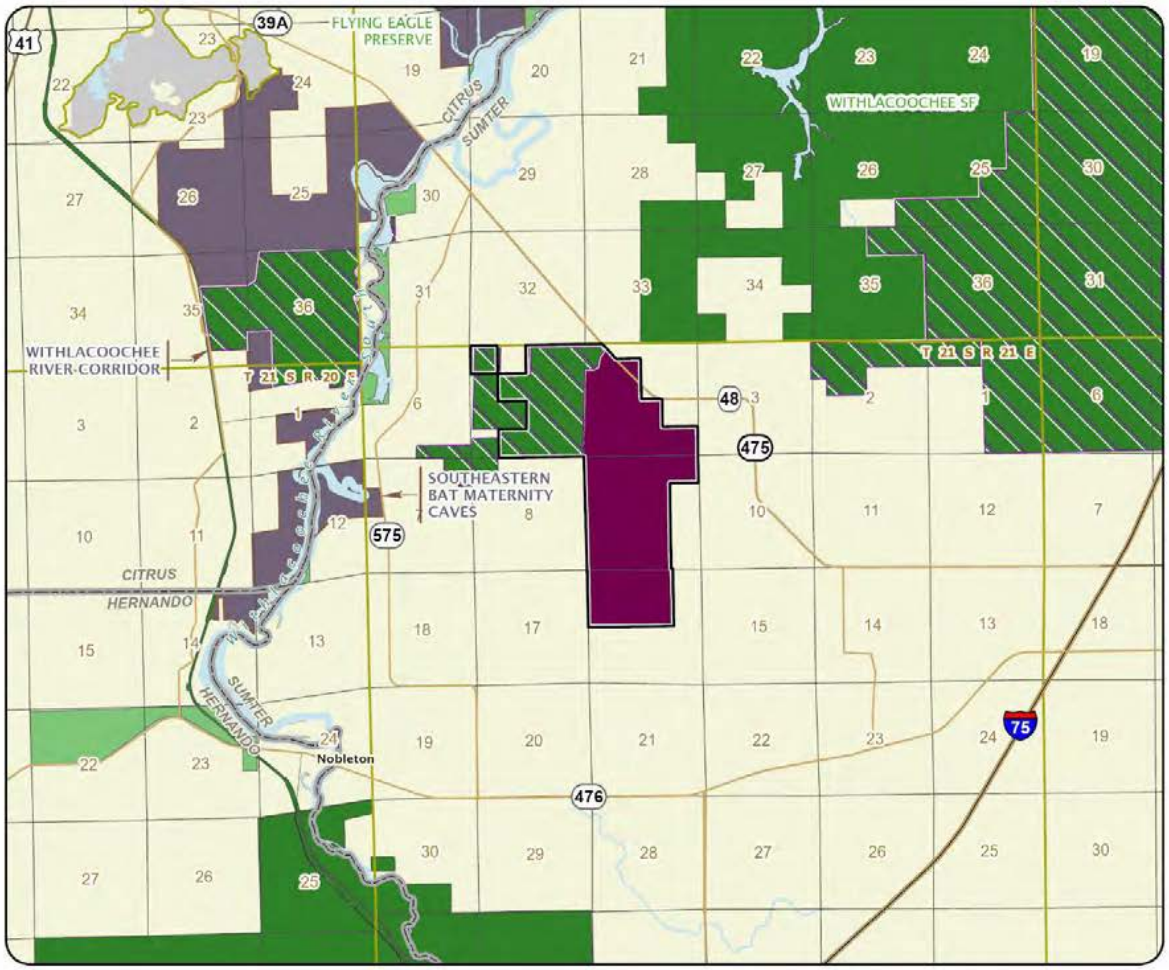
Cooperators in Management Activities

No local government or others are recommended for management of this project. DRP will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

DRP		Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Conservation and Recreational Land Program Trust Fund		not provided
Salary (1 FTE)		$28,000	not provided
OPS		$0	not provided
Expense		$30,000	not provided
OCO		$60,000	not provided
FCO		$350,000	not provided
TOTAL		$468,000	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BATTLE OF WAHOO SWAMP

SUMTER COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition

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Pierce Mound Complex

Critical Historical Resources

Franklin County

Year Added to Priority List	*1994*
Project Acres	*562*
Acquired Acres	*205*
Remaining Project Acres	*357*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$3,902,021*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pierce Mound Complex project will preserve a group of prehistoric mounds north of the City of Apalachicola. The extensive shell midden contains subsistence data and artifacts and reflects changing environmental conditions over a thousand-year period. The Pierce Mound Complex is one of the most important archaeological sites on Florida's Gulf Coast. The project will protect 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.

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. Another aspect of the site is the potential for the preservation of normally perishable organic artifacts of wood and fibers in the saturated anaerobic wetland soils adjacent to the uplands portion of the site. Salt marsh covers nearly three-fourths of the project. Hydric hammock and dense (fire-suppressed) mesic flatwoods and scrub cover most of the southern quarter. The upland is threatened by residential development.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Fat threeridge (mussel)	G1/S1
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3

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.

Acquisition Planning

1994

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council added the Pierce Mound Complex project to the 1995 Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. This fee simple acquisition, sponsored by the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources (DHR), consisted of approximately 559 acres, nine owners (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) and a 1993 taxable value of $877,311. The essential parcel to acquire is the Mahr tract.

2000

On June 27, 2000, the Acquisition and 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 had a 1999 taxable value of $787,585. The addition included the Orman House, Chapman Botanical Garden (owned by the City of Apalachicola) and two other parcels. The historic Orman house (1 acre) has been acquired.

2001

On February 2, 2001, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired the first part of Orman House Historic State Park (10.27 acres), of which 5.83 acres are within the project boundary.

2006

On June 9, 2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority List.

2010

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

2025

In August 2025, ARC removed approximately 21 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

Coordination

The portion of the project within the City of Apalachicola is in the Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern.

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 the 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.

Manager(s)

DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (ORCP) is recommended as the lead manager. ORCP's Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve staff will serve as on-site managers. DHR is recommended as the cooperating manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Pierce Mound Complex has the archaeological resources to qualify as a state archaeological site.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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. ORCP 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 Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. Long-range plans for this property involve use for research and educational 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) combined with one of the most important archaeological sites on Florida's Gulf Coast to produce an exceptional opportunity for public education.

Revenue-generating Potential

There are no plans for revenue generation from this site.

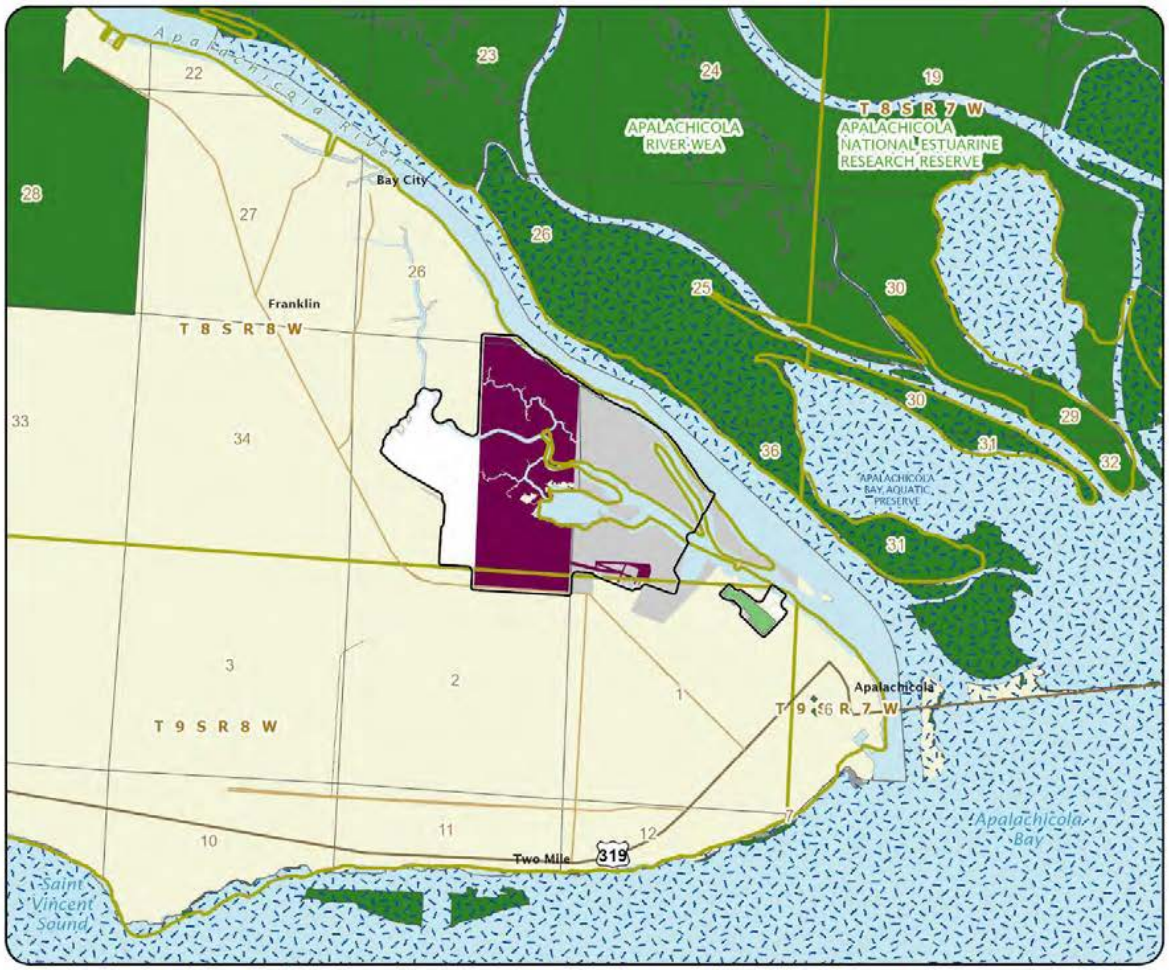
Cooperators in Management Activities

DHR will cooperate in managing the archaeological resources of the site.

Management Cost Summary

ORCP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF)	LATF
Salary	$0	$8,000
OPS	$14,500	$6,500
Expense	$0	$6,500
OCO	$0	$0
FCO	$50,000	$50,000
TOTAL	$64,500	$71,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PIERCE MOUND COMPLEX

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary*
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve

*Project boundary has been generalized for map clarity.

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Pineland Site Complex

Critical Historical Resources

Lee County

Year Added to Priority List	*1996*
Project Acres	*211*
Acquired Acres	*75*
Remaining Project Acres	*136*
2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	*$15,868,051*

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pineland Site Complex contains large mounds and canals that date back almost 2,000 years and document the presence of the Calusa and earlier peoples that lived around Charlotte Harbor. The project will protect one of the state's most significant archaeological sites and estuarine mangrove swamps on Pine Island. The project will provide ecological connectivity to the resources of Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park, provide the opportunity to continue archaeological research at the site and give the public an opportunity to learn about Florida's earliest inhabitants.

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 apre-Columbian canal and buried deposits containing organic remains. Natural habitats within the project area include tidal saltern, a tidal creek, an intertidal shoreline and a large tract of mangrove wetland. Ponds on the property are important to white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), egrets, herons and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). 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 pastureland. 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 and Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	**Score**
Smalltooth sawfish	G1G3/S1S2

Public Use

The Florida Museum of Natural History plans to provide 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 atop 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.

1997

On April 18, 1997, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) purchased 1 acre in the project area.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council revised the designation of the following parcels to essential: The Cloisters and Jessy Chris.

2000

On December 4, 2000, Lee County acquired Conservation 20/20 Site #48 (8.59 acres) in what is now the Randell Research Center.

2003

On February 26, 2003, BOT acquired 0.29 acres from The Archaeological Conservancy.

On July 31, 2003, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired the University of Florida Foundation tract (48.54 acres).

2011

On December 10, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category: 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 the 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 scientific research on this site and give the public 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 site's archaeological resources. 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 protecting the archaeological resources and maintaining or improving the quality of natural communities, such as mangrove swamps. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensuring 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.

Manager(s)

The University of Florida Foundation is recommended as the lead manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Pineland Site Complex is an internationally significant archaeological site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and qualifies as a state historic site.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Needs will include maintenance (fences, weed and exotic plant control, etc.) and site security including periodic patrol of the more remote wetlands areas and active surveillance of the central site area.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site 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 control, etc.). A master plan 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 resource assessment, including an inventory of endangered and threatened species. A plan for the 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 research and educational 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 bookstore and gift shop will be operated to offset the expenses of the center's operation and provide funds to enhance the center's 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.

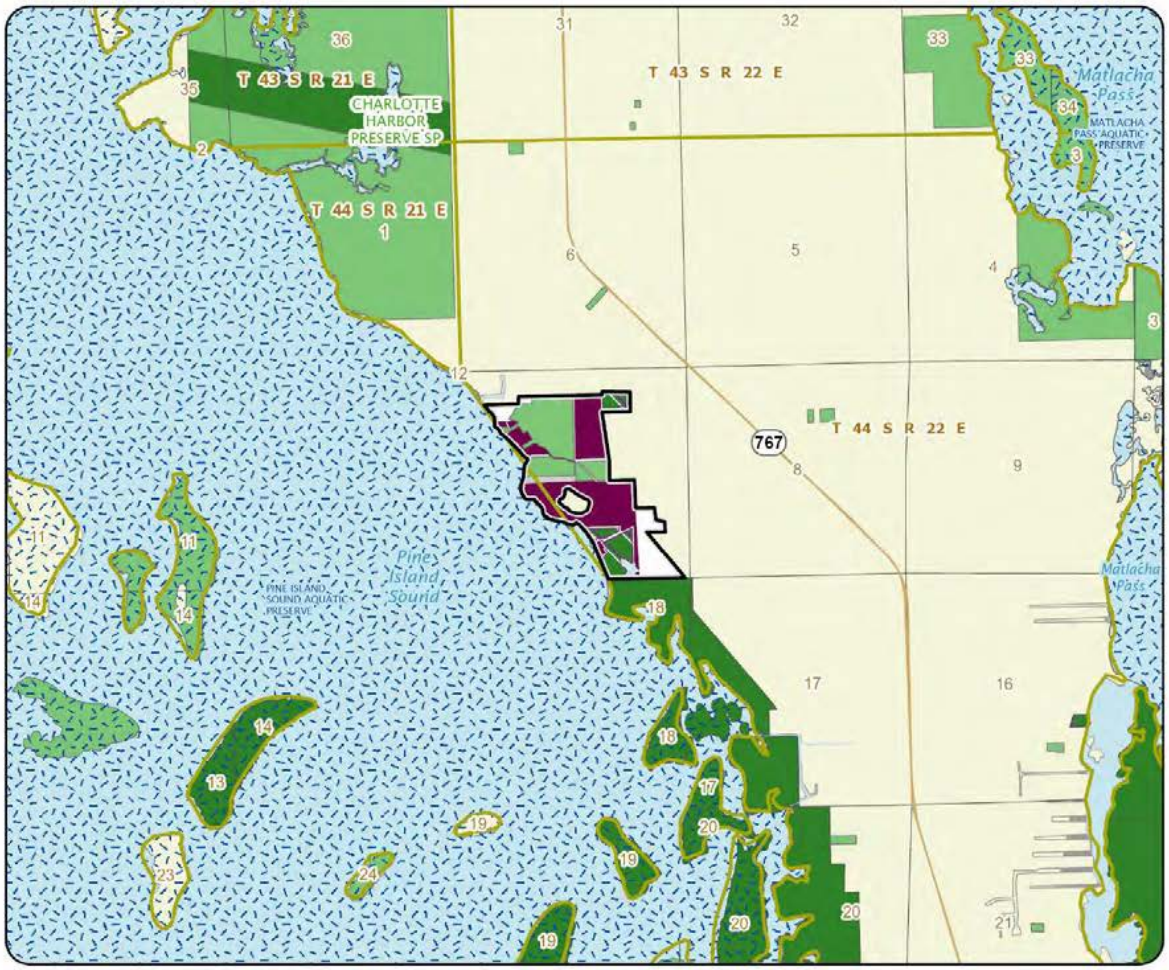
Cooperators in Management Activities

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 managers, DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection and DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks.

Management Cost Summary

University of Florida Foundation	Startup	Development	Recurring
Source	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
TOTAL	$45,450	$47,009	$74,252

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PINELAND SITE COMPLEX

LEE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve

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APPENDIX A

2026 Florida Forever Project Prioritization History

APPENDIX A

2026 Florida Forever Project Prioritization History

Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Adams Ranch	2007	Less-Than-Fee	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Annutteliga Hammock	1995	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	7	7	8	8	11	10	9	10	10	9	9
Apalachicola River	1991	Critical Natural Lands	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	1991	Substantially Complete	8	8	8	8	8	5	5	5	5	4	5
Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor	2025	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	23
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	1995	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	21	23	22	22	26	29	24	25	25	24	28
Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	2022	Partnerships &Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	15	7
Avalon	2022	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	17	6	19
Ayavalla Plantation	2008	Less-Than-Fee	9	11	10	10	12	14	14	14	13	13	17
Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	26	26	28	28	28	30	31	30	32	33	35
Baker County Timberlands	2025	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	38
Bar-B Ranch	2022	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	31	37	35
Battle of Wahoo Swamp	2002	Critical Historical Resources	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Bear Creek Forest	2004	Critical Natural Lands	19	19	19	20	22	23	22	23	19	14	17
Bear Hammock	2008	Critical Natural Lands	25	22	21	23	28	27	27	26	22	26	26
Belle Meade	1993	Critical Natural Lands	14	13	9	10	11	12	13	13	13	13	16
Big Bend Forest	2025	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16
Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	2000	Less-Than-Fee	8	9	12	13	14	13	11	8	7	7	7
Blue Head Ranch	2012	Critical Natural Lands	6	6	7	7	4	6	4	6	7	6	4
Bluefield to Cow Creek	2020	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	26	23	27	26	27	27
Bombing Range Ridge	1998	Critical Natural Lands	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	1
Bowlegs Creek Watershed	2025	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	41
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	1993	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	5	5	5	6	6	8	8	8	8	11	10
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	1998	Critical Natural Lands	21	18	17	18	20	21	19	15	16	18	13

Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	2010	Critical Natural Lands	20	20	20	20	21	24	25	26	28	22	25
Camp Hammock	2026	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	2001	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	29	28	29	29	29	29	31	30	32	36	36
Catfish Creek	1990	Substantially Complete	22	22	22	23	23	24	24	20	23	27	8
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	1992	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	16	12	13	14	13	10	9	10	11	12	11
Clear Creek/Whiting Field	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	7	8	6	6	7	7	6	7	9	8	8
Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	2014	Less-Than-Fee	15	10	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Conlin Lake X	2015	Less-Than-Fee	0	4	4	6	5	5	4	6	13	12	8
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	1991	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	6	6	8	7	5	5	5	4	4	4	3
Coupon Bight/Key Deer	1985	Climate Change Lands	6	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2020	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	27	31	35	37
Creeks to Choctawhatchee River	2026	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	2007	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	26	23	28	25	26	27	28	26	28	31	31
Dade County Archipelago	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	13	14	20	18	19	17	22	21	21	26	24
Devil's Garden	2002	Critical Natural Lands	14	16	15	15	12	16	15	18	24	21	24
Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	1996	Substantially Complete	7	7	6	4	2	4	3	2	1	1	1
Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	2013	Less-Than-Fee	17	18	18	19	20	19	20	17	22	20	18
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	1995	Critical Natural Lands	13	10	10	10	11	10	10	9	8	8	9
Fair Bluff	2025	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	44
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	2000	Less-Than-Fee	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Flagler County Blueway	2003	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	12	13	12	13	12	13	14	15	20	25	27
Florida Keys Ecosystem	1992	Climate Change Lands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	1995	Substantially Complete	5	5	5	6	6	6	4	4	4	2	2
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	1991	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ford Marsh	2024	Climate Change Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	8	10
Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	2019	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	11	9	9	12
Garcon Ecosystem	1995	Climate Change Lands	13	11	11	12	11	10	7	7	7	7	8

Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Gardner Marsh	2022	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	11
Gilchrist Club	2022	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	21	21
Gooski Prairie	2026	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Green Swamp	2015	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	11	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	10	12
Gulf Hammock	2004	Less-Than-Fee	8	7	7	7	8	10	11	13	12	11	13
Half Circle L Ranch	2003	Critical Natural Lands	22	18	11	8	9	12	13	15	14	16	14
Hall Ranch	1997	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	28	25	25	24	24	25	27	28	26	30	25
Hawkins Ranch	2026	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	8	9	9	10	10	9	13	12	15	13	14
Heartland Wildlife Corridor	2022	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	18	15
Hixtown Swamp	1993	Critical Natural Lands	33	33	33	31	31	34	34	34	35	32	34
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	2002	Less-Than-Fee	18	17	16	17	17	20	19	19	21	19	22
Ichetucknee Trace	1997	Critical Natural Lands	32	32	32	32	33	35	36	36	38	31	32
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	1998	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	5	6	7	6
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	2001	Less-Than-Fee	10	11	10	8	7	7	8	7	5	6	5
Lafayette Forest	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	27	27	27	26	25	21	21	23	22	22	26
Lake Hatchineha Watershed	2002	Critical Natural Lands	25	27	26	26	28	29	29	28	27	23	20
Lake Santa Fe	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	15	15	15	15	15	22	20	22	24	28	32
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	1992	Critical Natural Lands	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Larkin Ranch	2025	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34
Lettuce Creek Cattle Company	2025	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	24
Limestone Ranch	2012	Less-Than-Fee	25	25	26	28	29	30	32	32	35	39	39
Little Orange Creek Corridor	2025	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	13
Little River Conservation Area	2004	Less-Than-Fee	27	28	27	26	27	29	29	31	33	36	35
Lochloosa Forest	2016	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	14	12	12	14	14	15	14	18	15	19
Lochloosa Wildlife	1994	Substantially Complete	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	3	4
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	1993	Critical Natural Lands	9	11	9	11	13	14	11	10	10	11	10

Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Lower Perdido River Buffer	2002	Less-Than-Fee	21	23	22	24	26	26	30	28	32	35	36
Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	2010	Less-Than-Fee	4	3	3	5	6	6	7	9	11	10	3
Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	2016	Less-Than-Fee	0	15	12	11	11	13	12	12	10	9	10
Mays Island Conservation Corridor	2026	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Maytown Flatwoods	2009	Less-Than-Fee	22	20	17	20	22	24	24	25	26	30	28
Middle Chipola River	1996	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	23	17	16	17	17	16	16	17	14	16	15
Mill Creek	2003	Less-Than-Fee	19	19	20	22	24	25	25	24	23	23	25
Millstone Plantation	2001	Less-Than-Fee	31	30	29	31	32	34	35	34	36	42	42
Myakka Ranchlands	2007	Less-Than-Fee	5	5	6	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	6
North Waccasassa Flats	2018	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	28	30	27	27	27	29	32	29
Northeast Florida Blueway	2001	Climate Change Lands	2	2	3	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	3
Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4
Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	2005	Less-Than-Fee	6	6	8	9	9	15	10	10	9	8	9
Old Town Creek Watershed	2001	Less-Than-Fee	26	27	24	27	28	31	33	26	28	6	23
Osceola Pine Savannas	1995	Critical Natural Lands	12	13	14	14	16	18	18	16	11	10	7
Pal-Mar	1992	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	17	16	17	16	16	15	17	13	13	14	16
Panther Glades	2001	Critical Natural Lands	5	5	5	4	4	5	7	5	5	7	8
Peace River Refuge	2010	Less-Than-Fee	23	21	19	21	19	22	21	20	20	22	14
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	1995	Critical Natural Lands	24	23	24	24	24	27	28	29	31	28	29
Pierce Mound Complex	1994	Critical Historical Resources	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	2004	Critical Natural Lands	11	12	12	13	14	15	16	14	17	17	23
Pineland Site Complex	1996	Critical Historical Resources	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	4	3
Pinhook Swamp	1992	Critical Natural Lands	23	22	21	22	22	25	24	23	25	20	21
Pringle Creek Forest	2012	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	30	29	30	30	30	30	32	33	33	34	34
Pumpkin Hill Creek	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	25	24	24	27	27	23	25	29	29	32	33
Raiford to Osceola Greenway	2010	Less-Than-Fee	14	12	13	16	16	17	15	15	15	14	12
Rainbow River Corridor	2007	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	19	19	19	20	18	19	18	18	18	19	17

Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Ranch Reserve	1997	Less-Than-Fee	12	16	15	15	15	16	17	16	17	15	11
Red Hills Conservation	2019	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	5	6	5	3
Ridge Manor Gap	2026	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
St. Joe Timberland	2000	Climate Change Lands	3	3	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
St. Johns River Blueway	2002	Climate Change Lands	9	9	9	9	9	9	6	6	6	5	5
St. Marks River Basin	2026	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
San Felasco Conservation Corridor	2003	Less-Than-Fee	24	22	21	23	25	28	28	29	31	33	31
San Pedro Bay	2003	Critical Natural Lands	28	28	28	25	27	30	30	30	29	25	27
Sand Mountain	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	20	20	21	21	21	20	23	25	17	21	18
Save Our Everglades	1984	Substantially Complete	7	7	7	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
Shoal River Buffer	2010	Critical Natural Lands	29	29	29	28	29	31	31	31	33	30	33
South Goethe	2006	Critical Natural Lands	16	15	16	18	19	19	20	20	19	19	18
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	1994	Critical Natural Lands	30	30	30	29	30	32	32	32	34	29	31
Spruce Creek	1990	Substantially Complete	5	5	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	5	6
Star Lake Connector	2026	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Strategic Managed Area Lands List	2018	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	6	8	8	8	8	7	5	6
Suwannee County Preservation	2010	Less-Than-Fee	30	29	28	29	33	33	34	33	34	38	40
Taylor Sweetwater Creek	2017	Climate Change Lands	0	0	10	10	10	11	8	8	8	9	7
Terra Ceia	1996	Climate Change Lands	11	12	12	14	13	13	11	10	11	10	9
Tupelo Honey Timberlands	2025	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	32
Twelvemile Slough	2001	Critical Natural Lands	18	17	17	16	17	21	22	24	21	24	22
Upper Shoal River	2003	Critical Natural Lands	31	31	31	30	32	36	35	35	36	27	30
Volusia Conservation Corridor	2001	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	10	10	10	9	9	8	7	6	5	5	5
Waccasassa Watershed	2024	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	20	22
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	1997	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	5	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
Watermelon Pond	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	18	18	18	19	20	18	19	19	19	24	20
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	1995	Critical Natural Lands	4	4	4	5	5	6	3	6	4	4	5

Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Welannee Watershed Forest	2020	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	16	27	29	30
Welles Ranch	2024	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	24	30
West Bay Preservation Area	2012	Climate Change Lands	10	10	10	11	12	12	9	9	9	37	6
Williamson Cattle Company	2024	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	29	33
Wilson Ranch	2021	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	34	37	38
Withlacoochee River Corridor	2020	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18	19	17	19

APPENDIX B

Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries

of Hearings/Meetings

January through December 2025

APPENDIX B

Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries of Hearings/Meetings

January through December 2025

Council Meeting, Feb. 10, 2025

ARC took the following actions:

- Approved the Dec. 12–13, 2024, meeting summaries.
- Reviewed the negative response staff report.
- Reviewed land management review reports completed between July and December 2024.
- Approved a 10-year update to the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area management plan (Dixie/Taylor counties).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Yamato Scrub Natural Area management plan (Palm Beach County).
- Approved a 2.27-acre public transportation easement and a 0.131-acre temporary construction easement to the Florida Department of Transportation, within Sebastian Inlet State Park (Brevard/Indian River counties).
- Approved the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Division of State Lands Annual Florida Forever work plan for presentation to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- Approved re-evaluations to the Annutteliga Hammock (Citrus/Hernando counties), Bombing Range Ridge (Highlands/Osceola/Polk counties), Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (Brevard County), Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods (Charlotte/Lee counties), Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem (Highlands/Lake/Osceola/Polk counties), Longleaf Pine Ecosystem (Gilchrist/Hamilton/Madison/Marion/Volusia counties), Pal-Mar (Martin/Palm Beach), Pine Island Slough Ecosystem (Indian River/Osceola counties), Sand Mountain (Bay/Washington counties), Terra Ceia (Manatee Counties), Volusia Conservation Corridor (Flagler/Volusia counties), Watermelon Pond (Alachua/Levy counties) and Wekiva-Ocala Greenway (Lake/Orange/Seminole/Volusia counties) Florida Forever project boundaries.
- Approved a 522-acre addition to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Jefferson County).
- Approved a 1,249-acre addition to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Jefferson County).
- Approved a 435-acre addition to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands County).
- Approved a 731-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever project boundary (Columbia County).
- Approved a 592-acre addition to the Ranch Reserve Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands County).

Palatka Regional Public Hearing, March 4, 2025

Heard public testimony from Willy the Losen (Public Land Conservancy) and Mark McManus (U.S. Navy) who both spoke in favor of the Hog Island proposal.

Bradenton Regional Hearing, March 11, 2025

No public comments received.

Tallahassee Regional Hearing and Council Meeting, April 11, 2025

Heard public testimony from Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Hog Island proposal; Mark McManus (U.S. Navy), who spoke in favor of the Hog Island proposal; Debra Woithe (Manatee County), who spoke in favor of the Myakka Corridor Addition proposal; Jono Miller (private citizen), who spoke in favor of the Myakka Corridor Addition proposal; Al Russell (Terra Land Group), who spoke in favor of the St. Marks River Basin proposal; Wendy Matthews (The Nature Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Teal Timber proposal; and Jace Ford and Chris Rudd (Liberty County Clerk of Courts), who spoke in opposition to the Teal Timber proposal.

After a brief recess, ARC took the following actions:

- Approved the Feb. 14, March 4 and March 11, 2025, meeting summaries.
- Reviewed the negative response staff report.
- Approved a 10-year update to the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area management plan (Franklin/Gulf counties).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area management plan (Charlotte/Lee counties).
- Approved a 10-year update to the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area management plan (Palm Beach County).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area management plan (Highlands/Polk counties).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area management plan (Hernando County).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area management plan (Glades County).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Okaloacoochee State Forest management plan (Collier/Hendry counties).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway management plan (Leon County).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Huguenot Memorial Park management plan (Duval County).
- Approved an amendment to the Newnans Lake State Forest management plan (Alachua County).

- Determined that a private conservation easement over 3.76 acres in Palm Beach County fulfilled a clearly delineated state conservation policy and yielded a significant public benefit.
- Approved project evaluation reports for the Hog Island (Putnam County), Myakka Corridor Addition (Manatee County), St. Marks River Basin (Wakulla County) and Teal Timber (Gulf/Calhoun/Liberty counties) 2025 Cycle 1 Florida Forever project proposals.
- Added the Hog Island (Putnam County), Myakka Corridor Addition (Manatee County), St. Marks River Basin (Wakulla County), and Teal Timber (Gulf/Calhoun/Liberty counties) 2025 Cycle 1 Florida Forever project proposals to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List. ARC then added the Hog Island proposal to the St. Johns River Blueway project, the Myakka Corridor proposal to the Myakka Ranchlands project and the Teal Timberlands proposal to the Apalachicola River project.
- Approved a 1,395-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam County).
- Approved a 1,623-acre addition to the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor Florida Forever project boundary (Flagler County).
- Approved a 225-acre addition to the Ranch Reserve Florida Forever project boundary (Brevard County).
- Approved a 4-acre addition to the Southeastern Bast Maternity Caves Florida Forever project boundary (Jackson County).

Council Meeting, June 13, 2025

ARC took the following actions:

- Introduced ARC members and reviewed Council responsibilities.
- Approved a 0.38-acre private access easement within Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (Alachua County).
- Approved a 352-acre addition to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Glades County).
- Approved a 2,470-acre addition to the Green Swamp Florida Forever project boundary (Lake County).
- Approved a 347-acre addition to the Green Swamp Florida Forever project boundary (Polk County).
- Approved a 1,305-acre addition to the South Goethe Florida Forever project boundary (Marion County).
- Approved a 272-acre addition to the St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam County).
- Approved a 660-acre addition to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project boundary (Hardee County).

Council Meeting, June 13, 2025

ARC took the following actions:

- Approved the April 11 and May 21, 2025, meeting summaries.
- Reviewed the negative response staff report.
- Approved a 10-year update to the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area management plan (Palm Beach County).
- Approved a 10-year management plan for the Kissimmee Bend State Forest (Okeechobee County).
- Heard public testimony from Keith Fountain (Keith Fountain Law), who who spoke in favor of both the Camp Hammock and Gooski Pasture proposals; Melissa Hill (Trust for Public Land), who spoke in favor of the Creeks to Choctawhatchee River proposal; Ryan Mullis (Norris and Company Realty), who spoke in favor of the Davis and Ingram Ranches proposal; Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group), who spoke in favor of the Hawkins Ranch proposal; Jeremiah Thompson (Saunders Real Estate), who spoke in favor of the Fort Drum to Cow Creek Conservation Corridor, X Bar Ranch and Mays Island Conservation Corridor proposals; Erica Hernandez (Trust for Public Land), who spoke in favor of the Peace River Ranch proposal; Joanna Rielly-Brown (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Ridge Manor Gap proposal; Eugene Kelly (Florida Native Plant Society), who spoke in favor of the Ridge Manor Gap proposal; Kristen Nowak (Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation), who spoke in favor of the Ridge Manor Gap proposal; and Susan Carr (Alachua Conservation Trust), who spoke in favor of the Star Lake Connector proposal.
- Voted unanimously to approve further evaluation of the Camp Hammock (Osceola County), Creeks to Choctawhatchee River (Walton County), Davis and Ingram Ranches (Polk County), Fort Drum to Cow Creek Conservation Corridor (Okeechobee County), Gooski Prairie (Marion County), Hawkins Ranch (Sarasota County), Mays Island Conservation Corridor (Jefferson/Madison counties), Peace River Ranch (DeSoto County), Ridge Manor Gap (Hernando County), Star Lake Connector (Putnam County) and X Bar Ranch (Glades County) 2025 Cycle 2 Florida Forever project proposals.
- Approved a 179-acre addition to the Apalachicola River Florida Forever project boundary (Jackson County).
- Approved a 476-acre addition to the Apalachicola River Florida Forever project boundary (Gadsden County).
- Approved a 151-acre addition to the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Florida Forever project boundary (Hendry County).
- Approved a 9-acre addition to the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Monroe County).
- Approved a 660-acre addition to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project boundary (Hardee County).
- Approved a 689-acre addition to the Mill Creek Florida Forever project boundary (Marion County).
- Approved an 802-acre addition to the Old Town Creek Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Hardee County).
- Approved a 7-acre addition to the Pumpkin Hill Creek Florida Forever project boundary (Duval County).

- Approved a 593-acre addition to the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project boundary (DeSota/Hardee counties).
- Approved an 898-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Dixie/Madison/Taylor counties).
- Approved a 10-acre reduction to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Collier/Lee counties).
- Approved a 14-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Volusia County).
- Approved a 52-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Charlotte County).

Council Meeting, Aug. 8, 2025

ARC took the following actions:

- Approved the June 2025 meeting summary.
- Reviewed the negative response staff report and ARC negative response process responsibilities.
- Heard an update by the Division of State Lands' Bureau of Real Estate Services on acquisition efforts during Fiscal Year 2024-25.
- Approved re-evaluations of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, Florida Springs Coastal Greenway, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Northeast Florida Blueway, Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve, Pierce Mound Complex, Pumpkin Hill Creek, St. Joe Timberland and St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever projects.
- Approved a 0.10-acre reduction from the Florida Keys Florida Forever project boundary (Monroe County)
- Approved a 114-acre addition to the Crayfish Habitat Restoration Florida Forever project boundary (Bay County).
- Approved a 58-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam County).
- Approved a 20-acre addition to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs Florida Forever project boundary (Hamilton County).
- Approved a 114-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Brevard/Gulf counties).
- Heard a presentation by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Rural and Family Lands Protection Program's 2025 Acquisition List.

Palatka Regional Hearing, Aug. 11, 2025

ARC heard public testimony from Kai Sucsy (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Star Lake Connector proposal; Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Star Lake Connector proposal; and Susan Carr (Alachua Conservation Trust), who spoke in favor of the Star Lake Connector proposal.

Silver River State Park Regional Hearing, Aug. 13, 2025

ARC heard public testimony from Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Gooski Prairie proposal; and Joanna Reilly-Brown (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Ridge Manor Gap proposal.

DeFuniak Springs Regional Hearing, Aug. 18, 2025

ARC heard public testimony from Derek Breakfield (Nokuse Plantation) and Jeff Tolbert (Atlanta Botanical Gardens), who both spoke in favor of the Creeks to Choctawhatchee River proposal.

Bartow Regional Hearing, Aug. 28, 2025

ARC heard public testimony from Tabitha Biehl (Polk County) and Kelly Quinn (private citizen), who both spoke in favor of the Davis and Ingram Ranches proposal.

Arcadia Regional Hearing, Sept. 9, 2025

No public comments received.

Tallahassee Regional Public Hearing and Council Meeting, Oct. 10, 2025

ARC heard public testimony from Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Hog Island proposal; Mark McManus (U.S. Navy), who spoke in favor of the Hog Island proposal; Debra Woithe (Manatee County), who spoke in favor of the Myakka Corridor Addition proposal; Jono Miller (private citizen), who spoke in favor of the Myakka Corridor Addition proposal; Al Russell (Terra Land Group), who spoke in favor of the St. Marks River Basin proposal; Wendy Matthews (The Nature Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Teal Timber proposal; Jace Ford (Liberty County), who spoke in opposition to the Teal Timber proposal; and Chris Rudd (Liberty County), who spoke in opposition to the Teal Timber proposal.

After a brief recess, ARC took the following actions:

- Approved meeting summaries for the Aug. 8, 2025, ARC meeting, and the Aug. 11, Aug. 13, Aug. 18, Aug. 28 and Sept.10, 2025, regional public hearings.
- Approved the 2026 ARC calendar.
- Reviewed the negative response staff report.
- Reviewed the annual land management review team annual findings and the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council 2025 biennial and annual reports.
- Reviewed the 2025 Division of State Lands conservation easement monitoring report.
- Approved the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve management plan (Miami-Dade County).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area management plan (Santa Rosa County).

- Approved a 0.32-acre public right-of-way easement to the Florida Department of Transportation easement within Lake Talquin State Forest (Okaloosa County).
- Approved a 4.98-acre public utility easement within the Balm-Boyette Scrub Nature Preserve (Martin County).
- Determined that 1) 60 acres of state-owned land managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Withlacoochee State Forest was no longer needed for conservation purposes, and 2) exchanging the 60-acre parcel for 134 acres of private land resulted in a net positive benefit (Citrus County).
- Approved project evaluation reports for the Camp Hammock (Osceola County), Creeks to Choctawhatchee River (Walton County), Davis and Ingram Ranches (Polk County), Gooski Prairie (Marion County), Hawkins Ranch (Sarasota County), Mays Island Conservation Corridor (Jefferson/Madison counties), Peace River State Forest Addition (DeSoto County), Ridge Manor Gap (Hernando County), Star Lake Connector (Putnam County) and X Bar Ranch (Glades County) 2025 Cycle 2 Florida Forever proposals.
- Voted to add the Camp Hammock (Osceola County), Creeks to Choctawhatchee River (Walton County), Davis and Ingram Ranches (Polk County), Gooski Prairie (Marion County), Hawkins Ranch (Sarasota County), Mays Island Conservation Corridor (Jefferson/Madison counties), Peace River State Forest Addition (DeSoto County), Ridge Manor Gap (Hernando County), Star Lake Connector (Putnam County) and X Bar Ranch (Glades County) proposals to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List. ARC also added the Davis and Ingram Ranches proposal to the Catfish Creek project, the Peace River State Forest Addition proposal to the Peace River Refuge project and the X Bar Ranch proposal to the Fisheating Creek project.
- Approved a 533-acre addition to the Apalachicola River project (Calhoun/Gadsden/Jackson/Liberty counties), a 208-acre addition to the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project (Franklin/Wakulla counties), a 681-acre addition to the Sand Mountain project (Bay/Washington counties), a 4,508-acre reduction to the St. Joe Timberland project and a 3,086-acre addition to the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Florida Forever project (Leon/Wakulla counties).
- Approved the Division of State Lands' recommendation to remove the Deer Creek Ranch (DeSoto County), Eight Mile Property (Dixie County) and Floyd's Mound (Madison County) projects from the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.
- Approved a 28-acre addition to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Jefferson County).
- Approved a 141-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam County).
- Approved an 81-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam County).
- Approved a 24-acre addition to the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Levy County).
- Approved an 84-acre addition to the Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone Florida Forever project boundary (Gadsden County).

- Approved a 1,318-acre addition to the Mill Creek Florida Forever project boundary (Marion County).
- Approved a 2,970-acre addition to the San Pedro Bay Florida Forever project boundary (Madison/Taylor counties).
- Heard a presentation from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory on the Florida Forever ranking tool.

Public Hearing Dec. 11, 2025

ARC heard public testimony in favor of the 2025 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals. Rick Dantzler (Keith Fountain Law), who spoke virtually in favor of the 61 Ranch proposal; Richard Durr (Seminole County), who spoke virtually in favor of the Hi Oaks Ranch proposal; Brian Aungst (landowner representative), who spoke in favor of the Mandalay Point proposal; and Andreas Versteegh (Haiseal Timber), who spoke in favor of the Shoal River Timberlands proposal.

ARC heard presentations on proposed boundary amendments. Dean Cox (FWC), who spoke in favor of both the Annutteliga Hammock/Njoy Spirits and Strategic Managed Area Lands List/Tenoroc-Kersey boundary amendments; Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Little Orange Creek Corridor/Fox Pen Lakes boundary amendment; Kai Sucsy (Putnam Land Conservancy), who spoke in favor of the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor/Crescent View Farms boundary amendment; Earl Pearson (DEP/Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection), who spoke in favor of the Strategic Managed Area Lands List/Bird Key boundary amendment; Tim Telfer (Volusia County), who spoke in favor of the Volusia Conservation Corridor/Tomoka Farms boundary amendment; and Keith Fountain (Keith Fountain Law), who spoke in favor of the Williamson Cattle Company/Grace Land Ranch boundary amendment.

ARC received general public testimony in favor of several existing Florida Forever projects. Keith Fountain (Keith Fountain Law), who spoke virtually in support of the Camp Hammock, Gooski and Mill Creek projects.

Council Meeting, Dec. 12, 2025

ARC took the following actions:

- Approved the Oct. 10, 2025, meeting summary.
- Reviewed negative response staff report.
- Approved a 10-year update to the Suwannee Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area management plan (Hamilton County).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Big Shoals State Forest management plan (Hamilton County).
- Approved the Pablo Creek Conservation Area management plan (Duval County).
- Approved a 10-year update to the Balm-Boyette Scrub Preserve management plan (Palm Beach County).

- Determined that 1) 1.61 acres of state-owned land managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Blackwater River State Forest was no longer needed for conservation purposes, and 2) that exchanging 1.61 acres of state-owned land for 5.18 acres of private land provided a net conservation benefit.
- Approved the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.
- Voted to initiate detailed review of the Hi Oaks Ranch, Mandalay Point, 61 Ranch and Shoal River Timberlands 2026 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals.
- Approved a 217-acre reduction to the Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone Florida Forever project (Gadsden County).
- Approved a 40-acre addition to the Annutteliga Hammock Forever project boundary (Hernando County).
- Approved a 592-acre addition to the Little Orange Creek Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam County).
- Approved a 1,117-acre addition to the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor Florida Forever project boundary (Levy County).
- Approved a 27-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Forever project boundary (Miami-Dade County).
- Approved a 30-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Polk County).
- Approved a 293-acre addition to the Volusia Conservation Corridor Florida Forever project boundary (Volusia County).

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APPENDIX C

Florida Forever Project Evaluation Comparative Analysis November 2025

as provided by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Florida Forever Comparative Analysis Report
November 2025

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 provides a concise overview of the natural resource values of each existing and proposed Florida Forever project. A Single Resource Evaluation is provided for each of eleven resource types outlined in the Florida Forever Act. The F-TRAC 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.

Data Updates

This evaluation is based on Version 5.2 of the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment (FFCNA) data layers. FFCNA resource data are continually updated as new information becomes available. Version 5.2 includes updates for Strategic Habitat Conservation Ares, Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities, Under-represented Natural Communities, Greenways, Significant Surface Waters, Wetlands, Natural Floodplain, and Sustainable Forestry. This version also reflects revisions to the F-TRAC methodology that were recommended by the Florida Forever Expert Working Group, which met several times in 2023-24 to review and guide this work. Details are described in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report, v5.2 and the Ranking Support Analyses Documentation for November 2025.

Acreage Threshold

The F-TRAC scenarios evaluate conservation value based on a set amount of acreage to be acquired. The closer this acreage threshold is to the amount of land likely to be acquired by the Florida Forever program, the more relevant F-TRAC scores will be for project comparison. Given the open-ended duration and dynamic funding of the program, a precise estimate of acreage to be acquired is not practical. Starting in 2022, for the purposes of this evaluation, a threshold of half of the remaining area of proposed projects (ca. 1,043,000 acres for 2025) was deemed a reasonable projection of acquisitions over time and used as the amount of land targeted in the current F-TRAC Scenarios.

F-TRAC Statewide Scenario

This scenario is a statewide analysis to identify the best opportunities to acquire multiple resources in the same location. Of the approximately 1,043,000 acres allocated, 18% occur on projects; the remaining 82% occur elsewhere in the state on other unprotected lands. 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 on Florida Forever Projects

This scenario evaluates only within existing and proposed Florida Forever-BOT projects for the best opportunities to acquire multiple resources in the same location. That is, the approximately 1,043,000 acres projected to be acquired by Florida Forever-BOT are 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.

Complete documentation for Ranking Support Analyses (Single Resource Evaluation, F-TRAC analysis and Ranking Support Data Layers), as well as other formats of the *Comparative Analysis* may be downloaded from the FNAI website at https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever.

Florida Forever Project Evaluation Comparative Analysis, November 2025

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. All values are assigned based on F-TRAC and single resource analyses without regard to Acquisition Categories. Seven resource types are included in F-TRAC scenarios: Species, Communities, Surface Waters, Wetlands & Floodplain, Sustainable Forestry, Aquifer Recharge and Landscapes. Other resources and measures shown in the table are not included in F-TRAC scenarios. Values indicate how well a project scores for each resource, from high (5) to low (1).

Category*	Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	F-TRAC Statewide	F-TRAC on FL Forever Projects	Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands & Floodplain	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Cultural Resources (Archael & Historic)	Trails Network	*FL Natl Scenic Trail corridor*	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change Sea Level Rise
CNL	68,369	12%	Apalachicola River	2	3	5	2	4	4	3	1	4	5	3	x	1	4
CNL	2,957	80%	Avalon	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	4	1		1	1
CNL	1,910	0%	Bar-B Ranch	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	3	2	1		3	1
CNL	86,391	15%	Bear Creek Forest	2	2	2	2	4	2	5	2	5	2	3		1	1
CNL	4,689	0%	Bear Hammock	2	5	2	2	3	2	3	5	3	3	4		4	1
CNL	4,648	83%	Belle Meade	2	4	4	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1		3	1
CNL	40,936	5%	Blue Head Ranch	5	4	5	3	3	2	2	3	5	3	2		5	1
CNL	25,723	45%	Bombing Range Ridge	5	5	5	4	3	2	3	3	5	2	2	x	5	1
CNL	7,264	63%	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	4	4	5	2	3	2	2	2	5	3	3		4	1
CNL	26,842	6%	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	5	2	2		2	1
CNL	29,725	64%	Devil's Garden	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	1	5	2	3	x	4	1
CNL	48,915	50%	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	5	3	4	x	4	1
CNL	54,862	0%	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	3	3	3	2	3	2	4	3	4	5	5	x	1	1
CNL	5,913	1%	Gardner Marsh	5	5	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	1		5	1
CNL	11,182	0%	Half Circle L Ranch	2	3	5	2	4	3	2	2	4	3	1		4	1
CNL	18,503	23%	Hixtown Swamp	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	4		1	1
CNL	1,707	39%	Ichetucknee Trace	2	5	2	1	3	1	2	4	2	2	1		2	1
CNL	3,380	50%	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	3	4	5	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	1		5	1
CNL	18,221	72%	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	4	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	4	2	4		5	1
CNL	7,908	66%	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	4	5	2	5	1	2	3	5	4	4	1		5	1
CNL	20,889	55%	Osceola Pine Savannas	4	5	5	2	5	2	2	3	5	2	2	x	5	1
CNL	38,191	43%	Panther Glades	2	3	4	2	3	3	2	2	5	2	3		4	1
CNL	2,162	69%	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	2	2	1	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	3		1	2
CNL	21,783	55%	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	4	3	2	x	5	1
CNL	38,653	80%	Pinhook Swamp	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	5	3	2	x	2	1
CNL	49,823	0%	San Pedro Bay	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	5	4	1	x	1	1
CNL	959	56%	Shoal River Buffer	2	3	2	3	4	4	2	1	2	2	1		1	1
CNL	11,865	3%	South Goethe	4	4	2	3	3	2	3	4	4	3	4		4	1
CNL	583	3%	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	3	3	4	2	2	3	2	3	1	3	2		5	1
CNL	4,711	0%	St. Marks River Basin	2	3	3	2	4	1	4	3	3	5	3		1	4
CNL	4,807	0%	Star Lake Connector	1	2	2	2	3	2	4	4	3	2	1		3	1
CNL	9,222	8%	Strategic Managed Area Lands List	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	4	5	5	x	5	3
CNL	7,251	55%	Twelvemile Slough	5	5	5	1	3	3	2	1	5	3	3		4	1
CNL	11,208	18%	Upper Shoal River	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	1	2	3	1		1	2
CNL	20,973	74%	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	3	4	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	4	4	x	4	3
PRI	7,869	59%	Annutteliga Hammock	3	4	3	3	1	2	2	5	3	4	2		4	1
PRI	8,179	43%	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	54,598	2%	Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	3	4	4		2	5
PRI	39,397	63%	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	4	4	4	x	1	2
PRI	8,374	8%	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	3		2	1
PRI	11,881	65%	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	4		3	2
PRI	458	72%	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	4	1		3	1
PRI	6,343	73%	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	2	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	2,474	51%	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	5	5	2	3	4	1	3	1	3	3	3		1	1
PRI	29,485	58%	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	3	5	5	2	4	4	2	2	5	2	2		4	1
PRI	2,462	0%	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3		1	2
PRI	2,231	0%	Creeks To Choctawhatchee River	2	2	1	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	1		1	1
PRI	12,418	0%	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	2	5	3	2	3	2	3	5	2	2	1		4	1
PRI	218	74%	Dade County Archipelago	5	4	4	5	2	1	1	3	1	3	2		3	1
PRI	2,834	33%	Flagler County Blueway	3	3	1	3	3	2	2	3	2	4	4		3	3
PRI	6,916	63%	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	3	5	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	4	x	5	2
PRI	154,114	43%	Green Swamp	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	4	4	3	4	x	5	1
PRI	7,415	13%	Hall Ranch	3	5	5	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	2		3	1
PRI	9,671	53%	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	4	x	4	1
PRI	14,389	49%	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	4	5		5	4
PRI	10,256	22%	Lafayette Forest	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	4	3	3	1		2	1
PRI	8,447	20%	Lake Santa Fe	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	x	3	1
PRI	3,925	0%	Little Orange Creek Corridor	5	4	2	4	2	2	3	4	3	4	1		3	1
PRI	4,693	0%	Lochloosa Forest	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	3	2	1		3	1
PRI	12,084	18%	Middle Chipola River	2	3	5	1	4	2	3	2	2	4	3	x	1	1
PRI	59,447	57%	Northeast FL Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	1	4	2	3		3	3
PRI	7,027	80%	Pal-Mar	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	3	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	8,446	0%	Pringle Creek Forest	1	2	2	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	2		3	1
PRI	6,148	71%	Pumpkin Hill Creek	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	1	2	3	2		2	4
PRI	900	27%	Rainbow River Corridor	4	5	3	2	3	1	2	4	2	4	3	x	4	2
PRI	2,307	20%	Ridge Manor Gap	4	5	2	2	3	2	2	5	3	2	4	x	4	1
PRI	15,003	55%	Sand Mountain	5	5	2	4	3	2	4	3	4	3	3	x	1	1
PRI	20,864	76%	Volusia Conservation Corridor	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	5	5	3		4	3
PRI	7,725	83%	Waccasassa Watershed	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	3	5	3		3	1
PRI	6,359	47%	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	3	5	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	3		1	3
PRI	4,020	63%	Watermelon Pond	3	5	4	4	1	2	3	5	2	2	2		3	1
PRI	9,207	0%	Welannee Watershed Forest	3	2	4	2	4	2	2	1	3	4	1		1	1
PRI	451	0%	Wilson Ranch	1	5	0	1	3	2	1	3	1	3	2		5	1
LTF	24,117	30%	Adams Ranch	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	5	2		5	1
LTF	5,695	7%	Ayavalla Plantation	1	2	4	1	3	2	2	3	2	4	3		1	1
LTF	1,155	0%	Baker County Timberlands	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	1		2	1
LTF	53,510	0%	Big Bend Forest	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	4	3	2		2	1
LTF	31,463	42%	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	5	2	2	x	5	1
LTF	2,745	79%	Bluefield to Cow Creek	2	4	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	1		4	1
LTF	1,016	0%	Bowlegs Creek Watershed	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	3	2	2	1		5	1
LTF	8,982	0%	Camp Hammock	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	3	3	3	2	x	5	1
LTF	87,971	12%	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	2	2	2	2	4	2	4	1	5	3	2		1	1

Category*	Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	F-TRAC Statewide	F-TRAC on FL Forever Projects	Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands & Floodplain	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Cultural Resources (Archael & Historic)	Trails Network	*FL Natl Scenic Trail corridor*	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change Sea Level Rise
LTF	3,522	61%	Conlin Lake X	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		4	1
LTF	2,214	0%	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	3	3	4	2	3	1	1	3	3	2	1		5	1
LTF	639	0%	Fair Bluff	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1		4	1
LTF	99,665	49%	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	4	4	5	2	3	2	3	3	5	3	2		5	1
LTF	23,298	0%	Gilchrist Club	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	4		3	1
LTF	12,880	0%	Gooski Prairie	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	3	1		4	1
LTF	25,611	0%	Gulf Hammock	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	3	1		4	5
LTF	3,311	0%	Hawkins Ranch	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	3	3	2	2		3	1
LTF	4,266	60%	Heartland Wildlife Corridor	2	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	5	2		5	1
LTF	5,847	14%	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	4	2	2	1		1	1
LTF	28,541	36%	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	3	3	4	2	3	2	2	3	5	3	1		4	1
LTF	1,075	0%	Larkin Ranch	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	4	1	3	1		4	1
LTF	377	0%	Lettuce Creek Cattle Company	5	5	3	3	3	2	2	3	1	2	1		5	1
LTF	6,382	0%	Limestone Ranch	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	2		4	1
LTF	2,293	0%	Little River Conservation Area	1	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	3	2		1	1
LTF	2,271	71%	Lower Perdido River Buffer	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	3	1		1	1
LTF	90,311	7%	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	5	2	3		3	5
LTF	3,826	0%	Mays Island Conservation Corridor	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	1		1	1
LTF	1,612	79%	Maytown Flatwoods	4	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	1		3	1
LTF	12,144	15%	Mill Creek	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	4	2	1		3	1
LTF	83	53%	Millstone Plantation	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	1		1	1
LTF	26,832	53%	Myakka Ranchlands	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3		4	1
LTF	15,065	3%	North Waccasassa Flats	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	5	1		2	1
LTF	3,060	39%	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	2	3	4	2	5	3	3	2	3	3	3		1	1
LTF	2,065	79%	Old Town Creek Watershed	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	1		5	1
LTF	6,458	16%	Peace River Refuge	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	3		4	3
LTF	67,335	2%	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	5	4	4	x	2	1
LTF	5,927	84%	Ranch Reserve	4	5	4	2	3	2	2	3	5	2	1		4	1
LTF	8,151	55%	Red Hills Conservation	5	5	2	5	3	2	4	3	3	4	1		1	1
LTF	376	0%	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	3	2		3	1
LTF	1,254	0%	Suwannee County Preservation	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	4	1		2	1
LTF	2,179	0%	Tupelo Honey Timberlands	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	1	3	2	1		1	1
LTF	1,183	0%	Welles Ranch	1	5	0	1	3	2	2	1	3	4	1		3	1
LTF	4,402	41%	Williamson Cattle Company	2	2	0	1	3	1	1	2	2	3	1		4	1
LTF	2,482	24%	Withlacoochee River Corridor	2	5	0	1	3	3	2	4	3	2	2		4	1
CCL	629	78%	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	4	3	4	3	3	4	1	1	1	2	3		1	1
CCL	5,301	61%	Florida Keys Ecosystem	4	5	5	3	3	4	1	1	1	5	5		3	2
CCL	1,171	2%	Ford Marsh	2	2	1	2	4	4	1	1	2	4	1		3	1
CCL	2,998	60%	Garcon Ecosystem	2	2	2	2	5	4	2	1	2	4	4		1	3
CCL	4,645	72%	Northeast Florida Blueway	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	4	4		3	2
CCL	45,330	58%	St. Joe Timberland	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	1	3	4	3		1	5
CCL	14,228	42%	St. Johns River Blueway	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	4	4		3	3
CCL	4,079	0%	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	x	1	4
CCL	1,674	59%	Terra Ceia	2	2	1	2	5	5	1	1	1	4	1		3	2
CCL	4,562	1%	West Bay Preservation Area	2	2	0	2	4	3	2	2	2	5	3		1	3
SC	111	88%	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	5	4	4	4	3	4	1	1	1	3	4		3	2
SC	2,989	85%	Catfish Creek	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	1		5	1
SC	2,778	89%	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	3	5	3	3	4	5	2	1	3	4	4		1	3
SC	6,123	85%	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	4	4	3	2	4	5	1	1	3	4	3		4	1
SC	3,813	88%	Lochloosa Wildlife	2	2	2	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	3		3	1
SC	7,615	87%	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	3	2		3	2
SC	12	100%	Save Our Everglades	1	3	5	1	4	5	1	3	1	3	1		3	1
SC	334	88%	Spruce Creek	4	5	2	5	3	2	1	3	1	4	2		3	2
CHR	1,154	29%	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	1	5	3	1	2	4	2	4	3	5	1		4	1
CHR	357	36%	Pierce Mound Complex	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	1	1	5	1		1	2
CHR	136	35%	Pineland Site Complex	2	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	5	1		3	1

*CNL - Critical Natural Lands; PRI = Partnerships & Regional Incentives; LTF = Less-Than-Fee; CCL = Climate Change Lands; SC = Substantially Complete; CHR = Critical Historical Resources

Cultural resource values were provided by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources.
Remaining acres and Percent Complete based on FF_acquired and FNAI managed areas databases as of 15 October 2025.

F-TRAC Scenarios

There are more resources in Florida worthy of acquisition than can be acquired by the Florida Forever program. The F-TRAC scenarios identify a portfolio of sites that is best able to meet resource targets given an acreage that is approximately half of the remaining area of proposed projects (ca. 1,043,000 acres).

The **F-TRAC Statewide** scenario looks statewide, both on and off projects, for the best portfolio of sites to protect multiple resources.

- 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 on FFBOT Projects** scenario looks only within existing projects for the best the best portfolio of sites to protect multiple 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.
- This scenario is useful for comparing projects to each other and can help inform decisions on project ranking.

Category	Remaining Acres
Critical Natural Lands	713,120
Partnerships & Reg. Incentives	569,036
Less-Than-Fee	693,591
Climate Change Lands	84,617
Substantially Complete	23,775
Critical Historical Resources	1,647
Total	**2,085,786**

Key

5	Very High
4	High
3	Medium
2	Medium-Low
1	Low

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

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APPENDIX D

2026 Florida Forever Project Distribution by County

APPENDIX D

2026 Florida Forever Project Distribution by County

County	Project
Alachua	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub, Lake Santa Fe, Little Orange Creek Corridor, Lochloosa Forest, Lochloosa Wildlife, San Felasco Conservation Corridor, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Watermelon Pond
Baker	Baker County Timberlands, Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Pinhook Swamp, Raiford to Osceola Greenway
Bay	Bear Creek Forest, Crayfish Habitat Restoration, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Forest and Lakes Ecosystem, St. Joe Timberland, Sand Mountain, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, West Bay Preservation Area
Bradford	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Lake Santa Fe
Brevard	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Maytown Flatwoods, Ranch Reserve, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Broward	Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Calhoun	Apalachicola River, Bear Creek Forest, Middle Chipola River
Charlotte	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods, Hall Ranch, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Welles Ranch
Citrus	Annutteliga Hammock, Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Florida Springs Coastal Greenway, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Rainbow River Corridor, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves, Withlacoochee River Corridor
Clay	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve, St. Johns River Blueway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Collier	Belle Meade, Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, Devil's Garden, Half Circle L Ranch, Save Our Everglades, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Columbia	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Ichetucknee Trace, Pinhook Swamp, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
DeSoto	Myakka Ranchlands, Peace River Refuge
Dixie	Big Bend Forest, Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed, Strategic Managed Area Lands List

County	Project
Duval	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River, Northeast Florida Blueway, Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve, Pumpkin Hill Creek
Escambia	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest, Lower Perdido River Buffer, Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie
Flagler	Flagler County Blueway, Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor, Northeast Florida Blueway, Pringle Creek Forest, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Volusia Conservation Corridor
Franklin	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Pierce Mound Complex, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Gadsden	Apalachicola River, Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone, Little River Conservation Area, Ochlockonee River Conservation Area, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Gilchrist	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Gilchrist Club, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, North Waccasassa Flats, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Glades	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape, Fisheating Creek Ecosystem, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Gulf	Apalachicola River, Bear Creek Forest, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Tupelo Honey Timberlands
Hamilton	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, Pinhook Swamp, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Hardee	Heartland Wildlife Corridor, Limestone Ranch, Old Town Creek Watershed, Peace River Refuge
Hendry	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape, Devil's Garden, Half Circle L Ranch, Panther Glades, Twelvemile Slough
Hernando	Annutteliga Hammock, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Ridge Manor Gap, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Withlacoochee River Corridor
Highlands	Blue Head Ranch, Bombing Range Ridge, Eastern Scarp Ranchlands, Fisheating Creek Ecosystem, Heartland Wildlife Corridor, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Lettuce Creek Cattle Company, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Hillsborough	Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Holmes	No current projects.
Indian River	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector, Pine Island Slough Ecosystem, Ranch Reserve
Jackson	Apalachicola River, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Middle Chipola River, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves
Jefferson	Avalon, Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed, Mays Island Conservation Corridor, Red Hills Conservation,
Lafayette	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Lafayette Forest, Strategic Managed Area Lands List

County	Project
Lake	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Green Swamp, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wekiva- Ocala Greenway
Lee	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods, Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, Pineland Site Complex
Leon	Ayavalla Plantation, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Millstone Plantation, Ochlockonee River Conservation Area, Red Hills Conservation, St. Joe Timberland, Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
Levy	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Gulf Hammock, Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed, South Goethe, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Waccasassa Watershed, Watermelon Pond
Liberty	Apalachicola River, Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Madison	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Hixtown Swamp, Mays Island Conservation Corridor, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, San Pedro Bay
Manatee	Myakka Ranchlands, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Terra Ceia
Marion	Bear Hammock, Carr Farm/Price's Scrub, Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Gooski Prairie, Heather Island/Ocklawaha River, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, Mill Creek, Rainbow River Corridor, South Goethe, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves
Martin	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem, Bar-B Ranch, Fair Bluff, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Pal-Mar
Miami-Dade	Dade County Archipelago, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Monroe	Coupon Bight/Key Deer, Florida Keys Ecosystem
Nassau	Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor, Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River, Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve
Okaloosa	Shoal River Buffer, Welannee Watershed Forest
Okeechobee	Bluefield to Cow Creek, Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector, Williamson Cattle Company
Orange	Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
Osceola	Adams Ranch, Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch, Bombing Range Ridge, Camp Hammock, Conlin Lake X, Gardner Marsh, Lake Hatchineha Watershed, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Osceola Pine Savannas, Pine Island Slough Ecosystem, Ranch Reserve
Palm Beach	Pal-Mar, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Pasco	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch, Green Swamp, Larkin Ranch, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Pinellas	No current projects.

County	Project
Polk	Bombing Range Ridge, Bowlegs Creek Watershed, Catfish Creek, Green Swamp, Lake Hatchineha Watershed, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Old Town Creek Watershed, Wilson Ranch
Putnam	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Little Orange Creek Corridor, Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor, Star Lake Connector, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
St. Johns	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor, Northeast Florida Blueway, St. Johns River Blueway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
St. Lucie	Adams Ranch, Bluefield to Cow Creek, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Santa Rosa	Clear Creek/Whiting Field, Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest, Garcon Ecosystem, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Sarasota	Hawkins Ranch, Myakka Ranchlands
Seminole	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
Sumter	Battle of Wahoo Swamp, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Suwannee	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Suwannee County Preservation
Taylor	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed, San Pedro Bay, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Taylor Sweetwater Creek
Union	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Raiford to Osceola Greenway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Volusia	Ford Marsh, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, Maytown Flatwoods, Spruce Creek, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Volusia Conservation Corridor, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
Wakulla	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, St. Joe Timberland, St. Marks River Basin, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
Walton	Creeks to Choctawhatchee River, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, St. Joe Timberland, Ecosystem, Upper Shoal River
Washington	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Forest and Lakes Ecosystem, St. Joe Timberland, Sand Mountain