



## **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 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).

