



APPENDIX B

Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries of Hearings/Meetings

January through December 2024

Council Meeting, February 10, 2024

There were no announcements. The ARC took the following actions:

- approved the December 7-8, 2023 meeting summaries.
- reviewed negative response items approved since the December 2023 meeting.
- reviewed land management review reports completed between July and October 2023.
- approved the revised 2024 ARC meeting calendar.
- approved the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Division of State Lands (DSL) Annual Florida Forever work plan for presentation to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- approved a 114-acre addition to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Jefferson).
- approved a 2-acre addition to the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Monroe).
- approved a 140-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 183-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 184-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 735-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Santa Rosa).

No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, March 4, 2024

After an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Ms. Laurie Hemke (Conservation Nassau), Ms. Joyce Tuten (Conservation Nassau), Ms. Margaret Kirkland (Conservation Nassau), Ms. Lyn Pannone (Amelia Island Conservancy), Ms. Jane Collins (Philips Enterprises, LLC), Ms. Emily Moore (St. Marys River Keeper), and Mr. Ramesh Buch (North Florida Land Trust) all spoke in favor of the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor proposal.

Mr. Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy) spoke in favor of the Suttlemyre Forest proposal.





Regional Hearing, March 7, 2024

After an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Mr. Patrick Iler (Family Lands Remembered) spoke in favor of the Finca Vigia proposal. Ms. Linda Smythe (Loxahatchee Sierra Club) spoke in favor of the Pal Mar project.

Regional Hearing, March 12, 2024

After an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Ms. Suzanne Larkin (Landowner) and Mr. Peter McClure (Conservation Nassau) both spoke in favor of the Larkin Ranch proposal.

Regional Hearing and Council Meeting, April 12, 2024

After welcoming Meghan Lauer as a new OES employee and an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Mara Gambineri (DEP) called for public comment.

Ms. Rebecca Perry (The Conservation Fund), Ms. Katelyn Potter (St. Johns River Water Management District), and Dr. Mike Allen (University of Florida) spoke in favor of the Big Bend Forest proposal. Mr. Patrick Iler (Family Lands Remembered) spoke in favor of the Finca Vigia proposal. Mr. Tim Telfer (Volusia County) spoke in favor of the Lake Harney proposal. Ms. Suzanne Larkin (Landowner) spoke in favor of the Larkin Ranch proposal. Mr. Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy) and Ms. Julie Perrine (Landowner) spoke in favor of the Suttlemyre Forest proposal. Ms. Rebecca Perry (The Conservation Fund) and Mr. Derrick Stanfield (Ingka, Inc.) spoke in favor of the Tupelo Honey Timberlands proposal. Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Real Estate) spoke in favor of the Wooten Timberlands proposal.

After a brief recess, the ARC took the following actions during the Council meeting:

- approved the February 9, March 4, March 7, and March 12, 2024, meeting summaries.
- considered negative response items approved by the Division of State Lands since the February 2024 meeting.
- approved a 1.60-acre private access easement to Allie Fitz within Indian Lake State Forest (FFS/Marion).
- approved a 10-year update to the Rice Creek Conservation Area management plan (SJRWMD/Putnam).
- approved project evaluation reports for the Dark Hammock Ranch, Finca Vigia, Lake Harney, Larkin Ranch, Lytal Conservation Area, Suttlemyre Forest, Tupelo Honey Timberlands, and Wooten Timberlands 2024 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals.





- added the Dark Hammock Ranch, Finca Vigia, Lake Harney, Larkin Ranch, Lytal Conservation Area, Suttlemyre Forest, Tupelo Honey Timberlands, and Wooten Timberlands 2024 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List. The ARC then added the Dark Hammock Ranch proposal to the Bluefield to Cow Creek project, the Fina Vigia proposal to the Panther Glades project, the Lake Harney proposal to the Volusia Conservation Corridor project, the Lytal Conservation Area proposal to the Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch project, the Suttlemyre Forest proposal to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project, and the Wooten Timberlands proposal to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project.
- approved a 5-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Bay).
- approved an 88-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 120-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Polk).
- approved a 195-acre addition to the Heartland Wildlife Corridor Florida Forever project boundary (Hardee).
- approved a 259-acre addition to the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project boundary (Hardee).
- approved a 170-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 498-acre addition to the San Pedro Bay Florida Forever project boundary (Taylor).
- approved a 279-acre addition to the Watermelon Pond Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).

During the public comment period, Mr. Kent Wimmer (Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape) spoke in support of the Tupelo Honey Timberlands and Wooten Timberlands proposals. Ms. Linda Smythe (Florida Audubon) spoke in favor of the Pal Mar project.

Council Meeting, June 7, 2024

After welcoming Ms. Sine Murray and Ms. Ariana Moreno as new OES employees, the ARC took the following actions:

- approved the April 12, 2024, meeting summaries.
- considered negative response items approved by the Division of State Lands since the April 2024 meeting.
- approved a regional management plan submitted by the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks for the Northeast District.
- approved an update to the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve management plan (ORCP/Franklin).
- approved a 10-year update to the Cary State Forest management plan (FFS/Duval and Nassau).





- approved a 10-year update to the Seminole State Forest management plan (FFS/Lake).
- approved a 0.71-acre private utility easement to Florida Power & Light, within the Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area (FFS/Marion).
- determined that a conservation easement over four parcels each containing less than 40 acres fulfills a delineated state conservation policy and yields a significant public benefit (Jefferson).
- heard testimony from Mr. Ramesh Buch (North Florida Land Trust) and Ms. Brandi Carvalho (Nassau County) spoke in support of the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor proposal. Ms. Rebecca Perry (The Conservation Fund) and Mr. Andrew Brannen (Campbell Global, Inc.) spoke in support of the Big Bend Forest proposal. Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group) spoke in support of the Deer Creek Ranch, Little Pine Ranch, Waccasassa Bay Watershed, and Myakka Ranch proposals. Mr. Mark Okasako (Save the English Forest Preserve) spoke in support of the English Forest Preserve proposal. Mr. Jason DePue (Florida Park Service) spoke in favor of the Ford Marsh proposal. Ms. Courtney Parker (Friends of Camp Helen) spoke in favor of the Lake Powell North project. Mr. Jimmy Hancock (Trailhead, LLC) spoke in favor of the Trailhead Blue Springs project. Mr. Van Peebles (Landowner) spoke in favor of the Venus Project. Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler) spoke in favor of the Welles Ranch proposal. Mr. Richard Durr (Seminole County) spoke in favor of the Yarborough Ranch proposal.
- voted unanimously to approve further evaluation of the Deer Creek Ranch (DeSoto), Ford Marsh (Volusia), Lake Powell North (Walton), Little Pine Ranch (Levy), Myakka Ranch (Manatee), Trailhead Blue Springs (Levy), Venus Project (Highlands), Waccasassa Bay Headwaters (Levy), Welles Ranch (Charlotte), and Yarborough Ranch (Seminole) 2024 Cycle 2 Florida Forever project proposals.

No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, August 26, 2024

After an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Ms. Joanna Reilly-Brown (Alachua Conservation Trust) and Mr. Charlie Houser spoke in favor of the Little Orange Creek and Waccasassa Flatwoods proposals. Mr. Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), Mr. Kai Sucsy (Putnam Land Conservancy), and Commissioner Desiree Mill (Levy County) spoke in favor of the Little Orange Creek proposal.

Regional Hearing, August 29, 2024

After an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Mr. Zach Franco (Archbold Research Station) spoke in favor of the Highlands Hammock and Lettuce Creek Cattle Company proposals.





Council Meeting, September 12, 2024 (Reschedule of August Meeting)

After welcoming John Houser as a new OES employee, the ARC took the following actions:

- approved the June 2024 meeting summary.
- reviewed land management review reports completed between January and April of 2024.
- reviewed negative response items approved since the June 2024 meeting.
- heard an update by the DSL Bureau of Real Estate Services on acquisition efforts during Fiscal Year 2023-24.
- approved a 10-year update to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve management plan (ORCP/St. Johns).
- approved a 10-year update to the Chinsegut Wildlife Management Area management plan (FWC/Hernando).
- approved a 10-year update to the Mashles Island Park management plan (Wakulla County/Wakulla).
- approved a 10-acre private access easement within the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area (Hernando).
- approved a 0.55-acre private access easement and a 0.08-acre temporary construction easement within the Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area (Highlands).
- approved a 5,530-acre reduction to the Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Baker)
- approved a 132-acre addition to the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- approved a 10-acre addition to the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam).
- approved a 0.29-acre addition to the Osceola Pine Savannas Florida Forever project boundary (Osceola).
- approved a 38-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 367-acre addition to the Taylor Sweetwater Creek Florida Forever project boundary (Taylor).
- approved a 408-acre addition to the Aucilla/Wacissa Florida Forever project boundary (Madison).
- approved a 25-acre addition to the Northeast Florida Blueway Florida Forever project boundary (St. Johns).
- approved a 531-acre addition to the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam).
- approved a 410-acre addition to the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- approved a 373-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever project boundary (Columbia).





No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Council Meeting, November 1, 2024 (Reschedule of September Meeting)

There were no announcements. The ARC took the following actions:

- approved the August 26, August 29, and September 12, 2024, meeting summaries.
- approved the 2025 ARC calendar.
- review negative response items approved since the September 2024 meeting.
- reviewed the annual land management review team annual findings and the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council 2024 biennial and annual reports.
- review the 2024 DSL conservation easement monitoring report.
- heard a presentation from the FDACS Rural and Family Lands Protection Program proposed 2024 acquisition list.
- approved a 10-year update to the Goethe State Forest management plan (FFS/Alachua and Levy).
- approved a 10-year update to the Telogia Wildlife Management Area management plan (FWC/Liberty).
- approved a 10-year update to the Okaloachoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area management plan (FFS/Hendry).
- approved a 0.03-acre public utility easement within Grayton Beach State Park (DRP/Okaloosa).
- approved the expansion of an existing private utility easement within Lake Lousia State Park (DRP/Lake).
- approved a 3-acre private utility easement within Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park (DRP/Martin).
- approved a 10-acre public utility easement and a 4-acre temporary construction easement within Myakka State Forest (FFS/Sarasota).
- heard public testimony on 2024 Cycle 2 Florida Forever project proposals. Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Real Estate) in support of the Baker County Timberlands, Bowlegs Creek Watershed, and Waccasassa Flatwoods proposals. Mr. Keith Fountain (Fountain Law) spoke in support of the Fair Bluff and Highlands Hammock Corridor proposals. Mr. Jimmy Wohl (Terraventures Real Estate) spoke in favor of the Lettuce Creek Cattle Company proposal. Mr. Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy) spoke in favor of the Little Orange Creek Corridor proposal. Ms. Rebecca Perry (The Conservation Fund) spoke in favor of the Big Bend Forest and Tupelo Honey Timberlands proposals. Mr. Kevin St. Laurent (Campbell Global) spoke in favor of the Big Bend Forest proposal.
- approved project evaluation reports for the Baker County Timberlands, Bowlegs Creek Watershed, Fair Bluff, Highlands Hammock Corridor, Lettuce Creek Cattle Company, Little Orange Creek Corridor, Rock Bend Ranch, Waccasassa Flatwoods 2024 Cycle Florida Forever proposals.
- voted to add the Baker County Timberlands, Bowlegs Creek Watershed, Fair Bluff, Highlands Hammock Corridor, Lettuce Creek Cattle Company, Little Orange Creek Corridor, Rock Bend Ranch, Waccasassa Flatwoods 2024 Cycle 2 Florida Forever





proposals to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List. The ARC also added the Highlands Hammock Corridor project to the Heartland Wildlife Corridor project, added the Rock Bend Ranch project to the Peace River Refuge project and added the Waccasassa Flatwoods to the Waccasassa Watershed project.

- approved a DSL recommendation to remove the Natural Bridge Creek, Natural Bridge Timberlands, Wolfe Creek Forest, and Yarborough Ranch projects from the 2025 Florida Forever Project List.
- approved a 71-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- approved a 28-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- approved a 42-acre addition to the Devil's Garden Florida Forever project boundary (Hendry).
- approved a 10-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 668-acre addition to the Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest List Florida Forever project boundary (Santa Rosa).
- approved a 744-acre addition to the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Dixie).
- approved a 650-acre addition to the Panther Glades Florida Forever project boundary (Hendry).
- approved a 494-acre addition to the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Dixie).
- approved a 1,030-acre addition to the Waccasassa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).
- approved a 948-acre addition to the Waccasassa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).
- approved a 796-acre addition to the Waccasassa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).

No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Public Hearing December 12, 2024

After hearing announcements, the ARC heard public testimony in favor of the 2025 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals. Mr. Willy The Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy) spoke in support of the Hog Island proposal. Ms. Debra Waithe (Manatee County) spoke in support of the Myakka Corridor Addition proposal. Mr. Wendy Mathews (The Nature Conservancy) spoke in support of the Teal Timber proposal. Mr. Al Russell (Terra Land Group) spoke in support of the St. Marks River Timberlands and Springs proposal.

The ARC then heard presentations on proposed boundary amendments. Ms. Diana Pepe (FWC) spoke in support of the Panther Glades and Strategic Managed Area Lands List boundary amendments. Mr. Kai Sucsy (Putnam Land Conservancy) spoke in support of Etoniah/Cross





Florida Greenway boundary amendment. Mr. Lawton Chiles, III (Landowner) and Mr. Nelson Ball (Tall Timbers Research Station) spoke in favor of the Red Hills Conservation boundary amendment.

Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group) spoke in favor of the Peace River boundary amendment. Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Real Estate) spoke in favor of the Bear Creek Forest boundary amendment. Ms. Melissa Hill (Trust for Public Land) spoke in favor of the Upper Shoal River boundary amendment. Ms. Debra Woithe (Manatee County) spoke in favor of the Myakka Ranchlands boundary amendment. Dr. Susan Carr (Alachua Conservation Trust) spoke in favor of the Lower Suwannee and Gulf Watershed and North Waccasassa Flats boundary amendment.

The ARC then received general public testimony in favor of several existing Florida Forever projects. Ms. Brandy Carvallo (Nassau County) spoke in favor of the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor project. Mr. Andrew Branon (Campbell Global) spoke in favor of the Big Bend Forest project. Ms. Rebecca Perry (The Conservation Fund) spoke in favor of the Big Bend Forest and Tupelo Honey Timberlands projects. Mr. Michael Yustin (Martin County) spoke in support of several Martin County Florida Forever projects. Mr. Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy) spoke in favor of the Little Orange Creek project.

Council Meeting, December 8, 2024

There were no announcements. The ARC took the following actions:

- approved the November 1, 2024, meeting summary.
- reviewed negative response items approved since the November ARC meeting.
- approved a 10-year update to the Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area management plan (County).
- approved the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.
- voted to initiate detailed review of the Hog Island, Myakka Corridor Addition, St. Marks River Timberlands and Springs, and Teal Timber 2025 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals.
- approved a 217-acre reduction to the Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone Florida Forever project (Gadsden).
- approved a 22-acre addition to the Bear Creek Forest Forever project boundary (Hillsborough, Charlotte, Lee, and Miami-Dade).
- approved a 26-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- approved a 693-acre addition to the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).
- a 547-acre addition to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project boundary (Manatee Brevard).
- approved an 890-acre addition to the North Waccasassa Flats Florida Forever project boundary (Gilchrist).
- approved a 194-acre addition to the Panther Glades Florida Forever project boundary (Hendry).





- approved a 104-acre addition to the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- approved a 433-acre addition to the Red Hills Conservation Florida Forever project boundary (Hardee).
- approved a 214-acre addition to the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project boundary (Leon).
- approved a 166-acre reduction and a 10-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Glades/Lafayette/Highlands).
- approved a 1,338-acre addition to the Upper Shoal River Florida Forever project boundary (Walton).

