FEGN Update Goals and Objectives

- Update the FEGN to identify a functionally connected statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands that incorporates new and updated GIS data.
- Ensure the FEGN maximizes protection of high priority natural communities and species identified in the Florida State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Address climate change impacts to maximize the potential of Florida’s native biodiversity to functionally respond to sea-level rise and other environmental changes.
Key Analysis Steps

Step 1 - Identify:
Areas of Ecological Significance

Step 2 - Select:
Ecological Hubs

Step 3 - Delineate:
Landscape Linkages
### PEA Data Layers

| Landscape Species Habitat (Crested caracara, Florida sandhill crane, Short-tailed hawk, Swallow-tailed kite, Sherman’s fox squirrel, Big Cypress fox squirrel) |
| USFWS Florida panther conservation zones |
| University of Tennessee USFWS panther habitat |
| Florida black bear habitat quality model |
| Florida black bear Population Priority Conservation Areas |
| FNAI Rare Matrix-Landscape Natural Communities (sandhill, flatwoods, dry prairie, upland hardwood forest, upland pine) |
| Integrated Habitat Network |
| Existing conservation lands |
| FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCA) |
| FNAI Rare Species Habitat |
| FNAI Rare Natural Communities |
| FNAI Functional Wetlands |
| FNAI Potential Natural Areas |
| Coastal Barrier Resources Act Lands |
Final Hubs with Conservation Lands and Florida Forever Projects

- Open water
- Existing conservation lands
- Florida Forever Projects
- Final Hubs (Unoptimized)
Connectivity Analyses

- Major river/riparian connectivity/buffer analysis
- Coastal to inland connectivity analysis
- Xeric habitat connectivity analysis
- Florida panther and Florida black bear habitat and connectivity analyses
- General landscape connectivity analysis
Riparian Connectivity

Riparian Connectivity

- Open water
- Major River Connectivity
- Paddling Stream Connectivity
Coastal-Inland Connectivity

Final Draft Coastal-Inland Connectivity

- Open water
- Coastal-inland Connectivity Areas

Miles
0 50 100 200
Xeric Habitat Connectivity

Xeric Connectivity
- Open water
- Existing conservation lands
- Xeric landscape 5,000 acres or larger
- Xeric landscape 1,000-5,000 acres

Miles

0 40 80 160
Bear/Panther Corridors and Hubs

Hubs and Riparian Connectivity
- Open water
- Final FEGN Hubs
- FEGN bear corridors
- FEGN panther corridors
Updated FEGN

New Florida Ecological Greenways Network

- Open water
- Existing conservation lands in FEGN
- Florida Forever Projects in FEGN
- New FEGN

Miles

Scale: 0 50 100 200
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Category</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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<td>Open Water</td>
<td>2,072,653</td>
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Current and New Draft FEGN Comparison

Comparison of Current and New FEGNs

- Open water
- In Both FEGNs
- In Current FEGN Only
- In New FEGN Only

Miles

0  50  100  200
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<td>2,192,800</td>
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<td>In Current FEGN Only</td>
<td>2,522,786</td>
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Florida Ecological Greenways Network

- County boundaries
- Open water
- Existing conservation lands

Florida Ecological Greenways Network
- Priority 1 Critical Linkages
- Priority 2 Critical Linkages
- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5
- Priority 6

0 37.5 75 150 Miles
Assigned Prioritization to New FEGN Base Boundary
Prioritization Considerations: Future Development and Sea Level Rise

• Based on past FEGN prioritization work and the goals of the FEGN Update project, we used three primary considerations for any alterations to existing FEGN priorities:
  – A new 2060 development projection from Zwick and Carr (UF) updated for the concurrent statewide SLR impact assessment project.
  – Comparison of the new FEGN and assigned priorities to Lidar-based DEM sea level rise projections.
  – Consideration of merging Critical Linkages P1 and Critical Linkages P2 and the P1 and P2 classes to create six priority classes instead of the current eight classes.
Prioritization Considerations: FEGN and 2060 Growth Projection

FEGN and 2060 Projected Development
- Open water
- Existing conservation lands in FEGN
- FEGN not in Projected 2060 Development
- FEGN in Projected 2060 Development
Prioritization Considerations: FEGN
High Priorities and 2060 Growth Projection

FEGN High Priorities and 2060 Development Scenario
- Open water
- Existing conservation lands in FEGN

FEGN and 2060 Development Scenario
- Critical Linkage 1 or 2
- Critical Linkage in Projected 2060 Development
- Priority 1 or 2
- Priority 1 or 2 in Projected 2060 Development
- Priority 3
- Priority 3 in Projected 2060 Development
Prioritization Considerations: FEGN and Sea Level Rise
Prioritization Considerations: FEGN
High Priorities and Sea Level Rise
Potential FEGN Prioritization Edits

Proposed edits to the FEGN priorities include:

1) Consider merging Critical Linkages P1 and Critical Linkages P2 and the P1 and P2 classes to create six priority classes instead of the current eight classes.

2) Expand the St. Marks Critical Linkage to address SLR south of Tallahassee.

3) Consider Critical Linkage or at least P3 status for corridor that circles Tallahassee to the north (to serve as an alternate for St. Marks Critical Linkage).

4) Expand Coastal Big Bend Critical Linkage and consider elevating priority of inland Big Bend corridor to address SLR.

5) Consider expanding Critical Linkage around strategic areas of the St. Johns River to address potential sea level rise impacts.

6) Peace River from P3 to Critical Linkage to provide an additional option to connect south and north Florida.

7) Kissimmee to Green Swamp (Four Corners) corridor from P1 to Critical Linkage to provide an additional option to connect south and north Florida.

8) Consider assigning higher priority to south to north corridors within north Florida that connect to areas of conservation significance in Georgia and Alabama.
# FEGN High Priority Stats

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<th>Land Use Category</th>
<th>FEGN Priority Level</th>
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Proposed Tallahassee Greenbelt P3 Corridor

St. Marks River option in red; Aucilla River option in blue
Proposed Big Bend Critical Linkage Expansion

Coastal expansion option in red;
Interior Critical Linkage option in blue; Suwannee River corridor option in yellow
Proposed Middle St. Johns River Critical Linkage Expansion

Potential area of expansion of the middle St. Johns River portion of this Critical Linkage in red
Proposed Peace River Corridor
Critical Linkage

Potential Peace River Critical Linkage in pink though some of the “fringe” areas would likely not be included.
Proposed “Four Corners” Critical Linkage

Potential Four Corners Critical Linkage in **pink** though some of the “fringe” areas would likely not be included.
Proposed Florida to Georgia and Alabama Corridors

Potential Florida to Alabama or Georgia corridor options in pink; St. Mary’s River in northeast Florida is another option not depicted on this map.
FEGN Update Prioritization

New FEGN Priorities
- Open water
- Existing conservation lands in FEGN
- New FEGN Priorities
  - 1 (Critical Linkages)
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - 6

Miles
0 50 100 200