



2024 Florida Forever Plan

Summary of Recommendations and Status as of December 2023

Division of State Lands

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



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

May 24, 2024

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2024 Florida Forever Plan

Executive Summary

Introduction

Florida Forever is the state's blueprint for conserving our natural and cultural resources. As one of the most successful programs of its kind in the United States, it replaced the highly successful Preservation 2000. Implemented in 2001, the Florida Forever Act reinforced 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.

Florida Forever is more than an environmental land acquisition mechanism. The program addresses 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.

The \$3.6 billion investment since the inception of the Florida Forever program demonstrates Florida's continued commitment to protecting and restoring our vital natural resources. Florida has been at the forefront of the nation's land protection efforts and continues to be the model for other land acquisition programs across the country.

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 outdoor recreation.

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

Florida Ecological Greenways Network and Florida Wildlife Corridor Act

The Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) is a statewide database that identifies and prioritizes a functionally connected, statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands. The FEGN has been a key component of the evaluative criteria for Florida Forever projects since 2003. In July 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act into law, which designates the Florida Wildlife Corridor and authorizes conservation land acquisition for the benefit of



wildlife, Floridians and the economy. The act defines the Florida Wildlife Corridor as Priority 1, Priority 2 or Priority 3 areas of the FEGN.

The new law piqued interest in Florida Forever, and the program again received an unprecedented number of applications in 2023. As a result, ARC approved 46 new Florida Forever proposals representing 53,314 acres of land of which 41,602 acres are within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Over 64,000 acres within the Florida Wildlife Corridor were acquired through Florida Forever in 2023, including acquisitions in the following projects:

- 758 acres Apalachicola River
- 11,691 acres Avalon
- 4,195 acres Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch
- 1,291 acres Blue Head Ranch
- 3,153 acres Bluefield to Cow Creek
- 17,251 acres Devil’s Garden
- 4,623 acres Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway
- 11,960 acres Horse Creek Ranch
- 470 acres Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
- 1,602 acres Myakka Ranchlands
- 5,457 acres Natural Bridge Ecosystem
- 285 acres Osceola Pine Savannas
- 139 acres Rainbow River Corridor
- 163 acres Strategic Managed Area Lands List (SMALL)
- 1,488 acres Wolfe Creek Forest

Partnerships

The state’s series of successful land acquisition programs also includes a long history of cooperative partnerships with state agencies, land trusts, conservation organizations, local governments and federal agencies. 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. Each Florida Forever proposal is evaluated by an interagency team of professionals that represent the Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Historical Resources and regional water management districts. Partner agencies at the state-level provide valuable contributions to the Florida Forever evaluation and selection process.





The Florida Forever Plan

The 2024 Florida Forever Plan provides an overview of the status of each of the 128 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. 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 project evaluation report is approved by ARC for each project on the Florida Forever Priority List. The report contains resource and planning information compiled from 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, 2023. This information is based on the initial project proposal and reflects acquisitions within a project boundary made by the BOT as well as local governments, federal agencies and private conservation organizations. Project acreage figures may be refined over time as improved data are 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. Acquisition costs represent expenditures of legislative appropriations by the BOT, state agencies and water management districts. Acquisition costs may also include expenditures by local governments, federal agencies or private conservation organizations.





Florida Forever Priority List Changes

ARC approved the following changes to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List:

- Added seven new projects
- Added seven new projects to existing project boundaries
- Amended the boundaries of 27 existing projects
- Removed eight projects from the list

<u>New Projects Added to the List</u>	<u>Acres +/-</u>	<u>County</u>
Deer Creek Ranch	5,934	DeSoto
Floyd’s Mound	41	Madison
Ford Marsh	1,200	Volusia
Waccasassa Watershed*	20,455	Levy
Welles Ranch	1,183	Charlotte
Williamson Cattle Company	7,419	Osceola
Yarborough Ranch	1,361	Seminole

*Four new projects – Chunky Pond, Little Pine Ranch, Trailhead Blue Springs and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters – were combined to create the new Waccasassa Watershed project.

<u>New Projects Added to Existing Project Boundaries</u>	<u>Acres +/-</u>	<u>County</u>
Avalon Phase II	1,384	Jefferson
Added to Avalon		
Carter Quail Ranch	1,344	Volusia
Added to Volusia Conservation Corridor		
Creek Ranch	1,295	Polk
Added to Lake Hatchineha Watershed		
Lake Powell North	103	Bay
Added to Strategic Managed Area Lands List (SMALL)		
Myakka Ranch		
Added to Myakka Ranchlands	998	Manatee
Quail Creek Ranch		
Added to Myakka Ranchlands	2,698	Hardee
Venus Project		
Added to Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	1,110	Highlands

<u>Projects with Boundary Amendments</u>	<u>Acres +/-</u>	<u>County</u>
Apalachicola River	1,089	Jackson, Calhoun
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	-159	Brevard, Indian River
Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	305	Jefferson
Belle Meade	-56	Collier
Carr Farm/Price’s Scrub	140.3	Alachua, Marion
Catfish Creek	-44	Polk
Coupon Bight/Key Deer	-231	Monroe Miami-
Dade County Archipelago	-42	Dade Franklin,
Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	-1,796	Wakulla Monroe
Florida Keys Ecosystem	-0.12	Levy
Florida’s First Magnitude Springs	310	Marion
Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	150	Highlands
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	284	



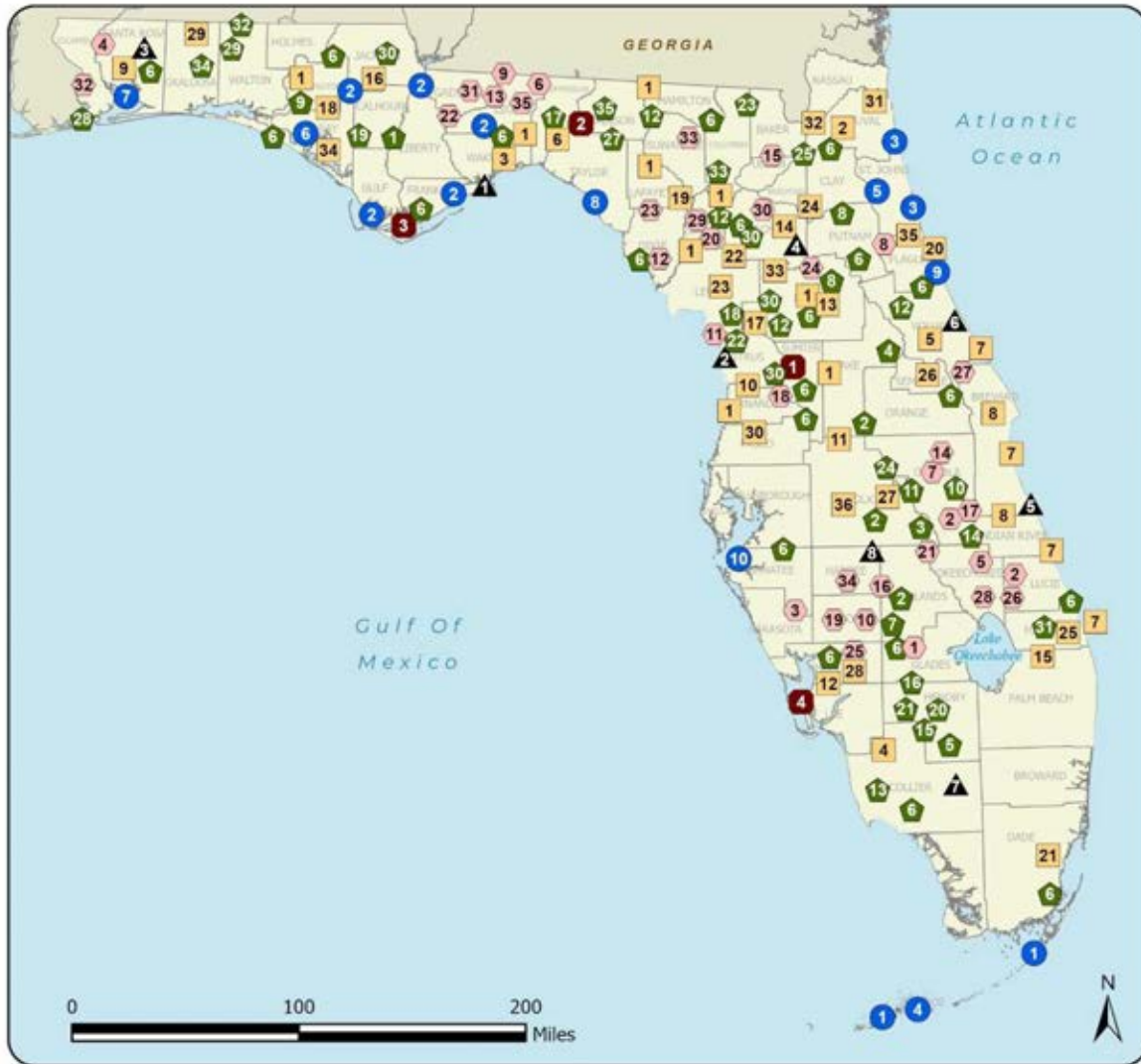


Lochloosa Wildlife	-4,737	Alachua
Lower Suwanee and Gulf Watershed	72	Levy
Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	-8,568	Putnam, St. Johns
Myakka Ranchlands	438	Manatee
Northeast Florida Blueway	-613	St. Johns
Osceola Pine Savannas	15.9	Osceola
Peace River Refuge	149.1	DeSoto
Pinhook Swamp	1,975.5	Columbia
Pumpkin Hill Creek	129	Nassau
South Walton County Ecosystem	-2,048	Walton
Spruce Creek	-40	Volusia
SMALL	336.9	Multiple Counties
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	138.2	Lake
Welannee Watershed Forest	830.4	Okaloosa

<u>Projects Removed from the List</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>County</u>
Arbuckle Creek Watershed	90% or more complete	Highlands
Charlotte Harbor Estuary	90% or more complete	Charlotte, Lee, Sarasota
Horse Creek Ranch	100% complete	DeSoto, Hardee
River Property	100% complete	Highlands
South Walton County Ecosystem	90% or more complete	Walton
Telogia Creek	100% complete	Liberty
Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island	90% or more complete	Nassau
Triple Diamond	90% or more complete	Okeechobee

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.



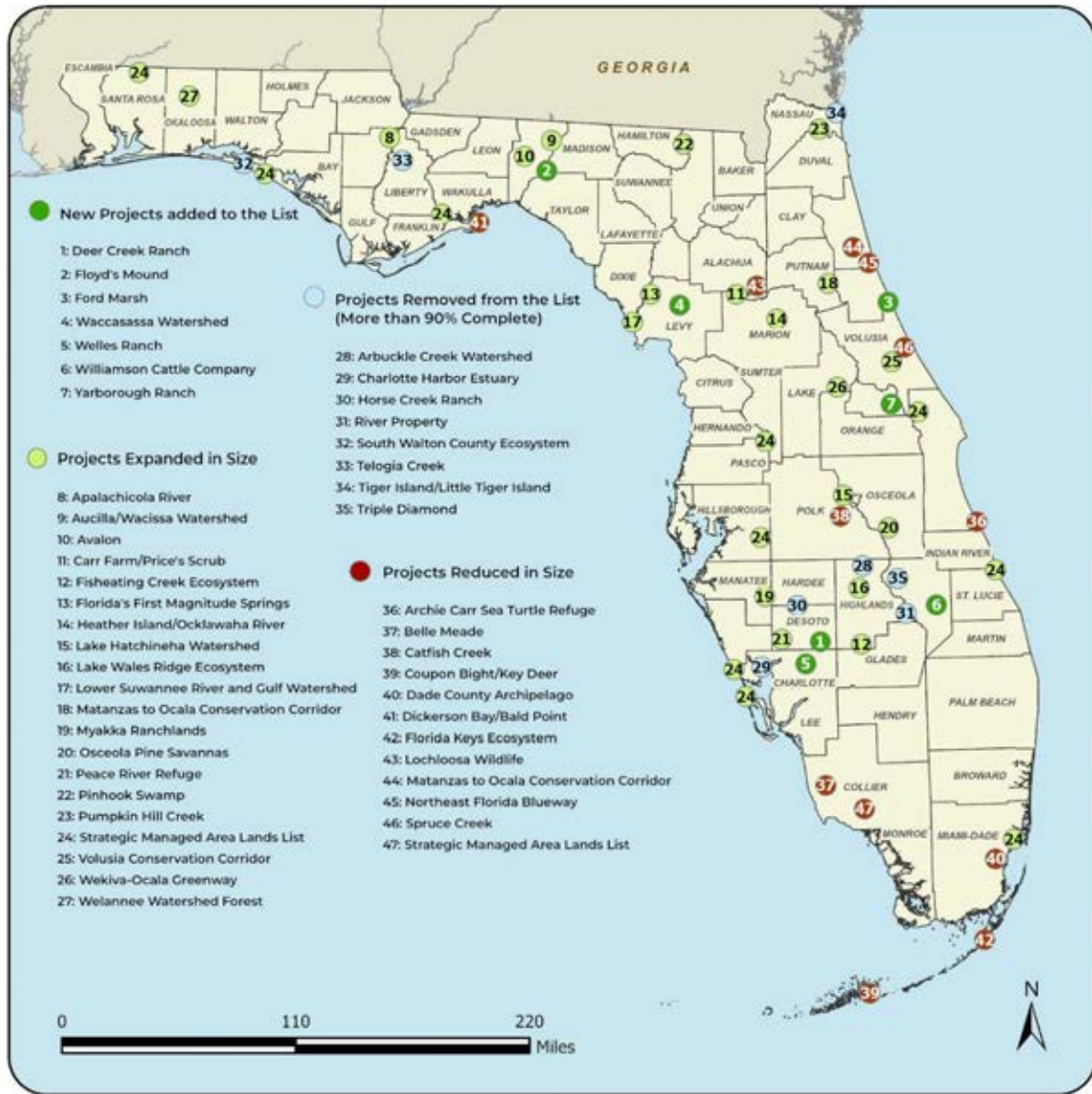


STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS JANUARY 2024

Florida Forever Project Categories

	Climate Change Lands Category		Less-Than-Fee Category
	Critical Historic Resources Category		Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category
	Critical Natural Lands 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 2023



2024 Florida Forever Priority List for Land Acquisition Projects

The 2024 Florida Forever Priority List was adopted by the BOT on March 26, 2024. It includes 128 projects containing more than 2.1 million acres with an estimated value of over \$7.8 billion. Ninety-nine of the projects on the Priority List overlap with the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Each project was ranked within one of following six categories:

- Critical Natural Lands – 35 projects
- Partnerships & Regional Incentives – 36 projects
- Less-Than-Fee – 35 projects
- Climate Change Lands – 10 projects
- Substantially Complete – 8 projects
- Critical Historical Resources – 4 projects

2024 Florida Forever Priority List

Critical Natural Lands

Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
1	Apalachicola River	Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty	48,912	48,912	High
2	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	Highlands, Lake, Osceola	27,792	76,704	High
3	Bombing Range Ridge	Highlands, Osceola, Polk	28,807	105,511	High
4	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia	21,462	126,973	High
5	Panther Glades	Hendry	39,352	166,325	High
6	Strategic Managed Area Lands List	Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Putnam, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla	12,071	178,396	High
7	Blue Head Ranch	Highlands	41,746	220,142	High
8	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion, Putnam	53,079	273,221	High/Med
9	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	Bay, Washington	54,862	328,083	Medium
10	Osceola Pine Savannas	Osceola	22,872	350,955	Medium
11	Gardner Marsh	Osceola	5,949	356,904	Medium
12	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	Gilchrist, Hamilton, Marion, Volusia	9,842	366,746	Medium
13	Belle Meade	Collier	4,653	371,399	Medium





Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
14	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	Osceola	21,887	393,286	Medium
15	Half Circle L Ranch	Collier, Hendry	11,182	404,467	Medium
16	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	Glades, Hendry	10,507	414,974	Medium
17	Avalon	Jefferson	11,506	426,480	Medium
18	South Goethe	Levy, Marion	11,350	437,830	Medium
19	Bear Creek Forest	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf	97,428	535,256	Med/Low
20	Devil's Garden	Collier, Hendry	47,043	582,301	Low
21	Twelvemile Slough	Hendry	8,020	590,321	Low
22	Bear Hammock	Marion	4,689	595,010	Low
23	Pinhook Swamp	Baker, Columbia, Hamilton	39,004	634,014	Low
24	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	Osceola, Polk	4,718	638,732	Low
25	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union	32,236	670,968	Low
26	Natural Bridge Timberlands	Jefferson, Leon	5,442	676,410	Low
27	San Pedro Bay	Madison, Taylor	46,345	722,755	Low
28	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	Escambia	2,251	725,006	Low
29	Upper Shoal River	Walton	12,035	737,041	Low
30	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	Alachua, Citrus, Jackson, Marion, Sumter	578	737,619	Low
31	Bar-B Ranch	Martin	1,910	739,529	Low
32	Natural Bridge Creek	Walton	1,967	741,496	Low
33	Ichetucknee Trace	Columbia	1,707	743,203	Low
34	Shoal River Buffer	Okaloosa	880	744,083	Low
35	Hixtown Swamp	Madison	21,965	766,048	Low

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
1	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	Bay, Citrus, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jackson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Wakulla, Walton, Washington	7,273	7,723	High
2	Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	Clay, Duval, Nassau	68,600	75,873	High
3	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Leon, Wakulla	3,301	79,174	High
4	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	Collier, Lee	30,658	109,832	High





Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
5	Volusia Conservation Corridor	Flagler, Volusia	18,134	127,966	High
6	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	Jefferson, Madison, Taylor	40,306	168,272	High
7	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Volusia	17,036	185,308	High/Med
8	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	Brevard	17,381	202,689	Medium
9	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	Santa Rosa	2,474	205,163	Medium
10	Annutteliga Hammock	Citrus, Hernando	8,060	213,223	Medium
11	Green Swamp	Lake, Pasco, Polk	154,223	367,446	Medium/Low
12	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	Charlotte, Lee	6,406	373,852	Low
13	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	Marion	13,782	387,634	Low
14	Lochloosa Forest	Alachua	4,693	392,327	Low
15	Pal-Mar	Martin, Palm Beach	8,838	401,165	Low
16	Middle Chipola River	Calhoun, Jackson	12,115	413,280	Low
17	Rainbow River Corridor	Citrus, Marion	900	414,180	Low
18	Sand Mountain	Bay, Washington	14,370	428,550	Low
19	Lafayette Forest	Lafayette	10,218	438,768	Low
20	Flagler County Blueway	Flagler	2,836	441,604	Low
21	Dade County Archipelago	Miami-Dade	219	441,604	Low
22	Watermelon Pond	Alachua, Levy	5,201	447,024	Low
23	Waccasassa Watershed	Levy	20,455	467,479	Low
24	Lake Santa Fe	Alachua, Bradford	8,750	476,229	Low
25	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	Martin	8,175	484,404	Low
26	Yarborough Ranch	Seminole	1,361	485,765	Low
27	Catfish Creek	Polk	3,219	488,984	Low
28	Hall Ranch	Charlotte	7,415	496,399	Low
29	Welannee Watershed Forest	Okaloosa	9,208	505,607	Low
30	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	Pasco	12,440	518,047	Low
31	Pumpkin Hill Creek	Duval	6,438	524,485	Low
32	Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's River	Duval, Nassau	8,397	532,882	Low
33	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	Alachua, Marion	442	533,324	Low
34	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	Bay	2,348	535,672	Low
35	Pringle Creek Forest	Flagler	8,446	544,118	Low
36	Wilson Ranch	Polk	451	544,569	Low



**Less-Than-Fee**

Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
1	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	Glades, Highlands	113,984	113,984	High
2	Adams Ranch	Osceola	32,989	146,973	High
3	Myakka Ranchlands	DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota	30,972	177,945	High
4	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	Escambia, Santa Rosa	93,062	271,007	High/Med
5	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	Indian River, Okeechobee	30,810	301,817	Medium
6	Red Hills Conservation	Jefferson, Leon	13,670	315,487	Medium
7	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	Osceola	33,198	348,685	Medium
8	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns	88,182	436,867	Medium
9	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	Gadsden, Leon	3,864	440,731	Medium
10	Deer Creek Ranch	DeSoto	5,934	446,665	Medium
11	Gulf Hammock	Levy	25,611	472,246	Med/Low
12	Lower Suwanee River and Gulf Watershed	Dixie	12,090	484,366	Low
13	Ayavalla Plantation	Leon	5,700	490,066	Low
14	Conlin Lake X	Osceola	3,522	493,588	Low
15	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	Baker, Union	68,673	562,261	Low
16	Heartland Wildlife Corridor	Hardee, Highlands	9,579	571,840	Low
17	Ranch Reserve	Brevard, Indian River, Osceola	12,514	584,354	Low
18	Withlacoochee River Corridor	Citrus, Hernando	3,286	587,640	Low
19	Peace River Refuge	DeSoto	3,885	591,525	Low
20	Gilchrist Club	Gilchrist	23,298	614,823	Low
21	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	Highlands	2,214	617,037	Low
22	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	Gadsden, Liberty	6,923	623,960	Low
23	Eight Mile Property	Dixie	5,717	629,677	Low
24	Mill Creek	Marion	10,135	639,812	Low
25	Welles Ranch	Charlotte	1,183	640,995	Low
26	Bluefield to Cow Creek	Okeechobee, St. Lucie	7,731	648,726	Low
27	Maytown Flatwoods	Brevard	1,613	650,339	Low
28	Williamson Cattle Company	Okeechobee	7,419	657,758	Low
29	North Waccasassa Flats	Gilchrist	14,714	672,472	Low
30	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	Alachua	376	672,848	Low
31	Little River Conservation Area	Gadsden	2,293	675,141	Low
32	Lower Perdido River Buffer	Escambia	2,271	677,412	Low





Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
33	Suwanee County Preservation	Suwanee	1,254	678,666	Low
34	Limestone Ranch	Hardee	6,382	685,048	Low
35	Millstone Plantation	Leon	83	685,131	Low

Climate Change Lands

Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
1	Florida Keys Ecosystem	Monroe	5,406	5,406	High
2	St. Joe Timberland	Bay, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, Washington	51,665	57,071	High/Med
3	Northeast Florida Blueway	Duval, Flagler, St. Johns	7,277	64,348	Med/Low
4	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	Monroe	711	65,059	Low
5	St. Johns River Blueway	Clay, St. Johns	15,912	80,971	Low
6	West Bay Preservation Area	Bay	4,598	85,569	Low
7	Garcon Ecosystem	Santa Rosa	3,098	88,667	Low
8	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	Taylor	3,742	92,409	Low
9	Ford Marsh	Volusia	1,200	93,609	Low
10	Terra Ceia	Manatee	2,038	95,647	Low

Substantially Complete

Rank	Project	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
1	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	Franklin, Wakulla	2,579	2,579	High
2	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	Citrus	8,383	10,962	High/Med
3	Wolfe Creek Forest	Santa Rosa	1,975	12,937	Med/Low
4	Lochloosa Wildlife	Alachua	3,864	16,801	Low
5	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	Brevard	118	16,919	Low
6	Spruce Creek	Volusia	351	17,270	Low
7	Save Our Everglades	Collier	11	17,281	Low
8	Old Town Creek Watershed	Hardee, Polk	1,264	18,545	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	Floyd's Mound	Jefferson	41	1,195	Low
3	Pierce Mound Complex	Franklin	359	1,554	Low
4	Pineland Site Complex	Lee	136	1,690	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), Florida Administrative Code.

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
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Program Accomplishments

For decades, Florida has been one of the most successful states in acquiring and conserving critical natural resources and providing lands for public recreation. Since 1963, Florida has invested approximately \$8.4 billion to conserve more than 4 million acres of land for environmental, recreational and preservation purposes. This has been accomplished with a series of programs including Environmentally Endangered Lands, Outdoor Recreation, Save Our Coasts, Save Our Rivers, Conservation and Recreation Lands, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever. Because of Florida Forever and its predecessor programs, residents and visitors have benefited from the protection of land and natural resources, including Florida's abundant flora and fauna.

Since its inception in July 2001, the Florida Forever land acquisition program has provided protection for the following:

- 906,120 acres of strategic habitat conservation areas
- 703,240 acres within rare species habitat conservation areas
- 936,680 acres within ecological greenways
- 181,200 acres of rare natural communities
- 700,180 acres within landscape-size protection areas
- 530,860 acres of natural floodplain
- 956,820 acres important to the protection of surface waters
- 535,340 acres to minimize damage from flooding events
- 11,200 acres of fragile coastline
- 372,790 acres of functional wetlands
- 918,340 acres of significant groundwater recharge areas
- 550 miles towards the completion of priority recreational trails
- 499,730 acres of sustainable forest land
- 1,256 archaeological/historic sites
- 14,580 acres within designated urban service areas

These acreages were derived from the Florida Forever Summary of Resource Acres Protected on Conservation Lands Table, which is continuously updated by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to reflect the most current scientific analyses of Florida's natural resources. The acreage includes properties acquired under the Florida Forever program, as well as donations and acquisitions by other entities with funding from other sources that were within Florida Forever project boundaries. Additionally, the acreages recorded for each measure often overlap, and thus should not be added together. Collectively, under the Florida Forever program the state has protected over 907,342 acres of land with approximately \$3.3 billion in Florida Forever funds.

Accounting for donations and lands acquired with non-Florida Forever program funding, the total acreage protected within Florida Forever projects is more than 1 million acres. All property within the boundaries of the Florida Forever acquisition projects, unless specifically noted, is proposed to be purchased, in fee simple or a lesser interest, for conservation purposes. The 2024 Florida Forever Priority List of land acquisition projects is consistent with section 187.201(9), Florida Statutes, the Natural Systems and Recreational Lands section of the State Comprehensive Plan.





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CRITICAL NATURAL LANDS

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Apalachicola River

Critical Natural Lands

Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson and Liberty Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1991
<i>Project Acres</i>	58,228
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	9,316
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$11,940,578
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	48,912
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$50,712,899

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 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.

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 and gray bats. 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 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 Division of Historical Resources. All these areas are threatened by timbering and unrestricted vehicular access.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Florida torreya</i>	G1/S1
Gulf sturgeon	G3T2T3/S2?
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Gholson's blazing star</i>	G1/S1
Southern elktoe	G1/S1
<i>Apalachicola rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Torreya pygmy grasshopper	G1/S1
Brother spike	G1G2/S1
<i>Apalachicola wild indigo</i>	G2/S1
<i>fringed campion</i>	G2/S1?

Public Use

The Apalachicola River project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition which would limit public use; however, consideration of fee simple acquisition could expand public use opportunities. In either acquisition scenario, the project will provide habitat for wildlife including the Florida black bear and buffers for other conservation lands such as the St. Joe Timberland project and 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 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 Conservation and Recreation Lands project.

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a less-than-fee, 2,242-acre addition (Corbin/Tucker site) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and consisted of two owners, David Corbin and Ken Tucker, with a taxable value of \$1,106,820. On August 15, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee simple and less-than-fee 3,113-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, 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 The Nature Conservancy Dupuis/Traveler's tract.

On October 17, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Division of Recreation and Parks purchased 553 acres known as Torreya State Park Addition for \$1,418,000 from Plum Creek. The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the addition.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved this as a stand-alone project, naming it the Upper Apalachicola River Ecosystem Florida Forever project.

In December 2017, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the 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 to assist with start-up management of the land once acquired.

2023

On June 9, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 The Nature Conservancy.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Apalachicola River project are to conserve the rich bluffs and ravines along the upper Apalachicola River 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, The Nature Conservancy’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 Mexico. 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area as part of the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area, while the upper section (north of State Road 20) would be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks 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

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.

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.

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 the Division of Recreation and Parks. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

Management Cost Summary

<u>Florida Forest Service</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$105,910	\$105,910
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$30,000	\$30,000
OCO	\$168,000	\$13,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$303,910	\$148,910

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





Management Cost Summary

<u>Division of Recreation and Parks (Sweetwater)</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$226,318	\$167,769

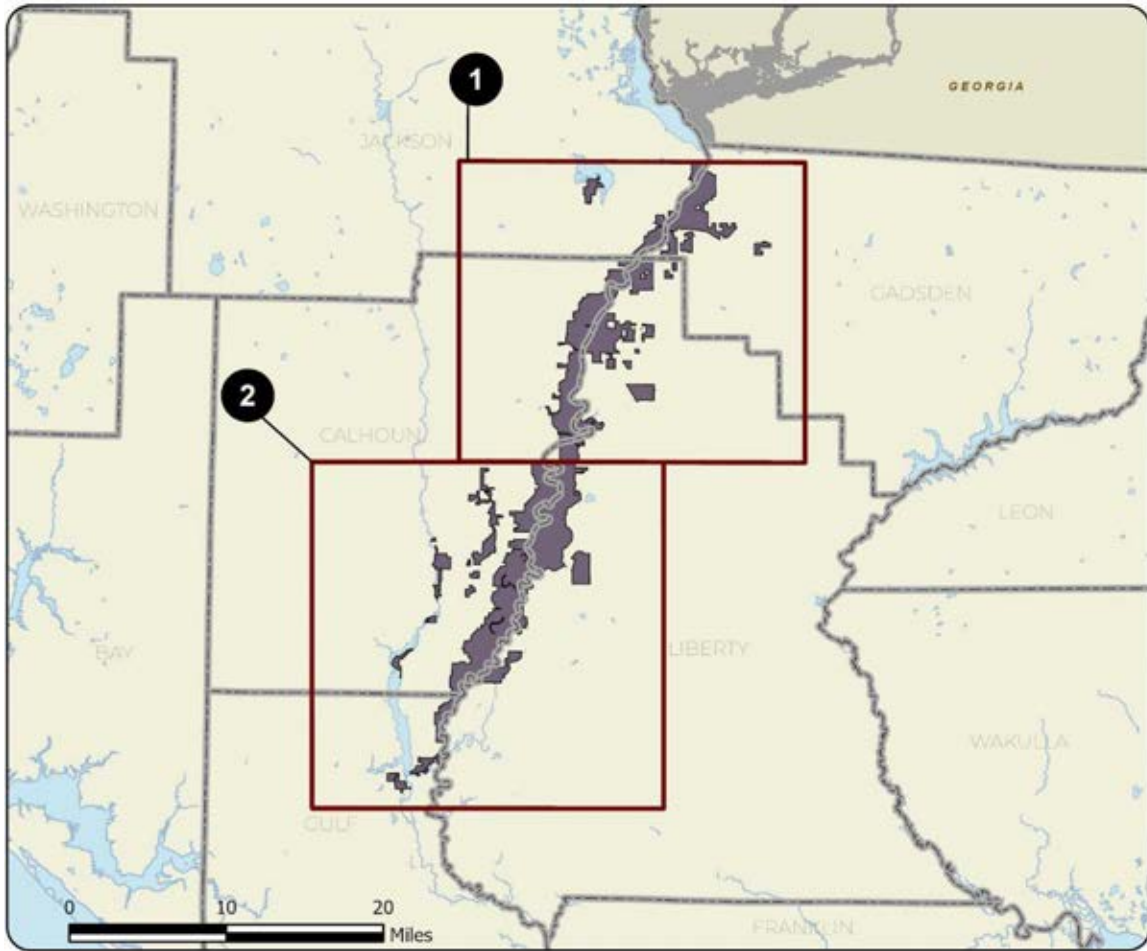
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>Division of Recreation and Parks (North)</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$248,296	\$167,769

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

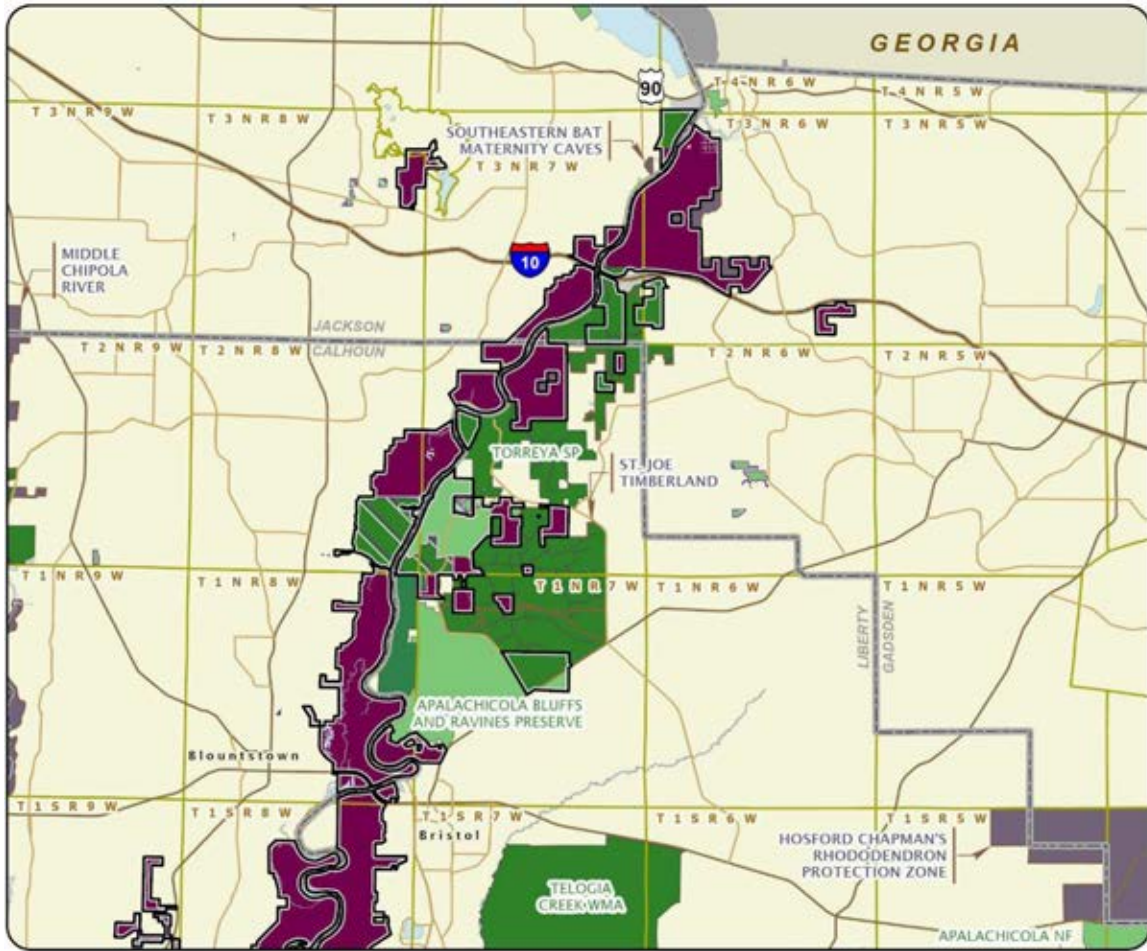




APALACHICOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

CALHOUN, GADSDEN, GULF, JACKSON, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

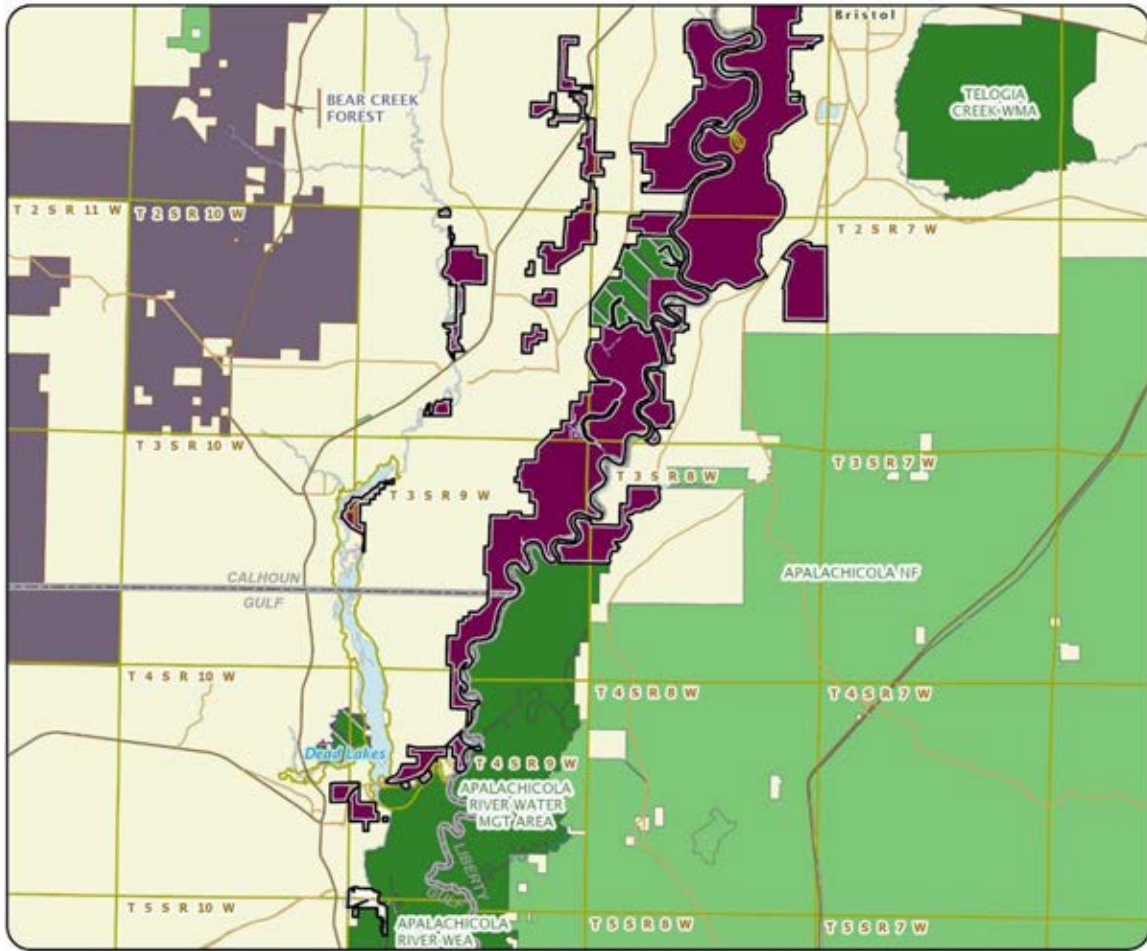




APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 1

CALHOUN, GADSDEN, JACKSON, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES





APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 2

CALHOUN, GULF, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES



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Avalon

Critical Natural Lands

Jefferson County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	14,683
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	11,753
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$13,790,152
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,930
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$6,771,396

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. 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. 27 and U.S. 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 (quail and deer) 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida mountain-mint</i>	G3/S3
<i>fever tree</i>	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
One-toed amphiuma	G3/S3
White-breasted nuthatch	G5/S2
<i>little brown jug</i>	G5/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4

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 voted to add the Avalon project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

2023

On April 14, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added it to the existing Avalon project.

DEP acquired conservation easements over 11,692 acres in Jefferson County from Avalon Plantation, LLC.

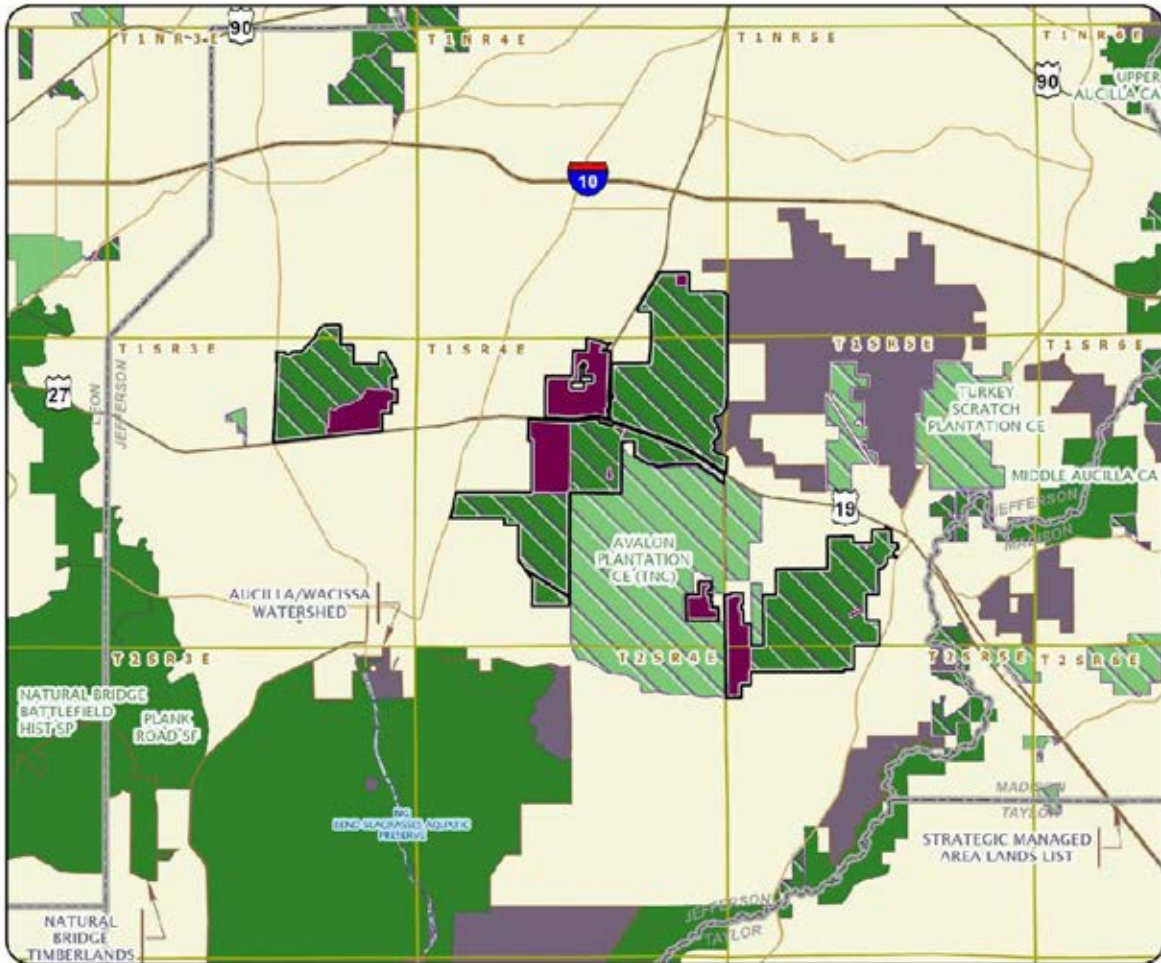
Management Policy Statement

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 the Division of State Lands.





AVALON

JEFFERSON COUNTY



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Bar-B Ranch

Critical Natural Lands

Martin County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,910
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,910
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$10,328,474

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 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

The South Florida Water Management District will coordinate with Martin County and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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; and 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 the South Florida Water Management District.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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

The South Florida Water Management District 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. The South Florida Water Management District 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

The South Florida Water Management District 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 the South Florida Water Management District) 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 the South Florida Water Management District does not charge user fees to recreationally utilize public lands, no other sources of revenue are expected.

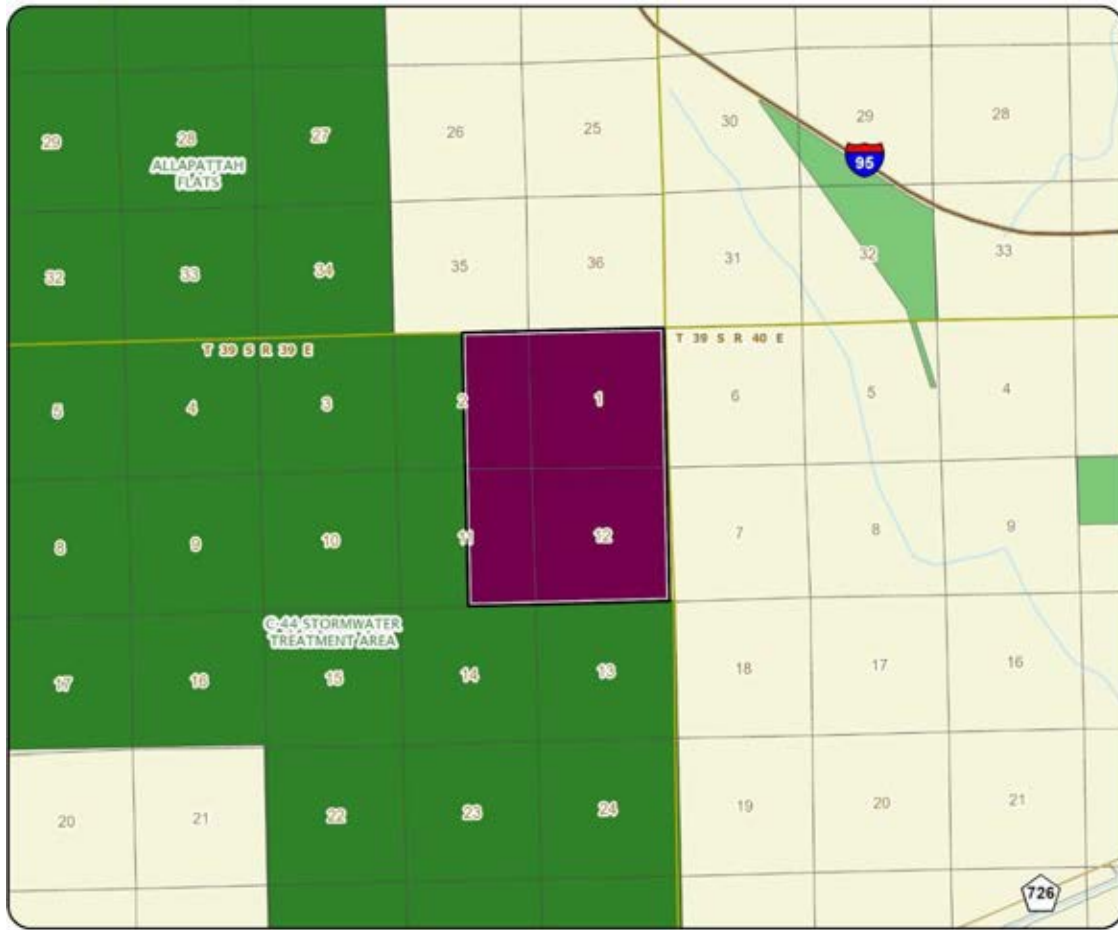
Cooperators in Management Activities

The South Florida Water Management District will partner with Martin County and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.

SFWMD	<u>Management Cost Summary</u>	
	Startup	Recurring
Salary	\$61,689	\$61,689
Expense	\$75,000	\$75,000
OCO	\$42,020	\$0
Other	\$125,000	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$303,709	\$261,689

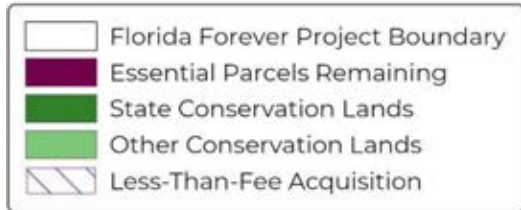
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





BAR-B RANCH

MARTIN COUNTY



Bear Creek Forest

Critical Natural Lands

Bay, Calhoun and Gulf Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2004
<i>Project Acres</i>	100,462
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	3,033
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	97,429
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$95,264,956

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 Calhoun, Bay and Gulf counties. The 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 six miles southeast of the Econfina Creek Water Management Area, six miles north of Tyndall Air Force Base and 2 miles southwest of the Middle Chipola River 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>dark-headed hatpins</i>	G1/S1
<i>pinewoods aster</i>	G1?/S1?
<i>Godfrey's butterwort</i>	G2/S2
Yellow-sided clubtail	G2/S2
<i>mock pennyroyal</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>giant water cowbane</i>	G3/S3
<i>fever tree</i>	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
<i>primrose-flowered butterwort</i>	G3G4/S3

Public Use

Public use will include resource-based recreation and educational opportunities. The Florida Forest Service 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 a major urban area, Panama City.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Bear Creek Forest project to Group B of the 2004 Florida Forever Interim Priority List. The fee simple project, sponsored by the Florida Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

On June 3, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Interim Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

The Florida Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy 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

The Florida Forest Service will manage the proposed project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Most of the acreage of the 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. The Florida Forest Service proposes to manage the site as a state forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Expenditures will be needed on the 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

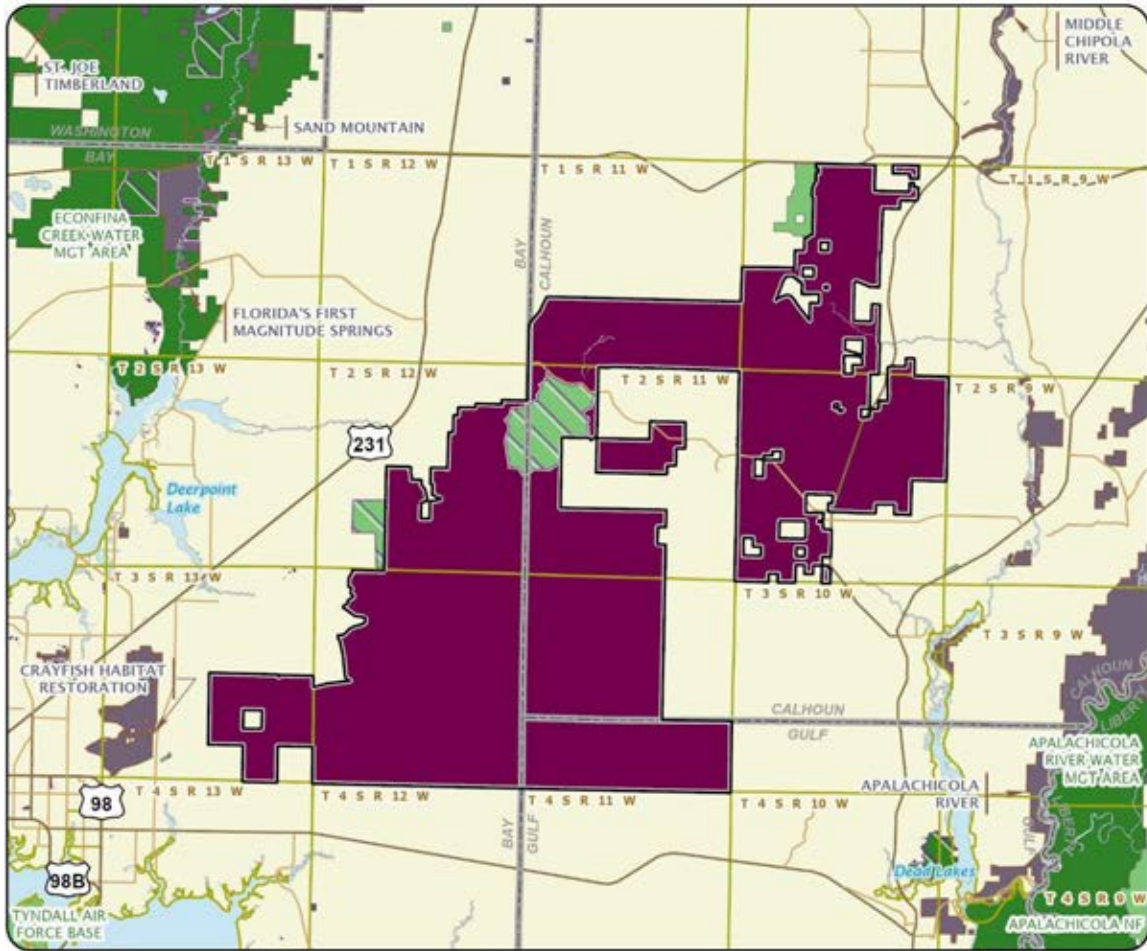
Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of the 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	LATF	not provided
Salary (9 FTE)	\$293,345	not provided
Expense	\$797,000	not provided
OCO	\$852,260	not provided
TOTAL	\$1,942,605	not provided

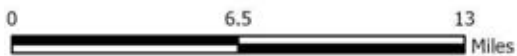
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





BEAR CREEK FOREST

BAY, CALHOUN, AND GULF COUNTIES



Bear Hammock

Critical Natural Lands

Marion County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2008
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,689
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	4,689
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$14,020,451

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Bear Hammock project will provide an important connection between Goethe State Forest and 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, the 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, bald eagle, diamondback rattlesnake and gopher tortoise. 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 saw palmetto, dwarf live oak, shiny blueberry, gallberry and fetterbush. There are several natural lakes on the property, ranging from shallow ponds with abundant aquatic herbs to sandy-bottomed clear water lakes. At least one of these lakes is a sandhill upland lake with no associated swamp.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3

Public Use

The Bear Hammock project has many potential resource-based recreational opportunities. It is within a few miles of Dunnellon, adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway and borders the South Goethe Addition Florida Forever project and Goethe State Forest. The 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 the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is considered an acquisition partner for the project.

Management Policy Statement

The objectives of acquiring the Bear Hammock project 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 the site, including wood storks, bald eagles, diamondback rattlesnakes and gopher tortoises. Another major goal is to provide public outdoor resource-based recreation.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the recommended manager except for a separate island in Lake Rousseau, which would be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Bear Hammock project will increase the connectivity within the conservation landscape extending from north central peninsular Florida to the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. If acquired, the project 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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

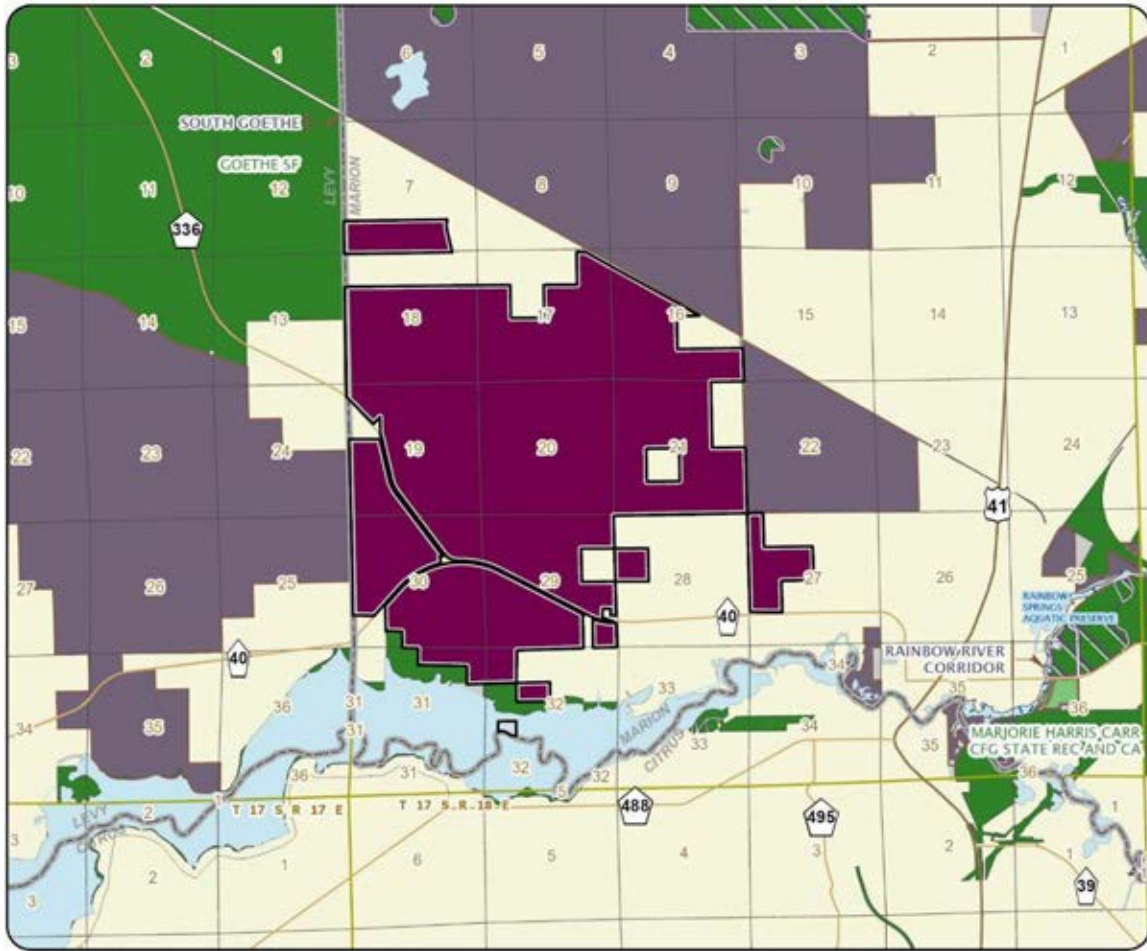
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, DEP and St. Johns River Water Management District in the management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

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

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





BEAR HAMMOCK

MARION COUNTY



Belle Meade

Critical Natural Lands

Collier County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1993
<i>Project Acres</i>	27,706
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	23,060
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$38,403,758
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	4,646
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$38,180,844

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 Florida panthers, red-cockaded woodpeckers and Florida black bears. The project will provide resource-based recreation opportunities for residents and visitors in a rapidly urbanizing area of southwest Florida.

General Description

The 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>ghost orchid</i>	G1/S1
<i>narrow-leaved carolina scalystem</i>	G4T2/S2
<i>fuzzy-wuzzy air-plant</i>	G4/S1
<i>Florida dancing-lady orchid</i>	G4/S1
<i>cowhorn orchid</i>	G5?/S1
<i>powdery catopsis</i>	G5?/S1
<i>tailed strap fern</i>	G5/S1
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S3

Public Use

The project will provide Picayune Strand 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. The fee simple acquisition was sponsored by the 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 I-75 from the project area at the request of 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 of the project. 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 moved the project from Group B to Group A on the 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 valued at \$2,310,000.

2009

On October 9, 2009, approximately 650 acres with an estimated donation value of \$10,457,520.00 were donated by Estates at Twin Eagles, LTD. The Florida Forest Service agreed to manage all acres.

2010

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

2011

In August 2011, Citigate Development donated 86.34 acres in Picayune Strand State Forest. The donation, valued at \$274,785, was to be managed by the Florida Forest Service.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project into the Critical Natural Lands category.

2020

In August 2020, Mr. Bernard F. Gallagher, Jr. donated 1.29 acres 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 the Florida Forest Service as an addition to Picayune Strand State Forest.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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)

The Florida Forest Service 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 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. The Florida Forest Service 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, the Florida Forest Service 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 site's natural resources and threatened and endangered species will be inventoried to develop a management plan. Long-range plans for the 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. The Florida Forest Service will promote environmental education. Budget needs for interim management are covered under the Save Our Everglades/Golden Gate Project.





Revenue-generating Potential

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

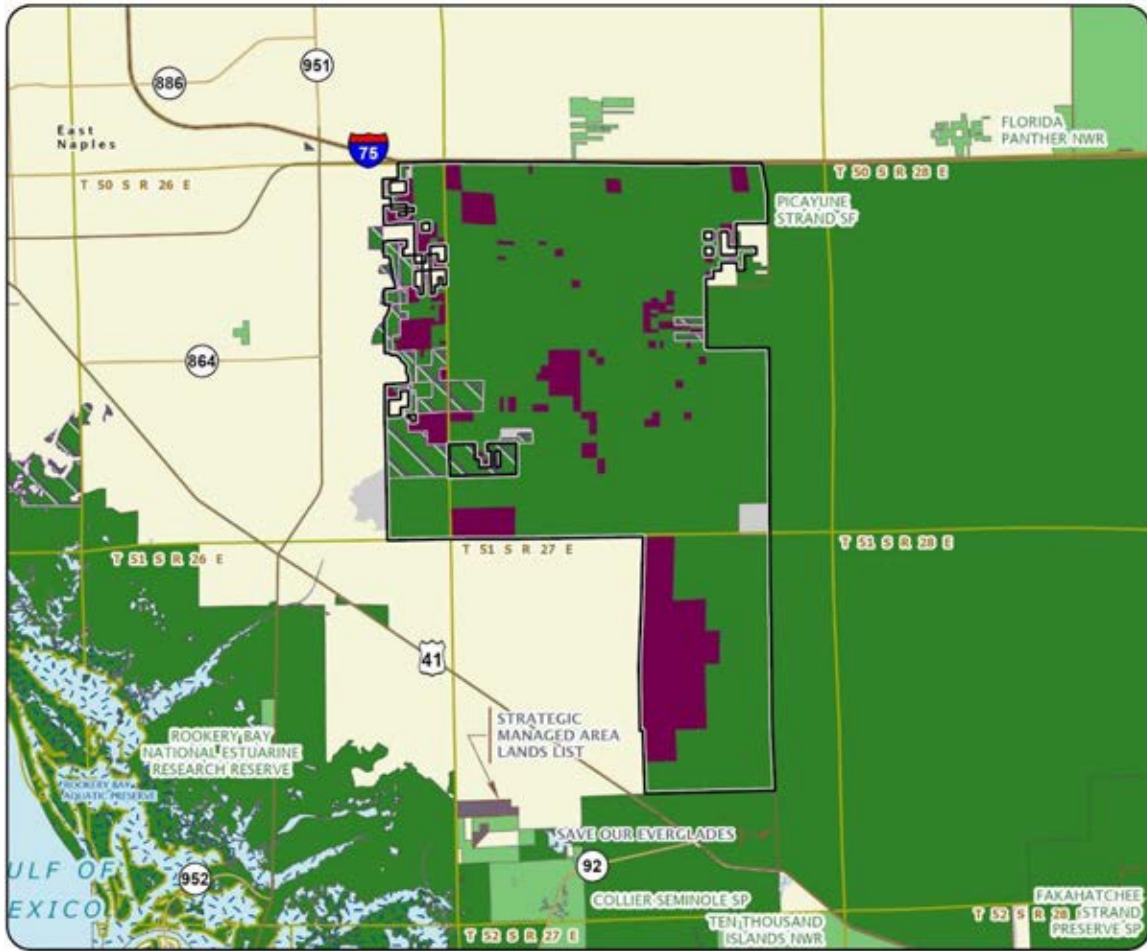
Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service will collaborate with other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary		
FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$9,140	\$9,140
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$44,000	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$53,140	\$9,140

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





BELLE MEADE

COLLIER COUNTY



Blue Head Ranch

Critical Natural Lands

Highlands County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2012
<i>Project Acres</i>	43,051
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,305
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$4,000,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	41,746
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$287,255,960

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

The Blue Head Ranch project 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% 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 woods 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida Keys sweat bee	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>Edison's ascyrum</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Short-tailed hawk	G4G5/S1
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

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

2015

On June 19, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the A.P. Ranch project, which had a tax assessed value of \$255,910. Because of its compatibility, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the acreage to the boundary of the Blue Head Ranch Florida Forever project. The proposal was 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

DEP acquired a 1,291-acre conservation easement in Highlands County from LTL Real Estate Holdings, LLC.





Coordination

The 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 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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) could 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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Apiary Policy. Additionally, cattle grazing leases may also be considered, contingent upon the suitability of the site within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's cattle grazing criteria.

Cooperators in Management Activities

If the Blue Head Ranch project is acquired and leased to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for management, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with





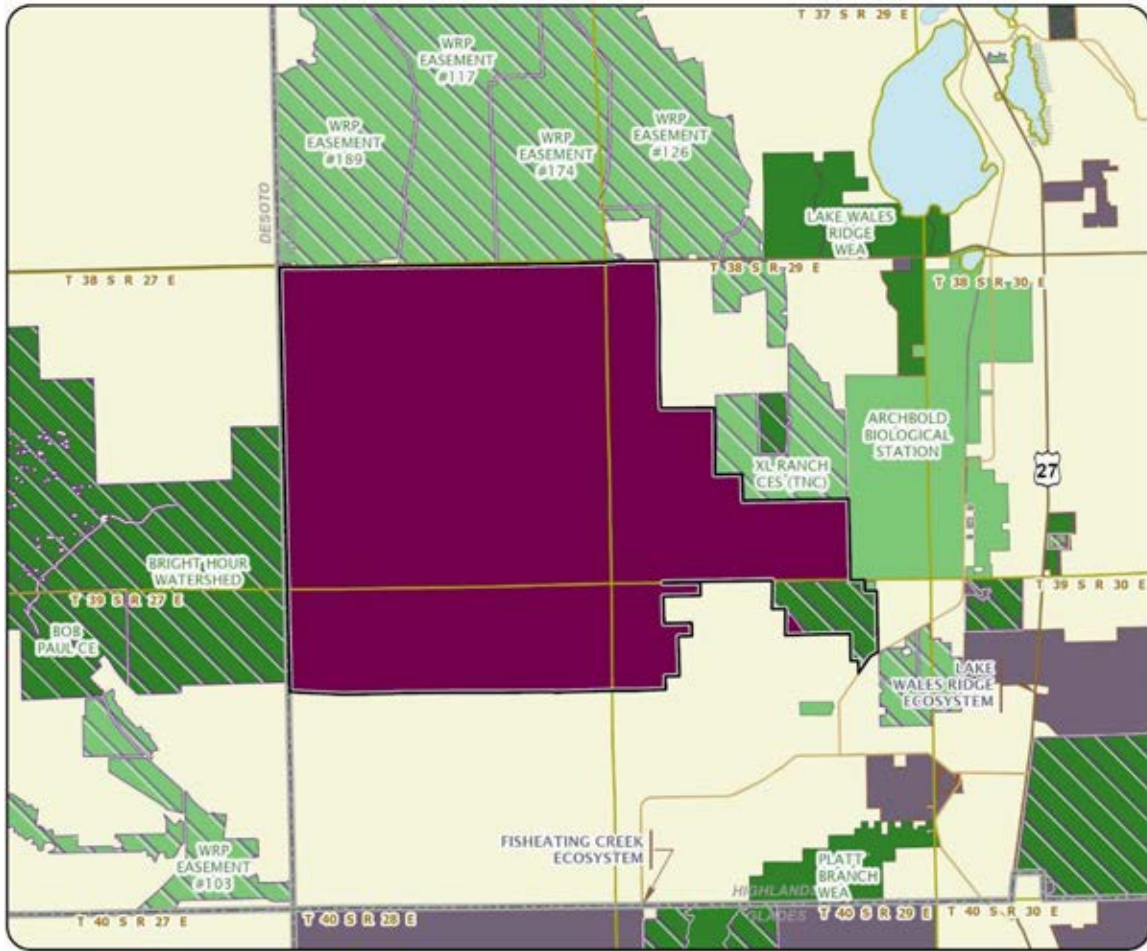
other federal, state and local governmental agencies. These agencies may include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Forest Service, DEP, South Florida Water Management District and Highlands County (among others).

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
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



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Bombing Range Ridge

Critical Natural Lands

Highlands, Osceola and Polk Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1998
<i>Project Acres</i>	47,272
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	18,856
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$24,431,085
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	28,416
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$58,905,745

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 red-cockaded woodpeckers, snail kites, Florida scrub jays and grasshopper sparrows. 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 located in southeastern Polk County, 15 miles east of Lake Wales and adjacent to the west side of Lake Kissimmee. The project's namesake, 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 the 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Snail kite	G4G5/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
hartwrightia	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Berry's skipper	G2/S3
nodding pinweed	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3

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 project and supported the acquisition through the Conservation and Recreational Lands program.

In December 1997, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added the Bombing Range Ridge project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 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 the Wheeler, Avatar, Winter Haven Christian School, Lightsey, River Ranch Landowners Association members, Polk County and Patrick Nee ownerships.

1998

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

2001

On May 17, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed an estimated 1,000 acres at various locations in the project that were owned by approximately 400 landowners who no longer wanted to be included in the project.





2003

On August 15, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 BOT acquired the Brahma Island tract (approximately 1,063.40 acres) through a conservation easement.

2006

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

2007

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

2011

On August 15, 2011, the Division of State Lands purchased a 2,674-acre easement in the project from The Nature Conservancy.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2013

On April 19, 2013, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 established the 85.87-acre Idols Aside conservation easement, of which 13.69 acres are within the project boundary.

2016

On October 6, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 0.94-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.

On June 12, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 2.53-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.





2021

On February 12, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 1.27-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.

2022

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

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. The Nature Conservancy is an intermediary on the 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)

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage all but 540 acres in the north portion of the project adjacent to Rosalie Creek; this portion will be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks.

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 the 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 state park. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for a state forest. Management by the Florida Forest Service 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, the Division of Recreation and Parks proposes to provide public access for low-intensity, non-facility-related outdoor recreation activities. The Florida Forest Service 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 the Florida Forest Service 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks 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 the project is expected to be moderate.

Cooperators in Management Activities

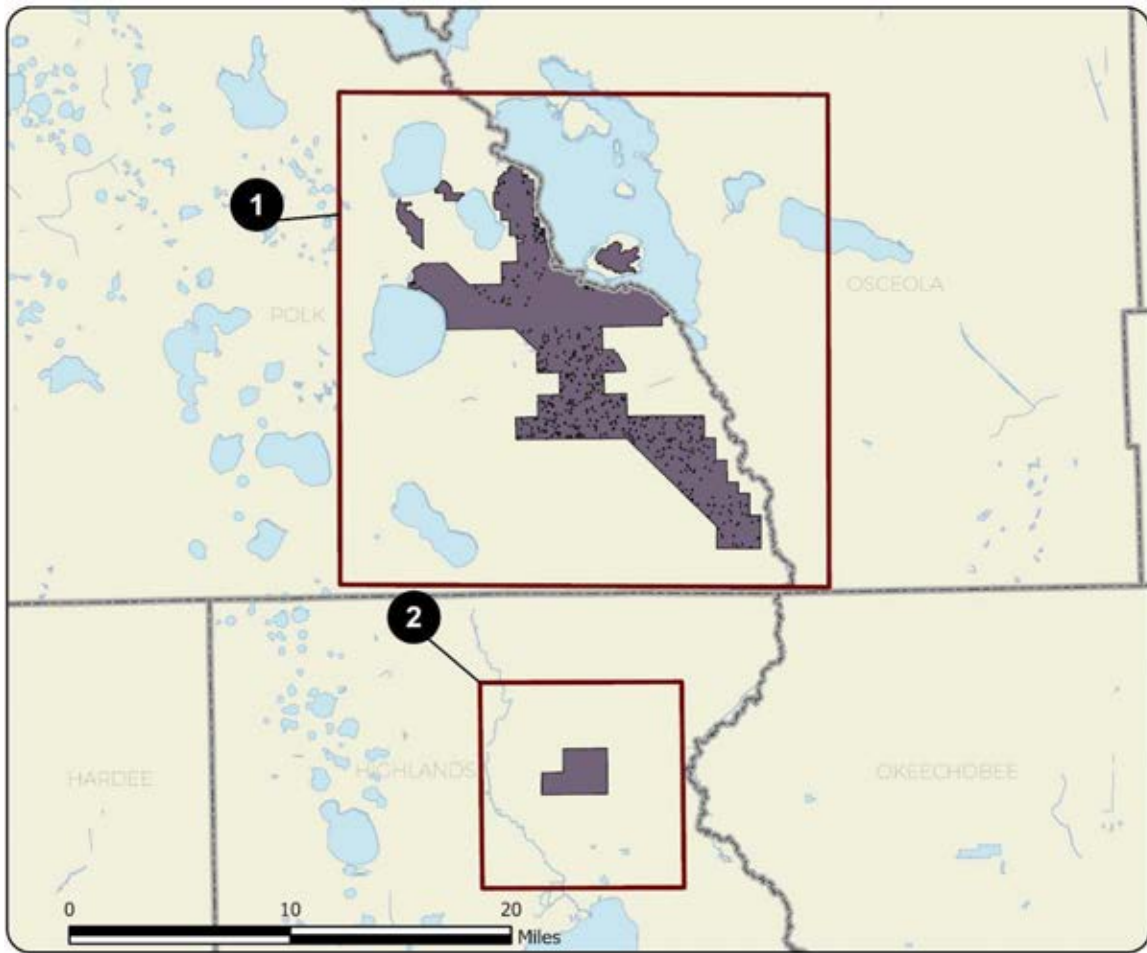
The Florida Forest Service and Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with local governments, state agencies and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the use of the lands for state park purposes.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup
Source of Funds	LATF
Salary	\$86,412
OPS	\$0
Expense	\$70,000
OCO	\$136,400
TOTAL	\$292,812

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

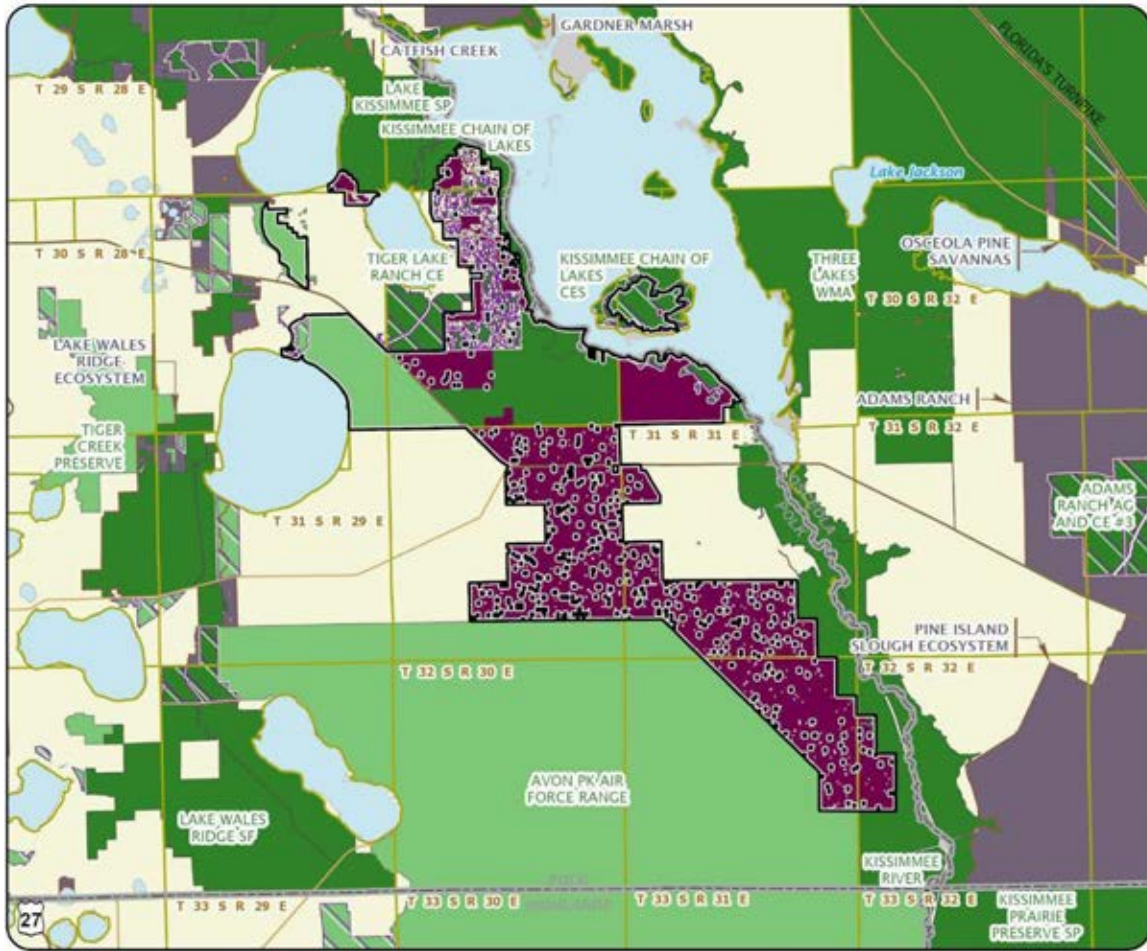




BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: OVERVIEW

HIGHLANDS, POLK, AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES





BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 1

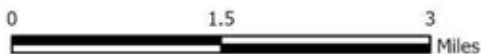
POLK AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES





BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 2

HIGHLANDS COUNTY



Caloosahatchee Ecoscape

Critical Natural Lands

Glades and Hendry Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1998
<i>Project Acres</i>	19,624
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	9,122
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$2,610,700
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	10,502
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$79,101,213

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 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).

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
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

The 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 project proposal was for 16,055 acres. The three largest ownerships, IMC Agrico, Floriland Dairy (Milicevic) and Atlantic Gulf Communities were designated essential. The owners of the Floriland Dairy tract (Milicevic) 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 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 became managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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 established two Lone Ranger Ranch conservation easements totaling 538.46 acres.

2013

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





2015

On May 21, 2015, The Nature Conservancy establishes the Black Boar Ranch conservation easement (1,527.83 acres).

2020

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

On December 11, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the Goodno Ranch (1,185 acres) project proposal and added it to the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project boundary.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy 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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the managing agency for the project.

If the property is acquired for 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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project will provide a refuge for imperiled species like the Florida panther, Florida black bear, sandhill crane, wood stork and crested caracara. The project is also within an area where the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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

The property has historically provided timber and cattle production. Potential revenue sources may include hunting, fishing, ecotourism, cattle grazing and sustainable timber production.

Cooperators in Management Activities

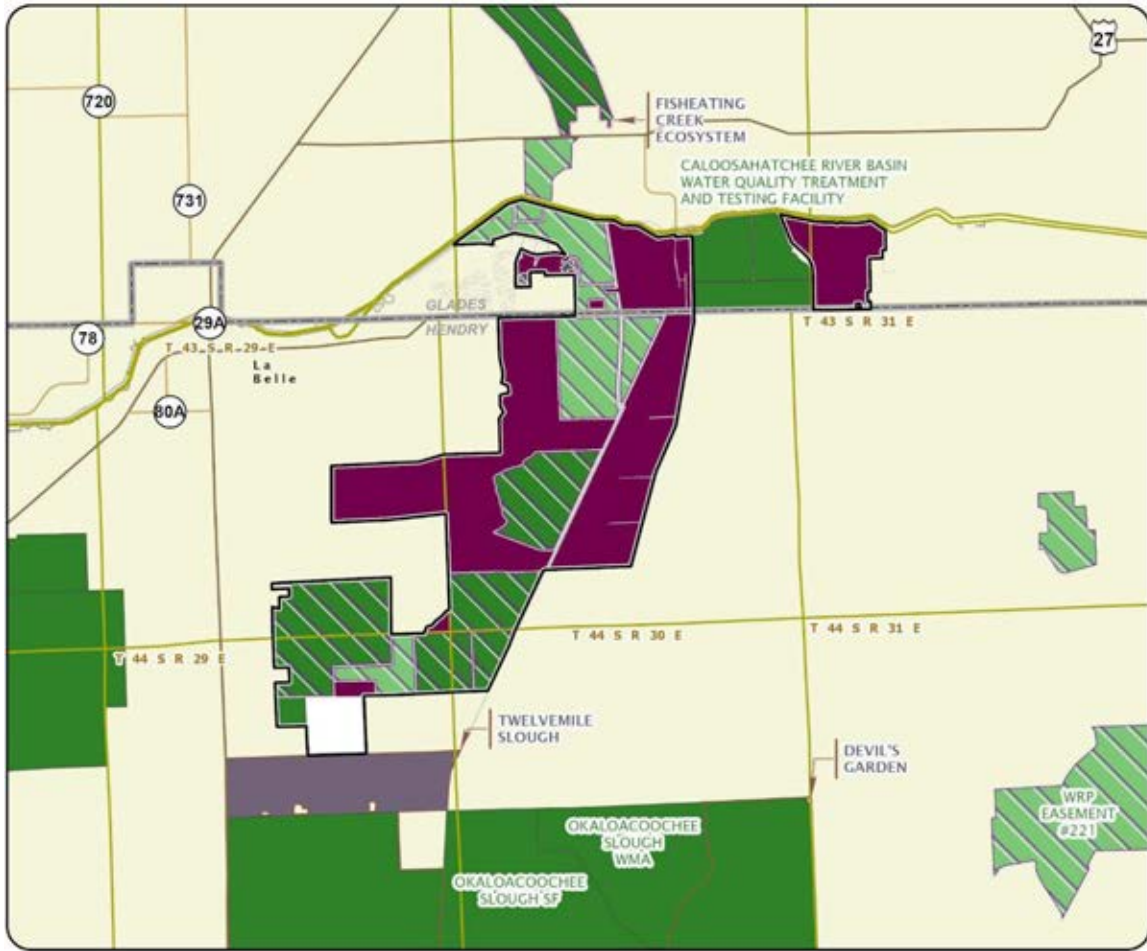
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies and non-profit organizations in managing the area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presently maintains a campground and the locks at Ortona, along the northeastern corner of the project boundary.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Second Year
Source of Funds	LATF & State Game Trust Fund	
Salaries	\$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



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Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway

Critical Natural Lands

Baker, Bradford, and Clay Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	33,978
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,742
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	32,236
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$66,158,140

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 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 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

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





Public Use

The 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 added the Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple and less-than-fee project, sponsored by the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 that were designated as 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a redesign of the Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway project that divided and reduced the expansive project into Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway project (33,973 acres) and Raiford - Osceola Greenway project (67,673 acres). After the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2018

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

Coordination

Conservation Florida and the Office of Greenways and Trails are acquisition partners on the 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 and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 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, Florida mouse and striped newt. 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Forest Service propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop a 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 reforestation 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 sites in 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. 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 the Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 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.



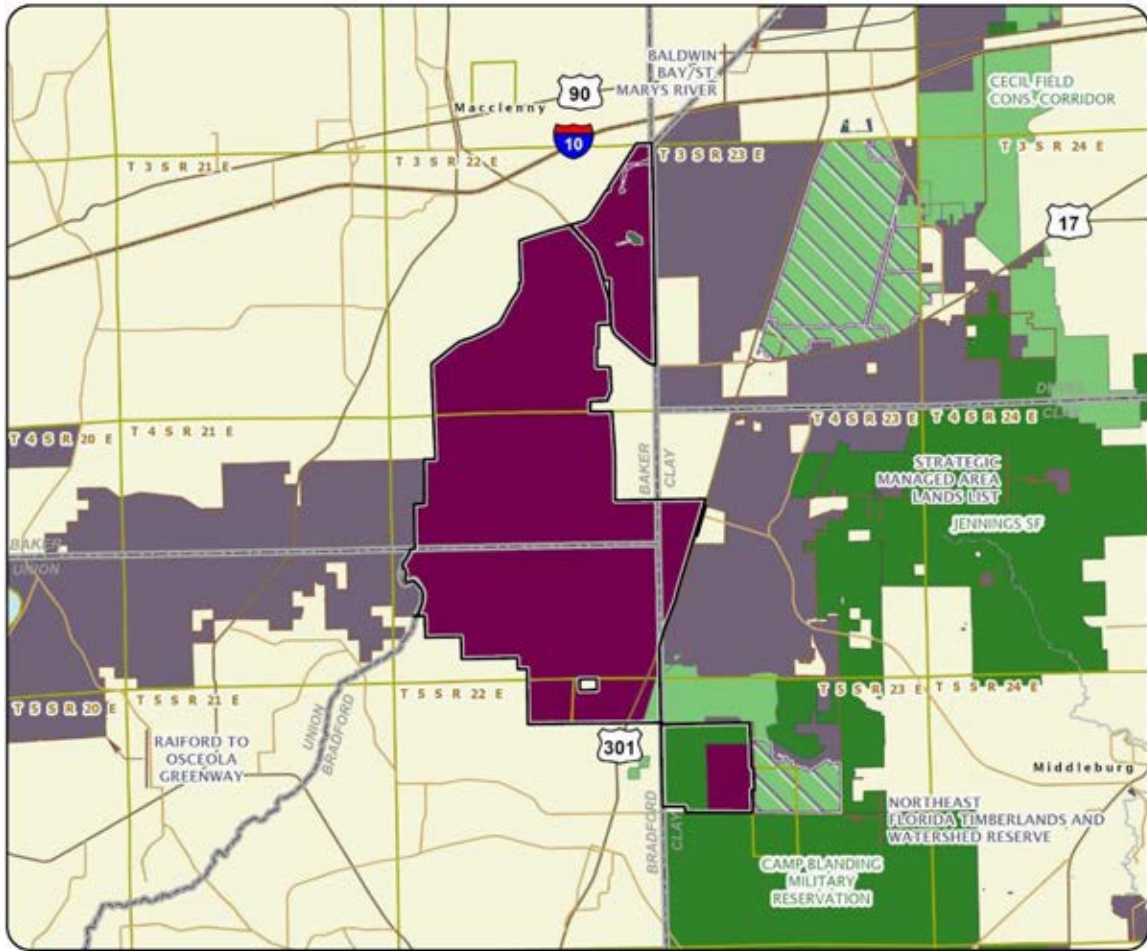


Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$1,747,592	\$969,434
Administration	\$77,713	\$10,388
Support	\$153,462	\$13,047
Capital Improvements	\$3,441,310	\$323,273
Visitor Services and Recreation	\$3,363	\$58
Law Enforcement	\$42,880	\$42,880
TOTAL	\$5,466,320	\$1,359,080

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





CAMP BLANDING TO RAIFORD GREENWAY

BAKER, BRADFORD, AND CLAY COUNTIES



Devil's Garden

Critical Natural Lands

Collier and Hendry Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	82,995
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	54,429
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$126,250,500
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	28,566
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$126,410,842

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. Numerous records of panthers and other rare and threatened species have been noted on site. The project borders the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest 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 Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and is roughly 18 miles long (east-west) and six miles wide (north-south). An additional parcel (6,445 acres) is adjacent to the northeastern boundary of the state forest and Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area. Two smaller parcels (3,328 acres and 1,127 acres) border the southwestern boundary of the state forest.

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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G3/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 added the Devil’s Garden project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2003 Priority List. The fee-simple project, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Forest Service, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 from Alico, Inc. The fee simple acquisition contained 10,702.03 acres and was purchased for \$28,500,000. The parcels will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area.

2021

In 2021, DEP acquired 7,355.86 acres fee simple from Alico, Inc. It will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area.

2023

In 2023, DEP acquired, in fee, a total of 17,159 acres in Hendry County from Alico, Inc.





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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the recommended lead manager for most of the area (approximately 71,608 acres). The Florida Forest Service will manage the two westernmost parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) adjoining the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Due to the diversity and connectivity to the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, the two westernmost parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) 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 (approximately 71,608 acres) 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. The 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 the 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 the 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 14 FTE positions to manage the project area. Certain activities may be privatized, reducing the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural-resource management and public use administration would come from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

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 the 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 the project is expected to be low. Some revenues might be generated from agricultural farming contracts in areas currently being farmed as row crops until such areas can be restored in the interest of wildlife conservation.

Cooperators in Management Activities

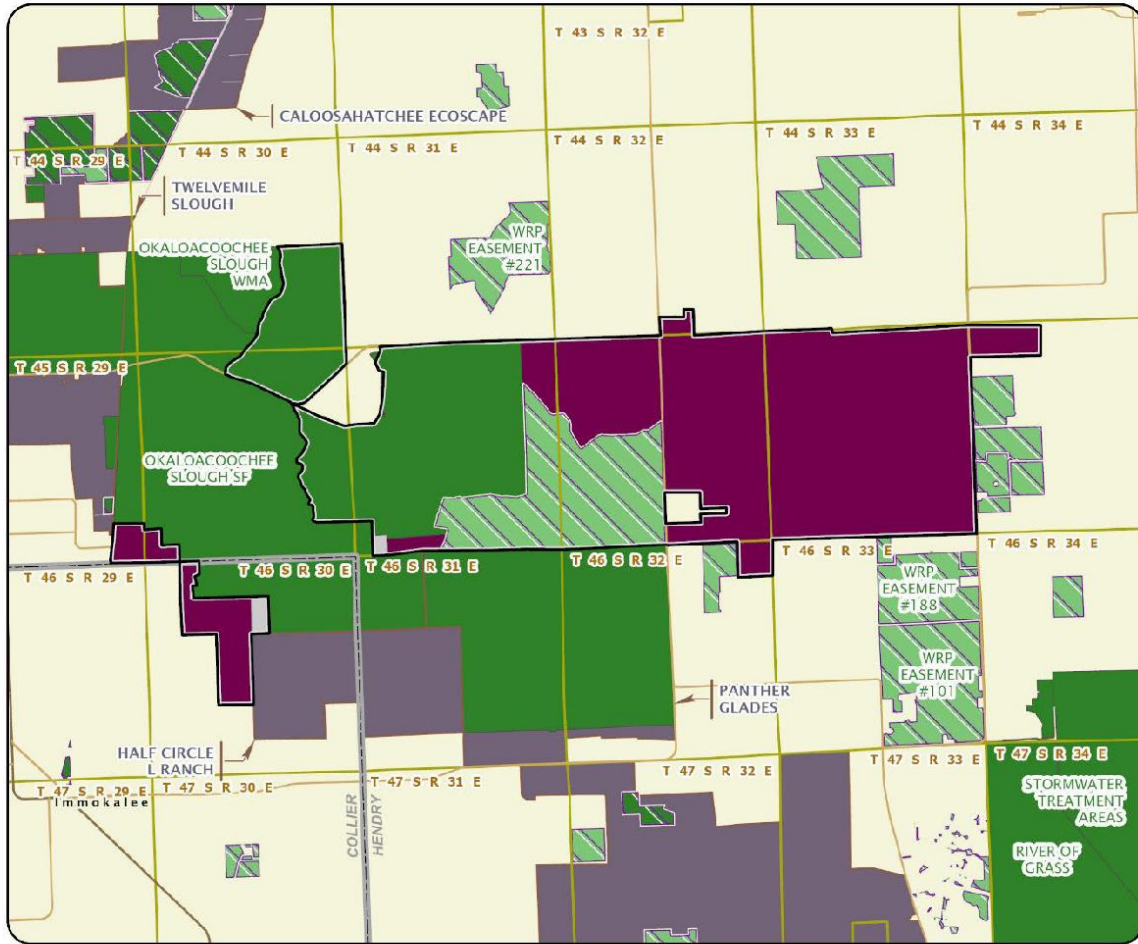
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Forest Service will cooperate with other federal, state and local government agencies, including the South Florida Water Management District, in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	not provided
Salary (6 FTE)	\$216,639	not provided
Expense	\$725,000	not provided
OCO	\$418,200	not provided
TOTAL	\$1,359,839	not provided

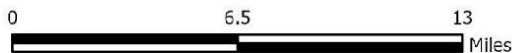
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





DEVIL'S GARDEN

COLLIER AND HENDRY COUNTIES



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Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

Critical Natural Lands

Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion and Putnam Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	94,104
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	44,180
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$27,904,731
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	49,924
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$204,249,562

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 along the Ocklawaha River. The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will fill gaps in the greenway and guarantee habitat for imperiled species like Florida black bear, Florida scrub-jay and Etoniah rosemary. 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 the Cross Florida Greenway 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 an 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 fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, indigo and pine snakes, crayfish and seven 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. 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Etonia rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Gopher tortoise acrolophus moth	G1/S1
<i>bog spicebush</i>	G3/S1
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>Pinkroot</i>	G2/S2
<i>Curtiss' loosestrife</i>	G2/S2

Public Use

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.

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 the portion of the project is the Inglis Island site (acquired by DEP's 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 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 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) as essential.

2000

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

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 1,543 acres to the project boundary in the Deep Creek area.

On May 1, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 1,110 acres to the project boundaries.

2003

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

2007

On April 13, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an 85-acre fee-simple addition (Foxtrotter Ranch) to the project boundary. Sponsored by DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails, it consisted of one landowner, Richard Simon, and had a taxable value of \$2,267,908. The 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 following acquisition.

2008

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

In September, October and November 2008, the Florida Forest Service used Florida Forever funds to acquire the following acreages: 1.08 acres (Fred Yankee, LLC) for \$13,500; 0.87 acres (Goddard) for \$23,000; 1.01 acres (Land Reclamation, Inc.) for \$15,000; 2.52 acres (Cann) for \$23,000; 1.21 acres (Martin) for \$14,000; 1.27 acres (Vehoski) for \$14,000; 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District purchased 208 acres (Plum Creek) for \$474,363.

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, the Florida Forest Service purchased 1.43 acres for \$13,500 and will manage the tract.

2010

On November 4, 2010, the Florida Forest Service purchased 106 acres (Moore) for \$405,000 using Florida Forever funds. The Florida Forest Service will manage the tract.

2011

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

On May 2, 2011, the Florida Forest Service purchased 1.25 acres (Cearley) for \$12,000.

On August 3, 2011, the Florida Forest Service 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council recommended a 1,509-acre reduction to the project boundary containing residential development, commercial buildings and other infrastructure and placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

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

On December 27, 2012, the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired the Bear Track Bay tract (625 acres) as Florida Department of Transportation mitigation.

2013

On December 20, 2013, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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, Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to amend the project by adding 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. The 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. Two donations containing 74.77 acres were acquired and will be managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Etoniah Creek State Forest.

2021

DEP acquired, fee simple, 1,889.71 acres in Marion County from Florida Power & Light that will be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks as an addition to Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

2022

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

DEP acquired a 215.91-acre conservation easement in Putnam County from Wetland Preserve, LLC.

2023

DEP acquired a 2,393-acre conservation easement in Putnam County 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.

Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District 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. The Division of State Lands will assume the lead on acquisition of the remaining tracts.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of the 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)

The Florida Forest Service proposes to manage the 57,000-acre Etoniah Creek portion of the project and the Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the remaining lands near the old Cross Florida Barge Canal. The Florida Forest Service 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 the project make it highly desirable for management as a state forest. The Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway includes scenic and historic rivers, lakes, wetlands and uplands. It is also near, or contiguous with, many other state-owned lands. The Cross Florida Greenway portion of the 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 Cross Florida Greenway 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, the Florida Forest Service 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. The Florida Forest Service 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 much 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. The Florida Forest Service will promote environmental education. For the Cross Florida Greenway portion, activities within the first year after acquisition will primarily consist of site security, resource inventory, removal of trash, and resource-management planning. Long-range activities proposed include a multi-purpose trail and facilities for public access.

Revenue-generating Potential

In the Etoniah Creek portion of the project, the Florida Forest Service 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 moderate. In the Cross Florida Greenway 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

The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Currently, properties along the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway are managed in partnership with Marion County, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and private individuals for recreational purposes.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	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

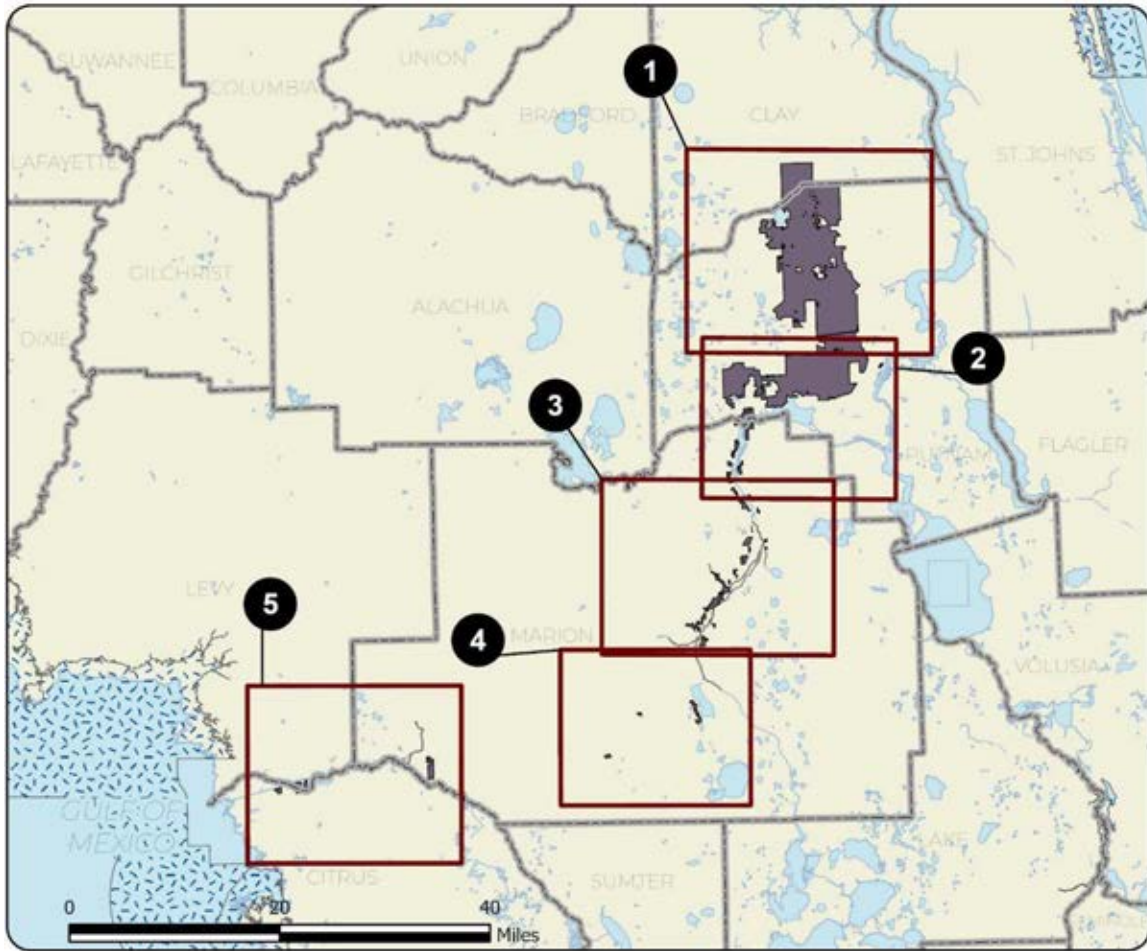
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

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

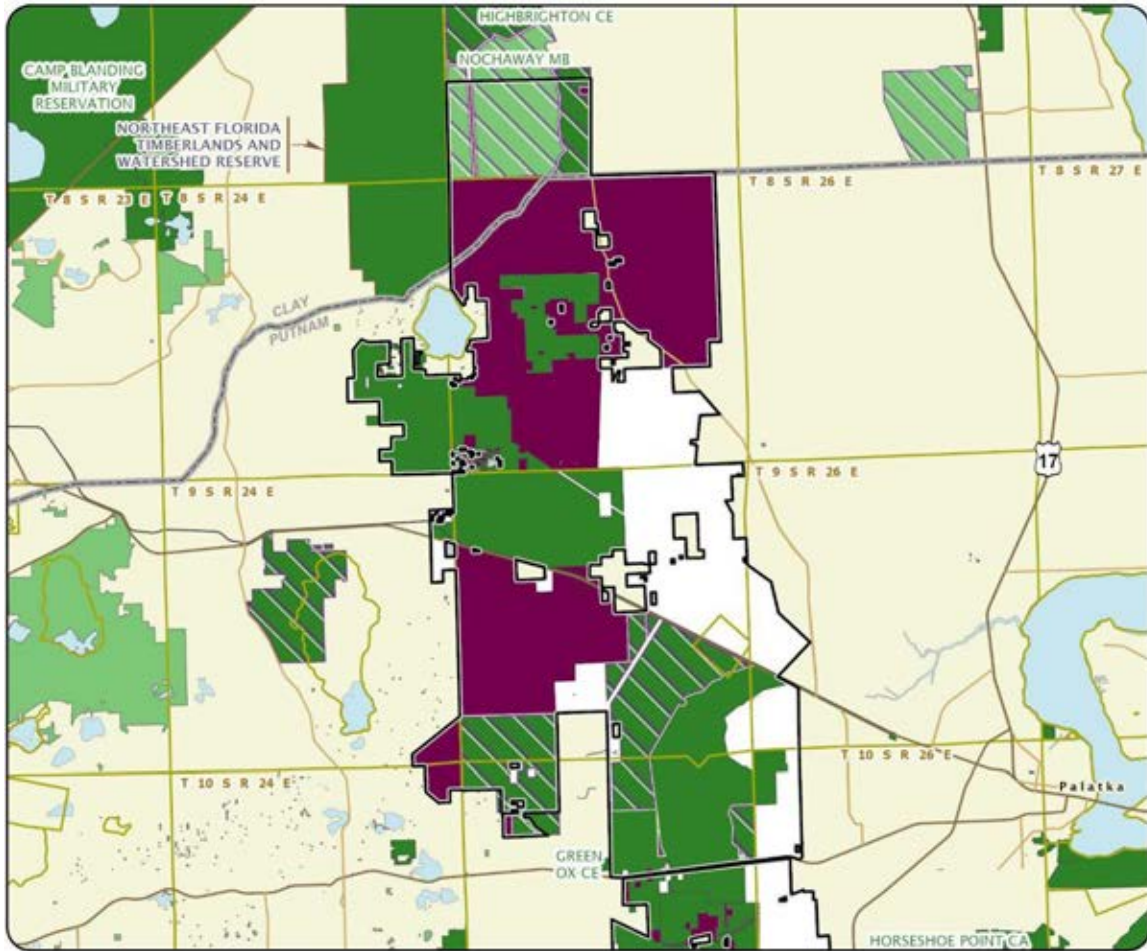




ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

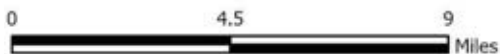
CITRUS, CLAY, LEVY, MARION, AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

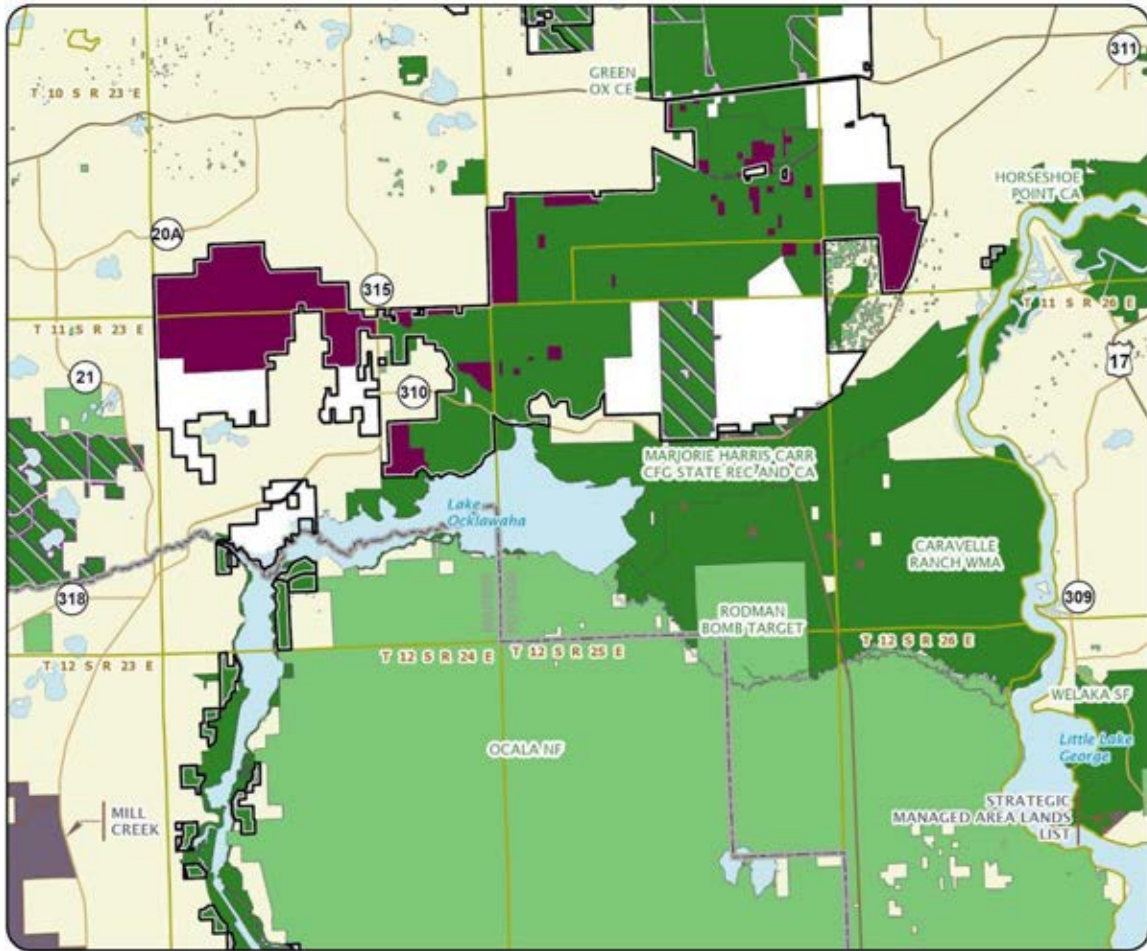




ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 1

CLAY AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

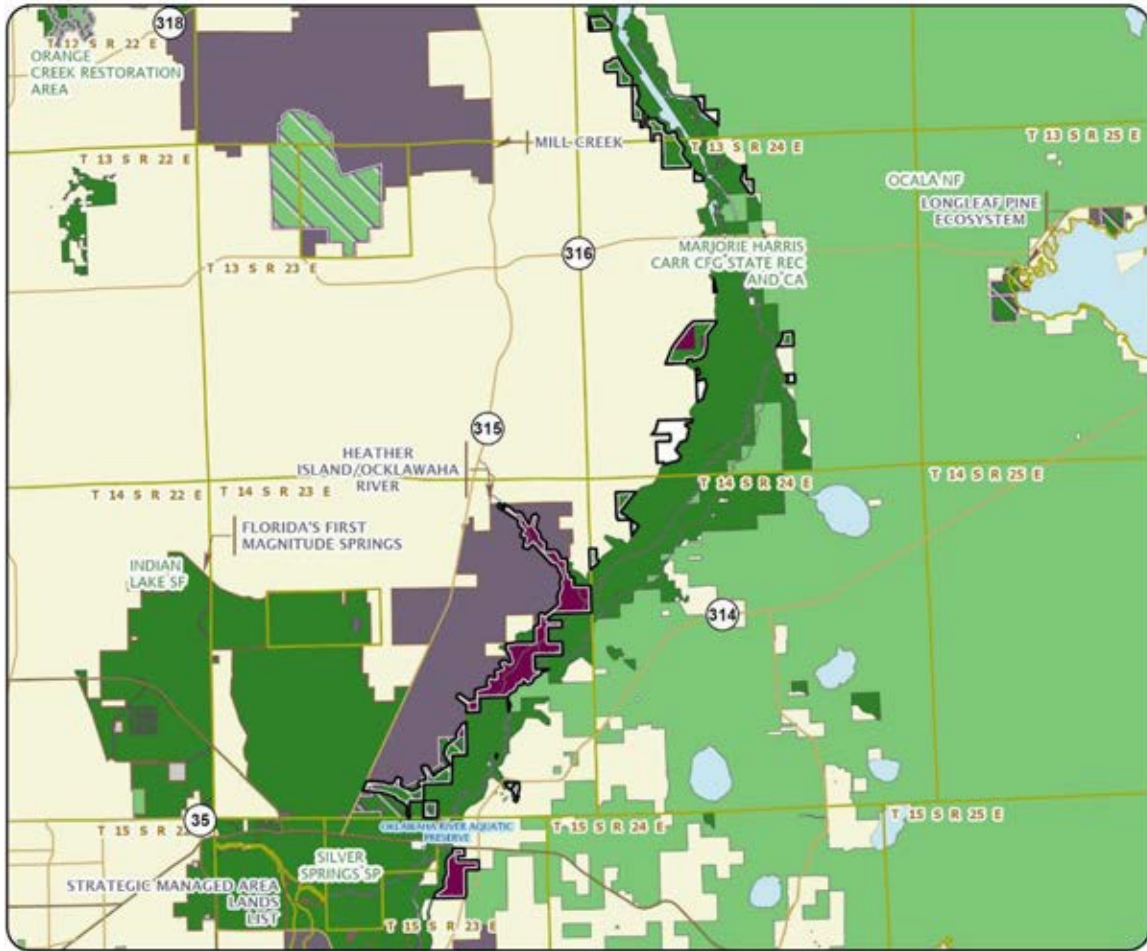




ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 2

MARION AND PUTNAM COUNTIES





ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 3

MARION COUNTY

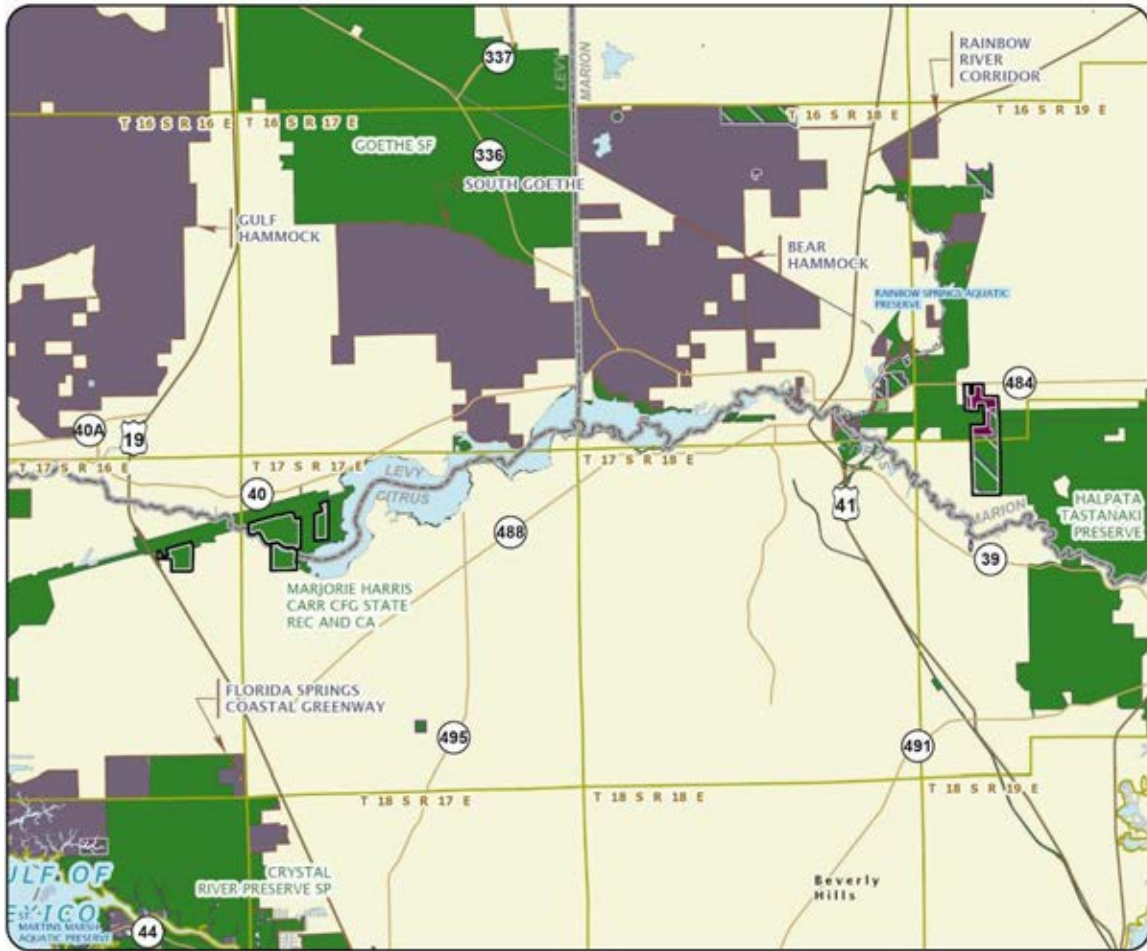




ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY





ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 5

CITRUS, LEVY, AND MARION COUNTIES



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Forest and Lakes Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Bay and Washington Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2019
<i>Project Acres</i>	54,862
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	54,862
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$69,232,493

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.

General Description

The Forest and Lakes Ecosystem project spans portions of Bay and Washington 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gulf sturgeon	G3T2T3/S2?
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Crystal Lake nailwort</i>	G1/S1
Georgia blind salamander	G1G2/S1S2
Purple skimmer	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Morzenti's spleenwort</i>	G2/S1
Apalachicola cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2
<i>karst pond xyris</i>	G2/S2
<i>quillwort yellow-eyed grass</i>	G2/S2
<i>smoothbark St. John's wort</i>	G2/S2

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 the 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.

Acquisition Planning

2019

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

Between the proposal's submittal and approval by the Acquisition and Restoration Council as a Florida Forever project, the owner, Northern Trust Company, sold the property to a consortium of entities. The new owners were willing to include this acreage in the Florida Forever program. Due to the project's size, the Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have all submitted management proposals. Each management prospectus has been included below.

Coordination

Because of the project's location and role in ensuring a wildlife linkage and corridor for the Florida Panhandle, conservation of the project area would be done in coordination with the Northwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Forest Service, U.S. Department of Defense and Seven Runs Creek Conservation Easement's management. However, additional entities could assist with management or acquisition moving 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 the 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)

The Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Forest Service each submitted a Management Prospectus for the project. The understanding was that the project would work best if divided among these managers, depending on natural resources, opportunities, protection and restoration needs. The agreement was that recommended management would be resolved prior to pursuit. The Nature Conservancy identified the Florida Forest Service as a logical manager for the site's timber resources.

Management Prospectus: Division of Recreation and Parks

Qualifications for State Designation

The Division of Recreation and Parks proposed 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, which 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 would be converted to their former natural communities using the Torreya (Sweetwater Tract) model, which emphasizes native groundcover reintroduction.

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

Provisions 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks for management. Any areas requiring immediate management attention, security or protection would 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," which include a composting





restroom, picnic pavilion and trailhead kiosk, would be installed at strategically located points within the property and provide access to a preliminary system of hiking trails.

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 would include the Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and 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 would come from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are below.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Amount	Notes
Source of funds		Visitor entrance fees and other fees
Salary	\$293,300	7 FTE positions
Expense	\$100,000	
OCO	\$50,000	
FCO	\$1,000,000	Year one
FCO	\$200,000	Year two and beyond

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Prospectus: Florida Forest Service

Qualifications for State Designation

Florida Forest Service management would 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 would 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 the Florida Forest Service, short term management efforts would concentrate on site security, control of vehicle access and management planning. Consideration





would 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 would depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions and using established infrastructure. The Florida Forest Service would expedite short-term management on portions of the property that are in close proximity to existing Florida Forest Service-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

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

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service would work with the Division of Recreation and Parks and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 would come from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

Management Cost Summary		
FFS	Amount	Notes
Salary	\$165,000	(3 FTEs; Forestry Sup II, Forest Ranger, Park Ranger)
Expense	\$120,000	(Annual operating costs)
OCO	\$693,250	(2 - 4x4 pickups, 1 tractor plow/transport, 1 farm tractor with implements, 1 road grader, and 2 UTVs)
Outsourcing	\$25,000	
TOTAL	\$1,003,250	

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Prospectus: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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 the 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 and wetlands, should be identified, managed and protected.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for management, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would develop a management plan describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on the property. The management plan would also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including the Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Forest Service 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 would be developed. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 would 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 would be considered for implementation following acquisition. These potential uses would enhance the public's opportunities for outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads would be maintained to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development would 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 would 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 would be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’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

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would work with the Division of Recreation and Parks and Florida Forest Service, along with other federal, state and local agencies, as cooperating managers to further resource management, and recreational and educational opportunities.

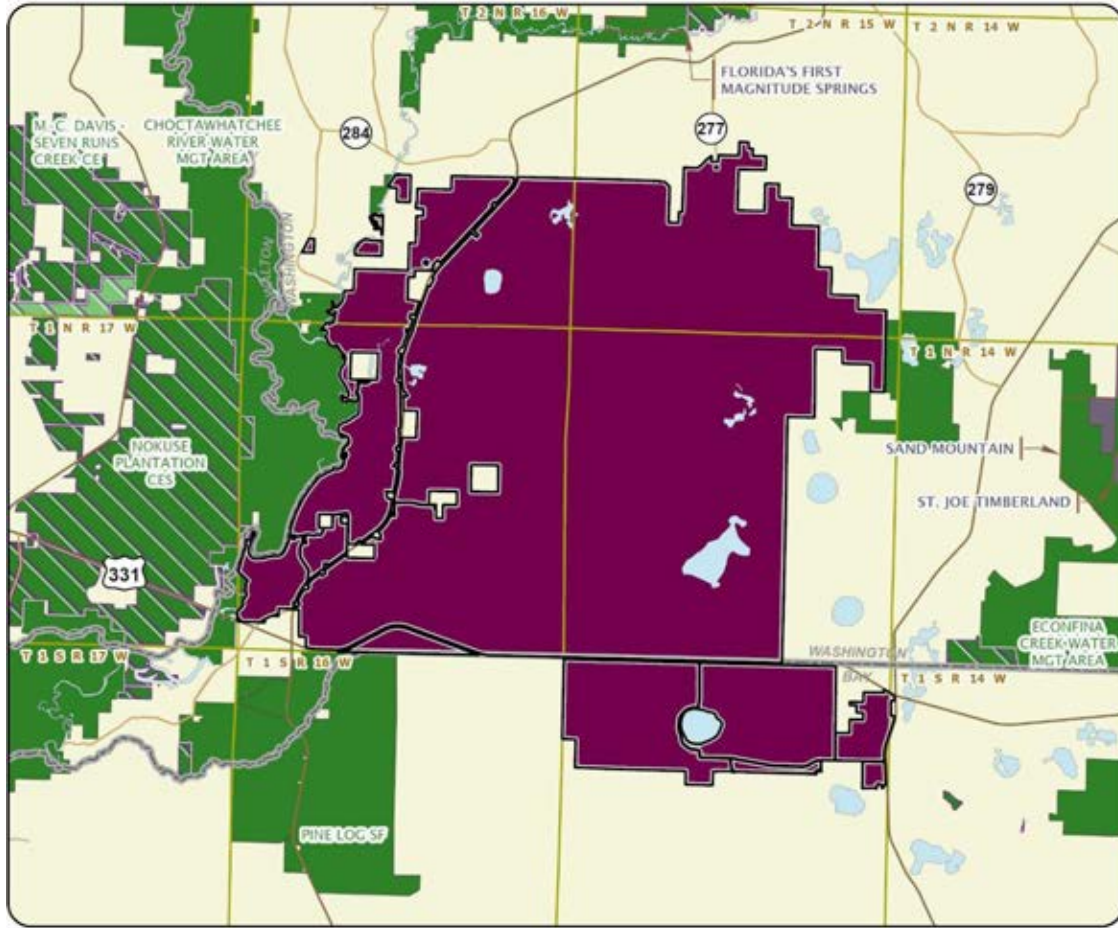
Management costs and sources of revenue

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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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	Recurring	Non-Recurring
Resource Management	\$2,090,596	
Administration	\$45,400	
Support	\$584,732	
Capital Improvements	\$318,348	
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$200,745	
Law Enforcement	\$42,118	
TOTAL	\$3,281,939	\$3,281,939

Source: Legislative appropriations





FOREST AND LAKES ECOSYSTEM

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES



Gardner Marsh

Critical Natural Lands

Osceola County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	5,958
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	45
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	5,913
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$23,650,803

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, Florida panther, Bachman's sparrow and the rare Nodding pinweed. Nearly all of the property (99 percent) 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

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.

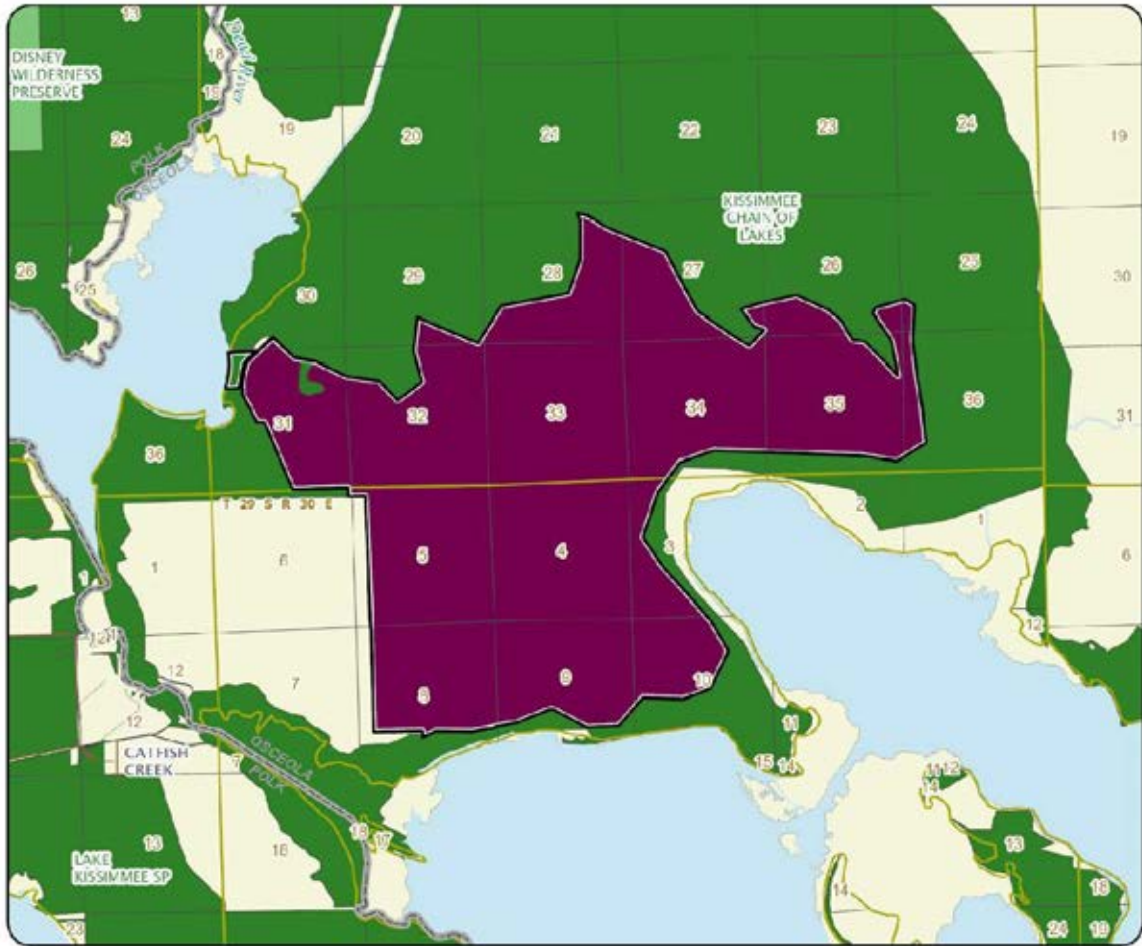
Management Policy Statement

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 Division of State Lands.





GARDNER MARSH

OSCEOLA COUNTY



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Half Circle L Ranch

Critical Natural Lands

Collier and Hendry Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2003
<i>Project Acres</i>	11,182
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	11,182
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$46,439,692

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Half Circle L Ranch project will protect primary habitat zones for both the Florida panther and the Florida Black bear. 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 Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and 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 the 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>narrow-leaved strap fern</i>	G4G5/S1
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S3
White ibis	G5/S4

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 added the project to the A List of Florida Forever projects.

2004

In 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to the B List of Florida Forever projects.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

The project is adjacent to Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area. The Panther Glades Florida Forever project and Devil’s Garden Florida Forever project 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 the project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the 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. The 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 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the 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. 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 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 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 the 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.

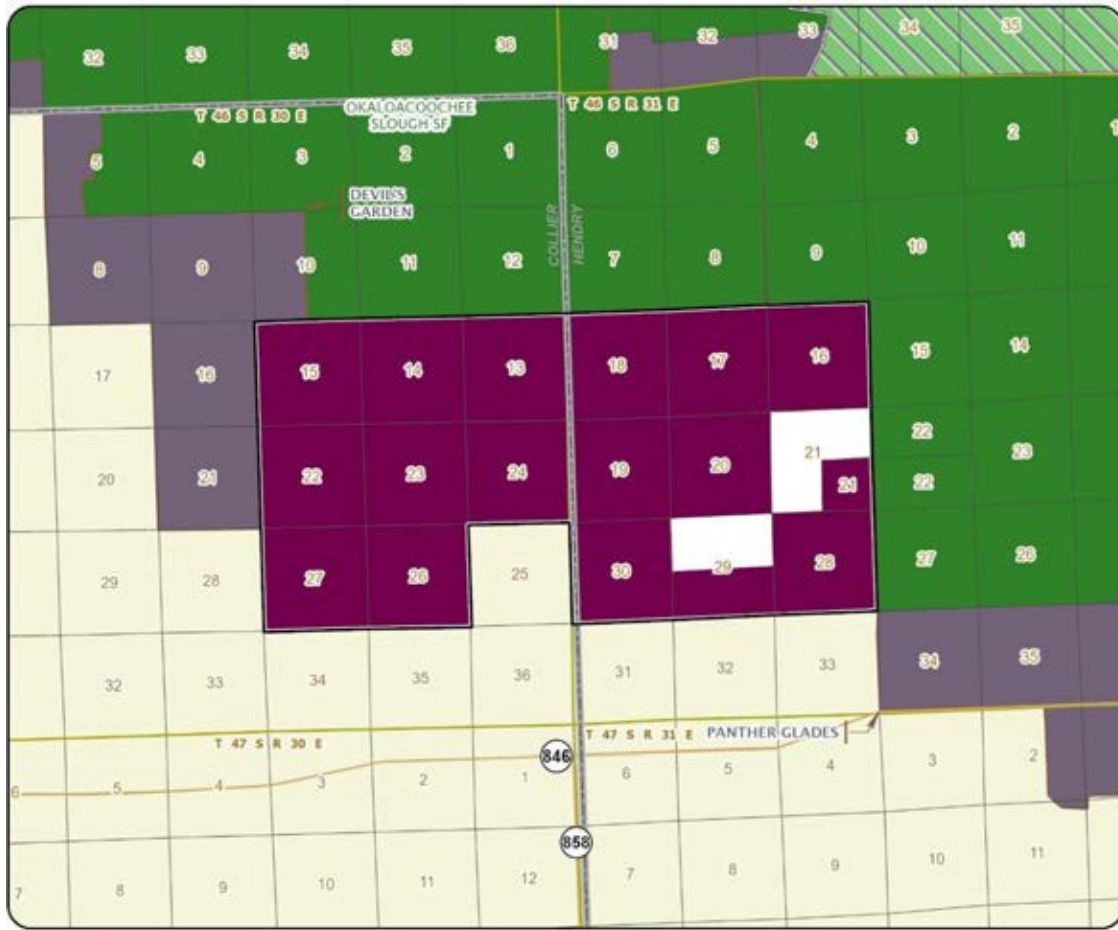
Florida Forever capital project expenditures will be needed on the parcel for hydrological restoration, public access and public use. The management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project expenditure; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is 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	CARL	not provided
Salary (2 FTE)	\$70,751	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



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Hixtown Swamp

Critical Natural Lands

Madison County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1993
<i>Project Acres</i>	24,479
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,514
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$200,331
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	21,965
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$39,062,685

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 sandhill cranes. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Bird Rookery	G5/SNRB
<i>incised groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4





Public Use

The 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 (aka 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, the 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.

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

The 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

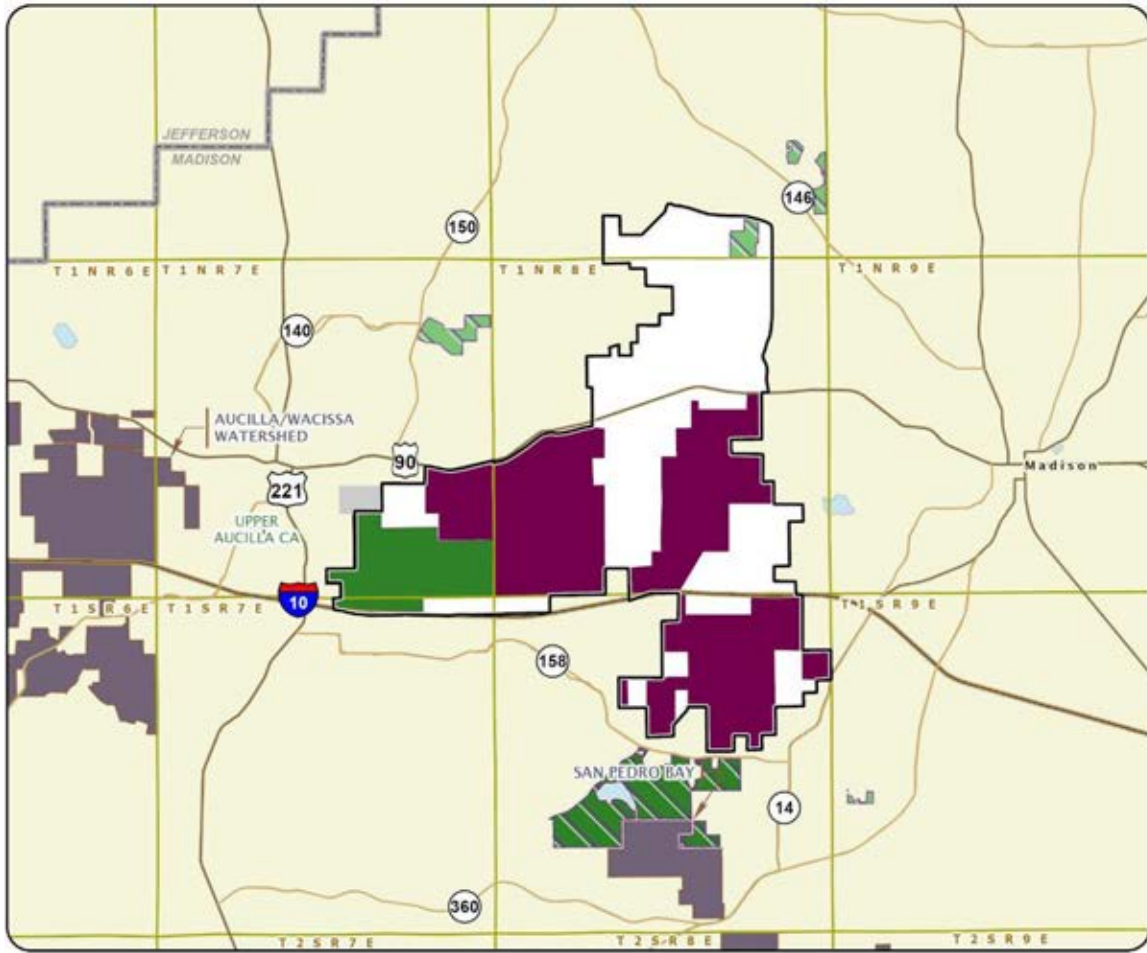
The Florida Forest Service is recommended as a cooperator to assist in the reforestation of upland areas.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL 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



Ichetucknee Trace

Critical Natural Lands

Columbia County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1997</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>2,786</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>1,079</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$33,950,174</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>1,707</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$17,158,134</i>

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of 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; the trace marks 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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

The 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

The 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 (acquired); Saylor Sink (acquired); and Clay Hole Creek.

2000

In January 2000, the BOT authorized the 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, The Trust for Public Land donated a two-acre parcel around Rose Sink to the state.

2003

On August 15, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 7.8 acres to the project boundary, as well as approved the acquisition of the McCormick Sink Site (147 acres) within the project boundary.

2006

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

2007

On February 16, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage this essential parcel.

On June 15, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the addition. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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 The Trust for Public Land. The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the acreage.

2011

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





Coordination

Columbia County is considered an acquisition partner for the project. The Trust for Public Land 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)

The Division of Recreation and Parks is recommended as lead manager for the site adjacent to the existing state park, and Columbia County is recommended as lead manager for the other nine sites. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the 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 eliminate 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks, Columbia County and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission describing future resource management. Because of the expense of excavating and earth moving and prerequisite planning/bidding, most of the actual work will not be scheduled for year one. Year two will concentrate on accomplishment of initial phases of conceptual plan (earthmoving and excavation). The work will proceed into year three, when some infrastructure work on facilities will commence. Long-range plans will stress fish and wildlife habitat creation and management and public fishing opportunities. Future infrastructure may include an 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 the property. Additional revenue-generating potential would be the sale of fishing licenses, special use or entrance fees.

Cooperators in Management Activities

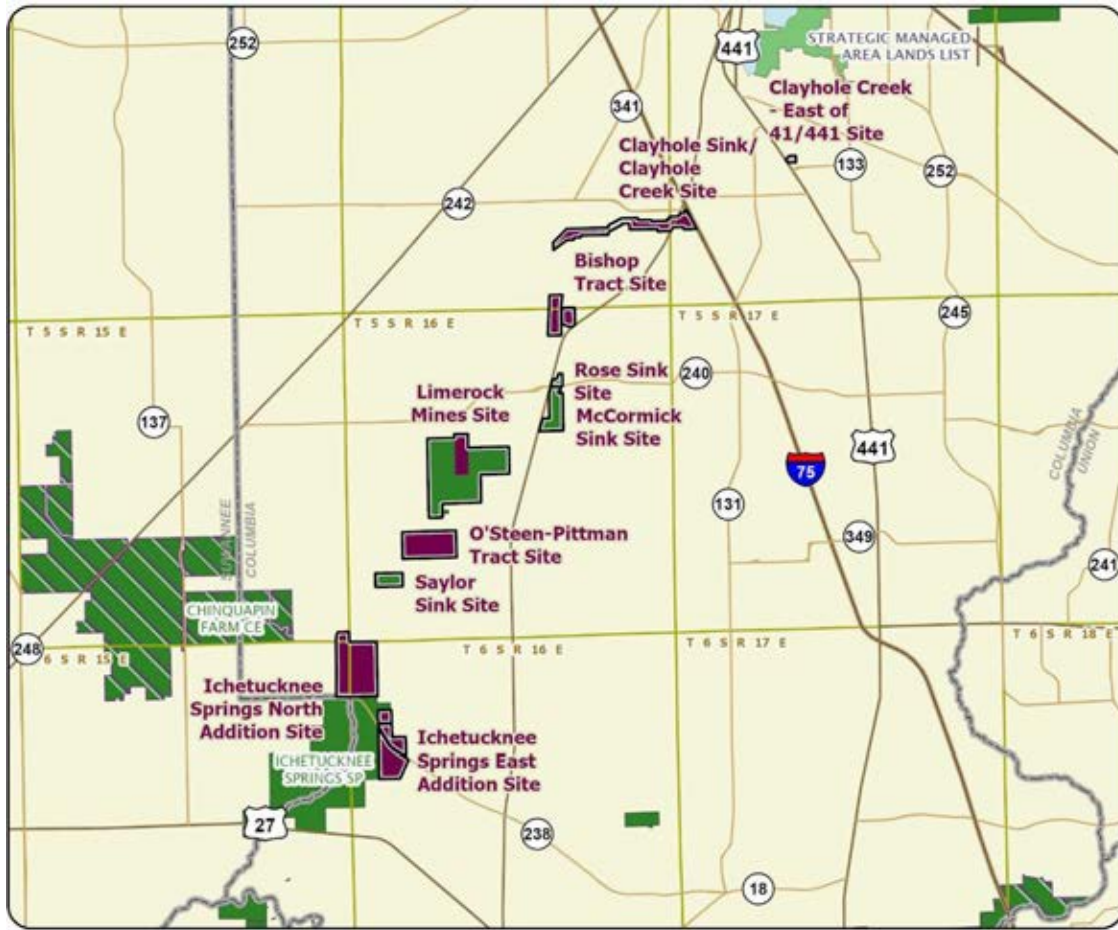
The Division of Recreation and Parks, Columbia County and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with various government agencies in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL/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



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Lake Hatchineha Watershed

Critical Natural Lands

Osceola and Polk Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	6,764
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,044
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	4,720
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$46,551,024

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 County, 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, named the Beagle Tract, is 3,350 acres of mesic flatwoods, dome swamps and pasture that straddles State Road 580. The southeastern parcel (1,970 acres) is dominated by a 260-acre dome swamp surrounded by former mesic flatwoods that have been cut and then used for rangeland. The southwest parcel (1,132 acres) is about three miles south of the Beagle Tract 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, with approximately 777 acres of the project designated as groundwater recharge areas.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida scrub lizard	G2G3/S2S3
<i>celestial lily</i>	G3/S3
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

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.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Lake Hatchineha Watershed project to Group A of the 2002 Florida Forever Project List. The project is proposed for fee-simple ownership. The essential parcel has been identified as the Parker Poinciana ownership.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the Florida Forever Project List.

2010

On October 15, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2015

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

2023

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





Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is considered an acquisition partner on the 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 will cooperate with the South Florida Water Management District and other conservation agencies to achieve that purpose.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the Lake Hatchineha Watershed Florida Forever project, in cooperation with other state and local agencies.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.





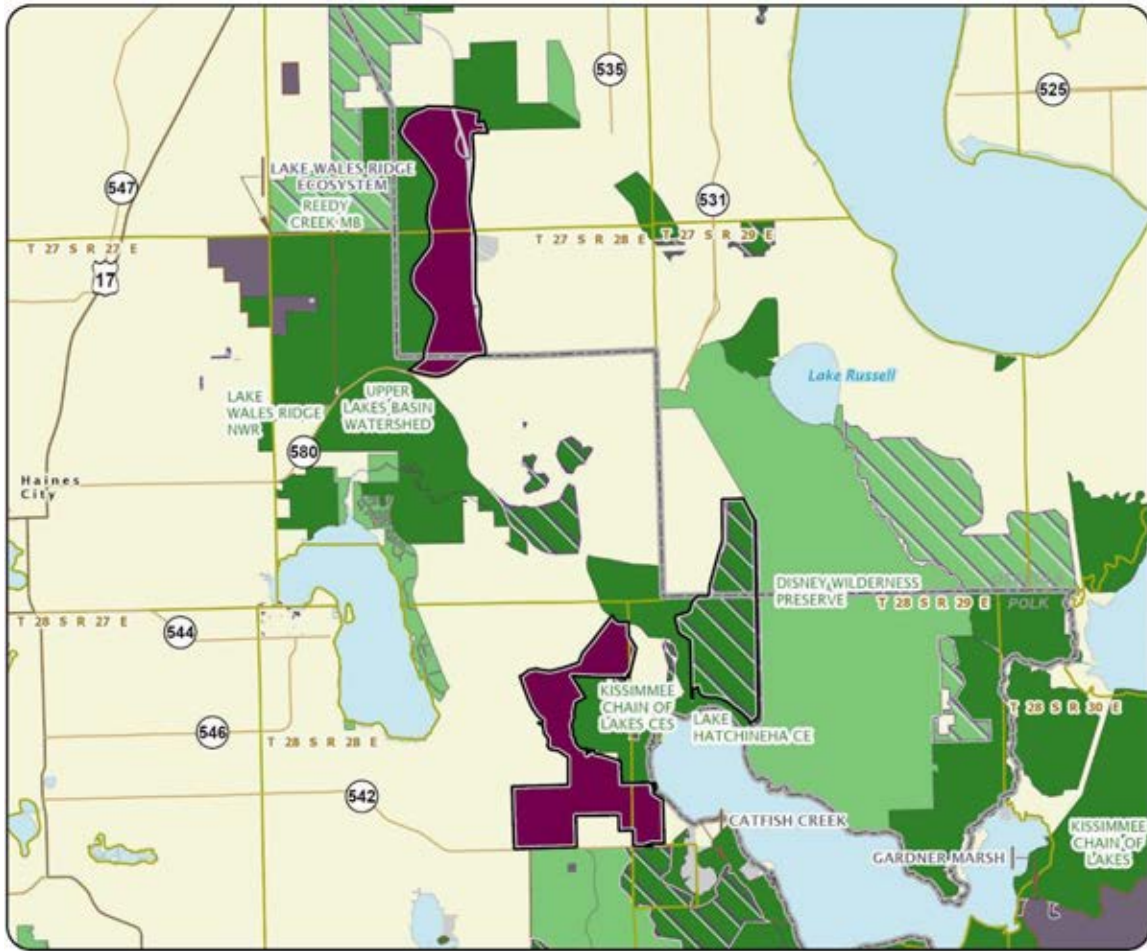
Cooperators in Management Activities

The cooperators in management activities on the project include the Division of Recreation and Parks and the South Florida Water Management District.

FWC	Management Cost Summary	
	Startup	Recurring
Resource Management:		
Exotic Species Control	\$25,748	\$51,496
Prescribed Burning	\$3,927	\$7,854
Hydrological Management	\$40,000	\$4,475
Other	\$52,991	\$52,991
Subtotal	\$122,666	\$116,816
Administration:		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$57,642	\$23,151
Districts/Regions	\$24,704	\$9,922
Subtotal	\$82,346	\$33,073
Support:		
Land Management Planning	\$25,000	\$0
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$83,900	\$11,986
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$13,230	\$13,230
Subtotal	\$122,130	\$26,716
Capital Improvements:		
New Facility Construction	\$498,865	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$47,481
Subtotal	\$498,865	\$47,481
Visitor Services/Recreation:		
Operations	\$1,625	\$178
Subtotal	\$1,625	\$178
Law Enforcement		
All Activities	\$4,506	\$4,506
Subtotal	\$4,506	\$4,506
TOTAL	\$832,138	\$228,770

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





LAKE HATCHINEHA WATERSHED

OSCEOLA AND POLK COUNTIES



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Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Highlands, Lake, Osceola and Polk Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1992</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>68,798</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>41,071</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$96,442,977</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>27,727</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$258,910,199</i>

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 the 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. The project consists of separate sites along the Lake Wales Ridge which are intended to be part of a system of managed areas that conserve the character, biodiversity and biological function of the ancient 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 the 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>clasping warea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garrett's scrub balm</i>	G1/S1
<i>scrub ziziphus</i>	G1/S1
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Avon Park rabbit-bells</i>	G1/S1
<i>blushing scrub balm</i>	G1/S1
<i>Carter's warea</i>	G1/S1

Public Use

Sites within the 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 Priority List. The fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, 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: 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 acquired 1,309 acres within the Henscratch Road/Jack Creek site for \$1,540,000.

The Nature Conservancy has been an intermediary in most of the ridge sites. Lake Walk-in-Water (8,615 acres): major owner, Alico, has been acquired; The Nature Conservancy 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 and the Conservation and Recreation Lands 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. 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): the South Florida Water Management District has





acquired the major ownerships within the 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. The Nature Conservancy 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 the parcel is acquired, a few large ownerships on western project boundary also remain. Flamingo Villas (1,420 acres): the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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, The Nature Conservancy 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, located in Highlands County, was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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 The Nature Conservancy 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: 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 The Nature Conservancy with a taxable value of \$2,201,330.

1995

On July 14, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved an 850-acre addition to the project boundary. Located in Highlands County, it was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy with a taxable value of \$2,035,980.

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 South Florida Water Management District 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 in Highlands County, consisting of several thousand parcels, 600-700 landowners with a taxable value \$11,980,140) with the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project. The Nature Conservancy sponsored the project in 1994.

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved the transfer of two Polk County 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. The 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 The Nature Conservancy to the project boundary. The 10 sites with a taxable value of \$5,036,700 include 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 The Nature Conservancy, the addition consisted of 1,414 parcels (1,132 landowners) with a taxable value of \$159,086. The additions, which were located in Polk and Highlands counties, include 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: Lake Walk-in-the-Water (320 acres, Saddleblanket Resorts II); and Highlands Ridge (3,200 acres, two large ownerships).

2001

On July 12, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the addition consisted of one landowner owner, Raymond Royce, with a taxable value of \$1,230,591. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the addition.

2002

On November 11, 2002, 1.25 acres were acquired in Carter Creek (Benvenuti) to be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

2003

On May 21, 2003, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission established the Westside conservation easements (291 acres), of which 205 acres are within the project boundary.

On October 17, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a less-than-fee 2,330-acre addition (Henscratch Ranch) to the project boundary. Sponsored by a representative for the landowner, Highlands Farms, Inc., the Division of State Lands will monitor the easement.

2004

On August 20, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a less-than-fee 520-acre addition (Lake Josephine) to the project boundary. Sponsored by representatives of the landowner, E. P. Jones Jr., the Division of State Lands will monitor the easement.

2005

On January 26, 2005, The Nature Conservancy acquired Southern Lake Wales Ridge (0.26 acres).

2006

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

On July 26, 2006, the South Florida Water Management District established the Henscratch (657 acres) conservation easement.

On October 13, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an 11,444-acre addition (Crooked Lake West) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Polk County, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Located in Polk County, the addition 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, the South Florida Water Management District established a second Henscratch conservation easement (650 acres).





2007

On May 7, 2007, The Nature Conservancy established two conservation easements on Bass Ranch (945 acres), of which 22 acres are within the project boundary. The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided funding for one of the easements.

On May 10, 2007, The Nature Conservancy acquired the Hancock Commons Tract (21.47 acres).

2008

On January 25, 2008, The Nature Conservancy acquired The Nature Conservancy/Dellock (10.1 acres).

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

In June 2008, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 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, The Nature Conservancy bought a conservation easement of 57.62 acres within the Scrub Conservation Bank which overlaps the Gould Road site. Archbold Biological Station will monitor 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

Between December 2008 and May 2009, 46 acres were purchased for \$445,161.

In January 2009, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Polk County acquired 3,510 acres (Crooked Lake West site). The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided funding for the acquisition. In June 2009, 5 acres were purchased in the Carter Creek site for \$46,000.

In July 2009, 1 acre was received as a donation from C.L./Vera Stegmaier in Lake Apthorpe. In October 2009, just over 2 acres were purchased for \$24,000 within the Carter Creek site. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the lands.

On December 29, 2009, 1.1 acres were purchased by the Division of State Lands for \$11,500. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the Natural Resources Conservation Service established Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #155 (184 acres).

2011

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

On March 29, 2011, 0.5 acres on Holmes Avenue was donated by the Dorothy A. Sanders Revocable Trust. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be the manager.

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

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

On May 23, 2011, the Natural Resources Conservation Service established Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #157 (1,125 acres).

On July 20, 2011, the Division of State Lands purchased 1.87 acres on Holmes Avenue for \$8,422.

In August 2011, the Division of State Lands acquired 13.53 acres on Holmes Avenue via tax deed sales for \$40,429.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved the Collany Conservation Bank.

2015

In 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased 1 acre to expand the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge.

2016

In 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased 0.75 acres to expand the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge. In 2017, 21.49 acres in the 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) 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of Hendrie Ranch (7,229 acres) in Highlands County to the project boundary.

On October 9, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 913.2 acres in Polk County to the project boundary.

DEP acquired, in fee simple, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of the Ridgeland property (431 acres) in Highlands County.

DEP acquired 27 parcels totaling 12.08 acres in fee from individual owners in Highlands County 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 of 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 owners.





Coordination

The Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project sites are included within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, which is the Service's top priority endangered species project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also participate in management. The Nature Conservancy is an intermediary for non-mega parcel sites on the 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 the 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 Division of Recreation and Parks (Lake June West); Florida Forest Service (Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and five Warea sites) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (remaining sites). The Florida Forest Service will monitor the less-than-fee portion. The 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 the 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

The project is a high-need area, which will require additional funding to stabilize and protect the natural resources. Managing the 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 The Nature Conservancy serve as cooperators in managing some of the sites.

Management Cost Summary

DRP (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

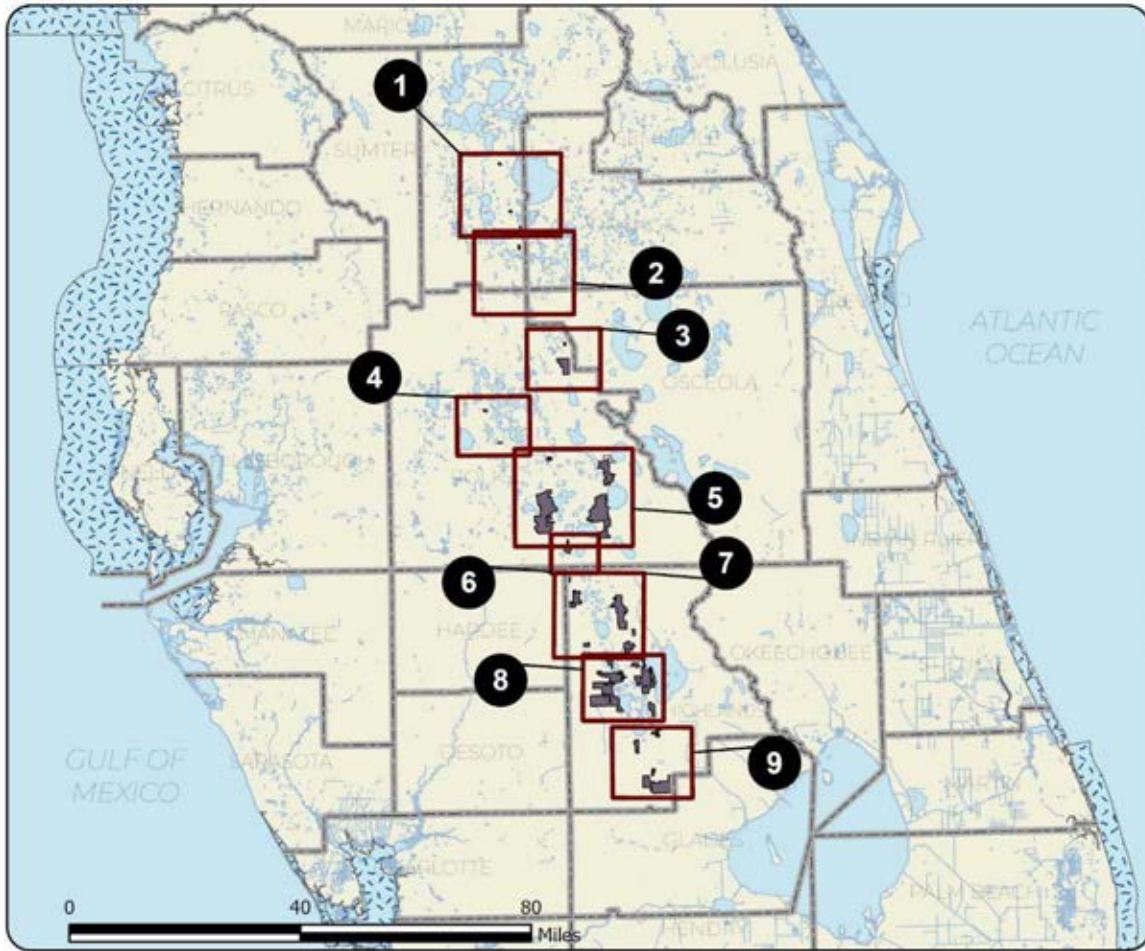
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

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



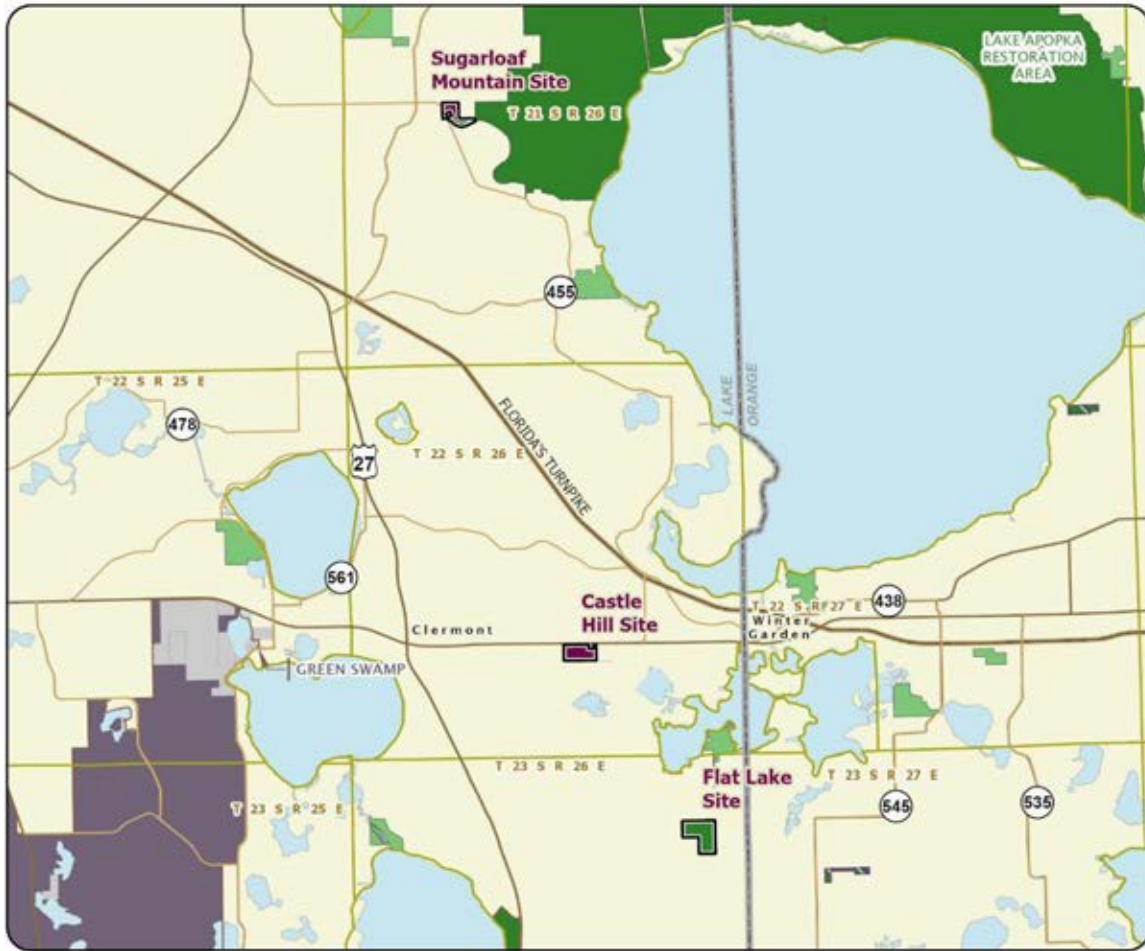


LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

HIGHLANDS, LAKE, OSCEOLA, AND POLK COUNTIES

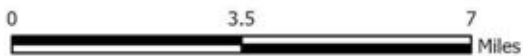
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|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 1 Sugarloaf Mountain Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Silver Lake Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 2 Lake Davenport Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Henscratch Ranch Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 2 Schofield Sandhill Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Henscratch Road/Jack Creek Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 3 Horse Creek Scrub Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Highlands Ridge Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 3 Ridge Scrub Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Holmes Avenue Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 4 Lake Blue Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Lake Apthorpe Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 4 Lake McLeod Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Lake Josephine Site |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Hesperides Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Larson Ranch Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Lake Walk-in-the-Water Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Ridgeland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Mountain Lake Cutoff Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Royce Ranch Addition Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Sunray/Hickory Lake South Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Gould Road Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Trout Lake Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Hendrie Ranch Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Avon Park Lakes Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 McJunkin Ranch Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Carter Creek Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Sun N Lakes South Site |

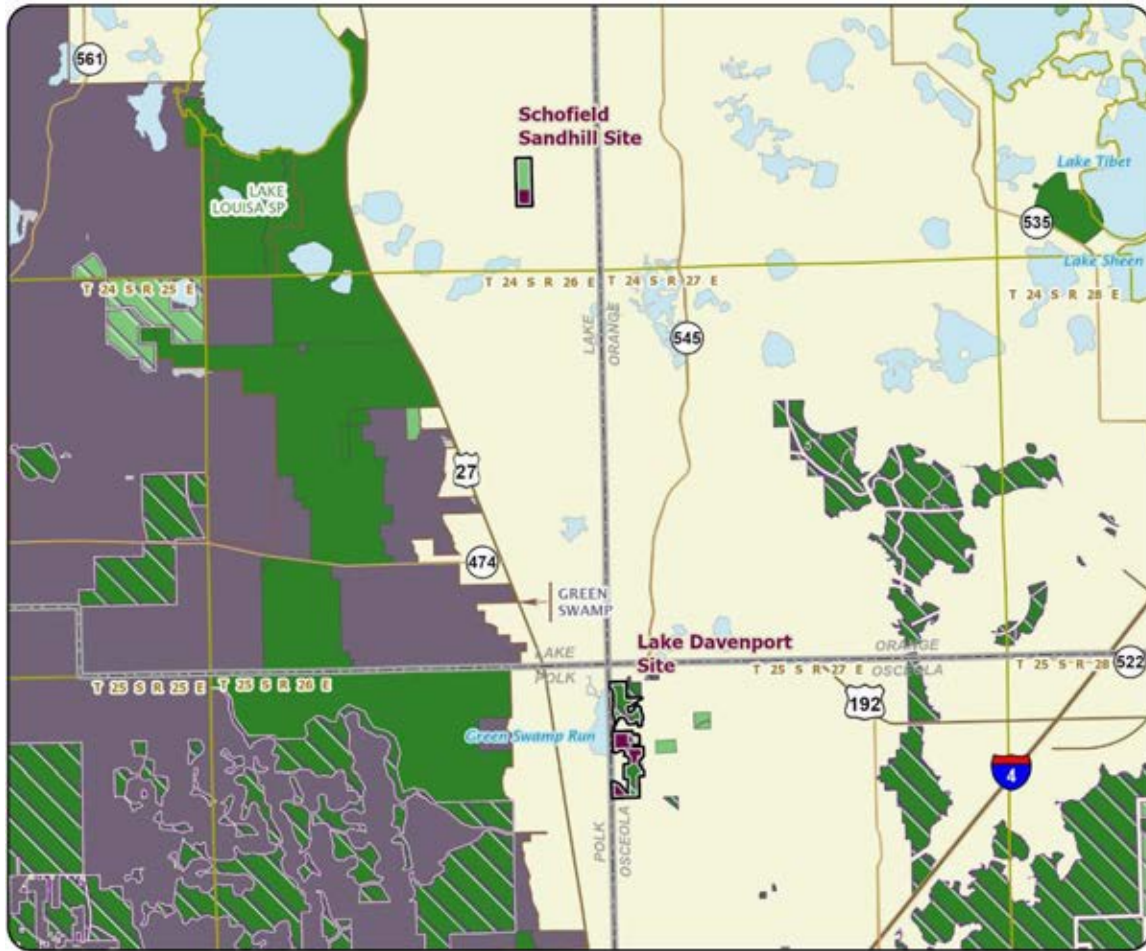




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

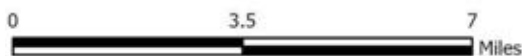
LAKE COUNTY

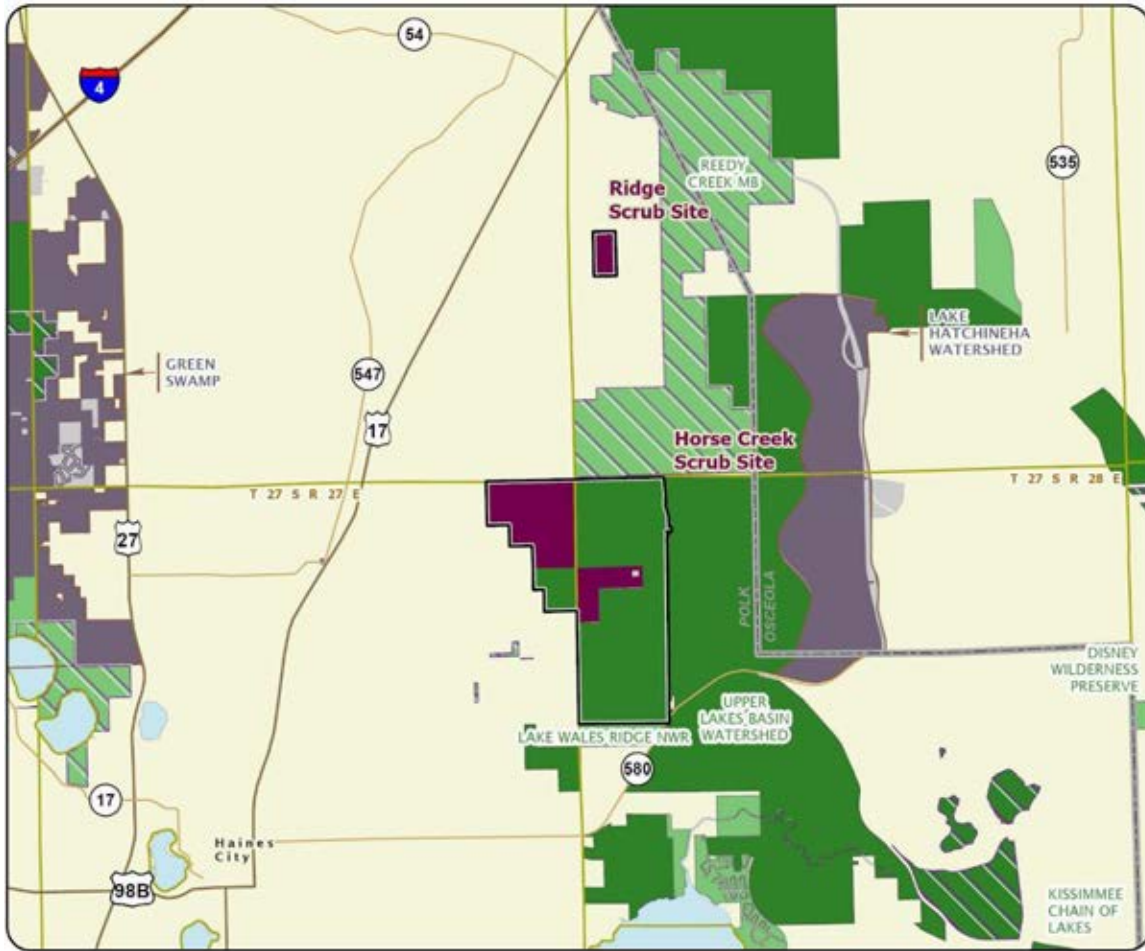




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

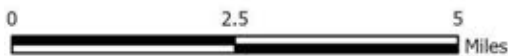
LAKE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

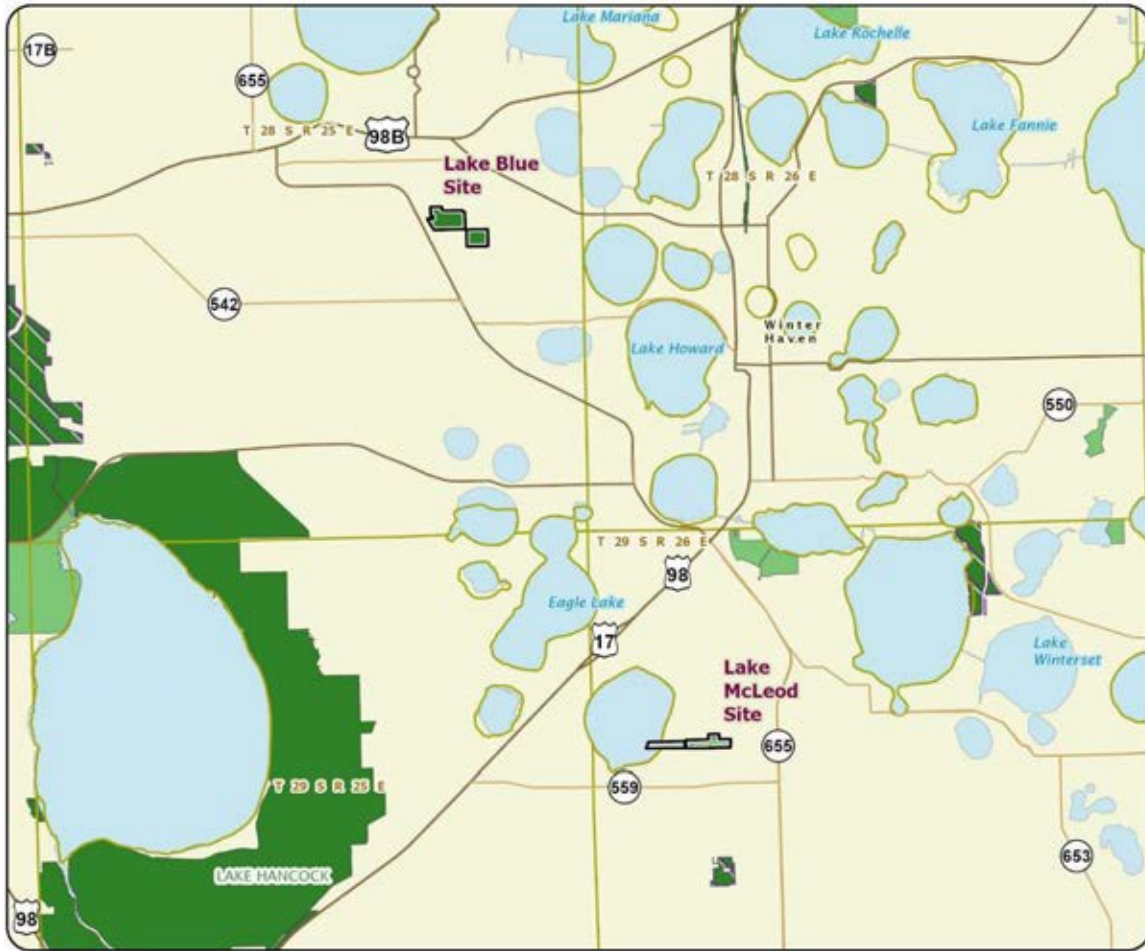




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

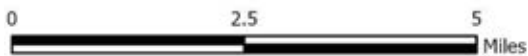
POLK COUNTY

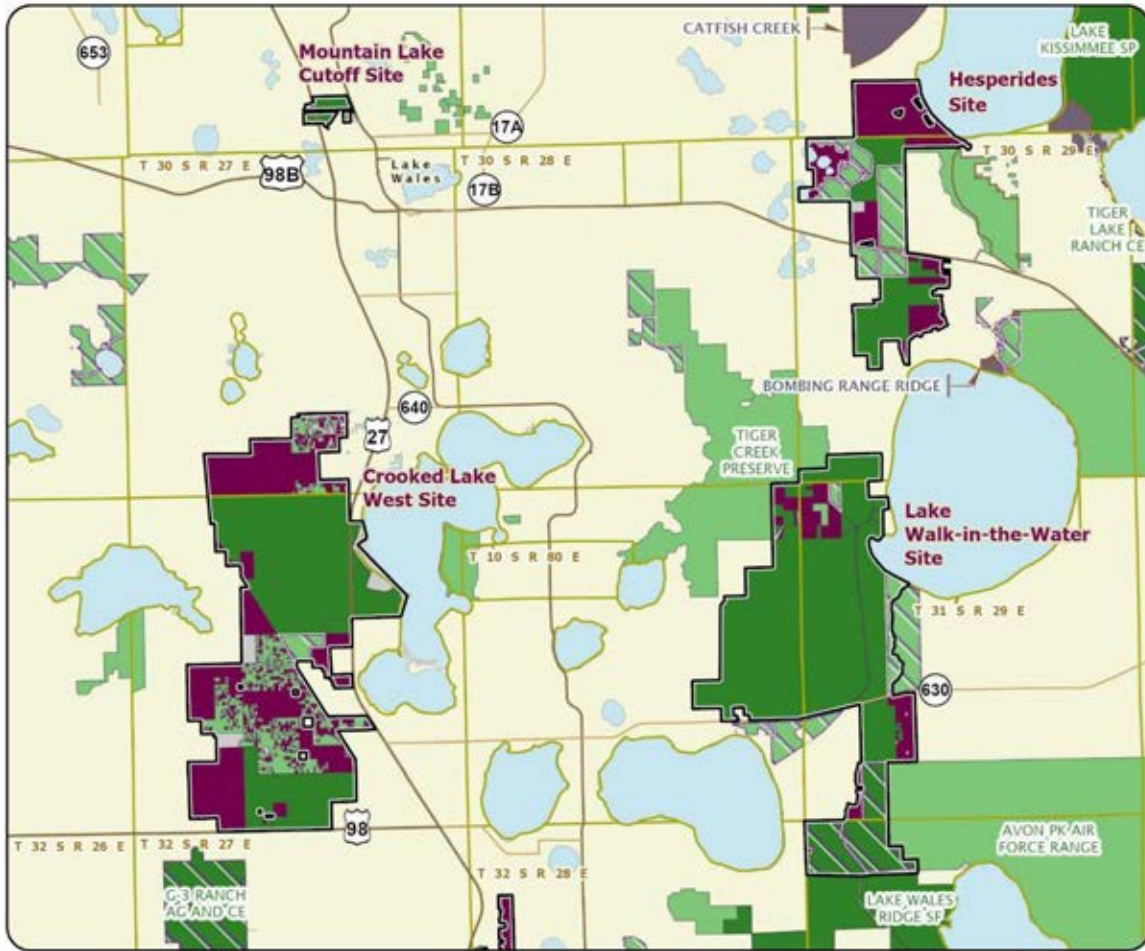




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

POLK COUNTY

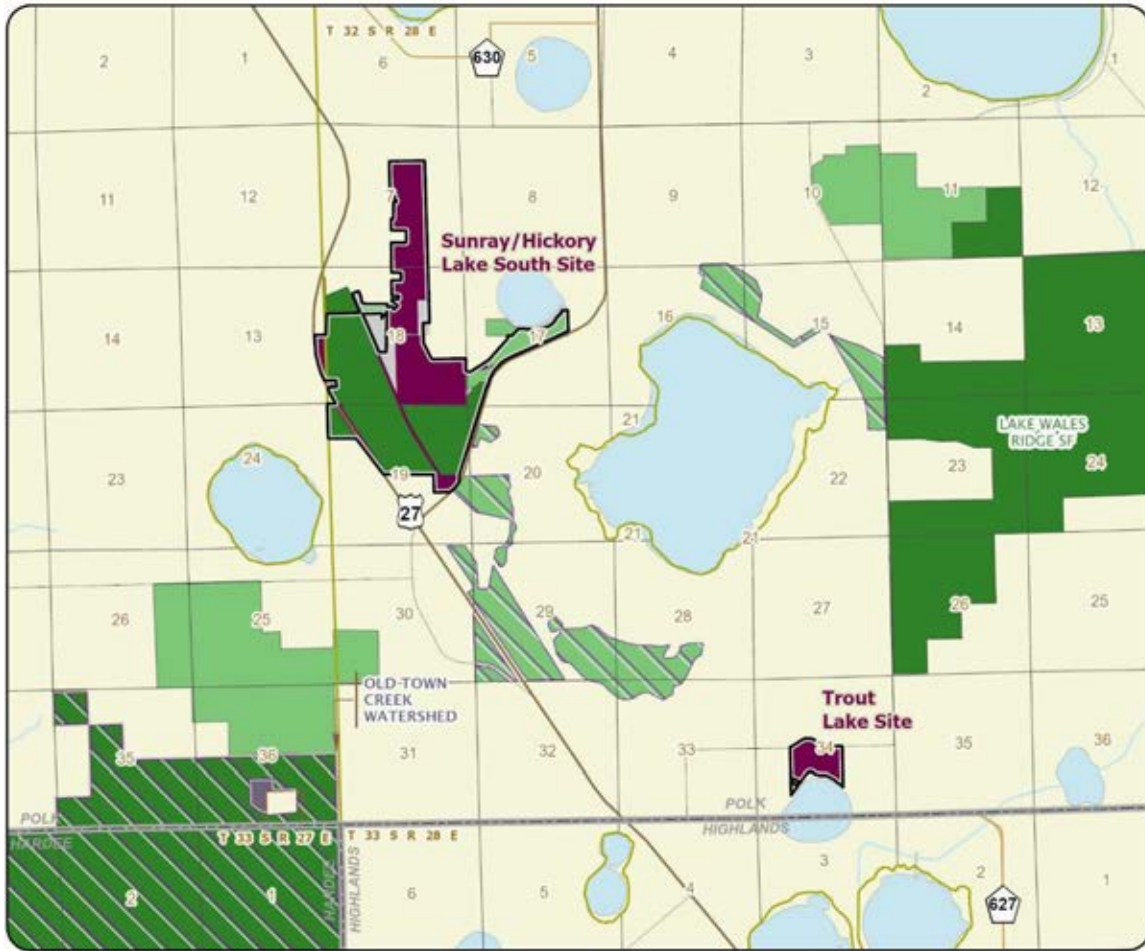




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

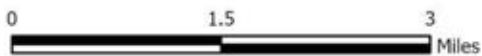
POLK COUNTY

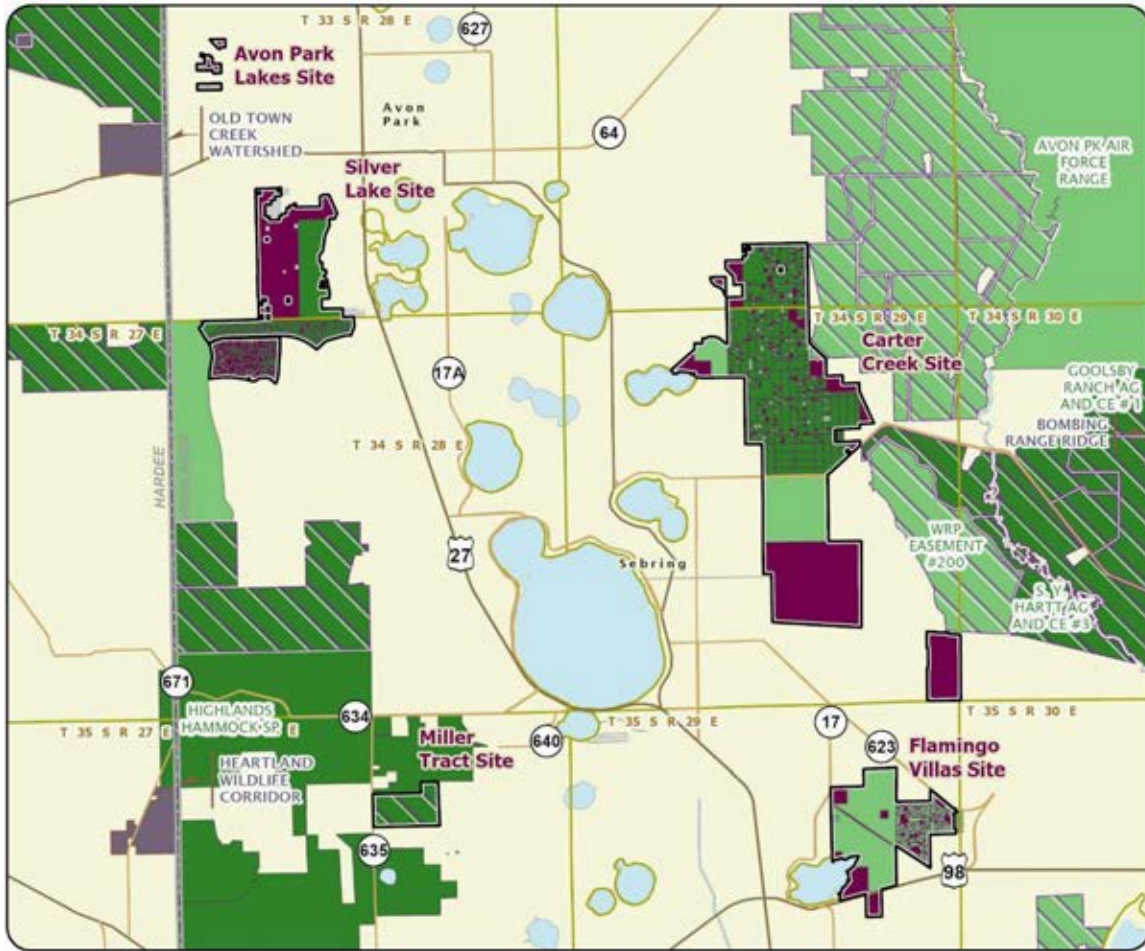




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

POLK COUNTY

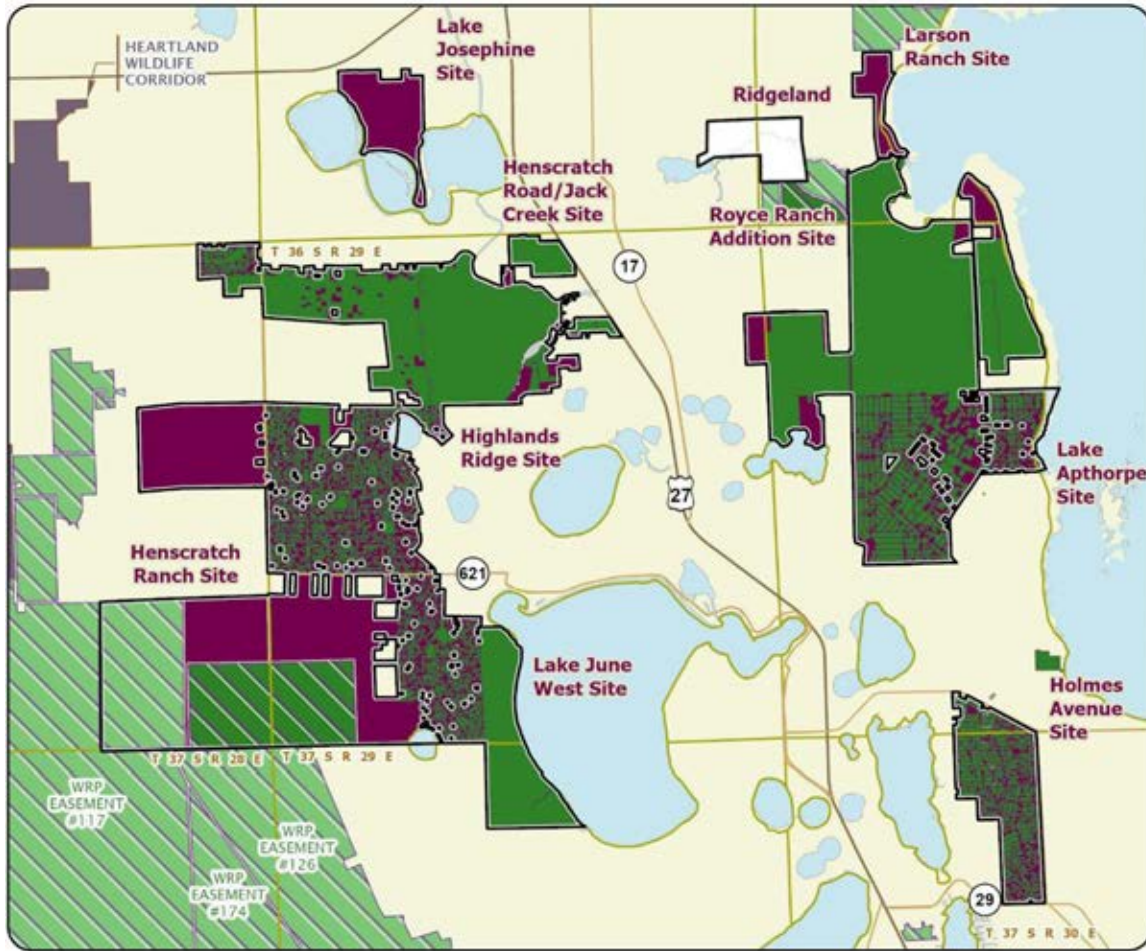




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7

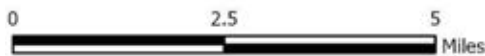
HIGHLANDS COUNTY

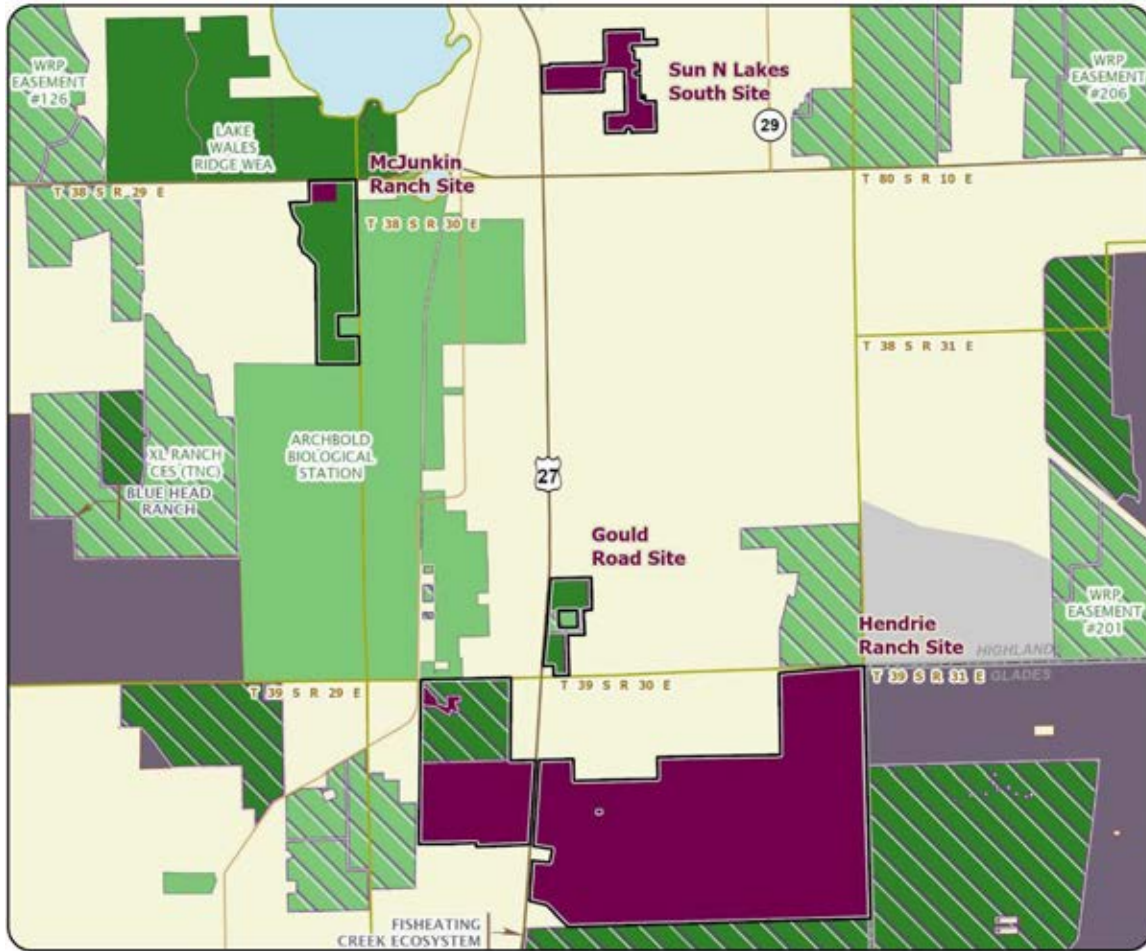




LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8

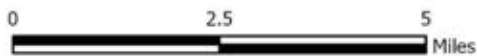
HIGHLANDS COUNTY





LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9

HIGHLANDS COUNTY



Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Gilchrist, Hamilton, Marion and Volusia Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1993
<i>Project Acres</i>	23,946
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	14,571
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$35,405,280
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	9,375
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$87,315,004

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, which is 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 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 Sandhill, 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Orange Lake cave crayfish	G1/S1
<i>longspurred mint</i>	G2/S2
<i>sand butterfly pea</i>	G2Q/S2
Equal-clawed gopher tortoise hister beetle	G2/S2
Gopher tortoise burrow fly	G2/S2S3
Southern hognose snake	G2/S2S3

Public Use

The project is suitable for state parks, state forests 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.

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

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 addition of the Bell Ridge project 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 approved a 3,612-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure disturbances.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On July 3, 2012, the BOT acquired 5.16 acres within the Ross Prairie site for \$8,000.

2013

On April 19, 2013, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, Acquisition and Restoration Council members approved adding the 541-acre Big Pine Preserve project, located in Marion County, to the project boundary.

2023

DEP acquired, in fee, 470 acres in Marion County from Swan-Smiley Preserve, LLC.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy, Florida Department of Transportation, Trust for Public Land and Florida Audubon Society are acquisition partners on the 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 the 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 site 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 proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management system consistent with the state forest system, and in a manner designed to accomplish the acquisition goals and measures for the project as approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council. These goals and measures are hereby incorporated by reference. The primary land management goal for the Florida Forest Service 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 Florida Forest Service management activities on the project.





Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks. The Florida Forest Service will manage Bell Ridge under a multiple-use management system.

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. The site is also desirable for use and management as a state forest due to its size and diversity. Management by the Florida Forest Service 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 state 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 the 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. The Florida Forest Service 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, the Florida Forest Service 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. The Florida Forest Service will promote environmental education.

There are many roads throughout the property, and 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 the project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for the 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

The Florida Forest Service 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

The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with other state agencies, local government entities and other appropriate groups in management of the property.





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
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$97,211	\$52,315

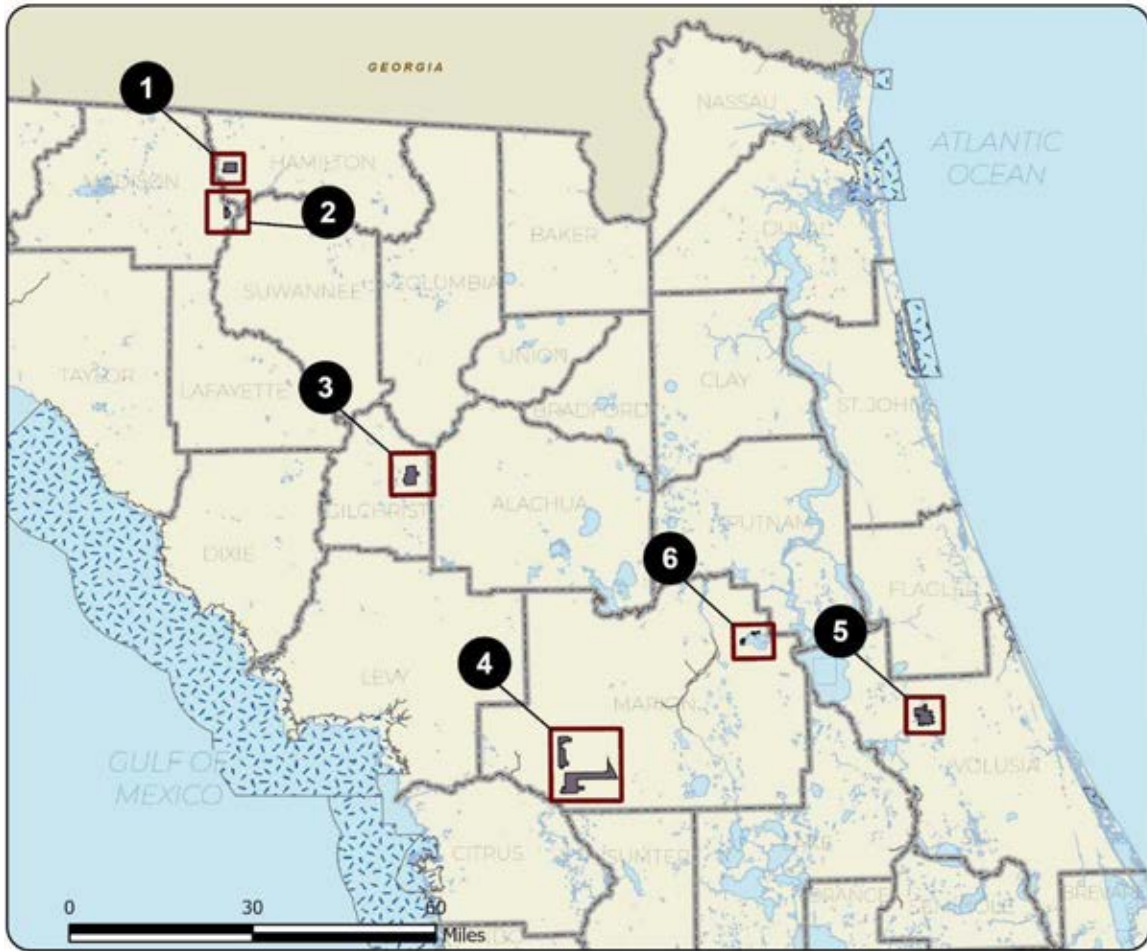
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

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
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$7,000	\$5,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



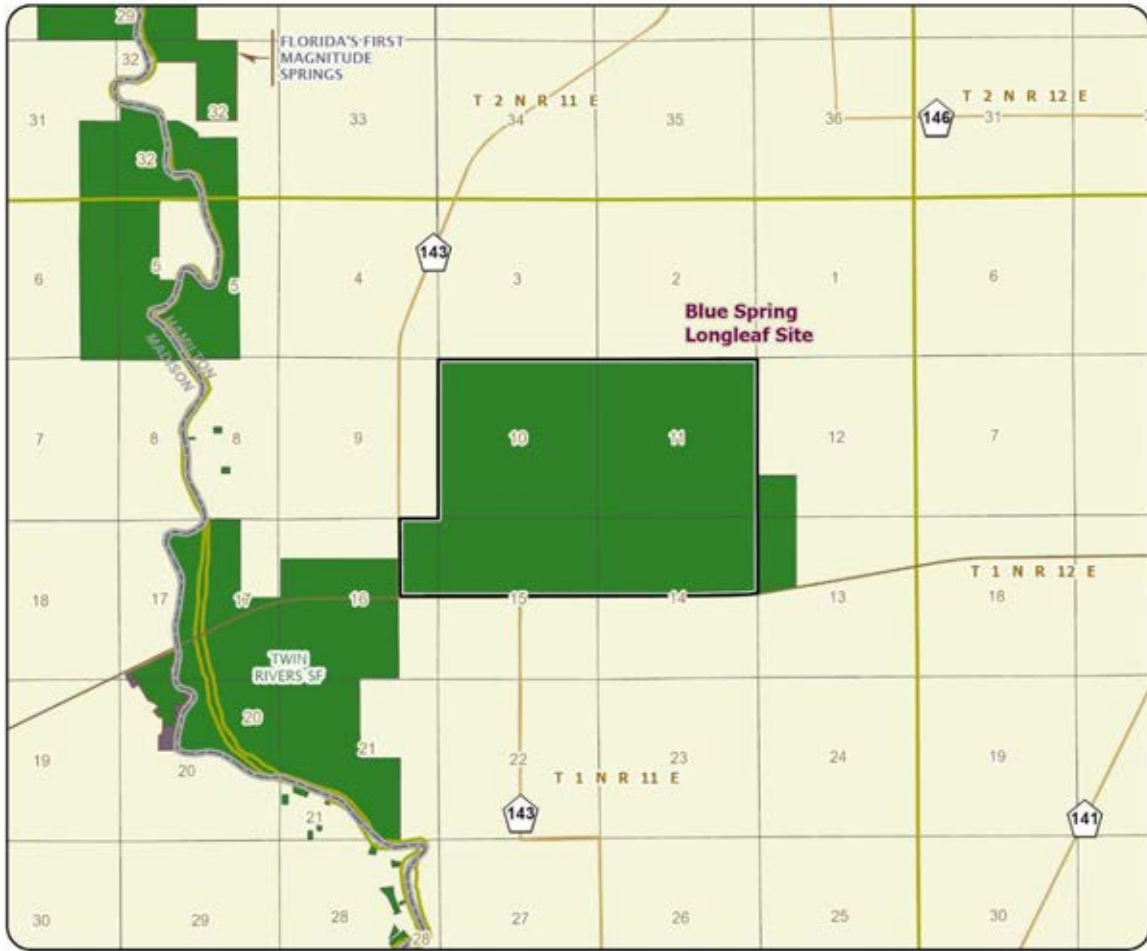


LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

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 4 Ross Prairie Addition Site
- Map 4 Ross Prairie Sandhill Site
- Map 5 DeLand Ridge Sandhill Site
- Map 6 Big Pine Preserve Site

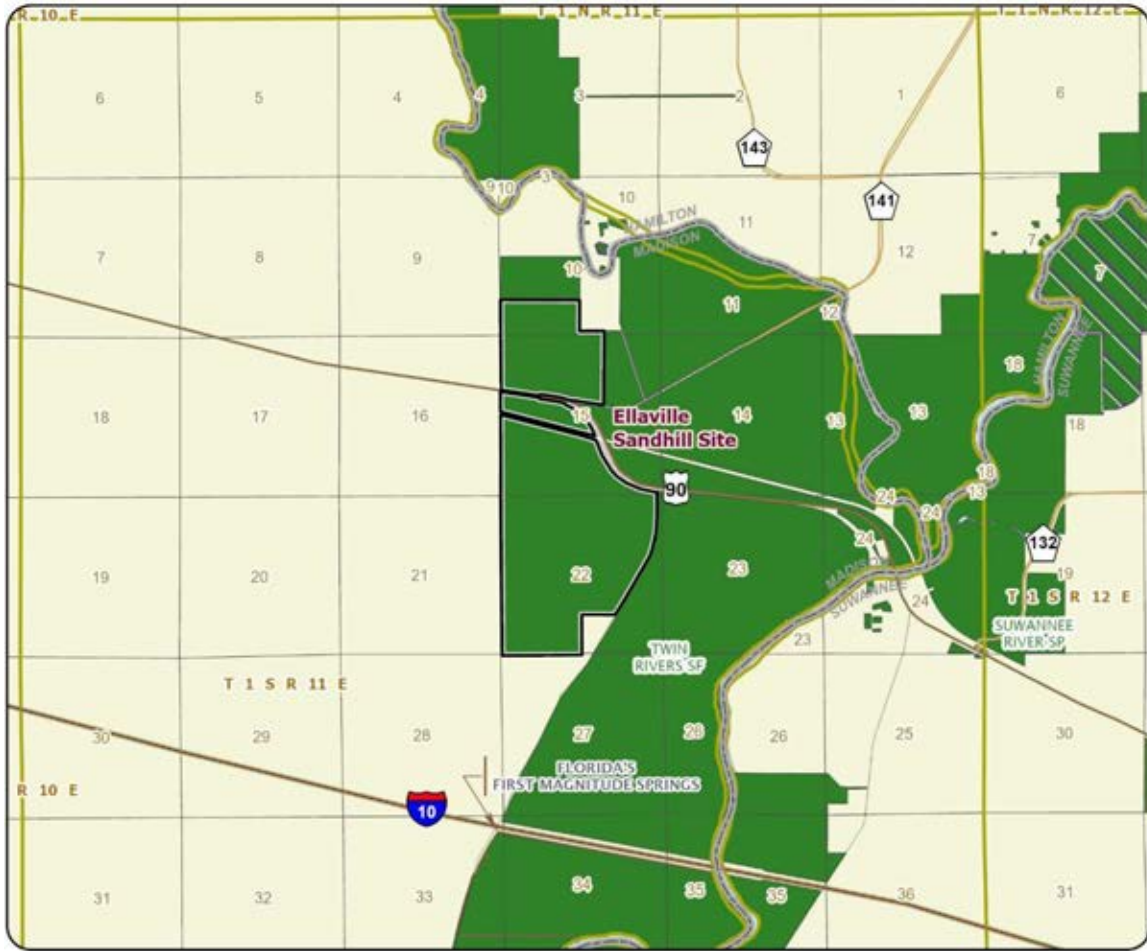




LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

HAMILTON COUNTY

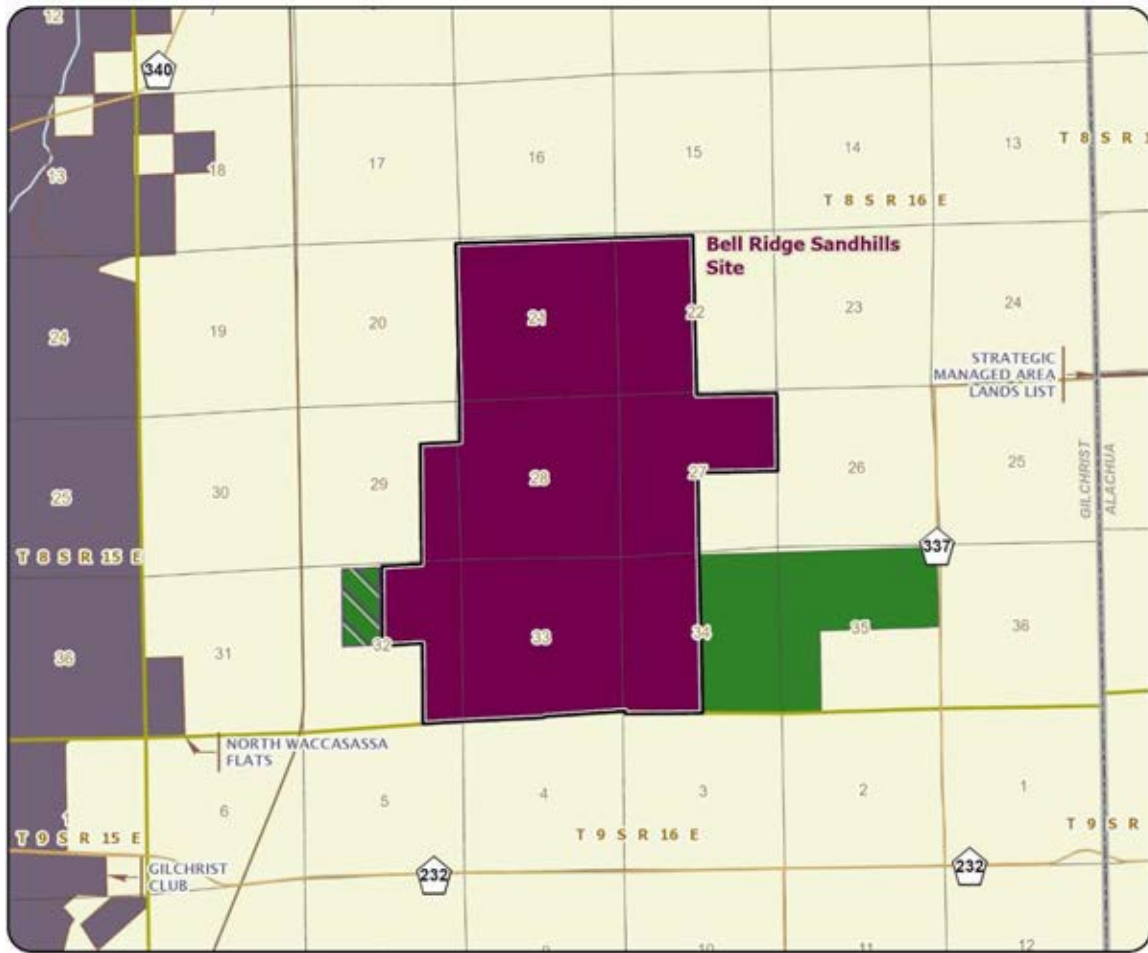




LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

MADISON COUNTY





LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

GILCHRIST COUNTY

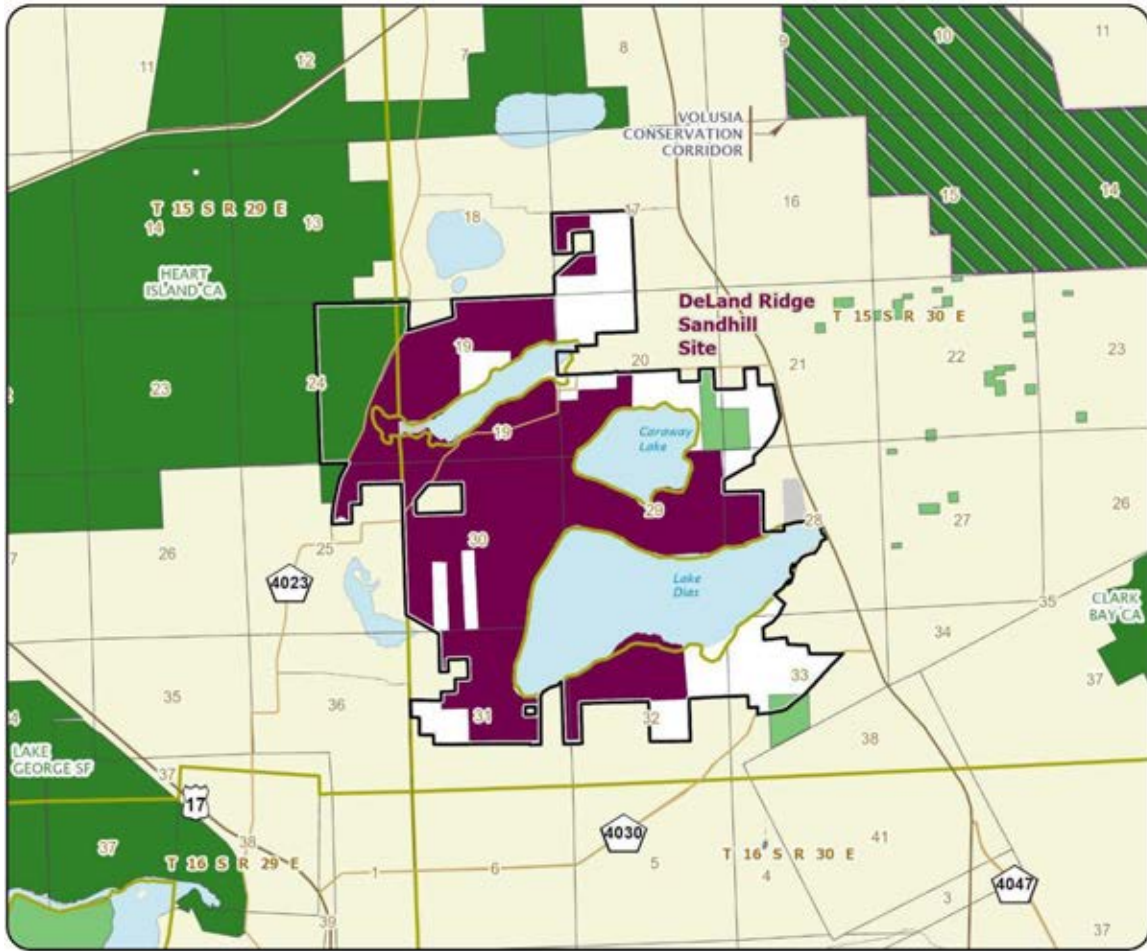




LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY





LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

VOLUSIA COUNTY





LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

MARION COUNTY



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Natural Bridge Creek

Critical Natural Lands

Walton County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2012
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,967
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,925
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	42
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$89,049

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Natural Bridge Creek project will provide a buffer for Natural Bridge Creek, to protect surface water, functional wetlands and aquifer recharge for the benefit of the natural systems and citizens of the state. The project will protect significant archeological and historic sites located on the property and provide opportunities for natural resource-based recreation.

General Description

The project is in northern Walton County, along the Alabama state line, and is situated roughly mid-way between the Yellow and Choctawhatchee rivers. Natural Bridge Creek, a sand-bottomed seepage stream, flows northeastward across the property before entering Alabama. Much of its tributary seepage arises within the property, although two streams drain from uplands just to the south. The stream temporarily sinks at Natural Bridge in the northeastern disjunct tract, and then rises as a small “spring” reported to be the westernmost sink/rise formation in the Floridan Aquifer. The rise, a popular local recreational site that is currently closed for safety reasons, was used by both Native American and 19th-century historical cultures.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3

Public Use

Walton County has provided a management prospectus for 62 acres of the site to be used for recreation if acquired fee-simple. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has prepared a management prospectus for the more than 1,700 acres in pinelands.

Acquisition Planning

The project was submitted for fee-simple or less-than-fee acquisition by the landowners, Mr. Benton Hester and Ms. Judith Hester. Their family has managed the site as pinelands since World War II.



**2012**

On August 17, 2012, the Natural Bridge Creek project was presented to the Acquisition and Restoration Council and accepted for review.

On December 14, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2020

On June 12, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 170 acres in Walton County to the project boundary.

Coordination

Walton County may provide some of the funding toward the acquisition of the Natural Bridge Creek Park. At the time of the project's approval however, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners committed only to using revenue set aside for the park's development once acquired. There has also been discussion of participation from the federally funded Forest Legacy Program.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals for the portion managed by Walton County as Natural Bridge Creek Park include restoring and protecting the spring and creek, providing public access and limited facilities for recreation, managing and controlling exotic invasive species, protecting any existing cultural or historical resources, and protecting habitat for imperiled species. Other recreational activities that could take place are hiking, nature studies, picnicking and interpretation of archaeological and historic sites. Evidence of an old creekside grist mill and historic turpentine activities are present on-site.

Manager(s)

Walton County would manage the Natural Bridge Creek area. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would manage the remaining acreage.

Management Prospectus**Qualifications for State Designation**

Much of the site retains the "park-like" characteristic of longleaf pine forest with an abundance of native ground cover. Many imperiled species have been documented on-site, including gopher tortoise and bluenose shiner. While species densities are unknown, the property could potentially serve as a gopher tortoise recipient or mitigation site due to its high-quality habitat.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Most of the property has never been converted to cropland or undergone commercial forestry-type rotations with clear-cut, site preparation and herbicide applications. The sink/rise formation of Natural Bridge Creek has been disturbed for many years due to its popularity as a local swimming hole and the road that crosses the natural bridge itself. In 2008, the Northwest Florida Water Management District released a spring stabilization report stating that previous agricultural practices and road erosion were sources of sediment in the creek system.





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

A management plan would be developed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management. The management plan would establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Long-range plans would emphasize ecosystem management and the protection of focal and imperiled species. Historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted if deemed necessary. Quantified vegetation management objectives shall be developed. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of focal species and recovery of imperiled species on-site. Use of prescribed fire and other resource management activities have been implemented by the landowner to restore and maintain natural communities and vegetation types.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue from conservation lands could include ecotourism activities and the sales of various permits and recreational user fees. If needed, thinning operations within the longleaf pine forests to improve or reset the basal area consistent with the target for this forest community type and the species that occur there may generate additional revenues. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees and regulations. The initial non-recurring startup costs for the site's pinelands are estimated to be \$289,920 (including public access, infrastructure and necessary fixed capital outlays). Optimal management of the area would require one full-time equivalent position to manage the area. Salary requirements for this position, as well as those of other needed Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff and costs to operate and manage the project, are reflected in the management cost summary. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies including Walton County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Forest Service, DEP, Northwest Florida Water Management District and others in management of the property.



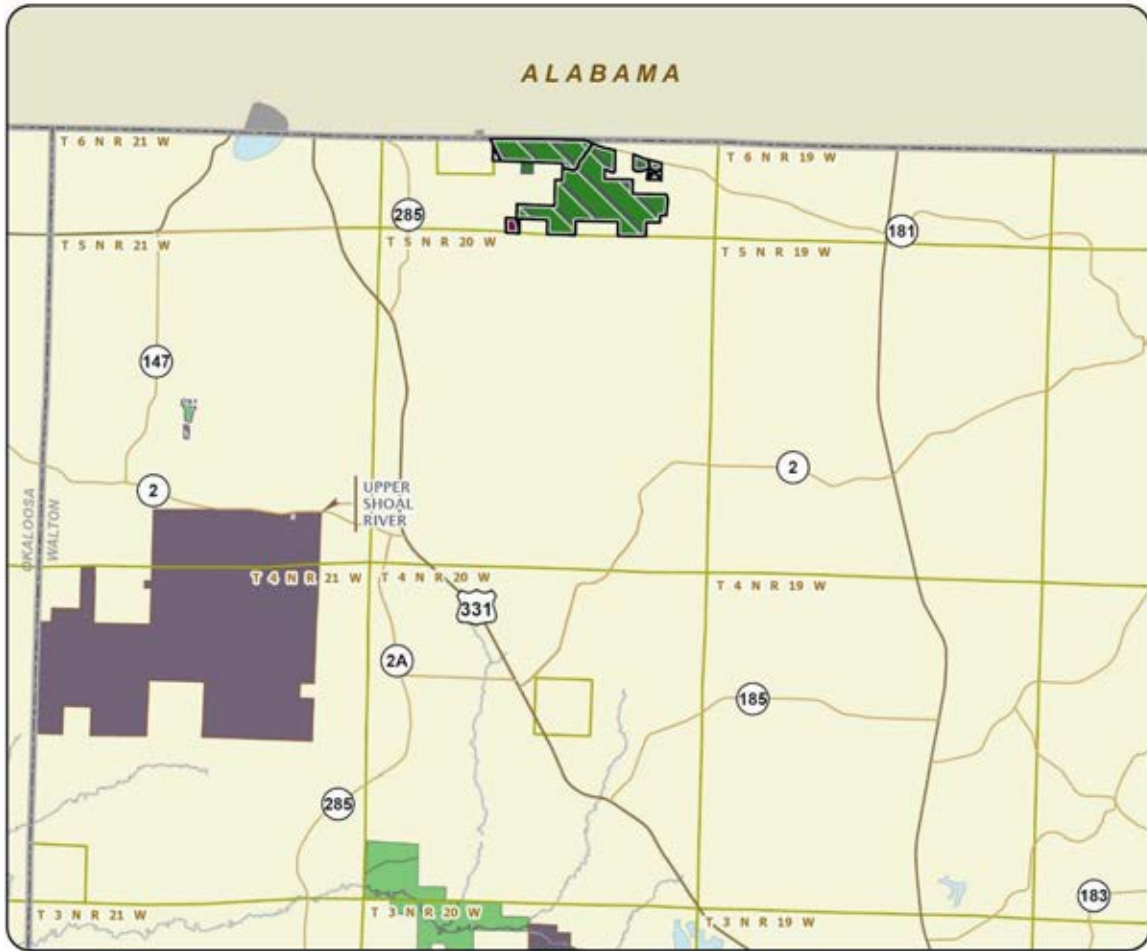


Management Cost Summary

FWC	Expenditure	Priority
Resource Management:		
Exotic Species Control	\$4,476	(1)
Prescribed Burning	\$9,585	(1)
Cultural Resource Management	\$399	(1)
Timber Management	\$616	(1)
Hydrological Management	\$4,059	(1)
Other (Restoration, Enhancement, Surveys, Monitoring, etc.)	\$50,120	(1)
Subtotal	\$69,255	
Administration:		
General Administration	\$1,504	(1)
Subtotal	\$1,504	
Support:		
Land Management Planning	\$2,446	(1)
Land Management Reviews	\$362	(3)
Training/Staff Development	\$435	(1)
Vehicle Purchase	\$7,556	(2)
Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	\$4,458	(1)
Other (Technical Reports, Data Management, etc.)	\$4,113	(1)
Subtotal	\$19,370	
Capital Improvements:		
Facility Maintenance	\$10,546	(1)
Subtotal	\$10,546	
Visitor Services/Recreation:		
Information/Education/Operations	\$6,650	(1)
Subtotal	\$6,650	
Law Enforcement:		
Resource Protection	\$1,395	(1)
Subtotal	\$1,395	
TOTAL	\$108,720	

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





NATURAL BRIDGE CREEK

WALTON COUNTY



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Natural Bridge Timberlands

Critical Natural Lands

Jefferson and Leon Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	5,442
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	5,442
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$13,400,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	0
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$0

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Natural Bridge Timberlands project will contribute to the completion of an expansive corridor of public conservation lands that promote ecological connectivity, conserve valuable habitat for rare plant and animal species and protect sensitive cultural resources. The project will protect the water quality and quantity of the St. Marks River and the associated natural springs and karst features found within the Upper St. Marks River Basin. The project will also allow for the expansion of public resource-based recreational opportunities and support the continuation of sustainably managed silviculture practices.

General Description

The Natural Bridge Timberlands project is located in Leon and Jefferson counties, east of Old Plank Road and north of Natural Bridge Road. The project area abuts Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park to the west and Plank Road State Forest to the north. The Aucilla Wildlife Management Area is within a half-mile to the east. The project is proposed as a fee simple acquisition to be managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Plank Road State Forest.

The property primarily consists of pine plantation on former mesic/wet flatwoods. Basin and dome swamps account for more than one third of the project area. The property drains towards the upper reaches of the St. Marks River that flows within a mile of the northern and western project boundary. Rare species documented on the property can be seen in the table below. The entire project is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. The project is also within the recently designated Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape, a component of the U.S. Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program.

The project sits in one of the most archaeologically rich areas of Florida and is near the Natural Bridge archaeological site (LE188), which contains evidence of occupations spanning the entirety of Florida history, including most notably the Civil War Natural Bridge Battlefield. No archaeological or cultural resources are currently recorded on-site. However, Division of Historical Resources staff noted several areas with a high likelihood of intact archaeological deposits during field review.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

Public Use

Upland areas of the project could be utilized for expansion of public outdoor recreation opportunities currently available within Plank Road State Forest. Activities such as hiking, biking, fishing, camping and nature study are all compatible with the resources identified in the project.

Acquisition Planning

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Natural Bridge Timberlands project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

2023

DEP acquired, in fee, 5,457 acres in Jefferson and Leon counties from American Land and AG Holdings, LLC. The acquisition closed after the Project Ranking occurred and therefore the project could not be removed as complete from the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List.

Management Policy Statement

The Natural Bridge Timberlands property is in southeastern Leon and western Jefferson counties, less than three miles southeast of the city limits of Tallahassee. Natural Bridge Historic Battlefield State Park and Plank Road State Forest, both important natural buffers for protecting the St. Marks River, border the property along its entire western and northern boundary. Its eastern border is within approximately 1,500 feet of the 46,000-acre Aucilla Wildlife Management Area. Natural Bridge Road forms the southern boundary of the property.

The following management goals and objectives were identified: protection of surface and groundwater resources; reintroduction of prescribed fire to gradually reduce accumulated fuel load; improvement of habitat for rare, threatened and endangered wildlife species; provide opportunities for recreation activities; and protection of cultural resources.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service is the proposed manager for the Natural Bridge Timberlands project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

A significant portion of the Natural Bridge Timberlands has been used for silviculture, but a few of the plantation areas have retained some native understory. With prescribed fire and sustainable forestry management practices, the project area could be transformed from lands managed for silviculture to lands managed for their ecological and recreational benefits. The project’s size, proximity to Plank Road State Forest and habitat quality make it desirable for use and management as part of Plank Road State Forest.





Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

The encroachment of hardwoods into sandhill and mesic upland portions of the property have shaded out much of the characteristic species of these habitats. As the hardwoods move in, shrubs come in as well. This makes the use of fire for management more difficult, and further exacerbates the extirpation of the plant species that are native to the community. Removal of hardwoods and shrubs, as well as the use of more prescribed fire, will likely be the focus of initial management efforts. The level of intensity and related management costs are expected to be initially moderate, and long-term management costs are expected to be low to maintain the area as part of Plank Road State Forest.

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

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Florida Forest Service, public access will be available for low-intensity outdoor resource-based recreation activities. The Florida Forest Service proposes to manage the site as a state forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration of harvested areas, providing site security and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources and listed species will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan.

Roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a plan to identify those roads that are to be utilized for access by the public and for administrative use; roads that are determined to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

Prior to collection of resource information, management proposals for the project are conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for the property will be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas, maintenance of natural communities, and responsible public access. 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 sites.

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

Timber management activities will primarily consist of re-introducing longleaf pines, restoration harvests and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes. This will provide habitat for various native species and will enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The resource inventory will be used to identify areas that need special attention, protection or management and areas that are appropriate for recreational or administrative facilities. Development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be at a minimum required for management and public access and use. The Florida Forest Service will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretive and user services recreation facilities will be developed. High impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the





natural environment. Unnecessary roads, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Revenue-generating Potential

Natural Bridge Timberlands will be managed to promote and improve overall forest health. Timber is a valuable economic resource, and timber harvesting for the purposes of biological restoration and forest health improvement are recognized silvicultural objectives. Proposed include both commercial timber harvests and timber stand improvement activities, as needed. Sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors.

Cooperators in Management Activities

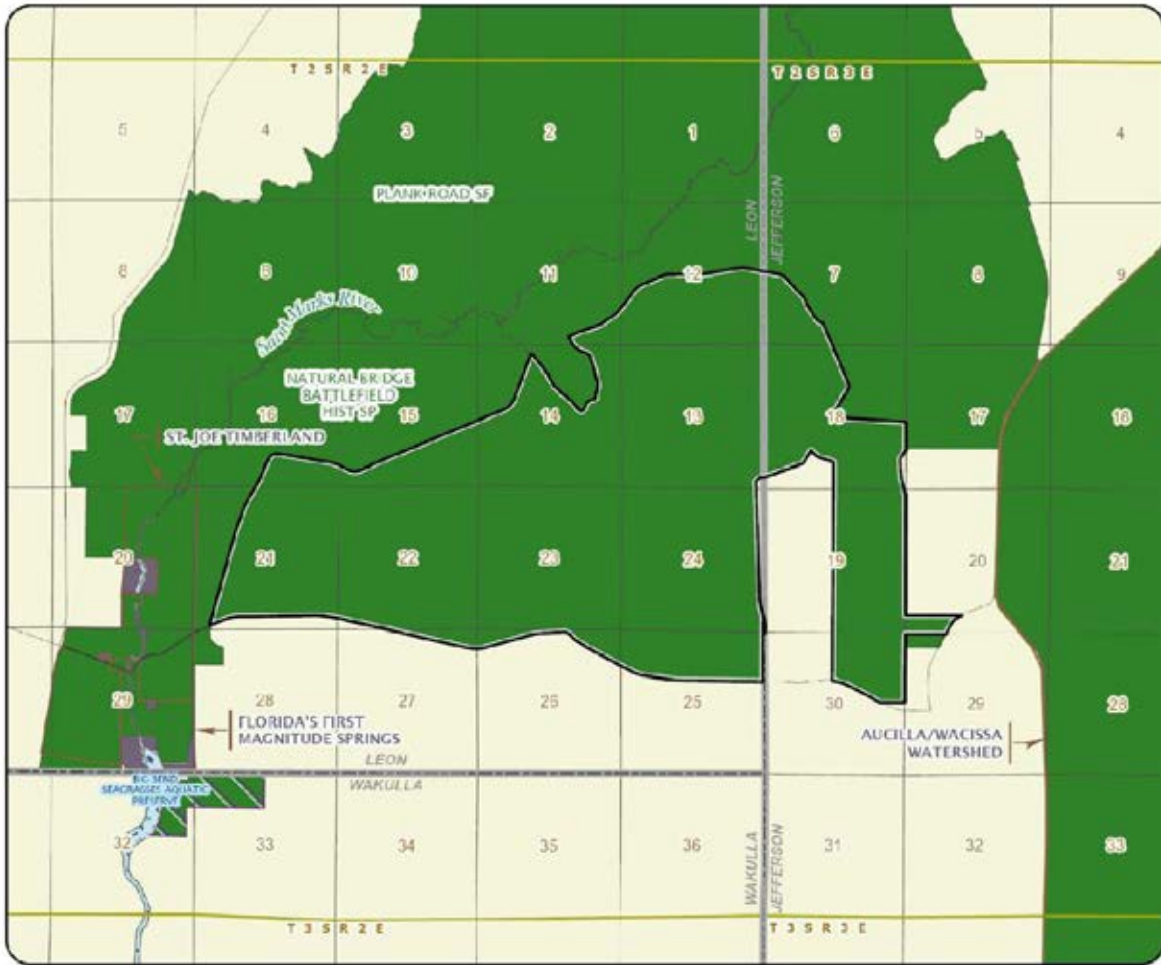
The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

	2022
Salary (1-OPS Park Ranger)	\$45,000
Expense	\$50,000
OCO	\$250,000
Outsourcing	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$365,000

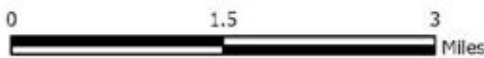
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





NATURAL BRIDGE TIMBERLANDS

JEFFERSON AND LEON COUNTIES



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Osceola Pine Savannas

Critical Natural Lands

Osceola County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	46,628
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	23,780
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$48,141,274
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	22,848
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$101,638,672

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 the 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 sandhill crane, wood stork and crested caracara, as well as the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>scrub bluestem</i>	G1G2/S1S2
Arogos skipper	G2G3T1T2/S2
Loammi skipper	G2/S2?
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>many-flowered grass-pink</i>	G2G3/S2S3





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 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 acquired 904 acres of the property in 2006.

On August 11, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 5,529-acre addition (Lucky L Ranch) to the project boundary. Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 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 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 BOT 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (Lucky L Ranch) for \$11,651,000. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the property.





2010

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

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On May 1, 2012, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of seven parcels totaling 9 acres to the project boundary in Osceola County.

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

DEP acquired a 285-acre conservation easement in Osceola County from Mark W. Collins and Catherine E. Murtha.

Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have acquired over 19,007 acres (Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area) in the northern one-third of the project area. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 Florida grasshopper sparrows). 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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. 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.).

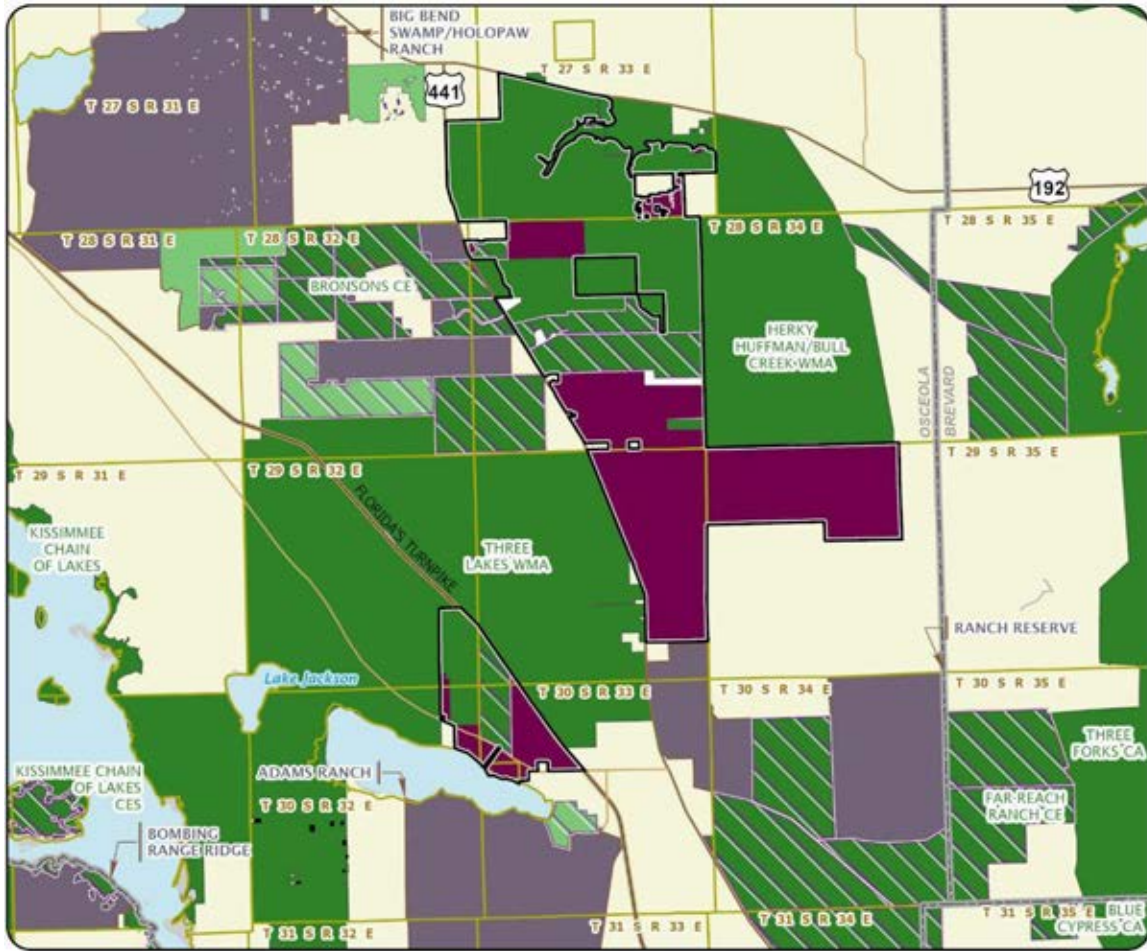
Cooperators in Management Activities

The St. Johns River Water Management District and Florida Forest Service are recommended as cooperating managers.

Management Cost Summary		
FWC	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$74,645	\$114,485
OPS	\$0	\$30,500
Expense	\$55,473	\$131,525
OCO	\$0	\$308,148
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$130,118	\$584,658

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





OSCEOLA PINE SAVANNAS

OSCEOLA COUNTY



Panther Glades

Critical Natural Lands

Hendry County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	64,810
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	25,458
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$40,564,708
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	39,352
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$175,959,798

Purpose for State Acquisition

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

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 project, and a portion of the southeastern boundary borders Big Cypress National Preserve.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>redmargin zephyrlily</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S3
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3





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. Ecotourism 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 added the Panther Glades project to Group A of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of approximately 21,223 acres, multiple owners and had a taxable value of \$3,947,680.

On July 12, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 20,895-acre addition (Dinner Island) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of one owner, Hilliard Bros. of Florida LTD, and had a 2000 taxable value of \$5,364,370.

2002

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

2003

On April 18, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 1,615-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the project.

On June 6, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 taxable value of \$20,456,810. The proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.



**2009**

On June 12, 2009, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Kissimmee Billy Strand project (fee simple), including the Green Glades/Bergeron property (less-than-fee), to the Panther Glades project. The proposal consisted of 4,694 acres with a taxable value of \$12,300,000. Initially submitted as a stand-alone project, the proposal 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands project category.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is considered an acquisition partner. Efforts will be made to coordinate with state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, 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 is recommended as the manager. The Florida Forest Service 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 assure a 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's objective-based vegetation management process. Additionally, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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 on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public and provide security and management of the property.

Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, DEP and the South Florida Water Management District in management of the property.

Revenue-generating Potential

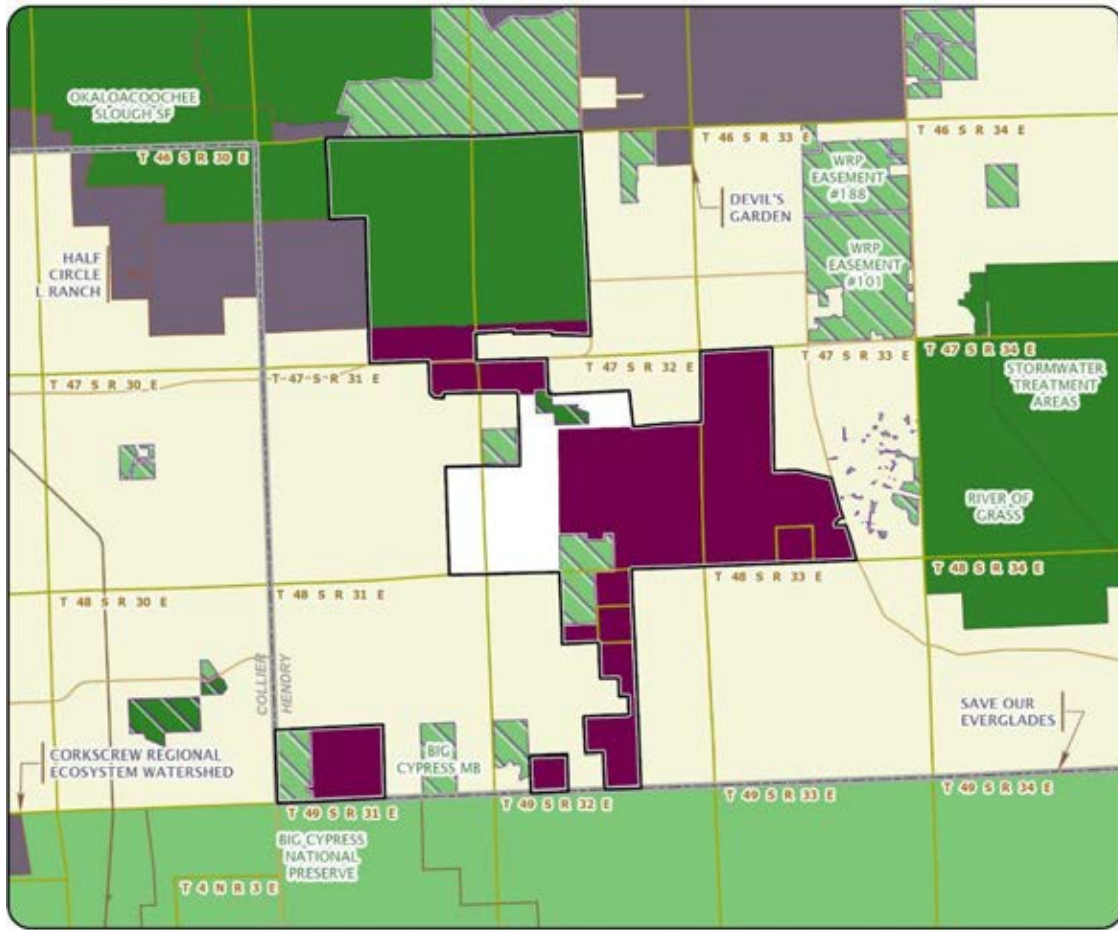
The revenue-generating potential is not known and will depend upon future uses approved in the management plan. Since very little of the project is currently appropriate for forest products production, future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of the 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 revenues 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.





PANTHER GLADES

HENDRY COUNTY



Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie

Critical Natural Lands

Escambia County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	6,880
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	4,654
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$27,378,939
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,226
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$37,124,222

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 and unique to the northern Gulf Coast. The project will protect important habitat for imperiled pitcher plants, protect the water quality of Perdido Bay and Big Lagoon and provide the public with opportunities to learn about this unique ecosystem. Acquisition of the 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 2 miles of frontage on Perdido Bay. The wet prairies in the area are some of the last examples of one of the most diverse plant communities in the Southeast U.S. They support one of the largest stands of white-topped pitcher plants 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Wherry's redflower pitcherplant</i>	G3T1?/S3
<i>Escambia crayfish</i>	G2/S1S2
<i>large-leaved jointweed</i>	G3/S3

Public Use

The 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 Priority List. The fee-simple acquisition proposal, sponsored by Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 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, consisted of 23 owners and had a taxable value of \$380,371.

2010

In April 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 658-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2023

In 2023, DEP acquired, in fee, 23.85 acres in Escambia County from Pleasant Gove Investments LLC.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy, was an intermediary in the 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 the 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)

The 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

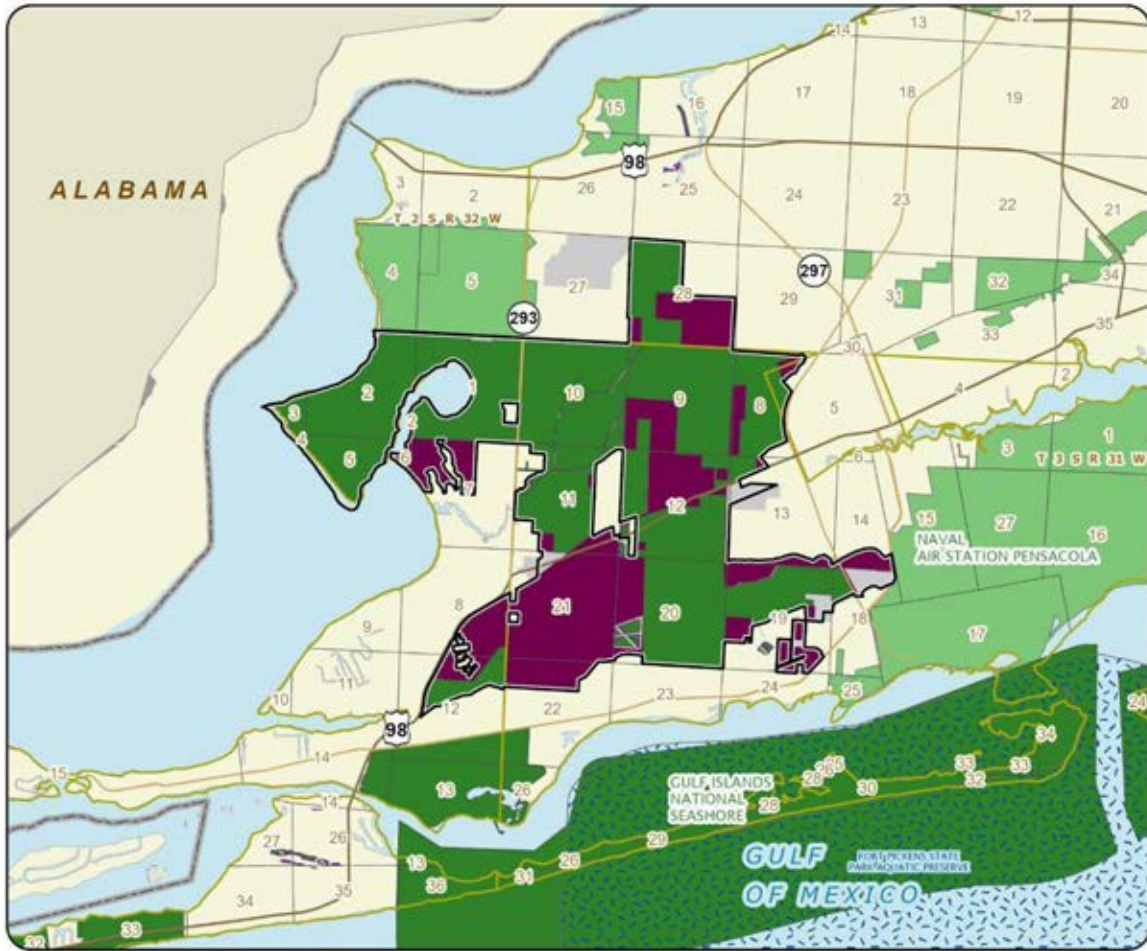
No other agencies are recommended for management of the project.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	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



Pine Island Slough Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands

Indian River and Osceola Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2004
<i>Project Acres</i>	48,973
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	27,087
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	21,887
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$87,931,097

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. 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 Osceola and Indian River counties. The 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida grasshopper sparrow	G5T1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
<i>Florida ladies'-tresses</i>	G1/S1
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>large-flowered rosemary</i>	G3/S3
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2

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.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On August 20, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. The 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved Pine Island Slough Ecosystem to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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.

Coordination

The 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 the project.

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission proposes to manage the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project for protection and management of high-quality habitats. The 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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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 Division of Historical Resources. The 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.



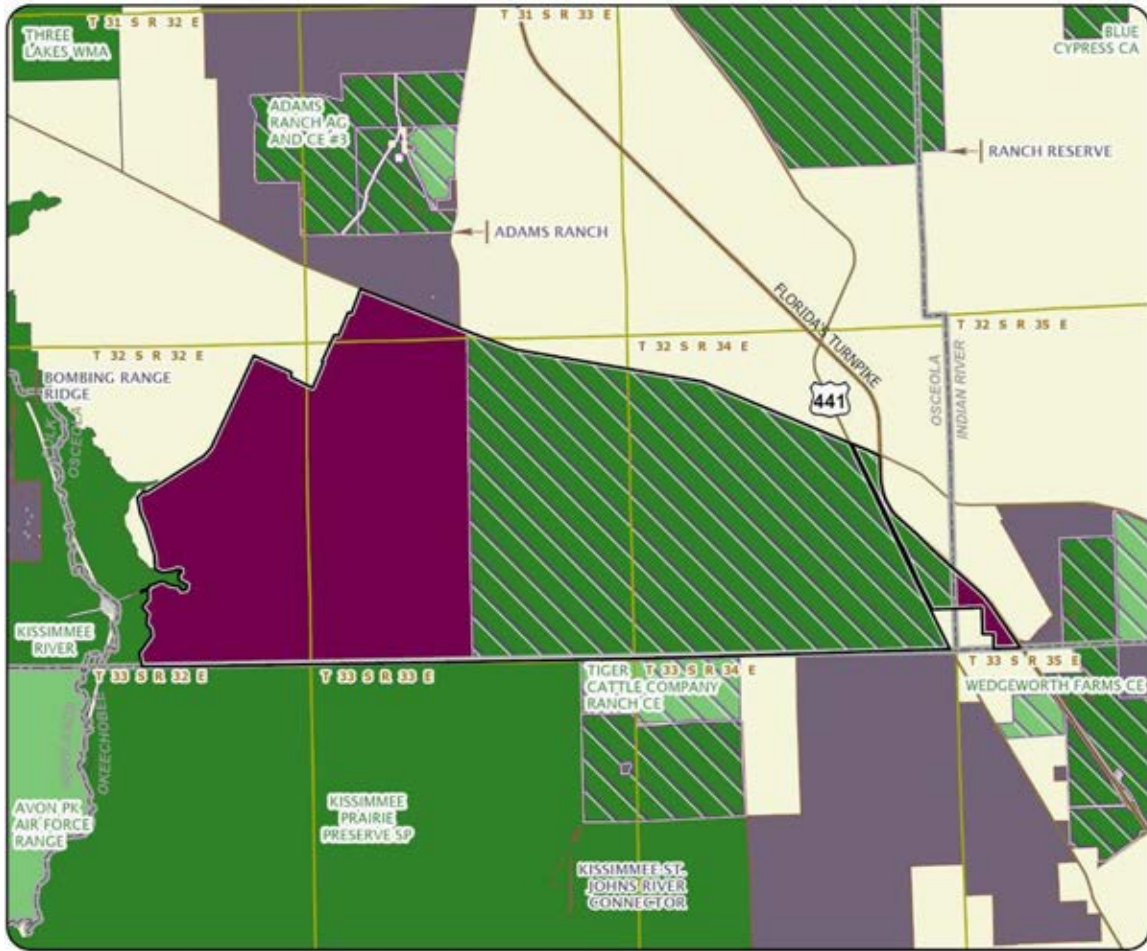


Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$598,900	\$790,661
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$1,091,187	\$137,415
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$1,888	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$34,511	\$34,511
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 and Columbia Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1992</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>186,873</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>147,886</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$65,600,376</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>38,987</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$61,812,714</i>

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 Suwannee River. The project will conserve a huge unpopulated tract of land for wildlife such as the Florida black bear and sandhill crane. 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>large rosebud orchid</i>	G4/S1
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
Carpenter frog	G4/S1
Many-lined salamander	G5/S1
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Blackbanded sunfish	G3G4/S1S3
Spotted turtle	G5/S2S3

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 such as 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.

Acquisition Planning

The large Rayonier tract connecting the Osceola National Forest to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge was acquired by the state. It was used as the basis for a land-and-minerals exchange with the U.S. Forest Service. Pinhook Swamp remaining: Phase I (essential) consists of large tracts adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Osceola National Forest—J.W. Langdale Woodlands, Inc. and Jefferson Smurfit Corp./Carnegie US Steel Pension Funds. Phase II is the “Impassable Bay” tract—ITT Rayonier/Sam Summers (acquired by the U.S. Forest Service through The Nature Conservancy) 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 added 25,000 acres to the Pinhook Swamp project boundary.

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council combined the Suwannee Buffers, Deep Creek Site with the Pinhook Swamp project boundary.

On August 30, 2001, the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 4,585 acres to the project boundary.

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 31,225 acres, which were previously assumed to be included as part of a 2000 boundary amendment, to the project boundary.

2005

In August 2005, the BOT acquired 8,311 acres through five conservation easements.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2020

On December 11, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 147.5 acres in Hamilton County to the project boundary.

2022

On October 14, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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).

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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved two 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 in acres also in Columbia County.

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 996.5 acres in Columbia County.

Coordination

Pinhook Swamp project has been a partnership project with the U.S. Forest Service. The Nature Conservancy was an intermediary in the purchase of some tracts for the federal government. The Deep Creek site is on the Suwannee River Water Management District's five-year plan for land acquisition. The St. Johns River Water Management District is also a partner as is the Conservation Fund.

Management Policy Statement

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.





The primary goals of management of the Suwannee Buffers (Deep Creek) portion 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 the 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, Division of Recreation and Parks and U.S. Forest Service 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, the area may provide revenues from quota hunts. The Florida Forest Service will soon be working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to obtain a projected revenue. State and national forest user fees are an additional sources of revenue.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and 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 the





Florida Forest Service 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management. The Florida Forest Service will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources and removing trash. The Florida Forest Service 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 the Florida Forest Service 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 improving 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. The Florida Forest Service will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating Potential

The Division of Recreation and Parks 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. The Florida Forest Service 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.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	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	\$122,240	\$35,140

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



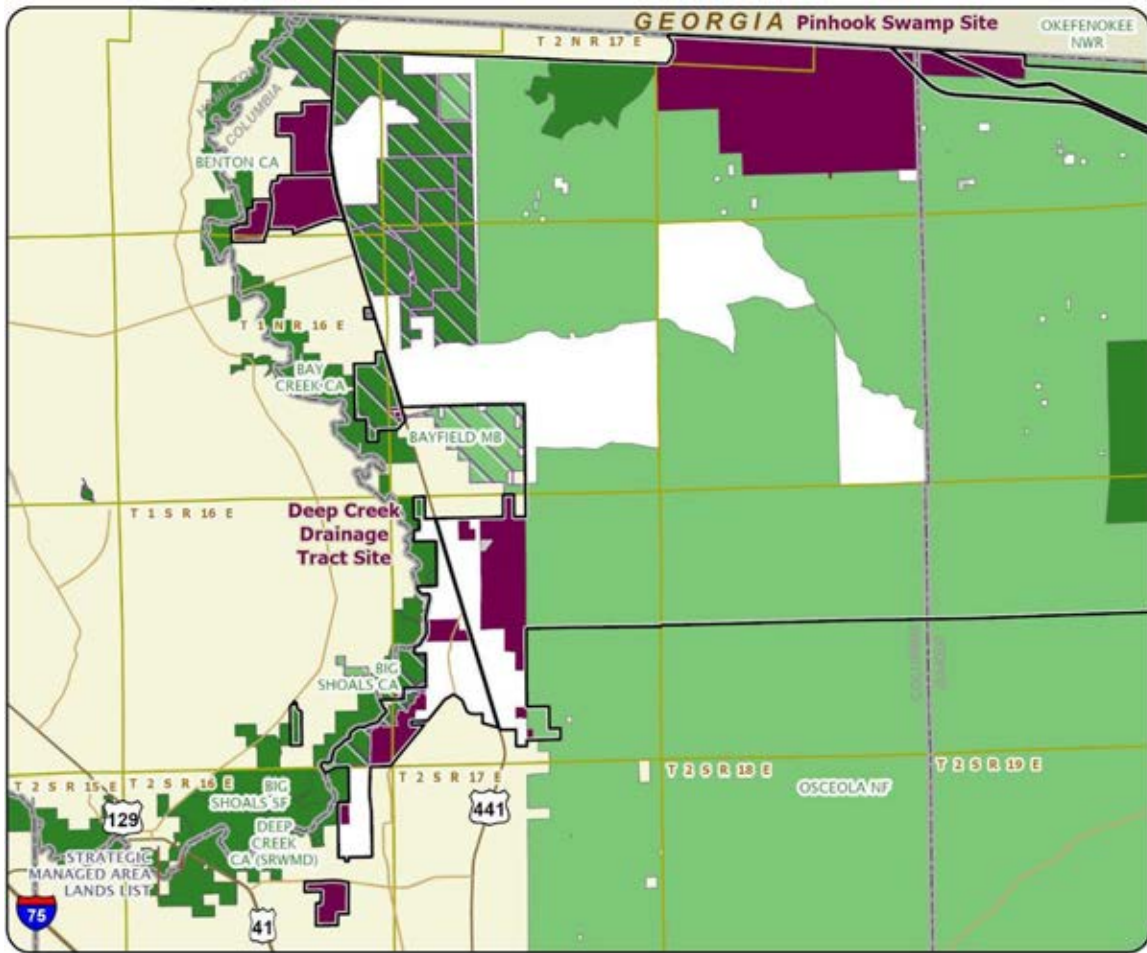


PINHOOK SWAMP: OVERVIEW

BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES

- Map 1 Deep Creek Drainage Tract Site
- Map 1 Pinhook Swamp Site
- Map 2 Pinhook Swamp Site

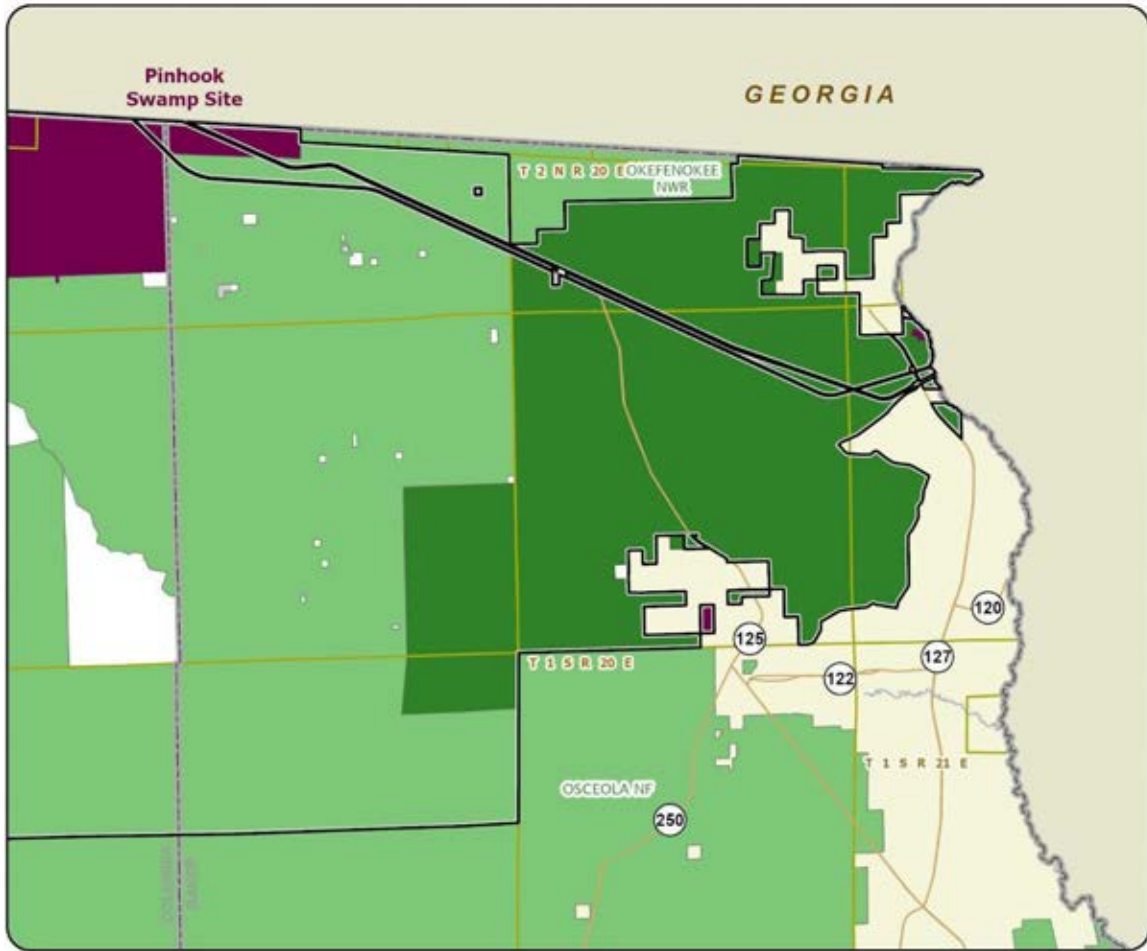




PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 1

BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES





PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 2

BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES



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San Pedro Bay

Critical Natural Lands

Madison and Taylor Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2003
<i>Project Acres</i>	46,345
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	46,345
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$39,933,063

Propose for State Acquisition

The San Pedro Bay project will protect a large area between the Suwannee and Econfina rivers that contains pine plantations interspersed with basin swamps and baygalls, as well as 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 back bear 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 five miles south of Madison, seven 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 Suwannee and Econfina rivers. It is the largest area of privately owned roadless land remaining in Florida. The project includes two owners and is designed to protect the large wetland system and waters that receive its flow. Two parcels are proposed for fee simple acquisition: the first parcel has two owners, is 41,666 acres in Madison and Taylor counties and stretches 16 miles from east to west between County Road 14 and County Road 53; the second parcel has one owner, is 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 Mexico via the Fenholloway and Econfina rivers; the other part of the project drains eastward via canals to the Suwannee River. Much of the central area of the proposed project has no clear drainage pattern.

The project 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’s Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 20 percent of the project area is under-represented natural communities. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the Florida black bear, great egret, little blue heron, snowy egret, white ibis and wood stork. Other imperiled or rare animal species that are expected to occur in the project include Bachman’s sparrow, eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise and swallow-tailed kite. The American alligator has also been observed on the project.

Game species are present in relatively low densities among scattered habitat for white-tailed deer and wild turkey. Other game species having been observed in the area include the common snipe, eastern gray squirrel, mourning dove and rabbits.

The project provides habitat for larger, more widely ranging species such as the Florida black bear, and is significant as an ecological greenway, with the entire project area qualifying as either Priority 3 or 7 in potential importance according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. 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 the Hixtown Swamp Florida Forever project, Twin Rivers State Forest along the Suwannee River and Econfina Conservation Area along the Econfina River. Rare pitcher plants occur in smaller areas of herbaceous wetlands on-site.

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 deer, hog and 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.

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 has a lease over the project area for a wildlife management area.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the Lake Sampala Timber and Land project (1345.96 acres) to the project.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Forest Service are acquisition partners on the project.

Management Policy Statement

As part of the larger San Pedro Bay wetland system, the San Pedro Bay project is of sufficient size for large-scale ecosystem management and restoration. 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)

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The landscape ecology of the 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, the Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 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. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory indicates that almost half (44 percent) of the project area is available as Priority 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 the Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

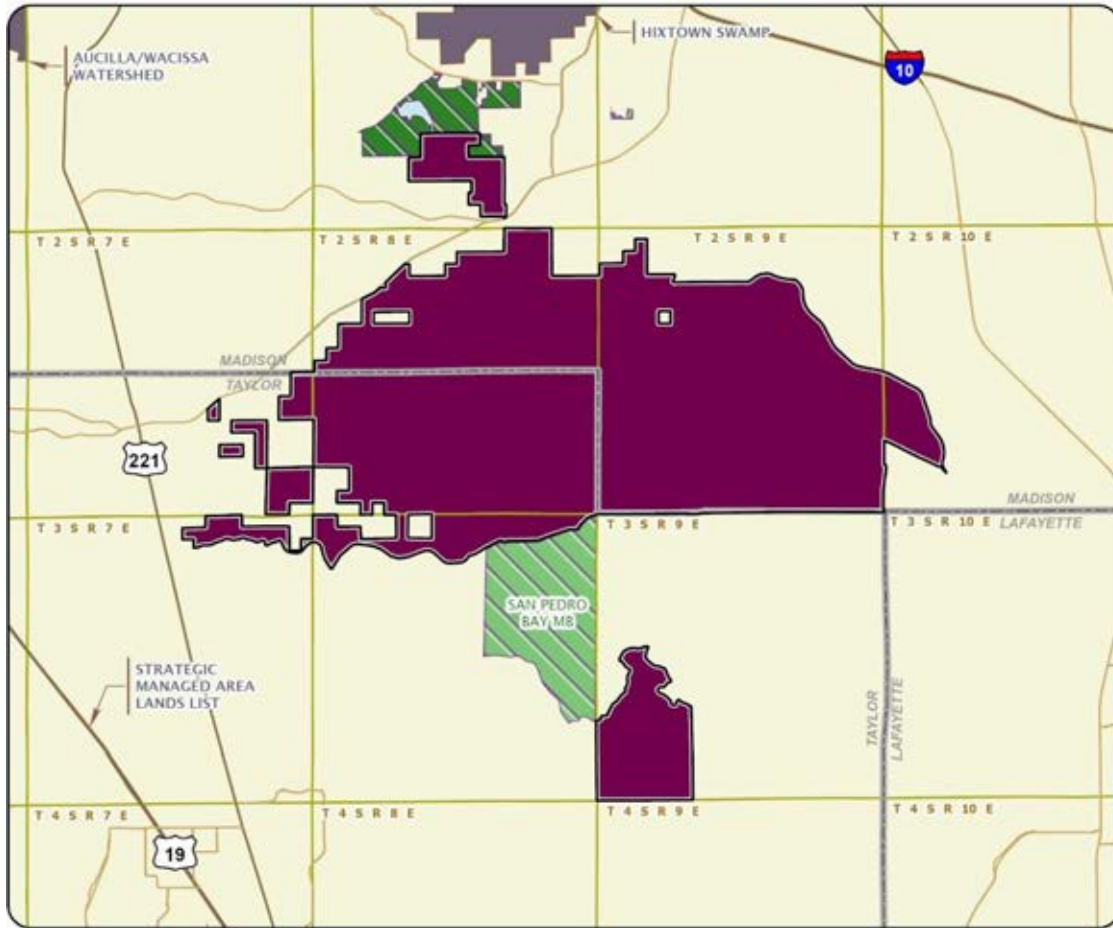
Cooperators in Management Activities

The unified managers (Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) 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	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$548,732	\$719,677
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$2,187,189	\$316,190
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$3,756	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$31,351	\$31,351
TOTAL	\$2,995,602	\$1,124,058

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





SAN PEDRO BAY

MADISON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES



Shoal River Buffer

Critical Natural Lands

Okaloosa County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	2,188
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,308
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	880
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$833,440

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, alligator snapping turtle, sweet pitcher plants and hairy indigo, 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 oaks, cypress, Atlantic White Cedar, maple and titi. The upland areas vary from excessively well drained to poorly drained sites. The extremely xeric sites are predominately longleaf pine with scattered sand pine. Understory tree species include typical xeric oaks and shrubs. Mesic sites contain slash, longleaf and loblolly pines with oaks, sweetgum and maple intermixed.

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 DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails) stretches 9.5 miles through the property with access points north (Ray Barnes Boat Ramp) and southwest (Bill Duggar Jr. Park) of the property.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Gulf Coast redflower pitcherplant</i>	G3G4T2T3/S2S3
<i>hairy wild indigo</i>	G3T3/S3
Lavender burrowing crayfish	G4/S2
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3

Public Use

As with all lands managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to ensure 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 added the project, which had a tax assessed value of \$3,841,189, to the 2010 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 80 acres that had been authorized for sale as surplus by the U.S. Forest Service to the project.

Coordination

The U.S. Department of Defense expressed interest in partnering with the state in acquiring the land. Furthermore, the Northwest Florida Water Management District has expressed to the 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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the recommended manager for lands within the project acquired by both the BOT and Northwest Florida Water Management District. The Northwest Florida Water Management District has indicated it will convey any lands the agency acquires within the 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 species including imperiled or rare wildlife. About 76 percent of the Shoal River Buffer tract lies within a designated Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for the Florida black bear, which is listed as threatened by the state. In addition, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory's 2008 GIS data indicates potential habitat for blackmouth shiner, Gulf sturgeon, Eastern indigo snake, Escambia map turtle, Florida black bear and red-cockaded woodpecker. The eastern tract consists mainly of a sandhill and pineland habitat dominated by longleaf 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 fox squirrel, southeastern American kestrel, red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise. 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, which is 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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

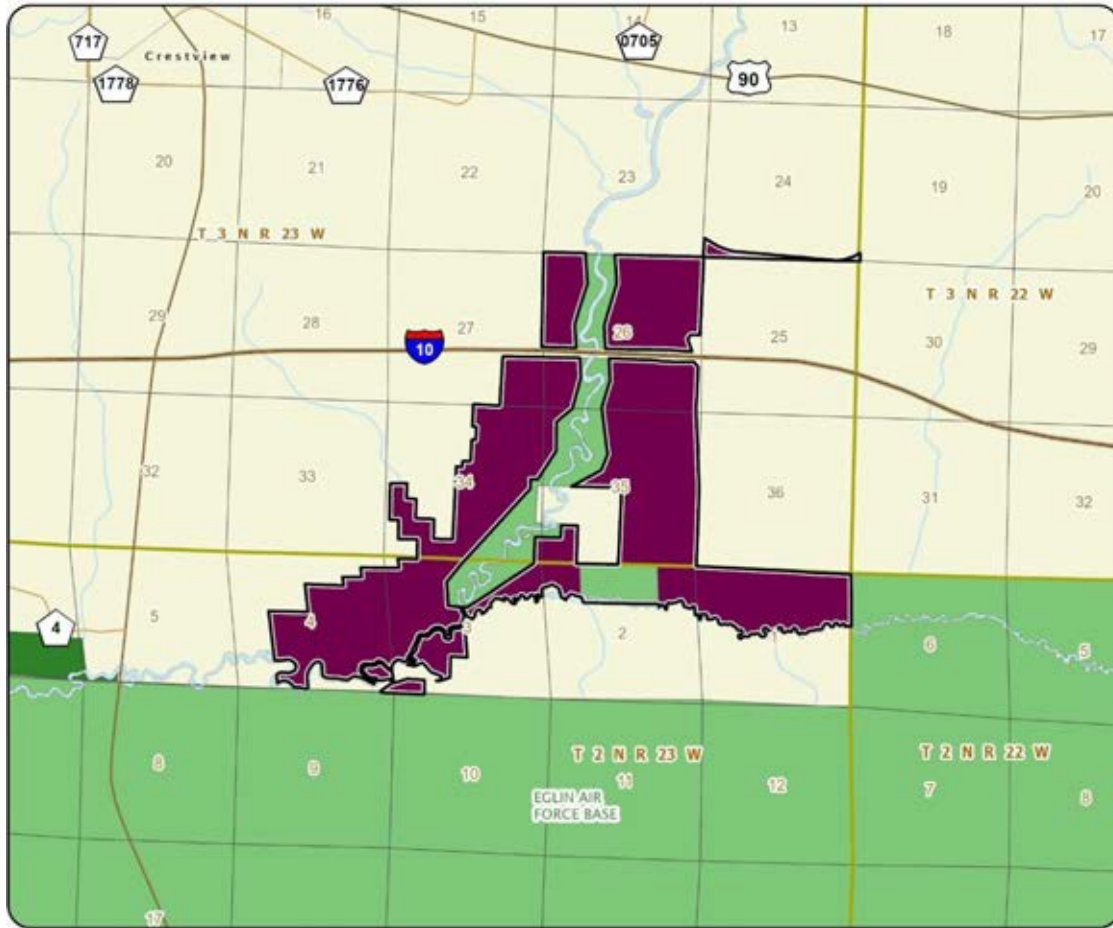
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may partner and cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, DEP, Northwest Florida Water Management District, U.S. Department of Defense and Okaloosa County in management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$74,548	\$48,848
Administration	\$82,345	\$33,072
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$45,000	\$38,689
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$1,452	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$1,474	\$1,474
TOTAL	\$353,899	\$153,790

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





SHOAL RIVER BUFFER

OKALOOSA COUNTY



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South Goethe

Critical Natural Lands

Levy and Marion Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2006
<i>Project Acres</i>	11,706
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	355
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	11,351
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$41,230,216

Purpose for State Acquisition

The South Goethe project will provide a landscape corridor from the 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 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 miles with the Robinson tract. At its closest point, the Robinson tract approaches within 0.46 miles of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, which lies along Lake Rousseau to the south.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>longspurred mint</i>	G2/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

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 would 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, the Florida Forest Service 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 added the South Goethe Forest Addition to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List. The full-fee project, consisting of 6,152 acres and a tax-assessed value of \$1,157,483, was sponsored by the Florida Forest Service.

2007

On June 15, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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. The Florida Forest Service is the recommended manager. The parcels have been designated essential.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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.

Coordination

The 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 the project.

Manager(s)

The property is proposed to be managed by the Florida Forest Service.

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 the 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 the 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 the system as a state forest. Once accomplished, long-term management costs are expected to be light to moderate to maintain the 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 reforestation 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 the project will be to establish an all season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be 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. The Florida Forest Service 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 tract. In the more heavily impacted areas of the tract, the Florida Forest Service 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

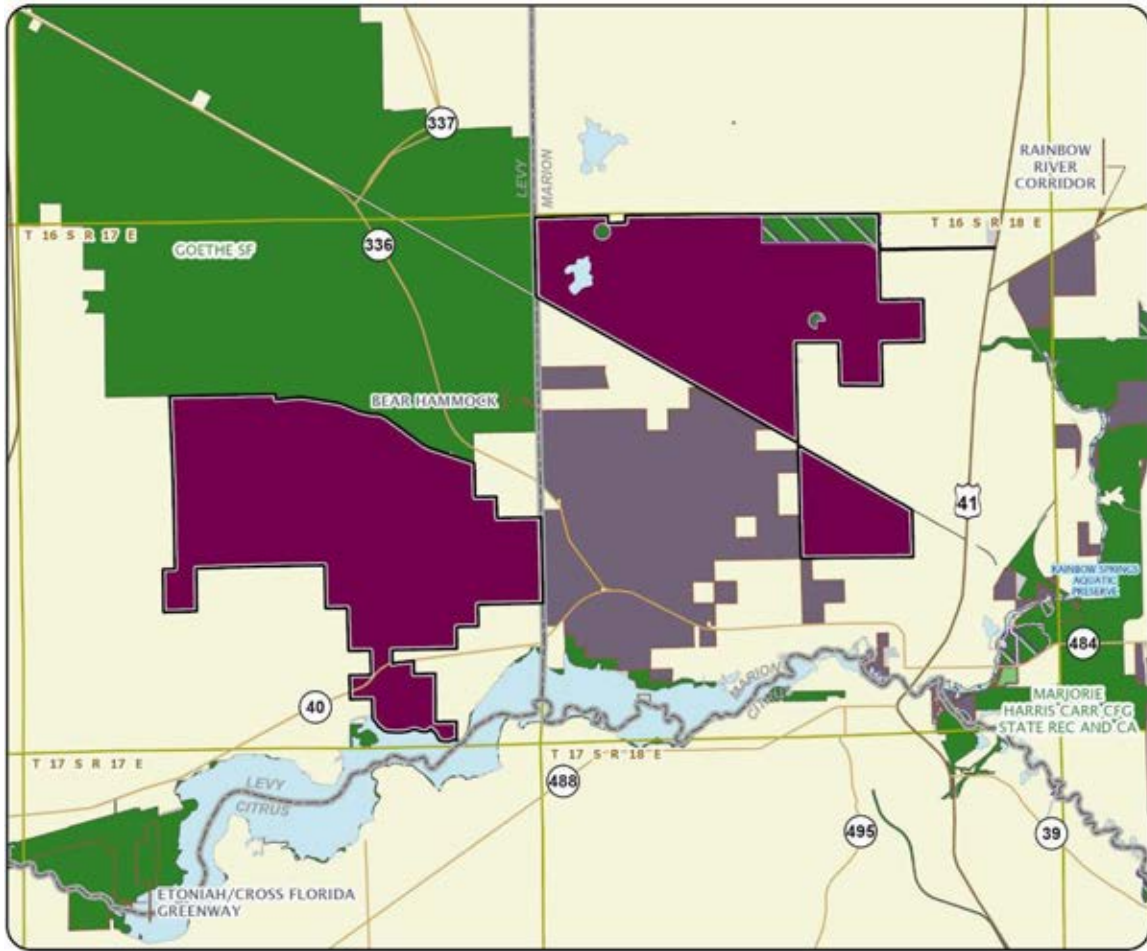
Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue-generating potential of the 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 the 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. The Management Prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered, and an analysis of the site is completed, the Florida Forest Service intends to apply for capital project funds.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Interim Cost
Source of Funds	CARL (or successor)
Salary (2 FTE)	\$72,104
Expense	\$263,000
OCO	\$593,720
TOTAL	\$928,824

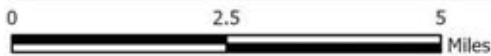
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





SOUTH GOETHE

LEVY AND MARION COUNTIES



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Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves

Critical Natural Lands

Alachua, Citrus, Jackson, Marion and Sumter Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1994
<i>Project Acres</i>	598
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	598
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$5,978,325

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project will conserve six caves and the surrounding lands to ensure the survival of both bats and other species that rely on these caves for protection and breeding. Caves where southeastern bats rear their young also protect several other rare animals such as the gray bat and cave-dwelling crayfish. 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 six caves in the 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. The Gerome’s Cave site has three known archaeological sites. Vandalism is the greatest threat to the caves.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gray bat	G4/S1
Southeastern myotis	G4/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida cave isopod	G1G2/S1S2
Light-fleeing cave crayfish	G2/S2
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G2/S2
Dougherty Plain cave crayfish	G2G3/S2
<i>false Rue-anemone</i>	G5/S1
Florida cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Hobbs's cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3





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 the cave is likely 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; Jennings’s Cave – vacant.

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council transferred Grant’s Cave, which consisted of two ownerships, to the Less-Than-Fee category.

2002

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council combined the Less-Than-Fee project to the Group B Full Fee project. It included the following sites: Sweet Gum Cave (Citrus County) – approximately 10 acres, one parcel and one owner; Gerome’s Cave (Jackson County) – approximately 160 acres, five parcels and four owners; Sneads Cave (Jackson County) – approximately 80 acres, one parcel and one owner; Catacombs Cave (Marion County) – approximately 10 acres, two parcels and two owners; Jennings’s Cave (Marion County) –approximately 89 acres, 79 parcels and 70 owners; and Sumter County Cave (Sumter County) –approximately 362 acres, four parcels and three owners.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District will be an acquisition partner on the Gerome’s Cave site. There are no acquisition partners for the less-than-fee parcels.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goal of management of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project is to conserve and protect significant habitat for native, rare and imperiled species.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the full fee acquisitions and the 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, including 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 will include educational and recreational opportunities that could generate revenue.

Cooperators in Management Activities

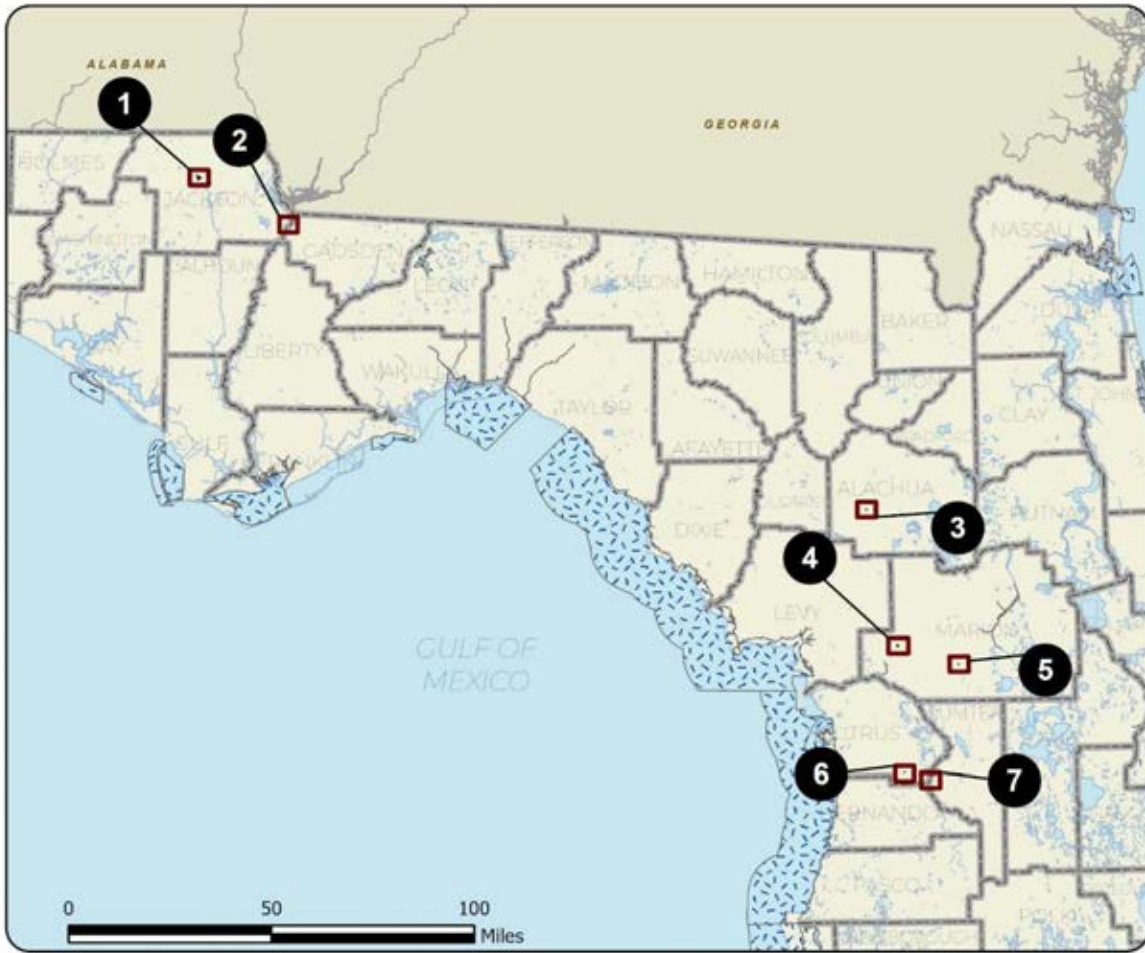
No other local, state or federal agencies are currently participating in the management of the project. The Northwest Florida Water Management District proposes to cooperate with Jackson County in the management of Gerome’s Cave.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$14,784	\$14,784
Expense	\$4,725	\$4,725
OCO	\$30,240	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$49,749	\$19,509

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



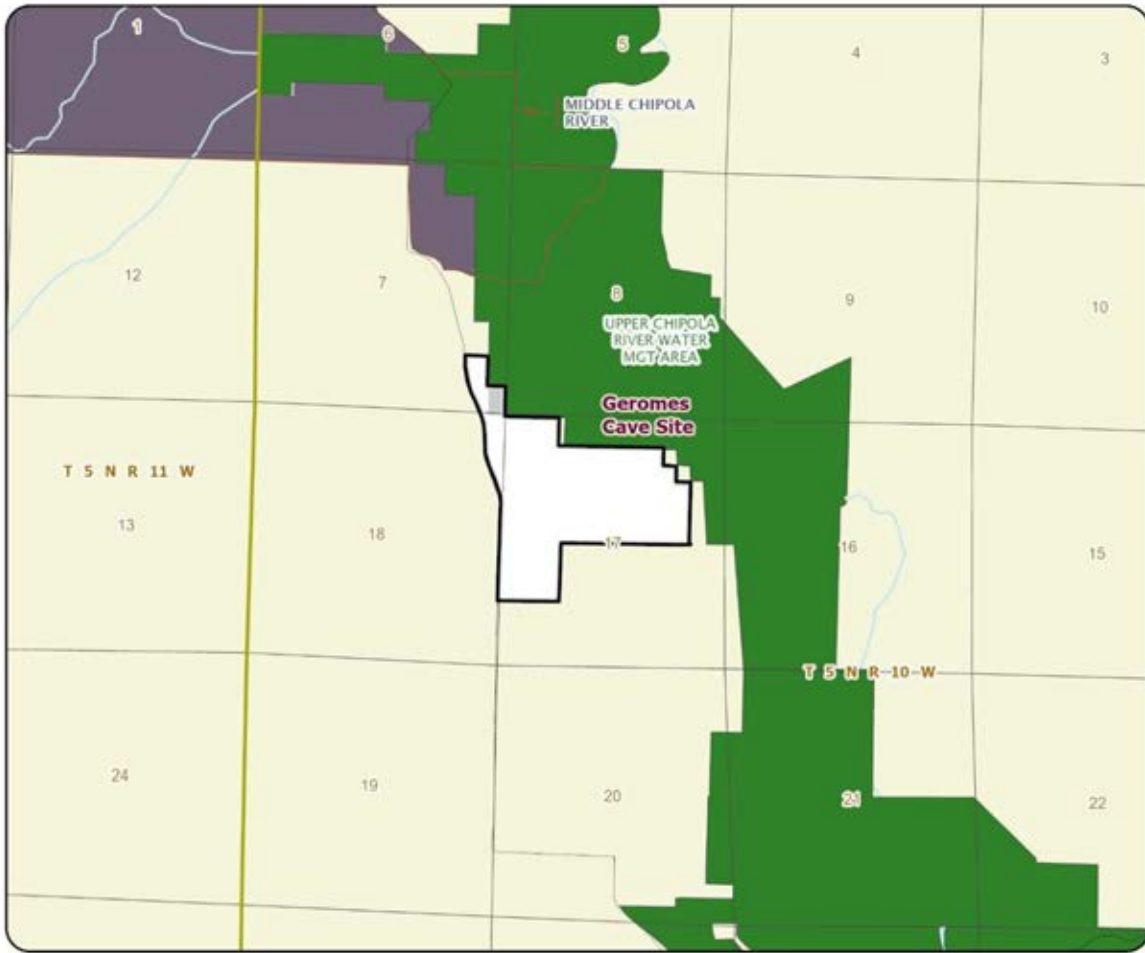


SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: OVERVIEW

ALACHUA, CITRUS, JACKSON, MARION, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

- Map 1 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

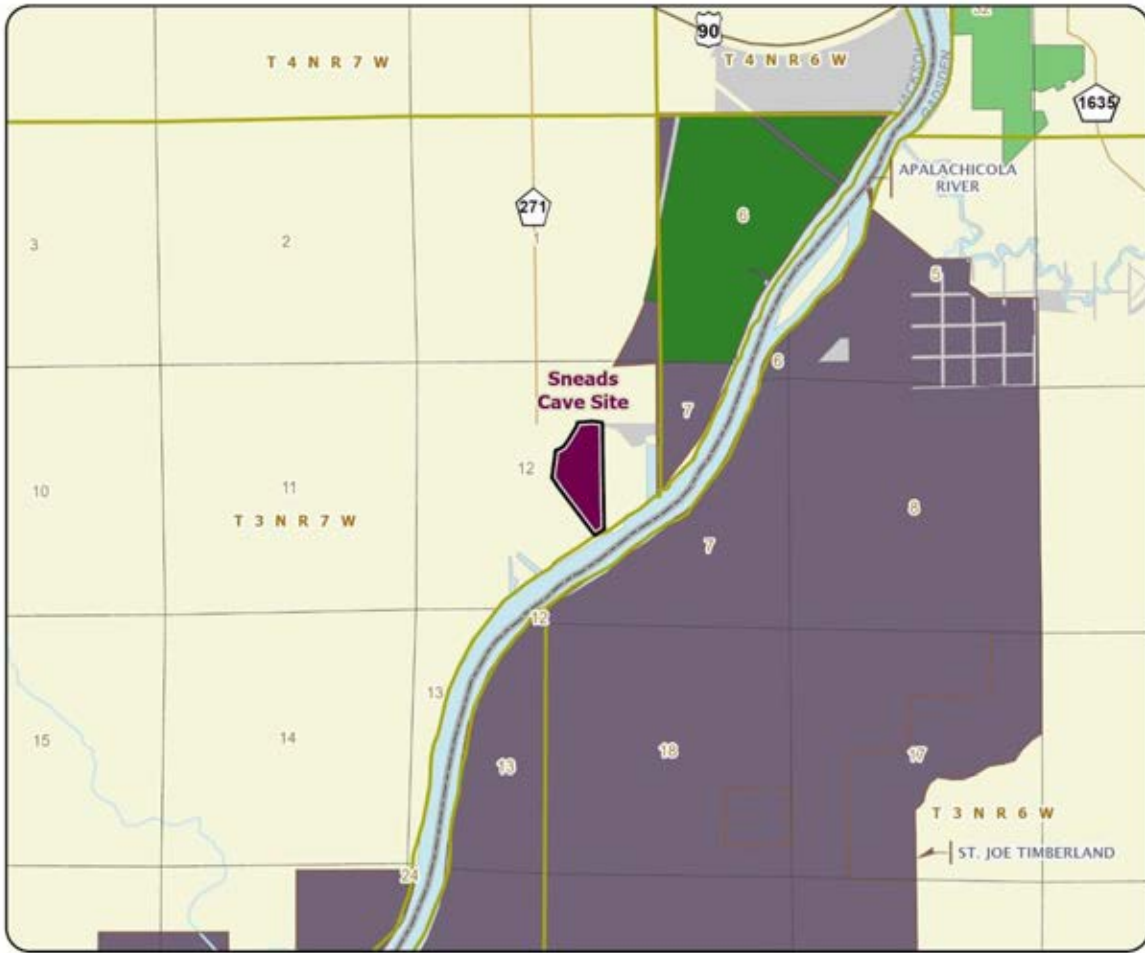




SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 1

JACKSON COUNTY

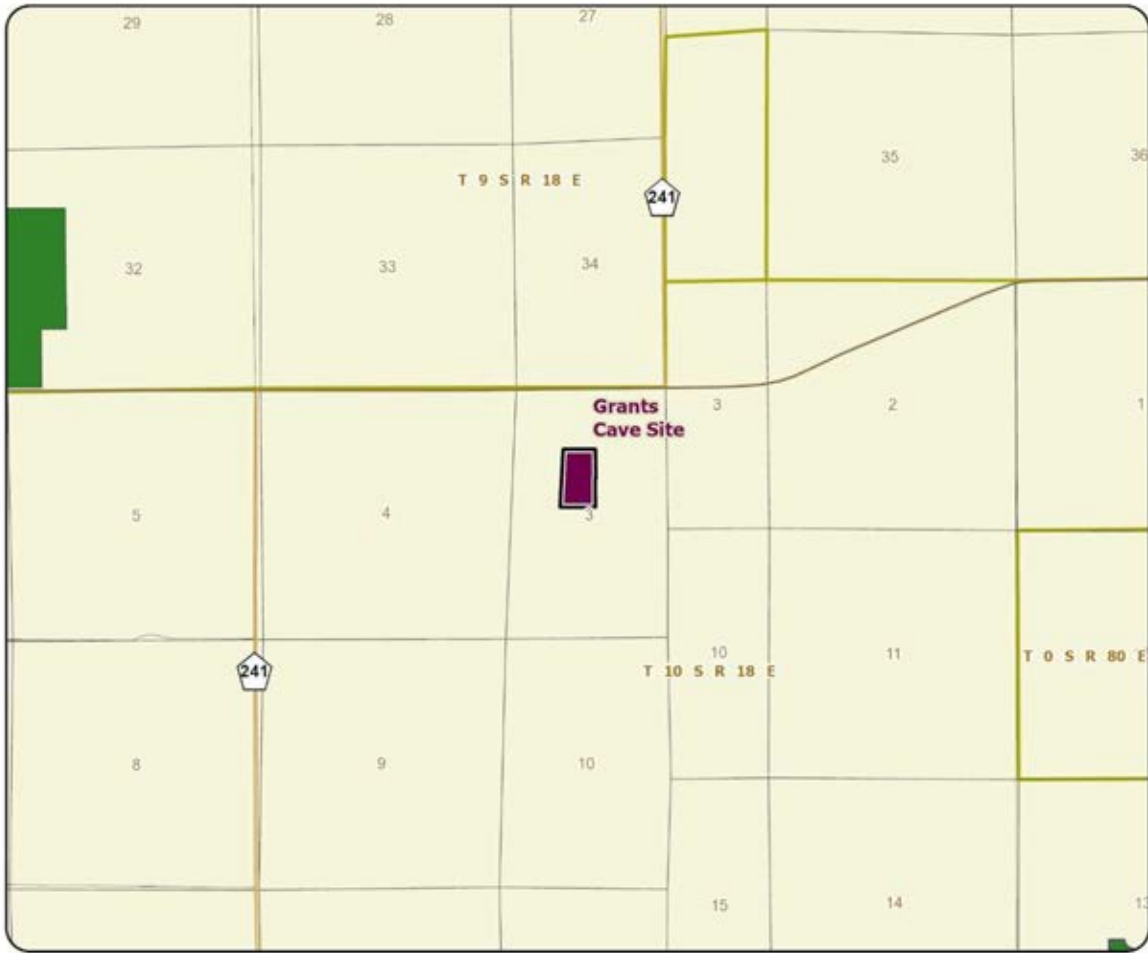




SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 2

JACKSON COUNTY

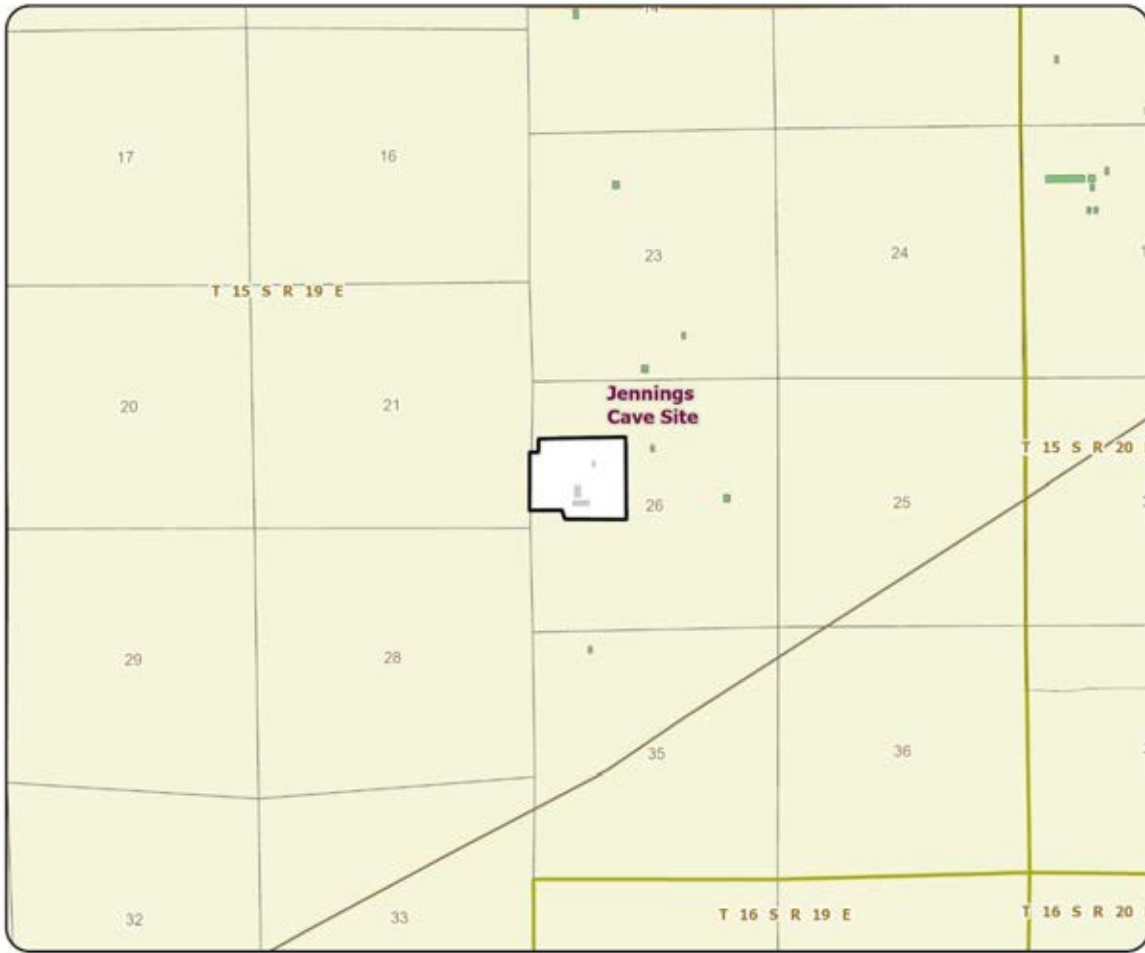




SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 3

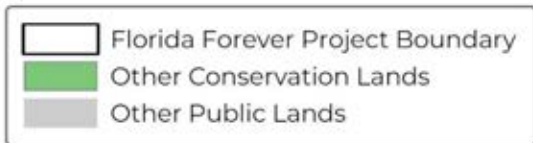
ALACHUA COUNTY

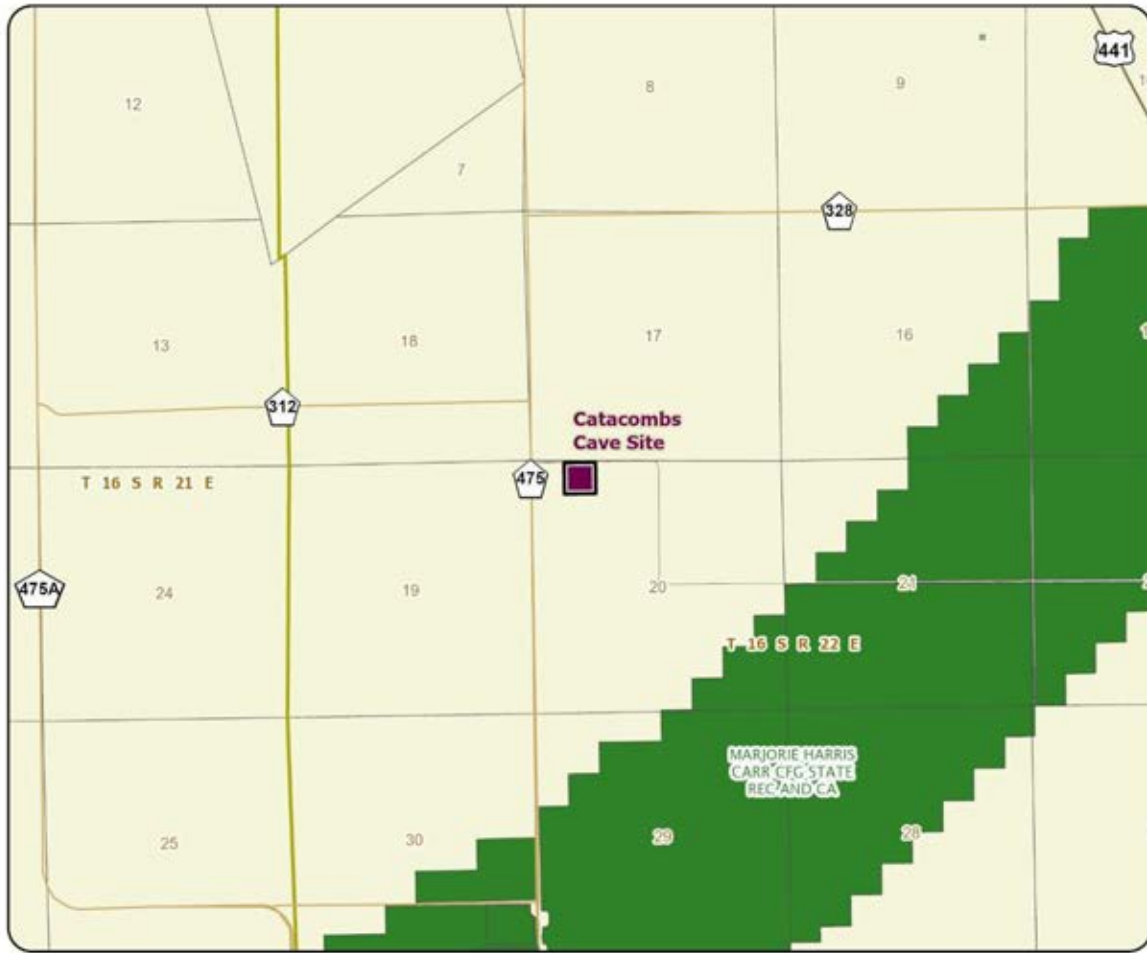




SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY





SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 5

MARION COUNTY

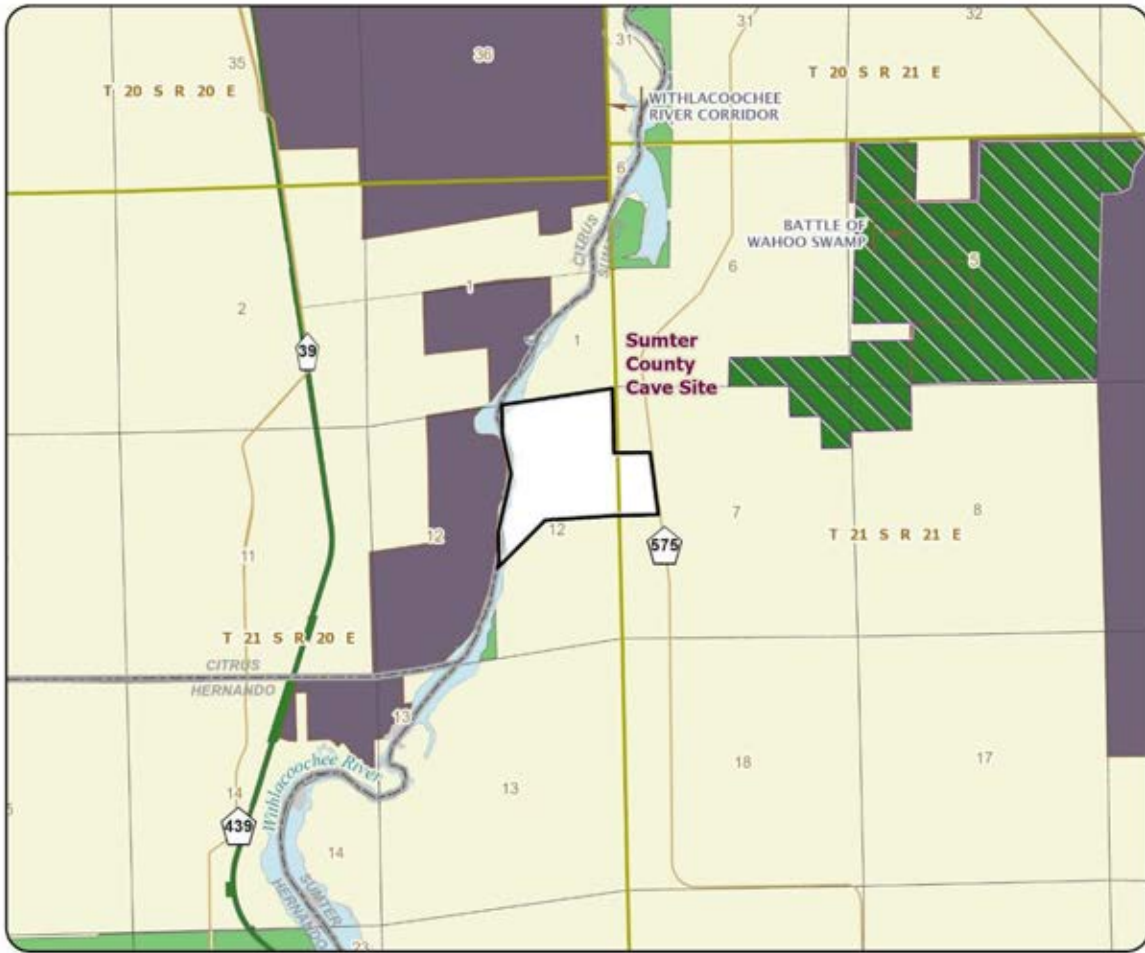




SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 6

CITRUS COUNTY





SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 7

SUMTER COUNTY



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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, Hillsborough, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Putnam, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Taylor, Union, Volusia and Wakulla Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>9,629</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>727</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$3,935,843</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>8,902</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$192,412,581</i>

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, sponsored by the Division of Recreation and Parks, Office of Greenways and Trails, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 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 the project would become part of Blackwater River State Forest in Santa Rosa County. The smallest is 2 acres of beachfront land on the Atlantic Ocean that would become part of Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park in Broward County. Over 7,000 acres of these proposals are in Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas.

The properties identified for better management for the 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 the Florida Forest Service augment existing state forests. Properties that would augment Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission lands would improve the management of such areas as the Andrews Wildlife Management Areas in Levy County or the Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area in Lafayette County.

Listed species element occurrences were reported by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory by parcel. A total of 48 listed species were identified overall, but some species may be counted more than once as this is a statewide, multi-parcel, multi-county project. The maximum number of listed species at one site was seven.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>fragrant prickly apple</i>	G1/S1
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
A mayfly	G1G2/S1S2
<i>beautiful pawpaw</i>	G2/S2
Suwannee alligator snapping turtle	G2/S2
<i>pinewoods dainties</i>	G4T2/S2
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3

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 the 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 the project were notified by mail that the Acquisition and Restoration Council would be considering a Florida Forever proposal that included their parcel in the boundary, and if they wished to sell their parcel, state acquisition could be possible using Florida Forever funding. Owners 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.

2018

In October 2018, the project was approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council. All the parcels within the boundary are considered essential and proposed for fee simple acquisition.



**2019**

In September 2019, 10 parcels under a single ownership containing 120.19-acres (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Parcel One/Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-1) were acquired fee simple from Zemel Family Ventures, LLC with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (79 percent) and the Florida Forever program (21 percent). The property will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area.

2020

On August 21, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.

In 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council also approved a Florida Forest Service addition of 41 acres in Lake County (Seminole State Forest) to the project boundary. One parcel was simultaneously removed (Florida Forest Service Parcel Seven - HAU II LLC, 473.28 acres) to maintain a list of 10 agency parcels.

In 2020, 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks as part of the adjacent managed areas.

2021

On April 9, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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. The Acquisition and Restoration Council also approved a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission addition of 158 acres in Charlotte County and a reduction of 40 acres in Taylor County.

On August 4, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved modifications to the project to include the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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) were purchased from the Alachua Conservation Trust and will be managed as part of River Rise Preserve State Park.

On August 12, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved two Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission additions; one for 40.89 acres in Franklin County and one for 123 acres in Glades County.





On December 9, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission addition of 297 acres in Gadsden County.

2023

In February 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of a 40-acre parcel in Santa Rosa County to the project boundary.

In June 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 249 acres in St. Lucie and Wakulla Counties to the project boundary.

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 16 acres in Pasco County to the project boundary.

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of four parcels totaling approximately 21.51 acres in Hillsborough, Charlotte, Lee and Miami-Dade counties and approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 7.25 acres in Brevard County to the project boundary. The Acquisition and Restoration Council also approved adding the 103-acre Lake Powell North project, which is located in Bay County and proposed as a fee simple acquisition with a tax-assessed value of \$1,436,938, to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. After its approval, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the project to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List.

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 the Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Recreation and Parks, Office of Greenways and Trails and Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection.



Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

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 qualifies the project for state designation. 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.

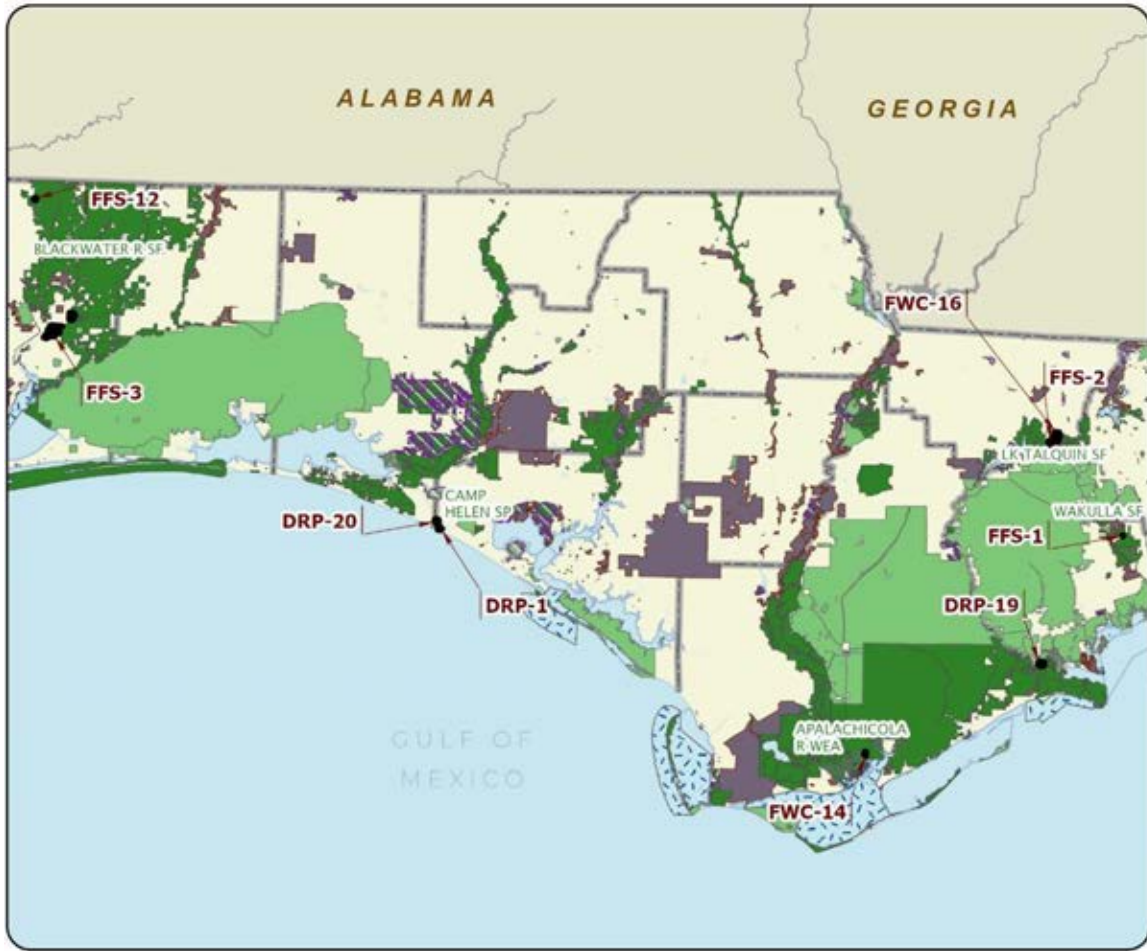
Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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

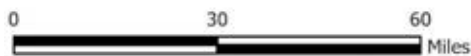
Revenue-generating potential for each parcel would vary, but management efficiencies from these acquisitions could result in a reduction of some management costs.





STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 1

BAY, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, SANTA ROSA, AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

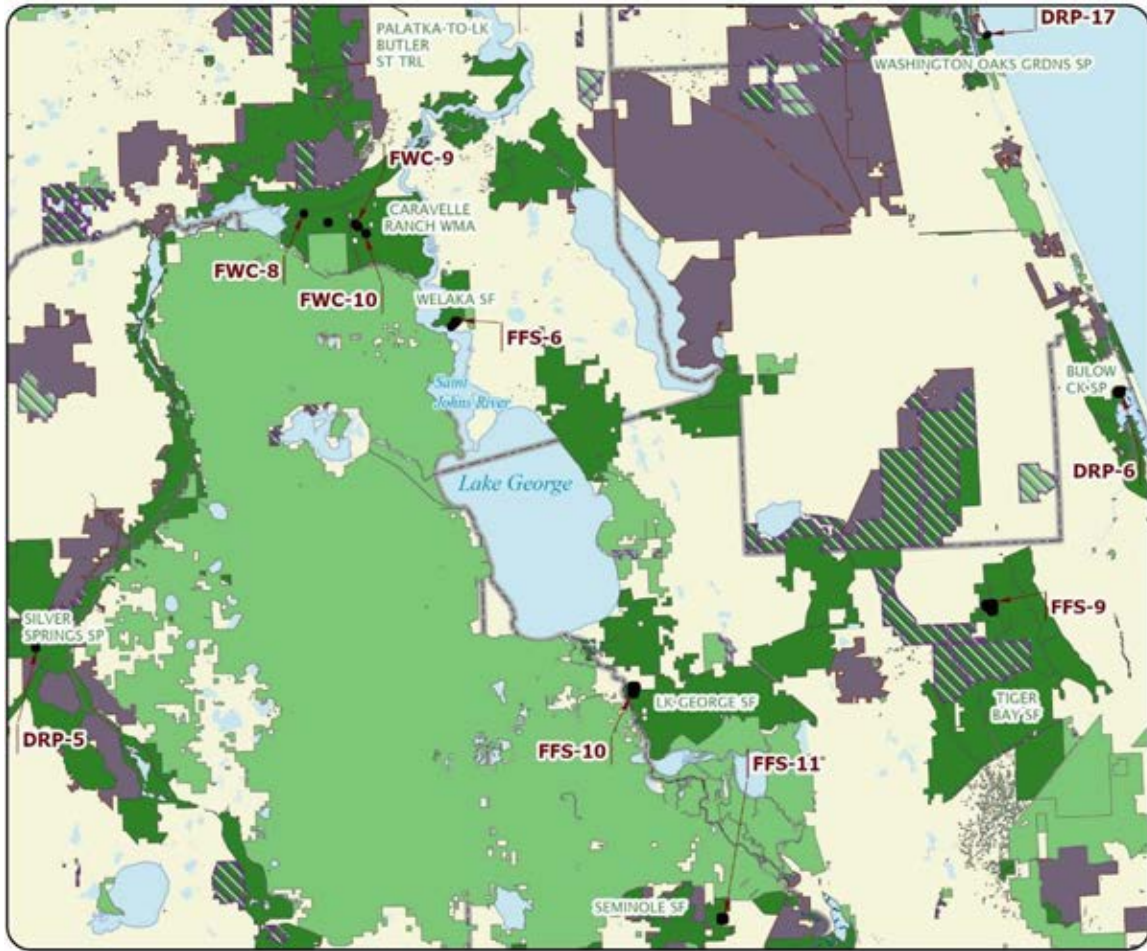




STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 2

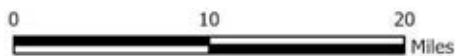
ALACHUA, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DIXIE, FLAGLER, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, JEFFERSON, LAFAYETTE, LEVY, MARION, TAYLOR, AND UNION COUNTIES

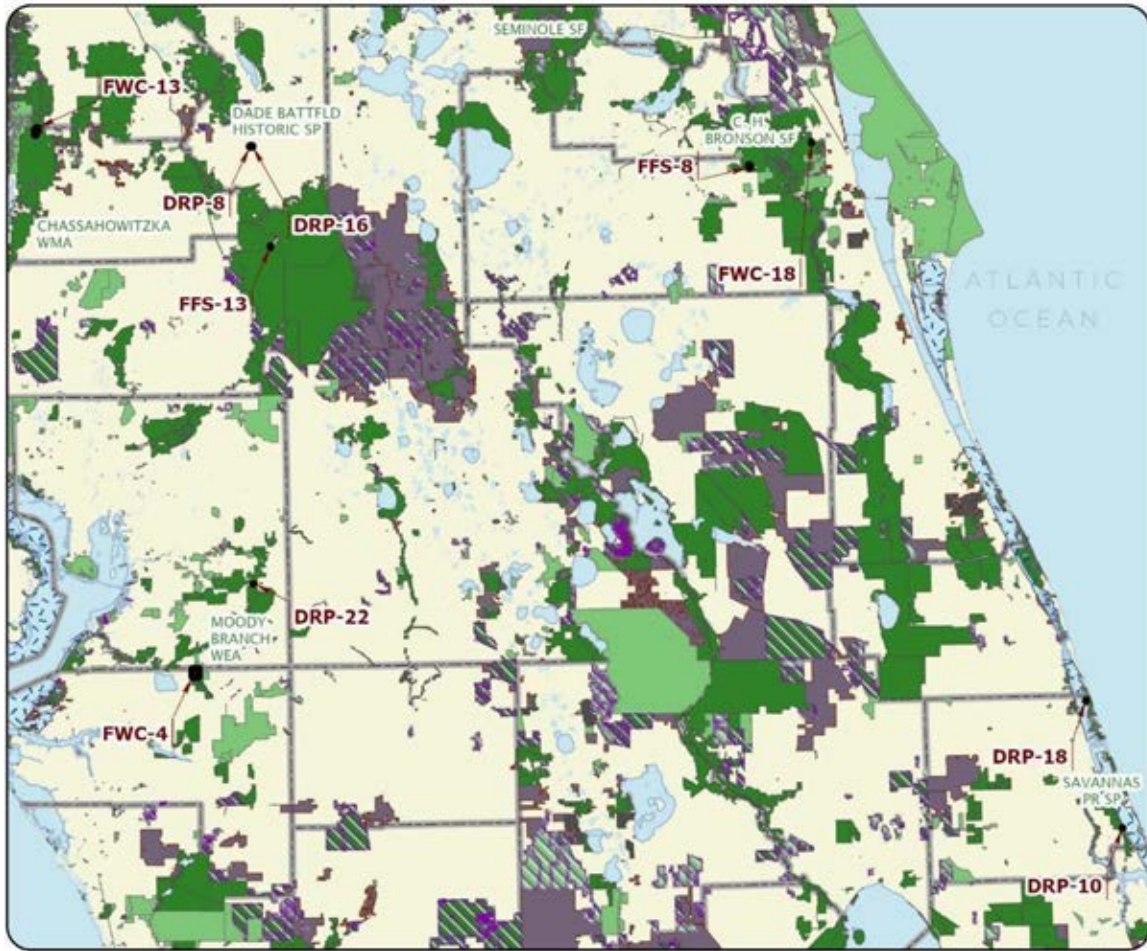




STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 3

FLAGLER, LAKE, MARION, PUTNAM, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

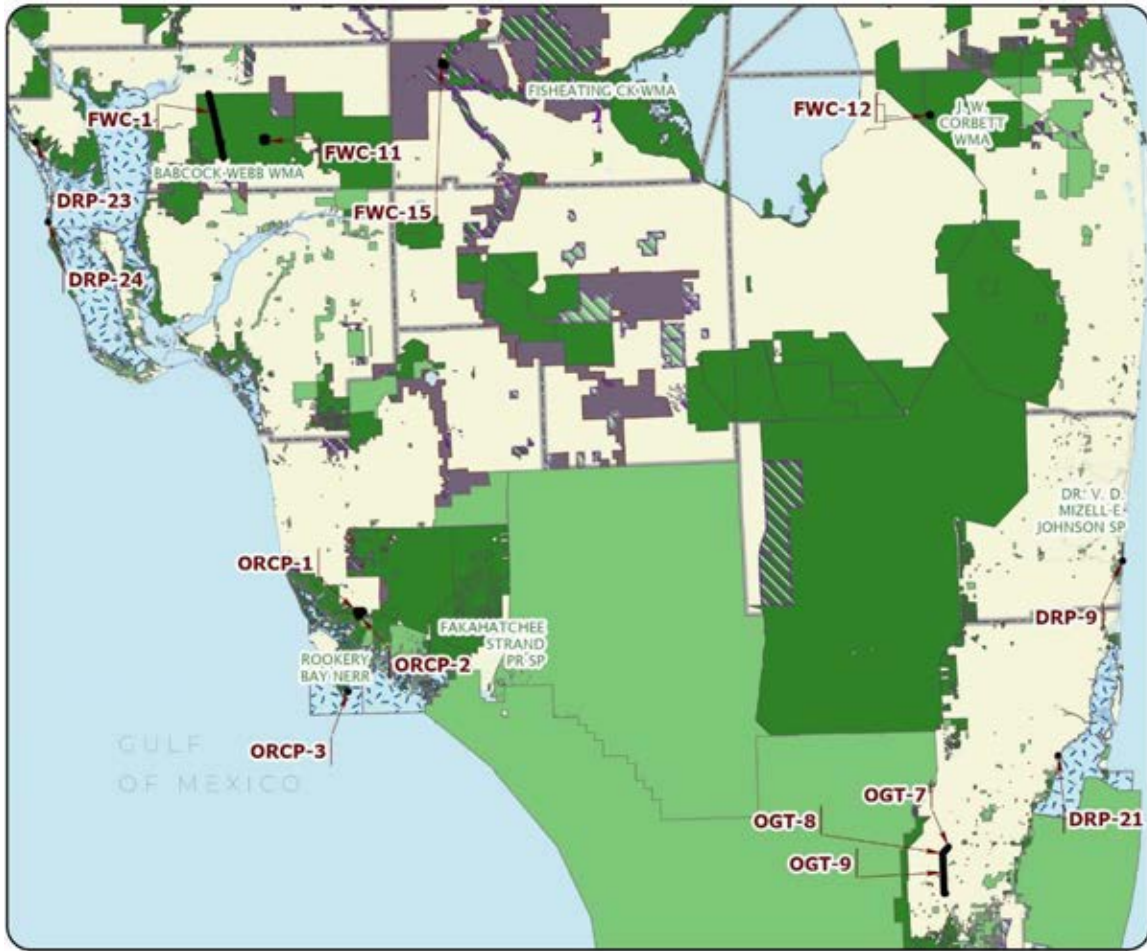




STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 4

BREVARD, HERNANDO, HILLSBOROUGH, MANATEE, ORANGE, PASCO, ST. LUCIE, AND SUMTER COUNTIES





STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 5

BROWARD, CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, GLADES, MIAMI-DADE, AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES



Twelvemile Slough

Critical Natural Lands

Hendry County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	15,968
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	7,947
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$11,000,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,021
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$61,134,405

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Twelvemile Slough project will protect an exemplary 12-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.

General Description

The drainage basin of the proposal flows into the Okaloacoochee Slough project acquired by the South Florida Water Management District and Florida Forest Service. The Okaloacoochee Slough and its associated watershed ultimately flow into the Fakahatchee Strand.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>redmargin zephyrlily</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3





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 the activity will not have an adverse impact on the property.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Twelvemile Slough project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition project, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of approximately 14,419 acres, multiple parcels and four landowners (AandM 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 1,416-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the 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 \$11 million Florida Forever Land Acquisition Program funding to be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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. The Florida Forest Service will manage the property as part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.





Coordination

There is some potential for cost sharing with the South Florida Water Management District and The Nature Conservancy.

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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended as lead manager. The Florida Forest Service is recommended as a cooperating agency.

Management Prospectus

The 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 the project serves to protect groundwater and habitat for species like the Florida panther and snail kite. 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 and Okaloacoochee Slough 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 the 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, water hyacinth and tropical soda apple, 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Forest Service. 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with federal, state and local government agencies and non-government organizations, to the greatest extent possible. It is anticipated that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will need the most assistance and cooperation from the following: the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will require three full-time positions to manage the 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
Resource Management	\$273,692	\$328,199
Administration	\$125,926	\$125,926
Support	\$106,207	\$25,441
Capital Improvements	\$565,196	\$51,763
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$192,565	\$10,323
Law Enforcement	\$9,350	\$9,350
TOTAL	\$1,272,936	\$551,002

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





TWELVEMILE SLOUGH

HENDRY COUNTY



Upper Shoal River

Critical Natural Lands

Walton County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2003
<i>Project Acres</i>	12,035
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	12,035
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$24,981,263

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Upper Shoal River project will conserve timber resources within the Upper Shoal River watershed, protect unaltered and intact natural seepage streams and 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 proposal does not include the river or its floodplain; however, it is comprised of two tracts of land that are within the river's watershed. The first of the two tracts, the Pine Log Creek tract, is about 3.5 miles north of the river and abuts the Okaloosa County line. The Pine Log Creek tract contains 9,727 acres. The remaining 2,300 acres are included in the Gum Creek tract, which is about five miles southeast of the Pine Log Creek tract. Combined, the two tracts contain approximately 20 miles of headwater tributary streams. Most of the site's original pinelands have been disturbed by conversion to pine plantations that comprise most of the proposal. Conservation lands near the project include those on nearby Eglin Air Force Base, Yellow River Water Management Area and the Upper Yellow River Florida Forever project.

Both tracts are 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. Upland communities include approximately 750 acres of sandhill and 300 acres of upland hardwood forest or slope forest. Approximately 100 acres of mesic and wet flatwoods are interspersed around these other natural community types. The sandhill communities are in moderately good condition with an intact diverse indigenous groundcover including wiregrass. Forested wetlands have 1,550 acres of baygall, floodplain or bottomland forest. The actual seepage stream communities are about 10 acres.

About 75 acres have been classified as disturbed. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory indicates that 22 percent (3,202 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities. Functional wetlands comprise eight percent (1,216 acres) of the project area and help conserve areas for aquifer recharge (35 percent, or 5,148 acres of project area), provide fish and wildlife habitat and provide for





natural floodplain function (13 percent, or 1,895 acres of project area). The Florida Natural Areas Inventory Florida Forever Measures Evaluation also indicates that the entire project area provides surface-water protection. Both tracts have been managed for silviculture operations. Neither tract shows evidence of intensive management activities. Scattered longleaf pine regeneration is present on both tracts. Most of the pine stands are planted in evenly aged compartments, with some compartments including uneven-aged stands, and a greater diversity of pine species. Past thinning of stands of loblolly pine, longleaf pine and slash pine has occurred throughout both parcels. Fire has not occurred on the tracts for several years, resulting in increased fuel loads. Ecotones adjacent to forested wetlands and seepage streams appear intact and undisturbed.

Imperiled or rare animal species either occurring or likely to occur within the project, include the blackmouth shiner, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, eastern indigo snake, Florida black bear, gopher frog, gopher tortoise, little blue heron, pine barrens treefrog, Sherman’s fox squirrel, southern pine snake and white ibis. Gopher tortoise burrows are of particular importance as they often provide refugia for a suite of declining wildlife species, including the eastern indigo snake and gopher frog. Available groundcover may provide a sufficient forage base for the gopher tortoise population. Slope forests, forested wetlands and seepage streams may support several listed plant and animal species, such as the pine barrens tree frog, which has been documented to occur in the project area. Game species observed, or for which sign was available in the project area, included mourning dove, white-tailed deer and wild turkey. Both tracts appear to have recently been used for hunting and fishing.

Imperiled or rare plant species documented to occur in the proposed project include Arkansas oak, mountain laurel, red pitcher plant and white-top pitcher plant. Other imperiled or rare plant species known to occur nearby that may occur in the proposed project include bog button, Florida flame azalea, hairy wild indigo, Harper’s yellow-eyed grass, panhandle lily, sandhill sedge, silky camellia, umbrella magnolia and yellow fringeless orchid. However, a large portion of the project provides habitat for many focal species, which according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife. Management goals for the site should consider habitat management to protect and enhance focal species habitat. Additionally, large tracts of habitat are important to conserve widely ranging species such as the eastern indigo snake and Florida black bear. Bears have been documented to use riparian corridors of the Shoal River and its tributaries in Okaloosa County, and to occur in Walton County. These are likely migratory routes for the Florida black bear.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Wherry's redflower pitcherplant</i>	G3T1?/S3
<i>Arkansas oak</i>	G3/S3
Pine barrens treefrog	G4/S3
<i>mountain laurel</i>	G5/S3





Public Use

The Upper Shoal River project has the potential to provide a diverse resource-based recreational experience. Both project parcels have good boundary configurations that will enhance management efforts and are easily accessible from paved and unpaved public roads. Both tracts can support a diversity of resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities.

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, hiking, off-road bicycling, natural resource appreciation and educational activities.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the fee-simple project to the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Department of Defense are acquisition partners for the project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goal for the Florida Forest Service 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 Florida Forest Service's management activities on the project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Forest Service will be co-managers. The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the Gum Creek tract.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 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. 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 the Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Cooperators in Management Activities

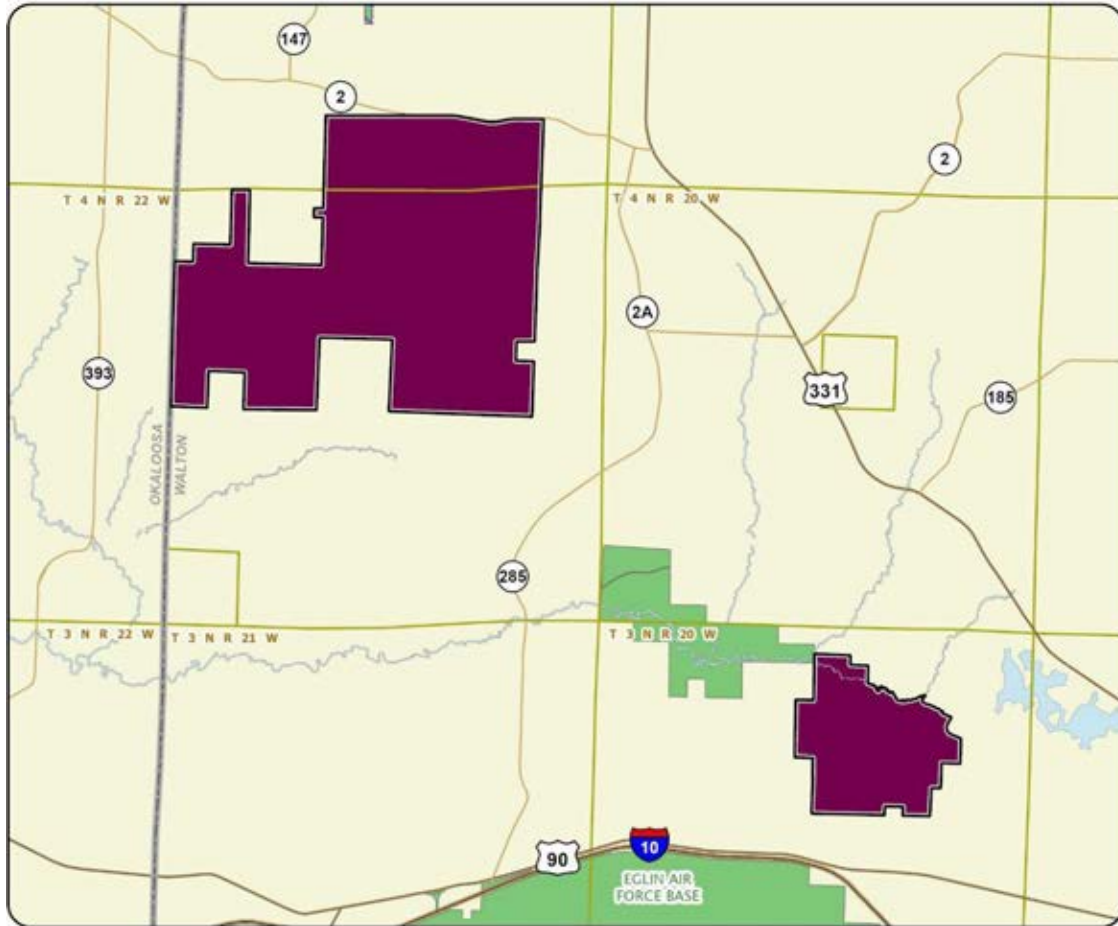
The unified managers (Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Northwest Florida Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Resource Management	\$212,891	\$244,479
Administration	\$82,345	\$33,072
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$2,187,189	\$58,179
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$10,191	\$10,191
TOTAL	\$2,641,696	\$377,487

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





UPPER SHOAL RIVER

WALTON COUNTY



Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

Critical Natural Lands

Lake, Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	82,290
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	60,753
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$183,142,325
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	21,537
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$209,091,187

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 and other wildlife such as the bald eagle, swallow-tailed kite, Florida scrub jay and wading birds. 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, bald eagle, Eastern indigo snake, Florida scrub-jay, Sherman's fox squirrel, Florida scrub lizard and gopher tortoise. It incorporates most of the forested wetlands along the St. Johns 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 wildlife movement corridor between Ocala National Forest and the other portions of the project along the Wekiva River.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Okeechobee gourd</i>	G1/S1
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
<i>Florida hasteola</i>	G1/S1
Seminole Spring siltsnail	G1/S1
<i>star anise</i>	G2/S2

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); Alger Enterprises (acquired); Fisch (acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District); 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 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, Wekiva 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Holman conservation easement (1,041 acres) in the project boundary.

2001

On December 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 5,455-acre addition to the project boundary.

2003

On June 12, 2003, Florida Communities Trust acquired Kelly Park (109.39 acres).

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 BOT approved the purchase of a conservation easement from Robert Maxwell.

On December 8, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 and consisted of two parcels with two owners (Natalie Windsor and Jerry Ellis). The Division of Recreation and Parks 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 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 the St. Johns River Water Management District and Lake County.

On October 10, 2007, Lake County acquired Peavy/Cardinal Homes (74 acres) in the project boundary.

On December 14, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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, The Nature Conservancy acquired the Hollywood Pines Tract (651 acres) in the project boundary.

On July 27, 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Sutton Ranch conservation easement (198 acres), of which 186 acres are in the project boundary.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2016

On August 8, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Florida Forest Service as part of Seminole State Forest.

On December 11, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Florida Forest Service from Ann and Fred Hunter that will be managed as part of Seminole State Forest.

2023

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 138.2 acres in Lake County to the project boundary.

Coordination

Florida Communities Trust, Lake County Water Authority, St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority and The Nature Conservancy 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)

The Florida Forest Service proposes to manage the Seminole Springs and western connector portions of the project. The remainder will be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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 the Florida Forest Service, 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks, 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 St. Johns River Water Management District and have been assigned to the Florida Forest Service for management as Seminole State Forest. The Florida Forest Service 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks will promote recreation and environmental education. For the Division of Recreation and Parks, within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

Revenue-generating Potential

The Florida Forest Service 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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

The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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

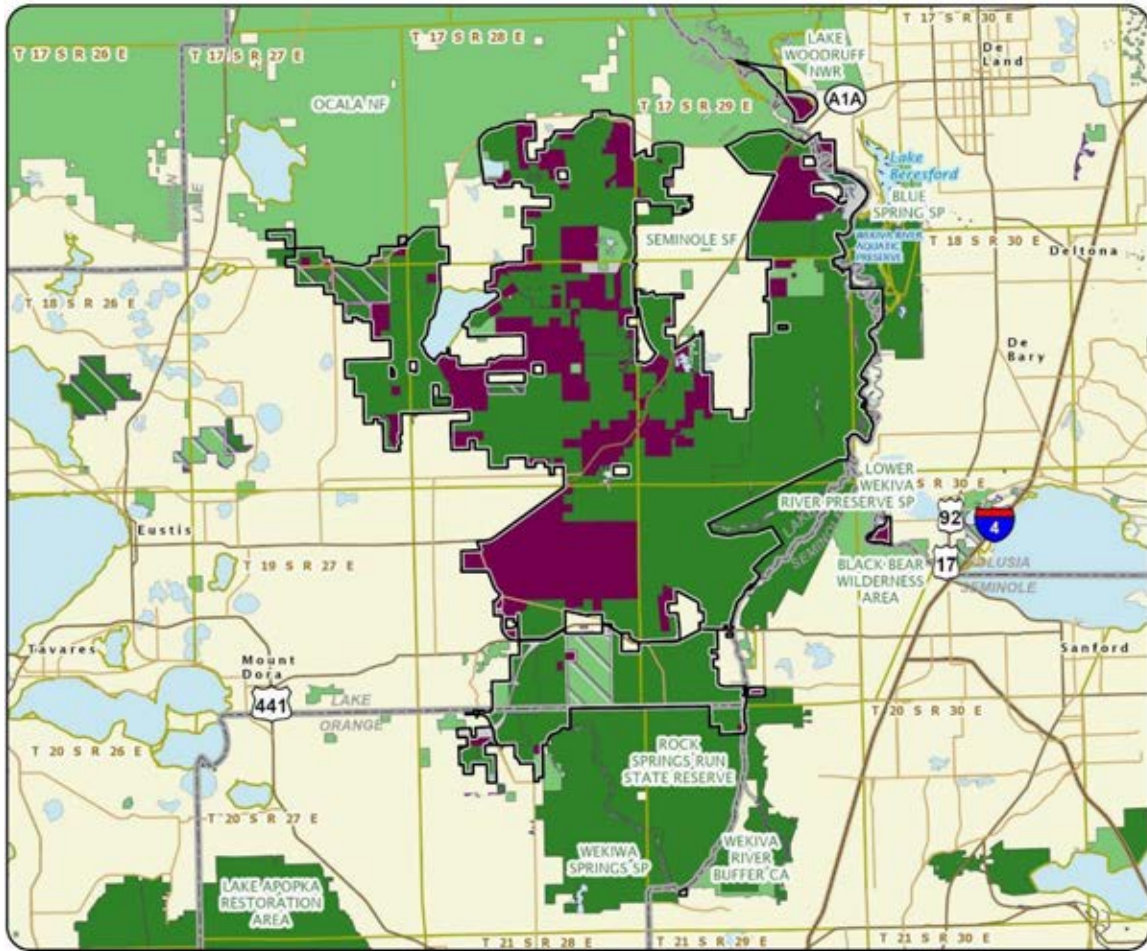
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

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



PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL INCENTIVES

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Annutteliga Hammock

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Citrus and Hernando Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1995</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>19,890</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>11,831</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$35,925,705</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>8,059</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$162,403,933</i>

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. The project will protect habitat for rare and imperiled species such as the Florida black bear, Eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise and many sandhill-dwelling plants including giant orchids. The project will also provide the public with a large area for outdoor recreation in this fast-growing region.

General Description

The 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 the 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, twenty 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 have fragmented these natural areas, but excellent examples of the original vegetation and wildlife, including the Florida black bear, remain. The Suncoast Parkway was constructed and bisects the project.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>Brooksville bellflower</i>	G1/S1
<i>scrub bluestem</i>	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Cooley's water-willow</i>	G2Q/S2
<i>pinkroot</i>	G2/S2
Southern hognose snake	G2/S2S3
<i>Peters' bristle fern</i>	G4/S1S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3

Public Use

The 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

The 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), 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.

1995

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, DEP acquired the Lecanto Sandhills to be managed by the Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.





2011

On April 15, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council recommended a 6,211-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/rural/commercial development.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2016

On June 17, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a boundary reduction of 5,348 acres consisting of 4,125 parcels with a total 2015 market value of \$37,692,703.

2018

On June 15, 2018, Acquisition and Restoration Council members added 403 acres in Hernando County (Buckner/Coastal Trails Partnership Property) to the project boundary. 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

On December 11, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 48.3 acres in Hernando County to the project boundary.

2021

On June 11, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 15 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. The 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)

The Florida Forest Service will manage acreage acquired in the northeastern and southeastern portion of the project. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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

The Florida Forest Service identifies no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention. The level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Forest Service 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 Florida Forest Service management activities on the project.

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the Florida Forest Service 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 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 the project are conceptual. Long-range plans for the 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. The Florida Forest Service 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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

The Florida Forest Service will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. Revenue from these sales will vary, but the Florida Forest Service expects the revenue-generating potential of the project to be low to moderate.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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	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

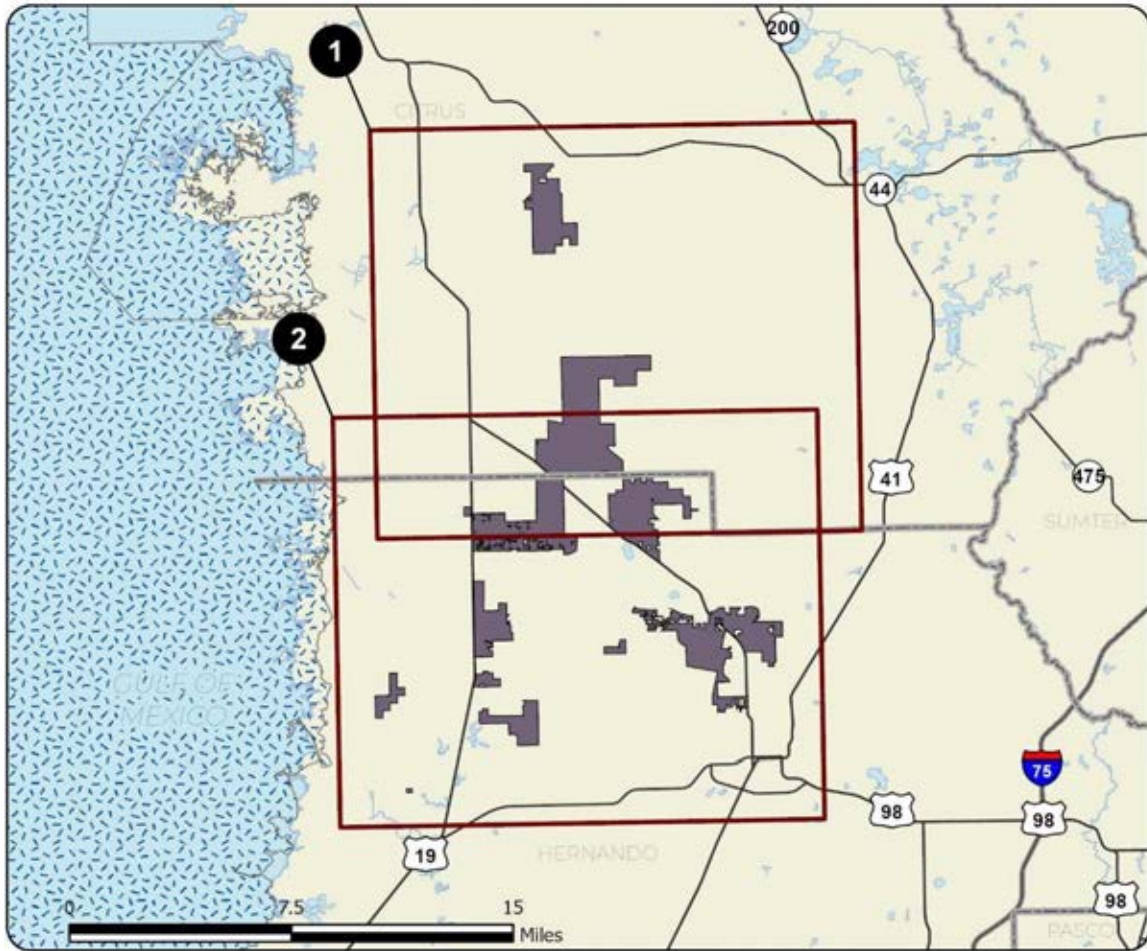
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

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	\$414,353	\$135,603

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

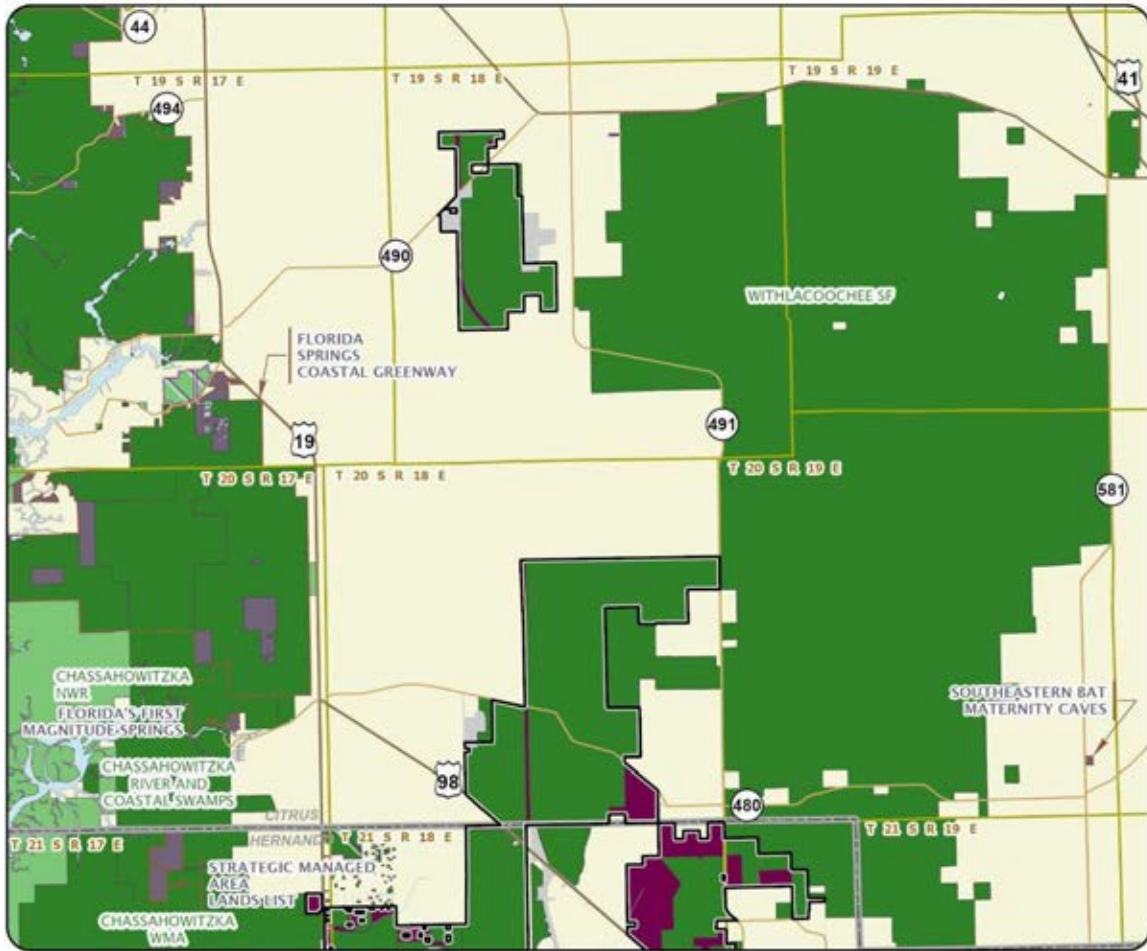




ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK: OVERVIEW

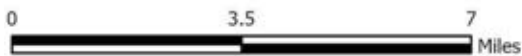
CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

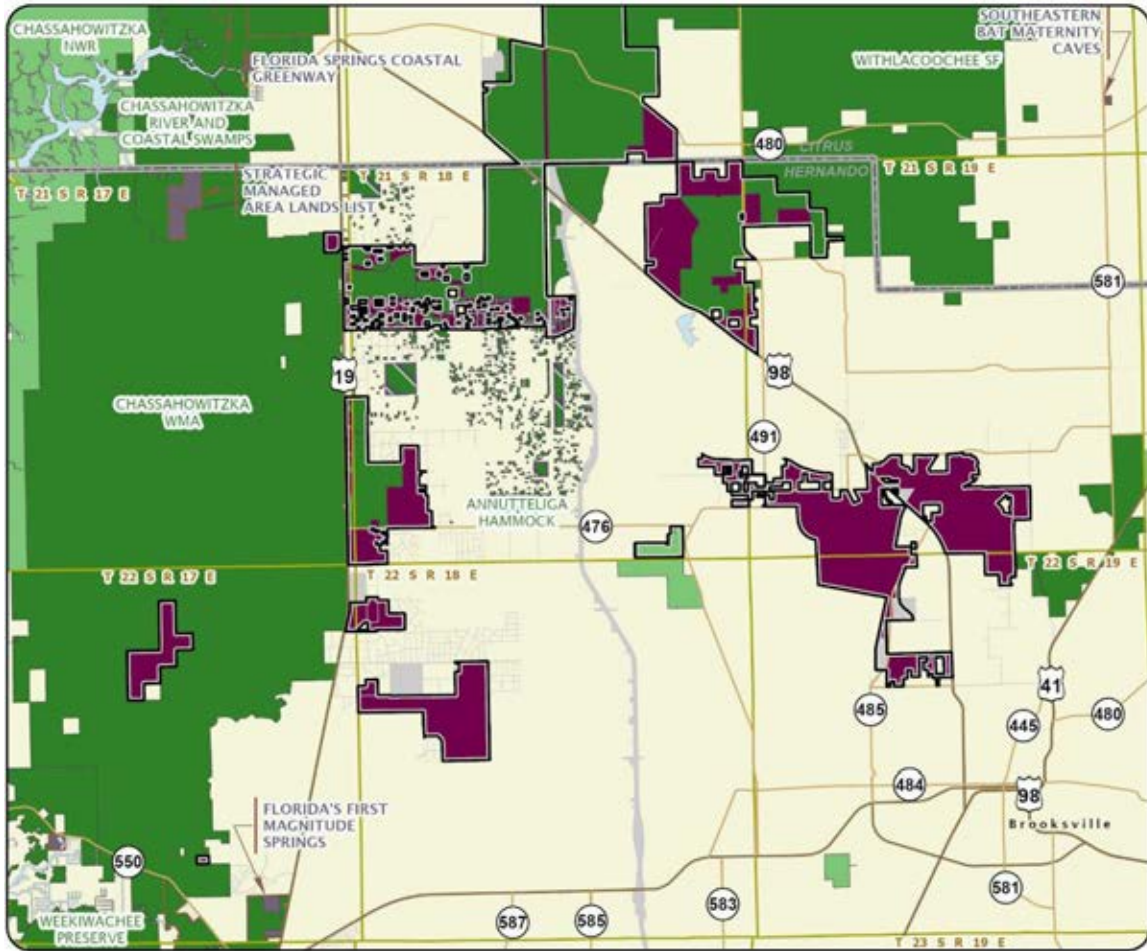




ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK: MAP 1

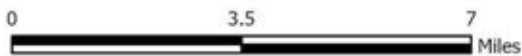
CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES





ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK: MAP 2

CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES



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Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Martin County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	14,403
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	6,228
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$38,215,961
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,175
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$163,921,183

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 River 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 (43 percent) of the project, extend from the floodplain forest along the South Fork of the 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 and extremely rare and federally listed perforate reindeer lichen. However, scrub habitat is being lost to development. The area also includes the headwaters of the South Fork of the 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>perforate reindeer lichen</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>piedmont jointgrass</i>	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

The 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 June 12, 1995, and October 5, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council held public meetings with Martin County, the 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 the project.

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 480 acres of recently developed tracts from the project boundary due to input received at the public meetings.

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 added 598 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

2000

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

2005

On February 11, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 304 acres in 16 parcels (Kitching Creek Addition) to the project boundary.

2006

On December 8, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved 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).

2009

On April 24, 2009, Martin County acquired the Datillio property (44.98 acres).

2010

On February 19, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.





Coordination

The 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 Division of Recreation and Parks is the recommended manager for the project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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 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. Revenue generated by the nearby Jonathan Dickinson State Park for Fiscal Year 1993-94 was \$364,711.

Cooperators in Management Activities

No local governments or others are recommended for management of the project.



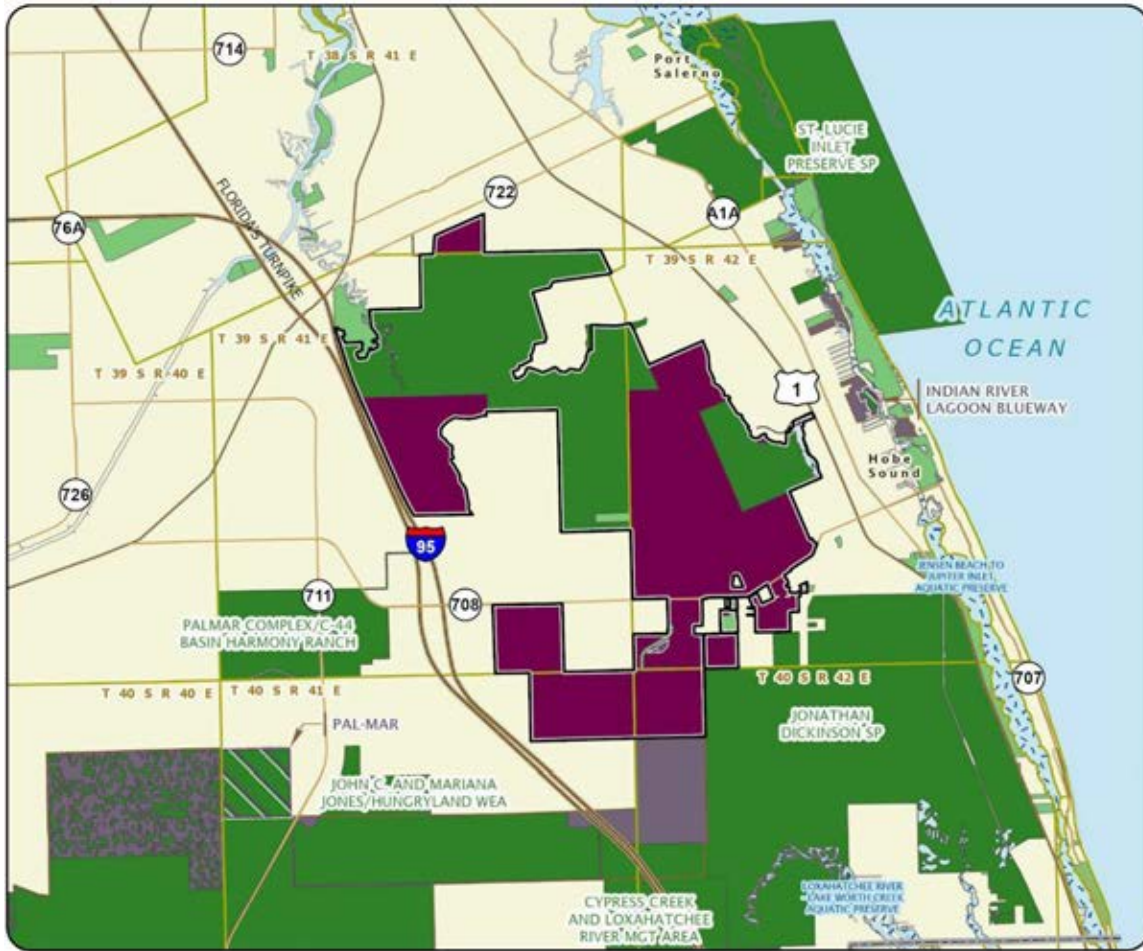


Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	\$52,994	\$52,994
OPS	\$8,000	\$8,000
Expense	\$26,307	\$26,307
OCO	\$129,212	\$129,212
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$216,513	\$216,513

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





ATLANTIC RIDGE ECOSYSTEM

MARTIN COUNTY



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Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed

Partnerships and Regional Incentives
Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	101,577
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	61,274
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$5,886,137
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	40,303
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$71,169,262

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, 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. Twenty-two springs are known to exist within the project area, as well as several unique geological features including the Aucilla River Sinks, in which 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Frosted flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Big Blue Spring cave crayfish	G1/S1
Florida Big Bend cave amphipod	G1G2/S1S2
Barbour's map turtle	G2/S2
<i>pinewoods dainties</i>	G4T2/S2
Florida olive hairstreak	G5T2/S2
Florida red-bellied turtle, Panhandle population	G5T2/S2
<i>large rosebud orchid</i>	G4/S1

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.

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. The 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 Division of Historical Resources, the addition consisted of one landowner (St. Joe Land and Development Co.). The landowner already has property in the project boundary. The addition will bring the remainder of the archaeologically significant feature known as Calico Hill into state ownership and management.

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. The 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. The 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 approved the transfer of approximately 20,036 acres from the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project to the St. Joe Timberland project. The acreage is portions of the original project owned by The St. Joe Company.

2001

On October 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 and consisted of one landowner (Foley Land and Timber Company). The tract fills a critical gap in the regional landscape of protected conservation areas by filling the hole between the BOT's ownership along the Wacissa River and Suwannee River Water Management District ownership along the Aucilla River. The parcels were designated as essential.

On October 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council also approved a fee-simple, 117-acre addition to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of State Lands and consisted of seven small ownerships. The 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the West Aucilla River Buffer project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List. The less-than-fee project was submitted by the landowner, Mr. Carl Joiner, and had a tax assessed value of \$322,849.

On December 14, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to move the West Aucilla River Buffer to Group A of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 boundary change, the project had a combined historic estimated tax assessed value of \$3,413,439.

2019

On October 18, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added Econfina Timberlands, a 1,665-acre fee simple project, to the Florida Forever Priority List. The project was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 within the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project boundary to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 18,575-acre Aucilla River Corridor project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

On August 12, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council combined 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 created a new Florida Forever project. The new Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project was added to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council amended the project boundary by adding one parcel totaling approximately 305 acres in Jefferson County.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Suwannee River Water Management District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy are acquisition partners for various portions of the project. The project is adjacent to existing DEP, Suwannee River Water Management District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Suwannee River Water Management District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Apiary Policy. 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

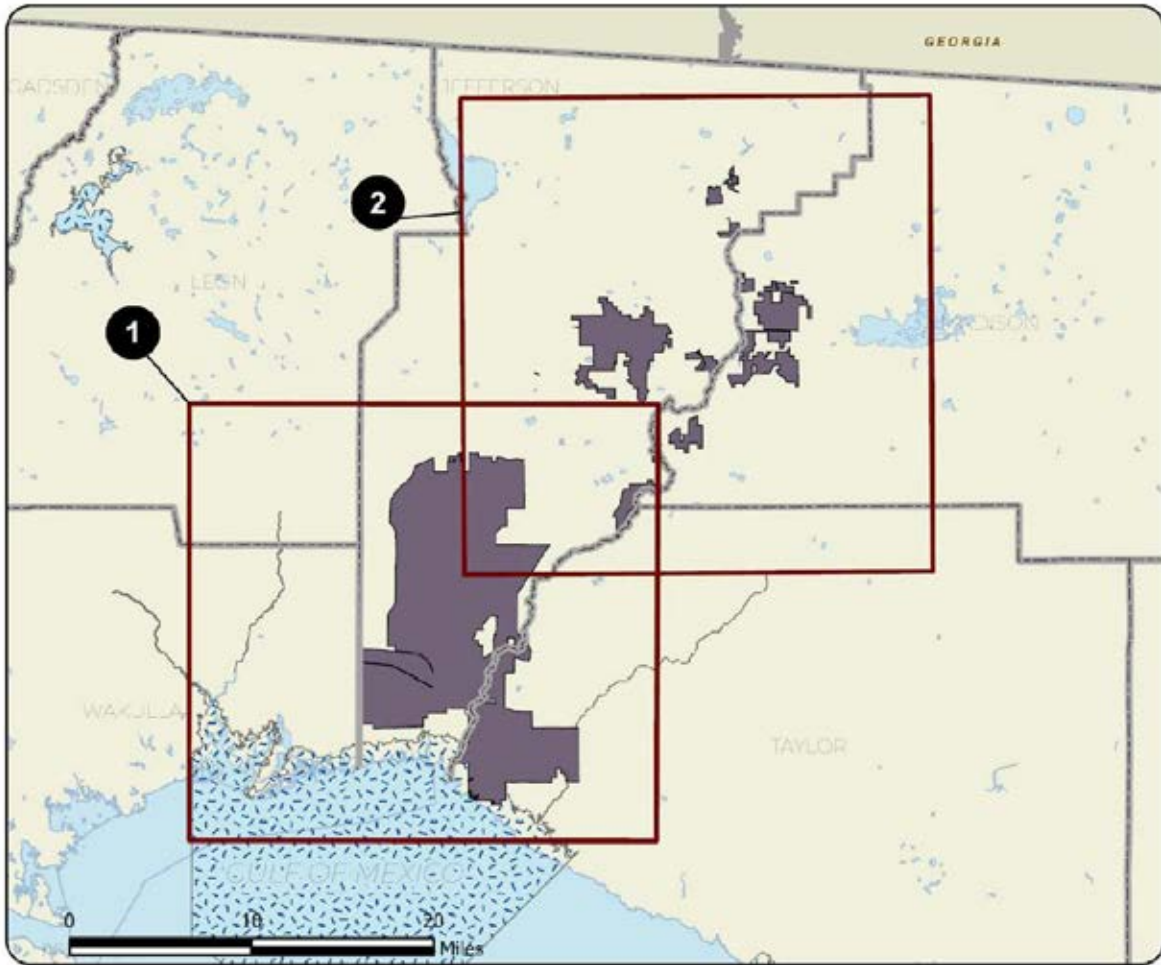
State, federal and local governmental agencies will cooperate with each other and private conservation organizations in the continued management of the properties in the project.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Recurring	Non-recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	\$38,267 (1 FTE)	
Expense	\$19,925	
OCO	\$277,220	
FCO	\$70,988	\$266,400
TOTAL	\$406,400	\$266,400

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted for Econfina Timberlands, Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks, Aucilla River Corridor

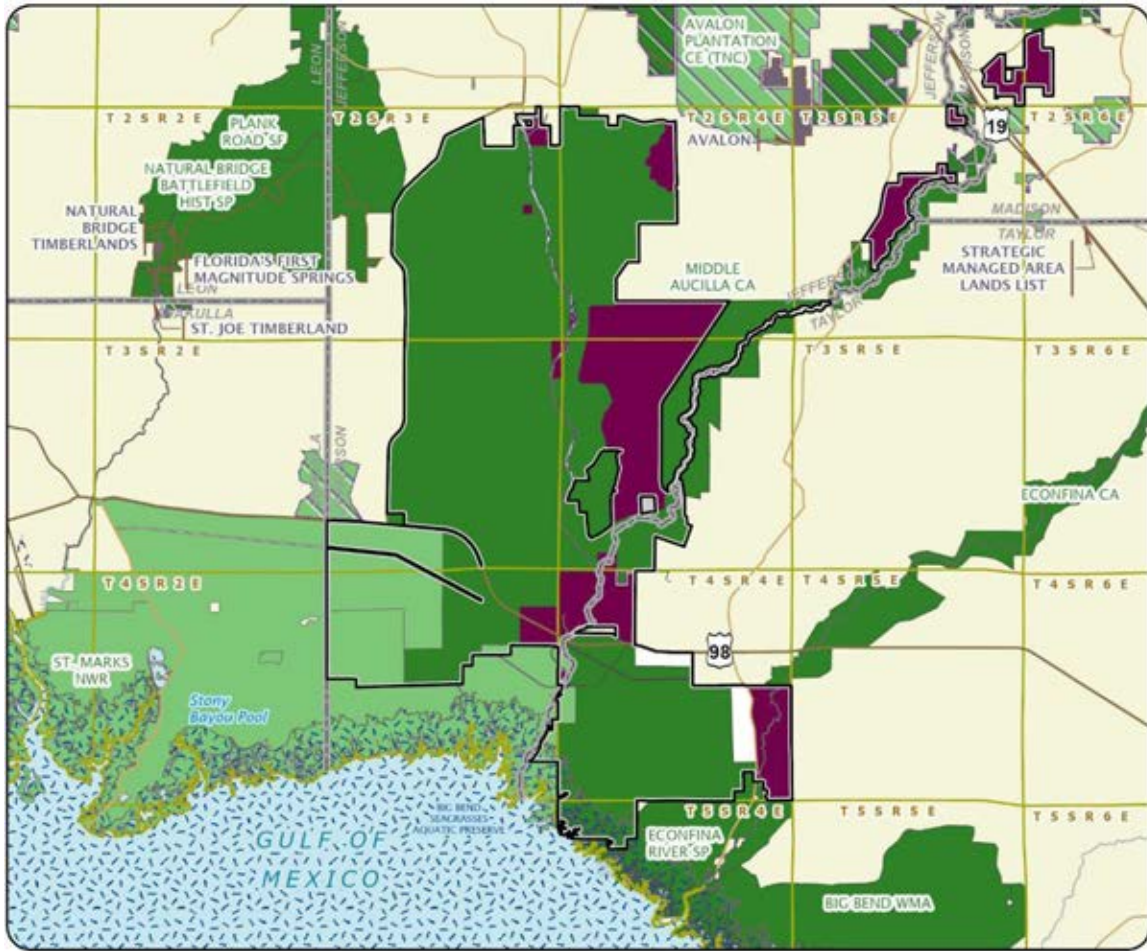




AUCILLA/WACISSA WATERSHED: OVERVIEW

JEFFERSON, MADISON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

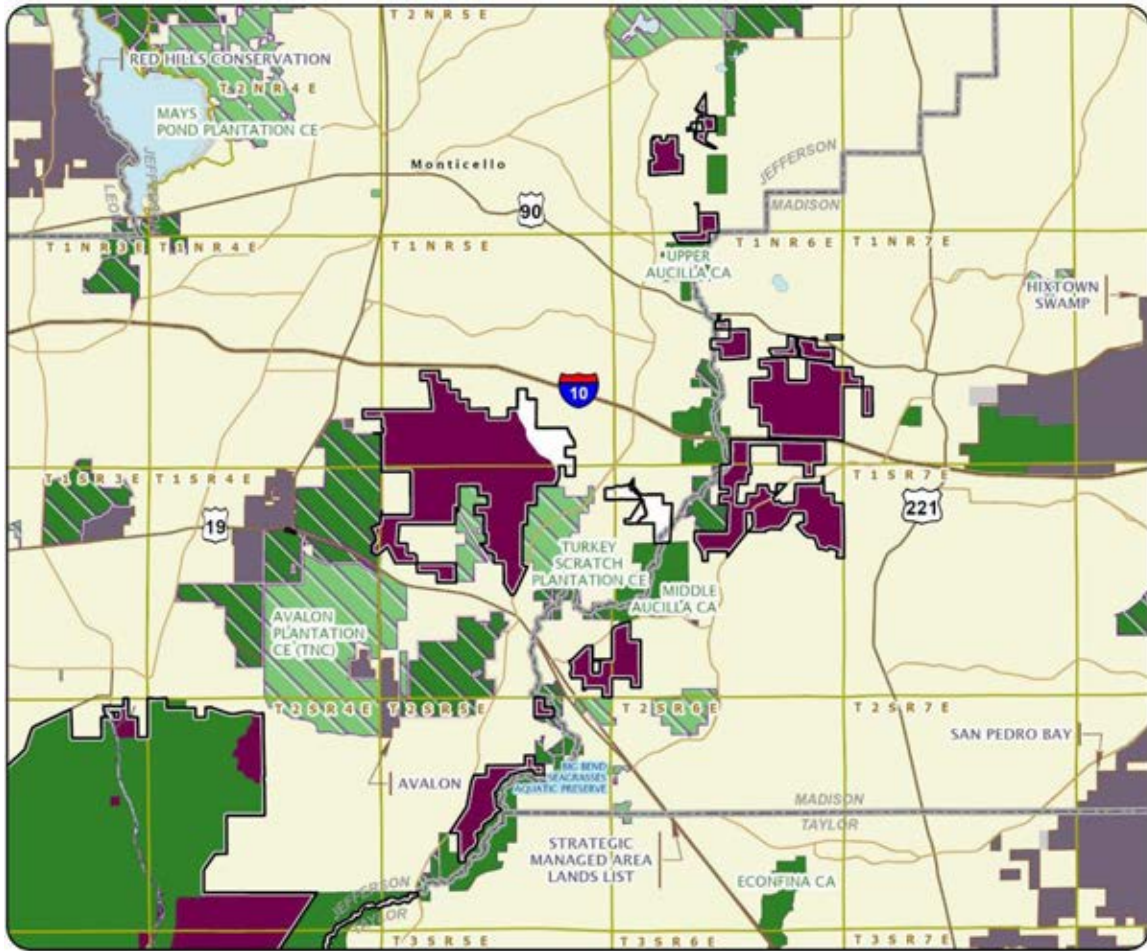




AUCILLA/WACISSA WATERSHED: MAP 1

JEFFERSON, MADISON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES





AUCILLA/WACISSA WATERSHED: MAP 2

JEFFERSON, MADISON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES



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Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's River

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Duval and Nassau Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	9,131
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	734
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,397
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$42,464,972

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's 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. Mary's 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

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, the 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. Mary's River project was added to the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$3,587,753. The essential parcels, which were being offered fee simple, were identified as the Baldwin Bay LLC, Brandy Branch LLC, International Paper and International Paper Realty ownerships.

2006

On December 8, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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 the 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 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 Florida Forest Service's management activities on the project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service 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 the project.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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. The 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. Mary's 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 the 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. Mary's River site but can be controlled with reasonable effort if pursued soon. Chinese tallow tree, Japanese climbing fern and Cogon grass were observed. There were also numerous signs of feral hogs digging within the site.

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

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

Revenue-generating Potential

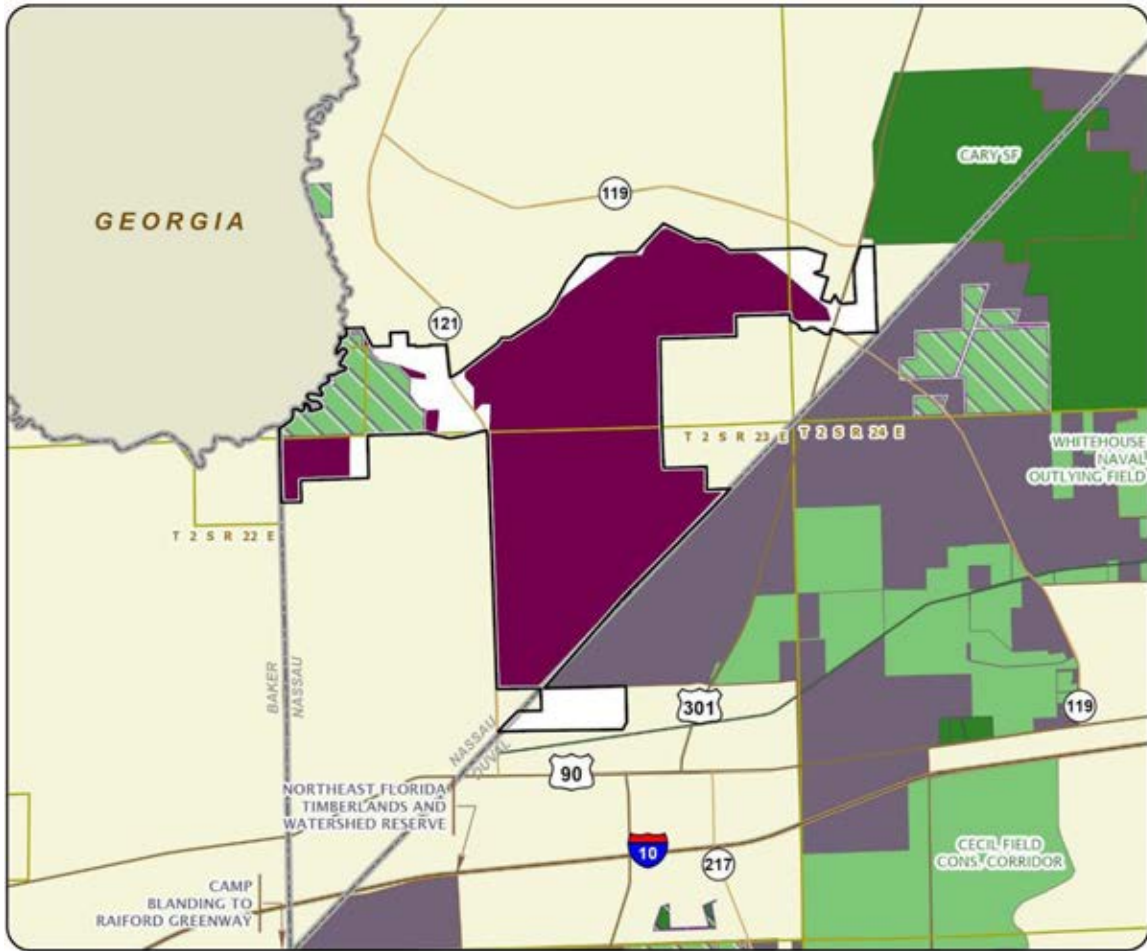
Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of the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

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	not available
Salary (X FTE)	\$231,839	not available
Expense	\$140,000	not available
OCO	\$354,600	not available
TOTAL	\$726,439	not available

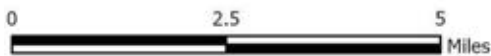
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





BALDWIN BAY/ST. MARYS RIVER

DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES



Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Brevard County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>41,814</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>24,433</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$86,373,773</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>17,381</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$349,537,199</i>

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 endangered Florida scrub-jay 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; the project will ensure the preservation of remaining scrub habitats. In addition to the Florida scrub-jay, the project will also provide habitat for species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, eastern indigo snake and gopher tortoise.

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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Titusville balm</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>pine pinweed</i>	G2/S2
<i>tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>sand-dune spurge</i>	G2/S2
Horn's aethecerinus long-horned beetle	G2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
<i>hay scented fern</i>	G4/S1

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 (\pm 2,421 acres with Grand Central being a major owner, Brevard County has acquired 52 acres); Valkaria (\pm 2,764 acres with multiple owners, Brevard County has acquired 155 acres); Rockledge (\pm 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 is 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 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 approved a fee-simple 9,528-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple 3,529-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, consisted of 11 landowners with a taxable value of \$3,456,290.



**2002**

On April 25, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple 112-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List.

2003

On October 3, 2003, the Office of Greenways and Trails acquired South Brevard Trail Connector parcel (14.72 acres) in Turkey Creek Sanctuary.

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

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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 will manage the section.





In October 2008, The Nature Conservancy donated 2.71 acres, valued at \$40,000, which will be managed by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.

2009

On December 11, 2009, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

Coordination

Brevard County, an acquisition partner, committed \$10 million towards the acquisition of the project and \$2.6 million for site management. The Nature Conservancy is under contract 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). The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the six sites added in 1996 and the Ten Mile Ridge site added in 2002. The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection 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 Environmentally Endangered Lands Program is preparing a Conceptual Natural Areas Management Manual for all sanctuary sites. Once these sites are acquired, the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program 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 Florida Natural Areas Inventory 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 Environmentally Endangered Lands Program proposed to set aside \$2.6 million from their excess ad valorem revenues to begin a management endowment for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program sanctuary network. The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and The Nature Conservancy to implement a quality management program for scrub communities. The Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection Committee will aggressively seek matching funds for site management, development of environmental education programs and necessary research and monitoring.



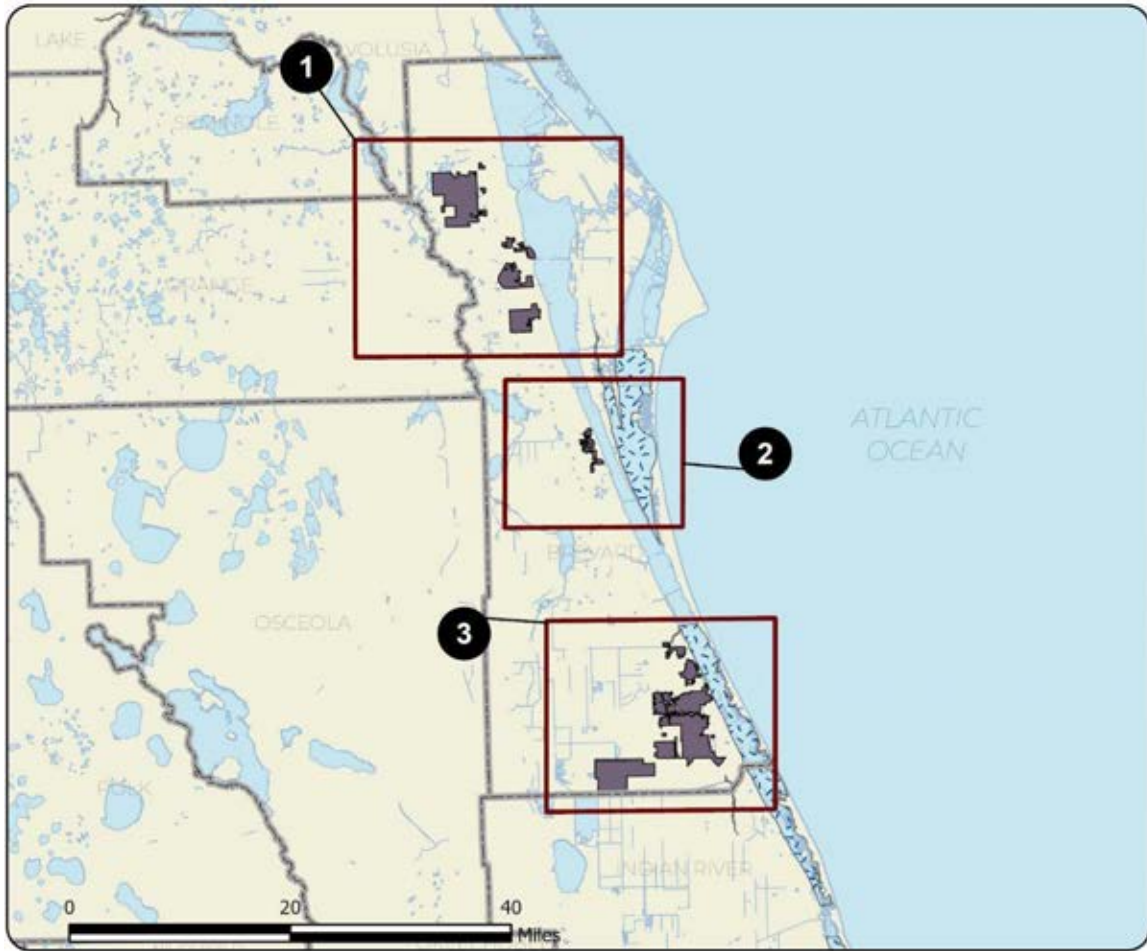


Management Cost Summary

Brevard County, FWC, City of Titusville, ORCP	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



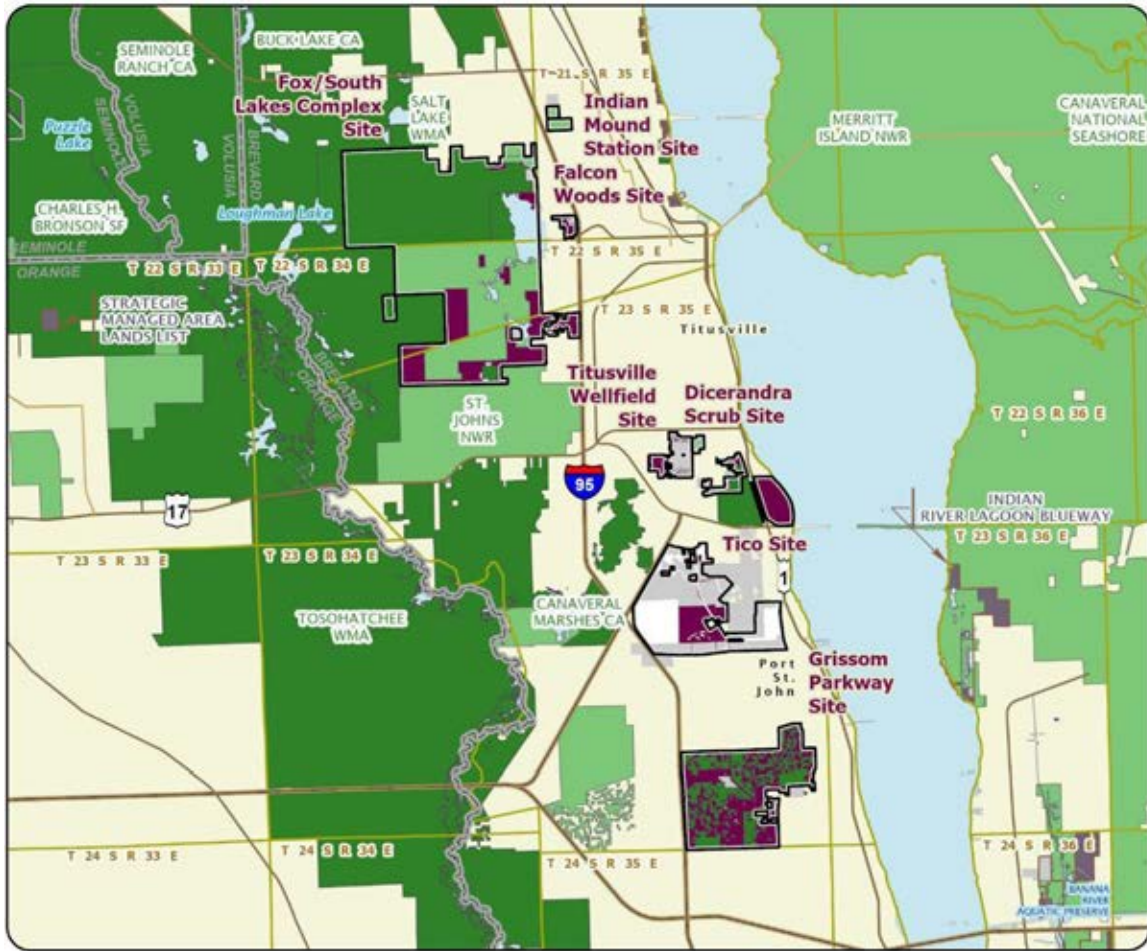


BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

BREVARD COUNTY

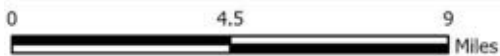
- Map 1 Dicerandra Scrub Site
- Map 1 Falcon Woods Site
- Map 1 Fox/South Lakes Complex Site
- Map 1 Grissom Parkway Site
- Map 1 Indian Mound Station Site
- Map 1 Tico Site
- Map 1 Titusville Wellfield Site
- Map 2 Rockledge Site
- Map 3 Jordan Boulevard Site
- Map 3 Malabar Expansion and Valkaria/Micco 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

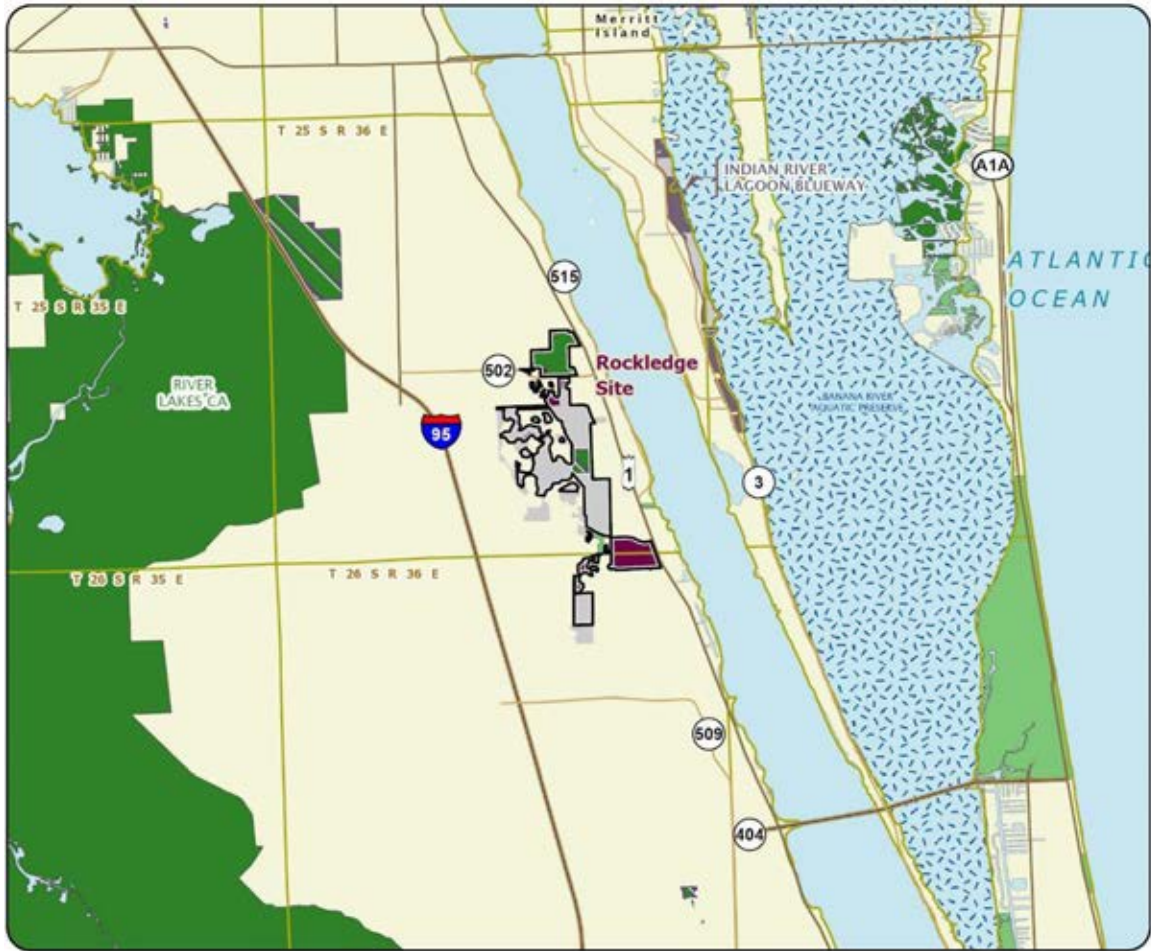




BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

BREVARD COUNTY

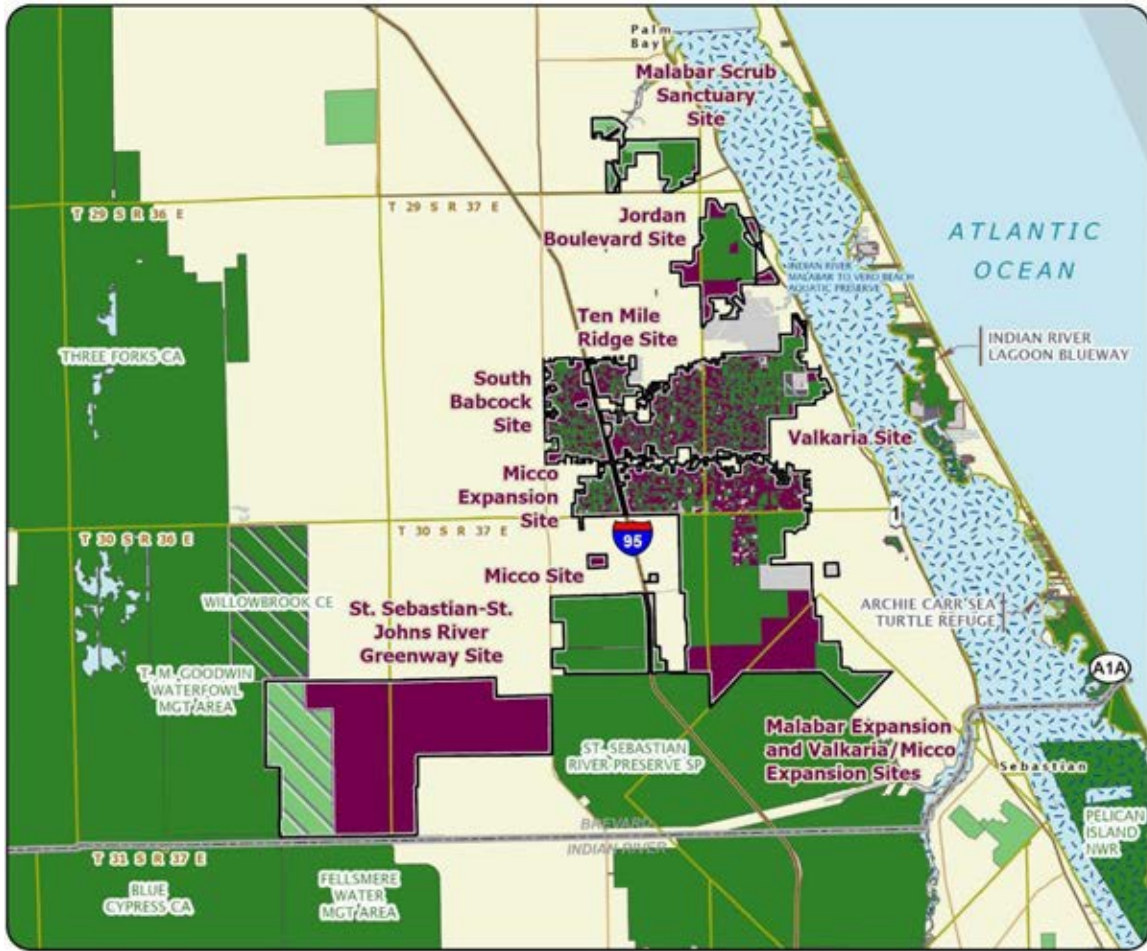




BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

BREVARD COUNTY





BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

BREVARD COUNTY



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Carr Farm/Price's Scrub

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua and Marion Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,529
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,087
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$2,914,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	442
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$4,107,990

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 gopher tortoises, wood stork, sandhill cranes and bald eagles. The project will also protect many isolated, seasonal ponds, which are potential habitats for the gopher frog, eastern indigo snake and other imperiled amphibians.

General Description

The Carr Farm/Price's Scrub 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
Hobbs's cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3





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 the 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

On April 6, 2001, the project was ranked for the first time.

In 2001, the Office of Greenways and Trails purchased the Price's Scrub portion of the project as part of the Marion County Greenway.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2021

On October 8, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 125 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

2023

In August 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 94 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of five parcels totaling approximately 46.27 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

In 2023, DEP acquired, in fee, 14 acres in Marion County from Susan Carr and 110.5 acres from Marcia Green.

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 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 I-75 and the lack of prescribed fire 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

The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue from the 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

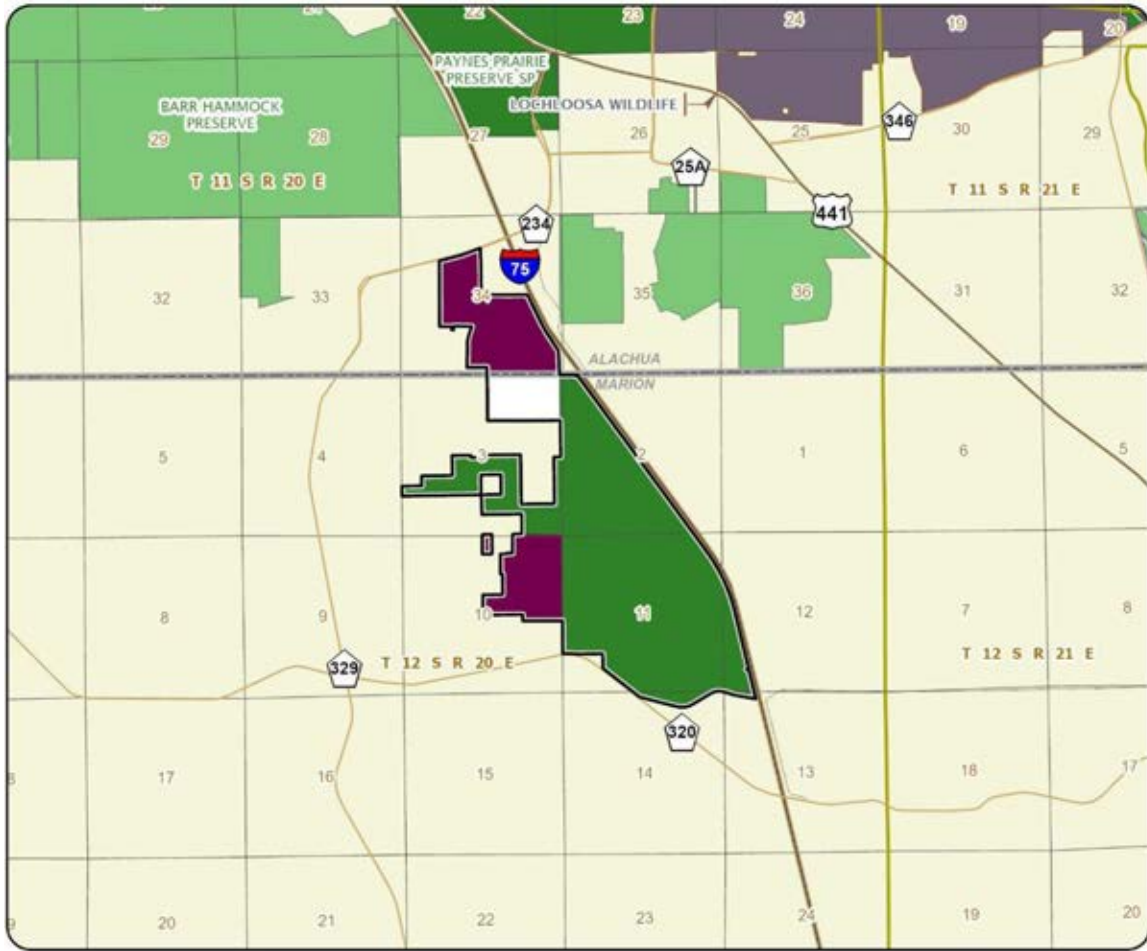
The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with local governments, other state agencies and water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities and the development of lands for state park purposes as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
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



Catfish Creek

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Polk County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1990</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>19,449</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>16,263</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$49,414,766</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>3,186</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$18,948,622</i>

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 bald eagle, wood stork, gopher tortoise and Florida scrub-jay. Additionally, the 1993 addition on Snodgrass Island contains a potentially important archaeological site. Currently, the project is threatened by agriculture and residential development.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
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
<i>Florida blazing star</i>	G2/S2
<i>Lewton's polygala</i>	G2/S2
<i>scrub buckwheat</i>	G4T2?/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2

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.

Acquisition Planning

Phases

Phase I (essential): Rolling Meadows (acquired), The Nature Conservancy (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, The Nature Conservancy 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 added the Rolling Meadows Ranch (2,045 acres) to the project boundary.

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the K-Rocker Tract (3,170 acres) to the project boundary.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2007





The Nature Conservancy donated 68 acres (which were acquired in 1992) to the state.

2008

On November 25, 2008, The Nature Conservancy and Hatchineha Ranch, LLC acquired Hatchineha Ranch (2,057 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 The Nature Conservancy.

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 The Nature Conservancy.

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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed approximately 44 acres from the project boundary that were deemed unsuitable for state acquisition.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy sponsored the project, assisted in the preparation of the project and held discussions with some of the major landowners. The Nature Conservancy and the South Florida Water Management District are considered acquisition partners for the project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management 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 Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the project (less the portion known as Snodgrass Island).

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

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





Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

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

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.

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.

Cooperators in Management Activities

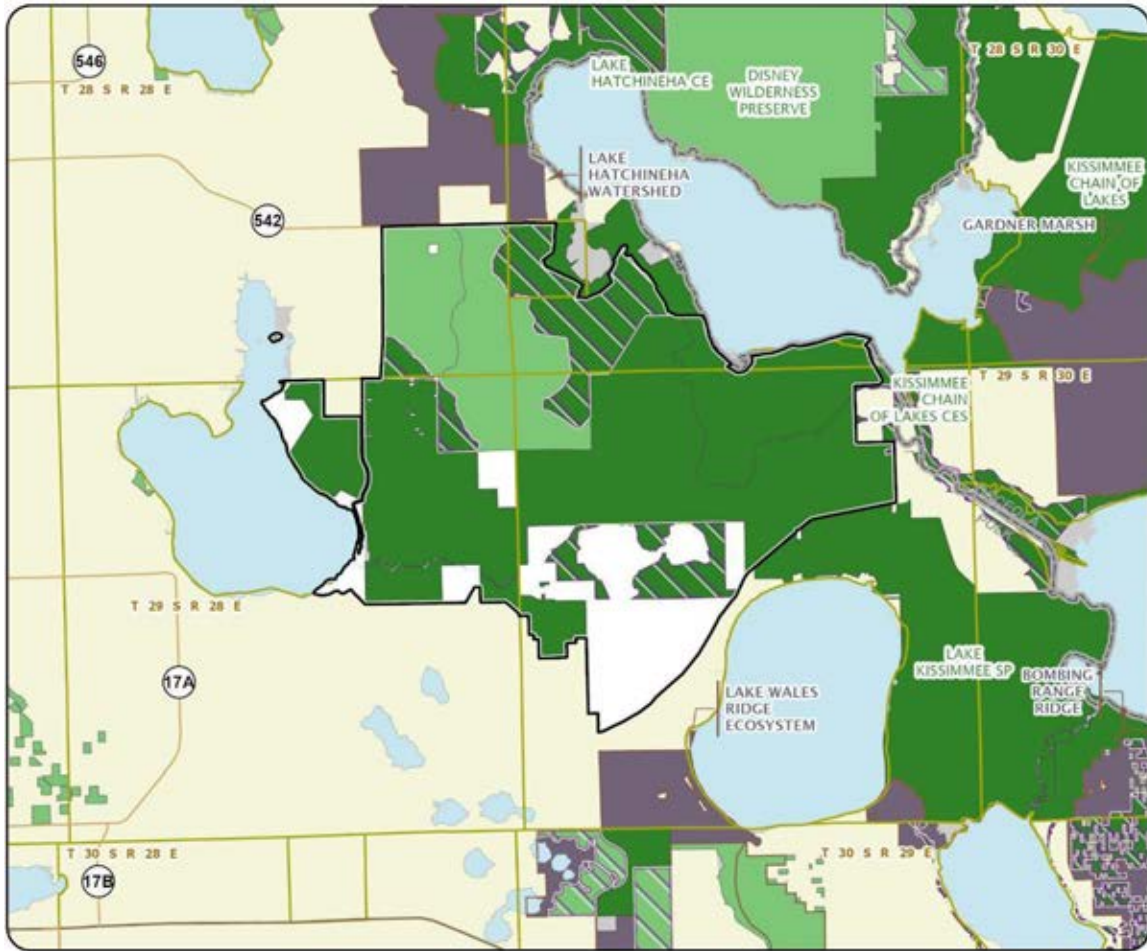
No cooperative managers are identified.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	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





CATFISH CREEK

POLK COUNTY



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Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Charlotte and Lee Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1992
<i>Project Acres</i>	23,652
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	17,245
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$37,900,779
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	6,407
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$56,114,186

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

The 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 10 rare animals including red- cockaded woodpeckers, bald eagles and Florida panthers. The tract also provides important habitat for several rare plants, including the critically imperiled beautiful pawpaw. The project provides additional protection for the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and will connect Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park to the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area. The 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
<i>beautiful pawpaw</i>	G2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida kingsnake	G2/S2
<i>Florida beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2





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 boundary.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council removed 165 acres from the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project 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 to the project boundary.

On October 21, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council added 1,793 acres as essential parcels to the project boundary.

2007

In June 2007, the 9-acre Honenberg parcel was purchased by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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) following a private citizen request.

2009

On February 26, 2009, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 removed 3,035 acres (2,352 of ZREV at the owner's request and 683 isolated/disturbed acres) with a tax assessed value of \$43,524,121 from the project boundary.

2010

On February 19, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed approximately 50 acres from the Charlotte Harbor Estuary project boundary and added those acres to the project boundary.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.



**2014**

On August 15, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added Bond Ranch (670 acres) to the project boundary. The addition will help restore sheet-flow conditions in south Charlotte County.

2016

On October 21, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the 557-acre Hog Branch/Bear Branch proposal as a new Florida Forever project with a tax assessed value of \$837,602. The 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 as a Florida Forever project, the Acquisition and Restoration Council then added these lands to the boundary of Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project.

2019

On June 14, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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. The amendment, called the Charlotte 580 amendment, was proposed to be acquired in fee simple and will provide water to the Yucca Pens area. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. It would be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission if acquired.

On October 18, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 – will contribute to connectivity as well as enhance wildlife habitat.

2020

In 2020, six parcels (Kaiser, Spreen – one parcel each; Willden, Slagle – two parcels each) containing 338.42 acres within the Yucca Pens Unit were acquired for \$652,500. The parcels will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area.

In March 2020, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission acquired a 5-acre parcel from Bear Investments, LLC for \$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, DEP acquired 205.24 acres in fee simple within the Yucca Pens Unit from Jefferson Parnell. The property will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of the Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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)

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

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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 woodpeckers, Florida panthers and Florida black bears, 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 the project becoming an integral part of the management scheme for Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area.

Revenue-generating Potential

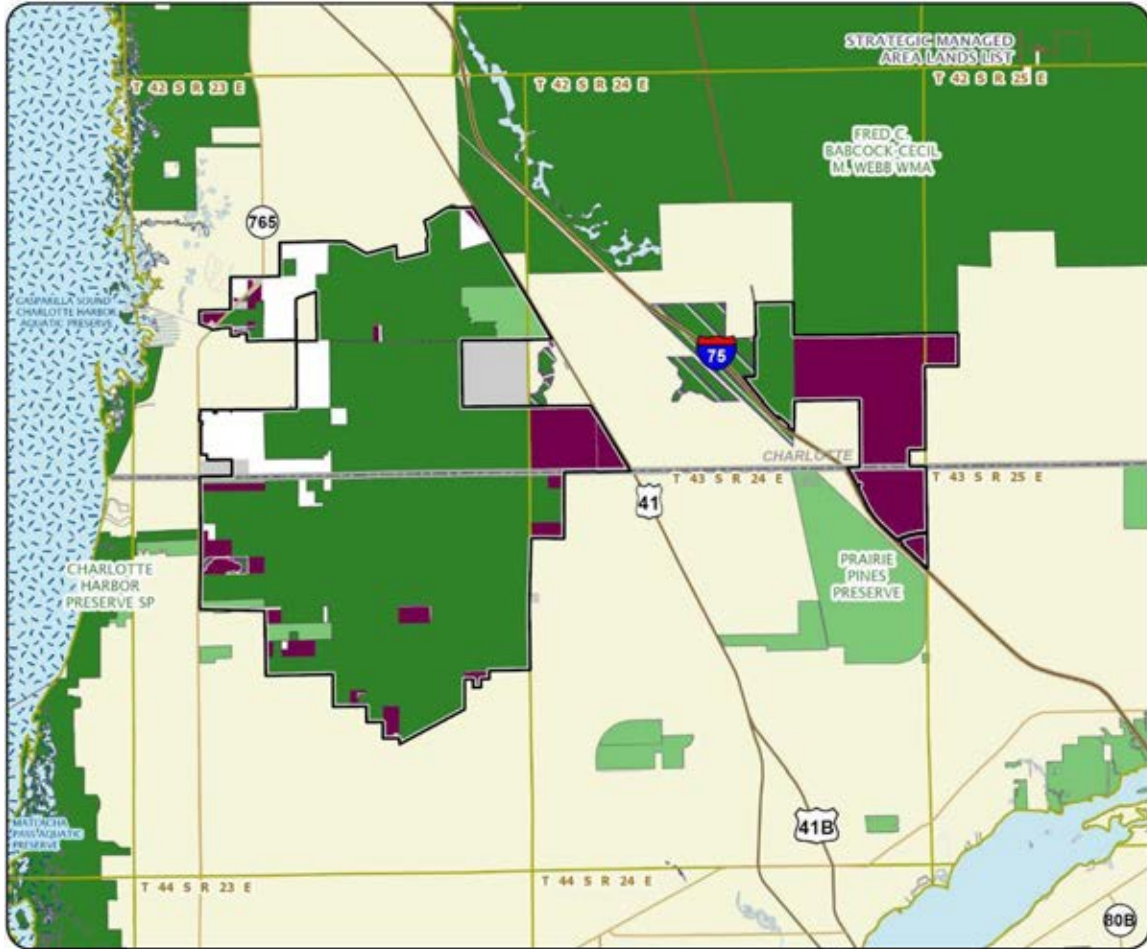
Though the property contains significant timber resources, the timber revenue potential is low. There is little or no market for timber in Southwest Florida (particularly South Florida Slash Pine). Nevertheless, the potential for generating recreational revenue is significant if new recreational user fees were to be implemented on the wildlife management area.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	CARL 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

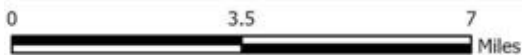
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS

CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES



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Clear Creek/Whiting Field

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Santa Rosa County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2004
<i>Project Acres</i>	5,045
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,570
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$6,258,258
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,475
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$21,273,135

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 uses around the Whiting Field Naval Air Station to forestall encroachment that could be incompatible with the continued function of the military installation.

General Description

The project is three 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, the 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>hairy-peduncled beaksedge</i>	G3/S3
<i>Panhandle lily</i>	G3/S3
<i>trailing arbutus</i>	G5/S2

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 added the Clear Creek/Whiting Field project to Group B of the 2004 Florida Forever Interim Priority List. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of approximately 5,026 acres, 45 landowners and a taxable value of \$1,648,733.

2005

On December 9, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a project design change to allow acquisition phasing. Phase I was added to Group A and consisted of 2,029 acres, seven landowners (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) and a taxable value of \$665,593.

Phase II, which consisted of 38 landowners and about 2,996 acres with a taxable value of \$982,808, remained in Group B.

2006

On June 9, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the Group B portion of the project to Group A.

2008

On December 12, 2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved adding the Coldwater Creek Addition, consisting of two parcels totaling 265 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy with a tax-assessed value of \$28,167, to the project boundary. The acquisition is proposed fee-simple, and the parcels were approved as essential.

2009

On March 10, 2009, 210.48 acres were purchased from The Nature Conservancy for \$1,158,258 (with the help of the U.S. Navy).

On September 30, 2009, 1,401 acres were purchased from The Nature Conservancy by Florida Forever (\$2,625,000), Florida Forest Service/Incidental Trust Fund (\$1,200,000), and the U.S. Navy and U.S. Department of Justice (\$1,275,000).

2011

On June 30, 2011, the Division of State Lands purchased 172.59 acres to be managed by the Florida Forest Service.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 163 acres from the project boundary 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, the Office of Greenways and Trails and Florida Forest Service. Developing the management plan will be conducted with the project partners (Whiting Field, Florida Forest Service and Santa Rosa County).

Management Policy Statement

The Division of Recreation and Parks proposes to manage the project with the Florida Forest Service, 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)

The 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 (the Blackwater Multi-Use Trail). The 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

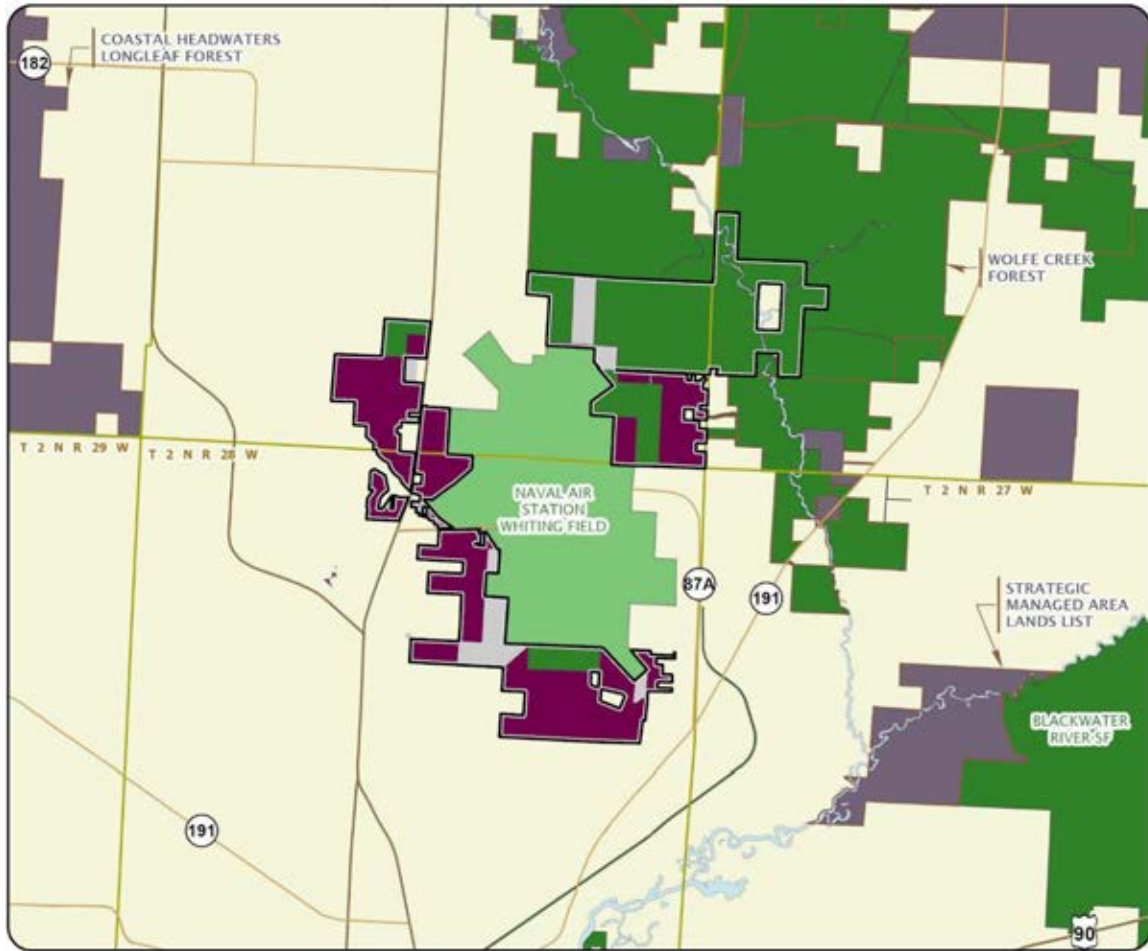
Following acquisition, issues to be addressed in the first year would include site security, posting boundaries and fencing, and conducting assessments/inventories to better determine resource management needs. Those needs include invasive plant removal, water quality enhancement and protection, protection 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, Florida Forest Service and Santa Rosa County).

Revenue-generating Potential

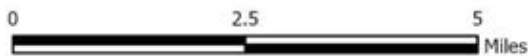
No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. However, as public use is increased, modest revenue may be generated for camping and use of other recreational facilities. Some areas may be managed by the Florida Forest Service for timber production.





CLEAR CREEK/WHITING FIELD

SANTA ROSA COUNTY



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Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Collier and Lee Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1991
<i>Project Acres</i>	70,694
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	40,036
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$94,659,111
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	30,658
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$1,221,493,316

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 Preserve 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, black bear, wood stork, snowy egret and bald eagle. The project will also protect the flow of water feeding the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand and other nearby areas.

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 Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and the National Audubon Society’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>Fakahatchee ladies'-tresses</i>	G4T1/S1
<i>clamshell orchid</i>	G4G5T2/S2
<i>narrow-leaved carolina scalystem</i>	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
Little blue heron	G5/S4

Public Use

The 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. The project, sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District, consists of 18,205 acres, 73 landowners and a taxable value of \$23,704,330. The entire project is in 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).

If fee-simple acquisition is not negotiable, 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 Lee County and the South Florida Water Management District.

1993

On September 20, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 3,182-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District, consisted of four tracts and multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$8,636,331.

1995

On October 30, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 612-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District and had a taxable value of \$891,403.





1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved a 3,040-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District, consisted of two sites and a taxable value of \$9,029,712.

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 the South Florida Water Management District and the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Trust, consisted 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 approved a 424-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District, consisted of 147 parcels and multiple landowners, and 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 bought 2,499 acres, known as Pepper Ranch, for \$32,525,080 through the Conservation Collier Program.

In October 2009, Lee County acquired 15 acres for \$136,500 for their 20/20 program. The South Florida Water Management District donated 10 acres to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the same month.

In 2009, the South Florida Water Management District acquired 58 GIS acres for \$661,250). Additionally, three easement tracts (15 acres) were donated by Bonita Springs Utility Co.

2010

In November 2010, the South Florida Water Management District acquired 191 acres for \$3,828,890.

In December 2010, the South Florida Water Management District acquired 5 acres for \$75,000.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the removal of 468 developed or non-contiguous parcels totaling 1,541.2 acres from the project boundary.

2013

On February 15, 2013, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 77 acres from the project boundary 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 Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Approximately 478 acres of section six and all of section seven are in the project boundary.

2016

On October 21, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Headwaters proposal to the existing Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project as an amendment. This 2,841-acre addition in the southeastern corner of Lee County will utilize willing sellers of groves to make hydrologic improvements to drainage areas that affected downstream areas. The addition's goals 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 South Florida Water Management District staff to possibly use the 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.

Coordination

Acquisition partners are the South Florida Water Management District, Lee County and Collier County. Both The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some tracts. Resolutions in support of the 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)

The South Florida Water Management District 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

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission activities (such as hunting) may generate revenue through permit and license fees. No other revenue-producing practices are envisioned at this stage of the management program.

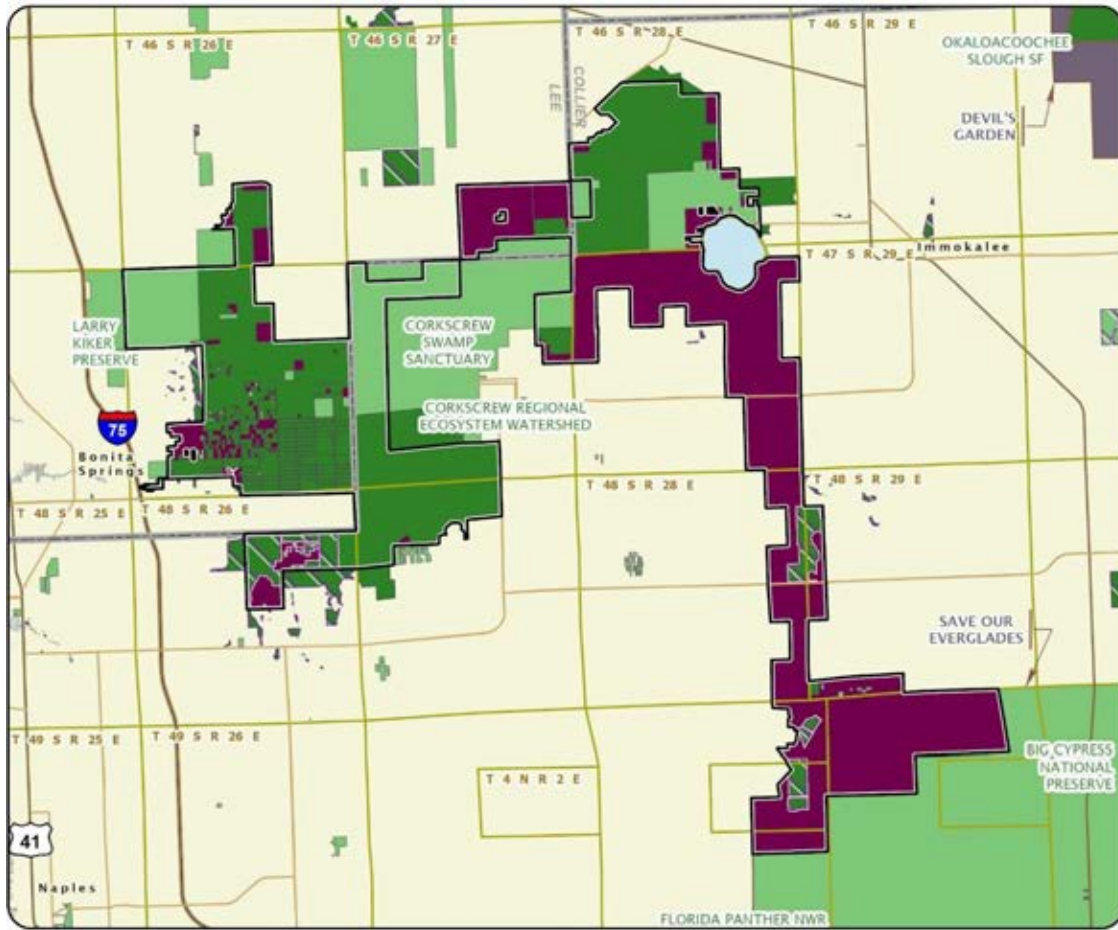
Cooperators in Management Activities

A cooperative management agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was executed on September 6, 1994. The project now receives regular inspections by the South Florida Water Management District and law enforcement patrol by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Under the agreement, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will enforce all laws, rules and regulations applicable to the management of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed. Additional lands acquired will be given the same protection.

Management Cost Summary		
SFWMD	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	WMLTF	
Salary	\$107,238	\$117,961
OPS	\$35,000	\$38,500
Expense	\$197,250	\$216,915
OCO	\$0	\$28,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$339,448	\$401,376

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED

COLLIER AND LEE COUNTIES



Crayfish Habitat Restoration

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Bay County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2020
<i>Project Acres</i>	2,348
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,348
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$3,554,744

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Crayfish Habitat Restoration project will provide habitat protection for the Panama City crayfish, which is 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 proposal comprises multiple parcels located in eastern Bay County in 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 county proposes acquisition of the project site to achieve multiple goals 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two private partners.

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. These activities have been detrimental to the Panama City crayfish, which is narrowly endemic to a small region of Bay County.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Panama city crayfish	G1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4





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. The project can help to educate the public and raise awareness of the importance of the Mill's Bayou Watershed and its relation to St. Andrews 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 Division of Historical Resources.

Acquisition Planning

In October 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. The 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.

Coordination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has pledged approximately \$3.7 million toward the development and management of the project.

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the natural and historical resources would be managed under a management plan approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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 groundwater 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.





The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for management, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission set a long-term conservation goal of increasing the total area of occupied Panama City crayfish habitat to 2,000 acres. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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 habitat establishment 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Apiary Policy.





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

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will continue to cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including DEP, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, Northwest Florida Water Management District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bay County in management of the property.

Management costs and sources of revenue

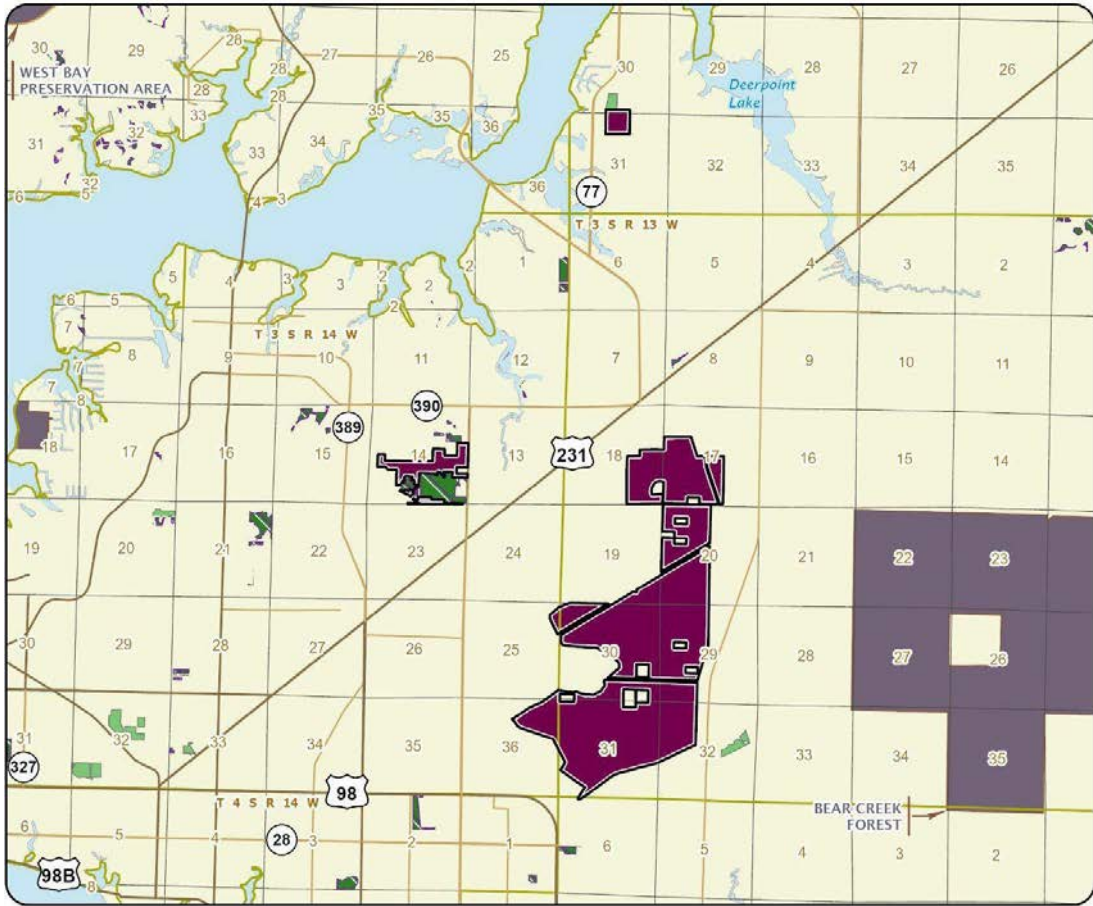
The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project is estimated to be \$375,680, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Below is an estimate of the recurring, annual operating 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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff, and costs to operate and manage Crayfish Habitat Restoration project are reflected in the cost estimate below.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Recurring
Source of Funds	Florida Forever
Resource Management	\$89,741
Administration	\$1,949
Support	\$29,796
Capital Improvements	\$13,665
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$8,617
Law Enforcement	\$1,808
TOTAL	\$145,576

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





CRAYFISH HABITAT RESTORATION

BAY COUNTY



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Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Pasco County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2007
<i>Project Acres</i>	12,440
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	12,440
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$82,275,884

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 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 is owned by Pinellas County. The Crossbar portion is 8,069 acres and is the location of the 6.41 acres of the 17 active municipal wellhead sites that Tampa Bay Water owns in fee simple. The Al Bar parcel is 4,100 acres and has several wells on-site used for augmentation, but they are owned by Pinellas County. 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 the 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, with 3,602 acres of pine plantation on Crossbar Ranch and 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Pine snake	G4/S3
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/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 added Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List. 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 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

Coordination

The Southwest Florida Water Management District indicated that it would consider being a project cosponsor 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 the project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service will manage the Crossbar Ranch portion of the project. At the December 2007 Acquisition and Restoration Council meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission expressed interest in managing the Al Bar Ranch portion of the 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 the 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 pines 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 groundcovers 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 the 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 the area as a state forest.

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

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Florida Forest Service, 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 the 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 the project area has been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Burning goals for the 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

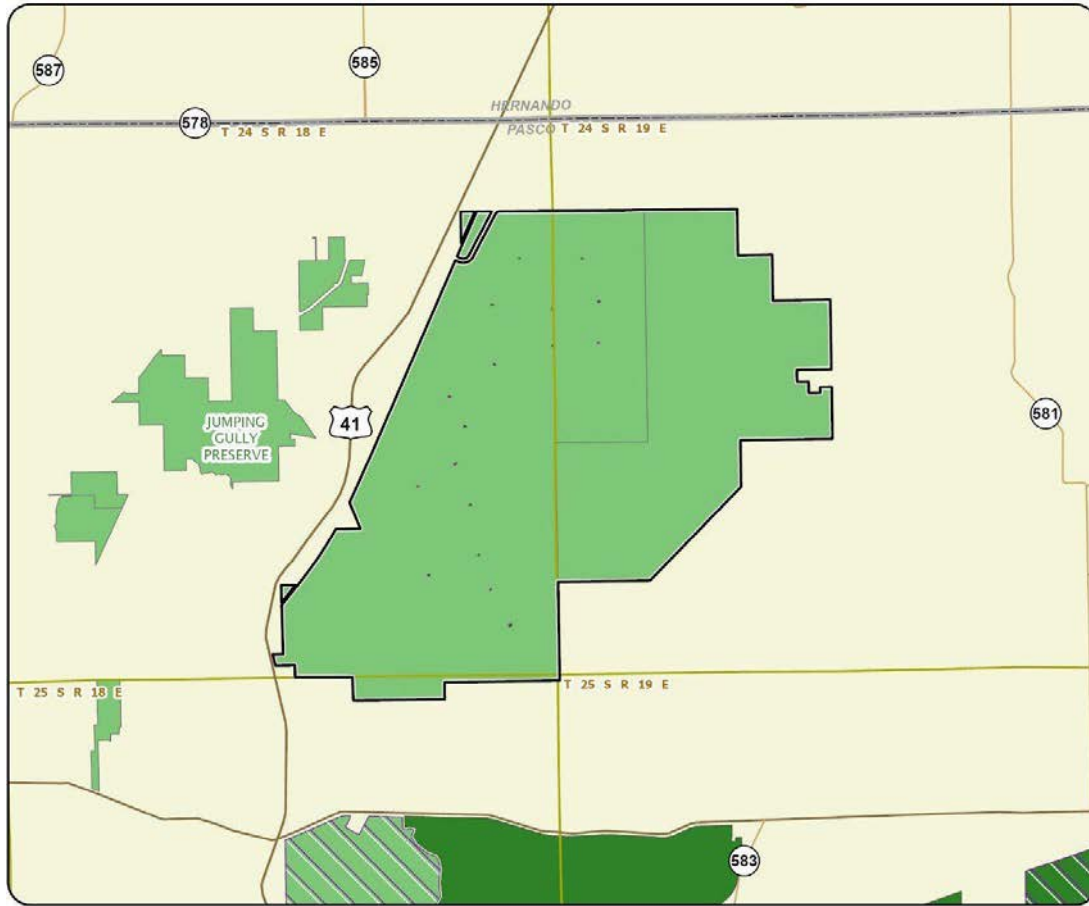
As mentioned above, timber sales from the Crossbar Ranch by the Florida Forest Service will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of the 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

<u>FFS and FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Salary (3 FTE)	\$108,341	Not Provided
Expense	\$500,000	Not Provided
OCO	\$450,000	Not Provided
TOTAL	\$1,058,341	Not Provided

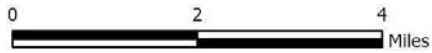
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





CROSSBAR/AL BAR RANCH

PASCO COUNTY



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Dade County Archipelago

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Miami-Dade County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1994</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>853</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>634</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$35,651,244</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>219</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$38,012,577</i>

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. However, 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

The 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>tiny polygala</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Carter's small-flowered flax</i>	G1/S1
<i>rockland hoary-pea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Small's milkpea</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Cuban snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
<i>deltoid spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Florida brickell-bush</i>	G5T1/S1
<i>Florida filmy fern</i>	G4G5T1/S1
<i>pinelands spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>wedge spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Wright's anemia</i>	G2?/S1

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1994

In 1994, the former Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands and Miami Rockridge Pinelands were combined into the Dade County Archipelago.

Phasing of the essential Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands 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.

Phasing of the essential Miami Rockridge 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.

On July 20, 1994, the Ludlam Pineland (10 acres) was added to the project and Miami-Dade County has acquired the tract.

1995

In December 1995, Miami-Dade County proposed adding 16 sites to the project area. The sites were assessed during the 1995 cycle with the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approved the addition 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 BOT 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 placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed approximately 42 acres from the project boundary 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 the 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, the 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. The project’s rare West Indian and endemic plant species and small size qualifies 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.

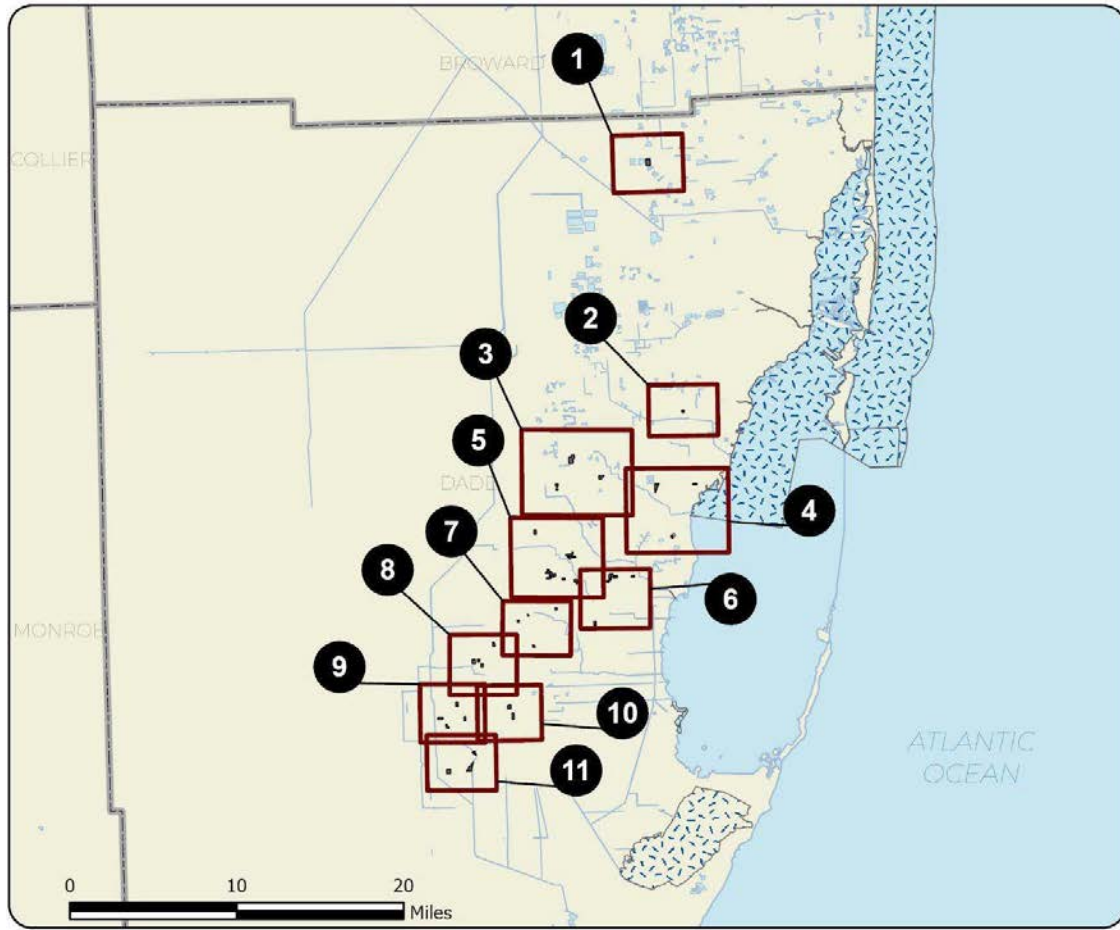
Management activities will also stress protecting threatened and endangered species. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management. Unnecessary roads, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to 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



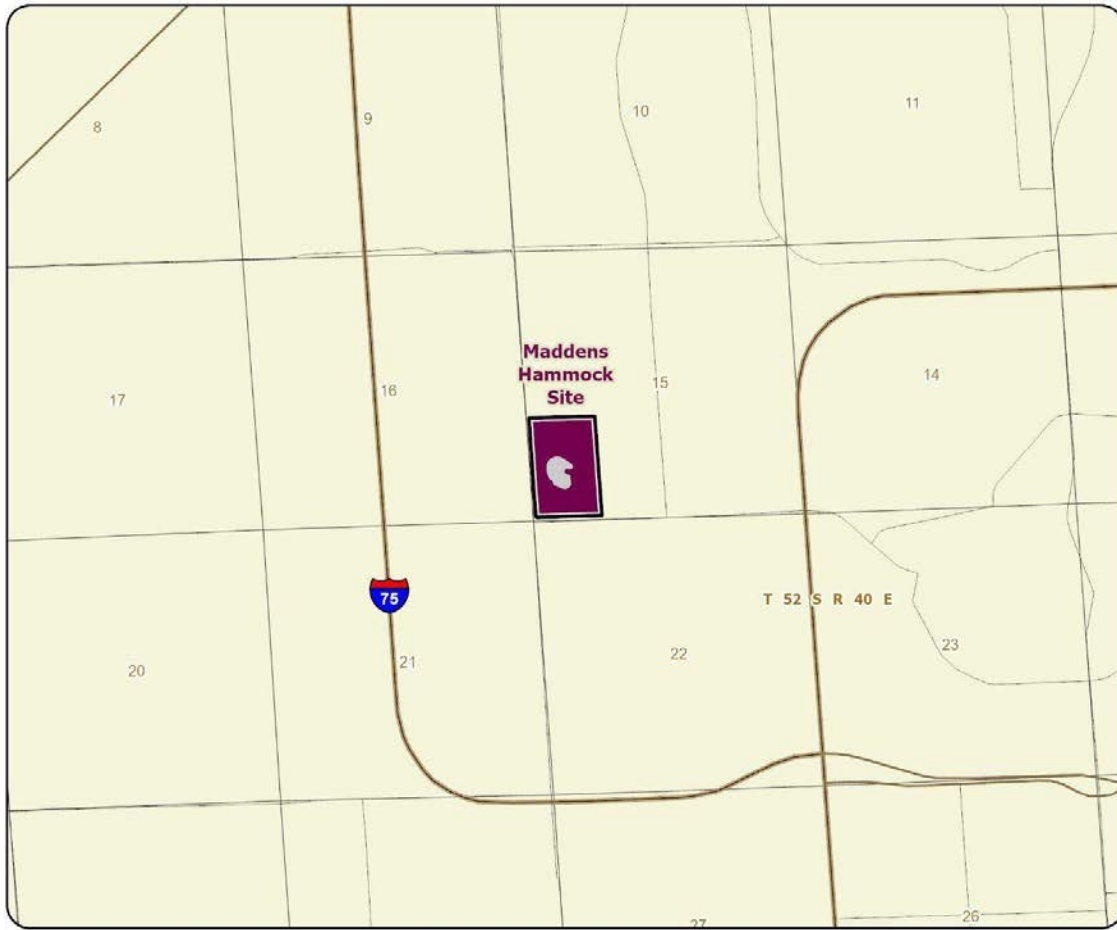


DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: OVERVIEW

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 1 Maddens Hammock Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Pine Island Lake Park Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 2 Trinity Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Bauer Drive Pineland Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 3 Big and Little George Hammocks Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Camp Owaissa Bauer Pineland Addition Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 3 Boystown Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Ingram Pineland Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 3 Tamiami Pineland Complex Addition Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Plummer Drive Pineland Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 4 Ludlam Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Fuchs Hammock Addition Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 4 Rockdale Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Fuchs Pineland Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 4 Whispering Pines Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Meissner Hammock Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Castellow Hammock #28 Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Navy Wells Pineland #2 Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Castellow Hammock #31 Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 West Biscayne Pineland Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Castellow Hammock #33 Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Loveland Hammock Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Castellow Hammock Addition Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Lucille Hammock Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Quail Roost Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Navy Wells Pineland #39 Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Ross Hammock Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Palm Drive Pineland Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Silver Palm Hammock Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 10 Florida City Pineland Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Silver Palm Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 10 Navy Wells Pineland #23 Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Wilkins Pierson Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 11 Holiday Hammock Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Coulds Pineland Addition Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 11 Round Hammock Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Coulds Pineland Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 11 Southwest Hammock Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Harden Hammock Site | |





DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 1

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

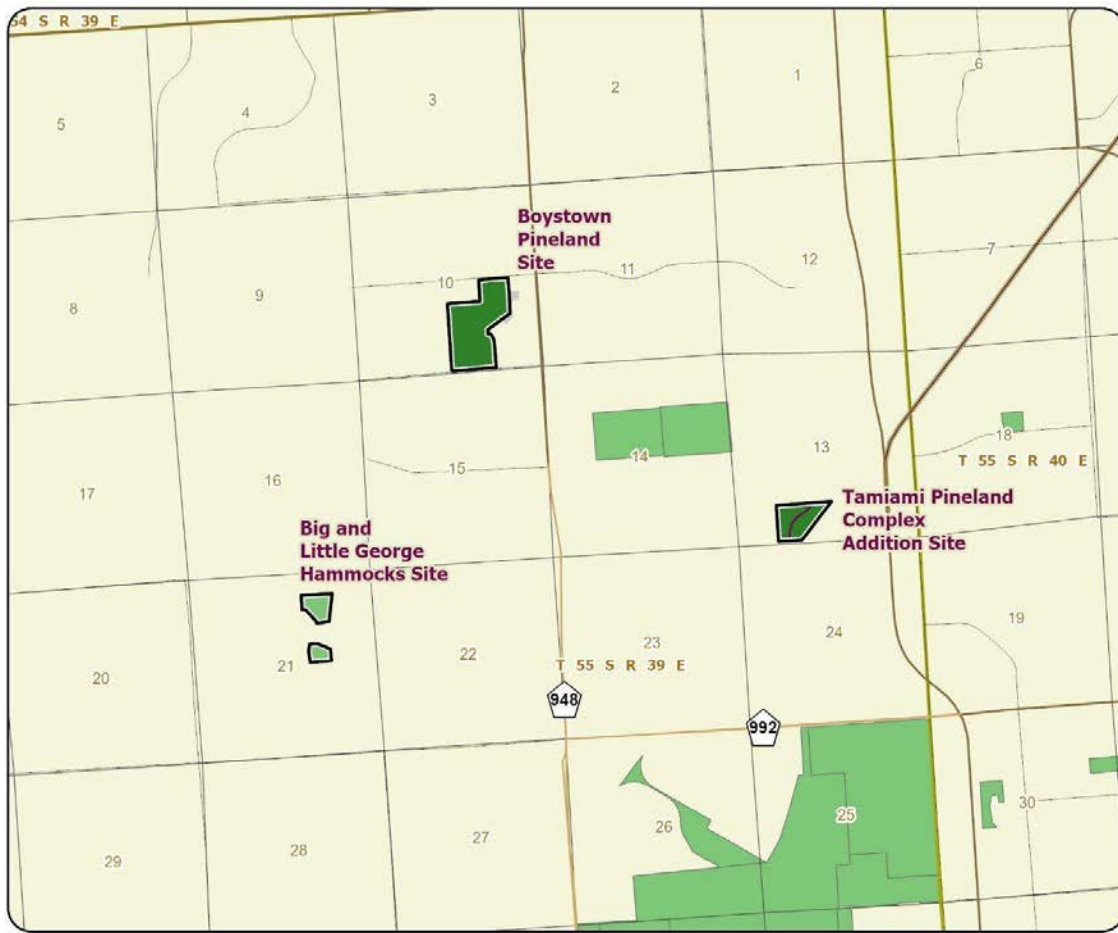




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 2

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

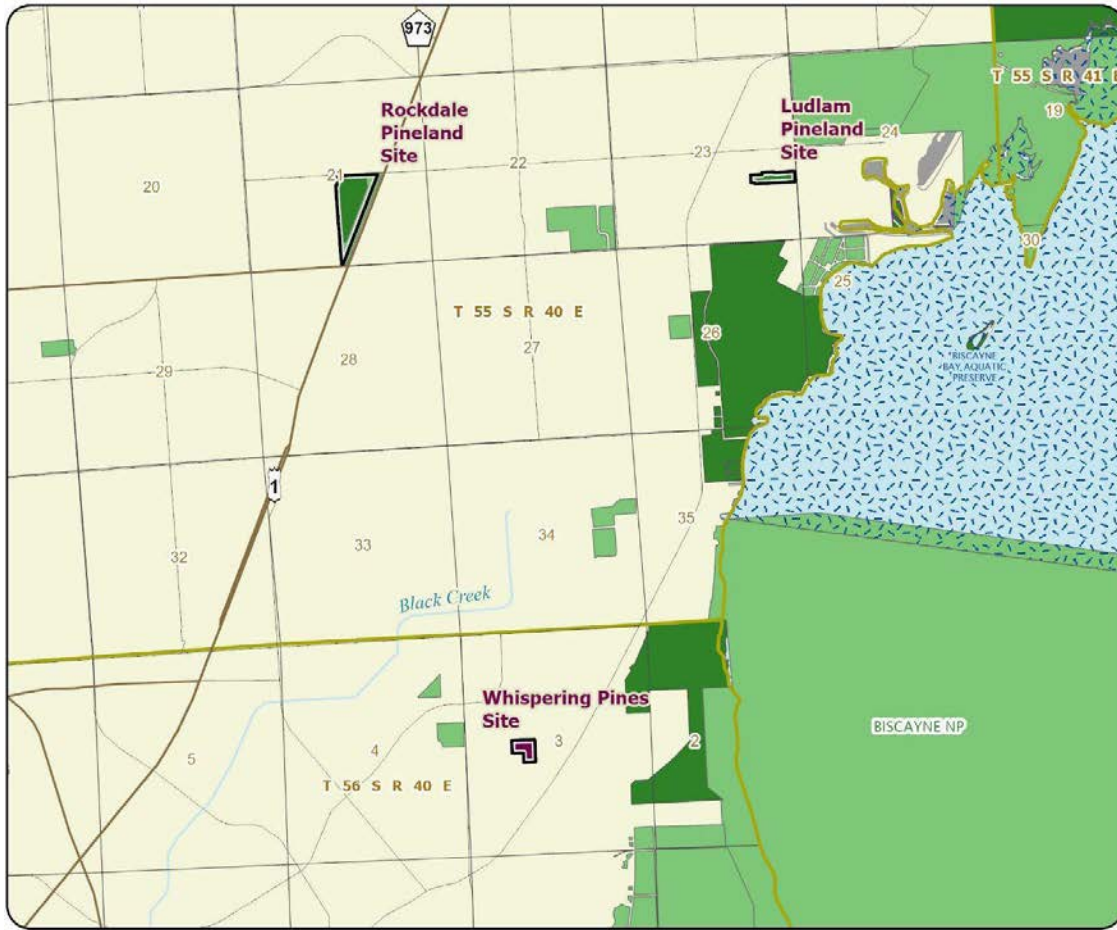




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 3

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

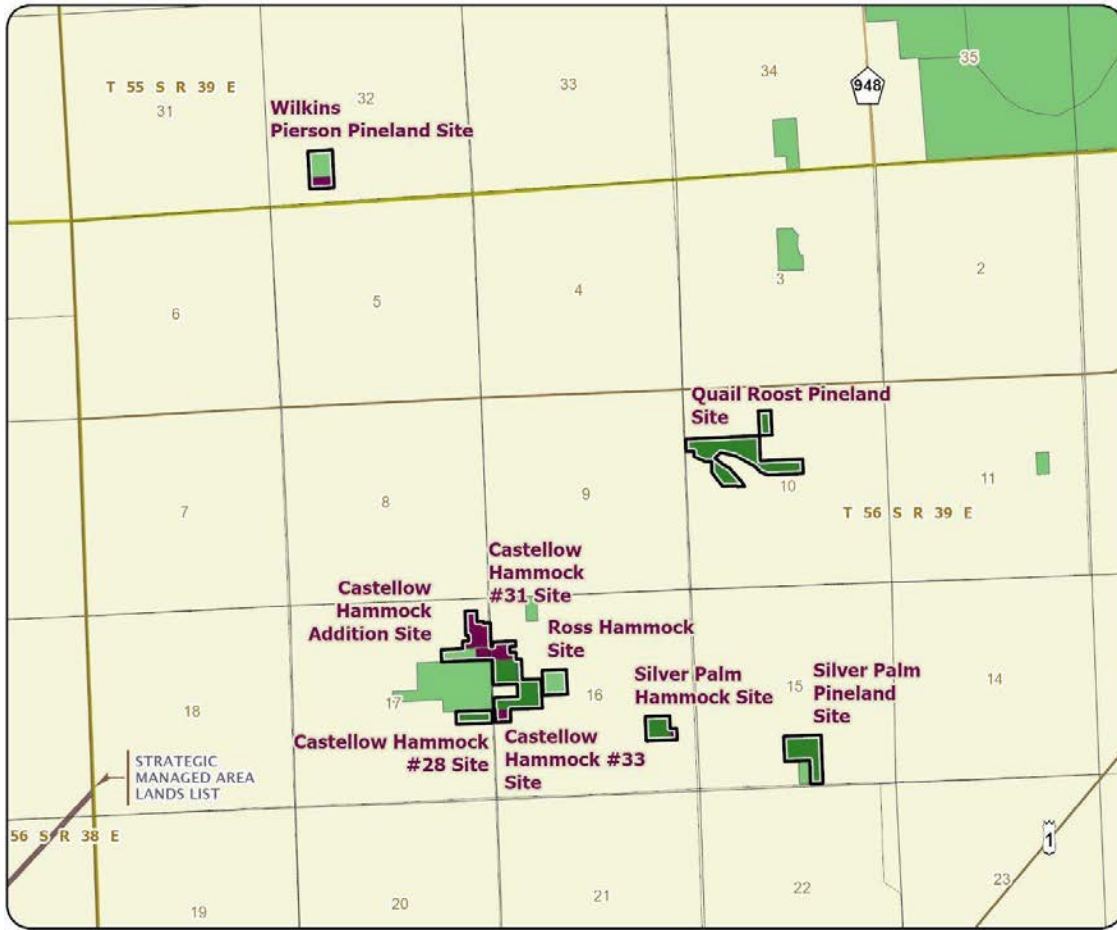




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 4

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

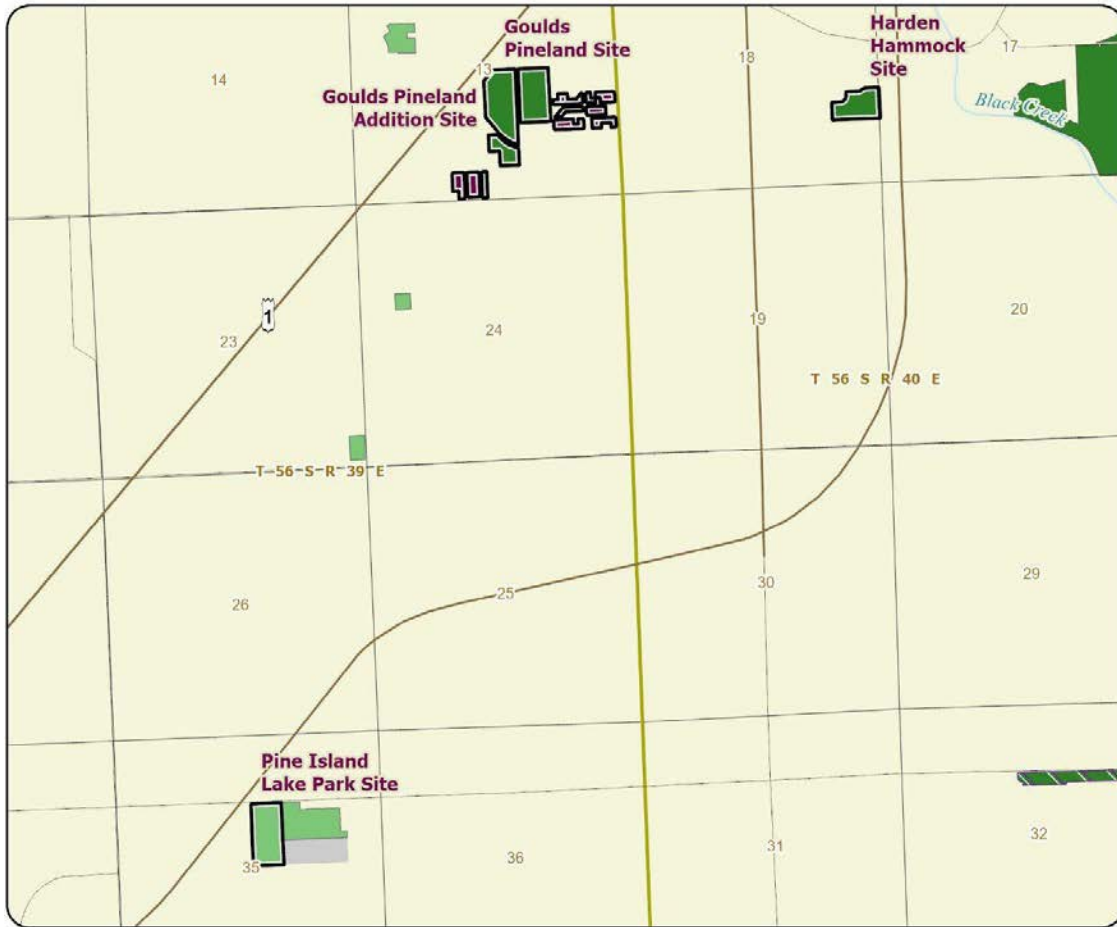




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 5

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

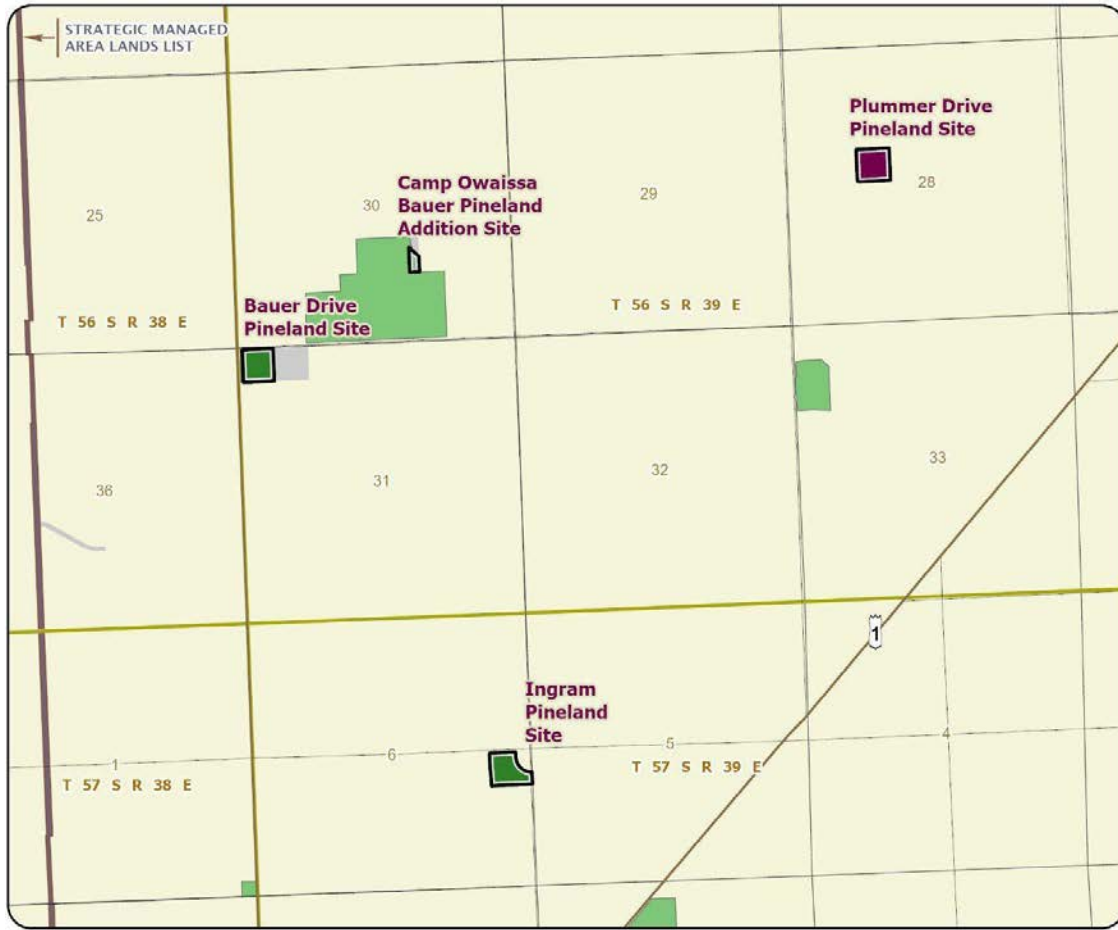




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 6

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

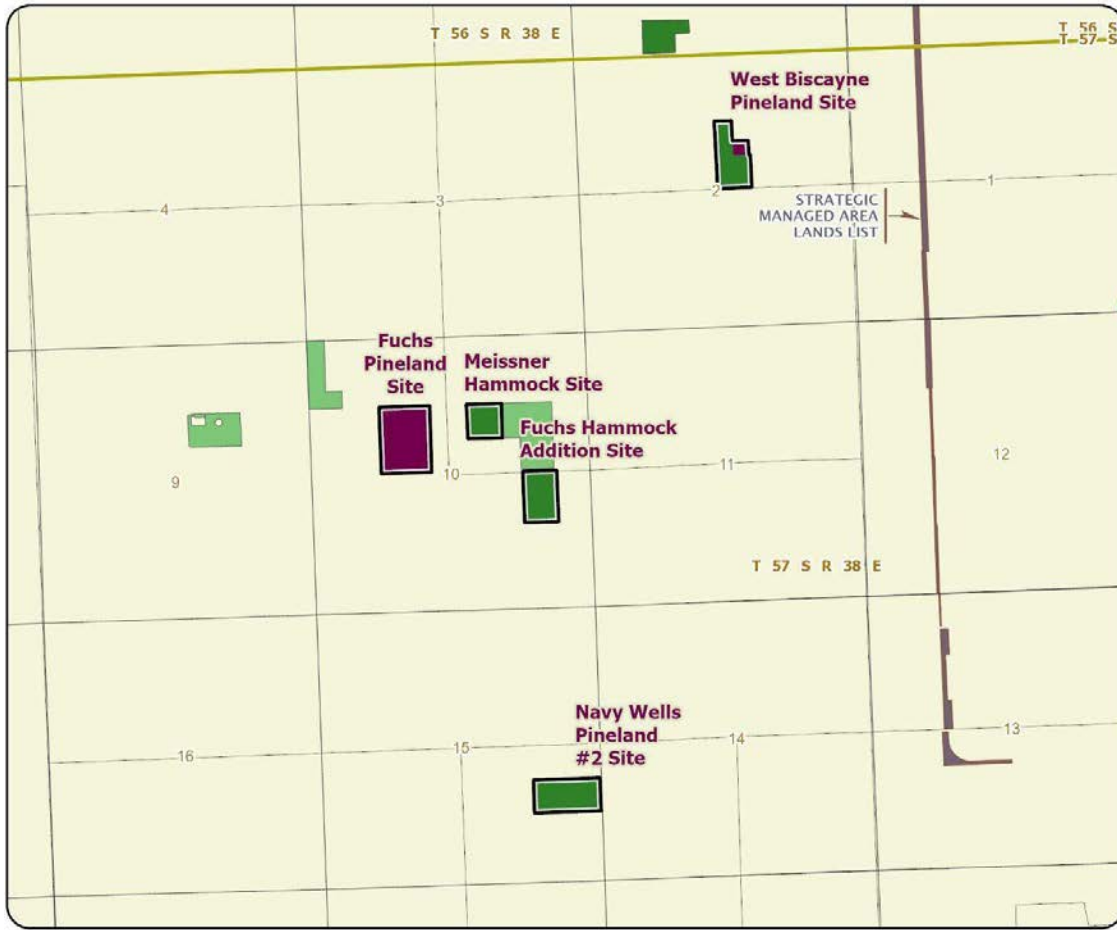




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 7

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY





DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 8

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

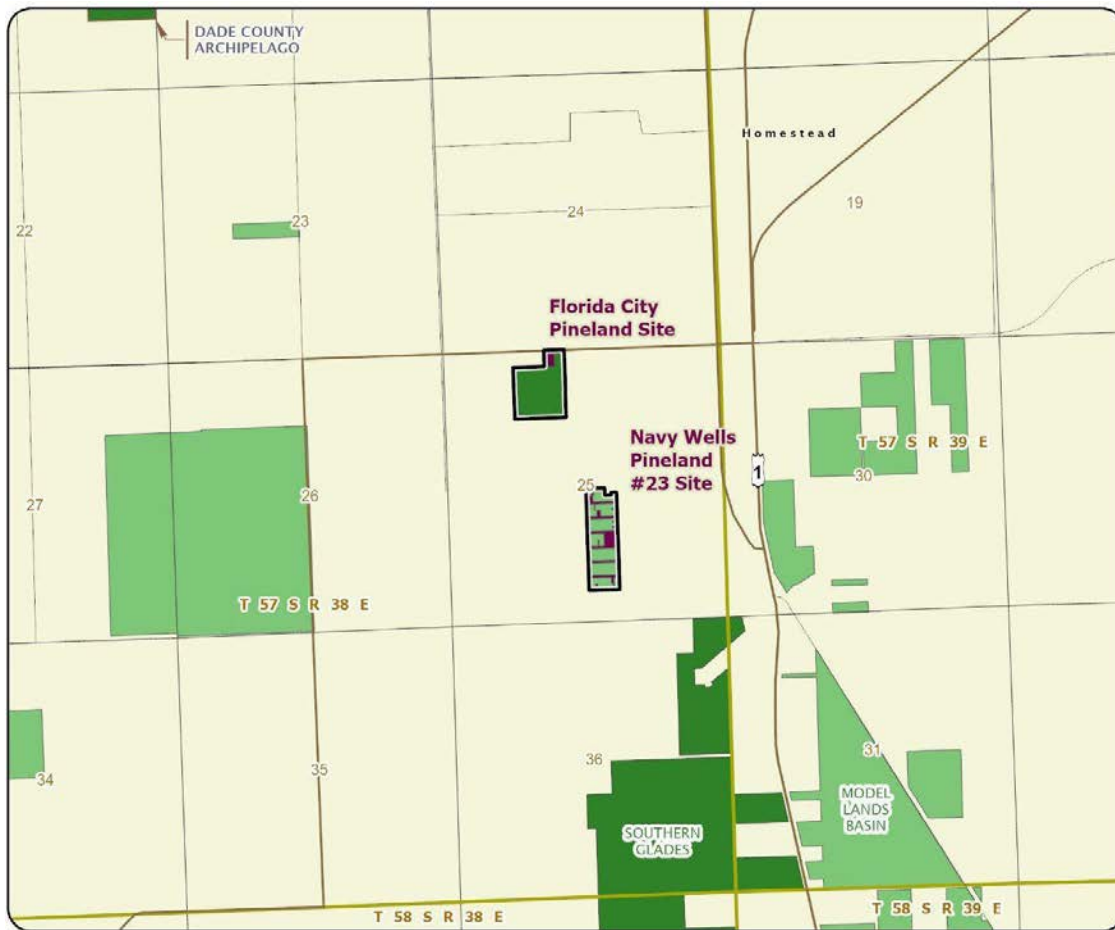




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 9

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

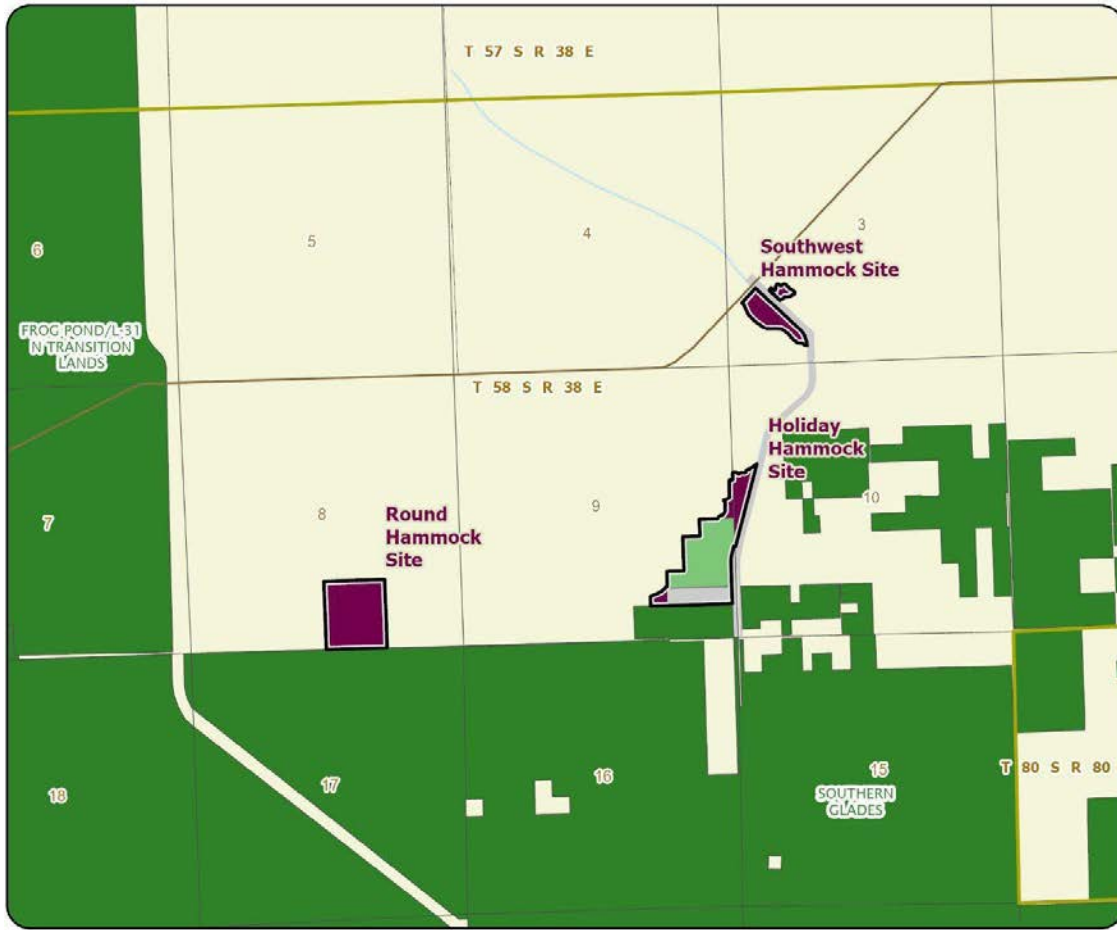




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 10

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY





DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 11

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



Flagler County Blueway

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Flagler and Volusia Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2003
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,260
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,425
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$790,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,835
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$288,047,626

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 and gopher tortoise. 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 south to the Flagler County line. The project follows the Intracoastal Waterway and includes most of the undeveloped and available land east of I-95 in Flagler County.

The project has multiple parcels in the Matanzas River ecosystem watershed, which includes the Intracoastal Waterway. The size of private lands in the 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 is uplands. Scrub is 132 acres of the project area, with mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods making a total of 883 acres. Coastal uplands include 1,063 acres of coastal strand and maritime hammock. These uplands are important flyway resting and feeding areas for migratory birds and occur primarily on islands and along the edge of the estuarine tidal marsh. Pine plantation, agricultural use (mostly pasture) and otherwise disturbed and developed lands are 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) and protect fragile coastal resources (28 percent or 2,300 acres). Florida Natural Areas Inventory data show 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. Florida Natural Areas Inventory data show 25 percent (2,075 acres) of the project area is under-represented natural communities.

Imperiled or rare animal species documented by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to occur on the project include the gopher tortoise and MacGillivray’s seaside sparrow. The bald eagle has been reported to nest near the project area. The West Indian manatee occurs nearby in the Intracoastal Waterway. Other imperiled or rare animals which potentially occur in the project area include the Cooper’s hawk, hairy woodpecker osprey and spotted turtle. Many other vertebrate species are expected to use the project area as habitat. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, approximately 42 percent (3,486 acres) of the project area is within Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas. An additional 31 percent (2,583 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.





2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Flagler County Blueway project to Group B of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. Sponsored by Flagler County, the project consisted of approximately 5,015 acres and multiple owners with a 2002 taxable value of \$20,502,164. 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.

2004

On June 3, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List.

2006

On October 13, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a project redesign that included a reduction of the project boundary by 606 acres and the addition of 4.5 acres. All parcels removed had been developed or become isolated since the original boundary was identified.

In 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 20-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Flagler County, consisted of one parcel and one 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 were acquired from Emerald Coast Development Partners, LLC for \$790,000 (\$395,000 from Division of State Lands Florida Forever funds and \$395,000 from Flagler County). Flagler County will manage the site as part of the Betty Steflik Memorial Preserve.

2011

On October 14, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 182 acres from the project boundary because of residential development/commercial buildings/infrastructure.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2021

On August 13, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 19.26 acres in Flagler County from the project boundary.

Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District and Flagler County are considered partners on the project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are cooperating managers for the project. Flagler County will manage the Emerald Coast parcel.

Management Prospectus

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the project adjoin and provide connectivity among federal, state and local conservation lands. The 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. The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 an 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, a Category I exotic (most adversely affecting Florida's ecology), is an established shrub and would require 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 the 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. The site's 16 archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would 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, which has already been purchased, will be managed separately 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. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory indicates that 27 percent (2,260 acres) of the project area is available as Priority 2, 3 and 5 for sustainable forestry. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory'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 the Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The unified managers (Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the 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.



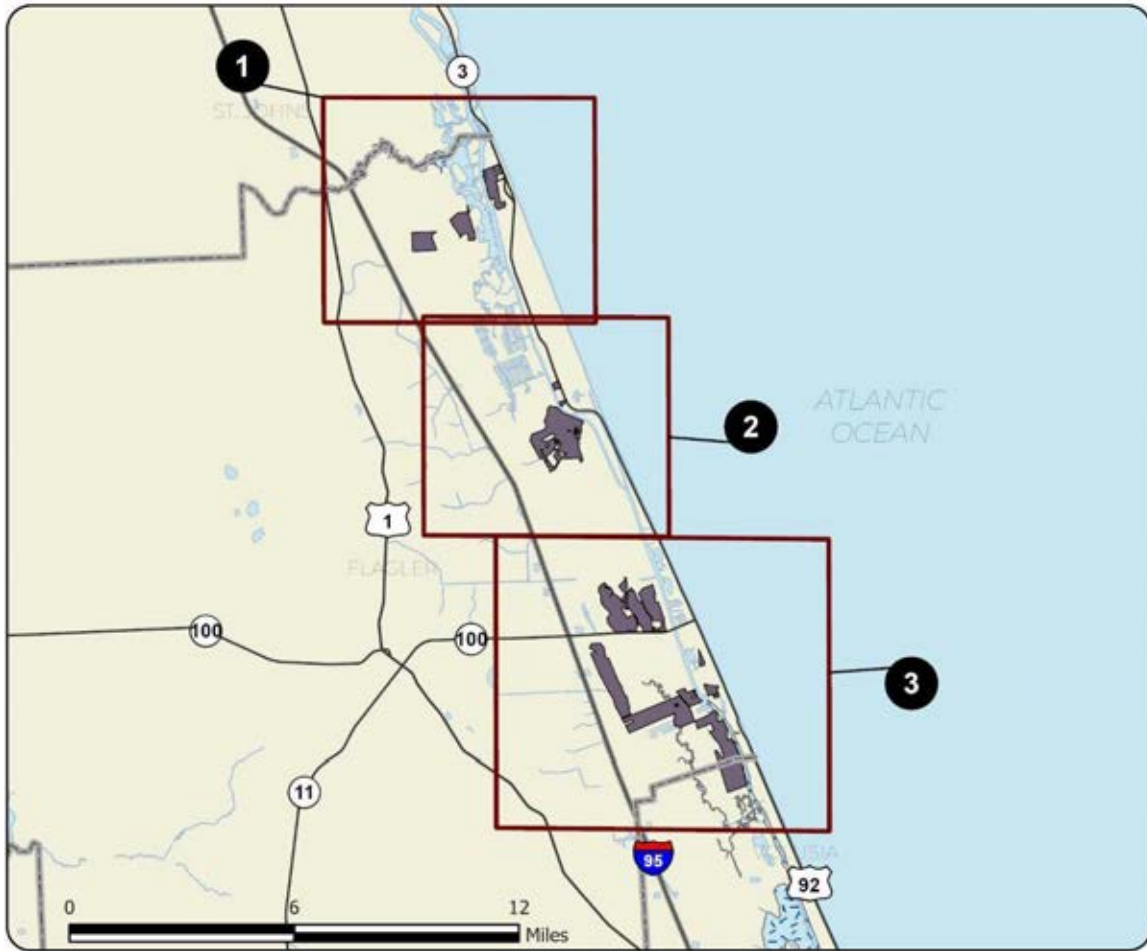


Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$143,188	\$145,854
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$988,553	\$85,164
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$2,335	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$5,799	\$5,799
TOTAL	\$1,364,449	\$293,657

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

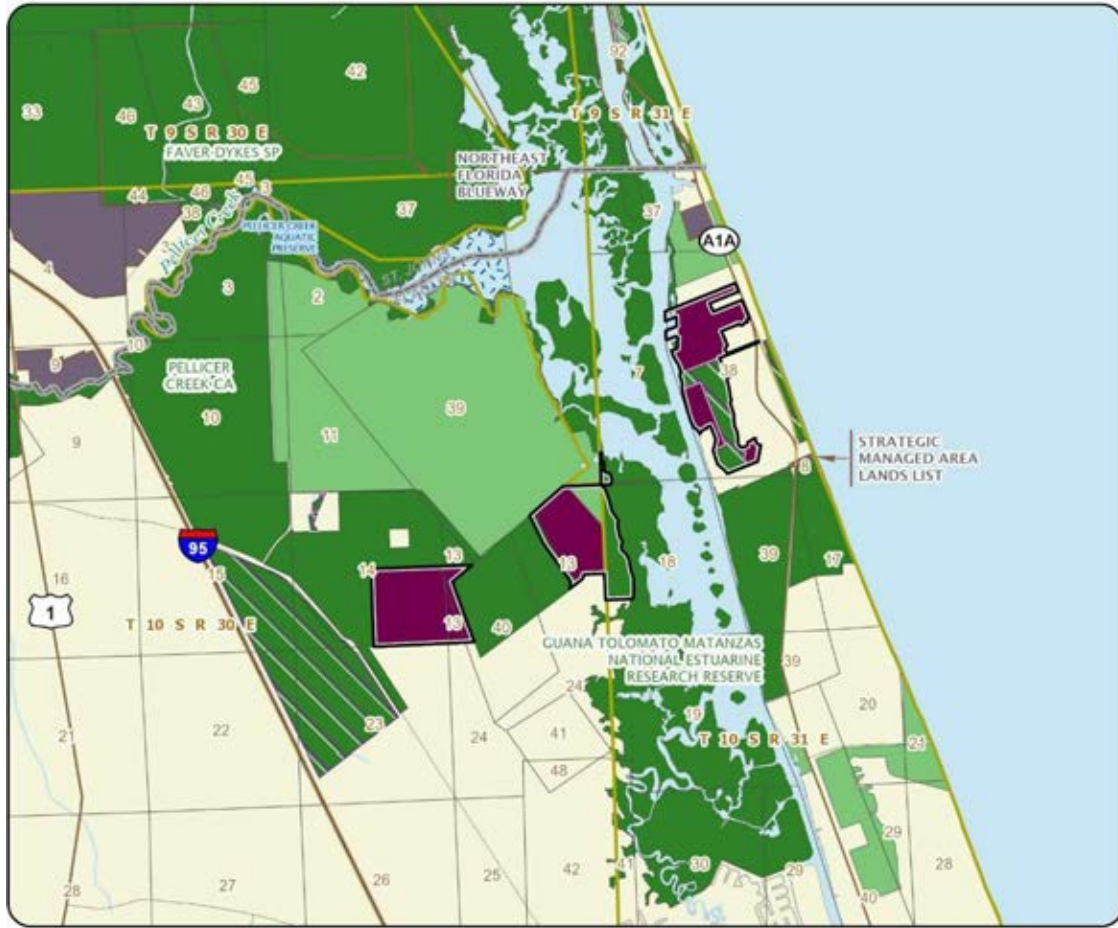




FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

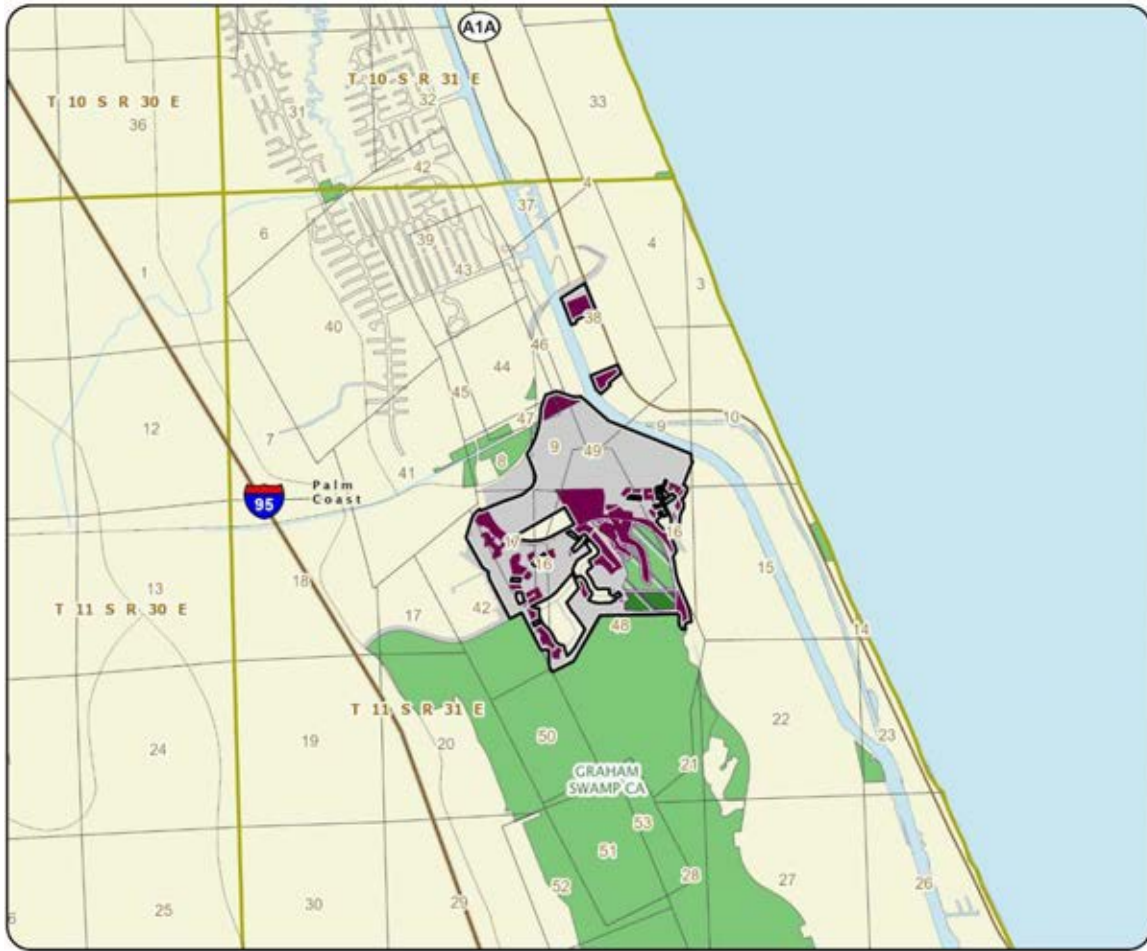




FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 1

FLAGLER COUNTY

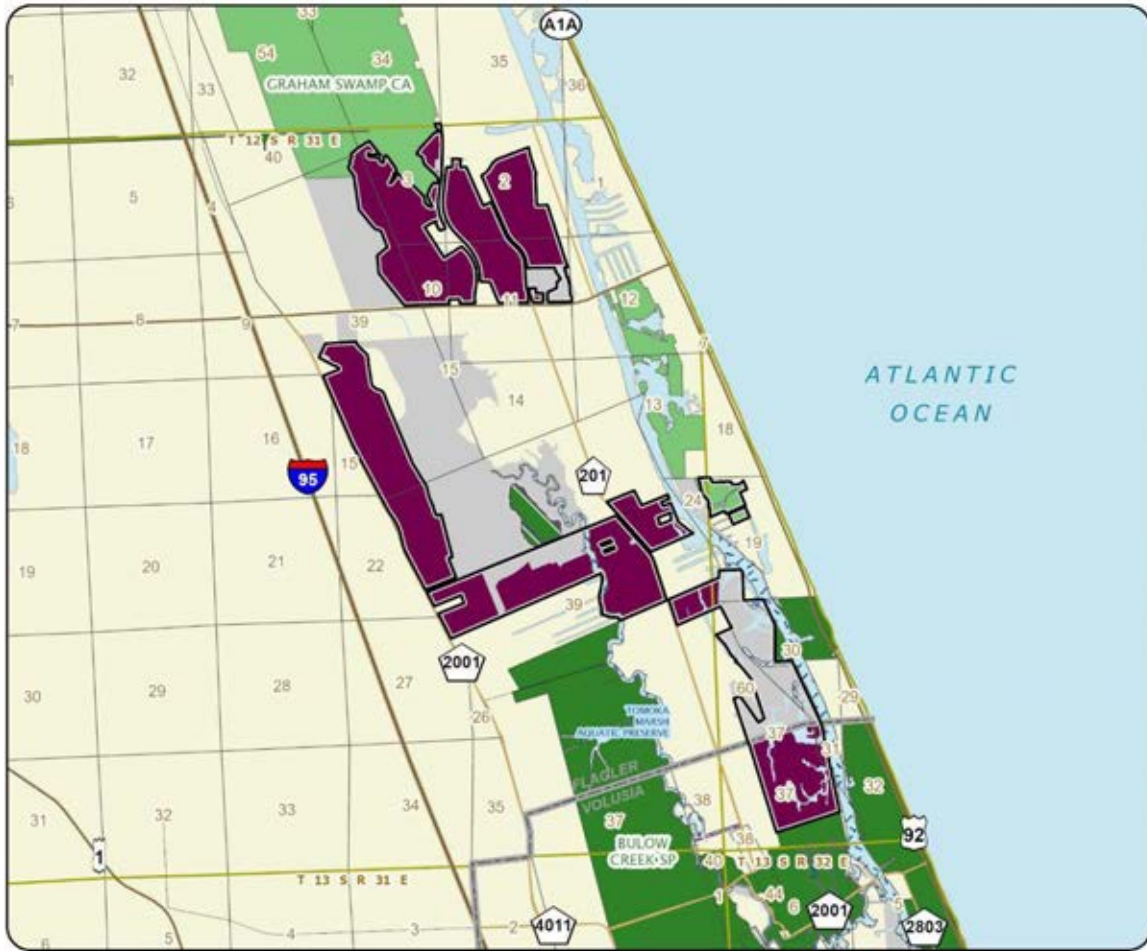




FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 2

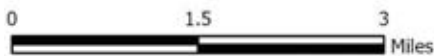
FLAGLER COUNTY





FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 3

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES



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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

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1991</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>18,526</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>11,288</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$104,222,527</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>7,238</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$58,095,932</i>

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, the 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. The project will ensure that residents and visitors from all over the world will be able to enjoy Florida's 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-listed plants and 18 Florida Natural Areas Inventory-listed 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Suwannee moccasinshell	G1/S1
Withlacoochee tiny sand-loving scarab	G1/S1
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1
Jackson County cave amphipod	G1G2/S1
Dougherty plain cave amphipod	G1G2/S1
Gulf moccasinshell	G2/S1
Oval pigtoe	G2/S1

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 Priority List. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the 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 Division of Recreation and Parks will manage St. Marks Springs. The U.S. Forest Service will manage River Sink Spring. The Office of Greenways and Trails, Division of Recreation and Parks and 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 and Bay County have both expressed an interest. A portion of the Fanning Springs sites have been acquired. The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 had 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. The 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. The 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). The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the Weeki Wachee Springs sites. The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the 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. The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 boundary. Sponsored by the landowners' representative, it contains 45 parcels, 22 landowners and has a taxable value of \$604,000. The addition was designated essential and added to the Priority portion of the project. Madison County will manage the addition, of which approximately 44 acres have been acquired.

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 Conservation and Recreational Lands project.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the addition if it was acquired; however, the property was sold to a third party in 2002.

2003

On April 18, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, consisted of one landowner, Avatar Properties Inc., and had a taxable value of \$3,406,945. The Florida Forest Service will manage the addition if acquired.

On August 15, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 172-acre addition (Lafayette Blue Springs) in Lafayette County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Conservation Properties, consisted of one landowner, Union Land and Timber Corp., nine parcels and had a taxable value of \$97,000. Lafayette County will manage the addition if acquired.

On October 17, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 had a taxable value of \$2,889,223. Marion County will manage the site. In 2005, 330 acres were acquired.

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 had a taxable value of \$303,367. Jackson County will manage the addition if acquired.

2004

On October 15, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 5-acre addition (Church Sink) in Leon County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowner, J. Lee Vause Trust, consisted of one parcel and had a taxable value of \$47,700. Leon County will manage the addition if acquired.

2006

On April 17, 2006, the Northwest Florida Water Management District established the Patronis conservation easement (882 acres), of which approximately 27.5 acres are within the project boundary.

On October 13, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple 305-acre addition (Hardee Spring) to the project boundary in Hamilton County. The addition was sponsored by Harold Hardee and consisted of one parcel with a taxable value of \$57,001. The Florida Forest Service would manage the site as part of the Twin Rivers State Forest if acquired.

2007

In July 2007, the 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, the Florida Forest Service purchased approximately 1 acre for \$16,065 from Kaiser/The Nature Conservancy in Indian Lake State Forest. The Florida Forest Service will manage the purchase.

On May 11, 2010, the Florida Forest Service purchased 0.12 acres for \$2,550. The Florida Forest Service will manage the purchase.

In July 2010, the Florida Forest Service purchased two parcels (0.23 acres for \$5,100 and 0.12 acres for \$2,800) and will manage both acquisitions.

On November 15, 2011, the Florida Forest Service purchased 0.23 acres in Indian Lake State Forest (Potter – \$5,100) and will manage the purchase.

In October 2010, the Florida Forest Service purchased five parcels (Silver Spring Addition – Bloom, Dinkins, Dupras, Hanson and Szymialis ownerships) totaling 0.5 acres for \$10,200 and will manage the parcels.

In November 2010, the Florida Forest Service purchased two parcels (Silver Spring Addition – Stovall, Landry) totaling 0.29 acres for \$6,375 and will manage the parcels.

2011

On May 2, 2011, the Florida Forest Service purchased 0.23 acres (Jean and Giselle Raymond – \$12,000) and will manage the purchase.

On August 3, 2011, the Felburn Foundation donated 2.42 acres in Silver Springs (valued at \$100,000) for the Florida Forest Service to manage.

On September 16, 2011, the Division of Recreation and Parks acquired 55.73 acres (Gerrell Plantation, Inc. – \$457,000), and will manage the purchase as an addition to Natural Bridge Historic State Park.

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 63.4 acres to the project boundary that had been authorized for sale from the U.S. Forest Service.

2013

On February 15, 2013, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Suwannee River Water Management District in exchange for the 670-acre Ellaville tract would provide a greater conservation value and that the Damascus Peanut Tract was no longer needed for conservation by the BOT.

2014

In April 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 360-acre Brunson Landing Tract on Holmes Creek to the project boundary to protect water resources from development. The addition provides over 2,200 feet of frontage along Homes Creek and is adjacent to Northwest Florida Water





Management District land. The addition would be managed by the Northwest Florida Water Management District if acquired.

2015

On June 19, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 405-acre Blue Springs Park on the Santa Fe River in Gilchrist County to the project boundary. The addition has a just value of \$1,361,547 and has a second-magnitude spring and two smaller springs. Blue Springs was then added by the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Coehadjoe Park.

On October 6, 2017, DEP closed on 399 acres of Blue Springs Park in Gilchrist County.

On October 20, 2017, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the Springs Coast Research Station as a Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax value of \$643,154. The 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 and 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 that is 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 28-acre Springs Coast Research Station Florida Forever project boundary to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project.

In 2017, 863.45 acres in the project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2018

On May 23, 2018, the Northwest Florida Water Management District established the Hodson conservation easement (228.9 acres), of which approximately 171.9 acres are within the project boundary.

On June 15, 2018, Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 556-acre Santa Fe Springs Tract, located on the north side of the Santa Fe River in Columbia County, to the project boundary. The Florida Forest Service will manage the site through the Florida Forest Service's Suwannee Forestry Center if acquired; however, it may be managed as a standalone forest property. The Florida Forest Service estimates the budget needs for the one year of interim management to be \$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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 37.6 acres that includes Mud Spring in Hernando County to the project boundary.

2022

On April 8, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of approximately 486 acres consisting of five parcels in Levy County with a tax assessed value of \$1,745,229 to the project boundary (Manatee Springs Addition).

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 742 acres to the project boundary. The addition, 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 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of one parcel totaling 310.07 acres in Levy County to the project boundary.

Coordination

Hernando County has limited acquisition funds but is very supportive of state acquisition efforts. The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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); Blue Springs Park, St. Marks Springs, Madison Blue Springs, Troy Spring, Lafayette Blue Springs, Weeki Wachee Springs and Horn Spring (Division of Recreation and Parks); Hardee Spring (Florida Forest Service); River Sink Spring (U.S. Forest Service); Brunson Landing and Cypress Spring (leased from owner, managed by the Northwest Florida Water Management District); Damascus Peanut Tract and Falmouth Spring (Northwest Florida Water Management District); Gainer Springs, Fanning Springs (Division of Recreation and Parks, Northwest Florida Water Management District); and Springs Coast Research (Wildlands Conservation).

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Blue Spring has the diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as a state park. The location of the Weeki Wachee project adjacent to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife 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, which 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 and Blue Spring 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. The Florida Forest Service would manage the Santa Fe Spring parcel for Operation Outdoor Freedom Hunts.

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

Jackson County Blue Springs is now being used by the public and the county has no plans to curtail activities. The county would continue to open the swim area in season and maintain year-round access for boating, fishing and nature appreciation. The smaller second spring may need restrictions to ensure public safety and preservation of the limestone bluffs. A lifeguard will be on duty while the 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. Within the first few years after acquisition, management activities would focus on site security, resource inventory, removal of existing trash and any necessary prescribed fire management. In the first year after Gainer Springs is acquired, the Division of Recreation and Parks will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

Revenue-generating Potential

The Blue Springs swim area generated \$21,946 in revenue in fiscal year 1992-93 and \$13,045 in fiscal year 1993-94. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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 use of the area would be activities of the Federal Government. It is estimated that the area will receive more than 5,000 visits annually once it is developed.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Jackson County expects the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to cooperate in managing wildlife on the Blue Spring project area. Other appropriate agencies may wish to become involved in the project. As funds become available and subject to public approval, the U.S. Forest Service 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



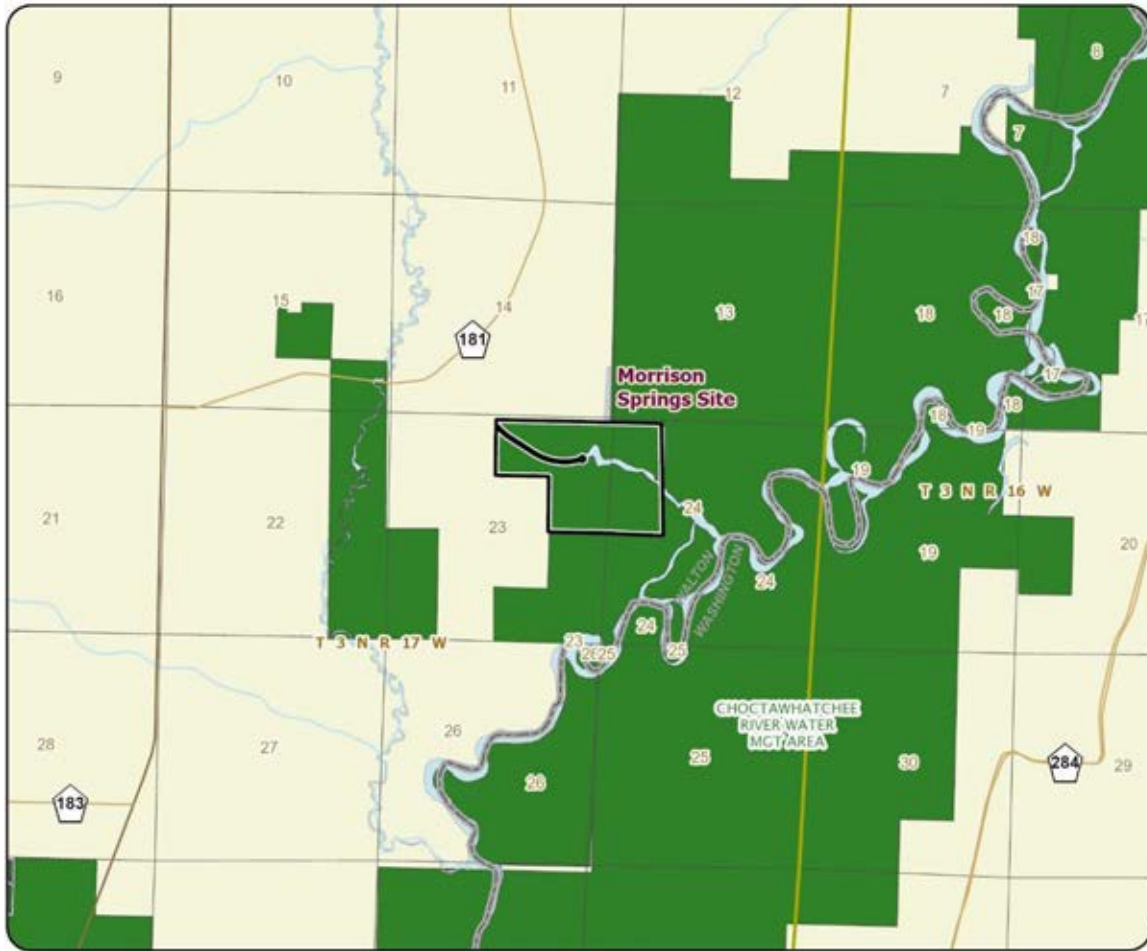


FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: OVERVIEW

BAY, CITRUS, COLUMBIA, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, HERNANDO, JACKSON, LAFAYETTE, LAKE, LEON, LEVY, MADISON, MARION, SUWANNEE, WAKULLA, WALTON, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Map 1 Morrison Springs Site
- Map 2 Brunson Landing Tract Site
- Map 2 Cypress Spring Site
- Map 3 Gainer Springs Site
- Map 4 Jackson Blue Springs Site
- Map 5 River Sink Spring Site
- Map 6 Church Sink Site
- Map 7 St. Marks Springs Site
- Map 8 Hardee Spring Site
- Map 9 Madison Blue 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 15 Fanning 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

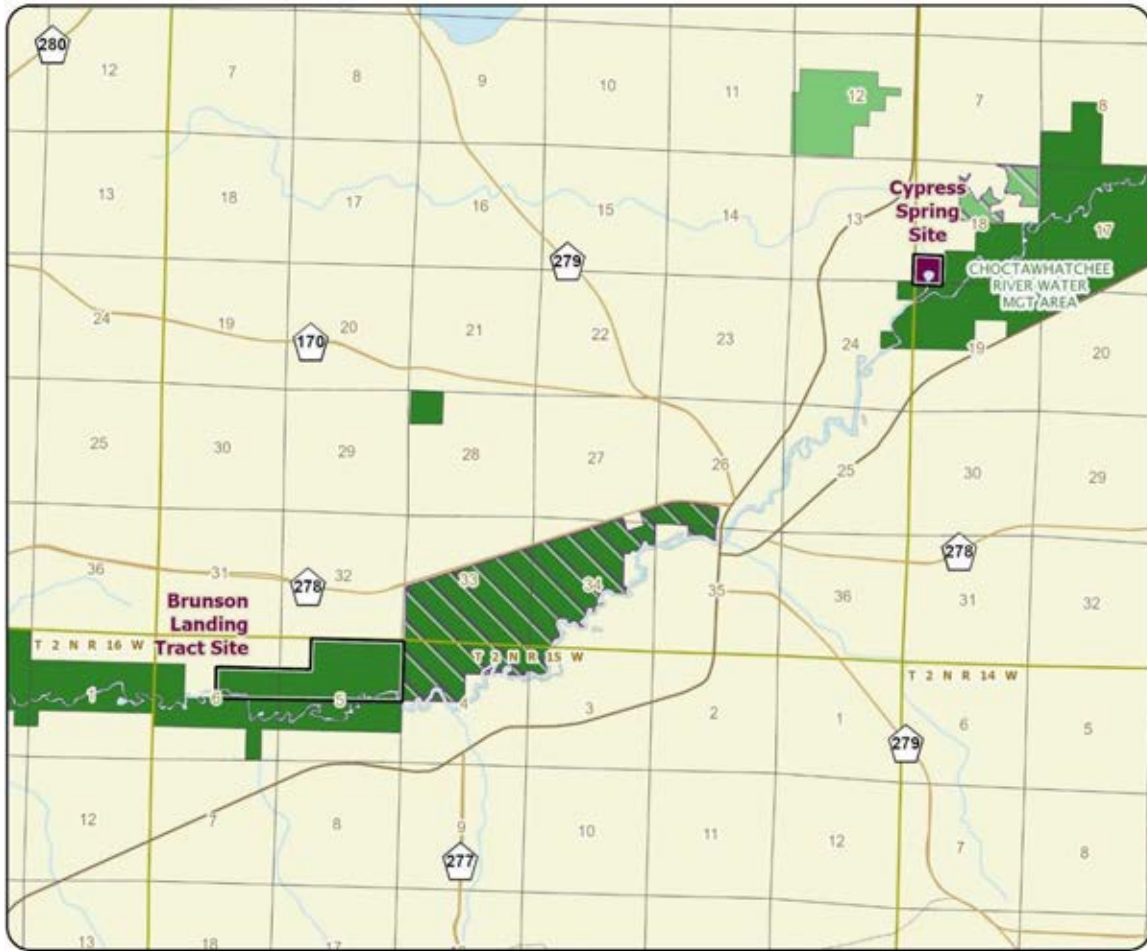




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 1

WALTON COUNTY

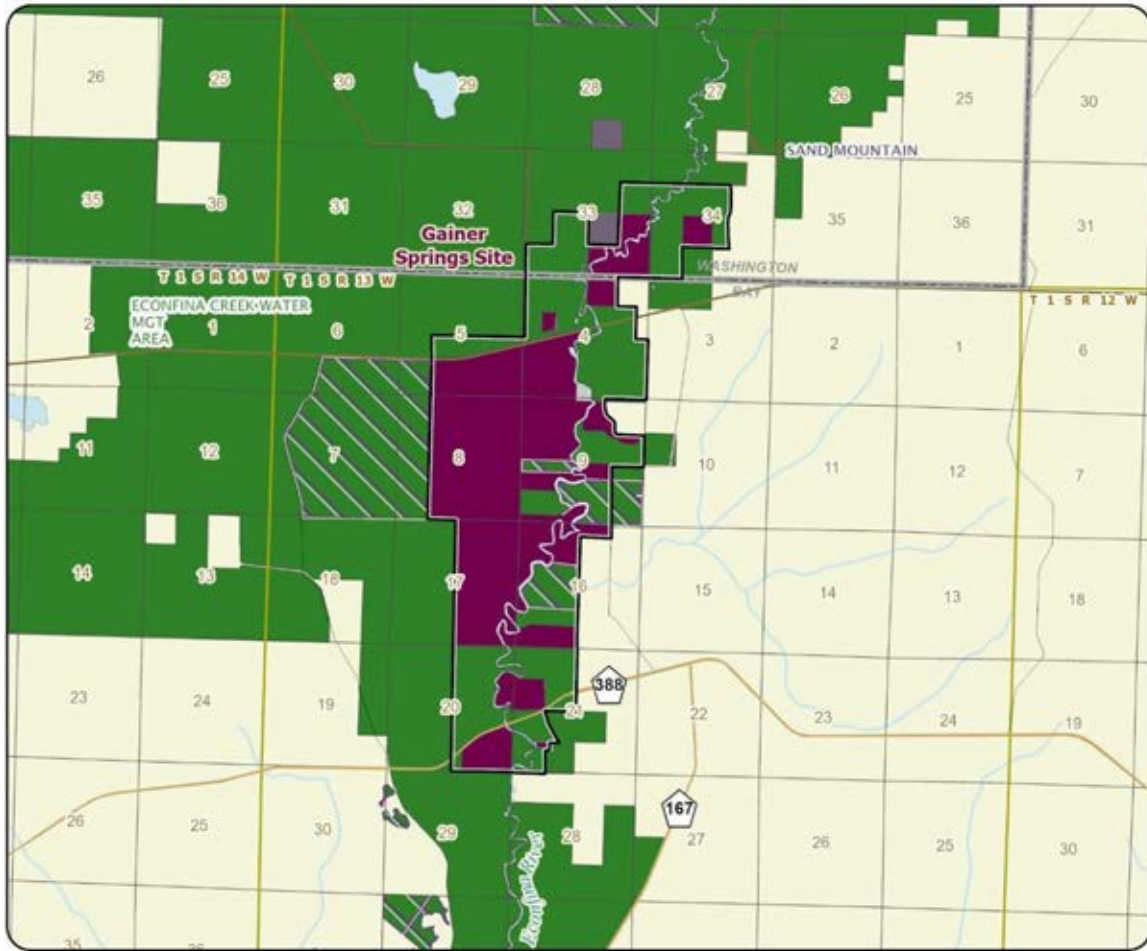




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 2

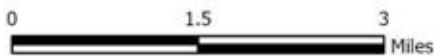
WASHINGTON COUNTY

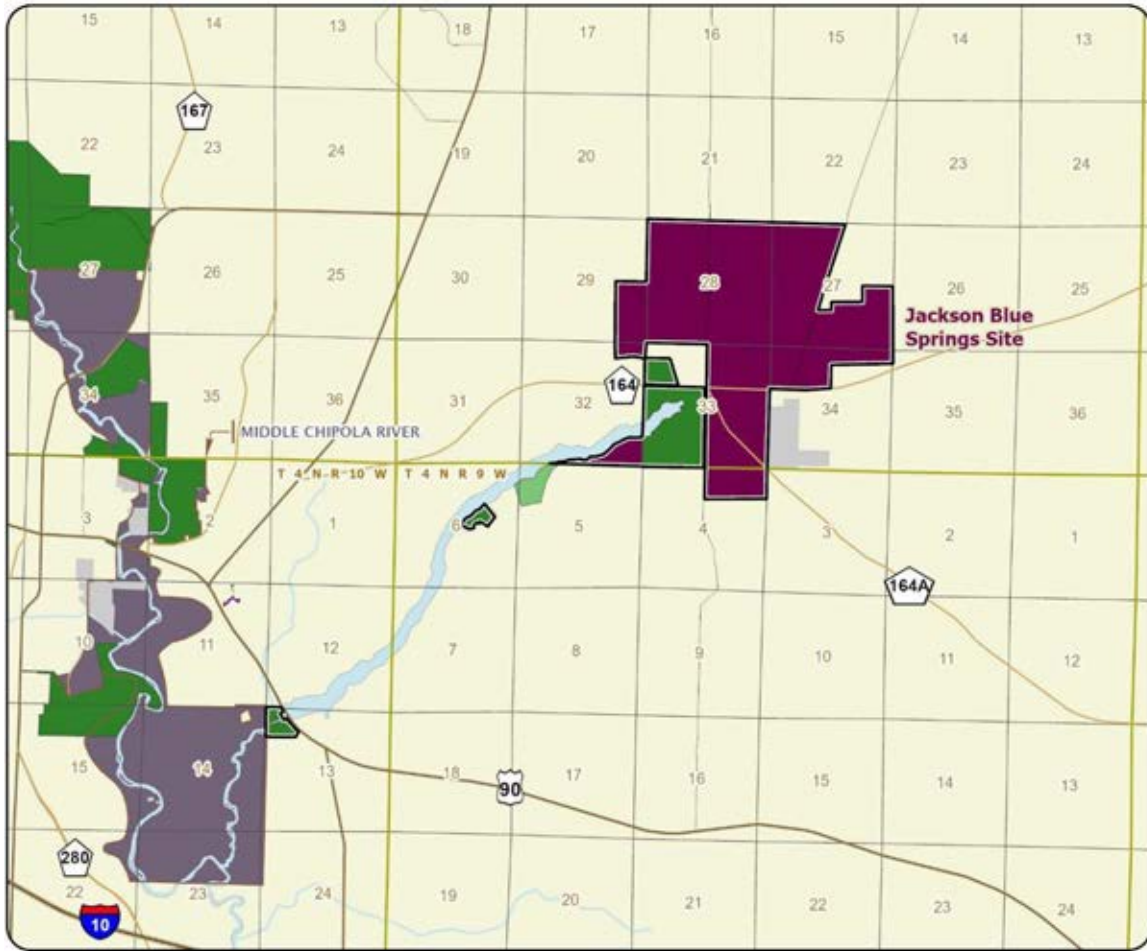




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 3

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

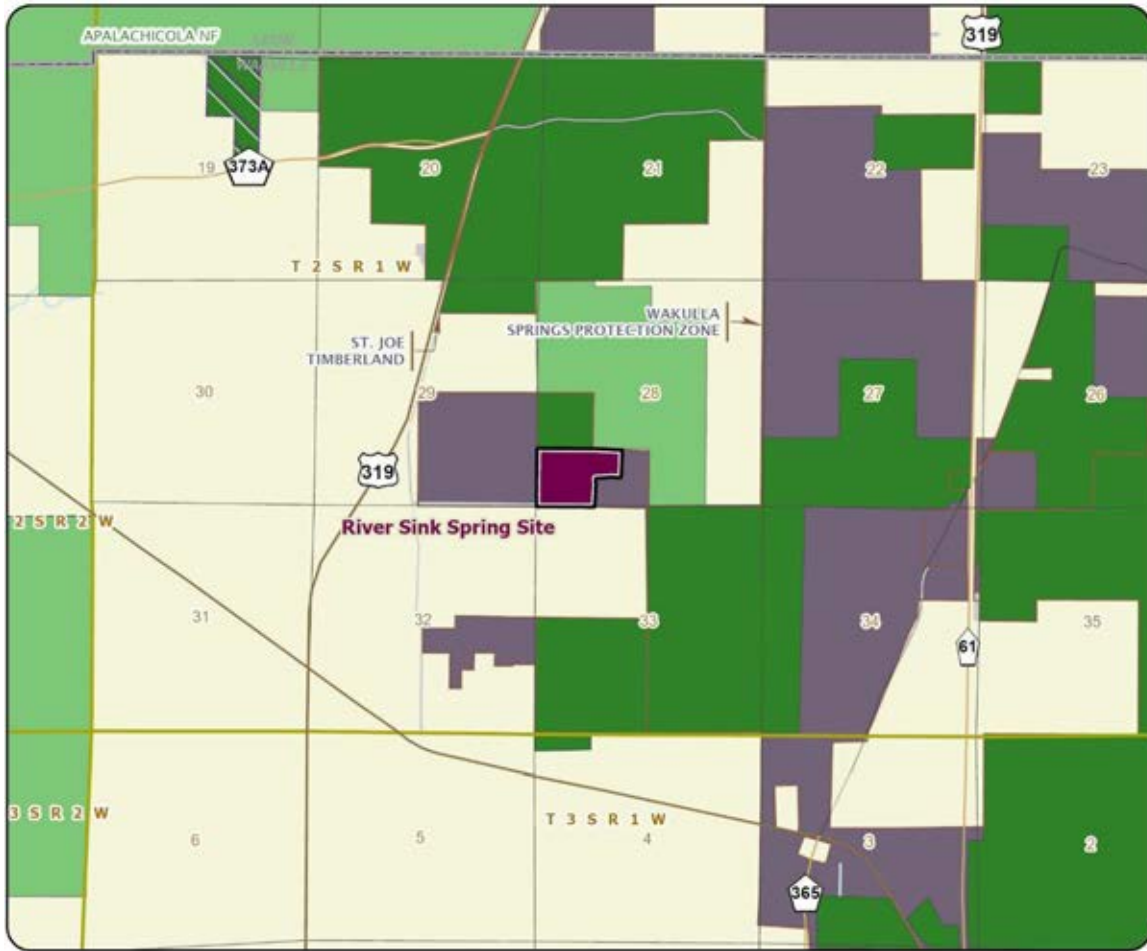




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 4

JACKSON COUNTY





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 5

WAKULLA COUNTY

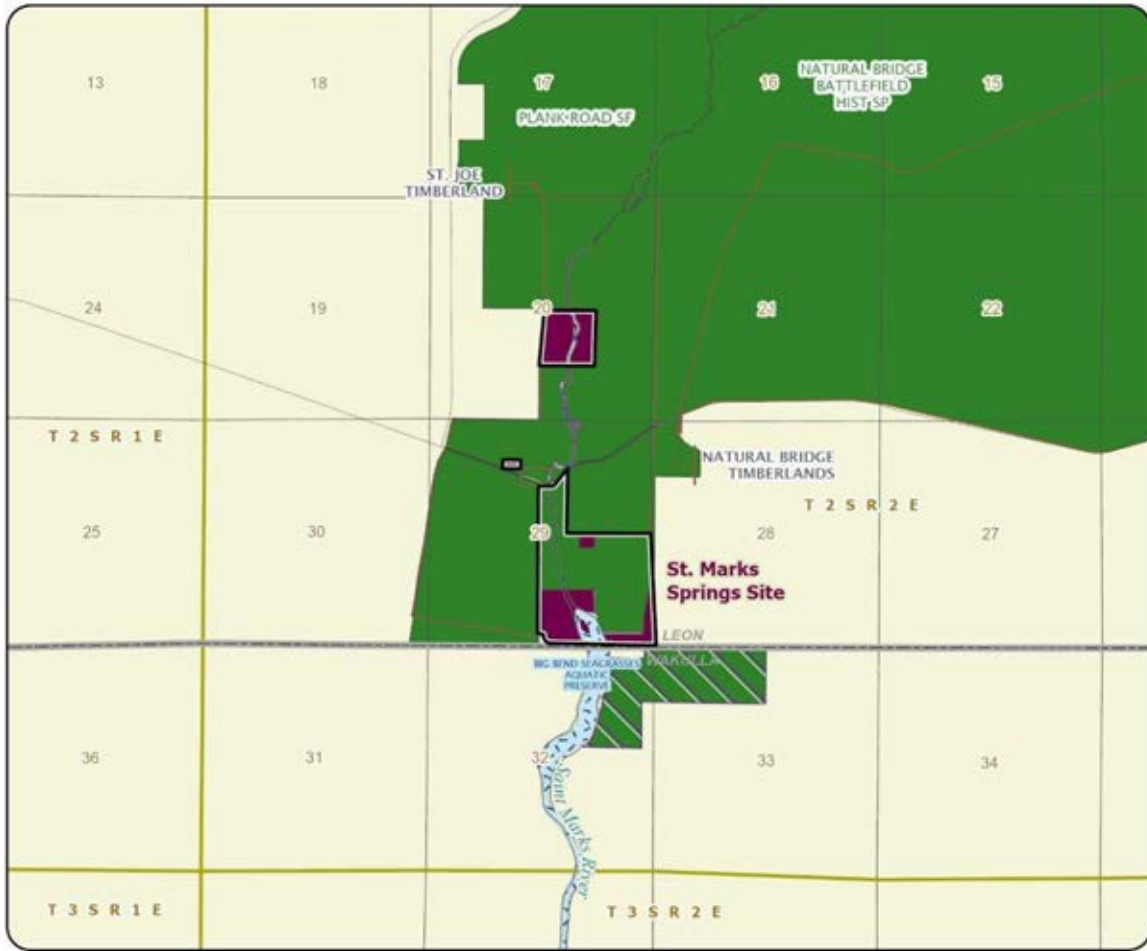




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 6

LEON COUNTY

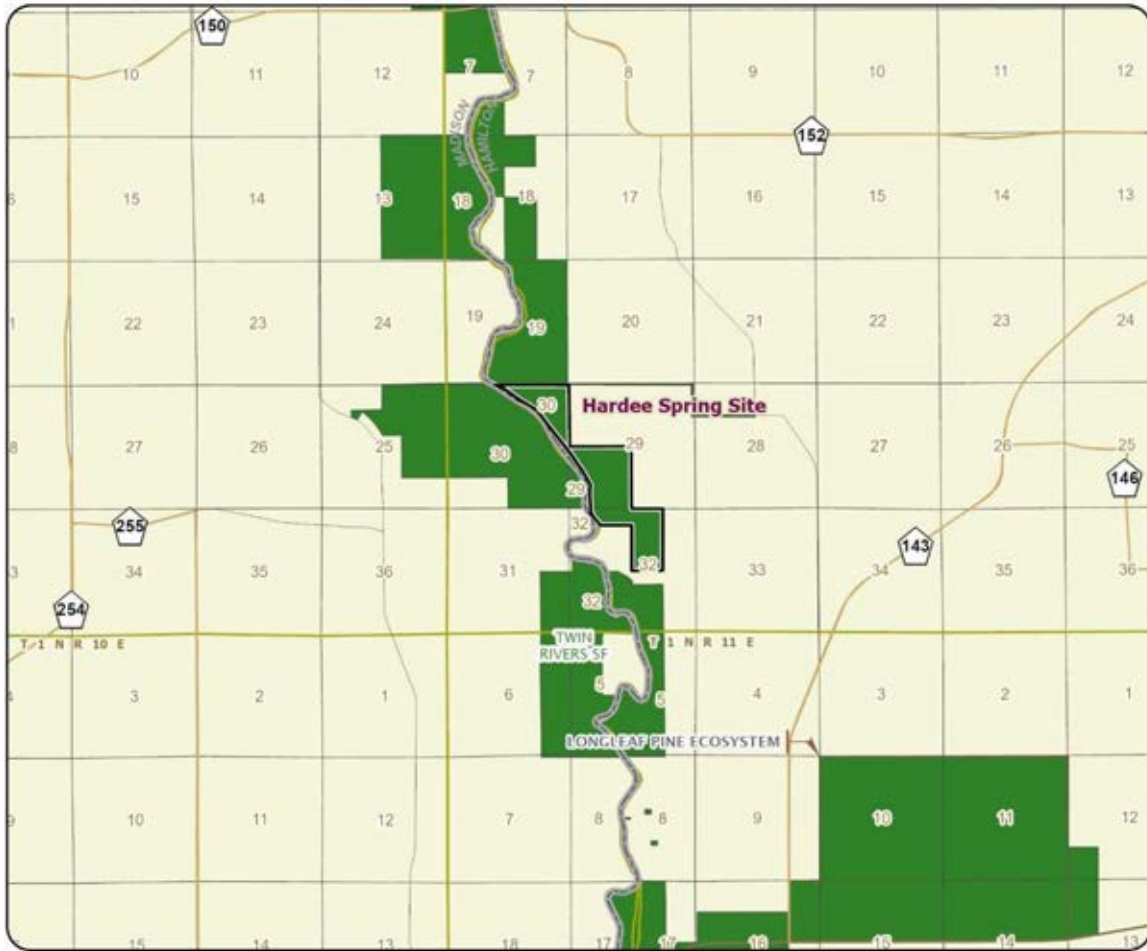




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 7

LEON COUNTY

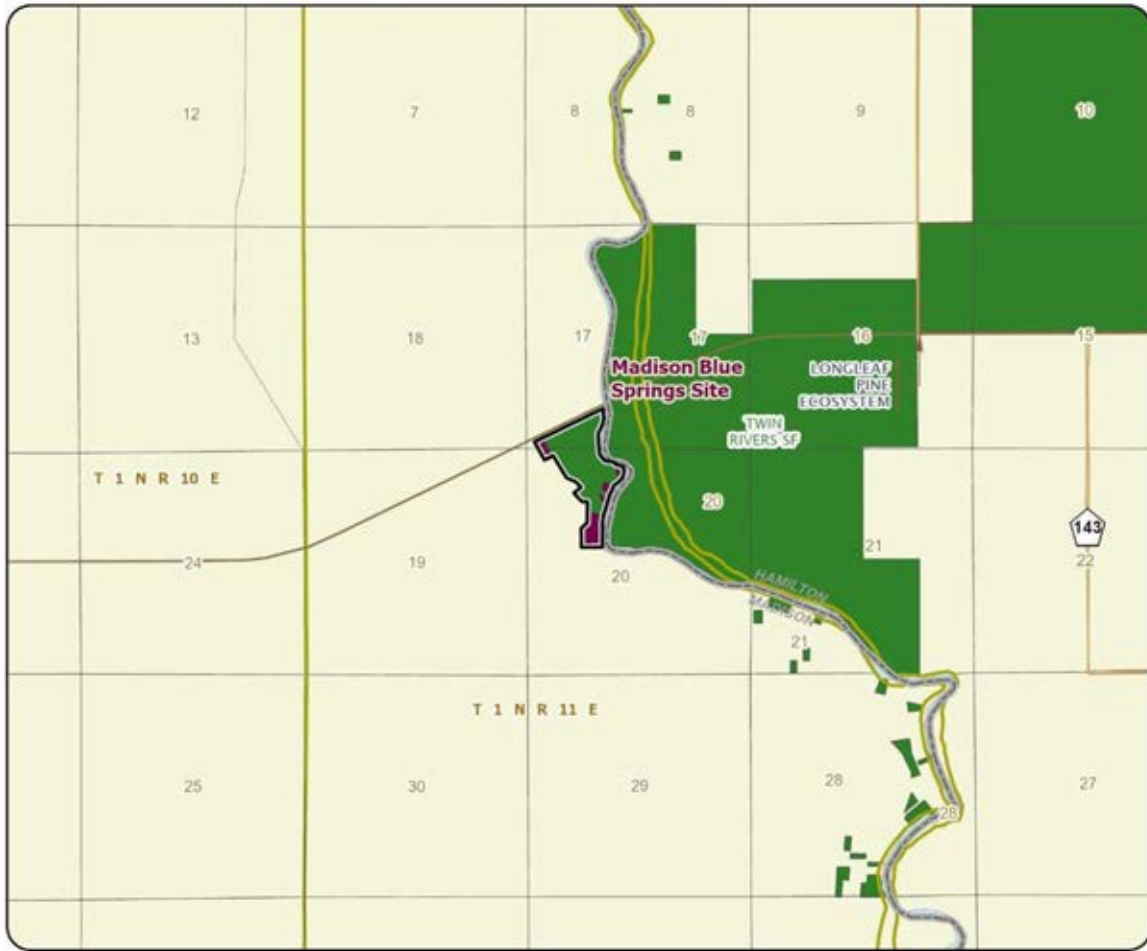




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 8

HAMILTON COUNTY





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 9

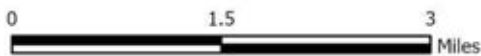
MADISON COUNTY

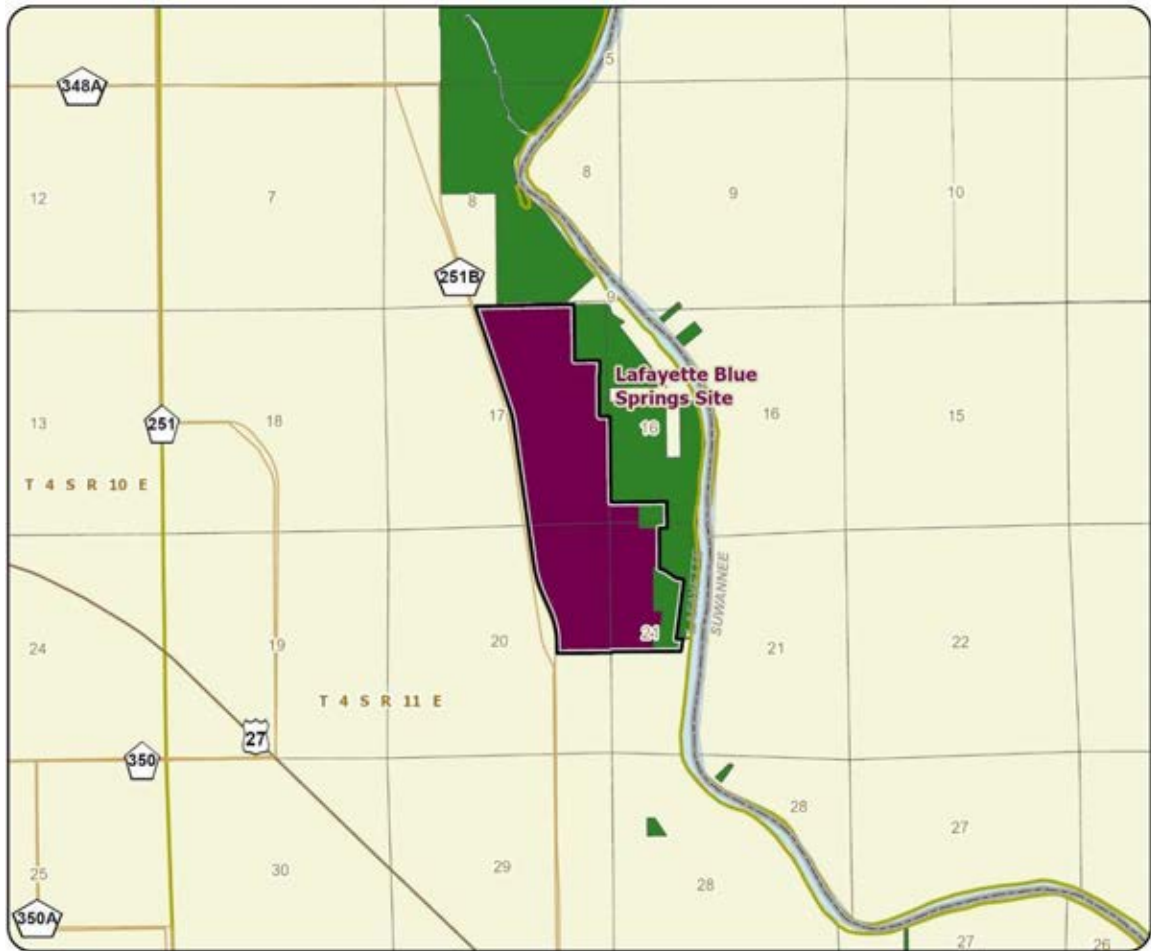




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 10

MADISON AND SUWANNEE COUNTIES

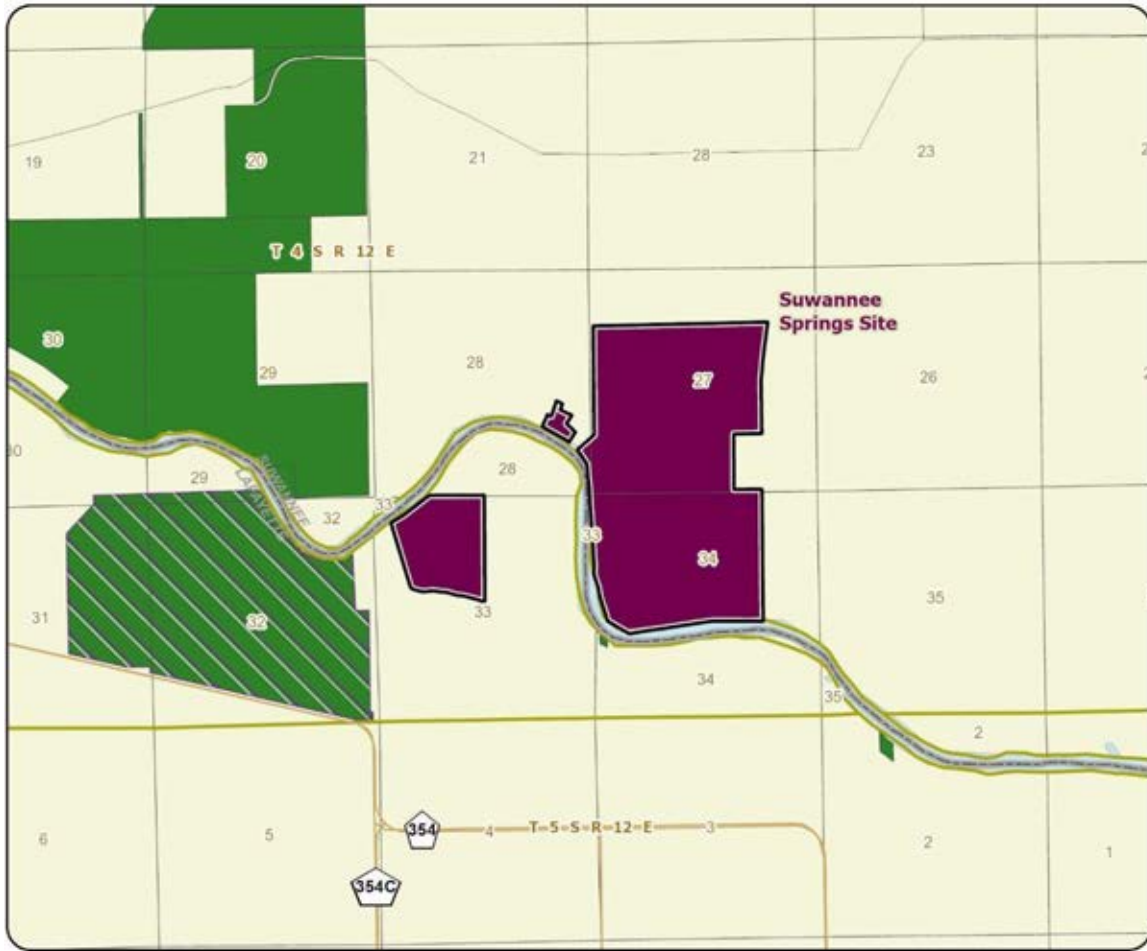




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 11

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

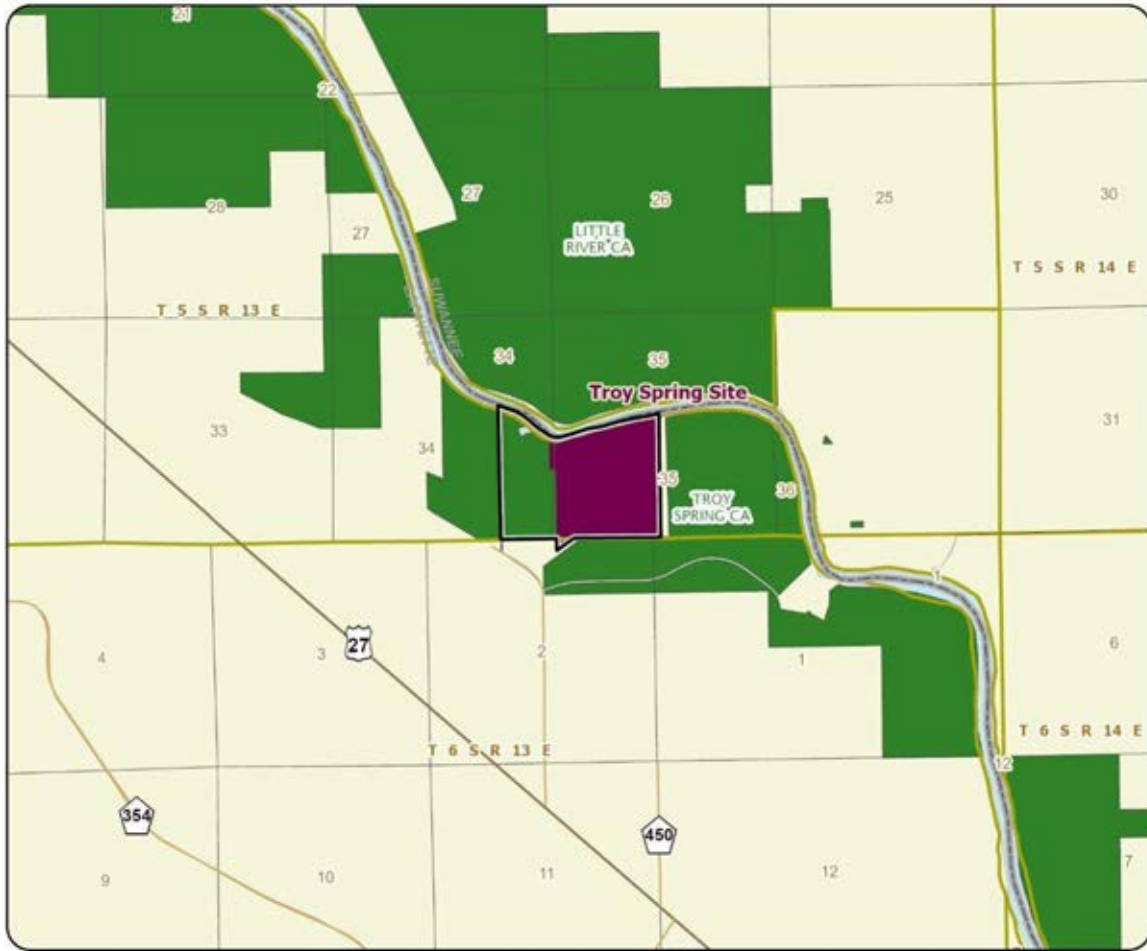




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 12

LAFAYETTE AND SUWANNEE COUNTIES

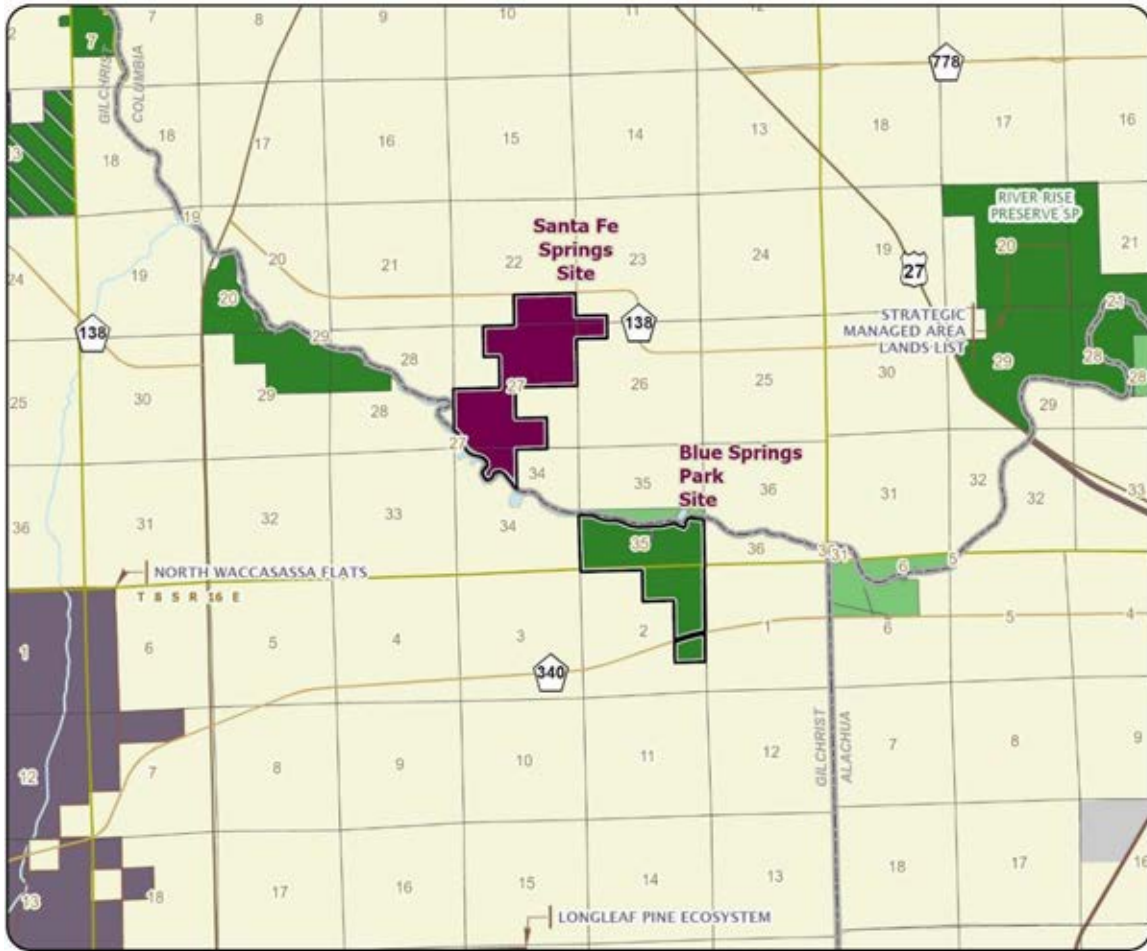




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 13

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

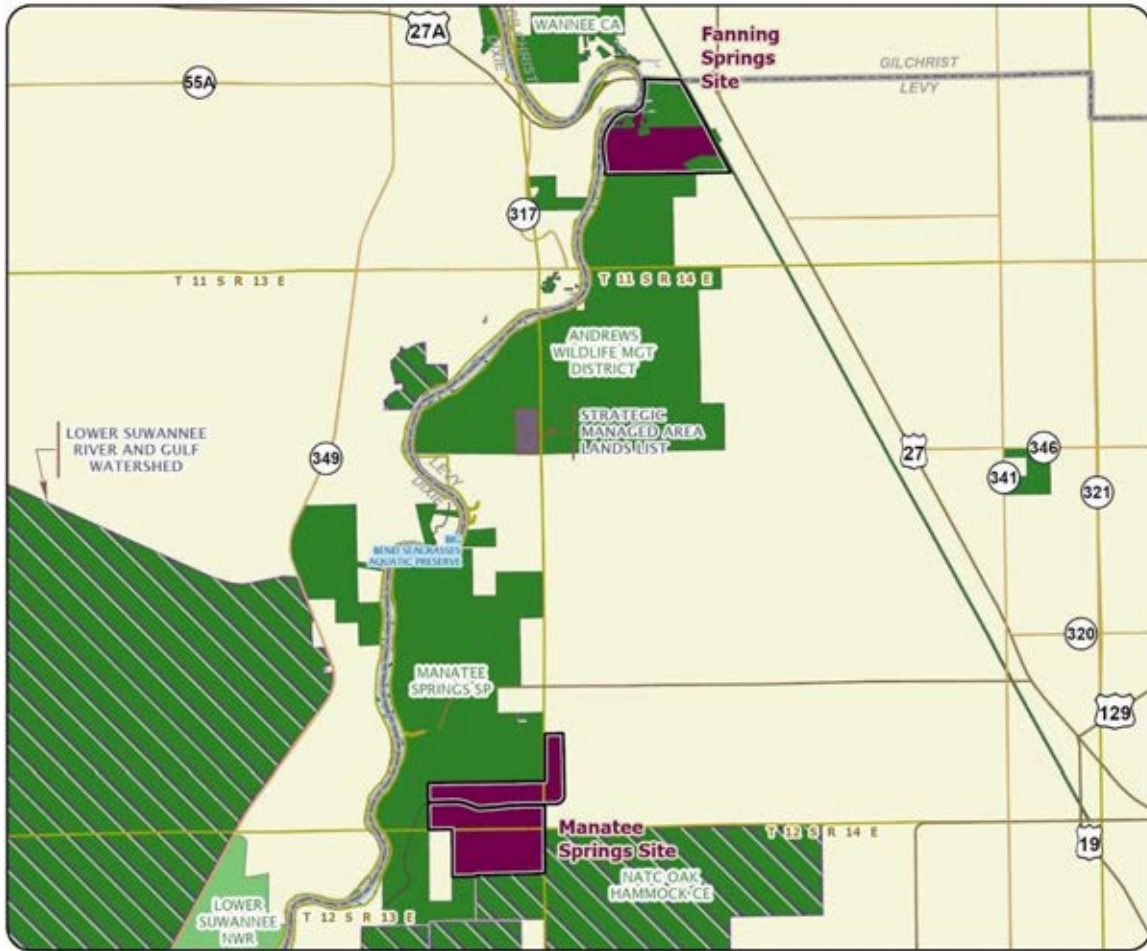




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 14

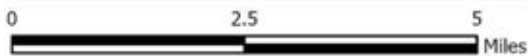
COLUMBIA AND GILCHRIST COUNTIES

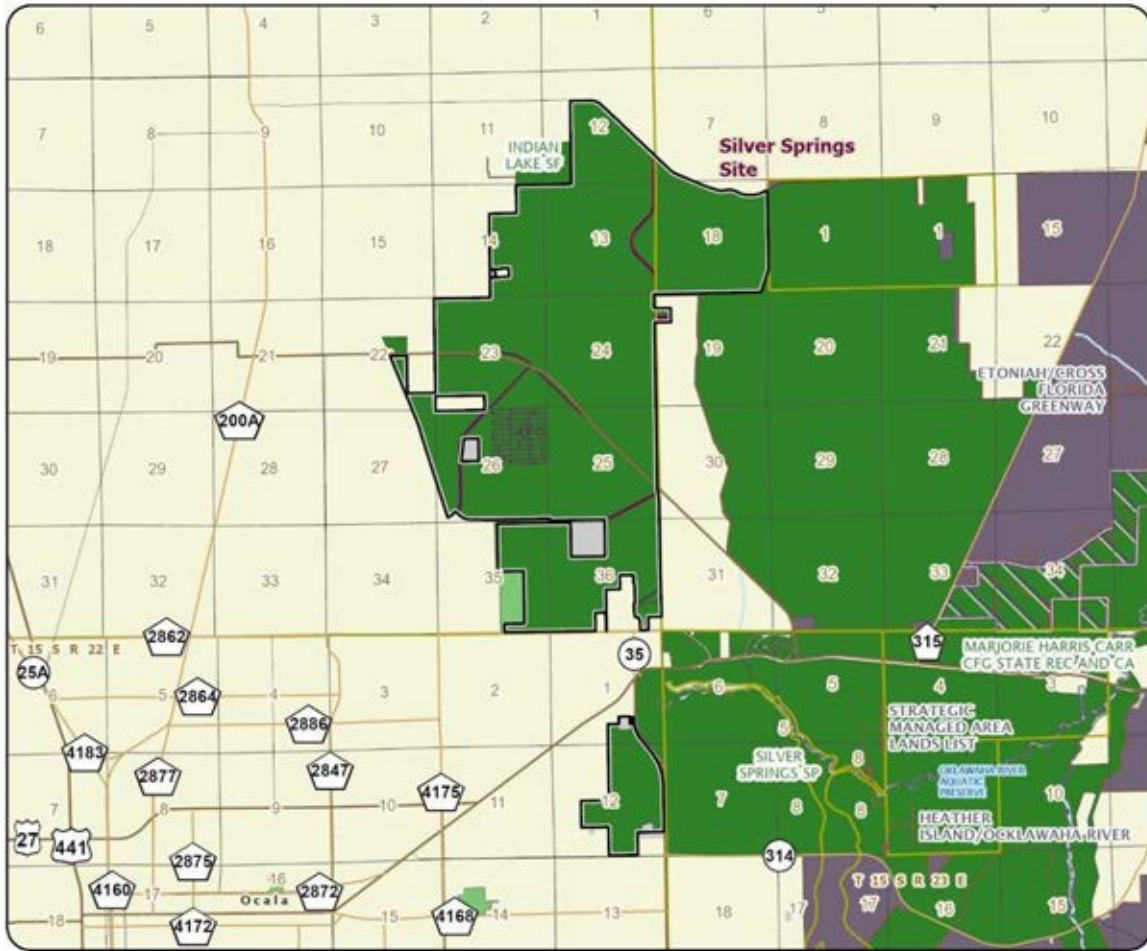




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 15

LEVY COUNTY

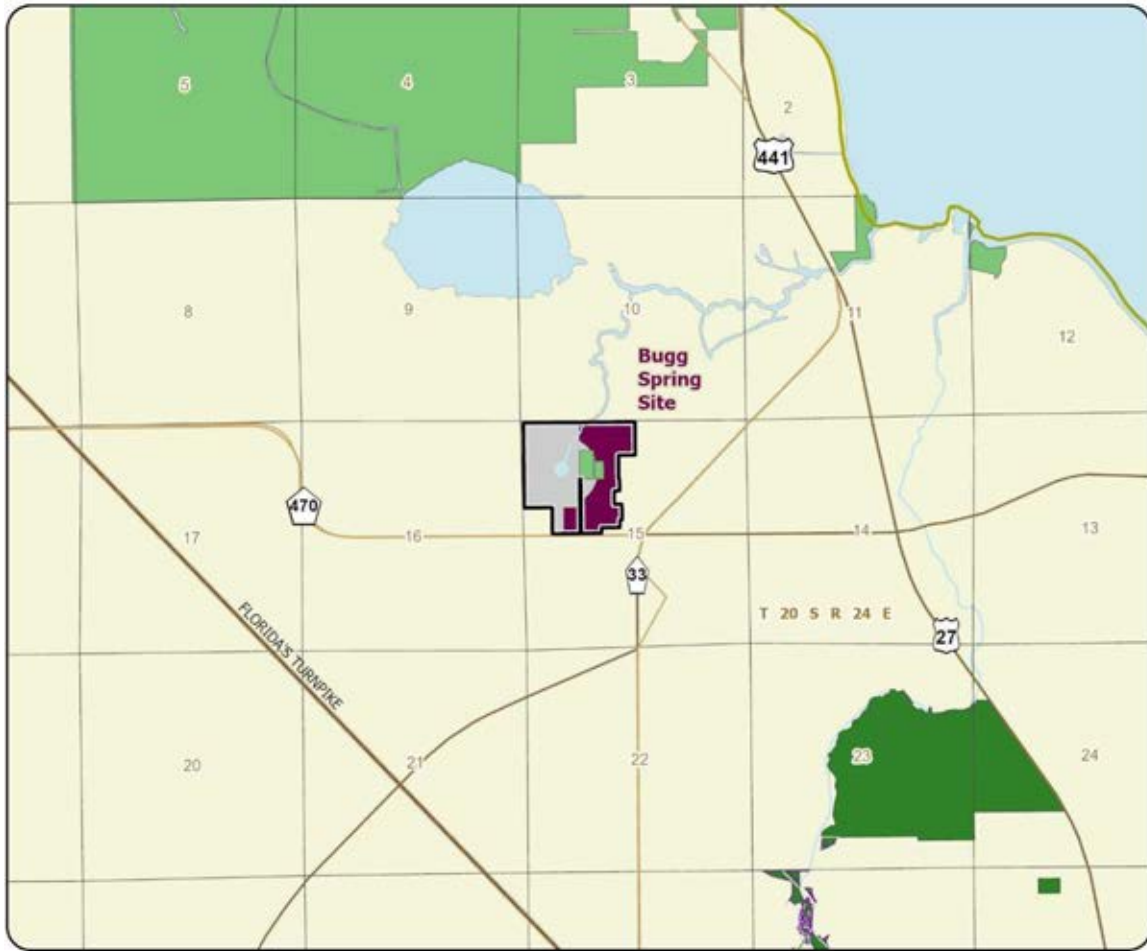




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 16

MARION COUNTY

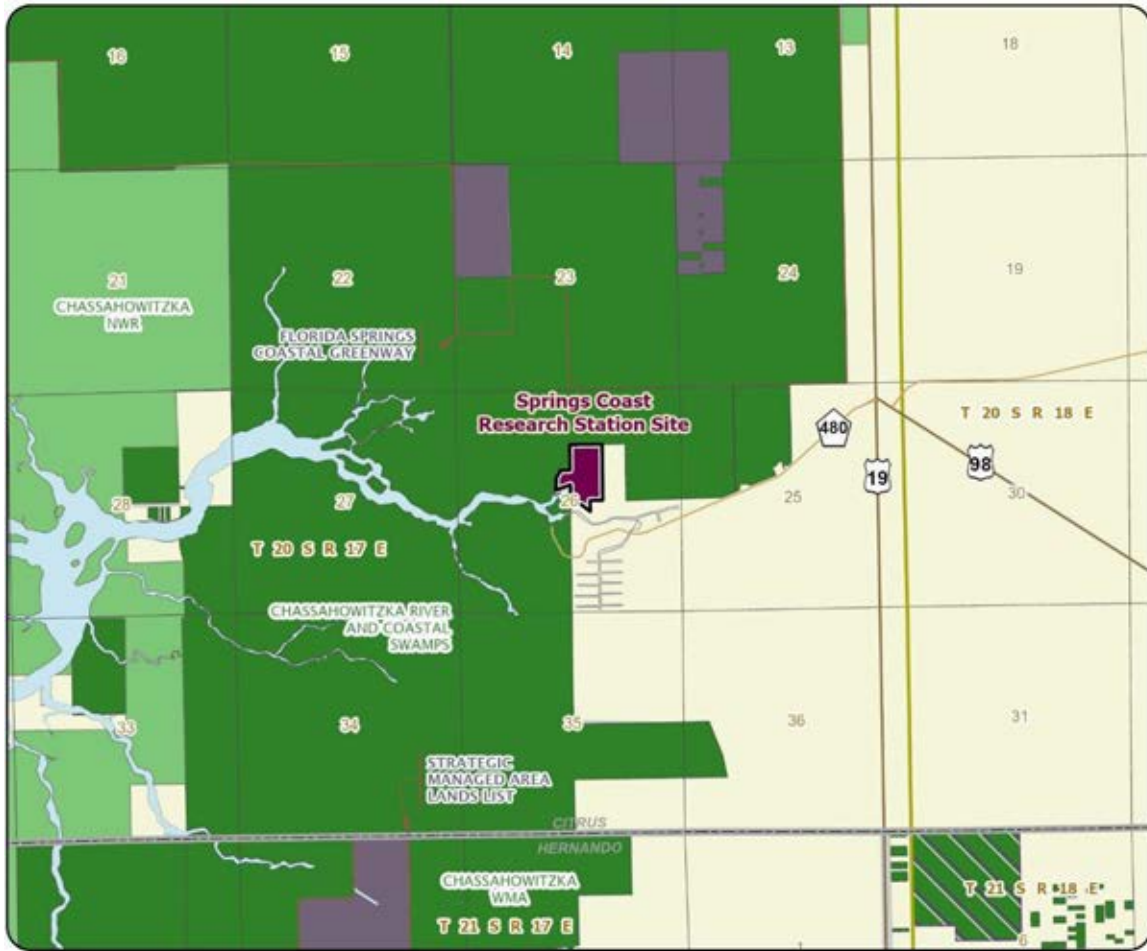




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 17

LAKE COUNTY

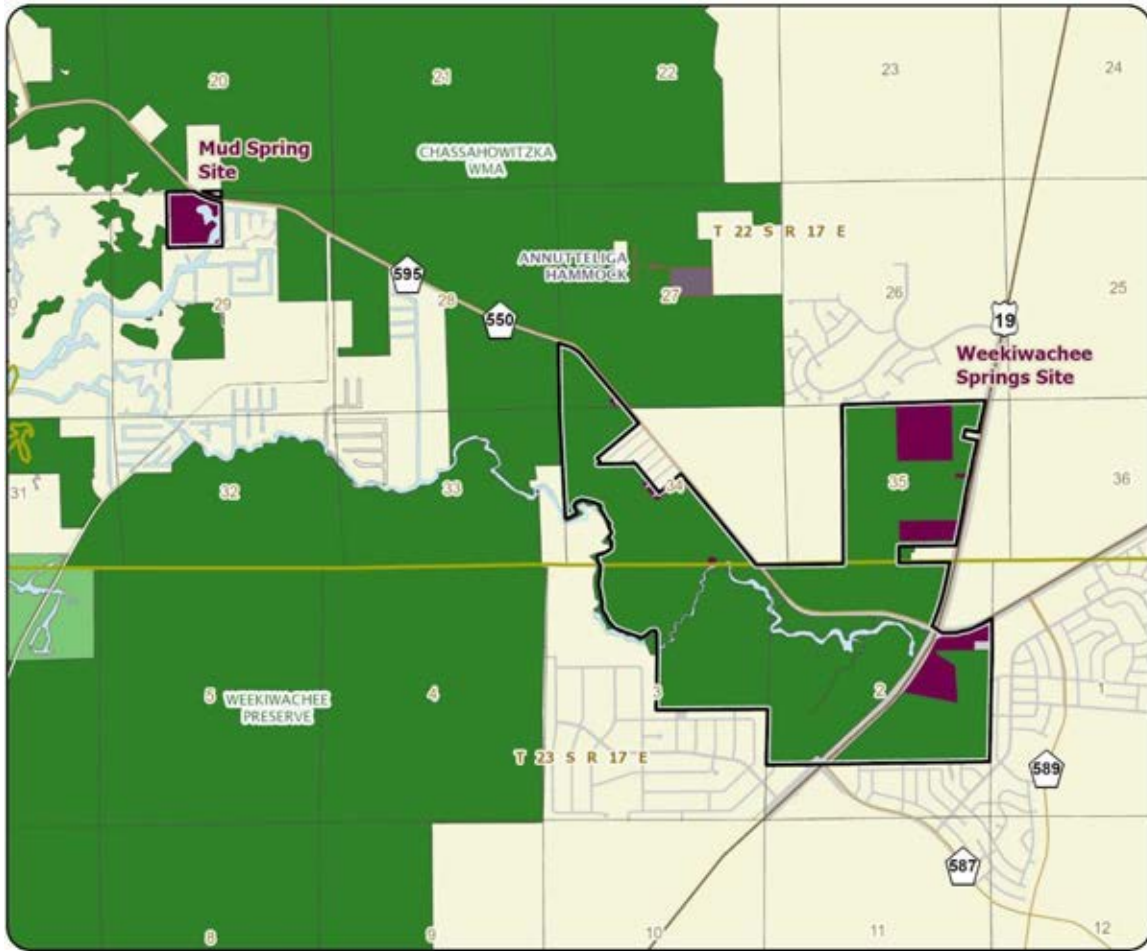




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 18

CITRUS COUNTY





FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 19

HERNANDO COUNTY



Green Swamp

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Lake, Pasco and Polk Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2015
<i>Project Acres</i>	269,287
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	115,056
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$60,573,086
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	154,231
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$2,608,700,147

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 the region, the Green Swamp 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. It is critical to the recharge of the Floridan Aquifer and 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 the 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. Historically, 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 Hilochee Wildlife Management Area, and to the northeast by Lake Minnehaha. State Road 50 serves as the northern border of the project.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eastern indigo snake	G3/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
<i>scrub buckwheat</i>	G4T2?/S2
<i>redmargin zephyrlily</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Berry's skipper	G2/S3
Peninsular floater	G2G3/S2S3
Short-tailed hawk	G4G5/S1

Public Use

Portions of the project will become a wildlife management area and a state park, providing activities such 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 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.

Acquisition Planning

1992

In 1992, a large Green Swamp project was added to the Conservation and Recreational Lands list. The project was associated with the Green Swamp Land Authority, which worked with the Southwest Florida Water Management District on 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 transferred to DEP.

In 1999, Florida Audubon Society established Boggy Marsh Sanctuary (62 acres), all of which would be in 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 in 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 in the project boundary when the project was started.

2002

On February 28, 2002, Polk County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District acquired Lake Lowery Marsh (397 acres), all of which would be in the project boundary when the project was started.

In October 2002, Polk County acquired 494 acres to add to Gator Creek Reserve, all of which would be in the project boundary when the project was started.

2006

In March 2006, Polk County acquired 1,622 acres to add to Gator Creek Reserve, all of which would be in 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 the Southwest Florida Water Management District, all of which would be in 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: Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor, Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters, Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge and Green Swamp-Withlacochee Headwaters. The four projects were placed on the Florida Forever Priority List, and the single Green Swamp project was removed from the list. The current Green Swamp project comprises less acreage than the original 1992 Green Swamp project.

2015

In December 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council combined the four Green Swamp projects on the Florida Forever Priority List and created a single Green Swamp project. The 266,895-acre project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Initiatives category.

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 the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

2018

On February 25, 2018, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and DEP acquired a conservation easement on Crooked River Mitigation Bank.

On April 13, 2018, the Southwest Florida Water Management District established a conservation easement on Hilochee Mitigation Bank.





As of 2018, approximately 4,111 acres of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Green Swamp conservation easements are inside the project boundary.

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 lands within its boundary (36,000 acres) have 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 Palatlahaha 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 and 10 rare animal species are documented within the boundary. From an urban planning perspective, the 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. 27 corridor on the Lake Wales Ridge.

Management Policy Statement

Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor is planned to be managed 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 consistent 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks anticipates any shift from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use with more infrastructure will require a greater intensity of management.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended as the manager for most of the area acquired in fee simple. The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the Overstreet Ranch area 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 the Division of State Lands.

Archeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.





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 the 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 reforestation. 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, development of facilities is to be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of resources and to ensure the recreational experience. Where possible, such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The Division of Recreation and Parks' resource management activities in the first year will concentrate on site security, protecting natural and cultural resources and developing a resource inventory. Particular emphasis will be given to the monitoring of public land and water-use planning and regulatory activities to ensure that adequate consideration is given to maintaining the quality of 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. The long-term value of this ecosystem to human health and local and regional land and water resources are thought to be significant. The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue to be generated from the property immediately





after fee title acquisition, and the amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and development.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate in managing the Hilochee Corridor with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Forest Service and Lake and Polk counties.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	2011
Resource Management	
Exotic Species Control	\$37,186
Prescribed Burning	\$111,221
Cultural Resource Management	\$1,794
Timber Management	\$7,176
Hydrological Manager	\$193,739
Other	\$805,332
<i>Resource Management Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,156,448</i>
Administration	
General Administration	\$10,636
<i>Administration Subtotal</i>	<i>\$10,636</i>
Support	
Land Management Planning	\$103,285
Land Management Reviews	\$20,133
Training/Staff Development	\$5,339
Vehicle Purchase	\$68,433
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$53,816
Other	\$13,274
<i>Support Subtotal</i>	<i>\$264,280</i>
Capital Improvements	
New Facility Construction	\$89,694
Facility Maintenance	\$311,312
<i>Capital Improvements Subtotal</i>	<i>\$401,006</i>
Visitor Services/Recreation	
Info/Education/Operations	\$60,032
<i>Visitor Services/Recreation Subtotal</i>	<i>\$60,032</i>
Law Enforcement	
Resources Protection	\$40,501
<i>Law Enforcement Subtotal</i>	<i>\$40,501</i>
TOTAL	\$1,932,903

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





Peace River

General Description

The Peace River 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 by 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 (99 percent or more) meets the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation for Surface Water Protection and Aquifer Recharge.

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 in the area but based on habitat there is potential for several rare species to occur in the area. About 98 percent of the area meets the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation for Ecological Greenways, and 82 percent is within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

From an urban planning perspective, the Peace River portion has a 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.

A disjunct portion of Hilochee Wildlife Management Area, some of General James A. Van Fleet State Trail, DEP's Green Swamp Land Authority land protection agreements and Green Swamp conservation easements are within the boundary.

Management Policy Statement

Green Swamp lands acquired through alternatives to fee-simple should be managed to 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

The Division of State Lands 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 the area is in the Ocklawaha River watershed, draining east and northeast. The remaining quarter is in 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. It is located within an Area of Critical State Concern.

Eight archaeological sites are listed in the Florida Master Site files within the area, but its extensive lakes and wetlands suggest a moderate to high potential for significant archaeological and historical sites that have not been discovered yet.

Few rare species have been documented within the 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 a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.





From an urban planning perspective, Pine Island Recharge has a moderate potential for being developed or subdivided or losing significant natural attributes or open spaces. Development potential is higher on the north side near Groveland and Clermont. 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 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

The 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 consists of 103,458 acres composed of 13 distinct natural communities and four other landcover types. The natural communities include pine flatwoods, scrub and sandhill. About 61 percent of the area is in natural condition, while 39 percent is disturbed with most in improved and semi-improved pasture and smaller acreages in ruderal and pine plantation. The area is located between State Road 50 on the north and U.S. 98 on the south. Its northwestern boundary is contiguous with the Withlacoochee State Forest and the Southwest Florida Water Management District-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 are 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.





Hydrographically, most of this portion of the overall Green Swamp Florida Forever project is within the Withlacoochee River watershed as well as an Area of Critical State Concern.

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 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.

Management Policy Statement

The Withlacoochee River Headwaters area will be managed 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 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 the 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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-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 reforestation. 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, development of facilities is to be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources and compatible recreational experiences. To the extent possible, any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The Division of Recreation and





Parks' 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. Florida Forest Service 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 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 Division of Historical Resources. The Division of Recreation and Parks will develop short-term management goals of security, protection of resources and resource inventory for its parcels. The Florida Forest Service proposes to manage parcels within the optimum boundary of the Withlacoochee State Forest as a state forest. Burn goals of the Florida Forest Service will be to eventually establish an all-season prescribed burning program.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-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. The long-term value of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are thought to be significant. The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue immediately after acquisition. Future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use.





Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with other governmental agencies including the Southwest Florida Water Management District, St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Forest Service, and Lake, Pasco and Polk counties in management of the property. The Division of Recreation and Parks plans to cooperate with state agencies in their management.

Management Costs and Sources of Revenue*

Below is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’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	
FFS	2011
Salary (4 FTE positions)	\$132,141
Expense	\$315,000
Operation Capital Outlay	\$188,600
TOTAL	\$635,741

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary	
DRP	2011
Salary (1 FTE position)	\$33,000
Expense	\$10,000
Operating Capital Outlay	\$25,000
Outsourcing	\$0
TOTAL	\$68,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

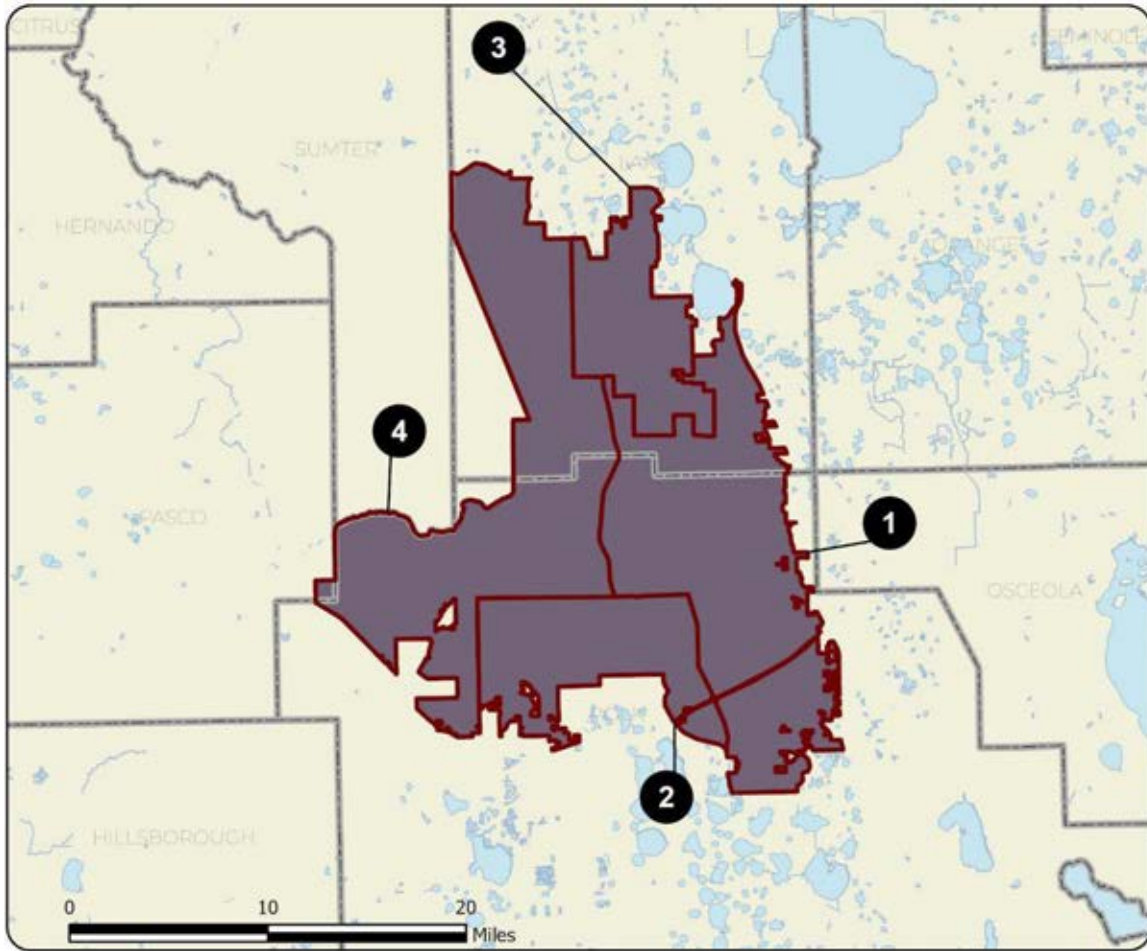


Management Cost Summary

FWC	2011
Resource Management	
Exotic Species Control	\$37,186
Prescribed Burning	\$111,221
Cultural Resource Management	\$1,794
Timber Management	\$7,176
Hydrological Manager	\$193,739
Other	\$805,332
<i>Resource Management Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,156,448</i>
Administration	
General Administration	\$10,636
<i>Administration Subtotal</i>	<i>\$10,636</i>
Support	
Land Management Planning	\$103,285
Land Management Reviews	\$20,133
Training/Staff Development	\$5,339
Vehicle Purchase	\$68,433
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$53,816
Other	\$13,274
<i>Support Subtotal</i>	<i>\$264,280</i>
Capital Improvements	
New Facility Construction	\$89,694
Facility Maintenance	\$311,312
Capital Improvements Subtotal	\$401,006
Visitor Services/Recreation	
Info/Education/Operations	\$60,032
<i>Visitor Services/Recreation Subtotal</i>	<i>\$60,032</i>
Law Enforcement	
Resources Protection	\$40,501
<i>Law Enforcement Subtotal</i>	<i>\$40,501</i>
TOTAL	\$1,932,903

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



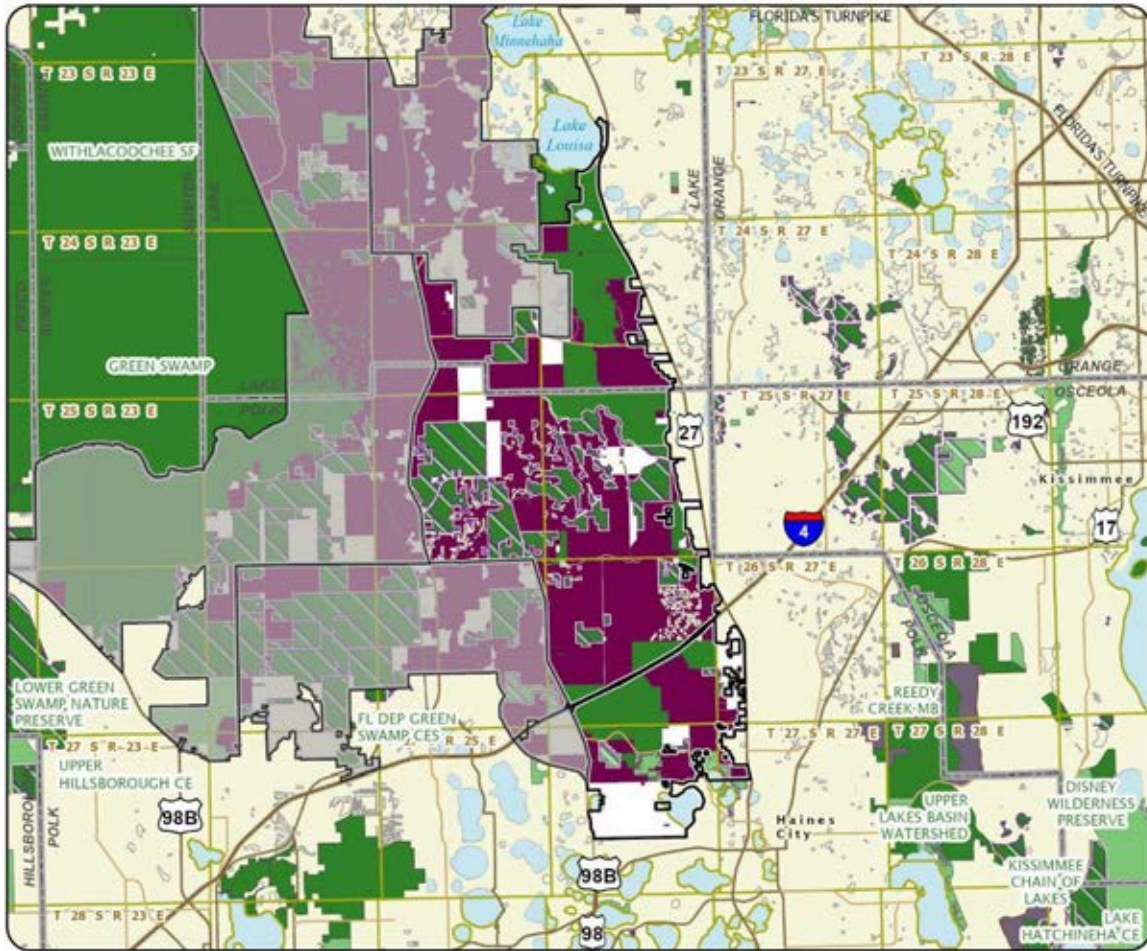


GREEN SWAMP: OVERVIEW

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

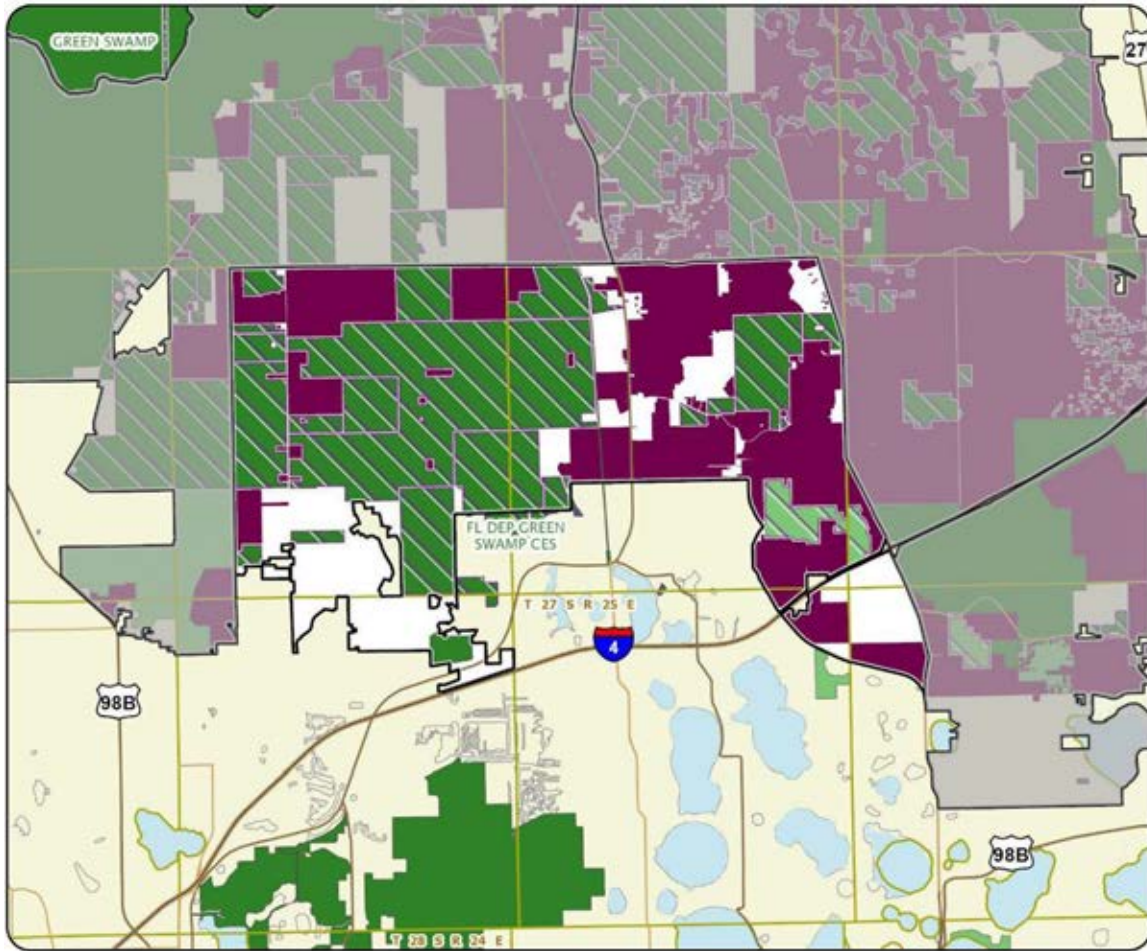




GREEN SWAMP HILOCHEE CORRIDOR

LAKE AND POLK COUNTIES

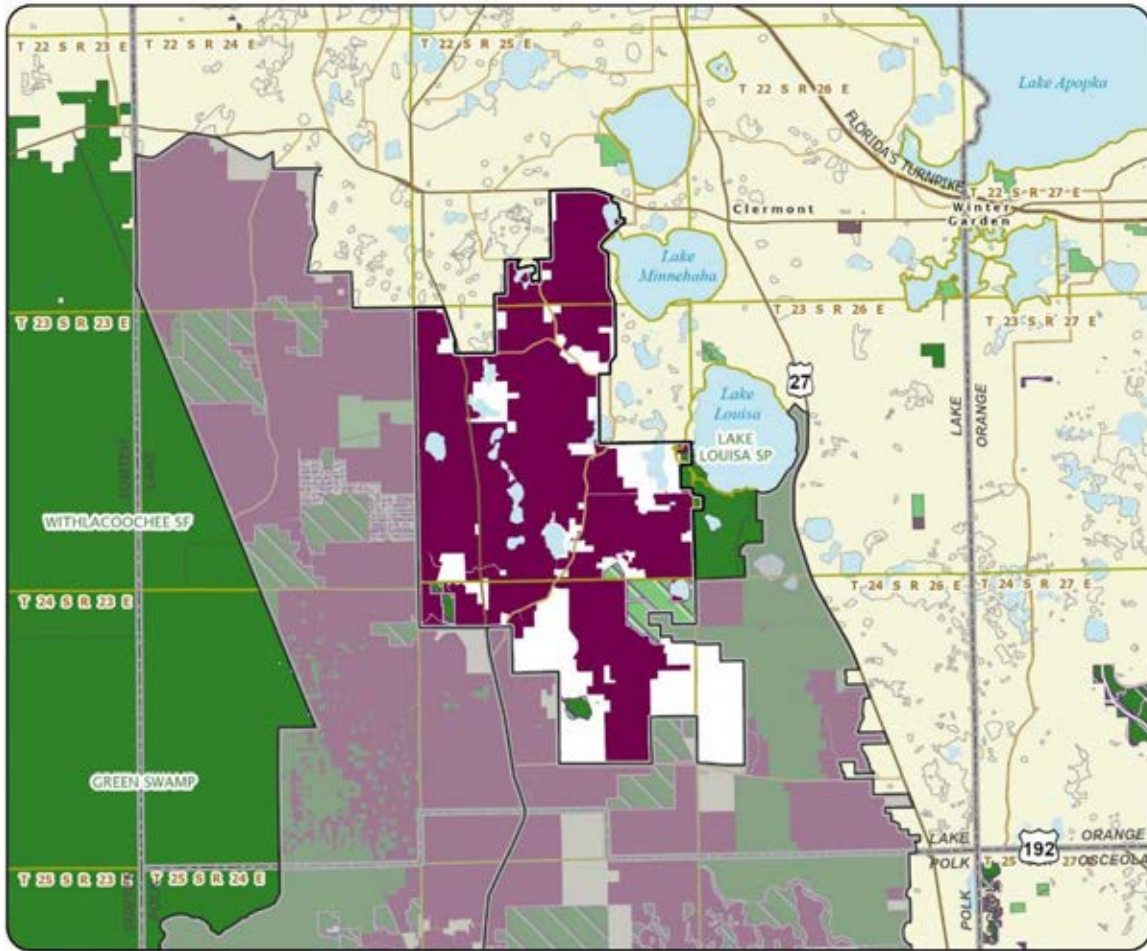




**GREEN SWAMP
PEACE RIVER HEADWATERS**

POLK COUNTY

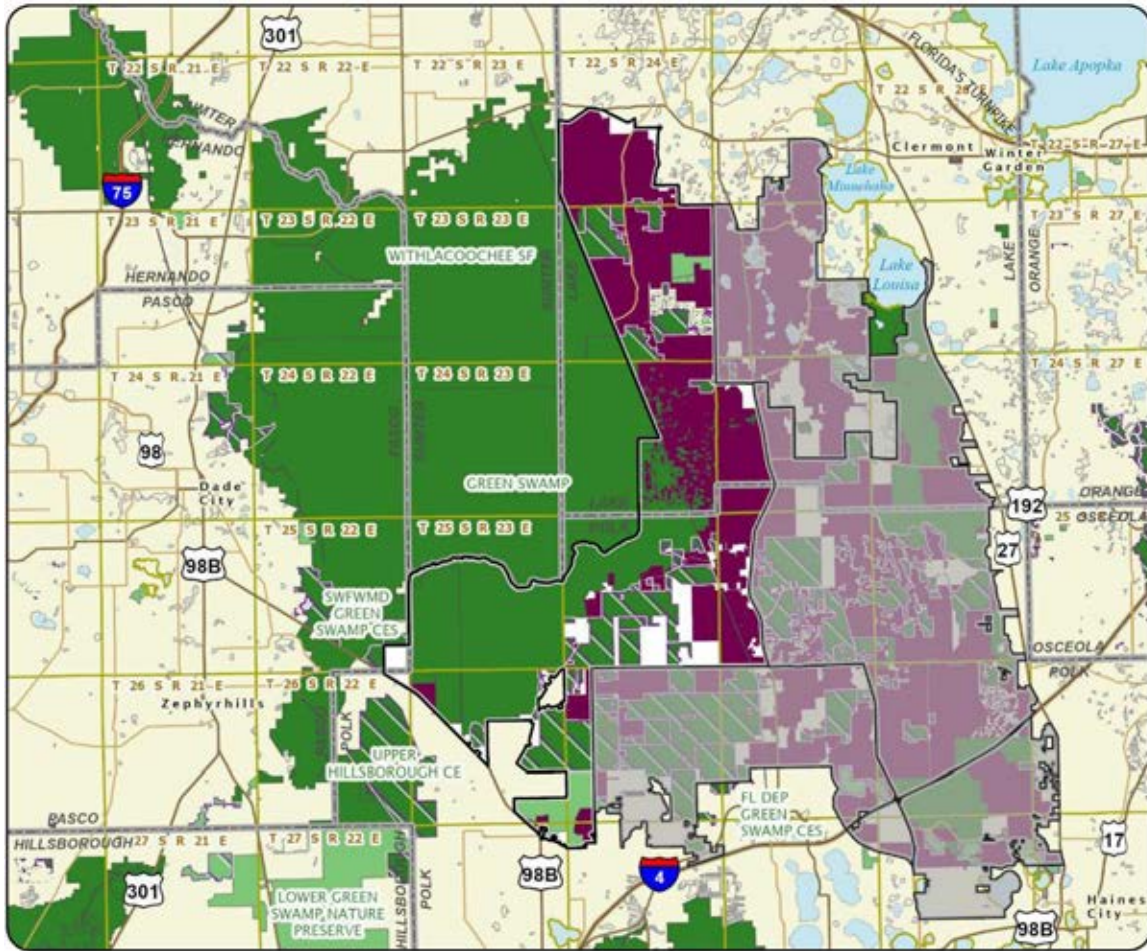




**GREEN SWAMP
PINE ISLAND RECHARGE AREA**

LAKE COUNTY





GREEN SWAMP WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER HEADWATERS

LAKE, PASCO, POLK, AND SUMTER COUNTIES



Hall Ranch

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Charlotte County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1997
<i>Project Acres</i>	8,519
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,104
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	7,415
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$37,371,040

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, red-cockaded woodpecker, crested caracara and southeastern fox squirrel. 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 the Florida black bear than for plants as no rare plants are known. It includes part of Shell Creek, which is 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4

Public Use

The project qualifies as a wildlife management area with uses such as hunting, hiking, camping and picnicking.





Acquisition Planning

1996

The project consists of one major owner, 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. The project was ranked for the first time in December 1996.

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council transferred the project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the 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 the project boundary.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is considered an acquisition partner on the 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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	\$59,415	\$59,415
OPS	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$32,000	\$32,000
OCO	\$48,128	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$144,543	\$96,415

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





HALL RANCH

CHARLOTTE COUNTY



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Heather Island/Ocklawaha River

Partnerships and Regional Incentives Marion
County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	20,103
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	6,320
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$1,165,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	13,783
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$63,736,692

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 and gopher tortoise, and create corridors for wildlife dispersal and floodplain protection. Given its diversity of wildlife species, quality of plant communities and strategic location, the project has substantial conservation attributes.

General Description

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project is located in Marion County and consists of a mosaic of upland and wetland communities with the majority being forested wetlands. Several conservation areas, including Ocala National Forest and the Cross Florida Greenway 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. The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project was previously on the Conservation and Recreational Lands 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. To date, the St. Johns River Water Management District has acquired approximately 4,465 acres within the original Conservation and Recreational Lands project boundaries.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>pinkroot</i>	G2/S2
Sand skink	G3/S3





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.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple project, sponsored by the Office of Greenways and Trails and St. Johns River Water Management District, consisted of approximately 19,949 acres, two landowners (Rayonier Timberland Corp. and Alawest-AI 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks as the Silver River Addition. The purchase is to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks.

2023

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of two parcels totaling approximately 149.54 acres in Marion County.

Coordination

The project will be acquired in partnership with the St. Johns River Water Management District, 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 the 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 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks (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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 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 Conservation and Recreational Lands Trust Fund. See the anticipated costs below. Revenue sources would likely include public use fees and timber harvests.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including DEP, Florida Forest Service and the St. Johns River Water Management District, in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>
Resource Management	\$271,345
Administration	\$75,494
Support	\$149,080
Capital Improvements	\$1,130,236
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$2,361
Law Enforcement	\$13,874
TOTAL	\$1,642,390

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>
Salary (2 FTE)	\$80,870
Expense	\$117,500
OCO	\$225,600
TOTAL	\$423,970

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



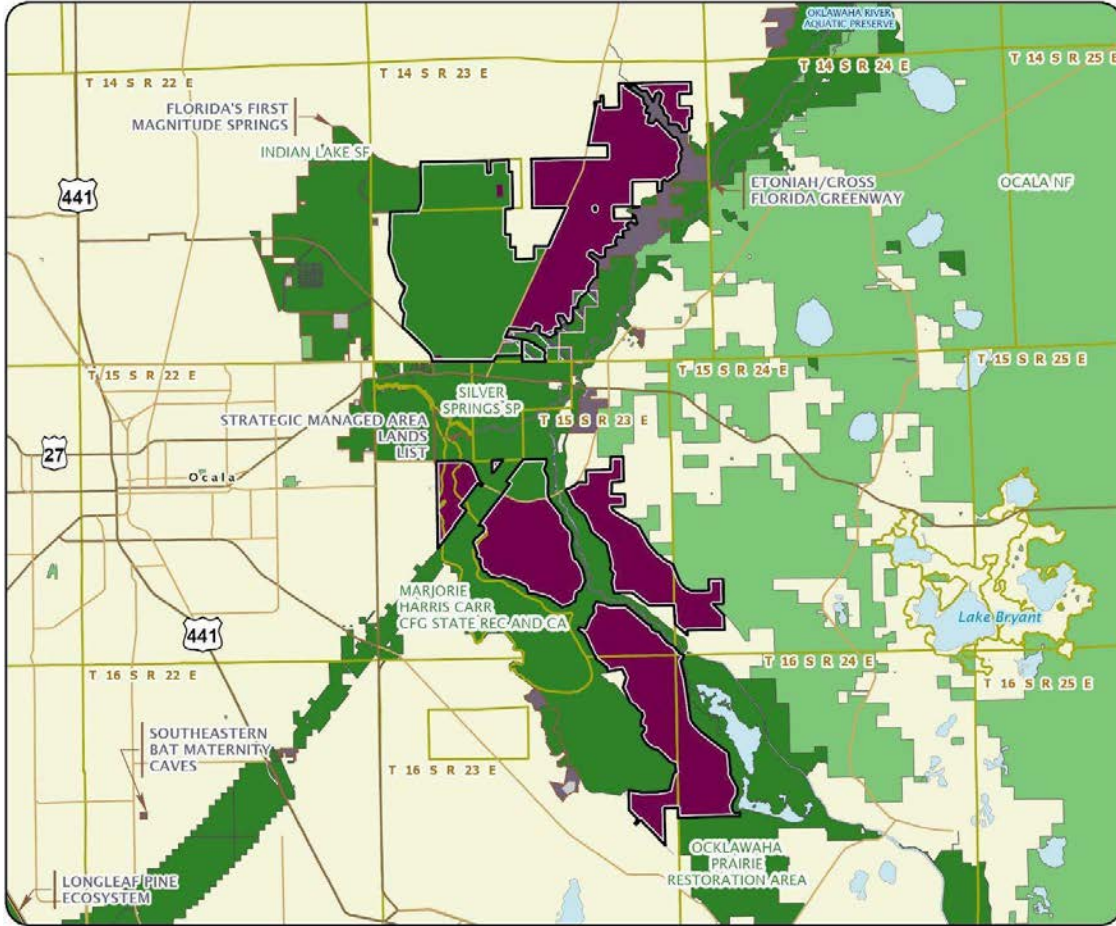


Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup
Expense	\$0
FCO	\$268,000
TOTAL	\$268,000

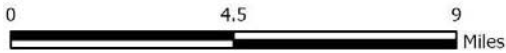
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





HEATHER ISLAND/OCKLAWAHA RIVER

MARION COUNTY



Indian River Lagoon Blueway

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Volusia Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1998
<i>Project Acres</i>	28,060
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	11,038
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$45,794,168
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	17,022
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$787,897,669

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 commercially 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Lakela's balm</i>	G1T1/S1
Atlantic salt marsh snake	G4T1Q/S1
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida lantana</i>	G2T1T2/S1S2
Gopher tortoise copris beetle	G2/S2
<i>perforate reindeer lichen</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>burrowing four-o'clock</i>	G3?/S2
Florida scrub lizard	G2G3/S2S3

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 property (449 acres), 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 and Brevard County acquired 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, which had 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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. The addition had multiple sponsors, consisted of multiple owners and had a 1999 taxable value of \$4,205,800. The addition was broken down as follows: Brevard County Snagg Point, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of 125 acres with a taxable value of \$1,246,520; Martin County Bon Air Beach, sponsored by the Town of Jupiter Island, consisted of 43 acres with a taxable value of \$1,116,000; and 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 established Groups A and B and moved the project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List.

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List.

2003

On August 15, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of Old Oak Lodge Preserve (14.8 acres) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Institute of Technology's Department of Marine and Environmental Systems, consisted of one owner (Indian River No. 1 Developer) and had a 2002 taxable value of \$685,170.

2005

On February 11, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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).

In 2005, the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired 14.63 acres.





2007

On February 16, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 194-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, consisted of one parcel and had 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 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 DEP's Florida Forever funds and \$656,666 from the St. Johns River Water Management District). The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage this addition.

On December 12, 2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 230-acre addition (Indian River Lagoon Blueway Harbor Branch, Phase II) in St. Lucie County to the project boundary. The addition had a tax-assessed value of \$33,756,700. The proposal, which was submitted as a stand-alone project, was designated as essential.

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 totaling 384 acres (136 acres by the Division of State Lands and 248 acres by the Department of Community Affairs) were purchased from Harbor Branch for \$24,040,488. These parcels will 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, 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District surplused 31.87 acres to Indian River County; the St. Johns River Water Management District 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District and DEP established a conservation easement on the NeoVerde Basin 21 Mitigation Bank.

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 (St. Johns River Water Management District and South Florida Water Management District) have sent resolutions in support of this project. The St. Johns River Water Management District and Brevard County have acquired more than 3,200 acres. A "161" agreement is in place over the tracts in the St. Johns River Water Management District.

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)

Management by the Division of Recreation and Parks centers around the Mullet Creek area. The 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 funding sources, and they would like to manage the lands under a single plan. Other agencies participating as cooperating managers are the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, Brevard Mosquito Control and Indian River Mosquito Control. Several of the previously listed cooperating managers are currently managing some of the tracts within the project boundaries. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wishes to participate in the management of some sites (including Phase II sites). Additionally, the St. Johns River Water Management District and South Florida Water Management District will likely be cooperating managers on some sites as part of their Surface Water Improvement and Management programs. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 lands 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 BOT 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 significant archaeological sites for professional investigation. Existing mosquito control impoundments will be reconnected to the Indian River Lagoon and rotational impoundment management implemented to meet both the goals of improved estuarine habitat and mosquito population management. Managed marshes offer excellent habitat for waterfowl and wading birds and viewing opportunities for the public.

Revenue-generating Potential

No revenue is expected to be 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

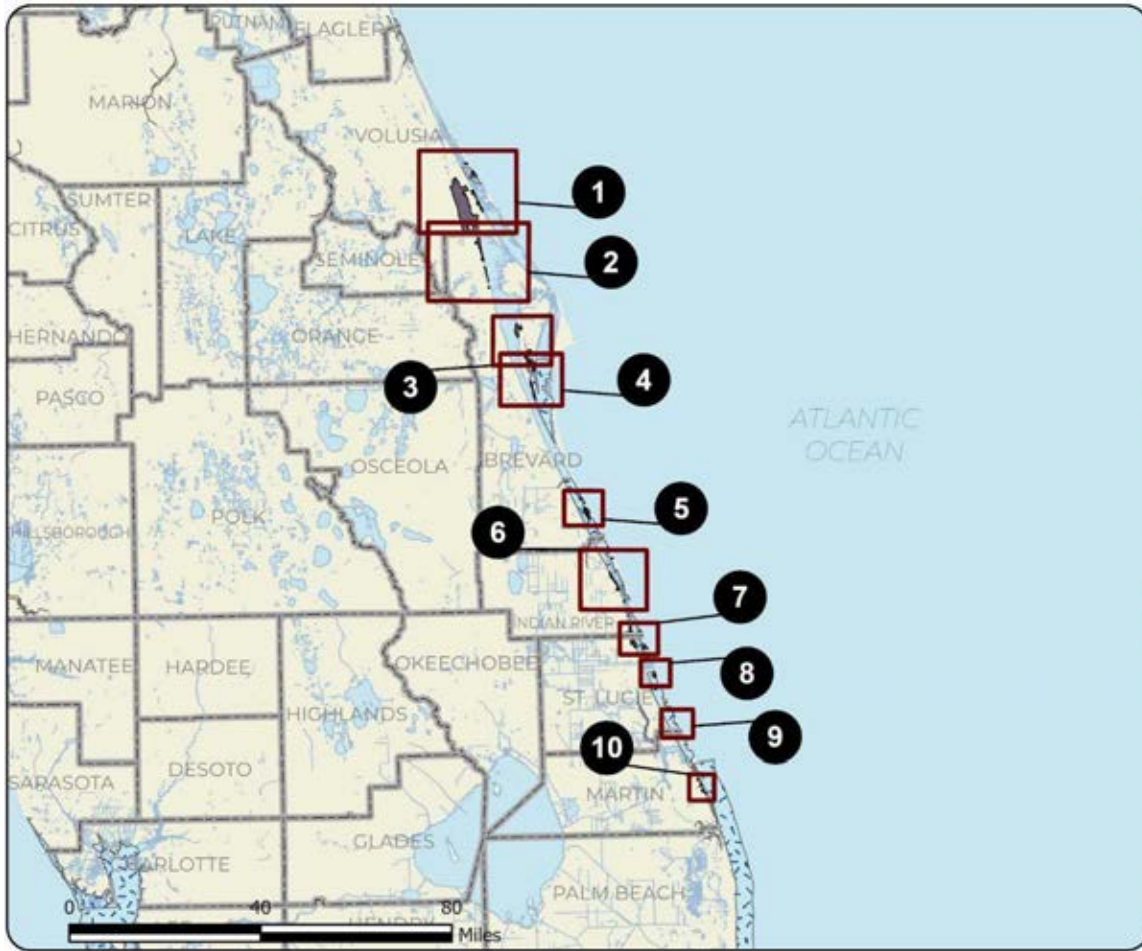
This project will require a great deal of coordination between the affected parties. The St. Johns River Water Management District, South Florida Water Management District, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties, and local mosquito control districts have all expressed interest 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
Special	\$20,311	not provided
FCO	\$0	not provided
Grant	\$15,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$180,054	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



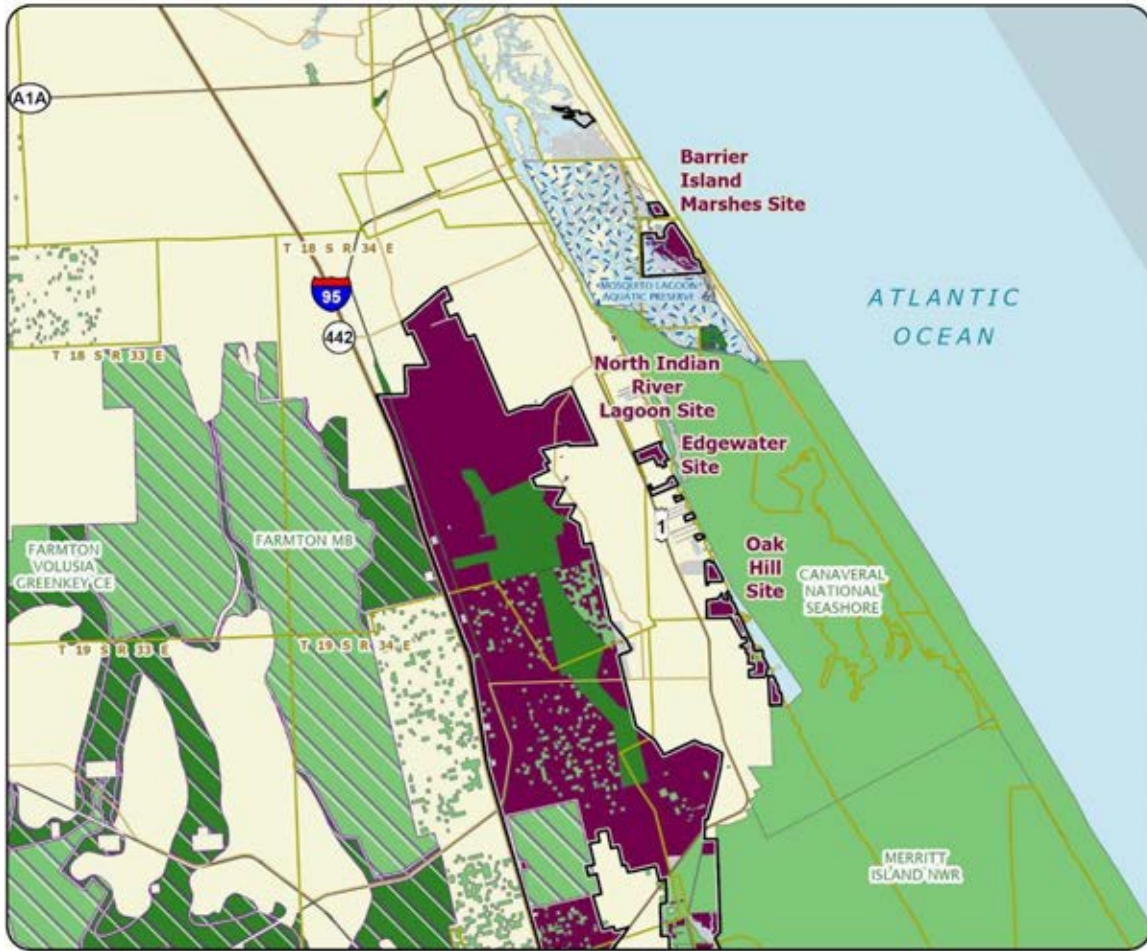


INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 1 Barrier Island Marshes Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Vossinbury Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 1 Edgewater Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Winter Beach Marsh Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 1 North Indian River Lagoon Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Avalon Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 1 Oak Hill Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Diamond Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 2 North Indian River Lagoon Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Harbor Branch Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 2 North Titusville Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Martin Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 3 Pine Island Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Oyster Bar Impoundment Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 3 Sykes Creek Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Pappas Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 4 East Merritt Island Impoundment Sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 7 Queens Island Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Hog Point Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 8 Bear Point Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Mullet Creek Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Hutchinson Island Addition Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Old Oak Lodge Preserve Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 9 Jensen Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Snagg Point Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 10 Corset Sound Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 5 Washburn Cove Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 10 Gomez Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Morgan's Impoundment Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 10 Hobe Sound Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map 6 Pelican Island Addition Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Map 10 Palmer Sound Site |

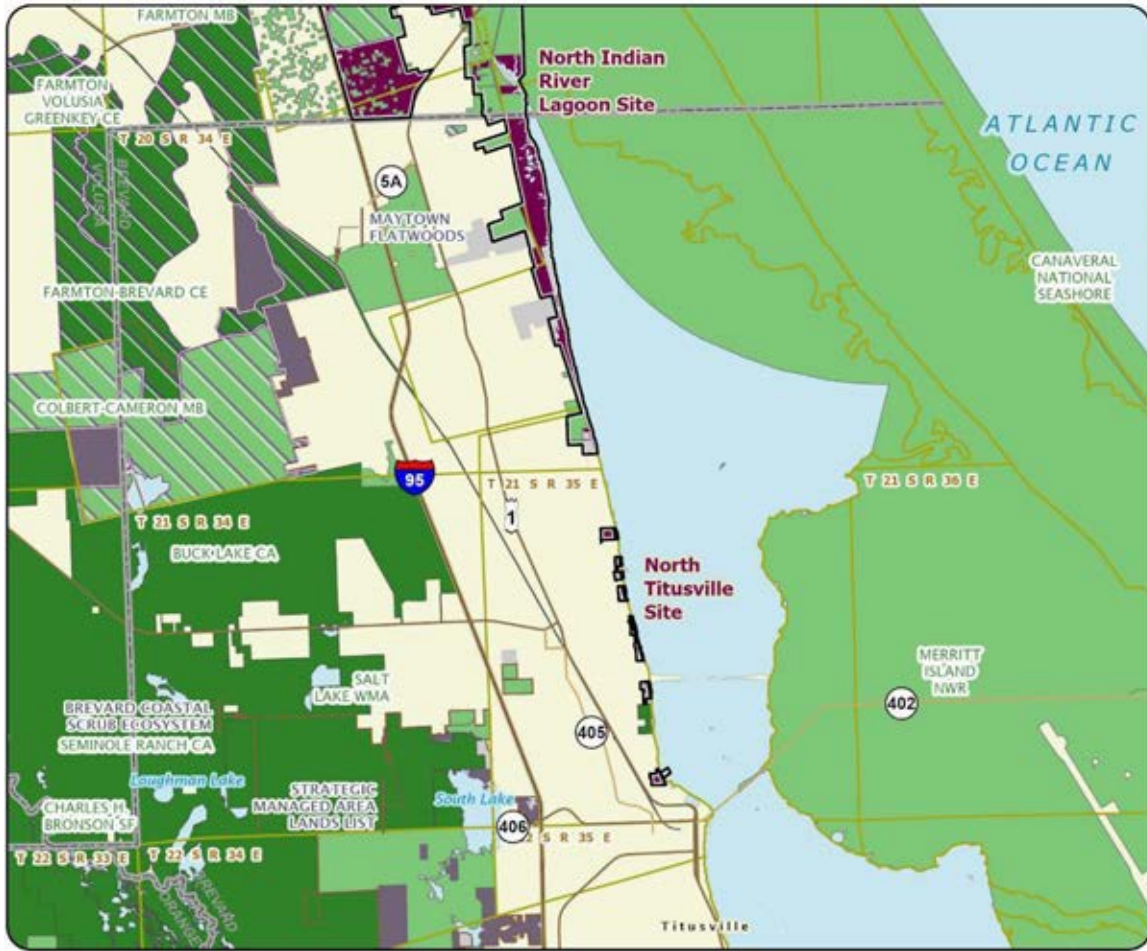




INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 1

VOLUSIA COUNTY

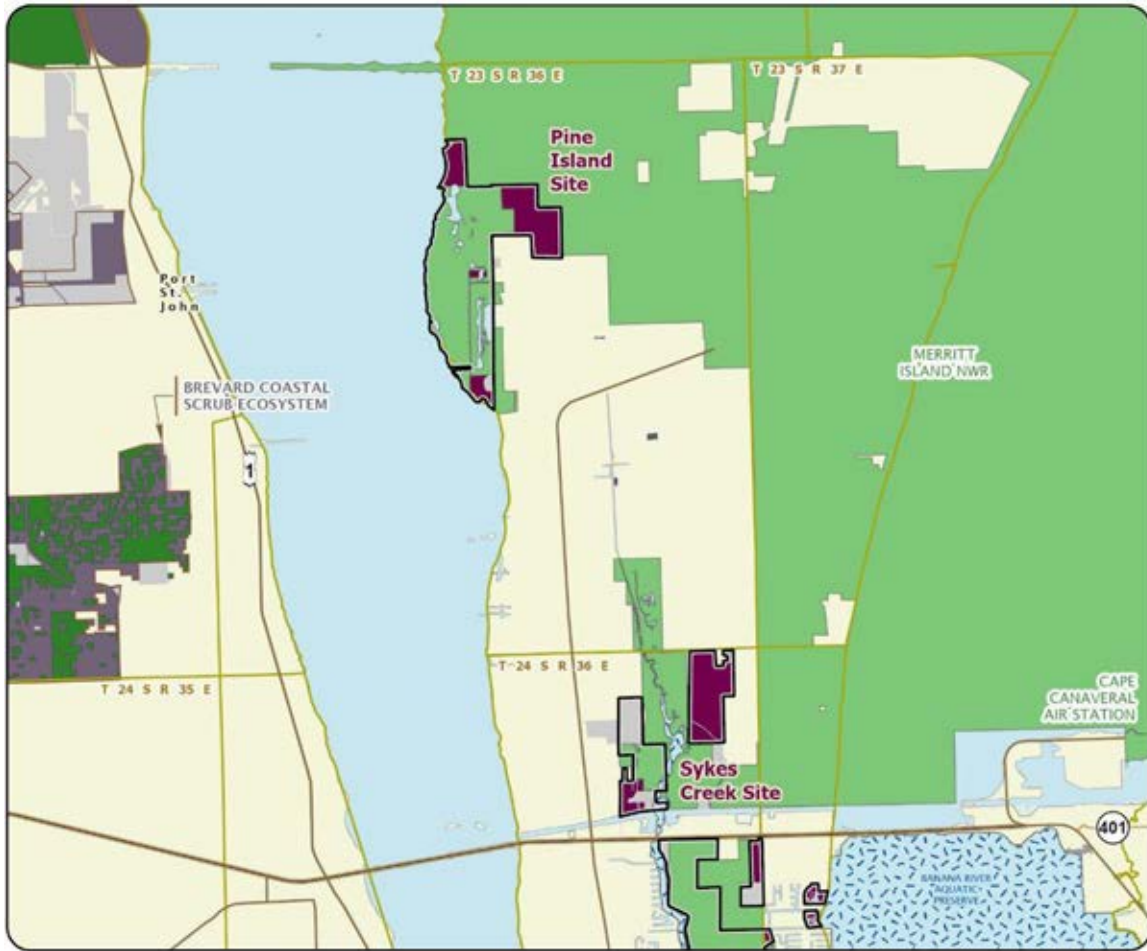




INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 2

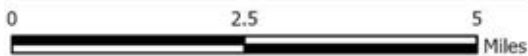
BREVARD AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

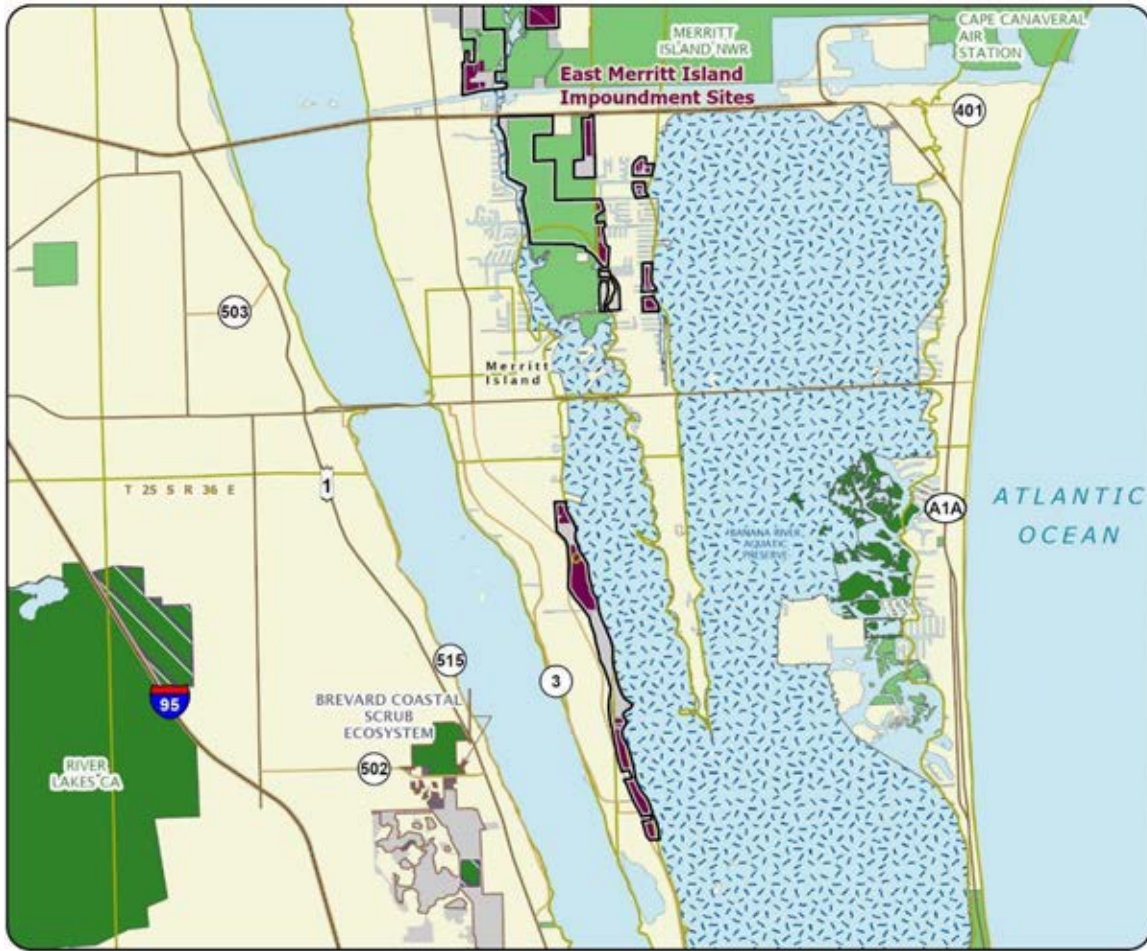




INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 3

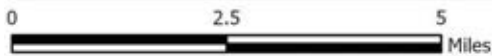
BREVARD COUNTY

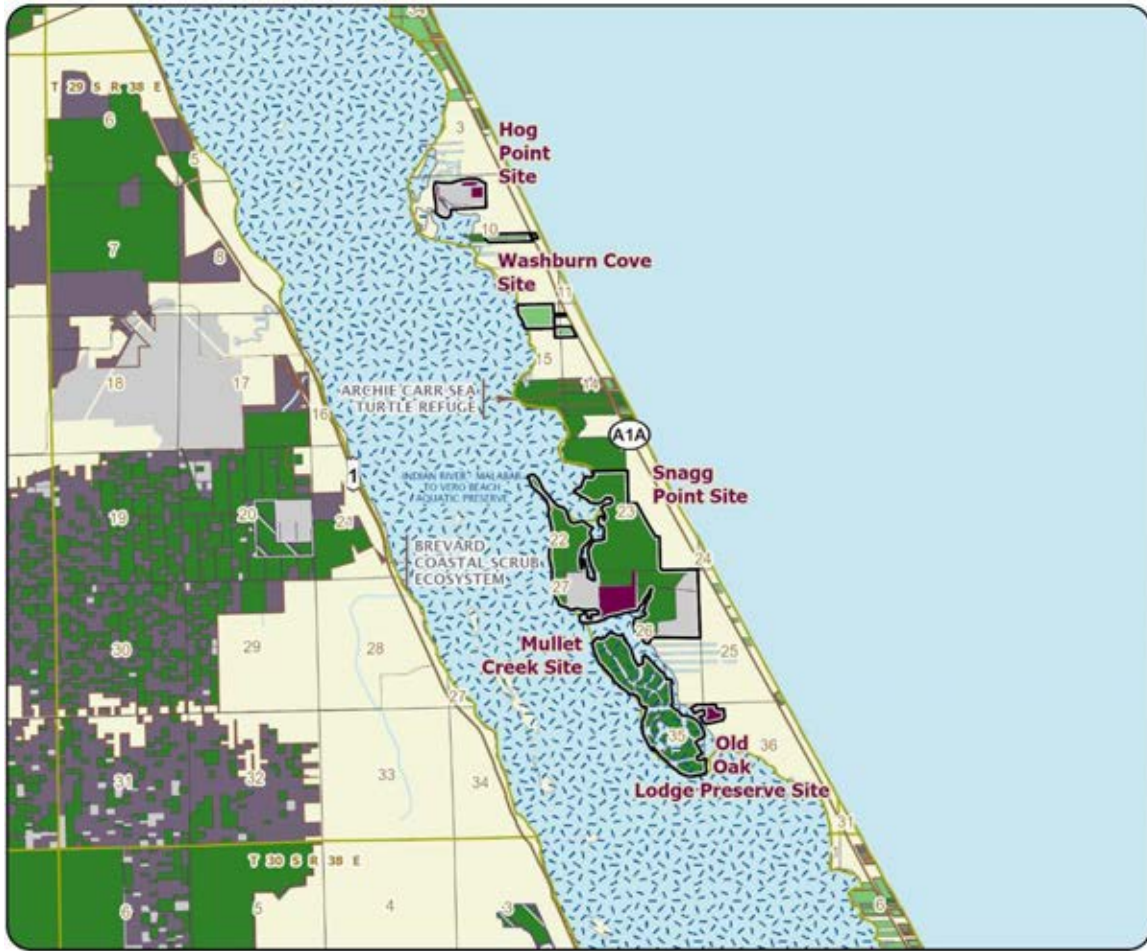




INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 4

BREVARD COUNTY





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 5

BREVARD COUNTY





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 6

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 7

INDIAN RIVER AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 8

ST. LUCIE COUNTY





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 9

MARTIN AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES





INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 10

MARTIN COUNTY



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Lafayette Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Lafayette County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2004
<i>Project Acres</i>	13,176
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,957
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$1,312,224
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	10,219
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$9,990,223

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lafayette Forest project creates a significant corridor connection between 70,000 acres of state and private 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 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 and floodplain swamps interspersed between pine silviculture plantations established on disturbed mesic and hydric flatwoods and sandhill community types.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback ratlesnake	G3/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 the project. Protection and restoration of the sensitive wetlands on the project will be a priority. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact to these areas.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Lafayette Forest project to Group B of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple project, sponsored by the Conservation Fund and Florida Forest Service, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

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 the project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that considers 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)

The Florida Forest Service is recommended as the lead manager.





Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Much of the acreage of the 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 the Florida Forest Service, public access will be immediately provided for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. The Florida Forest Service 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 and 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 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 the 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 the parcel for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and biking. This Management Prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered, and an analysis of the site is completed, the Florida Forest Service intends to apply for capital project funds.



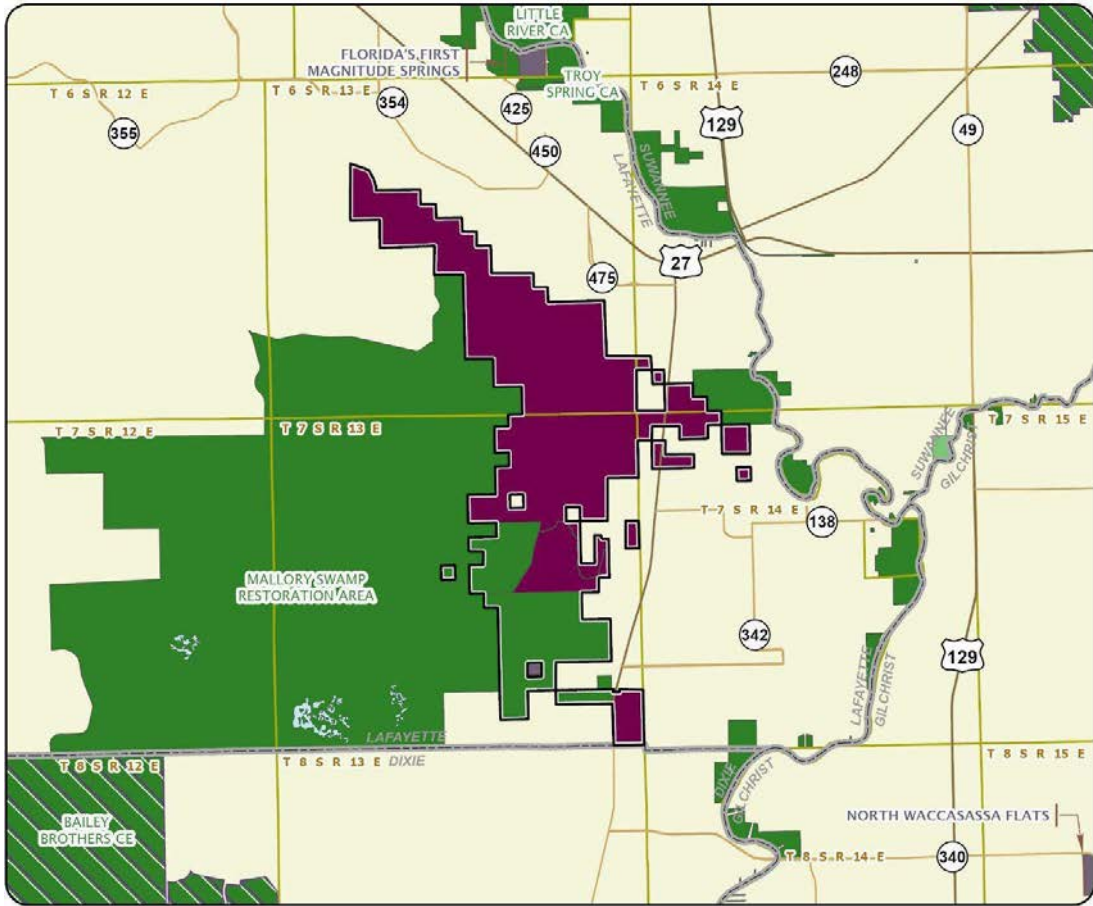


Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (3 FTE)	\$77,035	not provided
Expense	\$123,300	not provided
OCO	\$423,725	not provided
TOTAL	\$624,060	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





LAFAYETTE FOREST

LAFAYETTE COUNTY



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Lake Santa Fe

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua and Bradford Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2004
<i>Project Acres</i>	10,529
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,066
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$2,219,016
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,463
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$42,265,455

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 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4

Public Use

Several of the parcels in the project qualify for passive recreational opportunities including picnicking and nature trails. One parcel may provide opportunity for more diverse, but passive, opportunities such as canoeing, fishing and bird watching. Most parcels in the 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.

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. The 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 with the Lake Santa Fe shoreline protection a concurrent priority.

2008

On February 7, 2008, Alachua County and the Suwannee River Water Management District acquired the Lake Alto LLC Tract (120 acres) in Lake Alto Preserve North.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 174.5 acres from the project boundary 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

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 acre of the Padgett Tract in Lake Alto Preserve North.

Coordination

The Suwannee River Water Management District and Alachua County are acquisition partners. Originally, the Suwannee River Water Management District 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 to 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 and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project. Alachua County and the Suwannee River Water Management District purchases will be managed by those entities.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project is proposed for a unified Management Prospectus. Several parcels are adjacent to, and would provide buffer for, Suwannee River Water Management District'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).

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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; wetland drainage and silviculture conversion has contributed to the decline of the 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. The 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.

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the Conceptual Management Plan for the site. Examples of situations that will 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 managing 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 would 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 the 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 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

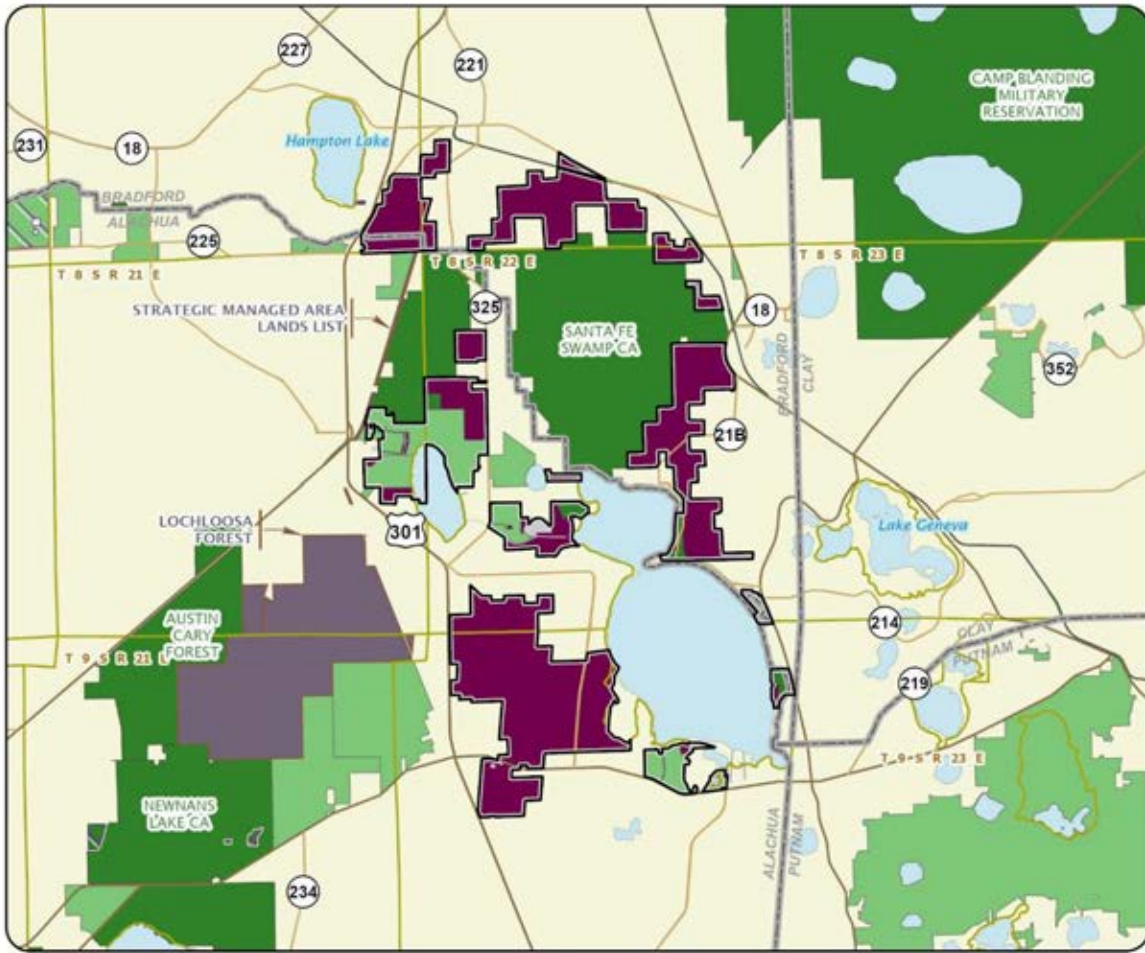
The unified managers (Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Suwannee River Water Management District, to manage the project area.

Management Cost Summary

FFS and FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Resource Management	\$170,478	\$184,467
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$1,412,903	\$124,743
Visitor/Recreation	\$2,404	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$7,518	\$7,158
TOTAL	\$1,817,877	\$373,208

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





LAKE SANTA FE

ALACHUA AND BRADFORD COUNTIES



Lochloosa Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2016
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,693
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	4,693
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$5,227,536

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 and Lake Santa Fe Florida Forever projects. The project closes a gap between Austin Carey Forest in Gainesville (University of Florida) and Balu County Park in Waldo (Alachua County). 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 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 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 Carey Forest. The project was introduced to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for evaluation on June 17, 2016, and advanced to the next phase of review.

On October 21, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Carey Forest, with emphasis on wildlands education and training. The Florida Forest Service 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





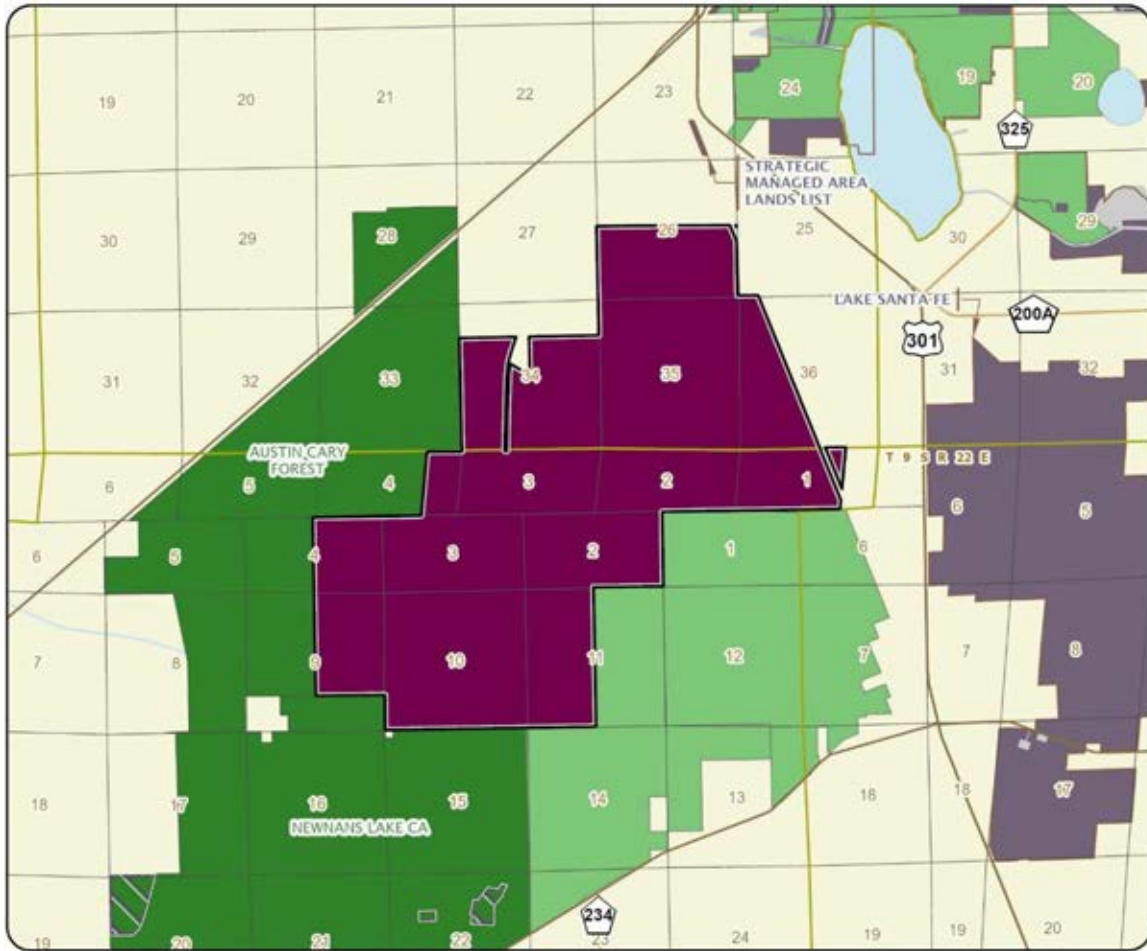
expenses. The University of Florida would be responsible for these costs, which would be periodically offset with such revenue as timber sales, hunting leases, pine straw harvesting and other sales.

Management Cost Summary

UF/IFAS	Annual
Source of Funds	UF/IFAS
Salary	\$40,000
Student employee/OPS	\$15,000 -\$26,000
TOTAL	\$365,000

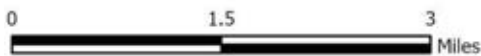
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





LOCHLOOSA FOREST

ALACHUA COUNTY



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Middle Chipola River

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Calhoun and Jackson Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1996
<i>Project Acres</i>	14,761
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,646
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$828,600
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	12,115
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$41,017,379

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 the 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 and includes almost 8,000 acres of mostly second-growth hardwood forest. The Chipola River is a major tributary and drainage basin of the Apalachicola River. The Chipola River itself has an interesting combination of alluvial and spring-run characteristics. Its high banks underlain by limestone support several rare plants, one of which is the globally imperiled ciliate-leaf chickseed that is among eight plants of conservation concern on the site. Rare to imperiled animal species include alligator snapping turtle, at least four bivalve mollusks, five rare fishes, three rare salamanders and Barbour's map turtle. The project will help protect the water quality of the Chipola 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Southern elktoe	G1/S1
Chipola slabshell	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
Rayed creekshell	G2G3/S1
Alabama shad	G2?/S1S2
Apalachicola cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2

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.

Acquisition Planning

1996

The Middle Chipola River project’s essential tracts are Land (acquired), Trammell (impasse) and Florida Public Utilities Co. (acquired). The Waddell’s Mill Pond project’s 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; 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 project 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 combined the Less-Than-Fee Middle Chipola project with the Full Fee Middle Chipola project and moved both projects to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2005

In 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the Florida Forever Project List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the Middle Chipola River project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2017

On October 20, 2017, the Acquisition and Restoration Council amended the project boundary to add 6 acres, which would place the single-ownership parcel near a popular access point to the Chipola River completely within the boundary for future acquisition.

2018

On August 24, 2018, Acquisition and Restoration Council members added four parcels totaling 156 acres surrounding the Peacock Bridge boat ramp in Jackson County to the project boundary. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory reported that the addition contributes to Ecological Greenways, Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Natural Floodplain Function, Surface Water Protection and Aquifer Recharge. More than half (85 percent) contributes to Florida Natural Areas Inventory Habitat Conservation Priorities and Sustainable Forestry.

2020

On December 11, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 49.41 acres in Jackson County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 to Florida Caverns State Park and ultimately the Middle Chipola River project. The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 Chipola 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 Chipola River with original species; strictly limit timbering in natural hardwood forests adjacent to the Chipola River; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually protecting the water quality and scenic values of the Chipola 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.

The 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)

The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the land next to Florida Caverns State Park and a 7-mile stretch adjacent to “Look and Tremble Shoals.” Any conservation easements acquired in the project will be monitored by the Division of State Lands. The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 state 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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.





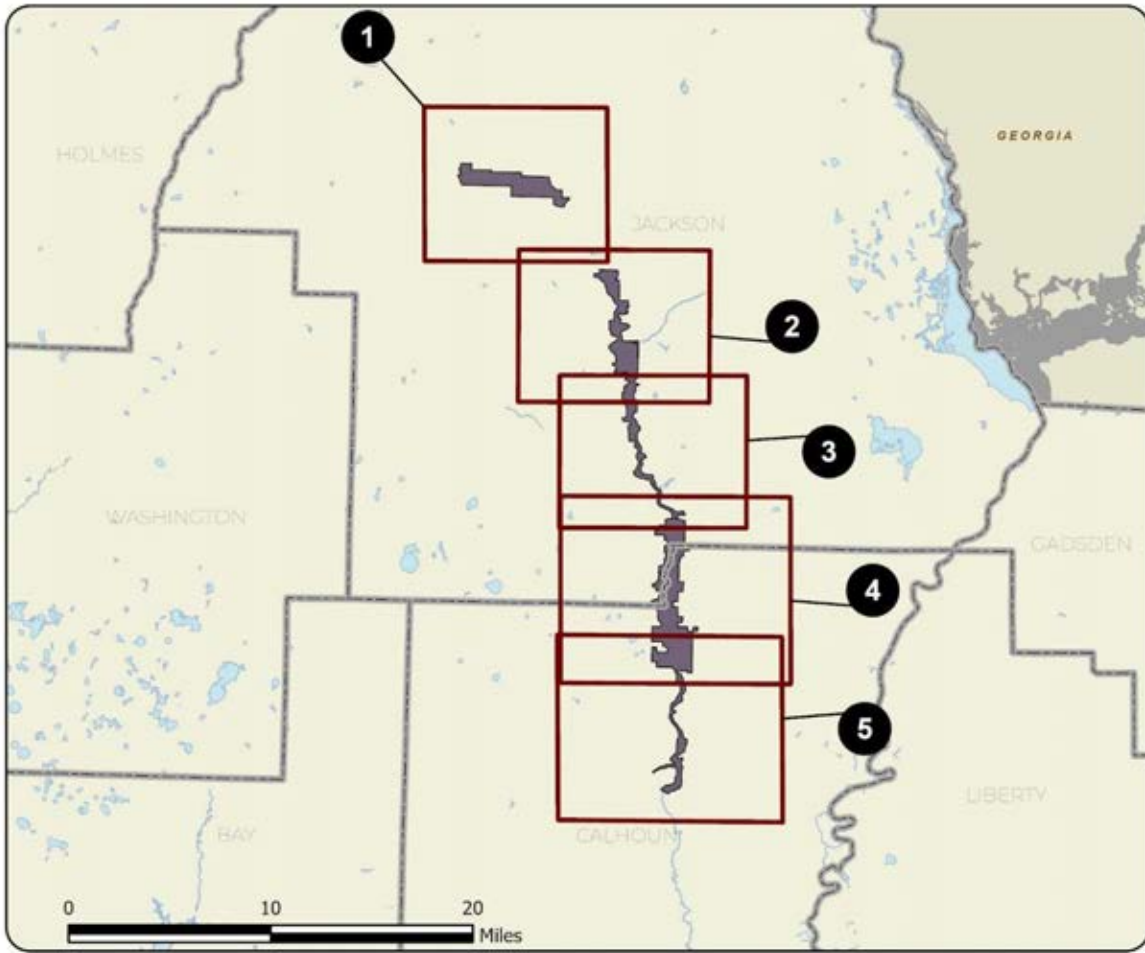
Revenue-generating Potential

No significant revenue is expected to be generated from the 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 for the property.

Cooperators in Management Activities

No cooperators are recommended for the tract. However, consultation with the Northwest Florida Water Management District on water-related matters and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on wildlife issues will be enlisted as needed.

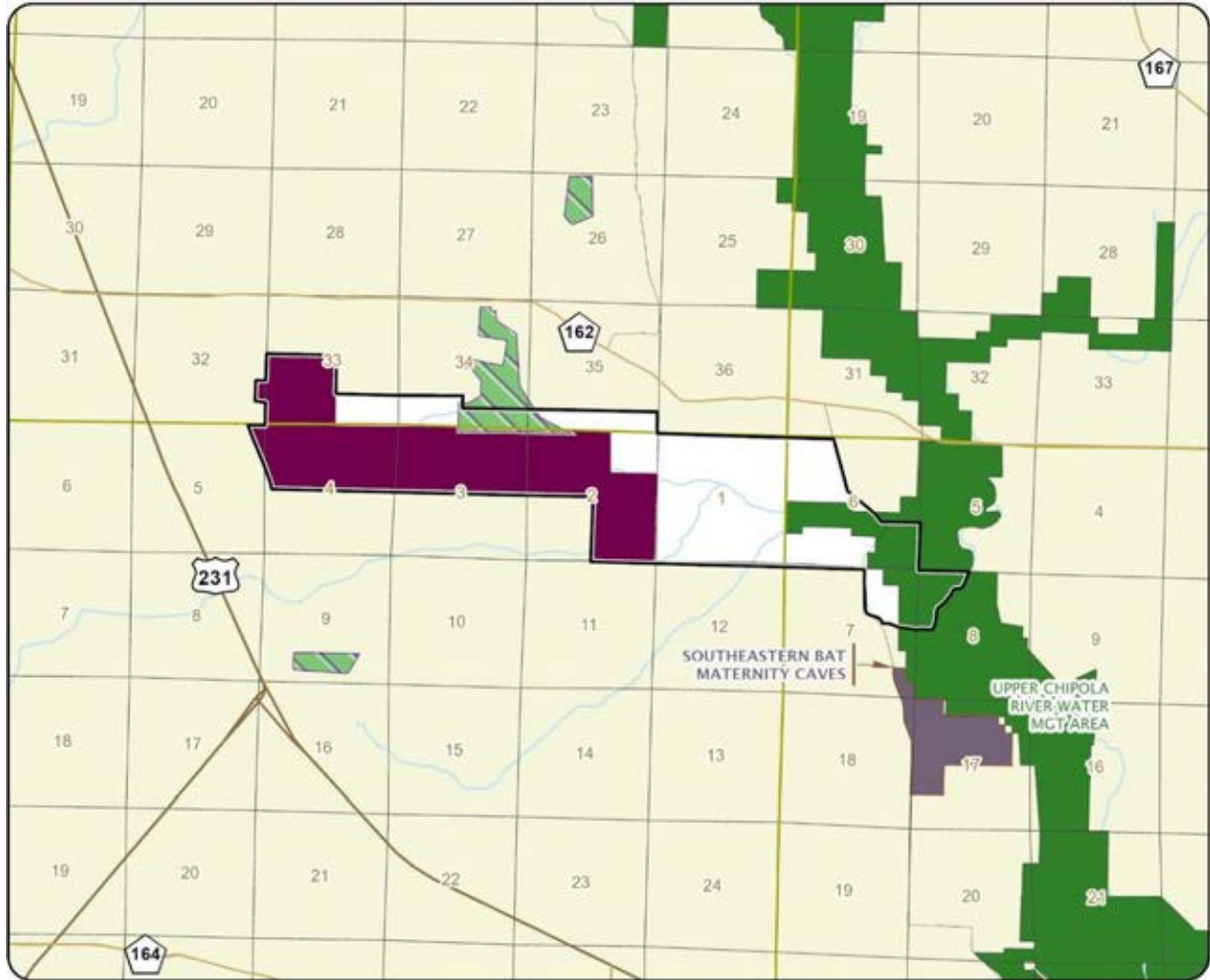




MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

CALHOUN AND JACKSON COUNTIES

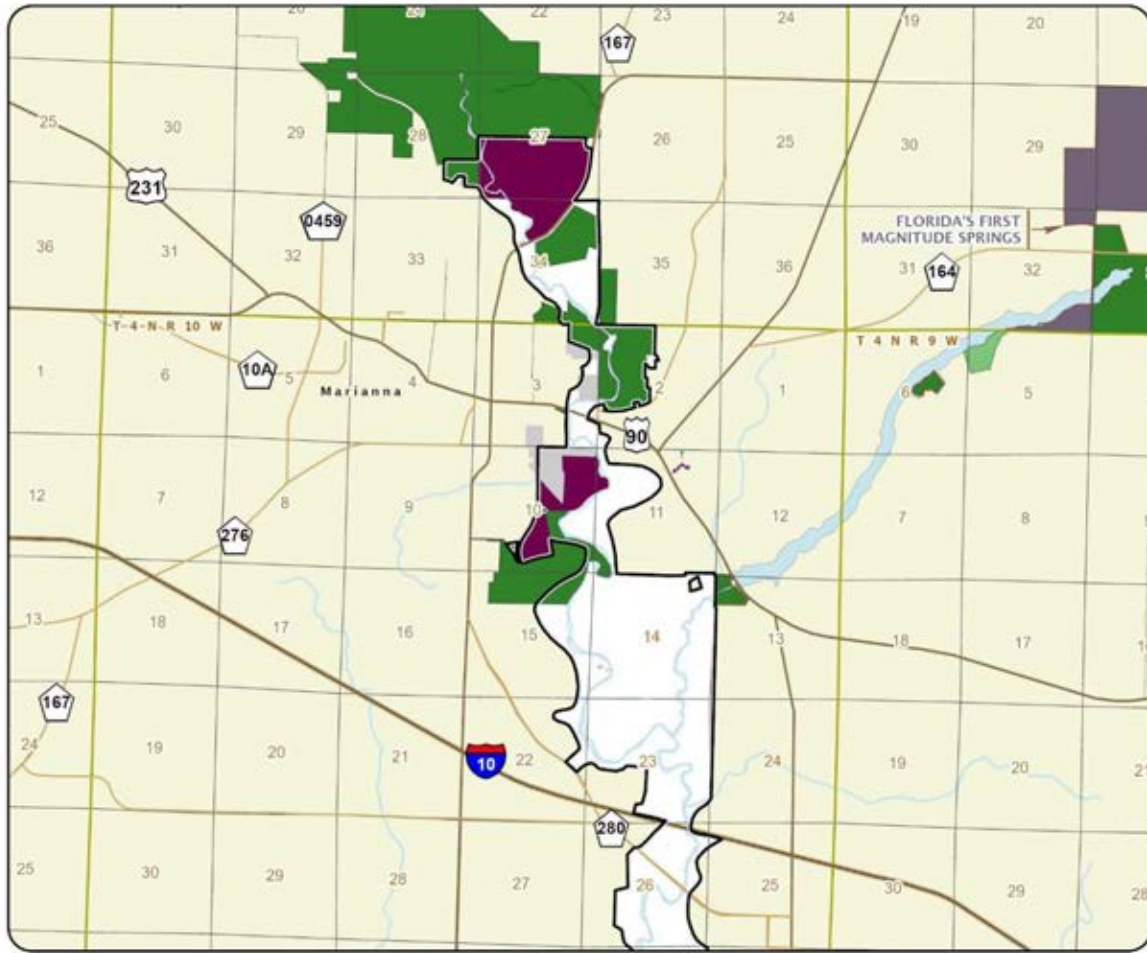




MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 1

JACKSON COUNTY

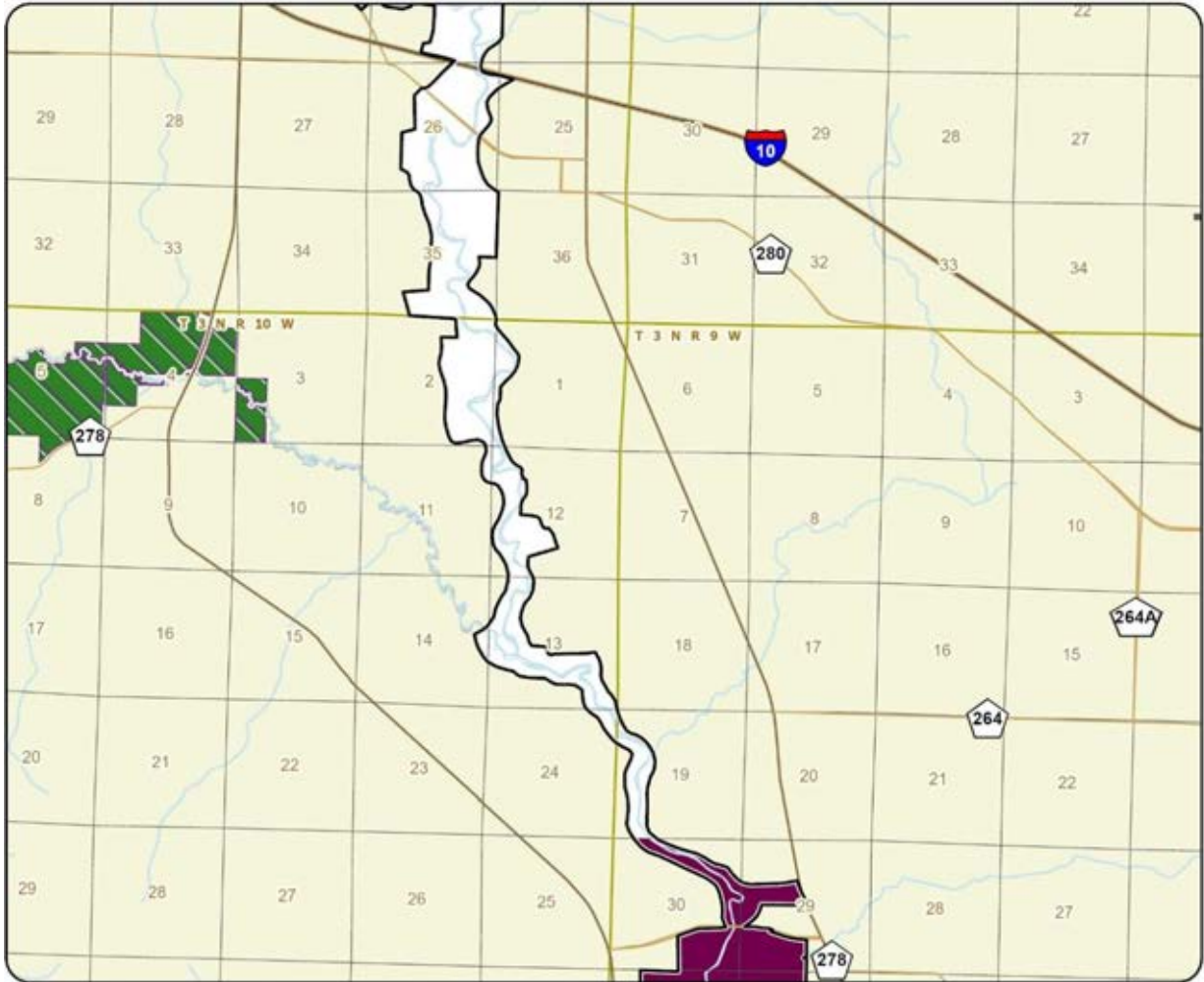




MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 2

JACKSON COUNTY

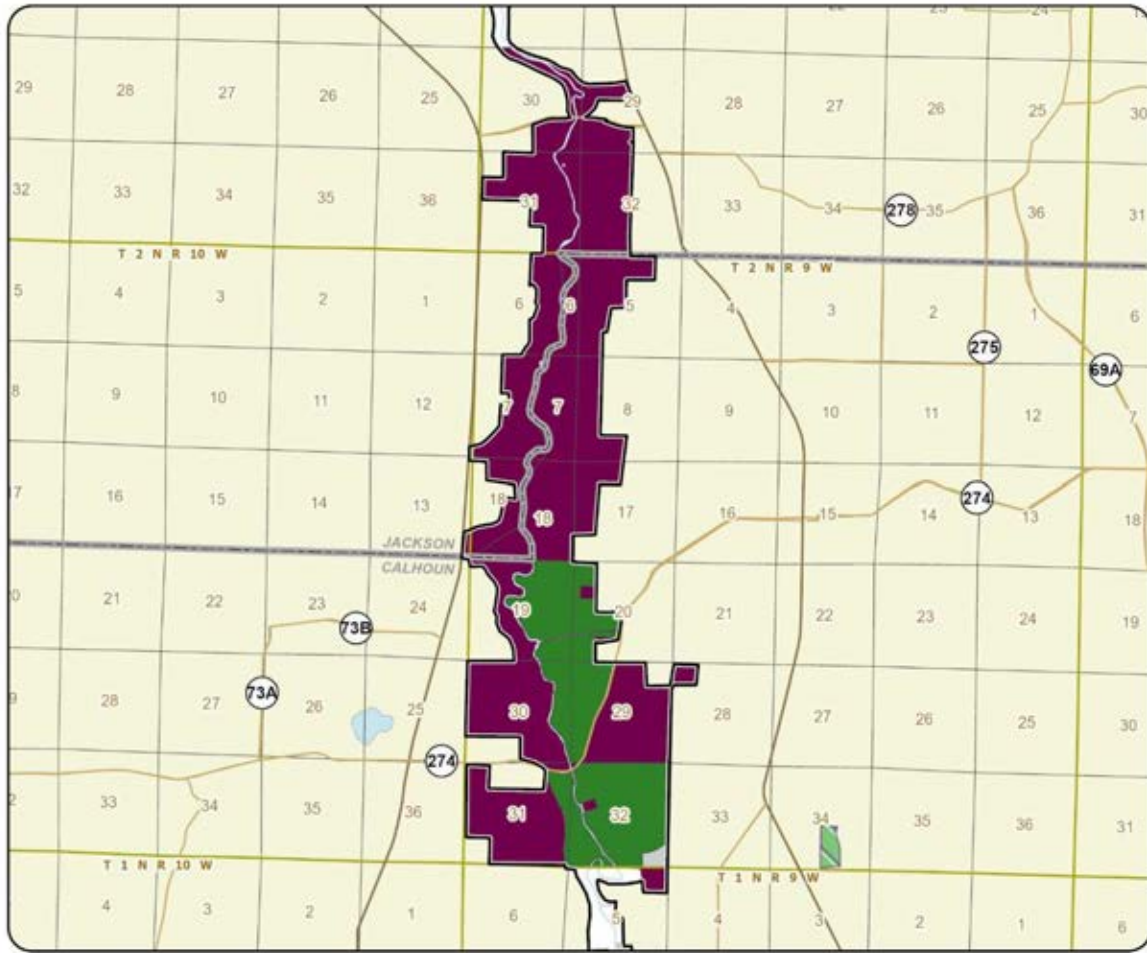




MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 3

JACKSON COUNTY

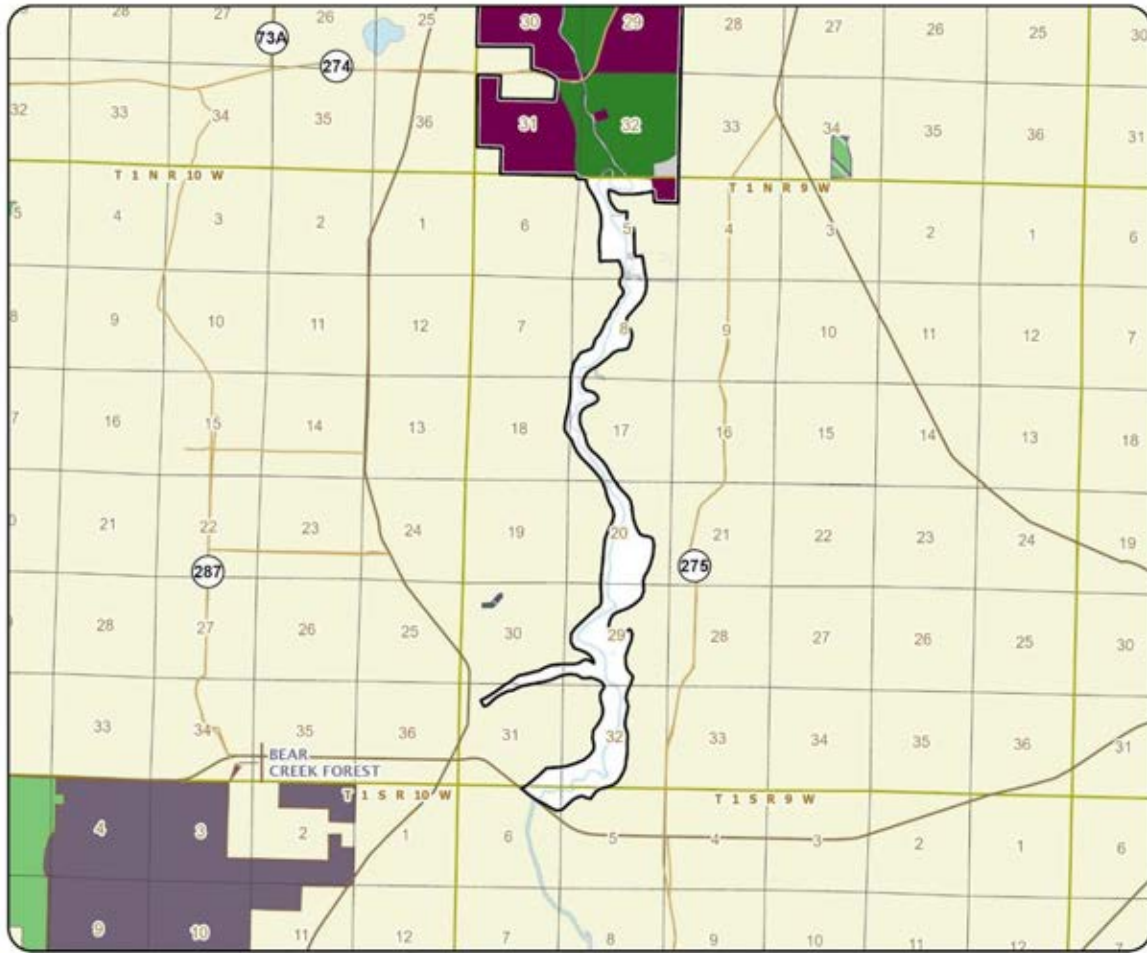




MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 4

CALHOUN AND JACKSON COUNTIES





MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 5

CALHOUN COUNTY



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Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	147,431
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	78,852
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$141,546,558
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	68,579
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$1,944,099,385

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, gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake and red-cockaded woodpecker. 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 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 Camp Blanding Military Reservation and Etoniah Creek State Forest. About three-fourths of the land is used, or has been used, for silviculture. It also includes mesic flatwoods, cypress and hardwood swamp, sandhills and associated plant communities.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>pineland scurfpea</i>	G1/S1
<i>ciliate-leaf tickseed</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida toothache grass</i>	G2/S2
<i>variable-leaf crownbeard</i>	G2/S2
Black Creek crayfish	G2/S2
<i>hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Thorne's beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2

Public Use

The Florida Forest Service 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 recommended the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve project for Group A of the 2022 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple and less-than-fee project was in Clay, Duval and Nassau counties and sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, the City of Jacksonville and St. Johns River Water Management District. 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, Bostwick, Klieg, Bullock, 1st Bank and Trust, Rayonier, International Paper, Motes, Boyd, Southern Region Industrial Realty, Inc., East Fiftone Partners, Monticello Drugs, St. Joe, Barnet 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 (96.96 acres) of the Yellow Water Branch Trail Head.

On October 31, 2002, the city of Jacksonville acquired the Corwith Davis tract (169.46 acres) of the Yellow Water Branch Trail Head.

2003

On June 6, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 506-acre addition, known as the Norfolk Southern property, in Duval County to the project boundary. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, 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) was 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). The St. Johns River Water Management District established a conservation easement on the Loblolly Mitigation Preserve.

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 7,043-acre addition, known as the Four Creeks Forest tract, in Nassau County to the project boundary. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a 3,500-acre addition, known as the Bull Creek tract, in Clay County to the project boundary. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, consisted of one landowner, Ventura LLC, and a taxable value of \$760,646.

2005

On December 28, 2005, the BOT purchased 3,939 acres from the city of Jacksonville as an addition to Cary State Forest.





2006

On June 30, 2006, the BOT purchased 1,651 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

2007

On February 16, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 2,665-acre addition to the Bull Creek portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, consisted of one landowner, 1621 Venture II LLC, nine parcels and a taxable value of \$445,189. The Florida Forest Service will manage these essential parcels.

On April 9, 2007, Thomas Creek Mitigation Bank (598 acres) is issued.

On September 14, 2007, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Longbranch Crossing conservation easement (2,684.7 acres).

2008

On December 19, 2008, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Arahatchee conservation easement (900 acres).

2009

On September 22, 2009, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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 Division of State Lands purchased 15 acres from Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P. for \$18,108 using Florida Forever funds for the Florida Forest Service to manage.

2011

On April 25, 2011, the Pacet tract (3.95 acres) was donated to be included in Four Creeks State Forest. On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnership 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Phase I conservation easement (554.5 acres) on Highlands Ranch Mitigation Bank.





2016

On April 20, 2016, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Phase II conservation easement (547.42 acres) on Highlands Ranch Mitigation Bank.

2018

On February 16, 2018, the Acquisition and Restoration Council expanded the project boundary to include approximately 300 acres in Nassau County (Studdard Tract), a partial inholding within Four Creeks State Forest.

On August 24, 2018, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added a parcel to the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve. This 52-acre parcel in Nassau County is an inholding in Four Creeks State Forest.

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.

Coordination

In 1992, the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail was acquired with Florida Greenways and Trails funds. The trail, which meanders through the project, is managed by the city of Jacksonville. The St. Johns River Water Management District 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. The Nature Conservancy, city of Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida Communities Trust and U.S. Navy are also considered partners in the project.

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Forest Service proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with Florida Forest Service management of Cary State Forest, Jennings State Forest and the Cecil Field Conservation Corridor, all of which are adjacent to the project. The acquisition goals and objectives, as approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council, 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)

The Florida Forest Service 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 the Florida Forest Service 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 related management costs are expected to be high initially to obtain necessary information to restore and manage portions as a state forest. It is recognized that a portion of the project will be less-than-fee simple. This technique is valuable on the fringes of urban growth because it allows the landowners to manage the property as they have been managing it, and continuing to produce forest products for Florida's economy, while protecting the property from conversion to urban growth.

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

Once the core areas of the project are acquired and assigned to the Florida Forest Service, 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 Trust Fund.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government agencies and other interested parties as appropriate. The Florida Forest Service intends to coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding game and non-game management activity and related public use of the property.



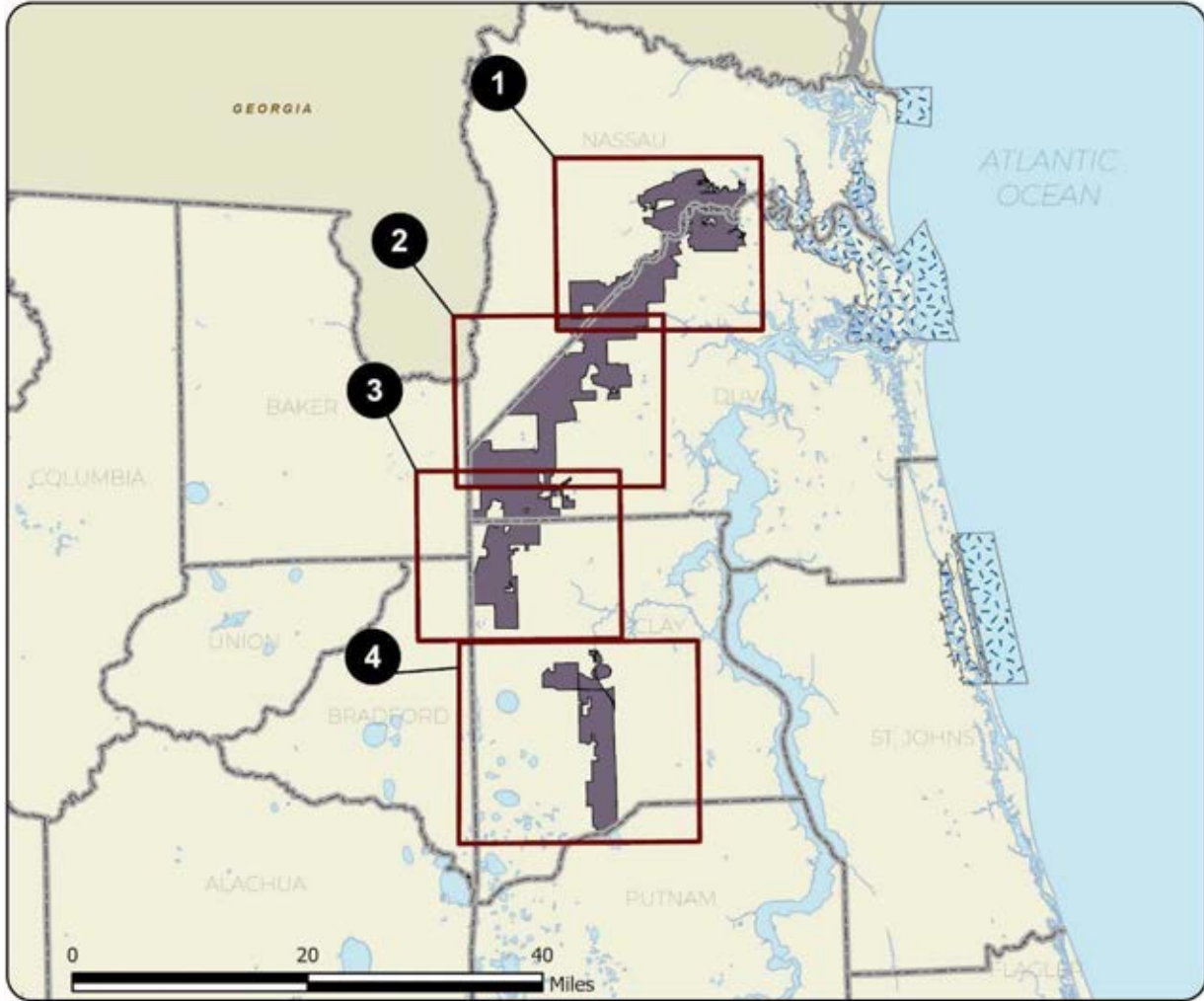


Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Source of Funds	CARL
Salary (4 FTEs)	\$154,357
Expense	\$620,000
OCO	\$148,075
TOTAL	\$922,432

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

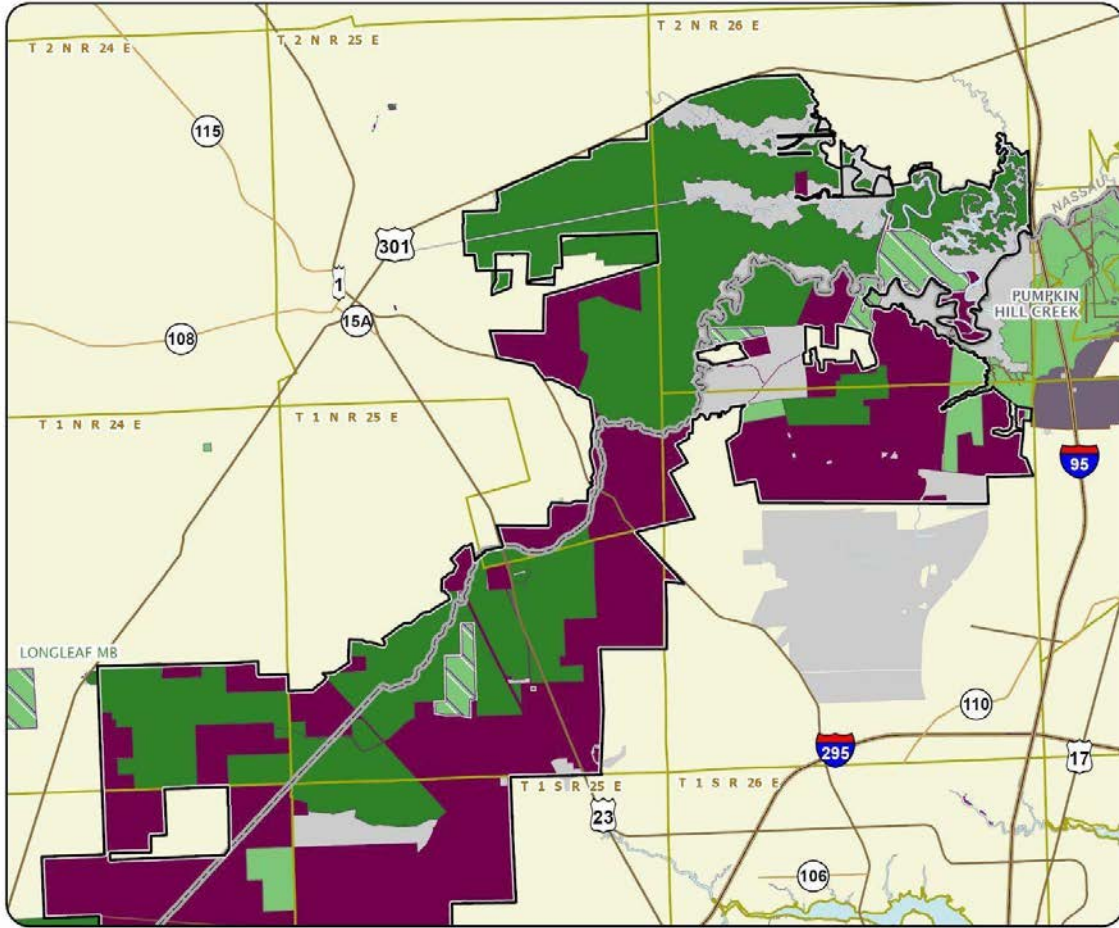




NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: OVERVIEW

CLAY, DUVAL, AND NASSAU COUNTIES

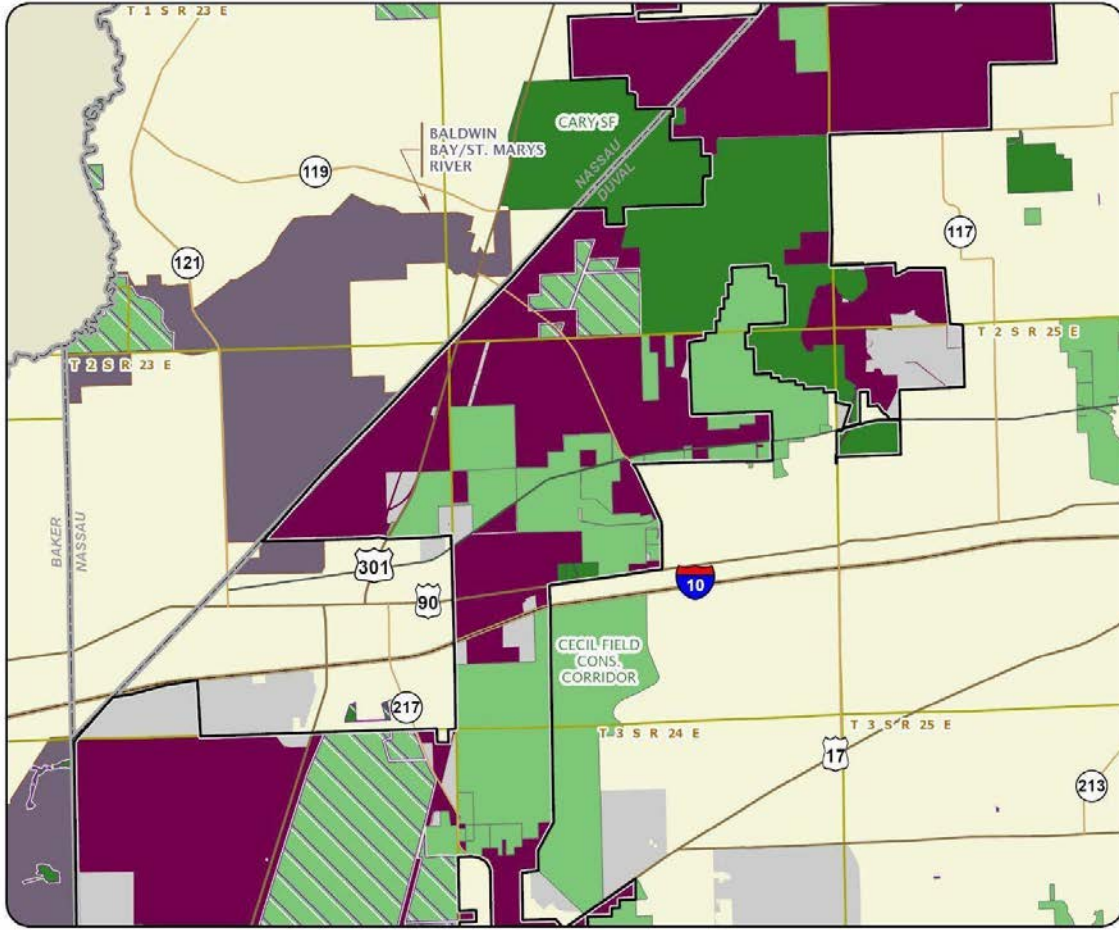




**NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE:
MAP 1**

DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

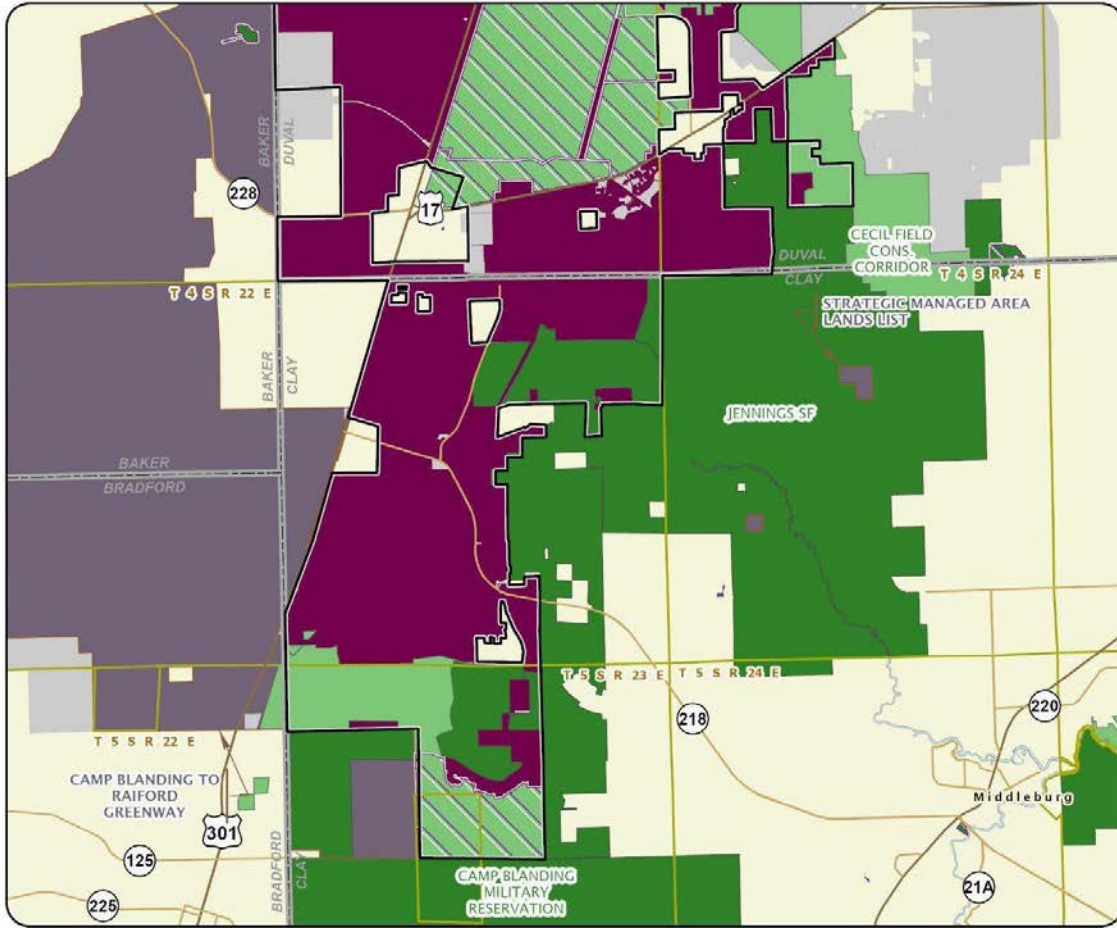




**NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE:
MAP 2**

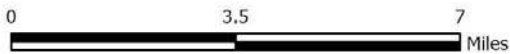
DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

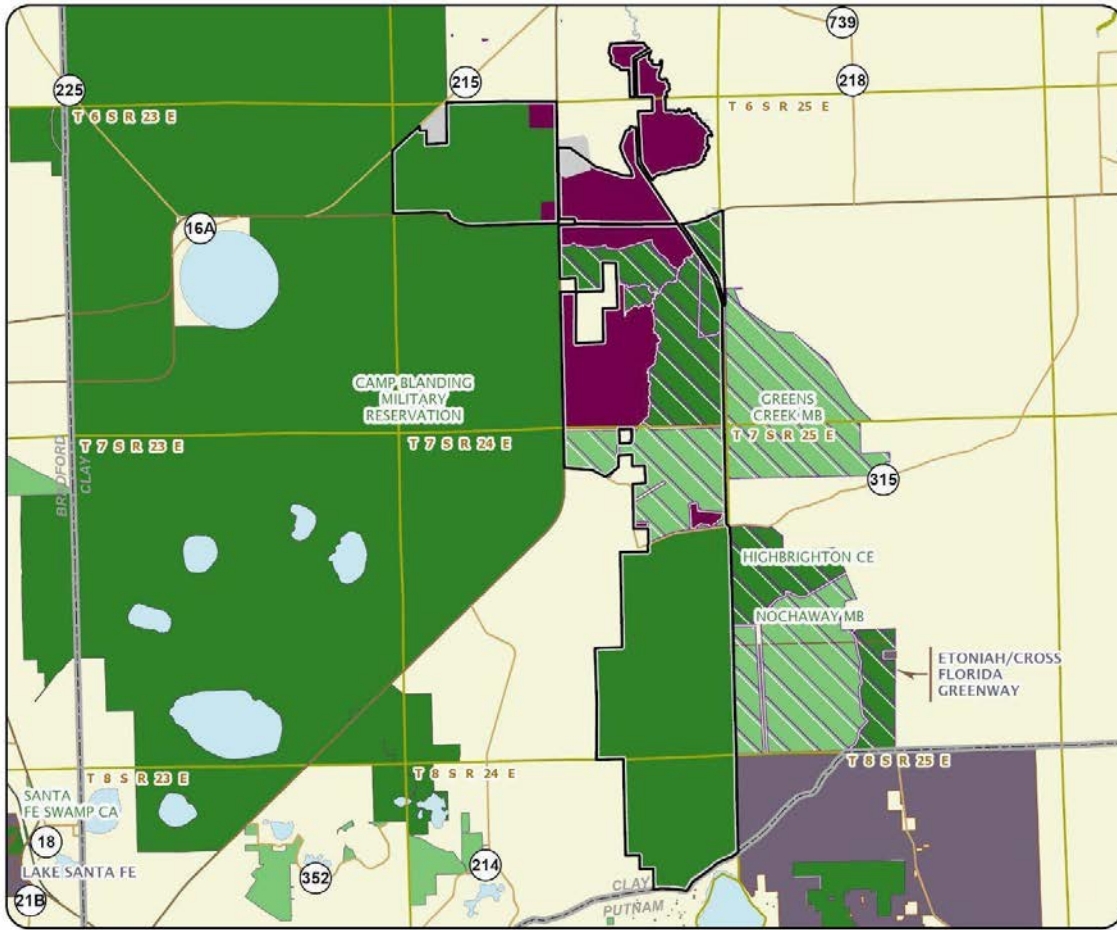




**NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE:
MAP 3**

CLAY AND DUVAL COUNTIES





**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



Pal-Mar

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Martin and Palm Beach Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1992</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>36,229</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>27,397</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$16,044,487</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>8,832</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$47,342,658</i>

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. The project will ensure habitat for rare and imperiled species and protect the Loxahatchee River, which is a federally designated National Wild and Scenic River. Additionally, the project will provide critical connectivity between the J.W. Corbet 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; it 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 Everglades snail kite, red-cockaded woodpecker and wood stork. The project area includes Pine Glades Natural Area and Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area and is contiguous with J.W. Corbet Wildlife Management Area, the private Prat-Whitney Preserve and Cypress Creek conservation lands (owned by the South Florida Water Management District, 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Snail Kite	G4G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
<i>many-flowered grass-pink</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>celestial lily</i>	G3/S3
<i>meadow jointvetch</i>	G4T3/S3
<i>piedmont jointgrass</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G5/S3
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3

Public Use

Most of the 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 uses permitted within Pine Glades Natural Area include hiking, fishing, canoeing, environmental education and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

Phase I of the project consisted of approximately five larger ownerships, including tracts adjacent to J.W. Corbet Wildlife Management Area, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (acquired by the South Florida Water Management District 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) was 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) were 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.

2003

On January 9, 2003, the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank (638 acres) was issued.

On February 25, 2003, the South Florida Water Management District established Phase I (168 acres) of a conservation easement on the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank.

2007

In July 2007, the South Florida Water Management District 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 placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2019

On March 27, 2019, the South Florida Water Management District established Phase II (470 acres) of a conservation easement on the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank.

On November 18, 2019, the RG Reserve Mitigation Bank is withdrawn.

Coordination

The South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach County and Martin County are acquisition partners in the 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 the 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 manages west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road (Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area). The Division of Recreation and Parks 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. The project is a large natural area connecting the J.W. Corbet Wildlife Management Area on the west with South Florida Water Management District/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. Corbet Wildlife Management Area qualify it as a wildlife management area. The portion that lies south of Indiantown Road is part of Palm Beach County's Pine Glades Natural Area. The part 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 the 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 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 the J.W. Corbet Wildlife Management Area or 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 resources. However, some revenue could be generated from recreational use over and above licenses and permits sold by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 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

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	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

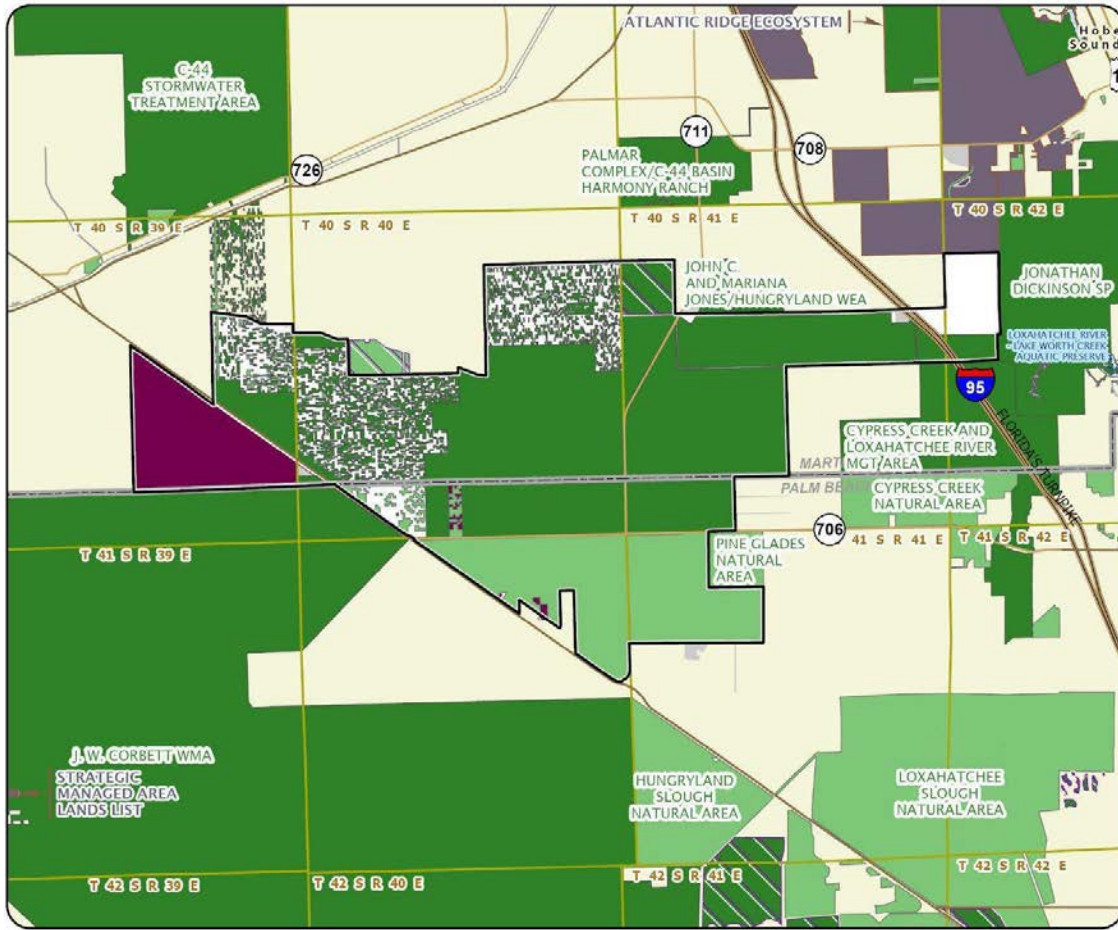
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

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



Pringle Creek Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Flagler County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2012
<i>Project Acres</i>	8,446
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,446
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$12,590,788

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pringle Creek Forest project will enhance the landscape mosaic of conservation lands that provides protection of the Pellicer Creek watershed and its tributaries. 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 the 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 the 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 and wet flatwoods, floodplain swamp, marsh/prairie, scrubby flatwoods and mesic hammock natural communities.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>celestial lily</i>	G3/S3





Public Use

The property has potential for public uses 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 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 the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve plan to pursue Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funding for the project. The 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 the site, but with the National Oceanic and atmospheric Association rather than the state. The St. Johns River Water Management District is supportive of the project. However, they have not committed to any assistance with funding of the acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

The 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 the 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 the 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 the 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.

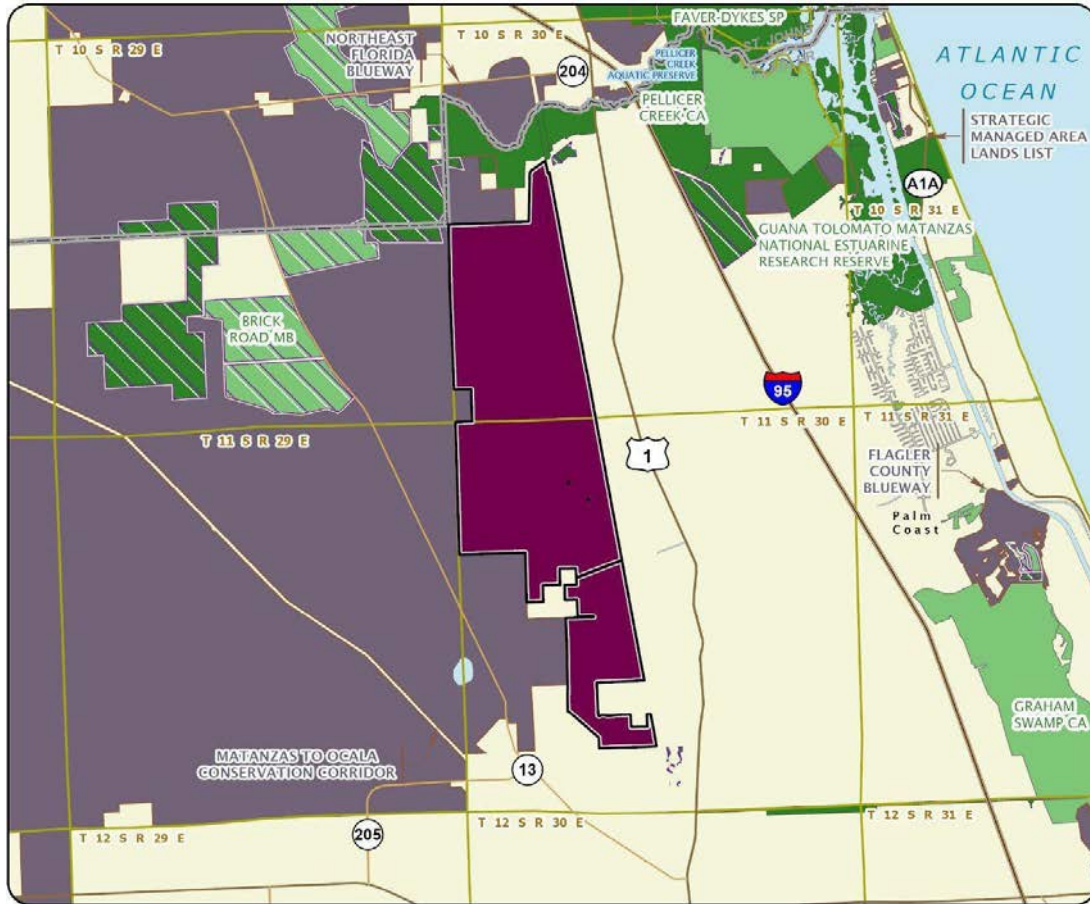
Revenue-generating Potential

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



Pumpkin Hill Creek

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Duval County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1994
<i>Project Acres</i>	24,880
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	18,440
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$15,668,766
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	6,440
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$281,807,420

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 federally endangered wood stork. Manatees frequent both the St. Johns and Nassau rivers and move into tidal creeks (such as Hill Creek and Clapboard Creek) adjacent to the project. 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Piping plover	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bird Rookery	G5/SNRB
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
Worthington's marsh wren	G5T3/S2
Macgillivray's seaside sparrow	G4T3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Atlantic salt marsh mink	G5T3/S3
Least tern	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

Public Use

The project is designated as a 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 the Pumpkin Hill Creek project to the Conservation and Recreational Lands Priority List. The fee-simple acquisition (sponsored by the city of Jacksonville and St. Johns River Water Management District) was 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 using Cedar Bay Cogeneration Project mitigation funds), Verdie Forest and Penland (acquired jointly with the St. Johns River Water Management District), and Tison and Birchfield (acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District).

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 and 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, Beasley, Wingate and two small connecting parcels.

2000

On October 17, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 18,995-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the city of Jacksonville, The Nature Conservancy and





the 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 acquired Pescatello Island (25.12 acres).

On December 27, 2002, the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 73-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and consisted of three owners, five parcels and a taxable value of \$399,726.

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List.

2004

On December 3, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 658.3 acres that consisted of four parcels with a taxable value of \$541,781 from the project boundary. The project was moved to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

2005

On December 9, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority List.

2006

On August 11, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 713-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of Recreation and Parks in coordination with the city of Jacksonville Preservation Project and consisted of 41 ownerships, 50 parcels and a taxable value of \$4,180,827. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

On December 20, 2011, the North Florida Land Trust acquired 7.14 acres and created Big Talbot Island Preserve.

2012

On December 13, 2012, the North Florida Land Trust 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, the North Florida Land Trust acquired Noble Enge Jr. Preserve (410.76 acres) as a donation.

2014

On April 11, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 888.46 acres from the project boundary.

2015

On March 26, 2015, the North Florida Land Trust acquired 1.23 acres in Big Talbot Island Preserve.

On December 21, 2015, the North Florida Land Trust 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, the North Florida Land Trust acquired 6.5 acres and created Bogey Creek Preserve.

On April 22, 2016, the North Florida Land Trust acquired 598.51 acres in Big Talbot Island Preserve.

On December 5, 2016, the North Florida Land Trust acquired 6.43 acres in Big Talbot Island Preserve.

2017

On October 5, 2017, the North Florida Land Trust acquired 62.5 acres in Bogey Creek Preserve.

2022

In 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 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added two parcels totaling approximately 129 acres in Nassau County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is an intermediary in the project. Resolutions in support of the project include the St. Johns River Water Management District, who is in support of a shared acquisition. The St. Johns River Water Management District, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, Florida Communities Trust and 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)

The Division of Recreation and Parks, St. Johns River Water Management District, city of Jacksonville and 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

The 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 the 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 the 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 the project. No revenue is expected to be generated for some years.

Cooperators in Management Activities

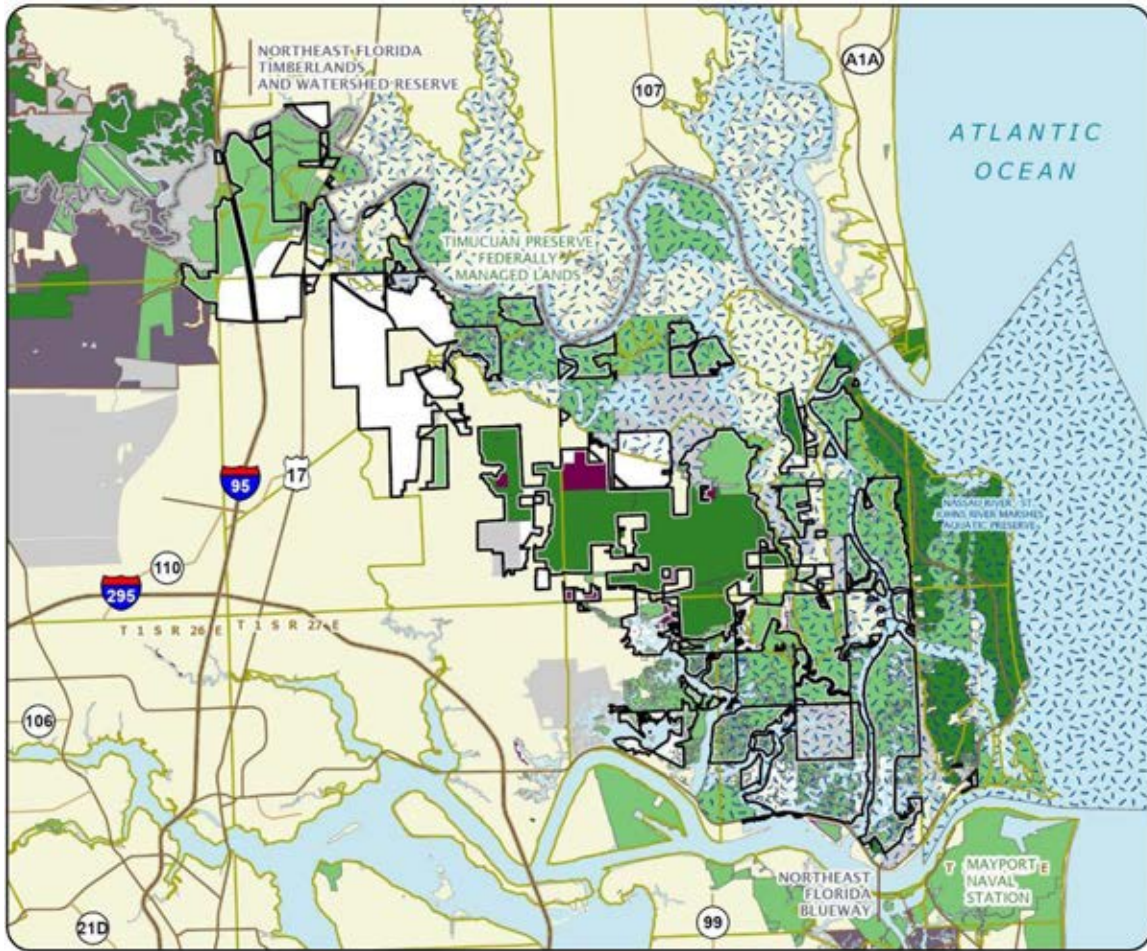
The St. Johns River Water Management District will cooperate in managing the project.

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	\$0.00	not provided
Special	\$0.00	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





Rainbow River Corridor

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Citrus and Marion Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2007
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,231
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	331
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$5,926,164
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	900
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$10,209,585

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 Rainbow River and provide a connection to the southern end of 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. The 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 six miles before entering the Withlacoochee River at Dunnellon. Rainbow Springs State Park encompasses the Rainbow River’s headwaters, much of the northern portion of the Rainbow River and a first magnitude spring that is 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 Rainbow River at Dunnellon, then extends eastward to include a 0.75-mile common boundary inland with Rainbow Springs State Park; it also includes a tract on the western side of Rainbow 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 proper es and to provide added protection to the Rainbow River and the ecosystem that it supports. The Rainbow River Corridor project would connect the current northern and southern parcels of Rainbow Springs State 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 Rainbow 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 Rainbow River. Nearly all tracts (but not necessarily all ownerships) are contiguous with public lands. Frontage along the Rainbow River frontage is estimated at 15,935 feet.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 Rainbow Springs State Park, which will provide for public access across the acquired parcel for varied recreational opportunities currently offered within the state park. Potential recreation would include hiking, biking and picnicking. The Rainbow 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. The 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 state park lodging, administration, state park residence(s) 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 development of Rainbow Springs State Park. 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 added the Rainbow River Corridor project to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List. The full-fee project was sponsored by the Rainbow River Conservation (RRC, Inc.) in a proposal submitted on December 30, 2006. The proposal was approximately 1,183 acres and had an assessed taxable value of \$1,157,483.

2008

On March 28, 2008, the city of Dunnellon acquired 32.4 acres of the project for Blue Run of Dunnellon Park on the south side of Highway 484 (Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property). Funding came from the city of Dunnellon (\$320,000) and a grant from Florida Communities Trust (\$2,606,164). The city of Dunnellon manages the site.





2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2017

In 2017, 5.09 acres were acquired fee-simple using Florida Forever program funding.

2021

On June 11, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 47.78 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

2023

In 2023, DEP acquired a 139-acre conservation easement in Citrus County from Gissy Rainbow River Ranch, LLC.

Coordination

Rainbow River Conservation Inc. worked with The Trust for Public Land and submitted an application to Florida Communities Trust for acquiring the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property. The Division of State Lands has been pursuing a portion of the area that is within Rainbow River State Park's optimum boundary on behalf of the Division of Recreation and Parks.

Management Policy Statement

The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage its property under a single-use concept as part of Rainbow Springs State Park and Marjorie Harris Carr 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 Rainbow Springs State 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks. The Division of Recreation and Parks notes that much of the project is a full-fee acquisition adjacent to Rainbow Springs State 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 facilities 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 the Marjorie Harris Carr 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 Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area.

Revenue Generating Potential

The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue from the 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

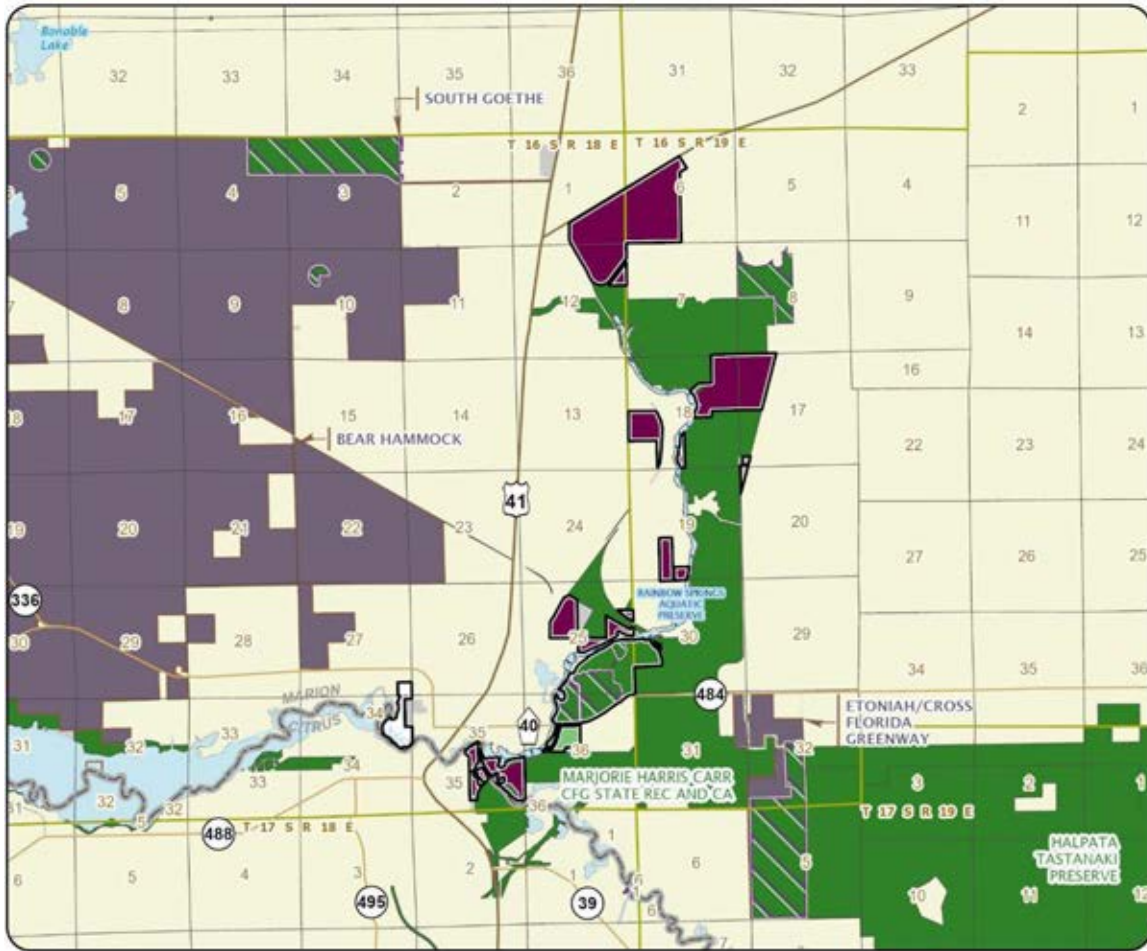
The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with local governments, other state agencies and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park and greenway purposes.

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 OGT





RAINBOW RIVER CORRIDOR

CITRUS AND MARION COUNTIES



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Sand Mountain

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Bay and Washington Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1994
<i>Project Acres</i>	34,361
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	20,062
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$26,637,412
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	14,299
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$43,285,458

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 and the Panhandle meadowbeauty. The project will provide a large scenic area where the public can enjoy recreation activities including hiking and hunting.

General Description

The project protects the largest remaining tract of high quality, natural xeric uplands of Florida's New Hope Ridge and Fountain Slope physiographic regions. The high rolling pinelands drop down to classic examples of steephead ravines, unique Sandhill Upland Lakes and a portion of a nearly pristine stream. Much of the sandhills are of excellent quality, having a nearly intact ground cover of wiregrass and dropseed, but those owned by the Rosewood Timber Company have been cleared and planted 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Gholson's blazing star</i>	G1/S1
<i>Crystal Lake nailwort</i>	G1/S1
Shaggy ghostsnail	G1/S1
Oval pigtoe	G2/S1
Apalachicola cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2
<i>karst pond xyris</i>	G2/S2
<i>quillwort yellow-eyed grass</i>	G2/S2
<i>smoothbark St. John's wort</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida thread-leaf sundew</i>	G4TNR/S1
Dougherty plain cave crayfish	G2G3/S2

Public Use

The 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 Paper Company and John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company) should be acquired first. The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 from the project 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, the Northwest Florida Water Management District established the Urquhart/Perry conservation easement (1,173.05 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 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, the Florida Forest Service will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources and removing trash. The Florida Forest Service 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 the 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. The Florida Forest Service will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating Potential

The Florida Forest Service 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 the project is expected to be low.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Northwest Florida Water Management District has purchased land along Econfina Creek within the project boundary. The Northwest Florida Water Management District will cooperate with the Florida Forest Service in the management of the corridor. The Florida Forest Service will also cooperate with and





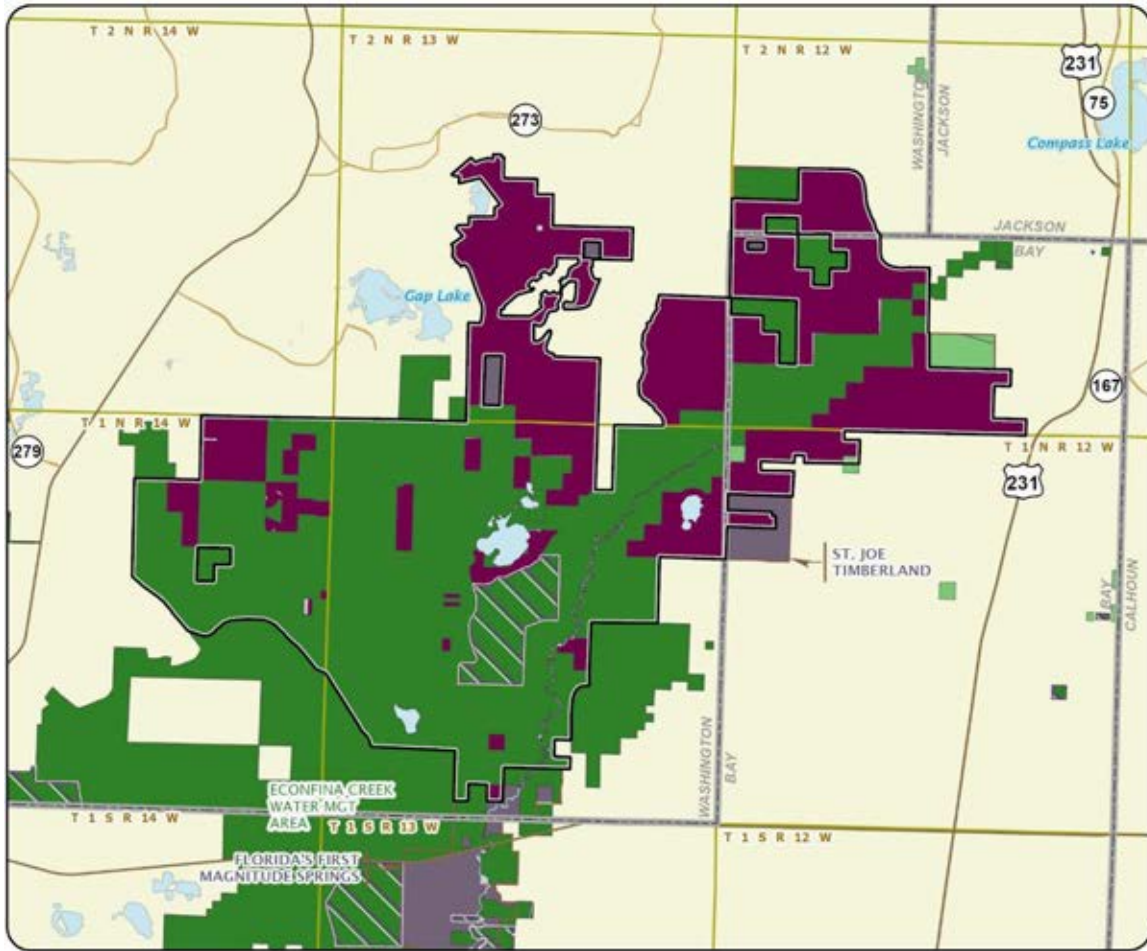
seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$148,370	\$148,370
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$70,000	\$50,000
OCO	\$234,900	\$15,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$453,270	\$213,370

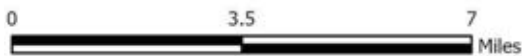
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





SAND MOUNTAIN

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES



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Volusia Conservation Corridor

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Flagler and Volusia Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	80,423
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	62,705
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$76,566,247
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	17,718
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$85,352,158

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Volusia Conservation Corridor project will provide a continuous corridor of environmentally significant land from the Tiger Bay State Forest, through the central wetlands and flatwoods of Volusia County, to the marshes of the St. Johns River. The project will also increase natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities. The 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 and southern Flagler 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 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Rugel's pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
<i>lake-side sunflower</i>	G1G2/S1S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>large-flowered rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3





Public Use

Fee acquisition areas have the potential of providing a variety of resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities including, 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 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 added the Volusia Conservation Corridor project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2002 Florida Forever Priority list.

On June 14, 2002, the St. Johns River Water Management District and Volusia County split the acquisition of the Menard parcels (1,347.03 acres) in the Wiregrass Prairie Preserve.

On July 30, 2002, the St. Johns River Water Management District established the Plum Creek Rayonier/Hutton conservation easement (4,780.44 acres) and Plum Creek Volusia/Pineland conservation easement (6,947.09 acres).

On August 15, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a less-than-fee 11,723-acre and fee-simple 7,654-acre addition to the project boundary. This addition, sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, consisted of two owners, Plum Creek and Rayonier.

2003

On February 28, 2003, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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 Marvin K. Fore and W. T. Ranch conservation easements were secured with Florida Forever funding.

On March 12, 2003, Volusia County joined the St. Johns River Water Management District as a co-owner of the Plum Creek Rayonier/Hutton and Plum Creek Volusia/Pineland conservation easements.





On June 6, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a less-than-fee addition to the project boundary in Flagler and Volusia counties. The 26,740-acre addition, sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District, 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 conservation easements (1,722.8 acres) were established by the St. Johns River Water Management District and Volusia County, of which 1,645.09 acres are within the project boundary. The St. Johns River Water Management District used Florida Forever funds for their part of the acquisition.

In December 2004, Volusia County, with assistance from the St. Johns River Water Management District and U.S. Department of Agriculture, acquired a 1,711-acre conservation easement over the Le Files Corporation property.

2005

On September 27, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the removal of 686 acres from the project boundary 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District purchased 324.35 acres fee simple, leaving 25 acres in the W. T. Ranch conservation easement. The St. Johns River Water Management District 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District established an additional Le Files conservation easement (9.73 acres).

On December 15, 2010, Volusia County closed on the 4,806-acre Leffler Ranch. The county will manage the property.





2011

On May 27, 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired the Kemcho Tract (3,200 acres) of Deep Creek Preserve with Florida Forever funding.

On October 18, 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District established an additional Le Files conservation easement (2.28 acres).

On November 22, 2011, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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; the acquisition was comprised of a donation valued at \$478,174.37 from the seller, \$956,348.75 from a U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program grant, and \$478,174.38 from the St. Johns River Water Management District.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

In April 2012, Volusia County and the St. Johns River Water Management District signed a management agreement for the county to manage the Kemcho Tract of Deep Creek Preserve.

2022

On July 12, 2022, Volusia County and the St. Johns River Water Management District purchased 857 acres in the Palm Bluff Conservation Area with Volusia Forever funds.

In 2022, Volusia County and the St. Johns River Water Management District established a 425-acre conservation easement in the Palm Bluff Conservation Area with Volusia Forever funds.

2023

On April 14, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the Carter Quail Ranch project proposal (1,344 acres) in Volusia County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Forest Service, Volusia County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture 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)

The St. Johns River Water Management District 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 the St. Johns River Water Management District.

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, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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. The St. Johns River Water Management District will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The site's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for the 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

The St. Johns River Water Management District will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for the project is expected to be low.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The St. Johns River Water Management District will cooperate with Volusia County and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.



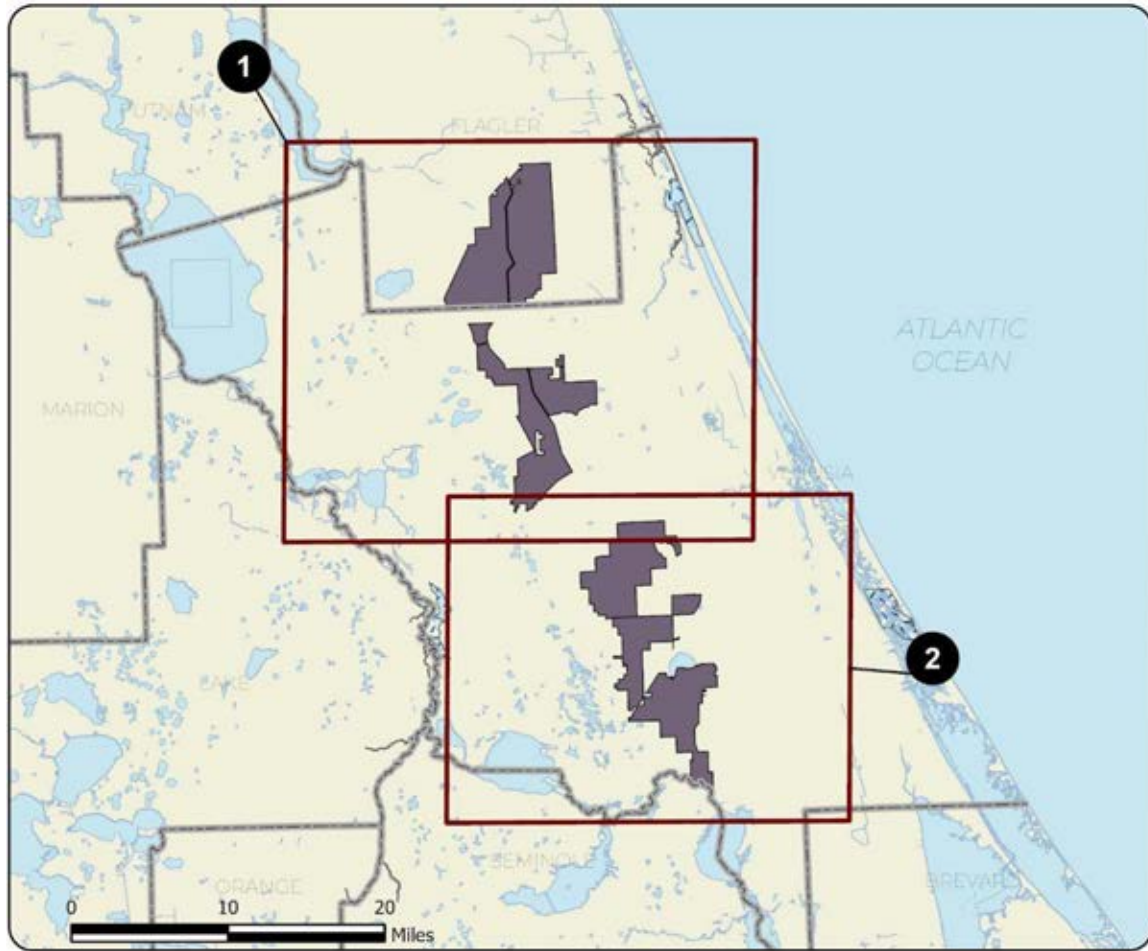


Management Cost Summary

SJRWMD	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	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

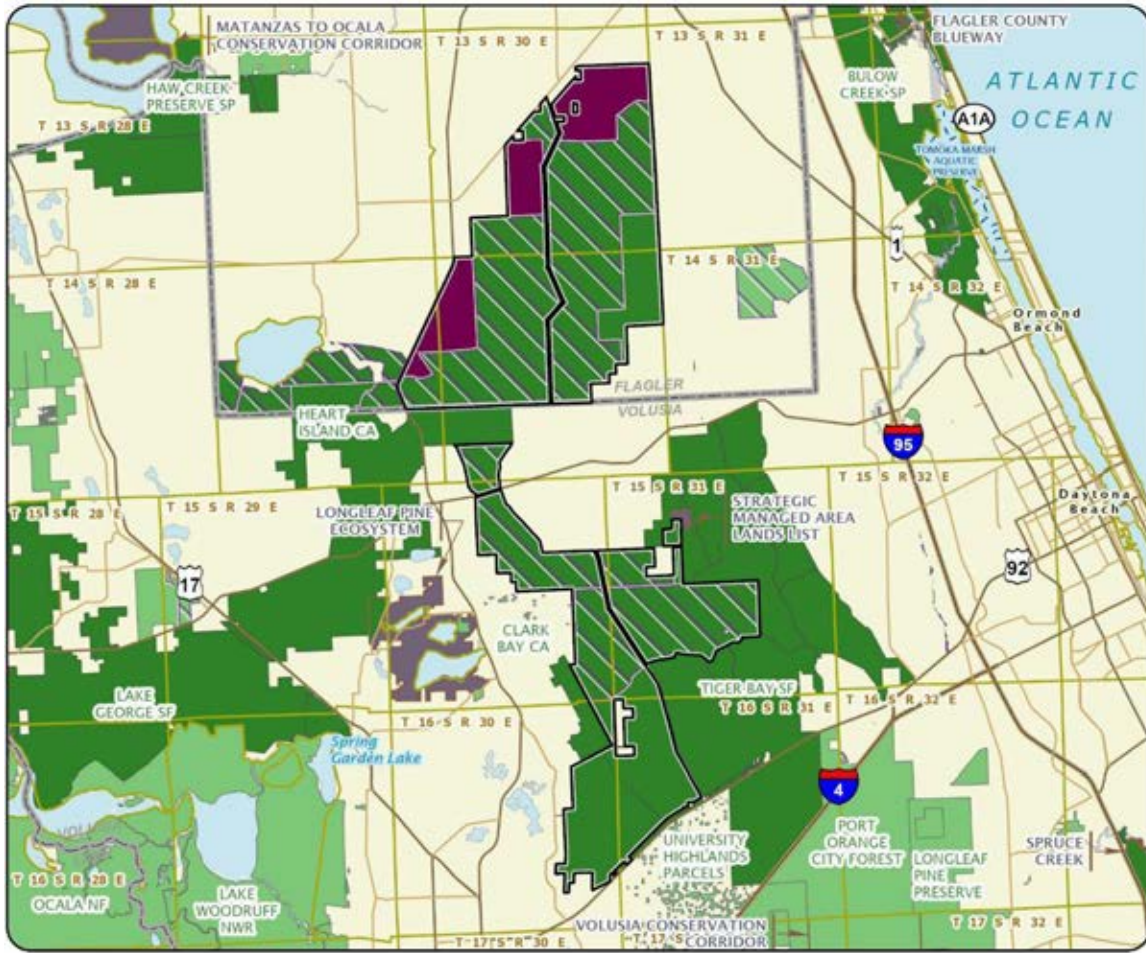




VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: OVERVIEW

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

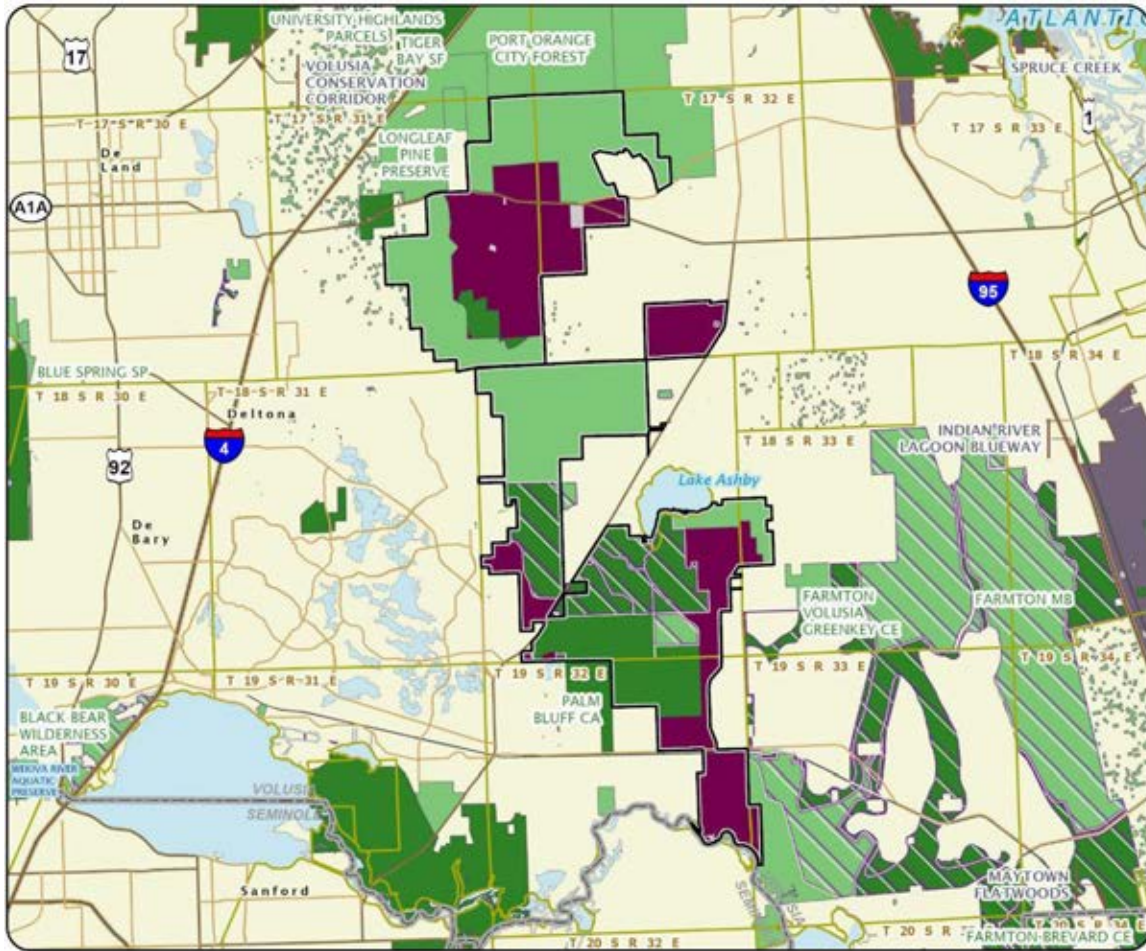




VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 1

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES





VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 2

VOLUSIA COUNTY



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Waccasassa Watershed

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Levy County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	20,455
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	33
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	20,422
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$87,784,372

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Waccasassa Watershed project will help ensure the water quality and quantity of Chunky Pond, Waccasassa River, Waccasassa Bay and the Waccasassa watershed. The project will also help to increase connectivity amongst conservation lands, including two Outstanding Florida Waterways: Waccasassa Bay State Preserve and Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve.

General Description

The Waccasassa Watershed project contains 65 parcels under several ownerships, totaling about 20,416 acres in Levy County. The project was created by combining several proposals, including Chunky Pond, Little Pine Ranch, Trailhead Blue Springs and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters. The Waccasassa Watershed project shares a border with Levy County's Devil's Hammock Conservation Area and Levy County's Blue Springs Park. The project is within 0.5 miles of Goethe State Forest, and about 3 miles from Devil's Hammock Wildlife Management Area and the Upper Waccasassa Conservation Area. The project's close proximity to a variety of conservation lands expands the protection of surface water and imperiled species habitat.

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 such as the hooded pitcherplant, swallow-tailed kite, Florida hasteola and gopher tortoise. The Waccasassa Watershed project also lies in priority 1, 2 and 5 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

The Chunky Pond property includes the headwaters of Mule Creek, which flows into the Waccasassa River. The property also includes portions of wetlands with little alteration, and 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. The 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 County’s Blue Springs Park surrounds three sides of the property and features two springs, one of which is second magnitude. Acquisition of Trailhead Blue Springs would help to maintain the water quality of the spring, 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 likely provide habitat for migratory birds, amphibians and reptiles.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T2/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>Florida hasteola</i>	G1/S1
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
<i>Variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G3/S3
Litle blue heron	G5/S4

Public Use

Property within the Waccasassa Watershed 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 combine the Chunky Pond, Litle Pine Ranch, Trailhead Blue Springs and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters properties to create the Waccasassa Watershed Florida Forever project. The project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition.

Coordination

The project was proposed by Alachua Conservation Trust, Florida Conservation Group and the landowner. Alachua Conservation Trust, through its partnership with the National Resources Conservation Services Regional Conservation Partnership Program, may be partners in acquisition of the project.

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

If acquired as less-than-fee, management 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 the Division of State Lands.

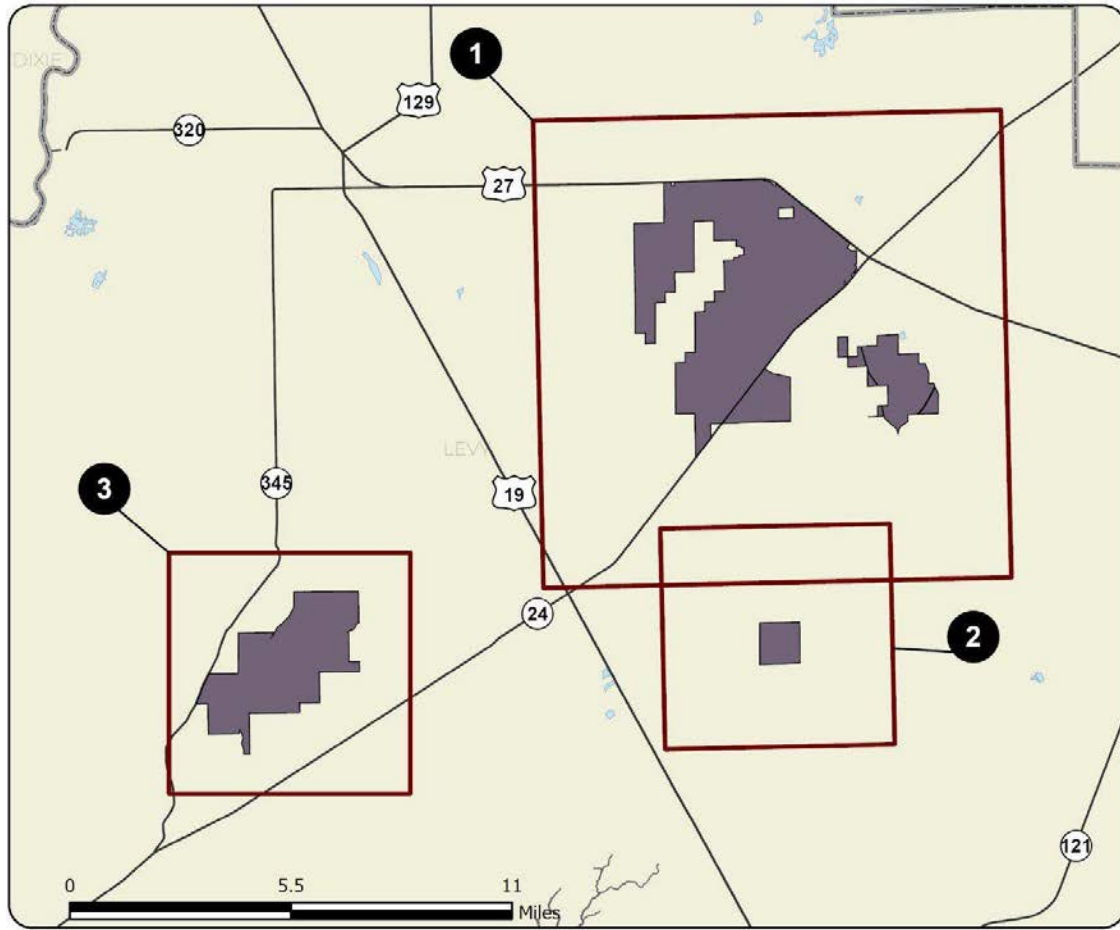




Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

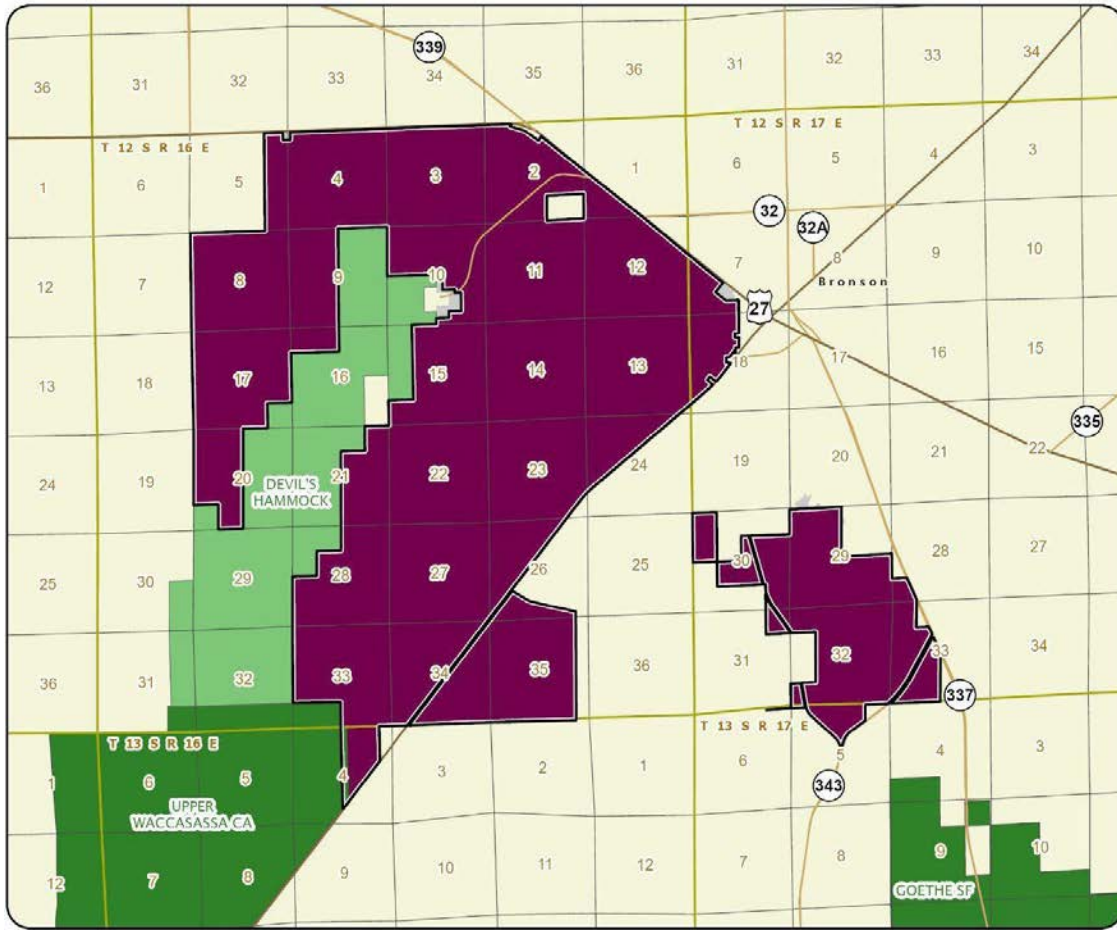




WACCASSASSA WATERSHED: OVERVIEW

LEVY COUNTY

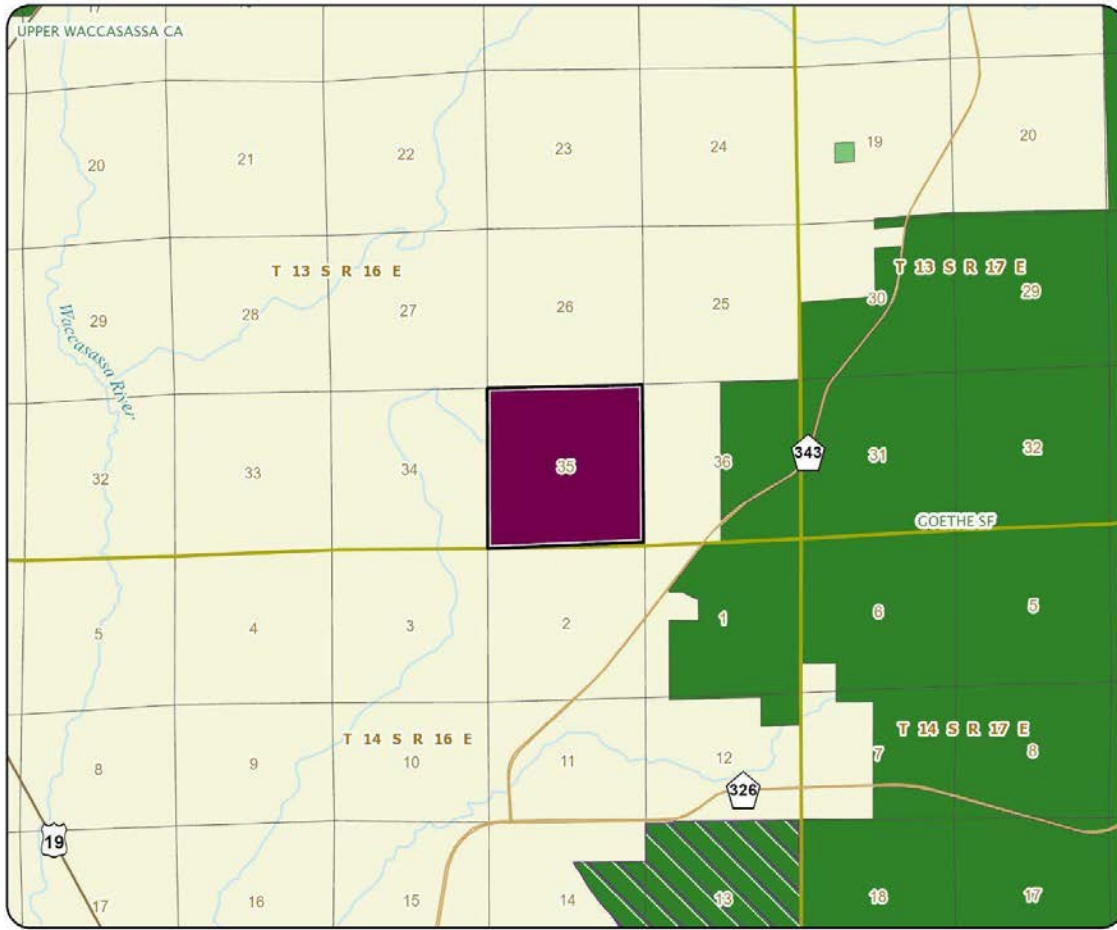




WACCASASSA WATERSHED: MAP 1

LEVY COUNTY

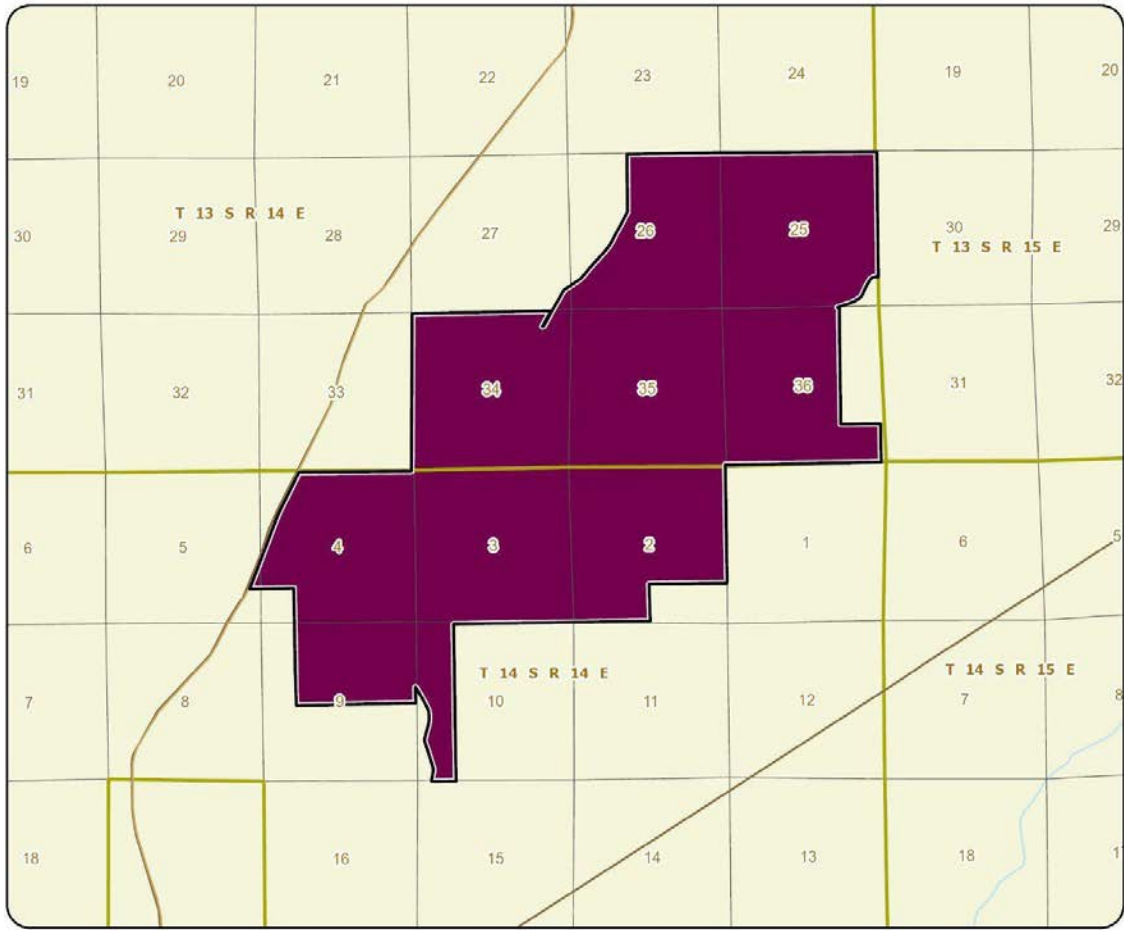




WACCASASSA WATERSHED: MAP 2

LEVY COUNTY





WACCASASSA WATERSHED: MAP 3

LEVY COUNTY



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Wakulla Springs Protection Zone

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Leon and Wakulla Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1997
<i>Project Acres</i>	8,890
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	5,590
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$8,605,928
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,300
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$41,221,929

Purpose for State Acquisition

Wakulla Springs – one of the largest and deepest artesian springs in the world – is protected by Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, but the enormous caverns that feed the spring spread far to the north and west of the state 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1
Florida Big Bend cave amphipod	G1G2/S1S2
<i>incised groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Florida cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Pine snake	G4/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4

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 the area with the Apalachicola National Forest, and the project could also be suitable for camping, horseback riding and possibly 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. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Division of Recreation and Parks, consisted of approximately 10,243 acres and multiple owners. The essential parcels are the Ferrell tract, McBrides Slough tract and smaller tracts between Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park and the Ferrell Tract. The McBrides Slough tract has been mapped as a Division of Recreation and Parks 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 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 from the project boundary and placed them into the St. Joe Timberland Conservation and Recreational Lands project.

2001

On October 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 59 acres to the project boundary.

2006

On June 9, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 had a 2005 taxable value of \$94,268. One owner, Linderand, Inc., holds title to property within the current





project boundary. The parcels were designated as essential since they are important to the future water quality of Wakulla Springs.

2007

On December 14, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 700 acres to the project boundary.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Upper Lake Lafayette Aquifer Protection proposal area to the Florida Forever Priority List and then incorporated its boundary into the boundary of the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project.

2018

On February 16, 2018, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of Revell Sinks (228 acres) to the project boundary.

2019

On December 12, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 801 acres in Wakulla County to the project boundary for fee simple acquisition. The addition had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$1,925,754. The Florida Forest Service 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.

2020

On August 19, 2020, the Northwest Florida Water Management District established the Revell conservation easement (124.74 acres).

2022

In 2022, DEP acquired 405.79 acres fee-simple from six property owners that will be managed as part of Wakulla State Forest.

Coordination

Considering the project's linkages and connections both above and below ground, coordination would be among the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Forest Service, 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 the Florida Forest Service, 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 the Florida Forest Service's management activities on the project. For areas managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Under Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission management, the tract will also provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking and other natural resource-based recreational activities.

Manager(s)

Managers include the Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 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 Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, qualify the 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 uses that degrade the resource. The lands between the state park and the national forest, west of State Road 61, contain a significant number of hydrological features which will require intensive management of people to ensure against resource degradation by users and allow for restoration where needed. Springs, karst windows and sinks are popular recreation sites. Hence, there will be a demand for their use. Close monitoring and study will be needed to decide which are suitable for public use and at what levels, followed with appropriate management measures. This concept also applies to other areas of the project managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks 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 in 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 longleaf 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 the 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 in 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

The 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 the Florida Forest Service, public access will be provided for non-facilities-related, low-intensity outdoor recreation. Until specific positions are provided for the project, public access will be coordinated through the Florida Forest Service's Tallahassee District Headquarters and management activities will be conducted with district personnel.

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory and removal of 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 the project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for the 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 the Florida Forest Service, 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 trash. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, describing the goals and objectives of future resource management. Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management, protection and management of threatened and endangered species and management of small game hunting opportunities. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all weather public access and manage operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources.

Where appropriate and practical, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the Florida Forest Service. 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 the 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

The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue from the 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

The Florida Forest Service 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 the project is expected to be moderate.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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

The Division of Recreation and Parks will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies and the Northwest Florida Water Management District 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

The Florida Forest Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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



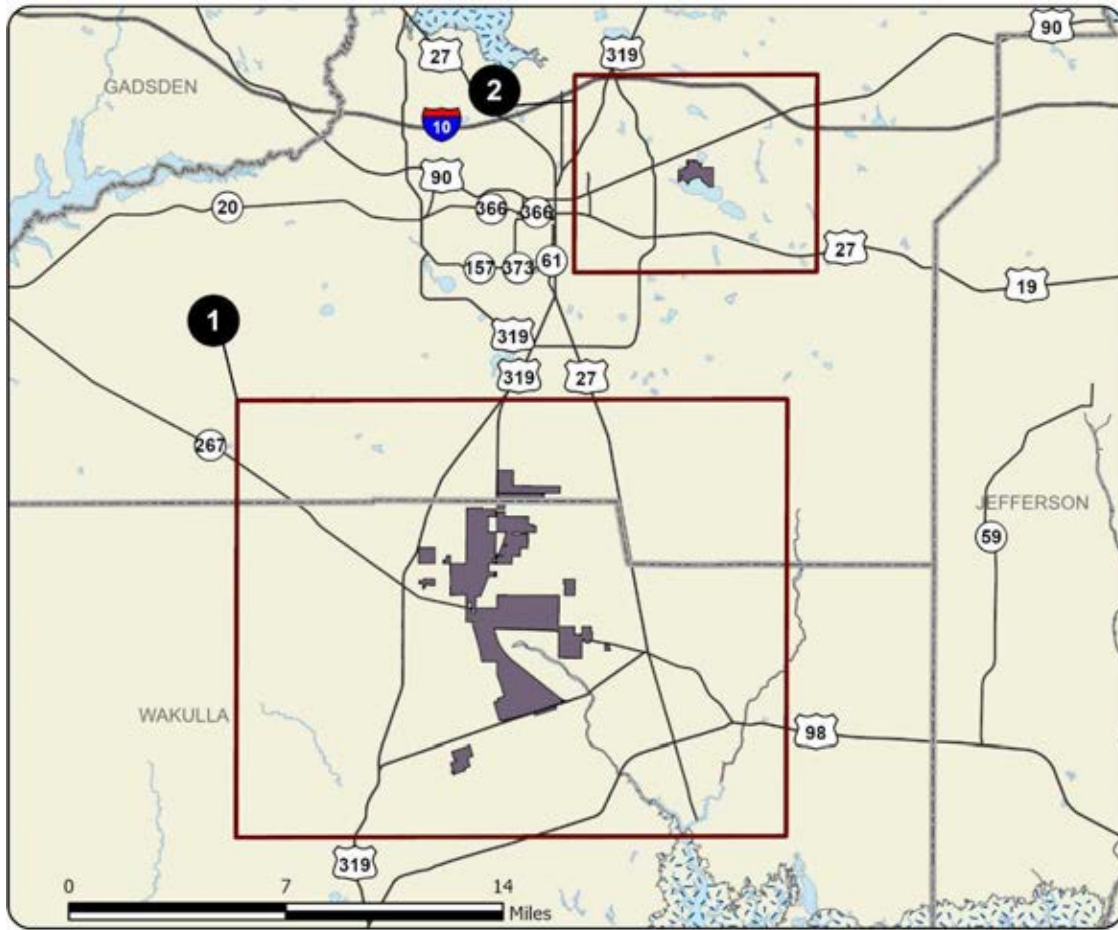


Management Cost Summary

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

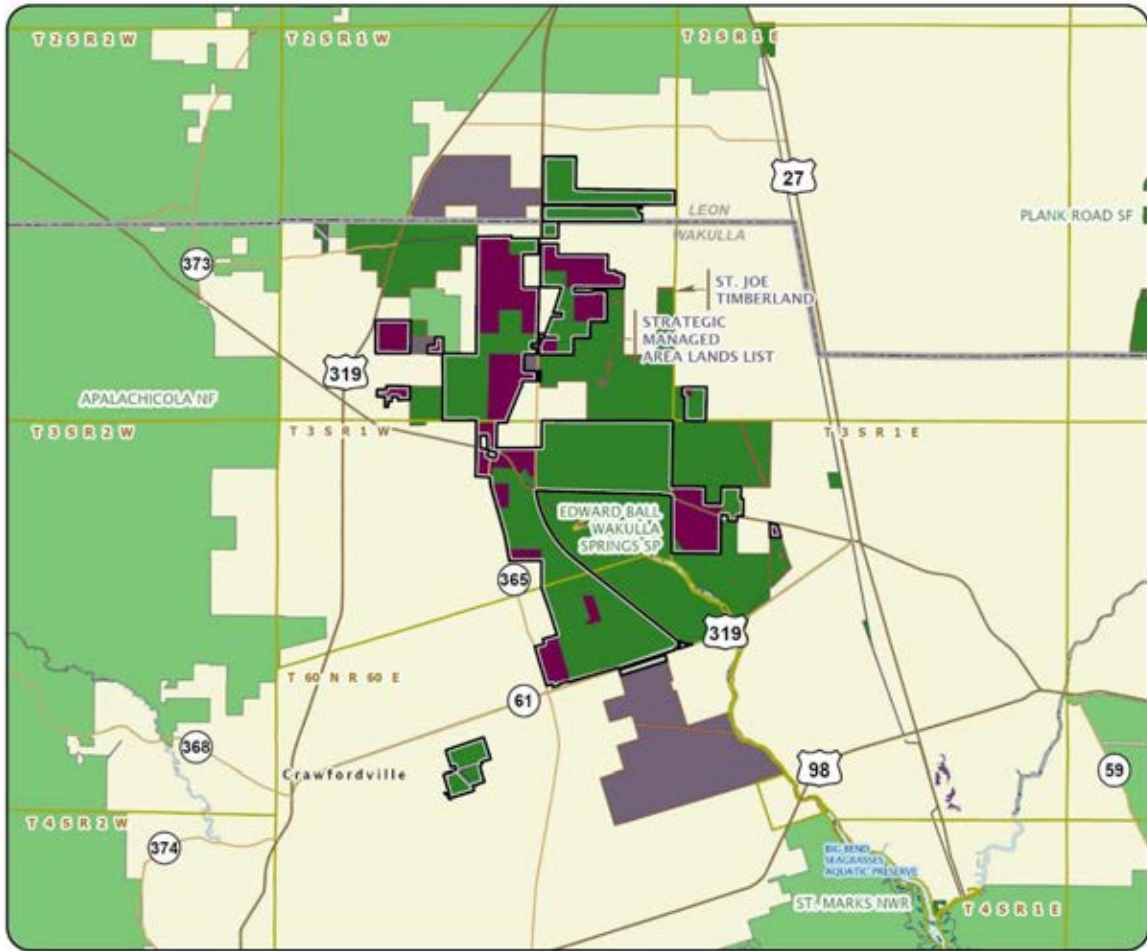




WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: OVERVIEW

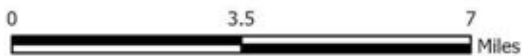
LEON AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

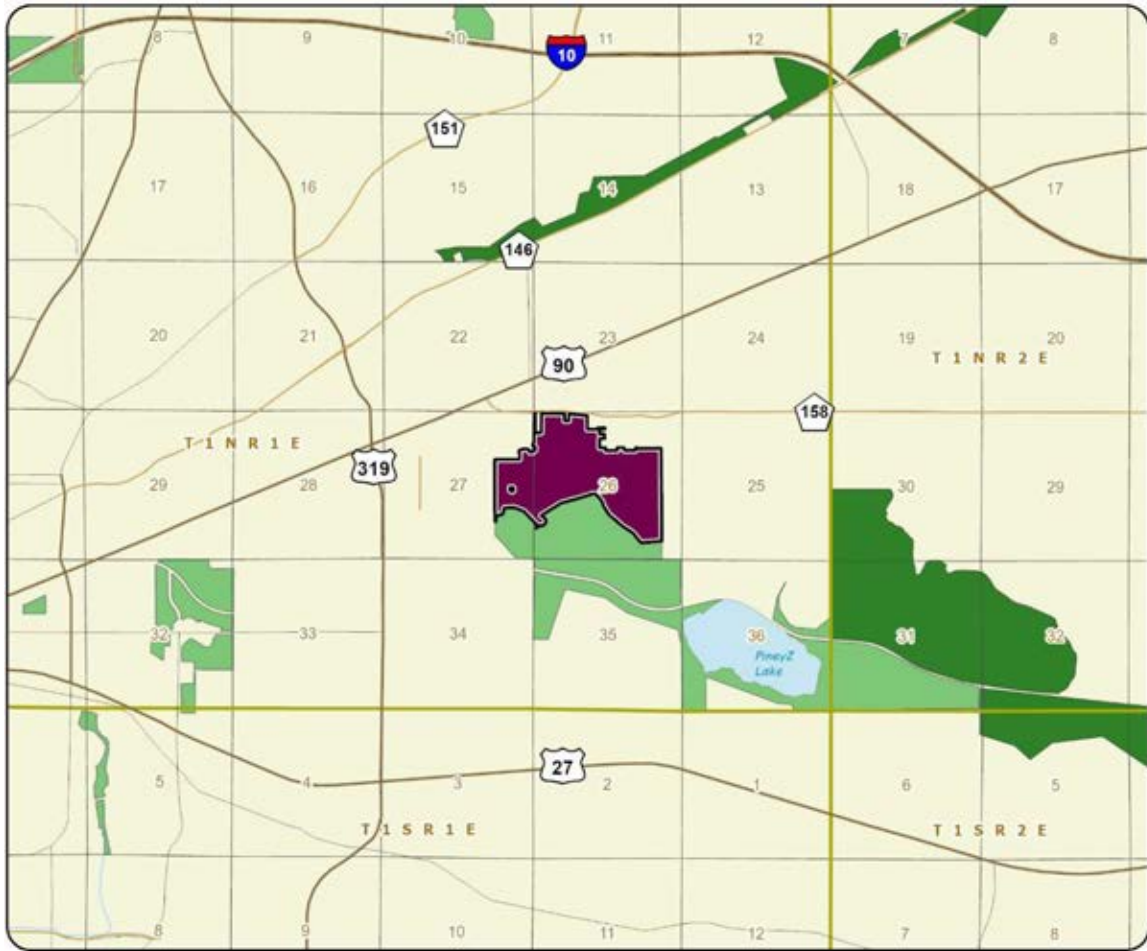




WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: MAP 1

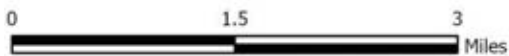
LEON AND WAKULLA COUNTIES





WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: MAP 2

LEON COUNTY



Watermelon Pond

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Alachua and Levy Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1994
<i>Project Acres</i>	12,542
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	7,301
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$8,707,029
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	5,241
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$40,267,891

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Watermelon Pond project will conserve one of the best remaining landscapes of dry longleaf pine sandhills pocked with marshes and lakes. The project will conserve habitat critical for native species such as fox squirrels, sandhill cranes and Florida scrub-jay. The project will protect ground water 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 ranchete developments.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Gopher tortoise copris beetle	G2/S2
Skelley's june beetle	G2/S2
Southern hognose snake	G2/S2S3
<i>incised groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3





Public Use

The 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 added 250 acres in Alachua County to the project boundary.

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2007

In April 2007, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission acquired 1,288 acres, identified as Barry Ranch. Of these acres, 607 are within the project boundary.

2010

On August 13, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council reduced the project boundary by 3,161 acres 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 the 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).





Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Alachua County are acquisition partners for the 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 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 what would normally occur in a state forest.

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

Once the core area is acquired, the Florida Forest Service will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources and removing trash. The Florida Forest Service 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 the 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. The Florida Forest Service will promote environmental education.





Revenue-generating Potential

The Florida Forest Service 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 to moderate.

Cooperators in Management Activities

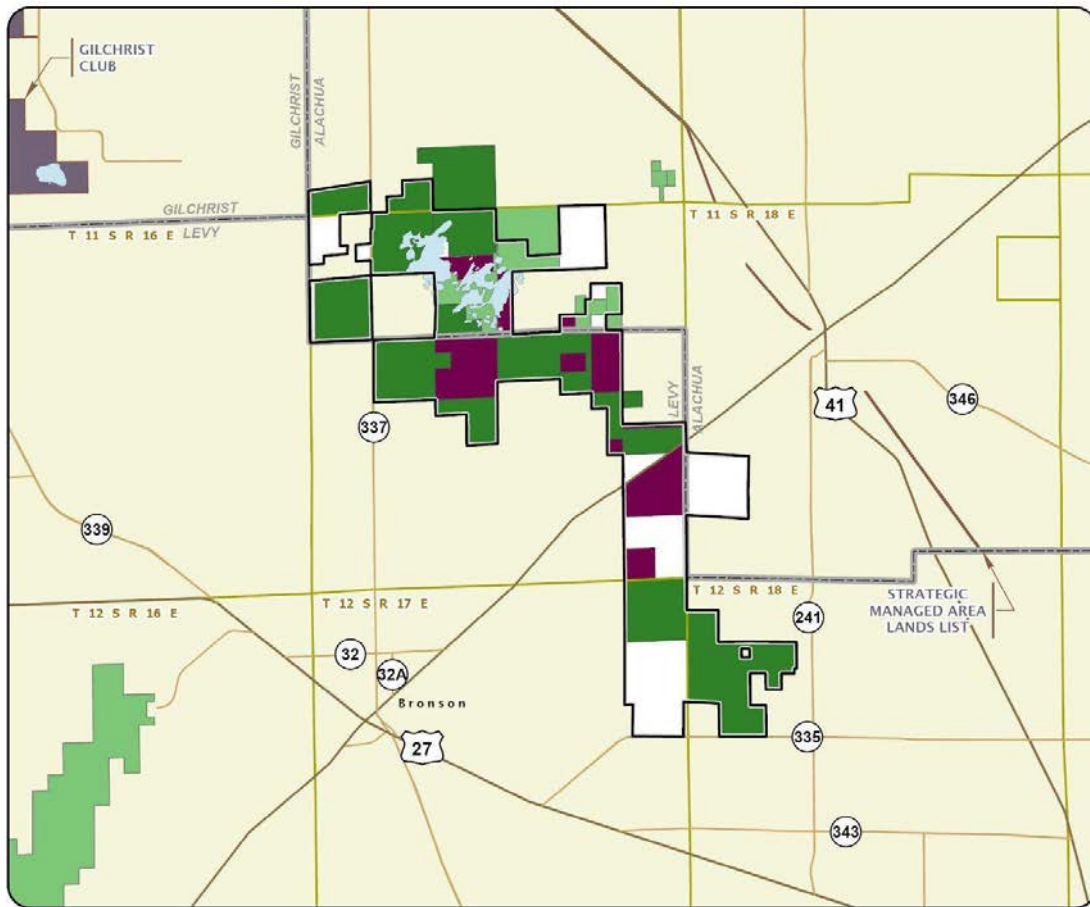
The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

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
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$223,030	\$106,530

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





WATERMELON POND

ALACHUA AND LEVY COUNTIES



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Welannee Watershed Forest

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Okaloosa County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2020
<i>Project Acres</i>	9,207
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	9,207
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$11,579,480

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, gopher tortoise, Florida black bear and alligator snapping turtle.

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 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 state forest and project share a small common border. 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 wildlife such as whitetail deer and turkey.





Welannee Watershed Forest includes the same properties as the original Upper Yellow River Florida Forever project, which was removed from the Florida Forever Priority List in 2011 when the land was no longer available for acquisition.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gulf sturgeon	G3T2T3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Narrow pigtoe	G1G2/S1
Choctaw bean	G2G3/S1S2
Escambia map turtle	G2/S2
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Pine barrens treefrog	G4/S3
<i>little brown jug</i>	G5/S3
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3
Eastern chipmunk	G5/S3

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 added the Welannee Watershed Forest project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. The less-than-fee project was proposed by Conservation Florida and consists of 11 parcels among two ownerships.

2023

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of two parcels totaling 830.41 acres in Okaloosa County to the project boundary.





Coordination

Additional funding to assist with acquisition has been secured through federal grants from the Forest Legacy Program and the 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.

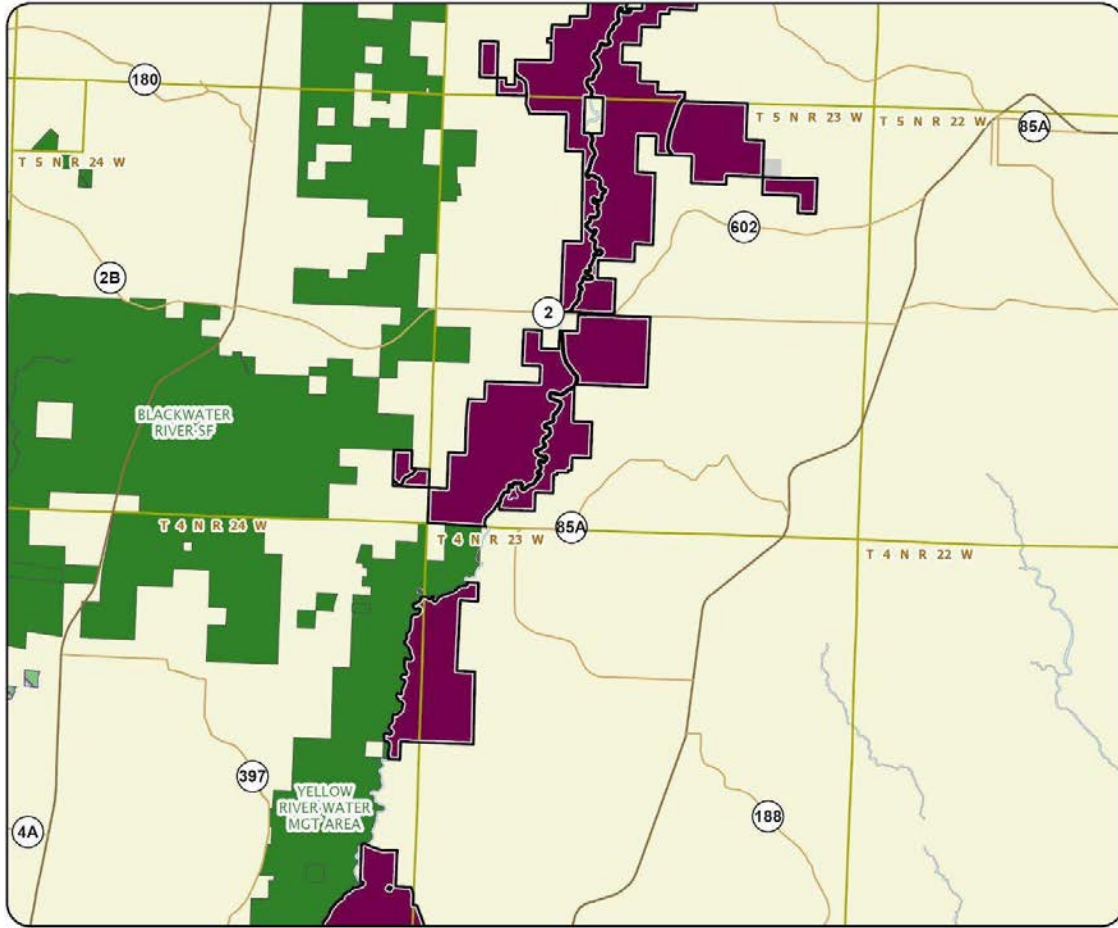
Manager(s)

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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



Wilson Ranch

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Polk County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2021
<i>Project Acres</i>	451
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	451
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$1,109,808

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 swamp. 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 Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for species such as the Florida snail kite, Cooper's hawk and American swallow-tailed kite. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 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(s)

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 the site. If plans to generate revenue come to light, they will be addressed in the management plan.





Cooperators in management activities

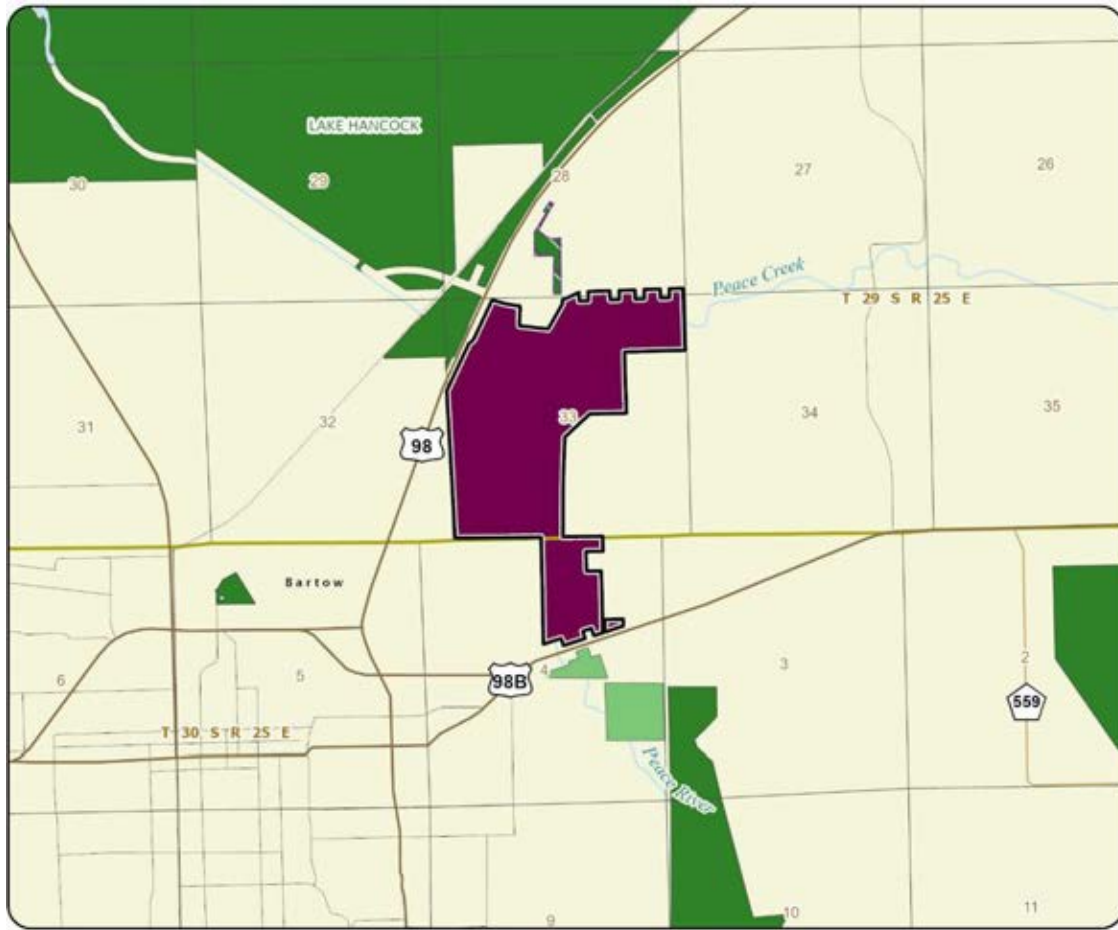
Polk County will manage the subject property and implement the management plan. Other agencies that may cooperatively assist include the Florida Forest Service, DEP, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Management Cost Summary

PCELP	Cost
Site Security (fencing/gate repair, boundary signs)	\$30,000
Invasive Plant Management	\$15,000
Final Management Plan	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$55,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





WILSON RANCH

POLK COUNTY



Yarborough Ranch

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Seminole County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,361
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,361
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$5,650,756

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Yarborough Ranch project will help to preserve and protect the water quality of the Geneva Freshwater Lens and the Big Econlockhatchee Drainage Basin. The project's proximity to Little Big Econ State Forest and conservation lands in Seminole County increases connectivity of public and private conservation lands, protects a critical wildlife corridor, surface and groundwater protection and protects habitat for a variety of imperiled plant and animal species, including the Florida black bear.

General Description

The Yarborough Ranch project contains one parcel, totaling 1,361 acres in Seminole County. On the western and southern side, the property is surrounded by Little Big Econ State Forest, and on the eastern side by the Kilbee Ranch Conservation Easement. The predominant natural communities found at Yarborough Ranch include basin swamp, baygall, mesic hammock, scrubby flatwoods, wet flatwoods and mesic flatwoods.

Yarborough Ranch is located within the Big Econlockhatchee Drainage Basin and almost entirely within the Geneva Lens, which is a unique and valuable hydrologic resource protected through section 373.4597, Florida Statutes. It is a portion of the Floridan Aquifer that forms an isolated, freshwater lens surrounded by non-potable water. The Geneva Lens covers approximately 22 square miles and is bounded by the St. Johns River and Lake Harney on the north and east, Econlockhatchee River to the south and Lake Jesup to the west.

Much of the property has been historically used as a working cattle ranch. As such, most of the property is made up of improved or semi-improved pasture. A system of ditches has been constructed to drain the pastures on the property. These feed into a drainage canal which runs north to south and is routed through most of the major wetland areas on the site, likely affecting the hydrology of the surrounding natural communities.

One previously unrecorded archaeological site was observed during the field evaluation. The site, Yarborough Ranch Mound (SE0336), appears to be a Native American mound of unknown antiquity in good condition. This mound has not yet been subject to formal analysis.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements

Florida black bear

Score

G5T4/S4

Public Use

Upland areas of the project could be utilized for expansion of public outdoor recreation opportunities currently available within Little Big Econ State Forest. If acquired, the property would be managed by Seminole County as a part of the Seminole County Natural Lands Program. This could include such uses as hiking, equestrian activities, bicycling and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

2023

On October 13, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add Yarborough Ranch to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee simple project includes 1,361 acres and a just value of \$5,650,756.

Coordination

The project was proposed by Seminole County. The Seminole Forever program is a potential partner in the acquisition of Yarborough Ranch. Other potential partners may include the Florida Forest Service and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals of the project are to protect and sustain populations of threatened and endangered species; to allow restoration of wetlands; 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; and to periodically review, evaluate and modify the management of the Yarborough Ranch property.

Manager

Seminole County is the identified manager for Yarborough Ranch.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Acquisition of Yarborough Ranch is desirable due to its connectivity between multiple conservation lands.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

A large portion of the property has been used for raising cattle. This involved converting land to pasture and channelizing the property, with approximately 55% of Yarborough Ranch being made up of improved pasture.

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

Multi-use activities on the property will be implemented pursuant to Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, and the Seminole County Parks System Master Plan. The primary objective will be to protect the resources on-site while providing access and compatible passive recreation opportunities to the public. Once the property is acquired, a detailed site assessment will be conducted, and the management planning process





will be initiated. As the plan is created, securing the site and low impact accessibility improvements will begin. Any extensive site improvements for restoration or allowing for public access will not be initiated until the final management plan is accepted by the Seminole Board of County Commissioners. Through partnerships with local law enforcement, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Forest Service, the site will be monitored regularly for signs of undesirable activities and resource degradation.

The site will also be monitored for trespassers and unauthorized access on a regular basis. Boundary signs will be created and installed with any applicable restrictions clearly listed and contact information for those seeking authorized access.

Revenue-generating Potential

Typical revenue generating programs in Seminole County include camping along with educational and outdoor recreational activities.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The management strategy for the project site includes oversight by Seminole County’s Natural Lands staff. It also may include the use of partnerships with state land management partners. Seminole County has a history of successfully partnering with multiple state agencies for implementing appropriate habitat management activities on County owned and state-owned lands that Seminole County manages.

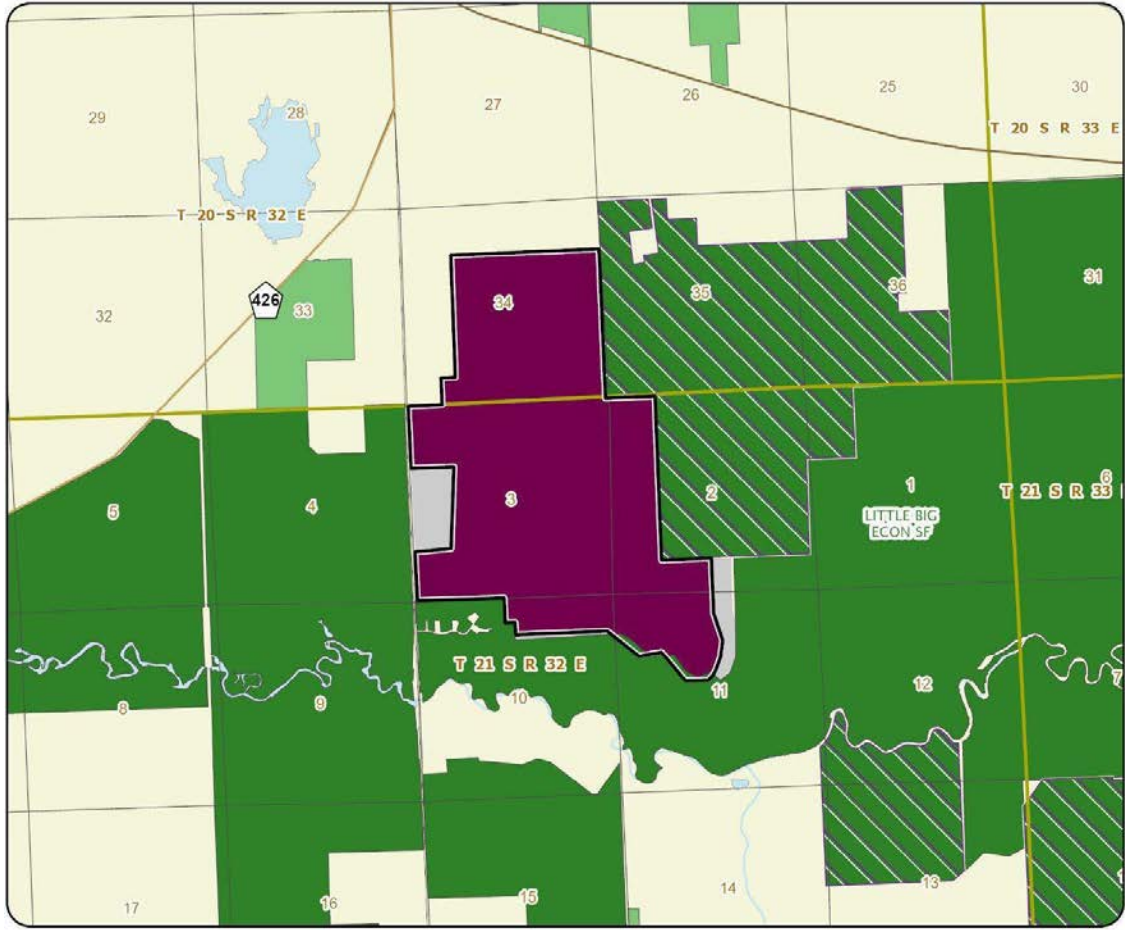
Management Cost Summary

A preliminary cost estimate for the first year is as follows.

Site Security (fencing/gate repair, boundary signs)	\$10,000
Invasive Plant Management	\$39,400
Demolition and Removal of Old Structures	\$10,000
Site Maintenance	\$15,000
Access improvements (roads, water crossings)	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$89,400

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted.





YARBOROUGH RANCH

SEMINOLE COUNTY



LESS THAN FEE

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Adams Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola and St. Lucie Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2007
<i>Project Acres</i>	34,540
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,551
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$1,442,155
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	32,989
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$140,156,188

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 a 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, including the use of prescribed fire, maintenance of hydrological regimes and habitat protection.

General Description

The Adams Ranch project is 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 are no more than 10 miles to the west of the project. The Mills Ranch and Escape Ranch Conservation Easements lie approximately 3.5 miles 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 site's 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 and northern bobwhite quail.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eastern indigo snake	G3/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
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4

Public Use

Adams Ranch 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

Adams Ranch was originally part of a larger proposal (55,000 acres) submitted to the Conservation and Recreational Lands program in 1986 by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. 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 added Adams Ranch to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List. The 11,023-acre less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. After a request from landowners to remove the 4-H Ranch, the project consisted of 7,159 acres and had a tax assessed value of \$10,638,040.

2010

In 2010, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services closed on a 795-acre easement owned by the Adams family for \$1,603,510. A portion of the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program easement acquisition (698 acres) were within the project boundary.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project into the Less-than-Fee category.

2015

In 2015, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council reduced the project boundary by 3,898 acres after receiving a request to remove land owned by the Bexley Ranch Land Trust. This reduction eliminated a potential connection to the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. However, the project still connects the existing Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Adams Ranch conservation easements to the southeast.

2021

On October 8, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council members approved the Adams Ranch II proposal and added 27,342 acres in Osceola and St. Lucie counties to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and Osceola County have been partners in the 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.

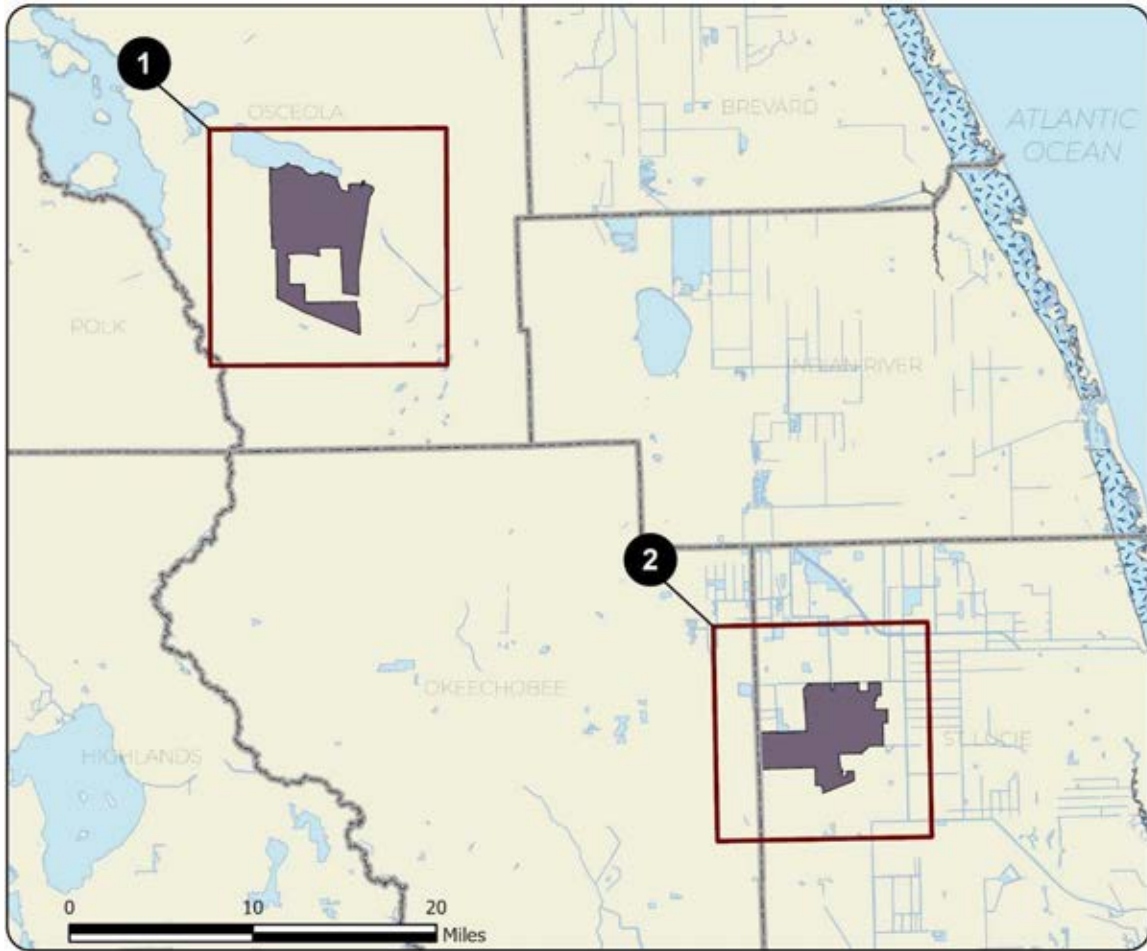
Manager(s)

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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

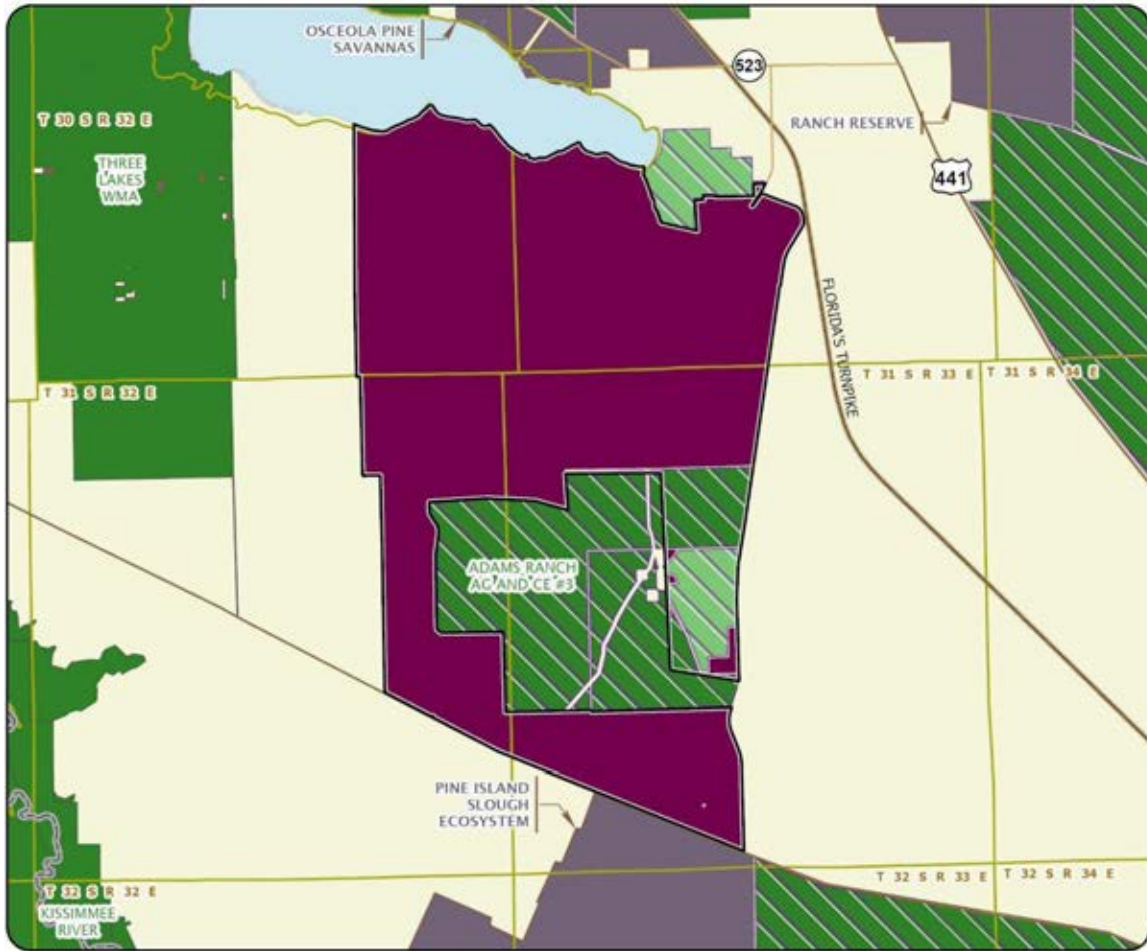




ADAMS RANCH: OVERVIEW

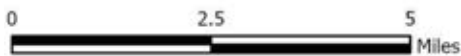
OSCEOLA AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

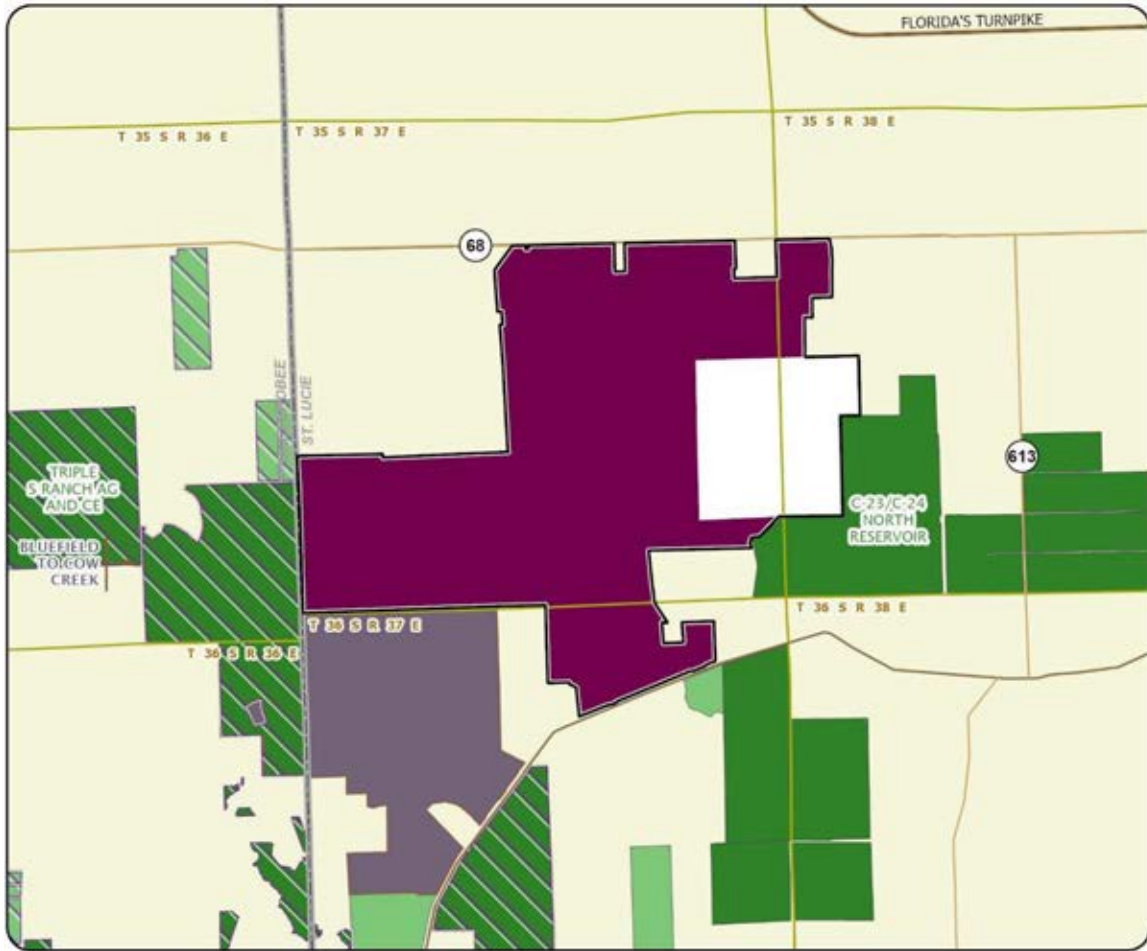




ADAMS RANCH: MAP 1

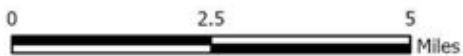
OSCEOLA COUNTY





ADAMS RANCH: MAP 2

ST. LUCIE COUNTY



Ayavalla Plantation

Less-Than-Fee

Leon County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2008
<i>Project Acres</i>	6,098
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	398
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	5,700
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$19,352,165

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 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 project will support state water quality and quantity by protecting the site's surface waters and wetlands.

General Description

Ayavalla Plantation 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 consists of many parcels, all of which are 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 five 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 a local park managed by Leon County.

The Ayavalla Plantation landscape is part of the Red Hills Physiographic Province, characterized by rolling terrain and clay soils that rest upon limestone. 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 pines. 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. Other rare and imperiled species that are likely to occur within





the project include the Sherman’s fox squirrel, gopher frog, pine barrens treefrog and Florida pine snake. Threatened species such as the gopher tortoise and gopher frog are on the site and there is potential for restoration of gopher tortoise habitat.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2
Southeastern weasel	G5T4/S3?
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4

Public Use

Ayavalla Plantation 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 approved the Ayavalla Plantation Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$23,675,453.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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, Ayavalla Plantation would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

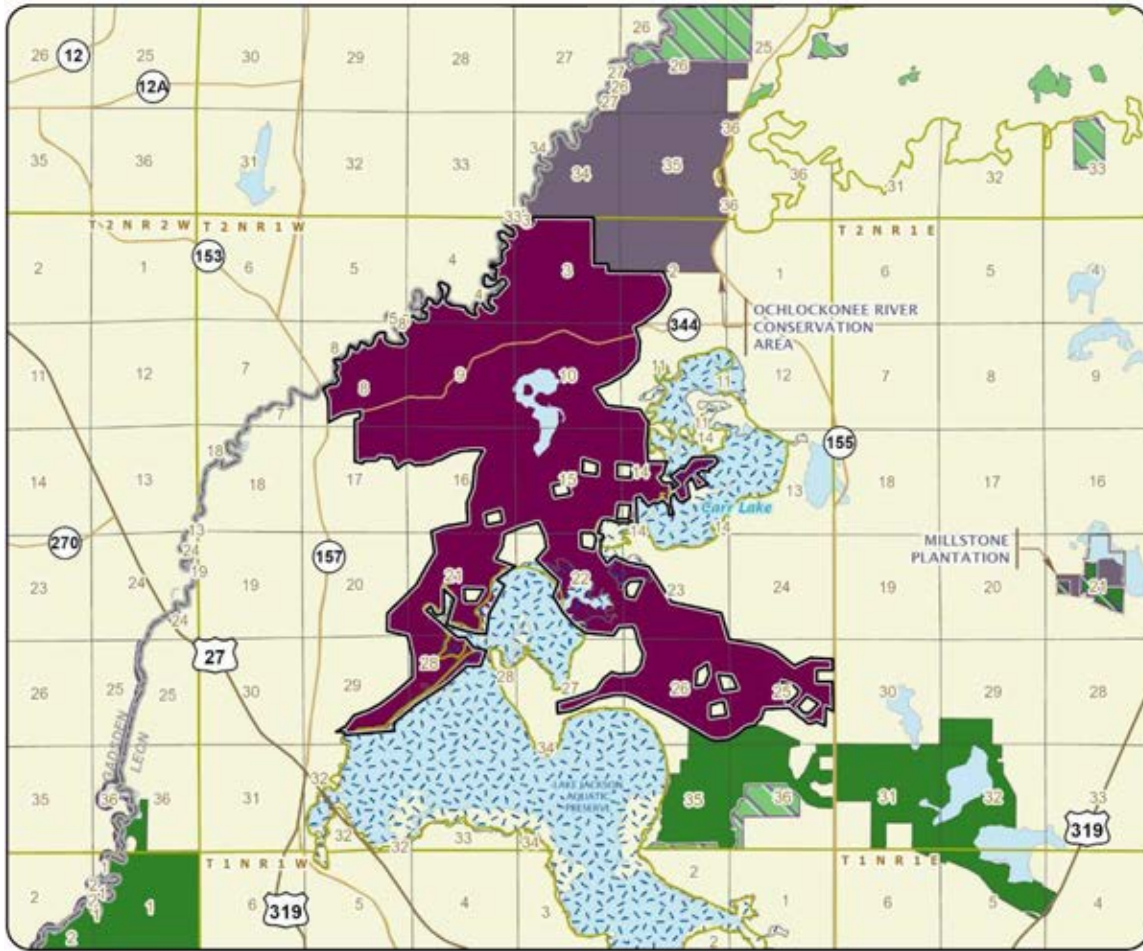
Manager(s)

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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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
-  Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
-  State Aquatic Preserve



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Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2000
<i>Project Acres</i>	52,510
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	19,152
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$34,269,108
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	33,358
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$158,044,798

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 Bull Creek and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Numerous wildlife species live in the project's palmetto prairies, pine flatwoods and cypress swamps such as the crested caracara, red-cockaded woodpeckers and sandhill cranes.

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 woodpeckers, Florida sandhill cranes, Florida grasshopper sparrows, Sherman's fox squirrels, swallow-tailed kites and crested caracaras.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3





Public Use

Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch 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 the project.

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 Priority List.

The less-than-fee project, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 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 established the first conservation easement of Birchwood Acres Preserve.

2002

On April 25, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission established a 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. Osceola County will manage the property.

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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 7,722 acres from the project boundary because they have already been developed with residential and commercial structures.





2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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 BOT approved a 1,100-acre conservation easement on the project's Camp Lonesome tract.

In 2017, 1,109.68 acres in the project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2019

On June 14, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 4,255 acres from the project boundary after receiving a request from the owner(s).

2023

In 2023, DEP acquired a 4,196-acre conservation easement in Osceola County from Bronsons LLP.

Coordination

Osceola County is an acquisition partner in the 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended as lead manager with the Florida Forest Service 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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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 the 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.

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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Forest Service, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 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 the Florida Forest Service. 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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be bound by negotiations between landowners and the Division of State Lands. However, if negotiated provisions allow, there may be some opportunities on these lands for generating revenues from low-level hunting activities such as quota hunts or special-opportunity hunts. Funding of requisite positions, Other Personal Services positions, expenses and Operating Capital Outlay would come from the Conservation and Recreational Lands Trust Fund, and the





State Game Trust Fund as needed. Since these lands are adjacent to an existing land complex managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, initial staffing would be limited to one Biological Scientist III and one Fish and Wildlife Technician.

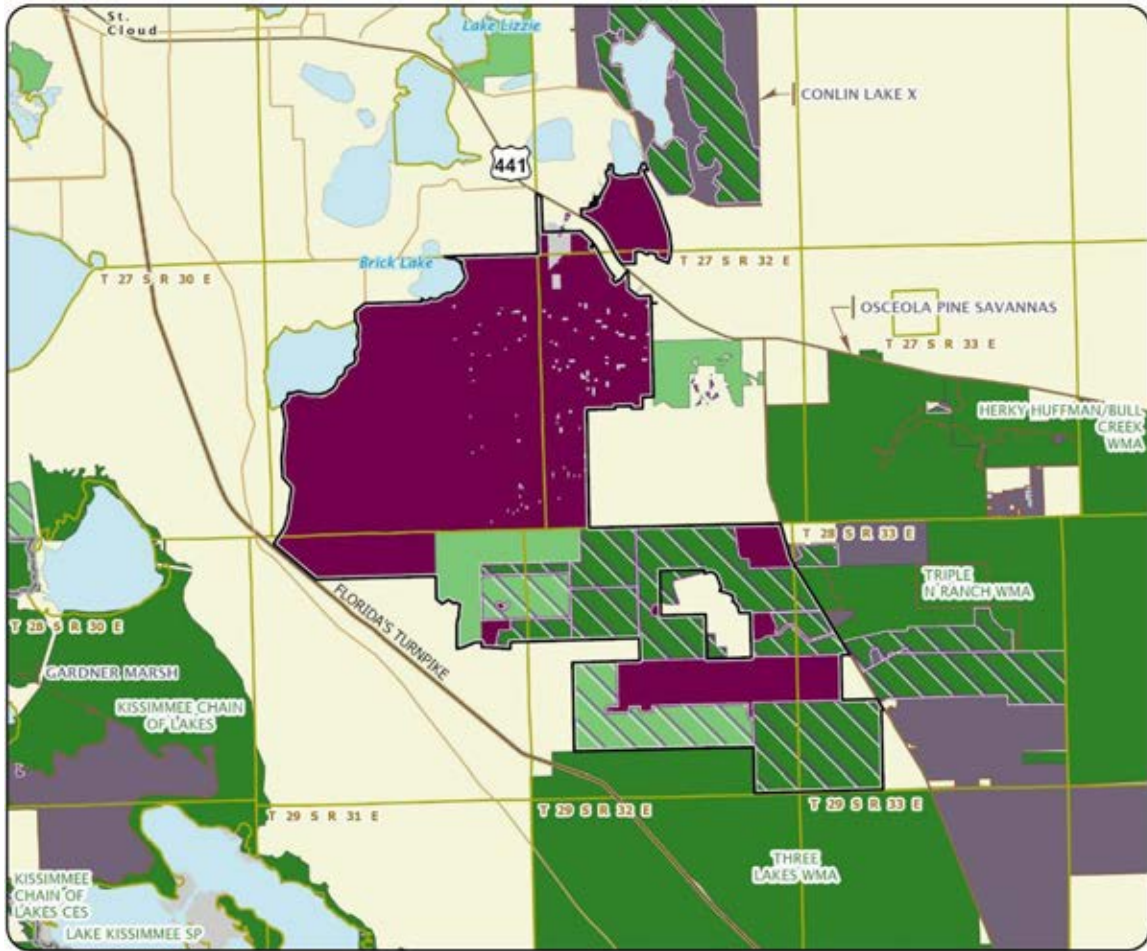
Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area but will seek special assistance from the Florida Forest Service 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



Bluefield to Cow Creek

Less-than-Fee

Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2020
<i>Project Acres</i>	10,996
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	6,524
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$11,433,600
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	4,472
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$20,989,320

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. 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, which is 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 eagles, wood storks 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 fox squirrels.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>blunt-leaved peperomia</i>	G5TNR/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2

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 placed the project in the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

2023

In 2023, DEP acquired a 3,153-acre conservation easement in St. Lucie County from Ru-Mar, Inc.

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.

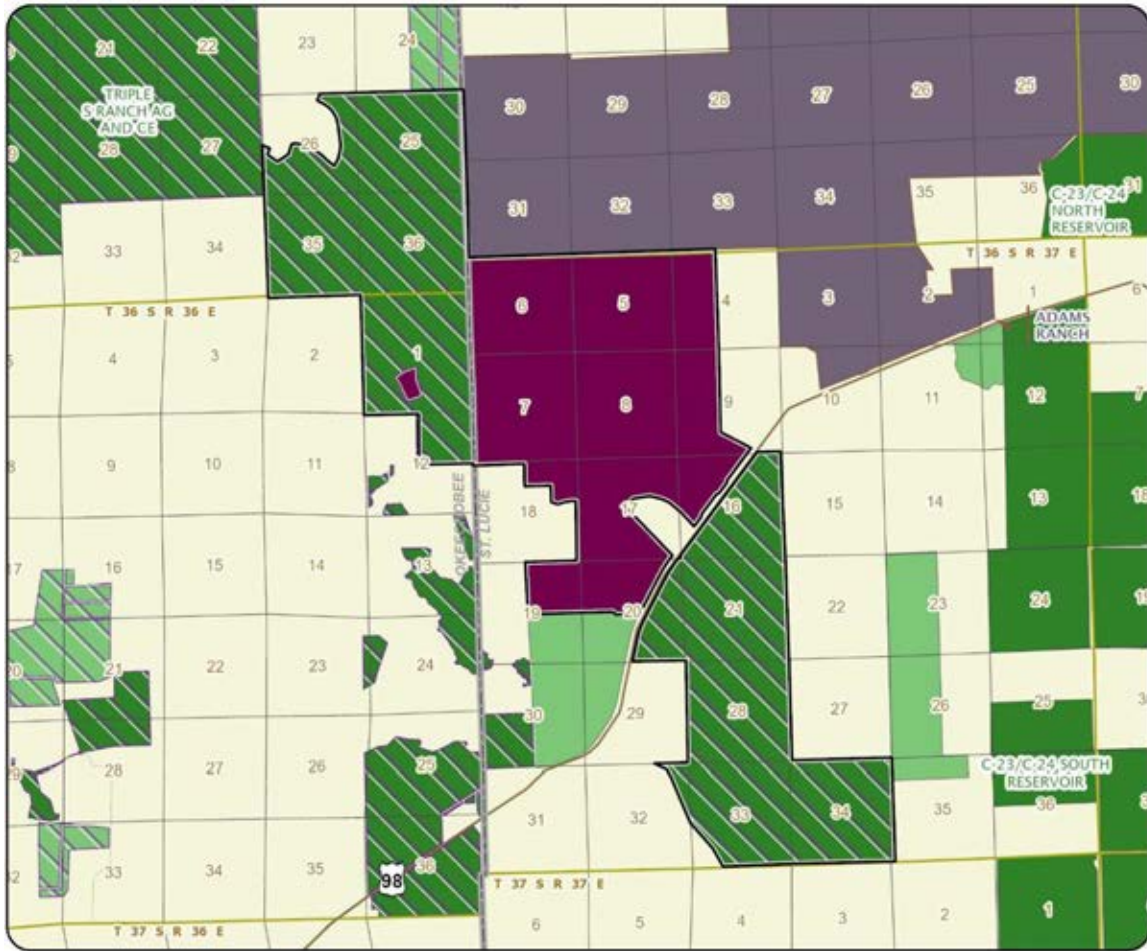
Manager(s)

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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



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Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest

Less-Than-Fee

Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2014
<i>Project Acres</i>	99,544
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	6,483
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$1,297,200
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	93,061
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$226,207,146

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 six 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 5-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 and White-top pitcher plant are found in the forest. Rare animals that have been documented on-site include gopher tortoise, alligator snapping turtle, little blue heron, swallow-tailed kite and Bachmann’s sparrow.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Panhandle lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>Turk's cap lily</i>	G5/S1
Gulf crayfish	G4/S1
Harlequin Darter	G5/S1
<i>Florida flame azalea</i>	G3/S3
<i>Hairy-peduncled Beaksedge</i>	G3/S3
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Alligator Gar	G3G4/S3
bluenose Shiner	G3G4/S3S4
Spiny Softshell	G5/S3

Public Use

Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest 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 approved the evaluation of the project proposal.

On December 12, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the project to the Less-than-Fee category.

2021

In 2021, 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.





Coordination

There were no confirmed acquisition partners when the project was added. However, the landowner is in contact with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to match 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.

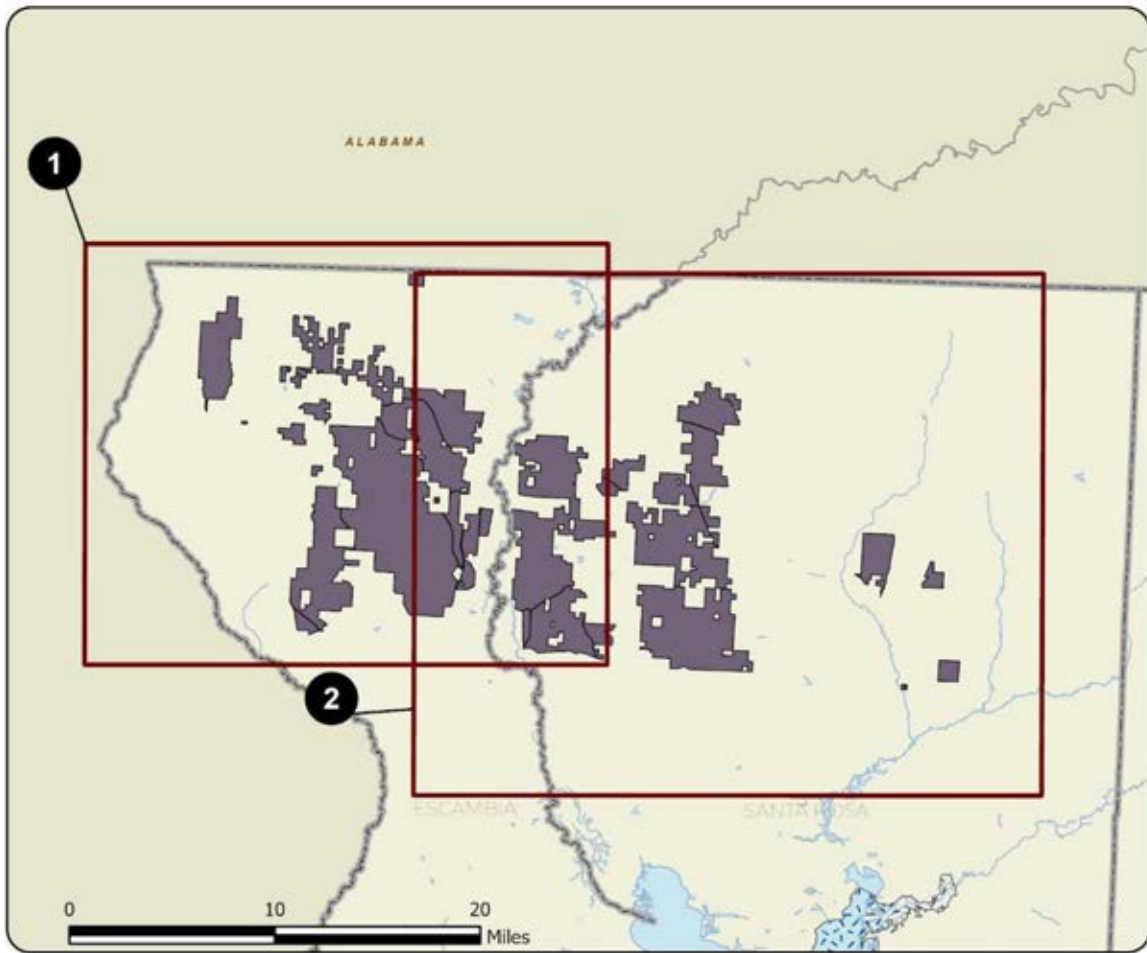
Manager(s)

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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

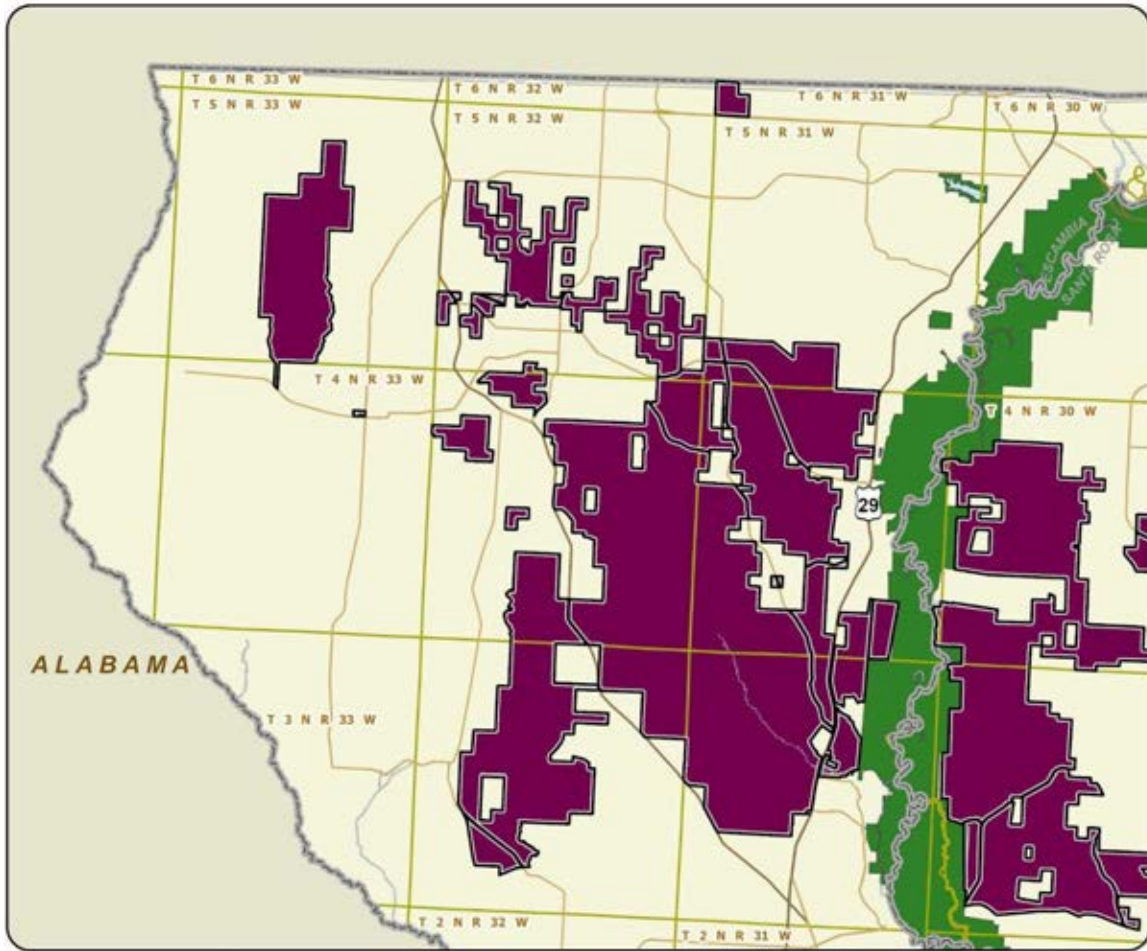




COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: OVERVIEW

ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES

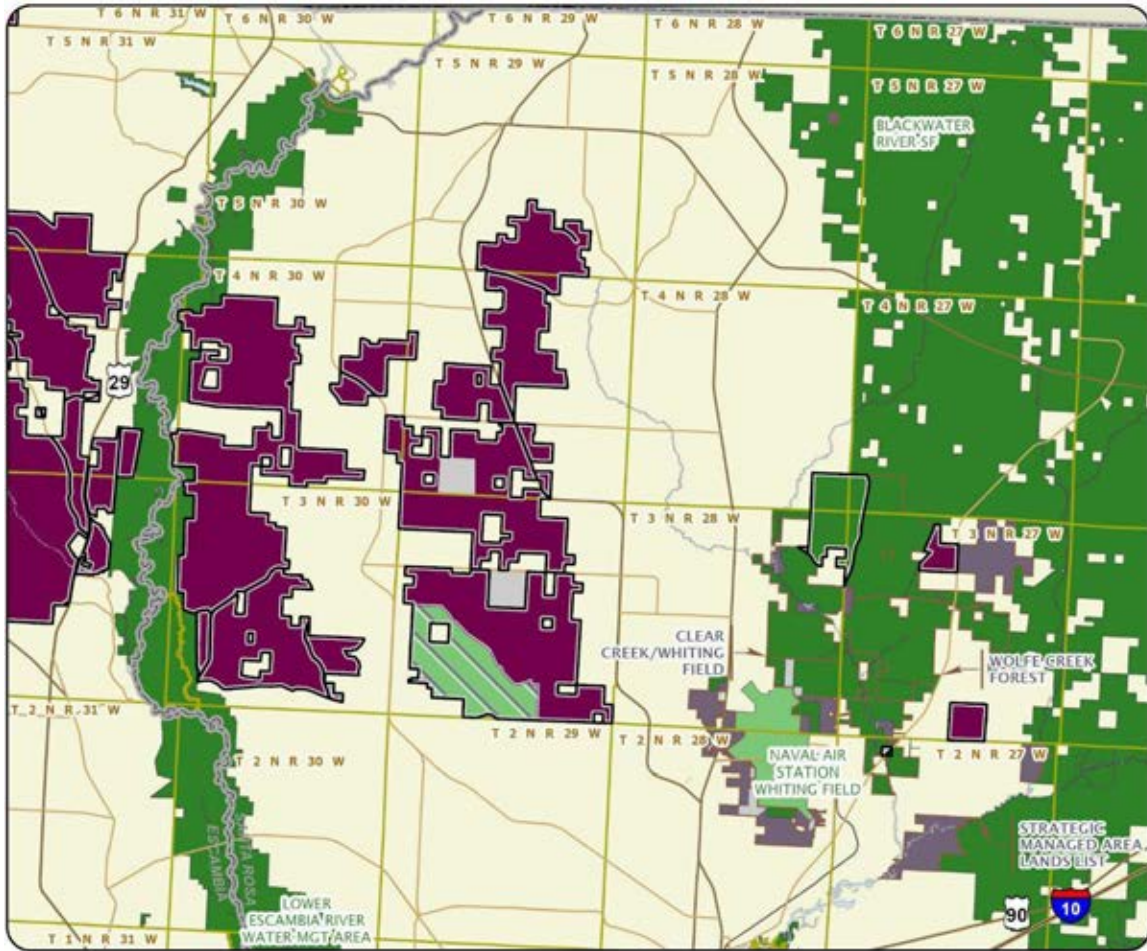




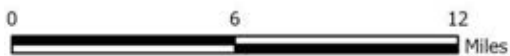
COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: MAP 1

ESCAMBIA COUNTY





ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES



Conlin Lake X

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2015
<i>Project Acres</i>	9,075
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	5,553
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,522
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$17,404,845

Purpose for State Acquisition

About nine miles east of the city of St. Cloud is the Conlin Lake X property, which surrounds an over 1,000-acre lake formerly used by Mercury Marine for developing and testing motorboats. The land has a well-maintained basin swamp and a large freshwater lake. The project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels. The project will support state water quality and quantity by preserving the natural functions of the land, surface waters and wetlands associated with the property. The project meets the Florida Forever goals of increasing natural resource-based public recreation opportunities and the amount of open space available in urban areas.

General Description

The project encompasses the entirety of Lake Conlin, a meandered, sovereign lake owned by the state. It 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 Conlin Lake X property and the Osceola Pines Florida Forever Project is seven 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, bald eagle, Sherman's fox squirrel and Bachmann's sparrow.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4
Bird Rookery	G5/SNRB

Public Use

Conlin Lake X 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 the property is acquired by less-than-fee.

Acquisition Planning

2015

On June 19, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the property to the Florida Forever Priority List in the Less-than-Fee category. The owner anticipated selling an easement on the 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 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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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 Florida Forever project.

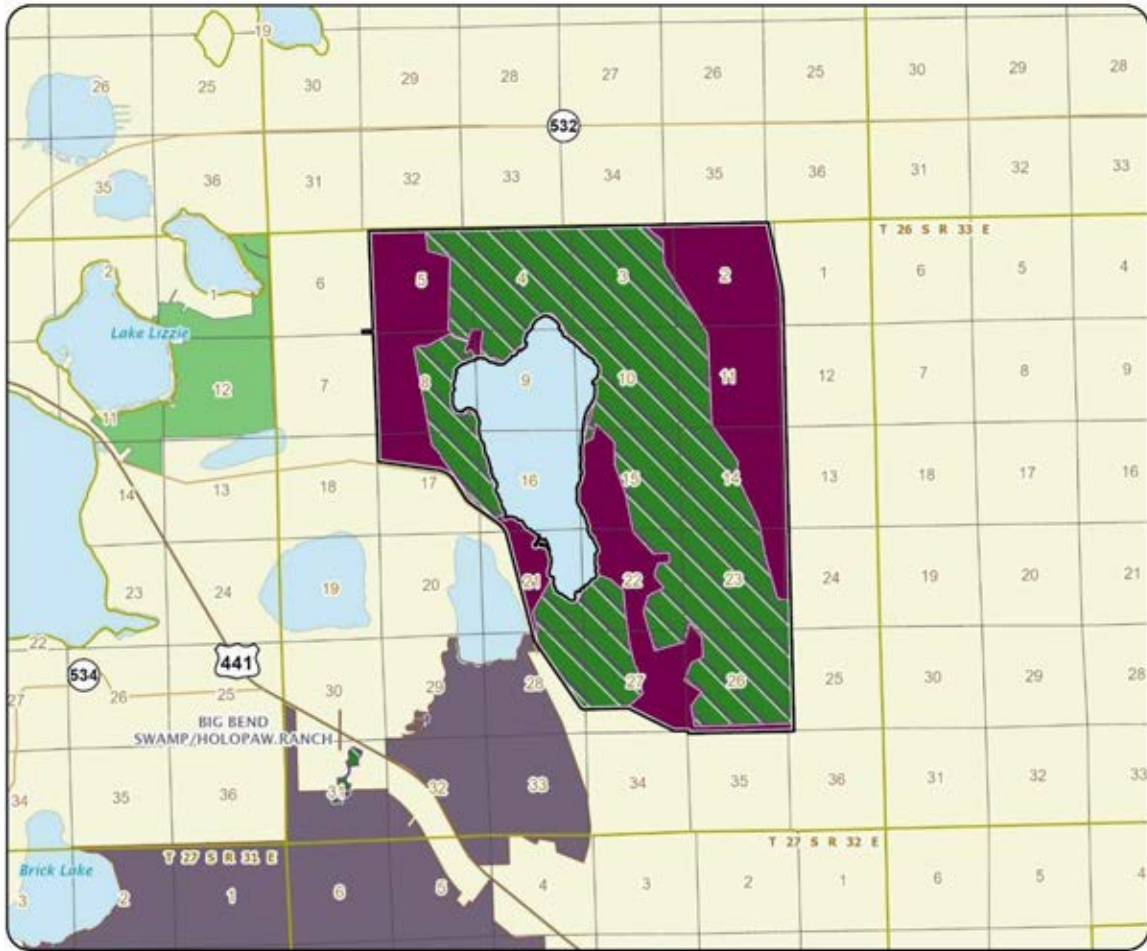




Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

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



Deer Creek Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

DeSoto County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	5,934
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	5,934
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$27,388,723

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Deer Creek Ranch project features two sloughs that, if acquired, will be protected, and ensure the water quality of the Peace River watershed. The project's proximity to a variety of conservation lands expands the protection of imperiled species habitat, provides connectivity of conservation lands, ensures the quality and quantity of surface water, and protects an important wildlife corridor.

General Description

The Deer Creek Ranch project contains 19 parcels totaling 5,934 acres in DeSoto County. The project borders Halls Tiger Bay Ranch Agricultural and Conservation Easement on its western side, Bob Paul Conservation Easement on its eastern side and Bright Hour Watershed on its northern side. The property lies entirely within priorities 1 and 3 of the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Deer Creek Ranch is within the Peace River watershed. Tiger Bay Slough runs through the center of the property and Myrtle Slough flows through the western portion of the property. These tributaries help to provide drinking water for the City of Punta Gorda before eventually meeting the Peace River and flowing into eastern Charlotte Harbor. Acquisition of Deer Creek Ranch will help to protect the surface and drinking water quality of the Peace River watershed.

The property hosts a wide variety of imperiled species such as Florida scrub jays, Florida burrowing owls, and sandhill cranes, among others. The landowner has also reported crested caracara, Florida panther, Florida black bear and southern fox squirrel on the property. According to the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation, Deer Creek Ranch significantly contributes to Florida Natural Areas Inventory Habitat Conservation Priorities (100%) and Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (99%).

Deer Creek Ranch is a working cattle ranch, and as such, much of the property (70%) is made up of improved and semi-improved pasture. There are 11 residences or pole barns on the property. The predominant natural communities in the eastern portion of Deer Creek Ranch include large contiguous areas of scrubby flatwoods, dry prairie and wet prairie. The western half of the property is primarily improved pasture with mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods and wet flatwoods around the perimeter.



These natural communities are in good to excellent condition and the landowner excludes cattle from these natural areas.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

Deer Creek Ranch 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 Deer Creek Ranch to the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. The project includes 5,934 acres and a just value of \$27,355,426.

Coordination

There are no identified partners in the project.

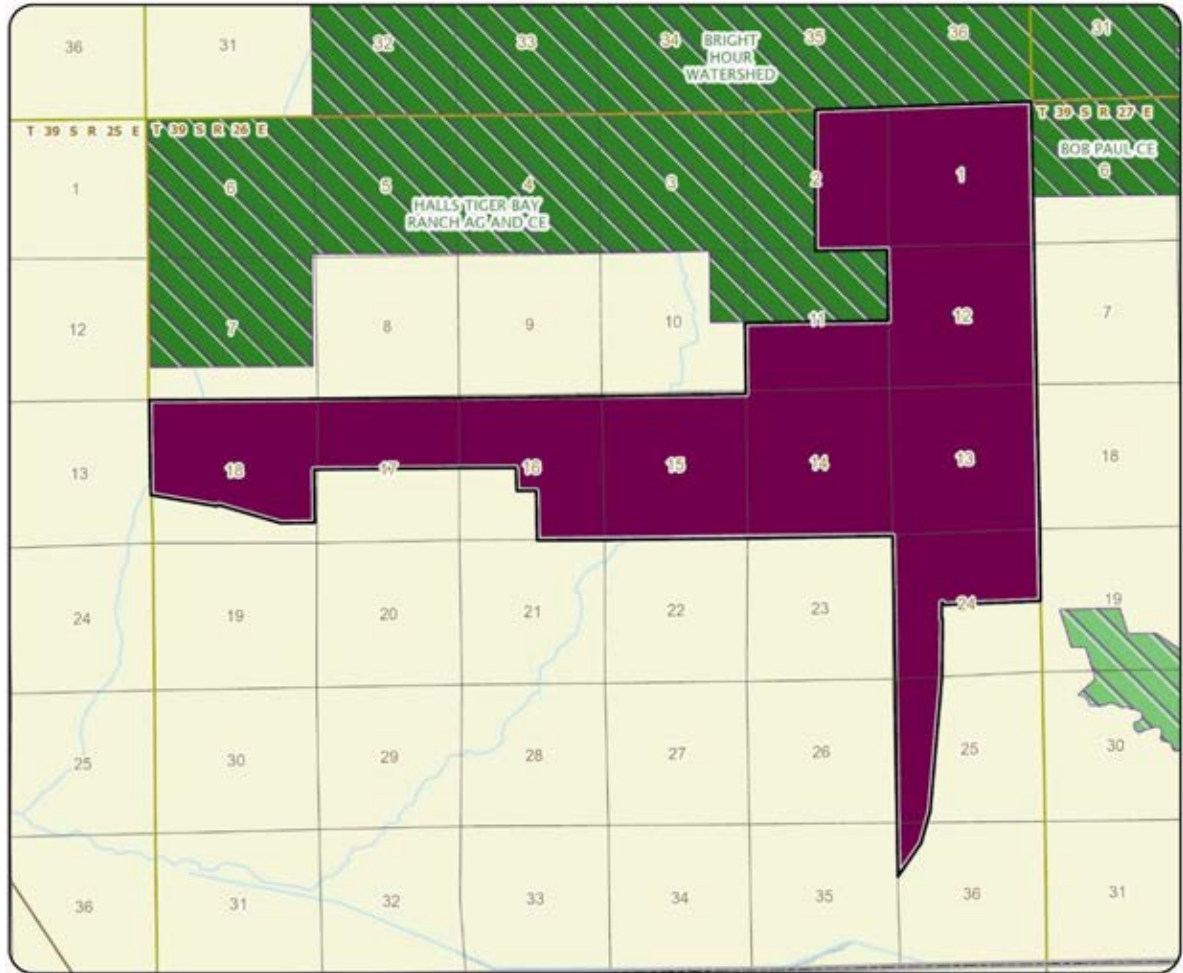
Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, Deer Creek Ranch would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement. Periodic monitoring of the site’s management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.





DEER CREEK RANCH

DESOTO COUNTY



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Eastern Scarp Ranchlands

Less-Than-Fee

Highlands County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2013
<i>Project Acres</i>	2,214
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,214
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$15,216,497

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 two 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

Eastern Scarp Ranchlands 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 voted to add the Eastern Scarp Ranchlands 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 the region contiguous with Avon Park Air Force Range. The Nature Conservancy confirmed in late 2013 that an application has been submitted for additional Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration funding to match Florida Forever funding to acquire the 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.

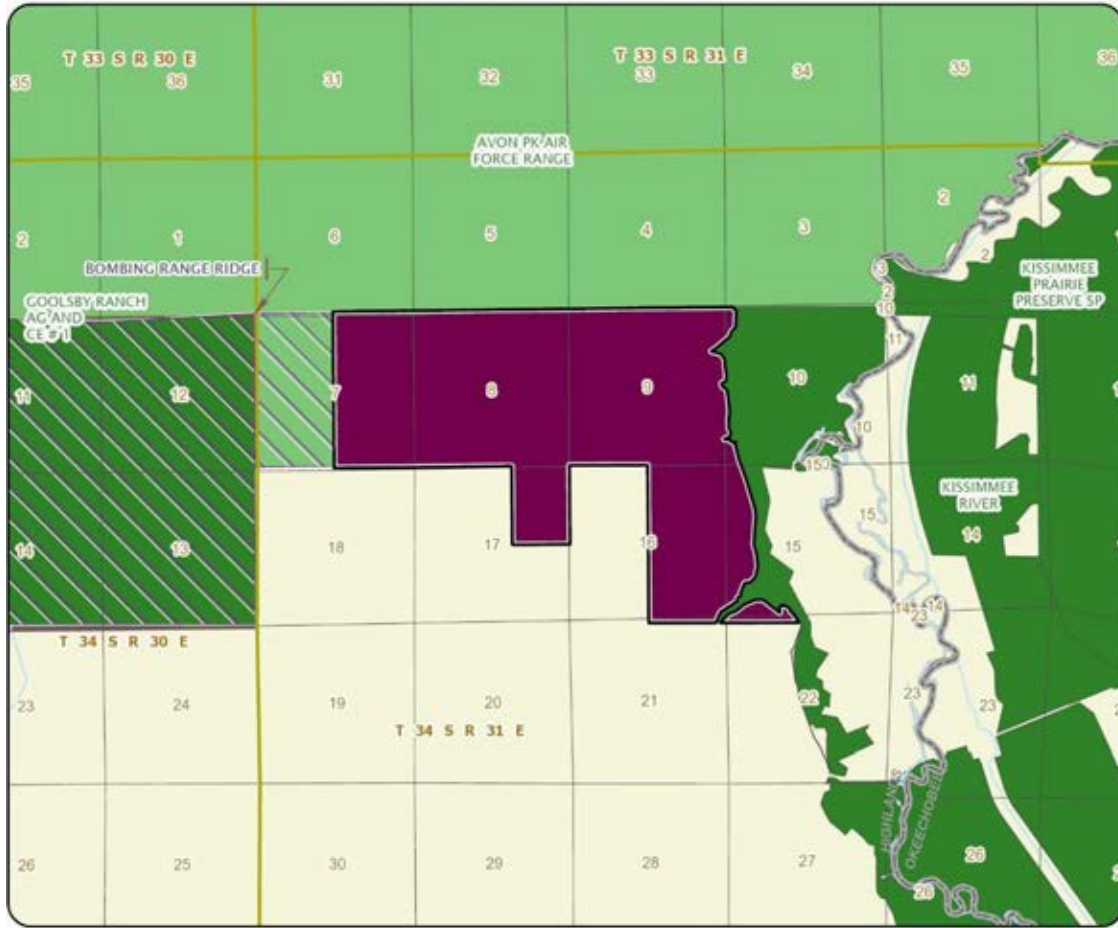
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-then-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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while management will be conducted by the property owner.





EASTERN SCARP RANCHLANDS

HIGHLANDS COUNTY



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Eight Mile Property

Less-Than-Fee

Dixie County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	5,717
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	5,717
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$8,290,494

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of the Eight Mile Property project would connect existing conservation lands, protect and improve water quality within the Steinhatchee River watershed, and provide a critical habitat corridor for wildlife.

General Description

The Eight Mile Property project is in Dixie County, bordering the Lafayette County line to the north. The predominant land use on the property is forestry, and extensive areas of the property consist of planted pine or pine plantations that have been recently harvested. Despite past use of the uplands for silviculture, wetland areas of the Eight Mile Property appear to be in relatively natural condition. The project area is part of the Steinhatchee headwaters system and contains Eightmile Creek, a significant blackwater stream that flows across the property from the northeast corner to the southwest for approximately 3 miles. Along this length, Eightmile Creek is surrounded by a mature floodplain swamp. The most common wetland community on the property is basin swamp, which makes up most of the eastern third of the property. A large, mostly undisturbed bottomland forest is located at the center of the property.

Rare animals documented or reported within the proposed project area include white ibis, wood stork and Florida black bear. In addition, five archaeological sites have been recorded within the project area. The project is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Wood stork	G4/S2
White ibis	G5/S4





Public Use

The Eight Mile Property project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Eight Mile Property project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List. At the time of approval, approximately 70 percent of the project area was under consideration for a commercial wetland mitigation bank and was deemed non-essential for acquisition purposes.

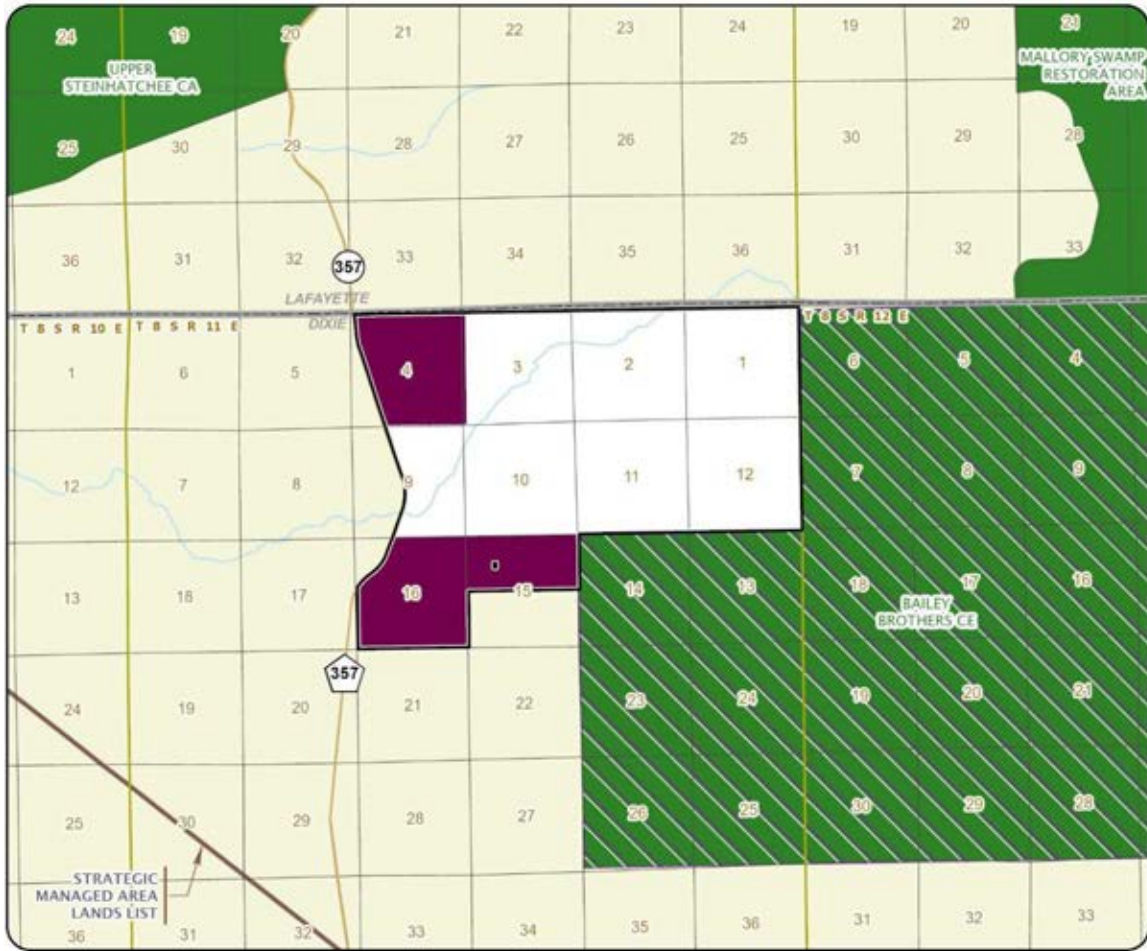
Management Policy Statement

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 project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.





EIGHT MILE PROPERTY

DIXIE COUNTY



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Fisheating Creek Ecosystem

Less-Than-Fee

Glades and Highlands Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1999
<i>Project Acres</i>	191,848
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	77,865
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$66,228,563
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	113,983
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$788,106,062

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, the crested caracara 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. 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 Herbert 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, cutthroat grass and nodding pinweed. The project also provides habitat for the Florida panther, swallow-tailed kite, crested caracara, snail kite, Florida grasshopper sparrow, Florida sandhill crane, mottled duck, red-cockaded woodpecker, short-tailed hawk and bald eagle.

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 1700 A.D.). 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>wedge-leaved button-snakeroot</i>	G1/S1
<i>Carter's warea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida blazing star</i>	G2/S2
<i>Highlands scrub hypericum</i>	G2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2

Public Use

The 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. The project was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, consisted of approximately 168,360 acres with a single owner (Lykes Bros. Inc.) and had a taxable value of \$22,297,408.

On May 25, 1999, the BOT approved a settlement agreement with Lykes Bros. Inc. in the case of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund 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 approved a less-than-fee addition to the project boundary. The 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 project was also moved to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2002

On August 15, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Division of State Lands and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Less-than-Fee category.

2015

On June 19, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 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. The Acquisition and Restoration Council then immediately added the new project boundary to the boundary of the existing Fisheating Creek Florida Forever 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 had 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 6,560 acres to the project boundary. The addition, referred to as Buck Island Ranch, is in Highlands County.

2022

In 2022, DEP acquired a 6,864-acre conservation easement over Chaparral Slough to provide a protected corridor from the Caloosahatchee River to the Fisheating Creek/Lykes conservation easement and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-managed wildlife management area.

2023

On October 13, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Venus Project proposal (1,110 acres) in Highlands 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 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 Fisheating Creek Ecosystem would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.





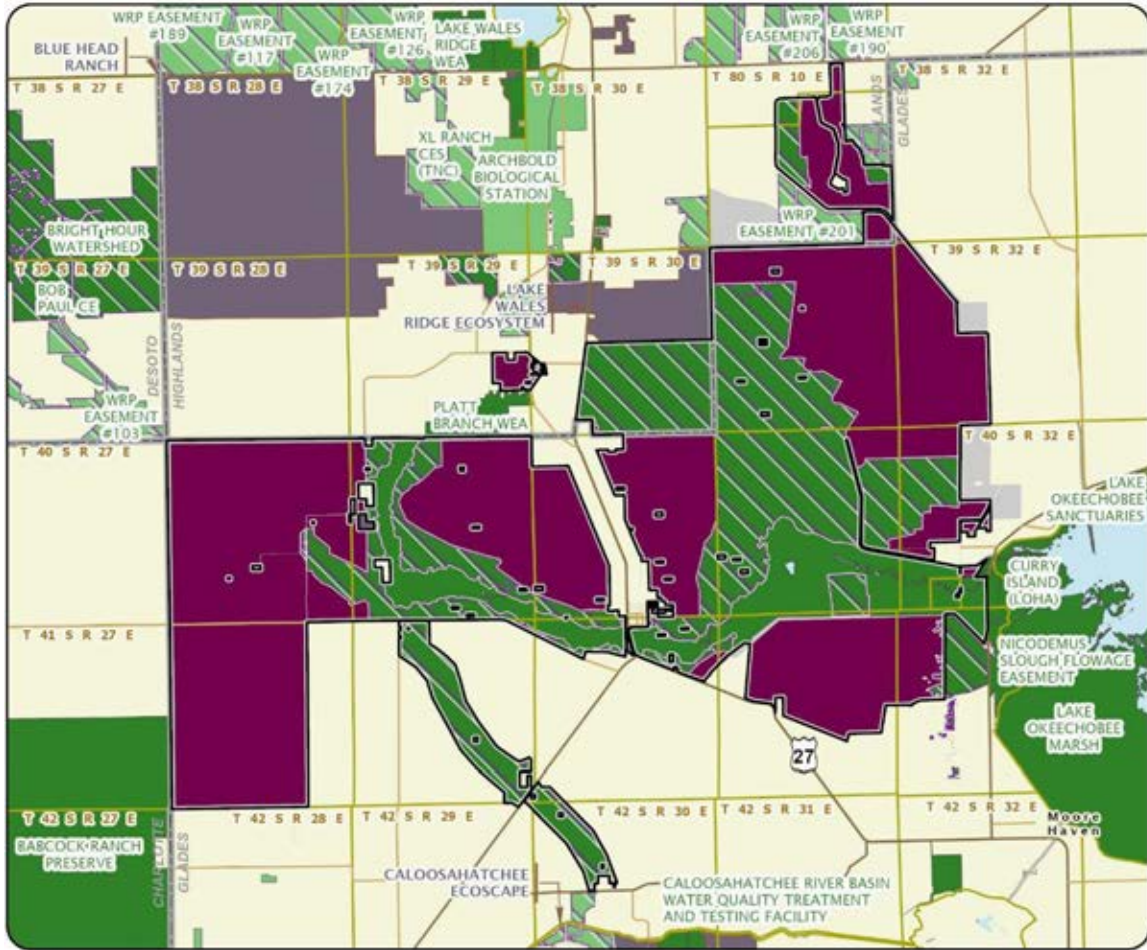
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance will be coordinated by the Division of State Lands. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the fee-simple acquisitions unless otherwise noted.

Management Prospectus

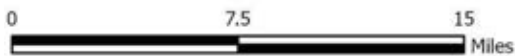
Pursuant to the 1999 settlement agreement, the BOT will lease the sovereign submerged lands and fee lands to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as the designated managing agency and as the easement monitor for the conservation easement. The sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands will be managed as the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. The settlement agreement outlining specific management guidelines is on file with the Division of State Lands.





FISHEATING CREEK ECOSYSTEM

GLADES AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES



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Gilchrist Club

Less-Than-Fee

Gilchrist County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	23,298
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	23,298
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$77,208,409

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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 added 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.

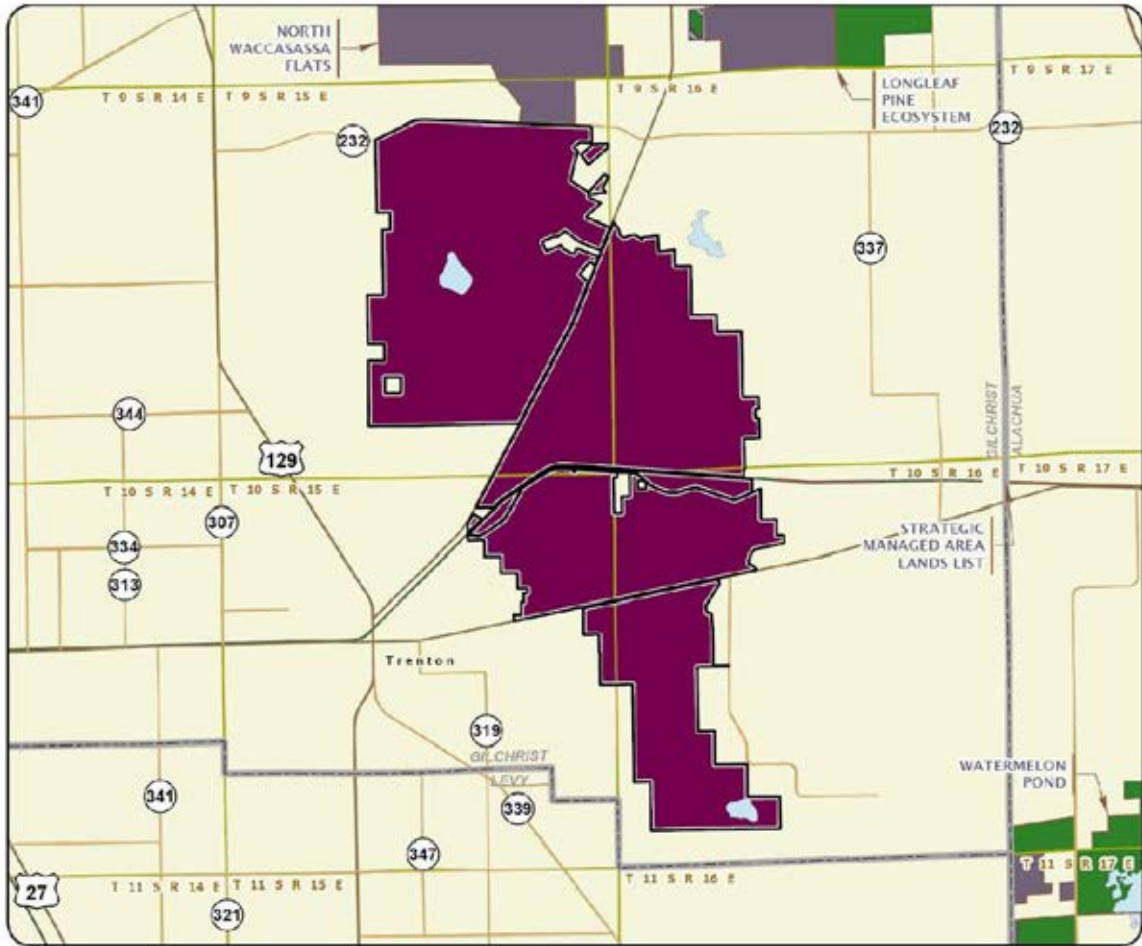
Management Policy Statement

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 Division of State Lands.





GILCHRIST CLUB

GILCHRIST COUNTY



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Gulf Hammock

Less-Than-Fee

Levy County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2004
<i>Project Acres</i>	25,611
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	25,611
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$95,640,701

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 and would serve as an addition to, or buffer to, the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park. Approximately 23,248 acres of land within the project area are currently managed in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area, the state's oldest wildlife management area. The remaining acres would be protected by a less-than-fee conservation easement to allow the owner to continue using the property for timber production, infrastructure development, hunting, and other compatible uses.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
Eastern kingsnake	G5/S1S2
<i>variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G3/S3
<i>wood spurge</i>	G5/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4





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 the project, 21,959 acres are proposed for less-than-fee easement. Most of the property, which is owned by Plum Creek Timber Company, is currently being used for intensive silvicultural production. The Division of State Lands continues project development work with the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the project to Group B of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

Coordination

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies (including the Florida Forest Service and 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 the Division of State Lands.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission currently manages most of the project area as the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area.





Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission submitted the following management plans for any full-fee purchases in the project.

Qualifications for State Designation

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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. Two archaeological and historic sites are listed within the project area and would be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

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 stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities if such projects could be economically developed.

Cooperators in Management Activities

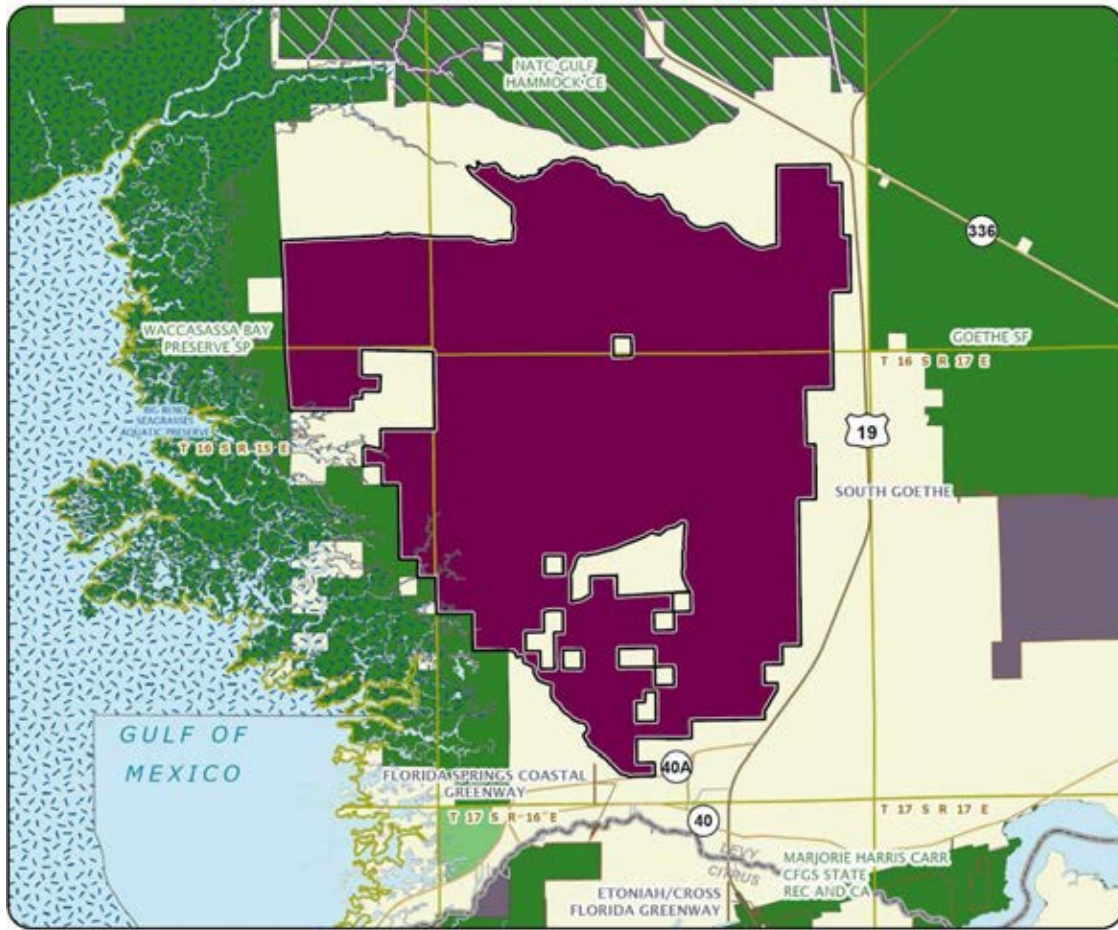
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies (including the Florida Forest Service and DEP) in management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
	State and/or federal	State and/or federal
Source of Funds		
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



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Heartland Wildlife Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Hardee and Highlands Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	9,579
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	9,579
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$67,119,573

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, and contains 67 parcels owned by 13 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. The 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4

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 added the Heartland Wildlife Corridor project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

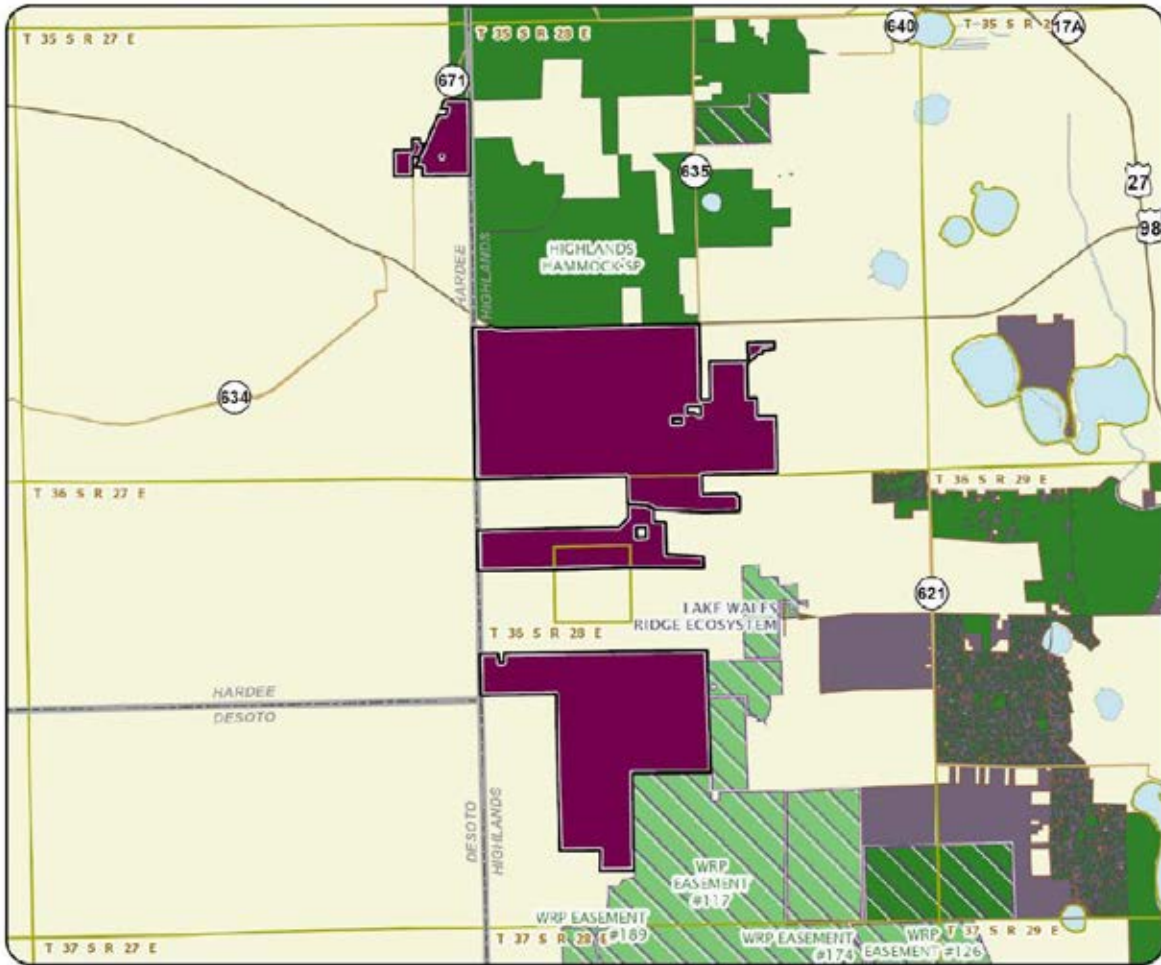
Management Policy Statement

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 the Division of State Lands.





HEARTLAND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

HARDEE AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES



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Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone

Less-Than-Fee

Gadsden and Liberty Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	6,923
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	6,923
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$11,113,529

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, 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 the area as potential habitat for numerous rare and imperiled species.

General Description

The project adjoins the Lines Tract of 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 the site. Roughly half of the 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 the project.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Chapman's rhododendron</i>	G1/S1
<i>zigzag silkgrass</i>	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3

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. The addition formed the connection from Lake Talquin State Forest to Apalachicola National Forest.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and Florida Natural Areas Inventory 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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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 the 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 BOT. 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.





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 the property, the revenue potential of the project is expected to be medium.

Cooperators in Management Activities

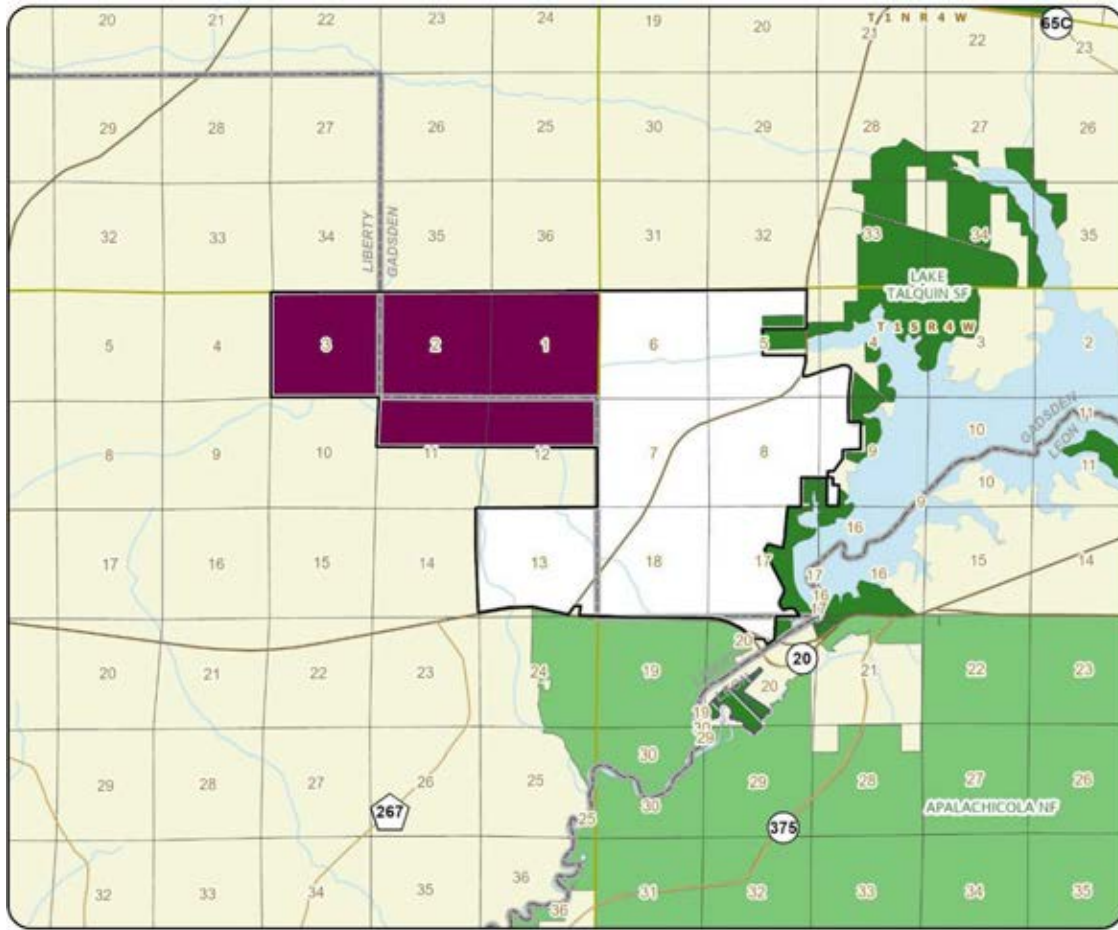
The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state and local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	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



Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector

Less-Than-Fee

Indian River and Okeechobee Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	44,397
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	13,587
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$35,915,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	30,810
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$218,364,707

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 grasshopper sparrow, sandhill crane, mottled duck, wood stork, crested caracara and red-cockaded woodpeckers. Acquisition of the 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>large-flowered rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4





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. The 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 added 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 established Phase I of the Russakis Ranch Gopher Tortoise Long-term Recipient Site (640.05 acres).

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.

2013

On May 7, 2013, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission established Phase II of the Russakis Ranch Gopher Tortoise Long-term Recipient Site (694.04 acres).

2016

On April 22, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Lewis Friend Farm proposal (1,088 acres) to the project boundary.

2020

On October 9, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 3,656-acre Abington Ranch addition in Okeechobee County to the project boundary.

2021

In 2021, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 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 3.63 acres known as Abington Preserve from Abington Preserve, LLC.





Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is partnering with the Division of State Lands on the project.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

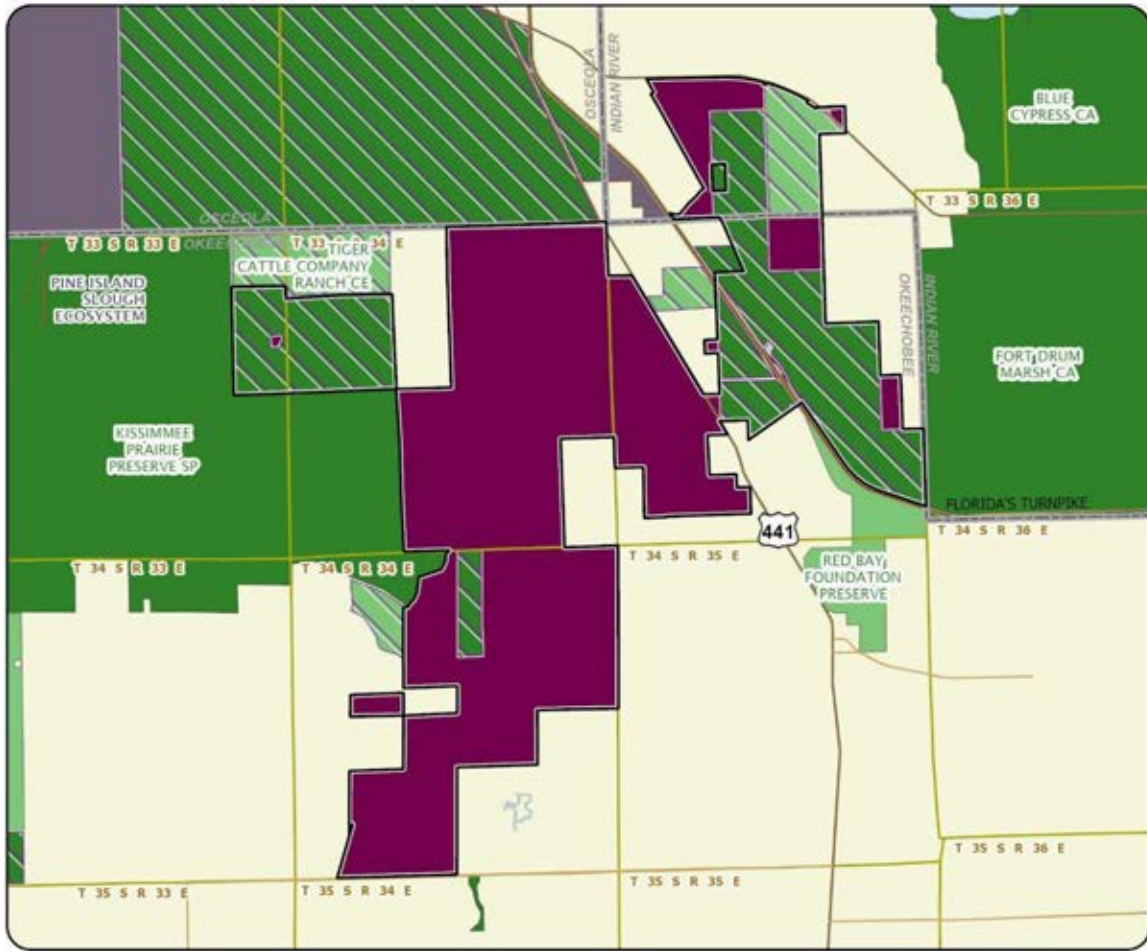
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



Limestone Ranch

Less-Than-Fee
Hardee County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2012
<i>Project Acres</i>	6,382
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	6,382
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$38,242,758

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 provide a buffer for Limestone Creek, a tributary of the Peace River, and protect floodplain and aquifer recharge areas. The project will also protect habitat for numerous imperiled and rare species such as Cooper’s Hawk, Eastern indigo snake and Florida sandhill crane.

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 to the Horse Creek Ranch Florida Forever project and near Morgan Park (DeSoto County) and 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 the 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.

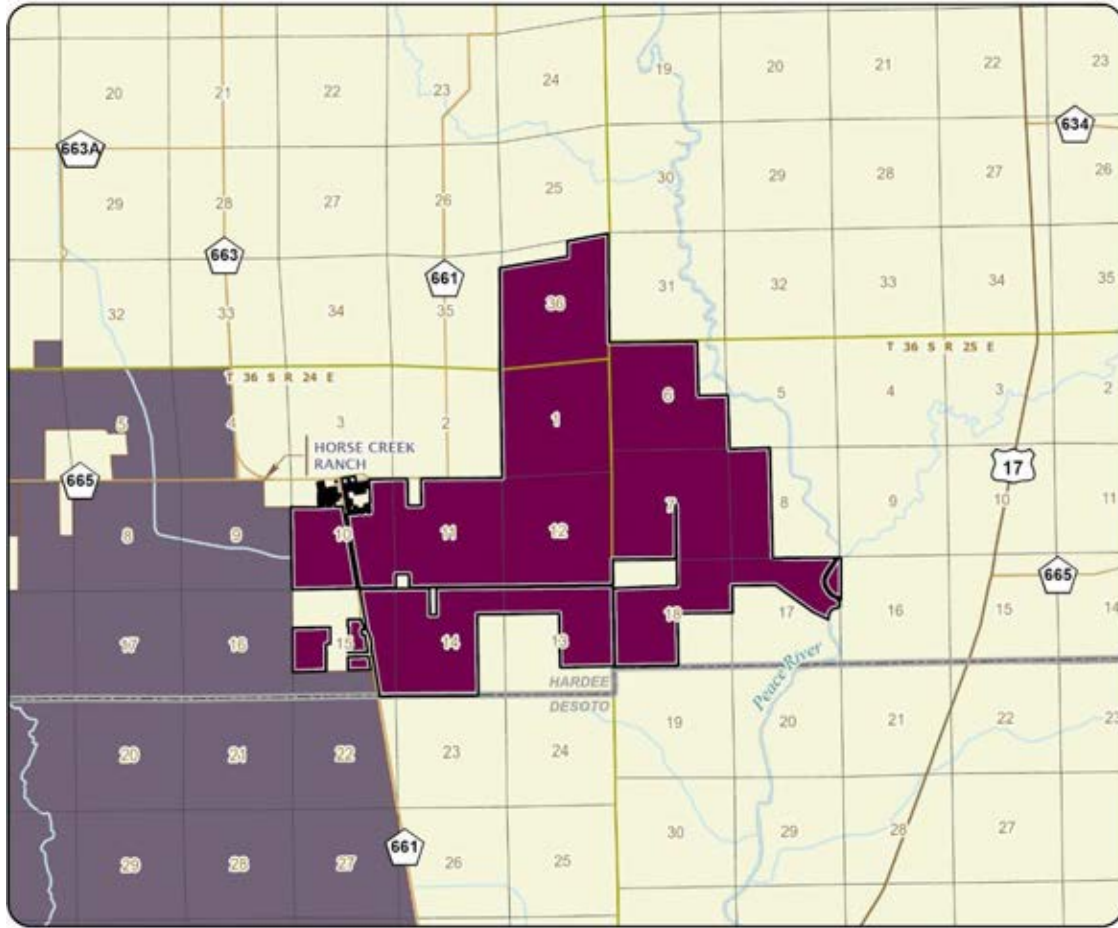
Management Policy Statement

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 Division of State Lands.





LIMESTONE RANCH

HARDEE COUNTY



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Little River Conservation Area

Less-Than-Fee

Gadsden County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2004
<i>Project Acres</i>	2,293
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,293
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$6,766,568

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. This will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity through protection, restoration and maintenance of the site's natural functions while increasing the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. 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 is in the Tallahassee Red Hills region. The 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>pyramid magnolia</i>	G4/S3
<i>mountain laurel</i>	G5/S3

Public Use

Little River Conservation Area is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide public access.

Acquisition Planning

2004

In 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the project to the Florida Forever Priority List. The project had a tax-assessed value of \$355,820.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.

2021

On June 11, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

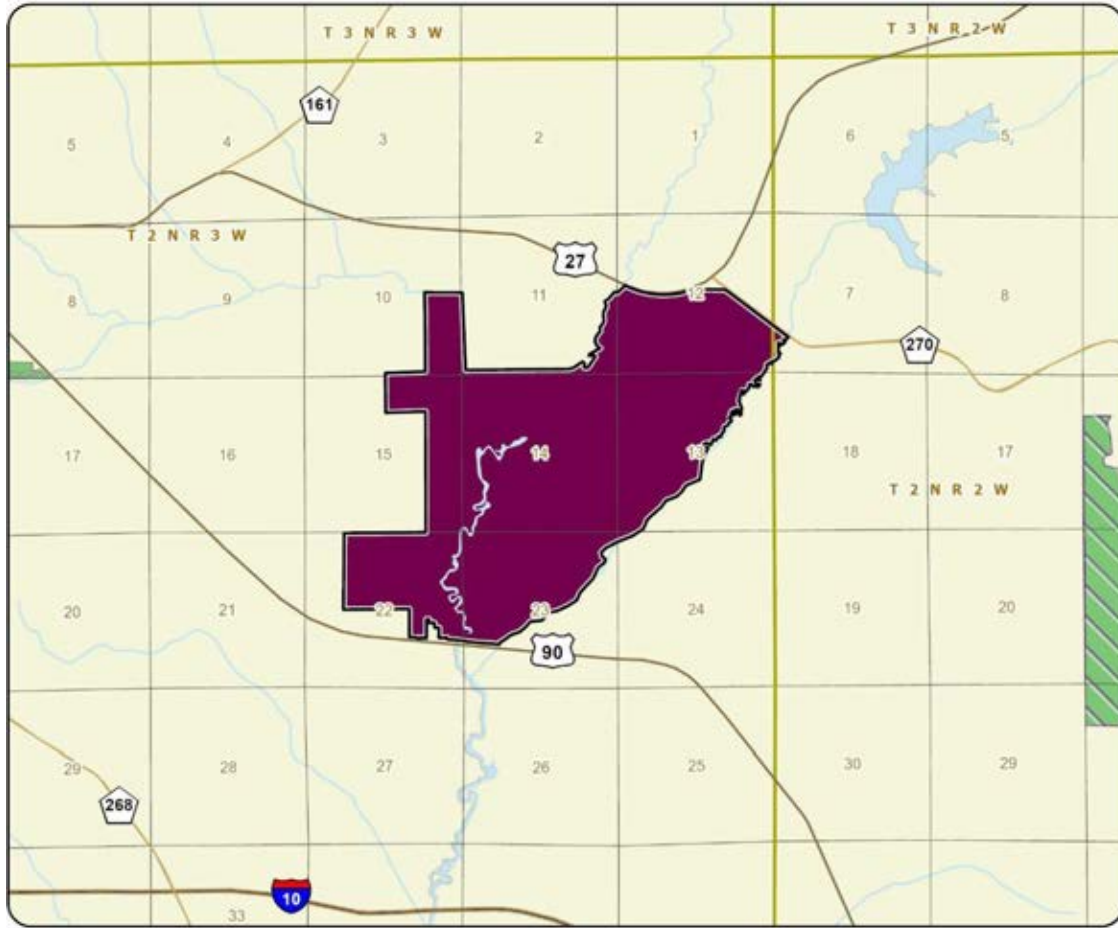
Manager(s)

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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



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Lower Perdido River Buffer

Less-Than-Fee

Escambia County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	7,728
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	5,458
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$12,085,069
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,270
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$7,825,817

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 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 the 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. The 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Florida pondweed</i>	G1/S1
Escambia crayfish	G2/S1S2
<i>Louisiana yellow-eyed grass</i>	G2G3/S1
<i>West Florida cowlily</i>	G5T2T3/S2
Rusty grave digger	G3/S3
<i>primrose-flowered butterwort</i>	G3G4/S3

Public Use

The Lower Perdido River Buffer 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.

When added to the list, the project property was entirely owned by International Paper. The specific locations of the small access sites along the river for fee-simple acquisition will be determined during the negotiation process.

2006

On May 31, 2006, the Northwest Florida Water Management District purchased 5,456 acres, almost all of which is within the project boundary, to create the Perdido River Water Management Area.

2009

On January 27, 2009, the 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 Division of State Lands will oversee monitoring of the easement. Escambia County will manage the access points on fee-simple portions of the project once they are determined. 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 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 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 Division of State Lands. Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.

Qualifications for State Designation

Protecting the Lower Perdido River Buffer with a combination of a conservation easement and the outright purchase of select access points will benefit the public by 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.

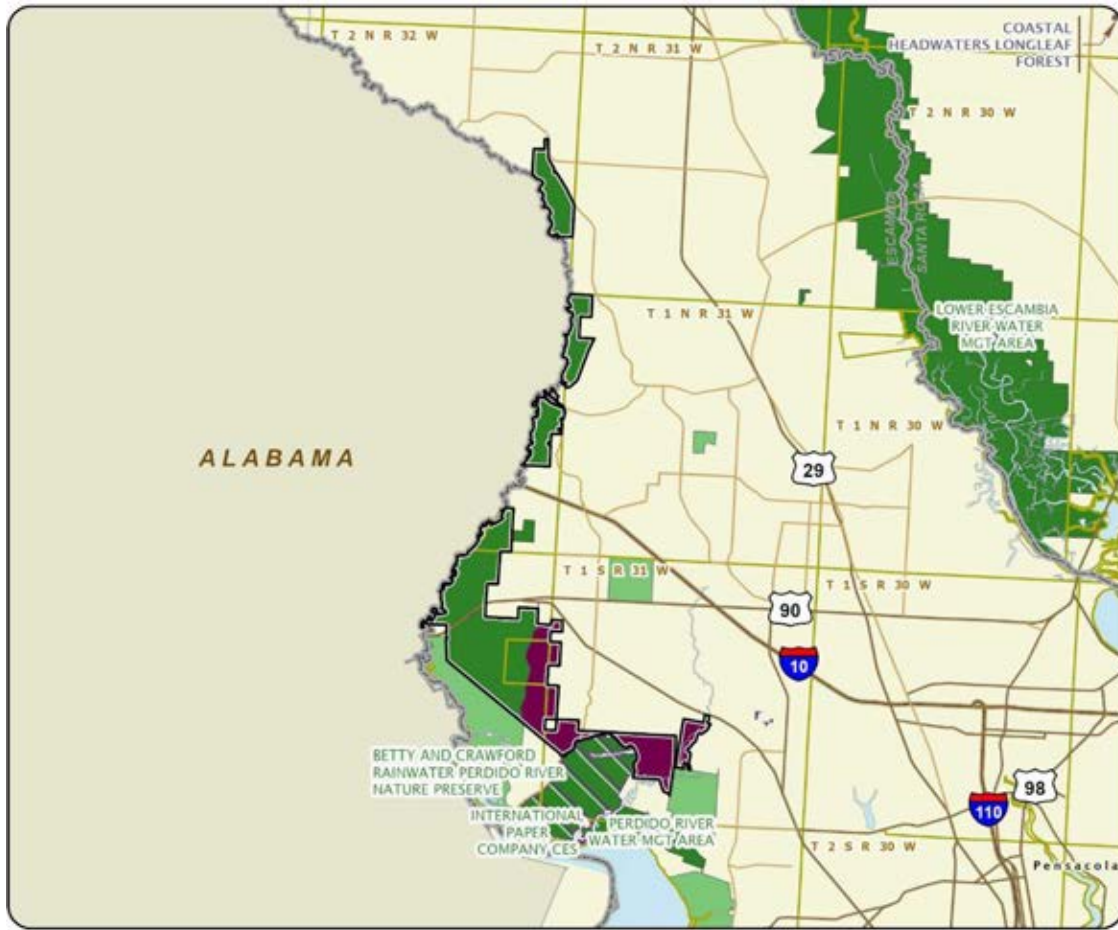
Revenue-generating Potential

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



Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed

Less-Than-Fee

Dixie County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	58,638
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	46,548
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$6,178,700
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	12,090
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$18,975,618

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 Mexico 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, Suwannee River 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 Mexico 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 the Suwannee River Water Management District's California Lake parcel.

The Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve encompasses the submerged lands in the 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.

The site's vast natural wetlands serve to funnel and filter water from uplands to the Suwannee River and the Gulf of Mexico. 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 of Mexico. Waters on the other half of the 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 – including 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida olive hairstreak	G5T2/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Pine snake	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed 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 added the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project to the Florida Forever Priority List in the Less-than-Fee category.

The less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Conservation Fund and Suwannee River Water Management District. It is approximately 46,441 acres in one ownership with a 2010 market value of \$94,249,477. The 10 acres on the Suwannee River Water Management District’s California Lake conservation easement is for fee simple acquisition.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.





2015

On October 16, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 12,023-acre Otter Sinks project in Dixie County to the Florida Forever Priority List. The Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Lyme Timber Company’s property was acquired in the project for \$4,178,700. The easement will be managed by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

2019

On June 26, 2019, a conservation easement over 19,075 acres of Lyme Timber Company’s property was acquired in the project for \$2,400,000.

2020

On April 1, 2020, a conservation easement over 5,785 acres of Lyme Timber Company’s property was acquired in the project for \$2,000,000.

2023

In June 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added one parcel totaling approximately 72 acres in Levy County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Suwannee River Water Management District is a partner in the project. Because the Suwannee River Water Management District 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 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 would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site’s management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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 site meets the Florida Forever measures of protecting Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, natural floodplains and significant surface waters.





Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Half of the 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. The Suwannee River Water Management District 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 Suwannee River Water Management District 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.

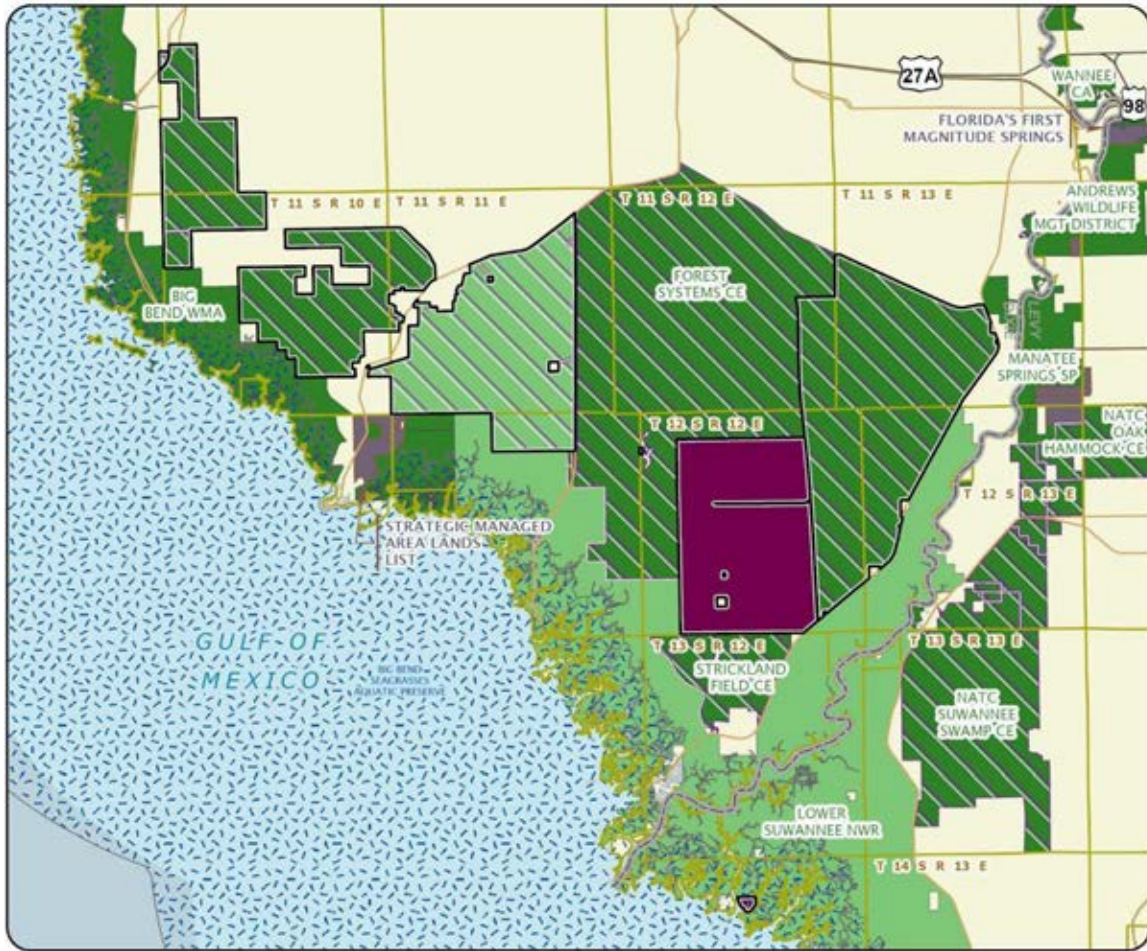
Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

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

The 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



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Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2016
<i>Project Acres</i>	94,518
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	6,357
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	88,161
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$155,410,728

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor project will enhance the connections between multiple conservation lands, promote biodiversity, and protect water quality and quantity. As a wildlife corridor among other conservation lands, the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor would help the long-term survival of larger and wide-ranging wildlife such as the Florida black bear.

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 the project, including Matanzas State Forest, Faver-Dykes State Park, Pellicer Creek Conservation Area and Haw Creek Preserve State Park. The Pringle Creek Forest Florida Forever project and Northeast Florida Blueway Florida Forever project also border the project on its eastern side.

Historically, the project was a mix of mesic and wet pine flatwoods. Currently, the trees on the land are mainly stands of slash pine (up to 40 years old) with 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 located 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>celestial lily</i>	G3/S3
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida mountain-mint</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

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 use. 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 approved, all of which would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2015

In 2015, the project was sponsored in a proposal by the Conservation Trust of Florida and was presented to the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 7,468 acres from the project boundary at the request of the landowner.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 8,991 acres from the project boundary.

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 34 parcels totaling approximately 422.86 acres in Putnam County to the project boundary.

Coordination

No partners in the acquisition were identified for the 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.





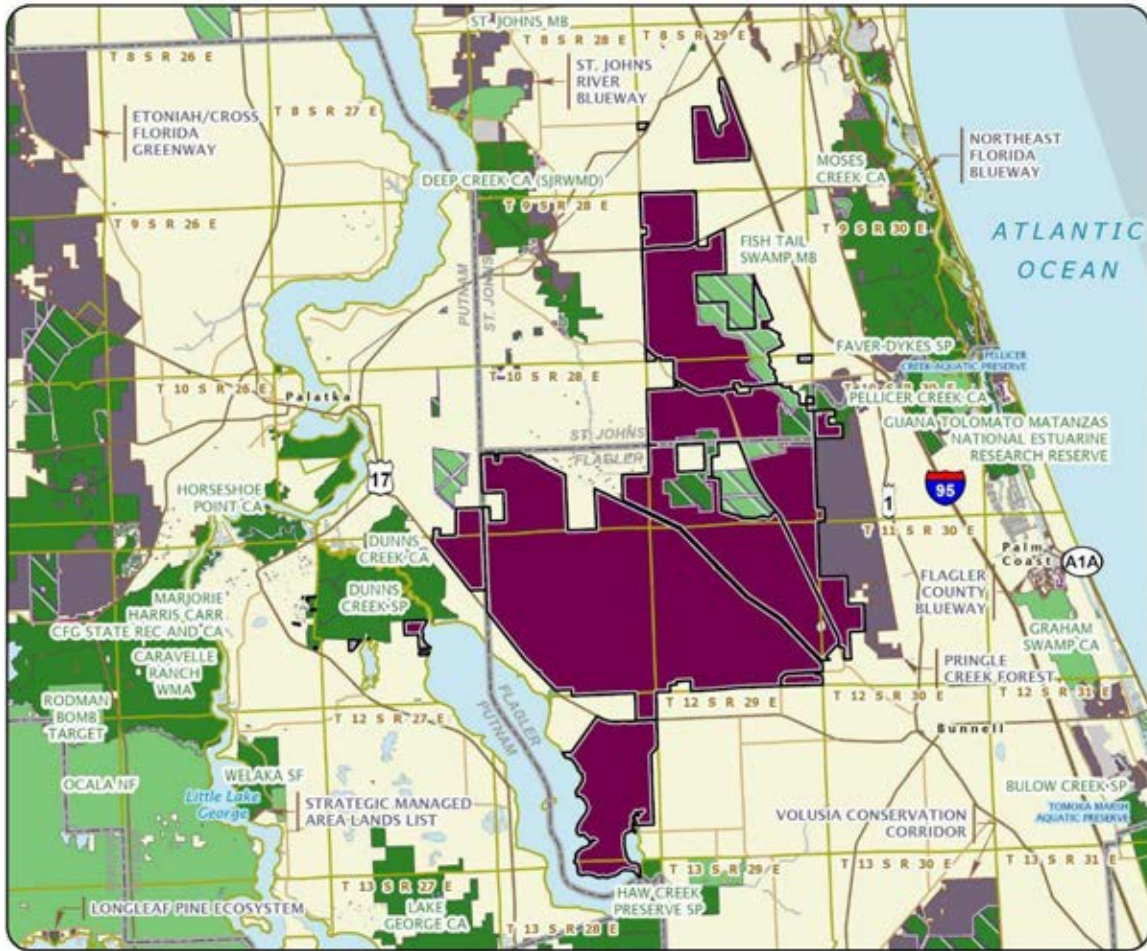
Manager(s)

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 Division of State Lands. There is a possibility that some project parcels could be acquired in fee simple.

Management Prospectus

The 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



Maytown Flatwoods

Less-Than-Fee

Brevard and Volusia Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2009
<i>Project Acres</i>	7,837
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	6,225
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,612
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$796,550

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 (managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District). Other conservation properties in the area include 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, little blue heron and gopher tortoise.

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>pine pinweed</i>	G2/S2

Public Use

Maytown Flatwoods 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 permitted. Approximately 4,052 acres of the bank would be inside the project boundary when the project was started.

2009

On December 11, 2009, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the project 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 the 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 the 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 the 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, Maytown Flatwoods would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

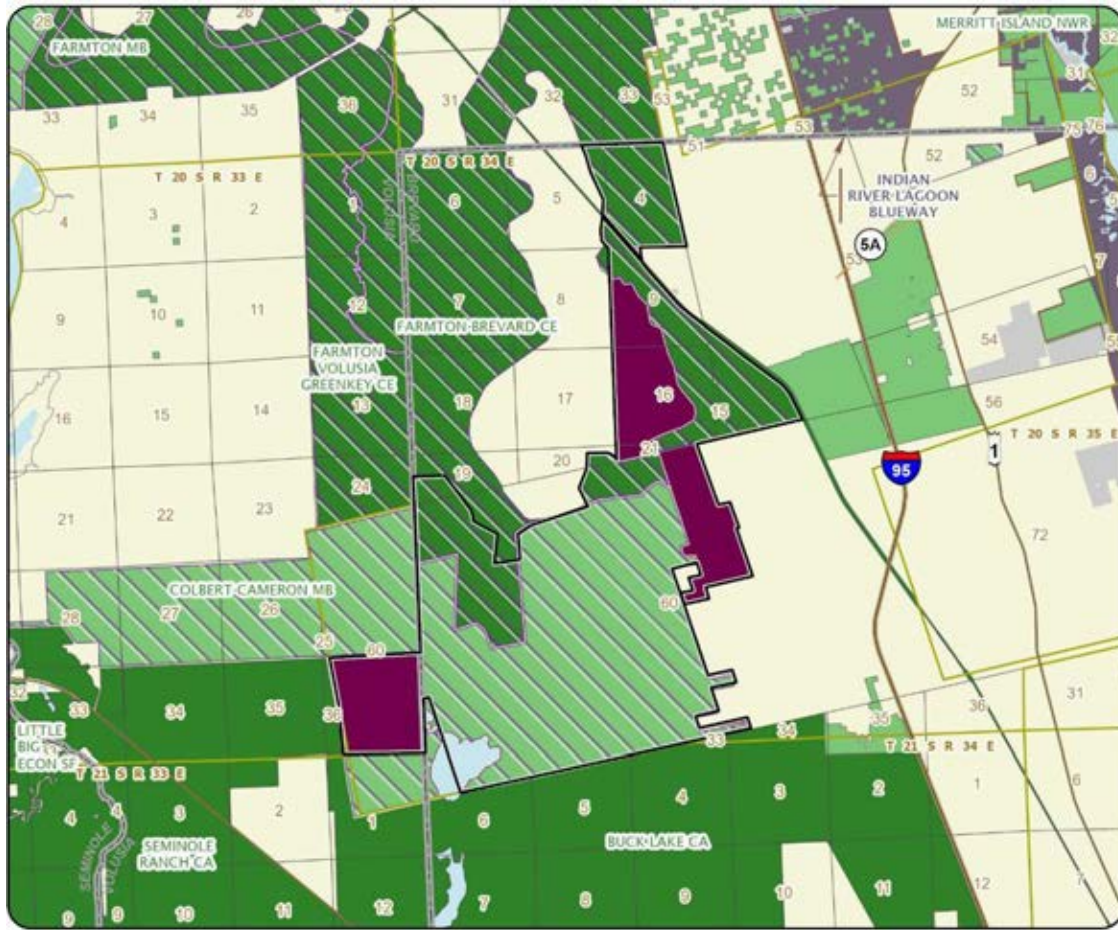
Manager(s)

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

Management Prospectus

The 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



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Mill Creek

Less-Than-Fee

Marion County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2003
<i>Project Acres</i>	12,293
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,158
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	10,135
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$36,336,956

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 near several conservation lands including Orange Lake, Lochloosa Lake, Ocklawaha River, Orange Creek Restoration Area, Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area, Black Sink Prairie, Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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

Mill Creek 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 added the Mill Creek project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. The 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

On June 3, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Interim Priority List.

2007

On December 14, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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, DEP and the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired a conservation easement on the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank.

Coordination

There are no acquisition partners currently.

Management Policy Statement

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

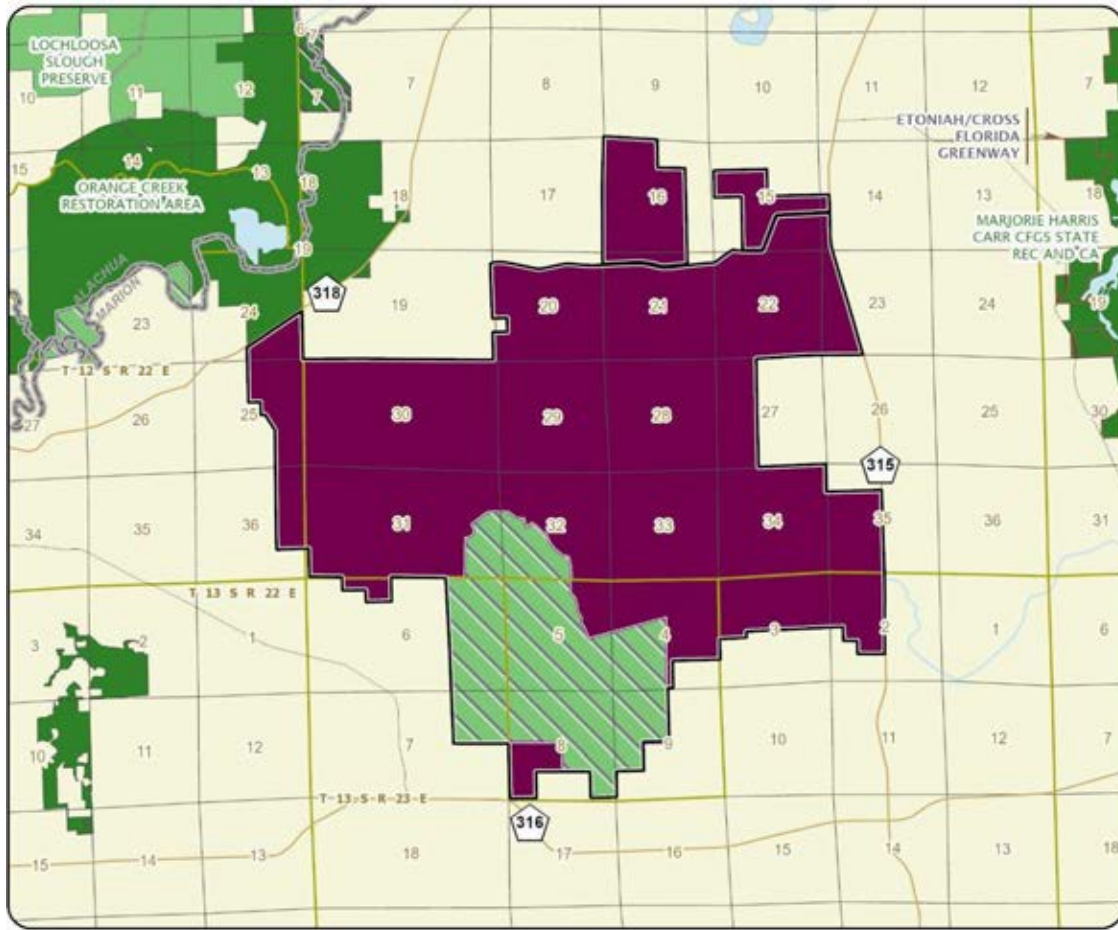
Manager(s)

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

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.





MILL CREEK

MARION COUNTY



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Millstone Plantation

Less-Than-Fee

Leon County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	176
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	93
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$862,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	83
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$2,448,720

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 eagles. Millstone Plantation is also rich in archaeological sites.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the 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, Millstone Plantation would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Manager(s)

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

Management Prospectus

The 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 Millstone Plantation 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 Plantation’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, Japanese climbing fern and tropical soda apple, as well as the implementation of prescribed burning and re-vegetation. The Millstone Institute has and will continue to sponsor scientific aquatic

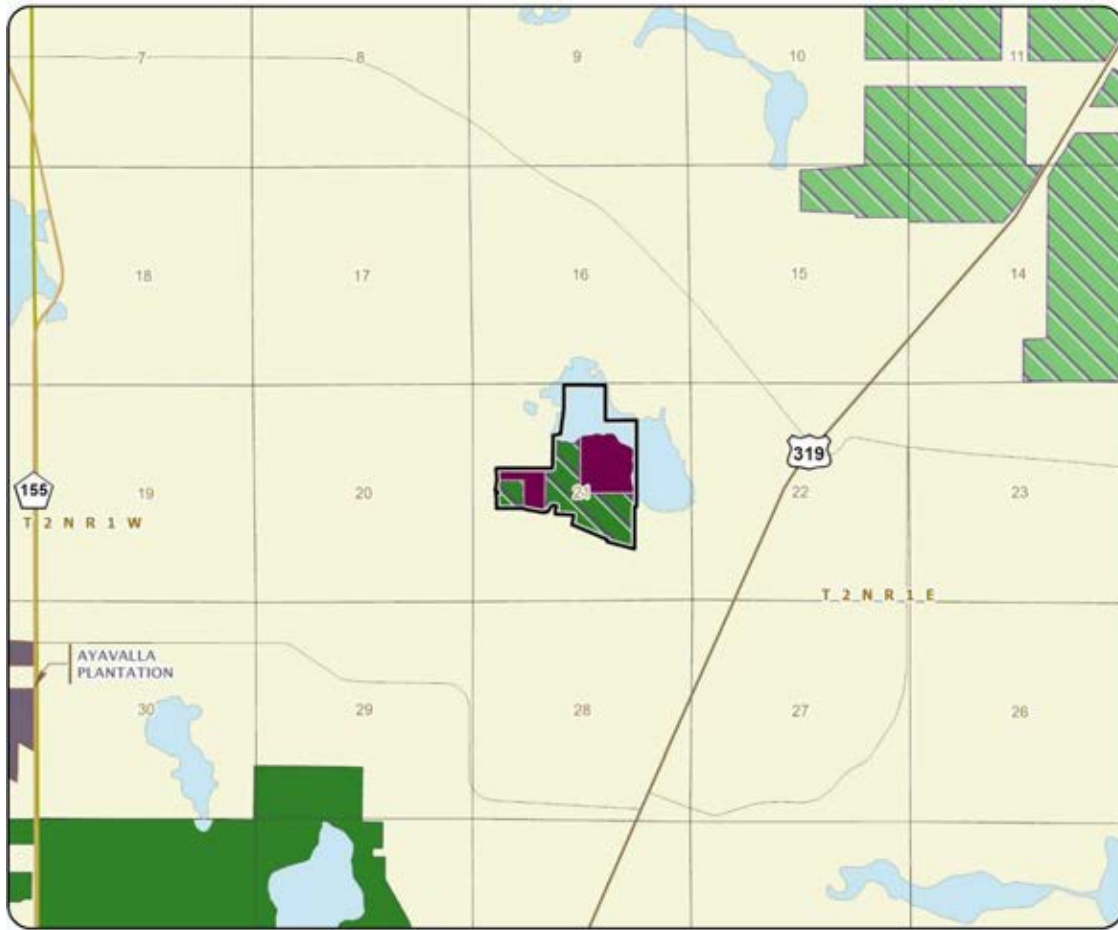




research related to Lake McBride. Existing nature trails on the property will be improved and expanded to enhance public access.

The Millstone Institute will also continue and expand its existing public education programs, including traditional, sustainable, organic agricultural practices and North Florida farm arts such as spinning and weaving. Plans will also be made for historically accurate and appropriate preservation and restoration of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures.





MILLSTONE PLANTATION

LEON COUNTY



Myakka Ranchlands

Less-Than-Fee

DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2007
<i>Project Acres</i>	54,845
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	23,872
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$30,075,178
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	30,973
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$349,765,722

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, Florida sandhill crane and gopher tortoise.

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 I-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 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 it back from the city. The Hi Hat owners also retain a permit from the Southwest Florida Water Management District 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, with 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), which are along the



Manatee River where Sarasota and Manatee counties join; and Orange Hammock Ranch (5,774 acres), which 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>large-plumed beaksedge</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>many-flowered grass-pink</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>lowland loosestrife</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2

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. Longino Ranch, Walton Ranch, the remainder of Hi Hat Ranch, and the ranches of the Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector and 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 added the Myakka Ranchlands project to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List. The application proposed a combination of full-fee and less-than-fee acquisitions. Longino Ranch is less-than-fee; Hi-Hat is fee and/or less-than-fee; and Walton Ranch was proposed as fee simple, but the owner is willing to consider it as a less-than-fee acquisition.

2010

On July 15, 2010, Sarasota County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District 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 the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Sarasota County.

On August 19, 2010, the Southwest Florida Water Management District 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 the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Sarasota County. The





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, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Natural Resources Conservation Service purchased 1,237 acres in partnership known as Horton Ranch for \$2,230,000.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

2014

On June 27, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the proposed Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector project and then combined it with the Myakka Ranchlands project.

On December 12, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the proposed Myakka Island Conservation Corridor as an addition to the Myakka Ranchlands project, bringing the project to a total of 31,853 acres.

2015

On August 21, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the 543-acre Murphy Marsh parcel to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project boundary.

On October 16, 2015, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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. The Acquisition and Restoration Council then combined the two projects into the existing Myakka Ranchlands project.

2016

On May 16, 2016, the Southwest Florida Water Management District established the Upper Myakka River Watershed – Triangle Ranch conservation easement (1,142.31 acres).

On October 21, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the 4,530-acre Blackbeard's Ranch project in southern Manatee County, and then added it to the existing Myakka Ranchlands project.

2019

On April 19, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added it to the existing Myakka Ranchlands project.

On October 18, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the 2,393-acre MJ Ranch project in Manatee County to the 2020 Florida Forever Priority List. The Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

2021

In 2021, DEP acquired a 380.2-acre conservation easement in DeSoto County from the Rawls family.





On August 13, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of J Bar C Ranch - East (996 acres) in Manatee County to the project boundary.

On December 10, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of J Bar C Ranch - West (576.05 acres) in Manatee County to the project boundary.

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the Keen Ranch project proposal (995 acres) to the project boundary.

On December 9, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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) to the project boundary.

2023

On April 14, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the Quail Creek Ranch project proposal (2,698 acres) in Hardee County to the project boundary.

On October 13, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of the Myakka Ranch project proposal (998 acres) in Manatee County to the project boundary.

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 34 parcels totaling approximately 433.87 acres in Manatee County to the project boundary.

In 2023, 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.

Coordination

Acquisition of the Myakka Ranchlands would be a shared acquisition along with Sarasota County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. It is already part of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Work Plan and abuts the Myakka River State Park. The remainder of the project is recommended for less-than-fee acquisition and would be monitored through the 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 the project.

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 of fee-simple acquisitions, with assistance and cooperation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Division of Recreation and Parks. 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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

Lands acquired fee-simple will be managed by Sarasota County. The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, 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 the 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 the public. 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.





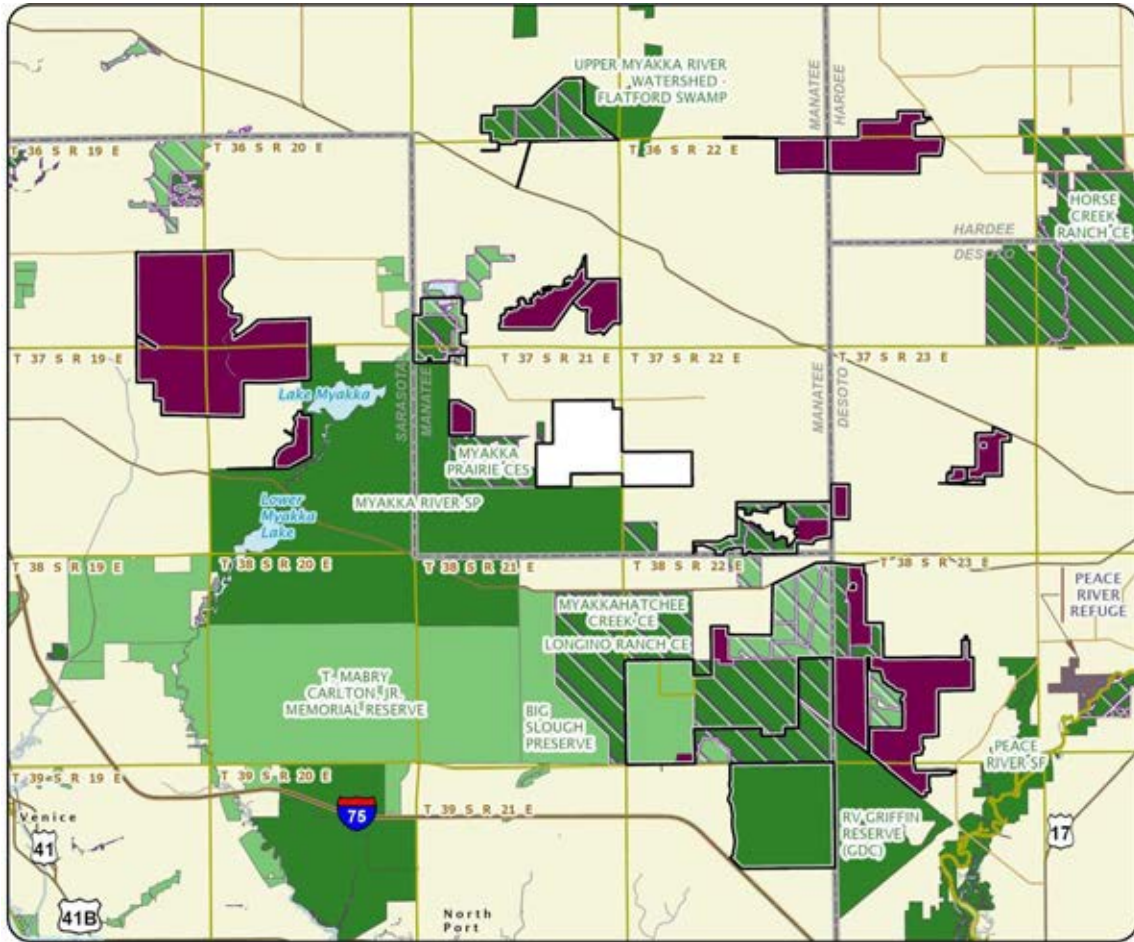
Revenue-generating Potential

The revenue-generating potential of the portion managed by Sarasota County is expected to be relatively 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks, Southwest Florida Water Management District and interested parties as appropriate.





MYAKKA RANGLANDS

DESOTO, HARDEE, MANATEE, AND SARASOTA COUNTIES



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North Waccasassa Flats

Less-Than-Fee

Gilchrist County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2018
<i>Project Acres</i>	14,714
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	14,714
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$47,461,509

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 North Waccasassa Flats 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 is 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.

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 added the proposal to the Florida Forever Priority List.

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 23,255 acres (Gilchrist Club) to the project boundary.

On December 9, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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), 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 the St. Johns 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.

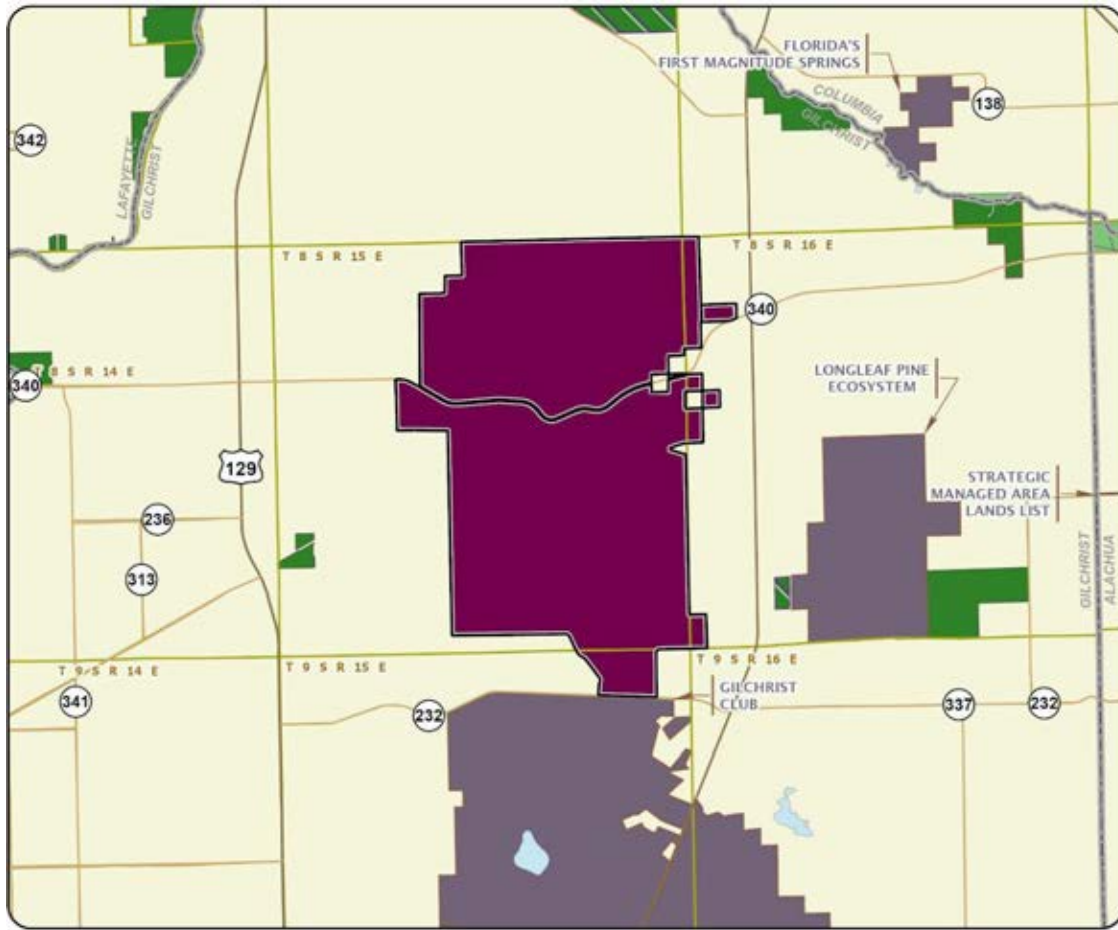
Manager(s)

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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



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Ochlockonee River Conservation Area

Less-Than-Fee

Gadsden and Leon Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2005
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,994
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	1,928
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,066
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$26,896,687

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project will protect a portion of the Ochlockonee River watershed (including six 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. The project will also provide an opportunity to manage the site in coordination with the adjacent Tall Timbers conservation lands.

General Description

The project is in western Leon County on the eastern bank of the Ochlockonee River. It is connected to Tall Timbers and is contiguous to the east with the Foshalee Plantation conservation easement. The Hiamonee Plantation conservation easement 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Flyr's brickell-bush</i>	G3/S2
<i>Turk's cap lily</i>	G5/S1
White-breasted nuthatch	G5/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4
Bird Rookery	G5/SNR

Public Use

The Ochlockonee River Conservation Area is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2005

In 2005, Tall Timbers established the 500-acre River Ridge Plantation conservation easement.

On January 25, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List. The 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 established a second River Ridge Plantation conservation easement spanning 614.75 acres.

2010

On February 19, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added a 31-acre linear conservation easement to the project boundary. The easement consisted of two parcels owned by James Dahl and were valued at \$93,935.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

2016

On December 16, 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 63 acres from the project boundary in Gadsden County, west of the Ochlockonee River. The boundary 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.

Coordination

Acquisition of the project will be coordinated with Tall Timbers. In 2005, Tall Timbers acquired a 497-acre conservation easement through a donation. In 2007, an additional 615 acres were donated to Tall Timbers as part of the River Ridge Plantation conservation easement.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area 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).

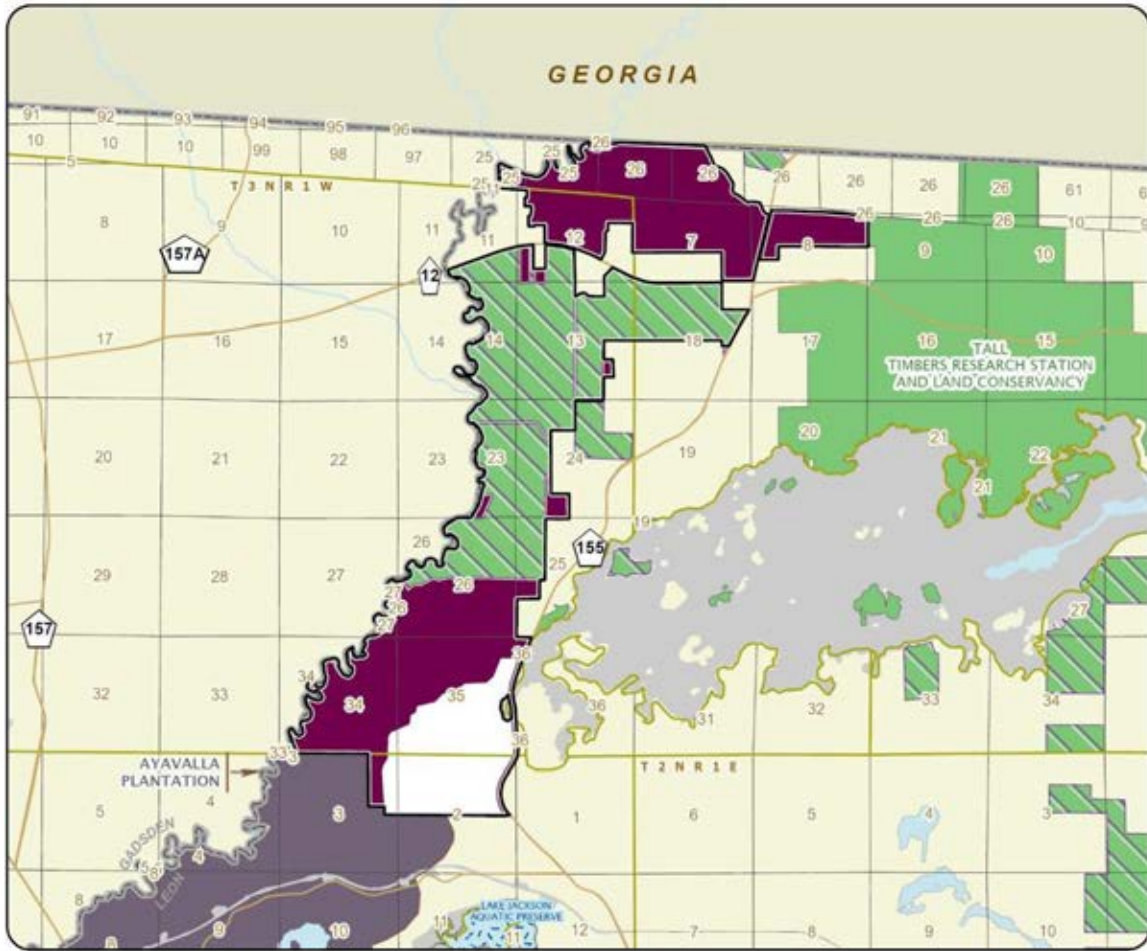
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands. Tall Timbers currently monitor their conservation easements acquired through donation.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner. Tall Timbers will monitor the River Ridge Plantation easements.





OCHLOCKONEE RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

GADSDEN AND LEON COUNTIES



Peace River Refuge

Less-Than-Fee

DeSoto County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,729
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	844
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$1,350,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,885
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$20,988,375

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 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 site is primarily hardwood forested uplands; however, bottomland forests and open point bars are associated with the river and old meander features of the floodplain. Approximately 88 percent of the proposal can be classified as natural communities.

Most uplands 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 like hunt camps, bridges and remnants of old buildings such as a sawmill on the western side of the property.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4





Public Use

The project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, DEP acquired a 771.20-acre conservation easement in DeSoto County from Peace River Preserve, LLC.

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the 700-acre Johnson Homestead project proposal and combined it with the Peace River Refuge project.

2023

In December 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 149.11 acres in DeSoto County to the project boundary.

Coordination

There are no known acquisition partners.

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.

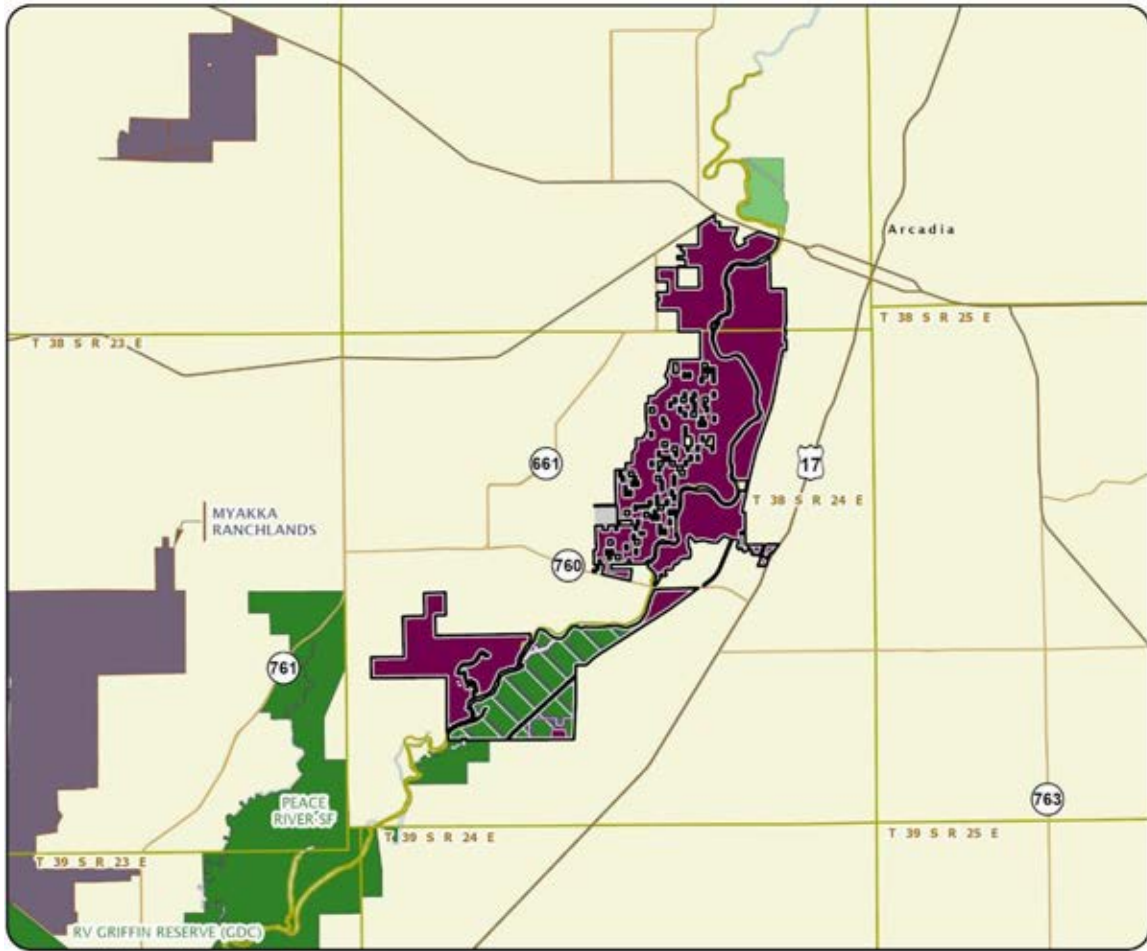
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the 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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.





PEACE RIVER REFUGE

DESOTO COUNTY



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Raiford to Osceola Greenway

Less-Than-Fee

Baker and Union Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	68,849
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	176
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	68,673
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$105,876,877

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-Raiford Greenway and Raiford to Osceola Greenway. The Raiford to Osceola Greenway project consists of land abutting the Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway project on the east to the southeast boundary of the Osceola National Forest. It connects several managed areas in Baker and Union counties, resulting in a potential contiguous area of more than half a million acres of publicly owned, managed or planned to be owned/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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Chapman's fringed orchid</i>	G2/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>pineland scurfpea</i>	G1/S1
<i>hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
Many-lined salamander	G5/S1
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Timber rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

Public Use

The project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, through discussion, landowner representatives 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 Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide hiking and non-motorized trail, crosses this project.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. The fee-simple and less-than-fee project, sponsored by DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 would connect Camp Blanding to the Raiford Wildlife Management Area, then to the Osceola National Forest.

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council adopted a redesign of the Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway project that identified 67,457 acres in the Raiford to Osceola Greenway as well as 33,977 acres in the Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway. After a project redesign in 2010, the project had an estimated tax-assessed value of \$193,255,020.





2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the South Prong of the St. Marys River (1,146 acres) project proposal and combined it with the Raiford to Osceola Greenway project.

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, Raiford to Osceola Greenway would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

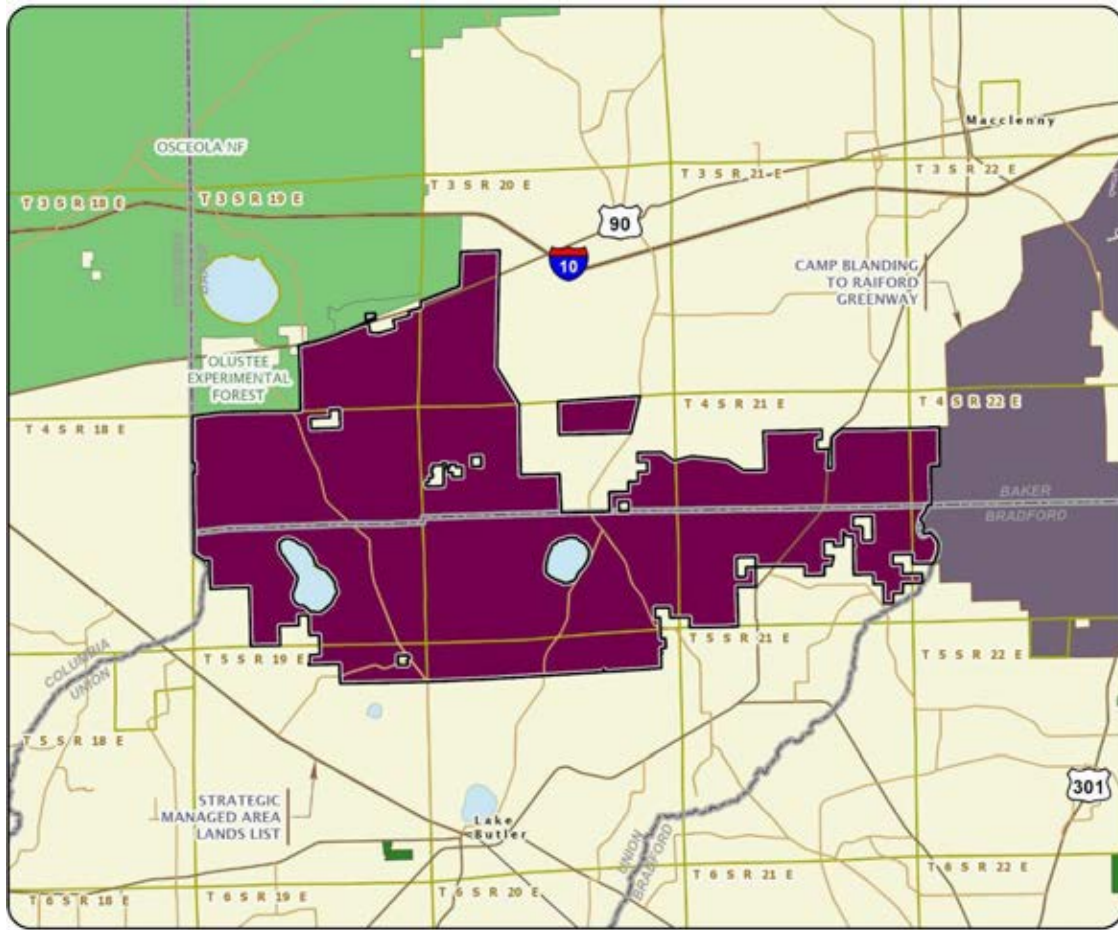
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Raiford to Osceola Greenway would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site’s management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



Ranch Reserve

Less-Than-Fee

Brevard, Indian River and Osceola Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>1997</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>36,410</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>23,896</i>
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	<i>\$10,773,500</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>12,514</i>
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$51,400,951</i>

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 sandhill cranes, caracara, red-cockaded woodpeckers and an experimental group of extremely rare whooping cranes. 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 cranes in Florida. Additionally, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has released whooping cranes on the St. Johns River Water Management District's 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Whooping crane	G1/S1
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Arogos skipper	G2G3T1T2/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4

Public Use

The 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired a conservation easement over the large central tract (Escape Ranch - 11,768 acres).

2000

In 2000, the BOT acquired a conservation easement over Mills Ranch.

2003

On July 31, 2003, the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired the Wolf Creek Ranch conservation easement (3,810 acres).

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Less-than-Fee category.





Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District 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, Ranch Reserve 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 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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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 sandhill cranes and red-cockaded woodpeckers, 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, the St. Johns River Water Management District 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. Appropriate protection will be provided to environmentally sensitive areas. Minimal infrastructure development will be required.

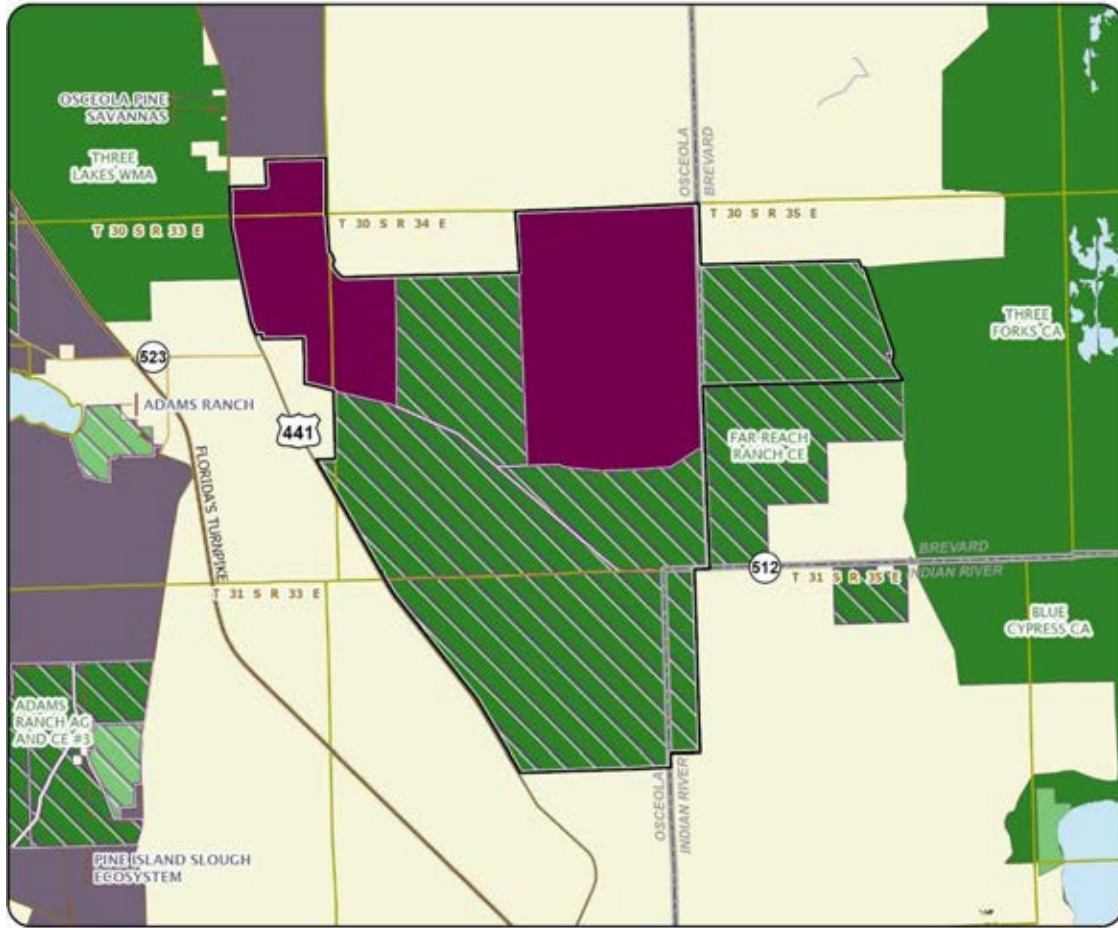
Revenue-generating Potential

The underlying fee ownership will remain with the present landowners, so no public revenue is anticipated from the area.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The St. Johns River Water Management District will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in monitoring land in the project.





RANCH RESERVE

BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES



Red Hills Conservation

Less-Than-Fee

Jefferson and Leon Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2019
<i>Project Acres</i>	17,875
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	4,102
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$4,640,809
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	13,773
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$69,897,494

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 forest land 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 is just north of the town of Miccosukee, and a portion of the property's western border also touches the shore of Lake Miccosukee. Multiple existing conservation lands surround the overall 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Miccosukee gooseberry</i>	G1/S1
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>smooth hedgenettle</i>	G5/S1
<i>Turk's cap lily</i>	G5/S1
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

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 allowing the public to use its road to access Hopkins Landing. There are several existing conservation easements surrounding these lakes and the 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 voted to add the project to the Less-than-Fee category.

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the 945-acre Foshalee Slough project proposal and combined it with the Red Hills Conservation project.

In 2022, DEP acquired a conservation easement totaling 4,102 acres in Jefferson and Leon counties from Gem Land Company.

Coordination

Establishing the property as an 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.





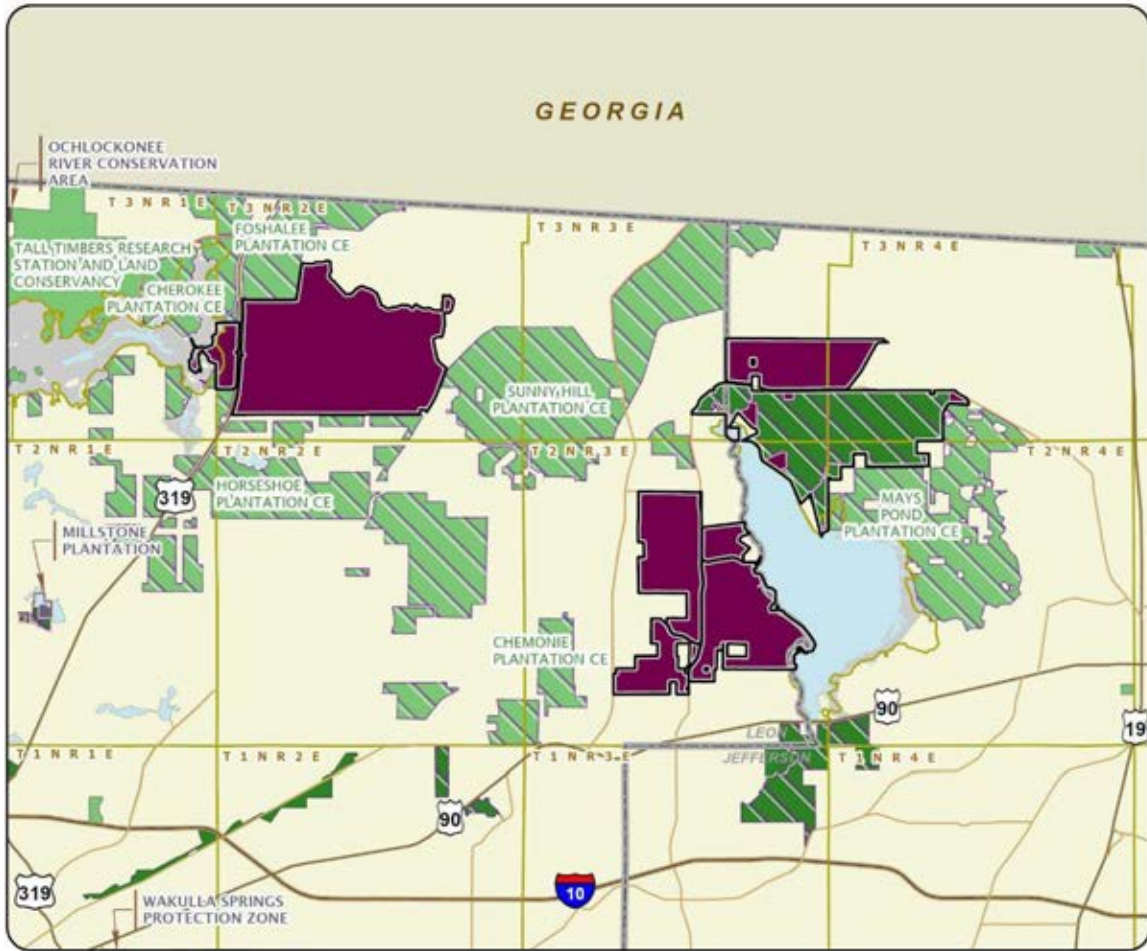
Manager(s)

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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

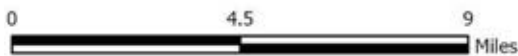
The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.





RED HILLS CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON AND LEON COUNTIES



San Felasco Conservation Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Alachua County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2003
<i>Project Acres</i>	376
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	376
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$1,202,767

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary
no rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The San Felasco Conservation Corridor 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 added this project to Group A of Florida Forever projects.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category.

Coordination

The San Felasco Land Trust has created a large 25,000-acre corridor project and brought together DEP, the Suwannee River Water Management District, Florida Communities Trust and the Alachua Forever land acquisition program to cooperatively acquire the San Felasco Conservation Corridor. There are no adjacent land acquisition projects initiated under the 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 would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

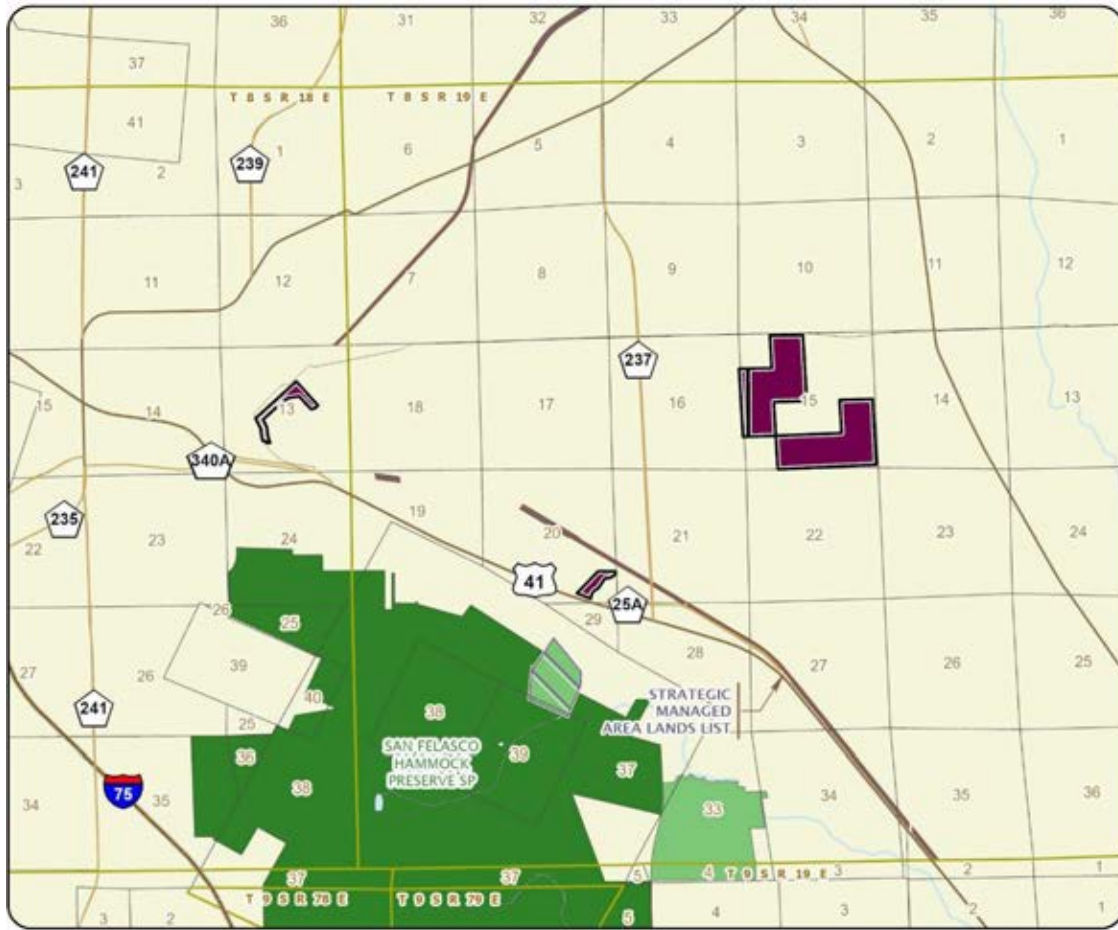
Manager(s)

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

Management Prospectus

The 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



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Suwannee County Preservation

Less-Than-Fee

Suwannee County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,254
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,254
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$5,149,924

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.

General Description

The Suwannee County Preservation project is located in northeastern Suwannee County, just east of Live Oak. 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 an old 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Suwannee alligator snapping turtle	G2/S2

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. 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 area would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



Welles Ranch

Less-Than-Fee

Charlotte County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,183
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,183
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$5,062,826

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. The 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.

The property lies within the Florida Panther Focus Area and priority 3 of 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 the property has been identified as a habitat for several rare species including the red-cockaded woodpecker, Florida long-tailed weasel, Florida panther and crested caracara, among others.

The Welles Ranch property features one mile of Shell Creek on-site. Shell Creek, along with Prairie Creek, provides approximately 8 million gallons of potable water to the thousands of residents in the City of Punta Gorda. Acquisition of Welles Ranch helps to secure the quality and quantity of water for Charlotte County. As such, the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 100% of the property contributes to both aquifer recharge and surface water protection.

Welles Ranch is a working cattle ranch with a majority (73%) 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 DEP.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2

Public Use

Welles Ranch 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 Welles Ranch to the Less-Than- Fee category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. The less-than-fee simple project includes 1,183 acres and a just value of \$5,062,826.

Coordination

There are no identified partners in the project.

Management Policy Statement

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

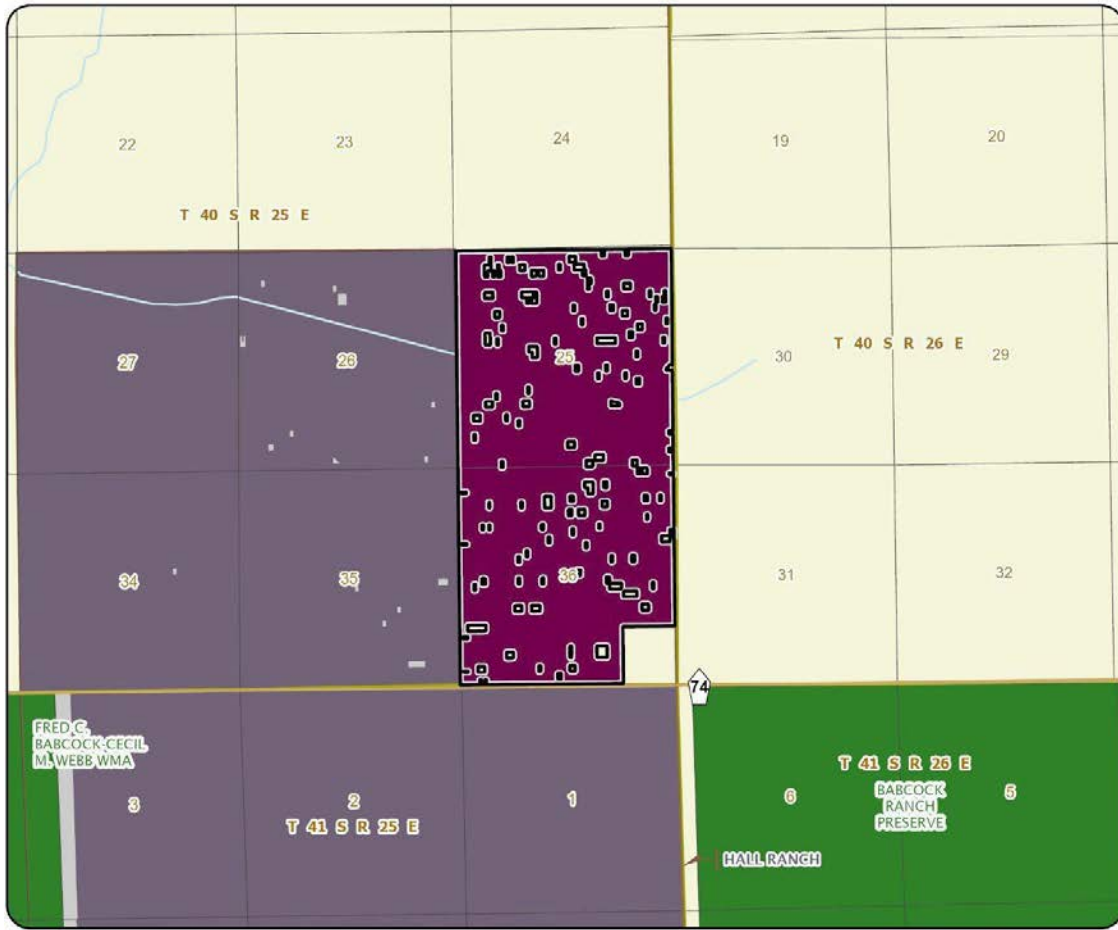
Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of Welles 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 the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.





WELLES RANCH

CHARLOTTE COUNTY



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Williamson Cattle Company

Less-Than-Fee

Okeechobee County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	7,419
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	7,419
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$57,337,255

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Williamson Cattle Company project will protect the quality and quantity of water flowing to Lake Okeechobee. The project also helps to conserve land in a rapidly growing area with critical ecological connectivity. Williamson Cattle Company is home to a variety of rare species and acquisition of the property will expand protection of this critical habitat.

General Description

The Williamson Cattle Company project contains 23 whole and partial parcels, totaling 7,419 acres in Okeechobee County. The project is about five miles north of Lake Okeechobee and about 10 miles east of the Kissimmee River. To the west, the property shares a boundary with Taylor Creek, a ditched waterway, and separates the property from Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Conservation Area and Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area. Williamson Cattle Company's proximity to these prominent water bodies makes it critical for surface water protection and aquifer recharge. The project is within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) study area.

The predominant natural communities found at Williamson Cattle Company include mesic hammock, basin swamp, depression marsh and mesic flatwoods. A variety of rare species have been documented on site including the pine pinweed, common wild pine, crested caracara and wood stork, among others. Williamson Cattle Company's close proximity to Taylor Creek also provides critical habitat for a variety of wading birds, including the Florida sandhill crane.

There are two documented historic features at Williamson Cattle Company, the Williamson Canal System (OB00290) and 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.

Williamson Cattle Company is a working cattle ranch, horse farm and citrus grove. As such, much of the property is made up of improved pasture, agriculture and semi-improved pasture. Williamson Cattle





Company already has three permanent U.S. Department of Agriculture Wetland Reserve Easements over two large basin marshes for water storage; the project includes the unprotected portions of the property.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>pine pinweed</i>	G2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3S4

Public Use

Williamson Cattle Company 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 added Williamson Cattle Company to the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. The less-than-fee project includes 7,419 acres and a just value of \$42,933,132.

Coordination

The project was proposed by the Florida Conservation Group and Common Ground Ecology.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, Williamson Cattle Company would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

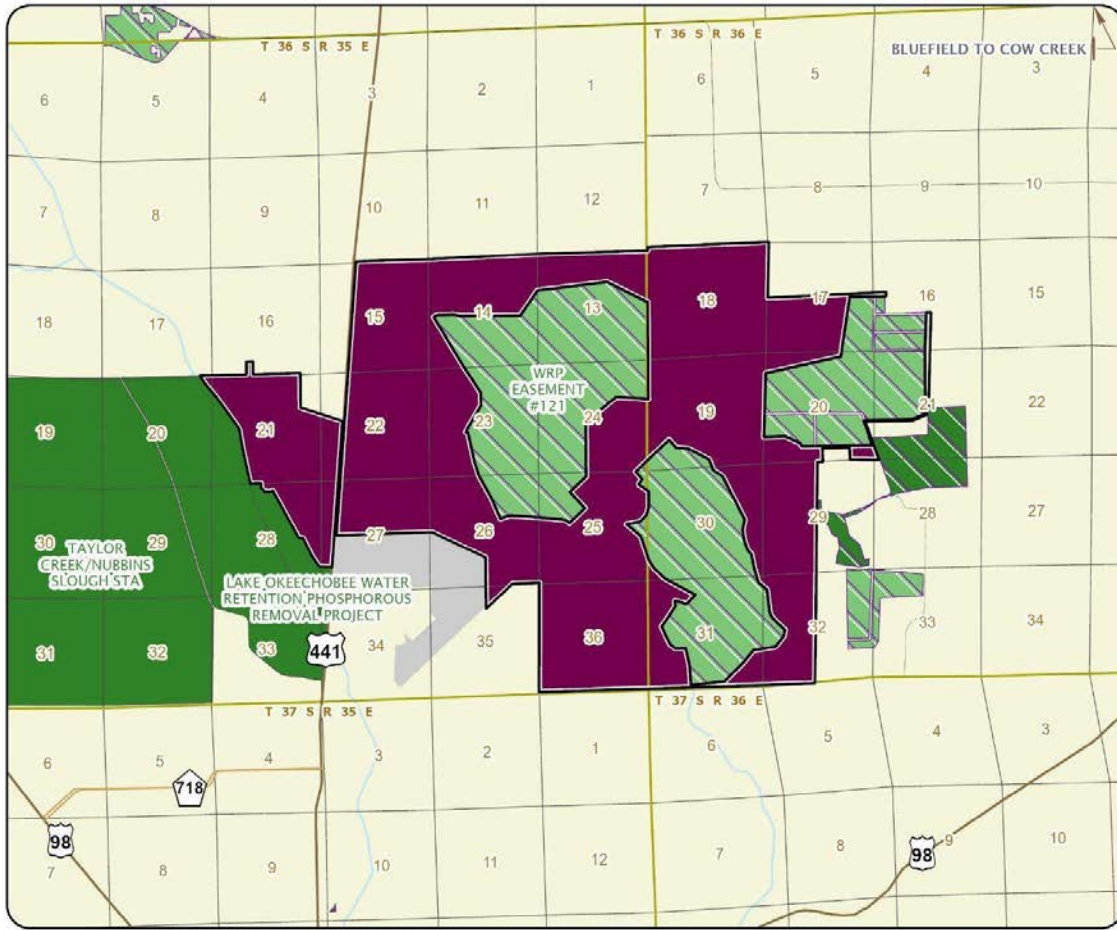
Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of Williamson Cattle Company 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 Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

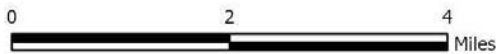
The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.





WILLIAMSON CATTLE COMPANY

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY



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Withlacoochee River Corridor

Less-Than-Fee

Citrus and Hernando Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2020
<i>Project Acres</i>	3,286
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,286
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$11,467,895

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 such as gopher tortoises, bald eagles, fox squirrels 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 area 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 tortoises, ospreys, red-tailed hawks and bald eagles. 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>modest spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Curtiss' spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>creeping star-hair fern</i>	G5/S2
<i>plume polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>widespread polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>brittle maidenhair fern</i>	G5/S3
Southeastern myotis	G4/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4

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 wildlife corridors.

Acquisition Planning

2020

In June 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the 1,714-acre Withlacoochee River Corridor project to the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. The less-than-fee project was proposed by Conservation Florida and consisted of multiple parcels among two ownerships.

In October 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 1,645 acres to the project boundary. It was 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.

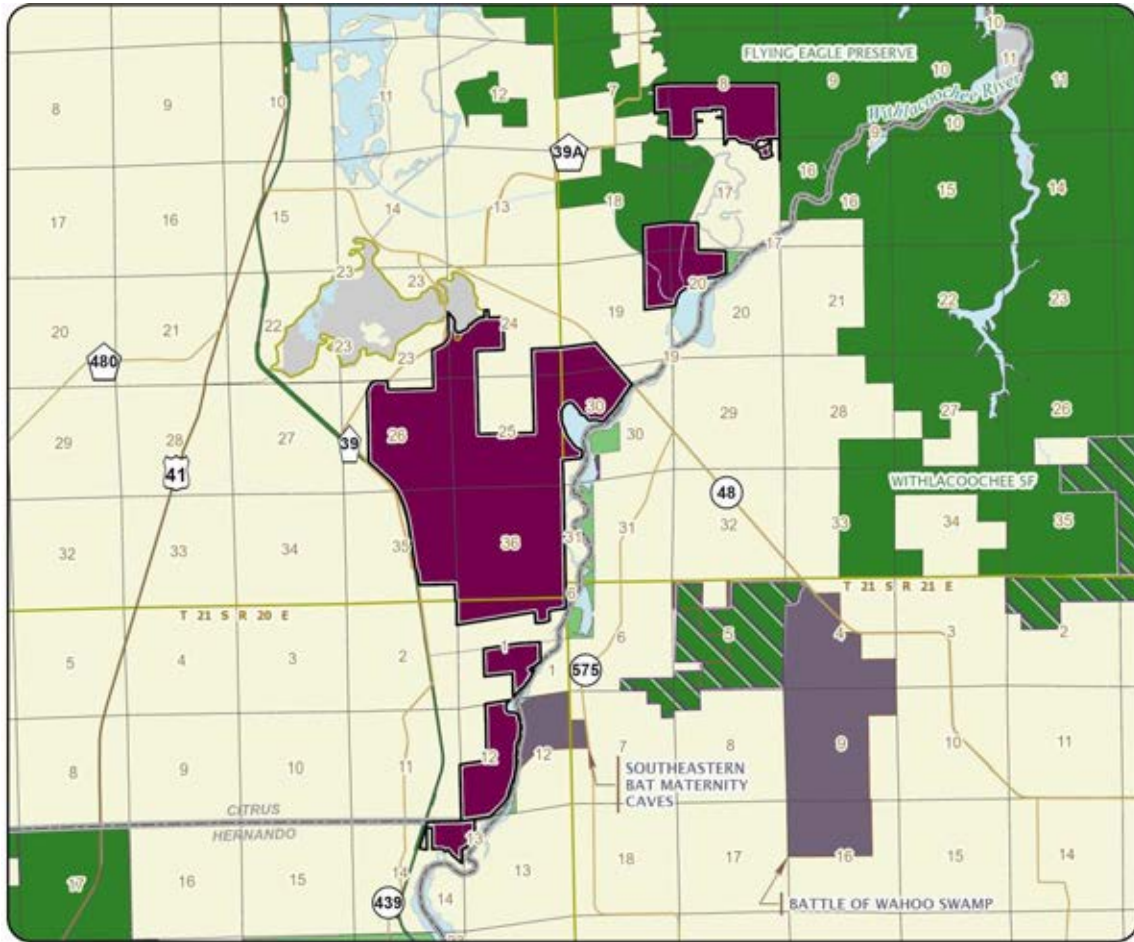
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Withlacoochee River Corridor would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site’s management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The 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



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CLIMATE CHANGE LANDS

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Coupon Bight/Key Deer

Climate Change Lands

Monroe County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1985
<i>Project Acres</i>	2,871
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,162
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$32,096,968
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	709
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$102,956,741

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 endangered Key deer 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. 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 National Key Deer Refuge on Big Pine Key and No Name Key. It includes the only significant sources of fresh water in the lower Florida Keys, which are critical to the survival of the endangered Key deer. The pine rocklands and associated communities in the project area are the largest and most well-preserved remaining 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 the area is developed for residential uses. At least 17 rare animal species, of which four are state-listed as endangered or threatened, are known to occur within the project.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>semaphore pricklypear</i>	G1/S1
Key deer	G5T1/S1
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
<i>Cape Sable thoroughwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garber's spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>tree cactus</i>	G1/S1
<i>few-flowered fingergrass</i>	G1/S1
Key silverside	G1Q/S1
<i>broom sandmat</i>	G1/S1
<i>wedge spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
Lower Keys marsh rabbit	G5T1/S1
Key ringneck snake	G5T1/S1

Public Use

The project is designated as a buffer preserve and a wildlife and environmental area to the National Key Deer Refuge. 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 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 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for management as part of the National Key Deer Refuge, at least some of which is within the project boundary.

On January 22, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed the Rothdeutsch property (0.33 acres) from the project at the request of the owner.

2005

On February 11, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Climate Change Lands category.

Acquisition activity focused on tracts providing a viable corridor between the Coupon Bight and Key Deer portions of the project. All of the owners received an offer.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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). The parcels 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 the Monroe County Land Authority.

2022

DEP acquired, in fee, parcels from four individual owners totaling 7.56 acres.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

Coordination

The South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been acquisition partners for the site. The Nature Conservancy has acted as an intermediary in the negotiation of 520 acres, expending approximately \$5,124,000 on behalf of the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service included the project as an addition to the National Key Deer Refuge.

The Monroe County Land Authority is an acquisition partner on the project.

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)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage most of the project; however, the Monroe County Land Authority 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, National Key Deer Refuge 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. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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. 1 would be posted in the same manner as existing National Key Deer Refuge lands and provided protection under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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
Special Category	\$1,445	Not provided
FCO	Not provided	Not provided
Grant	Not provided	Not provided
TOTAL	\$13,493	\$21,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





COUPON BIGHT/KEY DEER

MONROE COUNTY



Florida Keys Ecosystem

Climate Change Lands

Monroe County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1992
<i>Project Acres</i>	13,582
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	8,188
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$95,142,002
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	5,394
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$442,770,907

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Florida Keys Ecosystem project will protect all the significant unprotected hardwood hammocks left in the Keys and many rare plants and animals, including the Lower Keys marsh rabbit and Key deer. 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 to the rapid development of these islands. The project will also help protect the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Keys, recreational and commercial fisheries, reefs around the islands, and give residents and visitors more natural areas for resource-based outdoor recreation.

General Description

The project includes most of the remaining unprotected rockland hammocks (tropical hardwood hammocks) in the Florida Keys from South Key Largo to Sugarloaf Key. The 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. 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>semaphore pricklypear</i>	G1/S1
<i>silky bluestem</i>	G1Q/S1
Key deer	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys marsh rabbit	G5T1/S1
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
<i>Cape Sable thoroughwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garber's spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>tree cactus</i>	G1/S1
Key silverside	G1Q/S1
<i>broom sandmat</i>	G1/S1
<i>Cuban snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
Key ringneck snake	G5T1/S1

Public Use

The tracts will become botanical sites, parks, and 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 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, The Nature Conservancy 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, The Nature Conservancy 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. Hammocks of the Lower Keys: No phasing is recommended; 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).

Tropical Flyways: No phasing is recommended; all 17 sites are being acquired with the Monroe County Land Authority as intermediary. The 17 sites are: North Creek (two large ownerships, remainder subdivided – 16 acres acquired by Monroe County Land Authority); Largo Sound (one major ownership – 68 acres acquired by Monroe County Land Authority); Pennekamp North (one major ownership – acquired by Monroe County Land Authority); Newport (one major ownership, remainder subdivided); Point Charles (one major ownership); Key Largo Narrows (one major ownership – acquired by Monroe County Land Authority); Dove Creek (several large ownerships, remainder subdivided – 187 acres acquired by Monroe County Land Authority); Tavernier Creek (one major ownership); Lake San Pedro (several large ownerships); Snake Creek (one major ownership – acquired by Monroe County Land Authority); 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 The Nature Conservancy.

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 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, The Nature Conservancy purchased 593.75 acres, known as Tarpon Basin, in the Newport Hammocks site.

On May 14, 2003, The Nature Conservancy 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 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 3,063-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, consisted 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). The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage 1,758 acres as an addition to the Florida Keys Wildlife Environmental Area and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage the remaining acres as an addition to the Florida Key Deer Refuge.

2005

On February 11, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, The Nature Conservancy 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 the Florida Communities Trust. Most of the park is within the project boundary.

2007

On October 13, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 8.6-acre addition to the Sugarloaf Key portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, consisted of two parcels under single ownership (Community Sons of the Divine Will) and had a taxable value of \$6,286,220. The proposed manager, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, does not consider the parcels essential. The boundary addition was approved with the understanding that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 BOT land was completed at no cost to Florida Forever. The following acres (ownerships) were purchased by the Division of State Lands: 0.07 acres (Cameron) of Dove Creek 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, the 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, the Division of State Lands acquired 3.03 acres from the Otha Cox Estate in Cudjoe Key for a total of \$137,500 (\$4. Monroe County will be the manager.





In November 2008, the Division of State Lands acquired 1.01 acres of the Smith ownership for \$37,000. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be the manager.

2009

On February 6, 2009, the Florida Department of Transportation donated 14.18 acres on Sugarloaf Key (0.86 acres within the project boundary) with a total donated value of \$9,265,212. At the June 2009 meeting, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Florida Communities Trust. 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). The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be the manager.

On October 15, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved requests by property owners to remove 7 acres of their ownership within the project boundary (\$23,832 just value).

On December 10, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. On June 1, 2011, James D. Hanson, Jr. donated 284.54 acres (Windley Key – value of \$200,000) to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 8.6 acres from the project at the landowner's request. On June 15, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council deleted 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.

On August 24, 2012, the City of Layton acquired Peter E. Riley Conservation Area (52.6 acres) as a donation from the former mayor.

2017

In 2017, a total of 138.65 acres in the project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.





2020

On February 14, 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the removal of 1.07 acres in Monroe County from the project boundary.

2021

On June 11, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

2022

In February 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the removal of 0.28 acres from the project boundary.

DEP acquired, in fee, six parcels from individual owners (total of 16.22 acres) in North Creek Hammock, Cudjoe Key, Marathon, Grassy Key and Sugarloaf Key areas.

2023

In February 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society sponsored the project. The Nature Conservancy, Monroe County Land Authority and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are participants and have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some of the sites within the 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)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.

The 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. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Monroe County, City of Marathon and Islamorada, Village of Islands also manage some properties.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The unique wildlife, plant and recreational resources of the Florida Keys Ecosystem sites qualify them as wildlife and environmental areas, botanical sites or preserves and state parks.

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, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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.





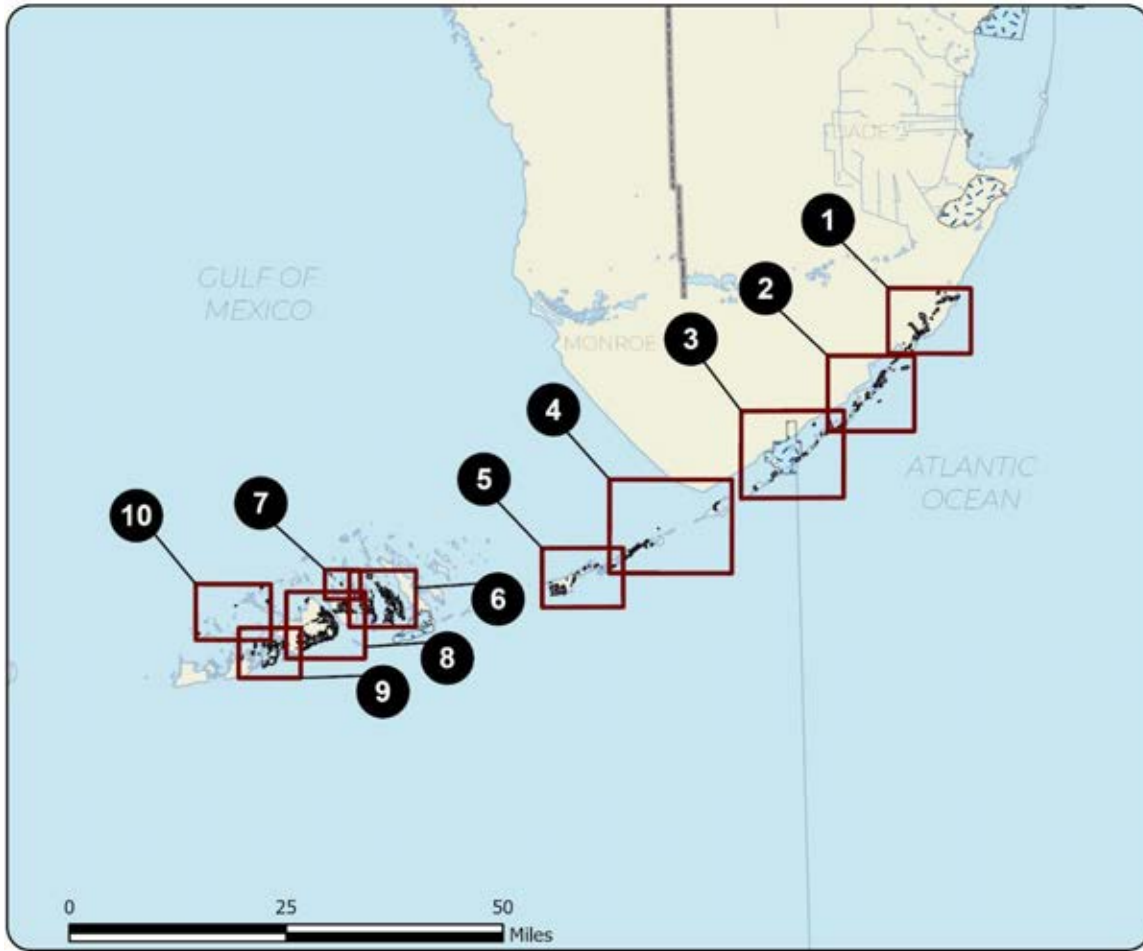
Revenue-generating Potential

Public use of sites managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be relatively low because no infrastructure will be provided. For the sites managed by the 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 is developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will collaborate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.





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 Knockdown 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 Knockdown 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 KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

MONROE COUNTY

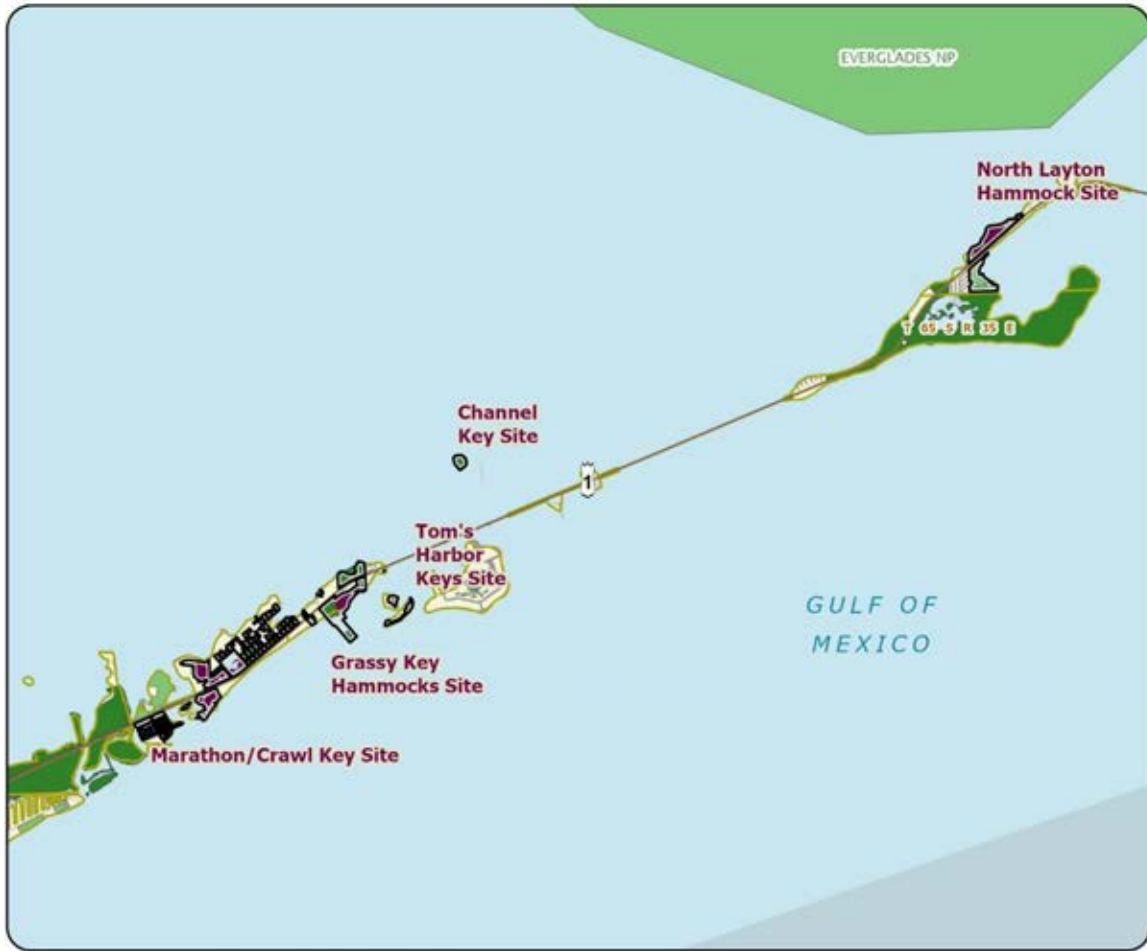




FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

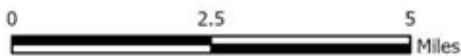
MONROE COUNTY





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

MONROE COUNTY

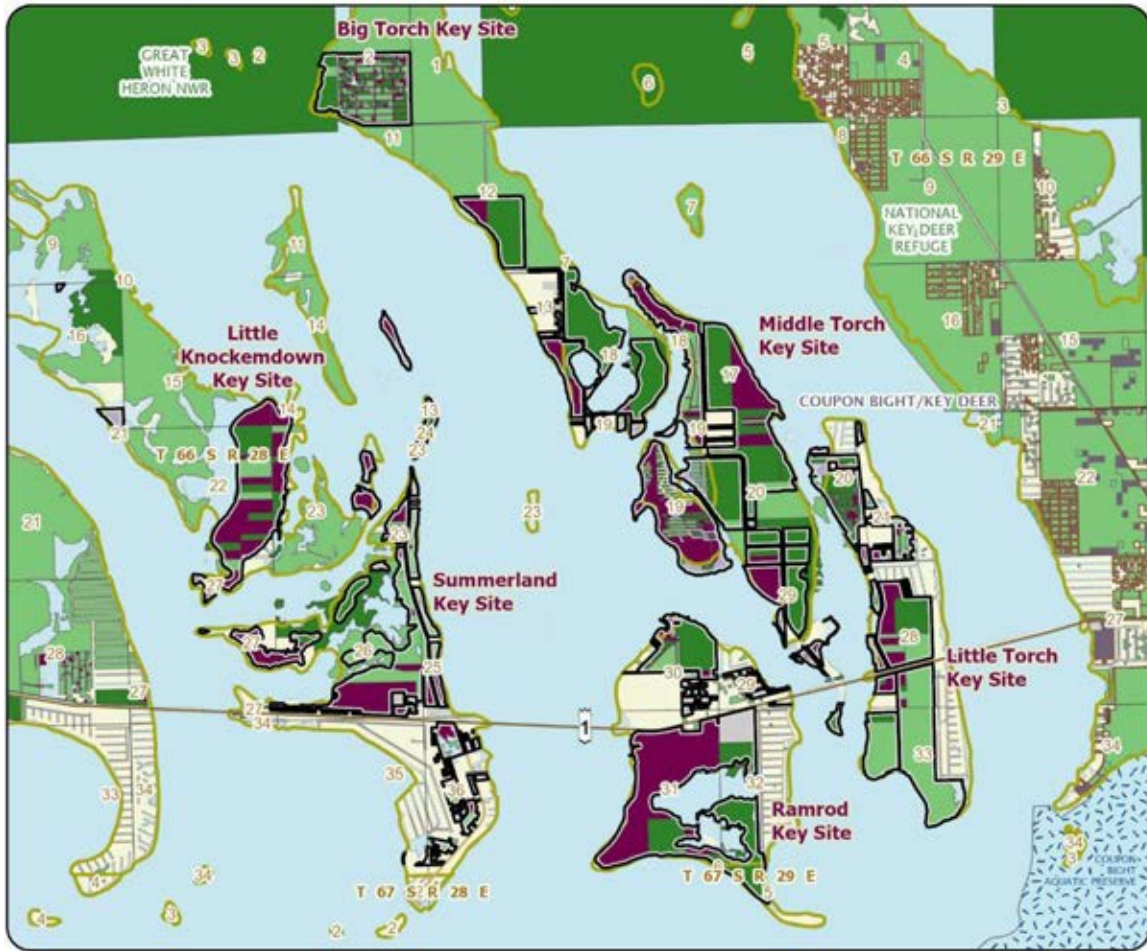




FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

MONROE COUNTY





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

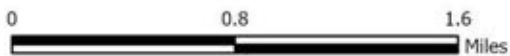
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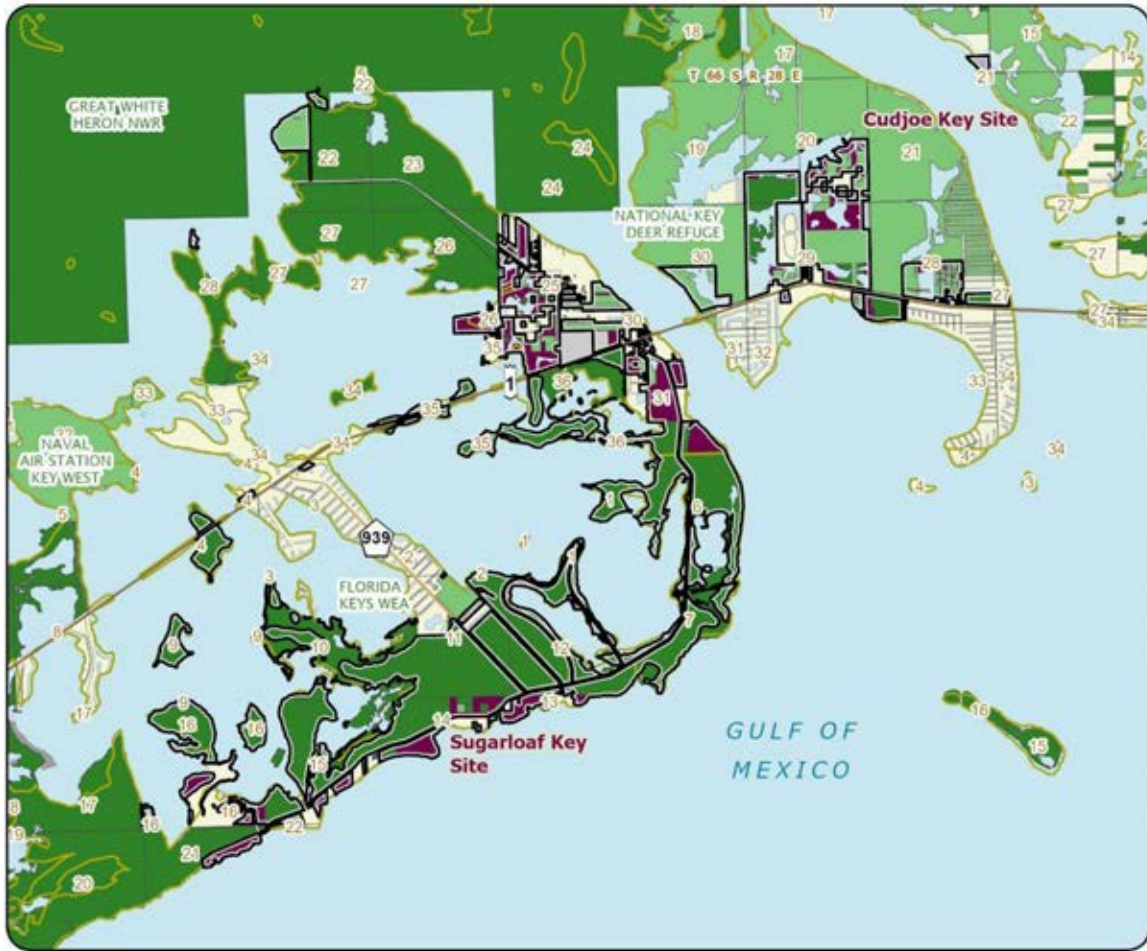




FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7

MONROE COUNTY

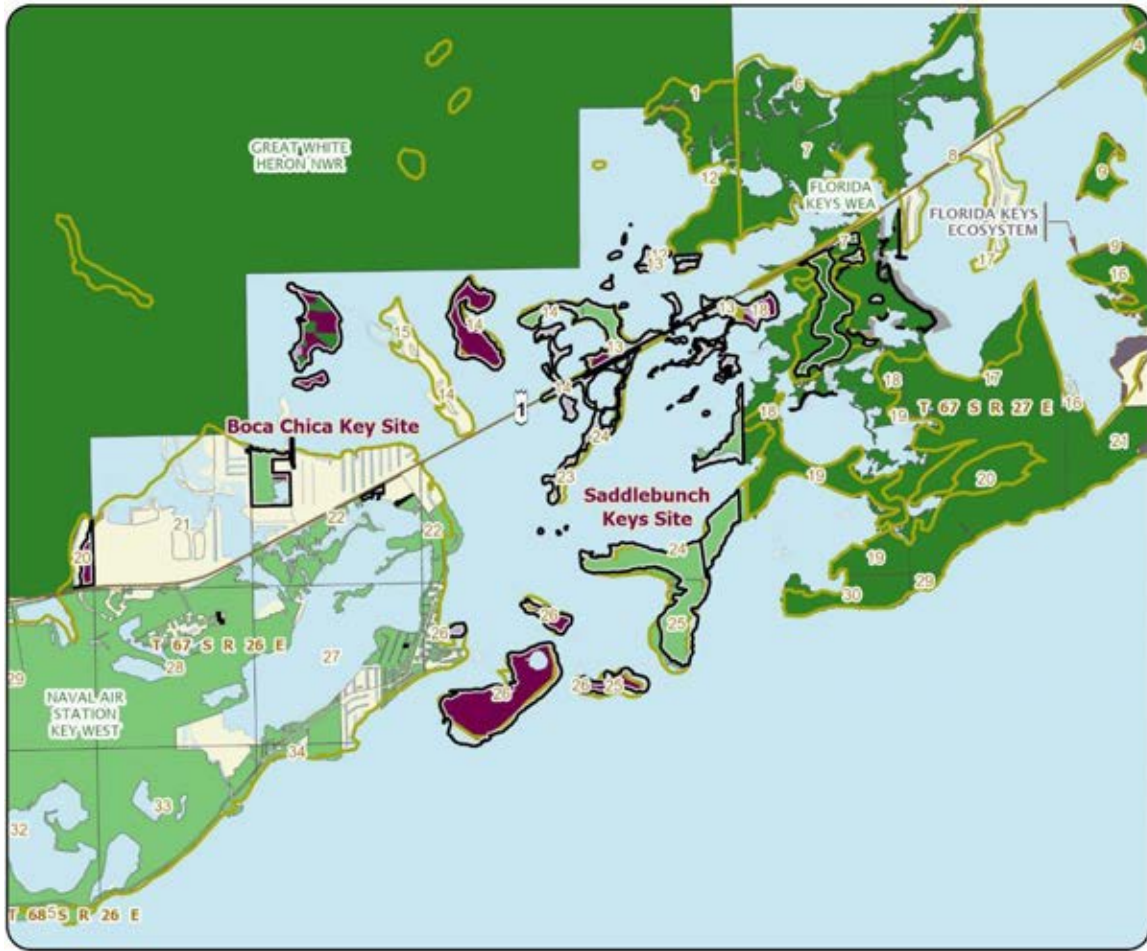




FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8

MONROE COUNTY





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9

MONROE COUNTY





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 10

MONROE COUNTY



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Ford Marsh

Climate Change Lands

Volusia County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,204
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	28
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,172
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$385,363

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 1,204 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(SASMI) 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 climate resilience by creating a path for upland salt marsh migration in response to sea level rise.

In the 1950's, 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, the Atlantic saltmarsh snake, the Florida manatee, and the Cooper's hawk. 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. Acquisition of this property will help to protect and preserve these unique sites and Florida's cultural history.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Wood stork	G4/S2

Public Use

If acquired, Ford Marsh will be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks 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. This fee simple project includes 1,204 acres and a just value of \$393,685.

Coordination

This project was proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks. The Volusia Forever program, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Resilient Florida are potential partners in the acquisition of Ford Marsh. The St. Johns River Water Management District and 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; and to provide appropriate nature-based recreation that offers public enjoyment of the site without damaging the unique natural habitats.

Manager

The Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks 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. 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 of Florida Statutes, and Chapter 62D-2 of the Florida Administration 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 Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) land managers and the 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.

The Division of Recreation and Parks 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as potential funding sources.

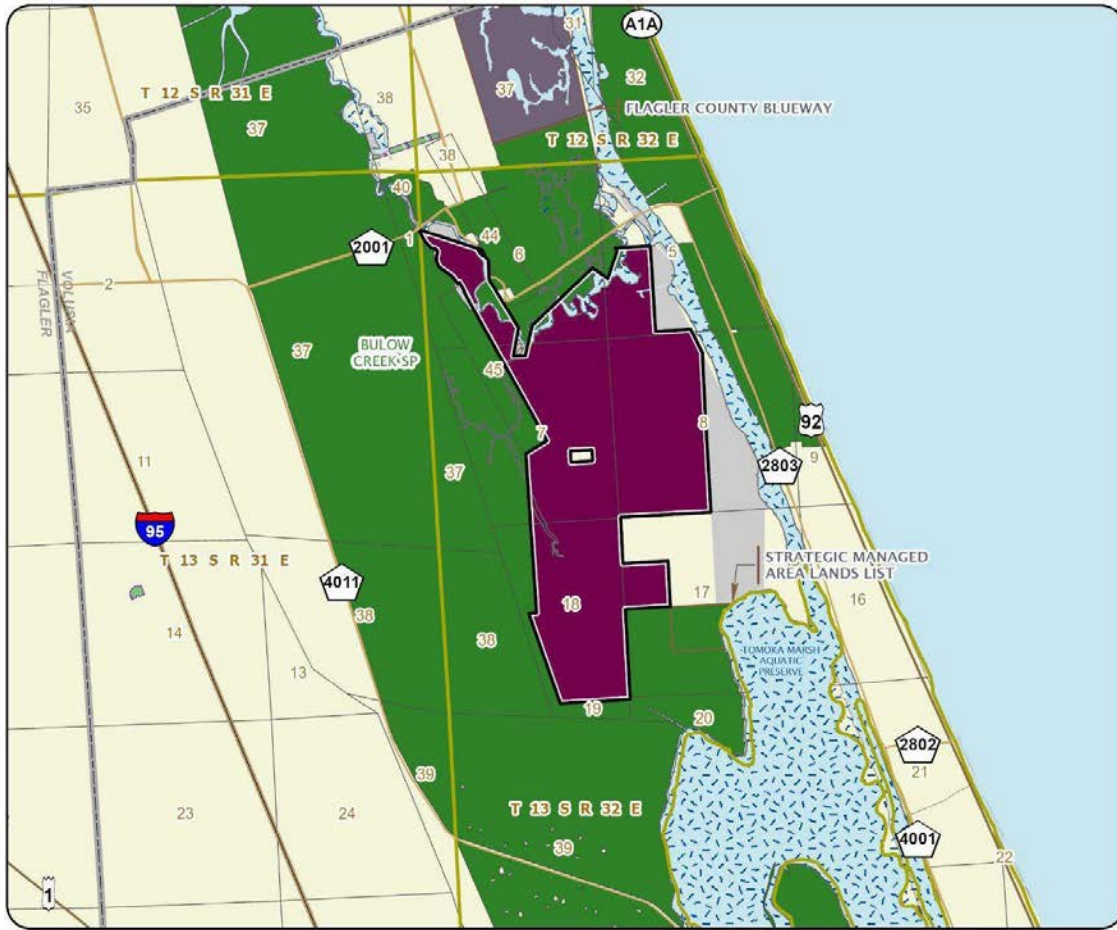
Management Cost Summary

A preliminary estimate for expenditures during the first year is as follows.

Park Manager III	\$66,200
Assistant Park Manager	\$46,000
Administrative Assistant I	\$38,000
3 Park Services Specialists	\$123,000
7 Park Rangers	\$111,000
Additional Management Costs:	
Expense	\$15,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$424,200

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted.





FORD MARSH

VOLUSIA COUNTY



Garcon Ecosystem

Climate Change Lands

Santa Rosa County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	7,446
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	4,348
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$3,499,061
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,098
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$21,826,014

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Garcon Ecosystem project will preserve ecologically valuable habitat for endangered pitcher plants 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 the 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 plants and the globally imperiled panhandle lily. The tracts are also habitat for the flatwoods salamander, a candidate for federal listing. Four cultural sites are known in the project area. The area’s sensitive prairies are threatened by ditching, plant collecting and residential development.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Louisiana yellow-eyed grass</i>	G2G3/S1
<i>spring hill flax</i>	G2/S2
Saltmarsh topminnow	G3/S2
Louisiana seaside sparrow	G4T4/S1
Berry's skipper	G2/S3
<i>pond rush</i>	G5/S1
<i>yellow fringeless orchid</i>	G3G4/S2
<i>Panhandle lily</i>	G3/S3
<i>pinewoods bluestem</i>	G3/S3





Public Use

The 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. The 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). Phase II: all other ownerships except in sections 24 and 25. Phase III: ownerships in sections 24 and 25.

Prairies of Garcon – Essential tracts included the larger ownerships of Jenkins (acquired by the Northwest Florida Water Management District), Henzleman, 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 1997 taxable value of \$483,356. The Northwest Florida Water Management District will manage the addition that has been designated as non-essential, meaning it is important but not critical to the project.

2001

In 2000 and 2001, DEP acquired approximately 850.5 acres for \$1,419,955 with Preservation 2000 funding to create Yellow River Marsh State Park.

2002

On October 25, 2002, the Northwest Florida Water Management District acquired 10 acres from Perdido Key, Inc. for \$9,000.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to the Climate Change Lands category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council removed 283 acres from the project as 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.

Coordination

In November 1995, the Northwest Florida Water Management District 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)

The Division of Recreation and Parks is the lead manager for the northern portion of the project. The Northwest Florida Water Management District 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 completed management plan. Long-range plans for the 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.

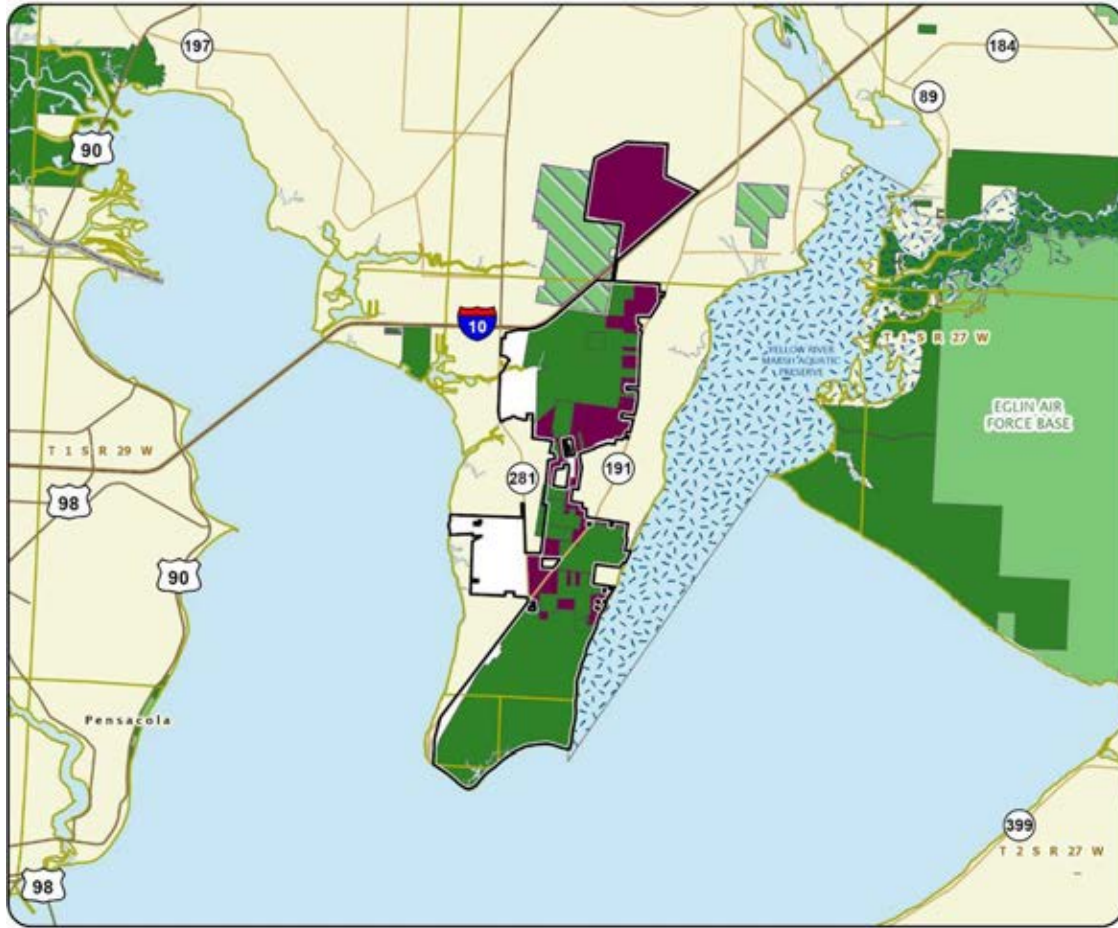




Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Forest Service may help with fire management.





GARCON ECOSYSTEM

SANTA ROSA COUNTY



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Northeast Florida Blueway

Climate Change Lands

Duval, Flagler and St. Johns Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	31,936
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	24,660
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$32,438,430
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	7,276
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$1,034,199,339

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 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, 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 Ft. Matanzas National Monument.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
<i>coastal vervain</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
<i>Florida milkvetch</i>	G3G4/S2S3
<i>yellow hibiscus</i>	G4G5/S2
American oystercatcher	G5/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Least tern	G4/S3





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 Division of Recreation and Parks 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 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 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved two additions to the project boundary. The Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (now the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a redesign of the project boundary. A total of 2,000 acres no longer suitable for conservation were removed from the project, 180 in Duval County and 1,820 in St. Johns County, reducing the total project size to 32,564 acres. The updated total includes lands in public ownership and acres acquired. Previous project area estimates did not include lands in public ownership.

2007

On March 29, 2007, the BOT acquired Lastinger parcel (2.45 acres).

On April 5, 2007, the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2012

On December 31, 2012, the 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 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 the St. Johns River Water Management District on the Moses Creek Regional Offsite Mitigation Area.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the removal of 613 acres from the project boundary.

Coordination

The City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, St. Johns County, Florida Communities Trust and St. Johns River Water Management District may be partners on portions of the project.

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. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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. The Florida Forest Service 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 the standards of the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

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 the Florida Forest Service as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring fee simple title to the parcels of interest to the Florida Forest Service. The portion of the project of interest for





management by the Division of Recreation and Parks 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks 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 the Florida Forest Service 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 would 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks 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.

The Florida Forest Service timetable for management of the remainder of Phase II also provides initial public access for diverse, low-intensity outdoor recreation. Management would be carried out by the Florida Forest Service's 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks. 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. The Florida Forest Service 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 to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for review and comment, even though properties may have been acquired with other sources. Doing so will ensure that the Preservation Project takes a system-wide approach to managing Northeast Florida Blueway properties.

In Phase II, the Division of Recreation and Parks 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. The Florida Forest Service plans to cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, local government entities, interested parties and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as appropriate. The Florida Forest Service also intends to coordinate the recreational use of the Rayonier parcel with the Division of Recreation and Parks because of the potential for a recreation trail on the eastern portion of the property. The Florida Forest Service 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 include the U.S. Navy, National Park Service, Florida Inland Navigation District, cities of Jacksonville Beach and Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Electric Authority and St. Johns River Water Management District. It is hoped that the Northeast Florida Blueway 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	CARL	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



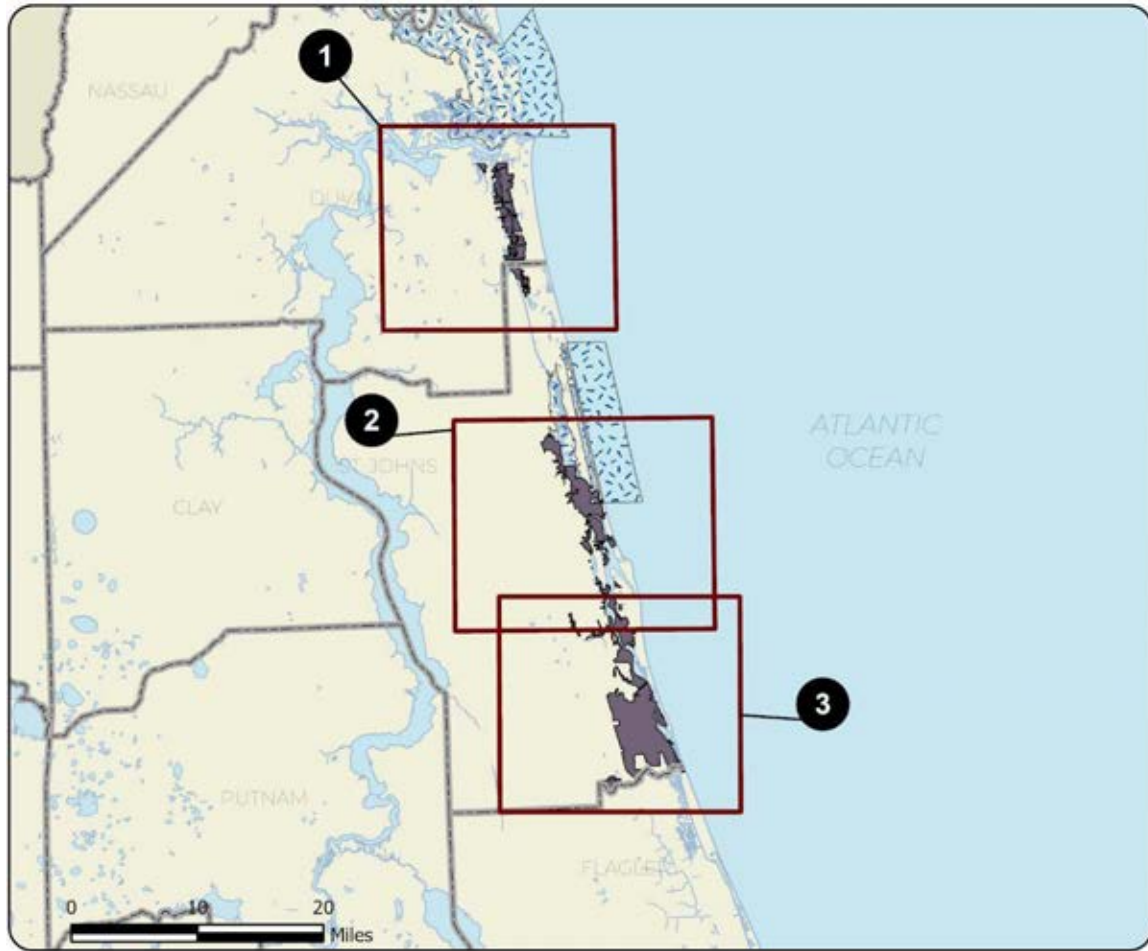


Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (3 FTEs)	\$79,518	not provided
Expense	\$215,000	not provided
OCO	\$37,800	not provided
TOTAL	\$332,318	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

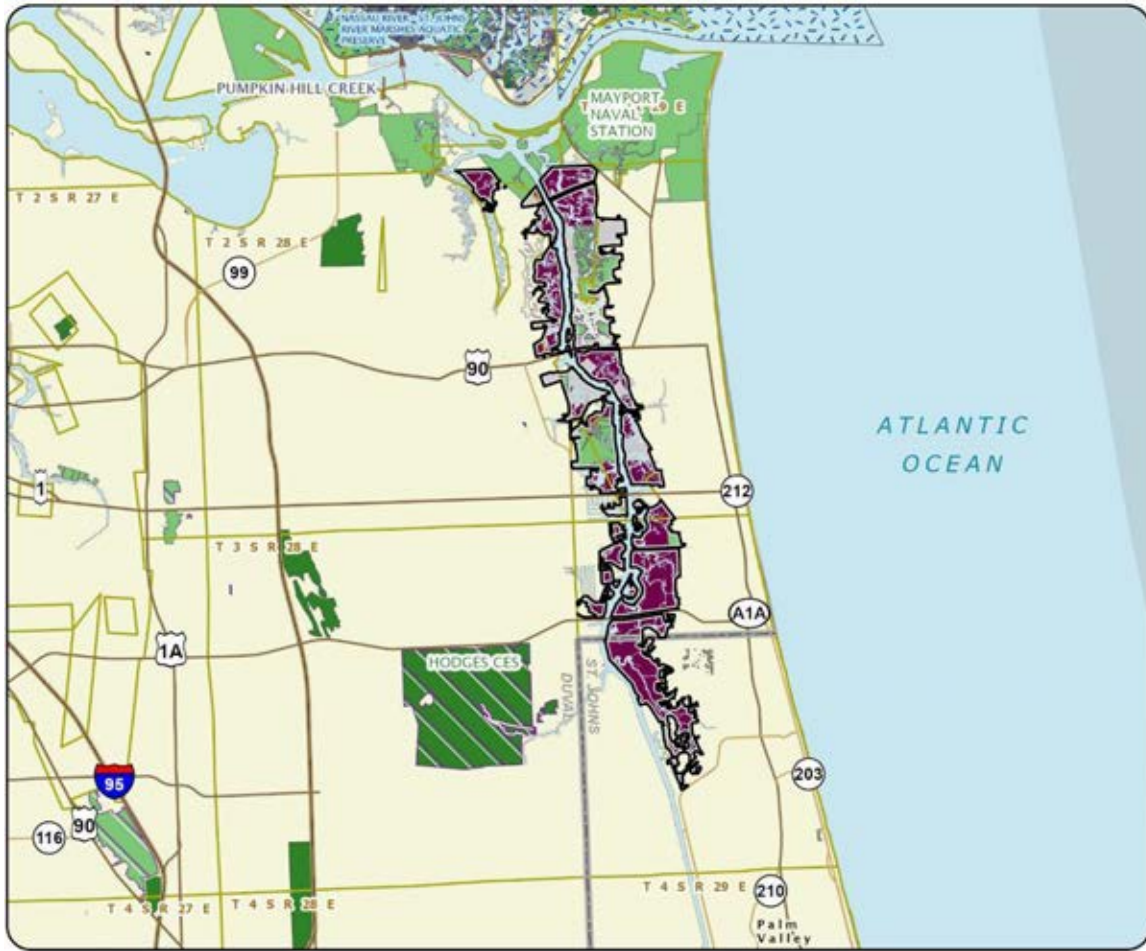




NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

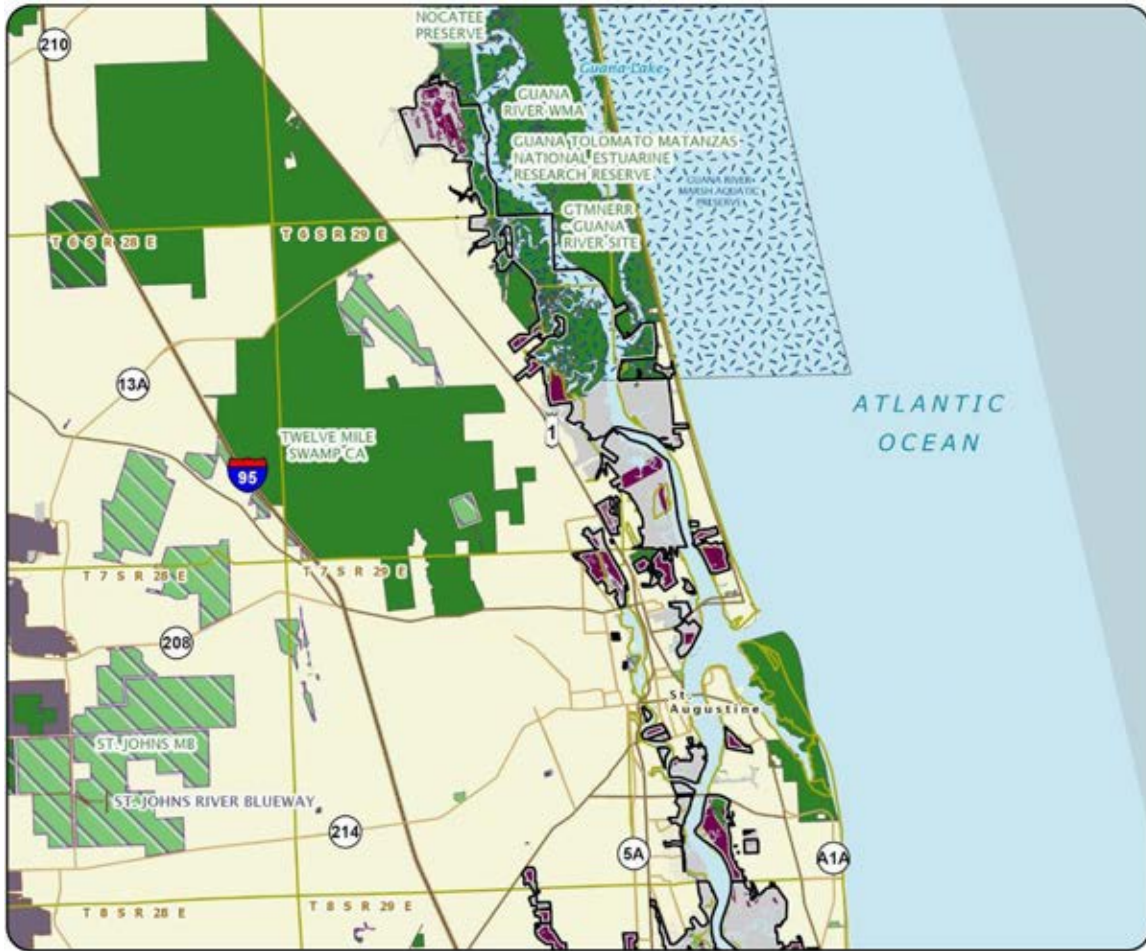




NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 1

DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

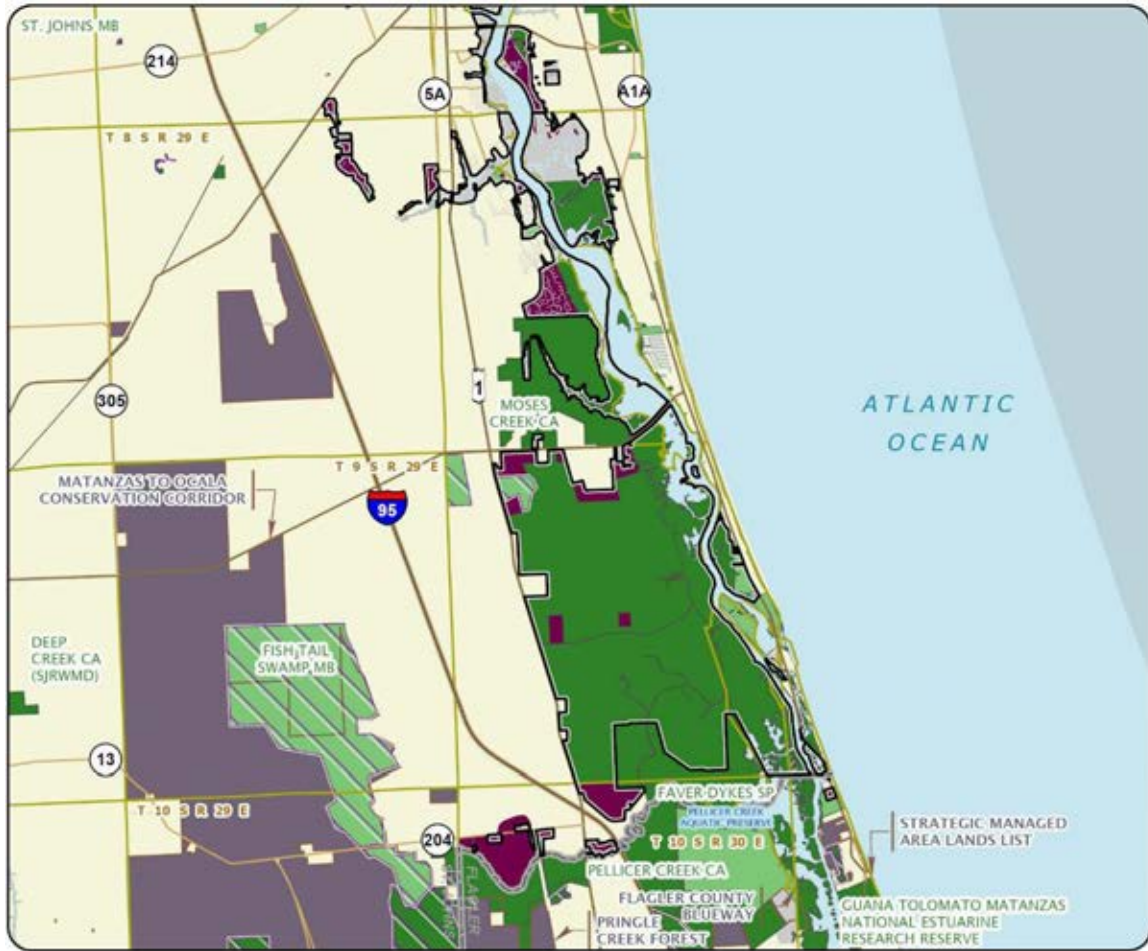




NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 2

ST. JOHNS COUNTY





NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 3

FLAGLER AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES



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St. Joe Timberland

Climate Change Lands

Bay, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla, Walton and Washington Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2000
<i>Project Acres</i>	113,713
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	62,164
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$77,884,595
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	51,549
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$110,095,163

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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Florida torreyi</i>	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Apalachicola rosemary</i>	G1/S1
<i>Chapman's rhododendron</i>	G1/S1
<i>Gholson's blazing star</i>	G1/S1
<i>pinewoods aster</i>	G1?/S1?
Big Blue Spring cave crayfish	G1/S1
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1
<i>Apalachicola wild indigo</i>	G2/S1
Florida Big Bend cave amphipod	G1G2/S1S2

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 Division of State Lands and The Nature Conservancy, and initially consisted of individual tracts owned by The 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 approved a fee-simple, 12,360-acre addition, known as the Lake Wimico site in Gulf County, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and consisted of one owner, The St. Joe Company.

Also on August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 1,592-acre addition, known as Snipe Island, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and consisted of one owner, The St. Joe Company.

2001

On July 12, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 22,260-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and consisted of one owner, The St. Joe Company. About 19,445 acres of the addition are in Jefferson County, with the remainder in Taylor County. The Acquisition and Restoration Council also approved a fee-simple, 2,560-acre addition to the St. Joseph Bay Buffer project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Fish





and Wildlife Conservation Commission and consisted of one owner, The St. Joe Company. The property is in Gulf County.

2002

On April 25, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

The Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 The Nature Conservancy and consisted of one owner, The St. Joe Company.

2003

On June 6, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 The Nature Conservancy and consisted of one owner, The St. Joe Company.

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 The Nature Conservancy 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, The Nature Conservancy acquired 10,905 acres known as Flint Rock.

2010

On April 6, 2010, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission acquired approximately 2,836 acres of the Flint Rock site from The Nature Conservancy for \$5,246,371.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to place the project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved moving the Flint Rock tract to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Florida Forever project, as it was no longer in The St. Joe Company's 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council transferred 2,456 acres from the Franklin County sites of the 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add 879.5 acres of The St. Joe Company's land in two parcels in south Leon County to the project, with a tax-assessed value of \$186,620. The addition was proposed by the Division of Recreation and Parks, who will manage the western parcel as part of Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, and the Florida Forest Service, who will manage the eastern parcel as part of Wakulla State Forest.

On August 18, 2017, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add an 18-acre inholding in Franklin County within the Box-R Wildlife Management Area, surrounded by BOT-owned managed conservation lands, to the project. The addition had a tax-assessed value of \$83,800. The fee-simple boundary amendment was submitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

In 2017, 10,445 acres in the project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2019

On October 18, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the addition of 564 acres in Franklin County to the St. Joe Timberland Florida Forever project. If acquired, it would be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area.

The 20,146-acre Lake Wimico addition was acquired via donation from The Nature Conservancy, who 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

2021

On December 10, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 370 acres in Franklin County to the project boundary.

2022

On August 12, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

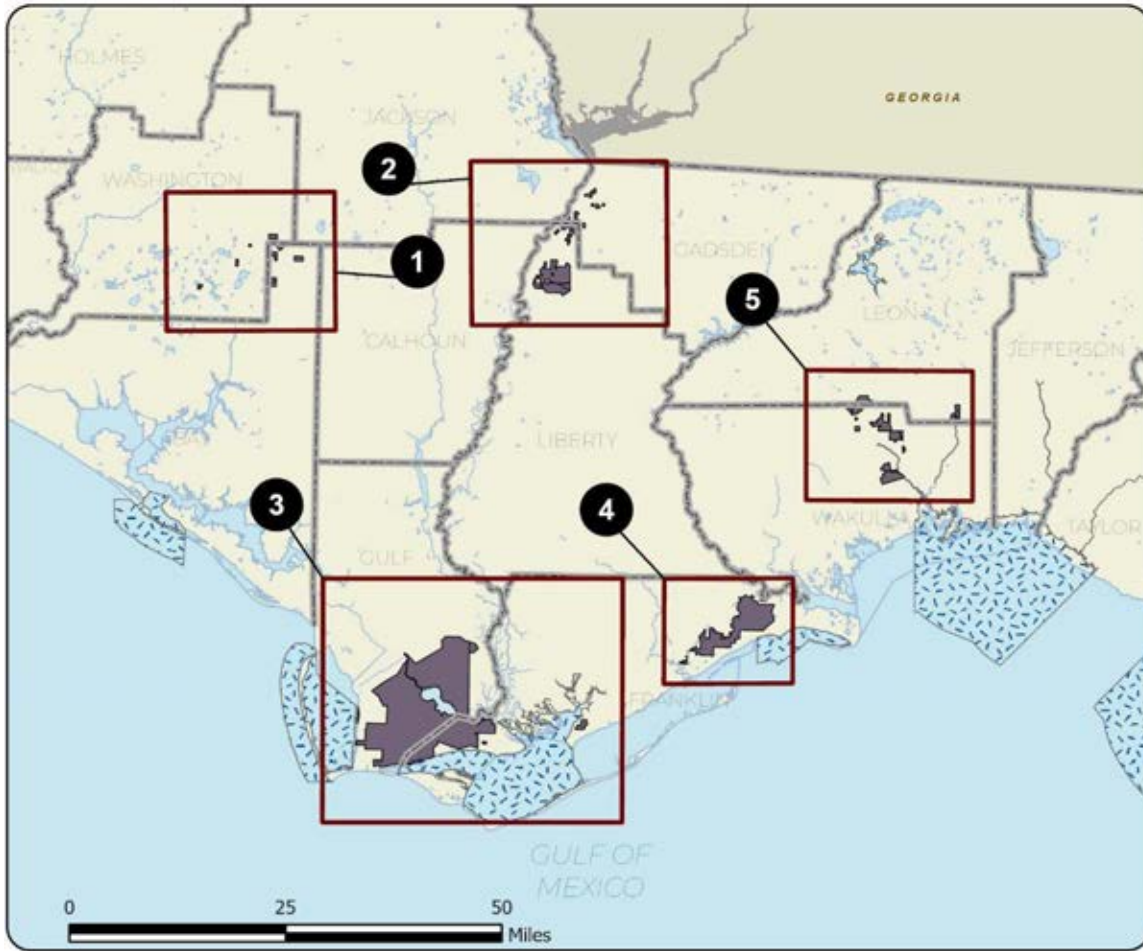




Coordination

The Nature Conservancy has been an acquisition intermediary for the project.



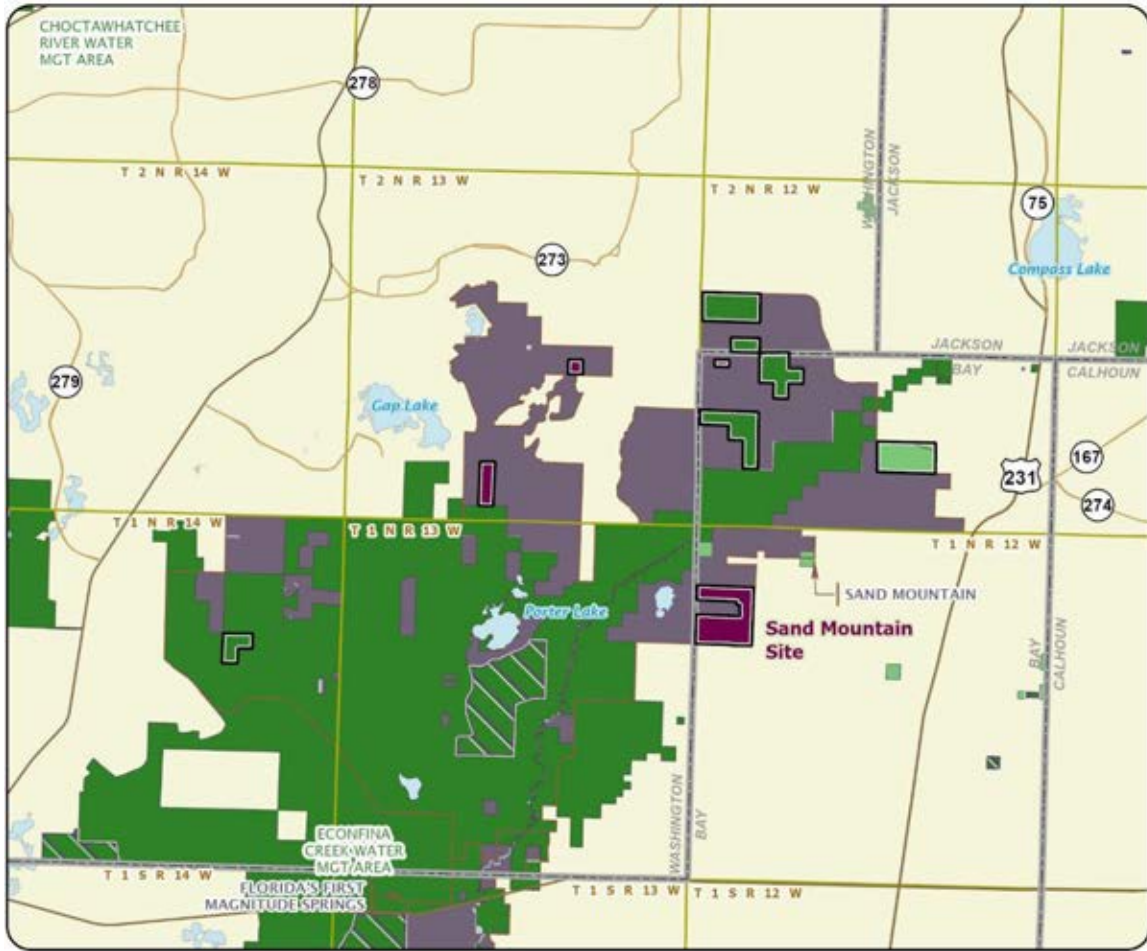


ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: OVERVIEW

BAY, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, GULF, JEFFERSON, LEON, LIBERTY, TAYLOR, WAKULLA, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Map 1 Sand Mountain Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Aspalaga Landing Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Crooked/Short Creek Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Gadsden Glades Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Sweetwater Creek Site
- Map 3 Holt Trustee Tract Site
- Map 3 Lake Wimico Site
- Map 3 St. Joseph Bay Buffer Site
- Map 3 St. Vincent Sound-to-Lake Wimico Ecosystem Site
- Map 3 Whiskey George Creek Timbers Site
- Map 4 Tates Hell/Carrabelle Tract Site
- Map 5 River Sink Spring Site
- Map 5 St. Marks Springs Site
- Map 5 Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Site

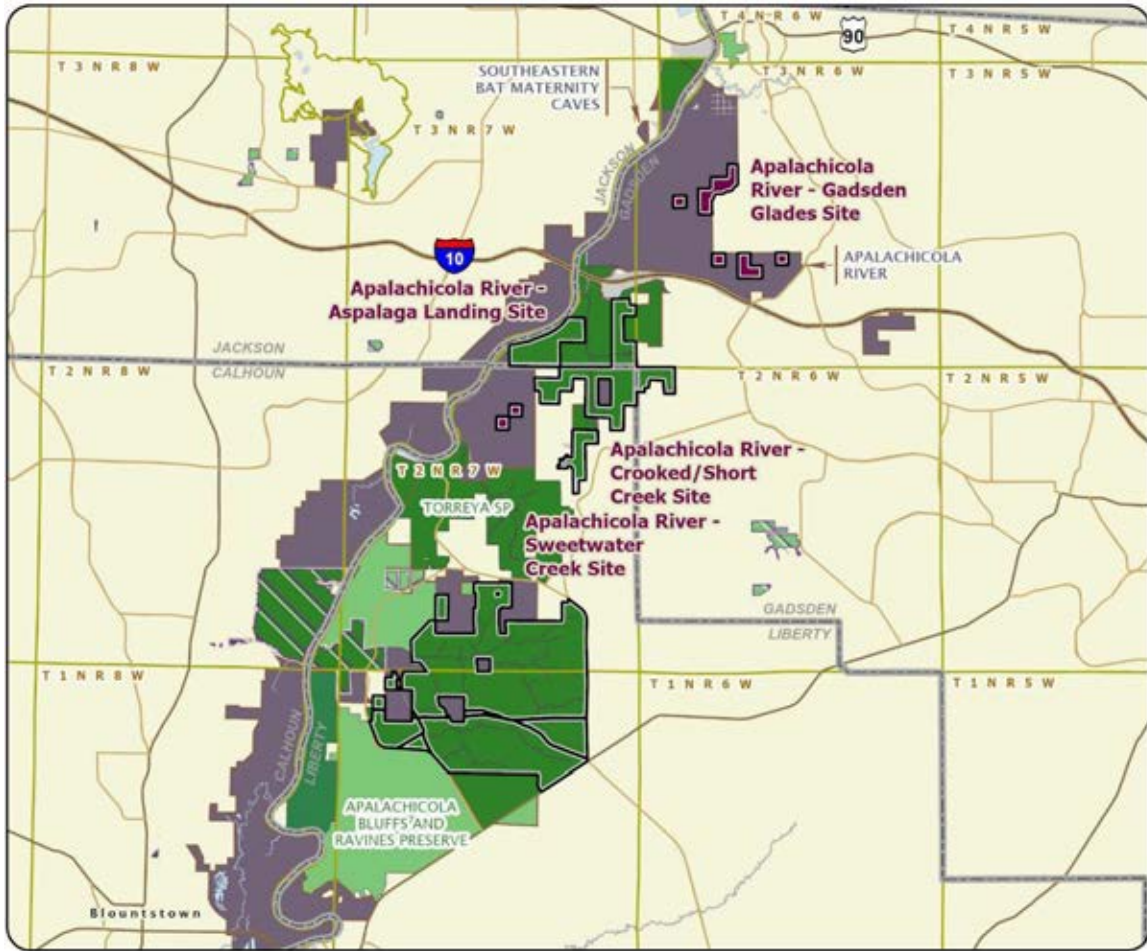




ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 1

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

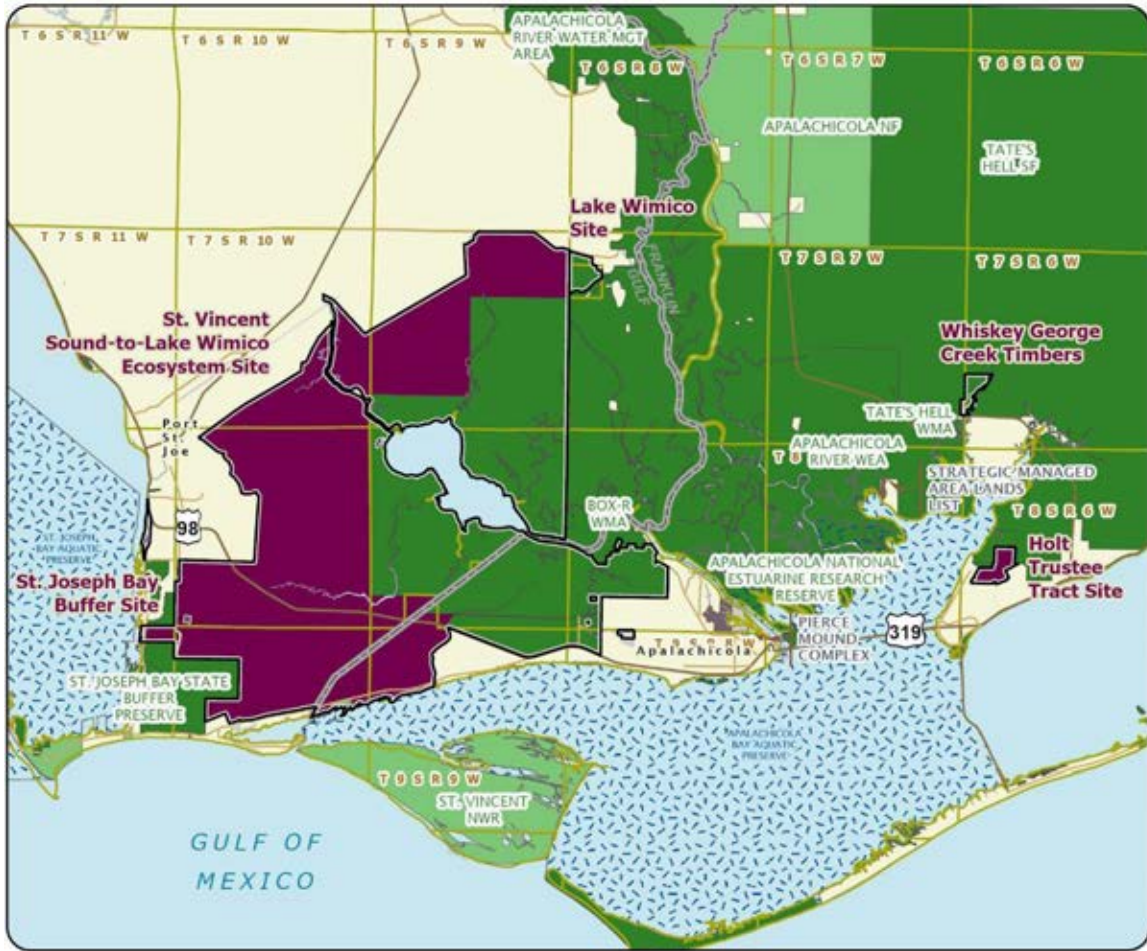




ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 2

GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

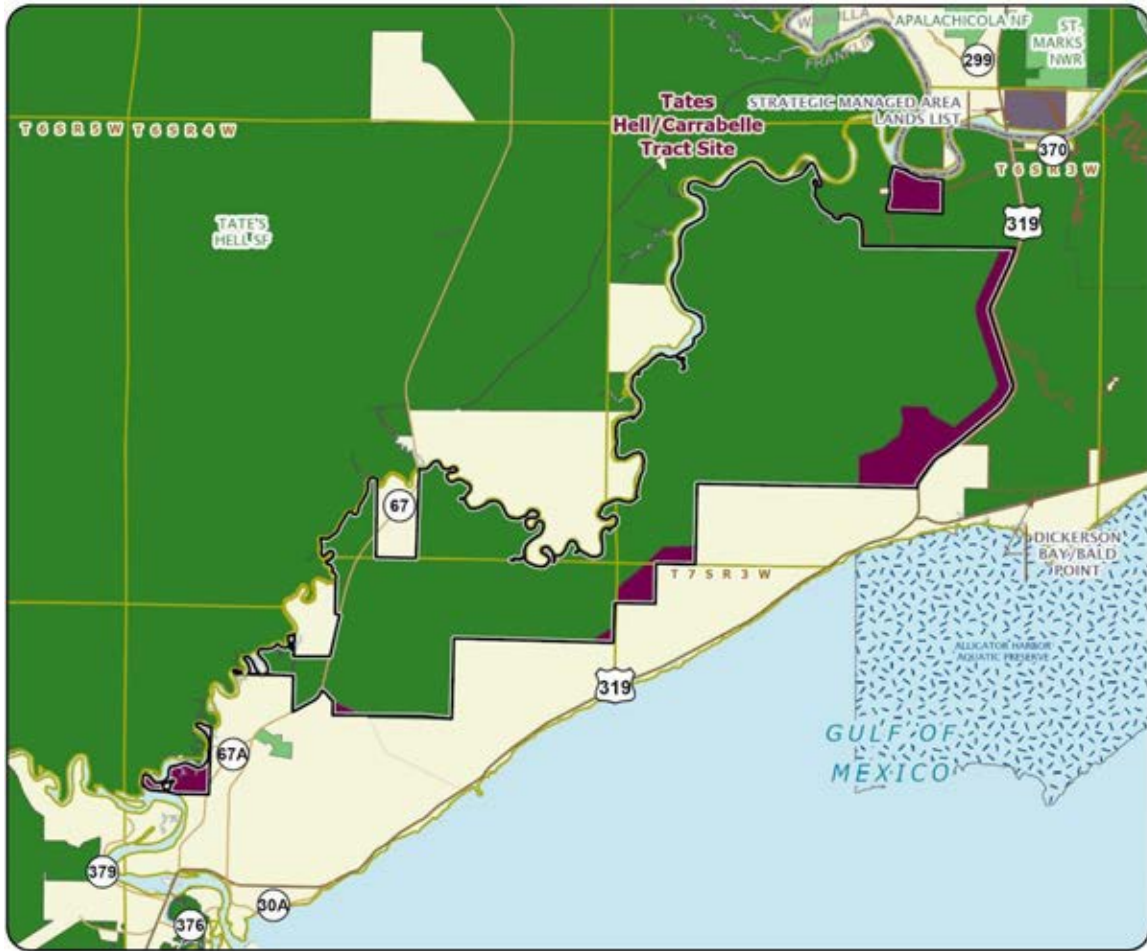




ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 3

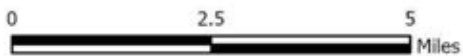
FRANKLIN AND GULF COUNTIES

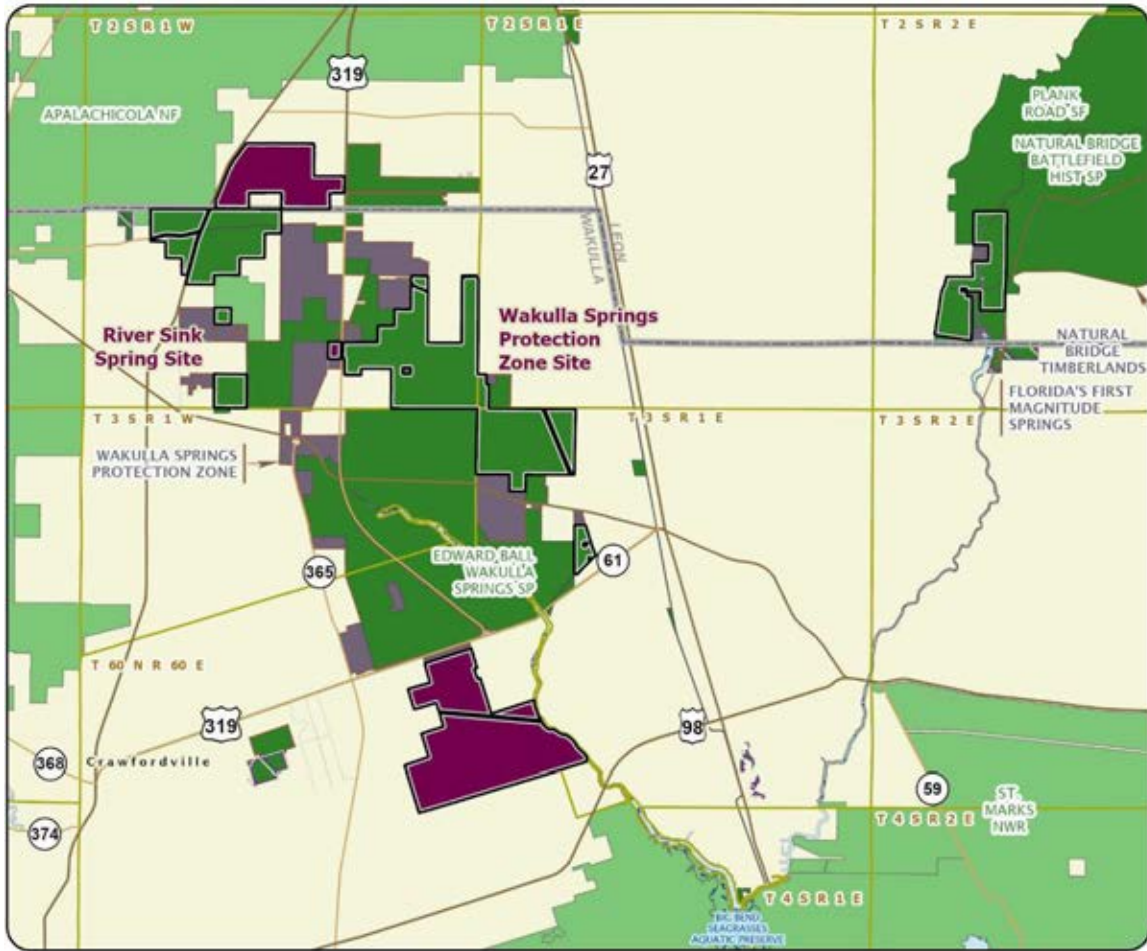




ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 4

FRANKLIN COUNTY





ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 5

WAKULLA AND LEON COUNTIES



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St. Johns River Blueway

Climate Change Lands

Clay and St. Johns Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	26,481
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	10,564
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$3,112,640
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	15,917
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$1,579,273,257

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 also contains multiple recorded archaeological and historical resources.

General Description

The St. Johns River Blueway runs along the eastern shore of the St. Johns River between Green Cove Springs and Palatka and bounds the Watson Island State Forest on the west bank of the St. Johns River. It includes considerable forested wetlands by the river and around six tributary creeks, mesic flatwoods, freshwater marsh and a portion of disturbed uplands.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>pineland scurfpea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Canby's wild indigo</i>	G3T1/S1
<i>Curtiss' loosestrife</i>	G2/S2
Creek siltsnail	G2/S2
<i>Thorne's beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2
<i>Bartram's ixia</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Florida mountain-mint</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4





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 moderate, 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.

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 added the St. Johns River Blueway project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. The 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 BOT approved buying 231.8 acres (Warner). The BOT also acquired 736 acres (Lambert) in August 2005.

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, 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, the North Florida Land Trust acquired Sixmile Creek Preserve (284 acres), of which 275 acres are within the project boundary.





2018

On July 26, 2018, the St. Johns River Water Management District and 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 112 acres in Clay County to the project boundary.

Coordination

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

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Forest Service proposes managing the project under multiple use management for the state forest system. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for the project. These goals and measures are referenced later in the prospectus. The primary land management goal for the Florida Forest Service 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 Florida Forest Service's management activities on the project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service 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. Florida Forest Service Bunnell District personnel will manage the site and coordinate public access and use.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project's location, size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. State forest designation requires that certain criteria be met, such as public access and acreage available for many types of recreational activities. Designation as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring property rights 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 the Florida Forest Service. 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 the Florida Forest Service, 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 the 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

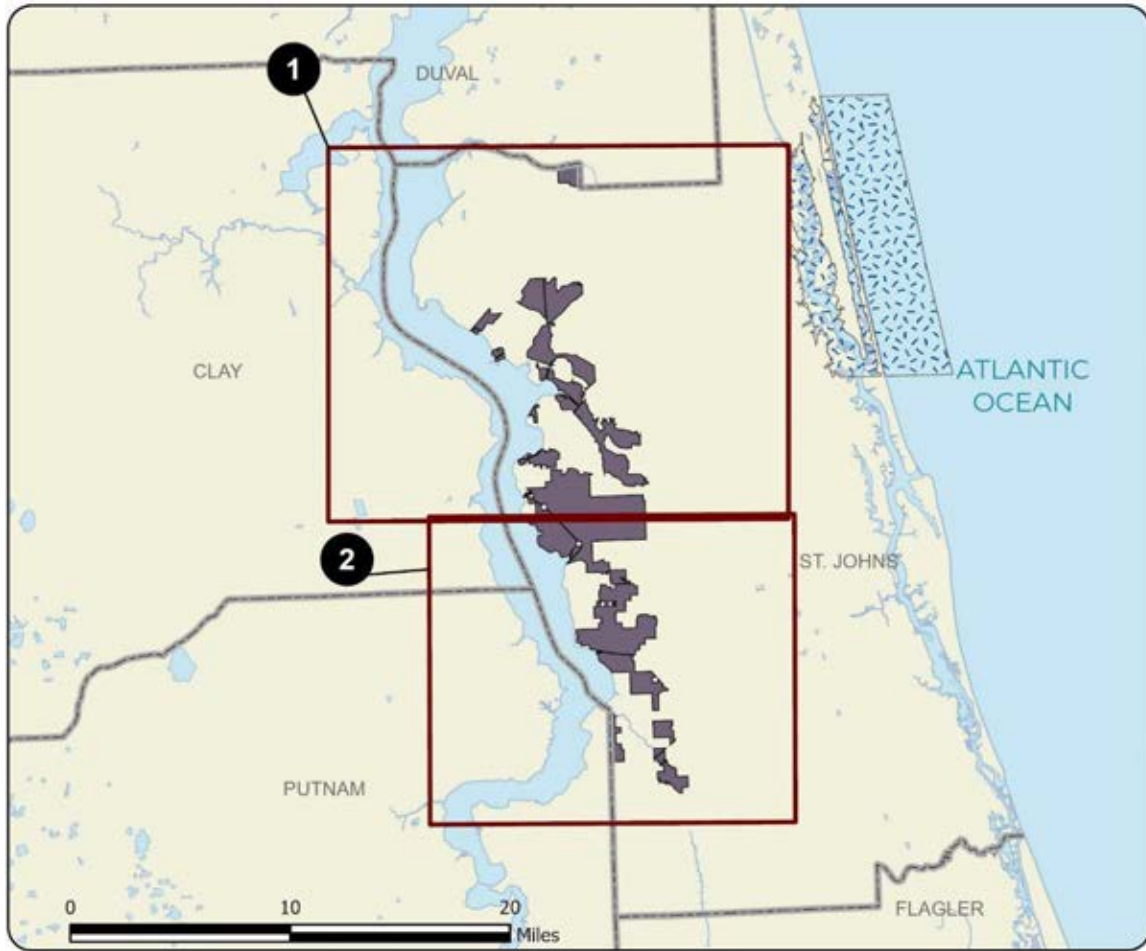
The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF	not provided
Salary (X FTE)	\$173,346	not provided
Expense	\$125,000	not provided
OCO	\$361,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$659,346	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

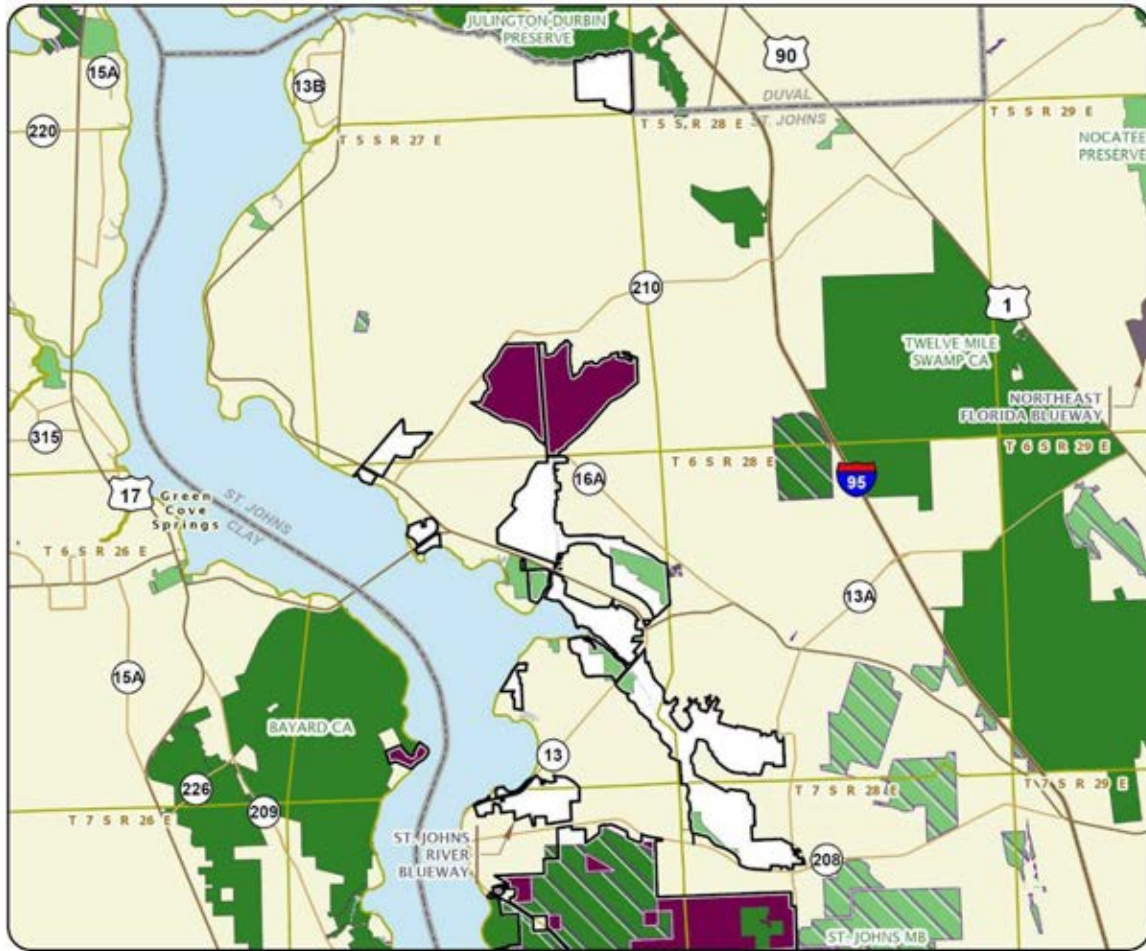




ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

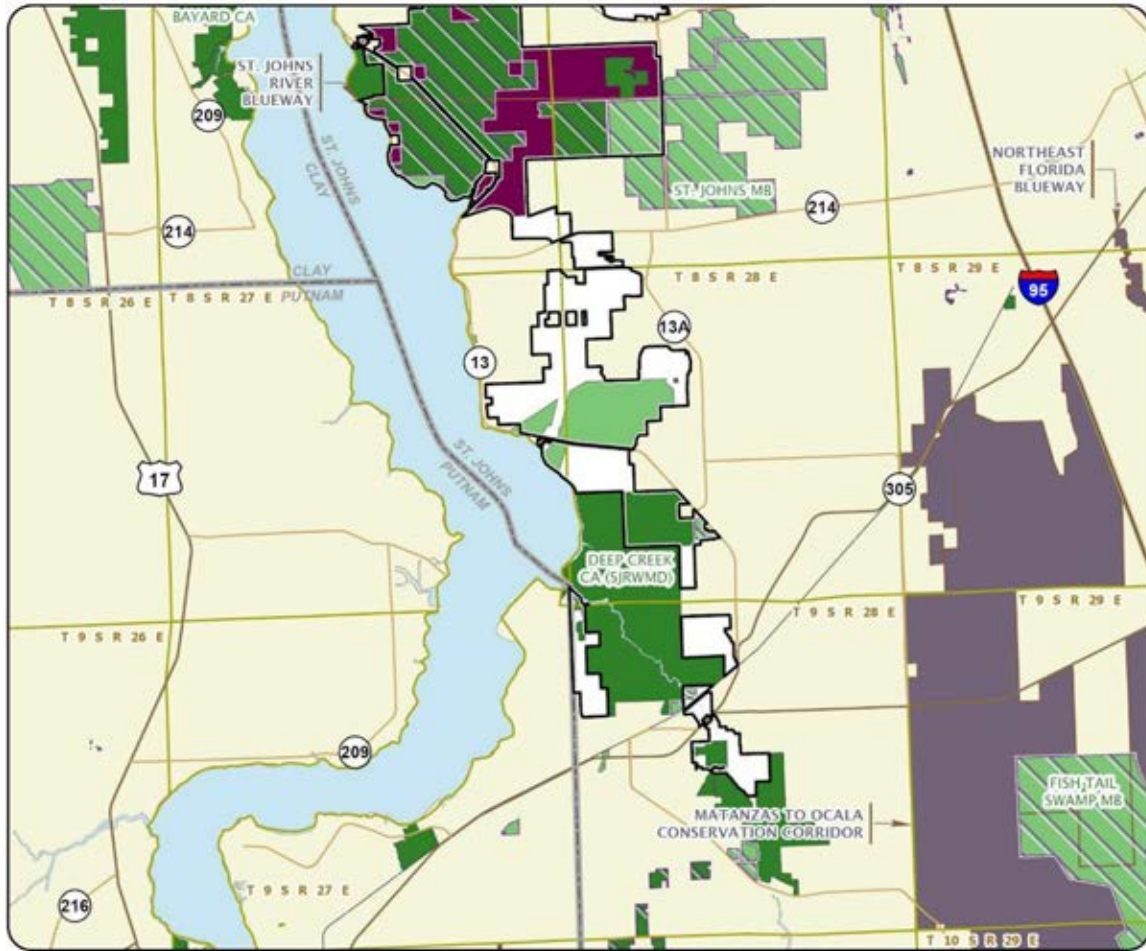




ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 1

ST. JOHNS COUNTY





ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 2

ST. JOHNS COUNTY



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Taylor Sweetwater Creek

Climate Change Lands

Taylor County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2017
<i>Project Acres</i>	3,742
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,742
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$25,679,266

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. 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 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida willow	G2G3/S2S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3





Public Use

The scenic qualities of the 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, Taylor Sweetwater Creek was accepted by the Acquisition and Restoration Council for in-depth review.

On October 20, 2017, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the proposal as a Florida Forever project.

Coordination

The proposed property is located between the Spring Creek Unit and Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, which lies three miles to the north and two miles to the south, respectively. The Suwannee River Water Management District's 5-acre 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 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 Mexico 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for management, a management plan will be developed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission'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 Florida Fish





and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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

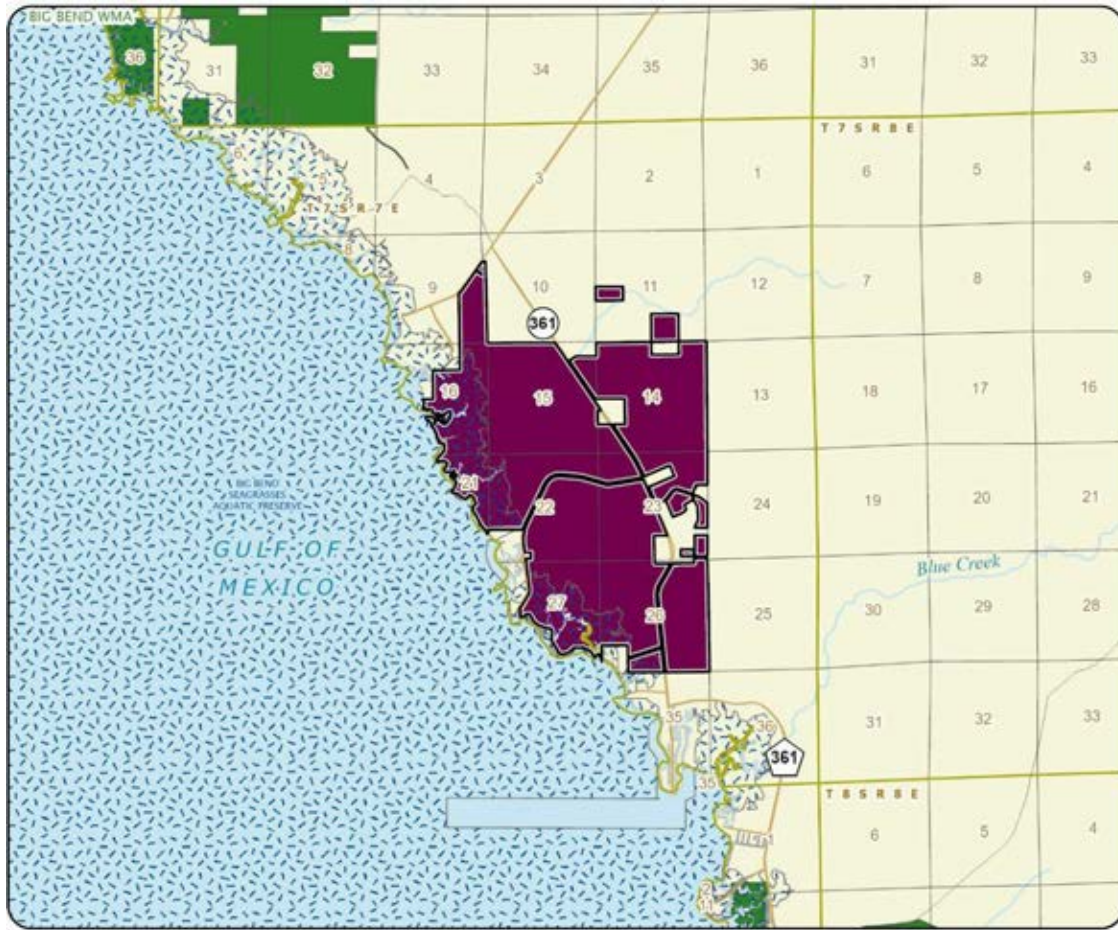
If the project is acquired and leased to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for management, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Forest Service, DEP, Division of Historical Resources, Suwannee River Water Management District and Taylor County, among others, in the management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	
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Resource Management	
Exotic Species Control	\$9,332
Prescribed Burning	\$19,986
Cultural Resource Management	\$831
Timber Management	\$1,285
Hydrological Management	\$8,463
Other (restoration, enhancement, surveys, monitoring, etc.)	\$104,499
TOTAL	\$144,396
Support	
Land Management Planning	\$5,100
Land Management Reviews	\$756
Training/Staff Development	\$907
Vehicle Purchase	\$15,754
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$9,294
Other	\$8,576
TOTAL	\$40,387
Administration	
General administration	\$3,136
Facility maintenance	\$21,988
Information/Education/Operations	\$13,865
Resource Protection	\$2,909
TOTAL	\$41,898

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





TAYLOR SWEETWATER CREEK

TAYLOR COUNTY



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Terra Ceia

Climate Change Lands

Manatee County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1996
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,724
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,686
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$4,962,500
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,038
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$67,880,897

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 manatee 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. The area is particularly significant for the protection it offers to bird rookeries, including nearby Bird Island, one of the top two rookeries in Florida. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
<i>hairy beach sunflower</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3

Public Use

The project qualifies as a 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 list. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserve, consisted of some 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 Conservation and Recreational Lands list, the state's acquisition partner, Southwest Florida Water Management District, acquired Terra Ceia Isles. The Southwest Florida Water Management District acquired the Reeder (20 acres) and Schater (39.1 acres) parcels in 2000 with the state contributing half of the funding.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council designated an additional 843 acres as essential.

2007

On June 15, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a fee-simple, 395-acre addition (Frog and McMullen Creek Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, Division of Recreation and Parks and Southwest Florida Water Management District. The addition consisted of 33 landowners and 61 parcels. The Division of Recreation and Parks is the recommended manager for most of the site. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District will continue to be managed by them.

2009

In June 2009, a donation of 40.06 acres was received from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

2010

On August 13, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the project in the Climate Change Lands category.

Coordination

The Southwest Florida Water Management District has been an acquisition partner.

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)

The Division of Recreation and Parks is the designated manager. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District will continue to be managed by that agency.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The 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 West Indian manatee, roseate spoonbill, little blue heron, tricolored heron, least tern, snowy egret, reddish egret and American oystercatcher; 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 the 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 the property.



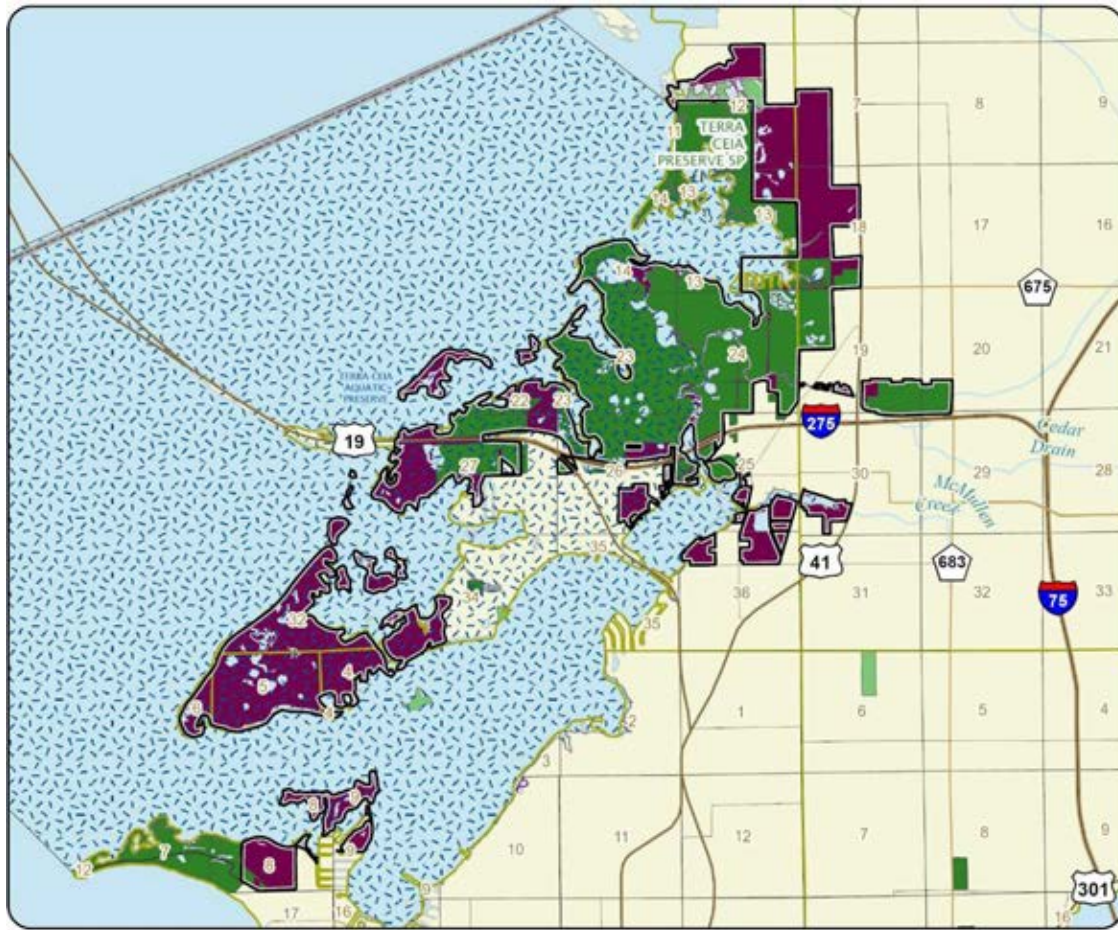


Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Salary (2 FTE)	\$62,000	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



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West Bay Preservation Area

Climate Change Lands

Bay County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2012
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,598
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	4,598
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$3,124,087

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 is in southwestern Bay County and borders the 9,600-acre Panama City Airport Conservation Easement, which is monitored by 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 encompasses about six 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 a total of roughly 14.4 miles of the 30-mile West Bay shoreline.

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 lies within a designated Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Species Habitat Conservation Area for the American swallow-tailed kite, Coopers hawk and Gulf salt marsh snake.





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 The St. Joe Company to make the properties available for purchase for preservation and to assist Bay County with the acquisition for preservation. The 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 added the project to the Florida Forever Priority List in the Less-than-Fee category. It is a one-ownership project, and the owner is anticipating selling it in one transaction. When the project was approved in 2011, it had a tax-assessed value of \$6,300,000.

2022

On August 12, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a boundary amendment to add 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

The 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 the Division of State Lands.

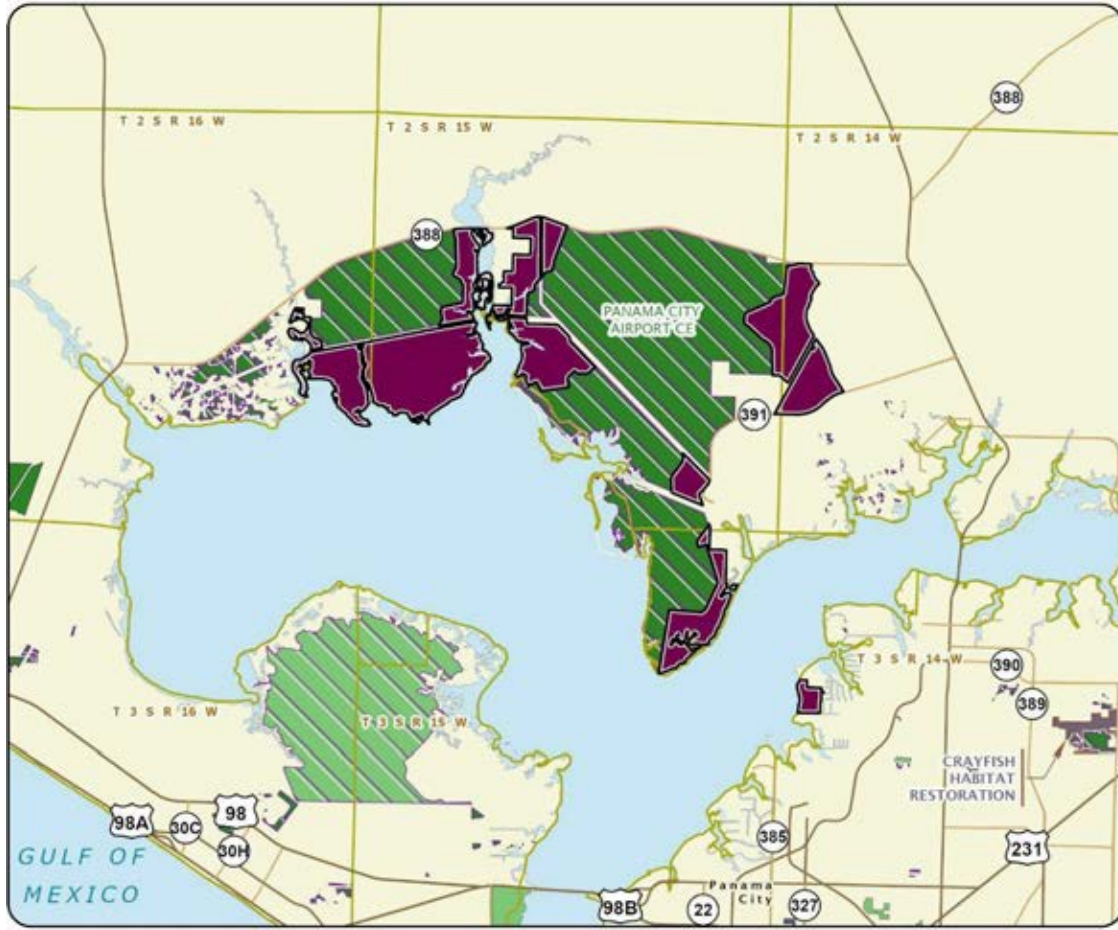
Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The project meets the following goals for Florida Forever projects as required in statute: 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.

There could be the possibility of matching funds for the proposal through a Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Defense. The 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.





WEST BAY PRESERVATION AREA

BAY COUNTY



SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE

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Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge

Substantially Complete

Brevard and Indian River Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1991
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,060
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	890
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$35,650,365
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	112
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$103,525,997

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project will protect the second most significant nesting area for loggerhead sea turtles in the world, one of the most significant nesting areas for green sea turtles in the western hemisphere, and an occasional nesting area for leatherback sea turtles (the largest and rarest sea turtle). 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.

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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Leatherback sea turtle	G2/S2
Green sea turtle	G3/S2S3
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
<i>Curtiss's hoary-pea</i>	G1/S1
Southeastern beach mouse	G5T1/S1
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida lantana</i>	G2T1T2/S1S2
<i>Simpson's prickly apple</i>	G2/S2
<i>coastal vervain</i>	G3/S3
<i>terrestrial peperomia</i>	G5TNR/S2

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 added 5 acres to the project.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, DEP acquired 1.01 acres fee simple via donation from the Conservation Fund.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to remove approximately 159 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge 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. 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)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage most of the project as a national wildlife refuge. Primary management partners include the DEP, Brevard County and Indian River County. The portion of the project immediately north of the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area and west of highway A1A will be added to the state recreation area.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

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





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.

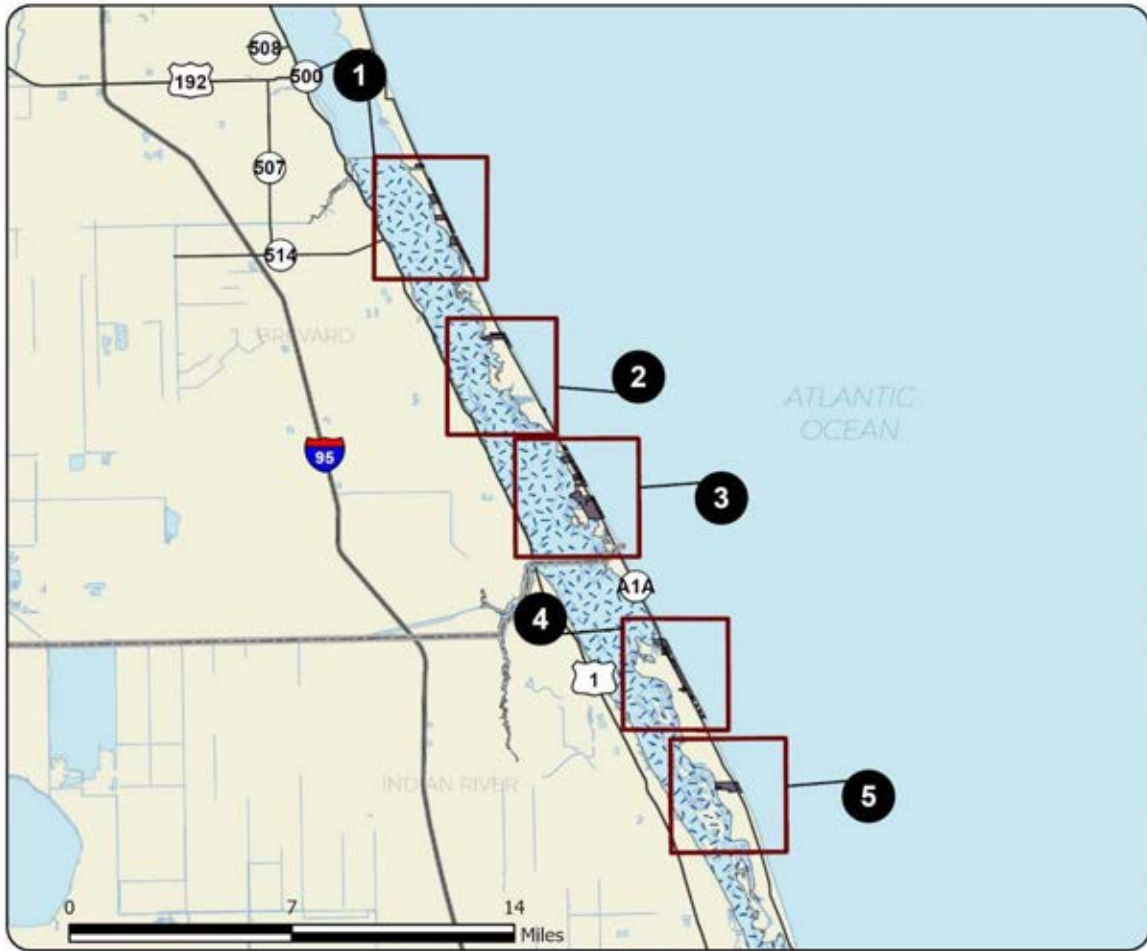
Revenue-generating Potential

Collecting parking or access fees is the only means of generating revenue from the tracts to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and by local governments. The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue to be initially generated from the tracts to be added to the state recreation area.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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





ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 2

BREVARD COUNTY





ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 3

BREVARD COUNTY

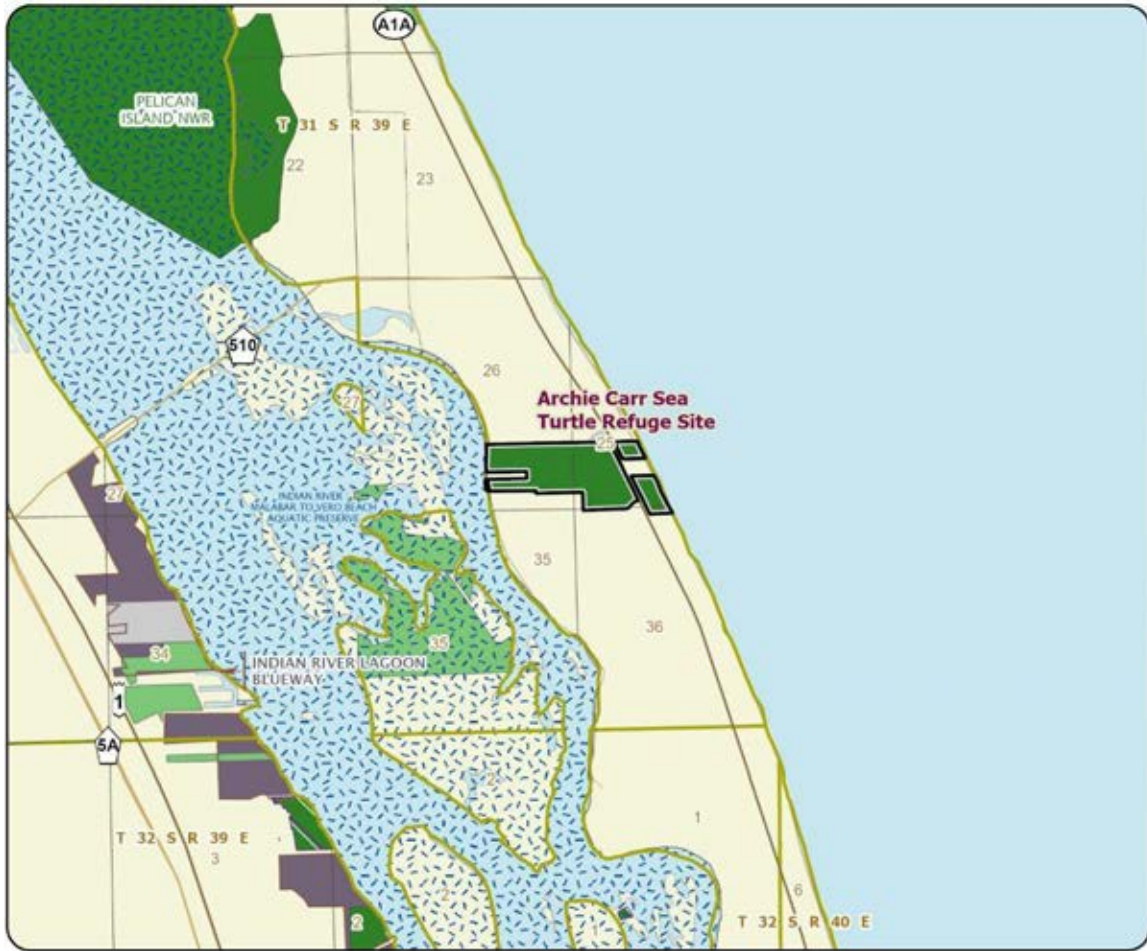




ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 4

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY





ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 5

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



Dickerson Bay/Bald Point

Substantially Complete

Franklin and Wakulla Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1996
<i>Project Acres</i>	24,390
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	21,819
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$47,996,365
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,570
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$15,945,685

Purpose for State Acquisition

On the coast of Wakulla and Franklin counties, the shallow Gulf of Mexico laps against the westernmost Big Bend salt marshes and the easternmost white sand beaches of the Panhandle. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge already protects much of this coast; the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project will protect more, including areas critical to the survival of the endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea turtle. In so doing, it will also protect the fishery in the area by protecting its foundation - rich mud flats and seagrass beds - and will add land to Mashers 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 sea turtle, and other state or globally rare birds and turtles such as wood stork, bald eagle and loggerhead sea turtles. 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 such as Sherman's fox squirrel and gopher tortoise. 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Lobeless spiny burrowing beetle	G1/S1
<i>Godfrey's blazing star</i>	G2/S2
<i>fever tree</i>	G4/S2
<i>Florida milkvetch</i>	G3G4/S2S3
<i>Gulf Coast lupine</i>	G3T3/S3
Scott's seaside sparrow	G4T3/S3
Merlin	G5/S2

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 Mashles Sands County Park with areas for picnicking, hiking, camping and canoeing. The beaches of Bald Point are suitable for swimming and other activities. The northern part of this project will be incorporated into the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, and the Florida Forest Service and Division of Recreation and Parks 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 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 BOT purchased 1,349 acres in Franklin County from The Trust for Public Land which later became the 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 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, the Division of Recreation and Parks purchased to manage 0.77 acres (Kennedy-\$67,500).

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2016

In October 2016, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the Ochlockonee River State Park and adjacent to the Tate's Hell State Forest. If acquired, this land would be managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Tate's Hell State Forest and by the Division of Recreation and Parks 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 the Florida Forest Service as part of Tate's Hell State Forest, and the Division of Recreation and Parks 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 the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to remove approximately 1,796 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.





Coordination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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 the natural resources. Protecting the natural communities of the area is critical to the survival of the endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea turtle and will also help protect habitat for wading birds and shore birds. It will also help protect a recreational and commercial fishery that depends on the marine life of the bays. The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of the salt marshes, flatwoods and other communities around the bays. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; burn the fire-dependent flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually maintaining or improving the quality of the natural communities. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project includes nearly all of the undeveloped, privately-owned land along Dickerson and Levy Bays and adjoins the Mashles Sands County Park on its southeast border. It, therefore, has the configuration and location to achieve its primary objectives.

Manager(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage that portion of the project in Franklin County; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 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 the Division of Recreation and Parks, 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.

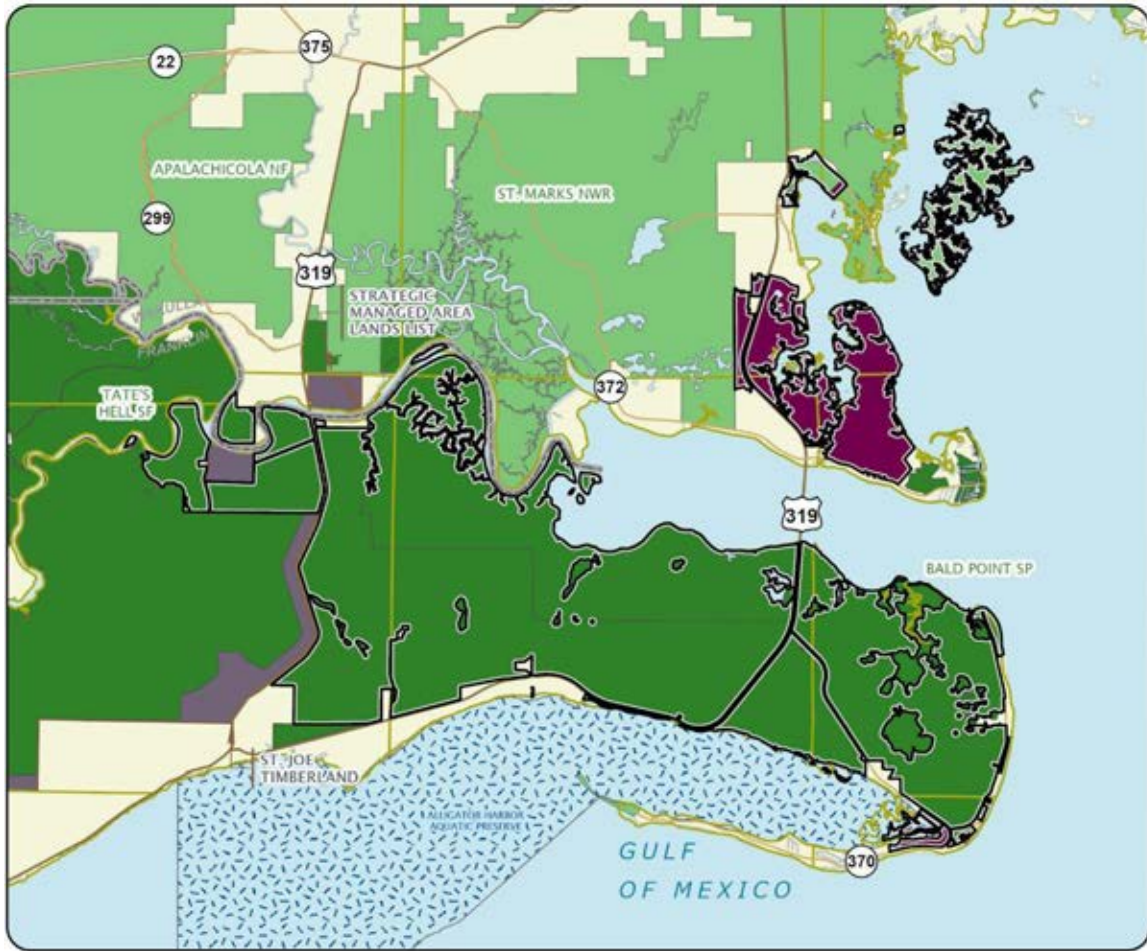
Revenue-generating Potential

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 the Florida Forest Service. 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, the Florida Forest Service 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.





DICKERSON BAY/BALD POINT

FRANKLIN AND WAKULLA COUNTIES



Florida Springs Coastal Greenway

Substantially Complete

Citrus County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	60,573
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	52,163
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$51,151,750
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,410
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$64,319,376

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Florida Springs Coastal Greenway project will conserve the natural coastline of Citrus County and protect the water quality of the spring runs and estuaries where endangered manatees 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 eagles and ospreys. Natural communities within the tract include floodplain marsh, freshwater tidal swamp, tidal marsh and upland hammock; it also contains some pine plantations.

The St. Martins River tract is predominantly hydric hammock, bottomland forest, salt marsh, mangrove islands and spring-run streams, all in good to excellent condition, 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Green sea turtle	G3/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Hawksbill sea turtle	G3/S1
<i>tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
Florida olive hairstreak	G5T2/S2
Gulf salt marsh mink	G5T2/S2

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 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 Conservation and Recreational Lands 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) 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 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List.

2004

On February 6, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 DEP's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas and Division of Recreation and Parks, 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, the Southwest Florida Water Management District 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.

2011

On September 30, 2011, NCDC, LLC donated 25.82 acres (Old Greiner Parcel valued at \$146,285) to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks.

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

2014

On April 11, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Southwest Florida Water Management District 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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.

Coordination

The Southwest Florida Water Management District 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)

The Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the Crystal River and St. Martins River property and the northern part of the project, adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway. The Florida Forest Service 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. The Division of Recreation and Parks and the Florida Forest Service 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, the Florida Forest Service will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this tract is expected to be low.

Cooperators in Management Activities

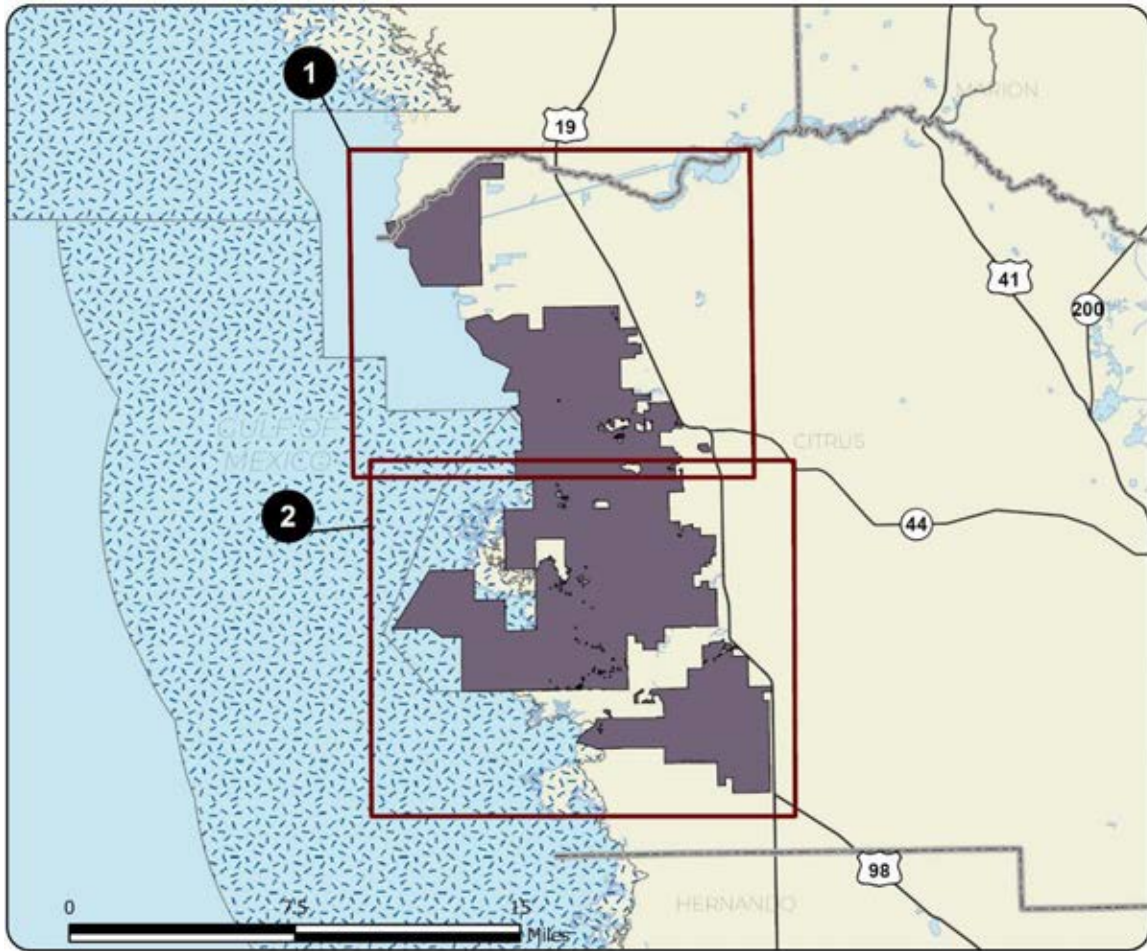
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended as a cooperating manager for hunts to eliminate feral hogs and to manage certain species. Because of the proximity of certain parcels to the Cross Florida Greenway and the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, the Division of Recreation





and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be cooperative managers on parts of the project. The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with other state agencies, local governments and interested parties as appropriate. Citrus County and the City of Crystal River may also cooperate in management.

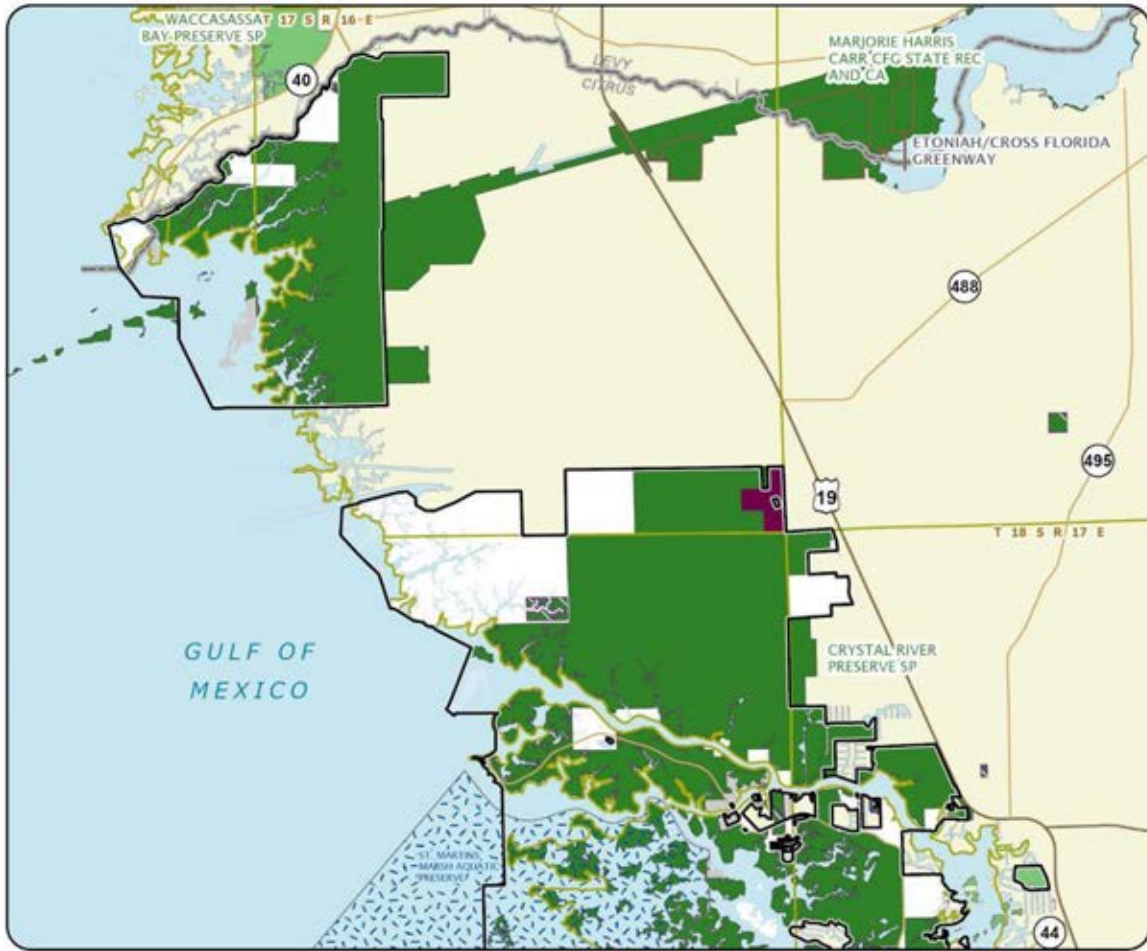




FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

CITRUS COUNTY

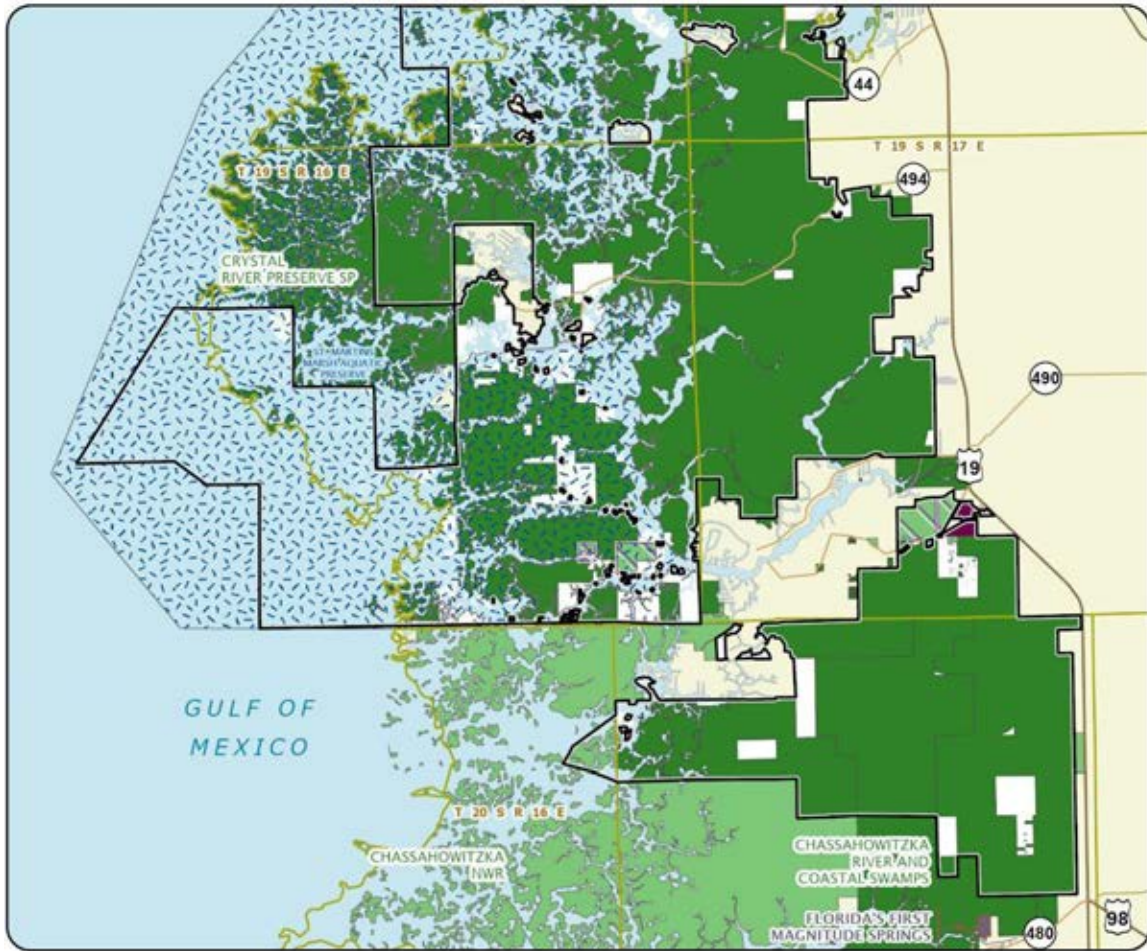




FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 1

CITRUS COUNTY





FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 2

CITRUS COUNTY



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Lochloosa Wildlife

Substantially Complete

Alachua County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1994
<i>Project Acres</i>	33,058
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	29,246
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$11,379,952
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	3,812
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$8,284,346

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lochloosa Wildlife project will conserve the large lakes, flatwoods and prairies in southeast Alachua County to protect habitat for many wildlife species such as Florida black bear, osprey and wood storks and maintain the water quality found in these critical wetland habitats. The project will protect forested lands that link Newnan's Lake, Lochloosa Lake, Orange Lake and Paynes Prairie and provide a scenic natural area for 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 storks and possibly the largest intact mesic flatwoods remaining in Alachua County. Tracts in intensive timber production account for more than half the project acreage. Magnesia Springs supports the only known population in the world of the freemouth hydrophobe snail. Nineteen other rare or endangered species are known to occur on-site, including wood stork, Florida sandhill crane and Florida black bear. The good quality surface waters in the project are a significant hydrological resource and the project will also buffer several Outstanding Florida Waters in the vicinity.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Freemouth hydrobe snail	G1/S1
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>many-flowered grass-pink</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Blackbanded sunfish	G3G4/S1S3
Mud sunfish	G4G5/S3

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 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 (the St. Johns River Water Management District has acquired a conservation easement over 10,300 acres surrounding Lake Lochloosa), Franklin Crates, Concora (Container Corp./Wachovia), Goethe and Brown.

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 voted to remove approximately 4,737 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District 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.

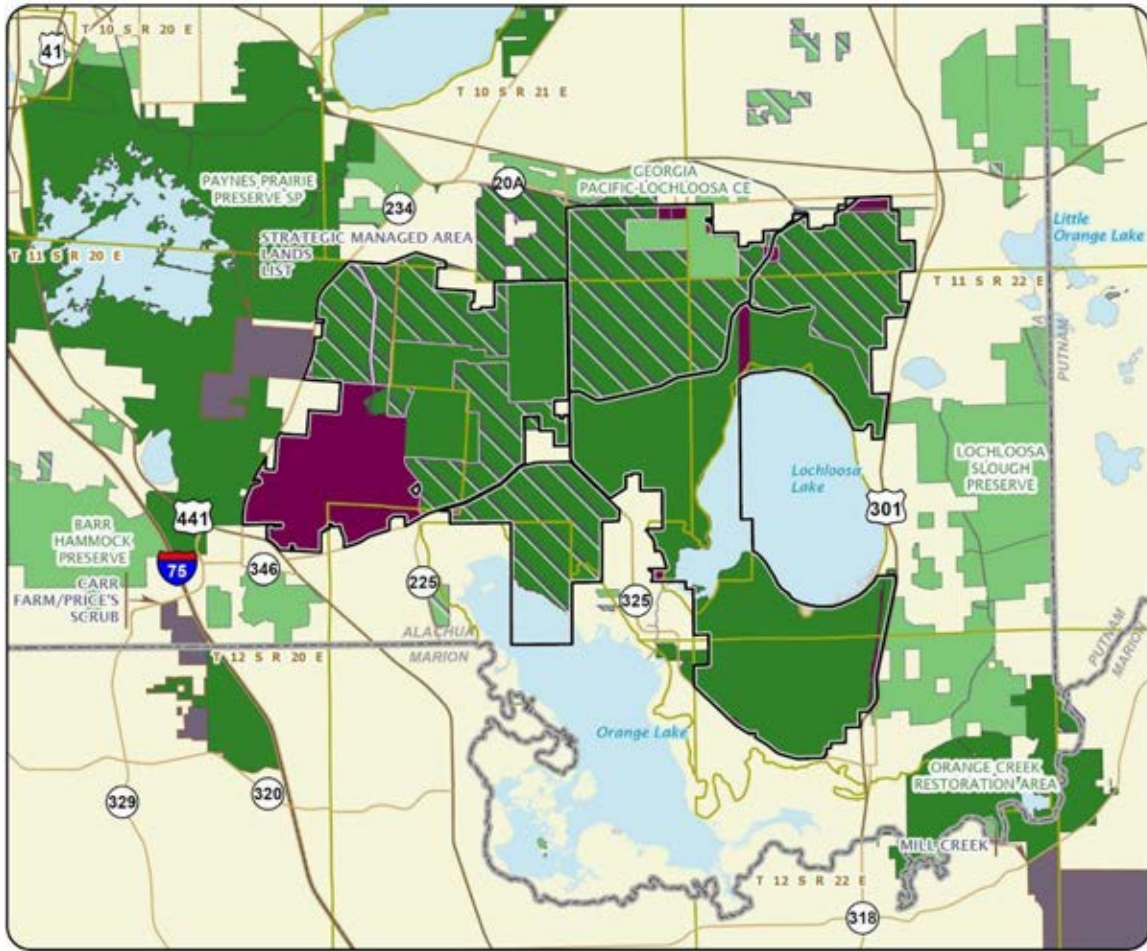
Revenue-generating Potential

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.





LOCHLOOSA WILDLIFE

ALACHUA COUNTY



Old Town Creek Watershed

Substantially Complete
Hardee and Polk Counties

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2001
<i>Project Acres</i>	8,837
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	7,573
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$9,790,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,264
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$7,833,302

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Old Town Creek Watershed project will support the conservation of the natural habitats and improved/working landscapes that constitute the Old Town Watershed. A portion of the project also 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 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>pygmy fringe tree</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Florida scrub lizard	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Florida bonamia</i>	G3/S3
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/S3

Public Use

Old Town Creek Watershed 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 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project in the Less-than-Fee category of projects.

2017

On December 19, 2017, the BOT closed on the over 6,000-acre Crews Ranch conservation easement within the project.

2022

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved the 1,547-acre Charlie Creek project proposal and combined it with the Old Town Creek Watershed project.

Coordination

This project has been submitted to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for a Save Our Rivers proposal. The Southwest Florida Water Management District 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 would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the 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 the Big Cypress 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.

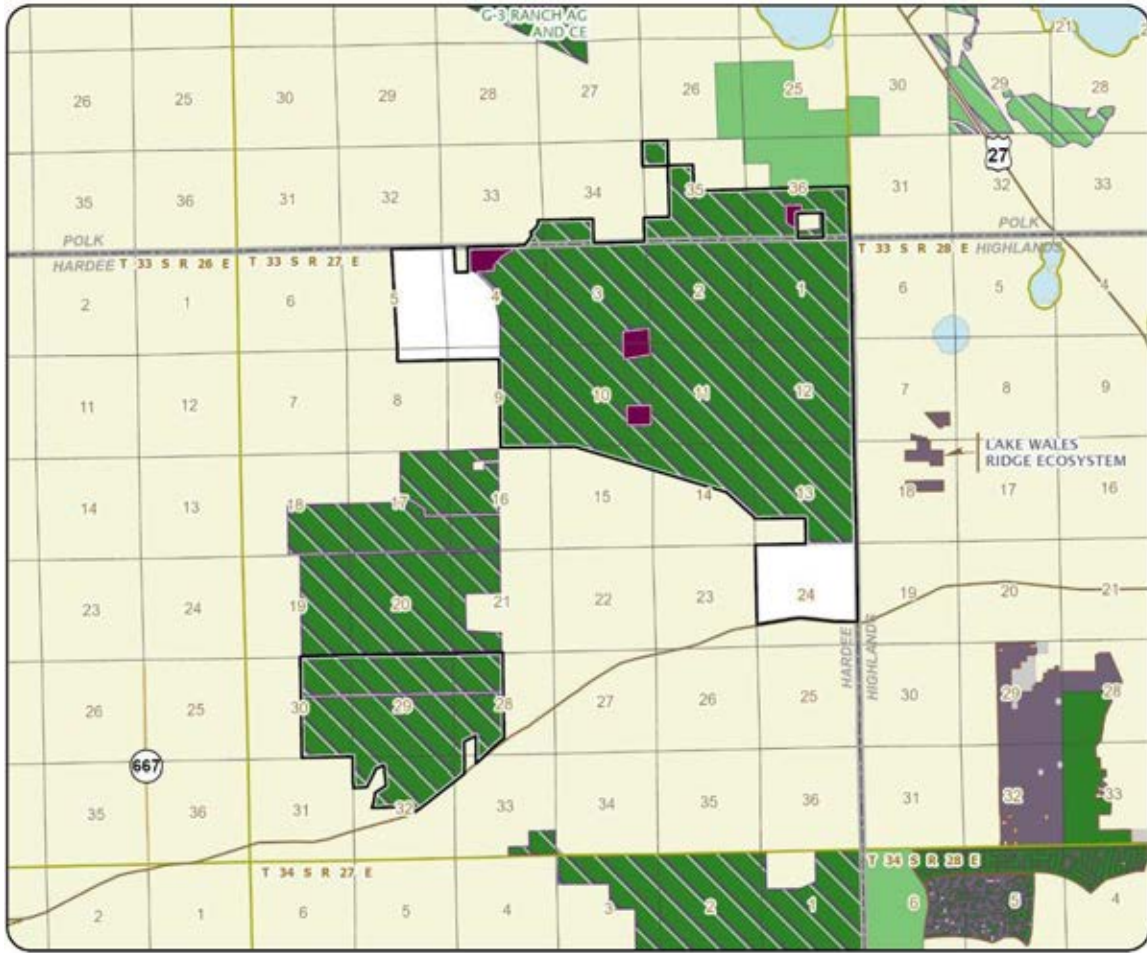
Revenue-generating Potential

No revenue will be generated from this easement.

Cooperators in Management Activities

No cooperators are recommended for this site. However, consultation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, The Nature Conservancy and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission could be helpful to the landowner.





OLD TOWN CREEK WATERSHED

HARDEE AND POLK COUNTIES



Save Our Everglades

Substantially Complete

Collier County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1984
<i>Project Acres</i>	217,680
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	217,668
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$132,018,455
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	12
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$110,400

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 panthers 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 State Preserve 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. 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>ghost orchid</i>	G1/S1
Florida bonneted bat	G1/S1
<i>Small's flax</i>	G2/S2
<i>Tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>clamshell orchid</i>	G4G5T2/S2
<i>pineland jacquemontia</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>Florida royal palm</i>	G2G3/S2

Public Use

The project will provide a preserve/reserve, wildlife and environmental area, and a forest, allowing such uses as fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and nature appreciation. 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 Addition and an additional 4,110 acres in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

2003

On April 18, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council transferred 1,615 acres in Hendry County to the Panther Glades Florida Forever project.

2006

In 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Preserve Addition. The Conservation and Recreational Lands Program continues to focus on acquiring land in Golden Gate Estates South. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Florida Department of Transportation are all acquisition partners in this project area.

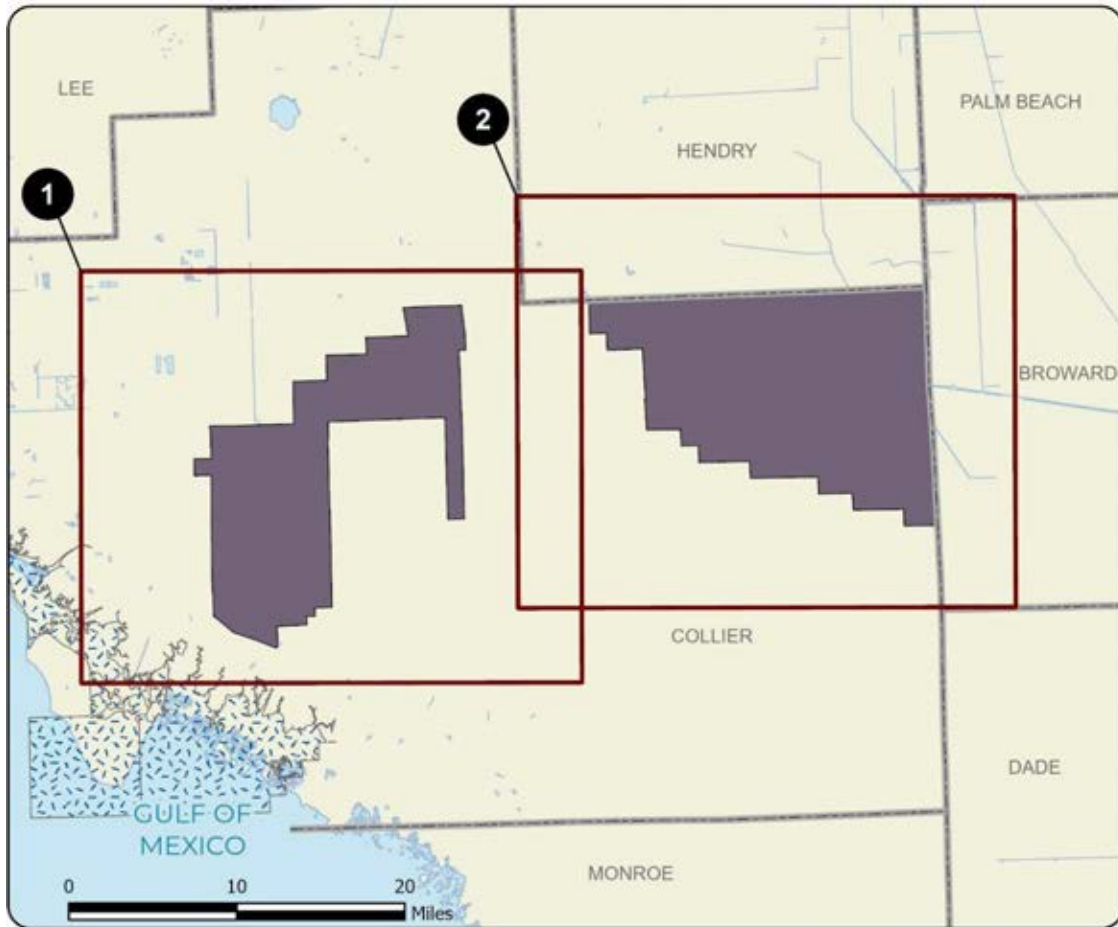
Management Policy Statement

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 Big Cypress Addition; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge; the Florida Forest Service will manage all the Golden Gate Estates South; and the 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.

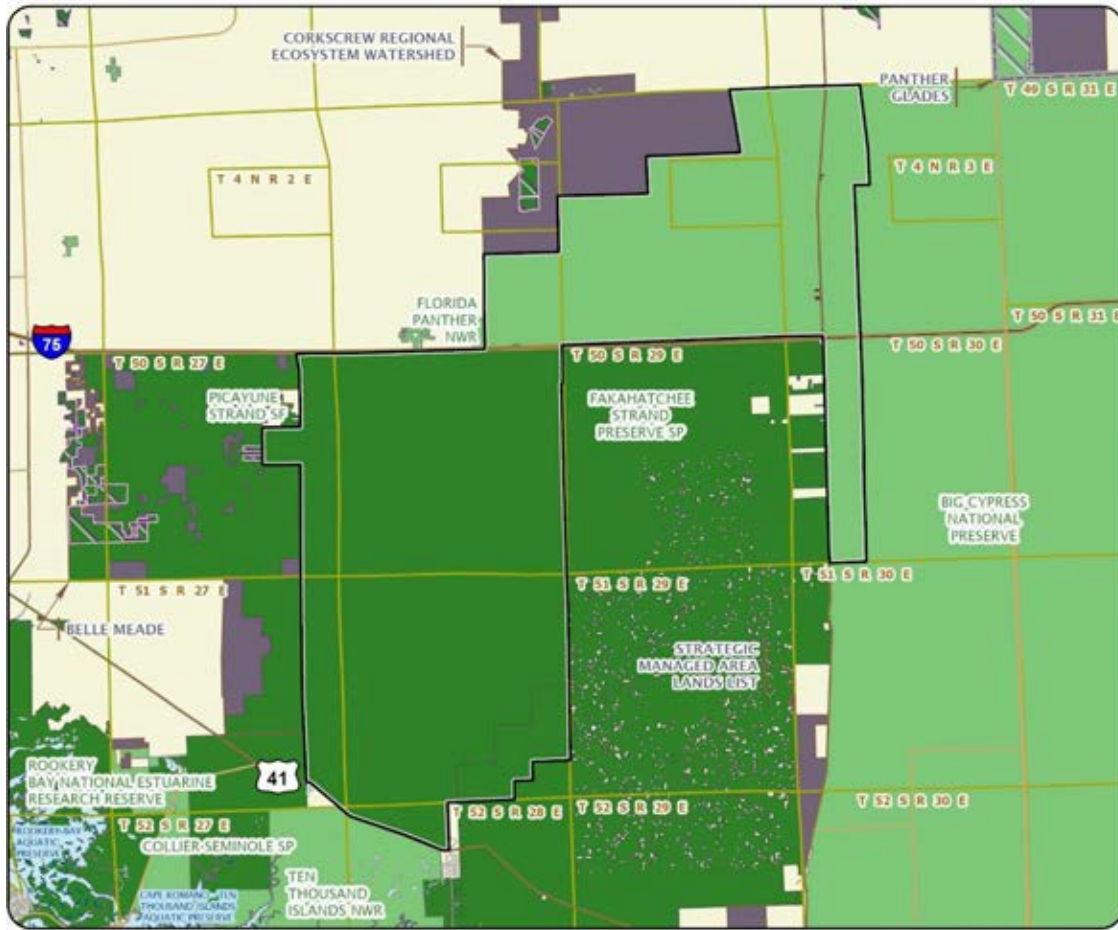




SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: OVERVIEW

COLLIER COUNTY

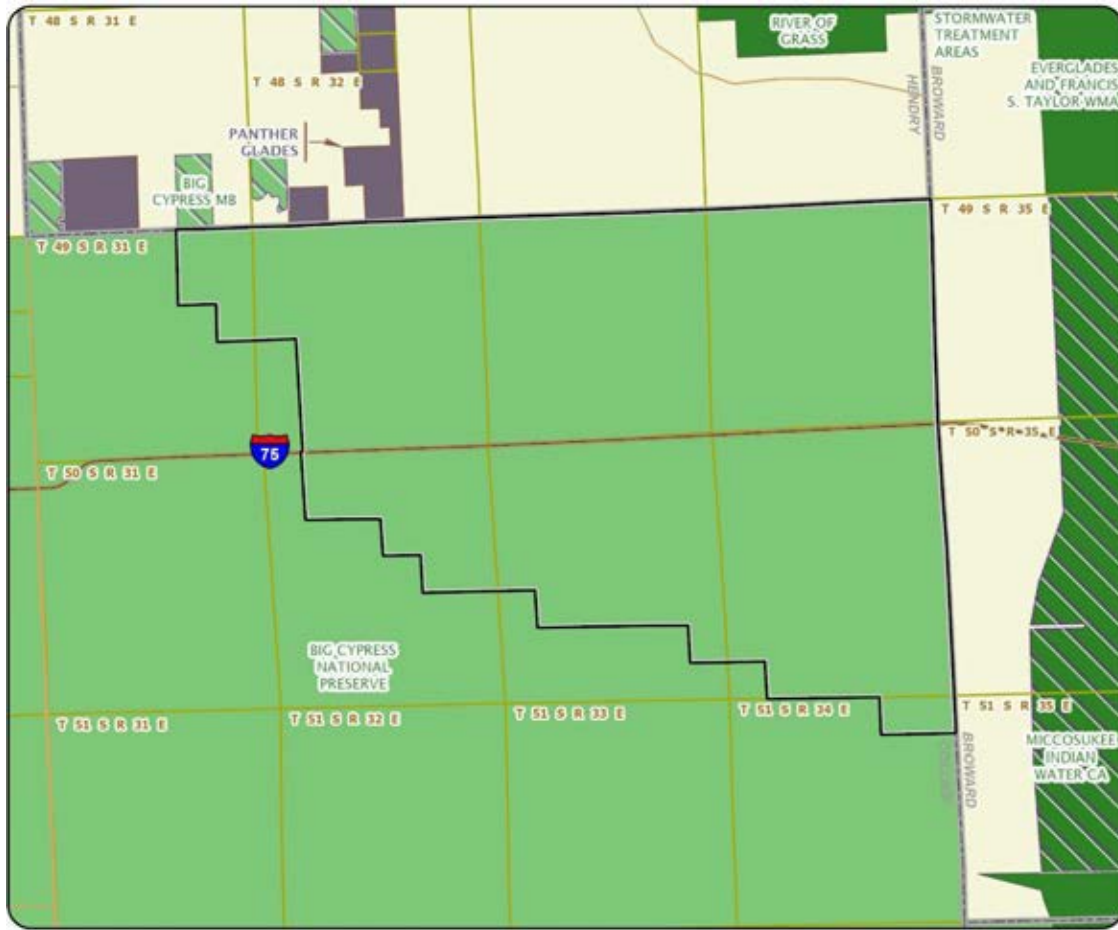




SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 1

COLLIER COUNTY





SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 2

COLLIER COUNTY



Spruce Creek

Substantially Complete

Volusia County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1990
<i>Project Acres</i>	2,803
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,452
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$19,118,050
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	351
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$7,184,228

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 and will 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 eagles, wood storks and manatees. The addition, between U.S. 1 and Turnbull Bay, contains good Maritime or Xeric Hammock, with live oaks, cabbage palms and several tropical shrubs near 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. 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.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

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 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project in the Substantially Complete category of Florida Forever projects.

2023

In October 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 Recreation Area 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 will generally be directed as follows: 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 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

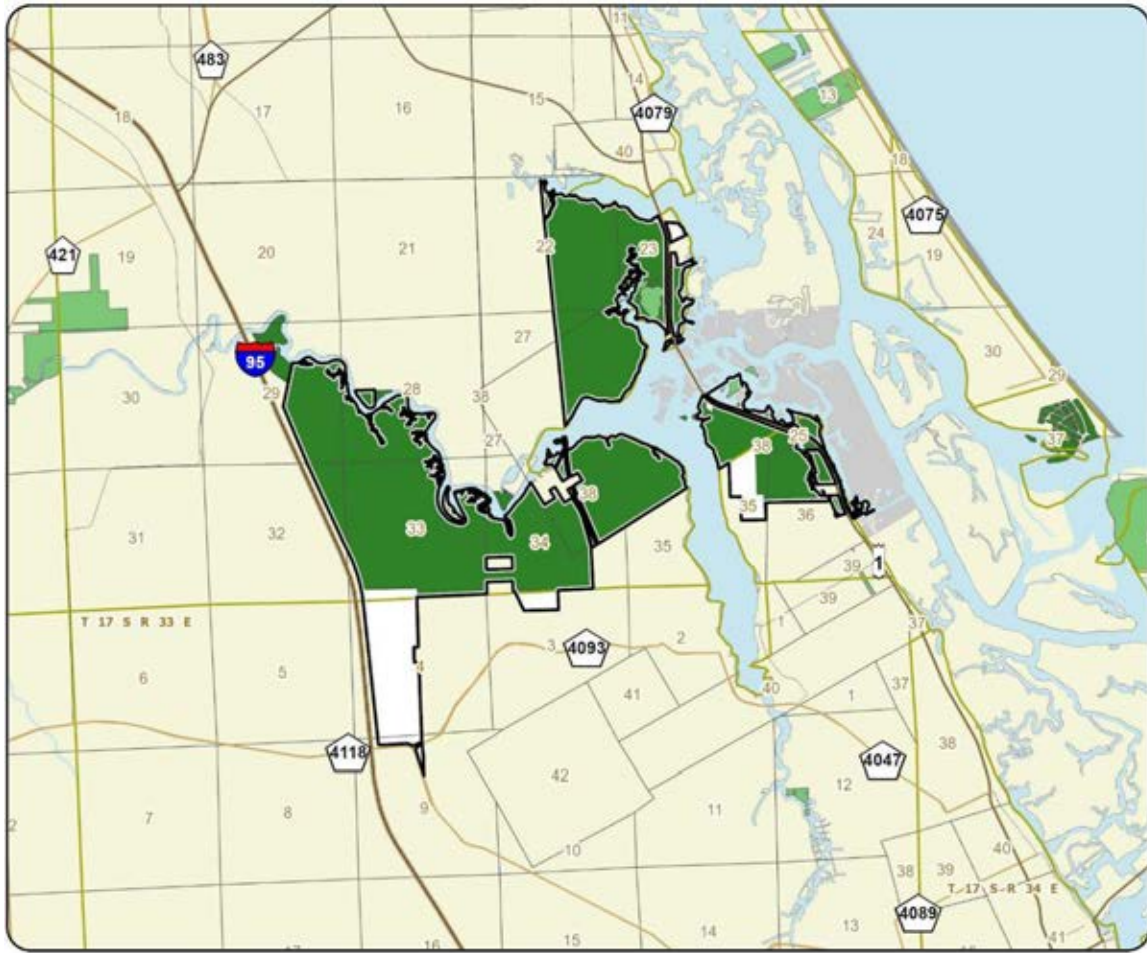
The City of Port Orange and the City of New Smyrna Beach will both be involved in the planning of the project. The Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Atlantic Center for the Arts may prove to be valuable partners in optimizing the educational and interpretive opportunities on this site. The Nature Conservancy 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

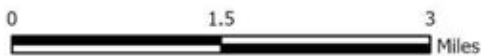
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





SPRUCE CREEK

VOLUSIA COUNTY



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Wolfe Creek Forest

Substantially Complete

Santa Rosa County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	14,072
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	12,104
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$12,535,761
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,968
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$5,977,479

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Wolfe Creek Forest project will protect numerous seepages and blackwater stream systems that are contiguous with the Blackwater River State Forest and other conservation lands. The project will conserve habitat for wildlife species such as the Florida black bear, little blue heron and southeastern weasel. The stream systems within this project support numerous rare aquatic species and are considered a focal habitat for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The project will provide the public with resource-based recreational opportunities and support the continuation of sustainably managed silviculture practices. Twelve archaeological sites, two of which are historic and 10 of which are prehistoric, are within the project.

General Description

Wolfe Creek Forest is a fee simple project in central Santa Rosa County, between Blackwater River State Forest to the east and Whiting Field Naval Air Station to the southwest. This project shares 5.7 miles of its southern boundary with two disjunct tracts of the state forest, forming a connection between all three tracts. Within it runs 35 miles of streams that feed into Big Coldwater Creek and Big Juniper Creek, two major tributaries of the Blackwater River.

Most of the site (82 percent) is intensively managed pine plantation within areas that historically supported upland pine forest and sandhills. The remainder of the site can be readily classified as natural communities. The most prominent and in the best condition are wetlands that include seepage and blackwater streams, associated bottomland forest, floodplain swamp and baygall. A few dome swamps occur with the plantations. Upland natural communities include a few small areas of mesic flatwoods and mesic hammock. The highest elevations (220 feet above mean sea level) occur in the northernmost and easternmost portions of the project. The lowest elevations (around 30 feet above sea level) are in the Coldwater Creek floodplain in the western part of the proposal. From County Road 191, the terrain generally slopes downward toward Big Juniper Creek. West of the road, the terrain slopes downward in a southwesterly direction toward Coldwater Creek.





The project is within a large gap in conservation lands between Whiting Field, outparcels of Blackwater River State Forest and the main tract of the state forest. According to the Florida Master Site File, the Wolfe Creek Forest tract holds 12 archaeological sites (two are historic and 10 are prehistoric); one of those sites is Wolfe Creek Mill.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Westfall's clubtail	G2/S2
<i>small-flowered meadowbeauty</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>West Florida cowlily</i>	G5T2T3/S2
<i>hairy-peduncled beaksedge</i>	G3/S3
<i>Panhandle lily</i>	G3/S3
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Southeastern weasel	G5T4/S3?
Spiny softshell	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

Public Use

The project has potential for a variety of forest-related recreational activities including canoeing, bird watching, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, biking, environmental education and photography. Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Florida Forest Service, public access will be immediately provided for low-intensity recreation activities such as hiking, hunting and fishing.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Wolfe Creek Forest project to the Critical Natural Lands category. After a boundary change in 2010, the project had a combined estimated tax value of \$14,080,729.

2016

On November 3, 2016, DEP purchased a 626-acre restrictive easement to protect flight operations at nearby Whiting Field. The Florida Forest Service will manage the easement to restore and maintain native ecosystems.

2021

In 2021, DEP purchased 1,789.77 acres fee simple from The Trust for Public Land to be managed by the Florida Forest Service as an addition to Blackwater River State Forest.

In 2021, DEP also acquired 1,699.57 acres fee simple via donation.

On December 10, 2021, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved an addition of 757 acres in Santa Rosa County to the project boundary.



**2022**

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council approved a boundary amendment proposed by The Trust for Public Land which added 3,173 acres to the project.

DEP completed two fee acquisitions totaling 4,352.68 acres that will be managed as part of Blackwater River State Forest.

2023

DEP acquired, in fee, 1,488 acres in Santa Rosa County from ETO II TRS LLC.

Coordination

The Florida Forest Service is partnering with The Trust for Public Land and the U.S. Forest Service to acquire portions of this project through the U.S. Forest Legacy Program. The U.S. Department of Defense has been interested in partnering with the state for nearby lands.

Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goals are restoration, maintenance and protection in perpetuity of all native ecosystems; integration of compatible human uses; and insurance of long-term viability of populations and species considered rare or imperiled.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service is recommended as manager of the project.

Management Prospectus**Qualifications for State Designation**

The tract is dominated by silviculture, but many of the plantations have retained some of the understory including wiregrass, bluestem grass, and gallberry and yaupon holly. With thinning, prescribed fire and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from an area managed for silviculture to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits. With the removal of off-site pine species, replanting of longleaf pines, introduction of prescribed fire and sustainable forestry management practices, this project could be restored to a more natural state. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the project's upland pine and sandhill areas have been altered by silvicultural operations and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber species are off-site species will necessitate removal as well as the restoration of native ground covers and canopy. Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development and implementation due to rare or imperiled species expected to occur in the project. Development of facilities would be kept to a level necessary to assure a high-quality experience and would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration efforts will focus on introduction of prescribed fire, removal of off-site pine species, exotic species treatment, restoration of native groundcovers and possibly wetland restoration. The level of management





intensity and related management costs is expected to be moderate to high initially as the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a state forest are obtained. Once this information is obtained and resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain the project as a state forest.

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

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Florida Forest Service, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor resource-based recreation activities such as hiking, hunting and fishing. The Florida Forest Service proposes to manage the site as a state forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration of harvested areas, providing site security and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources and listed species will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan.

The roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a road plan to identify those roads that are to be utilized for access by the public and for administrative use; roads that are determined to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

Prior to collection of resource information, management proposals for this project are conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas, maintenance of natural communities, and responsible public access. 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 sites.

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

Timber management activities will primarily consist of re-introducing longleaf pines, restoration harvests and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes. This will provide habitat for various native species and will enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The resource inventory will be used to identify areas that need special attention, protection or management and areas that are appropriate for recreational or administrative facilities. Development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be at a minimum required for management and public access and use. The Florida Forest Service will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretive and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact organized recreation





areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

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

Revenue-generating Potential

Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderately high.

Cooperators in Management Activities

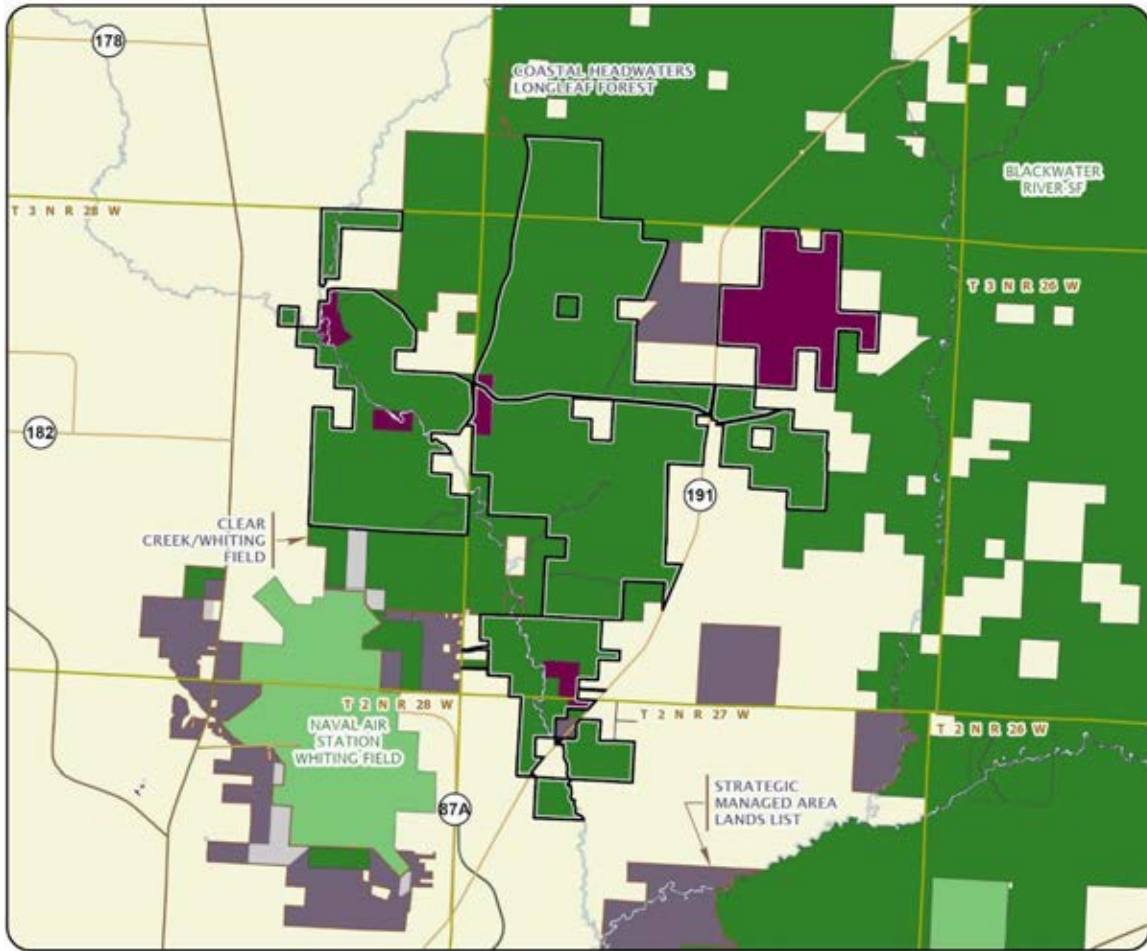
The Florida Forest Service will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (4 FTE)	\$132,141	not provided
Expense	\$315,000	not provided
OCO	\$188,600	not provided
TOTAL	\$635,741	not provided

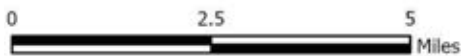
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





WOLFE CREEK FOREST

SANTA ROSA COUNTY



CRITICAL HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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Battle of Wahoo Swamp

Critical Historical Resources

Sumter County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2002
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,623
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	469
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	1,154
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$4,078,847

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. The 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 at 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 Dade Battlefield, which is about 10 miles from Wahoo Swamp.

General Description

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp site is in eastern Sumter County east of the Withlacoochee River and west of I-75 and Bushnell. The northeast corner of the site that extends across County Road 48 lies only 0.2 miles from the extreme southwest corner of the Jumper Creek Tract of Withlacoochee State Forest. Dade Battlefield, a historical site managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks, lies about ten miles southeast of Wahoo Swamp. The natural communities on the Wahoo Swamp site largely include “islands” of hardwood hammock, or upland mixed forest, scattered throughout an extensive wetland matrix of freshwater marsh and cypress swamp. The project consists of a fee-simple acquisition of the battlefield area and a less-than-fee acquisition over the remainder of the project.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
<i>Craighead's nodding-caps</i>	G1/S1
<i>modest spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Curtiss' spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Rickett's nodding-caps</i>	G1/S1
<i>ruffled spleenwort</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>Peters' bristle fern</i>	G4/S1S2
<i>comb polypody</i>	G5?TNR/S2
<i>plume polypody</i>	G5/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Battle of Wahoo Swamp project to the 2003 Florida Forever Priority List. The essential parcel is identified as the Hamilton ownership. This is a single-owner project, with five parcels that total 833 acres. 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to move the project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category, Critical Historical Resources.

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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 the 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 the proposal represent high-quality examples of a landscape that has been heavily altered throughout central Florida by conversion to pasture and residential development. The site is one of the few remaining in Florida that supports a suite of rare ferns and orchids associated with limestone outcrops and grottoes.





Manager(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks is recommended as the lead manager.

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

Revenue-generating Potential

No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use is increased and interpretive programs, particularly 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 governments or others are recommended for management of the project. The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.



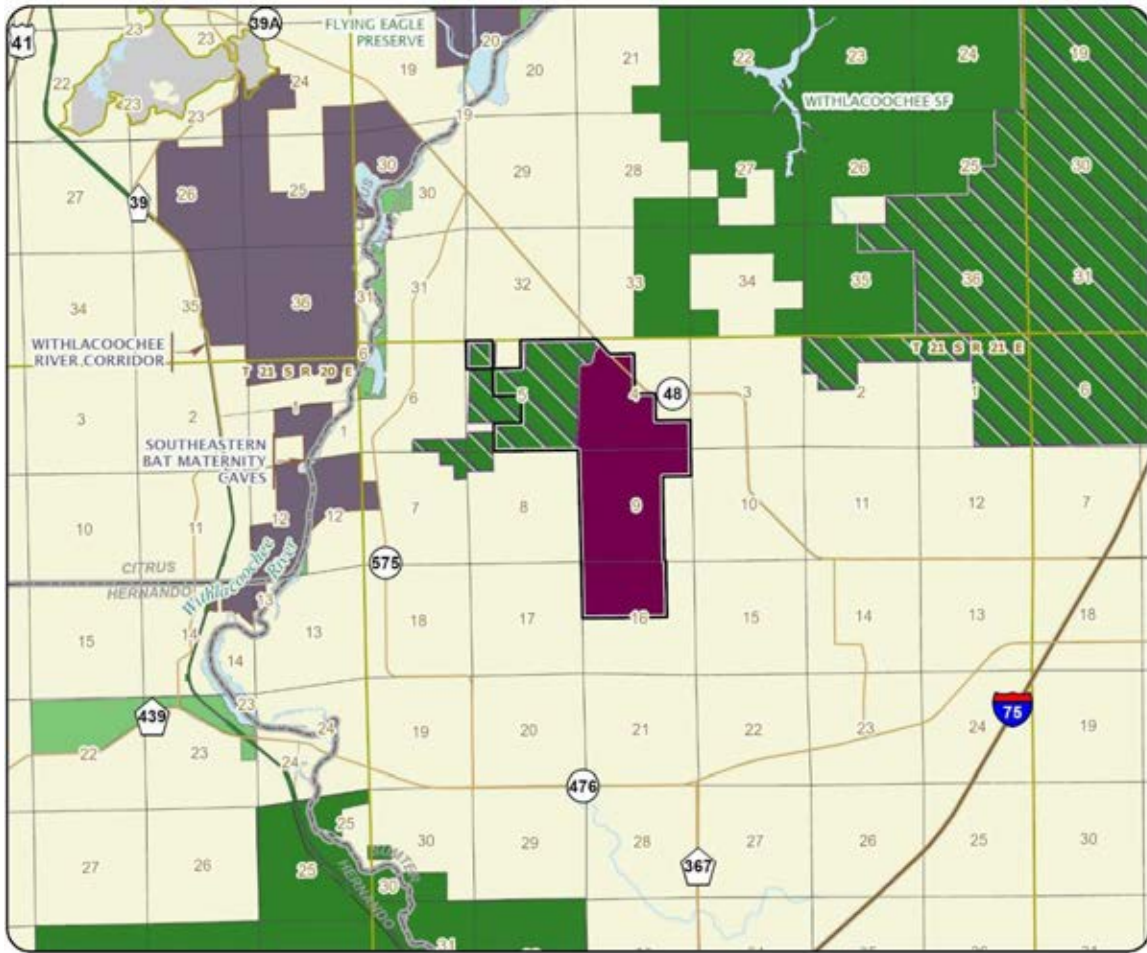


Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL Trust Fund	not provided
Salary (1 FTE)	\$28,000	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



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Floyd's Mound

Critical Historical Resources

Madison County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	40
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	40
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$159,938

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Floyd's Mound project will help to protect a significant cultural and archaeological site and is the only known site where Fort Walton and Suwannee Valley Culture artifacts co-occur. This project will also contribute to the enhancement of the water quality of the Aucilla/Wacissa watershed.

General Description

The Floyd's Mound project contains one parcel, totaling 40 acres in Madison County. The property shares its eastern border with a 50-acre Wetland Reserve easement held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This project lies about 1 mile east of the Aucilla River and about 0.7 miles west of the Middle Aucilla Conservation area.

The entire project is within the archaeological site MD06, Floyd's Mound, for which the project is named. This site is one of the first archaeological sites recorded in Madison County. Floyd's Mound is a platform mound that indicates that this site could be the indigenous town of Asile. Asile is the namesake for the Aucilla River and was the seat of the Asile chiefdom, which was visited by Hernando DeSoto's expedition in 1539. The State Historic Preservation Officer's evaluation determined Floyd's Mound as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The predominant natural communities found in the Floyd's Mound project include basin swamp and depression marsh. Other landcover types on the property include pine plantation, successional hardwood forest, abandoned field/abandoned pasture and artificial pond. While the project is most significant for its cultural resources, it also offers the opportunity to protect forested wetlands and contributes to the enhancement of the water quality of the Aucilla/Wacissa watershed.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

Public Use

The property offers a wide range of recreational opportunities, including but not limited to wildlife viewing, birdwatching and nature study. Following further investigatory efforts by the Division of Historical





Resources, historical and educational interpretive plans will be pursued to communicate the site's significance to the public. The Division of Historical Resources envisions passive, nature-based recreational opportunities at the project parcel.

Acquisition Planning

2023

On April 14, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add Floyd's Mound to the Critical Historical Resources category of the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee simple project includes 40 acres and a just value of \$48,000.

Coordination

This project was proposed by Tall Timbers Research Inc. and is to be managed by the Division of Historical Resources with the help of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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

This property will be managed by the Division of Historical Resources with the help of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Management Prospectus Qualifications

for State Designation

The Floyd's Mound project has the archaeological resources to qualify as a state archaeological site.

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

Once the property is acquired and the Division of Historical Resources is assigned as the lead manager, immediate management efforts will focus on site security, monitoring access, and formulating a management plan. During the planning process, various recreational developments will be considered. The extent and diversity of future resource-based recreational opportunities offered will depend on the establishment of a management plan for the property. Following acquisition, the Division of Historical Resources will seek to enable further systematic archaeological and historical investigation of the property, which will largely dictate the most appropriate locations and strategies for further management tasks.

The Division of Historical Resources will collaborate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to ensure proper natural resource management and site monitoring. The acquisition of game cameras and working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission law enforcement will help deter vandalism and improper site usage.





Revenue-generating Potential

There are no plans for revenue generation from this site.

Cooperators in Management Activities

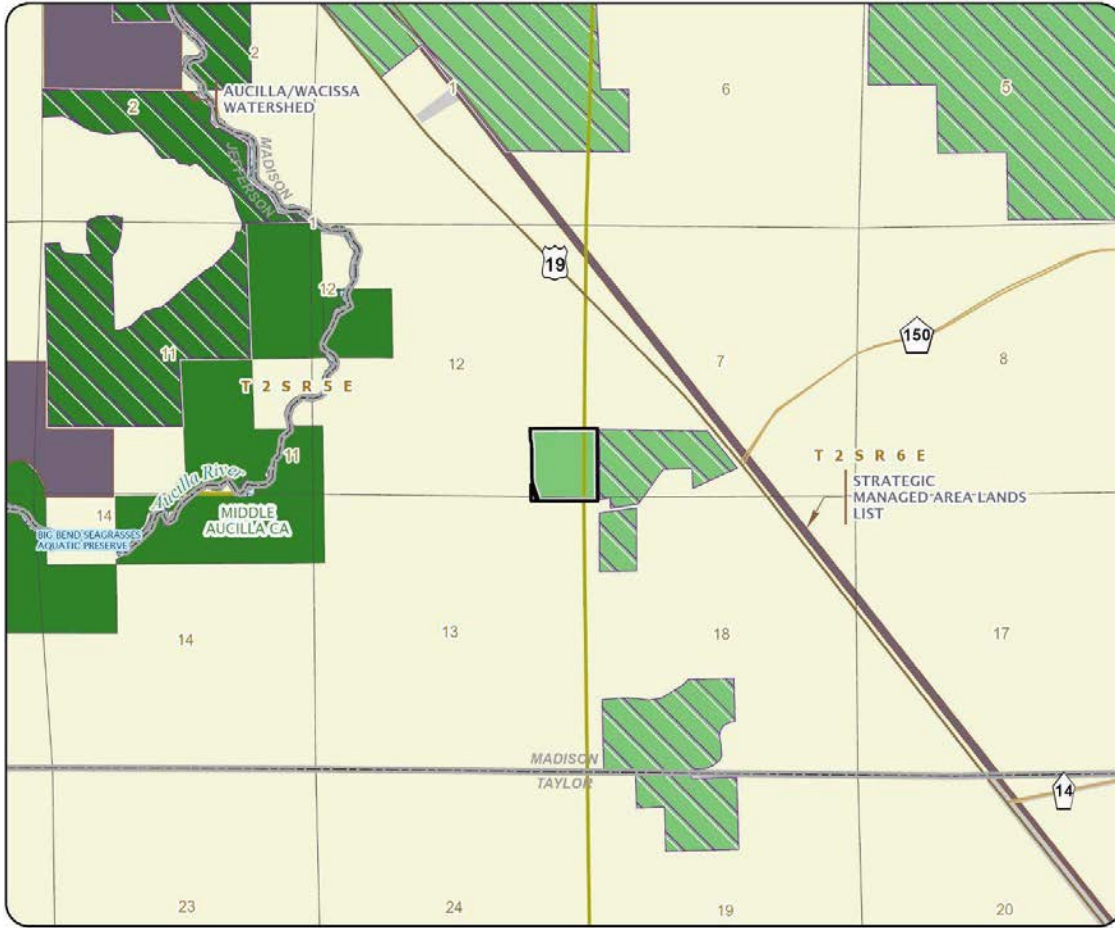
The Division of Historical Resources will cooperate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in managing the archaeological resources of the site.

Management Cost Summary

DHR	Recurring
Source of Funds	LATF
Salary	\$9,000
Expense	\$2,500
OCO	\$4,211
TOTAL	\$15,711

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





FLOYD'S MOUND

MADISON COUNTY



Pierce Mound Complex

Critical Historical Resources

Franklin County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1994
<i>Project Acres</i>	650
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	291
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$810,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	359
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$5,144,096

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pierce Mound Complex project will preserve a group of prehistoric mounds north 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 the 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 methodologies. 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. The extensive shell midden contains subsistence data and artifacts and reflects changing environmental conditions over a thousand-year period. Salt marsh covers nearly 75% 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the





Division of Historical Resources, consisted of approximately 559 acres, nine owners and a 1993 taxable value of \$877,311. The nine landowners are as follows: David Miller (Mahr); John G. Hodges; Sharon Delores Connell Shuler; Joe Lindsey; Franklin County; Alvin Pines; Christene Rhodes; ANRR Company; and the City of Apalachicola. The essential parcel to acquire is the Mahr tract.

2000

On June 27, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council 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, 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, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority List.

2010

On December 10, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to move the project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category, Critical Historical Resources.

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)

The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection is recommended as the lead manager. Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve staff will serve as on-site managers. The Division of Historical Resources 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. The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection 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 the property involve its 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 the site.

Cooperators in Management Activities

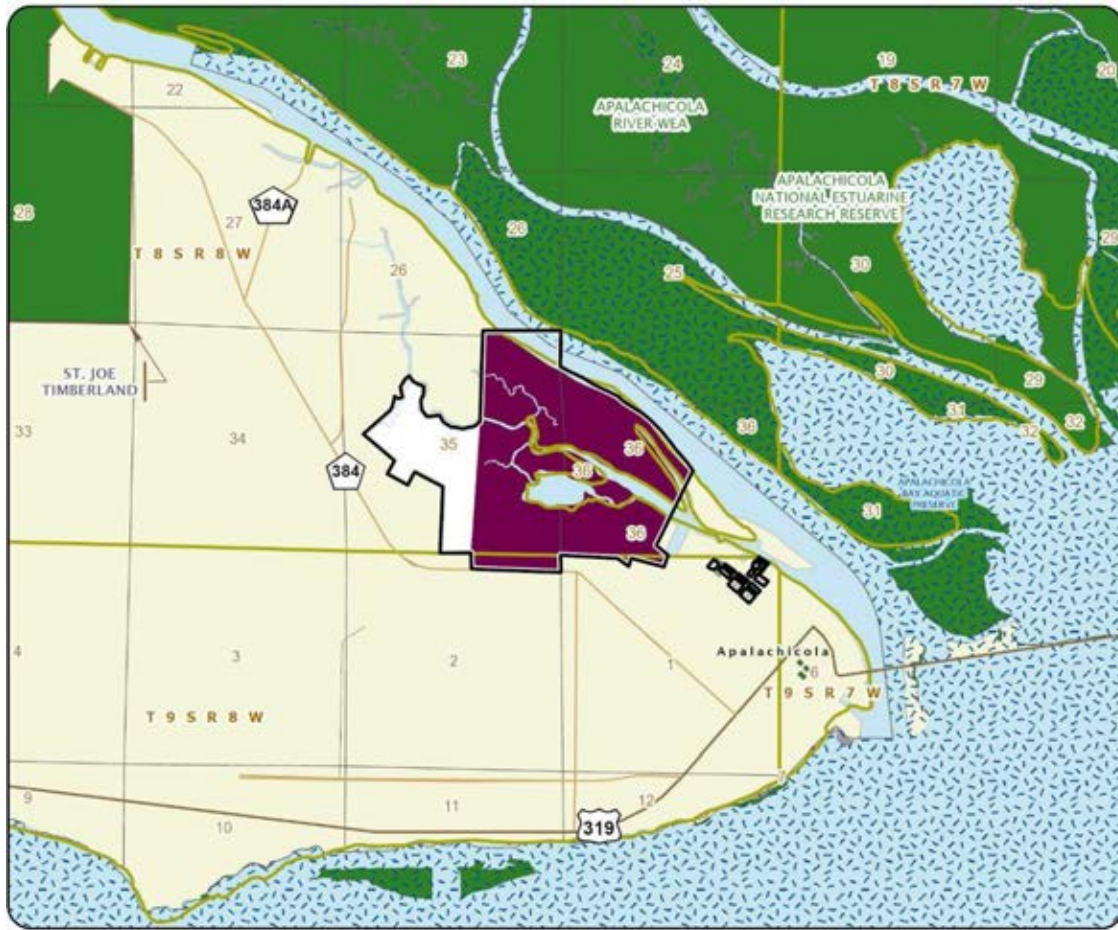
The Division of Historical Resources will cooperate in managing the archaeological resources of the site.

Management Cost Summary

ORCP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	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



Pineland Site Complex

Critical Historical Resources

Lee County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1996
<i>Project Acres</i>	211
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	74
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$1,355,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	137
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$15,846,467

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pineland Site Complex project 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

The internationally significant archaeological site was inhabited by the Calusa for over a thousand years and includes substantial midden mounds, a burial mound, remnants of an Indian-engineered canal and buried deposits containing organic remains. Natural habitats within the project area include tidal saltern, a tidal creek, an intertidal shoreline and a large tract of mangrove wetland. Ponds on the property are important to white ibis, egrets, herons and wood stork. The intertidal shoreline has an eastern oyster bar community, numerous species of gastropods and bivalves, and black and red mangroves. Shoreline shell mounds exhibit a distinctive plant community. A third of the project area is pastureland. There are several species of exotic plants in the project. It is threatened by residential construction. The project is adjacent to the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
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 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, the BOT acquired 0.29 acres from The Archeological Conservancy.

On July 31, 2003, DEP acquired the University of Florida Foundation tract (48.54 acres).

2011

On December 10, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to move the 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 the 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 the site and provide the public with scientific research on the 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, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project area includes the known components of the Pineland Site Complex and therefore has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.





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.

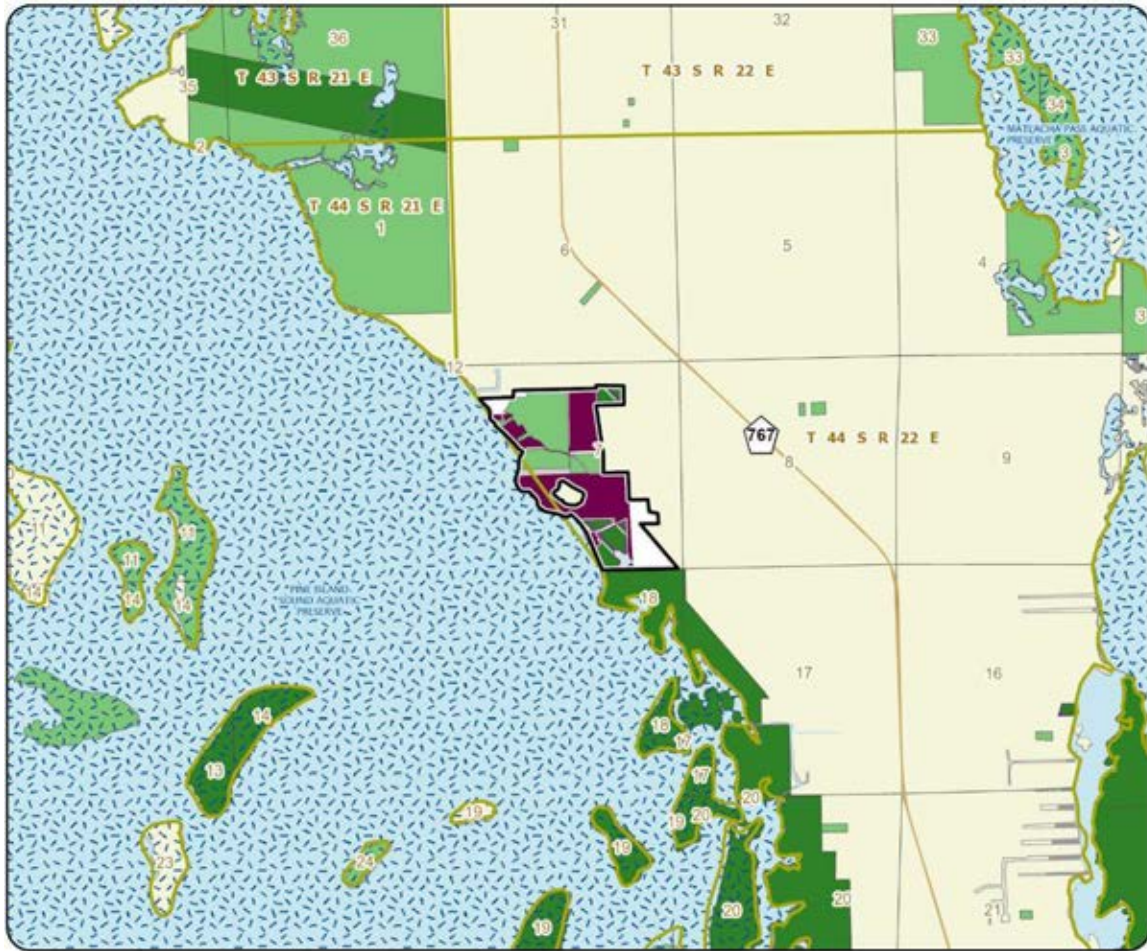
Revenue-generating Potential

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, 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's Division of Environmental Sciences and the cooperating managers, DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection and the Division of Recreation and Parks.





PINELAND SITE COMPLEX

LEE COUNTY



APPENDIX A

2024 Florida Forever Project Prioritization History

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APPENDIX A

2024 Florida Forever Project Prioritization History

Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adams Ranch	2007	Less-Than-Fee	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Annutteliga Hammock	1995	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	7	9	7	7	8	8	11	10	9	10	10
Apalachicola River	1991	Critical Natural Lands	4	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	1991	Substantially Complete	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	5	5	5	5
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	1995	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	23	21	21	23	22	22	26	29	24	25	25
Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	2022	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6
Avalon	2022	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	17
Ayavalla Plantation	2008	Less-Than-Fee	11	9	9	11	10	10	12	14	14	14	13
Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's River	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	26	30	26	26	28	28	28	30	31	30	32
Bar-B Ranch	2022	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	31
Battle of Wahoo Swamp	2002	Critical Historical Resources	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Bear Creek Forest	2004	Critical Natural Lands	20	19	19	19	19	20	22	23	22	23	19
Bear Hammock	2008	Critical Natural Lands	23	27	25	22	21	23	28	27	27	26	22
Belle Meade	1993	Critical Natural Lands	15	15	14	13	9	10	11	12	13	13	13
Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	2000	Less-Than-Fee	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	13	11	8	7
Blue Head Ranch	2012	Critical Natural Lands	6	6	6	6	7	7	4	6	4	6	7
Bluefield to Cow Creek	2020	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	23	27	26
Bombing Range Ridge	1998	Critical Natural Lands	1	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	3
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	1993	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	8	8	8	8
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	1998	Critical Natural Lands	19	17	21	18	17	18	20	21	19	15	16





Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	2010	Critical Natural Lands	21	20	20	20	20	21	24	25	26	28	25
Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	2001	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	29	29	28	29	29	29	29	31	30	32	33
Catfish Creek	1990	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	22	22	22	22	23	23	24	24	20	23	27
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	1992	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	18	16	12	13	14	13	10	9	10	11	12
Clear Creek/Whiting Field	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	8	7	8	6	6	7	7	6	7	9	9
Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	2014	Less-Than-Fee	15	15	10	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	4
Conlin Lake X	2015	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	4	4	6	5	5	4	6	13	14
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	1991	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	6	6	6	8	7	5	5	5	4	4	4
Coupon Bight/Key Deer	1985	Climate Change Lands	6	6	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2020	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	27	31	34
Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	2007	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	24	26	23	28	25	26	27	28	26	28	30
Dade County Archipelago	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	14	13	14	20	18	19	17	22	21	21	21
Deer Creek Ranch	2024	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Devil's Garden	2002	Critical Natural Lands	16	14	16	15	15	12	16	15	18	24	20
Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	1996	Substantially Complete	7	7	7	6	4	2	4	3	2	1	1
Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	2013	Less-Than-Fee	16	17	18	18	19	20	19	20	17	22	21
Eight Mile Property	2022	Less-than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	23
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	1995	Critical Natural Lands	7	13	10	10	10	11	10	10	9	8	8
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	2000	Less-Than-Fee	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Flagler County Blueway	2003	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	12	12	13	12	13	12	13	14	15	20	20
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	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	4	4	4	2
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	1991	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	2019	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	11	9	9





Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Garcon Ecosystem	1995	Climate Change Lands	13	13	11	11	12	11	10	7	7	7	7
Gardner Marsh	2022	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	11
Gilchrist Club	2022	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	20
Green Swamp	2015	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	11	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	11
Gulf Hammock	2004	Less-Than-Fee	9	8	7	7	7	8	10	11	13	12	11
Half Circle L Ranch	2003	Critical Natural Lands	18	22	18	11	8	9	12	13	15	14	15
Hall Ranch	1997	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	27	28	25	25	24	24	25	27	28	26	28
Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	11	8	9	9	10	10	9	13	12	15	13
Heartland Wildlife Corridor	2022	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16
Hixtown Swamp	1993	Critical Natural Lands	33	33	33	33	31	31	34	34	34	35	35
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	2002	Less-Than-Fee	15	18	17	16	17	17	20	19	19	21	22
Ichetucknee Trace	1997	Critical Natural Lands	30	32	32	32	32	33	35	36	36	38	33
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	1998	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	5	6	7
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	2001	Less-Than-Fee	8	10	11	10	8	7	7	8	7	5	5
Lafayette Forest	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	28	27	27	27	26	25	21	21	23	22	19
Lake Hatchineha Watershed	2002	Critical Natural Lands	26	25	27	26	26	28	29	29	28	27	24
Lake Santa Fe	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	17	15	15	15	15	15	22	20	22	24	24
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	1992	Critical Natural Lands	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Limestone Ranch	2012	Less-Than-Fee	24	25	25	26	28	29	30	32	32	35	34
Little River Conservation Area	2004	Less-Than-Fee	26	27	28	27	26	27	29	29	31	33	31
Lochloosa Forest	2016	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	14	12	12	14	14	15	14	18	14
Lochloosa Wildlife	1994	Substantially Complete	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	4
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	1993	Critical Natural Lands	13	9	11	9	11	13	14	11	10	10	12
Lower Perdido River Buffer	2002	Less-Than-Fee	20	21	23	22	24	26	26	30	28	32	32





Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	2010	Less-Than-Fee	3	4	3	3	5	6	6	7	9	11	12
Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	2016	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	15	12	11	11	13	12	12	10	8
Maytown Flatwoods	2009	Less-Than-Fee	21	22	20	17	20	22	24	24	25	26	27
Middle Chipola River	1996	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	21	23	17	16	17	17	16	16	17	14	16
Mill Creek	2003	Less-Than-Fee	18	19	19	20	22	24	25	25	24	23	24
Millstone Plantation	2001	Less-Than-Fee	29	31	30	29	31	32	34	35	34	36	35
Myakka Ranchlands	2007	Less-Than-Fee	5	5	5	6	3	4	4	5	4	4	3
Natural Bridge Creek	2012	Critical Natural Lands	28	21	24	27	27	25	26	26	25	30	32
Natural Bridge Timberlands	2022	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	26
North Waccasassa Flats	2018	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	28	30	27	27	27	29	29
Northeast Florida Blueway	2001	Climate Change Lands	2	2	2	3	5	5	5	3	3	3	3
Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	2005	Less-Than-Fee	9	6	6	8	9	9	15	10	10	9	9
Old Town Creek Watershed	2001	Substantially Complete	23	26	27	24	27	28	31	33	26	28	8
Osceola Pine Savannas	1995	Critical Natural Lands	9	12	13	14	14	16	18	18	16	11	10
Pal-Mar	1992	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	16	17	16	17	16	16	15	17	13	13	15
Panther Glades	2001	Critical Natural Lands	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	7	5	5	5
Peace River Refuge	2010	Less-Than-Fee	19	23	21	19	21	19	22	21	20	20	19
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	1995	Critical Natural Lands	24	24	23	24	24	24	27	28	29	31	28
Pierce Mound Complex	1994	Critical Historical Resources	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	2004	Critical Natural Lands	12	11	12	12	13	14	15	16	14	17	14
Pineland Site Complex	1996	Critical Historical Resources	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	4
Pinhook Swamp	1992	Critical Natural Lands	22	23	22	21	22	22	25	24	23	25	23
Pringle Creek Forest	2012	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	30	30	29	30	30	30	30	32	33	33	35





Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pumpkin Hill Creek	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	25	25	24	24	27	27	23	25	29	29	31
Raiford to Osceola Greenway	2010	Less-Than-Fee	13	14	12	13	16	16	17	15	15	15	15
Rainbow River Corridor	2007	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	20	19	19	19	20	18	19	18	18	18	17
Ranch Reserve	1997	Less-Than-Fee	14	12	16	15	15	15	16	17	16	17	17
Red Hills Conservation	2019	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	5	6	6
St. Joe Timberland	2000	Climate Change Lands	3	3	3	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
St. Johns River Blueway	2002	Climate Change Lands	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	6	6	6	5
San Felasco Conservation Corridor	2003	Less-Than-Fee	22	24	22	21	23	25	28	28	29	31	30
San Pedro Bay	2003	Critical Natural Lands	27	28	28	28	25	27	30	30	30	29	27
Sand Mountain	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	13	20	20	21	21	21	20	23	25	17	18
Save Our Everglades	1984	Substantially Complete	6	7	7	7	8	8	7	7	7	7	7
Shoal River Buffer	2010	Critical Natural Lands	29	29	29	29	28	29	31	31	31	33	34
South Goethe	2006	Critical Natural Lands	14	16	15	16	18	19	19	20	20	19	18
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	1994	Critical Natural Lands	31	30	30	30	29	30	32	32	32	34	30
Spruce Creek	1990	Substantially Complete	5	5	5	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	6
Strategic Managed Area Lands List	2018	Critical Natural Lands	0	0	0	0	6	8	8	8	8	7	6
Suwannee County Preservation	2010	Less-Than-Fee	27	30	29	28	29	33	33	34	33	34	33
Taylor Sweetwater Creek	2017	Climate Change Lands	0	0	0	10	10	10	11	8	8	8	8
Terra Ceia	1996	Climate Change Lands	11	11	12	12	14	13	13	11	10	11	10
Twelvemile Slough	2001	Critical Natural Lands	17	18	17	17	16	17	21	22	24	21	21
Upper Shoal River	2003	Critical Natural Lands	32	31	31	31	30	32	36	35	35	36	29
Volusia Conservation Corridor	2001	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	9	10	10	10	9	9	8	7	6	5	5
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	1997	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Watermelon Pond	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	19	18	18	18	19	20	18	19	19	19	22





Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	1995	Critical Natural Lands	2	4	4	4	5	5	6	3	6	4	4
Welanee Watershed Forest	2020	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	16	27	29
West Bay Preservation Area	2012	Climate Change Lands	10	10	10	10	11	12	12	9	9	9	6
Wilson Ranch	2021	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	34	36
Withlacochee River Corridor	2020	Less-Than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18	19	18
Wolfe Creek Forest	2010	Substantially Complete	25	26	26	25	23	26	23	19	17	16	3



APPENDIX B

Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries

of Hearings/Meetings

January through December 2023

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APPENDIX B

Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries of Hearings/Meetings January through December 2023

Council Meeting, February 10, 2023

There were no announcements. After approving the meeting summaries for December 8-9, 2022, the ARC approved the following:

- the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Division of State Lands (DSL) Annual Florida Forever work plan for presentation to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- an owner-requested deletion of 0.12 acres from the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Monroe).
- a 40-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Santa Rosa).
- a 10-year management plan update for the Deep Creek Conservation Area (SJRWMD/St. Johns and Putnam).
- a 10-year management plan update for the Ochlockonee River State Park (DRP/Wakulla).
- a 10-year management plan update for the Bald Point State Park (DRP/Franklin).
-

The ARC considered the land management review reports from July to December 2022 without comment and an acquisition update from Mr. Robbie Parish (DSL Bureau of Real Estate Services). No comments were offered during the public comment period. The ARC heard presentations on the FNAI Florida Forever Progress Report and the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability.

Regional Hearing, March 13, 2023

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

Commissioner Jeff Bower (Volusia County Commission Chair) and Ms. Suzanne Scheiber (Volusia County Forever) spoke in favor of the Carter Quail Ranch proposal.

Regional Hearing, March 14, 2023

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

Mr. Harold Baxter (Creek Ranch, LLC), Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler), Mr. Jason Totoin (Center for Biological Diversity), and Ms. Gaye Sharpe (Polk County) all spoke in favor of the Creek Ranch proposal.



Regional Hearing and Council Meeting, April 14, 2023

The regional hearing began with the introduction of Mr. Rick Dolan as new FFS Director and new OES staff members George Frisby and Matthew Norton. After the hearing an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Mara Gambineri (DEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation) called for public comment.

The ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 project proposals for Avalon Phase II by Mr. Peter Kleinhenz (Tall Timbers). Carter-Quail Ranch by Mr. Tim Telfer (Volusia County). Creek Ranch by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (Saunders Ralston Dantzer Real Estate). Floyd's Mound by Mr. Shane Wellendorf (Tall Timbers). Quail Creek Ranch and Williamson Cattle Company by Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group).

The ARC received public comments on the Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 1 project proposals. Mr. Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife and Coordinator for the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape) spoke in favor of all six proposals.

After a brief recess, the business meeting began with the announcement that the Floyd's Marsh proposal had been changed to fee-simple with the Division of Historical Resources as manager. After approving the summaries for the February 10, March 13, and March 14 meetings, the ARC approved the following:

- a revision to the Interim Management Guidelines.
- a 0.49-acre private utility easement to Solar FL 2018, LLC, within the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area (DRP/Citrus).
- a 9.30-acre private utility easement to Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc., within the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area (DRP/Marion).
- a 31.29-acre private utility easement to Duke Energy within the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area (FWC/Polk and Lake) and the Tenoroc Public Use Area (FWC/Polk).
- a 10-year management plan update for Watson Island State Forest (FFS/St. Johns).
- a 10-year management plan update for Juno Dunes Natural Area (Palm Beach County/Palm Beach).

The ARC deferred a request by the Division of Recreation and Park to declare a 5-acre portion of Anastasia State Park as no longer needed for conservation purposes.

The ARC voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for Avalon Phase II (Jefferson), Carter Quail Ranch (Volusia), Creek Ranch (Polk), Floyd's Mound (Madison), Quail Creek Ranch (Hardee), and Williamson Cattle Company (Okeechobee) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 project proposals.

The ARC approved all six projects to be added to the priority list by six votes for Avalon Phase II and Floyd's Mound with Dr. Palmer recusing himself and by seven votes for the remaining projects. Floyd's Mound (40 acres) and Williamson Cattle Company (7,419 acres) were approved





as stand-alone projects. The ARC voted unanimously to add Avalon Phase II (1,384 acres) to the boundary of the Avalon project, Carter Quail Ranch (1,344 acres) to the boundary of the Volusia Conservation Corridor project, Creek Ranch (1,295 acres) to the boundary of the Lake Hatchineha project, and Quail Creek Ranch (2,698 acres) to the boundary of the Myakka Ranchlands project.

The ARC reviewed four items via the online negative response process. Two management plan amendments for Point Washington State Forest and Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Two incompatible use requests for easements within the Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail and the Nature Coast State Trail.

The ARC heard an update on the Florida Communities Trust Program.

Council Meeting, June 9, 2023

After hearing announcements (Florida Forever Plan executive summary on the DEP website and success of the Florida Landscape Summit), the ARC approved the meeting summary for April 14, and the following:

- a 20-acre conservation easement to Nora and Jeffrey Hanson fulfilled a clearly delineated state conservation policy and yielded a significant public benefit (Putnam).
- a 1.87-acre public utility easement amendment to the City of Tallahassee within the J.R. Alford Greenway (City of Tallahassee/Leon).
- a 0.53-acre public utility easement to Lee County within the Koreshan State Park (DRP/Lee).
- a 10-year management plan update for River Lakes Conservation Area (SJRWMD/Brevard and Osceola).
- a 10-year management plan update for Indian Lakes State Forest (FFS/Marion).
- a 10-year management plan update for Myakka State Forest (FFS/Sarasota).
- a 424-acre amendment to the Apalachicola River Florida Forever project boundary (Calhoun).
- a 249-acre amendment to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (St. Lucie and Wakulla).

The ARC received presentations on boundary amendments for the Apalachicola River project by Mr. Adam Bass (Conservation Florida) and the SMALL project by Mr. John McKenzie (DEP/DRP).

The ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals for Chunky Pond by Ms. Grace Howell (Alachua Conservation Trust); Deer Creek Ranch, Little Pine Ranch, Waccasassa Bay Watershed, and Myakka Ranch by Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group); English Forest Preserve by Mr. Mark Okasako (Save the English Forest Preserve); Ford Marsh by Mr. Jason DePue (Florida Park Service); Lake Powell North by Ms. Courtney Parker (Friends of Camp Helen); Trailhead Blue Springs by Mr. Jimmy Hancock (Trailhead, LLC); Venus





Project by landowner Mr. Van Peeples; Welles Ranch by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler); and Yarborough Ranch by Mr. Richard Durr (Seminole County).

The ARC received written public comments in support of the Hanson Less Than 40 Acre Conservation Easement; the Yarborough Ranch, English Forest Preserve, Ford Marsh, and Lake Powell North 2023 Cycle 2 Florida Forever Proposals; and the Apalachicola River and SMALL Florida Forever project boundary amendments.

ARC voted unanimously by seven votes to approve further evaluation of the (Levy), 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) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals.

The ARC reviewed eleven items via the online negative response process. Three management plan amendments for John M. Bethea State Forest, Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, and Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. Six less than 160-acre management plans for Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve, Pepper Beach Park, Stan Blum Memorial Boat Ramp, Raccoon Island/Wesley's Island, Lake Ariana Park/Macs Beach, and Tequesta Park. Two incompatible use requests for easements within the Cross Seminole Trail and Point Washington State Forest.

Regional Hearing, August 8, 2023

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

Mr. Mark Messerly (Walton County Dune Lake Advisory Board), Ms. Carolyn Zonig (Citizen), Ms. Lynn Cherry (Florida State Parks Foundation/Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation), Ms. Patrice Couch (Beach to Bay Connection, Inc.), Ms. Celeste Cobena (Beach to Bay Connection, Mr. Norman Capra (Lake Powell Community Alliance) Inc.), and Ms. Candis Harbison (Bay County Audubon Society) all spoke in favor of the Lake Powell North proposal.

Council Meeting, August 11, 2023

After hearing announcements (welcoming Hank Vinson as the new ARC agenda coordinator), the ARC approved the meeting summary for June 9, and the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for the Everglades Complex of Wildlife Management Areas (FWC/Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade).
- a 94-acre addition to the Carr Farm Price's Scrub Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- a 72-acre addition to the Lower Suwannee and Gulf Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).
- a 9-acre addition to the Osceola Pine Savannas Florida Forever project boundary (Osceola).





The ARC received presentations on the boundary amendments for Carr Farm/Price's Scrub by Mr. Adam Bass (Conservation Florida), Lower Suwannee and Gulf Watershed by Ms. Katie Ates (31 South Realty), and Osceola Pine Savannas by Ms. Susie Nutall (FWC).

The ARC reviewed two items via the online negative response process. One management plan for a property containing fewer than 160 acres Spring Hammock Preserve and one management plan amendment for Dunns Creek State Park.

Mr. Robbie Parrish (DSL/Bureau of Public Lands Administration) presented an acquisition update.

Regional Hearing, August 14, 2023

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

Mr. J.D. Holmes (Landowner), Ms. Jan Hancock (Landowner), and Ms. Grace Howell (Alachua Conservation Trust) all spoke for the Chunky Pond proposal. Mr. John Nash (Landowner) spoke in support for the Waccasassa Bay Headwaters proposal.

Regional Hearing, October 4, 2023

No comments were received during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, October 5, 2023

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

Commissioner Bob Delbari (Seminole County BOCC), Commissioner Andrea Hurr (Seminole County BOCC), Ms. Brynn Newton (Citizen), Ms. Nancy Harman (Citizen), Mr. Paul Rebmann (Citizen), Mr. Don Epps (Citizen), Ms. Phyllis Hall (Citizen), Mr. Joe Humphreys (Friends of the Wekiva River), Ms. Gabrielle Milch (Seminole County Soil and Water Conservation District) all spoke in support of the Yarborough Ranch proposal. Mr. David Hartgrove (Environmental Council of Volusia and Seminole County) spoke in support of the Ford Marsh proposal. Ms. Melissa Lemmers (Volusia Audubon) spoke in support of the Ford Marsh and Yarborough Ranch proposals.

Council Meeting, October 13, 2023

After hearing announcements (Ms. Jennifer Goff (FWC) representing the agency at ARC), and approving the meeting summaries for August 8, August 11, August 14, October 4, and October 5, ARC approved the following:





- the 2024 ARC calendar.
- a 10-year management plan update for Guana River Wildlife Management Area (FWC/St. Johns).
- a management plan amendment for the Withlacoochee State Forest (FFS/Citrus).
- that 19 acres of state-owned land within Point Washington State Forest was no longer needed for conservation purpose and exchanged for 50 acres owned by the Walton County School Board.
- an owner-request to remove 8,991 acres from the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor project and 613 acres from the Northeast Florida Blueway project.
- a 129-acre addition to the Pumpkin Hill Creek project (Nassau).
- a 30-acre addition to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project (Jefferson).
- a 523-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp project (Columbia).
- a 456-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp project (Columbia).
- a 665-acre addition to the Apalachicola River project (Jackson).
- a 16-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List project (Pasco).
- boundary reductions to the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Belle Meade, Catfish Creek, Coupon Bight/Key Deer, Dade County Archipelago, Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Lochloosa Wildlife, South Walton County Ecosystem, and Spruce Creek projects ().

The ARC voted unanimously to remove the Arbuckle Creek Watershed (Highlands), Charlotte Harbor Estuary (Charlotte/Lee/Sarasota), Horse Creek Ranch (DeSoto/Hardee), River Property (Highlands), South Walton County Ecosystem (Walton), Telogia Creek (Liberty), Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island (Nassau), and Tripe Diamond (Okeechobee) projects from the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List.

The ARC voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for the Chunky Pond (Levy), 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) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals.

The ARC received public testimony from Ms. Susan Carr (Alachua Conservation Trust) for the Chunky Pond project; Mr. Michael Deliz (Florida Park Service) for the Ford Marsh project; Ms. Courtney Harper (Friends of Camp Helen State Park) for the Lake Powell North project; Mr. Van Peebles (Landowner) for the Venus Project; Mr. Richard Durr (Seminole County) for the Yarborough Ranch project; Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group) for the Deer Creek Ranch, Myakka Ranch, Little Pine Ranch, and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters projects; Ms. Jan Hancock (Landowner) for the Chunky Pond project; Ms. Candice Harbison (Bay County Audubon) for the Lake Powell North project; Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzer) for the Welles Family Ranch project; and Mr. Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife/Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape) for proposals located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and Northwest Florida and Avon Park Sentinel Landscapes.





The ARC voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for the Chunky Pond (Levy), 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) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals.

The ARC approved by unanimous vote to add all 2023 Cycle 2 proposals to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. The Deer Creek Ranch (5,853 acres), Ford Marsh (1,204 acres), Welles Ranch (1,171 acres), and Yarborough Ranch (1,361 acres) proposals were added as stand-alone projects. The Chunky Pond (2,430 acres), Little Pine Ranch (907 acres), Trailhead Blue Springs (11,979 acres), and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters (5,101 acres) proposals were combined into the new Waccasassa Watershed project. The Lake Powell North proposal (103 acres) was added to the boundary of the Strategic Managed Area Lands List project. The Myakka Ranch proposal (998 acres) was added to the boundary of the Myakka Ranchlands project. The Venus Project proposal (1,110 acres) was added to the boundary of the Fisheating Creek project.

The ARC heard presentations and received public comments on boundary amendments for the Pumpkin Hill Creek project by Mr. Jimmy Tomazinis (DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection), the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project by Mr. Nelson Ball (Tall Timbers), the Pinhook Swamp project (Green West property) by Ms. Susan Carr (ACT), the Pinhook Swamp project (Thomas property) by Mr. Justice Diamond (ACT), the Apalachicola River project by Mr. Bill Keene (Landowner), and the Strategic Managed Area Lands List project by Mr. Alan Davis (FFS).

Ms. Deborah Burr (DEP/DSL) presented the reductions to the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Belle Meade, Catfish Creek, Coupon Bight/Key Deer, Dade County Archipelago, Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Lochloosa Wildlife, South Walton County Ecosystem, and Spruce Creek projects.

The ARC reviewed four items via the online negative response process. Two management plan amendments for Blind Creek Beach Park and Dudley Farm Historic State Park. One management plan for a property containing fewer than 160 acres for Ravine Gardens State Park. One incompatible use request for an easement within Savannas Preserve State Park.

The ARC also received the FY 2022-23 conservation easement monitoring program report, land management review team findings, and the land management uniform accounting council annual and biennial reports.

Public Hearing December 7, 2023

After hearing announcements (Ms. Larame Ferry (FWC) representing the agency at ARC), the ARC heard presentations on the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor by Mr. Ramesh Buch (North Florida Land Trust) and Ms. Brandi Carvallo (Nassau County); Big Bend Forest and Tupelo Honey Timberlands by Ms. Rebecca Perry (The Conservation Fund); Finca Vigia by Mr. Patrick Iler (Family Lands Remembered); Lake Harney by Mr. Tim Telfer (Volusia County);





Suttlemyre Forest by Mr. Willie the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy); Larkin Ranch by Ms. Suzanne Larkin (Landowner); and Dark Hammock, Lytal Conservation Area, and Wooten Timberlands by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler Real Estate).

The ARC also heard presentations on proposed boundary amendments for the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub project by Ms. Heather Obara (Alachua Conservation Trust); Pinhook Swamp project by Mr. Justice Diamond (Alachua Conservation Trust); Heather Island/ Ocklawaha River project by Ms. Susan Carr (Alachua Conservation Trust); Florida's First Magnitude Springs project by Mr. Jay Vogel (Natural Resource Planning Services); Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project by Ms. Catie Welch (Florida Conservation Group); Peace River Refuge project by Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group); Osceola Pine Savannas project by Ms. Susie Nutall (FWC); Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor and Strategic Managed Area Lands List projects by Ms. Angel Granger (DEP/DRP); and the Myakka Ranchlands, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, and Welannee Watershed projects by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler).

The ARC received public testimony in favor of the SMALL boundary amendment from Mr. Patrick Iler (Family Lands Remembered), the Lochloosa project from Mr. Charlie Houser (University of Florida), the Yarborough Ranch proposal from Mr. Richard Durr (Seminole County), the Yarborough Ranch proposal from Ms. Katrina Shadix (Bear Warriors United), the Wooten Timberlands and Tupelo Honey Forest 2024 Cycle 1 proposals and Welannee Plantation boundary amendment by Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife/Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape), SMALL boundary amendment by Mr. Bruce Brockhouse (Land Trust of Dade County), project within the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway and Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor by Mr. Willie the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), Vinca Vigia 2024 Cycle 1 proposal by Mr. Nick Estrella (Landowner), and the Big Bend Forest 2024 Cycle 1 proposal by Mr. Kevin St. Laurent (Campell Global, Inc.).

Council Meeting, December 8, 2023

There were no announcements. The ARC approved the October 14 meeting summary and the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for Golden Aster Scrub Nature Preserve (Hillsborough County).
- a determination that 1.35 acres of State-owned land within the Cross Seminole Trail was no longer needed for conservation purposes.
- the 2024 Priority List.
- a 422-acre addition to the Matanzas to Ocala Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam).
- a 21-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (DRP/Charlotte, Lee, and Miami-Dade).
- a 4-acre addition to the Osceola Pine Savannas Florida Forever project boundary (Osceola).





- a 7-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (FWC/Brevard).
- a 46-acre addition to the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- a 310-acre addition to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).
- a 149-acre addition to the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- a 285-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- a 433-acre addition to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project boundary (Manatee).
- a 149-acre addition to the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project boundary (DeSoto).
- a 996-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever project boundary (Columbia).
- a 142-acre addition to the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Lake).
- a 830-acre addition to the Welannee Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Okaloosa).

The ARC did not approve a determination that 5.40 acres of State-owned land within Anastasia State Park was no longer needed for conservation purposes.

The ARC unanimously approved further evaluation of the Atlantic to Ocala Conservation Corridor (Nassau), Big Bend Forest (Dixie), Dark Hammock Ranch (Okeechobee), Finca Vigia (Hendry), Lake Harney (Volusia), Larkin Ranch (Pasco), Lytal Conservation Area (Osceola), Suttlemyre Forest (Putnam), Tupelo Honey Timberlands (Gulf), and Wooten Timberlands (Jefferson) Florida Forever 2024 Cycle 1 proposals.

The ARC reviewed four items via the online negative response process. A management plan for a property containing fewer than 160 acres for Holopaw State Forest. Three incompatible use requests for easements within the West Orange Trail, Tate's Hell State Forest, and the Lehigh Greenway Trail.

The ARC heard a presentation from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP) on the 2023 RFLPP Priority List.



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APPENDIX C

Florida Forever Project Evaluation Comparative Analysis November 2023

as provided by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory

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Florida Forever Project Evaluation - Comparative Analysis

November 2023

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 5.1 of the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment (FFCNA) data layers. FFCNA resource data are continually updated as new information becomes available. Version 5.1 includes updates for Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities, Under-represented Natural Communities, Ecological Greenways, Significant Surface Waters, and Recreational Trails. Details are described in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report, v5.1 and the Ranking Support Analyses Documentation for November 2023.

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. 1,105,000 acres for 2023) 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 1,105,000 acres allocated, 75% occur on projects; the remaining 25% 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 1,105,000 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 2023

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		Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands & Floodplain	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Cultural Resources (Archaeol & Historic)	Trails Network	FL Natl Scenic Trail corridor	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change Sea Level Rise
				F-TRAC Statewide	F-TRAC on FL Forever Projects												
CNL	48,912	16%	Apalachicola River	3	3	5	2	5	5	2	1	3	4	3	x	1	4
CNL	11,506	22%	Avalon	3	3	2	3	3	1	3	3	3	4	1		1	1
CNL	1,910	0%	Bar-B Ranch	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	3	2	1		3	1
CNL	97,428	3%	Bear Creek Forest	2	3	2	2	4	2	5	2	5	2	3		1	1
CNL	4,689	0%	Bear Hammock	2	5	2	2	3	2	4	5	3	3	4		4	1
CNL	4,653	83%	Belle Meade	3	3	4	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1		3	1
CNL	41,746	3%	Blue Head Ranch	5	4	5	3	3	2	2	3	5	3	2		5	1
CNL	28,807	39%	Bombing Range Ridge	5	5	5	4	3	2	3	3	5	2	2	x	5	1
CNL	10,507	46%	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	5	5	5	2	3	2	2	2	5	3	3		4	1
CNL	32,236	5%	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	5	2	2		2	1
CNL	47,043	43%	Devil's Garden	3	3	4	1	3	2	2	1	4	2	3	x	4	1
CNL	53,079	44%	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	4	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	5	3	4	x	4	2
CNL	54,862	0%	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	3	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	5	5	x	1	1
CNL	5,949	0%	Gardner Marsh	4	5	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	1		5	1
CNL	11,182	0%	Half Circle L Ranch	3	4	5	2	4	3	2	2	4	3	1		4	1
CNL	21,965	10%	Hixtown Swamp	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	4		1	1
CNL	1,707	39%	Ichetucknee Trace	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	4	2	2	1		2	1
CNL	4,718	30%	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	2	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	1		5	1
CNL	27,507	60%	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	3	5	2	4		5	1
CNL	9,842	59%	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	3	4	2	5	1	2	4	5	4	4	2	x	5	1
CNL	1,967	0%	Natural Bridge Creek	2	2	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	3	1		1	1
CNL	5,442	0%	Natural Bridge Timberlands	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	4	3	5	1		1	1
CNL	22,867	51%	Osceola Pine Savannas	4	5	5	2	4	2	2	3	5	2	2	x	5	1
CNL	39,352	39%	Panther Glades	2	3	5	2	3	3	2	2	5	3	3		4	1
CNL	2,251	67%	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	2	2	1	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	3		1	2
CNL	21,887	55%	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	4	3	2	x	5	1
CNL	38,007	80%	Pinhook Swamp	2	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	3	2	x	2	1
CNL	46,345	0%	San Pedro Bay	3	2	2	1	2	3	4	3	4	4	1	x	1	1
CNL	880	60%	Shoal River Buffer	2	2	2	3	4	4	3	1	2	2	1		1	1
CNL	11,350	3%	South Goethe	4	3	2	3	3	2	4	4	4	3	4		4	1
CNL	578	3%	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	3	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	1	3	2		5	1
CNL	12,042	6%	Strategic Managed Area Lands List	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	5	5	x	5	3
CNL	8,020	50%	Twelvemile Slough	5	5	4	1	3	3	2	1	5	3	3		4	1
CNL	12,035	0%	Upper Shoal River	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	1	2	3	1		1	1
CNL	21,319	74%	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	3	3	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	4	4	x	4	3
PRI	8,060	59%	Annutteliga Hammock	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	5	3	4	2		4	1
PRI	8,175	43%	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	40,306	60%	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	4	x	1	2
PRI	8,397	8%	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	1	4	2	3		2	1
PRI	17,381	58%	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	5		4	2
PRI	396	73%	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	3	1	4	1		3	1
PRI	3,219	83%	Catfish Creek	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	1		5	1
PRI	6,406	73%	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	2,474	51%	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	3	3	2	3	4	1	3	1	3	3	3		1	1
PRI	30,658	57%	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	4	4	5	2	4	4	2	2	5	2	2		4	1
PRI	2,348	0%	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2	2	3	1	3	2	4	2	2	2	3		1	1
PRI	12,440	0%	Crossbar/AI Bar Ranch	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	5	2	2	1		4	1
PRI	219	74%	Dade County Archipelago	5	3	4	5	2	1	1	3	1	3	2		3	1
PRI	2,836	33%	Flagler County Blueway	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	4	4		3	3
PRI	6,963	62%	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	4	4	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	3		5	2
PRI	154,223	43%	Green Swamp	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	4	3	4	x	5	1
PRI	7,415	13%	Hall Ranch	3	5	5	3	3	2	5	1	3	2	2		3	1
PRI	13,632	32%	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	4	x	4	1
PRI	17,036	39%	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	4	5		5	4
PRI	10,218	22%	Lafayette Forest	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	4	3	3	1		2	1
PRI	8,750	17%	Lake Santa Fe	2	2	1	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	x	3	1
PRI	4,693	0%	Lochloosa Forest	1	2	2	1	3	2	4	3	3	2	1		3	1
PRI	12,115	18%	Middle Chipola River	2	2	5	1	4	2	3	2	2	4	3	x	1	1
PRI	68,600	53%	Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	1	5	2	3		3	4
PRI	8,838	76%	Pal-Mar	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	3	3	2	3		4	1
PRI	8,446	0%	Pringle Creek Forest	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	2		3	1
PRI	6,438	74%	Pumpkin Hill Creek	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	1	3	3	2		2	4
PRI	900	27%	Rainbow River Corridor	3	4	3	2	3	1	2	4	2	4	4	x	4	2
PRI	14,370	58%	Sand Mountain	4	4	2	4	4	2	4	3	4	3	3	x	1	1
PRI	18,134	77%	Volusia Conservation Corridor	5	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	5	2	3		4	3
PRI	20,455	0%	Waccasassa Watershed	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	4	3	5	3		3	1
PRI	3,301	63%	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	3		1	1
PRI	5,201	59%	Watermelon Pond	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	5	2	2	2		3	1
PRI	8,378	0%	Welannee Watershed Forest	2	2	4	1	4	3	3	1	3	4	1		1	1
PRI	451	0%	Wilson Ranch	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	1	3	2		5	1
PRI	1,314	0%	Yarborough Ranch	5	5	2	2	4	2	2	3	3	4	1		3	1
LTF	32,989	4%	Adams Ranch	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	4	5	2		5	1
LTF	5,700	7%	Ayavalla Plantation	2	2	4	1	3	2	2	3	2	4	3		1	1
LTF	33,198	37%	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	5	2	2		4	1
LTF	7,731	30%	Bluefield to Cow Creek	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	3	3	2	2		4	1
LTF	93,062	7%	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	2	2	2	2	4	2	4	1	5	3	2		1	1
LTF	3,522	61%	Conlin Lake X	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3		4	1
LTF	5,934	0%	Deer Creek Ranch	2	3	4	2	3	2	2	3	4	2	1		4	1
LTF	2,214	0%	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	3	2	4	2	3	1	1	3	3	2	1		5	1
LTF	5,717	0%	Eight Mile Property	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	1		2	1
LTF	113,984	41%	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	3	4	5	2	3	2	2	3	5	3	2		5	1
LTF	23,298	0%	Gilchrist Club	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	4	4		3	1
LTF	25,611	0%	Gulf Hammock	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	3	1		4	5

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 (Archaeol & Historic)	Trails Network	FL Nat Scenic Trail corridor	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change Sea Level Rise
LTF	9,579	0%	Heartland Wildlife Corridor	2	2	4	1	3	2	2	2	4	3	3		5	1
LTF	6,923	0%	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	4	2	2	1		1	1
LTF	30,810	31%	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	3	2	4	2	3	2	2	3	5	3	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	1	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	12,090	79%	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	3	4	3	1		3	5
LTF	87,759	7%	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	5	2	3		3	5
LTF	1,613	79%	Maytown Flatwoods	5	5	3	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	1		3	1
LTF	10,135	18%	Mill Creek	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	4	2	1		3	1
LTF	83	53%	Millstone Plantation	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	3	1		1	1
LTF	30,538	44%	Myakka Ranchlands	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3		4	1
LTF	14,714	0%	North Waccasassa Flats	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	4	2	5	1		2	1
LTF	3,864	23%	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	2	2	4	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	3		1	1
LTF	3,736	18%	Peace River Refuge	2	2	2	1	3	4	2	2	3	5	3		4	2
LTF	68,673	0%	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	2	2	2	1	2	2	5	3	5	4	4	x	2	1
LTF	12,514	66%	Ranch Reserve	4	5	3	2	4	2	2	3	5	2	1		4	1
LTF	13,670	24%	Red Hills Conservation	3	4	2	5	2	2	3	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	3	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	4	1		2	1
LTF	1,183	0%	Welles Ranch	3	3	5	1	3	2	3	1	3	4	1		3	1
LTF	7,419	0%	Williamson Cattle Company	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	3	3	1		4	1
LTF	3,286	0%	Withlacoochee River Corridor	2	5	2	1	4	3	2	4	3	2	3		4	1
CCL	711	75%	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	4	3	4	3	3	4	1	1	1	2	3		1	1
CCL	5,406	60%	Florida Keys Ecosystem	5	4	5	3	3	4	1	1	1	5	5		3	2
CCL	1,200	0%	Ford Marsh	1	2	1	2	2	4	1	1	2	4	1		3	1
CCL	3,098	58%	Garcon Ecosystem	2	2	2	2	5	4	2	1	2	4	4		1	3
CCL	7,277	77%	Northeast Florida Blueway	2	2	1	2	4	2	2	1	2	4	4		3	2
CCL	51,665	55%	St. Joe Timberland	3	2	2	2	4	3	4	2	4	4	3		1	5
CCL	15,912	40%	St. Johns River Blueway	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	4		3	3
CCL	3,742	0%	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	4	4	3		1	4
CCL	2,038	57%	Terra Ceia	3	2	1	2	4	4	1	1	1	4	1		3	2
CCL	4,598	0%	West Bay Preservation Area	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	2	2	5	3		1	3
SC	118	87%	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	5	3	4	4	2	4	1	1	1	3	4		3	2
SC	2,579	89%	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	3	3	3	4	4	5	3	1	3	4	4		1	3
SC	8,383	86%	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	4	3	2	2	3	4	1	1	4	4	3		4	1
SC	3,864	88%	Lochloosa Wildlife	2	2	2	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	3		3	1
SC	1,264	86%	Old Town Creek Watershed	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	1		5	1
SC	11	100%	Save Our Everglades	5	3	4	1	4	4	2	3	1	3	1		3	1
SC	351	87%	Spruce Creek	4	5	2	5	3	2	3	3	1	4	2		3	2
SC	1,975	86%	Wolfe Creek Forest	2	2	2	2	4	1	4	1	3	4	2		1	2
CHR	1,154	29%	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	2	4	3	1	2	4	2	4	3	5	1		4	1
CHR	41	0%	Floyd's Mound	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	5	1		1	1
CHR	359	45%	Pierce Mound Complex	2	1	3	2	3	3	2	1	1	5	1		1	2
CHR	136	35%	Pineland Site Complex	2	1	1	1	2	2	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 2023.

F-TRAC Scenarios

There are more resources in Florida worthy of acquisition than can be acquired by the Florida Forever program.

The **F-TRAC Statewide** scenario looks statewide for the best half of the remaining area of proposed projects (approximately 1,105,000 acres) of unprotected resources – not necessarily on current projects.

- Projects are scored relative to the entire state. A project's score is not influenced by the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context, and can help inform decisions on adding or removing projects from the FFBOT list.

The **F-TRAC on FFBOT Projects** scenario looks only at the list of existing and proposed projects for the best half of the remaining area of proposed projects (approximately 1,105,000 acres) of resources.

- Projects are scored relative to one another – they are "graded on a curve". Each project's score may change based on the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for comparing projects to each other, and can help inform decisions on project ranking.

Category	Remaining Acres
Critical Natural Lands	764,591
Partnerships & Reg. Incentives	543,186
Less-Than-Fee	684,123
Climate Change Lands	95,648
Substantially Complete	18,545
Critical Historical Resources	1,690
Total	2,107,783

Key

5	Very High
4	High
3	Medium
2	Medium-Low
1	Low



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APPENDIX D

2024 Florida Forever Project Distribution by County

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APPENDIX D

2024 Florida Forever Project Distribution by County

County	Project
Alachua	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub, Lake Santa Fe, Lochloosa Forest, Lochloosa Wildlife, San Felasco Conservation Corridor, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Watermelon Pond
Baker	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
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	Deer Creek Ranch, Myakka Ranchlands, Peace River Refuge
Dixie	Eight Mile Property, Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed, Strategic Managed Area Lands List





County	Project
Duval	Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's 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
Hamilton	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Hardee	Heartland Wildlife Corridor, Limestone Ranch, Old Town Creek Watershed
Hendry	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape, Devil's Garden, Half Circle L Ranch, Panther Glades, Twelvemile Slough
Hernando	Annutteliga Hammock, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, 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
Hillsborough	No current projects.
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, Natural Bridge Timberlands, 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, Natural Bridge Timberlands, 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, South Goethe, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Waccasassa Watershed, Watermelon Pond
Liberty	Apalachicola River, Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone, St. Joe Timberland
Madison	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Floyd's Mound, Hixtown Swamp, 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, 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, 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	Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's 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, 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
Pinellas	No current projects.





County	Project
Polk	Bombing Range Ridge, Catfish Creek, Green Swamp, Lake Hatchineha Watershed, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Old Town Creek Watershed, Wilson Ranch
Putnam	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor, 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, Wolfe Creek Forest
Sarasota	Myakka Ranchlands
Seminole	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, Yarborough Ranch
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, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
Walton	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Natural Bridge Creek, St. Joe Timberland, Ecosystem, Upper Shoal River
Washington	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Forest and Lakes Ecosystem, St. Joe Timberland, Sand Mountain



APPENDIX E

List of Acronyms

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APPENDIX E

List of Acronyms

ARC	Acquisition and Restoration Council
BMAP	Basin Management Action Plan
BOT	Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
CARL	Conservation and Recreation Lands
CE	Conservation Easement
CERP	Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
CF	Conservation Florida
CR	County Road
DACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
DEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DOD	Department of Defense
DHR	Division of Historic Resources
DOT	Florida Department of Transportation
DRP	Division of Recreation and Parks
DSL	Division of State Lands
FCT	Florida Communities Trust
FEGN	Florida Ecological Greenways Network
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWFF	Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
LAAC	Land Acquisition Advisory Council
LAMAC	Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council
LASC	Land Acquisition Selection Committee
LMUAC	Land Management Uniform Accounting Council
MCLA	Monroe County Land Authority
NFLT	North Florida Land Trust
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NFWFMD	Northwest Florida Water Management District





OGT	Office of Greenways and Trails
OES	Office of Environmental Services
ORCP	Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
PBC	Palm Beach County
REPI	Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration
SJRWMD	St. Johns River Water Management District
SR	State Road
SRWMD	Suwannee River Water Management District
SWFWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TPL	Trust for Public Land
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
WEA	Wildlife and Environmental Area
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WRP	Wetlands Reserve Program

