

# 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

| <b><u>FNAI Elements</u></b> | <b><u>Score</u></b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 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.

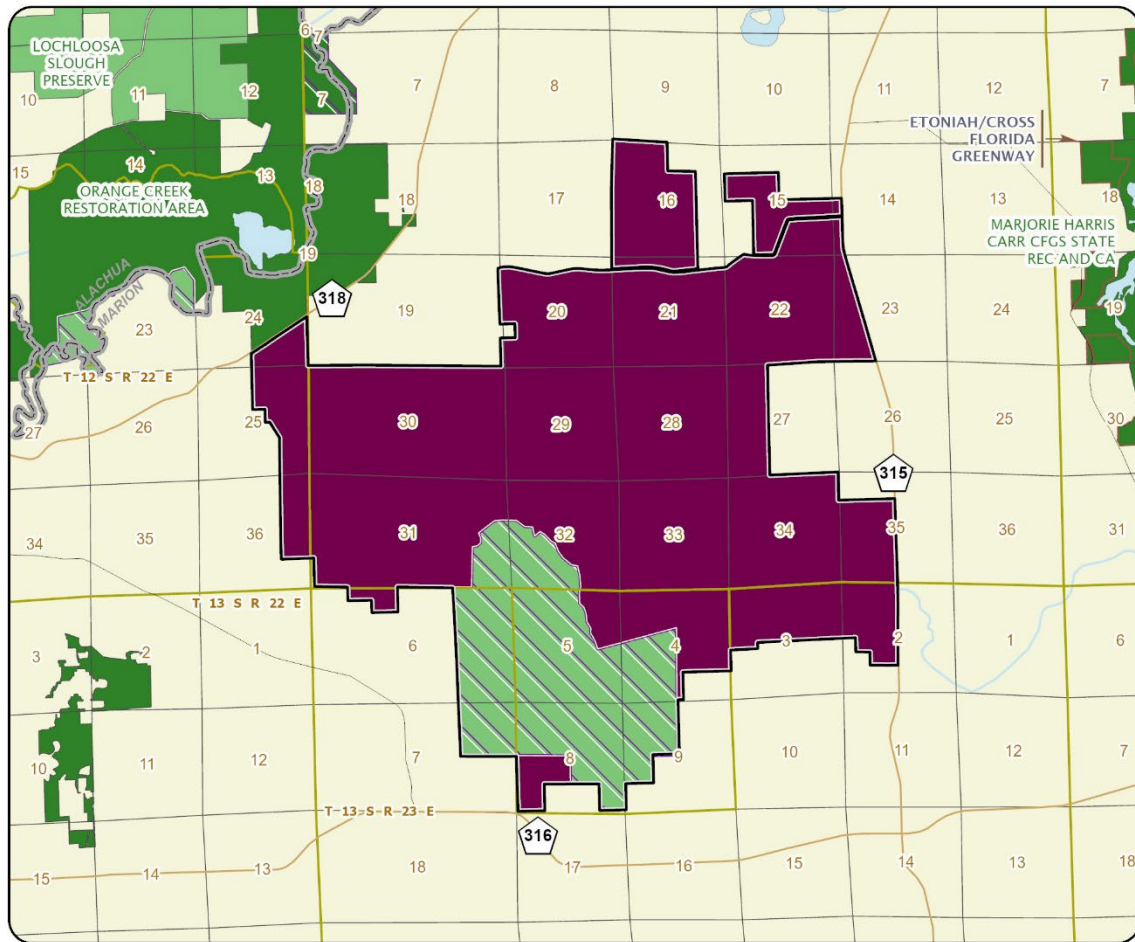
## Manager(s)

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.





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