

# Floyd's Mound

Critical Historical Resources

Madison County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>2023</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>2024 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$0</i>

## 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 Ft. 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 (NRCS). 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

<b><u>FNAI Elements</u></b>	<b><u>Score</u></b>
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 (DHR), historical and educational interpretive plans will be pursued to communicate the site's significance to the public. DHR envisions passive, nature-based recreational opportunities at the project parcel.

## Acquisition Planning

### **2023**

On April 14, 2023, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) 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.

### **2024**

On November 15, 2024, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired, in fee, 42.91 acres in Madison County from Red Hills Land Conservation LLC.

## Coordination

This project was proposed by Tall Timbers Research Inc. and is to be managed by DHR with the help of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

## 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 DHR with the help of FWC.

## Management Prospectus

### **Qualifications for State Designation**

The Floyd's Mound project has 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 DHR 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, DHR 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.





DHR will collaborate with FWC to ensure proper natural resource management and site monitoring. The acquisition of game cameras and working with FWC 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**

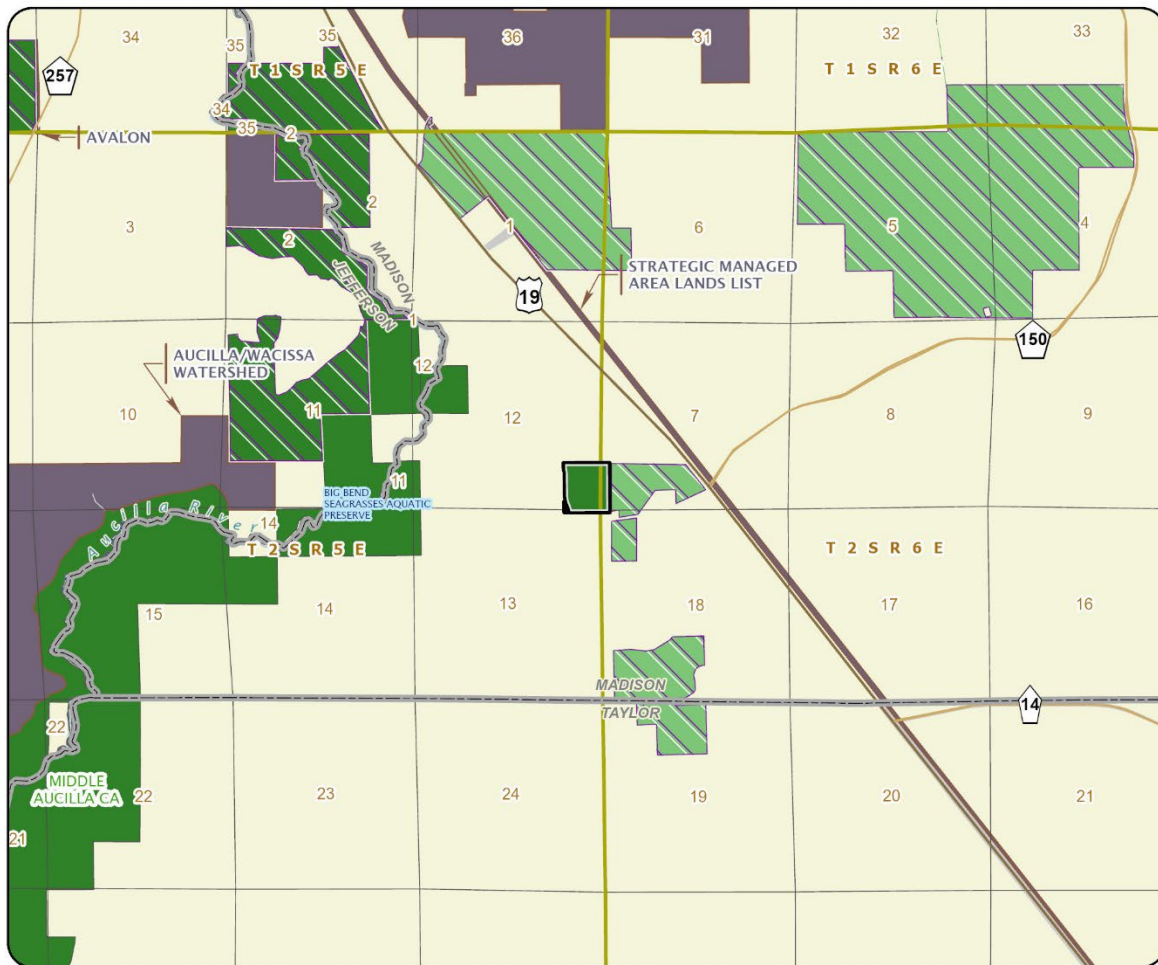
DHR will cooperate with FWC in managing the archaeological resources of the site.

**Management Cost Summary**

<u>DHR</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	LATF
Salary	\$9,000
OPS	\$0
Expense	\$2,500
OCO	\$4,211
FCO	\$0
TOTAL	\$15,711

*Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted*





## FLOYD'S MOUND

### MADISON COUNTY

