

# Camp Hammock

Less-Than-Fee

Osceola County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2025
<i>Project Acres</i>	8,982
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,982
<i>2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$35,998,173

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Camp Hammock project would contribute to the water quality and quantity of Lake Kissimmee; a major source of headwaters feeding the Everglades and protect nearly 3 miles of lake shoreline. In addition, the project would conserve remnant dry prairie; an increasingly rare ecological community that provides habitat for a variety of imperiled wildlife, including the Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*) and crested caracara (*Caracara plancus audubonii*). The project would also strengthen the military readiness and resilience of Avon Park Air Force Range by sustaining the current landscape to limit the potential for incompatible land uses.

## General Description

The property supports a working cow/calf operation, sod production, haying and private recreation. The property is located about 12 miles northwest of Kenansville and lies adjacent to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Overstreet Ranch Agricultural and Conservation Easement. Camp Hammock lies approximately 0.25 miles away from Lake Kissimmee, separated by the South Florida Water Management District's Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Additionally, the project lies within the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan. Due to the project's proximity to Lake Kissimmee, the entirety of the Camp Hammock project contributes to the protection of groundwater recharge areas and conservation of the site will help to protect the headwaters of the Everglades. The project contains over 3 miles of Lake Kissimmee shoreline, and with significant residential development advancing south from St. Cloud, the risk of fragmentation, subdivision and/or habitat loss is foreseeable without protection.





As a working cattle operation, most of the property is modified for agricultural uses, with the most common landcover type being improved pasture (±6,077 acres) dominated by Bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*). The predominant natural community is depression marsh found in small but intact patches making up approximately 568 acres of the property. Camp Hammock also features about 117 acres of under-represented remnant dry prairie, which represents the largest contiguous natural community on site. This rare and imperiled habitat is in very good condition, containing a low shrub layer and rich herbaceous layer of wiregrass, pinweed and other groundcover species. Improvements include several office buildings and equipment storage structures associated with the agricultural operations on site.

Eighty-five percent of the project lies within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. Several rare and imperiled species were observed during the site visit, including the Florida burrowing owl, Florida sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*), crested caracara, Balbis' airplant (*Tillandsia balbisiana*) and Southeastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*). Invasive species, notably cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) and old-world climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*), were widespread on the property at the time of the site visit. The entirety of the Camp Hammock project is within the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape, a regional partnership focused on natural resource and working lands protection, military readiness and recreation.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

<b><u>FNAI Elements</u></b>	<b><u>Score</u></b>
Snail kite	G5/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

**Public Use**

The Camp Hammock project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

**Acquisition Planning**

**2025**

On October 10, 2025, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Camp Hammock project to the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List.





### Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Camp Hammock project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

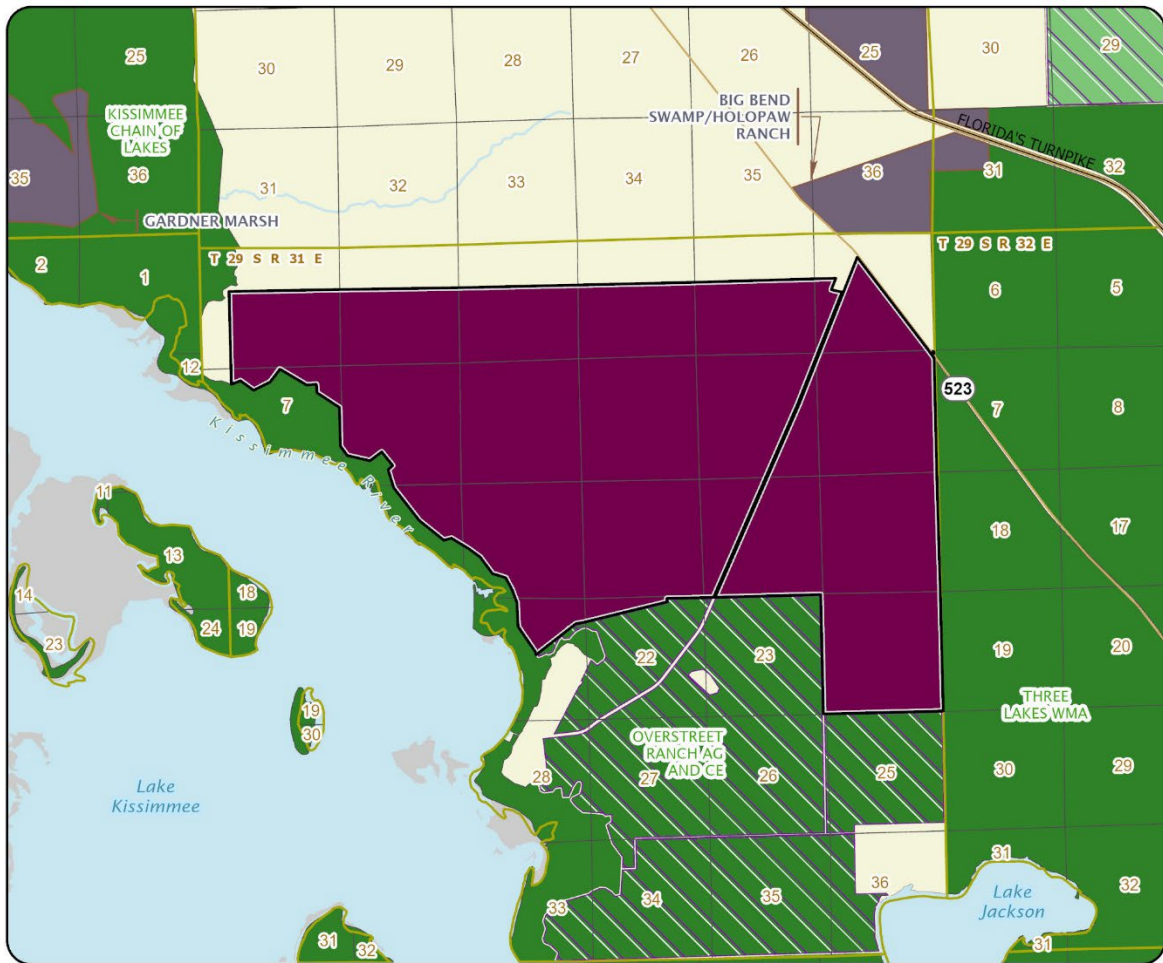
### Manager

If acquired as less-than-fee, management of the Camp Hammock project 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 Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

### Management Prospectus

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Camp Hammock would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.





### CAMP HAMMOCK

#### OSCEOLA 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

