

# Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge

Climate Change Lands

Brevard, Indian River

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1991
<i>Project Acres</i>	1,060
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	885
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$35,650,365
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	174
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$70,442,312

## 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 turtles in the western hemisphere, and an occasional nesting area for the leatherback, the largest and rarest sea turtle. For thousands of years, sea turtles have returned each year to these beaches to lay their eggs and continue their species. The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project is designed to protect twenty miles of beach in Brevard and Indian River counties that will assure the continued survival of these endangered sea turtles.

## General Description

The project will consolidate and expand several small public ownerships protecting almost ten miles of undeveloped Atlantic Coast shoreline. The natural communities within the project area are in good condition and include beach, coastal strand, and maritime hammock; but 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

FNAI Elements	Score
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>Atlantic Coast Florida lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>coastal hoary-pea</i>	G1T1/S1
Southeastern beach mouse	G5T1/S1
<i>Simpson's prickly apple</i>	G2/S2
<i>coastal vervain</i>	G3/S3

#### 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

The project excludes developed and undeveloped parcels situated between developed parcels. Acquisition efforts are ongoing. The LAMAC approved the addition of 112 acres to the project boundary on March 10, 1995 and directed that a \$10 million cap per year be set on acquisition expenditures within the project. The acres acquired include a 1.34-acre exchange with the County and Windsor Properties. On April 6, 2001, the Council transferred this project to the Full Fee group from the Negotiated Impasse group.

#### **2001**

On January 25, 2001, ARC added 5 acres to the project.

#### **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, ARC 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, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Climate Change Lands.

#### **2017**

In calendar year 2017, a total of 2.6 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever funding.

#### **2021**

DEP acquired fee simple via donation 1.01 acres from the Conservation Fund.



### Coordination

This project was developed in conjunction with the FWS. 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 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 USFWS will manage most of the project as a National Wildlife Refuge. Primary management partners include the State of Florida DEP, Brevard County, and Indian River County. The portion of the project immediately north of the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area and west of the highway 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 259.032 (11)(c) F.S. 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.



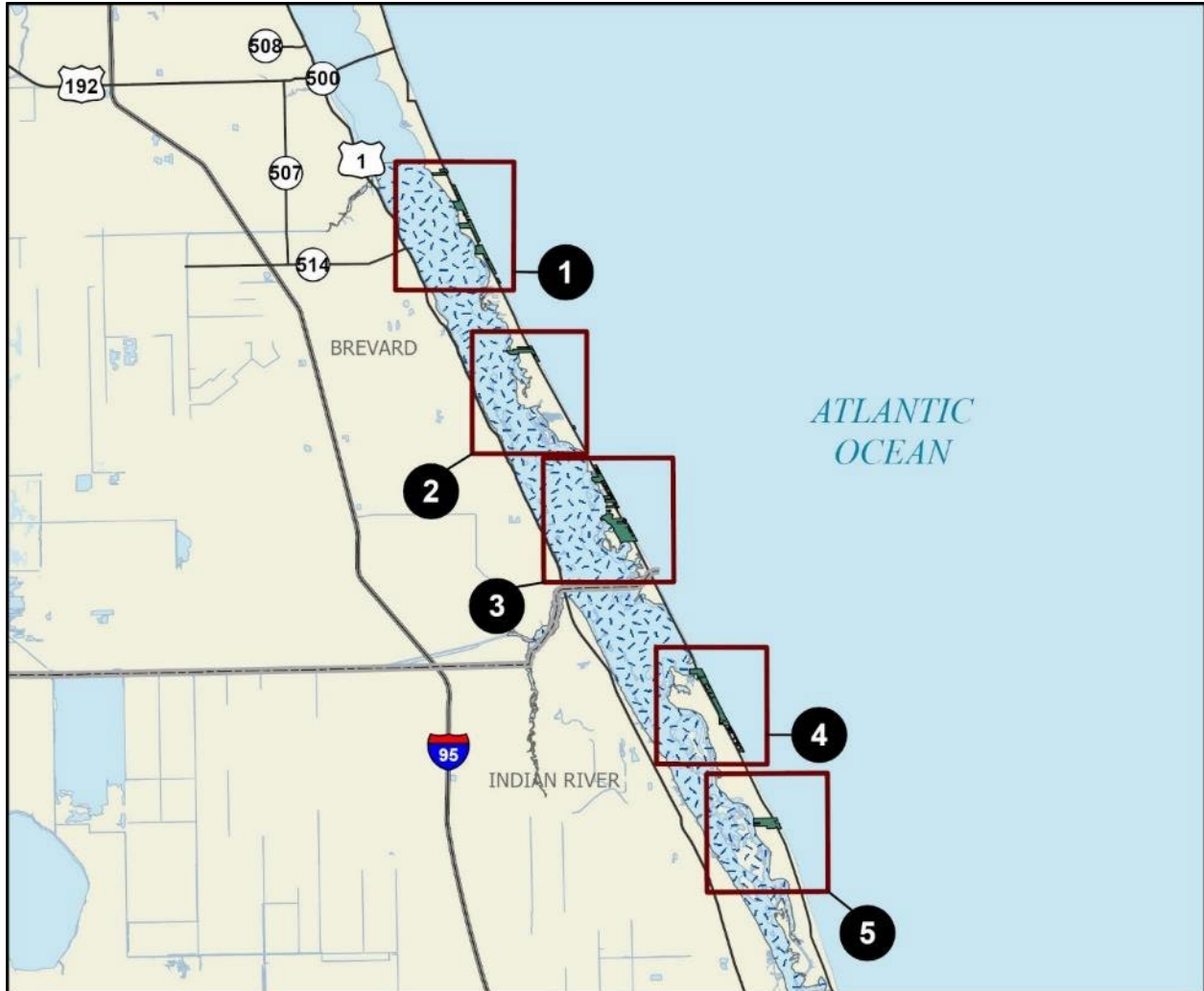
**Revenue-generating potential**

Collecting parking or access fees is the only means of generating revenue from the tracts to be managed by the FWS and by local governments. DRP expects no significant revenue to be initially generated from the tracts to be added to the state recreation area.

**Cooperators in management activities**

The FWS will collaborate with local governments, FWC, 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



JANUARY 2020

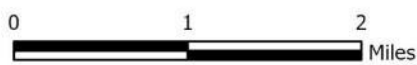
Map 1: FNAI, January 2020



**ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 1**

**BREVARD COUNTY**

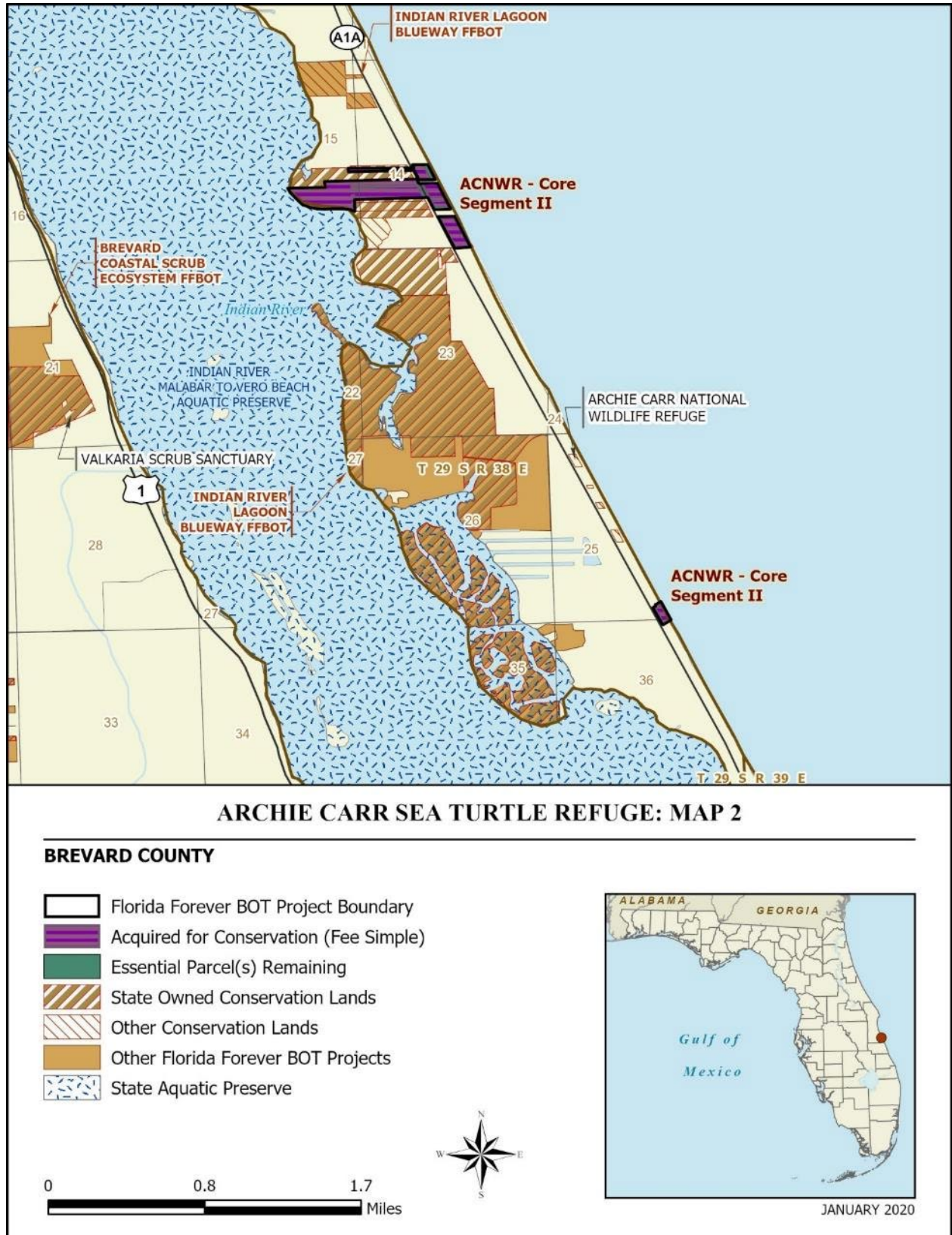
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



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Map 2: FNAI, January 2020





Map 3: FNAI, January 2020



**ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 3**

**BREVARD COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



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Map 4: FNAI, January 2020





**ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 4**

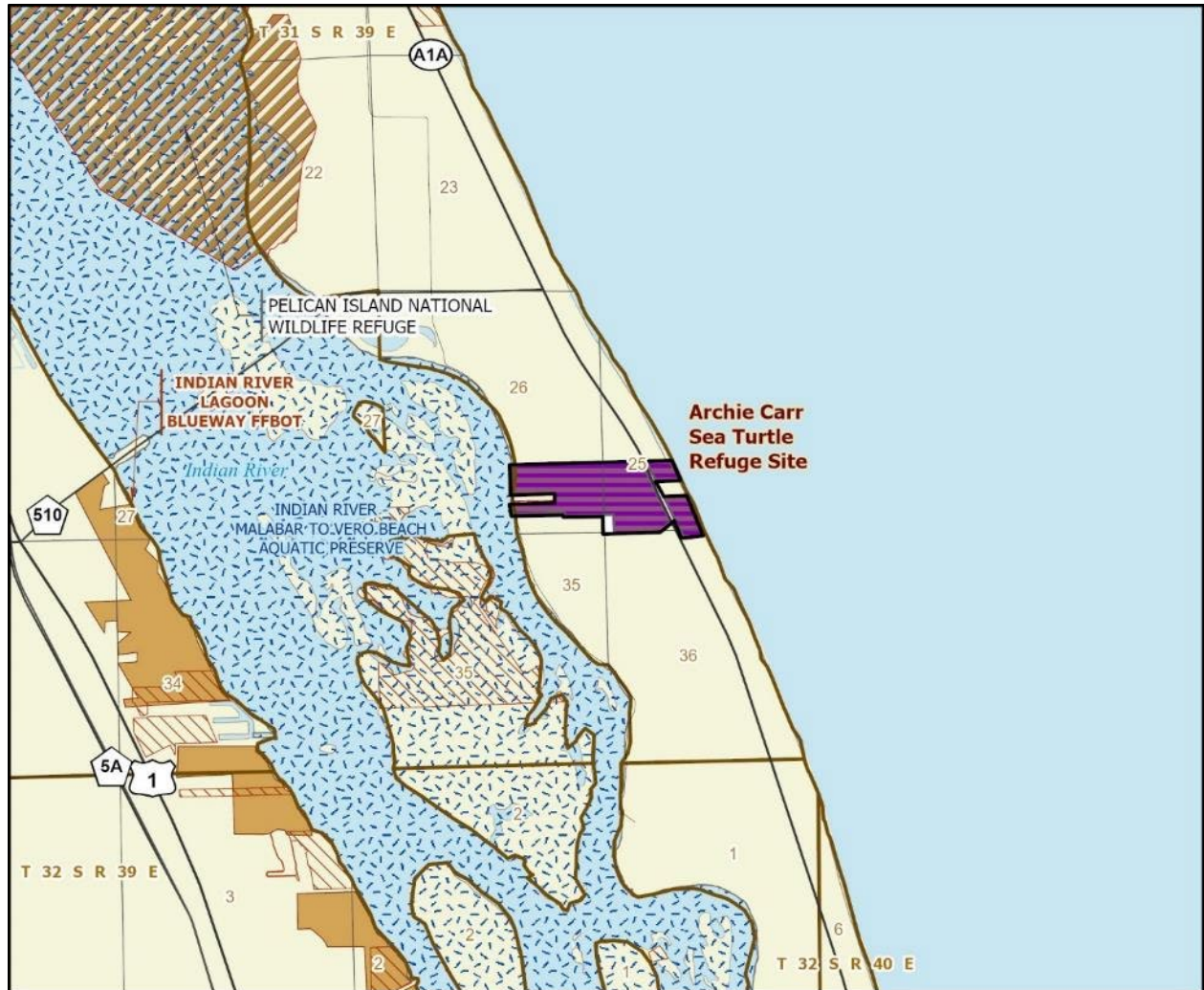
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



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Map 5: FNAI, January 2020



**ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 5**

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020



Map 6: FNAI, January 2020