

Ayavalla Plantation

Less-Than-Fee

Leon

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2008
<i>Project Acres</i>	6,098
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	6,098
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$18,010,189

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Ayavalla Plantation project in northern Leon County will assist in the coordination of conservation linkages between properties. This project will connect the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area to properties near Lake Jackson. The property will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, habitats and natural community levels through the preservation of large natural landscapes. The Ayavalla Plantation will support state water quality and quantity by protecting the sites 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 has many parcels, all 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 and one-half miles of river frontage. The eastern-southeastern boundary is partly defined by Meridian Road (County Road 155) and part of the western boundary fronts on Old Bainbridge Road (County Road 157). The project is also adjacent to land managed by Leon County as a local park.

The Ayavalla Plantation landscape is part of the Red Hills Physiographic Province, characterized by rolling terrain and clay soils that rest upon limestone. The 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 pine forest but has been heavily disturbed by centuries-long agriculture and timber production, food plots, and clearing, with substantial disturbance to native groundcover. However, a pine component is once again prominent, including shortleaf, loblolly, and slash pines rather than the original longleaf pine. Roughly one-third of these pinelands are now in intensive silviculture. The remainder more closely resembles

upland pine forest at a structural level although it is not considered by FNAI as a native upland pine forest community.

Approximately fifteen 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 on the upland habitat within this project include the Sherman’s fox squirrel, gopher frog, pine barrens treefrog, and the 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

FNAI Elements	Score
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/S3

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 scientific and educational tours, walking or biking trails along the edges of the property, and special opportunity hunts for disabled individuals or military veterans.

Acquisition Planning

2008

On June 13, 2008, the ARC approved the Ayavalla Plantation Florida Forever project. In 2008, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$23,675,453.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Less-than-Fee projects.

Coordination

Leon County is supportive of the goals of the acquisition but is not currently a partner in the acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ayavalla Plantation would be managed for conservation purposed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.



Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Ayavalla Plantation 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 OES.

Management Prospectus

OES will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.



