

Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

Critical Natural Lands

Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion, Putnam

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1995
<i>Project Acres</i>	92,640
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	40,083
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$26,730,231
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	52,558
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$132,744,322

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will protect large expanse of flatwoods, sandhills, and scrub in central Putnam County, extending to the Cross Florida Greenway along the Ocklawaha River. The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will fill in gaps in the Greenway and ensure habitat for wildlife such as Florida black bear, scrub jays, and plants such as the Etoniah rosemary. The Greenway itself is a unique strip of conservation land that makes a cross-section of the Florida peninsula from the Withlacoochee River to the St. Johns River and provides opportunities for long-distance hiking , fishing, camping, and hunting.

General Description

The project consists of a large tract extending north from the Cross Florida Greenway to Clay County, and four smaller tracts designed to fill in gaps in state ownership along the Cross Florida Greenway. The original Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project is important for the survival of black bear in northeast Florida. The site includes many acres of pine plantation and cutover flatwoods, but also high-quality sandhill, a unique white-cedar swamp along Deep Creek, and patches of sand pine scrub near Etoniah Creek that harbor at least a dozen rare species. They include fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, indigo and pine snakes, rare crayfish, and seven rare plants, including the only known site for the federally listed Etoniah rosemary. The smaller tracts include high-quality floodplain swamps along the Ocklawaha River, mixed forest land near U.S. 441 south of Ocala, and disturbed pinelands between the old Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Withlacoochee River. Eight archaeological sites are known on the project. The greatest threat to the project area is intensive logging, but the uplands on the large tract are suitable for residential development. The smaller sites would lose their value as connectors if developed for residences.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
<i>Etonia rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G1G2/S1S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Gopher tortoise acrolophus moth	G1/S1
<i>Curtiss' loosestrife</i>	G1/S2
<i>bog spicebush</i>	G3/S1
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>pinkroot</i>	G2/S2

Public Use

The Cross Florida Greenway connectors will form part of a conservation and recreation area and the majority of the large (Etoniah) tract will become a state forest. The various parts of the project will offer opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

Etoniah Creek

Phase I tracts (essential) include Stokes and Agricola, formerly Deltona (acquired), Union Camp, Manning (acquired) and Interlachen Lake Estates Subdivision. Life-of-the-South (Odom) is also an essential tract. Phase II includes other large ownerships, such as Roberts, as well as other smaller tracts and subdivisions.

Cross Florida Greenway

Phase I (essential) includes the westernmost segment (Deep Creek Corridor) consisting of a portion of the Miller family ownerships and approximately 14 other owners.

Cross Florida Greenway Phase II

The priority tract (essential) within this portion of the project is the Inglis Island site (acquired by OGT).

1994

On July 20, 1994, the LAAC added 210 acres to the boundaries of the predecessor projects.

1995

On December 7, 1995, the LAAC approved the addition of 2,664 acres to the project boundary. The addition included lakeshore and lake bottom associated with Rodman Reservoir. A second modification was made to allow SJRWMD to acquire, on the State's behalf, a large ownership (Odom) not identified in the original Phase I area. Acquisition of the canal easement areas is also a priority.

1996

On March 15, 1996, the LAAC approved adding 141 acres to the project boundaries. On December 5, 1996, the LAAC transferred the Georgia-Pacific ownership (18,146 acres) to the Less-Than-Fee category.



1998

On October 15, 1998, the LAAC designated as essential an additional 9,870 acres - Georgia-Pacific and seven smaller tracts in a corridor between two already acquired tracts, and portions of the Roberts ownership.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the ARC added 2,110 acres (Florida Power ownership along the CCFG State Recreation and Conservation areas) to the project. On January 25, 2001, ARC added 1,543 acres to the project boundary in the Deep Creek area. On May 1, 2001, ARC added 1,110 acres to the boundaries of the project.

2003

On February 25, 2003, the project was added to the Group A list of Florida Forever projects.

2007

On April 13, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 85-acre addition, known as Foxtrotter Ranch, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by OGT, and consisted of one landowner, Richard Simon, one parcel, and a taxable value of \$2,267,908. OGT will manage the site. The house (approximately 2.5 acres) is not included in the addition, however, it may be donated to the state subsequent to acquisition.

2008

In June 2008, 1.19 acres of the Harrington ownership were purchased for \$15,000 with FFS Florida Forever funds. In September, October and November of 2008, FFS used Florida Forever funds to buy the following acreages: 1.08 acres (Fred Yankee, LLC) for \$13,500; 0.87 acres (Goddard) for \$23,000; (Land Reclamation, Inc.) for \$15,000; (Cann) for \$23,000; 1.21 acres (Martin) for \$14,000; 1.27 acres (Vehoski) for \$14,000; 1 acre (Murray) for \$15,000; 1.25 acres (Uttech) for \$11,500; 2.5 acres (Lachmansingh) for \$25,000; 3.61 acres (Chapman) for \$37,500; 2.53 acres (Thornton) for \$23,000; 1.27 acres (Dubay) for \$14,000; 1.24 acres (Hood) for \$15,500; 1.25 acres (Contreras) for \$14,000; and 1.24 acres (South) for \$14,000.

2009

On January 21, 2009, SJRWMD purchased 208 acres for \$474,363 (Plum Creek). In October 2009, 1.25 acres were purchased from Margaret Vail for \$14,000. In November 2009, 1.25 acres were purchased from Kenneth/Diane Schwing for \$15,500. On December 10, 2009, FFS purchased 1.43 acres for \$13,500 and will manage this tract.

2010

On November 4, 2010, FFS purchased 106 acres (Moore, \$405,000) with Florida Forever funds. FFS will manage this.

2011

On January 3, 2011, FFS purchased 1.29 acres (Williams-\$18,000 with FF funds) On May 2, 2011 the FFS purchased 1.25 acres (Cearley-\$12,000) in the CFG portion.

On August 3, 2011, FFS purchased 3.69 acres (Interlachen Lakes Estates) for \$27,500.



On December 9, 2011, ARC recommended a 1,509-acre reduction to the project boundary containing residential development, commercial buildings, and other infrastructure and placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On September 21, 2012, the BOT acquired 1.25 acres for \$6,000 to be managed as part of the Etoniah Creek State Forest.

2018

On August 24, 2018, ARC members voted to amend the project by adding two parcels, 48 acres, in Putnam County to the project boundary. The addition was proposed by Patrick E. Troxel and is near the town of Satsuma.

2020

In January 2020, a 3,562.0-acre conservation easement was acquired from Wetlands Preserve, LLC in Putnam County at a cost of \$3,380,000.00. OES will serve as the easement monitor for the property.

In February 2020, a 47.96-acre property was acquired in fee from the Estate of Eddie Elray Troxel at a cost of \$22,500.00. This will be managed by DRP as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area. Two donations containing 74.77 acres were acquired and will be managed by FFS as part of Etoniah Creek State Forest.

2021

DEP acquired fee simple 1,889.71 acres in Marion County from the Florida Power and Light Company that will be managed by DRP as an addition to Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

Coordination

SJRWMD was the intermediary in the acquisition of the Manning tract and has provided information and expertise on several other tracts. OGT used additions and inholding funds to acquire Inglis Island. DSL will assume the lead on acquisition of the remaining tracts.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.



Manager (s)

FFS proposes to manage the 57,000-acre Etoniah Creek portion of the project and the DRP will manage the remaining lands near the old Cross Florida Barge Canal. FFS will monitor compliance with the terms of any less-than-fee purchase agreement.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The large size, restorable pine plantations, and diversity of the Etoniah Creek portion of this project make it highly desirable for management as a state forest. The Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area includes scenic and historic rivers, lakes, wetlands, and uplands. It is also near, or contiguous with, many other state-owned lands. The Cross Florida Greenway portion of this project, together with the lands already in the Greenway, has the configuration, location, and the resources to qualify as a state recreation area.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

There are no known major disturbances in the Etoniah Creek portion that will require extraordinary attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. Lands in the Cross Florida Greenway portion are generally moderate-need tracts.

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure Once the core area of the Etoniah Creek portion is acquired, FFS will provide access to the public for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the tract, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. FFS will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The tract's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for the Etoniah Creek portion will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age.

Infrastructure will primarily be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education. For the Greenway portion, activities within the first year after acquisition will primarily consist of site security, resource inventory, removal of trash, and resource-management planning. Long-range activities proposed include a multipurpose trail and facilities for public access.

Revenue-generating potential

In the Etoniah Creek portion of the project, FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-



generating potential for this project is expected to be moderate. In the CFG portion, no revenues are expected to be generated within the first three years after acquisition. However, as the CFG is developed during its 20-year facility development plan, revenues will be derived from user fees, the sale of products from the lands (limerock berm and timber), and the sale of surplus lands.

Cooperators in management activities

FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Currently, properties along the Greenway are managed in partnership with Marion County, FWC, and private individuals for recreational purposes.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	\$36,380	\$36,380
OPS	\$72,660	\$72,660
Expense	\$62,301	\$46,362
OCO	\$3,167	\$0
FCO	\$100,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$274,508	\$185,402

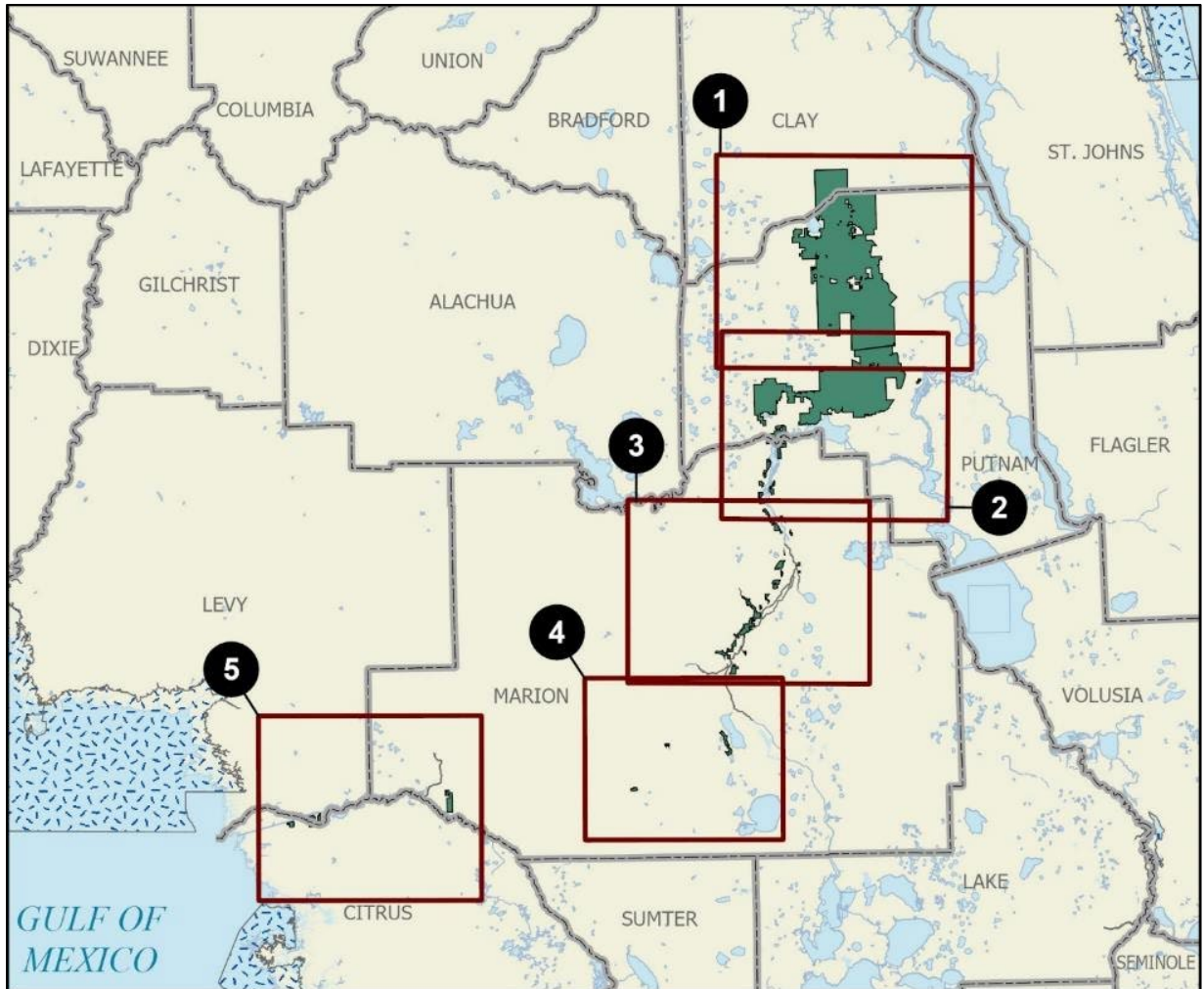
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted in 1995

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	\$45,337	\$56,487
OPS	\$0	\$3,000
Expense	\$11,225	\$22,825
OCO	\$43,320	\$50,500
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$99,882	\$132,814

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted in 1995



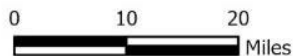


ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

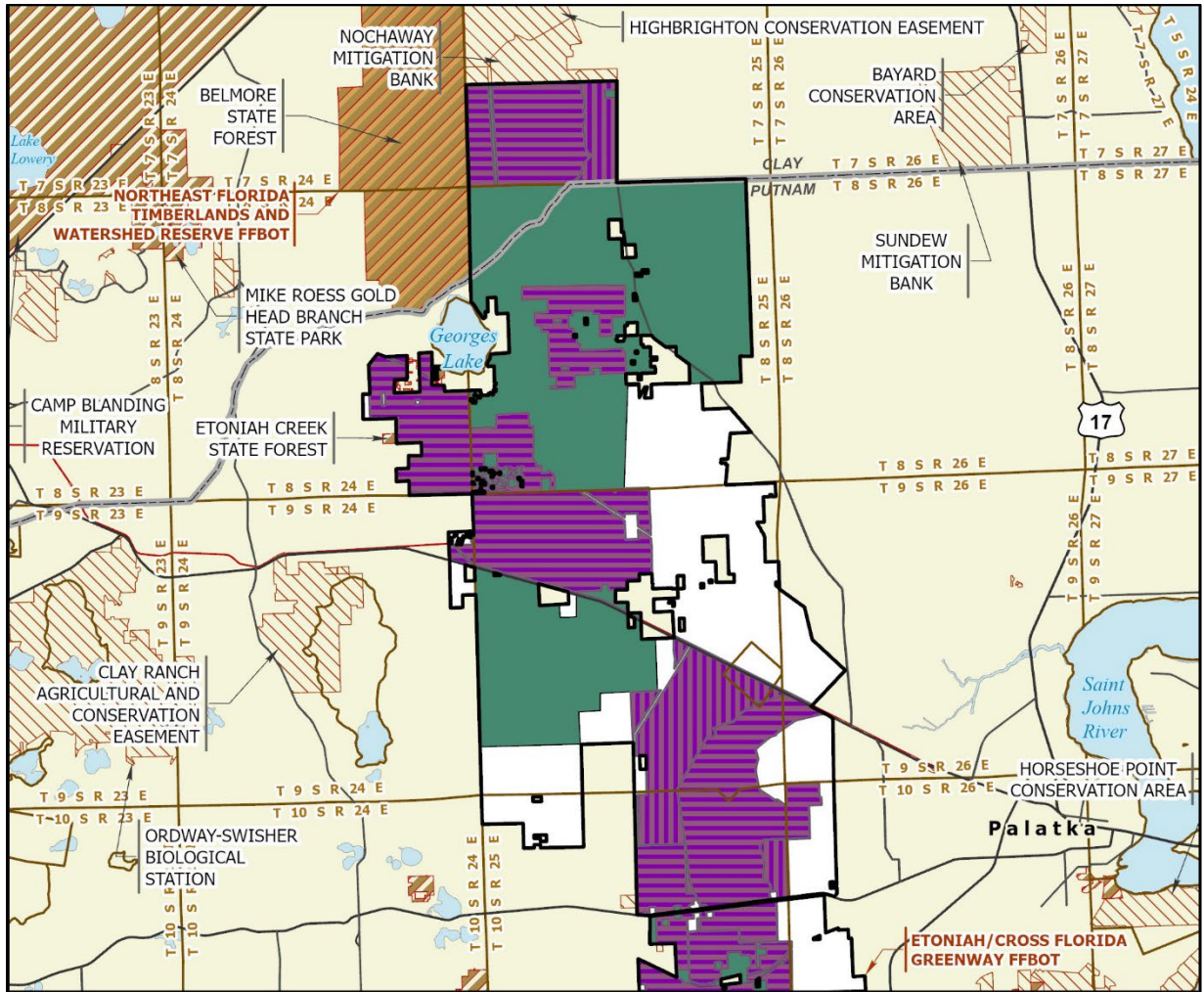
CITRUS, CLAY, LEVY, MARION, AND PUTNAM COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020



Map 1: FNAI, January 2020



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 1

CLAY AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

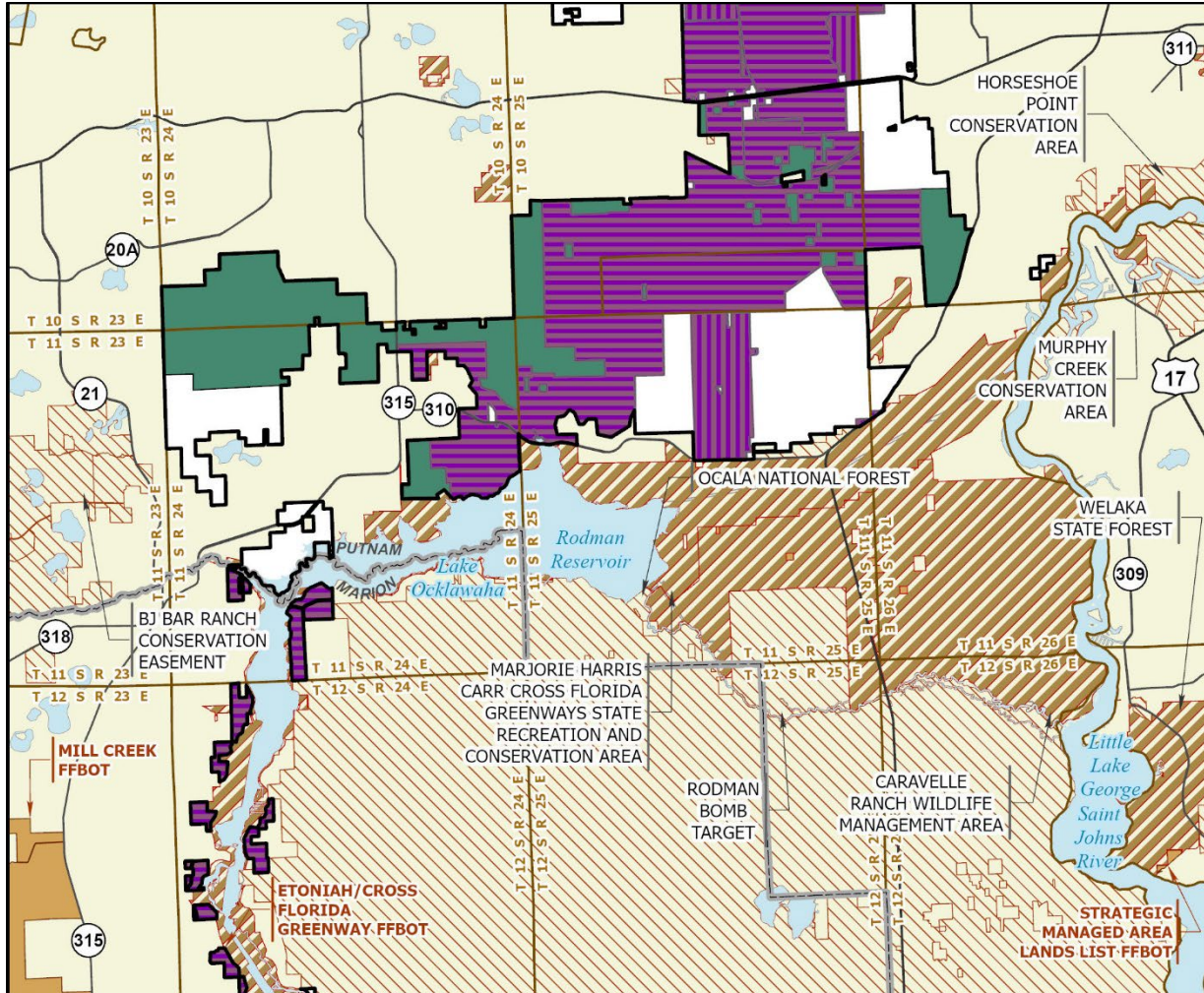
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



FEBRUARY 2022

Map 2: FNAI, February 2022





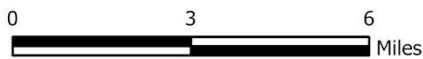
ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 2

MARION AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

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

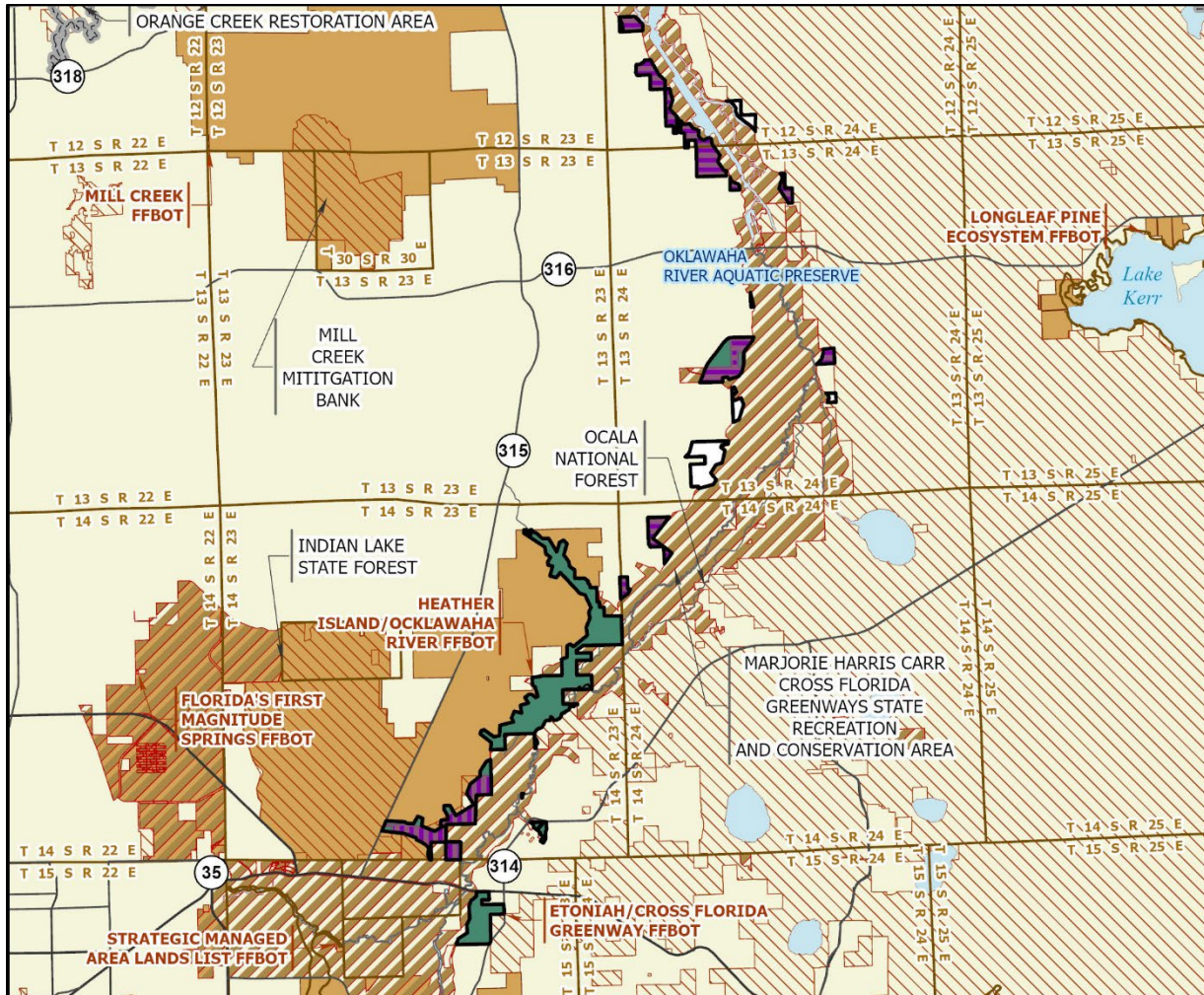


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Map 3: FNAI, February 2022

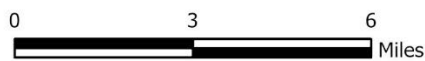




ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 3

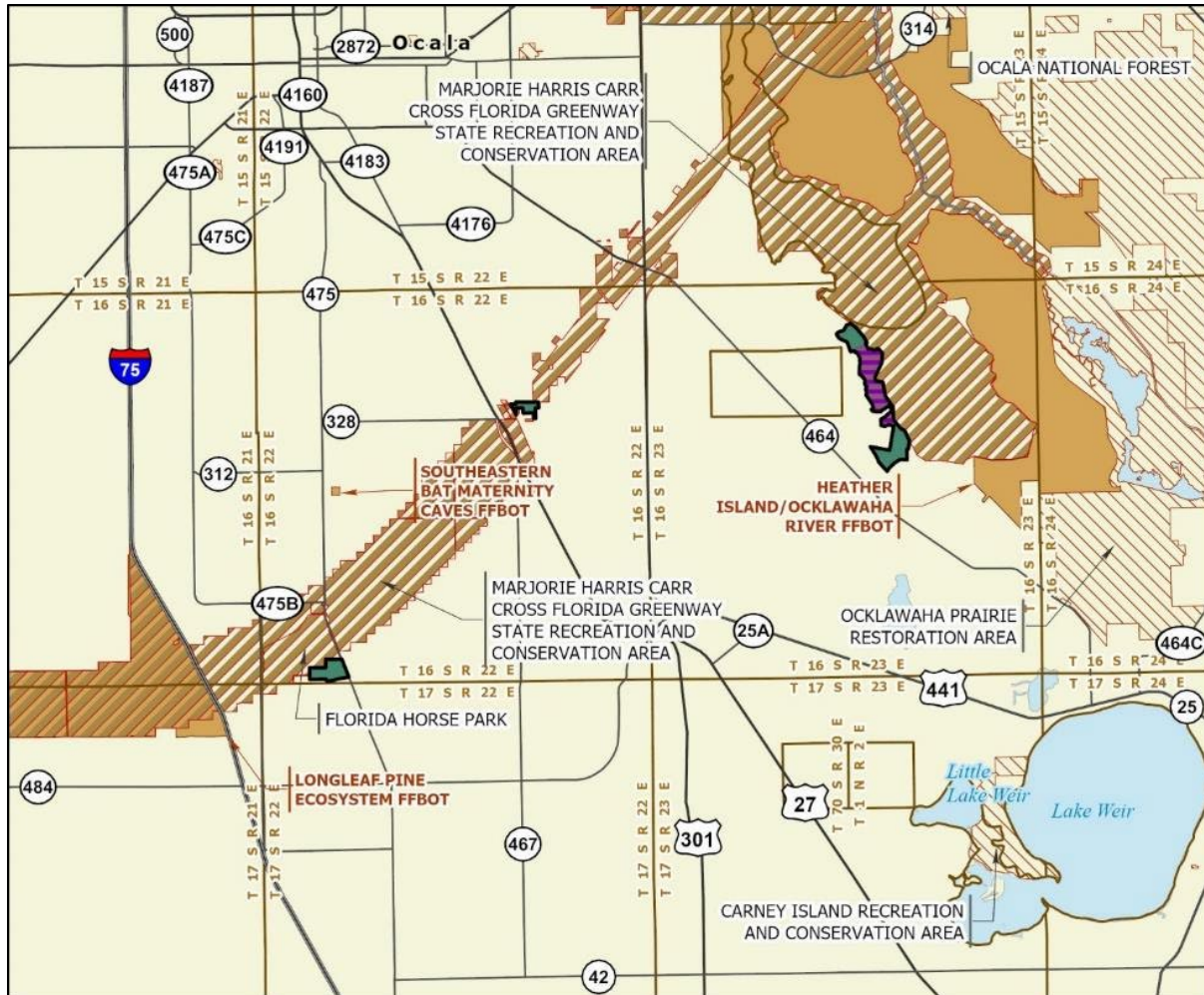
MARION COUNTY

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



FEBRUARY 2022

Map 4: FNAI, February 2022



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY

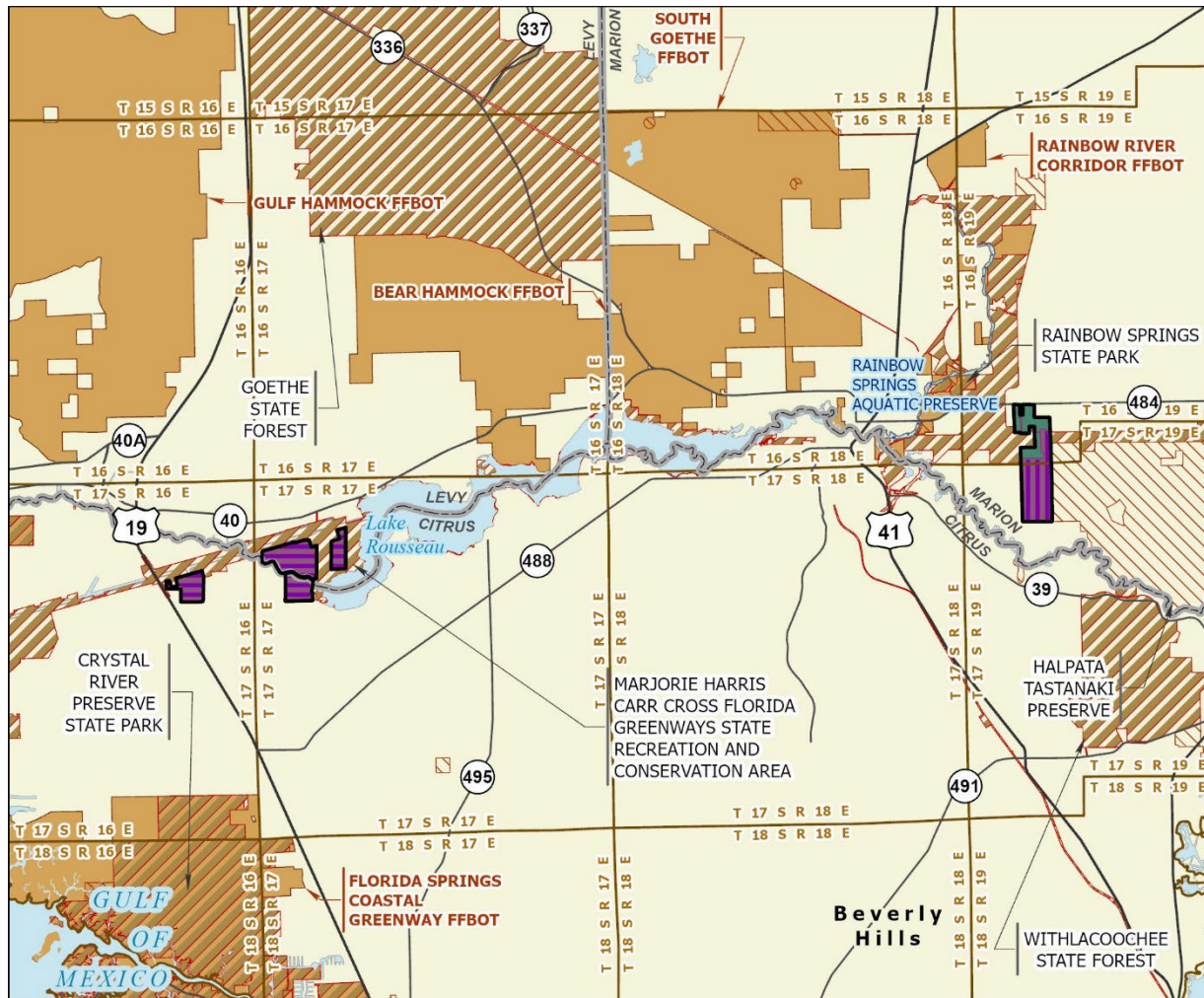
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020



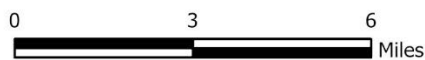
Map 5: FNAI, January 2020



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 5

CITRUS, LEVY, AND MARION COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2022

Map 6: FNAI, February 2022

