

North Waccasassa Flats

Less-Than-Fee

Gilchrist

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2018
<i>Project Acres</i>	14,153
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	14,153
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$35,604,113

Purpose for State Acquisition

The North Waccasassa Flats project will enhance the preservation of strategic habitat and rare-species habitat, protect the headwaters of a tributary to the Santa Fe River, the natural floodplain function of 9,585 acres, and 7,358 acres of functioning wetland systems. The entire 14,153-acre project is a groundwater-recharge area.

General Description

The North Waccasassa Flats property is a less than-fee proposal located in Gilchrist County. The property is owned by the Lyme Timber Company and is bordered on the north by Loncala, Inc. and other silviculture and agriculture-oriented landowners. The east and west boundaries consist of numerous rural residential and agricultural properties. The southern boundary is a livestock operation. and the property is bisected by County Road 340. The project area is also crossed by a highway, a former rail line, one newly constructed pipeline and by utility transmission corridors. Important established conservation areas nearby include Fort White WEA to the north and Bell Ridge Longleaf WEA to the west. There are also numerous State Parks, County Parks, and private conservation easements along the Santa Fe River to the north and the Suwannee River to the west. Most of the project area is completely undeveloped though there are many miles of unpaved roads servicing forestry and hunting activities.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2

Public Use

North Waccasassa Flats is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access.

Acquisition Planning

This area has been considered for conservation projects in the past, including a 1980s proposal under the CARL program for a 56,000-acre State Forest. At that time the landowner did not want to sell in a phased schedule. The SRWMD also proposed a planned 34,000-acre project overlapping this area.

2017

On October 31, 2017, the Conservation Fund sponsored the 14,153-acre proposal for the North Waccasassa Flats.

On April 20, 2018, the ARC voted to add this proposal to the Florida Forever list.

Coordination

This area has also been considered for acquisition through the Rural and Family Lands program and by the SJRWMD, which means there may be partnership opportunities.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the North Waccasassa Flats would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

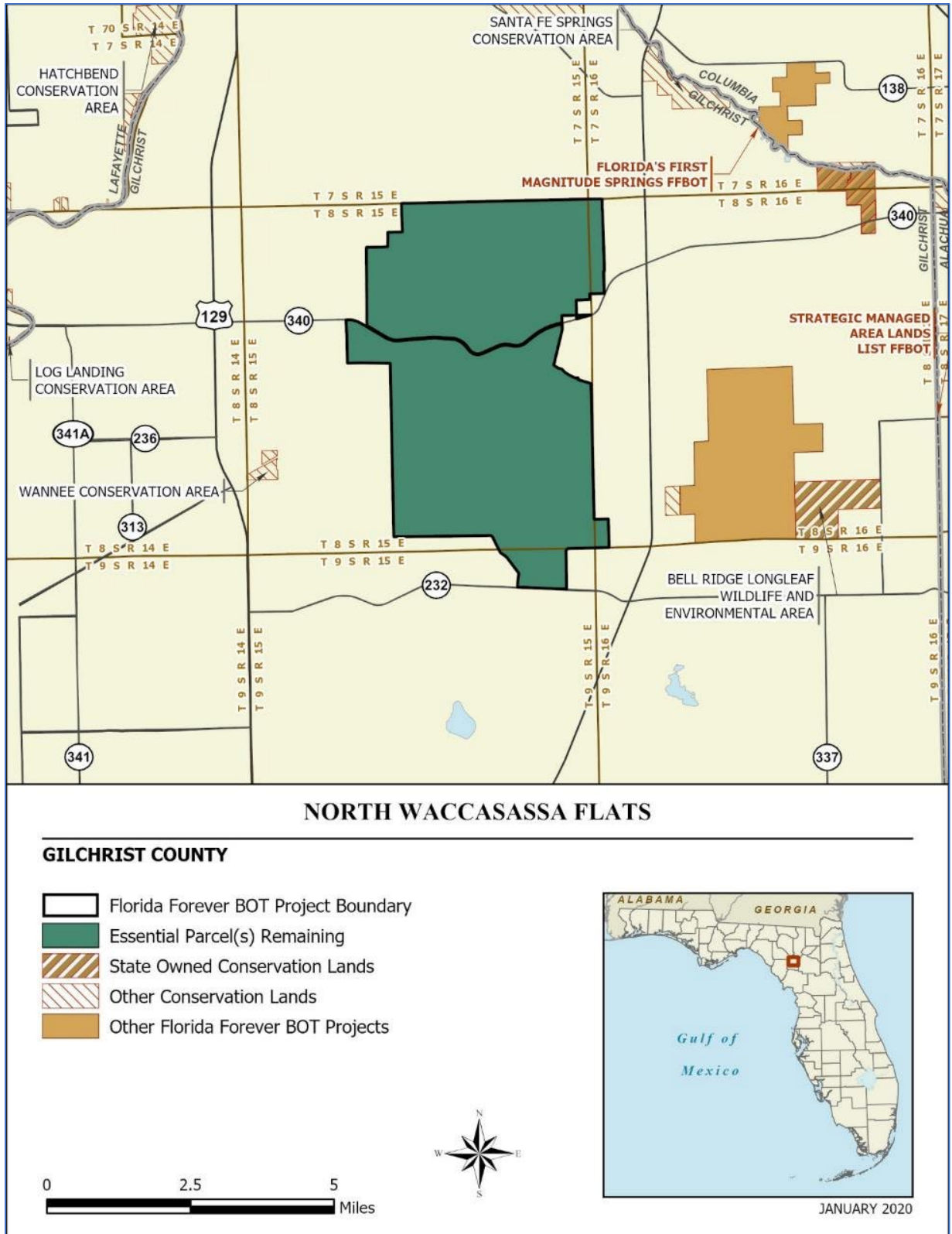
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the North Waccasassa Flats would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring 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.





Map 1: FNAI, January 2020