

Raiford to Osceola Greenway

Less-Than-Fee

Baker, Union

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2010
<i>Project Acres</i>	67,702
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	24
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	67,678
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$96,907,004

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG) project was created at the request of OGT to divide the Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway (CB-OG) into two projects. The R-OG project is a 67,702-acre portion of the 2003 CB-OG Florida Forever project. Public acquisition of the R-OG project will provide a landscape connector between the CB-RG project on the east which connects to the Northeast Florida Timberlands further east, the Raiford WMA on the south, and Osceola National Forest on the northwest. The project will through the protection, restoration, and maintenance of the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state by preserving four major blackwater streams from three major river basins originating within the project area, as well as several headwaters and tributaries. It will also increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources, many of these areas are in pine plantation. In addition, natural areas of floodplain, basin, and baygall swamp can be found on more than 32,000 acres. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated National Scenic Trail.

General Description

The Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway (CB-OG) project was subdivided to create two projects: Camp Blanding- Raiford Greenway (CB-RG) and Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG). The Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG) project consists of land abutting the CB-RG project on the east to the southeast boundary of the Osceola National Forest. It connects several managed areas in Baker and Union Counties, resulting in a potential contiguous area of more than half a million acres of publicly owned, managed, or planned to own/managed lands in north-central Florida. Physiographic features of interest include: The Trail Ridge, the eastern portions of the Cody Scarp, and several large wetlands that have been ecologically devalued by silvicultural activities or mining.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Chapman's fringed orchid</i>	G2/S2
<i>hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
Many-lined salamander	G5/S1
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Timber rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

Public Use

The Raiford to Osceola Greenway is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, through discussion, representatives of the landowner have indicated that they will consider allowing continued limited public uses that are being allowed today. The R-OG project is an expansive area that could have significant natural resource-based potential if portions of the project were available to the public. Particularly significant is the block of land west of SR 231 containing Palestine Lake. All trails throughout the project have potential for being multiple-use trails with hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the ARC added the CB-OG project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2004 Priority List. This fee-simple and less-than-fee project, sponsored by the OGT and the CTF, consisted of approximately 153,000 acres, multiple ownerships, and a 2002 taxable value of \$28,508,089. The essential parcels were identified as the Plum Creek and Wachovia ownerships.

2006

On October 13, 2006, the ARC adopted a redesign of the essential parcels within the original project. The number and acreage of essential parcels was revised by removing 106 parcels (64,250 acres) and adding 52 parcels (10,180 acres). The result of this was that a total of 54,020 acres remaining within the boundary were longer designated as essential. The new essential parcel configuration will connect Camp Blanding to the Raiford WMA, then to the Osceola National Forest.

2010

On June 11, 2010, the ARC adopted a redesign to the CB-OG project that identified 67,457 acres in the R-OG as well as 33,977 acres in the CB-RG. After the most recent project redesign in 2010, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$193,255,020.



2011

On December 9, 2011, the ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category in the Florida Forever list.

Coordination

CTF and OGT are considered acquisition partners on this project.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Raiford to Osceola Greenway would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

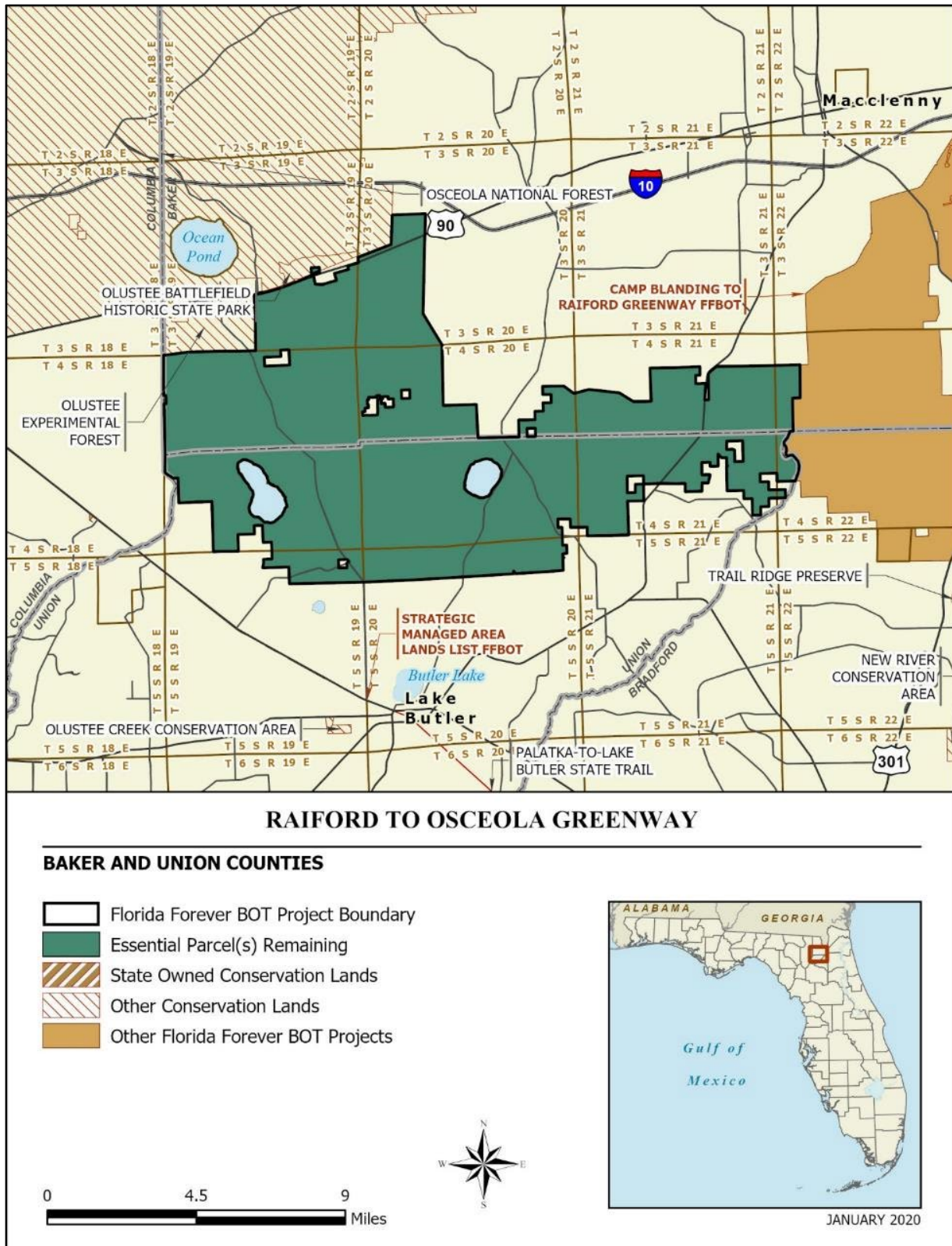
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Raiford to Osceola Greenway 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.





Map 1: FNAI, January 2020