Strategic Managed Area Lands List

Critical Natural Lands

Alachua, Bay, Broward, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Washington

Year Added to Priority List	2018
Project Acres	11,844
Acquired Acres	326
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,941,265
Remaining Project Acres	11,518
2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$53,155,920

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of these specific inholding parcels would enhance or facilitate management of properties already under public ownership. Collectively, acquisition of these fee simple parcels will meet the Florida Forever goal of enhancing the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects (essential natural resources, ecosystem service parcels, and connecting linkage corridors as identified and developed by the best available scientific analysis).

General Description

The Strategic Managed Areas Lands List, sponsored by DRP, OGT, ORCP, FFS, and FWC, is a collection of single-owner parcels statewide that would augment or improve management of existing state-managed conservation lands, if acquired. The parcels included have been identified as part of the optimum management boundary within the approved management plans of ten state parks, seven trail corridors, ten state forests, and seven wildlife management/environmental areas. None of these parcels are located within the boundary of another Florida Forever project on the priority list. The largest parcel in this project would become part of the 77.8-thousand-acre Fakahatchee Strand State Park in Collier County, if acquired. The smallest is 2 acres of beachfront land on the Atlantic Ocean that would become part of the Mizell Johnson State Park in Broward County. About 7,038 acres of these proposals are in Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas.

The properties identified for better management for the DRP are properties adjoining existing state parks or railroad rights of way identified by OGT that would extend or further connect existing recreation trails such as the existing Palatka to Lake City Corridor or the new Georgia to Cross City Corridor. Properties chosen for better management by the FFS augment existing state forests such as the Blackwater River State Forest or the Peace River State Forest. Properties that would augment FWC lands would improve the management of such areas as the Andrews WMA in Levy County or the Lafayette Forest WEA in Lafayette County.

Listed species element occurrences were reported by FNAI by parcel. A total of 48 listed species were identified overall, but some species may be counted more than once, as this is a statewide, multi-parcel, multi-county project. The maximum number of listed species at one site was 7.

G5T1/S1
G3/S2
G3/S3
G5T4/S4
G1/S1
G1G2/S1S2
G2/S2
G2/S2
G4T2/S2
G3/S2
G3/S3

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

Public Use

Because these lands are to be acquired in full fee, they would increase the size of conservation or recreation areas and enhance the experience of such lands for members of the public. The public use would be predicated on the existing management of the adjoining areas. The parcels in this list all help to enhance essential natural resources, providing better operational or environmental management. The resource-based potential public use of the project is generally high, as the various parcels acquired in fee title can accommodate such activities as hiking, natural resource appreciation and education, picnicking, camping, bicycling, and horseback riding. Depending on management emphasis, fishing and hunting is also supportable.

Acquisition Planning

As the application requires, the owners of parcels in this project were notified by mail that the ARC would be considering a Florida Forever proposal that included their parcel in the boundary; and that, if or when they wished to sell their parcel, state acquisition could be possible using Florida Forever funding. They were also made aware that they could remove their parcels from the project's boundary at any time, but that removing the parcel from the boundary would make it ineligible for state acquisition. Florida statute requires that they send a certified letter requesting removal to the Division of State Lands.



2018

This project was approved by the ARC in October of 2018. All the parcels within the boundary are considered essential. The parcels are proposed for fee simple acquisition.

2019

In September 2019, ten parcels under a single ownership containing 120.19-acres (FWC Parcel One/FWC-1) was acquired fee simple from Zemel Family Ventures, LLC with funding from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (79%) and Florida Forever funding (21%). The property will be managed by FWC as part of Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb WMA.

2020

On August 21, 2020, the ARC approved an FWC addition of 249.5 acres in Hernando (Chassahowitzka WMA) and Palm Beach County (J.W. Corbett WMA) to the project boundary.

The ARC also approved an FFS addition of 41 acres in Lake County (Seminole State Forest) to the project boundary. One parcel was simultaneously removed (FFS Parcel Seven - HAU II LLC, 473.28 acres) to maintain a list of 10 agency parcels.

In 2020, DRP Parcels Four, Five and Eight containing a total of 66.34 acres were acquired. Parcel Four (River Rise State Park) contains 17.10 acres, Parcel Five (Silver Springs State Park) contains 9.86 acres and Parcel Eight (Dade Battlefield Historic State Park) contains 39.38 acres and will all be managed by DRP as part of the adjacent managed areas.

2021

On April 9, 2021, the ARC approved a DRP addition of 184 acres in Columbia and Sumter counties, and a reduction of 91 acres in Washington County. The ARC also approved an FWC addition of 158 acres in Charlotte County and a reduction of 40 acres in Taylor County.

On August 4, 2021, the ARC approved modifications to the project in order to include the ORCP, remove the limitation on the timing of boundary amendment proposals and increase the number of "ownerships" each agency could include within the project from 10 to 15.

On October 8, 2021, the ARC approved a DRP addition of 2.86 acres in Flagler County and an ORCP addition of 198.51 acres in Charlotte County.

Coordination

These parcels are eligible for Florida Forever program funding. While opportunities for partnerships may present themselves in the years ahead, Florida Forever is the primary funding source.

Management Policy Statement

These acquisitions would fall under the management plan of the existing conservation lands and projects they would be attached to. These are parcels that will improve resource management of state conservation lands.



Manager(s)

Each parcel would be managed by the applicable state agency manager as part of the site they are adjacent to. The managing agencies would be FFS, FWC, and DRP which includes OGT and ORCP.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

What qualifies this fee simple project for state designation is the intent is to improve management efficiency and effectiveness of state-managed conservation lands for citizens, visitors, natural systems and wildlife by adding strategic parcels or ownerships to the management units. These additions will make for more seamless operation and maintenance at the various sites.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

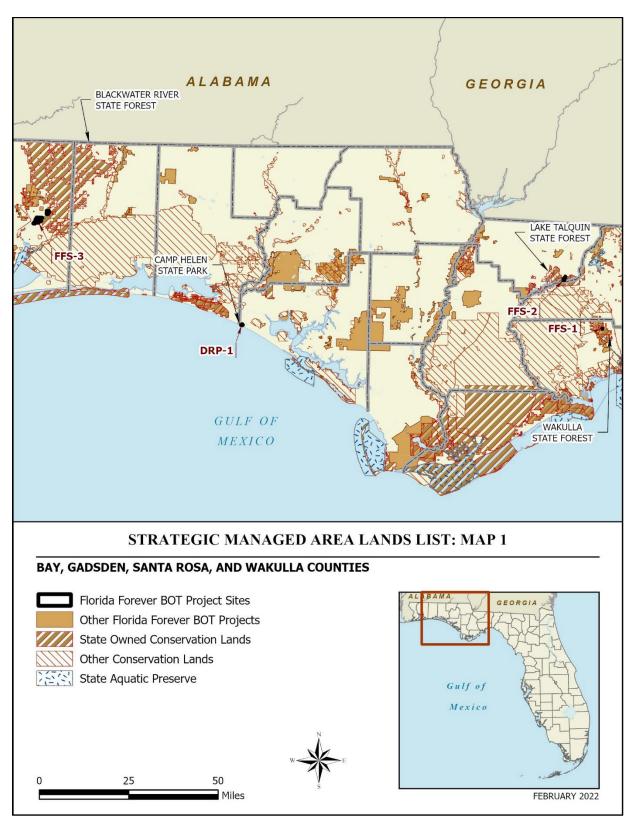
The conditions affecting intensity of management would vary by parcel, but would reflect those of the conservation land management unit contiguous with each parcel

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure

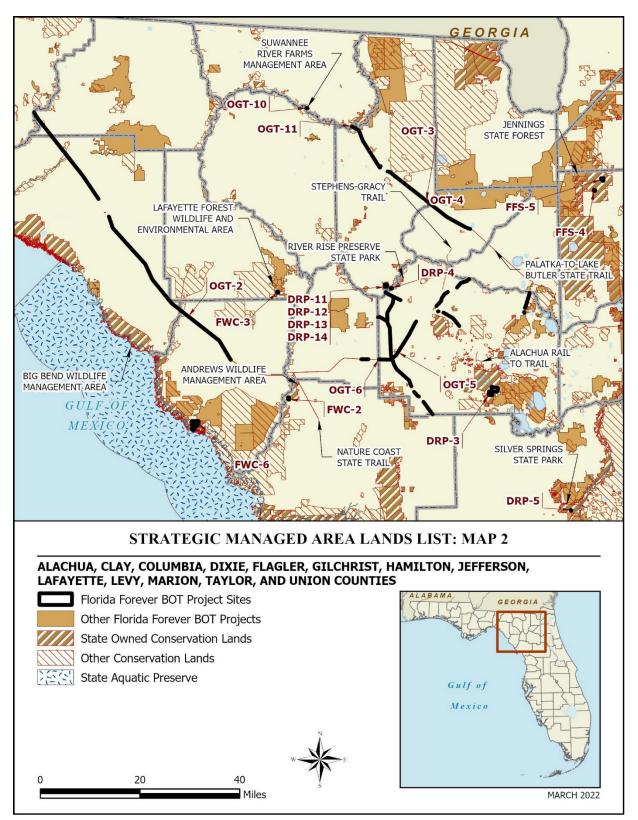
The timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure would become part of the general management of the larger management unit upon acquisition.

Revenue-generating potential

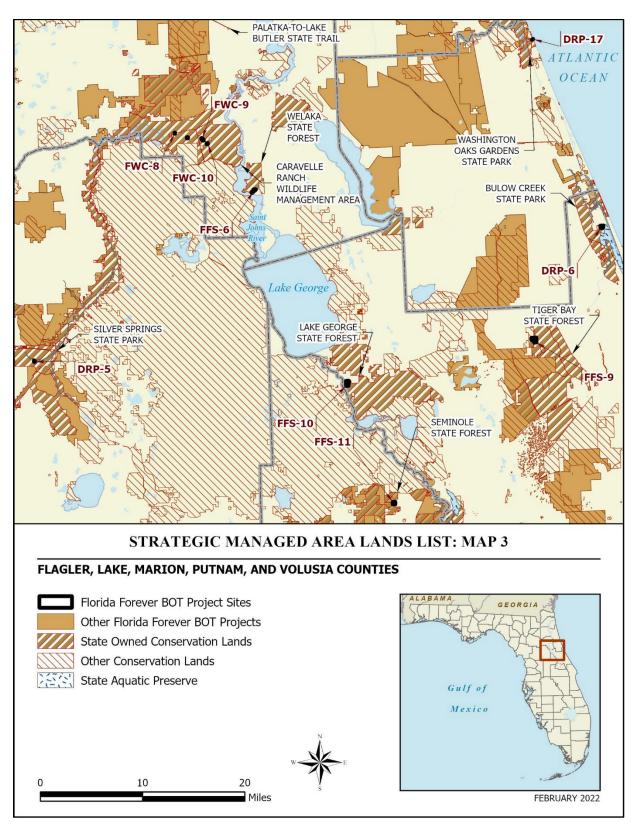
Revenue-generating potential for each parcel would vary, but management efficiencies from these acquisitions could result in a reduction of some management costs.



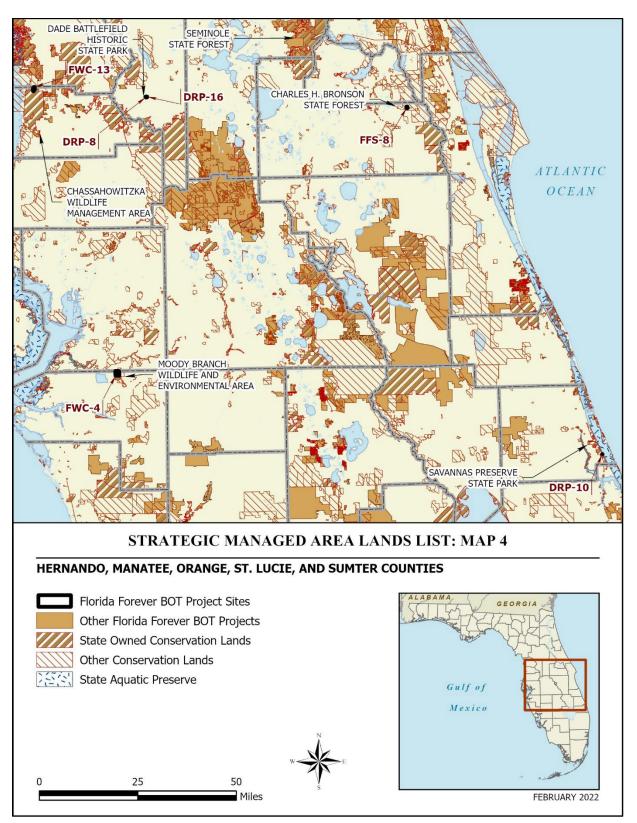
Map 1: FNAI, February 2022



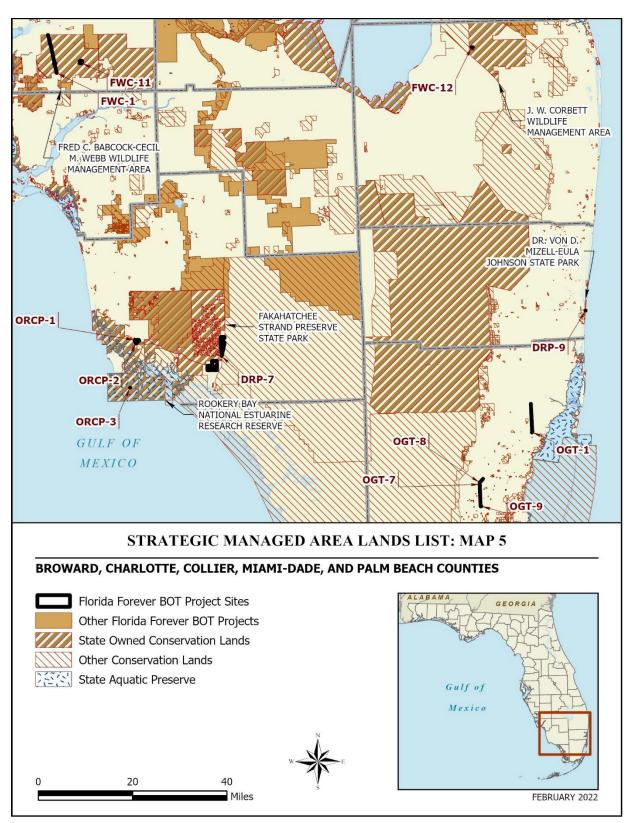
Map 2: FNAI, February 2022



Map 3: FNAI, February 2022



Map 4: FNAI, February 2022



Map 5: FNAI, February 2022