

# Eight Mile Property

Less-Than-Fee

Dixie County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2023
<i>Project Acres</i>	5,717
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	5,717
<i>2024 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$8,290,920

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Eight Mile Property project would connect existing conservation lands, protect and improve water quality within the Steinhatchee River watershed, and provide a critical habitat corridor for imperiled wildlife.

## General Description

The Eight Mile Property project is in Dixie County, bordering the Lafayette County line to the north. The predominant land use on the property is silviculture, and extensive areas of the property consist of planted pine or pine plantations that have been recently harvested. Despite past use of the uplands for silviculture, wetland areas of the Eight Mile Property appear to be in relatively natural condition. The project area is part of the Steinhatchee headwaters system and contains Eightmile Creek, a significant blackwater stream that flows across the property from the northeast corner to the southwest for approximately 3 miles. Along this length, Eightmile Creek is surrounded by a mature floodplain swamp. The most common wetland community on the property is basin swamp, which makes up most of the eastern third of the property. A large, mostly undisturbed bottomland forest is located at the center of the property.

Rare animals documented or reported within the proposed project area include white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). In addition, five archaeological sites have been recorded within the project area. The project is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

## FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<b><u>FNAI Elements</u></b>	<b><u>Score</u></b>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Wood stork	G4/S2
White ibis	G5/S4



## Public Use

The Eight Mile Property project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

## Acquisition Planning

### **2022**

On April 8, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Eight Mile Property project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

At the time of approval, approximately 70 percent of the project area was under consideration for a commercial wetland mitigation bank and was deemed non-essential for acquisition purposes.

## Management Policy Statement

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

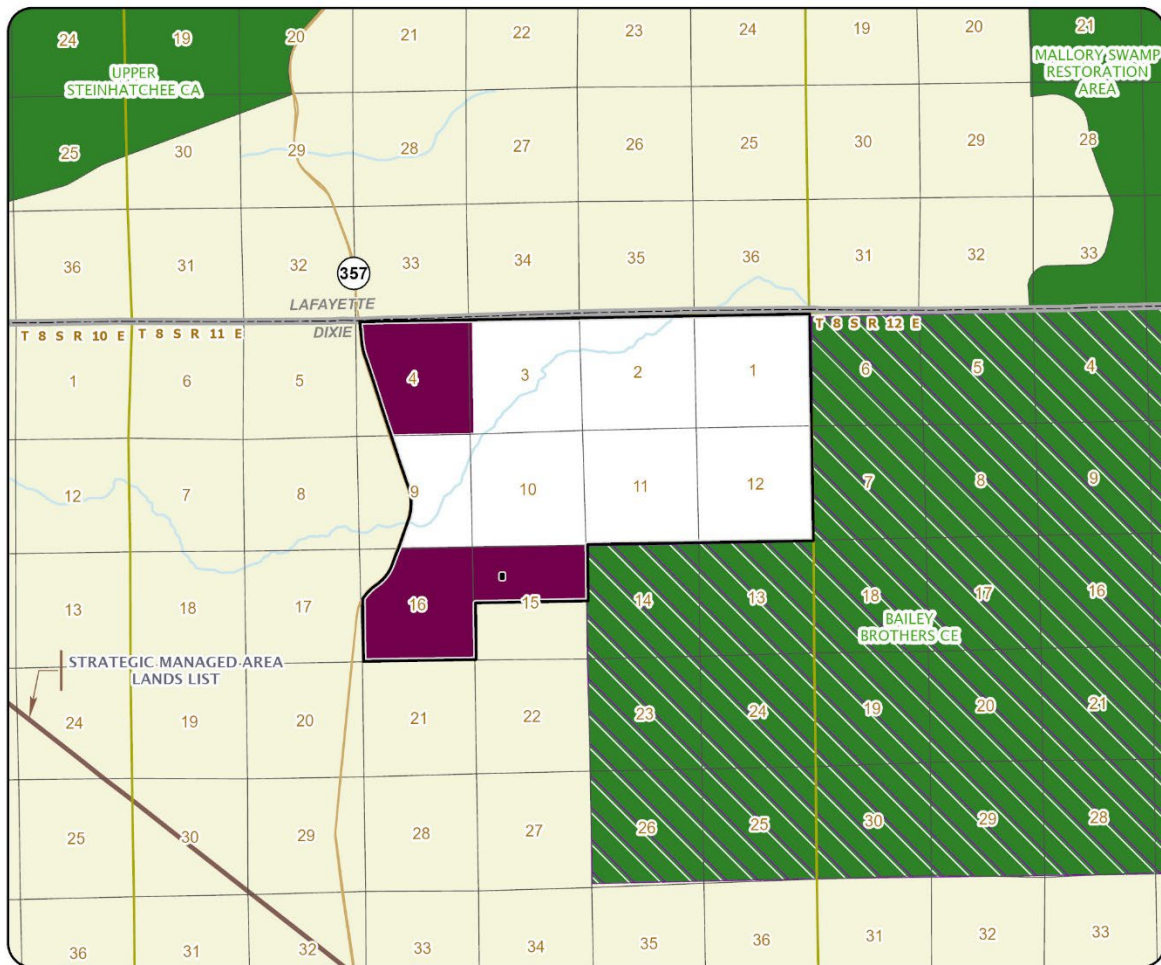
## Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.

## Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while management will be conducted by the property owner.





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