

Telogia Creek

Critical Natural Lands

Liberty County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2019
<i>Project Acres</i>	12,428
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	12,428
<i>2021 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$11,004,284

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Telogia Creek project will protect forested wetlands, pine plantations and imperiled and rare species habitat. The project has the potential to provide landscape connectivity to other conservation areas nearby, including the Apalachicola National Forest, Torreya State Park, Apalachee River Wildlife Management Area, Hosford Chapman’s Rhododendron Protection Zone Florida Forever project and Apalachicola River Florida Forever project. The project will support natural floodplain function, protect surface waters and preserve groundwater recharge areas. Telogia Creek provides habitat for species such as Florida black bears, Apalachicola alligator snapping turtle and wading birds. The project will provide the public with opportunities for resource-based recreation.

General Description

The proposal is on the south side of State Road 20 between Bristol and Hosford. The project is 12 miles upstream of Telogia Creek’s confluence with the Ochlockonee River. Conservation lands within five miles of the proposal area include Apalachicola National Forest, Torreya State Park, Apalachee River Wildlife Management Area and Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines. Nearby Florida Forever projects include the Apalachicola River project and Hosford Chapman’s Rhododendron Protection Zone project.

The streamside communities are generally intact, but the uplands have been altered by silviculture. Freshwater forested wetland covers 23 percent of the property and pine plantation (longleaf, loblolly and slash pine) is found over 65 percent of the proposal area. Floodplain swamps are the third highest percentage of landcover, at five percent. Invasive exotics are not common on the property; no feral hogs have been reported on-site.

Almost all the site provides protection of surface water, groundwater recharge areas and natural floodplain function. Species using the creek and associated streams include the Apalachicola alligator snapping turtle and various species of wading birds. The Florida pine snake and Florida black bear also use this property. The swallow-tailed kite is likely to use this area.



Based on location, there is a medium to high likelihood it has evidence of native habitation, but the effects of silvicultural plantings may have reduced the likelihood of such findings. There are remnants of an old bridge on the creek; only the posts remain. Telogia Creek was under lease for hunting at the time the project was added.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>toothed savory</i>	G3/S3

Acquisition Planning

2019

On October 18, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added Telogia Creek to the Florida Forever project list as a fee simple project. The project had a tax assessed value of \$12,900,000. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential and would be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area if acquired in fee.

Coordination

Other managers in this area include the Florida Forest Service, DEP, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Liberty County and other private conservation organizations. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would work with these agencies in their management of the property.

Management Policy Statement

Telogia Creek would be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in a manner that best meets the goals and objectives of the newly acquired wildlife management area. As a wildlife management area, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would manage Telogia Creek Wildlife Management Area under the multiple-use concept. Telogia Creek will provide resource-based public outdoor recreation and educations opportunities, while protecting the natural and historical resources. If acquired, all requirements of the Management Procedures document from the Division of Historical Resources will be followed with regard to any potential ground disturbing activities. Telogia Creek’s natural and historical resources would be managed for the purposes of acquisition included within the Florida Forever Act and Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes, under a management plan approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would be the manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Telogia Creek meets numerous Florida Forever goals, performance measures and criteria as outlined in section 259.105, Florida Statutes. This project would help meet Florida Forever goals including enhancing





the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels; protecting, restoring and maintaining the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state; ensuring sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; and increasing natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Resources described in this Management Prospectus indicate conditions affecting intensity of management. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas (such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas and wetlands) will be identified, appropriately managed and protected.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

If acquired, a management plan will be developed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs at Telogia Creek. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders.

Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of locally important, rare and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species in the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities.

Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation following acquisition. These potential recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be limited to only what is necessary for public access, facilities, security and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

Revenue-generating Potential

Revenue from conservation lands can include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary permits, fees and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area





meets the criteria of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Apiary Policy. In addition, the Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in Management Activities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, DEP, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Liberty County and other private conservation organizations in the continuing management of the property.

Management costs and sources of revenue

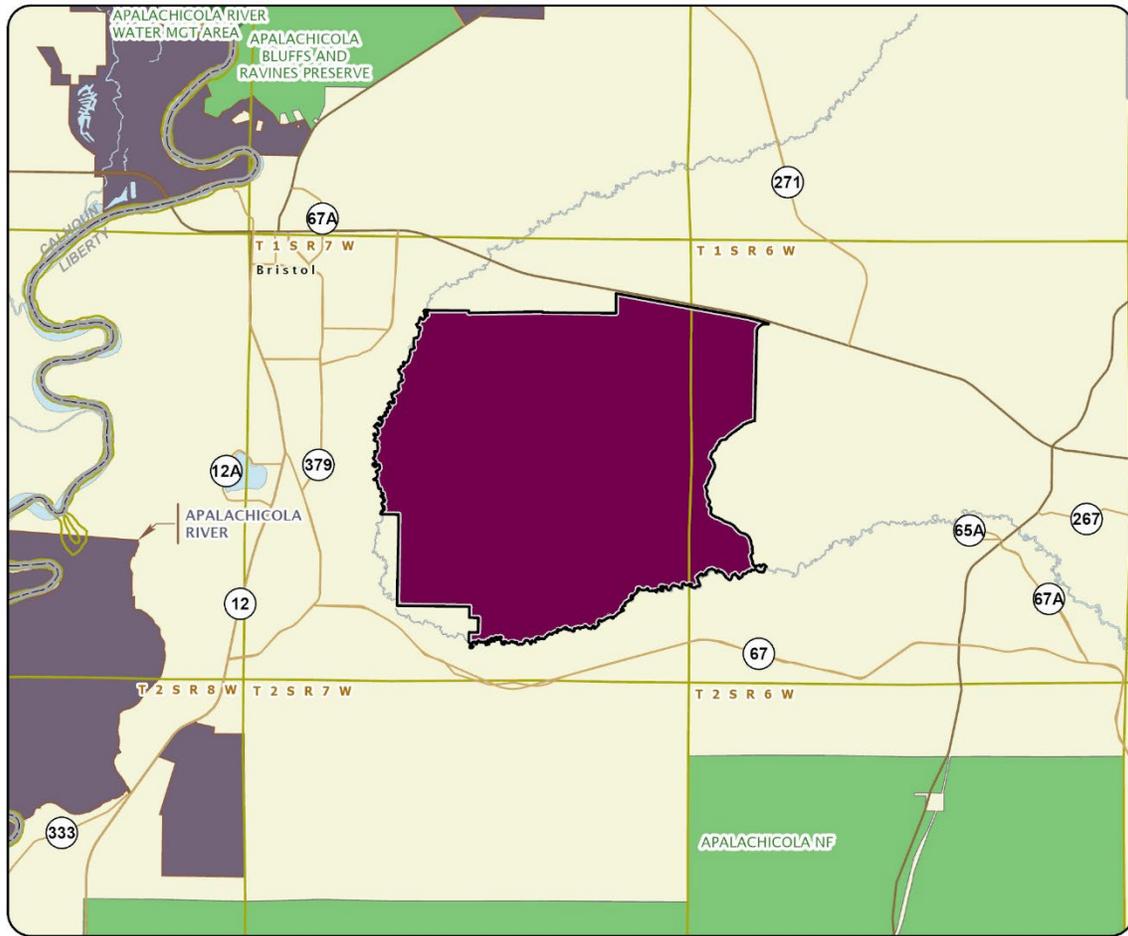
The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for Telogia Creek is estimated to be \$1,975,520, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Optimal management would require two full-time equivalent positions. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Recurring	Non-recurring	Notes
Source of funds			State permits, user fees
Salary	\$54,228		2 FTE positions
Expense	\$10,248		
OCO	\$658,712		
FCO	\$71,860	\$1,975,520	

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





TELOGIA CREEK

LIBERTY COUNTY

