

ITEM 4:

Consider a request to remove 0.28 acres from the boundary of the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever Project.

LOCATION:

Monroe County

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

John Nichols purchased one lot totaling 0.28 acres in Monroe County near Coco Plum Beach and Fat Deer Key in the Middle Keys on June 1, 2004. The land is included in the design of the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project. Mr. Nichols submitted a certified letter to DSL requesting removal of his property from the project. The property is a square tract that abuts land owned by Monroe County, an excavated canal and a private parcel.

On December 7, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council approved combining the Hammocks of the Lower Keys and Tropical Flyways projects into a single project named Florida Keys Ecosystem. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Division of Recreation and Parks are the proposed managers for most of the sites. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Monroe County, City of Marathon, and City of Islamorada are also proposed as managers for some properties. The project currently includes 13,580 acres of which 5,849 remain to be acquired.

Pursuant to Rule 18-24.005(5)(a), and 18-24.007(2), F.A.C., ARC shall remove property from a Florida Forever project boundary if a landowner requests to do so by a certified letter. ARC may recommend that the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) add such property back into the project boundary, if appropriate. Pursuant to Section 259.105(7)(b)2, Florida Statutes, the BOT has the option of adding this property back into the project boundary if the BOT determines that the property is critical to achieve the purposes of the project.

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote to approve the owner-requested deletion, with no further recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

- () ACCEPT OWNER-REQUESTED DELETION
- () ACCEPT OWNER-REQUESTED DELETION AND RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADD OWNER-REQUESTED DELETION BACK INTO THE PROJECT BOUNDARY

	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	DEP	Selected
Project								
Florida Keys Ecosystem								

Parcels to be deleted from the boundary: Monroe County Property Appraiser

Parcel Id	Acres	2021 Tax Value	2021 Market Value
00365960-00000	0.28	\$15,725	\$15,725
Totals	0.28	\$15,725	\$15,725



To: Deborah Burr, DEP/OES
 From: Dale R. Jackson, FNAI
 Date: January 3, 2022
 Subject: Proposed Boundary Modification to Florida Forever BOT Project: **Florida Keys Ecosystem** – Removal of Nichols property, Monroe County

The Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever BOT project encompasses dozens of tracts situated throughout most of the length of the Florida Keys. Its primary goals are to protect all significant unprotected hardwood hammocks remaining in the Keys as well as many rare native species of plants and animals. Completion of the project will also help to protect the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Keys, recreational and commercial fisheries, reefs around the islands, and opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and resources of the Keys.

The owner (John R. Nichols) proposes to delete from the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever BOT project a 0.28-acre parcel near Coco Plum Beach and Fat Deer Key in the Middle Keys. The major portion of Fat Deer Key crossed by US-1 is predominantly in state ownership. Connected by a road extending south from US-1, Coco Plum Beach is developed and altered by dredge-and-fill that has resulted in a series of canals and intervening fingers of land. The Nichols property lies on one of the small land fingers. The parcel is a square tract that on its south abuts an acquired tract of the project owned by Monroe County. Immediately north of the Nichols property is a developed parcel in private ownership (home with boats). The Nichols tract is bordered on the west by a short, excavated canal (potential boat access) and on the east by Avenue O, across which is another acquired tract of the project owned by the City of Marathon.

Based on an aerial photograph, the Nichols tract is relatively level, with a sand and/or limestone substrate. There is a moderate canopy of the invasive exotic Australian pine over a sparse shrub layer. The FNAI database contains no records of rare species on site, and their likelihood is low given the altered nature and current dominant vegetation on site.

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) at the end of this memo is based on the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment developed by FNAI. The data used in that analysis represent a standardized, statewide perspective of natural community distributions based primarily on data from the Cooperative Land Cover Map. The entire proposed removal contributes to Surface Water Protection and Natural Floodplain Function but to no other measures.

Florida Keys Ecosystem (Nichols Property): Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20220103

GIS ACRES = 0.28

MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
B4: Under-represented Natural Communities		
Upland Glade (G1)	0.00	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0.00	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0.00	0%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0.00	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0.00	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0.00	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0.00	0%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0.00	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0.00	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	0.00	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species		
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	0	
G5	0	
Total	0	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.22	100%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.22	100%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0.22	100%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Priority 7	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.22	100%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0.00	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0.00	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
C8: Functional Wetlands		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles) <small>(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails & Univ. Florida)</small>		
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number) 0 sites		
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	0.00	0%

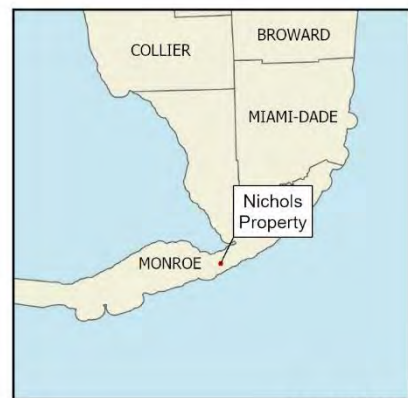
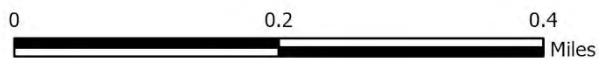
^aAcres of each resource in the project and percentage of project represented by each resource are listed except where noted. This analysis converts site boundary into pixels, which causes slight differences from GIS acres; this effect is most noticeable on small sites.



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM PROPOSED REMOVAL (NICHOLS PROPERTY)

MONROE COUNTY

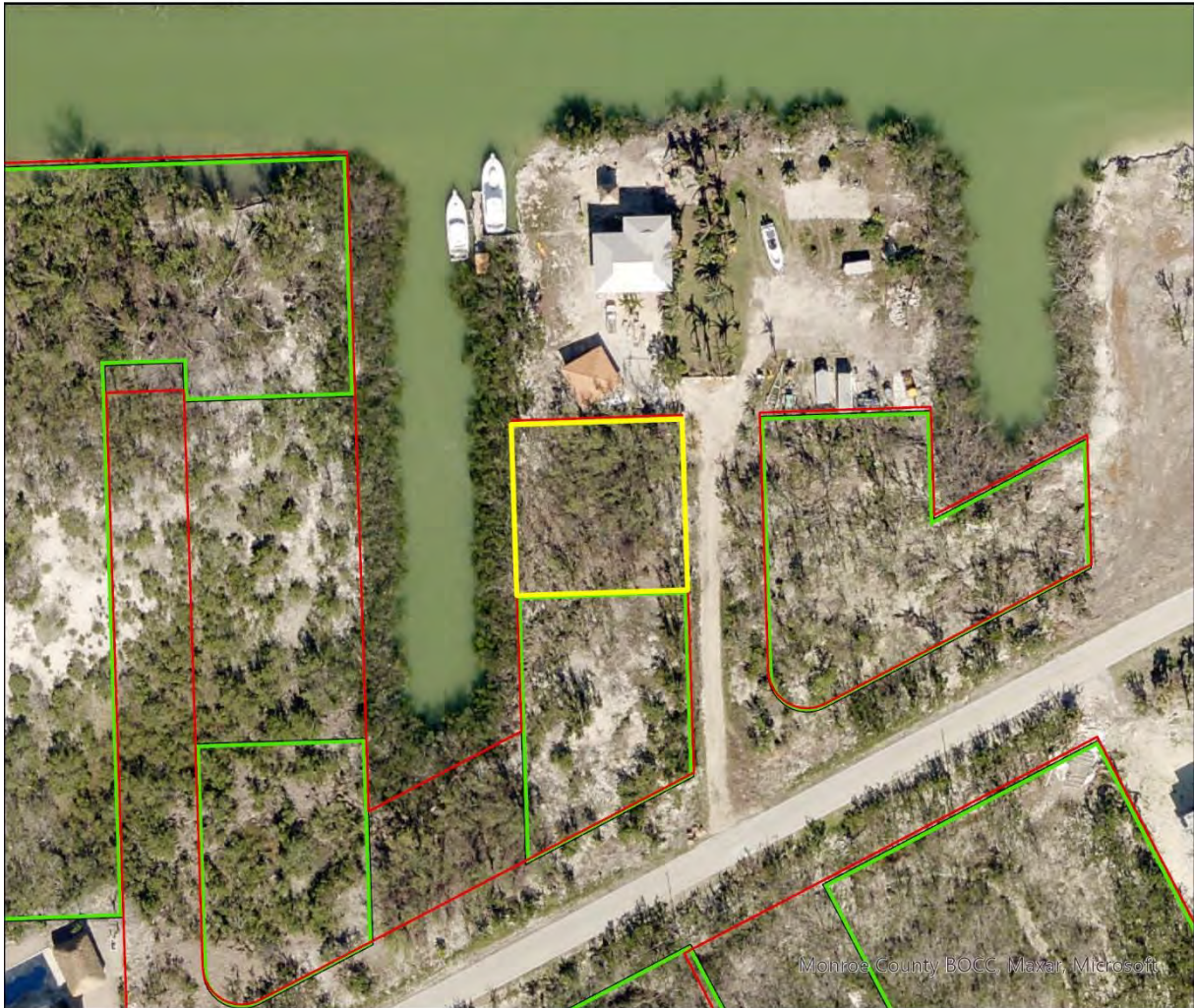
-  Proposed Florida Forever BOT Project Removal
-  Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2022

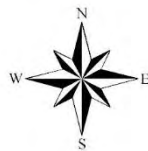
Florida Keys Ecosystem Proposed Removal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSED REMOVAL AS OF JANUARY 2022



Map Produced by: N. Pasco, January 2022

Background: World Imagery Resolution = 0.3 meter



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