

ITEM 7:

Vote on whether to amend the Little River Conservation Area Florida Forever project boundary to add one property totaling approximately 208 acres in Gadsden County with a prorated tax assessed market value of \$445,047.

LOCATION:

Gadsden County

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

The Little River Conservation Area amendment proposed by Keith Fountain, adds a 208-acre portion of an 825-acre parcel in Gadsden County to the Little River Conservation Area Florida Forever project. The property has a prorated tax assessed market value of \$445,047.

The property adjacent to the Little River Conservation Area is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. The landowner, Backhoe Boys LLC, has been contacted and is a willing seller. The property located along the north side of Highway 90 is adjacent to the southwest corner of the current Little River Conservation Area boundary. The project is located within the Tallahassee Red Hills region and contains planted pine with some native understory, mixed hardwood coniferous swamps and mixed wetland hardwood habitat. The property is currently managed by limited thinning of the timber stands and regular prescribed fire.

The proposal meets the Florida Forever criteria to be submitted as a boundary amendment. The parcel is less than 1,000 acres, has a tax assessed value of less than \$2 million, and is less than 10% of the size of the overall project to which it is being proposed for addition. The proposal area should be designated as essential.

Project History:

The Little River Conservation Area project in Gadsden County was approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council in 2004. The project aims to protect the Little River watershed, conserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect quality forest land, and provide support for sustainable forestry and longleaf pine restoration within a rapidly urbanizing region of the state.

The Little River Conservation Area project includes over 2,085 acres and is ranked 29 in the Less-than-Fee category on the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. The tax assessed value of the remaining acres to be acquired in this project per property appraiser information (2019) is \$5,689,604.

FNAI Review:

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), 100% of the site contributes to Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, and Aquifer Recharge. The site also contributes to Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (57%) and Sustainable Forestry (65%).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

Project	DHR	FPS	Lynetta Griner	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	DEP	Selected
Little River Conservation Area: Little River Conservation Area Amendment								



To: Deborah Burr, DEP/OES
 From: Dale R. Jackson, FNAI
 Date: May 21, 2021
 Subject: Proposed boundary modification (addition) to Florida Forever BOT
 Project: **Little River Conservation Area** – Backhoe Boys LLC,
 Gadsden County

The purpose of the Little River Conservation Area Florida Forever (FF) Project is to protect a portion of the Little River (Gadsden County) watershed while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area (Tallahassee to Quincy) within the Red Hills Region. Specific goals are to preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community. The current project includes 2,057 acres proposed for less-than-fee protection.

The proposed addition includes a single block of 208 acres on the western side of the Little River, contiguous with the southwestern border of the current project. A southern extension of the mostly squarish tract extends to frontage on US 90. Approximately 2 miles south of the proposal are Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area and Lake Talquin State Forest. The small Tanyard Creek Preservation Park near Quincy lies ca. 2.5 miles to the northwest. The property is proposed for less-than-fee protection.

Uplands make up ca. 70% of the proposal. These once supported sandhill or upland pine but are now managed as pine plantation (probably loblolly-shortleaf), though likely with some natural understory. Four cleared openings (wildlife food plots) are present within the plantations. Current management includes limited thinning and prescribed fire as well as hunting activities. Forested wetlands cover most of the southern portion of the parcel, principally lining a stream that flows from west to east to the river. The site is undeveloped, but residential development is encroaching from the west and south.

The FNAI database contains only one record of rare species on site – the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*, G5T4/S4, N, N), based on its being considered common regionally by the FWC. Other rare species are known from the region but not from the proposed parcel, which could benefit from focused rare species surveys.

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 proposed addition contributes substantially (by percent of site, not total acreage) to protection of Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, Aquifer Recharge, and Sustainable Forestry.

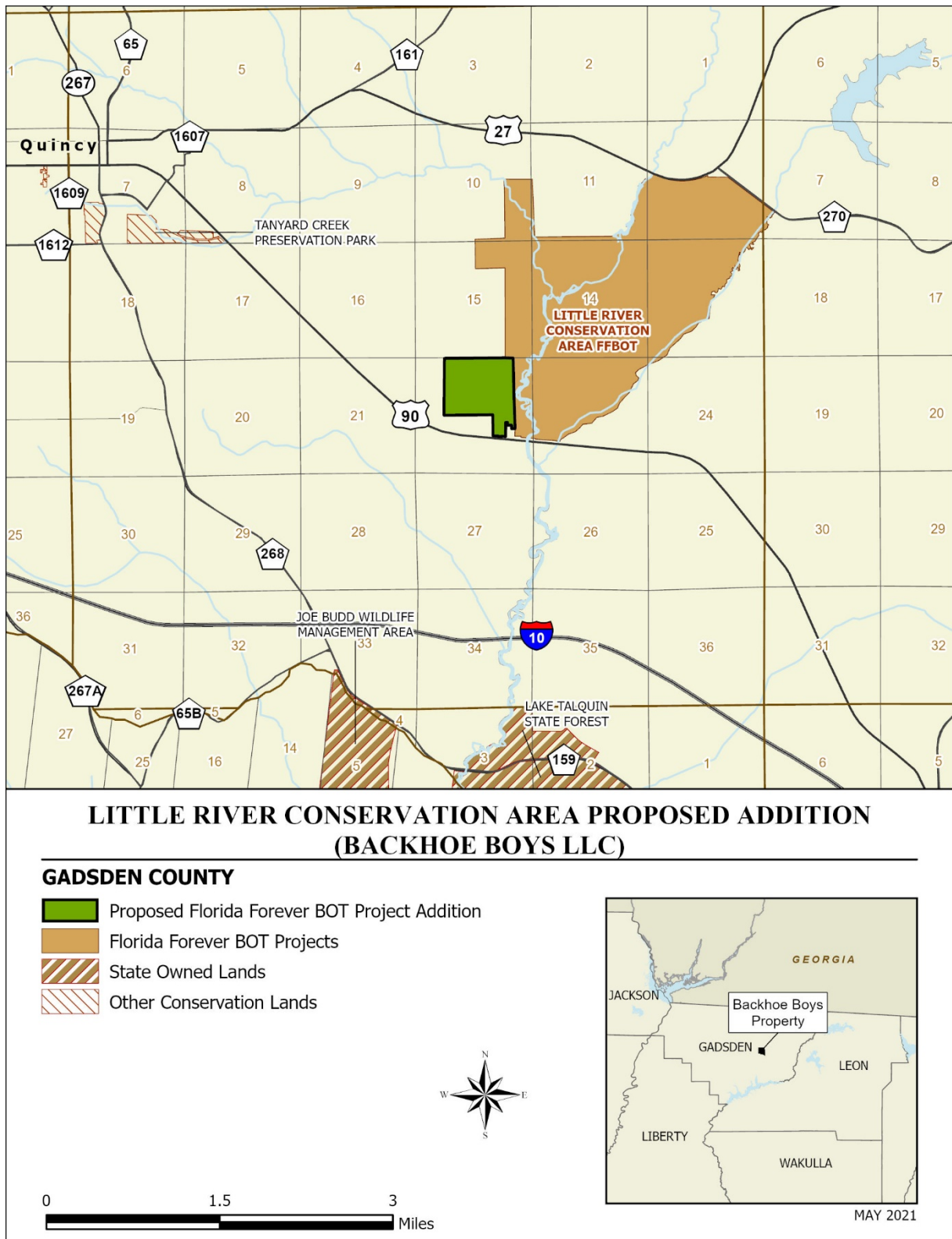
Little River Conservation Area Addition (Backhoe Boys LLC): Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20210507

GIS ACRES = 208

MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	118	57%
Total Acres	118	57%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	45	22%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	28	13%
Priority 4	2	< 1%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	2	1%
Total Acres	77	37%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	208	100%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	208	100%
B4: Under-represented Natural Communities		
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0	0%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0	0%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	0	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species		
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	1	
G5	0	
Total	1	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	5	3%
Priority 3	25	12%
Priority 4	8	4%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	38	18%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	155	75%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	52	25%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	207	100%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
C8: Functional Wetlands		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	11	5%
Priority 3	41	20%
Priority 4	2	< 1%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	53	26%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	208	100%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	208	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails & Univ. Florida)		
Land Trail Priorities	1.1	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	1.1	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number) 0 sites		
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	135	65%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0	0%
Total Acres	135	65%
G3: Forestland for Recharge		
	0	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.



Little River Conservation Area Proposed Addition (Backhoe Boys)

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSED ADDITION AS OF MAY 2021

