

ITEM 9:

Vote on whether to amend the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary to add three parcels totaling approximately 1.3 acres in Monroe County with a tax assessed market value of \$150.

LOCATION:

Monroe County

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

The Dixon property amendment proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), adds three parcels in Monroe County totaling approximately 1.3 acres to the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project owned by George Dixon. The three parcels have a combined tax assessed market value of \$150.

The three parcels adjacent to the Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area (FKWEA) are proposed for fee-simple acquisition. The Dixons own seven parcels in Monroe County; four of the seven are already within the FKE project, the remaining three parcels are the subject of this boundary amendment. The landowner has been contacted and is a willing seller. The FWC has confirmed that the parcels would be managed as part of the FKWEA.

The three parcels are mostly Keys tidal rock barren and mangrove swamp habitat. The addition of these parcels would benefit management of the FKWEA, extend protection of important wildlife habitat, expand recreational opportunities and provide added watershed and water quality protection.

The proposal meets the Florida Forever criteria to be submitted as a boundary amendment. The parcels total less than 1,000 acres, have a tax assessed value of less than \$2 million, and are 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 Florida Keys Ecosystem project in Monroe County was approved by the Land Acquisition Advisory Council in 1995 by combining the Hammocks of the Lower Keys and Tropical Flyways projects. The project aims to conserve significant unprotected hardwood hammocks left in the Florida Keys and important habitat for many rare plants and animals including the Lower Keys marsh rabbit, Key deer and white-crowned pigeon. Additionally, the project protects the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Keys, critical recreational and commercial fisheries, coral reefs, cultural sites and provides public resource-based recreational opportunities.

The Florida Keys Ecosystem project includes over 13,580 acres with 5,849 acres remaining and is ranked first in the Climate Change Lands 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 \$56,505,589.

FNAI Review:

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), the site contributes to Surface Water Protection (88%), Natural Floodplain Function (88%), Fragile Coastal Resources (83%) and Functional Wetlands (83%). The site also contributes to Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas

(50%) and FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (71%).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

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



To: Deborah Burr, DEP/OES
From: Geoffrey R. Parks, FNAI
Date: May 21, 2021
Subject: Proposed boundary modification (addition) to Florida Forever BOT Project--
Florida Keys Ecosystem: Dixon properties, Monroe County

The major goals of the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever Project are to protect the remaining hardwood hammocks and many rare plants and animals found in the Florida Keys.

This proposed addition to the Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area (FKWEA) in Monroe County is intended to meet these goals.

The combined property encompasses 1.3 acres in three adjacent parcels of land on the north end of Ramrod Key, along the shoreline of Torch-Ramrod Channel. The property abuts the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever BOT project to the west, and shares a boundary to the east with a portion of the 5,347-acre Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). This addition includes three parcels in a single ownership and is available for fee-simple acquisition.

The undeveloped property contains keys tidal rock barren and mangrove swamp natural communities, and approximately 220 feet of shoreline. Natural communities appear to be in relatively good condition except for about 0.2 acre area of vehicle impacts in the southeast corner. Acquisition of the property will help to protect natural communities and water quality by curtailing off-road vehicle damage in the FKWEA; according to the applicant, acquiring this inholding will allow FWC to fully protect the mangrove habitat from vehicle access, which is occurring through the Dixon property.

The FNAI database contains no documented occurrences of rare species on the parcels, although no extensive inventory has been conducted. The habitats found onsite should be suitable to support a variety of rare species that occur on Ramrod Key and elsewhere within the FKWEA.

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 to protection of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Habitat Conservation Priorities, Natural Floodplain Function, Surface Water Protection, Fragile Coastal Resources, and Functional Wetlands.

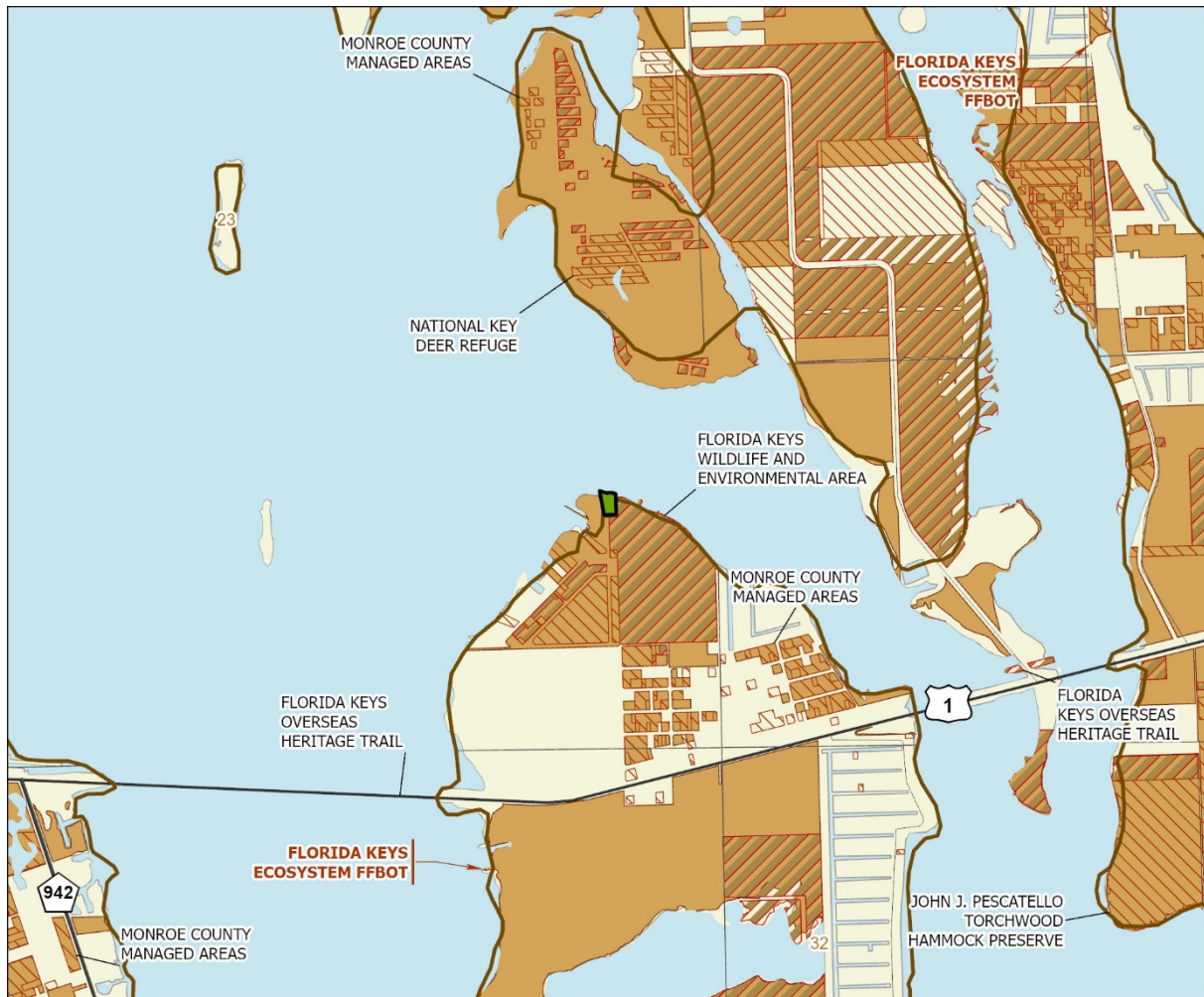
Florida Keys Ecosystem Addition (Dixon): Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20210504

GIS ACRES = 1.3

MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.7	50%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.7	50%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.9	71%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.9	71%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.0	0%
B4: Under-represented Natural Communities		
Upland Glade (G1)	0.0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0.0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0.0	0%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0.0	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0.0	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0.0	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0.0	0%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0.0	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0.0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	0.0	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.0	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	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.8	58%
Priority 3	0.4	29%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	1.2	88%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	1.2	88%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Priority 7	0.0	0%
Total Acres	1.2	88%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0.0	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0.0	0%
Coastal Wetlands	1.1	83%
Total Acres	1.1	83%
C8: Functional Wetlands		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.8	58%
Priority 3	0.3	25%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	1.1	83%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.0	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	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.0	0%
G3: Forestland for Recharge		
	0.0	0%

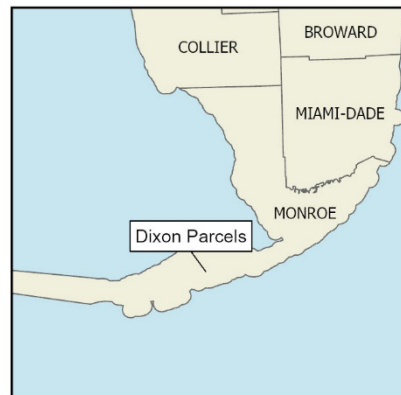
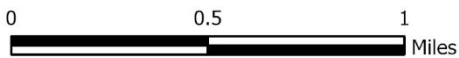
^aAcres of each resource in the project and percentage of project represented by each resource are listed except where noted. This analysis converts site boundary into pixels, which causes slight differences from GIS acres; this effect is most noticeable on small sites.



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM PROPOSED ADDITION (DIXON)

MONROE COUNTY

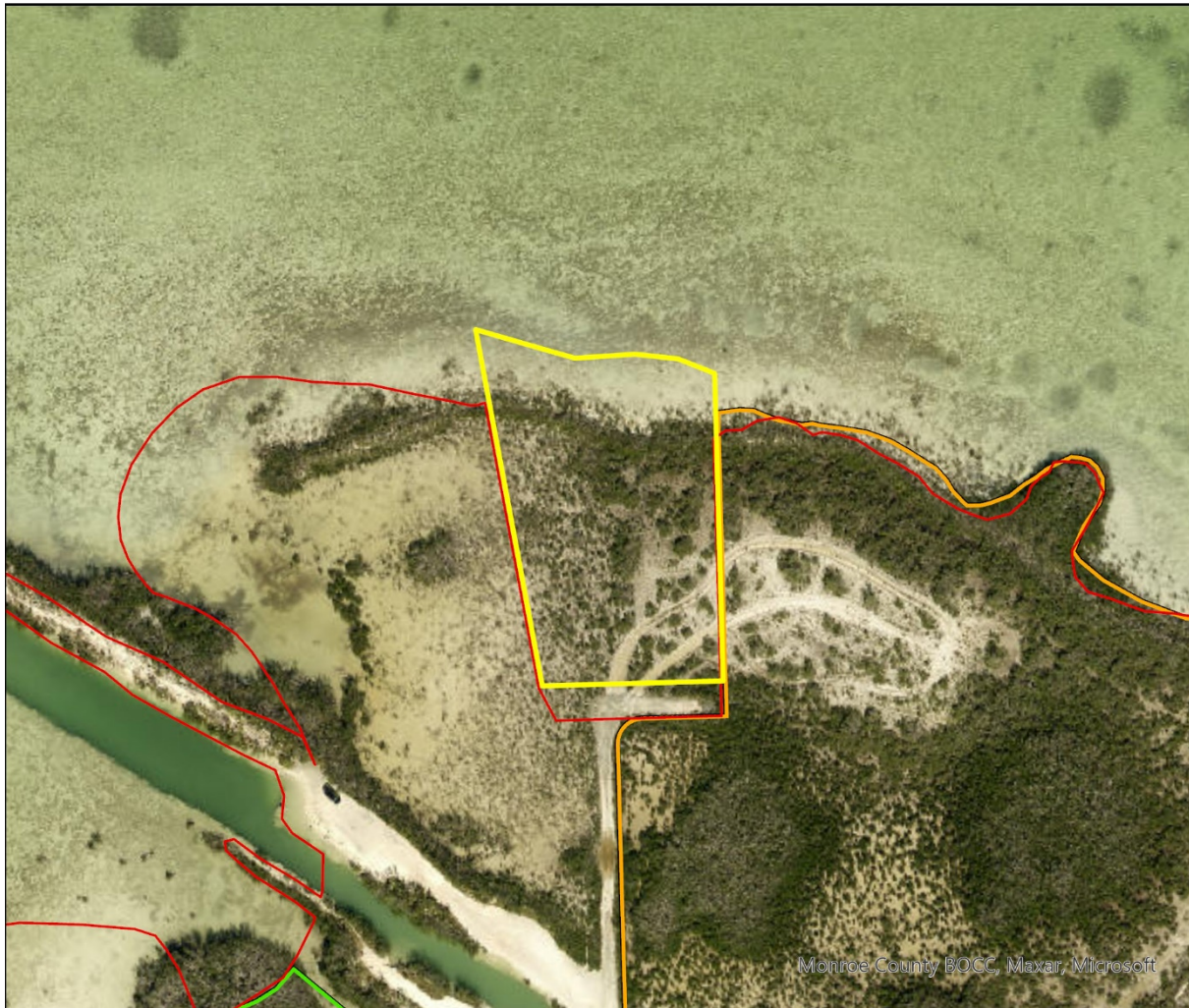
-  Proposed Florida Forever BOT Project Addition
-  Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MAY 2021

Florida Keys Ecosystem Proposed Addition (Dixon)

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



Monroe County BOCC, Maxar, Microsoft

Map Produced by: N. Pasco, May 2021

Background: World Imagery Resolution = 0.3 meter



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