

ITEM 13:

Vote on whether to amend the Maytown Flatwoods Florida Forever Project boundary to add one parcel totaling approximately 554.75 acres in Volusia County with a tax assessed just value of \$273,500.

LOCATION:

Volusia County

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

The Buck Lake amendment proposed by Land Advisors Organization adds one parcel in Volusia County totaling approximately 554.75 acres to the Maytown Flatwoods Florida Forever Project. The parcel has a combined tax assessed just value of \$273,500.

The parcel is adjacent to the western boundary of the Maytown Flatwoods Florida Forever Project and is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. The landowner, Stanley H. Sandefur, Trustee has been contacted and is a willing seller. The Buck Lake property would close a gap between existing conservation lands managed by St. Johns River Water Management District and private mitigation lands. The property contains a series of swamps and swamp lakes that traverse the center of the parcel and forms the headwaters for Buck Lake. The property also contains several other natural lakes and upland areas characterized as a mix of pine flatwoods and open prairie and is within FEGN Priority 1.

The proposal meets the Florida Forever criteria to be submitted as a boundary amendment. The parcel totals 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 Maytown Flatwoods project in Brevard County was approved by ARC in 2010 to be added to the Florida Forever Priority List. The project aims to conserve wildlife habitat, provide groundwater recharge area, water quality and floodplain protection, and contribute to an ecological greenway in this region of Florida.

The Maytown Flatwoods project includes over 7,283 acres with 5,021 acres remaining and is ranked 24 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 \$2,598,614.

FNAI Review:

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), 100% of the Buck Lake property contributes to Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, Aquifer Recharge, and Natural Floodplain Function. The site also contributes to Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (95%), FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (93%), and the protection of functional wetlands (93%).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

Project	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	DEP	Selected
Maytown Flatwoods: Buck Lake								



To: Deborah Burr, DEP/OES
 From: Dale R. Jackson, FNAI
 Date: November 10, 2021
 Subject: Proposed Boundary Modification to Florida Forever BOT Project: **Maytown Flatwoods** – Buck Lake, Volusia County

Goals of the Maytown Flatwoods FFBOT project are to protect strategic and rare species habitat, ecological and recreational greenways (including an existing Rails-to-Trails project), natural floodplain function, surface waters, and aquatic recharge areas. The project lies in northern Brevard County adjacent to the Buck Lake Conservation Area. Numerous other conservation lands are nearby. Much of the property is under a long-rotation silvicultural management regime. In addition to slash pine plantation, the project supports a variety of wetland communities, including hydric hammock, dome swamp, wet prairie, depression marsh, and basin marsh and swamp.

The 554-acre Buck Lake tract is proposed as a boundary amendment to the Maytown Flatwoods FFBOT project, which it borders on the west. The proposal lies in southern Volusia County and is contiguous with the northwestern border of Brevard County. It is a squarish inholding in a complex of protected and proposed conservation lands. These include Buck Lake Conservation Area, Volusia/FAS Mitigation Conservation Easement, Colbert-Cameron Mitigation Bank, Farmton Mitigation Bank, Farmton Volusia Greenkey Conservation Easement, and Farmton Brevard Conservation Easement. These in turn connect to Seminole Ranch Conservation Area and other managed areas. The Buck Lake property is being offered for less-than-fee acquisition.

The site supports wet prairie to wet flatwoods with volunteer oaks and pines. There is reportedly no sign of past silviculture. Several bodies of open water, which can be classified as prairie lakes, occur in the eastern and southern portions of the site. The headwaters of Buck Lake traverse the middle of the property from north to south before turning east to discharge offsite to the southeast to Buck Lake. Although there are no structures, off-road tracks and other potential soil disturbances can be observed on aerial imagery.

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 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Nearby occurrences include celestial lily (*Nemastylis floridana*, G2/S2, N, E), black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*, G3/S2, T, FT), and multiple nests of bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, G5/S3, N, N). Additional species that potentially occur on site include American alligator, little blue heron, and white ibis.

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) following 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. Most to all of the proposed addition contributes to Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, Aquifer Recharge, Functional Wetlands, and Natural Floodplain Function.

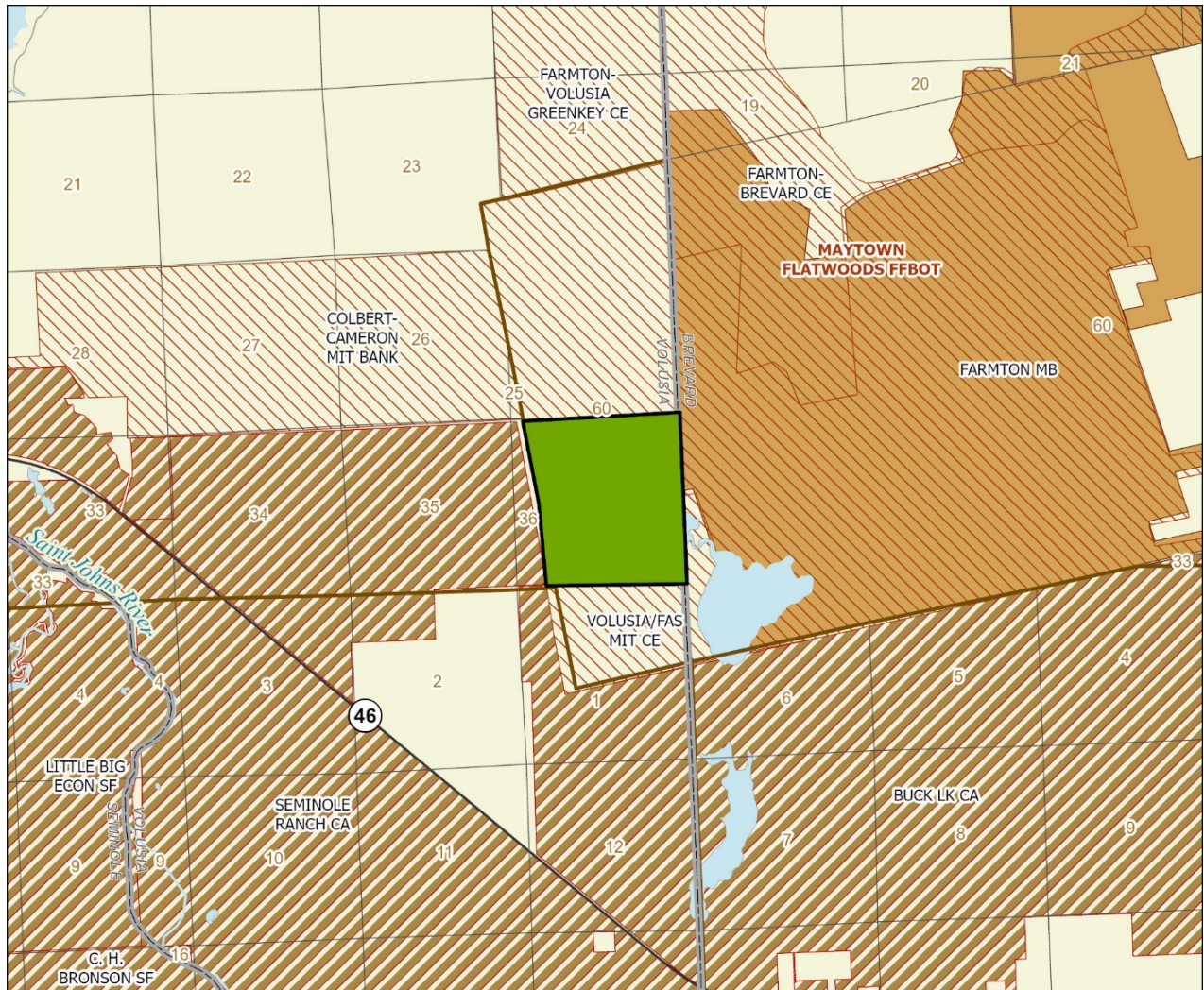
Maytown Flatwoods (Buck Lake): Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20211101

GIS ACRES = 554

MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	515	93%
Priority 3	1	< 1%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	9	2%
Total Acres	524	95%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	1	< 1%
Priority 4	475	86%
Priority 5	37	7%
Priority 6	0	< 1%
Total Acres	513	93%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	554	100%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	554	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	547	99%
Priority 2	6	1%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	554	100%


MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	22	4%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	513	93%
Priority 5	19	3%
Priority 6	0	< 1%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	554	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	510	92%
Priority 2	3	< 1%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	513	93%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	35	6%
Priority 6	519	94%
Total Acres	554	100%
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%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
G3: Forestland for Recharge		
	0	0%

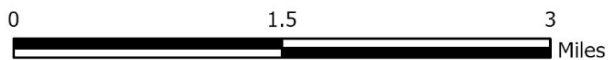
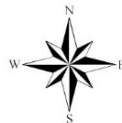
^aAcres of each resource in the project and percentage of project represented by each resource are listed except where noted. This analysis converts site boundary into pixels, which causes slight differences from GIS acres; this effect is most noticeable on small sites.



MAYTOWN FLATWOODS PROPOSED ADDITION (BUCK LAKE)

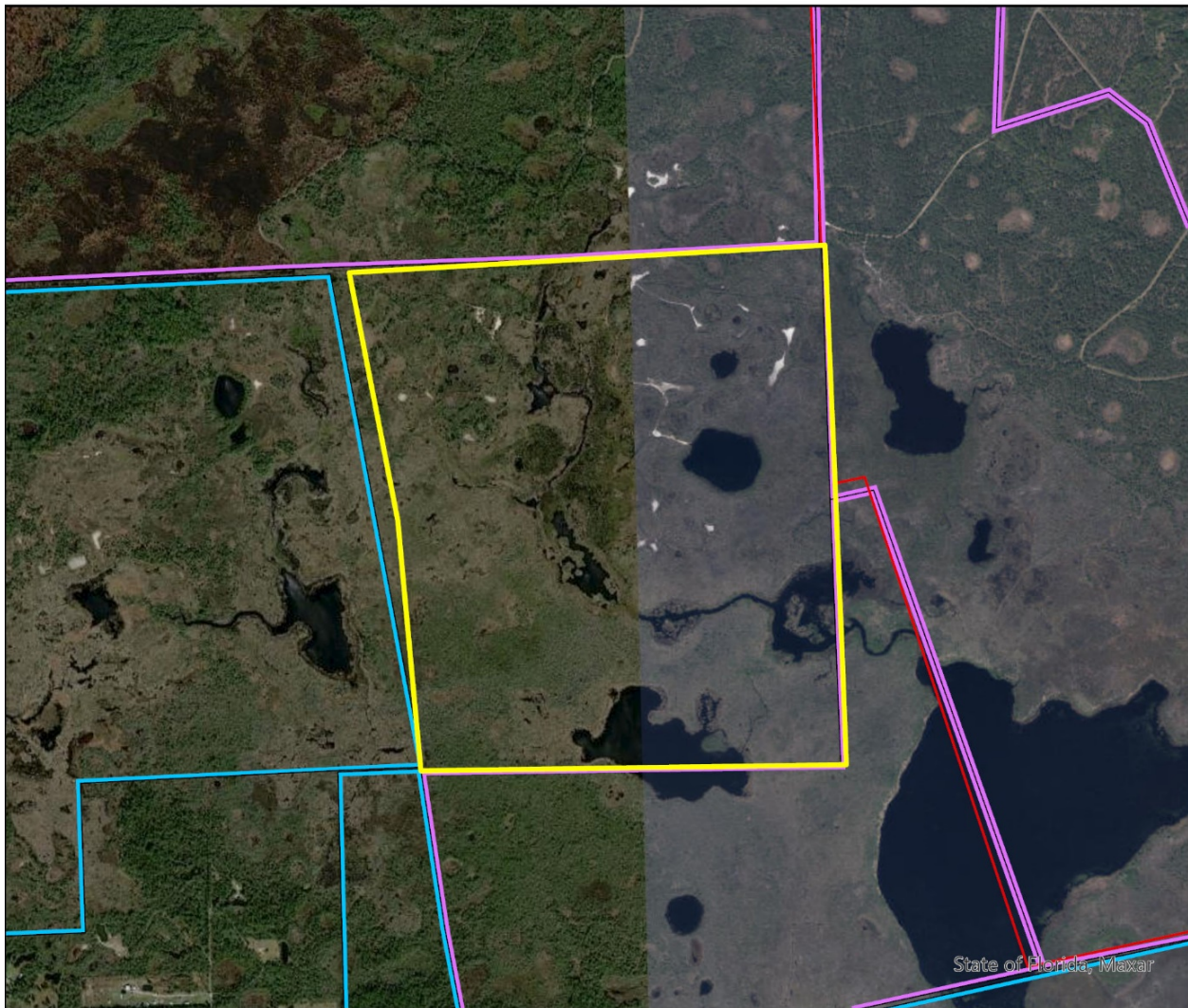
VOLUSIA COUNTY

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



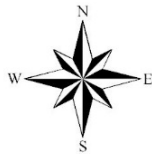
Maytown Flatwoods Proposed Addition

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



Map Produced by: N. Pasco, November 2021

Background: World Imagery Resolution = 0.3 meter



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