

Mill Creek

Less-Than-Fee

Marion County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2003
<i>Project Acres</i>	12,293
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,158
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	10,135
<i>2021 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$21,824,973

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Mill Creek project will increase Florida's biodiversity by preventing the conversion of natural areas to alternative uses. The project will also increase the amount of forestland available for natural resource management, enhance existing wetlands through the prohibition of future timber harvesting, and benefit water quality and quantity by protecting property adjacent to the Orange Creek Restoration Area which flows to Orange Creek.

General Description

The Mill Creek project is in northern Marion County near several conservation lands including Orange Lake, Lochloosa Lake, Ocklawaha River, Orange Creek Restoration Area, Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area, Black Sink Prairie, Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and Ocala National Forest. The Mill Creek property has been impacted by cattle and timber operations such as conversion to pasture, pine plantation and cypress harvesting.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

Public Use

Mill Creek is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the eastern portion of the property is leased for hunting.



Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Mill Creek project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. This Less-than-Fee acquisition, sponsored by the Conservation Real Estate Group, consisted of approximately 12,285 acres, multiple owners and a tax-assessed value of \$13,694,672.

2005

On January 27, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved this project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

On June 3, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved this project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Interim Priority List.

2007

On December 14, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to move the Mill Creek project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed the Mill Creek project in the Less-than-Fee category.

2019

On December 19, 2019, the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank (2,159 acres) was approved.

2020

On June 25, 2020, DEP and the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired a conservation easement on the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank.

Coordination

There are no acquisition partners currently.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, Mill Creek would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

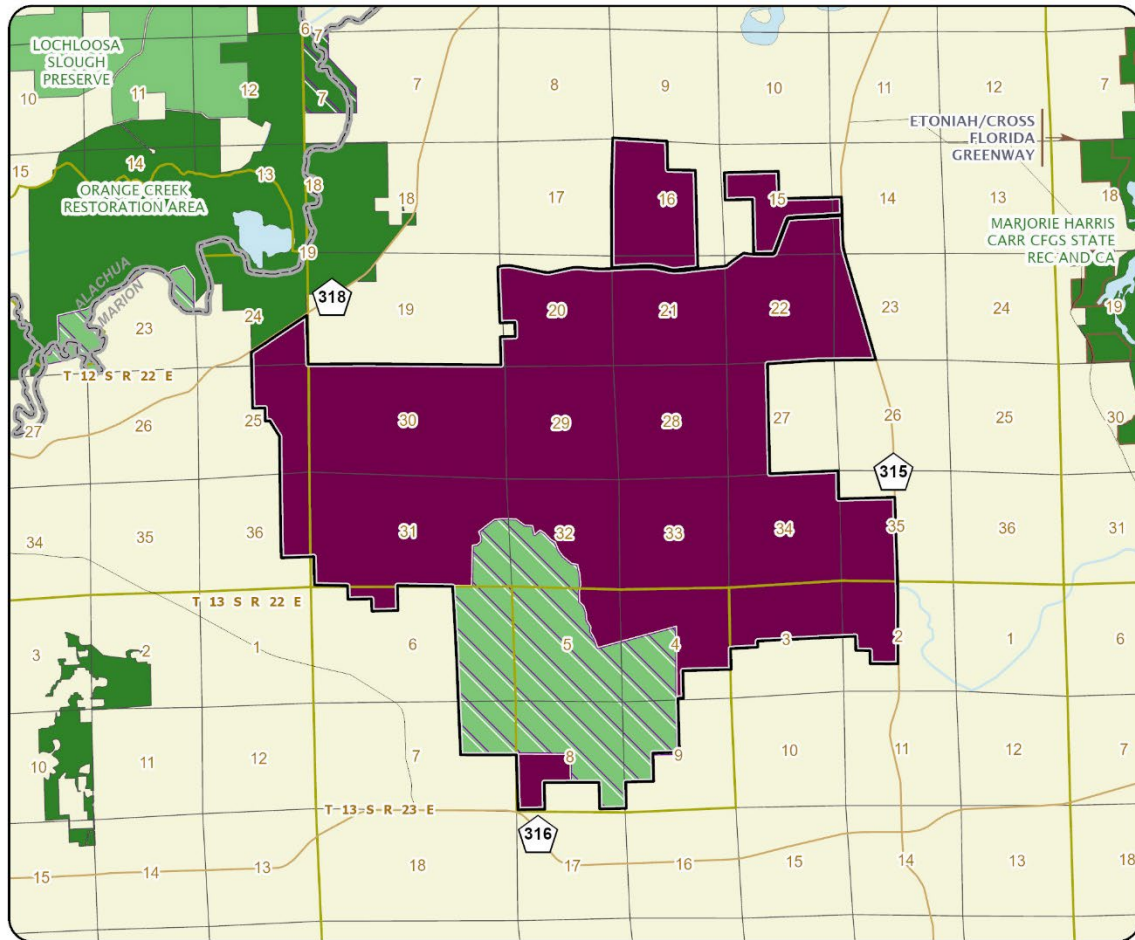
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of Mill Creek would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by the Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

The Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while the management will be conducted by the property owner.





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