



# Florida Forever Five Year Plan

August 2009

prepared by  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of State Lands  
Office of Environmental Services

in cooperation with  
Florida's Acquisition and Restoration Council

The Florida Forever Five-Year Plan, August 2009 Report  
is prepared for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement  
Trust Fund of the State of Florida



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Our thanks to Bob Savannah of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for making available to us in the public domain his wildlife artwork to highlight the State's Florida Forever projects.

## Introduction to the August 2009 Report

**Background and Status** - Florida Forever is the state's current blueprint for conserving our natural resources. It replaced the highly successful Preservation 2000, the largest program of its kind in the United States. Preservation 2000 acquired more than 1.78 million acres of land for protection. The Florida Forever Act, implemented in 2000, reinforced Florida's commitment to conserve its natural and cultural heritage, provide urban open space, and better manage the land acquired by the state.

Florida Forever is more than an environmental land acquisition mechanism. It encompasses a wide range of goals including: environmental restoration; water resource development and supply; increased public access; public lands management and maintenance; and increased protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements.

The additional \$3 billion investment over the next decade demonstrates Florida's continuing commitment to protecting and restoring our vital natural resources. Our state continues to be the model for other states when developing land acquisition programs of their own. Florida is at the forefront of the nation's land protection efforts.

**Legislation and Policy** - In 1998, Florida voters amended the state constitution by ratifying a constitutional amendment that re-authorized bonds for land acquisition. The 1999 legislature responded with the 10-year \$3 billion Florida Forever Program to acquire and manage land for conservation.

The eleven-member Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) makes recommendations about acquisition, management and disposal of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes private citizen members, in addition to five state agency representatives with backgrounds in scientific disciplines of land, water, or environmental sciences.

The Governor and Cabinet, as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, are responsible for acting on ARC's recommendations. The Board also approves the acquisition of each parcel and has ultimate oversight on state lands leases and management plans.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands (DSL) provides primary staff support for the Acquisition and Restoration Council. DSL coordinates Council meetings, prepares agendas and reports, prepares or obtains appraisal maps, title work, appraisals and closing documents for acquisitions, and negotiates land purchases on behalf of the Board. The Division also provides staff support for managing all leases, reviewing and approving management plans, and coordinating management review team functions for state-owned lands titled to the Board of Trustees.

**Partnerships** - The state's land acquisition programs have a long history of cooperative partnerships with local and national land trusts, counties, cities and other local governments, as well as the federal government. The successful acquisition of many state projects is the direct result of these partnerships. Nearly all of the projects on the Florida Forever list have partners.

Partnerships with local governments have increased in recent years. Of Florida's 67 counties, 28 have land acquisition programs (please see Addendum). Voters throughout Florida have approved local referenda to raise more than \$1.7 billion to acquire environmentally sensitive and recreation lands. These local government initiatives have dramatically enhanced the state's ability to protect its remaining important natural areas.

**Results** - With the passage of the Florida Forever Act, the State of Florida has one of the most aggressive conservation and recreation land acquisition programs in the United States and the world. Since 1963, Florida has invested approximately \$7.5 billion to conserve approximately 3.8 million acres of land for environmental, recreational and preservation purposes. This has been accomplished with a number of programs, including the Environmentally Endangered Lands, Outdoor Recreation, Save Our Coasts, Save Our Rivers, Conservation and Recreation Lands, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever.

Thanks to Florida Forever, millions of Americans can enjoy the outdoor experience and know that Florida is continuing to protect and create safe havens for its many endangered and threatened plants and animals.

## Abstract of the August 2009 Report

**August 2009 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan:** The August 2009 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan was prepared pursuant to Chapter 259, F.S., and Rule 18-24, F.A.C. During the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) meetings of February 13 and June 12, ARC approved three new projects for the August 2009 priority list. One of the three added projects, Windover Archeological Site, was approved contingent upon Brevard County’s agreement to manage the property. The County has not yet made that decision; therefore the project is not included on the August 2009 priority list. In addition, one of the new projects was added to an existing project. ARC amended the boundary of three projects and recommended removal of two projects from the list. No projects moved from Group A to Group B. One project moved from Group B to Group A.

<u>New Projects Added to List</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>County</u>
Kissimmee Billy Strand (A List)*	4,694	Hendry
Triple Diamond (A List)	7,991	Okeechobee
<u>Projects with Boundary Amendments</u>	<u>Acres +/-</u>	
Charlotte Harbor Estuary	79	Charlotte
Panther Glades (Kissimmee Billy Strand*)	4,694	Hendry
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	(3,035)	Charlotte
Florida Keys Ecosystem	(7)	Monroe
<u>Project Moved from Group B to Group A</u>		
Panther Glades		Hendry
<u>Projects Removed from List</u>	<u>Reason</u>	
Ochlockonee Bluffs	97% complete	Liberty
Promise Ranch	100% complete	Lake

*\* New project added to project previously on list = boundary amendment as well.*

**ARC’s Recommended August 2009 Florida Forever Priority List:** The August 2009 Five-Year Plan includes the August 2009 Florida Forever Priority List of acquisition projects approved by ARC on June 12, 2009 and proposed for adoption by the Board of Trustees. This list includes 66 projects in Group A and 43 projects in Group B. Pursuant to section 259.04(1)(c), F.S., “... the board shall approve, in whole or in part, the lists of projects in the order of priority in which such projects are presented.”

**Accomplishments of Florida Forever Program:** Since its inception in July 2001 through May 2009, the state's Florida Forever land acquisition program has been extremely successful, as evidenced by the protection of:

- **259,330 acres of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas;**
- **426,290 acres of rare species habitat conservation areas, and over 480 listed species locations of 200 different species, 99 of which are state-listed as endangered, 39 state-listed threatened, and 19 species of special concern;**
- **638,450 acres of ecological greenways;**
- **57,310 acres of under-represented natural communities;**
- **77,920 acres of natural floodplains;**
- **645,350 acres important to significant water bodies;**
- **5,190 acres of fragile coastline;**
- **273,000 acres of functional wetlands;**
- **625,710 acres of significant groundwater recharge areas;**
- **206,390 acres of land to support priority recreational trails;**
- **302,130 acres of sustainable forest land; and**
- **554 archaeological and historic sites.**

These acreages were derived from the most recently updated Florida Forever data layers, which are continuously amended to reflect the most current scientific analyses of Florida's natural resources. Additionally, the acreages recorded for each measure often overlap, and thus should not be added together. Collectively, the State of Florida has protected over 638,500 acres of land with \$2.62 billion in Florida Forever funds through June 30, 2009.

All property within the boundaries of the Florida Forever projects, unless specifically noted otherwise, is proposed to be purchased, in fee-simple or a lesser interest, for conservation purposes.

The August 2009 Florida Forever Priority List is consistent with section 187.201(9), F.S., the Natural Systems and Recreational Lands section of the State Comprehensive Plan.

The August 2009 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan is being submitted in digital format.





## Explanation of the Project Summary Information

These categories of information summarize the evaluation reports for the projects that were recommended by the Acquisition and Restoration Council to be included on the current Florida Forever Priority List.

Projects are grouped into two groups and three subgroups. Group A are those acquisition projects that received the highest priority for acquisition. Group A projects are so designated based on the contribution toward achieving the Florida Forever goals, measures and criteria. The number of projects designated for Group A is limited, as determined by the Council, based on the total estimated funds available for acquisition during the acquisition cycle for which the projects are scheduled, and the anticipated success rate of acquiring targeted projects. Group B are those acquisition projects that while important, are not the State's highest priority.

Within Group A and Group B are three subgroups: Fee Simple/Large Holdings Subgroup: Projects made up predominately of large ownerships to be acquired in fee simple; Multi-Parcel or Small Holdings Subgroup: Projects made up predominantly of small ownerships with individual values not exceeding one million dollars each, or individual acquisitions that are determined to achieve the Florida Forever goals, measures and criteria enough to qualify for acquisition, but are valued at less than one million dollars; and Less-Than-Fee Acquisition Subgroup: Acquisition projects where the majority of the project is proposed to be acquired in less-than-fee, such as conservation easements. All acquisition projects approved by the Board of Trustees are eligible for funding, with available resources targeted initially toward projects in Group A. However, the Board of Trustees may approve the purchase of any project from any group or subgroup in furtherance of the intent expressed in 259.105(2)(e), Florida Statutes.

Each project summary contains: project name, listing group, subgroups, acreage, cost and general project information. The following provides a brief explanation of each of the sections contained in the project analyses:

**Purpose for State Acquisition** - Summarizes the primary reason(s) the state is attempting to acquire the property.

**Manager** - The agency to assume primary management responsibilities. If more than one agency is listed, then

lead management responsibilities will be divided between agencies for portions of the project. Or, one agency may lead, the other cooperate in overall management.

**General Description** - Brief synopsis of the significant natural and cultural resources located on the tract, including: natural communities, endangered species, game and nongame species, hydrological systems, archaeological and historic sites. It also describes the vulnerability and endangerment; that is, the susceptibility of the project to natural and anthropogenic disturbances and the imminence or threat of such degradation.

**Public Use** - The State designated use pursuant to §259.032(4), F.S., under which the project qualifies for state acquisition. Florida Forever projects may be managed as: State Parks, State Preserves, State Reserves, State Aquatic Preserves, State Botanical or Geological Sites, State Recreation Areas, State Archaeological or Historical Sites, Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife and Environmental Areas, Wildlife Refuges, and State Forests. Under certain circumstances, they may also be managed as County or City Nature Parks, Environmental Education Centers, etc., but they still must qualify for state designation and be managed accordingly. This section also includes a list of the potential recreational activities and public uses (e.g., timber management) that the project could readily accommodate.

**FNAI Elements** - A list of the most endangered or threatened "elements of biodiversity"—species and certain species aggregations of animals or plants—in the project from records in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) data base. Animals are displayed in standard typeface while plants are in italics. The smaller the number in an FNAI rank, the more rare or endangered the element is. For example, the most critically endangered elements have a rank of G1/S1. "G" refers to a species' rarity in a Global context, while "S" refers to its rarity within the State of Florida. "T," if present, refers to the global rarity of a subspecies.

**Acquisition Planning and Status** - Lists the number of acres and/or ownerships acquired by other public and nonprofit organizations, and the number of remaining owners. Describes acquisition activity during the past, the general status of current negotiations, and other technical aspects of acquisition, if applicable.

**Coordination** - Identifies acquisition and/or management partners who are contributing to or facilitating the acquisition or management of project lands, and lists resolutions received by official entities.

**Placed on List** - The first year that the project, or a portion thereof, was placed on the CARL Priority List or the Florida Forever List.

**Project Area** - The total size of the current project, including acres acquired or under option and acres remaining to be acquired.

**Acres Acquired** - Within the project boundaries, the number of acres acquired by the state, federal government, water management district, or local government.

If a nonprofit organization has acquired acreage within the project but has not yet transferred the property (in whole or in part) to the state, that acreage is excluded from the Acreage Acquired. Such cases are identified with an asterisk (\*) and are explained in the text of the project summary under Acquisition Planning & Status or Coordination.

**At a Cost of** - The amount of funds spent by the state, federal government, water management district, or local government on the acquisition of a project. If a nonprofit organization has expended funds within a project, those funds are excluded from the Funds Expended or Encumbered. Such cases are identified with an asterisk (\*) and are explained in the text of the project summary under Acquisition Planning & Status or Coordination.

**Acres Remaining** - an estimate of the acres in the project not yet acquired.

**Estimated Value of** - Reflects the county's tax assessed value of the acreage not yet acquired. Not all values are the most recent tax assessed values. Values for larger acreage tracts and those with numerous ownerships, including recorded and unrecorded subdivisions, are sometimes estimates of tax values based on information from: (1) county property appraisers, or (2) average per acre and per lot tax values obtained from (a) project applications, (b) evaluation reports, and/or (c) the Real Estate Data, Inc., service.

**Management Policy Statement** - Briefly describes how the project meets selection criteria and public purposes pursuant to §259, F.S.

**Management Prospectus** - Identifies the rationale for the state designation under which the project will be managed; the lead and, if appropriate, the cooperating state or local agencies recommended to manage the tract if acquired; the conditions that may affect the intensity of management activities; a timetable for implementing specific management activities; the project's revenue-generating potential; and the role(s) of potential management cooperators.

**Management Cost Summary** - Past, current, and projected management and development costs for projects which are currently being managed; estimated start-up and recurring costs for projects not yet under current management. Some costs may include areas outside the Florida Forever project boundary if the Florida Forever project is to be managed as a component of a larger tract, while others may not report additional management costs under the same circumstances. Cost information is categorized as:

- salary = salaries of permanent employees, including fringe benefits;
- OPS = other personnel services (i.e., temporary employee costs);
- expense = costs of office supplies, fuel, utilities, tools, implements, and other expendable items valued at less than \$1,000;
- OCO = operating capital outlay costs (i.e., costs for equipment and machinery valued at \$1,000 or greater);
- and FCO = fixed capital outlay (i.e., costs for permanent structures, including buildings, paved roads, and other permanent facilities).

The primary or proposed sources of management funds are also indicated as follows:

- CARL = Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund;
- GR = General Revenue Fund;
- IITF = Internal Improvement Trust Fund;
- LATF = Land Acquisition Trust Fund;
- MRCTF = Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund;
- SPTF = State Park Trust Fund;
- TNC = The Nature Conservancy;
- WMLTF = Water Management Lands Trust Fund; or federal, local, or other funding sources that should be self-explanatory.

**Project Map(s)** - Identifies the project boundary; the essential parcels pursuant to §259.105(15), F.S.; property within the project boundary that is state owned; and property within, adjacent, or near the project area that is owned by another public agency or non-profit conservation organization.

## Florida Forever Project List for August 2009

Group A Projects	
Project Name	County
Adams Ranch (LTF) ♦	Osceola
Apalachicola River (FF/LTF) ♦	Jackson / Gadsden / Liberty / Calhoun
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem (FF)	Martin
Ayavalla Plantation (LTF)	Leon
B J Bar Ranch (LTF)	Putnam
Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River (FF)	Duval / Nassau
Belle Meade (FF)	Collier
Big Bend Swamp/ Holopaw Ranch (LTF / FF)	Osceola
Bombing Range Ridge (FF / SH) ♦	Polk / Highlands / Osceola
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (FF / SH)	Brevard
Caber Coastal Connector (FF) ♦	Levy
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape (FF)	Hendry / Glades
Camp Blanding - Osceola Greenway (FF/LTF)	Baker / Bradford / Clay / Union
Charlotte Harbor Estuary (SH)	Charlotte / Lee / Sarasota
Clay Ranch (LTF)	Putnam
Clear Creek / Whiting Field (FF) ♦	Santa Rosa
Corkscrew Reg Ecosystem Watershed (FF/ LTF) ♦	Lee / Collier
Coupon Bight / Key Deer (SH)	Monroe
Crossbar/ Al Bar Ranch (FF)	Pasco
Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem (FF)	Orange / Seminole / Volusia
Escribano Point (FF) ♦	Santa Rosa
Esteros Bay (FF) ♦	Lee
Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway (LTF / FF)	Clay / Putnam / Marion / Levy / Citrus
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem (LTF)	Glades / Highlands
Flagler County Blueway (FF)	Flagler / Volusia
Florida Keys Ecosystem (FF) ♦	Monroe
Florida National Scenic Trail (FF)	Columbia
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway (FF)	Citrus
Florida's First Magnitude Springs (FF) ♦	Walton/ Washington/ Bay/ Jackson/ Wakulla/ Leon/ Hamilton/ Madison/ Suwannee/ Lafayette/ Levy/ Marion/ Hernando/
Garcon Ecosystem (FF)	Santa Rosa
Green Swamp (LTF/FF)	Lake / Polk
Ichetucknee Trace (FF)	Columbia
Indian River Lagoon Blueway (FF) ♦	Volusia / Brevard / Indian River / St. Lucie / Martin
Lafayette Forest (FF)	Lafayette
Lake Santa Fe (FF)	Alachua / Bradford
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem (FF/ LTF/ SH) ♦	Lake / Osceola / Polk / Highlands
Myakka Ranchlands (FF / LTF) ♦	Sarasota
North Key Largo Hammocks (SH)	Monroe
North Nokuse Plantation (LTF)	Walton
Northeast Florida Blueway (FF) ♦	Duval / St Johns / Flagler
Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve (FF / LTF) ♦	Duval / Nassau / Clay
Ochlocknee River Conservation Area (LTF) ♦	Gadsden / Leon
Osceola Pine Savannas (FF / LTF)	Osceola
Panther Glades (FF/ LTF) <sup>x</sup>	Hendry
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie (FF)	Escambia
Pierce Mound Complex (FF)	Franklin
Pillsbury Mound (FF)	Manatee
Pumpkin Hill Creek (FF)	Duval
Rainbow River Corridor (FF)	Marion / Citrus
Seven Runs Creek (LTF)	Walton
South Goethe (FF)	Marion / Levy
Spruce Creek (SH)	Volusia
St. Joe Timberland (FF) ♦	Bay / Franklin / Gadsden / Gulf / Jefferson / Leon / Liberty / Taylor / Wakulla / Walton / Washington

Legend:

♦ 21 Highest Acquisition Priority Group A projects.

<sup>N</sup> New project added to list.

<sup>x</sup> New project added to existing project.

(FF): Full-Fee: projects proposed to be purchased in Fee Simple.

(LTF): Less-Than-Fee: property stays with the owner, but conservation easements or other means preserve the environmental value of the land.

(SH): Small Holdings: projects made of small ownerships with individual values generally not exceeding \$1,000,000.

Group A Projects	
Project Name	County
St. Johns River Blueway (FF/LTF) ♦	St. Johns
Terra Ceia (FF)	Manatee
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch (LTF)	Okeechobee
Tiger Island / Little Tiger Island (FF)	Nassau
Triple Diamond (FF) <sup>N</sup>	Okeechobee
Twelvemile Slough (FF/LTF)	Hendry
Upper St. Marks River Corridor (FF) ♦	Leon / Jefferson / Wakulla
Volusia Conservation Corridor (FF / LTF)	Volusia / Flagler
Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks (FF)	Jefferson / Taylor
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone (FF) ♦	Wakulla / Leon
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway (FF/LTF) ♦	Lake / Orange / Seminole / Volusia
West Aucilla River Buffer (LTF)	Jefferson
Yellow River Ravines (FF)	Santa Rosa / Okaloosa
Group B Projects	
Project Name	County
Annuteliga Hammock (FF)	Citrus / Hernando
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge (FF)	Brevard / Indian River
Battle of Wahoo Swamp (FF)	Sumter
Bear Creek Forest (FF)	Bay / Calhoun / Gulf
Bear Hammock (FF)	Marion
Carr Farm / Price's Scrub (FF)	Marion / Alachua
Calfish Creek (FF)	Polk
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods (FF)	Charlotte / Lee
Dade County Archipelago (FF)	Miami-Dade
Devil's Garden (FF)	Hendry / Collier
Dickerson Bay / Bald Point (FF)	Wakulla / Franklin
Gulf Hammock (FF / LTF)	Levy
Half Circle L Ranch (FF)	Hendry / Collier
Hall Ranch (FF)	Charlotte
Heather Island / Ocklawaha River (FF)	Marion
Hixtown Swamp (FF)	Madison
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone (FF / LTF)	Gadsden / Liberty
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector (FF)	Okeechobee / Indian River
Lake Hatchineha Watershed (FF)	Osceola / Polk
Little River Conservation Area (LTF)	Gadsden
Lochloosa Wildlife (SH)	Alachua
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem (FF)	Hamilton / Gilchrist / Volusia / Marion
Lower Perdido River Buffer (LTF)	Escambia
Middle Chipola River (FF)	Jackson / Calhoun
Mill Creek (LTF)	Marion
Millstone Plantation (LTF)	Leon
Okeechobee Battlefield (FF)	Okeechobee
Old Town Creek Watershed (LTF)	Hardee / Polk
Pal-Mar (FF)	Palm Beach / Martin
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem (FF)	Osceola / Indian River
Pineland Site Complex (FF)	Lee
Pinhook Swamp (FF)	Baker / Columbia
Ranch Reserve (LTF)	Brevard / Indian River / Osceola
San Felasco Conservation Corridor (LTF)	Alachua
San Pedro Bay (FF)	Madison / Taylor
Sand Mountain (FF)	Washington / Bay
Save Our Everglades (SH)	Collier
South Walton County Ecosystem (SH)	Walton
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves (FF)	Jackson / Alachua / Marion / Citrus / Sumter
Three Chimneys (FF)	Volusia
Twelve Mile Swamp (FF)	St. Johns
Upper Shoal River (FF)	Walton
Watermelon Pond (FF / LTF)	Levy / Alachua



**STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF FLORIDA FOREVER BOT PROJECTS - GROUP A JUNE 2009**

- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Adams Ranch ♦                             | 24. Fisheating Creek Ecosystem                            | 46. Pierce Mound Complex              |
| 2. Apalachicola River ♦                      | 25. Flagler County Blueway                                | 47. Pillsbury Mound                   |
| 3. Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem                  | 26. Florida's First Magnitude Springs ♦                   | 48. Pumpkin Hill Creek                |
| 4. Ayavalla Plantation                       | 27. Florida Keys Ecosystem ♦                              | 49. Rainbow River Corridor            |
| 5. Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River               | 28. Florida National Scenic Trail                         | 50. Seven Runs Creek                  |
| 6. Belle Meade                               | 29. Florida Springs Coastal Greenway                      | 51. South Goethe                      |
| 7. Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch              | 30. Garcon Ecosystem                                      | 52. Spruce Creek                      |
| 8. BJ Bar Ranch                              | 31. Green Swamp   | 53. St. Joe Timberland ♦              |
| 9. Bombing Range Ridge ♦                     | 32. Ichetucknee Trace                                     | 54. St. Johns River Blueway ♦         |
| 10. Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem          | 33. Indian River Lagoon Blueway ♦                         | 55. Terra Ceia                        |
| 11. Caber Coastal Connector ♦                | 34. Lafayette Forest                                      | 56. Tiger Cattle Company Ranch        |
| 12. Caloosahatchee Ecoscape                  | 35. Lake Santa Fe   | 57. Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island  |
| 13. Camp Blanding - Osceola Greenway         | 36. Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem ♦                          | 58. Triple Diamond                    |
| 14. Charlotte Harbor Estuary                 | 37. Myakka Ranchlands ♦                                   | 59. Twelvemile Slough                 |
| 15. Clay Ranch                               | 38. North Key Largo Hammocks                              | 60. Upper St. Marks River Corridor ♦  |
| 16. Clear Creek/Whiting Field ♦              | 39. North Nokuse Plantation                               | 61. Volusia Conservation Corridor     |
| 17. Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed ♦ | 40. Northeast Florida Blueway ♦                           | 62. Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks       |
| 18. Coupon Bight/Key Deer                    | 41. Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve ♦ | 63. Wakulla Springs Protection Zone ♦ |
| 19. Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch                    | 42. Ochlockonee River Conservation Area ♦                 | 64. Wekiva-Ocala Greenway ♦           |
| 20. Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem                 | 43. Osceola Pine Savannas                                 | 65. West Aucilla River Buffer         |
| 21. Escribano Point ♦                        | 44. Panther Glades  | 66. Yellow River Ravines              |
| 22. Estero Bay ♦                             | 45. Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie                         |                                       |
| 23. Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway           |   |                                       |

♦ 21 highest priority acquisition projects



**STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF FLORIDA FOREVER BOT PROJECTS - GROUP B JUNE 2009**

- 1. Annutteliga Hammock
- 2. Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge
- 3. Battle of Wahoo Swamp
- 4. Bear Creek Forest
- 5. Bear Hammock
- 6. Carr Farm/Price's Scrub
- 7. Catfish Creek
- 8. Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods
- 9. Dade County Archipelago
- 10. Devil's Garden
- 11. Dickerson Bay/Bald Point
- 12. Gulf Hammock
- 13. Half Circle L Ranch
- 14. Hall Ranch
- 15. Heather Island/Ocklawaha River

- 16. Hixtown Swamp
- 17. Hosford-Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone
- 18. Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector
- 19. Lake Hatchineha Watershed
- 20. Little River Conservation Area
- 21. Lochloosa Wildlife
- 22. Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
- 23. Lower Perdido River Buffer
- 24. Middle Chipola River
- 25. Mill Creek
- 26. Millstone Plantation
- 27. Okeechobee Battlefield
- 28. Old Town Creek Watershed
- 29. Pal-Mar

- 30. Pine Island Slough Ecosystem
- 31. Pineland Site Complex
- 32. Pinhook Swamp
- 33. Ranch Reserve
- 34. San Felasco Conservation Corridor
- 35. San Pedro Bay
- 36. Sand Mountain
- 37. Save Our Everglades
- 38. South Walton County Ecosystem
- 39. Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves
- 40. Three Chimneys
- 41. Twelve Mile Swamp
- 42. Upper Shoal River
- 43. Watermelon Pond

**Florida Forever projects that have been  
added to the priority list, completed, or had boundaries amended,  
January through June 2009**



**New Projects added to the Florida Forever list:**

- ① Triple Diamond

**Projects completed and removed from the list:**

- ② Ochlockonee Bluffs
- ③ Promise Ranch

**Projects that had boundaries amended:**

- ④ Charlotte Harbor Estuary
- ⑤ Panther Glades
- ⑥ Florida Keys Ecosystem\*
- ⑦ Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods\*

**Projects moved from the B list to the A list:**

- ⑤ Panther Glades

\*Boundary amendments due to owner requests to have property removed from the priority list. ARC did not recommend the Board of Trustees add those properties back to the list. Please see project summaries for details or agenda item at [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/ARC/Agendas/2009/June/ITEM\\_4ADA.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/ARC/Agendas/2009/June/ITEM_4ADA.pdf)

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# Adams Ranch

## Osceola County

# Adams Ranch - Group A/ Less-Than-Fee

## Group A Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The goal of the Adams Ranch Florida Forever (ARFF) project is to protect open rangeland and native prairie that support many rare species with large habitat requirements. It was originally part of a larger proposal (55,000 acres) submitted to the Conservation and Recreation Lands program in 1986-87 by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. A portion of the 1986-1987 proposal is now part of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, but the majority remains in private ownership. The intervening 20 years has not diminished the significance of this area to the many species and natural communities of concern.

One of the primary concepts of this project is the protection of the way of life for the ranch, which is managed in a way that has historically allowed for the continued protection of an important and biodiverse assemblage of imperiled vertebrate wildlife. Another stated goal of the project is to provide for continued buffering of the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area from development, avoiding fragmentation of the landscape and allowing for the continuation of proper management on a landscape scale through prescribed fire, maintenance of hydrological regimes, and other appropriate strategies.

This project meets the Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of biodiversity by acquiring 81 acres of Priority 1 habitat and 6,140 acres of Priority 2 habitat, and preserving 10,618 acres of habitat for such rare species as the eastern indigo snake and the bald eagle. Another Florida Forever goal is to increase the acreage of landscape linkages and conservation

corridors, by contributing to a 200,000-acre mosaic of protection areas that includes the adjoining Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Other Florida Forever goals are to protect waters and wetlands of the state, and the Adams Ranch will preserve 762 acres of floodplain, 5,811 acres that would help protect surface waters, and 2,598 acres of functioning wetlands. Some 10,979 acres of the proposal help recharge the aquifer.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, would serve as the conservation-easement monitor unless otherwise noted.

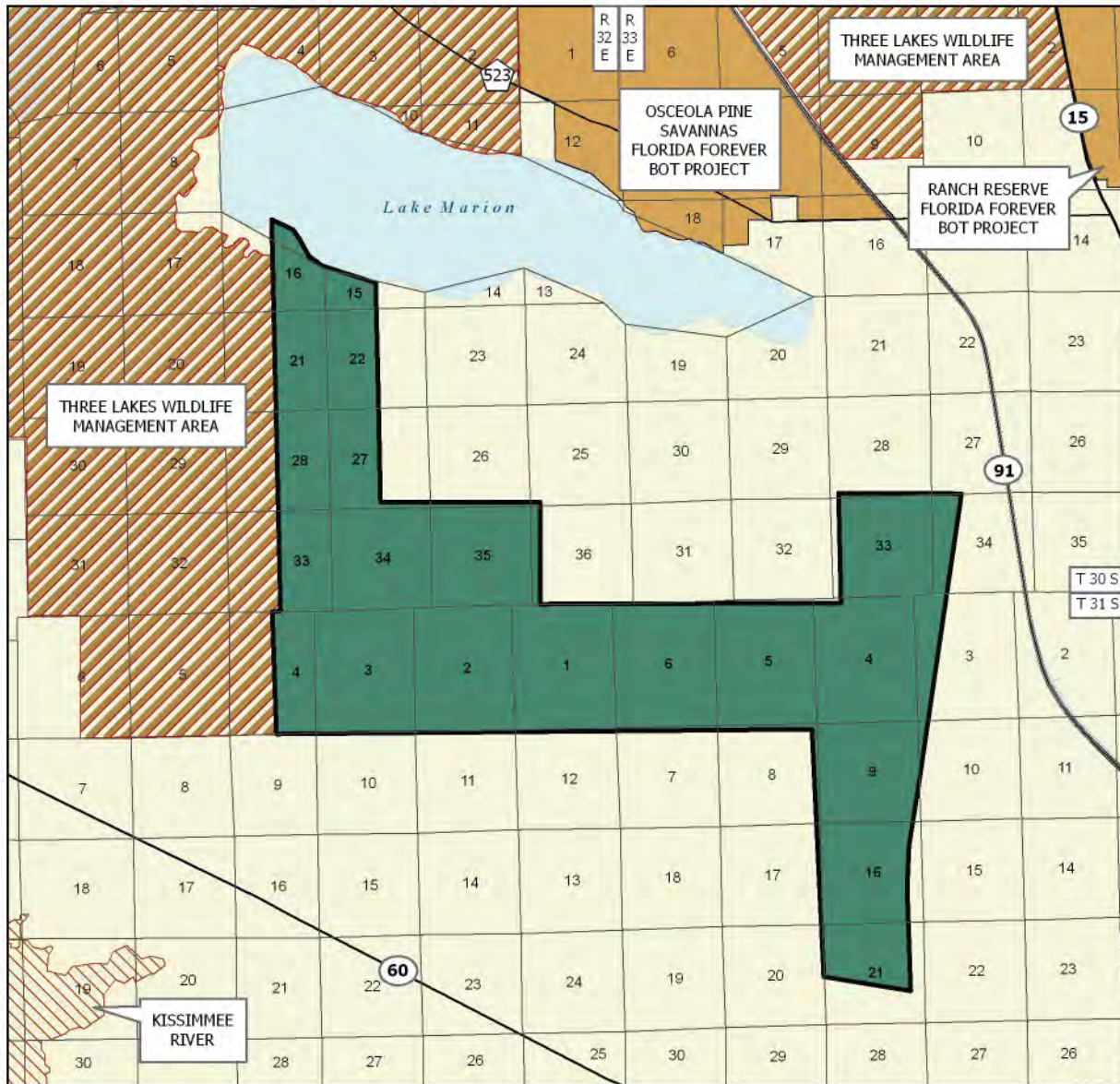
### General Description

The Adams Ranch Florida Forever project includes a portion of one ownership to be considered for less-than-fee-simple acquisition totaling 11,057 acres in southern Osceola County. About 5.2 miles of the western boundary of the project abuts the southeastern boundary of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. The northwestern boundary fronts Lake Marian for 1.3 miles. The project stretches east through the center of the entire Adams Ranch holding, which is bracketed to the north and south with Adams Ranch, Inc. property and bounded on the east by Peavine Road. Avon Park Air Force Range and Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever project are no more than 10 miles to the west of the project. The Mills Ranch and Escape Ranch Conservation Easements lie approximately 3.5 miles to the east. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park is approximately 8.5 miles to the south.

Adams Ranch	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
4 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2007
Project Area (Acres)	11,057
Acres Acquired	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining	11,057
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$10,638,040

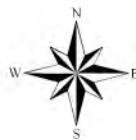
# Adams Ranch - Group A/Less-Than-Fee



## ADAMS RANCH

### OSCEOLA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2007

## Adams Ranch - Group A/Less-Than-Fee

Adams Ranch is a working agricultural ranch with large acreages of improved pasture for beef cattle and sod production. Improved pasture covers approximately 34 percent of the proposed area. The great majority has been planted with bahia grass.

The natural communities present within the matrix of agricultural land include basin marsh, depression marsh, dome swamp, dry prairie, mesic flatwoods, prairie hammock, and scrubby flatwoods. Many of these are in good condition even though they are impacted by cattle and a network of roads and drainage ditches that have altered hydrology.

Nearly 60 percent of the area is designated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for a variety of rare and imperiled species. This project seeks to conserve a mosaic of remaining and increasingly rare natural communities on the site that provide important habitat for an abundance of listed species occurring there as well as providing aquifer recharge, watershed and wetlands protection.

Adams Ranch not only provides habitat for listed species, but also for many species of neotropical migrant birds passing through during the spring and fall. The habitat is also important for game species including white-tailed deer, wild turkey and northern bobwhite quail. These species depend on the dry and wet prairie, mesic and scrubby flatwoods, marshes and hammocks for cover, roost sites, nesting sites and forage.

### **Public Use**

The project is a less-than-fee purchase without public access. Due to the lack of public access, there will not be any public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On June 15, 2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added Adams Ranch to the A list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy in a proposal submitted on December 29, 2006. It has about 11,057 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$10,638,040.

### **Coordination**

There are no proposed acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.



# Annutteliga Hammock

## Citrus and Hernando Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Brooksville Ridge in west-central Florida supports some of the last large tracts of longleaf-pine sandhills in Florida, unique forests of northern hardwood trees, and many archaeological sites. The Annutteliga Hammock project will conserve the remaining fragments of the forests between the Withlacoochee State Forest and the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, thereby protecting habitat for black bear and many sandhill-dwelling plants and animals and giving the public a large area for recreation in the original landscape of this fast-growing region.

### Managers

Division of Forestry (DOF) (northeastern and southeastern parts) and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (western part).

### General Description

This project is defined by its excellent quality sandhill and very good upland hardwood forest natural communities (there is little upland hardwood forest protected in this ecoregion). Remnants of Annutteliga Hammock on steep-sided hills and in small valleys cover 15% of the project area. This hardwood forest resembles forests far to the north; in fact, several northern trees reach their southern limits near this area. Westward the hardwoods give way to drier longleaf-pine sandhills

on slightly lower and more level terrain. Remnants of these sandhill forests cover 64% of the project. It is an excellent habitat for many rare vertebrates adapted to xeric communities and several rare plant species. Twenty archaeological sites attest the long history of Native American occupation here. Limerock mines, golf courses, and residential developments are now seriously fragmenting these natural areas, but excellent examples of the original vegetation and wildlife, including the Florida black bear, remain. The Suncoast Parkway is planned to run through this project.

The Lecanto Sandhills is 2,029 acres of sandhills, xeric hammocks, and depression marshes.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a state forest and wildlife management area. Such uses as camping, picnicking, hiking, and boating will be compatible with the protection of the area.

### Acquisition Planning

This project consists of several large tracts as well as large subdivided areas. Essential parcels include Sugarmill Woods (acquired), World Woods (acquired by the DOF), Florida Crushed Stone, Orange Meadow Corp./Seville (acquired), Blackwell (westernmost tract—acquired by the SWFWMD), Tooke's Lake Joint Venture, and other large hammock and sandhill parcels.

On March 10, 1995, the LAMAC approved the addition of 990 acres to the project boundary.

Annutteliga Hammock FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Cooley's Water-willow</i>	G2/S2
Southern Hognose Snake	G2/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Scrub Stylisma</i>	G3/S3
<i>Plume Polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>Swamp Plume Polypody</i>	G5?/S2
22 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>31,250</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>11,511</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$35,925,705</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>19,739</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$36,241,171</b>

## Annutteliga Hammock - Group B/Full Fee

On July 29, 1999, the Council combined Lecanto Sandhills (2,029 acres) in Citrus County with the Annutteliga Hammock project.

Lecanto Sandhills was acquired in 2001.

### Coordination

A Memorandum of Understanding between FDOT and DEP regarding the future conveyance of a portion of the Annutteliga Hammock project within the proposed alignment for the Suncoast Parkway, was signed on August 3, 1998. This project is also included within SWFWMD's Five-Year Plan. Hernando County is an acquisition and management partner.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Annutteliga Hammock project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the size and resource diversity to qualify as a Wildlife Management Area and a State Forest.

**Manager** The DOF proposes to manage approximately 14,336 acres in the northeastern and southeastern portions of the project. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended to be lead manager on the southwestern 14,048 acres next to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.

### Conditions affecting intensity of management

#### A. Division of Forestry

There are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

#### B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Annutteliga Hammock lies within 40 miles of the St. Petersburg/Tampa metropolitan area and is expected to receive heavy demand for wildlife oriented recre-

ational use. The demand for hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding and nature study is expected to be high. Additionally, the sandhill community will need the frequent application of fire to rejuvenate itself.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

#### A. Division of Forestry

The primary land management goal for the Division of Forestry is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This total resource concept will guide the DOF's management activities on this project.

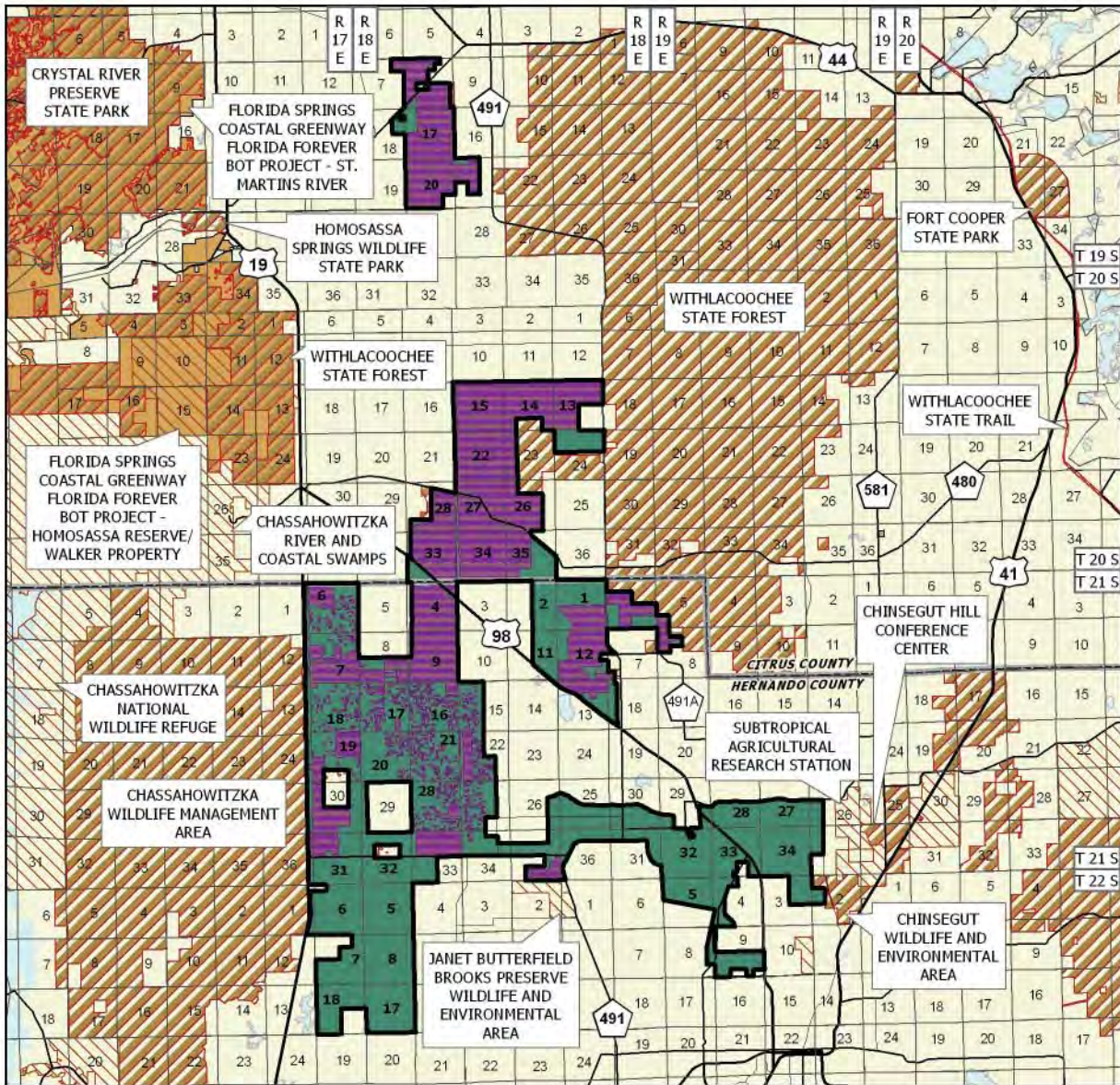
Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the DOF for management, public access will be provided for low intensity, non-facilities related outdoor recreation activities. Until specific positions are provided for the project, public access will be coordinated through Withlacoochee Forestry Center (WFC) Headquarters and management activities will be conducted utilizing personnel from WFC.

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species.

An all season burning program will be established utilizing practices that incorporate recent research findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

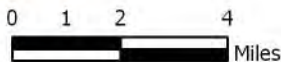
# Annutteliga Hammock - Group B/Full Fee



## ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK

### CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

## Annutteliga Hammock - Group B/Full Fee

Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinning and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance and, where appropriate, will be reforested with species that would typically be found in a naturally functioning ecosystem. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The Division will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. As a general practice, if it is determined that a new recreation area is needed, low impact, rustic facilities will be the only kind developed. High-impact, organized recreation areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

### B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on securing and posting boundaries, assuring public access to the tract, surveying wildlife and plant communities, and restoring fire as a viable component of the ecosystem. A management plan for the tract

will be prepared.

Longer-range plans for the property include securing and stabilizing necessary roads for public access, developing camping and nature interpretive facilities and developing hiking and horseback riding trails. All-weather access roads will be developed and maintained for use by the public and for management operations. An all-season prescribed burning program will be established using both aerial and ground ignition techniques. Whenever possible existing roads, trails and firebreaks will be used to control both prescribed and natural fires. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as appropriate. Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented to assure the areas are protected from abuse.

### Revenue-generating potential

#### A. Division of Forestry

The Division will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. Revenue from these sales will vary, but the revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be low to moderate.

#### B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Harvest of pinelands could help offset operational costs. Any estimate of revenue from harvest of the pinelands will depend on a detailed timber cruise. Revenue may also be generated from the sale of Wildlife Management Area stamps to recreational users of the property.

### Management Cost Summary/DOF

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$85,020	\$85,020
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,000	\$25,000
OCO	\$116,800	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$226,820</b>	<b>\$120,020</b>

### Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$78,353	\$78,353
OPS	\$10,500	\$5,250
Expense	\$52,500	\$42,000
OCO	\$124,000	\$10,000
FCO	\$150,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$404,958</b>	<b>\$135,603</b>

# Apalachicola River

Group A

Jackson, Gadsden, Liberty and Calhoun Counties

Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The high plateaus, steep bluffs and deep ravines of the northern Apalachicola River valley are some of the most significant natural features of the southeastern Coastal Plain. Covered with rich forests and dotted with unique sedgy glades, the area harbors many northern, rare, and endemic plants and animals, such as the nearly extinct Florida Torreya tree. By connecting Torreya State Park with a Nature Conservancy preserve to the south and with limestone glades to the north, and by protecting forests on the west bank of the river, the Apalachicola River project will help preserve the water quality of the river—which feeds the productive Apalachicola Bay—and the unique species and biological communities of the region, as well as provide the public with scenic areas for hiking, boat launching, and other recreational pursuits.

## Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Division of Forestry (DOF) will be a cooperating manager for the Sweetwater Creek tract in managing the forest resources, and timber issues related to planning and implementation of forest management activities, and provide assistance in developing prescribed burn plans.

## General Description

This project includes much of Florida’s upland glades natural community, currently not represented on conservation lands, and harbors several globally rare plant species as well as 16 species occurring nowhere else in Florida. It consists of three tracts of land along the upper Apalachicola River: 1) a large tract on the east bank, running south from near Chattahoochee to Torreya State Park, includes rich upland and floodplain forests and most of the upland glades in the state. It shelters several extremely rare plants such as the Florida torreya; 2) The Land property, west of the former area, contains floodplain forest important for southeastern and gray bats; 3) The Sweetwater Creek tract, connecting Torreya State Park with a Nature Conservancy preserve, includes some of the deepest steephead ravines in the state, with unique hardwood forests harboring many rare plants and animals. The uplands between the steepheads are a sand pine plantation. The upper Apalachicola has a high potential for archaeological sites; several are already known. All these areas are threatened by timbering and unrestricted vehicular access.

## Public Use

Portions of the project will be managed as state parks or preserves, wildlife management areas, and state forests. It will allow such uses as hiking, nature appreciation, limited hunting and fishing, and boat launching.

## Acquisition Planning

On December 7, 1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) separated the Apalachicola River and Bay CARL project into two projects: Apalachicola Bay, and Apalachicola River, Phase I. The Apalachicola

Apalachicola River FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Florida Torreya</i>	G1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>Bluffs Blazing Star</i>	G1/S1
<i>Apalachicola Rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Torreya Pygmy Grasshopper	G1/S1
<i>Fringed Campion</i>	G2/S1
<i>Baldwyn's Spiny-pod</i>	G3/S1
<i>Godfrey's Swampprivet</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida Yew</i>	G2/S2
<i>Apalachicola Wild Indigo</i>	G2/S2
<i>Ashe's Magnolia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida Spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
61 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>18,940</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>5,417*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$8,702,682*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>13,523</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$5,517,598</b>

\*includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the NFWFWMMD



## Apalachicola River - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

River, Phase I project included the Aspalaga Landing tract (800 acres/2 owners), Atkins tract (3,210 acres/7 owners), and Gadsden County Glades (1,912 acres/13 owners) and had an estimated tax value of \$4,532,300.

On April 7, 1992, the LAAC approved a 4,570-acre addition to the project boundary. It consisted of 30 owners and a taxable value of \$1,813,157.

On July 14, 1995, the LAAC approved a 374-acre addition (Land property) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, and had a taxable value of \$282,712. The tract is across from the Gadsden Glades tract and nearly adjacent to the Sneads Cove site of the SE Bat Maternity Caves project.

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) transferred the Atkins/Trammell tract (approximately 3,210 acres) and the Hatcher tract (approximately 544 acres within the 9,145-acre Sweetwater site) to the Less-Than-Fee category. A 613-acre conservation easement was acquired on the Hatcher tract in 2002.

On May 6, 1999, the LAMAC designated an additional 11,800 acres (Lake Wimico) as essential parcels.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) removed the Atkins/Trammell tract site (approximately 3,210 acres) from the project because the resources had been compromised and negotiations had reached an impasse.

On April 25, 2002, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 2,242-acre addition (Corbin/Tucker site) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of 2 owners, David Corbin & Ken Tucker, and had a taxable value of \$1,106,820.

On August 15, 2002, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 1,514-acre addition (Trammel tract, previously known as Atkins tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owners, Mr. & Mrs. Trammel, and had a taxable value of \$430,000.

On February 7, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple & less-than-fee, 3,113-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of 4 landowners, 5 tracts, and had a 2002 taxable value of

\$764,996. The tracts break down as follows: Soterra Crooked Creek tract, 447 acres; Soterra Connector tract, 117 acres; Thompson tract, 304 acres; Hatcher tract, 160 acres; and TNC Dupuis/Traveler's tract, 1,846 acres.

On October 17, 2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 1,244-acre addition (Glenn Summers tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Glenn Summers, and had a taxable value of \$91,645.

### Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District and The Nature Conservancy have provided information and assistance with this project. It is not a Bargain/Shared project, however.

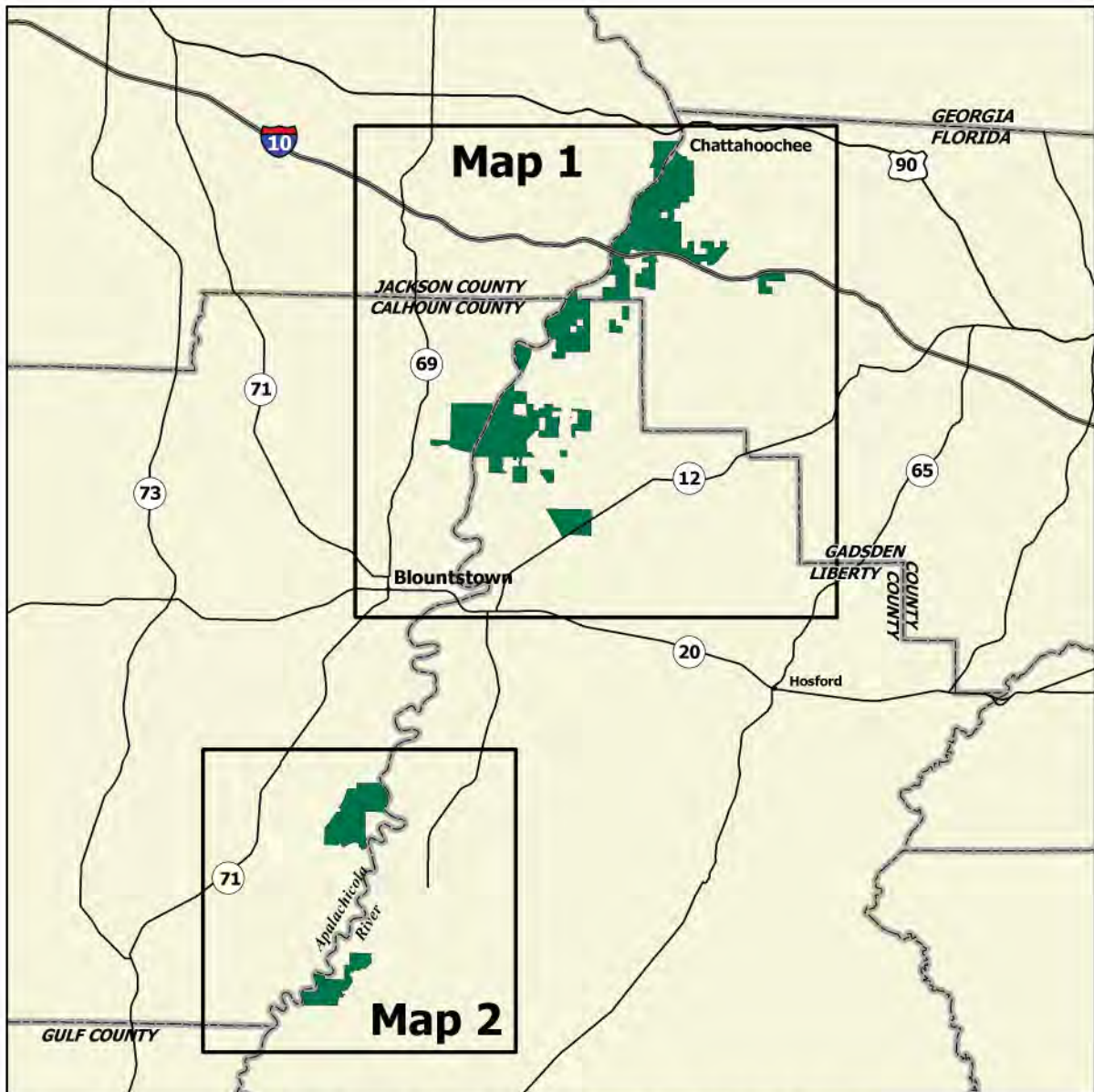
### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Apalachicola River project are: to conserve the rich bluffs and ravines along the upper Apalachicola River, unique in North America, that provide critical habitat for many rare plants and animals; to conserve and restore these important ecosystems and their plant and animal resources through purchase because regulation cannot adequately protect them; to provide areas for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve several significant archaeological sites. The project should be managed under the single-use concept, with management activities being directed toward the preservation of steephead streams, hardwood forests, glades, and archaeological sites, the removal of pine plantations, and restoration of natural pine forests. The project, when completed, will include most of the bluffs and ravines in private ownership and will link a Nature Conservancy preserve with Torreya State Park. It has the appropriate size and location to achieve the management goals.

### Management Prospectus

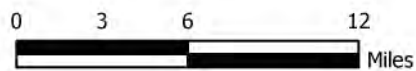
**Qualifications for state designation** The unique and sensitive forests, glades, and streams on the east side of the Apalachicola River qualify these lands as state forests, parks, and preserves. The Atkins tract on the west side of the river has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The DRP will manage the fee-simple lands east of the river between Sweetwater Creek and the old Gadsden Glades area. The DOF, however, will manage the Sweetwater Creek tract for the first ten years after the state acquires it.



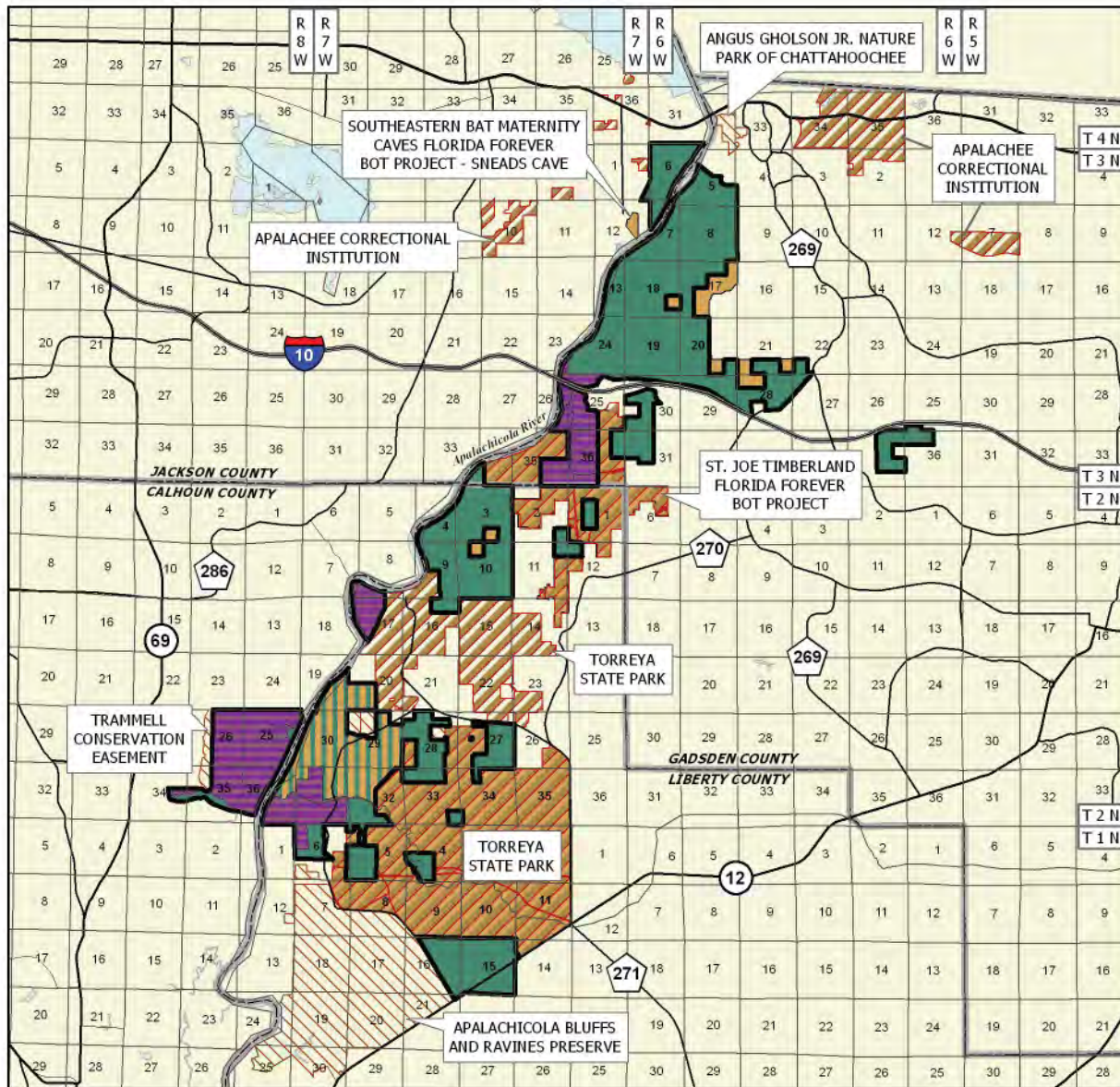
## APALACHICOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

### *JACKSON, GADSDEN, LIBERTY, AND CALHOUN COUNTIES*



OCTOBER 2005

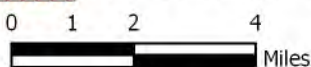
# Apalachicola River - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee



## APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 1 OF 2

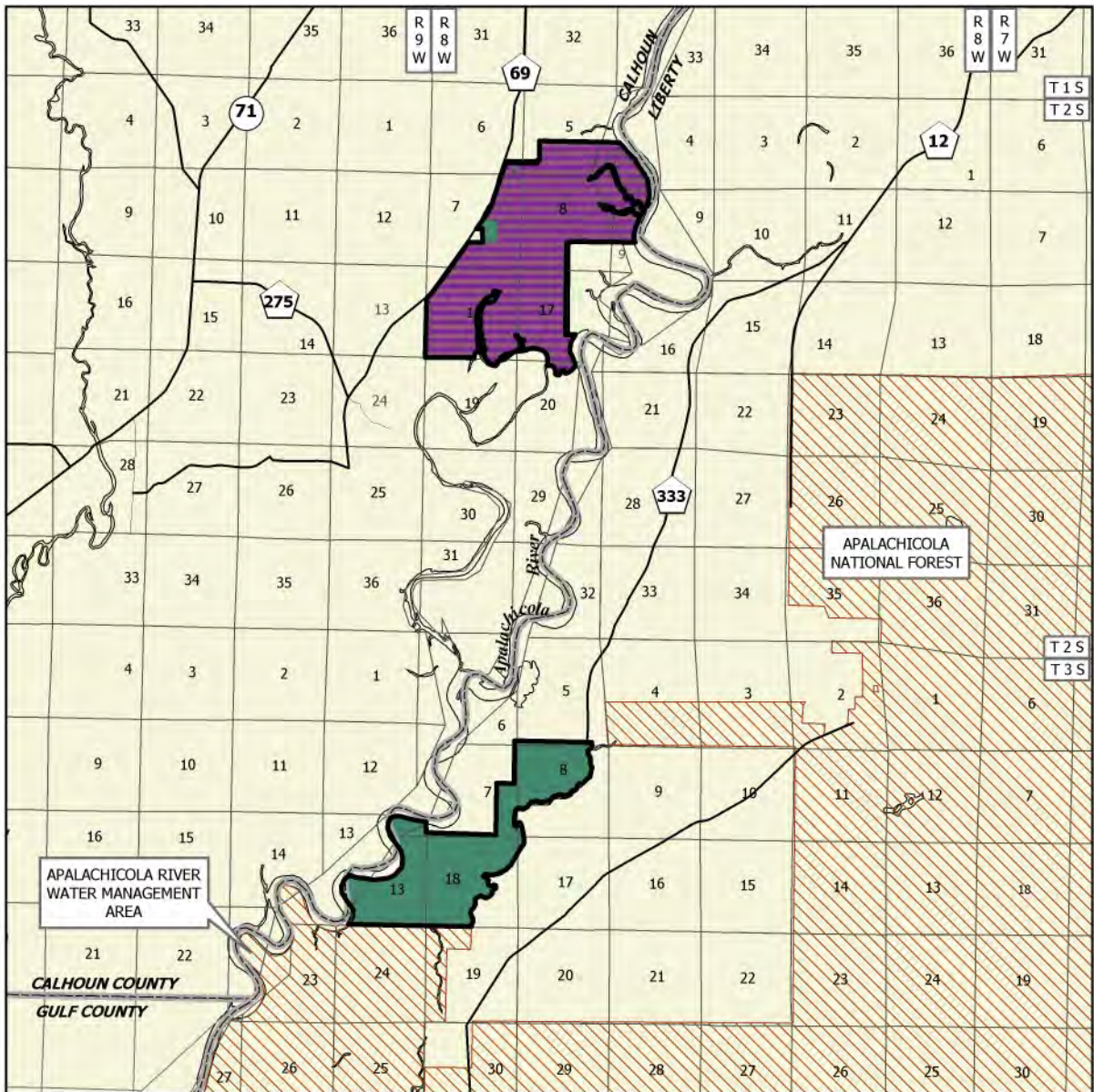
### JACKSON, GADSDEN, LIBERTY, AND CALHOUN COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  TNC Owned Lands Within the Project
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands







APRIL 2008

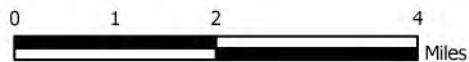
# Apalachicola River - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee



## APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 2 OF 2

### CALHOUN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2005

## Apalachicola River - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The portions of the project in the vicinity of the Torreya State Park and east of the river will be high-need management areas with emphasis on public recreational use and development compatible with resource protection and management. During an initial 10-year period in which the DOF will restore natural pine forests on the Sweetwater Creek tract, the site will be a low-need management area.

**Timetable for implementing management** Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially after the lands are placed under management of the DRP. It will probably be several years before any significant public facilities are developed. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project area.

Management Cost Category	Startup	DOF/Sweetwater Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$105,910	\$105,910
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$30,000	\$30,000
OCO	\$168,000	\$13,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$303,910</b>	<b>\$148,910</b>

Management Cost Category	Startup	DRP/Sweetwater Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$83,306	\$72,319
OPS	\$24,960	\$44,720
Expense	\$16,800	\$49,730
OCO	\$101,252	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$226,318</b>	<b>\$167,769</b>

Management Cost Category	Startup	DRP/ North Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$72,319	\$72,319
OPS	\$44,720	\$44,720
Expense	\$49,730	\$49,730
OCO	\$81,527	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$248,296</b>	<b>\$167,769</b>

# Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge

## Brevard and Indian River Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Although sea turtle nesting occurs from the southern tip of Texas to the southern coast of Virginia, this 20-mile stretch of beach in Brevard and Indian River Counties is the second most significant nesting area for Loggerhead sea turtles in the world, one of the most significant nesting areas for Green Turtles in the western hemisphere, and an occasional nesting area for the Leatherback, the largest and rarest sea turtle. For thousands of years, these sea turtles have returned each year to these beaches to lay their eggs and continue the species. The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project is designed to help protect the habitat and assure the continued survival of these endangered sea turtles.

### Managers

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Brevard and Indian River Counties will be the cooperating managers.

### General Description

This project will consolidate several small public ownerships and add to them substantially, protecting almost ten miles of undeveloped Atlantic Coast shoreline. Natural communities are in good condition and include beach, coastal strand, and maritime hammock, but the primary significance of this tract is its value as sea turtle nesting habitat. Stretches of quiet, undisturbed sandy beaches, with little or no artificial light, are essential to the reproductive success and survival of sea turtles. The project harbors several other

rare plant and animal species. The project is of particular importance to unique offshore reefs (sabellariid “worm” and hard coral) that have been proposed for listing as the focus of a *Florida Coral Grounds National Marine Sanctuary*. At least 30 archaeological sites (primarily shell middens) are located near or within the refuge. It is threatened by intense development pressure, both commercial and residential.

### Public Use

The project is designated as a recreation area and a wildlife and environmental area. The designation will allow such uses as photography, swimming, fishing and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning and Status

Appraisals on the remaining essential or core parcels are being reviewed. Phase I: 500 feet or more of contiguous beach frontage adjacent to publicly owned lands; Phase II: 500 feet or more of contiguous beach frontage in a single ownership or under the contract of a single agent; Phase III: less than 500 feet of beach frontage adjacent to publicly owned lands. The project excludes developed and undeveloped parcels situated between developed parcels. Acquisition efforts are ongoing.

The LAMAC approved the addition of 112 acres to the project boundary on March 10, 1995.

On April 6, 2001, the Council transferred this project to the full fee from the negotiated impasse group.

Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Leatherback	G2/S2
Green Turtle	G3/S2
Loggerhead	G3/S3
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Coastal Hoary-pea	G1T1/S1
Simpson's Prickly Apple	G2/S2
Coastal Vervain	G3/S3
7 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on list	1991
Project Area (Acres)	1,203
Acres Acquired	517**
at a Cost of	\$35,650,365
Acres Remaining	686
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$21,200,656*

\*The LAMAC directed that a \$10 million cap per year be set on acquisition expenditures within Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge. \*\*Exchange (1.34-acre parcel) with County and Wind-sor Properties.

## Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge - Group B/Full Fee

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 5 acres to the project.

January 2009, the state was part of a multi-part exchange that resulted in 1.34 acres inside the project boundary of ACSTR going to Windsor Properties. \$245,000 was originally paid for this parcel.

### **Coordination**

This project was developed in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In 2000, the federal government approved \$2 million for the acquisition of parcels within Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge. Indian River County is an acquisition partner on several tracts within the Indian River County portion of the project.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation has made a substantial contribution to the overall protection and acquisition of the project area. The Foundation has acquired several tracts within the project boundary.

In 1994, individuals representing eleven government agencies, conservation groups, non-profit organizations

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge project are: to conserve scarce, undeveloped Atlantic Coast shoreline that is globally important nesting habitat for threatened and endangered sea turtles; to conserve this important ecosystem and its wildlife resources through purchase because regulation cannot adequately protect them; and to provide areas for natural-resource-based recreation.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge is recognized as the most important sea turtle nesting site in the United States and qualifies as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Manager** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage most of the project as a National Wildlife Refuge. Primary management partners include the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Brevard County, and Indian River County. The portion of the project immediately north of the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area and west of the highway will be added to the state recreation area.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project includes lands that are low-need, moderate-need and high-need tracts as defined by 259.032 (11)(c) F.S. About 30% of the lands are low-need, 50% moderate-

need and 20% high-need properties.

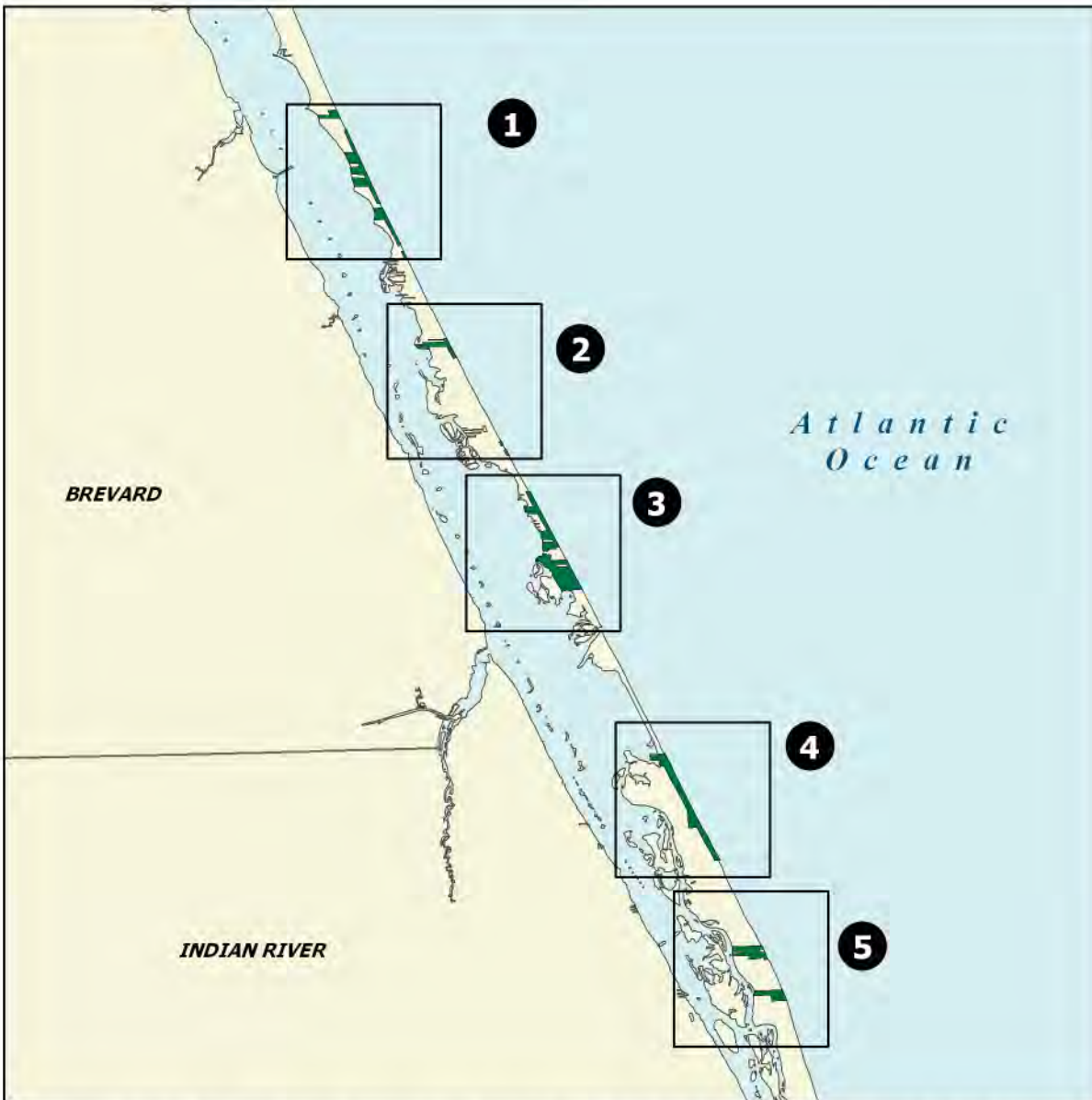
### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, activities will concentrate on site security, controlling public access, removing trash and resource inventory. A management plan will be formulated. Brevard County plans to develop an innovative environmental education program for the area. Long-range plans for the properties, beginning one year after acquisition, will be directed toward protecting the nesting beach, restoring disturbed areas, inventorying resources, and perpetuating natural communities and listed species. To the greatest extent practical, parking lots and dune crossovers will be confined to already disturbed sites.

**Revenue-generating potential** Collecting parking or access fees is the only means of generating revenue from the tracts to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or local governments. The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue to be generated initially from the tracts to be added to the state recreation area.

**Cooperators in management activities** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will collaborate in management with local governments. Non-profit organizations with active management and education interests include The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Caribbean Conservation Corporation, Center for Marine Conservation and local non-profits and land trusts. A Brevard County volunteer warden program has been proposed to involve the local community in conservation, management and educational programs.

Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge - Group B/Full Fee



**ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: OVERVIEW**

**BREVARD AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES**

**Map 1:**

- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Northern Boundary
- B. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment I

**Map 2:**

- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment II

**Map 3:**

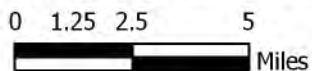
- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment III

**Map 4:**

- A. Archie Carr N.W.R. - Core Segment IV, Southern Boundary

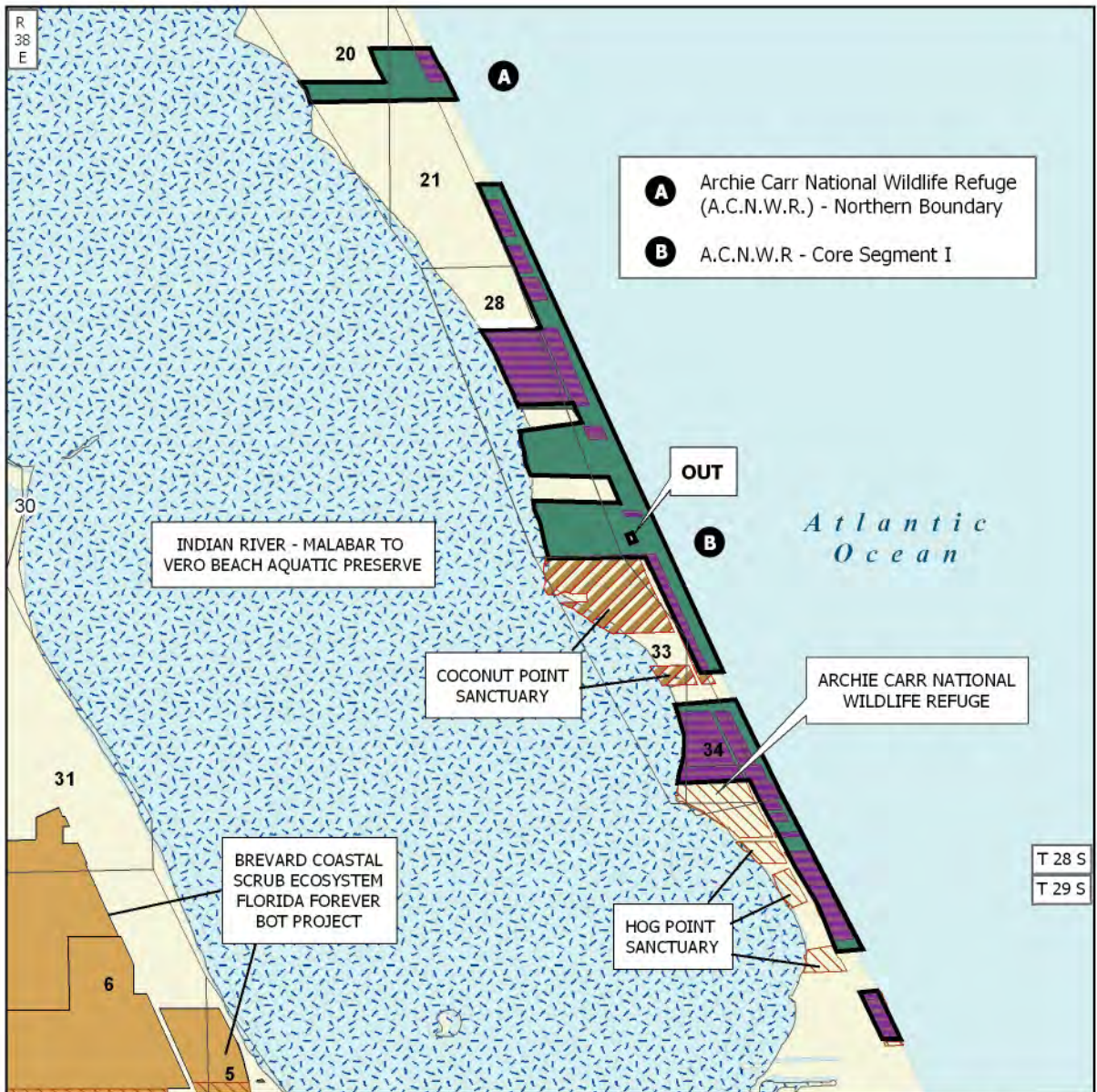
**Map 5:**

- A. Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge



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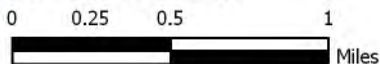




## ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 1 OF 5

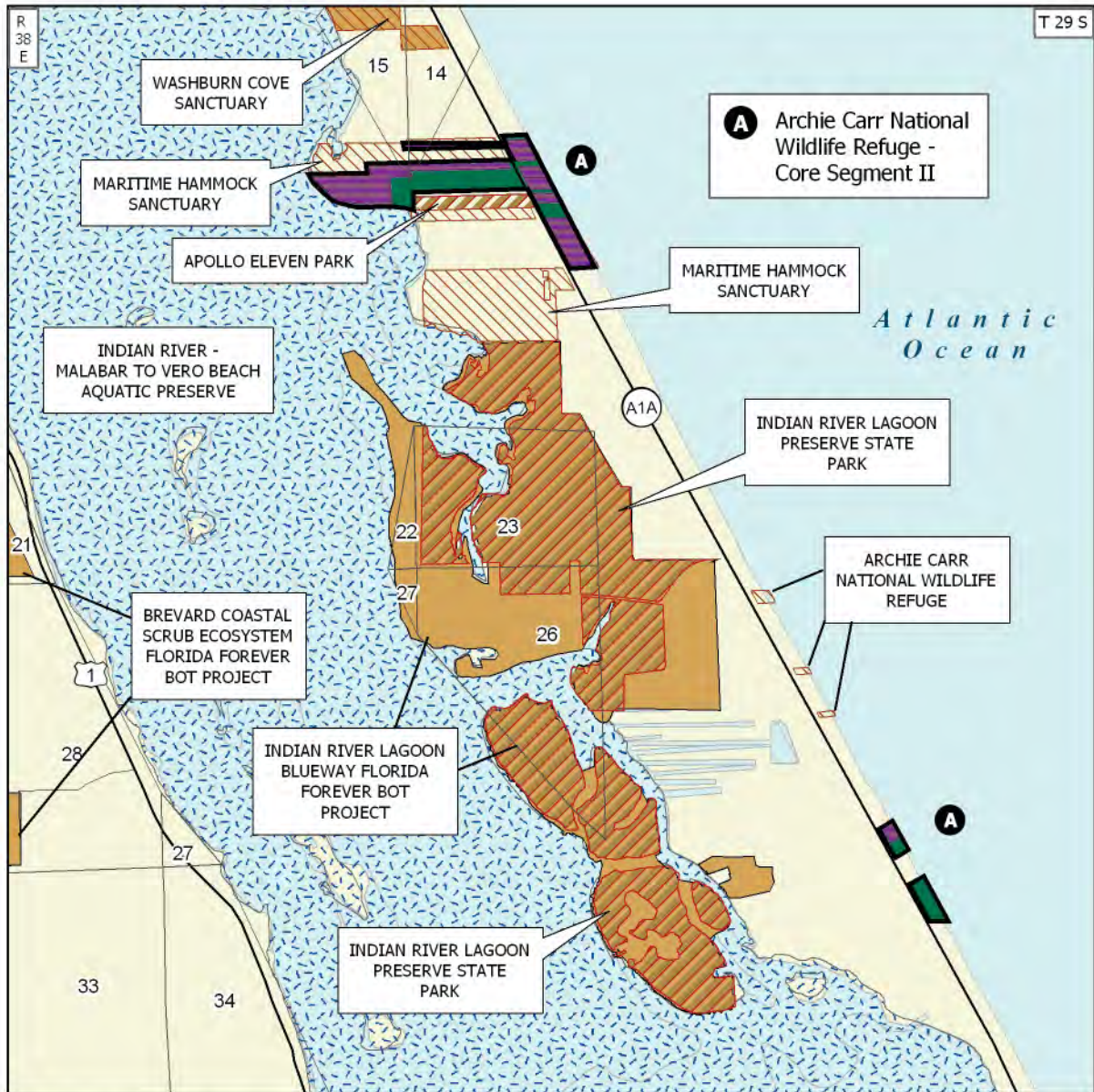
### BREVARD COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



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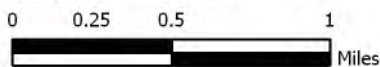
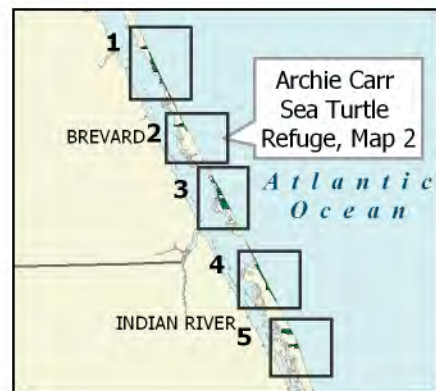
# Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge - Group B/Full Fee



## ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 2 OF 5

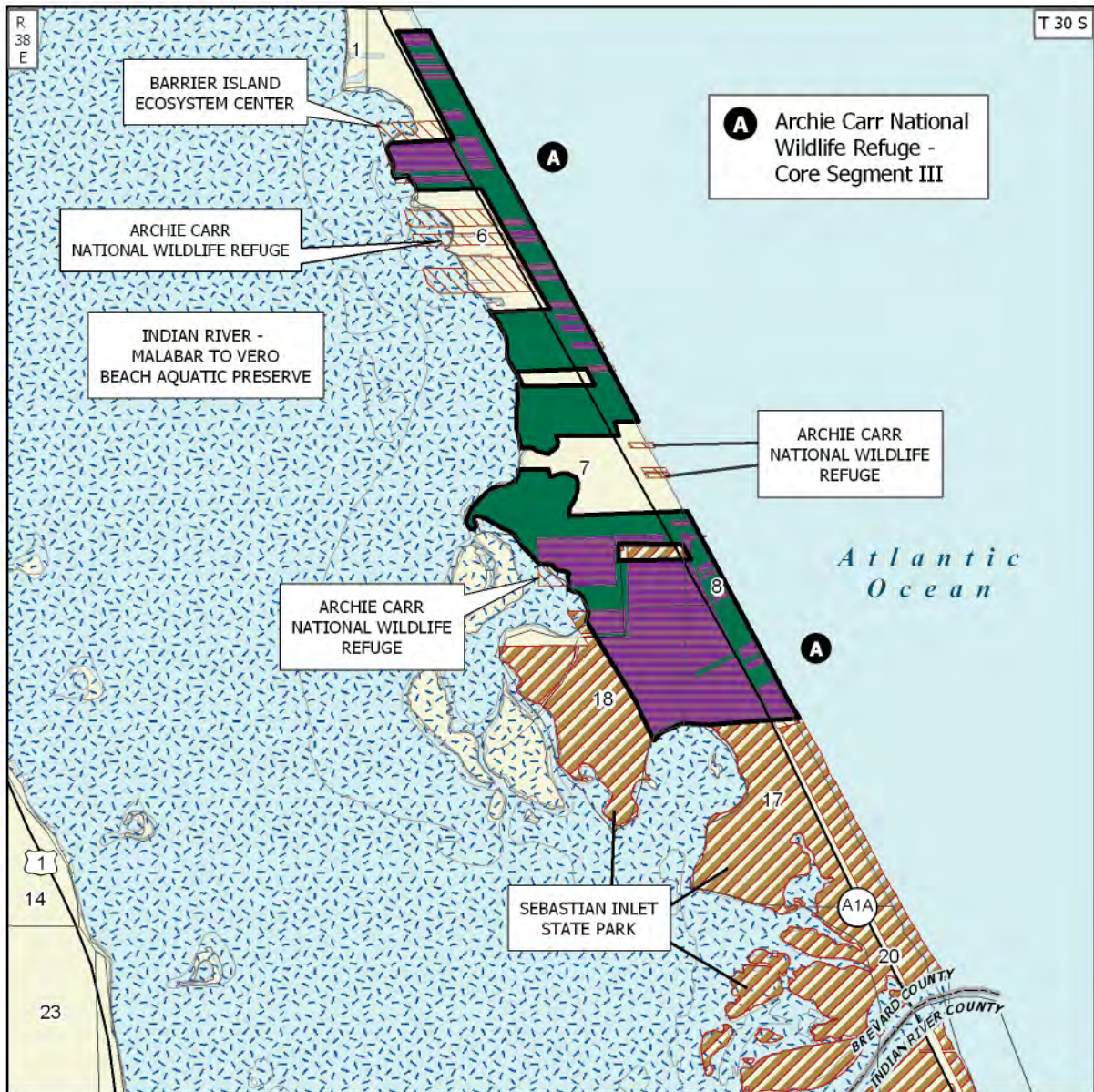
### BREVARD COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



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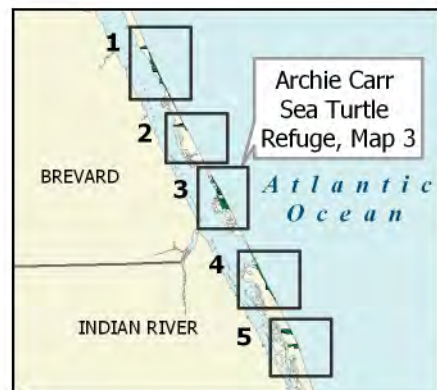
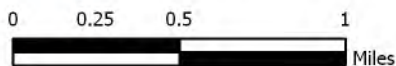
# Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge - Group B/Full Fee



## ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 3 OF 5

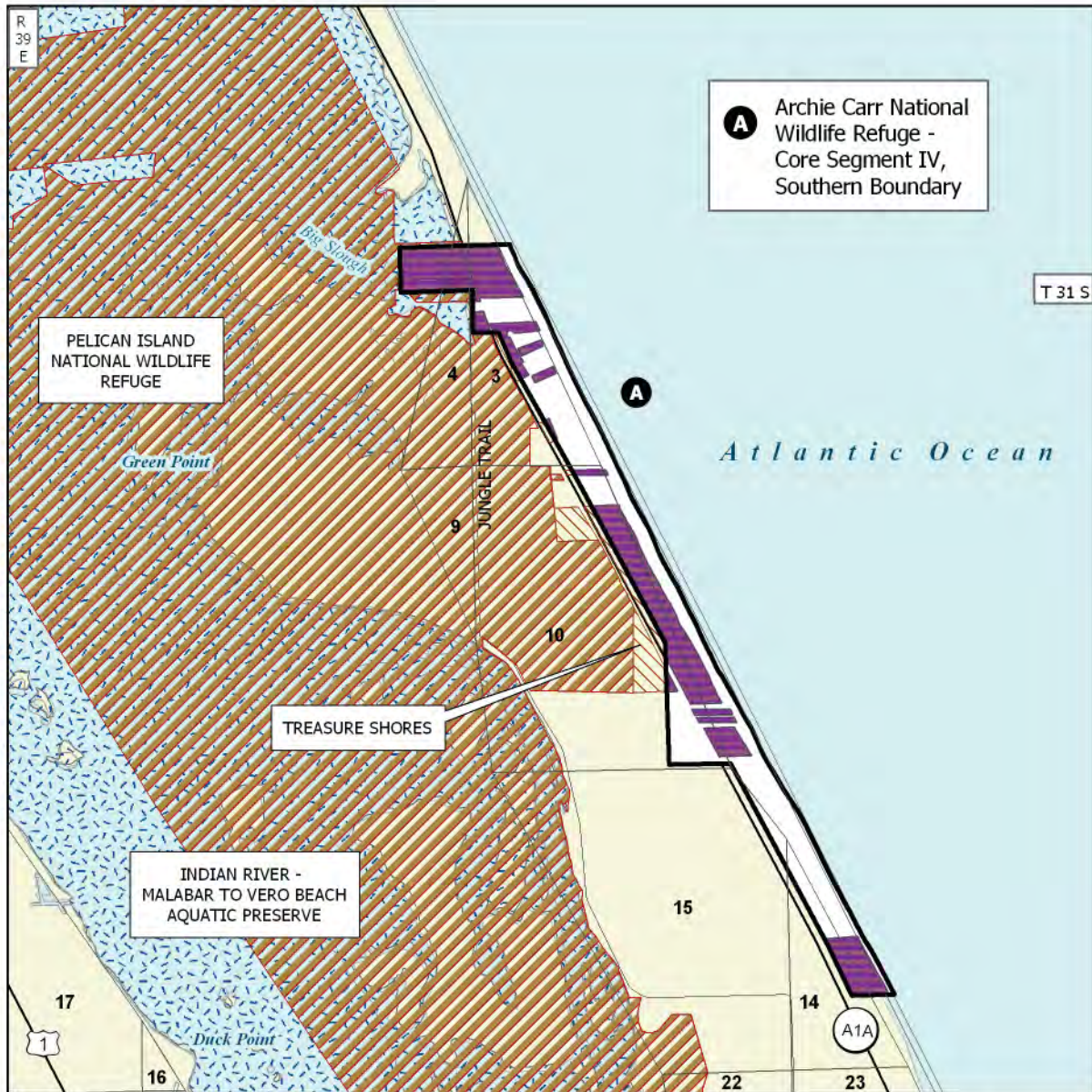
### BREVARD COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



SEPTEMBER 2006

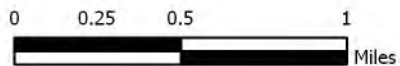
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge - Group B/Full Fee



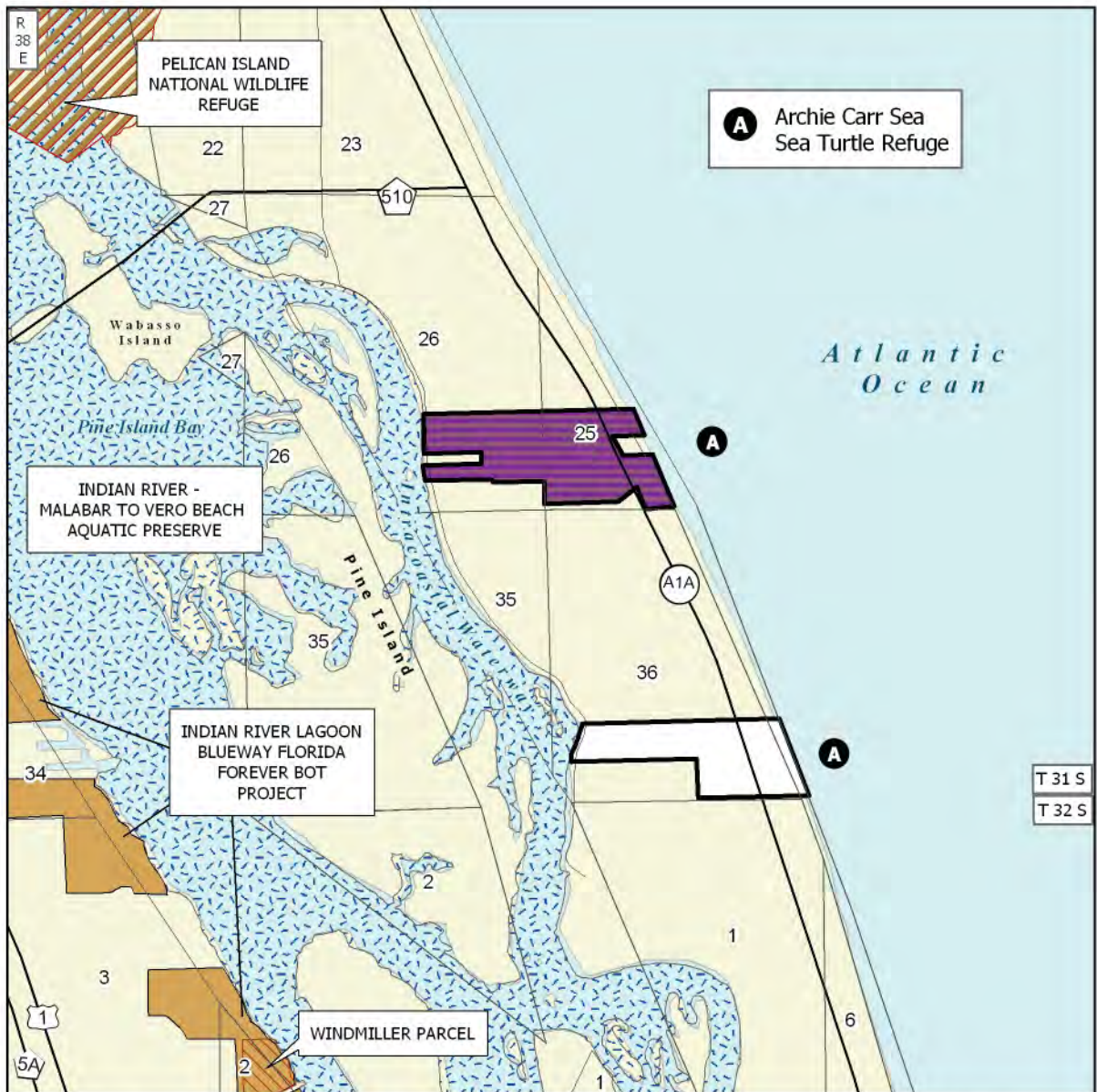
**ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 4 OF 5**

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



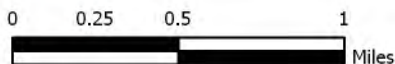
SEPTEMBER 2006



**ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 5 OF 5**

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



SEPTEMBER 2006

# Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

## Martin County

# Group A

## Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Cities spreading north from Miami and Fort Lauderdale have all but eliminated natural areas, such as coastal scrub, near the southeast Florida coast. The Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project will protect one of the largest patches of natural land left on this coast by conserving important scrub, pine flatwoods, marshes, and South Fork’s floodplain on the St. Lucie River. Protection will also be provided for the quality of water in the St. Lucie and Loxahatchee River basins and the public will have the opportunity to enjoy the original landscape of this fast-growing area.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

### General Description

Mesic to Wet Flatwoods, which cover almost half (43 percent) of the project, extend from the floodplain forest along the South Fork St. Lucie River east to two ridges. One of the largest remaining islands of Atlantic Coastal Ridge scrub occupies these ridges. Most of the rare plants and animals known from the project inhabit the scrub, including the extremely rare and federally listed perforate reindeer lichen, and the Florida scrub jay. The area includes the headwaters of the South Fork St. Lucie River, part of the drainage basin of the Loxahatchee River, an Outstanding Florida Water, and is important for water supply to coastal Martin County. No archaeological sites are known from the project. The scrub, in particular, is being lost to development.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a state park with uses such as picnicking, hiking, fishing and canoeing.

### Acquisition Planning and Status

This project consists of approximately 28 ownerships; five relatively large ownerships. Essential parcels are those on the eastern project boundary including Davis, Shaw, and Commercial Bank Medalist (acquired under contract by SFWMD). Mobil-Seawind (acquired) is also an essential tract.

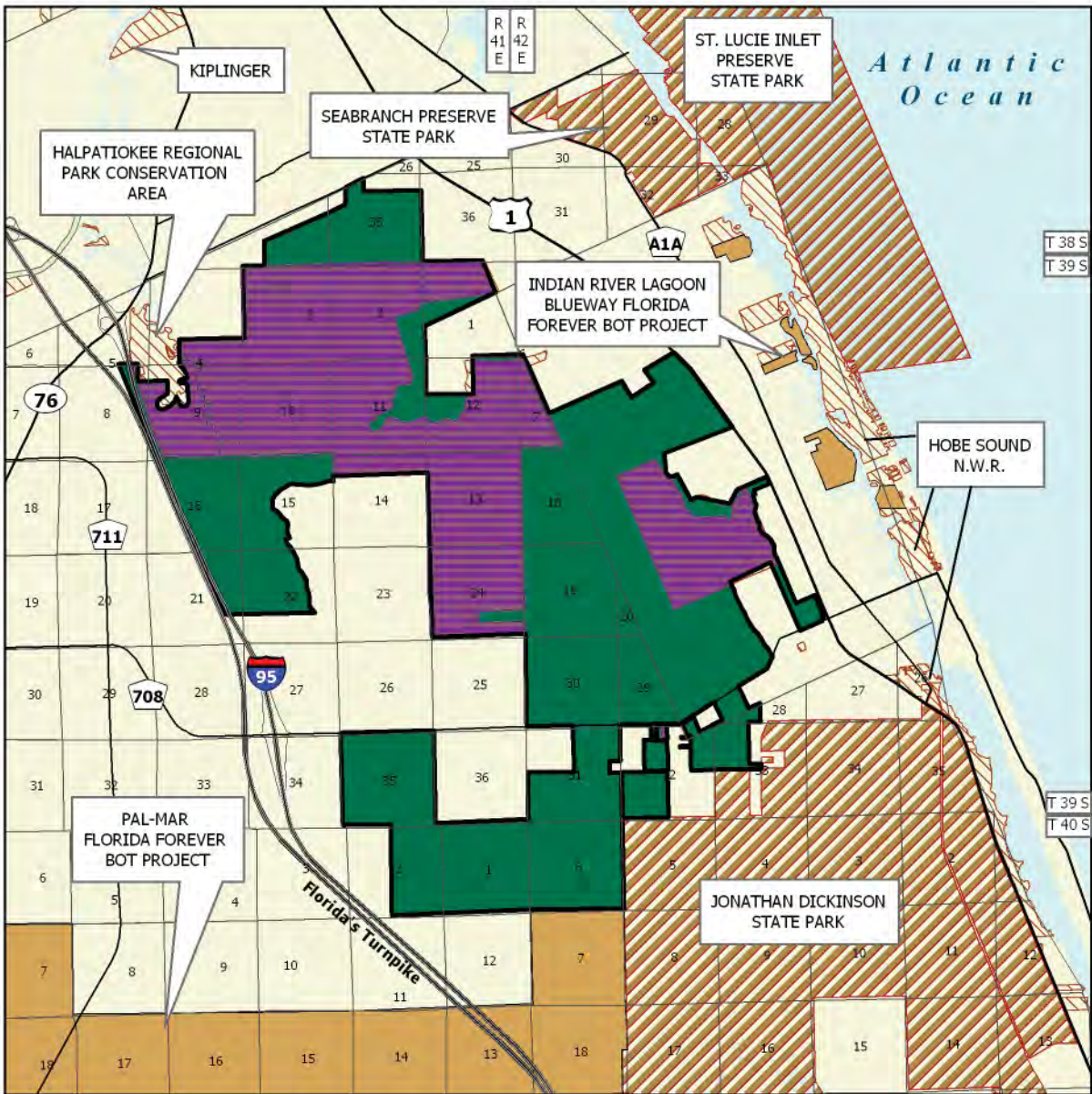
On February 14, 1995, the Governor and Cabinet directed the LAMAC to hold a public workshop with Martin County, South Florida Water Management District, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, interested environmental and economic development organizations, private landowners, and interested citizens to establish a workplan for this project. Further, the Governor and Cabinet directed that the “CARL committee report to the Cabinet with their determination prior to any purchases on that particular tract of land”.

Public meetings were held on June 12, 1995, and October 5, 1995. As a result of the public meetings, the LAMAC deleted approximately 480 acres from the project boundary. The tracts had been recently developed.

On July 16, 1996, LAMAC added 41 acres to the project boundary and approximately 2,118 acres were delineated as the minimum acceptable acquisition boundary for the Mobil (Seawind) ownership within the project boundary.

Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Piedmont Jointgrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Large-flowered Rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

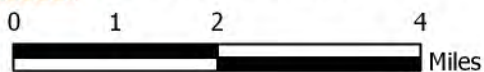
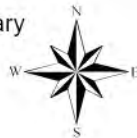
<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>16,002</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>5,816</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$38,215,961</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>10,186</b>
<b>With Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$72,002,220</b>



## ATLANTIC RIDGE ECOSYSTEM

### MARTIN COUNTY

-  Florida Forever Bot Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006

## Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee

On October 15, 1998, LAMAC designated the Phase II corridor to Jonathan Dickinson State Park as essential.

On October 21, 1999, the Council added 598 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

On August 22, 2000 the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 1,920 acres to the project.

On February 11, 2005 the Council approved adding 304 acres in 16 parcels (Kitching Creek Addition) to the boundaries of the project.

On December 8, 2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.

### Coordination

South Florida Water Management District is an

### Management Policy Statement

The goals of management of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** This project has the size and quality of resource desired for management under the state park system.

**Manager** The DRP

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem is a high-need management area requiring intensive resource management and protection. Depending on the nature and extent of public use determined by the management plan process, there might be additional needs for management of public use activities and facilities.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management consistent with the stated goals and objectives of the approved Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project Assessment.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After the initial acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public-use facilities are developed. The degree of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. Revenue generated by the nearby Jonathan Dickinson State Park for Fiscal Year 1993-1994 was \$364,711.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project.

### Management Cost Summary

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$52,994	\$52,994
OPS	\$8,000	\$8,000
Expense	\$26,307	\$26,307
OCO	\$129,212	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$216,132</b>	<b>\$88,301</b>



# Ayavalla Plantation

## Leon County

# Group A Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring a less-than-fee conservation easement over the Ayavalla Plantation property in northern Leon County meets state goals of enhancing coordination of land acquisition policies efforts by making a conservation link among properties. This project will connect to the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area and to properties near Lake Jackson. Using a conservation easement for this project also meets state conservation goals of finding alternatives to fee-simple purchases. Additionally, the property also meets Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of Florida's biodiversity of species, landscapes, and natural communities by preserving a large area of natural habitat. Another major state conservation goal of the state conservation policies is to ensure that Florida has sufficient quantities of fresh water, and the Ayavalla Plantation conservation easement will protect a large array of ponds, lakes, and wetlands.

### Manager (Monitor)

The Office of Environmental Services within the Division of State Lands will be the monitor of the conservation easement over the property while the property remains in private hands.

### General Description

Ayavalla Plantation is 6,097 acres in northern Leon County, bordering the Ochlockonee River and stretching from Old Bainbridge Road eastward to the northern edge of Lake Jackson. It has a large number of parcels, all under the ownership of the Phipps family. As part of the planned less-than-fee acquisition, the Phipps family will retain 15 small-acreage tracts spaced throughout the project area that may be used as home sites.

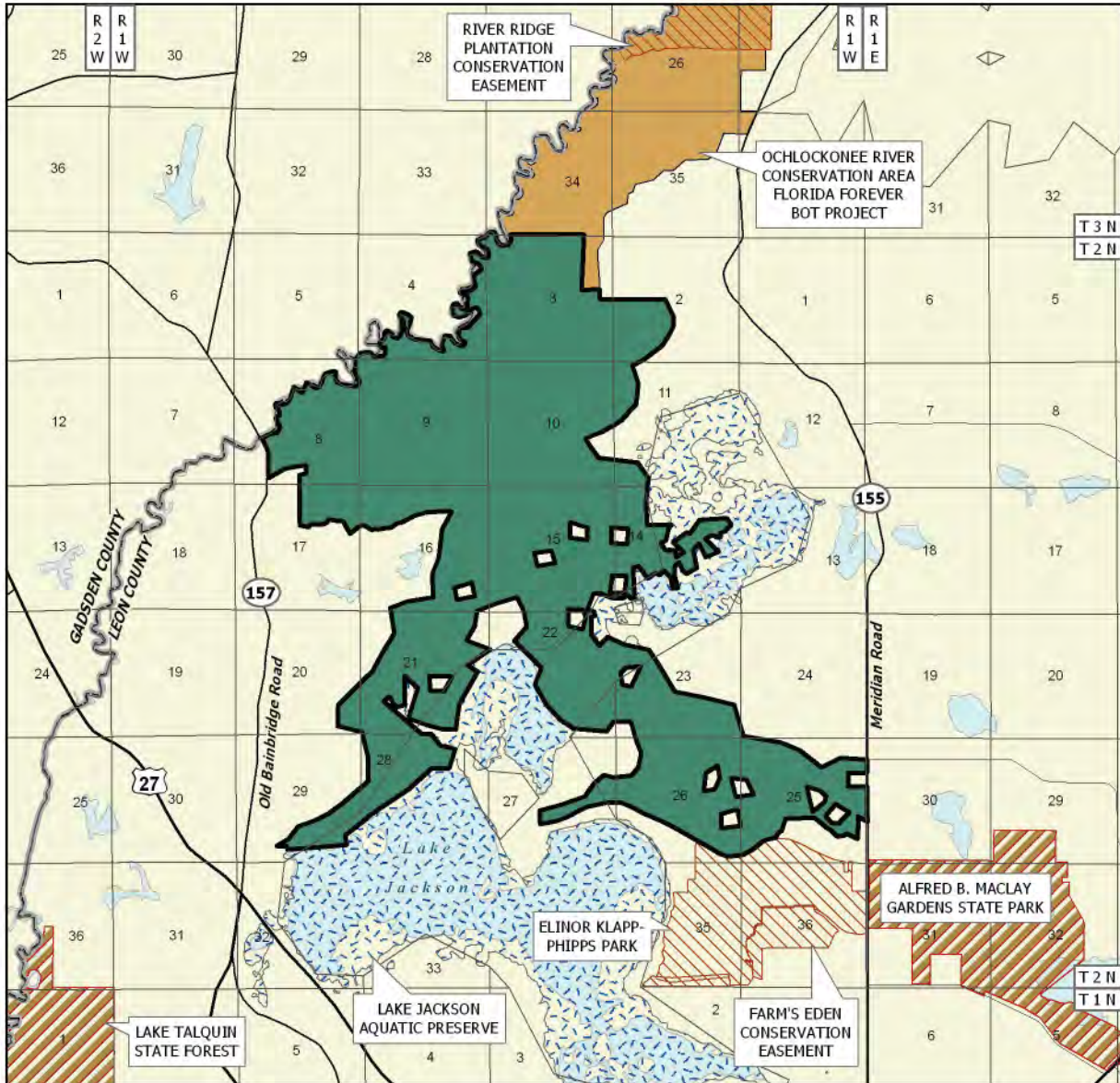
The project is bounded on the south by the northern shore of Lake Jackson, and the northern boundary is the Ochlockonee River. The project includes more than five and one-half miles of river frontage. The eastern-southeastern boundary is partly defined by Meridian Road (County Road 155) and part of the western boundary fronts on Old Bainbridge Road (County Road 157). The project is also adjacent to land managed by Leon County as a local park.

The Ayavalla Plantation landscape is representative of the Red Hills Physiographic Province, characterized by rolling terrain overlying clay soils that rest upon limestone. The wetlands on the property include a variety of lacustrine (freshwater lake) and riparian systems. Elevations range from approximately 90 to 200 feet above mean sea level, being generally lower near the river. The principal native landcover was once upland pine forest, but has been heavily disturbed by long-term (centuries) use for agriculture and timber production, construction of food plots, and clearing, with substantial disturbance to native groundcover (now mostly weedy species). However, a pine component is once again prominent, albeit one that is more characteristic of successional old fields, including shortleaf, loblolly, and slash pines rather than the original longleaf pine. Roughly one-third of these pine-lands are now in intensive silviculture; the remainder more closely resembles upland pine forest at a structural level although its floral components have been altered to such an extent that it is not considered by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) as a native upland pine forest community. These pine-dominated uplands are selectively timbered pine plantation

Ayavalla Plantation	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Round-tailed Muskrat	G3/S3
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?
Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>6,097</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>6,097</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of:</b>	<b>\$23,675,453</b>

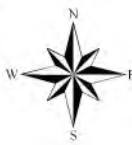
**Ayavalla Plantation - Group A/Less -Than-Fee**



**AYAVALLA PLANTATION**

**LEON COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JUNE 2008

## Ayavalla Plantation - Group A/Less -Than-Fee

on former agricultural fields.

Approximately fifteen percent of the property is classified as a “Strategic Habitat Conservation Area”; primarily for wading birds. The river corridor segment of the property may provide habitat for larger, more far roaming listed species such as the Florida black bear. Other rare and imperiled species that are likely to occur on the upland habitat within this project includes the Sherman’s fox squirrel, gopher frog, pine barrens treefrog, and the Florida pine snake, which are all Species of Special Concern, as well as the gopher tortoise and gopher frog that are listed as Threatened. Since gopher tortoise burrows are on the site, there is some potential for restoration and establishment of gopher tortoise habitat.

### Public Use

Because the property would remain in private hands but under a conservation easement, opportunities for public recreation would be limited to what the landowner would allow. As a less-than-fee property, this could not be a state park or state forest or other state use, however there are possibilities of a walking or biking trail along the edges of the property. The site could possibly be used for scientific studies and educational tours, and special opportunity hunts for disabled individuals or military veterans. These uses are conditional on whatever the conservation easement

would allow.

### Acquisition Planning

On June 13, 2008 the Acquisition and restoration Council (ARC) added the Ayavalla Plantation to the Florida Forever project list as a less-than-fee project.

### Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ayavalla Plantation will continue to be managed by the private landowner, but in accordance with the conservation easement terms. The purchase of the development rights, prohibition of converting more natural areas to intensive uses and the management of the property for habitat will likely be the primary focus of the elements of the conservation easement.

### Coordination

Leon County is supportive of the goals of the acquisition, but is not a partner in the acquisition at this time.

**Management Prospectus:** The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.



# BJ Bar Ranch

Putnam County

# Group A Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of this project will conserve the ranch to provide surface water, aquifer recharge, and wetland systems protection, along with conserving a diverse suite of existing natural communities on the site. Acquiring the less-than-fee-simple interest in the BJ Bar Ranch, as a conservation easement, will also protect the sandhill habitats of southwestern Putnam County.

This project meets Florida Forever goals of increasing acreage protected by alternatives to fee-simple acquisition, increasing biodiversity protection at the species level, and by protecting, restoring and maintaining land, water, and wetland systems of the state.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, would serve as the conservation easement monitor unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

BJ Bar Ranch is located within southwestern Putnam County, near the Alachua County town of Hawthorne. The property lies approximately 5.5 miles east of U.S. 301 and 4.3 miles south of State Road 20. Portions of Little Orange Creek and Orange Creek flow along the property's northern and southern boundaries, respectively, and ultimately converge with the Ocklawaha River nearby to the southeast. The ranch has about 5,228 acres (based on the GIS boundary provided for this analysis). The tract is not contiguous with any other conservation areas. The most proximate conservation lands to BJ Bar Ranch are Etoniah/Cross

Florida Greenway Florida Forever (FF) BOT Project and Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, located 0.5 mile and 2 miles, respectively, east. The ranch is situated approximately 4 miles west of Ocala National Forest.

It is a cattle ranch and has had some recent timbering activity as well. Much of the property consists of intact sandhill with imbedded sandhill upland lakes, which are considered to be globally rare and state imperiled natural community types.

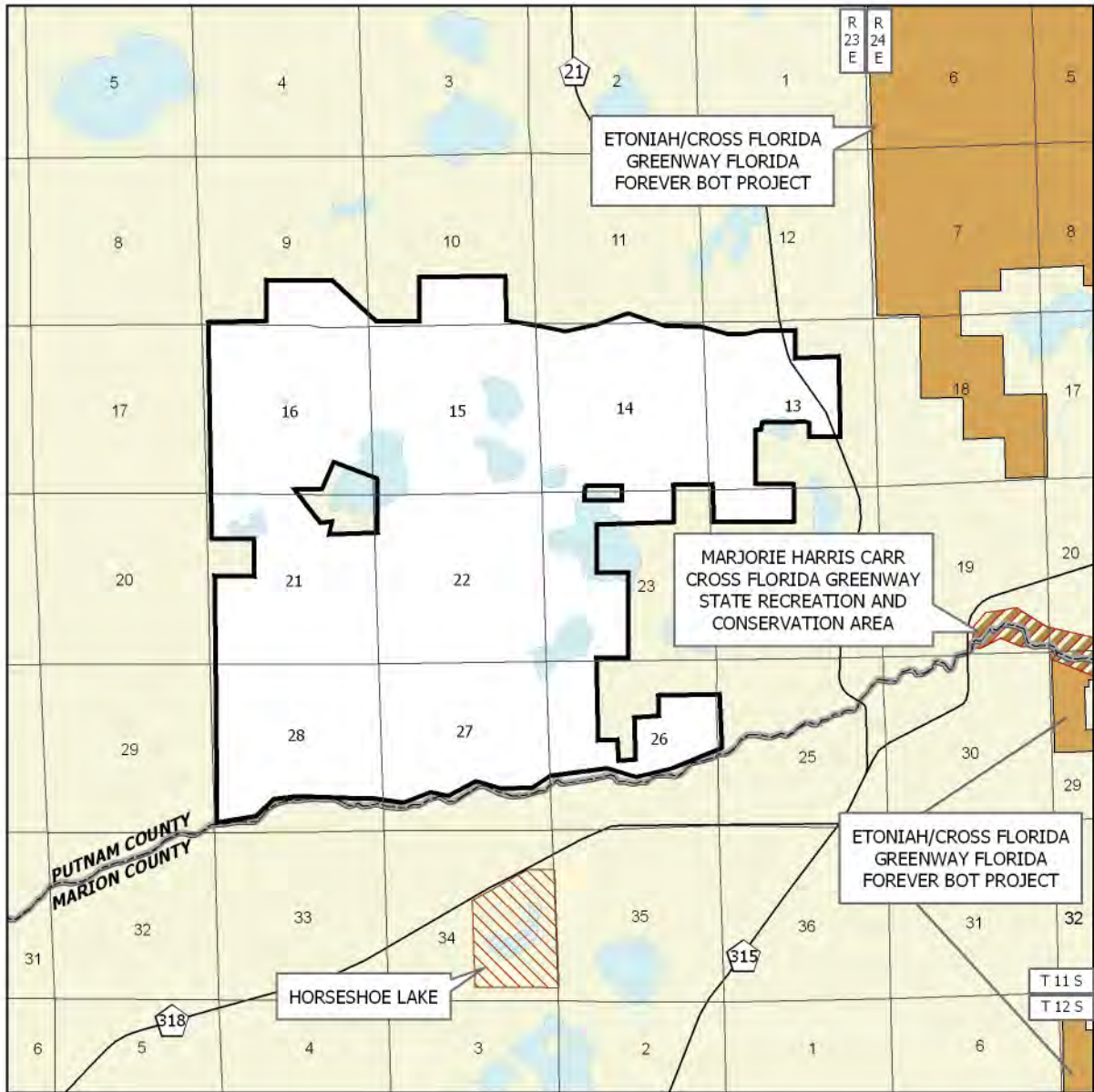
Biologists have documented Florida Sandhill cranes, herons, white ibis and egrets on the land. It may also provide habitat for larger, more far roaming species such as the Florida black bear. Other rare or imperiled species occurring, or likely to occur, within the property are the swallow-tailed kite, the gopher tortoise, the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, and the American alligator. Sandhill habitats are also known to accommodate other species, including the fox squirrel and the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Numerous clear-water sandhill upland lakes (ranging in size from 5–115 acres) occur within the sandhills in the central, higher portion of the site. Parts of the two largest lakes (Lake Susan and McCarthy Lake) are in private ownership. The lakes appear to be in very good condition, apparently protected from potential deleterious effects of cattle, which seem to be concentrated in pastures in the southwestern and eastern portions of the property. An 80-acre peanut field is situated on the northern shore of Picnic Lake

BJ Bar Ranch	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Ocala Deepdigger Scarab Beetle	G1G2/S1S2
Nocturnal Scrub Velvet Ant	G1G2/S1S2
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>5,228</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>5,228</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$958,393</b>

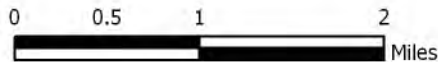
**BJ Bar Ranch - Group A/ Less-Than-Fee**



**BJ BAR RANCH**

**PUTNAM COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



DECEMBER 2006

## **BJ Bar Ranch - Group A/Less-Than-Fee**

(in the southeastern part of the property) and may compromise the lake's water quality. The smaller lakes have shallow waters, with wide, sandy margins, that contain shrub sandweed and herbs that include southern umbrella sedge, maidencane, rosy camphorweed, and eastern purple bladderwort. The larger lakes lack the wide beach and are ringed by more woody vegetation, including Carolina willow, dahoon, buttonbush, loblolly bay, and wax myrtle. Maidencane, spatterdock, and pickerelweed often form an herbaceous band to roughly 10 meters wide around the lake edges. A spring is located between two central lakes (west side of Speckled Perch Lake and Bull Pond), which would keep the water levels of the lakes from fluctuating much.

### **Public Use**

The project is being offered as a less-than-fee purchase without public access. Hence, the project does not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Without public access, there will be no public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On December 8, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the BJ Bar Ranch project to the Group A list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This

less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with an application on June 30, 2006. It has about 5,228 acres and a taxable value of \$958,393.

### **Coordination**

There are no proposed acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, is to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

# Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River

Duval and Nassau Counties

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The 9,500 acres of the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project would preserve relatively intact forests and flatwoods of older growth trees. This project would also assist in the development of an ecological connector between Cary State Forest and Jennings State Forest, and provide a corridor from the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Florida Forever project to the St. Marys River. The proposal will connect to the Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail, and will increase the recreational opportunities for all trail users. The Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail connection occurs in an area where the City of Jacksonville is developing its primary equestrian facility access point.

### Manager

The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the project with a multiple use management regime consistent with the state forest system. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project.

### General Description

The Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project is located in Nassau and Duval counties and is approximately 9,500 acres in size. The proposal is characterized by its bottomland forests and wet flatwoods that contain numerous older growth trees. These communities exhibit high species diversity and should provide habitat for numerous rare plant and animal species. Portions of the property have been converted to pine plantation but several of these areas have intact ground cover. The project borders Cary State Forest and the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Florida Forever project. The evaluation team visited the site on September 10, 2002.

<b>Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Ciliate-leaf Tickseed</i>	G1G2/S1
1 rare species is associated with the project	

### Public Use

If public access of and through these properties is acquired, the project has potential for a variety of forest related recreational activities. Access to the St. Marys River could allow activities such as canoeing, swimming, bird watching, environmental education, nature study and photography.

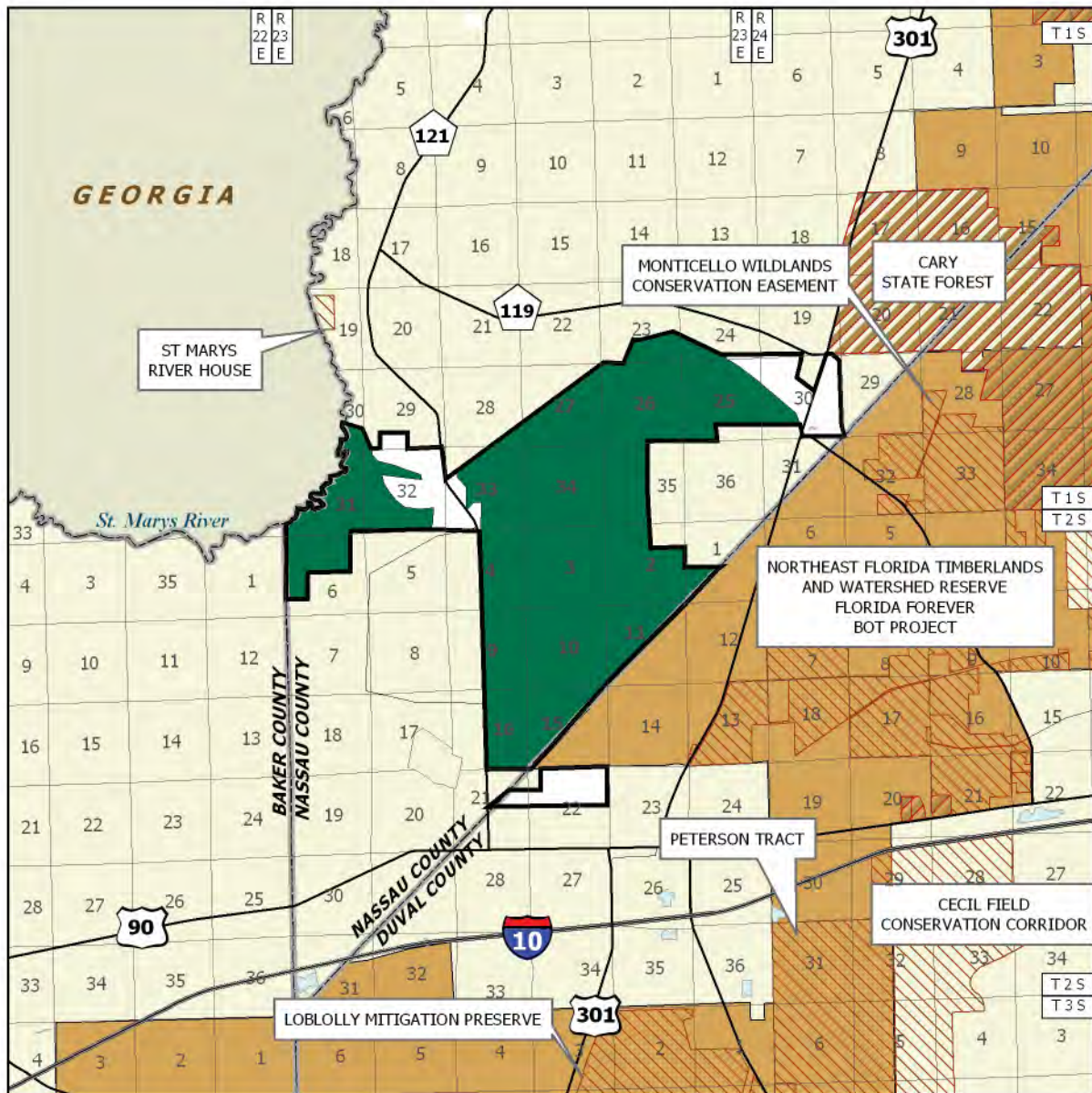
Due to the connectivity with the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Florida Forever project and Cary State Forest, this project contributes to governmental efforts to protect and restore the regional land and water resources.

The project, as proposed, has potential for diverse forms of resource-based recreation. For those areas that would be acquired in fee title, the project can accommodate such activities as hiking, natural resource appreciation and education, picnicking, camping, bicycling and horseback riding. Depending on management emphasis, hunting is also supportable. For lands that might be acquired in less-than-fee, the degree of public use would be dependent on the willingness of the landowner to allow public access.

The general resource-based recreation potential for the project is considered low to moderate, depending on the extent of fee title acquisition. Hunting potential is considered medium to high.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$3,587,753</b>

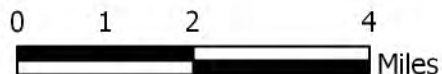
# Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River - Group A/Full Fee



## BALDWIN BAY/ST. MARYS RIVER

### DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2006



### **Acquisition Planning**

The Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project was added to the 2003 Florida Forever project list at the December 5, 2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC).

The essential parcels are identified as the Baldwin Bay LLC, Brandy Branch LLC, International Paper, and International Paper Realty ownerships. The essential parcels should be mapped and appraised before the other parcels, which are important, but not critical to the project as a whole.

On December 8, 2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.

### **Coordination**

Portions of this project may be acquired in partnership with Duval County. The St. Johns River Water Management District is also interested in acquisition of the project.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goal for the Division of Forestry is to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems in perpetuity; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the Division of Forestry's management activities on this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

Based upon a review of the Florida Forever Act, this project meets the following Goals and Measures, as outlined in Statute, for significant landscapes, for increasing natural-resource based recreation, and for restoring such natural functions as protection of the floodplain, surface waters, and functional wetland systems. This project also has a great prospect for sustainable forestry.

### ***Manager***

The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the state forest system. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project.

### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

There are major restoration challenges that will need to be addressed if the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River proposal is purchased. The entire site is affected by logging roads and ditches that have impacted hydrology. The decreased hydroperiod has allowed exotic and upland species to encroach into wetlands, particularly in the areas around Baldwin Bay and in the wet flatwoods and dome swamps that are surrounded by pine plantations. To restore normal hydrology, ditches will need to be filled and plugged and roads closed and lowered to grade.

Much of this site (59 percent) has been converted to intensive silviculture. Recent clearcuts and slash piles mar the landscape. Intensive site prep activities such as roller chopping and bedding have severely disturbed the ground vegetation and soils. Fire suppression has led to woody species encroachment and deep needle litter build-up in the understories of some of the pine plantations.

Invasive exotic plant and animals were documented on the Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River site, but if measures are taken soon, these invasives can be controlled with reasonable effort. Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), and Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) were observed. There were also numerous signs of feral hog digging within the site.

### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Division of Forestry, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the site as a part of Cary State Forest, and the Jacksonville District personnel will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use.

## Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River - Group A/Full Fee

### *Revenue-generating potential*

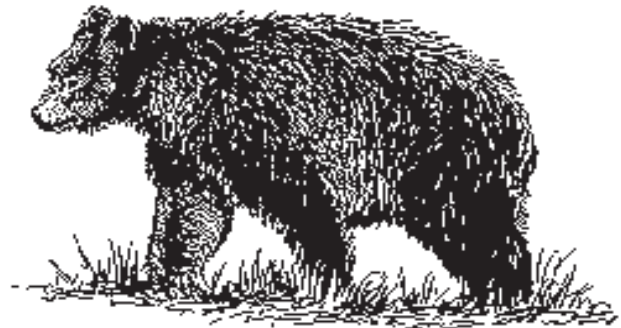
As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low-medium.

### *Cooperators in management activities*

The Division of Forestry will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

*Management costs and sources of revenue* It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (X FTE)</b>	<b>\$231,839</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$354,600</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 726,439</b>



# Battle of Wahoo Swamp

## Sumter County

# Group B

## Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp project is located in Sumter County, and consists of approximately 854 acres. The project, if acquired, will preserve a Second Seminole War battle site as well as protect habitat for several rare plant species. This battlefield may represent the best-preserved site of its kind, and would offer opportunities to increase public awareness of Florida history during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The battles that occurred here were in response to the 1835 ambush and annihilation by Seminole warriors of 100 men under the command of Major Francis Dade, now memorialized at the Dade Battlefield-located about 10 miles from Wahoo Swamp.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) proposes to manage the property.

### General Description

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp site consists of 850 acres in eastern Sumter County, approximately four miles east of the Withlacoochee River and six miles west of I-75 and Bushnell. The northeast corner of the site that extends across County Road 48 lies only 0.2 mile from the extreme southwest corner of the Jumper Creek Tract of Withlacoochee State Forest. Dade Battlefield, a historical site managed by Florida DEP Division of Recreation and Parks, lies about five miles southeast of Wahoo Swamp. The natural communities on the

Wahoo site largely include "islands" of hardwood hammock, or upland mixed forest, scattered throughout an extensive wetland matrix of freshwater marsh and cypress swamp. The project consists of a fee simple acquisition of the battlefield area and less-than-fee acquisition over the remainder of the project. The acquisition of development rights and the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### Public Use

The property has diversity for limited quantities of resource-based recreational pursuits. The project's most important resource is cultural as a Seminole war battle site. Primary emphasis should be placed on interpretation of the historic elements of this site to the public. Varied public recreational uses could include camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, hiking, and battle re-enactments. The project also provides opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature study.

### Acquisition Planning

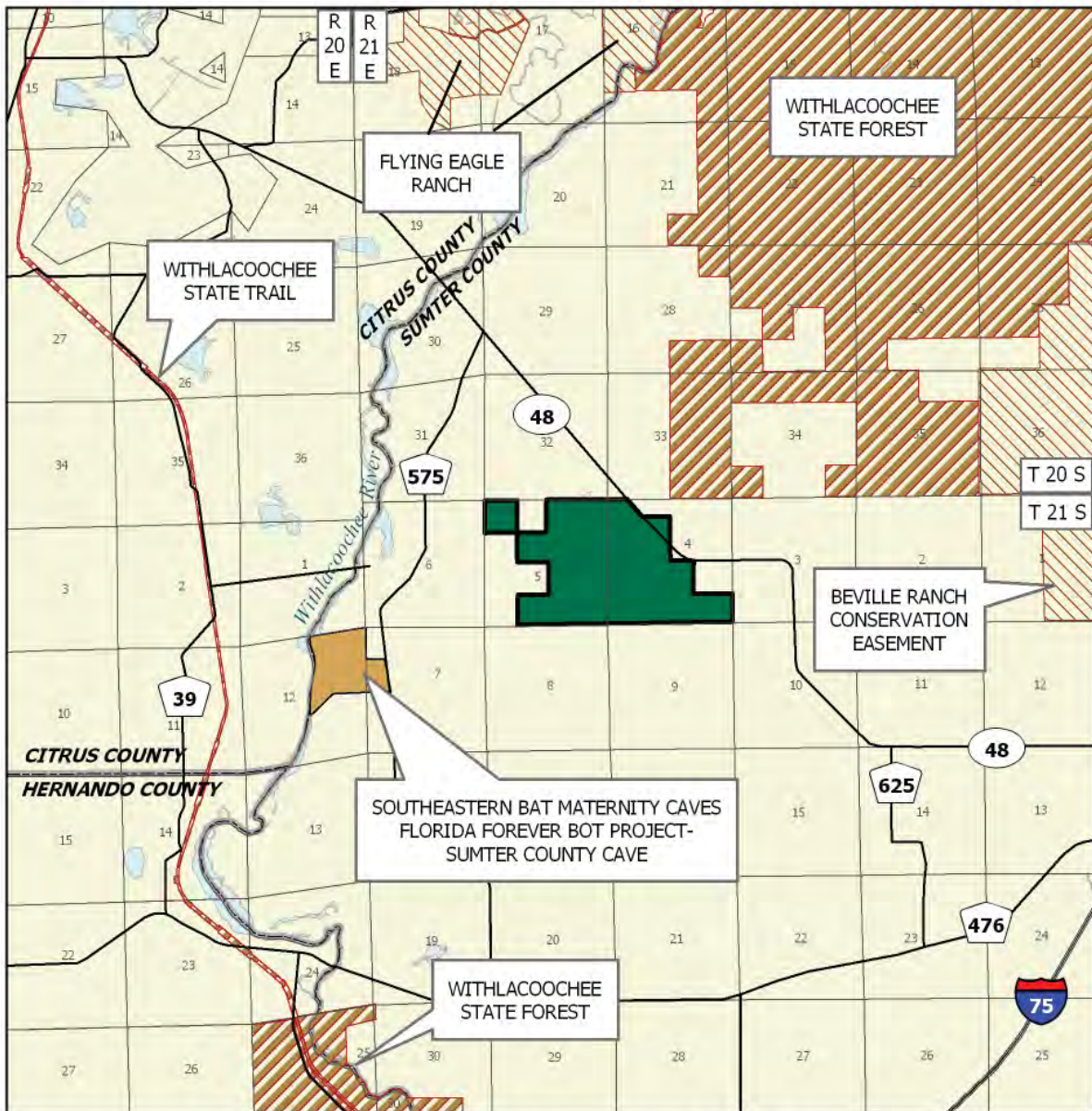
The Battle of Wahoo Swamp project was added to the 2003 Florida Forever project list at the December 5, 2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC).

The essential parcel is identified as the Hamilton ownership. This is a single-owner project, with five parcels that total 832.5 acres. The fee-simple portion of the project should be mapped and appraised before proceeding with the less-than-fee portion of the project.

Battle of Wahoo Swamp	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Craighead's Nodding-caps</i>	G1/S1
<i>Modest Spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Ruffled spleenwort</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Rickett's Nodding-caps</i>	G1?/S1
<i>Florida Spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>Curtiss' Spleenwort</i>	GNA/S1
<i>Peters' Bristle Fern</i>	G4G5/S1S2
<i>Swamp Plume Polypody</i>	G5?/S2
<i>Plume Polypody</i>	G5/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
10 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>850</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>850</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$30,218</b>

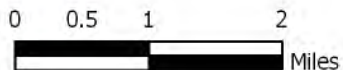
**Battle of Wahoo Swamp - Group B/Full Fee**



**BATTLE OF WAHOO SWAMP**

**SUMTER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2006

**Coordination**

There are no partnership funding sources at this time.

**Management Policy Statement**

Although proposed originally for its archaeological values, the Battle of Wahoo Swamp site also supports many rare plant and animal species and examples of intact natural communities. The rocky hardwood hammocks and surrounding wetlands on this proposal represent high quality examples of a landscape that has been heavily altered by conversion to pasture and residential development throughout central Florida. This site is one of the few remaining in Florida that support the suite of rare ferns and orchids associated with limestone outcrops and grottoes. Nearby similar sites have been drained and filled, mined for limerock, and invaded by exotic species.

**Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation***

Although the project evidences past uses, its present condition is good quality hardwood hammock, freshwater slough and marsh. The greater significance of the site is in the location of a battle between U.S. forces and Seminole Indians during the Second Seminole War. The battle was fought within the project and compliments the history of two nearby state parks, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park and Fort Cooper Historic State Park. It is the complimentary aspect of this property that makes the project desirable as a unit of the state park system. Management of the project as a unit of the state park system is contingent upon acquiring fee title.

***Manager***

DRP has been designated as manager of the property.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Management is generally expected to entail basic resource management, such as securing and protecting the property, while a management plan is completed. As the project is in a relatively natural state, there will not be a need for any high level resource restoration as can be the case with many projects. Prudent control of public access will be needed to protect and preserve any physical historic elements of the site. Management should provide for uses and recreational activities that are compatible with the protection of the rare and sensitive resources.

***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project is acquired and assigned to the Division of Recreation and Parks, the acquired lands

will be secured and management planning implemented. There is no infrastructure on the site. Access for low intensity resource-based recreation will be initially accommodated and may include the installation of a starter kit at an appropriate time and location. At some future date, historic reenactment of the battle may be included within the interpretive element of the site.

***Revenue-generating potential***

No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use is increased and interpretive programs, particularly a reenactment program, implemented, revenue is expected to be generated. The degree of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities placed on the land.

***Cooperators in management activities***

No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project. The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

***Management costs and sources of revenue***

The project is proposed for both fee simple and less-than-fee acquisition. The purchase of development rights and the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement. Approximately 200 acres is to be acquired in fee, and approximately 650 acres is to be acquired less-than-fee.

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated Budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1FTE)</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Operating Capital Outlay</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Fixed Capital Outlay</b>	<b>350,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$468,000</b>

# Bear Creek Forest

Bay, Calhoun and Gulf Counties

# Group B Full Fee

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Public acquisition of this project would help establish the Northwest Florida Ecological Greenway, a proposed system of natural areas forming a significant corridor connection between State, Federal and Non-Profit conservation lands in the central Florida Panhandle. A few of the benefits offered by this acquisition would be to increase the protection of Florida biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels; protect, restore and maintain the quality and natural functions of Florida land, water and wetlands ecosystems; and ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural ecosystems and the public. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

**Manager**

Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS).

**General Description**

The Bear Creek project consists of approximately 104,461 acres in Calhoun, Bay and Gulf Counties, Florida. This landscape consists of numerous pine plantations that are interspersed with disturbed wet prairies and forested wetlands including baygalls, dome swamps, basin swamps and floodplain swamps. The boundaries also contain upland forest types that are represented by sandhill, scrubby and mesic flatwoods.

The Bear Creek Florida Forever project is 6 miles southeast of the Econfina Creek Water Management Area (Northwest Florida Water Management District), 6 miles north of Tyndall Air Force Base, 5.7 miles west of the Apalachicola River Water Management Area (NFWMD), 5.7 miles northwest of Dead Lakes State Park, and 2.3 miles southwest of the Middle Chipola River Florida Forever project. The Patton tract, a small 940-acre area recently acquired by the U.S. Forest Service, is adjacent to the project on its northwest side near SR 20

**Public Use**

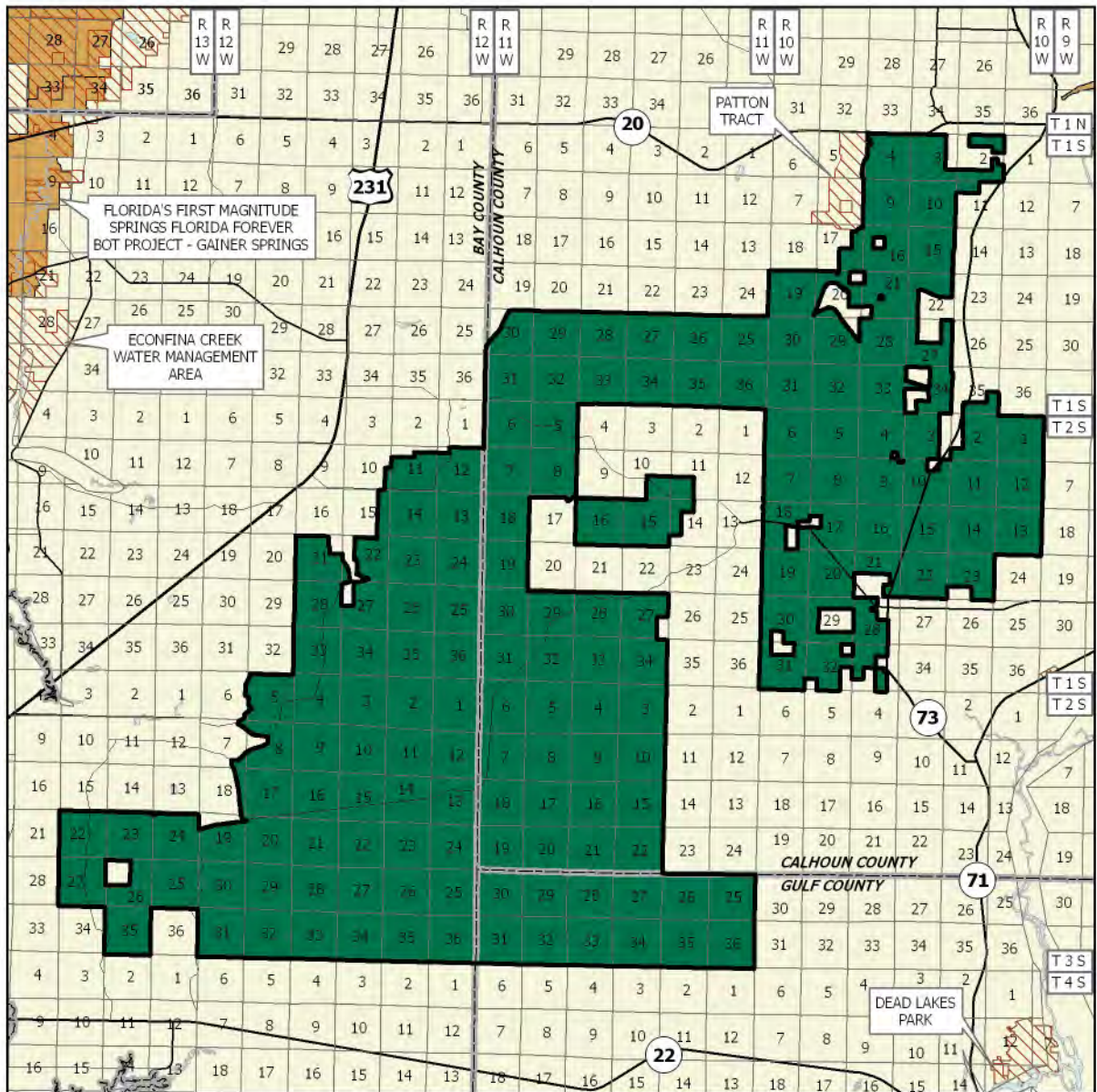
The principle acquisition purposes for this project guide management and public use towards resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities. The managers will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Recreation (and administrative) development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow suitable public access, provide facilities for public use, and the administration and management of the property. DOF anticipates that interpretive and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the natural environment. The project is accessible from public highways and local public roads. It is also near a major urban area, Panama City, and large population base.

**Acquisition Planning**

On June 4, 2004 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Bear Creek Forest project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Interim Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Division of

Bear Creek Forest FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Pine-woods Aster</i>	G1/S1
<i>Dark-headed Hatpins</i>	G1/S1
<i>Godfrey's Butterwort</i>	G2/S2
<i>Mock Pennyroyal</i>	G2/S2
<i>Giant Water-dropwort</i>	G3/S3
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
<i>Primrose-flowered Butterwort</i>	G3G4/S3
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?
13 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>104,461</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>104,461</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$15,041,536</b>



## BEAR CREEK FOREST

### BAY, CALHOUN, AND GULF COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2006

## Bear Creek Forest - Group B/Full Fee

Forestry (DOF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 104,461 acres, a single owner, the Great Western Timber Company, and a 2003 taxable value of \$15,041,531.

The essential parcels were identified as the Great Western Timber Company ownership, who is a willing seller, interested in exploring possible options regarding less-than-fee purchases, fee purchases with deed restrictions or other management agreements as mutually beneficial.

On January 27, 2005 ARC moved the project to Group A of the FF 2005 priority list.

On June 3, 2005 ARC moved the project to Group B of the FF 2005 Interim priority list.

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

Since principal purposes of the project include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to careful control of public uses.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted mesic and wet flatwoods, sandhill, and scrubby flatwoods. The project primarily consists of slash and loblolly pine plantations, and it is estimated that at least 80 percent of the project area has been converted to planted pines. Some of the pine plantations have been bedded, but several areas still have native groundcover and understory species. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silviculture values to an area managed for ecological and recreational benefits. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity Of Management** Much of the project's flatwoods, hardwood forest and sandhill areas have been disturbed by silviculture operations and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber species are off-site may necessitate thinning or removal to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and canopy.

### Timetable For Implementing Management Provisions

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Division of Forestry (DOF), public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. The DOF proposes to manage the site as a State Forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

**Estimate Of Revenue-Generating Potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this property is expected to be moderate. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

**Capital Project Expenditures** Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use, and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and biking. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, the Division of Forestry intends to apply for capital project funds.

**Revenue Sources, Management Costs And Employees Needed** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (9 FTE)</b>	<b>\$ 293,345</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 797,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$ 852,260</u></b>
	<b>\$1,942,605</b>



# Bear Hammock

Marion County

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Bear Hammock project in southern Marion County would meet the state goals of enhanced coordination of land-acquisition efforts by making a conservation link that fills a gap among several other properties. One goal of state conservation is to preserve areas of at least 50,000 acres, and Bear Hammock provides a connector between Goethe State Forest and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, creating a continuity of more than 200,000 acres. Bear Hammock meets state goals of preserving habitat areas, because the project has an estimated 4,232 acres of rare species habitat. About 24 percent of the area is considered Strategic Habitat Conservation Area. Bear Hammock is known to be habitat for such species as wood stork, bald eagle, diamondback rattlesnake, and gopher tortoise. Finally, the property has a high potential to fill the Florida Forever goals of providing recreation by trails, horseback riding, camping, picnicking, and water access.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended by staff as manager of the project, except for a separate piece that is an island in Lake Rosseau. That island would be managed as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, which is managed by the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT).

### General Description

Bear Hammock is located in the valley of the Withlacoochee River, near Dunnellon and Brooksville. This 4,548-acre site is two-thirds covered by pine plantations that were historically a mix of pine flatwoods and

sandhill, or scrub, terrain. While slash pines have been planted in most areas, there are also native shrubs that include saw palmetto, dwarf live oak, shiny blueberry, gallberry and fetterbush. There are several natural lakes on the property, ranging from shallow ponds with abundant aquatic herbs to sandy-bottomed clear water lakes. At least one of these lakes is a sandhill upland lake with no associated swamp.

### Public Use

Bear Hammock has potential for providing many resource-based recreation opportunities. It is located within a few miles of Dunnellon, with excellent paved highway access, and is adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway, as well as being adjacent to the South Goethe Addition Florida Forever project and Goethe State Forest. This land contains seven lakes. Access to the lakes and rivers would provide canoeing, kayaking, sailing, fishing and possibly swimming. The highly scenic areas around the lakes could provide picnicking and wildlife viewing. The many roads within the property will provide off-road bicycling, hiking and horseback riding opportunities. The expansive trail system that can be supported by the property can also be connected with trails and recreational opportunities from other nearby public lands. The property has about 3 ½ miles of access from CR 40 and CR 363. This easy access could bolster the project as a full service recreation area by providing camping opportunities, picnicking, extensive trails, nature study, environmental education and water access. Depending on management emphasis, hunting can also be supported.

Bear Hammock	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
<i>Spoon-leaved Sundew</i>	G5/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>4,811</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>4,811</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$32,576,529</b>

## Bear Hammock - Group B/Full Fee

### Acquisition Planning

On December 12, 2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Bear Hammock project to the Florida Forever acquisition list as a full-fee project.

**Coordination** No acquisition partners for this project have been named.

### Management Policy Statement

The objectives of acquiring Bear Hammock are to conserve and protect the significant Strategic Habitat Conservation Area that makes up almost a quarter of the project area, helping preserve species that are documented on this site, including the wood stork, the bald eagle, the diamondback rattlesnake, and the gopher tortoise. Another major goal is to provide recreation for the public on trails, with horseback riding, with camping and picnicking, and by access to water. The FWC management prospectus also says that hunting is possible depending on management plans.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** Bear Hammock will increase the connectivity within the conservation landscape extending from north central peninsular Florida to the Gulf Coast, from the Ocala National Forest westward along the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area to Goethe State Forest, to the NATC Gulf Hammock Conservation Easement (Suwannee River Water Management District), the Cedar Key Scrub Preserve State Park, and to other conservation lands extending to Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. If acquired, Bear Hammock would provide considerable restoration and expansion of existing habitat for imperiled species and would advance the goals of species and habitat recovery plans.

**Manager** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has been chosen as the manager for this project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Major portions include lands that are natural areas, requiring application of resource management methods such as use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Additional methods may be necessary for some management units in order to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. FWC would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions, objectives, and restoration methods. This is especially important for conservation of habitats

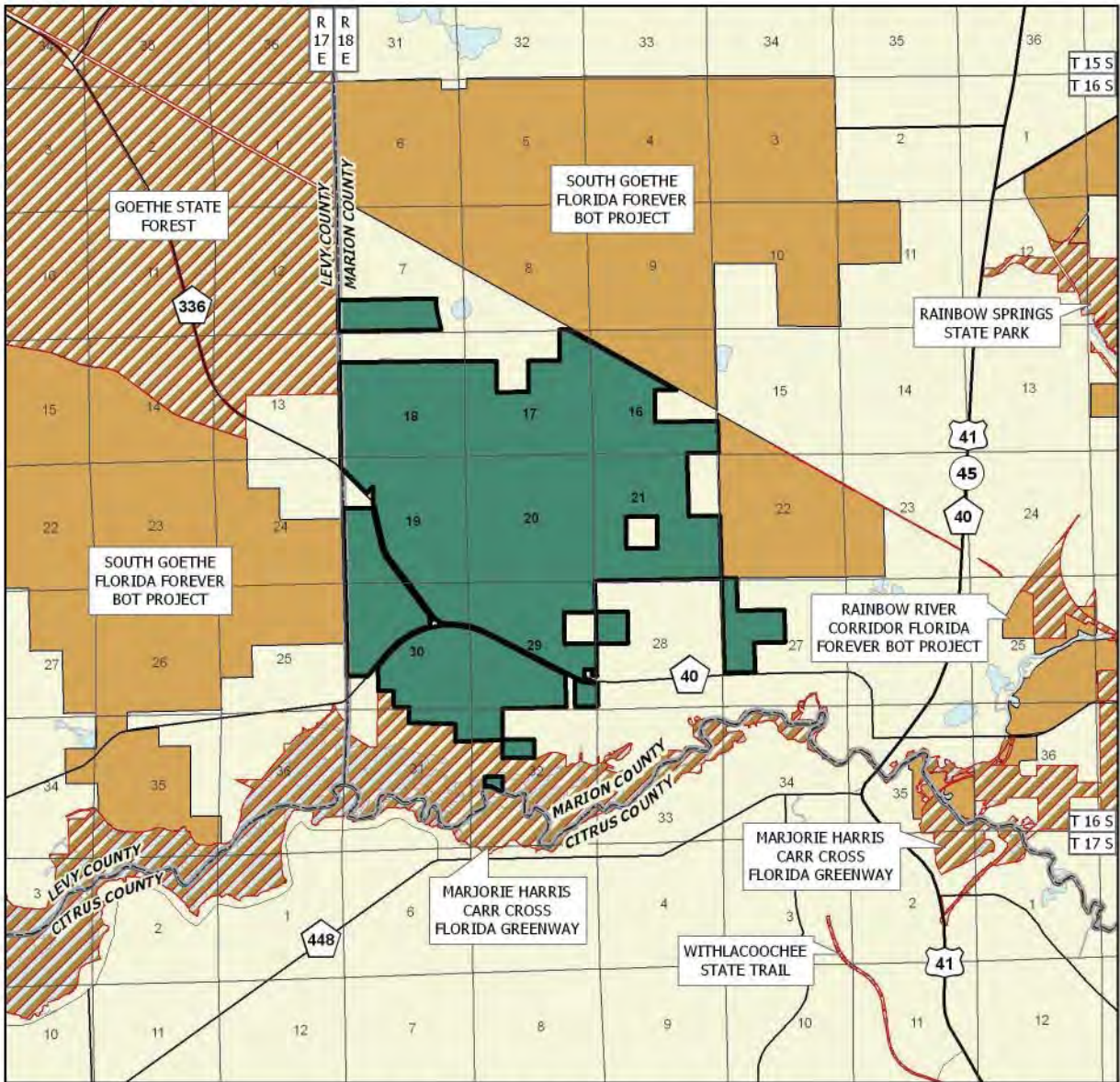
and populations of imperiled or rare species. Among methods for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities are those for control of human uses, ecological restoration, exotic species removal, prescribed burning, and other important methods for management and protection of resources. Any suburban development around Bear Hammock could affect certain management actions and uses such as the ability to conduct prescribed burning.

Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development and implementation because imperiled or rare species are expected to occur on Bear Hammock. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife and environmental areas and wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources and compatible recreational experiences, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

### *Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis would be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. A management plan would be developed by FWC stating management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management, taking into consideration existing conditions and approaches necessary to achieve desired future conditions. The management plan will also establish future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies and other stakeholders. Long-range goals would emphasize ecosystem management and the conservation of fish and wildlife.





## BEAR HAMMOCK

### MARION COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands



MARCH 2009

## Bear Hammock - Group B/Full Fee

**Revenue-generating potential** The revenue generating potential of Bear Hammock is not known and will depend upon future uses to be approved in the management plan. However, revenue from such environmental lands might include forest products production, sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits and user fees.

**Cooperators in management activities** FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and St. Johns River Water Management District in management of the property.

### **Management costs and sources of revenue**

#### **REVENUE SOURCES, MANAGEMENT COSTS AND EMPLOYEES NEEDED\***

<b>Category Source of Funds</b>	<b>Start-up CARL</b>	<b>Recurring CARL</b>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<b>\$ 102,745</b>	<b>\$ 88,629</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$ 82,345</b>	<b>\$ 33,072</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$ 149,080</b>	<b>\$ 31,566</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$ 217,898</b>	<b>\$ 88,179</b>
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>	<b>\$ 41,300</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>\$ 3,251</b>	<b>\$ 3,251</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 596,619</b>	<b>\$ 261,697</b>

\*Figures include salary for 1 FTE.

# Belle Meade

## Collier County

# Group A

## Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The cypress swamps and old-growth slash pine flatwoods in the Belle Meade project, extending to the fast-developing suburbs of Naples, are still important for such endangered wildlife as Florida panthers, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and Florida black bear. Belle Meade is also the watershed for Rookery Bay. The Belle Meade project will conserve the westernmost large natural area in southwest Florida, protect some of the southernmost populations of several rare animals, and help protect the quality of the subtropical estuary of Rookery Bay, while providing a large area for recreation in a natural environment to residents of and visitors to rapidly urbanizing southwest Florida.

### Manager

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry (DOF).

### General Description

This project includes some of the most extensive examples of old-growth wet flatwoods (hydric pine flatwoods) in southwest Florida, and high quality, undisturbed subtropical dwarf cypress savanna communities, a plant community type endemic to southern Florida not within other projects. The hydrology of the hydric pine flatwoods and dwarf cypress communities within the project is relatively intact. The project will protect habitat for at least 20 FNAI-listed plants and animals, including the Florida panther, red-cockaded woodpecker, and Florida black bear. Three archaeological sites have been recorded within the project boundaries, and other sites may

be present. The project is vulnerable to changes in the timing and amount of water flowing through it. Residential and commercial development spreading from Naples is the primary threat.

### Public Use

The project will provide a state forest with uses such as hiking, hunting and nature appreciation. Uses will be limited during the wet seasons.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 10, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Belle Meade project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored jointly by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Conservancy, Inc., consisted of approximately 40,846 acres, 762 parcels, 504 landowners, and a 1991 taxable value of \$62,933,000.

On July 20, 1994, the LAAC approved a ± 11,985-acre deletion, requested by DEP staff, to the project boundary. The deletion covers the area north of I-75 from the project. It also removes the Collier property and the property to the south adjacent to SR 951 from the project. The approximate taxable value of the deletion was \$18,465,769 based on the 1991 value.

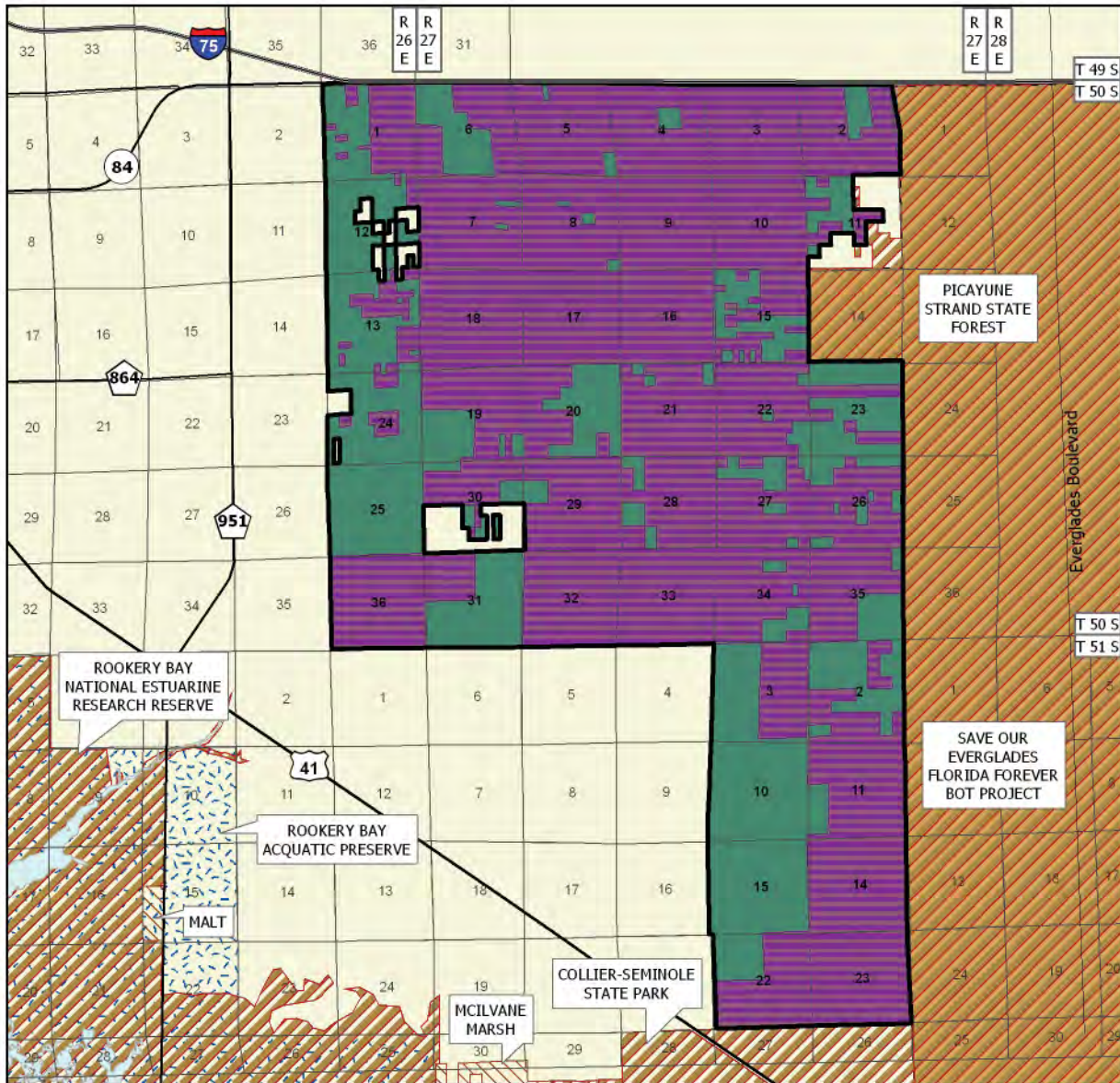
On December 7, 1994, the LAAC was presented with and approved the revised project boundary which reduced the total acreage of the current boundary from 23,500 to 17,800 acres. The revised boundary

Belle Meade	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
<i>Ghost Orchid</i>	G2G4/S2
<i>Tailed Strap Fern</i>	G5/S1
<i>Cowhorn Orchid</i>	G5?/S1
<i>Powdery Catopsis</i>	G5?/S1
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>28,810</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>17,685*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$38,391,158</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>11,125</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$16,487,250</b>

\*includes a 147-acre donation in September 2007, with a value of \$2,310,000, by The Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

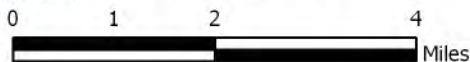
# Belle Meade - Group A/Full Fee



## BELLE MEADE

### COLLIER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JULY 2009

included two additions to the current project boundary, approximately 640 acres in the southwest corner and 160 acres in the southeast corner. Approximately 500 landowners remain in the revised boundary; close to 41 percent are owners of tracts 10 acres or less in size; 53 percent are owners of tracts between 10-40 acres; and 6 percent are owners of tracts greater than 100 acres.

On July 14, 1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 2,220-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the three landowners, consisted of 20 parcels, and a 1994 taxable value of \$2,964,000. The acreage was included in the original project boundary, but later deleted during the redefinition of the project boundary by the Belle Meade Work Group appointed by the Council in 1994.

The Work Group consisted of landowners, representatives of local government, the water management district, state agencies and others with local expertise. The boundary recommended by the Work Group included what were thought to be primarily willing sellers – approximately 500 ownerships.

On July 16, 1996, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,240-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by eight landowners, consisted of 9 parcels, and a 1995 taxable value of \$2,048,664.

On October 30, 1996, LAAC approved a “Landowner Request Zone” (in effect, all tracts considered on July 16, 1996). The zone defined areas in which a landowner may request inclusion in the boundary in writing. Highest priority must be given to parcels within the LAAC approved December, 1994 boundaries.

On June 9, 2006, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project from Group B to Group A on the August 2006 Florida Forever Priority list.

**Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Belle Meade project are to conserve and protect unaltered wet flatwoods and cypress swamps that provide significant habitat for many rare and endangered species of wildlife, including the Florida panther; and to conserve and restore these important ecosystems, their significant wildlife resources, and their critical hydrological

connection to the Gulf Coast through purchase because regulation cannot adequately protect them. The project will be managed under the multiple-use concept, with management activities being directed toward protection of old-growth forests (using growing-season burns where necessary) and restoration of natural surface-water flows. The project, when completed, will link Collier-Seminole State Park and the future Picayune Strand State Forest and will approach the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; it will be large enough to achieve the primary management goals.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Belle Meade project has the forest resources (extensive areas of old-growth South Florida slash pine) and the location (twelve miles of common border with the Picayune Strand) to make it highly suitable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The DOF is recommended as manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Portions of the project may require hydrological restoration, but these activities will probably be conducted by the water management district. There are no other known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so the DOF expects its management efforts to be typical for a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the core area is acquired, the DOF will provide access for low intensity outdoor recreation. Initial activities include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The sites’ natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to develop a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will restore disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Belle Meade - Group A/Full Fee**

**Revenue-generating potential** The DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested

parties as appropriate.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** It is anticipated that management funding for this project will be appropriated from the CARL management fund. Budget needs for interim management are covered under the Save Our Everglades/Golden Gate Project.

**Management Cost Summary**

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$9,140	\$9,140
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$44,000	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,140</b>	<b>\$9,140</b>





# Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch

Group A

Osceola County

Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Many kinds of wildlife live in the expanses of palmetto prairies, pine flatwoods, and cypress swamps in Osceola County. The Big Bend Swamp project will acquire certain rights from landowners to maintain a link of natural lands between the Bull Creek and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Areas, and help to ensure the survival of crested caracara, red-cockaded woodpeckers, sandhill cranes, and other wildlife that require these large natural areas. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (lead), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry (DOF) (cooperating), and OES to monitor conservation easements, unless otherwise noted. Osceola County will manage the Lonesome Camp Ranch property they acquired.

### General Description

The Big Bend Swamp project includes a diverse sample of the natural environments of central Florida. Natural communities on the project are in good condition because the uplands have been burned regularly. Mesic flatwoods and dry prairie cover 40 percent of the project. These communities are interrupted by Big Bend Swamp, which is a large cypress-dominated strand swamp, and smaller dome swamps, depression marshes, wet prairies, and hydric hammocks. Fire-suppressed scrub also occurs in patches. Disturbed areas, largely improved pasture or sod farms, cover 18 percent of the

project. No FNAI-listed plants are known from the project, but the Big Bend Swamp may be particularly important for up to 30 rare animal species that require large areas of flatwoods, prairie, and wetlands, such as red-cockaded woodpeckers, Florida sandhill cranes, Florida grasshopper sparrows, Sherman's fox squirrels, swallow-tailed kites, and crested caracaras.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation. Public use will depend on agreements with landowners.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) added the Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch project to the less-than-fee group of the CARL 2000 Priority list. This less-than-fee project, sponsored by Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), consisted of approximately 54,425 acres, multiple owners, and a 1998 taxable value of \$28,190,776. While primarily a less-than-fee acquisition, full fee will be considered in the subdivision.

The essential parcels were identified as Bronson, Partin, Ridgewood Ranch, Oberry, Gannarelli, Whaley, Lee Ranch, and Smith.

On April 25, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a less-than-fee addition of

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>59,132</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>6,166*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$21,548,060</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>52,966</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$30,040,282</b>
<b>* includes acreage acquired by Osceola County.</b>	

<b>Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
4 rare species are associated with the project	

## Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch - Group A/Full Fee - Less-Than-Fee

5,714 acres to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by Holland & Knight Consulting, consisted of one owner, Birchwood Acres Limited Partnership, and a 2001 taxable value of \$5,346,624.

In June 2007 Osceola County acquired, and will manage, the 342-acre Lonesome Camp Ranch property.

In November 2007 Osceola County purchased an additional 2,100 acres that will be managed as part of the Lonesome Camp Ranch Conservation Area.

### Coordination

Osceola County is an acquisition partner in this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Lands project includes nearly 50,000 acres and is comprised of a mosaic of upland and wetland natural communities that serve as important integral portions of a large south-central Florida natural area. These communities include cypress strands, mesic flatwoods, dome swamp, wet prairie, scrub and baygall. Ownership and management of these communities is important to the protection of the natural system comprising the Kissimmee River Basin and will form important adjunct lands for a public lands complex already under management (or proposed for management) by FWC. Additionally, this complex of natural communities serves as important habitat for such listed bird species as the Florida grasshopper sparrow, the Florida sandhill crane, red-cockaded woodpecker, crested caracara, American swallow-tailed kite, and is of special importance to the burrowing owl. Most of the characteristic vertebrates of the Kissimmee Basin require vast tracts of land to support viable populations. This project, though largely contemplated for less-than-fee purchase, consists of a variety of wetland and upland habitats that support a broad diversity of wildlife, both common and rare. Several islands of scrub provide habitat for such species as gopher tortoises and Florida scrub jays. The Big Bend Swamp / Holopaw Ranch proposal has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area, and portions of the project have the potential to provide the public with opportunities for activities such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation. The FWC is recommended as lead manager, with the DOF as cooperating managers.

### Management Prospectus

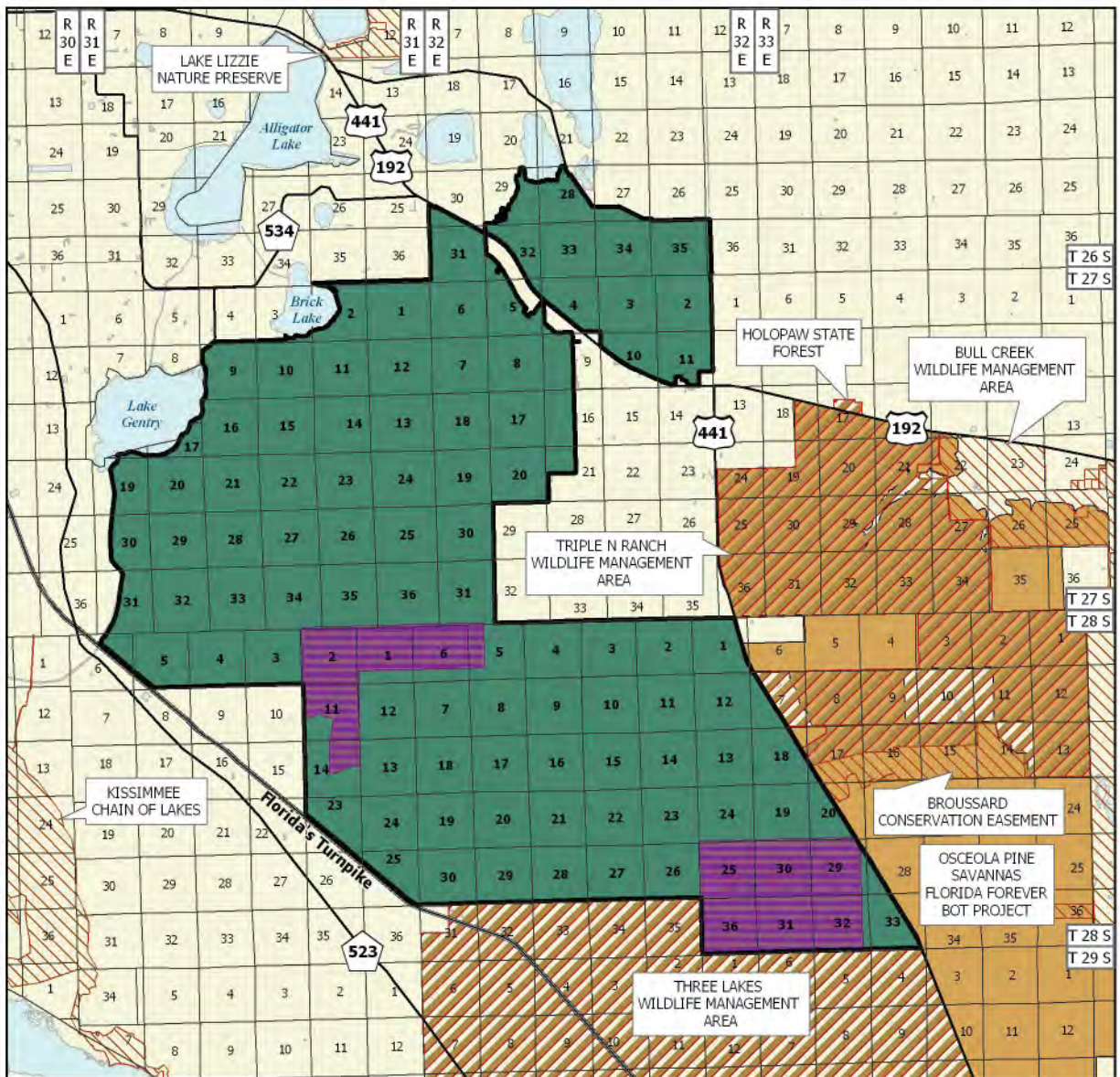
**Management goals and multiple-use activities contemplated** Priority will be given to conservation and protection of native wildlife species' habitats, and especially to that of threatened and endangered species. Management actions on fee simple acquisitions will be designed to conserve, protect, and restore important ecosystems and plant communities. FWC will work with landowners on less-than-fee purchases to oversee conservation easement provisions negotiated for the Trustees' by the Division of State Lands and FWC. The lands within this project will provide a variety of multiple-use activities including hunting, fishing, camping, boating, hiking, horseback riding, environmental education, ecotourism, and other natural resource-based recreational activities, as well as the opportunity to generate revenues from timber management, cattle-grazing and public recreational uses.

**Conditions affecting the intensity of management** The lands within this proposal are generally considered to be low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management, including the use of frequent prescribed fire. However, special precautions and frequent coordination will be necessary for any contemplated hydrological and plant community restoration projects, and for prescribed burning activities, since ranchers and other landowners will continue to maintain a presence on many of these properties. Additionally, if negotiated provisions allow, some low-level public-use activities may be allowed on lands acquired under conservation easements.

**Timetable for implementing management, protecting infrastructure and ensuring security** During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on securing and posting boundaries, assuring public access to the tract, surveying wildlife and plant communities, restoring fire regimes, and establishing relationships with adjacent landowners. A management plan for the tract will be prepared, to include formation of an appropriate Management Advisory Group that includes stakeholders in the management of these lands.

Long-range activities on the property will include securing and stabilizing roads for public access, developing hiking / horseback riding trails, and developing camping and nature interpretive programs that key on facilities being provided on the adjacent Three Lakes WMA. An all-season prescribed burning program will be established using both aerial and ground ignition techniques. Whenever possible,

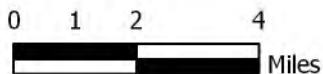
# Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch - Group A/Full Fee - Less-Than-Fee



## BIG BEND SWAMP/HOLOPAW RANCH

### OSCEOLA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2008

## Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch - Group A/Full Fee - Less-Than-Fee

existing roads, trails and firebreaks will be used to control both prescribed and natural fires. Infrastructure development will be kept to the minimum required to allow public access, provide facilities, and manage the property.

Also for the long-term, FWC will seek to: maintain and establish rapport with landowners adjacent to the WMA; provide technical assistance and advice in order to assure the welfare of ecosystem components, such as wetlands; and establish working relationships with local representatives of regulatory agencies (i.e., Water Management Districts, counties, DEP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, etc.) so that if conflicts arise solutions can be quickly sought.

Floral and faunal inventories will be continually updated by Commission biologists through opportunistic observations and systematic surveys. Inventory data will be supplemented as available with data from other sources which may include, but not be limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Recreation and Parks, Division of Forestry, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, The Nature Conservancy, Water Management Districts, or other private contractors.

Over the long-term, some previously-disturbed sites will be restored or managed to specifically benefit wildlife species that thrive in early successional plant communities. Selected sites may be planted with native or non-invasive agronomic plants to: (1) provide dove hunting opportunities; (2) provide high quality forage for quail, dove, deer, and wild turkey; and / or (3) to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities.

**Estimates of revenue-generating potential** Much of the proposed area consists of present or former ranch

lands and mesic flatwoods with scattered longleaf or slash pine. Some revenues might be generated on fee-simple portions of the acquisition through judicious stocking of cattle, or through timber management by means of a wildlife-oriented forest management plan developed with the assistance of the Division of Forestry. Also, fees could be established for touring the area to view the plant and animal communities through ecotourism programs being developed on the adjacent WMA. A \$25 wildlife management area stamp would be required to hunt on the portions of the area acquired in fee simple. For areas where only conservation easements are acquired, FWC will be bound by negotiations between landowners and the Division of State Lands. However, if negotiated provisions allow, there may be some opportunities on these lands for generating revenues from low-level hunting activities such as quota hunts, or special-opportunity hunts.

**Recommendations for other governmental agency involvement** The FWC will cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area, but will seek special assistance from the Florida Division of Forestry in management of forest resources and implementation of prescribed burning programs.

**Revenue sources, management costs and employees needed** Funding of requisite positions, OPS, expenses and OCO would come from the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund, and the State Game Trust Fund as needed. Since these lands are adjacent to an existing land complex being managed by FWC, initial staffing would be limited to one Biological Scientist III and one Fish and Wildlife Technician.

### Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salaries	\$72,311	\$74,480	\$76,714
OPS	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
Expense	\$32,424	\$32,424	\$32,424
OCO	\$72,500	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$182,735</b>	<b>\$112,404</b>	<b>\$114,638</b>

# Bombing Range Ridge

Polk, Highlands and Osceola Counties

# Group A

## Full Fee / Small Holdings

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Public acquisition of this project would conserve and protect significant habitat for native species and endangered and threatened species. Additionally, public acquisition would provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource based recreation. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

**Manager**

The Division of Forestry (DOF) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage all but approximately 540 acres in the north portion of the project. The 540 acres, lying adjacent to Rosalie Creek, will be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

**General Description**

As originally proposed, the 39,000-acre Bombing Range Ridge project, with flatwoods, marshes, swamps, hammocks, and part of a scrub ridge, connects Avon Park Air Force Range, Lake Kissimmee State Park, and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) land. It provides critical habitat for at least 20 rare animals, including red-cockaded woodpeckers, snail kites, Florida scrub jays, and grasshopper sparrows. Water resources adjacent to the project include the Kissimmee River, Lake Rosalie, Tiger Lake, Lake

Walk-in-Water, and several creeks and marshes; the scrub ridge is a recharge area. The remains of Sumica, a 19th-century town, are in the project, and there are probably more archaeological and historical sites in the area.

**Public Use**

The area can support a range of recreation from hiking and primitive camping to canoeing, fishing, and hunting.

**Acquisition Planning**

The Bombing Range Ridge project was added to the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council’s (LAMAC) 1997 Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list at their December meeting. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) and Florida Game & Fish Commission (FG&FC), consisted of approximately 39,073 acres, multiple owners, and a 1997 taxable value of \$15,238,510.

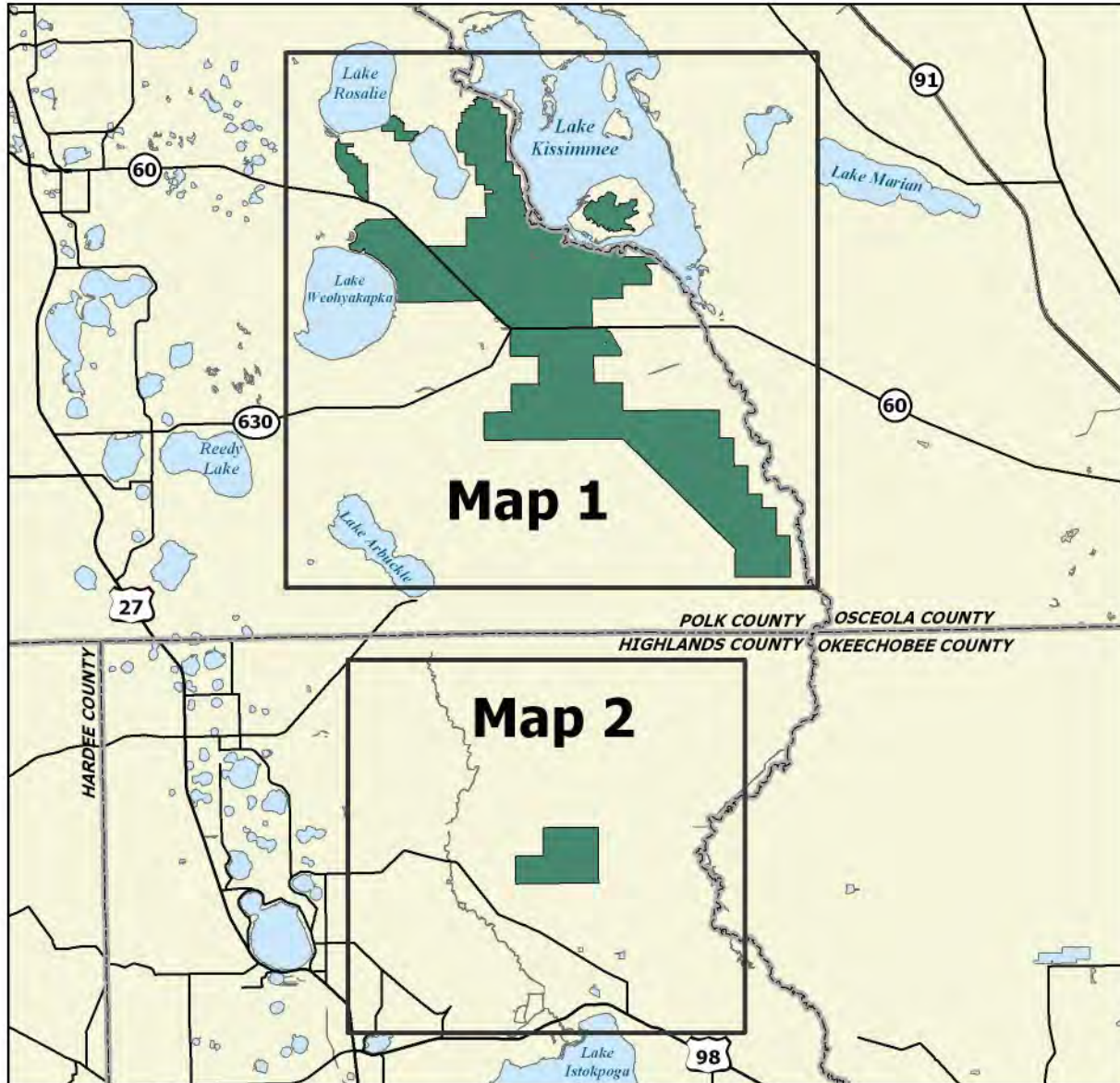
The project was divided into Priority I and Priority II areas. The essential parcels are Priority I, especially Wheeler, Avatar, Winter Haven Christian School, Lightsey, River Ranch Landowners Association members, Polk County, and the Patrick Nee ownerships.

<b>Bombing Range Ridge</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Nodding Pinweed</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>45,474</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>10,731*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$19,081,865*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>33,743</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$14,313,893</b>	

\* Including dollars spent and acres acquired by SFWMD, and Polk County

# Bombing Range Ridge - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings



## BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: OVERVIEW

***POLK, HIGHLANDS AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES***



JANUARY 2008

## Bombing Range Ridge - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings

On August 19, 1997, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners signed a resolution that gave high priority to this project and supported the acquisition through the CARL program.

In 1998, Polk County and the SFWMD acquired the Sumica tract (4,167 acres).

On May 17, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 1,521-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Meredith Scott MD Trust, and had a 2000 taxable value of \$3,256,856.

On August 15, 2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee 1,691-acre addition (aka Brahma Island tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Saunders Realty, consisted of one owner, Cary & Layne Lightsey, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$176,180. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor the conservation easement. In April 2005, the Board of Trustees acquired the Brahma Island Tract (1,063.40 acres) through a conservation easement.

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,189-acre addition (aka Goolsby Ranch) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of one landowner, Goolsby family, and had a 2004 taxable value of \$415,291. If acquired, the site, in Highlands County, will be managed by the DOF. In view of the configuration of the Bombing Range Ridge project, this site is not essential to project completion or manageability.

### Coordination

About 2 percent of the parcels within the project are either county owned or county tax certificates. The county has expressed interest in giving the land to the state and letting the state manage it, selling the parcels to the state, or exchanging the parcels with the state for other parcels outside the proposal. TNC is an intermediary on this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Bombing Range Ridge project are: to conserve and protect critical habitat for rare, endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory

programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Bombing Range Ridge project is a vast area of quality flatwoods together with marshes, swamps, hammocks and scrub. The project contains valuable habitat for numerous listed bird species. Approximately 400 acres of the northwest corner of the project is adjacent to the Lake Kissimmee State Park. The area is largely a wetland through which Rosalie Creek flows. Rosalie Creek is a drainage joining Lake Rosalie with Tiger Lake, and a portion of the creek is already a part of the park. Additionally, the project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the DOF as a state forest is contingent upon the state obtaining legal public access to the site and acquiring fee simple title to the core parcels.

**Manager** DOF is recommended as lead manager, and DRP is recommended for the Oglesby and Beerman parcels in the northeast section of the project.

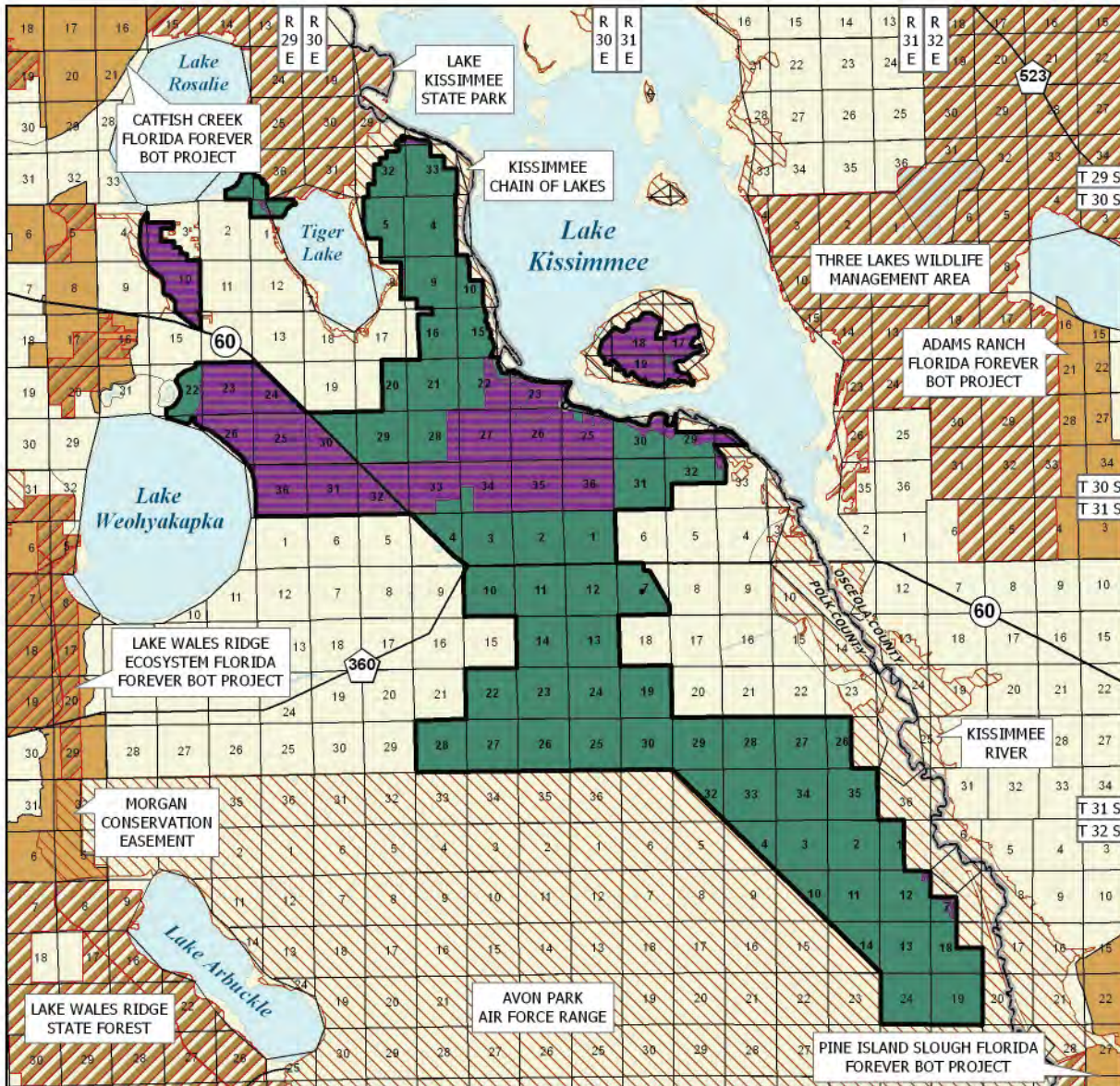
**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project includes a "high-need" management area. Public use and recreation facility development would be accomplished in a manner compatible with long-term resource protection.

### Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

The DOF proposes to manage the site as a unit of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest (LWRSF), and management activities will be conducted utilizing district and LWRSF personnel. Initial or intermediate efforts of the DOF will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. The public will be provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan.

Upon the fee title acquisition, the DRP proposes to provide public access for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities. Emphasis will be given to protection of Rosalie Creek and its surrounding

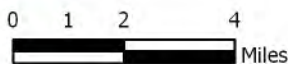
# Bombing Range Ridge - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings



## BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 1 OF 2

### POLK AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

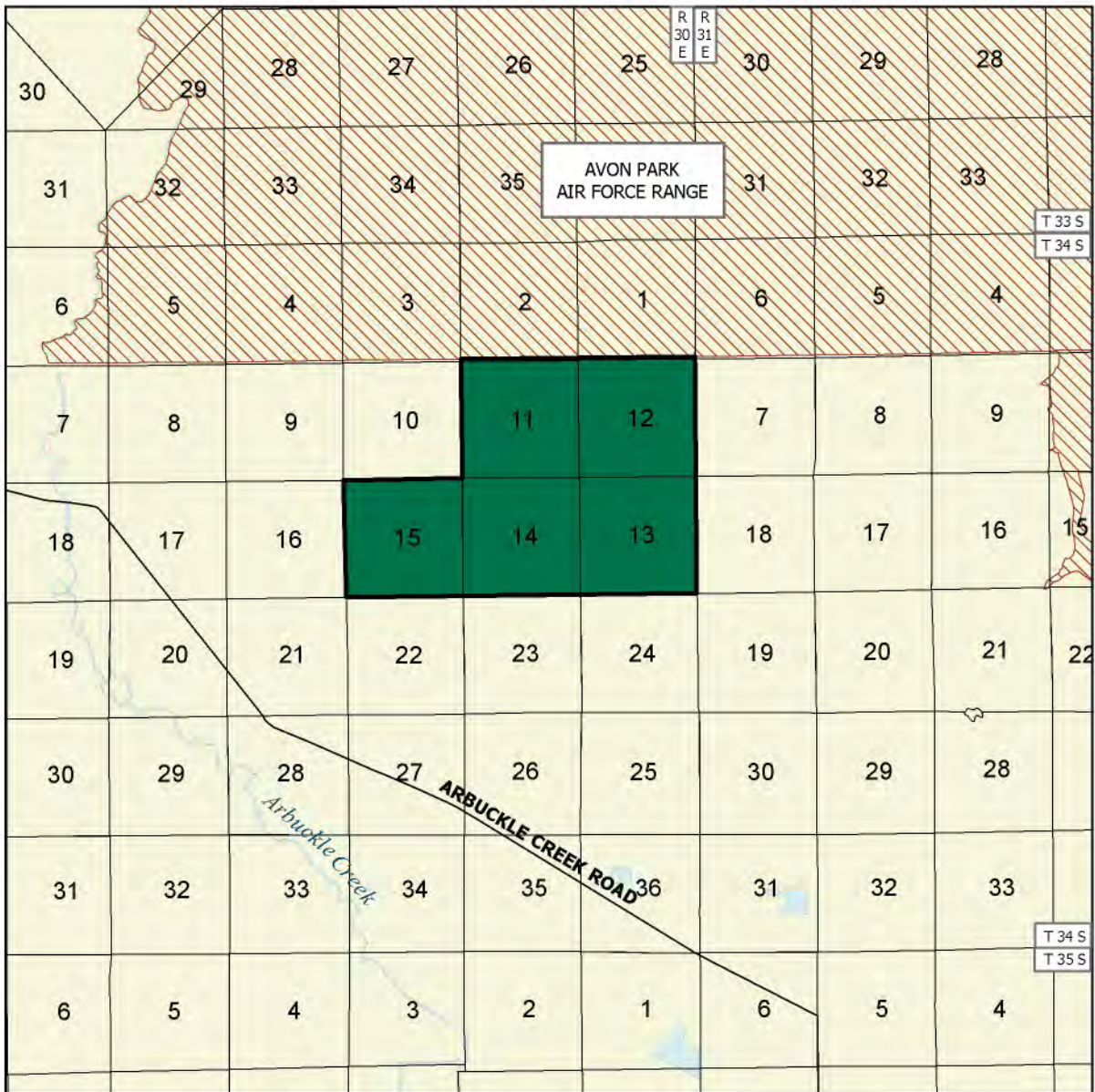
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2008






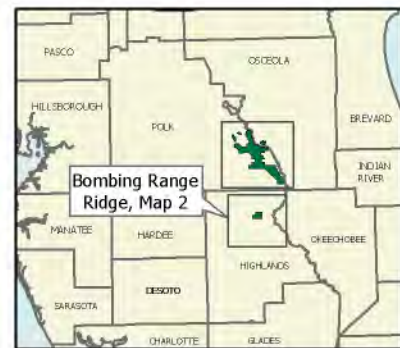
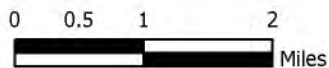
# Bombing Range Ridge - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings



## BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 2 OF 2

### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

## Bombing Range Ridge - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings

ecological system. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate on site security including posting boundaries and development of a resource inventory in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive management plan. Long-term management of the 540 acres would include resource-based recreation and associated facilities compatible with the resources.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate.

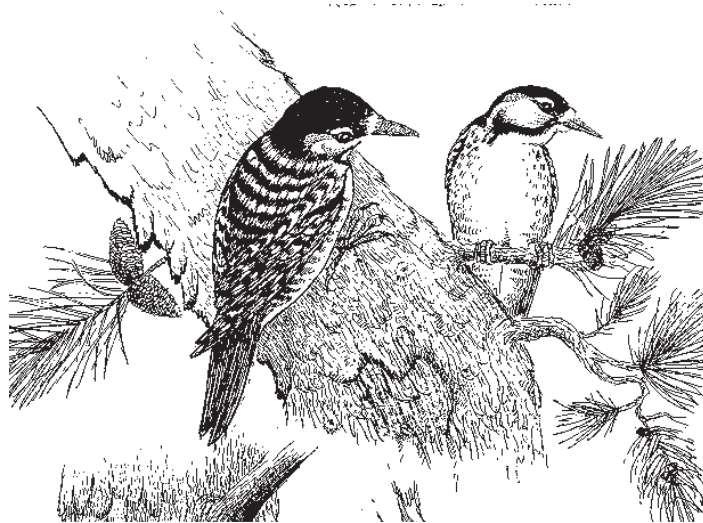
**Cooperators in management activities** The DOF and the DRP will cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the use of the lands for state park purposes.

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$1,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DOF

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$86,412	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$70,000	\$0
OCO	\$136,400	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$292,812</b>	<b>\$0</b>



# Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

Brevard County

Group A

Full Fee / Small Holdings

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The strip of coastal scrub that once paralleled the Indian River in Brevard County is now a set of small fragments surrounded by housing developments. The Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project will preserve a few of the best scrub fragments in the county, which will aid survival of the endangered scrub jay and provide areas where the public can appreciate and learn about this unique landscape.

## Manager

Brevard County will manage the original six sites, and the Valkaria/Micco Expansion Site added in 2002. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage the six sites added in 1996, and the Ten Mile Ridge site added in 2002. The Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) will manage one site added in 2001. The City of Titusville will manage the Falcon Woods portion added in 2008.

## General Description

The project includes twenty areas considered essential to the preservation of scrub, mesic and scrubby flatwoods, floodplain marsh and marsh lake along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge and St. John's River marshes. Acquisition and management of these core areas are imperative for the survival of the Florida scrub jay on the east coast of Florida. The tracts comprising this

project also support several rare vertebrates and at least eight rare plant species, including a very rare mint. All of the tracts in the project are surrounded by development and several peripheral areas are already being destroyed. The rapid encroachment of housing developments is likely to completely eliminate any unprotected scrub and adjacent flatwoods communities of Brevard County in the very near future. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

## Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife and environmental area with limited public use, including picnicking and environmental education.

## Acquisition Planning

On December 10, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Scrub Jay Refugia project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition consisted of approximately 8,178 acres, several hundred parcels and landowners, and a taxable value of \$53,319,683. Brevard County sponsored the project that contained 5 sites: Tico (± 2,421 acres, Grand Central a major owner, Brevard County has acquired 52 acres); Valkaria (± 2,764 acres with multiple owners, County has acquired 155 acres); Rockledge (± 2,591 acres, three major owners: Barge & Tabacchi, Duda, and Grand Central, the remainder is subdivided, County has acquired 141 acres); Condev (52 acres, two owners: Nelson and SR 405 Ltd); South Babcock (529 acres, multiple owners).

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1993*</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>47,416</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>21,825**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$86,085,773**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>25,591</b>

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$49,029,220**

\*Original project

\*\* Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by Brevard County and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). The donation by TNC is valued at \$40,000.

<b>Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Titusville Balm	G1Q/S1
Pine Pinweed	G2/S2
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
Sand Butterfly Pea	G2Q/S2
Tampa Vervain	G2/S2
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
Hay Scented Fern	G4/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Nodding Pinweed	G3/S3
Florida Beargrass	G3/S3
18 rare species are associated with the project	

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings

On July 23, 1993, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 179-acre addition (AKA Rockledge Scrub Sanctuary) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), consisted of 6 landowners (T. Barge & M. Tabacchi, L.R. Pierce Trust, N. Schopke & M. Tabacchi, TCM Investment, Inc., A.L. & M. Jacoboski, and Florida Power & Light Co.), and a taxable value of \$3,600,000.

On March 9, 1994, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,322-acre addition (AKA Micco Scrub) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Brevard County, consisted of one landowner, Kentucky Central Life Ins. Co., and a taxable value of \$1,500,120. Brevard County has acquired this site.

On July 14, 1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,410-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition consisted of four sites: Dicerandra Scrub, 44 acres, Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 395 acres, Canova Beach Scrub, 138 acres, and Jordan Blvd, 833 acres. Brevard County sponsored this addition that consisted of multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$13,283,659. The County has acquired the Malabar and the Dicerandra Scrub sites.

In 1996, the LAAC combined the Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Initiative (CSEI) project with the Scrub Jay Refugia project bringing the new total acres to 27,745 with a TAV of \$86,847,875, and on 12/5/1996 renamed it Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem. The CSEI consisted of 6 sites: Fox/South Lake Complex - 9,189 acres; Titusville Wellfield - 972 acres; Grissom Parkway - 2,962 acres; Wickham Road - 822 acres; Micco Expansion - 1,833 acres; and Ten Mile Ridge - 529 acres, totaling 16,307 acres with a TAV of \$40,780,060.

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved the transfer of the Valkaria, South Babcock, Ten Mile Ridge, and Grissom Parkway sites to the Mega-Multiparcel list. In 2001 this list was renamed Small Holdings.

On December 19, 2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ± 9,528-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition consisted of two sites: Malabar Expansion – 959.85 acres (Bargain/Shared) and Valkaria/Micco Expansion – 4,144.48 acres (Bargain/Shared) & 4,739.48 acres (Mega/Multiparcel). Sponsored by the Brevard County

EEL Program, it consisted of 2,250 landowners, and a taxable value of \$23,819,800. The following sites were deleted from the project due to development/improvement, habitat fragmentation or isolation: Canova Beach - 152.34 acres; Condev – 52.52 acres; and Wickham Road Complex – 809.62 acres; & Rockledge (select properties) – 860 acres. The total TAV for these sites was approximately \$35,952,477.

On May 17, 2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ± 3,529-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA), consisted of eleven landowners, and a taxable value of \$3,456,290.

On April 25, 2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 112-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for Brevard County, consisted of two sites (10 Mile Ridge Expansion – 62 acres and Valkario/Micco Expansion – 50 acres), multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$199,070.

On December 5, 2002, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority list.

On December 5, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 7,444-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Brevard County EEL Program, consisted of three landowners, Bernard Hersch – 112.25 acres; OLC, Inc/Campbell – 5,229.94 acres; and Babcock, LLC – 2,091.81 acres, and a taxable value of \$2,808,217.

In June 2007 Brevard County acquired 41 acres from Vero-Pittsburgh Partners LLC and added it to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

On June 13, 2008, ARC approved the 94-acre Falcon Woods Florida Forever project, and incorporated it into the boundary of the existing Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project. The Falcon Woods portion has a tax value of \$4,556,000 and is proposed for fee-simple acquisition. The site includes 7 parcels under one ownership. The City of Titusville sponsored the project, and will also act as manager for the site. Falcon Woods consists primarily of imperiled sand pine scrub habitat.

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings

In September, 2008, the Division of State Lands purchased 1.29 acres of the Hightower/Frasier ownership at Grissom Parkway for \$5,500. The FWC will manage this section.

In October, 2008, TNC donated 2.71 acres, valued at \$40,000, which will be managed by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands program.

On June 12, 2009 ARC accepted the request from the applicant/County to change the name of the Falcon Woods addition to Tortoise Ridge.

### **Coordination**

Brevard County, an acquisition partner, committed \$10 million towards the acquisition of the project and \$2.6 million for site management. The Nature Conservancy is under contract to the county to provide assistance with acquisition of the county's projects.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; and to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Scrub on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge is one of the most endangered natural upland communities in North America. This unique scrub, with its many rare plants and animals, qualifies the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Manager** Brevard County proposes to manage the six original sites of the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem. The FWC will manage the six sites added in 1996 and will manage the Ten Mile Ridge site added on April 25, 2002. The City of Titusville will manage the Falcon Woods portion added in 2008. On May 16, 2001, a 3,529-acre addition was made that was to be managed by CAMA.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Project includes low-

need, moderate-need and high-need tracts. All sites are fire-maintained communities with an immediate need for fire management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program is preparing a Conceptual Natural Areas Management Manual for all sanctuary sites. Once these sites are acquired, the EEL Program will work with local, state and federal agencies to develop a Comprehensive Management Plan for long-term management. Initial management activities in this project will focus on site security, burn management, determination of status of listed species, location of a core area for resource protection, identification of passive recreation areas, and the development of innovative environmental education programs.

A management plan will be developed and implemented approximately one year after the completion of this multi-parcel acquisition project, or site-specific management plans will be developed as management units are acquired. The plan will detail how each of the FNAI special elements on each site will be protected and, when necessary, restored. Fire management will be a vital component of each plan.

Long-range plans for this project, beginning approximately one year after acquisition is completed, will be directed towards biodiversity protection, exotic species removal, wetland restoration and enhancement, and the maintenance of links between upland, wetland and estuarine areas. Management will protect biological diversity and listed species. Specific areas will be fenced as needed. Property signs will have appropriate language to enable protection of the property. Unnecessary roads and other disturbances will be identified as areas for restoration. Firebreaks will be cleared where necessary. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be low-impact.

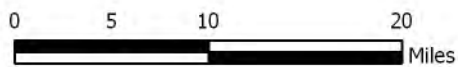
**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue sources are anticipated at this time. Mitigation agreements with USFWS have generated some funds for management within the Valkaria Core area. Implementation and funding of the Scrub Conservation and Development Plan provide a potential source of management funds for these sites. Timber might be sold on some sites where habitat restoration requires thinning.

# Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings



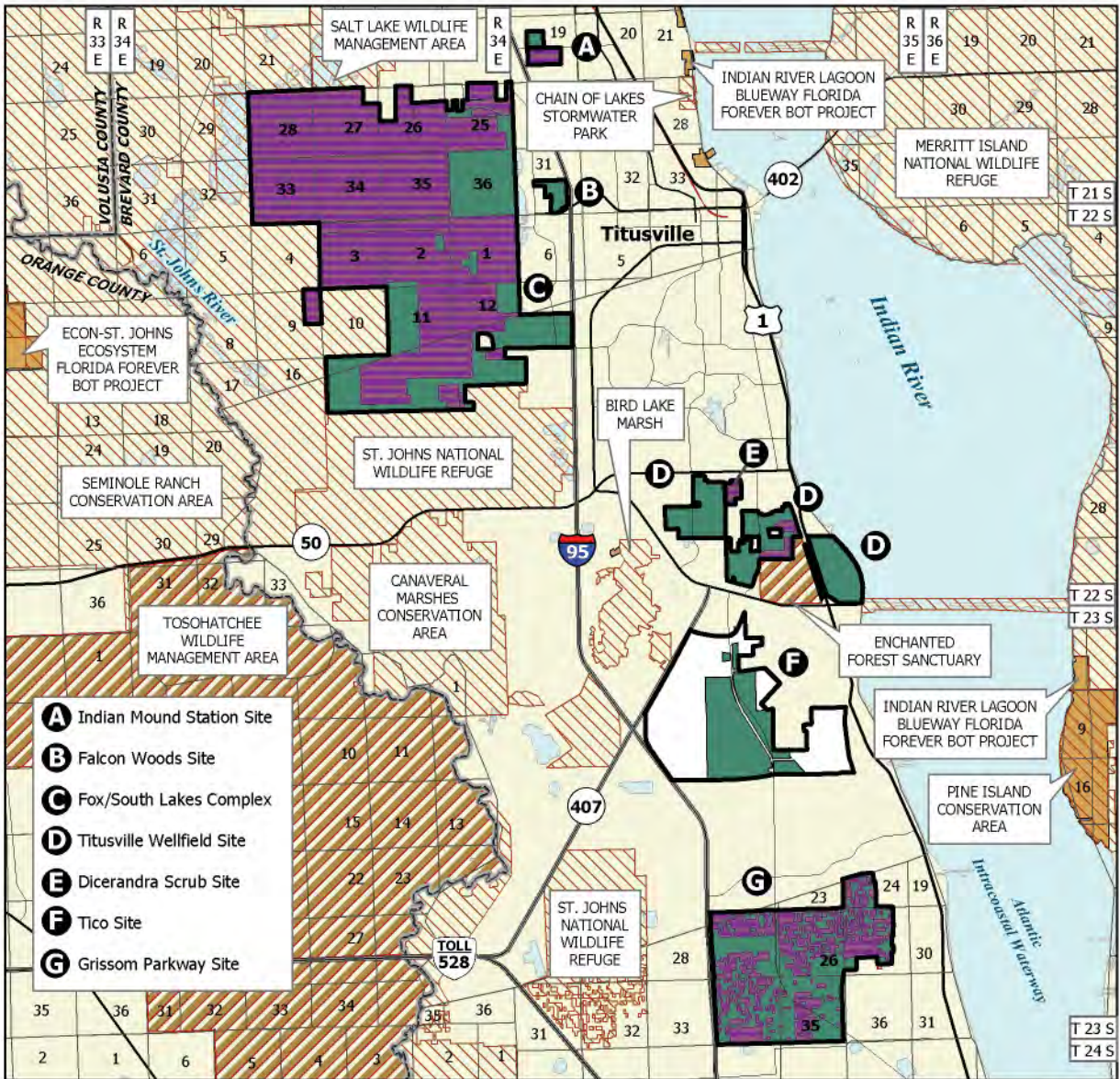
## BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

### *BREVARD COUNTY*



JUNE 2008

# Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings



## BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1 OF 3

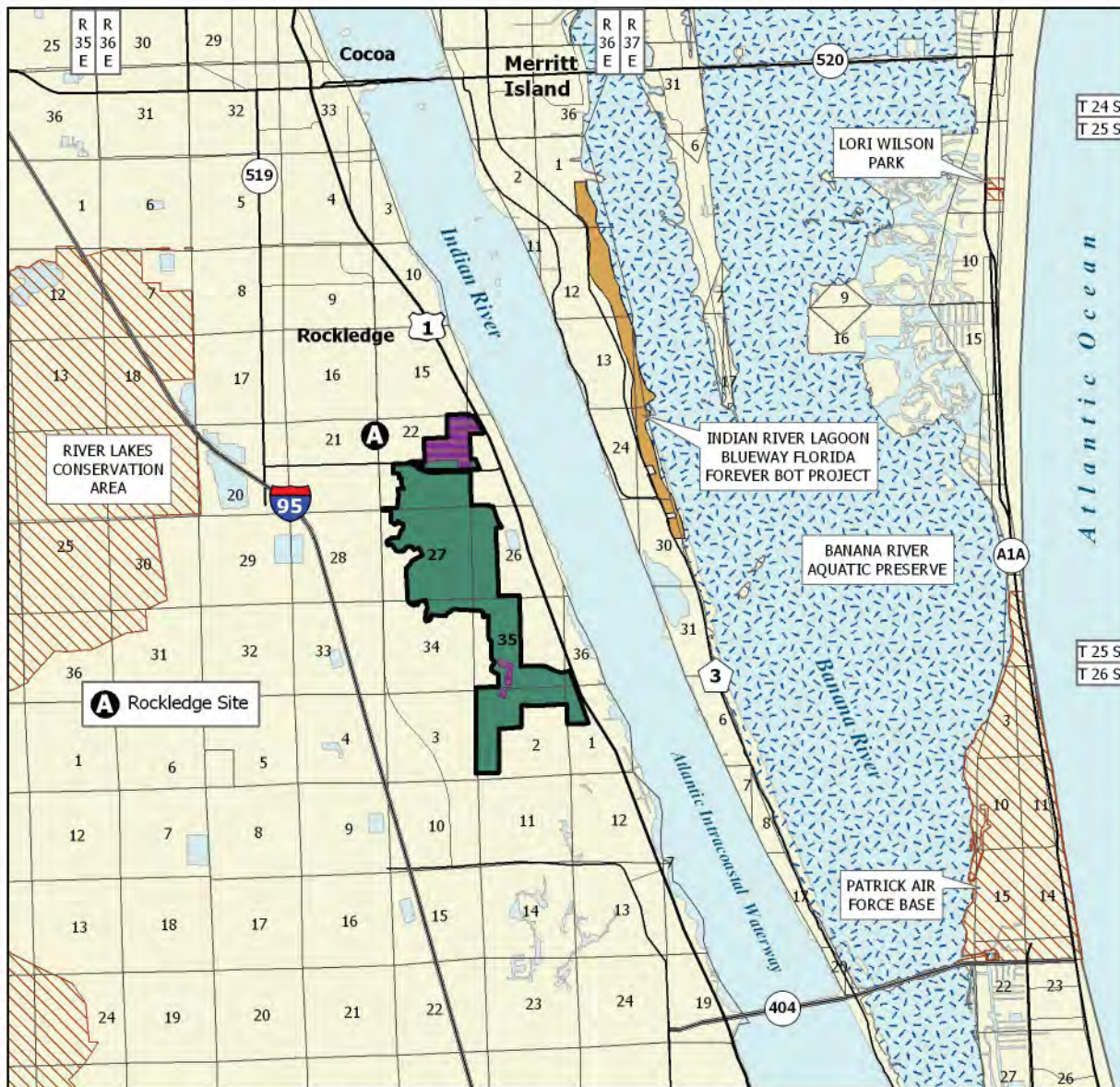
### BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2009

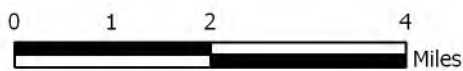
# Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings



## BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2 OF 3

### BREVARD COUNTY

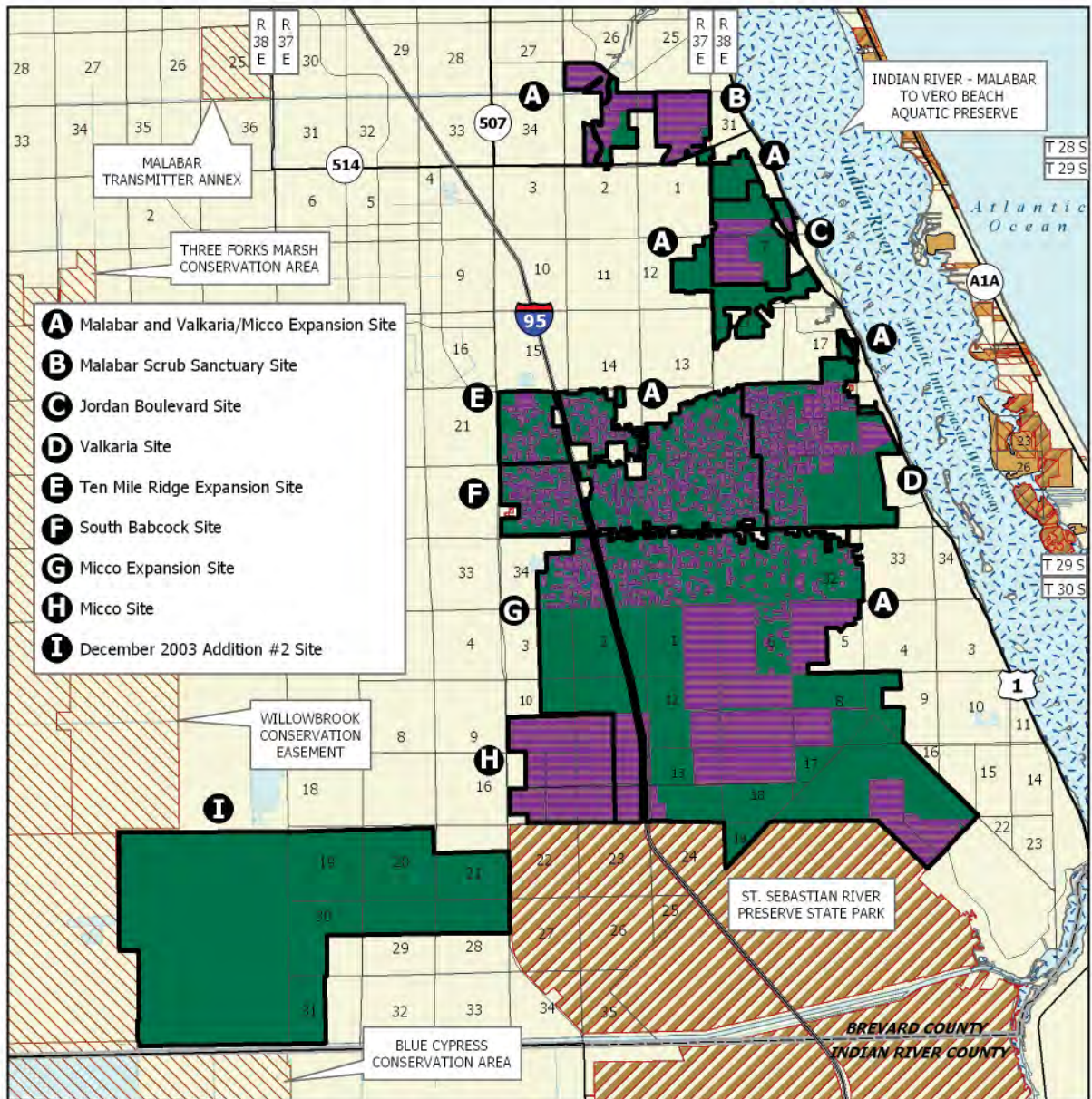
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential\_Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JUNE 2007



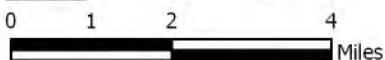
# Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings



## BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3 OF 3

### BREVARD COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



MAY 2006

## Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee / Small Holdings

**Cooperators in management activities** Brevard County will require support from the USFWS and other agencies (The Nature Conservancy, Division of Forestry, FWC, and others) to implement a quality management program for scrub communities.

The EEL Selection Committee will aggressively seek matching funds for site management, development of environmental education programs, and for necessary research and monitoring.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** An inter-agency partnership among the participating agencies provides opportunities for revenue sharing. The Brevard County EEL Program proposed to set aside \$2.6 million dollars from their excess ad valorem revenues

to begin a management endowment for the EEL Program sanctuary network. The EEL Program will work to increase funds for management to be consistent with or exceed State management appropriations.

<b>Management Cost Summary</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1994/95</b>	<b>1995/96</b>	<b>1996/97</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>County/Grant</b>
Salary	\$0	\$3,500	\$8,750
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
Expense	\$500	\$1,000	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
FCO	\$0	\$125,700	\$120,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$130,200</b>	<b>\$213,750</b>

# Caber Coastal Connector

Levy County

## Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The public acquisition of this project would support a mosaic of basin swamps, dome swamps, basin marshes, hydric hammocks, mesic and wet flatwoods, tidal marshes, xeric hammocks and pine plantations. The southern and northern boundaries have contiguous borders with several other land acquisition projects. This meets the Florida Forever goals of enhancing coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, and protecting and restoring the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state. Protection of water quality and estuarine resources in the area by preventing conversion of the property to development or intensive agriculture is another benefit that this acquisition offers.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is the recommended manager.

### General Description

The proposed area is 6,052 acres and is located in Levy County, Florida, northeast of the town of Cedar Key. The southern boundary has two and a half miles of frontage along C.R. 326, including a two mile contiguous border with the Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve, while the northern boundary has three miles of contiguous border with the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. The eastern boundary is formed by C.R. 347, on which it has nearly three and a half miles of road frontage. The western boundary is formed by a one and a quarter mile congruous boundary with a disjunctive portion of the Lower Suwannee NWR, as well as nearly

two additional miles of Gulf of Mexico frontage.

### Public Use

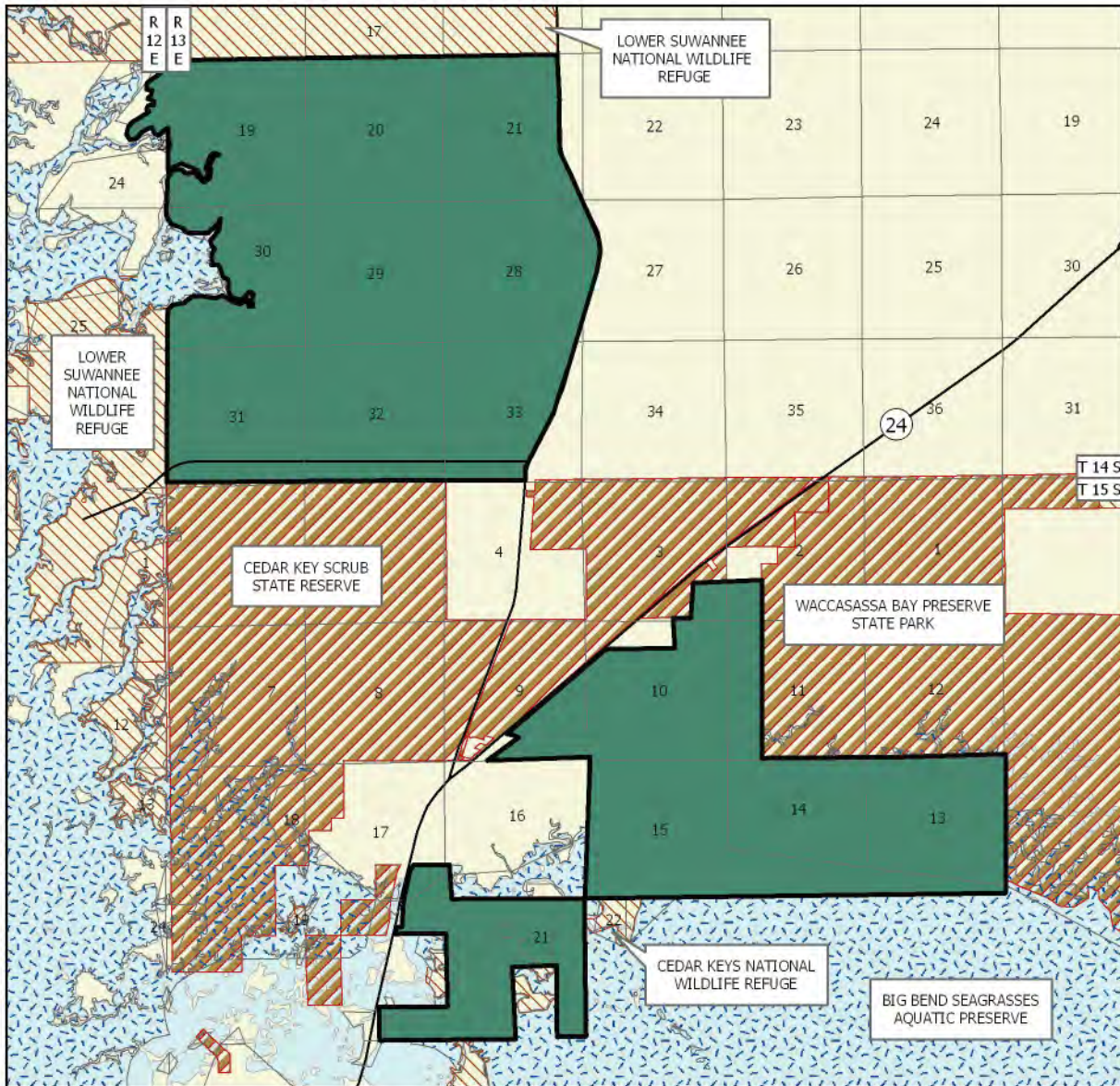
The project has the potential of providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience in a regional context. It is strategically located among state and federally owned coastal lands for which there is no full service park area. It is also located within 10 miles of the town of Cedar Key and has excellent paved highway access. What differentiates the project from adjacent and nearby public lands, such as Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve and Waccasassa Bay State Preserve, is the existence of sufficient uplands on the coast that can provide easy access internally and support infrastructure that could result in the creation of a destination park and compliment the surrounding public resources.

Parts of the property have been disturbed, however, other areas are highly scenic and many roads on the property could provide off-road bicycling, hiking and horseback riding opportunities. The expansive trail system that can be supported by the property could also be connected with trails from other nearby state and federal lands. In addition to trails, other resource-based activities could be provided. Nature appreciation and wildlife observation could be enjoyed at the same time as one is enjoying trail opportunities. Camping (primitive and RV), picnicking and canoe/kayak access would bolster the project as a destination park. A campground would serve the public well in this area. The property could also provide one or more stop-off sites in connection with the Big Bend Canoe Trail. While a public boat ramp cannot be ruled out, there is a public boat ramp

Caber Coastal Connector FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Salt Marsh Vole	G5T1/S1
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>7,761</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>7,761</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$2,444,770</b>

# Caber Coastal Connector - Group A/Full Fee



## CABER COASTAL CONNECTOR

### LEVY COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JULY 2007

facility at the south end of the project.

An environmental education facility has been discussed in connection with the adjacent Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve and Waccasassa Bay State Preserve. Should the project be acquired, it would be considered along with locations within the other management units for the development of such a facility.

Depending on management emphasis, the project could support hunting. As a full service park site, however, hunting opportunities would not be provided.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On January 25, 2005, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Caber Coastal Connector project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2005 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), consisted of approximately 6,052 acres, a single owner, Caber Corporation, and a 2003 taxable value of \$920,610.

The essential parcels were identified as Caber Corporation ownership.

On August 11, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,709-acre addition (aka Thompson Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of one owner, Thompson, 12 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$1,524,160. The parcels were designated as essential.

### **Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goals of the project are to restore, maintain and protect important ecosystems and to plan for and provide a diverse resource-based recreational park consistent with the management prospectus.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

The Division of Recreation and Parks proposes that it be considered as the manager of the Caber Corporation property if it is acquired in full fee title. The property has long been sought to connect tens of miles of coastal public lands. The project was within the original boundary of the Cedar Key Scrub Conservation and Recreation Land (CARL) project, but was never

### **Caber Coastal Connector - Group A/Full Fee**

acquired because of an unwilling seller. When the CARL project was removed from the CARL/P2000 list in 1997, the Division of Recreation and Parks maintained an interest in the project area for resource connectivity and park purposes. It also has limited scrub jay habitat. The scrub jays in this area are considered one of the westernmost populations in Florida. The population would be enhanced with the acquisition of this project.

#### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

Portions of the project are in planted pine that will require rehabilitation over time to provide for a natural landscape. Scrub areas will require significant work to restore the lands for scrub jay use. Over the long-term, the intensity of management and related costs would significantly increase if management emphasis shifts from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use with more substantial infrastructure.

#### ***Timetable for Implementing Management***

Once the property is acquired and assigned to the Division of Recreation and Parks, the acquired lands will be secured and management planning implemented. Resource inventories and analysis will be performed to determine objectives for restoration. Low intensity resource-based recreation, such as canoeing/kayaking and trails will be provided initially on the property. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property and funding for positions and infrastructure.

#### ***Revenue-generating potential***

No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. Some revenue may be generated through timber sales as the land is being restored. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities placed on the land.

#### ***Capital Project Expenditures***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1 FTE, 1 OPS)</b>	<b>\$47,700</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>36,100</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,800</b>

# Caloosahatchee Ecoscape

**Hendry and Glades Counties**

**Group A  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

In order to preserve Florida panthers and black bears, large landscape linkages of land must be protected. Although large areas are protected to the south within Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park, both the panther and bear populations are dependent on much of the proposed ranch land in Hendry County. This project connects at its southern boundary by an abandoned rail corridor with the Okaloacoochee Slough project.

**Managers**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

**General Description**

The project encompasses a mosaic of wet prairies, cypress basin and dome swamp, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, depressional marches, and scrub. The majority of the natural communities on the properties have been impacted by clearing and drainage from improved pasture development or farming. Despite the disturbed plant communities, the project provides important habitat for a variety of listed wildlife species. Most of the land is within the Barron Water Control District and canals have altered the natural hydrology to the extent that no significant natural water resources remain. Eleven archaeological sites are known from the project area, some with material dated back to the Archaic period.

**Public Use**

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area with uses such as hunting, various sorts of trails, camp-

ing, and picnicking, among other activities.

**Acquisition Planning**

The three largest ownerships, IMC Agrico, Floriland Dairy (Milicevic), and Atlantic Gulf Communities are the essential parcels. The owners of the Floriland Dairy tract (Milicevic) have indicated they would consider negotiating a Less-Than-Fee sale at some time in the future.

On March 26, 1999, the Council added 2,400 acres to the project.

A conservation easement was placed on the LaBelle Ranch (2,994 acres) in 2002.

On June 13, 2008 the Acquisition and Restoration Council moved the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project to the A list of Florida Forever projects in order to expedite acquisition.

**Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

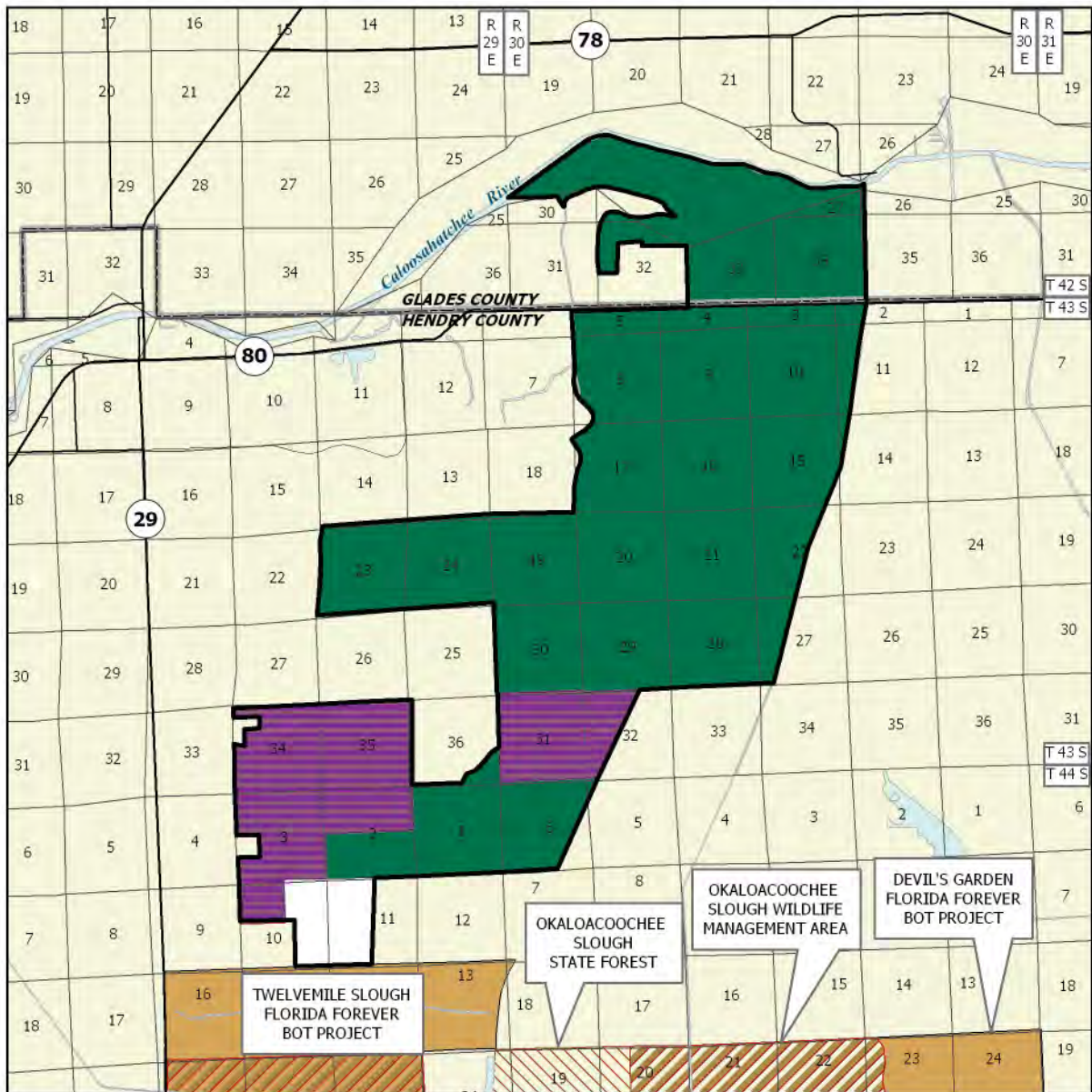
**Management Policy Statement**

The project area has been highly impacted by timbering and other clearing for farming and grazing. A management goal will be to restore and maintain native plant and animal communities to the extent feasible. A secondary goal will be to provide compatible, nature-based recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and nature study.

<b>Caloosahatchee Ecoscape</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Mangrove Fox Squirrel	G5T2/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
7 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>18,497</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>2,994</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$2,320,700</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>15,503</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$15,333,269</b>	

# Caloosahatchee Ecoscape - Group A/Full Fee



## CALOOSAATCHEE ECOSCAPE

### HENDRY AND GLADES COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2006

## Caloosahatchee Ecoscape - Group A/Full Fee

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project will provide a refuge for threatened animals like the Florida panther and black bear, sandhill crane, wood stork, and crested caracara, and a variety of other endangered species, as well as species of special concern. It will protect habitat for game species like white-tailed deer and turkey as well as to provide the public with a large area for natural-resource-based recreation. The project is also within an area where the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has conducted significant panther and bear research.

**Manager** FWC is designated as manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Hydrologic manipulation and conversion of native range to improved pastures will necessitate habitat restoration. Urbanization within, and adjacent to, the proposed project boundary will require that any large-scale controlled burning efforts be coordinated between appropriate state and federal agencies and the local affected residents.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** During the first year after acquisition, posting the boundary, erecting entrance signs, and resource inventory will be a priority. A conceptual management plan will also be written. Location and control of exotic

plant species will be ongoing. The long-term management goals shall be to restore and maintain native plant and animal communities to the extent feasible, with a secondary goal of providing compatible nature-based recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and nature study. Establishment of access and other facilities necessary for approved nature-based recreational activities will be developed as funding permits.

**Revenue-generating potential** This property has historically provided timber and cattle production. Potential revenue sources may include hunting, fishing, ecotourism, cattle grazing, and sustainable timber production.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWC will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies and non-profit organizations in managing the area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presently maintains a campground and the locks at Ortona, along the northeastern corner of the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project boundary.





# Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway

Baker, Bradford, Clay and Union Counties

Group A

Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels - provide a landscape connector between Camp Blanding on the southeast, the Northeast Florida Timberlands (when acquired) on the east, Raiford WMA on the south, and Osceola National Forest on the northwest; (2) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state - four major blackwater streams from three major river basins originating within the project area, as well as several headwaters and tributaries; and (3) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources - approximately 112,000 acres of this project are in pine plantation. In addition, natural areas of floodplain, basin, and baygall swamp can be found on more than 32,000 acres. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

## Manager

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be co-managers. The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor conservation easements unless otherwise noted.

## General Description

The Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway project consists of approximately 153,000 acres of land from the northwest corner of Camp Blanding Military Reservation to the southeast boundary of the Osceola National Forest. It connects several managed areas in Baker, Bradford, Clay, and Union Counties, resulting in a contiguous area of more than a half a million acres of publicly owned or managed lands in north-central Florida. It overlaps portions of the Northeast Florida Timberlands project. Physiographic features of interest include: the Trail Ridge, the eastern boundary of the Cody Scarp, and several large wetlands that have been ecologically devalued by silvicultural activities or mining.

## Public Use

The Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest project is an expansive area, which could have significant natural resource-based potential if portions of the project were available to the public. Most particular is the block of land west of SR 231 containing Palestine Lake.

Most of the project is being offered as less-than-fee with limited public access. Through discussion relating to the less-than-fee areas, representatives of the landowner have indicated that they will consider allowing continued limited public uses that are being allowed today.

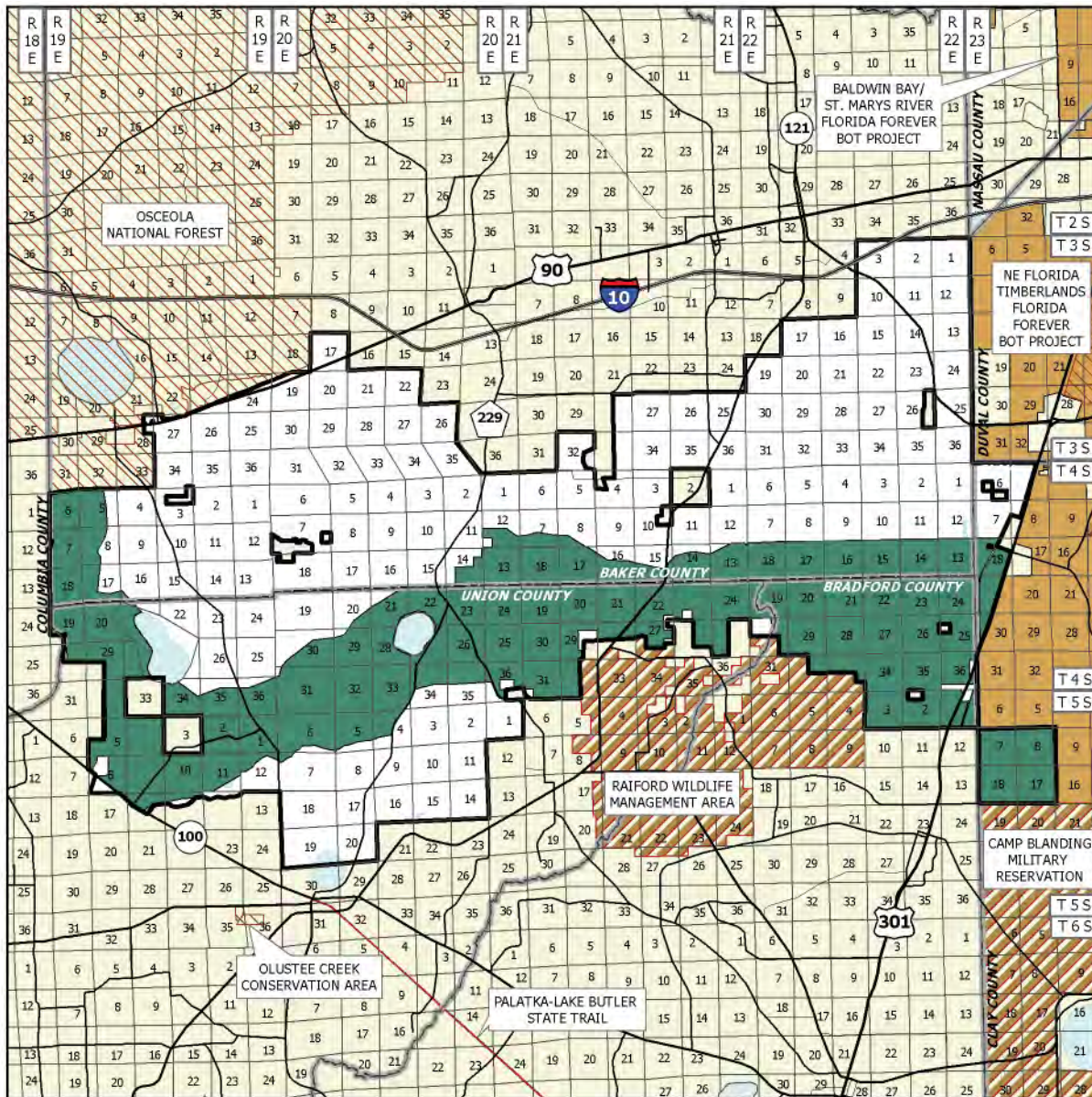
All trails throughout the project, whether in fee or less-than-fee areas, have potential for being multiple-

Camp Blanding - Osceola Greenway	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
<i>Hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Bartram's Ixia</i>	G2/S2S3
Many-lined Salamander	G5/S1
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Timber Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Mud Sunfish	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
11 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>153,000</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>153,000</b>

**With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: \$28,508,089**

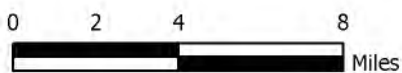
# Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## CAMP BLANDING - OSCEOLA GREENWAY

### BAKER, BRADFORD, CLAY, AND UNION COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

## Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

use trails with hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. Other recreational opportunities in fee-acquisition areas would include camping, picnicking, and hunting.

Of the activities mentioned, the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies hunting within the Union and Bradford Counties portion of the project as having a high need for the year 2005 for the region in which these counties are located.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Camp Blanding – Osceola Greenway project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee project, sponsored by the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) and the Conservation Trust of Florida (CTF), consisted of approximately 153,000 acres, multiple owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$28,508,089.

The essential parcels were identified as the Plum Creek and Wachovia ownerships.

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a redesign to the essential parcels within the project. The number and acreage of essential parcels was revised by removing 106 parcels (64,250 acres) and adding 52 parcels (10,180 acres) which resulted in a declassification of 54,070 acres currently designated essential. The new essential parcel configuration will connect Camp Blanding to the Raiford Wildlife Management Area, then to the Osceola National Forest.

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

Areas of the project purchased in fee-simple will be managed to further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide, where possible, the public with access and quality recreational opportunities.

### Unified Management Prospectus

The Camp Blanding to Osceola National Forest Ecological Greenway (CB-ONFEG) Florida Forever project comprises approximately 153,000 acres located in Baker, Bradford, Clay, and Union counties. The project area extends from the northwest corner of Camp

Blanding Military Reservation in Clay County to the southeast boundary of the Osceola National Forest in Baker County, a distance of approximately 21 miles. The project is located approximately 20 miles southwest of downtown Jacksonville, 10 miles east of Lake City, and 16 miles north of Gainesville. The project area ranges from 5 to 13 miles wide, and connects and adjoins the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Osceola National Forest, Northeast Florida Timberlands Florida Forever Project, and the Raiford Wildlife Management Area. The project would provide a landscape linkage, itself comprising conservation lands of substantial ecological value, which would serve as a conservation corridor extending from central Florida to southeast Georgia over a distance of almost 200 miles. The CB-ONFEG project would create a contiguous area of more than half a million acres of publicly-owned or managed lands in north central Florida.

The most widespread community type within the project boundary is mesic flatwoods, of which approximately 100,000 acres are in silviculture operations, and 4,000 acres are in a relatively natural condition. Sandhill communities total only about 230 acres, but may have substantial ecological value. The forested wetlands are the least disturbed natural areas. Basin swamps are represented by approximately 40,000 acres, and include several large named basin swamps, including (with approximate acreages): Turkey Creek Swamp (7,000 acres), New River Swamp (4,000 acres), South Prong Swamp (2,500 acres), Swift Creek Swamp (1,000 acres), Wampee Bay (1,000 acres), and Center Bay (685 acres). Dome swamps, wet flatwoods, and baygalls represent the remaining 15-20,000 acres. Floodplain swamps extend over approximately 4,000 acres of the CB-ONFEG project area. Several flatwoods lakes are also present, such as Palestine Lake (900 acres), Swift Creek Pond (578 acres), Lake Butler (130 acres), and also some important blackwater streams such as Olustee Creek and the New River. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 8 percent (12,380 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), many-lined salamander (*Stereochilus marginatus*), and

## Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*). Additional imperiled or rare species reported to occur on the project are the swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), the white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), and the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Among other rare or imperiled species, the project is potential habitat for the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and the red-cockaded (*Picooides borealis*) woodpecker.

Natural shorelines and shallow waters of the flatwoods lakes on the project provide habitat for wading birds, waterfowl, and many other aquatic and semi-aquatic animal species. Forested riparian corridors provide a habitat connection to the Santa Fe River floodplain and bottomland forests for species such as the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*) and numerous other species of wildlife. A wildlife corridor such as the CB-ONFEG project provides linkage to larger areas of high ecological value. Such corridors require habitat of sufficient size (optimally a mile or more in width), and quality (natural forested communities), in order to adequately provide for animal migration. The CB-ONFEG project provides habitat for Florida black bears, which occur on the adjacent Osceola National Forest and on other public lands in the vicinity (Camp Blanding, Raiford WMA, Ocala National Forest, and the Osceola National Forest/Okefenokee Complex). Substantial populations of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and other game species occur on the project area. FNAI classifies 76 percent (113,229 acres) of the project area as Priority 2, 6, and 7 in potential importance as an ecological greenway, and a Priority 2 landscape-sized protection area.

Four imperiled or rare plant species have been documented to occur within the CB-ONFEG. These are the Bartram's ixia (*Calydorea coelestina*), West's flax (*Linum westii*), Hartwrightia (*Hartwrightia floridana*), and the hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*).

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), approximately 5 percent (7,088 acres) of the lands within the project are within a designated Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA). The project provides additional habitat for many focal species, which are indicators of natural communities, and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. Over 35 percent (52,584 acres) of

the CB-ONFEG project area includes at least seven focal species, according to the FWC. Focal species are those which are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife. Another 55 percent (81,297 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for imperiled or rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI.

### Management Goals

The DOF and FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for CB-ONFEG under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. The project has the capability to provide important fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices.

This project provides an opportunity to protect a large area of connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands, large areas of forest, functional wetlands (30 percent, or 44,164 acres of project area), protection of surface water (14 percent, or 21,273 acres of project area), and natural floodplain function (18 percent, or 26,605 acres of project area). Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. Particular attention should be directed to the protection of upstream riparian systems that are an

important habitat for imperiled fish and invertebrates. Under the unified management approach, a broad-scale management program will be developed that will manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources, and promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area is proximal to a large number of users that enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing. The DEP and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 31 percent (46,682 acres) of the project area to be suitable for priority 1, 2 or 3 recreational trails.

### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

CB-ONFEG is a medium-need tract that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately 69 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity. Consequently, additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. FWC and DOF propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that may require cooperative effort include: restoration of mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal or thinning of off-site timber species to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforestation of recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection and restoration of sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species.

Restoration methods will also include thinning of dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and facilitate the

restoration of native groundcovers. Protection and restoration of the sensitive wetlands on the project would be a priority. It is also possible that recreational trails on the parcels could function as back up firelines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment, and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Exotic plant species (tung oil tree [*Aleurites fordii*], air potato [*Dioscorea bulbifera*], mimosa [*Albizia julibrissin*], etc.), have been observed in the project area. Two of these species (air potato and mimosa) are listed as Category I (most adversely affecting Florida's ecology) by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council; the tung oil tree is listed as Category II (increased abundance in Florida). Although observed infestations appear to pose no imminent threat to the ecological integrity of the project, there would be surveillance for, and removal of, such infestations of exotic invasive species.

Due to the presence of imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the proposed project, it is anticipated that resource inventories would be an initial priority under the unified management approach. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

### ***Timetable for Implementing Management***

The extensive nature of this tract requires that both agencies develop a coordinated approach to all aspects of operations and management. It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would

## Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

emphasize ecosystem multiple use management and the conservation of the site’s natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of listed species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance, and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products and ecological, and recreational benefits. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State’s Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The DHR lists 127 such sites in the project area.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access and sensitive resources are protected. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, including provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

### ***Estimate of Revenue-Generating Potential***

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve

or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 66 percent (98,189 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15 percent) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which those funds were generated.

### **Recommendations as to Other Government Agency Involvement**

The unified managers (DOF and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Florida Department of Corrections, St. Johns River Water Management District, State Armory Board, Suwannee River Water Management District, and the U. S. Forest Service, in managing the area.

### **Revenue Sources, Management Costs and Employees Needed\***

Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the DOF and FWC.

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Category:	Start-up CARL	Recurring Source of Funds CARL
Resource Management:	\$1,697,686	\$2,345,384
Administration:	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support:	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements:	\$3,313,895	\$782,107
Visitor Services/Recreation:	\$3,267	\$141
Law Enforcement:	\$103,741	\$103,741
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,343,163</b>	<b>\$3,288,071</b>

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\*includes employee salaries

# Carr Farm/Price's Scrub

Marion and Alachua Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Carr Farm/Price's Scrub in southwestern Alachua County includes Scrub, Upland Mixed Forest, Scrubby Flatwoods, Wet Flatwoods, Depression Marsh, Marsh Lake and Sinkhole Lake. This Scrub is one of the northernmost examples of the community in peninsular Florida. Sandhill cranes have been seen on the Carr Farm as have bald eagles and swallow-tailed kites. Kestrels have been found using experimental nest boxes close to the project site along CR 320. Wood storks (presumably from the River Styx rookery) have been observed feeding on the site, and gopher tortoises are present. The area is expected to provide good habitat for the gopher frog and other declining amphibians because it has so many isolated seasonal ponds in proximity to extensive upland habitat. Indigo snakes have been observed in the vicinity.

### Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP)

### General Description

The Carr Farm/Price's Scrub in Alachua and Marion counties consists of three tracts totaling 1,260 acres owned by the family of the zoologist, Archie Carr. The property is in the Fairfield Hills physiographic unit and is underlain by the Miocene Hawthorne Formation of sandy clay mixed with phosphatic pebbles, capped in places by a sandy Plio-Pleistocene deposit. The property is predominantly Upland Mixed Forest on the northern half, and Scrub and Wet Flatwoods on the southern half. The division between hardwood-dominated communities in the northern half and the pine-dominated communities in the southern half is marked

by a change in soil types. Soil types having subsoils of sandy clay loam mixed with phosphatic pebbles are found in the north below the 170-foot contour; types with purely sandy subsoils are found in the south above the 170-foot contour. The property slopes from an elevation of 200 feet on the southern boundary to 90 feet on the northeastern border. Topography of the southern half is flat, with an imperceptible downward slope to the north, whereas the northern portion consists of rolling hills with steep slopes separated by ponds and depression marshes.

### Public Use

The varied topography and resources of the site would provide opportunities for limited freshwater fishing and canoeing, primitive camping, nature trails, hiking trails, bicycle riding trails and horseback riding trails. Picnicking and environmental education would also be suitable for this property. The Carr Farm site has potential for interpretation of the life and times of one of the leading naturalists of Florida, Archie Carr.

### Acquisition Planning and Status

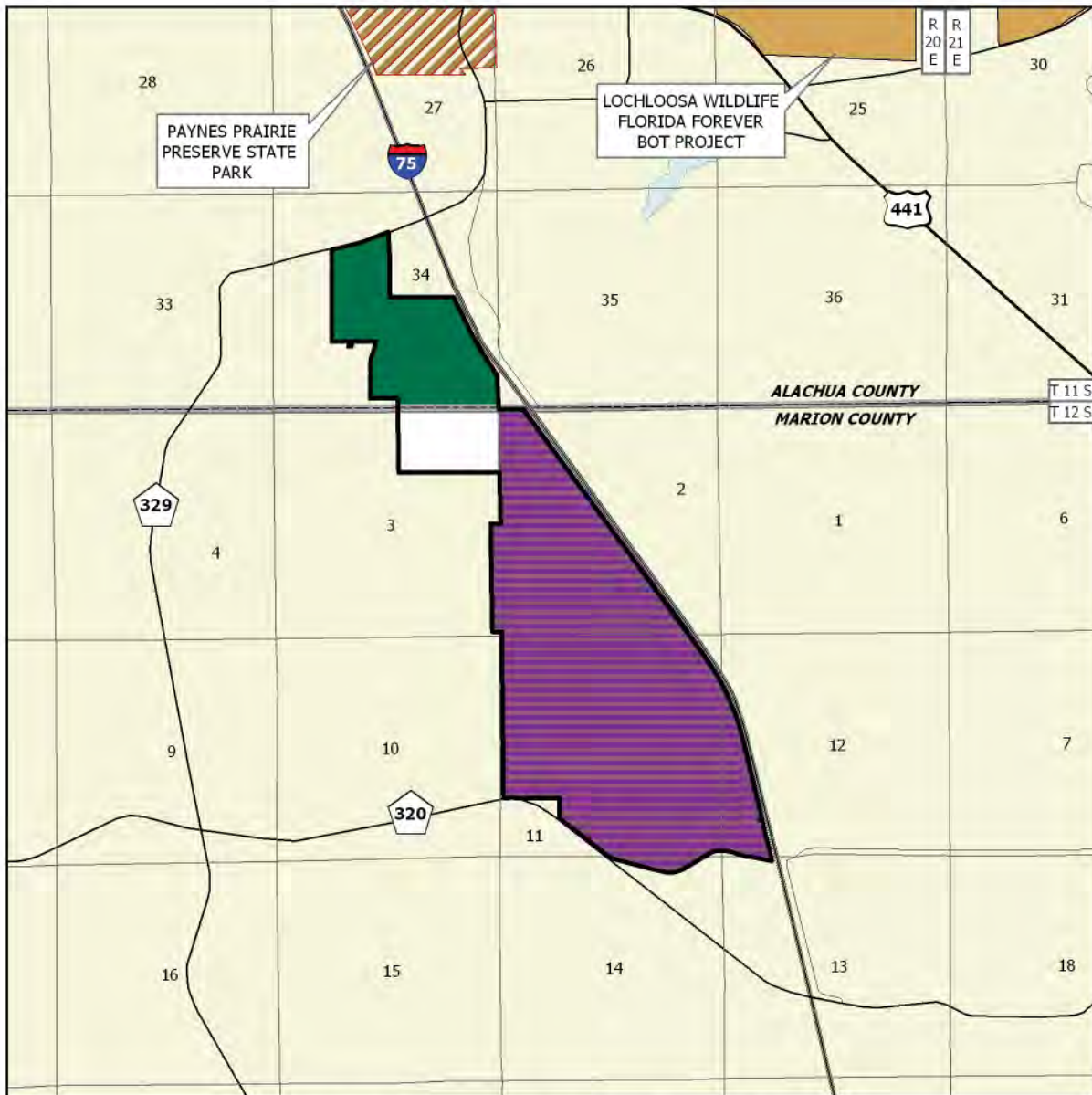
This project was ranked for the first time on April 6, 2001. The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) has purchased the Price's Scrub portion of the project as part of the Marion County Greenway. The Division of State Lands (DSL) is not actively working this project.

Carr Farm/Price's Scrub FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Spiny-pod	G2/S2
Pondspice	G3/S2
3 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>1,245</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>952*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$1,975,000*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$ 86,144</b>

\*Acquisition and expenditure was done by the Office of Greenways and Trails

**Carr Farm/Price's Scrub - Group B/Full Fee**



**CARR FARM/PRICE'S SCRUB**

**MARION AND ALACHUA COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands



AUGUST 2006



**Coordination**

Alachua County cannot commit funds at time, but is willing to consider funding toward the project at some time in the future. Mitigation funds from DOT may be available through the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable land that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of the state or a larger geographic area. To conserve and protect significant habitat for several rare species. To provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation** The project has a number of historic and archaeological sites, including the home site of Archie and Marjorie Carr. As such, the project would qualify as a state historic site. The natural resource portions of the project will provide a variety of resource-based recreational opportunities to compliment the cultural-resource aspect of the site.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** The project will be a high need management area. Public recreational use and development of compatible cultural and resource-based facilities will be an integral aspect of management. The close proximity of I-75 and the long years since the scrub, scrubby flatwoods and wet flatwoods have burned will require more intensive preparation to burn in the short-term.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Upon fee acquisition, management will concentrate on site security and development of a cultural and natural resource inventory. Hunting will not be allowed. Access to and within the project will be confined to designated points and routes. In the short-term, low-intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation will be provided as soon as practical to allow for compatible public access. Emphasis will be given to developing a short-term burn program to begin restoration efforts in the scrub, scrubby flatwoods and wet flatwoods. Long-term management will include a range of resource-based recreation and associated facilities, together with resource management goals.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DRP will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other

state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities and the development of lands for state park purposes.

**Revenue Generating Potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after acquisition and the amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and future extent of public use and facilities development.

**Management Costs and Sources of Revenue**

Category	Startup	Recurring
FCO	\$298,000	
OCO	124,000	
Expense		\$ 28,000
OPS		15,000

# Catfish Creek

Polk County

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The high, sandy Lake Wales Ridge, stretching south from near Orlando almost to Lake Okechobee, was originally covered with a mosaic of scrub, flatwoods, wetlands, and lakes. The scrub is unique in the world—it is inhabited by many plants and animals found nowhere else—but it has almost completely been converted to citrus groves and housing developments. The Catfish Creek project, with its scrub ridges overlooking the nearly pristine shore of Lake Pierce, will protect an especially scenic example of Lake Wales Ridge scrub and its associated ecosystems and allow the public to enjoy camping, fishing, and swimming in this unique and beautiful natural area. It will also protect an important archaeological site on Lake Pierce. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection will manage the project, less that portion known as Snodgrass Island.

### General Description

Catfish Creek is a diverse natural area extending over high scrub ridges, interspersed with lakes, next to the pristine shore of Lake Pierce. Natural communities

include sandhill, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, xeric hammock, bottomland hardwood forest, basin swamp, sandhill upland lake, wet flatwoods, blackwater stream, seepage slopes, and floodplain swamp, all in excellent condition. The tract harbors at least 19 rare plant and animal species state listed as endangered or threatened. Rare or endangered animal species include the bald eagle, wood stork, gopher tortoise, and scrub jay. The 1993 addition on Snodgrass Island contains a potentially important archaeological site. The project is threatened by agriculture and eventual residential development.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a state preserve, with such uses as hiking, camping, fishing and nature study.

### Acquisition Planning

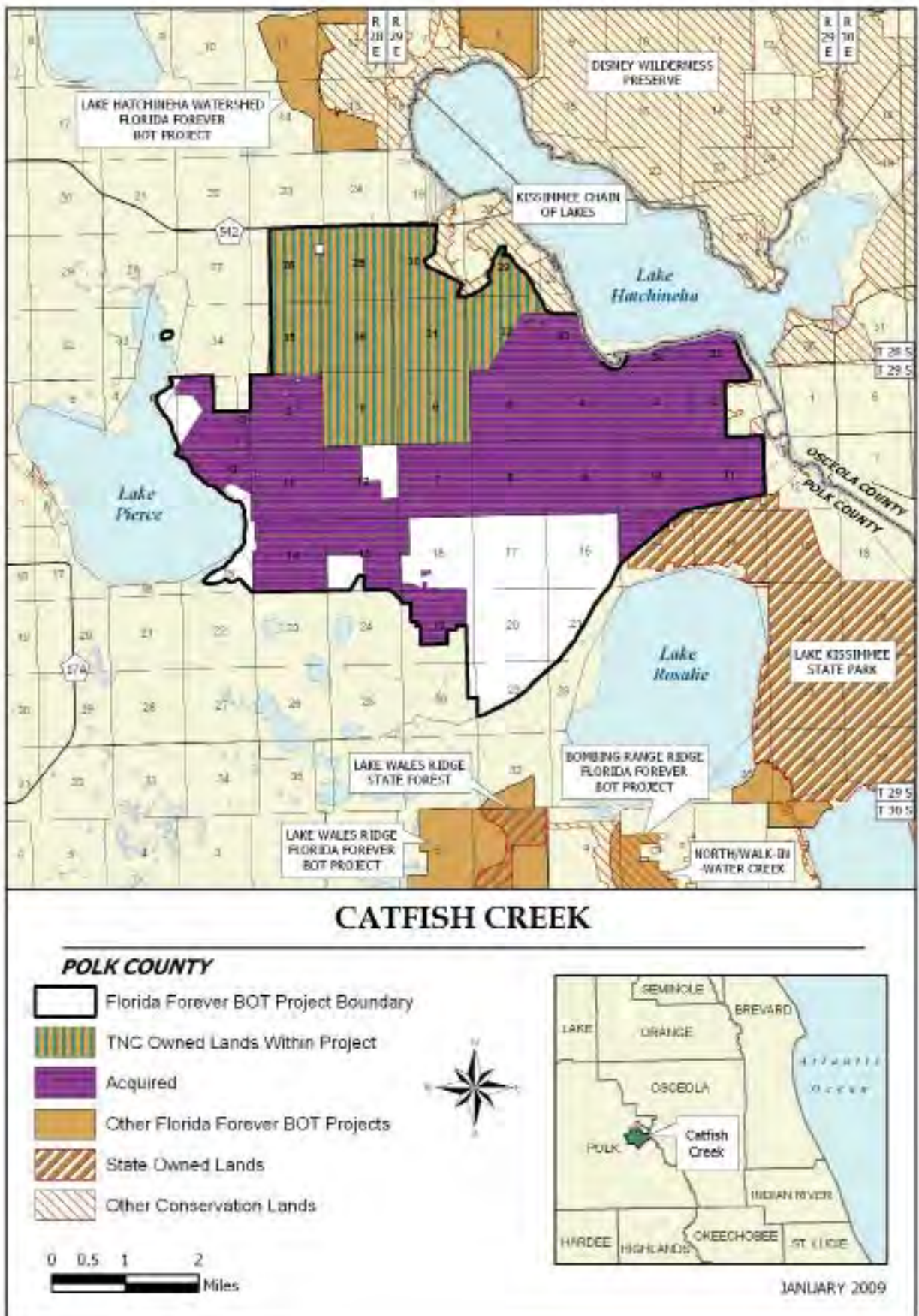
Phase I: (essential) Rolling Meadows (acquired), TNC (acquired) and Palo Alto (acquired); Phase II: Imagination Farms, Progress Homes (acquired) and K-Rocker. Phase III: Section two which is subdivided (state has acquired all of section consolidated by Bowen).

In 1992 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired 68 acres in this project and in August 2007 donated it to the state.

On October 21, 1999, the Council added 6,991 acres and designated as essential. In August, 2002, the Council added the Rolling Meadows Ranch to the project.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1990</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>18,641</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>10,228*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$49,414,766</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>8,413</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$13,586,636</b>
<b>* Includes the donation from TNC</b>	

<b>Catfish Creek</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Highlands Tiger Beetle	G1G2/S1S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Scrub Plum</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida Blazing Star</i>	G3/S3
<i>Britton's Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Cutthroat Grass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Small's Jointweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida Jointweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Pygmy Fringe Tree</i>	G3/S3
<i>Scrub Buckwheat</i>	G4T3/S3
21 rare species are associated with the project	



## Catfish Creek - Group B/Full Fee

On December 5, 2002, the Council added the K-Rocker Tract to the project.

On December 5, 2003 the Council moved the project to the Group B list.

### Coordination

TNC sponsored this project, assisted in providing information in the preparation of the project, and in discussions with some of the major landowners.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Catfish Creek project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

*Qualifications for state designation* The sensitive resources in the Catfish Creek project—sandhills, a large lake, and high-quality scrub with its rare plants and animals—qualify it as a state preserve.

*Manager* The Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection, is the manager of the project, less that portion known as Snodgrass Island.

*Conditions affecting intensity of management* The project is a low-need management area emphasizing resource protection while allowing compatible public recreational use and development.

*Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure* Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

*Cooperators in management activities* No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project area.

*Revenue-generating potential* No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public use facilities are developed. The amount of any revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. With emphasis on resource protection, and with minimal public use, future generated revenues are not expected to be high.

### Management Cost Summary

Category	Startup
Source of Funds	CARL
Salary	\$22,167
OPS	\$0
Expense	\$5,712
OCO	\$6,978
FCO	\$8,640
TOTAL	\$43,497

# Charlotte Harbor Estuary

Charlotte, Lee and Sarasota Counties

## Group A Small Holdings

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Charlotte Harbor Estuary is a combination of three major Florida Forever projects: the Myakka River Estuary, the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project, and the Charlotte Harbor project.

Charlotte Harbor, one of the largest and most productive estuaries in Florida, supports an important recreational and commercial fishery, but is rapidly being surrounded by cities and residential developments, which could harm this important resource. By conserving flatwoods and prairies behind the mangrove swamps and salt marshes along Charlotte and Placida Harbors, the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project will help preserve the water quality of the estuary, protect habitat for the Florida manatee and other rare wildlife, and provide residents of and visitors to the area with opportunities for boating, fishing, and other recreational pursuits.

The Myakka Estuary project will protect the largest natural area left around northern Charlotte Harbor, conserving flatwoods, scrub, and salt marshes that support bald eagles, sandhill cranes, scrub jays, and manatees. The project will also help protect an important fishery and provide residents of, and visitors to, the rapidly growing Charlotte Harbor area with opportunities for hiking, camping, and other recreational pursuits.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), will manage the majority of the project. The DRP will manage that portion of the project west of SR 775. Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will manage the western portion of the Myakka Estuary portion of the project, with the DRP managing the east side.

### General Description

The project includes the ecotone of flatwoods and dry prairies, and the estuarine tidal marshes and mangrove swamps along Charlotte Harbor and Placida Harbor. Less than 10 percent of the area is disturbed. The area provides habitat for rare animals—the bald eagle, scrub jay, indigo snake, and gopher tortoise—and influences important manatee habitat offshore.

The project protects the water quality of the Charlotte Harbor estuary, designated as a series of Outstanding Florida Waters, and its recreational and commercial fisheries. The Coral Creek Mound is a possibly significant archaeological site; no other sites are known from the area. The area is vulnerable to development, invasive exotic plants, and damage by off-road vehicles. There are 12,000 platted lots in the project vested from most development restrictions, so endangerment is extremely high.

Charlotte Harbor Estuary FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Aboriginal Prickly Apple</i>	G1/S1
<i>Beautiful Pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
Southern Mink, Southern Florida Pop	G5T2Q/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Roseate Spoonbill	G5/S2
21 rare species are associated with the project	

**Charlotte Harbor Estuary (includes Charlotte Harbor, Charlotte Harbor Additions, Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor, Myakka Estuary)**

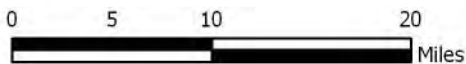
<b>Original project placed on list</b>	<b>1972</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>46,788</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>33,241</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$35,040,125</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>13,547</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$17,961,041</b>

# Charlotte Harbor Estuary - Group A/Small Holdings



## CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: OVERVIEW

### CHARLOTTE, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES



JUNE 2009

## Charlotte Harbor Estuary - Group A/Small Holdings

This project provides an essential addition to lands previously acquired through the EEL program. Most of the lands are wetlands, including mangrove, salt marsh, and salt flats, but there are some mesic flatwoods. The project area offers habitat for several rare species, and directly influences the water quality of Charlotte Harbor. There are two shell midden mound archaeological sites known from the project. Regulations notwithstanding, the area is threatened by dredging and filling from residential development.

The nearly intact uplands of the Myakka Estuary are primarily Mesic Flatwoods, like those in the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project, 15 miles to the south, but different in that they include scrub and the Florida scrub jay. The project provides habitat for nesting bald eagles and sandhill cranes and buffers the Tidal Marsh and waters of the Myakka River and Sam Knight Creek. Manatees use the adjacent waters heavily all year. The Myakka River estuary and the coastal wetlands associated with this project support valuable commercial and recreational fisheries. The Florida Site File records five archaeological sites in the project. The project is surrounded by development and its uplands will inevitably be developed if not purchased.

### Public Use

This project qualifies as a forest and buffer preserve. Wetlands will limit outdoor recreation to such activities as fishing, canoeing, picnicking, hiking, and natural-resource education. The Myakka Estuary area has potential for such public uses as hiking, picnicking, camping, and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

In 1980, the Charlotte Harbor project was added to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. The project, started in 1972 under the EEL program, consisted of approximately 17,854 acres of which 15,582 acres had been acquired under EEL. The remaining 2,272 acres had a taxable value of \$1,931,820. Essential tracts included Atlantic Gulf Communities (acquired in 1995) and Mariner Properties (unwilling seller but for wetlands).

In September 1986, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) approved the addition of 840 acres (aka Alligator Creek) to the project. Sponsored by Charlotte County, the addition had four landowners (Starnes, City of Punta Gorda, Lowe, and Punta Gorda Isles that owned a majority of the addition).

In June 1988, the LASC approved the modification of the project design that retained 16-17 parcels from the original project (2215 acres) and added ten parcels in 9 ownerships (3141 acres) for a total of 5,356 acres with a taxable value of \$2,302,000. To date, 17,141 acres had been acquired at a cost of \$8,070,838.

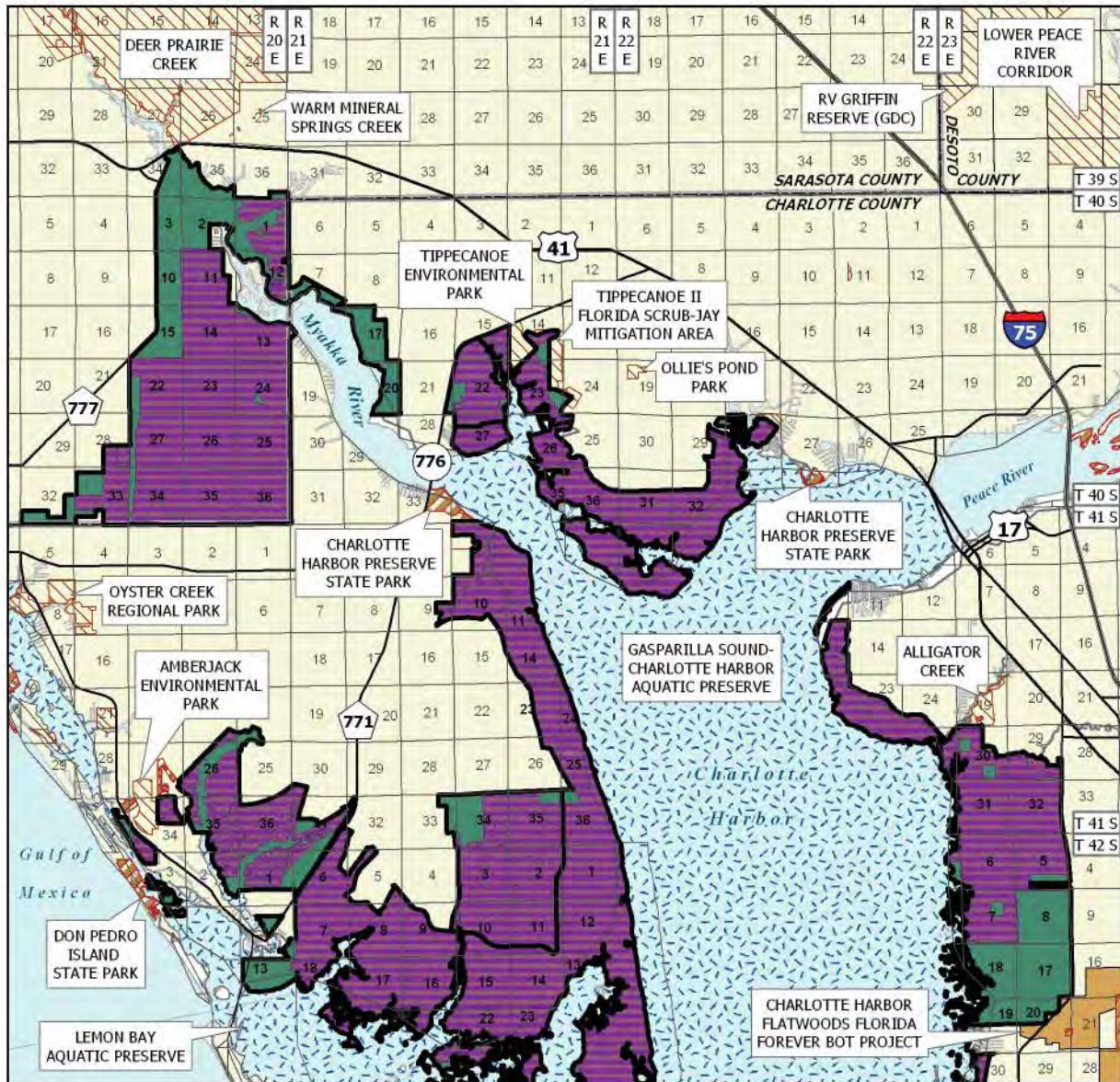
On November 20, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved the addition of three parcels, totaling 188 acres with an estimated tax value of \$66,086, to the project boundary. The Southwest Florida Aquatic Preserve (60 acres), and the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), (128 acres) sponsored the addition.

On March 9, 1994, the LAAC approved the addition of 892 acres located in Lee County to the project boundary. The landowners, Burnt Store Company, Inc, sponsored the amendment with an estimated taxable value of \$2,119,000.

On July 14, 1995, the LAAC approved a 750-acre addition with a taxable value of \$953,918. The Southwest Florida Water Management District sponsored the addition.

On October 15, 1998, the LAAC designated additional acreage of Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor as essential—approximately 174 acres consisting of the Rotonda Properties out-parcels, and the Cole and Lemon Bay Partners parcels. The Council also designated an additional 1,390 acres of the Myakka Estuary as essential. Previously, essential parcels had included all acreage acquired up to January 26, 1995, and the Cayo Pelau, Lowe, Ansin, and Freeland ownerships. The essential acreage also includes approximately 100 acres adjacent to the Amberjack Scrub site, an FCT project that has been acquired.

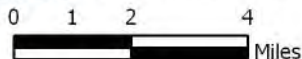
# Charlotte Harbor Estuary - Group A/Small Holdings



## CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: MAP 1 OF 2

### CHARLOTTE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



JUNE 2009



## Charlotte Harbor Estuary - Group A/Small Holdings

On December 9, 1999, the LAMAC transferred this project to the Substantially Complete group.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) combined the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project with the Charlotte Harbor project. The total project acreage became 32,909. To date, 28,133 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$29,337,199. The updated acreage and cost include EEL, CARL, and Donations.

On December 5, 2001, the ARC combined the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project with the Myakka Estuary project, and renamed the project Charlotte Harbor Estuary. The total project acreage became 46,709 acres. To date, 32,736 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$35,461,055. The updated acreage and cost include EEL, CARL, and Donations.

On June 12, 2009, ARC approved a 79 acre addition owned by Burnt Store Land Group, LLC.

### Coordination

Southwest Florida Water Management District was an acquisition partner in the purchase of the Rotonda ownership (Cape Haze).

The TPL has been an intermediary in the state's acquisition of two large tracts within the Charlotte Harbor project.

In 1995, the Southwest Florida Water Management District negotiated the purchase (CARL program reimbursed half) of the Atlantic Gulf Communities Corp. ownership land within the Charlotte Harbor (704 acres) and Myakka Estuary (9,264 acres) projects.

### Management Policy Statement:

#### Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor/Myakka Estuary

The primary goals of management of the Charlotte Estuary project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish, or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Achieving this objective will help to protect the water quality of Charlotte Harbor, its important nursery areas for fish and shellfish, its important recreational and commercial fisheries, and its manatee habitat. It will also provide the public with an additional area for natural resource-based recreation.

The project should be managed under the single-use language change made October 1999. Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn the fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; strictly limit timbering in old-growth stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving resources.

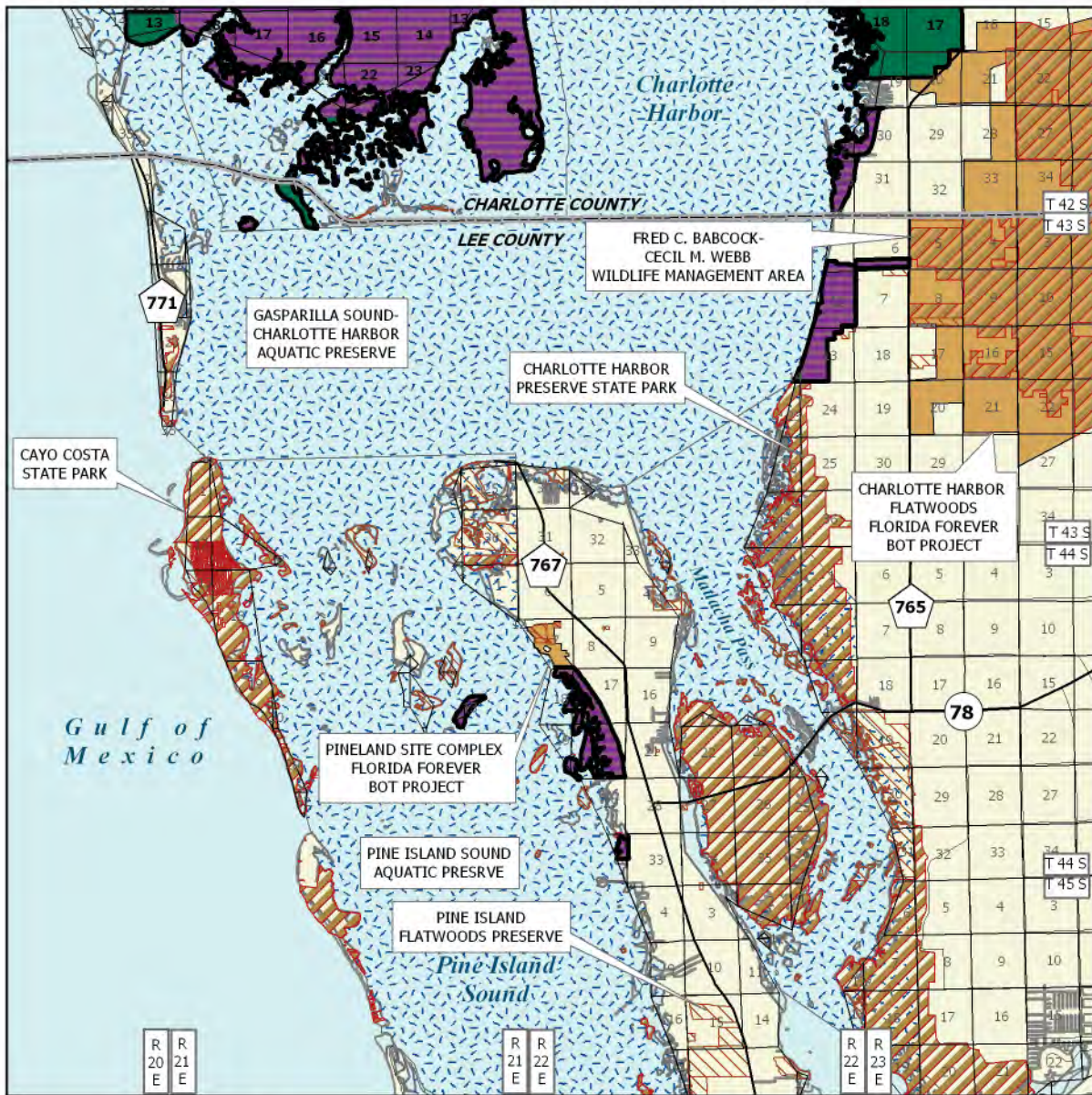
### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project provides essential additions to lands previously acquired through the EEL program of the 1970's and the SOC Program of the 1980's. Most of the lands are wetlands, including mangrove, salt marsh, and salt flats, with occasional uplands including pine flatwoods, and oak/sabal palm hammocks. The forest resources around the Myakka River estuary have the diversity and size to make a state forest. These lands will aid in the protection or buffering of state waters, primarily the Cape Haze, and Charlotte Harbor/Gasparilla Sound Aquatic Preserves, as well as improve the protection and recreational value of the existing state-owned lands. They will also provide a land base for public access to the Don Pedro Island State Park. These lands therefore qualify as an addition to the existing Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve and the Don Pedro Island State Park.

**Manager:** The DRP will manage these lands as an addition to the state park system. DOF proposes to manage 12,800 acres north and west of Highway 776.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project is surrounded by rapidly developing areas. Development in the area may alter the flow of water and nutrients by dredging, filling, and shoreline armoring. Urbanization of surrounding lands is also increasing, thereby justifying the need for an increased patrol and law enforcement presence. Initially the project lands will be "high need," requiring management to control exotic plants and animals and reducing illegal activities, such as poaching and trash dumping. Thereafter, routine management activities will be at the "moderate

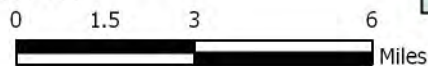
# Charlotte Harbor Estuary - Group A/Small Holdings



## CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: MAP 2 OF 2

### CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



SEPTEMBER 2006

need” level. Lands to be used, and developed, as a landbase to provide access to Don Pedro Island State Park will be “high need” areas. West of the Myakka River there are no known major disturbances and the level of management is expected to be typical for that of a state forest.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Within the first year of appropriate funding, management activities will concentrate on; property security, including fencing, posting, and patrols; public access, staff access for management activities such as prescribed fire and restoration projects, trash removal; and exotic plant and animal eradication. The DRP will provide appropriate resource based public access while protecting critical resources. The site will be biologically inventoried and a management plan will be written within one year.

Long range goals will be established by the management plan and will provide for ecological restoration and habitat maintenance. Prescribed and natural fires will be used to maintain the appropriate communities and associated wildlife populations.

The resource inventory will be used to identify appropriate uses for the property, including management activities and public use. Areas disturbed by man and exotic plants will be restored to an “as natural as possible” condition. Infrastructure will be kept to a minimum and include only a sufficient amount of structures to provide for management facilities, public access, and resource interpretation. After the core of the Myakka River forests are acquired, the DOF and DRP will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the sites, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, removing trash, and eradicating exotic plants. The project’s natural resources, and threatened and endangered plants and animals, will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. The DOF’s long-range plan is generally to restore disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests.

### ***Revenue-generating potential***

The forest land in the Myakka River estuary portion of the project has potential for a variable source of revenue

from timber sales, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low to moderate. The part of the project east of the river will provide indirect financial benefit to the state, including enhanced water quality, fisheries, and public recreation opportunities. Limited revenue may be available through small timber sales to initially thin some stands and through some entrance and user permit fees in the future. Elsewhere, the project will benefit the state indirectly by enhancing water quality, fisheries and public recreation activities, and preserving natural and historical resources. Future user fees may also contribute limited revenue.

# Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

Charlotte and Lee Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Northwest of Fort Myers lies the largest and highest-quality slash-pine flatwoods left in southwest Florida. The pines are home to red-cockaded woodpeckers, black bears, and bald eagles, and an occasional Florida panther ranges the area. The largest population of the rare beautiful pawpaw grows here. Several drainage ditches flow through these flatwoods into the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project will protect these flatwoods and connect the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve with the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, helping to protect both of these managed areas and the waters of the Aquatic Preserve.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

This project encompasses the largest remaining tract of intact pine flatwoods in southwestern Florida. Old-growth South Florida slash pine forests on site are home to at least 10 rare animals including red-cockaded woodpeckers, bald eagles, and Florida panthers are known to use the site. The tract also provides important habitat for several rare plants, most notably a globally critically imperiled plant, the beautiful pawpaw, *Deeringothamnus pulchellus*. The project provides

additional protection for the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and will also connect the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve and the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area. This upland site is particularly suited for development, especially considering the rapid growth of Charlotte and Lee counties. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

### Public Use

The project is designated as a wildlife management area, with such uses as hiking, environmental education and hunting.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I tracts include Ansin (essential—acquired), Zemel (essential—Phase I acquired), Bower (essential), Section 20 SE of Burnt Store Marina Road and Section 24.

On October 15, 1998, LAMAC removed 165 acres and added them to the Charlotte Harbor project.

On February 11, 1999, the Council added 333 acres, and on October 21, 1999, added 1,793 acres as essential parcels. In June 2007 the 9-acre Honenberg Parcel was purchased by FWCC and added to the Yucca Pens Unit of the project.

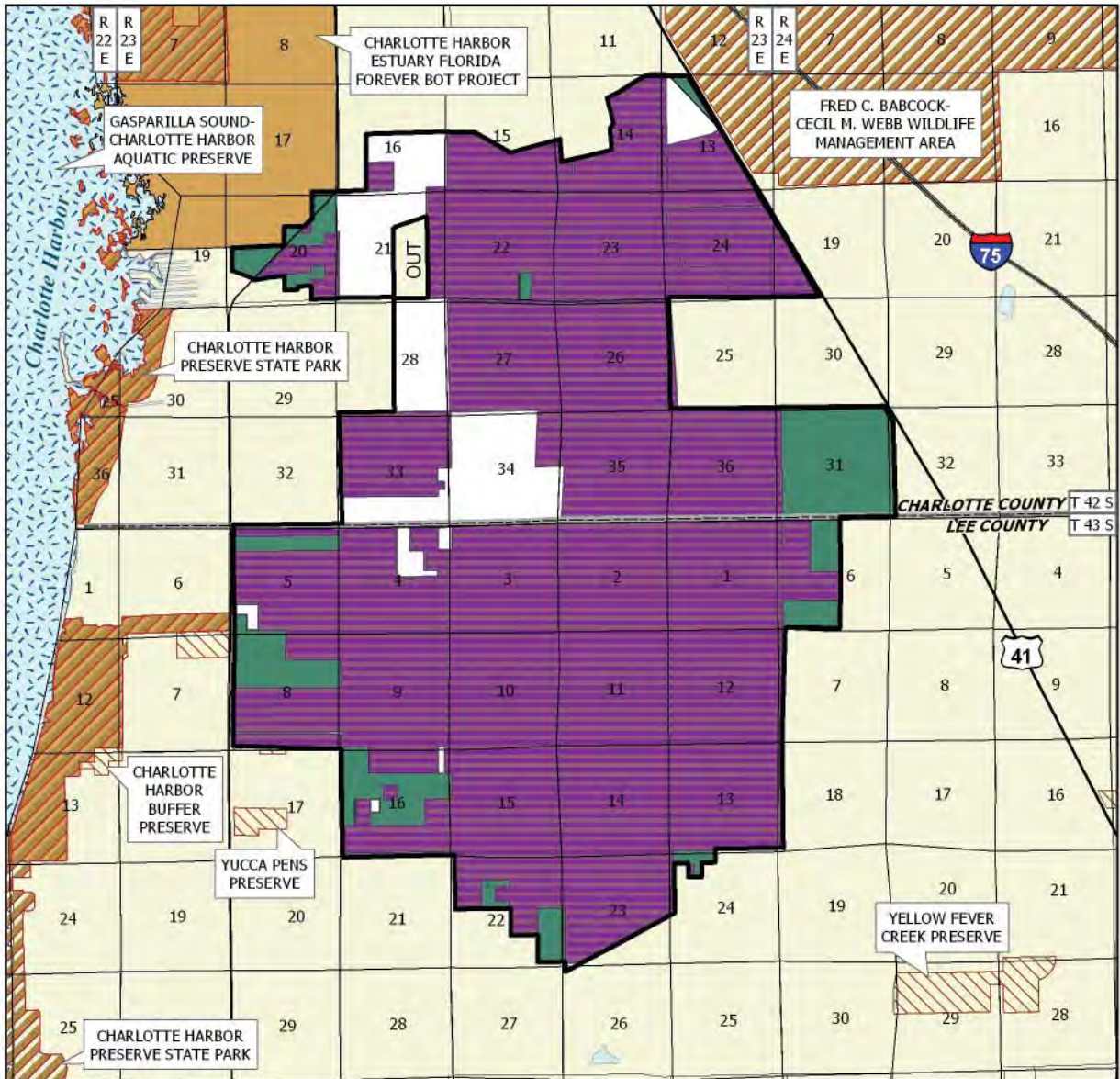
Large essential parcels have been acquired. The Division of State Lands (DSL) is not active in this project.

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
<i>Beautiful Pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Florida Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3/S3
Roseate Spoonbill	G5/S2
14 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>20,689</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>14,427</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$36,832,279</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>6,300</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$8,587,990</b>

*Note: 2,352 acres were removed from the project 12/2008 at the landowner's request (ARC approved 6/2009). 683 isolated/disturbed acres were removed 6/2009.*

# Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods - Group B/Full Fee



## CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS

### CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



JUNE 2009

## Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods - Group B/Full Fee

On 2/26/09 FWC purchased 37.63 acres (Yucca Pens) for \$298,000 from Allcoat, Inc. to add to Babcock Webb WMA.

On June 12, 2009 ARC removed 3,035 acres (2,352 of ZREV-owner's request-plus 683 isolated/disturbed acres) from the boundary with a tax assessed value of \$43,524,121.

### Coordination

The FWC is acquiring small inholdings in the project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs can adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project has the size (18,000 acres), location (adjacent to the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area), outstanding wildlife habitat (the largest stand of undisturbed flatwoods in southwest Florida) and wildlife resources (red-cockaded woodpeckers,

Florida panthers, and Florida black bears, among others) to qualify as a wildlife management area.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Development surrounding and within the project, and the intense urbanization of southwest Florida, suggest a broad array of management problems. Trash dumping, other illegal trespass and the presence of numerous inholdings will certainly increase the need for intensive and careful management. Law enforcement and fire-control issues are expected to be at the forefront.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The first year of management activity will entail controlling public access with gates and/or fencing, and controlling the littering and dumping problems. Additional emphasis will be placed on planning and on establishing an adequate and appropriate fire regime. Subsequent years should result in this project becoming an integral part of the management scheme for Babcock-Webb WMA.

**Revenue-generating potential** Though this property contains significant timber resources, the timber revenue potential is low. There is little or no market for South Florida Slash Pine timber in Southwest Florida (in fact, very little timber market at all). Nevertheless, the potential for generating recreational revenue is significant, if new recreational user fees were to be implemented on this WMA.

**Management costs and revenue source** Revenues would likely come from the CARL Trust Fund and Pittman-Robertson return of excise tax.

### Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$54,200	\$54,200	\$55,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$12,500
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,202</b>	<b>\$64,202</b>	<b>\$69,500</b>

# Clay Ranch

Putnam County

# Group A Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of a conservation easement across Clay Ranch would contribute to the goal of attaining connections among the conservation lands in the region to create landscape-scale protection of the xeric uplands and associated wetlands characteristic of the Trail Ridge. It could also help to preserve and protect the healthy aquatic biota in lower reaches of Etoniah Creek.

### Monitor

The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The Office of Environmental Services, Division of State Lands, will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement, unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

Clay Ranch, approximately 2,380 acres in northwestern Putnam County, consists of a mix of forested uplands, scattered depression marshes and sandhill upland lakes, and areas - both uplands and wetlands - that have been converted to pasture and/or sod farm. Some remnant sandhill remains in the western half, although a large portion of the forested area has developed into xeric/mesic hammock. Clay Ranch is situated on the southeastern portion of Trail Ridge, a physiographic province dominated by rolling sandhills and dotted with sandhill upland lakes.

The tract has the characteristics needed to harbor imperiled species, and some imperiled species are documented to occur there. The sandhill upland lakes and marsh natural communities that occur on the tract are mostly intact and fulfilling their natural function.

Although much of the uplands are in commercial uses including sod farming, cattle grazing, hay production and silviculture, the majority is in a semi-natural condition and has good potential, with the reintroduction of fire, for providing quality habitat for many imperiled species in the future.

The proximity to other conservation lands embellishes the less-than-fee acquisition proposal. An added benefit is the potential to connect a corridor for the Florida black bear and provide a large tract of conservation land for watershed and wildlife protection. However, even with this acquisition, other tracts would need to be protected for the corridor to be complete. If a conservation easement were acquired on this site, perhaps other private landowners within the corridor would also consider their tracts for public acquisition.

### Public Use

Since the Clay Ranch is being offered as a less-than-fee acquisition, public access is not being contemplated at this time. During the negotiations with the Clay family, some limited access for research or education may be possible to acquire.

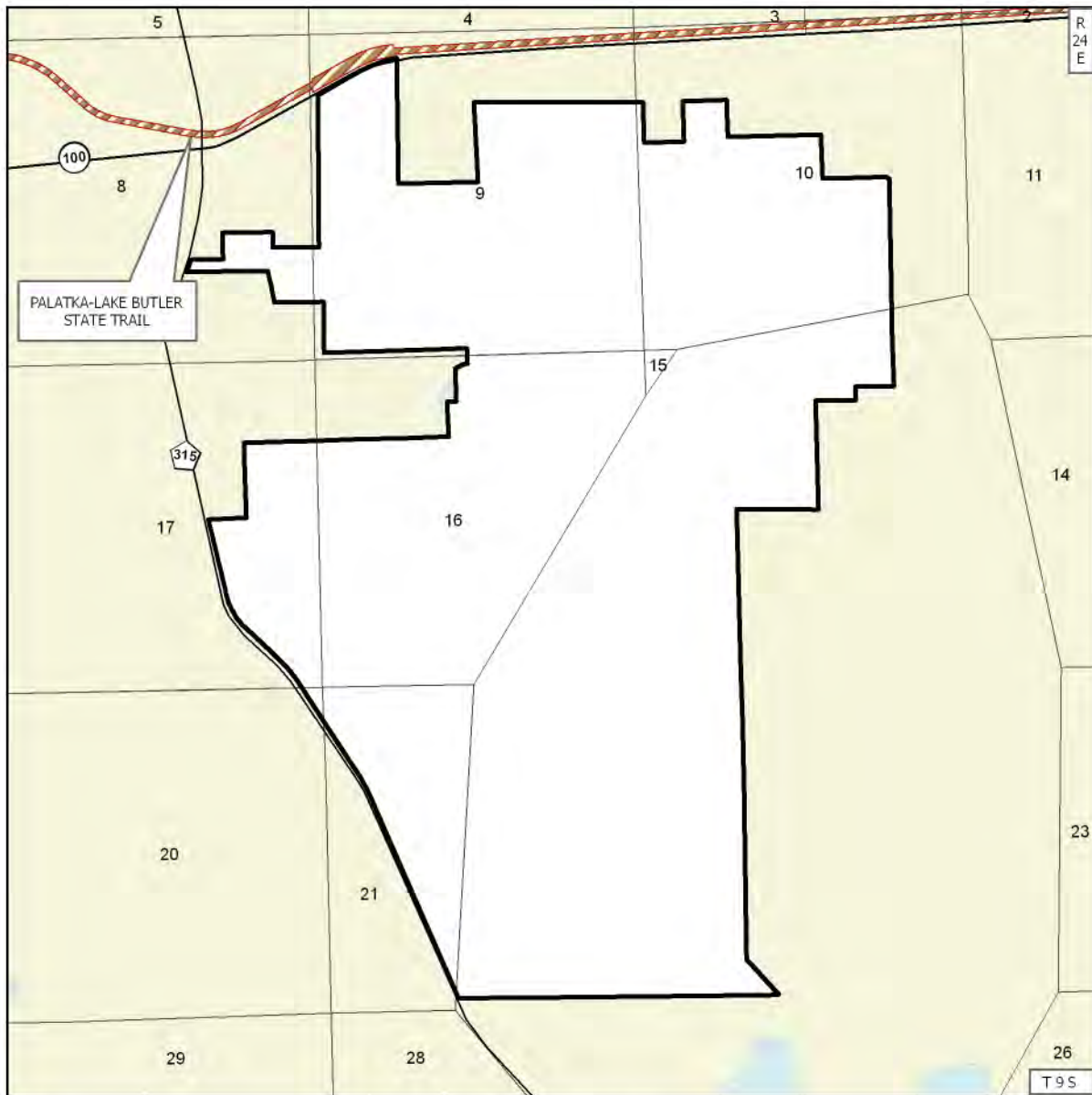
### Acquisition Planning

On June 9, 2006, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Clay Ranch project to Group A of the August 2006 Florida Forever Priority list. This less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Alachua Conservation Trust, consists of one landowner, the Clay Family, ±2,380 acres and a 2005 taxable value of \$1,634,125.

Clay Ranch	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	



<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Project Area (acres):</b>	<b>2,380</b>
<b>Acres Acquired:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a cost of:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining:</b>	<b>2,380</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of:</b>	<b>\$1,634,125</b>

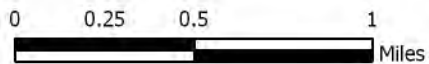
# Clay Ranch - Group A/Less-Than-Fee



## Clay Ranch

### PUTNAM COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  State Owned Lands



JUNE 2006



### **Coordination**

No acquisition partnerships have been suggested at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of further conversion of existing natural areas and open space to more intensive uses, and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

Protection of Clay Ranch would contribute to the goal of eventually attaining connections among the conservation lands in the region to create landscape-scale protection of the xeric uplands and associated wetlands characteristic of the Trail Ridge, as well as agricultural open space. TNC indicates that efforts are being made to secure some of this area that could provide a direct connection between Clay Ranch and Ordway-Swisher Preserve. Katharine Ordway Preserve and Carl M. Swisher Memorial Nature Preserve

(contiguous properties and both managed by the University of Florida) lay approximately 1.5 and 2.75 miles, respectively, west of the western boundary of Clay Ranch. The former Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) project, Putnam County Sandhills, abuts Ordway-Swisher Preserve on its eastern boundary and approaches to within approximately one mile of Clay Ranch. Etoniah Creek State Forest is located 1.75 miles northeast of the site. Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park, and Belmore State Forest are within 6 to 10 miles to the north and northwest of Clay Ranch.

The acquisition of the Clay Ranch could help to preserve and protect the healthy aquatic biota in lower reaches of Etoniah Creek. While the natural communities on Clay Ranch are in need of restoration, the site still exhibits a nice transition from higher xeric uplands in the west to more mesic conditions to the east.

# Clear Creek/Whiting Field

Santa Rosa County

# Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The proposed acquisition would aid in the establishment of conservation and regional protection through a land linkage of natural areas forming a significant corridor connection between state and private conservation lands. Conceptual management planning would benefit from a coordinated, bioregional consideration among all stakeholders and across management agents regarding this landscape. The project would provide open space in an urbanizing area. The project is close to the City of Milton. The project would also stabilize the land uses around the Whiting Field Naval Air Station so as to forestall encroachment that could be incompatible with the continued function of this military installation.

### Manager

The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) is willing to accept the management responsibility for the Clear Creek project, if acquired.

### General Description

The proposal lies 3 miles north of the Blackwater River Water Management Area (WMA), 12 miles east of the Lower Escambia River WMA, and 8 miles north of the Yellow River WMA. The project is contiguous to Whiting Field, the Naval Air Station used to train Navy pilots on both T-34 aircraft and helicopters. The majority of the proposal consists of upland pine forests, sandhills, mature and young pine plantations, recent clearcuts, and agricultural lands. The upland pine forests and sandhills are in various stages of selective harvest. Narrow bands of upland hardwood forest occur on the slopes of the two creeks. A small percentage (5 percent) of the site is considered to be within a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

Clear Creek/Whiting Field FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Panhandle Lily	G2/S2
Hairy-peduncled Beakrush	G2/S2
3 rare species are associated with the project	

### Public Use

Among the potential recreational uses are canoeing, camping, hiking, biking, wildlife observation, nature photography, scientific research and environmental education. Hunting may also be accommodated in some areas. The site is particularly appropriate for developing an extension to the Blackwater River Heritage State Trail to expand the growing trails network in this region.

### Acquisition Planning

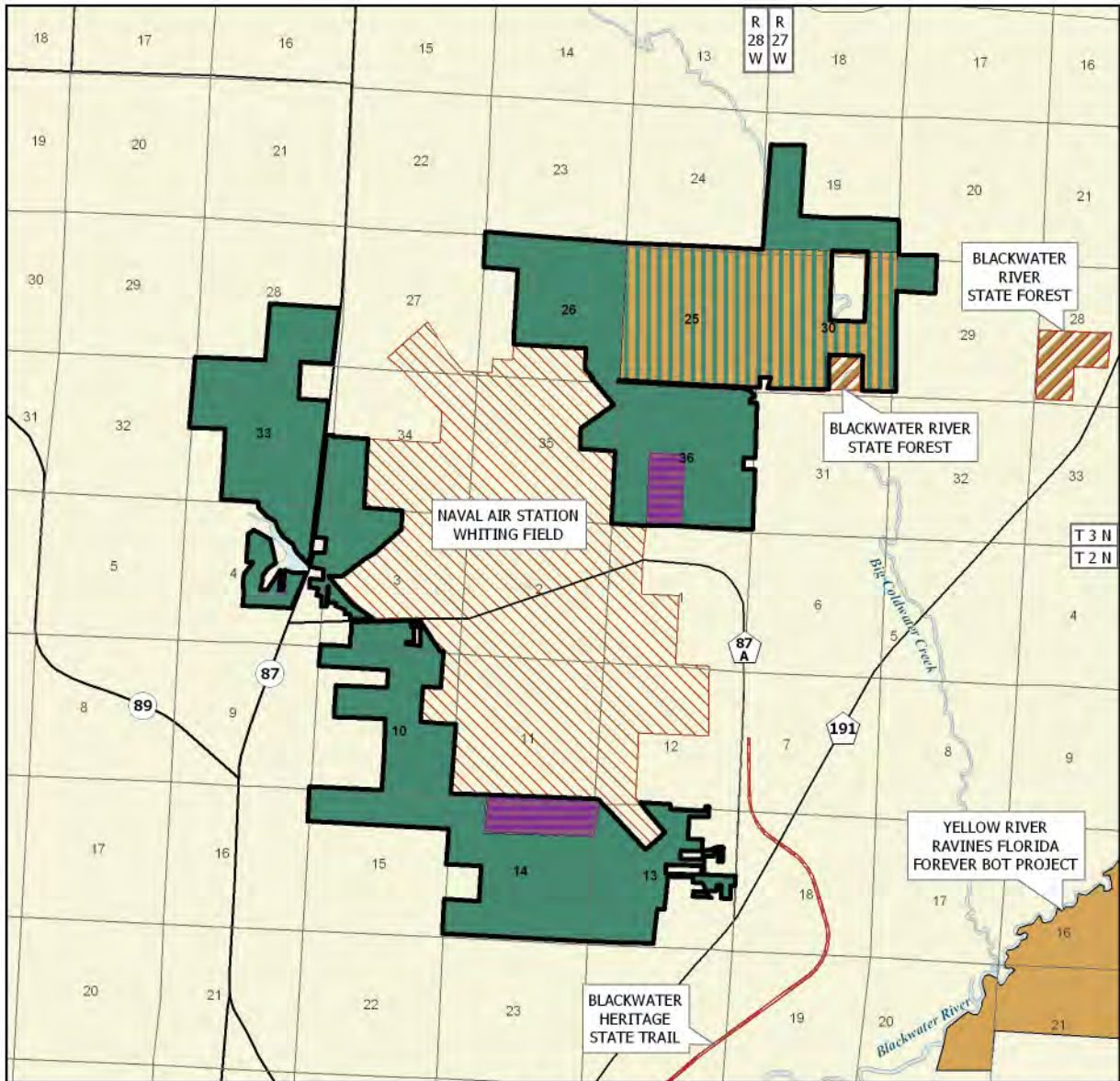
On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Clear Creek/Whiting Field project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Interim Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 5,026 acres, 45 landowners, and a taxable value of \$1,648,733

On December 9, 2005, the ARC approved a project design change to allow for acquisition phasing. Phase I was added to Group A, consisted of 7 landowners, approximately 2,029 acres, and a taxable value of \$665,593. The ownership acreage is as follows: International Paper Company (1,154), Phillips (121), Leonard (160), Florimor Inc (320), Blue Sky (120), Lowery (74) and Jernigan (80). Phase II remained in Group B, consists of 38 landowners, and approximately 2,996 acres with a taxable value of \$982,808.

On June 9, 2006 ARC moved the Group B portion of this project to Group A.

Placed on list	2004
Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)	5,291
Acres Acquired	210
at a Cost of	\$1,158,258*
Acres Remaining	5,081
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$1,610,345

\* Contributed by U.S. Navy



### CLEAR CREEK/WHITING FIELD

**SANTA ROSA COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  TNC Owned Lands Within Project
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2009

## Clear Creek/Whiting Field - Group A/Full Fee

On December 12, 2008 the ARC voted to amend the boundary by adding Coldwater Creek Addition, consisting of two parcels totaling 265 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy, with a tax-assessed value of \$28,167. The acquisition is proposed fee-simple and the parcels were approved as essential.

On 3/10/09 with the help of the U.S. Navy, 210.48 acres were purchased from TNC for \$1,158,258.

### **Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners. Development of the management plan will be conducted in coordination with the project partners (Whiting Field, the Division of Forestry and Santa Rosa County).

### **Management Policy Statement**

OGT proposes to manage the project in coordination with the Division of Forestry, Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County for: the protection of significant habitat for native species and endangered or threatened species; protection of water quality in wetlands and surface waters, notably Clear Creek and Coldwater Creek; the provision of interpretive and recreational activities consistent with resource protection, including development of a multi-use loop trail surrounding Whiting Field and connecting to the northern terminus of the existing Blackwater Heritage State Trail; and the protection of archaeological and historical sites. The acquisition will be managed consistent with the appropriate goals and objectives of Florida Forever, and the management of other projects that are part of the statewide system of greenways and trails.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

The project will serve to protect a conservation landscape adjacent to a vital military training facility, Whiting Field. More than half of the project area lies within an identified Priority Ecological Greenway and a portion lies within a High Priority Segment of the Florida Recreational Trails Network Opportunities (the Blackwater Multi-Use Trail). Importantly, this project will help to enhance the resource and recreational values of the adjacent Blackwater River State Forest, Blackwater Heritage State Trail and State Designated Coldwater Creek Canoe Trail. Coldwater Creek and Clear Creek are also tributaries to the Blackwater River which ultimately flows into Blackwater Bay, an Outstanding Florida Water.

### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

In general, the property does not appear to require an intensity of management beyond that typically associated with a managed greenway or trail project. However, the intensity of long-term management will be contingent upon the ability to acquire as intact an area surrounding Whiting Field as possible. Areas with adjacent residential properties will require additional management considerations. The intensity of management will increase over time as recreational facilities and trails are developed and public usage increases. Other issues that will determine intensity of management also include: exotic plant removal in some locations, with particular attention to areas where endangered and threatened species exist, such as pitcher plant; water quality protection and enhancement, particularly related to Clear Creek; and protection of archaeological sites and historical structures.

### ***Timetable for Implementing Management***

Following acquisition, issues to be addressed in the first year would include site security, posting boundaries and fencing, and conducting assessments/inventories to more fully determine resource management needs including exotic and invasive plant removal, water quality enhancement and protection, protection of archaeological sites and historic structures, and prescribed burn needs. Intermediate and long-term management will address the broader issue of managing this area for resource protection and recreational opportunities as described in the "General Scope of Management" above. Development of the management plan will be conducted in coordination with the project partners (Whiting Field, DOF, Santa Rosa County).

### ***Revenue Generating Potential***

No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. However, as public use is increased, modest revenue may be generated for camping and use of other recreational facilities. Some areas may be managed by the Division of Forestry for timber production.

### ***Manager***

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails will manage this property in partnership with Whiting Field, the Division of Forestry and Santa Rosa County.

### ***General Scope of Management***

The Clear Creek/Whiting Field project will be managed to: protect its environmental and natural resource values; conserve and protect significant habitat; draw upon its natural characteristics to provide appropriate recreational opportunities; protect significant archaeological and historical sites; and

# Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Group A

Lee and Collier Counties **Full Fee / Less Than Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The large, interconnected swamps of southwest Florida must be preserved if such wildlife as the Florida panther and black bear are to survive. The Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) project will conserve connections between three conservation areas and will provide critical protection for rare wildlife; protect the flow of water feeding the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand, and other areas. Public opportunities will be provided to learn about and enjoy these natural resources as southwest Florida develops rapidly around them.

### Manager

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

### General Description

The project, which mostly consists of excellent examples of cypress swamps and marshes, will connect the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve with the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, thereby securing important habitat for the Florida panther and Florida black bear. These large expanses of wetlands are believed to be critical to the survival of these critically imperiled species. The project supports at least two species of rare and endangered orchids, and

includes an unusual stand of dwarf bald cypress. No archaeological sites are recorded from the project. Upland areas are vulnerable to agricultural and residential development.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife and environmental area, with such uses as hiking, camping and environmental education.

### Acquisition Planning

On February 7, 1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This acquisition, sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of approximately 18,205 acres, 73 landowners, and a taxable value of \$23,704,330. The entire project in both Lee and Collier counties contains approximately 49,810 acres, however, the initial focus of land acquisition is on the Camp Keis Strand Corridor (18,205 acres). The Collier family is the largest landowner in the Strand. If fee-simple acquisition is not negotiable, then conservation easements or other less-than-fee acquisition techniques will be pursued.

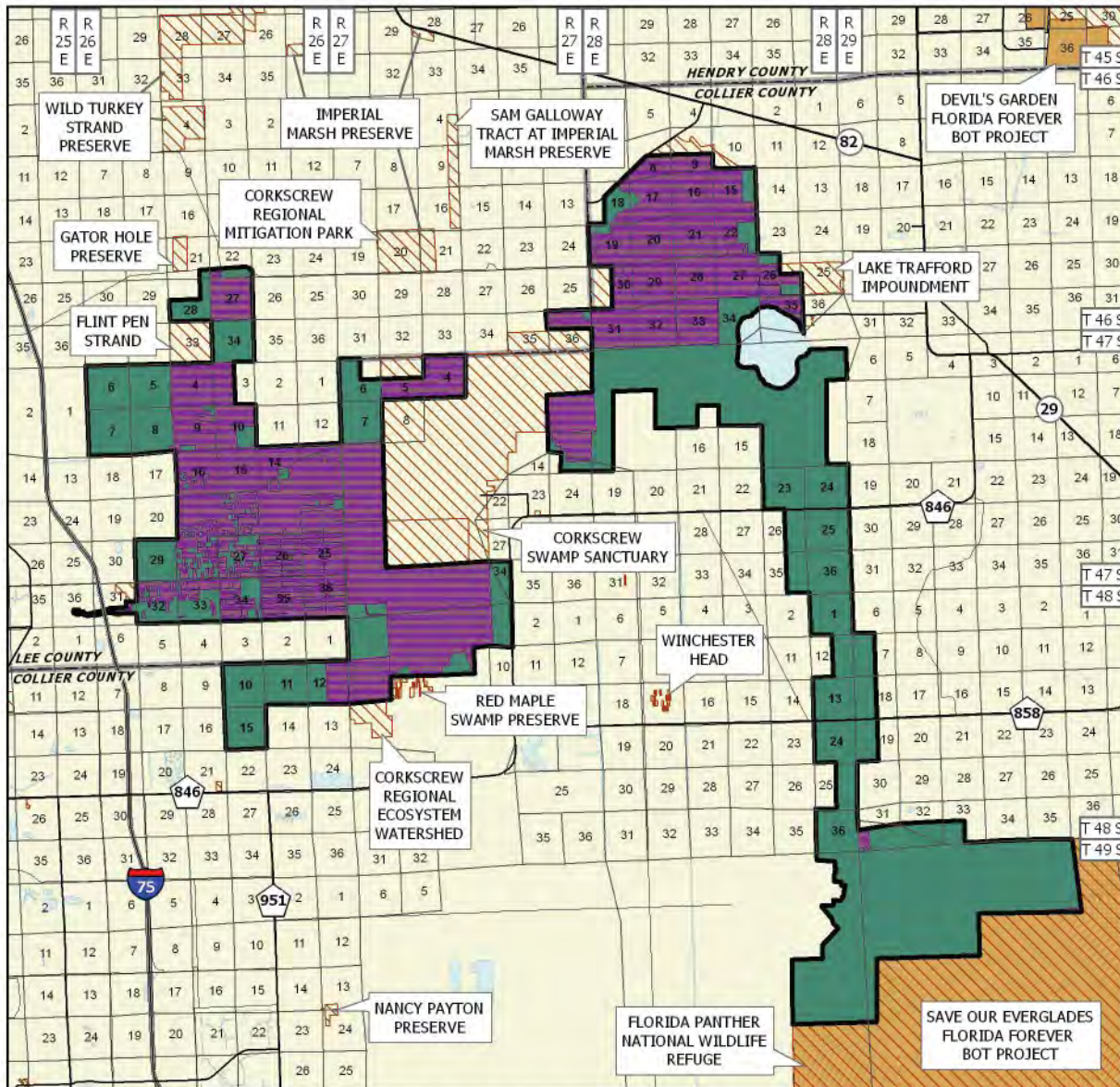
On November 20, 1992, LAAC amended the project design to allow matching funds anywhere within the project for "new" acquisitions (those acquired after 11/20/92) by its partners (Lee County and the SFWMD).

Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	G5/S3
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
II rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>69,500</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>28,955*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$89,957,471*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>40,545</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$22,891,923</b>

\*includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the State of Florida in conjunction with the SFWMD, Lee County, Collier County, and the United States government.

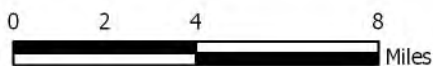
# Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed - Group A/Full Fee/Less Than Fee



## CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED

### LEE AND COLLIER COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2009

## Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed - Group A/Full Fee/Less Than Fee

On September 20, 1993, the LAAC approved a 3,182-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of 4 tracts and multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$8,636,331. The original amendment was for 4,022 acres, however 840 acres of 1 tract were already in the current boundary.

On October 30, 1995, the LAAC approved a 612-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD and had a taxable value of \$891,403. The original amendment was for 1,132 acres, however 520 acres were already in the current boundary.

On December 5, 1996, the LAAC approved a 3,040-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of 2 sites, and a taxable value of \$9,029,712. The original amendment was for 4 sites and 4,040 acres, however only sites 3 (excluding the south half of section 35) and 4 were approved.

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a 2,560-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD and the CREW Trust, consisted of 353 parcels, 260 landowners, and a taxable value of \$10,500,000. The parcels were designated as essential.

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a 424-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SFWMD, consisted of 147 parcels and multiple landowners, and a taxable value of \$2,570,240.

February 2009 Collier County purchased 2,499 acres known as Pepper Ranch for \$32,525,080.

### **Coordination**

Acquisition partners are SFWMD, Lee and Collier Counties. Both The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some tracts.

Resolutions in support of this project include a pledge from Lee County for \$1.5 million.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or

and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project's size, natural communities, and extremely sensitive wildlife resources qualify it as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Manager** The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is lead Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** There are various intensities of management required for lands in CREW. There are low-need parcels such as virgin stands of cypress that require little or no management. Also within CREW are moderate-need tracts that need basic resource management such as prescribed burning, and high-need tracts that have been completely altered. Severely altered tracts, such as agricultural fields, must be ecologically restored.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

The initial land management plan was implemented in February 1991. Planning and operational activities are ongoing. Public use guidelines, including public access, have been established and are constantly being revised.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated for at least the next two and one half years. At that time recommendations by the FWC may lead to activities such as hunting that will generate revenue through permit and license fees. No other revenue-producing practices are envisioned at this stage of the management program.

**Cooperators in management activities** A cooperative management agreement with the FWC was executed September 6, 1994. The project now receives regular inspections by SFWMD staff and law enforcement patrol by the FWC Reserve program. Under the agreement, the FWC will enforce all laws, rules and regulations applicable to the management of CREW. Additional lands acquired will be given the same protection.

## Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed - Group A/Full Fee/Less Than Fee

<b>Management Cost Summary/SFWMD</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$107,238</b>	<b>\$117,961</b>	<b>\$123,859</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$38,500</b>	<b>\$38,500</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$197,250</b>	<b>\$216,915</b>	<b>\$238,606</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$339,448</b>	<b>\$401,436</b>	<b>\$420,965</b>



# Coupon Bight/Key Deer

Monroe County

## Group A Small Holdings

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The subtropical pine forests of rapidly developing Big Pine Key and the islands around it are the home of the endangered Key deer and many Caribbean plants found nowhere else in the country. Rich coral reefs and other hardbottom communities flourish in shallow water around the islands. The Coupon Bight/Key Deer project will protect the remaining undeveloped land on Big Pine and No Name Keys (critical for the survival of the Key deer), protect water quality of the Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve, provides a preserve buffer to the National Key Deer Refuge (NKDR), and the other waters surrounding the islands, and provide the public an area to appreciate the unique natural world of this part of Florida.

### Manager

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage the majority of this project, however, the Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) will manage some of the project.

### General Description

The project, within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern, encompasses virtually all of the undeveloped land between the Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve and the NKDR on Big Pine Key and No Name Key. It includes the only significant sources of fresh water in the lower keys, which are critical to the survival

of the endangered Key deer. The pine rocklands and associated communities in this project are the largest and the best remaining anywhere. No fewer than 36 FNAI special plant species (mostly West Indian, 28 of which are state-listed as endangered or threatened) are known from the project. Several will probably go extinct if this area is developed for residential uses. At least 17 FNAI-listed animal species (4 state-listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern) are known or strongly suspected from the project area. No cultural sites are known from the project. Residential development of Big Pine Key threatens this area.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve, and a wildlife and environmental area to the NKDR. It will allow such uses as photography, nature appreciation, and hiking.

### Acquisition Planning

#### Coupon Bight

Phase I: the Strachley Tract (acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Trust for Public Lands) and the Brothers tract; Phase II: developable uplands (a few larger acreage tracts have been acquired by the state—the Pepper and Papps tracts, as well as some subdivision lots in Piney Point, Tropical Park, and Kinercha north of the bight); Phase III: jurisdictional wetlands. The Division of State Lands further refined the priority acquisitions to large acreage tracts.

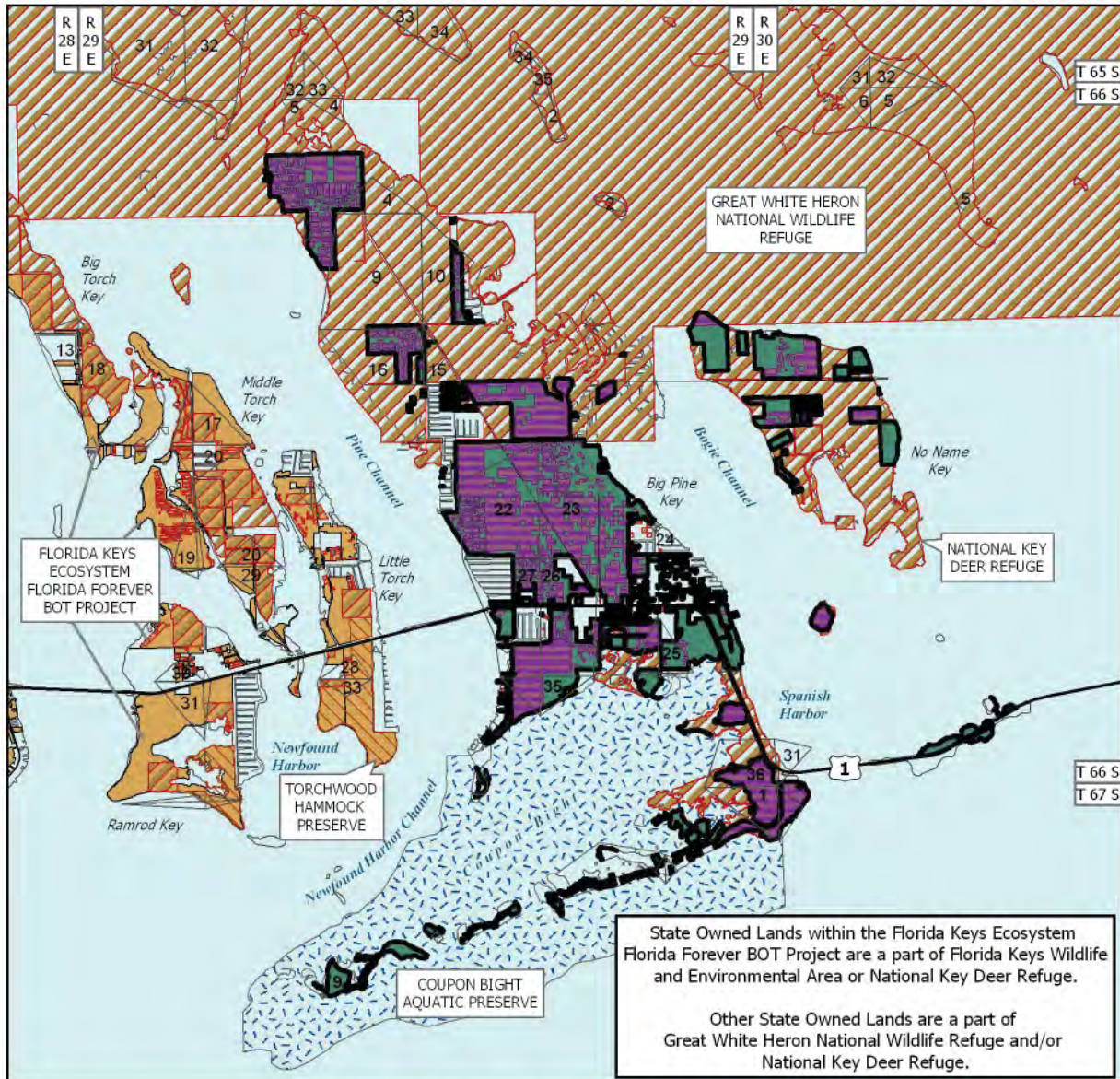
On October 30, 1995, LAMAC added 11.38 acres to the project boundary.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1985</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>2,830</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>1,769*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$30,241,577</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>1,061</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$9,142,863</b>

\* includes 2 acres in the National Key Deer Refuge acquired by the USFWS.

<b>Coupon Bight/Key Deer</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Key Deer	G5T1/S1
<i>Tree Cactus</i>	G1/S1
<i>Cape Sable Thorough-wort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Wedge Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
Lower Keys Rabbit	G5T1/S1
Keys Mudcloak	G1/S1?
Key Ringneck Snake	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys Brown Snake	G5T1Q/S1
Lower Keys Ribbon Snake	G5T1Q/S1
<i>Sand Flax</i>	G1G2/S1S2
Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak	G4T1T2/S1
<i>Devil's Smooth-claw</i>	G1G3/S1
56 rare species are associated with the project	

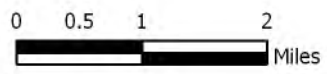
# Coupon Bight/Key Deer - Small Holdings/Group A



## COUPON BIGHT / KEY DEER

### MONROE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2007

## Coupon Bight/Key Deer - Small Holdings/Group A

### Key Deer

No phasing. Negotiations on remaining parcels continue. Acquisition activity is also focusing on tracts providing viable corridor between the Coupon Bight and Key Deer portions of the project. All of the owners have received an offer.

On February 11, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a  $\pm 376$ -acre fee-simple addition to the project boundary, with a 2004 TAV of \$3,240,815.

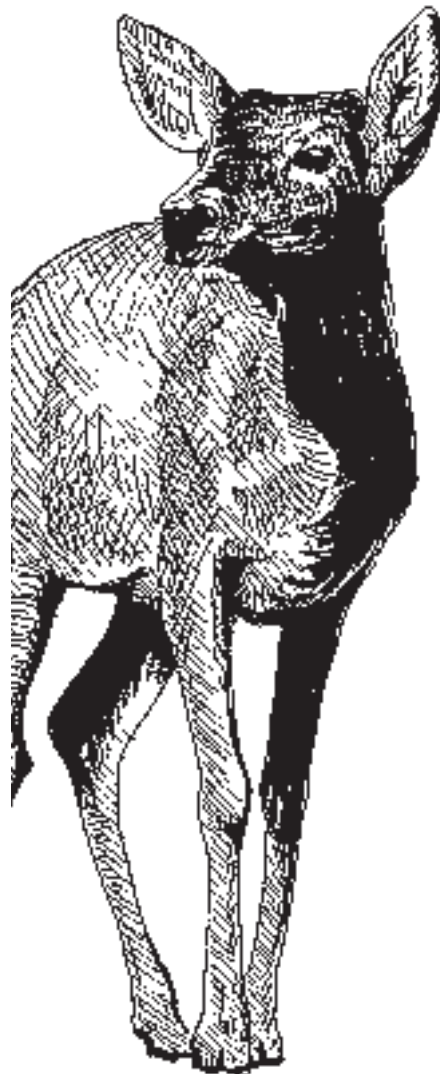
### **Coordination**

South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are acquisition partners in this site. The Nature Conservancy acted as intermediary in negotiation of 520 acres, expending approximately \$5,124,000 on behalf of the South Florida Water Management District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS included this project as an addition to the NKDR.

The MCLA is also an acquisition partner on this project. MCLA has acquired 57 acres from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2008 for approximately \$663,000.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Coupon Bight/Key Deer project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.



## Coupon Bight/Key Deer - Small Holdings/Group A

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The property will function as a buffer preserve to Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve, the NKDR, and sovereign submerged lands.

**Manager** The U.S. FWS, NKDR, and the MCLA.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Impediments to management are illegal dumping, vehicular trespass, poaching and clandestine drug related activities. Regular patrols, cleanup efforts and posting of the property would curtail these encroachments and require "moderate-need" management. The USFWS land is open to the public but because of limited facilities development is considered a low-need tract requiring minimal resource management and protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, area north of US 1 would be posted in the same manner as existing NKDR lands and provided protection under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. NKDR law enforcement officers would routinely patrol the area. Permitted activities would be limited to uses such as hiking, bird watching and photography. There would be no night visits, pets, camping, use of motorized vehicles, and collection of plants and animals. Long-range goals would include development of a detailed management plan for perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. A prescribed-burning plan would be formulated in pine rockland habitat; long-term monitoring and an active research program would be part of this program. An in-depth resource inventory would be carried out to identify and map sensitive areas that warrant special consideration and manage-

ment. There will be no infrastructure development in natural areas; unnecessary roads will be abandoned or removed. Long term management needs include exotic plant control and wetlands restoration. Public access will be provided on a limited basis. Acquisition has been primarily directed at unimproved properties. If the preserve acquires improved property, efforts would be made to make use of it for office, education facilities, and workshop and storage space.

**Revenue-generating potential** Given the sensitivity of the natural resources of the preserve, large-scale use by the public or private sector is not recommended. Low impact recreational and/or private commercial activities, such as canoe/kayak concessions, wildlife photography/filming may potentially generate some revenue.

**Cooperators in management activities** Security of the project area will depend upon the assistance and cooperation of state and local law enforcement. Regular patrols by preserve staff will assist detection of potential encroachments and/or violations.

### Management Cost Summary

Category	2000/2001	2001/2002
<b>Salary</b>		
<b>OPS</b>		
<b>Expense</b>	\$12,048	\$21,000
<b>OCO</b>		
<b>Special Category</b>	\$1,445	
<b>FCO</b>		
<b>Grant</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$13,493	\$21,000

# Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch

Pasco County

## Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch property would fulfill Florida Forever goals of preserving rare-species habitat and preserving a number of rare species documented to be on the site. The site has a high potential for a variety of listed species, and the wetlands on the ranch are used by numerous species of wading birds. Acquiring the property will also meet the goal of protecting, restoring, and maintaining the quality of land and water in Florida by adding to the number of acres of land needing restoration, or land that has already been substantially restored. Another goal of the Florida Forever program measures is to increase the acreage of groundwater-recharge area. The Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch has a very high value as a water-recharge area. The property also has potential to be a regional park, meeting the Florida Forever measure of increasing natural-resource based recreation.

### Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) will manage the Crossbar Ranch portion of the project. At the December 2007 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) expressed interest in managing the Al Bar Ranch portion of this project (about one-third of the project area) if its acquisition were pursued by the Division of State Lands.

### General Description

The Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch (also known as the Ranch) Florida Forever project is about 12,432 acres in north-central Pasco County. The property is owned by Pinellas County. The Crossbar portion is 8,069 acres and is the location of the 6.41 acres of the 17 active municipal wellhead sites that Tampa Bay Water owns in fee simple. The Al Bar parcel is 4,100 acres and has several wells on-site used for augmentation, but they are owned by Pinellas County, not Tampa Bay Water.

Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch supports cattle, timber, a profitable pine-straw operation, an active Tampa Bay Water wellfield, an environmental education center, and three houses for staff. Most of this activity occurs on the western two-thirds, or Crossbar Ranch part, of the property. The Al Bar portion of the ranch, or eastern one-third, consists of some pine plantation and pasture but has no wellfield facilities and Pinellas County retains all water rights. About 60 percent of Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch is in planted pine and improved pasture. (There are approximately 3,602 acres of pine plantation on Crossbar Ranch and about 1,514 acres on the Al Bar.) The natural communities present within the matrix of timber and pasture land include xeric hammock and remnant sandhill, depression marsh, mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, dome swamp, flatwoods lake, mesic hammock, baygall, and sinkhole.

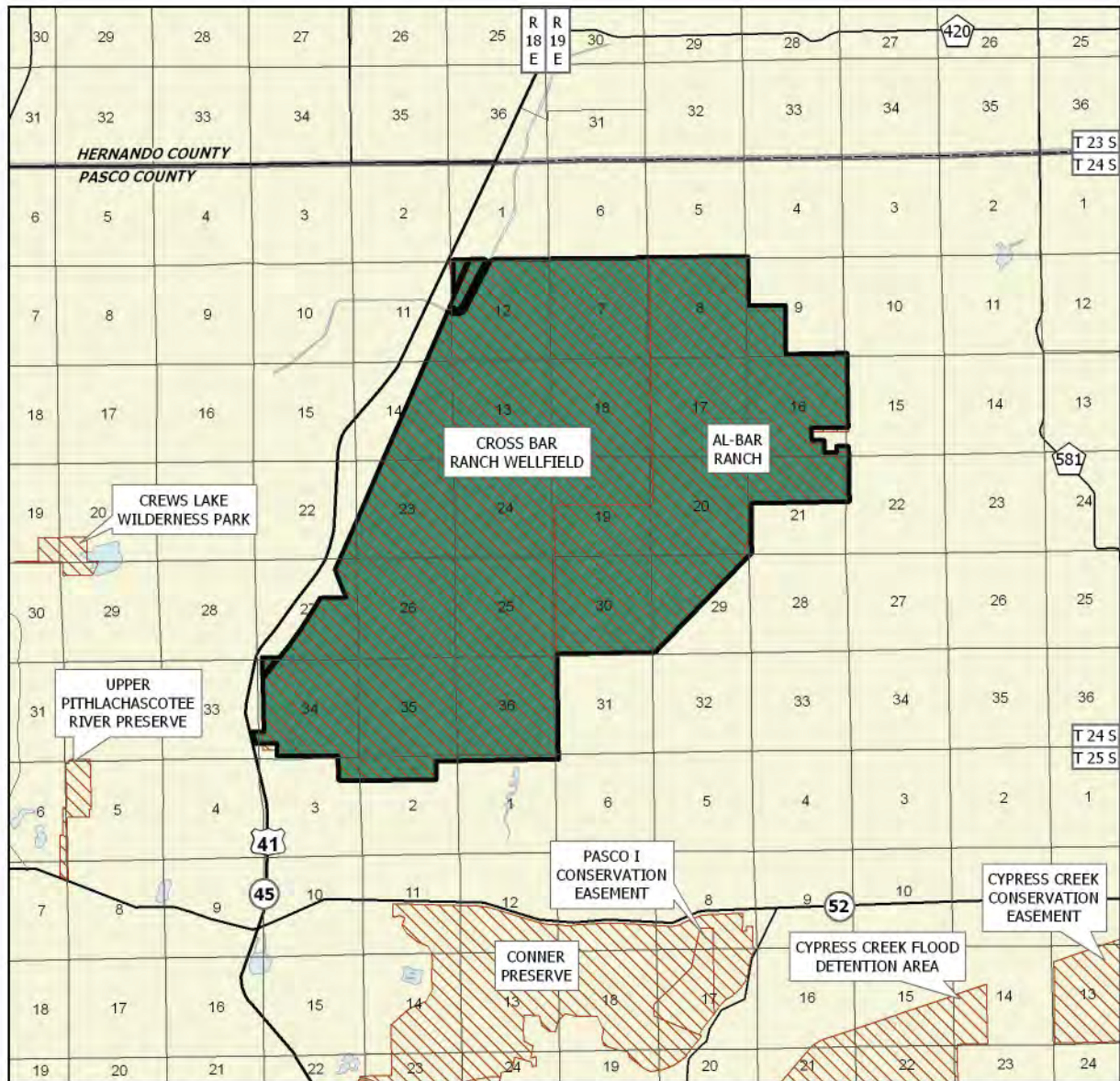
### Public Use

A resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to identify areas that are appropriate

Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>12,432</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>12,432</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$3,730,476</b>

# Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch - Group A/Full Fee



## CROSSBAR/AL BAR RANCH

### PASCO COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



DECEMBER 2007

for responsible recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be, at a minimum, required to allow suitable public access, provide facilities for public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The manager will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High-impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Development of facilities, as on all conservation lands, will be kept to a level necessary to assure a high-quality recreational experience and any such development will be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

#### **Acquisition Planning**

On December 14, 2007, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch to the A list of the Florida Forever projects. The property is proposed to be a fee-simple acquisition. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) would focus on the Crossbar portion of the acquisition, and the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands would focus on the Al Bar portion of the acquisition, both in partnership with Pasco County and others.

#### **Coordination**

As stated above, the SWFWMD indicated in a letter provided in the application that if the project were approved, it would consider being a project co-sponsor, based on its evaluation of financial needs and partnership commitments at that time.

#### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are: restore, maintain, and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; integrate compatible human use; and insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem, and multiple use approach, will guide the management activities on this project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources

including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment. Management will be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project.

#### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation** The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted pine straw production area and improved pasture supporting an active cattle operation. About 60 percent of the project was converted to the pine straw and cattle operations. The pine straw production area is 4,100 acres of slash pines and the pines are 15 to 20 years old. There is an additional 500 acres of planted longleaf pine in areas to be restored before the pine straw production area. The improved pastures total about 2,100 acres with multiple combinations of grasses planted in them. The Crossbar/Al Bar ranches have been managed for cattle and pine production for more than 40 years. There does not appear to be bedding within the pine plantations, but because of the conversion to pasture and straw production, most native groundcover and under story species are absent. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, these portions of the project could be restored to a more natural state. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

**Manager** DOF will be the lead Manager of the Crossbar Ranch portion of the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Much of the Crossbar Ranch's flatwoods and sandhill areas were altered by silviculture and cattle operations, and require restoration. The areas where timber species are off-site may require thinning or removal, as well as the restoration of native ground covers and canopy.

Biotic surveys will be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development, because many rare or listed species are expected to occur in the project. Restoration efforts will focus on introducing prescribed fire and thinning dense pine stands, exotic species

## Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch - Group A/Full Fee

treatment, restoring native groundcovers, and possible wetland restoration.

The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to initially be moderate to high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a State Forest. Once this information is obtained and resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain this area as a State Forest.

### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the DOF, public access will be immediately provided for low-intensity outdoor resource-based recreation activities such as hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing.

Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration, and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, site security, and public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property require development of a road plan to identify those roads to be used for vehicular access by the public and roads for administrative use. Roads found to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed.

Long-range plans for this property will be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas, maintenance of natural communities, and responsible public access. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be

expected to occur naturally on those specific sites.

Very little of this project area has been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Burning goals for this project will be to eventually establish an all-season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of re-introducing longleaf pines, restoration harvests, and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age, from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment.

***Revenue-generating potential*** As mentioned above, timber sales from the Crossbar Ranch by the DOF will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderately high. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

***Management costs and sources of revenue*** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (3FTE)</b>	<b>\$108,341</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$450,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,058,341</b>



# Dade County Archipelago

Miami-Dade County

**Group B  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

On a limestone ridge east of the Everglades, where Miami and Homestead and surrounding farms now stand, were subtropical pinelands and hardwood hammocks unique in the United States. Now only tiny pieces of these forests remain, the best of which the Dade County Archipelago project will protect. In so doing, the project will conserve habitat for rare animals and dozens of rare plants, many found nowhere else in the world, and will provide areas where residents and visitors can learn about and appreciate what was here before the cities.

**Manager**

Miami-Dade County.

**General Description**

This project contains some of the most outstanding examples of rockland hammock that remain in Florida, as well as the best remaining examples of the highly endangered pine rockland outside Everglades National Park. The pine rocklands are critical to the survival of at least 51 rare and endangered plant species found nowhere else, and several rare animal species occur within the project. Several of the hammocks contain significant archaeological sites. The urbanization of Dade County has nearly destroyed these ecosystems.

The remaining sites are still threatened by agriculture and urban development.

**Public Use**

The project tracts are designated for use as botanical sites with passive recreational use.

**Acquisition Planning**

Miami Rockridge Pinelands and Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands were combined to form Dade County Archipelago in 1994.

Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands

Phasing of the hammocks in order of priority: Silver Palm (two of three tracts purchased through TNC), Castello Extension, Loveland, Big and Little George, Meissner Ross, Southwest Island, Holiday, Lucille, Ross, Madden's. All sites are essential. Dade County has acquired acreage in Holiday and Lucille Hammocks.

Miami Rockridge Pinelands

Phasing of the pineland sites in order of priority: Site 12 (partially acquired), Site 2 (partially acquired), Site 6, Site 15 (majority acquired in 1992), Site 14, Site 13 (partially acquired), Site 8 (acquired in 1991), Site 1 (acquired in 1991), Site 16 (half acquired in 1992), Site 7 (majority acquired in 1992), FNAI addition to Site 10, Site 9. The Ludlam Pineland (10 acres) was added in 1994. Dade County has acquired the tract. All sites are essential.

During 1995, Dade County proposed the addition of 16 sites to the project area. All of the sites were assessed

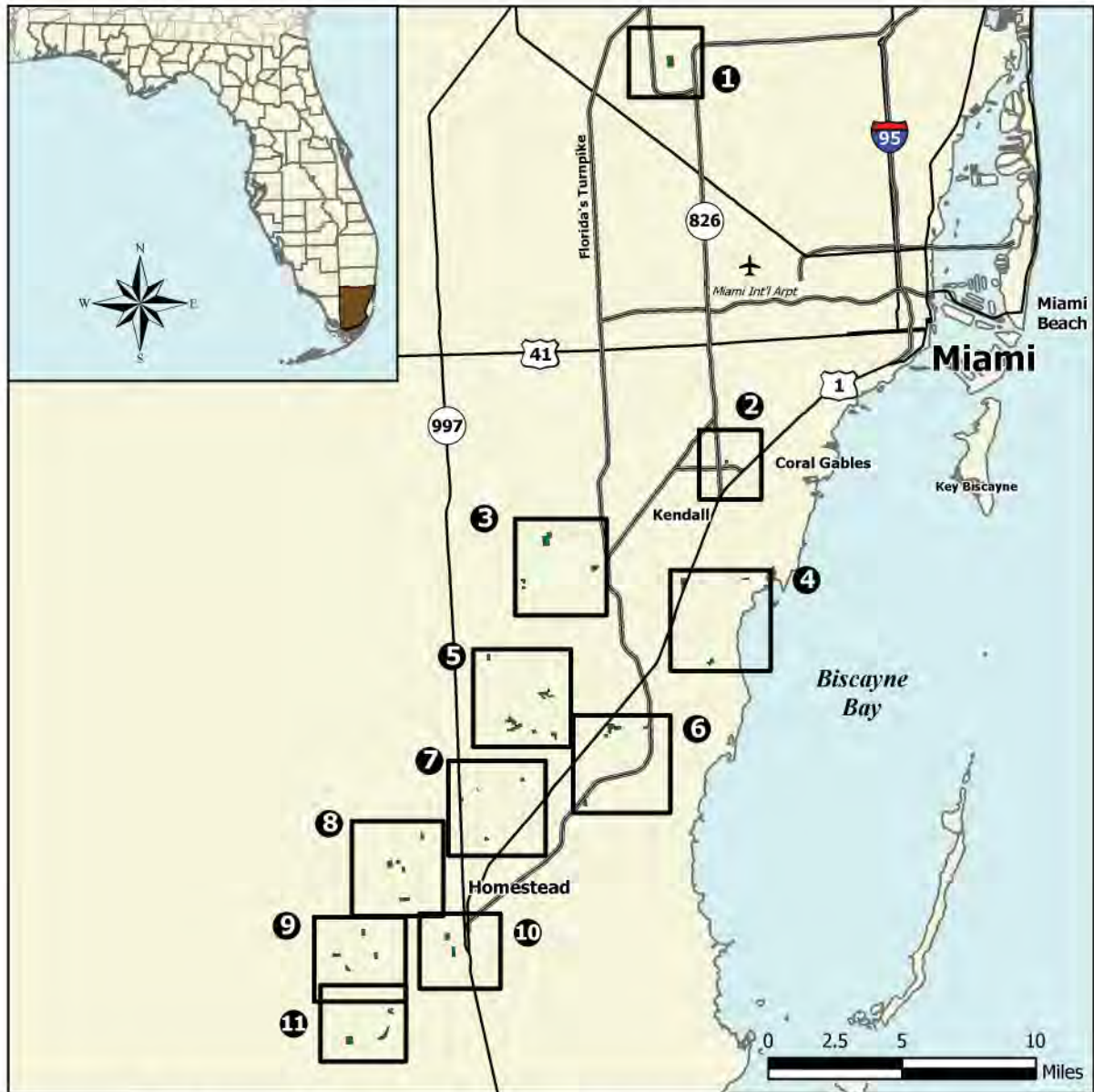
(Continued on Page 142)

<b>Dade County Archipelago</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Tiny Polygala</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida Lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Small's Milk Pea</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Florida Brickell-bush</i>	G1/S1
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida Lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Carter's Small-flowered Flax</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Florida Filmy Fern</i>	G4G5T1/S1
<i>Deltoid Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Hairy Deltoid Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Pinelands Spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Cuban Snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
<i>Fahkahatchee Ladies' -tresses</i>	G4T1/S1
57 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>884</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>600*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$35,651,244*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$184,320</b>

\* includes acquisitions by Dade County.

# Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee



## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: OVERVIEW

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

#### Map 1

- A. Maddens Hammock Site

#### Map 2

- A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 1

#### Map 3

- A. Boystown Site
- B. Tamiami Addition Site
- C. Big and Little George Hammocks Site

#### Map 4

- A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 2
- B. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Ludlam Pineland Site
- C. Whispering Pines Site

#### Map 5

- A. Wilkins Pierson Pineland Site
- B. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 7
- C. Castellow #31 Site
- D. Castellow Hammock Extension Site
- E. Ross Hammock Site
- F. Castellow #28 Site
- G. Castellow #33 Site

#### Map 6

- A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 6
- B. Goulds Addition Site
- C. Hardin Hammock Site
- D. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 10

#### Map 7

- A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 9
- B. Owaissa Bauer Addition Site
- C. Bauer Drive Pineland Site
- D. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 12

#### Map 8

- A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 13
- B. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 14
- C. Meissner Hammock Site
- D. Fuchs Hammock Site
- E. Navy Wells #2 Site

#### Map 9

- A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 16
- B. Lucille Hammock Site
- C. Navy Wells #39 Site
- D. Loveland Hammock Site

#### Map 10

- A. Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 15
- B. Navy Wells #23 Site

#### Map 11

- A. Southwest Hammock Site
- B. Holiday Hammock Site
- C. Round Hammock Site

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Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee

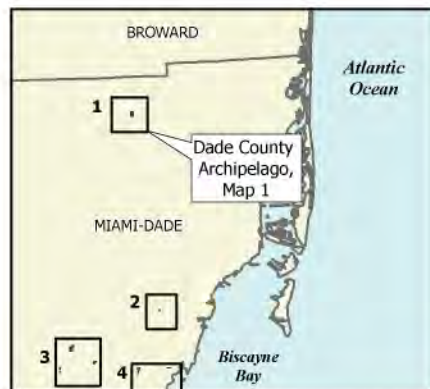
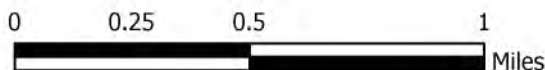


**A** Maddens Hammock Site

**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 1 OF 11**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining





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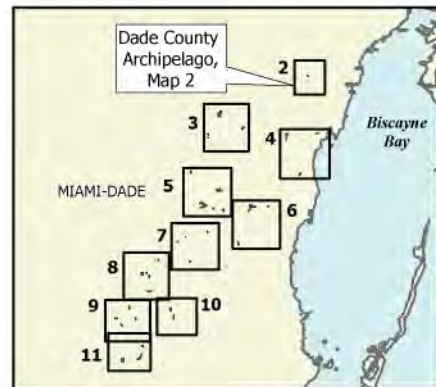
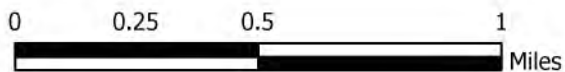
Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee



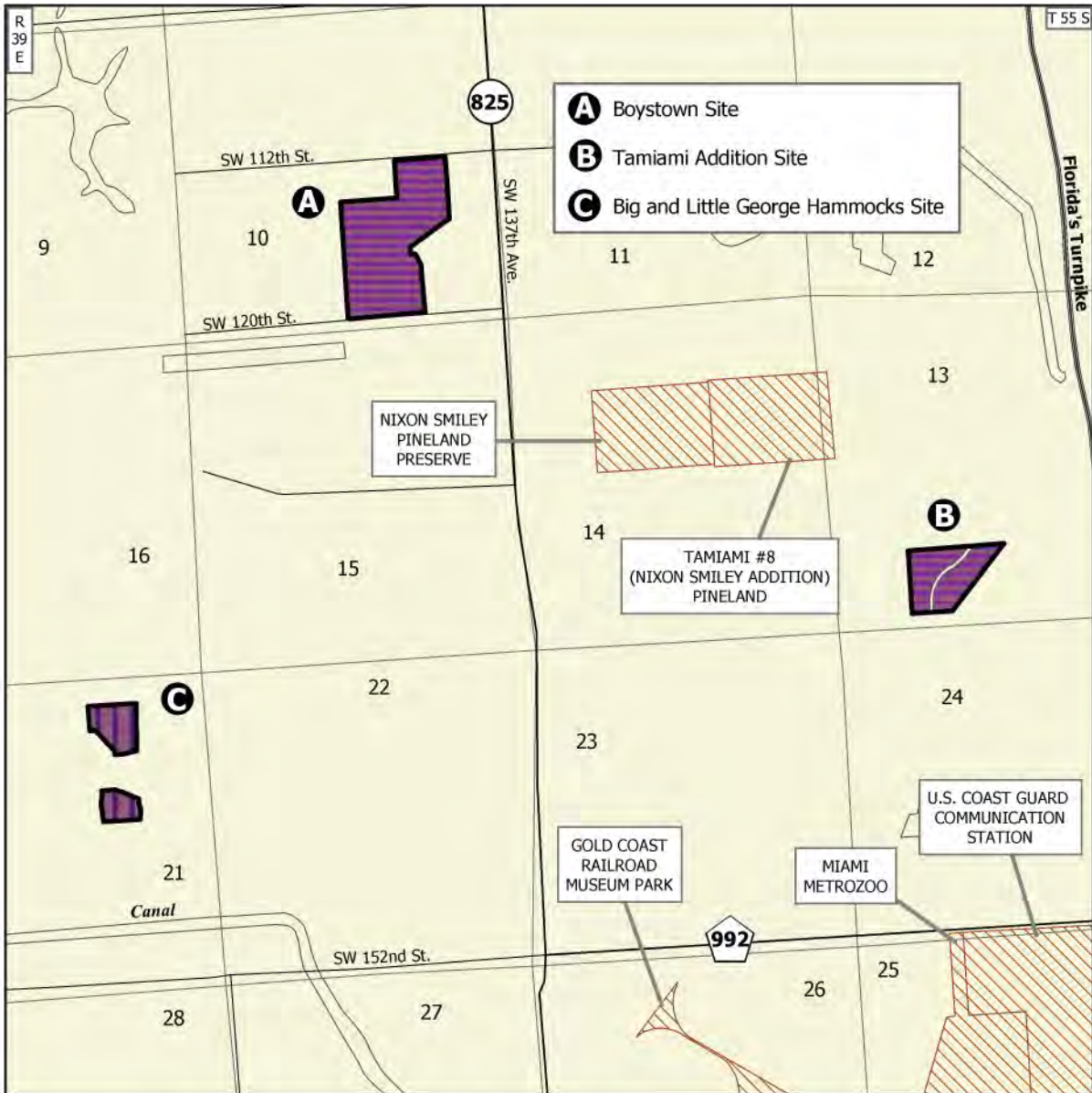
**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 2 OF 11**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired







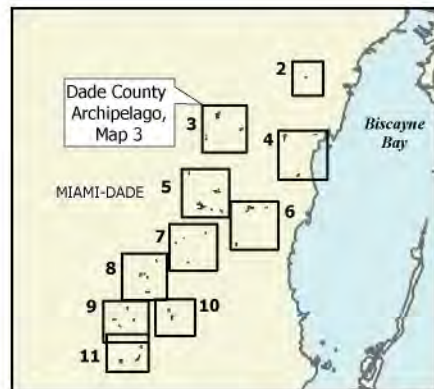
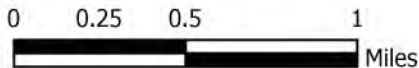
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## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 3 OF 11

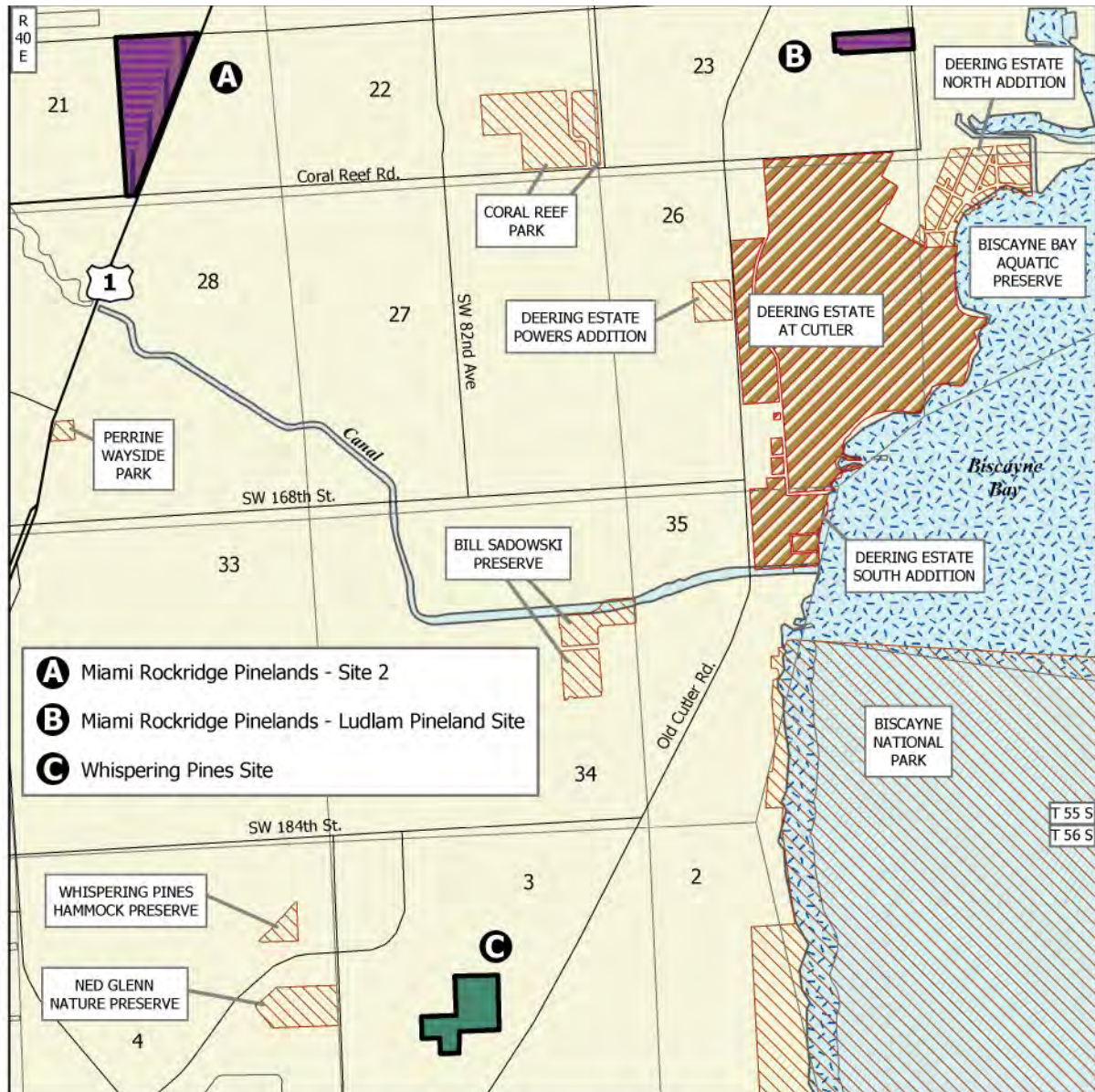
### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
-  Other Conservation Lands



NOVEMBER 2005

# Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee

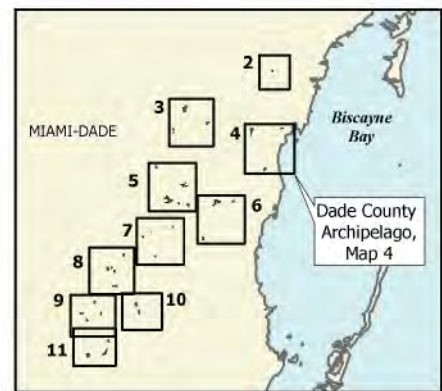
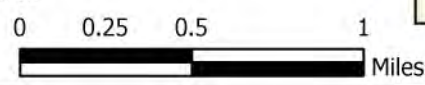


- A** Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 2
- B** Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Ludlam Pineland Site
- C** Whispering Pines Site

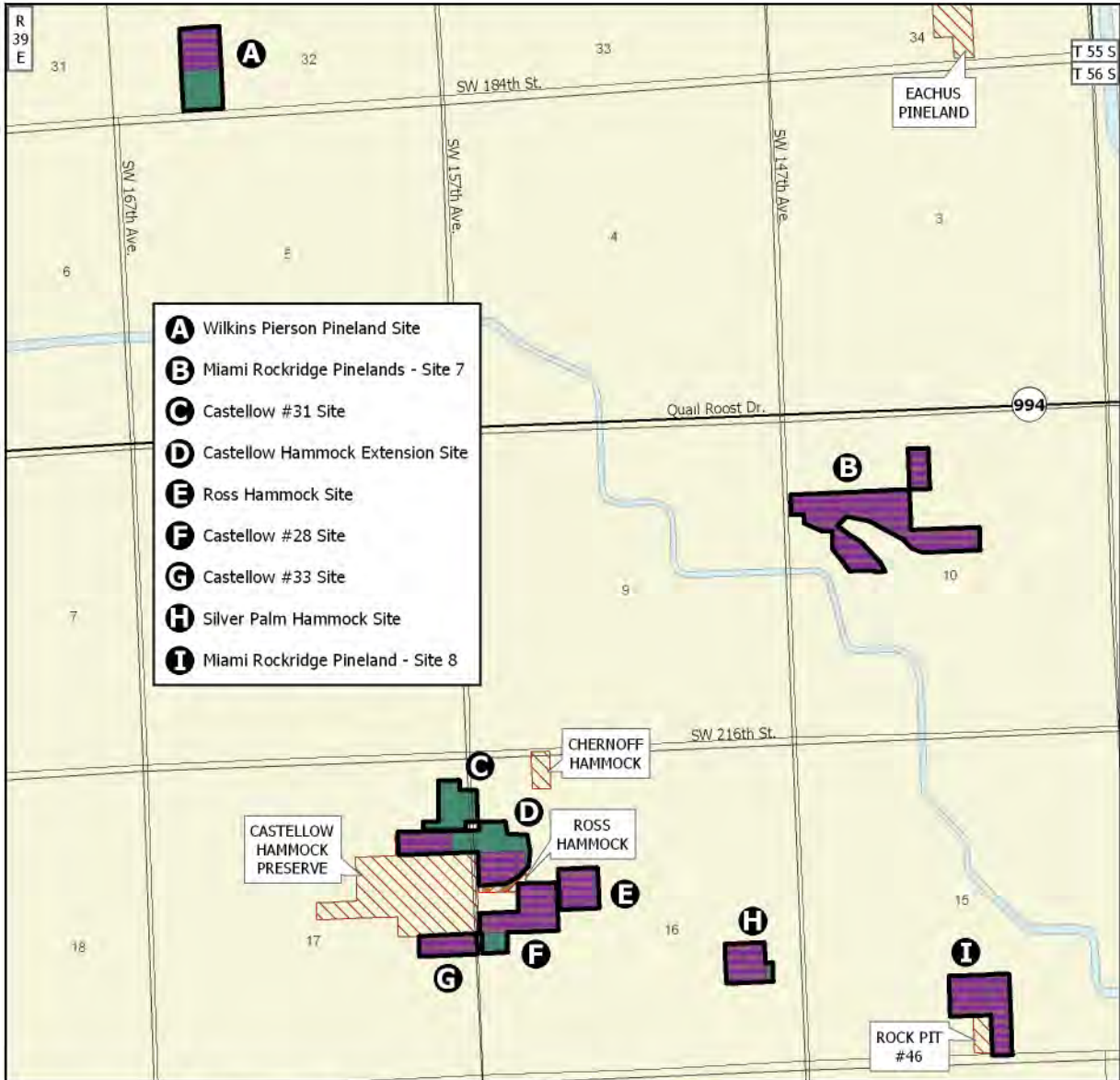
## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 4 OF 11

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



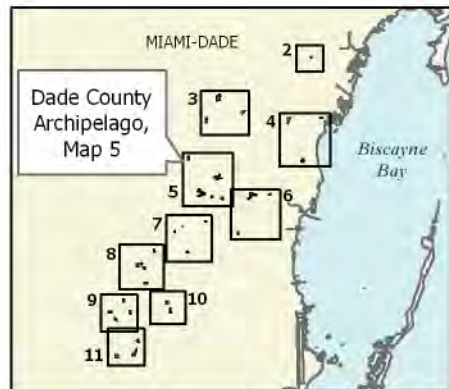
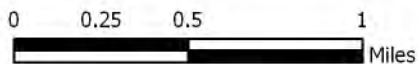
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**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 5 OF 11**

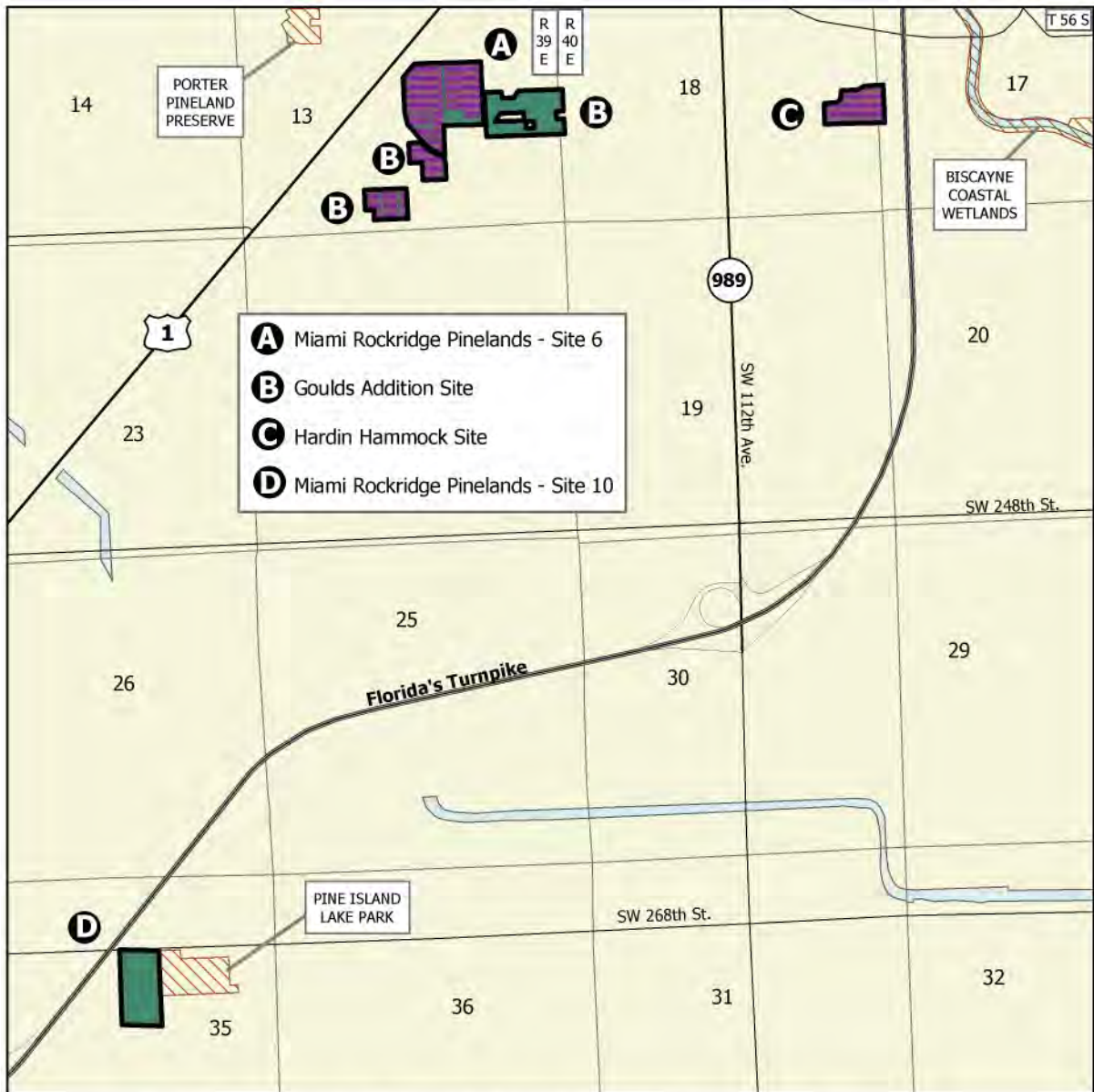
**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands







JULY 2009

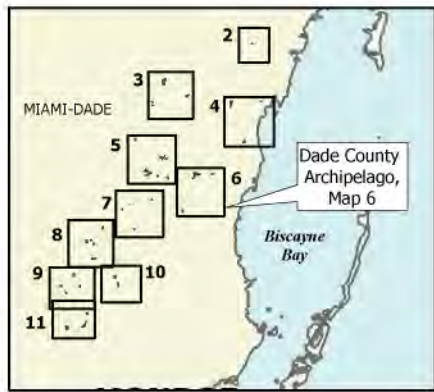
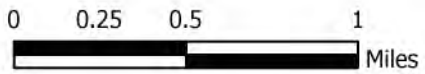
# Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee



## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 6 OF 11

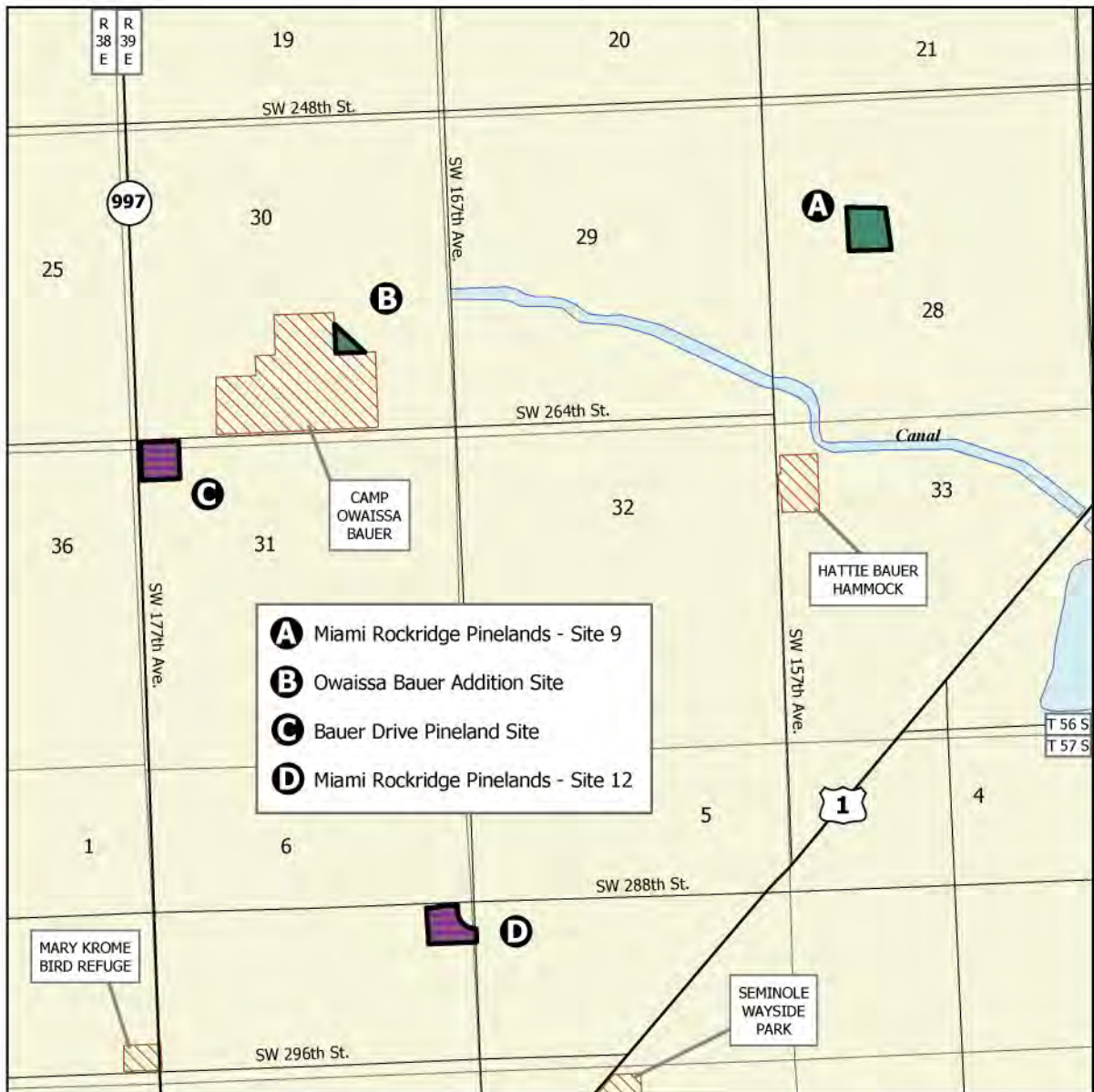
### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands







NOVEMBER 2005

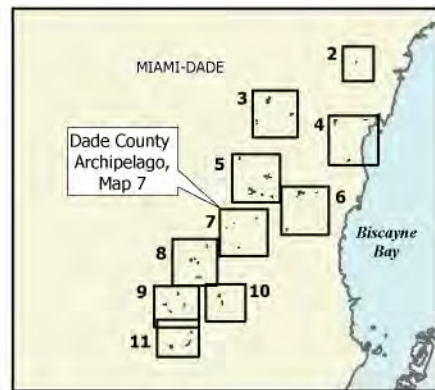
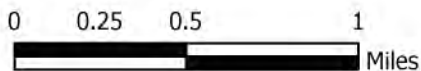




**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 7 OF 11**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands







NOVEMBER 2005

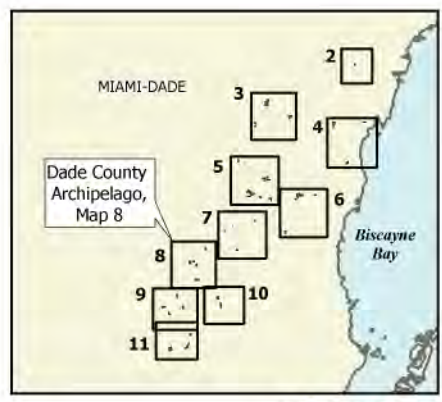
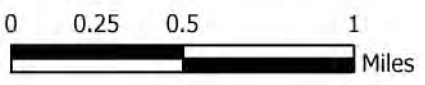
# Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee



## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 8 OF 11

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



NOVEMBER 2005

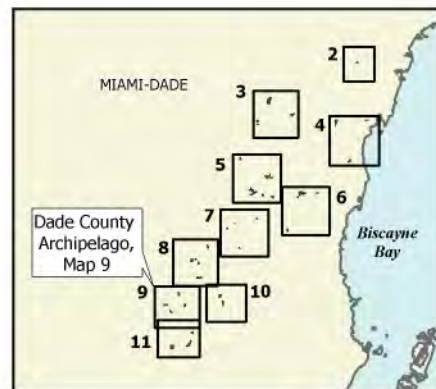
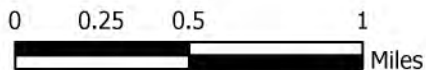
# Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee



## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 9 OF 11

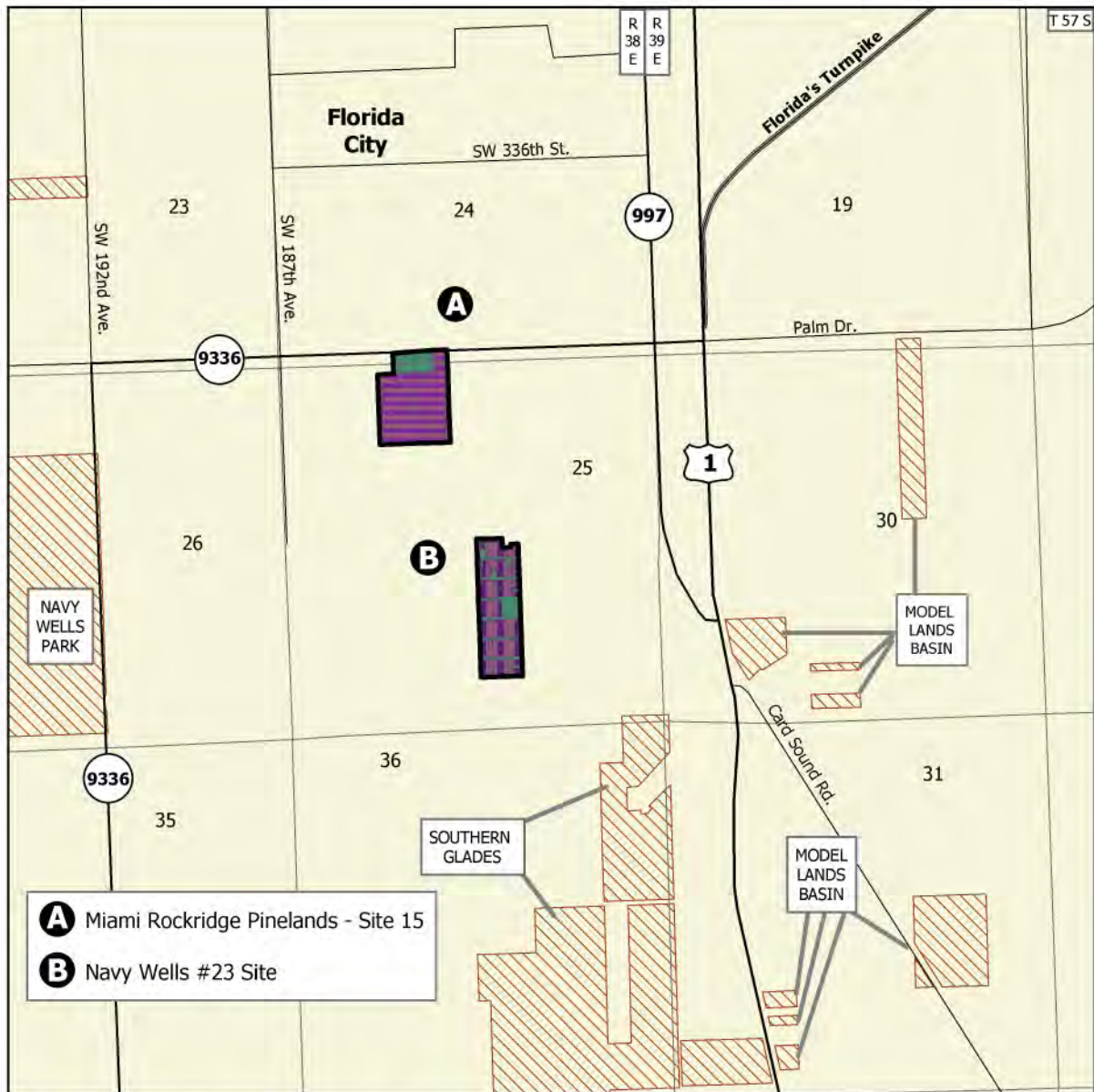
### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



NOVEMBER 2005

# Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee

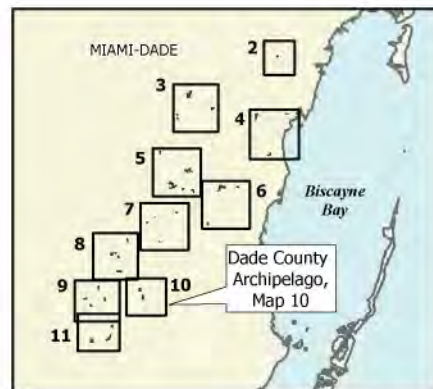
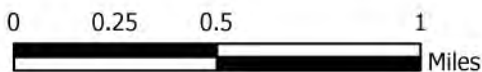


- A** Miami Rockridge Pinelands - Site 15
- B** Navy Wells #23 Site

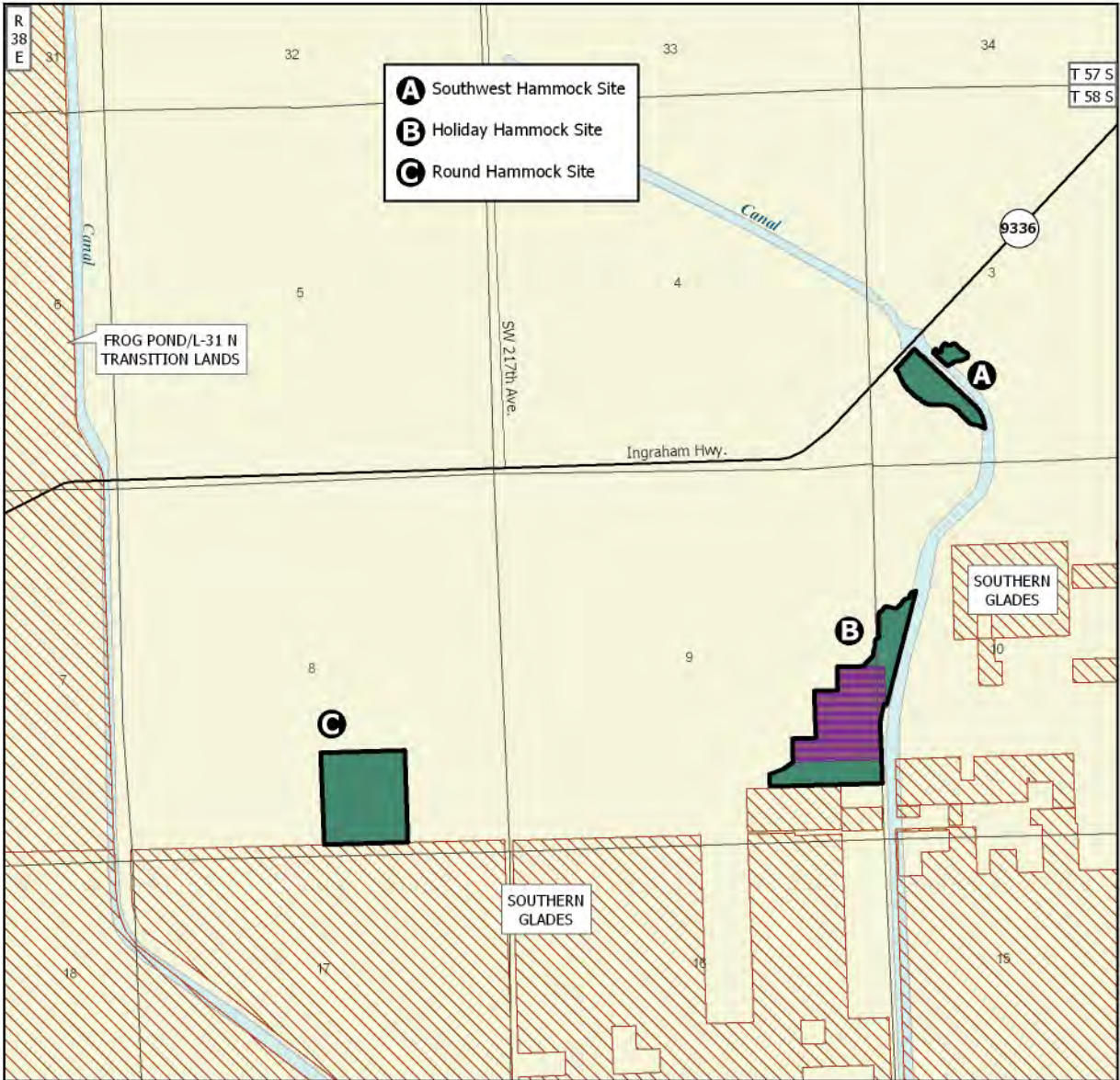
## DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 10 OF 11

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands







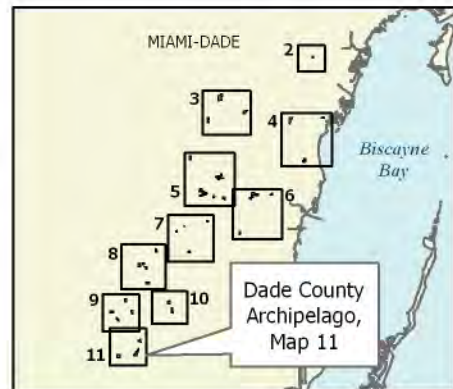
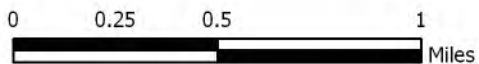
NOVEMBER 2005



**DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 11 OF 11**

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2009

## Dade County Archipelago - Group B/Full Fee

during the 1995 cycle. The LAMAC approved the addition in December 1995.

The sites added are: Boystown (acquired—77 acres), Tamiami Addition, Wilkins-Pierson Addition, Whispering Pines, Castellow Complex #28, Castellow Complex #31, Castello Complex #33, Goulds, Hardin, Owaissaa Bauer Addition, Fuchs, Navy Wells #2, Navy Wells #23, Navy Wells #39, Round Hammock, Bauer Drive Pineland. Dade County has acquired approximately 348 acres at a cost of \$21,889,314 within the project.

### Coordination

Dade County is the acquisition partner. In May 1990, voters approved a referendum, which increased ad valorem tax by .75 mills for two years, generating approximately \$90 million specifically for the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands. The county participated in all phases of project development and paid for initial mapping and title work on all the hammock sites. TNC has been an intermediary in the acquisition of some sites. Dade County continues with acquisition of the remaining tracts.

Resolutions in support of this project include a pledge from Dade County Commission to participate in providing 50% of acquisition funds and to manage the acquired sites. **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Dade County Archipelago project is to preserve and restore the best of the small areas of pine rockland and rockland hammock left in Dade County. Achieving this objective will protect over fifty rare plant species, several of which are found nowhere else in the world, and allow the public to learn about and appreciate the original landscapes of the Miami Rock Ridge. The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of resources. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the sites; thoroughly inventory the natural and historical resources of the sites; work to eliminate invasive exotic plants; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving the natural communities and their constituent species. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as interpretive trails, ensure that they do not harm the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

This project includes most of the high quality pine rockland and rockland hammock sites in Dade County and therefore, with intensive management, has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Dade County Archipelago includes some of the best rockland hammocks and pine rocklands in Florida. Their rare West Indian and endemic plant species and their small size qualify these areas as state botanical sites.

**Manager** Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Dade County Archipelago generally includes lands that are high-need tracts, requiring site-specific resource management and protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, initial activities will concentrate on site security; removal of existing trash; public and fire management access; and resource inventory, including areas of special concern: archaeological sites, rare species, fern, vine, and exotic dominated areas. Long-range plans will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and the perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Management activities will also stress the protection of threatened and endangered species. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

### Management Cost Summary/Dade County

Category	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	County	County
Salary	\$120,362	\$190,986
OPS	\$57,119	\$0
OCO	\$31,320	\$140,084
Expense	\$0	\$58,424
FCO	\$8,357	\$66,812
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$217,158</b>	<b>\$456,306</b>

# Devil's Garden

## Hendry and Collier Counties

# Group B Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels - fills a gap in the corridor that will provide a large landscape for the federally endangered Florida panther. Numerous records of panther use of the property as well as numerous other rare and threatened plants and animals have been noted and (2) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources - the project borders the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest on the west and Dinner Island to the south. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the recommended lead manager for most of the area (approximately 71,608 acres). Division of Forestry (DOF) will manage the two westernmost parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) adjoining the Okaloacoochee State Forest.

### General Description

The Devil's Garden proposal includes 82,508 acres (per digitized boundaries; 82,000 acres per proposal) in Hendry and Collier counties. The proposal has a single owner and includes four "parcels". The major

parcel (71,608 acres.) adjoins the eastern boundary of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and encompasses an area, roughly 18 miles long (east-west) and six miles wide (north-south); an additional parcel (6,445 acres) is adjacent to the northeastern boundary of the State Forest and Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area, and lies across Keri Road from the northwest corner of the major parcel. Two smaller parcels (T-shaped parcel - 3,328 acres and 1,127 acres) abut the southwestern boundary of the State Forest.

Devil's Garden represents a huge tract of ranch land that has been heavily impacted by cattle ranching activities (conversion to pasture) and to a lesser extent agriculture. Non-forested wetlands, including basin/depression marsh, swale, and wet prairie make up the dominant natural communities that are still present on the property. Mesic/wet flatwoods have been, to a large extent, cleared and converted to pasturelands. Prairie hammocks were scattered throughout the property and formed irregularly shaped forests, usually in association with basin/depression wetlands. In a helicopter survey, a few small (<15 acres) patches of dome swamp fringing swale systems could be seen in the southwestern T-shaped parcel. Both southern parcels have few remaining upland natural communities except for narrow fringes adjacent to wetlands; there is some hammock remaining in the southwest corner of the T-shaped parcel.

### Public Use

The property can accommodate a diverse range of resource-based recreation, including camping,

Devil's Garden	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
9 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>82,508</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>82,508</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$9,483,649</b>

## Devil's Garden - Group B/Full Fee

picnicking, hiking, natural resource appreciation (nature study), wildlife observation, bicycling, horseback riding and environmental education.

Depending on management emphasis, the land could provide significant hunting opportunities. Careful planning would need to be done if observable wildlife and hunting are to occur on the same areas. Since the project is so large, however, it may be possible to set areas aside where wildlife observation can be emphasized and encouraged.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Devil's Garden project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and DOF, consisted of approximately 82,508 acres with a single owner, Alico Inc., and a 2001 taxable value of \$9,483,649.

TNC is the intermediary and is working to find a purchaser for the eastern portion of the tract (farm land).

On December 14, 2007 ARC voted to move Devil's Garden to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management for the Devil's Garden project are: to increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels; protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities including but not limited to wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking and camping; and increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** Due to the diversity, and connectivity to the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, the two western most parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) qualify State Forest designation. The high wildlife resource values and the designation of primary or secondary panther habitat zones on the project qualify the eastern parcel (approximately 71,608 acres) as a wildlife management area.

### Manager

DOF will manage the two western most parcels as part of the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest. FWC will manage the eastern parcel.

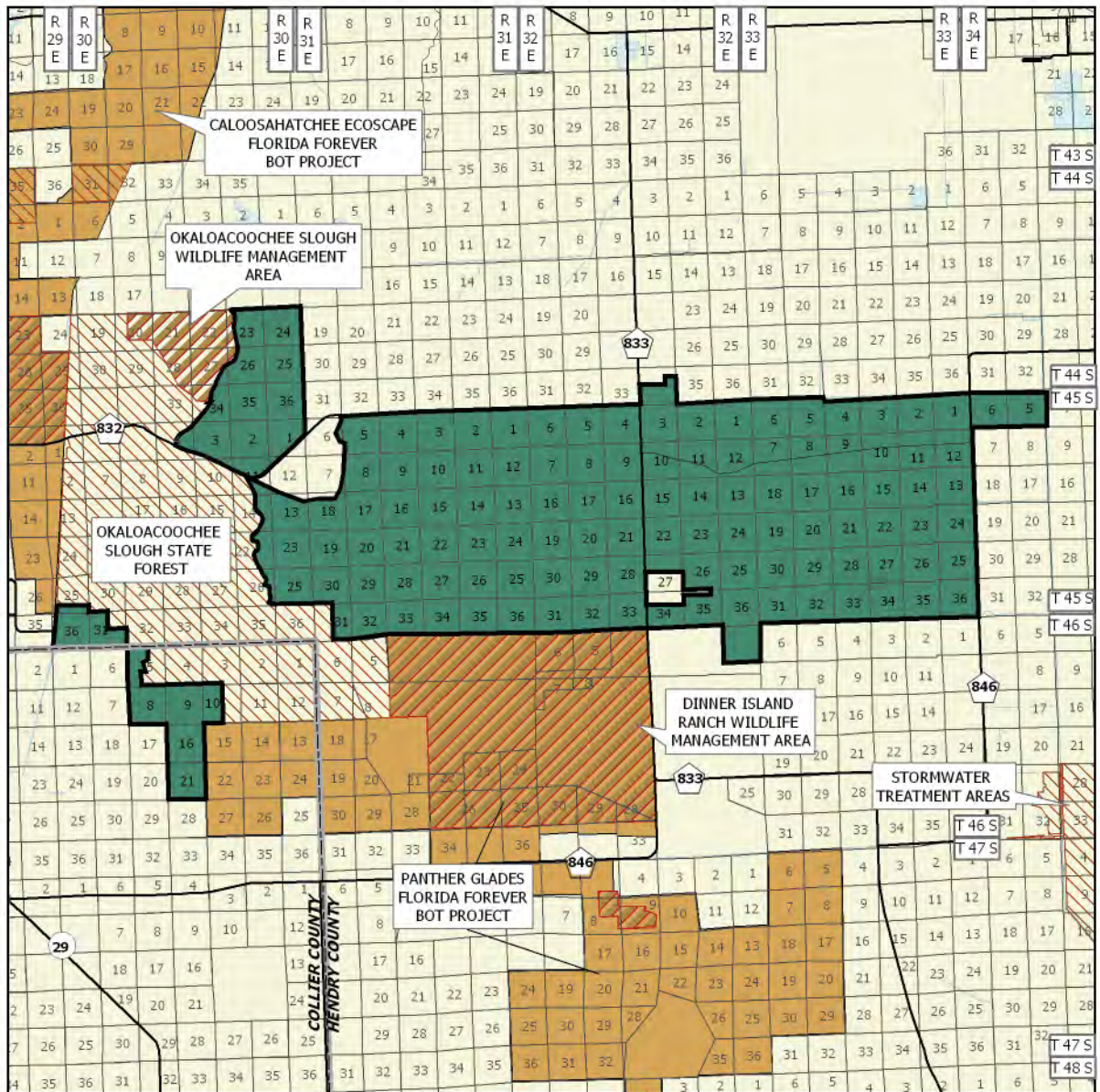
### Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the project's drier natural community types have been disturbed; many converted to some improved form of agriculture. This conversion usually meant some type of hydrologic alteration to facilitate water management. This property contains vast areas of wetlands with sensitive natural resources; accordingly, land management and public use will specifically be structured to improve and protect these areas. Surrounding land uses are not expected to effect prescribed burning on this parcel. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be initially high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage the system. Given the importance of this property to panther recovery, this link between habitat management and panther use will be critical to insuring the property is managed consistent with the primary purposes for acquisition.

### Timetable for Implementing Management and Provisions for Security and Protection of Infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, exotic species control and removal of refuse. Conceptual management plans will be developed describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management. Once the area is acquired, steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact to these areas. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads. Unnecessary access points will be closed. Both agencies will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species. Multiple use principles will be practiced where compatible with resource management goals and acquisition purposes. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented to improve





## DEVIL'S GARDEN

### HENDRY AND COLLIER COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MARCH 2006

## Devil's Garden - Group B/Full Fee

the habitat quality of native fire-dependent plant communities and wildlife habitats.

### ***Revenue Generating Potential***

Management will seek to improve revenue-generating potential by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation. Anticipated revenues from wildlife conservation will arise from sales of hunting licenses, wildlife management area permits and other special hunting permits. Additional revenues might be generated from ecotourism and wildlife viewing activities. Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low. Some revenues might be generated from agricultural farming contracts in areas currently being farmed as row crops until such areas can be restored in the interest of wildlife conservation.

### ***Cooperators in Management Activities***

The FWC and DOF will cooperate with other federal, state and local government agencies, including the South Florida Water Management District in managing the area.

### ***Management Costs and Sources of Revenue***

The Devil's Garden proposal, when acquired by the state, will require 14 FTE positions to manage the project area. Certain activities may be privatized, which would reduce the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural-resource management and public use administration would come from the CARL Trust Fund. It is anticipated that revenue sources would include public use fees and timber harvests.

### **Management Costs (for interim management)**

<b>Salary (6 FTE)</b>	<b>\$216,639</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$725,000</b>
<b>Operating Capital Outlay</b>	<b><u>\$418,200</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,354,839</b>

# Dickerson Bay/Bald Point

Wakulla and Franklin Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

On the coast of Wakulla and Franklin Counties, the shallow, waveless Gulf of Mexico laps against the westernmost Big Bend salt marshes and the easternmost white sand beaches of the Panhandle. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge already protects much of this coast; the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project will protect more, including areas critical to the survival of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle. In so doing, it will also protect the fishery in the area by protecting its foundation - rich mud flats and seagrass beds - and will add land to Mashas Sands County Park where people may enjoy the beauty of this little-disturbed coast.

### Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection will manage that portion of the project in Franklin County; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wakulla County will separately manage individual parcels in Wakulla County.

### General Description

The project, comprising three separate areas, includes uplands around Dickerson, Levy, and Ochlockonee Bays. These bays provide foraging habitat for juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles, the world's most endangered sea turtle, and other state or globally rare birds (e.g., wood stork, bald eagle) and sea turtles (e.g., loggerhead).

The uplands surrounding the three bays are an intricate mosaic of lakes, depression marshes, mesic flatwoods (high quality to disturbed) that support populations of such rare animals as Sherman's fox squirrel and gopher tortoise, scrubby flatwoods, and scrub connected with the marine communities by numerous tidal creeks, salt flats, and salt marshes. The Bald Point site includes beach dunes used by many species of shore birds. The condition of these uplands might be expected to play a larger role in maintaining the quality of the marine communities than would be the case with a straight shoreline. The natural upland communities adjoin similar communities in St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to the north and west. Twelve archeological sites are known from Bald Point. The Bald Point site is threatened by development.

### Public Use

The southern part of this project (i.e., Bald Point and southern Dickerson Bay) is designated for use as a state park that will augment the recreational opportunities of the adjacent Mashas Sands County Park with areas for picnicking, hiking, camping, and canoeing. The beaches of Bald Point are suitable for swimming and other activities. The northern part of this project will be incorporated into the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge. This portion is suitable for boating.

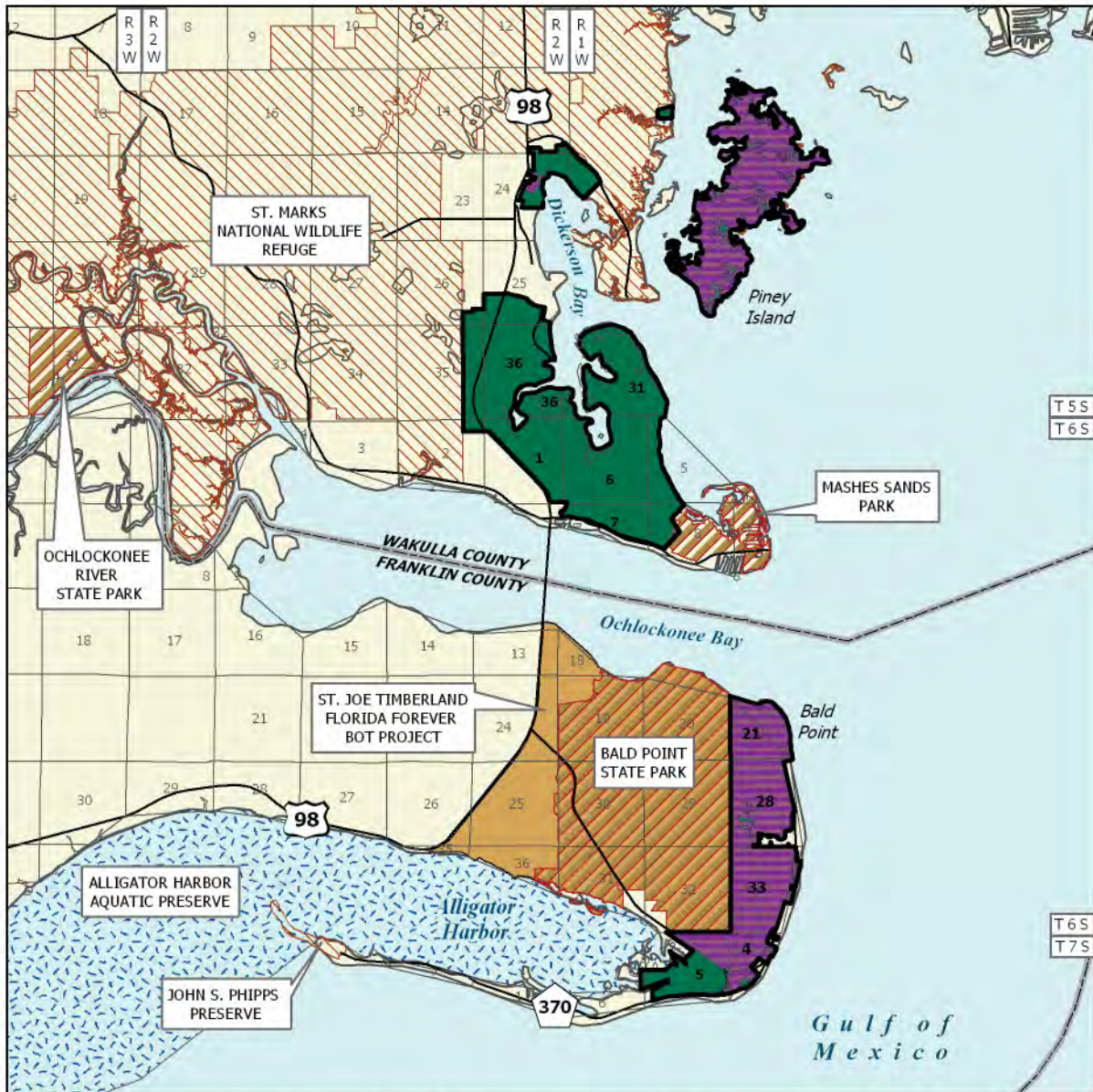
### Acquisition Planning

Dickerson Bay: Larger ownerships should be negotiated before the smaller ones. The essential parcels are McMillan, Brunstad, Nichols, JDN Enterprises, Meara, Cobleigh, Panacea Coastal Properties and Metcalf. Piney Island, also an essential parcel, was donated to the USFWS in 1996.

<b>Dickerson Bay/Bald Point</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Kemp's Ridley	G1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Green Turtle	G3/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Lobeless Spiny Burrowing Beetle	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Godfrey's Blazing Star</i>	G2/S2
<i>Scare-weed</i>	G3/S3
Merlin	G5/S2
Black-crowned Night-heron	G5/S3
Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5/S3
12 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>Project Area (GIS Acres)</b>	<b>5,851</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>1,387</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$9,356,265</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>4,464</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$4,562,208</b>

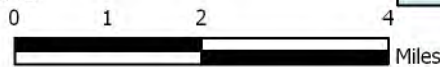
# Dickerson Bay/Bald Point - Group B/Full Fee



## DICKERSON BAY/BALD POINT

### WAKULLA AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



SEPTEMBER 2006

**Bald Point:** All parcels are essential. The LGR Investment Fund, LTD. has been acquired.

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC redesignated the Jer Be Lou Development Co. parcel as essential. The parcel has been acquired.

### **Coordination**

The USFWS is an acquisition partner, and coordination between the state and federal government should be maintained.

On August 27, 1998, a portion of the Bald Point project was selected to receive Florida Communities Trust grant money.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objectives of management of the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project are to maintain and restore the natural communities around Dickerson and Levy Bays and to give the public an area for hiking, fishing, camping, and other recreation compatible with protection of the natural resources. Protecting the natural communities of the area is critical to the survival of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle and will also help protect habitat for wading birds and shore birds. It will also help protect a recreational and commercial fishery that depends on the marine life of the bays.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of the salt marshes, flatwoods, and other communities around the bays. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; burn the fire-dependent flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually maintaining or improving the quality of the natural communities. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project includes nearly all of the undeveloped, privately-owned land along Dickerson and Levy Bays and adjoins the Mashles Sands county park on its southeast border. It therefore has the configuration and location

to achieve its primary objectives.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The large south parcel of the Dickerson Bay portion of the project has the capacity to provide an effective buffer for the protection of the marine communities of Levy and Dickerson Bays. The highly endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle frequents the waters of these bays. The parcel is also capable of providing resource based recreational opportunities, particularly in support of the adjacent county park at Mashles Island. For these reasons, the property would be suitable as a state park within the state park system.

**Manager** In Franklin County: Division of Recreation and Parks; in Wakulla County: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wakulla County.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The property will be a high need management area. Public recreational use and development compatible with resource management will be an integral aspect of management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Upon acquisition and assignment to the Division, public access will be provided for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities. Additionally, initial management efforts will concentrate on site security, fire management and development of a resource inventory and public use plan. Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes.

Protection of the adjacent marine environment will be a primary focus for the property. Over the long term, however, a wide range of resource-based recreation and environmental education facilities may be promoted. The nature, extent and location of infrastructure will be defined by the management plan developed for the property. Restoration and maintenance of natural communities will be incorporated into long range management efforts and disturbed areas will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in natural systems, to the extent practical.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated from this property initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public facilities might be developed. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use identified in the management plan developed for the property. The

## Dickerson Bay/Bald Point - Group B/Full Fee

property has potential for generating local economic benefits. The pine plantation that covers a large portion of the Bald Point project will be managed with the assistance of the DOF has considerable value and can be expected to provide significant revenue if acquired with the land. No other significant revenues would be expected over the short-term after acquisition. The amount of future revenues from other than timber sales will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed.

*Cooperators in management activities* Due to the potential for enhancement of the adjacent county park

by this project area, coordination of management efforts may be desirable. On the Bald Point site, the DOF, will be consulted on forest management and timber issues related to planning and implementation of a forest resource management plan. Other federal, state, and local government agencies will be consulted, as appropriate, to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the project lands for state park purposes.

### Management Cost Summary/USFWS

Category Source of Funds	Startup USFWS	Recurring USFWS
Salary	\$7,800	N/A
OPS	\$0	N/A
Expense	\$500	N/A
OCO	\$0	N/A
FCO	\$0	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,300</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
OPS	\$7,092	\$7,092
Expense	\$13,269	\$13,269
OCO	\$80,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$13,269	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$262,132</b>	<b>\$72,361</b>

# Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem

Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Between the growing cities of Orlando and Titusville is a near wilderness through which the middle St. Johns River flows. The Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem project will protect part of this undeveloped area along Puzzle Lake where the Econlockhatchee River flows into the St. Johns, adding to conservation lands already on the river, protecting habitat for bald eagle and other wildlife and rare plants, preserving several archaeological sites, and providing the public of this urbanizing region opportunities for canoeing, fishing, hunting, and other recreation. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### General Description

The Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem project will protect wetlands associated with the Econlockhatchee (a black-water stream) and St. Johns Rivers, extensive hydric hammocks, and over nine miles of frontage on the St. Johns River. Other communities within the project include baygall, mesic/wet flatwoods, floodplain marsh, and scrub/scrubby flatwoods. They support several rare

species such as Chapman’s sedge, bald eagle, Curtiss’ milkweed, and decurrent sedge. Much of the uplands have been converted to improved pasture; grazing and clearcutting have also impacted natural areas. This project, adjacent to the Seminole Ranch Save Our Rivers project, could ultimately be part of public land protecting a riparian corridor nearly 54 miles long along the Econlockhatchee and St. Johns Rivers. Fourteen archaeological sites are known from the project, with good potential for more. The area is threatened by unrestricted logging and residential development.

### Public Use

The project is designated a state forest, with such uses as fishing, canoeing, hiking, camping, cultural education and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

Econ-St. Johns—Phase I (essential): Hunters Development Fund (acquired); Lee Ranch (acquired); Ray Fore (acquired by Seminole County). Phase II: Northernmost large ownership and remaining inholdings including Clonts, Henning, McLeod, Baker and Ritcher.

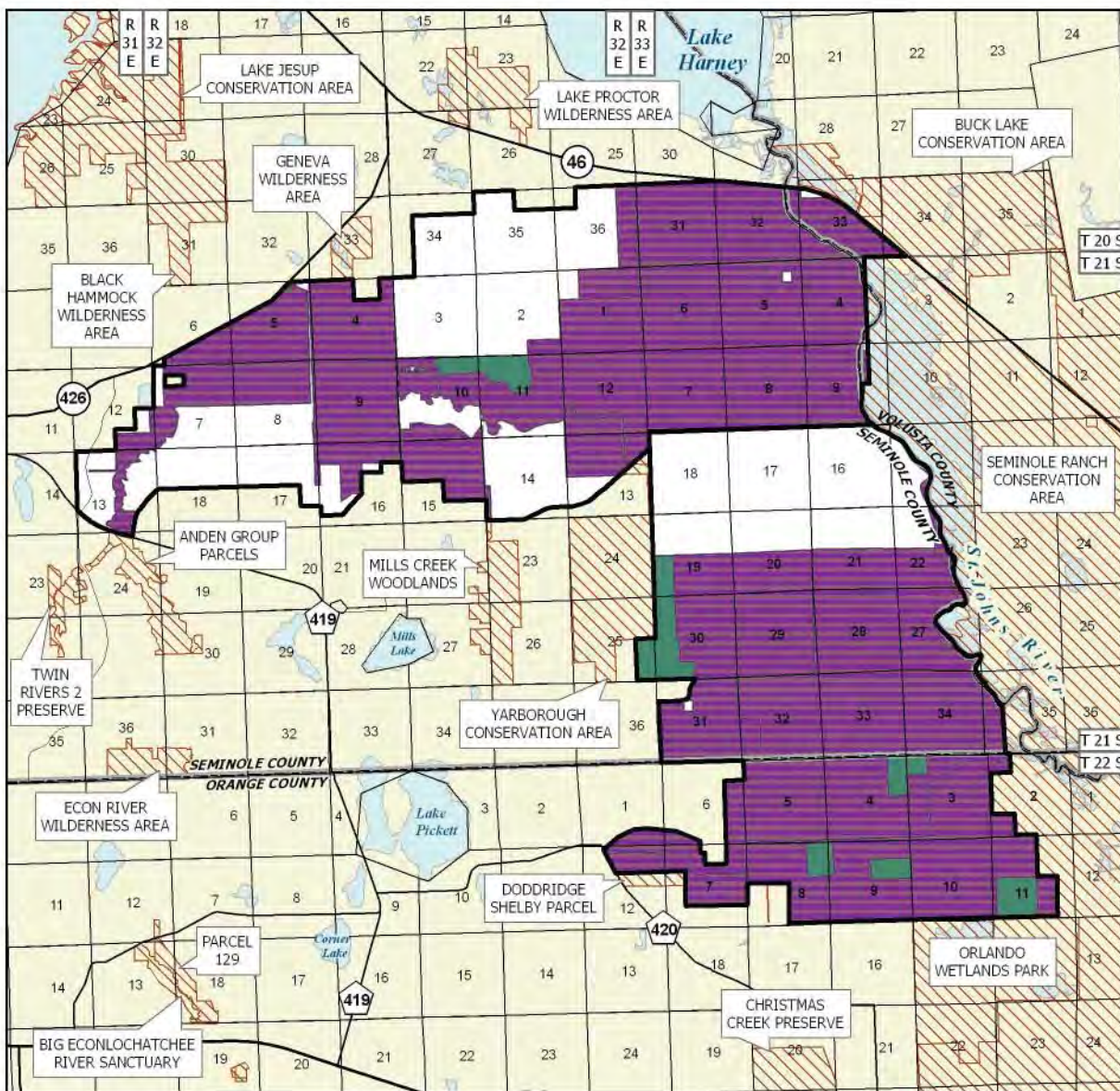
Lower Econlockhatchee—Phase 1: Demetree, the largest ownership buffering portions of both sides of river (essential—acquired—shared acquisition with the district). Phase II: Other large tracts including Kilbee (essential—acquired by district), Yarborough (essential - 3,462 acres acquired in less-than-fee by the SJRWMD), Clonts, Jones and others.

Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
Sand Butterfly Pea	G2Q/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Chapman's Sedge	G3/S3
Florida Beargrass	G3/S3
Plume Polypody	G5/S2
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
16 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1994*</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>28,274</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>21,969**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$135,012,323**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>6,305</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$7,547,810</b>

\* Econ-St Johns and Lower Econlockhatchee projects were combined to create Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem in 1994

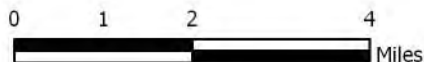
\*\* Includes acreage acquired and funds expended by SJRWMD and Orange County.



### ECON - ST. JOHNS ECOSYSTEM

**ORANGE, SEMINOLE AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2008



## Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee

Essential parcels in both the Econ-St. Johns and Lower Econlockhatchee projects were acquired (fee and less-than-fee) either by, or in conjunction with, the St. Johns River Water Management District. On January 17, 1990, LAMAC eliminated all phasing.

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved combining the Lower Econlockhatchee and Econ-St. Johns Corridor CARL projects and renaming the new project Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem. The total acreage for the project was approximately 27,652.

On June 9, 2006, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 622-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by owner Land South Hunters LLC and had a 2005 taxable value of \$98,580. This parcel has been designated as essential. The landowner already has acreage within the current boundary (3,978) and will only sell the entire 4,600 acres as a whole. The acquisition is expected to occur as a partnership between the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Board of Trustees. The Council also moved the project to Group A.

### Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District is an acquisition partner in this project as are both Seminole and Orange Counties. The district's expenditures are reflected in the table on the previous page.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The size and restorable forest resources of the Econ-St. Johns River Ecosystem make it highly desirable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The DOF is recommended as Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Other than the habitat restoration needs mentioned below, the management needs for this project are expected to be typical for a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Approximately 15% of the project has already been acquired. Although a full complement of positions has not yet been funded, the public is being provided access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Current management involves securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, and removing trash. The Division will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. After enough of the project is acquired, the sites' natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. The project contains a considerable acreage of pasture and range that is suitable for reforestation. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Division is cooperating with other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties.

Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee

Management Cost Summary/ DOF			
Category	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$39,373	\$40,554	\$43,000
OPS	\$0	\$4,320	\$0
Expense	\$28,487	\$24,841	\$25,000
OCO	\$2,860	\$6,500	\$5,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$70,720	\$76,215	\$73,000



# Escribano Point

Santa Rosa County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Acquisition of this proposal would complete public land ownership of Escribano Point and the mouth of the Yellow River, thereby achieving the goals of the original 1994 Escribano Point CARL project. It encompasses three sets of parcels: a northern set at the mouth of the Yellow River that adjoins Yellow River Water Management Area (WMA) lands; a middle set around Catfish Basin adjoining Eglin Air Force Base lands on the east and Yellow River WMA lands on the north and south, and a southern set, encompassing Escribano Point, that adjoins Yellow River WMA lands on the north and Eglin lands on the north and east. If purchased, the proposal plus these public lands would provide recreation opportunities and natural resource protection for 10.4 miles of shoreline along East Bay and Blackwater Bay. Its purchase would contribute to the protection of the waters of Blackwater Bay along with that afforded by the Garcon Point Water Management Area, which borders 4.6 miles of the west shore. It would also contribute protection of 37 miles of the Yellow River by adding to the public shoreline of the Yellow River Water Management Area. Uplands south of the river floodplain are protected as part of Eglin Air Force Base.

**Manager**

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the recommended lead manager for the area.

**General Description**

The Escribano Point project is located in Santa Rosa County and is comprised of 2,914 acres. Located along

the eastern shore of Pensacola Bay, Escribano Point is surrounded by Eglin Air Force Base to the east, and provides an upland buffer for the Yellow River Marsh Aquatic Preserve to the west. The proposal contains relatively intact examples of wetland communities, hammocks, and wet prairies that provide habitat for numerous rare and threatened plants and animals. The project is also very rich in archaeological and historical resources, containing nine recorded archaeological sites and two historic structures.

**Public Use**

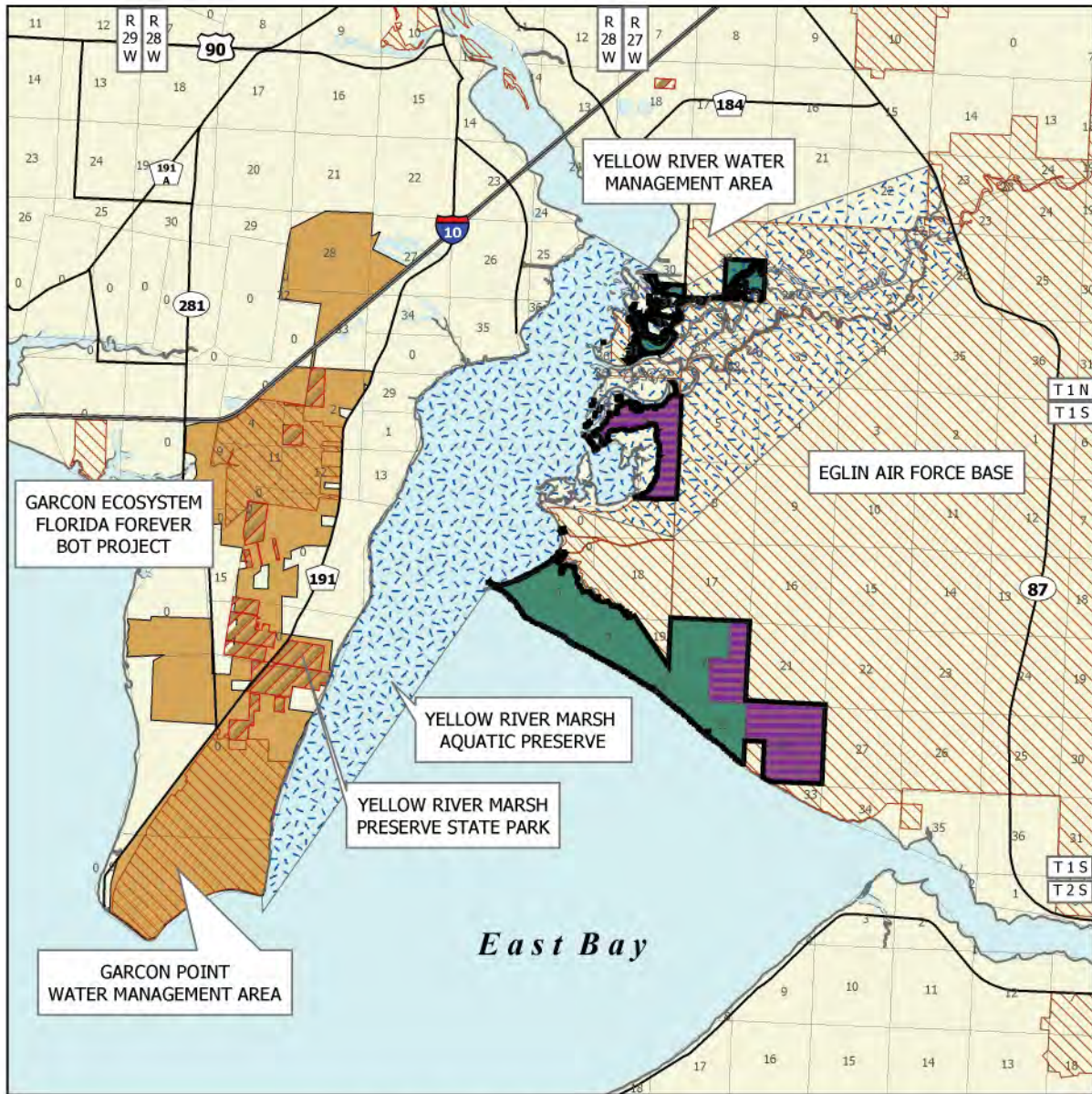
The project has potential to provide a varied recreation experience by offering opportunities such as saltwater swimming, bicycling, picnicking, camping, saltwater fishing, hiking, hunting, nature appreciation and natural resource education. Some of the several archaeological and historical sites known to exist on the project may have interpretation ability. The wetlands in this project limit the placement of facilities, dispersal of activities and the quantity of activities. As access is through Eglin Air Force Base, access itself may be a limiting factor.

**Acquisition Planning**

On February 25, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Escribano Point project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the NFWFMD, consisted of approximately 2,914 acres, 10 owners, and a 2001 taxable value of \$1,337,730. The entire proposal was identified as essential.

<b>Escribano Point</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>Panhandle Lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
Alligator Snapping Turtle	G3G4/S3
<i>Spoon-leaved Sundew</i>	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

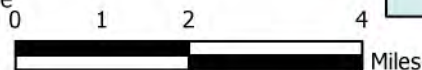
<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>2,914</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>1,166</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$1,590,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>1,748</b>
<b>Estimated 2001 (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$802,454</b>



## ESCRIBANO POINT

### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



DECEMBER 2005

## Escribano Point - Group A/Full Fee

### **Coordination**

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) is an acquisition partner. The US Air Force, through a Memorandum of Agreement, is also an acquisition partner to help buffer and prevent encroachment of Eglin Air Force Base..

### **Management Policy Statement**

Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for camping, environmental and cultural resource education, fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

The connection and proximity of this proposed project to other conservation lands, as well as its diversity of natural community types, provide important habitats for wildlife populations. Since the principal purposes of the proposal are to protect habitat for wildlife, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species, and to carefully control public uses.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for state designation***

Based on a review of the Florida Forever Act, this project meets the Goals and Measures, as outlined in Statute, for significant corridors, landscape linkages, for archeological and historic sites, and to increase nature-based recreation.

#### ***Manager***

The high wildlife resource value of this project indicates that the FWC is the suitable lead manager for the area. The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area.

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Much of the Escribano Point proposal include lands that are relatively undisturbed and representative of the natural ecology of the area. Such areas may require basic resource management practices, such as the use of prescribed fire, maintenance of natural hydrology, and control of access where appropriate. Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many taxa of rare or listed species. In addition, the Escribano Point project may need some specific management measures to promote survival of listed species and other species of wildlife. As with all wildlife manage-

ment areas, minimal infrastructure development will be required to provide for public access and use, site security, and management. Any such development will be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, exotic species control and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Long-range plans will emphasize restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions; restoration of native wildlife populations and wildlife diversity including protection and management of threatened and endangered species; and management for sustainable public use of game wildlife populations balanced with other wildlife oriented recreational activities. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all weather public access and management operations. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented to improve the habitat quality of native fire-dependent plant communities and wildlife habitats. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives, forest resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices.

#### ***Revenue-generating potential***

Revenue will be generated from sales of hunting and fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and possibly other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities.

#### ***Cooperators in management activities***

The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area. These agencies might include the Department of Defense (Eglin AFB), the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

#### ***Management costs and sources of revenue***

The proposal, when acquired by the State, will require one FTE position to manage the project area, although certain activities may be privatized which would reduce the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural resource management and public use administration

would come from the CARL Trust Fund. See attached table for anticipated costs. It is anticipated that revenue sources would include public use fees and timber harvests.

**FWC Prospectus: Projected Budget**

Maximum expected single-year expenditure:	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
<u>Resource Management</u>		
Exotic Species Control	\$14,329	\$28,658
Prescribed Burning	\$2,186	\$4,371
Hydrological Management	\$40,000	\$4,475
Other	\$34,435	\$34,435
Subtotal	\$90,950	\$71,939
<u>Administration</u>		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$52,845	\$17,593
Districts/Regions	\$22,648	\$7,540
Subtotal	\$75,494	\$25,133
<u>Support</u>		
Land Management Planning	\$25,000	\$1,000
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$110,850	\$15,836
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$13,230	\$13,230
Subtotal	\$149,080	\$31,566
<u>Capital Improvements</u>		
New Facility Construction	\$447,064	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$32,702
Subtotal	\$447,064	\$32,702
<u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u>		
Operations	\$1,668	\$141
Subtotal	\$1,668	\$141
<u>Law Enforcement</u>		
All Activities	\$2,508	\$2,508
TOTAL	\$766,763	\$163,988

Figures include salary for 3 FTEs.

# Estero Bay

Lee County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Estero Bay is one of the most productive estuaries in the state. Its mangroves shelter important nesting colonies of water birds, and feed and protect many aquatic animals. These animals, in turn, are the foundation of a commercial and sport fishery. Important archaeological remains of the Calusa Indians dot the area. The Estero Bay project will protect the bay's water quality, its native plants and animals, its archaeological sites, and will provide recreational opportunities to the people of the rapidly growing Fort Myers area.

**Manager**

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**General Description**

Much of the Estero Bay project area is composed of wetlands fronting Estero Bay (mangrove swamp, salt marsh, and salt flats). These communities provide nutrients to the bay, contributing substantially to its biological productivity. The bay area supports a diversity of wildlife, including the federally threatened bald eagle. The wetlands in a natural condition help maintain high water quality in the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. Several archaeological sites attributed to the Calusa Indians and their prehistoric ancestors are known

from the project area. The project is threatened by the rapid residential development in the area.

**Public Use**

This project is designated as a buffer preserve to the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and can provide opportunities for fishing, hiking, nature appreciation, and primitive camping.

**Acquisition Planning**

Phase I: Windsor/Steven's tract (acquired) and the Estero Bay ownership (acquired). Phase II: developable uplands from Section 19 north. Phase III: developable uplands from Section 30 south. Phase IV: wetlands and islands. Other essential tracts more specifically identified by LAMAC in 1994 include the Chapel Ridge area and other high quality scrub areas in sections 19, 30, 31 and 5.

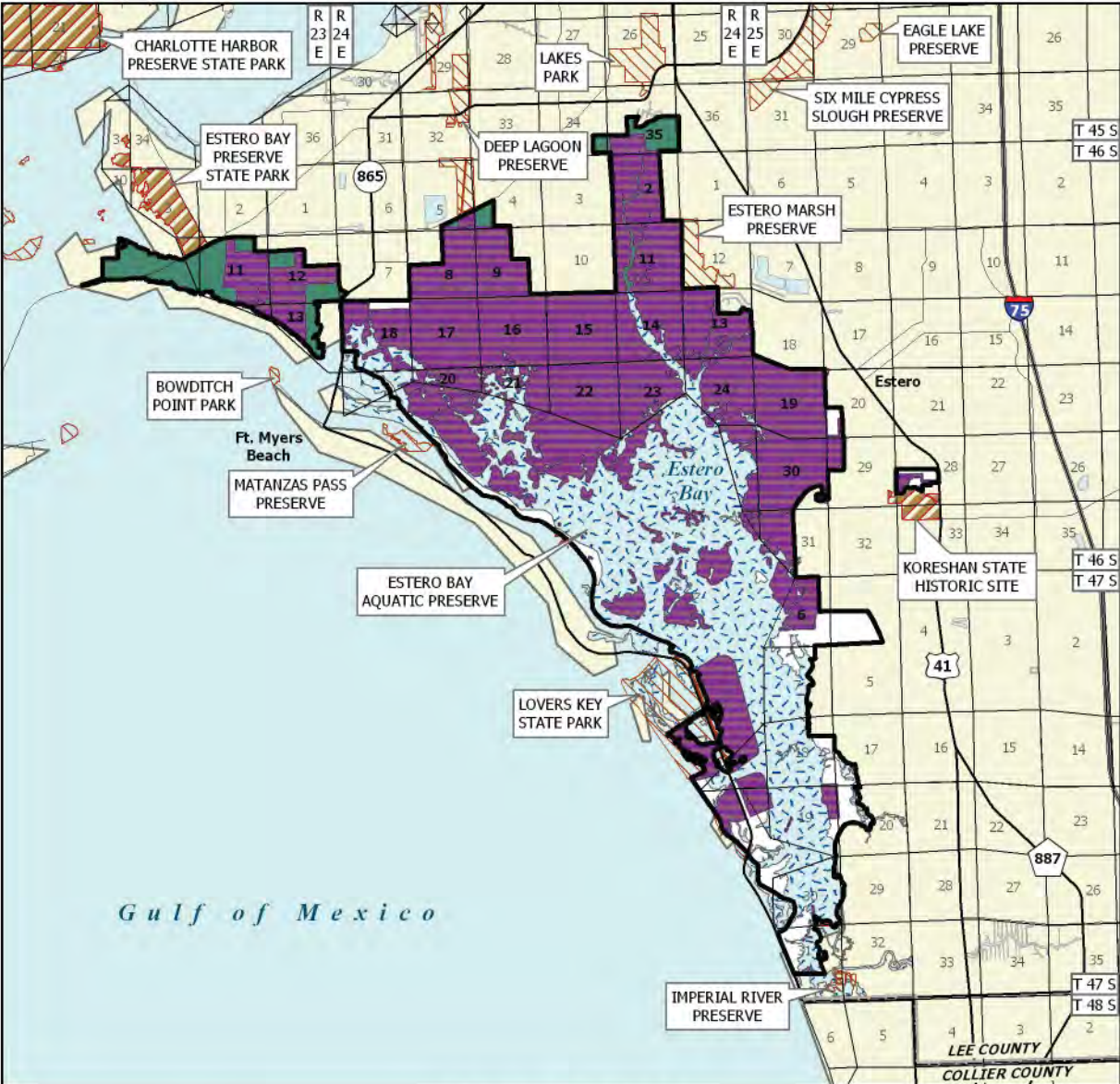
On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC revised the designation of the following parcels to essential: Boone, Haywood/Staffile Trust, Zemel, TNC, Rubin, Kagin, Bigelow, C. Bigelow, Cape Corp., ADP Chimney, Marsh and Chitwood, Francisco, Goldberg, and Helmerich.

On February 5, 1998, and March 20, 1998, the Council added 302 acres and 1,586 acres, respectively. The Council deleted 932 acres at the March meeting.

On October 17, 2000, The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 160 acres to the project. The additions were made to complete ownerships that were partially included.

<b>Estero Bay</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
Sanibel Lovegrass	G5T1/S1
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
Spiny Hackberry	G4/S1
Iguana Hackberry	G5/S1
Red Stopper	G5/S1
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Reddish Egret	G4/S2
24 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1985</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>14,358</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>8,364</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$54,370,290</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>5,994</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$7,534,458</b>



**ESTERO BAY**

**LEE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



DECEMBER 2007



## Estero Bay - Group A/Full Fee

On December 6, 2001, this project was moved from the Florida Forever "B" list to the "A" list.

On February 6, 2004, the Council added a 98-acre parcel on the Estero River to the boundaries of the project.

At the August 20, 2004 meeting, the Council deleted 1,312 acres north and south of the community of Estero from project.

The majority of the large tracts have been acquired. A number of smaller tracts remain to be acquired.

### Coordination

Approximately 316 acres were acquired through donation from The Nature Conservancy in 1986.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Estero Bay project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Estero Bay project borders the state-owned submerged lands of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and includes swamps, marshes, and other natural communities that contribute

to the productivity of the bay. These resources qualify it as a state buffer preserve.

**Manager** Lands acquired through this project will be included in the Estero Bay Buffer Preserve and managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Division of Historical Resources will participate in the management and protection of archeological and historical resources.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project is surrounded by one of the most rapidly developing areas in the state. Development is also occurring within the project boundary. This urbanization requires immediate implementation of a patrol schedule and law enforcement presence. The control of exotic plants and animals and reduction of illegal activities, such as off-road vehicle use and poaching, will require "medium-need" initial management followed by "low-need" routine maintenance.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Long-range goals will be established by the management plan for this property and will provide for ecological restoration and habitat maintenance. Prescribed and natural fires will be used to maintain natural communities with particular emphasis on the requirements of listed species. The resource inventory will help identify site-specific management needs and appropriate uses for the property. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be the minimum required to allow appropriate uses identified in the management plan.

**Revenue-generating potential** Initially, the revenue-generating potential of the project will be limited, with indirect financial benefits accruing to the state from increased public awareness and enhanced water quality, fisheries, and public recreation. In the future, user fees may directly generate revenue.

**Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway** **Group A: Full Fee**  
**Clay, Putnam, Marion, Levy and Citrus Counties** **Group A: Less-Than-Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Though partially logged and planted in pine, the large expanse of flatwoods, sandhills, and scrub in central Putnam County, extending to the Cross-Florida Greenway along the Ocklawaha River, is important for the survival of many kinds of wildlife and plants. The Greenway itself is a unique strip of land for recreation and conservation that makes a cross-section of the peninsula from the Withlacoochee River to the St. Johns. The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will conserve the Putnam County land as well as fill in gaps in the Greenway; ensure that wildlife such as Florida black bear and scrub jays and plants such as the Etoniah rosemary will have areas in which to live; and provide recreation for the public ranging from long-distance hiking trails to fishing, camping, and hunting. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

**Manager**

Division of Forestry (DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Etoniah Creek tract) and Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT), Florida Department Environmental Protection (remaining tracts). DOF will monitor compliance with the terms of any less-than-fee purchase agreement.

**General Description**

The project consists of a large tract extending north from the Cross Florida Greenway to Clay County, and four smaller tracts designed to fill in gaps in state ownership along the Cross Florida Greenway. The original Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project is important for the survival of black bear in northeast Florida, includes many acres of pine plantation and cut-over flatwoods, but also high-quality sandhill, a unique white-cedar swamp along Deep Creek, and patches of sand pine scrub near Etoniah Creek that harbor at least a dozen rare species including fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, indigo and pine snakes, rare crayfish, and seven rare plants including the only known site for federally listed Etoniah rosemary. The smaller tracts include high-quality floodplain swamps along the Ocklawaha River; mixed forest land near U.S. 441 south of Ocala; and Inglis Island, disturbed pinelands between the old Cross Florida Barge Canal and the Withlacoochee River. Eight archaeological sites are known from the project. The greatest threat to the project area is intensive logging, but the uplands on the large tract are suitable for residential development. The smaller sites would lose their value as connectors if developed for residences.

**Public Use**

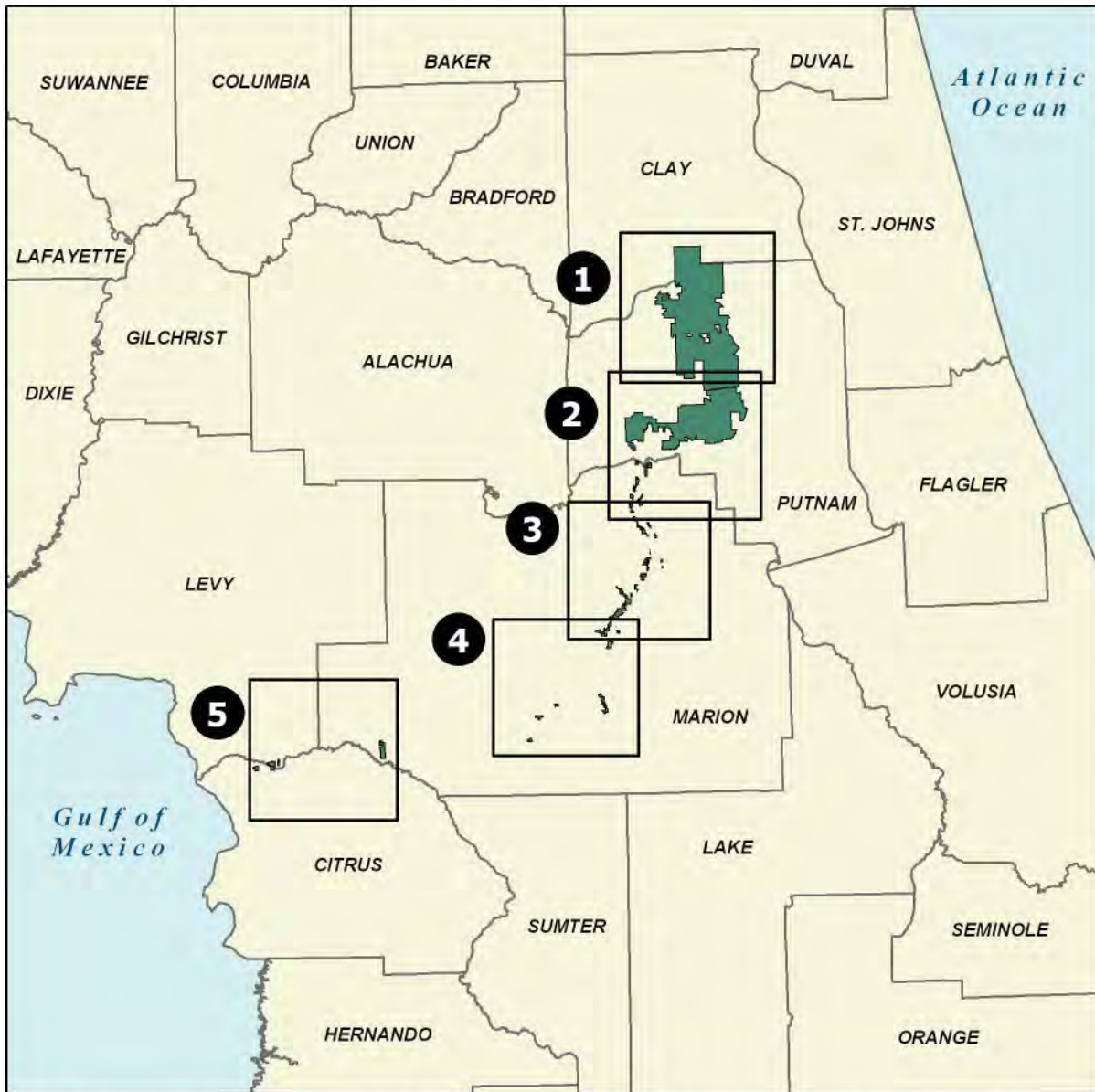
The Cross Florida Greenway connectors will form part of a conservation and recreation area; the majority of

<b>Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Etonia Rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Pinkroot</i>	G2Q/S2
<i>Florida Willow</i>	G2/S2
<i>Variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Pinewood Dainties</i>	G4T2/S2
Black Creek Crayfish	G2/S2
31 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995*</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>89,907</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>22,143**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$20,256,131**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>67,764</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$174,247,293</b>

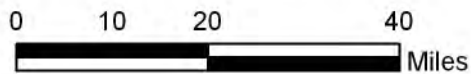
\* Etoniah Creek, Cross Florida Greenways and Cross Florida Greenways Phase II were combined in 1995 to create Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway. A Less-Than-Fee parcel of approximately 18,406 acres was added to the project in 1997.

\*\* Includes a donation of 43 acres and acreage acquired and funds spent by the SJRWMD on Plum Crk/Rick Co.



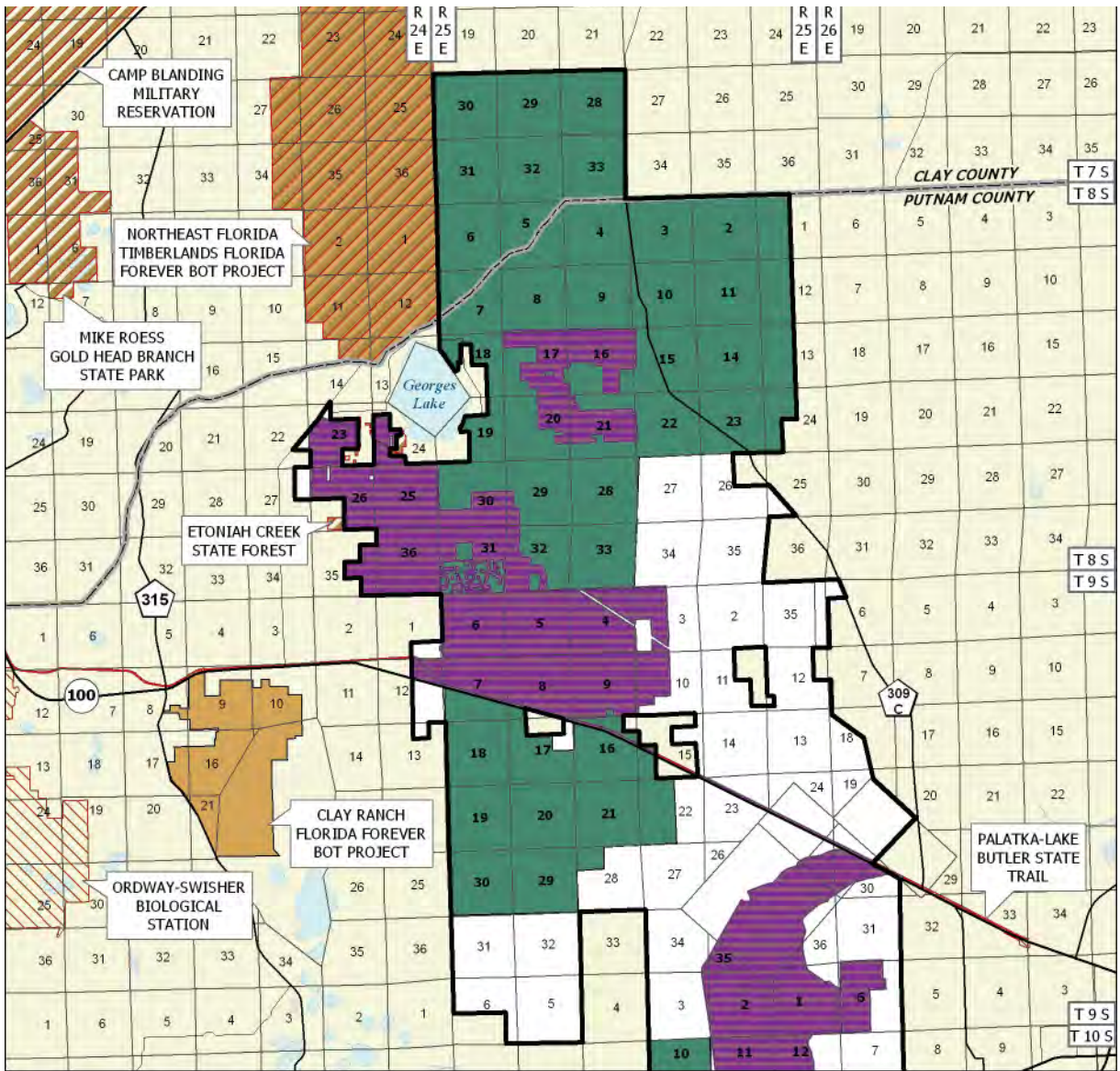
## ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

**CLAY, PUTNAM, MARION, LEVY, AND CITRUS COUNTIES**



APRIL 2007

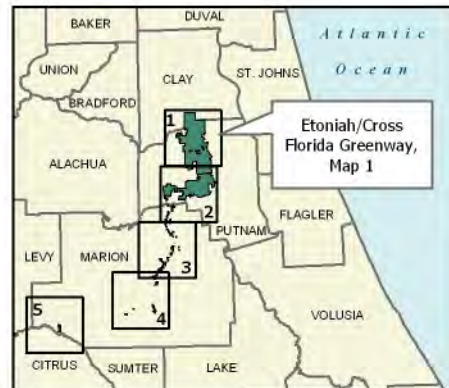
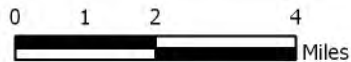
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway - Group A/Full Fee Group A/Less-Than-Fee



**ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 1 OF 5**

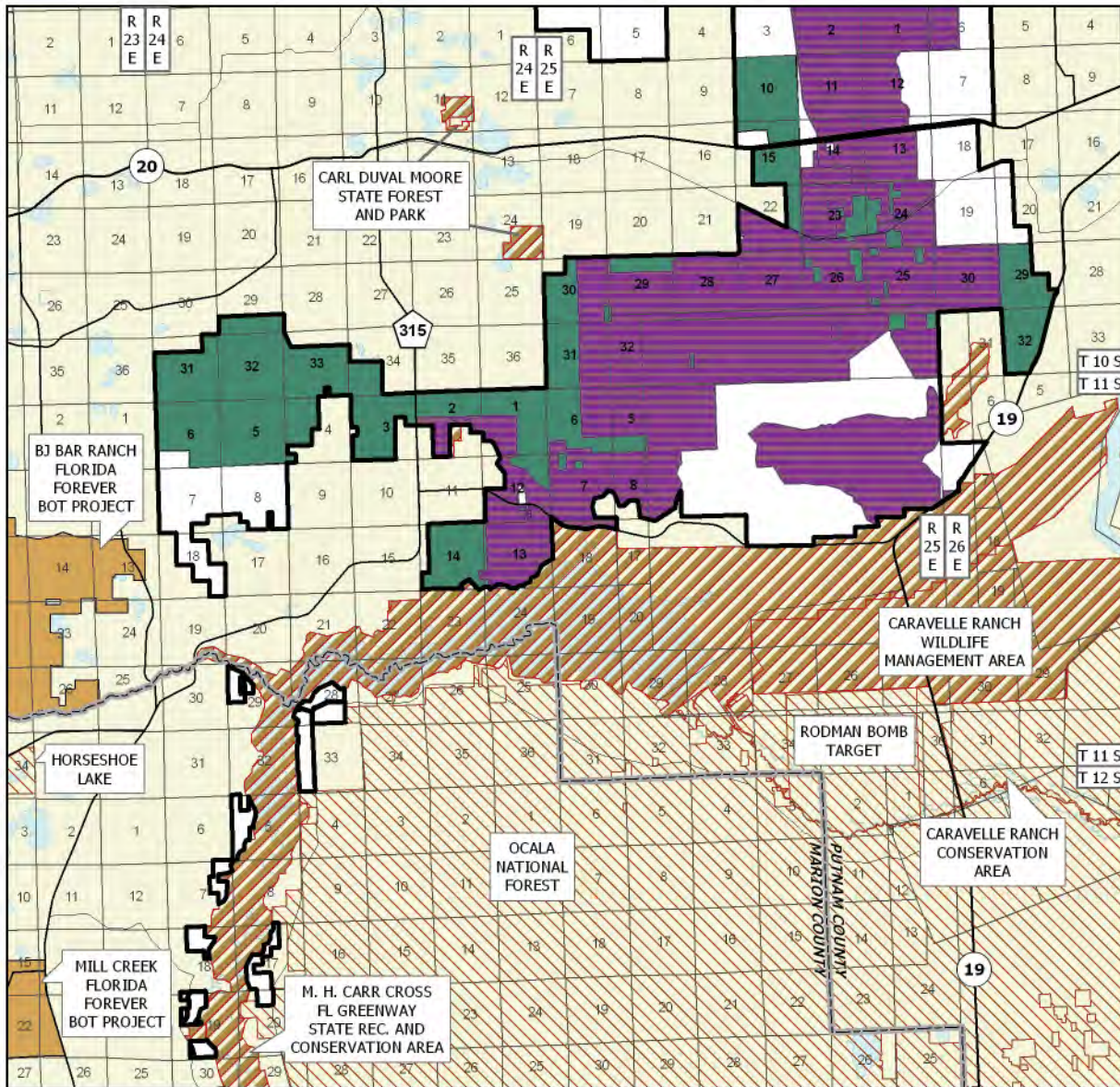
**CLAY AND PUTNAM COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

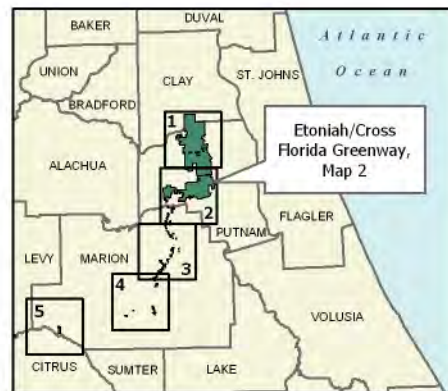
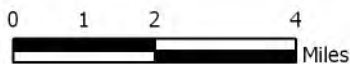
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway - Group A/Full Fee Group A/Less-Than-Fee



**ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 2 OF 5**

**PUTNAM AND MARION COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2009

## Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway - Group A/Full Fee Group A/Less-Than-Fee

the large (Etoniah) tract will become a state forest. The various parts of the project will offer opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

#### Etoniah Creek

Phase I tracts (essential) include Stokes and Agricola, formerly Deltona (acquired), Union Camp, Manning (acquired) and Interlachen Lake Estates Subdivision. Life-of-the-South (Odom) is also an essential tract. Phase II includes other large ownerships, such as Roberts, as well as other smaller tracts and subdivisions.

#### Cross Florida Greenway

Phase I (essential) includes the westernmost segment (Deep Creek Corridor) consisting of a portion of the Miller family ownerships and approximately 14 other owners.

#### Cross Florida Greenway Phase II

The priority tract (essential) within this portion of the project is the Inglis Island site (acquired by the Office of Greenways and Trails).

On July 20, 1994 the Council added 210 acres to the boundaries of the predecessor projects.

On December 7, 1995, the Council approved the addition of 2,664 acres to the project boundary. The addition included lakeshore and lake bottom associated with Rodman Reservoir. A second modification was made to allow the St. Johns River Water Management District to acquire, on the State's behalf, a large ownership (Odom) not identified in the original Phase I area. Acquisition of the canal easement areas is also a priority.

On March 15, 1996 the Council approved adding 141 acres to the project boundaries.

On December 5, 1996, the Council transferred the Georgia-Pacific ownership (18,146 acres) to the Less-Than-Fee category.

On October 15, 1998, the Council designated as essential an additional 9,870 acres - Georgia-Pacific and seven smaller tracts in a corridor between two already acquired tracts, and portions of the Roberts ownership.

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 2,110 acres (Florida Power ownership along the Cross Florida Greenway State

Recreation and Conservation areas) to the project.

On January 25, 2001, ARC added 1,543 acres to the project (boundary in the Deep Creek area).

On May 17, 2001, ARC added 1,110 acres to the boundaries of the project.

On February 25, 2003 the project was added to the Group A list of Florida Forever projects.

On April 13, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 85-acre addition, known as Foxtrotter Ranch, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), consisted of one landowner, Richard Simon, one parcel, and a taxable value of \$2,267,908. OGT will manage the site. The house (approximately 2.5 acres) is not included in the addition, however, it may be donated to the state subsequent to acquisition.

In June, 2008, some 1.19 acres of the Harrington ownership were purchased for \$15,000 with the Division of Forestry (DOF) Florida Forever funds. Forestry will manage this section.

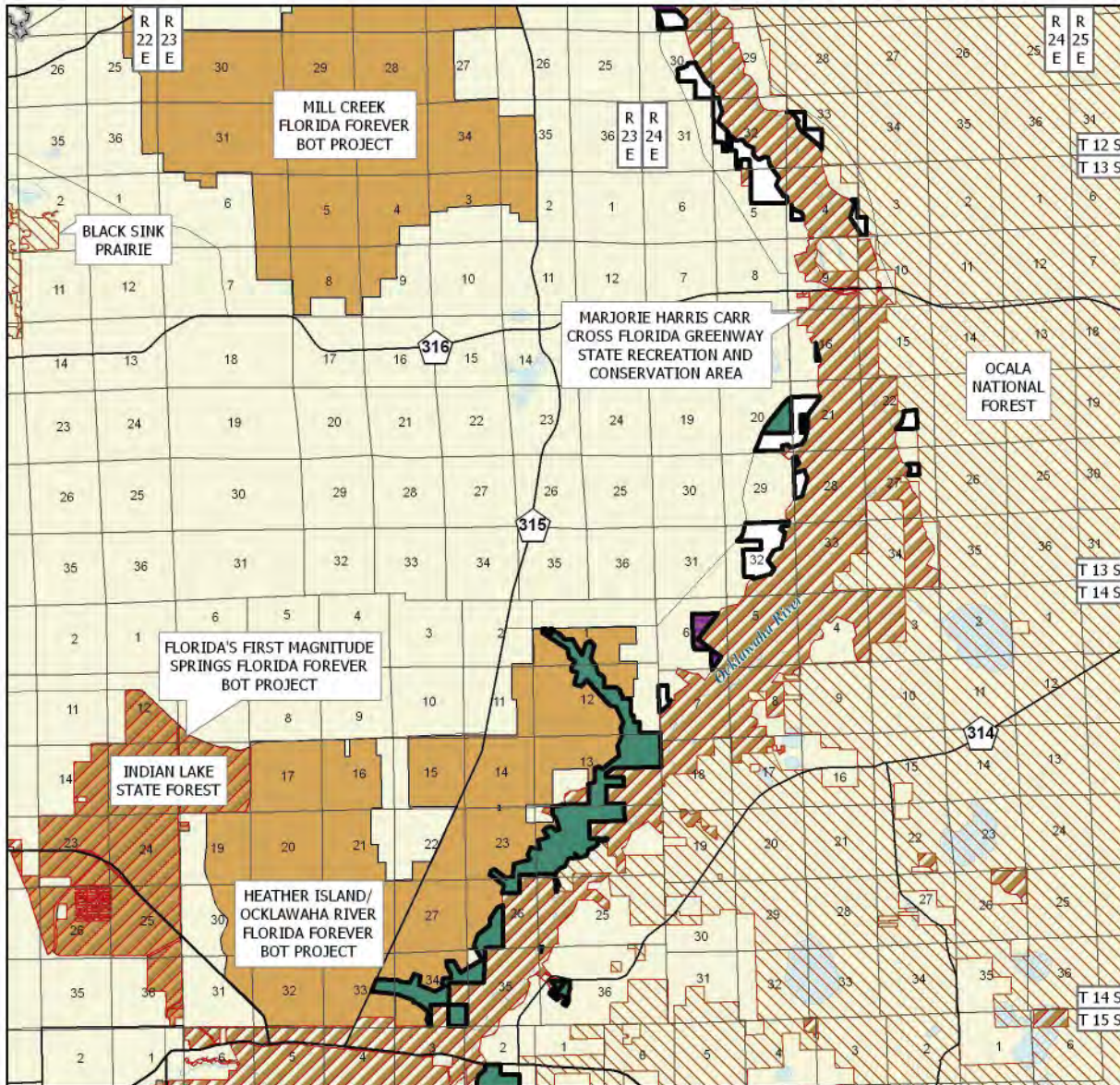
In September, 2008, the DOF used Florida Forever funds to buy the following acreages: 1.08 acres (Fred Yankee, LLC) for \$13,500; 0.87 acres (Godard) for \$23,000; 1.01 acres (Land Reclamation, Inc.) for \$15,000; 2.52 acres (Cann) for \$23,000; 1.21 acres (Martin) for \$14,000; 1.27 acres (Vehoski) for \$14,000; and 1 acre (Murray) for \$15,000. The DOF will manage all of these parcels.

In October, 2008, the DOF used Florida Forever funds to buy 1.25 acres (Uttech) for \$11,500; 2.5 acres (Lachmansingh) for \$25,000; 3.61 acres (Chapman) for \$37,500; and 2.53 acres (Thornton) for \$23,000. The DOF will manage these parcels.

In November, 2008, the DOF used Florida Forever funds to buy 1.27 acres (Dubay) for \$14,000; 1.24 acres (Hood) for \$15,500; 1.25 acres (Contreras) for \$14,000; and 1.24 acres (South) for \$14,000. The DOF will manage these parcels.

January 21, 2009 SJRWMD purchased 208 acres for \$474,363 (Plum Creek/Rick Co.).

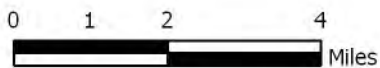
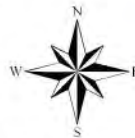
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway - Group A/Full Fee Group A/Less-Than-Fee



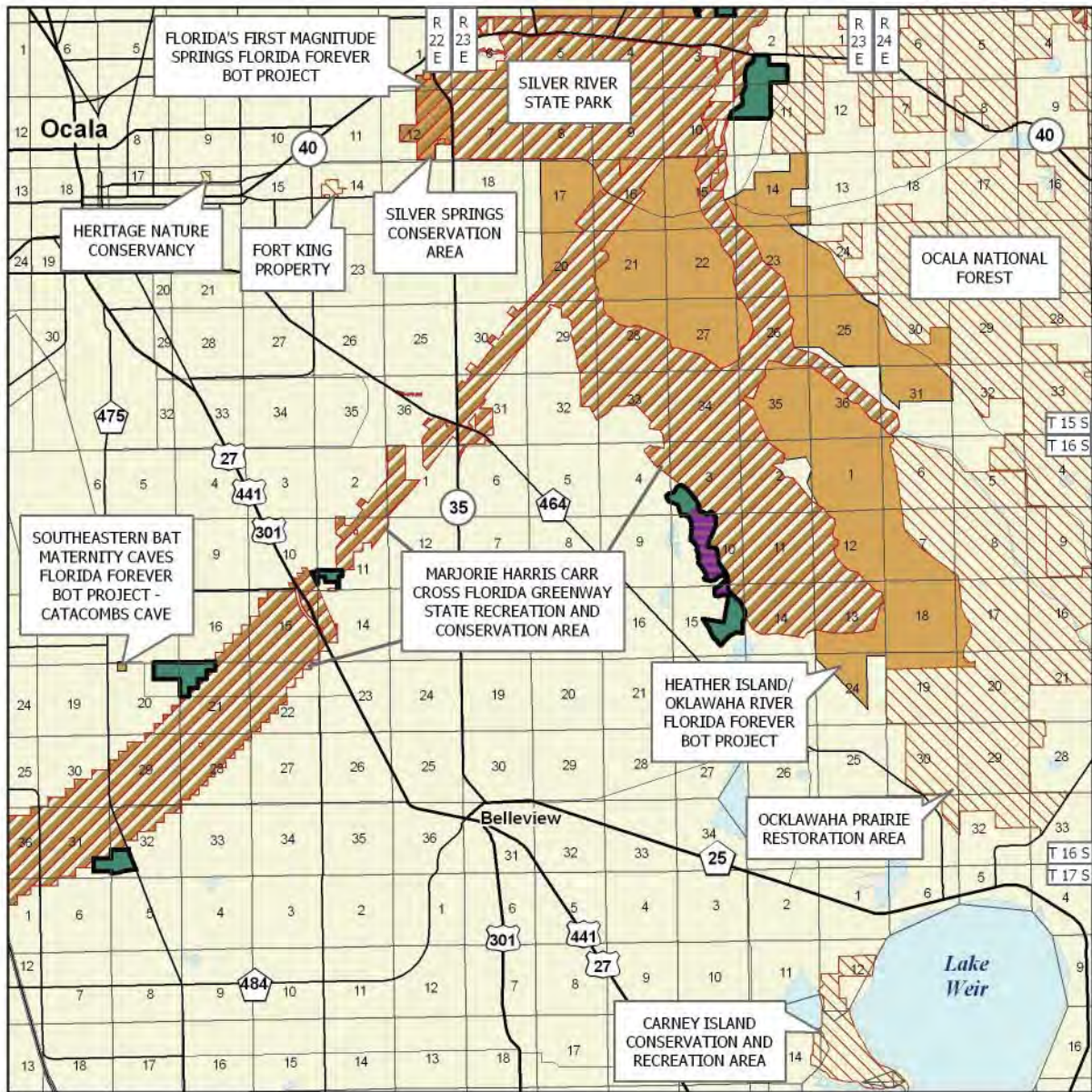
**ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 3 OF 5**

**MARION COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



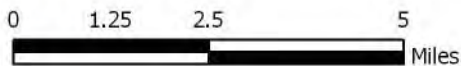
MARCH 2009



**ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 4 OF 5**

**MARION COUNTY**

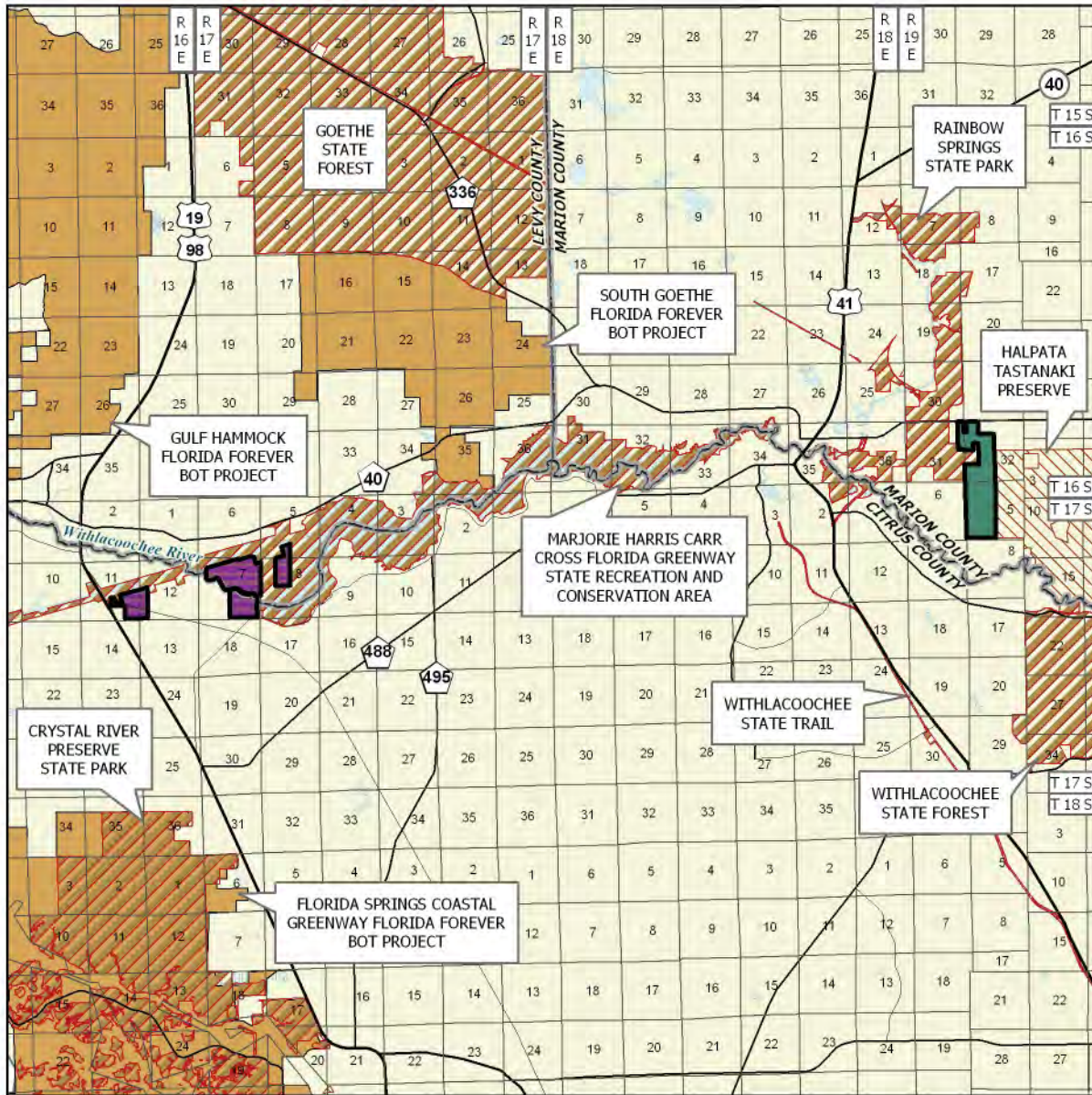
-  Florida Forever BOT Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2007



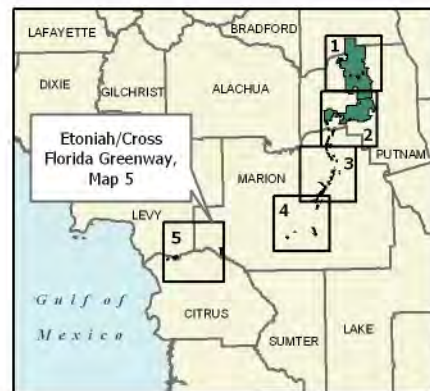
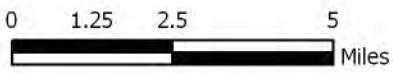
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway - Group A/Full Fee Group A/Less-Than-Fee



**ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 5 OF 5**

**MARION, LEVY, AND CITRUS COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2007

expertise on several other tracts. The Office of Greenways and Trails used additions and inholding funds to acquire Inglis Island. The Division of State Lands will assume the lead on acquisition of the remaining tracts.

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The large size, restorable pine plantations, and diversity of the Etoniah Creek portion of this project make it highly desirable for management as a state forest. The Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area includes scenic and historic rivers, lakes, wetlands, and uplands. It is also near, or contiguous with, many other state-owned lands. The Cross Florida Greenway portion of this project, together with the lands already in the Greenway, has the configuration, location, and resources to qualify as a state recreation area.

**Manager** The DOF proposes to manage the 57,000-acre Etoniah Creek portion of the project and the OGT will manage the remaining lands in the vicinity of the old Cross Florida Barge Canal.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** There are no known major disturbances in the Etoniah Creek portion that will require extraordinary attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. Lands in the Cross Florida Greenway portion are generally moderate-need tracts.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the core area of the Etoniah Creek portion is acquired, the DOF will provide access to the public for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the tract, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The Division will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The tract’s natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for the Etoniah Creek portion will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education. For the Greenway portion, activities within the first year after acquisition will primarily consist of site security, resource inventory, removal of trash, and resource-management planning. Long-range activities proposed include a multipurpose trail and facilities for public access.

**Revenue-generating potential** In the Etoniah Creek portion, the DOF sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be moderate. In the Greenway portion, no revenues are expected to be generated within the first three years after acquisition. However, as the Greenway is developed during its 20-year facility development plan, revenues will be derived from user fees, the sale of products from the lands (limerock berm and timber), and the sale of surplus lands.

**Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway - Group A/Full Fee Group A/Less-Than-Fee**

*Cooperators in management activities* The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. Currently, properties along the

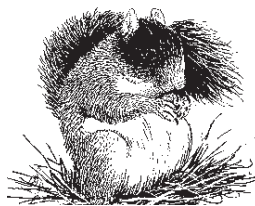
Greenway are managed in partnership with Marion County, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and private individuals for recreational purposes.

**Full Fee:  
Management Cost Summary/OGT**

Category Source of Funds	Startup LATF	Recurring LATF
Salary	\$36,380	\$36,380
OPS	\$72,660	\$72,660
Expense	\$62,301	\$46,362
OCO	\$3,167	\$0
FCO	\$100,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$274,508</b>	<b>\$185,402</b>

**Management Cost Summary/DOF**

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 CARL	1997/98 CARL	1998/99 CARL
Salary	\$45,337	\$56,489	\$58,183.67
OPS	\$0	\$3,000	\$7,650.00
Expense	\$11,225	\$22,825	\$58,203.75
OCO	\$43,320	\$50,500	\$128,775.00
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,882</b>	<b>\$132,814</b>	<b>\$252,812.42</b>



# Fisheating Creek Ecosystem

Glades and Highlands County

**Group A  
Less-Than-Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Fisheating Creek, the only undammed tributary to Lake Okeechobee, flows through vast prairies and flatwoods primarily owned by Lykes Brothers, Inc. The Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project will acquire both less-than-fee and fee-simple property to help preserve this natural land, which links the Okaloacoochee Slough, Big Cypress Swamp, Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, and Lake Okeechobee. This project will also help to ensure the survival of the Florida panther, swallow-tailed kite, other plants and animals that require such natural lands, and may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will monitor conservation easements and manage the fee-simple acquisitions unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

Natural communities in the project area include dry prairies and flatwoods interrupted by numerous freshwater marshes of various kinds, including seepage slopes, wet prairies, and depression marshes. Diverse prairie hammocks occur east of U.S. 27. Hydric hammocks, bottomland forests, and floodplain swamp along Fisheating Creek make up most of the remainder of the natural communities. Large areas of the project

are improved pasture, former eucalyptus plantations, or current pine plantations. Invasive exotic plants are largely confined to the Hoover Dike system around Lake Okeechobee.

As one of the largest fairly natural areas in the Florida peninsula, with a strategic position between several other natural areas, the project is important for the protection of rare plants and animals. The area includes large populations of three plants endemic to central Florida: Edison's ascyrum (*Hypericum edisonianum*), cutthroat grass (*Panicum abscissum*), and nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*). The proposal is extremely important as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for the Florida panther and the American swallow-tailed kite, as well for such animals as Audubon's crested caracara, snail kite, Florida grasshopper sparrow, Florida sandhill crane, mottled duck, red-cockaded woodpecker, and short-tailed hawk. At least six bald eagle nests are known to be in this project.

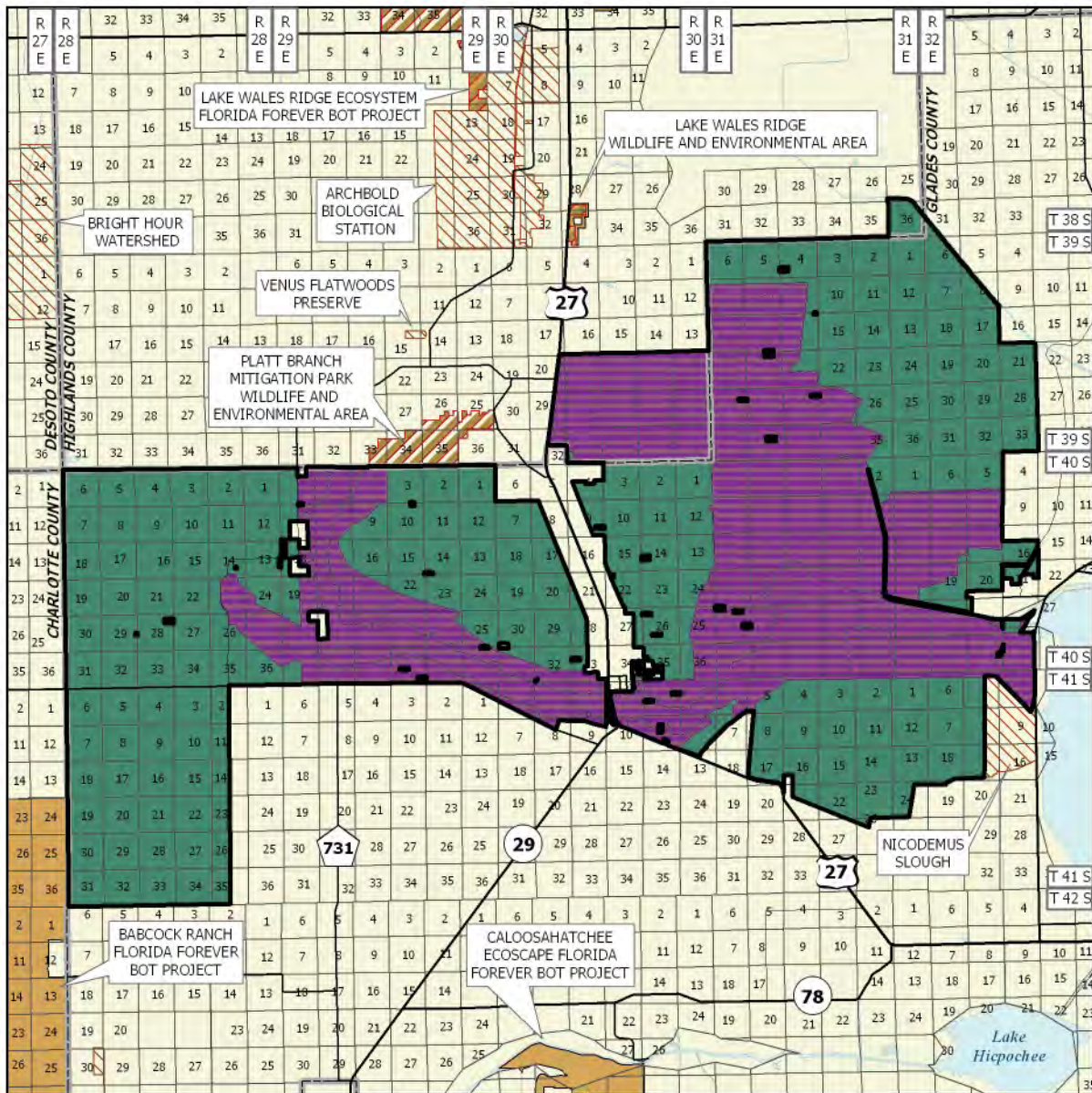
The water quality of Fisheating Creek and Gator Slough is good, but agricultural runoff has impaired the water quality of canals in the project.

The project area includes at least 31 archaeological sites, many associated with the important Fort Center Site Complex of the Belle Glades culture (500 B.C. to A.D. 1700). More recent sites are also known, and there could be many more in the project. The Fort Center Complex offers an opportunity for an interpretive center.

Fisheating Creek Ecosystem FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Highlands Scrub Hypericum</i>	G2/S2
Sand Skink	G2/S2
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Florida Jointweed</i>	G3/S3
27 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>176,876</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>59,910</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$55,628,563</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>116,966</b>
<b>2003 Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$15,326,651</b>

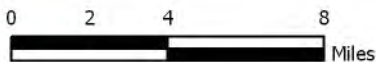
# Fisheating Creek Ecosystem - Group A/Less-Than-Fee



## FISHEATING CREEK ECOSYSTEM

### GLADES AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MARCH 2006

## Fisheating Creek Ecosystem - Group A/Less-Than-Fee

### Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation. Public use in easement areas will depend on agreements with the landowner, but the project could support such activities as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and canoeing.

### Acquisition Planning

On May 6, 1999, the LAMAC added the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project, in Glades and Highlands counties, to the CARL Priority list. This less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 168,360 acres, a single owner, Lykes Bros. Inc., and a 1999 taxable value of \$22,297,408.

On May 25, 1999, the BOT approved a settlement agreement with Lykes Bros. Inc., which provided for settlement of the case Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund v. Lykes Bros. Inc. The settlement agreement was contingent upon, among other things, a multiple-phase, and combined less-than-fee acquisition.

On December 19, 2000, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a less-than-fee addition, in Glades County, to the project boundary. This addition, also known as the Venus Ranch, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 8,400 acres, a single owner, and a 1999 taxable value of \$667,863. The Fisheating Creek project was also moved to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list. This easement was acquired by the BOT in 2003.

On August 15, 2002, ARC approved an addition, seized by law enforcement in Glades County, to the project boundary. The .46-acre Lucky Whidden parcel was sponsored by the Division of State Lands (DSL) and FWC, and had a 2001 taxable value of \$4000.

On April 16, 2004, ARC approved a fee-simple addition to the project boundary in Glades County. The addition, sponsored by the two owners and known as Journigan Place, consisted of 115.4 acres and a 2003 taxable value of \$207,692.

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time. There may be some potential for joint acquisition with the South Florida Water Management District.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objectives of the acquisition of the Fisheating Creek project are to conserve and protect natural communities along the shores of Fisheating Creek, and thereby assist in maintaining and possibly improving the status of several rare plant and animal communities. Achieving this objective will help to secure the survival of the Florida panther in this state, as well as protect many other rare and endangered animals and a number of migratory bird species and provide for traditional public uses and recreational activities within sovereignty submerged lands and fee lands as specified in the Settlement Agreement.

### Management Prospectus

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement the BOT will lease the sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands to the FWC, which was designated as the managing agency for sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands and as the Easement Monitor over the conservation easement at this site. The sovereignty submerged lands and the fee lands will be managed as the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. The Settlement Agreement outlining specific management guidelines is on file with the Office of Environmental Services.

# Flagler County Blueway

## Flagler and Volusia Counties

# Group A

## Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – will help close gaps and gain public ownership of some remaining hammock, marshes, flatwoods and swamps; (2) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas – several parcels have future potential for serving as urban open space which will increase the amount of open space available in urban areas; and (3) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities - recreational opportunities may also increase if the land is managed carefully.

### Manager

The Division of Forestry (DOF) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will be cooperating managers for this project, while Flagler County will manage the Emerald Coast parcel.

### General Description

The Flagler County Blueway project has changed significantly during the evaluation phase, growing from its original 122 acres to approximately 5,015 acres clustered from south of Pellicer Creek on the north to the Flagler County line on the south. The project essentially follows the Intracoastal Waterway and includes most undeveloped and available land east of I-95 in Flagler County.

### Public Use

There are usable uplands within the project that will accommodate resource-based recreation activities, but the degree of ownership acquired will determine the degree of public access and use that can be assured.

Portions of the project include tidal marshes with numerous small creeks and hammock islands. Other

<b>Flagler County Blueway</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
1 rare species is associated with the project	

areas have creeks associated with them. Boating, canoeing and kayaking can be accommodated on many of these creeks and there are opportunities to create a water borne trail system that might accommodate limited facilities, especially for canoes and kayaks.

Where road access or connectivity with existing public lands exists, there are opportunities for upland activities such as short nature hikes, primitive camping, picnicking and shoreline fishing. RV camping may not be well suited for this project, due to the general wet nature of the lands and the disbursement of uplands within the project. Still, it is possible that a site might be located, should a demand for that activity become apparent and compatible with the purpose of acquisition. Off-road bicycling might be accommodated on the more upland sites that have access.

### Location and Proximity to Other Managed Areas

The Flagler County Blueway proposal has tracts of land adjacent to or very near the following managed areas (in alphabetical order): Bulow Creek State Park, Faver-Dykes State Park, Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area, Graham Swamp Conservation Area, Guana Tolomato Matanzas, North Peninsula State Park, Pellicer Creek Corridor Conservation Area, Princess Place Preserve, Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve, Washington Oaks Gardens State Park.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Flagler County Blueway project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>4,429</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>790,000*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>4,370</b>

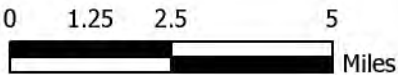
**With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: \$17,791,331**

\* Flagler County paid \$395,000



### FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

**FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES**



OCTOBER 2006



## Flagler County Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

priority list. While fee-simple acquisition is the preferred method for this project, there may well be parcels that are not available in fee-simple but lend themselves to conservation easements or other less-than-fee approaches. Sponsored by Flagler County, this project consisted of approximately 5,015 acres, multiple owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$20,502,164

On June 3, 2004, ARC moved this project to Group A of the FF 2004 Priority list.

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a project redesign that removed 606 acres, reducing the total project size to 4,409 acres. All parcels removed were due to development that had occurred or isolation of the parcels since the original boundary was identified. In addition, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 20-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Flagler County, consisted of one parcel & landowner, Kitteridge Investments, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$6,800. The addition is considered important, but not critical to the project as a whole, and, if acquired, will be managed by Flagler County as part of Princess Place Preserve.

In October of 2008, 59.19 acres of the Emerald Coast Development Partners, LLC ownership, were purchased for \$790,000 (\$395,000 from DSL Florida Forever funds, \$395,000 from Flagler County). Flagler County will manage this site.

### Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District has expressed interest in perhaps being a partner on parcels where boundaries coincide with District acquisition plans, as has Flagler County.

### Unified Management Prospectus

#### Introduction

The Flagler County Blueway Florida Forever project is 5,015 acres in eastern Flagler County. The project area consists of multiple parcels in the Matanzas River ecosystem watershed, which includes the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The tracts of private lands that constitute this project vary greatly in size, ranging from 10 to 1,056 acres, and vary in type and quality of habitats. Some tracts in this project adjoin and provide connectivity among federal, state and local conservation lands. These tracts, if acquired, would be part of the Flagler County Blueway Project, which extends from

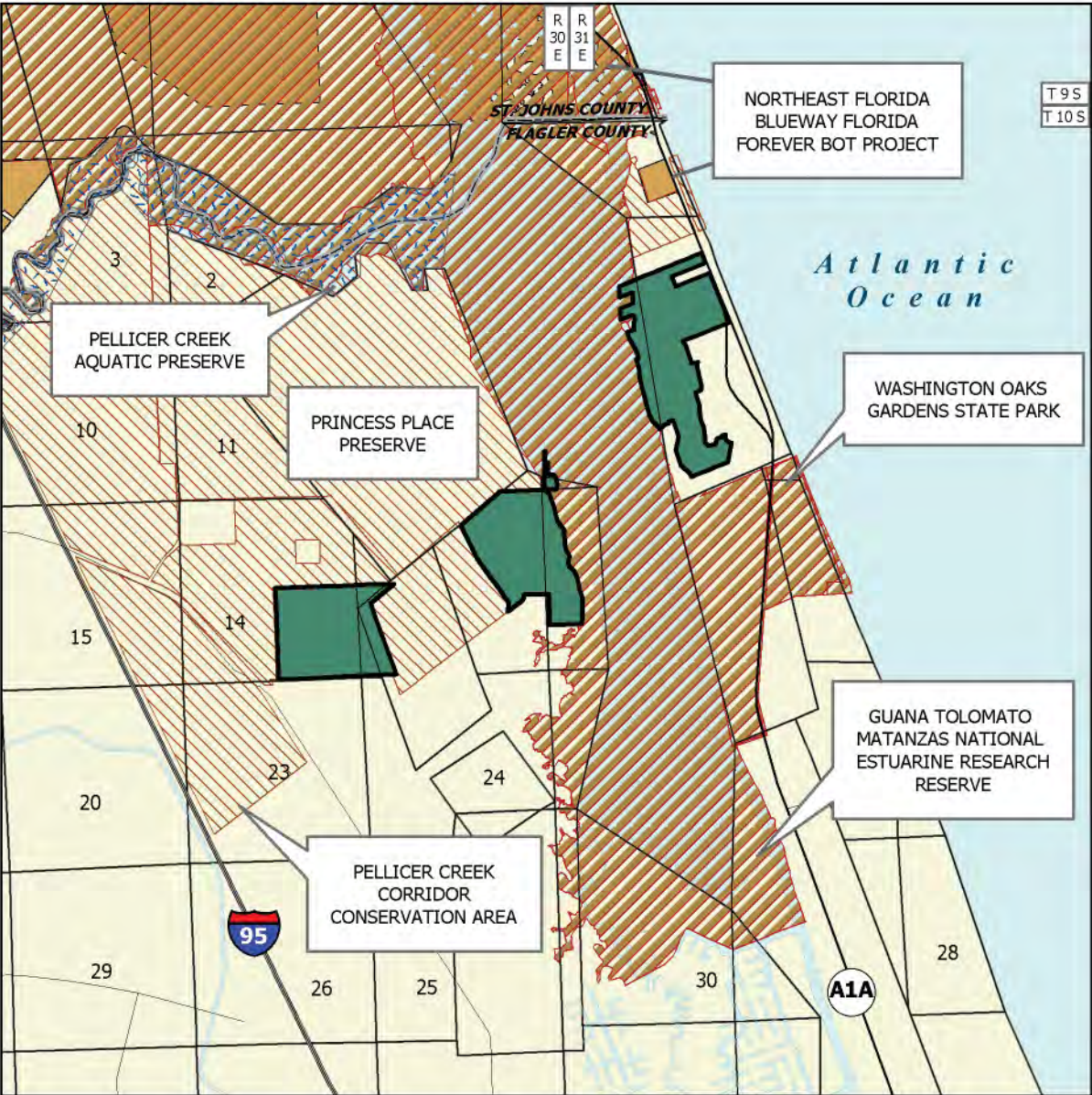
the headwaters of Pellicer Creek and the Princess Place Preserve in the north, past the Graham Swamp Conservation Area (CA), to Bulow Creek State Park (SP), just south of the Flagler County line.

Project lands are situated primarily west of the ICW, with a smaller acreage on the eastern shore of the ICW. The project extends for a north-south distance of approximately 17 miles. The northernmost tract in the project is located approximately 56 miles south of Jacksonville, and 17 miles south of St. Augustine. The southernmost tract is located approximately 14 miles north of Daytona Beach, and 28 miles northeast of Deland. Other nearby conservation lands in addition to those mentioned above include the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic SP, the Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve (AP), the Tomoka Marsh AP, Tomoka SP and Washington Oaks Gardens SP.

Overall, the Flagler County Blueway proposal comprises a landscape of three distinguishable groups of conservation lands. They are as follows: (1) northern perimeter conservation lands include the northernmost extent of the project adjacent to Washington Oaks Gardens SP, Pellicer Creek CA, and Princess Place Preserve; (2) southern perimeter conservation lands are at the southern end of the proposal boundary, including Bulow Creek SP, Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area and North Peninsula SP; and (3) the central, connecting part of the proposed blueway project that is proximal to northern and southern borders of the Graham Swamp CA. This project is significant as an ecological greenway, with 94 percent (7,791 acres) of the project area qualifying as a Priority 7 in potential importance, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation.

Approximately 48 percent of the project is uplands. Scrub comprises 132 acres of the project area, with mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods comprising a total of 883 acres. Coastal uplands include 1,063 acres of coastal strand and maritime hammock. These uplands are important flyway resting and feeding areas for migratory birds, and occur primarily on islands, and along the edge of the estuarine tidal marsh. Pine plantation, agricultural use (mostly pasture), and otherwise disturbed and developed lands constitute 1,901 acres of the project. Freshwater wetlands are mostly forested, including basin swamp, baygall, hydric

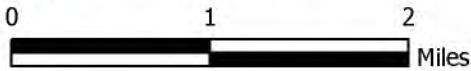
Flagler County Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



**FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 3**

**FLAGLER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



OCTOBER 2006

## Flagler County Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

hammock, and perhaps a small area of dome swamp, for a total of 2,815 acres. Some hydric hammocks are of particularly good quality. One of the basin swamps is a southern extension of the Graham Swamp CA, and is the largest natural area in the project. About 51 acres are depression marsh. Functional wetlands comprise 45 percent (3,692 acres) of the project area, and help conserve areas for aquifer recharge (8 percent, or 672 acres of project area), and provide protection for fragile coastal resources (28 percent, or 2,300 acres of project area). The FNAI Florida Forever Measures Evaluation also indicates that 84 percent (6,963 acres) of the project would serve surface water protection. There are 1,222 acres of estuarine tidal marsh, mostly along the ICW, Matanzas River and Smith Creek. There are 218 acres classified as open water. The FNAI Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 25 percent (2,075 acres) of the project area is under-represented natural communities.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus macgillivrayii*). The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been reported to nest near the project area. The West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) occurs nearby in the ICW. Other imperiled or rare animals which potentially occur in the project area include the Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), hairy woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), and the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). In addition, many other vertebrate species are expected to use the project area as habitat. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), approximately 42 percent (3,486 acres) of the project area is within Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCAs). Another 31 percent (2,583 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI.

The Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the FWC are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired.

### MANAGEMENT GOALS



The DOF and FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Flagler County Blueway under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. The project has the capability to provide needed protection for fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices. More importantly, the project could serve an important biogeographical function by providing physical linkages and connections to several other publicly owned lands in the Flagler County area.

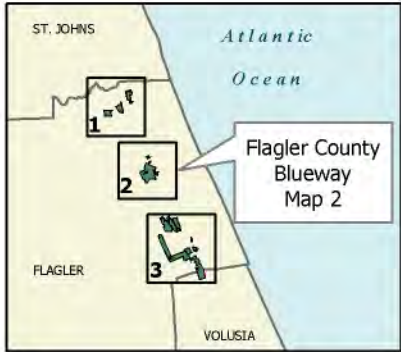
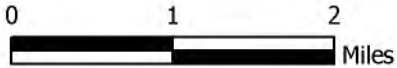
Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources. Conservation and protection of the unique coastal maritime community, xeric oak scrub community, and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. Under the unified management approach, a broad-scale management program will be developed that will manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources, and promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area is proximal to a large number of users that enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, kayaking, and wildlife viewing. There is also potential for equestrian use, off-road biking, and multi-use trails through the



**FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 3**

**FLAGLER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

## Flagler County Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

proposed project. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows that 81 percent (6,717 acres) of the project area to be suitable for Priority 2 recreational trails.

This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

(c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state

(d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state

(e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities

(h) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** The disjunct nature of parcels comprising the Flagler County Blueway creates a special management consideration that will need to be addressed by the unified managers. DOF and FWC will need to devise a strategy to deploy manpower, equipment, and other management resources in a manner that is coordinated and efficient. Some portions of Flagler County Blueway are low-need areas that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately, 23 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity, consequently additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The DOF and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that may require cooperative effort include restoration of mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal or thinning of off-site timber species to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforestation of recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or

rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection of maritime hammock communities, restoration of sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species. Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), listed as a Category I exotic (most adversely affecting Florida's ecology) by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, is an established shrub that has been observed in the project area and which deserves aggressive control.

The principal land management activities slated to occur on less disturbed natural communities will include the introduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Restoration methods will also include thinning of dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and facilitate the restoration of native groundcovers.

Biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Due to the presence of imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the proposed project, it is anticipated that resource inventories would be an initial priority under the unified management approach. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

### **Timetable for Implementing Management Provisions**

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site.

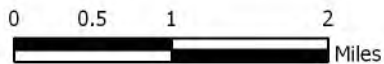
Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the



**FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 3 OF 3**

**VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2009

## Flagler County Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of listed species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance, and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Most of this project area has not been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. It is also possible that recreational trails on the parcels could function as back up firelines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment, and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The DHR lists 16 such sites as occurring in the project area.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that

the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, including provision of facilities, and would include provisions for the facilities necessary for security and management of the project area.

The Eemerald Coast parcel, already purchased, will be separately managed by Flagler County.

**Estimate of Revenue Generating Potential** Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 27 percent (2,260 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry. The FNAI estimates that 1.34 percent (111 acres) of forest provides aquifer recharge. Management would seek revenue-generating potential by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and daily use permit fees. Some revenues might be realized in the future from other recreational user fees, and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15 percent) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which those funds were generated.

**Recommendations as to Other Governmental Agency Involvement** The unified managers (DOF and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Saint Johns River Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

**Revenue Sources, Management Costs and Employees Needed\*** Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the DOF and FWC.



The Indian River seen from US Highway 1 in Melbourne,  
Brevard County, in 1946

Photo from the Florida Photographic Archives,  
Florida Department of State.

<b>Category Source of Funds</b>	<b>Start-up CARL</b>	<b>Recurring CARL</b>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<b>\$143,188</b>	<b>\$145,854</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$75,494</b>	<b>\$25,133</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$149,080</b>	<b>\$31,566</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$988,553</b>	<b>\$85,164</b>
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>	<b>\$2,335</b>	<b>\$141</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>\$5,799</b>	<b>\$5,799</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,364,449</b>	<b>\$293,656</b>

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\*includes employee salaries



# Florida Keys Ecosystem

Monroe County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The unique hardwood hammocks of the Florida Keys, forests of West Indian plants that shelter several extremely rare animals, are being lost to the rapid development of these islands. The Florida Keys Ecosystem project will protect all the significant unprotected hardwood hammocks left in the Keys and many rare plants and animals, including the Lower Keys marsh rabbit and Key deer. It will also help protect the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Keys, the recreational and commercial fisheries, and the reefs around the islands, and also give residents and visitors more areas for enjoying the natural beauty of the Keys.

### Managers

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (19 sites); Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), (10 sites: Key Largo Narrows, Point Charles Hammock, Newport Hammock, Pennekamp North, Largo Sound Hammock, North Creek Hammock, Teatable Hammock, Lower Matecumbe Hammock, North Layton Hammock and Grassy Key Site). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Monroe County, City of Marathon, and City of Islamorada also manage some properties.

### General Description

This project includes most of the remaining unprotected rockland hammocks (tropical hardwood hammocks)

in the Keys from South Key Largo to Sugarloaf Key. It is important to many rare plants and animals and consists of 17 sites in the Upper and Middle Keys encompassing the remaining fragments of unprotected tropical hardwood hammock greater than 12.5 acres. The project includes habitat for migratory birds and virtually all remaining Lower Keys marsh rabbits, Key deer, and the state-threatened white-crowned pigeon. In all, it provides habitat for at least 34 species of rare vascular plants and 34 rare animals. Many archaeological and historical sites are recorded from the area. All the project sites are threatened by intense development in the Keys.

### Public Use

The tracts will become botanical sites, parks, and wildlife and environmental areas. Some will offer camping, swimming, hiking, and boating, while others will be suitable only for nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 7, 1995, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved combining the Hammocks of the Lower Keys and Tropical Flyways projects into a single project named Florida Keys Ecosystem. The combined project consisted of approximately 4,438 acres; 465 acres acquired for \$24,324,425 and 3,973 remained with a taxable value of \$9,619,059.

Hammocks of the Lower Keys: No phasing is recommended; however, some sites are extremely vulnerable to immediate development: Cudjoe Key—Kephart tract; Big Torch Key—Outward Bound/Stelmok tract (acquired); Summerland Key—the area around the pond; and Little Torch Key—Torch Key

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>11,856</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>5,612*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$91,025,252</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>6,244</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$40,108,368</b>	

*\*Includes a donation by the FDOT*

*Note: 7 acres were removed from the project boundary in August 2008 per landowner's request.*

<b>Florida Keys Ecosystem</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Florida Semaphore Cactus</i>	G1/S1
Key Deer	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys Rabbit	G5T1/S1
Loggerhead	G3/S3
<i>Tree Cactus</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garber's Spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>Cape Sable Thorough-wort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida Keys Indigo</i>	G5?T1Q/S1
<i>Cuban Snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
Key Ringneck Snake	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys Ribbon Snake	G5T1Q/S1
Lower Keys Brown Snake	G5T1Q/S1
74 rare species are associated with the project	

Estates Subdivision (acquired). Estimated acreage for each site are: Cudjoe Key, 38 acres; Big Torch Key, 450 acres; Little Torch Key, 217 acres; Summerland Key, 20 acres; Sugarloaf Key, 2711 acres; Little Knockemdown Key, 300 acres; Middle Torch Key, 811 acres; Ramrod Key, 615 acres; and Wahoo Key, added at the LAMAC's 12/3/93 meeting, 26 acres (acquired).

Tropical Flyways: No phasing is recommended; all 17 sites are being acquired with the Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) as intermediary. The 17 sites are: North Creek (two large ownerships, remaining subdivided—16 acres acquired through MCLA), Largo Sound (one major ownership—68 acres acquired through MCLA), Pennekamp North (one major ownership - acquired through MCLA), Newport (one major ownership, remainder subdivided), Point Charles (one major ownership), Key Largo Narrows (one major ownership—acquired through MCLA), Dove Creek (several large ownerships, remaining subdivided—187 acres acquired through MCLA), Tavernier Creek (one major ownership), Lake San Pedro (several large ownerships), Snake Creek (one major ownership - acquired through MCLA), Green Turtle (one major ownership), Teatable (one major ownership), Lower Matecumbe (one major ownership), North Layton (several large ownerships), Grassy Key (several large ownerships), Vaca Cut (one major ownership), Stirrup Key (one ownership).

On June 11, 1998, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 53-acre addition (Wilson & Cotton Keys) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the William Roberts, Estate trustee, and had a 1996 taxable value of \$115,106.

On February 11, 1999, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 955-acre addition (Boot Key) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FGFC, consisted of one owner, Azurite Corp. LTD Florida, and a 1998 taxable value of \$178,019.

On July 29, 1999, the LAMAC approved an owner requested, 6-acre deletion (on Ramrod Key) from the project boundary.

In 2003 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased 593.75 acres, known as Tarpon Basin, in the Newport Hammocks site.

On December 5, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 11.5-acre addition (Channel Key Island) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Barbara Truman, and had a 2003 taxable value of \$17,268.

On June 4, 2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,063-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of multiple owners, and a 2003 taxable value of \$7,400,000. The 910 parcels are located on several offshore islands and six named Keys (Little Torch, Saddlebunch, Ramrod, Summerland, Cudjoe, and Upper Sugarloaf). FWC will manage 1,758 acres as an addition to the Florida Keys Wildlife Environmental Area (WEA) and the USFWS will manage the remaining acres as an addition to the Florida Key Deer Refuge.

On February 11, 2005, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ±3,695-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the multiple entities, consisted of multiple owners, and a 2004 taxable value of approximately \$31,847,907.

On October 13, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 8.6-acre addition to the Sugarloaf Key portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of 2-parcels, a single owner, Community Sons of the Divine Will, and a taxable value of \$6,286,220. The proposed manager, FWC, does not consider the parcels essential. This boundary addition was approved with the understanding that FWC would share in the cost of the acquisition.

In June, 2008, the 67-acre Camilus House exchange with University of Miami for other BOT land was completed, at no cost to Florida Forever funds. The following acres (ownerships) were purchased with DSL Florida Forever funds: 0.07 acre of Dove Creek (Cameron) for \$46,250; 1.3 acres (Neff) of Grassy Key for \$382,000; 0.15 acre (Marrerro) in Newport Hammocks for \$235,000; 42.22 acres (M&M Joint Venture, LLP) in Boca Chica Key for \$566,100; and 54.75 acres (Utlity Board of the City of Key West) in Cudjoe Key for \$1,938,000, Monroe County as manager.

In July, 2008, Florida Forever funds were used to buy 0.11 acres of the Pierce ownership in Charles Hammocks for \$46,250. Monroe County will manage this.

In September, 2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to buy 3.03 acres (1.01 acre plus (2.02 acres) from the Otha Cox Estate in Cudjoe Key for a total of \$137,500 (\$47,500 plus \$90,000) Monroe County will manage this site.

## Florida Keys Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee

In November, 2008, Florida Forever funds purchased 1.01 acre of the Smith ownership for \$37,000. FWC will manage this site.

On 2/6/09 the Department of Transportation (FDOT) donated a total of 14.18 acres on Sugarloaf (.86 acre inside the project boundary) for a total donated value of \$9,265,212.

### Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the National Audubon Society sponsored this project. TNC, the Monroe County Land Authority, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are participants and have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some of the sites within this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The unique wildlife, plant, and recreational resources of the Florida Keys Ecosystem sites qualify them as wildlife and environmental areas, botanical sites or preserves, and state parks.

### Florida Keys Ecosystem sites managed by the DEP Division of Recreation and Parks

Key Largo Narrows  
Point Charles Hammock  
Largo Sound Hammock  
North Creek Hammock  
Lower Matecumbe Hammock  
North Layton Hammock

Grassy Key Site  
Teatable Hammock  
Pennekamp North  
Newport Hammock

### Florida Keys Ecosystem sites managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Cudjoe Key  
Little Torch Key  
Middle Torch Key  
Big Torch Key  
Summerland Key  
Sugarloaf Key  
Little Knockemdown Key  
Ramrod Key  
Dove Creek

Tavernier Creek  
Lake San Pedro  
Snake Creek  
Green Turtle  
Vaca Cut  
Stirrup Key  
Saddlebunch Key  
Wahoo Key  
Upper Sugarloaf Key

### Managers

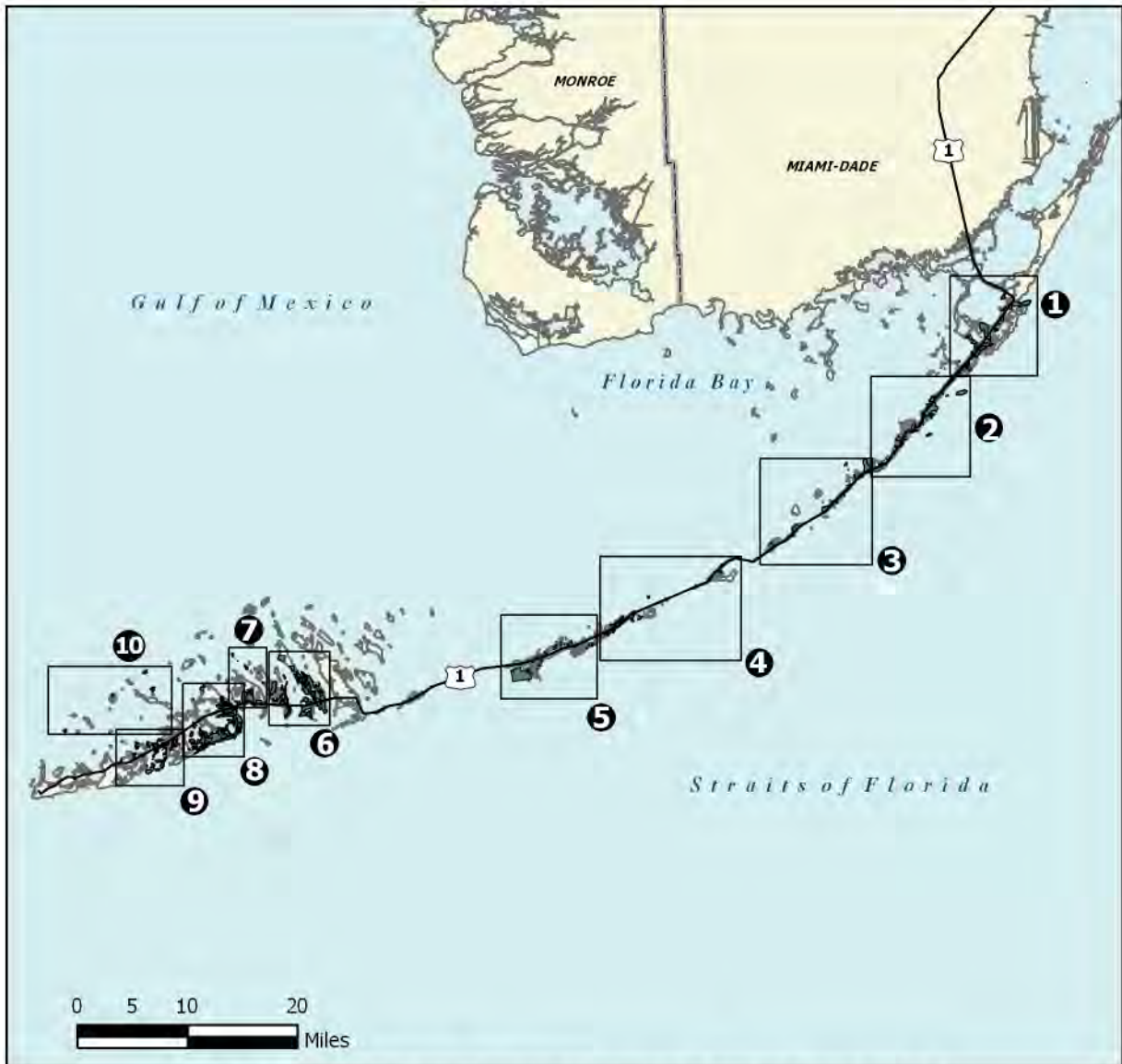
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (19 sites); Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), (10 sites). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Monroe County, City of Marathon, and City of Islamorada also manage some properties.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Florida Keys Ecosystem project generally includes high-need tracts because of their small size and proximity to intensive residential and commercial development. They require basic natural areas land management including exotic-species removal, avoidance of actions that further fragment the hammocks, general trash and debris removal, posting and some fencing, and the establishment of some basic visitor amenities at selected sites. Special species may require specific management actions. The project areas are a high-need management area which, because of their location, size and nature, will require a high level of attention to maintain and perpetuate their individual resources.

### Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, the FWC will give management priority to natural resource inventory and planning. Sites will be surveyed for rare and endangered species and management plans will be prepared. In future years, management will concentrate on implementing the plans with emphasis on exotic species eradication and maintenance, trash and debris removal, and posting and fencing for security. Long-range management will focus on using the sites to build public awareness and support for natural areas protection in general, and for tropical hardwood hammock preservation in particular. Most tracts will provide passive recreational activities for the general public. Longer range goals would include development of a detailed management plan focused on perpetuation and maintenance of natural

(Continued on Page 198)



## FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

### MONROE COUNTY

#### Map 1

- A. North Creek Hammocks Site
- B. Largo Sound Hammock Site
- C. Pennkamp North Hammock Site
- D. Newport Hammocks Site
- E. Point Charles Hammock Site

#### Map 2

- A. Key Largo Narrows Hammock Site
- B. Rodriguez Key Site
- C. Dove Creek Hammocks Site
- D. Tavernier Creek Hammocks Site
- E. Tavernier Key Site
- F. Islamorada / Plantation Key Site

#### Map 3

- A. Windley Key Site
- B. Wilson Key Site
- C. Cotton Key Site
- D. Islamorada / Upper Matecumbe Site
- E. Lower Matecumbe Hammock Site

#### Map 4

- A. North Layton Hammock Site
- B. Channel Key Site
- C. Tom's Harbor Keys Site
- D. Grassy Key Hammocks Site
- E. Marathon/Crawl Key Site

#### Map 5

- A. Marathon / Fat Deer Key Site
- B. Marathon / Vaca Key Site
- C. Boot Key Site

#### Map 6

- A. Big Torch Key Site
- B. Middle Torch Key Site
- C. Little Torch Key Site
- D. Ramrod Key Site
- E. Summerland Key Site
- F. Little Knockemdown Key Site

#### Map 7

- A. Budd Key Site
- B. Knockemdown Key Site
- C. Little Knockemdown Key Site
- D. Summerland Key Site
- E. Cudjoe Key Site
- F. Sugarloaf Key Site

#### Map 8

- A. Sugarloaf Key Site
- B. Cudjoe Key Site

#### Map 9

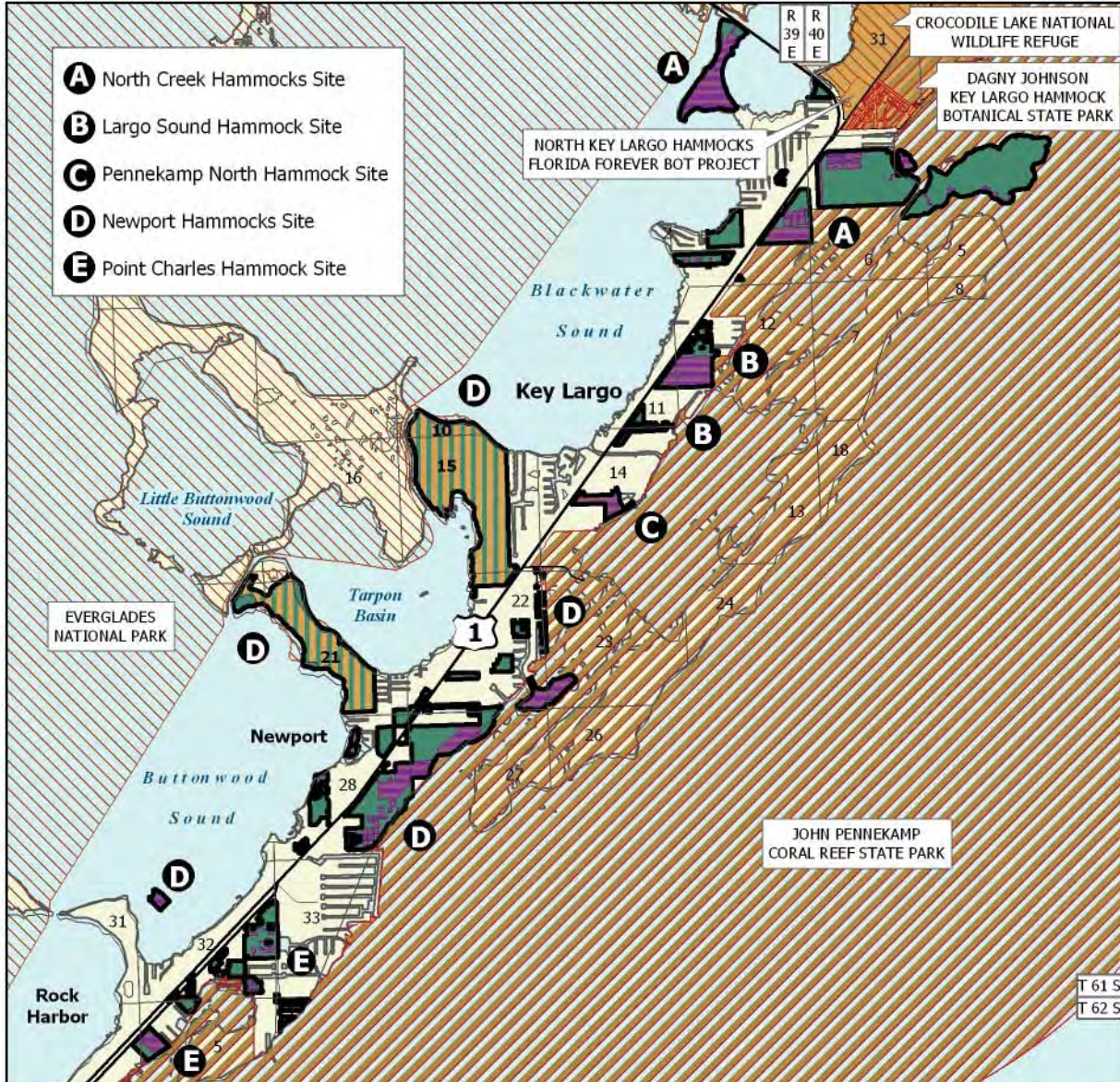
- A. Saddlebunch Keys Site
- B. Boca Chica Key Site

#### Map 10

- A. Great White Heron Keys Site

JANUARY 2009

# Florida Keys Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee



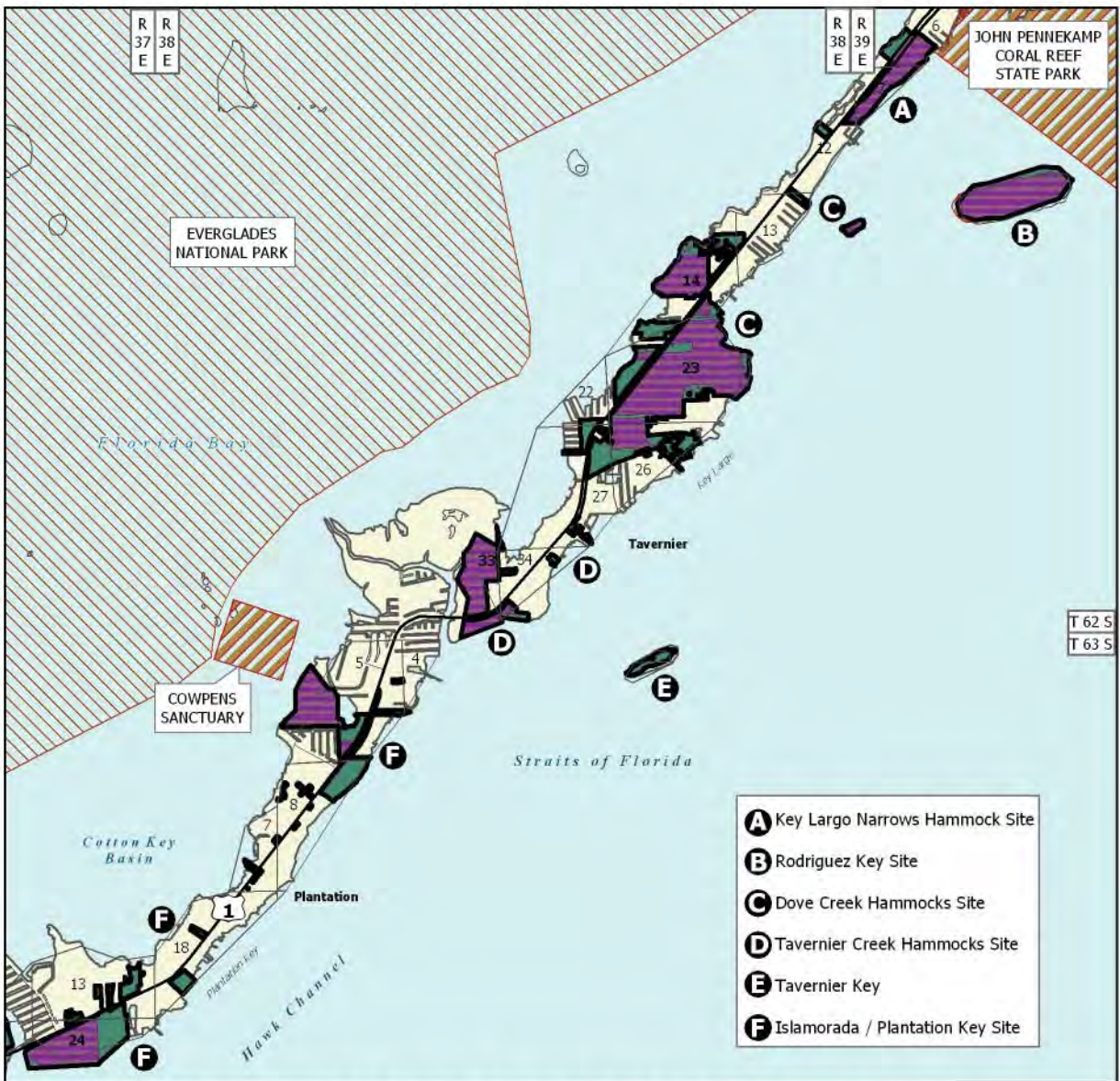
## FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 1 OF 10

### MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2009



**FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 2 OF 10**

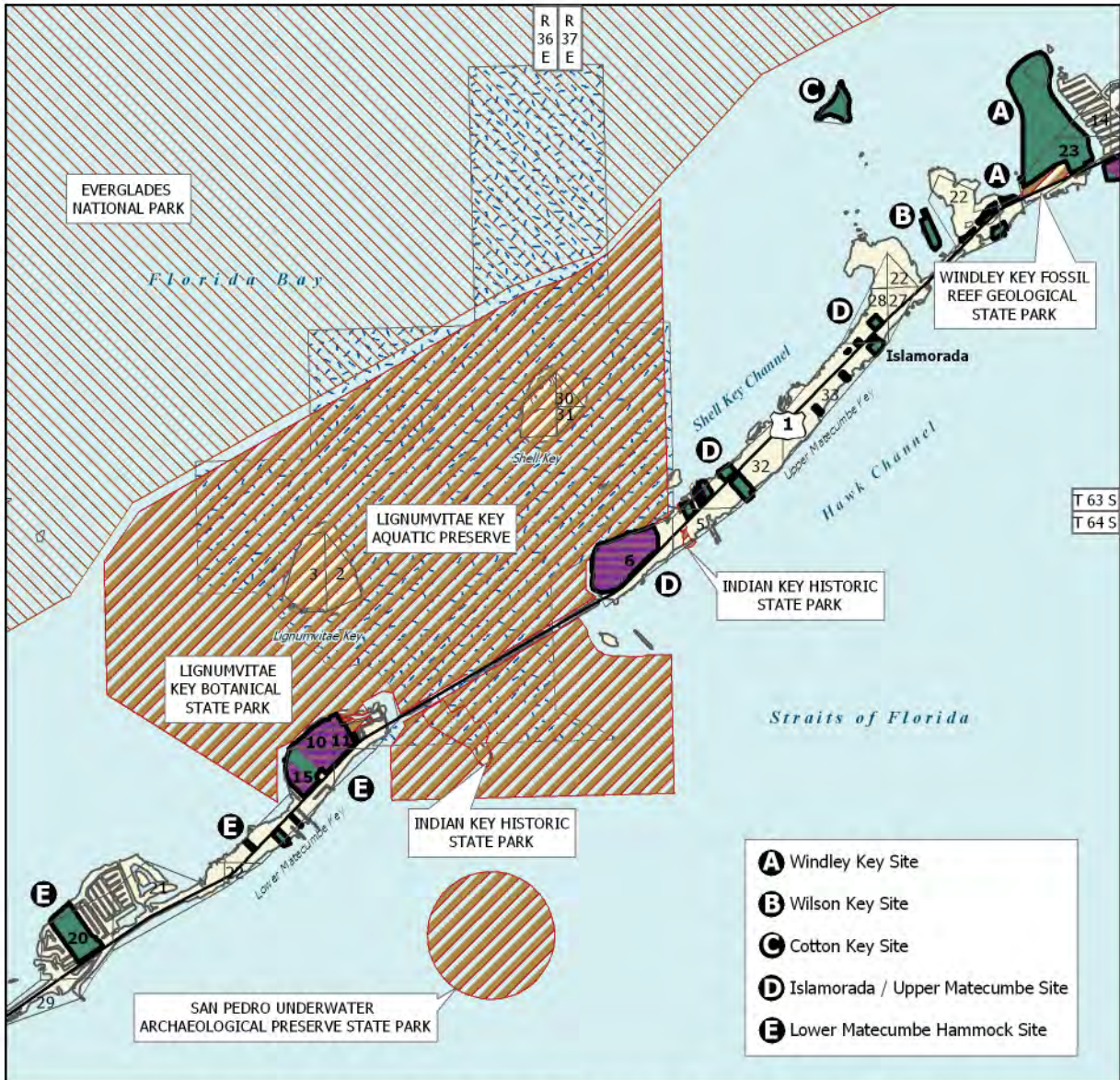
**MONROE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2009

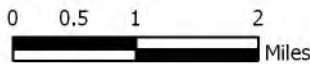
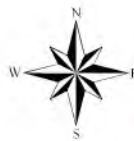
Florida Keys Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee



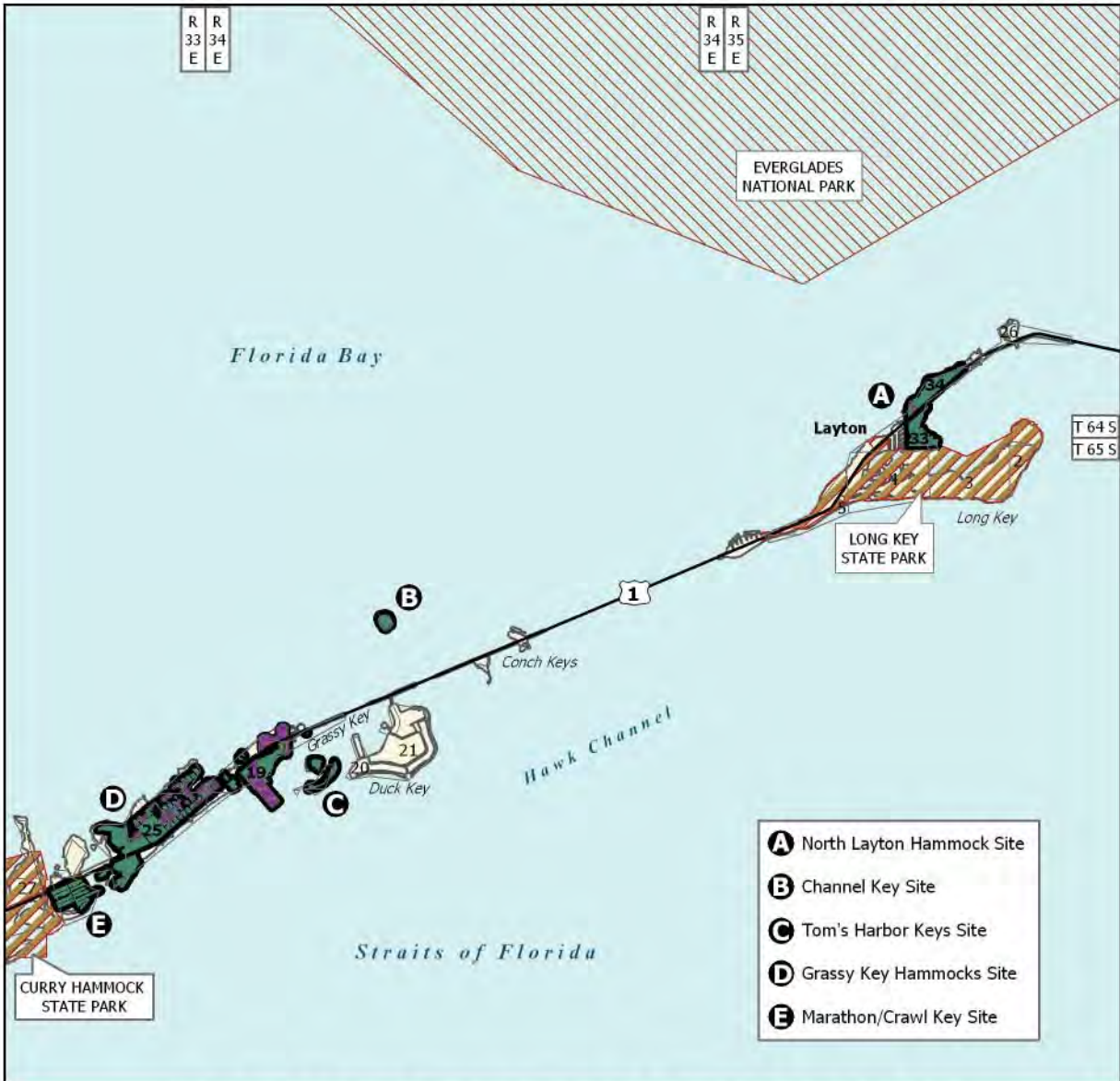
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 3 OF 10

MONROE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



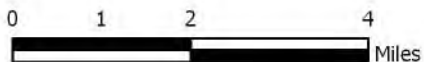
JANUARY 2009



**FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 4 OF 10**

**MONROE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2009



Florida Keys Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee



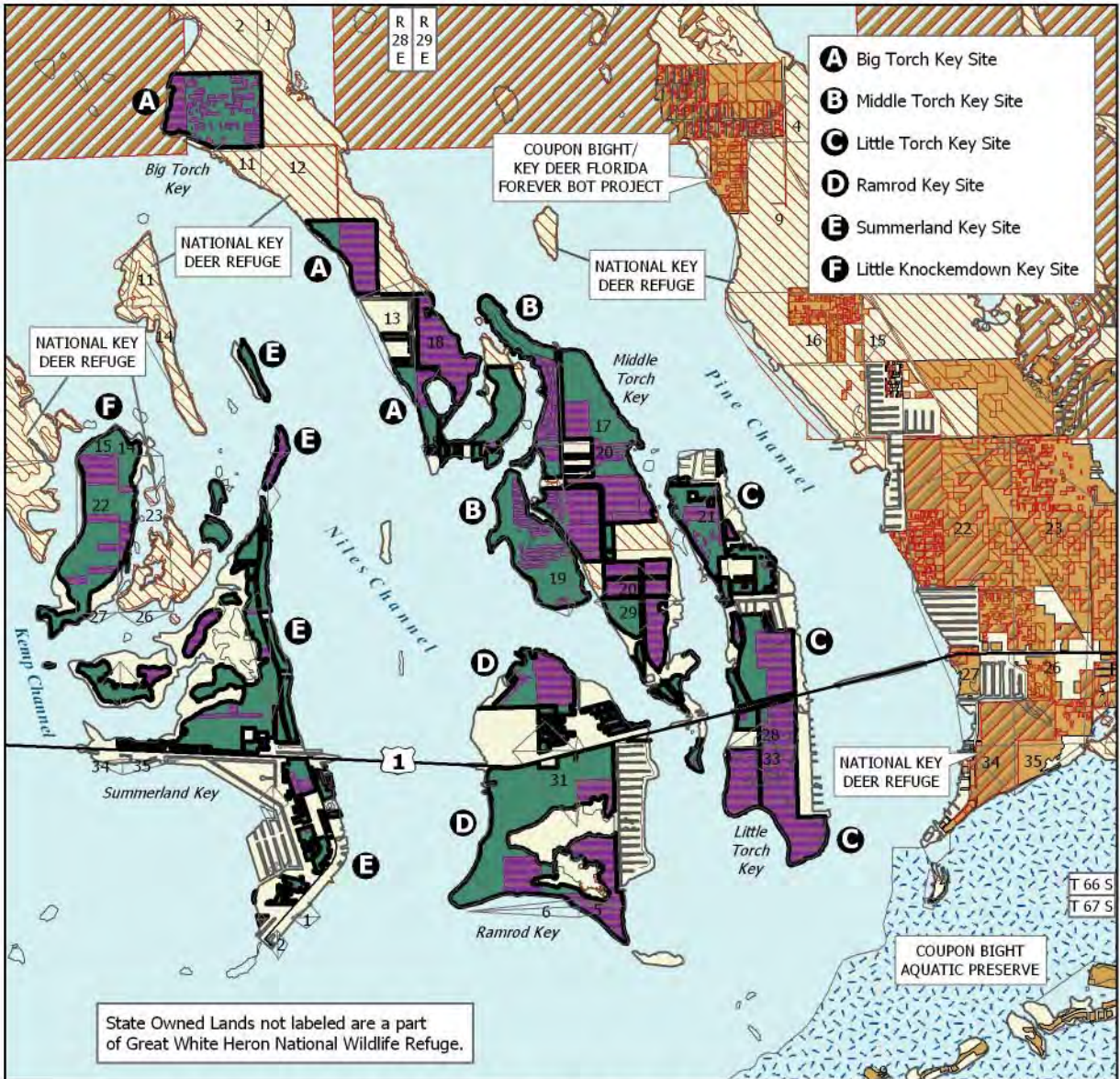
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 5 OF 10

MONROE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



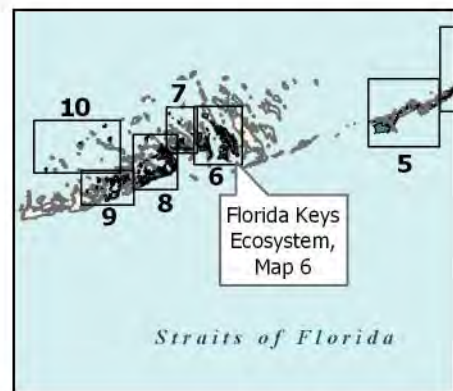
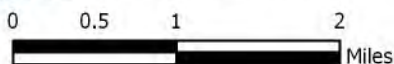
JANUARY 2009



## FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 6 OF 10

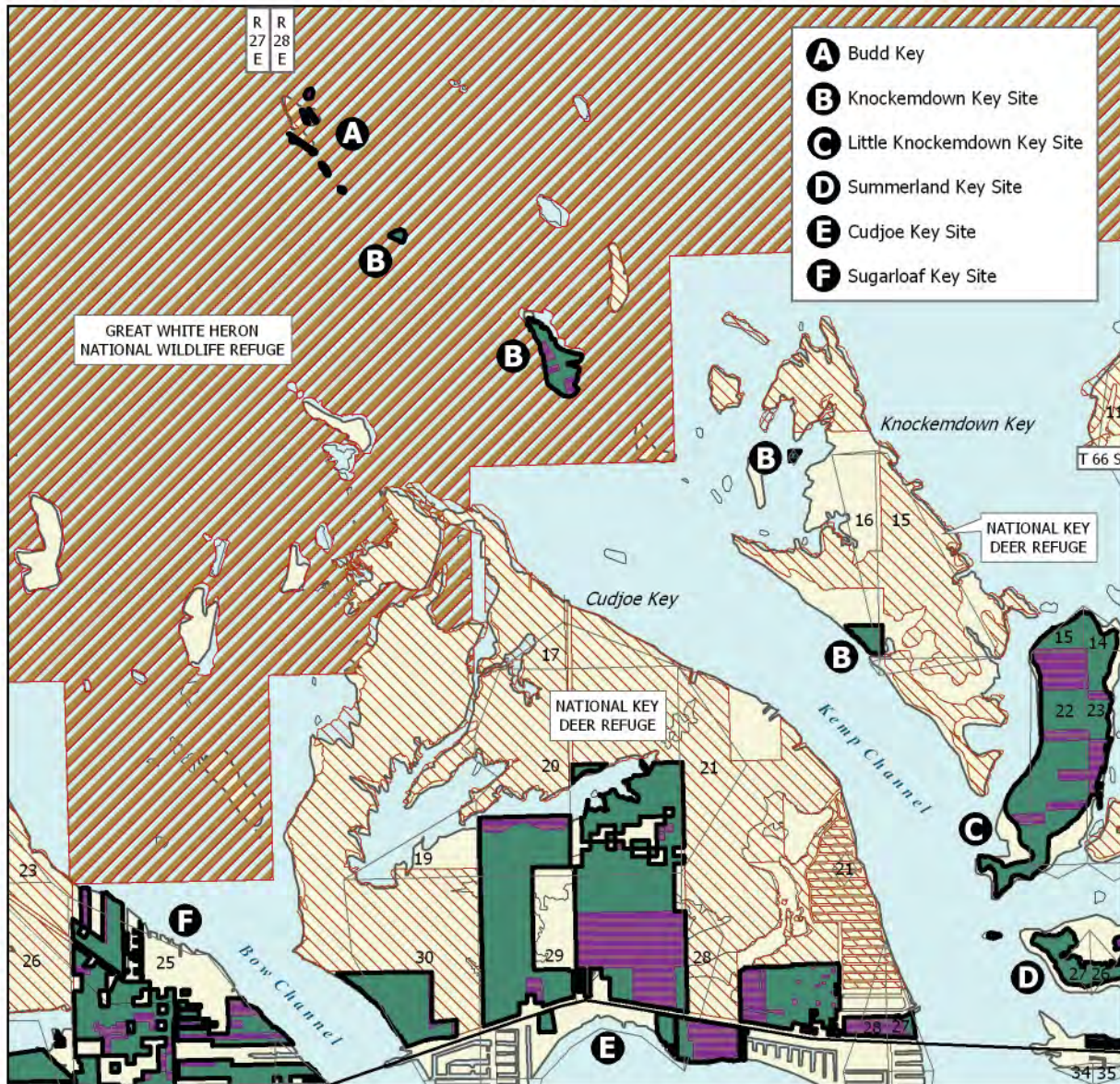
### MONROE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2009

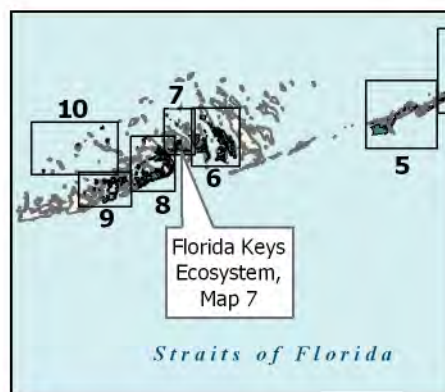
Florida Keys Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee



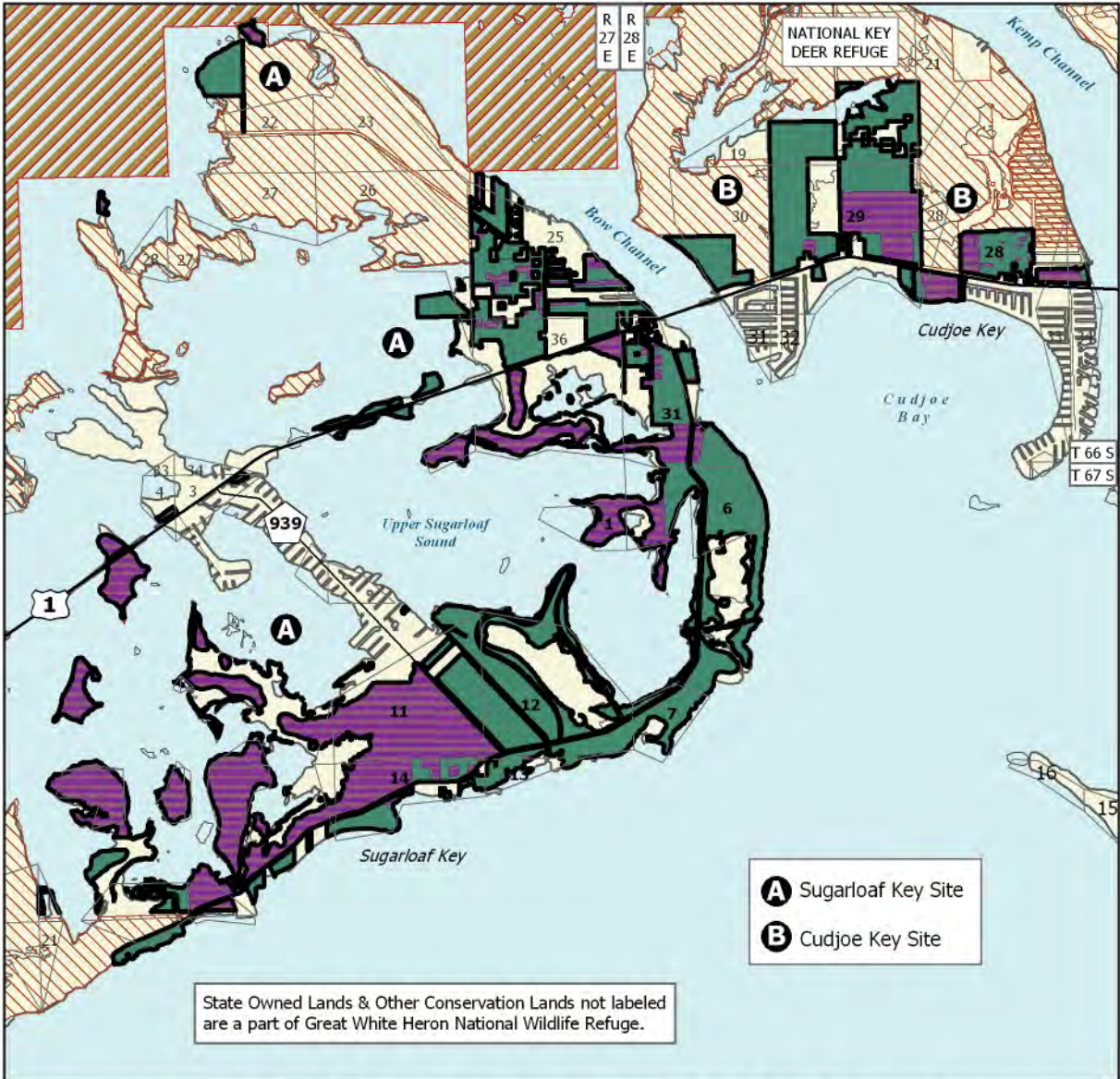
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 7 OF 10

MONROE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



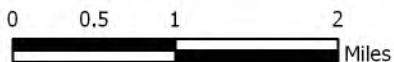
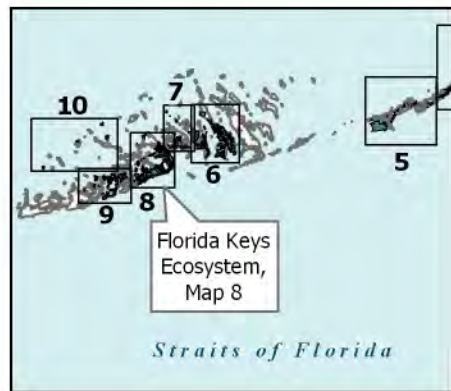
JANUARY 2009



**FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 8 OF 10**

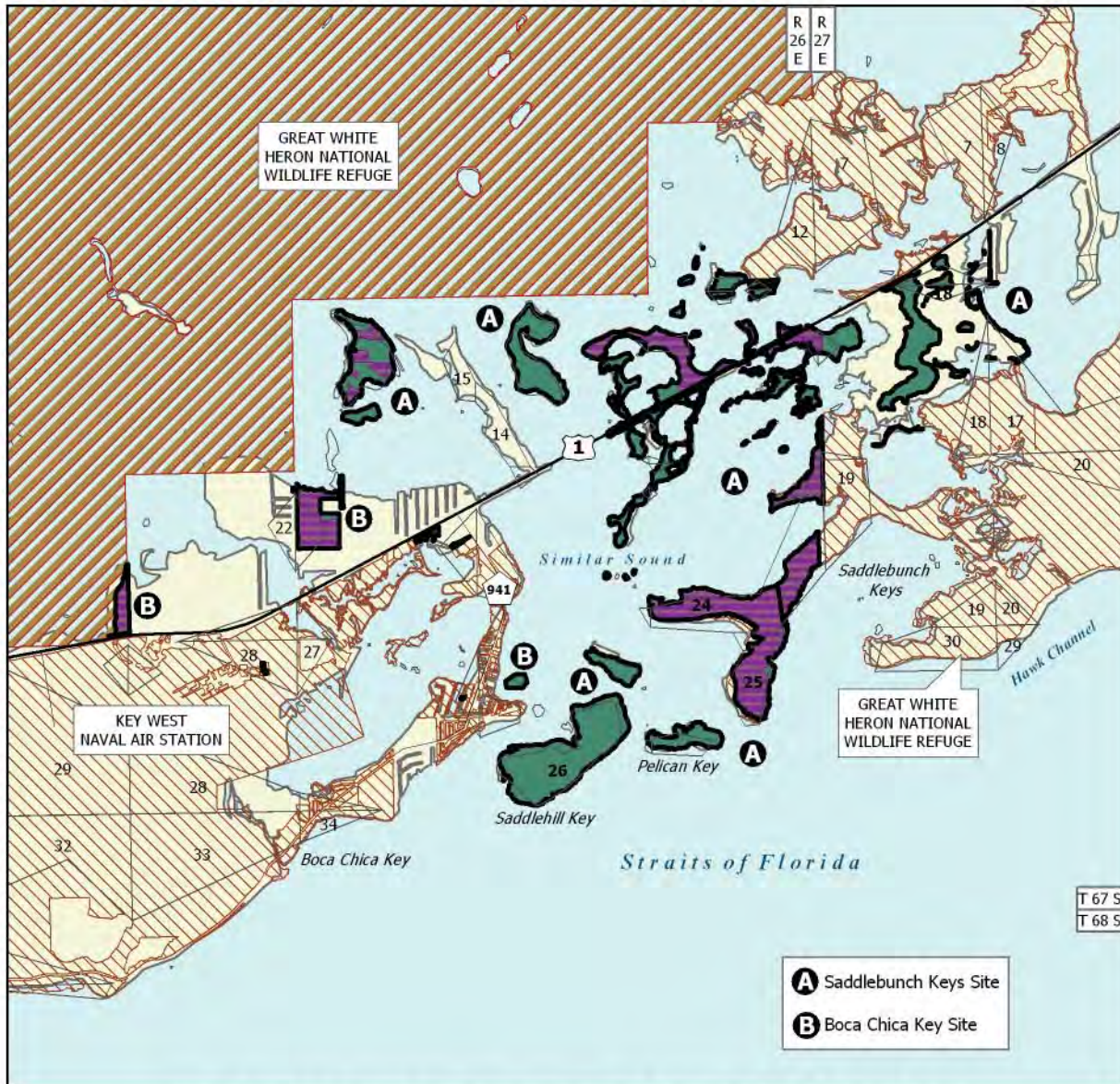
**MONROE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2009

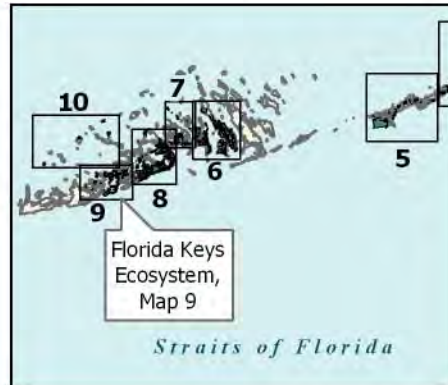
Florida Keys Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee



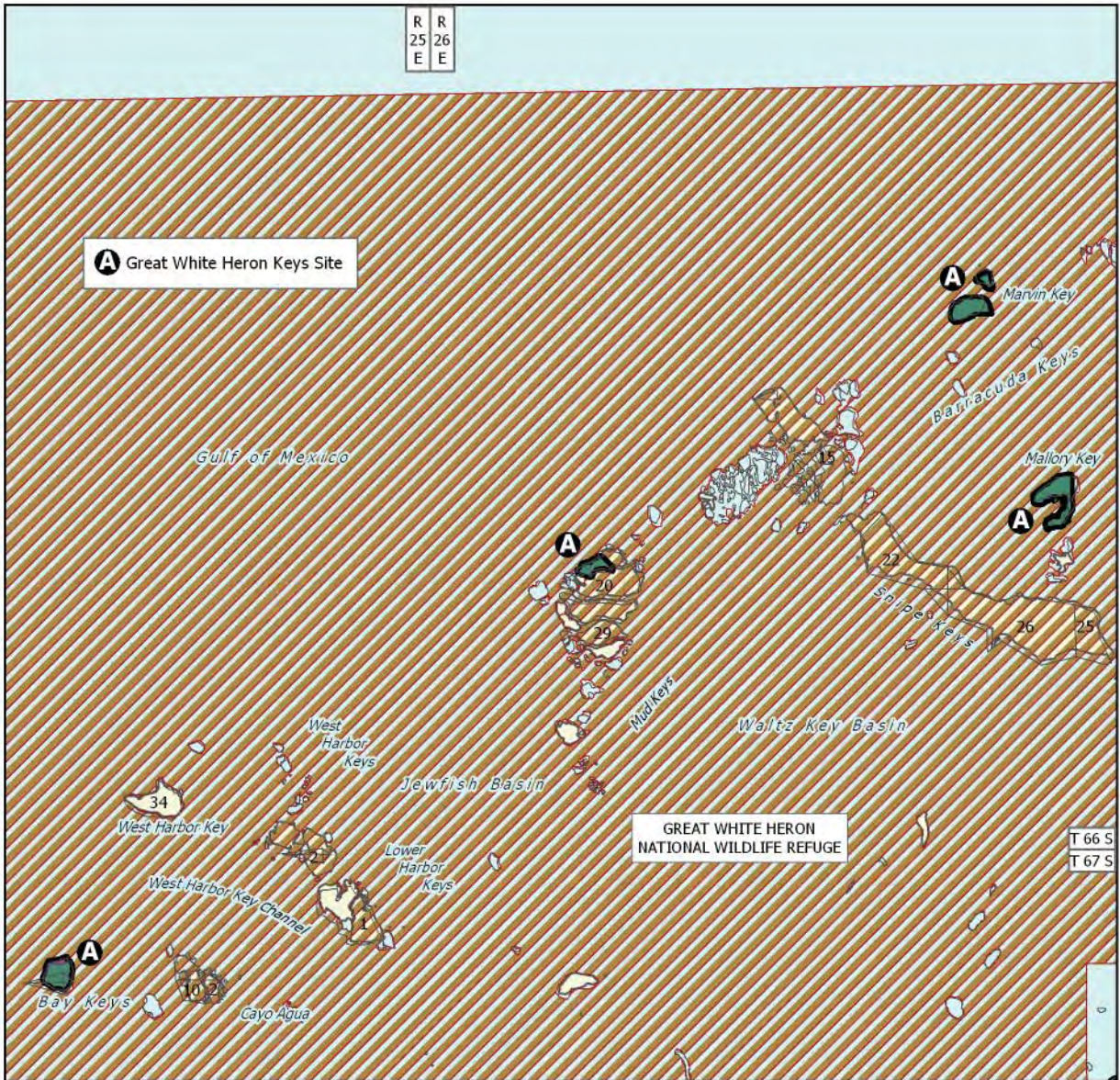
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 9 OF 10

MONROE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



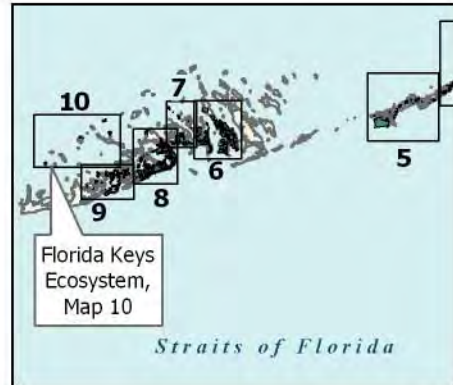
JANUARY 2009



**FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM, MAP 10 OF 10**

**MONROE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands



JANUARY 2009

## Florida Keys Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee

communities. An in-depth resource inventory would be carried out to identify and map all sensitive areas that warrant special consideration. Visitor amenities will be planned and constructed at appropriate sites within the project and public environmental-education programs will be developed. There will be no infrastructure development in natural areas; unnecessary roads will be abandoned or removed. Management activities of the DRP in the first year will include site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** Public use of sites managed by the FWC will be relatively low because no infrastructure will be provided. For the sites managed

by the DRP, no significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant level of public use facilities is developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWC will cooperate with and seek the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

### Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$85,000	\$85,000
OPS	\$17,500	\$9,000
Expense	\$45,000	\$35,000
OCO	\$75,000	\$15,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$222,500</b>	<b>\$144,000</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$22,167	\$285,000
OPS	\$24,560	\$10,000
Expense	\$10,000	\$95,000
OCO	\$61,978	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$118,705</b>	<b>\$391,000</b>

### Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Source of Funds	SPTF/GDTF/ LATF/CARL	SPTF/LATF/ GDTF/CARL	SPTF/CARL

Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$10,950	\$85,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$17,500
Expense	\$0	\$8,010	\$45,000
OCO	\$0	\$2,838	\$75,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$21,798</b>	<b>\$222,500</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Source of Funds	SPTF/GDTF/ LATF/CARL	SPTF/LATF/ GDTF/CARL	SPTF/CARL
Salary	\$424,040	\$436,761	\$449,684
OPS	\$15,491	\$14,000	\$14,000
Expense	\$262,556	\$268,000	\$268,000
OCO	\$18,829	\$8,200	\$8,200
INT.MGT.	\$1,698	\$1,698	\$1,698
HOSP	\$13,561	13,561	\$13,561
FCO	\$1,081,952	\$1,332,319	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,818,127</b>	<b>\$2,074,539</b>	<b>\$755,323</b>

# Florida National Scenic Trail

## Group A Full Fee

### Columbia County

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

This is the first step in filling gaps in the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST), a congressionally designated national scenic trail stretching from the Big Cypress of south Florida to the Blackwater River of western Florida. It is one of only eight such trails in the nation. The trail primarily uses existing preservation lands, including 14 state parks. However, there are gaps in the trail and the acquisition of the parcels in this project will fill in the gap along the Suwannee River between Deep Creek Conservation Area and Big Shoals State Park.

Congress has appropriated funds to purchase 31 parcels to close the gaps in the FNST, comprising 17.3 map-miles of trail. The vision for the trail is that it will be 1,400 miles long upon completion, with a probable extension down into the Florida Keys. Initially the corridor was to be 20 miles wide, but that width was revised and narrowed in 2001; the preferred standard width is that it be not less than one quarter mile. The FNST route has been adopted as the State Hiking Trail by the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails in their trail acquisition prioritization maps, and the Office of Greenways and Trails is one of the sponsors of this proposal.

Recreation would include hiking, bicycling, and picnicking. The property includes a house that could be used for a residence or maintenance area in connection to managing the property.

The Bell Springs parcel meets Florida Forever goals of increasing Florida biodiversity at the species level by conserving black bear habitat and potential habitat for the eastern indigo snake, acquiring highest priority conservation areas, conserving landscape linkages and conservation corridors, increasing the amount of publicly-owned land undergoing restoration,

increasing the number of acres that protect surface waters, increasing the acreage for aquifer recharge, and increasing the miles of trails available for public recreation.

#### Manager

Several possible managers existed for FNST sites: the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) expressed an interest in being land manager for the Bell Springs site due to the proximity to Big Shoals State Park. However, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) acquired the Bell Spring, Morrell, and the adjacent Bishop Trust riverfront property and they are managing those properties. The U S Forest Service (USFS) and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) were also identified as possible managers in the initial application

#### General Description

Congress has appropriated funds to purchase 31 parcels to close the gaps in the FNST, comprising 17.3 map-miles of trail. The vision for the trail is that it will be 1,400 miles long upon completion, with a probable extension down into the Florida Keys. Initially the corridor was to be 20 miles wide, but that width was revised and narrowed in 2001; the preferred standard width is that it not be less than one-quarter mile.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>76*</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$1,335,000*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$9,135</b>

\*includes acreage acquired, and funds spent, by SRWMD

<p><b>Florida National Scenic Trail</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009</p>
<p>no rare species are associated with the project</p>



## Florida National Scenic Trail - Group A/Full Fee

The project is uplands on a point about 40 feet above the Suwannee River, about a third of which are in natural condition, consisting of approximately 32 percent upland mixed forest and two percent being the open water of Bell Springs. Most of the upland mixed forest community is disturbed, i.e., open ground with bahiagrass between tree canopies. The area now in pine plantation also appears to have originally been upland mixed forest or possibly upland pine forest. An examination of historic aerial photographs dating back to 1937 shows that, with the exception of two small wooded areas on either side of the lower spring pool, the entire property has been cleared at one time or another.

Bell Spring is a third magnitude spring discharging approximately 350 gallons per minute. The discharge is coming from the surficial aquifer system within the Hawthorn Group sediments. The spring and possibly additional seeps form a small creek that discharges to the Suwannee River. The upper portion of this creek is dammed at three points. The spring vent can be seen on the sandy bottom upstream of the second dam on the east side of the contained pool of water. A slight boil is visible on the surface of the water several feet west of the vent. The pool below the spring pool is deeper with a copious growth of algae. Below the third dam, the spring and possibly additional seeps form a small creek that flows along its natural course and discharges to the Suwannee River.

The dammed portions of the creek are surrounded by a disturbed upland mixed forest. Canopy trees include green ash, hackberry, pignut hickory, sweetgum, and swamp laurel oak. The understory is mostly native, consisting of small trees and shrubs, such as sparkleberry, wax myrtle, hawthorn, and beautyberry. Around the pools, a few non-native plants such as pinecone ginger and English ivy are occasional.

The most natural area of upland mixed forest is to the east of the lower spring pool. Live oaks form a more or less closed canopy over a moderately dense xeric understory of sparkleberry, sassafras, gum bully, hog plum, American olive, sand holly, and American holly. This forest extends along the northern edge of the property where it is much more disturbed and weedy.

Much of the land near the house is cleared and has been

farmed and/or grazed for decades. In the cleared area around the main house on the property, canopy trees typical of upland hardwood forest are scattered over a lawn of bahiagrass and other weeds. Ornamental shrubs and trees have been planted around the house and small buildings just to the north.

### Public Use

The site is too small to be considered for significant resource management and recreational opportunities. The presence of a third magnitude spring and its associated spring run does offer aesthetic values and low impact recreation to users such as hikers or paddlers.

### Acquisition Planning

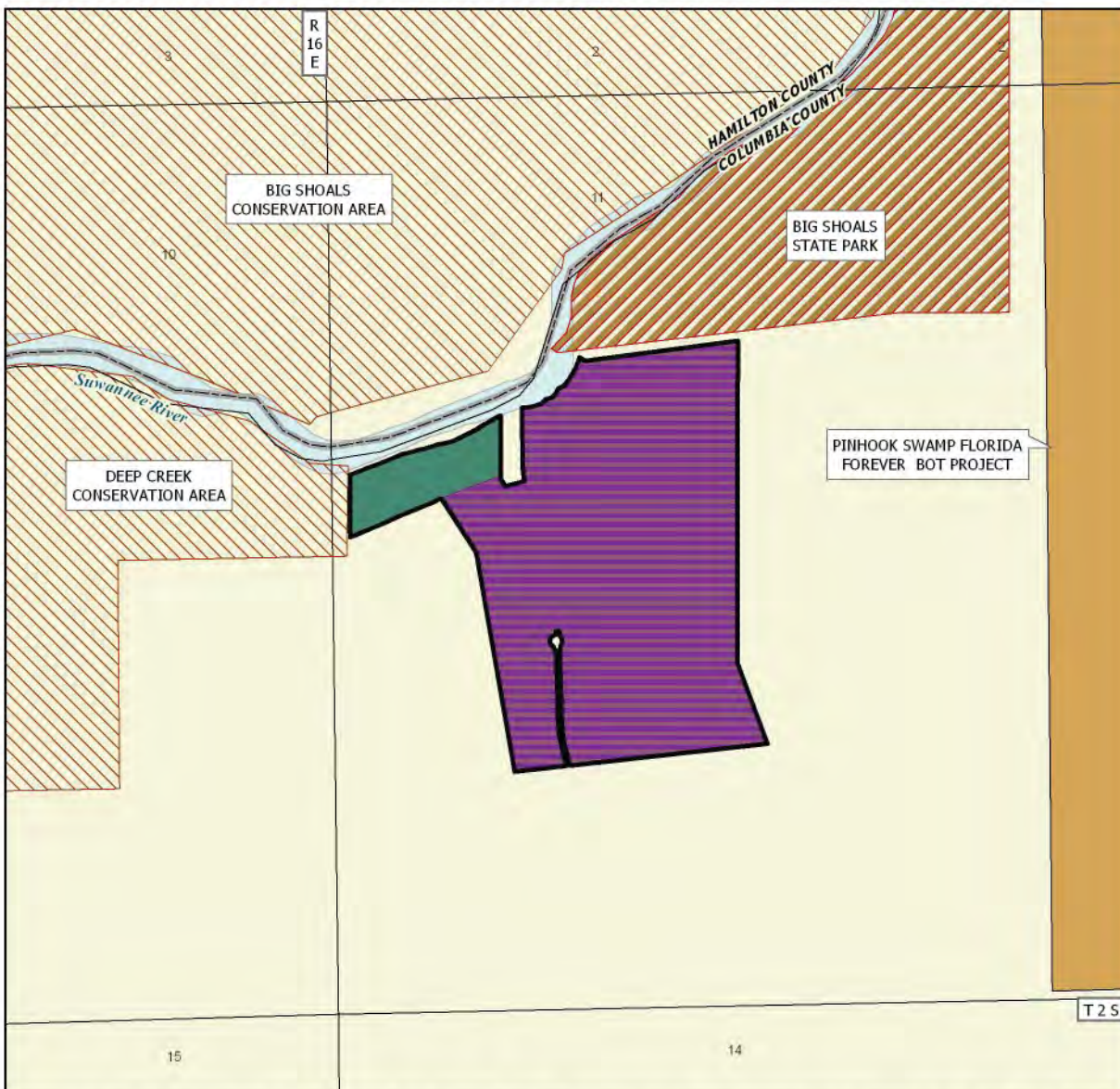
On December 8, 2006 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the FNST/Bell Springs project to the Group A of the Florida Forever priority list. The original project design had the Bell Springs/Morrell property, consisting of 45.6 acres (per proposal; 45.2 acres according to the Arc View-based boundary used in this analysis), on the south side of the Suwannee River in west-central Columbia County. At the December 8, 2006 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), five more ownerships were added as essential parcels, thus including river frontage from Deep Creek to Big Shoals. The tax assessed value for the Bell Springs tract and the additions is approximately \$182,691.

In April 2007, the SRWMD acquired the Bell Springs/Morrell tract (45.72 acres) and the White tract (8.35 acres) for, respectively, \$785,000 and \$310,000.

On 12/8/08, FL Division of Recreation and Parks purchased 21.63 acres for \$240,000 from P. Smith to add to the Big Shoals State Park.

### Coordination

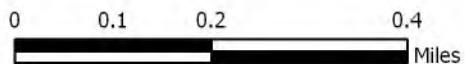
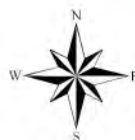
The Suwannee River Water Management District has recently begun taking the due diligence steps needed to pursue acquisition of this site and adjacent properties adjacent to the spring run. Both the Morell property and the adjacent Bishop Trust riverfront land are currently under appraisal and are listed as priority projects for acquisition in the WMD 5 year plan. The other properties within the outline of the Resource



## FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL - BELL SPRINGS

### COLUMBIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

## Florida National Scenic Trail - Group A/Full Fee

Planning Boundary as provided by FNAI would be pursued using FDEP Florida Forever funding. These enhance the route for the Florida National Scenic Trail by providing riverfront access, in addition to protecting the third magnitude spring and spring run.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals for management of the Bell Spring property are: to conserve and protect spring resources of the State of Florida; to provide connection between public lands for wildlife and resource-based recreation, through the establishment of a component of the Florida National Scenic Trail; and to enhance park management.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for State Designation*** The Division of Recreation and Parks proposes that it be considered as the manager of the Bell Springs property if it is acquired in full fee title. The property and surrounding property will connect the Deep Creek Conservation Area with the Big Shoals State Park on the Columbia County side of the Suwannee River. The project area has a small spring and spring run extending to the Suwannee River. The main parcel has a house and supporting buildings.

This project area is desirable for its potential to (1) preserve the spring and restore its spring run, and provide a connecting section between existing public lands for the Florida National Scenic Trail. The house and support structures are desirable for park residence

and management purposes.

### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Portions of the project are in planted pine that will require rehabilitation over time to provide for a natural landscape. The spring run has been impounded and will over time be restructured to bring back as much as possible a more natural spring run condition. If acquisition efforts are successful and a trail connection through the project area is established, public use of the trail will result in at least a nominal increase in the intensity of management and potentially related costs.

### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Division of Recreation and Parks, the acquired lands will be secured and management planning implemented. Resource inventories and analysis will be performed to determine objectives for restoration and public use. The house on the main parcel and supporting structures will be used for park residence and management purposes. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property and funding for positions and infrastructure.

***Revenue-generating potential*** No significant revenue is expected to be generated by the project area.

# Florida Springs Coastal Greenway

Citrus County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The ragged coastline of Citrus County, with its salt marshes, clear spring runs, hammocks, and flatwoods, is being affected by the encroaching development in this part of the state. The Florida Springs Coastal Greenway project will conserve the natural landscape of this coast, protecting the water quality of the spring runs and estuaries where endangered manatees congregate, preserving natural lands that link with conservation lands to the south, and providing scenic areas in which the public can enjoy fishing, hiking, or learning about the natural world of this coast.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Crystal River and St. Martins River); Division of Forestry (DOF) (Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property); and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) managing the northern part of the project, adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway.

### General Description

The project is a major link in efforts to preserve the northern peninsular Gulf Coast. It includes three tracts along the karst coastline of Citrus County. The Crystal River tract, a significant part of the headwaters of the Crystal River, is a crucial habitat for the Gulf Coast

manatee population; it is also a prime nesting location for bald eagles and ospreys. Natural communities within the tract include floodplain marsh, freshwater tidal swamp, tidal marsh, and upland hammock. It also contains some pine plantations. The St. Martins River tract is predominantly hydric hammock, bottomland forest, salt marsh, mangrove islands, and spring-run streams, all in good to excellent condition. It borders the St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve. Though much of its timber has been harvested, and a quarter is pasture, the Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property is important as a corridor between Chassahowitzka Water Management District and Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge and the conservation lands to the north. The archaeological significance of this area is high. Citrus County is one of the fastest growing in the state, and residential development is a serious threat to this project. Development will increase boat traffic, which is the greatest current threat to the manatee population.

### Public Use

The project will be managed as buffer preserves and a state forest, providing such recreational opportunities as fishing, canoeing, hiking and camping.

### Acquisition Planning

On November 19, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) amended Crystal River to add three tracts that include Three Sister Springs (56 acres). On that date LAAC also combined three CARL projects (Crystal River, St. Martins, and Homosassa Reserve) and renamed the project Florida Springs Coastal Greenway. The project breakdown is as follows:

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995*</b>
<b>Project Area</b>	<b>41,108*</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>29,124**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$50,869,573**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>11,984</b>

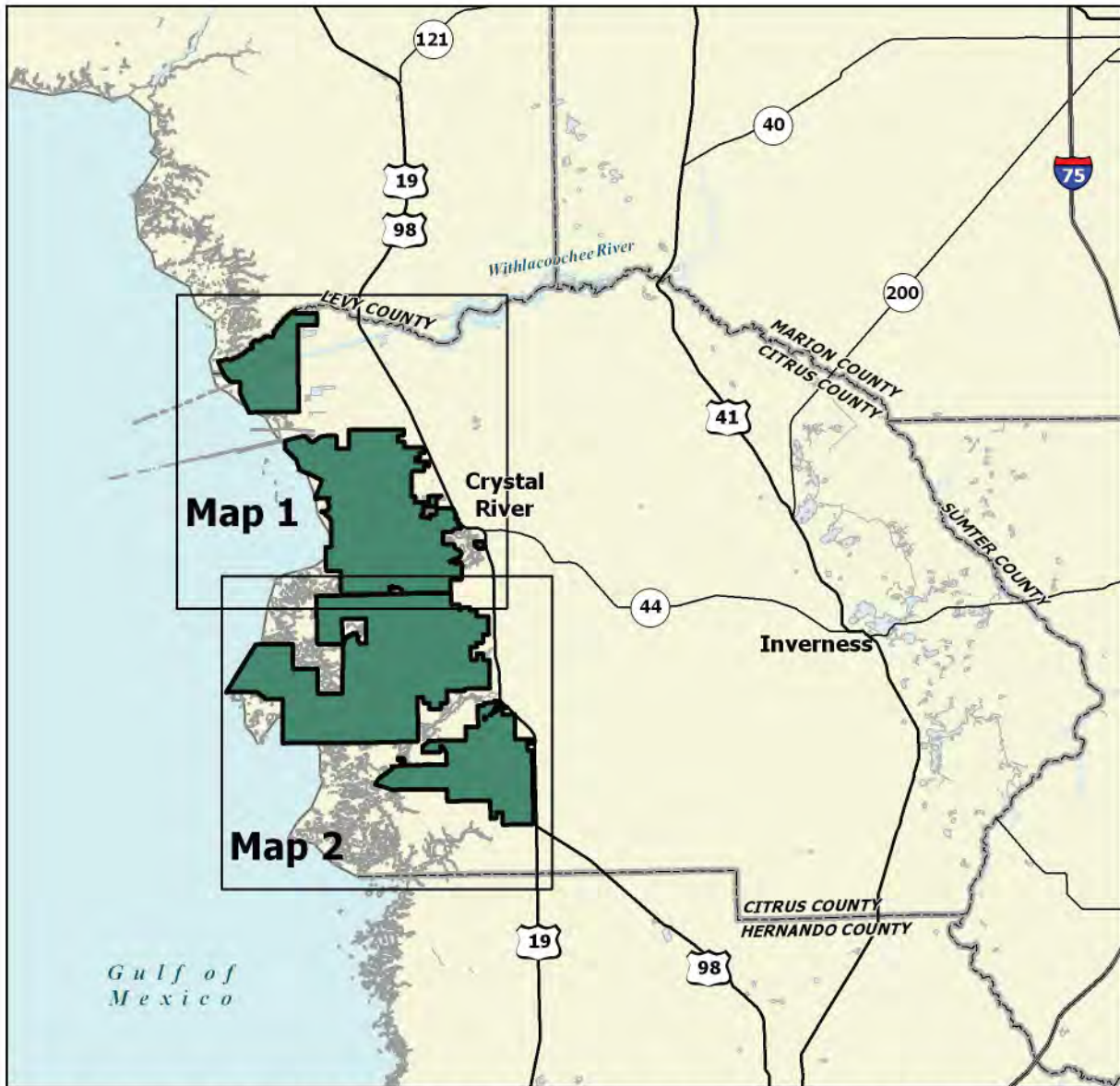
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$5,867,904

\* Crystal River, St. Martins and Homosassa Reserve projects combined in 1995.

\*\* Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SWFWMD

<b>Florida Springs Coastal Greenway</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Green Turtle	G3/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Hawksbill	G3/S1
<i>Tampa Vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Coastal Vervain</i>	G3/S3
30 rare species are associated with the project	

# Florida Springs Coastal Greenway - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

### CITRUS COUNTY



JANUARY 2008

## Florida Springs Coastal Greenway - Group A/Full Fee

Crystal River (~14,758 acres) Phase I: Crystal River II; Phase II: Crystal Cove—major owner is Burnip and Sims (acquired); Phase III: Crystal River State Reserve—major owner is Hollins (acquired). St. Martins (~14,040 acres) Phase I: Large ownerships within Area I as identified in Project Design; Phase II: Other ownerships within Area I and large ownerships within Area II; Phase III: Other ownerships within Area II; and Phase IV: ownerships in Area III. Major tracts have been acquired. Only smaller strategic tracts and offshore islands remain.

Homosassa Reserve (~8,577 acres) Phase I: Rooks tract (acquired); the Walker tract (acquired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District) and other ownerships except in Sections 28, 33, 34 and 7; Phase II: minor ownerships in Sections 28 and 33, the 160-acre Villa Sites Add. to Homosassa Sub in Section 34, also the 134-acre Johnson parcel in Section 7. All large and strategic ownerships with willing sellers have been acquired with the exception of the Black ownership, an unwilling seller. This portion of the project is, in effect, complete.

On March 10, 1995, the Land Acquisition & Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 424-acre addition (in former Crystal River project) to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowners, James C & Alice H. Rhoades, and had a 1994 taxable value of \$821,700.

On October 30, 1995, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 200-acre addition (in former Crystal River project) to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by landowner Corneal B Myers, consisted of one parcel and a 1994 taxable value of \$400,000.

On October 30, 1996, the LAMAC transferred this project to the Substantially Complete Category.

On March 14, 1997, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 80-acre addition (in former Crystal River project) to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by landowner Dixie Hollins, consisted of one parcel and a 1996 taxable value of \$64,000.

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC designated an additional 156 acres as essential. Previous essential parcels included land acquired as of January 26, 1995, and the Black ownership (in the former Homosassa

Reserve project).

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) adopted a Group A and Group B for the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list and moved this project to Group B.

On December 5, 2003, the ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 FF Priority list.

On February 6, 2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 142-acre addition (in former Homosassa Reserve project) to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by the Audubon Society and DEPs CAMA, and DRP, consisted of two landowners (Hampton Facilities LTD & Barr), 2 parcels, and a 2003 taxable value of \$524,000.

### Coordination

Although this project does not have any 50-percent partners at this time, the Southwest Florida Water Management District has acquired a major ownership within the project, as well as tracts adjacent and south of the project area.

### Management Policy Statement

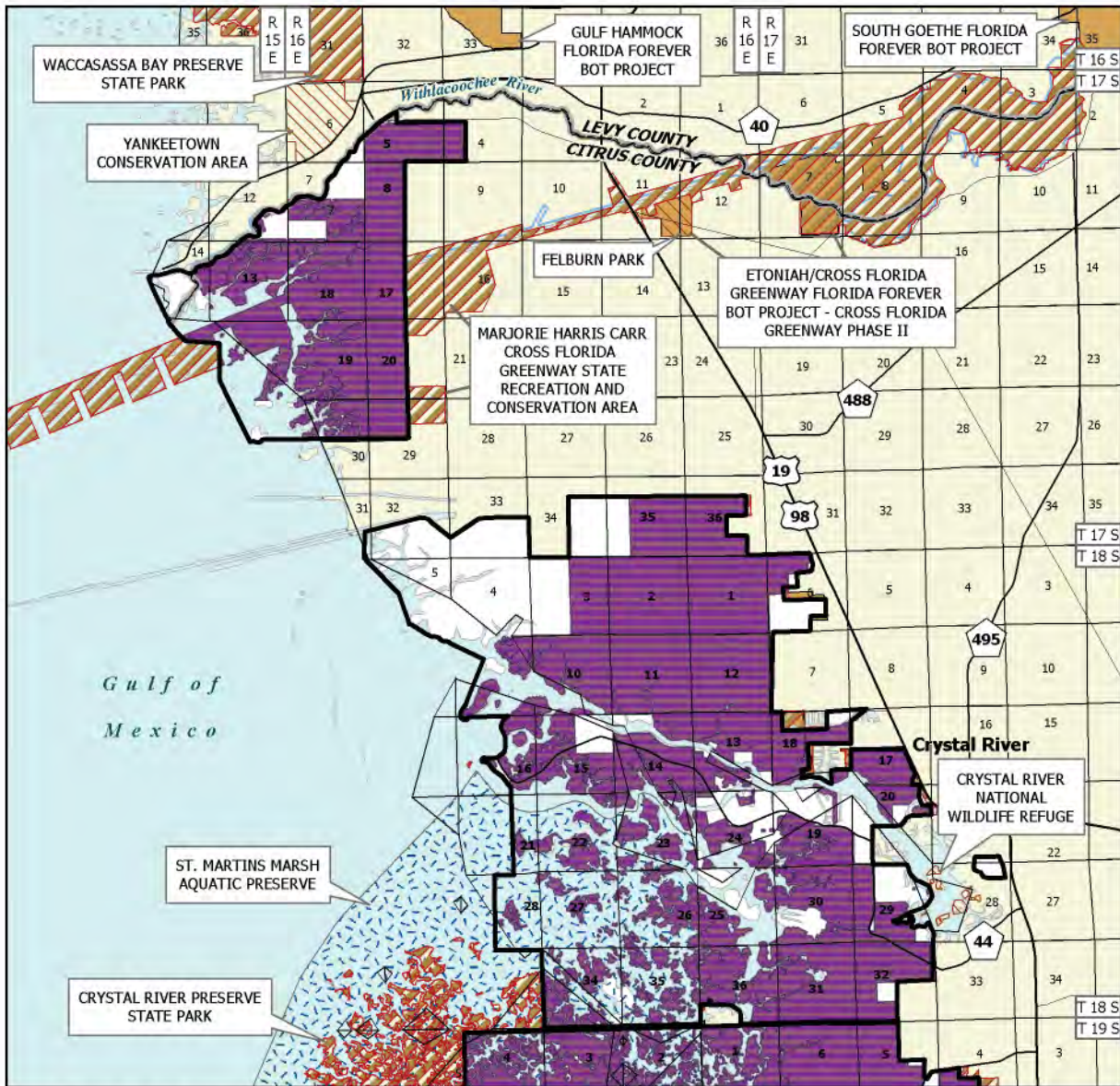
The primary goals of management of the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests; to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

*Qualifications for state designation* The proximity of the Crystal River and St. Martins River tracts of the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Project to the St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve and its major freshwater sources qualifies them as a state buffer preserve. The size and restorable forest resources of the Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property tract make it suitable for a state forest.

*Manager* DRP is recommended as the lead manager for the Crystal River and St. Martins River tracts. The DOF will manage the Homosassa Reserve tract.

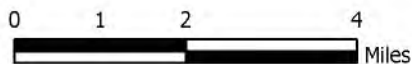
# Florida Springs Coastal Greenway - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 1 OF 2

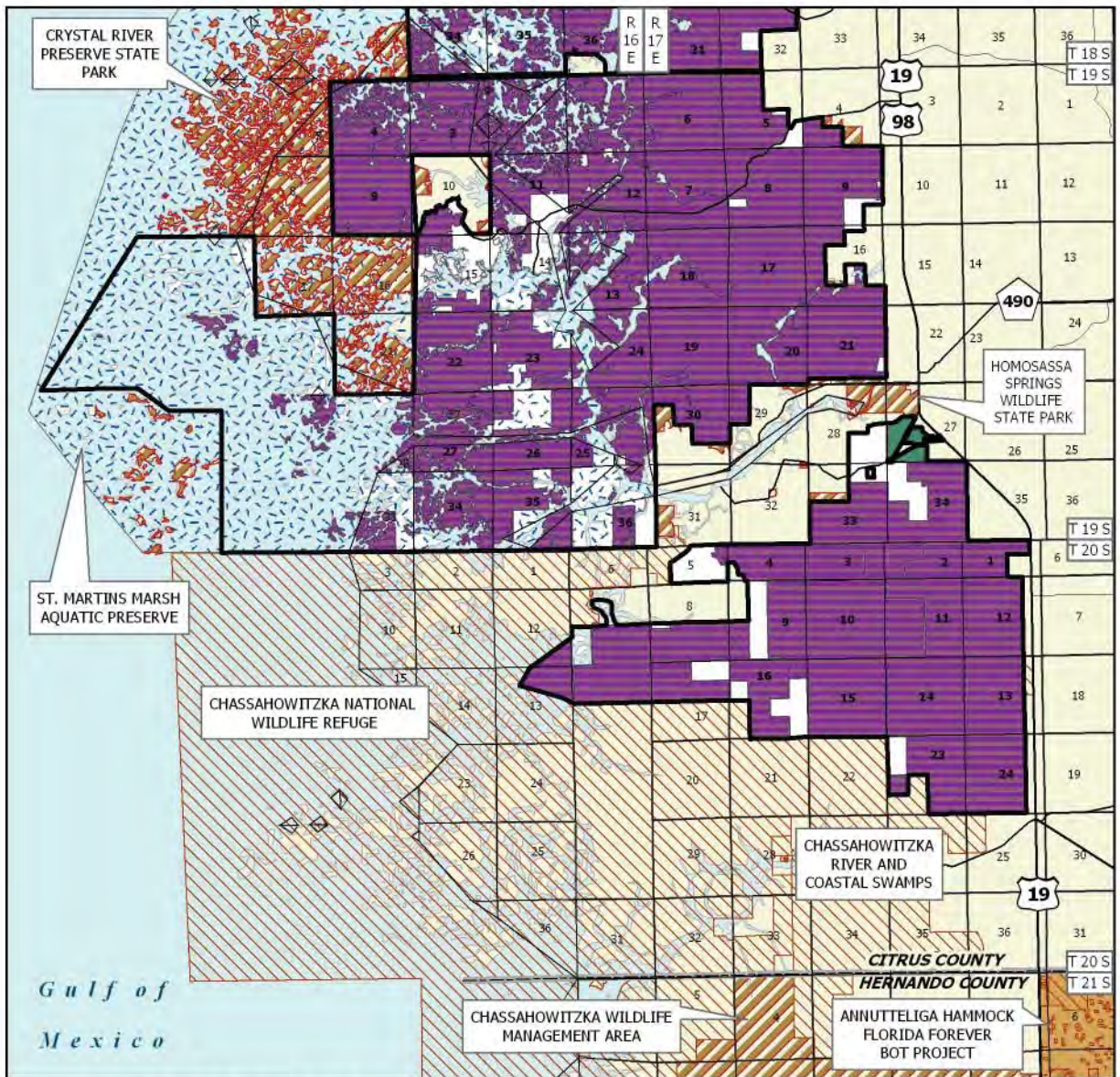
### CITRUS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



JULY 2009

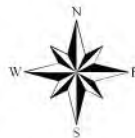
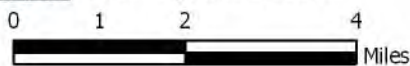
# Florida Springs Coastal Greenway - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 2 OF 2

### CITRUS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



APRIL 2008



## Florida Springs Coastal Greenway - Group A/Full Fee

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Portions of the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway include lands that would be considered “low-need” tracts requiring basic resource management and protection. However, increasing public pressure for recreational access and a developing ecotourism industry may push portions of this project into the “moderate to high-need” category.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, management will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and exotic removal. DRP and DOF will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project’s natural resources will be inventoried and a management plan developed within one year.

Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed at the perpetuation of natural communities and protection of listed species. An all-season burning program will use existing roads, black lines, foam lines, and natural breaks to contain fires. Areas of silviculture in the Crystal River project will be returned to their original character and species composition. About 25% of the Homosassa Reserve tract contains pasture suitable for reforestation and restoration. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas and to locate any recreational or administrative facilities. Unnecessary roads, fire lines, and hydrological disturbances will be restored to the greatest extent practical. Infrastructure will be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum needed for public access and management.

**Revenue-generating potential** Initially, no revenue is expected to be generated. During restoration of pine plantations, some revenue to offset the cost of management may be generated from the sale of timber. Any

estimate of revenue from this harvest depends upon a detailed assessment of the value of the timber. As the recreational component develops and additional staff is assigned, there may be a potential for revenue from this source. No potential revenue estimates are available at this time. On the Homosassa Reserve, the DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this tract is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended as a cooperating manager for hunts to eliminate feral hogs and to manage certain species. Because of the proximity of certain parcels to the Cross Florida Greenway and the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, the Office of Greenways and Trails and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be cooperative managers on parts of the project. Citrus County and the City of Crystal River may also cooperate in management. The DOF will also cooperate with other state agencies, local governments and interested parties as appropriate.

The DOF is managing the Homosassa Reserve tract as an addition to the Withlacoochee State Forest.

<b>Management Cost Summary/DRP</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL/LATF</b>	<b>CARL/LATF</b>	<b>CARL/LATF</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$161,909</b>	<b>\$166,767</b>	<b>\$171,770</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$ 61,031</b>	<b>\$ 98,300</b>	<b>\$152,136</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$103,062</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>	<b>\$139,290</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$ 9,579</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>	<b>\$ 61,907</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$335,581</b>	<b>\$395,067</b>	<b>\$525,103</b>

# Florida's First Magnitude Springs Group A:

## Walton, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Wakulla, Leon, Hamilton, Madison, Full Fee

### Suwannee, Lafayette, Levy, Marion and Hernando Counties

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Large springs of clear, continuously flowing water are among Florida's most famous and important natural and recreational resources. The cavernous, water-filled rocks of the Floridan Aquifer supply the largest springs. By preserving land around springs, this project will aid in the protection of springs, karst windows, and the Floridan Aquifer from the effects of commercial, residential, and agricultural runoff; clearcutting and mining; and unsupervised recreation. This project will ensure that Floridians and visitors from all over the world will be able to enjoy Florida springs for years to come.

**Managers**

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (Weeki Wachee Springs excluding the springhead, which is part of the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area); Jackson County (Jackson Blue Springs); U.S. Forest Service (River Sink Springs); Division of Recreation & Parks (DRP) (St. Marks, Fannin, Troy, Gainer Springs, & Madison County Blue Springs); Walton County (Morrison Springs); Leon County (Church Sink); Marion County (Silver Springs); Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Division of Forestry (DOF) (Hardee Springs); Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) (Fanning Springs); Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD) (Gainer

Springs); Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) (Fannin Springs, Falmouth Springs); and Lafayette County (Lafayette Blue Springs).

**General Description**

Because of the thick, water-filled limestone underlying it, Florida has more large springs (including river rises and karst windows) than any other state or even country. Those discharging an average of 100 cubic feet of water per second or more are called first-magnitude springs. The 33 recognized springs in Florida are scattered in the northern peninsula and the eastern panhandle where the limestones of the Floridan Aquifer arch close to the surface. Each day, these 33 springs send out much more water than is used for drinking water by all the people in the state. The springs, with generally clear, continuously flowing waters, are among Florida's most important natural resources and some are famous tourist attractions. The tracts harbor at least seven FNAI-listed plants and eighteen FNAI-listed animals. The Weeki Wachee tract includes one of the best remaining scrubs on Florida's West Coast. Several archaeological or historic sites are known from these springs, from remains over 2000 years old to an historic Sinclair gas station. All these springs are vulnerable to development and unsupervised use.

**Public Use**

The project sites are designated for use as state parks, geological sites and wildlife and environmental areas,

Florida's First Magnitude Springs	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Marianna Columbine</i>	G5T1Q/S1
Withlacoochee Tiny Sand-loving Scarab	G1/S1
Woodville Karst Cave Crayfish	G1/S1
Coastal Lowland Cave Crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Gulf Moccasinshell	G2/S1
Oval Pigtoe	G2/S1S2
<i>Karst Pond Xyris</i>	G2/S2
<i>Ashe's Magnolia</i>	G2/S2
36 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>14,081</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>6,236*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$103,683,237*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>7,845</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$13,235,927</b>

\* Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SRWMD and a 130-acre donation on the Weeki Wachee Springs site.

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee

with high recreational potential for swimming, canoeing, camping and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 7, 1990, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Florida's First Magnitude Springs – Phase I project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Regulations, consisted of approximately 2,907 acres, 36 landowners, 136 parcels, and a taxable value (tav) of \$5,718,493. In 1990, five springs make up the project: Falmouth Spring (Suwannee County, 75 acres, 1 parcel, 1 landowner, tav \$45,000), Fannin Springs (Levy County, 525 acres, 98 parcels, 17 landowners, tav \$1,187,610), Gainer Springs (Bay County, 1,258 acres, 19 parcels, 7 landowners, tav \$3,256,739), River Sink Spring (Wakulla County, 105 acres, 4 parcels, 4 landowners, tav \$64,956), and St. Marks Springs (Leon County, 890 acres, 19 parcels, 6 landowners, tav \$1,164,188). According to the 1990 Project Design document, the Division of Recreation & Parks (DRP) will manage St. Marks Springs. The US Forest Service will manage River Sink Spring. The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), DRP, and Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) will manage Fannin Springs. A lead manager has not been determined for Falmouth Springs. The lead manager is still unclear for Gainer Springs; however, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) and Bay County both expressed interest. A portion of the Fannin Springs sites have been acquired. The NFWFMD has acquired 214 acres of the Gainer Springs sites.

On June 28, 1991, the LAAC approved a 218-acre addition to the Falmouth Springs site, located in Suwannee County, within the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Nemours Foundation, who already has acreage within the current boundary and is not willing to sell only a portion of the tract. The taxable value of the addition is \$129,600. Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) will manage if acquired.

On December 10, 1992, the LAAC approved Phase II that added three springs, 1,880 acres with a taxable value of \$5,180,452. This addition consisted of Jackson Blue Springs (Jackson County, 348 acres, 3 parcels, 2 landowners, tav \$256,556 ); Troy Spring (Lafayette County, 265 acres, 6 parcels, 2 landowners,

tav \$261,897); and Weeki Wachee Springs (Hernando County, 1,267 acres, 59 parcels, 24 landowners, tav \$4,661,999). The Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage the Weeki Wachee Springs sites. The DRP will manage the Troy Spring site. Jackson County will manage the Jackson Blue Springs sites. Portions of Troy Spring, Weeki Wachee Springs, & Jackson Blue Springs sites have been acquired.

On December 10, 1992, the LAAC also approved a fee-simple, 1,635-acre addition (Gainer Springs Expansion) and combined it with the Gainer Springs site. The majority of the addition is owned by Hunt Petroleum/Rosewood Timber Co. and St. Joe Paper. There are also several small ownerships. The estimated taxable value is \$3,000,000. Phase I was combined with the new Florida's First Magnitude Springs Phase II. The springs are located in Bay & Washington counties. The NFWFMD will manage the 214-acre Harder tract that it acquired.

On October 30, 1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 20-acre addition (Jackson Blue Springs) to the project boundary in Jackson County. It was sponsored by the two landowners, Carolyn D. Huff and Wayne Mixon, located along Spring Run of Merritts Mill Pond in Jackson County, and has a taxable value of \$258,790. Jackson County will manage. Both properties were acquired in 1997.

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) transferred the St. Marks Springs, River Sink Spring, Fannin Springs, and Gainer Springs sites to the Negotiation Impasse group.

On July 29, 1999, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 65-acre addition (Madison Blue Springs) in Madison County to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowners' representative, contains 45 parcels, 22 landowners, and a taxable value of \$604,000. The addition was designated as essential and added to the Priority portion of the project. Madison County will manage. Approximately 44 acres have been acquired.

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 40-acre addition

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee

(Cypress Spring) in Washington County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Conservation Properties for the landowner, Harold Vickers, and had a taxable value of \$131,400. Mr. Vickers was willing manage if acquired; however property was sold to a third party in 2002.

On April 18, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 200-acre addition (Morrison Springs) in Walton County to the project boundary with a taxable value of \$63,880. The addition was sponsored by Conservation Properties, Inc. and Walton County will manage the site. In 2004, 159 acres was acquired.

On April 18, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 4,552-acre addition (Silver Springs Addition) north of Silver Springs in Marion County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the Silver Springs Basin Working Group, consisted of one landowner, Avatar Properties Inc., and had a taxable value of \$3,406,945. The DOF will manage if acquired.

On August 15, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 172-acre addition (Lafayette Blue Springs) in Lafayette County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Conservation Properties, consisted of one landowner, Union Land & Timber Corp., 9 parcels, and a taxable value of \$97,000. Lafayette County will manage if acquired.

On October 17, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 365-acre addition (Silver Springs Addition No. 2) in Marion County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the Silver Springs Basin Working Group and the Marion County Audubon, Inc., consisted of one landowner, Seldin, 2 parcels, and a taxable value of \$2,889,223. Marion County will manage the site. In 2005, 330 acres were acquired.

On December 5, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,717-acre addition (Jackson Blue Springs) in Jackson County to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by Conservation Properties, consisted of 11 parcels, 5 landowners (Edinburgh Investment Corp; AJ Green; Howard Muncaster Partnership; LH Alford Farms Inc.; Doyle Green), and a taxable value of \$303,367. Jackson County will manage if acquired.

On October 15, 2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 5-acre addition (Church Sink) in Leon County to the

project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowner, J. Lee Vause Trust, consisted of one parcel, and a taxable value of \$47,700. Leon County will manage if acquired.

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 305-acre addition (Hardee Spring) in Hamilton County to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by Harold Hardee, consisted of one parcel with a taxable value of \$57,001. The DOF will manage the site as part of the Twin Rivers Forest if acquired.

In July 2007, the BOT acquired 4,471 acres of the Avatar property in Marion County.

On February 25, 2009, the BOT acquired 54.74 acres from the Rakestraw family in the St. Marks Site.

### **Coordination**

Hernando County has limited acquisition funds, but is very supportive of state acquisition efforts. The NFWFMD has acquired the 214-acre Harder tract in Gainer Springs.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project are: to preserve land around springs, karst windows, and springs to aid in the protection of the Floridan Aquifer from the effects of commercial, residential, and agricultural runoff; clearcutting and mining; and unsupervised recreation.

### **Management Prospectus**

*Qualifications for state designation* Blue Spring has the diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as a state park. The location of the Weeki Wachee project adjacent to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, as well as its sensitive natural resources, qualifies it as a wildlife and environmental area. River Sink spring is a first-magnitude karst window. This qualifies it as a state geological site. St. Marks, Fanning, Troy, Falmouth, and Gainer Springs have the diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as a state park.

*Manager* FWC (Weeki Wachee Springs excluding the springhead, which is part of the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area); Jackson County (Jackson Blue Springs); U.S. Forest Service (River Sink Springs); DRP (St. Marks, Fannin, Troy, Gainer Springs, & Madison County Blue Springs); Walton County (Morrison

## Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee

Springs); Leon County (Church Sink); Marion County (Silver Springs); DOF (Hardee Springs); OGT (Fanning Springs); NFWFMD (Gainer Springs); SRWMD (Fanning Springs, Falmouth Springs); and Lafayette County (Lafayette Blue Springs).

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** River Sink and Blue Spring are moderate-need tracts, requiring more than basic resource management and protection. River Sink is a moderate-need tract, requiring more than basic resource management and protection. Gainer Springs is a high-need management area including public recreational use and development compatible with resource management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Jackson County Blue Spring is now being used by the public and Jackson County has no plans to curtail activities. The County would continue to open the swim area in season and maintain year-round access for boating, fishing, and nature appreciation. The smaller second spring may need restrictions to ensure public safety and preservation of the limestone bluffs. A lifeguard will be on duty while the swim area is open. Access will be controlled primarily by fences.

River Sink would immediately fall under the National Forests in Florida's Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Within the first few years after acquisition, management activities would focus on site security, resource inventory, removal of existing trash, and any necessary prescribed fire management.

In the first year after Gainer Springs is acquired, the Division of Recreation and Parks will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection,

and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** The Blue Springs swim area generated \$21,946 in revenue in fiscal year 1992-93 and \$13,045 in fiscal year 1993-94. DRP expects Gainer Springs to generate no significant revenue initially. The amount of any revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. As facilities are developed, River Sink may become a national recreational fee area. Fees collected from use of this area would be activities of the Federal Government. It is estimated that the area will receive more than 5,000 visits annually once it is developed.

**Cooperators in management activities** Jackson County expects the FWC to cooperate in managing wildlife on the Blue Springs project area. Other appropriate agencies may wish to become involved in the project. As funds become available and subject to public approval, the USDA Forest Service may enter into a cooperative agreement to manage the property.

### Management Cost Summary Data

**USFS - River Sink Springs:** No additional funds are expected from the Forest Service. Each district ranger office will manage with its existing staff.

DRP—St. Marks				
Category	Startup	Recurring	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	Federal	Federal	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$5,000	\$22,167	\$22,167
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$7,280	\$7,280
Expense	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,424	\$5,424
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$6,978	\$6,978
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$41,849</b>	<b>\$41,849</b>



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: OVERVIEW

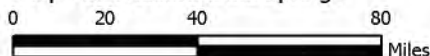
*WALTON, WASHINGTON, BAY, JACKSON, WAKULLA, LEON, HAMILTON, MADISON, SUWANNEE, LAFAYETTE, LEVY, MARION, AND HERNANDO COUNTIES*

### PRIORITY SITES

- Map 1: Morrison Springs
- Map 2: Cypress Spring
- Map 4: Blue Springs
- Map 6: Church Sink
- Map 8: Hardee Spring
- Map 9: Madison Blue Springs
- Map 10: Falmouth Spring
- Map 11: Lafayette Blue Springs
- Map 12: Troy Spring
- Map 14: Silver Springs
- Map 15: Weekiwachee Springs

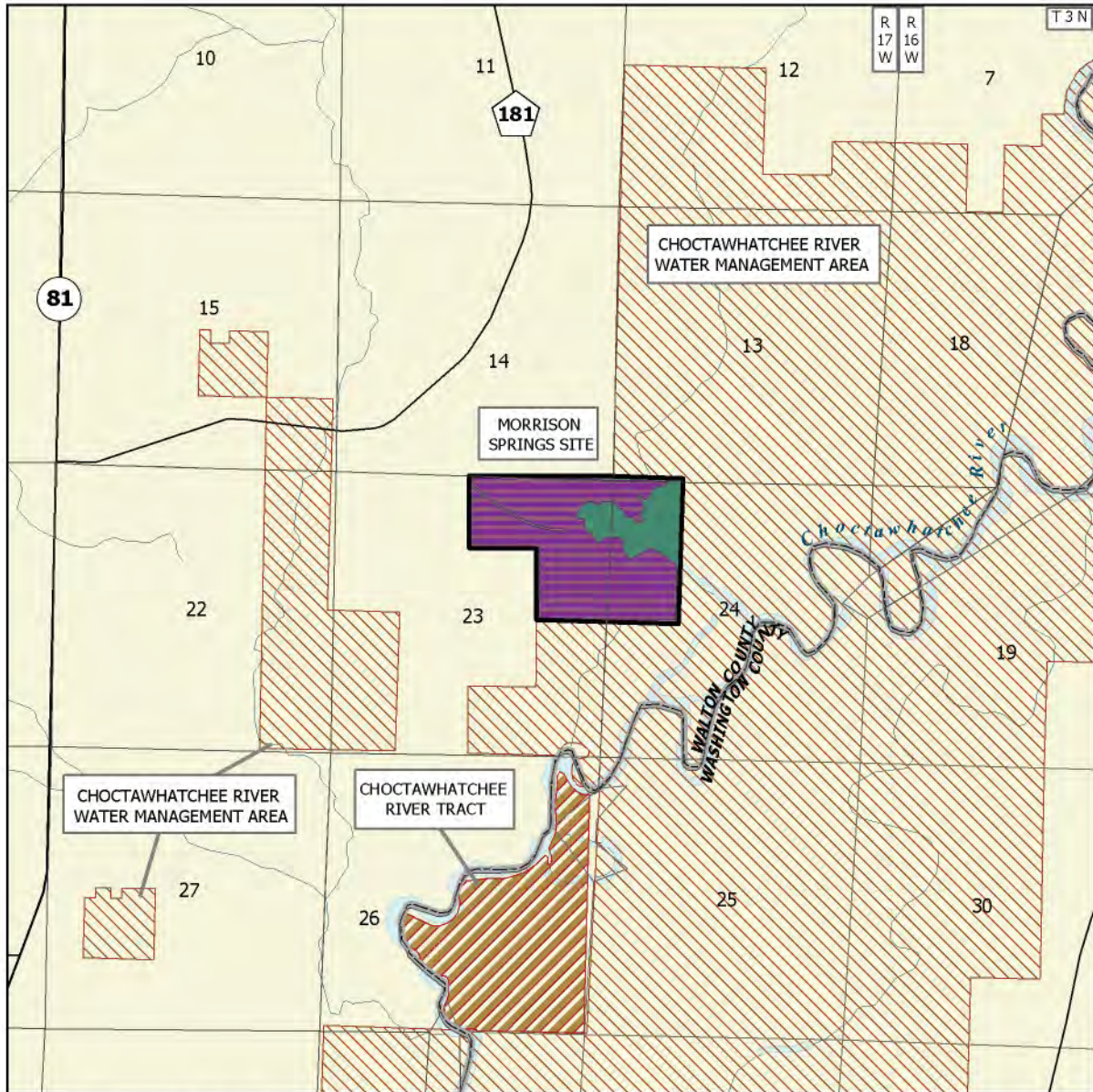
### NEGOTIATION IMPASSE SITES

- Map 3: Gainer Springs
- Map 5: River Sink Spring
- Map 7: St. Marks Springs
- Map 13: Fannin Springs



OCTOBER 2006

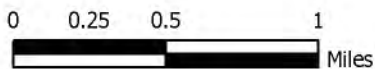
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 1 OF 15

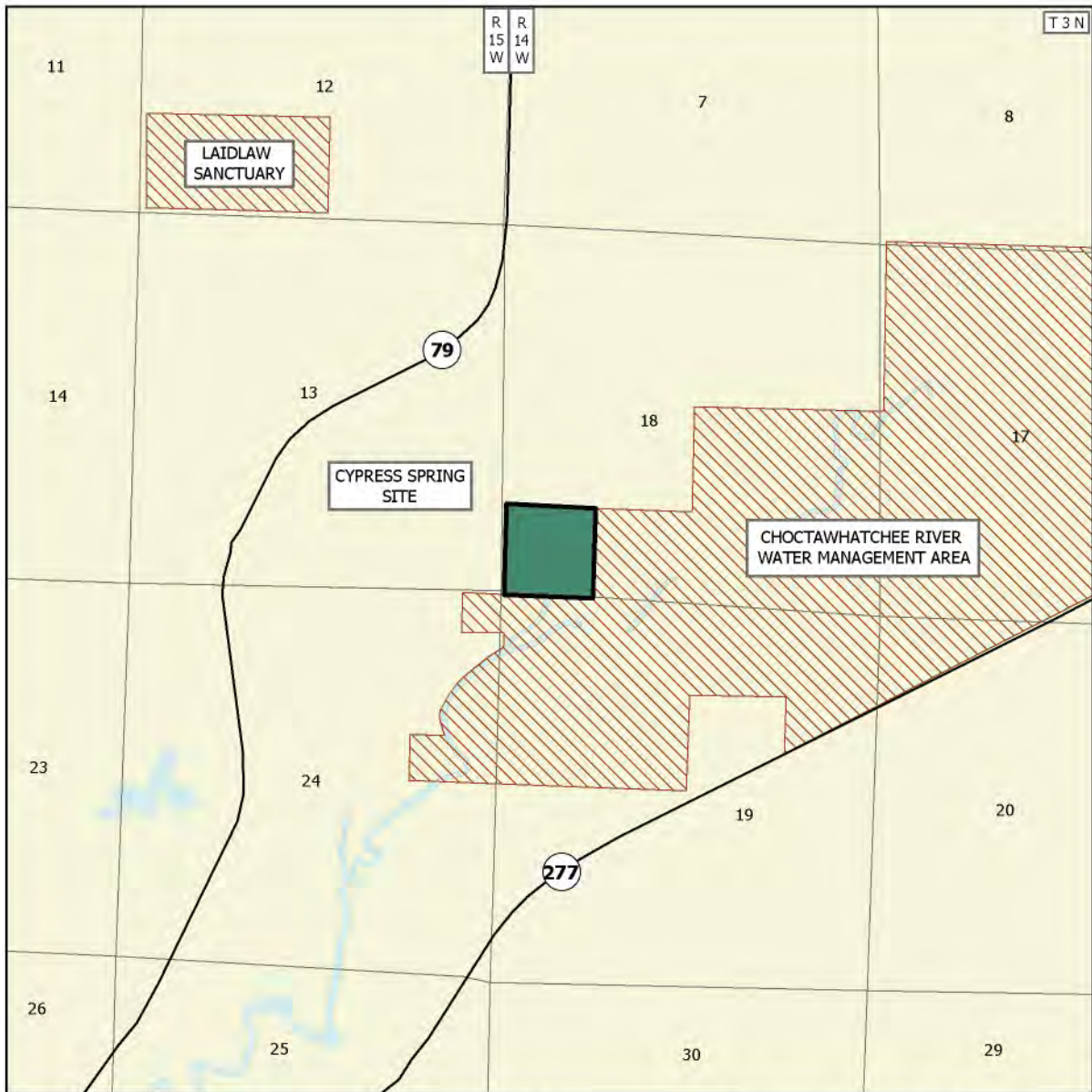
### WALTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands






OCTOBER 2006

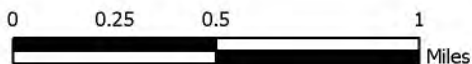
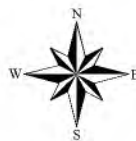
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 2 OF 15

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

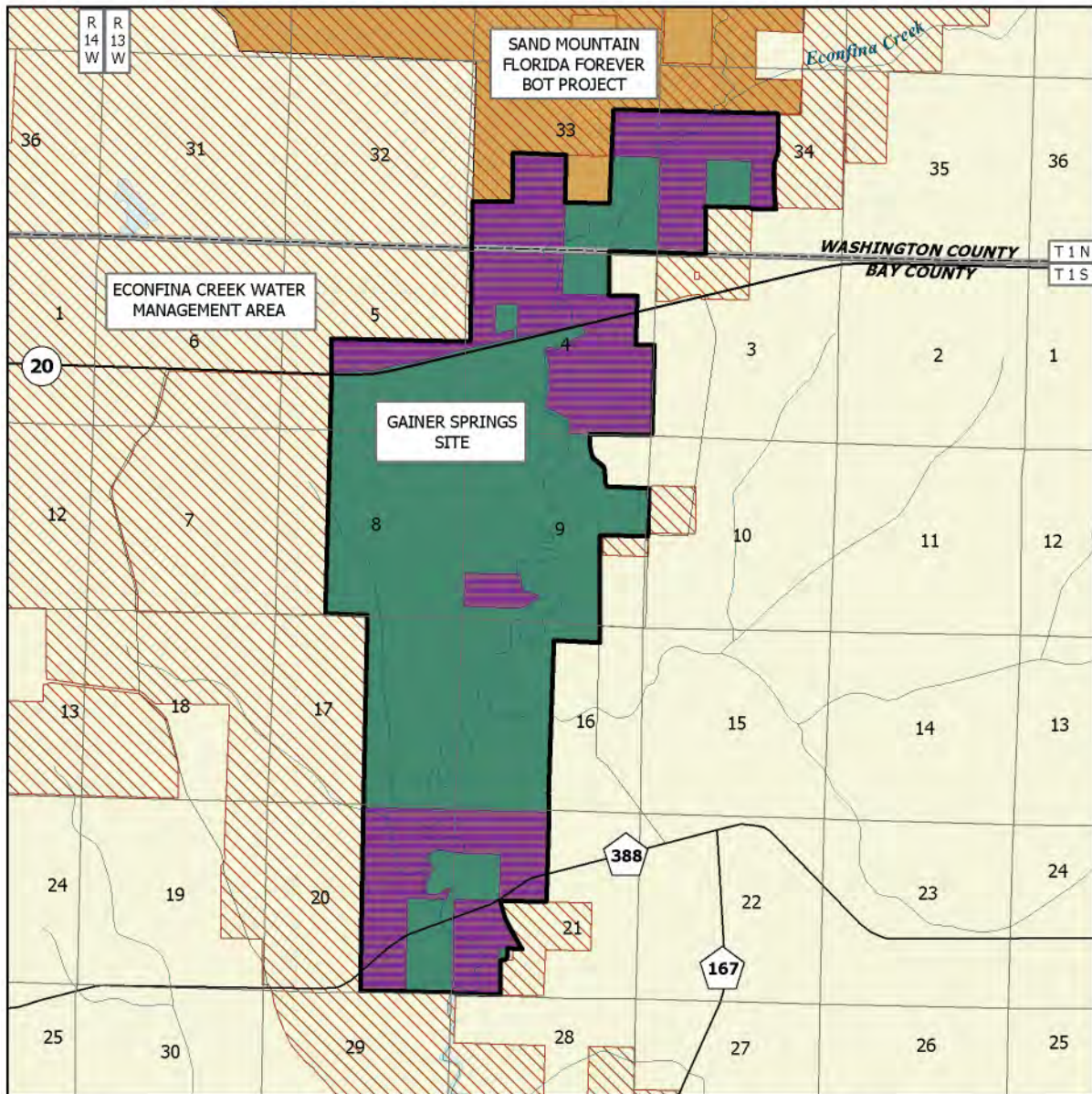
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006



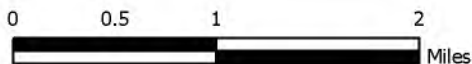
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 3 OF 15

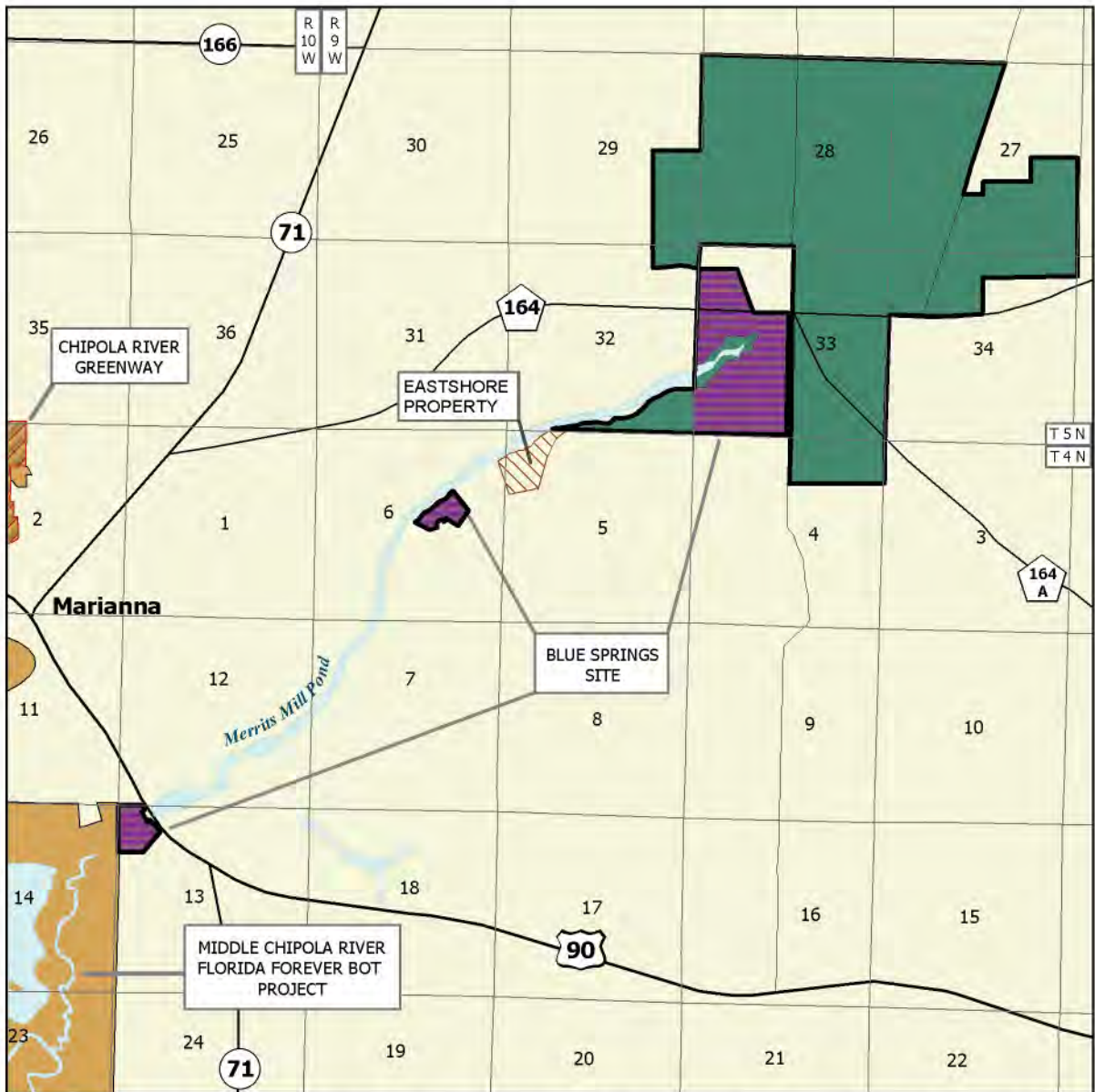
### BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

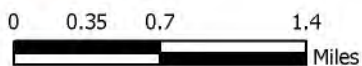
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 4 OF 15

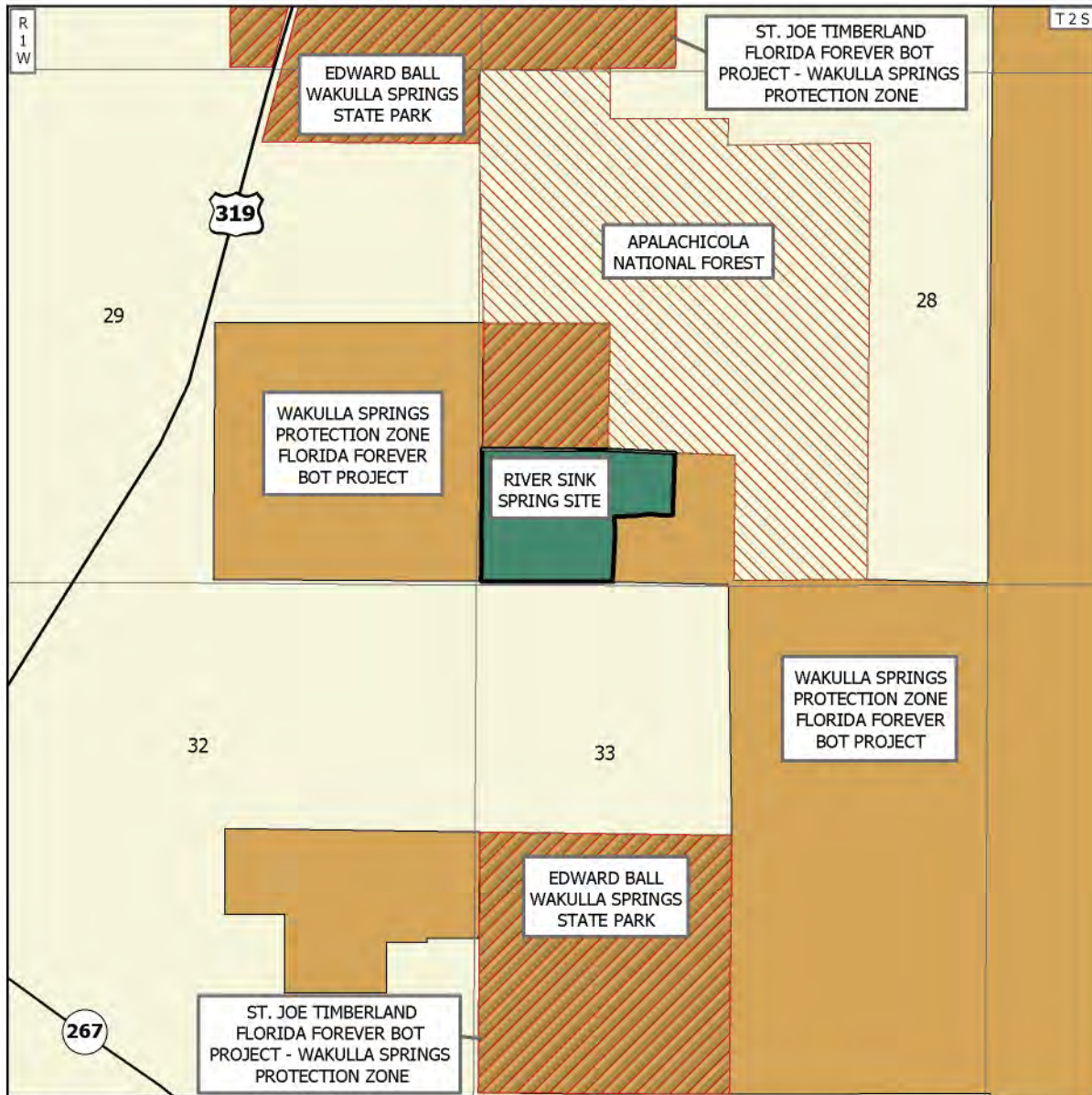
### JACKSON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

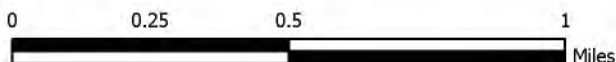
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 5 OF 15

### WAKULLA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands






OCTOBER 2006

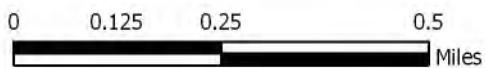
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 6 OF 15

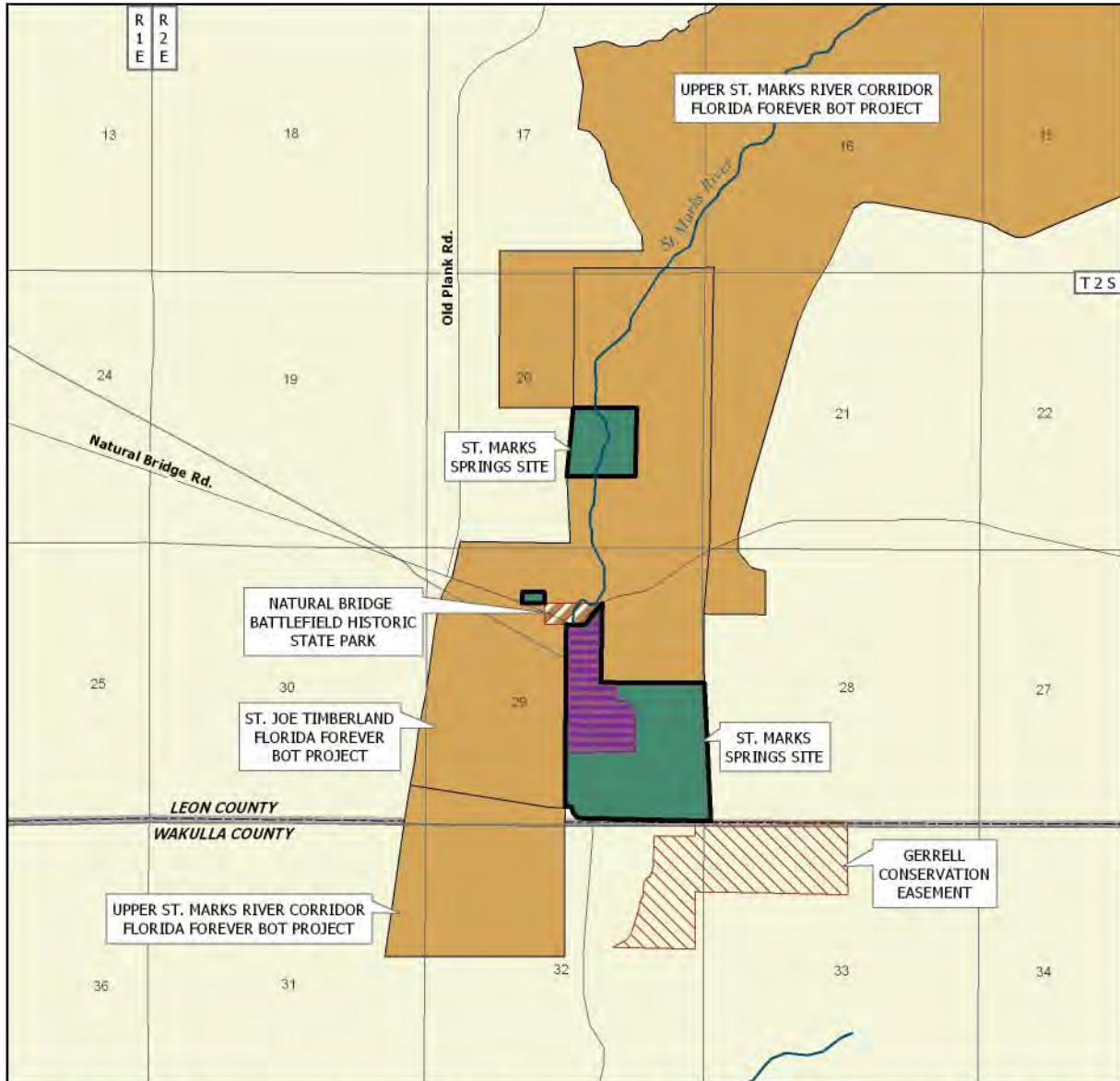
### LEON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2008

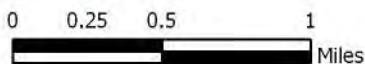
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 7 OF 15

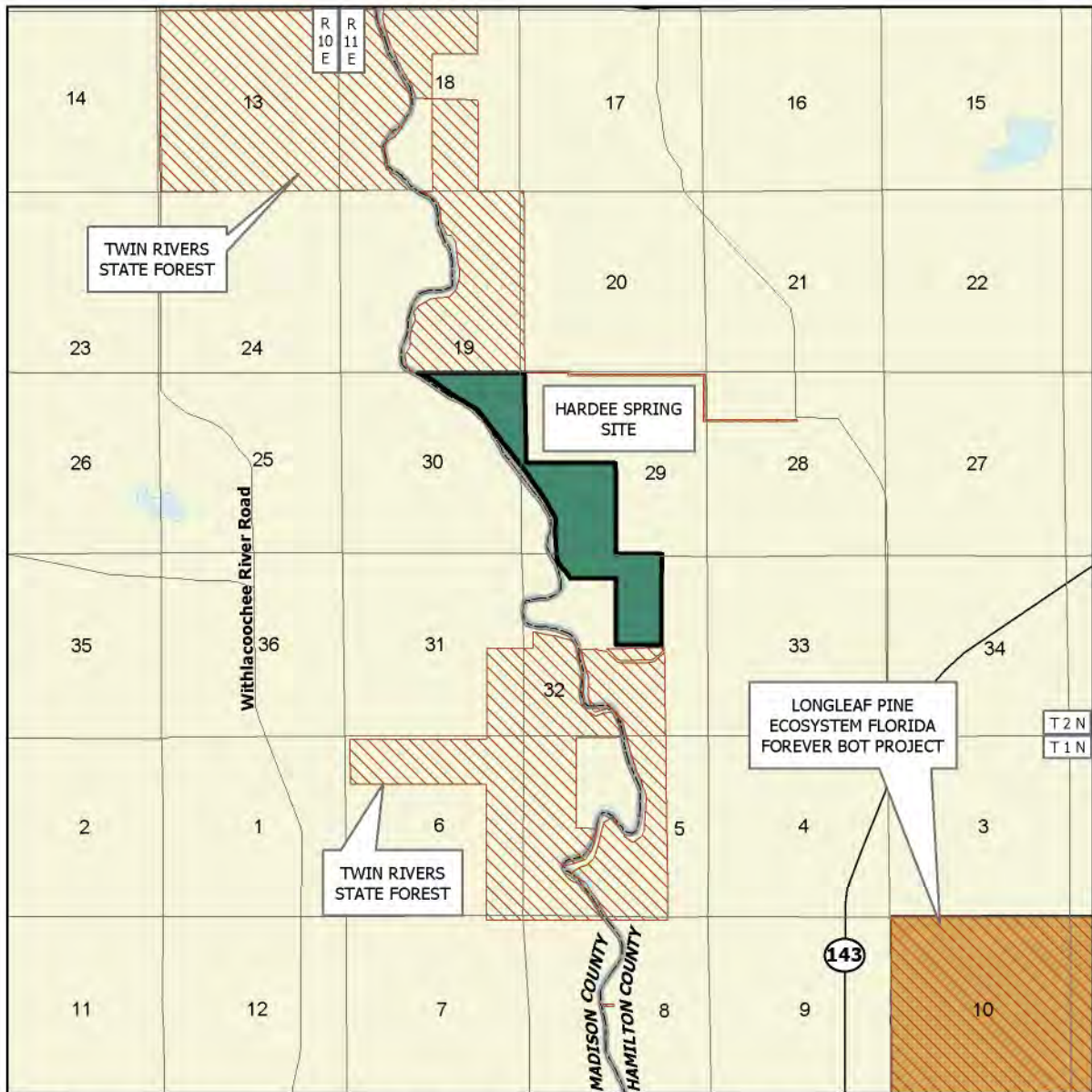
### LEON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

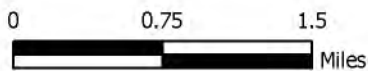
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 8 OF 15

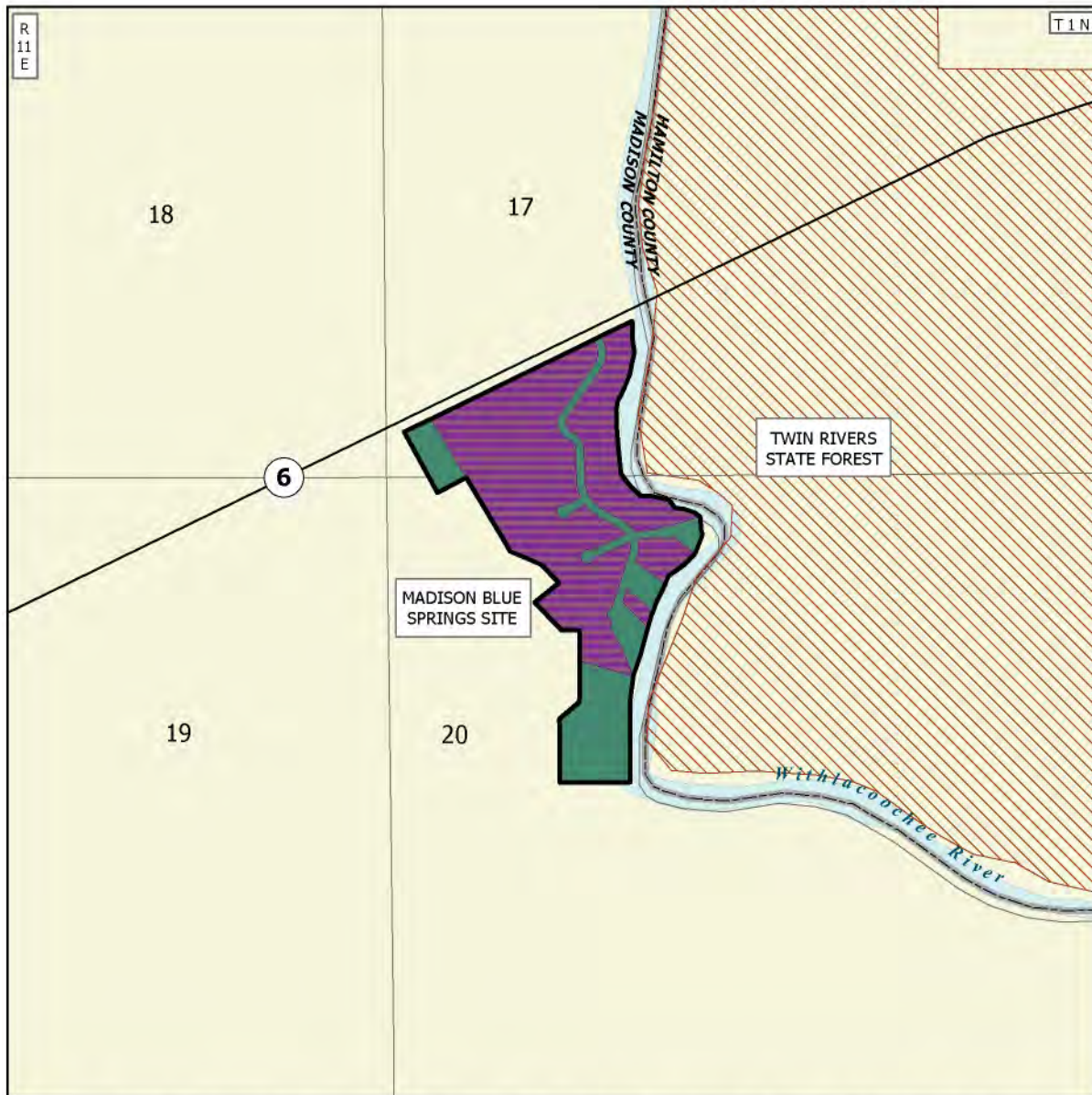
### HAMILTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands







OCTOBER 2006

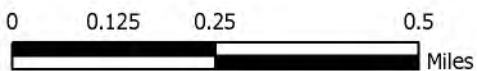
Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



**FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 9 OF 15**

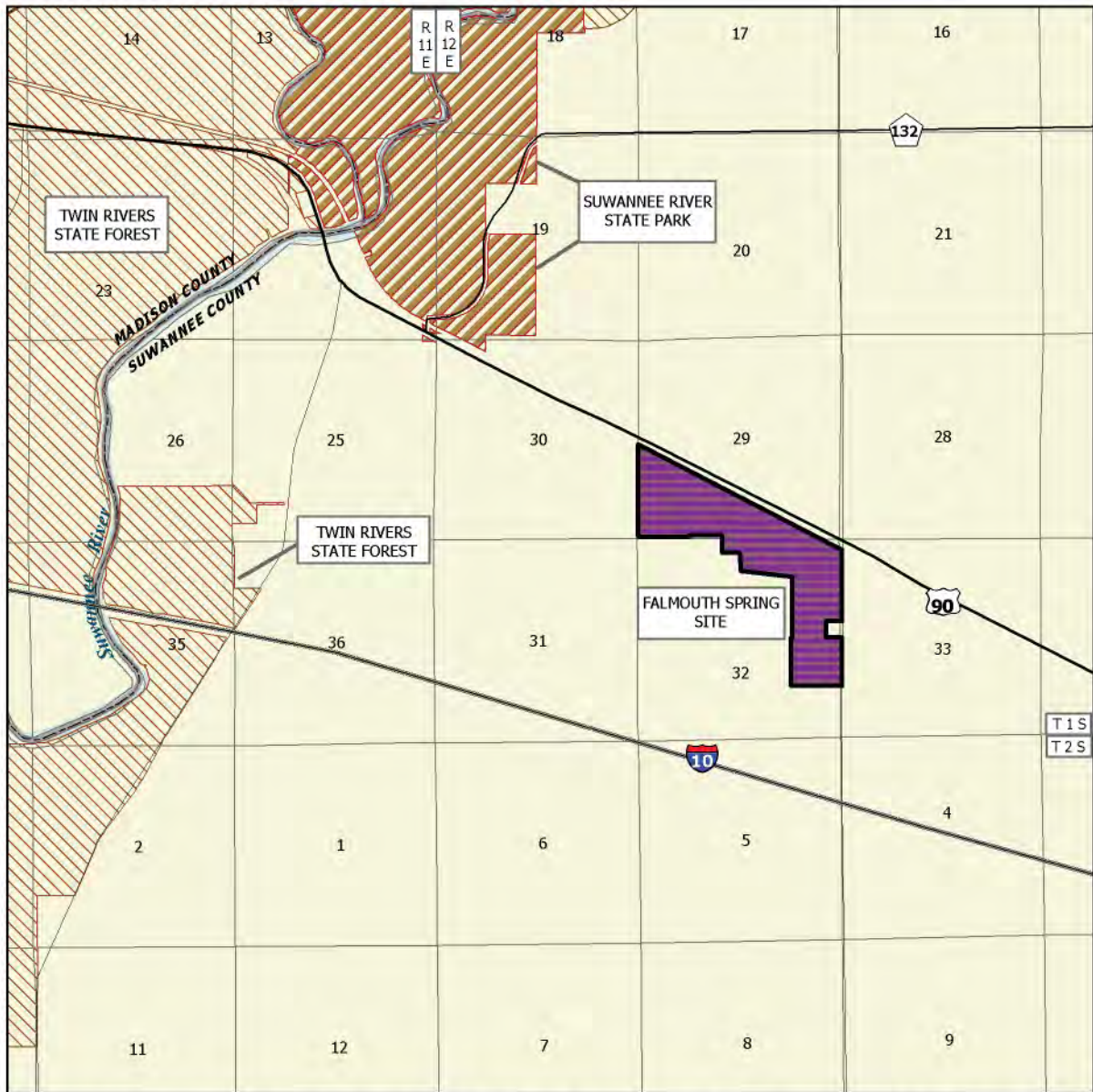
**MADISON COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands







OCTOBER 2006

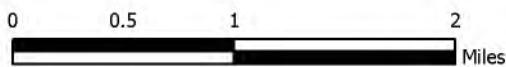
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 10 OF 15

### SUWANNEE COUNTY

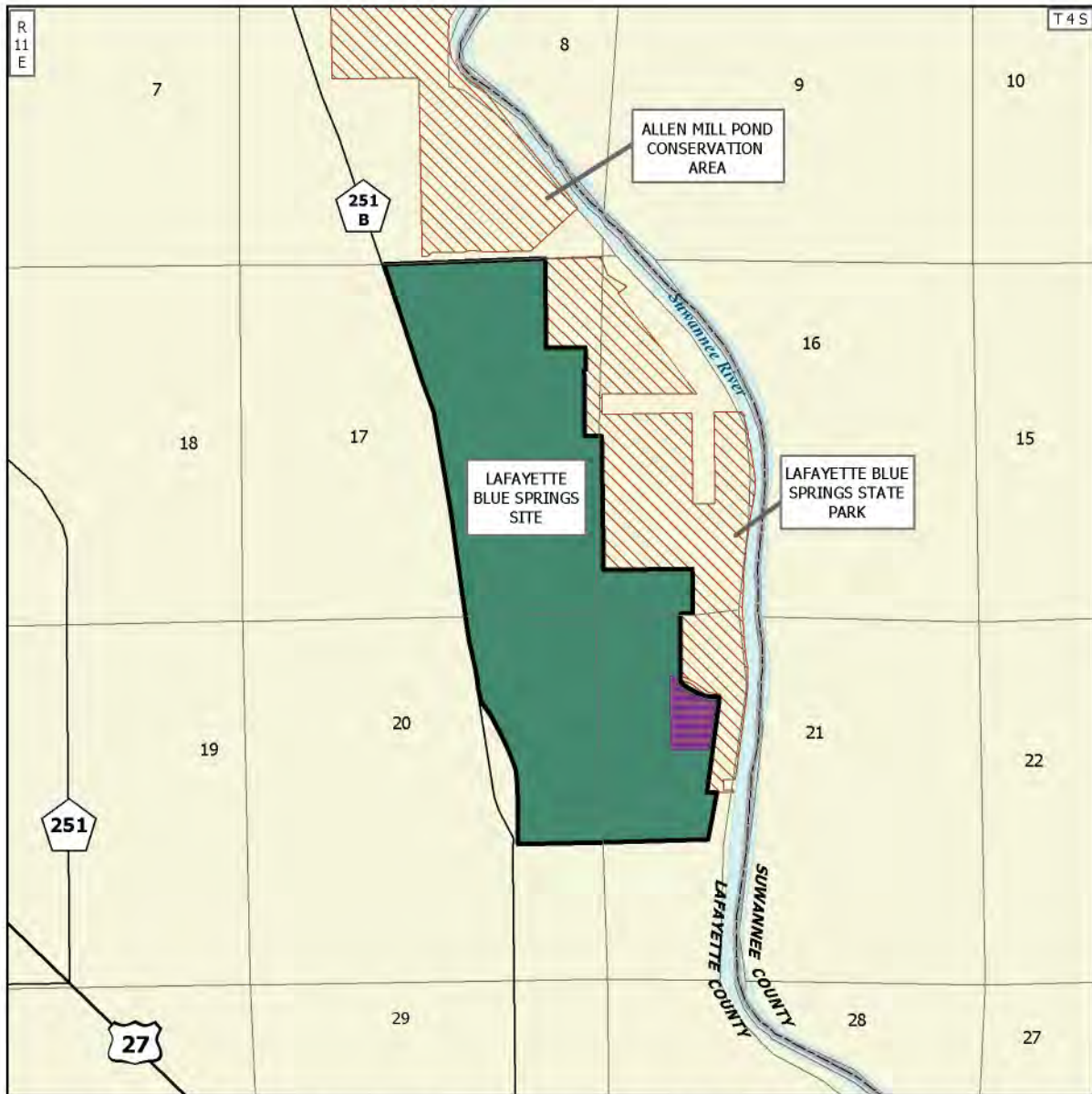
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006







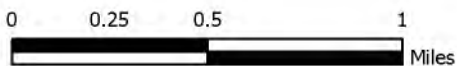
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 11 OF 15

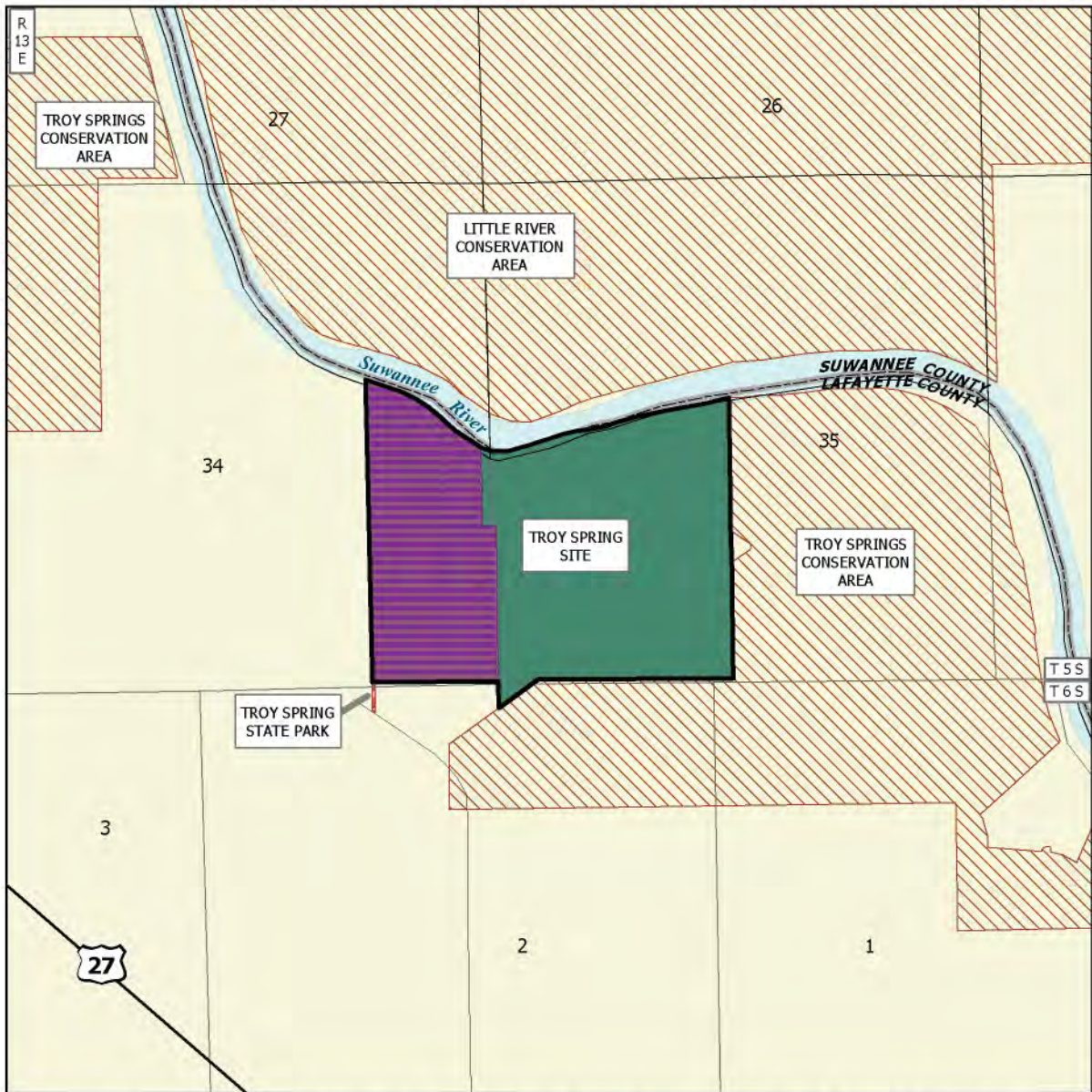
### LAFAYETTE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

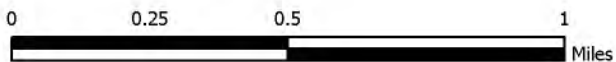
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 12 OF 15

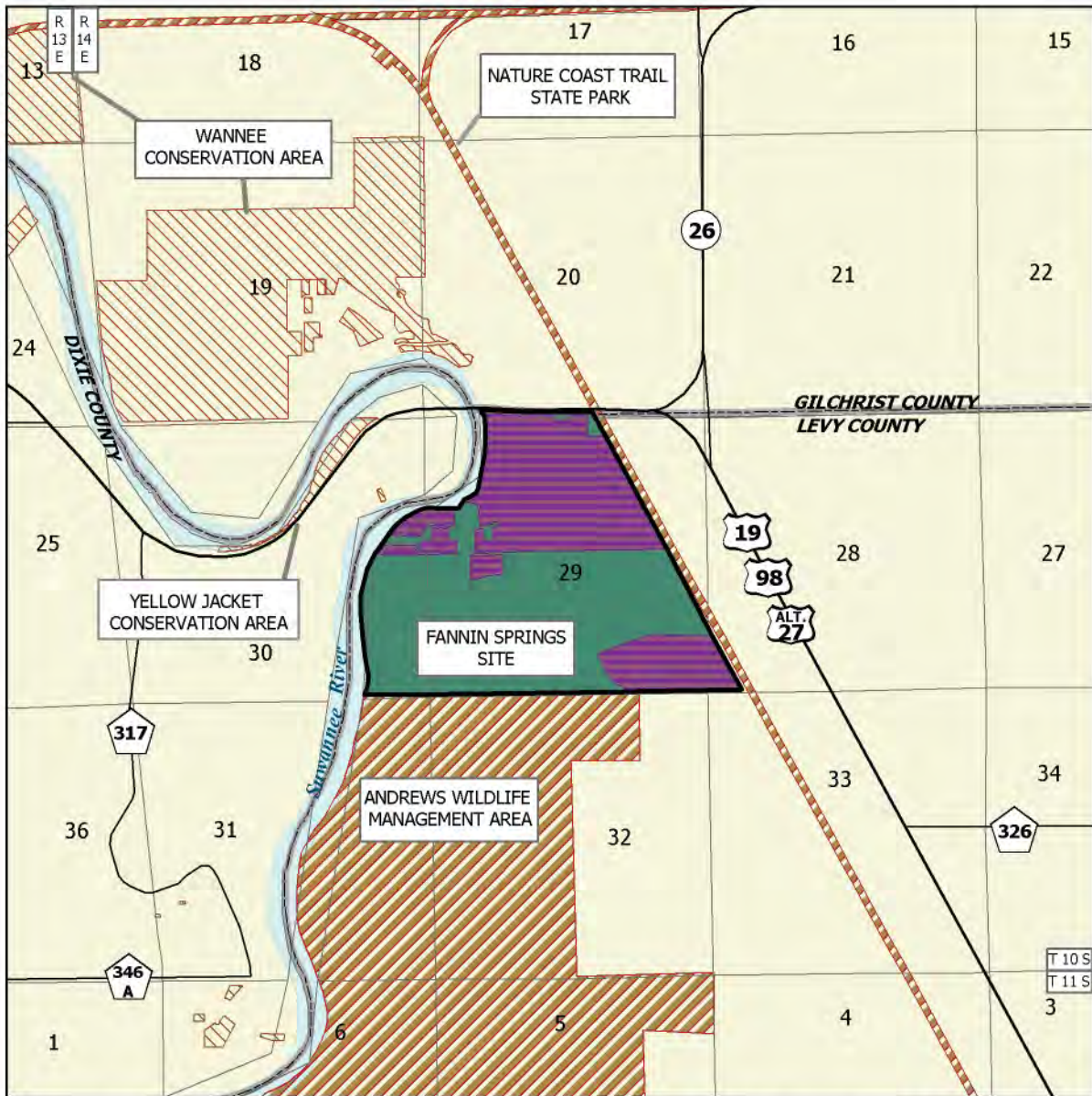
### LAFAYETTE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Acquired
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

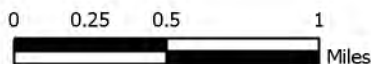
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 13 OF 15

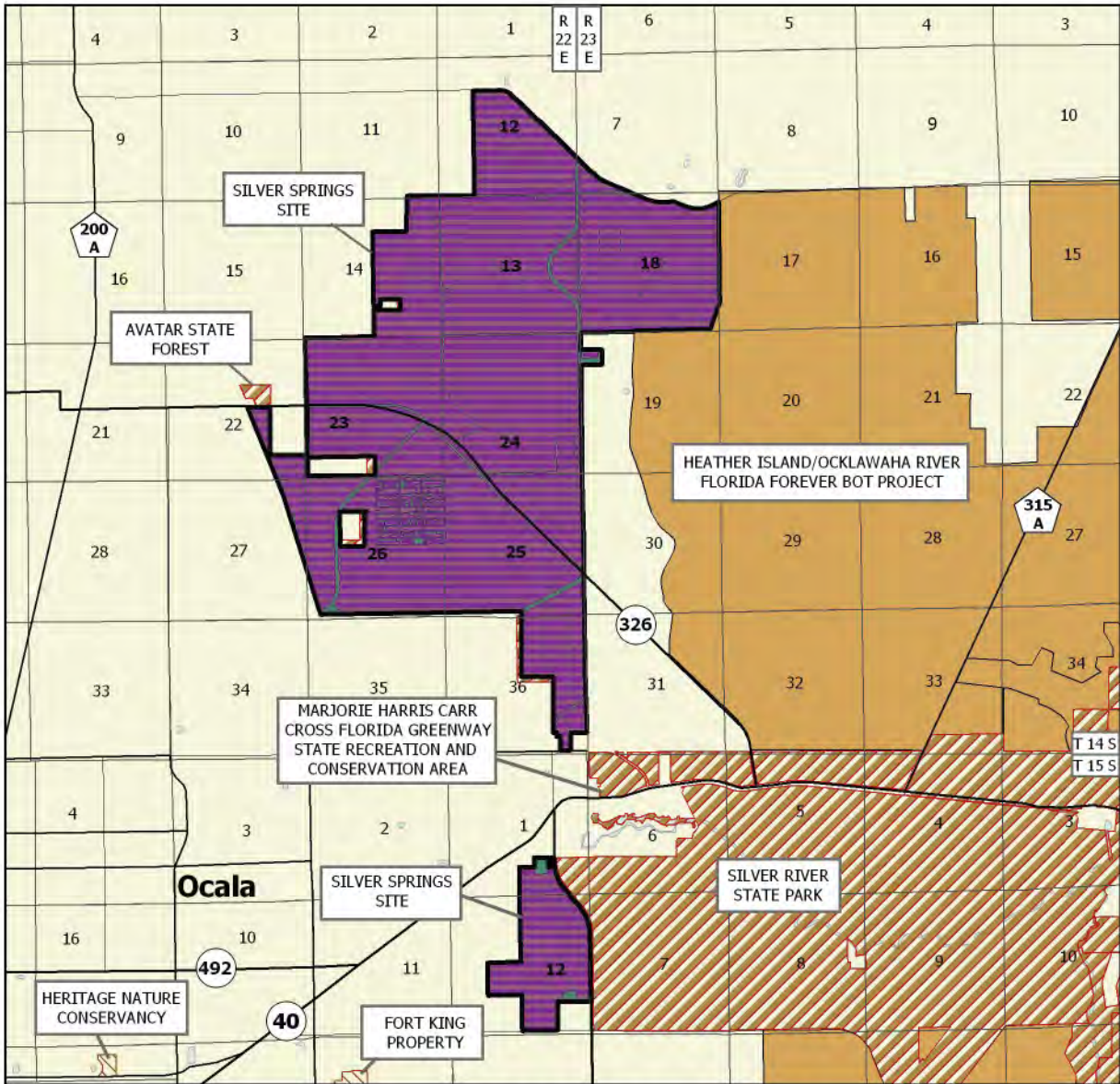
### LEVY COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

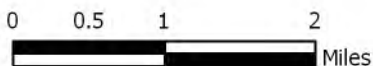
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 14 OF 15

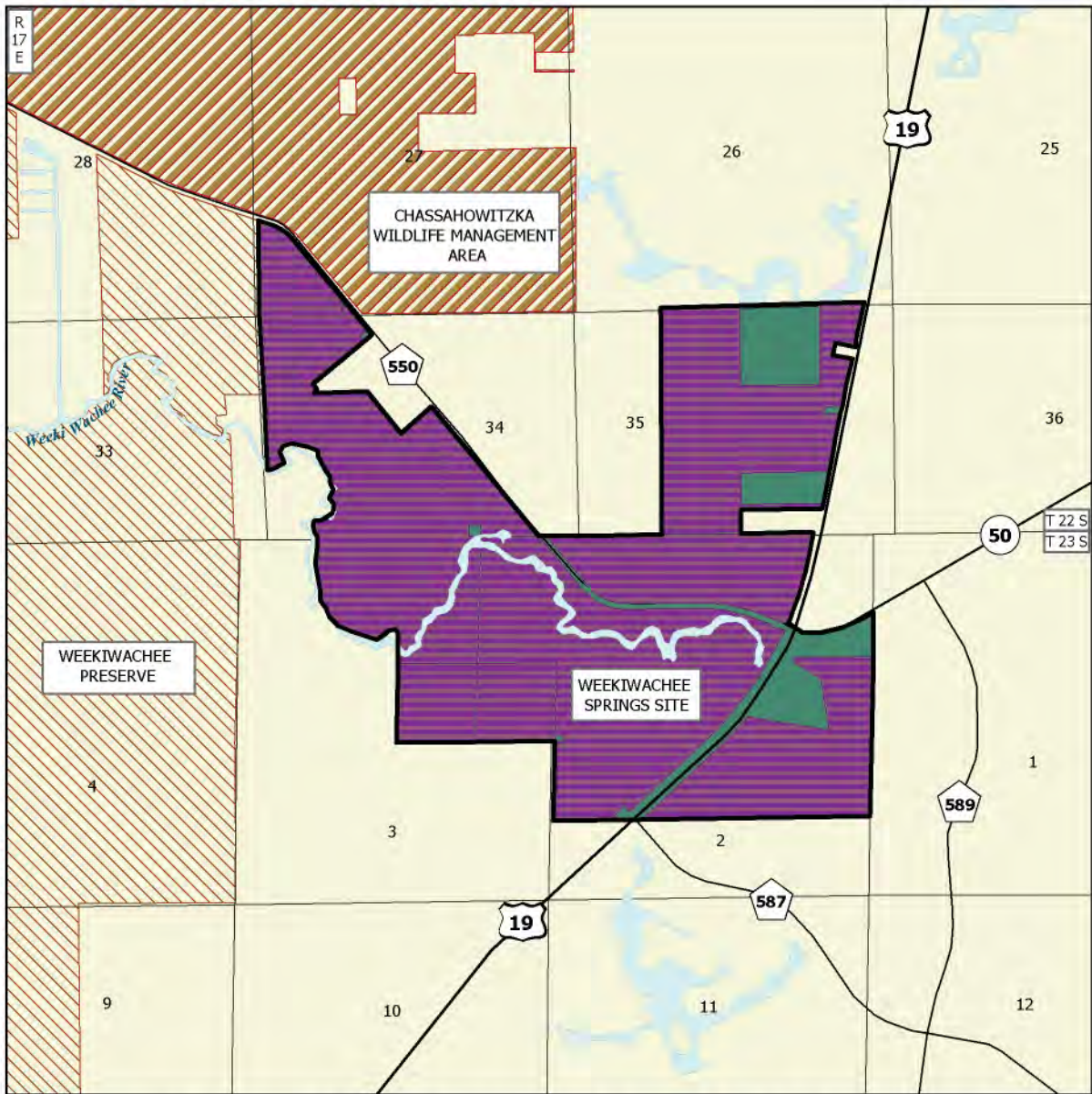
### MARION COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2007

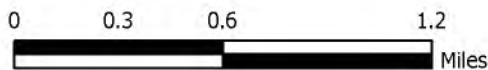
# Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee



## FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 15 OF 15

### HERNANDO COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

**Florida's First Magnitude Springs - Group A/Full Fee**

**Management Cost Summary**

**OGT—Fanning Springs**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	LATF, CFBCTF, GR	GR	GR
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$68,593
OPS	\$73,699	\$55,000	\$65,000
Expense	\$17,720	\$10,000	\$229,155
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$49,414
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$430,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$90,820</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$77,162</b>

**Jackson County - Blue Spring**

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	County	County
Salary	\$20,000	\$20,000
OPS	\$60,000	\$25,000
Expense	\$25,000	\$15,000
OCO	\$30,000	\$30,000
FCO	\$50,000	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

**FWC - Weeki Wachee Spring**

Category	Start Up	1995/96
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$3,000	\$3,000
Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>



**OGT - Troy Spring**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	LATF, CFBCTF	None	GR
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$14,027	\$0	\$30,000
Expense	\$2,445	\$0	\$35,000
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$44,000
FCO	\$0	\$0**	\$220,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,472*</b>	<b>\$17,928***</b>	<b>\$329,000</b>

\*No appropriation was received for FY 1995/96, as such funds were taken from other projects to fund Troy Springs.

\*\*No appropriation was received for FY 1996/97.

\*\*\*This is the projected amount to be spent in 1996/97.

Estimated startup and recurring costs have not been developed by Hernando County.

# Garcon Ecosystem

Santa Rosa County

# Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The peninsula jutting into the north end of Pensacola Bay is covered with wet grassy prairies, dotted with carnivorous pitcher plants as well as other rare plants, that are some of the best pitcher-plant prairies left in Florida. The Garcon Ecosystem project will protect these prairies, thereby helping their rare plant and animal inhabitants to survive, maintaining the water quality of Pensacola Bay, and allowing the public to learn about and enjoy this unique natural environment.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), and the North-west Florida Water Management District.

### General Description

Natural communities within this project are in good to excellent condition and include wet prairie, estuarine tidal marsh, and wet flatwoods. The prairie community is species-rich and includes orchids and insectivorous plants such as pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts, and bladderworts. Especially significant is the large population of state endangered white-topped pitcher plants (*Sarracenia leucophylla*), and the globally imperiled panhandle lily. The tracts are also habitat for the flatwoods salamander, a candidate for federal listing. Four cultural sites are known from the project. The sensitive prairies are threatened by ditching, plant

collecting and residential development. Development pressure will increase when the bridge across Pensacola Bay is completed.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve, with such uses as nature study, hiking, and fishing.

### Acquisition Planning

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) combined the Prairies of Garcon and Garcon Point CARL projects and renamed the new project Garcon Ecosystem. This fee-simple project consisted of approximately 7,601 acres, multiple owners, and a 1994 taxable value of \$6,573,507.

Garcon Point – consisted of approximately 21 owners. Phase I: FDIC (acquired by NFWFMD). Phase II: all other ownerships except in sections 24 & 25. Phase III: ownerships in sections 24 & 25.

Prairies of Garcon – essential tracts included the larger ownerships of Jenkins (acquired by the NFWFMD), Henzelman, Culpepper, Thompson and other ownerships greater than 160 acres. Phase II tracts included smaller ownerships and lots within Avalon Beach Subdivision.

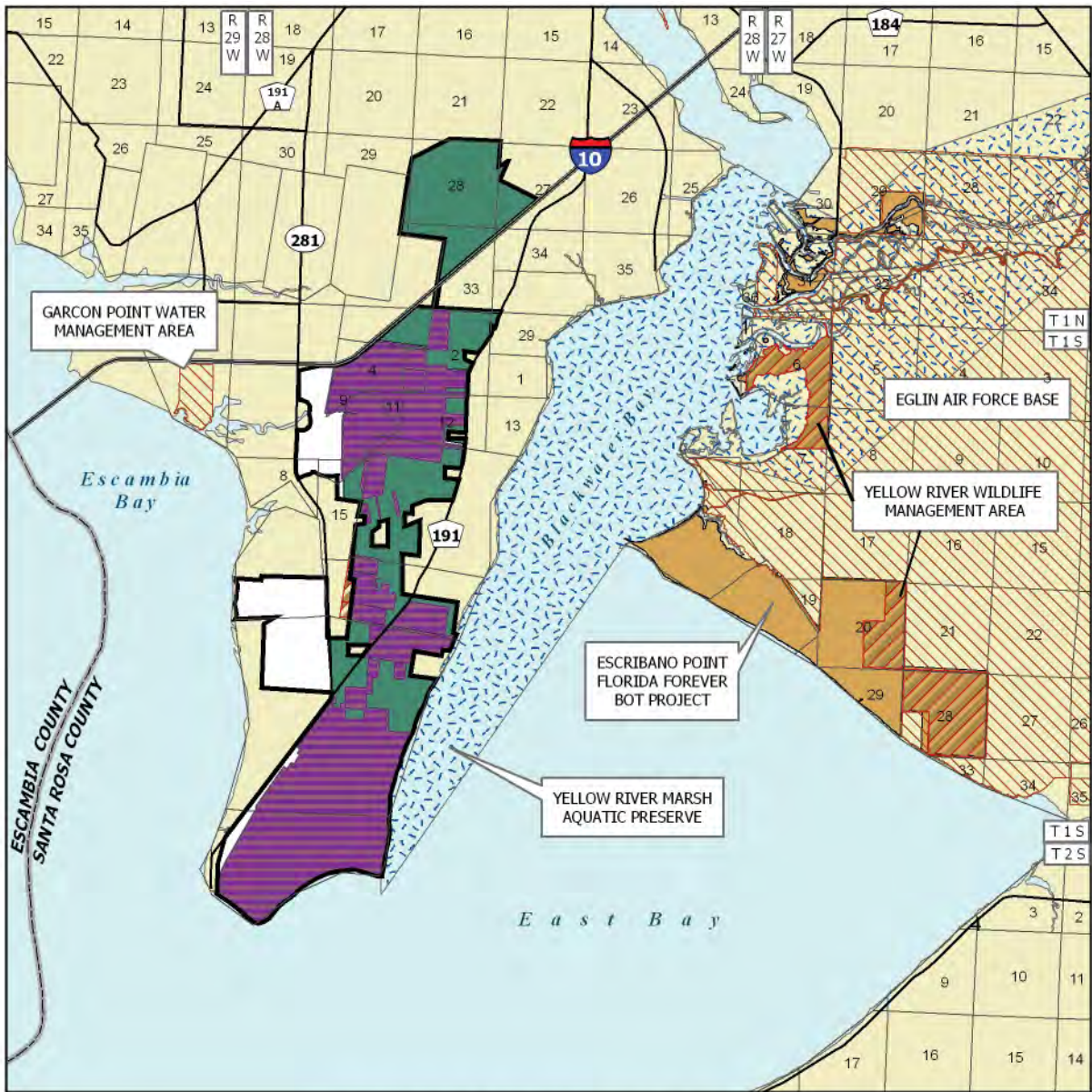
On February 5, 1998, the Land Acquisition & Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 845-acre addition to the project boundary.

Garcon Ecosystem FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
White-top Pitcherplant	G3/S3
Panhandle Lily	G2/S2
Kral's Yellow-eyed Grass	G3T3/S1
Louisiana Seaside Sparrow	G4T4/S1
Pond Rush	G5/S1
Curtiss' Sandgrass	G3/S3
Pine-woods Bluestem	G3/S3
Yellow Fringeless Orchid	G3G4/S3
11 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>7,735</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>3,966*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$3,353,561*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>3,769</b>



**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$4,356,572**  
\* Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the NFWF-WMD

# Garcon Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee



## GARCON ECOSYSTEM

### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



MARCH 2006



## Garcon Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee

The addition, sponsored by the owners' representative, consisted of five owners, and a 1997 taxable value of \$483,356. The NFWFMD will manage this addition that has been designated as non-essential, meaning it is important, but not critical to the project as a whole.

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list.

### Coordination

In November 1995, the Northwest Florida Water Management District accepted \$1,025,350 of mitigation funds from the Santa Rosa Bridge Authority to acquire land (Jenkins) within the project boundary.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Garcon Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the size, location, and quality of resources to qualify as a "State Buffer Preserve" to the Yellow River Marsh Aquatic Preserve and adjacent Class II shell fishing waters.

**Manager** Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as lead Manager for the northern portion. The Northwest Florida Water Management District is the

Manager for the southern portion. This prospectus applies to the northern portion.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Garcon Ecosystem Project includes lands that require prescribed fire management.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, initial or intermediate activities will concentrate on site security, fire management planning, resource inventory, and a completed management plan.

Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and the perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Management activities will also stress the protection of threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will be established using conventional practices. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be used to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. An educational program for all age groups will be used in conjunction with a carefully designed hiking trail, to keep the public away from sensitive areas. Efforts to prohibit vehicle activity except in designated areas will be a major concern.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and to manage the property.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated for some years.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, or the DRP, may help with fire management.

### Interim Management Budget

<b>Category</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>
<b>OPS</b>	
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>OCO</b>	
<b>Special</b>	<b>\$38,477</b>
<b>FCO</b>	
<b>Grant</b>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$38,477</b>

# Green Swamp

Lake and Polk Counties

# Group A

Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The mosaic of cypress swamps, pine forests, and pastures known as the Green Swamp is a vital part of the water supply of central Florida. This project gives rise to four major river systems, has the highest groundwater elevation in the peninsula, and is important for maintaining the flow of water from the Floridan Aquifer. By preserving the mosaic of land use in this region, the Green Swamp Florida Forever project will protect the Floridan Aquifer and the several rivers; preserve a large area for wildlife; and provide areas for public recreation in the rapidly growing region between Tampa and Orlando. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Managers

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as the manager for most of the project area. The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage the Overstreet Ranch and the area adjacent to Lake Louisa State Park, with Sections 3, 4, and 5, T24S, R26E being the southern extent of its management.

### General Description

The project is a critical hydrological resource: it en-

compasses the headwaters of four major rivers; the Withlacoochee, Oklawaha, Hillsborough, and Peace; and has the highest ground water elevation in the Peninsula. It is therefore considered critical to the recharge of the Floridan Aquifer. For this reason, it has been designated an Area of Critical State Concern. The area is a complex mosaic of disturbed uplands and wetlands intermixed with higher quality swamps. It is estimated that 90% of the native upland vegetation in the project has been disturbed by agriculture and development, but the project does contain some uplands with natural communities such as flatwoods and sandhills. The project has a moderate potential for archaeological or historical sites. The wetlands are threatened by sand mining and the uplands are threatened by residential, commercial and high-intensity recreational development.

### Public Use

The project will become a wildlife management area and a state park, providing for such activities as hunting, hiking and nature appreciation. The less than fee parcel qualifies as a wildlife management area. The amount and nature of public use will be negotiated with the landowners.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 10, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Green Swamp project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple & less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Regulations, consisted of approximately 230,000 acres, divided into Phase I (126,800 acres) and II (103,200 acres), multiple owners, and a 1991 taxable

Green Swamp FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Celestial Lily</i>	G2/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
Peninsular Floater	G3/S2
<i>Scrub Plum</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida Bonamia</i>	G3/S3
30 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>233,598*</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>69,447**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$115,321,102**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>164,151</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$194,407,313</b>

\*Previously only Phase 1 reported

\*\*includes acreage acquired & funds expended by the Southwest Florida and St. Johns River Water Management Districts

## Green Swamp - Group A / Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

value of \$272,628,200. Two non-contiguous Phase I areas have been identified based on relative intactness of their natural communities. In general, priority areas are the relatively large contiguous parcels and strategic smaller parcels. In Lake County, the northern half of the western Phase I area extends south to the county line, less the subdivisions. Specifically in the Lake Louisa area, the Bradshaw ownership (acquired) is the most important tract.

The Black Bear Land Company, Ray, and Oswalt ownerships have also been acquired. Other large ownerships have been mapped and appraised.

On October 30, 1996, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 3,598-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition was distributed as follows: Phase I, 890 acres with a taxable value of \$995,830 and Phase II, 2,708 acres with a taxable value of \$3,030,000. The addition was sponsored by the DEP, consisted of multiple owners, and a total taxable value of \$4,025,830. LAAC also moved 19,000 acres from Phase II to Phase I and approved the deletion of the priority areas designation within Phase I.

On December 15, 1996, the Overstreet (acquired in 2006) and portions of the Jahna (acquired in a conservation easement) ownerships (11,383 acres) were transferred to the CARL Less-Than-Fee category.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) established a Florida Forever (FF) priority list consisting of Groups A & B. The Green Swamp Less-Than-Fee acreage went to Group A and the Full-Fee acreage went to Group B.

On June 6, 2002, the ARC approved combining the Green Swamp full-fee and less-than-fee categories into one Group A Less-Than-Fee category. Parcels can still be acquired in full-fee if appropriate.

### Coordination

The Green Swamp Land Authority has acquired 17,948 acres within the project boundary and expended \$13,848,442. The SWFWMD has acquired considerable acreage adjacent to and partly within the overall project boundary. Section 51, ch. 99-2478, provided for the deletion of the provision setting out the membership of the Green Swamp Land Authority and that “[henceforth, the Green Swamp Land Authority shall mean the Department of Environmental Protection for purposes of [Section 380.0677, F.S.,] and statutes related thereto.”

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Green Swamp Florida Forever project are: to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Green Swamp Florida Forever project has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area.

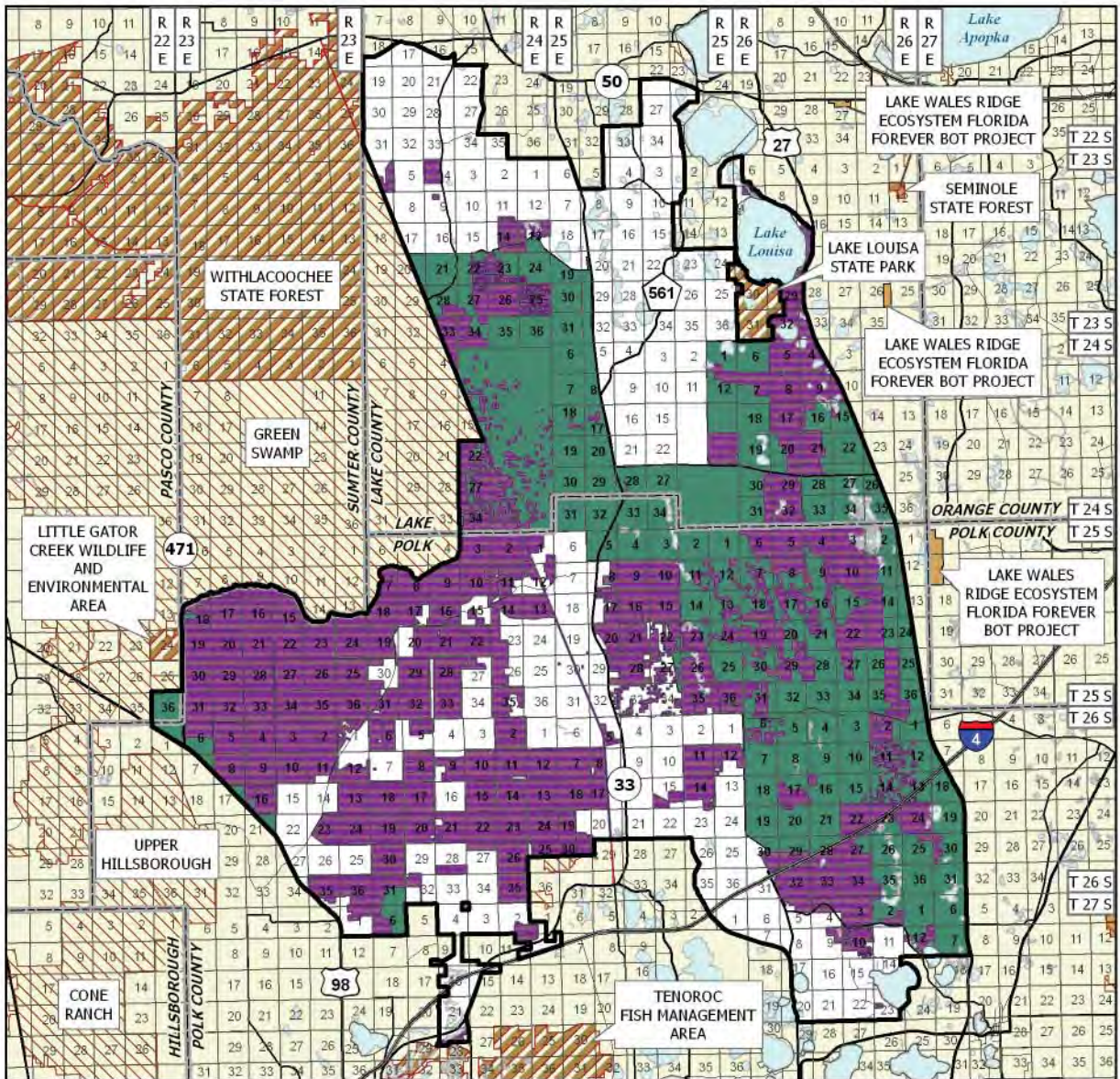
**Manager** DEP has been recommended as manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The primary management tools in the area to be managed by FWC involve prescribed introduction of fire and control of human access. Some pine forests will require restoration. The portion of the project adjacent to Lake Louisa, to be managed by DRP, is a high-need management area with emphasis on public recreational use and development and major resource restoration. The majority of the properties in this area are or were citrus groves. The portion of the project known as the Overstreet Ranch to be managed by DRP is within the Department of Transportation’s Hillsborough Watershed mitigation/restoration area. The southwest portion has been identified for potential mitigation.

### Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, FWC’s management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management that is consistent with the goals and objectives stated for this project. Long-term management will include restoration of natural pine forests. Growing-season fire will be important in this restoration. FWC will emphasize the provision of old-growth forest, but for game species will also provide areas of successional vegetation in pine areas adjacent to wetlands. FWC also plans to provide high-quality habitat and protection for listed wildlife species. FWC will keep public facilities to a minimum, hiking and horseback trail in upland areas, and perhaps interpretive centers and wildlife observation towers in selected areas.

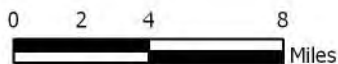
# Green Swamp - Group A / Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee



## GREEN SWAMP

### LAKE AND POLK COUNTIES

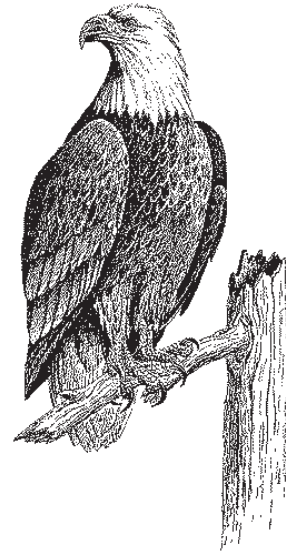
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

**Green Swamp - Group A / Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee**

*Revenue-generating potential* FWC expects no significant revenue from this project initially, but will continue to offer hunting opportunities. For the area next to Lake Louisa State Park, DRP also expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public use facilities are developed in the Lake Louisa area, and the amount of any revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.



**Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$18,290	\$43,100	\$77,650
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Expense	\$43,280	\$37,900	\$30,000
OCO	\$0	\$28,500	\$29,200
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,570</b>	<b>\$109,500</b>	<b>\$137,850</b>

**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	SPTF/CARL	SPTF/CARL	SPTF/CARL
Salary	\$103,834	\$106,949	\$110,157
OPS	\$12,254	\$12,000	\$12,000
Expense	\$19,268	\$22,000	\$22,000
OCO	\$29,807	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,356</b>	<b>\$140,949</b>	<b>\$144,157</b>

# Gulf Hammock

Levy County

# Group B Less-Than-Fee/Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gulf Hammock Florida Forever proposal is designed to protect a large forested system with watershed draining into an aquatic preserve. Acquisition of this project meets Florida Forever goals of increasing biodiversity by protecting nesting habitats for swallow tailed kites and bald eagles; of protecting and restoring natural functions of land and water by restoring the hydrology that existed before silviculture operations; and increasing natural-resource based public recreation by possibly providing passive recreation including picnicking, hiking trails, and nature appreciation and education.

### Manager

The majority of the project will be managed under a conservation easement by the Office of Environmental Services, Department of Environmental Protection.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as lead manager for the portion of the project that would be acquired in full fee. The FWC currently manages most of the project area as the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area.

### General Description

The Gulf Hammock project consists of approximately 25,600 acres in southwest Levy County, of which approximately 3,652 acres are proposed for full-fee sale and the remainder proposed for protection under a

less-than-fee conservation easement. A total of 23,248 acres of the lands within the project area are currently managed in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area, the State's oldest wildlife management area, established in 1948.

### Public Use

Management programs would conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources. The project area will be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping and hiking. The Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 3 percent (716 acres) of the project area to be priority 1 or 2 recreational trails.

Other than hunting, the conservation easement area is not expected to provide significant levels of resource-based recreation use. Other than hunting, nature appreciation, trails and primitive camping might be considered the most prominent public uses of the fee area. As with the conservation area, the extent of public use will greatly depend on the wet and dry conditions of the property.

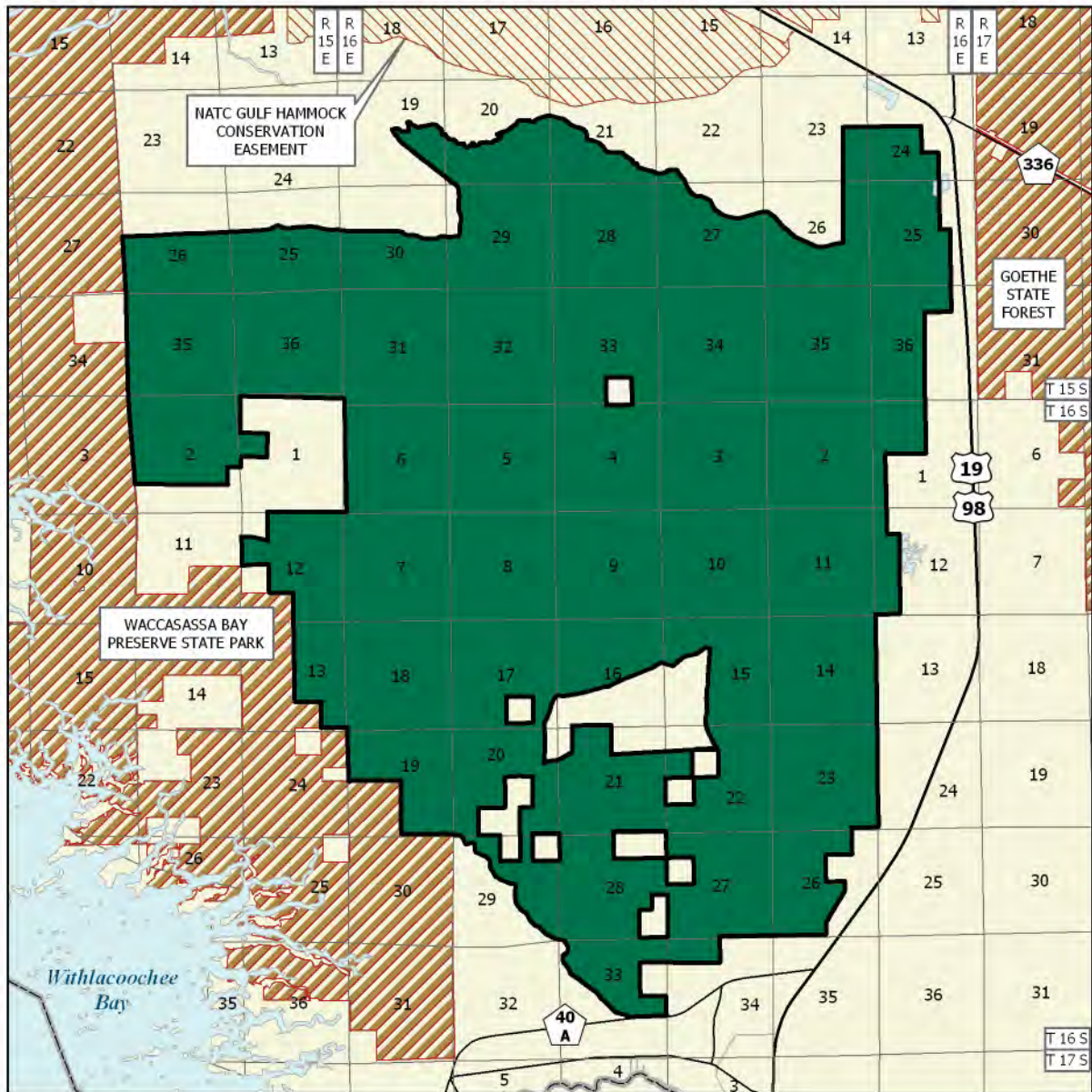
### Acquisition Planning

Of this project, 21,959 acres (86%) is proposed for less-than-fee easement. The property is owned by Plum Creek Timber Company. Most of the property that is offered in less-than-fee is currently being used for intensive silvicultural production. The 3,652 acres that

Gulf Hammock FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
<i>Tampa Vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Wood Spurge</i>	G5/S2
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
10 rare species are associated with the project	




<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>25,600</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>25,600</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$11,524,000</b>

Gulf Hammock - Group B/Less-Than-Fee / Full Fee



**GULF HAMMOCK**

**LEVY COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2006

is being offered in fee, located at the west end of the property, is more hydrologically and environmentally intact, and would serve as an addition to, or buffer to the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park. Council staff is continuing project development work with the major owner and with other landowners with significant natural resources to determine optimum boundaries and uses of the fee and less-than-fee portions of the project. The tax-assessed value of the property is \$11,524,000. On June 4, 2004 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the B List of Florida Forever projects. Florida Natural Areas Inventory review identifies possible future boundary additions of contiguous lands which total 10,262 acres, and suggest the deletion of a total of 3,424 acres from the boundary, to simplify boundaries for management, and exclude areas with a higher percentage of silvicultural acreage that do not contribute to conservation values. The Division of State Lands has identified the ownership of the lands within the proposed additions and inquiries into the potential for inclusion are ongoing

**Coordination**

The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Florida Division of Forestry and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in management of the property.

**Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for State Designation***

The entire project area is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI. The project also provides

habitat for many focal species, which are indicators of natural communities, and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. Over 43% (11,105 acres) of the project area includes at least seven focal species, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Focal species are those that are indicators of natural communities or suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife. Many important conservation lands have become increasingly isolated and no longer support viable populations of large widely ranging mammals. The Gulf Hammock Florida Forever project would provide landscape connectivity that, if realized, should benefit fish and wildlife resources by linking large areas of natural habitat, and by providing to the user community diverse outdoor recreational opportunities.

***Note:***

At this time the Management Prospectus of the FWC is pending approval by the Acquisition and Restoration Council. When approved by ARC, the Management Prospectus will detail the conditions that will affect the intensity of management of the project site, the timetable for implementing the management of the project, the estimates of possible revenue-generating potential for this project from such activities as timber sales or from hunting and fishing licenses, recommendations about which other governmental agencies should work with the FWC in managing this site, and prospective sources of operating funds, numbers of personnel needed and startup costs.





# Half Circle L Ranch

Hendry and Collier Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Located within primary habitat zones for both the Florida panther and the Florida Black bear the project compliments the ongoing conservation efforts in this region of the state for these and numerous other species. Protection of these and other endangered and threatened species is a primary concern. Habitat and hydrological restoration of disturbed areas is another goal of state acquisition of this project. Public recreation compatible with resource protection is also an acquisition goal. More information is cited below in the Public Uses description.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the designated lead manager for the project. All management activities on Florida Forever land should include a monitoring component so that managers can judge the effectiveness of their actions. Management plans, which are required for all Florida Forever land, should indicate specifically how and when the results of management activities will be monitored and how that information will be used to improve subsequent management activities.

### General Description

Adjoining the southern boundary of the Devil's Garden Florida Forever project, the southwestern boundary of the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area, and the southeastern boundary of the Okaloacoochee Slough

State Forest/ Wildlife Management Area in Collier and Hendry counties, this proposal contains approximately 10,500 acres.

The dominant communities on the property are basin and depression marshes, wet prairies, hydric/mesic hammocks, and wet/mesic flatwoods. Forty-five percent of the project has been converted to improved pasture, row crops, and citrus.

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory there are eight rare plants and animals recorded on the site. More than 60 percent of the lands within the Half Circle L Ranch project proposal are designated as Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas. In actuality, nearly all of the land in this project is classified as a Primary Zone or Priority One for panther habitat (currently used by panthers), and the Florida black bear. The remainder of the site is identified as a Secondary Zone for panther habitat (buffer areas for dispersing cats or areas that could be converted to Primary Zone status with restoration), by the Panther Subgroup of the Multispecies/Ecosystem Recovery Implementation Team. Radio telemetry studies have confirmed panther use of the site.

### Public Use

Due to extensive wetlands, the project is limited in its ability to provide year-round diverse resource-based recreational opportunities. Hiking and horseback trails would be traversable in limited dry season conditions. In the more upland sites, the project can

Half Circle L Ranch FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
<i>Narrow-leaved Strap Fern</i>	G4G5/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Hand Fern</i>	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
10 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>11,269</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>11,269</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: \$2,811,833</b>	

accommodate, to one degree or another, camping, picnicking, wildlife observation (nature study), and environmental education. Depending on management emphasis, hunting can also be supported. Due to the wet conditions of the project, bicycling is questionable and would require further review. Should it be considered suitable, bicycling would be limited in its range throughout the property.

### **Acquisition Planning**

The project consists of approximately 11,269 acres, multiple parcels and two owners. The 2002 tax assessed/ taxable value is estimated at \$2,811,833.00. On June 6, 2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the A List of Florida Forever projects. In 2004 ARC moved this project to the B List of the Florida Forever projects.

### **Coordination**

This project is adjacent to Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (approximately 32,039 acres) and the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area (approximately 19,639 acres). The Panther Glades and Devil's Garden Florida Forever projects are also adjacent.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goal for the project is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. An ecosystem approach will guide the management activities on this project.

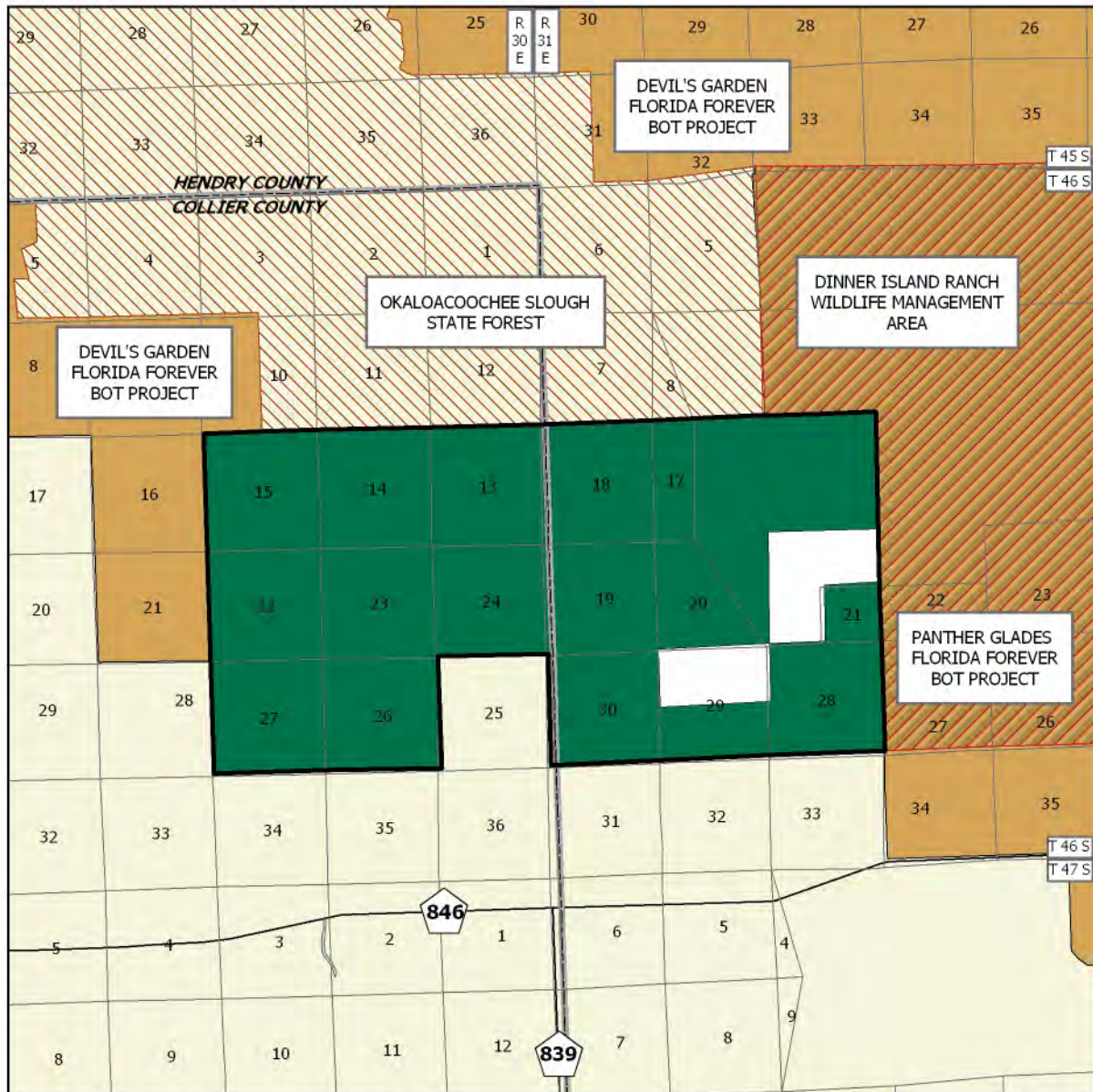
### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for State Designation*** The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, or the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area. Management is contingent upon the state obtaining legal public access to the site and acquiring fee simple title to the parcel. Major communities represented on this project include swale, slough, basin marsh, depression marsh, wet prairie, strand swamp, dome swamp, hammock, mesic and wet flatwoods. These community types are consistent with the adjacent state forest and the wildlife management area.

***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management*** Much of the project's drier natural community types have been disturbed; many converted to some improved form of agriculture. This conversion usually means some type of hydrologic alteration to facilitate water management has occurred. This property contains vast areas of wetlands with sensitive natural resources; accordingly, land management and public use will specifically be structured to improve and protect these areas. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be initially high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a part of Okaloacoochee State Forest and/or the Dinner Island Wildlife Management Area. Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain this area. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reports that wildlife habitat values and habitat restoration on the semi-improved pasture and native range areas could be improved and potentially restored by removing cattle grazing and utilizing prescribed fire.

***Timetable for Implementing Management*** Restoration of the natural communities on this project will be a priority. Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration planning, fire management and planning, site security, public access, and removal of exotic species. The inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of management goals. Restoration efforts will focus on water flow alterations, ditching, agriculture improvements to the land, and perpetuating natural communities that have historically been changed. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact to these areas. Long-range goals will stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically

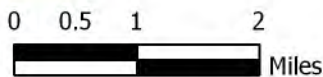
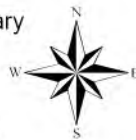
# Half Circle L Ranch - Group B/Full Fee



## HALF CIRCLE L RANCH

### HENDRY AND COLLIER COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006

acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. Archaeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

**Revenue Generating Potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Because of the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from ecotourism activities which can be economically developed.

**Capital Project Expenditures** Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for hydrological restoration, for public access and public use. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project expenditure; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed an application may be submitted for capital project expenditure funds. It is anticipated that some the existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road bicycling.

**Management Costs and Sources of Revenue** It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (2 FTE)</b>	<b>\$ 70,751</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$261,372</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$300,600</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$632,723</u></b>

# Hall Ranch

Charlotte County

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Inland from the rapidly growing coast of southwest Florida are expanses of ranchland still in essentially natural condition. By adding some of this ranchland to the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, the Hall Ranch project will help preserve a corridor of natural land—slash pine flatwoods, marshes, and cypress swamps—from Charlotte Harbor to Telegraph Swamp, protect habitat for Florida black bear, and enlarge the area in which the public can hunt, hike, and camp.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

Hall Ranch, adjacent to Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, includes good quality South Florida slash pine flatwoods and depression marshes, with a few other natural communities. The area is more significant for rare animals like black bear than for plants (no rare plants are known). It includes part of Shell Creek (the water supply for Punta Gorda) and the head of the important Telegraph Swamp.

No archaeological sites are known. The area is vulnerable to development and conversion to intensive agriculture; since development pressures are low, endangerment is moderate.

### Public Use

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hunting, various sorts of trails, camping, and picnicking, among other activities.

### Acquisition Planning

This project is at negotiated impasse because negotiations on the essential or core parcel have been

unsuccessful and have reached an impasse (or the owners are not willing to consider a sale to the state).

This project consists of one major owner—the Hall Ranch Corporation. The essential parcel is the Hall ownership south of State Road 74. There are multiple small ownerships scattered throughout the Hall ownership north of SR 74. This project was ranked for the first time in December, 1996.

On April 6, 2001, the Council transferred this project to the “B” Grouping.

The Division of State Lands is not actively working this project.

### Coordination

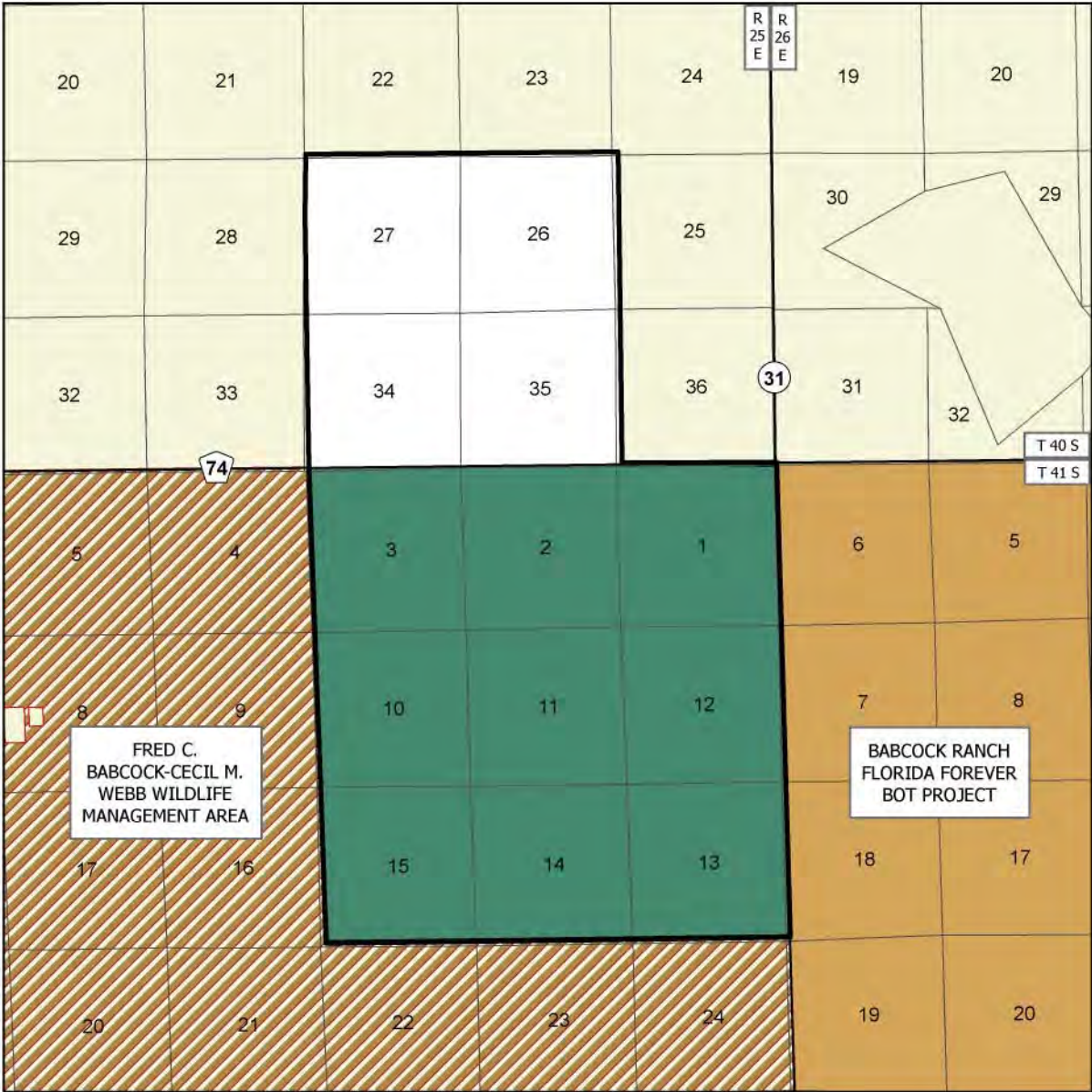
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is CARL’s acquisition partner.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Hall Ranch project is to preserve and restore the mosaic of pine flatwoods, hammocks, and wetlands between the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area and Telegraph Swamp. Achieving this objective will provide a refuge for threatened animals like the Florida black bear and red-cockaded woodpecker, preserve an area of natural lands extending from Charlotte Harbor to Telegraph Swamp, and, by expanding the wildlife management area, provide the public with a large area for natural-resource-based recreation.

Hall Ranch	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
3 rare species are associated with the project	

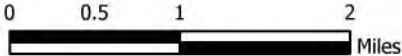
<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>8,520</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>8,520</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$4,997,720</b>



# HALL RANCH

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands



OCTOBER 2005

## Hall Ranch - Group B/Full Fee

The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward preservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as hunting and timber harvesting. Managers should control access to the project; limit public vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; reforest pine plantations with original species; strictly limit timbering in old-growth stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they actually preserve resources. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project includes much of the undeveloped land between the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area and Telegraph Swamp and consequently has the size and location to achieve its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Hall Ranch project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area and will provide the public with a large tract for activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife observation.

**Manager** The FWC is recommended as Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Hall Ranch proposal generally includes lands that will require moderate to intensive resource management including frequent fire, roller chopping and some timber management to open the thicker pine stands. The primary management needed for the perpetuation of the natural communities on the area would involve continuing the frequent fire regime already established and control of human access. Additional management projects will involve gradual restoration of improved pasture and agricultural fields into native habitat. On portions of existing disturbed areas, native and non-native agronomic plantings may be used to benefit both game and nongame wildlife on the area and to promote special hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the general public. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure quality recreational experience for those members of the public interested in less infrastructure and other disturbance factors.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be

placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of existing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC, describing the goals and objectives of future resource management.

Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management and protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Essential roads will be stabilized to provided all weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will be implemented. An all-season prescribed burn management plan will be developed and implemented with conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources.

Timber resources include pine flatwoods (62%), cypress domes/strands (4%) and xeric hammock (2%). Where appropriate and practical, these resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the Division of Forestry. Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented to those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the property.

**Revenue-generating potential** About 62% of the Hall Ranch consists of pine flatwoods that could be managed to offset operational costs. Future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of already existing pine stands. Another revenue source would include cattle grazing which would help reduce fuel loads and provide fire line maintenance by the lessee. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps and other user fees.

**Cooperators in management activities** The FWC will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary/FWC		
Category	Startup	Recurring
Fund Source	CARL/SGTF	CARL/SGTF
Salary	\$59,415	\$59,415
OPS	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$32,000	\$32,000
OCO	\$48,128	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$139,543</b>	<b>\$86,415</b>

# Heather Island/Ocklawaha River

**Group B  
Full Fee**

Marion County

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project offers important ecological benefits. Foremost among those benefits are linkages with existing public conservation lands, corridors for wildlife dispersal, preservation of habitat for rare species, corridors for wildlife dispersal and floodplain protection. Given its diversity of wildlife species, quality of plant communities, and strategic location, this proposal offers substantial conservation attributes. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

## Manager

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the suitable lead manager for most of the southern two parcels: Marshall Swamp and Cow Hammock, approximately 5,200 acres. The remaining parcels, approximately 12,700 acres, to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) (portions between Sharpes Ferry Road and the Silver River) and the Division of Forestry (DOF).

## General Description

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project consists of approximately 19,828 acres in Marion County. The project area consists of a mosaic of upland and wetland communities with the majority being forested wetlands. Several conservation areas including the Ocala National Forest and the Cross Florida Greenway Recreation and Conservation Areas border the project. The project will protect and restore the floodplain and the adjacent upland forests along the Ocklawaha River. The project area provides suitable habitat for the black bear and the rare plant pink root.

Heather Island/Ocklawaha River FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
2 rare species are associated with the project	

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project was previously on the CARL acquisition list, but was removed due to an impasse reached with unwilling sellers in 2000. Recently the landowners have expressed an interest in selling to the state and/or the St. Johns Water Management District (District). To date the District has acquired approximately 4,465 acres within the original CARL project boundaries.

## Public Use

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project can accommodate a diversity of resource-based recreation opportunities, such as hiking, environmental resource appreciation and education, picnicking, camping, horse-back riding and bicycling. Depending on management emphasis the property will also support hunting. The project abuts the Ocklawaha River or public lands adjacent to the river that could accommodate shoreline freshwater fishing and or boat launching sites.

## Acquisition Planning

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Office & Greenway Trails (OGT) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), consisted of approximately 19,828 acres, two landowners, the Rayonier Timberland Corp. and the Alawest-Al LLC, and a 2001 taxable value of \$32,234,776. The essential parcels were identified as the Rayonier ownership and should be mapped and appraised first.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>19,828</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>19,828</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$32,234,776</b>	



## Heather Island/Ocklawaha River - Group B/Full Fee

On January 25, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority list.

### **Coordination**

This project will be acquired in partnership with St. Johns River Water Management District, with a mixture of state and WMD funding. Contribution percentages have not been determined.

### Management Policy Statement

Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for biking, camping, canoeing, environmental and cultural resource education, fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

The connection and proximity of this project to other conservation lands, as well as its landscape diversity and high quality wetlands, provide important habitats for wildlife populations and a unique environment for outdoor recreation in Florida. Since the principal purposes of the proposal are to protect habitat for wildlife, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species and careful management of public access.

### Management Prospectus

#### ***Qualifications for state designation***

Based upon a review of the Florida Forever Act, this project meets the Goals and Measures, as outlined in Statute to increase nature-based recreation, to enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, to increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels, to protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state, and to increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

#### ***Manager***

The high wildlife resource value of the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River proposal indicates that the FWC is the suitable lead manager for most of the southern two parcels (Marshall Swamp and Cow Hammock: approximately 5,200 acres), with the remaining parcels

(approximately 12,700 acres) to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) between Sharpes Ferry Road and the Silver River, and the Division of Forestry (DOF).

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Some portions of the project include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. However, since more than 53 percent of the proposal area has been disturbed for silviculture or other purposes, significant restoration activities are contemplated for some of the acreage on which fee title is acquired. FWC will use restoration techniques recommended by specialists in the field of ecological restoration, including the most recent advancements identified by on-going research and lessons learned on the ground through adaptive management. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities will involve the introduction of prescribed fire and careful management of public use. Biotic surveys will be a priority, since many rare or listed species are expected to be present.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

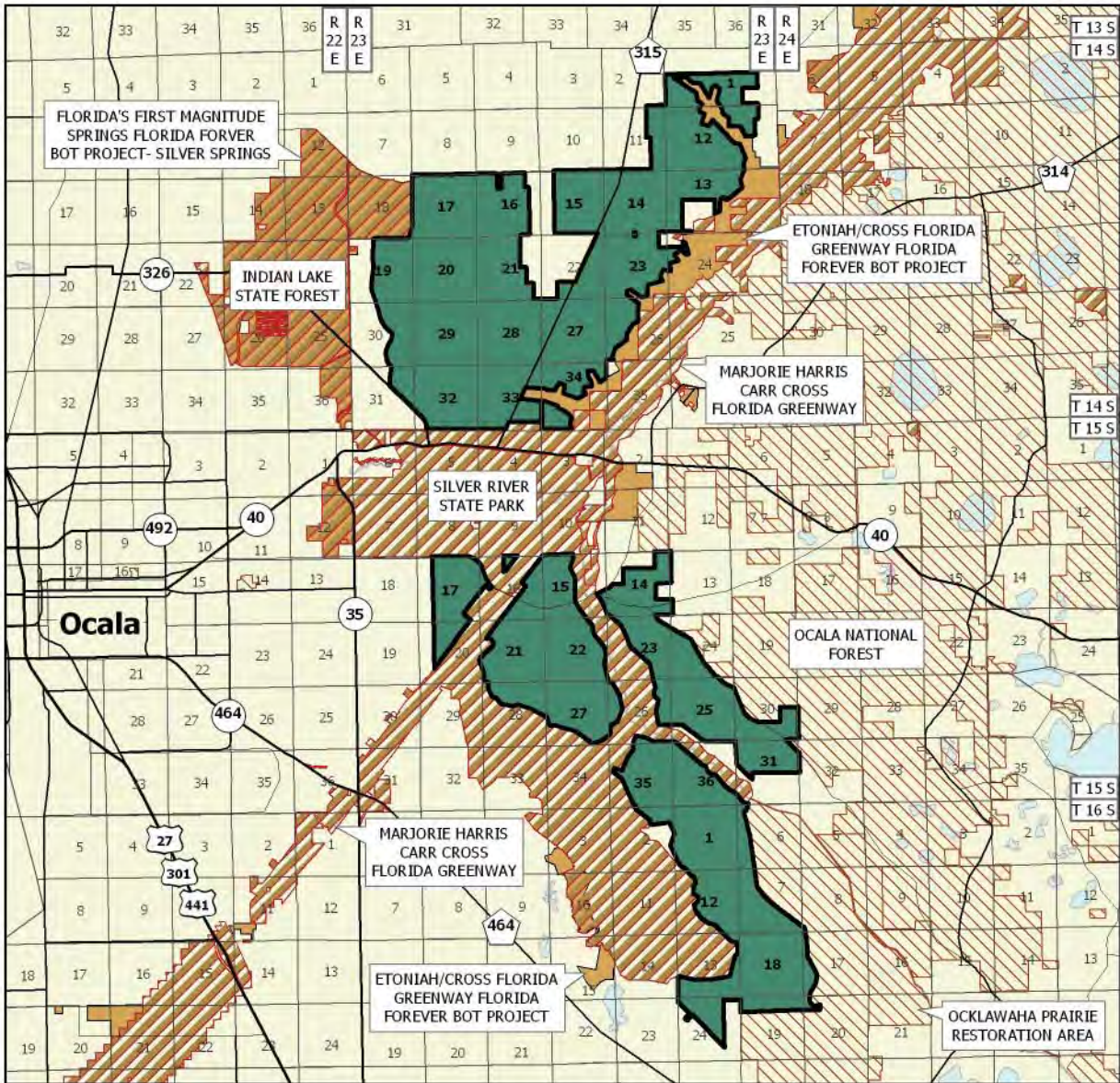
During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Long-range plans will emphasize restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions; restoration of native wildlife populations and wildlife diversity including protection and management of threatened and endangered species; and management for sustainable public use of game wildlife populations balanced with other wildlife oriented recreational activities. Multiple use principles will be practiced where compatible with resource management goals and acquisition purposes.

#### ***Cooperators in management activities***

The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Forestry (DOF) and the St. Johns River Water Management Dis-

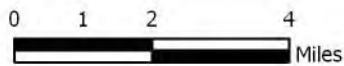
# Heather Island/Ocklawaha River - Group B/Full Fee



## HEATHER ISLAND/OCKLAWAHA RIVER

### MARION COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2009

## Heather Island/Ocklawaha River - Group B/Full Fee

tract in managing the area. The high wildlife resource value of the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River proposal indicates that the FWC is the suitable lead manager for most of the southern two parcels (Marshall Swamp and Cow Hammock: approximately 5,200 acres), with the remaining parcels (approximately 12,700 acres) to be managed by the DEP and the DOF as lead agencies.

### *Management costs and sources of revenue*

The harvest and sale of forest products should continue to provide revenues under State management, where silvicultural activities are consistent with wildlife habitat management objectives. The FWC, however, will seek to expand and enhance the revenue-generating potential of the property improving wildlife diversity and providing a broad spectrum of resource-based recreational opportunities. Additional revenue will be generated

from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism and wildlife viewing activities.

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River proposal, when acquired by the State, will require one FTE position to manage the project area, although certain activities may be privatized which would reduce the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural resource management and public use administration would come from the CARL Trust Fund. See attached table for anticipated costs. It is anticipated that revenues sources would include public use fees and timber harvests.

### **Management Cost Summary/FWC (including salaries for 4 FTEs, although some activities may be privatized.)**

	<b>Startup:</b>	<b>Recurring:</b>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<b>\$ 271,345</b>	<b>\$327,189</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$ 75,494</b>	<b>\$ 25,133</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$ 149,080</b>	<b>\$ 31,566</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,130,236</b>	<b>\$ 119,119</b>
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>	<b>\$ 2,361</b>	<b>\$ 141</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>\$ 13,874</b>	<b>\$ 13,874</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,642,389</b>	<b>\$517,020</b>

### **Management Cost Summary/DOF**

<b>Salary (2FTE)</b>	<b>\$80,870</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$117,500</b>
<b>Operating Capital Outlay</b>	<b>\$225,600</b>

**Total** **\$423,970**

### **Management Cost Summary/DRP**

<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,700</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$268,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Total** **\$268,000** **\$8,700**

# Hixtown Swamp

Madison County

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The complex of cypress swamps, marshes, and ponds called Hixtown Swamp, an important overwintering and nesting site for wading birds, has been spared the intensive tree-farming practices of the surrounding uplands. The Hixtown Swamp project will conserve these swamps and marshes, thereby protecting wading-bird rookeries and wildlife habitat as well as a possible Spanish mission site and other important archeological remains, and giving the public a large area in which to hunt, hike, or simply observe wildlife.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

Hixtown Swamp is one of the largest cypress-dominated basin swamps in northern Florida. The moderately disturbed core swamp is a mixture of cypress swamp, freshwater marsh, and open marsh ponds (50%), as well as shrub swamp (20%), and disturbed uplands, which are mostly silvicultural/agricultural land. There are no well-defined channels or streams associated with the swamp. At least during high water, the waters of Hixtown Swamp flow slowly southward, and the swamp is functionally a part of the much larger San Pedro Bay ecosystem. Hixtown Swamp is regionally significant as habitat for both game and nongame wildlife. It is particularly important as an overwintering area for waterfowl. It supports large numbers of sandhill cranes, some perhaps residents. Twenty-one archaeological or

historical sites have been recorded within this project, including perhaps a Spanish mission site. The project has high cultural-resource value. Timber harvesting is the greatest current threat to the area.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hiking, picnicking, camping and wildlife observation.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I (essential): Mitchell (aka Musselwhite), G&G, Miller, Collins, Genecer, Muggie and Gillman (contingent upon 50% donation).

### Coordination

Suwannee River Water Management District is an acquisition partner.

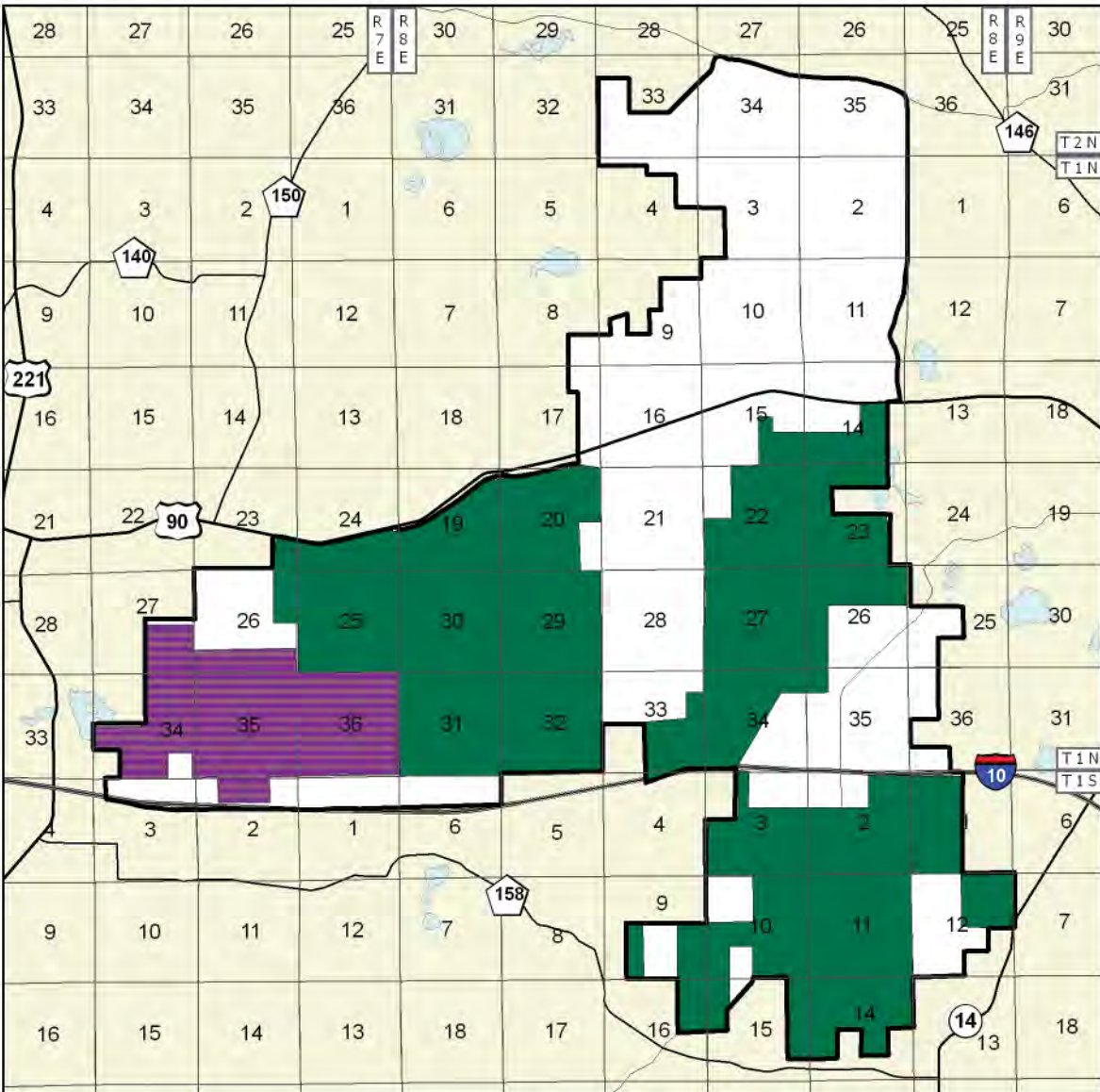
### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Hixtown Swamp project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Hixtown Swamp FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
<i>Incised Groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
White Ibis	G5/S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	




<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>24,344</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>2,037*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$200,331</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>22,307</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$9,542,800</b>
*Acquired by SRWMD	

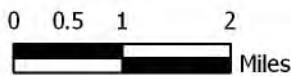
# Hixtown Swamp - Group B/Full Fee



## HIXTOWN SWAMP

### MADISON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



AUGUST 2006

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The size of the Hixtown Swamp project, and its importance to wildlife, particularly its value as an over-wintering area for waterfowl, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The FWC will manage the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** This natural wetlands system now generally requires basic resource management and protection, but is in danger of being modified hydrologically in order to drain the area for timber and agricultural production. Pine plantations and agricultural areas on the uplands will require restoration. Depending on the nature and extent of public recreational use determined by the management planning process, there may be additional needs for management of public-use facilities.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural resource management and conceptual planning. Public-use facilities will be developed in succeeding years.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use increases, modest revenue may be generated.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Division of Forestry is recommended as a cooperator to assist in reforestation of the upland areas.

<b>Management Cost Summary/FWC</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$124,800</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>FCO\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$355,800</b>	<b>\$236,500</b>

# Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone

Gadsden and Liberty Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee  
Less-Than-Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for this project is to preserve a habitat for one of only two core populations of the rare Chapman's Rhododendron, a federally listed plant that is found in the world only in three Panhandle counties of Florida (Gulf, Gadsden and Liberty counties). This proposal is for a conservation easement. On the western portion of the project, the easement that would cover about 70 percent of the known Hosford-area Chapman's Rhododendron. The eastern portion has greater potential for diverse forms of resource-based recreation. The project is located in an area the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has identified as a priority ecological greenway area that would augment the value of the Lake Talquin State Forest, and help Gadsden County increase its resource-based recreational opportunities. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) identifies this area as potential habitat for a number of rare and imperiled species.

### Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)

### General Description

The 3,262 acres of this proposal extends west from State Road 267 in an irregular-shaped block, on the west side of Lake Talquin. This project adjoins the Lines Tract of the Lake Talquin State Forest, on the northwest side of Lake Talquin. The Wakulla Unit of the Apalachicola National Forest is approximately 2 miles to the south of

this site. About half of this site is historically flatwoods but, over the years, most of this has been converted to pine plantations. About 75 percent of the site is now cultivated as pine plantations. About 15 percent of the site is pine flatwoods. The project has about 1,414 acres of functioning wetlands that would be protected by this acquisition.

### Public Use

The degree of public use that could be enjoyed will be determined by the degree of ownership and public access acquired. The majority of the property is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition. Currently the property is within the Robert Brent Wildlife Management Area, and is open to hunting, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and nature-appreciation activities. Such activities are, of course, dependent upon permission by the owner. If public access is acquired, the project has the potential for a variety of forest related management activities. The possibility of linking this project to Lake Talquin State Forest would provide activities such as bird-watching, environmental education, hiking, horseback riding, off-road bicycling, hunting, nature study and photography.

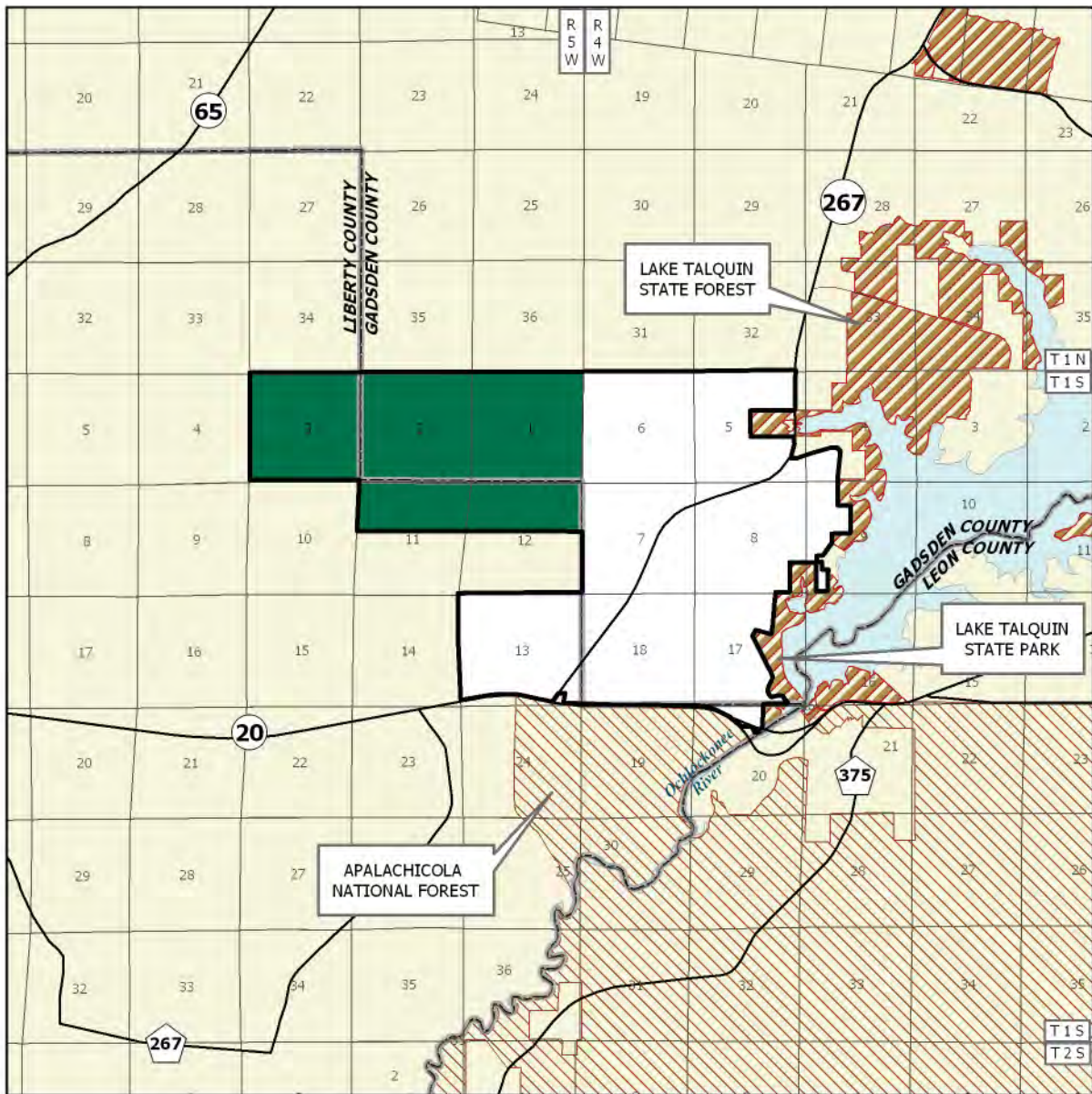
### Acquisition Planning

The Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone Florida Forever project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group B project.

<b>Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Chapman's Rhododendron	G1/S1
Zigzag Silkgrass	G3/S3
Scare-weed	G3/S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>6,907</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>6,907</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,064,452</b>

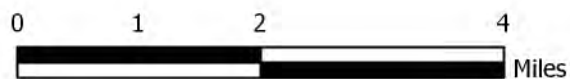
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone - Group B/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee



## HOSFORD CHAPMAN'S RHODODENDRON PROTECTION ZONE

### GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006



## Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone - Group B/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee

The essential parcels are the St. Joe Timberlands and Blairwoods tracts, making a connection between Lake Talquin State Forest and the Apalachicola National Forest (3,249 acres).

On October 24, 2002 the Council added 3,648 acres to the project boundaries.

### Coordination

No acquisition partners or alternative funding sources have been identified for the project at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of establishing the Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone project are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity the native ecosystems, including the core population of the rare Chapman's Rhododendron. The Division of Forestry (DOF) proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the State Forest system, and in a manner designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project as approved by the ARC. The ecosystem approach will guide the management activities of the Division of Forestry (DOF) on the site.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The major communities represented on this site are flatwoods and sandhills. The project's location and diversity make it desirable as an addition to the Lake Talquin State Forest. Its management as a state forest, or its oversight as a conservation easement, will depend upon the level of title acquired by the Board of Trustees. The highest level of protection for the rare species would be accomplished by fee simple acquisition. Parcels acquired in fee simple would be added to the state forest, contingent on obtaining some level of public access to the site.

**Manager** The Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) proposes to manage this site as part of the Lake Talquin State Forest, with personnel from Tallahassee District Headquarters carrying out management.

### Conditions affecting intensity of management

Portions of the project have been disturbed, and will require restoration. Management on these sites would

be structured toward creating optimal conditions for propagation of the rhododendrons. This would preclude more intensive restoration, such as some types of mechanical understory control and site preparation. Certain types of public use, if acquired, may be reduced in the most sensitive areas of the project. Additionally, water-resource development projects, stormwater management projects and any linear facilities are considered incompatible with this ecosystem and with the resource value of this project.

### Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

If the site is a less-tan-fee acquisition, management and public use will be consistent with the terms of each conservation easement. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public access, fire management, resource inventory, reforestation of areas where off-site species have been harvested, natural regeneration of native species, and any restoration activity. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

**Revenue-generating potential** Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystems. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and provide a variable source of revenue, dependent on a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on this property, the revenue potential of this project is expected to be medium.

### Cooperators in management activities

The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

### Management costs and sources of revenue

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

Management Cost Summary/DOF	
Salary (1 FTE)	\$29,000
OCO	\$40,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$69,900</b>

# Ichetucknee Trace

## Columbia County

# Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

A dry valley known as the Ichetucknee Trace runs north and east of Ichetucknee Springs and marks the route of a major underground conduit supplying the springs with clear water. Though the Ichetucknee Springs State Park protects the springs and much of the Ichetucknee River that flows from them, limerock mining and other land uses near the sinks in the Trace pose a threat to that conduit of groundwater that flows to the springs. Limerock mines and sinks along the trace have exposed the conduit in some areas, leaving these areas vulnerable to pollutants from mining and encroaching development. Acquisition of the nine project sites will aid in protecting the trace and the underlying conduit, and will improve the quality and quantity of Ichetucknee Springs water. Acquisition will also provide the public with a park and a fishing area.

### Manager

Columbia County, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

The project includes two active limerock mines and seven other sinkhole sites along the Trace. Over 80 percent of the 450-acre limerock mine has no natural communities on it, but a small area of upland mixed forest and floodplain forest remains northeast of the mines. The majority of the areas around the five sinkholes are highly disturbed, but includes some fair quality forests. No rare plants or animals are known from the project. The mines are believed to lie over a significant geologic feature, a major conduit to

Ichetucknee Springs. The purchase of these mines and sinks will help protect the water supply to Ichetucknee Springs.

### Public Use

This project qualifies as a fish management area, recreation parks, and geologic sites. With appropriate contouring, the water-filled mine pits could serve as a recreational fishery or fish hatchery and as a county park.

### Acquisition Planning

The essential parcels are Anderson Mining (acquired) and Kirby (acquired) ownerships and all parcels within the addition. The Council amended the boundary to add 636 acres in 1999. This project was ranked for the first time on December 5, 1996. In January, 2000, the Board of Trustees (BOT) authorized DEP's Division of State Lands (DSL) to purchase 60 acres outside the project boundary. If the 60 acres tract is acquired, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) and ultimately the BOT will consider whether to retain ownership or designate the tract surplus.

On July 29, 1999, the Council added 636 acres: Rose Sink (since acquired), Saylor Sink (acquired), and Clay Hole Creek.

On July 18, 2000, the Council added 200 acres to the project.

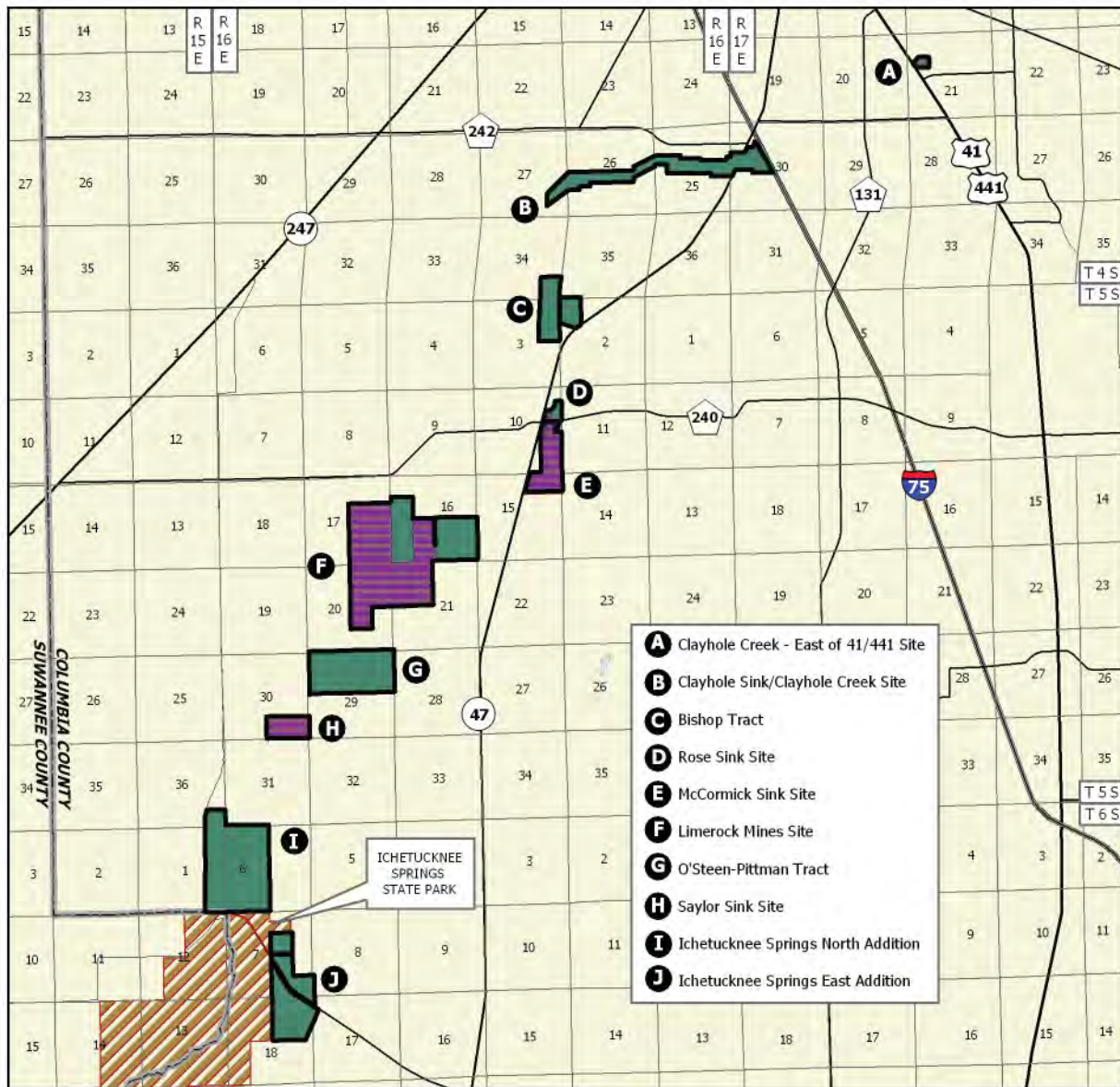
On August 9, 2002 the Trust for Public Land donated the 2-acre parcel around Rose Sink to the State of Florida.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>2,590</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>663*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$33,433,774</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>1,927</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$1,886,792</b>	

\*Includes donated acreage

Ichetucknee Trace FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
2 rare species are associated with the project	

# Ichetucknee Trace - Group A/Full Fee

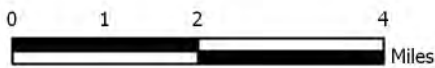


- A** Clayhole Creek - East of 41/441 Site
- B** Clayhole Sink/Clayhole Creek Site
- C** Bishop Tract
- D** Rose Sink Site
- E** McCormick Sink Site
- F** Limerock Mines Site
- G** O'Steen-Pittman Tract
- H** Saylor Sink Site
- I** Ichetucknee Springs North Addition
- J** Ichetucknee Springs East Addition

## ICHETUCKNEE TRACE

### COLUMBIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands



JUNE 2007

On August 15, 2003 the Council added 7.8 acres to the project boundaries.

On December 8, 2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.

On February 16, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 120-acre addition (Kirby parcel within the Limerock Mines Site) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by John Hankinson, Jr., consisted of one landowner, B. L. Kirby, and a single parcel with a taxable value of \$26,160. The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) will manage this essential parcel.

On June 15, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,050-acre addition (aka Sinks Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the Thousand Friends of Florida, consisted of 34 parcels, 18 landowners, and a taxable value of \$1,397,263. The O'Stern-Pittman Tract, Bishop Tract, Ichetucknee Springs East Addition, and acreage added to the existing Limerock Mines Site and Ichetucknee Springs North make up this addition. The OGT has agreed to manage the parcels adjacent to its proposed Columbia County Recreation Area as part of that area, and the DRP will serve as the project manager for the remaining parcels. The addition parcels have been designated as essential.

### **Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners for this project at this time. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is an intermediary.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Ichetucknee Trace project is to preserve the quality and quantity of water flowing into the first-magnitude Ichetucknee Springs by preventing mines from disturbing a major conduit to the springs and by preventing groundwater contamination through major sinkholes. Achieving this objective will help to ensure the public can continue to enjoy recreation in the scenic springs and spring run. It will also provide additional recreational opportunities and geologic education. The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward conservation and restoration of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as fishing. Managers should control access

to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; restrict the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and gasoline-powered boats to protect water quality; inventory the resources; contour the mine pits to provide shallow littoral zones for colonization by aquatic plants and animals, and recontour spoil piles so they can be revegetated with native trees, shrubs, and grasses; reforest cleared, but unmined, areas with original species; control exotic pest plants that may invade the disturbed parts of the site; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving resources. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the potential for a family fishing park, and the site can be developed for a variety of other compatible recreational activities such as canoeing, hiking, biking, picnicking, environmental education and nature studies. It therefore qualifies as a fish management area.

**Manager** DRP is recommended as lead manager for the site adjacent to the existing state park, and Columbia County as lead manager for the other nine sites. The FWC is recommended as co-manager on the limerock mine site.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Habitat restoration will require intense management activities involving extensive earth moving and some actual excavation of quarry pit perimeters to create desired gradual slopes and provide additional shallow littoral zones. Importantly, this excavation work will be vital from a public safety standpoint as existing quarry sides are perpendicular. It is anticipated considerable mining refuse will be present and will need to be removed. Some actual salvage or demolition may be necessary. Earthmoving to abolish some roads and to spread any available soil will be extensive but will then allow plant succession to proceed. Because no valuable habitats exist to manage, succession is the appropriate strategy. Earthmoving will allow creation of planned vehicle access/parking, etc., in areas where eventual erosion to lakes can be precluded. Some fencing to prohibit/direct vehicular and non-vehicular access will be necessary. Plant community inventory and restoration of disturbed mined areas by planting or other techniques will be secondary to major initial physical reconfiguration of the landscape and mine pits.

## Ichetucknee Trace - Group A/Full Fee

### *Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, fencing, public access, resource inventory and removal of existing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the DRP, the County, and the FWC describing future resource management. Because of the expense of excavating and earth moving and prerequisite planning/bidding, most of this actual work will not be scheduled for year one. Year two will concentrate on accomplishment of initial phases of conceptual plan (earth moving and excavation). This work will proceed into year three, when some infrastructure work on facilities will commence. Long-range plans will stress fish and wildlife habitat creation/management

and family fishing opportunities. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented and all management activities will stress protection of water quality in the mine pits. Future infrastructure may include a handicapped fishing pier, docks for canoes and small boats, an education/information pavilion and designated hiking/biking trails.

**Revenue-generating potential** Some potential for sale of timber exists on this property. Additional revenue-generating potential would be the sale of fishing licenses, special use or entrance fees.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DRP, County, and FWC will cooperate with various offices of the Department of Environmental Protection and local government agencies in managing the area.

<b>Management Cost Summary/FWC</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL, SGTF</b>	<b>CARL,</b>
<b>SGTF</b>		<b>SGTF</b>
Salary	\$40,000	\$75,000
OPS	\$10,000	\$10,000
Expense	\$20,000	\$200,000
OCO	\$35,000	\$20,000
FCO	\$0	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>

# Indian River Lagoon Blueway

Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties

**Group A  
Full Fee**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition would help preserve and improve the aquatic natural communities of the Indian River Lagoon, one of the country's most productive, diverse, and commercially and recreationally important estuaries. A third of the country's manatee population lives in the Indian River, and the area is important for many migratory birds as well as for oceanic and estuarine fishes. Additionally, public acquisition would provide natural resource based recreation in a developing area of Florida.

## Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) management centers around the Mullet Creek area. The previous managing agency, DEP Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA), also requested that the lands purchased for this project within St. Lucie County be leased directly to the county. The county has purchased of parcels using county funds, Florida Communities Trust (FCT) money and other sources, and they would like to manage the lands under a single plan. Other agencies participating as cooperating managers are Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, Brevard Mosquito Control, and Indian River Mosquito Control. Several of the previously listed cooperating Managers are currently managing some of the tracts within the project boundaries. The Florida

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wishes to participate in the management of some sites (including Phase II sites). Additionally the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will likely be cooperating Managers on some sites as part of their SWIM programs. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage that part of the project that was formally the North Indian River Lagoon project. The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge will manage the Pelican Island Addition site, if it is acquired.

Management of lands previously owned by to Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute will be divided among several entities. Some of the unimproved uplands will be managed by St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Division and some of the unimproved wetlands by St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District. Much of the improved acreage will be leased by the Board of Trustees for management by Harbor Branch Oceanographic Foundation or Florida Atlantic University.

## General Description

The 5,136-acre, Phase I, project is located in five counties, includes 36 separate areas (combined into 20 sites), and lies within the jurisdictions of two water management districts. It spans approximately 150 miles along the east and west sides of the Indian River Lagoon. Marine tidal marsh and maritime hammock, largely in good condition, cover roughly 60 per cent of the project; many of the marshes have been diked for mosquito con-

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>26,610</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>4,063*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$21,753,680*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>22,547</b>

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$91,649,084**

\*Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SJRWMD and by Martin, Brevard and Indian River counties.

<b>Indian River Lagoon Blueway</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Manatee	G2/S2
<i>Lakela's Mint</i>	G1/S1
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Atlantic Salt Marsh Snake	G4T1Q/S1
<i>Burrowing Four-o'clock</i>	G3?/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
<i>Coastal Vervain</i>	G3/S3
<i>Large-flowered Rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Mangrove Rivulus	G3/S3
17 rare species are associated with the project	

# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW VOLUSIA, BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, ST. LUCIE, AND MARTIN COUNTIES

**Map 1: Volusia County**

- A. Barrier Island Marshes Sites
- B. North Indian River Lagoon Site
- C. Edgewater Sites
- D. Oak Hill Site

**Map 2: Volusia and Brevard Counties**

- A. North Indian River Lagoon Site
- B. North Titusville Site

**Map 3: Brevard County**

- A. Pine Island Site
- B. Sykes Creek Sites

**Map 4: Brevard County**

- A. East Merritt Island Impoundment Sites
- A. Hog Point Site
- B. Washburn Cove Site
- C. Snagg Point Site
- D. Mullet Creek Site
- E. Old Oak Lodge Preserve Site

**Map 6: Indian River County**

- A. Pelican Island Addition Site
- B. Morgan's Impoundment Site
- C. Winter Beach Marsh Site
- D. Vossinbury Site

**Map 7: Indian River and St. Lucie Counties**

- A. Diamond Site
- B. Martin Site
- C. Oyster Bar Impoundment Site
- D. Avalon Site
- E. Harbor Branch Site
- F. Pappas Site
- G. Queens Island Site

**Map 8: St. Lucie County**

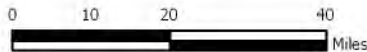
- A. Bear Point Site

**Map 9: St. Lucie and Martin Counties**

- A. Hutchinson Island Site
- B. Jensen Site

**Map 10: Martin County**

- A. Gomez Site
- B. Corset Island Site
- C. Palmer Sound Site
- D. Hobe Sound Site



AUGUST 2007

trol and require reconnection to the lagoon. Mangrove swamps, scrub, and flatwoods cover small portions of the proposal areas. A large part of the country's manatee population lives in the Indian River, and the area is important for many migratory birds as well as for oceanic and estuarine fishes. The Indian River Lagoon is a state aquatic preserve and classified as an Outstanding Florida Water. It is also a SWIM priority water body, and an Estuary of National Significance. The commercial and recreational fisheries (based on estuarine-dependent species) in the Indian River are some of Florida's most important—over 100,000 saltwater recreational anglers are registered in the proposal area.

### Public Use

Parcels within the project fall within or are adjacent to five aquatic preserves; Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River, Indian River—Malabar to Vero Beach, Indian River—Vero Beach to Ft. Pierce, and Jensen Beach to Jupiter Inlet. It will be managed as a buffer to the aquatic preserves.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 12, 1997, the LAAC added the Indian River Lagoon Blueway project to the CARL 1998 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by multiple sponsors, consisted of approximately 5,136 acres, 460 owners, and a 1996 taxable value of \$24,519,173.

On June 17, 1999, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 42-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Brevard County, consisted of multiple owners, and a 1998 taxable value of \$865,400.

On December 9, 1999, LAMAC approved combining the North Indian River Lagoon project with the existing Indian River Lagoon Blueway project. The added acreage brought the total Project Area to approximately 25,345 acres.

On December 19, 2000, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 186-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by multiple sponsors, consisted of multiple owners, and a 1999 taxable value of \$4,205,800. The addition was broken down as follows: (1) Brevard County Snagg Point, sponsored by TNC, consisted of 125 acres with a taxable value of \$1,246,520. The SJRWMD acquired 14.63 acres in 2005; (2) Martin County Bon Air Beach, sponsored by the Town of Ju-

pter Island, consisted of 43 acres with a taxable value of \$1,116,000; and (3) St. Lucie County Hobe Sound Addition, sponsored by St. Lucie County, consisted of 18 acres with a taxable value of \$1,798,280.

On April 16, 2001, ARC established Groups A & B and moved this project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority list.

On December 5, 2002, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2003 Florida Forever Priority list.

On August 15, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 15-acre addition, aka Old Oak Lodge Preserve, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Florida Institute of Technology, Dept. of Marine & Environmental Systems, consisted of one owner, Indian River No. 1 Developer, and a 2002 taxable value of \$685,170.

On February 11, 2005, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 297-acre addition, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of four owners, and a 2004 taxable value of \$1,137,380.

On February 16, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 194-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Brevard County EEL Program, consisted of nine ownerships, 10 parcels, and a taxable value of \$984,310. Brevard County will manage these parcels considered essential to the project.

On April 13, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 296-acre addition, known as Harbor Branch, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the St. Lucie County government, and consisted of three landowners, 12 parcels, and a taxable value of \$16,248,257. The parcels were designated as essential and will be managed by the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District.

On August 16, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 47-acre addition (aka Pelican Island Addition Site) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Torwest, Inc., and the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and consisted of one parcel with a 2006 taxable value of \$5,816,550. The Pelican Island





## Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

National Wildlife Refuge is the recommended manager of this essential parcel. Approximately half an acre overlaps with the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge site in Indian River County.

In August, 2008, 41.88 acres of the Kaufman/Young ownership were purchased for \$1,970,000 (\$1,313,333 from DSL Florida Forever funds and \$656,666 paid for by the SJRWMD). The DRP will manage this addition.

On December 12, 2008 ARC voted to extend the boundary with a fee-simple 230-acre addition in St. Lucie County, with a tax-assessed value of \$33,756,700. This is the Indian River Lagoon Blueway Harbor Branch, Phase II. This addition is part of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic campus. The proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.

### Coordination

Acquisition of this project will be a coordinated effort between directly involved local governments and water management districts and the State. The five counties (Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin) and the water management districts (St. Johns River WMD and South Florida WMD) have sent resolutions in support of this project. The District and Brevard County have acquired more than 3,200 acres. The District has acquired the Snag Point tract (214 acres), an essential parcel.

A “161” agreement has been formalized for the tracts in the St. Johns River WMD.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of Indian River Lagoon Blueway project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to or scarce within this state; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage or restore important ecosystems in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, fish and wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas for natural resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project will acquire numerous parcels adjoining the Indian River Lagoon. The habitats include freshwater marsh, salt marsh, mangrove fringe, maritime hammock, coastal strand, scrub, baygall, and pine flatwoods. Many of the wetland sites are impounded or otherwise hydrologically altered. Management and restoration of these habitats would provide protection for the Indian River Lagoon, increase estuarine habitat, and improve public access and recreational opportunities. The parcels fall within five aquatic preserves; Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River, Indian River—Malabar to Vero Beach, Indian River—Vero Beach to Fort. Pierce, and Jensen Beach—to Jupiter Inlet, and therefore is appropriate for designation as a State Buffer Preserve.

**Manager** Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will serve as the project Manager.

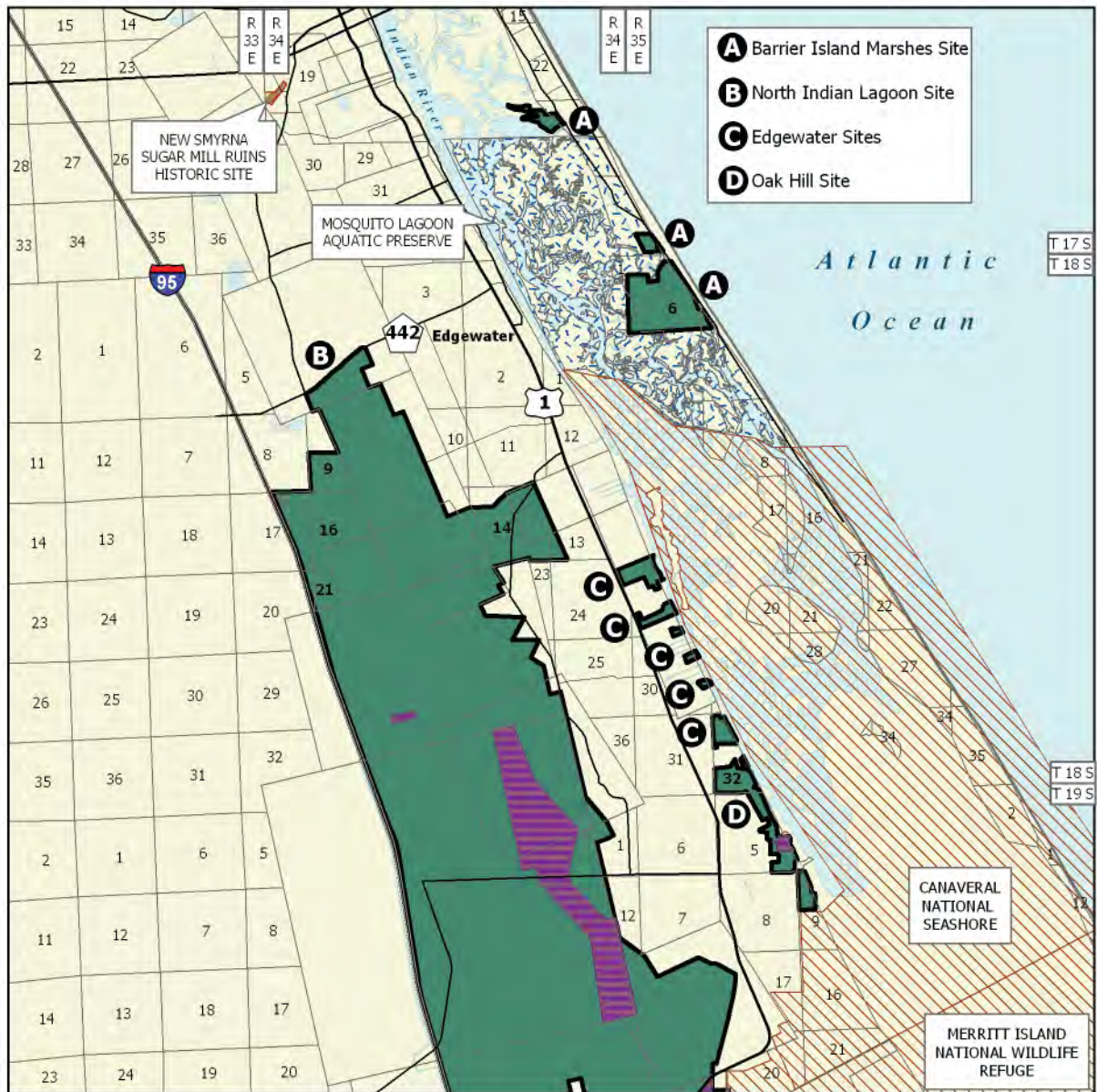
**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Initially all acquisitions will be of “high need.” Most of the wetlands are impounded, some are connected to the lagoon and managed, others are not. The long-term goal will be to reconnect all impoundments to the Lagoon through control structures. Structures will have to be installed and maintained in many areas and dikes repaired or removed where no longer functional. Most of the upland parcels have been unmanaged and have exotic plant infestations, and trash. Since most of the parcels are in urbanized areas the demand for water access will be high. Construction of several access points will be needed. Increased patrol and law enforcement presence will be necessary to prevent future dumping and vandalism. Long-term routine management activities within the upland areas will be at the “moderate need” level. However, due to the maintenance needs of the dikes and water control structures, and the required management of water levels, the impoundments will continue to require “high need” management.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

The management goals of this project are to utilize an ecosystems management approach: to enhance the protection of the adjacent Indian River Lagoon and its aquatic preserves; to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and uplands; to protect and manage native flora and fauna; to provide areas for boating, fishing, camping, hiking, bike riding, picnicking and nature appreciation; to protect archaeological and historical

(Continued on Page 275)

# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 10

### VOLUSIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



FEBRUARY 2007

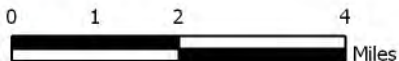
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 10

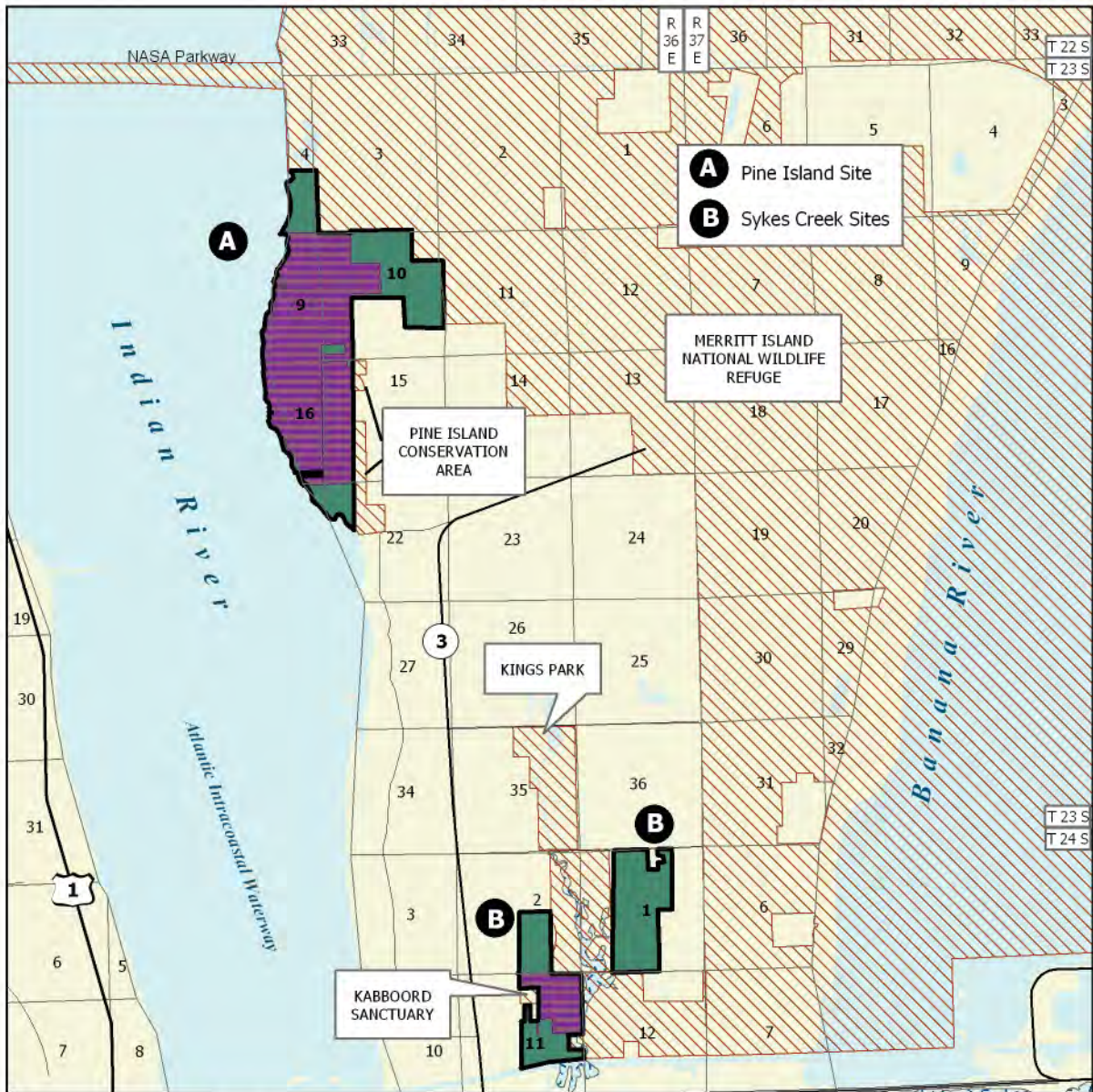
### VOLUSIA AND BREVARD COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MARCH 2007

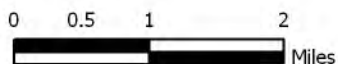
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 3 OF 10

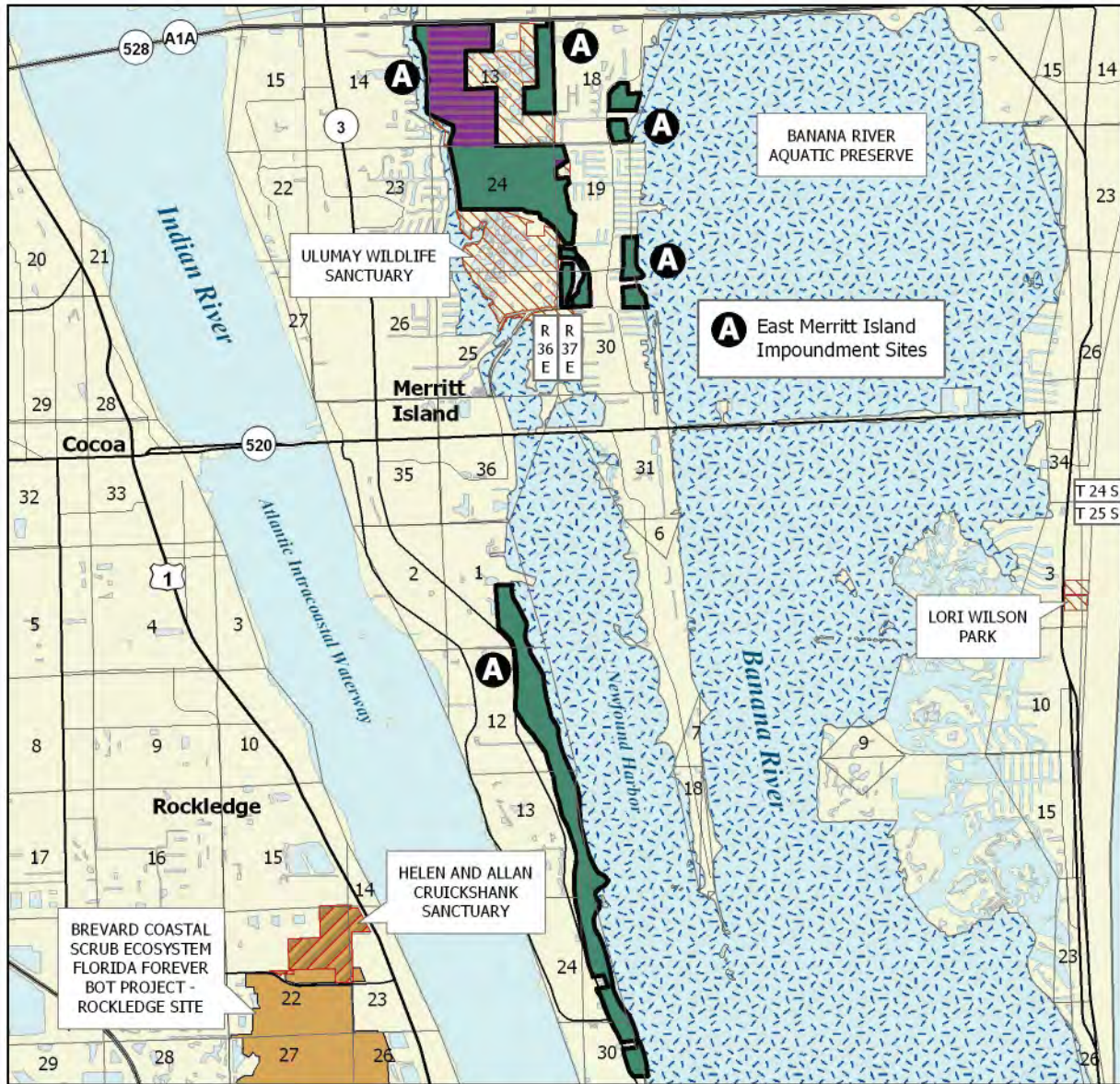
### BREVARD COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2007

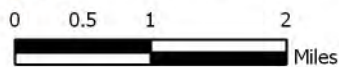
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 4 OF 10

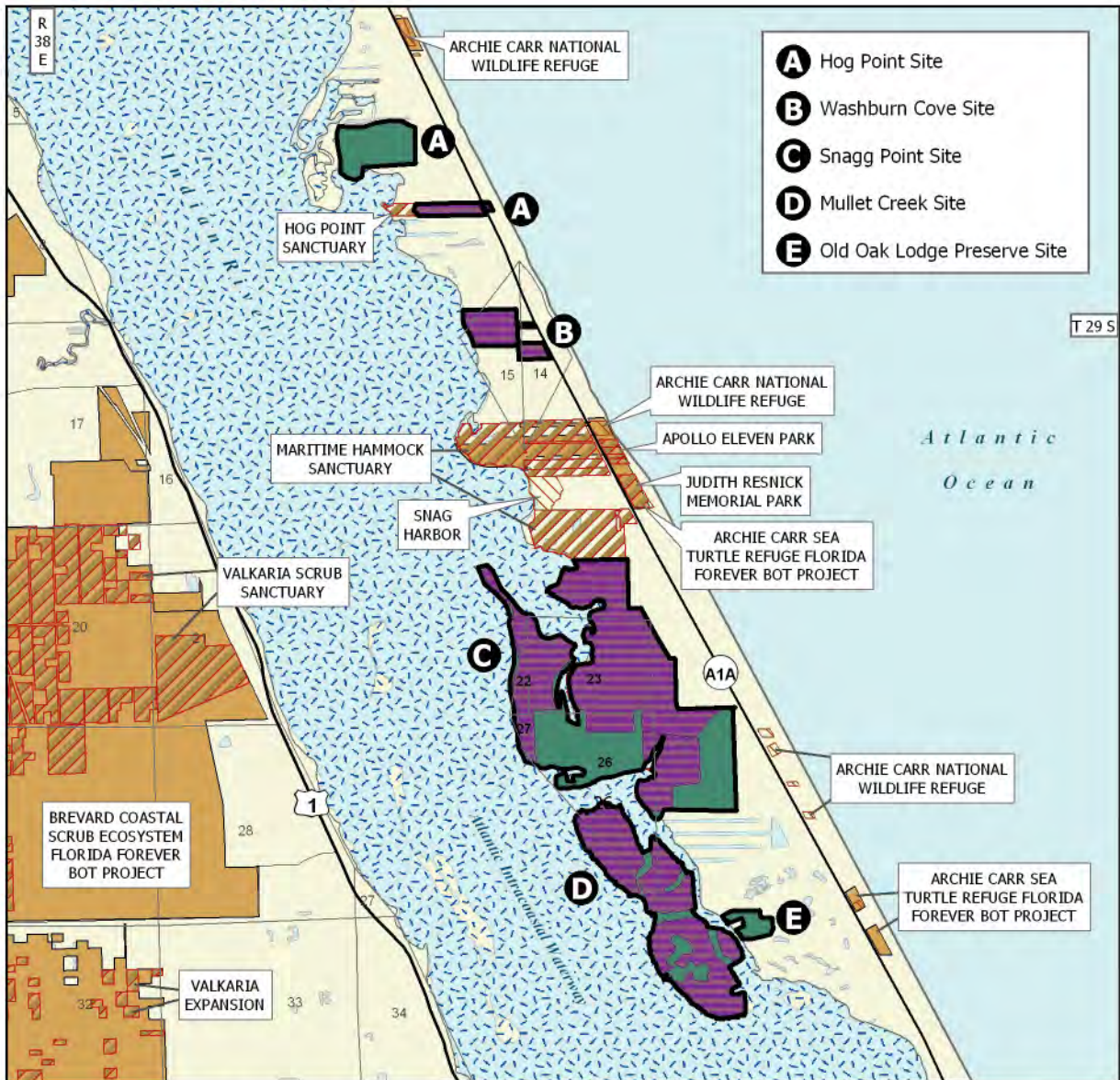
### BREVARD COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



FEBRUARY 2008

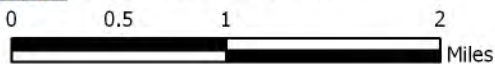
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 5 OF 10

### BREVARD COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



JULY 2009

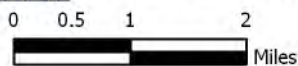
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 6 OF 10

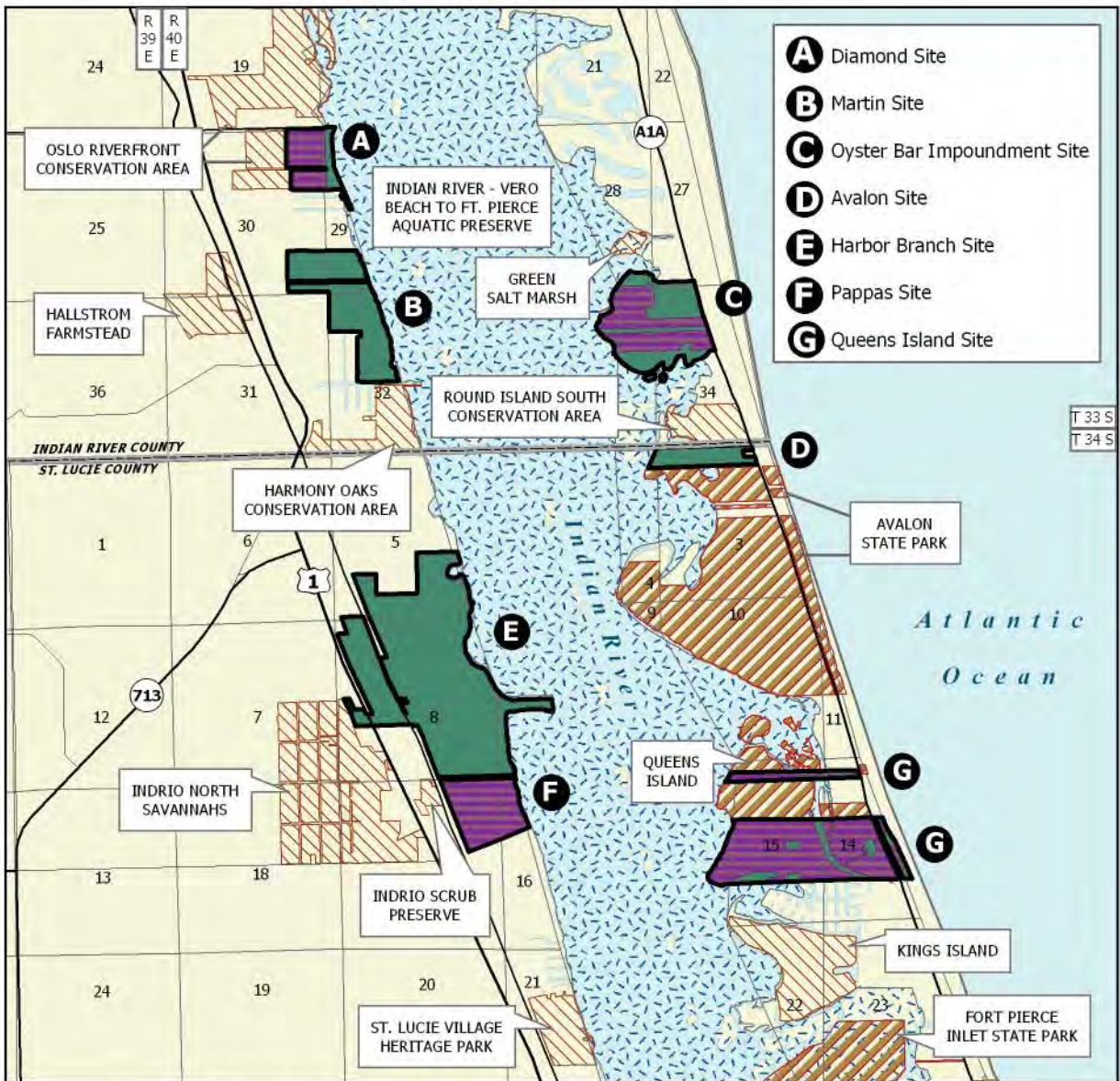
### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



AUGUST 2007

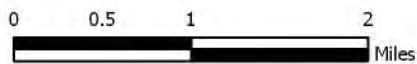
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 7 OF 10

### INDIAN RIVER AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

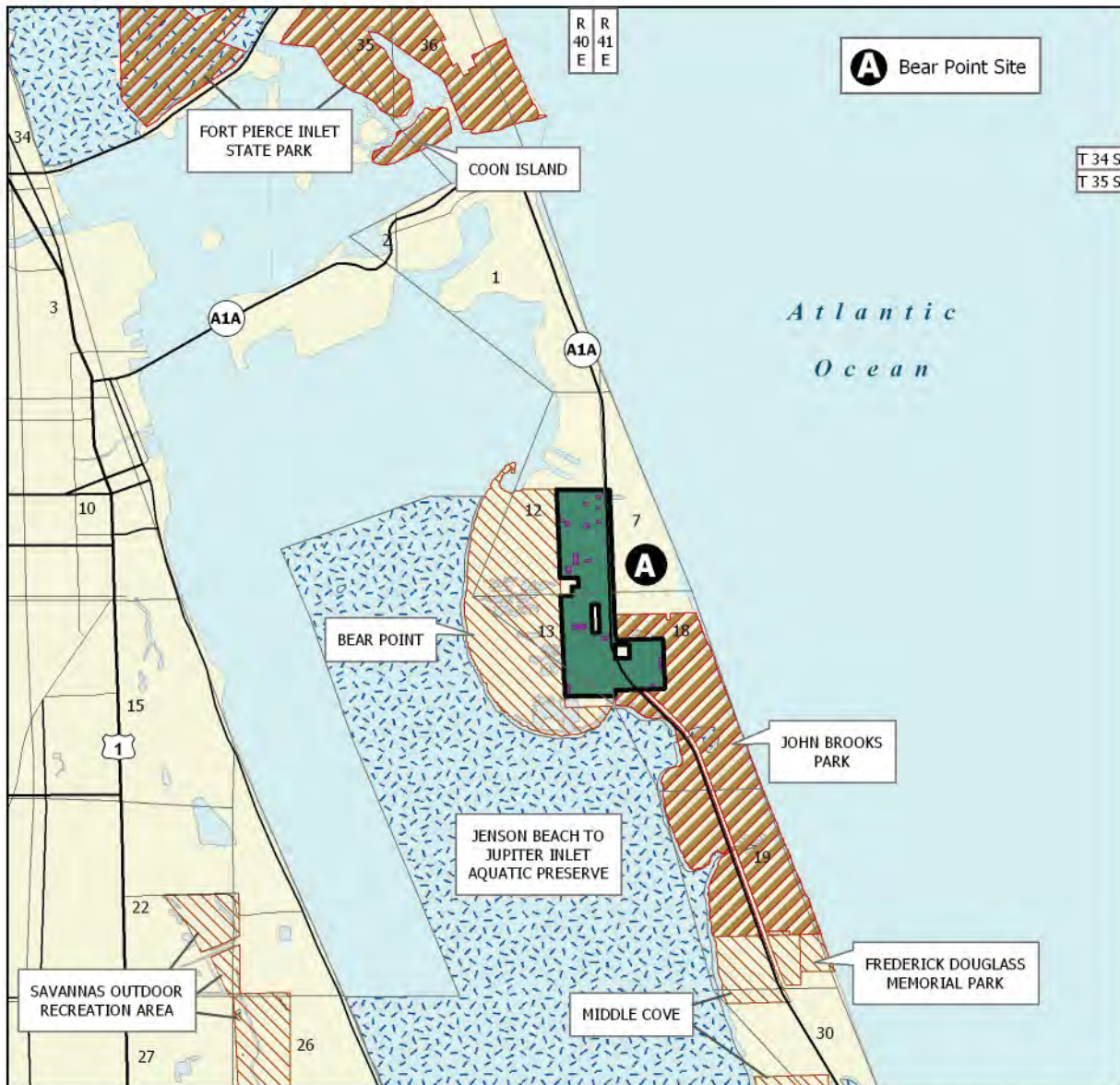
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



JANUARY 2009



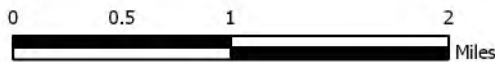
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 8 OF 10

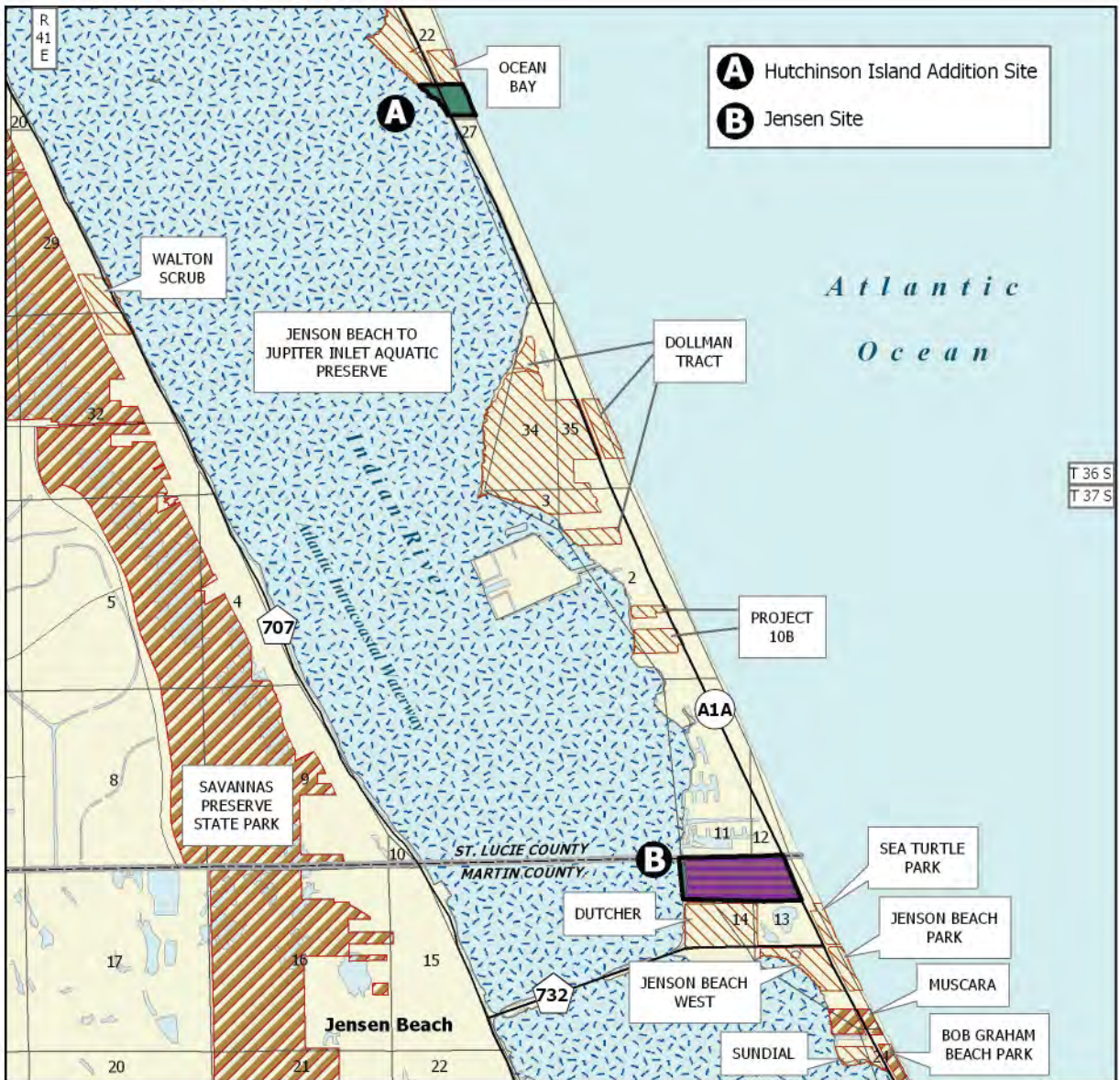
### ST. LUCIE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



SEPTEMBER 2008

# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 9 OF 10

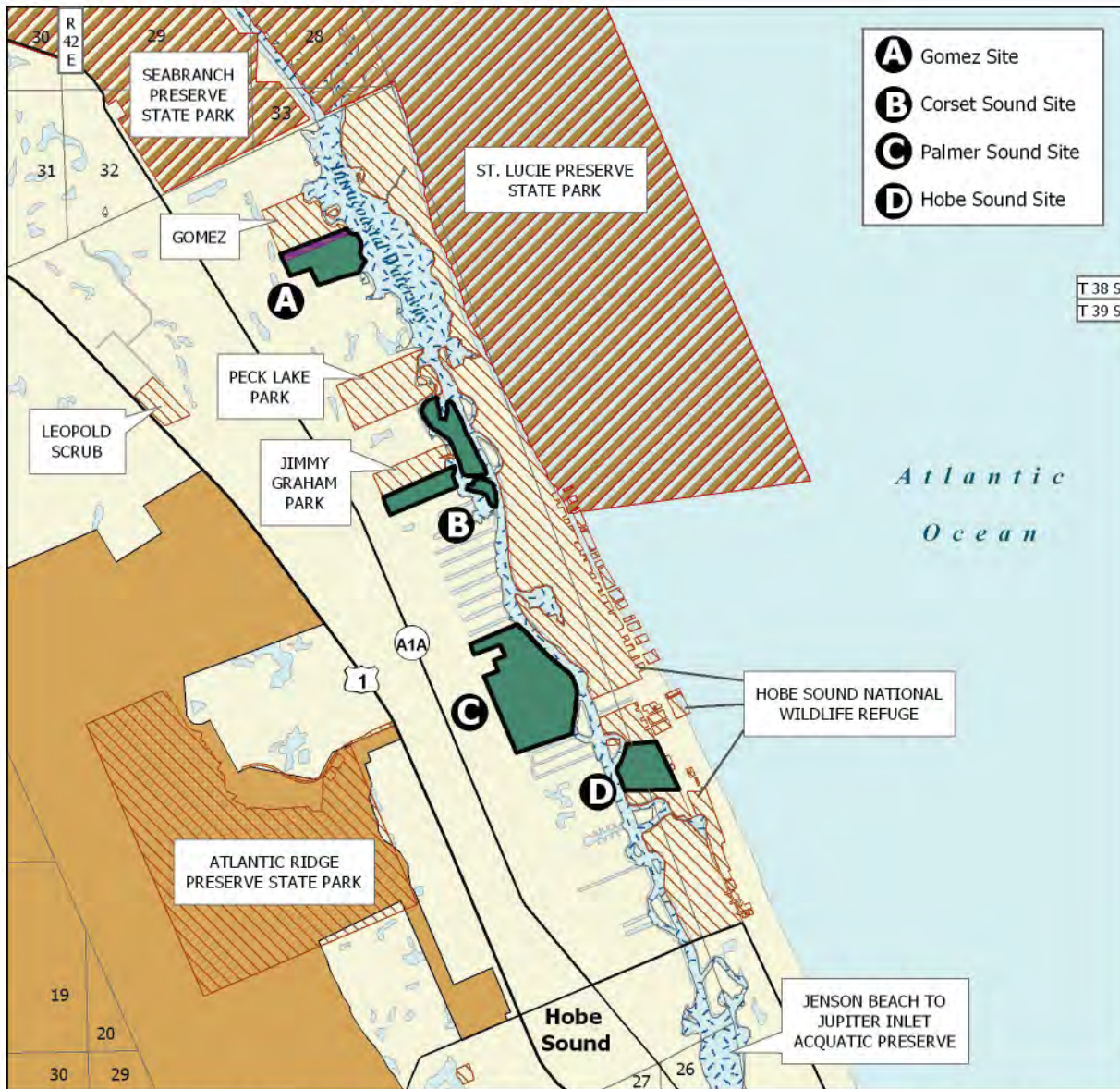
### ST. LUCIE AND MARTIN COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves









AUGUST 2007

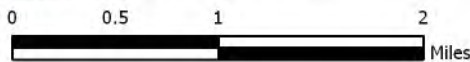
# Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 10 OF 10

### MARTIN COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



AUGUST 2007

## Indian River Lagoon Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

resources; to enhance public appreciation for natural diversity; and to cooperate with local mosquito control authorities to ensure that impoundments are properly managed.

Upon acquisition, initial activities will concentrate on the site security of the upland properties, including posting, fencing where needed, and patrols. Within the first year of appropriate funding, management activities will concentrate on trash removal, public access, and planning for management activities such as impoundment management, restoration projects, prescribed fire, and exotic plant and animal eradication. Appropriate access to the public will be provided while protecting sensitive resources on site.

The site's natural resources and threatened and endangered species will be inventoried and a management plan will be formulated. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical. Infrastructure development will be confined to already disturbed areas and will be the minimum required to allow public access, and to manage the property. Long-range goals will be established by the management plan and will provide for ecological restoration, the removal of exotic species, and the perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Prescribed fires will be used to maintain the appropriate communities and associated wildlife

populations. Management activities will also stress the protection of threatened and endangered species, and the preservation of the significant archaeological sites for professional investigation. Existing mosquito control impoundments will be reconnected to the Indian River Lagoon and rotational impoundment management implemented to meet both the goals of improved estuarine habitat and mosquito population management. Managed marshes offer excellent habitat for waterfowl and wading birds, and viewing opportunities for the public.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated from this property. The project will benefit the state indirectly by protecting or enhancing water quality, fisheries and public recreation activities, and preserving natural and historical resources.

**Cooperators in management activities** This project will require a great deal of coordination between the affected parties. The St. Johns River and South Florida Water Management Districts, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties and Mosquito Control Districts have all expressed interest in some form of cooperative management of portions of the project. This level of cooperation is needed if the project is to successfully serve the multiple purposes for which it was designed. In a few cases intensive recreation or stormwater infrastructure have been suggested as management uses, which might not be compatible with the management approach or capabilities. Such parcels may be more appropriately managed directly by the interested agency. The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge will manage the Pelican Island Addition site.

<b>Management Cost Summary/Start-Up</b>	
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$64,805</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$36,100</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$16,146</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$27,692</b>
<b>Special</b>	<b>\$20,311</b>
<b>FCO</b>	
<b>Grant</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

# Kissimmee - St. Johns River Connector Group B Full Fee

Okeechobee and Indian River Counties

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

The purpose of this project is to provide a habitat and hydrological connection between the Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area to the east and the Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve and the Ordway-Whittell Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary to the west. The land in this area is important habitat for the grasshopper sparrow, sandhill crane, mottled duck, wood stork, crested caracara, and numerous other wildlife species. Strategic habitat conservation areas (SHCAs) for some of these species comprise a large portion of the project lands. Acquisition and management of the lands in this project are particularly important to the long-term welfare of the wildlife species described above, as well as also being important for habitats for the red-cockaded woodpecker and wading birds. Acquisition of the project meets Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of Florida’s biodiversity, protecting and restoring the natural functions of land, and increasing natural resource-based public recreation. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

**Manager**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the lead manager. Division of Forestry of

the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is the cooperating manager.

**General Description**

The 36,216-acre project consists of a landscape mosaic primarily of improved pasture. It also contains mesic flatwoods (approximately 500 acres, or 1 percent), scrub and scrubby flatwoods (approximately 480 acres, or 1 percent) and dry/wet prairie (approximately 1,800 acres, or 5 percent). With the exception of the hydric hammock/blackwater stream habitats (approximately 3,106 acres, or 9 percent), the natural communities on the project are largely fragmented and situated within a mosaic of improved pasture. The bottomland forest and blackwater stream communities appear intact and are generally located on the eastern portion of the project. The dry and wet prairie communities are confined to the southwestern portion of the proposal and are impacted by numerous ditches. The remaining natural communities are largely fragmented and scattered across the proposal.

**Public Use**

The project has potential for a variety of forest related recreational activities, and the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area. Recreational activity might include bird watching, environmental education, hiking, horseback riding, off-road bicycling, hunting, nature study and photography.

<b>Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	G5T1/S1
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Cutthroat Grass	G3/S3
Hand Fern	G4/S2
Large-flowered Rosemary	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
15 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>36,216</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>36,216</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$28,065,895</b>

### **Acquisition Planning**

The Kissimmee-St. Johns Connector project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the December 6, 2001 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group A project. The project consists of 91 parcels under 11 owners. The essential parcels are identified as the Okeechobee Partnership, Oliver, Callaway, LOR, Russakis Ranch, Wedgeworth, Padgett Creek, and the Triple S Cattle Company ownerships.

### **Coordination**

TNC is partnering with the Division of State Lands.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of the project under FWC management will be given to conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests and water resources. The area will also be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, hiking, camping, environmental and cultural resource education, and other natural-resource based recreational activities.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for state designation***

The Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area, and would provide the public with a large tract for activities such as hunting, hiking and offroad bicycle trails, horseback riding, camping and wildlife observation. The project encompasses nearly 57 square miles.

#### ***Manager***

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended to be the lead managing agency, with cooperation from the Division of Forestry of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Some portions of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management, including frequent prescribed fires where appropriate. But because so much of the lands were converted to improved pasture, significant restoration activity is contemplated. This includes re-establishing native plants and a more natural hydrology. Eliminating exotic species, particularly cogon grass, is necessary. Development of facilities would be kept to a minimum to ensure the quality of recreation, and those developments would be in areas that are already disturbed.

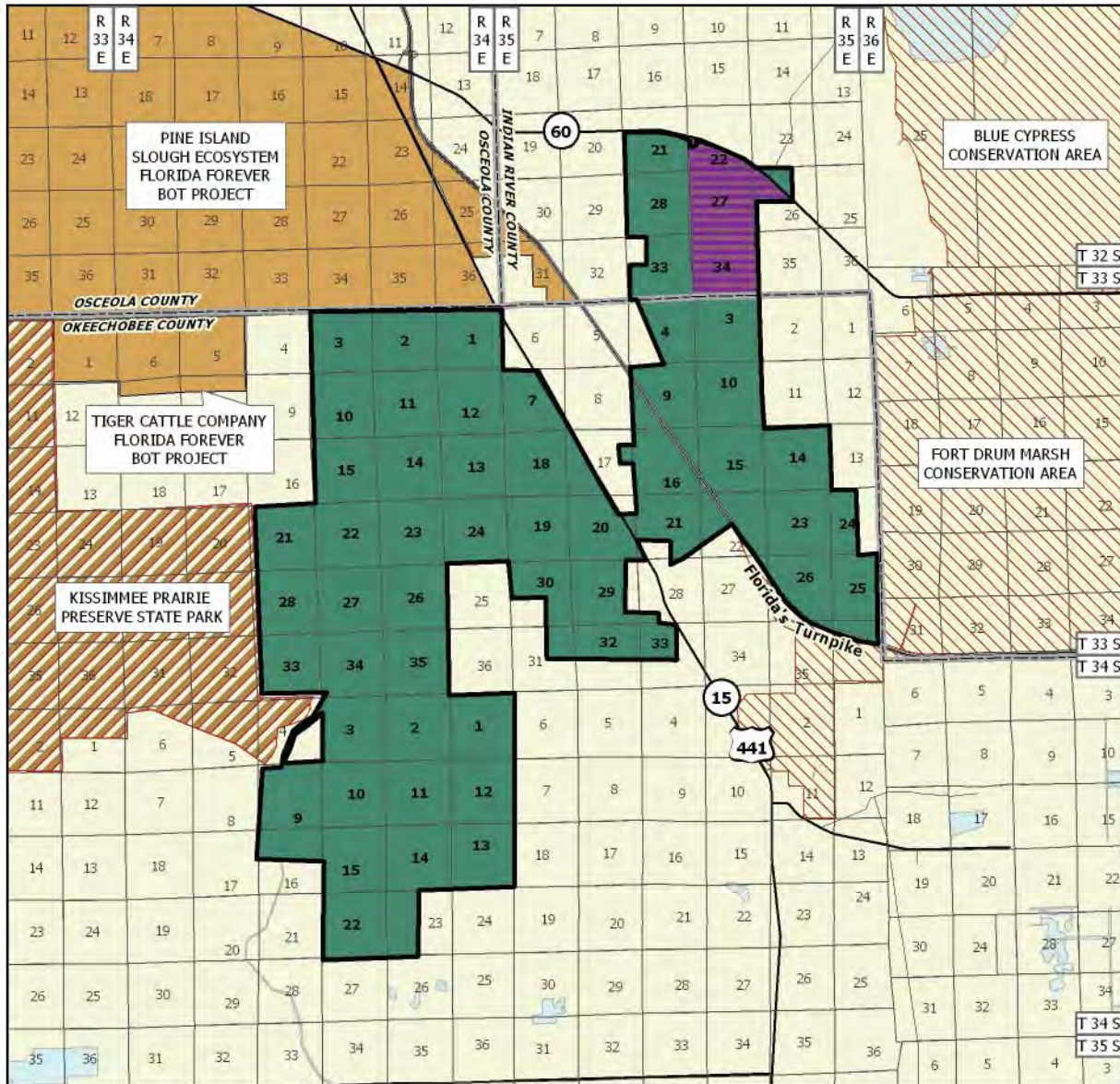
### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

In the first year after acquisition the emphasis will be on site security, posting boundaries, arranging public access, fire management, resource inventory, control of exotic species and removing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC that will describe the management goals and the specific objectives that are necessary to implement the future resource management.

### ***Revenue-generating potential***

Little of the area is currently available for producing forest products, so any future revenue from timber resources would depend on successfully reforesting and managing the pasturelands and other disturbed areas. If managers indicate that it might be appropriate, some revenues might be generated by grazing contracts in the flatwoods and pastured areas that are not restored in the interest of habitat diversity, or because of lack of funds for reforestation. Additional revenue would be generated by sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife-management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenue might be realized in the future by ecotourism activity, if such projects could be economically developed.

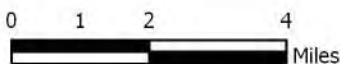
# Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector - Group B/Full Fee



## KISSIMMEE-ST. JOHNS RIVER CONNECTOR

### OKEECHOBEE AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2009

## Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector - Group B/Full Fee

### *Cooperators in management activities*

The FWC will cooperate with other state and local government agencies, including the Division of Forestry (DOF) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).

### *Management costs and sources of revenue:*

Maximum expected single-year expenditure:

#### **Management Cost Summary/FWC (including salaries for 3 full-time employees)**

	Startup:	Recurring:
<b><u>Resource Management</u></b>		
Exotic Species Control	\$23,758	\$47,516
Prescribed Burning	\$7,247	\$14,494
Hydrological Management	\$80,000	\$6,000
Other	\$88,364	\$88,364
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$199,369</b>	<b>\$156,374</b>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$52,845	\$17,593
Districts/Regions	\$22,648	\$7,540
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$75,494</b>	<b>\$25,133</b>
<b><u>Support</u></b>		
Land Management Planning	\$25,000	\$0
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$80,850	\$11,550
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$13,230	\$13,230
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$119,080</b>	<b>\$119,080</b>
<b><u>Capital Improvements</u></b>		
New Facility Construction	\$426,766	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$60,215
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$426,766</b>	<b>\$60,215</b>
<b><u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u></b>		
Operations	\$1,405	\$141
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,405</b>	<b>\$141</b>
<b><u>Law Enforcement</u></b>		
All Activities	\$8,315	\$8,315
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$830,428</b>	<b>\$276,457</b>



# Lafayette Forest

Lafayette County

# Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Lafayette Forest projects fills the Florida Forever goals of enhancing coordination and completion of land acquisition projects by forming a significant corridor connection between state and private conservation lands. As such, it could create a 70,000-acre block of conservation lands. The project fills the goal of increasing the protection of biodiversity because the project area is known to support rare species of plants and animals; it protects and restores the natural function of land and water by restoring, where necessary, the natural, pre-existing hydrology; it ensures that sufficient quantities of water are available by preserving wetlands that aid surface retention of water; it increases natural resource-based recreation and education by possibly accommodating hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, nature appreciation, picnicking and primitive camping; and it increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management by managing existing natural communities to perpetuate natural species.

### Manager

The Division of Forestry (DOF) is recommended as the lead manager.

### General Description

The Lafayette Forest proposal consists of approximately 12,800 acres in Lafayette County. This landscape consists of basin swamps, wet prairies, floodplain swamps, interspersed between pine silviculture plantations established on disturbed mesic and hydric flatwoods and sandhill community types. The property is located in eastern Lafayette County on the western

side of the Suwannee River and extends south to the Levy County line.

### Public Use

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. Development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

Protection and restoration of the sensitive wetlands on this project will be a priority. Public use will be limited to activities that will have little or no impact to these areas. Restoration efforts will focus on introduction of prescribed fire and thinning of dense pine stands, and facilitating the restoration of native groundcovers.

### Acquisition Planning

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lafayette Forest project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Conservation Fund (TCF) and DOF, consisted of approximately 12,800 acres with a single owner, International Paper Co., and a 2003 taxable value of \$1,706,933.

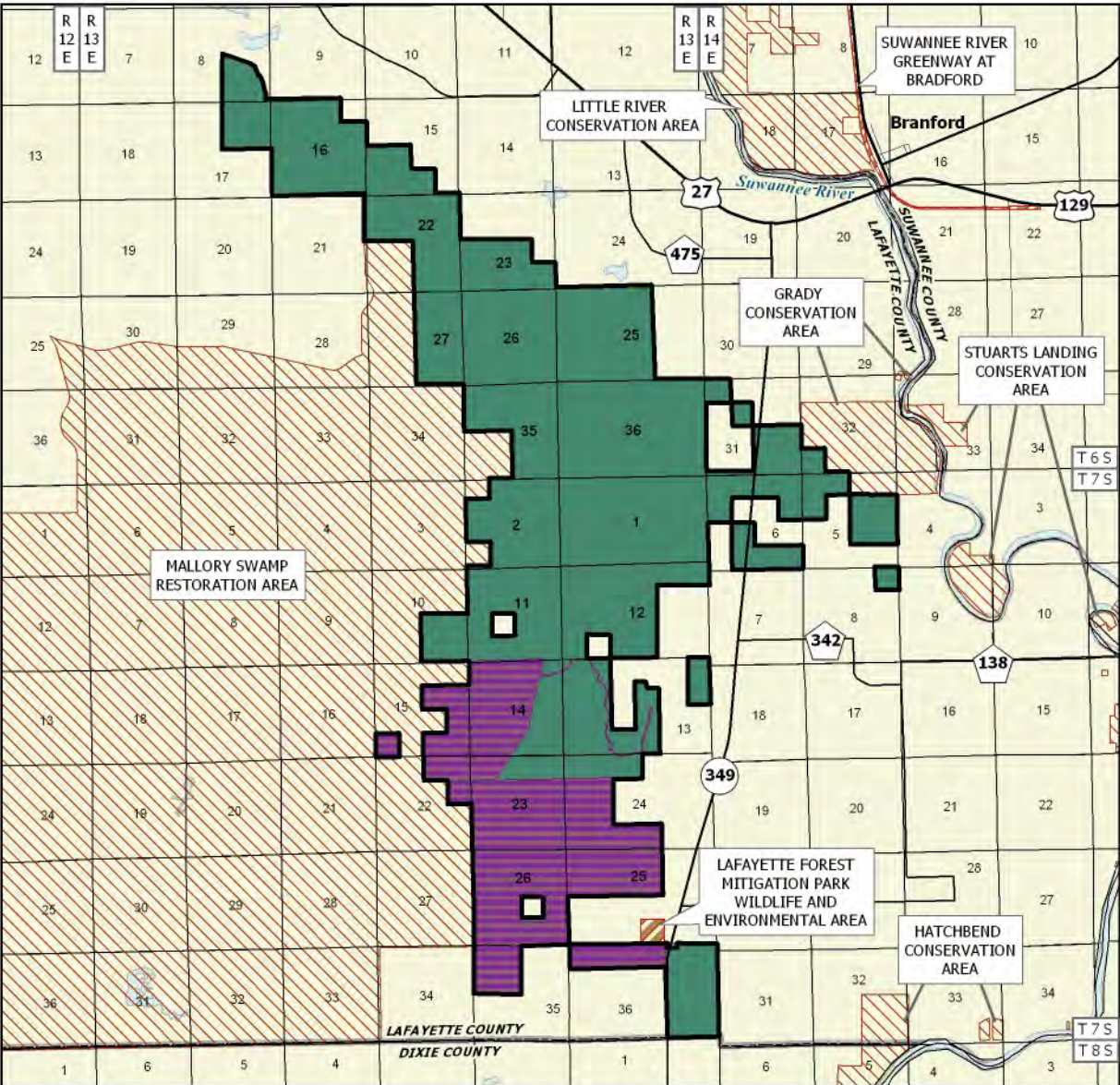
The essential parcels were identified as the International Paper Company ownership.

On January 25, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group

Lafayette Forest FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
White Ibis	G5/S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
4 rare species are associated with the project	


<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>12,800</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>820</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$1,312,224</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>11,980</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,597,533</b>

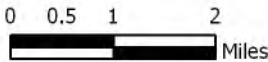
Lafayette Forest - Group A/Full Fee



LAFAYETTE FOREST

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

## Lafayette Forest - Group A/Full Fee

A of the FF 2005 Priority list.

### **Coordination**

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) acquired 820 acres in 2007.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted mesic and wet flatwoods. The project primarily consists of slash and loblolly pine plantations, and it is estimated that approximately sixty two percent of the project area has been converted to planted pines. The tract has been managed for silvicultural production for several years. The current silvicultural management objectives are for pulpwood and chip-n-saw production, and range in age from 1 to 25 years. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silvicultural values to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits.

#### **Manager**

DOF is recommended as the lead manager.

#### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

Much of the project's flatwoods, mesic hammock and upland mixed forest areas have been disturbed by silvicultural operations, and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber species are off-site may necessitate thinning or removal to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and canopy.

#### ***Timetable for Implementing Management***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the

Division of Forestry, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the site as a State Forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use.

Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrological restoration, providing site security, and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a road plan to identify those roads to be utilized for vehicular access by the public, those roads that are required for administrative use, and roads that are determined to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

#### ***Revenue Generating Potential***

As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

#### ***Capital Project Expenditures***

Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use, and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horse back riding and biking. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, the Division of Forestry intends to apply for capital project funds.

#### ***Management Costs and Sources of Revenue***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim

management are estimated as follows:

<b>SALARY (3 FTE)</b>	<b>\$77,035</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$123,300</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$423,725</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$624,060</b>



# Lake Hatchineha Watershed

Osceola and Polk Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This project consists of approximately 6,500 acres in Osceola and Polk Counties that would preserve a rare continuum of natural communities from the high scrub on the edge of the Central Ridge to marsh, floodplain, lakeshore and blackwater streams in the lowland areas. Approximately 4,778 acres in the project area would protect surface waters of the state. Approximately 777 acres of the project are groundwater recharge areas. Proposed additions to this project could eventually bring it to 11,300 acres, which would create a natural-area connection between two watersheds. Acquiring the Lake Hatchineha Watershed would meet Florida Forever goals of increasing the amount of forest land for sustainable communities, increasing natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities, and increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity by preserving the habitat of the rare species identified on this project. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

The Lake Hatchineha Watershed Project consists of three separate parcels of land on the Osceola-Polk County line, north and northwest of Lake Hatchineha, and west of Reedy Creek Swamp in Osceola County. The northernmost parcel, named the Beagle Tract, is

3,350 acres of mesic flatwoods, dome swamps and some pasture that straddles State Road 580. The southeastern parcel, 1,970 acres, is dominated by a 260-acre dome swamp surrounded by former mesic flatwoods that have been cut and then used for rangeland. The southwest parcel, 1,132 acres, is about 3 miles south of the Beagle parcel and it includes a high scrubby ridge about 100 feet above sea level, with sudden changes in elevation through the site. The general site is about five miles east of Haines City, and the eastern boundary of the southeastern parcel adjoins the Disney Wilderness Preserve in Osceola County.

### Public Use

The project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area and may provide the public with many different recreational activities, including hunting, hiking, horseback riding, group and primitive camping, and cultural resource education. Other uses of the forest resources that may be compatible with management of this area include cattle grazing and apiaries.

### Acquisition Planning

The Lake Hatchineha Watershed project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the June 6, 2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group A project. This project is proposed for fee-simple ownership. The essential parcel has been identified as the Parker Poinciana ownership.

On December 5, 2003 the Council moved the project to the Group B list.

Lake Hatchineha Watershed	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Highlands Tiger Beetle	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Celestial Lily</i>	G2/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>6,437</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>6,437</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of \$1,023,936</b>	

The Division of State Lands is not active in this project; all negotiations are at an impasse.

### **Coordination**

No acquisition partners or alternative funding resources have been identified at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests, and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education and other natural resource-based activity. Because one of the principal purposes of the proposal is water conservation, the FWC will cooperate with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and other water-conservation agencies to achieve that purpose.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for state designation***

This project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management area, and would provide the public with a large tract for activities such as hunting, hiking and offroad bicycle trails, horseback riding, camping and wildlife observation

#### ***Manager***

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the Lake Hatchineha Watershed Florida Forever project, in cooperation with other state and local agencies, including the SFWMD.

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

The primary management need of the Lake Hatchineha Watershed project to perpetuate the less-disturbed natural communities is to re-establish prescribed fires, and control human access. Some relatively small areas of xeric and mesic uplands have been converted to pasture or otherwise disturbed. Significant restoration is

contemplated for some of these areas. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum necessary to assure a high-quality recreation experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

During the first year after acquisition emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, control of exotic species, and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC describing management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

#### ***Revenue-generating potential***

Because very little of this project is appropriate for producing forest products, future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of restored pasturelands and other disturbed areas. If managers' assessments indicate it would be appropriate, some revenues might be generated from grazing leases in flatwoods or pasture areas not restored. Additional revenue would be generated from sale of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues in the future might be realized from ecotourism activity, if such projects can be economically developed.

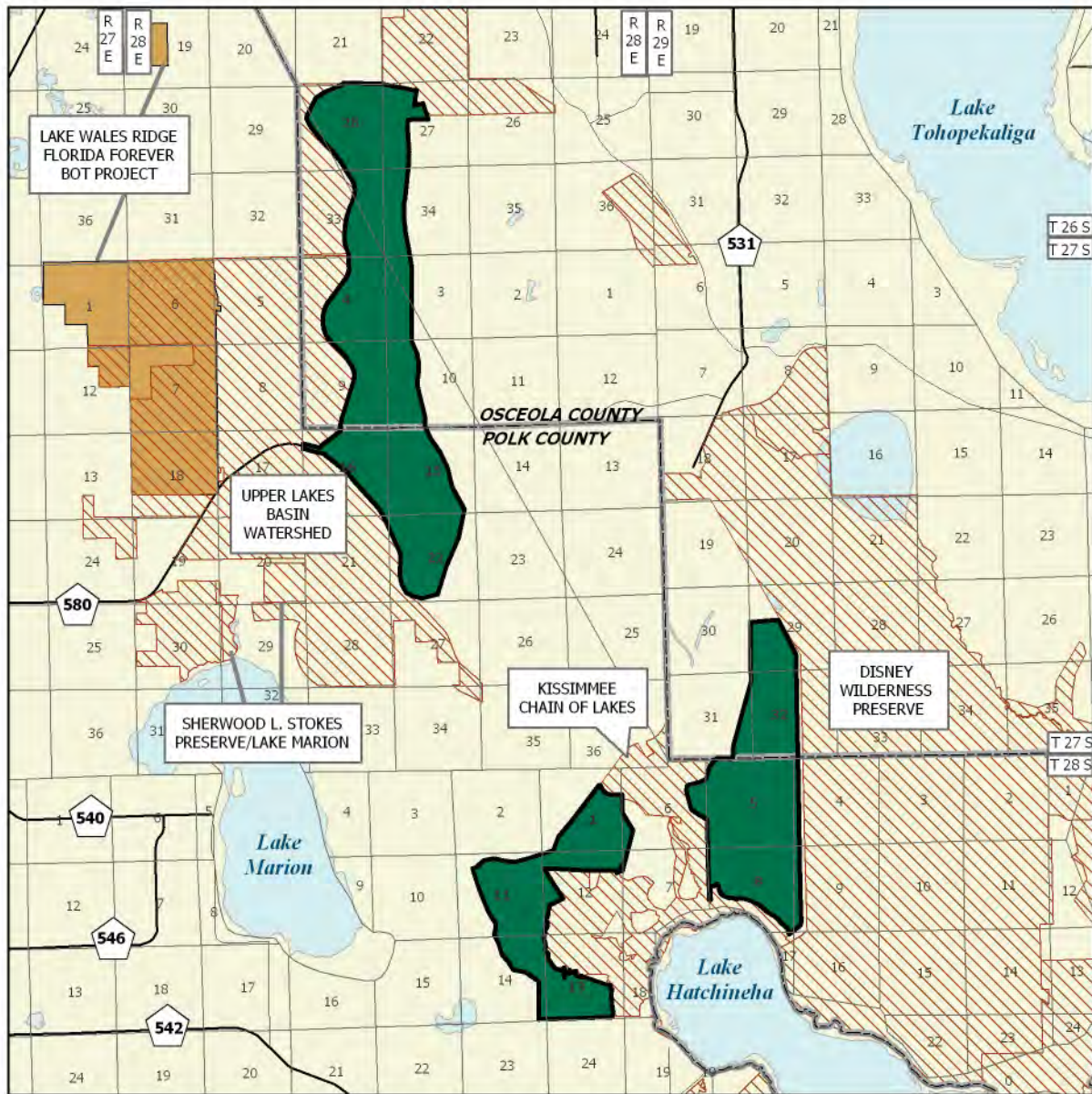
#### ***Cooperators in management activities***

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will manage the Lake Hatchineha Watershed Florida Forever project, in cooperation with other state and local agencies, including the DEP Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), and the SFWMD.

#### ***Management costs and sources of revenue***

Funding for this project is anticipated from the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund pursuant to Chapter 259.032, F.S., along with supplemental funds from revenue-generating activities deemed compatible with the acquisition purposes.

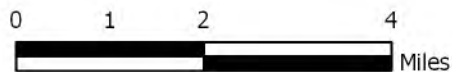
# Lake Hatchineha Watershed - Group B/Full Fee



## LAKE HATCHINEHA WATERSHED

### OSCEOLA AND POLK COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2006

## Lake Hatchineha Watershed - Group B/Full Fee

### Management Cost Summary/FWC (including salaries for 2 full-time employees)

	Startup:	Recurring:
<b>Resource Management</b>		
Exotic Species Control	\$25,748	\$51,496
Prescribed Burning	\$3,927	\$7,854
Hydrological Management	\$40,000	\$4,475
Other	\$52,991	\$52,991
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$122,666</b>	<b>\$116,816</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$57,642	\$23,151
Districts/Regions	\$24,704	\$9,922
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$82,345</b>	<b>\$33,072</b>
<b>Support</b>		
Land Management Planning	\$25,000	\$0
Land Management Reviews	\$0	\$500
Training/Staff Development	\$0	\$1,000
Vehicle Purchase	\$83,900	\$11,986
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$13,230	\$13,230
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$122,130</b>	<b>\$26,716</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>		
New Facility Construction	\$498,865	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$47,481
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$498,865</b>	<b>\$47,481</b>
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>		
Operations	\$1,625	\$178
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,625</b>	<b>\$178</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>		
All Activities	\$4,506	\$4,506
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$832,137</b>	<b>\$228,768</b>





# Lake Santa Fe

## Alachua and Bradford Counties

# Group A

## Full Fee

### Purpose for Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals by increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels. The project will also provide protection to the only remaining shoreline of Lake Santa Fe that supports wading bird nesting and resting, natural shoreline fauna, historic cypress fringe, significant swamps with attendant habitat qualities, and mostly undisturbed wetlands. It will protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; will help to protect existing publicly-owned wetlands and swamp systems through the maintenance of water quality and the prevention of additional development; will ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; and contributing lands to the health and function of the Santa Fe Swamp will help to ensure adequate surface water resources and water quality. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

The Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired.

Lake Santa Fe	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Frosted Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Narrowleaf Naiad</i>	G1/S1
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
9 rare species are associated with the project	

### General Description

The Lake Santa Fe proposal includes 14 tracts in the Lake Santa Fe vicinity encompassing a total of 10,735 acres. This project is proposed as fee simple, with possible use of less-than-fee on some parcels, and would build upon the Suwannee River Water Management District's Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, which includes most of the Santa Fe Swamp and Lake Alto Swamp. It is designed to protect the surface headwaters of the swamps through prevention of further development and septic input, and to protect undeveloped portions of the Lake Santa Fe shoreline. The project is segmented due to lakefront residential development, resulting in limitations to lake edge protection and recreational opportunities.

### Public Use

Several of the parcels in the project qualify for passive recreational opportunities including picnicking, short trails and nature appreciation. One parcel may provide opportunity for more diverse (but passive) opportunities such as canoeing, fishing, and bird watching.

### Coordination

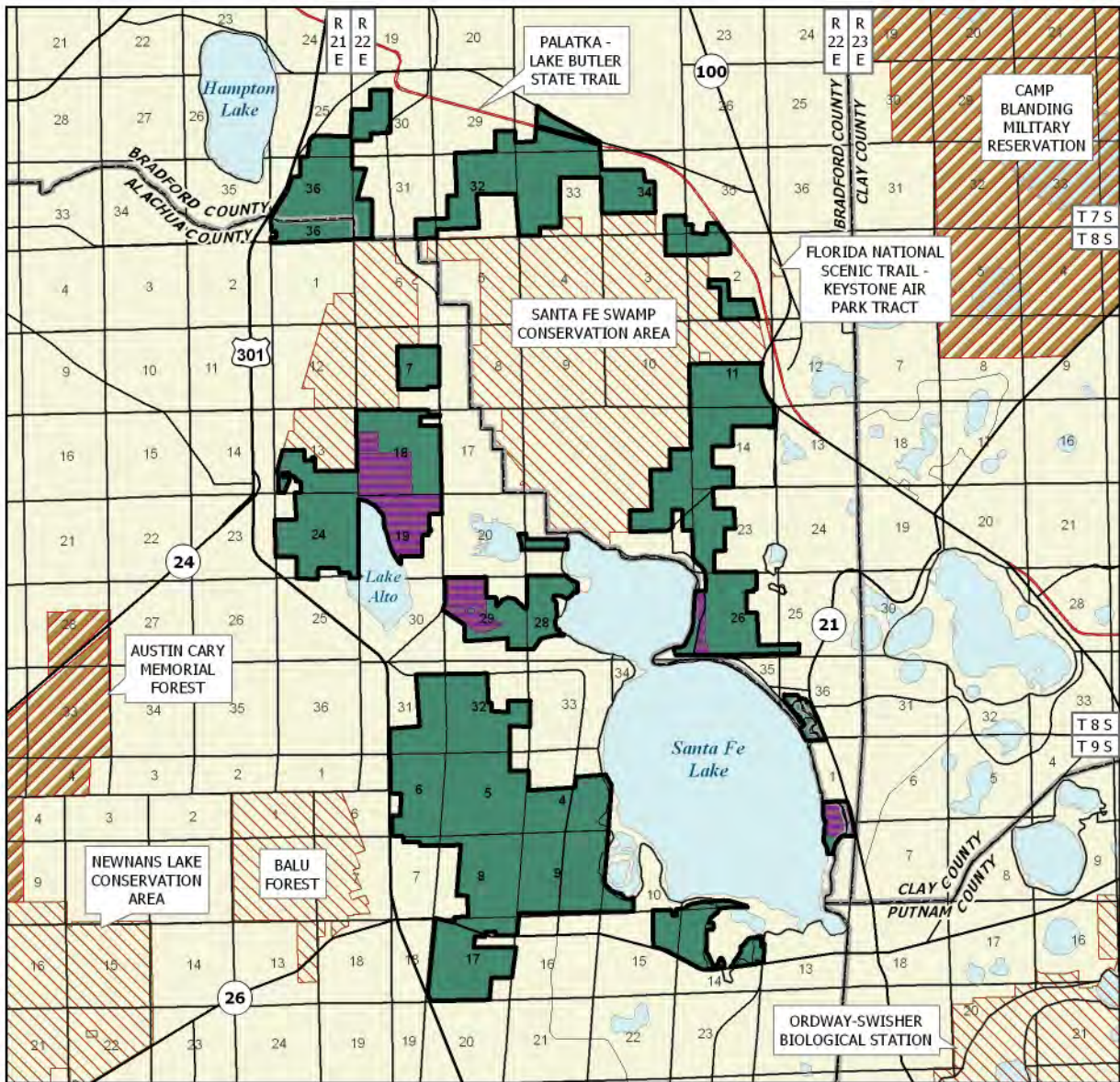
There are no acquisition partners at this time. Although not listed as a partner, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) has expressed an interest in buffering the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lake Santa Fe project to

Placed on List	2003
Projects Area (acres)	10,735
Acres Acquired	685*
At a Cost Of	\$1,721,516*
Acres Remaining	10,050
With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of:	\$3,664,230

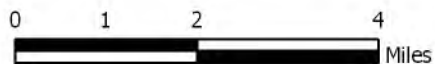
\*includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the SRWMD and Alachua County.



## LAKE SANTA FE

### BRADFORD AND ALACHUA COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2009

## Lake Santa Fe - Group A/Full Fee

Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Lake Santa Fe Dwellers Association and the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 10,735 acres, multiple owners, and a 2003 taxable value of \$3,914,013.

The Rayonier tract was identified as essential to this project with the Lake Santa Fe shoreline protection a concurrent priority.

### **Location and Proximity to Other Managed Areas**

The Lake Santa Fe proposed project is in northeastern Alachua County and southeastern Bradford County, centered on Lake Santa Fe. It is 14 tracts, to protect the surface headwaters of the Santa Fe River by preventing further development and septic input. Tract sizes range from 47 to 3,768 acres and total 10,735 acres. The project is proposed as fee simple and would build upon the Suwannee River Water Management District's Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, which includes most of Santa Fe Swamp and Lake Alto Swamp. The project is fragmented because residential development has already occurred in the area. Balu Forest (Alachua County) and Austin Cary Memorial Forest lie within three miles to the west of the general project area; Camp Blanding Military Reservation lies three miles to the northeast; the (Ordway-) Swisher Memorial Nature Preserve lies approximately three miles to the southeast.

All of the parcels in this proposed project boundary are for the most part in, but also adjacent to and near a medium priority multi-use trail corridor.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary management goals for the Lake Santa Fe project are to protect Florida's surface water quality; wetland and aquatic habitat for species associated with freshwater swamps and lakes; to preserve nesting and resting habitat for upland and aquatic species; to provide natural-resource based outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Florida including, but not limited to, fishing, boating, hiking, camping and nature appreciation; to help buffer and protect existing conservation lands at the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area; and to protect Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community and landscape levels.

### **Unified Management Prospectus**

### **Introduction**

The Lake Santa Fe Florida Forever Project comprises approximately 10,735 acres located in Alachua and Bradford counties. The project consists of 14 separate parcels distributed around the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, Little Lake Santa Fe and Lake Santa Fe. The parcels range in size from 47 to 3,768 acres, are mostly noncontiguous, and are distributed among other land uses. The project extends over a north-south distance of 11 miles, and an east-west distance of 7 miles. The project is located approximately 9 miles east of Gainesville, 42 miles southwest of downtown Jacksonville, and 38 miles southeast of Lake City.

Several parcels are adjacent to, and would provide buffer for the Suwannee River Water Management District's Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, and also several smaller named lakes including Bonnet Lake, Hickory Lake, Lake Alto and Little Lake Santa Fe. The project area is two miles west of the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, and three miles northeast of the Austin Cary Memorial Forest (managed by the University of Florida). This project is designed to protect the last remnants of undeveloped land around the Lake Santa Fe-Santa Fe Swamp headwaters system, through protection of shoreline, and associated upland and wetland natural communities. This would benefit the entire Santa Fe River system, including its associated fish and wildlife, hydrology and water quality. The project area includes functional wetlands (32%, or 3,429 acres), and provides protection for surface water (67%, or 7,247 acres of project area) and natural floodplain function (26%, or 2,817 acres of project area). Part of the project area (25%, or 2,635 acres) provides recharge to the Floridan aquifer. This project is also significant as an ecological greenway, with 92% (9,894 acres) of the project area qualifying as priorities 4, 6 and 7 in potential importance, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation.

Approximately 70% of the project is comprised of upland natural plant communities. Most uplands consist of pine plantation (6,136 acres), while remaining cover types (570 acres) include upland mixed forest and mesic flatwoods together comprise about 570 acres. Most of the uplands comprise pine plantation, which consists of 6,136 acres of flatwoods. Approximately 775 acres

of uplands are in agricultural use, serving mostly as improved pasture, with about 160 acres in row crops. There are 80 acres of residential properties within the project uplands. Wetland communities consist mostly of basin and dome swamp, which together comprise 2,300 acres. Other wetland communities include baygall and depression marsh. The FNAI indicates that 6% (677 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. The flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*) is an imperiled animal species documented to occur at a breeding location within the proposed project. Other imperiled or rare animal species reported to occur on site include the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Gopher tortoise burrows are of particular importance, because they often provide refugia for a suite of declining wildlife species.

Other wildlife observed in the project include anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), hawks, and turtles. Past records exist for a wading bird rookery within the proposed project, and use by nesting ospreys. The Northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) are game species observed to occur on the project.

The narrowleaf naiad (*Najas filifolia*) is an imperiled aquatic plant that occurs in the project area.

Focal species, which are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife, occur widely in the project area. FWC reports that over 25% (2,725 acres) of the project area includes at least seven focal species. Another 55% (5,876 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI.

### Management Goals

The DOF and the FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Lake Santa Fe under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. Both agencies agree that the project has the capability to provide important protection for fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices.

Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and threatened and endangered species should be an important management goal for the project. Particular attention should be directed to the protection of wetlands which are important habitat to the state and federally listed flatwoods salamander. Wetland drainage and conversion of wetlands for silvicultural uses are factors that have contributed to the decline of this species throughout its range. Under the unified management approach, a broad-scale management program will be developed to protect listed species habitat, restore important wetlands, and provide appropriate management for natural plant communities, wildlife populations, forests and water resources.

Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a diversity of age classes and stocking rates. Such variations in stand management increases plant and wildlife diversity, and provide the necessary micro-habitats needed by many species to meet their life history requirements.

## Lake Santa Fe - Group A/Full Fee

Management programs would promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. The project area will be managed to provide opportunities for bicycling, boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, kayaking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. The Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 27% (2,937 acres) of the project area to be suitable for priority 1 or 2 recreational trails. The managing agencies would promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment.

This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

- (a) Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects
- (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels
- (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state
- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state
- (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities
- (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources

### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

Most of the project is a medium-need tract that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately, 60% of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity, consequently additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The DOF and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the Conceptual Management Plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that will require cooperative effort include restoration of flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal of off-site species, use of practices that promote regeneration of native ground cover, and reforestation of ruderal and recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to assist in

determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection and restoration of forested wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of invasive exotic species.

Biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Due to the presence of imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the proposed project, it is anticipated that resource inventories would be an initial priority under the unified management approach. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

### ***Timetable for Implementing Management Provisions***

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach, will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of imperiled or rare species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based

vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance, and spatial distribution of imperiled and rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Most of this project area has not been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State’s Division of Historical Resources.

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, and would include provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

**Estimate of Revenue-Generating Potential**

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 56% (6,042 acres) of the project area is available

as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry, and that 18% (1,901 acres) of the project area serves as forestland for aquifer recharge. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15%) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated.

**Recommendations as to other Governmental Agency Involvement**

The unified managers (DOF and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Suwannee River Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

**Revenue Sources, Management Costs and Employees Needed\***

Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the DOF and FWC.

Category	Start-up	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$170,478	\$184,467
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$1,412,903	\$124,743
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$2,404	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$7,518	\$7,518
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,817,877</b>	<b>\$373,568</b>

\*includes employee salaries

# Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

Lake, Osceola, Polk and Highlands Counties

**Group A: Full Fee**  
**Group A: Less-Than-Fee**  
**Group A: Small Holdings**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The high, sandy Lake Wales Ridge, stretching south from near Orlando almost to Lake Okeechobee, was originally covered with a mosaic of scrub, flatwoods, wetlands, and lakes. The scrub is unique in the world—it is inhabited by many plants and animals found nowhere else—but it has almost completely been converted to citrus groves and housing developments. The Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project is designed to protect the best remaining tracts of this scrub and the ecosystems associated with it, thereby preserving numerous endangered species and allowing the public to see examples of the unique original landscape of the ridge. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

## Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Lake June West); Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and five Warea sites) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (remaining sites). The Division of Forestry will monitor the less-than-fee portion.

## General Description

Judging from its many unique species, Central Florida Ridge scrub may be among the oldest of Florida's upland ecosystems. This project consists of separate sites along the Lake Wales Ridge which are intended to be part of a system of managed areas that conserve the character, biodiversity, and biological function of the ancient scrubs of the Ridge. The sites contain the best remaining examples of unprotected ancient scrub as well as lakefront, swamps, black water streams, pine flatwoods, seepage slopes, hammocks, and sandhills. The project is the last opportunity to protect the highest concentration of narrowly endemic scrub plants and animals on the Lake Wales Ridge, many in jeopardy of extinction. Seventy-five rare elements are found in this diverse ecosystem, including a population of scrub mint that may be a new species. No archaeological or historical sites are known from the project. All the sites are fragments vulnerable to mismanagement and disturbance. They are also seriously threatened by conversion to citrus groves or immediate development pressure.

## Public Use

Sites within this project are designated for use as state parks, state forests, botanical sites and preserves, providing opportunities for natural-resource education, hiking, and on some sites, camping, picnicking, hunting and fishing.

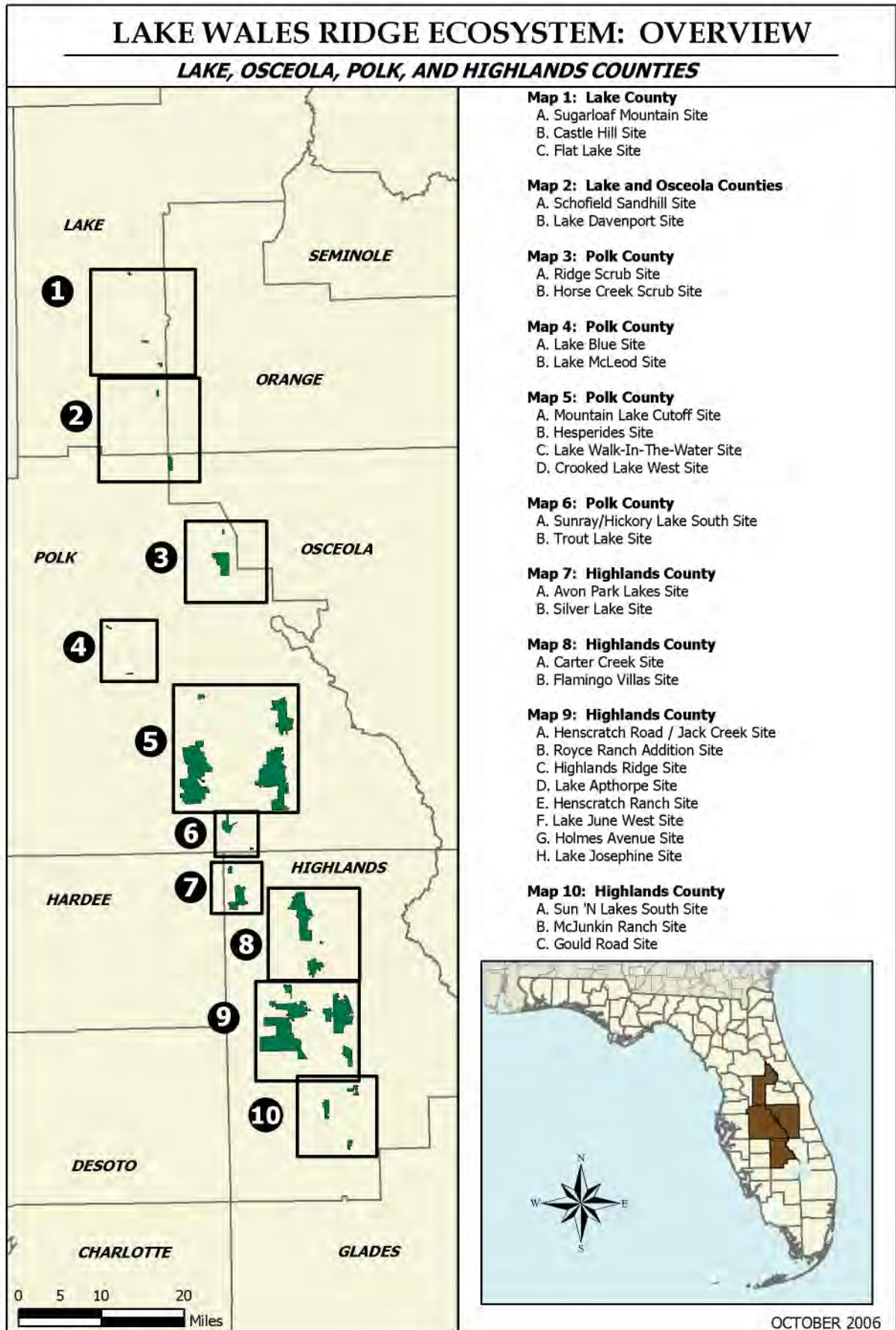
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Scrub Ziziphus</i>	G1/S1
<i>Clasping Warea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garrett's Scrub Balm</i>	G1/S1
<i>Scrub Lupine</i>	G1/S1
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
<i>Scrub Bluestem</i>	G1/S1
<i>Avon Park Rabbit-bells</i>	G1/S1
<i>Perforate Reindeer Lichen</i>	G1/S1
55 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1992*</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>60,117</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>30,693**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$93,369,664**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>29,424</b>

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$18,721,870**

\*Lake Wales Ridge sites and Warea Archipelago projects were combined in 1994.

\*\*Includes acres and expenditures by the Southwest Florida, the South Florida, the St. Johns River and the Southwest Florida Water Management Districts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Polk Co. and NRCS.





## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings

The Boy Scouts and Morgan less-than-fee parcels qualify as state forests. The amount and nature of public use will be negotiated with the landowners.

### Acquisition Planning

#### Full Fee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an intermediary in the majority of the ridge sites. Lake Walk-in-Water (8,615 acres): major owner, Alico, has been acquired; contracts have been approved/negotiations ongoing on other relatively large tracts; TNC worked with Morgan on details of the completed less-than-fee acquisition. Lake June West (831 acres): acquired. Gould Road (419 acres): major ownership acquired; discussions ongoing with owner of smaller inholding. Henscratch Road (2,869 acres): largest tracts acquired by the South-west Florida Water Management District and CARL; TNC planned to negotiate a few other relatively large tracts in 1999. Silver Lake (2,020 acres): largest tracts acquired. Lake McLeod (55 acres): at least 45 acres acquired by USFWS. Mountain Lake Cutoff (217 acres): negotiations ongoing with owner of the one large tract. Lake Blue (65 acres) has been acquired. Hesperides (2,696 acres) has been acquired from Babson. Acquisition of most other tracts dependent upon acquisition of these ownerships. Boy Scouts West (335 acres): acquired. Horse Creek (1,325 acres): South Florida Water Management District has acquired the major ownerships within this site. Trout Lake (65 acres): appraisal completed. Eagle Lake (10 acres): removed from list - developed. Ridge Scrub (80 acres): on hold pending reanalysis by FNAI. McJunkin Ranch (750 acres): acquired.

Priority phasing for the Warea Archipelago sites is: Scofield Sandhill (120 acres): negotiations were scheduled to begin in early 1999 on both ownerships. Lake Davenport (500 acres): appraisals on hold pending reanalysis of site. Flat Lake (120 acres): acquired. Castle Hill (75 acres): negotiations unsuccessful with major owner. Purchase of other tracts contingent on major owner. Ferndale Ridge (104 acres): removed from list due to site fragmentation and habitat destruction. Sugarloaf Mountain (52 acres): southernmost tract acquired by St. Johns River Water Management District. TNC was unable to reach agreements with a large ownership at northern end and owners of small tracts in between.

#### Less-than-Fee and Small Holdings:

Carter Creek (4,630 acres): the majority of this parcel is acquired, a few large ownerships on western project boundary also remain. Flamingo Villas (1,420 acres): USFWS acquired approximately 600 acres. Holmes Avenue (1,269 acres): approximately half of the site has been acquired, multiple ownerships remain. Sunray (1,970 acres): negotiations have begun on major owners. Avon Park Lakes (225 acres): subdivided, TNC projects a three-year 70 percent success rate. Highlands Park Estates (232 acres) subdivided, acquisition activity not yet begun. Sun 'N Lakes South (570): more than 200 acres acquired, remaining developed and fragmented. Lake Aphorpe (2,503 acres): larger ownerships acquired, several lots important for management acquired as well.

On December 6, 1991, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem (LWRE) project to the CARL Priority list. This fee simple & less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 32,480 acres, several thousand ownerships, and a taxable value of \$33,954,187. The project contains 20 separate sites located in Polk and Highlands counties and breaks down as follows: Ridge Scrub (80 acres); Lake Blue (65.23 acres); Eagle Lake (10.30 acres); Lake McLeod (55 acres); Mountain Lake Cutoff (201.05 acres); Hesperides (3,900 acres); Lake Walk-in-the-Water (9,835 acres); Sunray/Hickory Lake South (1,925 acres); Trout Lake (59 acres); Avon Park Lakes (225 acres); Silver Lake (1,194 acres); Carter



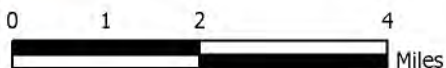
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1 OF 10**

**LAKE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings

Creek (4,630 acres); Flamingo Villas (1,420 acres); Henscratch Road/Jack Creek (3,985 acres); Lake Apthorpe (1,722 acres); Highlands Park Estates (232 acres); Holmes Avenue (1,199 acres); Lake June West (897 acres); Sun 'N Lakes South (503 acres); Gould Road (342.64 acres). The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has acquired 1,309 acres within the Henscratch Road/Jack Creek site for \$1,540,000.

On July 23, 1993, the LAAC approved an 848-acre addition to the Lake Apthorpe site within the project boundary. The addition in Highlands County was sponsored by TNC, consisted of two ownerships, Clements Family (4 parcels) & Michael Rider (1 parcel), and a taxable value of \$313,910.

On September 20, 1993, the LAAC approved a 16-acre addition to the Mountain Lake Cutoff site within the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, J. K. Stuart, and had a taxable value of \$18,548. The landowner has holdings within the site and is unwilling to sell only a part of his tract. The Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

On March 9, 1994, the LAAC approved a 160-acre addition to the Lake Walk-in-the-Water site within the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner (Alico) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and had a taxable value of \$160,000. The landowner has holdings within the current boundary and is unwilling to sell only a part of its holdings. The Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

On July 20, 1994, the LAAC approved a 61-acre addition to Flamingo Villas site within the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the landowner; American Homes Service Corp. – Wohl tract, consisted of 2 contiguous parcels, and had a taxable value of \$95,180. The landowner has holdings within the current boundary and is unwilling to sell only a part of its holdings. The Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

On November 18, 1994, the LAAC combined the Warea Archipelago project (1,021 acres / taxable value \$4,552,797 / Lake & Osceola counties), with the LWRE.

The Warea Archipelago project contained 6 separate sites that break down as follows: Schofield Sandcastle (120 acres); Lake Davenport (500 acres); Flat Lake (120 acres); Castle Hill (125 acres); Ferndale Ridge (104 acres); Sugarloaf Mountain (52 acres).

On November 18, 1994, the LAAC approved a 2,336-acre addition, in Highlands County, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and had a taxable value of \$2,201,330. The addition breakdown is as follows: 400 acres to the Silver Lake site, 76 acres to the Gould Road site, and the 1,860-acre McJunkin Ranch was added.

On July 14, 1995, the LAAC approved an 850-acre addition in Highlands County to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and had a taxable value of \$2,035,980. The addition breakdown is as follows: 70 acres to the Holmes Avenue site & 780 acres to the Lake Apthorpe site.

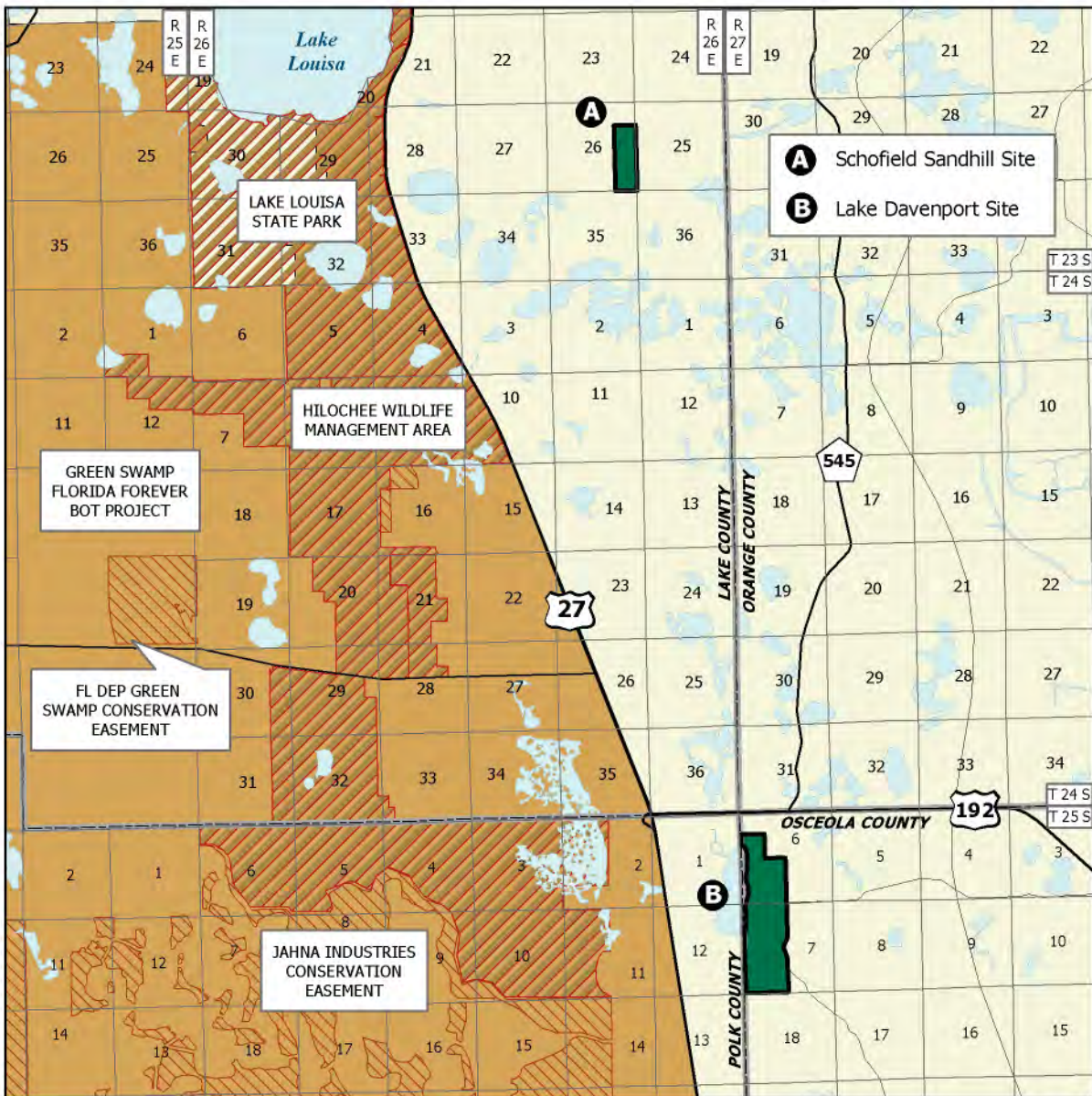
On December 7, 1995, the LAAC approved combining the Horse Creek Scrub project (2,365 acres / taxable value \$3,330,700 / Polk County) with the LWRE. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) made the request to expand the LWRE boundary.

On December 7, 1995, the LAAC approved combining the Highlands Ridge project (6,318 acres / taxable value \$11,980,140 / Highlands County / several thousand parcels / 600-700 landowners) with the LWRE. TNC sponsored the Ridge project in 1994.

On December 5, 1996, the LAAC approved the transfer of two ownerships – Boy Scouts West in the Hesperides site and Morgan in the Lake Walk-in-the-Water site – to the newly created Less-Than-Fee category. These ownerships, in Polk County, total 2,407 acres with a taxable value of \$2,407,000.

On December 7, 1997, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a 3,724-acre deletion to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, affected 10 sites, and had a taxable value of \$5,036,700. The breakdown of the deletions was as follows: Ferndale Ridge (104 acres), Castle Hill (50 acres), Eagle Lake (10 acres), Hesperides (177 acres), Sun Ray/Hickory Lake (1,070 acres), Henscratch Road (760 acres), Lake June West (66 acres), Highlands Park Estates (232 acres), Holmes Avenue (145 acres), and

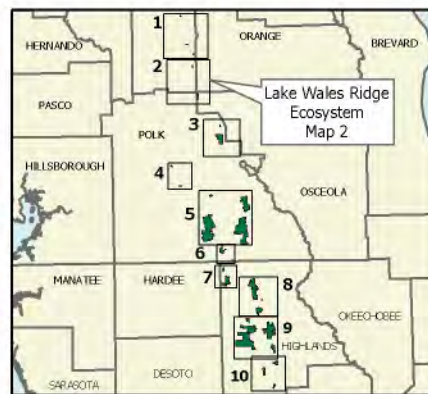
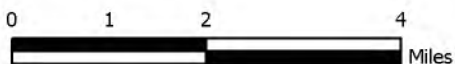
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2 OF 10**

**LAKE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings

McJunkin Ranch (1,110 acres).

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC approved a 580-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of 1,414 parcels, 1,132 landowners, and a taxable value of \$159,086. Several landowners already have ownerships within the current boundary and will not sell without including the proposed additions. The additions to sites in Polk & Highlands counties break down as follows: Lake Apthorpe site (.34 acre, Levingston), Silver Lake site (427 acres, multiple owners), Sun'N'Lakes South site (67 acres, Gables Engineering, Inc.), Sunray/Hickory Lake South site (80 acres, Alico, Inc.), and Trout Lake site (7 acres, Sistrunk, Trustee). The parcels were designated as essential.

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC approved the addition of the following tracts to the list of essential parcels: approximately 320 acres of the Saddleblanket Resorts II ownership in the Lake Walk-in-the-Water site, and approximately 3,200 acres (two large ownerships) in the Highlands Ridge site.

On July 12, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 2,512-acre addition (Royce Ranch next to Lake Apthorpe site) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), consisted of one landowner owner, Raymond Royce, and a taxable value of \$1,230,591. The FWC will manage the addition.

On October 17, 2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 2,330-acre addition (Henscratch Ranch) to the project boundary. It is located in Highlands County, sponsored a representative for the landowner, Highlands Farms, Inc., and has a taxable value of \$352,419. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor the easement.

On August 20, 2004, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 520-acre addition (Lake Josephine) to the project boundary. It is located in Highlands County, sponsored by representatives of the landowner, E. P. Jones Jr., and has a taxable value of \$17,063. The OES will monitor the easement.

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple & less-than-fee, 11,444-acre addition (Crooked Lake

West) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Polk County, FWC, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). The addition, in Polk County, consisted of 1430 parcels, 1120 landowners, and a taxable value of \$6,612,464. The parcels have been designated as essential.

In June of 2008, the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased: 0.9 acre (McKay) in Carter Creek for \$11,500 - FWC's FF funds; 1,146.91 acres (Dunham/Cannon) in Dunham Ranch known as Gopher Tortoise Mitigation Park for \$12,353,761 - FWC's LATF money used for purchase. FWC will manage these sites.

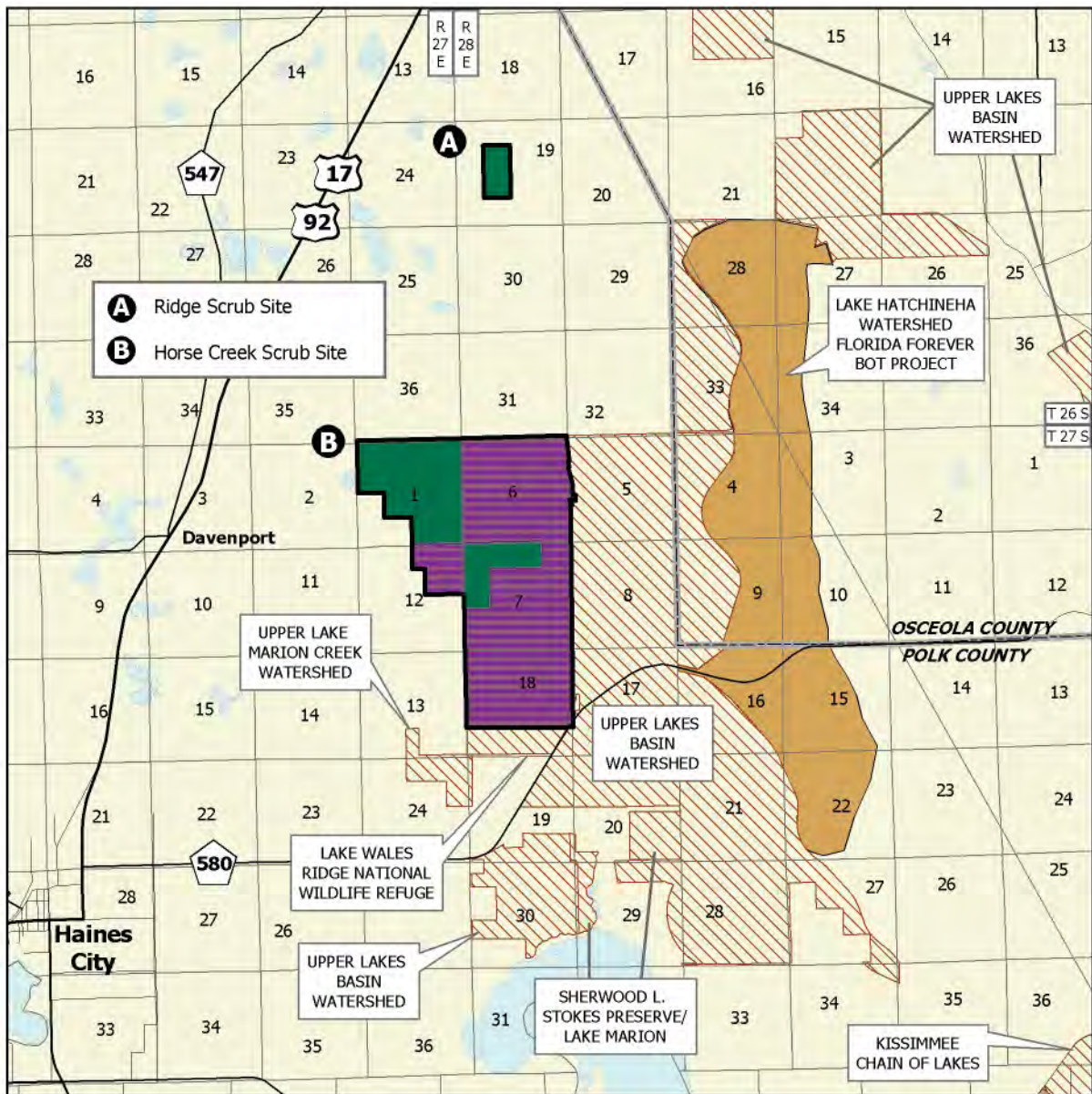
In September of 2008, the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased with DSL FF funds: 1.19 acres (Boise) in Carter Creek for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Carpinello) for \$11,500; and 1.3 acres (O Such) for \$11,500. These are in the Carter Creek area, and FWC will manage them.

In October of 2008 the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased with DSL FF funds: 1.1 acres (Dumervil/Cameron) for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Hreschak) for \$11,500; 5.4 acres (Pollard) for \$46,000; 1.3 acres (Romani) for \$11,500; and 1.3 acres (Higgins Estate) for \$11,500. FWC will manage these sites.

On October 3, 2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to buy a 345-acre parcels from the Palmer ownership in Pine Plantation for \$24,930,304 (40 acres in the SE corner of the parcel were acquired by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to be conveyed to Orange County for a park).








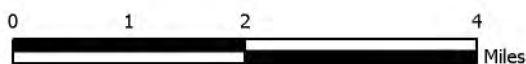
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3 OF 10**

**POLK COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

## Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings

October 15, 2008, TNC bought a Conservation Easement of 57.62 acres within the Scrub Conservation Bank which overlaps the Gould Road site. Archbold Biological Station monitors the easement.

In November of 2008, the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased with DSL FF funds: 1.3 acres (Roselle) for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Stockard) for \$11,500; 1.4 acres (Barbuto) for \$11,500; 1.3 acres (Schaffner) for \$11,500; and 1.1 acres (Smith) for \$11,500. Again, FWC will manage these sites.

December 2008 through May 2009, 46 acres were purchased for \$445,161.

January 2009, SWFWMD and Polk Co. acquired 3509.5 acres (Crooked Lake West site) for \$5,369,950 from SWFMD, \$2,000,000 from Polk Co., and \$12,239,500 from NRCS.

### Coordination

The Lake Wales Ridge sites are included within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge which is the top priority endangered species project of the Service. The Service will also participate in management. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an intermediary for non-mega parcel sites on this project.

### Full Fee

#### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystems project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

#### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The full fee sites of the Lake Wales Ridge project qualify as single-use Wildlife and Environmental Areas because of their high concentration of threatened or endangered species,

particularly plants. The forest resources of the Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and Warea sites make them desirable for use as state forests. The natural and recreational resources of the Lake June West parcel qualify it as a unit of the state park system.

**Manager** Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Lake June West); Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and five Warea sites) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (remaining sites). The Division of Forestry will monitor the less-than-fee portion.

#### Conditions affecting intensity of management

This project is a high-needs area which will require additional funding to stabilize and protect the natural resources. Managing this ecosystem will require large prescribed burning crews that are well-trained and well-equipped to handle high intensity fires in close proximity to residential areas.

#### Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, management will focus on site security, conducting fuel reduction burns, conducting inventories of natural resources, and mapping of sensitive resources and conceptual planning. Public use facilities, if any, will be provided in succeeding years.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use increases, modest revenue may be generated.

**Cooperators in management activities** It is recommended that the Archbold Biological Station and the Nature Conservancy serve as cooperators in the managing of some of the sites.

### Less Than Fee & Small Holdings

#### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The forest resources of the Lake Walk-in-Water, and Hesperides sites make them desirable for use as state forests. The small parcels sites of the Lake Wales Ridge project qualify as single-use Wildlife and Environmental Area because of its high concentration of threatened or endangered species, particularly plants. Thirty percent of the plants and animals of the Lake Wales Ridge occur nowhere else in the world.

**Manager** The FWC is recommended as project manager for the small holdings.






(Continued on Page 310)

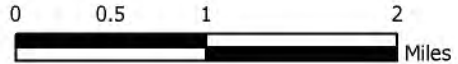
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4 OF 10**

**POLK COUNTY**

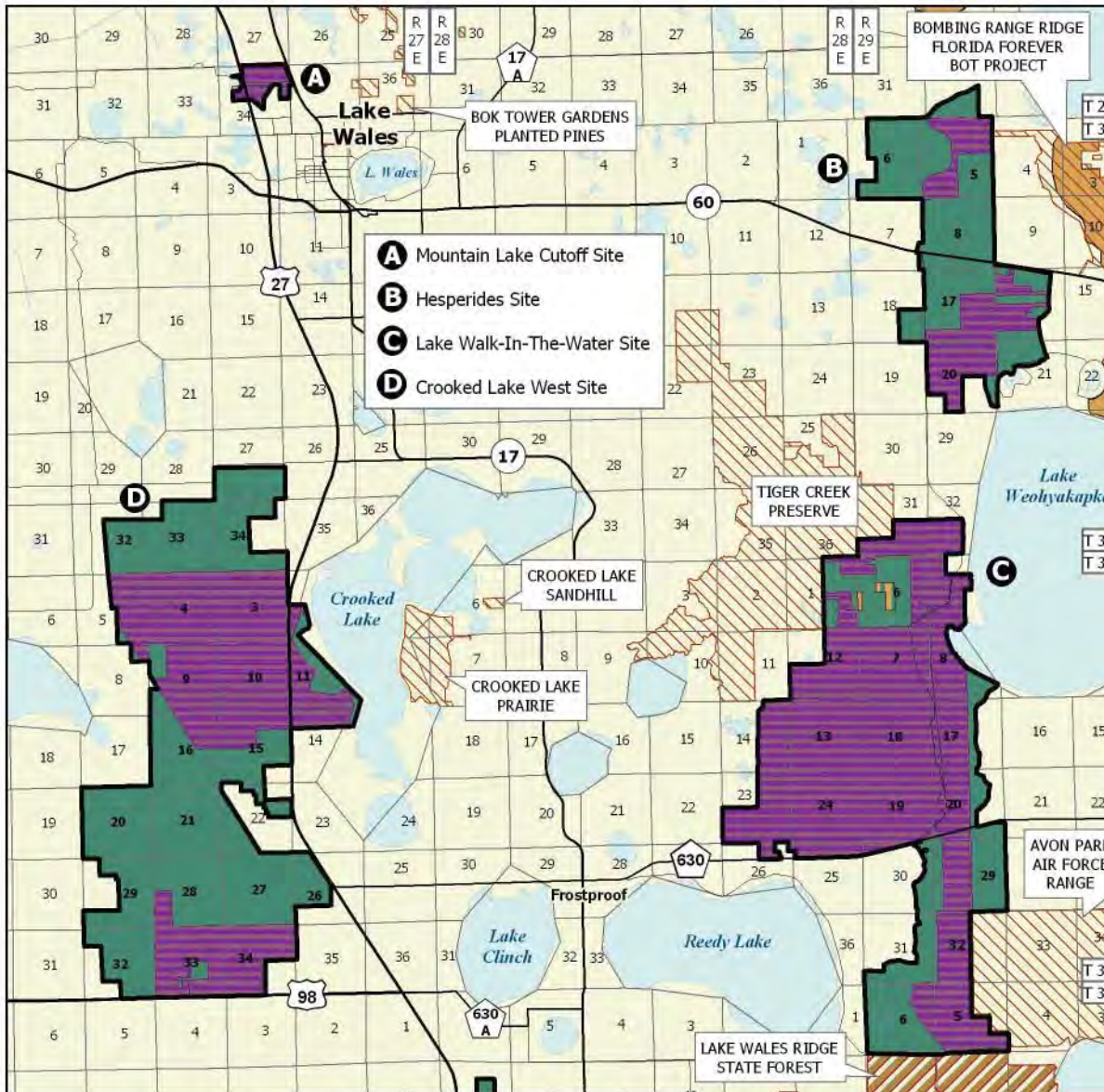
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Acquired
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006



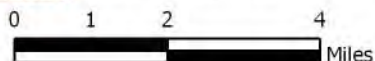
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5 OF 10**

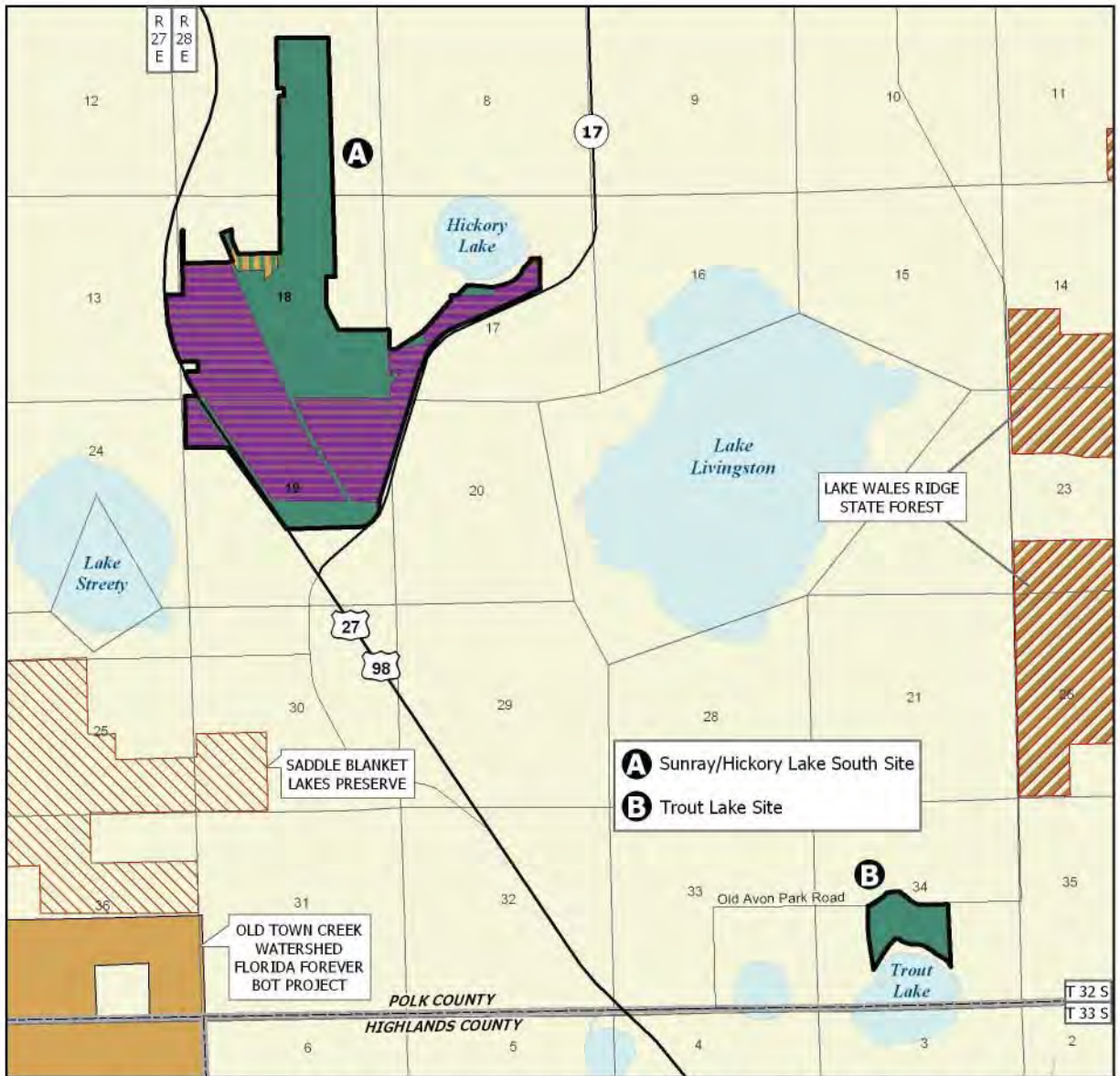
**POLK COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  TNC Owned Lands Within Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MAY 2009

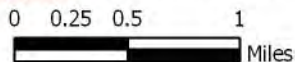
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6 OF 10**

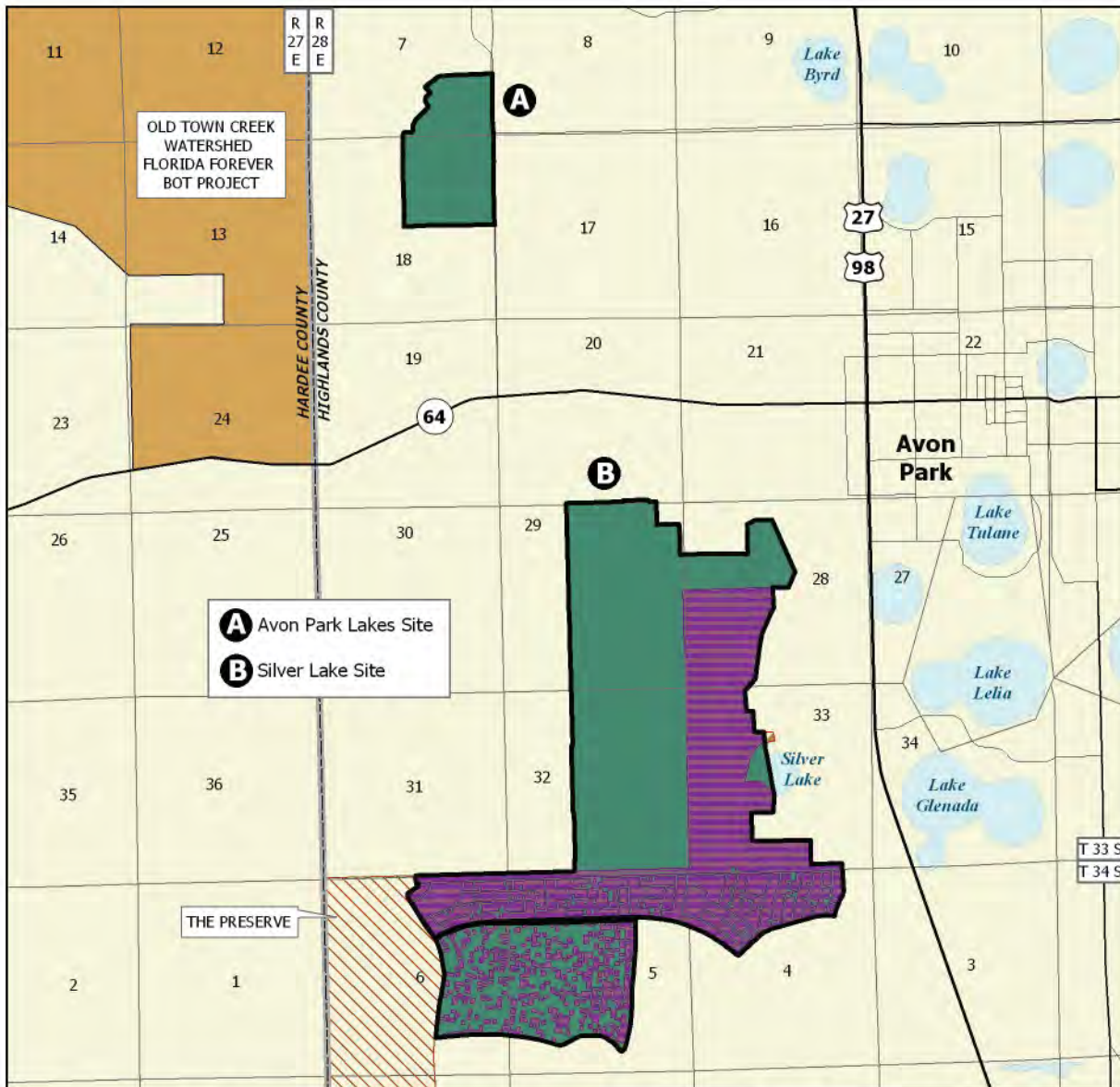
**POLK COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  TNC Owned Lands Within Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MAY 2009

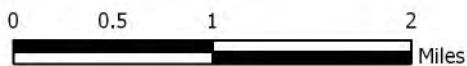
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7 OF 10**

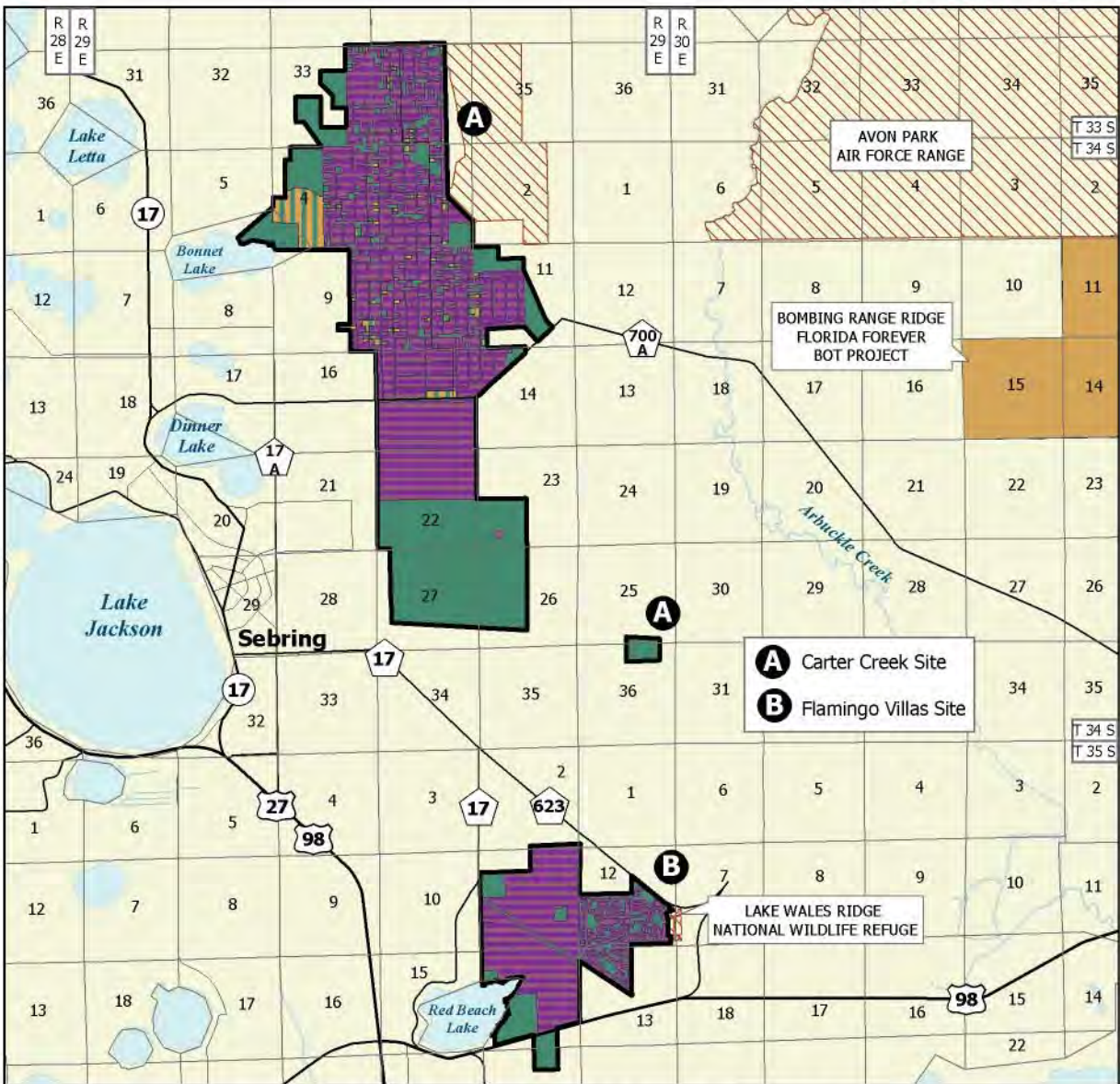
**HIGHLANDS COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2008

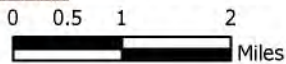
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8 OF 10**

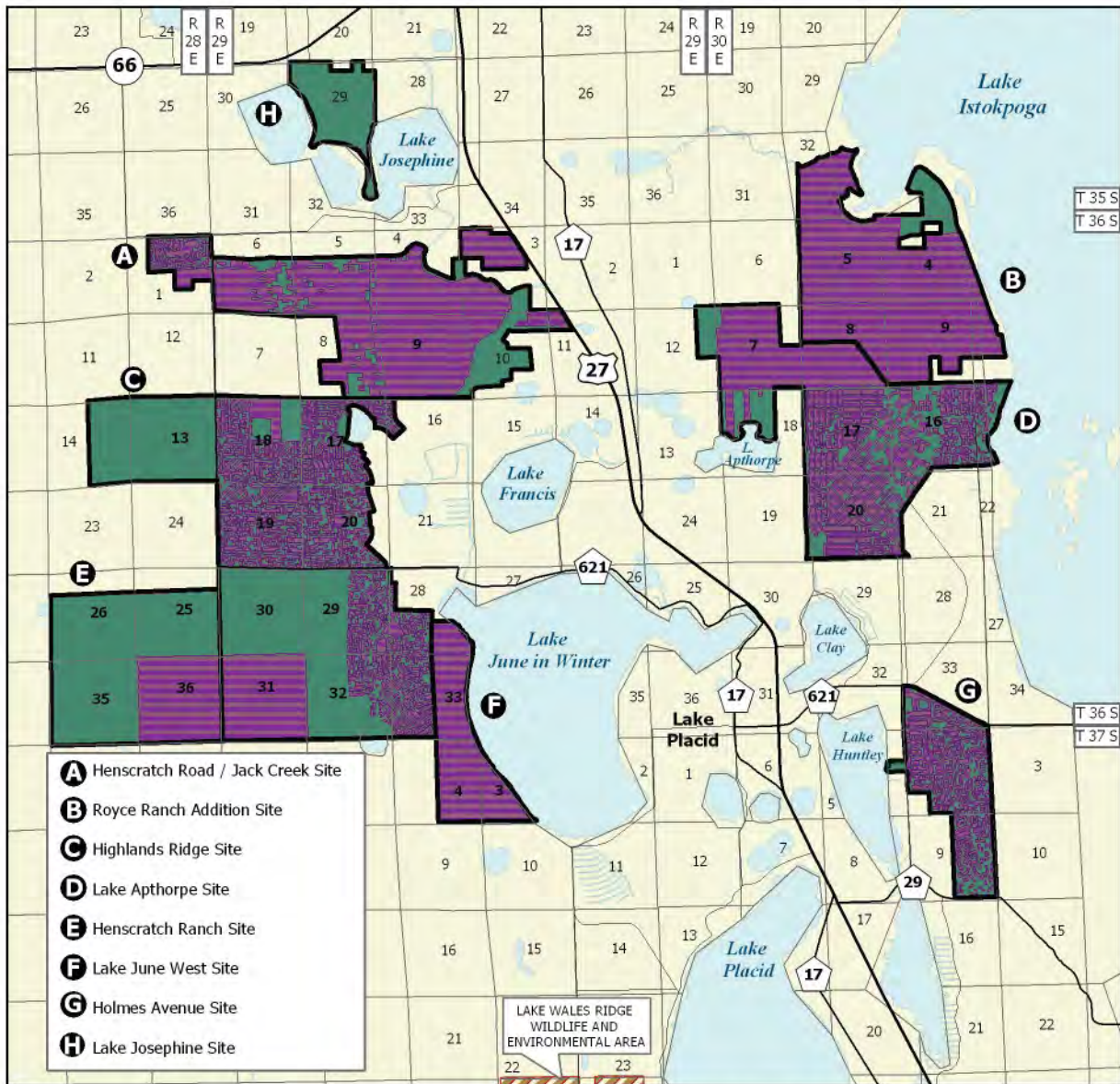
**HIGHLANDS COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  TNC Owned Lands Within Project
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2009

Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9 OF 10**

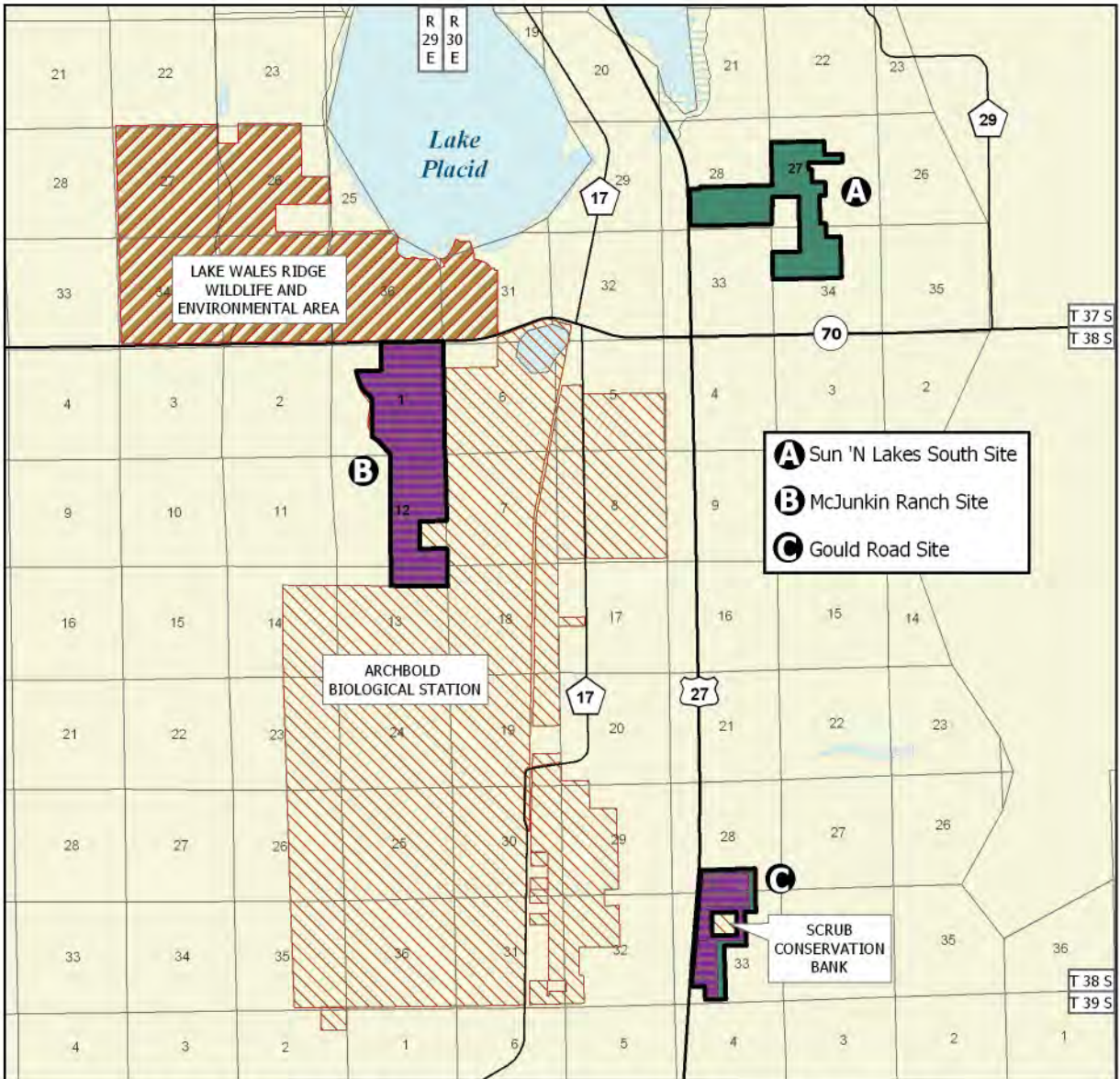
**HIGHLANDS COUNTY**

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Lands



JUNE 2008

Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings



**LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 10 OF 10**

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2009

**Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem - Group A/Full Fee Less-Than-Fee Small Holdings**

*Conditions affecting intensity of management* This project is a high-need area, which will require additional funding to stabilize and protect the natural resources. Managing this ecosystem will require large prescribed burning crews that are well-trained and well-equipped to handle high intensity fires in close proximity to residential areas.

*Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure* During the first year after acquisition, management

will focus on site security, conducting fuel reduction burns, conducting inventories of natural resources, and mapping of sensitive resources and conceptual planning. Public use facilities, if any, will be provided in succeeding years.

*Revenue-generating potential* No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use increases, modest revenue may be generated.

**Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$45,339	\$87,235	\$122,840
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$32,555	\$27,653	\$31,800
OCO	\$57,800	\$0	\$28,900
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$135,694	\$114,888	\$183,540

**Management Cost Summary/DOF (previously Lake Arbuckle State Forest and Walk-in-the-Water)**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$53,587	\$66,768	\$68,771.04
OPS	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expense	\$48,480	\$29,215	\$124,720.50
OCO	\$44,728	\$39,020	\$74,498.25
FCO	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	\$146,795	\$144,893	\$267,989.79

**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$44,334	\$97,575
OPS	\$14,560	\$12,000
Expense	\$23,000	\$24,000
OCO	\$67,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$57,720	\$0
TOTAL	\$206,614	\$134,575

**Management Cost Summary/DOF (Warea)**

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$5,000	\$4,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$5,000	\$4,000

**Management Cost Summary/DOF (Hesperides)**

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$63,440	\$63,440
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$20,000	\$17,000
OCO	\$111,700	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0

# Little River Conservation Area

## Gadsden County

# Group B

## Less Than Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Purchase of a less-than-fee-simple interest in the Little River Conservation Area would provide an opportunity to protect a portion of the Little River watershed while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area. A conservation easement would preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and would provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community. This would fulfill the stated Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels; protecting, restoring and maintaining the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; and increasing the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. Due to its proximity of the Lake Talquin State Forest, managed by Florida Division of Forestry, and Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, acquisition of a conservation easement would also enhance coordination and completion of land acquisition projects.

### Manager (Monitor)

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor.

### General Description

The Little River Conservation Area is situated within the Tallahassee Red Hills region and consists of an upland ridge about 2.4 miles long and 0.75 miles wide, forming the drainage divide between the Little River on its northwest side and its tributary, Hurricane Creek, on the southeast side, and extending to their confluence

at the south end of the property. Most of the uplands on the site are in pine plantation, approximately 63 percent of the total area. The original upland natural community was probably either upland pine forest, or sandhill, or both. Hardwood (slope) forest (4 percent) occupies the steeper slopes that extend for about a mile above the Little River. Most of the remainder of the project is occupied by floodplain/bottomland forest and floodplain swamp along the drainage ways with some of the higher transitional areas in baygall and wet flatwoods. The western portion of the project encompasses about 375 acres of floodplain along Little River at its confluence with Quincy Creek.

### Public Use

The project is being offered as a less-than-fee purchase without public access. Hence, the project does not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Without public access, there will not be any public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project. Due to an indicated lack of general public access for hunting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission advises that there would be no public hunting potential.

### Acquisition Planning and Status

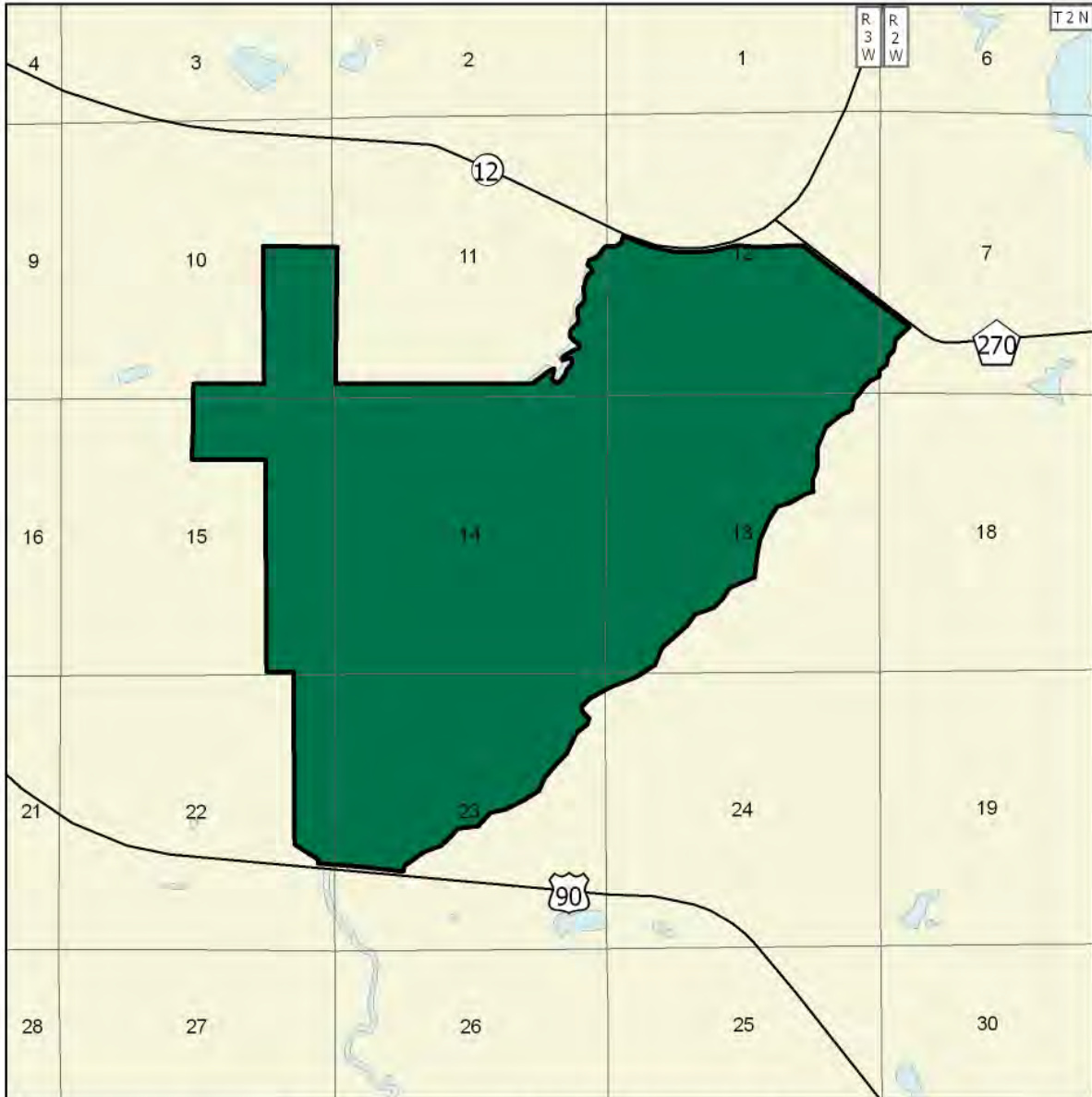
The project has 2,119 acres in east-central Gadsden County under a single owner, and is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. The Woodlands Company, Inc. of Quincy Florida, submitted this project. The Gadsden County Property Appraisers office lists the taxable value

Little River Conservation Area	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Pyramid Magnolia</i>	G4/S3
<i>Mountain Laurel</i>	G5/S3
2 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	2004
Project Area (Acres)	2,119
Acres Acquired	0
at a Cost of	\$0
Acres Remaining	2,119
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$355,820





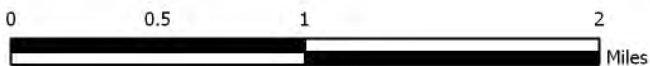
Little River Conservation Area - Group B/Less Than Fee



**LITTLE RIVER CONSERVATION AREA**

**GADSDEN COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



AUGUST 2006

of the entire project as \$355,820. The easement would be purchased as a single purchase.

**Coordination**

There are no acquisition partnerships at this time.

**Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

**Management Prospectus**

As a less-than fee acquisition, a conservation easement over this parcel will preserve a working Florida landscape and protect existing natural areas from

conversion to alternative uses. The development of additional structures and facilities on the parcel will be controlled through the terms of the conservation easement. The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, to insure that the terms of the easement are adhered to and that undue degradation of the resources on the tract does not occur, will coordinate monitoring of the conservation easement on this tract.

Purchase of a less-than-fee-simple interest in the Little River Conservation Area would provide an opportunity to protect a portion of the Little River watershed while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area. A conservation easement would preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and would provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community.

# Lochloosa Wildlife

Alachua County

**Group B  
Small Holdings**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The large lakes, flatwoods, and prairies in southeast Alachua County are still in good condition, though much of the flatwoods is now pine plantation and Gainesville and Ocala are growing. The Lochloosa Wildlife project will conserve a large part of this area, protecting forested lands linking Newnan's Lake, Lochloosa Lake, Orange Lake, and Paynes Prairie; protecting habitat for many kinds of wildlife, especially black bear, osprey, and wood storks; maintaining the high water quality of the lakes, streams, and marshes here; and providing a scenic natural area for people to boat, fish, hike, or hunt in.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

The project encompasses the significant resources associated with Lochloosa Lake (particularly large populations of birds of prey), a bird rookery used by wood storks, and possibly the largest intact Mesic Flatwoods remaining in Alachua County. Tracts in intensive timber production account for more than half the project acreage. Magnesia Springs in the project supports the only known population in the world of the freemouth hydrophobe snail. Nineteen other rare or

endangered species of animals are known to occur on site, including wood stork, bald eagle, Florida sandhill crane, and Florida black bear.

The good-quality surface waters in the project are a significant hydrological resource and the project will also buffer several Outstanding Florida Waters in the vicinity.

### Public Use

The project is designated as a wildlife management area.

### Acquisition Planning

Essential tracts within this project include: Georgia Pacific (St. Johns River Water Management District has acquired a conservation easement over 10,300 acres surrounding Lake Lochloosa); Franklin Crates; Concora (Container Corp./Wachovia); Goethe; and Brown.

The Division of State Lands is not currently working this project.

### Coordination

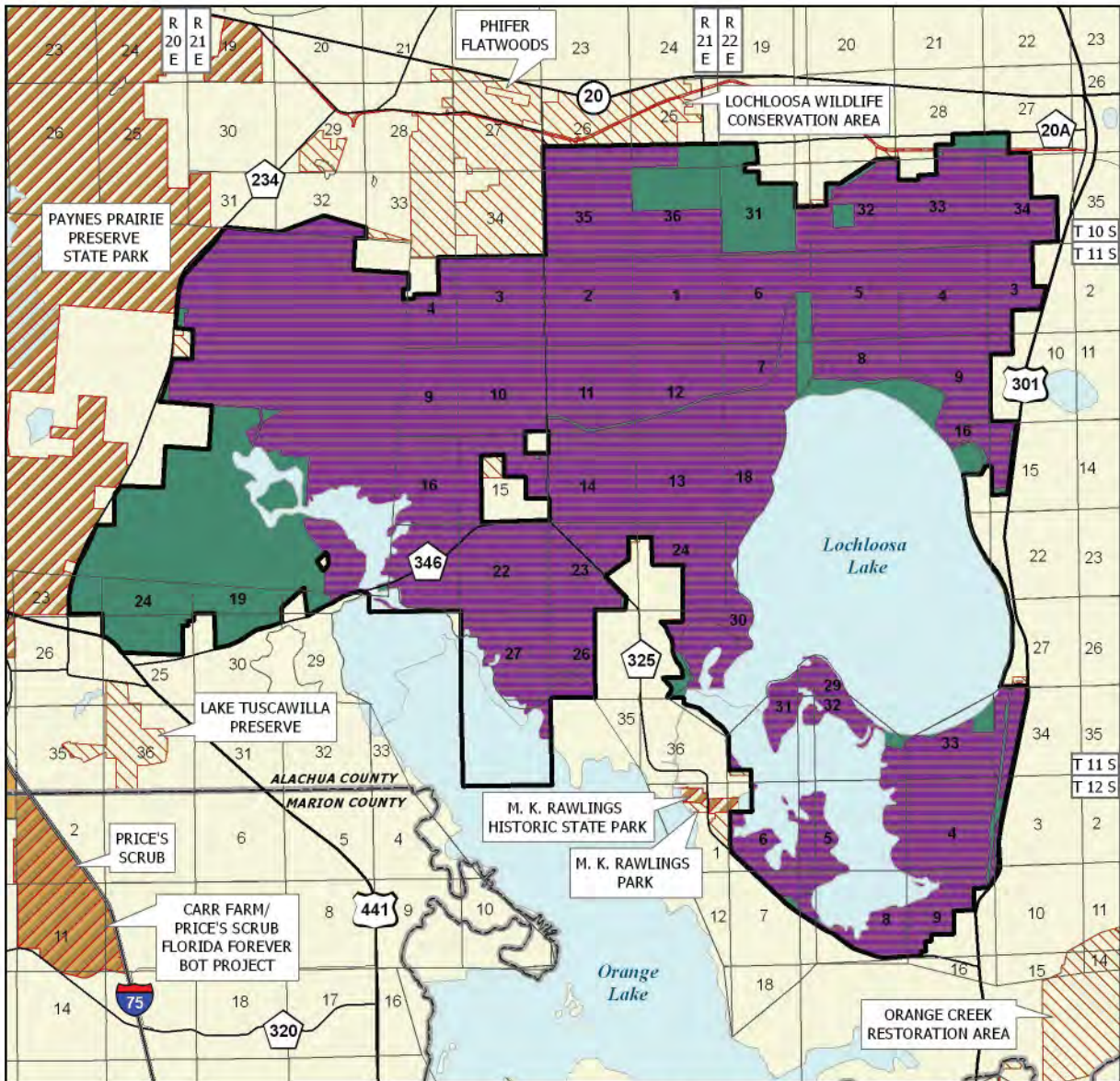
The St. Johns River Water Management District is an acquisition partner. The district's expenditures are reflected in the table below.

Resolutions in support of this project include: 93-023: St. Johns River Water Management District pledging

Lochloosa Wildlife FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Striped Newt	G2G3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Freemouth Hydrobe Snail	G1/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Eastern Mudminnow	G5/S3
16 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>31,807</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>28,371*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$11,379,952*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>3,436</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$3,636,118</b>

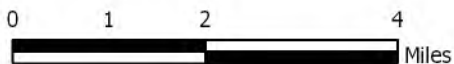
\*Includes acreage acquired and funds spent by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Alachua County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).



## LOCHLOOSA WILDLIFE

### ALACHUA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2008

## Lochloosa Wildlife - Small Holdings/Group B

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Lochloosa Wildlife project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The significant wildlife resources of the Lochloosa Wildlife project, including such threatened species as bald eagles, wood storks, Florida sandhill crane, and Florida black bears, as well as good stocks of game animals, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The FWC is recommended as the project Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Lochloosa Wildlife tract is an area in imminent danger of development and in high need of intense resource management and protection. The large pine plantations will require restoration.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Within the first year after acquisition, management will concentrate on site security, natural resource management and conceptual planning. Public-use facilities will be developed in succeeding years.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use is increased, modest revenue may be generated.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Division of Forestry is recommended as a cooperator to assist with forest management.

**Management costs and sources of revenue** Budget needs for interim management are estimated below. The CARL trust fund is the expected source of revenue.

Management Cost Summary/FWC			
Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$140,00
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$5,500
Expense	\$50	\$0	\$35,900
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$98,200
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$279,600</b>

# Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

**Group B  
Full Fee**

Hamilton, Gilchrist, Volusia and Marion Counties

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Though they once covered much of north and central Florida, old-growth longleaf pine sandhills are now only distant memories, replaced by pine plantations, pastures, and housing developments. Nevertheless, fragments of good sandhills still remain. The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project will conserve two of the largest and best of these fragments, in so doing helping to ensure the survival of several rare animals like the red-cockaded woodpecker as well as some plants, and giving the public an opportunity to see and enjoy the original, and increasingly rare, natural landscape of Florida's uplands. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

Bell Ridge: The primary goal is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. The Bell Ridge is a small xeric upland physiographic feature lying just north of the much larger Brooksville Ridge. The gently rolling hills and ridges of the Bell Ridge represent relict beach dunes now at elevations of 60-100 feet and consist of excessively well-drained sands of generally low fertility. It is predominantly sandhill of variable quality. The Bell Ridge Sandhills can be

expected to support most of the fauna, both game and nongame, typical of sandhill habitat. Evidence of one rare species, the gopher tortoise was found.

## Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Ross Prairie, Blue Spring Longleaf).

Bell Ridge: The DOF will manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system.

## General Description

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem sites (Ross Prairie Sandhill, Ross Prairie Addition, Bell Ridge, and Blue Spring Longleaf) are some of the highest quality longleaf pine sandhills in Florida. Longleaf pine sandhills are one of Florida's most distinctive and endangered forest types, and have declined by more than 80% in the last century. The project will protect nearly 20 plants, animals, and natural communities listed by Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Archaeological sites are known from the Ross Prairie site. These sites are vulnerable to logging and fire suppression as well as development.

## Public Use

The project will provide state forests, with opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping and nature appreciation.

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Longspurred Mint	G1/S1
Giant Orchid	G2G3/S2
Incised Groove-bur	G3/S2
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
Scrub Stylisma	G3/S3
22 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>25,637</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>10,218*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$30,408,180</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>15,417</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$26,681,675</b>

\* includes 54 acres at Caraway Lake acquired by the Florida Audubon Society in 1990

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee

### Acquisition Planning

Largest property owners south of canal lands (essential) within the Ross Prairie (8,216 acres) site are Janet Land Corp. (acquired) and Deltona-Marion Oaks Sub. (unwilling seller). North of the canal lands are seven (essential), Ocala Waterway Estates (essential), Guy (essential), Davis, and less than 35 other smaller tracts. Acquisition work is scheduled to begin in early 1999 on the Maverick, Davis, and Guy tracts. The BlueSpring site (1,978 acres) site consists of one owner, (acquired, through TNC).

On December 3, 1998, LAMAC transferred the Deland Ridge and Chassahowitzka Sandhill sites to the Negotiation Impasse group.

On July 29, 1999, the Council combined the 3,040 acres Ross Prairie Addition project to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project (Priority Group).

On December 9, 1999 the Council approved the Bell Ridge project and added it to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project.

The Division of State Lands is not actively working this project.

### Coordination

There is no acquisition partner.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The quality of the pine forests on the Blue Spring Longleaf and Ross Prairie sites, and their size and diversity, make them suitable for state forests.

### Manager DOF

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** On the Blue Spring tract, there are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. On Ross Prairie, however, the construction of an extension of the Florida Turnpike may hinder fire management activities and public access to the forest. **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The Blue Spring Longleaf tract and part of the Ross Prairie tract have been acquired. The Division is now providing public access to these tracts for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation.

Management on the Blue Spring Longleaf tract will concentrate on maintaining the existing open conditions and seeds will be collected with as little disturbance as possible to the resources. On all three tracts, the Division will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The sites' natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for these tracts will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The Division of Forestry will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for these tracts is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.



## LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

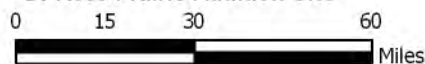
### *HAMILTON, GILCHRIST, VOLUSIA, AND MARION COUNTIES*

**Map 1: Hamilton County**  
A. Blue Spring Longleaf Site

**Map 2: Gilchrist County**  
A. Bell Ridge Sandhills Site

**Map 3: Volusia County**  
A. Deland Ridge Site

**Map 4: Marion County**  
A. Ross Prairie Sandhill Site  
B. Ross Prairie Addition Site



SEPTEMBER 2006



## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee

### **Bell Ridge:**

#### **Management Policy**

The primary objective of management of the Bell Ridge Sandhills is to protect and restore the threatened Sandhill natural community. A secondary objective is to provide resource-based recreational activities that are compatible with protection of the natural and cultural resource values of the project. The site will be managed under the multiple-use concept—management activities will be directed first toward conservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses. Managers will control access to the proposal; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; conduct prescribed burning of fire-dependent communities in a manner mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using existing firelines, natural firebreaks, existing roads, or foam lines for control, when possible; strictly limit timber harvesting in mature stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually conserving resources. Managers will limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The proposal includes over 3,000 acres of relatively undisturbed land adjacent to an existing area of conservation lands. It consequently appears to have the size and location to achieve its primary and secondary objective.

#### **Management Prospectus**

##### **Management Goals**

The Bell Ridge Sandhill encompasses approximately 3,500 acres in Gilchrist, Florida. The site is located approximately 9 miles north east of Trenton, seven miles east of Bell, seventeen miles north of the Watermelon Pond Unit of Goethe State Forest, and twenty miles west of Gainesville. The DOF proposes to manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system, and in a manner designed to accomplish the acquisition goals and measures for this project as approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council. These goals and measures are hereby incorporated by reference.

The primary land management goal for the DOF is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide

the DOF management activities on this project.

##### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

The major community represented on this project is sandhill. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a State Forest. Management by the DOF as a State Forest is contingent upon the state acquiring fee simple title to the entire project and obtaining some level of legal public access to the site, which is likely since the eastern and northern property boundaries are county maintained graded roads.

##### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

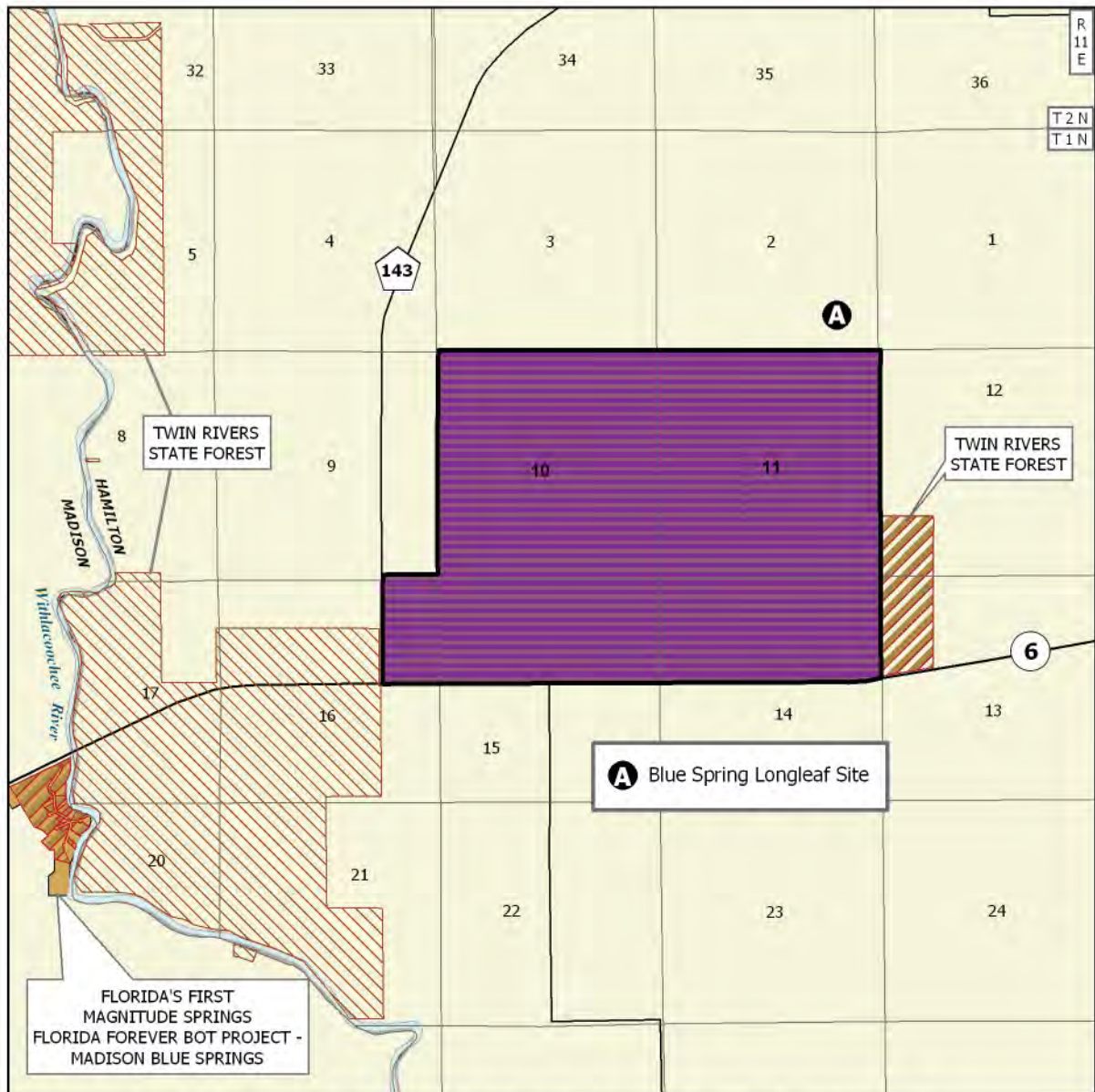
There are portions of the parcel that have been disturbed that will require restoration efforts. There is at least one linear facility that bisects the parcel, which will be an area of management concern for monitoring unauthorized uses and introduction of invasive exotic species. The sandhill community is considered imperiled and as such may be sensitive to certain uses and the intensity of use. As such, water resource development projects, water supply development projects, stormwater management projects and any additional linear facilities, other than those that already exist on the project, are considered incompatible with this type of ecosystem and with the resource values on this project. The adjacent residential developments will pose a management concern associated with prescribed burning, public use, unauthorized uses, and other natural resource management activities. There are areas that have refuse and debris and which should be removed prior to closing on the core parcel. Other than those above-mentioned points, there are no other known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention. The level of management intensity and related management cost is expected to be moderately high initially to establish this as a state forest.

##### ***Timetable for Implementing Management***

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the Division of Forestry, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the site as a new unit of the State Forest system, and the Waccasassa Forestry Center personnel will carry out initial management activities and coordinate public access and use. The Division of Forestry will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management

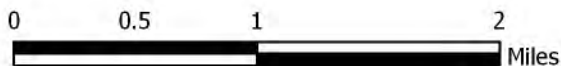
# Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee



## LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1 OF 4

### HAMILTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee

access, resource inventory, reforestation of areas where off-site species have been harvested, natural regeneration of the native species in the areas with low densities, and any restoration activities. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. There are many roads throughout the property, and as such a road plan will need to be developed to determine those to be used for vehicular use by the public, those that are required for administrative use, and unnecessary access points and roads that should be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will eventually be conducted to basis for formulation of a management plan. Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Any existing pine plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on those specific sites. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species.

Portions of the area can sustain an all season prescribed burning program utilizing practices which incorporate recent research findings. The objective is to eventually establish an all season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinning and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or

management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The Division will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user services recreational facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact, organized recreation areas are not planned because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

### *Florida Forever Performance Measures*

The DOF has reviewed the project and believes that following Florida Forever Performance Measures appear to apply to this parcel:

- Measure G1: Acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management.
- Measure G2: Acres of state owned forestland managed for economic return in accordance with current Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Measure G4: Percentage and number of acres identified for restoration actually restored by reforestation. **Note:** In some areas, this may be accomplished by natural regeneration in areas of low density and once off-site species are harvested.

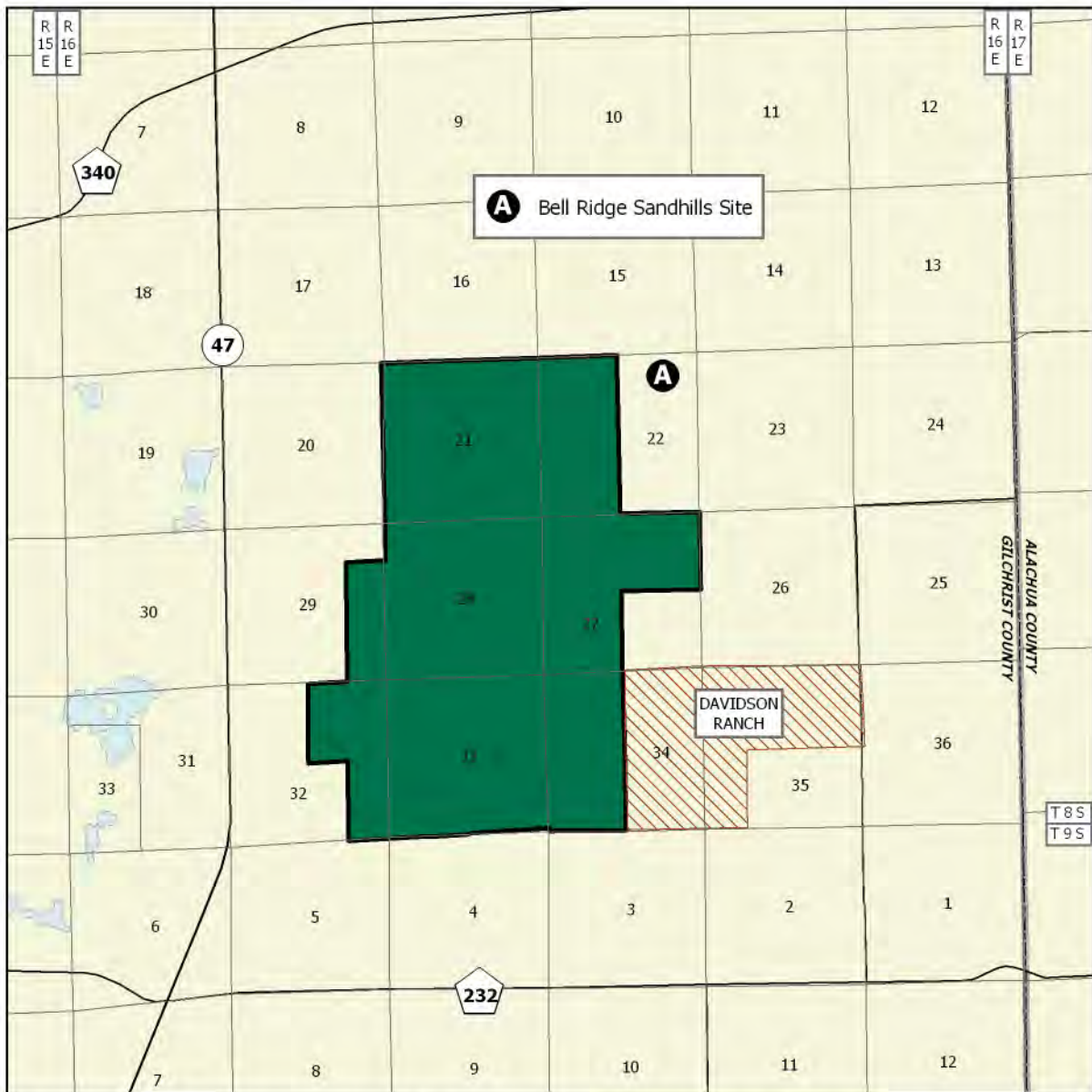
There is the possibility that other measures apply, however, that may be determined by an inventory of the resources on the project.

### *Revenue Generating Potential*

As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be medium.




(Continued on Page 326)

# Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee



## LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2 OF 4

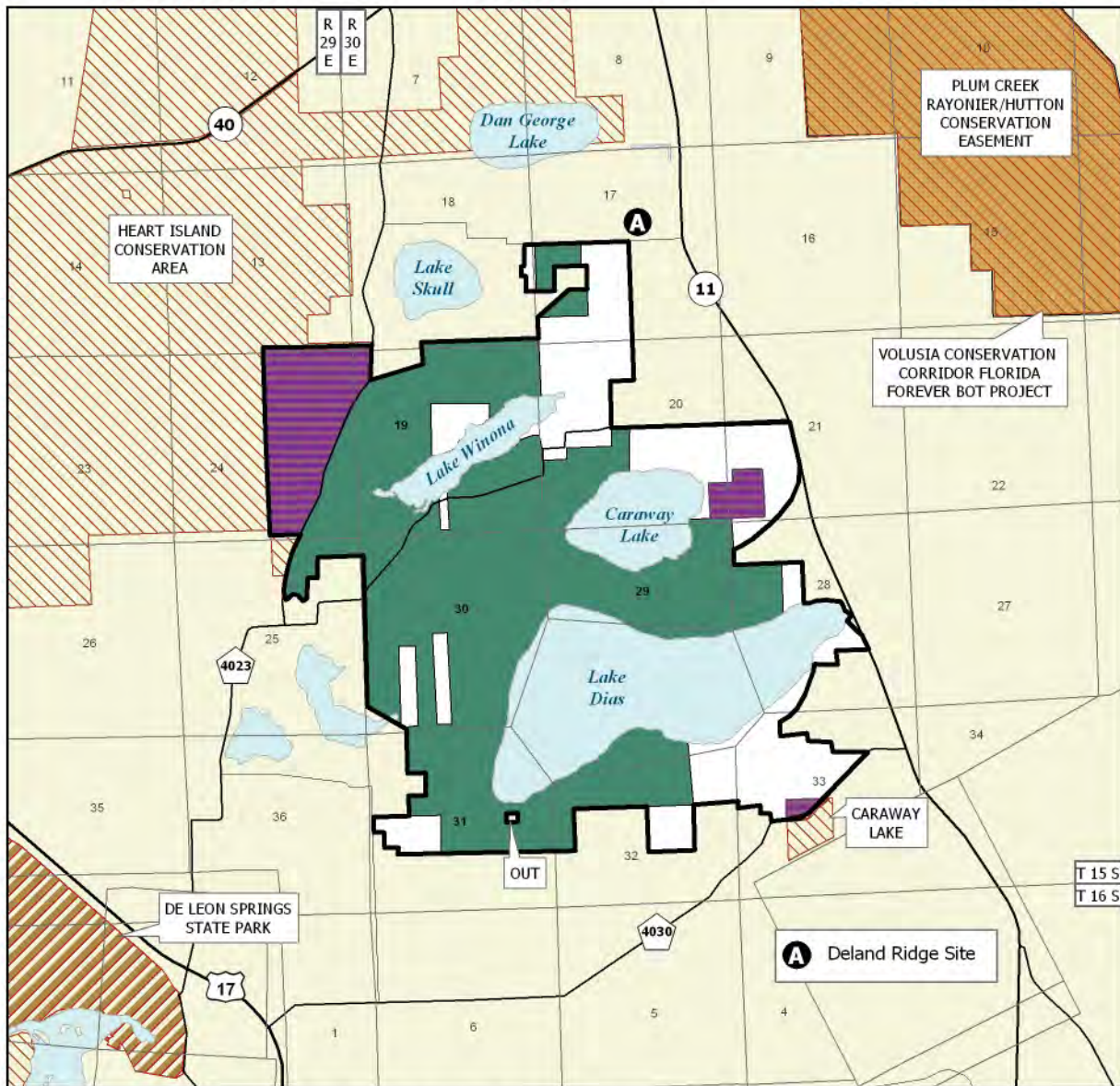
### GILCHRIST COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006

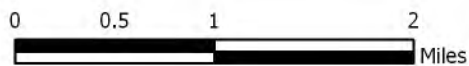
# Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee



## LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3 OF 4

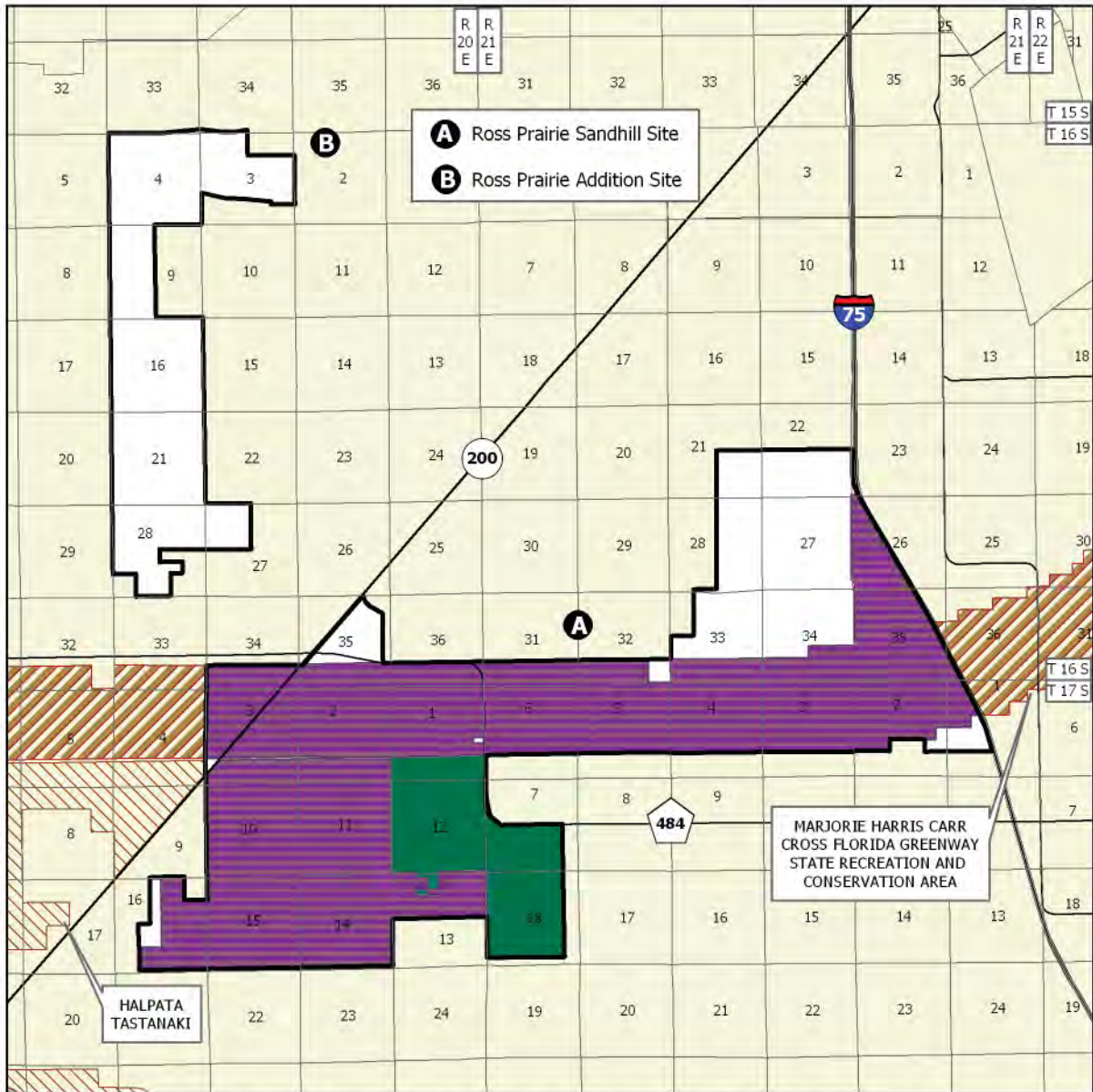
### VOLUSIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

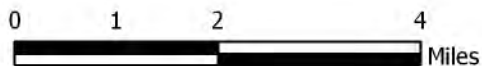
# Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee



## LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4 OF 4

### MARION COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006

## Longleaf Pine Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee

### *Capital Project Expenditures*

Capital project expenditures will be needed on this parcel as listed below. They include relocation of the Trenton Work Center to this site to provide site management, security and public service. The existing Trenton Work Center is currently leased from the private sector and this lease is due to expire in 2005. It is not anticipated that the lease will be renewed. The existing house and barn on the property can be used for these facilities so that the expense associated with it can be reduced, although, they will require renova-

tion. Reinforcing the fencing in the areas of residential development will be necessary to clearly establish the boundary with resources that cannot be easily burned or altered. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horse back riding and off road biking. As such, visitor services in the disturbed area will be provided.

### *Management Costs and Sources of Revenue*

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

#### **Longleaf Pine Ecosystem: Management Cost Summary/DOF**

<b>Category</b>	<b>1995/96</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$31,080	\$41,013	\$44,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,505	\$11,302	\$13,000
OCO	\$40,626	\$0	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$97,211</b>	<b>\$52,315</b>	<b>\$67,000</b>

#### **Management Cost Summary/DOF (Deland Ridge)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$7,000	\$5,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

# Lower Perdido River Buffer

Escambia County

**Group B  
Less-Than-Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This project is to preserve a riverine area along one of the state’s “Outstanding Florida Waters” that has low levels of development while providing recreational access points for canoeing and kayaking. A conservation easement approach is planned for this project, keeping land ownership in private hands while shielding the area from development and ensuring public access, within a managed framework, for outdoor recreation. The small access points will be acquired in fee simple and provide recreational access points to the river where none exist today. This project meets the Florida Forever goal of increasing natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities by enhancing access to the Perdido River. Use of a conservation easement allowing silviculture would meet the Florida Forever goal of preserving forest land for sustainable management of natural resources, contingent on what management plan was developed.

### Manager (Monitor)

Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is to oversee monitoring of the conservation easement when such a plan is developed.

### General Description

The Perdido River is a medium-size sand-bottom blackwater stream that starts in southern Alabama. It has a low relief that is typical of many rivers in the lower Gulf Coastal Plain. It has no first-magnitude or second-magnitude springs, but depends on rainfall for most of its water. As a result, its flow has substantial fluctuations. The high flows have caused erosion upstream that created large and medium-size sandbars – suitable for camping - along many of the river’s inner bends upstream of State Road 184. The river is

exceptionally winding, with few straight stretches of more than 200 yards. There are plenty of fallen trees, usually Atlantic white cedar, but below Barrineau Park most of the fallen trees have been cut to allow small boats to pass. The river is about 100 yards wide at the mouth on Perdido Bay, but is only about 30 yards wide near Barrineau Park. The Lower Perdido River Buffer includes land on the eastern, or Florida, side of the river from roughly the center of Escambia County (near the Barrineau Park community) downstream to the river’s mouth on Perdido Bay. This project has approximately 5,053 acres of functional wetlands that will be protected by acquisition. Approximately 2,094 acres have been identified that provide groundwater recharge, and approximately 1,056 acres of forest have been identified that would maintain natural groundwater recharge functions.

### Public Use

The potential for public-resource recreation for this project has been limited by the indicated unwillingness of the current owners of the land to allow general public access. However, the owner is willing to sell limited access points to the Perdido River. These access points would allow access to the river for launching and for landing canoes and small boats.

### Acquisition Planning

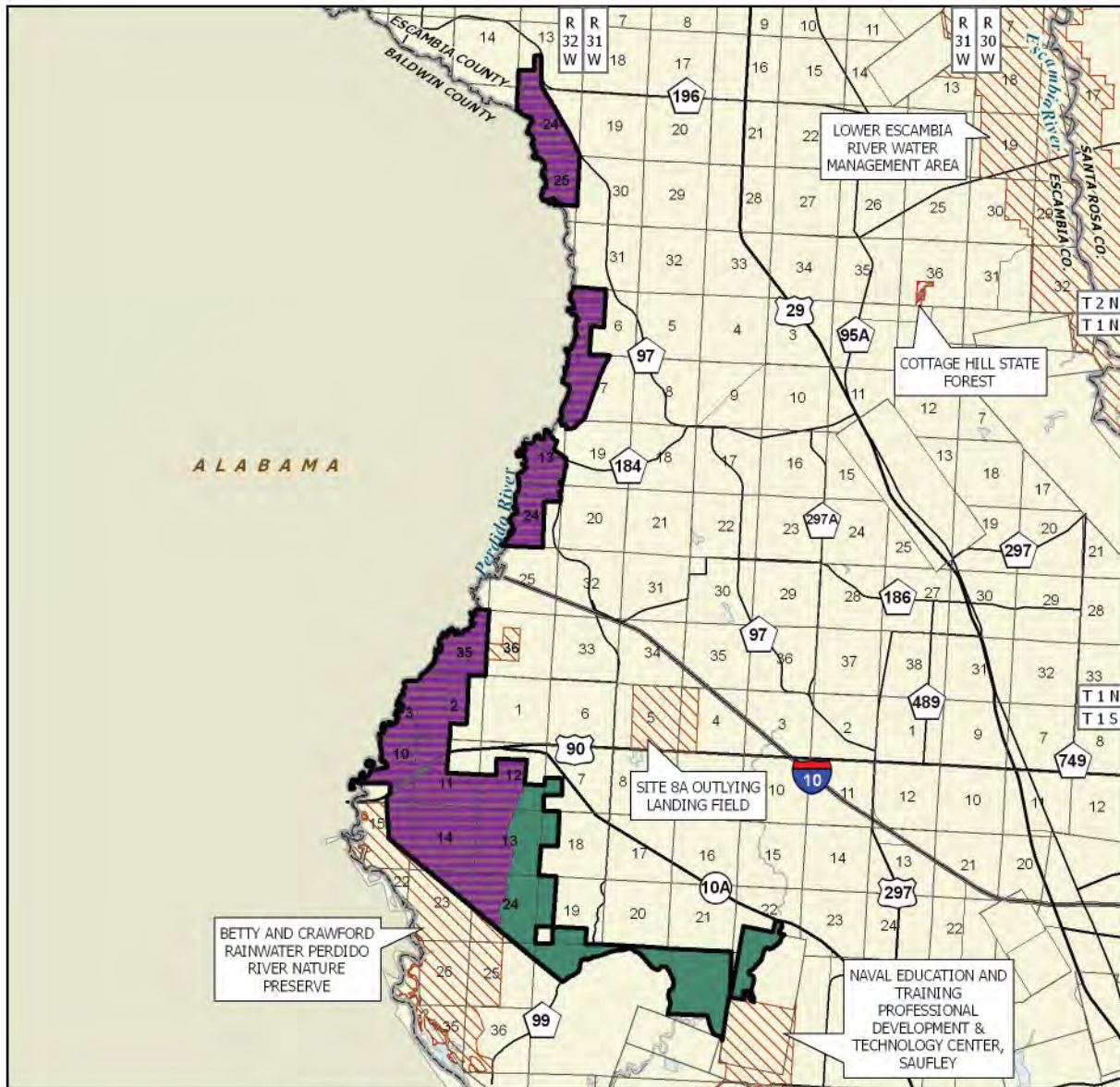
The Lower Perdido River Buffer Florida Forever project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the June 6, 2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a Group A project.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>June 6, 2002</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>7,800</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>5,456</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$12,085,069</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>2,344</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of \$217,336</b>	

<b>Lower Perdido River Buffer</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Kral's Yellow-eyed Grass</i>	G3T3/S1
1 rare species is associated with the project	



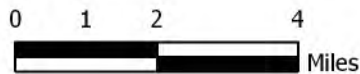
# Lower Perdido River Buffer - Group B/Less-Than-Fee



## LOWER PERDIDO RIVER BUFFER

### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2007

## Lower Perdido River Buffer - Group B/Less-Than-Fee

This is a single owner project, with the property held by International Paper. The specific locations of the small access sites, to be acquired in fee-simple, are to be determined during the negotiation process.

On May 31, 2006, the Northwest Florida WMD purchased 5,456 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

### **Coordination**

The Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services (OES) will oversee monitoring of the easement, and Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined. The acquisition partnership is expected to include local, state and NFWMD funding sources. Contribution funding percentages have not been determined.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of this project are to increase the natural-resource based public education and recreational opportunities along the Perdido River. Acquisition of access to the river by way of the Lower Perdido River Buffer would be a benefit to those activities because there is now little to no public access to the river.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for state designation***

Protecting the Lower Perdido River Buffer with a combination of a conservation easement and the outright purchase of select access points will benefit the public in several major ways – 1) This project will keep wetland and marsh habitats located within a major metropolitan statistical area (MSA) free from the pressures of development; 2) The use of the conservation easement for the project will keep the majority of the land in private hands; 3) This project will allow, at selected points, riverine access for the public for boating and fishing.

#### ***Manager***

Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined and acquired in fee simple. At this time Escambia County has not submitted a management

prospectus for the project to the Division of State Lands. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is to oversee the monitoring of the conservation easement.

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

The Perdido River itself appears to be free of major structural alterations and point sources of pollution that substantially affect either flow or water quality. Hence, no major restoration efforts along the immediate river corridor are necessary. Nonetheless, all areas of minor structural alterations (e.g., houses, boat ramps, highway crossings) should be examined in the future to determine whether any of them are contributing erosion, siltation, or pollution.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Management of the property would depend on the nature and the provisions of the conservation easement that would be used to secure riverine access in this project.

#### ***Revenue-generating potential***

The proposal for the Lower Perdido River Buffer is to acquire a conservation easement over the area of the project, and acquire fee simple title to selected points for public access to the Perdido River. The access points would be managed by Escambia County with the Division of State Lands overseeing the conservation easement. This limits or negates potential for generating revenue from this site.

#### ***Cooperators in management activities***

Escambia County would manage the access points to the river.

#### ***Management Cost Summary:***

Management Costs would be formulated by Escambia County, as manager of the project site.

# Middle Chipola River

Jackson and Calhoun Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Flowing through a landscape of farm fields, the Chipola River exposes the limestone bedrock of Jackson and Calhoun Counties on its way to join the Apalachicola River in a swampy wilderness. The Middle Chipola River project will protect remnants of the unique hardwood forests of this region for 30 miles along the high banks of the river, maintaining the water quality of the river; providing habitat for several rare plants and many rare animals, from mussels to turtles and cave-dwelling crayfish; helping to preserve the abundant archaeological remains in and along the river; and ensuring that the public will always have access to the river for fishing, swimming, and simple enjoyment of the beauty of this unique stream. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection, will manage the land next to the Florida Caverns State Park and a seven-mile stretch adjacent to "Look and Tremble Shoals."

### General Description

The project encompasses a strip of land on either side of the Chipola River from Florida Caverns State Park

to State Road 20, totaling almost 8,000 acres of mostly second-growth hardwood forest. The river is a major tributary and drainage basin of the Apalachicola River. The river itself has an interesting combination of alluvial and spring-run characteristics. Its high banks underlain by limestone support several rare plants, one of which is the globally imperiled ciliate-leaf chickseed. It is among eight plants of conservation concern on the site. Rare to imperiled animal species include alligator snapping turtle, at least four bivalve mollusks, five rare fishes, three rare salamanders, and Barbour's map turtle. The project will help protect the water quality of the river (an Outstanding Florida Water and state canoe trail) and preserve public access to the river.

Forty-three archaeological sites, mostly underwater scatters, are known from the project, and the potential for more is high. The scenic riverbanks are attractive for development and the river is vulnerable to intensive agriculture and mining.

### Public Use

The project will be managed as an addition to Florida Caverns State Park and as a canoe trail, with opportunities for canoeing, boating, fishing, hiking, and camping.

### Acquisition Planning

Middle Chipola: Essential tracts are Land (acquired), Trammell (impasse), and Florida Public Utilities Co. (acquired).

Middle Chipola River FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Chipola Slabshell	G1/S1
<i>Marianna Columbine</i>	G5T1Q/S1
<i>Ciliate-leaf Tickseed</i>	G1G2/S1
Gulf Moccasinshell	G2/S1
Oval Pigtoe	G2/S1S2
Shiny-rayed Pocketbook	G2/S1S2
Gray Bat	G3/S1
<i>Florida Merrybells</i>	G3/S1
<i>Variable-leaved Indian-plantain</i>	G2/S2
Barbour's Map Turtle	G2/S2
Georgia Blind Salamander	G2/S2
32 rare species are associated with the project	

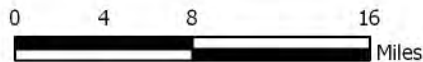
<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1996*</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>13,538</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>597</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$828,600</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>12,941</b>

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$5,788,661**  
\*Project combined with Waddells Mill Pond (1991) Dec. 1996



### MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

#### JACKSON AND CALHOUN COUNTIES



SEPTEMBER 2006

## Middle Chipola River - Group B/Full Fee

Waddells Mill Pond: Essential tracts are Waddell Plantation ownership and smaller archaeologically significant parcels west and adjacent to Waddell Plantation.

On October 30, 1996, LAMAC adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee acquisition category: 1) resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; 2) seller is willing to accept a less-than-fee-simple instrument and LAMAC has determined that the project's or site's acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and 3) manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee-simple instrument.

In 1996, the Council combined the Middle Chipola project with the Waddells Mill Pond project, and added 170 acres to the Middle Chipola boundary.

On December 5, 1996, the Council transferred the Rex Lumber/McRae (impasse), Trammell, Myers, Manor, Myrick and Waddell Plantation ownerships (3,633 acres) to the Less-Than-Fee category. None of the less than fee parcels have been acquired.

On February 11, 1999, the Council added 5 acres. The addition includes two entrances to the Hollow Ridge Cave system and is adjacent to other public land.

On June 6, 2002 the Council combined the Less-Than-Fee Middle Chipola project with the Full Fee Middle Chipola project, and moved both projects to Group A.

In 2005 ARC moved the project to the Group B list.

### **Coordination**

The Northwest Florida Water Management District has acquired portions of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York (Waddells Mill Pond project—approximately 705 acres within the project Phase II boundary), as well as approximately 1,217 acres east/southeast of the project connecting with the Florida Caverns State Park and ultimately the Middle Chipola Project. The district will retain title to the Mutual Life Insurance Company parcels. There are no acquisition partners for the less than fee portion.

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### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objectives of management of the Middle Chipola River project are to conserve a corridor of natural communities along the Chipola River and to provide the public with controlled recreational access to the river. Achieving these objectives will protect the unique collection of rare plants and animals, ranging from rare mussels and fish to cave crayfish and gray bats, in this part of the Apalachicola River basin. It will also help to protect the significant archaeological resources of the riverbed and shores.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of resources. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted immediately adjacent to the river. Managers should control public boat access to the river; thoroughly inventory the natural and archaeological resources of the river; burn fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; reforest pine plantations along the river with original species; strictly limit timbering in natural hardwood forests adjacent to

the river; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually protecting the water quality and scenic values of the river. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as boat ramps and camp sites, ensure that they do not harm the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

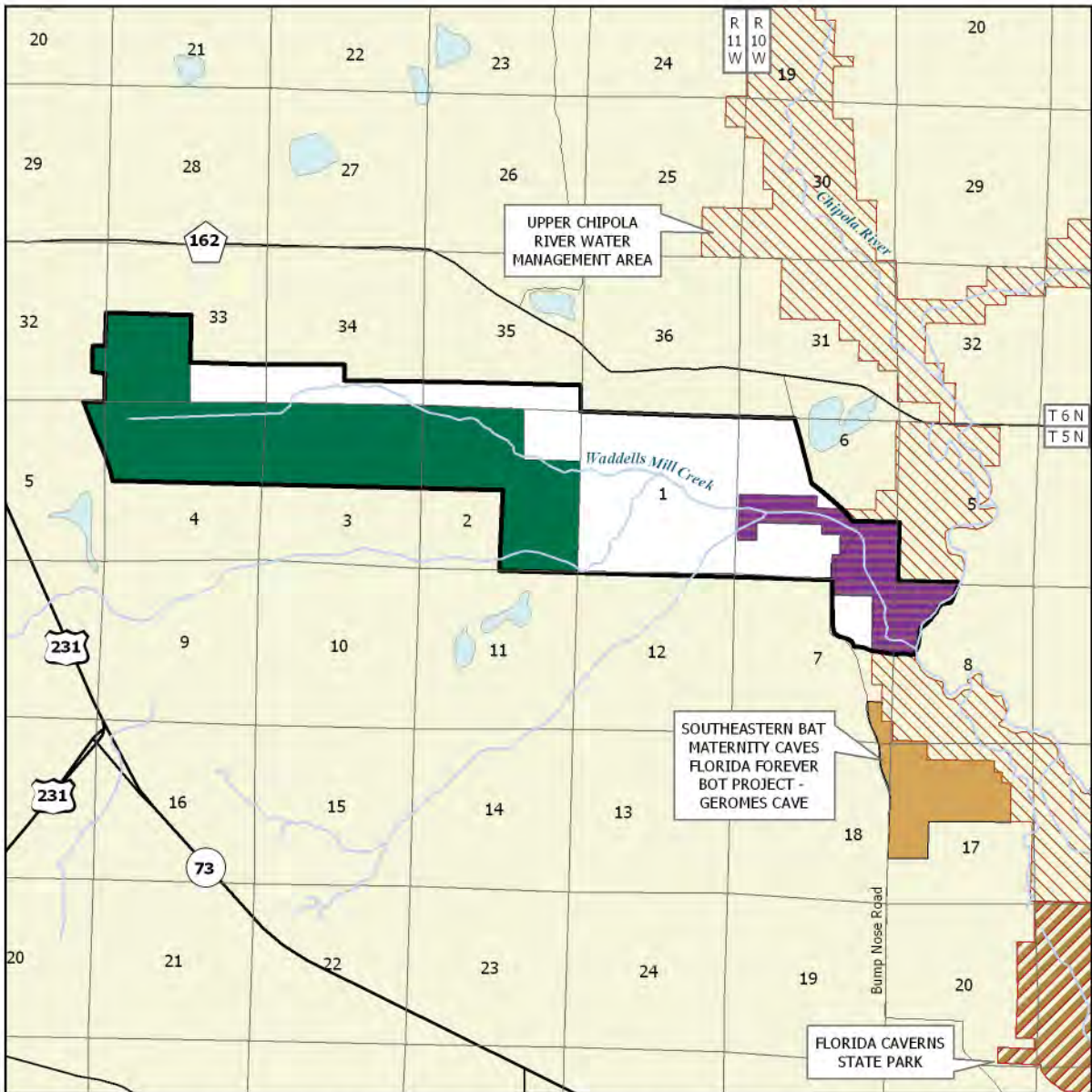
This project includes all the undeveloped land along the Chipola River from Florida Caverns State Park to State Road 20 and therefore has the configuration, location, and size to achieve its primary objectives.

**Manager** The DRP will manage the land next to the Florida Caverns State Park and a seven-mile stretch adjacent to “Look and Tremble Shoals.”

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The property will be a high need management area. Protection and perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly as related to caverns, bats and restoration of logged areas, will be the primary emphasis. Compatible resource-based recreation is expected to be emphasized in the long-term.

(Continued on Page 338)

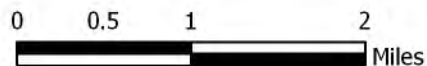
# Middle Chipola River - Group B/Full Fee



## MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 1 OF 5

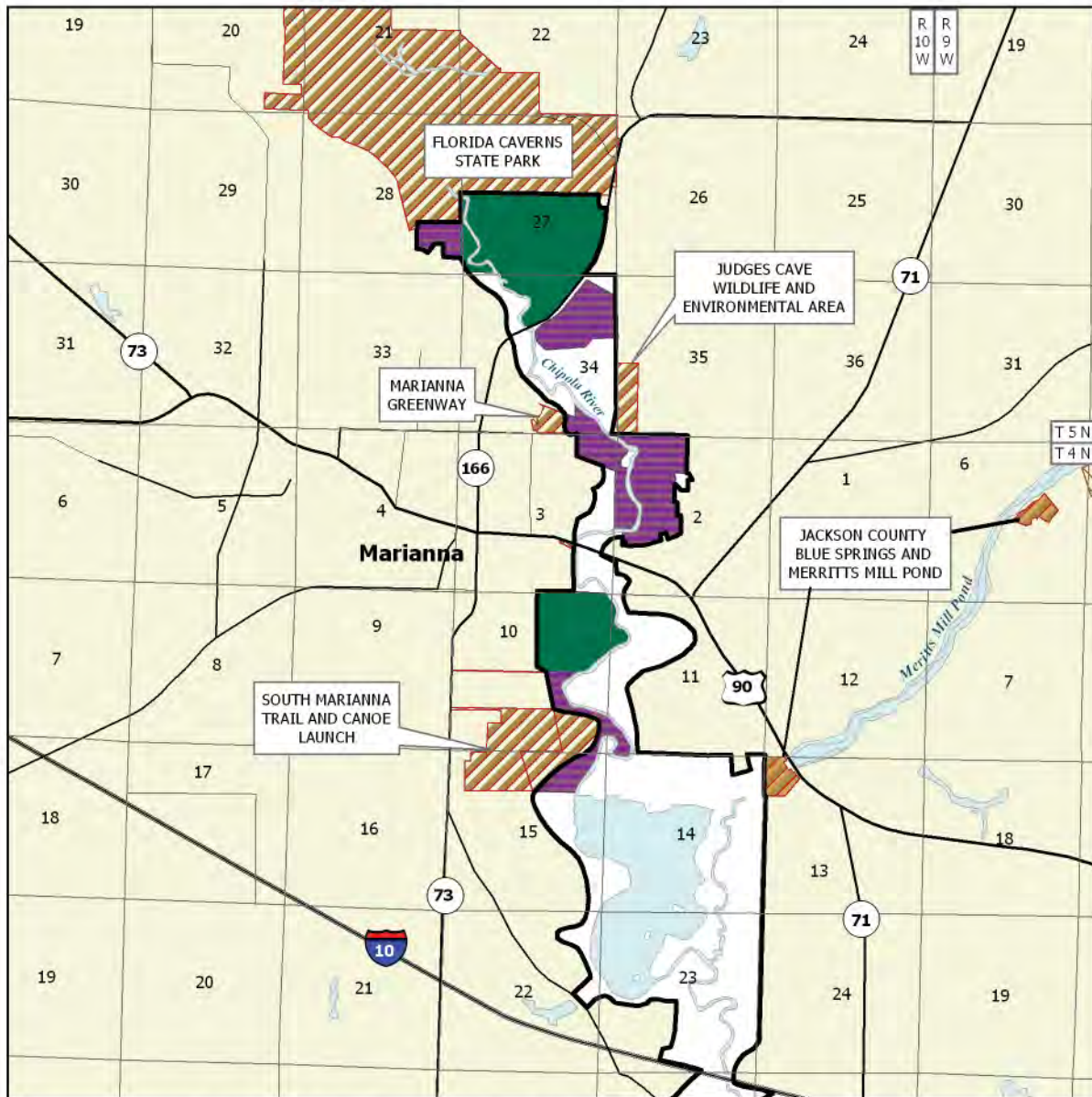
### JACKSON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands







SEPTEMBER 2006

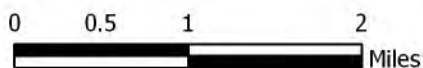
# Middle Chipola River - Group B/Full Fee



## MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 2 OF 5

### JACKSON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands





SEPTEMBER 2006



**MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 3 OF 5**

**JACKSON COUNTY**

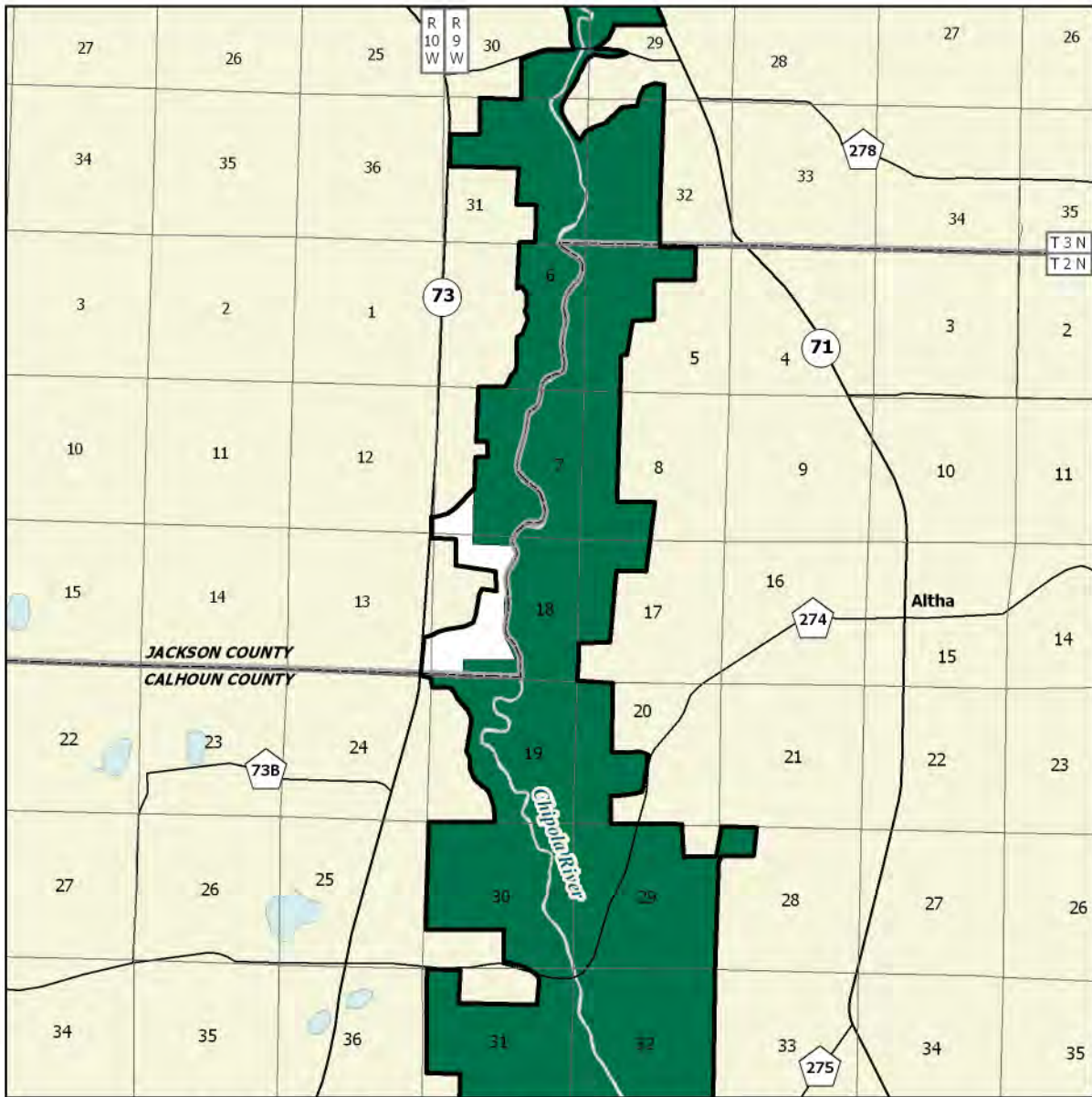
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



SEPTEMBER 2006





**Middle Chipola River - Group B/Full Fee**



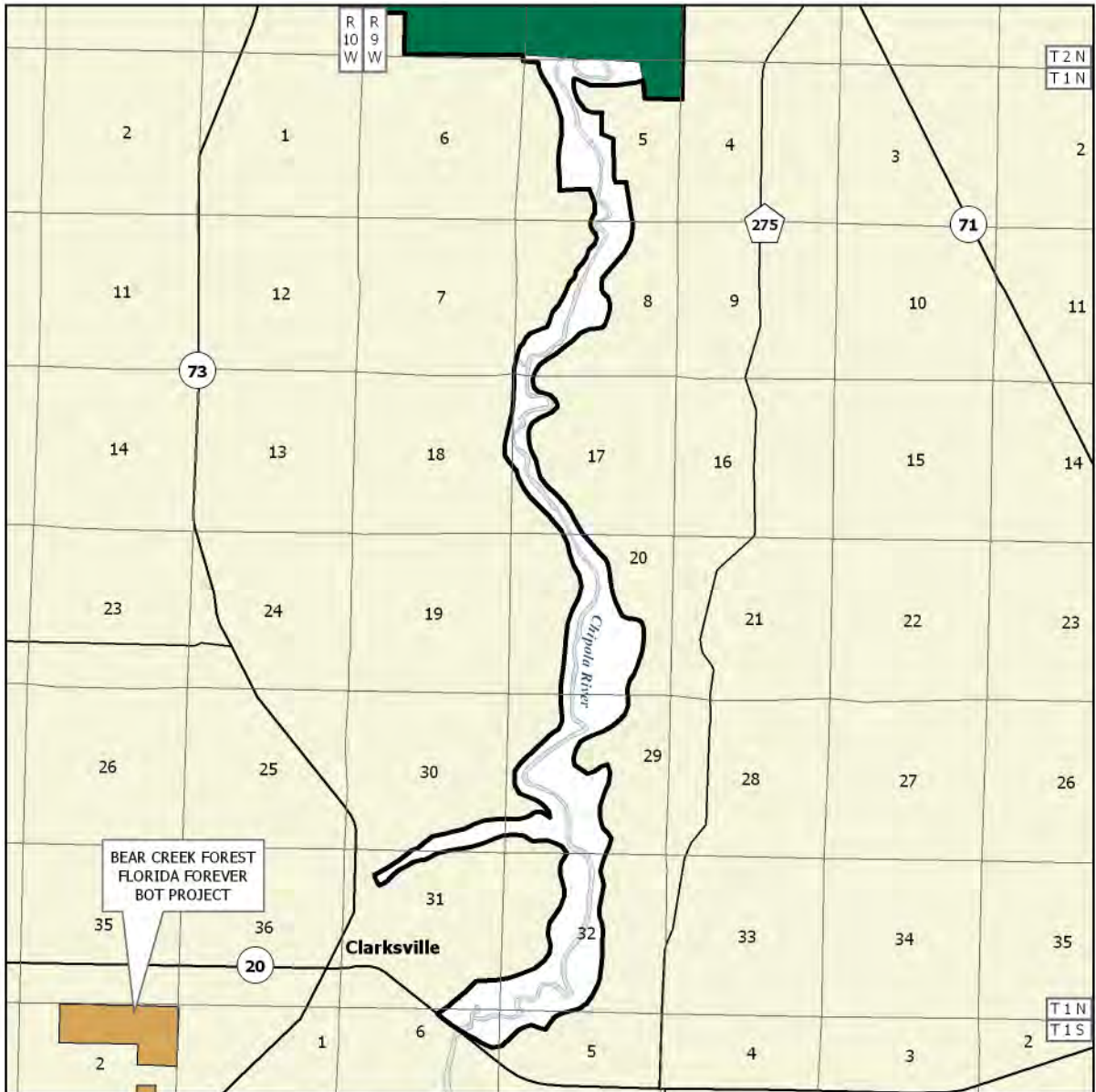
**MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 4 OF 5**

**JACKSON AND CALHOUN COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



SEPTEMBER 2006



**MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 5 OF 5**

**CALHOUN COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



SEPTEMBER 2006

## Middle Chipola River - Group B/Full Fee

### *Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

Upon acquisition and assignment of that portion of the project to be managed by the DRP, as described under “Manager” above, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicular access and the development of a resource inventory and public use plan. Public use will be allowed for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities in the short term.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The portion of the Middle Chipola River project lying between the Florida Caverns State Park and the SR 167 bridge down river from the park would complement the park in its resource and management goals.

Restoration and maintenance of natural communities will be incorporated into long range management efforts and disturbed areas will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in natural systems, to the extent practical.

The Division will encourage resource-based recreation and environmental education in conjunction with overall public use in the park. The management plan developed to define resource management and public use of the property will define the extent and placement of compatible infrastructure.

***Revenue-generating potential*** No significant revenue is expected to be generated from this addition initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public facilities might be developed. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use identified in the management plan developed the property.

***Cooperators in management activities*** No cooperators are recommended for this tract. However, consultation with the Northwest Florida Water Management District on water related matters and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on wildlife issues will be enlisted as needed.

<b>Management Cost Summary/DRP</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$9,750</b>	<b>\$9,750</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$6,700</b>	<b>\$6,700</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,050</b>	<b>\$19,850</b>

# Mill Creek

## Marion County

# Group B

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project in the form of a conservation easement will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – a conservation easement will preserve a working Florida landscape and protect existing natural areas from conversion to alternative uses. Existing wetlands will be enhanced through the prohibition of future harvesting of timber. The use of prescribed fire will be continued and recommendations for fire-frequency and fireline character will be provided. Additional structures and facilities on the parcel will be controlled through the terms of the conservation easement. (2) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources – approximately 49% of this property is managed for forest resources. A conservation easement will allow for continued forest management with the use of Best Management Practices and the continuation of prescribed burning; (3) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state – due to its proximity to the Orange Creek Restoration area, protection of this property from conversion will enhance and protect water quantity and flow to Orange Lake.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services (OES), or its successor, will monitor the conservation easement unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The Mill Creek proposal includes over 12,000 acres of land in northern Marion County. It is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and is owned by four entities, but controlled by the Moxon family. Several conservation lands lie within five miles of the Mill Creek property 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 the Ocala National Forest. The Mill Creek property has been impacted by cattle and timber operations, including conversion to pasture, pine plantation and cypress harvesting. Two rare plants and eight rare animals are documented to occur on the property.

### Public Use

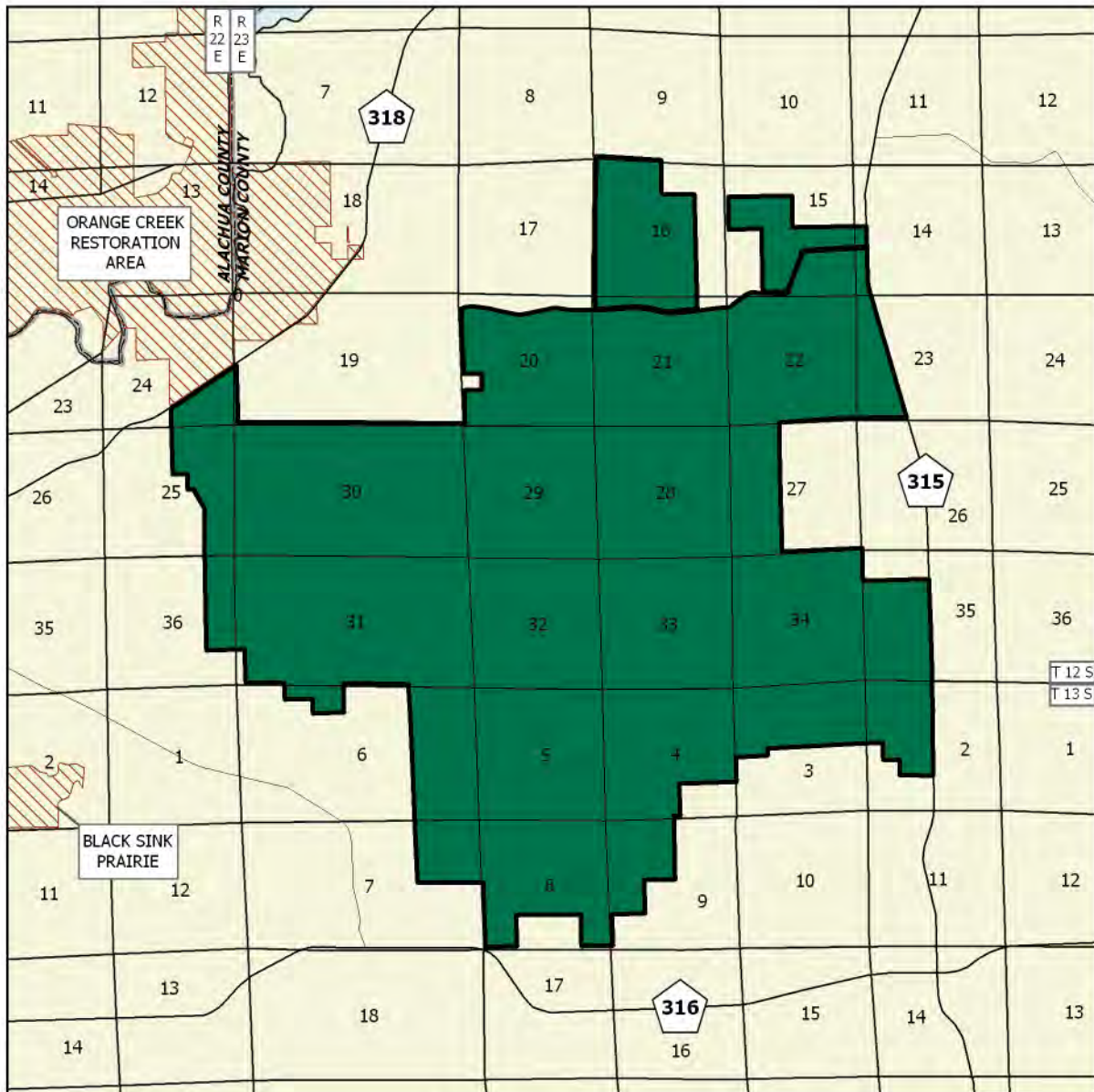
As a less-than-fee project, public resource-based recreation potential is severely limited. However, the eastern portion of the property is leased for hunting. There was no indication at the time of the field investigation that the owners would allow hunting by the general public. Willingness for other public uses was also not indicated.

The project, as offered, does not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the region. The resource-based recreation potential for the project, as offered, is low. However, it could potentially increase significantly, should public access and use of the land be allowed. Due to an indicated lack of

Mill Creek	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
White Ibis	G5/S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	




<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>12,285</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>12,285</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: \$13,694,672</b>	

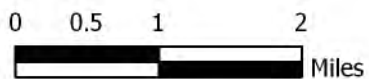
# Mill Creek - Group B/Less-Than-Fee



## MILL CREEK

### MARION COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



MAY 2006

general public access for hunting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission advises that the public hunting potential of this project is low.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Mill Creek project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list. This less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Conservation Real Estate Group, consisted of approximately 12,285 acres, multiple owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$13,694,672.

On January 27, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 FF Annual Priority list.

On June 3, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2005 FF Interim Priority list.

On December 14, 2007 ARC voted to move the Mill Creek project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

### **Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest, this project will be managed by the private landowner or landowners with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of the existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

The OES, or its successor, is to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.



# Millstone Plantation

Leon County

**Group B  
Less-Than-Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The proposal includes part of Lake McBride, which is reported to have low nutrient and pollutant levels and a nesting pair of bald eagles. According to the Nature Conservancy, the lakes of Leon County comprise one of the most important groups of solution lakes in the northern hemisphere. Most of these lakes hold sinkholes that breach the Floridian aquifer so it is important that they are afforded some protection from runoff.

### Manager

The Apalachee Land Conservancy

### General Description

The property consists of a mosaic of vegetated communities, a deeply incised Seepage Stream, some open pasture and a portion of Lake McBride. It falls within the "Red Hills" physiographic region, which consists of pine-dominated uplands and numerous karst sinkholes and lakes. It ranges in elevation from 140 to 225 feet above sea level, and is a critical recharge area for the Floridian aquifer. The Seepage Stream and karst lake serve as breeding, nesting and foraging areas for numerous wildlife species. The lands of Millstone Plantation are rich in archaeological sites recorded in The Division of Historic Resources Master Site File.

### Public Use

Visitation of the project will be by invitation for environmental and cultural learning purposes on a limited basis. A limited walking trail exists throughout the project.

### Acquisition Planning

The project consists of approximately 190 acres and one owner. Approximately half of the project has been acquired. The public access would include access for

public education for school children, environmental researchers, organic agriculturist, artists and writers. The money from the conservation easement will go for management and outreach programs for the Millstone Institute. The entire parcel is essential.

### Coordination

The Trust for Public Lands will be the intermediary for acquisition of the conservation easement.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project on the new Florida Forever list. Acquisition negotiations are being conducted.

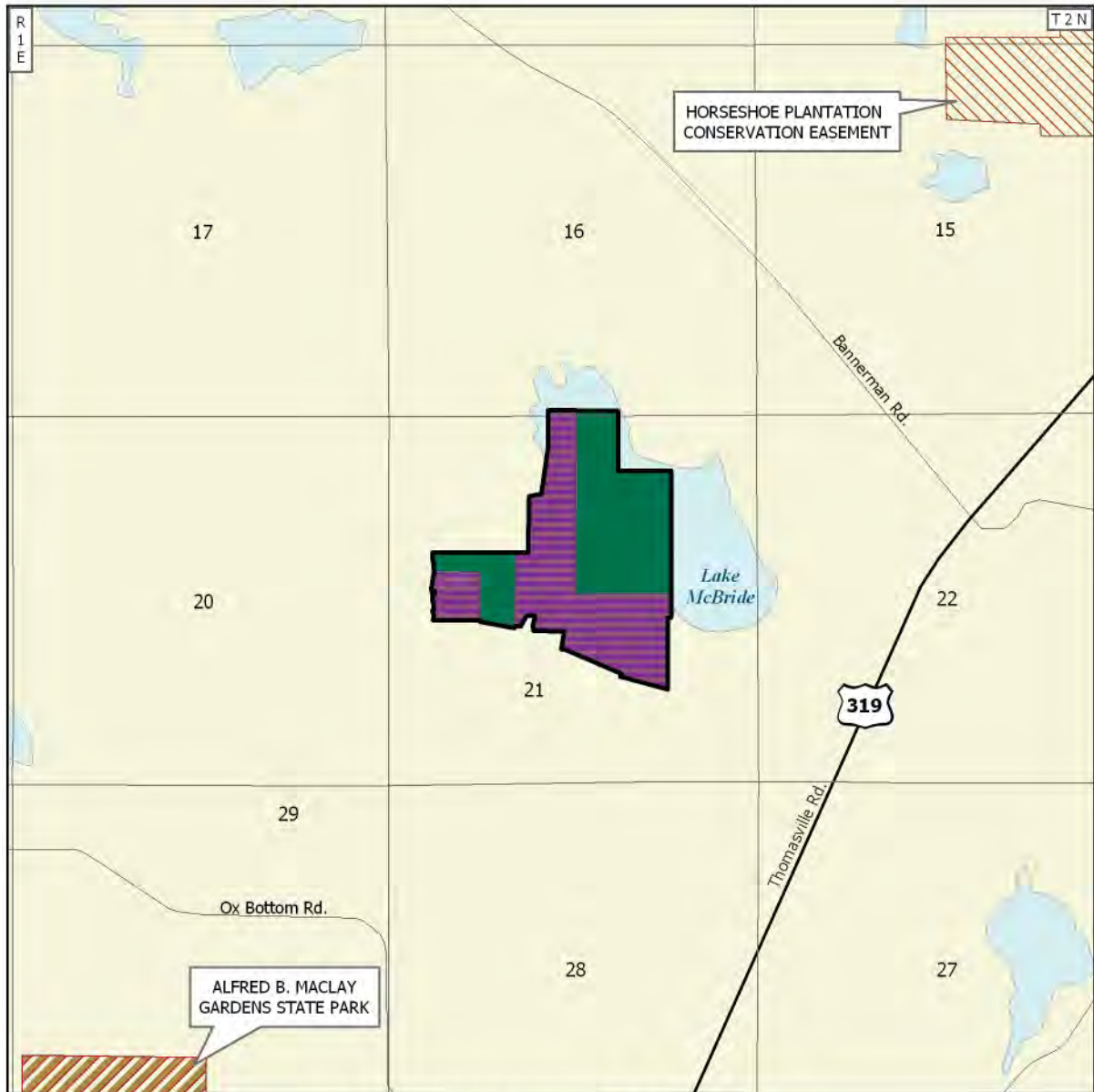
### Management Policy Statement

Millstone Plantation is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition; therefore, specific management activities and public access would be limited by the terms of the purchase. A conservation easement would preclude the eventual development pressure from the Tallahassee area. The Millstone Institute of Preservation, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit, was founded in 1995 to promote the use of the property for educational purposes. The Institute has and will continue to sponsor scientific aquatic research of Lake McBride and its surrounding area. It is expanding its nature trails and implementing a management plan for the property that will include longleaf pine and native groundcover restoration on the uplands, wildlife habitat management, wetlands management and enhancement and the protection of the many historical century-old live oaks. Further archaeological investigations and surveys are also planned.

<b>Millstone Plantation</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
1 rare species is associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$892,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$69,970</b>

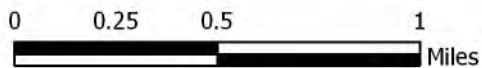
# Millstone Plantation - Group B/Less-Than-Fee



## MILLSTONE PLANTATION

### LEON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2006



## Millstone Plantation - Group B/Less-Than-Fee

### **Management Prospectus**

The Millstone Plantation Florida Forever project encompasses nearly 200 acres in northwestern Leon County, at the southern edge of the Red Hills region. Millstone is a highly significant archaeological site containing Florida Master Site File sites representing a continuous pattern of settlement for over 10,000 years, including the Paleo-Indian, Early Archaic, Late Archaic, Deptford, Weeden Island, Fort Walton, Apalachee, Spanish Mission, Seminole, English, and Colonial periods. The Millstone Plantation House, an example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Colonial revival architecture, and related structures and out-buildings, are also of great historical significance, eligible for listing as a National Register of Historic Site. The Millstone project also includes significant shoreline on Lake McBride, (Class III. Waters of the State) one of the last unpolluted Sinkhole or Clastic Upland Lakes in Leon County, and Millstone Creek, a Seepage Stream, which form the headwaters of the Lake Lafayette Basin. Millstone encompasses significant recharge areas for the Floridan Aquifer. Additionally, the project contains a Basin Swamp and Upland Mixed Forest and Upland Pine Forests suitable for restoration. Primary goals of management of the Millstone Plantation project are: investigation, protection, interpretation, and educational activities for the site's archaeological resources; conservation and protection of and continued aquatic, biological, and geologic research into the waters of Lake McBride and Millstone Creek; conservation, protection, sustainable management and restoration of the Upland Pine Forests; and historic preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures

***Qualifications for state designation*** Due to the site's unique archaeological resources representing a continuous pattern of human settlement and the importance of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures, the site may qualify for designation as a State Historical Site.

***Manager*** The Apalachee Land Conservancy would be responsible for the monitoring and enforcing of the conservation easement.

***Management goals*** The primary management goal of Millstone Plantation is continued protection, preservation, investigation, and interpretation of the property's rich archaeological resources and stabilization, preservation, and restoration of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures. The

Institute will also continue efforts to foster the protection of the water quality of Lake McBride and Millstone Creek and continue aquatic research, as well as begin restoration of the project's natural upland communities. Central to all of these efforts is continuation of the Institute's public education activities and community outreach programs, including continued limited public access to the property for outdoor educational and recreational activities.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management*** The greatest challenge facing the management of Millstone is the tremendous amount of archaeological resources on the property. Developing a plan for ongoing systematic survey, investigation, and interpretation of the site's archaeological resources will be essential. The proximity of highways and residential and commercial development to the site may pose fire and smoke management problems for restoration of Millstone's natural communities. Due to development pressure in the Lake McBride Basin, accelerating the timeline for aquatic research is important.

***Timetable for implementing management*** Archaeological surveys and investigation are ongoing; initial management activities should concentrate on identifying and researching these resources. In subsequent years, the Institute plans to implement a management plan for the property that will include longleaf pine and native groundcover restoration on the uplands, wildlife management, wetlands management, and enhancement and protection of the many century-old live oaks on the property. Restoration of natural communities will require eradication of exotic and pest plants (Chinese tallow, Japanese climbing fern, and tropical soda apple), as well as prescribed burning and re-vegetation. The Institute has and will continue to sponsor scientific aquatic research into Lake McBride. Existing nature trails on the property will be improved and expanded to enhance public access. The Institute will also continue and expand its existing public education programs, including traditional, sustainable, organic agricultural practices and North Florida farm arts, such as spinning and weaving. Plans will also be made for historically accurate and appropriate preservation and restoration of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures.

***Management costs and sources of revenue*** The Millstone Institute will seek funding through both public and private (foundations, corporations, and individuals) grant sources to support management activities.

# Myakka Ranchlands

Sarasota County

## Group A

Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This project is composed of two areas, on opposite sides of the Myakka River State Park, that connect and protect a contiguous system of conservation areas, forming a corridor of connection among state, county and non-profit conservation lands in southwest Florida. Acquiring these lands would increase the number of acres protected with fee-simple purchase (802 acres) and with alternatives to fee-simple acquisition (17,941 acres), contributing to building landscape-size protection areas of more than 50,000 acres, by adding to the existing 121,000 acres of conservation land already protecting the Myakka River and Charlotte Harbor Estuary. It would protect lands that are documented to have rare plants and animals, and protect waters of the state and functional wetlands.

### Manager

Sarasota County Natural Resources, a division of the Sarasota County government, is recommended as the manager of the 802 acres of the project once it is acquired, with assistance and cooperation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Myakka River State Park. The rest of the proposed project, 17,941 acres in two parcels, is recommended as a less-than-fee acquisition and therefore would be monitored through the Office of Environmental Services, Division of State Lands.

### General Description

The Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever proposal is composed of 18,739 acres, consisting of three ownerships in two disjunct tracts: the Hi Hat Ranch in the

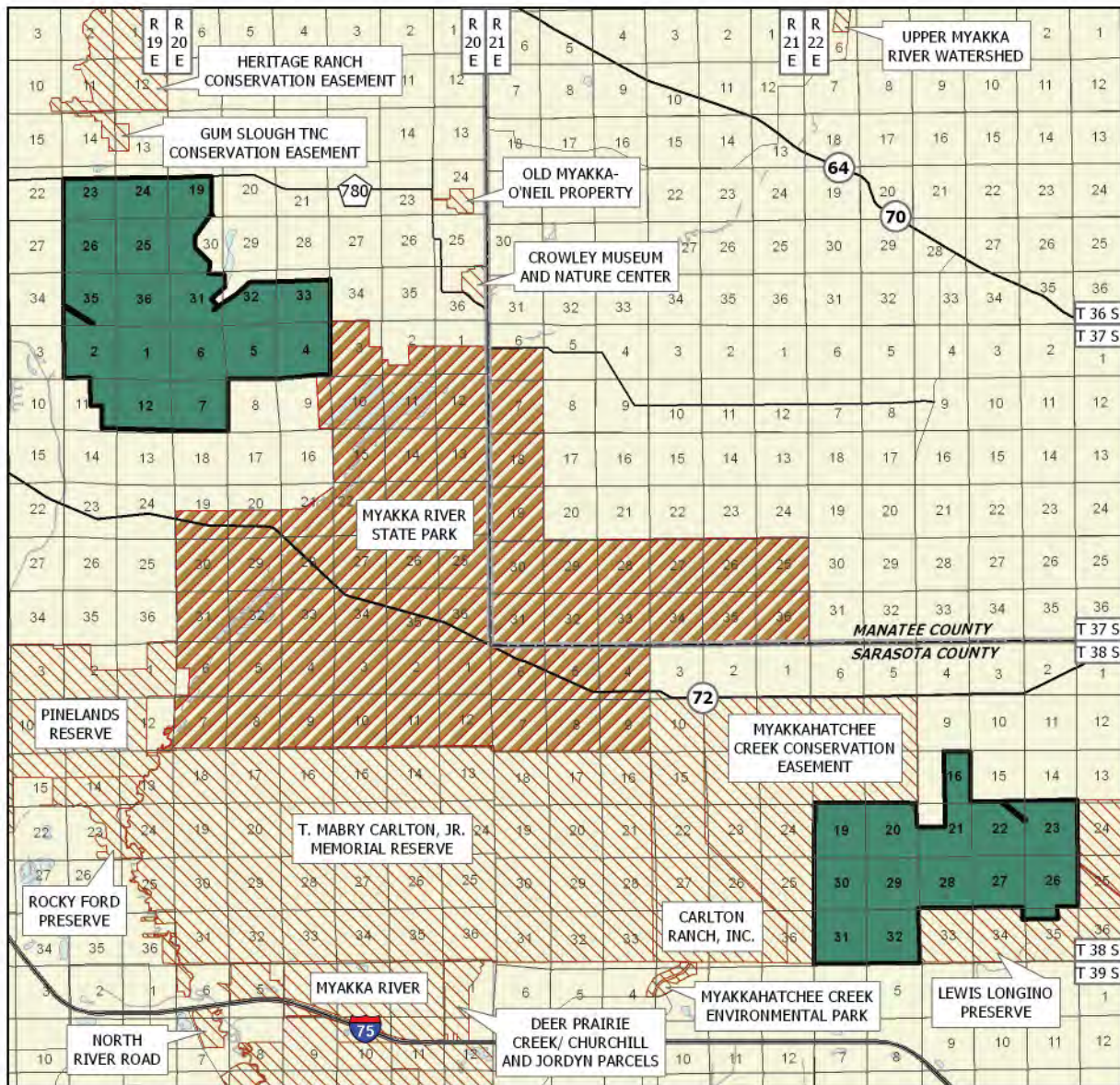
northwest (10,770 acres) and the combined Walton and Longino Ranches in the southeast (7,969 acres). The Hi Hat tract is about five miles east of the city limits of Sarasota in the northern part of Sarasota County, and abuts the Myakka River State Park. The Longino/Walton tract is about 13 aerial miles southeast of Hi Hat Ranch, between State Road 72 and I-75 in eastern Sarasota County. It is part of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Florida Forever Work Plan. The eastern edge of the tract abuts the Lewis Longino Preserve, a 3,895-acre conservation easement purchased by Sarasota County and the SWFWMD to protect regional water supplies.

The three working ranches support ongoing cattle operations, sod farms, row crops, citrus groves, pine and cabbage palm harvesting, and hunting. The Hi Hat tract includes 2,500 acres of wastewater spray field owned by the City of Sarasota for which the owners have rights to purchase back from the City. The Hi Hat owners also retain a permit from the SWFWMD for withdrawal of 6-7 million gallons of groundwater per day at the ranch. All of the properties are crisscrossed with internal roads, access ways and ditches associated with ranch and farming operations. About 53 percent of the ranchlands, combined, have been converted to pasture, agriculture, or various uses such as impoundments, canals, roads, and buildings. The majority of these areas are improved pasture. The remaining natural areas (47 percent of the properties, combined) support a mosaic of mesic flatwoods, depression and basin marshes, prairie and hydric hammocks. The quality of these natural communities is variable, depending upon

Myakka Ranchlands	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Least Bittern	G5/S4
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>18,739</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>18,739</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$85,657,692</b>	

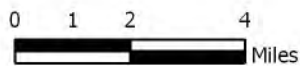
# Myakka Ranchlands - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee



## MYAKKA RANGLANDS

### SARASOTA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



AUGUST 2008

the fire history and levels of physical disturbances or invasive exotic plant encroachments.

### **Public Use**

In the 802 acres within the Hi Hat Ranch to be managed by Sarasota County, it is anticipated that some the existing roads and trails may become multi-use trails for hiking and horse back riding.

Longino Ranch and Walton Ranch, and the remainder of Hi Hat Ranch, will likely not have any public access granted under the terms of their conservation easements. Without public access there will not be any public-resource based outdoor recreation potential in these areas.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On December 14, 2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Myakka Ranchlands to the A list of Florida Forever projects. The application proposes a combination of full-fee and less-than-fee acquisition. Longino Ranch is less-than-fee; Hi-Hat is fee and/or less-than-fee; and Walton Ranch was proposed as fee simple, but the owner is willing to consider it as a less-than-fee acquisition.

### **Coordination**

Acquisition of the Myakka Ranchlands would be a shared acquisition along with Sarasota County and the SWFWMD.

### **Management Policy Statement**

Principal purposes of the project include protection of biodiversity, protection of the quality and natural functions of the land and water systems, availability of sufficient quantities of water and, within the portion to be managed by Sarasota County, provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities. Programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and careful control of public uses. The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

The project's size, diversity, and location make it desirable for use and management compatible with the adjacent state park. The majority of the acreage of this project consists of isolated wetlands in oak hammock and improved pasture supporting an active cattle operation. Approximately 20 percent of the proposal has been converted to cattle operations and spray irrigation. The improved pastures total approximately 160 acres with multiple grass species planted in them. Hi Hat Ranch has been managed for cattle for over 40 years with pastures devoid of most native groundcover and under story species.

#### ***Manager***

Sarasota County Natural Resources, a division of the Sarasota County government, is recommended as the manager of the 802 acres of the project once it is acquired, with assistance and cooperation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Myakka River State Park. The rest of the proposed project, 17,941 acres in two parcels, is recommended as a less-than-fee acquisition and therefore would be monitored through the Office of Environmental Services, Division of State Lands.

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Much of the project's former dry prairie and pine flatwoods have been altered by cattle operations and spray irrigation fields. Hi Hat Ranch will fence the 802 acres and remove the above ground spray irrigation equipment at no cost to the project. Hydrological alterations in the form of ditches will be analyzed for potential restoration. Such areas may be restored with native ground covers and canopy. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be minimal to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system compatible with the state park. Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be low to maintain this area like the adjacent state park.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the fee-simple portion of the project is acquired and assigned for management to Sarasota County, existing trails will be evaluated for nature-based recreation use. After the installation of the fence and removal of

## Myakka Ranchlands - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

the above ground spray irrigation equipment by Hi Hat Ranch at no cost to the project, primitive trails will be opened to hikers. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, providing site security, assessing public and fire management access, and hydrological restoration potential. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a road plan to identify which roads will continue to be used for vehicular access by the public, which are required for administrative use, and which are unnecessary for management or access and should be closed. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

### ***Revenue-generating potential***

The revenue-generating potential of the portion managed by Sarasota County is expected to be moderately low. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

### ***Cooperators in management activities***

Sarasota County proposes to manage the 802-acre section of the project like the adjacent state park and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. Sarasota County will cooperate with and seek the assistance of Myakka River State Park, the SWFWMD and interested parties as appropriate.

### ***Capital Expenditures***

No capital project expenditures will be needed on the parcel managed by Sarasota County, but land management activities such as prescribed fire, vegetative restoration, and primitive public access/use will need to be funded. As more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, Sarasota County intends to include project funds contingent on availability.

### ***Management costs and sources of revenue***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from Sarasota County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program. Budget needs for initial management are estimated as follows. Annual funding could be lower.

<b>SALARY (0.1FTE)</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>\$3,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>

# North Key Largo Hammocks

Monroe County

## Group A Small Holdings

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The West Indian hardwood forest of the Florida Keys, unique in the United States, is shrinking as development intensifies. The North Key Largo Hammocks project will protect the largest stand of this forest left, with its many tropical plants and rare animals; help protect the irreplaceable coral reef in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from the effects of uncontrolled development; and conserve an area where the public can enjoy the original landscape of these subtropical islands.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection will manage the small parcels and monitor the less-than-fee parcels.

### General Description

The hammocks of North Key Largo form the largest stand of West Indian tropical forest in the United States, with numerous plant and animal species that are rare and endangered. The project also has over ten miles of shoreline that directly influence the adjacent waters of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. Natural communities include marine tidal swamp, coastal rock barren, and rockland hammock. The majority of the project is hammock or upland. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a botanical site, with such uses as hiking and nature appreciation. The amount and nature of public use will be negotiated with the owner for the less than fee parcel.

### Acquisition Planning

In General, Phase I consisted of all tracts in the project area before 1986 project design additions. Phase II consisted of contiguous tracts in the addition from north to south. Phase III consisted of the northernmost islands – Palo Alto being the largest and most ecologically valuable. Phase IV consisted of privately owned submerged tracts. Phase V consisted of Port Bougainville/Garden Cove.

All tracts owned by willing sellers have been acquired. The Governor and Cabinet have authorized condemnation of the remainder of the project. Proceedings are in progress.

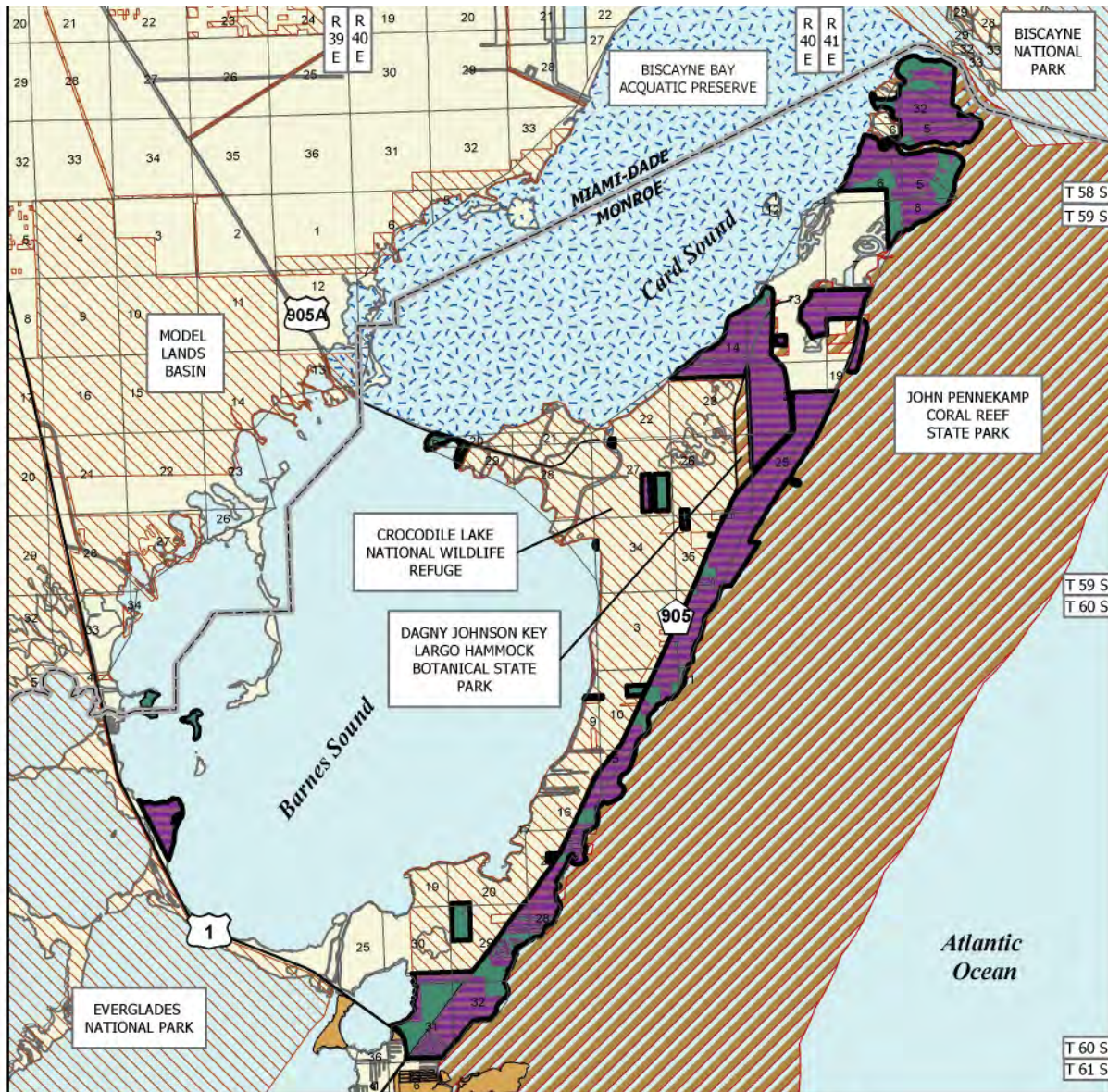
In 1983, the LASC added the North Key Largo Hammocks project to the CARL 1983 Priority list. This acquisition consisted of approximately 665 acres, multiple owners, and a 1982 taxable value of \$5,239,680.

On June 7, 1984 the LASC approved a 236.5-acre addition to the Project boundary. It consisted of multiple owners and a 1983 taxable value of \$1,500,000.

North Key Largo Hammocks FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Garber's Spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>Schaus' Swallowtail</i>	G3G4T1/S1
<i>Key Largo Cotton Mouse</i>	G5T1Q/S1
<i>Key Largo Woodrat</i>	G5T1/S1
<i>Lignum-vitae</i>	G2/S1
<i>Swartz's Snoutbean</i>	G3/S1
<i>Simpson's Prickly Apple</i>	G2/S2
<i>White Ironwood</i>	G4/S1
<i>Mahogany Mistletoe</i>	G4/S1
<i>Small-fruited Varnishleaf</i>	G4Q/S1
<i>Dollar Orchid</i>	G4?T4?Q/S1
<i>Havana Jacquemontia</i>	G5/S1
35 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1983</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>4,621</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>3,970</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$76,871,140</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>651</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$5,613,049</b>

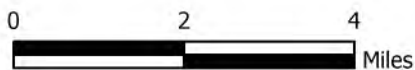
# North Key Largo Hammocks - Group A/Small Holdings



## NORTH KEY LARGO HAMMOCKS

### MONROE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



NOVEMBER 2005

## North Key Largo Hammocks - Group A/Small Holdings

On March 21, 1986, the LASC approved combining the ± 2,430-acre North Key Largo Hammocks Addition project with the existing North Key Largo Hammocks project. The combined project acreage was approximately 3,254 acres; 2,327 acres remained to be purchased with an estimated taxable value of \$21,974,000.

On March 10, 1995, the LAMAC approved a 3.25-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owner, Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) and had a 1994 taxable value of \$3,100.

On December 5, 1996, LAMAC transferred the 4.7-acre Sea Critters (Kaufman/Maxwell) ownership to the Less-Than-Fee acquisition category. In 2003, 2.81 acres were acquired in fee-simple.

On December 5, 1997, the LAMAC approved a 25-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the DRP, consisted of multiple owners, and a 1996 taxable value of \$714,000. The addition is composed of multiple lots within the Knowlson Colony (55 lots) and Gulfstream Shore (64 lots) subdivisions.

On December 6, 2001, the ARC combined Group B Less-Than-Fee with the Group A Small Holdings.

On February 11, 2005, the ARC approved a fee-simple, ± 535-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the several entities, consisted of multiple owners, and a 2004 taxable value of approximately \$4,611,267.

In June, 2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to purchase these acres (ownerships): 0.17 acres (Walker) in Knowlson Colony for \$23,375, to be managed by FWC; and 5.47 acres (Hall) in Key Largo for \$1,069,300, to be managed by Monroe County.

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the North Key Largo Hammocks project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna

representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern, if the proposed acquisition relates to the natural resource protection purposes of the designation; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, if the protection and conservation of such lands is necessary to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which cannot otherwise be accomplished through local or state regulatory programs.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The North Key Largo Hammocks project includes the largest West Indian tropical forest in the United States. This qualifies it as a state botanical site.

**Manager** The DRP will manage the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project is a low-need management area emphasizing resource protection and perpetuation while allowing compatible public recreational use and development. Much of the project has already been acquired.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Future acquisitions will be incorporated into the [Key Largo Hammock State Botanical Site](#). When the Division of Recreation and Parks brings each parcel under its management, it will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and inclusion of the parcel in a plan for long-term public use and resource management of the overall Botanical Site.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated for individual parcels. The amount of revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities for the Botanical Site. Since management emphasizes resource protection, with limited public use, future revenues are not expected to be high. The Site does not presently generate any significant amount of revenue.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project area.



## North Key Largo Hammocks - Group A/Small Holdings

Management Cost Summary/DRP			
Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL/SPTF	CARL/SPTF	CARL/SPTF
Salary	\$86,299	\$88,888	\$91,554
OPS	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$24,702	\$28,261	\$28,261
OCO	\$0	\$5,200	\$5,200
INT. MGT.	\$498	\$498	\$498
HOSP	\$46,235	\$46,235	\$46,235
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$100,535	\$174,082	\$176,748

# Northeast Florida Blueway

Duval, St. Johns and Flagler Counties

**Group A  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – helps to maintain shoreline plant communities on the Tolomato & Matanzas rivers, benefiting the manatees that spend the warm season in these water; (2) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas – serves as a vital connection in the Statewide System of Greenways and Trails; (3) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities – offers many resource-based recreation opportunities both directly and indirectly: fishing, canoeing, bicycling, and camping, to name a few; (4) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state – connectivity with other areas contribute to ongoing governmental efforts to protect and restore the regional land and water; and (5) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources - areas observed within the Rayonier property that are capable of producing pine timber products have been site prepared and planted.

**Manager**

The City of Jacksonville, the Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer

Services (DACs), and the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**General Description**

This project is composed of many public and privately owned uplands and wetlands along both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway, the Tolomato and Matanzas rivers and selected tributaries, from the Duval County line south to the Flagler County line. Marshlands, open water, and small islands of shrub and hammock vegetation are 92 percent of the public lands. The intention of the project is to connect existing natural areas and greenspace to form a conservation lands corridor along the north-south waterway. It is adjacent to the following managed areas: Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (several WMD Conservation Areas included therein), Faver-Dykes State Park, Guana River State Park, Deep Creek State Forest, and Ft. Matanzas National Monument.

**Public Use**

This project would support primitive camping opportunities in association with canoeing and kayaking taking place within the waterway and associated creeks. Some of the larger parcels may have potential for archaeological interpretation and nature study trails, depending on the ability of the public to gain access.

The Division of Recreation and Parks proposes to manage the St. Johns County portion north of Faver-Dykes State Park and south of a haul road between

Northeast Florida Blueway FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Manatee	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Yellow Hibiscus	G4G5/S2
Roseate Spoonbill	G5/S2
American Oystercatcher	G5/S2
Least Tern	G4/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
16 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>32,564</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>18,250*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$32,438,430**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>14,314</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$30,059,986</b>

\*Acquisition Includes lands owned by public entities and NGOs.

\*\*Money spent includes funds spent by the Board of Trustees (current) and acquisition partners (requires updating).

## Northeast Florida Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

US Highway 1 and a spoil site on the Matanzas River. This contains about 5,000 acres. As a part of Faver-Dykes State Park, hunting would not be allowed. The property would expand the quality and quantity of recreational activity at the park including bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, camping (RV and primitive camping), environmental education, and picnicking.

The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the remainder of the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the State Forest system. A portion of the project will become part of the Deep Creek State Forest, managed for multiple uses including, but not limited to, timber management and restoration, low impact recreational opportunities, and protection of archeological and historic sites.

### Acquisition Planning

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Northeast Florida Blueway – Phase I project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, located in Duval County and known as Pablo Creek, was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville (Preservation Project Jacksonville). It consisted of approximately 6,943 acres, multiple owners (private & public), and a 1998 taxable value of \$15,700,000 on the 4,867 acres in private ownerships. The entire project was designated as essential.

On December 6, 2001, the ARC approved Phase II, also known as Tolomato & Matanzas Rivers, to the project boundary. The fee-simple addition in St. Johns County consisted of approximately 27,929 acres, multiple owners (private & public), and a 2001 taxable value of \$18,610,780 on the 17,834 acres in private ownerships. St. Johns County sponsored this addition. The essential parcels were designated as Rayonier Timberlands, Ponce de Leon Resort, Flagler Development, Roberts, Rayland, Wadsworth, and Swan Development.

On August 15, 2003, the ARC approved two additions to the project boundary. The Office of Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) sponsored a 20.26-acre addition with a single owner, Jacoby Development Inc., two parcels, and a 2002 taxable value of \$2,955,714. This fee-simple addition, located in St. Johns County, was added to Phase II. St. Johns County sponsored a 70-acre addition with a single owner, Marine Park Properties, LLC, multiple parcels, and a 2002 taxable

value of \$8,400,000. This fee-simple addition is located in Flagler County.

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a redesign of the project boundary. A total of 2,000 acres were removed from the project, 180 in Duval County and 1,820 in St. Johns County, reducing the total project size to 32,564 acres. The updated total includes lands in public ownership and acres acquired. Previous project area estimates did not include lands in public ownership. Approximately 18,250 acres are currently in public and NGO ownership, leaving 14,314 acres to be acquired. All of the parcels removed from the project, about 6.2 percent, were removed due to development that had occurred or isolation of the parcel since the original boundary was identified.

### Coordination

The City of Jacksonville is an acquisition partner in Phase I, in Duval County. The city has contacted FEMA and they may contribute \$250,000 towards acquisition. Florida Communities Trust has already contributed acquisition funds with the City for several parcels, the SJRWMD has purchased some conservation easements and the Jacksonville Transportation Authority has mitigation funds to contribute towards acquisition. The Trust for Public Land will be the intermediary for negotiations.

Portions of Phase II, in St. Johns County, will likely be acquired through other conservation programs. St. Johns County, the Florida Communities Trust Program and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) may be partners on portions of the project.

### Management Policy Statement

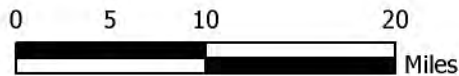
To conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of the state or a larger geographic area. To conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species. To conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources. Finally, to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

# Northeast Florida Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

### *DUVAL, ST. JOHNS, AND FLAGLER COUNTIES*



NOVEMBER 2006

### **Management Prospectus**

#### *Qualifications for State Designation*

The lands in Phase I are rapidly disappearing as Duval County grows. The Preservation Project, the city's land acquisition program, seeks to protect and preserve the existing habitat and waterway as it exists today. It is the goal of the City of Jacksonville to manage this project to conserve, protect or restore important ecosystems while providing opportunities for natural-resource-based recreation. The City of Jacksonville proposes to manage the lands in accordance with the standards of the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Phase II is of a size and diversity that makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the DOF as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring fee simple title to the parcels of interest to DOF. The portion of the project of interest for management by the DRP is largely disturbed land that has been managed for silviculture. While much restoration work will be required over time, the quality of the property when restored will make it suitable for state park purposes.

#### *Manager*

The City of Jacksonville will manage that portion of the project within Duval County. The Division of Recreation and Parks proposes to manage that portion of the Northeast Florida Blueway – Phase II project, approximately 5,000 acres, lying north of Faver-Dykes State Park, south of a haul road from US 1 to a spoil site on the Matanzas River, east of US 1 and west of the Matanzas River. The Division of Forestry (DOF) proposes to manage the Rayonier parcel north of the spoil haul road (approximately 4,000 acres) plus two additional parcels, one adjoining Deep Creek State Forest and an adjoining Florida Natural Areas Inventory Addition 1 (approximately 2,500 acres).

#### *Conditions affecting intensity of management*

Initial management efforts of Phase I by the City of Jacksonville will concentrate on site security, resource inventory, removal of trash and limited public access to the property. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

Intensive restoration will be needed on the portion of Phase II managed by DRP to restore natural communities disturbed by timber operations. Intensity of restoration will be dictated by study of the site. Any immediate action, such as prescribed burning, would

increase the early intensity of management. The lands bordering the river are in relatively good shape and will not require intensive management.

The portions of Phase II managed by DOF can be restored with the help of carefully prescribed fires and hydrologic restoration. The use of fire must be carefully applied because of the fuel load and type of fuel in this forest system. An inventory of the forest roads in this area would determine which stay open for public use, which would be used for management, and which would be closed.

#### *Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

Jacksonville's land-acquisition program, Preservation Project Jacksonville, will be responsible for developing and implementing the management plans for Phase I. The Preservation Project set aside \$950,000 to hire a program manager to develop and implement management plans. As properties are acquired, the City will inventory natural resources and develop first a plan to protect and restore resources, including the removal of invasive and exotic species, before developing access plans.

The DRP plans for its portion of Phase II that, upon fee title acquisition, public access will be provided for low-intensity, non-facility outdoor recreation. Within the first year after acquisition, management will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and developing a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

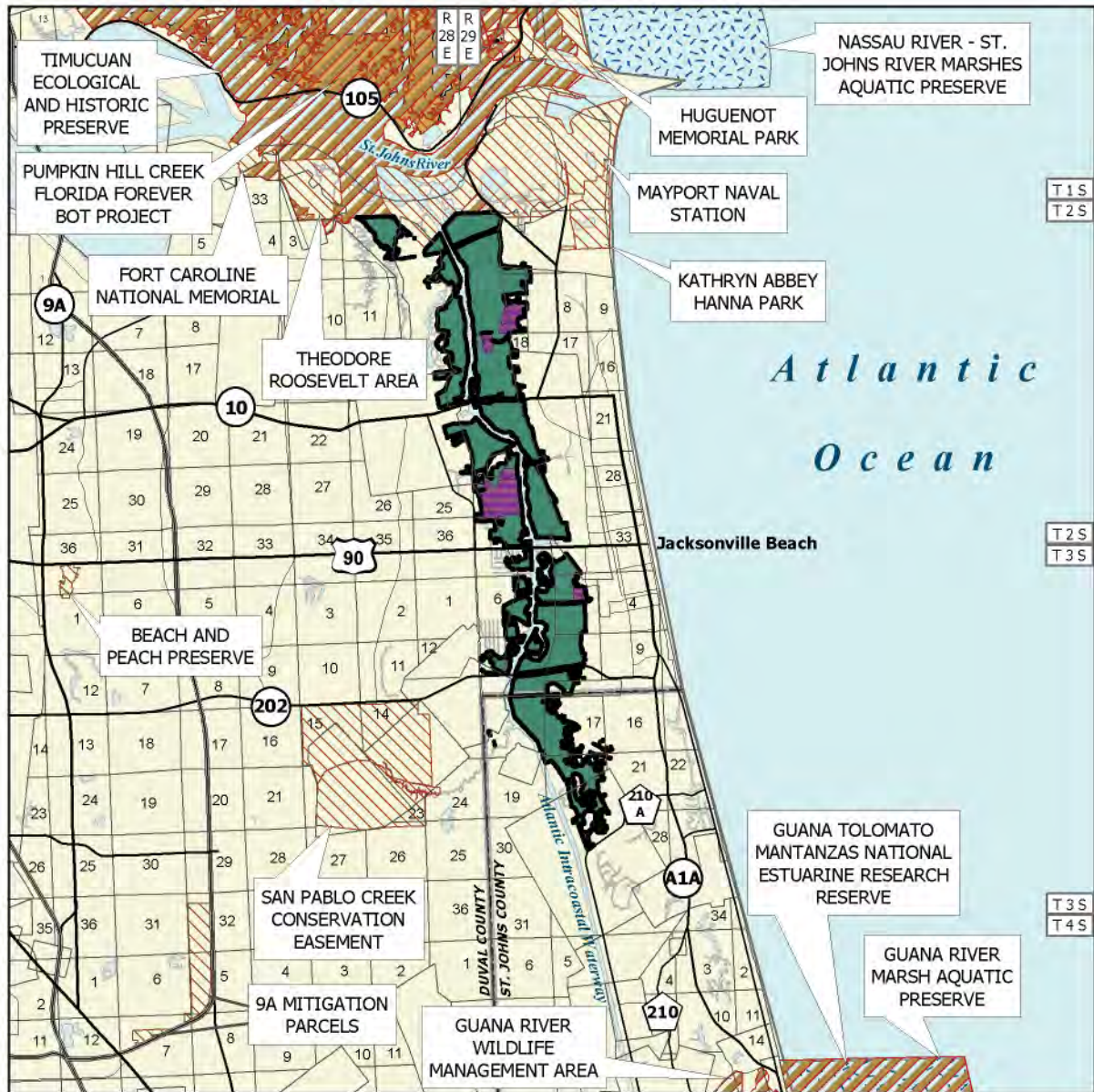
The DOF timetable for management of the remainder of Phase II also provides initial public access for diverse, low-intensity outdoor recreation. Management would be carried out by the DOF Bunnell District until additional personnel were available for resource management and restoration activity. Initial and intermediate management will concentrate on site security, public and resource management access, prescribed fire, reforestation, and removal of any trash.

#### *Revenue-generating potential*

Phase II: No significant revenue to the DRP is expected to be generated initially. After acquisition and addition of the land to Faver-Dykes State Park, it will probably be several years before significant public use facilities

(Continued on Page 363)

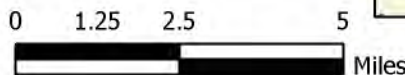
# Northeast Florida Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 3

### DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



NOVEMBER 2006

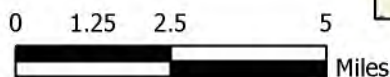
# Northeast Florida Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 3

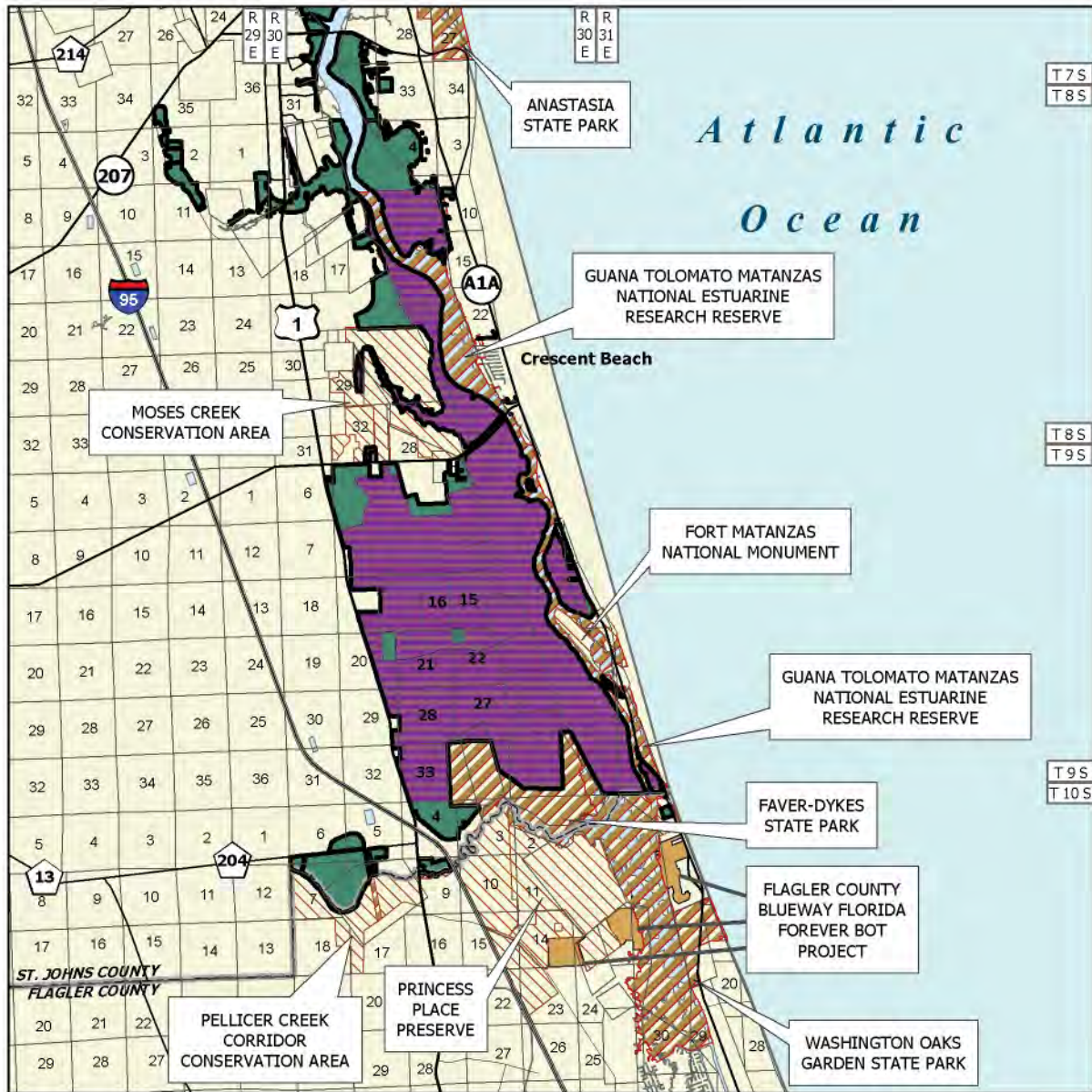
### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



NOVEMBER 2006

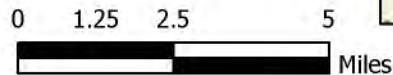
# Northeast Florida Blueway - Group A/Full Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 3 OF 3

### ST. JOHNS AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



NOVEMBER 2006



## Northeast Florida Blueway - Group A/Full Fee

are developed. The amount of revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed. The DOF plans to conduct timber sales as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystems. These sales will primarily be from merchantable pine stands and provide a variable revenue depending on a variety of factors. The condition of the timber stands on the property is such that the revenue generating potential is expected to be moderate.

### *Cooperators in management activities*

Although not required, the City of Jacksonville commits to submitting management plans for city-controlled properties in the Blueway to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for review and comment, even though properties may have been acquired with other sources. Doing so will ensure that the Preservation Project takes a system-wide approach to managing Blueway properties.

In Phase II, DRP will consult other federal, state, and local government agencies, as appropriate, to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities and the development of the property for state park purposes. DOF plans to cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, local government entities, interested parties as appropriate and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. The DOF also intends to coordinate the recreational use of the Rayonier parcel with the DRP because of the potential for a recreation trail on the eastern portion of the property. The DOF will work with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in game and non-game management and related public use of the property.

The Blueway also includes a substantial amount of property owned by other government agencies. It is not the intent that the City or State acquires these properties. However, it is hoped that the Blueway boundary will be the catalyst for a voluntary, joint management approach to publicly owned lands within the corridor. Other agencies that own lands within the Blueway include the U.S. Navy, the National Park Service, Florida Inland Navigation District, the cities of Jacksonville Beach and Atlantic Beach, the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Electric Authority and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

### *Management costs and sources of revenue*

#### **Phase I Management Costs and Sources of Revenue**

##### **Projected annual cost (FY 2001):**

<b>Management plans/</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<b>Security:</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b>Invasion/exotics control:</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b>One-time capital outlay</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,750,000</b>

The DRP has made general management estimates that would be adjusted based on approval of a unit management plan. Costs for fencing are included. Restoration costs are estimated at \$500 per acre, and until further study, the total of acres to be restored is not known.

#### **Phase II Management Cost Summary/DRP**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds:</b>		
<b>CARL</b>		
<b>CARL</b>		
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FCO</b>		
<b>\$20,000</b>		
<b>\$0</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$81,000</b>	<b>\$49,000</b>

The DOF anticipates that revenue funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

#### **Phase II Management Cost Summary/DOF**

<b>Salary (3 FTE's)</b>	<b>\$79,518</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$215,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$37,800</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$333,318</b>

# Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve

## Group A Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

### Duval, Nassau and Clay Counties

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – known to harbor four FNAI-listed species of vascular flora and four rare animals; (2) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas – conserve spaces suitable for greenways or outdoor recreation that are compatible with conservation purposes; (3) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities – camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, hiking, and horseback riding are possible; and (4) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state – 75-80% of land is disturbed with restoration a primary objective.

#### Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS). The City of Jacksonville is manager for the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail.

#### General Description

This project describes a northeast-southwest diagonal along the west side of Duval County, stretching from the Nassau River north of Jacksonville to Trail Ridge in

Clay County, near the town of Lawtey. Another section of the project makes a north-south connection about 12 miles long, between the Camp Blanding Military Reservation and the Etoniah Creek State Forest. About 75 percent of this land is used, or has been used, for silviculture. It also includes mesic flatwoods, cypress and hardwood swamp, sandhills and associated plant communities.

#### Public Use

The Division of Forestry will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. There is a possibility of an intermediate and long-term need for some type of developed recreation facilities. If such facilities are developed, the use of low-impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. If an organized recreation area is desired, it will be assessed and evaluated to minimize any possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

#### Acquisition Planning

On December 6, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, located in Clay, Duval and Nassau counties, and sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the City of Jacksonville and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), consisted of approximately 132,450 acres, more than 150

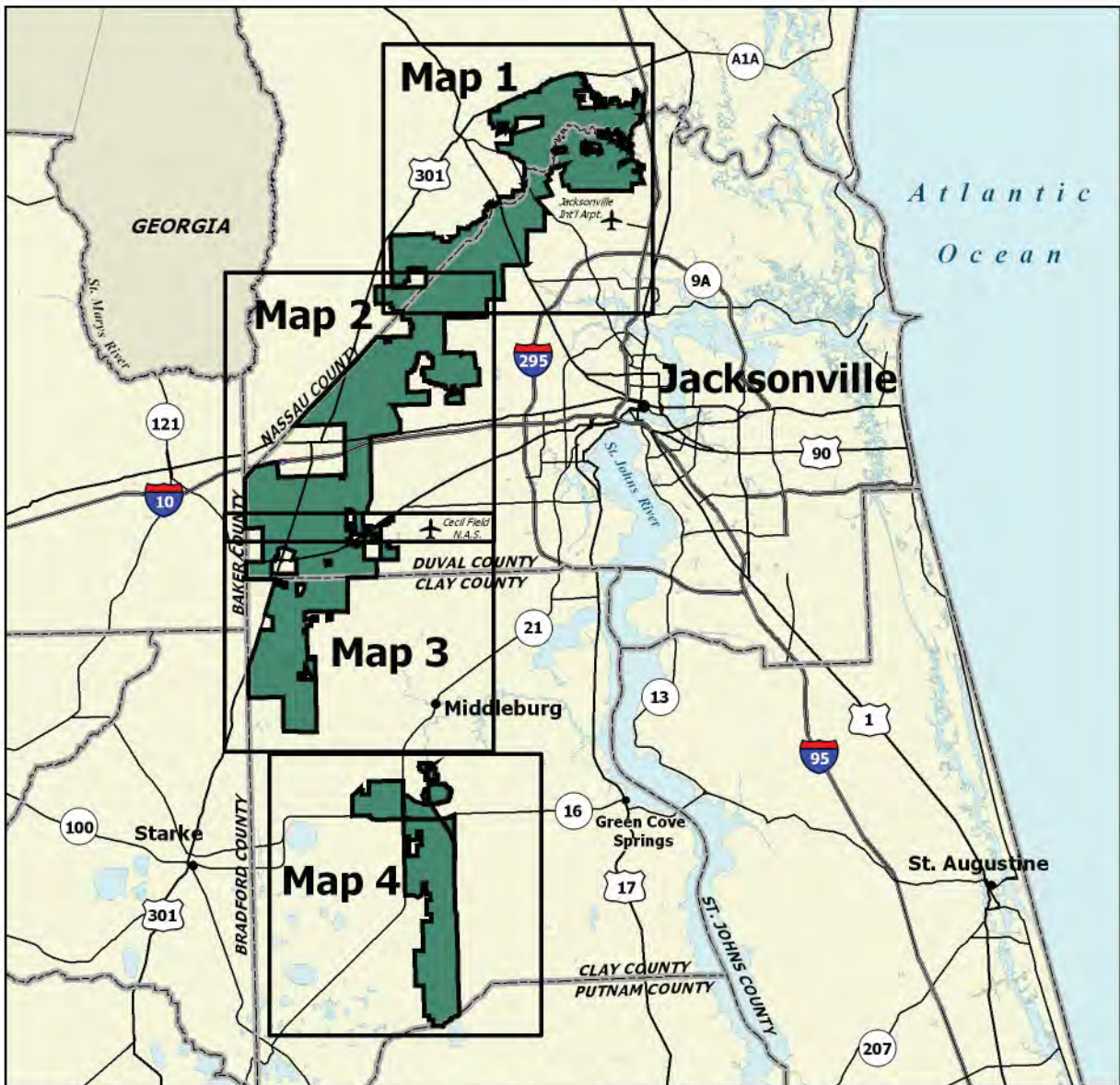
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Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Frosted Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
<i>Hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
<i>Bartram's Ixia</i>	G2/S2S3
<i>Thorne's Beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2
<i>St. John's Black-eyed-susan</i>	G3/S2
<i>Pondspice</i>	G3/S2
<i>Yellow Sunmybell</i>	G4/S2
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?
11 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>146,164</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>60,091*</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$141,069,450*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>86,073</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$30,705,831</b>

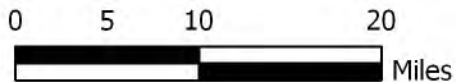
\*Includes acreage and expenditures by the City of Jacksonville, JEA and SJRWMD.

Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



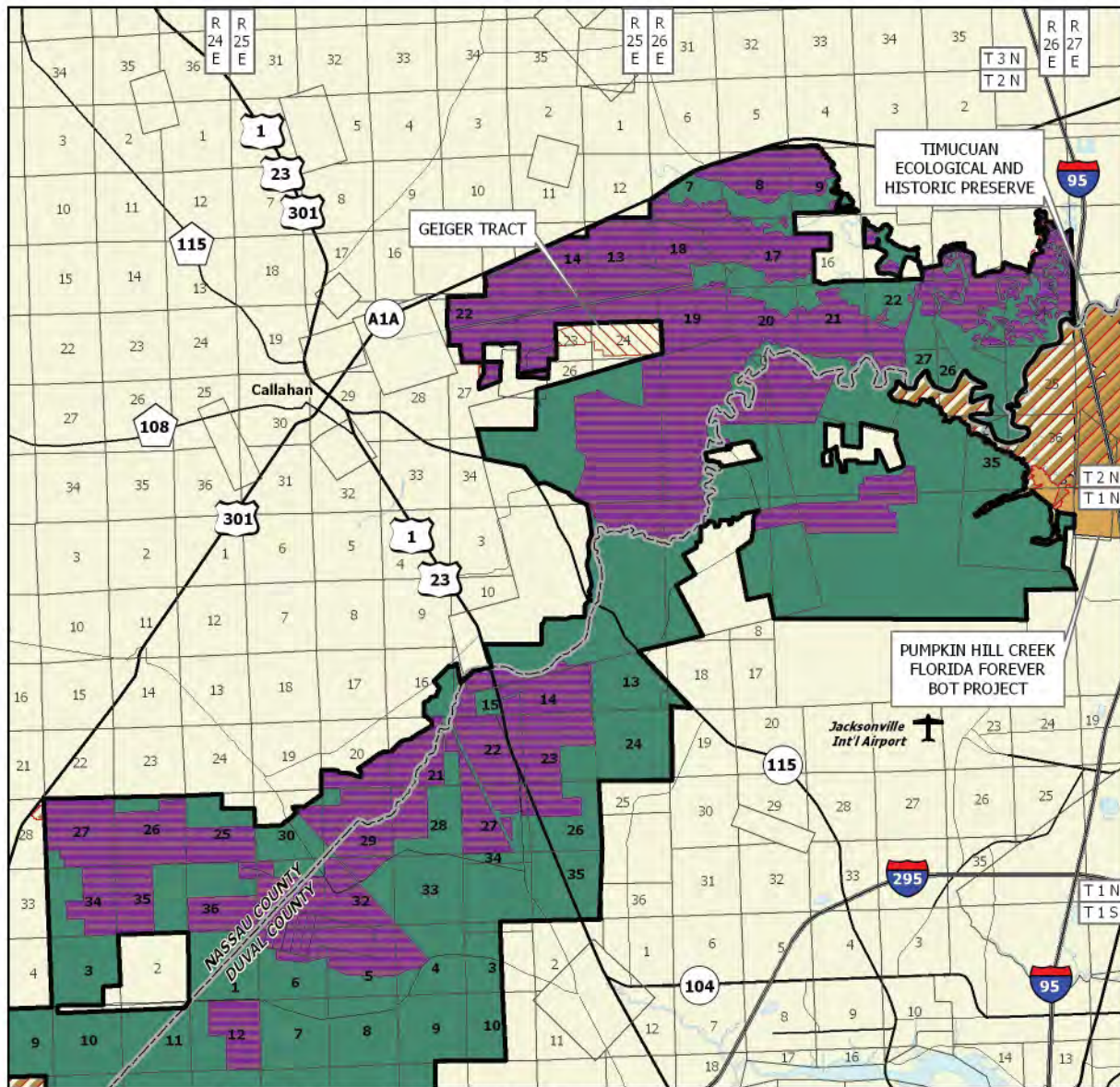
**NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS  
AND WATERSHED RESERVE: OVERVIEW**

***DUVAL, NASSAU, AND CLAY COUNTIES***



JULY 2007

# Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 1 OF 4

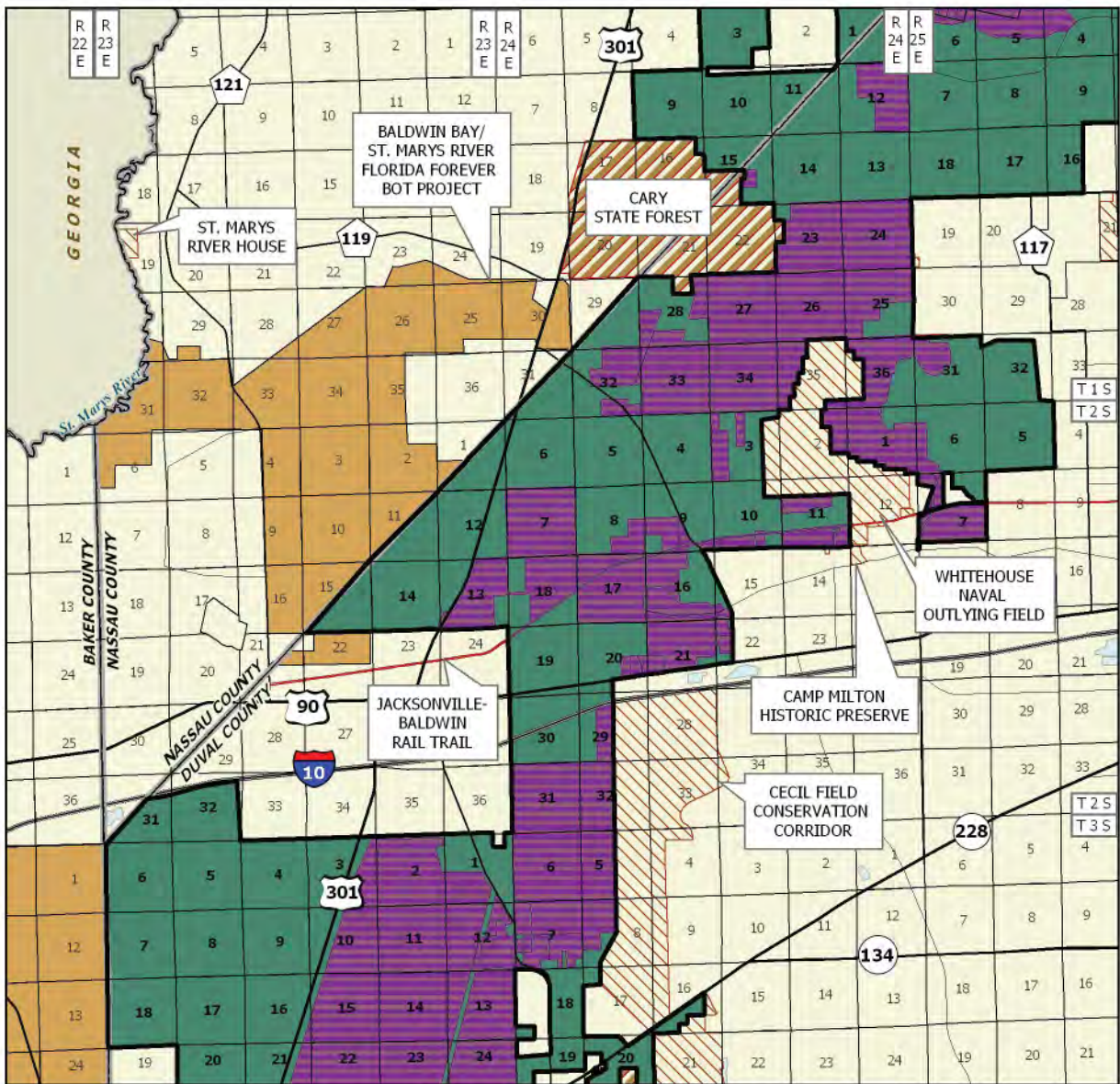
### DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2008

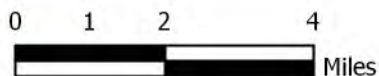
# Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 2 OF 4

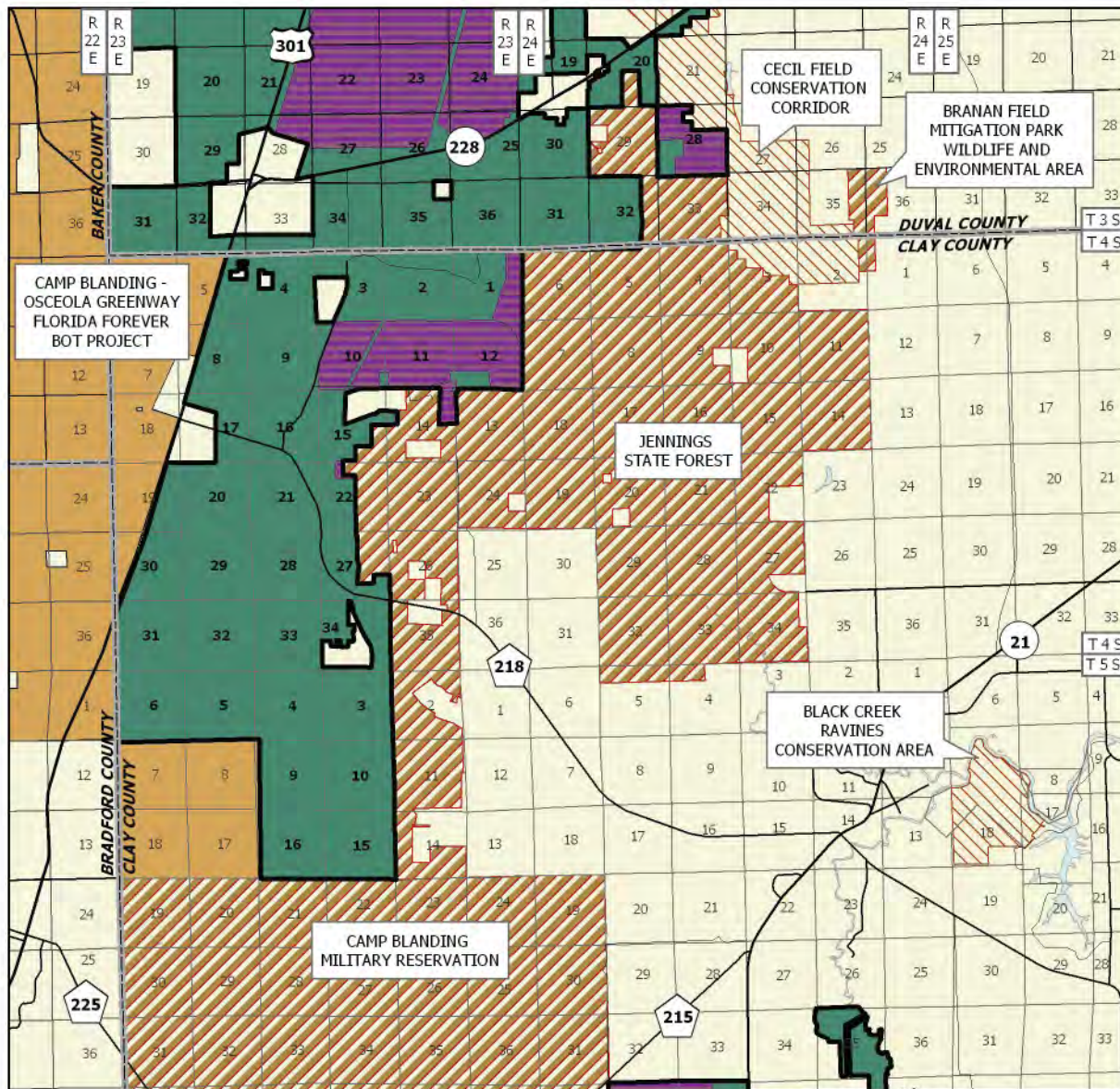
### DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2007

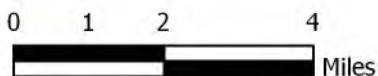
# Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 3 OF 4

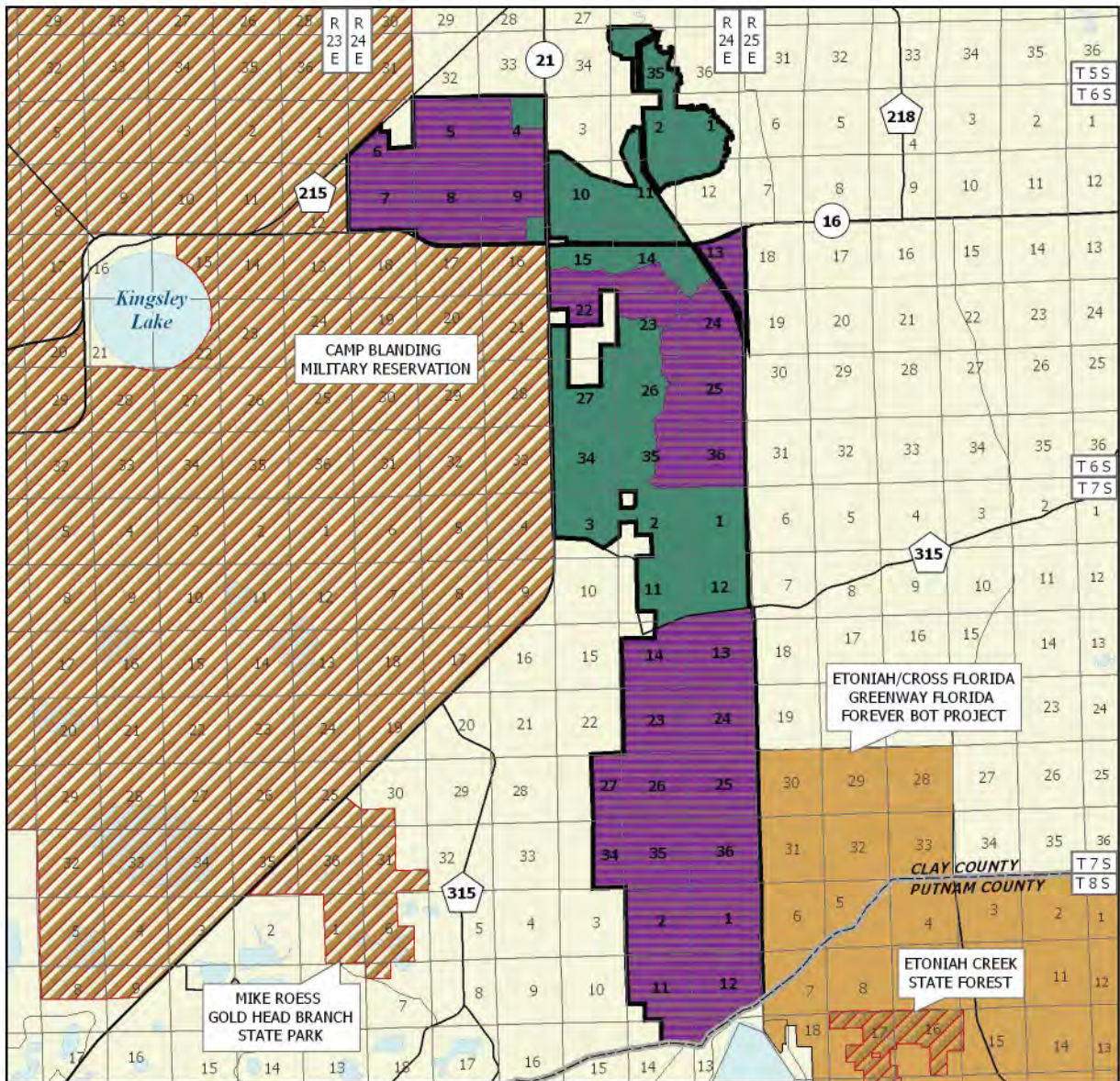
### DUVAL AND CLAY COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2008

# Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 4 OF 4

### CLAY COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands



FEBRUARY 2009

## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

landowners, and a 2001 taxable value of \$50,158,195. The following 37 ownerships were identified as essential: Gilman, Jackson, Carter, Owen, Nemours, Miller, Bostiwick, Klieg, Bullock, 1<sup>st</sup> Bank & Trust, Rayonier, International Paper, Motes, Boyd, South Regional Industrial Realty, East Fiftone Partners, Monticello Drugs, St. Joe, Barnett Bank Trustee, Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Travelers Ins., Foster, Tison, Castleton, Wright, Buck, Logan, Higgenbotham, Betz, Ogilvie, Milne, Kaleel & Roberts, Grey, Sythe, Pharr, Wilkinson, and Helmer.

On June 6, 2003, the ARC approved a 506-acre addition, known as the Norfolk Southern property, to the project boundary in Duval County. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by TNC, consisted of a single owner, Southern Region Industrial Realty Inc., and had a 2002 taxable value of \$408,700.

On December 5, 2003, the ARC approved a 7,043-acre addition, known as the Four Creeks Forest tract, to the project boundary in Nassau County. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, Rayonier Timberlands Operating Co. LP, and a 2002 taxable value of \$1,478,838.

On December 3, 2004, the ARC approved a 3,500-acre addition, known as the Bull Creek tract, to the project boundary in Clay County. The fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, Ventura LLC, and a taxable value of \$760,646.

On June 30, 2006, the Board of Trustees purchased 1,651 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

On February 16, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 2,665-acre addition to the Bull Creek portion of the project boundary. It was sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one landowner, 1621 Venture II LLC, nine parcels, and a taxable value of \$445,189. The Division of Forestry will manage these essential parcels.

In 1992 the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail was acquired with Florida Greenways & Trails funds. This is managed by the City of Jacksonville.

### **Coordination**

The SJRWMD is an acquisition partner in areas of the project to help protect the multiple creeks and rivers. The National Guard Bureau through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is an acquisition partner in areas of the project to help buffer and prevent encroachment

of Camp Blanding.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the DOF management of the Cary State Forest, the Jennings State Forest and the Cecil Field Conservation Corridor, all of which are adjacent to this project. The acquisition goals and objectives as approved by ARC would include timber management and restoration, low-impact diverse recreation uses, and management of archeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for state designation***

The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the Division of Forestry as a state forest is contingent on acquiring fee-simple title to the core parcels adjacent to the existing state forests and to approximately 60 percent of the project.

#### ***Manager***

The Division of Forestry of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is recommended to be the lead managing agency.

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Much of the parcel has been disturbed by past pine plantings and will require restoration work. This area of Florida is experiencing rapid urban growth, so that any prescribed burning to restore the forest will have to be carefully planned. The level of management and the related management costs are expected to initially be high to obtain necessary information to restore and manage portions as a state forest. It is recognized that a portion of the project will be less-than-fee simple. This technique is valuable on the fringes of urban growth because it allows the landowners to manage the property as they have been managing it, and continuing to produce forest products for Florida's economy, while protecting the property from conversion to urban growth.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the core areas of the project are acquired and assigned to the Division of Forestry, initial public access will be provided for diverse, low-intensity



## Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

outdoor recreation activities. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and resource management access, prescribed burns, reforestation, and restoration activity.

### ***Revenue-generating potential***

Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or to maintain the desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in the marketable pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue, depending on a variety of factors. The existing condition of the timber stands on the property is such that the revenue-generating potential is expected to be moderate. Other compatible state forest sources of income will be considered.

### ***Cooperators in management activities***

The Division of Forestry will cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, other state agencies, local government agencies, other interested parties as appropriate, and

with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). The Division intends to coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regarding game and non-game management activity and related public use of the property.

### ***Management costs and sources of revenue***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

### **Management Cost Summary/FWC (including salaries for 4 full-time employees)**

<b>Salary (4 FTEs)</b>	<b>\$154,357</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$620,000</b>
<b>Operating Capital Outlay</b>	<b>\$148,075</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$887,007</b>

# North Nokuse Plantation

Walton County

# Group A Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The acquisition would provide an important ten-mile expansion to the existing connection of between Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) and the Choctawhatchee Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Activities planned by the landowner under a conservation easement, including reintroduction of longleaf pine and related understory species along with a frequent prescribed fire regime, will help create improved wildlife habitat conditions conducive to the protection of numerous imperiled species and wildlife in general. Acquiring a conservation easement on North Nokuse will help to establish another segment of a sustainable and functional ecological corridor in the Florida Panhandle.

### Monitor

The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Services (OES) will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement, unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The 11,961-acre project forms a narrow east-west oriented rectangle, ten miles long by two miles wide, between the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) lands along the Choctawhatchee River on the east and Eglin AFB on the west. The

property's steephead ravines with baygall/floodplain forest and slope forest/upland mixed forest may offer suitable habitat for as many as nine rare plant species, all known to be present in similar ravines in the adjacent Eglin Air Force Base.

The U.S. Forest Service acquired an easement along the southern boundary of the project for the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST). The FNST is a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Public Use

The project is being offered as a less-than-fee acquisition so public access will be minimal. The owner, M.C. Davis, recently sold a small corridor on the south end of the project for the creation of a greenway corridor. That corridor is part of the FNST, and will connect the Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area and the Eglin Air Force base. At the February 2006 meeting, Mr. Davis spoke to the Council of his interest in public education for the community and his outreach efforts for natural resources research. While public access will not be allowed as it would be in a state park, it seems likely that some public access would be offered, as long as it does not impact the restoration efforts.

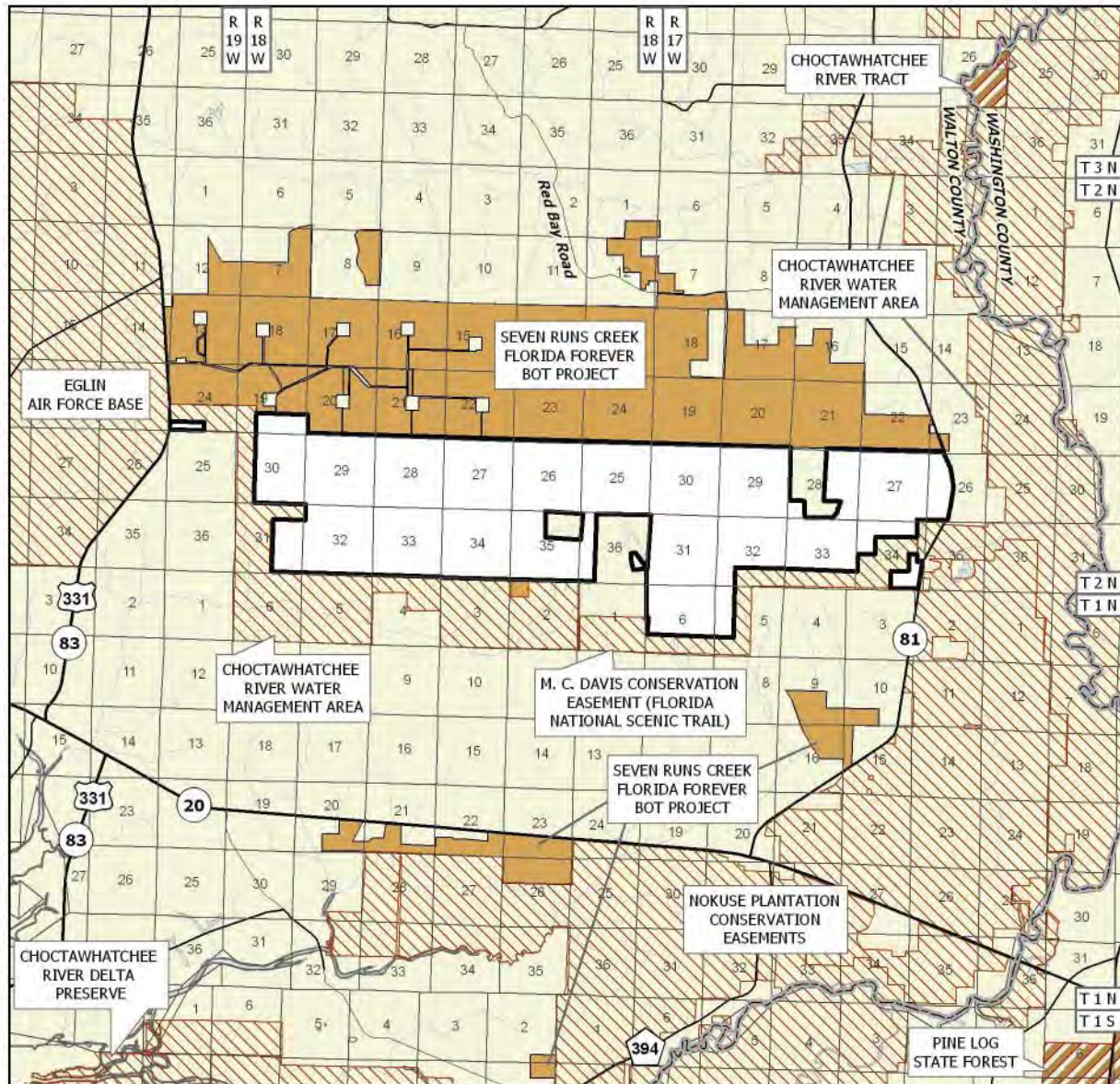
### Acquisition Planning

On June 9, 2006 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the North Nokuse Plantation project to Group A of the August 2006 Florida Forever

North Nokuse Plantation FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
White-top Pitcherplant	G3/S3
Baltzell's Sedge	G3/S3
Pineland Hoary-pea	G3/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
Mountain Laurel	G5/S3
Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Project Area (acres):</b>	<b>11,961</b>
<b>Acres Acquired:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining:</b>	<b>11,961</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of: \$986,101</b>	

# North Nokuse Plantation - Group A/Less-Than-Fee



## NORTH NOKUSE PLANTATION

### WALTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2009

Priority list. This less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of ±11,961 acres, one landowner, M.C. Davis, and a taxable value of \$986,101.

### **Coordination**

The US Air Force, through a Memorandum of Agreement, is an acquisition partner. An acquisition partnership for the trail easement purchase has already been accomplished, reducing the amount of acreage that would be considered for purchase with Florida Forever funds.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. Restoration of the property to historic composition is the overall goal of the landowner which considerably enhances this project's value as a Florida Forever project.

The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of the existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

OES, or its successor, will oversee the conservation easement on this project.

### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

Approximately 70 percent of the proposal was converted to agricultural fields around the turn of the last century. These fields were in use up to the 1970's when they were abandoned. During the last twenty years many of these fields have been replanted with longleaf pines and a fire regime initiated to begin the restoration of the mesic flatwoods and sandhill natural communities.

Mr. Davis has already undertaken an enormous effort to restore the forest ecosystems that once dominated the area. The restoration with longleaf pines and appropriate understory species will be difficult. Mr. Davis is re-introducing growing season fire in the remnant natural communities, and his land management staff should be able to create an on-site seed source for restoring these species into their former habitats. Growing season fires will also be very important in the restoration efforts in the flatwoods and sandhill communities, and will assist with the removal of the old field grasses while releasing the now dormant natural seed bank.

# Ochlockonee River Conservation Area

## Gadsden and Leon Counties

# Group A

## Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Purchase of a less-than-fee-simple interest in the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area would provide an opportunity to protect a portion of the Ochlockonee River watershed, including six miles of river frontage, while maintaining a scenic and undeveloped rural area outside an expanding urban area. A conservation easement would preserve habitat for wildlife and game species, protect forested land, and would provide support for the owner's ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community. A conservation easement could also provide an opportunity to manage the site in coordination with the adjacent Tall Timbers conservation lands.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, will serve as the easement monitor unless otherwise noted. Tall Timbers Research Inc. monitors the River Ridge Conservation easement they acquired through a donation.

### General Description

This project is located in western Leon County on the eastern bank of the Ochlockonee River. It is connected to the Tall Timbers Research Station (contiguous to the east with the Foshalee Plantation conservation easement) by a narrow of land. South of SR 12, the Hiamonee Plantation conservation easement abuts the proposal's eastern boundary.

Lands included within the proposal are important to the water quality of the Ochlockonee River, a state-designated Outstanding Florida Water Body despite degradation (poor water quality) from a number of upstream sources. Water quality of both Lake Talquin (a downstream impoundment) and Lake Iamonia (which occasionally connects to the river during high water) is also directly tied to the river's condition. The proposal includes a portion of the floodplain of this meandering alluvial river, which eventually empties into the commercially important Apalachee Bay. Four tributaries, two of which are partially impounded, run through the project.

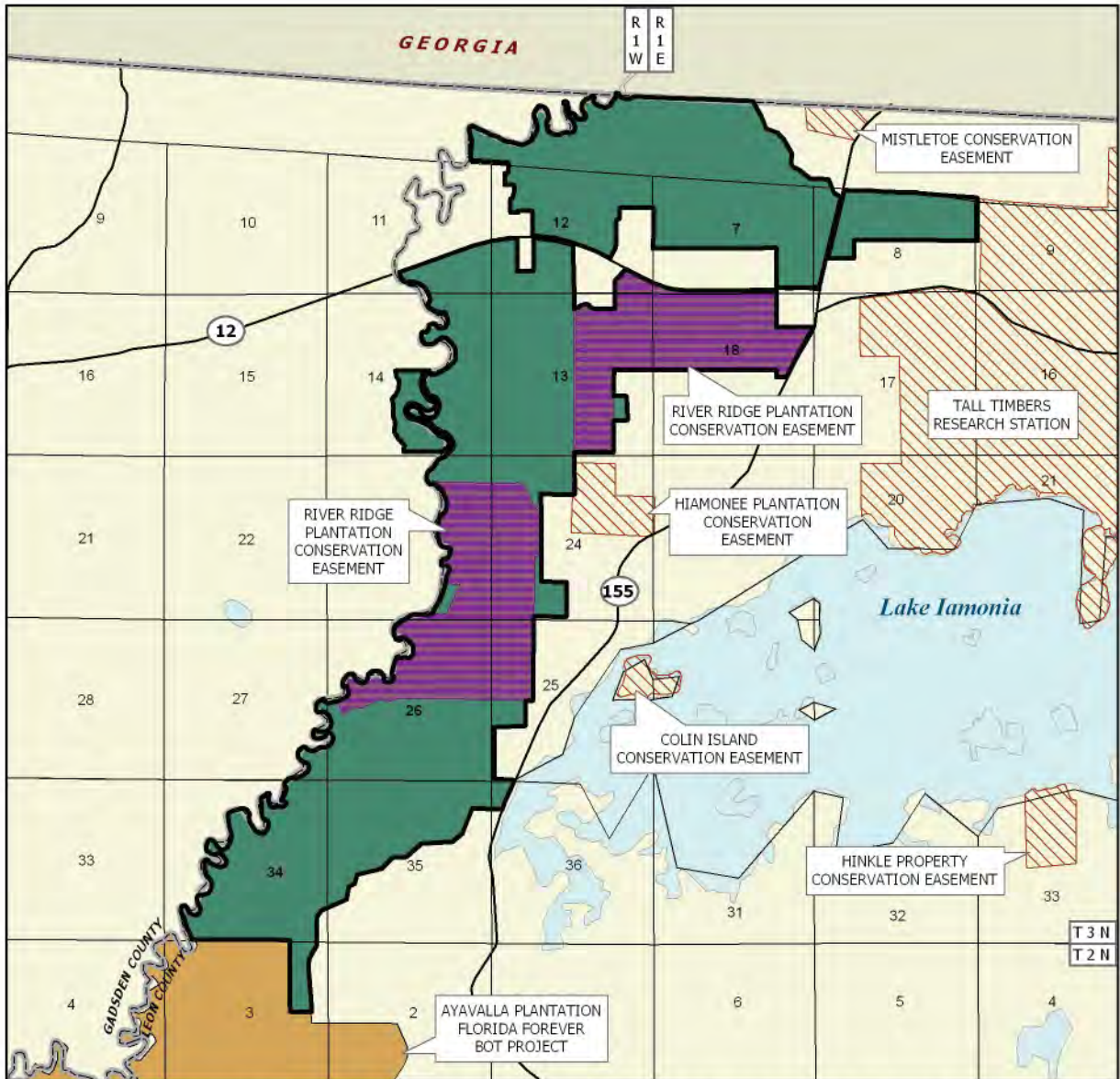
Elevations across the proposal range from about 100 feet above MSL along the river to 230 feet in the northeastern uplands. Most of the site's uplands probably once supported longleaf pine-dominated upland pine forest, with a rich groundcover including wiregrass and other herbs. Most of this has been destroyed or degraded for agriculture, including silviculture; however, some tracts have returned to a shortleaf/loblolly pine-dominated community with a relatively diverse groundcover that includes exotic grasses and weedy vegetation in addition to some original components. Slopes on site generally support hardwood forests, although it is possible that seepage slope communities once may have been present.

Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Flyr's Brickell-bush</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Turk's Cap Lily</i>	G5/S1
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
White-breasted Nuthatch	G5/S2
White Ibis	G5/S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
9 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>4,130</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>1,112*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>3,018</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$926,784</b>

\* includes 497-acre conservation easement privately donated in 2005 to, and monitored by, Tall Timbers Research Inc. Another 615 acres were added to the conservation easement in 2007.

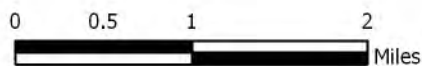
# Ochlockonee River Conservation Area - Group A/Less-Than-Fee



## OCHLOCKONEE RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

### GADSDEN AND LEON COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2008

## Ochlockonee River Conservation Area - Group A/Less-Than-Fee

### **Public Use**

The project is being offered as a less-than-fee purchase without public access. Hence, the project does not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Without public access, there will be no public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project. Due to an indicated lack of general public access for hunting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission advises that there is no public hunting potential for this project.

The project is located within the Meridian Trail High Priority Multi-Use Recreational Trail Network Opportunity Corridor. The project is also partially within the Upper Ochlockonee River Low Priority Paddling Recreational Trail Network Opportunity Corridor.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On January 25, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2005 Priority list. This less-than-fee project, sponsored by the Woodlands Company Inc. of Quincy, consisted of approximately 3,105 acres, two owners, and a 2003 taxable value of \$1,067,948.

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 1,025-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Woodlands Company, consisted of two parcels, one landowner, James Dahl, and a 2005 taxable value of \$200,198. The parcels are located in Gadsden & Leon counties and designated as essential.

### **Coordination**

Tall Timbers Research Inc. acquired a 497-acre conservation easement through a donation in 2005. Another 615 acres was donated in 2007 as part of the River Ridge Plantation Conservation Easement.

### **Management Policy Statement**

As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### **Management Prospectus**

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, is to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

# Okeechobee Battlefield

Okeechobee County

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Okeechobee Battlefield represents the site of one of Florida's most significant events during the Second Seminole War. On Christmas Day in 1837, more than 1,000 U.S. Army and Missouri Volunteer soldiers led by Colonel Zachary Taylor attacked several hundred Seminoles and Miccosukees north of Lake Okeechobee. Sam Jones, Alligator and Wildcat led the Indians, and the battle resulted in the loss of 26 U.S. forces killed and 112 wounded, while 14 Indians lost their lives. The battlefield, recorded in the Florida Master Site File as 8OB10, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the 1960s and later became a National Historic Landmark. The 55-acre project consists of improved pasture and freshwater marsh, and provides the backdrop for a yearly reenactment of the battle. State acquisition of Okeechobee Battlefield would meet Goal F of the Florida Forever program by adding a site listed in the Florida Master Site File. The battlefield site is described by the National Park Service as one of the 11 most endangered historic sites in the United States. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

The Archeological and Historical Conservancy proposes to manage the property in cooperation with Okeechobee County and the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield, a Florida not-for-profit corporation.

### General Description

This ±211-acre project consists of improved pasture and freshwater marsh, and provides the backdrop for a yearly reenactment of the battle. The site is home to bald eagles, and offers potential habitat for the crested caracara and wood stork. The project is situated adjacent

to U.S. Highway 441/98 along the northeastern rim of Lake Okeechobee, approximately five miles southeast of the town of Okeechobee in southern Okeechobee County. There are no adjacent or close by conservation lands in the FNAI database, however South Florida Water Management District lands Paradise Run and Kissimmee River are approximately 8 and 12 miles to the west, respectively. St. Lucie County's Bluefield Ranch and St. Lucie Pinelands are approximately 8.5 miles to the east, and 12 miles to the northeast, respectively.

### Public Use

The project is proposed as the site for an interpretive center/museum and a place to conduct a yearly commemorative re-enactment of the battle. The small size of the project limits the relative diversity and quantity of resource-based recreational opportunities. The site's importance is in its cultural significance as a smaller part of a larger battlefield site. Further study will be needed to determine the degree and nature of facilities suitable for the interpretation of the battle. Conceptually, management and development of the project could be similar to that of Olustee Battlefield State Historic Site with an interpretive facility and an annual enactment, but on a smaller scale. The ability to interpret and enhance enactment capabilities would be enhanced by bringing more of the battlefield site into the project. In addition to cultural interpretation and activities, picnicking would be a suitable secondary usage.

<p><b>Okeechobee Battlefield</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009</p>
<p>no rare species are associated with the project</p>

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$3,217,250</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Estimated (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$89,588</b>






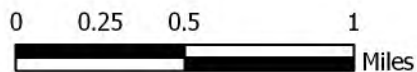
# Okeechobee Battlefield - Group B/Full Fee



## OKEECHOBEE BATTLEFIELD

### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



AUGUST 2006

## Okeechobee Battlefield - Group B/Full Fee

### Acquisition Planning

On December 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restorations Council (ARC) added the Okeechobee Battlefield project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2002 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Archeological and Historical Conservancy (AHC) and the First Bank of Indiantown, consisted of approximately 56 acres, a single owner, First Bank of Indiantown, and a 2001 taxable value of \$113,970.

On December 5, 2003, ARC approved a fee-simple addition of approximately 141 acres to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the AHC, had 3 owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$172,442.

On December 14, 2007 ARC voted to move the Okeechobee Battlefield project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

### Coordination

There are no partnership funding sources at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Okeechobee Battlefield are to preserve a historical site of true state and national significance and the various archeological and environmental features associated with it. A secondary goal is to interpret the battlefield by providing controlled public access and living history events, establishing the battle site as a community educational resource and heritage tourist destination.

### Management Prospectus

#### *Qualifications for state designation*

The historical significance of the Okeechobee Battlefield is reflected by its inclusion on the National

Register of Historic Places, and by its “endangered” status as a National Landmark. Currently no portions of the battlefield are in public ownership.

#### *Manager*

The Archeological and Historical Conservancy proposes to manage the property in cooperation with Okeechobee County and the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield, a Florida not-for-profit corporation.

#### *Conditions affecting intensity of management*

The property is a low-need management area that emphasizes historic resource protection while allowing compatible public access and site interpretation.

#### *Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

Within the first year after acquisition the management will concentrate on protection of cultural and environmental resources, and on developing a long-term management plan.

#### *Cooperators in management activities*

Okeechobee County and the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield will cooperate in management activities, including developing and implementing a long-term plan for the battlefield site. The Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe will be included in all phases of planning for preservation, protection and appropriate improvement of the site for public use and benefit.

#### *Management costs and sources of revenue*

The long-term plan is anticipated to include recurring costs for wetlands restoration and site development to be determined, based on available public and private resources.

### Management Cost Summary:

	Startup	Recurring
Salary manager (half-tme)	\$26,500	\$26,500
Maintenance	\$5,500	\$5,500

# Old Town Creek Watershed

Hardee and Polk Counties

**Group B  
Less-Than-Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Old Town Creek Watershed proposal is proposed as a less-than-fee-acquisition. A primary purpose of less-than-fee acquisitions is to preserve existing, low intensity use of large tracts of private land, where such protection will complement management objectives on adjacent public conservation land. Management objectives would be directed to conserve the mosaic of natural habitats and improved/working landscapes that constitute the Old Town Watershed, and protect significant habitat for native species or rare species, and integrate carefully controlled consumptive uses.

### Manager (Monitor)

The conservation easement will be monitored by the Nature Conservancy.

### General Description

The northeastern corner of the site includes part of the Lake Wales Ridge, a physiographic region of the state that is rich in rare plant and animal species. The site supports many natural communities characteristic of south-central Florida. Although a large percentage of the former flatwoods have been converted to improved pasture, they nevertheless remain important for several rare animals in the region.

### Public Use

Most of the project is proposed as a less than fee acquisition. The property is a working ranch and the owner has indicated that unsupervised public access would not be desirable, but occasional visitation on a

prearranged basis may be possible for natural resource education and nature appreciation purposes.

The owner has indicated a willingness to consider a fee sale of the scrub in the north part of the project. This area is adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's Saddle Blanket Lake Preserve, which allows public visitation. If this scrub area were managed as an extension of that preserve, nature appreciation, natural resource education and nature trails could be made more readily available.

### Acquisition Planning

The essential parcel is Crews. The SWFWMD is an acquisition partner.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project on the new Florida Forever list.

The Division of State Lands is not actively working this project.

### Coordination

This project has been submitted to SWFWMD for a Save Our Rivers proposal.

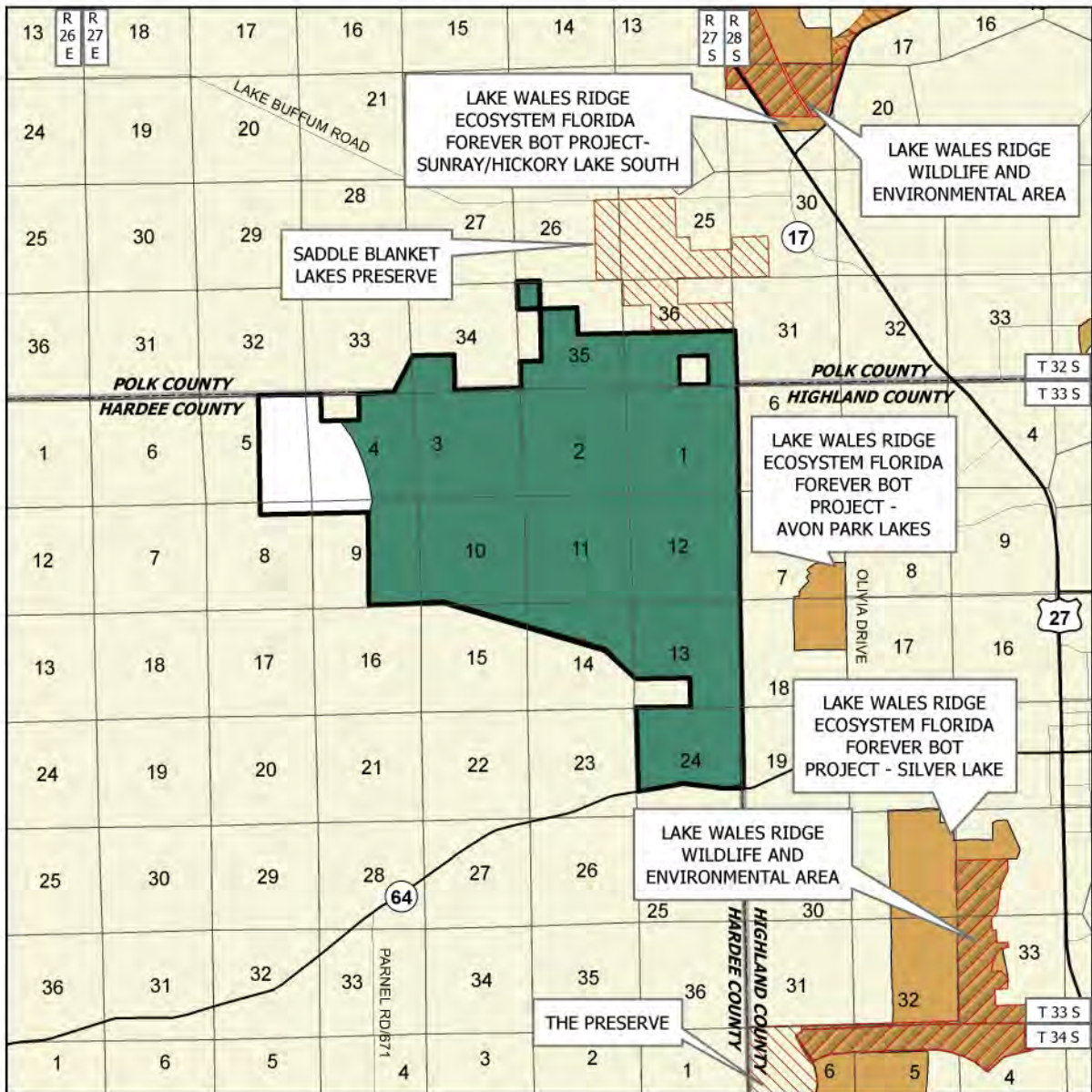
### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation:** Protecting this area will benefit the public in at least three major ways - 1) This project consists of a matrix of wetland and upland habitats, including a globally imperiled natural community, that supports a variety of common and rare plant and animal species and is of a size to qualify as a wildlife management area; 2) Protecting the watershed and natural habitats surrounding Old Town Creek,

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>7,285</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>7,285</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$788,200</b>

Old Town Creek Watershed FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Cutthroat Grass	G3/S3
Pygmy Fringe Tree	G3/S3
Florida Scrub Lizard	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Southeastern American Kestrel	G5T4/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

# Old Town Creek Watershed - Group B/Less-Than-Fee



## OLD TOWN CREEK WATERSHED

### HARDEE AND POLK COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2005

## Old Town Creek Watershed - Group B/Less-Than-Fee

which feeds into Charlie Creek and ultimately into the Peace River, from continued conversion to more intensive uses, particularly dairies or residential development, will help protect the water quality within the region; 3) The ranches in this region contain large areas of natural lands that should be protected if an ecological connection between the Big Cypress and the Osceola National Forest/Okefenokee Swamp is to be achieved.

**Manager (Monitor):** The Nature Conservancy, Southwest Florida Water Management District or Florida Park Service (Highlands Hammock State Park)

**Conditions affecting intensity of management:**

This less-than-fee project includes lands requiring monitoring only. The Crews Ranch is a working cattle ranch that is and will continue to be managed by the private land owner. The Nature Conservancy and other land managing agencies will provide management advice and guidance to the landowner as necessary to maintain and enhance the resource management program.

**Timetable for implementing management, protecting infrastructure and ensuring security:**

During the first year after acquisition, management activities will focus on securing and posting the property and developing a management plan. Existing management activities will continue throughout the management planning process. The property owner

will develop a management plan which will include fire management, exotic control and restoration components. Prior to the development of the management plan, the tract's natural resources and threatened/endangered plants and animals and any archaeological and cultural sites will be inventoried and mapped (Easement Documentation Report) to provide the basis for the management plan. Protection and security of infrastructure and the property will be the responsibility of the private landowner.

**Revenue-generating potential:** It is not anticipated or expected that any revenue will be generated from this easement.

**Cooperators in management activities:** No cooperators are recommended for this site. However, consultation with the Southwest Florida Water Management, The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission could be helpful to the landowner.

**Expected costs to monitor easement:** Approximately \$1000 per year.

# Osceola Pine Savannas

Osceola County

## Group A Less-Than-Fee / Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

A wide range of wildlife uses the open rangelands of pastures, pine flatwoods, and palmetto prairies in Osceola County. The Osceola Pine Savannas project will conserve a large part of these lands, maintaining a link of natural lands between the Bull Creek and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Areas. Preserving these lands will help ensure the survival of wildlife including swallow-tailed kite and the caracara. Together with the two wildlife management areas, this project provides a large area for the public to enjoy hunting, wildlife observation, and other activities.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage the Osceola Pine Savannas. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor any conservation easements unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The project covers an area of old beach ridges and intervening swales, with high-quality, longleaf-pine flatwoods interrupted by cypress strands, cypress domes, and wet prairies. There are also extensive dry prairies and patches of oak or sand pine scrub, all of which are natural communities of the Kissimmee Prairie. It

is an important habitat to wildlife, especially birds, requiring extensive natural areas. Six Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) listed animals occur, including sandhill crane, wood storks, and crested caracara, and several more, including the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow, are possible. Much of the land is used as unimproved range; seriously disturbed areas are mainly improved pastures in the south end. Two archaeological sites are known. Any construction of roads or ditches will destroy the unique character of the project, but development pressure is low. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Public Use

The project will be designated as a wildlife management area, with such uses as hiking, wildlife observation and hunting.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Osceola Pine Savannas project to the CARL 1995 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by FNAI, consisted of approximately 42,491 acres, multiple owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$32,430,057.

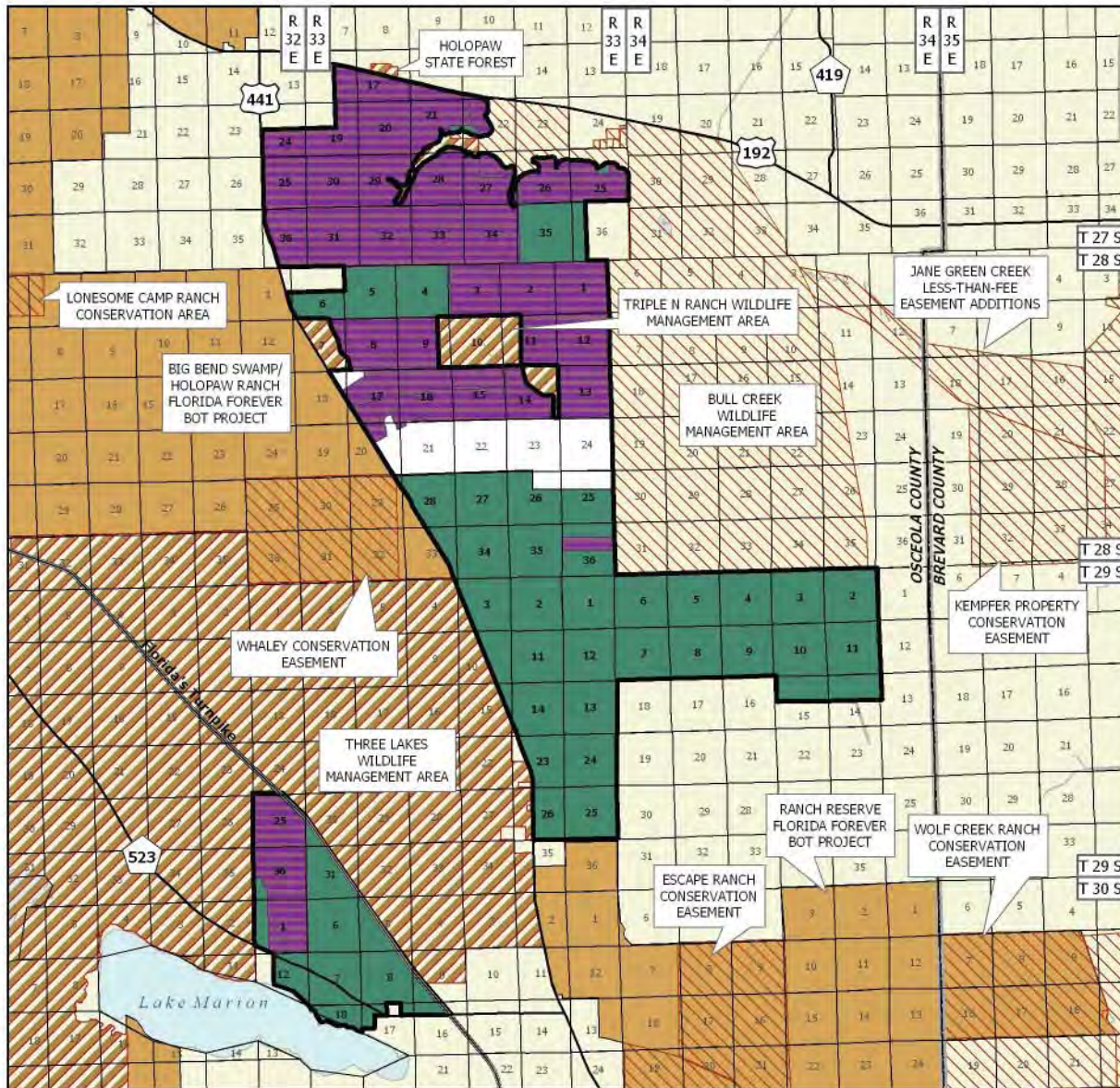
Essential tracts were determined to be those owned by Robertson, McNamara, Equitable Life (acquired), Donovan, Montsococa, Redding, Keen, Kennedy, Henderson, Campos, and the Mormon Church. The Canaveral Acres subdivision was designated essential

Osceola Pine Savannas FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Loammi Skipper	G1/S1
Celestial Lily	G2/S2
Many-flowered Grass-pink	G2G3/S2S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Short-tailed Hawk	G4G5/S1
Wood Stork	G4/S2
15 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>46,650</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>20,284*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$46,260,334*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>25,826</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$18,151,546</b>

\*includes acreage and expenditures by BOT, FWC, and SJRWMD.

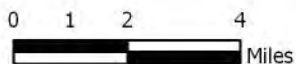
# Osceola Pine Savannas - Group A/Less-Than-Fee / Full Fee



## OSCEOLA PINE SAVANNAS

### OSCEOLA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2008

## Osceola Pine Savannas - Group A/Less-Than-Fee / Full Fee

Canaveral Acres subdivision was designated essential when Dr. Broussard consolidates a significant number of parcels.

On October 15, 1998, LAAC designated two additional parcels as essential: a 229-acre tract adjacent to the Equitable Life ownership and a 17-acre tract between two other large tracts.

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2002 Priority list and approved a 2,279-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Dr. William Broussard, consisted of two owners, and had a 2001 taxable value of \$695,238. The Broussard property consisted of 1,282 acres, will be acquired as a conservation easement, and monitored by OES. The Vanosdol property consisted of 997 acres to be purchased as fee-simple. The FWC acquired 904 acres of this property in 2006.

On August 11, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple & less-than-fee, 5,529-acre addition (aka Lucky L Ranch) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC & FWC, consisted of 5 ownerships, 25 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$1,504,685. The parcels have been designated as essential.

In October 2007, the BOT acquired 1,430 acres from William Broussard that is to be managed as a conservation easement.

In June 2008, 1,649.8 acres were purchased in FWCs Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (Lucky L Ranch-11 Limited Partnership ownership) for \$11,651,000 from FWC's Florida Forever funds, with the FWC to manage the property.

### Coordination

St. Johns River Water Management District and the FWC have acquired over 19,007 acres (Triple N Ranch WMA) in the northern one-third of the project area. The FWC has also acquired 1,920 acres adjacent to the southern boundary and has completed a 1,921-acre acquisition centrally located within the project boundary. They have also acquired a large "essential" tract in the central portion of the project (Equitable Life).

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Osceola

Pine Savannas project is to preserve and restore the integrity of the extensive functional ecosystems, ranging from pine flatwoods, dry prairie, and scrub to marshes and cypress swamps, that now extend from the Bull Creek to the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Areas. Achieving this objective will protect habitat for several endangered species of wildlife that need large natural areas to survive, such as Florida grasshopper sparrows, Florida sandhill cranes, Audubon's crested caracaras, and American swallow-tailed kites. It will also provide to the public over 100,000 acres in which to enjoy natural-resource-based recreation, such as hiking and hunting.

The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward preservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as hunting and logging.

Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn the fire-dependent pine flatwoods in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; reforest pine plantations and improved pastures with original species; prohibit timbering in old-growth stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving resources. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. This





## Osceola Pine Savannas - Group A/Less-Than-Fee / Full Fee

project includes most of the undeveloped land between Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and consequently has the size and location to meet its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Osceola Pine Savannas project has the resource diversity to qualify as a Wildlife Management Area.

**Manager** The FWC is recommended as lead manager. OES will manage any conservation easements.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project generally includes lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, activities will concentrate on site security, public access, fire management, resource inventory, and the removal of any existing trash. A conceptual management plan will be developed that describes the goals of future resource management on the site. Long-range plans for this property, beginning one year after acquisition, will stress the protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will

also be implemented. A burn management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will also strive to manage natural plant communities for the benefit of native wildlife. Where appropriate and practical, forest resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Forestry (DOF). A resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection, or management. Unnecessary roads, firelines and ditches will be abandoned or restored. Infrastructure will be kept to the minimum necessary for public access and management.

**Revenue-generating potential** While the pinelands have significant economic value, their value to the area's wildlife may be even greater. A \$25 management area stamp would be required to hunt on the area. A management area stamp could also required for all users. Additional revenue would be generated by sales of hunting licenses and special hunting stamps (i.e., archery stamp, turkey stamp, etc.).

**Cooperators in management activities** The St. Johns River Water Management District and the DOF are recommended as cooperating managers.

<b>Management Cost Summary/FWC</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$74,645	\$114,485	\$223,565
OPS	\$0	\$30,500	\$30,500
Expense	\$55,473	\$131,525	\$131,525
OCO	\$0	\$308,148	\$135,648
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$130,118</b>	<b>\$584,658</b>	<b>\$521,238</b>

# Pal-Mar

Palm Beach and Martin Counties

## Group B Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Agriculture and residential development have reduced natural areas in the interior of southeast Florida to fragments. One of the largest and best fragments, part of what was once a transition zone between pine flatwoods and the sawgrass marshes of the Everglades, will be protected by the Pal-Mar project. This project, by protecting these flatwoods and marshes, will protect habitat for the rare species listed below, will preserve natural lands linking the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area with Jonathan Dickinson State Park, and will provide land to the public of this fast-growing region for hiking, bicycling, camping, hunting, and learning about the original nature of this part of Florida.

### Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (west of I-95) and Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (east of I-95).

### General Description

The project includes some of the highest quality, most intact pine flatwoods in southern Florida in an ecotone between pine flatwoods and the treeless Everglades and also includes high-quality examples of wet prairie and savanna with exceptional ground-cover diversity. The project provides habitat for at least five federally endangered or threatened animals including the snail kite and wood stork. It is contiguous with the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area and the private Pratt-Whitney Wildlife Refuge—and includes a mile-wide connector

to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The project has low archaeological or historic value. Urbanization is rapidly isolating the State Park and growth pressures on the uplands in this project are intense.

### Public Use

Most of this project has been designated for use as a wildlife management area. The easternmost portion of the project area will be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Public uses will include hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I of this project consists of approximately five larger ownerships, including tracts adjacent to J.W. Corbett WMA, FDIC (acquired by South Florida Water Management District and Martin County), MacArthur (acquired), Pal-Mar Water Control District (acquired), Lara and Florida National Bank.

Phase II consists of subdivided areas and a corridor to Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

On October 21, 1999, the Council added 1,280 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

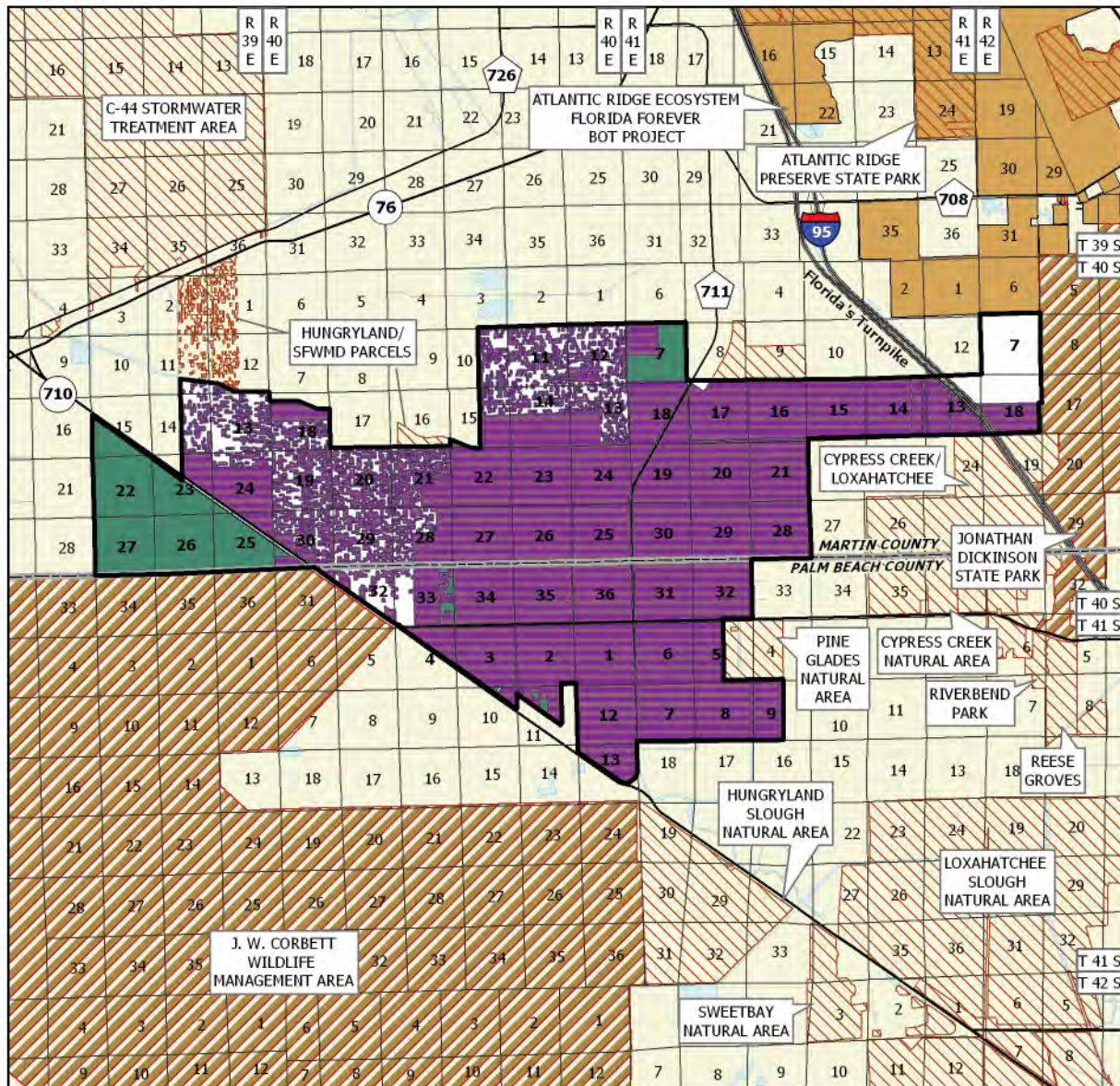
There is very little property remaining to acquire in the Palm Beach County side of the project. Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District are working to acquire the property on the Martin County side of the project.

In July 2007 the SFWMD acquired a 427-acre parcel from Indiantown Realty Partners LP. The parcel is part of the Hungryland/SFWMD Parcels.

Pal-Mar FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Snail Kite	G4G5T3Q/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Piedmont Jointgrass</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Glossy Ibis	G5/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
7 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>35,668</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>19,543*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$16,044,487</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>16,125</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$27,570,411</b>
*includes acreage and expenditures by the SFWMD.	

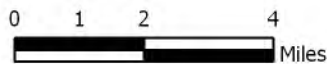
# Pal-Mar -Group B/Full Fee



## PAL-MAR

### PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2009

In July 2007 the SFWMD acquired a 427-acre parcel from Indiantown Realty Partners LP. The parcel is part of the Hungryland/SFWMD Parcels.

**Coordination**

South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach and Martin Counties are acquisition partners in this project.

Most of the larger ownerships have been acquired. Palm Beach County is to begin acquiring smaller parcels.

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Pal-Mar CARL project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

**Management Prospectus**

*Qualifications for state designation* Preventing isolation of natural lands is important in enabling genetic interchange among plant and animal populations. This project is a large natural area connecting the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area on the west with Jonathan Dickinson State Park on the east. The size, quality of wildlife resources and location next to the Corbett WMA of the western part qualify it as a wildlife management area. The part of the project east of Interstate 95 is adjacent to Jonathan Dickinson and is a logical addition to that park.

*Manager* The FWC is recommended as Manager for the area west of I-95. The DRP is recommended as Manager for the area east of I-95.

*Conditions affecting intensity of management* For the project area west of I-95, there are no known conditions that would result in the need for intensive management. The land could be managed as a normal component of the WMA system. The portion of the project east of I-95 will be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park, which is a high-need management area.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Initial management of the area west of I-95 would involve posting and otherwise securing the tract against trespassing and vandalism, preparing roads and other infrastructure for public recreation, performing resource inventories and initiating the planning process. These activities could be carried out totally, or in part, during the first year. Subsequent resource and recreation management could proceed immediately in the second year, particularly since Pal-Mar would represent an addition to an existing WMA (J.W. Corbett). In the first year after acquisition of the eastern part, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

*Revenue-generating potential* Revenue potential for the western part would be moderate to low since it does not contain significant upland (timber) resources. However, some revenue could be generated from recreational use (over and above licenses and permits sold by FWC), if the Legislature could approve user fees for non-consumptive activities. The eastern part is to be added to a larger developed park. No significant revenue is expected to be generated by the parcel on its own.

*Cooperators in management* No local governments or others are recommended for cooperating in management of this project area.

**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$3,640	\$3,640
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$58,212	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$61,852	\$4,640

**Management Cost Summary/FWC**

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$45,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Expense	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$110,000

# Panther Glades

## Hendry County

# Group A

## Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Panther Glades project is important to many wildlife species, particularly the Florida panther and the Florida black bear that require extensive areas of habitat to maintain viable populations. This project forms a connection between Devils’ Garden, Half Circle L Ranch, and Save Our Everglades Florida Forever projects with the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and the Big Cypress National Preserve. This large landscape and watershed in south-central Hendry County would provide important habitat for many species including the Eastern indigo snake, bald eagle, and Florida sandhill crane.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as the manager. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry is recommended as a cooperating agency.

### General Description

Located in south-central Hendry County approximately 25 miles southeast of Clewiston and 46 miles northeast of Naples, the project is a mosaic of forested uplands interspersed among forested wetland communities. Ranging approximately 19 miles north to south and nine miles east to west. The far west southern boundary shares one mile with a part of Save Our Everglades project site and the eastern third of the south boundary

borders the Big Cypress National Preserve.

### Public Use

The Panther Glades proposal encompasses a wide range of natural resources. A majority of owners wish to sell conservation easements, but a few wish to sell fee title. Less-than-fee acquisition areas may have no, or at best very limited, public recreation depending on whether public access is allowed. However, fee acquisition areas have the potential for varied natural resource recreation .

For fee areas, environmental education and potentially ecosystem tourism tied in with nearby public lands may be accommodated. Ecosystem tourism may be appealing to landowners willing to consider conservation easements. Cabins may be appropriate in both cases, particularly if overnight accommodations are to be a part of environmental and ecosystem tourism programs. Further study will need to be accomplished to determine the desirability of cultural resource interpretation.

### Acquisition Planning

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Panther Glades project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple & less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 21,223 acres, multiple owners, and a 2000 taxable value of \$3,947,680. The essential parcels were identified as McDaniel, Jolly, Giddens, Roberts, and the O R Ranch ownerships in the central and eastern portion of the proposal.

On July 12, 2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple,

Panther Glades	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Hand Fern</i>	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3
Great Egret	G5/S4
Least Bittern	G5/S4
11 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>64,701</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>22,289</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$40,564,708</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>42,412</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$38,188,781</b>

## Panther Glades - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

20,895-acre addition (aka Dinner Island) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of one owner, Hilliard Bros. of Florida LTD, and a 2000 taxable value of \$5,364,370.

On December 5, 2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,860-acre addition (aka Barfield Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, James Barfield, and a 2002 taxable value of \$3,098,640.

On April 18, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,615-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by the ARC Vice Chair Jack Moller, it consisted of one owner, STOF Holding LTD, and a 2003 taxable value of \$1,550,990. The addition was a transfer of acreage from the Save Our Everglades FF project into this project.

On June 6, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,711-acre addition (aka Crows Nest Tract) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Robert J. Underbrink, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$8,630,020.

On December 14, 2007 ARC voted to move the Panther Glades project to Group B list of the Florida Forever priority list.

On December 12, 2008 ARC voted to extend the boundary of Panther Glades by adding a less-than-fee 4,208-acre parcel (the McDaniels Ranch Reserve) with a tax value of \$20,456,810. This proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.

On June 12, 2009 ARC voted to add 4,694 acres, with a tax value of \$12,300,000, consisting of the Kissimmee Billy Strand and the Green Glades/Bergeron property to this project. This proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential.

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partners for the project at this time. Efforts will be made to coordinate state and local governmental agencies including DOF, DEP, and SFWMD in management of the property.

### Management Policy

The principal purposes of the project are to protect significant natural habitat important to the Florida panther, Big Cypress black bear, Florida black bear, swallow-tailed kite, wading birds (including wood

stork, white ibis, little blue heron, tricolored heron, snowy egret, and great egret) and numerous other rare species, as well as to preserve the hydrological connection with protected lands to the south.

### Management Prospectus

**Management Goals** Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Management programs will be designed to conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, forests, and water resources. The tract will also be managed to provide opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education, and other natural resource-based recreational activities. Since the principal purposes of the project are to protect habitat for the Florida panther and other species of concern, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species and to public use that is carefully controlled.

### Manager

FWC is recommended as the manager. DOF is recommended as a cooperating agency.

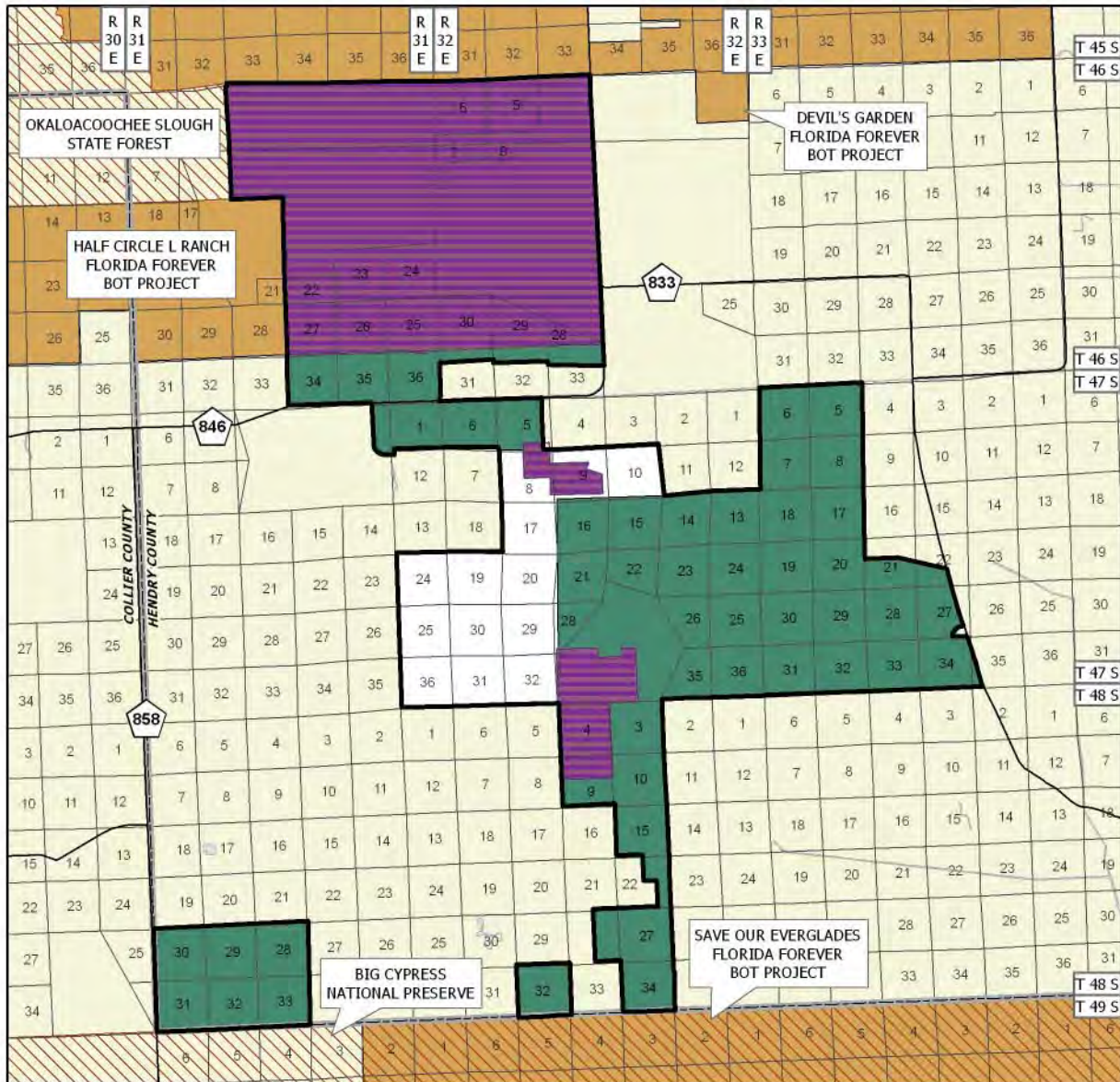
**Qualification for State Design** The Panther Glades project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife and environmental area.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity Of Management** Some portions of the project include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. A significant portion of the uplands have been developed for agriculture or other purposes; therefore, restoration activities are contemplated for some of the acreage. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities would involve the introduction of prescribed fire and control of human access. Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many taxa of rare or listed species. Development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration activities would focus around reforestation of pasturelands and hydrological restoration following a full assessment of the necessity for such activities. Invasive non-indigenous species can likely be controlled if control activities are implemented hastily.

### Timetable For Implementing Management Provisions

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, exotic

# Panther Glades - Group A/ Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## PANTHER GLADES

### HENDRY COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Acquired
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2009

## Panther Glades - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

species control, and removal of refuse. A management plan will be developed by the FWC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management. The management plan will also establish future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies and other stakeholders.

Longer-range plans will stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of threatened and endangered species. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to the FWC objective-based vegetation management process. Additionally, the Wildlife Conservation Prioritization and Recovery program of FWC would provide assessment, recovery, and planning support for project and to enhance management of focal species and recovery of listed species.

An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented.

Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the property. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR).

### *Estimate Of Revenue-Generating Potential*

The revenue generating potential is not known and will depend upon future uses to be approved in the management plan. Since very little of the project is currently appropriate for forest products production, future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of the restored pasturelands and other disturbed areas. If managers' assessments indicate it would be appropriate, some revenues might be generated from grazing leases in flatwoods or pastured areas not restored in the interest of habitat diversity or due to lack of funding. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits and user fees. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Long-term value of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant. The Legislature appropriates funds for land management.

### *Recommendations As To Other Governmental*

**Agency Involvement** FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including DOF, DEP, and South Florida Water Management District in management of the property.



# Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie

Escambia County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The pine flatwoods and swamps west of Pensacola are interrupted by wet grassy prairies dotted with carnivorous pitcher plants that are some of the last remnants of a landscape unique to the northern Gulf Coast. The Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project will conserve these prairies and the undeveloped land around them, helping to protect the water quality of Perdido Bay and Big Lagoon, and giving the public a wealth of opportunities to learn about and enjoy this natural land.

Acquisition of this project is essential to the US Navy's base-buffering initiative.

### Manager

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

### General Description

The project covers a large undeveloped area of undulating topography where low ridges, remnants of ancient dune lines, alternate with slightly lower intervening swales that drain east or west, parallel to the Gulf coast; and includes 2.5 miles of frontage on Perdido Bay. The Wet Prairies in this area are some of the last examples of perhaps the most diverse plant community in the southeast. They support one of the largest stands of white-topped pitcher plants in Florida along with almost 100 other plant species.

The prairies still have intact ecotones to basin swamp, scrub, sandhill, and mesic flatwood communities. The

large expanses of flatwoods and Basin Swamps in the proposal provide habitat for many species of animals. No archaeological sites are known from the project. The uplands on the site are moderately vulnerable to development, particularly in the Tarkiln Bayou area.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a state park, providing opportunities for swimming, fishing, boating, camping, hiking and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), consisted of approximately 5,515 acres, multiple owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$3,210,940.

On October 15, 1998, LAAC redefined the essential parcels to include all areas except those indicated on map.

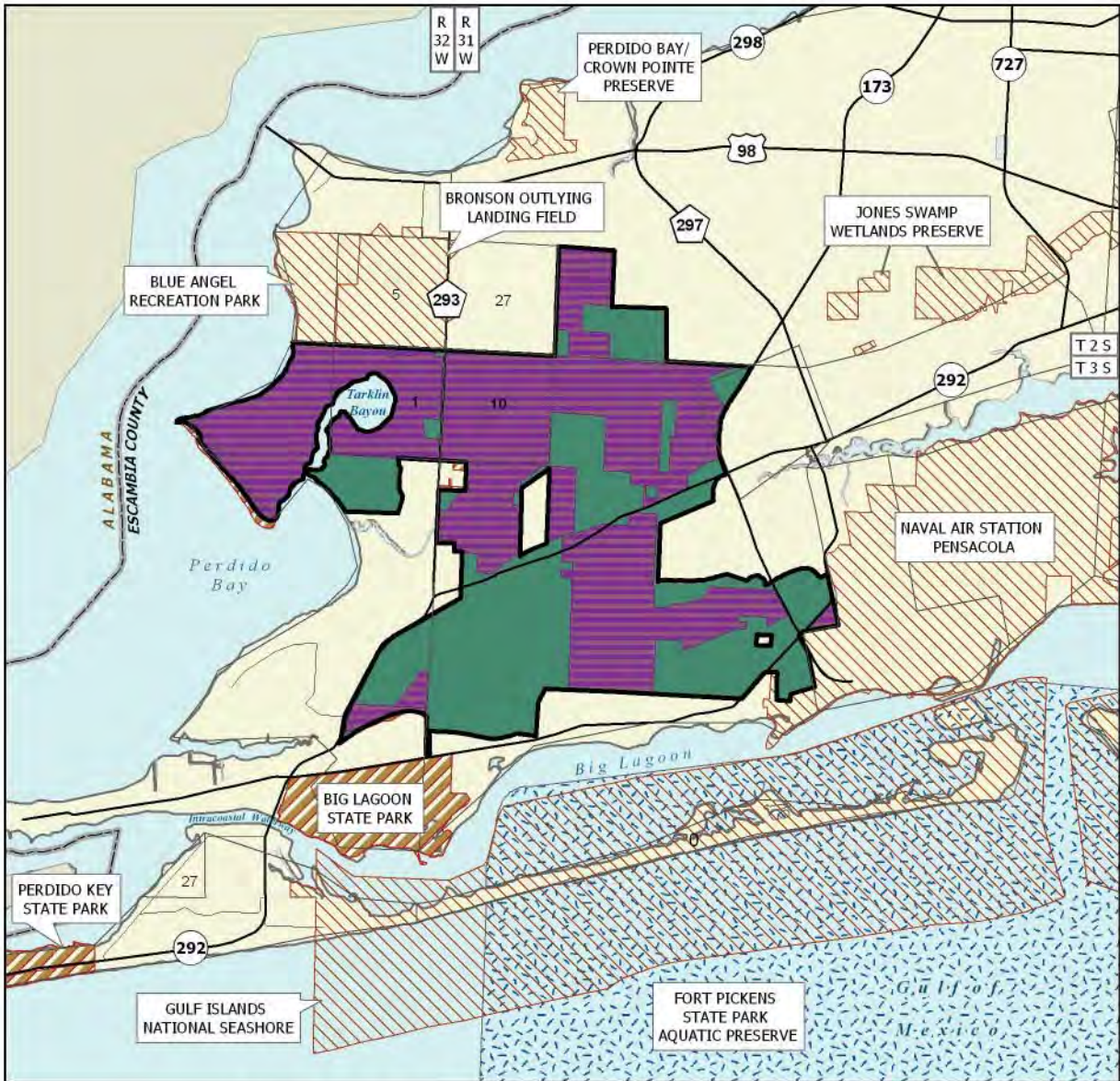
On December 3, 1998, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 385-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Friends of the Prairie group, consisted of 23 owners, and a 1997 taxable value of \$380,371.

Acquisition work is proceeding on the important resource areas and in areas needed for connectivity and optimum management. Two large ownerships within the project boundary remain, along with several

Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
<i>Sweet Pitcherplant</i>	G4/S3
<i>Large-leaved Jointweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Spoon-leaved Sundew</i>	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>7,661</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>4,280</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$27,299,939</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>3,381</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$14,334,865</b>

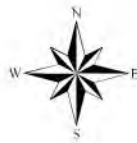
# Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie - Group A/Full Fee



## PERDIDO PITCHER PLANT PRAIRIE

### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



APRIL 2009

## Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie - Group A/Full Fee

smaller parcels. Significant pitcher plant prairies in sections 11,12,20 and 21 and the area surrounding Tarkiln Bayou and Garcon Swamp are important first priorities.

### Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is an intermediary, working on the state's behalf, in this project.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect. Secondary goals are: to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The project has the size and resource diversity to provide for uses and natural-resource-based recreational activities that are compatible with the protection of rare and sensitive

resources under the state park system.

**Manager** DRP is the recommended manager. Lands acquired within the project boundary are being managed as Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park.

### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

The Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie Project is a high-need management area requiring intensive resource management and protection. Depending on the nature and extent of public use determined by the management plan process, there may be additional needs for management of public-use activities and facilities.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management consistent with the stated goals and objectives of the approved Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie Project Assessment.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. After the initial acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public-use facilities are developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities. Revenue generated by Big Lagoon State Recreation Area for Fiscal Year 1993-1994 was \$127,895.

**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project.

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$50,515	\$50,515
OPS	\$10,000	\$10,000
Expense	\$61,307	\$61,307
OCO	\$106,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$178,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$405,822</b>	<b>\$122,822</b>

# Pierce Mound Complex

Franklin County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

The group of mounds near the salt marsh north of Apalachicola, left by people who lived here for over a thousand years, is one of the most important archaeological sites in Florida. The Pierce Mound Complex project will preserve this site and the pinelands, hammocks, and marshes around it, giving archaeologists opportunities to examine it and the public opportunities to learn about the prehistory of this region and to enjoy the scenic natural landscape.

**Manager**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA). The DEP's Division of Recreation & Parks (DRP) will manage the Orman site.

**General Description**

The Pierce Mound Complex site served as both a secular and ritual center during its centuries of use. It has the potential to yield considerable data to researchers using present-day methodology. An aspect of the site not previously considered is the potential for normally perishable organic artifacts of wood and fibers in the saturated anaerobic wetland soils adjacent to the uplands portion of the site. The extensive shell midden contains subsistence data and artifacts, and reflects changing environmental conditions over a thousand-year period. Salt marsh covers nearly three fourths of the project. Hydric Hammock and dense Mesic Flatwoods and Scrub, overgrown with shrubs in some places from suppression of fire, cover most of the southern quarter. The upland is threatened by residential development.

**Public Use**

The project will be designated as an archaeological site. It will give the public an opportunity to learn about the archaeological remains, hike and picnic.

<p><b>Pierce Mound Complex</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009</p>
<p>no rare species are associated with the project</p>

**Acquisition Planning**

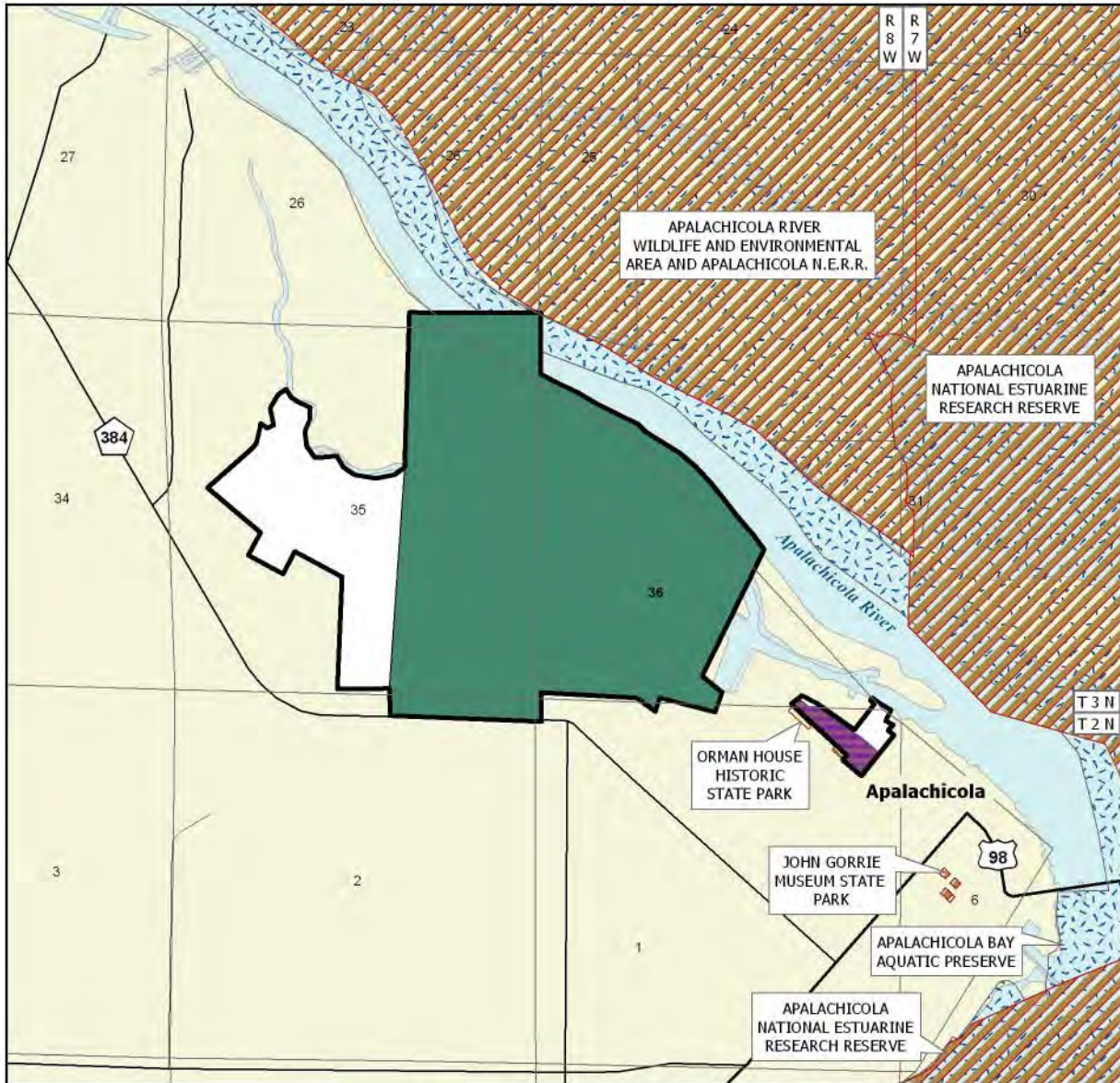
On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition and Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Pierce Mound Complex project to the Conservation & Recreation Lands (CARL) 1995 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Division of Historical Resources (DHR), consisted of approximately 559 acres, nine owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$877,311. The nine landowners are as follows: David Miller (Mahr), John G. Hodges, Sharon Delores Connell Shuler, Joe Lindsey, Franklin County, Alvin Pines, Christene Rhodes, ANRR Company, and the City of Apalachicola. The essential parcel to acquire is the Mahr tract.

On June 27, 2000, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 10-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the City of Apalachicola, consisted of four owners (Roger Ingram, Apalachicola Oyster Works Inc., Douglas Gaidry, and the City of Apalachicola), and a 1999 taxable value of \$787,585. The addition included the Orman House, Chapman Botanical Garden (owned by the City), and two other parcels. The historic Orman house (1-acre) has been acquired.

On June 9, 2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>569</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$810,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>568</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,661,968</b>

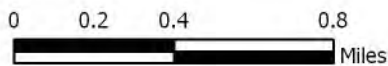
# Pierce Mound Complex - Group A/Full Fee



## PIERCE MOUND COMPLEX

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



APRIL 2009

**Coordination**

The portion of the project within the City of Apalachicola is in the Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern.

**Management Policy Statement**

Management should provide for uses and recreational activities that are compatible with the protection of any rare and sensitive resources, particularly the mounds. The major activity will be interpretation of the cultural resources on the site in such a way that they are not degraded. The old railroad grade is suitable for a hiking trail.

**Management Prospectus**

The Pierce Mound Complex is one of the most important archaeological sites on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Major natural communities in the project include estuarine tidal marsh, hydric hammock, mesic flatwoods, and scrub.

**Qualifications for state designation** The Pierce Mound Complex has the archaeological resources to qualify as a state archaeological site.

**Manager** DEP’s CAMA is recommended as lead manager. Staff of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will serve as on-site managers. The Division of Historical Resources is recommended as the cooperating manager.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, initial or intermediate activities will concentrate on site security, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. The CAMA will provide appropriate access to the public while protecting environmental and archaeological resources on-site. Management of the site will be incorporated into the existing management plan of the Research Reserve. Long-range plans for this property involve its use for research and education activities. A future trail will link the property with the environmental education complex of the reserve. The habitat diversity (estuarine tidal marsh, mesic flatwoods, hydric hammock, scrub, maritime hammock and scrubby flatwoods) combines with one of the most important archaeological sites on the Gulf coast of Florida to produce an exceptional opportunity for public education.

**Revenue-generating potential** There are no plans for revenue generation from this site.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Division of Historical Resources will cooperate in managing the archaeological resources of the site.

<b>Management Cost Summary/CAMA</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,500</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>

# Pillsbury Mound

Manatee County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition:**

Acquisition of this project would preserve a significant archeological site, increase resource educational opportunities, and increase the amount of available open space in the urban area. This project contains one of the nine known Class C mounds in the Tampa Bay area. The majority of the site is covered by a large sand mound that is approximately 20 feet tall 120 square feet as well as an adjacent smaller burial mound.

**Manager:** Manatee County

**General Description:** Pillsbury Mound consists of .947 acres in Manatee County, on the south bank of the Manatee River, just west of the DeSoto National Memorial in the northwest quarter section of Section 24 of Township 34 South, Range 16 East. It is within a residential area and the South Florida Museum holds title. The mound site is in close proximity to DeSoto National Memorial, Robinson Preserve, Riverview Point Park, and Emerson Point Park, but contiguous with none of these. The Pillsbury Mound is one of only nine Class C mounds within the Tampa Bay area.

The majority of the site is covered by a large sand mound that is approximately 20 feet tall and covers approximately 120 square feet. A smaller burial mound is located adjacent to the sand mound. The remainder of the site is comprised of a mowed lawn and palm trees. The mound itself has scattered palms, scrub oaks, and grasses.

**Public Use:** The Pillsbury Mound archaeological site is located within a residential area. If acquired, Manatee County would provide educational signage but no recreational activities and limited access to the site. Without public access and no public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project, it would

not satisfy any needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Acquisition Planning:** On December 14, 2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add the Pillsbury Mound to the A list of Florida Forever projects. The project is expected to be purchased from the landowner in one phase.

**Coordination:** No acquisition partnerships have been suggested at this time.

**Management Policy Statement**

To protect a valuable cultural resource representing the last sand midden of the Weedon Island Culture period of settlement by indigenous peoples in this coastal region. Historical research shows that this cultural artifact is the last remaining mound formation of the Shaw’s Point archeological area, of which at least five significant middens were documented prior to their destruction by development activities.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation:** The Pillsbury mound consists of a temple mound with remnants of a burial mound and ramp structure on the eastern side. The site was first mentioned in the professional literature after a 1929 survey of mounds in the Tampa Bay area by Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institute. William Plowden recorded the Pillsbury mound with the Archeological Site Survey of the University of Florida as site number Ma-31 as “a sand burial and temple mound complex.” (The State of Florida Master

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>947</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>947</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>

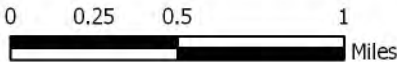
<p><b>Pillsbury Mound</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009</p>
<p>no rare species are associated with the project</p>



**PILLSBURY MOUND**

**MANATEE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



DECEMBER 2007



## Pillsbury Mound - Group A/Full Fee

Site File lists the platform/temple mound as 8Ma31; the nearby burial mound as 8Ma30. Only the temple mound remains.) Plowden noted that it had never been excavated, possibly because Asa Pillsbury's house was located between the mound and the river. In 1963, Dr. Ripley Bullen, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, received permission to conduct excavations. During the excavations, Bullen uncovered 147 human burials and other material, which are currently located at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Based on these artifacts, the site has been dated to the Mississippian tradition/Safety Harbor phase of the Florescent period, post AD 900. In 1981, George Luer and Marion Almay researched the site and characterized it as one of nine "Class C," or lesser temple mounds in the Bay area. In 1991 an update to the MSF was made that lists the site as a "platform mound" in a "village/town" in the historic context of "Weedon Island II and Safety Harbor." Under the Recorders Evaluation of Site, it states that more information is needed and that the site is "significant at a local level" since it could "hold information concerning the political organization and politics of the Lower Manatee River in Late Prehistoric times.

**Manager:** The management of the Pillsbury Mound will be conducted by the Conservation Lands Management Department under the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management:** The mound is surrounded by residential communities. The owner of the abutting property is currently going through the planning process to develop his acreage into a 14 unit housing development. The mound is located directly in front of his current residence. There is a small fence on the western side and a row of hedges located at the northern part of the property. Neither of which provides adequate protection from people scaling the site. Vegetation has seriously impacted the cultural integrity of the mound.

**Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure:** Within one year of acquisition, the County will secure the site with a suitable barrier fence (3 rail wooden fence.) A restoration plan for the mound will be developed to determine the best means to control the vegetation and erosion which may be denuding the mound or selective clearing followed by stabilization methods. Implementation of the restoration plan will follow within six months of approval. The State Bureau of Historic Preservation will be conducted

during the restoration planning process for input. In addition, the State will be contacted with regards to the development of appropriate interpretive signage. There will be no additional staff added to the Conservation Lands Management Department to manage this site. A current park ranger will be assigned to patrol the area as part of their normal duties. Future plans may include extending the County's current cultural and environmental education program to include the site.

**Revenue-generating potential:** There is no revenue generating potential for this site.

**Cooperators in management activities:** Manatee County is the only management entity.

**Management costs and sources of revenue:** The management costs for the site will be included in the operating budget for the Conservation Lands Management Department as may be determined by the Board of County Commissioners. The revenue source will be property taxes.

# Pine Island Slough Ecosystem

Osceola and Indian River Counties

**Group B**

**Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals: (1) Increase the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels – preserves habitat for several rare species of vascular flora and rare animals; (2) Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities – provides a potential for a diverse recreational experiences such as hiking, camping, nature appreciation; bird watching, & horse-back riding, to name a few; (3) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state – constitutes an intact example of an endemic Florida ecosystem. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has been designated as the lead manager.

### General Description

The Pine Island Slough project consists of approximately 49,583 acres in Osceola and Indian River Counties, Florida. This landscape - intact ecological upland and wetland habitat - is reminiscent of the kind of landscape that once dominated Central Florida in pre-European settlement times. It is contiguous with the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, which is noted for its high quality resource values, and the project’s acquisition would allow for the protection of and management of

additional high ecological quality habitats in an area of Florida with significant vertebrate wildlife, hydrological values and other important natural resource attributes.

### Public Use

The size, resource values and location of the Pine Island Slough project provides a potential for a diverse recreational experience. The size, location and high resource quality of Pine Island Slough provides a potential for those recreational activities typically envisioned on high quality state-owned conservation land (i.e., this would not include the more intensively developed uses like ball fields, playgrounds, off-road-vehicle or motocross tracks. Since principal purposes of the project, however, include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to careful control of public uses. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

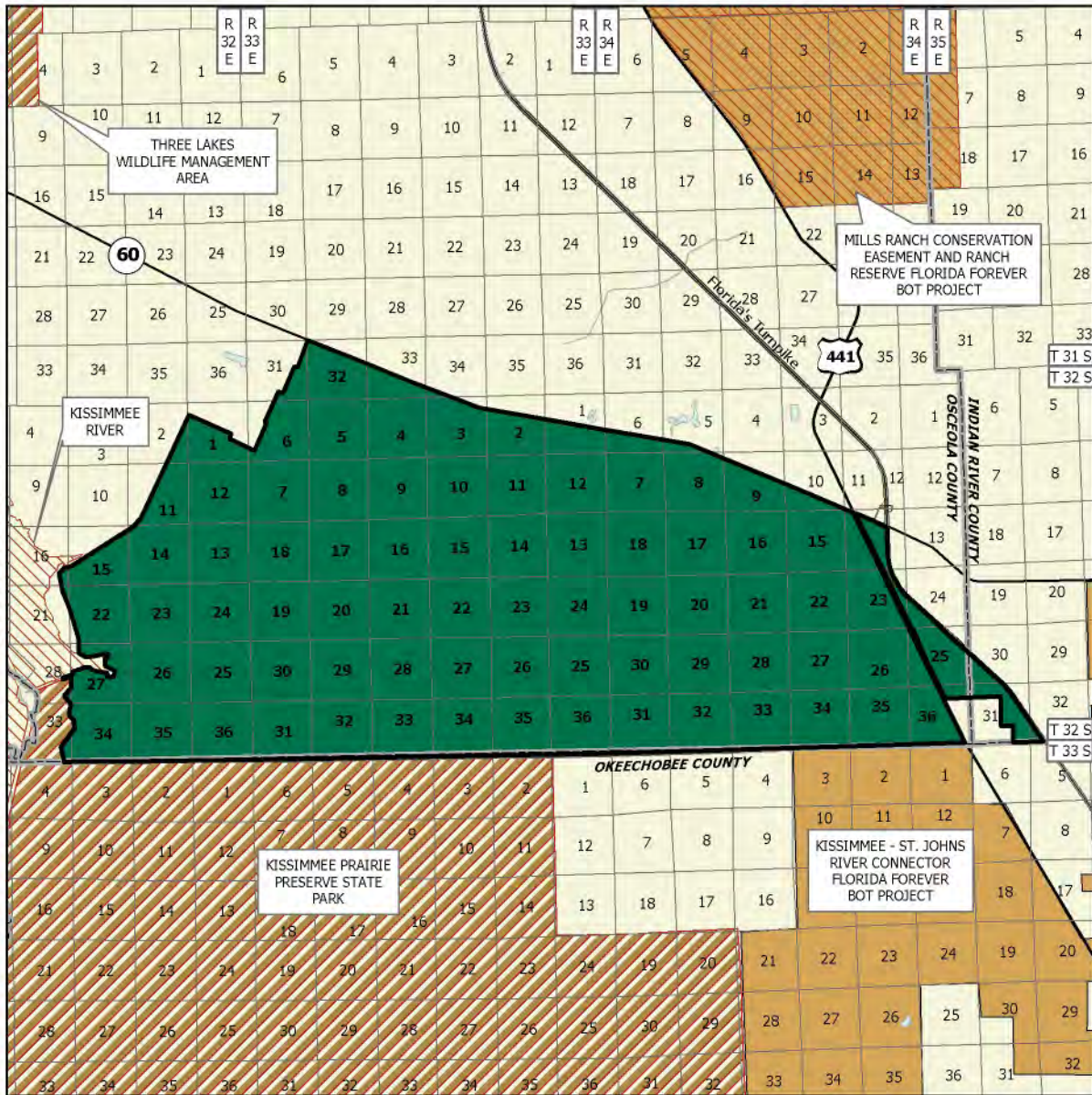
### Acquisition Planning

On August 20, 2004, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approxi-

Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
<i>Nodding Pinweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Large-flowered Rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>49,583</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>49,583</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$13,144,221</b>

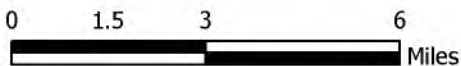
**Pine Island Slough Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee**



**PINE ISLAND SLOUGH ECOSYSTEM**

**OSCEOLA AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2006

mately 49,583 acres, a single owner, Latt Macy Corp., and a 2003 taxable value of \$13,144,221.

On June 3, 2005 ARC moved Pine Island Slough Ecosystem to the Group B list.

### **Coordination**

The Office of Environmental Services is pursuing partnerships with South Florida Water Management District and the counties.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) proposes to manage the Pine Island Slough projects for protection of, and management of, high ecological quality habitats in an area of Florida with significant vertebrate wildlife, hydrological values and other important natural resource attributes. It is contiguous with the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, which is noted for its high quality resource values. This area should be restored to a natural character to the greatest extent possible. The placement of facilities shall be restricted to and within existing disturbed areas. Uses, public or private, which are incompatible or would interfere with the protection, restoration or management of the natural resources, for which this project is to be acquired, shall be prohibited.”

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

The proposed project would be expected to provide additional habitat for many focal species, which according to the FWC, are indicators of natural communities, and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. The list of species documented or reported to occur within the proposal predicts that as many as five focal species may occur on the property. The FWC environmental resource analysis shows strategic habitat conservation areas to exist within the Pine Island Slough proposed project for three species: crested caracara, Florida grasshopper sparrow and the mottled duck.

Many important conservation lands have become increasingly isolated and no longer support viable populations of large widely ranging mammals and other species of wildlife. The Florida Forever Program identifies projects which provide for increased

connectivity across the landscape, and which serve as ecological greenways, which provide improved habitats for fish and wildlife, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and improved conservation of other natural resources. The Pine Island Slough Ecosystem proposed project would contribute to landscape connectivity by means of linkage to existing managed areas, and especially if acquisition of adjoining or nearby Florida Forever projects can be accomplished. These Florida Forever projects in the conservation landscape surrounding the Pine Island Slough Ecosystem proposal include the Bombing Range Ridge project, the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project, and the Ranch Reserve project.

#### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

Some portions of the project include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring application of resource management methods, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. However, since an estimated 47% of the project area has been disturbed for silviculture or other purposes, additional methods would be necessary for some management units in order to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The FWC would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions, objectives, and restoration methods. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities might involve, for example, the reintroduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Although exotic plants have not yet been observed to pose an imminent threat to the ecological integrity of the proposed project, there will be surveillance for, and removal of such infestations of exotic invasive species.

#### ***Timetable for Implementing Management***

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis would be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan would be developed by the FWC describing the management goals and specific objectives necessary to implement future resource management.

Long-range goals would emphasize ecosystem management and the conservation of fish and wildlife.

**Pine Island Slough Ecosystem - Group B/Full Fee**

Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to the FWC objective-based vegetation management process. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan would be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable methods. Management activities would strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives, these resources would be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Division

of Historical Resources (DHR). There is reported to be moderate potential for these sites to occur in the project area.

***Revenue Generating Potential***

Management would seek to improve the revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

***Capital Project Expenditures***

Projections of Florida Forever capital project expenditures believed to be needed for this project are not available at this time.

***Management Costs and Sources of Revenue***

Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

**REVENUE SOURCES, MANAGEMENT COSTS AND EMPLOYEES NEEDED\***

<b>Category</b>	<b>Start-up</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<b>\$598,900</b>	<b>\$790,661</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$75,494</b>	<b>\$25,133</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$149,080</b>	<b>\$31,566</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,091,187</b>	<b>\$137,415</b>
<b>Visitor Svcs/Recreation</b>	<b>\$1,888</b>	<b>\$141</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>\$34,511</b>	<b>\$34,511</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,951,060</b>	<b>\$1,019,426</b>

\*Figures include salary for 10 FTEs.

# Pineland Site Complex

Lee County

Pineland Site Complex - Group B/Full Fee

Group B  
Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Among the rich remains of the Calusa and earlier peoples around Charlotte Harbor, the Pineland Site Complex, with its large mounds and canals and well-preserved remains dating back almost 2000 years, may be the most important—but it is also one of the more desirable areas for development on Pine Island. The Pineland Site Complex project will protect the archaeological site and mangrove swamps near it, preserving a link of natural land to the Charlotte Harbor State Reserve, giving archaeologists the opportunity to continue their research at the site, and giving the public an opportunity to learn how the ancient inhabitants of this fast-growing area lived.

### Manager

The University of Florida Foundation.

### General Description

This internationally significant archaeological site was inhabited by the Calusa for over a thousand years, and includes substantial midden mounds, a burial mound, remnants of an Indian-engineered canal, and buried deposits containing organic remains. Natural habitats within the project area include tidal saltern, a tidal creek, intertidal shoreline, and a large tract of mangrove wetland. Ponds on the property are important to white ibis, egrets, herons, and wood stork. The intertidal shoreline has an eastern oyster bar community, numerous species of gastropods and bivalves, and black and red mangroves. Shoreline shell mounds exhibit a distinctive plant community. A third of the project area is pasture land. There are several species of exotic plants in the project. It is threatened by residential construction on the mounds. The project is adjacent to the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

### Public Use

The Florida Museum of Natural History plans to provide a research and educational center on the site.

### Acquisition Planning

Essential parcels include all ownerships except: American Bible Church, Sapp, Samadani, and Celec. Several houses, built on significant archaeological mounds, are included within the project boundary. These tracts with improvements should be acquired, if possible. If not, life-estates should be pursued. One tract has been acquired with Emergency Archaeological Trust funds. Another is being negotiated as a conservation easement. Negotiations on the core parcel have begun.

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC revised the designation of the following parcels to essential: The Cloisters and Jessy Chris.

The remaining owners are unwilling sellers at this time.

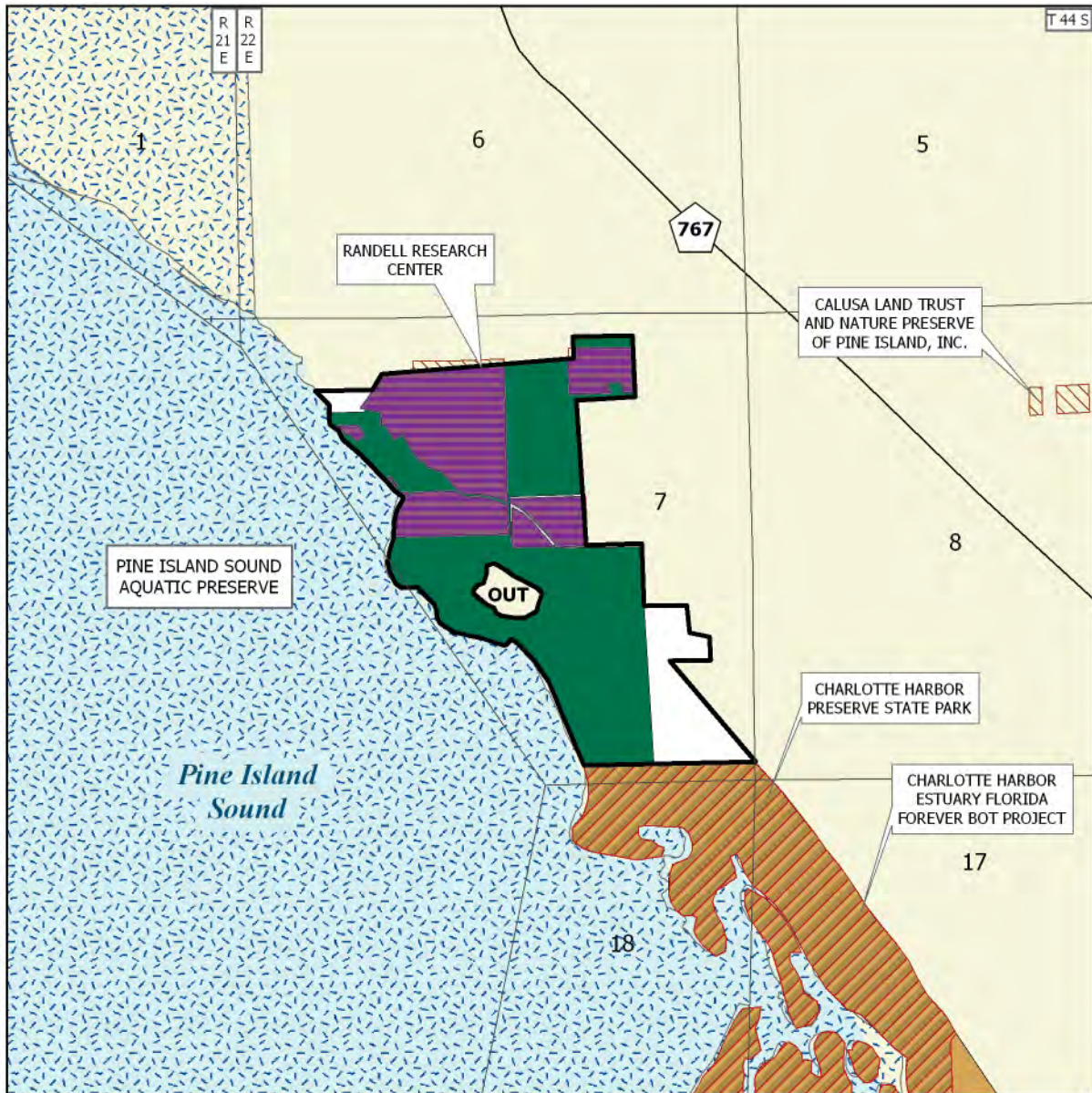
### Coordination

The Archeological Conservancy was an intermediary in the acquisition of the acreage that has been acquired.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$1,355,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,308,148</b>

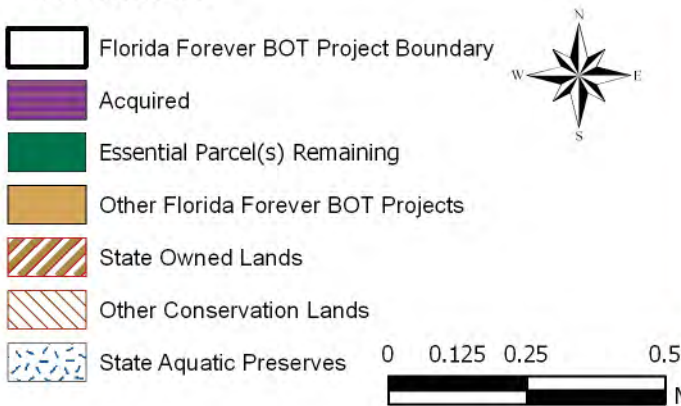
<b>Pineland Site Complex</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009
no rare species are associated with the project

# Pineland Site Complex - Group B/Full Fee



## PINELAND SITE COMPLEX

### LEE COUNTY



AUGUST 2006

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Pineland Site Complex project is to preserve the Pineland Site Complex, an archaeological site of national significance. Achieving this objective will allow further scientific research on this site and provide the public with opportunities to learn about the prehistoric inhabitants of Pine Island.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed toward the preservation of the archaeological resources of the site. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to a small part of the area; thoroughly inventory the resources; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually protecting the archaeological resources and maintaining or improving the quality of any natural communities, such as mangrove swamps, on site. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project area includes the known components of the Pineland Site Complex and therefore has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Pineland Site Complex is an internationally significant archaeological site listed on the National Register of Historic Places; it qualifies as a state historic site.

**Manager** The University of Florida Foundation is recommended as the lead manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** needs will include maintenance (fences, weed and exotic

plant control, etc.) and security (periodic patrol of the more remote wetlands areas, active surveillance of the central site area).

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, initial or intermediate activities will concentrate on site security, resource inventory, and property maintenance (cleaning up of dumped materials, exotic plant eradication, etc.). A master plan (now being drafted) will be in place to guide a phased development process leading to a permanent research/education center open regularly to the public within five years. Initial development will concentrate on public safety, security, and resources assessment, including inventory of endangered and threatened species. A plan for conservation and enhancement of significant habitats identified in this process will be developed.

**Revenue-generating potential** In addition to the income produced by the invested endowed funds, the Center’s director will be responsible for bringing in grant funds from public and private sources and for establishing and maintaining reciprocal relationships with local and regional schools, colleges, universities, museums, nature centers, and conservation societies. With the establishment of a visitor’s center, a book store and gift shop will be operated to offset expenses of center operation and provide funds to enhance center programs. A local support organization has already been formed and is operating under the auspices of the University of Florida Foundation. It will continue to raise funds to support specific center programs and initiatives.

**Cooperators in management activities** Activities to enhance natural resources will be undertaken in consultation with qualified conservation personnel, including staff from the Lee County Division of Environmental Sciences and the cooperating manager, the DEP Aquatic and State Buffer Preserve.

<b>Management Cost Summary</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Development</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Grants</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>\$44,450</b>	<b>\$45,809</b>	<b>\$71,752</b>
<b>OPS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,450</b>	<b>\$47,009</b>	<b>\$74,252</b>



# Pinhook Swamp

**Baker and Columbia Counties**

**Group B  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

Pinhook Swamp: The pine flatwoods and swamps between the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge have been logged, but are otherwise undisturbed. The Pinhook Swamp project will protect and restore a natural area linking those two conservation lands and the Suwannee River, providing a huge unpopulated tract of land for such wildlife as the Florida black bear and sandhill crane; maintaining the water flows from this area to the Okefenokee Swamp, Suwannee River, and St. Mary’s River; and giving the public a large, near-wilderness tract in which to enjoy various recreational activities, from simple nature appreciation to active hunting and fishing.

Suwannee Buffers (Deep Creek Site): The Suwannee River, for all its beauty, flows through pine plantations and farms for much of its course, and only its high limestone banks are in close to a natural state—and they are prime sites for residential development. The Deep Creek Site will protect two natural areas along the river or its tributaries, protecting the highest waterfall in the peninsula and the highest bluffs on the river, enhancing the water quality of the river and its tributaries; protecting northern plants that grow along the river and rare fish that live in the river; and giving the public scenic areas to enjoy for years to come. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized

trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail

**Manager**

Pinhook Swamp: United States Forest Service (USFS) and The Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (southern Deep Creek); the DOF (northern Deep Creek).

**General Description**

Pinhook Swamp: The project consists of a large tract of mostly wet flatwoods, floodplain swamp, and floodplain forest between Osceola National Forest and Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. It provides a linkage between these managed areas as well as increased protection for this wetlands/flatwoods ecosystem, which is important for the long-term conservation of the state-threatened Florida black bear and other animals. Pinhook Swamp also provides excellent habitat for other wetland-dependent species such as the state-threatened Florida sandhill crane. The Swamp is connected to the Suwannee River, St. Mary’s River and the Okefenokee Swamp. The archaeological and historic value of the project is low to moderate. The greatest threats to the area are intensive silviculture and mining.

The Deep Creek Drainage Tract protects buffer areas of four tributaries of the Suwannee River and much of the watershed of Deep Creek and serves as a corridor between the Osceola National Forest, Big Shoals State

<b>Pinhook Swamp</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Large Rosebud Orchid</i>	G4/S1
Many-lined Salamander	G5/S1
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Carpenter Frog	G5/S2
Blackbanded Sunfish	G4/S3
Timber Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Spotted Turtle	G5/S3?
16 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>183,991</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>126,890**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$65,183,376</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>57,101</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$16,469,070</b>
<b>** Includes acreage acquired by the Suwannee River Water Management District</b>	



**PINHOOK SWAMP: OVERVIEW**

**BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES**

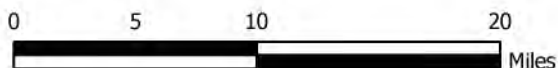
**Map 1**

- A. Pinhook Swamp Site (western part)
- B. Deep Creek Drainage Tract Site



**Map 2**

- A. Pinhook Swamp Site (eastern part)



OCTOBER 2005

## Pinhook Swamp - Group B/Full Fee

Park, and Suwannee River Water Management District lands along the River.

### Public Use

The Pinhook Swamp is designated as a forest with such uses as fishing, hunting, canoeing, camping and hiking.

The Deep Creek site will be designated for use as a state park and a state forest, with such public uses as fishing, boating, hunting, camping, hiking and environmental education.

### Acquisition Planning

The large Rayonier tract connecting the Osceola National Forest to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has been acquired by the state. It will be used as the basis for a land-and-minerals exchange (projected to close in 2003) with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

Pinhook Swamp: Phase I (essential) consists of large tracts adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Osceola National Forest—J.W. Langdale Woodlands, Inc. and Jefferson Smurfit Corp./Carnegie US Steel Pension Funds. Phase II is the “Impassable Bay” tract—ITT Rayonier/Sam Summers (acquired by USFS through The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and all remaining owners.

On July 16, 1996, the LAMAC added 18,100 acres to the project boundary. Additionally, the LAMAC approved the addition of federal mineral rights under state-owned lands to the Pinhook project for exchange purposes.

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 25,000 acres to the Pinhook Swamp project

At the April 6, 2001, Council meeting, the Suwannee Buffers, Deep Creek Site was combined with the Pinhook Swamp Project.

On October 24, 2002 the Council added 4,585 acres to the project boundaries.

On June 4, 2004 the Council added 31,225 acres in Baker County, previously assumed to be included, as part of a 2000 boundary amendment, in the boundaries of the Pinhook Swamp project.

The BOT acquired 8,311 acres in August 2005 through five conservation easements.

### Coordination

Pinhook Swamp is a shared acquisition with the USFS. TNC is an intermediary in the purchase of some tracts for the federal government.

The Deep Creek site is on the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) five-year plan for land acquisition.

### Management Policy Statement

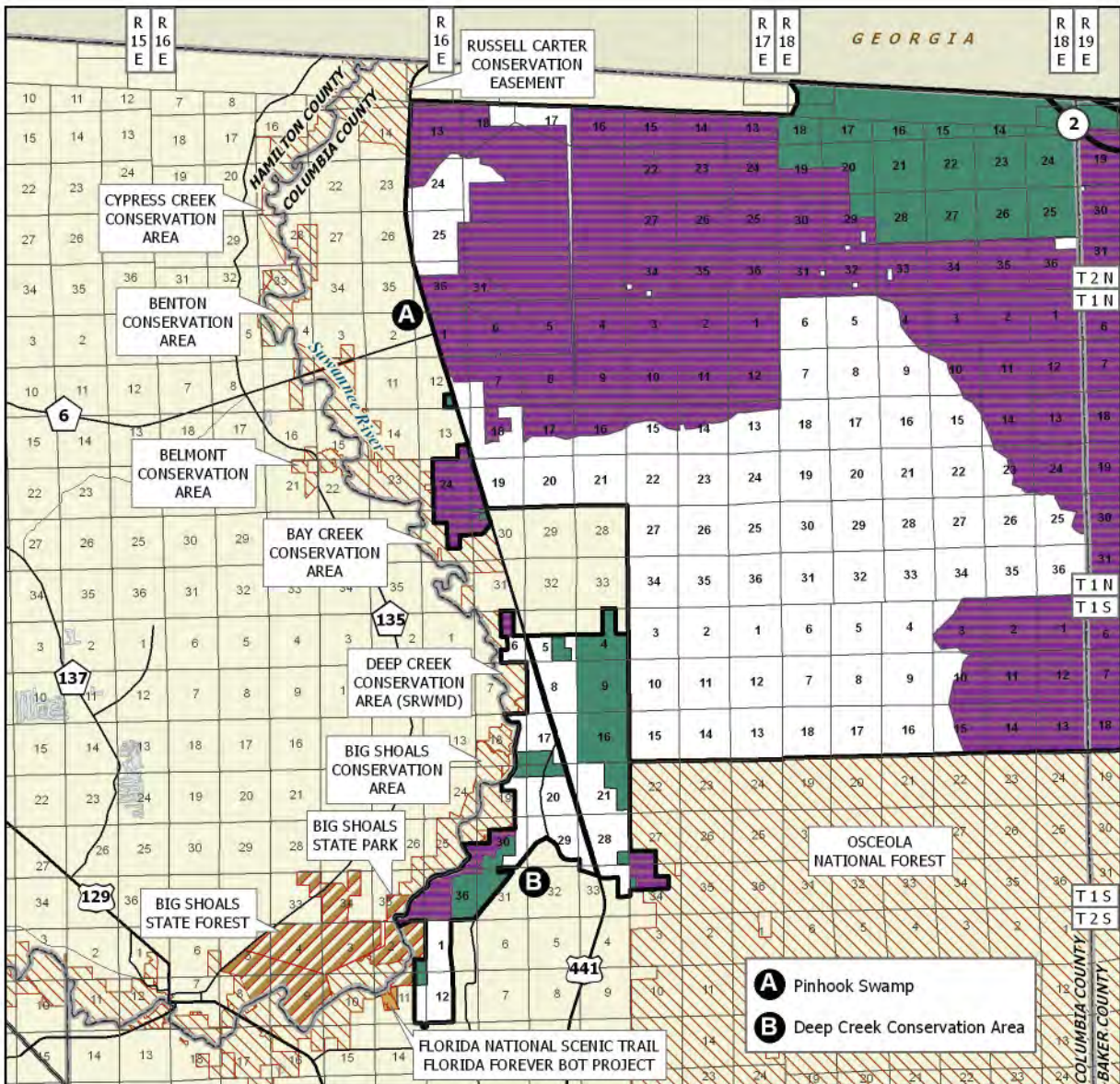
Pinhook Swamp: The primary goals of management of the Pinhook Swamp project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

Suwannee Buffers (Deep Creek): The primary goals of management of this part of the project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

Pinhook Swamp:

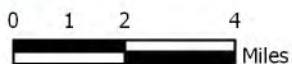
*Qualifications for state designation* The Pinhook Swamp is a large area of timbered flatwoods and



**PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 1 OF 2**

**BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2008

## Pinhook Swamp - Group B/Full Fee

swamps between the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Its large size, strategic location, and forest and wildlife resources qualify it as a state forest and state wildlife management area.

**Manager (Monitor)** The DOF and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service are the recommended Managers.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Pinhook is a low-need (moderate need) tract.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** A portion of the site would immediately fall under the National Forests in Florida's Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and a portion under state protection. Management activities will focus on site security, resource inventory and management, plus any necessary prescribed fire management.

**Revenue-generating potential** In cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission this area may one day provide revenues from quota hunts. The Forest Service and DOF will soon be working with this agency to obtain a projected revenue. State and National Forest user fees are other sources of revenue.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which manages the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to Pinhook's northern boundary, will be cooperators in managing the area.

Suwannee Buffers:

**Qualifications for state designation** The southern part of the Deep Creek Drainage tract has unique resources that qualify it as a unit of the state park system. The project's size and diversity also makes it highly desirable for use and management as a state forest.

**Manager** The DRP is recommended as Manager of Deep Creek. The DOF is recommended as Manager of the northern three-quarters of the Deep Creek Drainage tract.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management**

The southern portion of the Deep Creek Drainage tract is a high-need management area including public recreational use and development compatible with resource management. On the areas to be managed by the DOF there are no known major disturbances that will require

extraordinary attention, so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition of the areas to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

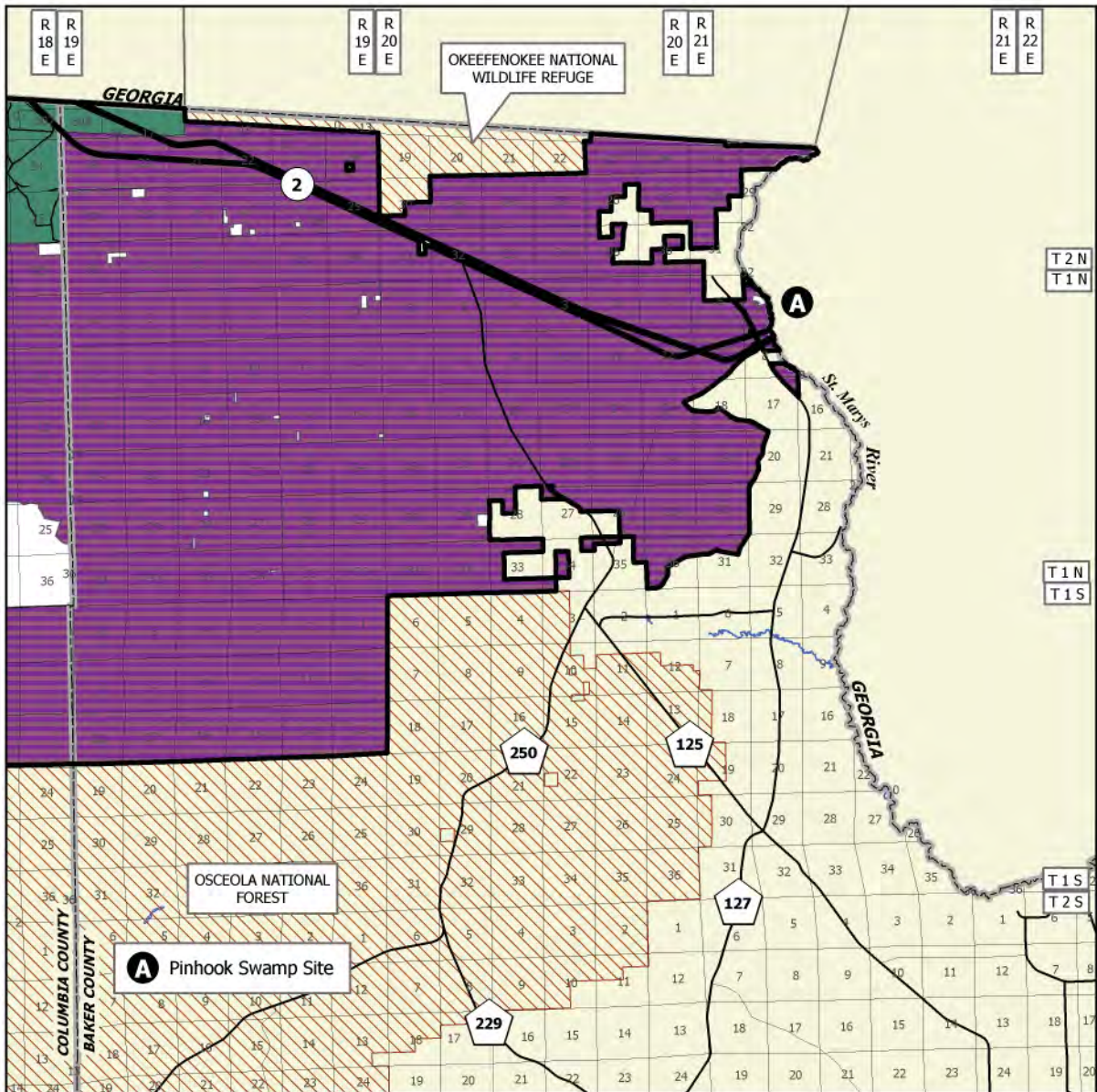
The DOF will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The Division will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans of the DOF will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Estimate of revenue-generating potential** The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public facilities are developed. The amount of any future revenue generated would depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.





The DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

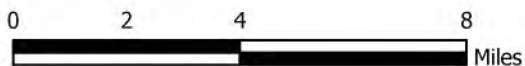
**Cooperators in management activities** No local governments or others are recommended for management of these project areas.



**PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 2 OF 2**

**BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



OCTOBER 2005

**Pinhook Swamp - Group B/Full Fee**



**Management Cost Summary/DRP**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$22,167	\$22,167
OPS	\$14,560	\$14,560
Expense	\$11,400	\$11,400
OCO	\$55,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$85,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$188,127</b>	<b>\$49,127</b>

**Management Cost Summary/DOF**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$28,140	\$28,140
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$13,000	\$5,000
OCO	\$81,100	\$2,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$122,140</b>	<b>\$35,140</b>

# Pumpkin Hill Creek

Duval County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The growth of the city of Jacksonville and its outlying developed areas has inevitably reduced the natural lands in Duval County to a fraction of their original extent. The Pumpkin Hill Creek project will protect one of the larger natural uplands left in the county, helping to maintain the water quality of the Nassau and St. Johns Rivers and their fringing marshes—the foundation of an important fishery—protecting wading bird rookeries, and giving the public in this urban area opportunities to fish, hunt, hike, and canoe.

### Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the St. Johns River Water Management District, City of Jacksonville and the federal government all manage lands within the project boundaries.

### General Description

As a remnant of relatively intact natural communities in the urban landscape of Duval County, the Pumpkin Hill Creek project will protect upland buffer to the Nassau River—St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve, an Outstanding Florida Water that supports a significant commercial and recreational fishery. Besides sandhill, large areas of scrubby flatwoods of diverse quality, wet flatwoods, and salt marsh, the project contains nearly pristine maritime hammock. It provides habitat for several rare species and contains two colonial wading bird rookeries, one of which is used by the federally endangered wood stork. Manatees frequent both the

St. Johns and Nassau Rivers and move into tidal creeks, such as Hill Creek and Clapboard Creek, adjacent to the project. Fourteen archaeological sites are known from the project, including the ruins of the early 19th century Fitzpatrick Plantation house. The cultural resource value of the project is high. The area is threatened by urban development.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 9, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Pumpkin Hill Creek project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), consisted of approximately 6,292 acres, 25 parcels, 12 owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$9,383,700. The essential parcels included North Shore (acquired by TNC using Cedar Bay Cogeneration Project mitigation funds), Verdie Forest and Penland (acquired jointly with SJRWMD), and Tison and Birchfield (acquired by the SJRWMD).

On March 14, 1997, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 635-acre addition (aka Sample Swamp property) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, consisted of multiple owners & parcels, and a 1996 taxable value of \$995,638.

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) designated an additional

Pumpkin Hill Creek FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Bird Rookery	GNR/SNR
Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow	G4T2/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Least Tern	G4/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Great Egret	G5/S4
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>26,050</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>4,365*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$9,868,766*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>20,972</b>

**with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$14,784,841**  
\*includes expenditures of SJRWMD



## Pumpkin Hill Creek - Group A/Full Fee

1,419 acres as essential including Sample Swamp, City National, Beasley, Wingate, and two small connecting parcels.

On October 17, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 18,995-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Bureau of Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas (OCAMA) and consisted of 93 owners, 176 parcels, and a 1999 taxable value of \$7,624,669.

On February 7, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 73-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of 3 owners, Caldwell Trust (37 acres), the Cambridge A&E Ltd, & Squires (36 acres), 5 parcels, and a 2002 taxable value of \$399,726.

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority list.

On December 3, 2004, the ARC approved a 658.3-acre deletion to the project boundary. The deletion consisted of 4 parcels (D2, D3, D4, and the southern 2/3rds of D7) with a taxable value of \$541,781. The project was moved to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority list.

On December 9, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority list.

On August 11, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 713-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of Recreation & Parks, in coordination with the City of Jacksonville Preservation Project, consisted of 41 ownerships, 50 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$4,180,827. DRP will manage the addition, with the exception of 24.75 acres in Component 11, owned by Hughes, which will be managed by the City of Jacksonville. The parcels have been designated as essential.

2005 taxable value of \$4,180,827. DRP will manage the addition, with the exception of 24.75 acres in Component 11, owned by Hughes, which will be managed by the City of Jacksonville. The parcels have been designated as essential.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an intermediary in the project

Resolutions in support of this project include St. Johns River Water Management District in support of a shared acquisition.

St. Johns River Water Management District and the City of Jacksonville are acquisition partners.

### **Management Policy Statement**

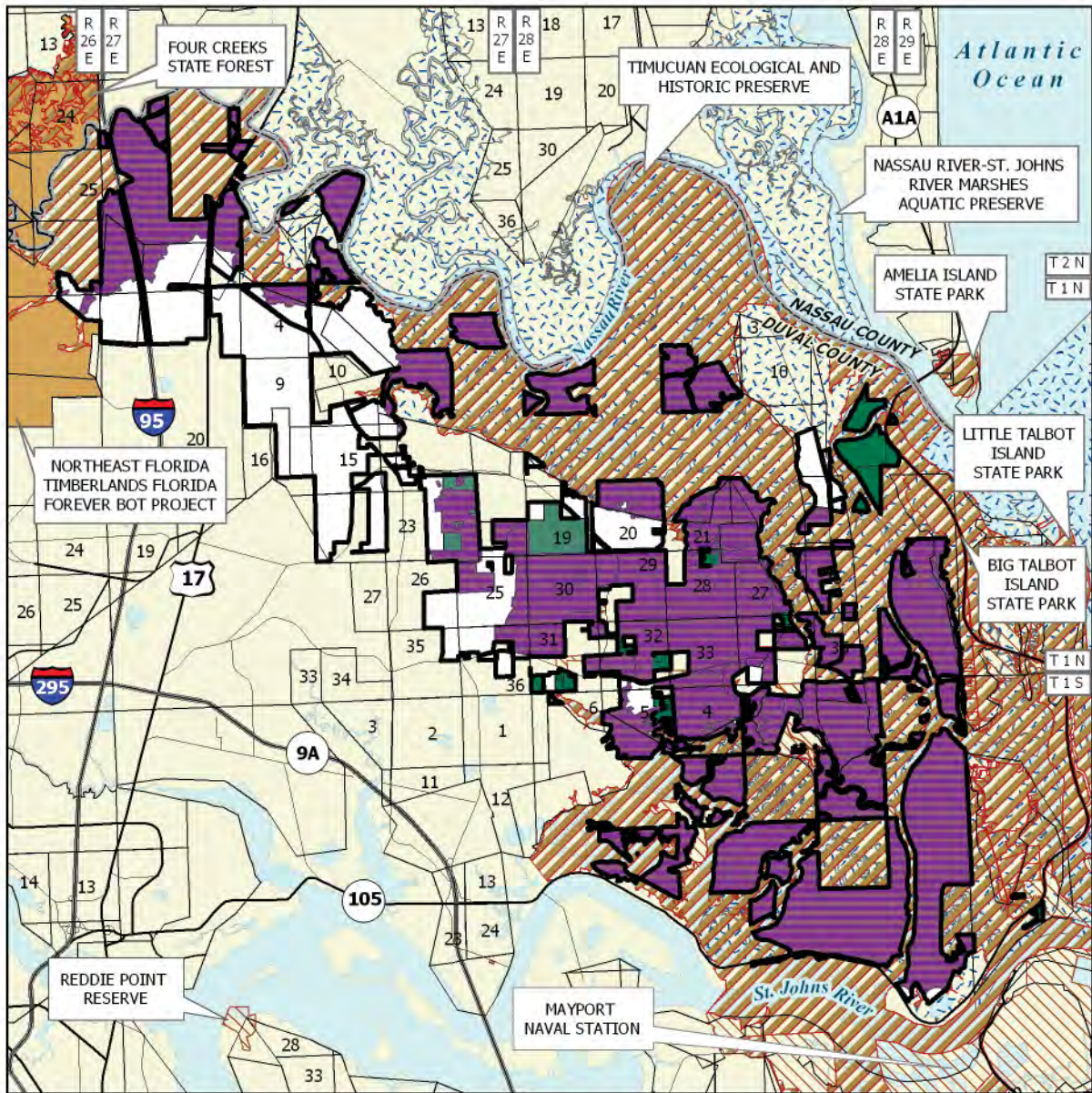
The primary goals of management of the Pumpkin Hill Creek project are: to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The Pumpkin Hill Creek project includes uplands centrally located in the Nassau River-St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve. The project qualifies as a state buffer preserve because it will protect uplands important to the hydrology of the sensitive tidal marshes of the aquatic preserve.

***Manager*** Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is recommended as the lead Manager.

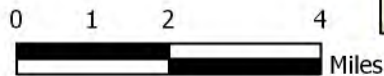
***Conditions affecting intensity of management*** The Pumpkin Hill Creek Project generally includes lands that are “low-need” tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.



## PUMPKIN HILL CREEK

### DUVAL COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



AUGUST 2006

## Pumpkin Hill Creek - Group A/Full Fee

### *Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Infrastructure will be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum needed for management and public access.

**Revenue-generating potential** Portions of this project

are composed of manageable pinelands that could be used to help offset operational costs. Any estimate of the revenue from the harvest of these pinelands depends upon a detailed assessment of the value of the timber and upon the amount of harvesting that is consistent with protection of natural resources on this project. No revenue is expected to be generated for some years.

**Cooperators in management activities** The St. Johns River Water Management District will cooperate in managing the project.

### DRP Management Cost Summary, 1998/1999

Source of Funds:	CARL/LATF
Salary:	\$62,079.65
OPS:	\$28,631.85
Expense:	\$24,762.68
OCO:	\$0
Special:	\$0
FCO:	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
Total:	\$165,474.18

# Rainbow River Corridor

## Marion and Citrus Counties

# Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The Rainbow River Corridor project is designed to protect most of the undeveloped or minimally developed private land remaining along the Rainbow River. The southern parcels would bring a remaining large portion of undeveloped shoreline along the eastern side of the river into state ownership, and provide a connection to the southern end of the Rainbow Springs State Park. Public acquisition of these lands will prevent further development and conflicting land uses that could further degrade the ecological value of this area. In addition, the potential restoration of altered habitats would help restore and maintain water quality and habitat along one of Florida’s largest spring-run streams.

This project meets several Florida Forever goals, including those of increasing biodiversity protection by conserving 916 acres of rare species habitat, of preserving landscape linkages and conservation corridors by preserving 1,062 acres of ecological greenways, of protecting surface waters of the state by preserving 1,154 acres that provide surface-water protection, of preserving aquifer recharge areas, and by increasing natural-resource based recreation opportunities by filling several land gaps between sections of the Rainbow River State Park.

### Manager

The property is proposed to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT). DRP would assume management of the parcels east of the river and a parcel identified as the FNAI A1 addition, which is adjacent to the state park. The A1 addition is in Section 12 of Township 16 South, Range 18 East, on the north side

of Southwest 77<sup>th</sup> Loop.

OGT is recommended as lead manager for the parcels on the west side of the Rainbow River and parcels on the south side of the Withlacoochee River.

The DRP notes that much of this is a full-fee acquisition adjacent to the park, which will mean that public access will be provided across the acquired parcel for varied natural resource recreation currently offered within the park, along with water-based recreation.

### General Description

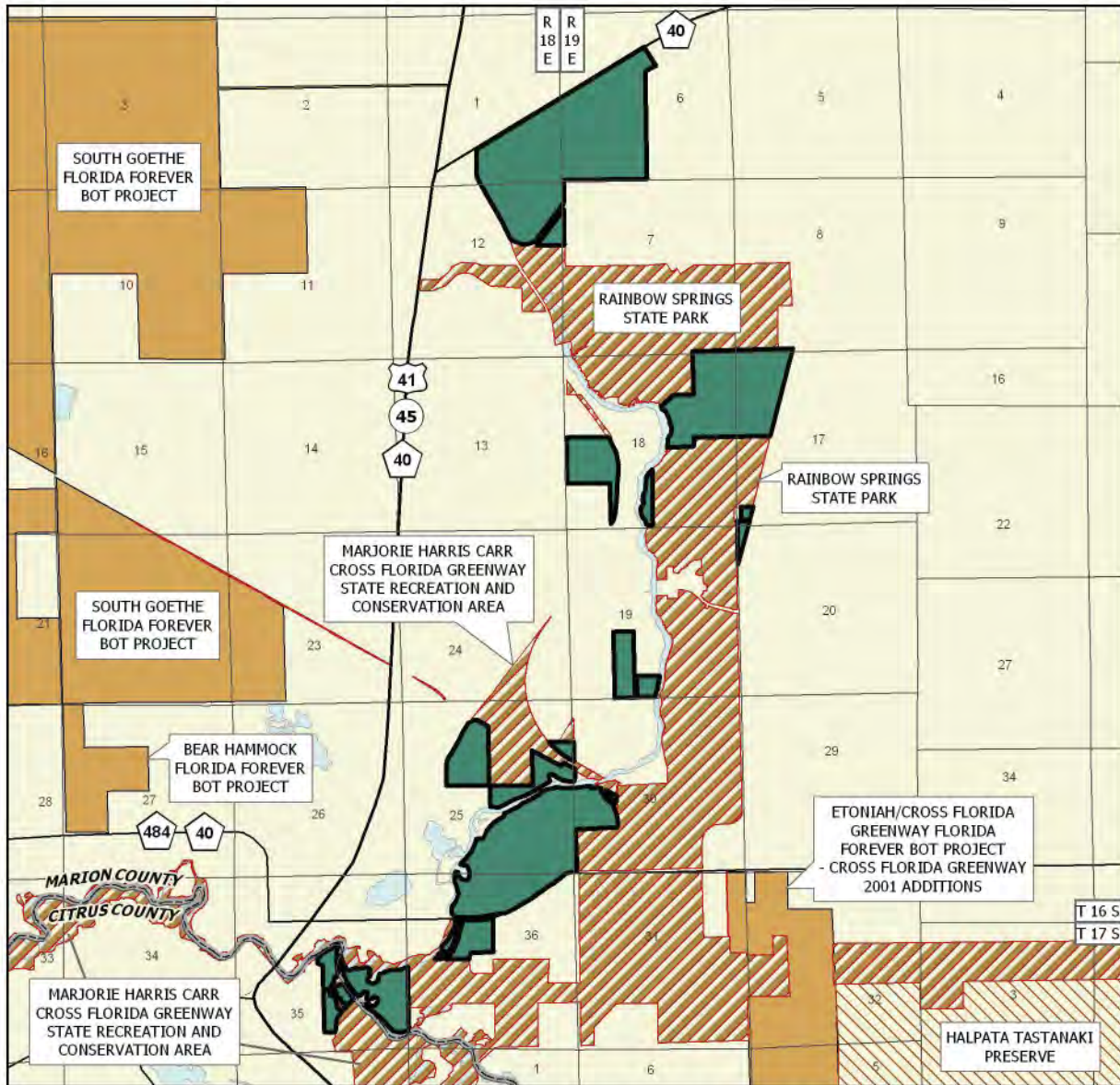
The Rainbow River, actually a large spring-run stream, is a state-designated Aquatic Preserve and Outstanding Florida Water that runs southward for approximately six miles before entering the Withlacoochee River at Dunnellon. The State Park encompasses the headwaters, with a first magnitude spring considered Florida’s fourth largest, as well as much of the eastern side of the northern 60 percent of the river. This river is one of the longest spring runs in the world and represents a rare and unique natural resource world wide. The Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area adjoins a short stretch of the river at Dunnellon, then extends eastward to include a 3/4 mile common boundary inland with the state park; it also includes a tract on the western side of the river but with only two very narrow connections with the river itself.

Two of the main goals of acquiring these land parcels are to fill the gaps in existing public lands, Rainbow Springs State Park (RSSP) and M. H. Carr Cross

Rainbow River Corridor FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
3 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>1,183</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>1,183</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,157,483</b>

# Rainbow River Corridor - Group A/Full Fee



## RAINBOW RIVER CORRIDOR

### MARION AND CITRUS COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2009

Florida Greenway (CFG), that are adjacent to the proposed properties and to provide added protection to this river and the ecosystem that it supports. It would connect the current northern and southern parcels of the park. The proposed acquisitions would provide a more contiguous system of natural areas by creating an intact corridor between conservation lands. It would also provide added protection for the river by safeguarding the remaining undeveloped lands in the already significantly altered waterway.

RRC encompasses a number of disjunct tracts lying to the north of as well as along both eastern and western sides of the river. Nearly all tracts (but not necessarily all ownerships) are contiguous with public lands. The Headwaters Property Group (370 acres) lies north of the river and runs from the state park to SR 40. The Indian Creek Property Group (193 acres), which lies along the eastern side of the river and includes about 1,264 feet of river frontage, shares its northern and southern boundaries with the state park. The Meredith Property (63 acres) is a split parcel with a small tract along the eastern side of the river (ca. 1849 feet frontage) that is completely surrounded by the state park. The larger tract to the west of the river is isolated from the water. The Rainbow River Ranch Property (ca. 247 acres) is north of SR 484 with 5390 feet of frontage along the eastern side of the Rainbow River. The Greenberg Property (89 acres) has ca. 3,298 feet of frontage along the western side of the river, north of Dunnellon. The Blue Run of Dunnellon Property (24 acres) is on the southern side of SR 484, east of the river across from Dunnellon, and has ca. 1,322 feet of river frontage. The Nature Preserves of America property (47 acres) is at the confluence of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee rivers, with the Rainbow River forming ca. 2,813 feet of its northern boundary, and the Withlacoochee River forming ca. 3,409 feet of its southern boundary. The FWC has calculated the river frontage as encompassing 15,935 feet.

### **Public Use**

Potential recreation would include hiking, biking, and picnicking. The river frontage could be used as a rest stop for canoeists, kayakers and tubers. The southern triangular 47-acre parcel is heavily forested and has several wetland areas. This property is currently used as the Rainbow River Club and includes several buildings including a clubhouse, cabins for lodging, and boating and cookout facilities. The acquisition

and use of the facilities could be continued as park lodging, administration, park residence and low impact recreation such as hiking, bird watching, kayaking and education if the membership of the current club is dissolved. The northwest, 374-acre parcel would help protect the headsprings recharge area and could provide a suitable site for future park development. The 110-acre Priest parcel is a wetland area and would be limited to passive activities such as hiking, bird watching and kayaking.

### **Acquisition Planning**

On June 15, 2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Rainbow River Corridor project to the A-list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This full-fee project was sponsored by the Rainbow River Conservation, incorporated as RRC, Inc. in a proposal submitted on December 30, 2006. It has about 1,183 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$1,157,483.

### **Coordination**

Rainbow River Conservation Inc. is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and has submitted an application to the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) for assistance acquiring the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property. The Division of State Lands is already pursuing a portion of this area (Rainbow River Ranch property) that is within the park optimum boundary, on behalf of the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

### **Management Policy Statement**

This property managed by DRP will be managed under a single-use concept as part of Rainbow River State Park. The OGT-managed portion will be managed under the single-use concept as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. The primary objective of management of the Rainbow River project is to preserve the water quality of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers and Rainbow Springs by protecting the land above the underground conduits that supply the spring and providing and ensuring that the resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities of the park will continue to be enjoyed by the public. Precluding major residential and commercial development along the river will assist efforts to preserve water quality, as well as wildlife habitat in this fast developing region.

## Rainbow River Corridor - Group A/Full Fee

### Management Prospectus

#### *Qualifications for state designation*

The project will be included in the management of the Rainbow River State Park. The site can be used for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As a part of the Rainbow River State Park, hunting would not be permitted. Public use of the cabins and recreational facility on the southern parcel may be continued. Portions managed by OGT will be included in the management of the Greenway. The site can be utilized for a variety of compatible resource-based outdoor recreational activities. As a part of the Greenway, hunting would not be permitted.

#### *Manager*

DRP is recommended as the lead manager for the parcels on the east side of the river. OGT is recommended as lead manager for the parcels on the west side of the Rainbow River and parcels on the south side of the Withlacoochee River.

#### *Conditions affecting intensity of management*

The Rainbow River project will be a high-need management area with emphasis on perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly as related to the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, the springs of the Rainbow River, and compatible resource-based recreation. An evaluation of the condition of existing structures will need to be completed. The OGT portion of the Rainbow River project will emphasize perpetuation of the property's resources, particularly the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers, the springs of the Rainbow River, and compatible resource-based recreation. Both managing agencies will need an evaluation of the condition of existing structures. Public use of existing structures, such as those existing on the southern parcel, and the addition of any other

infrastructure for the lands added to the park will increase the intensity of management. Restoration would require an intensity of management as dictated by study of the site.

#### *Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Particular emphasis will be given to the protection of water quality of adjacent rivers and springs. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate on site security and development of a resource inventory. Long-term management may include a wide range of resource-based recreation and associated facilities. The integration of appropriate public uses will create a recreational linkage between the State Park and land managed by the Office of Greenway and Trails.

#### *Revenue-generating potential*

The DRP and the OGT expect no significant revenue from this property immediately after fee title acquisition, and the amount of future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the facilities existing or developed in the future.

#### *Cooperators in management activities*

The DRP and the OGT will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park and for Greenway purposes.

#### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	Startup
Salary	\$0
OPS	\$20,000
Expense	\$5,000
OCO	\$26,000
FCO	\$5,000

#### Management Cost Summary/OGT

Category	Startup
Salary	\$0
OPS	\$25,000
Expense	\$5,000
OCO	\$20,000
FCO	\$5,000

# Ranch Reserve

Brevard, Indian River and Osceola Counties

## Group B Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Large cattle ranches in Osceola County conserve a vast area of open lands—pastures, pine flatwoods, palmetto prairies, and marshes—west of the St. Johns River. These flatlands are important for wildlife like sandhill cranes, caracara, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and an experimental group of extremely rare whooping cranes. The Ranch Reserve project will acquire certain rights from ranch owners to ensure that a large part of these lands will remain as they are today, to preserve a connection of open land with public lands to the north and east, and to maintain or increase the diversity of wildlife on this wide plain.

### Manager (Monitor)

The St. Johns River Water Management District will monitor compliance with the terms of the less-than-fee-simple purchase.

### General Description

The four cattle ranches in the project lie on the Osceola Plain west of and above the St. Johns River marshes. Mesic flatwoods interrupted by depression marshes cover about 40% of the project area. Swamps and hammocks make up much of the remaining natural communities. Improved pastures cover about 30% of the area. At least 24 FNAI-listed animals are known or reported from the project, including red-cockaded woodpeckers and one of the best populations of sandhill cranes in Florida. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission has released whooping cranes on Escape Ranch in an attempt to reestablish the species in Florida. The project includes the headwaters of several streams that flow into the St. Johns River marsh. No archaeological sites are known. The wildlife habitat in the project is threatened by harvest of old-growth pines and conversion to more intensive agriculture or to non-agricultural use.

### Public Use

This project qualifies as a wildlife management area; the amount and type of public use will be negotiated with the landowners.

### Acquisition Planning

On October 30, 1996, LAMAC adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee acquisition category: 1) resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; 2) seller is willing to accept a less-than-fee-simple instrument and LAMAC has determined that the project's or site's acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and 3) manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee-simple instrument.

On December 5, 1996, LAMAC transferred the remaining ownerships within the Ranch Reserve project boundary—Campbell (acquired), Mills (acquired), Kelly/Bronson and Kaup—to the Less-Than-Fee group.

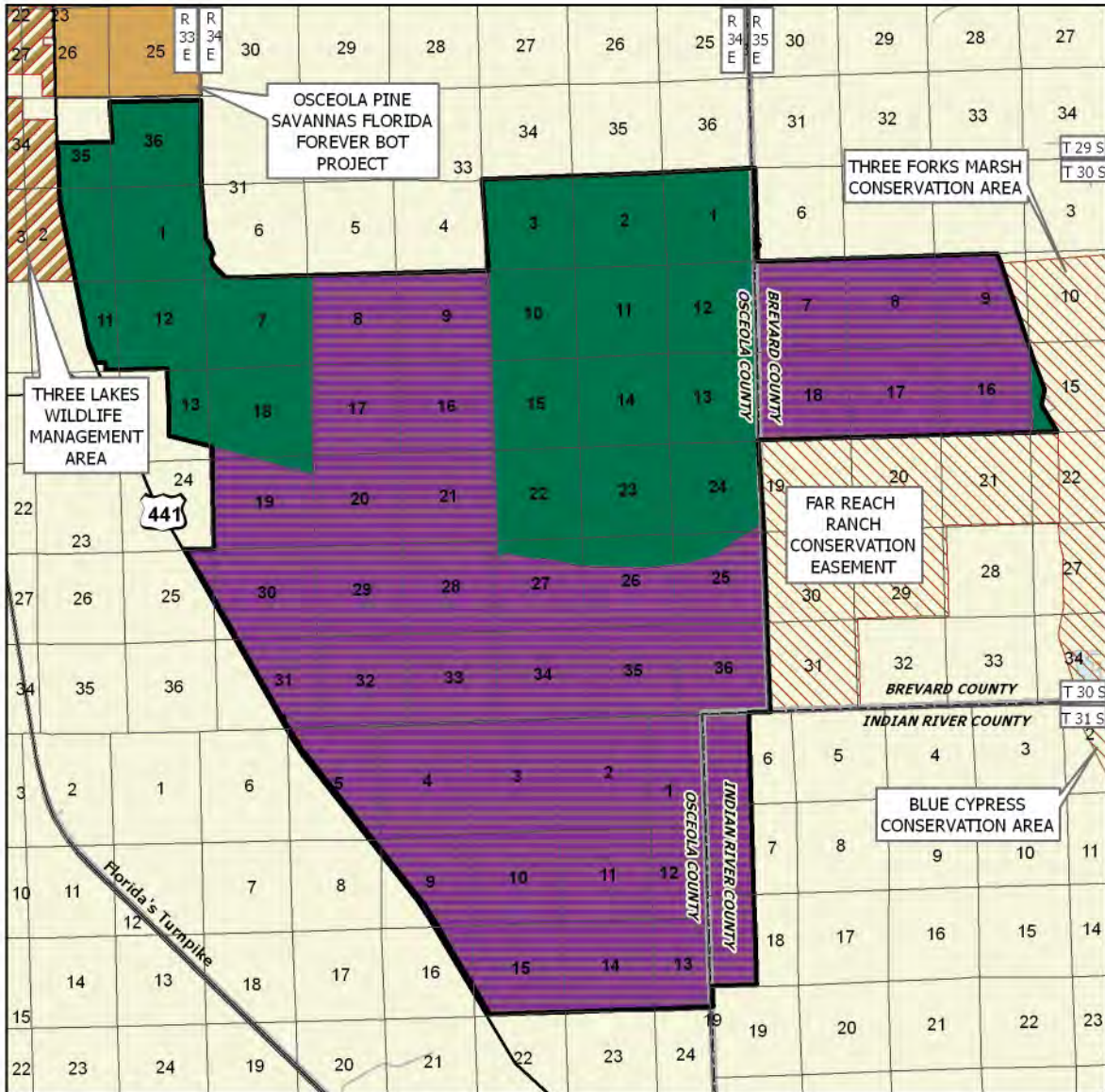
Ranch Reserve FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Whooping Crane	G1/SNR
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
10 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>36,116</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>19,435*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$10,773,500*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>16,681</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$11,566,678</b>

\*includes funds spent and acreage acquired by the BOT and the SJRWMD



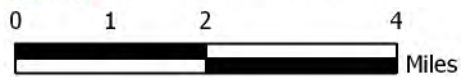
# Ranch Reserve - Group B/Less-Than-Fee



## RANCH RESERVE

*BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES*

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2006

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJR-WMD) has acquired a conservation easement over the large central tract—Escape Ranch. In 2000 the Board of Trustees acquired a conservation easement over the Mills Ranch.

### **Coordination**

St. Johns River Water Management District is an acquisition partner with the state and has acquired substantial acreage within the project area.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Ranch Reserve project is to preserve and restore the mosaic of pine flatwoods and wetlands in southeastern Osceola County (and contiguous portions of Brevard and Indian River counties), along with the populations of wildlife that use these lands. Achieving this objective will provide a refuge for threatened animals like the red-cocked woodpecker, sandhill crane, and many others.

The project should be managed to foster, preserve and protect in perpetuity the natural, ecological, wildlife and plant life features and values of the property and to prevent any use of the property that will significantly impair its conservation values. The conservation easement allows the landowner to continue to use the property for commercial cattle operation, hunting, fishing and other activities that are not inconsistent with the terms of the conservation values of the property.

The project includes 35,300 acres of contiguous property, including nearly 23,800 acres of the highest-quality land in the southeastern Osceola and adjacent areas of Brevard and Indian River counties. Consequently, it has the size and location to achieve its primary objective.

### **Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for state designation*** The size of the Ranch Reserve project and its importance to wildlife, particularly to birds such as sandhill cranes and red-cockaded woodpeckers, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

***Manager*** The St. Johns River Water Management District will monitor to ensure compliance with the conservation easement.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management*** The project generally includes lands requiring monitoring only and minimum-intensity management.

***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*** Within the first year after acquisition, the District will take aerial photographs to record the condition of each ranch and begin to inventory natural resources on site. Landowners will develop management and monitoring plans to address site security, monitor and control public access, and implement fire management. Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of rare species. Forest communities will be managed using techniques recommended by the Division of Forestry. Appropriate protections will be provided to environmentally sensitive areas. Minimal infrastructure development will be required.

***Revenue-generating potential*** The underlying fee ownership will remain with the present landowners, so no public revenue is anticipated from this area.

***Cooperators in management activities*** The District will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in monitoring land in the project.

### **Management Cost Summary**

Water Management District funding is available to develop detailed management plans and to monitor compliance with those plans.

# San Felasco Conservation Corridor

Alachua County

**Group B  
Less-Than-Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The primary purposes for acquiring conservation easements from landowners in this project are to facilitate the development of a greenway conservation corridor in northeast Alachua County, and to protect significant natural and cultural resources.

### Manager

As a proposed less-than-fee acquisition project, the project will be managed by the private landowner and monitored and overseen by Alachua County or by a local land trust.

### General Description

The San Felasco Florida Forever proposal consists of three separate tracts of land totaling approximately 379 acres. Alone these three parcels do not create a viable project, but when combined with a larger Conservation Corridor project the importance of these pieces is seen. The tracts proposed for this Florida Forever project include a narrow fringe of hardwood forest bordering (but not including) a shallow lake, a small parcel of hardwood forest along a blackwater stream bordered by development and a four-lane highway, and a pine plantation with a few isolated wetlands and a blackwater stream. The western tract (roughly 30 acres), the undeveloped Burnett Lake Subdivision property, consists principally of a narrow strip of land bordered on the northwest by a railroad and partially surrounding, but only very narrowly abutting, the north and west sides of Burnett Lake. About two-thirds of the tract supports a predominantly second-growth hardwood forest. The small (roughly 15-acre) central parcel lies between U.S. 441 on the south, a railroad on the north, Mol-Tech battery manufacturing plant on the west, and the small residential area of Hague on the east. The south flowing Cellon Creek flows through this parcel from state owned IFAS property. The tract supports

second-growth hardwood forest and other hardwoods, growing along the small floodplain and slopes of a blackwater stream. Though narrow and disturbed, this tract may have some, though certainly limited, value as a wildlife corridor.

### Public Use

Its small size, separation into three disjunct parcels, limited uplands and the fact that it is a less-than-fee (LTF) acquisition limit the public resource-based recreation potential of this project. Generally, owners do not allow public recreation on LTF lands. However, there is an indication that limited fishing and nature appreciation may be allowed on the project. Some environmental education potential may also be possible as part of the nature appreciation aspect. As a part of a larger multiple agency cooperative effort to protect forests and wetlands connecting San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park with the Gainesville Wellfield and the Santa Fe River, these properties would also lend support to any trail that might eventually be made possible through other acquisitions.

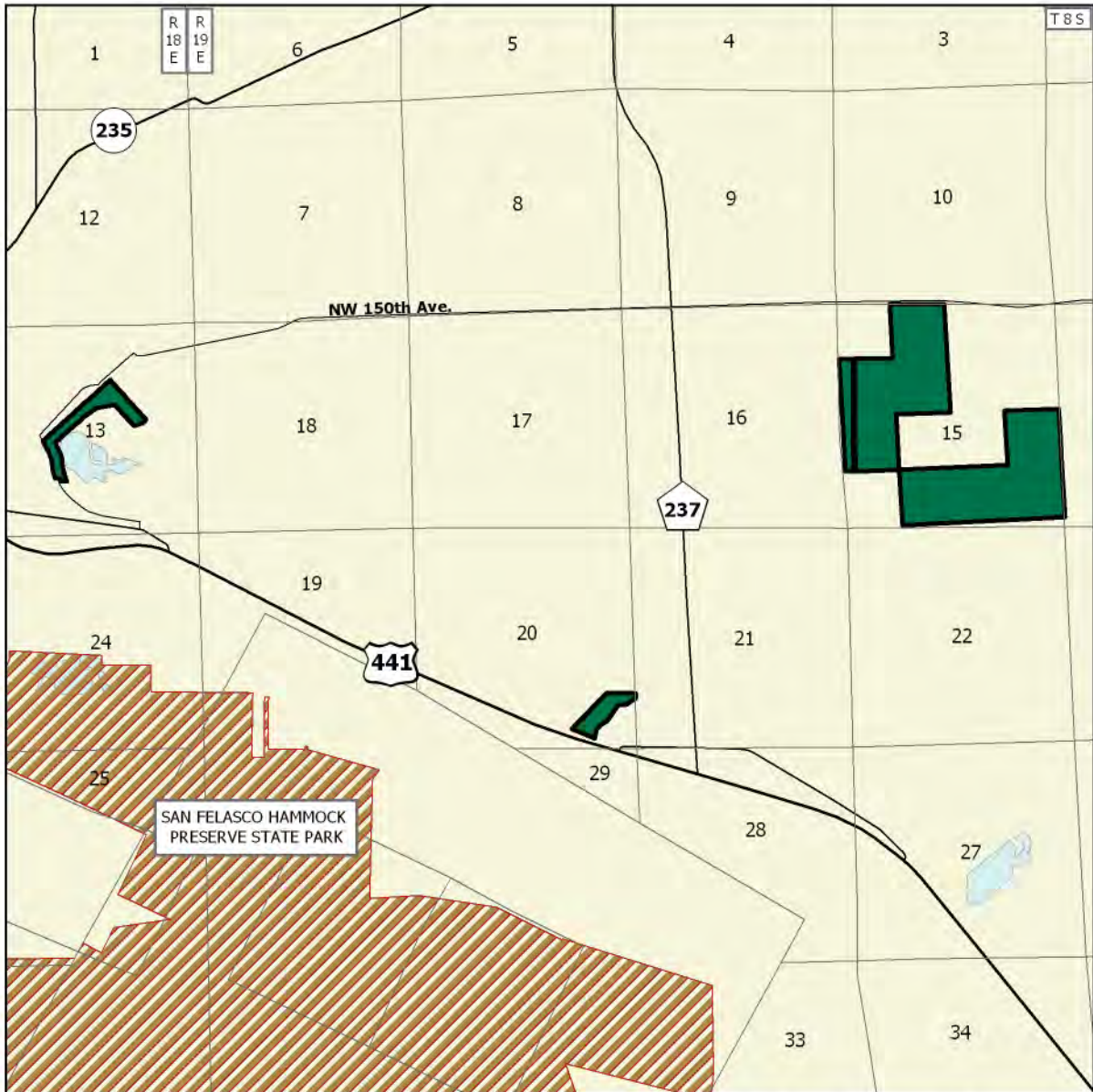
### Acquisition Planning

The project consists of multiple parcels and multiple owners. The project has been proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. On June 6, 2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the A list of Florida Forever projects. The Division of State Lands is currently working on a conservation easement for this project.

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>379</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>379</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: n/a</b>	

<p><b>San Felasco Conservation Corridor</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009</p>
<p>no rare species are associated with the project</p>

# San Felasco Conservation Corridor - Group B/Less-Than-Fee



## SAN FELASCO CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

### ALACHUA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands



JULY 2006

## San Felasco Conservation Corridor - Group B/Less-Than-Fee

### Coordination

The San Felasco Land Trust has created a large 25,000-acre Corridor project and brought together the Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District, The Florida Communities Trust, and the Alachua Forever land acquisition program to cooperatively acquire the Conservation Corridor. There are no adjacent land acquisition projects begun under the CARL, P2000 or Florida Forever programs. The San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park and the TTC/Gainesville Wellfield Conservation Easement are adjacent to the larger 25,000-acre Corridor project.

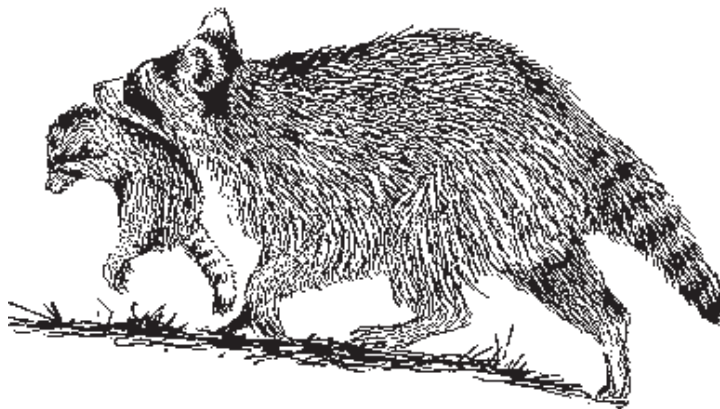
### Management Policy Statement

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the

private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### Management Prospectus

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the San Felasco Conservation Corridor will likely be monitored and overseen by Alachua County or by a local land trust. As such, questions about intensity of the management of the property, a timetable for implementing management, cooperators in the management activities or revenue-generating potential of the project cannot be detailed at this time.



# San Pedro Bay

## Madison and Taylor Counties

# Group B

## Full Fee

### Purpose for Acquisition

This project constitutes one of the largest undeveloped areas of the state not in public ownership and is essentially unoccupied by humans. It is clearly a landscape scale system and would constitute a significant wilderness. A large part of this project is within the existing San Pedro Bay Wildlife Management Area. Acquisition would expand that area and broaden hunting opportunities in the region. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Managers

The Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are recommended as unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired.

### General Description

This fee simple acquisition proposal is owned by Wachovia and the Foley Timber and Land Company, and consists primarily of wet timberland interspersed with basin swamps and baygalls. The proposal has been revised to include two parcels: a large parcel in Taylor and Madison counties between CR 14 and CR 53, and a smaller, 3,000 acre parcel in Taylor County. Conservation lands in close proximity to the proposal include the Hixton Swamp Florida Forever project and several Conservation Areas of the Suwannee River Water Management District.

### Public Use

Current consumptive recreational uses on the area consist primarily of hunting with a limited amount of bank fishing. The game species hunted are primarily

deer, hog, and turkey hunting. Deer populations are low, but could increase with added protection and habitat improvement. Protection could be improved by securing boundaries, limiting access roads, and installing entrance gates. Wading birds and aquatic animals such as amphibians and reptiles that are present would benefit from applied management such as prescribed burning. State ownership would offer potential for wildlife viewing and nature study that could be improved with viewing towers or elevated walkways to offer vistas of the swamp habitat. Resource-based outdoor recreation activities that can be accommodated on the property would be hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and picnicking. The extent of these uses will greatly depend on the wet and dry conditions of the property.

The 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan reflects hunting as having a high need for the year 2005 for the region in which the project is located.

The resource-based recreation potential for the project is generally low, except for the hunting potential, which the FWC advises is moderate to high.

### Acquisition Planning

The San Pedro Bay project is approximately 48,763 acres in tracts in Madison and Taylor counties. The Wachovia ownership includes the Madison tract (about 19,742.42 acres) and the Taylor tract (about 3,120.69 acres), and has been acquired by Regions Bank. The Foley tract is about 25,900 acres. This proposal is being offered for a fee simple acquisition from the two

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>44,763</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>44,763</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: \$7,898,471</b>	

San Pedro Bay FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Great Egret	G5/S4
2 rare species are associated with the project	

## San Pedro Bay - Group B/Full Fee

ownerships. The Wachovia tract was acquired from the Gilman Trust in 1999, and has historically managed the pine timber for chip-n-saw rotations. The Foley tract is adjacent to the Wachovia Madison tract on the western border. Currently the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has a lease over this area for a Wildlife Management Area. The tax-assessed value is \$7,898,471.

On December 5, 2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the project to the Florida Forever project list.

### Coordination

No acquisition partners have been identified for this project.

### Unified Management Policy

#### Introduction

The San Pedro Bay Florida Forever Project comprises 44,787 acres located in Madison and Taylor counties. This project is part of San Pedro Bay, a distinct wetland system extending between the Suwannee and Econfina rivers. It is the largest area of privately owned roadless land remaining in Florida. The San Pedro Bay project includes two owners, and is designed to protect a large wetland system and the waters that receive its flow. Two parcels are proposed for fee simple acquisition as follows: The first parcel has two owners, and comprises 41,666 acres in Madison and Taylor counties, stretching 16 miles from east to west between County Road 14 and County Road 53. The second parcel has one owner, and comprises 3,121 acres located in Taylor County, 2 miles south of the first parcel. One part of the proposed project drains westward to the Gulf of Mexico via the Fenholloway and Econfina Rivers; the other part of the project drains eastward via canals to the Suwannee River. Much of the central area of the proposed project has no clear drainage pattern. The project is located approximately 5 miles south of Madison, 7 miles northeast of Perry, and 45 miles east of Tallahassee.

The project consists primarily of wetlands resulting from a water table perched on top of a clay layer, which retains water on the surface and impedes movement of water into the underlying Floridan aquifer. Natural communities make up about 49% of the San Pedro Bay proposal; the remaining 51% is in silvicultural operations. Natural communities within the project include basin marsh, baygall, dome swamp and wet flatwoods. Most of the larger baygalls and dome

swamps have been selectively logged in recent years. Basin marsh, including some interspersed wet flatwoods, comprises 5,653 acres of the project, and appears to be largely in a natural condition. Wet flatwoods comprises 22,822 acres interspersed with 16,252 acres of baygall and dome swamp. In the area where silvicultural operations occur, planted wet flatwoods includes an understory of native herbs and shrubs. Raised beds are used to improve growth of pine trees on poorly drained soils. The resulting cypress-pine association (*Pinus spp.*-*Taxodium ascendens*), also referred to as titi or titi bay, is typified by a dense, shrubby understory of titi (*Cliftonia monophylla*; *Cyrilla racemiflora*), greenbrier (*Smilax spp.*), fetterbush (*Lyonia spp.*), holly (*Ilex spp.*), and many other wetland plants. About 70 acres are classified as disturbed land. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 20% (8,756 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities.

The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), the little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Other imperiled or rare animal species that are expected to occur in the project include Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), and swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) has also been observed on the project.

Game species are present in relatively low densities among scattered habitat for white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Other game species having been observed on the area include the common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), and rabbits (*Sylvilagus spp.*).

This project provides habitat for larger, more widely ranging species such as the Florida black bear, and is significant as an ecological greenway, with the entire project area (44,787 acres) qualifying as either priority 3 or 7 in potential importance, according to

the FNAI. The project would improve feasibility of establishing a landscape linkage with coastal publicly owned bear habitat on the Aucilla and Big Bend wildlife management areas (WMAs), and the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Other nearby conservation lands include: Hixtown Swamp Florida Forever project 3 miles northeast of the project; Twin Rivers State Forest along the Suwannee River, 6 miles to the east; and the Econfina Conservation Area along the Econfina River, 5 miles to the west.

The rare plant species occurring in the project area include pitcher plants (*Sarracenia spp.*) within smaller areas of herbaceous wetlands. It is expected that additional rare and imperiled biota, yet to be documented, occur in the project area.

The San Pedro Bay project is of sufficient size for large-scale ecosystem management and restoration programs, as part of the larger San Pedro Bay wetland system. Successful restoration of important ecological and hydrological functions might require additional project design. Hydrological restoration would improve fish and wildlife resources, as well as opportunities for outdoor recreation. However, hydrological restoration could diminish certain types of public access due to increased water levels and wetland function.

### ***Management Goals***

San Pedro Bay is one of several examples across North Florida of where a predominantly hydric community has been dramatically altered to promote silvicultural conversion. Extensive ditching and drainage works overlay a relatively flat topography that was once composed of hydric pine flatwoods, baygalls, bay swamp, and cypress swamp. The principal land management challenges at San Pedro Bay center on the hydrological restoration of surface waters to pre-drainage conditions, the gradual restoration of native land cover types, and the protection and enhancement of remnant natural plant and wildlife communities. Due to the multi-disciplinary approach that will be required to achieve successful restoration, it is recommended that the project be placed under unified management involving both the DOF and the FWC. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land and timber resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities.

The landscape ecology of this project provides connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands, large areas of forest, functional wetlands (71 percent, or 31,936 acres of project area), and protection of surface water (57 percent, or 25,379 acres of project area) and natural floodplain function (11 percent, or 4,833 acres of project area). Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed that serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

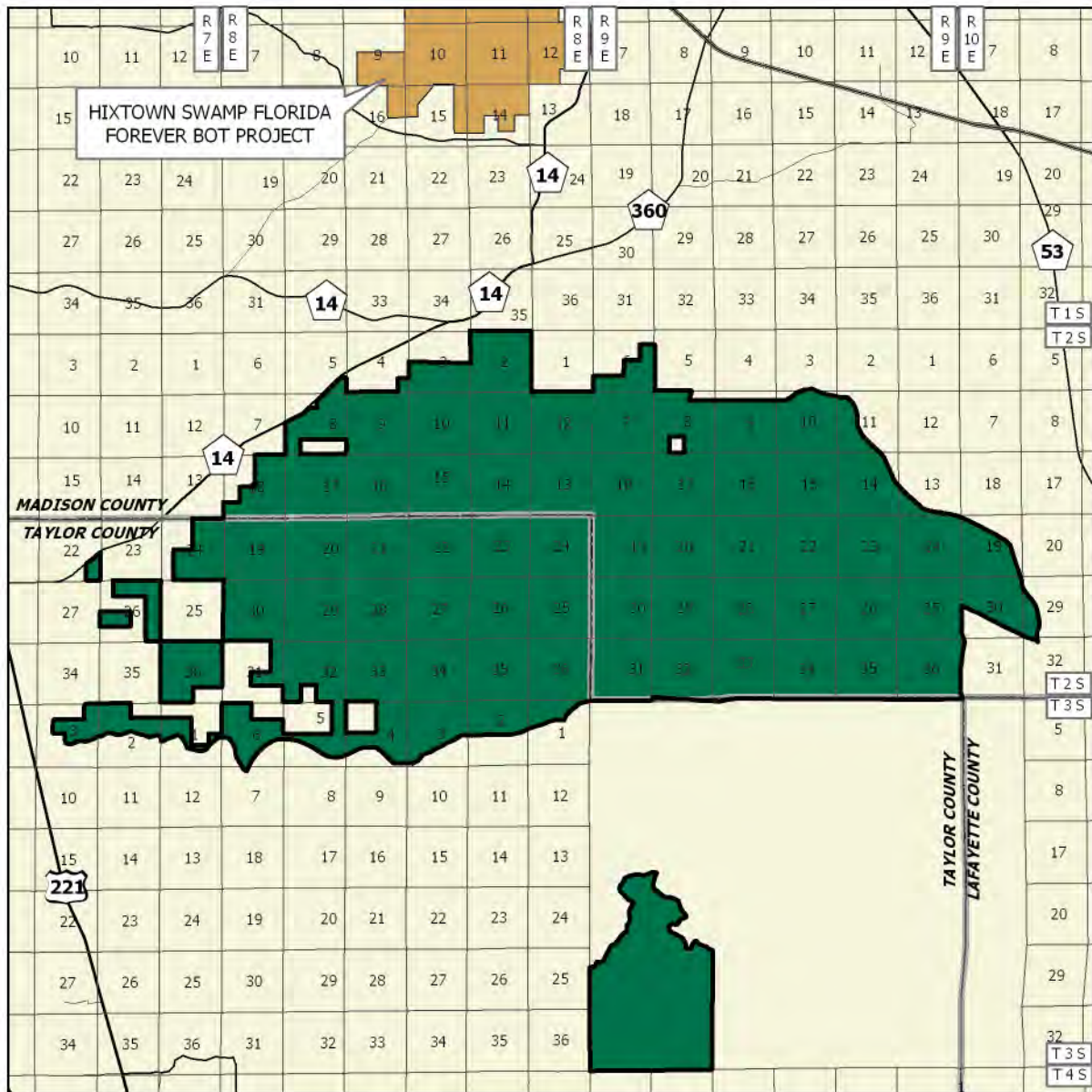
Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and rare or imperiled species would be an important management goal. Management programs would conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources. Stands of timber would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes and canopy conditions that promote ground cover development and enhancement of wildlife. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The project area will be managed to provide for those recreation opportunities that are best suited to the characteristics of the site, as well as the needs of user groups. Currently, recreational use of the site consists of bicycling, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Trails may be used as multi-use trails. The Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 66 percent (29,340 acres) of the project area suitable for priority 1 recreational trails. The managing agencies would promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment.

This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):



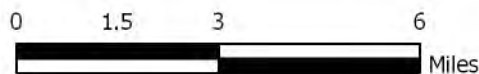
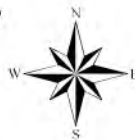
# San Pedro Bay - Group B/Full Fee



## SAN PEDRO BAY

### MADISON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



AUGUST 2006

(b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels

(c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state

(d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state

(e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities

(g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources

### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

Most of the project area is a high-need tract, requiring significant up-front design and engineering analysis to restore natural hydrologic functions. Under unified management, DOF and FWC will utilize in-house expertise in areas of plant community restoration to develop long-term hydrologic goals and objectives that will be featured in the conceptual management plan (CMP). Much of the project's wet flatwoods has been managed for silvicultural operations, and will require restoration. Off-site timber species may require thinning or removal to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species. Areas where pine has been harvested, but not yet replanted, will require reforestation of native pine species best suited for soil and moisture conditions, and at stocking levels that restore natural plant and wildlife community characteristics. Under unified management, the managing agencies would conduct historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and restoration methods and tools. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods and tools for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities might include the introduction of prescribed fire, control of human uses and removal of invasive exotic species.

Because many imperiled or rare species are expected to occur in the project, biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Development of facilities for public use and administrative purposes would feature rustic facilities, and be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience. Any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

### ***Timetable for Implementing Management Provisions***

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of imperiled or rare species of flora and fauna. Due to the nature of past drainage and dewatering activities associated with silvicultural operations, an extensive hydrologic analysis will be performed to guide long-term restoration strategies. Other concurrent assessments will include completion of a plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis. Based on the results of these assessments, both agencies will develop quantified vegetation management objectives and desired future condition profiles to direct restoration in a manner consistent with the objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems.

Management will emphasize enhancement of abundance and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented. An all season prescribed burning management plan would be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable methods and tools. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of unified management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. Archaeological and historic sites

## San Pedro Bay - Group B/Full Fee

would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Both agencies will work cooperatively towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, and would include provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

### *Estimate of Revenue-Generating Potential*

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 44 percent (19,834 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently

serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees, and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15 percent) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated.

### *Recommendations as to Other Governmental Agency Involvement*

The unified managers (DOF and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Suwannee River Water Management District, in managing the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

### *Revenue Sources, Management Costs and Employees Needed\**

Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the DOF and FWC.

<b>Category Source of Funds</b>	<b>Start-up CARL</b>	<b>Recurring CARL</b>
<b>Resource Management</b>	<b>\$548,732</b>	<b>\$719,677</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$75,494</b>	<b>\$25,133</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$149,080</b>	<b>\$31,566</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$2,187,189</b>	<b>\$316,190</b>
<b>Visitor Services/Recreation</b>	<b>\$3,756</b>	<b>\$141</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>\$31,351</b>	<b>\$31,351</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,995,601</b>	<b>\$1,124,056</b>

\*includes employee salaries

WLD 8-5-2

BWM\PROSPECTUS\Unified Management\Revised San Pedro Bay Prospectus UM 7.13.2004

# Sand Mountain

## Group B Full Fee

### Washington and Bay Counties

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

Until the early part of this century, the country north of St. Andrews Bay was a high longleaf–pine sandhill interrupted by deep depressions holding shallow sand-bottomed lakes. The lakes still pock the area, but pine plantations and residential developments have replaced most of the sandhill. The Sand Mountain project will conserve and restore part of this land, still one of the largest tracts of sandhill in the Florida panhandle; protect the watersheds of the lakes and of Econfina Creek (the source of Panama City’s water); maintain habitat critical to the survival of several rare plants that grow only around these lakes; and provide a large scenic area where the public can enjoy many recreational activities, from hiking to hunting. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

#### Manager

Division of Forestry, Florida (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

#### General Description

This project protects the largest remaining tract of high quality, natural xeric uplands of Florida’s New Hope Ridge and Fountain Slope physiographic regions. The high rolling pinelands drop down to classic examples of steephead ravines, unique Sandhill Upland Lakes, and a portion of a nearly pristine stream. Much of the sandhills are of excellent quality, having a nearly intact

ground cover of wiregrass and dropseed, but those owned by the Rosewood Timber Company have been cleared and planted in sand pine. At least 18 species of rare or endangered plants inhabit the project. The Slope Forests in the steepheads shelter several species, while around the Sandhill Upland Lakes are four globally imperiled plant species found nowhere else in the world. The project also contains a large part of the watershed of Econfina Creek, nearly pristine in terms of water quality. Three archaeological sites are known from the project and there is moderate potential for more. Development threatens the northern part and the lakes in the southern part.

#### Public Use

This project is designated as a state forest with such uses as hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, camping and environmental education.

#### Acquisition Planning

The larger longleaf pine sandhill tracts (essential)—Deltona, St. Joe and John Hancock Mutual Life Ins. Co.—should be acquired first. The Northwest Florida Water Management District has acquired the Rosewood ownership in Phase II and a portion of the Deltona ownership.

#### Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD) is an acquisition partner.

#### Management Policy Statement

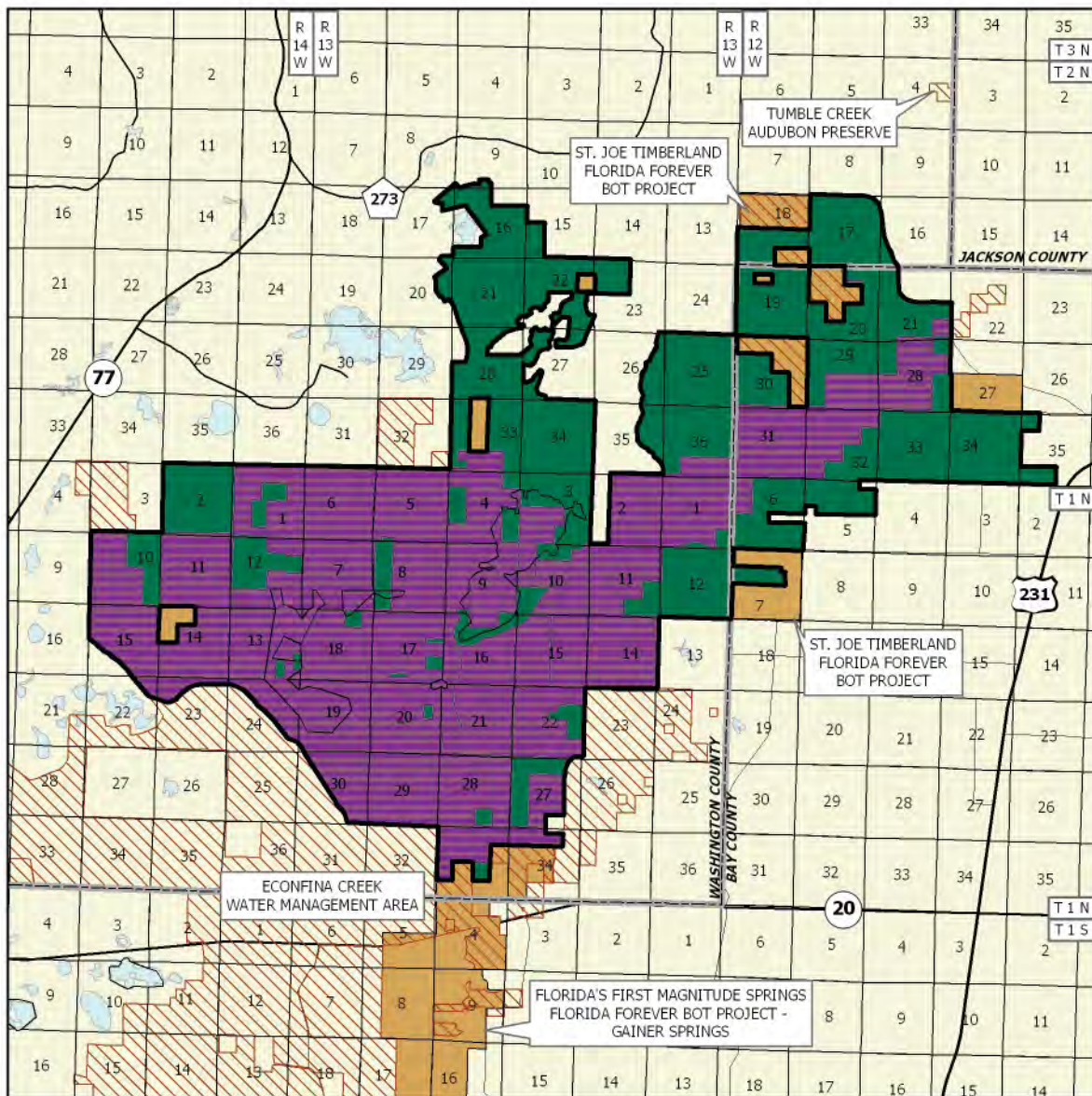
The primary goals of management of the Sand Mountain project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>34,361</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>19,326</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$26,637,412*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>15,035</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$10,363,475</b>

\*By the Northwest Florida Water Mgt. District

<b>Sand Mountain</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Quillwort Yellow-eyed Grass</i>	G1/S1
<i>Crystal Lake Nailwort</i>	G3T1/S1
Econfina Springs Cave Isopod	G1/S1
Shaggy Ghostsnail	G1/S1
Oval Pigtoe	G2/S1S2
<i>Karst Pond Xyris</i>	G2/S2
<i>Smoothbark St. John's wort</i>	G2/S2
<i>Panhandle Meadowbeauty</i>	G2/S2
<i>Thread-leaf Sundew</i>	G4/S1
<i>Florida Flame Azalea</i>	G3/S3
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
27 rare species are associated with the project	

# Sand Mountain - Full Fee/Group B



## SAND MOUNTAIN

### WASHINGTON AND BAY COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006

or larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The large areas of natural longleaf pine sandhills and restorable pine plantations in the Sand Mountain project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The DOF is recommended as the lead Manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The pine plantations in the project will require restoration. Other than this, there are no known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Once the core area is acquired, the Division of Forestry will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The Division will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endan-

gered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Much of the pinelands has been cleared and planted in sand pine and requires restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructures will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The Division of Forestry will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable amounts of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Northwest Florida Water Management District has purchased land along Econfina Creek within the project boundary. The District will cooperate with the DOF in the management of this corridor. The DOF will also cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

**Management Cost Summary/DOF**

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$148,370	\$148,370
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$70,000	\$50,000
OCO	\$234,900	\$15,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$453,270</b>	<b>\$213,370</b>

**Management Cost Summary/NWFWMD**

Category Source of Funds	1996/97 WMLTF	1997/98 WMLTF	1998/99 WMLTF
Salary	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
OPS	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Expense	\$39,222	\$49,028	\$61,284
OCO	\$27,838	\$34,798	\$43,498
FCO	\$36,000	\$34,750	\$43,438
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$143,060</b>	<b>\$183,576</b>	<b>\$213,220</b>

# Save Our Everglades

Collier County

## Group B Small Holdings

### Purpose for State Acquisition

West of the huge sawgrass marsh of the central Everglades spreads a landscape of cypress swamps, marshes, slash-pine flatwoods, and tropical hammocks, through which water slowly flows to the mangrove swamps of the Ten Thousand Islands. The Save Our Everglades project will conserve three large pieces of this landscape, connecting and extending existing conservation lands, helping to save the last of the Florida panthers and a host of other rare animals and tropical plants, preserving the flow of water to the rich estuaries of the Gulf coast, and allowing the public to enjoy this unique landscape for years to come. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

National Park Service (Big Cypress Addition), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge), Division of Forestry (all of the Golden Gate Estates South, less that portion east of the Fakaunion Canal to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks), And the Division of Recreation and Parks (that portion of the Golden Gate Estates South lying east of the Fakaunion Canal, less the old resort hotel, its associated compound and the sewage treatment plant.

### General Description

This project includes important hydrological connections among Big Cypress National Preserve, Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, and Everglades National Park. It serves as the headwaters of the largest strand swamp in the nation—the Fakahatchee Strand. It is also an excellent natural area in its own right. Natural communities on the property include cypress forest, pine forest, hammock, mixed swamp forest, wet and dry prairies and freshwater marsh. The area is known to support many endangered, threatened or rare species including a large variety of rare orchids and other epiphytes, as well as the endangered Florida panther. There is believed to be good potential for archaeological sites here. The project is threatened by drainage and other changes in water flow through the area, by oil and gas exploration, and perhaps by limerock mining.

### Public Use

The project will provide a preserve/reserve, wildlife and environmental area, and a forest, allowing such uses as fishing, hunting, hiking, camping and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

The finalization of the Collier Exchange on December 18, 1996, resulted in public protection of an additional 83,070 acres in the Big Cypress Addition and an additional 4,110 acres in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

On April 18, 2003 ARC transferred 1,615 acres in Hendry County to the Panther Glades Florida Forever project.

Save Our Everglades FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Clamshell Orchid	G4G5T2/S2
Pineland Jacquemontia	G2/S2
Florida Royal Palm	G2G3/S2
Narrow-leaved Carolina Scalystem	G4T2/S2
Fuzzy-wuzzy Air-plant	G4/S1
Ghost Orchid	G2G4/S2
Fakahatchee Burmannia	G5/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
25 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1984</b>
<b>Project Area</b>	<b>222,691</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>218,096</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$132,010,179</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>4,595</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$4,053,442</b>

The National Park Service continues to pursue consolidation efforts in the Big Cypress Preserve Addition. The CARL Program continues to focus on acquiring land in Golden Gate Estates South. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired and manages 28,410 acres (including Collier Exchange lands). The CARL Program received \$25 million of Federal "Farm Bill" funds for the Golden Gate portion of this project. All of the acreage in this project is considered "essential".

### **Coordination**

The NPS, USFWS, and FDOT are all acquisition partners in this project area. Resolutions in support of this project include EO 88-25: Governor's Executive Directive for Interagency Joint Participation Agreement.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Save Our Everglades project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The sensitive resources of the Big Cypress National Preserve qualify it as a state preserve. The extremely rare Florida panther and the undisturbed habitat needed to protect it qualify the Panther National Wildlife Refuge as a wildlife and environmental area. The size and diversity of Golden Gate Estates South, and its twelve miles of common border with the Belle Meade project (to be managed by the Division of Forestry), make it highly suitable for use and management as a state forest.

**Manager** National Park Service (Big Cypress Addition), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge), Division of Forestry (all of the Golden Gate Estates South, less that portion east of the Fakaunion Canal to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks), And the Division of Recreation and Parks (that portion of the Golden Gate Estates

South lying east of the Fakaunion Canal, less the old resort hotel, its associated compound and the sewage treatment plant.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Panther National Wildlife Refuge is a low-need management area, requiring basic resource management and protection. Portions of Golden Gate Estates may require hydrological restoration, but the local water management district will probably conduct these activities. There is a major road network that might eventually require partial removal. If this restoration effort is attempted, it will probably require funding beyond what is typically expected for a state forest.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

The Panther National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989. In 1991, the USFWS began management programs of protection, prescribed burning and food plot management. The area is not open for public use. For the first four years, the refuge was burned to reduce accumulated fuel loads. Burns were confined to the winter and spring. The refuge will experiment with early summer burns in the future. Approximately 6,000 acres of Golden Gate Estates South have already been acquired within the project boundaries; however, this acreage is composed of thousands of lots scattered throughout the area so management for public access and use is not feasible at this time. Once sufficient area has been acquired, the Division of Forestry will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as fast as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species.

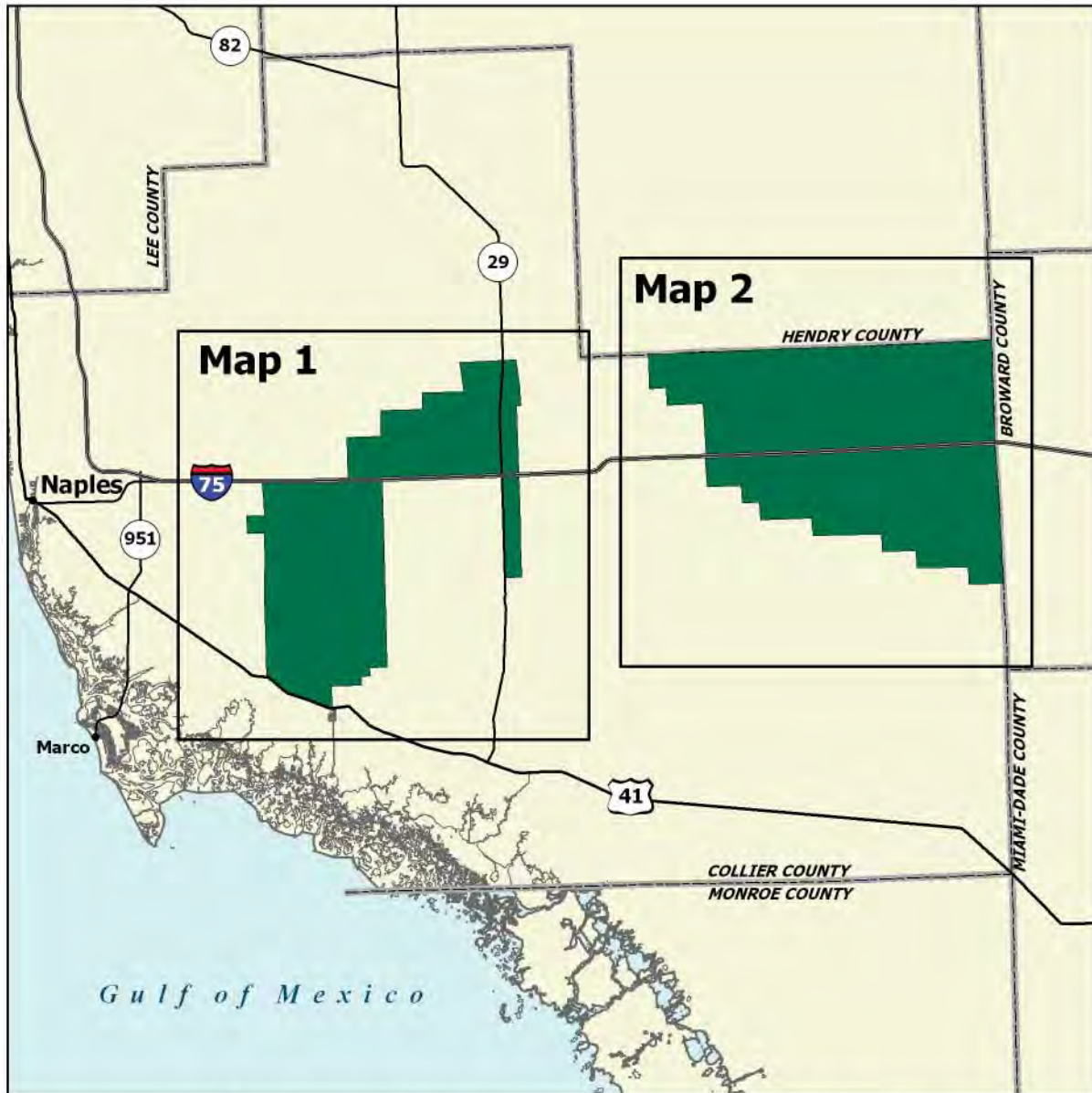
**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected from the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. In Golden Gate Estates, the Division of Forestry will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable amounts of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South Florida

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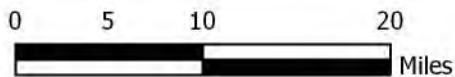


# Save Our Everglades - Small Holdings/Group B



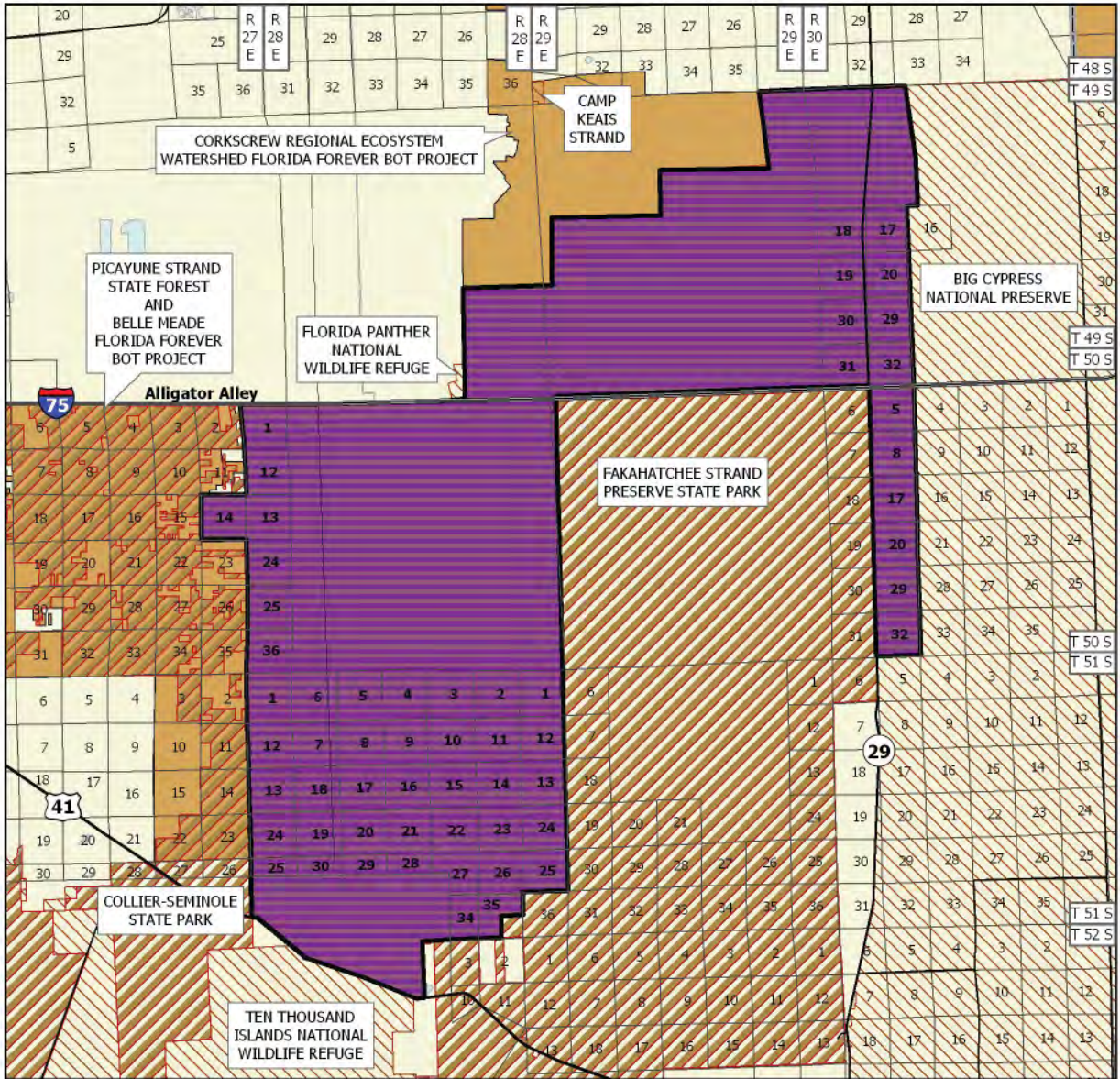
## SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: OVERVIEW

### COLLIER COUNTY



MAY 2006

# Save Our Everglades - Small Holdings/Group B



## SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 1 OF 2

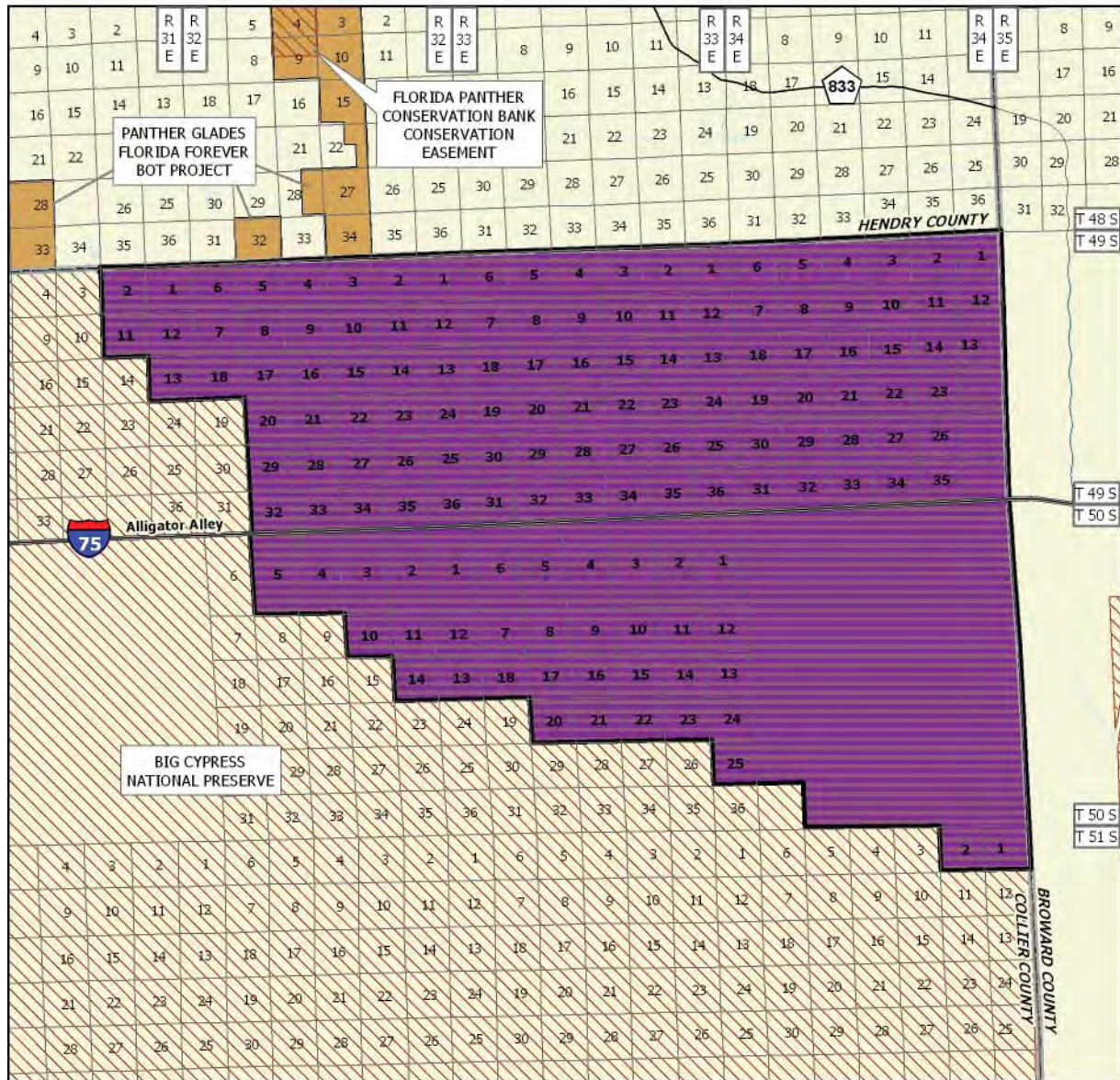
### COLLIER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands







NOVEMBER 2008

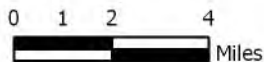
# Save Our Everglades - Small Holdings/Group B



## SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 2 OF 2

### COLLIER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2009

## Save Our Everglades - Small Holdings/Group B

Water Management District, Florida Division of Forestry, CREW, Collier County, and the National Park Service are cooperators in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

<b>Management Cost Summary/DOF</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1995/96</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$35,376	\$50,658	85,000
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$24,975	\$34,125	\$60,000
OCO	\$4,190	\$40,000	\$46,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,541</b>	<b>\$124,783</b>	<b>\$191,000</b>

<b>Management Cost Summary/NPS</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>NPS</b>
Salary	\$110,000	\$110,000
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$115,000	\$70,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>

<b>Management Cost Summary/SFWMD</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Startup</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>	<b>WMLTF</b>
Salary	\$3,265	\$3,265
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,265</b>	<b>\$3,265</b>

<b>Management Cost Summary/USFWS</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>FWS</b>
Salary	N/A	N/A	N/A
OPS	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expense	N/A	N/A	N/A
OCO	N/A	N/A	N/A
FCO	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$642,600</b>	<b>\$747,300</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# Seven Runs Creek

Walton County

## Group A Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring a conservation easement over the 14,649 acres of the Seven Runs Creek meets the Florida Forever goals of creating contiguous conservation areas, protecting groundwater resources, using alternatives to fee-simple acquisition to protect open lands, conserving significant Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas for such species as the Florida black bears, and ecological restoration of lands that were changed by tree-farming and other activities.

### Monitor

The property will be managed as a conservation easement (or, less-than-fee acquisition) with restrictions established in a negotiated conservation easement. The Office of Environmental Services, Division of State Lands, will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement, unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

Seven Runs Creek is in the Northern Highlands region of the Florida panhandle. It has high (to 180 feet above mean sea level), xeric, mostly sandy ridges that once supported longleaf pine-dominated sand hills. Its western boundary is contiguous with Eglin Air Force Base (AFB). It is contiguous along its southern boundary with the northern boundary of the 2005 North Nokuse Plantation Florida Forever project, which is in turn adjacent to Nokuse Plantation Conservation Easement, an

easement acquired with Florida Forever funds to assure these lands would be protected and remain undeveloped in perpetuity.

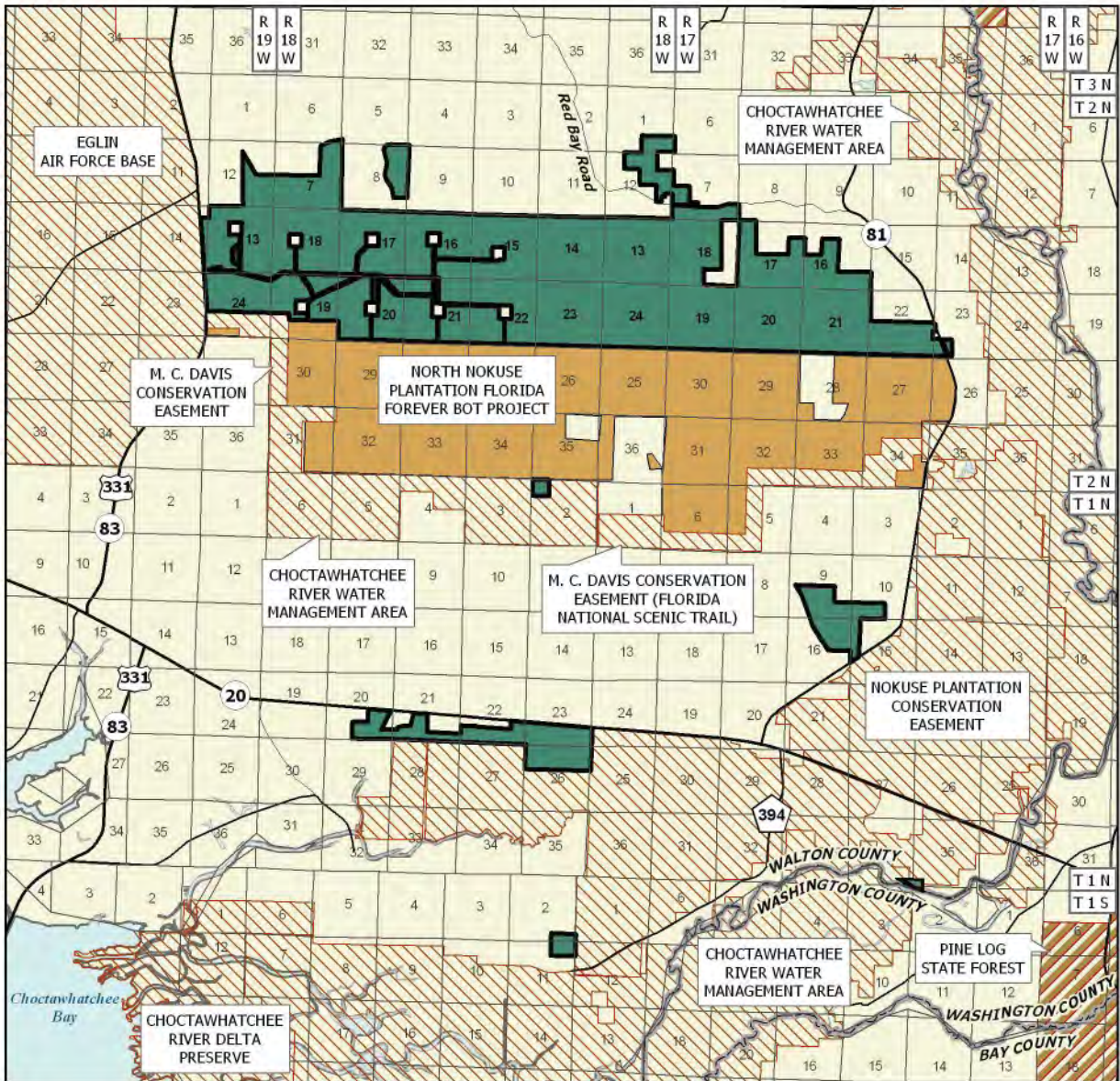
Most of the uplands of the proposal have been ecologically degraded by decades of silviculture and agriculture (row crops, especially soy beans). Under the current ownership by Mr. M. C. Davis, most of these lands are being restored, including replanting of longleaf pine (now about 5,000 acres) and using prescribed fire, with positive ecological results. As part of this effort, Mr. Davis, aided by site director Dr. Matt Aresco, has started an experimental large-scale effort to restore populations of gopher tortoises throughout Nokuse Plantation, including at Seven Runs Creek.

The Florida Forever Measures notes that a total of 3,412 acres, or 24 percent of the proposal area is considered Habitat Conservation Priority, though none is ranked above Priority 4 in its current condition.

FWC provides that several listed species could potentially benefit from ongoing restoration of historic and current sandhill habitats on the proposal. The state listed Species of Special Concern the fox squirrel and the state Threatened Southeastern American kestrel use sandhill habitats. Red-cockaded woodpeckers, a federally Endangered species, also use sand hills. Additionally, FWC notes that sand hills also support populations of gopher tortoises, which are listed by the state of Florida as a Species of Special Concern.

Seven Runs Creek FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
White-top Pitcherplant	G3/S3
Pineland Hoary-pea	G3/S3
Baltzell's Sedge	G3/S3
Large-leaved Jointweed	G3/S3
Pine Barrens Treefrog	G4/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Sandhill Sedge	G5?/S3
10 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>14,649</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>14,649</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,498,918</b>



### SEVEN RUNS CREEK

**WALTON COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MAY 2009

## Seven Runs Creek - Group A/Less-Than-Fee

Mr. Davis is currently and very actively engaged in a very aggressive program aimed at the ecological restoration of the tract through: the removal of off-site pines such as sand pine and slash pine, the planting of more than 15,000 acres to date of longleaf pines, the liberal use of prescribed fire in an all-season burning regime, the reintroduction of gopher tortoises, and the aggressive control of several invasive exotic species.

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation notes that the entire proposal is considered to be a groundwater recharge area. The area has been mapped by the Water Management District as a groundwater rich area. In a presentation to ARC in August 2008, the sponsor said operation of the eight wells that will provide water to Walton County would not be detrimental to the area's restoration, and that allowing them had the effect politically of securing local government support for the expansion of Mr. Davis' longleaf habitat restoration effort.

### Public Use

The Seven Runs Creek is proposed as a Less-than-Fee acquisition. There will likely not be any public access granted under the terms of the easement except for possible planned research and educational purposes. With only the possible public access for these planned purposes, there would not be any public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project. Hence, the project would not satisfy any needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is slated to open in 2009 to provide educational opportunities for high school students as well as opportunities for researchers

to investigate and document the diverse aspects of the ecosystems found within Mr. Davis' holdings. The land on which the center and several residences for managers and staff, as well as office space, has not been included in the proposal.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 12, 2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added Seven Runs Creek to the Florida Forever acquisition list as a less-than-fee project.

### Coordination

No acquisition partners for this project have been named.

### Management Policy Statement

The owner of the property, M.C. Davis, has been working to restore the sand hills of the Seven Runs Creek to their historical condition. As a conservation easement, or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with some restrictions. Restoration of the property to historic composition is the overall goal of the landowner, and that enhances this project's value as a Florida Forever project. The conservation easement will likely take the form of purchasing the development rights, prohibiting further conversion of the existing natural areas to more intensive uses, and limiting public access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.

# South Goethe

# Group A Full Fee

## Marion and Levy Counties

### Purpose for State Acquisition

This addition provides a corridor from the Goethe State Forest to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area along the Withlacoochee River and also forms a linkage to the Etoniah Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project. One of the primary concepts of this project is to protect the Withlacoochee River's watershed by connecting Goethe State Forest with the greenway. Another stated goal of the project is provide a significant buffer along the southern boundary of the forest while eventually enhancing the forest and its associated habitat through restoration.

### Manager

The property is proposed to be managed by the Division of Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### General Description

The South Goethe Florida Forever project (SGFFP) includes two ownerships to be considered for fee-simple acquisition and principally separated by highway CR 40. The Robinson tract (north of CR 40) is a single, one-owner tract of 5,722 acres (5,692 acres calculated in GIS) contiguous with the southern boundary of Goethe State Forest in southeastern Levy County. The 3.6-mile shared boundary runs along an unpaved woods road for much of its length. The Marino tract (GIS-calculated area of 460 acres) is south of the Robinson tract, mostly on the south side of highway CR 40; however, the tract extends northward across CR 40 and shares a common boundary of 0.25 mile with the Robinson tract. At its closest point, the Robinson tract approaches to within 0.46 mile of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, which lies along Lake Rousseau (impounded in the

Withlacoochee River) to the south.

This project addresses Florida Forever goals of acquiring acreage to complete the Preservation 2000 projects that predated the Florida Forever program, increasing the conservation of Florida's highest priority conservation areas, increasing the number of acres of conserved conservation corridors and landscape linkages, increasing the amount of acreage needing restoration, and increasing the amount of land preserved that protects floodplain functions, protects surface waters and protects functional wetlands.

### Public Use

Since principal purposes of the project include protecting biodiversity, protecting the quality and natural functions of the land and water systems, ensuring sufficient quantities of water are available, providing resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, and providing forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to carefully control public uses. The primary land management goals for the management of the tract is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources

South Goethe FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Longspurred Mint</i>	G1/S1
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
5 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>11,705</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>11,705</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$11,574,303</b>



## South Goethe - Group A/Full Fee

without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment.

The Division will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed in the more natural or restored areas of the tract. In the more heavily impacted areas of the tract the Division will explore the possibility of an off highway vehicle trail system. While portions of these impacted areas will be restored to a natural state, other portions could potentially provide a network of trails for off highway enthusiasts.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 8, 2006 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the South Goethe Forest Addition to Group A of the Florida Forever priority list. This full-fee project was sponsored by the Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The project has 6,152 acres and that land has a tax-assessed value of \$1,157,483.

On June 15, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 5,553-acre addition (aka Cold Springs Tract Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the Rainbow River Conservation, Inc., consisted of 33 parcels, a single ownership, Throgmartin-Henke Development LLP, and a taxable value of \$10,416,820. The DOF is the recommended manager. The parcels have been designed as essential.

### Coordination

This property is proposed as fee simple acquisition. No acquisition partnerships have been proposed at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project.

### Management Prospectus

#### *Qualifications for State Designation*

The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for

use and management as a state forest. The majority of the acreage of this project consists of planted mesic and wet flatwoods, and sandhills. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silvicultural values to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits.

### *Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management*

Much of the project's flatwoods and sandhill areas have been disturbed by silvicultural operations, and will require restoration efforts. Timber thinning will provide revenue for restoration activities as well as promote the re-generation of native ground covers and canopy.

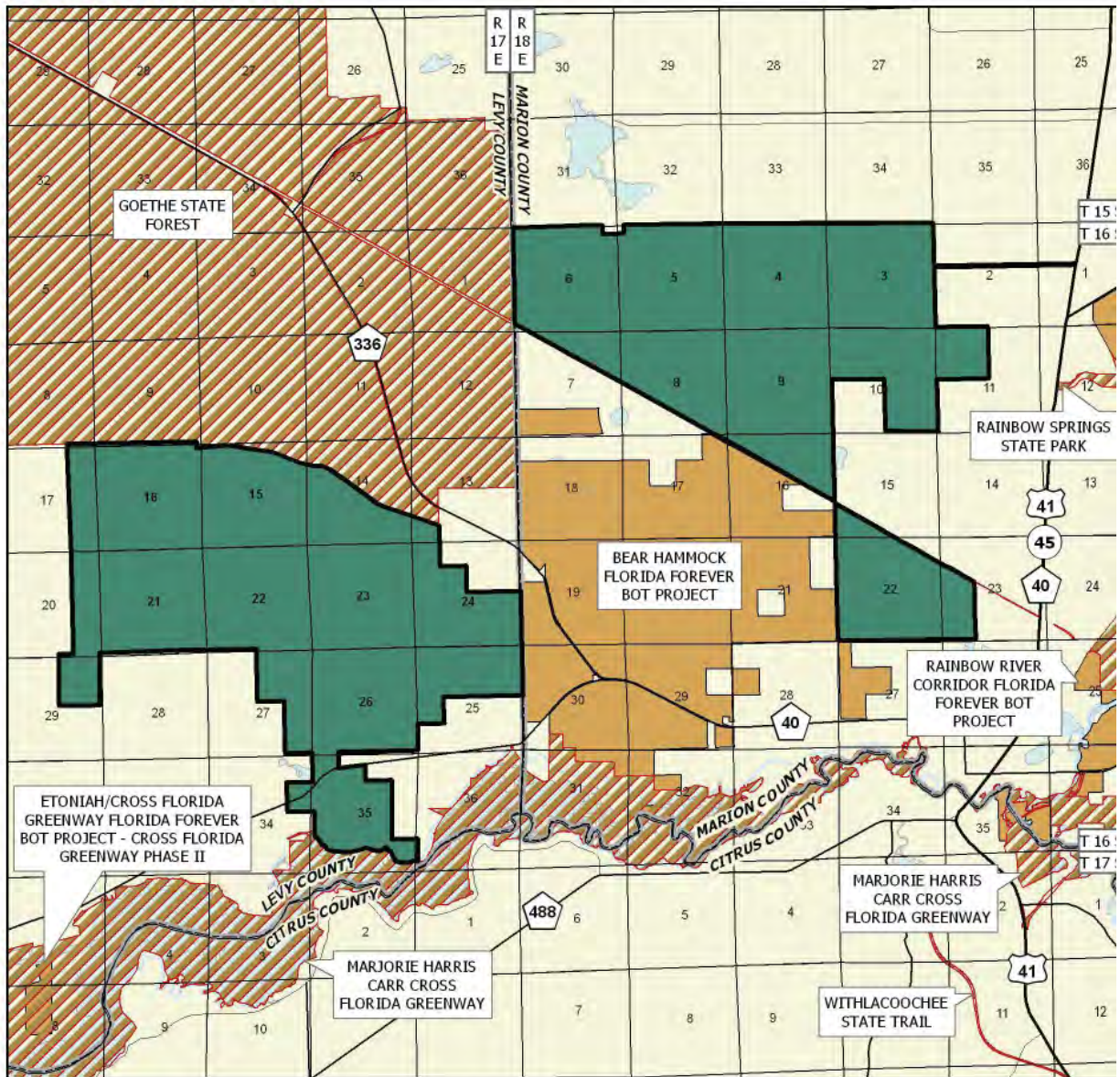
Development of facilities, as on all conservation lands, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

Protection and restoration of sensitive wetlands on this project will be a priority. Restoration efforts will focus on introducing prescribed fire and thinning dense pine stands, and on restoring native groundcovers.

The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to initially be high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a State Forest. Once this is done, long-term management costs are expected to be light to moderate to maintain this area as a State Forest.

### *Timetable for Implementing Management*

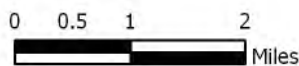
The initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoring and reforesting areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrological restoration, providing site security, and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The numerous roads throughout the property require developing a plan to identify those roads to be used for vehicular access by the public and roads required for administrative use. Roads that are determined to be unnecessary for management or access



**SOUTH GOETHE**

**MARION AND LEVY COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands



MAY 2009

## South Goethe - Group A/Full Fee

should be closed. Steps will be taken to ensure the public is provided appropriate access.

Burning goals for this project will be to establish an all season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be used to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of restoration harvests and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment, and enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The Division will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed in the more natural or restored areas of the tract. In the more heavily impacted areas of the tract the Division will explore the possibility of an off-highway vehicle trail system. While portions of these impacted areas will be restored to a natural state, other portions could potentially provide a network of trails for off-highway enthusiasts. There is also potential for obtaining funding for both acquiring the parcel as well as the implementing the trail system. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will

be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

### ***Revenue Generating Potential***

Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate to high. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed.

### ***Capital Project Expenditures***

Florida Forever capital project expenditures are going to be needed on this parcel for prescribed fire, vegetative and hydrologic restoration, improved public access/use, and facilities, both public and administrative. It is anticipated that some of the existing roads and trails may be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horse back riding and biking. This management prospectus is not intended to be an application for capital project funding; however, as more information is gathered and an analysis of the site is completed, the Division of Forestry intends to apply for capital project funds.

### ***Management Costs and Sources of Revenue***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (2FTE)</b>	<b>\$72,104</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$263,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>\$593,720</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$928,824</b>

# South Walton County Ecosystem

# Group B Small Holdings

Walton County

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Where the Gulf of Mexico meets the coast of Walton County is a line of some of the most beautiful beaches and dunes in the world, backed by sparkling freshwater lakes and pine flatwoods and marshes spreading to Choctawhatchee Bay—one of the largest natural areas on the northern Gulf coast. The South Walton County Ecosystem project will conserve a part of this unique coast and the forests behind it, linking three state parks; protecting several rare plants and rare animals such as the Choctawhatchee beach mouse and red-cockaded woodpecker; and providing residents and tourists a scenic area in which to enjoy many recreational activities, ranging from hunting and fishing to hiking, picnicking, and sunbathing.

### Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Topsail Hill, Grayton Beach and Deer Lake), and Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Point Washington).

### General Description

This project includes much of the undeveloped land in Walton County south of Choctawhatchee Bay. This land is covered with a diverse mix of flatwoods, sandhills, and wetlands in the interior and superb sand-pine scrub,

unique coastal dune lakes (occurring only in Florida and globally critically imperiled), and beach dunes on the Gulf Coast. Most of the interior has been logged and planted in slash pine, but is restorable. The Topsail Hill and Deer Lake tracts are some of the most scenic and ecologically intact coastal areas in the panhandle, and shelter the endangered Choctawhatchee beach mouse and red-cockaded woodpecker, as well as several other rare plants and animals (13 rare plant species, six rare animal species, and 14 natural communities). Seven archaeological sites are known from the project. The explosive coastal development of Walton County is a serious threat to this project, particularly the sensitive coastal areas.

### Public Use

The interior will be managed as a state forest, and the Topsail Hill and Deer Lake tracts will become state parks. The project will provide many recreational opportunities, including hiking, hunting, freshwater and saltwater fishing, camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, and beach activities.

### Acquisition Planning

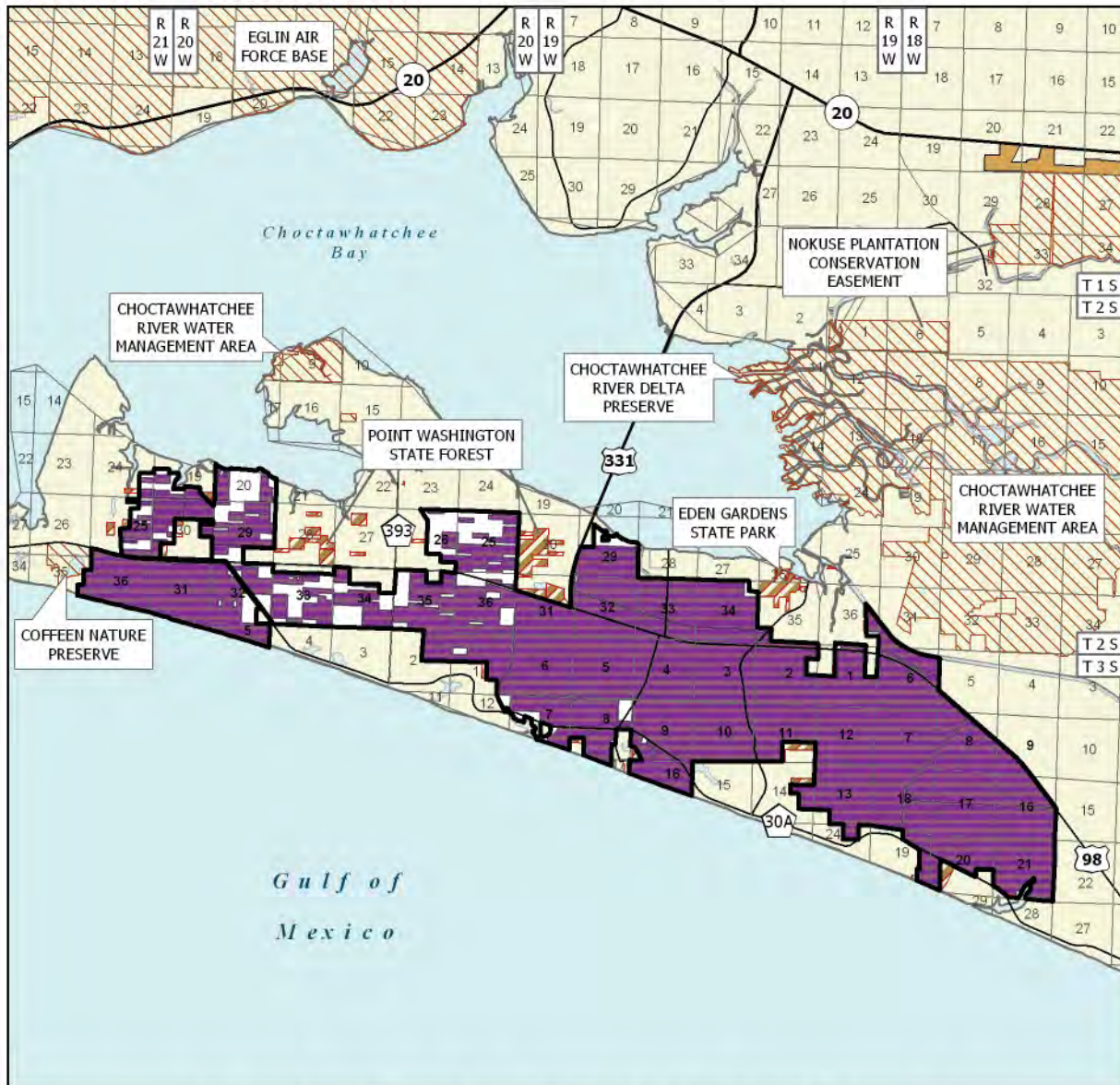
On July 16, 1996, LAMAC directed staff to hold two public hearings to receive public input on the potential revision of the South Walton County Ecosystem project boundary. Public hearings were held on August 23, 1996, and August 30, 1996. As a result of the public hearings and input from other interested parties and managing agencies, LAMAC modified the project boundary on December 5, 1996, by adding

South Walton County Ecosystem FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	G3/S2
Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse	G5T1/S1
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Snowy Plover	G4/S1
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Panhandle Spiderlily</i>	G2/S2
<i>Godfrey's Goldenaster</i>	G2/S2
<i>Southern Milkweed</i>	G2/S2
<i>Cruise's Goldenaster</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>Wiregrass Gentian</i>	G3/S3
25 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995*</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>22,674</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>19,705</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$188,506,210</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>2,969</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$7,795,905</b>

\* Point Washington and Topsail Hill projects combined in 1995

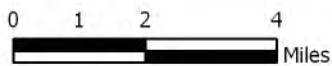
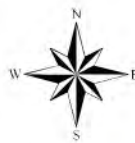
# South Walton County Ecosystem - Small Holdings/Group B



## SOUTH WALTON COUNTY ECOSYSTEM

### WALTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JULY 2009

## South Walton County Ecosystem - Small Holdings/Group B

approximately 41 acres and removing 820 acres from the project boundary.

**Point Washington:** inholdings (approximately 1,150 acres) within the State forest and parcels connecting Topsail to the Choctawhatchee Bay remain to be acquired. Acquisition of parcels (approximately 210 acres) along the State Forest to State Park trail/greenway is needed to better connect portions of the trail/greenway.

**Topsail:** most tracts have been acquired but the remainder are extremely vulnerable. Several ownerships were acquired through eminent domain.

**Deer Lake:** a 172-acre tract was acquired through eminent domain. The remaining property in the Deer Lake project was removed from the overall project boundary as part of the court settlement.

**Grayton Beach:** a small 20-acre inholding remains to be acquired in the Grayton Beach State Recreation Area. Not included in the totals on the previous page are the

acres acquired (1,129) and funds spent (\$38,709,943) for the acquisition of the state recreation area.

On December 9, 1999, the Council added 90 acres to the project boundary as an essential parcel. The addition included several hundred feet on Choctawhatchee Bay.

On August 15, 2002 the Council added 75 acres (the Coldeway Tract) to the project boundaries.

On October 24, 2002 the Council added 90 acres (the Davie Tract) to the project boundaries.

In December 2008, DOF purchased 38.99 acres for \$2,600,000

### Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was an intermediary in the acquisition of the RTC tract.

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### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the South Walton County Ecosystem project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wild-life resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Point Washington project has the large size and forest resources—flatwoods and sandhills, some cut over but restorable—to qualify as a state forest. The exceptional flatwoods, dunes, and coastal dune lakes of the areas around Deer Lake, Grayton Beach and Topsail Hill have the diversity of resources and recreational opportunities to qualify as units of the state park system.

**Manager** The DOF is managing the majority of the project. The DRP is recommended as the manager for the Deer Lake tract, areas next to Grayton Beach State Recreation Area and Topsail Hill.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** Large cutover areas in the project will require reforestation and restoration efforts beyond the level typical for a state forest. Consequently, management intensity and related management costs might be slightly higher than normal for a state forest. The portions to be managed by the DRP are high-need management areas with an emphasis on public recreational use and development compatible with resource conservation.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

The DOF is providing public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation, while protecting sensitive resources. Initial activities include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Large areas of pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and,

## South Walton County Ecosystem - Small Holdings/Group B

where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

In the first year after acquisition of its parcels, the DRP will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and efforts toward the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide variable amounts of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low. The DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. Any significant public use facilities will take several years to develop, and the amount of any revenue generated will depend on the extent of these facilities. Revenues for fiscal year 1993-1994 for the nearby Grayton Beach State Recreation Area were slightly more than \$162,000.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments and interested parties as appropriate. The DRP does not recommend that any local governments or others assist in management of the Deer Lake, Grayton Beach or Topsail Hill tracts.



Management Cost Summary/DRP		
Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$47,711	\$47,711
OPS	\$24,500	\$24,500
Expense	\$6,000	\$6,000
OCO	\$15,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$44,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,271</b>	<b>\$195,277</b>

Management Cost Summary/DRP			
Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	SPTF/ CARL	SPTF/ CARL	SPTF/ CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$1,197	\$745	\$745
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$10,918	\$0	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,116</b>	<b>\$745</b>	<b>\$200,745</b>

Management Cost Summary/DOF			
Category	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Source of Funds	CARL/GR	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$61,016	\$99,676	\$102,667
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$48,550	\$68,152	\$45,777
OCO	\$89,702	\$11,500	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$199,348</b>	<b>\$179,328</b>	<b>\$148,444</b>

# Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves

Jackson, Alachua, Marion, Citrus and Sumter Counties

**Group B  
Full Fee/LTF**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Caves where southeastern bats rear their young also protect several other rare animals, such as the gray bat and cave-dwelling crayfish, and are easily damaged by vandals. The Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves Priority project will limit access to six of these caves by protecting land around them, helping to ensure the survival of the bats and the other unique denizens of these lightless worlds.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage the full fee acquisitions and monitor the less than fee.

### General Description

Every spring, adult female southeastern bats leave their colonies and move to certain caves where they bear and raise their young. For the species to survive, these maternity roosts must be protected from human disturbance. The six caves in this project are or were used as maternity roosts by the bats. The caves also harbor several other rare and endangered animals and plants, including the federally endangered gray bat and rare cave-dwelling crayfish and amphipods. The sites are generally too small to have important vegetative communities, but the Gerome's Cave site has an outstanding example of Upland Hardwood Forest, the Jennings' Cave site has intact Sandhill, and the Sneads Cave site supports good Floodplain Forest and Flood-

plain Swamp. Three archaeological sites are known from Gerome's Cave. Vandalism is the greatest threat to the caves.

### Public Use

The caves will be managed as wildlife and environmental areas. They are generally not suitable for recreation, but some could have nature trails. Grant's Cave, the less than fee parcel, qualifies as a wildlife and environmental area. Any public use will be negotiated with the landowner, but this cave is probably not suitable for public recreation.

### Acquisition Planning

Overall, acquisition efforts should concentrate on purchasing occupied caves first. Sneads Cave—Occupied; Catacombs—Occupied; Sumter County Cave—Vacant; Sweet Gum Cave—Vacant; Gerome's Cave—Vacant; Jennings' Cave—Vacant.

On October 30, 1996, LAMAC adopted criteria for establishing a Less-Than-Fee category: 1) resource value of the project/tract can be adequately protected through a less-than-fee instrument; 2) seller is willing to accept a less-than-fee-simple instrument and LAMAC has determined that the project's or site's acquisition objectives can be met by acquiring a less-than-fee interest; and 3) manager is willing to oversee a less-than-fee-simple instrument.

(Continued on Page 464)

Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gray Bat	G3/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
North Florida Spider Cave Crayfish	G2/S2
Dougherty Plain Cave Crayfish	G2G3/S2
<i>False Rue-anemone</i>	G5/S1
Light-fleeing Cave Crayfish	G2G3/S2S3
Hobbs' Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Southeastern Bat	G3G4/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,931,170</b>



Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee



**SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: OVERVIEW**

***JACKSON, ALACHUA, MARION, CITRUS, AND SUMTER COUNTIES***

**Map 1: Jackson County**  
Geromes Cave Site

**Map 5: Marion County**  
Catacombs Cave Site

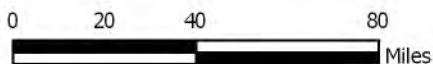
**Map 2: Jackson County**  
Sneads Cave Site

**Map 6: Citrus County**  
Sweet Gum Cave Site

**Map 3: Alachua County**  
Grants Cave Site

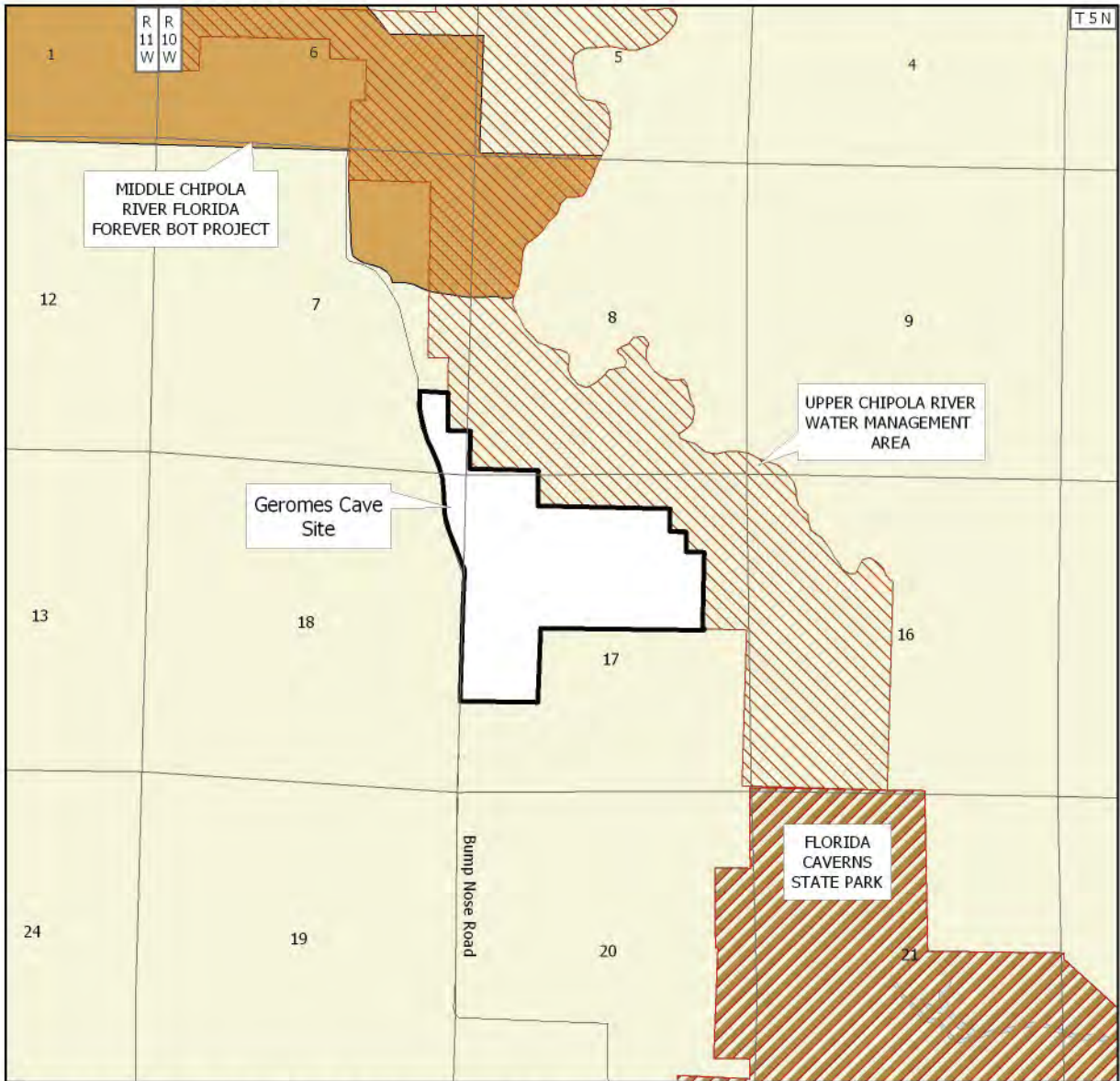
**Map 7: Sumter County**  
Sumter County Cave Site

**Map 4: Marion County**  
Jennings Cave Site



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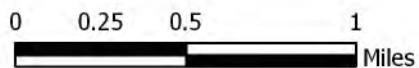
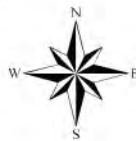
# Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee



## SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 1 OF 7

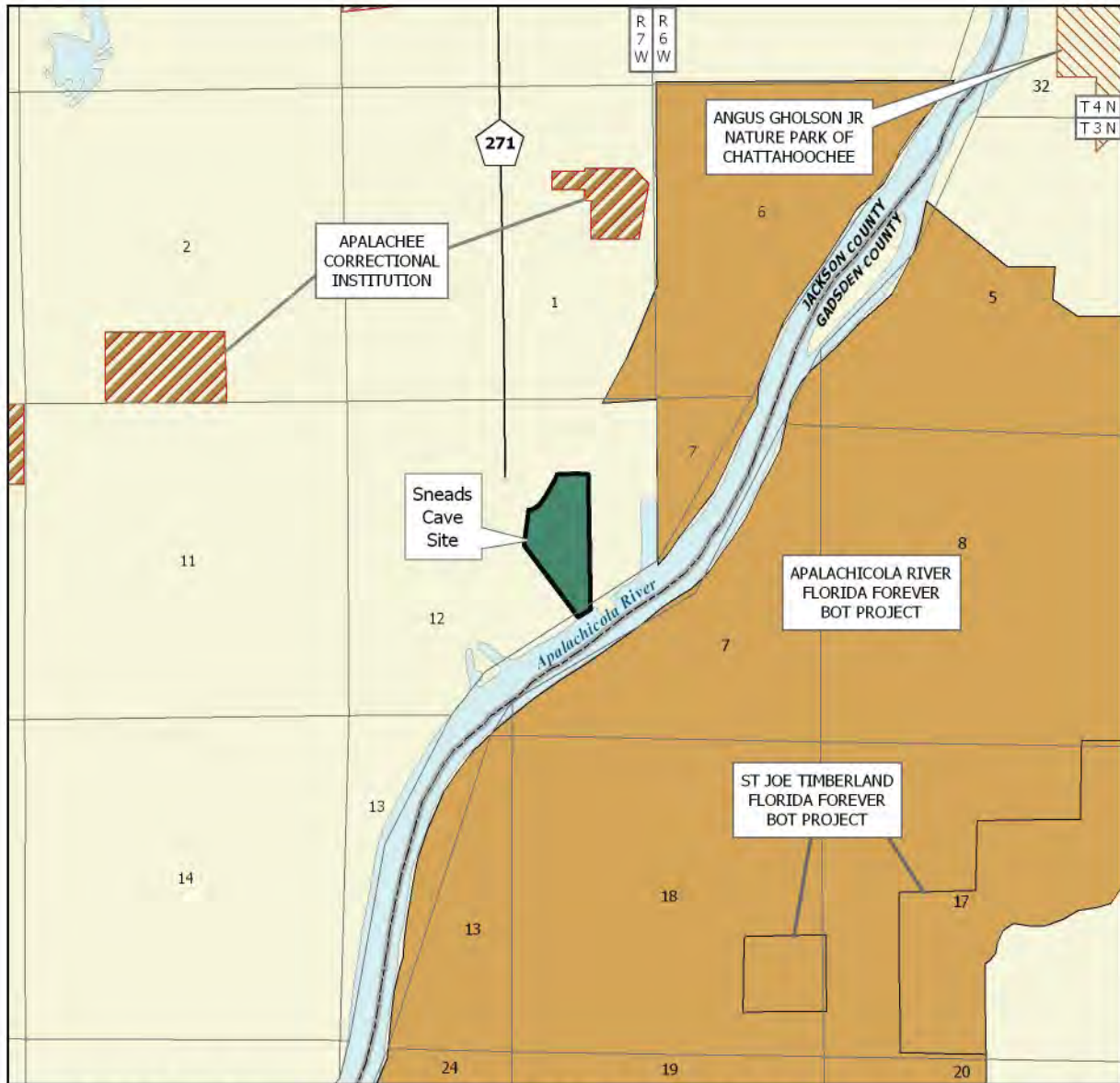
### JACKSON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



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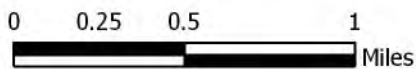
**Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee**



**SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 2 OF 7**

**JACKSON COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



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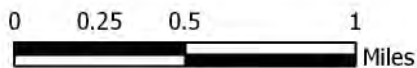
# Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee



## SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 3 OF 7

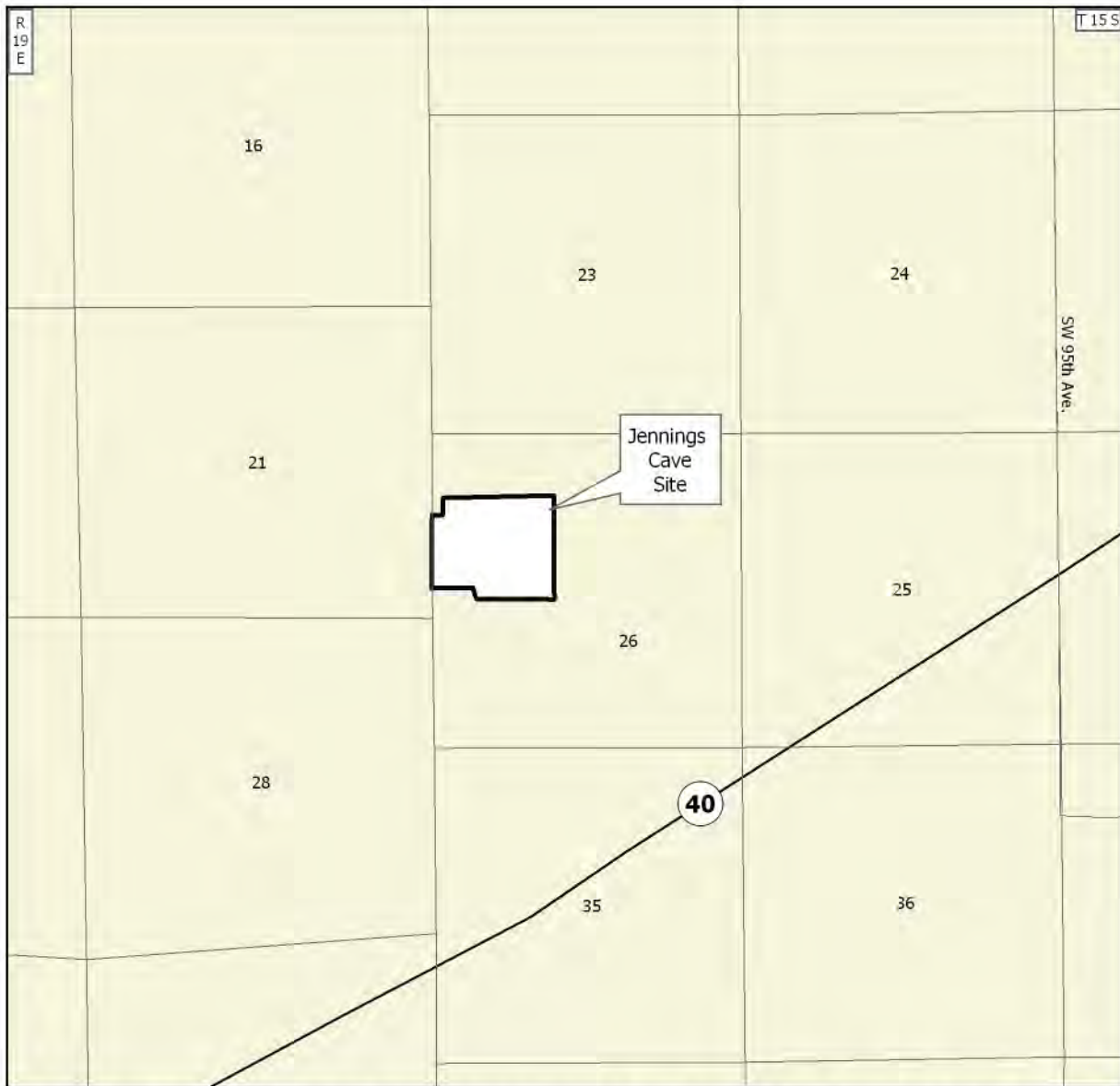
### ALACHUA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands




JULY 2007

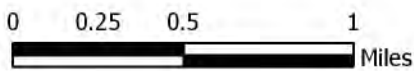
# Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee



## SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 4 OF 7

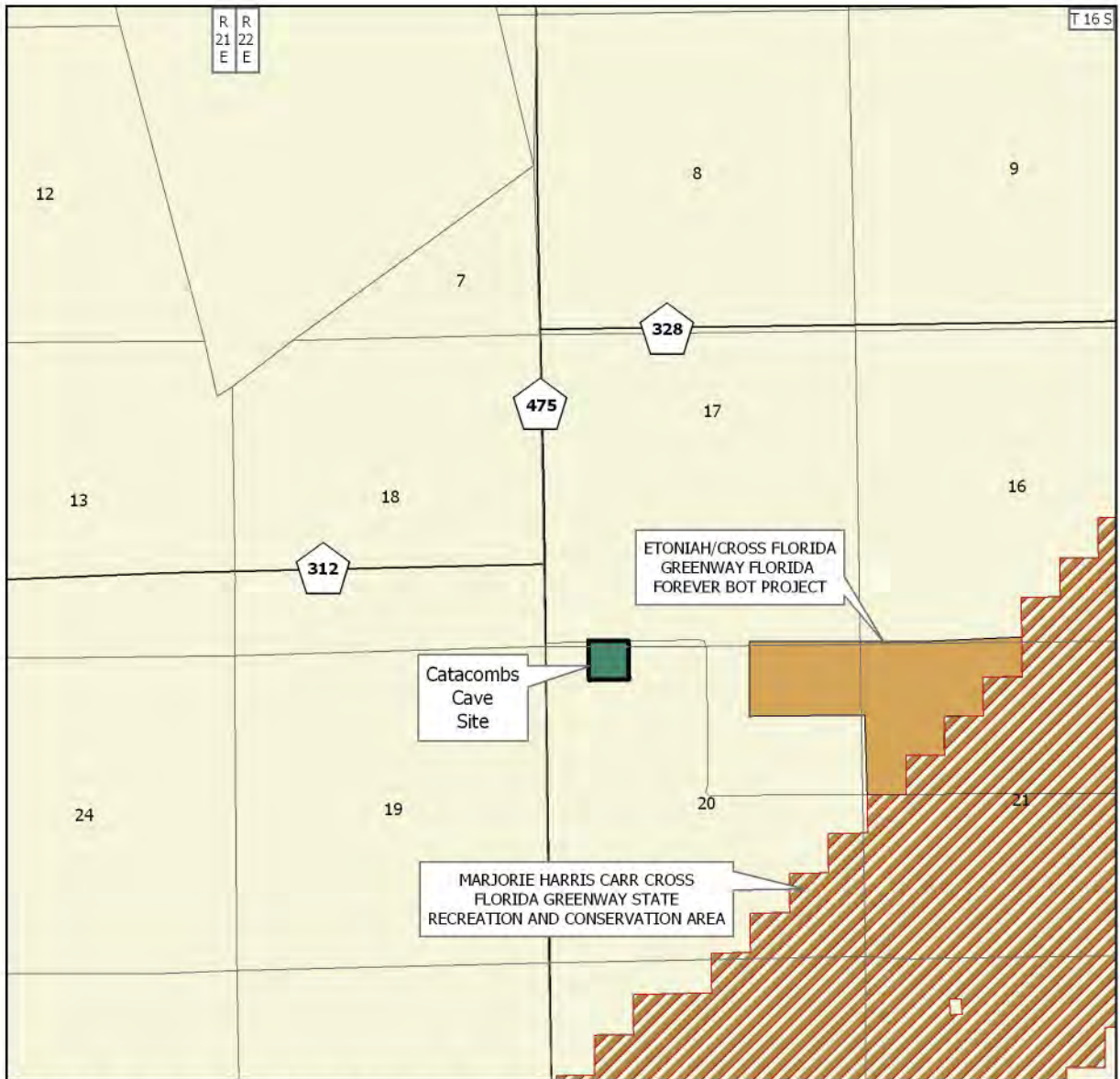
### MARION COUNTY

 Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary



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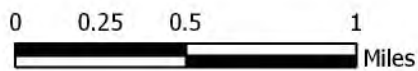
# Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee



## SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 5 OF 7

### MARION COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands






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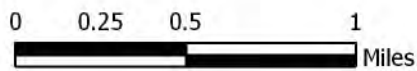
# Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee



## SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 6 OF 7

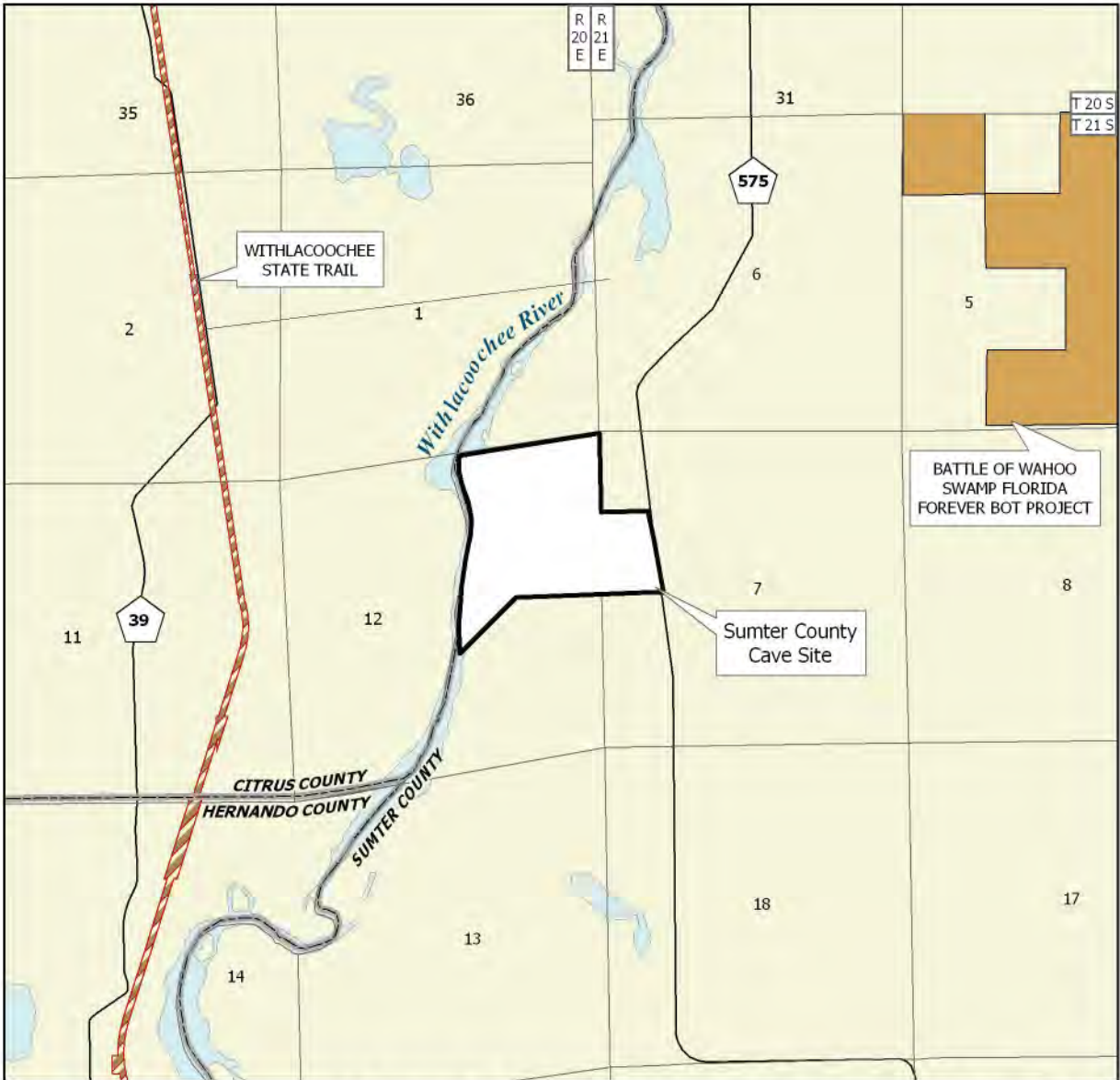
### CITRUS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands






JULY 2007

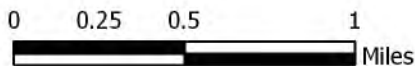
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee



**SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 7 OF 7**

**SUMTER COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands



JULY 2007



## Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves - Group B/Full Fee

On December 5, 1996, LAMAC transferred Grant's Cave, consisting of two ownerships, to the Less-Than-Fee category.

On June 6, 2002 the Council combined the Less-Than-Fee project to the Group B Full Fee project.

On December 5, 2003 the Council moved the project to the Group A list.

Sweet Gum Cave (Citrus County)—the site consists of approximately 10 acres, 1 parcel and 1 owner. Gerome's Cave (Jackson County)—the site consists of approximately 160 acres, 5 parcels, and 4 owners. Sneads Cave (Jackson County)—the site consists of approximately

80 acres, 1 parcel, and 1 owner. Catacombs Cave (Marion County)—the site consists of approximately 10 acres, 2 parcels, and 2 owners. Jenning's Cave (Marion County)—the site consists of approximately 89 acres, 79 parcels, and 70 owners. Sumter County Cave (Sumter County)—the site consists of approximately 362 acres, 4 parcels, and 3 owners.

### Coordination

The Northwest Florida Water Management District will be an acquisition partner on the Gerome's Cave site. There are no acquisition partners for the less-than-fee parcels.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goal of management of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project is to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The sensitive wildlife resources of the Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves—southeastern bats and other rare cave-dwelling animals—qualify them as wildlife and environmental areas.

**Manager** The FWC will manage the project.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The caves will require protection from vandalism. Natural communities around some of the cave entrances will require restoration.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Initial management activities will concentrate on securing each cave site with chain link fencing, posting signs, and removing trash and debris from the caves and

surrounding areas. Each cave also will be monitored to determine its current usage by bats and each site's natural resources, including listed species of flora and fauna, will be inventoried. Current management is based on ongoing and previous monitoring information. A management plan will be developed outlining long-term management strategies for the project on a cave-by-cave basis. Management considerations will include, but will not be limited to, site protection, biological monitoring, educational and recreational opportunities, and habitat restoration or enhancement.

**Revenue-generating potential** No significant revenue is currently being generated. However, future management activities will include educational and recreational opportunities that could possibly generate revenue.

**Cooperators in management activities** No other local, state or federal agencies are currently participating in the management of this project. The Northwest Florida Water Management District proposes to cooperate in the management of Gerome's Cave in Jackson County.

### Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$14,784	\$14,784
Expense	\$4,725	\$4,725
OCO	\$30,240	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,749</b>	<b>\$19,509</b>

# Spruce Creek

## Volusia County

# Group A Small Holdings

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Natural areas along the coast of Volusia County are becoming scarce as residential developments expand from Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach. The Spruce Creek project protects one of the largest tracts of undeveloped land left in this region along the estuary of Spruce Creek and helps to maintain the water quality of the creeks and bays here, thus protecting a fishery. Additionally, this project will conserve what may be the site of Andrew Turnbull's 18th-century plantation and provide a recreational area where people can do anything from hiking and fishing to simply learning about the plants and animals of this scenic landscape.

### Manager

Volusia County.

### General Description

The original Spruce Creek project area, north and west of Strickland Bay, contains good estuarine tidal swamps, hammocks, scrub, and flatwoods. It protects habitat for such endangered or threatened species as bald eagles, wood storks and manatees. The addition, between U.S. 1 and Turnbull Bay, contains good Maritime or Xeric Hammock, with live oaks, cabbage palms, and several tropical shrubs near their northern limits. Flatwoods also cover a large part of the addition, and tidal marsh with remnants of black mangrove fringes it. Disturbed areas include an historic house at the north end and the remains of a fish camp and marina east of U.S. 1. No FNAI-listed plants are known from the addition; of FNAI-listed animals, gopher tortoises have been found. The area is adjacent to several Outstanding

Florida Waters, and the aquatic resources are important to both recreational and commercial fisheries. There are two archaeological sites recorded within the project area: Spruce Creek Mound site, a prehistoric and historic burial mound; and J. D. site, a prehistoric and historic shell midden and burial site. The project may also contain historic archaeological sites related to the British Colonial Period occupation in this area of NE Florida (ca. 1763–1783 AD). The area is experiencing significant growth, so developable acreage is likely to be lost relatively soon.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a recreation area with uses such as cultural and environmental education, hiking, fishing, camping and picnicking.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 1, 1989, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the original Spruce Creek project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Volusia County, consisted of approximately 1,718 acres, nine owners, and a 1989 taxable value of \$2,675,000. On December 7, 1990, an owner sponsored 54-acre parcel was added to the boundary. The project was removed on December 10, 1992 due to unwilling sellers. At that time, it was less than 90% complete.

On December 6, 1994, LAAC added the current Spruce Creek project to the 1995 CARL Priority list. This

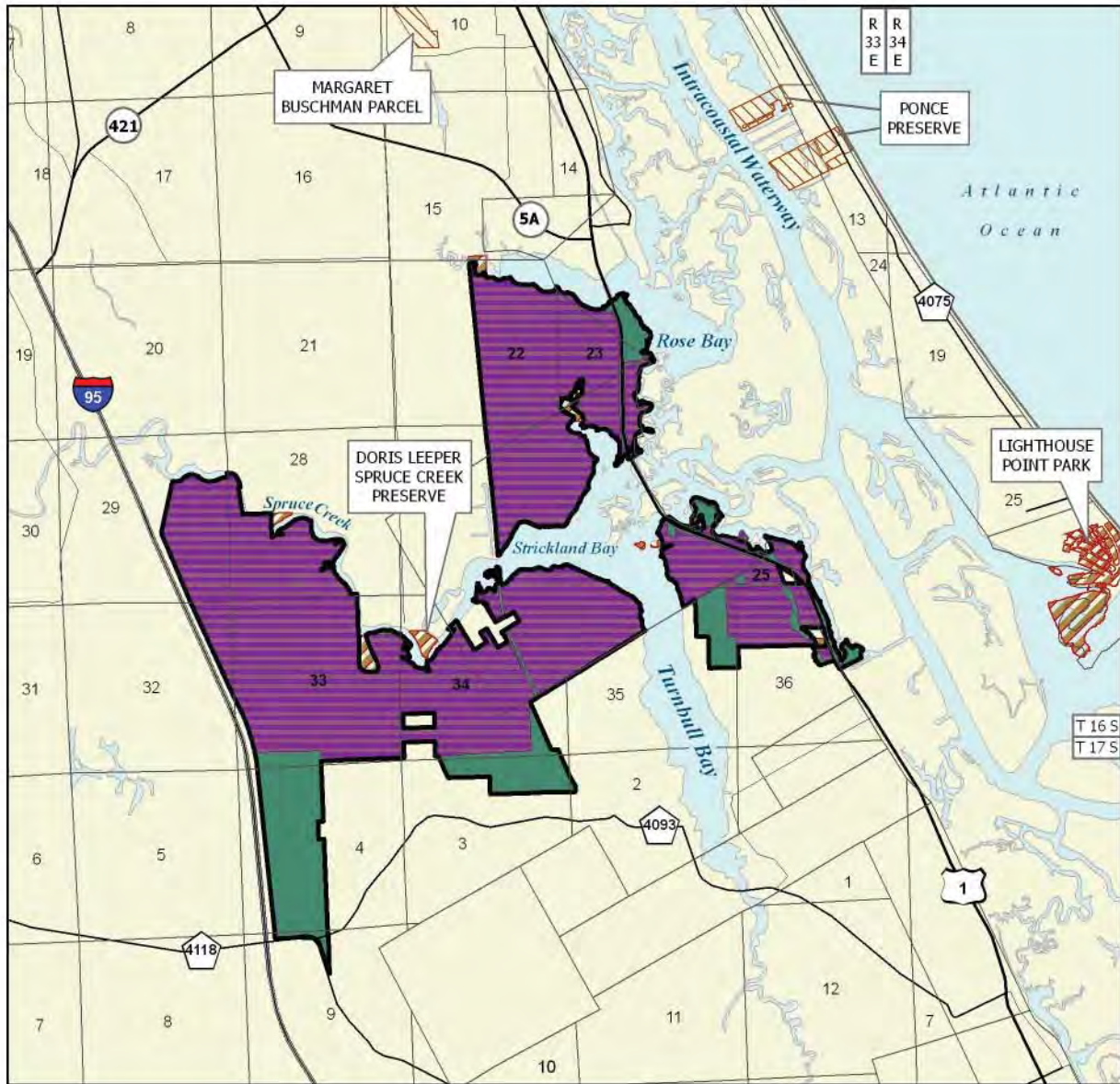
<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1990*</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>2,928</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>2,289**</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$19,118,050**</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>639</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of \$11,870,317</b>	

\* Combined with Spruce Creek Addition in 1994

\*\*includes funds spent and acreage acquired by BOT, SJRWMD, Volusia County, and the City of Port Orange.

Spruce Creek FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
<i>Florida Beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
4 rare species are associated with the project	

# Spruce Creek - Small Holdings/Group A



## SPRUCE CREEK

### VOLUSIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



NOVEMBER 2008

consisted of a 208-acre portion of the original project and a 316-acre addition totaling 524 acres, multiple owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$2,124,141. The project boundary, however, included the portions of the project that had already been acquired. The resulting project acreage equaled 1,593 acres with a taxable value of \$3,406,991.

On October 24, 2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 648-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Volusia County, consisted of five owners, and a 2002 taxable value of \$1,297,592.

On October 10, 2006, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), in partnership with Volusia County, closed on a 40-acre parcel known as the Eubank/Rosier tract. The total purchase price was \$915,535.

In August 2007, Volusia County acquired 7.08 acres from the Blanchette family.

In December 2007, the City of Port Orange acquired 225 acres on the western boundary from ICI.

On September 19, 2008, the SJRWMD acquired 58.02 acres from the Ford family.

### **Coordination**

Volusia County is a partner in the acquisition of this tract as well as the manager. SJRWMD is also an acquisition partner.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Spruce Creek project are: to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The Spruce Creek Recreation Area has the size, natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and surrounding population density to qualify as a State Recreation Area.

**Manager** Volusia County in cooperation with the State of Florida.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The project includes moderate-need tracts requiring more than basic resource management and protection. These lands will contain more highly developed resource-related recreation facilities. Large portions of the property, however, would be considered low-need tracts requiring only basic resource management and protection. Recreation use will be incorporated but in a more dispersed and less intensive manner.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security and resource inventory. Volusia County will provide appropriate access to the site to maintain existing and historic uses while protecting sensitive resources on the site. The site's natural resources and listed plants and animals will be inventoried, recreational opportunities and uses identified, and a management plan formulated.

Long-range plans for Spruce Creek will be specified in the management plan and will generally be directed as follows: Development of recreational facilities, a comprehensive trail management program, a comprehensive educational and interpretive program, and a comprehensive historic resource management program; restoration of disturbed areas; maintenance of natural communities through a program of selected harvest and fire management; and habitat enhancement for listed species.

**Revenue-generating potential** will be determined by the concepts in the Management Plan. Some revenues will probably be generated by user and concession fees at recreation sites. Some revenues may be generated through sale of forest products, but any such revenues will be minimal. Use of small portions of the area as mitigation for development elsewhere would not only restore damaged areas on-site, but would yield revenue

## Spruce Creek - Small Holdings/Group A

The Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Atlantic Center for the Arts may prove to be valuable partners in optimizing the educational and interpretive opportunities on this site.

The Nature Conservancy still owns the 150 acres that is managed by the Museum of Arts and Sciences. The Environmental Council and Sierra Club have played important roles in the early protection of the creek in-

cluding sponsoring OFW status in 1986. The Southeast Volusia Historical Society and Volusia Anthropological Society have had long-standing interest in protection and interpretation of the cultural, historical and archaeological resources located on the project site. Volunteers will be invaluable in developing, managing, and interpreting this site.

### Management Cost Summary

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	Volusia County	Volusia County	Volusia County
Salary	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$6,240
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$7,712
Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,240</b>	<b>\$6,240</b>	<b>\$13,952</b>

# St. Joe Timberland

Bay, Walton Washington, Gadsden, Liberty, Gulf, Franklin,  
Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson and Taylor Counties

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The St. Joe Company is one of the largest landowners in Florida. The St. Joe Timberland project will consolidate the St. Joe ownerships already included in other projects, thus helping to preserve large undeveloped tracts of land for native plants and animals and giving the public an opportunity to experience large natural areas throughout north Florida. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

The sites will be managed by various agencies. See the summaries for the projects listed below.

### General Description

The St. Joe Timberlands project includes the St. Joe Company ownerships in the following projects: Apalachicola River (Sweetwater Creek 7,040 acres, Gadsden Glades 360 acres, and Aspalaga Landing 600 acres sites); Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem (Tico site 1,780 acres); Dickerson Bay/Bald Point (Bald Point site 3,840 acres); Florida's First Magnitude Springs (River Sink 40 acres and St. Marks 700 acres springs sites); Lake Powell 600 acres; St. Joseph Bay Buffer 250 acres; Sand Mountain 1,680 acres; Tates Hell/Carrabelle Tract 16,000 acres; Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks 19,840 acres;

and Wakulla Springs Protection Zone 2,240 acres. The sites lie in the Panhandle from Bay and Washington Counties to Taylor County, except for the Tico site in Brevard County. They include samples of almost all the natural communities of north and central Florida, from scrub to swamps and springs. See the general descriptions for the projects listed above.

### Public Use

The sites are designated for various public uses. See the summaries for the projects listed above.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 9, 1999, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved the creation of the St. Joe Timberland project and added it to the CARL Priority list. The project was sponsored by the St. Joe Company, DSL, and TNC, and initially consisted of individual tracts owned by St. Joe Company within existing projects. Other sites will be proposed for addition to the project. Approval was given to add an additional 1,318 acres (18 to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project and approximately 1,300 to the Apalachicola River Project – Lake Wimico site) to the project boundary as essential parcels. The initial project consisted of approximately 56,218 acres and a TAV of \$34,614,545. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) has acquired the majority of the Sand Mountain site.

On August 22, 2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 12,360-acre addition, known as Lake Wimico site, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 1999 taxable value of \$1,118,790.

(Continued on Page 480)

<b>St. Joe Timberland</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
<i>Florida Torreya</i>	G1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Quillwort Yellow-eyed Grass</i>	G1/S1
<i>Chapman's Rhododendron</i>	G1/S1
<i>Apalachicola Rosemary</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida Waxweed</i>	G1/S1
<i>Bluffs Blazing Star</i>	G1/S1
<i>Telephus Spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>Curtiss' Loosestrife</i>	G1/S1
Big Blue Spring Cave Crayfish	G1/S1
82 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>170,341</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>52,679</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$70,808,224</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>117,662</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$67,161,470</b>

St. Joe Timberland - Group A/Full Fee



**ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: OVERVIEW**

***BAY, WALTON, WASHINGTON, GADSDEN, LIBERTY, GULF, FRANKLIN, WAKULLA, LEON, JEFFERSON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES***

**Map 1**

A. Lake Powell Site

**Map 2**

A. Sand Mountain Site

**Map 3**

- A. Apalachicola River - Gadsden Glades Site
- B. Apalachicola River - Aspalaga Landing Site
- C. Apalachicola River - Crooked/Short Creek Site
- D. Apalachicola River - Sweetwater Creek Site

**Map 4**

- A. St. Joseph Bay Buffer Site
- B. St. Vincent Sound-to-Lake Wimico Ecosystem Site
- C. Lake Wimico Site

**Map 5**

A. Tates Hell/Carrabelle Site

**Map 6**

A. Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Site

**Map 7**

- A. Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Site
- B. Florida's First Magnitude Springs - River Sink Spring Site

**Map 8**

- A. Florida's First Magnitude Springs - St. Marks Springs Site

**Map 9**

A. Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Site



MAY 2006

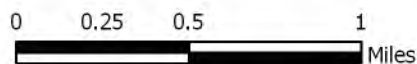


### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 1 OF 9

#### BAY AND WALTON COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Change in Ownership\*
-  State Owned Lands

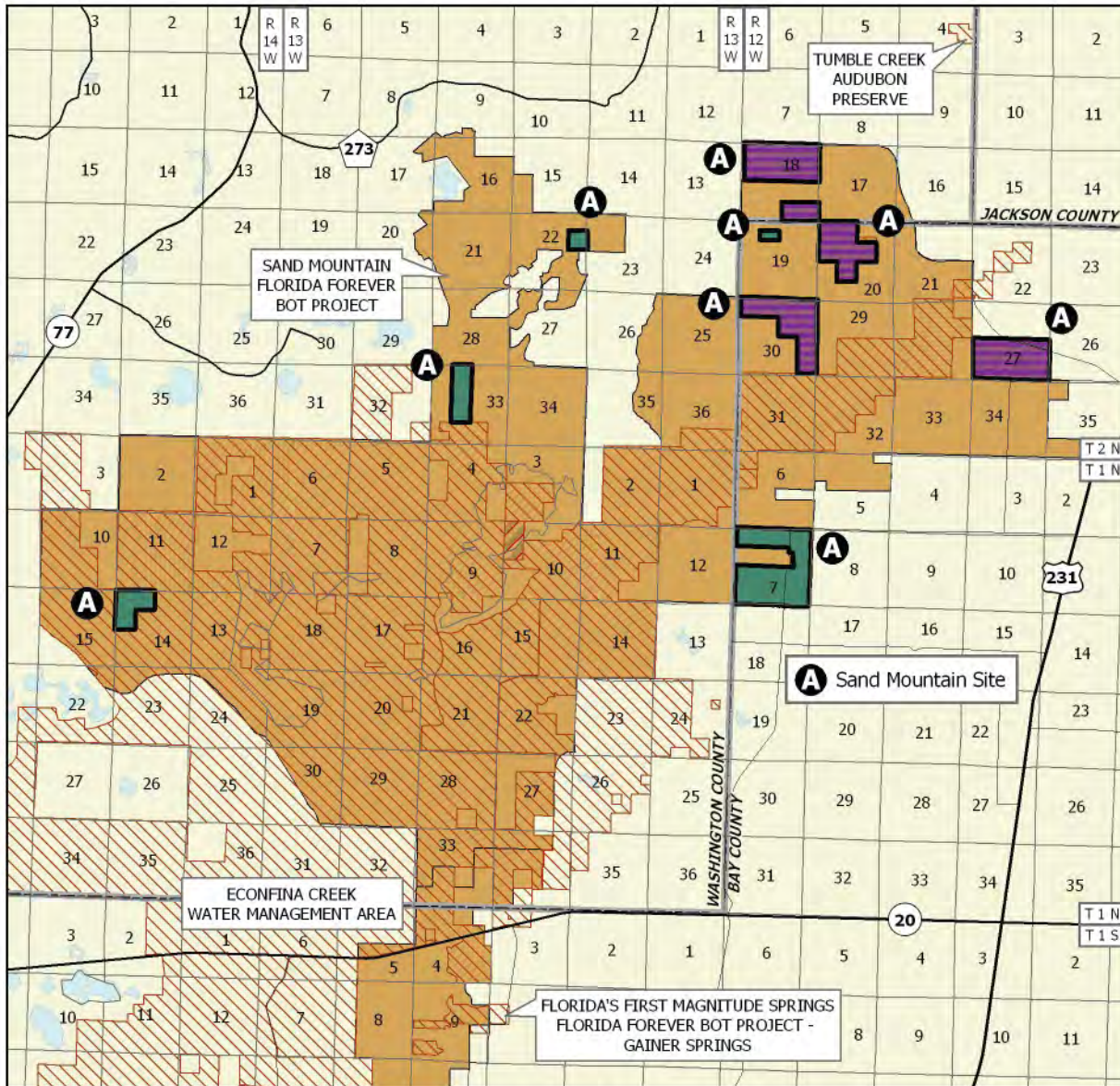
\* Ownership boundary has changed since project was first placed on State List.



MAY 2006






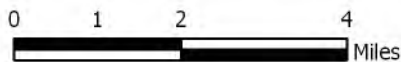
# St. Joe Timberland - Group A/Full Fee



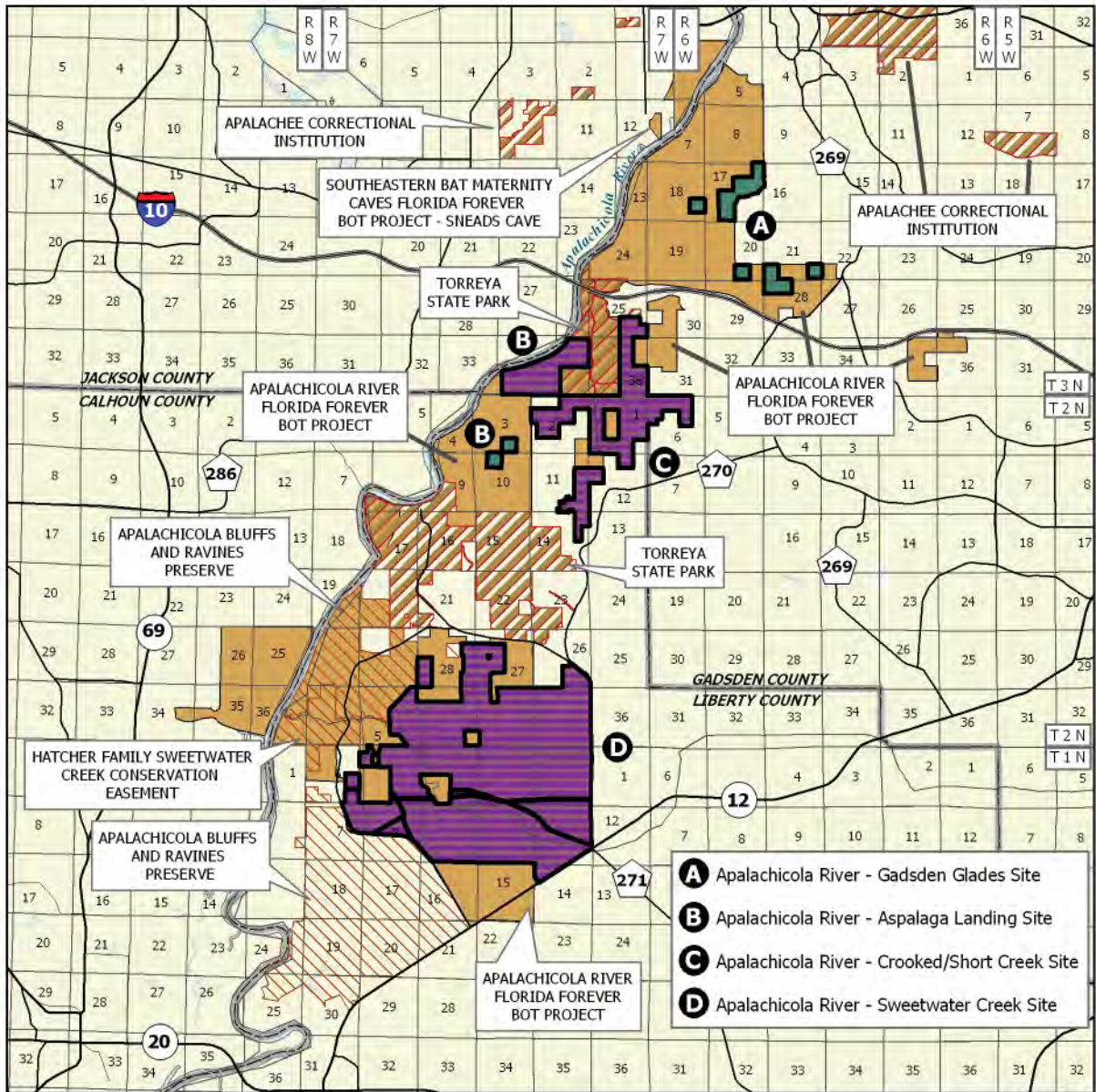
## ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 2 OF 9

### BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2007

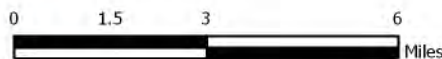


- A** Apalachicola River - Gadsden Glades Site
- B** Apalachicola River - Aspalaga Landing Site
- C** Apalachicola River - Crooked/Short Creek Site
- D** Apalachicola River - Sweetwater Creek Site

### ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 3 OF 9

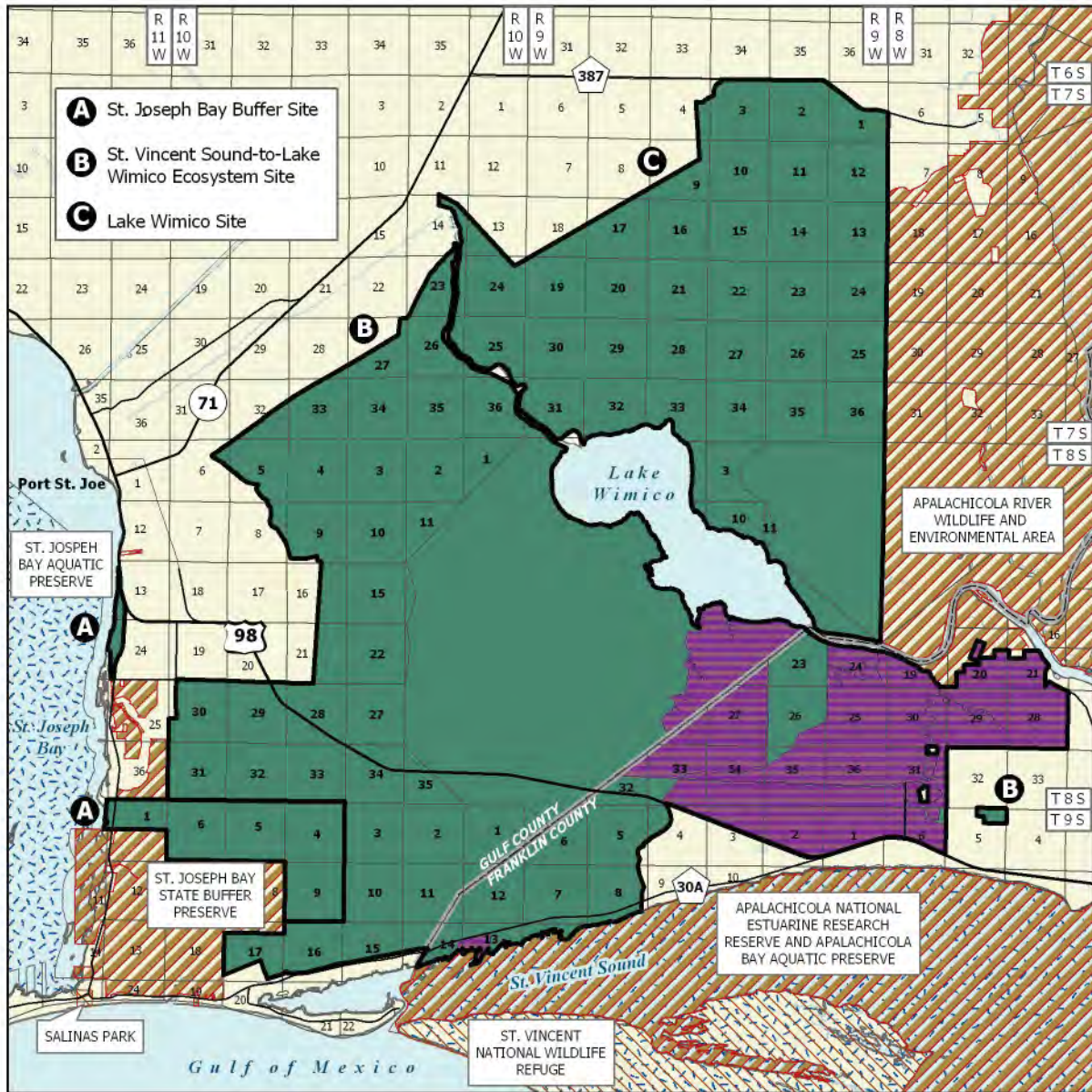
#### GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



MAY 2006

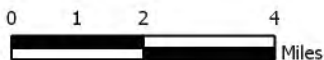
# St. Joe Timberland - Group A/Full Fee



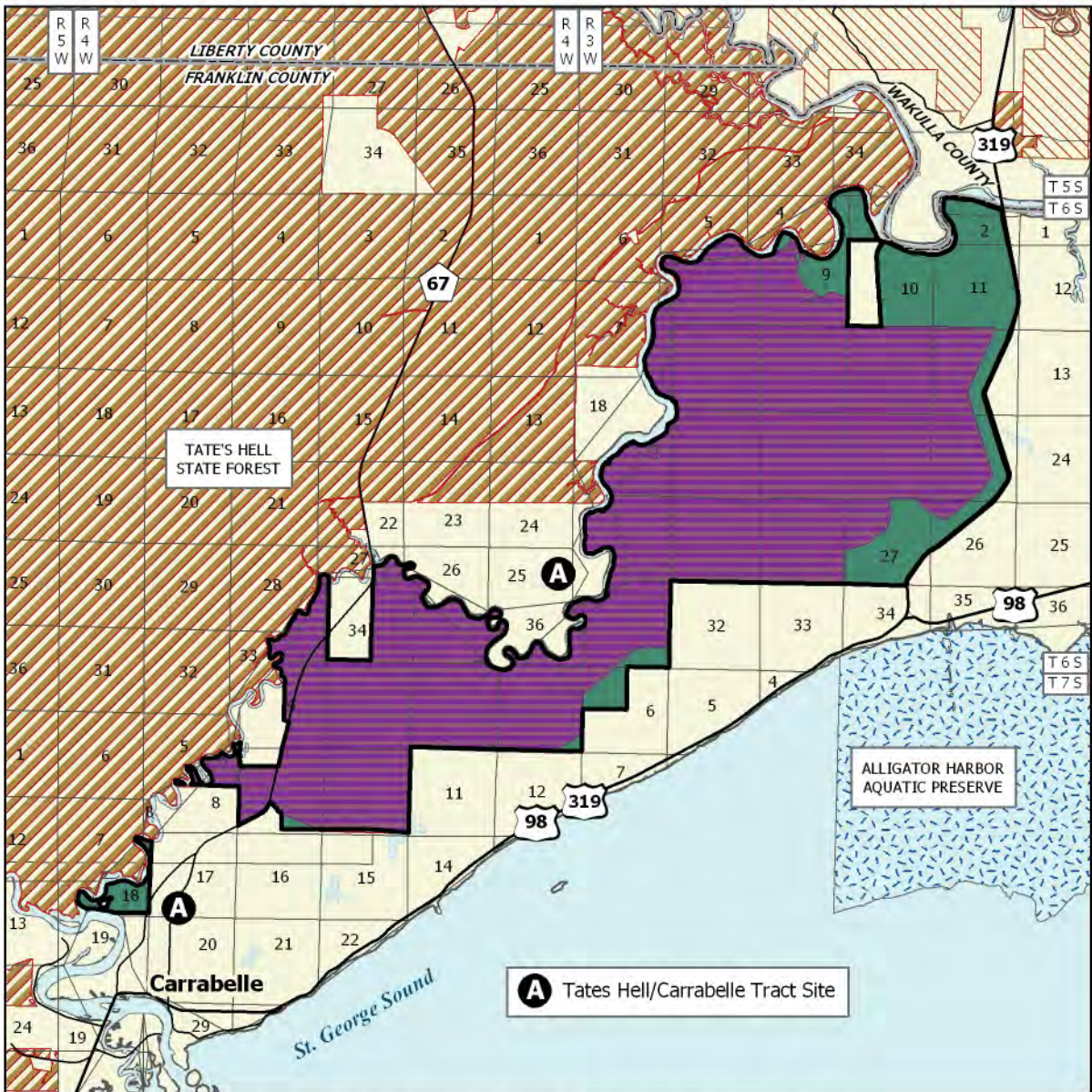
## ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 4 OF 9

### GULF AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



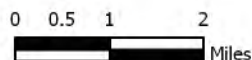
APRIL 2007



**ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 5 OF 9**

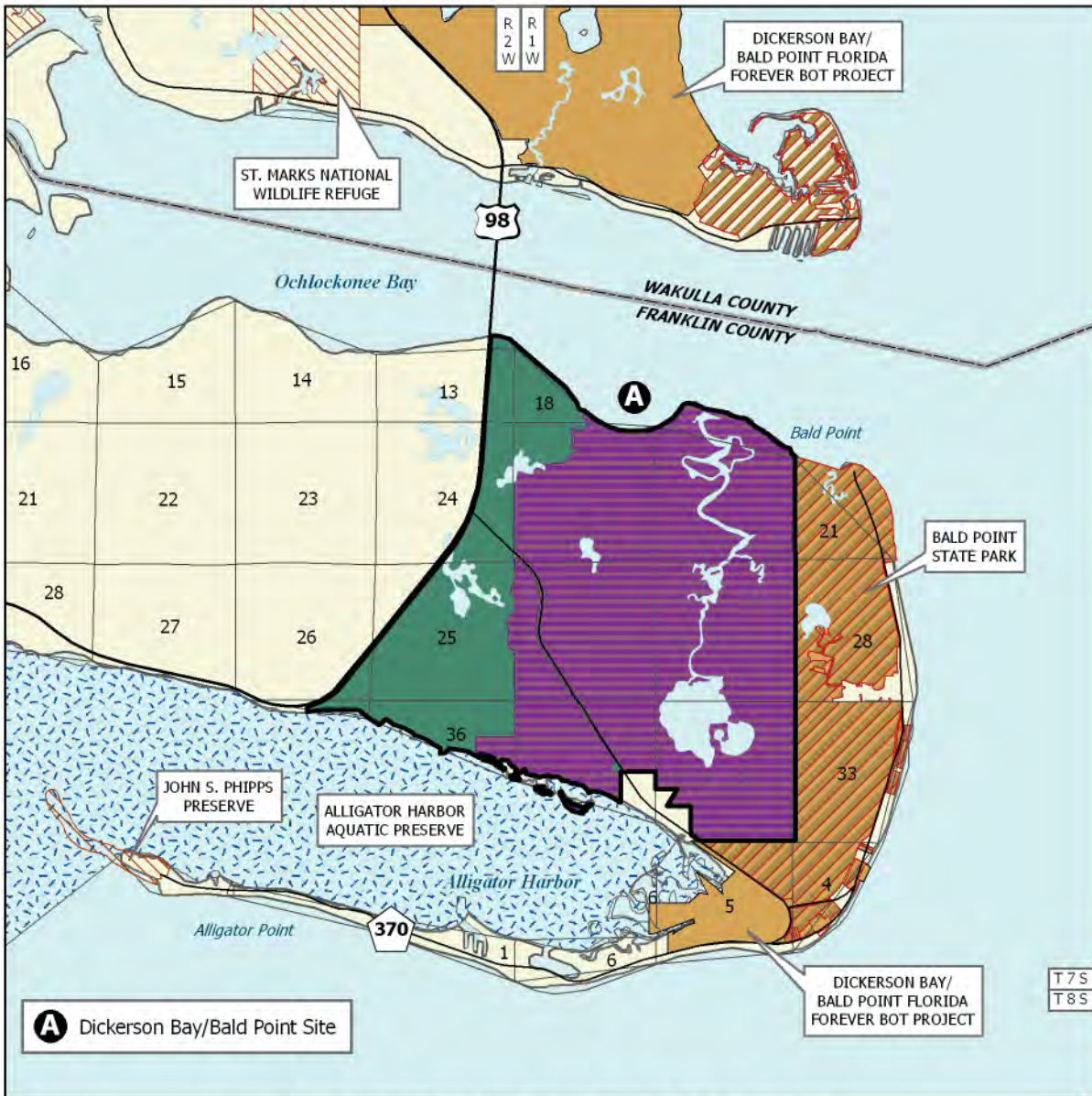
**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



MAY 2006

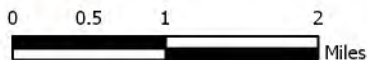
# St. Joe Timberland - Group A/Full Fee



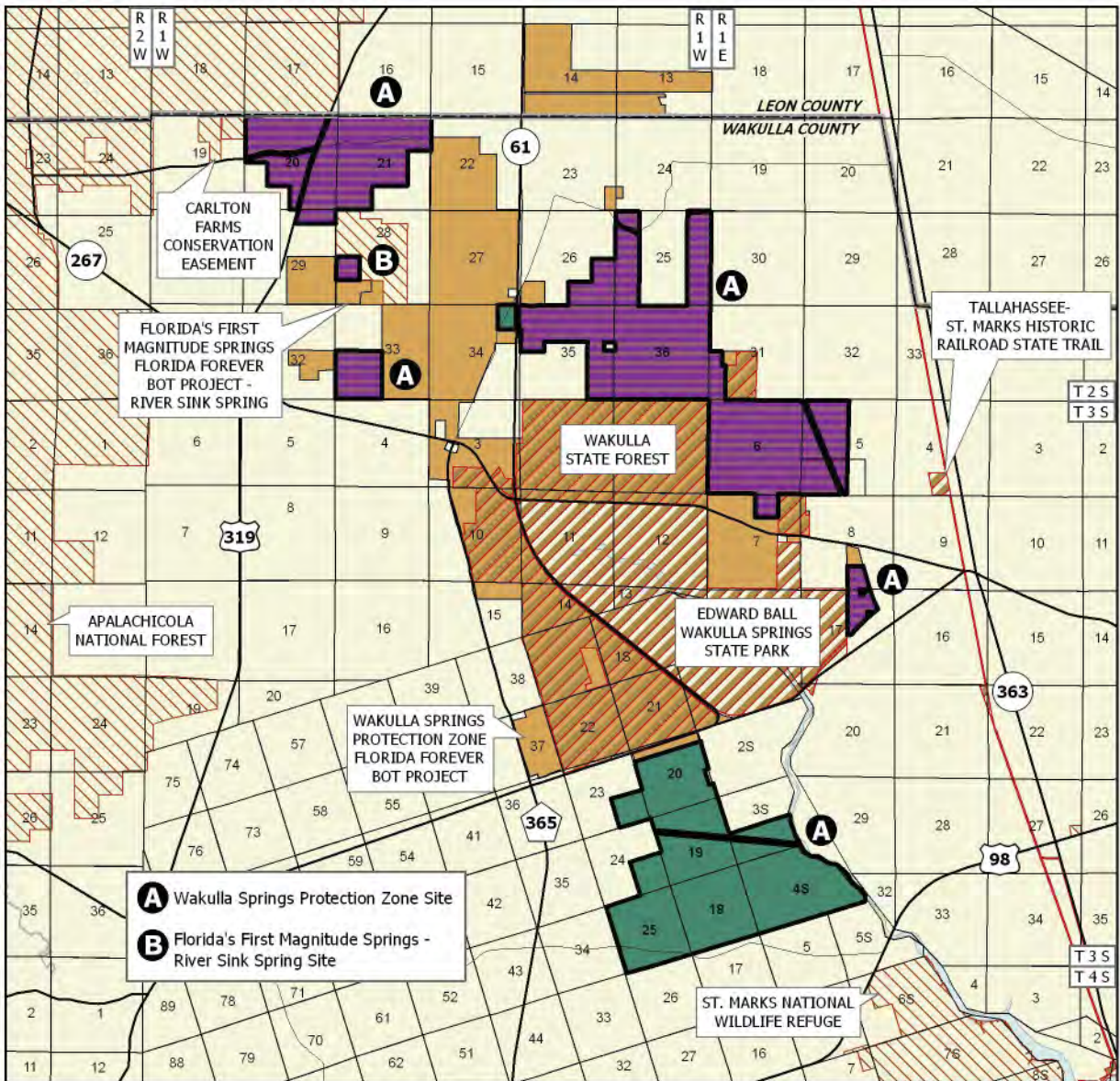
## ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 6 OF 9

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



MAY 2006



**ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 7 OF 9**

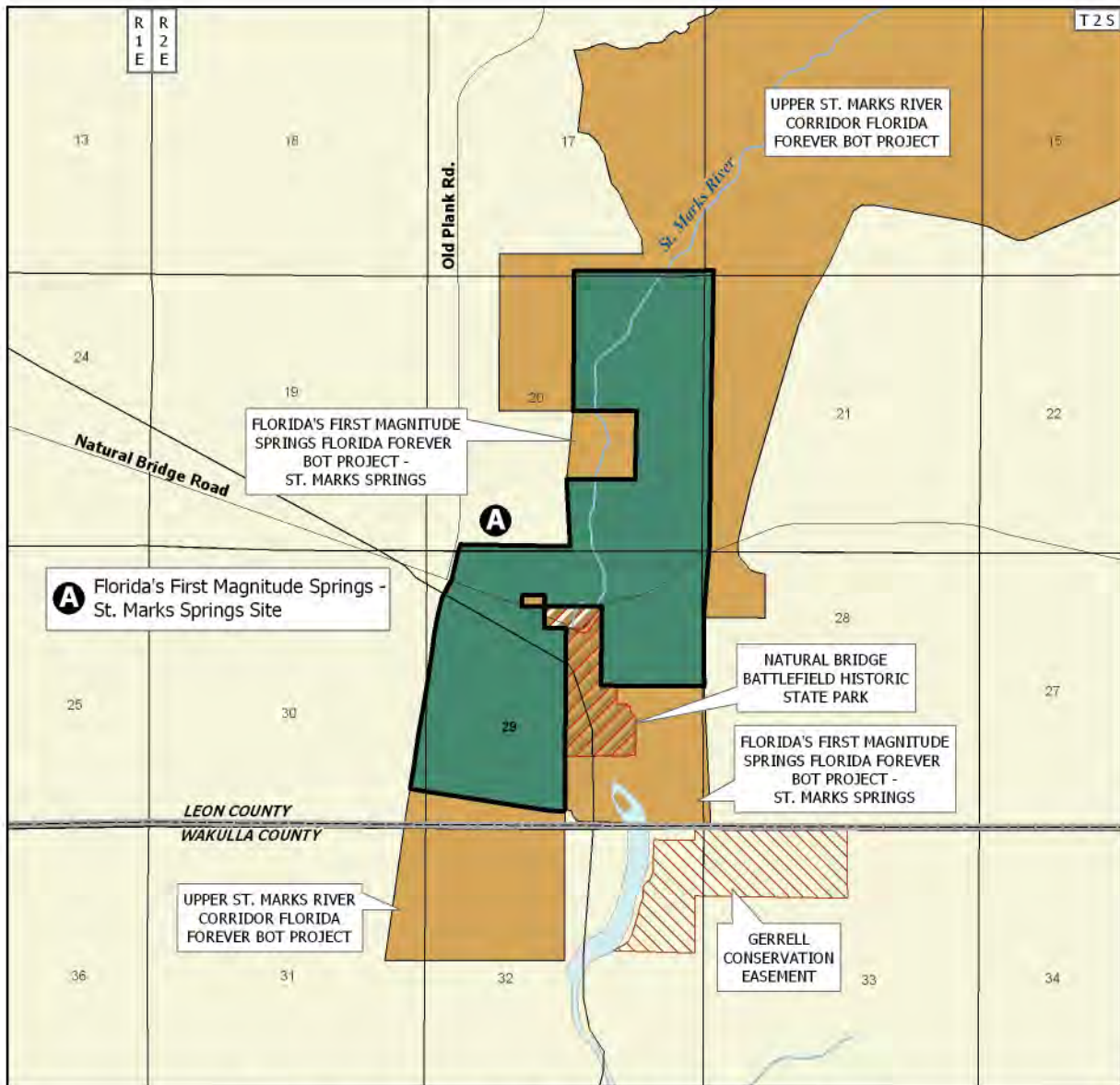
**WAKULLA COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundaries
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2008

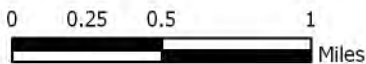
# St. Joe Timberland - Group A/Full Fee



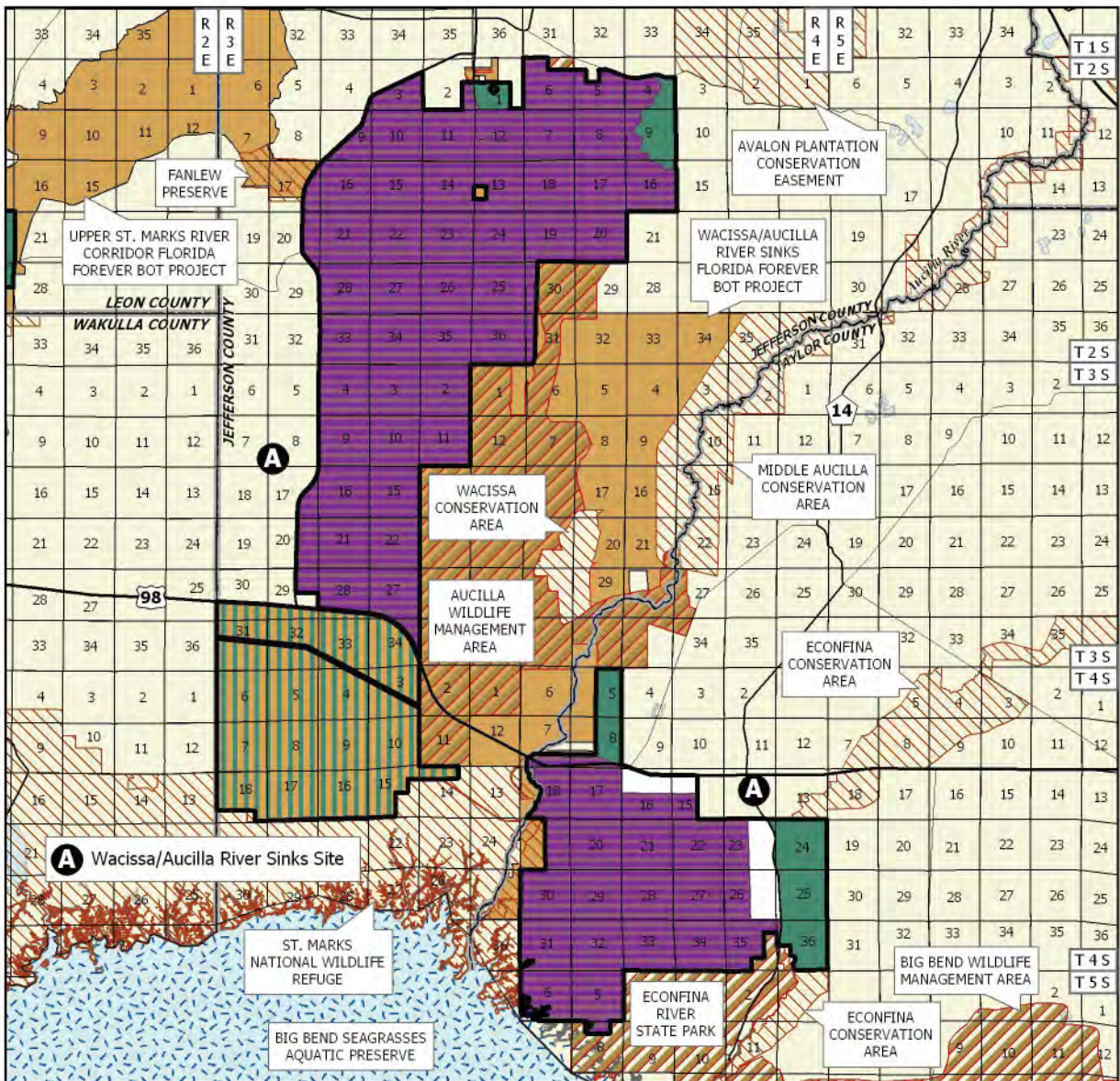
## ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 8 OF 9

### LEON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands











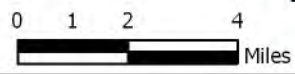
JULY 2009



**ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 9 OF 9**

**JEFFERSON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  TNC Owned Lands Within the Project
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



APRIL 2008



## St. Joe Timberland - Group A/Full Fee

On August 22, 2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,592-acre addition, known as Snipe Island, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 1999 taxable value of \$1,940,906. The FWC proposed 12,360-acre addition which was approved to be added to the Lake Wimico site.

On July 12, 2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 22,260-acre addition, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2000 taxable value of \$5,565,000. 19,445 acres are located in Jefferson County, the remainder in Taylor County.

On July 12, 2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 2,560-acre addition, to the St. Joseph Bay buffers project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2000 taxable value of \$210,880. The property is located in Gulf County.

On April 25, 2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 2,194-acre addition, known as the Tiger Hammock Conservation Area, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Dr. John Epler, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2002 taxable value of \$1,243,672.

On April 25, 2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple,

1,656-acre addition, known as Crooked & Short Creeks, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2001 taxable value of \$241,410. Short Creek (291 acres) is in Liberty County and Crooked Creek (1,365 acres) is in Gadsden & Liberty counties.

On June 6, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 49,565-acre addition, known as St. Vincent Sound to Lake Wimico, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2002 taxable value of \$3,213,760.

On June 4, 2004, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 10,444-acre addition, known as the Flint Rock tract, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company, and a 2002 taxable value of \$1,007,366.

In January 2008 TNC acquired 10,905 acres known as Flint Rock.

### **Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an acquisition intermediary for this project.

# St. Johns River Blueway

St. Johns County

**Group A**  
**Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

This project is located in one of the fastest areas of growth in the state. The project is designed to preserve the last remaining shorelines of the St. Johns River and several of its tributaries. The project also has numerous recorded archaeological and historical resources, and has the potential for many more.

## Manager

The Division of Forestry (DOF) proposes to manage a portion of the site as part of Watson Island State Forest, and the remainder as a new state forest. Bunnell District personnel will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use for all areas.

## General Description

The St. Johns River Blueway runs along the eastern shore of the St. Johns River between Green Cove Springs and Palatka. It includes considerable forested wetlands by the river and around six tributary creeks, plus mesic flatwoods, freshwater marsh, and a portion of disturbed uplands. The project also bounds the Watson Island State Forest on the west bank of the St. Johns River.

## Public Use

The degree of ownership acquired and whether there are usable uplands that will accommodate resource-based recreation activities will determine the degree of public access and use that can be assured. Both fee and less-than-fee acquisition approaches are recommended in the

proposal. The resource-based recreation potential for the project is considered low to moderate, depending on what title rights and uplands can be obtained. Much of the project area is wetland or floodplain adjacent to the St. Johns River and its tributary creeks. These public waterways have boating and canoeing opportunities. Acquiring adjacent lands will help to ensure the preservation of the quality recreational experience that presently exists. If there is success in acquiring upland sites along these waterways, these uplands could provide access for the boating public and/or opportunities for environmental education and wildlife viewing. Success in acquiring lands with relatively dry upland areas will determine the ability to provide any kind of comprehensive hiking or bicycle trail system, or facilities to accommodate camping or picnicking. Creating a comprehensive bicycle trail system between parcels will require use of the public road system. Lands adjacent to existing public areas may enhance access, usability and the recreational experience of those public areas.

## Acquisition Planning

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the St Johns Rive Blueway project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by St. Johns County, consisted of approximately 27,997 acres, 290 landowners, and a taxable value of \$58,229,721. Six entities own more than 15,000 of the acres in the project: Rayonier, Meldrim, SJ Land Associates LLC, Klaerich, Ringhaver, and Plum Creek Timberlands LP.

The BOT acquired 736 acres in August 2005.

St. Johns River Blueway FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Creek Siltsnail	G2/S2
<i>Bartram's Ixia</i>	G2/S2S3
<i>Thorne's Beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
9 rare species are associated with the project	

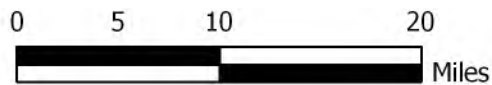
<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>27,997</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>961</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$3,112,640</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>27,036</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$56,230,980</b>

St. Johns River Blueway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



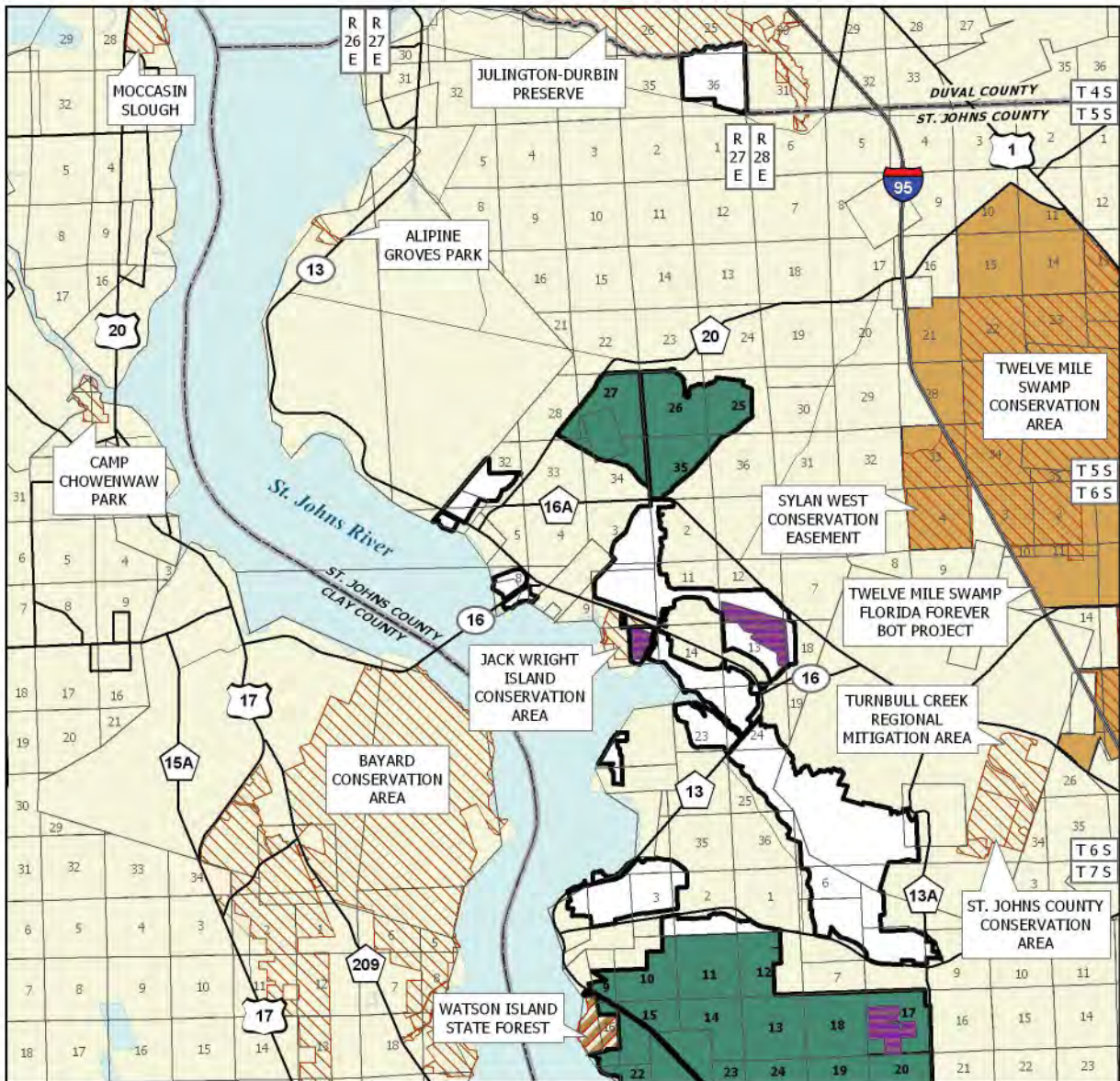
## ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY



DECEMBER 2005

# St. Johns River Blueway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 1 OF 2

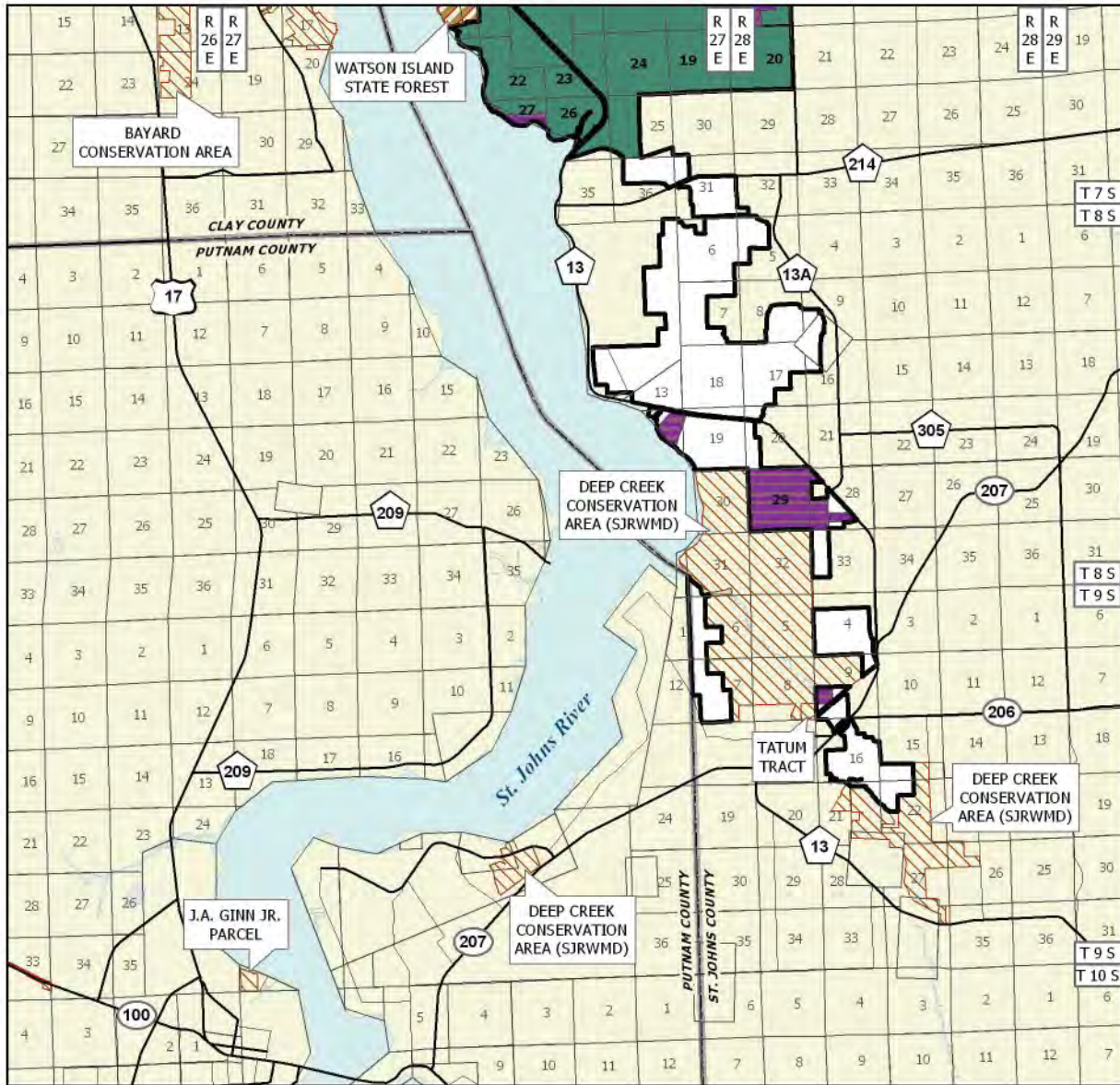
### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2009

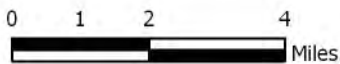
# St. Johns River Blueway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 2 OF 2

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2009

## St. Johns River Blueway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

On June 16, 2005 the Board of Trustees (BOT) approved buying 231.8 acres of the Warner ownership for \$1,112,640.

The BOT also acquired 731 acres of the Lambert ownership in August 2005 for \$2,000,000.

### **Coordination**

Portions of the project may be acquired in partnership with St. Johns County. The St. Johns River WMD is also interested in the acquisition of the project. The acquisition partnership may include local and state funding sources. Contribution percentages have not been determined.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the project under a multiple use management regime consistent with the State Forest system. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project. These goals and measures are referenced later in this prospectus. The primary land management goal for the Division of Forestry is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the Division of Forestry's management activities on this project.

### **Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for state designation***

The project's location, size, and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. State Forest designation requires that certain criteria be met: such as public access and acreage available for many types of recreational activities. Designation as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring property rights which are consistent with these criteria.

#### ***Manager***

The Division of Forestry proposes to manage a portion of the site as part of Watson Island State Forest, and the remainder as a new state forest. Bunnell District personnel will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use for all areas.

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Much of the project's upland areas have been disturbed, and will require various levels of restoration dependant upon the degree and type of disturbance. Natural

communities that have been converted to pine plantation will require removal of off-site species and reforestation with native species.

Protection and restoration of wetland communities will be a priority for the DOF. Restoration efforts will concentrate on the removal or filling of ditches and corrections of other hydrological alterations. Public use will be limited to activities that are compatible with any sensitive resources.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Division of Forestry, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrological restoration, as well as site security, public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for formulation of a management plan.

#### ***Revenue-generating potential***

Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be low-medium.

#### ***Cooperators in management activities***

The Division of Forestry will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

#### ***Management costs and sources of revenue***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows.

<b>SALARY (X FTE)</b>	<b>\$173,346</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>\$361,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$659,346</b>

# Terra Ceia

## Manatee County

# Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The mangrove swamps and flatwoods on the islands and mainland around Terra Ceia Bay are some of the last natural lands left on the southeast shore of Tampa Bay. The Terra Ceia project will protect and restore this natural area, helping to preserve the fishery and manatee feeding grounds in Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve and giving the public an area in which to fish, boat, and enjoy the original landscape of Tampa Bay.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP). Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) will continue to be managed by them.

### General Description

The Terra Ceia project is two-thirds mangrove swamp and one-third a mix of xeric hammock, and flatwoods and old fields colonized by Brazilian pepper. The area is particularly significant for the protection it offers to bird rookeries (including nearby Bird Island, one of the top two rookeries in Florida) and to the adjacent Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve (an Outstanding Florida Water), with its seagrass beds used heavily by manatees, its nursery areas for fish and invertebrates, and its important fishery. Sixty-nine archaeological sites, mostly middens, are known from the project, and more are likely. The natural resources of the project are vulnerable to alteration or destruction by development and invasion by exotic plant species. Growth pressures are intense, so endangerment is high.

### Public Use

This project qualifies as a buffer preserve, with uses such as boating and fishing, and—in accessible uplands—activities like picnicking and hiking.

### Acquisition Planning

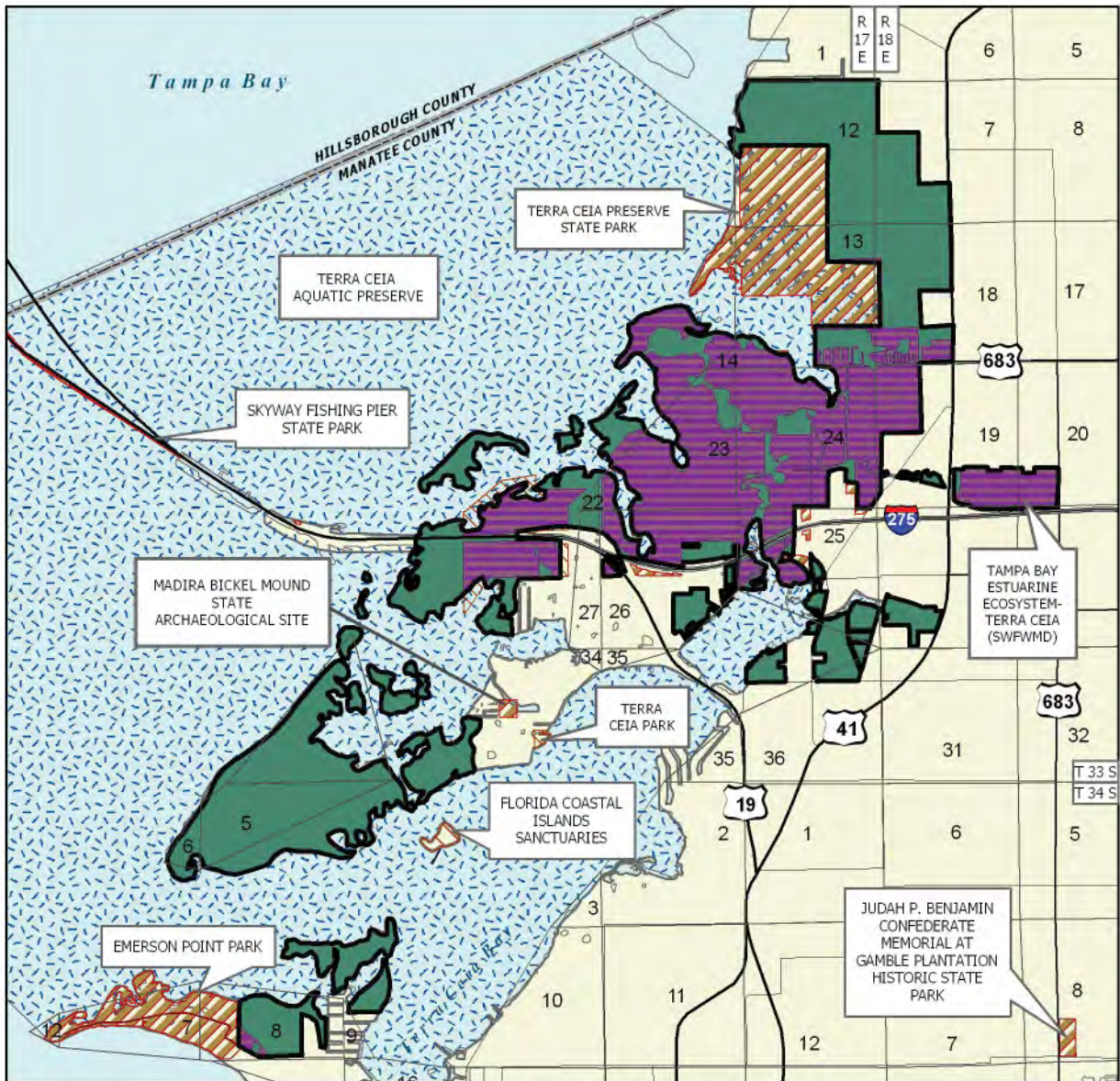
On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Terra Ceia project to the CARL list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserve, consisted of approximately 2,612 acres, multiple owners, and a 1995 taxable value of \$8,059,357. The essential parcels were identified as: Hendry Corp, Reeder, Schater, Huber, Blalock, and First Union/Larson. Prior to the project's addition to the CARL list, our acquisition partner, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) acquired Terra Ceia Isles. The District acquired the Reeder (20-acres) and Schater parcels (39.1-acres) in 2000 with the State contributing half of the funding.

On October 15, 1998, the LAAC designated an additional 843 acres as essential.

On June 15, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 395-acre addition (aka Frog & McMullen Creek Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the DEP's CAMA and DRP and the SWFWMD. The addition consisted of 33 landowners, 61 parcels, and a taxable value of \$5,700,188. The DRP is the recommended manager for most of the site. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by the SWFWMD will continue to be managed by them.

Terra Ceia FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Manatee	G2/S2
Hairy Beach Sunflower	G5T2/S2
Wild Cotton	G4G5/S3
Banded Wild-pine	G5/S3
4 rare species are associated with the project	

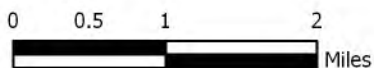
<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>4,592</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>1,508*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$4,962,500*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>3,084</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$7,779,084</b>
<b>* includes acreage and expenditures by SWFWMD</b>	



**TERRA CEIA**

**MANATEE COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



AUGUST 2007



## Terra Ceia - Group A/Full Fee

### Coordination

SWFWMD is an acquisition partner.

DEP received a grant of \$504,731 from the USFWS for the acquisition of Rattlesnake Key and Joe's Island.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Terra Ceia project is to preserve and restore the coastal natural communities, ranging from xeric and maritime hammocks to coastal strand and mangrove swamps, that remain around the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve. Achieving this objective will protect the resources of the aquatic preserve: its seagrass beds used heavily by manatees, its nursery areas for fish and invertebrates, and its fishery. It will also play an important part in the protection and restoration of the Tampa Bay estuary, the largest open-water estuary in Florida. The project should be managed under the single-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward preservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as fishing. Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn any fire-dependent communities in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; strictly limit timbering; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving the resources of the aquatic preserve. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project includes nearly all the coastal undeveloped land south of Port Manatee and around Terra Ceia Bay, and consequently has the size and location to achieve its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The Terra Ceia Project qualifies as a state buffer preserve to protect the resources of the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve.

### Manager

DRP is the designated manager. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by SWFWMD will continue to be managed by them.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The Terra Ceia Project generally includes lands that are "low-need" tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** The goals of management of the Terra Ceia Project are: 1) to protect the water quality and the highly productive marine habitat of the aquatic preserve by maintaining the project area in a substantially natural condition; 2) to preserve and protect significant endangered and threatened species which include the West Indian manatee, Roseate Spoonbill, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Least Tern, Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret, American Oystercatcher; 3) to preserve and protect significant archaeological sites; 4) to restore islands to a natural state which will include removal of exotic vegetation and habitat restoration activities; and 5) to establish a self-guided canoe trail between the islands for use by the general public.

Within the first year after state acquisition, initial and intermediate activities will concentrate on the site security of the mainland property and resource inventory. The site's natural resources will be inventoried and a management plan will be formulated.

Long-range plans for this property will be directed toward exotic plant removal/restoration of disturbed areas and the perpetuation and maintenance of natural communities. Management practices will also stress the protection of the water quality of the aquatic preserve by maintaining the project area in a substantially natural condition, the protection of threatened and endangered species and the preservation of the significant archaeological sites for professional investigation.

**Revenue-generating potential** No revenue is expected to be generated from this property.

### Management Cost Summary/Start-Up

Salary (2 FTE)	\$ 62,000
OCO – Park design	\$100,000
Expenses stabilizing ruins	\$ 10,000
Fixed capital – Parking lots, trails	\$500,000
Total	\$672,000

# Three Chimneys

## Volusia County

# Group B

## Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

An old live-oak hammock in the City of Ormond Beach protects the remains of a British sugar and rum factory from the 1700's. The Three Chimneys project will protect the hammock and these remains—some of the few from the British period in Florida—and will give the public an opportunity to see and learn about this site.

### Manager

Ormond Beach Historical Trust.

### General Description

High-quality, old-growth hydric hammock, dominated by live oak, laurel oak, sweetgum, hackberry, elm, cabbage palm, and other trees, occupies nearly all the site. No FNAI-listed plants or animals are known from the site, but migrating songbirds may use the hammock as a stopover.

The site includes the ruins of a sugar and rum factory from the 18<sup>th</sup>-century British period, with two of the original three chimneys remaining. Few sites from Florida's British period are now publicly owned. There are also early 20<sup>th</sup>-century remains on the site.

The site is vulnerable to further neglect and is surrounded by development. It is in danger of development.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a state historic site, with uses such as historic interpretation and possibly picnicking or walking.

### Acquisition Planning

The project includes eight parcels and five owners. The Segev parcel is essential. It is currently being negotiated.

On December 5, 2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to the Group B list

<p><b>Three Chimneys</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009</p>
<p>no rare species are associated with the project</p>

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State-designation** The Three Chimneys project, designated 8 Vo196, encompasses 54.5 acres of land currently owned by four private owners. Prehistoric Indian middens have been unearthed on the property as well as an historic coquina repository. Likewise, archaeological ruins of America's first rum distillery (circa 1764) have been excavated and over 50 large trees and rare plants identified which will enhance the quality of the project. The tract is a mature mesic hardwood hammock of massive live oaks—some up to 22 feet in circumference and over 200 years old—elms, hickories and magnolias located on the north side of State Road (SR) 40, or West Grenada Boulevard, in urban Ormond Beach, Volusia County, Florida.

Consisting of jurisdictional wetlands with elevations of 4-7 feet, the proposed park is situated one mile west of US 1. The site was originally included in King George III's 20,000 acre land grant to Richard Oswald, dated Wednesday, July 23, 1763, and it was the first settlement in what was to become Ormond Beach. The subject area is the only large green space remaining in the six miles between I-95 and the Atlantic Ocean, a rapidly developing commercial and residential district.

This Management Prospectus is based on a 1995 archaeological study paid for by the Ormond Beach Historical Trust (OBHT) and city of Ormond Beach, aerial photographs, a site visit by FNAI ecologist Dr. A.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$889,900</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$975,700</b>

## Three Chimneys - Group B/Full Fee

Johnson on May 19, 1999, and a July 7, 1999 Preservation Plan prepared by Dr. L. Wayne of SouthArc in Gainesville. In addition to the unique historic ruins and large trees, introduced exotics include air potato, bamboo, camphor, Chinese tallow, grapefruit and Cherokee rose. The invasive exotics will be removed, (see ¶ 4 below).

The size and diverse resources of the Three Chimneys site will provide a much-needed green-space buffer of state-owned lands in a busy commercial corridor which conforms with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan developed pursuant to §375.021, the state management plan §253.03(7), state land acquisition plan §259.04(1)(a), and, lastly, the site qualifies under Rule 18-8.009(6)(c). Once the state obtains title to the property, the OBHT is recommended as lead manager. The Division of Recreation and Parks and Department of Environmental Protection is recommended as the cooperating manager.

**Management Goals** The management goals of the Three Chimneys project are threefold. First, to stabilize, preserve, restore, protect, maintain, interpret and manage in perpetuity the prehistoric middens and archaeological resources of the site, dating from the British Period. The OBHT aims to enhance public education, visitor appreciation and simultaneously allow compatible passive guest access. Sun-driven salt intrusion and tree root-caused damage has caused significant decay at Three Chimneys and must be stopped immediately. Next, it is our goal to enhance conservation and protection and perpetuate an irreplaceable old-growth hardwood forests, a natural hammock growing ever more scarce in Florida today. This action will include the development of a plan to protect and restore surface water resources and encourage wild life. Lastly, we will provide recreational activity areas and walking trails to be connected to the state/county/city and East Coast Greenway Association's (ECGA) network of hiking/biking trails extending along the east coast of America, Maine to Key West and promote this first settlement of slaves in Volusia County.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** Although most of the Three Chimneys Project includes a hardwood hammock that is a low-need tract requiring only basic resource management and protection, there is a more costly aspect to this proposal. The archaeo-

logical areas containing extant ruins, has a subsurface nail scatter, glass and metal objects to be studied. In addition, areas around the prehistoric Indian middens and coquina pits will require prudence to preserve their intrinsic value and shelter them, in tact, for future generations to experience. These factors will result in higher than typical costs than that of management of only a state forest devoid of an archaeological site.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Within a year after the 54.5 acres is acquired and assigned to the OBHT to manage, initial activities will concentrate on site security from vandals and looters, i.e., installing a security fence around the boiling house, two-kettle distillery and large upright chimney and Indian midden. The site will immediately be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, removing tree roots, stumps and all encroaching vegetation from the masonry ruins will begin at once. Deteriorated masonry joints will be re-pointed with tabby or mortar of matching composition and colors and root-damaged sections of the distillery will be reconstructed by a trained mason. A temporary protective roof will be installed over all ruins once they have been stabilized. A dilapidated 20th-century farm house and out buildings will be removed along with all other trash, and an open cesspool will be filled. A resource inventory will be completed using the OBHT's Preservation Plan, completed by SouthArc, Inc. in June, 1999. This Plan also identified many biologic species on the site. Invasive exotic plants such as air potato, Chinese tallow, camphor and bamboo will be removed. Public and fire management access will be addressed.

As soon as possible, the OBHT will provide appropriate, albeit limited, access to the public while protecting sensitive resources and site work continues.



Future goals include firmly establishing and promoting Three Chimneys as a heritage resource similar to those found in St. Augustine and at Bulow State Park. This work will begin by the cataloging of recovered material and documenting of the completed professional archaeologist's excavations since 1995 along the south side of the boiling house; excavations north of the boiling house to identify pier locations of other structures such as the grinding mill and fermentory; investigation of the existing well to identify any old well beneath it and placing on-site signage with pictures, schematic drawings

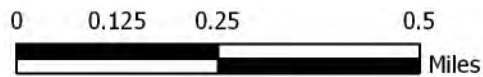
# Three Chimneys - Group B/Full Fee



## THREE CHIMNEYS

### VOLUSIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired



JULY 2006

## Three Chimneys - Group B/Full Fee

and interpretive displays, to be installed along with a demonstration cane field and miniature sugar works, a living history display, in an area used as cattle pasture 30 years ago. Other on-site usages will include building a vandal-proof Interpretive Center, parking lot, picnic area/playground, nature trails and an earthen berm along SR 40 to buffer the site from traffic noise. Finally, Three Chimneys will be tied into the East Coast Greenway Association's network of hiking/biking trails.

**Revenue Generating Potential** The approximate tax value of the 54.5-acre parcel in the project is \$1.3 million, indicative of its choice location in the busy commercial corridor of Ormond Beach. This high value also has a positive advantage. The Three Chimneys Park will be the eighth state-owned Florida British Period site and a valued addition to this inventory of

cultural resources as it is located in an urban location. A similar-sized historic park in Barberville, 25 miles to the west on SR 40, attracts over 31,000 visitors a year. Given Three Chimneys locale and tremendous educational opportunities for central Florida-area school children and tourists, substantial visitors' revenues are anticipated.

There will be a small amount of revenue obtained from stumpage sold in areas designated for public parking and picnic grounds.

### **Management Costs and Sources of Revenue**

The new mayor and commissioners of Ormond Beach have indicated a positive attitude toward assisting the OBHT with the development and management of Three Chimneys.

#### **Management Cost Summary**

<b>Salary (2 FTE)</b>	<b>\$62,000</b>
<b>OCO - Park design</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Expenses stabilizing ruins</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Fixed capital - Parking lots, trails</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$672,000</b>



# Tiger Cattle Company Ranch

Okeechobee County

**Group A  
Less-Than-Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the conservation easement over the Tiger Cattle Company Ranch fulfills Florida Forever goals of increasing the number of acres protected with alternatives to fee-simple acquisition; increasing the number of acres of preserved Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas; creating significant landscape linkages by helping connect the preserved lands of the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Florida Forever project and the Pine Island Slough Florida Forever project; and protecting 733 acres of surface-water protection.

### Manager

As a conservation easement, the management of this property would be monitored by the Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services.

### General Description

The proposal is comprised of two large, impressive, basin marshes (making up approximately 20 percent of the site's landcover), along with scattered depression marshes, dry prairie, mesic flatwoods, and mesic hammock and remnant upland natural communities, imbedded in a matrix of extensive areas of improved pasture (approximately 50 percent). The basin marshes are oriented north-south through the middle third of the site and most of the remaining natural areas occur adjacent to these marshes. Improved pastures make up most of the eastern and western thirds of the property. A network of relatively shallow ditches/canals and roads have altered hydrology to some extent. Currently, family and friends utilize the land for recreation and wildlife

viewing. There is no hunting lease on the property. While the largest marsh and some of the flatwoods have burned recently, prescribed burning apparently is not used on a regular basis.

### Public Use

If the proposal is acquired as a less-than-fee acquisition, there will likely not be any public access granted under the terms of the easement except for possible planned research and educational purposes. With only the possible public access for these planned purposes, there would not be any public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project.

### Acquisition Planning

On December 12, 2008, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added the Tiger Cattle Company Ranch to the Florida Forever acquisition list as a less-than-fee project.

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partnerships contemplated.

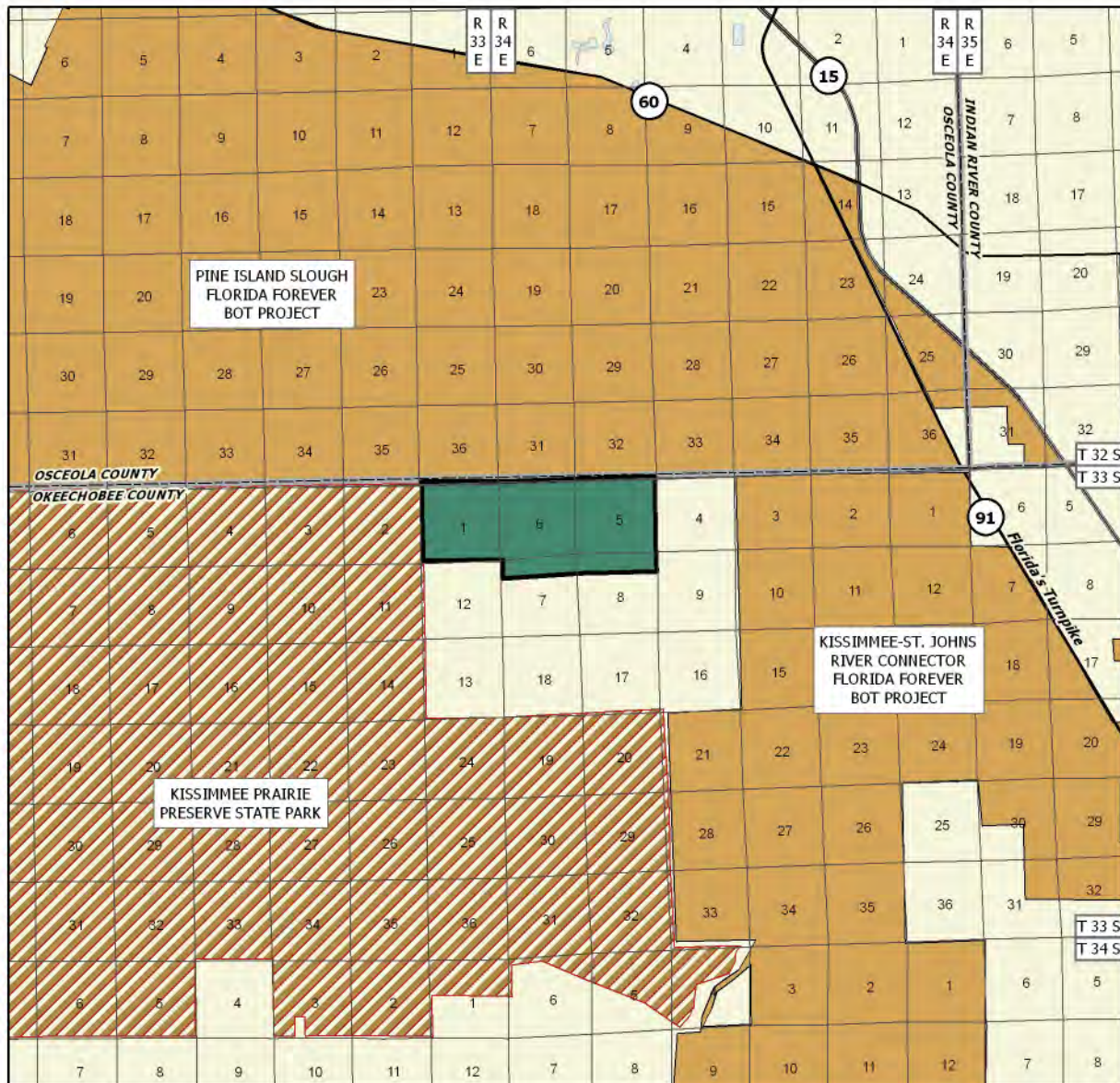
### Management Policy Statement

The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State lands will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement.

Tiger Cattle Company Ranch FNAI Elements	
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
5 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>2,230</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>2,230</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$4,524,903</b>

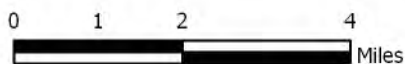
# Tiger Cattle Company Ranch - Group A/Less-Than-Fee



## TIGER CATTLE COMPANY RANCH

### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands



JANUARY 2009

## Tiger Cattle Company Ranch - Group A/Less-Than-Fee

### Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.





# Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island

Nassau County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The acquisition of the Tiger and Little Tiger Island proposal would provide a missing link in a network of national and state preserves and parks that stretch from St. Andrews Sound in Georgia to the St. Johns River in Florida. Roughly three-quarters of the proposal appears to be estuarine tidal marsh along the St. Mary's River, Amelia River, and a network of smaller connecting rivers and creeks. The remainder primarily represents upland maritime hammock on the elevated islands in the extensive tidal marsh ecosystem. The marsh and adjoining sand and mud flats are important feeding and nesting areas for many species of shorebirds, wading birds, and songbirds. A recent survey by FNAI biologists showed Little Tiger Island to have one of the highest nesting concentrations of Worthington's marsh wren and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow along the Florida Coast. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to designate the Cumberland Sound side of Tiger and Little Tiger Islands as critical habitat for the wintering populations of the piping plover. The Tiger Islands have been occupied since aboriginal times and archaeological excavations in the area show that pottery-making aboriginal populations inhabited the coastal islands as early as the second millennium B.C.

## Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection.

## General Description

Natural communities include: Estuarine Tidal Marsh, Maritime Hammock, Coastal Strand and Beach Dune. The Tiger Islands have been occupied since aboriginal

times. Archaeological excavations in the area show that pottery-making aboriginal populations inhabited the coastal islands as early as the second millennium B.C. The primary problems on the islands have been rampant looting of archaeological sites.

## Public Use

Potential recreational or other public uses of the land include: walking trails, picnicking, primitive camping, shoreline fishing and environmental education.

The surrounding marshes with their intertwining creeks could provide a system of canoe or kayak trails. The islands could be a part of that trail system for primitive overnight visitation and provide limited trails on each.

## Acquisition Planning

On January 21, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the owners' representative, Jacobs & Associates PA, consisted of approximately 1,280 acres, multiple owners, and a 1998 taxable value of \$68,835.

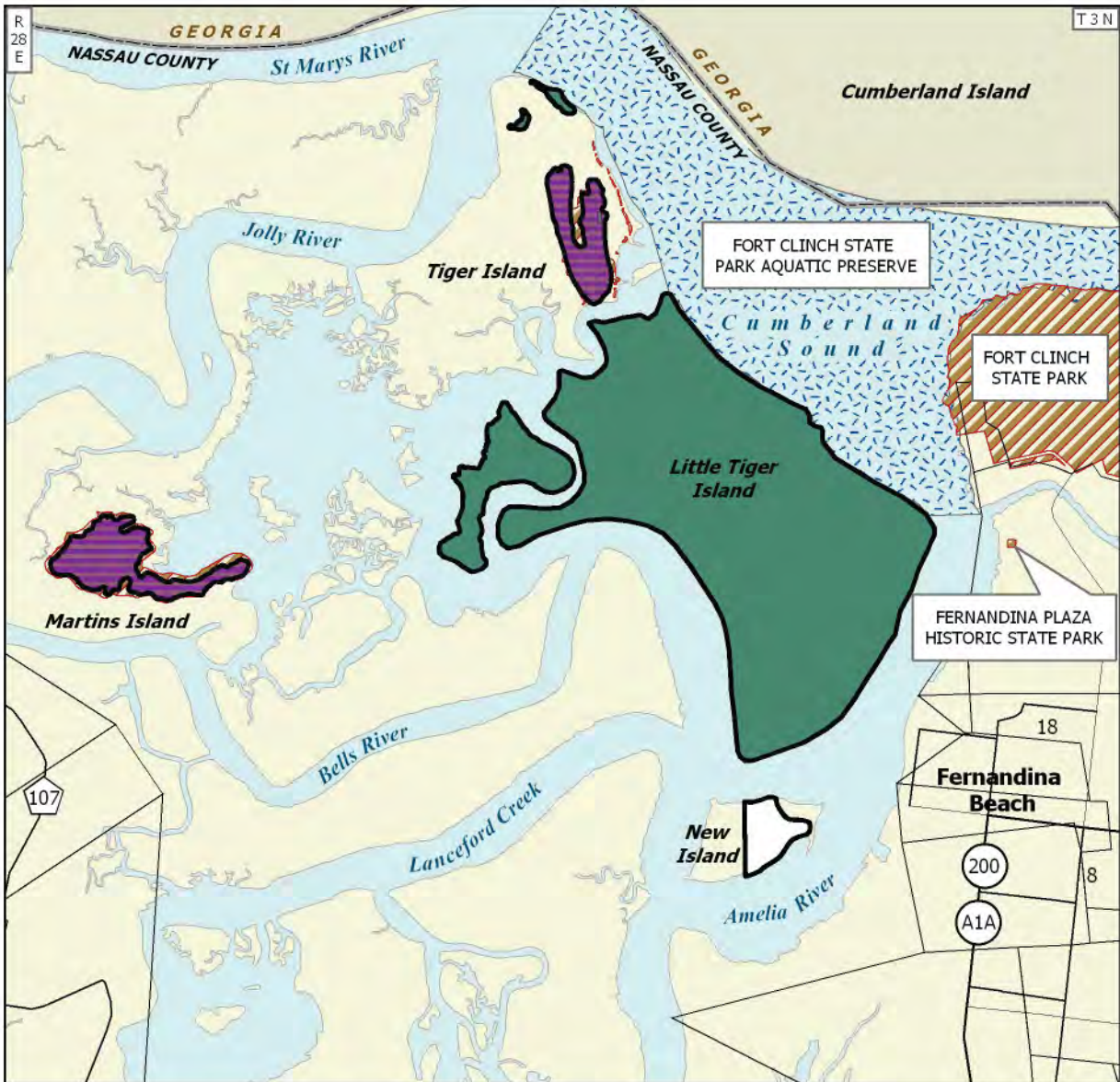
All parcels were identified as essential except the eastern half of New Island, which was used as a spoil site. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) donated the western half of the island to the State in the 1970s.

In June 2002, the project was moved to Group A of the FF 2002 Priority list.

Tiger/Little Tiger Island FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Piping Plover	G3/S2
Manatee	G2/S2
Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow	G4T2/S2
Worthington's Marsh Wren	G5T3/S2
Wood Stork	G4/S2
American Oystercatcher	G5/S2
Least Tern	G4/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Painted Bunting	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4

12 rare species are associated with the project

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>1,280</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$4,184,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>1,101</b>
<b>1998 Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$3,598,894</b>



### TIGER ISLAND/LITTLE TIGER ISLAND

**NASSAU COUNTY**

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JULY 2007

## Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island - Group A/Full Fee

### Coordination

The City of Fernandina voted April 10, 2001 to approve a \$6 million bond initiative for conservation lands. Nassau County will have a November initiative for \$3 million a year bond issue to be spent on conservation lands. As a consequence, both may be able to contribute some funding.

### Management Policy

To conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of the state or a larger geographic area. To conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species. To conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources. Finally, to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for State Designation** Composed of a number of islands interspersed within a salt march system just west of Fort Clinch State Park and partially adjacent to Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve, the project has the capacity to provide protection of marine communities and provide resource-based recreational opportunities. As such the project would be suitable as an extension of Fort Clinch State Park.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management** The project will be a high-need management area. Public recreational use and development of compatible facilities on the islands will be an integral aspect of management.

**Timetable for Implementing Management** Upon fee acquisition, management will concentrate on site security and development of a resource inventory. As a part of Fort Clinch State Park, hunting, an activity presently allowed on the uplands, will not be allowed. Access to the islands will be confined to designated points and routes. Low-intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation will be provided to allow for compatible public access. Long-term management may include a range of resource-based recreational and associated facilities. High impact recreational areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural systems.

**Revenue Generating Potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after acquisition and the amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed.

**Cooperators on management activities** The DRP will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park purposes.

### Management Costs and Sources of Revenue

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds		
Expense	\$20,000	\$25,000
OCO	50,000	22,000
OPS	4,500	32,500
Total	\$79,500	\$79,500

# Triple Diamond

## Okeechobee County

### Triple Diamond - Group A/Full-Fee Group A Full Fee

#### Purpose for State Acquisition

The acquisition of this project would preserve significant dry prairie, important in the long-term protection of this endemic natural community and the rare species that it supports, as well as provide recreational and research opportunities. Additionally, preserving this intact and well-managed landscape would allow for the protection and management of thousands of acres of additional high quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities, and significant hydrological values. This project is bordered on the north by the Kissimmee River Prairie Preserve State Park. Other public lands in the near vicinity include Avon Park Air Force Range, Bombing Range Ridge, and the Kissimmee River to the west and Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area and Blue Cypress Conservation Area to the east. The Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Florida Forever Project is also located within 7 miles to the east of the property. Triple Diamond, along with existing conservation lands, would contribute to a large, contiguous landscape-sized protection area of more than 200,000 acres.

#### Manager

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is the recommended as the manager of this site.

#### General Description

Triple Diamond is a working ranch and is exemplary in its retention of Florida's native prairie. Natural communities comprise 80 percent of the property and include basin marsh, depression marsh, dome swamp, dry and wet prairie, mesic hammock, and swales or sloughs. Dry prairie, endemic to this region of the

state, is the most prevalent natural community on the proposed site. A smaller acreage of wet prairie occurs as open, herbaceous areas occupying lower spots in the dry prairie and in ecotones between wetlands and the dry prairie. The dry prairie provides habitat for state and federal-listed animal species such as gopher tortoise, Florida grasshopper sparrow and crested caracara. Together dry and wet prairies make up approximately 42% of the property's acreage and comprise one of the largest and perhaps highest quality blocks of native prairie remaining on private lands. Much of the Triple Diamond prairie has been burned frequently, often in the growing season, and is in excellent condition. Interconnected swale/slough and depression marsh wetlands form a branching network that spreads over the length and breadth of Triple Diamond. There are also isolated depression/basin marshes scattered over the property. One small dome swamp is located in the northeastern portion of the project. The canopy is dominated by mature pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) surrounding a small disturbed pond. A large, modern two-story home is located in the southwestern part of the site as part of a complex of management facilities that also includes an equipment barn and horse stables.

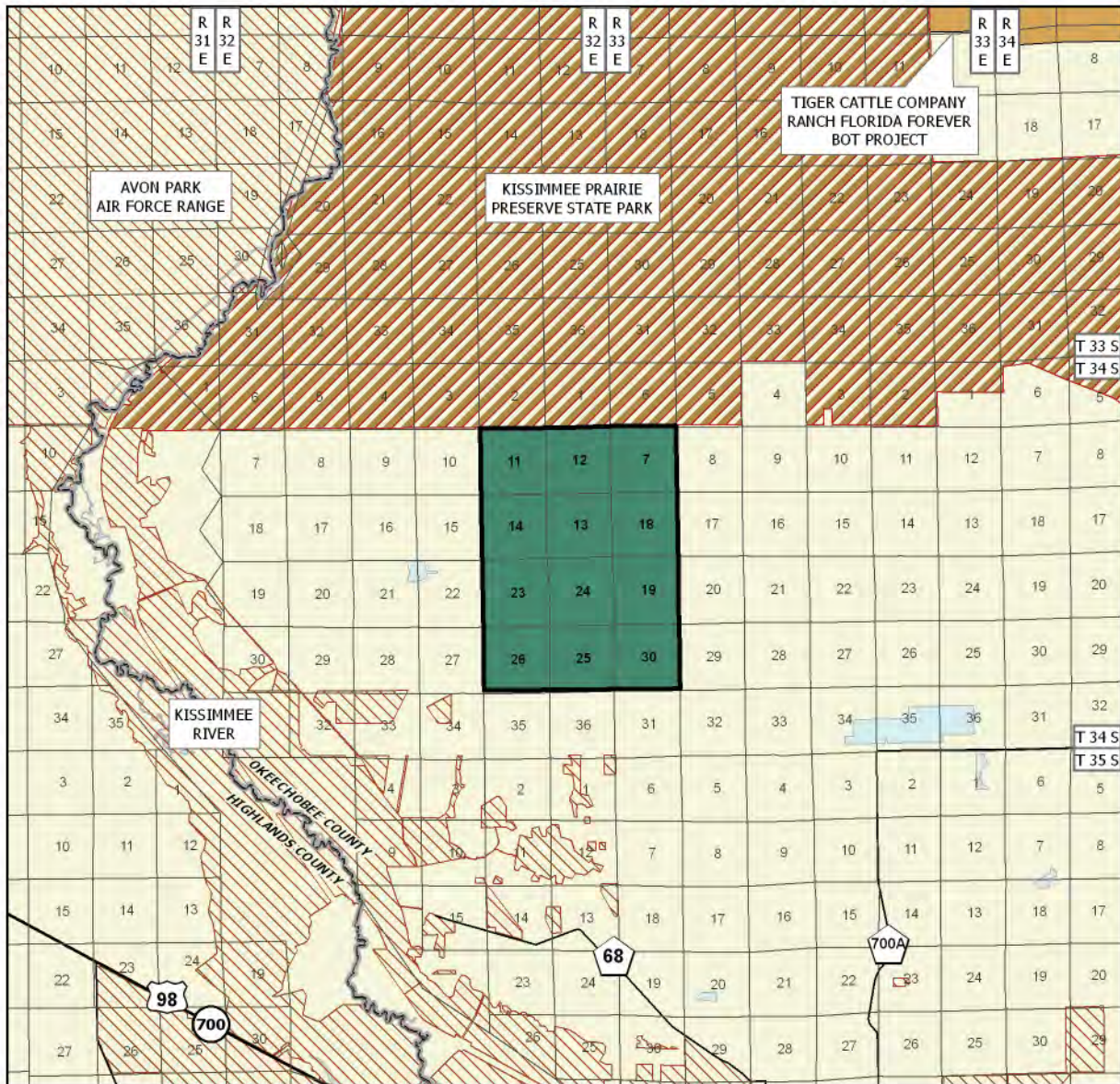
#### Public Use

The Triple Diamond project has the potential of providing a diverse recreational experience. There is already a well maintained road system occurring throughout the property and all the existing facilities can greatly enhance the recreational and research potential of the property. There is a potential for a full range of trail activities including short distance nature trails, long distance hiking trails, bicycle trails and equestrian trails can be accommodated. Nature

Triple Diamond	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Loammi Skipper	G1/S1
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Great Egret	G5/S4
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>7,991</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>7,991</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$23,007,107</b>

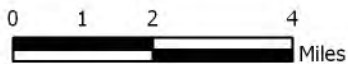
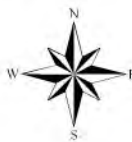
# Triple Diamond - Group A/Full-Fee



## TRIPLE DIAMOND

### OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2009

appreciation and wildlife observation as well as both primitive and facility camping could be supportive. The infrastructure already on the property is in excellent shape and the existing residence could be converted to a spacious visitor/educational center. The barn and corrals could be used as part of an equestrian center for trail rides.

**Acquisition Planning**

On June 12, 2009 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended that the Triple Diamond Ranch be added to the Florida Forever list as an A list project.

**Coordination**

No partners for the acquisition have been identified.

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of managing the Triple Diamond Ranch are to protect and manage thousands of acres of additional high quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities, and significant hydrological values.

**Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for State Designation***

This intact and well-managed landscape would allow for the protection and management of thousands of acres of additional high quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities, and significant hydrological values. This project has the potential for providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience.

***Manager***

DRP is recommended as the manager of this site.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

The property should not require a high level of management intensity in the short term; however, the buildings on the property will need to be maintained. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use area with more use of the sub-

stantial infrastructure already on the property.

***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the property is acquired and assigned to the Division of Recreation and Parks, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicle access and management planning. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park will serve initially as a point of access for low intensity resource-based recreation, such as hiking. Consideration will be given in the management planning process for the provision of access from other locations to accommodate recreation development. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will in great part depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions and the use of the established infrastructure.

***Revenue-generating potential***

No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the use of the facilities already on the property. Vendors for the future operation of the equestrian facility and two-story house will be considered.

***Cooperators in management activities***

No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project. The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

***Management costs and sources of revenue***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1-FTE -1-OPS)</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>Outsourcing</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$272,000</b>

# Twelve Mile Swamp

St. Johns County

**Group B  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Between Jacksonville and St. Augustine a large swamp, though logged, has escaped the development spreading from those cities. The Twelve Mile Swamp project will protect this property, conserving a large area for such wildlife as black bear and wading birds, and ensuring that the people of this growing region will have a natural area to enjoy for years to come.

### Manager

St. Johns River Water Management District will manage until the land use agreement is terminated, at which time it will be managed by the Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### General Description

The project consists of a large wetland basin surrounded largely by pine plantation. Natural communities present include bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, mesic flatwoods, depression marsh, dome swamp and scrubby flatwoods. Much of the tract has been altered by extensive silvicultural activities. The large expanse of relatively undisturbed wetlands near the center is known to support many plant species including animal species such as the state threatened Florida black bear. A bird rookery has been documented from the project. Twelve archaeological or historic sites or structures are known from the project. Logging and particularly residential development are threats to this area. It is surrounded by large developments of regional impact.

### Public Use

This project is designated as a state forest, with such uses as camping, hiking, hunting and horseback riding.

### Acquisition Planning

The Cummer Trust ownership has been acquired. The project consists of approximately 22 other smaller tracts.

On July 18, 2000 the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 2,900 acres to the project. The boundary addition includes a relatively small portion of the Cummer Trust ownership outside the original boundary.

On August 11, 2006, the ARC approved the removal of a 2-acre parcel from the project boundary. The SJRWMD made the request indicating the parcel is disjunct and not conducive to management. The small parcel was acquired by the BOT through the 1937 passage of the Murphy Act.

### Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District is an acquisition partner.

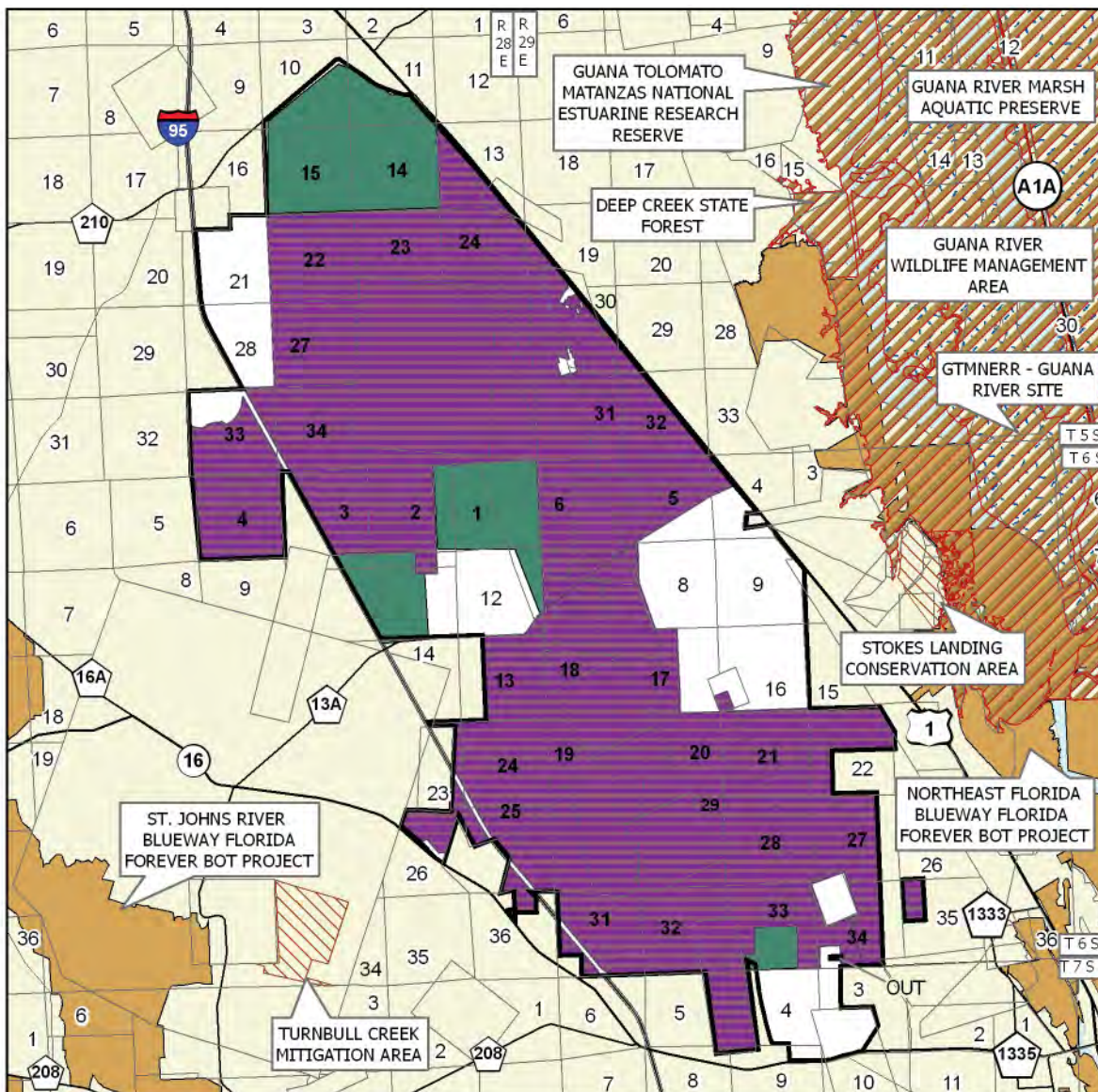
### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Twelve Mile Swamp project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and to conserve, protect, manage, or restore

Twelve Mile Swamp	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>30,560</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>21,717</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$22,477,599</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>8,843</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,012,865</b>

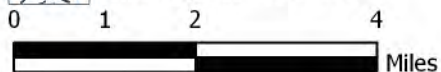
# Twelve Mile Swamp - Group B/Full Fee



## TWELVE MILE SWAMP

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserves



AUGUST 2006



## Twelve Mile Swamp - Group B/Full Fee

important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The size and restorable pine plantations of the Twelve Mile Swamp project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The SJRWMD is recommended as Manager until the termination of the land use agreement, at which time it will be managed by the DOF.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** There are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Once the core area is acquired, the DOF will provide public access for low intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The Division will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The sites' natural

resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructures will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary/DOF		
Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$28,240	\$28,240
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$21,000	\$13,000
OCO	\$85,900	\$2,500
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,140</b>	<b>\$43,740</b>

# Twelvemile Slough

Hendry County

# Group A

## Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The most prominent feature of this project is that it contains a twelve-mile long slough. The swale, or “river of grass” natural community, forms the broad band of emergent sedges, grasses, and herbs that runs east through the southern part of the project. The Twelvemile Slough project is important to many wildlife species, particularly those that require extensive areas of habitat to maintain viable populations.

### Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as lead manager. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Forestry (DOF) is recommended as a cooperating agency.

### General Description

The drainage basin of the proposal flows into the Okaloacoochee Slough project acquired by the South Florida Water Management District and the DOF. The Okaloacoochee Slough and its associated watershed ultimately flow into the Fakahatchee Strand.

### Public Use

The Twelvemile Slough is primarily a wetland system joining with the Okaloacoochee Slough that could provide excellent opportunities for wildlife and natural

resource observation. To achieve maximum potential for these activities, however, airboats and other motorized equipment that disrupt the quiet atmosphere of the site or infringe on the sensitivity of the wetlands should not be allowed. This is not to say that a manager should not be allowed to make appropriate use of such equipment in a controlled fashion, if such were to enhance management and public use programs without causing undue damage or disruption. Other natural resource-based recreational opportunities supportable on the project would include picnicking, camping, nature study trails, hiking trails and non-boat freshwater fishing. Hunting might also be considered appropriate if further review of the effect of hunting on observable wildlife indicates this activity will not have an adverse impact on this activity.

### Acquisition Planning

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Twelvemile Slough project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple & Less-Than-Fee acquisition, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 14,419 acres, multiple parcels, four landowners (A&M of Hendry County LTD, Richard H. Roberts, Alico Inc., McClure Properties LTD), and a 2000 taxable value of \$1,384,030. The Roberts and Albritton parcels were designated as essential.

On April 25, 2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,416-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of State Lands (DSL), consisted of one owner, McClure Properties LTD, 4 parcels, and a 2001 taxable value of \$669,938.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>15,835</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>7,486</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$11,000,000</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>8,349</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,082,949</b>

<b>Twelvemile Slough</b>	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Panther	G5T1/S1
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Wood Stork	G4/S2
Crested Caracara	G5/S2
Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3/S3
Snowy Egret	G5/S3
Glossy Ibis	G5/S3
Tricolored Heron	G5/S4
Great Egret	G5/S4
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
12 rare species are associated with the project	

## Twelvemile Slough- Group A / Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

landowner, with property already in the original boundary, requested the remainder of his ownership be added.

On June 9, 2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 FF Priority list.

### **Coordination**

The South Florida Water Management District, Twelve Mile Slough, Save Our Rivers project includes the Roberts ownership. There may be some potential for cost sharing with the District.

### **Manager**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as lead manager. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Forestry (DOF) is recommended as a cooperating agency.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The principal purposes of the project are to protect significant natural habitat important to the Florida panther and numerous other species of concern, as well as to preserve the hydrological connection with protected lands to the east and south.

The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept whenever possible -management activities should be directed first toward conservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses. Managers should control access to the project, thoroughly inventory the resources, and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually conserving both the archaeological and natural resources. Managers should limit the number and size of educational and recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

### **Management Prospectus**

This project is part of the larger Okaloacoochee (OK) Slough wetlands that partially serve as the headwaters of the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and the Big Cypress National Preserve. The land in this project serves to protect or recharge groundwater, and is important habitat for the Florida Panther, snail kite and many other wildlife species. Strategic habitat conservation areas (SHCAs) for some of these species comprise roughly a quarter of the project lands. The

entire length of the eastern boundary of the project area is contiguous with the 32,162-acre Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest/Wildlife Management Area.

### **Management Goals**

The following purposes should guide development of management goals: (1) assessment of current land use and natural resources to determine existing conditions and future requirements for inventory and monitoring; (2) conservation, protection, and restoration of cultural resources, landscapes, forests, water resources, and other elements important to ecosystem functions; (3) conservation, protection and restoration of the characteristic biological diversity original to natural communities, including protection of, maintenance, or enhancement of conditions for rare, threatened and endangered species; (4) development and adaptation of project plans, procedures and techniques for improved success in meeting management goals, including the Florida Panther Habitat Preservation Plan; and (5) establishment of multiple-use natural resource-based recreational opportunities that are mutually compatible, and which are consistent with the other resource conservation purposes and management goals for the area.

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### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

The Twelvemile Slough project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife and environmental area.

### ***Conditions Affecting Intensity Of Management***

Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many taxa of rare or listed species. Some portions of the Twelvemile Slough proposal include lands that are low-need tracts, requiring basic resource management including the frequent use of prescribed fire where including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. However, since 57% of the uplands have been developed for agriculture or other purposes, significant restoration activities are proposed for at least some of this acreage. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities would involve hydrological restoration, re-establishment of native groundcover, exotic vegetation control, prescribed fire and control of conservation-compatible access by the user community.

Proposed uses of the area would include opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education, and other natural resource-based recreational activities. Since the principal purposes of the acquisition project are to protect habitat for the

Florida panther and other species of concern, management goals will be oriented to conservation and protection of these species, and to education and regulation of the user community. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration activities would be guided by established procedures and techniques, improved through use of adaptive management themes, and will emphasize re-establishment of native plant communities on pasturelands and hydrological restoration, pending detailed analysis of the necessity and feasibility of such activities. Infestations of invasive exotic species, including Brazilian pepper, water hyacinth and tropical soda apple, occur locally within the area. Therefore, efforts to eradicate or control such infestations will be undertaken to reduce the potential for further spread.

### ***Timetable For Implementing Management Provisions***

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, relationships with stakeholders, public use assessments, fire management, resource inventories, exotic species control and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan, to be developed by the FWC in

coordination with a stakeholder-based management advisory group, shall specify the management goals and objectives necessary to accomplish the purposes which the management area is to serve.

Longer-range activities would focus on implementing goals and objectives specified in the conceptual management plan. Such goals and objectives should address, at a minimum: prescribed fire, habitat restoration, protection or propagation of critical habitat for listed species, and expanding recreational opportunities. Essential roads would be stabilized and maintained for public and management access. Floral and faunal inventories and evaluations of the efficacy of management projects would be continually updated by FWC biologists and would be supplemented as available with data from other sources. Timber resources consist of South Florida slash pine in areas of mesic flatwoods. Pursuant to wildlife habitat management objectives, sustainable timber harvests will be conducted using acceptable silvicultural practices in consultation with the Division of Forestry.

Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the property.

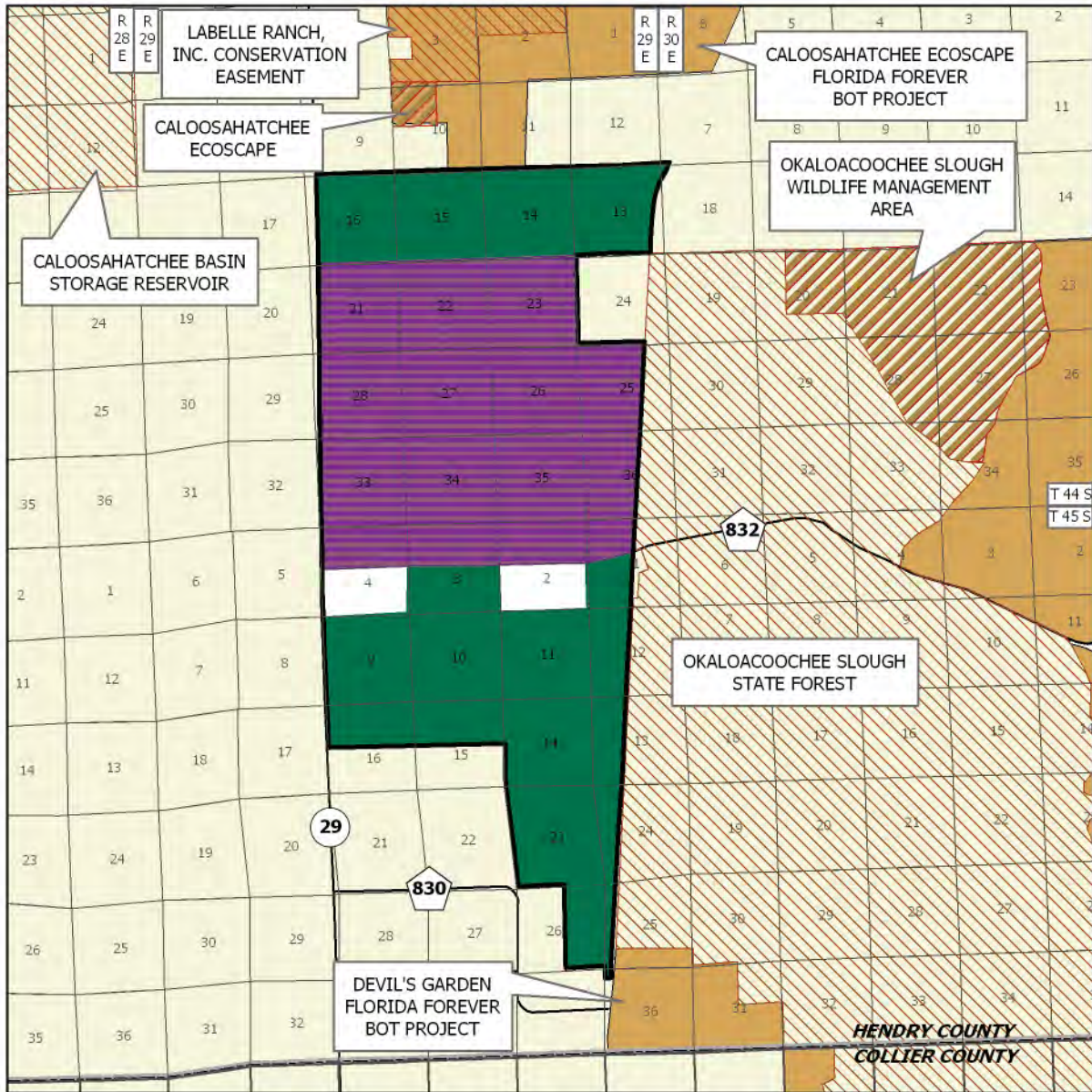
### ***Estimate Of Revenue-Generating Potential***

Currently, forest products production is limited on the project area. Revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some revenues might be realized in the future from other nature-based recreational opportunities, and cattle-grazing contracts. Approximately 13% of the Twelvemile Slough Acquisition Project consists of pine flatwoods that could be managed to offset operational costs. However, future revenue from timber resources will depend on appropriate plant-community and hydrological restoration.

### ***Recommendations As To Other Governmental Agency Involvement***

The FWC shall cooperate with federal, state, and local governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations, to the greatest extent

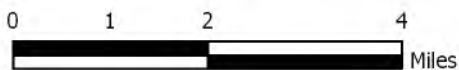
# Twelvemile Slough- Group A / Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## TWELVEMILE SLOUGH

### HENDRY COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



SEPTEMBER 2006

## Twelvemile Slough- Group A / Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

possible in the interest of serving management purposes of mutual interest. It is anticipated that the FWC shall be in greatest need of assistance and cooperation from the following: (1) DOF; (2) SFWMD; (3) the Florida Natural Areas Inventory; (4) the Florida Division of Historical Resources; (5) U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and (6) the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Such assistance shall relate to management of biological resources, cultural resources, fire, timber and water.

The FWC will require three positions (FTEs) to manage this area. The FWC will contract with various private entities to procure services and materials to conduct resource management, capital improvements and visitor services on the area. Funding sources include the CARL Trust Fund and Florida Forever Trust Fund.

### Management Cost Summary/DOF

Category	Startup	Recurring
Resource Management	\$ 273,692	\$ 328,199
Administration	125,926	125,926
Support	106,207	25,441
Capital Improvements	565,196	51,763
Visitor Services/Recreation	192,565	10,323
Law Enforcement	<u>9,350</u>	<u>9,350</u>
Total	\$1,272,936	\$ 551,002

# Upper Shoal River

**Group B  
Full Fee**

**Walton County**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

The two parcels that make up this proposal have been managed for silviculture in a less obtrusive manner than is often found on commercial timberlands. The resulting scatter of intact groundcover provides good opportunity for restoration of habitat and attendant biota. Four rare plants and two rare animals have been documented on the property. Drainages and creeks on the sites appear to be unaltered and intact. Activities that may be undertaken on the sites should be restricted to those that do not interfere with existing function or prevent the restoration of any impaired upland function. Both of these sites have potential to provide quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Portions of these parcels lie within the Eglin to Blackwater Critical Ecological Linkage area and the Northwest Florida initiative combining the protection of buffer lands surrounding Eglin Air Force Base and the connection of conservation lands in the Florida Panhandle.

**Manager**

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be co-managers. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of DEP will manage the Gum Creek tract.

**General Description**

The Upper Shoal River proposal does not include the river or its floodplain; however, it is comprised of two tracts of land that are within the river’s watershed. The first of the two tracts, The Pine Log Creek tract (PLC), is about 3.5 miles north of the river and abuts the Okaloosa County line. The PLC contains 9,735 acres.

The remaining 2,300 acres are included in the Gum Creek tract (GC), which is about 5 miles southeast of the PLC tract. Both tracts are characterized by high, rolling sandy hills that drain downward through former mesic flatwoods and wet flatwoods and slope forests into bottomland and floodplain forests. Combined, the two tracts contain approximately 20 miles of headwater tributary streams. Most of the site’s original pinelands have been disturbed by conversion to pine plantations that comprise the majority of the proposal. Some of this acreage includes natural understory and ground cover vegetation that may be sufficient for reclassification as appropriate natural communities.

**Public Use**

The Upper Shoal River has the potential of providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience. Both parcels have good boundary configurations that will enhance management efforts and they are easily accessible from paved and unpaved public roads. Both tracts can support a diversity of resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities. Greater effort will be required to enhance the aesthetic qualities of the Pine Log Tract, than will be needed for the Gum Creek Tract. As the resources recover, however, the natural experience will be more and more enjoyable. Hiking, off-road bicycling and horseback riding can be accommodated on both tracts. Horseback riding may be more appropriate for the larger Pine Log Tract. Depending on management emphasis, hunting would be suitable on the larger Pine Log Tract. The smaller Gum Creek Tract is closer to residential areas and would not be as suitable for this activity. Other

Upper Shoal River FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
White-top Pitcherplant	G3/S3
Arkansas Oak	G3/S3
Sweet Pitcherplant	G4/S3
Pine Barrens Treefrog	G4/S3
Mountain Laurel	G5/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>12,035</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>12,035</b>
<b>With Estimated (tax assessed) Value of: \$1,395,031</b>	

activities supportable by both tracts could include camping, natural resource appreciation and camping. Two small man-made ponds exist on the Gum Creek Tract that could provide limited fishing in addition to the properties' main creeks. Neither tract is expected to provide extensive opportunities for this activity.

Of the activities mentioned, the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies bicycling, hiking and natural resource appreciation through short nature hikes (nature study) as having needs for the year 2005 in the region in which the project is located.

### **Acquisition Planning**

This project is contemplated for fee-simple acquisition. There are no acquisition partners currently in place for this project. This project consists of two owners with multiple parcels totaling 12,035 acres. The tax-assessed value is \$1,395,031.

On December 5, 2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project on the Florida Forever project list.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goal for the Division of Forestry is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the Division of Forestry's management activities on this project.

### **Unified Management Prospectus**

#### **Introduction**

The Upper Shoal River Florida Forever project comprises approximately 12,035 acres in northwestern Walton County. The project area consists of two separate tracts and ownerships situated in the Northern Highlands physiographic province, where some of Florida's highest elevations occur. The two ownerships each include headwater streams and creeks connected to the Shoal River system, and are entirely within its watershed. The northernmost and largest parcel, the Pine Log Creek tract contains about 9,700 acres. It is located 5 miles north of the smaller Gum Creek tract, which contains about 2,300 acres. The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) has expressed a strong interest in

managing the Gum Creek tract. The Division of Forestry and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will enter in to discussions with DRP to facilitate management of this 2,300 acres as a possible State Park. The project is located approximately 10 miles northeast of Crestview, where the Pine Log Creek tract borders the Okaloosa County line. The Gum Creek tract is about 5 miles southeast of the Pine Log Creek tract, and 5 miles northwest of DeFuniak Springs. The project area is distributed across a distance of about 15 miles because of the separation between the two tracts. Other conservation lands in the vicinity of the project include those on nearby Eglin Air Force Base, and the Yellow River Water Management Area and Upper Yellow River Florida Forever project. The easternmost boundary of the Blackwater River State Forest is approximately 14 miles west of the project. This project is significant for ecological greenways, with 99% of the project area qualifying as priorities 6 and 7 in potential importance, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation.

Approximately 75% of the project area has been converted to silvicultural operations. Water drains through rolling sandy hills downward through mesic or wet flatwoods, and through slope forests into bottomland and floodplain forests along the seepage streams that are tributaries of the Shoal River. Upland communities include approximately 750 acres of sandhill, and 300 acres of upland hardwood forest or slope forest. Approximately 100 acres of mesic and wet flatwoods are interspersed around these other natural community types. The sandhill communities are in moderately good condition with an intact diverse indigenous groundcover including wiregrass. The slope forest and wetland communities displayed a relatively intact understory and canopy.

Forested wetlands comprise 1,550 acres of baygall, floodplain or bottomland forest. The actual seepage stream communities comprise approximately 10 acres. About 75 acres have been classified as disturbed. The FNAI indicates that 22% (3,202 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities. Functional wetlands comprise 8% (1,216 acres) of the project area, and help conserve areas for aquifer recharge (35%, or 5,148 acres of project area), provide fish and wildlife habitat, and provide for natural floodplain function (13%, or 1,895 acres of project area).



## Upper Shoal River- Full Fee/Group B

The FNAI Florida Forever Measures Evaluation also indicates that the entire project area (100%, or 14,483 acres) would serve for surface water protection.

Both tracts have been managed for silviculture operations. Neither tract shows evidence of intensive management activities. Scattered longleaf pine (*P. palustris*) regeneration is present on both tracts. Most of the pine stands are planted in evenly aged compartments, with some compartments including uneven-aged stands, and a greater diversity of pine species. Past thinning of stands of loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), longleaf pine, and slash pine (*P. elliotii*) has occurred throughout both parcels. Stands of sand pine (*P. clausa*) also occur in the project area. Fire has not occurred on the tracts for several years, resulting in increased fuel loads. Ecotones adjacent to forested wetlands and seepage streams appear intact and undisturbed.

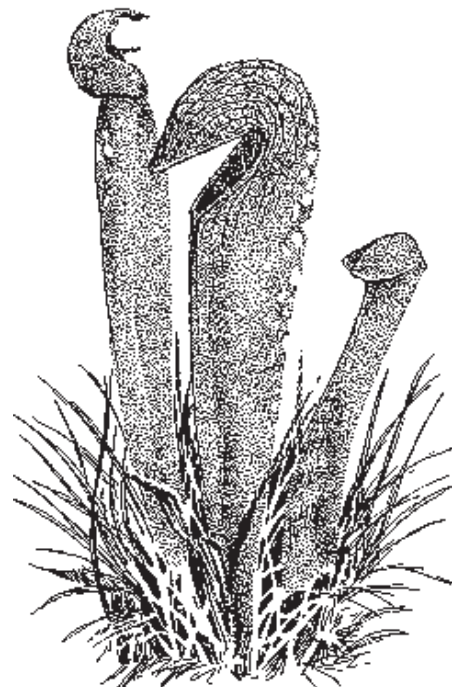
The FNAI provides information for imperiled or rare species in Florida, some of which may be listed by the federal government and/or the state. Imperiled or rare animal species either occurring or likely to occur within the project, include the blackmouth shiner (*Notropis melanostomus*), eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), gopher frog (*Rana capito*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), pine barrens treefrog (*Hyla andersonii*), Sherman's fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*), southern pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*), and white ibis (*Eudocimus alba*). Gopher tortoise burrows are of particular importance, because they often provide refugia for a suite of declining wildlife species, including the eastern indigo snake and gopher frog. Available groundcover may provide a sufficient forage base for the gopher tortoise population.

Slope forests, forested wetlands and seepage streams may support a number of listed plant and animal species, such as the pine barrens treefrog, which has been documented to occur in the project area. This project is located within two miles of past wading bird rookeries, which support colonies of little blue herons and great egrets (*Ardea alba*). This project may provide important foraging areas that support these wading bird rookeries. The floodplain swamp may provide ephemeral breeding locations for rare amphibian species.

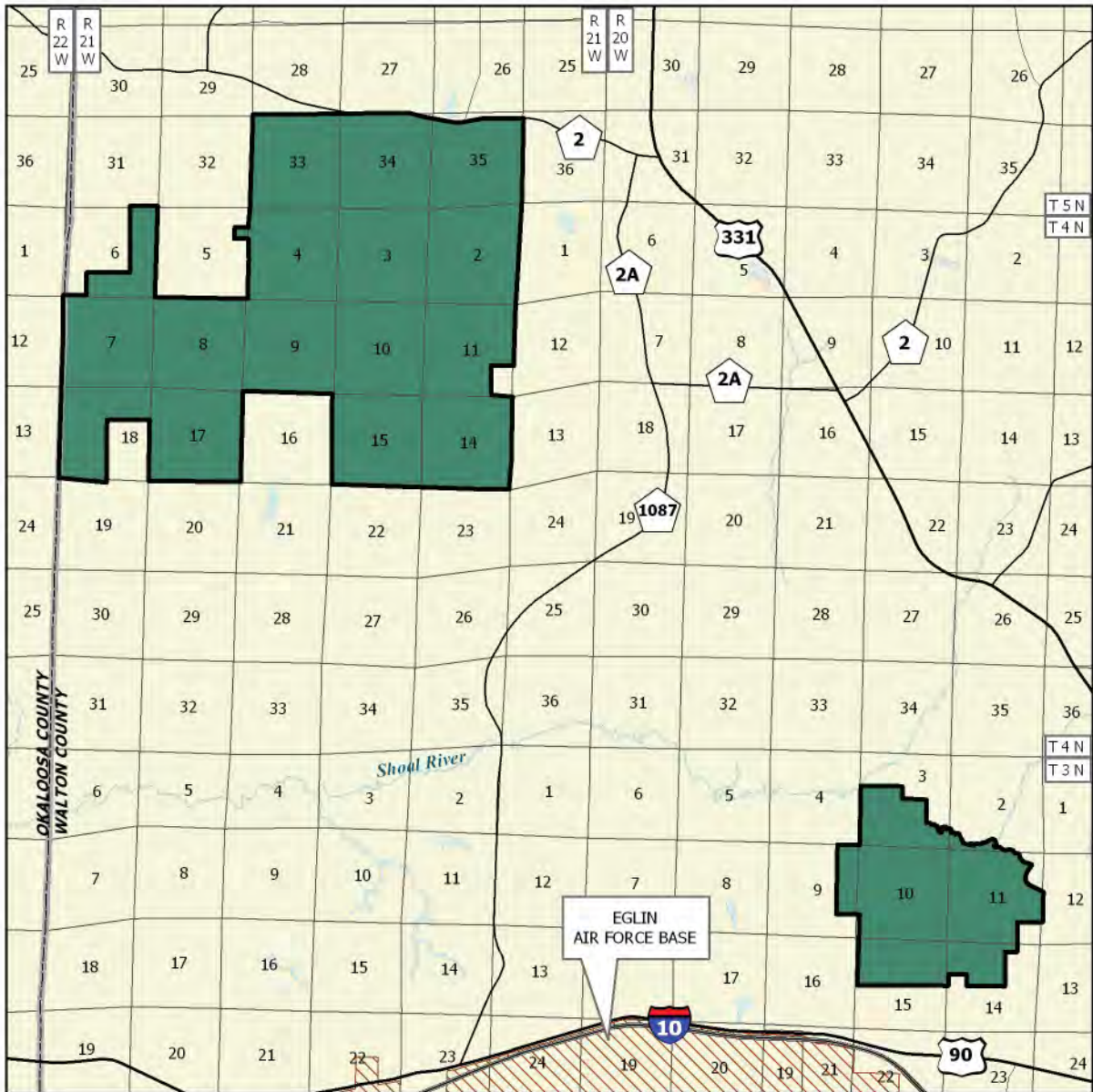
Game species observed, or for which sign was available in the project area, included mourning dove (*Zenaida*

*macroura*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Both tracts appear to have recently been used for hunting and fishing. Access to both sites is good.

Imperiled or rare plant species documented to occur in the proposed project include Arkansas oak (*Quercus arkansana*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), red pitcher plant (*Sarracenia rubra*), and white-top pitcher plant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*). Other imperiled or rare plant species known to occur nearby that may occur in the proposed project include: bog button (*Lachnocaulon digynum*), Florida flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*), hairy wild indigo (*Baptisia calycosa var villosa*), Harper's yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris scabrifolia*), panhandle lily (*Lilium iridollae*), sandhill sedge (*Carex tenax*), silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*), umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*), and yellow fringed orchid (*Platanthera integra*).






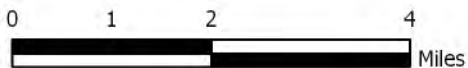
According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), approximately 349 acres (2%) of the Upper Shoal River project is classified as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA). However, a large portion of the project provides habitat for many focal species, which according to the FWC, are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for many other species of wildlife. Approximately 65% (9,512 acres) of the project includes at least seven



## UPPER SHOAL RIVER

### WALTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2006

## Upper Shoal River- Full Fee/Group B

focal species. Another 6% (849 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI. Due to the biological importance and high protection priority associated with this site, management goals developed for this site should take into account the need for proactive habitat management to protect and enhance focal species habitat. Additionally, large tracts of habitat are important for conservation of widely ranging species such as the eastern indigo snake and the Florida black bear. Bears have been documented to use riparian corridors of the Shoal River and its tributaries in Okaloosa County, and to occur in Walton County. These are likely migratory routes for the Florida black bear.

### Management Goals

The DOF and FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Upper Shoal River under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. Under unified management, both agencies will identify mutually acceptable goals that further the long-term protection of the site's plant and wildlife resources, promote sound stewardship of land, timber and water resources, and provide the public with access and quality recreational opportunities. The project has the capability to provide important fish and wildlife habitat in a manner that is compatible with sound silvicultural practices.

Since the project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed that serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. Particular attention should be directed to the protection of upstream riparian systems that are an important habitat for imperiled fish and invertebrates. Under the unified management approach, a broad-

scale management program will be developed that will manage and/or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, wildlife populations, forests and water resources, and promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Timber stands would be managed using even age and/or uneven aged methods to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area is proximal to a large number of users that enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows that 9% (1,322 acres) of the project area is suitable for either priority 1 or priority 3 recreational trails.

This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

- (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels
- (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state
- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state
- (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities
- (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources

### Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Upper Shoal River is a medium-need tract that will require up-front implementation of resource management activities, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately, 75% of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silvicultural activity, consequently additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The DOF and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop the conceptual management plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations that may require cooperative effort include restoration of mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removal or thinning of off-site timber species to

promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforestation of recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct a historic vegetation analysis to assist in determining appropriate desired future conditions, and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help facilitate conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protection and restoration of sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species.

The principal land management activities slated to occur on less disturbed natural communities will include the introduction of prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Reintroduction of a prescribed fire regime, an important ingredient to restoring a more natural system on both tracts, is more feasible on the larger of the two tracts, since it is situated farther from Interstate 10, US Highway 90 and densely populated neighborhoods. Restoration methods will also include thinning of dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and facilitate the restoration of native groundcovers. An adequate road system exists on both sites to assist with prescribed burning operations.

Because many imperiled or rare species are expected to occur in the project, biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. Environmentally sensitive areas such as erosion-prone sites, listed species habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands, are to be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are considered vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

### **Timetable for Implementing Management Provisions**

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will place emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. Both managing agencies will meet frequently to coordinate task assignments, and cooperate with, and seek the assistance of other state

agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants as it affects management of the project site. Both managing agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives.

Goals intended for long-term implementation would emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoration of habitat and hydrology, and conservation and protection of listed species of flora and fauna. Following completion of plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed pursuant to an objective-based vegetation management process. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems, including re-establishment of species expected to occur naturally on specific sites. Management would emphasize enhancement of abundance and spatial distribution of imperiled or rare species. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses would also be implemented.

Both agencies will work towards the development of a fire management plan that will apply prescribed burning in a manner that maximizes natural resource protection and enhancement. Most of this project area has not been burned by prescribed fire in recent years. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Growing-season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning of timber, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products, ecological, and recreational benefits. It is also possible that recreational trails on the parcels could function as back up firelines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment, and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

## Upper Shoal River- Full Fee/Group B

Both agencies will work towards development of a road plan identifying roads to be used for vehicular access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would insure that the public has appropriate access, and that sensitive resources are protected. Other existing infrastructure necessary for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to serve needs of the public, including provisions for facilities necessary for the security and management of the project area.

### Estimate of Revenue-Generating Potential

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. The FNAI indicates that 76% (11,054 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry, and that 19% (2,829 acres) of the project serves as forestland for aquifer recharge. However, management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential of areas currently serving for forest products production by improving wildlife diversity and resource-based recreation in such areas. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits and other

special hunting permits. Some revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent (15%) of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated

### Recommendations as to Other Governmental Agency Involvement

The unified managers (DOF and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Northwest Florida Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.

### Revenue Sources, Management Costs and Employees Needed\*

Both agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the DOF and FWC.

Category Source of Funds	Start-up CARL	Recurring CARL
Resource Management	\$212,891	\$244,479
Administration	\$82,345	\$33,072
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$2,187,189	\$58,179
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$1,636	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$10,191	\$10,191
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,643,331</b>	<b>\$377,628</b>

\*includes employee salaries

WLD 8-5-2

BWM\PROSPECTUS\Unified Management\Revised Upper Shoal River Prospectus UM  
7.13.2004

# Upper St. Marks River Corridor

Leon, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties

## Group A Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals by increasing the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels and provides the beginning of a long-sought and permanent wildlife corridor along the St. Marks River. The project forms a corridor to conservation lands to the north and south, thereby helping to form a contiguous landscape-sized Protection Area. This project is also important to aid in the protection of water resources within this project and the surrounding area, protection of twelve known historic sites, as well as increase public recreational and education opportunities.

### Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is recommended as manager. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage the Wood Sink Tract.

### General Description

This project covers 15,670 acres located in Wakulla, Jefferson and Leon Counties that extend from the Wood Sink property north of U.S. Highway 27, along both sides of the St. Marks River, south to the Natural Bridge Battlefield State Historic Site. The majority of the project is owned by the St. Joe Company. The corridor ranges from 1 to 3 miles wide along approximate 15 miles of the upper St. Marks River. Approximately fifty percent of the proposal is in natural condition and consists of forested wetland communities, and upland hardwood forest/mesic hammocks. The natural communities are considered to be in good condition, and include an old-growth stand of cypress. The majority of the remaining uplands are in pine plantations of

varying ages. Acquisition of the project would also assist with the protection of the water quality in the river and numerous springs in the area.

The majority of the project is located within the ecological greenways network identified by the Office of Greenways and Trails and the University of Florida.

### Public Use

The landscape connectivity and diversity provided by the Upper St. Marks River Corridor project has the potential for many resource-based public outdoor recreation activities, including canoeing, fishing, hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing. This project is an excellent recreational trail opportunity, which provides a connection to other conservation and recreation lands in Leon County, such as the JR Alford Greenway, L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area, Lafayette Heritage Trail Park, Tom Brown State Park, and Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park.

### Acquisition Planning

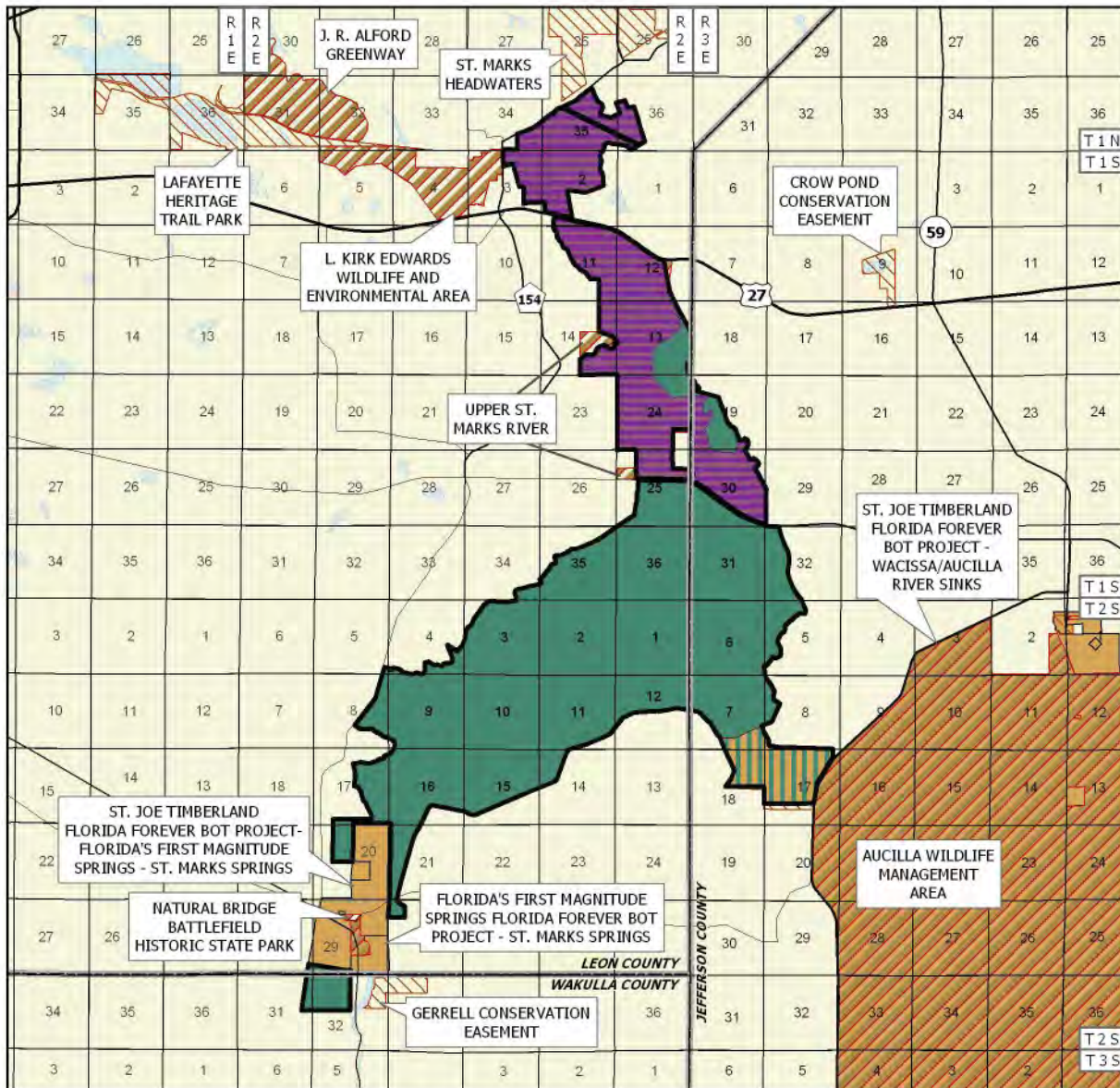
On June 6, 2003, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Upper St. Marks River Corridor project to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 13,999 acres, a single owner, St. Joseph Land & Development Company, and a 2001 taxable value of \$1,490,170, and was considered essential.

On April 21, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple 1,671-acre addition to the project boundary. TNC sponsored the addition that consisted of multiple

Upper St. Marks River Corridor	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Southeastern Weasel	G5T4/S3?
Dusky Shiner	G5/S4
5 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Projects Area (acres)</b>	<b>15,670</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>3,654</b>
<b>At a Cost Of</b>	<b>\$15,711,316</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>12,016</b>
<b>With estimated 2001 (tax assessed) value</b>	<b>\$3,497,344</b>

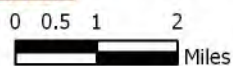
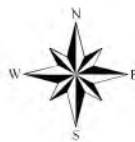
# Upper St. Marks River Corridor - Group A/Full Fee



## UPPER ST. MARKS RIVER CORRIDOR

### LEON, JEFFERSON, AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



MAY 2009

parcels owned by St. Joe Company, and a 2005 taxable value of \$2,733,589. Two tracts made up the addition: Wood Sink Tract with 1,057 acres and Fanlew Tract with 614 acres. Management for the two tracts will be DRP for Fanlew and FWC for Wood Sink. All parcels within the addition were designated as essential.

On June 30, 2006, the BOT acquired 2,589.67 acres from the St. Joe Land Development Company for \$10,617,647; 112.26 acres were added and acquired under *De minimis* rule.

In September 2006 TNC acquired 611 acres known as Fanlew Preserve.

In March 2007 TNC acquired 1,064 acres known as Wood Sink.

In December 2008, the BOT acquired the Wood Sink (1,064 acres) from TNC for \$5,093,669.37.

### **Coordination**

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### **Management Policy Statement**

A primary goal of the Upper St. Marks River Corridor proposal is to buffer the upper St. Marks River from development and preserve its water quality, while also protecting the natural communities in its floodplain. Presumably this would also protect, at least to some extent, the water quality of the first magnitude St. Marks Spring just south of the proposal boundary. The proposal encompasses all but 270 acres of the 940-acre Florida Forever First Magnitude Springs project surrounding St. Marks Spring. The Florida black bear, a threatened species, is also known to occur on the project area. Black bears need large contiguous tracts of land in order to ensure a viable breeding population of more than 200 individuals (COX et al. 1994). Special deliberation should be given to this fact when considering the value of this property as conservation lands. Considering the importance of the Upper St. Marks River Corridor as black bear habitat, together with its diverse plant and animal communities and the potential for resource-based public outdoor recreation, acquisition of this tract is warranted.

### **DRP Management Prospectus**

#### ***Qualifications for State Designation***

A significant portion of the acreage within this project

is floodplain. The project has frontage on both sides of the upper portion of the St. Marks River south of US 27. The project is defined as Phases I and II, with Phase II being the more southern portion. Of the two phases, Phase II has the greater potential for providing a diverse resource-based recreational experience of a regional context. This project is also adjacent to and fast becoming part of the Tallahassee urban area and the already existing Natural Bridge Historic State Park. It is the combination of all these factors that makes Phase II desirable as a unit of the state park system.

#### ***Manager***

DRP is recommended as manager. FWC will manage the Wood Sink Tract.

#### ***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Portions of Phase II are in planted pine that will require thinning over time to provide for a natural looking landscape. Otherwise the property should not require a high level of management intensity in the short term, except for the possible need to construct or maintain existing bridges or elevated pathways to provide access within the floodplain of the river. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use area with more substantial infrastructure.

#### ***Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the property is acquired and assigned to the Division of Recreation and Parks, the acquired lands will be secured and management planning implemented. Natural Bridge Historic State Park will serve initially as a point of access for low intensity resource-based recreation, such as canoeing and hiking. Consideration will be given in the management planning process for the provision of access from other locations as such may be considered necessary to accommodate recreation demand. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will in great part depend on establishment of a management plan for the property and funding for positions and infrastructure.

#### ***Revenue-generating potential***

No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. Some revenue may be generated through timber sales as the land is being restored. The degree of future revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities placed on the land.



## Upper St. Marks River Corridor - Group A/Full Fee

### *Cooperators in management activities*

No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project. The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

### *Management costs and sources of revenue*

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL Trust Fund. Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

<b>Salary (1-FTE,1-OPS)</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>OCO</b>	<b>22,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$84,000</b>

### **FWC Management Prospectus for Wood Sink Tract**

The Wood Sink Tract proposed addition to the Upper St. Marks River Corridor Florida Forever Project (FFP) consists of approximately 1,057 acres located in Leon County, extending from Capitola Road on the north, Cap Tram Road (State Highway 364) and private lands in the St. Marks River Basin on the east, Apalachee Parkway (U. S. Highway 27) on the South, and private lands and Chaires Cross Road adjacent to L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) on the west. The addition is located approximately 1.5 miles east of Tallahassee city limits and 15 miles southwest of Monticello. The greatest east-west extent of the project area is approximately 1.8 miles, and the greatest north-south extent of the project is approximately 1.5 miles. Acquisition of the Wood Sink Tract conserves river corridor to protect resources of the St. Marks River ecosystem, and provide landscape connectivity to other conservation lands.

This addition is approximately 52% forested uplands and pasture, and 48% forested wetlands extending along the Upper St. Marks River. The outflow canal entering the western boundary of the tract is the hydrological connection to Lower Lake Lafayette and L. Kirk Edwards WEA. The uplands consist primarily of pine plantations, upland mixed forest, upland hardwood forest, and perhaps some bottomland

forest. The pine plantations, although disturbed, include native midstory trees such as flowering dogwood and American holly as well as other native shrubs and herbs. The upland hardwoods are dominated by live oak and other hardwoods in the tree canopy, and an open understory consisting of saw palmetto, sparkleberry, American beautyberry, and other native shrubs and herbs. The wetlands consist of relatively less disturbed natural communities including bottomland forest and floodplain swamp, the latter mostly dominated by bald cypress mixed with more sparse swamp hardwood species including red maple and swamp magnolia. A diversity of native trees, including southern magnolia, in better drained areas, occur in the bottomland forest. These natural communities offer a protective buffer for the St. Marks River, an Outstanding Florida Water, and a habitat mosaic for wildlife. This addition is named after Wood Sink, a small (approximately 60 ft diameter) sinkhole which occurs on the tract, and which provides a direct connection to the Floridan aquifer.

The Wood Sink addition is habitat for rare and listed species. Gopher tortoise and swallow-tailed kite been observed to occur on the property. The mosaic of pine and upland hardwood communities could provide habitats for fox squirrels and other species which occur elsewhere on the Upper St. Marks River Corridor FFP. This tract constitutes secondary range for the Florida black bear (Much of the remainder of the Upper St. Marks River FFP is primary range for the Apalachicola population of the Florida black bear.)

Neotropical migrant species, in decline due to loss of habitat, utilize these hardwood forests during spring and fall migration as stopover and foraging habitat. Breeding passerines, thought to be in decline in these habitats, include the following species: prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, hooded warbler, Swainson's warbler, wood thrush, and yellow-billed cuckoo. The floodplain swamp provides potential habitat for the Louisiana waterthrush at the southern edge of its breeding range. This species is in decline and prefers contiguous forest tracts and unpolluted headwater streams. Wading birds likely feed in shallows along the length of the St. Marks River. The floodplain swamp may also provide ephemeral breeding habitats for rare amphibian species. Other species occurring on the Wood Sink Tract are northern bobwhite, Virginia white-tailed deer, and wild turkey. Protection of this headwaters part of the St. Marks River helps preserve aquatic habitats for numerous species in this river system.

The restoration of the degraded upland natural communities of Wood Sink and protection of intact natural floodplain hardwood communities supports a functioning ecosystem for perpetuating wildlife diversity. This addition has the potential for many resource-based public outdoor recreation activities including bicycling, canoeing, environmental education, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as lead manager, with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District as cooperating agencies.

***Goals of the Florida Forever Act (259.105, Florida Statutes)***

This project contributes to the following goals in accordance with the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.):

- (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels.
- (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state.
- (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state.
- (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities.
- (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.
- (h) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas.

***Management Goals***

Priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Management goals will conserve, protect, manage and/or restore important ecosystems, forests, landscapes, water resources, and wildlife populations as intended by the Florida Forever Act. Management goals will seek to provide harmonious coordination among uses, especially conservation and protection of archaeological and historic sites, fish and wildlife resources, forage, habitat, timber, and water resources for their long-term benefits to the user community.

The configuration and location of the Wood Sink addition within the landscape provides areas of

functional wetlands for protection of surface water and natural river floodplain, and important habitat for wildlife populations. It provides unique opportunities for outdoor recreation. Management goals will conserve and protect resources, and provide for resource-oriented public uses.

Priority will be given to use of an objective-based vegetation management process for the project area. Objective-based management includes the delineation of vegetation management units, determination of the desired future condition for each unit, selection of an indicator-based management objective for each unit, and monitoring of the indicator to determine attainment or progress towards accomplishing the objective. In this way, management can be adapted to best accomplish the management objective for each vegetation management unit. Management objectives, which apply to several vegetation management units, or the entire management area, may also be developed through a similar process.

***Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management***

Parts of the Wood Sink addition include lands that require resource management actions such as conservation of soil and water, resource protection, and use of prescribed fire. Ecological restoration activities will be planned for areas previously disturbed for silviculture or other purposes. Management of the less disturbed natural communities may include control of human access, removal of invasive exotic species, and use of prescribed fire.

Biotic surveys will be a priority, since many rare or listed species are expected to be present. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, will be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure a high quality recreational experience. Any such development will be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration activities will be guided by techniques recommended by specialists experienced in ecological restoration and the most recent advancements in methods and approaches to such restoration.

***Timetable for Implementing Management Provisions***

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory, and removal of refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC including management goals and objectives for the area. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing multiple

## Upper St. Marks River Corridor - Group A/Full Fee

recreational uses will be implemented. Project plans for resource inventory, monitoring and management will be developed, implemented and adapted using conventional land management and scientific guidance. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources and to conserve soil and water. Where appropriate, practical and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives, these resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the Division of Forestry. Archaeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources.

Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and protected. Unnecessary hydrological alterations, fire lanes, and roads will be abandoned or restored as practical. Existing infrastructure will be protected to the extent possible and utilized to accomplish goals for the area. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to provide public access, facilities, law enforcement, and management of the property. Appropriate coordination with managers of existing infrastructure on or adjacent to the Wood Sink addition will be conducted as necessary.

### ***Estimate of Revenue-Generating Potential***

The FWC will conduct resource management activities to promote revenue-generating potential by conserving cultural and natural resources and providing opportunities for resource-based recreation on the Wood Sink tract. No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. Resource management that conserves and maintains environmental quality ecosystem-wide will best support future revenue generation. Revenue-generating sources may include sales of daily use fees, fishing licenses, and other revenues from recreational uses. Long-term economic value accruing from conservation of resources, and provision of high quality resource-based recreation will be sought. Some revenue may be generated through timber sales as the land is being restored.

### ***Recommendations as to Cooperators in Management Activities***

The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District in managing the area.

### ***Revenue Sources, Management Costs and Employees Needed***

The Wood Sink addition, when acquired by the State,

will require one FTE position to manage the project area, as shown in the following cost estimate:

### **FWC Management Prospectus: Cost Estimate for single-year expenditure for the Upper St. Marks River Wood Sink Tract, 1,057 acres**

	Startup	Recurring
<b><u>Resource Management</u></b>		
<b>Exotic Species Control</b>		\$4,228
<b>\$8,456</b>		
<b>Prescribed Burning</b>	\$645	\$1,290
<b>Hydrological Management</b>	\$40,000	
<b>\$4,475</b>		
<b>Other</b>	\$18,021	\$18,021
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$62,893</b>	<b>\$32,241</b>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
<b>Central Office/HQ</b>	\$57,642	
<b>\$23,151</b>		
<b>Districts/Regions</b>	\$24,704	
<b>\$9,922</b>		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$82,345</b>	
<b>\$33,072</b>		
<b><u>Support</u></b>		
<b>Land Management Planning</b>	\$28,000	
<b>\$1,000</b>		
<b>Land Management Reviews</b>	\$0	\$500
<b>Training/Staff Development</b>	\$0	\$1,000
<b>Vehicle Purchase</b>	\$25,836	
<b>\$3,691</b>		
<b>Vehicle Operation/Maintenance</b>	\$13,230	\$13,230
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$67,066</b>	
<b>\$19,421</b>		
<b><u>Capital Improvements</u></b>		
<b>New Facility Construction</b>	\$236,074	\$0
<b>Facility Maintenance</b>	\$0	\$19,598
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$236,074</b>	<b>\$19,598</b>
<b><u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u></b>		
<b>Operations</b>	\$50,243	
<b>\$38,178</b>		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$50,243</b>	
<b>\$38,178</b>		
<b><u>Law Enforcement</u></b>		
<b>All Activities</b>	\$740	\$740
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$499,362</b>	<b>\$143,251</b>

Figures include the salary of 1 Full Time Employee

# Volusia Conservation Corridor

# Group A

Volusia and Flagler Counties

Less-Than-Fee / Full Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels and provides a continuous corridor of environmentally significant land from the Tiger Bay State Forest, through the central wetlands and flatwoods of Volusia County, to the marshes of the St. Johns River. This project will also increase natural resource-based public recreation, educational opportunities, and potential for recreational or other public uses on the fee simple acquisition lands. This project will help ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state. Some areas contain moderate to good recharge to the Florida aquifer, which mainly occurs through the rainfall events.

### Manager

St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)

### General Description

The property is located in central Volusia County, stretching from north of SR44, fourteen miles south to the St. Johns River. It is generally low and wet, consisting of alternating flatwoods and swamp, which occupy the northwest/southeast-trending ridge and swale topography that borders the eastern edge of the DeLand Ridge. It includes the parallel, southward-flowing drainages of Deep Creek and Lake Ashby canal, which empty into the St. Johns River. Natural communities include: Basin Swamp and Hydric Hammock, Mesic flatwoods, Scrub, and Dome Swamp.

### Public Use

Fee acquisition areas have the potential of providing a variety of resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities such as, but not necessarily limited to, hiking, nature study, horseback riding, bicycling, camping, picnicking, freshwater fishing and hunting. Further review may reflect cabins to be suitable, particularly if a combination of lands is acquired that would allow for a more complete park or environmental education center atmosphere.

### Acquisition Planning

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Volusia Conservation Corridor project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of approximately 33,503 acres, multiple owners, and a 2000 taxable value of \$20,409,504. The essential parcels were defined as Leffler Co., Le Fils Corp. (easement acquired), Julia Menard (acquired), GJPS Lukas Inc., Jonathan S. Lukas, Gertrude G. Lukas, Donald Ray Fore (acquired), Norman N. Fore (acquired), Marvin Kelley Fore (acquired), Mark Fore et al., Lynda Russell Schroeder, and JAS Properties LTD ownerships.

On June 6, 2002, ARC moved the project to Group A of the FF 2002 Priority list.

On August 15, 2002, the ARC approved a less-than-fee 11,723-acre and fee-simple 7,654-acre addition to the project boundary. The 19,369-acre addition,

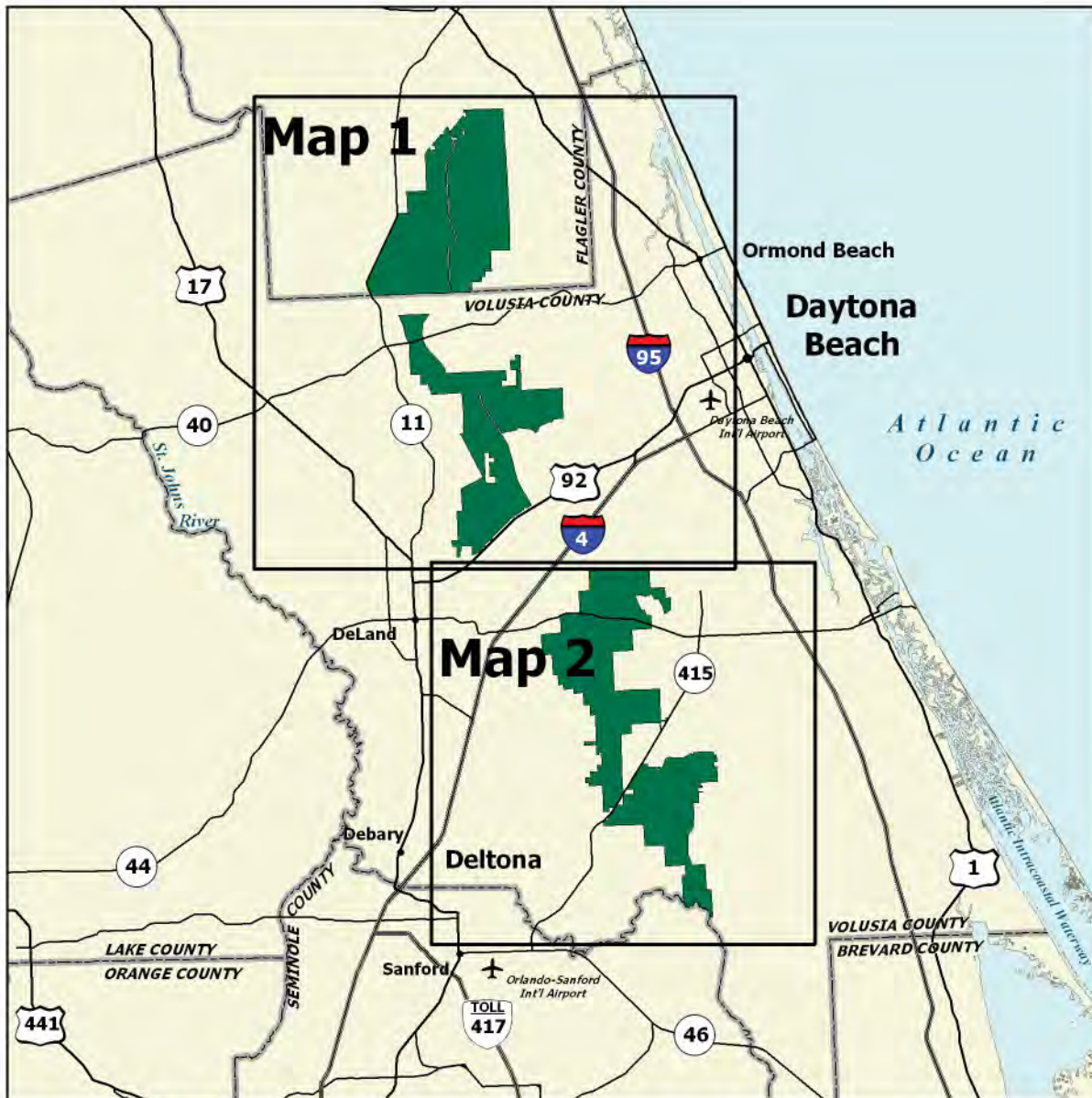
(Continued on Page 527)

Volusia Conservation Corridor	
FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Lake-side Sunflower	G1G2/S1S2
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Large-flowered Rosemary	G3/S3
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
6 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>79,612</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>45,539*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$46,304,565*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>34,073</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$14,197,538</b>

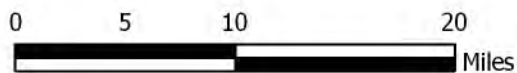
\*Includes acreage and expenditures by the SJRWMD, Volusia County, and USDA.

**Volusia Conservation Corridor - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee**



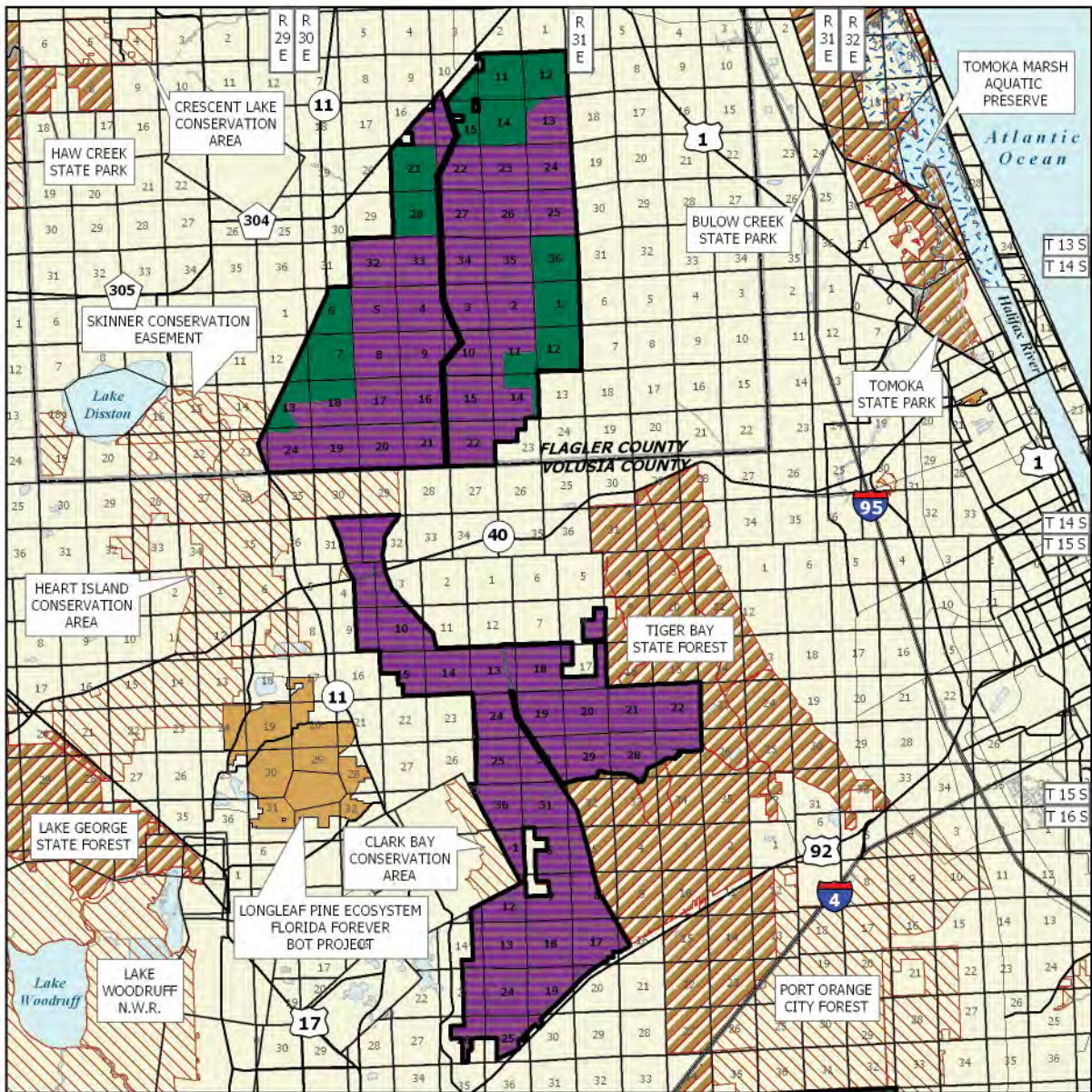
**VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: OVERVIEW**

***VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES***



MAY 2006

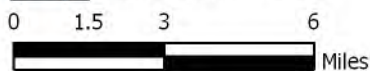
# Volusia Conservation Corridor - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee



## VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 1 OF 2

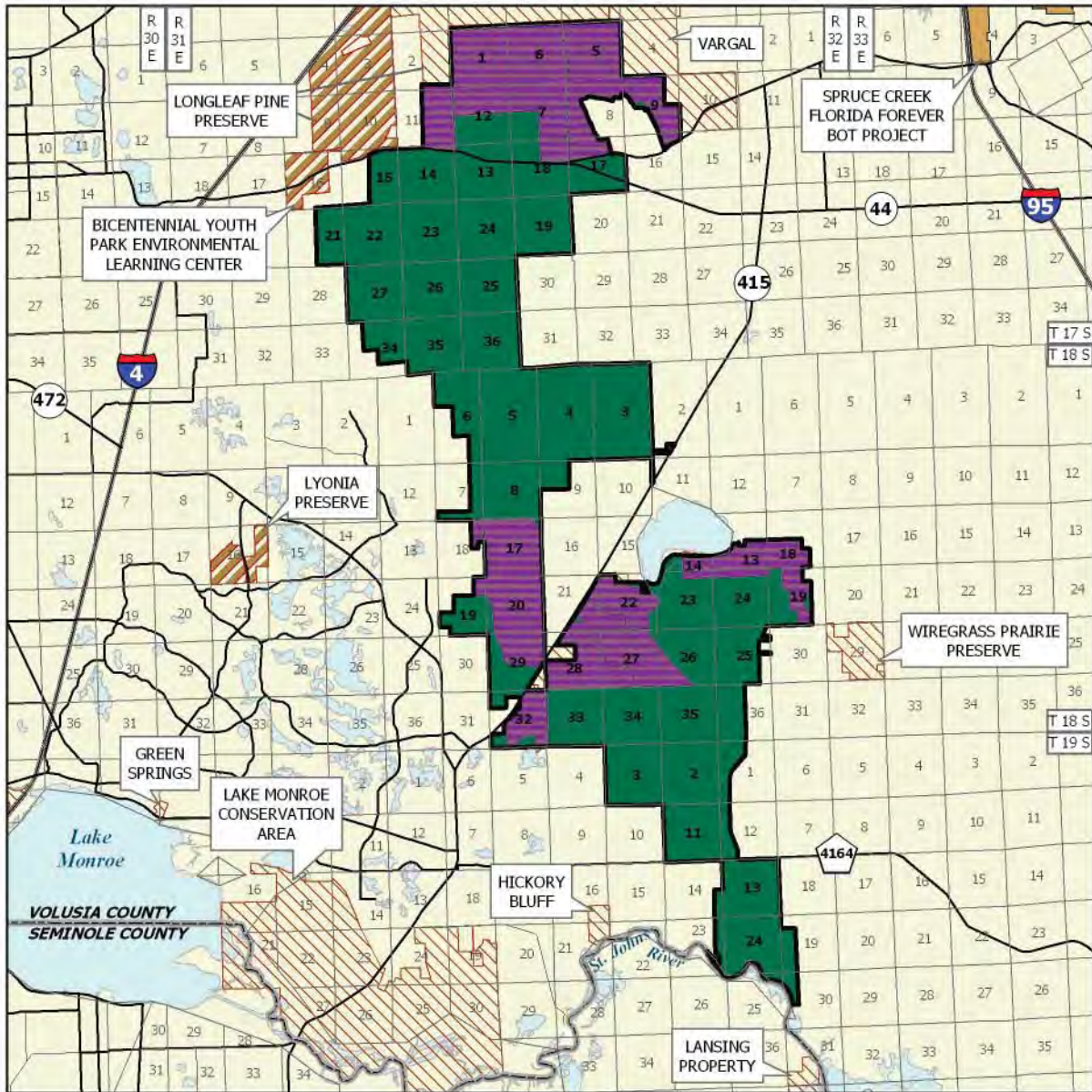
### VOLUSIA AND FLAGLER COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



MAY 2006

# Volusia Conservation Corridor - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee



## VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 2 OF 2

### VOLUSIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



APRIL 2007

## Volusia Conservation Corridor - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of two owners, Plum Creek and Rayonier, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$8,932,495.

On June 6, 2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee addition, in Flagler and Volusia counties, to the project boundary. The 26,740-acre addition, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of one owner, Plum Creek Timberlands LP, and had a 2002 taxable value of \$3,830,639.

In December 2004, Volusia County, with help from SJRWMD and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), acquired a 1,711-acre conservation easement over the Le Fils Corporation property.

In April, 2007, the SJRWMD and Volusia County acquired 2,272 acres as a joint-acquisition. Each partner owns an undivided 50-percent interest in the property acquired from State Road 44 Properties, LLC for \$10,850,420.

### **Coordination**

The SJRWMD, the Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Volusia County will be acquisition partners. Volusia County passed two bond measures in 2000 that will generate approximately \$80 million for open space land acquisition, historic preservation and improvements over the next twenty years.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Volusia Conservation Corridor project are: to conserve and protect significant water resources in a priority water resource caution area; and to conserve, protect, manage,

or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant timber, recreation, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** The need to protect water resources within the caution area, combined with the restorable pine plantations, make it desirable for management by the SJRWMD.

**Manager** The SJRWMD is recommended as Manager.

### **Conditions affecting intensity of management**

The wildfires of 1998 did impact properties within the boundaries of the project, but most of the affected areas have been salvaged and replanted. Consequently, there are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so management intensity is expected to be typical for water management district lands.

### **Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure**

Once the core area is acquired, the SJRWMD will provide public access for low intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management accesses, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The District will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The sites natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions,



## Volusia Conservation Corridor - Group A/Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and wildfire and will require restoration. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructures will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access.

**Revenue-generating potential** The District will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low.

**Cooperators in management activities** The District will cooperate with Volusia County and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

### Management Cost Summary/SJRWMD

Category Source of Funds	Startup WMLTF	Recurring WMLTF
Salary	\$45,000	\$45,000
OPS	0	0
Expense	\$80,000	\$80,000
OCO	\$20,000	\$60,000
FCO	\$100,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$345,000</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>

# Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks

**Group A  
Full Fee**

Jefferson and Taylor Counties

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The tea-colored Aucilla River and the crystal-clear Wacissa River flow through rich swamps and marshes on their way to meet each other before emptying into the Gulf. The Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project will protect the Wacissa River and the lower course of the Aucilla River, thereby maintaining the water quality of these streams, protecting aquatic caves and sinkholes, preserving important archaeological sites, and giving the public the opportunity to enjoy these rivers in their natural state for years to come. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

### Manager

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

### General Description

This project comprises parcels needed to protect the headwaters of the Wacissa River to the north and provide a link to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on the south. It encompasses much of the Aucilla River, a blackwater stream, and the Wacissa River, a spring-fed stream. Both are in good condition and are popular canoe trails. Although the surrounding areas are part of a commercial timber operation, the natural resources at the site remain in good condition. Ten natural com-

munities in the project, some rare in Florida, create a diverse natural area with an abundance of water birds, and rare invertebrates and turtles. The project boasts several unique geological features including the Aucilla River Sinks, where the Aucilla River alternately flows through subterranean passageways and reappears at the surface. Numerous aboriginal sites are known from both rivers. Twelve-thousand-year-old mastodon tusks from the Aucilla are the oldest evidence of butchering in North America. The project is threatened by river-front development.

### Public Use

This project is designated for use as a wildlife management area, providing opportunities for canoeing, swimming, fishing, hunting and nature appreciation.

### Acquisition Planning

In 1985, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) added the original Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), consisted of approximately 13,668 acres, 3 major ownerships (the largest with 13,000 acres), and a 1984 taxable value of \$6,900,000.

On March 21, 1986, the LASC approved the project design for 20,258 acres that includes the original proposal and additional acreage.

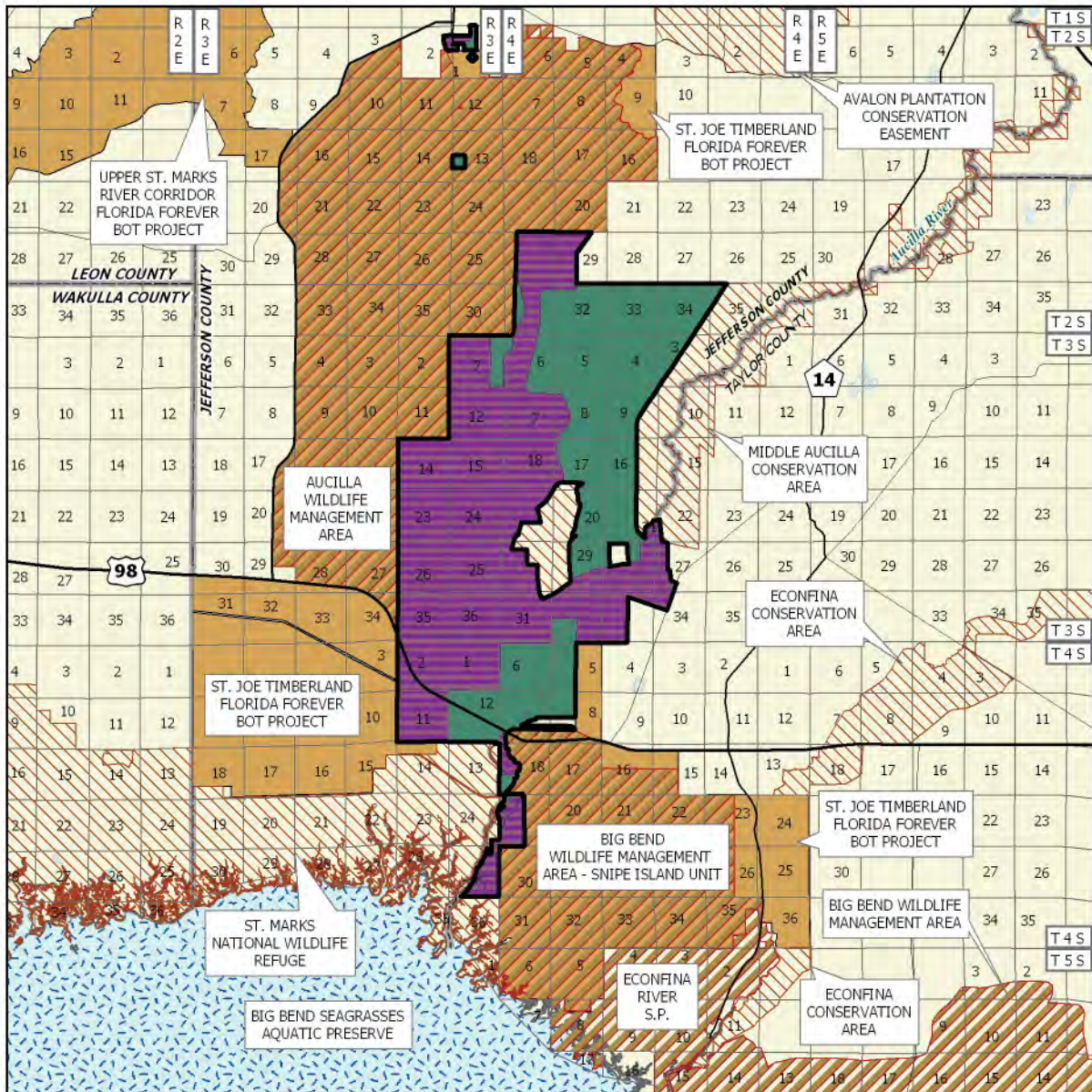
On December 1, 1989, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved a fee-simple, 320-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by the Division of Historical Resources (DHR), the

Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
Florida Willow	G2/S2
Chapman's Sedge	G3/S3
Corkwood	G3/S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	G5/S3
Dusky Shiner	G5/S4
11 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1985</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>24,147</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>14,916*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$5,886,137*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>9,231</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$3,413,439</b>








\*includes acreage and expenditures by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)

# Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks - Group A/Full Fee



## WACISSA/AUCILLA RIVER SINKS

### JEFFERSON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



APRIL 2006

addition consisted of one landowner, St Joe Land & Development Co., and a 1988 taxable value of \$79,840. The landowner is already in the project boundary. This addition will bring into State ownership and management the remainder of the archaeologically significant feature known as Calico Hill.

On April 7, 1992, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 4,500-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition consisted of two ownerships, St. Joe Paper and Proctor & Gamble Cellulose, and a 1991 taxable value of \$2,692,320. This addition will provide continuity between St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, the Big Bend WMA, and the project. St. Joe Paper is already in the project boundary.

On March 26, 1999, the Land Acquisition & Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 11,920-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of one landowner, the St. Joe Company, and a 1998 taxable value of \$5,364,000. The landowner is already in the boundary. This addition would provide connectivity with the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

In 2000, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved the transfer of approximately 20,036 acres to the St. Joe Timberland FF project. This acreage is portions of the original project owned by the St. Joe Company.

On October 25, 2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 7,068-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FWC, consisted of one landowner, the Foley Land & Timber Company, and a 2000 taxable value of \$1,790,000. This tract fills a critical gap in the regional landscape of protected conservation areas, by billing the hole between Trustees ownership along the Wacissa River, and District ownership along the Aucilla. These parcels were designated as essential.

On October 25, 2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 117-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of State Lands (DSL), consisted of seven small ownerships, and a 2000 taxable value of \$238,169. This addition will protect Aucilla Spring and the other springs in the Wacissa

springhead group as well as provide buffer areas for the associated spring run. These parcels were designated as essential.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary goals of management of the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project are: to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### **Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for state designation** Much of the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks project is within the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This, together with the rivers' value as wildlife habitat, qualifies the project as a wildlife management area.

**Manager** The FWC is the recommended project manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The nature of these two river corridors and their attendant floodplains indicates a relatively low need for intense management. The unique beauty of the area, and the presence of numerous cultural sites indicate a need for intense protective measures and a need to focus on control of public access.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Most public-access points are already in place, including a county park at the head spring of the Wacissa. Therefore, immediate management control could be assumed by FWC. First-year activities would include posting the boundaries, establishing control at public-access points, and beginning the planning process. Long-term management (second year and following) would entail management of these lands as an integral part of the Big Bend/Aucilla WMA recreational complex.

**Revenue-generating potential** Without new WMA fees charged for non-consumptive uses of this area, the revenue potential appears low, while recreation values are quite high. If a method for charging canoeists, nature enthusiasts, fishermen and hikers could be devised, the

## Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks - Group A/Full Fee

revenue potential would be moderate.

**Cooperators in management** The Division of Historical Resources and the Division of Forestry are expected to cooperate in the management of this property. Jefferson County may also be involved since it manages a county park at the head spring.

<b>Management Cost Summary/FWC</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>	<b>CARL</b>
Salary	\$0	\$11,133	\$63,575
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$5,500
Expense	\$126	\$2,000	\$25,000
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$83,600
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$126</b>	<b>\$13,133</b>	<b>\$177,675</b>



# Wakulla Springs Protection Zone

**Full Fee  
Group A**

Wakulla and Leon Counties

## Purpose for State Acquisition

Just south of Tallahassee, Wakulla Springs - one of the largest and deepest artesian springs in the world - is now protected by a state park, but the enormous caverns that feed the spring spread far to the north and west of the park. The Wakulla Springs Protection Zone will protect the spring by protecting the land above the conduits that feed it, connect the state park with the Apalachicola National Forest, and provide the public an area for camping, hiking, and hunting.

## Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Department of Environmental Protection; Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). See Management Prospectus for areas of management.

## General Description

Over 70 percent of the project is in intensive silviculture or pasture; remnant natural areas include floodplain swamps and forests, upland pine or upland mixed forests, and unique features like sinkholes, aquatic caves, and spring-run streams. The project is important to protecting the subterranean headwaters of Wakulla Springs, the state's largest first magnitude spring and source of the Wakulla River. It is one of the largest and deepest artesian springs in the world and an Outstanding Florida Water. At least five rare animals, including three crustaceans in the aquatic caves, have been found here. Eight archaeological sites, including four mounds,

are known from the site, and more can be expected. There is also a historic cemetery in the project. The sinkholes in the project are vulnerable to trash dumping and development, which may degrade the quality of water flowing into Wakulla Spring; endangerment of the area is moderate.

## Public Use

Portions of the project qualify as state park, state forest, and wildlife management area. Hiking or bicycling trails could link the park with the Apalachicola National Forest, and the project could also be suitable for camping, horseback riding, and perhaps hunting.

## Acquisition Planning

On December 5, 1996 the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project to the 1997 CARL priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), consisted of approximately 10,243 acres, multiple owners and a 1995 taxable value of \$7,151,888.

The essential parcels are the Ferrell tract, McBrides Slough tract and smaller tracts between the Edward Ball—Wakulla Springs State Park and Ferrell Tract. The McBrides Slough tract has been mapped previously as a DRP Inholdings and Additions project.

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC revised the designation of the following area to essential: approximately 1,004 acres that would connect the Ferrell tract with the Apalachicola National Forest.

Wakulla Springs Protection Zone FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Woodville Karst Cave Crayfish	G1/S1
Florida Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Hobbs' Cave Amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Suwannee Cooter	G5T3/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5/S3
8 rare species are associated with the project	

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>7,452</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>3,465</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$7,372,678</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>3,987</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$7,372,678</b>

## Wakulla Springs Protection Zone - Group A/Full Fee

In December 1999 the St. Joe Timberland FF project was created. Approximately 3,702 acres were transferred from this project into the St. Joe project.

On October 25, 2001 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 59-acre addition to the project boundaries. The addition, sponsored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES), consisted of multiple owners and a 2001 taxable value of \$146,181. The Stansbury Sink is located within this addition.

On June 9, 2006, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 152-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the FDEP, Florida Springs Initiative, consisted of seven owners, and a 2005 taxable value of \$94,268. One owner, Linderand, Inc., already holds title to property within the current project boundary. These parcels were designated as essential since they are important to the future water quality of Wakulla Springs.

On December 14, 2007 ARC approved a fee-simple 700-acre addition, known as Chason Woods, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Jerry Parrish Realty and is one parcel, with one landowner, and a taxable value of \$1,392,980. The Division of Forestry (DOF) agreed to manage the parcel. This parcel has not been identified as essential, and requires matching funds for acquisition.

On December 12, 2008 ARC approved a request to identify the Chason Woods parcel as an essential parcel.

### Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project is to preserve the water quality of Wakulla Spring by protecting the land above the underground conduits that supply the spring. Achieving this objective will provide a refuge for extremely rare cave-dwelling crustaceans, preserve wildlife habitat in this developing region, and provide various recreational opportunities, such as camping and hiking, to the public.

If the state is to buy fee-simple title in the project, it should be managed under the single-use concept as part of Wakulla Springs State Park: management

activities should be directed toward the protection of surface-water and groundwater quality. Consumptive uses such as hunting should not be permitted, and only such silvicultural uses as contribute to the restoration of native vegetation on disturbed areas. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few major roads and route them away from sinkholes; thoroughly inventory the resources; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving the quality of the groundwater. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, particularly sinkholes and spring runs, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

If the state or other government acquires less-than-fee-simple interest in the project, any activities, such as silviculture, road improvements, or any development, should be strictly monitored to ensure that surface-water and groundwater quality in the project area is maintained or improved.

The project includes most of the land between the Apalachicola National Forest and Wakulla Springs State Park that is known to overlie conduits leading toward Wakulla Spring, and therefore has the size and configuration to achieve its primary objective.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** Its unique subterranean resources connected with Wakulla Springs, one of Florida's most significant artesian springs and already managed as a state park, qualify this project as a unit of the state park system. The project's size and diversity of resources makes portions of it also desirable for use and management as a state forest and a wildlife management area. Management by the Division of Forestry as a state forest is contingent upon the state's acquiring fee-simple title to the core parcels.

**Manager** The DRP will manage areas south of State Road 267 and west of State Road 61, except for that portion of the Ferrell property in sections 22 and 27, T2S, R1W, consisting of approximately 120 acres of agricultural fields. The FWC is recommended as lead manager for the 120-acre portion of the Ferrell property described above. The DOF is recommended as lead manager for the remainder of the project.

### Conditions affecting intensity of management

#### A. Division of Recreation and Parks

Under fee title acquisition, the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone will be a high-need management area.

## Wakulla Springs Protection Zone - Group A/Full Fee

Resource restoration, public recreation, environmental education and development compatible with long-term resource protection will be an integral aspect of management. The areas around karst windows, springs and associated sloughs are often, and in some cases currently are being, subjected to inappropriate uses and levels of use that degrade the resource. In particular, the lands between the park and the national forest, west of State Road 61, contain a significant number of hydrological features which will require intensive management of people to ensure against resource degradation and allow for restoration where needed. Springs, karst windows and sinks are popular recreation sites. Hence, there will be a demand for their use. Close monitoring and study will be needed to decide which are suitable for public use and at what levels, followed with appropriate management measures.

The Ferrell Property represents a relatively intact long-leaf pine/wire grass community. Land uses in the general area have severely impacted this community type. Close attention will need to be paid to ensure the perpetuation of this community through appropriate burning and other management practices, if acquired in fee title. This concept also applies to other areas of the project managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks where the natural regime has been disturbed by silviculture and other land uses.

### *B. Division of Forestry*

Many areas of the project will require considerable restoration efforts. Until these efforts are completed, the level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be somewhat higher than what would be expected on a typical state forest.

### *C. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

The proposal generally includes lands that are low-need tracts requiring basic resource management, including the frequent use of prescribed fire. The primary management needed for perpetuation of the natural communities on the area is the introduction of all-season prescribed fire and control of human access. On portions of existing disturbed areas such as the agricultural fields, native and non-native agronomic plantings will be used to benefit both game and non-game wildlife on the area and to promote special hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the general public. Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be kept to the minimum level to assure a high-quality recreational experience for those members of the public interested in less infrastructure and other disturbance factors.

### *Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure*

### *A. Division of Recreation and Parks*

Upon fee title acquisition, public access will be provided for low-intensity, non-facility-related outdoor recreation. As a part of the Wakulla Springs State Park, hunting would not be permitted. Vehicular access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Particular emphasis will be given to protection of springs and associated sloughs, sinks and karst windows. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate on site security (including posting boundaries) and development of a resource inventory in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive management plan. Long-term management may include a wide range of resource-based recreation and associated facilities. The integration of appropriate public uses will create wildlife and recreational linkages between the State Park and the national forest.

### *B. Division of Forestry*

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the DOF, public access will be provided for non-facilities-related, low-intensity outdoor recreation. Until specific positions are provided for the project, public access will be coordinated through the Division of Forestry's Tallahassee District Headquarters and management activities will be conducted with district personnel.

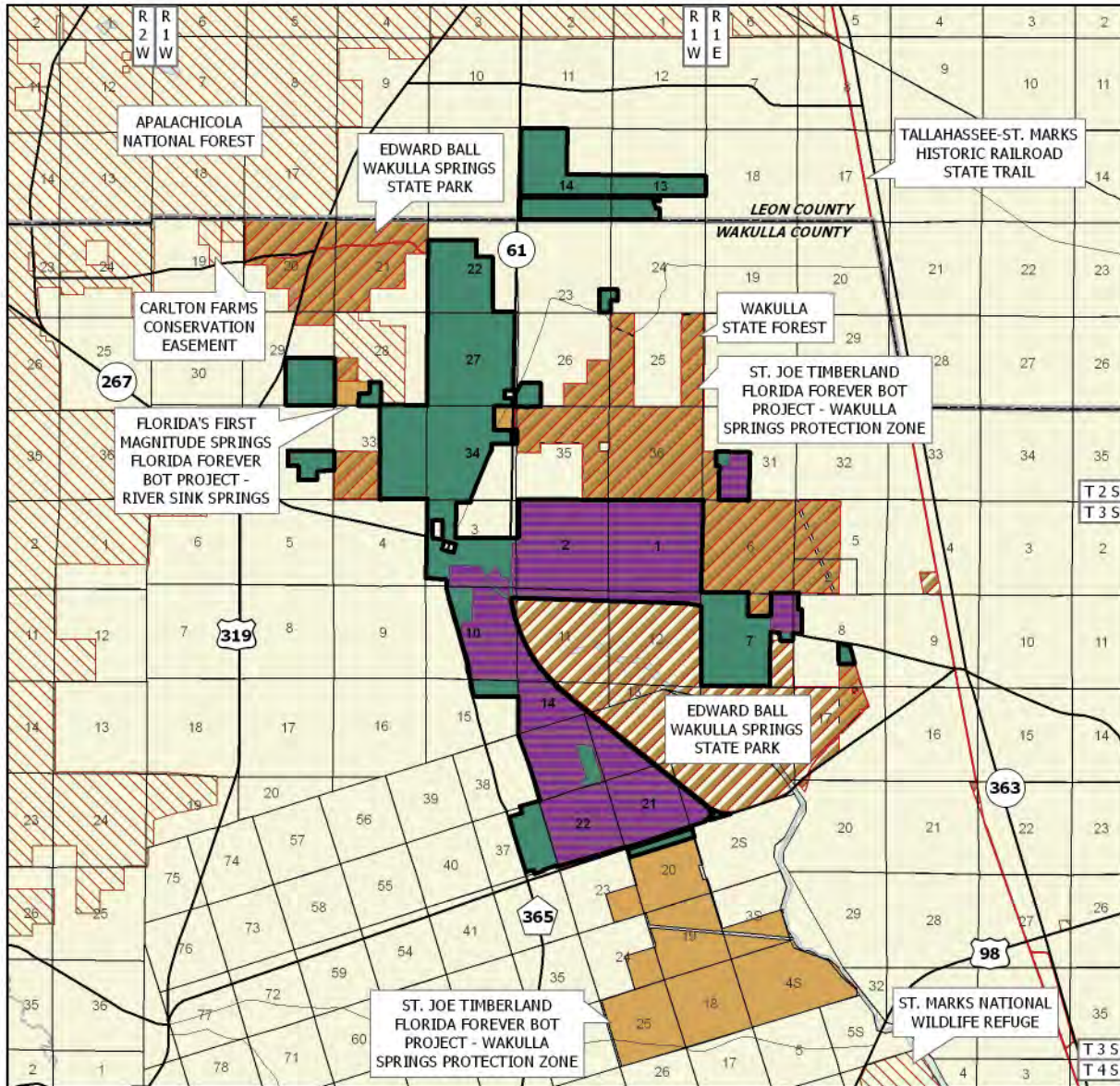
Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Pine plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on the site.

An all-season burning program will be established



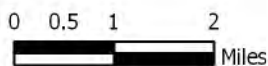
# Wakulla Springs Protection Zone - Group A/Full Fee



## WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE

### WAKULLA AND LEON COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2009

## Wakulla Springs Protection Zone - Group A/Full Fee

utilizing practices that incorporate recent research findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The DOF will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is not anticipated that recreational facilities will be developed. However, if it is determined that facilities are needed, the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High impact, organized recreation areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

### *C. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removal of existing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC, describing the goals and objectives of future resource management.

Long-range plans will stress ecosystem management, the protection and management of threatened and endangered species and the management of small game and small game hunting opportunities. Essential roads will be stabilized to provide all weather public access and manage operations. Programs providing multiple recreational uses will also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable guidelines. Management activities will strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources.

Where appropriate and practical, timber resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the DOF. These practices will include reforestation of cleared pinelands and natural regeneration of pine plantations.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DRP expects no significant revenue from this property immediately after fee title acquisition, and the amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed. The Division of Forestry will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be moderate. The FWC may also sell timber to help offset operational costs. Future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of cleared pinelands. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps or permits.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DRP will, as appropriate, cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the development of the lands for state park purposes. The DOF and the FWC will also cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary/DRP			Management Cost Summary/DOF		Management Cost Summary/FWC		
Category	Startup	Recurring	Category	Startup	Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	Source of Funds	CARL	Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$48,840	\$48,840	Salary	\$65,343	Salary	\$37,170	\$74,340
OPS	\$10,000	\$10,000	OPS	\$0	OPS	\$7,000	\$7,000
Expense	\$86,342	\$6,342	Expense	\$90,000	Expense	\$45,000	\$60,000
OCO	\$58,956	\$0	OCO	\$129,000	OCO	\$38,500	\$38,500
FCO	\$0	\$0	FCO	\$0	FCO	\$75,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204,138</b>	<b>\$65,142</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$284,343</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$202,670</b>	<b>\$179,840</b>

# Watermelon Pond

Levy and Alachua Counties

## Group B Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

In southwestern Alachua County, the original landscape of dry longleaf-pine sandhills pocked with marshes and lakes, important for wildlife, has been much reduced by agriculture and encroaching ranchettes. The Watermelon Pond project will conserve part of this original landscape for wildlife such as fox squirrels and sandhill crane and for plants like the scrub bay, for the protection of the groundwater supply of the county, and for the public to enjoy for years to come.

### Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### General Description

The project is important for its extensive tract of xeric uplands (sandhill and scrub natural communities) and seasonally interconnected wetlands of the Brooksville Ridge physiographic province. The complex of these uplands with their marshes and lakes is regionally significant to vertebrate fauna in an area of the state subject to extensive development pressures. No comparable complex is protected in north-central Florida. The project is also the major aquifer recharge area in Alachua County. No archaeological sites are known from the project. The uplands are threatened by subdivision for agriculture and ranchette developments.

### Public Use

This project will be designated as a state forest with such public uses as hiking, fishing, horseback riding and camping.

### Acquisition Planning

Phase I:(essential) Loncala (acquired) and other large sandhill and xeric tracts including Gladman, Burch, Matson, Hart, Barry, O’Steen and Outler. Phase II: Remaining tracts.

On October 15, 1998, the Council designated the unsubdivided portion of section 36 and 11 other “corridor” parcels as essential.

On February 7, 2003 the Council added 250 acres in Alachua County to the project boundaries.

On December 5, 2003 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to the Group B list.

In April 2007 the FWC acquired 1,288 acres, identified as Barry Ranch, for \$10,600,000. Of these acres, 607 are within the Watermelon Pond Florida Forever project boundary.

### Coordination

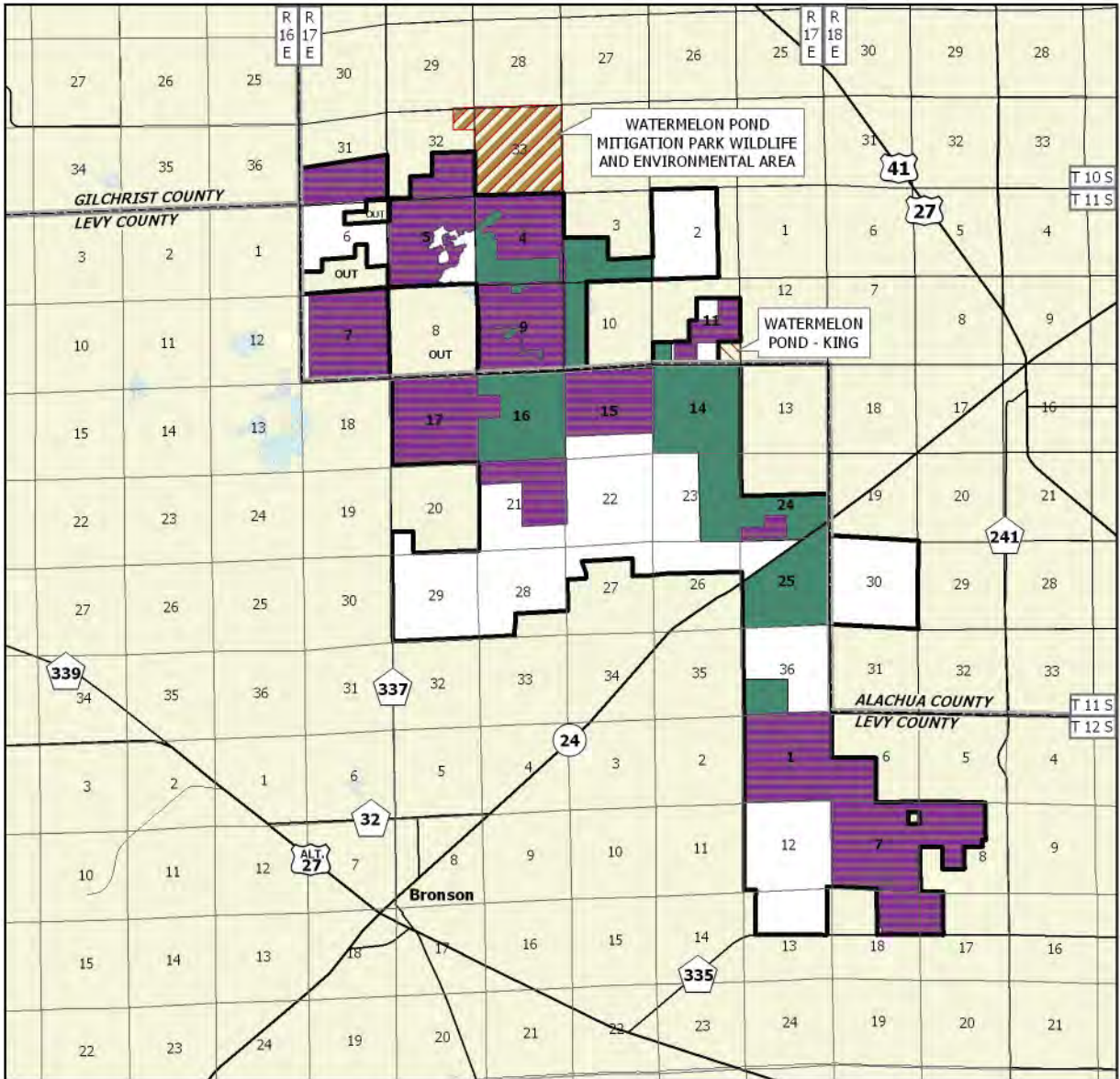
There are no acquisition partners at this time.

Watermelon Pond FNAI Elements - July 2009	
Striped Newt	G2G3/S2S3
Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3/S3
Skelley's June Beetle	G2/S2
Workman's Jumping Spider	G2/S2
<i>Giant Orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Short-tailed Snake	G3/S3
23 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on list	1994
Project Area (Acres)	15,486
Phase I Only	8,250
Acres Acquired	6,495*
at a Cost of	\$8,647,029*
Acres Remaining	8,991
Phase I Only	2,627
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$8,164,098
Phase I Only:	\$1,941,090

\*includes acreage and expenditures by the FWC

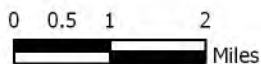
# Watermelon Pond - Group B/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## WATERMELON POND

### LEVY AND ALACHUA COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2008

## Watermelon Pond - Group B/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Watermelon Pond CARL project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The natural pine forests and the restorable pine plantations of the Watermelon Pond project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

**Manager** The DOF is recommended as manager.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** The areas of pine plantation and agricultural land in the project will require reforestation and restoration efforts beyond the level typically expected on a state forest. Consequently, management intensity and related management costs might be slightly higher than what would normally occur on a state forest.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** Once the core area is acquired, the Division of Forestry will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities will include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, and removing trash.

The Division will provide access to the public while protecting sensitive resources. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan.

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. Some of the pinelands have been degraded by timbering and require restoration.

An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age.

Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote environmental education.

**Revenue-generating potential** The DOF will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-generating potential for this project is expected to be low to moderate.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

### Management Cost Summary/DOF

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$80,530	\$80,530
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$30,000	\$20,000
OCO	\$112,500	\$6,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$223,030</b>	<b>\$106,530</b>



# Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

Lake, Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties

**Group A**  
**Full Fee / Less-Than-Fee**

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The springs, rivers, lakes, swamps, and uplands stretching north from Orlando to the Ocala National Forest are an important refuge for the Florida black bear, as well as other wildlife such as the bald eagle, swallow-tailed kite, Florida scrub jay, and wading birds. The Wekiva-Ocala Greenway will protect these animals and the Wekiva and St. Johns River basins by protecting natural corridors connecting Wekiwa Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run State Reserve, the Lower Wekiva River State Reserve, and Hontoon Island State Park with the Ocala National Forest. It will also provide the people of the booming Orlando area with a large, nearby natural area in which to enjoy camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, canoeing, and other recreational pursuits. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

## Managers

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (BMK Ranch, Seminole Springs, St. Johns River and portions of the Wekiva-Ocala Connector); Division of Forestry (DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Seminole Springs and portions of the Wekiva-Ocala Connector).

## General Description

This project provides an important link between Ocala National Forest and the extensive state holdings along the Wekiva River. It is habitat for many rare animal species including the Florida black bear, the Florida sandhill crane, bald eagle, Eastern indigo snake, Florida scrub jay, Sherman's fox squirrel, Florida scrub lizard and gopher tortoise. It incorporates most of the forested wetlands along the St. Johns and Wekiva Rivers between Orlando and the Ocala National Forest. The St. Johns River site consists of three large bottomlands and adjacent uplands between three existing state ownerships. The Seminole Springs/Woods site is reported to have 50-75 springs within its boundary. The Wekiva-Ocala Connector site provides a wildlife movement corridor between the Ocala National Forest and the other portions of the project along the Wekiva River.

## Public Use

The project sites are designated as state reserves or preserves and state forests, offering opportunities for canoeing, hiking, fishing and camping.

## Acquisition Planning

On November 18, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved combining the Seminole Springs/Woods, Wekiva-Ocala Connector, St. Johns River, and BMK Ranch projects and renaming the project Wekiva-Ocala Greenway. Based on GIS, the approximate total project acreage was 67,585 acres.

Seminole Springs/Woods: Seminole Springs—core tracts include Strawn Tract, M.S. Carter (acquired), and

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>1995</b>
<b>Project Area (Not GIS Acreage)</b>	<b>82,048</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>48,560*</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$183,142,325*</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>33,488</b>
<b>with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$31,792,123</b>

\*Includes acreage and expenditures by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Orlando-Orange County Transportation Authority.

<b>Wekiva-Ocala Greenway</b>	
FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Okeechobee Gourd</i>	G1/S1
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
<i>Florida Hasteola</i>	G1/S1
Seminole Spring Siltsnail	G1/S1
Wakulla Springs Vari-colored	G1G2/S1S2
Microcaddisfly	
<i>Florida Willow</i>	G2/S2
<i>Star Anise</i>	G2/S2
26 rare species are associated with the project	

## Wekiva-Ocala Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

Brumlick parcels (acquired through eminent domain). The Strawn tract is the largest and most significant ownership remaining to be acquired.

Wekiva-Ocala Connector: Core Tracts West—Maxwell and Holman (acquired), Shockley (acquired), Harper (acquired by SJRWMD 2,228 acres/2.1 million), Alger Enterprises (acquired), Fisch (acquired by SJRWMD), Southland Gardens (contingent upon the acquisition of Harper and Fisch), Clemmons (acquired), Blaskovic (acquired), Kittridge (acquired). Core Tracts East—Stetson University (acquired), Stein, Lenholt Farms, Francolino (acquired), Jung (acquired), and Hollywood Pines, Inc.

St. Johns River: New Garden Coal, the largest ownership, was acquired in 2005.

The BMK Ranch parcel has been acquired.

On October 30, 1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, ± 5,616-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Eastern Marketing Inc, representative for several owners, consisted of multiple landowners and parcels, and a taxable value of approximately \$10,247,684. All tracts were designated as essential. In addition, the project phasing was removed.

On October 30, 1996, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 425-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Division of State Lands, consisted of seven landowners (Jung, Hollywood Pines, Miranda Trust, Overstreet, New Garden Coal, Seminole Springs, and Fisch), 12 parcels, and a taxable value of \$645,000.

Other acquisitions in the Wekiva Basin are: Wekiva Buffers, Wekiva Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run, Lower Wekiva River State Park, Hontoon Island State Recreation Area, and Blue Spring State Park. These acquisitions total 18,400 acres.

On July 18, 1997, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 128-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the landowner, Conway Kittredge, who already has 20 acres in the current project boundary. The addition has a taxable value of \$450,542 and any portion of the addition that is not needed for resource protection or management will be surplussed.

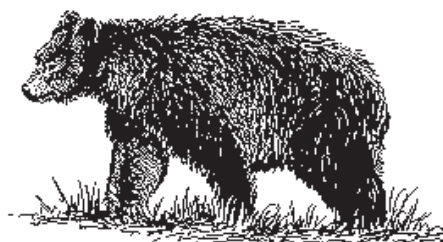
On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 1,507-acre addition to the project boundary.

It was sponsored by the Division of Recreation and Parks, and consisted of 20 parcels with a total taxable value of \$1,224,358. At the time of the boundary addition, the parcels were owned by Neighborhood Lakes LTD and Lake Lerla LTD Partnership, and were designated as essential parcels. They were subsequently purchased by BARN, LLC. These parcels were acquired in a transaction approved by the Board of Trustees on December 19, 2006. The total acquisition area contained 1,584 acres.

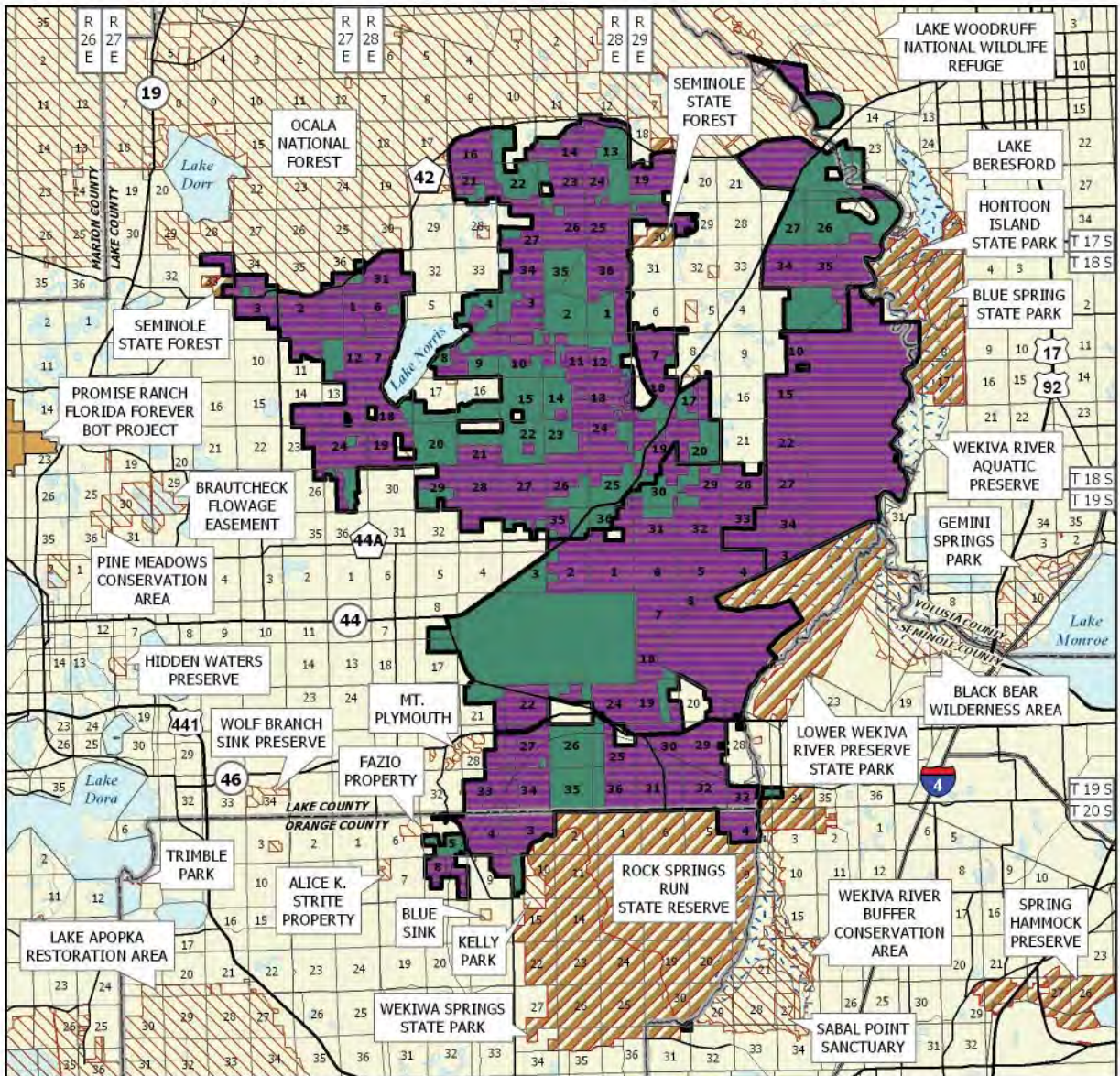
On December 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 5,455-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the Wekiva Basin Working Group, consisted of 14 sites, multiple landowners and parcels, 13 tracts, and a taxable value of \$9,972,067.

On June 4, 2004, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 572-acre addition to the project boundary. The property was owned by Robert Maxwell, and consisted of two parcels with a taxable value of \$758,000. The boundary amendment was sponsored by the owner's representative, Roland Pacetti Realty. On August 15, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a conservation easement covering these two parcels.

On December 8, 2006 the ARC approved a fee-simple 77-acre addition in Lake County (a.k.a. the Ellis and Windsor tracts) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of two parcels with two owners (Natalie Windsor and Jerry Ellis) and has a 2006 taxable value of \$71,487. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage the 17-acre Windsor tract as part of the Lower Wekiva River Preserve State park. The 60-acre Ellis tract will be managed by the DOF as part of the Seminole State Forest.



# Wekiva-Ocala Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee



## WEKIVA-OCALA GREENWAY

### LAKE, ORANGE, SEMINOLE AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



APRIL 2009



## Wekiva-Ocala Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

On December 14, 2007, ARC approved a fee-simple 675-acre addition, known as the Pine Plantation Addition, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Henry Dean Esq., and consisted of five parcels, four landowners, and a taxable base of \$1,228,740. The Division of Recreation and Parks agreed to manage the parcels. The parcels have been designated essential. To date, 421 acres of this addition have been purchased.

On September 30, 2008, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of 385 acres from Project Orlando LLC; Pinestraw Partners LLC; and Herscho Properties, Inc. This acquisition was for a portion of the Pine Plantation property. On November 20, 2008, the Board of Trustees approved a 36-acre purchase from Project Orlando LLC which was part of the boundary amendment that included the Pine Plantation property.

On October 3, 2008, from DSL Florida Forever funds 345-acre parcel was purchased from Palmer ownership in Pine Plantation for \$24,930,304 (40 acres in the SE corner of the Palmer parcel was acquired by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority for a future conveyance to Orange County for a park.

In November, 2008, DSL Florida Forever funds were used to buy 35.7 acres of the Project Orlando, LLC ownership, for \$2,000,000. DRP will manage this site.

On 3/27/09, 307.17 acres were purchased for \$7,860,410 from the OOCEA for BARN, LLP parcel (payback of \$10M paid by the Authority--Neighborhood Lakes, Phase II).

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based

recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

### Management Prospectus

**Qualifications for state designation** The large size, variety of forest resources, and diversity of the former Seminole Springs project and the western Wekiva-Ocala Connector make them highly desirable for management as a state forest. The quality of resources on the remainder of the project make them suitable for state preserves.

**Manager** The DOF proposes to manage the Seminole Springs and western connector portions of the project. The remainder will be managed by the DRP. The DRP may elect to assume management of the western portion of the Strawn property at a later date if it is purchased.

**Conditions affecting intensity of management** On the portion to be managed by the DOF, there are no known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest. On the portion to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks, the BMK Ranch is a high-need management area, while the Eastern Connector of the former Wekiva-Ocala Connector project and the former St. Johns River project are low-need management areas. The BMK Ranch project anticipates a higher level of recreational use and development compatible with resource management than does the other properties.

**Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure** About 8,000 acres have been purchased by the State of Florida and the St. Johns Water Management District and have been assigned to the DOF for management as the Seminole State Forest (SSF). The Division is currently providing for public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related outdoor recreation. Initial activities include securing the site, providing public and fire management access, inventorying resources, and removing trash. The project's natural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals will be inventoried to provide the basis for a management plan. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Timber management will mostly involve

## Wekiva-Ocala Greenway - Group A/Full Fee/Less-Than-Fee

improvement thinning and regeneration harvests. Plantations will be thinned and, where appropriate, reforested with species found in natural ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age. Infrastructure will primarily be located in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The Division will promote recreation and environmental education. For the DRP, within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

**Revenue-generating potential** The Division of Forestry will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will provide a variable source of revenue, but the revenue-

generating potential for this project is expected to be low. The Division of Recreation and Parks expects no significant revenue to be generated initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public facilities are developed on the BMK Ranch properties, and public facilities will probably not be a major emphasis on the eastern connector properties. The amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities.

**Cooperators in management activities** The DOF will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. The DRP recommends no local governments or others for management of its project area.

### Management Cost Summary/DRP

Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	SPTF/LATF/ CARL	SPTF/CARL	SPTF/CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$425	\$425	\$425
Expense	\$5,739	\$5,739	\$5,739
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$38,798	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,962</b>	<b>\$6,164</b>	<b>\$6,164</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DOF (Seminole State Forest)

Category	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$35,440	\$64,440	\$105,000
OPS	\$0	\$4,500	\$5,000
Expense	\$22,600	\$40,225	\$51,000
OCO	\$0	\$29,270	\$48,000
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,040</b>	<b>\$138,435</b>	<b>\$209,000</b>

### Management Cost Summary/DOF (Wekiva-Ocala Connector: West Corridor)

Category	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$28,140	\$28,140
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$20,000	\$15,000
OCO	\$90,400	\$4,500
FCO	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$138,540</b>	<b>\$47,640</b>

# West Aucilla River Buffer

Jefferson County

# Group A Less-Than-Fee

### Purpose for State Acquisition

The West Aucilla River Buffer Florida Forever project (WARB) is a single ownership of 721 acres to be acquired as less-than-fee acquisition, in northeastern Jefferson County, located approximately four miles north of US 90, and east of County Road 257. The project is designed to help protect the Aucilla River watershed.

This project meets Florida Forever goals of increasing the number of acres protected with alternatives to fee-simple purchase by establishing a conservation easement over the property, and increases the acreage of landscape and landscape linkages by preserving 544 acres of Priority 4 Ecological Greenway habitat. The project also protects 37 acres with natural floodplain functions, and a total of 683 acres that provide surface water protection. There is a total of 130 acres of functional wetlands that would be protected in this proposal, with 36 acres being ranked Priority 1.

The majority of the project is within the Florida Forever Needs Assessment Aquifer Recharge and Surface Water Protection GIS overlays. The property is also largely within the Ecological Greenways, Sustainable Forestry and Forestland for Recharge areas.

### Manager

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, would serve as the conservation-easement monitor unless otherwise noted.

### General Description

The 721-acre project is in two parcels. The northeast tract (253 acres) adjoins a segment of the Upper Aucilla Conservation Area (UACA) of the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) for about 0.4 miles along the project's eastern boundary. The second tract (468 acres), approximately 0.5 miles southwest of

the first, is 0.6 miles due west of another segment of the UACA. It does not include any river frontage.

Approximately 70 percent of the proposal has been heavily altered by past land management practices, and includes pine plantations, wildlife food plots, pastures and other clearings, and an artificial lake. Approximately 30 percent of the proposal is in relatively intact natural communities on both tracts. These are primarily isolated forested wetlands (dome and basin swamps), Aucilla River floodplain forest, and small fragments of upland hardwood forests on upland slopes.

The northern tract contains a portion of Parker Pond, a 24-acre artificial lake created by a stream impoundment. The lake is bisected by Government Farm road. The western shoreline of the lake grades into a cypress and black gum swamp, with some dead trees scattered into the lake edge, a result of impoundment long ago. At the eastern end of the lake is an overflow ditch that runs in an east-west orientation, through uplands to the Aucilla River floodplain. An assessment of the potential impacts of the hydrology of the impoundment on nearby wetlands may be warranted if a conservation easement is pursued.

Wildlife food plots, pastures, and other clearings make up the remainder of the site's disturbed uplands.

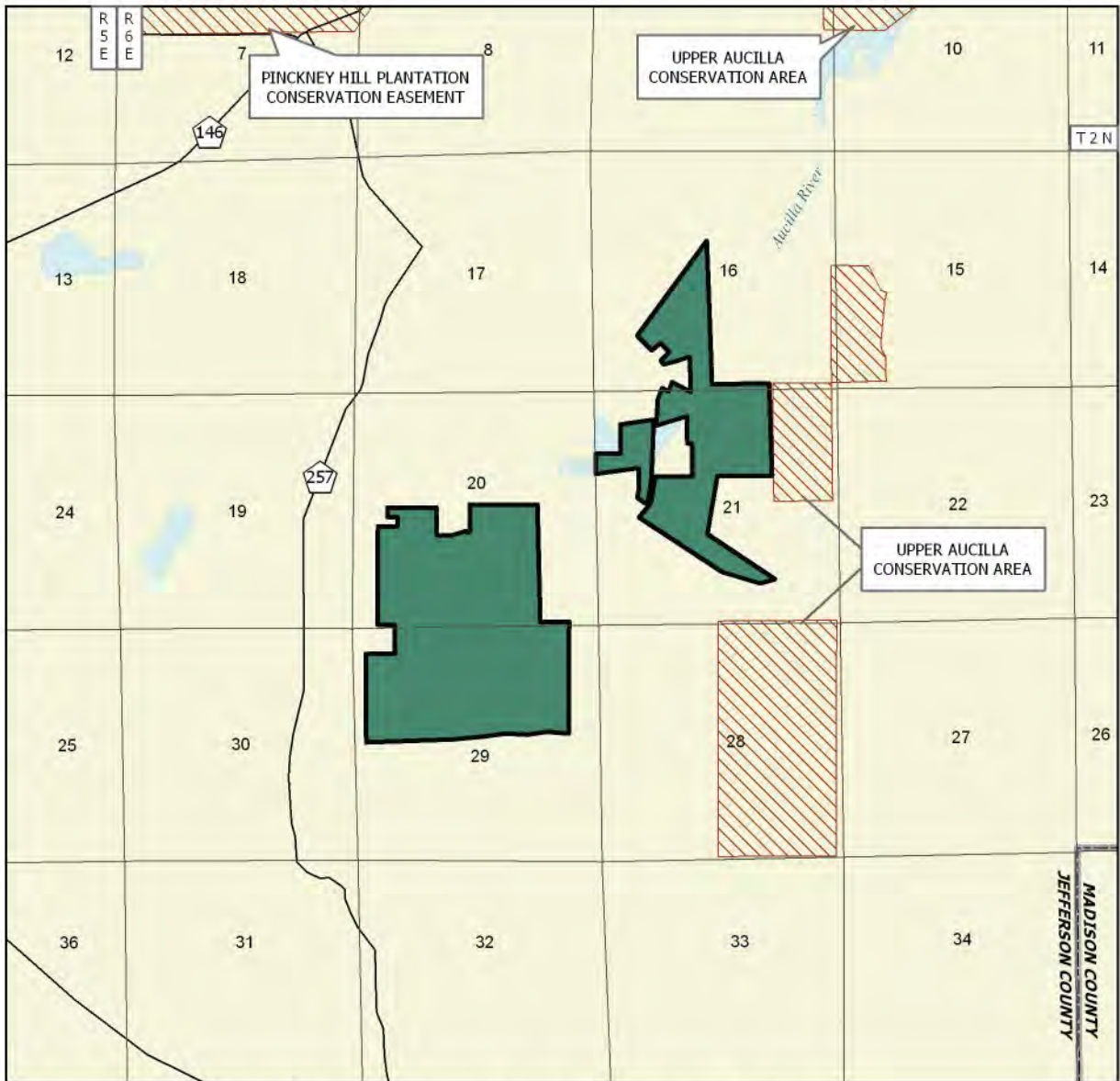
### Public Use

The project is a less-than-fee purchase without public access. Without public access, there will not be any

<b>Placed on List</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Project Area (Acres)</b>	<b>721</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>at a Cost of</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>721</b>
<b>Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$322,849</b>




<p><b>West Aucilla River Buffer</b> FNAI Elements - July 2009</p>
<p>no rare species are associated with the project</p>

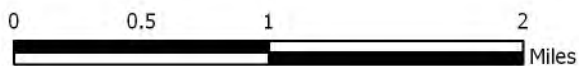
# West Aucilla River Buffer - Group A/Less-Than-Fee



## WEST AUCILLA RIVER BUFFER

### JEFFERSON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



JUNE 2007

## West Aucilla River Buffer - Group A/Less-Than-Fee

public resource-based outdoor recreation potential for the project.

### Acquisition Planning

On June 15, 2007 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the West Aucilla River Buffer project to the B list of the Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was submitted by the landowner, Mr. Carl Joiner, in a proposal submitted on December 29, 2006. It has about 721 acres and an assessed taxable value of \$322,849.

On December 14, 2007 ARC voted to move the West Aucilla River Buffer to Group A of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

### Coordination

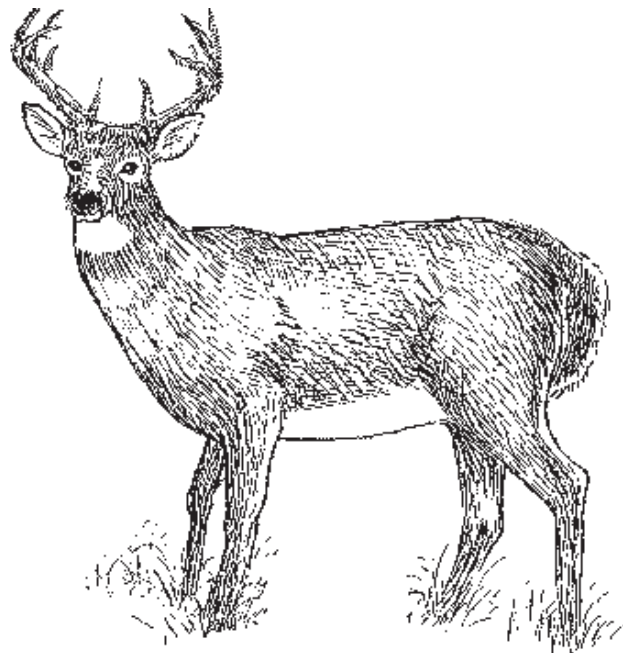
No partnerships for acquisition have been proposed. Even though the Suwannee River Water Management District could be a logical partner, it expressed no interest in the property because it lacks river frontage.

### Management Policy Statement

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

### Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.



# Yellow River Ravines

Santa Rosa and Okaloosa County

**Group A  
Full Fee**

### Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project would protect a high quality example of an imperiled natural community and threatened and endangered plant and animal species. Combined with the 194,668 acres of the Blackwater River State Forest, it will form a continuous corridor of public land from the Eglin Air Force Base through the Conecuh State Forest in Alabama. Acquisition of the project would meet Florida Forever goals of restoring natural habitat and ensuring biodiversity by restoring prescribed fire to areas that would benefit from it, and of increasing natural resource-based recreation by providing areas for camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, hiking and horseback riding. Acquisition of the Yellow River Ravines has also been endorsed by representatives of the U.S. Navy's Pensacola Naval Air Station. Naval officers said at the June 6, 2002 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council that preserving undeveloped land around their satellite airfields would enhance military training by preventing encroachment on military reservations. The Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail, is also planned to cross this project. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

### Manager

Division of Forestry (DOF), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)

Yellow River Ravines FNAI Elements	
Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander	G2/S2
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Panhandle Lily</i>	G2/S2
Florida Bog Frog	G2/S2
<i>White-top Pitcherplant</i>	G3/S3
<i>Hairy Wild Indigo</i>	G3T3/S3
Florida Pine Snake	G4T3/S3
<i>Sweet Pitcherplant</i>	G4/S3
Pine Barrens Treefrog	G4/S3
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
11 rare species are associated with the project	

### General Description

As originally proposed, this 16,652-acre project consisted of two parcels of land, one on the Yellow River about nine miles east of Milton, and the other being an "infill" parcel in the existing Blackwater River State Forest. The main parcel stretches from the Blackwater River State Forest south to the Yellow River. This project includes a mix of floodplain swamp and floodplain forest, sandhill, mesic flatwoods, wet prairie, dome swamp and seepage stream. About 1,061 acres would protect natural floodplain functions. Much of the floodplain in this project is second-growth forest. The project includes approximately 2,501 acres of functional wetlands and approximately 10,033 acres of land that would provide protection to the surface waters of the state. About 70 percent of the project was originally sandhill, but has been disturbed in the past by being used for silviculture.

### Public Use

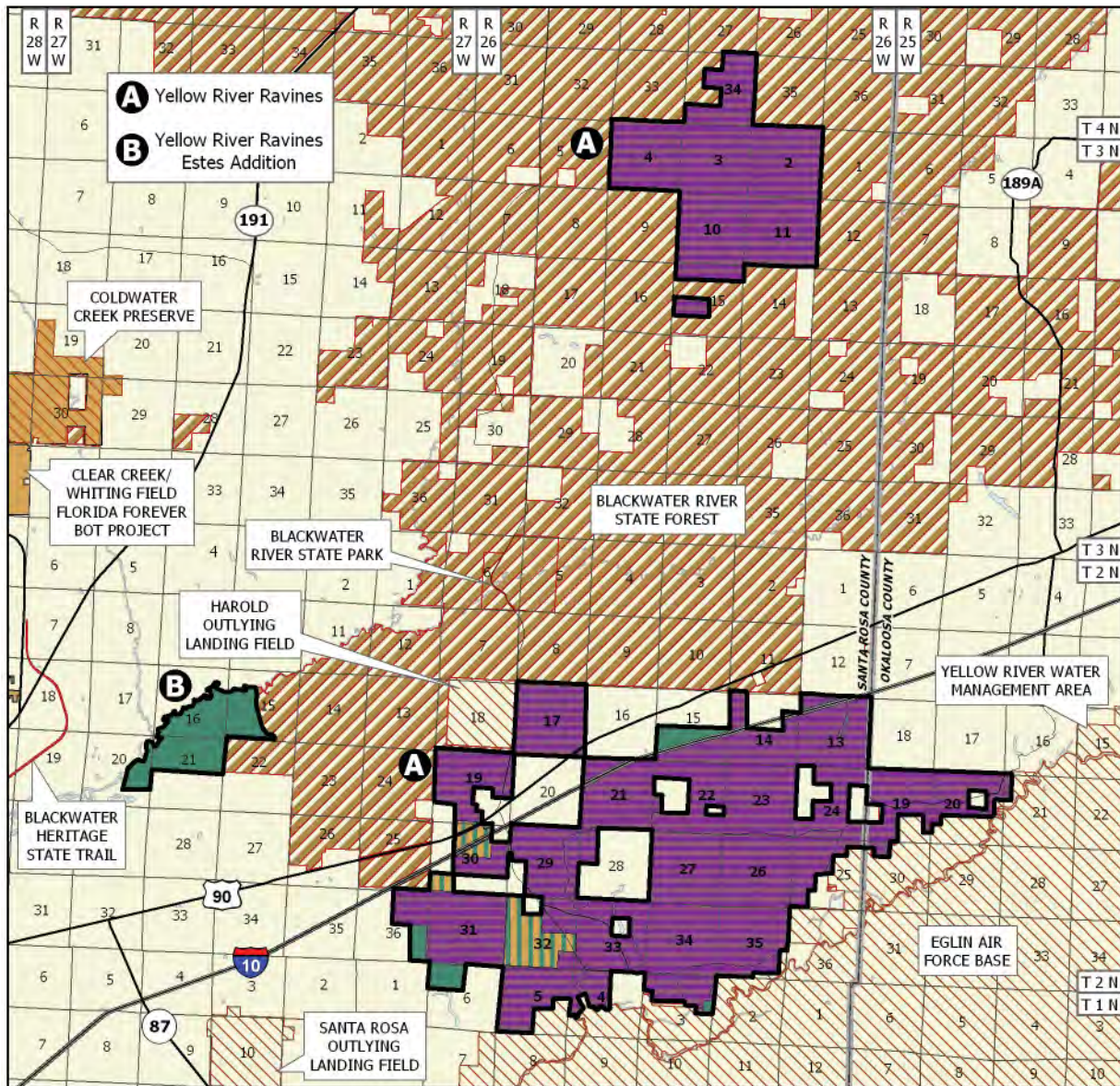
The DOF will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretive and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low-impact rustic facilities will be stressed.

### Acquisition Planning

On June 6, 2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) added the Yellow River Ravines project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2002 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Division of Forestry (DOF), consisted of approximately 16,652 acres, five owners, and a 2001 taxable value of \$12,227,546.

<b>Placed on list</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Project Area (acres)</b>	<b>17,626</b>
<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>15,209</b>
<b>At a Cost of</b>	<b>\$32,287,484</b>
<b>Acres Remaining</b>	<b>2,417</b>
<b>Estimated 2001 (tax assessed) Value of</b>	<b>\$1,687,429</b>

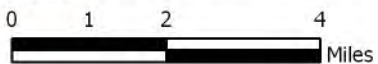
# Yellow River Ravines - Group A/Full Fee



## YELLOW RIVER RAVINES

### SANTA ROSA AND OKALOOSA COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  TNC Owned Lands Within Project
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MARCH 2009

The essential parcels were defined as those held by the International Paper Company.

On August 12, 2005, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 974-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and DOF, consisted of one owner, James Estes, and a 2004 taxable value of \$78,040. The parcels were defined as essential.

In October 2007, the BOT acquired 11,208 acres from The Nature Conservancy.

**Coordination**

The Nature Conservancy is an acquisition partner.

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary land management goal for the Division of Forestry is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem approach will guide the Division of Forestry’s management activities on this project.

**Management Prospectus**

***Qualifications for State Designation***

The majority of the acreage of this project consists of what appears to be disturbed sandhill, which has been converted to planted pines of various ages. This acreage has been estimated at 70% of the project, or 9,190 acres. Floodplain swamp represents the second largest land type, and occupies about 2,360 acres. There are lesser acreages of mesic flatwoods, baygalls, seepage streams, wet prairies, and dome swamps. The project’s size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the Division of Forestry as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring fee simple title to the property.

***Manager***

The Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) is recommended to be the managing agency.

***Conditions affecting intensity of management***

Much of the project’s plantable areas has been disturbed, and will require restoration efforts. There are approximately 1,200 acres of active timber sales or areas previously harvested that have not been site prepared and planted. Over the next couple of years, these acres will be harvested and will not be replanted by the current landowner. This acreage will require

some level of restoration activity. There is at least one linear facility that bisects the parcel, which will be an area of management concern for monitoring unauthorized uses and introduction of invasive exotic species. Additionally, water resource development projects, water supply development projects, stormwater management projects and any linear facilities are considered incompatible with this ecosystem and with the resource values of this project. The activities of Eglin Air Force base may restrict prescribed burning in this area. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be initially high to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a State Forest. Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain this area as a State Forest, as the Division of Forestry currently manages approximately 189,600 acres in this area.

***Timetable for implementing management, and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure***

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the Division of Forestry, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The Division of Forestry proposes to manage the site as a part of Blackwater River State Forest, and the Blackwater Forestry Center personnel will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. The Division of Forestry will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

***Revenue-generating potential***

Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in upland pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition of the timber resource on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be medium.

***Management costs and sources of revenue***

It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. Budget needs for interim management are estimated as follows:

<b>SALARY (5 FTE)</b>	<b>\$164,000</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>
<b>OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b><u>\$510,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,049,000</b>



Information about the Florida Forever program is available at the Department of Environmental Protection web site at:

<http://floridaforever.org/>

These project descriptions, maps and summaries are stored as Adobe PDF files to reduce their size and make them more widely readable. If your computer is not fitted with Adobe PDF reader, you can get it free at the Adobe company web site at:

[www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html)

To receive e-mail announcements about the meetings and agendas for the Acquisition and Restoration Council, please send an e-mail to:

[arc\\_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:arc_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us)

Type “Add me to the ARC e-mail list” on the subject line of your e-mail.

# Ranking History of the Florida Forever Projects, 1999 - 2009

To follow the status of these projects in the last 10 years, please refer to the Keys and Notations described below. For example, projects marked "BF" in one year were on the B List or priorities, to be purchased full-fee.

Explanation of Symbols:

- <sup>A</sup> Projects ranked in one or more of six groups in 1986-2000:      <sup>B</sup> Projects are ranked in the following Groups in 2001-2005:
- P = Priority                      S = Substantially Complete                      AF / BF = Full Fee project in "A" or "B" group  
 B = Bargain / Shared      L = Less-Than-Fee                      AL / BL = Less-Than-Fee project in "A" or "B" group  
 M = Mega / Multiparcel      N = Negotiation Impasse                      ASm / BSm = Small Parcels project in "A" or "B" group

\* Notes: (1) Ranking is based on Council annual voting @ December, interim vote not included.  
 (2) Projects 90% or more complete qualify for continued funding pursuant to Section 259.032(8), F.S.

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adams Ranch (added June 2007)									AL	AL	AL
Alderman's Ford Addition	30B	21B	BF	BF	BF	Last on list in 2003					
Alford Arm		13B	100 percent acquired 2001								
Allapattah Flats	13B	8N	BF	BF	AF	AF	Removed June 2005				
Andrews Tract	Acquired in 1990										
Annettliga Hammock	4P	3P	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Apalachicola Bay	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
Apalachicola River	23P	21P	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
	9L	8L									
		15N									
Apalachicola River & Bay	Split into Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay projects in 1991										
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	2N	1N	BF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	8B	3B	BF	BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF
Atsena Otie Key	Last on list in 1996										
Avalon Tract	More than 90 percent complete in 1992										
Ayavalla Plantation										AL	AL
Babcock Ranch				AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	Complete 2006		
Bald Point Road	Renamed Dickerson Bay/Bald Point in 1999										
Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River					AF	AF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF
Balm-Boyette Scrub	More than 90 percent complete in 1992										
Barnacle Addition, The	26B	19B	Last on list 2000								
Battle of Wahoo Swamp (removed Jan 2005; restored Jun 2005)					AF	AF		BF	BF	BF	BF
Bear Creek ( added Interim 04' ; moved to B Jun 2005)							AF / BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Bear Hammock											BF
Beaverdam / Sweetwater Creeks	Added to Apalachicola River project in 1994										
Belle Meade (moved to A June 2006)	2P	5P	AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF/AF	AF	AF	AF
Big Bend Coast Tract	Last on list in 1997										

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Big Bend Swamp / Holopaw Ranch		5L	BL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
Big Mound Property	100 percent complete in 1986										
Big Shoals Corridor / Brown Tract	More than 90 percent complete in 1988										
B J Bar Ranch									AL	AL	AL
Blackwater River	Renamed Juniper Creek Watershed in 1995										
Bluehead Ranch	Last on list in 1987										
BMK Ranch	Renamed Wekiva-Ocala Greenway in 1995										
Bombing Range Ridge	7P	11P	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Bower Tract (aka Double Branch Bay)	100 percent complete in 1986										
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	6B	4B	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
	8M	7M	Bsm	ASm	Asm	Asm	ASm	ASm	ASm	Asm	Asm
Brevard Turtle Beaches	Added to the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge in 1991										
Caber Coastal Connector (added Dec. 04')							AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
California Swamp	31P	32P	BF	Last on list 2001							
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	24P	31P	BF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Camp Blanding - Osceola NF Greenway						AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Canaveral Industrial Park (aka St. Johns River Marshes)	Last on list in 1988										
Cape Haze / Charlotte Harbor	3B	4S	Asm	Renamed Charlotte Harbor Estuary							
Caravelle Ranch	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
Carlton Half-Moon Ranch	More than 90 percent complete in 1989										
Carr Farms / Price's Scrub			BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Calfish Creek	25P	22P	BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Cayo Costa Island / North Captiva Island	6M	6M	More than 95 percent complete in 2001								
Cedar Key Scrub / Cedar Key Additions	Last on list in 1996										
Cedar Swamp			BF	BF	BF	BF	Removed Jan 2005				
Charlotte Harbor	3S	5S	Added to Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor 2001								
Charlotte Harbor Estuary (moved to A list in June 2005)				ASm	Asm	Asm	Bsm/ Asm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	11P	10P	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Chassahowitzka Swamp	100 percent complete in 1993										
Clay Ranch (added June 2006)								AL	AL	AL	AL
Clear Creek / Whiting Field (added Interim 04', split into Phases I,II in 2005)							BF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Cockroach Bay Islands	More than 90 percent complete in 1995										
Consolidated Ranch (aka Rock Springs Run)	100 complete in 1984										
Cooper's Point (joint acquisition by City of Clearwater & Pinellas county)	100 complete in 1987										
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	10B	5B	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Cotee Point - (removed unwilling seller)	Last on list in 1987										
Coupon Bight / Key Deer	2M	2M	ASm	ASm	Asm	Asm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cross Florida Greenway (added to Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway)	Renamed Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway in 1996										
Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch									AF	AF	AF
Crystal Cove & Crystal River II	Added to Crystal River in 1996										
Crystal River	Renamed Florida Springs Coastal Greenway in 1995										
Crystal River State Reserve Additions	Added to Crystal River in 1986										
Curry Hammock	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
Cypress Creek	15B	9N	Last on list 2000								
Cypress Creek / Loxahatchee				AF	100 percent complete 2002						
Cypress Gardens						AL	Removed June 2004 complete				
Dade County Archipelago	2B	1B	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Deering Estate Addition	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
Deering Hammock	100 percent complete in 1986										
DeSoto Site	100 percent complete in 1988										
Devil's Garden					AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Devils Hammock	Last on list in 1997										
Dickerson Bay / Bald Point	10P	13P	AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Dog Island	Last on list in 1982										
Dunn's Creek	16B	10B	BF	BF	BF	BF	Removed Jan 2005				
East Everglades	3M	4M	BSm	BSm	BF	AF	Removed Jan 2005				
Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem (moved to A June 2006)	23B	16B	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF/AF	AF	AF	AF
Econ-St. Johns River Corridor	Renamed Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem in 1995										
El Destino	Last on list in 1988										
Emerald Springs (aka Gainer Springs)	Ranked in 1987, added to Florida's 1st Magnitude Springs in 1991										
Emeralda Marsh	28B	20B	BF	BF	BF	removed Dec 2003					
Emerson Point	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
Enchanted Forest	More than 90 percent complete in 1994										
Escambia Bay Bluffs	100 percent complete in 1987										
Escribano Point	28P	28P			AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Estero Bay (mvd to A Jun 2005)	9P	8P	BF	AF	AF	AF	BF / AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Etoniah Creek	Renamed Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway in 1995										
Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway	16P	14P	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
	8L	9L	BL	AL							
Everglades Agricultural Restoration Area (aka Talisman Sugar)	5B	Last on list 1999									
Fakahatchee Strand	5M	5M	BSm	ASm	Asm	Removed in December 2003					
Fechtel Ranch	Renamed St. Johns River Forrest Estates / Fechtel Ranch in 1986										
Fisheating Creek		1L	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
Flagler County Blueway						BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Florida Keys Ecosystem	3P	2P	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Florida National Scenic Trail									AF	AF	AF

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	6S	3S	BSm	BSm	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	17P	15P	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
	4N	3N	BF								
Fort George Island (acquired)	Last on list in 1990										
Fort San Luis	100 percent complete in 1982										
Freedom Tower	1N	4N	Last on list 2000								
Gadsden County Glades	Added to Apalachicola River project in 1991										
Galt Island	Last on list in 1998										
Garcon Ecosystem	11B	8B	BF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Garcon Point	Renamed Garcon Ecosystem in 1995										
Gasparilla Island Port Property	Last on list in 1986										
Gateway	100 percent complete in 1985										
Gills Tract	More than 90 percent complete in 1990										
Golden Aster Scrub	More than 90 percent complete in 1995										
Goldhead Branch Addition (transferred to the LATF program)	Last on list in 1990										
Goldy / Bellemead	Removed in 1992, less than 90 percent complete										
Goodwood	Last on list in 1987										
Grayton Dunes	More than 90 percent complete in 1984										
Green Swamp	18P	25P	BF	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
	1L	2L	AL								
Grove, The (aka Governor Collins' Mansion)	100 percent complete in 1984										
Guana River	Acquired in 1985										
Gulf Hammock ( added Interim 04' )							BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Half Circle L Ranch (added Interim 03')						AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Hall Ranch	21B	12N	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Hammocks of the Lower Keys (added to Florida Keys Ecosystem)	Added to the Florida Keys Ecosystem project in 1996										
Harris School, The (moved to B List June 2005)						AF	BF	BF	Removed December 2007		
Heather Island / Oklawaha River	7N	11N			AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Highlands Hammock Addition	Last on list in 1996, acquired										
Hixtown Swamp	24B	18B	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property	Ranked in 1994 and renamed Florida Springs Coastal Greenway										
Homosassa Springs	More than 90 percent complete in 1988										
Horr's Island / Barfield Bay	Last on list in 1988										
Horse Creek Scrub (added to Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem)	Added to Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem in 1996										
Horton Property	Last on list in 1980										
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone				BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Hutchinson Island-Blind Creek	100 percent complete in 1999										
Ichetucknee Trace (aka Ichetucknee Trace Limerock Mines)	32P	17P	AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	14B	9B	BF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ITT Hammock (aka Snapper Creek; R. Hardy Matheson Preserve)	100 percent complete in 1980										
Jordan Ranch	More than 90 percent complete in 1997										
Josslyn Island	More than 90 percent complete in 1989										
Julington / Durbin (Creeks) Peninsula	More than 90 percent complete in 1997										
Juniper Creek Watershed (aka Blackwater River)	More than 90 percent complete in 1997										
Juno Hills	29B	More than 90 percent complete in 2000									
Jupiter Ridge	Last on list in 1993										
Key West Customs House	100 percent complete in 1992										
Key West Salt Ponds	Last on list in 1988										
Kissimmee Prairie / River Ecosystem	More than 90 percent complete in 1997										
Kissimmee - St. Johns River Corridor (added Interim 02')				AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Lafayette Forest ( added Interim 04' )						BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Lake Arbuckle	Last on list in 1986 (Acquired)										
Lake Forest	Last on list in 1986										
Lake George	Last on list in 1997 (Acquired)										
Lake Hatchineha Watershed				AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Lake Powell (aka Camp Helen)	8P	5N	Last on list 2000								
Lake Santa Fe (added Dec 03')						AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Lake Talquin / Rocky Comfort Creek (added Dec 03')						AF	Removed Jan 2005				
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	1P	1P	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
	1M	1M	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
	4L	3L	ASm	ASm	Asm	Asm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm
Largo Narrows	100 percent complete in 1984										
Latt Maxcy Tract (see Kissimmee Prairie / River Ecosystem)	Last on list in 1980										
Letchworth Mounds (removed Dec 2005)	9N	10N	BF	BF	BF	AF	AF	100 percent complete			
Levy County Forest / Sandhills	Last on list in 1997										
Little Gator Creek / Wood Stork Rookery	100 percent complete in 1982										
Little River Conservation Area (added Dec. 04')							BL	BL	BL	BL	BL
Liverpool Park	31B	22B	BF	Removed in 2001, SWFWMD is pursuing acquisition							
Lochloosa Wildlife	25B	8S	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	12P	12P	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
	3N	2N									
Lower Apalachicola	Renamed Apalachicola Bay in 1991										
Lower Econlockhatchee River	Renamed Econ - St. Johns Ecosystem in 1995										
Lower Perdido River Buffer				AL	AL	AL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL
Mallory Swamp	6L	100 percent acquired in 1999 by the SRWMD									
Manatee Estech	100 percent complete in 1987										
Maritime Hammock Initiative (added to Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge)	Last on list in 1997 - added to the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge										
Mashes Sands	100 percent complete in 1983										

### 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
McKeithan Site			AL	100 percent acquired in 2001							
M.K. Ranch	100 percent complete in 1984, later added to Apalachicola Bay project										
Miami Rockridge Pinelands	Renamed the Dade County Archipelago project in 1995										
Middle Chipola River	19P	23P	BF		AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
	3L	6L	BL								
Mill Creek (added Dec 03'; mvd to A Jun 2005)						AL	BL / AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
Millstone Plantation			AL	AL	AL	AL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL
Mullet Creek Islands (see Indian River Lagoon Blueway)	Last on list in 1988										
Myakka Estuary (renamed Charlotte Harbor Estuary)	8S	7S	Bsm	Renamed Charlotte Harbor Estuary in 2001							
Myakka Prairies / MacArthur Tract	100 percent complete in 1994										
Myakka Ranchlands									AL / AF	AL / AF	AL / AF
New Mahogany Hammock	Added to the North Key Largo Hammocks project in 1984										
Newnan's Lake	18B	14B	Last on list 2000								
Nokuse Plantation (added Interim 03')						AL	Removed 6/2005, less than 90 percent acquired				
North Beach	100 percent complete in 1982										
North Fork St. Lucie River/North Port Marina (aka North Fork St. Lucie River)	17B	12B	BF	BF	BF	Removed December 2003, less than 90 percent acquired					
North Indian River Lagoon (added to Indian River Lagoon Blueway)	22B	Added to Indian River Lagoon Blueway in 1999									
North Key Largo Hammocks	1S	1S	BL	ASm	Asm	Asm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm
	7L	10L	Bsm								
North Key Largo Hammocks Additions	Added to the North Key Largo Hammocks project in 1987										
North Layton Hammock	Added to the Tropical Flyways project in 1993										
North Nokuse Plantation (added June 2006)								AL	AL	AL	AL
North Peninsula	More than 90 percent complete in 1988										
Northeast Florida Blueway			AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Northeast Florida Timberlands & Watershed Reserve (added Interim 02')				AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Oaks, The	Last on list in 1980										
Ochlocknee Bluffs (added June 2006, completed August 2009)								AL	AL	AL	Finish
Ochlocknee River Conservation Area (added Dec 04')								AL	AL	AL	AL
Ohio Key South	Last on list in 1988										
Okaloacoochee Slough	12B	More than 90 percent complete in 2000									
Okeechobee Battlefield (added Interim 02')					AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF
Old Leon Moss Ranch	Last on list in 1988										
Old Town Creek Watershed			BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL
Oscar Scherer Addition	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
Osceola Pine Savannas	20P	26P	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Otter Mound					AF	AF	Removed June 2004				

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Owens-Illinois Property	Last on list in 1986											
Pal-Mar	1B	2B	AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	
Panther Glades			AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	AF	
Moved to the A List as of August 2009			AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	BL	AL	
Paynes Prairie (Additions)	Last on list in 1997											
Peacock Slough	Last on list in 1998											
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	5P	4P	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	
Pierce Mound Complex (moved to A June 2006)	8N	13N	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF/AF	AF	AF	AF	
Pillsbury Mound									AF	AF	AF	
Pine Island Ridge	More than 90 percent complete in 1989											
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem (added Interim 04')								AF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Pineland Site Complex	15P	20P	BF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	
Pineola Fern Grotto	Last on list in 1996											
Pinhook Swamp	9B	7B	BF	BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	
Placid Lakes Tract	More than 90 percent complete in 1992											
Point Washington (aka Deer Lake) (added to South Walton County Ecosystem)	Renamed the South Walton County Ecosystem in 1996											
Ponce de Leon Springs	Last on list in 1980											
Princess Place	Last on list in 1988											
Promise Ranch (added Dec. 04', completed August 2009)								AL	AL	AL	AL	Finish
Pumpkin Hill Creek	19B	11B	BF	BF	BF	AF	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	
Putnam County Sandhills	29P	14N	Last on list 2000									
Rainbow River	Last on list in 1990											
Rainbow River Corridor (added June 2007)									AF	AF	AF	
Ranch Reserve (aka Escape Ranch)	2L	4L	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL	
Rookery Bay (Additions II added to Rookery Bay in 1983)	4S	More than 90 percent complete in 2000										
Rotenberger / Holey Land / Seminole Indian Lands	7M	More than 90 percent complete in 2000										
Saddle Blanket Lakes Scrub	Last on list in 1994											
St. George Island, Unit 4	100 percent complete in 1982											
St. Joe Timberland			7P	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	
St. Johns River	Added to the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway project in 1995											
St. Johns River Blueway (mvd to A Jun 2005)						AF	AF	BF / AF	AF	AF	AF	
St. Johns River Forrest Estates	Renamed the St. Johns River Forrest Estates/Fechtel Ranch project in 1986											
St. Johns River Forrest Estates / Fechtel Ranch	Renamed the St. Johns River project in 1987											
St. Joseph Bay Buffer	13P	9P	BF	AF	AF	AF	BF/Removed June 2005, 90 percent completed					
St. Martins River	Renamed the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway project in 1995											
St. Michael's Landing	Last on list in 1996											
Samson Point	Last on list in 1987											
San Felasco Additions	Acquired in 1982											



## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
San Felasco Conservation Corridor (added Interim 03')						AL	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL
San Felasco Hammock State Preserve Addition	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
San Pedro Bay (added Dec 03')						AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Sand Mountain	5N	7N	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Sandpiper Cove	Last on list in 1987										
Save Our Everglades (Golden Gate Estates, Big Cypress, etc.)	4M	3M	ASm	ASm	Asm	Asm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm
Scrub Jay Refugia (added to Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem)	Added to the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project in 1997										
Seabranh	More than 90 percent complete in 1991										
Searcy Estate (added Dec 03'; removed Dec 2005 - 100 percent Acquired)						AF	BF	100 percent acquired			
Sebastian Creek	5S	More than 90 percent complete in 2000									
Seminole Springs / Woods	Renamed Wekiva-Ocala Greenway in 1995										
Seven Runs Creek											AL
Shell Island	100 percent complete in 1983										
Silver River	More than 90 percent complete in 1993										
Six Mile Cypress Swamp	Last on list in 1980										
South Goethe									AF	AF	AF
South Savannas	7S	Less than 90 percent complete in 2000									
South Walton County Ecosystem	2S	2S	ASm	ASm	Asm	Asm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm	BSm
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	27P	27P	BF	BF	BF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
	5L	7L	BL								
Spring Hammock	Last on list in 1989										
Spruce Creek	4B	6S	BSm	ASm	Asm	Asm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm	ASm
Stark Tract	100 percent complete in 1987										
Stoney-Lane Tract (see FL Springs Coastal Greenway)	100 percent complete in 1987										
Suwannee Buffers (added to Pinhook Swamp)	20B	17B	Last on list 2000, added to Pinhook Swamp project								
	6N	6N									
Tate's Hell / Carrabelle Tract	22P	24P	AF	AF	AF	More than 90 percent complete in 2004					
Tequesta Site (added 99' Interim #1; aka Miami Circle)	1B	100 percent complete in 2000									
Terra Ceia	7B	6B	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Three Chimneys		19P	BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Three Lakes / Prairie Lakes Addition	Less than 90 percent completed in 1992										
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch											AL
Tiger Island / Little Tiger Island			BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Topsail Hill	Added to Point Washington project and renamed the South Walton County Ecosystem in 1996										
Tropical Flyways	Added to the Hammocks of Lower Keys project and renamed the Florida Keys Ecosystem in 1996										
Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands	Renamed Dade County Archipelago in 1995										
Tsala Apopka Lake	100 percent completed in 1986										
Triple Diamond (added August 2009)											AF

## 10-Year Ranking History of Projects

Project Name	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Twelve Mile Swamp	27B	15B	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Twelvemile Slough (moved to A June 2006)			AF	AF	AF	AF	BF	BF/AF	AF	AF	AF
Upper Black Creek	100 percent complete in 1992										
Upper Econ Mosaic	26P	30P	BF	BF	BF	BF	Removed in January 2005				
Upper St. Marks River Corridor (added Interim 03')						AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Upper Shoal River (added Dec 03')						AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Upper Yellow River					AF	AF	Removed in January 2005				
Volusia Conservation Corridor			BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
			BL				AL	AL	AL	AL	AL
Volusia EEL Addition (aka Woody Property)	Last on list in 1988										
Wabasso Beach	Renamed the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge in 1991										
Waccasassa Flats	Last on list in 1997										
Wacissa / Aucilla Rivers Sinks	30P	29P	BF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Waddell's Mill Pond	Added to the Middle Chipola River project in 1996										
Wakulla Springs	Added to the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project in 1997										
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	21P	18P	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Warea Archipelago	Added to the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project in 1995										
Warm Mineral Springs	Last on list in 1989										
Watermelon Pond	14P	16P	BF	AF	AF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
Wekiva-Ocala Connector	Renamed the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway in 1995										
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	6P	6P	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF	AF
Wekiva River Buffers	100 percent complete in 1993										
West Aucilla River Buffer (added June 2007)									BL	BL	BL
West Lake	100 percent complete in 1986										
Wetstone / Berkovitz	100 percent complete in 1992										
White Belt Ranch	100 percent complete in 1986										
Windley Key Quarry	100 percent complete in 1986										
Withlacoochee EEL Additions (aka Mondello/Cacciatore/Jumper Crk)	Last on list in 1997										
Yamato Scrub	More than 90 percent complete in 1997										
Ybor City Addition	More than 90 percent complete in 1989										

**Explanation of Symbols:**

<sup>A</sup> Projects ranked in one or more of six groups in 1986-2000:      <sup>B</sup> Projects are ranked in the following Groups in 2001-2005:

- |                        |                            |   |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| P = Priority           | S = Substantially Complete | AF / BF = Full Fee project in "A" or "B" group        |
| B = Bargain / Shared   | L = Less-Than-Fee          | AL / BL = Less-Than-Fee project in "A" or "B" group   |
| M = Mega / Multiparcel | N = Negotiation Impasse    | ASm / BSm = Small Parcels project in "A" or "B" group |

\* Notes: (1) Ranking is based on Council annual voting @ December, interim vote not included.

(2) Projects 90% or more complete qualify for continued funding pursuant to Section 259.032(8), F.S.

**SUMMARIES OF MEETINGS - ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL  
JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2009**

**Public Hearing, Thursday, February 12, 2009** After hearing announcements and placing the meeting summaries of December 11 and 12 on the consent agenda, ARC received testimony for six projects proposed for the August 2009 Florida Forever list:

<b>Project</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Tax Value</b>	<b>Proposed Manager</b>
Bailey's Mill	Jefferson	Less-Than-Fee	436	\$81,970	OES
Collins Road 80	Duval	Fee simple	80	\$62,725	
Cracker Swamp Sanctuary	Putnam	Fee simple	2,002	\$7,587,890	
Kissimmee Billy Strand	Hendry	Fee simple	2,384	\$7,401,901	FWC/DOF (TBD)
Triple Diamond	Okeechobee	Fee simple	7,991	\$1,954,544	DRP
Windover Archeological Site	Brevard	Fee simple	9	\$2,500	Brevard County

The following went to consent agenda: a request for a utility easement in Withlacoochee State Trail, a request for a compliance of private access and utility easement in West Orange Trail, and a request for a flowage easement in Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park.

**Council Meeting, Friday, February 13, 2009** After approving the consent agenda, ARC voted in favor of accepting Bailey's Mill, Kissimmee Billy Strand, and Triple Diamond for further project evaluation for the Florida Forever Priority List.

**Public Hearing/Council Meeting, Friday, April 3, 2009 (April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was cancelled)** After hearing announcements and approving meeting summaries of February 12 and 13, ARC voted to approve a request for an expedited evaluation of the Bailey's Mill proposed acquisition (funded by a legislative appropriation). ARC approved the land management plan for Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve and an exchange between Trustee's land in Lehigh Greenway Rail-Trail and the City of Palm Coast. A ten-point checklist to streamline information on the policy of incompatible use and linear facilities in future agenda items to ARC was presented. ARC heard a presentation on the 2009 Acquisition List for the Department of Agriculture's Rural and Family Lands Protection Program and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System. A workshop on goals and measures for the new land management planning process followed the meeting.

**Public Hearing, Thursday, April 30, 2009** ARC members/staff held a hearing at 6 p.m. at Brevard Community

College (North), Titusville, Florida, to receive public testimony on the projects proposed for the August 2009 Florida Forever Priority List.

**Public Hearing, Thursday, June 11, 2009** After hearing announcements and placing the meeting summaries of April 3 and 30 on consent agenda, ARC received public testimony on the four project evaluations:

<b>Project</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Tax Value</b>	<b>Proposed Manager</b>
Kissimmee Billy Strand	Hendry	Fee simple	4,694	\$12,300,000	FWCC (DOF withdrew)
Triple Diamond	Okeechobee	Fee simple	7,991	\$23,007,107	DRP
Windover Archeological Site	Brevard	Fee simple	9	\$2,500	Brevard County

Prior to the meeting, the Bailey’s Mill application was withdrawn by the applicant. ARC approved the three remaining project evaluations for consent agenda. Also placed on consent agenda were the following items: modifications to the project boundaries of Florida Keys Ecosystem and Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods; an amendment to the project boundary of Charlotte Harbor Estuary; 10-year management plan updates for North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve, Mosquito Lagoon Aquatic Preserve, and Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve; and requests to ensure that an underground electric utility easement within Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and a force main pipeline easement within the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area were consistent with the Board of Trustees Linear Facilities Policy. The 10-year management Plan update for Jacksonville to Baldwin Rail Trail was deferred. Workshops were schedule after the meetings on June 11/12 to discuss Council evaluation, selection, and ranking procedures relative to goals and measures as proposed in four prior workshops.

**Council Meeting, Friday, June 12, 2009** After approving the consent agenda, ARC voted in favor of recommending Kissimmee Billy Strand (including the addition of the Green Glades/Bergeron property requested by FWCC), Triple Diamond, and Windover Archeological Site\* as projects for the August 2009 Florida Forever Priority List. ARC requested that Bergeron’s Green Glades property be evaluated formally with the upcoming fall 2009 projects. The vote included moving Panther Glades to the A list from the B list and adding the Kissimmee Billy Strand project to the Panther Glades Florida Forever Project. ARC recommended removal of Ochlockonee Bluffs and Promise Ranch from the priority list due to recent acquisitions of both projects and to retain on the priority list the Florida National Scenic Trail project.

\* ARC approved Windover Archeological Site for addition to the list contingent upon Brevard County’s agreement to manage the property. The County has not yet voted on managing this site; thus, the project is not included on the August 2009 priority list.

## Acquisition and Restoration Council Vote Sheet, Friday, June 12, 2009

### Addition of, and Ranking of, Florida Forever Projects

	Kissimmee Billy Strand Hendry County		Triple Diamond Okeechobee County		Windover Archeological Site Brevard County	
	Yes or No	A or B List	Yes or No	A or B List	Yes or No	A or B List
<b>DHR</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>Larson</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>Gregg</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>DOF</b>	Yes		Yes	B	Yes	A
<b>Ball</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>FWC</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>Frederick</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>Griner</b>	Yes		No	B	Yes	A
<b>DCA</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>DEP</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>Green</b>	Yes		Yes	A	Yes	A
<b>Add to List?</b>	Yes, as Boundary Amendment	N/A	Yes	A List	Yes	A List

## Partnership Agencies working with Florida Forever Projects

Project Name	Partners
<b>A List</b>	
Adams Ranch	TNC, Osceola County, FNAI
Apalachicola River	NFWFMD, TNC, FCT
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	SFWMD
Ayavalla Plantation	TNC
B J Bar Ranch	TNC
Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River	Duval County, SJRWMD, The Conservancy, Inc.
Belle Meade	The Conservancy of SW Florida, FCT, Belle Meade Work Group
Big Bend Swamp / Holopaw Ranch	FNAI, Osceola County
Bombing Range Ridge	SWFWMD, Polk County, US Air Force, TNC
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	Brevard County, SJRWMD, City of Titusville, TNC, CAMA
Caber Coastal Connector	DRP, TNC
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	TNC
Camp Blanding - Osceola Greenway	Conservation Trust of Florida, OGT
Charlotte Harbor Estuary	SWFWMD, FCT, Charlotte and Lee Counties
Clay Ranch	TNC
Clear Creek/Whiting Field	TNC, OGT, DACS (OHV)
Corkscrew Reg. Ecosystem Watershed	SFWMD, TNC, TPL, Lee and Collier Counties
Coupon Bight / Key Deer	SFWMD, USFWS, TNC, FCT, Monroe County
Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch	SWFWMD, Pasco County
Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem	SJRWMD, Seminole & Orange Counties.
Escribano Point	NFWFMD, USAF
Estero Bay	TNC, CAMA, USFWS
Etoniah / Cross Florida Greenway	SJRWMD, OGT, DOF
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	TNC
Flagler County Blueway	SJRWMD, Flagler County
Florida Keys Ecosystem	TNC, SFWMD, USFWS, FCT, Monroe County
Florida National Scenic Trail	OGT, USFS, Florida Trail Association, SRWMD
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	USFWS, SWFWMD, FCT
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	SRWMD, NFWFMD, FCT, SWFWMD
Garcon Ecosystem	NFWFMD, Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority
Green Swamp	SWFWMD, SJRWMD, FWC, FCT
Ichetucknee Trace	Columbia County, TPL
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	Brevard, Ind. R., Martin & St. Lucie Counties, SJRWMD, FCT
Lafayette Forest	Conservation Fund, DOF
Lake Santa Fe	TNC, Alachua Conservation Fund
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	USFWS, TNC, SWFWMD, SFWMD, SJRWMD, FCT, FWC, Polk Co., NRCS
Myakka Ranchlands	SWFWMD, Sarasota County, TNC, Sarasota Conservation Foundation
North Key Largo Hammocks	USFWS, DRP
North Nokuse Plantation	USAF
Northeast Florida Blueway	Duval & St. Johns Counties., SJRWMD, FCT
Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	TNC, City of Jacksonville, Duval County, SJRWMD, FCT, US Navy, US Army National Guard
Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	Tall Timbers
Osceola Pine Savannas	SJRWMD, FWC

## Partnership Agencies working with Florida Forever Projects

Project Name	Partners
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	TNC, NFWFMD
Pierce Mound Complex	City of Apalachicola
Pillsbury Mound	Manatee County
Pumpkin Hill Creek	SJRWMD, TNC, FCT, City of Jacksonville
Rainbow River Corridor	DRP, Rainbow River Conservation Inc.
Seven Runs Creek	No Partners
South Goethe	DOF, TNC
Spruce Creek	TPL, FCT, Volusia County
St. Joe Timberland	TNC, FWC
St. Johns River Blueway	SJRWMD, FCT, St. Johns County
Terra Ceia	SWFWMD
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch	No Partners
Tiger Island / Little Tiger Island	TPL
Triple Diamond	No Partners
Twelvemile Slough	TNC
Upper St. Marks River Corridor	TNC, NFWFMD, Leon County
Volusia Conservation Corridor	SJRWMD, Volusia County
Wacissa / Aucilla River Sinks	SRWMD, FWC, TNC
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	DRP, TNC, TPL
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	FCT, Lake County Water Authority, SJRWMD, FDOT, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority
West Aucilla River Buffer	TNC
Yellow River Ravines	NFWFMD

Project Name	Partners
<b>B List</b>	
Annutteliga Hammock	FDOT, Hernando County, SWFWMD, TNC, DOF
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	USFWS, Mellon Foundation, Indian River and Brevard Counties, Archie Carr Working Group
Battle of Wahoo Swamp	Sumter County Historical Society
Bear Creek Forest	DOF, TNC
Bear Hammock	FWC
Carr Farm / Price's Scrub	OGT, Alachua County
Catfish Creek	TNC, SFWMD
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	FWC, FCT
Dade County Archipelago	FCT, Miami-Dade County
Devils Garden	TNC, DOF.
Dickerson Bay / Bald Point	TPL, USFWS, FCT
Gulf Hammock	Conservation Fund
Half Circle L Ranch	No Partners
Hall Ranch	FWC
Heather Island / Ocklawaha River	SJRWMD, TNC
Hixtown Swamp	SRWMD
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	TNC, FNAI
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	SJRWMD, Indian River County

## Partnership Agencies working with Florida Forever Projects

Project Name	Partners
Lake Hatchineha Watershed	TNC
Little River Conservation Area	No Partners
Lochloosa Wildlife	SJRWMD
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	TNC, DOF, TPL
Lower Perdido River Buffer	NFWWMD, Conservation Fund, Escambia County
Middle Chipola River	NFWWMD, OGT
Mill Creek	No Partners
Millstone Plantation	TPL
Okeechobee Battlefield	Archaeological & Historical Conservancy
Old Town Creek Watershed	SWFWMD
Pal-Mar	SFWMD, FCT, Palm Beach and Martin Counties
Panther Glades	TNC
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	TNC
Pineland Site Complex	UF Foundation, Lee County, Calusa Land Trust, The Archeological Conservancy
Pinhook Swamp	SRWMD, SJRWMD, USFS, TNC
Ranch Reserve	SJRWMD, TNC
San Felasco Conservation Corridor	Santa Fe Land Trust
San Pedro Bay	FWC / DOF
Sand Mountain	NFWWMD
Save Our Everglades	NPS, USFWS, FDOT, USDA
South Walton County Ecosystem	TNC, DRP, DOF, FCT
Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	NFWWMD, TNC
Three Chimneys	City of Ormond Beach, Ormond Beach Historical Trust
Twelve Mile Swamp	SJRWMD
Upper Shoal River	TNC
Watermelon Pond	Alachua County

\* Partnership: An entity providing funds for purchase or significant staff contribution to assist in the purchase; for example, a non-profit preparing the application, as a minimum.

DOF - Division of Forestry

DRP - Division of Recreation and Parks

OGT - Office of Greenway and Trails

FDOT - Florida Department of Transportation

FWC - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FCT - Florida Communities Trust

CAMA - Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas

TNC - The Nature Conservancy

TPL - Trust for Public Lands

FNAI - Florida Natural Areas Inventory

NFWWMD - Northwest Florida Water Management District

SFWMD - South Florida Water Management District

SJRWMD - St. Johns River Water Management District

SRWMD - Suwannee River Water Management District

SWFWMD - Southwest Florida Water Management District

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

USACOE - US Army Corps of Engineers

USDA - US Department of Agriculture

USFS - US Forest Service

USFWS - US Fish and Wildlife Service

USAF - US Air Force



## Conservation Land Acquisition Programs of Local Governments

County/City	Year	Revenues <sup>1</sup>	Source
Alachua	2000, 2008	\$29 + \$40	¼ mil ad valorem; .005 sales tax for two years
Boca Raton (Palm Beach County)	1991	\$12	¼ mil ad valorem
Brevard	1990, 2004	\$55 + \$60	¼ mil ad valorem & <b>1/5</b> mil ad valorem
Broward	1989, 2000	\$75 + \$200 <sup>2</sup>	¼ mil ad valorem
Charlotte	1992, 2006	<b>\$1.2</b> + \$77	1/20 mil ad valorem & <b>1/5</b> mil ad valorem
Collier	2002, 2006	\$75 + \$110	¼ mil ad valorem (cap increased from \$75 in 2006)
Davie	1998, 2005	\$12 + \$25	¾ mil ad valorem
Delray Beach (Palm Beach County)	2004	\$9	<b>1/5</b> mil ad valorem
Fernandina Beach (Nassau County)	2001	\$4.75	ad valorem <sup>3</sup>
Flagler	1988, 2002, 2008	\$7.8 + \$6.7 + \$70	1/3 mil ad valorem & 3/10 mil ad valorem
Hernando	1993	<b>\$0.3/yr</b>	annual appropriation (ad valorem)
Hillsborough	1987, 1990, 2008	<b>\$21</b> + \$100 + \$200	¼ mil ad valorem, ad valorem (no limit)
Indian River	1992, 2004	\$26 + \$50	½ mil ad valorem
Jacksonville-Duval	1990, 2000	\$13.5 + <b>\$0.3</b> + \$16.5 + <b>\$5</b> + \$50	general revenue & utility assessment & ½¢ sales tax
Jupiter (Palm Beach County)	2004	\$17	.22 mil ad valorem (subject to change)
Lake	2004	\$36	1/3 mil ad valorem
Lake Co. Water Authority	2002	\$1.5	½ mil ad valorem (changes yearly)
Lee	1996	\$80-90	½ mil ad valorem
Leon	2000	\$50	1¢ sales tax
Manatee	1984	\$37	\$500,000 annually
Marion	1989	\$20	½ mil ad valorem
Martin	1988, 1998, 2006	\$20, <b>\$47</b> , <b>\$30</b>	⅝ mil ad valorem, 1 cent sales tax, <sup>4</sup> ½ cent sales tax
Miami-Dade	1990, 1996, 2004	<b>\$80</b> , \$8, (\$90+\$30+\$10)	¾ mil ad valorem, 1/10 mil ad valorem, millage rate undecided
Monroe	1987	<b>\$1.5/yr</b>	resort tax & state park surcharge (s. 380.0685, F.S.) & land authority (s. 380.0663, F.S.)
Orange	1992, 2003, 2006	\$25 + <b>\$2</b> + \$20 + <b>35</b>	\$2 million utility tax, public service tax bond, cash and bonds
Osceola	2004	\$60	¼ mil ad valorem
Oviedo (Seminole County)	2003	\$4.5	¼ mil ad valorem
Palm Beach	1989, 1999	\$100 + \$150	¼ mil ad valorem
Pasco	2004	\$36.5	¼ ¢ sales tax
Pinellas	1972, 1981, 1987, 1990, 2000	<b>\$15.9</b> + <b>\$7.9</b> + <b>\$24</b> + <b>\$35.2</b> + <b>\$78.4</b>	1 mil + ¼ mil + ½ mil ad valorem + 1¢ + 1¢ sales tax
Polk	1995	\$20+	<b>1/5</b> mil ad valorem
Sarasota	1999, 2005	\$53, \$170	¼ mil ad valorem, 10 year extension
Seminole	1990, 2000	\$20.3, \$5	¼ mil ad valorem
St. Augustine (St. Johns County)	2004	\$1.4	1/10 mil ad valorem
St. Lucie	1995, 2002	\$20 & \$56.9	¼ mil ad valorem
Titusville (Brevard County)	2004	\$10.3	<b>3/5</b> mil ad valorem
Venice (Sarasota County)	2003	\$10	.205 mil ad valorem for land and outdoor facilities
Volusia	1986, 2000	\$20 + \$40	¼ mil + 2 mil ad valorem

<sup>1</sup> Revenues in millions; non-bonded revenues are **italicized-bold**. Over \$2 billion raised by local governments.

<sup>2</sup> Additional \$30 million approved for acquiring active recreational parks, and another \$170 million approved for capital improvements to construct or improve facilities on existing and new parks.

<sup>3</sup> Set aside from city's general ad valorem revenues.

<sup>4</sup> Split between County and four municipalities.

## CRITERIA FOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS – Updated 2009

### ARC Criteria for Considering Boundary Additions:

Proposals for expanding a Florida Forever project boundary will be presented to the ARC for consideration if all of the following criteria are met:

1. Tax valuation of the proposed addition is less than \$2 million; and
2. Acreage of proposed addition is less than 10% of the size of the existing project boundary, including areas previously acquired; and
3. Acreage of proposed addition is less than 1,000 acres.

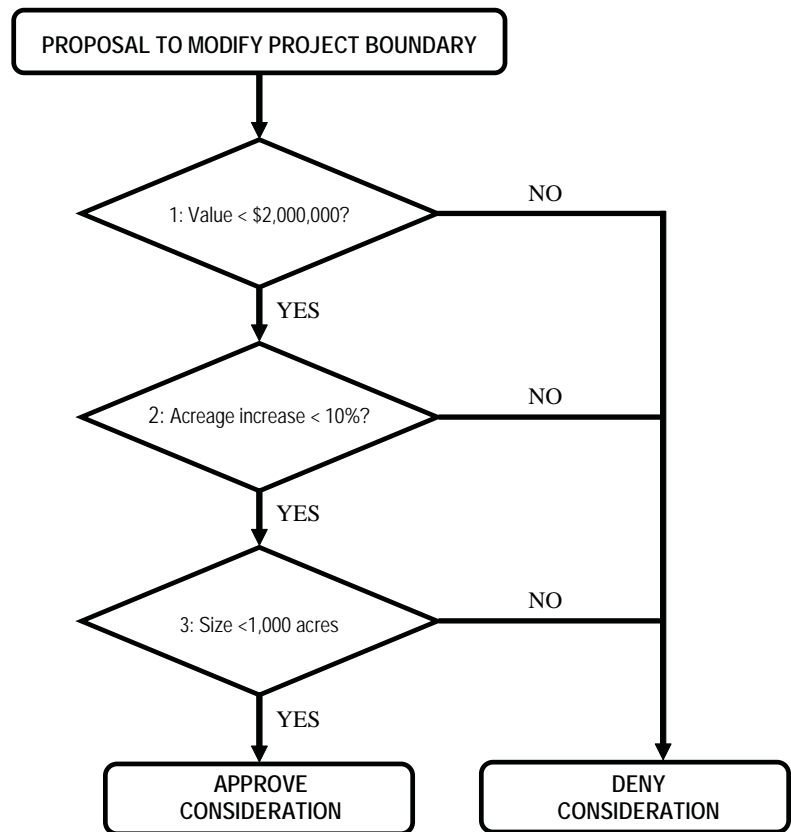
Proposals not meeting all three criteria will be considered by the Council as a new proposal during the next Florida Forever evaluation cycle if properly submitted pursuant to Rule 18-24, F.A.C.

Sponsors of proposed boundary additions shall provide documentation that the owners have been notified and have not indicated opposition to being included on the state's list.

### Factors to Consider when Developing Staff Recommendations:

In developing recommendations for proposals approved for consideration by the Council, staff will analyze each proposal using the following factors:

- The quality and importance of the resources within the proposed addition, including how the proposed addition meets the goals and measures of the Florida Forever program.
- The designated management agency's recommendations regarding the addition and its necessity to accomplish a specific management objective.
- The size, ownership, and estimated cost of the proposed addition, including the feasibility of the state acquisition.
- The availability of other funds to acquire the property.
- The adequacy of resource description and ownership information (including tax I.D. numbers, parcel acreages, and tax valuations).
- The relative urgency of action required, assessing the state's potential for losing an opportunity for acquiring the property or for acquiring it at a lower cost.



## Florida Forever Projects Ranked by Size

Updated 07/06/2009

Project Name	Total Acres	Project is in the Following Counties:
Green Swamp	279,224	Lake / Polk
Save Our Everglades	222,691	Collier
Pinhook Swamp	183,991	Baker / Columbia
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	176,876	Glades / Highlands
St. Joe Timberland	170,341	Gadsden / Gulf / Franklin / Leon / Wakulla / Liberty / Walton/ Bay / Jefferson / Taylor / Washington
Camp Blanding - Osceola Greenway	153,000	Baker / Union / Bradford / Clay
Northeast Florida Timberland & Watershed Reserve	146,164	Nassau / Duval / Clay
Bear Creek Forest	104,461	Calhoun / Bay / Gulf
Etoniah / Cross Fla. Greenway	89,907	Putnam / Marion / Clay / Levy / Citrus
Devil's Garden	82,508	Hendry / Collier
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	82,048	Lake / Orange / Volusia / Seminole
Volusia Conservation Corridor	79,612	Volusia
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	69,500	Collier / Lee
Panther Glades	62,857	Hendry
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	60,117	Highlands / Polk / Lake / Osceola
Big Bend Swamp/ Holopaw Ranch	59,132	Osceola
Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	49,583	Osceola / Indian River
Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	47,416	Brevard
Charlotte Harbor Estuary	46,788	Charlotte / Lee / Sarasota
Osceola Pine Savannas	46,650	Osceola
San Pedro Bay	44,763	Madison / Taylor
Bombing Range Ridge	44,474	Polk / Osceola
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	41,108	Citrus
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	36,216	Okeechobee / Indian River
Ranch Reserve	36,116	Osceola / Brevard / Indian River
Pal-Mar	35,668	Palm Beach / Martin
Northeast Florida Blueway	35,019	Duval / St Johns / Flagler
Sand Mountain	34,361	Washington / Bay
Lochloosa Wildlife	31,807	Alachua
Annutteliga Hammock	31,250	Hernando / Citrus
Twelve Mile Swamp	30,560	St. Johns
Belle Meade	28,506	Collier
St. Johns River Blueway	28,274	St. Johns
Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem	27,409	Seminole / Orange
Indian River Lagoon Blueway	26,610	Volusia / Brevard / Indian River / St. Lucie/ Martin
Pumpkin Hill Creek	26,050	Duval
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	25,637	Gilchrist / Hamilton / Marion / Volusia
Gulf Hammock	25,600	Levy
Wacissa / Aucilla River Sinks	24,950	Jefferson / Taylor
Hixtown Swamp	24,344	Madison
South Walton County Ecosystem	22,674	Walton
Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	20,689	Lee / Charlotte
Heather Island / Ocklawaha River	19,828	Marion
Apalachicola River	18,940	Liberty / Gadsden / Calhoun / Jackson
Myakka Ranchlands	18,743	Sarasota
Catfish Creek	18,641	Polk
Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	18,497	Hendry / Glades
Yellow River Ravines	17,626	Santa Rosa / Okaloosa
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	16,002	Martin
Twelvemile Slough	15,653	Hendry
Watermelon Pond	15,486	Alachua / Levy
Seven Runs Creek	14,649	Walton

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Project is in the Following Counties:</b>
Estero Bay	14,358	Lee
Florida's First Magnitude Springs	14,081	Bay/ Hernando/ Jackson/ Lafayette/ Leon/ Levy/ Madison/ Marion/ Wakulla/ Suwannee/ Washington/ Walton
Upper St. Marks River Corridor	13,999	Leon / Jefferson / Wakulla
Middle Chipola River	13,538	Jackson / Calhoun
Lafayette Forest	12,800	Lafayette
Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch	12,432	Pasco
Mill Creek	12,285	Marion
Upper Shoal River	12,035	Walton
Florida Keys Ecosystem	11,856	Monroe
South Goethe	11,705	Levy
Half Circle L Ranch	11,269	Collier / Hendry
Adams Ranch	11,057	Osceola
Lake Santa Fe	10,735	Alachua / Bradford
Baldwin Bay / St. Marys River	9,500	Nassau / Duval
Hall Ranch	8,520	Charlotte
Triple Diamond	7,990	Okeechobee County
Lower Perdido River Buffer	7,800	Escambia
Caber Coastal Connector Tract	7,761	Levy
Garcon Ecosystem	7,735	Santa Rosa
Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	7,661	Escambia
Old Town Creek Watershed	7,285	Hardee / Polk
Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	6,907	Gadsden / Liberty
Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	6,562	Wakulla
Lake Hatchineha Watershed	6,437	Osceola / Polk
Ayavalla Plantation	6,097	Leon
Dickerson Bay / Bald Point	5,851	Wakulla / Franklin
Clear Creek / Whiting Field	5,291	Santa Rosa
B J Bar Ranch	5,228	Putnam
Bear Hammock	4,642	Marion
North Key Largo Hammocks	4,621	Monroe
Terra Ceia	4,592	Manatee
Flagler County Blueway	4,429	Flagler
Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	4,130	Leon
Spruce Creek	2,928	Volusia
Escribano Point	2,914	Santa Rosa
Coupon Bight / Key Deer	2,830	Monroe
Ichetucknee Trace	2,590	Columbia
Tiger Cattle Company Ranch	2,230	Okeechobee
Little River Conservation Area	2,119	Gadsden
Tiger Island / Little Tiger Island	1,280	Nassau
Carr Farm / Price's Scrub	1,245	Alachua / Marion
Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	1,203	Brevard / Indian River
Rainbow River Corridor	1,183	Marion
Dade County Archipelago	884	Miami-Dade
Battle of Wahoo Swamp	850	Sumter
West Aucilla River Buffer	721	Jefferson
Southeast Bat Maternity Caves	590	Jackson / Marion / Sumter / Citrus / Alachua
Pierce Mound Complex	557	Franklin
San Felasco Conservation Corridor	379	Alachua
Okeechobee Battlefield	211	Okeechobee
Pineland Site Complex	206	Lee
Millstone Plantation	166	Leon
Florida National Scenic Trail	80	Columbia
Three Chimneys	62	Volusia
Pillsbury Mound	1	Manatee



## Florida Forever Project Evaluation Report

May 2009

This report is produced every six months by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to provide scientific support to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) in advance of their biannual vote on Florida Forever land acquisition projects. The *Summary Table* provides a concise overview of the natural resource values of each existing and proposed Florida Forever project. A *Single Resource Ranking* is provided for 10 resource types outlined in the Florida Forever Act. The *F-TRAC 2010 Scenarios* show which projects offer the greatest return in resource protection given the estimated acreage likely to be acquired by Florida Forever. As resources are acquired statewide, the protection needs of remaining resources change. The *F-TRAC* analysis is dynamic in that it identifies the places that best meet those changing protection needs in each evaluation cycle.

### Data Updates

This evaluation is based on Version 3 of the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment data layers. The Needs Assessment data are regularly updated as new and better information becomes available. Version 3 includes revisions to Species, Natural Communities, Ecological Greenways and Watersheds since November 2007. Species Version 3 incorporates the 2007 draft version of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCA) which constitutes a major revision from the original 1994 version of SHCAs. The final version of SHCAs is expected in June 2009.

### Acreage Threshold

Based on estimates of Board of Trustees (BOT) and other agency Florida Forever acquisitions, approximately 845,600 acres are expected to be acquired on FFBOT projects through the 20-year extent of the Florida Forever program. The estimated acreage likely to be acquired during the remaining life of the program (through FY 2020-21) is approximately **478,200 acres**. This acreage threshold was used as the amount of land to be identified by the current F-TRAC 2010 Scenarios.

### F-TRAC 2010 Statewide Scenario

This F-TRAC scenario is a statewide analysis to determine the best places to acquire resources. Twenty-eight percent of those places occur on projects; the remaining 72% occur elsewhere in the state. This score is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context and might best be used to help determine if new proposals should be added to the list or existing projects should be removed.

### F-TRAC 2010 on Florida Forever Projects

This scenario evaluates only within existing and proposed Florida Forever projects for the best places to acquire resources. That is, the 478,200 acres likely to be acquired by Florida Forever-BOT is allocated completely within the remaining acres of projects. This score compares projects relative to each other but does not provide information about the larger statewide context. This score might best be used to help determine whether projects belong on the A or B list.

Complete documentation for Single Resource Ranking, F-TRAC analysis and Decision Support Data Layers, as well as a sortable version of the summary table with numbers in place of bubble symbols, may be downloaded from the FNAI website ([www.fnai.org](http://www.fnai.org)).

**The information contained in this report is in no way intended to substitute for the informed judgment of expert decision makers. This report is a tool to guide decision-making, not a final conservation plan that must be followed. Nevertheless, this report provides sound direction for the program, and decisions made to the contrary should be justifiable.**



**SPECIES**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI, FWC**

The Species data layer combines FNAI habitat models for 265 rare species, including plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, and freshwater aquatic species. The resulting overlay model prioritizes places on the landscape that would protect both the greatest number of rare species and those species with the greatest conservation need. Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas identified by FWC are included and additionally prioritized based on listing status and upland/wetland dependence.



**NATURAL COMMUNITIES**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI**

The Natural Community data layer is made up of natural communities under-represented on conservation lands, which include upland glades (Global Rank = G1), pine rocklands (G1), scrub (G2), tropical/rockland hammock (G2), dry prairie (G2), seepage slope/bog (G3), sandhill (G3), sandhill upland lake (G3), upland hardwood forest (G4), and pine flatwoods (G4); and fragile coastal resources, which include beach dune (G3), coastal scrub (G2), coastal grasslands (G3), coastal strand (G2), maritime hammock (G3), mangrove wetlands (G5) and salt marsh (G5). This data layer is prioritized based on the Global Rank of the natural communities.



**WATERSHEDS**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI**

The Watersheds data layer identifies lands that protect natural floodplain and significant surface waters of the state, which include Outstanding Florida Waters, National Scenic Waters and National Estuaries, shellfish harvesting areas, seagrass beds, springs, and waters important for imperiled fish. The data are prioritized based on proximity to a water body, stream order, downstream length, basin size and other factors.



**WETLANDS**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: NWI, FNAI**

The Wetlands data layer is derived from National Wetlands Inventory data and identifies functional wetlands as those occurring in natural areas, i.e., relatively little disturbance. Wetlands are prioritized based on natural quality using the FNAI Potential Natural Areas (PNA) data.



**FORESTRY**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: FNAI, DOF**

The Sustainable Forestry data layer identifies existing pinelands (natural and planted) and former pinelands that are potentially available for forest management. Prioritization is based on 4 criteria set by the Division of Forestry: whether trees are natural or planted, size of tract, distance to market, and hydrology. Large tracts of natural pine on mesic soils (versus xeric or wet) that are within 50 miles of a mill receive the highest priority. Former pinelands that currently do not have trees receive the lowest priority.



**LANDSCAPES**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: Univ. Florida**

The Landscapes data layer is based on the Ecological Greenways Network, a statewide system of landscape hubs, linkages, and conservation corridors that was developed by the University of Florida. Prioritization is based on factors such as importance for wide-ranging species, importance for maintaining a connected reserve network, and riparian corridors.



**TRAILS**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: Univ. Florida, DEP/OGT**

The Trails data layer is based on the Trail Opportunities Network developed as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System to identify a set of potential trail corridors that provide a connected set of linear recreational opportunities statewide. Sub-network corridors for hiking and multi-use are included and prioritization is based on the 2008 Update and Prioritization of Florida's Trail Network ([http://www.floridatrailnetwork.com/opp\\_update.html](http://www.floridatrailnetwork.com/opp_update.html)).



**RECHARGE**

**PRIMARY SOURCE: FL Geological Survey, FNAI**

The Aquifer Recharge data layer identifies areas of high recharge important for natural systems and human use. The data are prioritized based on springsheds and features that contribute to aquifer vulnerability such as thickness of the intermediate aquifer confining unit and closed topographical depressions. This data layer is undergoing major revision; a new version is expected in June 2009.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES**

These data are maintained by the Dept. of State/Division of Historic Resources who also prioritize Florida Forever Projects based on their contribution to protection of these resources.



NOTE: This table evaluates projects ONLY according to natural resource values. Other considerations such as willing sellers, active negotiations, completing projects, management feasibility, development threat, etc., are always part of any decision regarding project status.

**CURRENT GROUP A PROJECTS (continued from page 1)**

Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	Resources Included in F-TRAC 2010 Scenarios										Resources Not Included in F-TRAC 2010 Scenarios				
			F-TRAC 2010 Statewide	F-TRAC 2010 on FL Forever Projects	Species	Communities	Watersheds	Wetlands	Forestry	Landscapes	Archaeological	Historic	Trails Network	Aquifer Recharge			
9,943	60%	Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3,989	46%	<b>Wakulla Springs Protection Zone</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
26,126	68%	<b>Wekiva-Ocala Greenway</b>	●	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
697	0%	West Aucilla River Buffer	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2,062	88%	Yellow River Ravines	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

1,315,085 Current A List Remaining Acres

**CURRENT GROUP B PROJECTS**

19,106	39%	Annutteliga Hammock	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
495	58%	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
836	0%	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
100,462	0%	Bear Creek Forest	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4,677	0%	Bear Hammock	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
304	76%	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4,076	79%	Catfish Creek*	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5,447	73%	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
325	64%	Dade County Archipelago	★	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
82,994	0%	Devil's Garden	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3,001	44%	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	○	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
25,598	0%	Gulf Hammock	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
11,176	0%	Half Circle L Ranch	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
8,511	0%	Hall Ranch	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
19,925	0%	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
22,319	8%	Hixtown Swamp	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6,927	0%	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron	○	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
34,177	4%	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6,473	0%	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2,086	0%	Little River Conservation Area	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5,562	83%	Lochloosa Wildlife	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
15,067	44%	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	○	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2,511	68%	Lower Perdido River Buffer	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
12,859	5%	Middle Chipola River	○	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
12,296	0%	Mill Creek	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
57	60%	Millstone Plantation	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
88	62%	Okeechobee Battlefield	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7,283	0%	Old Town Creek Watershed	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10,320	71%	Pal-Mar	○	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
35,884	40%	Panther Glades	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
48,847	0%	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
140	31%	Pineland Site Complex	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
60,428	67%	Pinhook Swamp	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
12,608	65%	Ranch Reserve	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
373	0%	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
44,783	0%	San Pedro Bay	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
14,692	57%	Sand Mountain	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
382	99%	Save Our Everglades	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3,166	86%	South Walton County Ecosystem	○	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
578	0%	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
55	12%	Three Chimneys	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9,201	70%	Twelve Mile Swamp	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
12,067	0%	Upper Shoal River	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9,567	39%	Watermelon Pond	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

677,729 Current B List Remaining Acres  
1,992,814 Remaining Acres of All Current Projects

**NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS**

443	0%	Bailey's Mill	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4,748	0%	Kissimmee Billy Strand	○	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7,997	0%	Triple Diamond	★	★	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
8	0%	Windover Archaeological Site	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

13,196 New Projects Total Acres



Archaeological and Historic resource values were provided by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources. Remaining acres and Percent Complete based on FNAI managed areas and Florida Forever acquisition database as of March 31, 2009

\*Note: Catfish Creek remaining acres do not include the 5,134-acre Hatchineha Ranch recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). According to TNC 5,134 acres were purchased for interim ownership only; TNC acquired partial undivided interest in another 4,004 acres. The 5,134 acres is available for sale to the state and should be reflected in the project evaluation. This problem will be corrected in future evaluations.



## FLORIDA FOREVER DECISION SUPPORT DATA

The Florida Forever Decision Support Data consist of eight geographic data layers derived from the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment data layers. The Assessment, originally created in December 2000, is a set of geographic data for 15 natural resource types specifically targeted for protection by the Florida Forever program (G. Knight et al. 2000). Detailed descriptions of these data may be found in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report, Version 3 (A. Knight and Oetting 2008a). Each data layer is divided into several priority classes to help focus conservation efforts. Although the original Needs Assessment data are useful for establishing baselines and measuring progress of the Florida Forever program, the scope and complexity of the data made interpretation difficult for decision-makers evaluating potential acquisition projects. The creation of the Florida Forever Decision Support Data is an effort to provide a more concise picture of the natural resources within projects and across the state and to eliminate redundancy among similar data. Based on recommendations of the Florida Forever Analysis working group some of the original Assessment data layers were combined into functional groups. In addition, some individual resource types were re-prioritized. Table 1 shows the original Conservation Needs Assessment data layers and the new Florida Forever Decision Support data sets into which they are combined.

Several of the original Conservation Needs Assessment data layers are not included as part of the Florida Forever Decision Support Data. **Cultural sites** (measure F1) were not included because cultural resource experts have not identified a method for prioritizing these sites in a quantifiable manner. Division of Historical Resources provides a separate evaluation of cultural resources on Florida Forever projects. **Listed species** (measure B6) and **forest land to maintain recharge** (measure G3) are not included because they are sufficiently captured by other data layers and will only be used in reporting progress of the Florida Forever program.

The Florida Forever Decision Support Data were designed for use in two primary analyses: 1) the Florida Forever Tool for Efficient Resource Acquisition and Conservation or F-TRAC (Oetting and Knight 2008b) and 2) the Single Resource Ranking (A. Knight and Oetting 2008c). The data are used differently in each analysis but the primary purpose of both is to help inform acquisition decisions. Table 1 also identifies which data are used in each analysis.

**Table 1. Derivation of the Florida Forever Decision Support Data from the original Conservation Needs Assessment and the analysis type that uses each data layer.**

FL Forever Measure	Conservation Needs Assessment Data Layers	Decision Support Data Sets	Analysis Type
B1 B2	Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities	Species	F-TRAC, Single Resource Evaluation
B4 C7	Under-represented Natural Communities Fragile Coastal Resources	Communities	F-TRAC, Single Resource Evaluation
B3 B5	Significant Landscapes, Linkages, and Conservation Corridors Landscape-sized Protection Areas	Landscapes	Single Resource Evaluation
C4 C5	Natural Floodplain Significant Surface Waters	High Quality Watersheds	F-TRAC, Single Resource Evaluation
C8	Functional Wetlands	Wetlands	F-TRAC, Single Resource Evaluation
G1/G2	Sustainable Forestry	Forestry	F-TRAC, Single Resource Evaluation
E2	Recreational Trails	Trails Network	Single Resource Evaluation
D3	Aquifer Recharge	Aquifer Recharge	Single Resource Evaluation

## Florida Forever Land-Acquisition Projects Listed by County

<b>Alachua:</b>	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Lake Santa Fe Lochloosa Wildlife San Felasco Conservation Corridor Southeast Maternity Bat Caves Watermelon Pond	<b>Columbia:</b>	Florida National Scenic Trail Ichetucknee Trace Pinhook Swamp
<b>Baker:</b>	Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway Pinhook Swamp	<b>Dade:</b>	Dade County Archipelago
<b>Bay:</b>	Bear Creek Florida's First Magnitude Springs Sand Mountain St. Joe Timberland	<b>DeSoto:</b>	No Current Projects
<b>Bradford:</b>	Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway Lake Santa Fe	<b>Dixie:</b>	No Current Projects
<b>Brevard:</b>	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Indian River Lagoon Blueway Ranch Reserve	<b>Duval:</b>	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River Northeast Florida Blueway Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Pumpkin Hill Creek
<b>Broward:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Escambia:</b>	Lower Perdido River Buffer Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie
<b>Calhoun:</b>	Apalachicola River Bear Creek Middle Chipola River	<b>Flagler:</b>	Flagler County Blueway Northeast Florida Blueway Volusia Conservation Corridor
<b>Charlotte:</b>	Charlotte Harbor Estuary Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hall Ranch	<b>Franklin:</b>	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Pierce Mound Complex St. Joe Timberland
<b>Citrus:</b>	Annutteliga Hammock Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Southeast Maternity Bat Caves	<b>Gadsden:</b>	Apalachicola River Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone Little River Conservation Area Ochlockonee River Conservation Area St. Joe Timberland
<b>Clay:</b>	Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	<b>Gilchrist:</b>	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
<b>Collier:</b>	Belle Meade Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Devil's Garden Half Circle L Ranch Save Our Everglades	<b>Glades:</b>	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Fisheating Creek
		<b>Gulf:</b>	Bear Creek St. Joe Timberland
		<b>Hamilton:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
		<b>Hardee:</b>	Old Town Creek Watershed
		<b>Hendry:</b>	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Devil's Garden Half Circle L Ranch Panther Glades Twelvemile Slough

<b>Hernando:</b>	Annutteliga Hammock Florida's First Magnitude Springs	<b>Levy:</b>	Caber Coastal Connector Tract Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida's First Magnitude Springs Gulf Hammock South Goethe Watermelon Pond
<b>Highlands:</b>	Bombing Range Ridge Fisheating Creek Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	<b>Liberty:</b>	Apalachicola River Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone St. Joe Timberland
<b>Hillsborough:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Madison:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Hixtown Swamp San Pedro Bay
<b>Holmes:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Manatee:</b>	Terra Ceia Pillsbury Mound
<b>Indian River:</b>	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge Indian River Lagoon Blueway Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Pine Island Slough Ecosystem Ranch Reserve	<b>Marion:</b>	Bear Hammock Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida's First Magnitude Springs Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Mill Creek Rainbow River Corridor Southeast Maternity Bat Caves
<b>Jackson:</b>	Apalachicola River Florida's First Magnitude Springs Middle Chipola River Southeast Maternity Bat Caves	<b>Martin:</b>	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Indian River Lagoon Blueway Pal-Mar
<b>Jefferson:</b>	St. Joe Timberland Upper St. Marks River Corridor Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks West Aucilla River Buffer	<b>Monroe:</b>	Coupon Bight/Key Deer Florida Keys Ecosystem North Key Largo Hammocks
<b>Lafayette:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Lafayette Forest	<b>Nassau:</b>	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island
<b>Lake:</b>	Green Swamp Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	<b>Okaloosa:</b>	Yellow River Ravines
<b>Lee:</b>	Charlotte Harbor Estuary Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Estero Bay Pineland Site Complex	<b>Okeechobee:</b>	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Okeechobee Battlefield Tiger Cattle Company Ranch Triple Diamond
<b>Leon:</b>	Ayavalla Plantation Florida's First Magnitude Springs Millstone Plantation Ochlockonee River Conservation Area St. Joe Timberland Upper St. Marks River Corridor	<b>Orange:</b>	Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

<b>Osceola:</b>	Adams Ranch Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Bombing Range Ridge Lake Hatchineha Watershed Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Osceola Pine Savannas Pine Island Slough Ecosystem Ranch Reserve	<b>St. Lucie:</b>	Indian River Lagoon Blueway
<b>Palm Beach:</b>	Pal-Mar	<b>Sumter:</b>	Battle of Wahoo Swamp Southeast Maternity Bat Caves
<b>Pasco:</b>	Crossbar / Al Bar Ranch	<b>Suwannee:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs
<b>Pinellas:</b>	No Current Projects	<b>Taylor:</b>	San Pedro Bay St. Joe Timberland Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks
<b>Polk:</b>	Bombing Range Ridge Catfish Creek Green Swamp Lake Hatchineha Watershed Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Old Town Creek Watershed	<b>Union:</b>	Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway
<b>Putnam:</b>	BJ Bar Ranch Clay Ranch Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	<b>Volusia:</b>	Indian River Lagoon Blueway Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Spruce Creek Three Chimneys Volusia Conservation Corridor Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
<b>Santa Rosa:</b>	Clear Creek / Whiting Field Escribano Point Garcon Ecosystem Yellow River Ravines	<b>Wakulla:</b>	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Florida's First Magnitude Springs St. Joe Timberland Upper St. Marks River Corridor Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
<b>Sarasota:</b>	Charlotte Harbor Estuary Myakka Ranchlands	<b>Walton:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs North Nokuse Plantation Seven Runs Creek South Walton County Ecosystem St. Joe Timberland Upper Shoal River
<b>Seminole:</b>	Econ-St. Johns Ecosystem Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	<b>Washington:</b>	Florida's First Magnitude Springs Sand Mountain St. Joe Timberland
<b>St. Johns:</b>	Northeast Florida Blueway St. Johns River Blueway Twelve Mile Swamp		



Florida Photographic Archives

“We need above all, I think, a certain remoteness from urban confusion.”

-- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings