

2021 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan



Summary of Recommendations and Status as of December 2020

Division of State Lands

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



*As approved by Board of Trustees Internal Improvement Trust Fund
May 4, 2021*



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Abstract

The 2021 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan includes a description of each of the 125 land acquisition projects approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC). In 2020, ARC approved the following changes to the 2021 list:

- added four new projects
- amended boundaries of 18 project boundaries
- removed four projects from the list

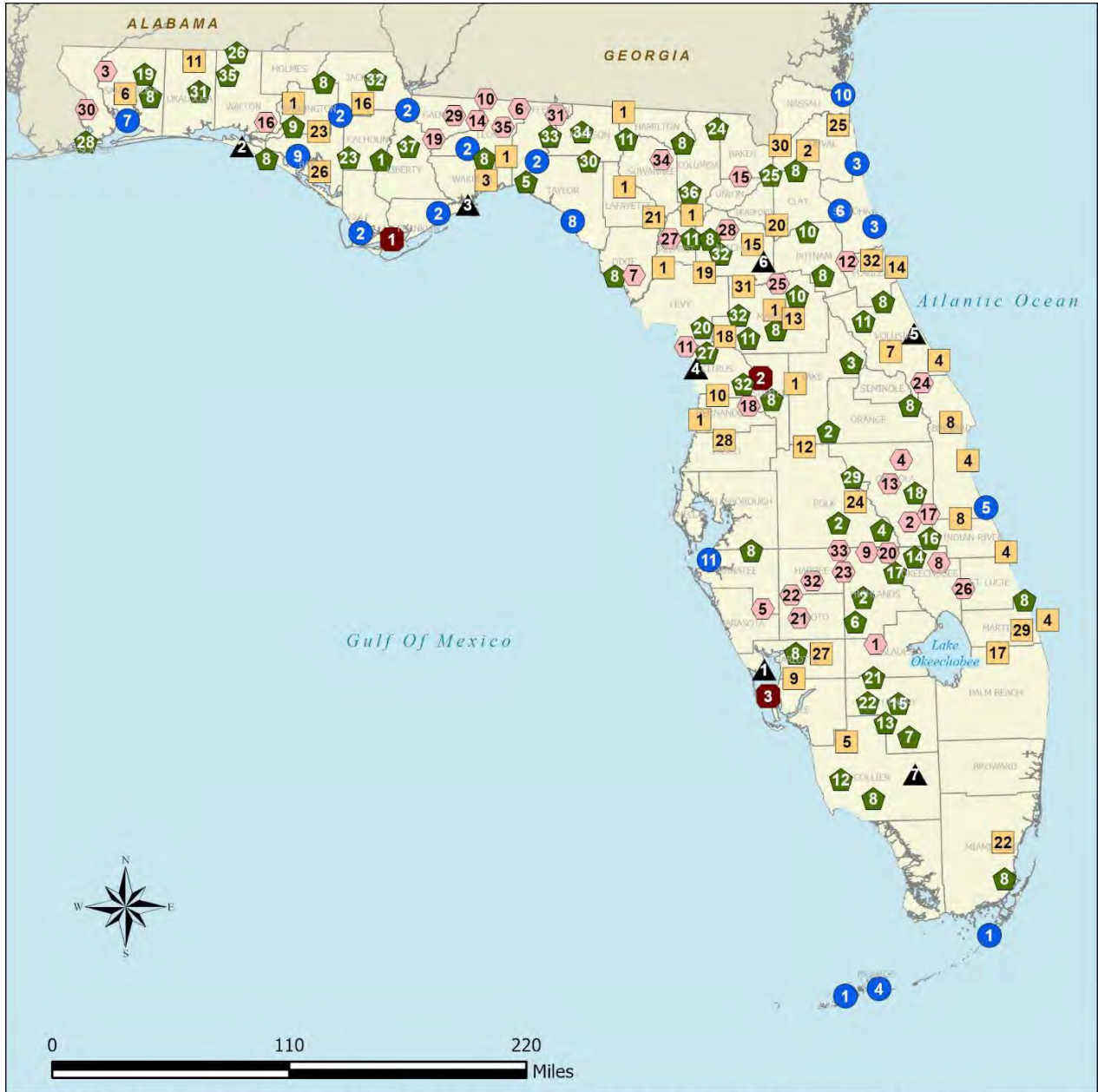
<u>New Projects Added to the List</u>	<u>Acres +/-</u>	<u>County</u>
Bluefield to Cow Creek	10,942	St. Lucie, Okeechobee
Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2,348	Bay
Welanee Watershed Forest	8,370	Okaloosa
Withlacoochee River Corridor	1,714	Citrus

<u>Projects with Boundary Amendments</u>	<u>Acres +/-</u>	<u>County</u>
Annutteliga Hammock	48.30	Hernando
Apalachicola River	347	Gulf
Bombing Range Ridge	-3.47	Polk
Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	6,560	Highlands
Florida Keys Ecosystem	-1.07	Monroe
Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	149	Citrus
Florida’s First Magnitude Springs	37.60	Hernando
Hardee Flatwoods	160	Hardee
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	3,656	Okeechobee
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	7,883.63	Highlands, Polk
Middle Chipola River	49.41	Jackson
Natural Bridge Creek	170	Walton
Pinhook Swamp	147.50	Hamilton
St. Johns River Blueway	112	Clay
Strategic Managed Area Lands List	290.50	Hernando, Lake, Palm Beach
Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	179	Seminole, Volusia
Withlacoochee River Corridor	1,645	Citrus, Hernando

The following four projects were removed from the list because they are considered 90% or more complete:

- Caber Coastal Connector (Levy),
- Estero Bay (Lee),
- Tippen Bay Ranch (DeSoto), and
- Upper St. Marks River Corridor (Jefferson, Leon, Wakulla).

Consistent with section 259.032(8), F.S. and rule 18-24.002(2)(b), F.A.C, removing projects from the list does not prevent Florida Forever funds from being used to purchase the remaining acres.



**STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS
JANUARY 2021**

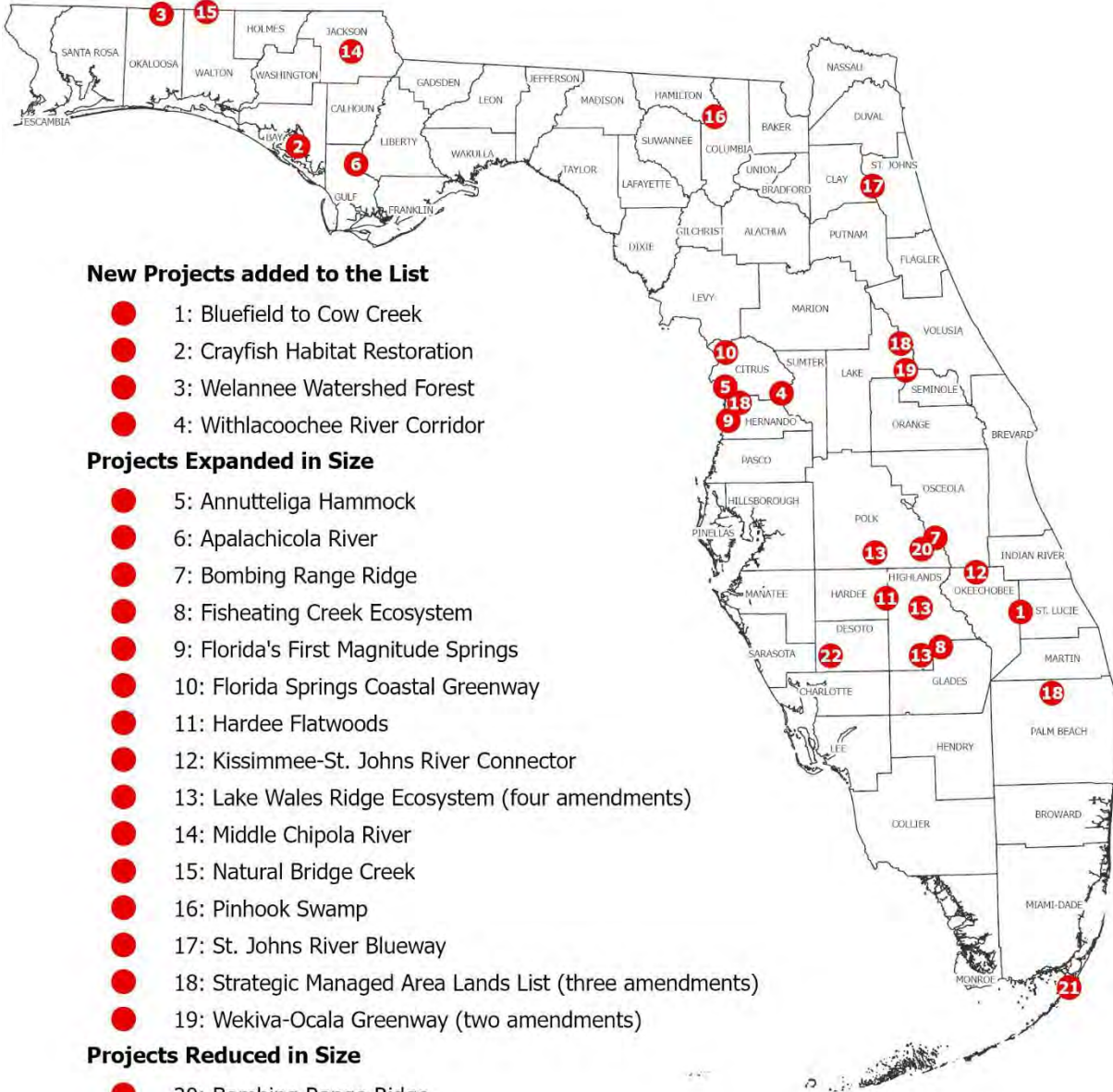
Florida Forever Project Categories

- Climate Change Lands Category
 - Critical Historical Resources Category
 - ◆ Critical Natural Lands Category
- ⬡ Less-Than-Fee Category
 - Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category
 - ▲ Substantially Complete Category

NOTE: Numerals within the symbols represent the project rank within each category. See priority list for project name and details.

Map 1 Statewide Distribution of Florida Forever Land Acquisition Projects January 2021

Florida Forever projects newly added to the priority list, expanded, or reduced during 2020.



New Projects added to the List

- 1: Bluefield to Cow Creek
- 2: Crayfish Habitat Restoration
- 3: Welannee Watershed Forest
- 4: Withlacoochee River Corridor

Projects Expanded in Size

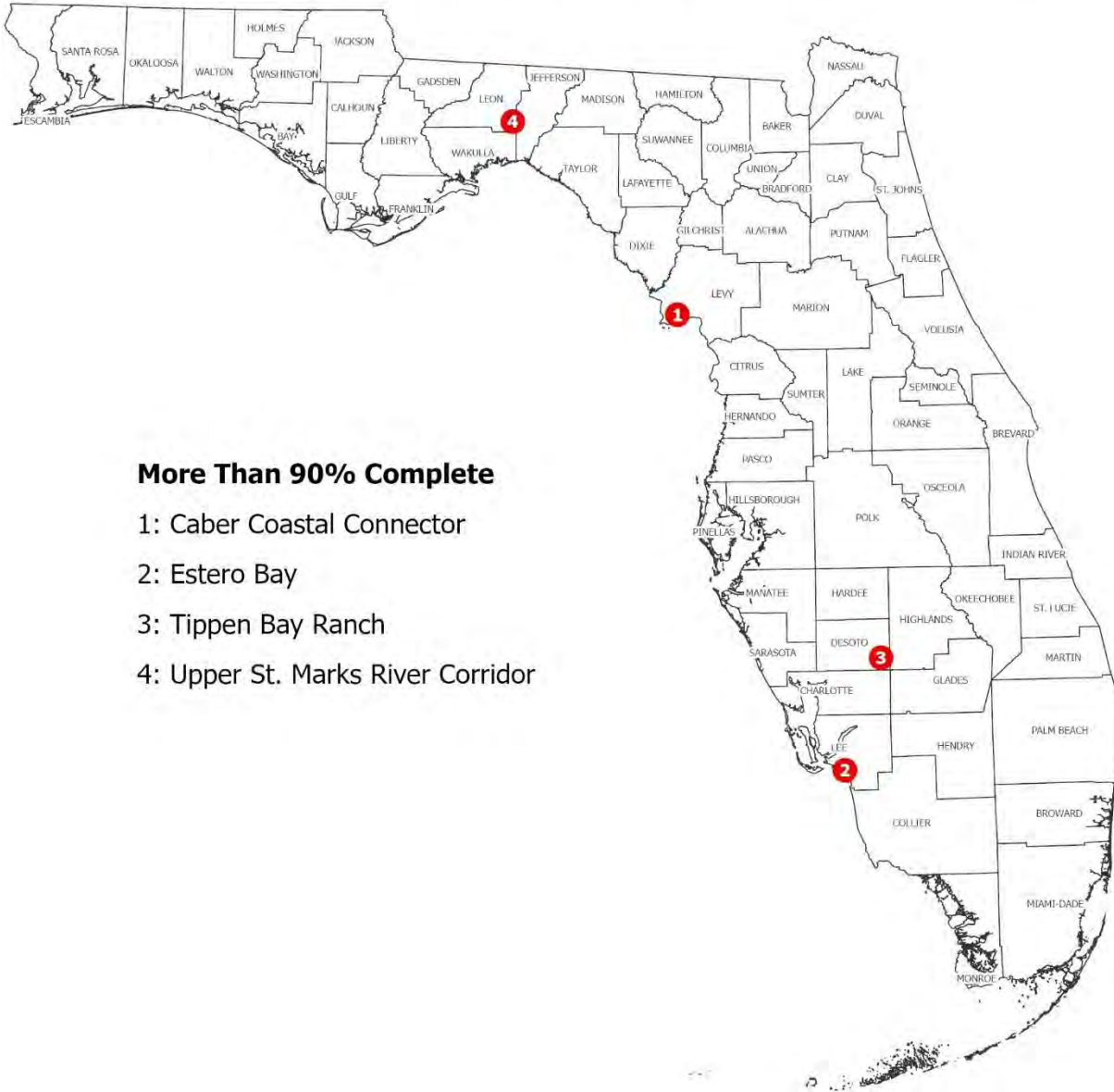
- 5: Annutteliga Hammock
- 6: Apalachicola River
- 7: Bombing Range Ridge
- 8: Fisheating Creek Ecosystem
- 9: Florida's First Magnitude Springs
- 10: Florida Springs Coastal Greenway
- 11: Hardee Flatwoods
- 12: Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector
- 13: Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem (four amendments)
- 14: Middle Chipola River
- 15: Natural Bridge Creek
- 16: Pinhook Swamp
- 17: St. Johns River Blueway
- 18: Strategic Managed Area Lands List (three amendments)
- 19: Wekiva-Ocala Greenway (two amendments)

Projects Reduced in Size

- 20: Bombing Range Ridge
- 21: Florida Keys Ecosystem
- 22: Strategic Managed Area Lands List (S.M.A.L.L.)

Map 2 Florida Forever projects newly added to priority list, expanded, or reduced during 2020

Florida Forever projects removed from the priority list during 2020.



More Than 90% Complete

- 1: Caber Coastal Connector
- 2: Estero Bay
- 3: Tippen Bay Ranch
- 4: Upper St. Marks River Corridor

Map 3 Florida Forever projects removed from priority list during 2020



ARC’s Recommended 2021 Florida Forever Priority List for Land Acquisition Projects

The 2021 Florida Forever Priority List was adopted by ARC on December 11, 2020 and includes 125 projects. Each project was ranked within one of following six categories: Critical Natural Lands, Partnerships & Regional Incentives, Less-Than-Fee, Climate Change Lands, Substantially Complete and Critical Historical Resources.

Pursuant to section 259.04(1)(c), F.S., “...the board shall approve, in whole or in part, the list of projects in the order of priority in which such projects are presented” [see also s. 259.105(14), F.S.]

Substantially Complete

Rank	Project	County	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres	Work Plan Priority
1	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	Charlotte, Lee, Sarasota	5,902	5,902	High
2	South Walton County Ecosystem	Walton	2,657	8,559	High/Medium
3	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	Franklin, Wakulla	3,077	11,636	Medium
4	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	Citrus	8,855	20,491	Medium/Low
5	Spruce Creek	Volusia	367	20,858	Low
6	Lochloosa Wildlife	Alachua	4,446	25,304	Low
7	Save Our Everglades	Collier	24	25,328	Low

Critical Historical Resources

Rank	Project	County	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres	Work Plan Priority
1	Pierce Mound Complex	Franklin	562	562	High/Medium
2	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	Sumter	853	1,415	Medium/Low
3	Pineland Site Complex	Lee	148	1,563	Low

Climate Change Lands

Rank	Project	County	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres	Work Plan Priority
1	Florida Keys Ecosystem	Monroe	5,849	5,849	High
2	St. Joe Timberland	Bay, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, Washington	56,276	62,126	High/Medium
3	Northeast Florida Blueway	Duval, Flagler, St. Johns	11,920	74,046	Medium/Low
4	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	Monroe	1,157	75,203	Low
5	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	Brevard, Indian River	179	75,382	Low
6	St. Johns River Blueway	Clay, St. Johns	17,182	92,565	Low
7	Garcon Ecosystem	Santa Rosa	3,393	95,846	Low
8	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	Taylor	3,742	99,587	Low
9	West Bay Preservation Area	Bay	4,511	104,098	Low
10	Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island	Nassau	1,142	105,240	Low
11	Terra Ceia	Manatee	2,292	107,532	Low



Less-than-Fee

Rank	Project	County	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres	Work Plan Priority
1	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	Glades, Highlands	122,213	122,213	High
2	Adams Ranch	Osceola	5,598	127,811	High
3	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	Escambia, Santa Rosa	99,544	227,355	High
4	Conlin Lake X	Osceola	3,522	230,878	High
5	Myakka Ranchlands	DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota	30,573	261,451	High/Medium
6	Red Hills Conservation	Jefferson, Leon	16,951	278,401	Medium
7	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	Dixie	30,705	309,106	Medium
8	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	Indian River, Okeechobee	37,930	347,036	Medium
9	Arbuckle Creek Watershed	Highlands	4,172	351,209	Medium
10	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	Gadsden, Leon	3,881	355,089	Medium
11	Gulf Hammock	Levy	25,611	380,701	Medium
12	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns	99,032	479,733	Medium/Low
13	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	Osceola	41,892	521,625	Low
14	Ayavalla Plantation	Leon	6,018	527,643	Low
15	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	Baker, Union	67,702	595,345	Low
16	Seven Runs Creek Final Phase	Walton, Washington	2,826	598,171	Low
17	Ranch Reserve	Brevard, Indian River, Osceola	12,515	610,687	Low
18	Withlacoochee River Corridor	Citrus, Hernando	3,286	613,973	Low
19	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	Gadsden, Liberty	6,923	620,896	Low
20	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	Highlands	2,214	623,111	Low
21	Peace River Refuge	DeSoto	3,804	626,915	Low
22	Horse Creek Ranch	DeSoto, Hardee	16,316	643,231	Low
23	Hardee Flatwoods	Hardee	1,836	645,067	Low
24	Maytown Flatwoods	Brevard	5,021	649,928	Low
25	Mill Creek	Marion	12,293	662,221	Low
26	Bluefield to Cow Creek	Okeechobee, St. Lucie	10,996	673,216	Low
27	North Waccasassa Flats	Gilchrist	14,153	687,369	Low
28	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	Alachua	376	687,745	Low
29	Little River Conservation Area	Gadsden	2,085	689,829	Low
30	Lower Perdido River Buffer	Escambia	2,338	692,168	Low
31	West Aucilla River Buffer	Jefferson	710	692,877	Low
32	Limestone Ranch	Hardee	6,382	699,260	Low
33	Old Town Creek Watershed	Hardee, Polk	1,264	700,524	Low
34	Suwannee County Preservation	Suwannee	1,254	701,778	Low
35	Millstone Plantation	Leon	83	701,861	Low



Partnerships & Regional Incentives

Rank	Project	County	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres	Work Plan Priority
1	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	Bay, Citrus, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jackson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Wakulla, Walton, Washington	6,040	6,040	High
2	Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	Clay, Duval, Nassau	76,427	82,468	High
3	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Leon, Wakulla	3,970	86,438	High
4	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Volusia	18,257	104,695	High
5	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	Collier, Lee	34,048	138,743	High
6	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	Santa Rosa	2,867	141,609	High
7	Volusia Conservation Corridor	Flagler, Volusia	17,832	159,441	High
8	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	Brevard	21,104	180,545	High/Medium
9	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	Charlotte, Lee	6,990	187,535	Medium
10	Annutteliga Hammock	Citrus, Hernando	8,789	196,324	Medium
11	Welannee Watershed Forest	Okaloosa	8,321	204,597	Medium
12	Green Swamp	Lake, Pasco, Polk	160,797	365,394	Medium/Low
13	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	Marion	13,663	379,057	Low
14	Flagler County Blueway	Flagler	3,912	382,969	Low
15	Lochloosa Forest	Alachua	4,693	387,662	Low
16	Middle Chipola River	Calhoun, Jackson	12,353	400,015	Low
17	Pal-Mar	Palm Beach, Martin	9,564	409,531	Low
18	Rainbow River Corridor	Citrus, Marion	1,129	410,660	Low
19	Watermelon Pond	Alachua, Levy	5,862	416,522	Low
20	Lake Santa Fe	Alachua, Bradford	9,619	426,141	Low
21	Lafayette Forest	Lafayette	10,253	436,394	Low
22	Dade County Archipelago	Miami-Dade	304	436,698	Low
23	Sand Mountain	Bay, Washington	14,534	451,232	Low
24	Catfish Creek	Polk	3,231	454,463	Low
25	Pumpkin Hill Creek	Duval	12,344	466,807	Low
26	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	Bay	2,348	469,155	Low
27	Hall Ranch	Charlotte	7,503	476,658	Low
28	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	Pasco	12,440	489,098	Low
29	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	Martin	8,193	497,291	Low
30	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	Duval, Nassau	8,394	505,685	Low
31	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	Alachua, Marion	305	505,989	Low
32	Pringle Creek Forest	Flagler	8,446	514,435	Low



Critical Natural Lands

Rank	Project	County	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres	Work Plan Priority
1	Apalachicola River	Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty	48,846	48,846	High
2	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	Highlands, Lake, Osceola, Polk	29,567	78,413	High
3	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia	22,447	100,860	High
4	Bombing Range Ridge	Highlands, Osceola, Polk	29,263	129,944	High
5	Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks	Jefferson, Taylor	14,908	144,852	High
6	Blue Head Ranch	Highlands	43,051	187,903	High
7	Panther Glades	Hendry	39,382	227,285	High
8	Strategic Managed Area Lands List	Alachua, Bay, Broward, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Washington	11,099	238,384	High
9	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	Bay, Washington	54,862	293,246	High/Medium
10	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion, Putnam	54,367	347,613	Medium
11	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	Gilchrist, Hamilton, Marion, Volusia	9,687	357,299	Medium
12	Belle Meade	Collier	6,300	363,599	Medium
13	Half Circle L Ranch	Collier, Hendry	11,182	374,780	Medium
14	Triple Diamond	Okeechobee	5,336	380,116	Medium
15	Devil's Garden	Collier, Hendry	55,694	435,810	Medium
16	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	Osceola	48,973	484,784	Medium
17	Corrigan Ranch	Okeechobee	6,211	490,994	Medium
18	Osceola Pine Savannas	Osceola	27,503	518,497	Medium
19	Wolfe Creek Forest	Santa Rosa	8,687	527,184	Medium
20	South Goethe	Levy, Marion	11,706	538,890	Medium
21	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	Glades, Hendry	10,643	549,533	Medium
22	Twelvemile Slough	Hendry	8,128	559,873	Medium
23	Bear Creek Forest	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf	97,434	657,307	Medium/Low
24	Pinhook Swamp	Baker, Columbia	53,749	711,056	Low
25	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union	32,283	743,191	Low
26	Natural Bridge Creek	Walton	1,967	745,158	Low
27	Bear Hammock	Marion	4,689	749,847	Low
28	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	Escambia	2,389	752,236	Low
29	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	Osceola, Polk	3,592	755,828	Low
30	San Pedro Bay	Madison, Taylor	44,999	800,827	Low
31	Shoal River Buffer	Okaloosa	2,188	803,015	Low
32	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	Alachua, Citrus, Jackson, Marion, Sumter	598	803,612	Low
33	Econfina Timberlands	Jefferson	1,665	805,278	Low
34	Hixtown Swamp	Madison	22,399	827,677	Low
35	Upper Shoal River	Walton	12,035	839,711	Low
36	Ichetucknee Trace	Columbia	1,717	841,428	Low
37	Telogia Creek	Liberty	12,428	853,856	Low



Introduction

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 \$3 billion investment over the past decade demonstrates Florida’s continued commitment to protecting and restoring our vital natural resources. Florida has been at the forefront of the nation’s land protection efforts and continues to be the model for other land acquisition programs.

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 ten-year \$3 billion Florida Forever program to acquire and manage land for conservation. This was extended another 10 years in 2008 for a total of \$6 billion.

In 2014 Florida voters amended the state constitution again, ratifying a constitutional amendment that dedicated 33 percent of documentary stamp taxes to finance or refinance acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b); beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic or geologic sites; together with management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands.

The ten-member [Acquisition and Restoration Council](#) makes recommendations about acquisition, management and disposal of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes private citizen members with backgrounds in scientific disciplines of land, water, or environmental sciences as well as wildlife management, forestry management, and outdoor recreation, in addition to four state agency representatives.

The Governor and Cabinet, as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust 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 of Trustees. 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.



Partnerships

The state's land acquisition programs have a long history of cooperative partnerships with local and national land trusts, water management districts, 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. Many of the projects on the Florida Forever list have partners.

Results

For decades, Florida has been one of the most successful states in acquiring and conserving critical natural resources and providing lands for public recreation. Since 1963, Florida has invested approximately \$8.3 billion to conserve more than 4 million acres of land for environmental, recreational and preservation purposes. This has been accomplished with a number of programs including Environmentally Endangered Lands, Outdoor Recreation, Save Our Coasts, Save Our Rivers, Conservation and Recreation Lands, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever. Because of Florida Forever and its predecessor programs, residents and visitors have benefited from the protection of land and natural resources, including Florida's abundant flora and fauna.

Accomplishments of Florida Forever

Since its inception in July 2001, the state's Florida Forever land acquisition program provided protection for the following:

- 679,490 acres of strategic habitat conservation areas
- 670,880 acres of rare species habitat conservation areas, including 1,132 sites that are habitats for 507 different rare species, 215 of which are federal- or state-listed as endangered, and 108 federal- or state-listed threatened
- 838,500 acres of ecological greenways
- 164,910 acres of under-represented natural communities
- 619,450 acres landscape-size protection areas
- 486,840 acres of natural floodplains
- 849,550 acres important to significant water bodies
- 492,270 acres minimize damage from flooding
- 10,400 acres of fragile coastline
- 341,250 acres of functional wetlands
- 818,860 acres of significant groundwater recharge areas
- 480 miles of priority recreational trails
- 444,400 acres of sustainable forest land
- 1,170 archaeological/historic sites
- 12,270 acres in urban service areas

These acreages were derived from the updates of the Florida Forever data layers, which are continuously updated by Florida Natural Areas Inventory to reflect the most current scientific analyses of Florida's natural resources. The acreages include properties acquired under the Florida Forever program, as well as donations and acquisitions by other entities with funding from other sources that were within Florida Forever project boundaries. Additionally, the acreages recorded for each measure often overlap, and thus should not be added together. Collectively, under the Florida Forever program more than 869,477 acres of land with a little over \$3.2 billion in Florida Forever funds has been protected. Accounting for donations and lands acquired with non-



Florida Forever program funding, the total acreage protected within Florida Forever projects is more than 947,019 acres.

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

The 2021 Florida Forever Priority List of land acquisition projects is consistent with section 187.201(9), F.S., the Natural Systems and Recreational Lands section of the State Comprehensive Plan.

Explanation of Project Information

A comprehensive project evaluation report is approved by ARC for each project as part of the process and vote to be included on the Florida Forever Priority List. These evaluation reports contain extensive resource and planning information compiled from various partner agencies. Also included in the ARC-approved evaluation report is a management prospectus from the recommended land manager (for proposed fee simple projects) that includes a management cost summary. To summarize the pertinent information from the project evaluation reports and track acquisition progress/changes over time, each project description in this plan includes:

- a general overview of significant natural and cultural resources
- the recommended land manager
- the purpose for state acquisition
- whether the project would allow public use
- FNAI element occurrences
- project/parcel acres, acquisition history and boundary modifications
- a management policy statement and summary of anticipated management costs (fee simple) and
- a project map showing project boundaries and essential parcels.

The project acres, acres acquired and acres remaining included with each summary (in at-a-glance or referred to in the text), are based on the initial project proposal and are an approximation. Acres within a project may be refined over time as improved data (ArcGIS) are available and once parcels are acquired. Therefore, acres presented at the beginning of a project summary, may fluctuate slightly throughout the life of a project. Therefore, acreage from this report should be cited as an approximation until such time actual parcels are fully acquired and final acres are determined as part of the official closing process.



Acquisition and Restoration Council

Agency Council Members

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Chair)

Shawn Hamilton, Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation
Designee for Secretary, Noah Valenstein

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Thomas Eason, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director
Designee for Executive Director, Eric Sutton

Florida Forest Service

Erin Albury, Director

Florida Division of Historical Resources

Tim Parsons, Ph.D., RPA, Director
B. Calvin Jones Center for Archeology

Agency Appointee Council Members

Lynetta Usher Griner, ARC Vice Chair (Florida Forest Service)
Griner Usher Land and Timber, Inc., Chiefland, Florida

Bill Palmer, Ph. D., President (Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)
Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Tallahassee, Florida

Gubernatorial Appointee Council Members

Elva Peppers, President
Florida Environmental and Land Services, Inc., Tallahassee, Florida

Gubernatorial Appointee - Vacant (2)
Scientific Disciplines related to Land, Water, Environmental Sciences

Gubernatorial Appointee - Vacant (1)
Experience in Managing Lands for Active and Passive Types of Recreation

ARC Staff Director

Shauna Allen



Adams Ranch

Less-Than-Fee Project

Osceola

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2007
Project Acres	7,141
Acquired Acres	1,543
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,442,155
Remaining Project Acres	5,598
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$22,297,903

Purpose for State Acquisition

The goal of the Adams Ranch Florida Forever 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 goal of the project is to provide continued buffering of the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area from development, avoiding fragmentation of the landscape and allowing continued 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 7,138 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 connection to the nearby Adams Ranch conservation easements of the USFWS and DEP. 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(s)

The Office of Environmental Services, or its successor, would serve as the conservation-easement (CE) monitor unless otherwise noted. Adams Ranch CE will be monitored by the Florida Forest Service (FFS).

General Description

The Adams Ranch Florida Forever project will protect 7,138 acres of habitat in southern Osceola County. 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 is a working 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

3 rare species are associated with the project

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

2007

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, with 11,023 acres. After the request from landowners to remove the 4-H Ranch, the project has about 7,159 acres and a 2007 assessed taxable value of \$10,638,040.

2010

In 2010, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) closed on a 795-acre easement owned by the Adams family for \$1,603,510. A portion of this Rural and Family Lands program easement acquisition (698 acres) was within the boundary of this Florida Forever project.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Less-than-Fee projects.

2015

In 2015, DACCS Rural and Family Lands program closed on an additional 1,536 acres, 154 acres of which were within the boundary of this Florida Forever project.



2017

On October 17, 2017, DEP received a request from the new owners of what had been the 4-H Ranch, the Bexley Ranch Land Trust, to remove the land they had purchased, about 3,898 acres, from the project boundary. This reduced the project's size to 7,128. This change eliminates a potential connection to the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The project still connects to the existing Adams Ranch conservation easements of the DACS and the USFWS to the southeast.

Coordination

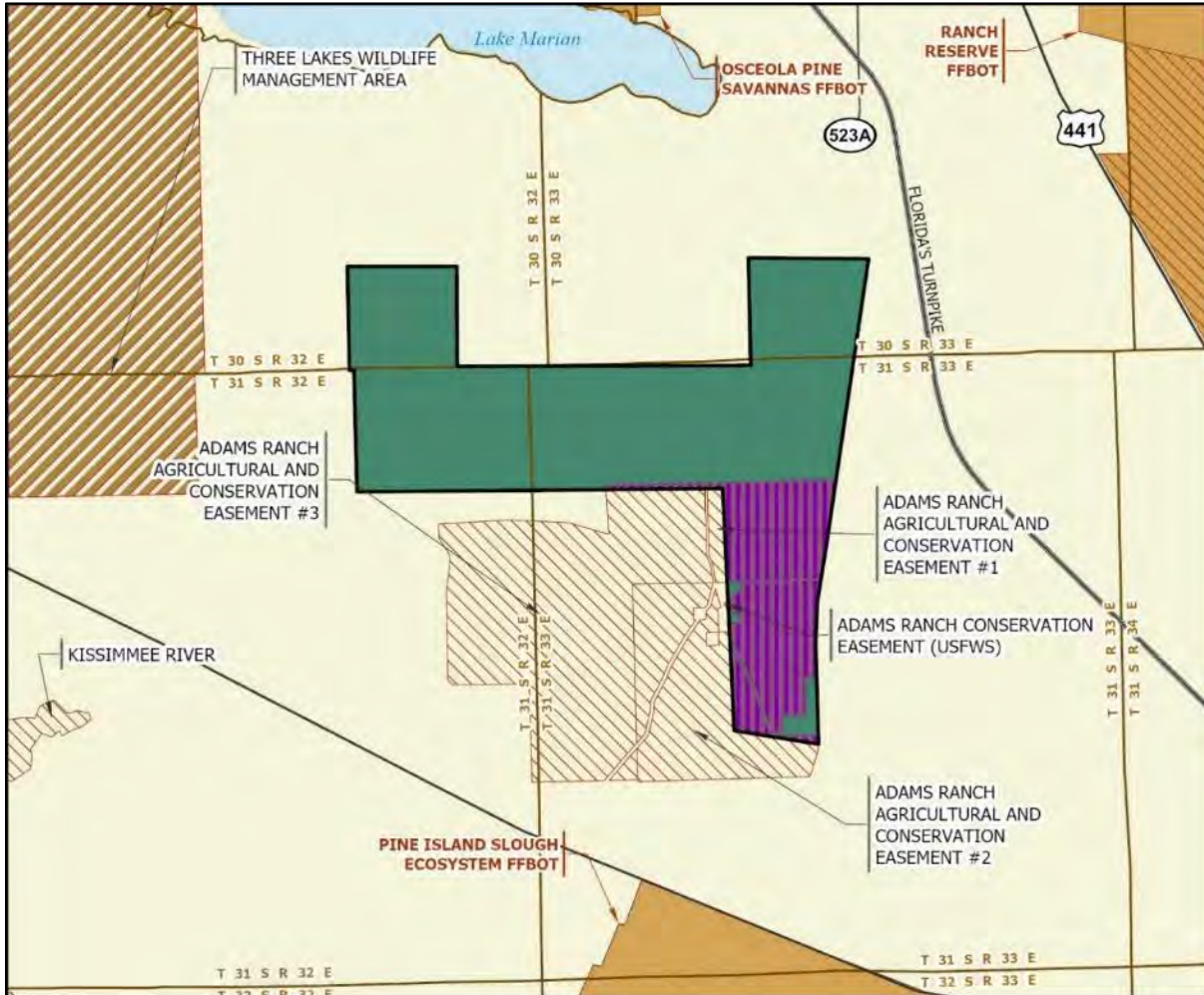
The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Osceola County, and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) are partners in this project.

Management Policy Statement

As a proposed conservation easement or other less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed by the private landowner with conditions outlined in a conservation easement. The purchase of development rights, the prohibition of any further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural use, and the 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.



ADAMS RANCH

OSCEOLA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



Annutteliga Hammock

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Citrus, Hernando

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	19,827
Acquired Acres	11,086
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$35,954,605
Remaining Project Acres	8,741
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$74,593,729

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. This will protect habitat for black bear and many sandhill- dwelling plants and animals and give the public a large area for recreation in the original landscape of this fast-growing region.

Manager(s)

Florida Forest Service (FFS) for northeastern and southeastern parts and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for 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 percent 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 percent 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 to 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 was constructed and bisects this project.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>Cooley's water-willow</i>	G2Q/S2
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Southern hognose snake	G2/S2S3
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
<i>scrub stylisma</i>	G3/S3
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>comb polypody</i>	G5?TNR/S2

22 rare species are associated with the project

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 FFS), 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.

1995

In March 10, 1995, the LAMAC approved the addition of 990 acres to the project boundary. On July 29, 1999, the Council combined Lecanto Sandhills (2,029 acres of sandhills, xeric hammocks, and depression marshes) in Citrus County with the Annutteliga Hammock project.



2001

Lecanto Sandhills area was acquired in 2001 by the Division of State Lands to be managed by FFS/FWC.

2011

On April 15, 2011 ARC recommended a 6,211-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/ rural/commercial/development.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Florida Forever project category of Partnerships and Regional Incentives.

2016

On June 17, 2016, ARC approved a boundary reduction of 5,348 acres in the project boundaries. ARC approved the removal of 4,125 parcels that had a total 2015 market value of \$37,692,703. ARC removed sites in 10 areas that had a total of 4,125 parcels.

2018

On June 15, 2018, ARC members voted to add 403 acres in Hernando County of the Buckner/Coastal Trails Partnership Property to the project. This is an inholding of the Chassahowitzka WMA.

2020

A 0.52-acre inholding of Chassahowitzka WMA was acquired in 2020 which will be managed by FWC as part of the WMA.

On December 11, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 48.3-acres in Hernando County to the project boundary.

Coordination

On August 3, 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding between FDOT and DEP for the future conveyance of a portion of the Annutteliga Hammock project within the proposed alignment for the Suncoast Parkway was signed. 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 FFS proposes to manage approximately 14,336 acres in the northeastern and southeastern portions of the project. The FWC is recommended to be lead manager on the southwestern 14,048 acres next to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The Florida Forest Service identifies no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention, so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission expects that the Annutteliga Hammock will be heavily used for wildlife-oriented recreation, since it lies within 40 miles of the St. Petersburg/Tampa metropolitan area. 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

The primary land management goal for the Florida Forest Service 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. This total resource concept will guide the FFS management activities on this project.

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the FFS for management, public access will be provided for low intensity, non-facility 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 using WFC personnel.

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removing existing trash. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously protecting 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 formulating a management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project is conceptual. 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 using practices that incorporate recent research findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be used to contain, and control prescribed and natural fires. Timber activities will primarily consist of improvement thinning and regeneration harvests to maintain and perpetuate 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 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 FFS 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 restored to the greatest extent practical.

During the first year after acquisition, Fish and Wildlife's 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

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

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may harvest some pinelands to 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

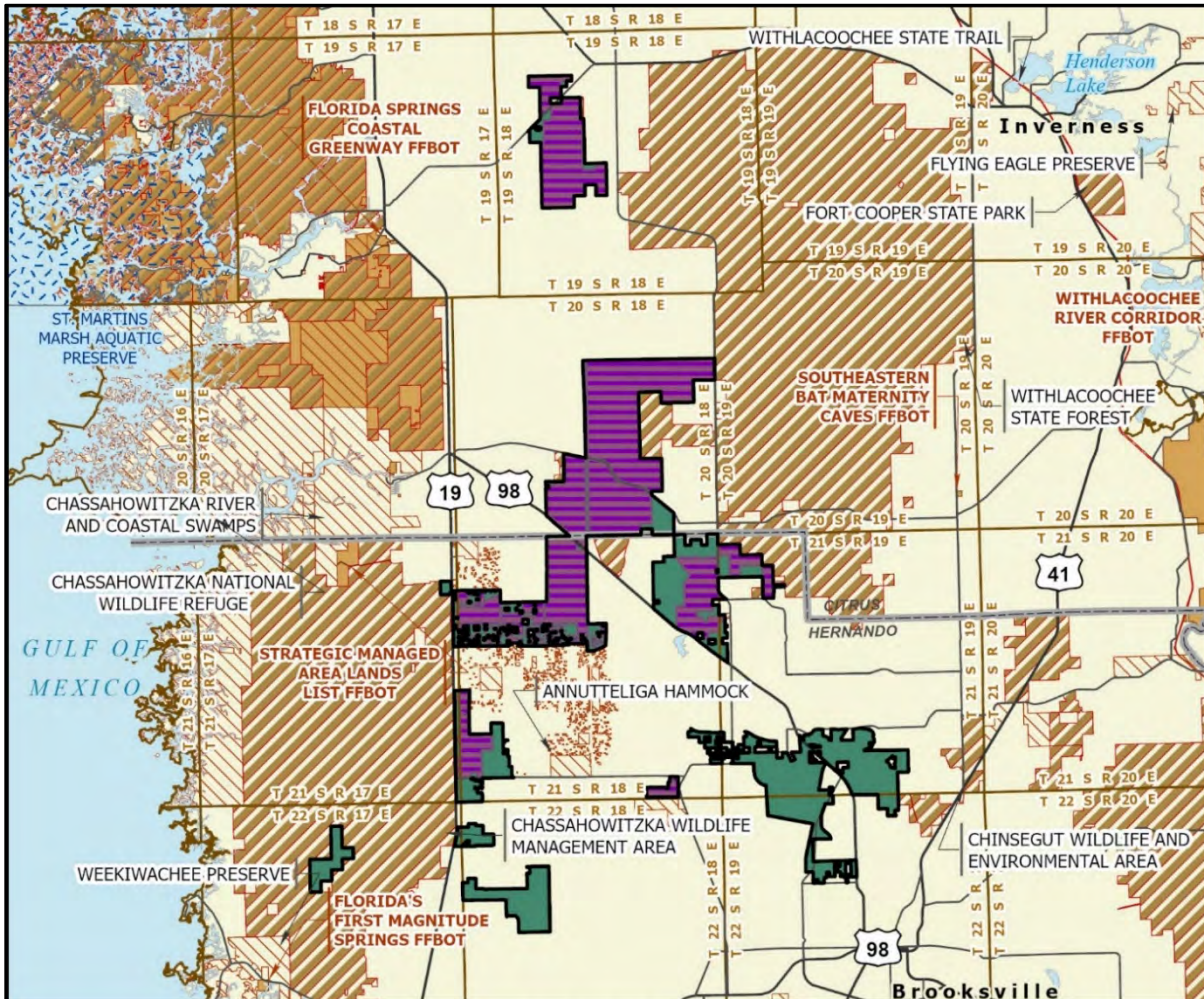
<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$85,020	\$85,020
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,000	\$25,000
OCO	\$116,800	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$226,820	\$120,020

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	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
TOTAL	\$404,958	\$135,603

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK

CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

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



MARCH 2021



Map 2 : FNAI, January 2021



Apalachicola River

Critical Natural Lands Project
Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1991
Project Acres	57,142
Acquired Acres	8,296
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$10,120,682
Remaining Project Acres	48,846
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$49,134,251

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the natural lands of the Apalachicola River would greatly increase protection of the waters of the Apalachicola River and the productive Apalachicola Bay, as well as providing the public with scenic outdoor-recreation areas from the Torreya State Park south to Wewahitchka and the Dead Lakes. 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, with many northern, rare, and endemic plants and animals, such as the nearly extinct Florida Torreya tree.

Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, most of the project would be managed under a conservation easement by The Forestland Group. Past owners have harvested hardwood timber on the property, and this practice will continue. Parts of the project purchased outright by the State would be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection, including an addition to the Torreya State Park. The Florida Forest Service/FFS will be a cooperating manager for the Sweetwater Creek tract in managing the forest resources, and timber issues related to planning and implementing 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 endemic species occurring nowhere else in Florida. It consists of four tracts of land along the upper Apalachicola River:

- A large tract on the east bank, running south from near Chattahoochee to Torreya State Park, including 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.
- The Land property, west of the former area, containing floodplain forest important for southeastern and gray bats.
- The Sweetwater Creek tract, connecting Torreya State Park with a Nature Conservancy preserve, including 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 Forestland Group's conservation easement proposal (including 715 acres of fee simple purchase of the Skyland Ranch). The upper Apalachicola has a high potential for discovery of archaeological sites not yet documented by Florida's Division of Historical Resources. All these areas are threatened by timbering and unrestricted vehicular access.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Florida torreya</i>	G1/S1
Gulf sturgeon	G3T2T3/S2?
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Gholson's blazing star</i>	G1/S1
<i>Apalachicola rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Torreya pygmy grasshopper	G1/S1
Brother spike	G1G2/S1
<i>Apalachicola wild indigo</i>	G2/S1
<i>fringed campion</i>	G2/S1
Purple bankclimber	G2/S1S2
<i>Baldwyn's spiny-pod</i>	G3/S1

81 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Although originally proposed for less-than-fee acquisition which would limit public use, consideration of fee simple could expand public use. In either acquisition scenario, the project will provide habitat for wildlife including the Florida black bear and provide buffers for other conservation lands such as the St. Joe Timberland Apalachicola River and the Southeastern Maternity Bat Cave in Sneads, Jackson County. Forestry uses could continue under a well-crafted forest stewardship management plan. Portions of the project purchased in fee-simple would be managed as state parks or preserves, wildlife management areas, and state forests, and allow such uses as hiking, nature appreciation, limited hunting and fishing and boat launching.

Acquisition Planning

1990

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 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.

1992

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.



1995

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 Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves project.

1996

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.

1999

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

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and 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.

2002

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 and 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 of the Trammel tract (that was previously part of the 3,210-acre Atkins/Trammell tract that was removed on April 6, 2001) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Trammel, and had a taxable value of \$430,000.

2003

On February 7, 2003, the ARC approved a fee simple and less-than-fee 3,113-acre addition to the project boundary. Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), it 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.



2007

On December 23, 2007, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) purchased a 1,544-acre conservation easement from Robert D./Kay S. Trammell and Robert Douglas Trammell and Meredith Trammell Roop for \$2,985,108. The CE is known as the Trammell tract.

2010

On September 30, 2010, DRP purchased 553 acres known as Torreya State Park Addition for \$1,418,000 from Plum Creek. DRP will manage this.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Critical Natural Lands projects.

2017

In 2017, The Forestland Group, owners of acreage along the Apalachicola River formerly owned by Neal Land and Timber, proposed a less-than-fee purchase of more than 37,000 acres as the Upper Apalachicola River Ecosystem Florida Forever project and added another 700 acres of the Skyland Ranch tract proposed for fee simple. The proposal totaled 37,895 acres and had a tax assessed value of \$5,756,412 in 2017. ARC approved this as a stand-alone project in October. In December, the ARC moved to combine the newly approved Upper Apalachicola River Ecosystem project into the boundary of the existing Apalachicola River project, in the Critical Natural Lands category.

In calendar year 2017, a total of 288.26 acres in this project were acquired in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2020

On August 21, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 347-acres in Gulf County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The NFWFMD and TNC have provided information and assistance with this project.

The 37,895 acres to be acquired mostly as less-than-fee conservation land complement Jackson County's goal of preserving environmentally sensitive lands and greenways for connectivity.

The Gulf County plan's conservation elements have goals of keeping flood prone areas



undeveloped and designating habitat for important species as environmentally sensitive areas, which complements the project lands.

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 FFS, however, will manage the Sweetwater Creek tract for the first ten years after the state acquires it. The DRP will manage the Skyland Ranch site added in 2017 as part of Torreya State Park.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The portions of the project near 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 FFS will restore natural pine forests on the Sweetwater Creek tract, the site will be a low-need management area.



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.

Revenue-generating potential

No significant revenue is expected to be generated in the first several years, nor any significant facilities developed initially after the lands are placed under management of the DRP. 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 other non-state agencies are recommended for management of this project area.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
TOTAL	\$303,910	\$148,910

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP (Sweetwater)</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
TOTAL	\$226,318	\$167,769

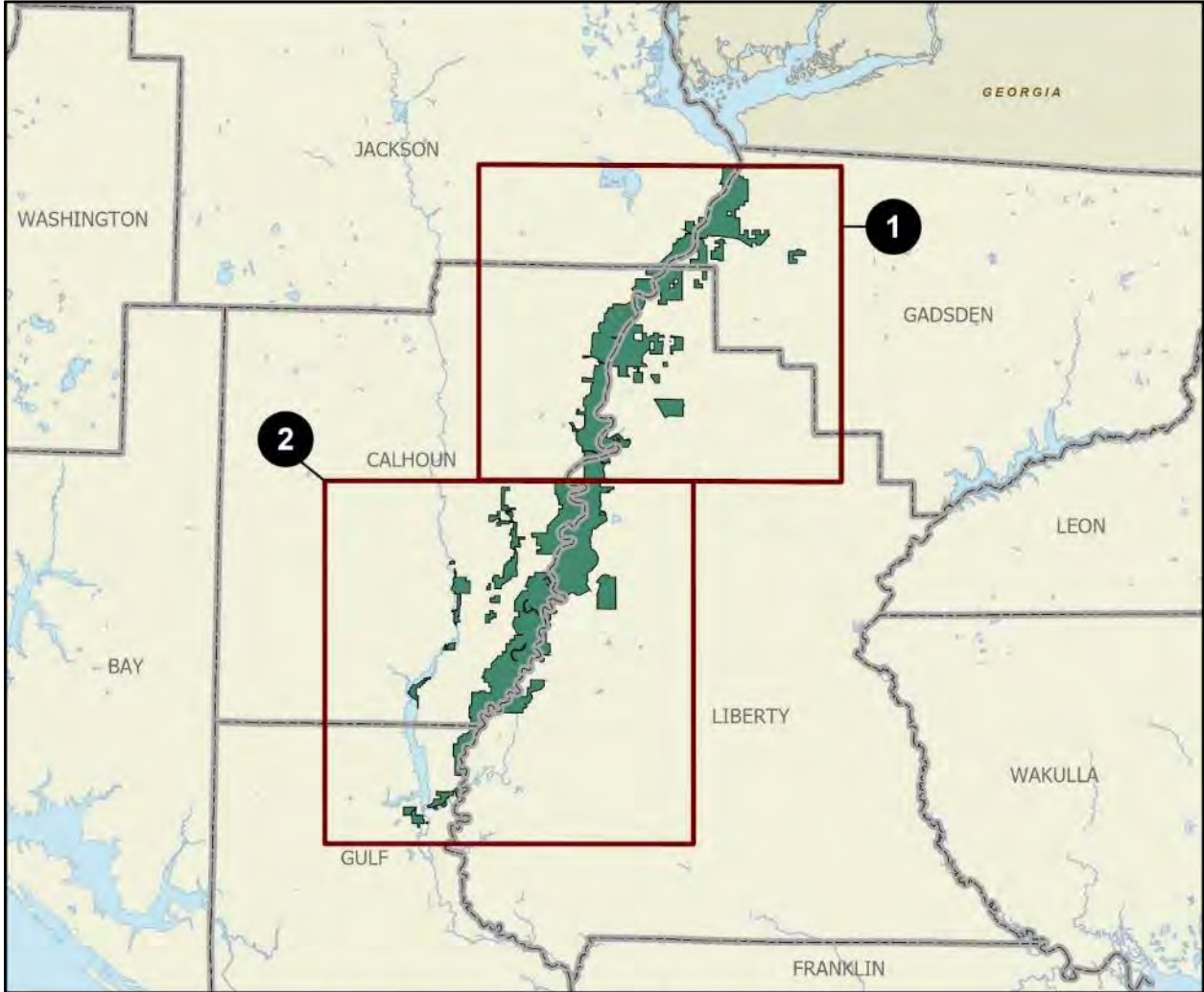
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Management Cost Summary

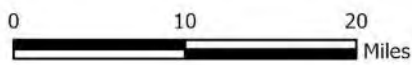
<u>DRP (North)</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$72,319	\$72,319
OPS	\$44,720	\$44,720
Expense	\$49,730	\$49,730
OCO	\$81,527	\$1,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$248,296	\$167,769

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



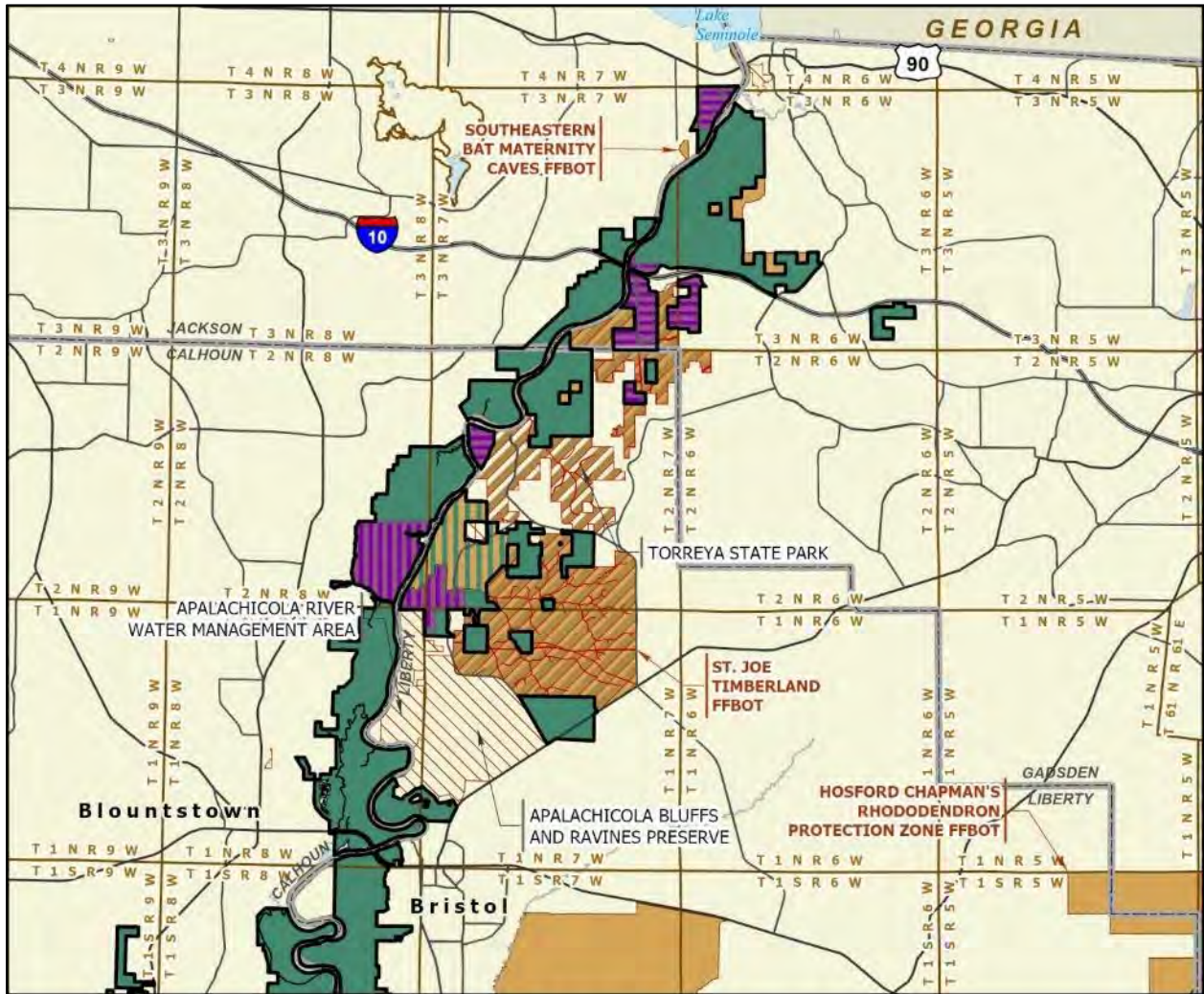
APALACHICOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

CALHOUN, GADSDEN, GULF, JACKSON, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

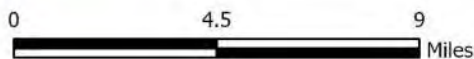
Map 3 : FNAI, January 2021



APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 1

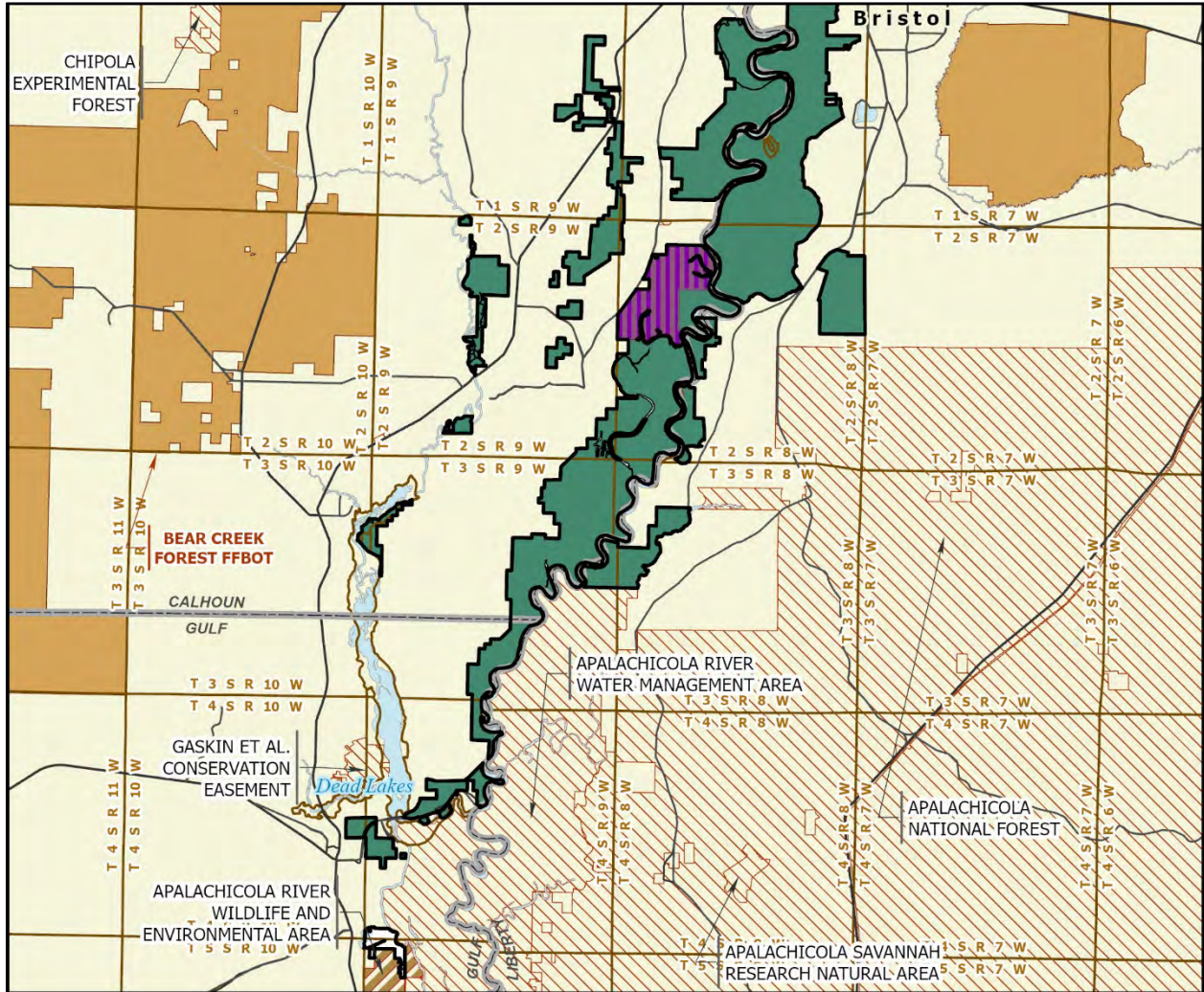
CALHOUN, GADSDEN, JACKSON, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

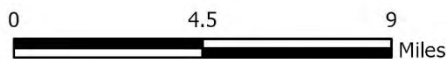
Map 4 : FNAI, January 2021



APALACHICOLA RIVER: MAP 2

CALHOUN, GULF, AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2021

Map 5 : FNAI, January 2021



Arbuckle Creek Watershed

Less-Than-Fee Project

Highlands

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2014
Project Acres	11,989
Acquired Acres	7,816
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	4,173
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$2,174,746

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Arbuckle Creek Watershed would preserve agricultural lands under threat of conversion to residential use by using a less-than-fee acquisition and provide resource protection for Lake Istokpoga and the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. Arbuckle Creek is a major tributary into Lake Istokpoga, which is part of the watershed of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem. The proposed Arbuckle Creek Florida Forever project consists of multiple large tracts of land that are mostly complete and contiguous, border Arbuckle Creek and act as a wildlife and eco-corridor. Also, of significance is that the properties are either contiguous to or near the southwestern boundary of Avon Park Air Force Range. Combined, they create an open space protection buffer to the military base.

Manager(s)

As a conservation easement acquisition, primary management would be the responsibility of the landowner, with oversight by the Division of State Lands. These owners are continuing to pursue what programs they can to establish easements across their lands, with assistance from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Department of Defense (DOD) and other sources.



General Description

The Arbuckle Creek Watershed is on the eastern edge of the ancient Lake Wales Ridge, and almost entirely in the Kissimmee Valley of the Eastern Flatwoods District. It is characterized by seasonally flooded lowlands and grassland prairies. The westernmost portion of the Rafter T Ranch and Long R Ranch fall into the Lake Wales Ridge of the Central Lake District, the topographic crest of central Florida, formed from relic dunes with deep sand deposits. An eastern arm of the Lake Wales Ridge juts out and terminates in the northeastern part of Arbuckle Creek Ranch.

The land in Arbuckle Creek Watershed is working cattle ranches and improved pasture, and small areas of ruderal or agricultural areas make up about 64 percent of the proposal. There are a few offices or homes, barns and equipment sheds associated with cattle operations, mainly on Rafter T and SY Hartt ranches. Arbuckle Creek Road (CR 700A) runs through SY Hartt Ranch and unimproved roads are present on all the properties. Most of the uplands, historically dominated by mesic, wet, and scrubby flatwoods, dry prairie, mesic and xeric hammock, and scrub, have been converted to improved pasture with relatively small remnants of intact natural uplands remaining (about 17 percent), the majority of which occur on Rafter T and Long R Ranches. Wetland natural communities make up an additional 18 percent of the proposal and include baygall/hydric hammock, floodplain marsh, floodplain swamp and small, mostly disturbed, depression marshes and dome swamps. Species such as the gopher tortoise, the Florida scrub jay, the bald eagle and the Sherman's fox squirrel have been documented on this site.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>highlands goldenaster</i>	G2/S2
<i>short-leaved rosemary</i>	G2Q/S2
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida jointweed</i>	G3/S3
Sand skink	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2

20 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Because this project would be perpetual conservation easements, opportunities for public access and outdoor recreation are highly unlikely, according to the application materials. Thus, a detailed assessment of the project’s potential for public recreation has not been conducted. The properties are not adjacent to any units of the Florida State Park system. The project is not within a “land trail opportunity corridor” but is adjacent to the Arbuckle Creek Run “paddling trail opportunity corridor.”

Acquisition Planning

2014

The project sponsor is The Nature Conservancy (TNC). On August 15, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to allow this proposal to be evaluated. On December 12, 2014, ARC voted to add this project to the Florida Forever list as a Less-than-Fee project. At that time, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$4,133,966.00.

Coordination

There are no specific acquisition partners at the time this project was added. However, the landowners and TNC are in contact with the Federal Department of Agriculture and may explore less-than-fee acquisition opportunities there and elsewhere. Some of the lands within the ranches are not included in the proposal boundary because conservation easements have been acquired on them already. Rafter T had one WRP easement and the second REPI easement in place at the time the project was approved. At the time of approval for Florida Forever, some of the Rafter T property and the SY Hartt property in this project boundary also



had been awarded Tier 1 status in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP). In 2016, they acquired an easement on 3,229 acres of SY Hartt.

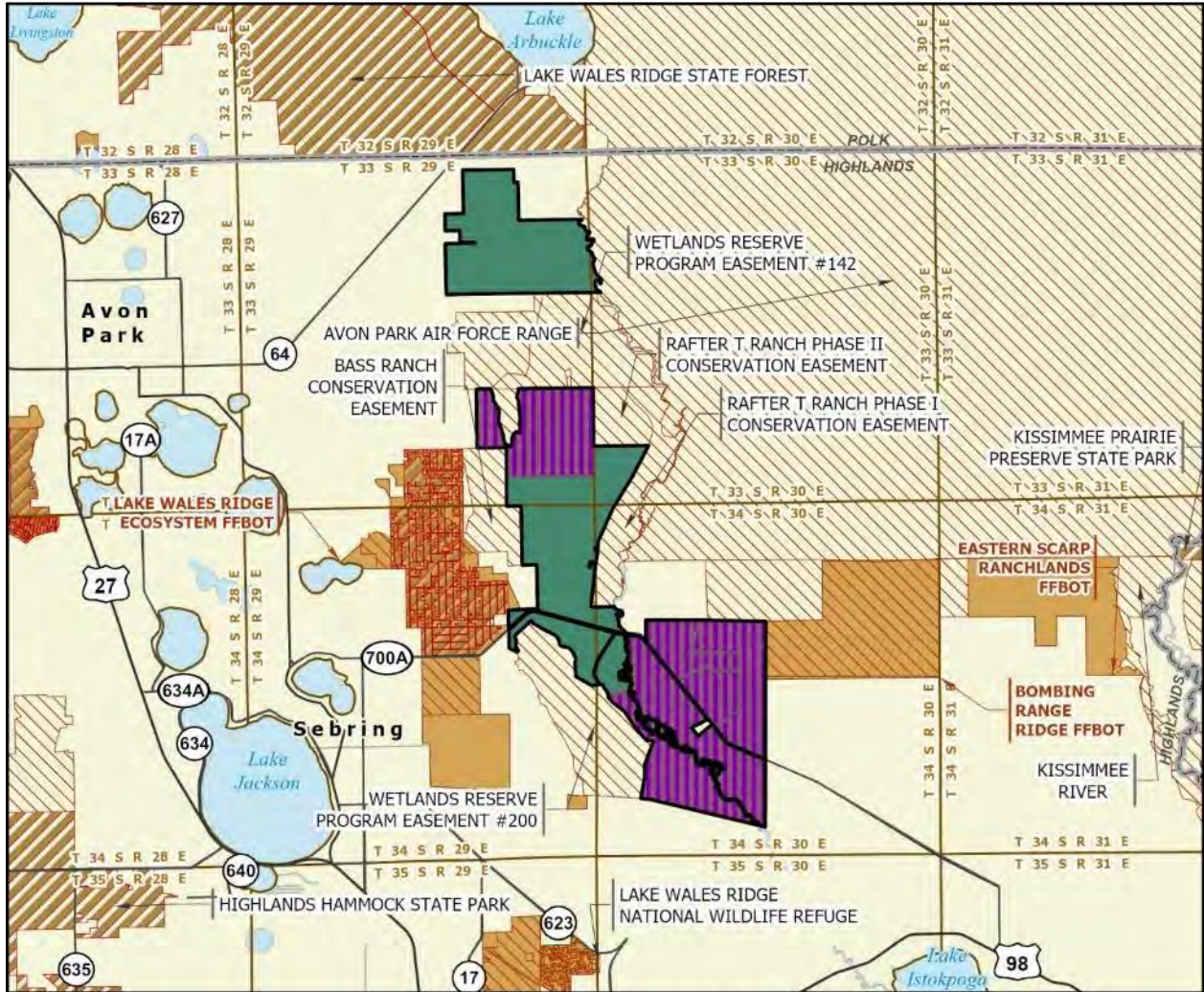
Management Policy Statement

As a proposal for conservation easement acquisition, primary management would be provided by the landowner, with oversight by the Division of State Lands. All the land within the proposal should be considered essential and seems best suited for the Less Than Fee category.

Furthermore, all these owners are continuing to pursue what programs they can to establish easements across their lands, with assistance from TNC, the DOD and other programs as they become available for applications.

Management Prospectus

The property would continue to be managed by the current owner, with periodic management oversight by the Division of State Lands to confirm compliance with agreed-upon easement conditions.



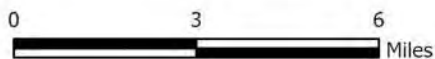
ARBUCKLE CREEK WATERSHED

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 6 : FNAI, January 2021



Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge

Climate Change Lands Project
Brevard, Indian River

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1991
Project Acres	1,060
Acquired Acres	880
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$35,650,365
Remaining Project Acres	180
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$73,501,507

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.

Manager(s)

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

General Description

This project will consolidate several small public ownerships and substantially add to them, protecting almost 10 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 and is of 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Leatherback	G2/S2
Green turtle	G3/S2S3
Loggerhead	G3/S3
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>coastal hoary-pea</i>	G1T1/S1
Southeastern beach mouse	G5T1/S1
<i>Simpson's prickly apple</i>	G2/S2
<i>coastal vervain</i>	G3/S3

11 rare species are associated with the project

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

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 3/10/1995 and directed that a \$10 million cap per year be set on acquisition expenditures within the project. The acres acquired include a 1.34-acre exchange with the County and Windsor Properties. On April 6, 2001, the Council transferred this project to the Full Fee group from the Negotiated Impasse group.



2001

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

2009

In 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.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC decided to reduce the project boundary by 233 acres (a \$288,812,490 just value reduction) because of infrastructure and commercial buildings.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Climate Change Lands projects.

2017

In calendar year 2017, a total of 2.6 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

Coordination

This project was developed in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. 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, having acquired several tracts within the project boundary.

In 1994, individuals representing 11 government agencies, conservation groups, non-profit organizations and the local community formed the Archie Carr Working Group to enhance coordination, cooperation, and communication among the diverse interest groups involved in the protection of the refuge and barrier island ecosystem. This group was still active as of 2016.

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 USFWS will manage most of the project as a National Wildlife Refuge. Primary management partners include the State of Florida DEP, 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 low-need, moderate-need and high-need tracts as defined by 259.032 (11)(c) F.S. About 30 percent of the lands are low-need, 50 percent are moderate need and 20 percent are 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, providing public access, inventorying resources and removing trash. 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

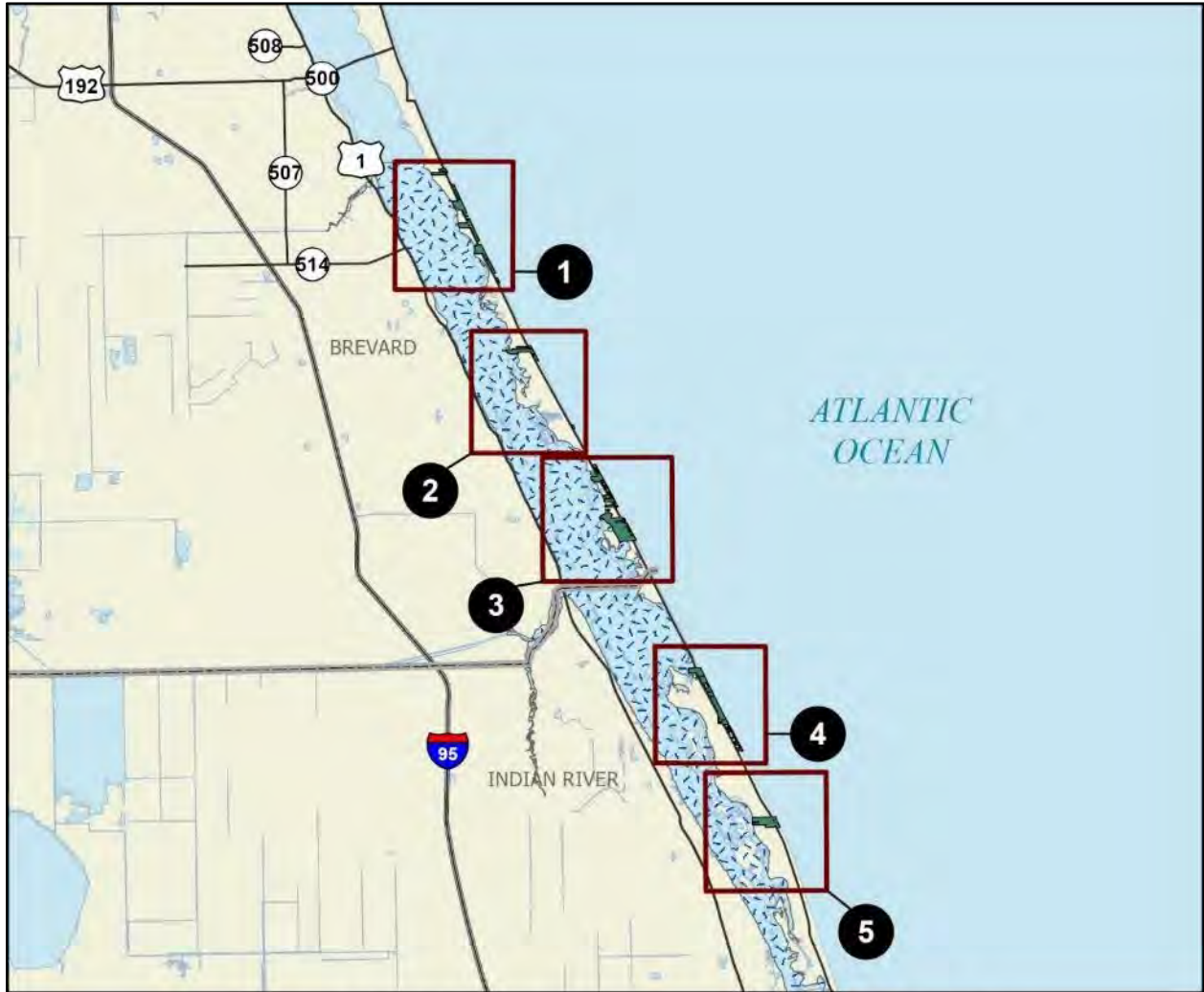
Collecting parking or access fees is the only means of generating revenue from the tracts to be managed by the USFWS and by local governments. The Florida DRP expects no significant revenue to be initially generated from the tracts to be added to the state recreation area.

Cooperators in management activities

The USFWS 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



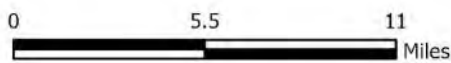
non-profits and land trusts. A Brevard County volunteer warden program has been proposed to involve the local community in conservation, management and educational programs.



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: OVERVIEW

BREVARD AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES

- Map 1 ACNWR - Core Segment I
- Map 1 Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR) Northern Boundary
- Map 2 ACNWR - Core Segment II
- Map 3 ACNWR - Core Segment III
- Map 4 ACNWR - Core Segment IV - Southern Boundary
- Map 5 Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge Site



JANUARY 2020

Map 7 : FNAI, January 2021



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 1

BREVARD COUNTY

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



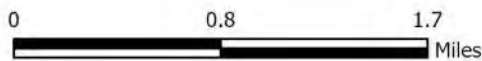
Map 8 : FNAI, January 2021



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 2

BREVARD COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

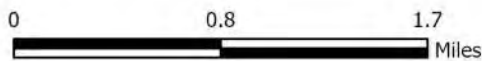
Map 9 : FNAI, January 2021



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 3

BREVARD COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

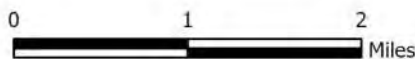
Map 10 : FNAI, January 2021



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 4

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

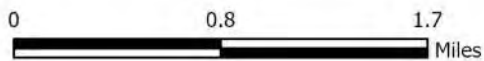
Map 11 : FNAI, January 2021



ARCHIE CARR SEA TURTLE REFUGE: MAP 5

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020

Map 12 : FNAI, January 2021



Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Martin

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	14,403
Acquired Acres	6,211
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$38,215,961
Remaining Project Acres	8,192
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$86,304,045

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(s)

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, which is 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 and its resources are being lost to development.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>perforate reindeer lichen</i>	G1/S1
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>Piedmont jointgrass</i>	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

5 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

This project consists of 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.

1995

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. Because of the public meetings, the LAMAC deleted about 480 acres from the project boundary. The tracts had been recently developed.

1996

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



1998

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

1999

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.

2005

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

2006

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

2010

On February 19, 2010, ARC approved removing 1,532 acres, disturbed by development and no longer desirable for state acquisition (just tax value of \$489,091,150), from the project boundary

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever project.

Coordination

The South Florida Water Management District is an acquisition partner.

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 Division of Recreation and Parks would manage the site.

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

After acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural resource protection, and efforts to develop 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

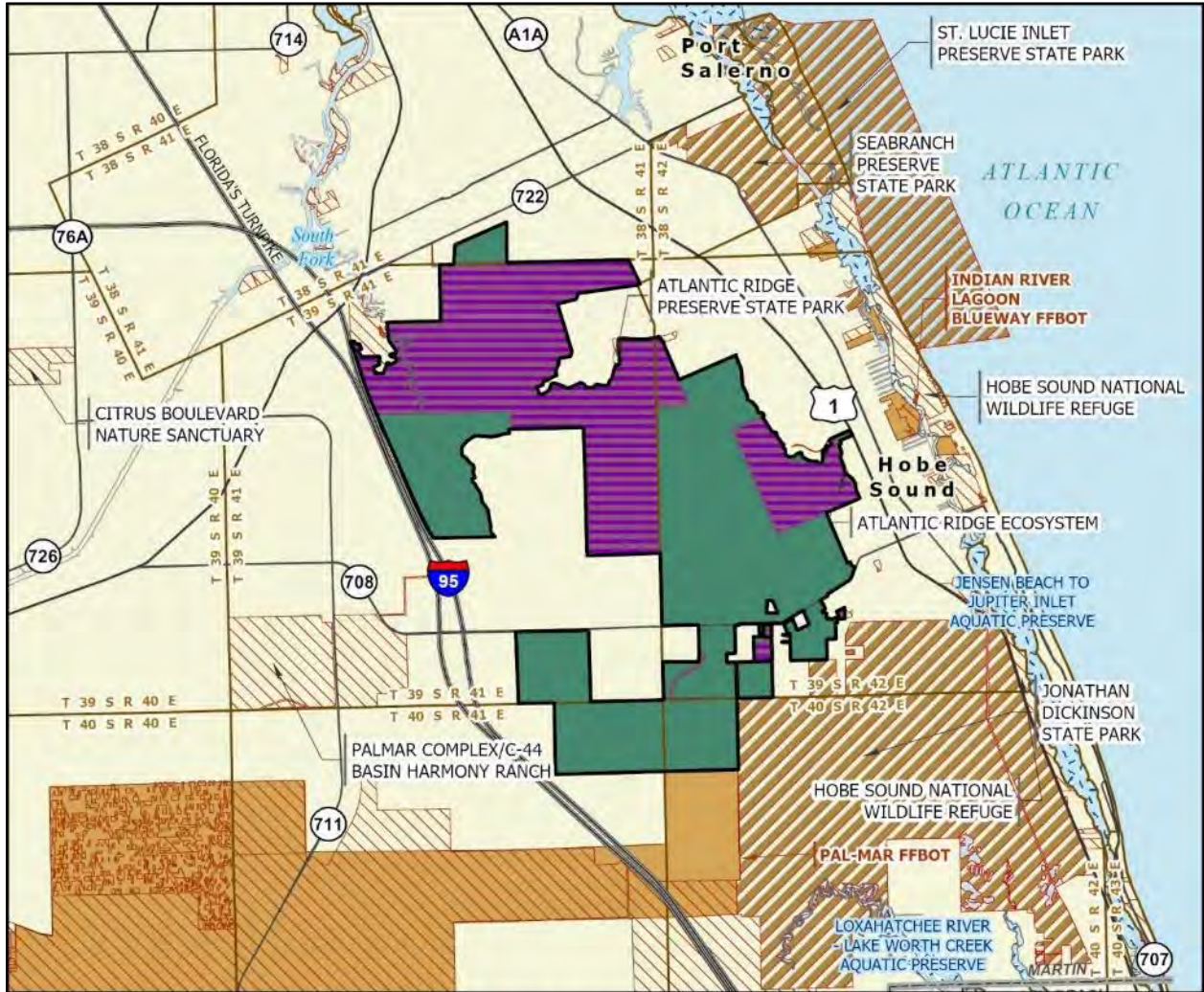
No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project.



Management Cost Summary

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

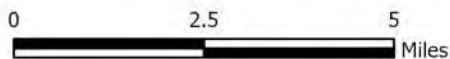
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ATLANTIC RIDGE ECOSYSTEM

MARTIN COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 13 : FNAI, January 2021



Ayavalla Plantation

Less-Than-Fee Project

Leon

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2008
Project Acres	6,098
Acquired Acres	79
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	6,019
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$17,929,376

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 the Ochlockonee River Conservation Area to properties near Lake Jackson. Using a conservation easement for this project also meets state conservation goals of finding alternatives to fee-simple purchases. 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 enough quantities of fresh water, and as such the Ayavalla Plantation conservation easement will protect a large array of ponds, lakes, and wetlands.

Manager(s)

The Office of Environmental Services within the Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement over the property while the primary management will be by the private property owner.



General Description

Ayavalla Plantation is 6,081 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 many 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 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 part of the Red Hills Physiographic Province, characterized by rolling terrain clay soils that rest upon limestone. The wetlands on the property include a variety of 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 centuries-long agriculture and timber production, 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 pinelands 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 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.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2
Southeastern weasel	G5T4/S3?
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

7 rare species are associated with the project

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

2008

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. In 2008, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$23,675,453.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Less-than-Fee projects.

Coordination

Leon County is supportive of the goals of the acquisition but is not currently a partner in the acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

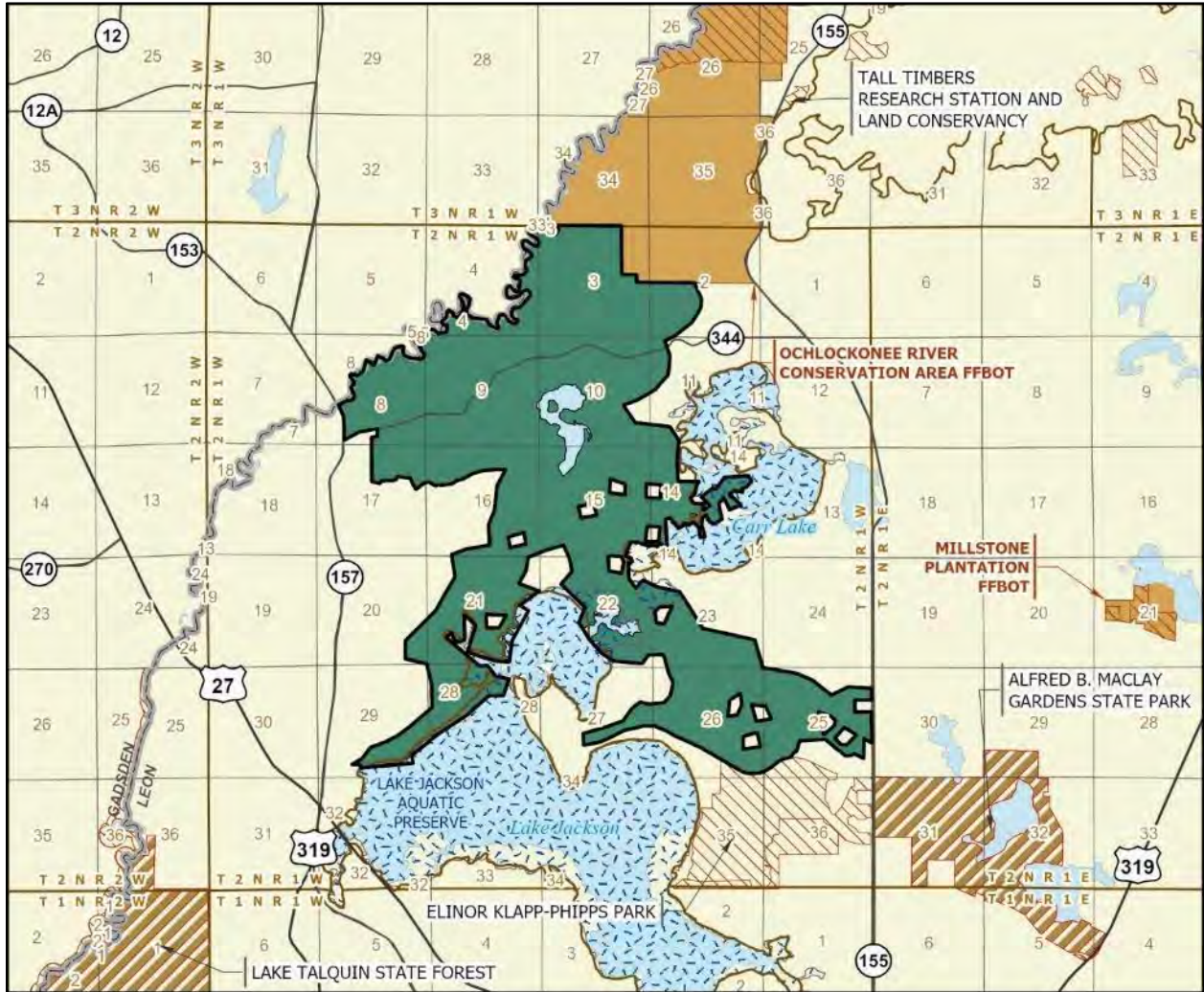
As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Ayavalla Plantation will continue to be managed by the private landowner, but in accordance with the conservation easement terms. The purchase of



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.

Management Prospectus

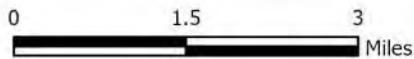
The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands is designated to ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.



AYAVALLA PLANTATION

LEON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 14 : FNAI, January 2021



Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Duval, Nassau

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	9,131
Acquired Acres	737
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	8,394
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$29,007,246

Purpose for State Acquisition

The 9,128 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(s)

The Florida Forest Service/FFS 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 in Nassau and Duval counties and is approximately 9,128 acres in size. The multiple owners are offering the project as fee simple. The proposal is



characterized by its bottomland forests and wet flatwoods that contain numerous older growth trees. These communities have 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>ciliate-leaf tickseed</i>	G1G2/S1

2 rare species are 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 simple, 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.

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

Acquisition Planning

2002

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) it had a 2002 estimated tax assessed value of \$3,587,753. 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 before the other parcels, which are important, but not critical to the project as a whole. The parcels are being offered fee simple.

2006

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

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Partnerships and Regional Incentives projects.

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

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Based on a review of the Florida Forever Act, this project meets Florida Statute Goals and Measures 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 FFS 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 hydrology of the entire site is affected by logging roads and ditches. 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, invasive plants 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 hogs 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 FFS, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The FFS 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.

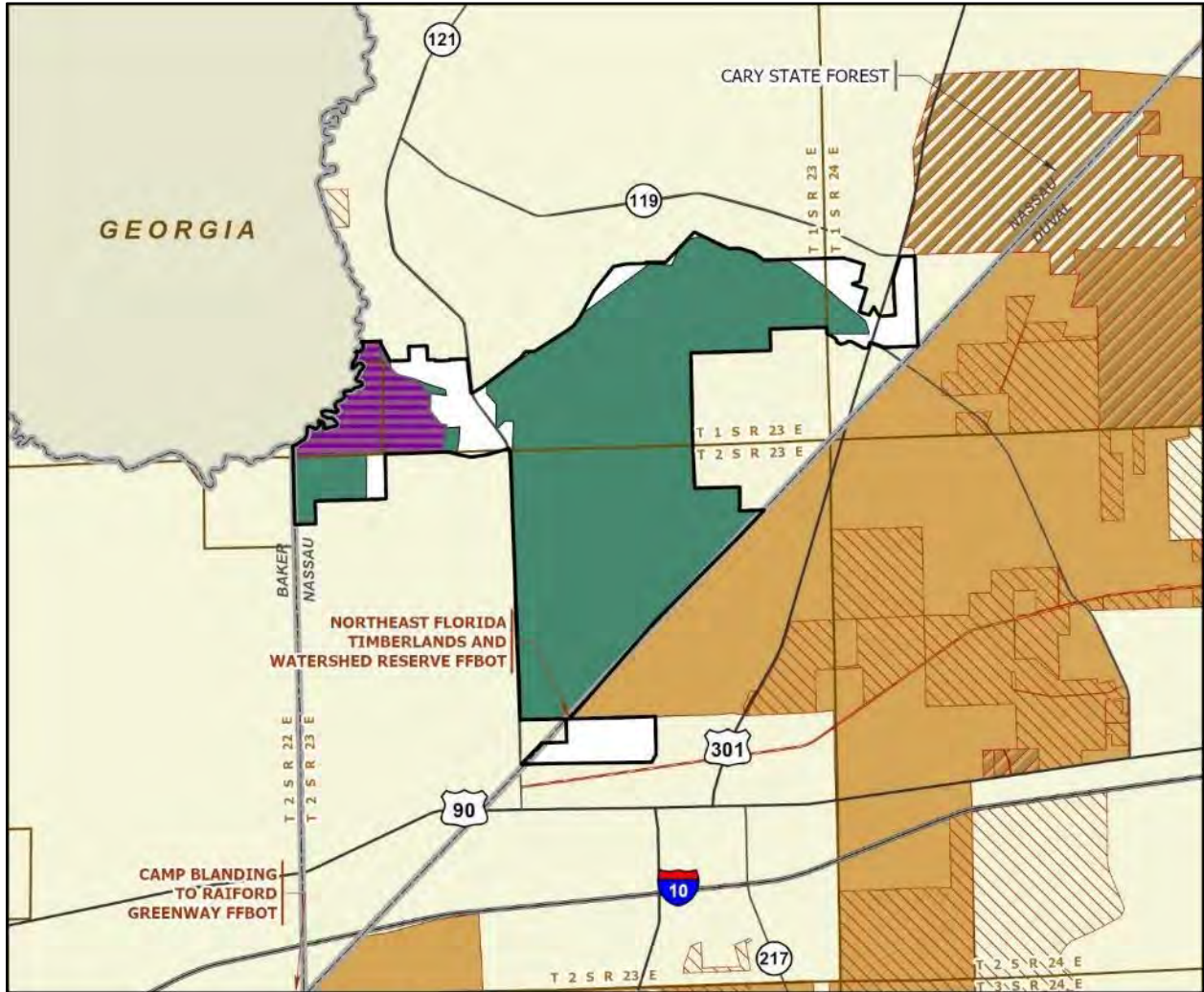
Revenue-generating potential

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 to medium.

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	not available
Salary (X FTE)	\$231,839	not available
Expense	\$140,000	not available
OCO	\$354,600	not available
TOTAL	\$726,439	not available

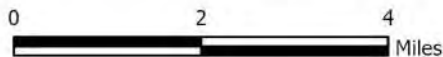
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BALDWIN BAY/ST. MARYS RIVER

DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

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



Map 15 : FNAI, January 2021



Battle of Wahoo Swamp

Critical Historical Resources

ProjectSumter

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	853
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	853
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$2,778,009

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Battle of Wahoo Swamp project is in Sumter County, and is approximately 853 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 battle that occurred here November 21, 1836 was 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, which is about 10 miles from Wahoo Swamp.

Manager(s)

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 853 acres in eastern Sumter County, approximatelyfour 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 primary focus of the conservation easement will likely be acquiring development rights and prohibiting further conversion of existing natural areas to agricultural uses.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<i>FNAI Elements</i>	<i>Score</i>
<i>Craighead's nodding-caps</i>	G1/S1
<i>modest spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Rickett's nodding-caps</i>	G1/S1
<i>ruffled spleenwort</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>Curtiss' spleenwort</i>	GNA/S1
<i>Peters' bristle fern</i>	G4G5/S1S2
<i>comb polypody</i>	G5?TNR/S2
<i>plume polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>Eastern diamondback rattlesnake</i>	G3/S3

10 rare species are associated with the project

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

2002

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 833 acres. The fee- simple portion of the project should be mapped and appraised before proceeding with the less-than-fee portion of the project

2010

On December 10, 2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, “Critical Historical Resources.”

Coordination

Sumter County Historical Society is considered an acquisition partner. No partnership funding sources were known at the time this project was added to the priority list.

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 throughout central Florida by conversion to pasture and residential development. 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 forces and Seminole Indians during the Second Seminole War. The battle was fought within the project and complements the history of two nearby state parks, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park and Fort Cooper Historic State Park. It is the complementary 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 based on 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 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 in 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 reenactment programs, are 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

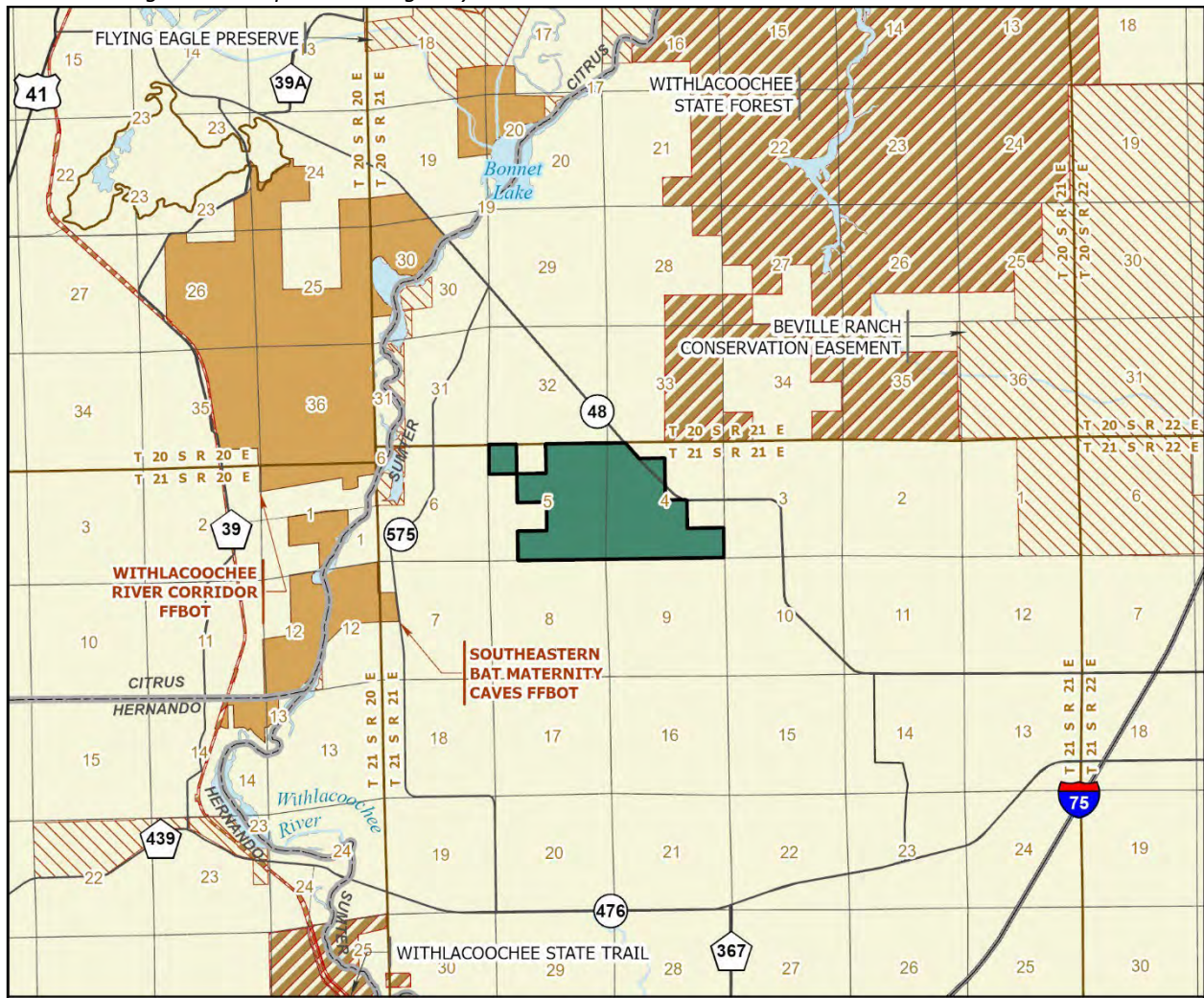
No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project. The Division of Recreation and Parks will cooperate with and seek the advice of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL Trust Fund	not provided
Salary (1 FTE)	\$28,000	not provided
Expense	\$30,000	not provided
OCO	\$60,000	not provided
FCO	\$350,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$468,000	not provided



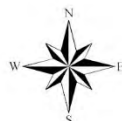
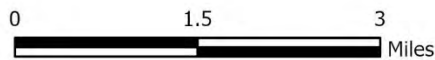
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BATTLE OF WAHOO SWAMP

SUMTER COUNTY

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



MARCH 2021

Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



Bear Creek Forest

Critical Natural Lands Project
Bay, Calhoun, Gulf

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2004
Project Acres	100,462
Acquired Acres	3,028
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	97,434
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$93,586,856

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 several Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

Florida Forest Service (FFS) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

General Description

The Bear Creek project consists of approximately 100,425 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, 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>dark-headed hatpins</i>	G1/S1
<i>pinewoods aster</i>	G1/S1
<i>Godfrey's butterwort</i>	G2/S2
<i>mock pennyroyal</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>giant water cowbane</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

Public Use

Management and public use will be resource-based public recreation 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. They will be the absolute minimum required to allow suitable public access, provide facilities for public use, and the administration and management of the property. FFS 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

2004

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



sponsored by the FFS and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 104,461 acres, with a single owner, the Great Western Timber Company.

The essential parcels were identified as the Great Western Timber Company ownership, 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. In 2004, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$15,041,536.

2005

On January 27, 2005, ARC moved the project to Group A of the 2005 priority list. On June 3, 2005 ARC moved the project to Group B of the 2005 interim priority list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Critical Natural Lands projects.

Coordination

The FFS and TNC are acquisition partners.

Management Policy Statement

Since principal purposes of the project include protection of biodiversity, and provision of resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities, programs would be oriented towards conserving and protecting wildlife species, and 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 make it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

Manager

FFS



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 require thinning or removing trees to help regenerate native ground covers and canopy.

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

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a state forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate. It should be noted that 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, 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 FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.

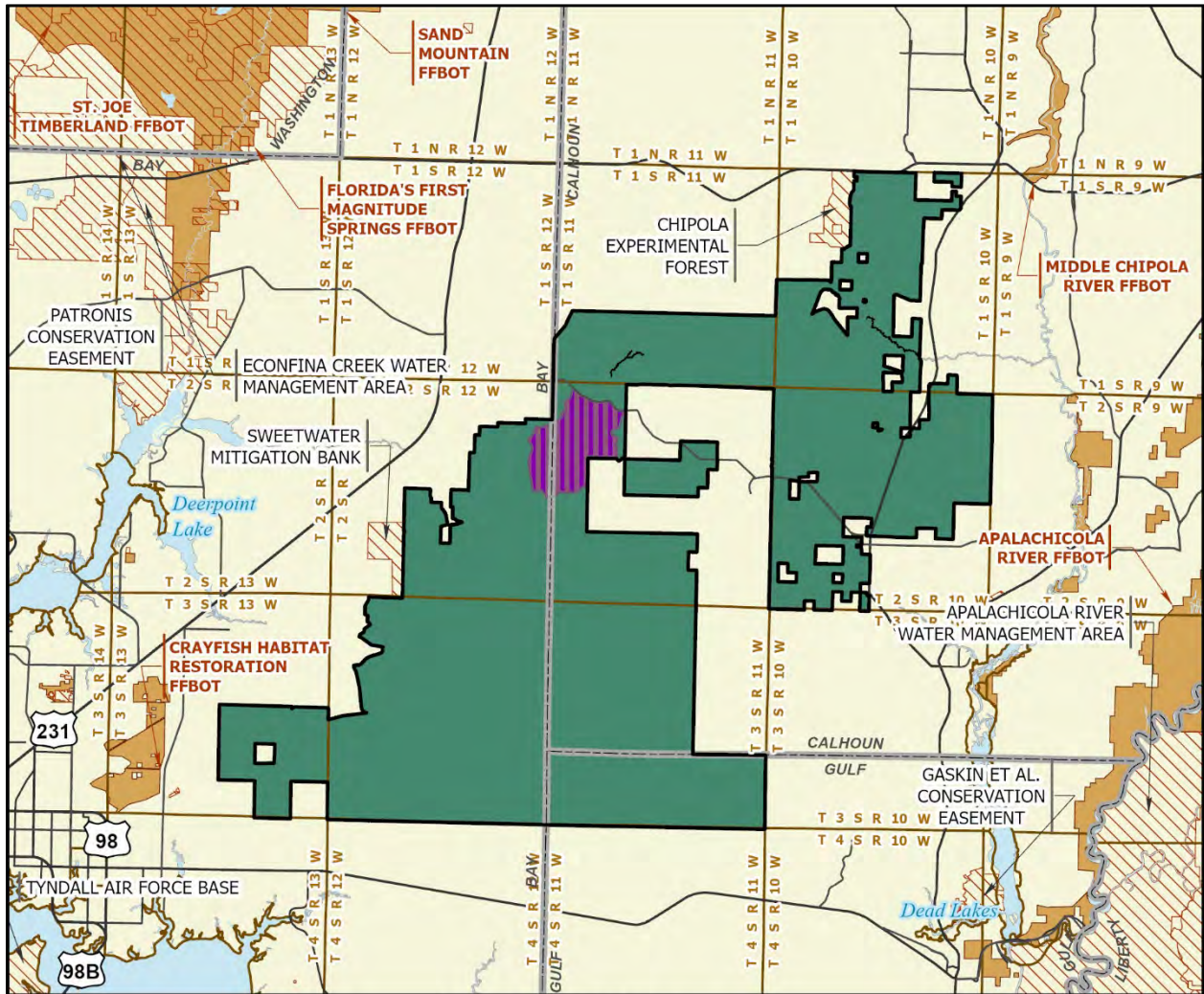
Revenue-generating potential

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.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (9 FTE)	\$293,345	not provided
Expense	\$797,000	not provided
OCO	\$852,260	not provided
TOTAL	\$1,942,605	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



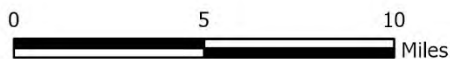
BEAR CREEK FOREST

BAY, CALHOUN, AND GULF COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 16 : FNAI, January 2021



Bear Hammock

Critical Natural Lands Project

Marion

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2008
Project Acres	4,689
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	4,689
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$12,833,404

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of Bear Hammock in southern Marion County would meet the state goals of enhanced coordination of land acquisition efforts by linking other conservation lands. One goal of state conservation is to preserve areas of at least 50,000 acres; 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(s)

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 Rousseau. That island would be managed as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, which is managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).



General Description

Bear Hammock is located in the valley of the Withlacoochee River, near Dunnellon and Brooksville. About two-thirds of this 4,685-acre site is 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
<i>2 rare species are associated with the project</i>	

Public Use

Bear Hammock has many potential resource-based recreational opportunities. It is within a few miles of Dunnellon, with excellent paved highway access, and is adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway, and is 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 3½ 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, picnicking, extensive trails, nature study, environmental education and water access. Depending on management emphasis, hunting can also be supported.

Acquisition Planning

2008

In 2008, the project had an estimated tax value of \$32,576,529.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Critical Natural Lands projects.



Coordination

FWC is considered an acquisition partner for this project.

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. 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 resource management methods such as prescribed fire where appropriate. Additional methods may be necessary for some management units to restore 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 less disturbed natural communities are those to control 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. Developing 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. 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.

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

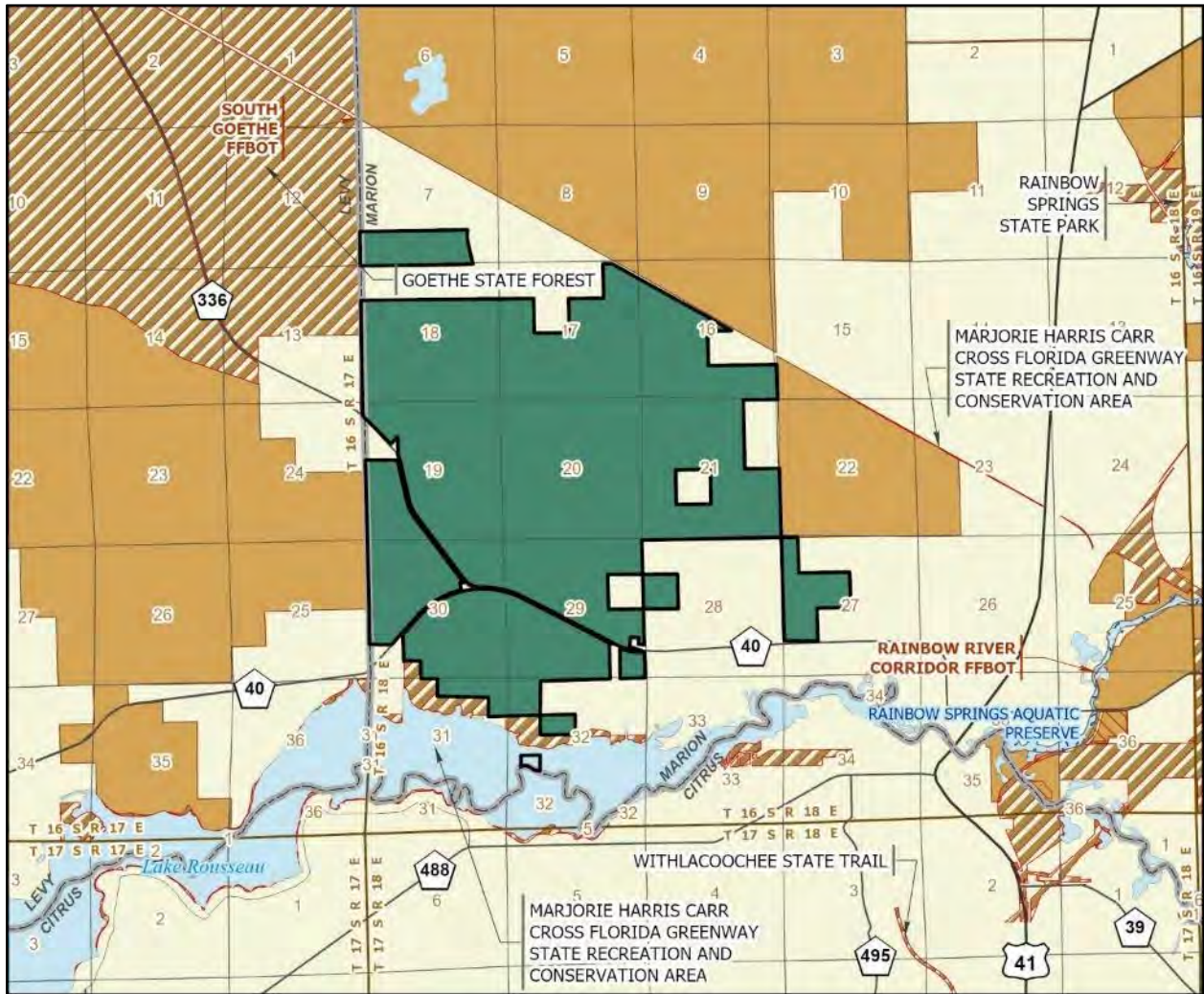
FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the St. Johns River Water Management District in management of the property.



Management Cost Summary

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

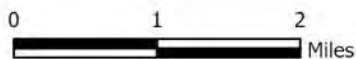
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BEAR HAMMOCK

MARION COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 17 : FNAI, January 2021



Belle Meade

Critical Natural Lands Project
Collier

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1993
Project Acres	27,786
Acquired Acres	21,486
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$38,391,158
Remaining Project Acres	6,300
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$48,005,388

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 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. It will also provide a large area for recreation in a natural environment to residents of, and visitors to, rapidly urbanizing southwest Florida.

Manager(s)

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service (FFS).

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. It has a plant community type endemic to southern Florida that is 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem</i>	G4T2/S2
<i>fuzzy-wuzzy air-plant</i>	G4/S1
<i>ghost orchid</i>	G2G4/S2
<i>cowhorn orchid</i>	G5?/S1
<i>powdery catopsis</i>	G5?/S1
<i>tailed strap fern</i>	G5/S1
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S2
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3

13 rare species are associated with the project

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

1992

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 what was then the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and by the Conservancy, Inc., consisted of approximately 40,846 acres, 762 parcels, 504 landowners, and a 1991 taxable value of \$62,933,000.

1994

On July 20, 1994, the LAAC deleted a ± 11,985-acre area of the project, at the request of DEP staff. The cut 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 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 greater than 100 acres.

1995

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 and consisted of 20 parcels. 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 primarily willing sellers – approximately 500 ownerships.

1996

On July 16, 1996, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,240-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by eight landowners and consisted of 9 parcels. 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.

2006

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

On November 20, 2006, FNAI removed 490 acres from the project boundary in compliance with the November 15, 2000 request of private landowners Howard N. Galbut and Gary R. Edwards (Galbut property data provided by Dan Jones of Southern Mapping Technology November 15, 2006, and Edwards property data derived from the February 14, 2000 removal request letter and property appraiser digital boundaries).

2007

In September 2007, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida donated 147 acres (value of \$2,310,000).



2009

On October 9, 2009, approximately 650 acres were donated by Estates at Twin Eagles, LTD (no value listed). FFS agreed to manage all acres.

In October 10, 2009, Estates at Twin Eagles, LTD donated 650 acres. FFS agreed to manage this.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 348-acre (\$19,232,935 just value) reduction to the boundary because of commercial development and infrastructure.

2011

In August 2011, Citigate Development donated 86.34 acres in Picayune Strand State Forest. This donation, valued at \$274,785, was to be managed by FFS.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Critical Natural Lands.

2020

Mr. Bernard F. Gallagher, Jr. donated 1.29 acres in August 2020 in Picayune Strand State Forest with a donation value of \$4,567.00.

Coordination

Recent acquisition partners include The Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

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. Other goals are to conserve and restore these important ecosystems, their significant wildlife resources, and their critical hydrological connection to the Gulf Coast by fee-simple purchase because regulation cannot adequately protect them. The project will be managed under the multiple-use concept, with management activities directed toward protecting old-growth forests (using growing-season burns where necessary) and restoring 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 FFS 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. No other known disturbances that will require extraordinary attention are known. The FFS expects its management efforts to be typical for a state forest.

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

After the core area is acquired, the FFS 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 are to 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. Budget needs for interim management are covered under the Save Our Everglades/Golden Gate Project.

Revenue-generating potential

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



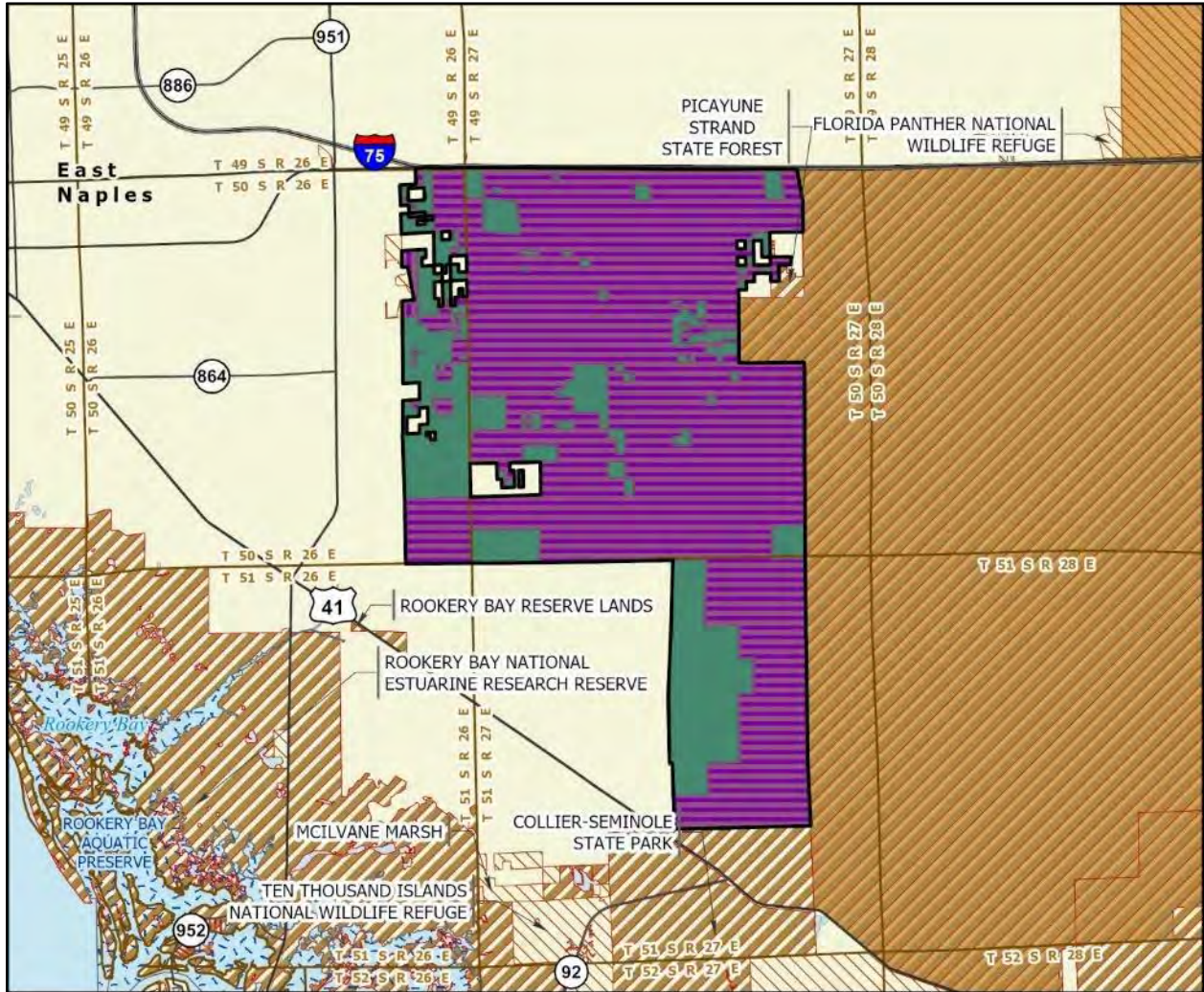
Cooperators in management activities

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

Management Cost Summary

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

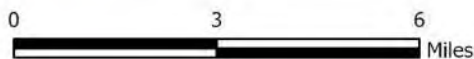
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BELLE MEADE

COLLIER COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 18 : FNAI, January 2021



Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch

Less-Than-Fee Project

Osceola

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2000
Project Acres	52,510
Acquired Acres	10,618
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$21,548,060
Remaining Project Acres	41,892
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$181,434,686

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 several Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) would be lead manager, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service (FFS) as a cooperating manager, and OES will monitor the conservation easements, unless otherwise noted. Osceola County will manage the Camp Lonesome 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2

5 rare species are associated with the project

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

1999

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 56,710 acres with multiple owners. 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, Oberly, Gannarelli, Whaley, Lee Ranch, and Smith.



2002

On April 25, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a less-than-fee addition of 5,714 acres to the project boundary. The addition, sponsored by Holland and Knight Consulting, consisted of one owner, Birchwood Acres Limited Partnership.

2007

In June 2007, Osceola County acquired, and will manage, the 342-acre Camp Lonesome Ranch property. In November 2007, Osceola County purchased an additional 2,100 acres that will be managed as part of the Camp Lonesome Ranch Conservation Area.

2010

In April 2010, ARC voted to remove 7,722 acres from the boundary because they have already been developed with residential and commercial structures.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Less-than-Fee projects.

2017

On August 16, 2017, the Florida Cabinet, acting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOTITF) approved a 1,100-acre conservation easement on the Camp Lonesome tract of this project.

In calendar year 2017, a total of 1,109.68 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2019

On June 14, 2019, the ARC voted to remove 4,255 acres (GIS) from the project boundary after receiving a certified letter from the owner(s) requesting its removal.

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 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 of 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 FFS as a cooperating manager.

Management Prospectus

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. They also provide opportunity to generate revenues from timber management, cattle-grazing and public recreational uses.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The lands within this proposal are 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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

During the first year of management after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on securing and posting boundaries, assuring public access to the tract, surveying wildlife and plant communities, using prescribed fire, and establishing relationships with adjacent landowners. A management plan for the tract will be prepared, including forming an appropriate Management Advisory Group with 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. Whenever possible, 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 try to maintain and establish rapport with landowners adjacent to the WMA; provide technical assistance and advice in order to assure the welfare of such ecosystem components as wetlands; and establish working relationships with local representatives of regulatory agencies such as Water Management Districts, counties, DEP, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That would ensure solutions if conflicts arise.

Floral and faunal inventories will be continually updated by FWC biologists with 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, FFS, 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:

- provide dove hunting opportunities;
- provide high quality forage for quail, dove, deer, and wild turkey; and / or
- to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities.

Revenue-generating potential

Much of the proposed area is current 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 by stocking cattle, or with 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. 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.

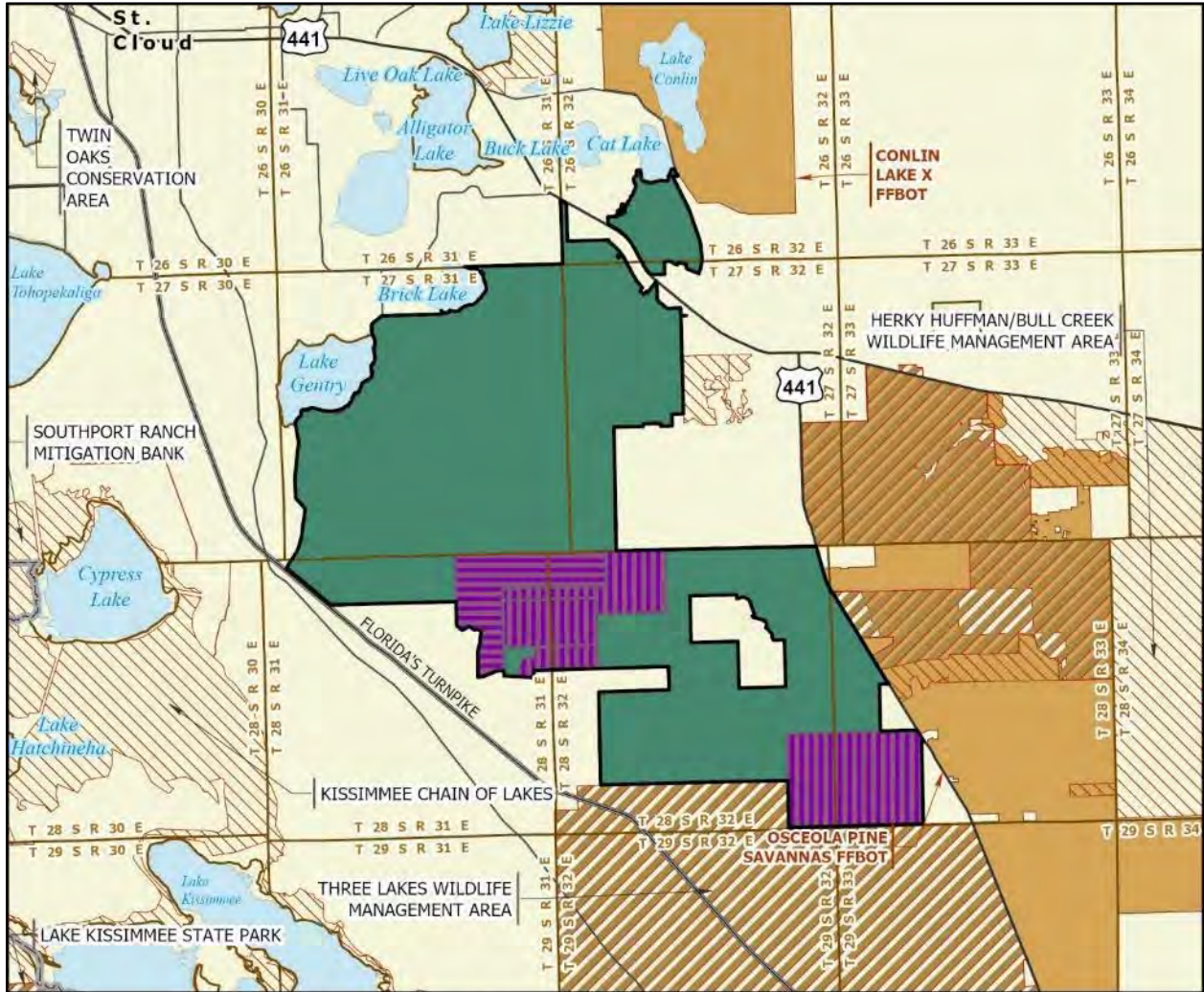
Cooperators in management activities

The FWC will cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area but will seek special assistance from the FFS in managing forest resources and implementing prescribed burning programs.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>2000/01</u>	<u>2001/02</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salaries	\$72,311	\$74,480
OPS	\$5,500	\$5,500
Expense	\$32,424	\$32,424
OCO	\$72,500	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$182,735	\$112,404

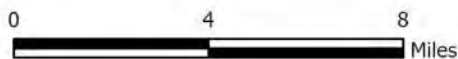
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BIG BEND SWAMP/HOLOPAW RANCH

OSCEOLA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020

Map 19 : FNAI, January 2021



Bluefield to Cow Creek

Less-than-Fee Project

Okeechobee, St. Lucie

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2020
Project Acres	10,996
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	10,996
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$35,455,721

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Bluefield to Cow Creek Florida Forever project will protect a significant portion of South Florida’s rural landscape, high-quality natural wetlands, wildlife habitat and the water resources of the region. The entire project is within the Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge Natural Storage and Water Quality Area, as identified in the Indian River Lagoon- South Restoration Plan (IRL-S). The IRL-S is a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) authorized by the US Congress in 2000. The conservation of this expansive, undeveloped area will protect the water quality of the St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon.

Manager(s)

If acquired as a perpetual conservation easement, primary management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site’s management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the easement would be coordinated by the Florida DEP, Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services.

General Description

Bluefield to Cow Creek proposal encompasses 10,942 acres of land in eastern Okeechobee County and western St. Lucie County approximately 12 miles northeast of the town of Okeechobee on SR 70. 7,628.56 acres of the project are located in St. Lucie County and 3,311 acres of acres are located in Okeechobee County. All lands within the project are working cattle ranches. As such, nearly half of the acreage in the project is improved pasture. Large blocks of improved pasture occur on the eastern side and in the northern portion of the western side of the topographic break that runs generally



north/south through the project. Some portion of the improved pastures were previously in row crops and now contain extensive systems of ditches and dikes.

The dominant natural feature of the project is the large system of basin swamp and hydric hammock that generally extends along the entire western boundary continuing to the north and south of proposal. Wetlands comprise approximately 35% of the project and include large forested swamps, isolated forested swamps, and isolated marshes scattered throughout improved pasture. Two notably large swamps occur within the project: one in the northern portion associated with Cow Creek and another in the southern portion associated with Cypress Creek. The core of the Cypress Creek swamp is located in the southwest portion of the project just east of Bluefield Road, extending north of SR 70. The swamp has seen little disturbance and is composed primarily of cypress with mixed hardwood with some cypress reportedly up to 5 feet in diameter.

The Bluefield to Cow Creek project provides habitat for a number of rare species. Crested caracara are commonly observed within the project. Large vigorous populations of air plants are present, including at least three rare species. Numerous bald eagles, wood storks, and other wading birds utilize the project area. A known wading bird rookery is located less than 0.5 miles south of the project boundary. In addition, a robust population of fox squirrels is present throughout the project.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>blunt-leaved peperomia</i>	G5/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>2 rare species are associated with the project</i>	

Public Use

As a less-than-fee acquisition public uses are limited. The project will provide public benefit through water quality protection, rural landscape conservation, and as a wildlife corridor.

Acquisition Planning

In October 2020 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Less-than -Fee category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

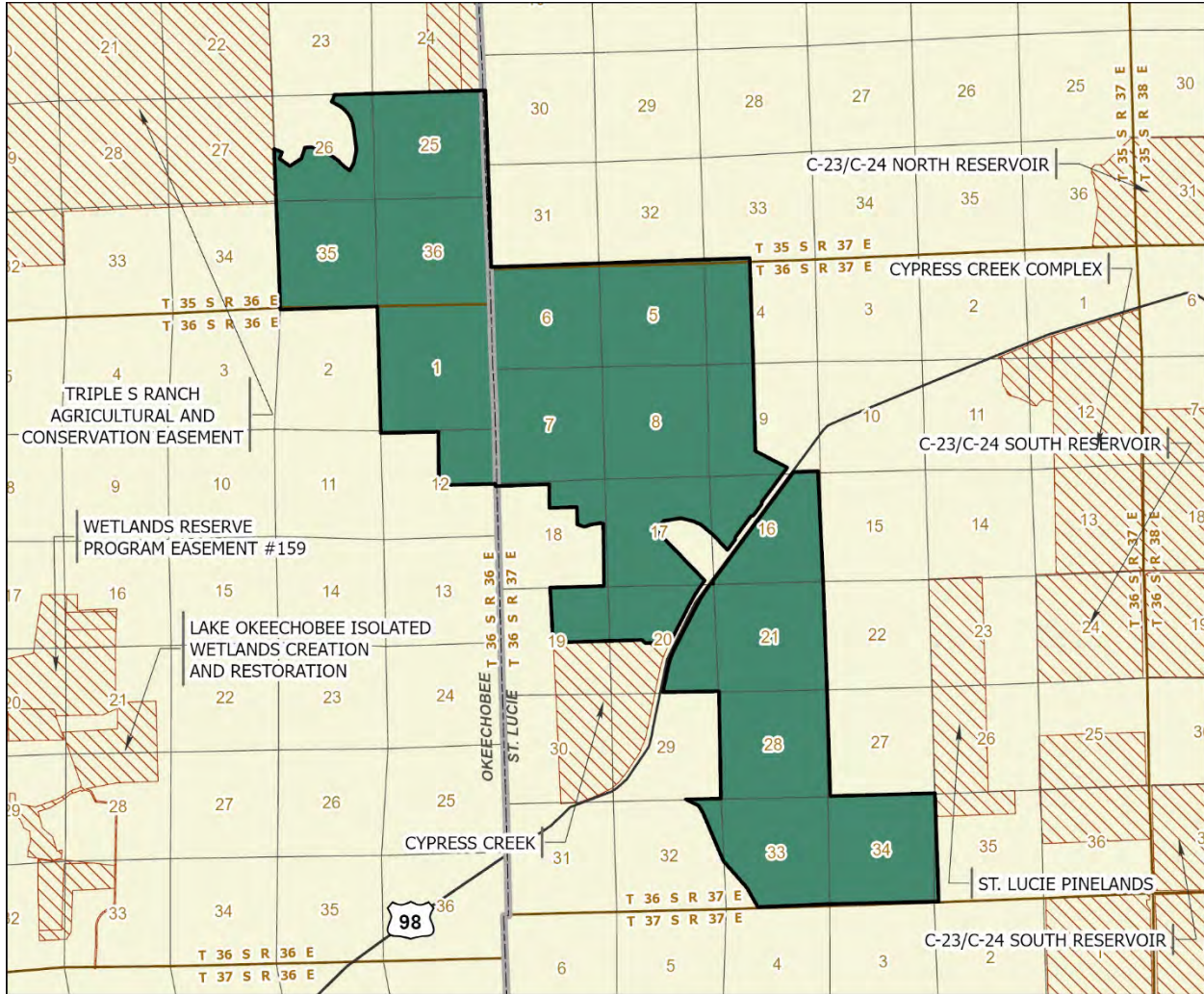
Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Bluefield to Cow Creek project would continue to be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.






Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services within the Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement over the property while the primary management will be by the private property owner.



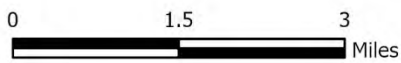
BLUEFIELD TO COW CREEK

OKEECHOBEE AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2021



Map 20 : FNAI, January 2021



Blue Head Ranch

Critical Natural Lands Project
Highlands

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2012
Project Acres	43,051
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	43,051
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$20,955,699

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the lands and waters of the Blue Head Ranch project will extend conservation ownership and management in a region of the state with renowned, high quality natural, hydrological and wildlife resources.

The Blue Head Ranch project protects a large portion of the Fisheating Creek watershed and interlinked hydrological system, including additional creek frontage and important tributaries. Additionally, the project encompasses a wide range and diversity of natural resources within a matrix dominated by high quality natural communities, including large blocks of the endemic Dry Prairie and Mesic Flatwoods communities. The Blue Head Ranch project also serves to capture, store and slowly release (although the later attribute could be enhanced through some hydrological restoration) substantial volumes of water that ultimately make their way to the interconnected downstream ecosystems of Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. As such, the state is now presented with the opportunity to protect additional high- quality lands that will provide continued water supplies, enhanced water quality, more natural seasonal storage and a wide variety of indispensable ecosystem services to the millions of residents of South Florida.

The project appears to meet at least portions of all three Florida Forever measures for water supply of the Florida Forever program. Those include the number of acres to provide retention



and storage of surface water in naturally occurring storage areas, and the number of acres acquired of groundwater recharge areas.

Manager(s)

The project could be acquired by less-than-fee means. If acquired in full fee, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) would be the designated manager. At the ARC meeting, there was discussion that the owners were willing to consider less-than-fee acquisition, and that there could be other alternatives to the entire site being managed by FWC.

General Description

Blue Head Ranch is in the heart of the native, and endemic, Florida grassland country that stretches north and west of Lake Okeechobee. The entire Blue Head Ranch ownership lies within Highlands County, Florida, straddling the northern and southern sides of S.R. 70. Only the 40,559 acres located south of S.R. 70, however, are proposed for acquisition by the Florida Forever program.

Blue Head Ranch is a working ranch with approximately 4,000 head of cattle and has a relatively small area of associated barns, equipment sheds, pens and several houses. According to the proposal a few additional, occupied and unoccupied, employee houses are scattered around the property. Pasture is interspersed among prairie, hammocks, and depressional wetlands throughout the property with the largest occurring in the southern quarter of the main block of the proposal. Fisheating Creek has been channelized for about 75 percent of its length through the property but retains a more natural flow at the southern end of the property. Other ditching, some substantial, is present throughout the ranch along roads and through wetlands. There are woods roads throughout most of the property and several regularly graded limerock roads.

There is one, very large, block of improved pasture along the southern boundary of the property that occupies at least six sections (three miles wide by two miles deep). This area was the site of the old Graham Dairy and was previously owned by the family of former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham. Although highly disturbed, the pasture areas often support abundant vertebrate wildlife, including several rare species. Facilities and other kinds of disturbances include the management complex consisting of several houses, barns, equipment sheds, pens and other facilities located near the northwestern corner of the project, just south of S.R. 70. Additionally, there are a few other employee houses scattered around the property, some occupied, some not.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Edison's ascyrum</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Short-tailed hawk	G4G5/S1
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3

13 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Public use would depend on the property being acquired in full fee or, if the owner agrees to public access, then in a less-than-fee acquisition. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) reports the property could be used for hiking, geocaching, bird watching, and primitive camping if it were publicly accessible.

Acquisition Planning

1987

Much of this area was submitted as a proposal and approved as a project in 1986. However, the landowner requested its removal from the list in 1987 because he was not interested in selling the land. *2012*

On August 17, 2012, the current project was presented to ARC by The Nature Conservancy and Realtor Dean Saunders representing the landowner. The proposal was approved by ARC as a Florida Forever project in the Critical Natural Lands category on December 14, 2012. It had an estimated tax assessed value of \$ \$5,559,153.

2015

On June 19, 2015, ARC approved evaluation of a new project proposal for A.P. Ranch, 822 acres in Highlands County adjacent to the Blue Head Ranch Florida Forever project. At the October 16, 2015 ARC meeting this was project, with a 2015 tax assessed value of \$255,910, was approved by ARC. ARC added this acreage into the boundary of the adjacent Blue Head Ranch Florida Forever project. This proposal is three parcels south of Lake Placid, all bordering the Blue Head Ranch Florida Forever project, but hydrologically connected to the Fisheating Creek



area. The land is a mix of improved pasture that has been regularly burned (694 acres), scattered natural pines (467 acres) and wetland forests (448 acres).

Coordination

This project would help establish a wildlife corridor between the Lake Wales Ridge and the South Florida Water Management District's Bright Hour Watershed Conservation Easement. There are no acquisition partners at this time.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of managing the Blue Head Ranch are to establish a landscape-size connection with adjacent conservation properties, to ensure the environmental and hydrological health of the Florida Everglades Ecosystem with minimal residential and commercial development and provide and enhance habitat of numerous rare species and imperiled communities.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Blue Head Ranch would conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, enhance or protect significant surface water and wildlife resources, and conserve, protect, manage or restore the Fisheating Creek and other area watersheds and the interconnected downstream systems of Lake Okeechobee and the Florida Everglades. The project would also conserve and protect significant landscape scale habitat and provide wildlife corridors.

Manager

The FWC has submitted a Management Prospectus to manage the entire project area if it is acquired in full fee. If the property was acquired by less-than-fee (conservation easement), the Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands, or its successor, would monitor the progress and condition of the property.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The intensity of the management of Blue Head Ranch would depend on the conditions of its acquisition or its monitoring. Much of the area has been used for cattle ranching. Much of the land is dry prairie that has been converted to improved pasture, with ditching, clearing, tilling, and reseeded with specific grass types.



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

If acquired and leased to FWC for management, they will develop a management plan describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from conservation lands such as Blue Head Ranch can include permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on the area meeting the criteria of FWC's Apiary Policy. Additionally, cattle grazing leases may also be considered, contingent upon the suitability of the site within FWC's cattle grazing criteria.

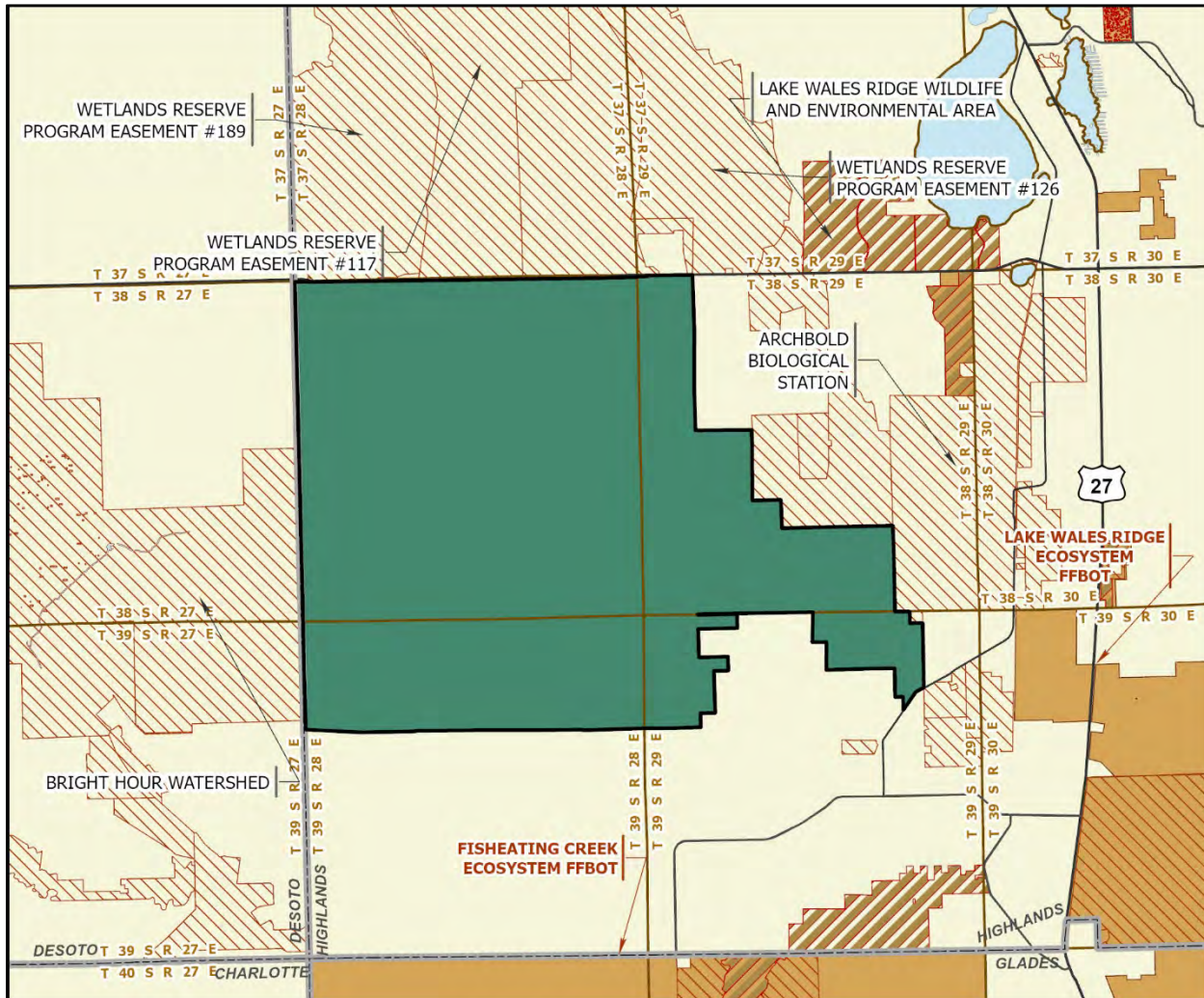
The property within the Blue Head Ranch boundary that began as AP Ranch Florida Forever project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and would therefore generate no actual revenue for the state. Its acquisition would provide ecosystem value to the watershed of the region. The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up costs for this project are estimated to be \$6,490,240 which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management. Following is an estimate of the annual operating costs to operate and manage Blue Head Ranch. Optimal management of the area would require eight (8) full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to optimally manage the area. Salary requirements for these FTE positions, as well as those of other needed FWC staff, and costs to operate and manage the area are reflected as follows: Year one and each year thereafter will include activities related to exotic species control, prescribed burning, cultural resource management, timber management, hydrological management, and other restoration and natural resource inventories at a 2012 estimated cost of \$1,550,356. Land management planning, training/staff development, vehicle operation and maintenance as well as other maintenance and data management activities will also take place in year one and each year thereafter, at a 2012 estimated cost of \$433,629. Capital improvement activities in the first year and each year thereafter will address facility maintenance, visitor services/recreation information/education and law enforcement/ resource protection, at a 2012 estimated cost of \$416,186. Vehicle



purchases would be expected every 3 to 4 years, at a 2012 estimated cost of \$169,152. Costs related to land management reviews would be incurred every 5 years, at a 2012 estimated cost of \$8,113. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Cooperators in management activities

If Blue Head Ranch is acquired and leased to FWC for management, FWC will cooperate with other Federal, State and local governmental agencies including the USFWS, USDA, Florida Forest Service, DEP, SFWMD, and Highlands County, (deleted "and") among others, in management of the property.



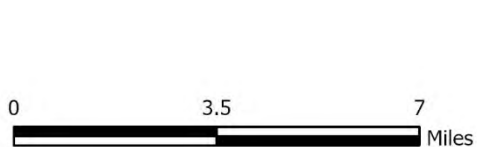
BLUE HEAD RANCH

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 21 : FNAI, January 2021



Bombing Range Ridge

Critical Natural Lands Project
Highlands, Osceola, Polk

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1998
Project Acres	47,290
Acquired Acres	18,027
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$24,431,085
Remaining Project Acres	29,263
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$30,738,434

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 several Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Services (FFS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will manage all but some 540 acres in the north portion of the project. The 540 acres, lying adjacent to Rosalie Creek, will be managed by the Department of Environment Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

General Description

As originally proposed, the Bombing Range Ridge project, with flatwoods, marshes, swamps, hammocks, and part of a scrub ridge, would connect 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Snail kite	G4G5/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Berry's skipper	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

12 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1997

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 the FWC, 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.

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.



1998

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

2001

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.

2003

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

2005

In April 2005, the Board of Trustees acquired the Brahma Island Tract (1,063.40 acres) through a conservation easement.

2006

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), had one landowner, the Goolsby family, and had a 2004 taxable value of \$415,291. If acquired, the site, in Highlands County, will be managed by the FFS. In view of the configuration of the Bombing Range Ridge project, this site is not essential to project completion or manageability.

2011

On August 15, 2011, the DSL purchased a 2,674-acre easement in the project from TNC. The DSL Office of Environmental Services will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever.

2018

On November 30, 2018, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) closed on a 4,468-acre easement owned by the Goolsby Ranch.



2020

On February 14, 2020, the ARC approved a 0.94-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.

On June 12, 2020, the ARC approved a 2.53-acre reduction to the project boundary in Polk County.

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. Also, the project's size and diversity make it desirable for a state forest. Management by the FFS as a state forest depends on the state obtaining legal public access to the site and acquiring fee simple title to the core parcels.



Manager

FFS 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 done compatible with long-term resource protection.

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

Upon the fee title acquisition, the DRP proposes to provide public access for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a unit of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest (LWRSF), and management activities will be done with district and LWRSF personnel. Initial or intermediate efforts of the FFS will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removing trash. The public will have appropriate access while, simultaneously, sensitive resources will be affordably protected. Vehicle 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. Emphasis will be given to protection of Rosalie Creek and its surrounding ecological system. Resource management activities in the first year of each fee title acquisition will concentrate on site security, including posting boundaries and developing a resource inventory in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive management plan. Long-term management of the 540 acres by DRP 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

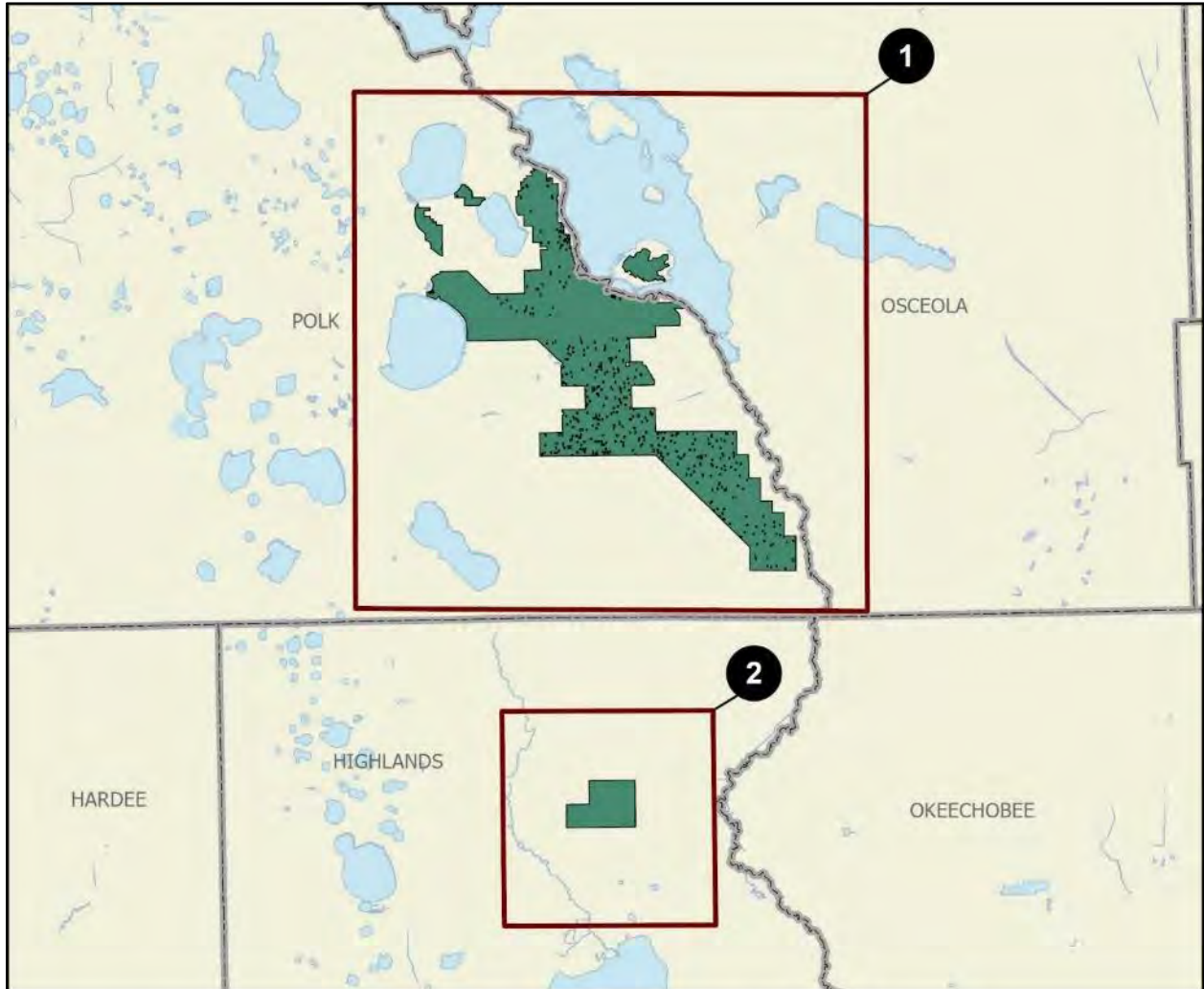
The FFS and the DRP will cooperate with local governments, other state agencies, and the water management district to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities, and the use of the lands for state park purposes.



Management Cost Summary

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

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



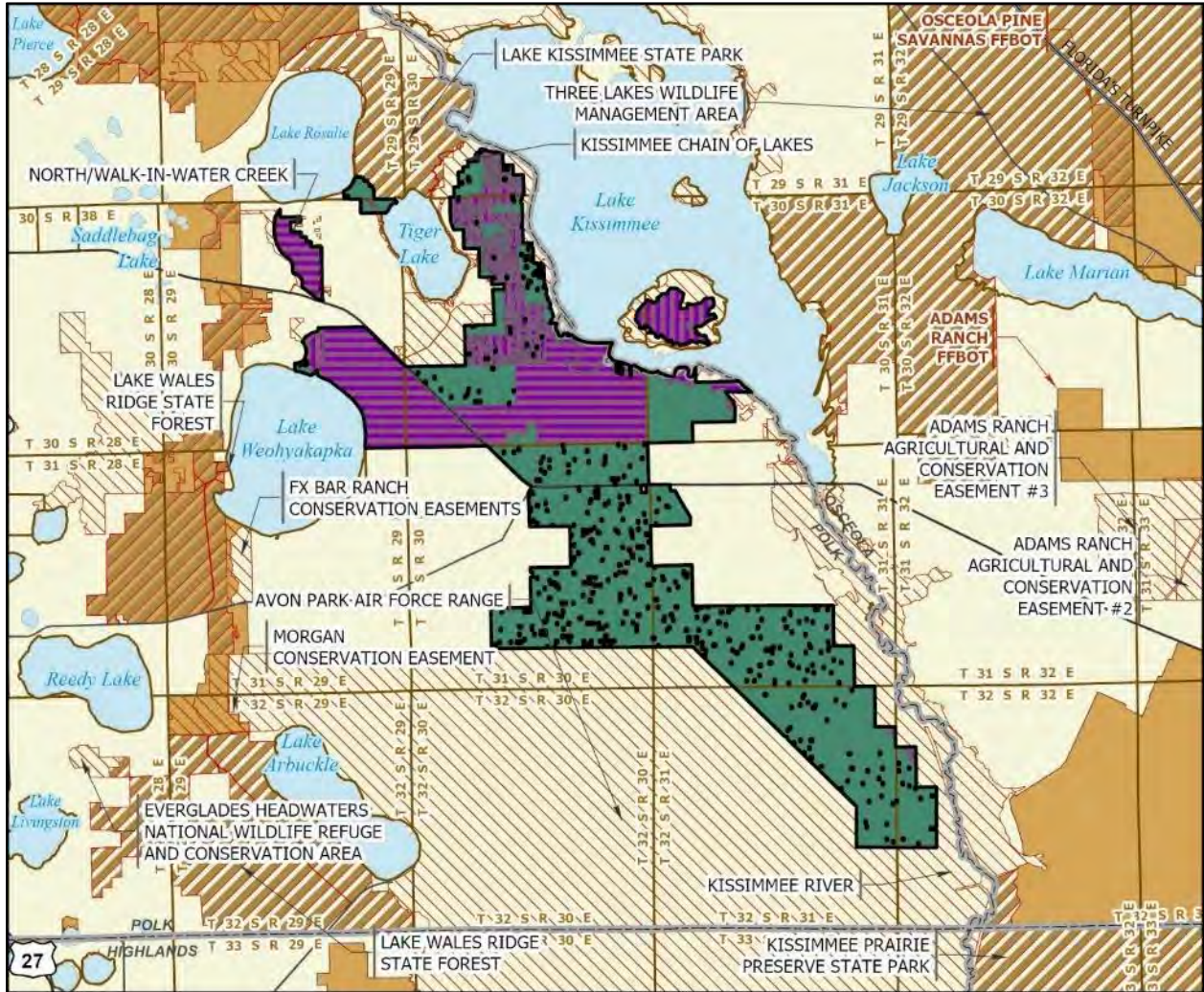
BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: OVERVIEW

HIGHLANDS, POLK, AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

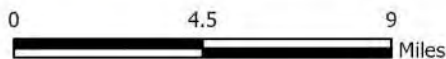
Map 22 : FNAI, January 2021



BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 1

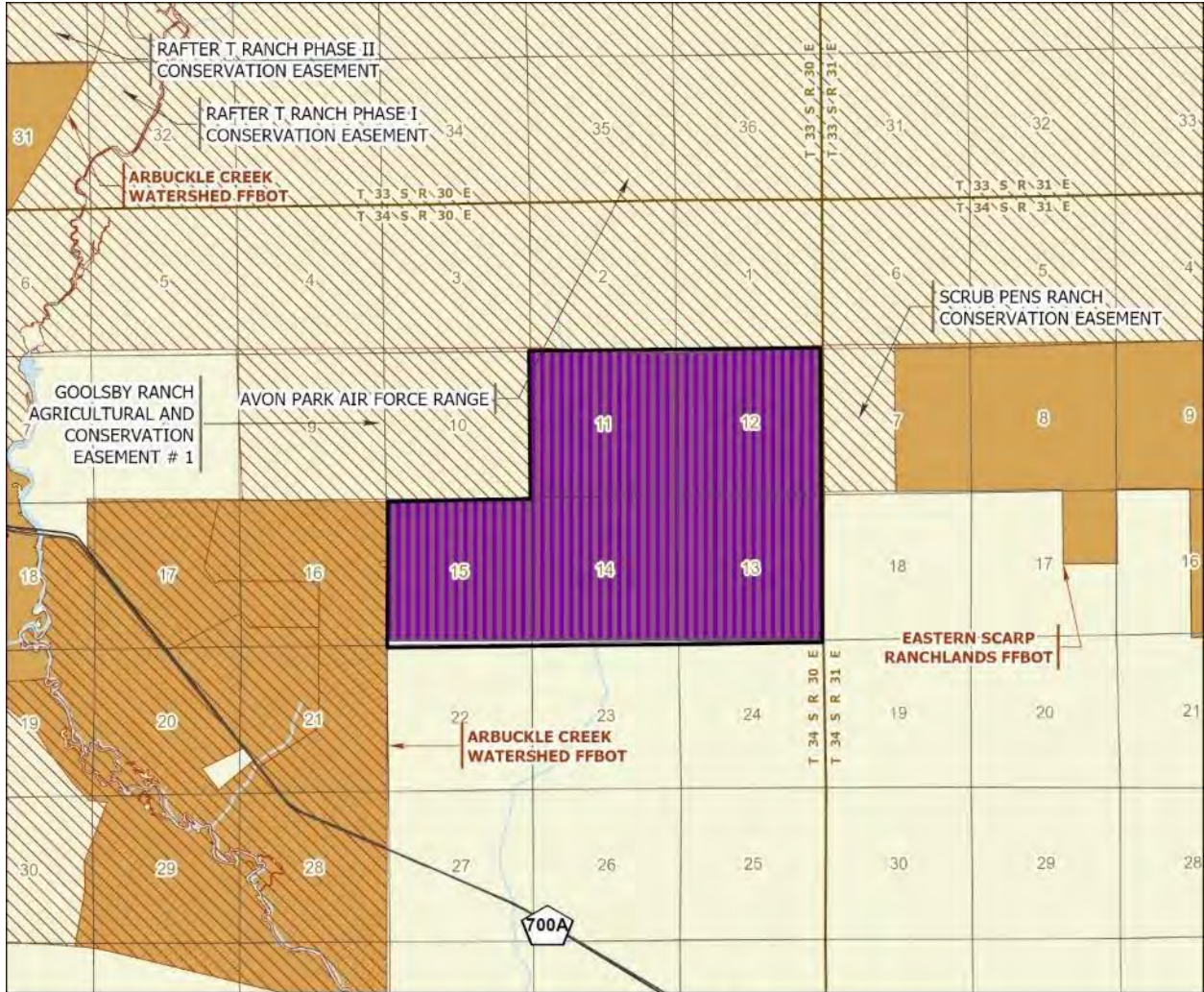
POLK AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects







JANUARY 2020

Map 23 : FNAI, January 2021



BOMBING RANGE RIDGE: MAP 2

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 24 : FNAI, January 2021



Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Brevard

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1993
Project Acres	41,814
Acquired Acres	20,710
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$86,373,773
Remaining Project Acres	21,104
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$178,145,284

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(s)

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 Florida Coastal Office (FCO, formerly CAMA, Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas) 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 eliminate any unprotected scrub and adjacent flatwoods communities of Brevard County in the very near future. No archaeological sites are known from the project.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Titusville balm</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>pine pinweed</i>	G2/S2
<i>Tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>sand-dune spurge</i>	G2/S2
Horn's aethecerinus long-horned beetle	G2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2

25 rare species are associated with 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

1992

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 and 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).

1993

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

1994

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

1995

On July 14, 1995, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 1,410-acre addition to the project boundary. The addition consisted of four sites:

1. Dicerandra Scrub, 44 acres,
2. Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 395 acres,
3. Canova Beach Scrub, 138 acres, and
4. Jordan Blvd, 833 acres.

Brevard County sponsored this addition that consisted of multiple landowners, at a taxable value of \$13,283,659. The County has acquired the Malabar and the Dicerandra Scrub sites.

1996

In 1996, the LAAC combined the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem Initiative (CSEI) project with the Scrub Jay Refugia project bringing the new total acres to 27,745 with a TAV (Tax Assessed Value) of \$86,847,875, and on 12/5/1996 renamed it Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem. The CSEI consisted of 6 sites:

1. Fox/South Lake Complex - 9,189 acres;
2. Titusville Wellfield - 972 acres;
3. Grissom Parkway - 2,962 acres;
4. Wickham Road - 822 acres;
5. Micco Expansion - 1,833 acres; and
6. Ten Mile Ridge – 529 acres, totaling 16,307 acres with a TAV of \$40,780,060.



1998

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.)

2000

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) and 4,739.48 acres (Mega/Multiparcel).

Sponsored by the Brevard County EEL Program, it consisted of 2,250 landowners, at 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;
- Wickham Road Complex – 809.62 acres; and
- Rockledge (select properties) – 860 acres.

The total TAV for these sites was approximately \$35,952,477.

2001

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

2002

On April 25, 2002, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 112-acre addition to the project. The addition, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for Brevard County, consisted of two sites (10 Mile Ridge Expansion – 62 acres and Valkaria/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.



2003

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.

2006

On September 21, 2006, the DSL purchased 5.52 acres in the Valkaria section at a tax deed sale (Oxford Finance Co. / \$83,000).

2007

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

2008

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. The project is also known as Tortoise Ridge, a name chosen by Brevard County students for its Florida Communities Trust application.

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.

2009

At the landowners' requests, ARC on December 11, 2009 recommended that 1,667 acres be removed from the boundary--ownerships requesting:

- John S./John D. Copanos (20 ac.);
- John Copanos/Sebastian Resources 400, LP (902 ac.);
- Nick Dionisio/Brevard Landvest, LLC (745 ac.);

all located within the Malabar Expansion and Valkaria/Micco Expansion.



2010

In April 2010, ARC voted to remove 3,694 acres due to residential/commercial infrastructure and development plus 183 acres at the request of Mr. Wilton Banack, landowner, for total of 3,877 acres removed.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Partnerships and Regional Incentives projects.

2020

In February 2020, the Grissom Parkway parcel that consist of 63.45 acres was acquired from The School Board of Brevard County at a cost of \$288,000.00.

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, 3,529 acres were added that are 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 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 about 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 complete, 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. An interagency 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 consistent with or exceeding State management appropriations.

Revenue-generating potential

No significant revenue sources are anticipated from this project 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.

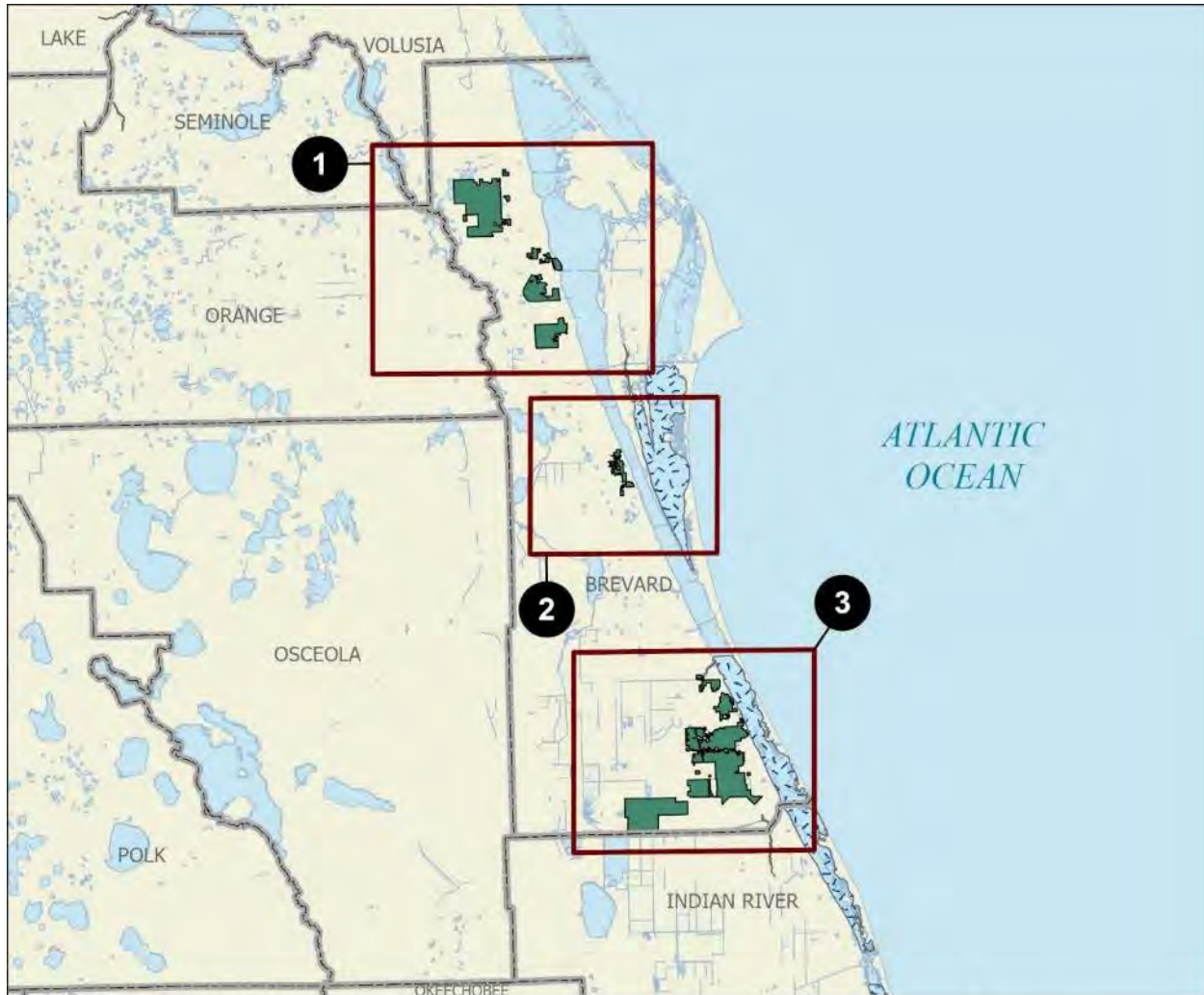
Cooperators in management activities

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 Cost Summary

<u>Brevard County, FWC, City of Titusville, and CAMA</u>	<u>1994/95</u>	<u>1995/96</u>
Source of Funds	County	County
Salary	\$0	\$3,500
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$500	\$1,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$125,700
TOTAL	\$500	\$130,200

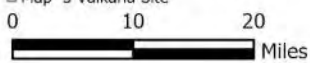
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

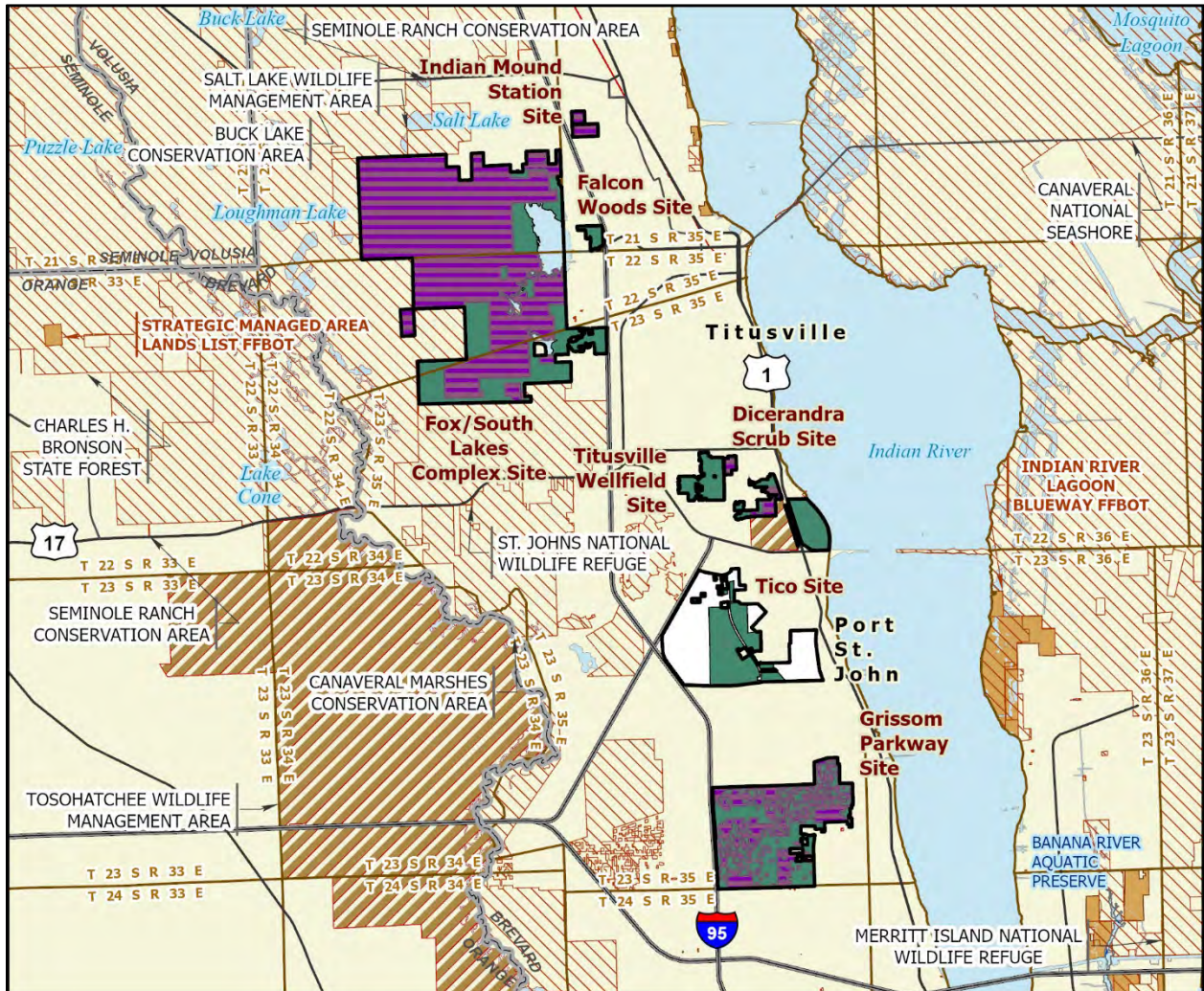
BREVARD COUNTY

- Map 1 Dicerandra Scrub Site
- Map 1 Falcon Woods Site
- Map 1 Fox/South Lakes Complex Site
- Map 1 Grissom Parkway Site
- Map 1 Indian Mound Station Site
- Map 1 Tico Site
- Map 1 Titusville Wellfield Site
- Map 2 Rockledge Site
- Map 3 Jordan Boulevard Site
- Map 3 Malabar Expansion and Valkaria/Micco Expansion Sites
- Map 3 Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Site
- Map 3 Micco Expansion Site
- Map 3 Micco Site
- Map 3 South Babcock Site
- Map 3 St. Sebastian-St. Johns River Greenway Site
- Map 3 Ten Mile Ridge Site
- Map 3 Valkaria Site



JANUARY 2020

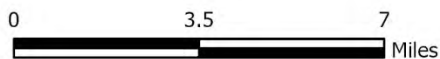
Map 25 : FNAI, January 2021



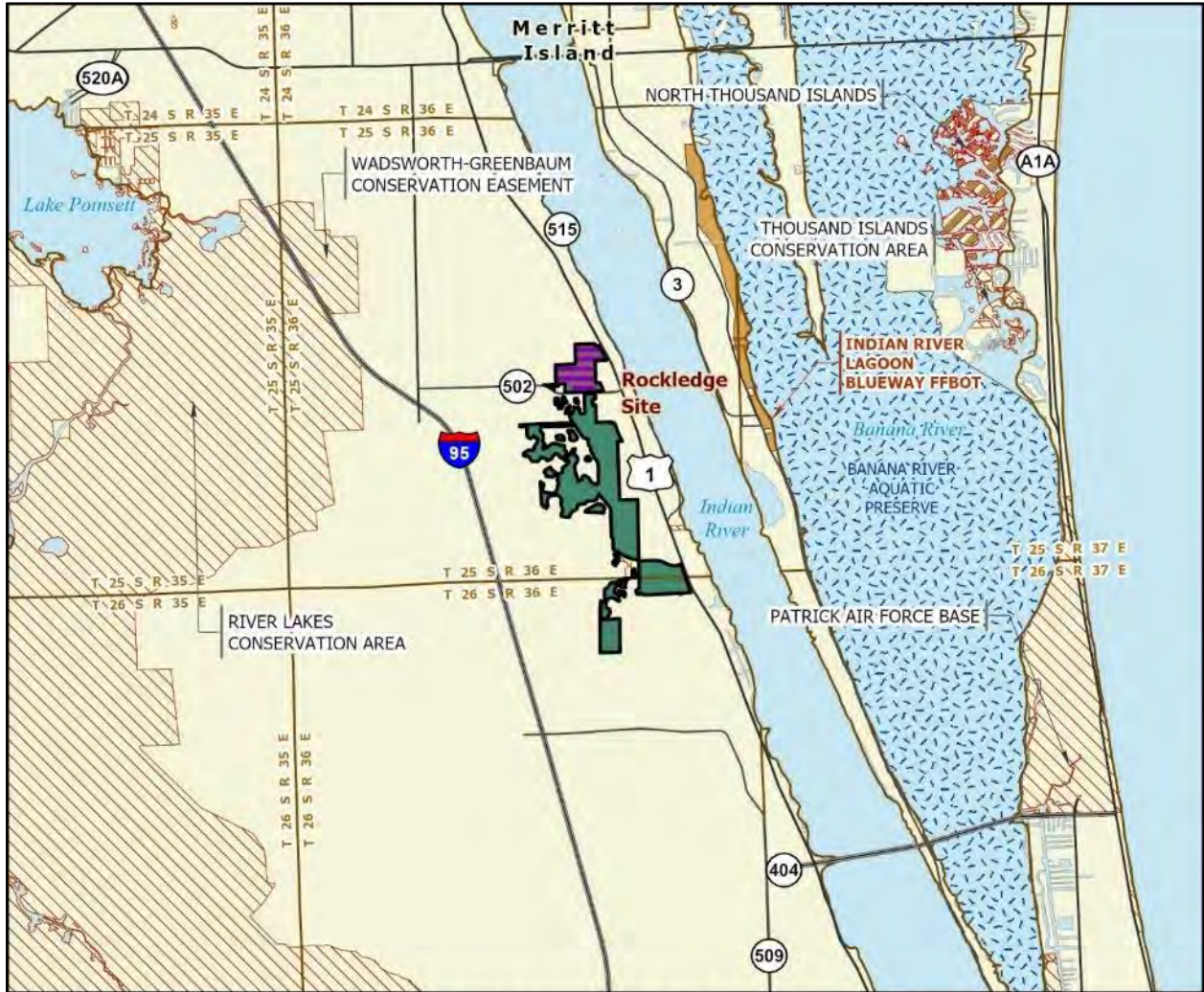
BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

BREVARD COUNTY

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



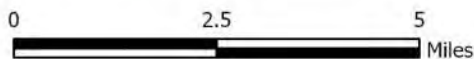
FEBRUARY 2021



BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

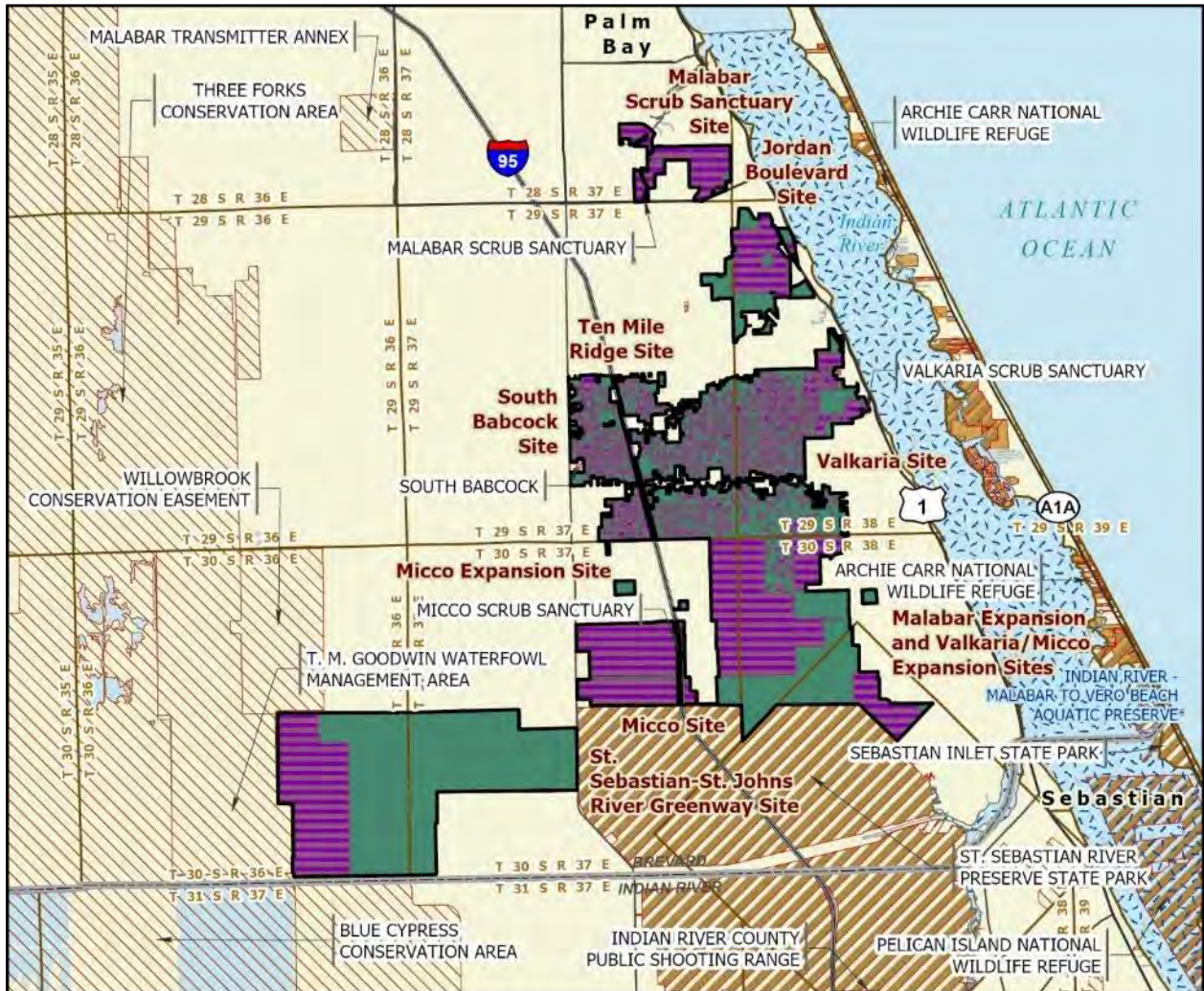
BREVARD COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 27 : FNAI, January 2021



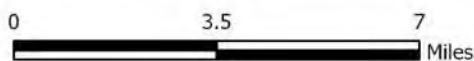
BREVARD COASTAL SCRUB ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

BREVARD COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 28 : FNAI, January 2021



Caloosahatchee Ecoscape

Critical Natural Lands Project
Glades, Hendry

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1998
Project Acres	20,663
Acquired Acres	7,807
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$2,320,700
Remaining Project Acres	12,856
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$63,052,021

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 18,387-acre project connects at its southern boundary by an abandoned rail corridor with the Okaloacoochee Slough project.

Manager(s)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

General Description

The project has a mosaic of wet prairies, cypress basin and dome swamp, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, depressional marshes, 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. This project qualifies as a wildlife management area with uses such as hunting, various sorts of trails, camping, and picnicking, among other activities.

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
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

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

1998

The initial proposal is 16,055 acres. The three largest ownerships, IMC Agrico, Floriland Dairy (Milicevic) and Atlantic Gulf Communities, are designated essential. 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.

1999

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

2002

In 2002, a conservation easement was placed on the LaBelle Ranch (2,994 acres for \$2,320,700).

2008

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

2009

On November 4, 2009, Panther Passage Conservation Bank Conservation Easement (1,292 acres) was purchased and is managed by FWC.



2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2020

On June 12, 2020, the ARC approved the Amtel Farms addition of 2,207-acres in Glades and Hendry County to the project boundary.

On December 11, 2020, the ARC approved the removal of 2,213-acres in Glades and Hendry County from the project boundary.

Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner.

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.

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 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 require 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

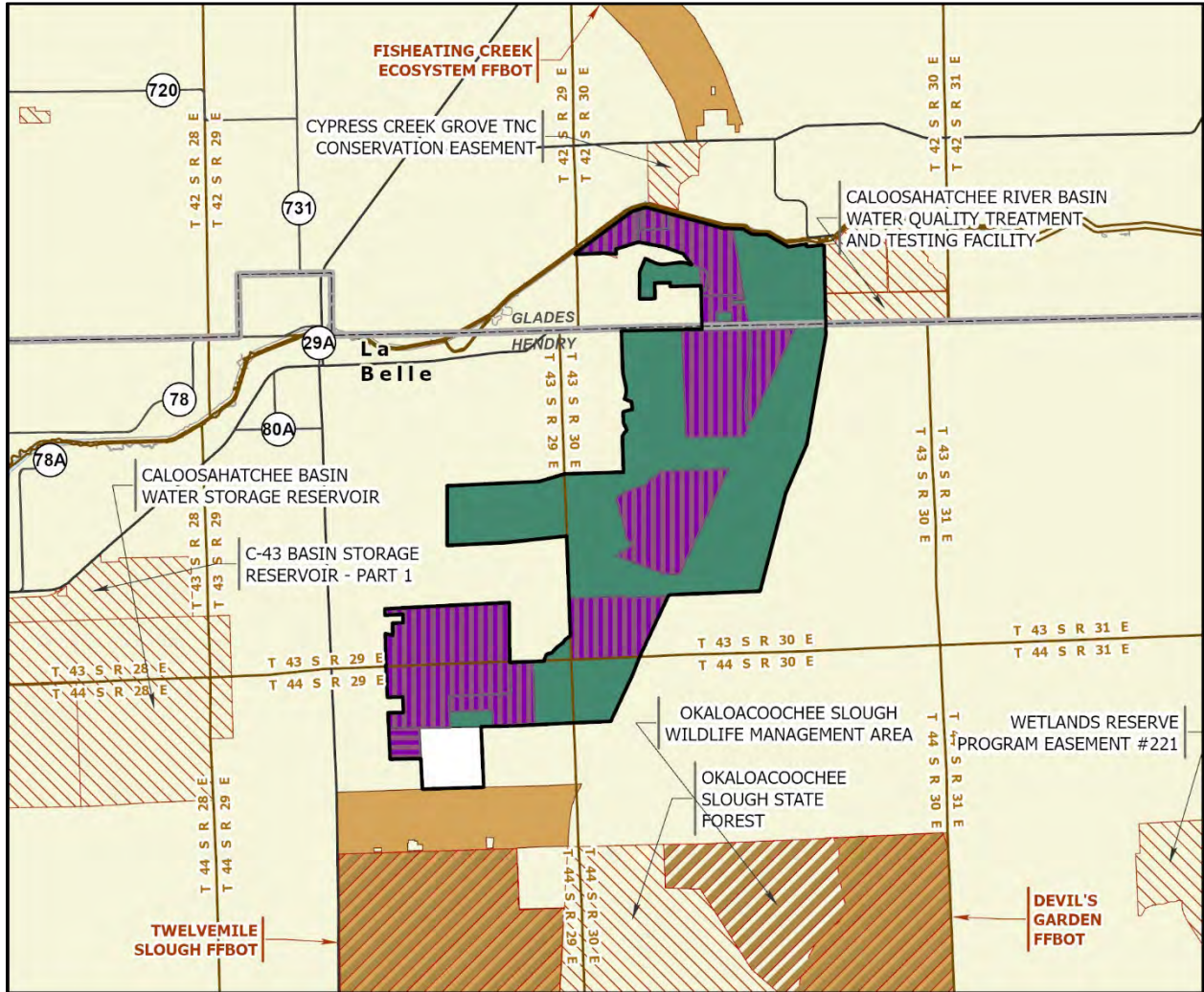
During the first year after acquisition, posting the boundary, erecting entrance signs, and resource inventory will be a priority. A conceptual management plan will also be written. Location and control of exotic plant species will be ongoing. The long-term management goals shall be to restore and maintain 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

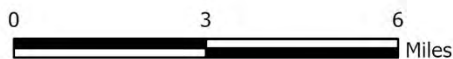
The FWC will cooperate with other federal, state and local governmental agencies and non-profit organizations in managing the area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presently maintains a campground and the locks at Ortona, along the northeastern corner of the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project boundary.



CALOOSAHATCHEE ECOSCAPE

GLADES AND HENDRY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2021

Map 29 : FNAI, January 2021



Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway

Critical Natural Lands Project

Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	33,978
Acquired Acres	1,695
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	32,283
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$50,477,396

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway Florida Forever Project was created at the request of the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from a portion of the 2003 Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project. Public acquisition of the Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway (CB-RG) project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals:

- 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, and Raiford WMA on the south;
- 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
- Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources. 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(s)

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Forest Service (FFS) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be co-managers.

General Description

The original Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway was divided to create two projects that maintain ecological connectivity among existing and proposed conservation lands, particularly as it relates to habitat for the Florida black bear. One of the key concepts is to permanently link disconnected habitat for species like the Florida black bear as well as other important focal species. As a result of the redesign, the two projects created are Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway and Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG). The Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway project consists of approximately 33,973 acres of land from the northwest corner of Camp Blanding Military Reservation to the southwest tip of Nassau County. It connects several managed areas in Bradford, Clay, and Union Counties, resulting in a contiguous area of more than a half-million acres of publicly owned or managed lands in north-central Florida. It abuts portions of the Northeast Florida Timberlands Florida Forever 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. Camp Blanding- Raiford Greenway Florida Forever project will be acquired in fee simple with multiple landowners.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Southeastern weasel	G5T4/S3?

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This project could have significant natural resource-based public recreational and educational potential if portions of the project were available to the public. All trails throughout the project have potential for being multiple-use trails with hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. Other recreational opportunities would include camping, picnicking, and hunting. Of the activities mentioned, the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies hunting within the Bradford County portion of the project as having a high need for the year 2005 for the region in which these counties are located.



Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and 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 and Trails (OGT) and the Conservation Trust of Florida (CTF), consisted of approximately 153,000 acres, multiple ownerships, and a 2002 taxable value of \$28,508,089. The essential parcels were identified as the Plum Creek and Wachovia ownerships.

2006

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 retained a narrower greenway connection between Camp Blanding, Raiford Wildlife Management Area, and the Osceola National Forest.

2010

On June 11, 2010, the ARC approved a redesign of the Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project that divided and reduced the expansive project into Camp Blanding-Raiford Greenway (33,973 acres) and Raiford - Osceola Greenway (67,673 acres). After the most recent boundary change in 2010, the Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway project had a historic, estimated tax assessed value of \$92,890,463.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

Conservation Trust of Florida and OGT are acquisition partners on this project.

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 the public with access and quality recreational opportunities where possible.



Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway (CB-RG) Florida Forever project has approximately 33,973 GIS acres in Baker, Bradford, and Clay counties, southwest of Jacksonville, 10 miles east of Lake City, and 16 miles north of Gainesville. The project area ranges from 2 to 6.5 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 of conservation lands of substantial ecological value, a critical component of a conservation corridor extending from central Florida to southeast Georgia. The most common community type within the project boundary is mesic flatwoods, of which most acres are in silviculture operations, and a smaller number of 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. There are several large basin swamps, including (with approximate acreages) Turkey Creek Swamp (7,000 acres) and New River Swamp (4,000 acres). Dome swamps, wet flatwoods, and baygalls represent the remaining 15-20,000 acres. Floodplain swamps extend over approximately 4,000 acres of the joint CB-RG and the Raiford-Osceola Greenway project areas. Several flatwoods lakes are also present and an important blackwater stream, the New River. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 2 percent of the project area is under-represented natural communities. Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the eastern indigo snake, and the many-lined salamander. Additional imperiled or rare species reported to occur on the combined projects are the swallow-tailed kite, the white ibis, and the wood stork. Among other rare or imperiled species, the project is potential habitat for the Florida black bear and the red-cockaded 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, Florida black bear, gray fox, river otter and numerous other species of wildlife. A wildlife corridor such as the combined projects (CB-RG and R-OG) 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), to adequately provide for animal migration. This project provides habitat for Florida black bears and which occur 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 and other game



species occur. FNAI classifies 99 percent of the project area as priority 1 critical parcels and potential importance as an ecological greenway. The hooded pitcher plant has been documented to occur within the project boundary.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), approximately 53.5 percent of the lands (18,259.2 acres) within the project are within a designated Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) for black bear, Florida mouse, and striped newt. The project provides additional habitat for many focal species, which are indicators of natural communities, and suitable habitat conditions for other wildlife species. Focal species overlap: 1-3 species for 29,916 acres (43.5 percent); 4-6 species 33,264.8 acres (48.4 percent); 7-9 species 2,383.6 acres (3.4 percent); 10-12 species 8.9 acres (0.01 percent) for a total of 31,298 acres or 91.7 percent of the project.

Manager

The FFS and the FWC.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The CB-RG Greenway consists of medium-need tracts that will require up-front resource management, including frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. Approximately 69 percent of the project area has disturbed ground cover due to past silviculture. Consequently, additional effort will be required to restore it to a desired future condition. FWC and FFS 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 restoring mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removing or thinning off-site timber species to promote regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforesting 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 conserve habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities will include protecting and restoring sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species. Restoration methods will also include thinning dense pine stands to decrease canopy cover and facilitate restoring native groundcovers. Protecting and restoring sensitive wetlands on the project would be a priority. It is also possible that recreational trails on the parcels could function as firelines, provide access for prescribed burning equipment, and provide an opportunity for wildlife viewing. Exotic plant species (tung oil tree, air potato, mimosa and others), have been observed in the project area. 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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

During the first year after acquisition, both agencies - operating under the unified management approach - anticipate emphasis on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removing trash. 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 agencies will participate in the joint development of a CMP specifying area management goals and objectives. Long-term goals would emphasize ecosystem multiple use management and conserving the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting 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 used to

contain, and control prescribed and natural fires. Where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of natural resource management objectives, timber resources will be managed with acceptable silvicultural practices. Thinning timber, introducing prescribed fire and sustainable forestry management practices could provide silvicultural products, ecological benefits 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 12 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 for administrative use.

Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. The road plan would ensure 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.

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 63 percent 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 of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which those funds were generated. 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 FFS and FWC.

Cooperators in management activities

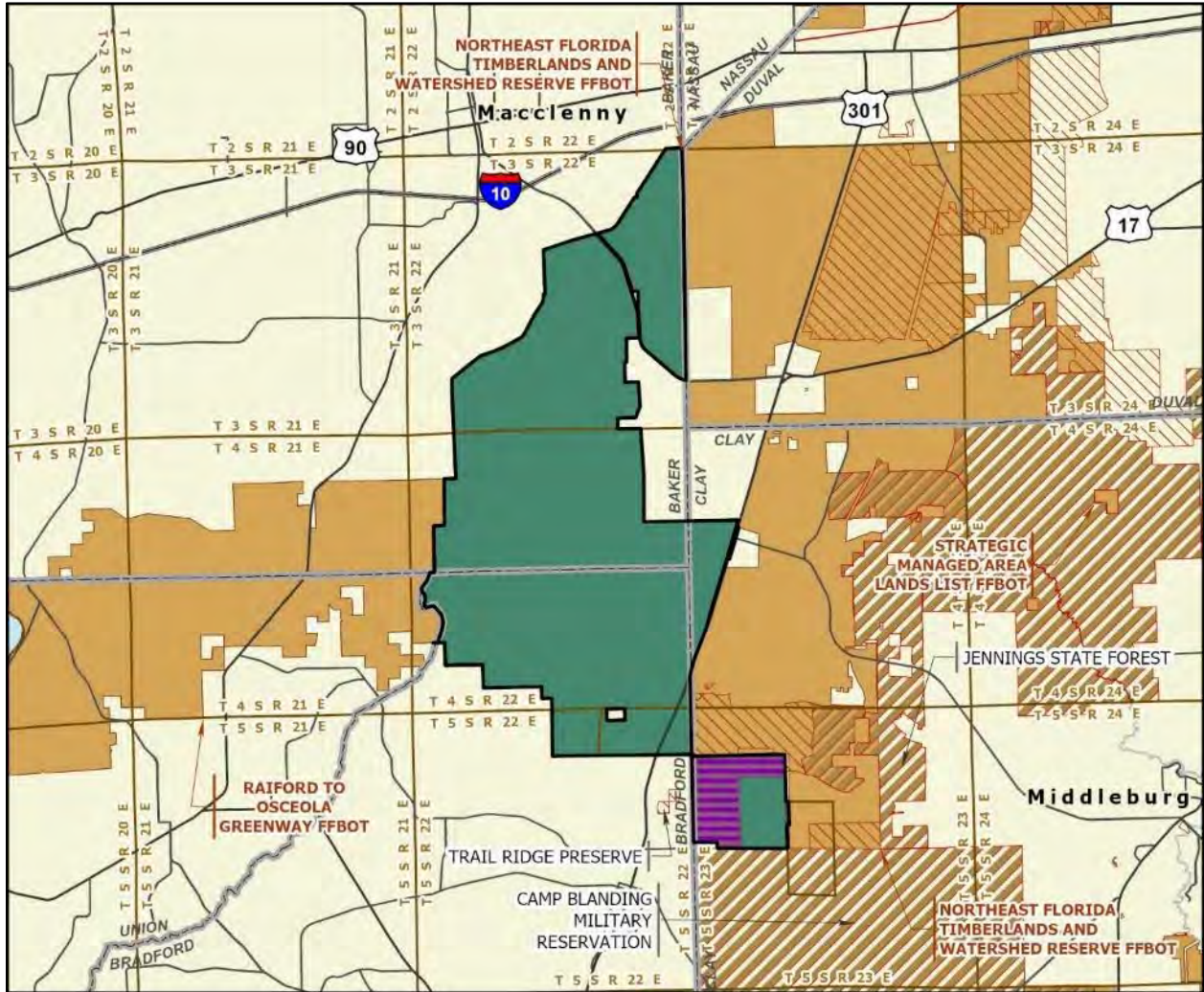
The two agencies have agreed to a unified management framework whereby all CARL management funds, site generated revenues, and management expenditures are to be evenly divided between the FFS and FWC. The unified managers (FFS and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, 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.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS and FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$1,747,592	\$969,434
Administration	\$77,713	\$10,388
Support	\$153,462	\$13,047
Capital Improvements	\$3,441,310	\$323,273
Visitor Services and Recreation	\$3,363	\$58
Law Enforcement	\$42,880	\$42,880
TOTAL	\$5,436,320	\$1,359,080

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CAMP BLANDING TO RAIFORD GREENWAY

BAKER, BRADFORD, AND CLAY COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 30 : FNAI, January 2021



Carr Farm/Price's Scrub

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Alachua, Marion

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	1,267
Acquired Acres	962
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,975,000
Remaining Project Acres	305
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$1,482,440

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(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

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 are marked by a change in soil types. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
Hobbs's cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3

5 rare species are associated with the project

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

2001

This project was ranked for the first time on April 6, 2001. The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) 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 pursuing this project.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.



Coordination

Alachua County could not commit funding any portion at this time but is willing to consider funding toward the project sometime in the future. Mitigation funds from DOT may be available through the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management 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 the state or a larger geographic area. Other goals are 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 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.

Manager

Division of Recreation and Parks

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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

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.

Revenue-generating potential

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

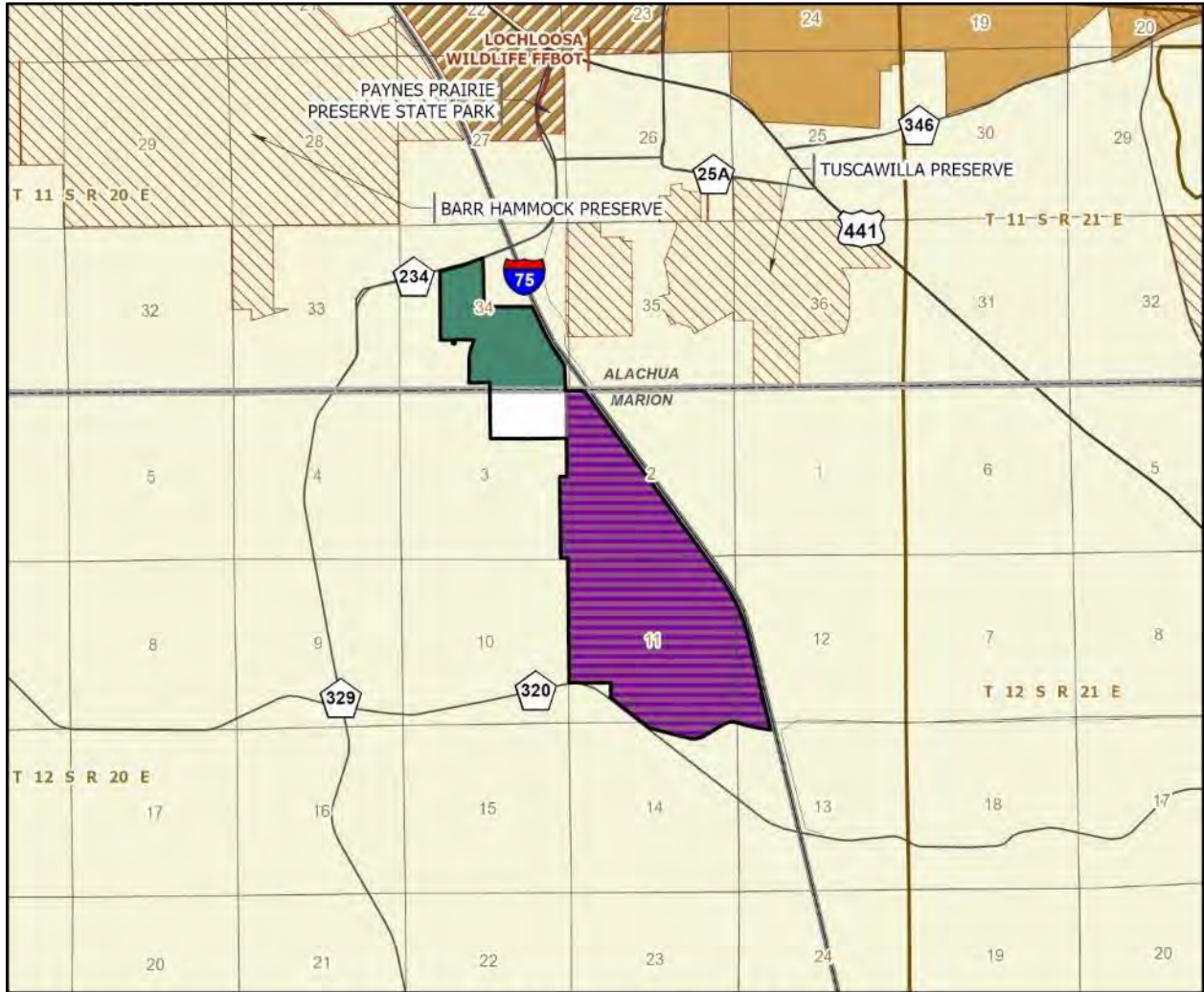
Cooperators in management activities

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.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
OPS	Not provided	\$15,000
Expense	Not provided	\$28,000
OCO	\$124,000	0
FCO	\$298,000	0
TOTAL	\$422,000	\$130,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



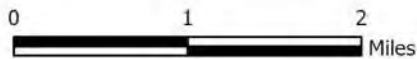
CARR FARM/PRICE'S SCRUB

ALACHUA AND MARION COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 31 : FNAI, January 2021



Catfish Creek

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Polk

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1990
Project Acres	19,480
Acquired Acres	16,248
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$49,414,766
Remaining Project Acres	3,232
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$5,870,776

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 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(s)

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

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Morris' tiny sand-loving scarab	G1/S1
Archbold cembrionid beetle	G1G2/S1S2
Scrub little mole scarab	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Florida blazing star</i>	G2/S2
<i>Lewton's polygala</i>	G2/S2
Nocturnal scrub velvet ant	G2/S2
Sandyland onthophagus beetle	G2/S2
<i>pygmy fringe tree</i>	G2/S2S3
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2

38 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

Phases

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).

1992

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



1999

On October 21, 1999, the Council added 6,991 acres and designated it as essential.

2002

In August 2002, the Council added the Rolling Meadows Ranch to the project. On December 5, 2002, the Council added the K-Rocker Tract to the project.

2003

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

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC moved the project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

TNC sponsored this project, assisted in providing information in the preparation of the project, and in discussions with some of the major landowners. TNC and SFWMD are considered acquisition partners for this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Catfish Creek project are conserving and protecting 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. Also, the project can conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species, provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and 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 DRP, Department of Environmental Protection, is the identified 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.

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.

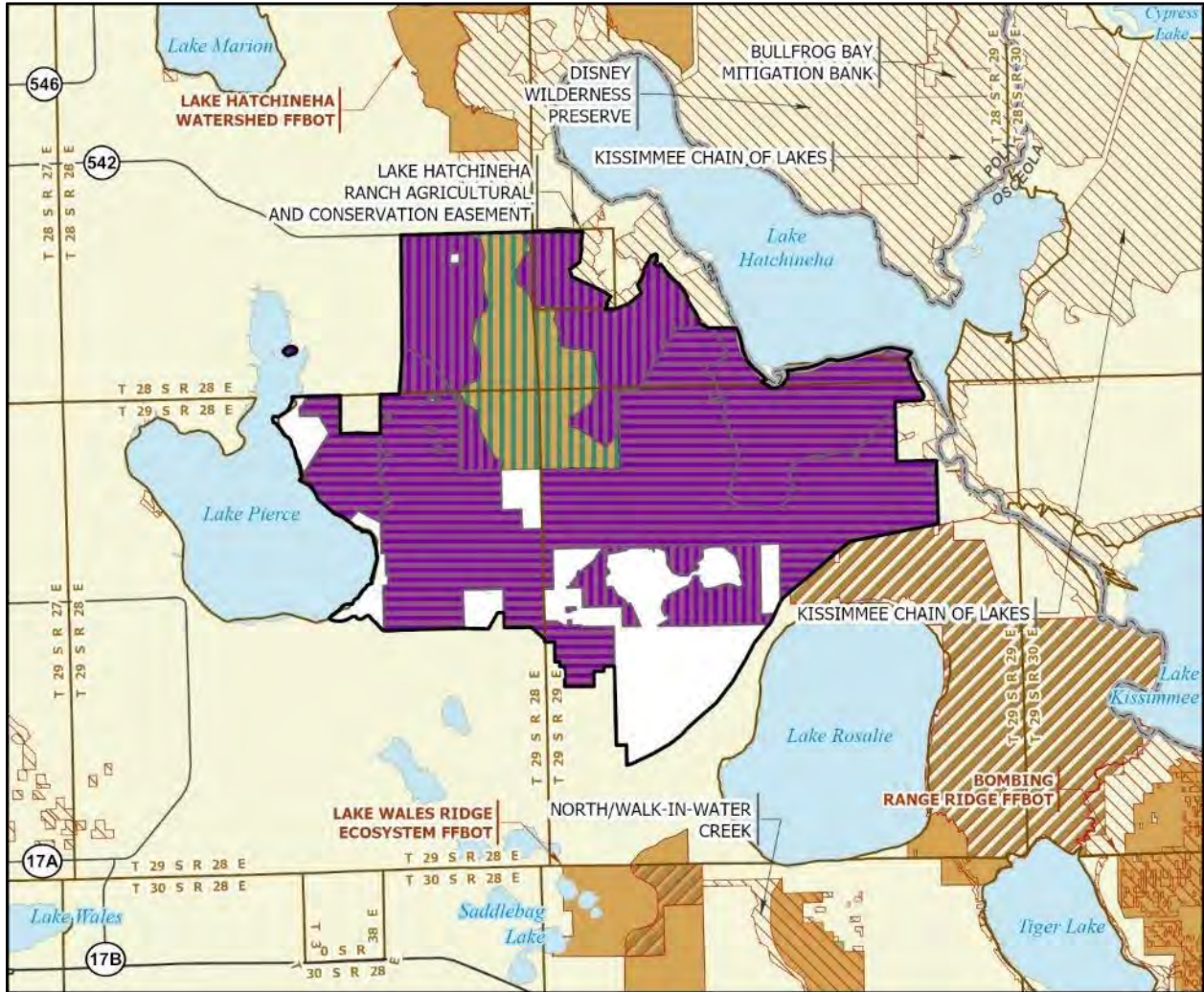
Cooperators in management activities

No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project area.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary	\$22,167	not provided
OPS	\$0	not provided
Expense	\$5,712	not provided
OCO	\$6,978	not provided
FCO	\$8,640	not provided
TOTAL	\$43,497	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CATFISH CREEK

POLK COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  TNC Owned Lands Within Project
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 32 : FNAI, January 2021



Charlotte Harbor Estuary

Substantially Complete Project

Charlotte, Lee, Sarasota

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1972
Project Acres	47,197
Acquired Acres	41,295
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$35,040,125
Remaining Project Acres	5,902
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$88,829,533

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Charlotte Harbor Estuary was formed by combining the boundaries of three projects: the Myakka Estuary, the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project, and the Charlotte Harbor project.

The Myakka Estuary project portion of Charlotte Harbor Estuary protects 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.

The Charlotte Harbor Estuary is one of the largest and most productive estuaries in Florida, supports an important recreational and commercial fishery, but is rapidly being surrounded by residential developments that could harm this important resource. Conserving flatwoods and prairies behind the mangrove swamps and salt marshes along Charlotte and Placida Harbors will help the Cape Haze/Charlotte Harbor project protect 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.

Manager(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), will manage most of the project. The DRP will manage that portion of the project west of SR 775. Florida Forest Service/FFS, 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. This project provides an essential addition to lands previously acquired through the Environmentally Endangered Lands (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 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 will 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.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Manatee	G2G3/S2
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>aboriginal prickly apple</i>	G1/S1
<i>beautiful pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
<i>lowland loosestrife</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Southern mink, Southern Florida population	G5T2Q/S2
<i>iguana hackberry</i>	G5/S1
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3

21 rare species are associated with the project

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

1980

In 1980, the Charlotte Harbor project was added to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. The project, which was started in 1972 under the EEL (Environmentally Endangered Lands) 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).

1986

In September 1986, the Land Acquisition Selection Committee (LASC) approved adding 840 acres (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).

1988

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 10 parcels in nine ownerships (3141



acres) for a total of 5,356 acres with a taxable value of \$2,302,000. To date, 17,141 acres have been acquired at a cost of \$8,070,838.

1992

On November 20, 1992, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) approved adding 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.

1994

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.

1995

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

1998

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.

1999

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

2001

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.

2009

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

2010

On February 19, 2010, ARC approved removal of 13 sites with 466 individual parcels totaling 2,260 acres containing residential/commercial structures or infrastructure.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Substantially Complete category.

2015

On October 16, 2015, ARC voted to add the 5-acre (GIS) Lemon Bay Midden parcel (\$48,322 tax assessed value) to the project to protect an archeological site the site of a historic Indian encampment and very large pre-Columbian midden. The site straddles two adjacent waterfront parcels with more than 800 feet of frontage on Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve.

2017

In calendar year 2017, a total of .27 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2019

On June 14, 2019, the ARC approved an addition of 8 acres (GIS) known as the Don Pedro parcel to the Charlotte Harbor Estuary. The proposal in Charlotte county and had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$825,590. This amendment will add to the main portion of Don Pedro Island State Park and would be managed as part of the park if acquired. It will provide additional habitat for wading birds and gopher tortoise and enhance the protection of the Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. It would be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks if acquired.

Coordination

SWFWMD 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 SWFWMD negotiated the purchase (CARL program reimbursed half) of the Atlantic Gulf Communities Corporation's ownership land within the Charlotte Harbor (704 acres) and Myakka Estuary (9,264 acres) projects.

Management Policy Statement

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 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 Save Our Coast (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. FFS proposes to manage 12,800 acres north and west of Highway 776. The Florida Coastal Office would manage the Lemon Bay Midden added in 2015 as part of the Aquatic Preserve.

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 need” level. Lands to be used, and developed, as a land base 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

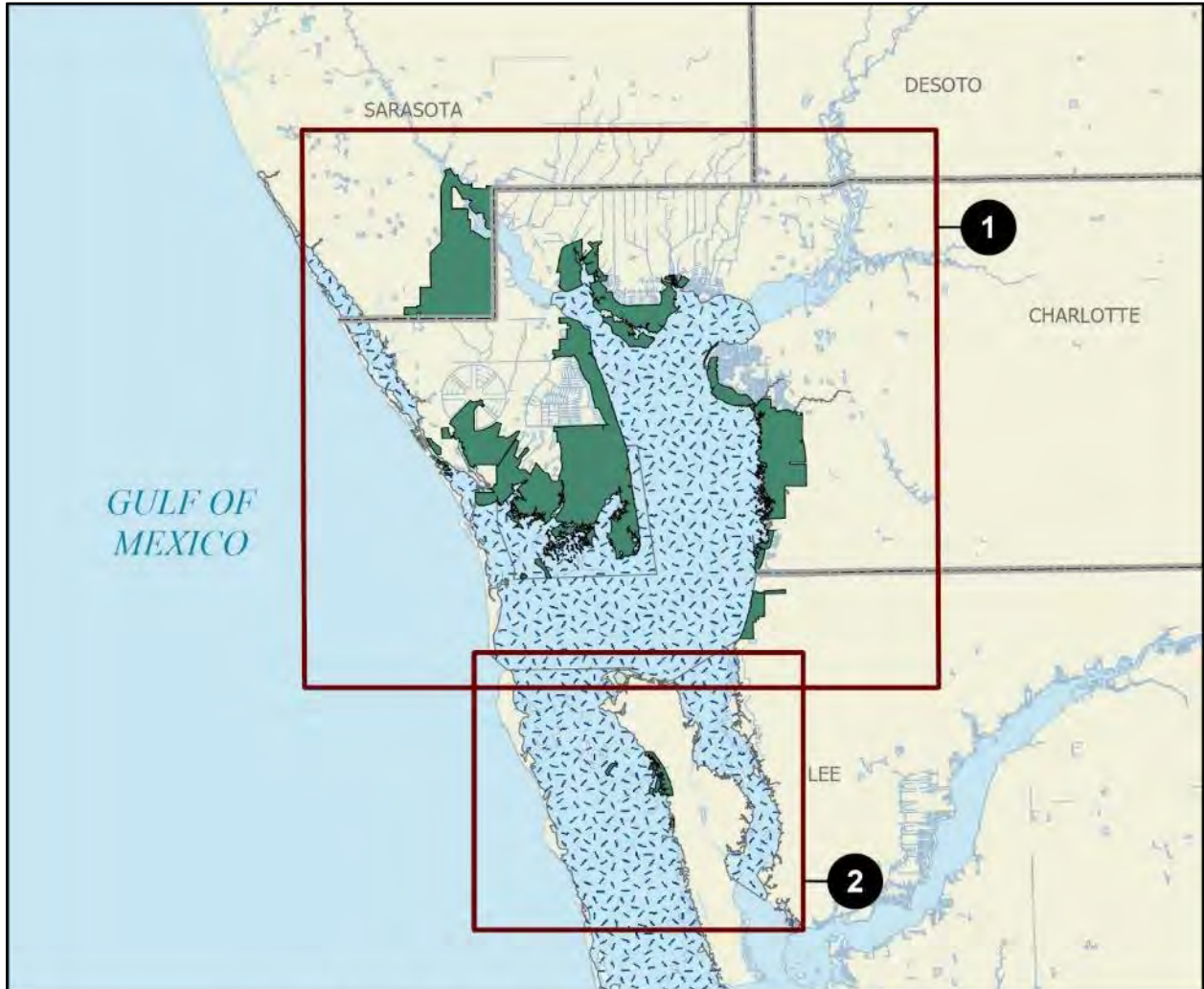
Within the first year of appropriate funding, management activities will concentrate on; property security, including fencing, posting, and patrols; public access, staff access for management activities such as prescribed fire and restoration projects, trash removal; and exotic plant and animal eradication. 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 FFS and DRP will provide public access for low-intensity, non-facilities-related



outdoor recreation. The FFS'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.

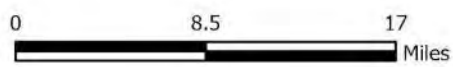
Revenue-generating potential

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.



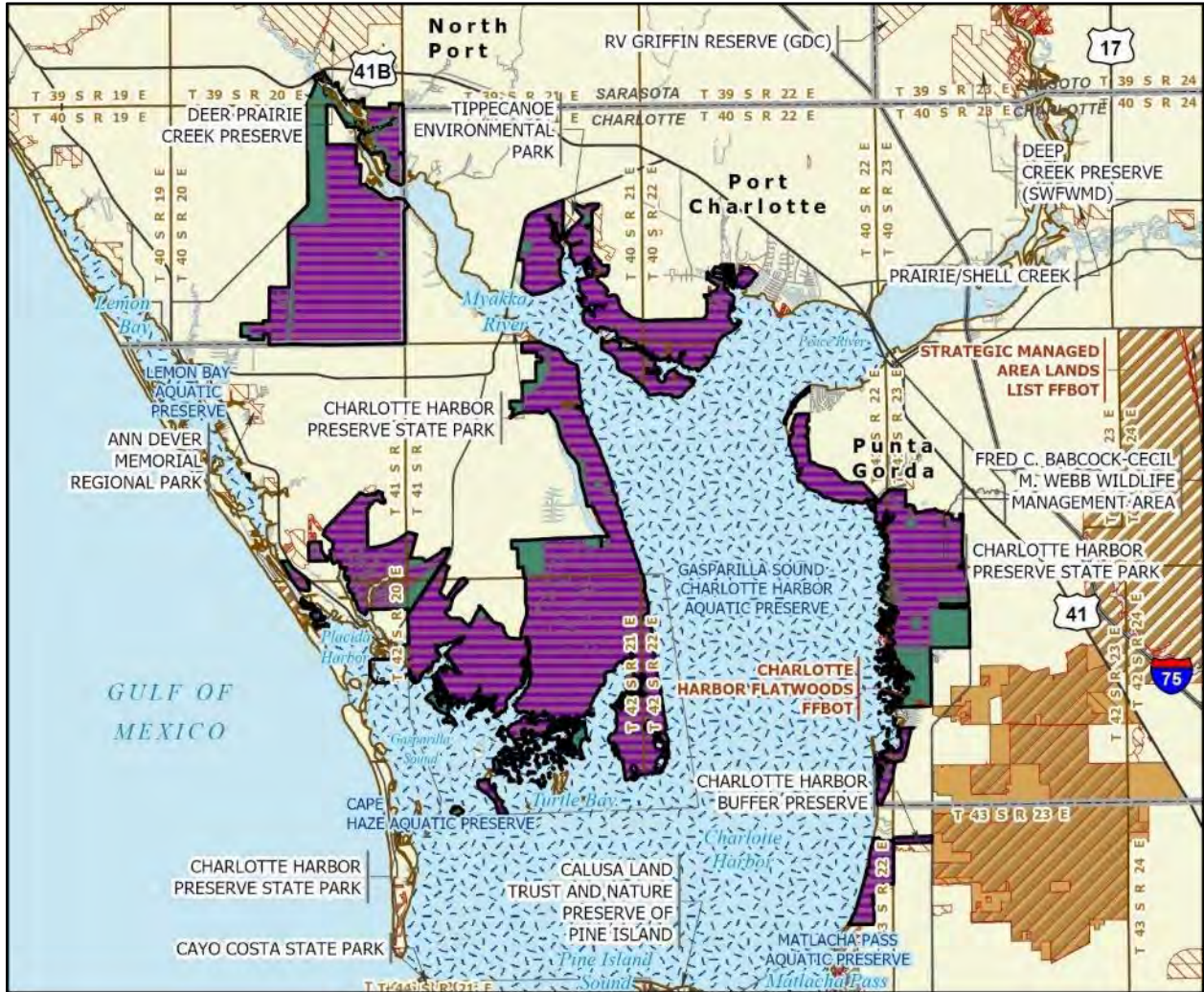
CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: OVERVIEW

CHARLOTTE, LEE, AND SARASOTA COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

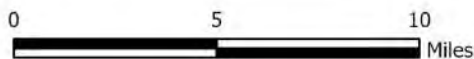
Map 33 : FNAI, January 2021



CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: MAP 1

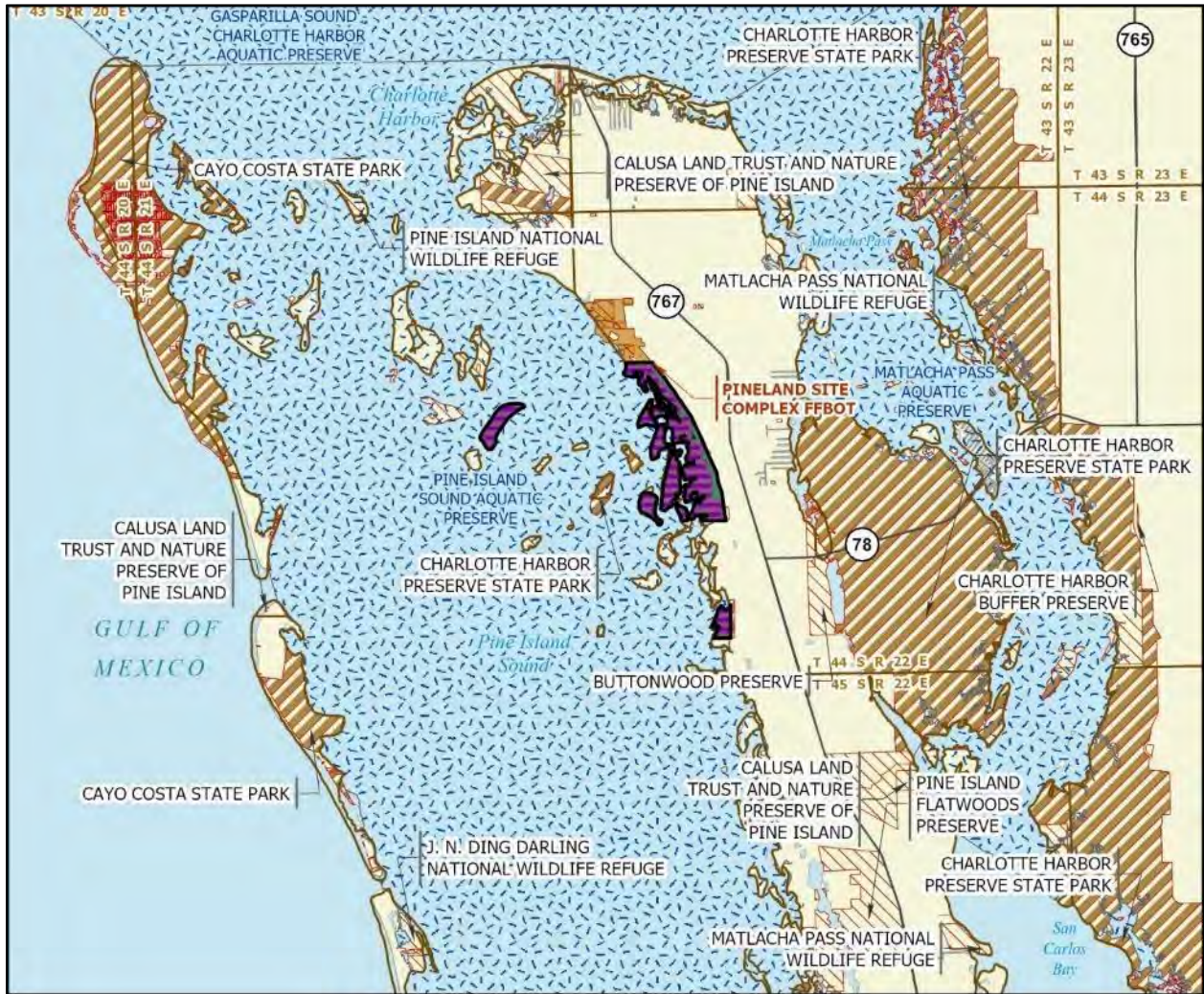
CHARLOTTE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

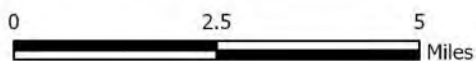
Map 34 : FNAI, January 2021



CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY: MAP 2

CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Charlotte, Lee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1992
Project Acres	23,652
Acquired Acres	16,662
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$37,480,779
Remaining Project Acres	6,990
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$21,710,771

Purpose for State Acquisition

Northwest of Fort Myers lies the largest and highest quality slash-pine flatwoods left in southwest Florida. 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 these managed areas and the waters of the Aquatic Preserve.

Manager(s)

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. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>beautiful pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Florida kingsnake	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Florida beargrass</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3

18 rare species are associated with 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

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.

1998

On October 15, 1998, LAMAC (the Land Acquisition Management and Advisory Council) removed 165 acres from the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods and added it to the Charlotte Harbor Estuary project (then called Charlotte Harbor) as part of a 490-acre increase of that project.

1999

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.



2009

On February 26, 2009 FWC purchased 37.63 acres (Yucca Pens) for \$298,000 from Allcoat, Inc. to add to Babcock Webb WMA. On June 12, 2009, ARC approved removal of 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2015

On August 15, 2015, ARC approved adding Bond Ranch to the project. This increased the boundary by 670 acres and was added to help restore sheet-flow conditions in south Charlotte County.

2016

At the December 15th and 16th 2016, ARC meeting, the members approved the 557-acre Hog Branch/Bear Branch proposal as a new Florida Forever project with a tax assessed value of \$837,602. This area is east of Burnt Store Road in Charlotte County. This is part of an effort to restore traditional sheet flow of water in Charlotte County that was disrupted over the years by the roadbeds for railroads and highways, which flooded areas in adjoining Lee County and degraded the tidal creeks that are important to snook, redfish and tarpon. After approving this for Florida Forever, the ARC then added these lands to the boundary of Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods.

2019

On April 19, 2019, the ARC approved adding the 2,752-acre (GIS) Stolle Ranch project proposed for fee simple acquisition in Charlotte and Lee counties to the 2020 Florida Forever Priority List, then moved to incorporate the lands within the Stolle Ranch project boundary into the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods project boundary. The proposal had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$6,954,550. The proposal connects two managed areas. Babcock/Webb Wildlife Management Area is contiguous with the north and northwest boundaries of the property, and Prairie Pines Preserve is located immediately southwest of the I-75 corridor contributing to both connectivity as well as enhancing wildlife habitat.

On June 14, 2019, the ARC approved the addition of a 142-acre (GIS) to the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Florida Forever project located in Charlotte County with a 2019 tax assessed value of \$593,013. This amendment was called the Charlotte 580 amendment and proposed to be



acquired in fee simple. It will provide water to the Yucca Pens area. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. It would be managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission if acquired.

2020

In 2020, six parcels [Kaiser, Spreen (1 parcel each); Willden, Slagle (2 parcels each)] within the Yucca Pens Unit were acquired containing 338.42 acres at a cost of \$652,500.00. The parcels will be managed by FWC as part of the Fred C. Babcock-Cecil M. Webb WMA. In March 2020, FWC acquired with Florida Forever funds, a 5-acre parcel from Bear Investments, LLC at a cost of \$13,400 that will be managed as part of Fred C. Babcock-Cecil M. Webb WMA.

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 meets the qualifications of a wildlife management area, because of the project's size (more than 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).

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.

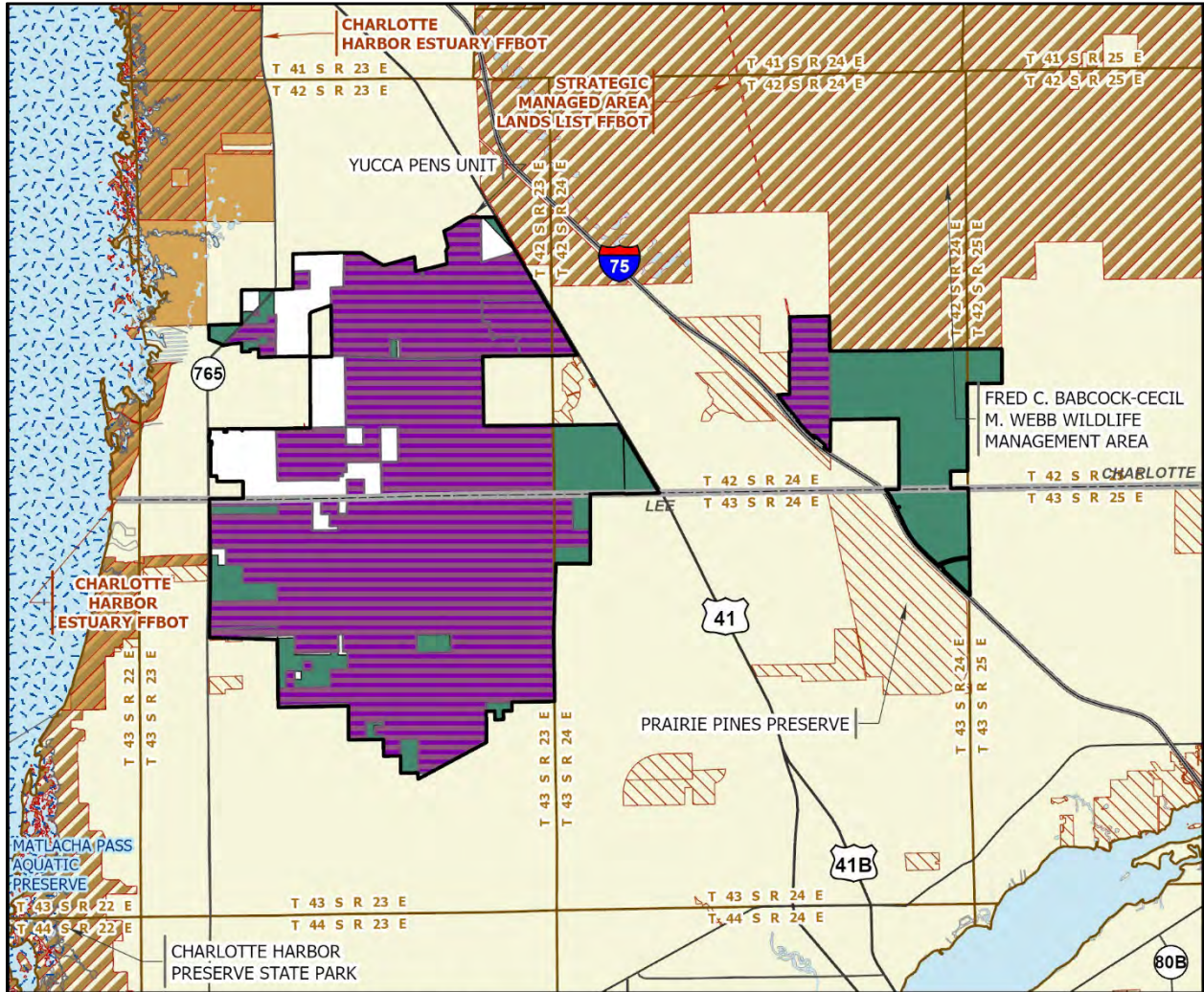
Revenue-generating potential

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 Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>CARL 1996/1997</u>	<u>CARL 1997/1998</u>
Salary	\$54,200	\$54,200
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS

CHARLOTTE AND LEE COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 36 : FNAI, January 2021



Clear Creek/Whiting Field

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Santa Rosa

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2004
Project Acres	5,045
Acquired Acres	2,178
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$6,258,258
Remaining Project Acres	2,867
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$11,177,735

Purpose for State Acquisition

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

Manager(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) would accept management responsibility for the Clear Creek project, if acquired.

General Description

The project is 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 close to the City of Milton. It adjoins Whiting Field, the Naval Air Station used to train Navy pilots on T-34 aircraft and helicopters. Most of the project is upland pine forests,



sandhills, mature and young pine plantations, recent clear-cuts, 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 part (5 percent) of the site is in a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Panhandle lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>hairy-peduncled beaksedge</i>	G3/S3
<i>trailing arbutus</i>	G5/S2

6 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Potential recreational uses include canoeing, camping, hiking, biking, wildlife observation, environmental education, nature photography, and scientific research. Hunting may also be done in some areas. The site is particularly appropriate for extending the Blackwater River Heritage State Trail to increase the growing trails network in this region.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and 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.

2005

On December 9, 2005, the ARC approved a project design change to allow 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:

1. International Paper Company (1,154),
2. Phillips (121), Leonard (160),
3. Florimor Inc. (320),
4. Blue Sky (120),
5. Lowery (74) and
6. Jernigan (80).

Phase II remained in Group B, consists of 38 landowners, and about 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.

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 TNC, with a tax-assessed value of \$28,167. The acquisition is proposed fee-simple and the parcels were approved as essential.

On March 10, 2009 with the help of the U.S. Navy, 210.48 acres were purchased from TNC for \$1,158,258.

On September 30, 2009, 1,401 acres were purchased from TNC by Florida Forever (\$2,625,000), Florida Forest Service or FFS/Incidental Trust Fund (\$1,200,000), a.k.a. off-highway vehicle funds, and Department of Navy and Department of Justice (\$1,275,000).

On June 30, 2011, DSL purchased 172.59 acres to be managed by FFS.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, ARC removed 163 acres from the project because staff analysis found these lands were either developed, or not contiguous to the project.

Coordination

Acquisition partners are the U.S. Navy, Santa Rosa County, OGT, and FFS. Developing the management plan will be conducted with the project partners (Whiting Field, the FFS and Santa Rosa County).

Management Policy Statement

DRP proposes to manage the project with the FFS, Whiting Field and Santa Rosa County to protect habitat for native species and endangered or threatened species; protect water quality in wetlands and surface waters, notably Clear Creek and Coldwater Creek; provide interpretive and recreation activities consistent with resource protection, including development of a multiuse loop trail surrounding Whiting Field and connecting to the northern terminus of the existing Blackwater Heritage State Trail; and protect archaeological and historical sites. In general, the project area will be managed to protect its environmental and natural resource values, drawing upon its natural characteristics to provide appropriate recreation opportunities and enhancing other adjacent managed lands, such as Whiting Field and the Blackwater River State Forest. The project will be managed consistent with the appropriate goals and objectives



of FF, as well as consistent with other projects that are part of the statewide system of greenways and trails.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The project will 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). This project will help enhance the resource and recreation value 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.

Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, DRP will manage this property in partnership with Whiting Field, the FFS and Santa Rosa County.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

In general, the property does not appear to require intense management beyond that typically associated with a managed greenway or trail project. But intensity of long-term management will depend on the ability to acquire as intact an area surrounding Whiting Field as possible. Areas with adjacent residential properties will require more management. The intensity of management will increase as recreation facilities and trails are developed and public usage increases. Other issues that will determine intensity of management 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 protecting archaeological sites and historical structures.

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

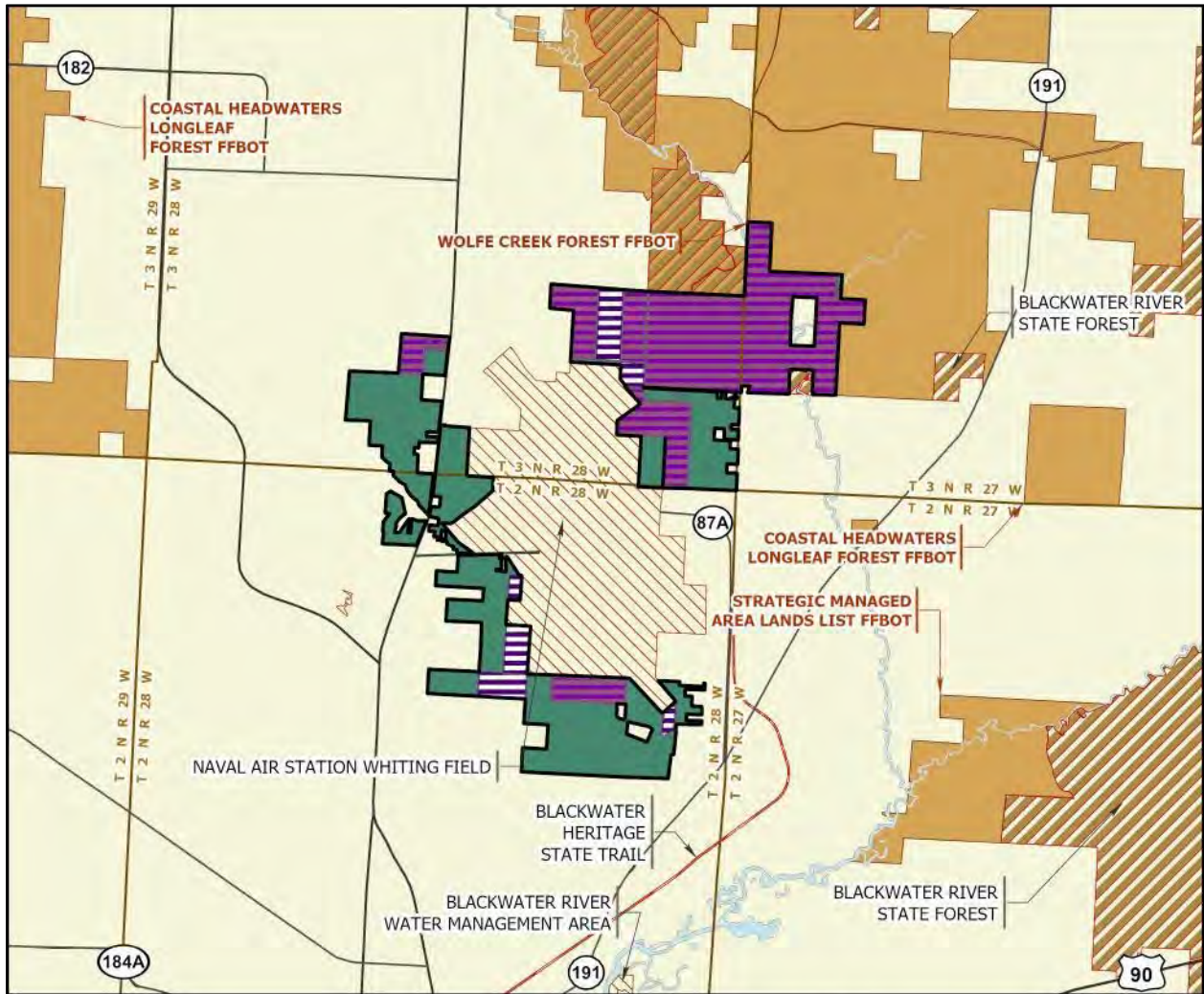
Following acquisition, issues to be addressed in the first year would include site security, posting boundaries and fencing, and conducting assessments/inventories to more fully determine resource management needs. Those needs include exotic and invasive plant removal, water quality enhancement and protection, protection of archaeological sites and historic structures, and prescribed burn needs.



Intermediate and long-term management will address the broader issue of managing the area for resource protection and recreation 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, FFS, and Santa Rosa County).

Revenue-generating potential

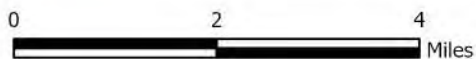
No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. However, as public use is increased, modest revenue may be generated for camping and use of other recreational facilities. Some areas may be managed by the FFS for timber production.



CLEAR CREEK/WHITING FIELD

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Santa Rosa County Owned Lands Within Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



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Map 37 : FNAI, January 2021



Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest

Less-Than-Fee Project
Escambia, Santa Rosa

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2014
Project Acres	99,544
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	99,544
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$128,581,511

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring a perpetual conservation easement over the Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest would preserve working forest lands and return them to the historic stands of longleaf pine and accompanying understory habitat for flora and fauna and provide resource protection for the Escambia River watershed.

This proposal meets the public purposes for Florida Forever lands that include enhancing the coordination and completion of other, nearby, land acquisition projects; 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; ensuring that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; preserving significant archaeological or historic sites; and increasing the amount of forest land available for sustainable management of natural resources.

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation prepared by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory shows that 95 percent of the site contributes to protecting surface water, 100 percent to aquifer recharge, 21 percent to functional wetlands, and 18 percent to natural floodplain functions. About 87 percent of the site contributes to ecological greenways.



Manager(s)

The property would continue to be managed by the current owner, Resource Management Services, with periodic management oversight by the state to confirm compliance with agreed-upon easement conditions. The representatives of RMS described issues and activities they expect to address in the conservation easements they negotiate with Florida:

1. As existing stands of loblolly and slash pine are finally harvested, all soils capable of supporting longleaf pine will be regenerated with longleaf pine and managed to promote herbaceous understory development;
2. All longleaf pine stands that can be prescribed burned without undue liability risk will be burned at a frequency approximating every 5 years at a minimum, and on a more frequent basis as funding to conduct burns is available;
3. The predominance of longleaf pine over-story trees in any stand will be approximately 45 years of age or older before final harvest occurs;
4. No heavy mechanical site preparation will be done prior to regeneration; no stand will be bedded prior to longleaf pine establishment; and,
5. RMS is willing to burn on greater frequency and carry longleaf to older age classes than stated above; five years for burns and 45 years for over-story age are the base case for easement valuation.

General Description

The Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest Florida Forever proposal covers 99,498 acres (per proposal; 99,544 acres as determined by GIS) in northern Escambia and central and western Santa Rosa counties, with 51,222 acres in Escambia County, and 48,109 acres in Santa Rosa County (GIS measurements have that as 51,202 acres and 48,342 acres, respectively). The Lower Escambia River Water Management Area bisects the two main tracts of the proposal. The Perdido River Water Management Area is about 6 miles south of the proposal in Escambia County. Two of the easternmost tracts of the proposal are adjacent to the western boundary of Blackwater River State Forest. These two tracts are also adjacent to the Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever Project which, in conjunction with the Clear Creek/Whiting Field Florida Forever Project, would form a continuous corridor between Blackwater River State Forest and Naval Air Station Whiting Field, if acquired. State Road 89 passes through the proposal area.

The property has been managed for commercial timber production and, to a much lesser extent, private hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreation. Prescribed fire is used for site preparation for planting, particularly of longleaf pine stands. If a conservation easement is established on the property, the application outlines a plan to plant longleaf pine stands for the purposes of ecological restoration and sustainable forestry with a 5-year rotation of



prescribed fire. The proposed project is located on the Escambia Terraced Lands and on the western side of the Blackwater Hills, uplands that are underlain by sand, gravel, silt, and clay.

A small, fragmented proportion of the upland areas (totaling less than 450 acres) remains as upland pine (FNAI global/state ranks: G3/S2) (or sandhill [G3/S2] at some sites) in somewhat natural condition. One of these stands was visited during the field evaluation. It supported a mixed age stand of longleaf pine with some remnant native groundcover including sparse wiregrass. Before it was converted to pine plantations, upland pine was the dominant natural community within the proposed project and vicinity. Bottomland forest (G4/S3) is the most extensive natural community within the proposed project. It occurs as a closed-canopy forest on terraces and levees in floodplains of larger streams and rivers. Only one area of bottomland forest was visited during the field assessment. Loblolly pine had been planted on the upper slopes of the community, creating moderately dense pine stands.

Agricultural land and pastures comprise only a small part of the proposal and include food plots for wildlife. Other ruderal areas include cemeteries, utility rights-of-way, sand pits, clearings, and successional hardwood forests that often develop along the interface between planted pine stands and adjacent agricultural land.

Rare plants such as Florida Flame Azalea and White-top pitcherplant are found in the forest. Rare animals that have been documented on this site include gopher tortoise, the alligator snapping turtle, little blue heron, the swallow-tailed kite and Bachmann’s sparrow.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Panhandle lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>Turk's cap lily</i>	G5/S1
Gulf crayfish	G4/S1
Harlequin Darter	G5/S1
<i>Florida flame azalea</i>	G3/S3
<i>Hairy-peduncled Beaksedge</i>	G3/S3
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Alligator Gar	G3G4/S3
bluenose Shiner	G3G4/S3S4
Spiny Softshell	G5/S3

25 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The purpose for conserving this area would be to preserve working forest lands and return them to the historic stands of longleaf pine and accompanying habitat for flora and fauna via a



perpetual conservation easement document, and to provide resource protection for the Escambia River watershed. The owner has indicated an interest in making the site available for some limited research or educational efforts, therefore this proposal meets the education measure to some degree. The Division of Recreation and Parks reviewed the proposal and said the project area has thousands of acres of rolling uplands where hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping could be accommodated. However, it is expected that the recreational experience would be of low quality due to the monotonous conditions and lack of diversity. Paddling, boating, and fishing appear to be impractical on most of the narrow seepage streams due to the shallow channels, dense vegetation and an abundance of tree falls. Boating access to the Escambia River is very limited. There are several public ramps on each side of the river but only one ramp was identified on the subject property, just south of the public ramp at Chumuckla Springs. No tracts were identified that would be suitable for developing a state park.

Acquisition Planning

The Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest was submitted as a conservation easement by The Conservation Fund for the timber investment and the management company Resource Management Services (RMS), LLC. RMS is a timber investment and management organization (TIMO) and conducts silvicultural operations on multiple continents.

2014

On August 15, 2014, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to allow this proposal to be evaluated, subsequently on December 12, 2014, ARC voted to add this project to the Florida Forever list in the Less-than-Fee category.

Coordination

There were no confirmed acquisition partners when this project was added. However, the landowner is in contact with the Federal Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to match some federal funding with Florida Forever funding. The applicants may explore other less-than-fee acquisition opportunities as well. The landowner is interested in phased acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

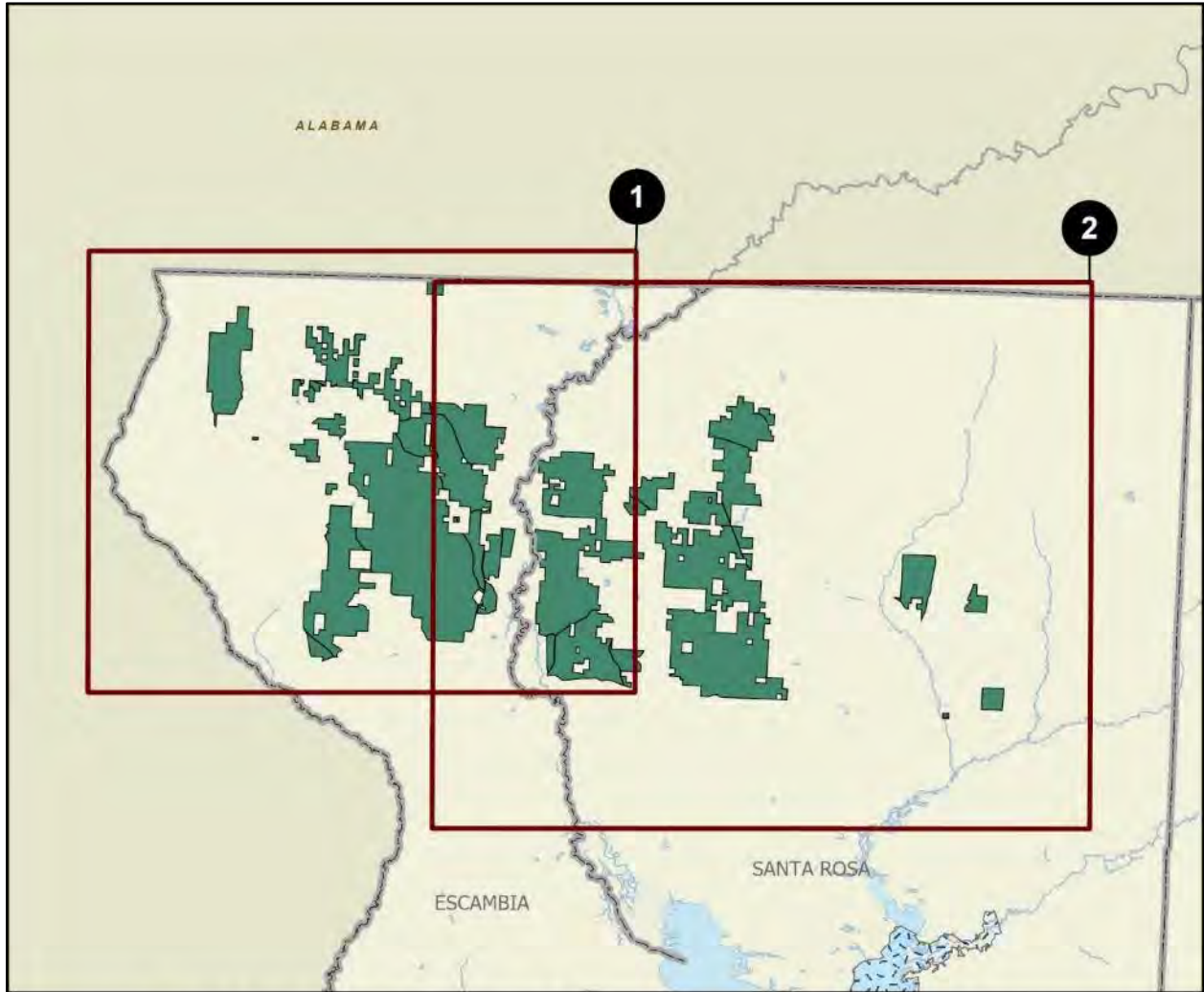
As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest, the project will be managed with restrictions by the private landowner. The purchase of the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses and limited public



access will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement. For this project, however, the landowner proposes to agree to a more specific level of management for burn intervals and longleaf pine harvesting age.

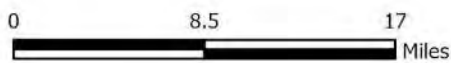
Management Prospectus

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



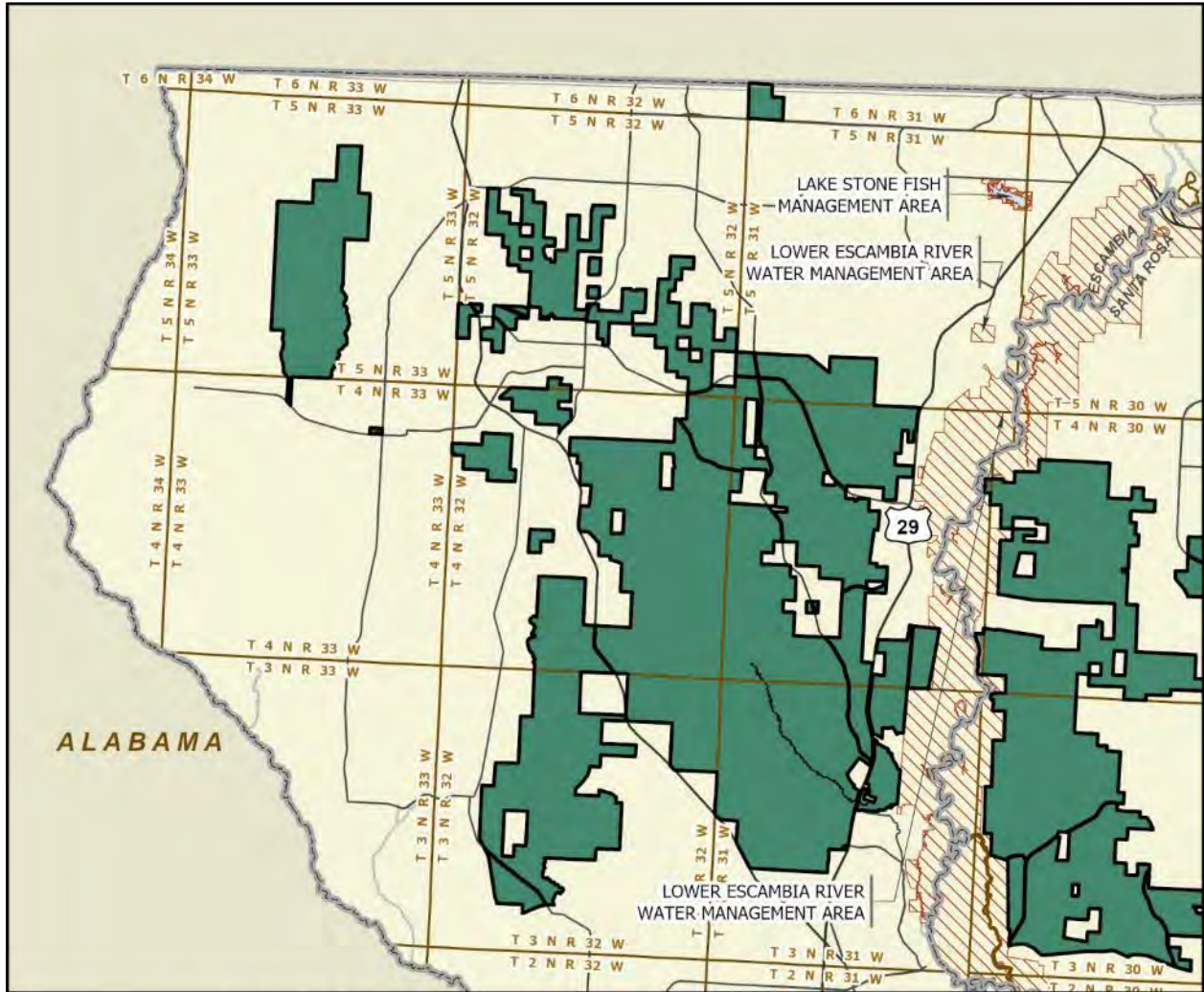
COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: OVERVIEW

ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

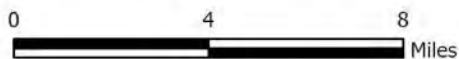
Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: MAP 1

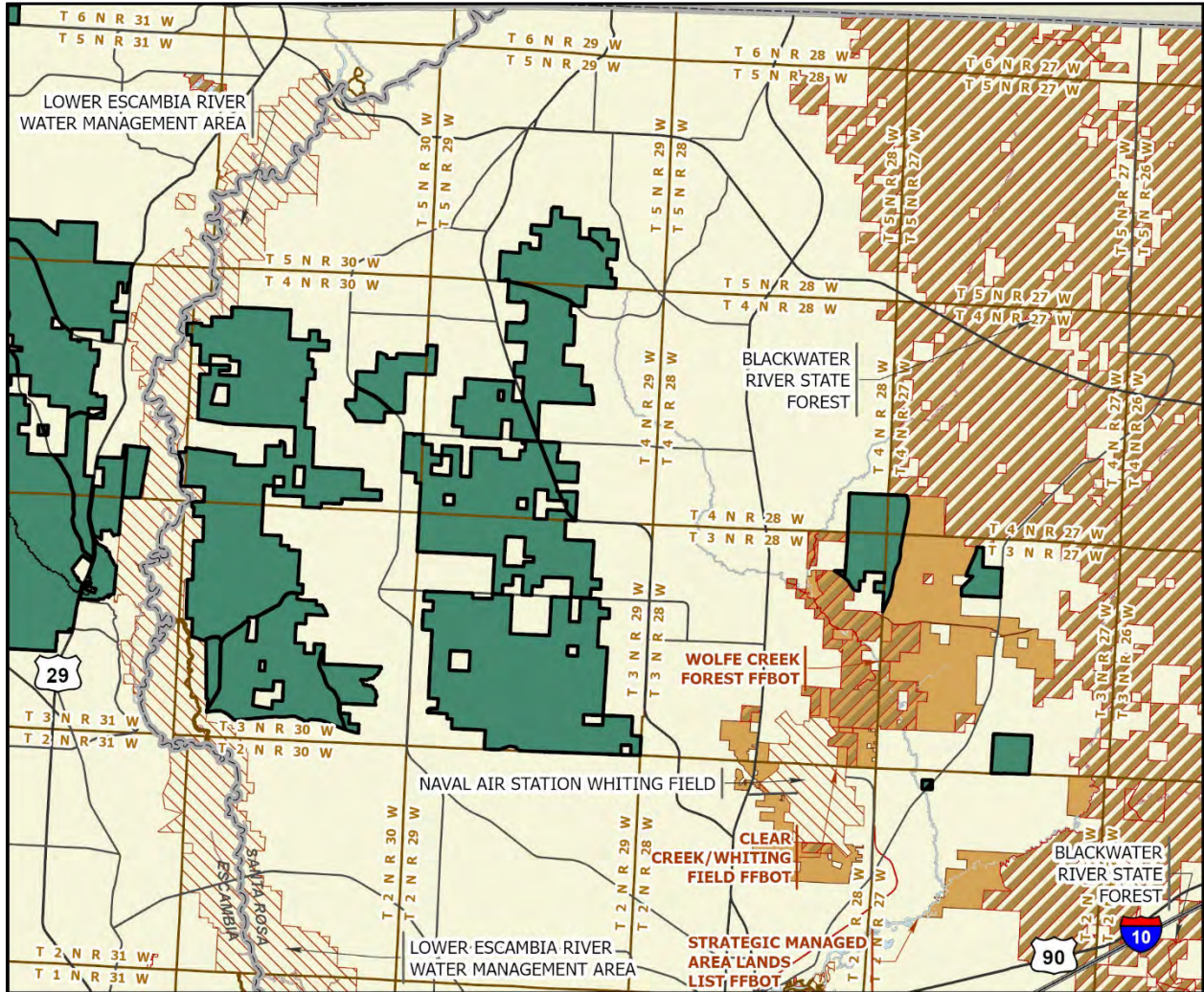
ESCAMBIA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 2 : FNAI, January 2021



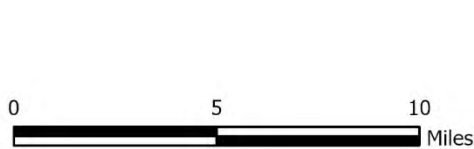
COASTAL HEADWATERS LONGLEAF FOREST: MAP 2

ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 3 : FNAI, January 2021



Conlin Lake X

Less-Than-Fee Project
Osceola

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2015
Project Acres	9,075
Acquired Acres	5,552
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	3,523
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$17,239,717

Purpose for State Acquisition

About nine miles east of the City of St. Cloud is the 9,041-acre forested Conlin Lake X (or CLX) property completely surrounding a 1,000-plus-acre-lake formerly used by Mercury Marine for developing and testing motorboats. The land has a well-maintained 2,215-acre basin swamp and a large freshwater lake. This project will increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels; help protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of Central Florida; and increase natural resource-based public recreation opportunities and the amount of open space available in urban areas.

Manager(s)

This property would be managed by the current owner as a less-than-fee conservation easement. If the property is acquired as a conservation easement with the Kenneth Kirchman Foundation retained as land manager, the expected uses are consistent with the current uses. Current uses include preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural environment for the enjoyment of the public and for educational purposes. Hunting on CLX property is currently prohibited, except for the occasional Make-A-Wish Foundation hunt.



General Description

The CLX site encompasses the entirety of Lake Conlin, a meandered, sovereign lake owned by the State of Florida. It is bordered by Deseret Ranch on the north and east, by Birchwood Acres Limited Partnership on the south, and Bay Lake Ranch Subdivision to the west. Important nearby conservation areas include the Lake Lizzie Conservation Area a couple of miles to the west, the Triple N Ranch and Herky Huffman/Bull Creek Wildlife Management Areas five miles to the southeast, and the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area 15 miles to the south. The Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Florida Forever Project abuts the southern boundary of the CLX, and the Osceola Pines Florida Forever Project is seven miles to the south. The CLX property is a high-quality landscape, a well-managed mosaic of uplands and wetlands surrounding a large mostly undeveloped lake, Lake Conlin. The proposal is dominated by large cypress swamps, intermixed with pine flatwoods (mostly mesic but also including scrubby and wet flatwoods) dotted with smaller dome swamps and depression marshes (see table below). The property surrounds Lake Conlin and is bisected by a 2,215-acre basin swamp that serves as the eastern floodplain of the lake. The lake border is undeveloped with the exception of a small area of pasture and facilities on its southwestern side. Lake Conlin is reported to be in good condition in terms of water quality and natural biota.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
bird rookery	G5/SNR

5 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The Kenneth Kirchman Foundation currently provides natural resource education classes to the school children of Osceola County schools and provides week-long camp opportunities for at-risk children during the summer. These activities are expected to continue if this property is acquired by less-than-fee.



Acquisition Planning

2014

In December 2014, the CLX proposal was submitted to the Division of State Lands. Testimony favoring the project was brought to ARC in February 2015, and ARC staff and members visited this and other proposed sites March 30th through April 2nd of 2015.

2015

On June 19th of 2015, ARC voted 7-0 (with two abstentions and one absence) to add this property to the Florida Forever Priority List in the Less-than- Fee category. The owner is anticipating selling an easement on this parcel as one transaction. The entire acreage would be designated as essential. In 2015, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$33,907,500.

Coordination

There are no acquisition partners at this time.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee conservation easement, the project would be managed for preservation by the current landowners. The conservation easement would spell out what activities or uses would be allowed or restricted to preserve the resources of the property.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Protection of Lake Conlin and its surrounding basin swamps, mesic flatwoods and wet flatwoods would, according to the FWC, contribute to the goals of protecting imperiled and common fish, and possibly forming a landscape connection to the nearby Big Bend Swamp and Holopaw Ranch conservation project, if the latter is acquired. Species documented on the site include the sandhill crane, bald eagle, Sherman's fox squirrel, and Bachmann's sparrow. Another Florida Forever goal is protection of natural floodplains, and 83 percent of the project meets this function. Some 99 percent of the project meets Florida Forever goals of protecting the surface waters of the state, and an analysis of the site shows that the entire site contributes to groundwater recharge for the aquifer.



Manager

The CLX property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions by a negotiated conservation easement. OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement, unless otherwise noted.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Due to a long history of no cattle grazing, limited public use, and an ecological focus of land management, the field review showed that most of the natural communities on the Conlin Lake X proposal are in good to outstanding condition. The frequent prescribed fire (two-year rotation) with a focus on growing season burns has resulted in a healthy and vibrant herbaceous layer and the property is often used as a site for native seed collection. Invasive plants were found to be under control on this property.



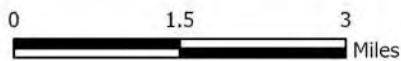
CONLIN LAKE X

OSCEOLA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 38 : FNAI, January 2021



Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Collier, Lee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1991
Project Acres	70,694
Acquired Acres	36,646
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$94,659,111
Remaining Project Acres	34,048
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$339,484,824

Purpose for State Acquisition

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.

Manager(s)

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.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>clamshell orchid</i>	G4G5/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Yellow-crowned night-heron	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4

11 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

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

Acquisition Planning

1990

On December 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 project, sponsored by the SFWMD, consists of some 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.

1992

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

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.



1995

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.

1996

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.

1999

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.

2002

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.

2009

In February 2009, Collier County bought 2,499 acres known as Pepper Ranch for \$32,525,080; in October 2009, Lee County bought approximately 15 acres/\$136,500 from their 20/20 program; and SFWMD donated 10 acres to FWC in the same month. The following lands were bought by SFWMD:

1. June 2009 and November 2009 (58 GIS acres/\$661,250);
2. three easement tracts (15) were donated by Bonita Springs Utility Co.;
3. November 2010 (191 acres/\$3,828,890);
4. December 2010 (5 acres/\$75,000).

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC added this project to the Florida Forever list in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.



2013

On February 15, 2013, ARC agreed to remove 77 acres from the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed in Lee and Collier counties because development has already disturbed the property.

2016

At the December 2016 ARC meeting, the members voted to add the CREW Headwaters proposal to the existing Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project as an amendment. This adds 2,841 acres to CREW in the southeastern corner of Lee County in a plan to use willing sellers of groves to make hydrologic fixes to drainage areas that affected downstream areas. The goals for the addition included conserving fresh water that has run off into other areas, restoring water levels of the Corkscrew Swamp, improving habitat for such species as the Florida panther and the wood stork, and creating public recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities. FDOT is coordinating with South Florida Water Management District staff to possibly use this area as mitigation for the widening of State Road 82.

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 CREW project are 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'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.

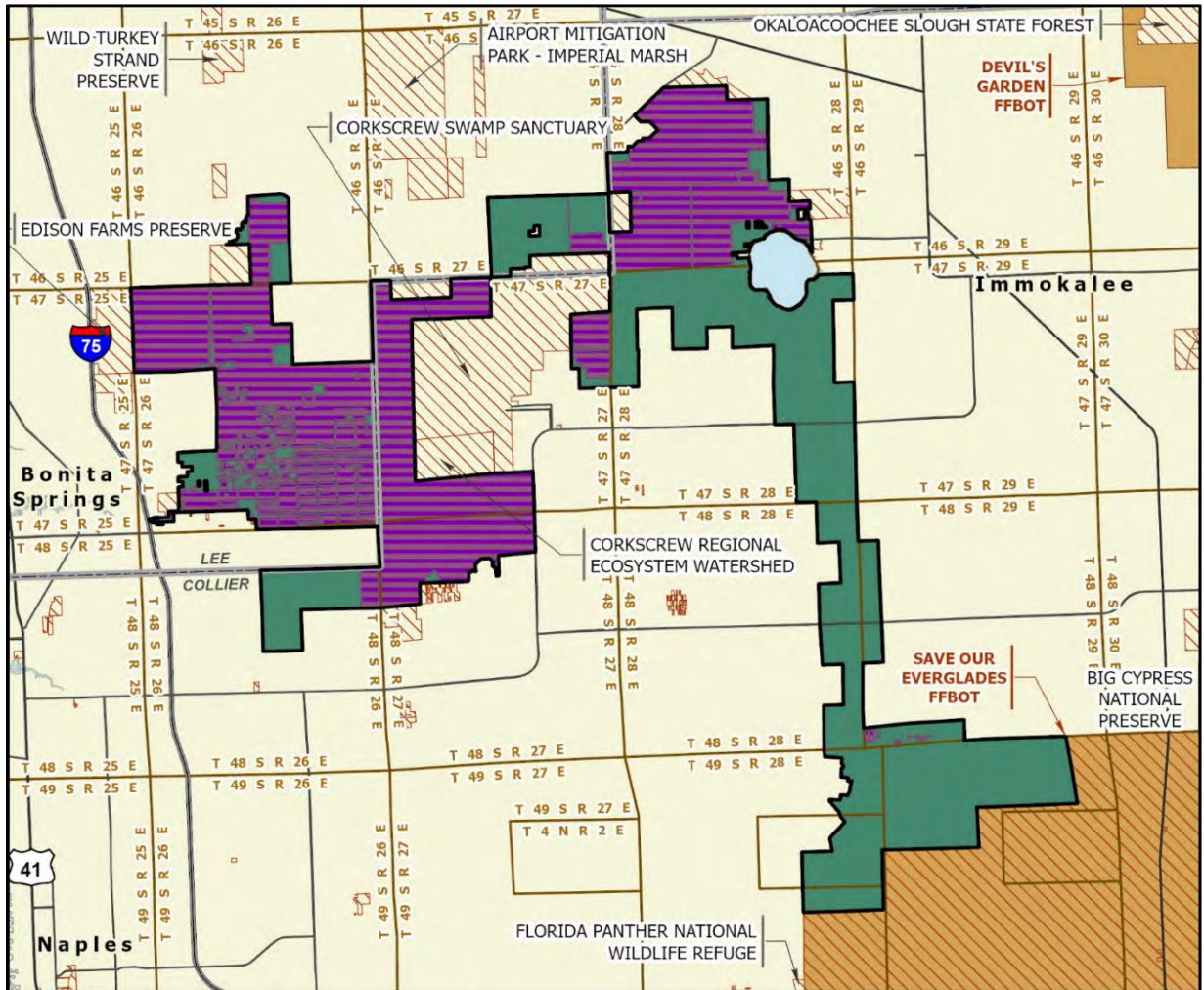
Cooperators in management activities

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.

Management Cost Summary

<u>SFWMD</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	WMLTF	WMLTF
Salary	\$107,238	\$117,961
OPS	\$35,000	\$38,500
Expense	\$197,250	\$216,915
OCO	\$0	\$28,000
FCO	\$0	N/A
TOTAL	\$339,448	\$401,436

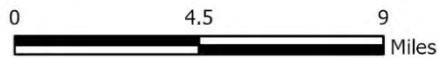
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED

COLLIER AND LEE COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 39 : FNAI, January 2021



Corrigan Ranch

Critical Natural Lands Project
Okeechobee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2019
Project Acres	6,211
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	6,211
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$18,311,664

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of Corrigan Ranch would add 6,211 acres to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park and 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 wildlife, imperiled habitats and significant hydrological resources. It would provide additional resource-based public recreation opportunities such as assisting with the completion of the Florida National Scenic Trail and expand the acreage of the park’s Dark Sky certification status. It would protect approximately 3,000 additional acres of imperiled dry prairie ecosystem and improve connectivity for both wildlife and watershed.

The project meets the following public purposes:

1. Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects;
2. Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels;
3. Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state;
4. Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state;
5. Increase natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities;
6. Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and,
7. Increase the amount of forest land available for sustainable management of natural resources.



Manager

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage the proposed project.

General Description

Corrigan Ranch is a 6,211-acre fee simple proposal located in northwest Okeechobee County in South Central Florida. The entrance to the ranch is at the end of Micco Bluff Road, approximately ten miles northwest of the point where U.S. 98 crosses the Kissimmee River. It is essentially an inholding in a large landscape of conservation lands, chiefly Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, which borders the proposal's northern boundary for 3 miles, and Avon Park Air Force Range located just to the northwest. Its western boundary follows the Kissimmee River and its associated conservation land, connected by privately managed agricultural properties. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Easements border the entire eastern border. The property is in the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Conservation Partnership Area and has been identified as a priority by USFWS due primarily to its abundant wildlife, well-managed habitats, connectivity to protected lands, and for its role in watershed protection within the Kissimmee River Basin and the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

There are 4,070 acres of Priority 1 biodiversity resource lands on the ranch. Nearly all the remaining property is classified as priority 2 biodiversity resource lands. Corrigan Ranch contains approximately 2,605 acres of dry prairie, an imperiled ecosystem that has undergone an estimated decline of 80 to 90-percent since pre-settlement. In addition, 1,602 acres of the pastureland contain vegetation typical of dry prairie habitat. There are 1,000 acres of freshwater marsh on the property as well. There are no inholdings in this project boundary, and the parcel is leased out for hunting white-tailed deer and turkey. Cattle are grazed across the ranch using a rotational grazing program. Development pressures are increasing in the region.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Tricolored heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This proposal is for fee simple acquisition. Though public recreation opportunities will be determined in the management planning process, potential compatible recreational activities could include bicycling, camping, dog walking, environmental education and interpretation, fishing, hiking, jogging, horseback riding, wildlife observation and photography.

Acquisition Planning

2020

Corrigan Ranch was submitted for Hugh Corrigan by Saunders Real Estate and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Coordination

The property is in the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Conservation Partnership Area and has been identified as a priority by USFWS due primarily to its abundant wildlife, well-managed habitats, connectivity to protected lands, and for its role in watershed protection within the Kissimmee River Basin and the greater everglades ecosystem. The entire property is identified by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 2009 as part of the Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas.

Management Policy Statement

Corrigan Ranch is surrounded by conservation lands and located in a high ecological priority area of the state. The ranch is wholly within Priority 1 ecological greenways. As Division of Recreation and Parks-managed property, the DRP provided the following general management policy for the property:

It shall be the policy of the DRP to promote the state park system for the use, enjoyment, and benefit of the people of Florida and visitors; to acquire typical portions of the original domain of the state which will be accessible to all of the people, and of such character as to emblemize the state's natural values; conserve these natural values for all time; administer the development, use and maintenance of these lands and render such public service in so doing, in such a manner as to enable the people of Florida and visitors to enjoy these values without depleting them; to



contribute materially to the development of a strong mental, moral, and physical fiber in the people; to provide for perpetual preservation of historic sites and memorials of statewide significance and interpretation of their history to the people; to contribute to the tourist appeal of Florida.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

This project has significant conservation and recreation value. It is critical to watershed protection, wildlife corridors and enhanced ecological function within the Kissimmee River Basin and the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks proposes to manage the entirety of the fee-simple acquisition as part of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Historically, the entire ranch would have been composed of dry prairie with freshwater marshes and swales interspersed throughout. Given the existing condition of the acquisition proposal, restoration to its original natural condition would be feasible, although on an extended timeline. Restoration of the pasturelands back to the historical natural communities is well within the DRP's capabilities, given the appropriate resources and timeframe. Restoration of the dry prairie and freshwater marsh communities would follow the model already being implemented at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, with emphasis on the application of prescribed fire at an appropriate interval and seasonality. The existing network of roads, culverts, crossings, and structures provide the access infrastructure to establish management zones and a potential location for housing personnel and equipment. The resource management goals would be most effectively achieved by establishing the unit as an addition to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, where similar largescale restoration efforts in former pasture prairie have already been successful. There are many species of imperiled plants and animals that have either been confirmed or have the potential to occur at Corrigan Ranch. Most notable is the confirmed presence of the critically endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow.

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

Should the property be acquired, resource management activities would be carried out by park staff. Preliminary recreational development could occur quickly and would focus on the development of low-intensity passive recreation such as hiking, cycling, and horseback riding. A



composting restroom, picnic pavilion, and trailhead kiosk could be installed to provide access to a preliminary system of hiking trails.

Revenue-generating potential

The potential of the acquisition to accommodate secondary management purposes would be analyzed. Secondary purposes would be considered within the context of DRP’s statutory responsibilities and the resource needs and values of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. This analysis would consider the acquisition’s natural and cultural resources, management needs, aesthetic values visitation, and visitor experiences. Grazing activities may be appropriate as a means of generating revenues for land management activities such as natural community restoration and exotic plant species control.

Cooperators in management activities

DRP would work with the Florida Forest Service on the development of wildfire emergency plans, prescribed burns, and proposed forestry activities that would support full restoration of the project. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would provide the enforcement of state laws pertaining to wildlife, freshwater fish and other aquatic life existing within the park. In addition, the FWC would aid DRP with wildlife management programs, including imperiled species management. The Division of Historical Resources would assist staff to ensure protection of archaeological and historical sites, as well as interpretation of significant cultural resources to park visitors.

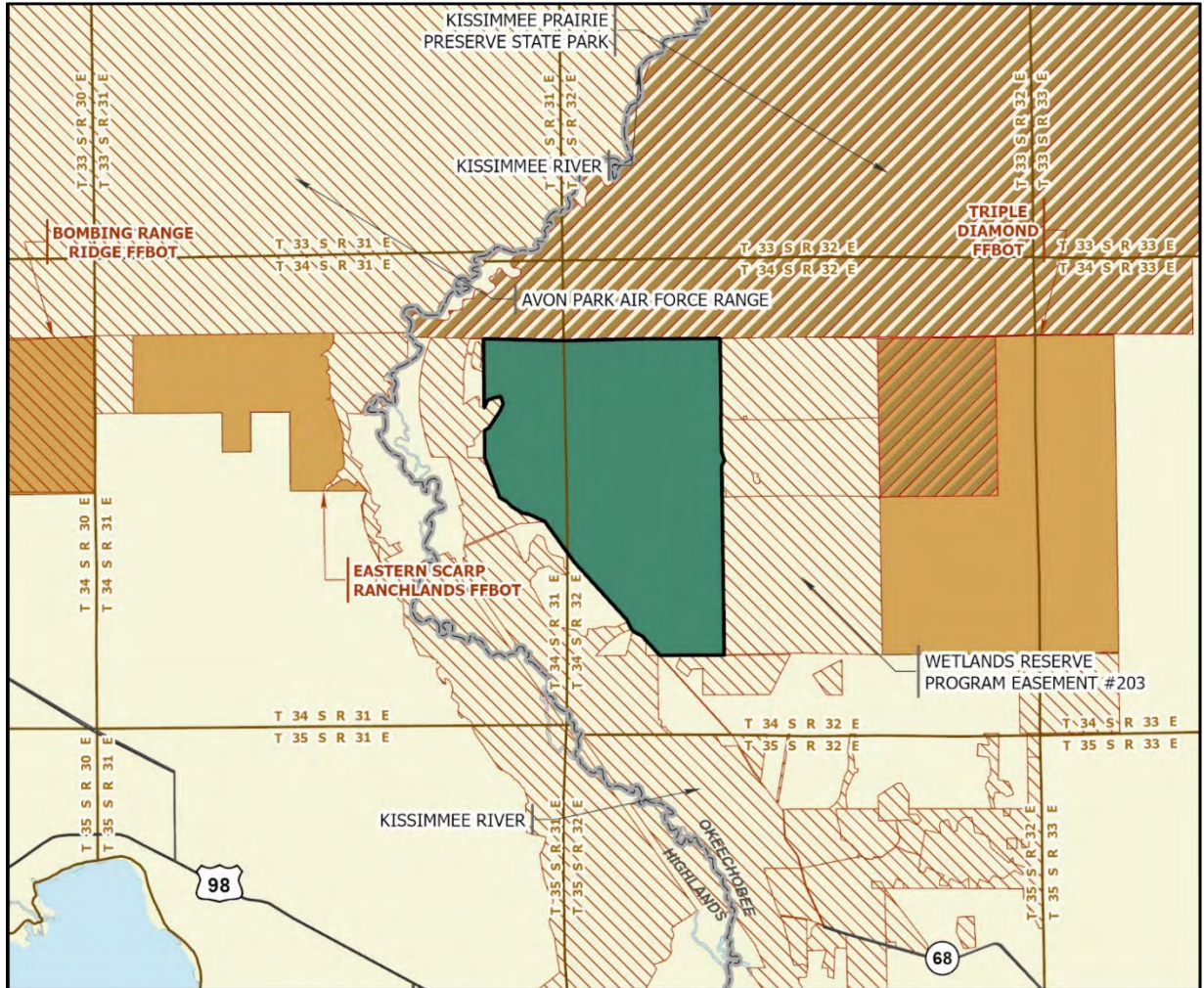
Management costs and sources of revenue

Actual revenue from the addition of this acreage to the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park could not be projected, but visitor fees and charges would be the principle revenue generated.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Salary	\$39,500
Expense	\$0
OCO	\$0
FCO	\$0
TOTAL	\$39,500

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



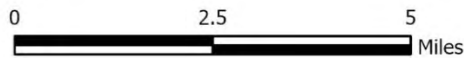
CORRIGAN RANCH

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 40 : FNAI, January 2021



Coupon Bight/Key Deer

Climate Change Lands Project

Monroe

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1985
Project Acres	3,102
Acquired Acres	1,945
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$30,574,427
Remaining Project Acres	1,157
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$68,465,035

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(s)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 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 special plant species (specified by Florida Natural Areas Inventory) (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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Key deer	G5T1/S1
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
<i>Cape Sable thoroughwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>tree cactus</i>	G1/S1
<i>wedge spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
Lower Keys rabbit	G5T1/S1
Keys ringneck snake	G5T1/S1
Striped mud turtle, Lower Keys population	G5T1Q/S1
<i>sand flax</i>	G1G2/S1S2
<i>devil's smooth-claw</i>	G1G3/S1
<i>lignum-vitae</i>	G2G3/S1
<i>fewflower holdback</i>	G2G4/S1

50 rare species are associated with the project

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

Phases

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 (DSL) further refined the priority acquisitions to large acreage tracts.



1995

On October 30, 1995, LAMAC (the Land Acquisition and Management and Advisory Council) added 11.38 acres to the project boundary.

2005

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

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC (Acquisition and Restoration Council) placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

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

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC removed 271 acres (810 parcels) from the project that a staff review found were disturbed by development.

2020

In 2020, six parcels were acquired [Dmoch (1 parcel), Gouldy (1 parcel), George (1 parcel) and Hart (3 parcels)] containing 0.93 acres at a cost of \$242,850.00. They will be managed by Monroe County.

Coordination

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and USFWS are acquisition partners for this site. The Nature Conservancy acted as intermediary in negotiation of 520 acres, expending approximately \$5,124,000 on behalf of the SFWMD and 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.

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 USFWS, NKDR, and the MCLA

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Impediments to management are illegal dumping, vehicular trespass, poaching and clandestine drug activities. Regular patrols, cleanup efforts and posting of the property would curtail these problems 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, the 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 management. 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.

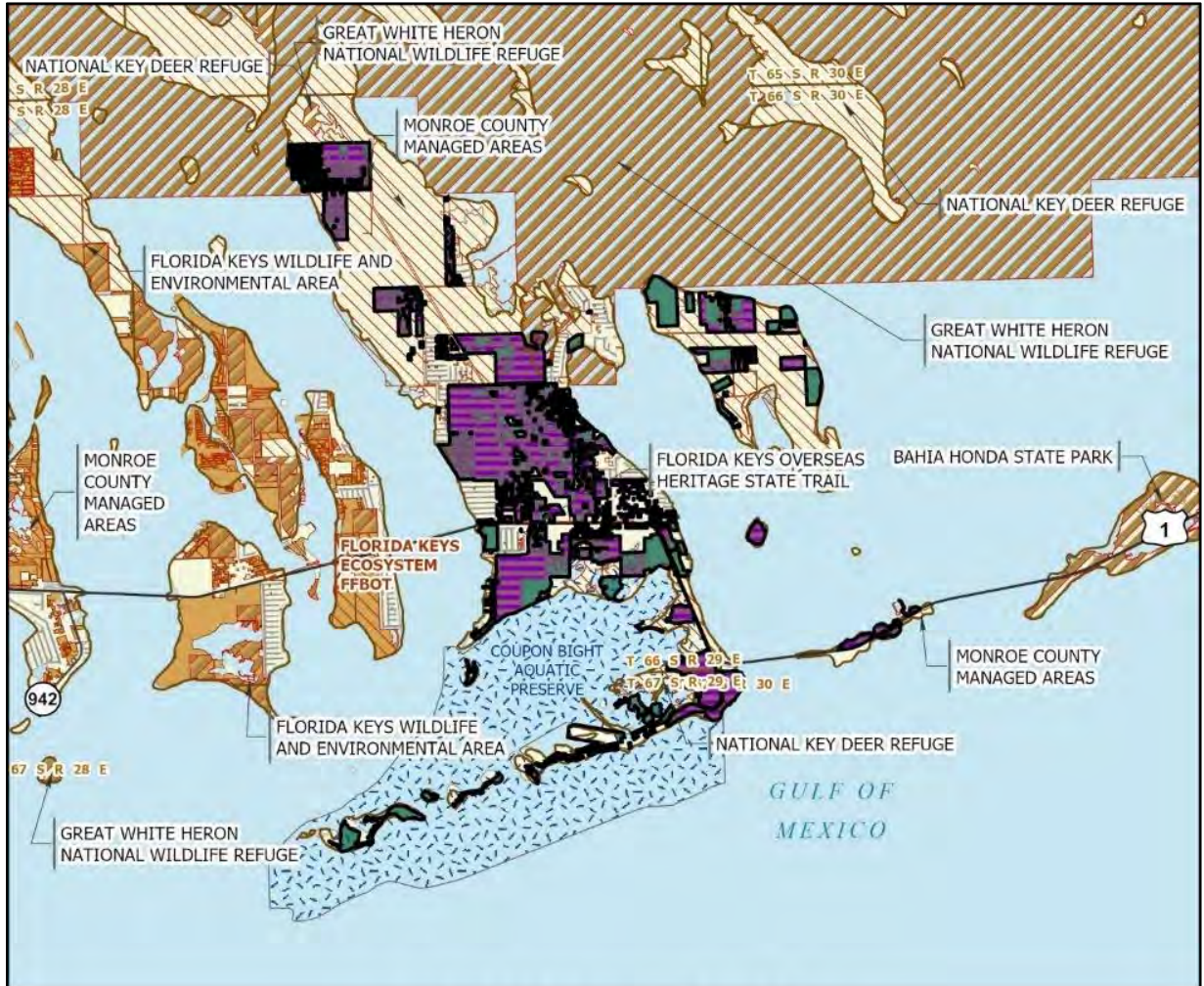
Cooperators in management activities

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 in detection of potential encroachments and/or violations.

Management Cost Summary

<u>USFWS, NKDR, and the MCL</u>	<u>2000/2001</u>	<u>2001/2002</u>
Salary	Not provided	Not provided
OPS	Not provided	Not provided
Expense	\$12,048	\$21,000
OCO	Not provided	Not provided
Special Category	\$1,445	Not provided
FCO	Not provided	Not provided
Grant	Not provided	Not provided
TOTAL	\$13,493	\$21,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



COUPON BIGHT/KEY DEER

MONROE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 41 : FNAI, January 2021



Crayfish Habitat Restoration

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Bay

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2020
Project Acres	2,348
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	2,348
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$3,595,120

Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project would initially provide protection of potential habitat for the Panama City crayfish and potential utilization by other wildlife. Other benefits offered by this acquisition would be to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, and fish and wildlife resources; conserve and protect significant landscape-scale habitat and provide wildlife corridors for rare and imperiled species and increasing linkages and conservation corridors between public land and private conservation easements in the region; conserve, protect, manage or restore coastal habitat in northwest Florida, provide surface and groundwater protection, and protect natural floodplain functions; and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife resource-based public outdoor recreation.

Manager(s)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

General Description

The Crayfish Habitat Restoration proposal comprises multiple parcels that total 2,348 acres (per GIS) in eastern Bay County in urban/suburban Panama City. The project is comprised of three



properties in the St. Andrews Bay watershed and consists of a 40-acre parcel (Highpoint tract), a 130-acre parcel (Lynn Haven tract), and a 2,178- acre property (Star Avenue tract). The county proposes acquisition of the project site to achieve multiple goals: to protect habitat for the Panama City crayfish (*Procambarus econfinae*), offer recreational greenspace, and provide watershed protection for St. Andrews Bay. Long-term management will be facilitated by funds pledged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two private partners.

Predominant current land use is silviculture. Historically the sites supported wet and mesic flatwoods, in association with baygalls, basin swamps, dome swamps, and other wetlands. Silvicultural activities replaced former open savannas with short-rotation slash pine in bedded plantations, with consequent loss of native groundcover and altered hydrological regimes. These activities have been detrimental to the Panama City crayfish (*Procambarus econfinae*), which is narrowly endemic to a small region of Bay County.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Panama City crayfish	G1G2/S1S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

2 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project will provide passive public recreation such as hiking trails within a mile of the urban Panama City area. Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation following acquisition. The habitats are very attractive to birders and plant enthusiasts due to the number of threatened and endangered species thought to exist in the habitats of the Mill’s Bayou Watershed area. This project can help to educate the public and raise awareness of the importance of the Mill’s Bayou Watershed and its relation to St. Andrew’s Bay. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with DHR.

Acquisition Planning

In October 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. This fee-simple project was proposed by Bay County and consists of three



disjunct sites. All parcels intersected by the proposed 2,348-acre restoration sites total 4,085 acres and were valued at \$6,473,145 (2019) according to Bay County's property appraiser. The proposed restoration site currently includes partial parcels which Bay County will re-record at the time of survey/acquisition. The property is owned by the St. Joe Land and Development Company.

Coordination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has pledged 3.73 million dollars towards the development and management of the project.

Management Policy Statement

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) could manage the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project for the purposes of operating a Wildlife Management Area, providing ecological diversity, providing managed habitat for both imperiled and common wildlife, and providing the public with fish and wildlife-based outdoor recreational opportunities. All the natural and historical resources would be managed for the purposes of acquisition included within the Florida Forever Act and Chapters 253 and 259, F.S., under a management plan approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Crayfish Habitat Restoration project if acquired will help to achieve multiple goals: to protect habitat for the Panama City crayfish (*Procambarus econfinae*), offer recreational greenspace, and provide watershed protection for St. Andrews Bay. Long-term management will be facilitated by funds pledged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two private partners.

Manager(s)

FWC

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Resources described in this management prospectus indicate conditions affecting intensity of management. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance, and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding



natural areas, wetlands, or cultural sites shall be identified, appropriately managed, and protected.

The FWC conducts analysis of historic vegetation of natural community types when necessary to determine appropriate desired future conditions. Upland wildlife management concentrates on appropriate vegetative manipulations guided by the FWC's OBVM program, which includes the application of prescribed fire to achieve conditions acceptable to a broad range of wildlife species within the area's fire-adapted natural communities. Some areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive and exotic species, and either thinning or reforestation. Such resource management projects including hydrologic restoration may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives and to attain the desired future conditions for communities. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape ecology is also important, as land use changes in the vicinity of the area, such as intensive residential, commercial, and industrial developments, and the roads that often accompany them, may also affect the attainment of resource conservation goals for the area and the effectiveness of necessary resource management projects.

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

If acquired and leased to the FWC for management, the FWC will develop a management plan describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on Crayfish Habitat Restoration. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of locally important, rare, and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, if deemed necessary, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. The FWC would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species on the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

The FWC set a long-term conservation goal of increasing the total area of occupied Panama City crayfish habitat to 2,000 acres. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has estimated that approximately 2,200 acres of actively managed and permanently protected habitat is needed



for the persistence of the Panama City crayfish. Under the proposed ESA listing, the establishment of the approximately 2,200 acres would meet the projected goal for the species.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from conservation lands can include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of the FWC's Apiary Policy.

The Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. In addition, the project sponsor, Bay County, has received commitments from partners to restore and manage the property. Approximately \$3.7 million has been pledged for an endowment as mitigation for the restoration and site management of Panama City crayfish habitat.

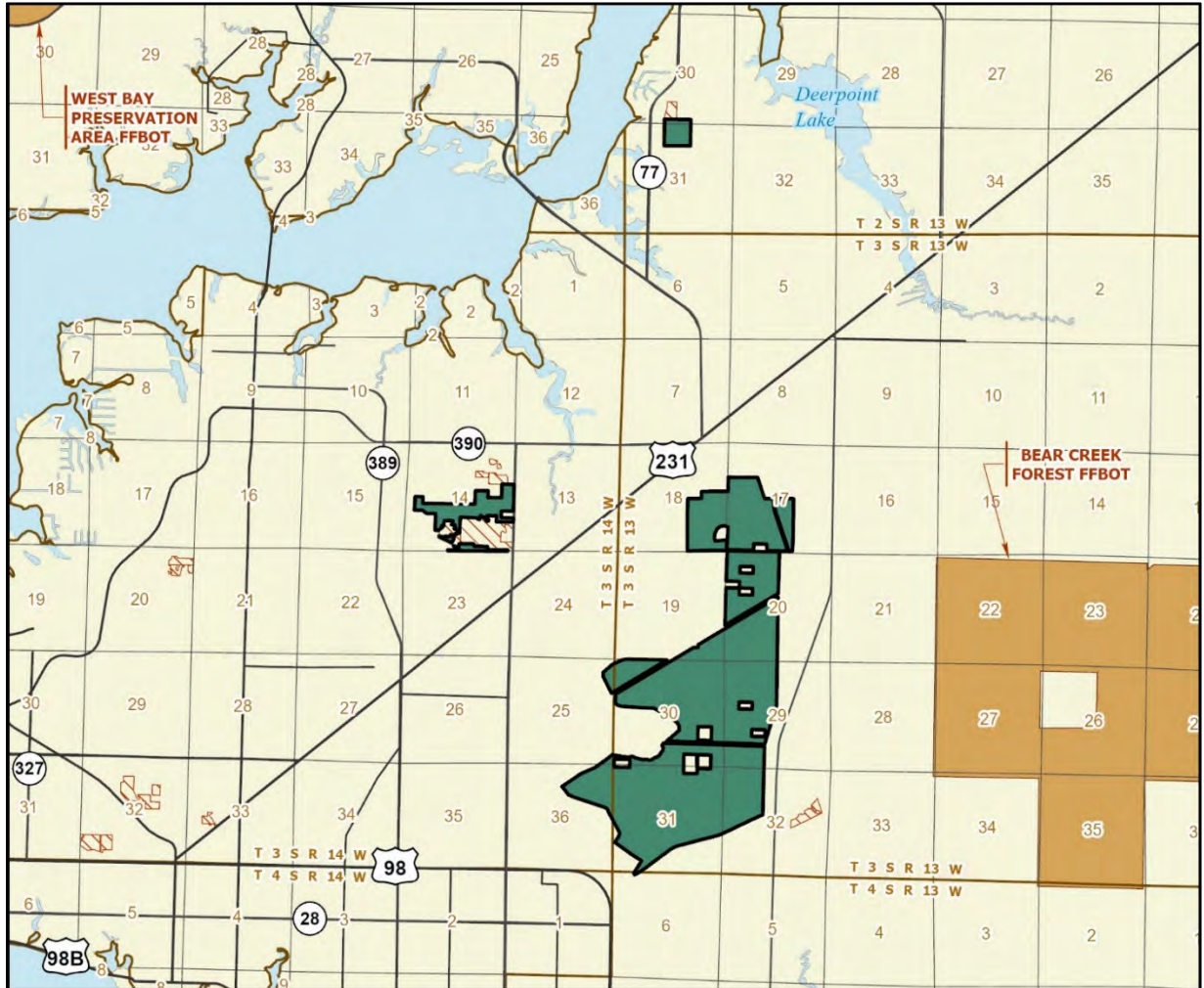
The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in management activities

The FWC will continue to cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including the Florida DEP, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, the NFWFMD, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bay County in management of the property.

Management costs and sources of revenue

The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project is estimated to be \$375,680, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Below is an estimate of the recurring, annual operating costs to operate and manage the Crayfish Habitat Restoration project. Optimal management of the area would require one (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) position. Salary requirements for these FTE positions, as well as those of other needed FWC staff, and costs to operate and manage Crayfish Habitat Restoration are reflected in the cost estimate below. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.



CRAYFISH HABITAT RESTORATION

BAY COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2021



Map 42 : FNAI, January 2021



Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Pasco

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2007
Project Acres	12,440
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	12,440
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$60,696,132

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch property would fulfill Florida Forever goals of preserving rare- species habitat and preserving several 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(s)

Florida Forest Service (FFS) 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 12,440 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 pastureland include xeric hammock and remnant sandhill, depression marsh, mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, dome swamp, flatwoods lake, mesic hammock, baygall, and sinkhole.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Pine snake	G4/S3
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/S3
Tricolored heron	G5/S4

10 rare species are associated with the project

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 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 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. 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

2007

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. In 2007, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$3,730,476.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

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 cosponsor, 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 to: restore, maintain, and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; integrate compatible human use; and ensure 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. This includes, but is 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 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 understory 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 make it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

Manager

The FFS will be the lead manager of the Crossbar Ranch portion of the project and FWC will manage the Al Bar Ranch portion.

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 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 is restored. The improved pastures total about 2,100 acres with multiple combinations of grasses planted in them. 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 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 FFS, 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

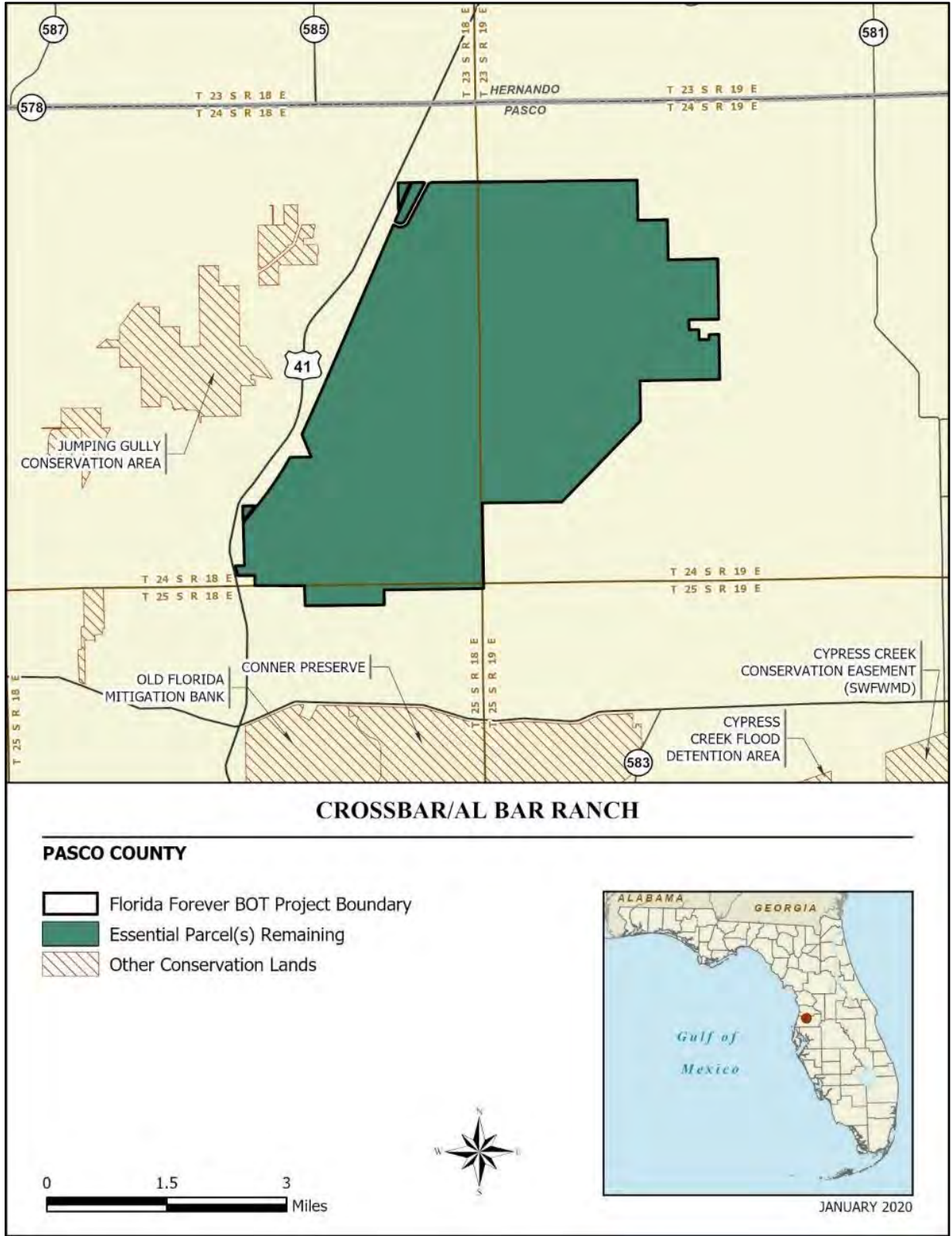
As mentioned above, timber sales from the Crossbar Ranch by the DOF will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to 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. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS and FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Salary (3 FTE)	\$108,341	not provided
Expense	\$500,000	not provided
OCO	\$450,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$1,058,341	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Map 43 : FNAI, January 2021



Dade County Archipelago

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Miami-Dade

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1994
Project Acres	889
Acquired Acres	585
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$35,651,244
Remaining Project Acres	304
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$53,729,790

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 to 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 this ecosystem.

Manager(s)

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>tiny polygala</i>	G1/S1
<i>Florida lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Small's milkpea</i>	G1Q/S1
<i>Carter's small-flowered flax</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Cuban snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
<i>deltoid spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Florida brickell-bush</i>	G5T1/S1
<i>Florida filmy fern</i>	G4G5T1/S1
Miami cave crayfish	G1/S1
<i>pinelands spurge</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Fakahatchee ladies'-tresses</i>	G4T1/S1
<i>Wright's anemia</i>	G2?/S1

57 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project tracts are designated for use as botanical sites with passive recreational use.

Acquisition Planning

1994

The Dade County Archipelago dates from 1994 when the former Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands and Miami Rockridge Pinelands, both in Miami-Dade County, were combined.

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. Miami-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. Miami-Dade County has acquired the tract. All sites are essential.



1995

During 1995, Miami-Dade County proposed adding 16 sites to the project area. All of the sites were assessed during the 1995 cycle with LAMAC approving in December 1995. The sites added were Boystown (77 acres); Tamiami Addition; Wilkins- Pierson Addition; Whispering Pines; Castellow Complex #28; Castellow Complex #31; Castellow Complex #33; Goulds, Hardin, Owaissaa Bauer Addition; Fuchs; Navy Wells #2; Navy Wells #23; Navy Wells #39; Round Hammock; and Bauer Drive Pineland. Miami-Dade County acquired approximately 348 acres within the project at a cost of \$21,889,314.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

Miami-Dade County is the acquisition partner. In May 1990, county 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. Miami-Dade County continues with acquisition of the remaining tracts. Resolutions in support of this project included a pledge from the Miami-Dade County Commission to participate in providing 50 percent 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 Miami-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 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 remaining in Miami-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

Miami-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 concentrate on site security; removing existing trash; public and fire management access; and resource inventory, including areas of special concern such as archaeological sites, rare species, fern, vine, and exotic dominated areas. Long-range plans will generally be toward restoring disturbed areas and perpetuating and maintaining natural communities.

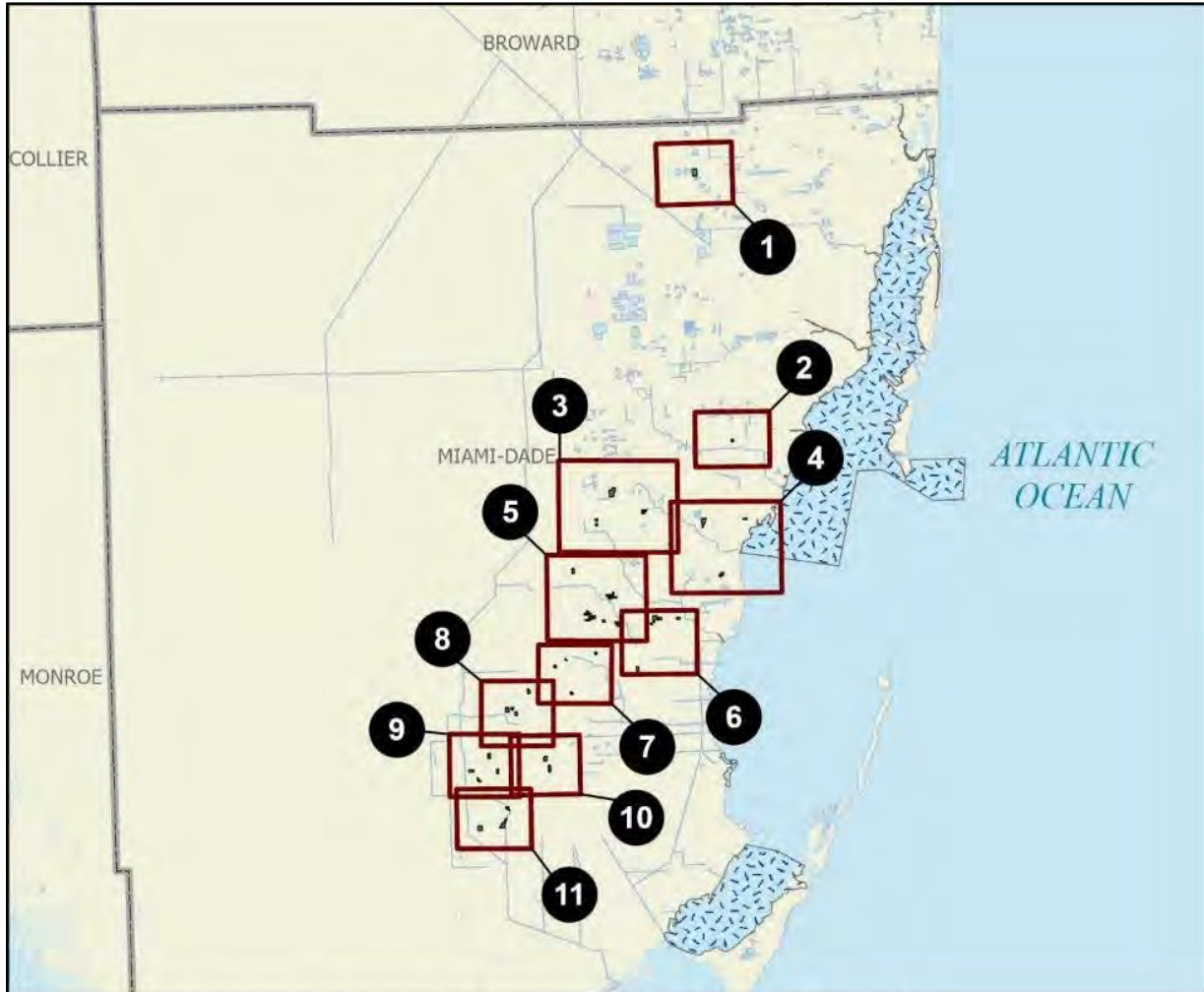
Management activities will also stress protecting threatened and endangered species. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.



Management Cost Summary

<u>Dade County</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	County	County
Salary	\$120,362	\$190,986
OPS	\$57,119	\$0
Expense	\$0	\$58,424
OCO	\$31,320	\$140,084
FCO	\$8,357	\$66,812
TOTAL	\$217,158	\$456,306

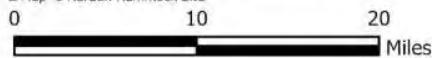
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: OVERVIEW

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Map 1 Maddens Hammock Site
- Map 2 Trinity Pineland Site
- Map 3 Big and Little George Hammocks Site
- Map 3 Boystown Pineland Site
- Map 3 Tamiami Pineland Complex Addition Site
- Map 4 Ludlam Pineland Site
- Map 4 Rockdale Pineland Site
- Map 4 Whispering Pines Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock #28 Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock #31 Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock #33 Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock Addition Site
- Map 5 Quail Roost Pineland Site
- Map 5 Ross Hammock Site
- Map 5 Silver Palm Hammock Site
- Map 5 Silver Palm Pineland Site
- Map 5 Wilkins Pierson Pineland Site
- Map 6 Goulds Pineland Addition Site
- Map 6 Goulds Pineland Site
- Map 6 Harden Hammock Site
- Map 6 Pine Island Lake Park Site
- Map 7 Bauer Drive Pineland Site
- Map 7 Camp Owaissa Bauer Pineland Addition Site
- Map 7 Ingram Pineland Site
- Map 7 Plummer Drive Pineland Site
- Map 8 Fuchs Hammock Addition Site
- Map 8 Fuchs Pineland Site
- Map 8 Meissner Hammock Site
- Map 8 Navy Wells Pineland #2 Site
- Map 8 West Biscayne Pineland Site
- Map 9 Loveland Hammock Site
- Map 9 Lucille Hammock Site
- Map 9 Navy Wells Pineland #39 Site
- Map 9 Palm Drive Pineland Site
- Map 10 Florida City Pineland Site
- Map 10 Navy Wells Pineland #23 Site
- Map 11 Holiday Hammock Site
- Map 11 Round Hammock Site
- Map 11 Southwest Hammock Site





JANUARY 2020

Map 44 : FNAI, January 2021



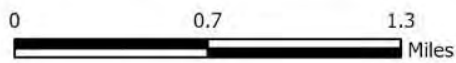
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 1

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 45 : FNAI, January 2021



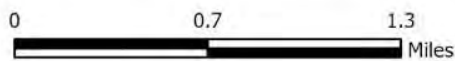
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 2

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 46 : FNAI, January 2021



DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 3

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

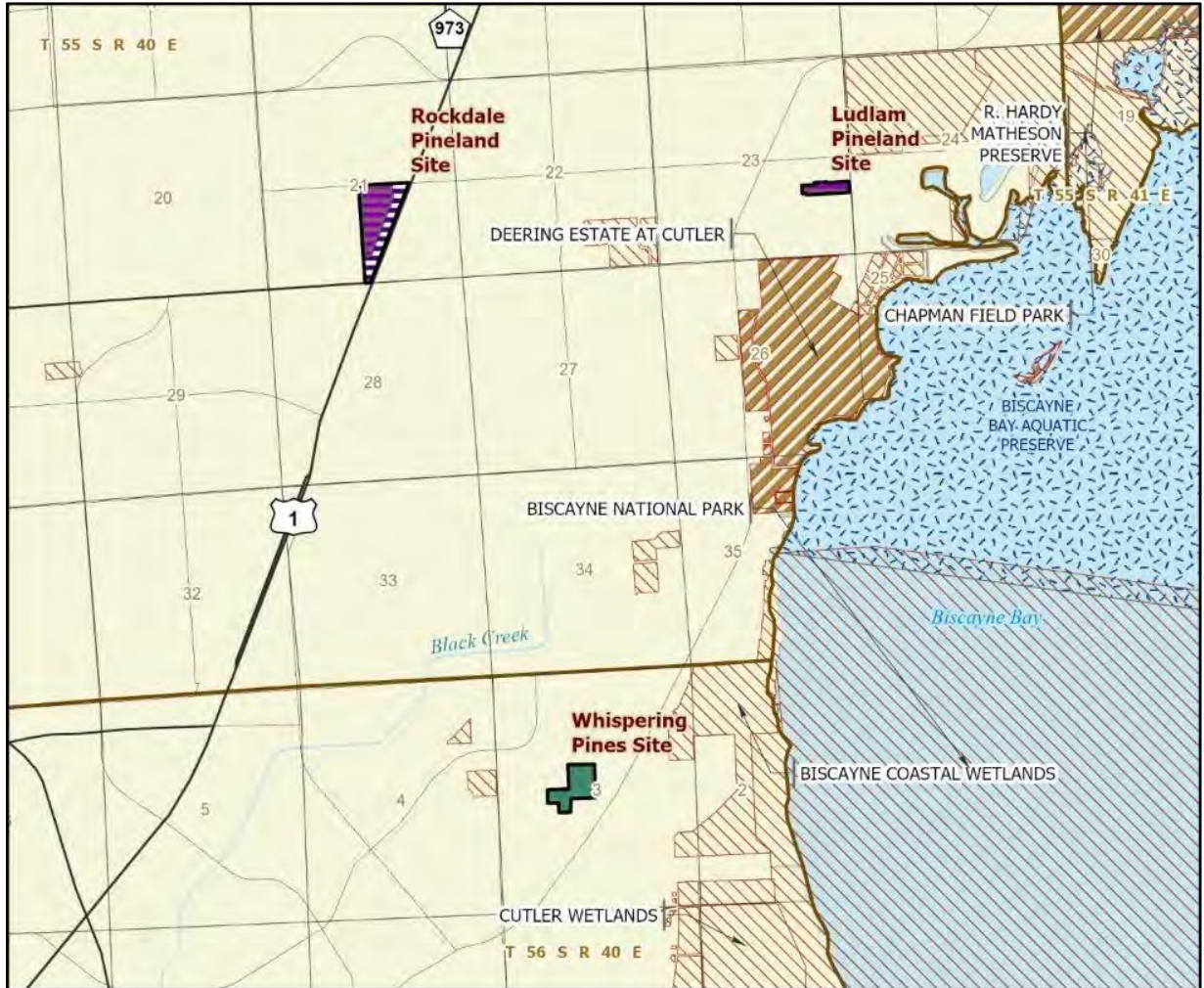
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



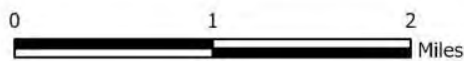
Map 47 : FNAI, January 2021



DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 4

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020

Map 48 : FNAI, January 2021



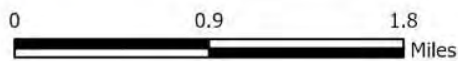
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 5

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 49 : FNAI, January 2021



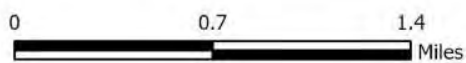
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 6

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 50 : FNAI, January 2021



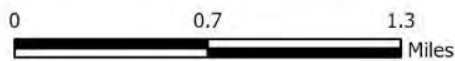
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 7

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

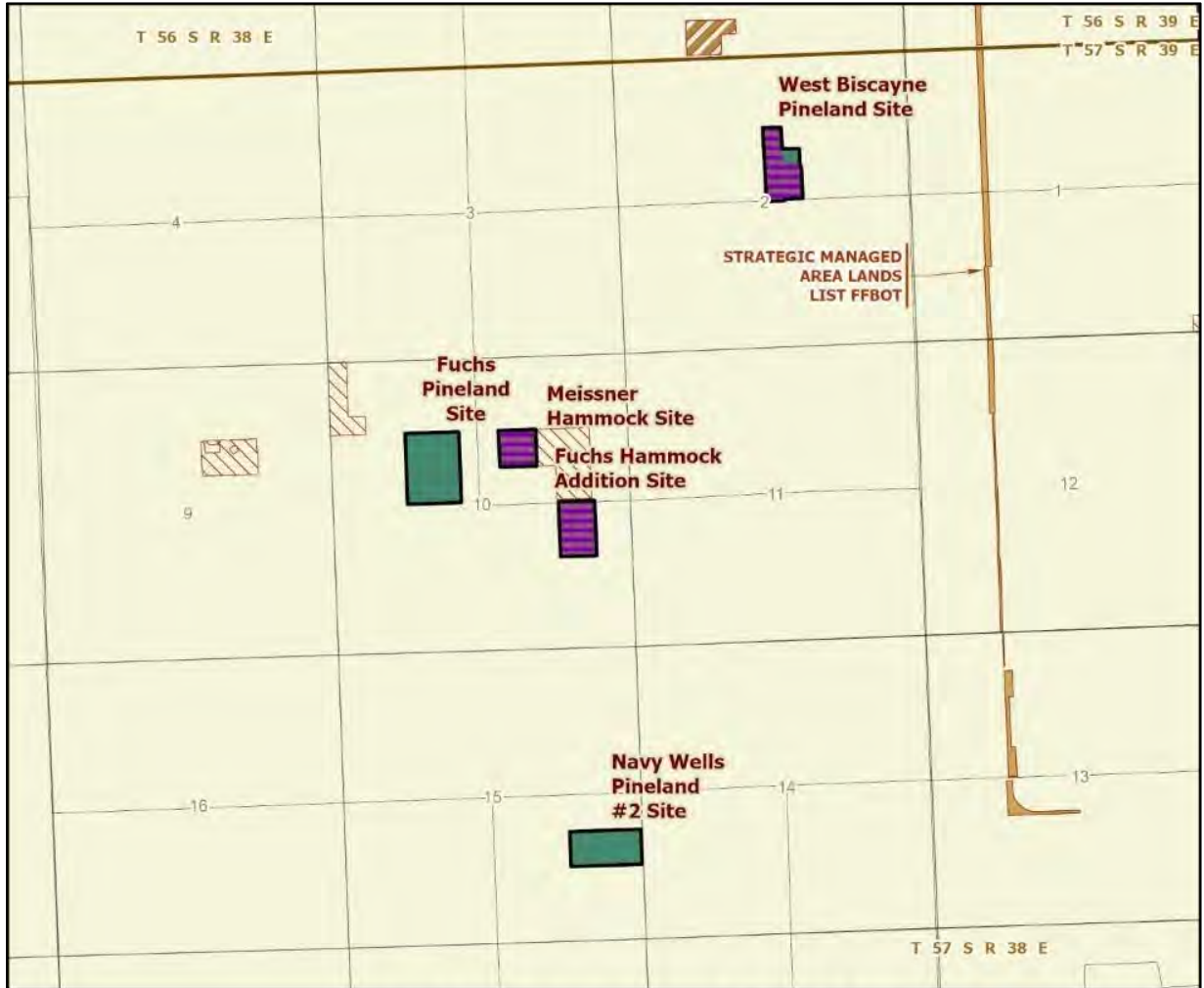
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 51 : FNAI, January 2021



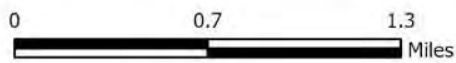
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 8

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 52 : FNAI, January 2021



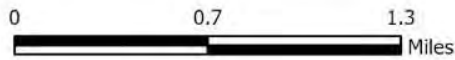
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 9

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

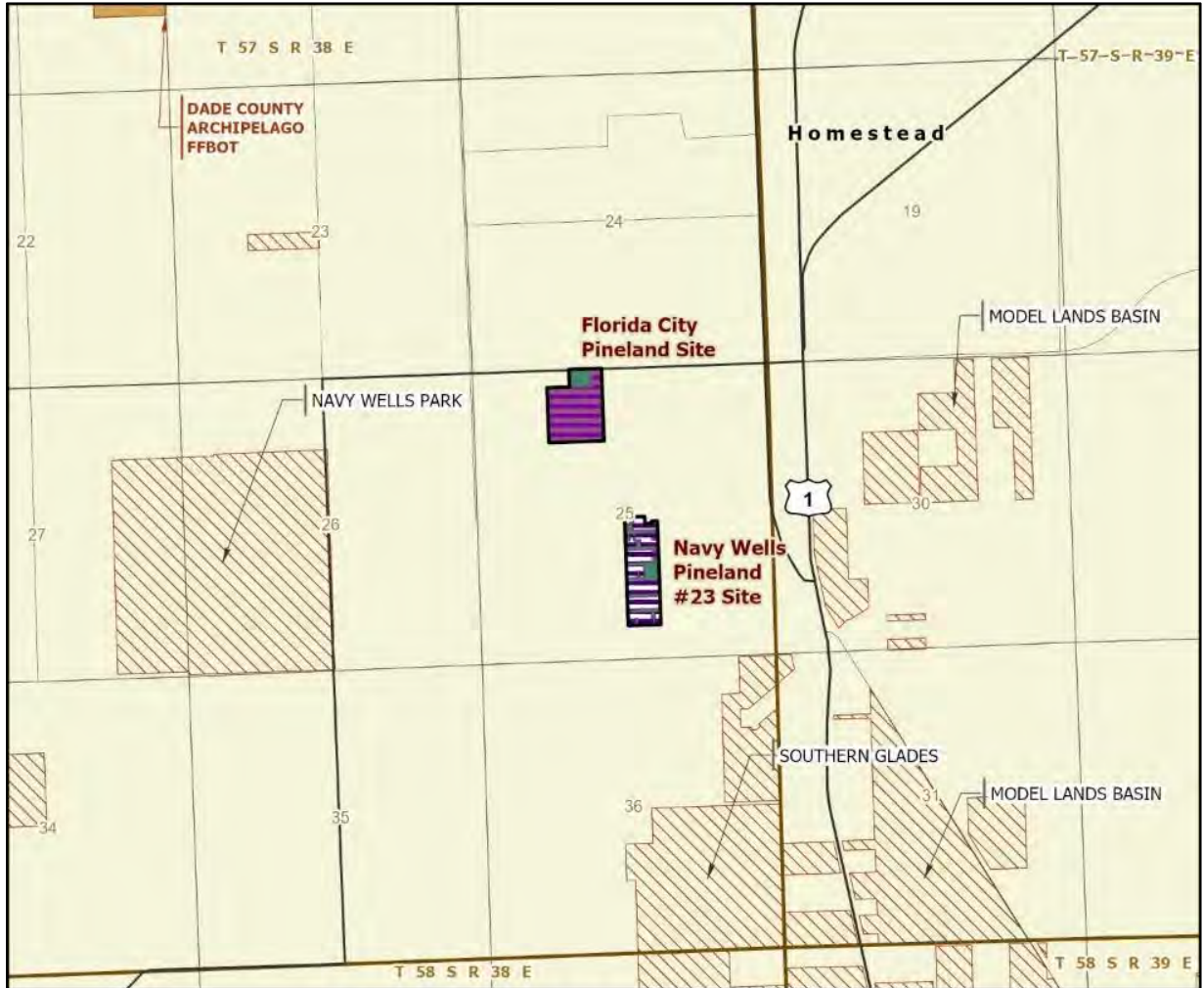
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



Map 53 : FNAI, January 2021



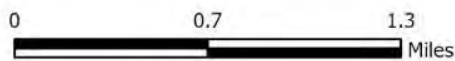
DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 10

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

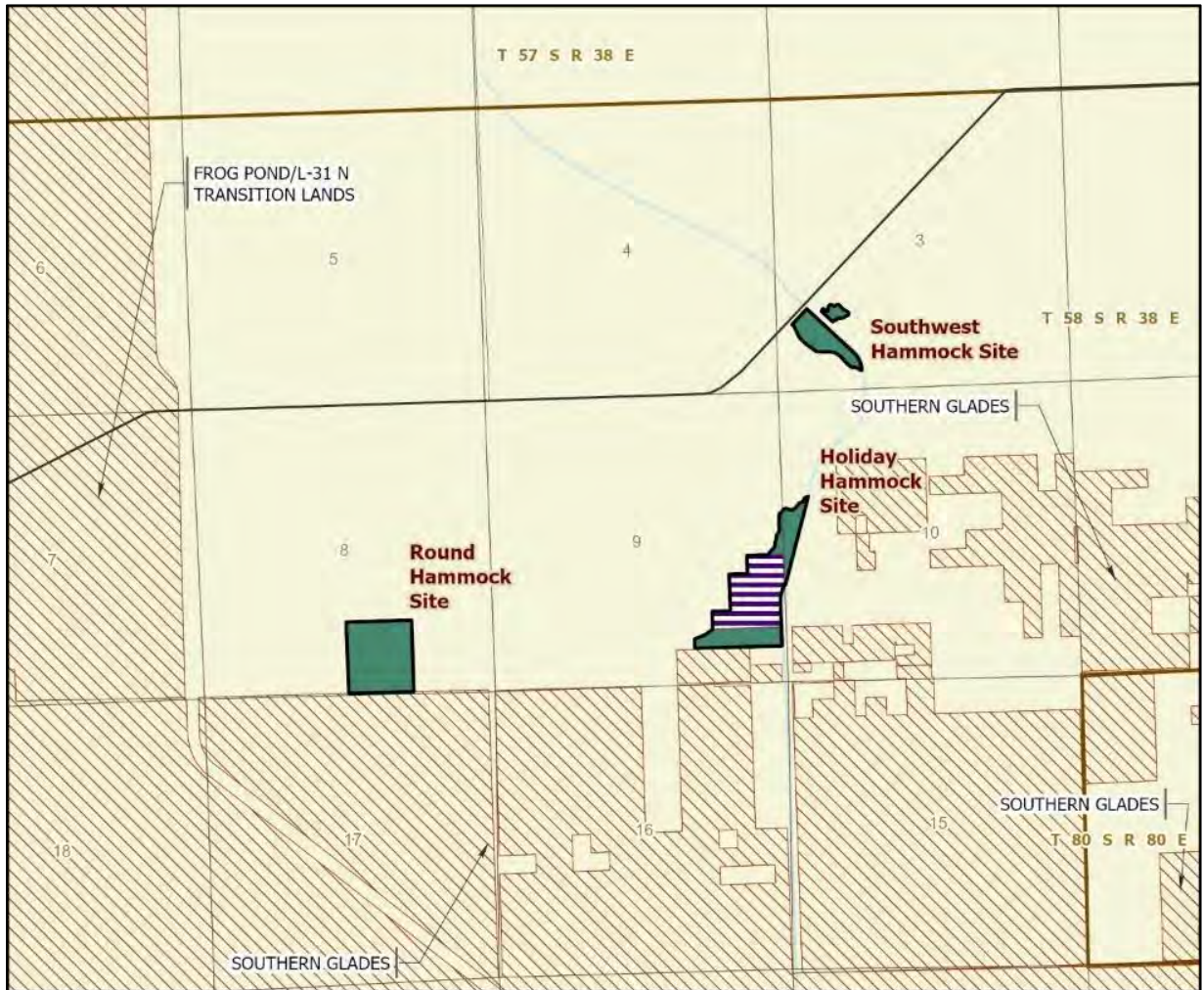
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020




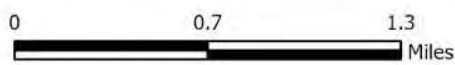
Map 54 : FNAI, January 2021



DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 11

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Miami-Dade County Owned Lands Within Project
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020

Map 55 : FNAI, January 2021



Devil's Garden

Critical Natural Lands Project
Collier, Hendry

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	82,995
Acquired Acres	27,301
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$43,275,000
Remaining Project Acres	55,694
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$207,596,784

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring this project will contribute to Florida Forever goals of increasing protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels and filling a gap in the corridor for 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.

It will also increase the 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(s)

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the recommended lead manager for most of the area (approximately 71,608 acres). Florida Forest Service/FFS will manage the two westernmost parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) adjoining the Okaloacoochee State Forest.



General Description

The Devil’s Garden proposal includes 82,920 acres (per digitized boundaries) 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 is a huge tract of ranch land that has been heavily impacted by cattle ranching activities (conversion to pasture) and to a lesser extent by agriculture. Non-forested wetlands, including basin/ depression marsh, swale, and wet prairie make up the dominant natural communities 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 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; some hammock remains in the southwest corner of the T-shaped parcel.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Wood stork	G4/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

9 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The property can accommodate resource-based recreation, including camping, 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 to



coordinate hunting and wildlife observation. Because the project is so large, it may be possible to set areas aside where wildlife observation can be emphasized and encouraged.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and 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 FFS, consisted of approximately 82,508 acres with a single owner, Alico Inc., and a 2001 taxable value of \$9,483,649.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move Devil's Garden to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, Devil's Garden was classified as a Critical Natural Lands project.

2020

In September 2020, Phase 1B that includes the Central and West parcels was acquired fee simple from Alico, Inc. The acquisition contains 10,702.03 acres and was purchased at a cost of \$28,500,000.00. These parcels will be managed by FWC as part of Okaloacoochee Slough WMA.

Coordination

TNC is the intermediary and is working to find a purchaser for the eastern portion of the tract (farmland).

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management for the Devil's Garden project are to increase 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 westernmost parcels (approximately 10,900 acres) qualify as State Forests. 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

FWC will manage the eastern parcel. FFS will manage the two westernmost parcels as part of the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Much of the project's drier natural community types have been disturbed, with many converted to some improved form of agriculture. This conversion usually involves some type of hydrologic alteration for water management. This property contains vast areas of wetlands with sensitive natural resources. Land management and public use will specifically be structured to improve and protect these areas.

Surrounding land uses are not expected to affect 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. 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 (Conservation and Recreation Lands) Trust Fund (as of 2015 the LATF). It is anticipated that revenue sources would include public use fees and timber harvests.

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 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. 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 enhancing 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 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 come 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.

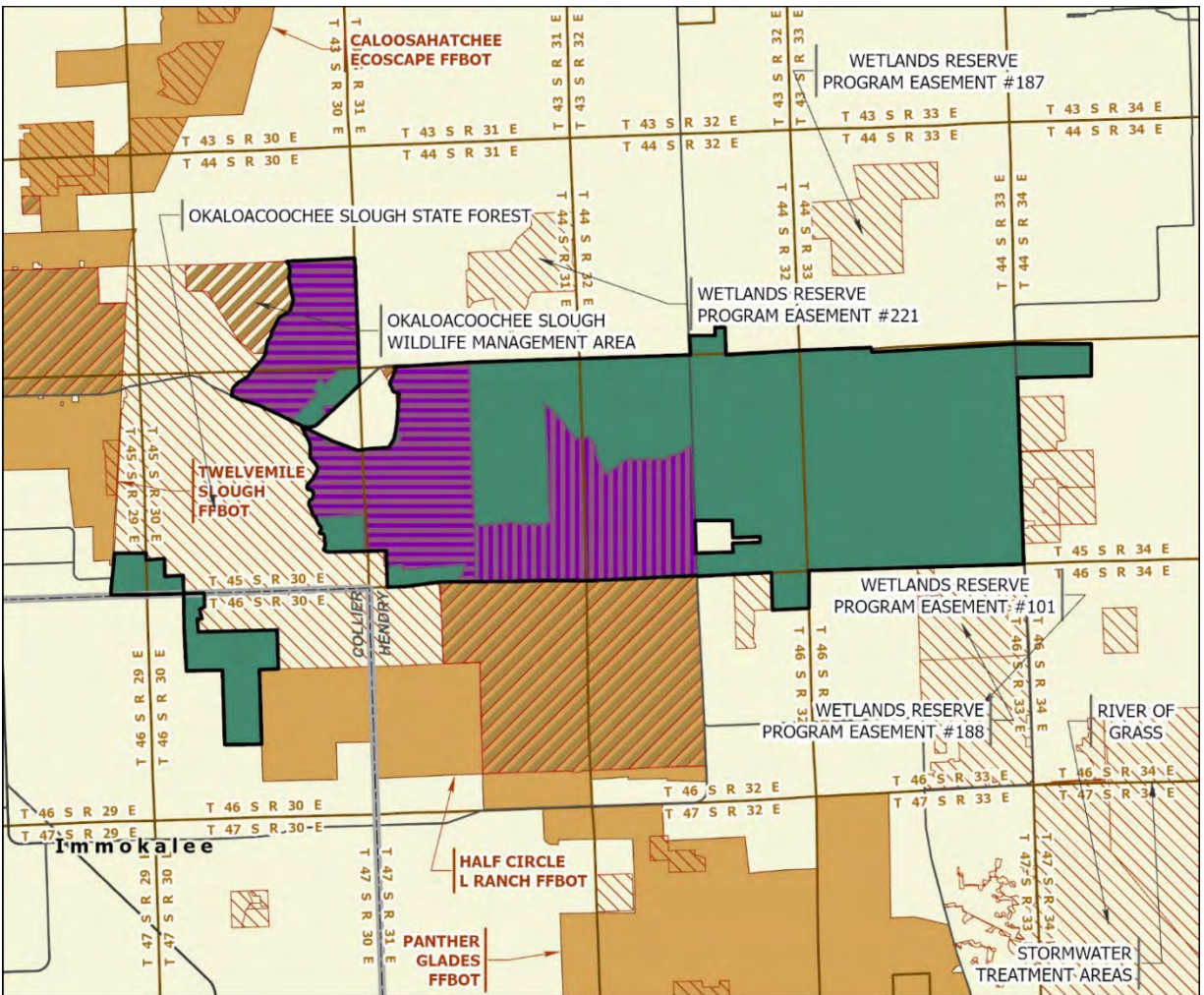
Cooperators in management activities

The FWC and FFS will cooperate with other federal, state and local government agencies, including the South Florida Water Management District, in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (6 FTE)	\$216,639	not provided
Expense	\$725,000	not provided
OCO	\$418,200	not provided

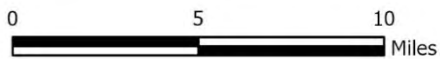
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



DEVIL'S GARDEN

COLLIER AND HENDRY COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 56 : FNAI, January 2021



Dickerson Bay/Bald Point

Substantially Complete Project

Franklin, Wakulla

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1996
Project Acres	26,191
Acquired Acres	23,114
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$47,986,365
Remaining Project Acres	3,077
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$14,897,082

Purpose for State Acquisition

On the coast of Wakulla and Franklin Counties, the shallow 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 Mashes Sands County Park where people may enjoy the beauty of this little-disturbed coast.

Manager(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), 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 archaeological sites are known from Bald Point. The Bald Point site is threatened by development.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Kemp's ridley	G1/S1
Green sea turtle	G3/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Lobeless spiny burrowing beetle	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Godfrey's blazing star</i>	G2/S2
<i>zigzag silkgrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>Gulf Coast lupine</i>	G3T3/S3
Scott's seaside sparrow	G4T3Q/S3
Merlin	G5/S2

20 rare species are associated with the project

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 Mashes 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. With a 17,041-acre addition in 2016, there is interest by the FFS and DEP’s Division of Recreation and Parks.



Acquisition Planning

1996

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. Bald Point: All parcels are essential. The LGR Investment Fund, LTD. has been acquired.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC designated the Jer Be Lou Development Co. parcel as essential. The parcel has been acquired. Initial acquisition started in 1999 with funds from the CARL/P2000 acquisition program along Apalachee Bay.

1999

On August 30, 1999, the Board of Trustees purchased 1,349 acres in Franklin County from the Trust for Public Land which later became the Bald Point State Park.

2003

In 2003, the park was expanded when 3,485 acres were purchased from the St. Joe Company.

2006

As of January 2006, the park contained 4,859 acres, and is jointly administered with the Ochlockonee River State Park.

2011

On September 6, 2011, DRP purchased to manage .77 acres (Kennedy-\$67,500).

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

2016

In October 2016, ARC approved the Bluffs of St. Teresa project and immediately amended that project into the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project. This added 17,041 acres adjacent to Bald Point State Park, across the Ochlockonee River from the Ochlockonee River State Park, and adjacent to the Tate's Hell State Forest. If acquired, different portions of this land could be managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) as part of Tate's Hell and by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) as part of Bald Point. Access to Ochlockonee Bay, Alligator Harbor (Aquatic Preserve), and several of the ponds provide opportunities for paddling and fishing. The extensive network of woods roads can easily accommodate hiking, biking, and nature study. The extensive frontage on U.S. highways expands the possibilities for siting of a campground and visitor center. The property's large size also makes hunting feasible.



2020

On October 1, 2020, the Bluffs of St. Teresa tract was acquired in fee from Ochlocknee Timberlands, LLC. The acquisition contains 16,971.6 acres and was purchased at a cost of \$43,000,000.00 (\$38,562,000.00 of Florida Forever funds). More than \$4,438,000.00 of federal funding contributed to the acquisition. This was the largest Florida Forever acquisition in over a decade. The property, located in Franklin and part of Wakulla Counties, will be managed in part by the FFS as part of Tate’s Hell State Forest, and DRP as part of Bald Point and Ochlocknee River State Parks.

The Dickerson Bay/Bald Point Florida Forever project is now more than 85% complete. It was moved into the Substantially Complete category by ARC in December 2020.

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 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, the Division of Recreation and Parks and the Florida Forest Service. In Wakulla County, the 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. Also, management will concentrate on site security, fire management and developing a resource inventory and public use plan. Vehicle access by the public will be confined to designated points and routes. Protecting 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 for the property. Restoring and maintaining 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

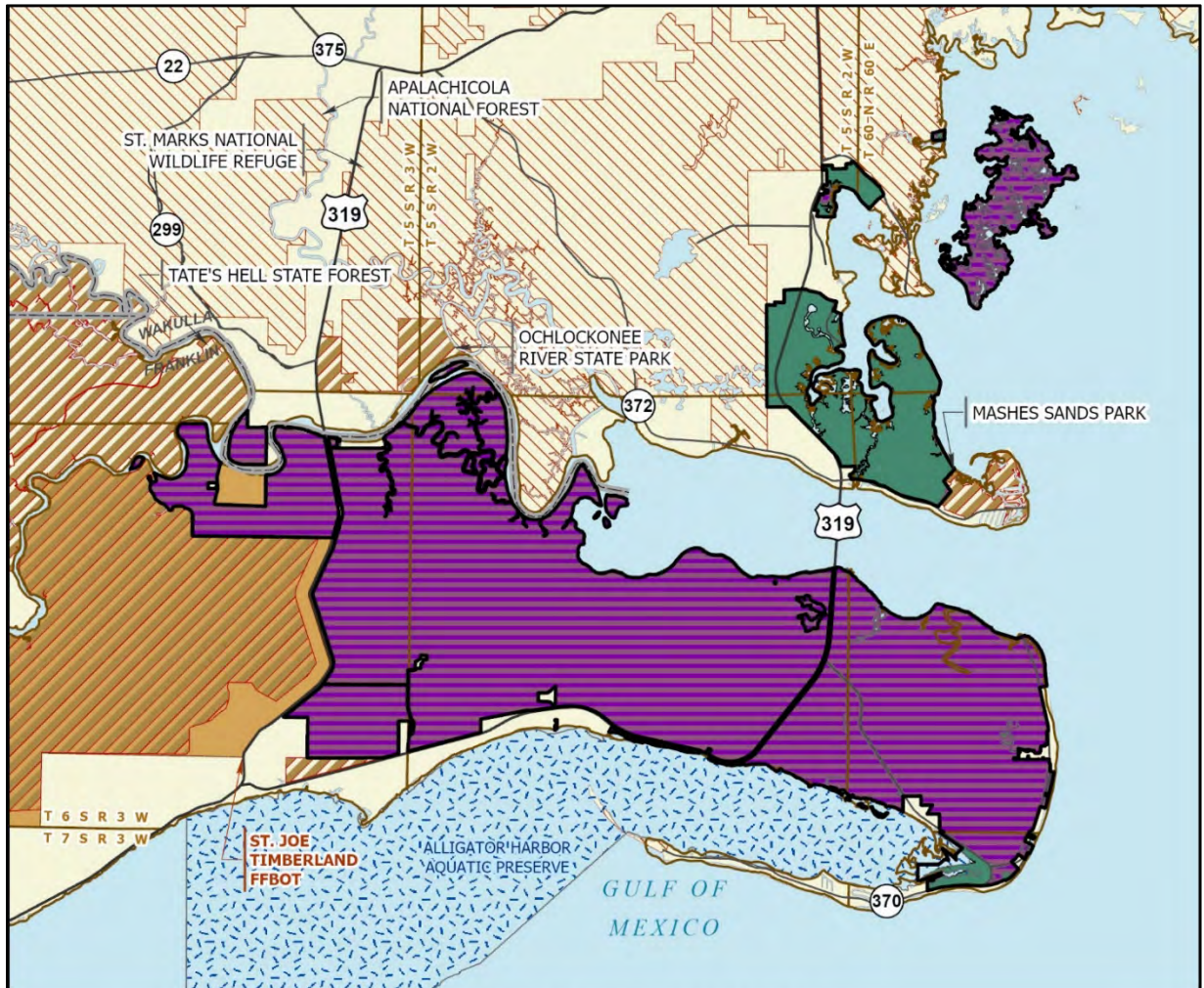
No significant revenue is expected to be generated from this property initially. After acquisition, it will probably be several years before any significant public facilities might be developed. The



amount of any future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use in the management plan for the property. The 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 Florida Forest Service (aka Division of Forestry/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

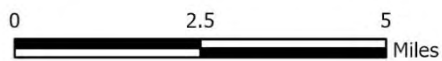
Due to the potential for enhancement of the adjacent county park by this project area, coordination of management efforts may be desirable. On the Bald Point site, the FFS, will be consulted on forest management and timber issues related to planning and implementation of a forest resource management 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.



DICKERSON BAY/BALD POINT

FRANKLIN AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

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



MARCH 2021

Map 57 : FNAI, January 2021



Eastern Scarp Ranchlands

Less-Than-Fee Project

Highlands

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2013
Project Acres	2,214
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	2,214
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$1,365,247

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring this property as a conservation easement would buffer the Avon Park Air Force Range against encroachment and changing land uses. This property also has potential water quality benefits for the Kissimmee River and Lake Istokpoga.

Manager(s)

The property would continue to be managed by the landowner, with compliance reviews of management being the responsibility of the Division of State Lands.

General Description

The 2,214-acre property of Eastern Scarp Ranchlands (ESR) in Highlands County was proposed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as a less-than-fee acquisition. The project has three parcels. The property is accessed from Scrubpens Road, part of which is a county-maintained road. The site was visited by the ARC assessment team on October 15, 2013. The ESR project name is taken from its geology. It spans a slope that descends 50 feet in elevation over the course of about two miles. The western side of the property occupies part of the southern tip of Bombing Range Ridge, a narrow sand ridge of Pleistocene origin. On this ridge, which reaches an elevation of about 95 feet above sea level on the proposal, soils are moderately well-drained. A



broad slope, about 300 meters wide going from west to east, descends from the ridge. From this point eastward, the plain begins a very gradual descent, eventually dropping to an elevation of about 50 feet along the edge of the Kissimmee floodplain. The ESR is adjacent to the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR), which forms the northern boundary of the site. Floodplain lands adjacent the east side of the proposal are managed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Northeast of the property on the other side of the Kissimmee River is Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. The ESR is a working ranch, almost 80 percent converted to improved Bahia grass- dominated pasture. Most of the pasture occupies former dry prairie that once stretched unbroken from the cutthroat seep located in the western portion of the property to the Kissimmee River floodplain that forms the eastern boundary of the site. The pasture is dotted with numerous depression marshes, many of which have been dug to form watering holes for cattle or drained via a network of ditches. The largest remaining natural community is a zone of wet prairie-cutthroat grass seep (ca. 164 acres) on the eastern slope of the Bombing Range Ridge.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The Division of Recreation and Parks’ analysis is that, although the tract is potentially significant as a military buffer area and as an addition to an existing mosaic of other fee and less-than-fee conservation lands within the Kissimmee River watershed, opportunities for public recreation are unlikely.

Consequently, this tract is not appropriate for management by the Division of Recreation and Parks. The project is not located within Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan’s Land Trail or Paddling Trail Network.

Acquisition Planning

The parcel would most likely be acquired in one purchase, as a single conservation easement, and therefore the entire parcel would be designated as essential.



2013

On December 13, 2013, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Eastern Scarp Ranchlands to the list of Florida Forever projects. At the time, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$938,262.

Coordination

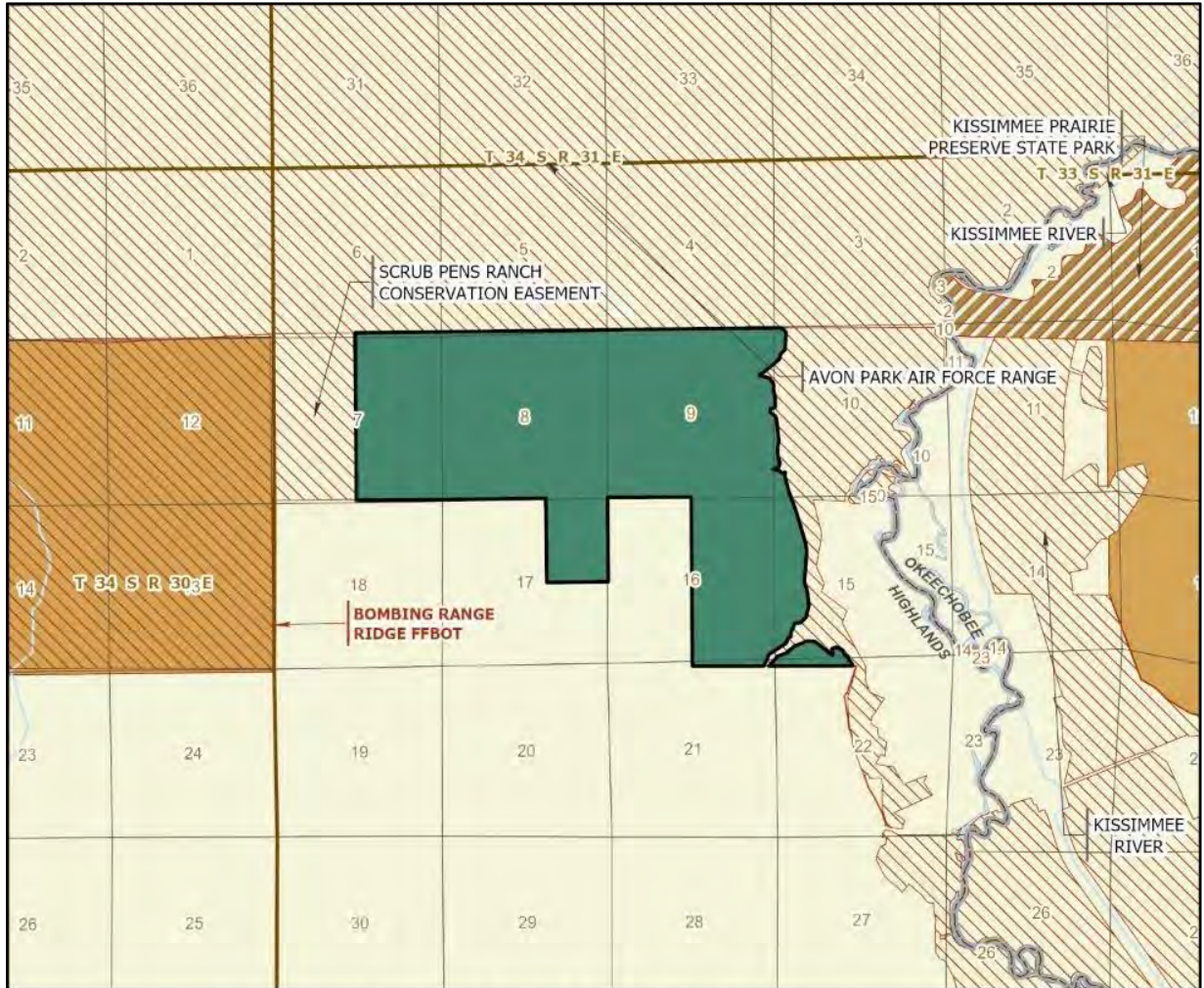
TNC has been working with the Department of Defense and the County and has secured 1,382 acres in this region contiguous with APAFR. TNC confirmed in late 2013 that an application has been submitted for additional Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) funding to match with Florida Forever funding to acquire this proposal.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Eastern Scarp Ranchlands project would continue to be managed by the private landowner, but in accordance with the terms of a conservation easement. The likely elements of such an agreement could include purchasing the development rights, prohibiting turning more natural areas into intensive use areas, and managing the property for wildlife habitat.

Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands would be designated to ensure the proper oversight of the conservation easement of this project.



EASTERN SCARP RANGLANDS

HIGHLANDS COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 58 : FNAI, January 2021



Econfina Timberlands

Critical Natural Lands Project
Jefferson

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2019
Project Acres	1,665
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	1,665
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$1,830,972

Purpose for State Acquisition

Purchasing the tracts of the Econfina Timberlands project would advance the landscape connectivity along the Aucilla River that extends north from the Gulf Coast through such lands as the Walker Spring Conservation Easement, the Middle Aucilla Conservation Area, the Upper Aucilla Conservation Area and the Pickney Hill Plantation Conservation Easement. This project is important habitat for the Florida black bear and is within the Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for the swallow-tailed kite and for the Cooper’s hawk. Because the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) classifies 44 percent of this area as wetland, preserving this land would also help protect the water resources of this area, including the Aucilla River, Beasley Creek and Raysor Creek.

Manager

This property would be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

General Description

Econfina Timberlands is in eastern Jefferson County, and has two parcels that touch the Suwannee River Water Management District-managed Middle Aucilla Conservation Area and



the TNC-managed Turkey Scratch Conservation Easement. The project area is currently managed by Econfina Timberlands, LLC of Fernandina Beach, Florida.

This project is in the Gulf Coastal Lowlands, situated between the Tallahassee hills and the coastal swamps. The FWC’s GIS analysis of the area shows that about 42 percent of this area is (loblolly) tree plantation, 28 percent is freshwater forested wetlands and 6.8 percent is marshes. The remaining land is small percentages of the total acreage, and includes floodplain swamp, dome swamp, cypress, and prairies and bogs. There are 13 distinct community natural types within the boundary. All of it is important habitat for the Florida black bear. There is no record found of Florida panthers in this area, but it is within the FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for the Cooper’s hawk and the swallow-tailed kite.

Though silvicultural activities have altered the landscape, impacting native groundcover, perennial grasses such as wiregrass persist. With activities such as thinning and burning, plantations with intact native groundcover can be restored to the former natural community.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

2 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This property would be managed by the FWC for recreational and wildlife conservation purposes.

Acquisition Planning

2019

On October 18, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added Econfina Timberlands 1,665 acre (GIS) to the Florida Forever project list as a fee simple project. The project had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$2,368,711. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. This project was sponsored by the FWC.

Coordination

The southern boundaries of both parcels are shared with conservation easements and public conservation areas. The Aucilla Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Florida Fish and



Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), is located approximately ten miles southwest of Econfina Timberlands.

Management Policy Statement

Being near other important conservation lands, acquisition of Econfina Timberlands would significantly help with landscape connectivity and wildlife corridors.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

Econfina Timberlands meets numerous Florida Forever goals, performance measures, and criteria as outlined in F.S. 259.105. This project would help meet Florida Forever goals including enhancing the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; increasing 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; ensure sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state and would increase natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Resources described in this Management Prospectus indicate conditions affecting intensity of management. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance, and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands will be identified, appropriately managed, and protected.

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

If acquired and leased to the FWC for management, an amendment to the existing Aucilla Wildlife Management Area (AWMA) Management Plan will include management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on Econfina Timberlands. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of locally important, rare, and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, if deemed necessary, and quantified



vegetation management objectives will be developed. The FWC would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species in the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation following acquisition. These potential recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical.

Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security, and management of the property.

Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with Division of Historical Resources.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from this conservation land can include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of the FWC's Apiary Policy. In addition, the Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in management activities

The FWC will cooperate with other federal, state, and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, Department of Environmental Protection, Suwannee River Water Management District, Jefferson and Madison counties, and other private conservation organizations in the continuing management of the property.

Management costs and sources of revenue

The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for the Econfina Timberlands is estimated to be \$266,400, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays

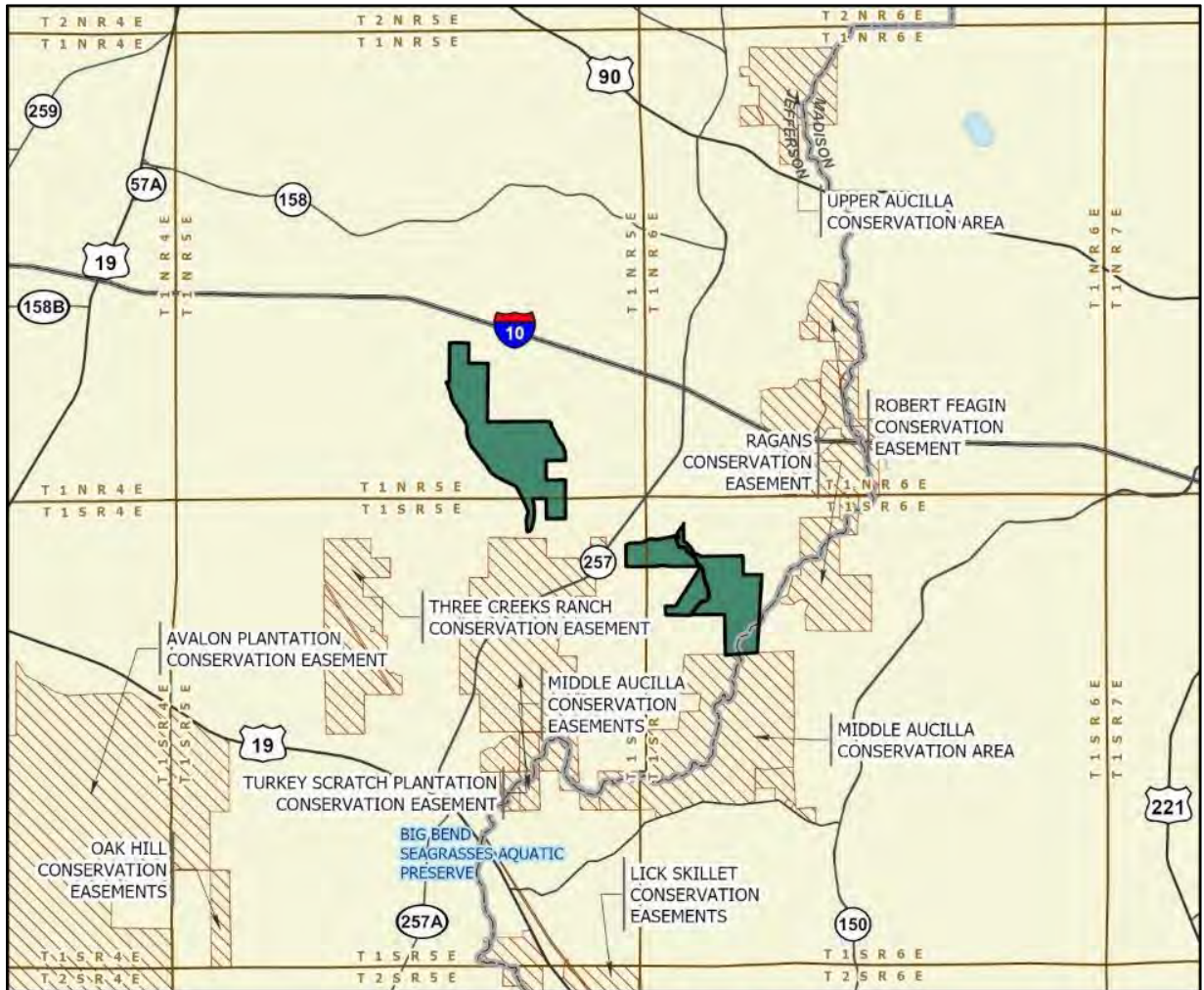


necessary for management of the area. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Recurring</u>	<u>Non-recurring</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Source of funds			State of Florida Visitor entrance fees and charges
Salary		\$27,114	for 1 FTE position
Expense	\$17,799		
OCO	\$63,636		
FCO	\$17,083	\$266,400	

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



ECONFINA TIMBERLANDS

JEFFERSON AND MADISON COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 59 : FNAI, January 2021



Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway

Critical Natural Lands Project
Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion, Putnam

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	92,640
Acquired Acres	38,274
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$23,680,231
Remaining Project Acres	54,366
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$135,034,759

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 several Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

The managers are the Florida Forest Service/FFS (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) for the Etoniah Creek tract and for the remaining tracts, the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP). FFS 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. It has many acres of pine plantation and cutover 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. They include 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Etonia Rosemary</i>	G1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>Curtiss' loosestrife</i>	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise acrolophus moth	G1/S1
<i>bog spicebush</i>	G3/S1
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida willow</i>	G2/S2

38 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The Cross Florida Greenway (CFG) connectors will form part of a conservation and recreation area; the majority of 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).

1994

On July 20, 1994, the Council added 210 acres to the boundaries of the predecessor projects.

1995

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 (SJRWMD) 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.

1996

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.

1998

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.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added 2,110 acres (Florida Power ownership along the CCFG 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 1, 2001, ARC added 1,110 acres to the boundaries of the project.

2003

On February 25, 2003, the project was added to the Group A list of Florida Forever projects.

2007

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 OGT, and 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.

2008

In June 2008, 1.19 acres of the Harrington ownership were purchased for \$15,000 with the FFS Florida Forever funds. In September, October and November of 2008, the FFS used Florida Forever funds to buy the following acreages:

1. 1.08 acres (Fred Yankee, LLC) for \$13,500;
2. 0.87 acres (Goddard) for \$23,000;
3. acres (Land Reclamation, Inc.) for \$15,000;
4. acres (Cann) for \$23,000;
5. 1.21 acres (Martin) for \$14,000;
6. 1.27 acres (Vehoski) for \$14,000;
7. 1 acre (Murray) for \$15,000;
8. 1.25 acres (Uttech) for \$11,500;
9. 2.5 acres (Lachmansingh) for \$25,000;
10. 3.61 acres (Chapman) for \$37,500;
11. 2.53 acres (Thornton) for \$23,000;
12. 1.27 acres (Dubay) for \$14,000;
13. 1.24 acres (Hood) for \$15,500;
14. 1.25 acres (Contreras) for \$14,000; and
15. 1.24 acres (South) for \$14,000.

All of these parcels will be managed by the FFS.

2009

On January 21, 2009, SJRWMD purchased 208 acres for \$474,363 (Plum Creek).

In October 2009, 1.25 acres were purchased from Margaret Vail for \$14,000.

In November 2009, 1.25 acres were purchased from Kenneth/Diane Schwing for \$15,500.



On December 10, 2009, FFS purchased 1.43 acres for \$13,500 and will manage this tract.

2010

On November 4, 2010, FFS purchased 106 acres (Moore, \$405,000) with Florida Forever funds. FFS will manage this.

2011

On January 3, 2011, FFS purchased 1.29 acres (Williams-\$18,000 with FF funds. The FFS will manage this.

On May 2, 2011 the FFS purchased 1.25 acres (Cearley-\$12,000) in the CFG portion and will manage it.

On August 3, 2011, FFS purchased 3.69 acres (Interlachen Lakes Estates) that they will manage for \$27,500.

On December 9, 2011, ARC recommended a 1,509-acre reduction to the project boundary containing residential development, commercial buildings, and other infrastructure.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

2012

On September 21, 2012, the BOT acquired 1.25 acres for \$6,000 to be managed as part of the Etoniah Creek State Forest.

2018

On August 24, 2018, ARC members voted to amend the project by adding two parcels, 48 acres, in Putnam County to the project boundary. The addition was proposed by Patrick E. Troxel and is near the town of Satsuma.

2020

In January 2020, a 3,562.0-acre conservation easement was acquired from Wetlands Preserve, LLC in Putnam County at a cost of \$3,380,000.00. The Office of Environmental Services will serve as the easement monitor for the property.

In February 2020, a 47.96-acre property was acquired in fee from the Estate of Eddie Elray Troxel at a cost of \$22,500.00. This will be managed by DRP as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area. Two donations containing 74.77 acres were acquired and will managed by the FFS as part of Etoniah Creek State Forest.



Coordination

The SJRWMD was the intermediary in the acquisition of the Manning tract and has provided information and 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 the resources to qualify as a state recreation area.

Manager

The FFS proposes to manage the 57,000-acre Etoniah Creek portion of the project and the DRP will manage the remaining lands near 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 FFS 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 FFS 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 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 in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The FFS 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 of the project, the FFS 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 moderate. In the CFG portion, no revenues are expected to be generated within the first three years after acquisition. However, as the CFG 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.

Cooperators in management activities

The FFS 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 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and private individuals for recreational purposes.



Management Cost Summary

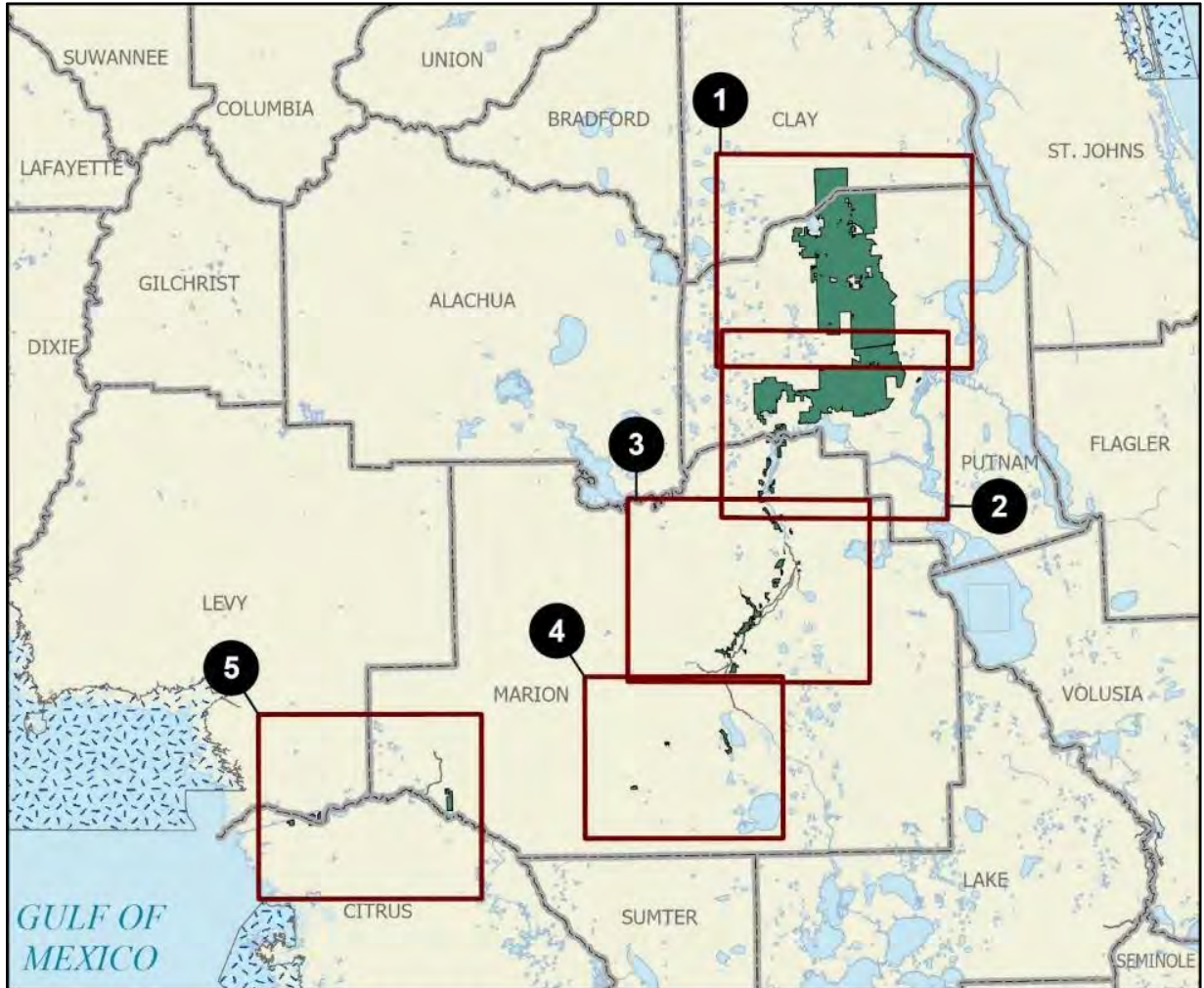
<u>OGT</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	LATF	LATF
Salary	\$36,380	\$36,380
OPS	\$72,660	\$72,660
Expense	\$62,301	\$46,362
OCO	\$3,167	\$0
FCO	\$100,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$274,508	\$185,402

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$45,337	\$56,487
OPS	\$0	\$3,000
Expense	\$11,225	\$22,825
OCO	\$43,320	\$50,500
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$99,882	\$132,814

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

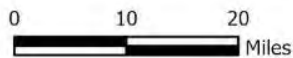


ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

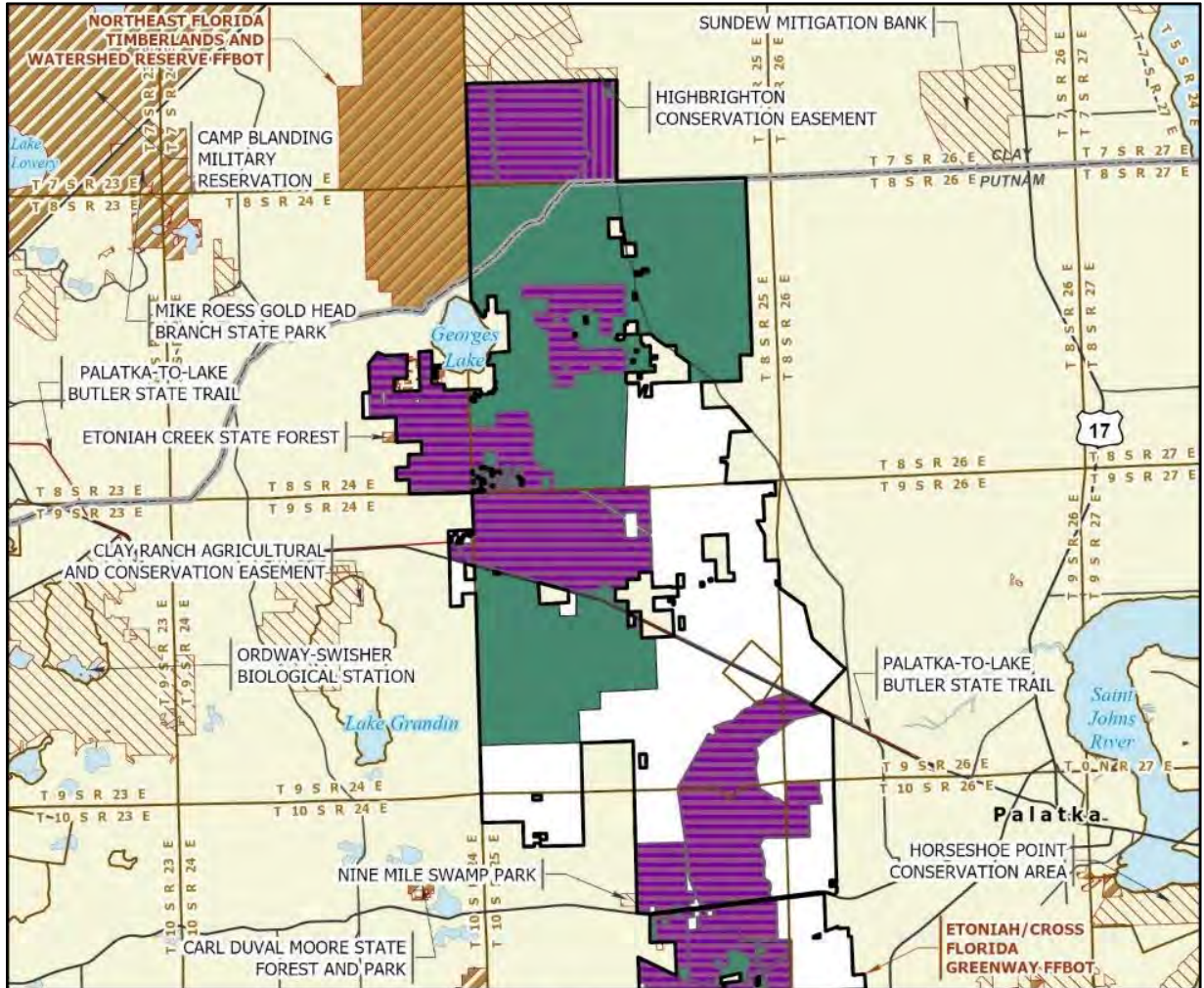
CITRUS, CLAY, LEVY, MARION, AND PUTNAM COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020



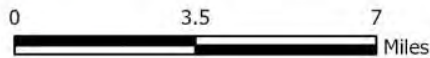
Map 60 : FNAI, January 2021



ETOWAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 1

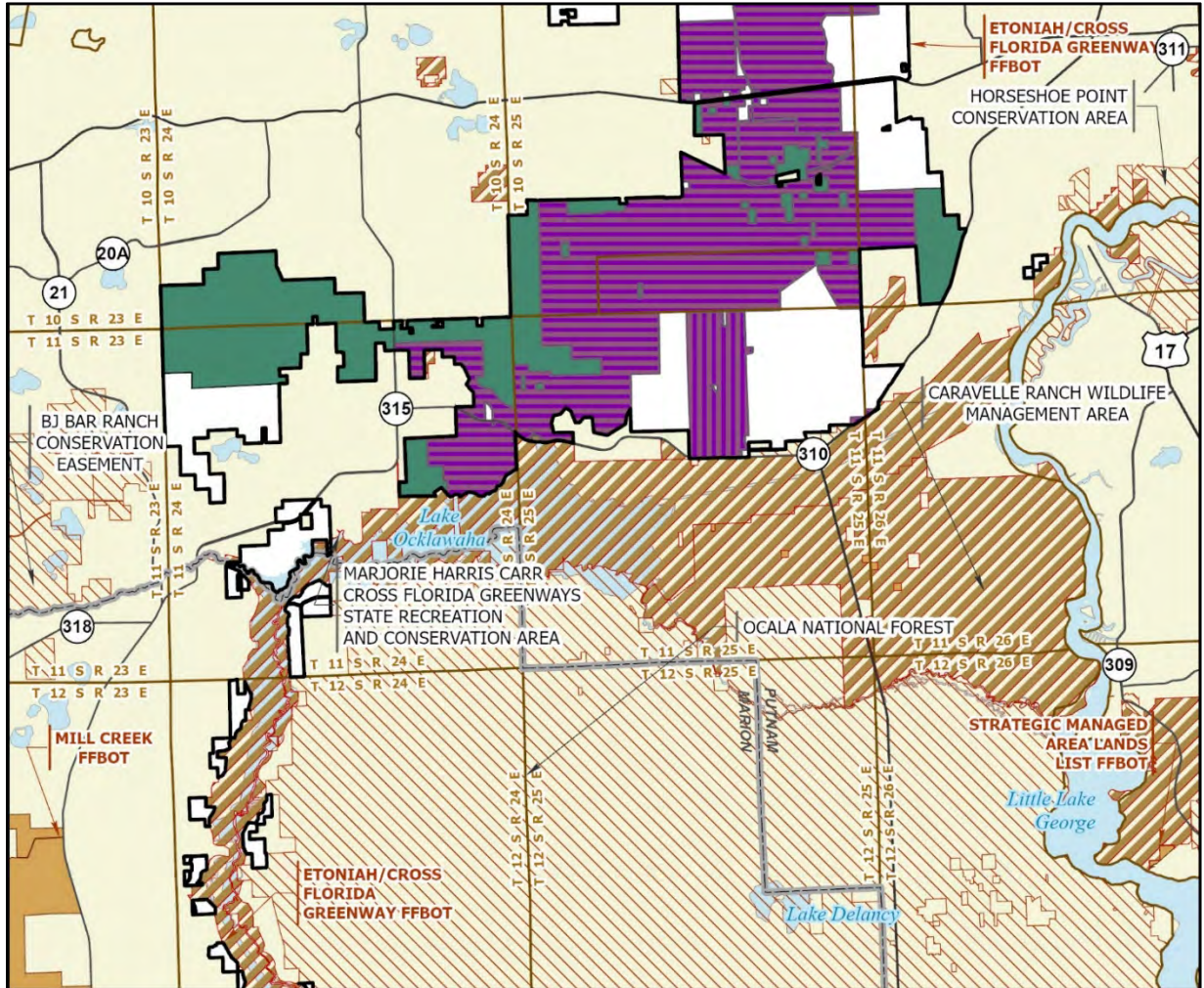
CLAY AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020

Map 61 : FNAI, January 2021



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 2

MARION AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

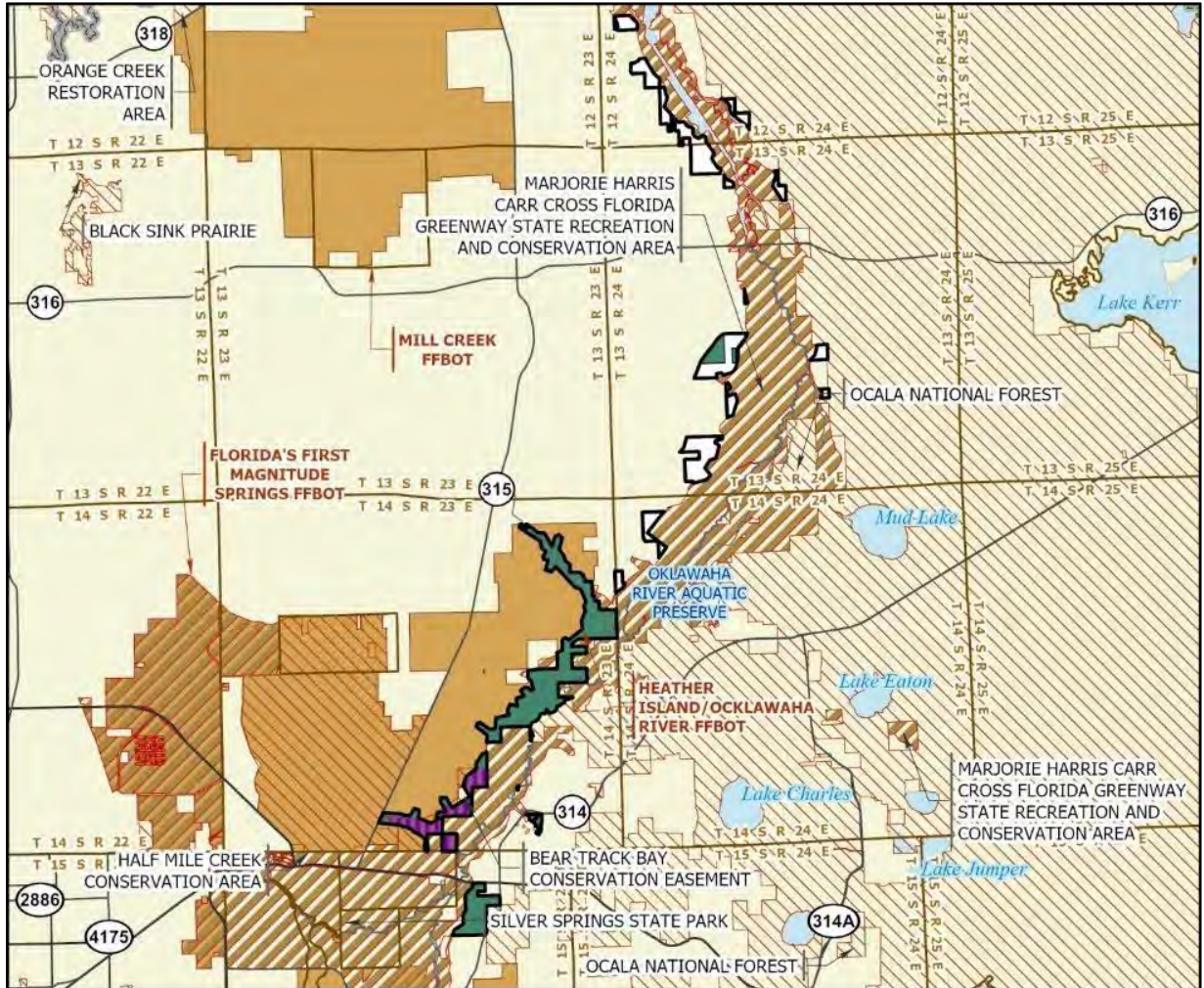
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



FEBRUARY 2021



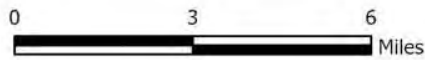
Map 62 : FNAI, January 2021



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 3

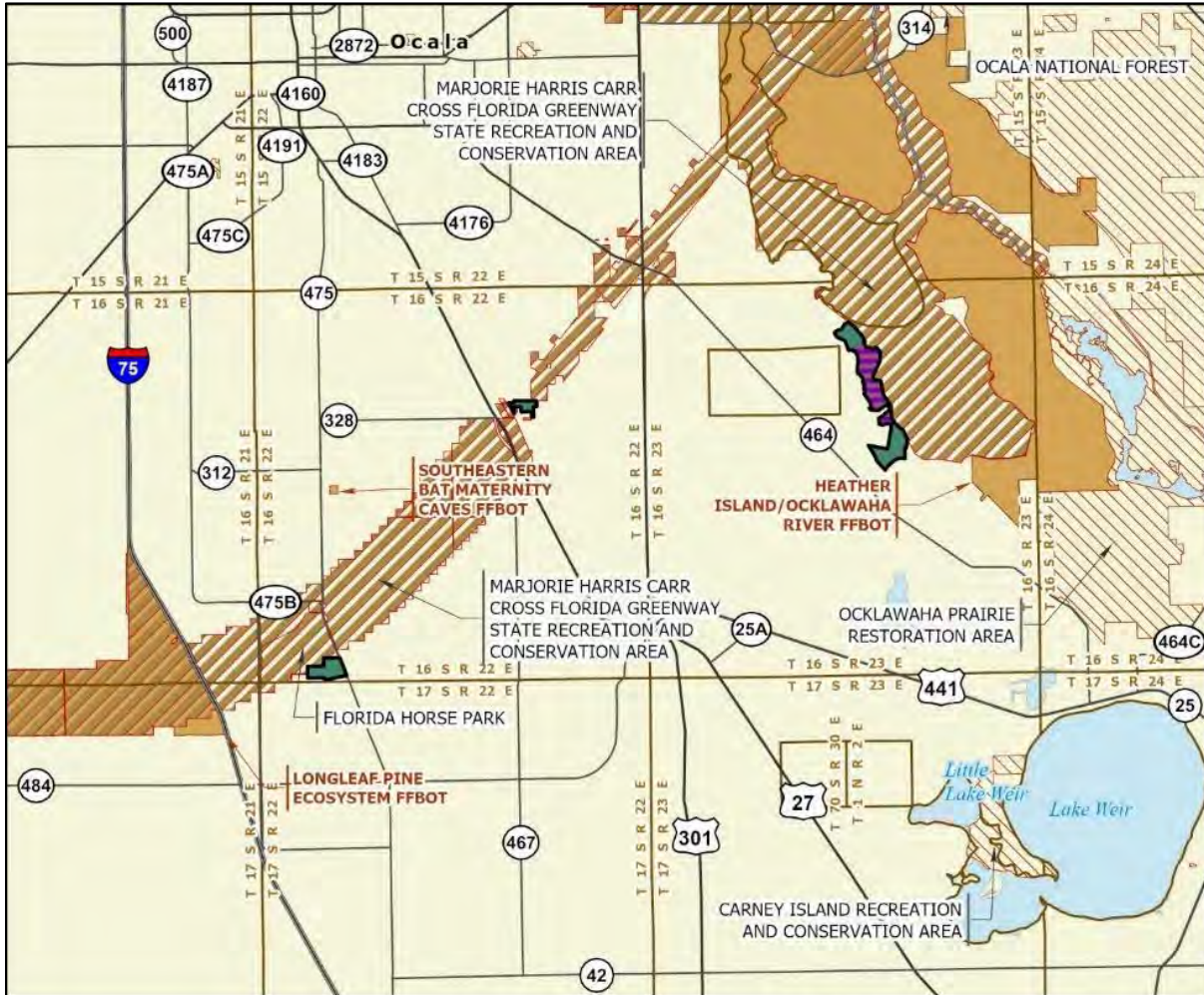
MARION COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 63 : FNAI, January 2021



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY

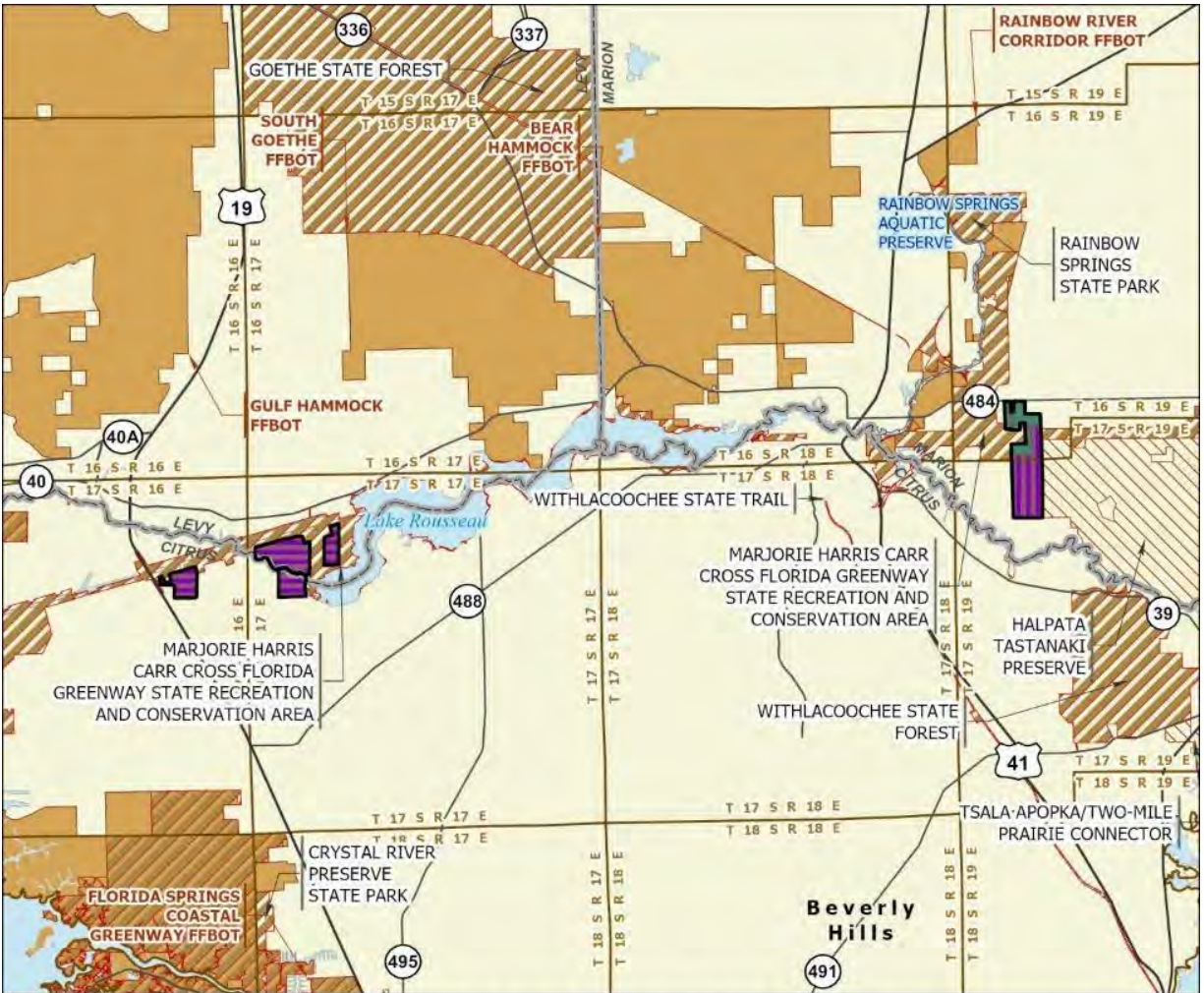
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020



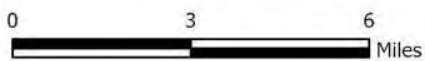
Map 64 : FNAI, January 2021



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY: MAP 5

CITRUS, LEVY, AND MARION COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 65 : FNAI, January 2021



Fisheating Creek Ecosystem

Less-Than-Fee Project
Glades, Highlands

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2000
Project Acres	190,739
Acquired Acres	68,526
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$55,628,563
Remaining Project Acres	122,213
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$552,944,200

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. It may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

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 and current 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, cutthroat grass, and nodding pinweed. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>perforate reindeer lichen</i>	G1/S1
<i>wedge-leaved button-snakeroot</i>	G1/S1
<i>Carter's warea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Edison's ascyrum</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida blazing star</i>	G2/S2

37 rare species are associated with the project

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

1999

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. on the case of 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.

2000

On December 12, 2000, the Acquisition and 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 TNC, consisted of approximately 8,400 acres with a single owner at 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.

2002

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. It had a 2001 taxable value of \$4,000.

2004

On June 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-than-Fee list of Florida Forever projects.



2015

On June 19, 2015, ARC voted to add a new project proposal, Chaparral Slough, a 6,859-acre corridor, about 11 miles long and one mile wide. It runs along Chaparral Slough, a tributary to Cypress Branch, to the Florida Forever list. The ARC then immediately added this new project boundary into the boundary of the existing Fisheating Creek Florida Forever project. Chaparral Slough was originally proposed by Lykes Brothers as a standalone less-than-fee project to provide habitat, an ecological greenway, and aquifer recharge. The land has been used for cattle ranching, silviculture and hunting. It includes 1,919 acres of pine plantation and a 669-acre eucalyptus plantation that is harvested and replanted several times a year.

2020

On June 12, 2020, the ARC approved the Buck Island Ranch addition of 6,560-acres in Highlands County to the project boundary.

Coordination

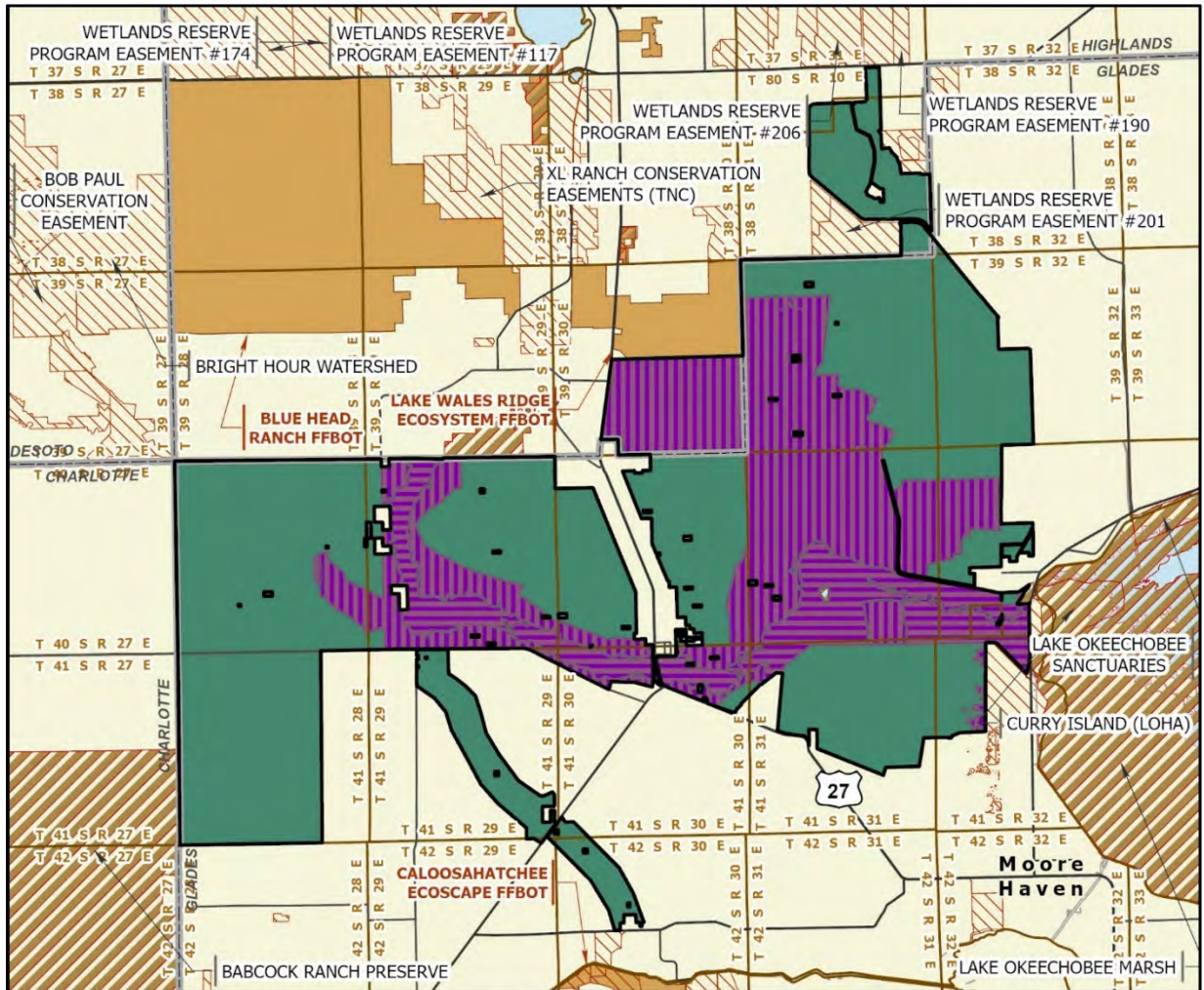
TNC is considered an acquisition partner and there may be some potential for joint acquisition with the South Florida Water Management District.

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 fee lands, and as the Easement Monitor over the conservation easements 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.



FISHEATING CREEK ECOSYSTEM

GLADES AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 66 : FNAI, January 2021



Flagler County Blueway

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Flagler

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2003
Project Acres	4,281
Acquired Acres	369
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$790,000
Remaining Project Acres	3,912
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$160,557,239

Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals:

- 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;
- 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,
- Increase natural resource-based public recreation and educational opportunities - recreational opportunities may also increase if the land is managed carefully.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are to 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

2 rare species are associated with the project

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 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. 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 National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM), North Peninsula State Park, Pellicer Creek Corridor Conservation Area, Princess Place Preserve, Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve, Washington Oaks Gardens State Park.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Flagler County Blueway project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 priority list. While fee simple acquisition is preferred, 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.

2003

On June 3, 2004, ARC moved this project to Group A of the FF 2004 Priority list.

2006

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a project redesign that reduced the project size to 4,409 acres. All parcels removed had been developed or become isolated since the original boundary was identified. In 2006, ARC approved a fee-simple, 20-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Flagler County, consisted of one parcel and 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.

2008

In October 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.

2011

On October 14, 2011, ARC recommended a 182-acre reduction to the project boundary because of residential development/commercial buildings/infrastructure.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and Flagler County are considered partners on this project.

Management Prospectus

The FFS and FWC will share all management responsibilities for Flagler County Blueway under a unified management concept. 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. Project goals include protection of biodiversity, and provision of natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, so programs would be developed to manage ecosystems for multiple use. Multiple use means 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 used to best serve the people of the state, making judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources and giving consideration to the relative values of the various resources. Conserving and protecting the unique coastal maritime community, xeric oak scrub community, and imperiled or rare species should be an important management goal for the project. A broad-scale management program will be developed to 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 found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area is near many users who enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, kayaking, and wildlife viewing. There is also potential for equestrian use, off- road biking, and multi-use trails through the proposed project. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project shows 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; and,
- (h) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas.

Qualifications for state designation

The Flagler County Blueway Florida Forever project has multiple parcels in the Matanzas River ecosystem watershed, which includes the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The tracts of private lands in this project vary greatly in size, 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 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 approximately 56 miles south of Jacksonville, and 17 miles south of St. Augustine. The southernmost tract is 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 GTM, 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 is a landscape of three distinguishable groups of conservation lands. They are as follows:

- northern perimeter conservation lands include the northernmost extent of the project adjacent to Washington Oaks Gardens SP, Pellicer Creek CA, and Princess Place Preserve;
- 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
- the central, connecting part of the proposed blueway project that is near the 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 is 132 acres of the project area, with mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods making 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 are 1,901 acres of the project. Freshwater wetlands are mostly forested, including basin swamp, baygall, hydric 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 are 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 protect

fragile coastal resources (28 percent, or 2,300 acres of project area). FNAI data show 84 percent (6,963 acres) of the project would provide 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. FNAI data that 25 percent (2,075 acres) of the project area is under-represented natural communities.

Imperiled or rare animal species documented by FNAI to occur on the project include the gopher tortoise and MacGillivray's seaside sparrow. The bald eagle has been reported to nest near the project area. The West Indian manatee occurs nearby in the ICW. Other imperiled or rare animals which potentially occur in the project area include the Cooper's hawk, hairy woodpecker osprey and the spotted turtle. Many other vertebrate species are expected to use the project area as habitat. According to the 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.

Manager

The FFS 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.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The disjunct nature of parcels comprising the Flagler County Blueway creates a special management consideration to be addressed by the unified managers. The FFS and FWC will need to devise a strategy to deploy manpower, equipment, and other management resources in a coordinated and efficient manner. Some portions of Flagler County Blueway are low-need areas that will require up-front implementation of resource management, including the frequent use of prescribed fire where appropriate. About 23 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silviculture, consequently, additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoring to a desired future condition. The FFS and FWC propose to work cooperatively to assess site management needs and develop a conceptual management plan (CMP) for the site. Examples of situations requiring cooperative effort include restoring mesic and wet flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removing or thinning off-site timber species to promote the regeneration of native ground covers and appropriate tree species, and reforesting recently harvested areas. 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 conserve habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified



management priorities will include protecting maritime hammock communities, restoring sensitive wetlands, and the identification, control, and follow-up monitoring of exotic species. Brazilian pepper, a Category I exotic (most adversely affecting Florida's ecology), is an established shrub in the project area and deserves aggressive control. The principal land management activities slated for less disturbed natural communities include introducing 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 restoring native groundcovers. Biotic surveys would be conducted as part of early unified management activities. With imperiled or rare species expected to occur within the project, 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, would be identified during the initial resource inventory to implement appropriate protective measures for each specific area. Such inventories are vital to unified management planning efforts directed at facility and infrastructure development, and design and implementation of recreational use programs.

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

During the first year after acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will emphasize 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 to cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local governments, and other appropriate participants affecting management of the project site. Goals for the long term emphasize multiple use management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoring 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 ensure 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 Emerald Coast parcel, already purchased, will be separately managed by Flagler County.

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

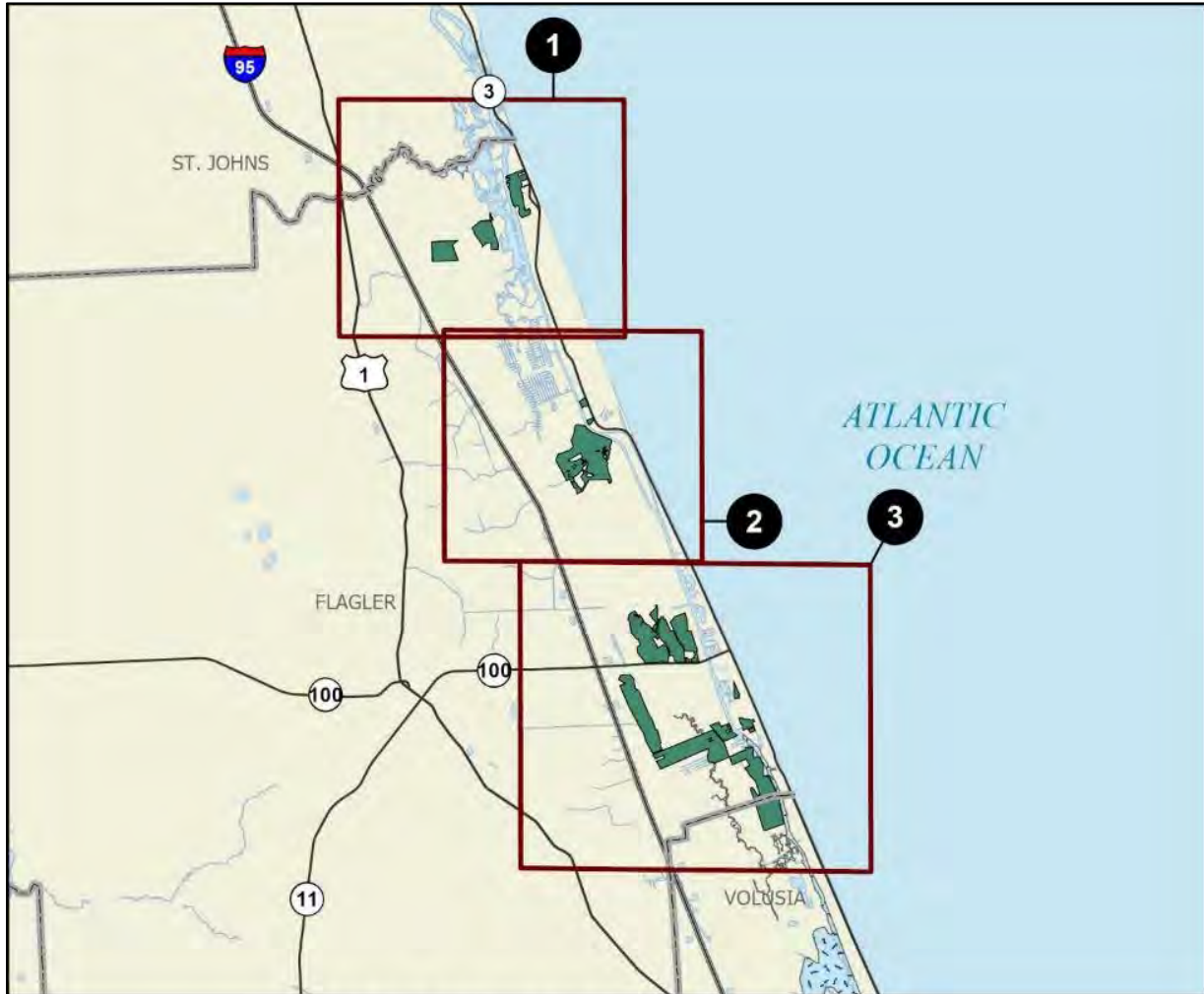
Cooperators in management activities

The unified managers (DOF-FFS 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 both a state forest and a wildlife management area.

Management Cost Summary

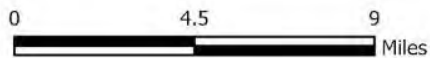
<u>FFS and FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$143,188	\$145,854
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$988,553	\$85,164
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$2,335	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$5,799	\$5,799
TOTAL	\$1,364,449	\$293,656

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



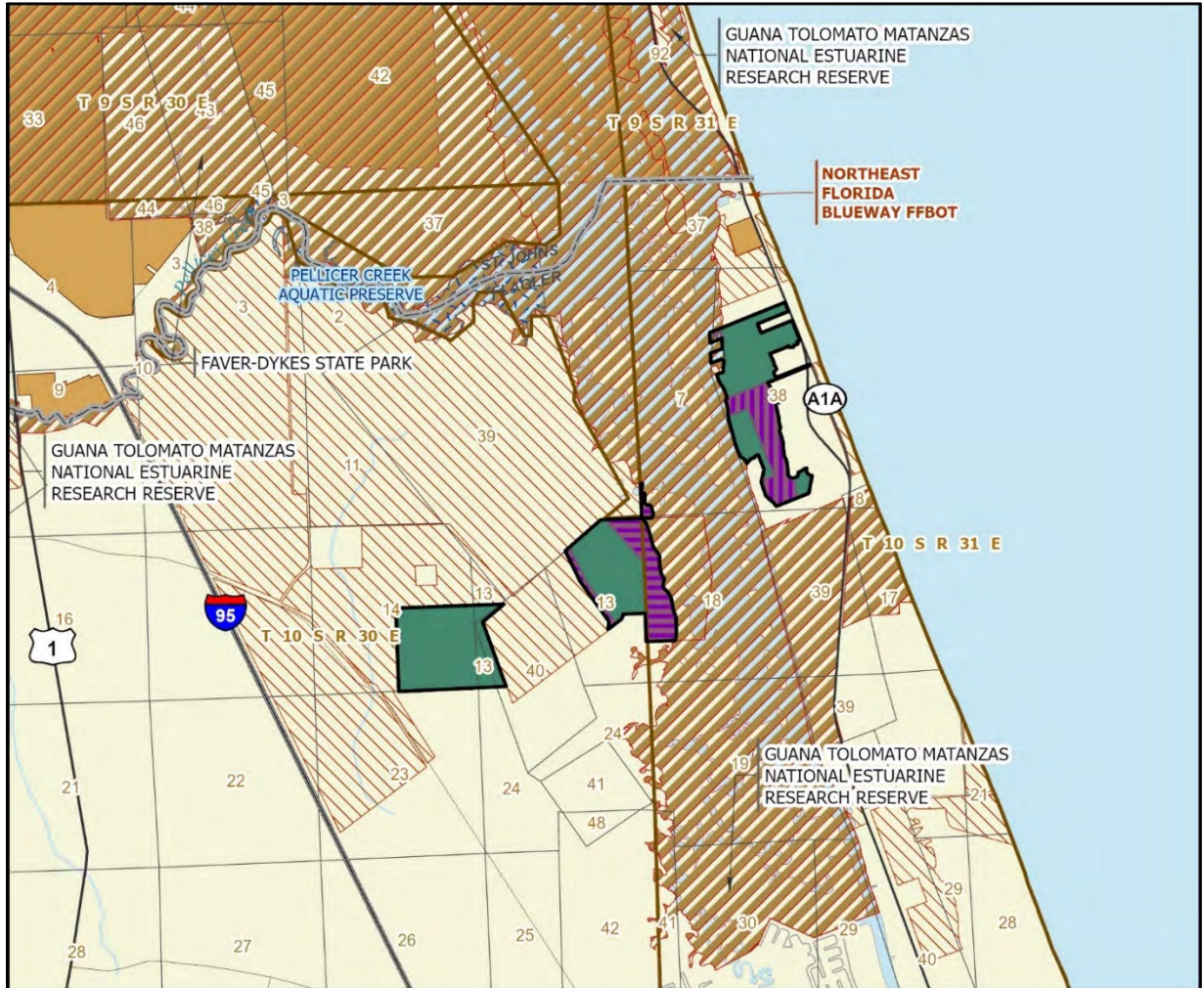
FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

Map 67 : FNAI, January 2021



FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 1

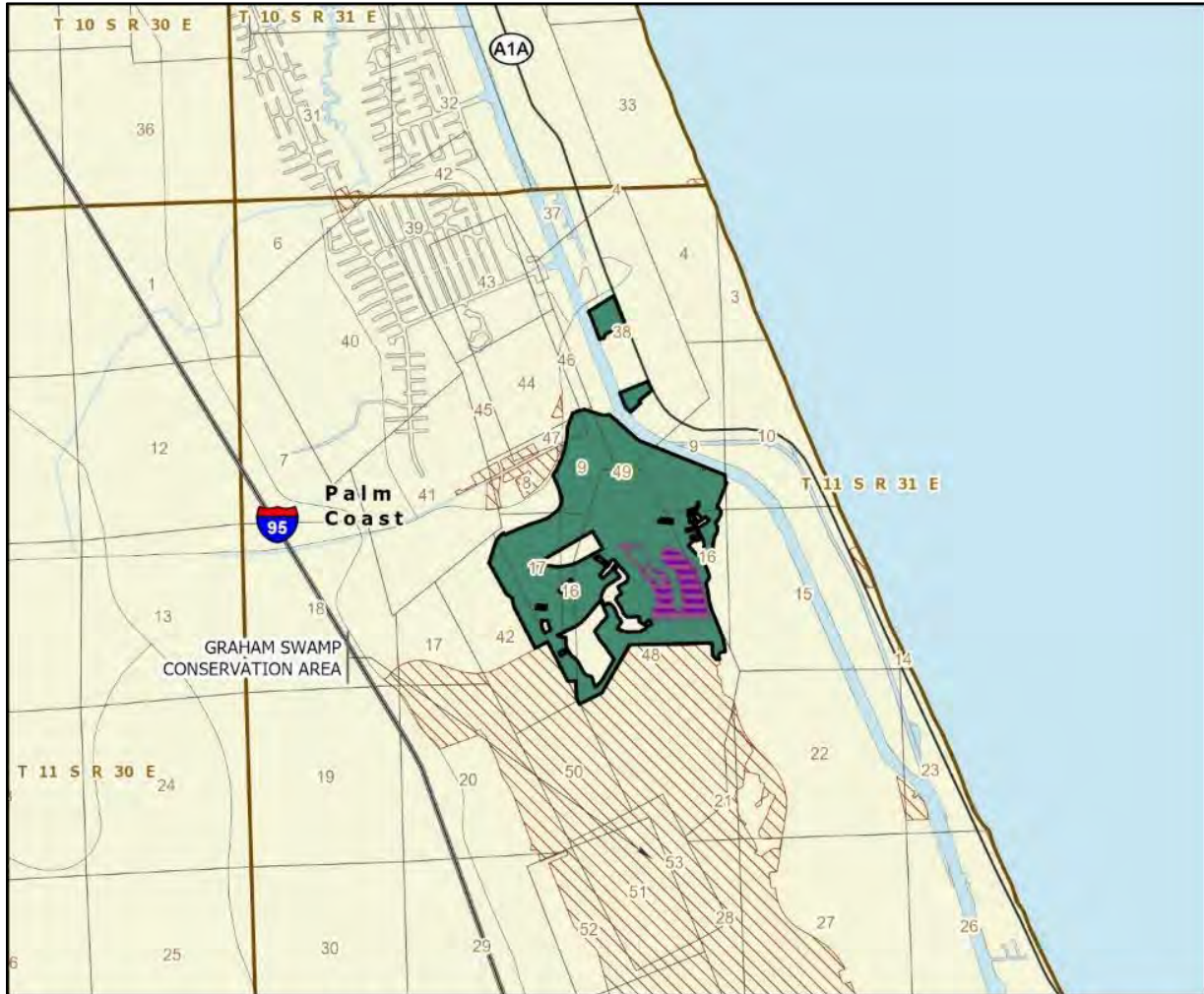
FLAGLER COUNTY

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







FEBRUARY 2021





FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 2

FLAGLER COUNTY

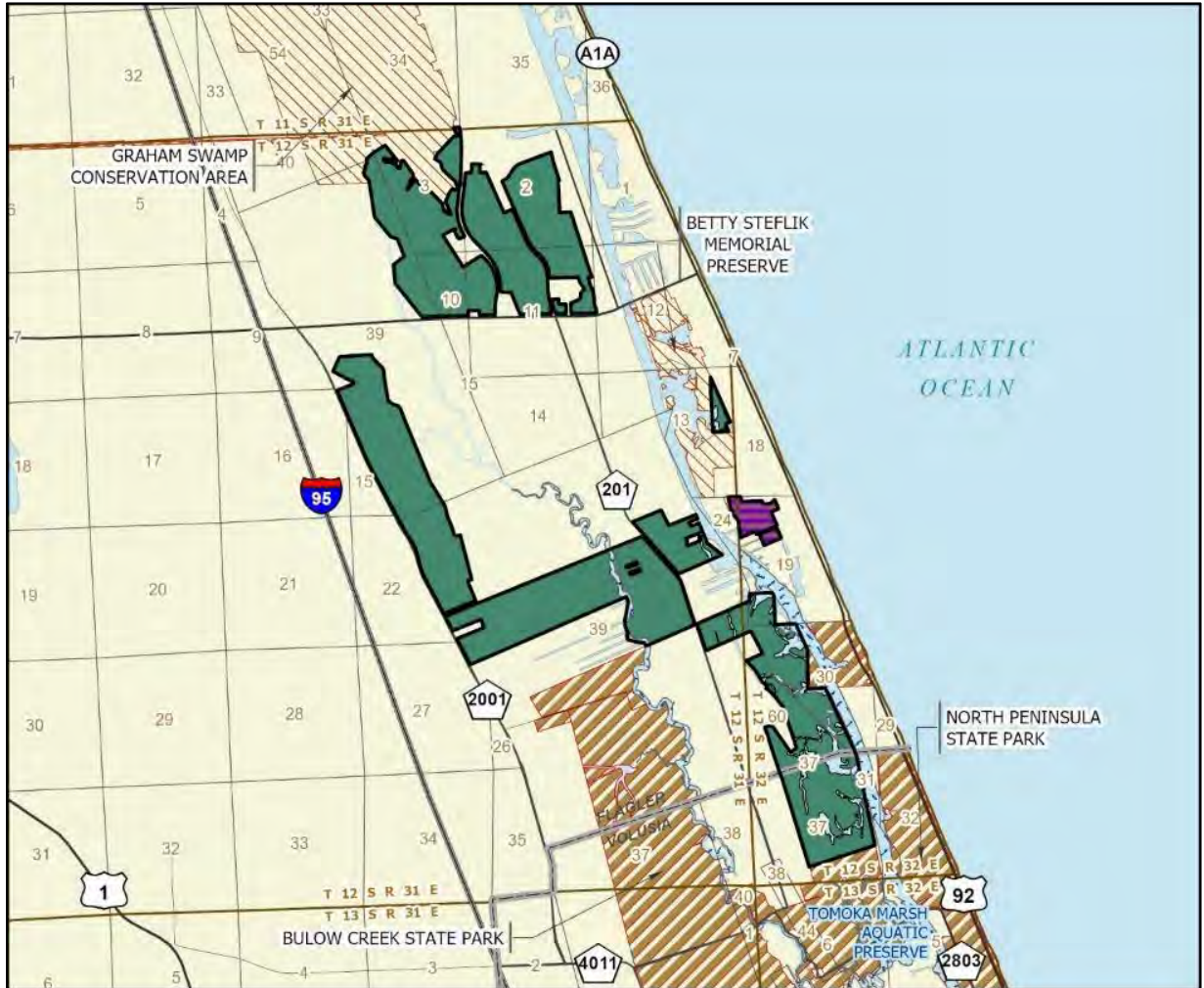
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



Map 69 : FNAI, January 2021



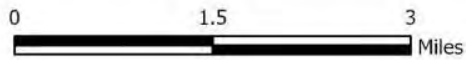
FLAGLER COUNTY BLUEWAY: MAP 3

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 70 : FNAI, January 2021



Florida Keys Ecosystem

Climate Change Lands Project

Monroe

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1992
Project Acres	13,580
Acquired Acres	7,731
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$51,840,923
Remaining Project Acres	5,849
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$56,505,589

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, the reefs around the islands, and give residents and visitors more areas for enjoying the natural beauty of the Keys.

Manager(s)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (19 sites) and 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 to 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>semaphore pricklypear</i>	G1/S1
<i>silky bluestem</i>	G1Q/S1
Key deer	G5T1/S1
Lower Keys rabbit	G5T1/S1
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
<i>Cape Sable thoroughwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garber's spurge</i>	G1/S1
<i>tree cactus</i>	G1/S1
<i>Cuban snake-bark</i>	G2G3T1/S1
Keys ringneck snake	G5T1/S1
Florida brown snake, Lower Keys population	G5T1Q/S1
Striped mud turtle, Lower Keys population	G5T1Q/S1

72 rare species are associated with the project

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

1995

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 Estates Subdivision (acquired).



Estimated acreage for each site is: 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 December 3, 1993 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).

1998

On June 11, 1998, the LAMAC approved a fee-simple, 53-acre addition (Wilson and Cotton Keys) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the William Roberts Estate trustee and had a 1996 taxable value of \$115,106.

1999

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 (now FWC), 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.

2003

In 2003, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased 593.75 acres, known as Tarpon Basin, in the Newport Hammocks site.

On December 05, 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 Trueman, and had a 2003 taxable value of \$17,268.



2004

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.

2005

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.

2007

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 two 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.

2008

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 (MandM Joint Venture, LLP) in Boca Chica Key for \$566,100; and 54.75 acres (Utility 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 acre 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.

In November 2008, Florida Forever funds purchased 1.01 acre of the Smith ownership for \$37,000. FWC will manage this site.



2009

On February 6, 2009 the Department of Transportation (FDOT) donated a total of 14.18 acres on Sugarloaf (.86 acre inside the project boundary) with a total donated value of \$9,265,212. At the June 2009 meeting, ARC accepted a request by the Retus Group LLC to remove 7 acres of their ownership in Marathon from the project. On June 24, 2010 Gary Burchfield donated 1.78 acres on Sugarloaf Key (donated value of \$60,000). FWC will manage this.

2010

On October 15, 2010 ARC approved requests by property owners to remove 7 acres of their ownership within the project boundary (\$23,832 just value).

On December 10, 2010 ARC approved an 11.25-acre boundary addition in Boot Key with a tax assessed just value of \$410,544, to assist with a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) grant application. The City of Marathon is interested in purchasing all of Boot Key as proposed in the CELCP application.

2011

On January 20, 2011 Anne Kirkly donated 7.39 acres (\$3,208) in Dove Creek Hammocks to be managed by FWC. On June 1, 11 James D. Hanson, Jr. donated 284.54 acres (Windley Key-value of \$200,000) to be managed by DRP.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands list of Florida Forever projects.

2012

On April 20, 2012 ARC removed 8.6 acres from the project at a landowner's request. On June 15, 2012 ARC deleted a 3.2-acre property on Plantation Key from the project boundary at the request of the landowner. There may be additional small acreage changes (additions and removals) not captured above, however in calendar year 2017, a total of 138.65 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2020

On February 14, 2020, ARC approved a removal of 1.07-acres in Monroe County from the project boundary.

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; conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and 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 that local or state 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.

Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended to managed 19 sites: (Cudjoe Key; Tavernier Creek; Little Torch Key; Lake San Pedro; Middle Torch; Key Snake Creek; Big Torch Key; Green Turtle; Summerland Key; Vaca Cut; Sugarloaf Key; Stirrup Key; Little Knockemdown Key; Saddlebunch Key; Ramrod Key; Wahoo Key; Dove Creek; and Upper Sugarloaf Key).

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks is recommended to manage 10 sites (Key Largo Narrows; Grassy Key Site; Point Charles Hammock; Teatable Hammock; Largo Sound Hammock; Pennekamp North; North Creek Hammock; Newport Hammock; Lower Matecumbe Hammock; and North Layton Hammock). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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. 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 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. First year management activities 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

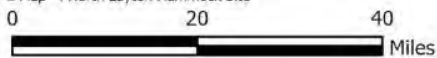
The FWC will cooperate with and seek the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

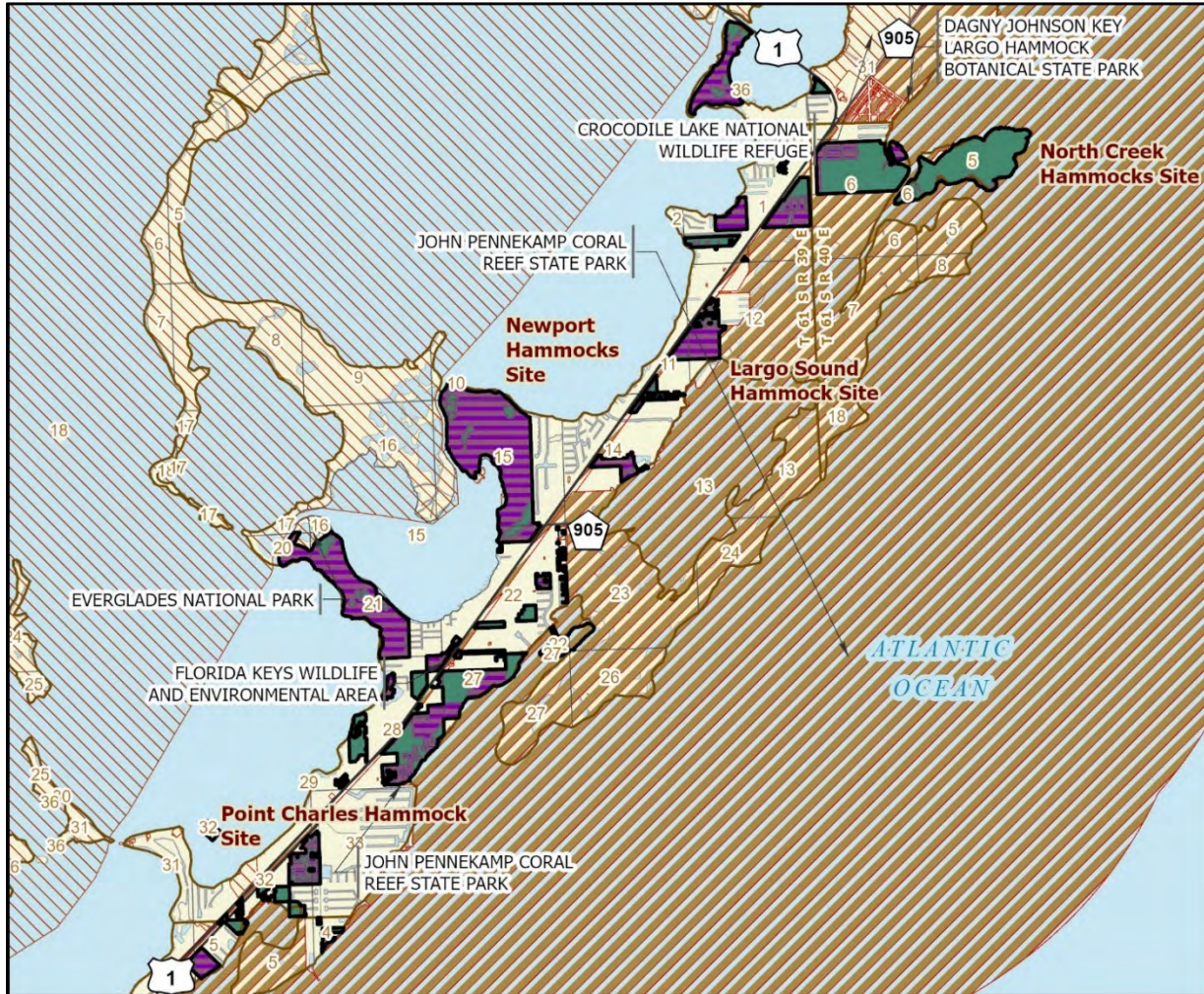
MONROE COUNTY

- Map 1 Largo Sound Hammock Site
- Map 1 Newport Hammocks Site
- Map 1 North Creek Hammocks Site
- Map 1 Point Charles Hammock Site
- Map 2 Dove Creek Hammocks Site
- Map 2 Islamorada/Plantation Key Site
- Map 2 Key Largo Narrows Hammock Site
- Map 2 Rodriguez Key Site
- Map 2 Tavernier Creek Hammocks Site
- Map 2 Tavernier Key Site
- Map 3 Cotton Key Site
- Map 3 Islamorada/Upper Matecumbe Keys Site
- Map 3 Lower Matecumbe Hammock Site
- Map 3 Wilson Key Site
- Map 3 Windley Key Site
- Map 4 Channel Key Site
- Map 4 Grassy Key Hammocks Site
- Map 4 Marathon/Crawl Key Site
- Map 4 North Layton Hammock Site
- Map 4 Pennekamp North Hammock Site
- Map 4 Tom's Harbor Keys Site
- Map 5 Boot Key Site
- Map 5 Marathon/Fat Deer Key Site
- Map 5 Marathon/Vaca Key Site
- Map 6 Big Torch Key Site
- Map 6 Little Knockemdown Key Site
- Map 6 Little Torch Key Site
- Map 6 Middle Torch Key Site
- Map 6 Ramrod Key Site
- Map 6 Summerland Key Site
- Map 7 Budd Key Site
- Map 7 Knockemdown Key Site
- Map 8 Cudjoe Key Site
- Map 8 Sugarloaf Key Site
- Map 9 Boca Chica Key Site
- Map 9 Saddlebunch Keys Site
- Map 10 Great White Heron Keys Site



JANUARY 2020

Map 71 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

MONROE COUNTY

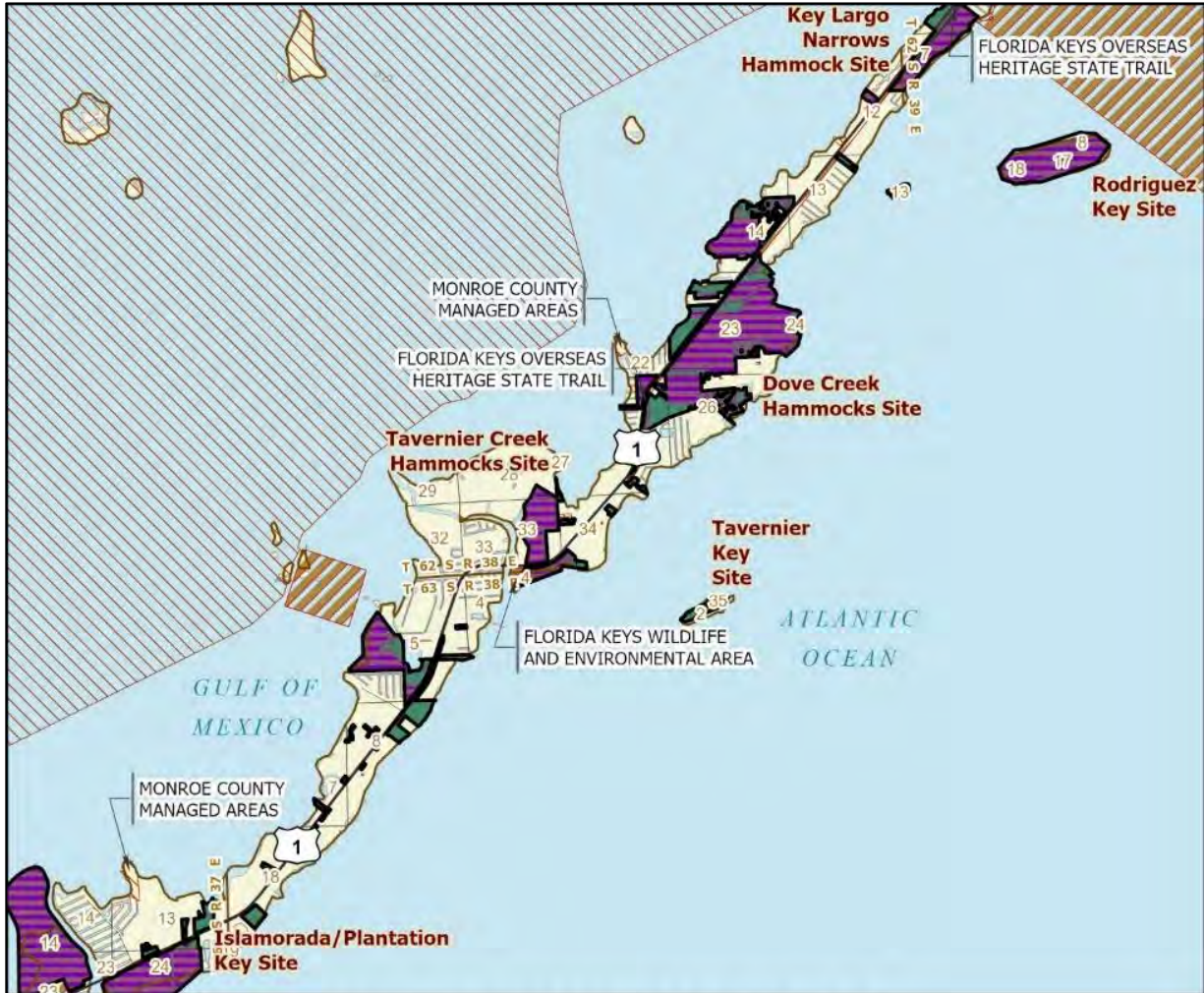
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



FEBRUARY 2021



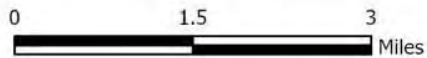
Map 72 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

MONROE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

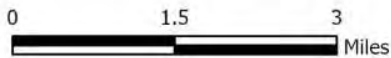
Map 73 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

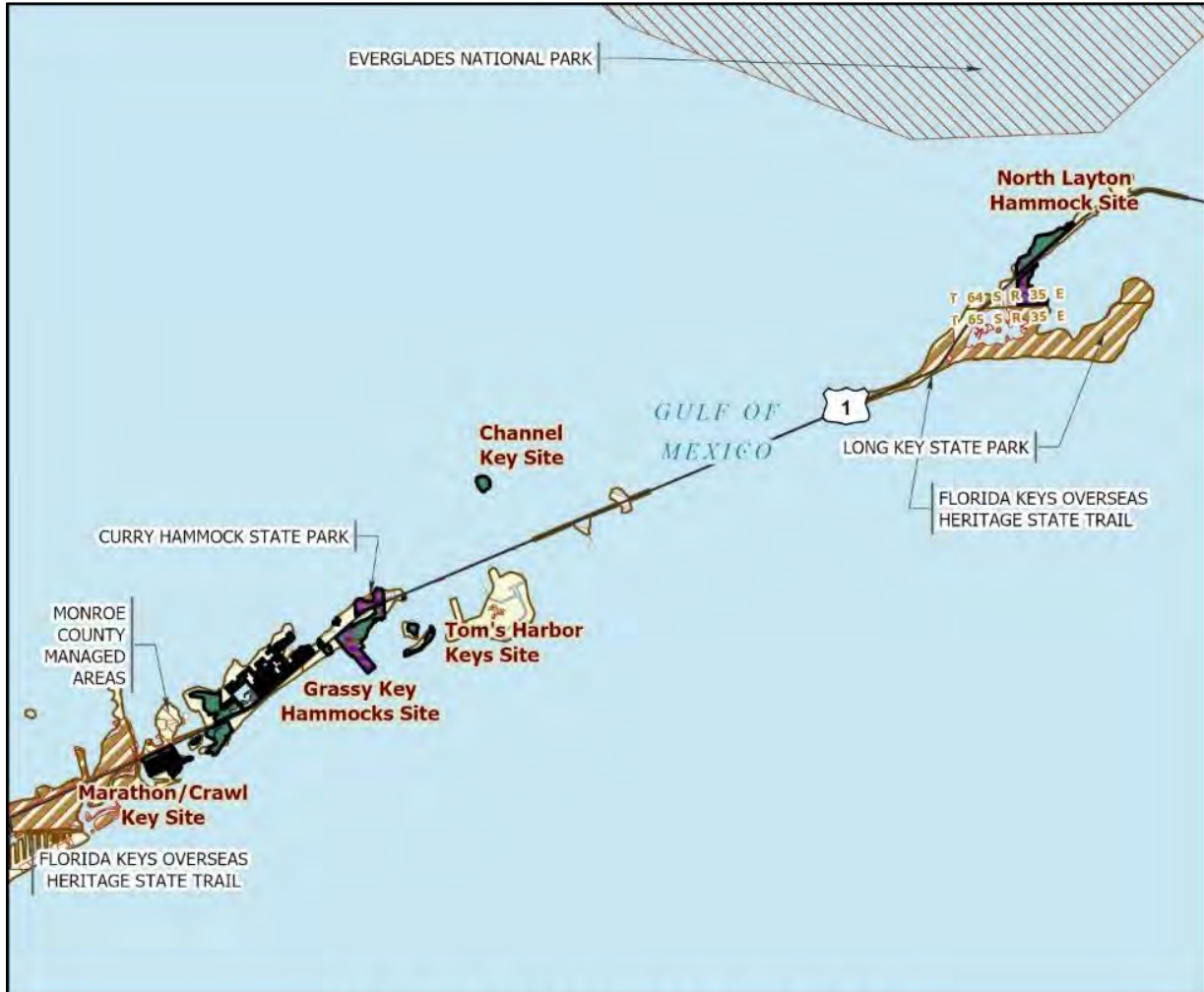
MONROE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 74 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

MONROE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 75 : FNAI, January 2021



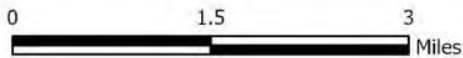
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

MONROE COUNTY

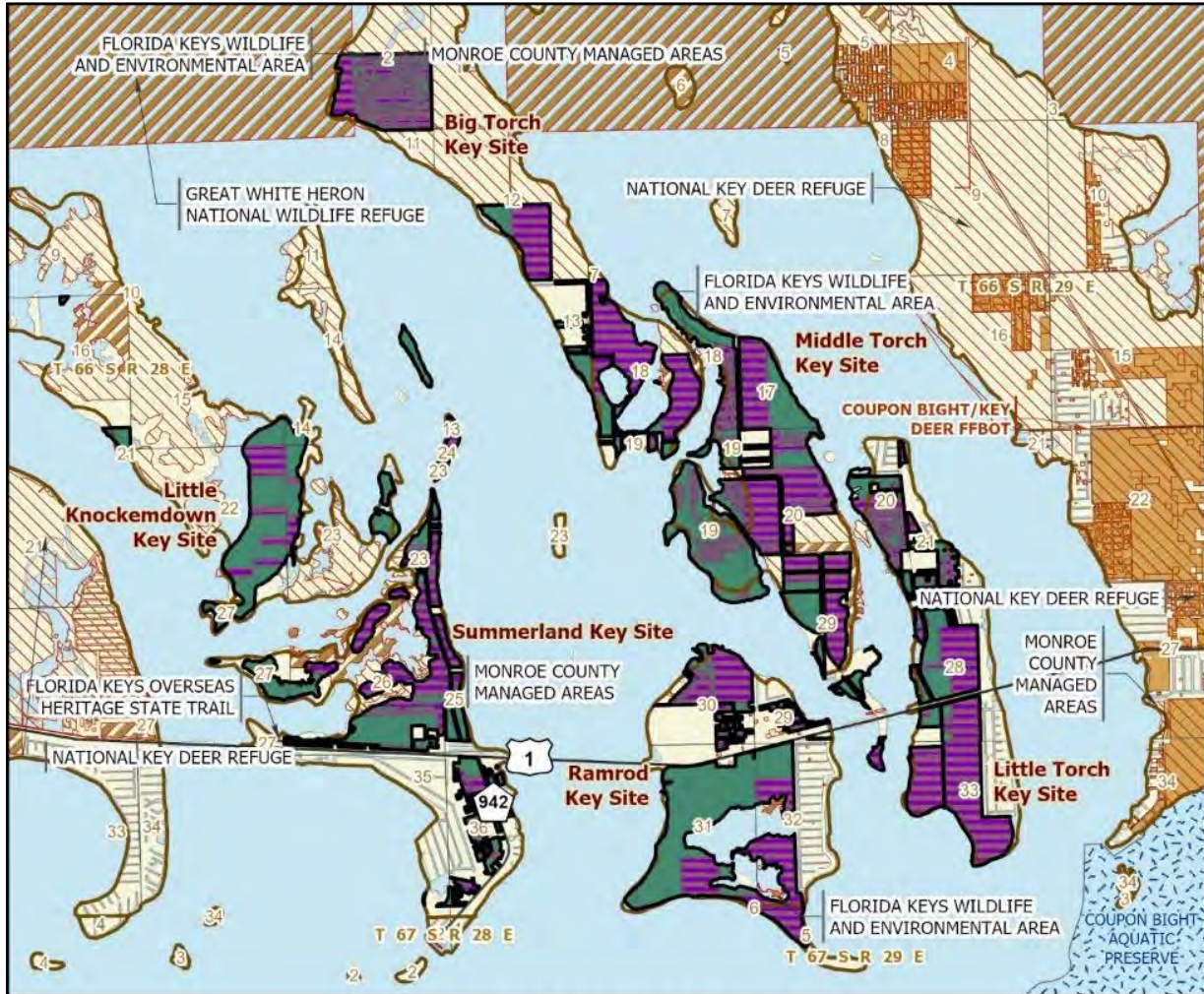
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



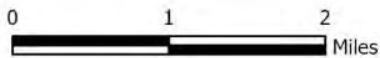
Map 76 : FNAI, January 2021



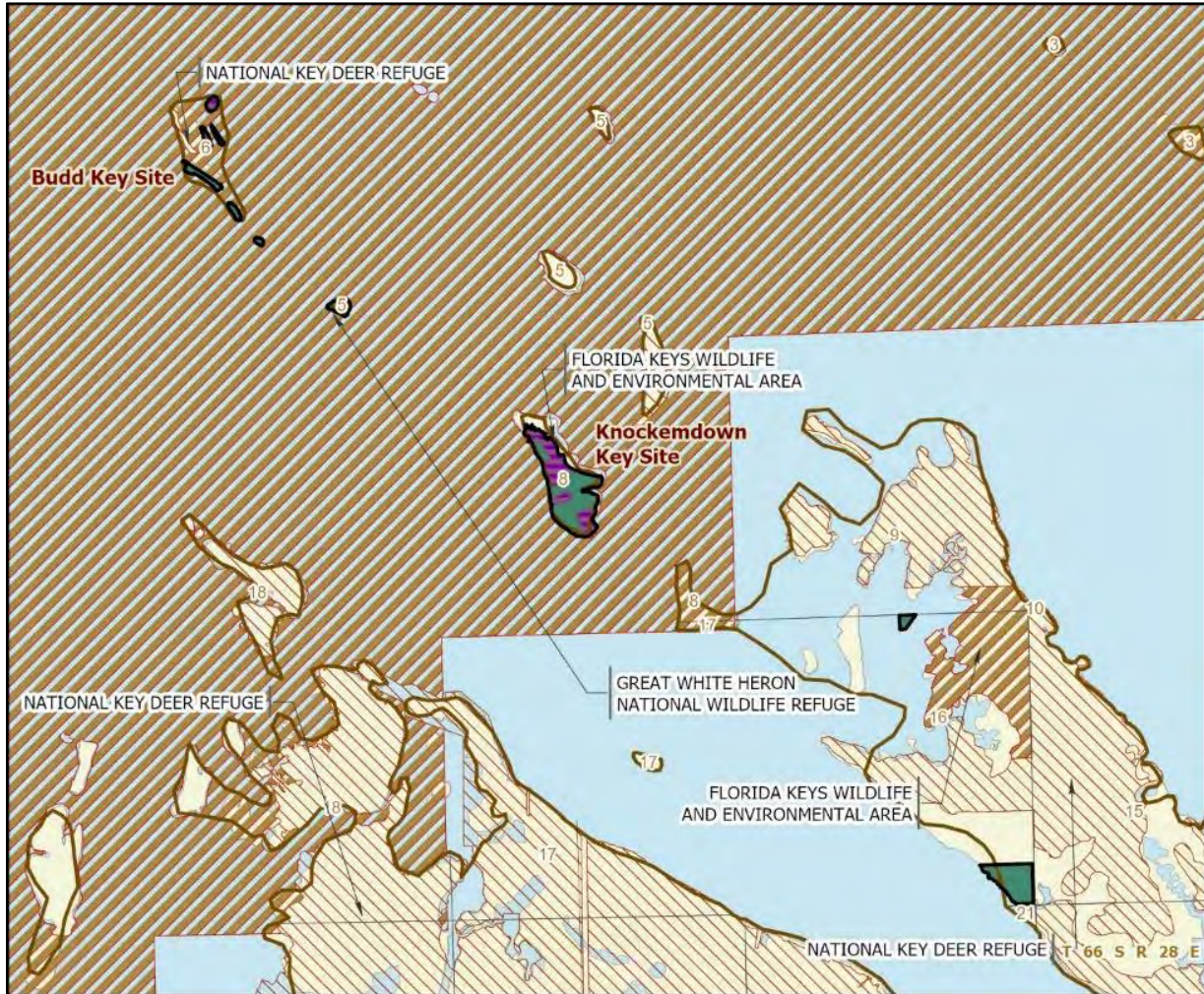
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

MONROE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



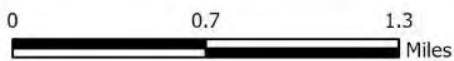
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7

MONROE COUNTY

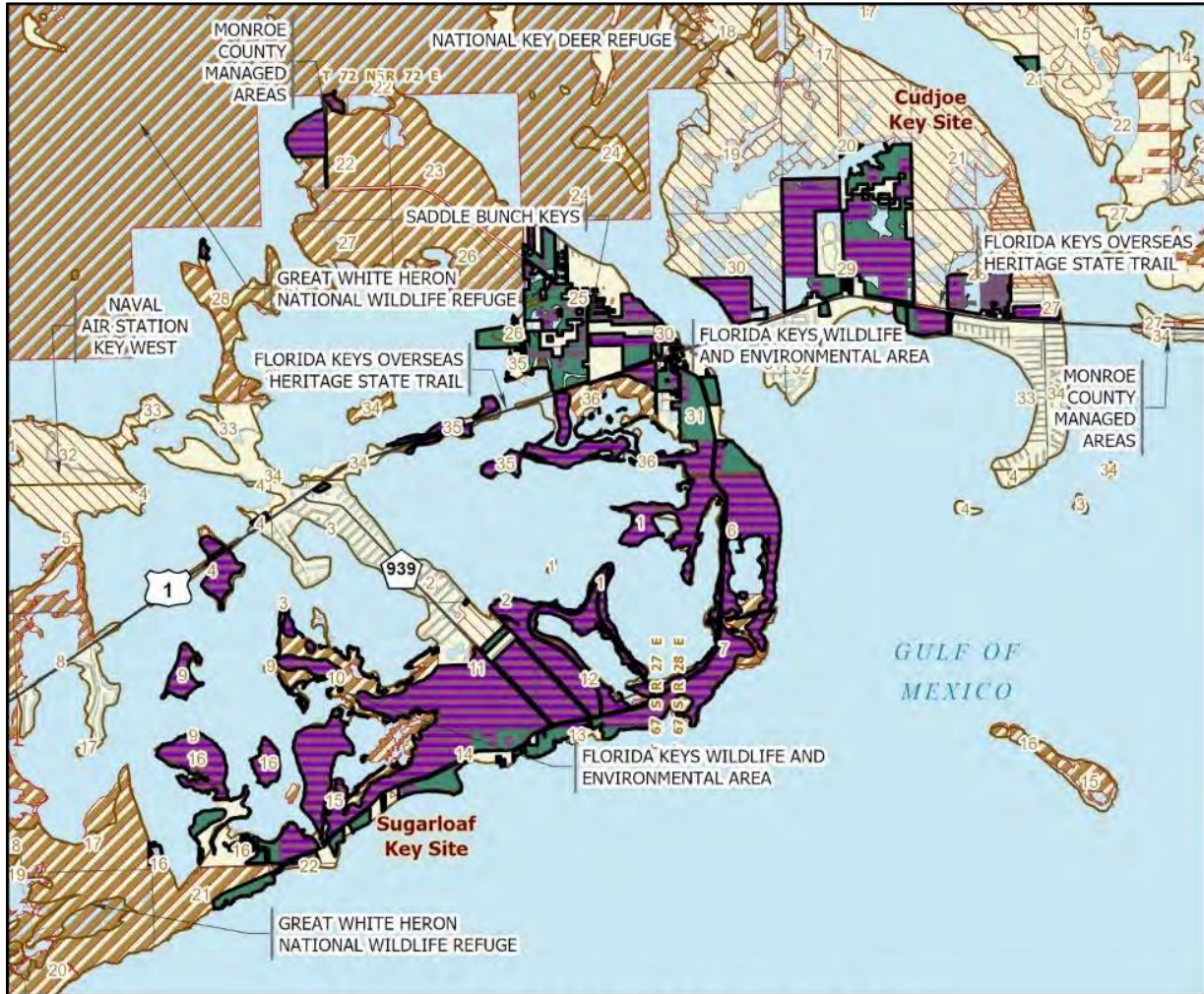
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



Map 78 : FNAI, January 2021



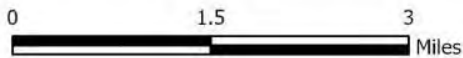
FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8

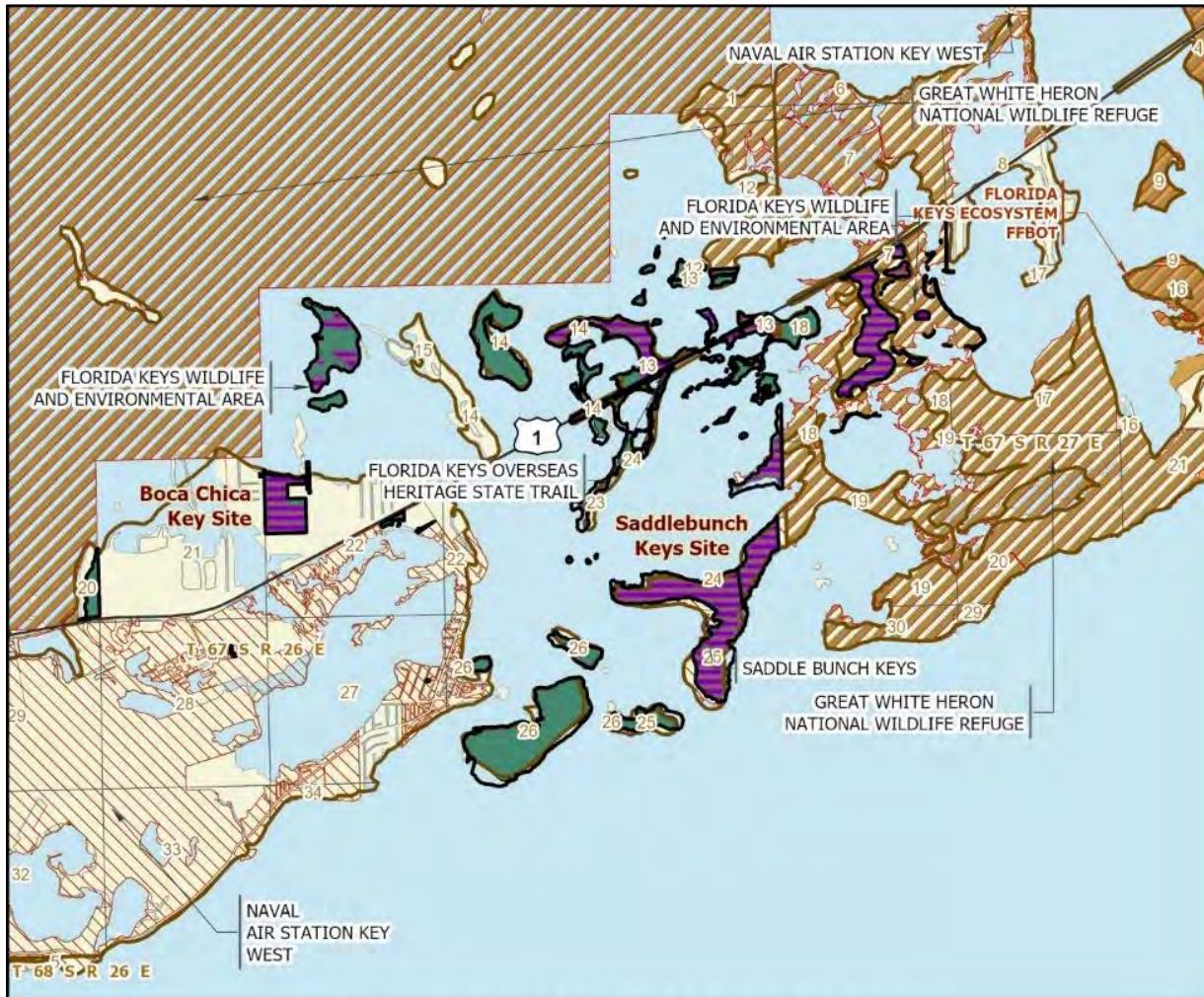
MONROE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020





FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9

MONROE COUNTY

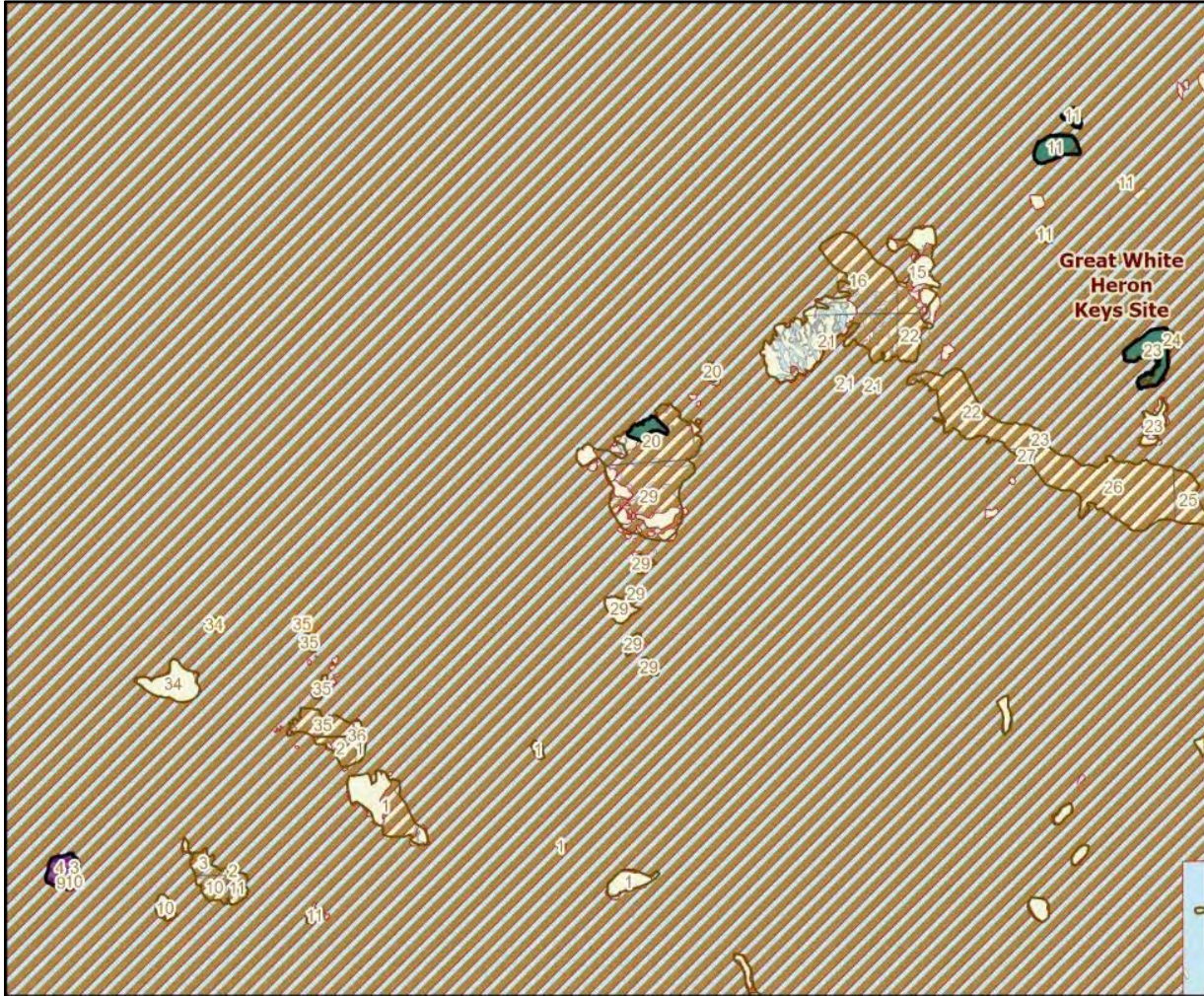
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020




Map 80 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA KEYS ECOSYSTEM: MAP 10

MONROE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 81 : FNAI, January 2021



Florida's First Magnitude Springs

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Bay, Citrus, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jackson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Wakulla, Walton, Washington

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1991
Project Acres	16,965
Acquired Acres	10,925
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$91,794,252
Remaining Project Acres	6,040
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$282,989,305

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 rock of the Floridan Aquifer supplies 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.



Manager(s)

<u>Spring or Property</u>	<u>Managers</u>
Morrison Springs	Walton County
Blue Springs Park	DRP
Brunson Landing and Cypress Spring	Leased from owner, managed by NFWFMD
Gainer Springs	DRP / NFWFMD
Jackson Blue Springs	Jackson County
River Sink Spring	US Forest Service
Church Sink	Leon County
St. Marks Springs	DRP
Hardee Spring	Florida Forest Service
Madison Blue Springs	DRP
Damascus Peanut Tract and Falmouth Spring	NFWFMD
Lafayette Blue Springs	Lafayette County
Troy Spring	DRP
Fanning Springs	DRP / OGT / NFWFMD
Silver Springs Sandhill	Marion County
Weeki Wachee Springs	FWC
Mud Spring	Hernando County
Springs Coast Research	Wildlands Conservation
Horne Spring	FFS

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 first magnitude springs in Florida are scattered in the northern peninsula and the eastern panhandle where the limestone of the Floridan Aquifer arches 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.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Manatee	G2G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Suwannee moccasinshell	G1/S1
Withlacoochee tiny sand-loving scarab	G1/S1
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1
<i>ciliate-leaf tickseed</i>	G1G2/S1
Jackson County cave amphipod	G1G2/S1
Dougherty Plain cave amphipod	G1G2/S1
Gulf moccasinshell	G2/S1

65 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project sites are designated for use as state parks, geological sites and wildlife and environmental areas, with high recreational potential for swimming, canoeing, camping, and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

1990

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 made up the project:

1. Falmouth Spring (Suwannee County, 75 acres, 1 parcel, 1 landowner, TAV \$45,000),
2. Fanning Springs (Levy County, 525 acres, 98 parcels, 17 landowners, TAV \$1,187,610),
3. Gainer Springs (Bay County, 1,258 acres, 19 parcels, 7 landowners, TAV \$3,256,739),
4. River Sink Spring (Wakulla County, 105 acres, 4 parcels, 4 landowners, TAV \$64,956), and
5. St. Marks Springs (Leon County, 890 acres, 19 parcels, 6 landowners, TAV \$1,164,188).

According to the 1990 Project Design document, the DRP will manage St. Marks Springs. The US Forest Service will manage River Sink Spring. The OGT, DRP, and SRWMD will manage Fanning Springs. A lead manager has not been determined for Falmouth Springs. The lead manager is still unclear for Gainer Springs; however, the NFWMD and Bay County both expressed an interest. A portion of the Fanning Springs sites have been acquired. The NFWMD has acquired 214 acres of the Gainer Springs sites.



1991

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. SRWMD will manage if acquired.

1992

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 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, and 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 and Washington counties. The NFWMD will manage the 214-acre Harder tract that it acquired.

1995

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 Merritt's Mill Pond in Jackson County, and has a taxable value of \$258,790. Jackson County will manage. Both properties were acquired in 1997.

1998

On December 3, 1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) transferred the St. Marks Springs, River Sink Spring, Fanning 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, sponsored by the landowners' representative. It contains 45 parcels, 22 landowners, and a taxable value of



\$604,000. The addition was designated essential and added to the Priority portion of the project. Madison County will manage it. Approximately 44 acres have been acquired.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 40-acre addition (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 to manage it if acquired; however, property was sold to a third party in 2002.

2003

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. Also, on April 18, 2003 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 FFS will manage this if it is 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 and 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 it 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.



2006

On October 13, 2006, ARC approved a fee-simple 305-acre addition (Hardee Spring) to the boundary in Hamilton County. The addition was sponsored by Harold Hardee and involved one parcel with a taxable value of \$57,001. The FFS would manage the site as part of the Twin Rivers State Forest if acquired. In July 2007, the BOT acquired 4,471 acres of the Avatar property in Marion County.

2009

On February 25, 2009, the BOT acquired 54.74 acres from the Rakestraw family in the St. Marks Site.

2010

On January 6, 2010, FFS purchased approximately 1 acre for \$16,065 from Kaiser/TNC in the Indian Lake State Forest. On May 11, 2010, FFS purchased 0.12 acres for \$2,550. FFS will manage both purchases. In July 2010, FFS purchased two parcels (0.23 for \$5,100 and 0.12 for \$2,800) and will manage both. On November 15, 2011, FFS purchased to manage .23 acres in Indian Lake State Forest (Potter-\$5,100).

In October 2010, FFS purchased 5 parcels (Silver Spring Addition--Bloom, Dinkins, Dupras, Hanson, Szymialis ownerships) making 1/2 acre for a combined \$10,200 and will manage all. In November 2010 FFS purchased 2 parcels (Silver Spring Addition--Stovall, Landry) or .29 acre for \$6,375 and will manage these.

2011

On May 2, 2011, FFS purchased and will manage .23 acre (Jean and Giselle Raymond-\$12,000). On August 3, 2011, the Felburn Foundation donated 2.42 acres in Silver Springs (valued at \$100,000) for FFS to manage. On 9/16/2011, DRP purchased to manage 55.73 acres (Gerrell Plantation, Inc.- \$457,000), as an addition to Natural Bridge Historic State Park.

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

2013

On February 15, 2013 ARC changed the design of the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project in Madison County to add the 608-acre Damascus Peanut Tract, then found that conveying the tract to the Suwannee River Water Management District in exchange for the District's 670-acre Ellaville tract would make a greater conservation value and that the Damascus Peanut Tract was no longer needed for conservation by the Board of Trustees.



2014

In April 2014 ARC agreed to add the 360-acre Brunson Landing Tract on Holmes Creek, north of Vernon, to the project boundary to protect water resources from development. It provides over 2,200 feet of frontage along Homes Creek and is adjacent to NFWFMD land. It would also be managed by the NFWFMD if acquired.

2015

On June 19, 2015 ARC voted to add the 405-acre Blue Springs Park on the Santa Fe River in Gilchrist County to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs. The park has a just value of \$1,361,547 and has a second-magnitude spring and two smaller springs. Blue Springs was then added by ARC to the boundary of the existing Florida's First Magnitude Springs project. On April 20, 2012 the ARC added 63.4 acres to the project that had been authorized for sale from the US Forest Service.

The 470-acre Silver Springs Sandhill on the edge of Ocala was proposed for fee-simple acquisition, considered, and approved by ARC as a stand-alone project on June 19, 2015. It was then immediately added by ARC to the boundary of the existing Florida First Magnitude Springs project.

2017

On October 2, 2017, the state purchased 465 acres of the Sandhill tract to be managed by Marion County as part of the Coehadjoe Park.

On October 6, 2017, DEP closed on 399 acres of Blue Springs Park in Gilchrist County.

In October 2017, ARC approved the Springs Coast Research Station as a Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax value of \$643,154. This 28-acre parcel in southwest Citrus County is north of the town of Chassahowitzka. It shares northern and western boundaries with the Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps (managed by SFWMD). The parcel is at the edge of Crab Creek, which is the site of Crab Spring, part of the Chassahowitzka first magnitude spring group. The facilities on the property have been well maintained, and the campus layout and functions of the residence and satellite buildings would make it suitable as a research center for springs systems and habitats. The project was proposed by Wildlands Conservation, a nonprofit conservation group based in Tampa, who would manage the property as a springs research campus in coordination with several educational institutions, as well as protecting the surrounding public lands and underwater acreage. In December 2017, ARC voted to add the 28-acre Springs Coast Research Station Florida Forever project boundary to that of the Florida's First Magnitude Springs project.



In calendar year 2017, a total of 863.45 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2018

On June 15, 2018 ARC members voted to add 556 acres in Columbia County to the project. This is the Santa Fe Springs Tract, on the north side of the Santa Fe River. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) will manage this site through the Florida Forest Service’s Suwannee Forestry Center if acquired, however it may be managed as a standalone Forest property. The FFS estimates the budget needs for the one year of interim management to require a total of \$167,974 from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (1 fulltime employee at \$44,439, Expenses of \$71,935, and Operating Capital Outlay of \$167,974).

2020

On October 9, 2020, the ARC approved the addition of 37.6-acres that includes Mud Spring in Hernando County to the project boundary.

Coordination

Hernando County has limited acquisition funds but is very supportive of state acquisition efforts. The NFWMD 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 (WEA), as well as its sensitive natural resources, qualifies it as a WEA. River Sink spring is a first- magnitude karst window. This qualified 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 WMA; Jackson County (Jackson Blue Springs); U.S. Forest Service (River Sink Springs); DRP (St. Marks, Fanning, Troy, Gainer Springs, Madison County Blue Springs, and Blue Springs Park of Gilchrist County); Walton County (Morrison Springs); Leon County (Church Sink); Marion County (Silver Springs); FFS (Hardee Springs); OGT (Fanning Springs); NFWMD (Gainer Springs); SRWMD (Fanning Springs, Falmouth Springs); Lafayette County (Lafayette Blue Springs), Marion County (Silver Springs Sandhills); and Florida Forest Service (Santa Fe Springs tract).

Conditions affecting intensity of management

River Sink and Blue Spring are moderate-need tracts, 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. Florida Forest would manage the Santa Fe Spring parcel for Operation Outdoor Freedom Hunts.

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 1992-1993 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.



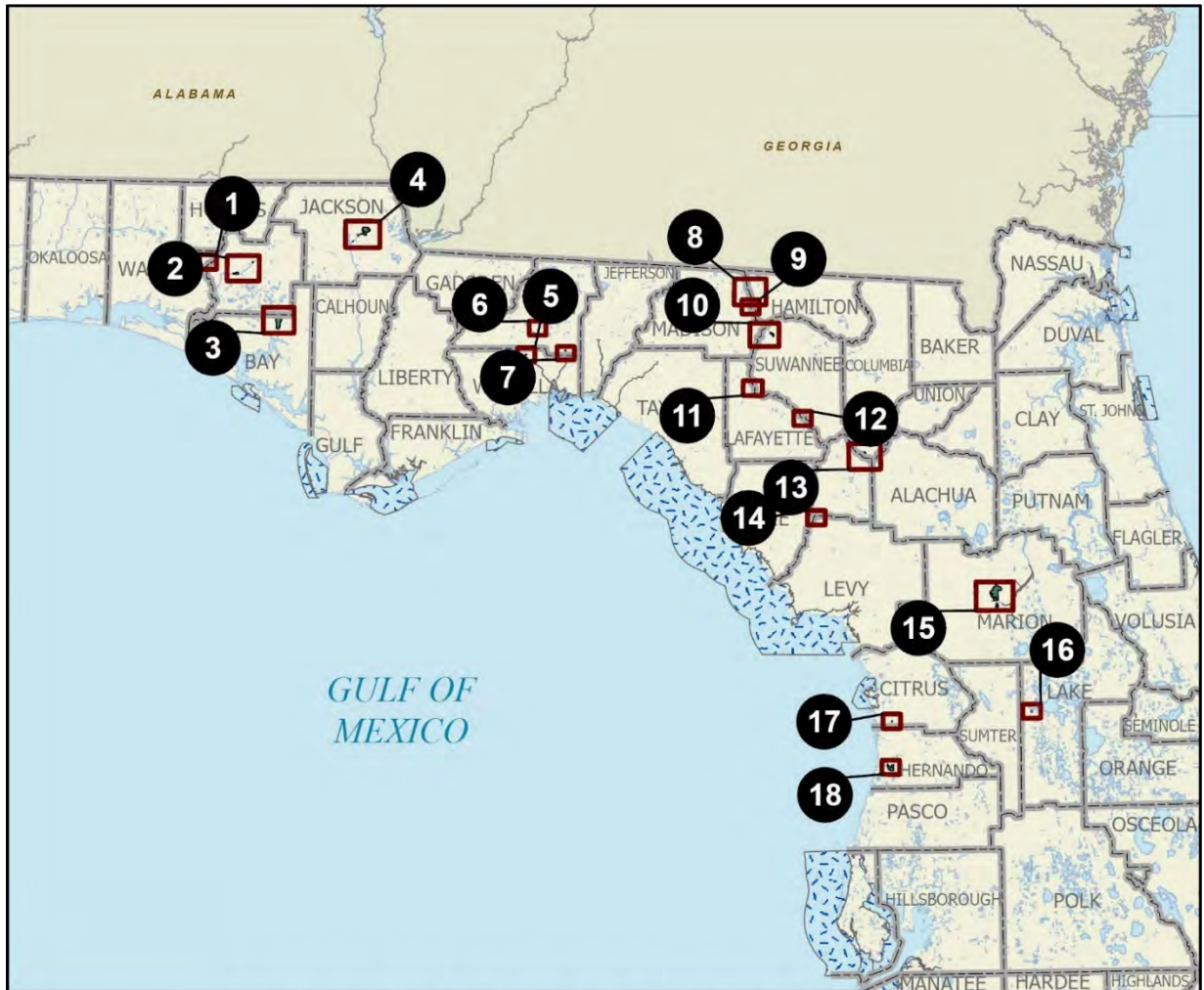
Cooperators in management activities

Jackson County expects the FWC to cooperate in managing wildlife on the Blue Spring 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

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
TOTAL	\$3,000	\$10,000	\$41,849	\$41,849

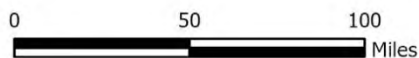
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: OVERVIEW

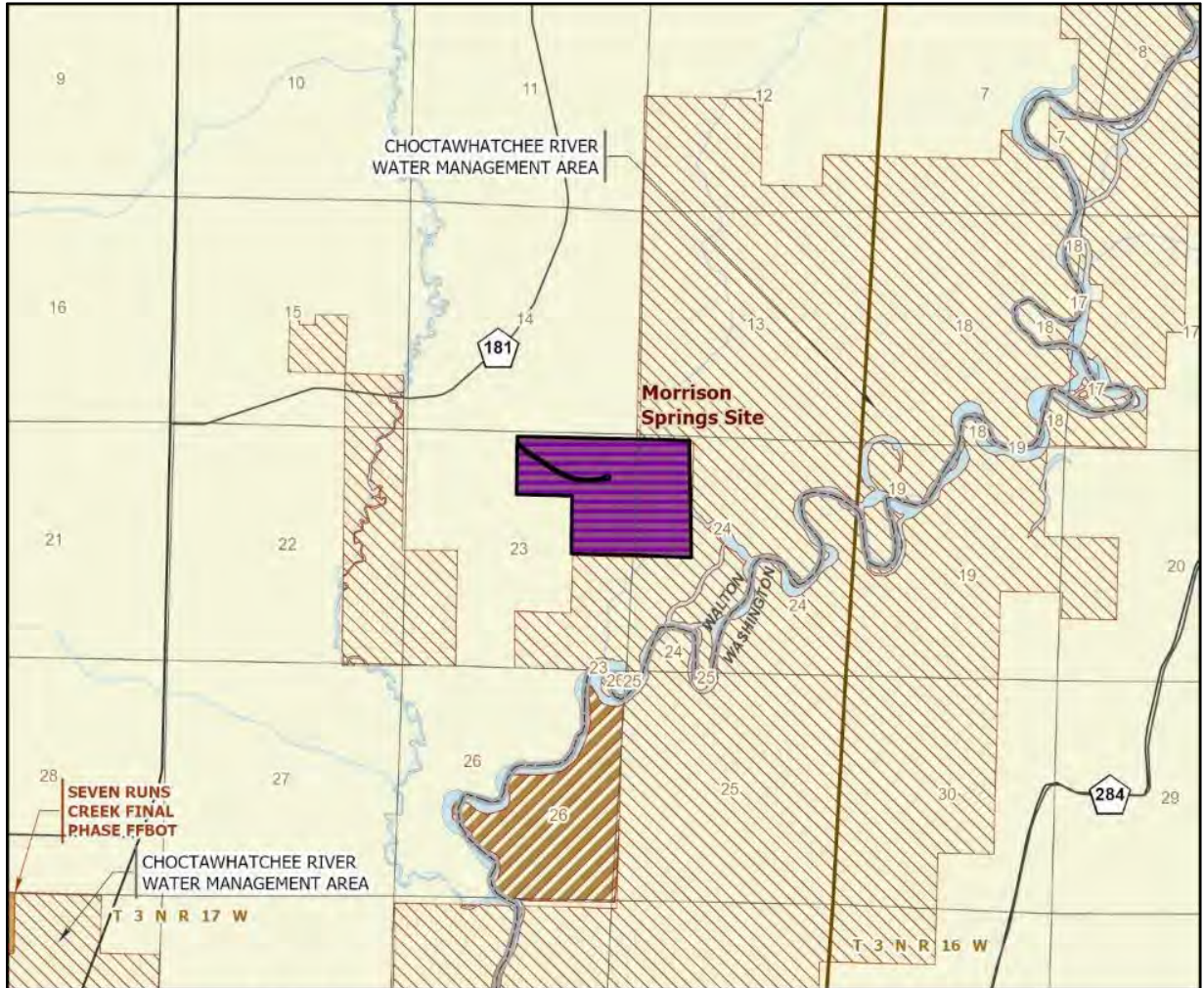
BAY, CITRUS, COLUMBIA, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, HERNANDO, JACKSON, LAFAYETTE, LAKE, LEON, LEVY, MADISON, MARION, SUWANNEE, WAKULLA, WALTON, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Map 1 Morrison Springs Site
- Map 2 Brunson Landing Tract Site
- Map 2 Cypress Spring Site
- Map 3 Gainer Springs Site
- Map 4 Jackson Blue Springs Site
- Map 5 River Sink Spring Site
- Map 6 Church Sink Site
- Map 7 St. Marks Springs Site
- Map 8 Hardee Spring Site
- Map 9 Madison Blue Springs Site
- Map 10 Damascus Peanut Tract Site
- Map 10 Falmouth Spring Site
- Map 11 Lafayette Blue Springs Site
- Map 12 Troy Spring Site
- Map 13 Blue Springs Park Site
- Map 13 Santa Fe Springs Site
- Map 14 Fanning Springs Site
- Map 15 Silver Springs Site
- Map 16 Bugg Spring Site
- Map 17 Springs Coast Research Station Site
- Map 18 Weekiwachee Springs Site
- Map 18 Mud Spring Site



JANUARY 2021

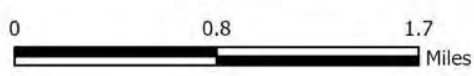
Map 82 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 1

WALTON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

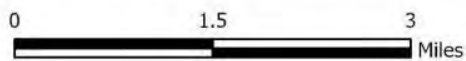
Map 83 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 2

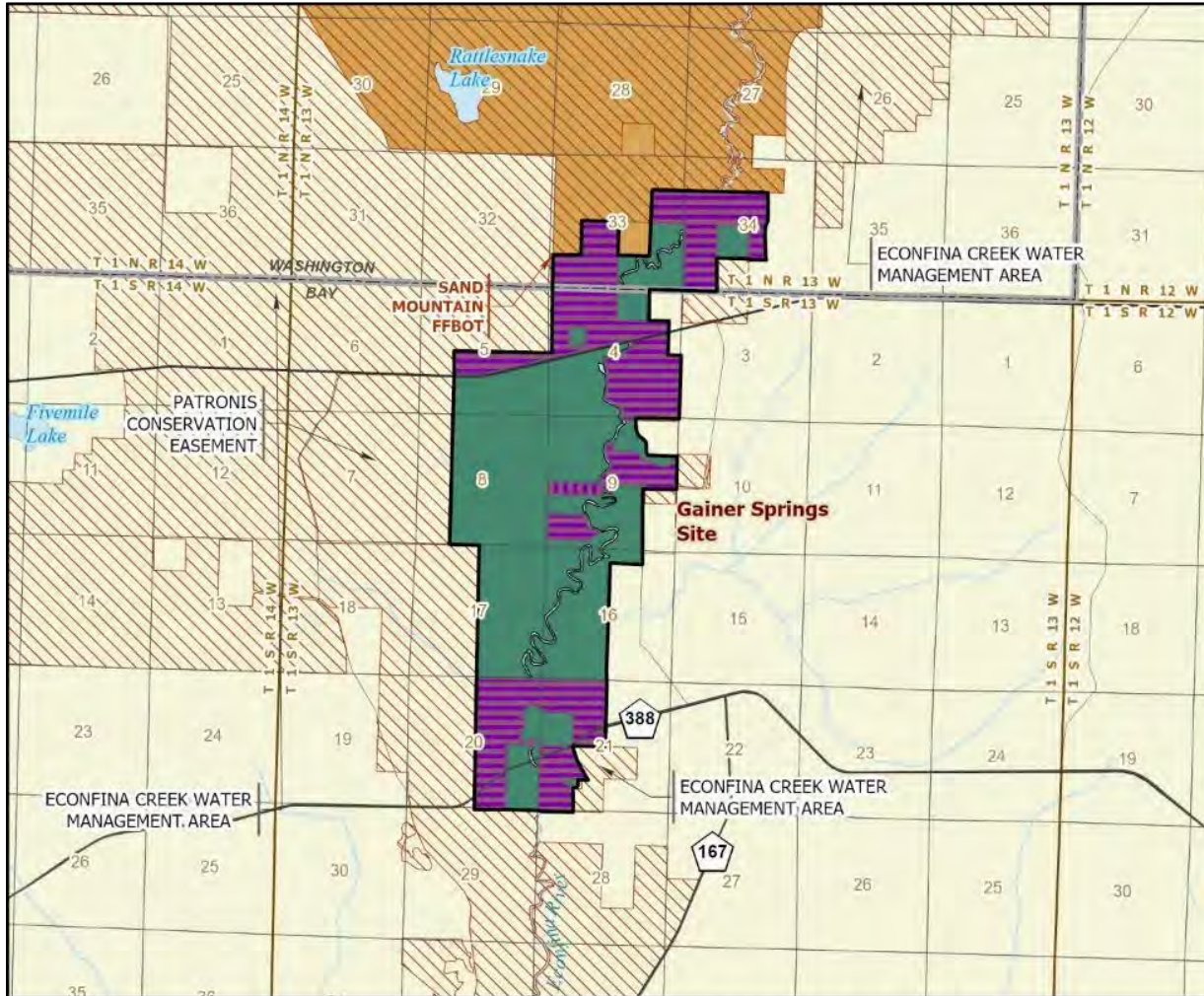
WASHINGTON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

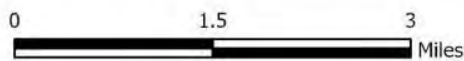
Map 84 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 3

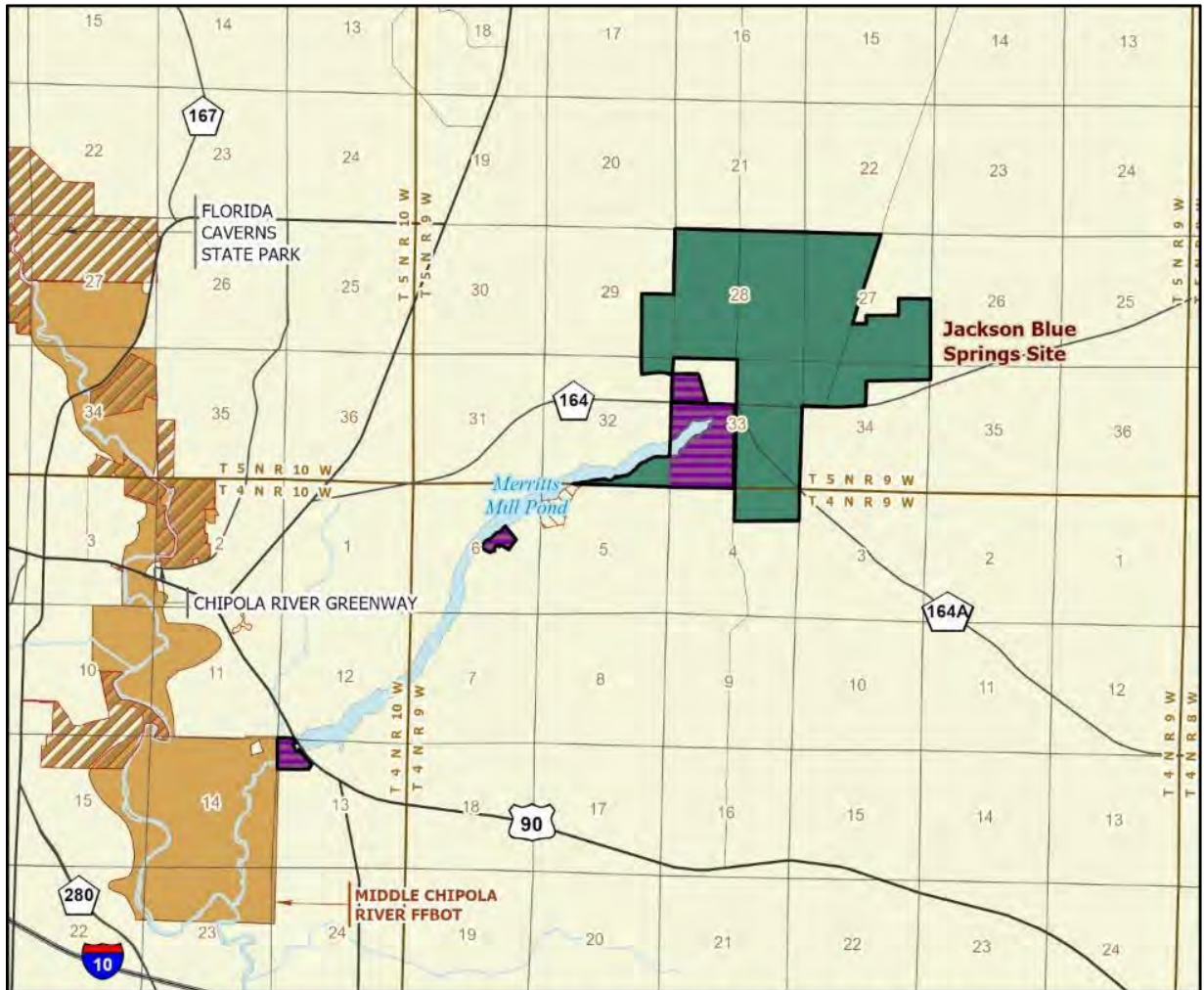
BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020

Map 85 : FNAI, January 2021



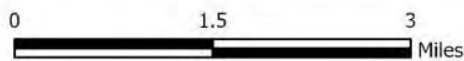
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 4

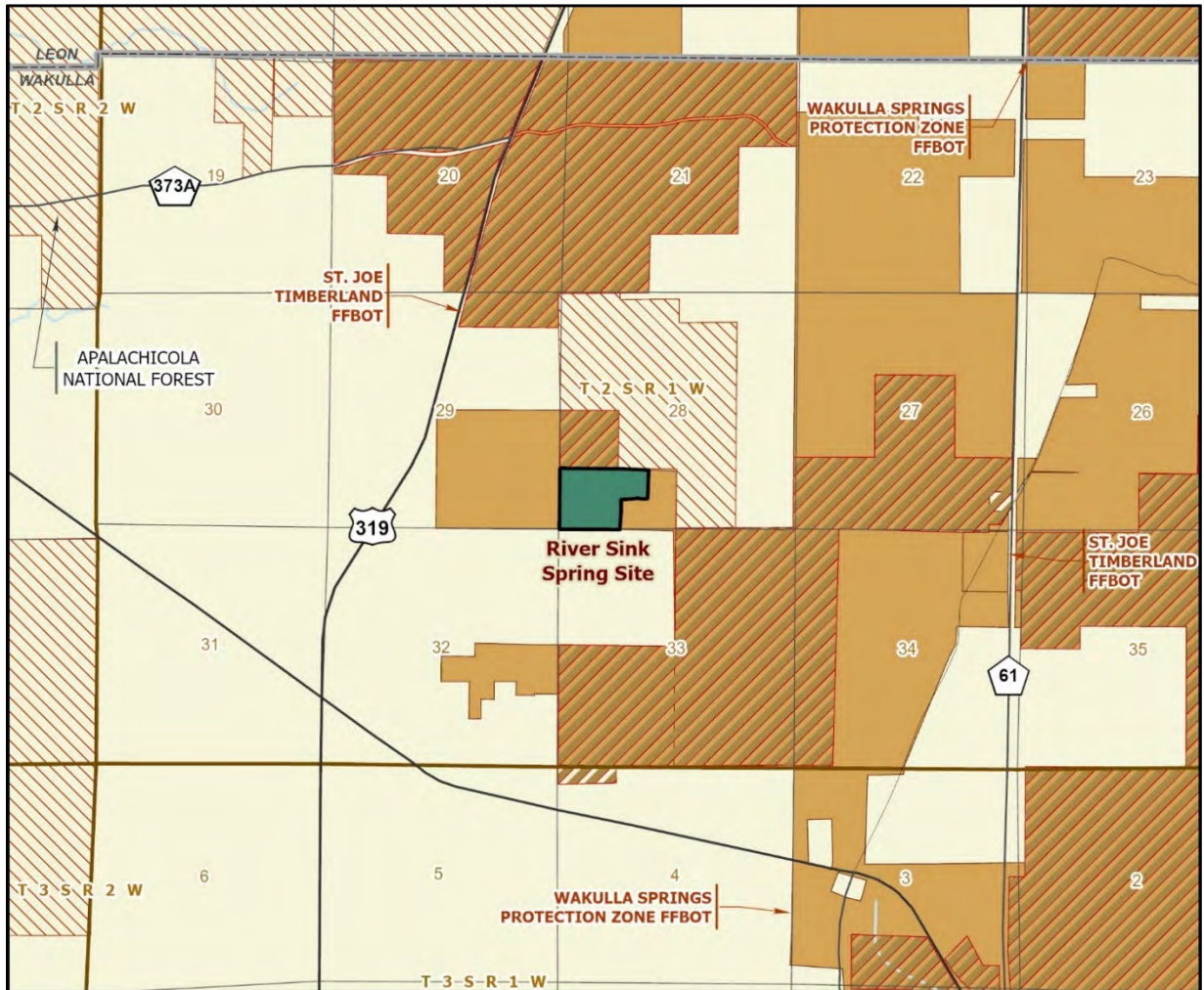
JACKSON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

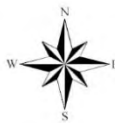
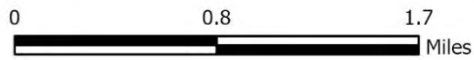




FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 5

WAKULLA COUNTY

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



FEBRUARY 2021



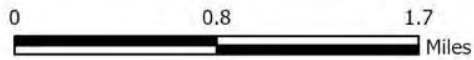
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 6

LEON COUNTY

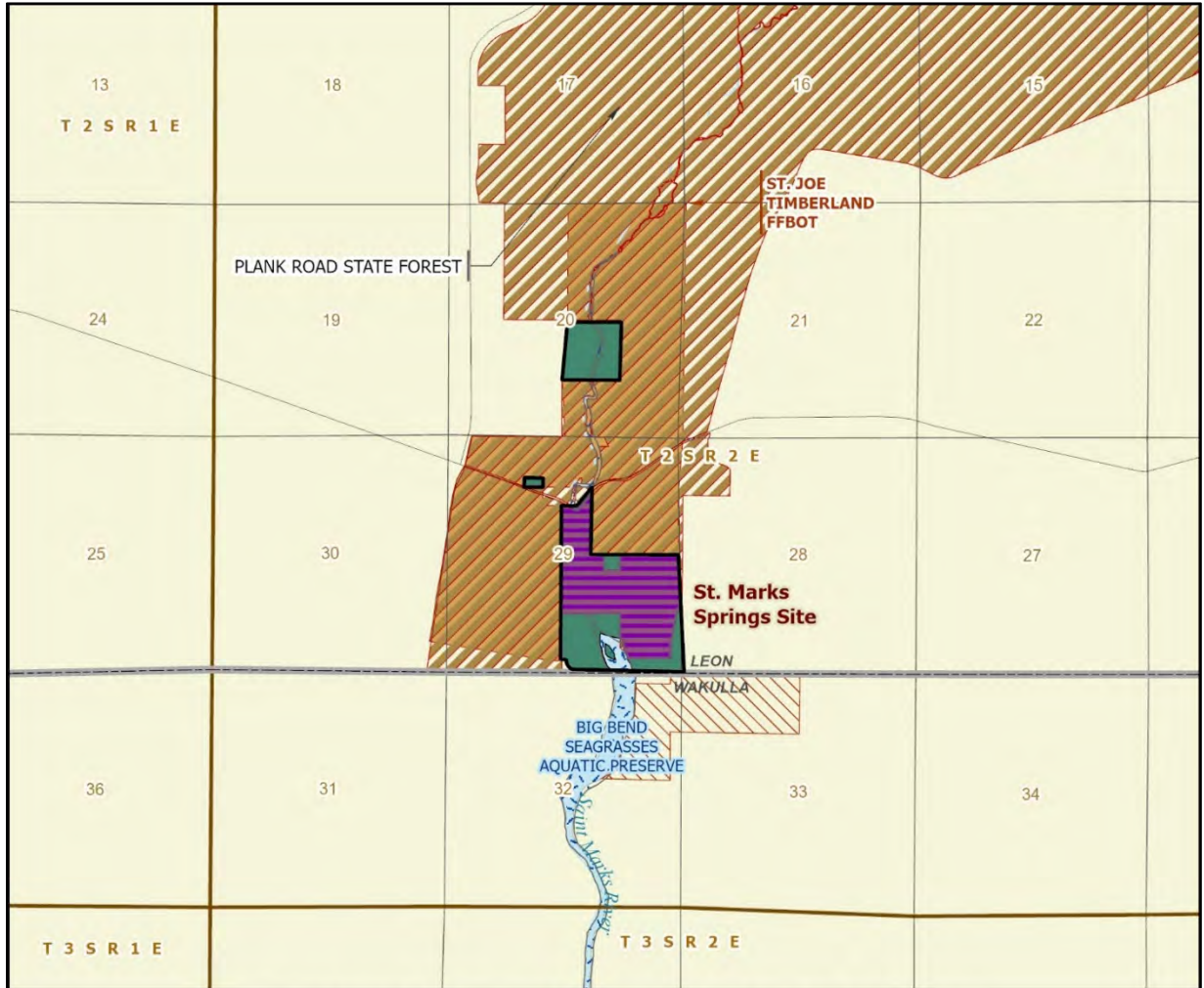
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



Map 88 : FNAI, January 2021



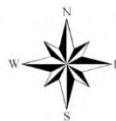
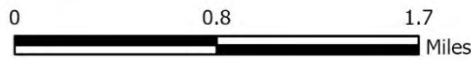
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 7

LEON COUNTY

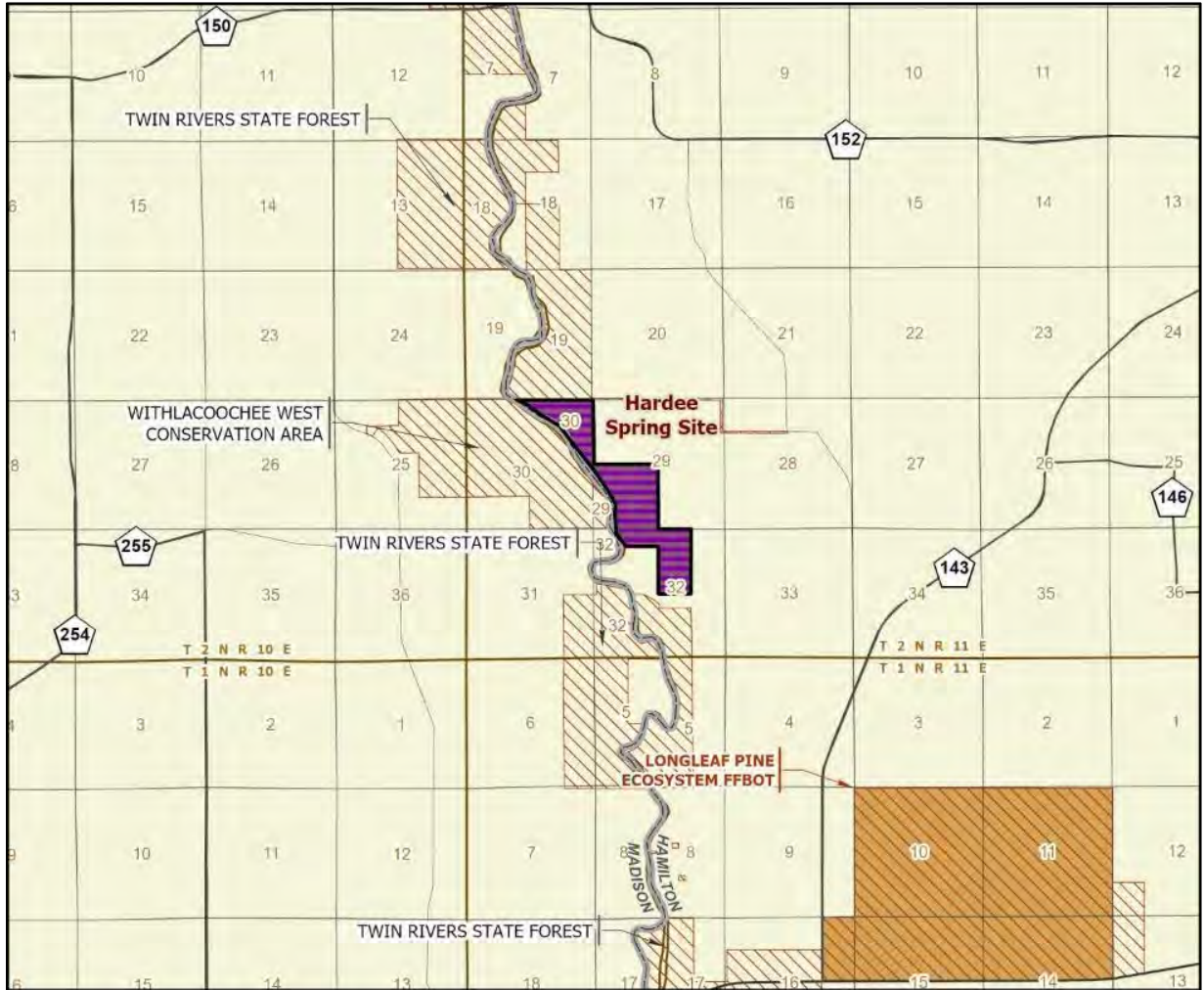
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Aquatic Preserve



FEBRUARY 2021






Map 89 : FNAI, January 2021



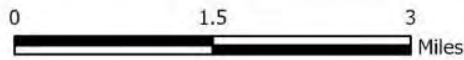
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 8

HAMILTON COUNTY

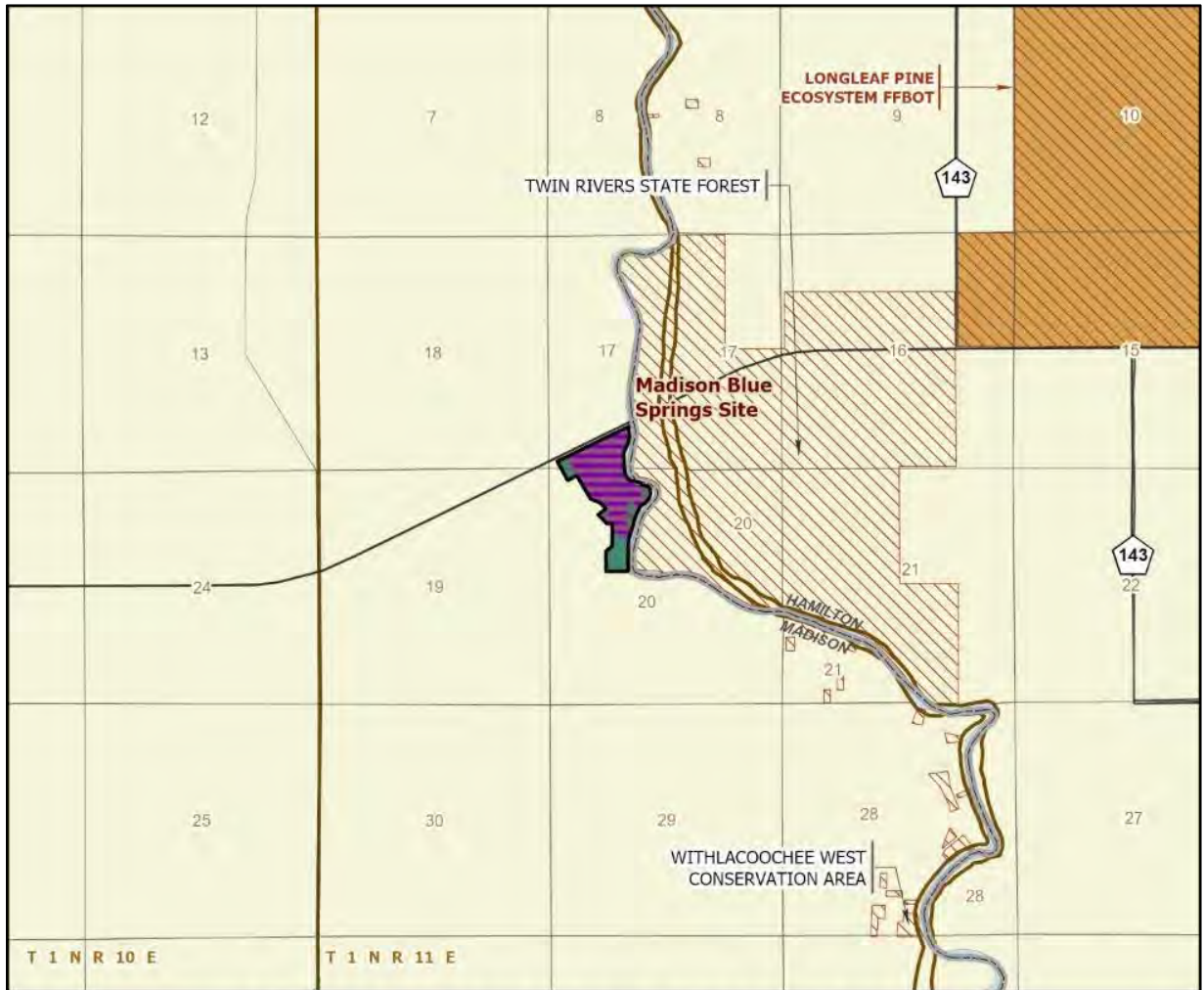
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 90 : FNAI, January 2021



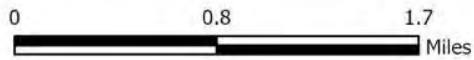
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 9

MADISON COUNTY

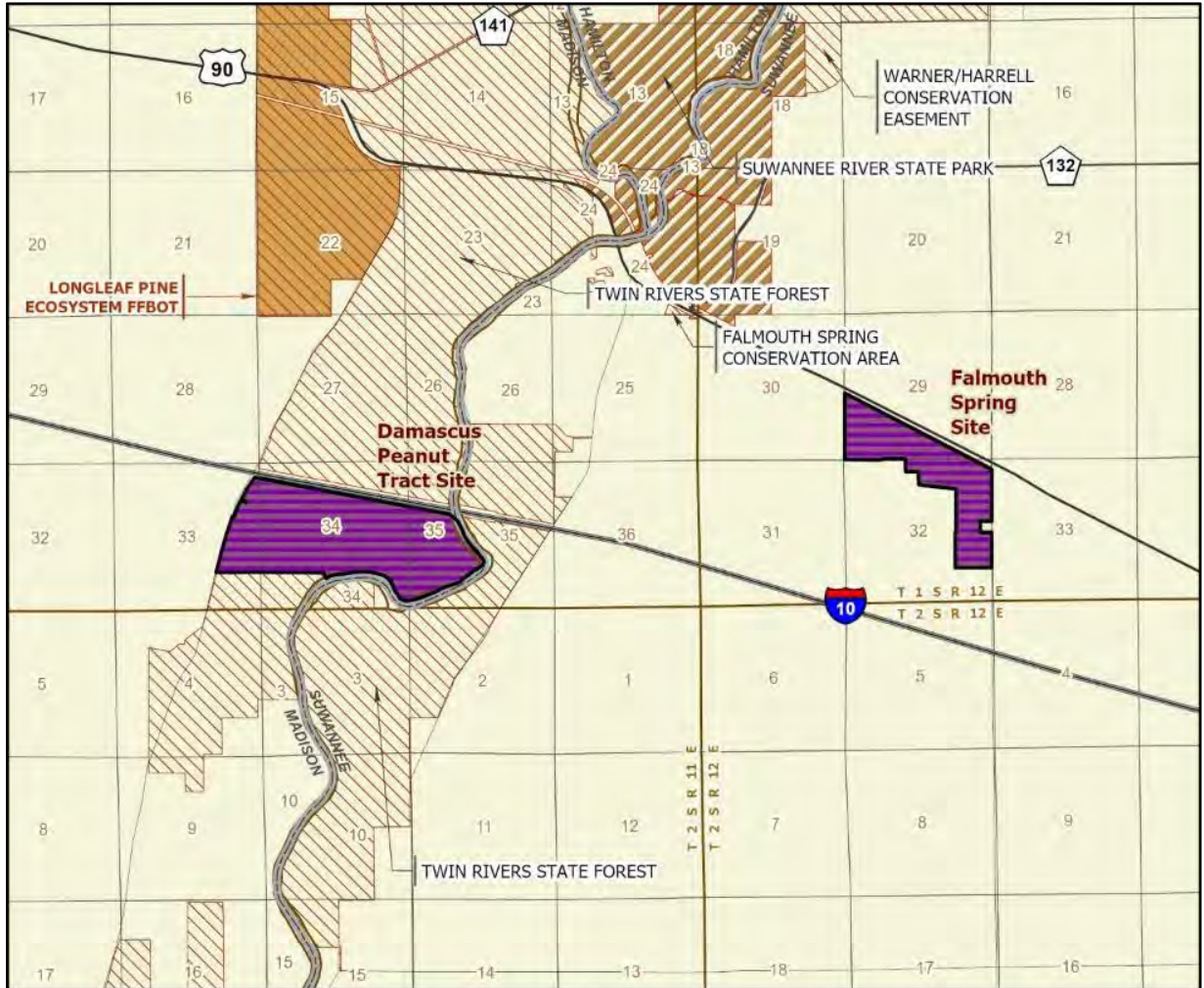
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 91 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 10

MADISON AND SUWANNEE COUNTIES

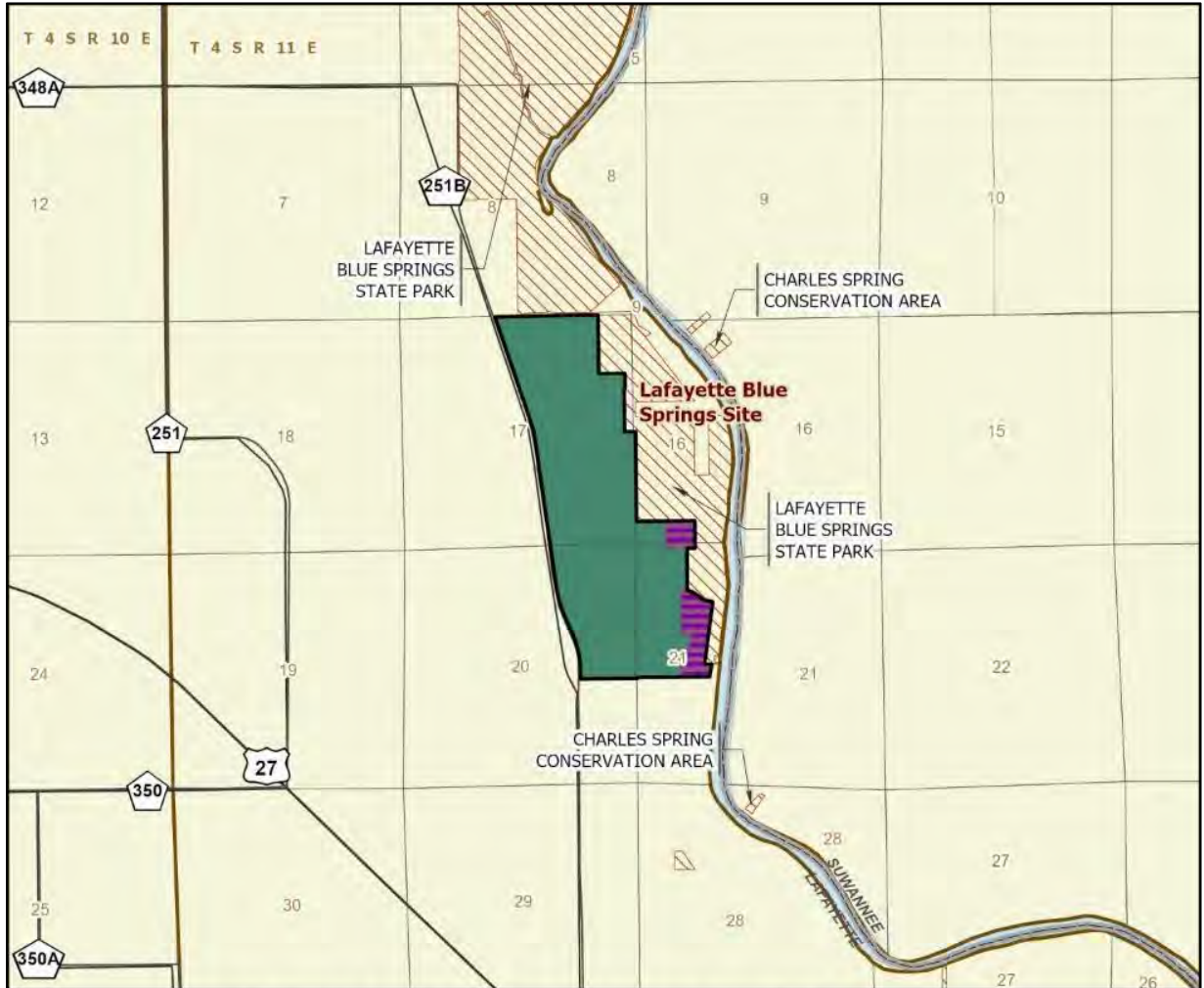
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020







Map 92 : FNAI, January 2021



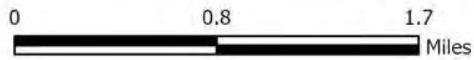
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 11

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

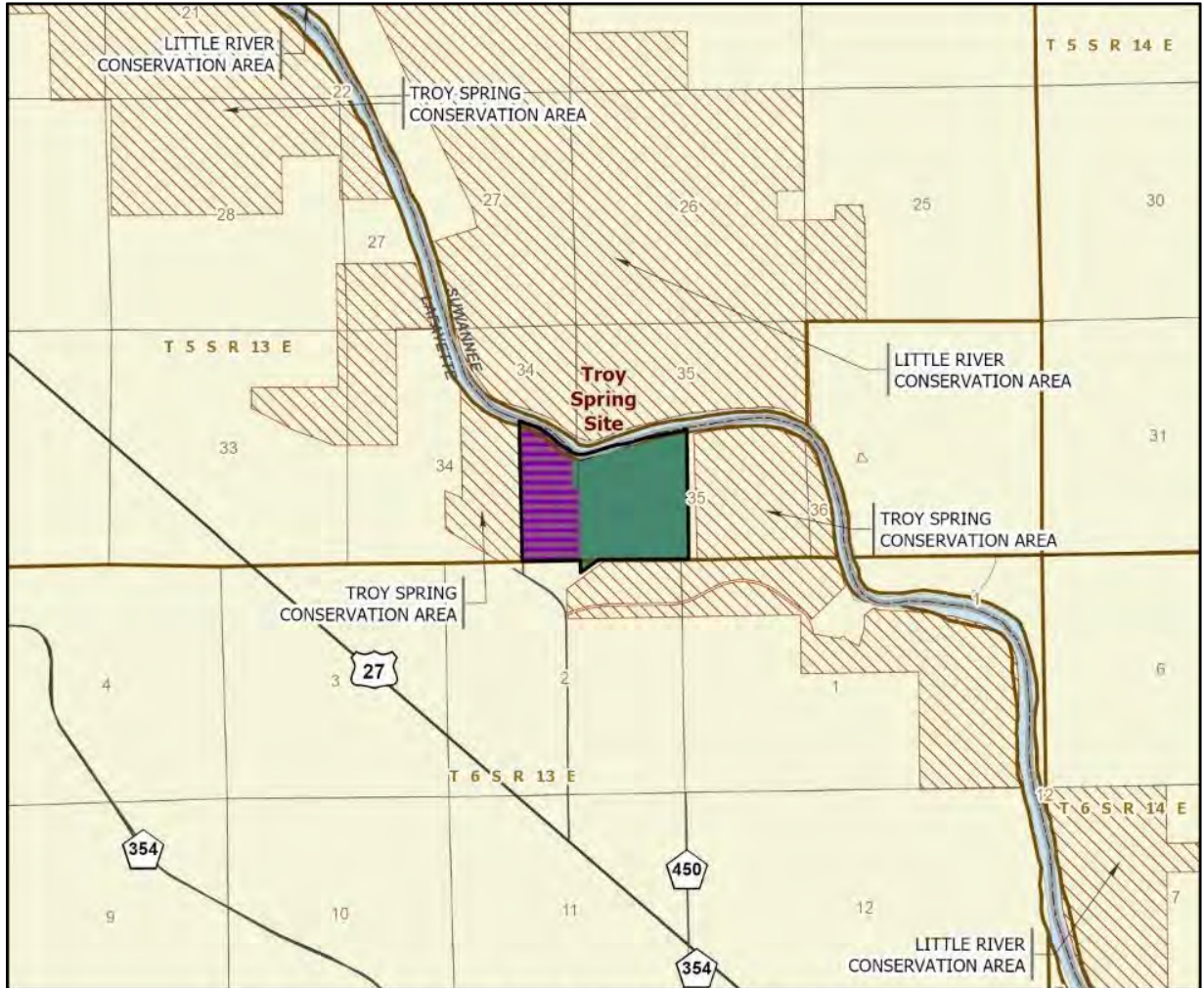
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



Map 93 : FNAI, January 2021



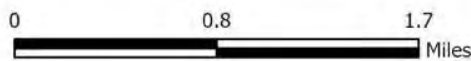
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 12

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

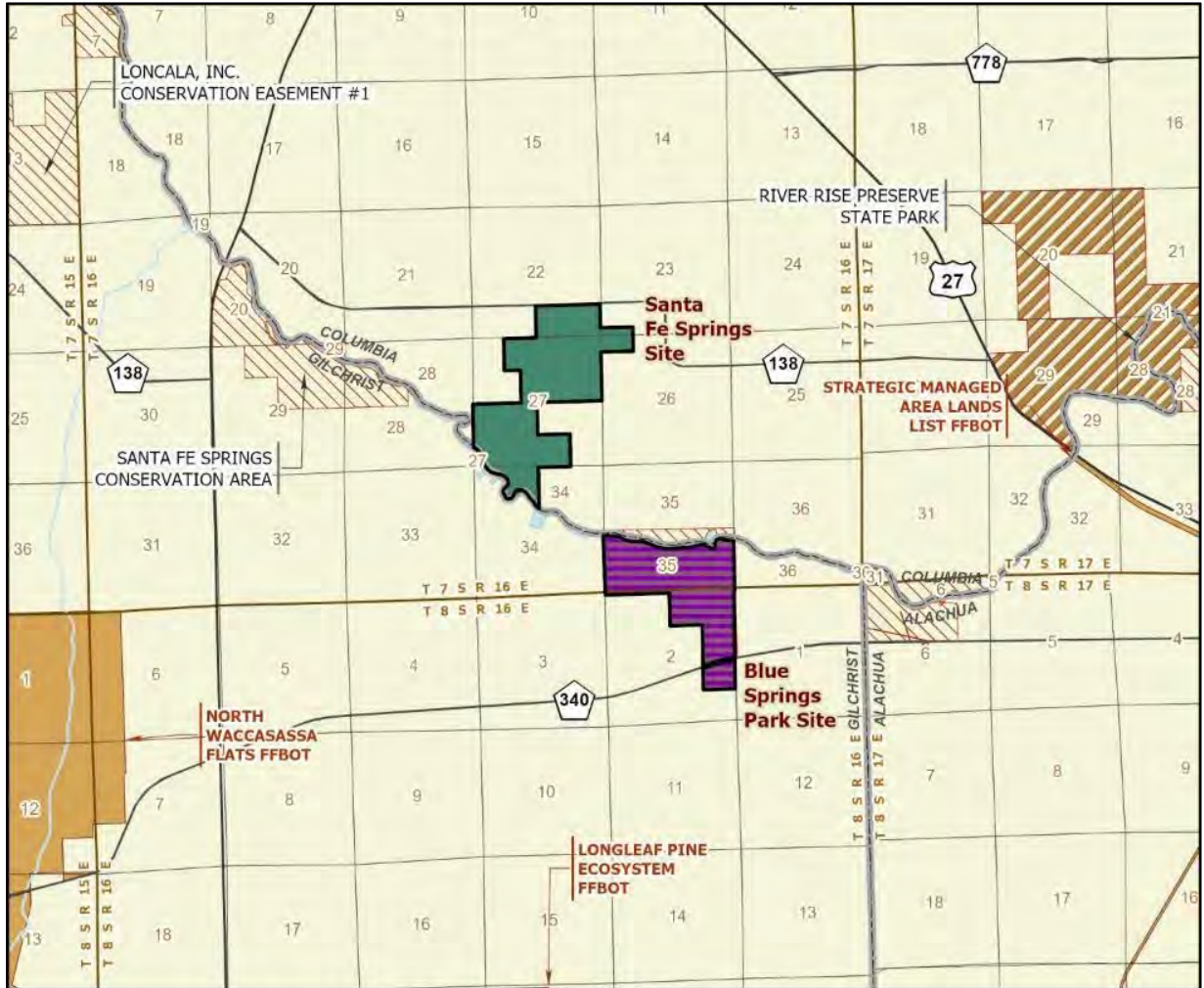
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



Map 94 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 13

COLUMBIA AND GILCHRIST COUNTIES

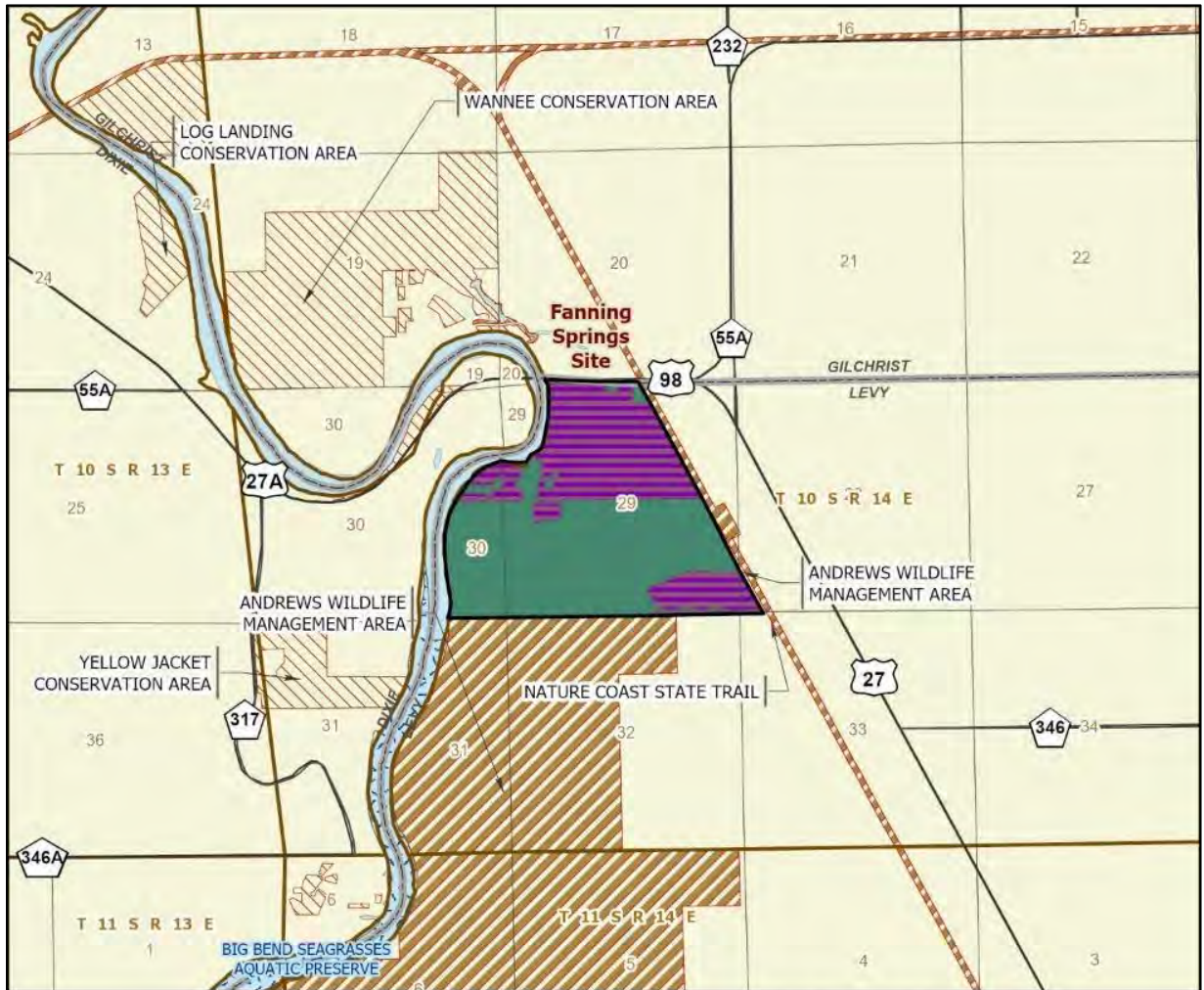
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 95 : FNAI, January 2021



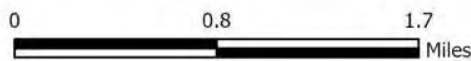
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 14

LEVY COUNTY

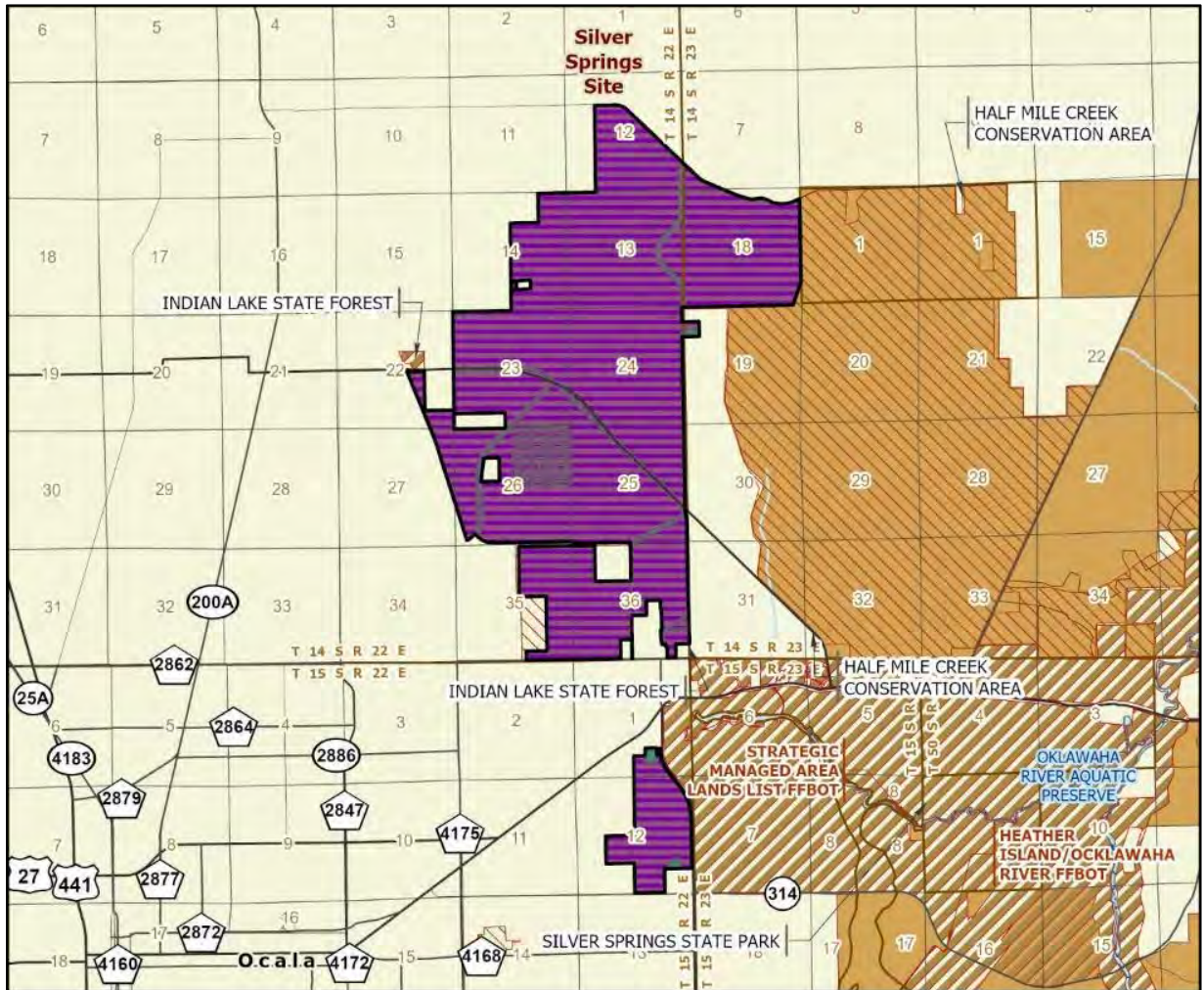
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020



Map 96 : FNAI, January 2021



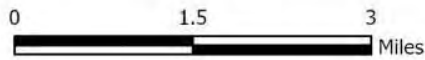
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 15

MARION COUNTY

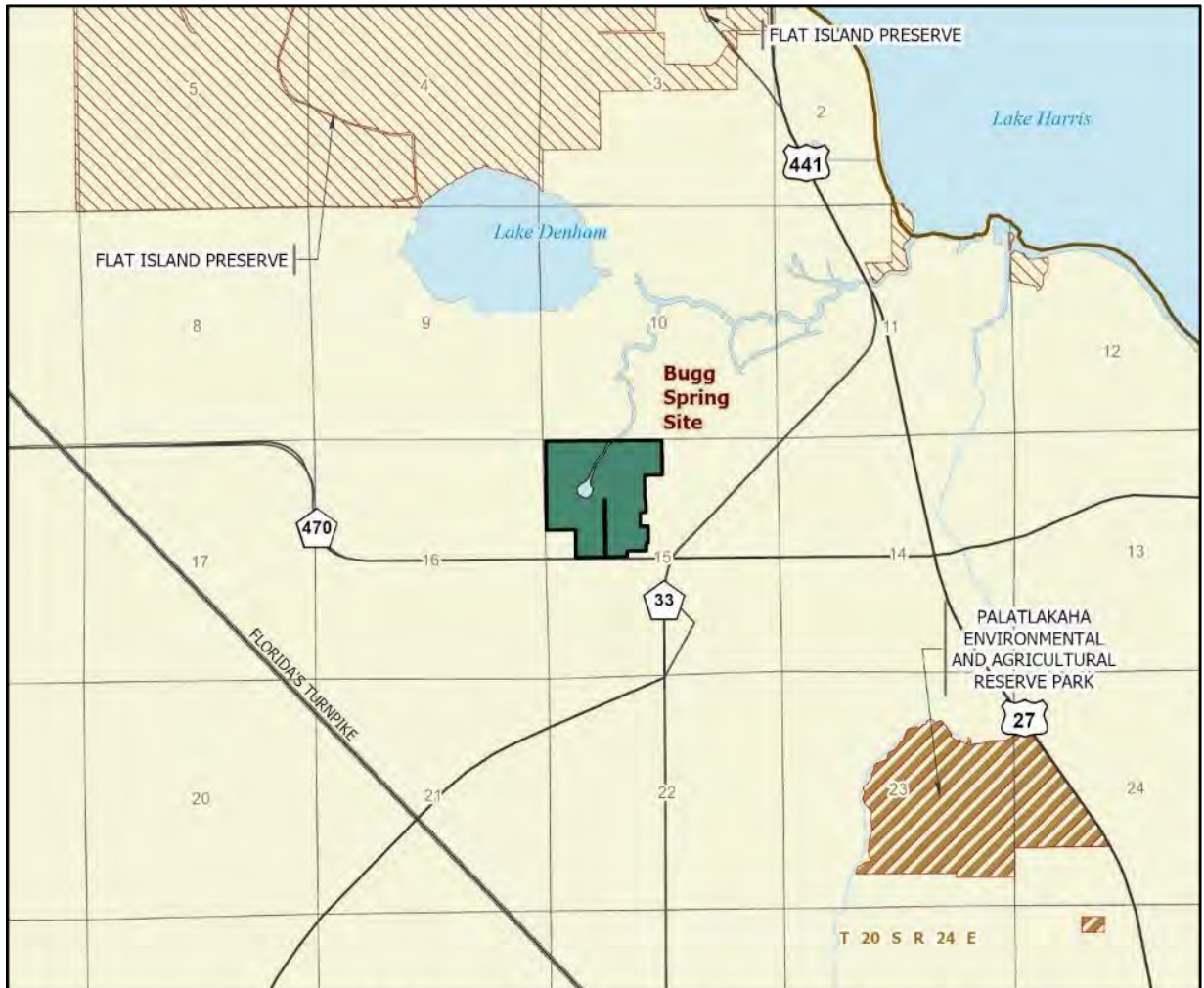
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020



Map 97 : FNAI, January 2021



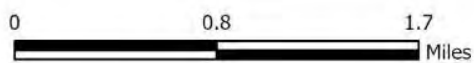
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 16

LAKE COUNTY

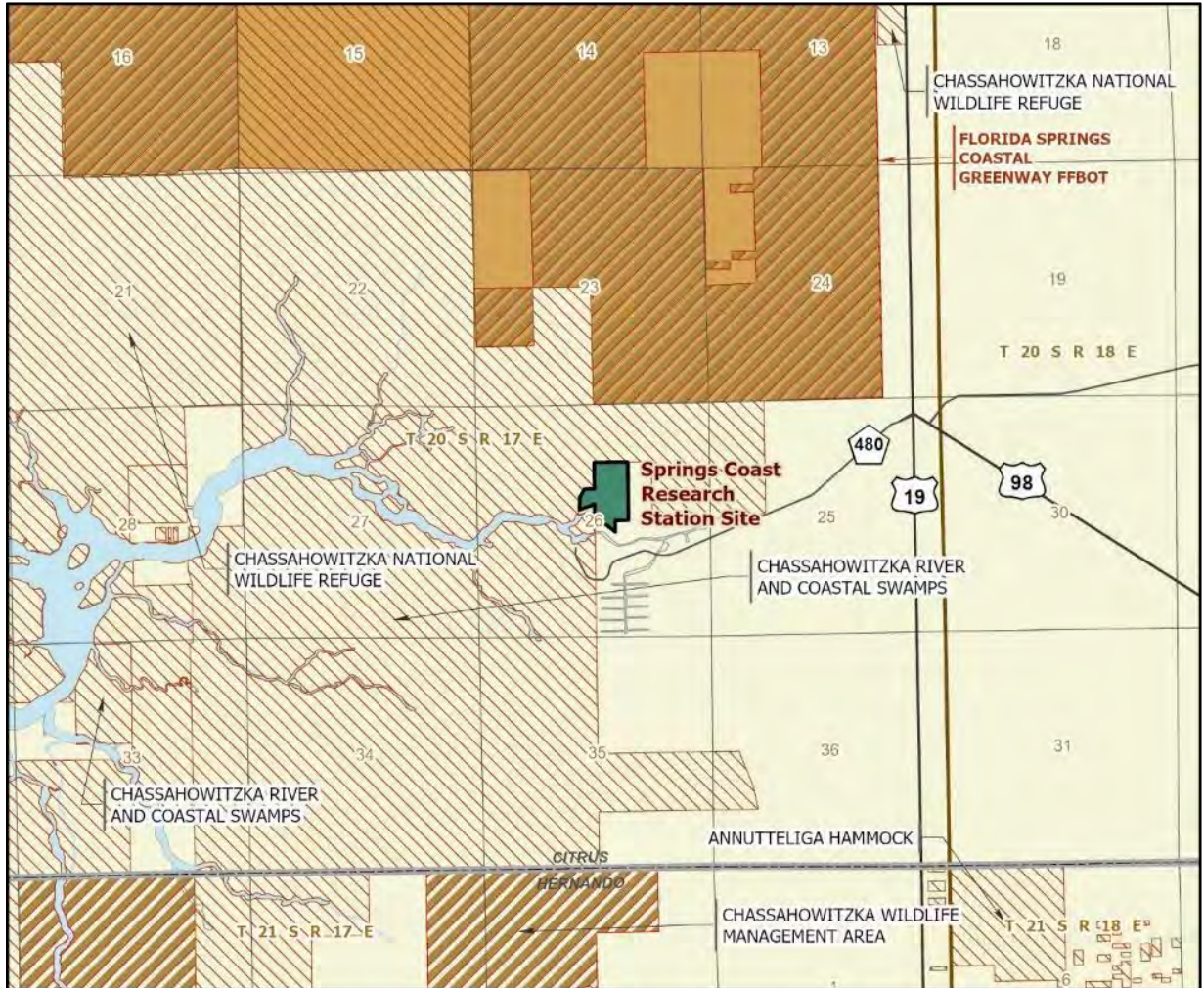
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



MARCH 2020



Map 98 : FNAI, January 2021



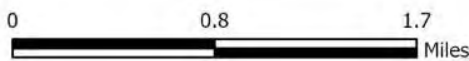
FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 17

CITRUS COUNTY

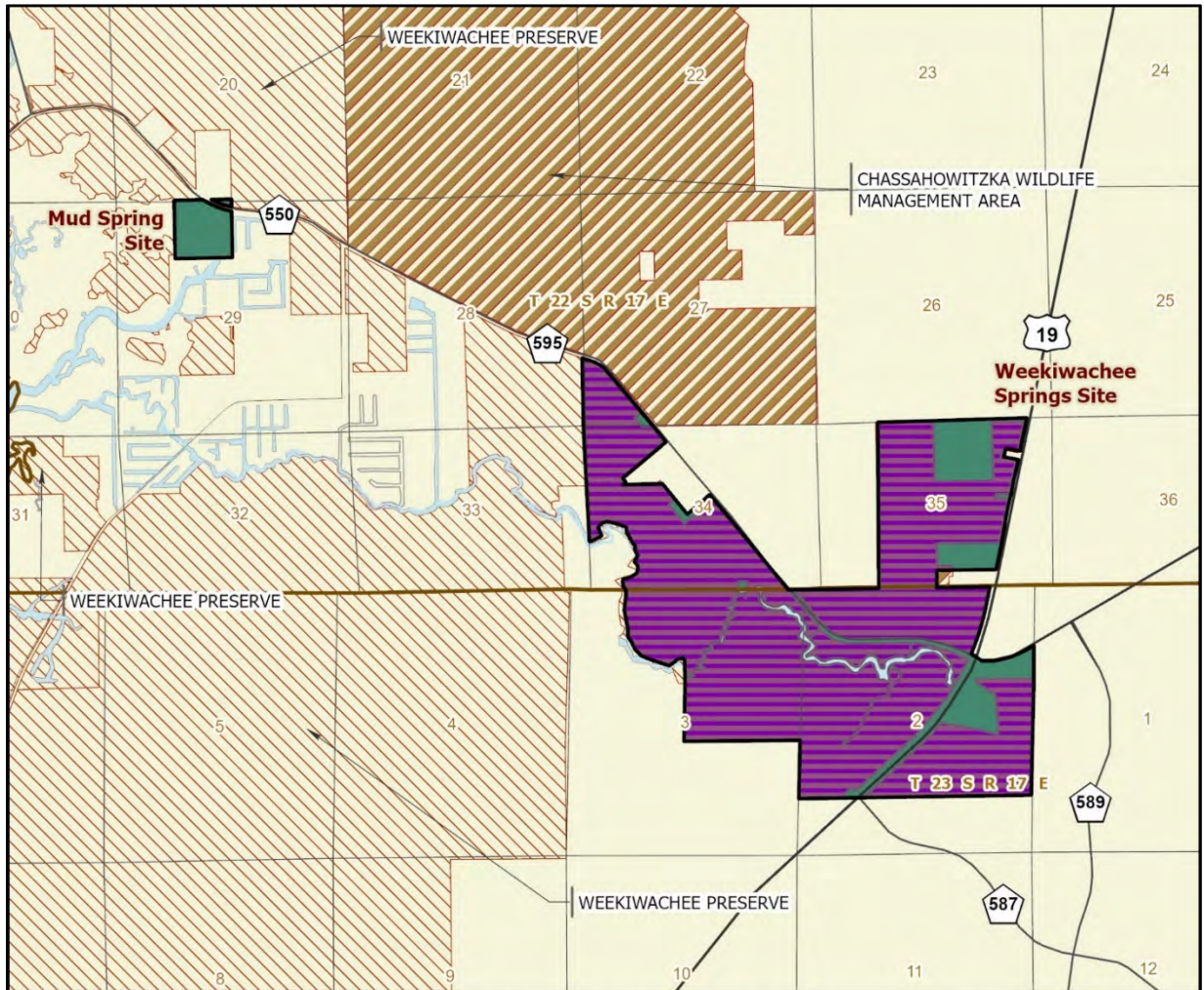
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



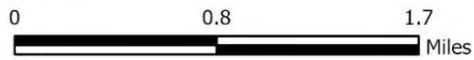
Map 99 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA'S FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS: MAP 18

HERNANDO COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2021

Map 100 : FNAI, January 2021



Florida Springs Coastal Greenway

Substantially Complete Project

Citrus

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	60,573
Acquired Acres	51,718
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$106,262,527
Remaining Project Acres	8,855
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$29,058,337

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 where the public can enjoy fishing, hiking, or learning about the natural world of this coast.

Manager(s)

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is to manage the Crystal River and St. Martins River property and the northern part of the project, adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway.; Florida Forest Service (FFS) to manage Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property.

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 in pasture, the Homosassa Reserve/Walker Property is important as a corridor between Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area and Crystal River 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 here. Development will increase boat traffic, which is the greatest current threat to the manatee population.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Manatee	G2G3/S2
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Green sea turtle	G3/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Hawksbill sea turtle	G3/S1
<i>Tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
Florida olive hairstreak	G5T2/S2
Gulf salt marsh mink	G5T2/S2

30 rare species are associated with the project

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

1994

On November 19, 1994, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) amended Crystal River to add three tracts that include Three Sisters 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: 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 Addition 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.

1995

On March 10, 1995, the Land Acquisition and 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 and 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.

1996

On October 30, 1996, the LAMAC transferred this project to the Substantially Complete Category.

1997

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.

1998

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).



2001

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.

2004

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 and Barr), 2 parcels, and a 2003 taxable value of \$524,000.

2010

On July 28, 2010, the Southwest Florida Water Management District closed on the 57-acre Three Sisters Springs property in Crystal River, paying with a combination of water-management district money and Florida Forever funds allocated to the Florida Communities Trust. It is primarily owned by the City of Crystal River and is managed by the USFWS.

2011

On September 30, 2011, NCDC, LLC donated 25.82 acres (Old Greiner Parcel-valued at \$146,285) to be managed by DRP.

On December 9, 2011, the ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

2020

On June 12, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 149-acres in Citrus County to the project boundary.

Coordination

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. The FFS will manage the Homosassa Reserve tract.

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 FFS 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 percent 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 placed in disturbed areas and will be the minimum needed for public access and management.



Revenue-generating potential

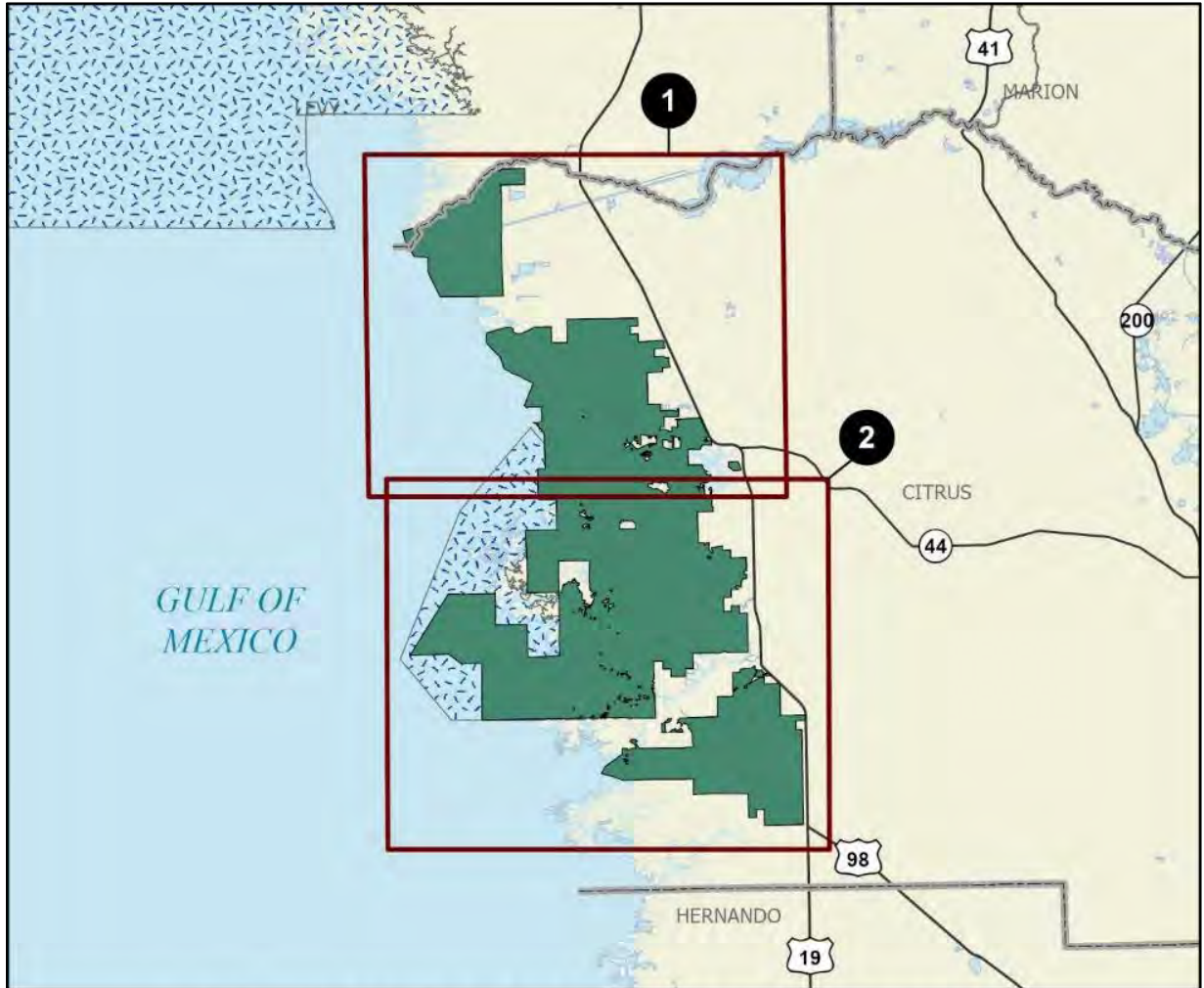
Initially, no revenue is expected to be generated. During restoration of pine plantations, some revenue to offset the cost of management may be generated from the sale of timber. Any estimate of revenue from this harvest depends upon a detailed assessment of the value of the timber. As the recreational component develops and additional staff is assigned, there may be a potential for revenue from this source. No potential revenue estimates are available. On the Homosassa Reserve, the FFS 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 FFS will manage the Homosassa Reserve tract as an addition to the Withlacoochee State Forest, and will cooperate with other state agencies, local governments and interested parties as appropriate.

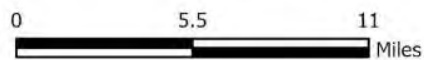


FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: OVERVIEW

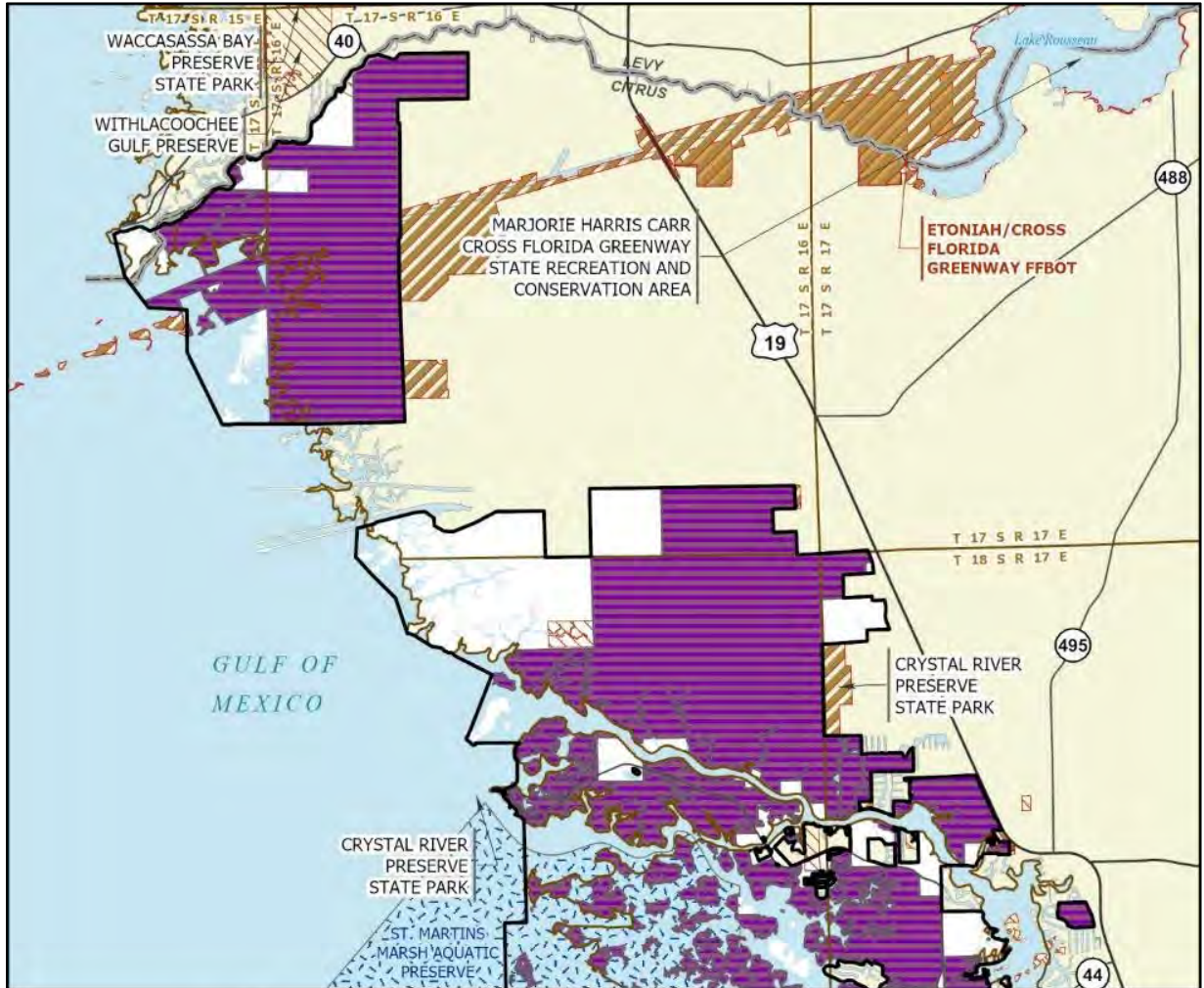
CITRUS COUNTY



JANUARY 2020



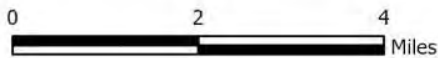
Map 101 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 1

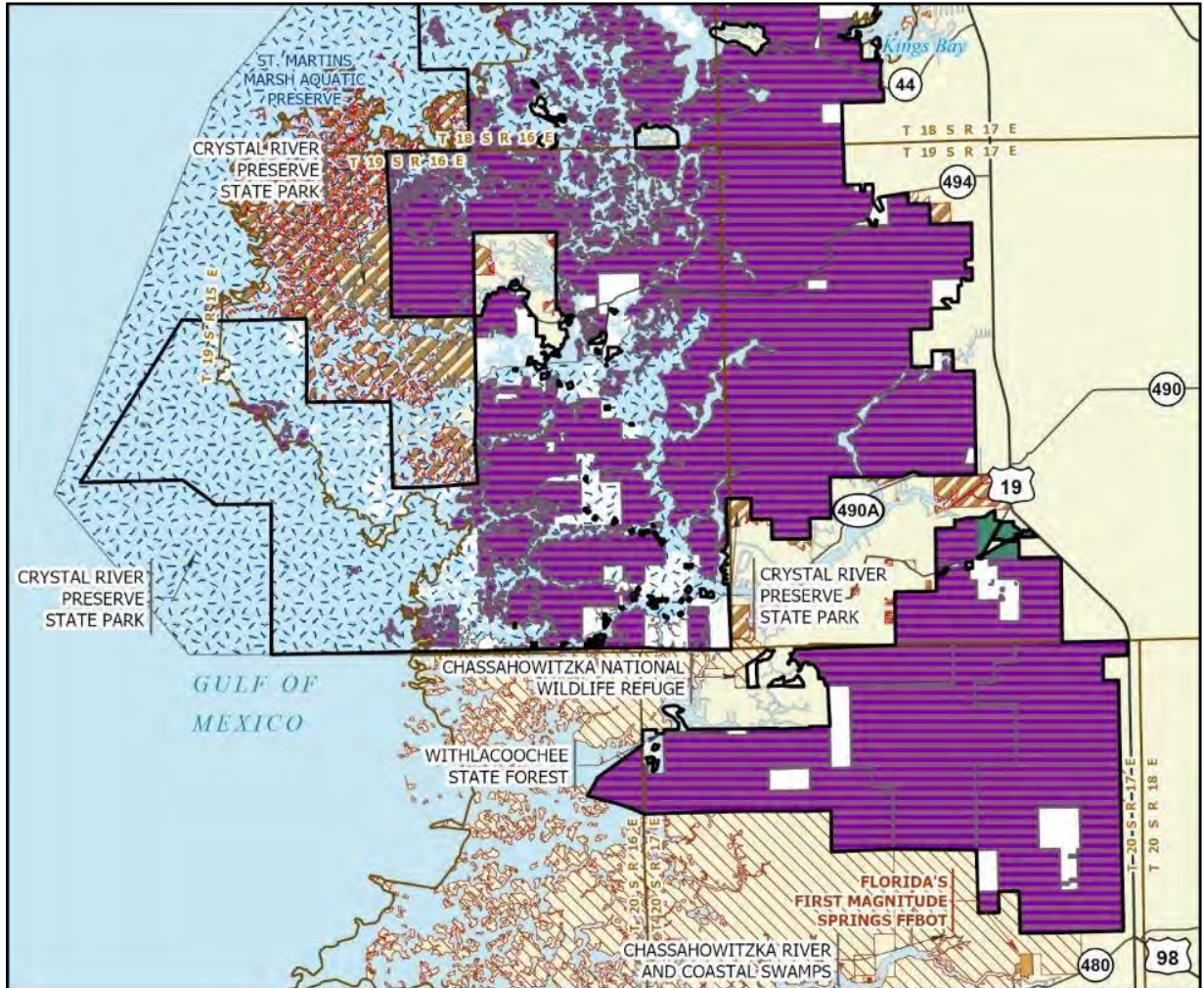
CITRUS COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020

Map 102 : FNAI, January 2021



FLORIDA SPRINGS COASTAL GREENWAY: MAP 2

CITRUS COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 103 : FNAI, January 2021



Forest and Lakes Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands Project

Bay, Washington

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2019
Project Acres	54,862
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	54,862
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$54,129,775

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Florida Panhandle is showing signs of the kind of rapid growth and development that has already occurred in South and Central Florida. There is an opportunity here to plan and implement a more measured approach to the inevitable development of the Panhandle, while at the same time providing for the conservation of the landscapes and watersheds that sustain biological diversity. As well, such conservation actions will ensure that traditional outdoor recreational uses can continue to be made available to the citizens of the region. It is the opinion of The Nature Conservancy that all this can be accomplished while ensuring the economic vitality of this region of Florida continues to thrive. It can be done in a way that maintains the outstanding natural resources and the quality of life for those who live, work and visit here. The ecosystem diversity of the project area is such that most of the Florida Forever goals would be met by its acquisition (Goals A, B, D, E, F, and G, as outlined in 259.105, Florida Statutes).

Manager

The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Florida Forest Service each submitted a Management Prospectus for this parcel. The understanding was that the project would work best if divided among these managers, depending on natural resources, opportunities, protection and restoration needs, but that division and the changes have not been

settled. The agreement was that recommended management would be resolved prior to pursuit. The Nature Conservancy identified the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Resource's Florida Forest Service as a logical manager for the timber resources.

General Description

The Forest and Lakes Ecosystem (the "Project") spans portions of Bay and Washington counties in the Florida Panhandle. The Project covers approximately 54,173 acres in total, almost 86 square miles, with the majority located in Washington County and less than 7,000 acres located in Bay County. The property is roughly square in shape but also has four small, disjunct parcels of land along Holmes Creek. It is south of Interstate 10 and between the city of Vernon and the town of Ebro. A portion of the southwestern boundary is contiguous with the Pine Log State Forest. Within 10 miles of the boundary are the Florida Forever projects of Sand Mountain, Seven Runs Creek Final Phase, St. Joe Timberland, West Bay Preservation Area, and Florida's First Magnitude Springs.

The project and immediate area contain more than 50 miles of river and stream corridors. There are 152 lakes, ponds, and depressions varying in size from 635 acres (Big Blue Lake), to less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre. The proposal has almost 5 miles of direct frontage on the Choctawhatchee River, next to the Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area and 6.3 miles of direct frontage on Holmes Creek. The property provides important surface water protection and a high volume of aquifer recharge.

This area has long been considered a significant linkage, providing landscape connectivity in the northwest Florida Panhandle. In 2019, much of the area remains a relatively intact, interconnected ecosystem supporting a variety of habitats of considerable significance for sustaining the biodiversity of this region of the state, though there are impacts of commercial pine plantation and other landscape alterations on expanses of the uplands. The wetlands resources are in near-pristine conditions, and include rare sandhill lakes, blackwater streams, seepage springs, seepage slopes, springs, and spring runs. Many species of animals – invertebrates and vertebrates- have been reported and are known to occur on the project. More than 40 imperiled species of plants were identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. The area is home to at least 21 species of amphibians, along with a multitude of species of dragonflies, damselflies, spiders, beetles, butterflies, moths, fish, crayfish, and a species of freshwater shrimp. The Forest and Lakes Ecosystem Project is expected to include both fee and less-than-fee acquisition.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gulf sturgeon	G3T2T3/S2?
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>quillwort yellow-eyed grass</i>	G1/S1
<i>Crystal Lake nailwort</i>	G3T1/S1
Purple skimmer	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Morzenti's spleenwort</i>	G2/S1
Apalachicola cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2
<i>smoothbark St. John's wort</i>	G2/S2
Barbour's map turtle	G2/S2
Georgia blind salamander	G2/S2

44 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

There are many possible options for public use in this project, but each agency’s management priorities for public use may differ, however the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan this Northwest Florida region has the lowest supply in the state of freshwater fishing structures, hiking trails, horseback riding trails, and paved biking trails. It is second lowest for unpaved biking trails, and third lowest in its supply or picnic facilities. This project would boost recreational opportunities for the public visiting or living in this region of the state. Public access for canoeing, kayaking, boating, fishing, as well as bird watching, nature photography, limited camping, hunting, horseback riding, hiking and biking, could all be enjoyed within this project’s acreage. In the project design that will be developed prior to pursuing acquisition, the public’s use with potential management areas will be determined.

Acquisition Planning

2019

The Forest and Lakes Ecosystem proposal was submitted by The Nature Conservancy for 2019 Cycle 2 and was approved by ARC for the Florida Forever Priority List in October of 2019. The project proposal included possible fee and less-than-fee acquisitions. During the interim between the proposal’s submittal and approval by the ARC as a Florida Forever project, the owner, Northern Trust Company, was exploring options for sale of the property. Before the end of 2019, the property had been sold to a consortium of entities, with the acreage with the airstrip and house beside Court Marshall Lake sold to the Agricola family. All the new owners are also willing to include this acreage in the Florida Forever program. The ARC determined at the time of approval of the project for the priority list, that the project design would develop



prior to pursuing acquisition, as the project is quite large and DRP, FFS, and FWC have all submitted management proposals. Each management prospectus has been provided as a part of this project description.

Coordination

Because of this project's location and role in ensuring a wildlife linkage and corridor for the Panhandle, conservation of the project area would be done in coordination with the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD), the Florida Forest Service, the Seven Runs Creek Conservation Easement's management and the U.S. Department of Defense, though additional entities could assist with management or acquisition going forward.

Management Policy Statement

The protection of the James L. Knight Forest and Lakes Ecosystem Project will conserve valuable timber and other natural resources, wildlife corridors, native habitats, and regionally important waters within an area of the state with renowned biodiversity, rare and imperiled species, and significant hydrological and archaeological resources. The project will conserve portions of the forested floodplain along the Choctawhatchee River and Holmes Creek that in addition to providing habitat, recreational opportunities, and supplying vital nutrients and flows to downstream estuaries, also serve to increase the overall management efficiency of the suite of contiguous managed areas already protected by the state and NFWMD. The lands and waters within the boundary score very highly in many Florida Forever goals and numeric performance measures, including protection of important Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Rare and Imperiled Species Habitat, Landscape Connectivity, Underrepresented Ecosystems, Natural Floodplain Functions, Surface Waters, Functional Wetlands, Sustainable Forestry, and more. As such, the State of Florida is now presented with the opportunity to protect lands and waters that will help to maintain water supplies, enhance water quality, protect aquifer recharge, protect myriad special plant and animal assemblages, and a wide variety of other indispensable ecosystem services for the residents of North Florida and beyond.

Management Prospectus: DRP

Qualifications for state designation

Acquisition of this project would meet goals A, B, D, E, F, and G as provided in the Florida Forever goals and measures in 259.105, Florida Statutes



Manager

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks could be the manager.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Wetland resources on the property are in near-pristine condition. These resources include rare sandhill lakes, blackwater streams seepage streams, springs, and spring runs require protection, but not restoration. The existing network of roads, bridges, culverts, and utility easement provide the necessary access infrastructure and compartmentalization for restoration zones. The longtime industrial forest lands will be converted to their former natural communities using the *Torreya* (Sweetwater Tract) model, emphasizing native groundcover reintroduction.

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

Provision would be made to ensure the protection and security of the resources and infrastructure of the property. A complete inventory of the site would occur once the property was assigned to DRP for management. Any areas requiring immediate management attention, security or protection will be identified and addressed. A complete survey and subsequent fencing of critical property boundaries would be a top priority. Initial focus would be on the development of low-intensity passive recreation such as hiking, fishing and paddling. “Starter kits” would be installed at strategically located points within the property and provide access to a preliminary system of hiking trails. DRP starter kits also include a composting restroom, picnic pavilion, and trailhead kiosk. Paddling access would need to be sensitive to preserving the integrity of the property’s pristine lakes and streams.

Revenue-generating potential

Park entrance fees, other fees and charges associated with enhancement of resource recreational experiences, and timber harvest revenue in areas where natural community restoration or exotic plant control measures are being undertaken.

Cooperators in management activities

Cooperators will include other regional park management, as well as the Florida Forest Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Division of Historical Resources. These other state agencies would assist in the development of wildfire emergency plans, enforcement of state wildlife laws, and implementation of wildlife management programs, and ensure protection of archaeological and historical sites, and interpretation of those sites for park visitors.



Management costs and sources of revenue

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

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Amount	Notes
Source of funds		State of Florida Visitor entrance fees and charges
Salary	\$293,300	for 7 FTE positions
Expense	\$100,000	
OCO	\$50,000	
FCO	\$1,000,000	Year 1
FCO	\$200,000	Year two and beyond

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Prospectus: FFS

Qualifications for state designation

This property meets numerous Florida Forever goals, performance measures, criteria as outlined in F.S. 259.105.

Manager

The Florida Forest Service would be the manager.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The Property should not require intensive management in the short term. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and planning, to restoration efforts and a broader public use, with more use of the 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 FFS, short term management efforts will concentrate on site security, control of vehicle access, and management planning. Consideration will be given during the management planning process to accommodate a variety of recreational developments. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the Property, funding for positions and using established infrastructure. The FFS will expedite short-term management on portions of the Property that are in close proximity to already FFS-managed lands including, Pine Log State Forest, Blackwater River State Forest, and Point Washington



State Forest by utilizing existing resources. Additional equipment required to manage the property includes, but is not limited to, two 4x4 pickups, one tractor plow/transport, one farm tractor with implements, one road grader, and two UTVs.

Revenue-generating potential

The FFS foresees revenue generation from the management of this property. The amount of future revenue generated from silviculture will depend on the acreage that is managed as such. Due to the high recreational potential of the Property, revenue generated by visitor fees will increase significantly as time progresses and opportunities are established.

Cooperators in management activities

FFS, acting as lead manager, will work with DRP and FWC as cooperating managers, federal (Department of Defense and United States Forest Service) and state agencies, local governments, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities.

Management costs and sources of revenue

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

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Amount	Notes
Salary	\$165,000	(3 FTEs; Forestry Sup II, Forest Ranger, Park Ranger)
Expense	\$120,000	(Annual operating costs)
OCO	\$693,250	(2 - 4x4 pickups, 1 tractor plow/transport, 1 farm tractor with implements, 1 road grader, and 2 UTVs)
Outsourcing	\$25,000	
TOTAL	\$1,003,250	

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Prospectus: FWC

Qualifications for state designation

This project would serve to: conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests to enhance or protect significant surface water, recreational, timber and fish and wildlife resources; conserve, protect significant landscape-scale habitat and provide wildlife corridors for rare and imperiled species and increasing linkages and conservation corridors between public land and private conservation easements in the region; conserve,



protect, manage or restore coastal habitat in Northwest, Florida, provide surface and groundwater protection, and protect natural floodplain functions; and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife resource-based public outdoor recreation.

Manager

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would be the manager.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Resources described in this Management Prospectus indicate conditions affecting intensity of management. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas and wetlands shall be identified, appropriately managed and protected.

The FWC conducts analysis of historic vegetation of natural community types when necessary to determine appropriate desired future conditions. Upland wildlife management concentrates on appropriate vegetative manipulations guided by the FWC's Objective Based Vegetative Management program, which includes the application of prescribed fire to achieve conditions acceptable to a broad range of wildlife species within the area's fire-adapted natural communities. Some areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive and exotic species, and either thinning or reforestation. Such resource management projects may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives and to attain the desired future conditions for communities. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape ecology is also important, as land use changes in the vicinity of the area, such as intensive residential, commercial and industrial developments, and the roads that often accompany them, may also affect the attainment of resource conservation goals for the area and the effectiveness of necessary resource management projects.

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

If acquired and leased to the FWC for management, the FWC will develop a Management Plan describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on the Forest and Lakes Ecosystem. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Forest Service, other governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders.



Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of locally important, rare, and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, if deemed necessary, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. The FWC would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species on the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation following acquisition. These potential recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with Division of Historical Resources.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from conservation lands can include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of the FWC's Apiary Policy. In addition, the Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in management activities

FWC will work with DRP and FFS as cooperating managers, federal (U.S. Department of Defense and U.S.D.A Forest Service) and state agencies, local governments, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District to further resource management, recreational and educational opportunities.



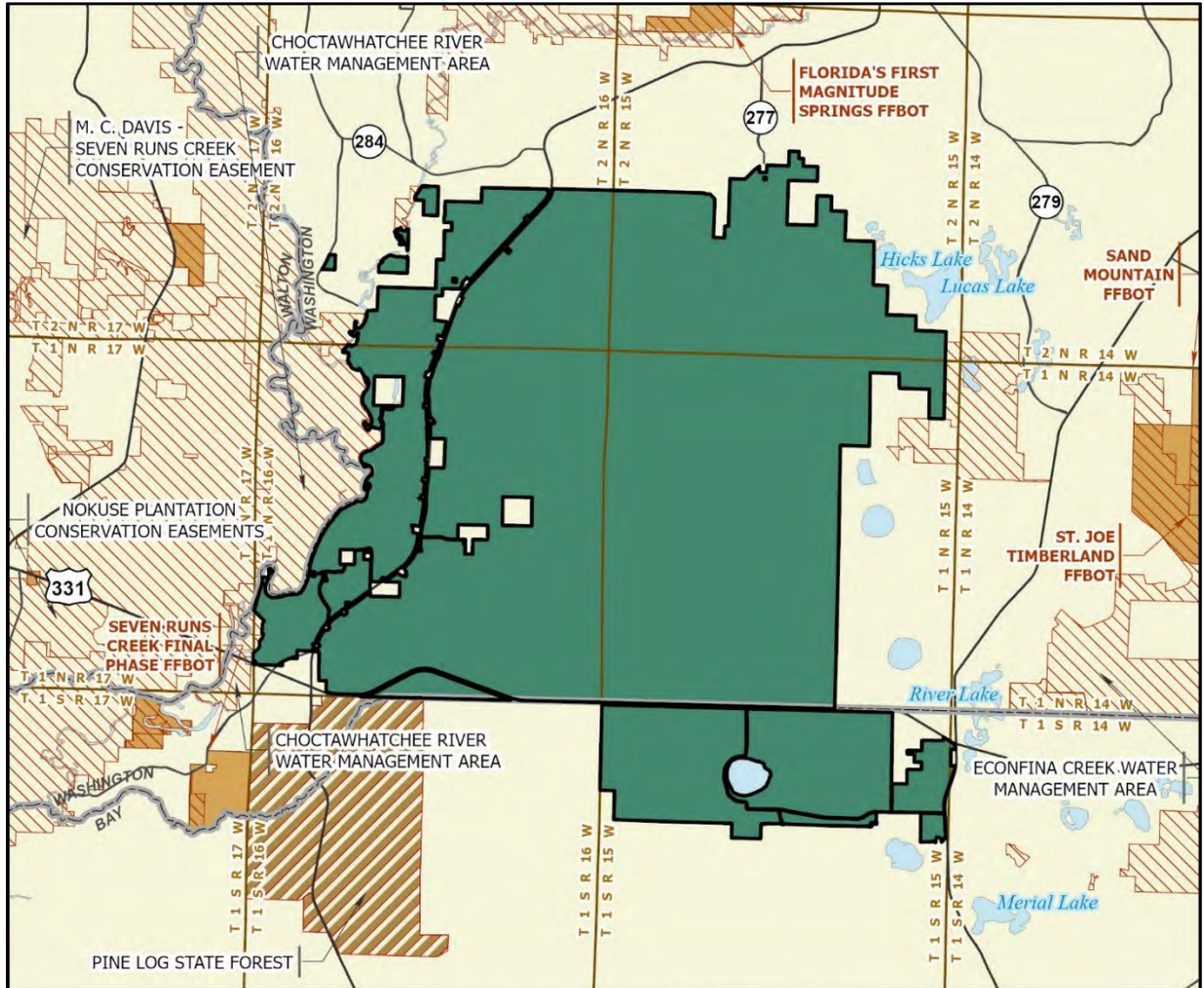
Management costs and sources of revenue

The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for the Forest and Lakes Ecosystem is estimated to be \$8,751,840, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Optimal management of the area would require 11 full-time equivalent (FTE) position. Salary requirements for these FTE positions, as well as those of other needed FWC staff, and costs to operate and manage the Forest and Lakes Ecosystem, are reflected in the cost estimate below. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Recurring</u>	<u>Non-Recurring</u>
Resource Management	\$2,090,596	
Administration	\$45,400	
Support	\$584,732	
Capital Improvements	\$318,348	
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$200,745	
Law Enforcement	\$42,118	
TOTAL	\$3,281,940	\$3,281,940

Source: Legislative appropriations



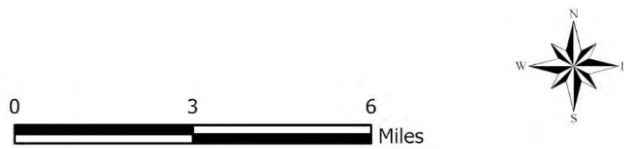
FOREST AND LAKES ECOSYSTEM

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 104 : FNAI, January 2021



Garcon Ecosystem

Climate Change Lands Project
Santa Rosa

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	7,446
Acquired Acres	4,053
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$3,362,561
Remaining Project Acres	3,393
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$13,405,463

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, and are some of the best pitcher-plant prairies left in Florida. The Garcon Ecosystem project will protect these prairies, thereby helping these ecosystems' rare plant and animal inhabitants to survive, maintaining Pensacola Bay's water quality, and allowing the public to learn about and enjoy this unique natural environment.

Manager(s)

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), is lead Manager for the northern portion. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) is the lead Manager for the southern portion.

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, 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Reticulated flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Louisiana yellow-eyed grass</i>	G2G3/S1
<i>Panhandle lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>spring hill flax</i>	G2/S2
Berry's skipper	G2/S2
Saltmarsh topminnow	G3/S2
Louisiana seaside sparrow	G4T4/S1
<i>pond rush</i>	G5/S1
<i>Curtiss' sandgrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>pinewoods bluestem</i>	G3/S3
<i>yellow fringeless orchid</i>	G3G4/S3

13 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve, for such uses as nature study, hiking, and fishing.

Acquisition Planning

1994

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 and 25. Phase III: ownerships in sections 24 and 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.



1998

On February 5, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a fee-simple, 845-acre addition to the project boundary. 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.

2002

On October 25, 2002, NFWFMD acquired 10 acres from Perdido Key, Inc. for \$9,000.

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) moved this project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2004 Priority list.

2007

On July 10, 2007, 20 acres within the project boundary were donated (Woodlands Ventures of Pensacola for a value of \$2,620).

2011

On December 9, 2011, the ARC moved this project to the Climate Change Lands (CCL) category.

2012

On August 17, 2012, the ARC removed 283 acres from the project because the 89 parcels making up that land had been developed or had become otherwise unmanageable.

Coordination

In November 1995, the NFWFMD 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

DRP is lead manager for the northern portion. The NFWFMD is the manager for the southern portion. The prospectus was provided by the DRP.

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.

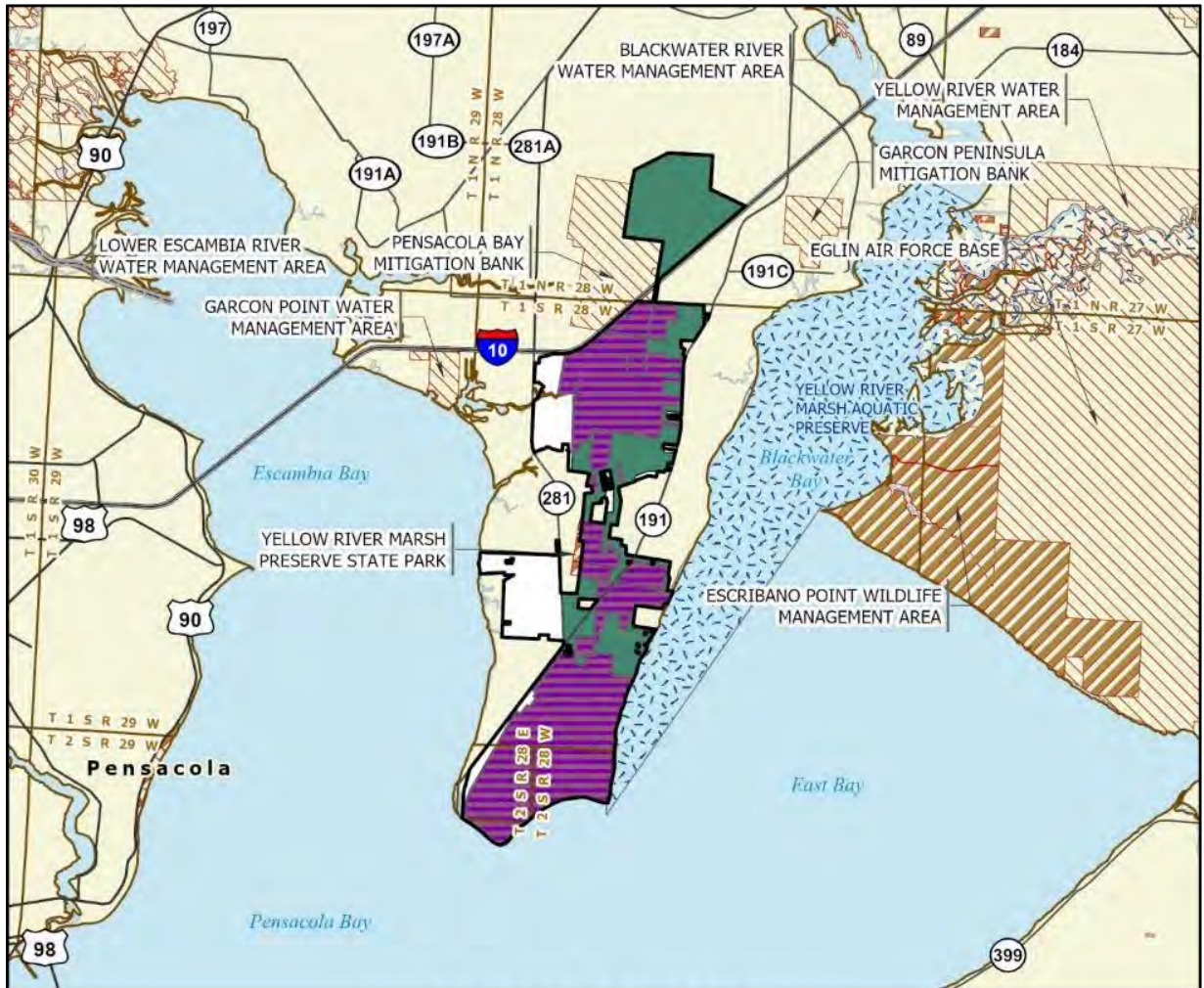
Revenue-generating potential

No revenue is expected to be generated for some years.



Cooperators in management activities

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service (FFS), or the Division of Recreation and Parks, may help with fire management.



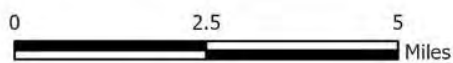
GARCON ECOSYSTEM

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 105 : FNAI, January 2021



Green Swamp

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Lake, Pasco, Polk

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2015
Project Acres	269,287
Acquired Acres	108,490
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$60,573,086
Remaining Project Acres	160,797
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$1,308,715,682

Purpose for State Acquisition

The mosaic of cypress swamps, pine forests, and pastures known as the Green Swamp is vital to the water supply of central Florida. The Green Swamp gives rise to four major river systems and is important for maintaining the flow of water from the Florida Aquifer. By preserving the combination of land uses in this region, the Green Swamp will protect the Floridan Aquifer and the several rivers, preserve a large area for wildlife to inhabit and use as wildlife corridors, and provide areas for public recreation in the rapidly growing region between Tampa and Orlando. The 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(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as the manager for most of the area acquired in fee simple. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will manage the Overstreet Ranch and the area within the optimum boundary of Colt Creek and Lake Louisa State Parks. Land purchased in less-than-fee will be monitored by the Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services.

Archeological and historic sites will be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. The DRP anticipates any shift from protection and



restoration efforts with limited public uses to a broader public use with more infrastructure will require a greater intensity of management.

General Description

The Green Swamp is a critical hydrological resource. It encompasses the headwaters of four major rivers; the Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha, Hillsborough and Peace; and has the highest groundwater elevation in the Peninsula. It is therefore critical to the recharge of the Florida Aquifer. For this reason, it has been designated as an Area of Critical State Concern. The Green Swamp has the size and the wildlife resources to qualify as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA), thereby preserving a large area for wildlife and public recreation in the part of the state between Tampa and Orlando. The area is a complex ecosystem of disturbed uplands and wetlands intermixed with high-quality swamps. It is estimated that 90 percent of the native upland vegetation in this project has been disturbed by agriculture and development, but the project does contain some uplands with 15 distinct natural communities and other community types. These include scrub, sandhill, and pine flatwoods, which are natural communities underrepresented in state conservation holdings.

Geographically, the Green Swamp project is located within the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern but does not include the entire Area of Critical State Concern. The project extends from the southwest corner of the City of Clermont, west and south to US Highway 98, south to Polk City, almost to Haines City on the southeast side, and east to Lake Louise State Park.

Biologically, at least six rare plants and 17 rare animals have been documented within the project boundary. Based on habitat, there is potential for 35 rare species to occur within the project, especially within the Pine Island Recharge section. Historically, a total of 23 sites are listed in the Florida Master Site files in the project area. Extensive lakes and wetlands suggest a moderate to high potential for archeological and historical sites that have not yet been discovered in the portion of the project formerly identified as the Pine Island Recharge area, which is bordered in the southeast by the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area, and to the northeast by Lake Minnehaha. Florida Highway 50 serves as the northern border of this project.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Calhoun's skipper	G3G4T1/S1
Arogos skipper	G2G3T1T2/S1
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
Berry's skipper	G2/S2
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>redmargin zephyrlily</i>	G2G3/S2S3

38 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project will become a wildlife management area and a state park, providing such activities as hunting, hiking and nature appreciation.

The project will also include numerous conservation easements. For the less-than-fee acquisitions, the degree and type of public use will be negotiated with the landowners and is expected to be minimal; the landowner typically retains all hunting and fishing rights in negotiated land use agreements and conservation easements, including the right to lease lands for hunting or agriculture. Public use of these lands are linked to the environmental services of aquifer recharge and surface water protection they provide, as well as serving as an ecological greenway and wildlife habitat. Monitoring easements and agreements will be done by the OES.

Acquisition Planning

1992

A large Green Swamp project was added to the CARL list in 1992. That project was associated with the Green Swamp Land Authority (GSLA). It worked with the Southwest Florida Water Management District in acquired lands within the boundary.

1999

In 1999, the GSLA's responsibilities were passed to the DEP.

2011

In 2011, the project was reduced in size to eliminate isolated and otherwise unmanageable parcels and divided into four projects. Those four projects were placed on the list, and the single Green Swamp project was removed from the list. The Green Swamp project described



here comprises less acreage than the original 1992 Green Swamp project. Descriptions and maps of each of the four areas that had been considered projects follow the overarching project description, as they provide more detailed information on resources and management.

2015

In December 2015, the ARC voted to combine the four Green Swamp projects on the priority list and create a single Green Swamp project. This 266,895-acre project was placed and ranked in the Partnerships and Regional Initiatives category. It includes all lands found within the 2011 Florida Forever project boundaries of the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor, the Green Swamp-Peace River Headwaters, the Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge, and the Green Swamp-Withlacoochee Headwaters. The descriptions of the four sites that were combined in 2015 have been retained here to better inform future pursuits for acquisition within this extremely large project.

Hilochee Corridor

Managers

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will be the primary manager for the majority of this area since it is contiguous with Hilochee Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (FDEP/DRP) will be the primary manager for the portion within the optimum boundary of Lake Louisa State Park.

General Description

The Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor portion is the easternmost of the four sub-units in the Green Swamp FF Project. Covering 91,456 GIS acres in northern Polk and southern Lake Counties, it has 5,138 parcels with multiple owners. About 39 percent of the lands in its boundary (36,000 acres) has been acquired for conservation.

Hydrologically and geologically, this section of the Green Swamp is split north to south into two major drainage basins. The western basin drains north and west to the Withlacoochee River, and the eastern basin drains north and east into the Palatlahaha River and ultimately into the St. Johns River. Another sliver of the area joins the drainage basin to the Kissimmee River drainage to the east and south. For the most part, elevations range between 120 and 175 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The marshes and swamps are generally lower than 120 feet MSL.

Five rare plants are documented within the boundary. Ten rare animal species are documented on site (see FNAI Elements). From an urban planning perspective, this area has a moderate



potential for being developed, subdivided or losing significant natural attributes or open spaces. The potential for development and loss of open space is highest on the uplands adjacent to the US 27 corridor on the Lake Wales Ridge.

Florida Highway 50 serves as the northern border of this project.

Management Policy Statement

Plans are to manage the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor to conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered or threatened species; provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural, resource-based recreation; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in a manner to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources that local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

The 84-acre portion of the Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor within the optimum boundary of Lake Louisa State Park will be managed consistent with the goals and objectives in the approved Unit Management Plan. General management recommendations are restoration and enhancement of natural systems, maintenance of water quality, and public resource-based recreational use and resource education and interpretation.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Hilochee Corridor has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area (WMA). Its variety of land uses helps protect the Floridan Aquifer and the headwaters of several rivers that start in this region. The corridor preserves a large area for wildlife and provides areas for public recreation in a fast-growing region between Tampa and Orlando.

Manager

The FWC and DRP will manage this site.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The Hilochee Corridor requires resource-management methods for its natural areas, including prescribed fire where appropriate. Other areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive species, and reforestation. These will be especially important to achieve the objectives of conserving habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Because of the importance of landscape ecology, a land use change near a managed area may affect efforts to reach resource conservation goals of the area, and the overall effectiveness of the necessary resource-management. Biotic monitoring is necessary to achieving resource-management



goals. Infrastructure development will be appropriate to allow public access, and to provide facilities, security, and property management.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure
When acquired, the FWC will develop a management plan describing the goals and objectives to implement future resource management. The plan would also establish current and future roles of cooperating entities. Long-range goals will stress ecosystem management and protecting and managing rare or imperiled species. The FWC will assess the wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance rare and imperiled species management and recovery of imperiled species. Prescribed fire and other resource-management activities will maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation to benefit native wildlife. Essential roads will be maintained; and unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrologic disturbance will be abandoned or restored as practical. Generally, development of facilities is to be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of resources and to ensure the recreational experience. Where possible, such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The DRP's resource management activities in the first year will concentrate on site security, protecting natural and cultural resources, and developing a resource inventory. Particular emphasis will be given to the monitoring of public land and water-use planning and regulatory activities to ensure that adequate consideration is given to maintaining the quality of the water resources and any adjacent lake or other waters designated as Outstanding Florida Waters.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue could include sales of various permits and recreation use fees, and fees from ecotourism activities if such activities could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary permits and fees. The long-term value of this ecosystem to human health and local and regional land and water resources are thought to be significant. The DRP expects no significant revenue to be generated 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 development.

Cooperators in management activities

The FWC will cooperate in managing the Hilochee Corridor of the Green Swamp with SWFWMD, Florida Forest Service (FFS), Lake and Polk Counties.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>In US Dollars (2011)</u>
Resource Management	
Exotic Species Control	\$37,186
Prescribed Burning	\$111,221
Cultural Resource Management	\$1,794
Timber Management	\$7,176
Hydrological Manager	\$193,739
Other	\$805,332
<i>Resource Management Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,156,447</i>
Administration	
General Administration	\$10,636
<i>Administration Subtotal</i>	<i>\$10,636</i>
Support	
Land Management Planning	\$103,285
Land Management Reviews	\$20,133
Training/Staff Development	\$5,339
Vehicle Purchase	\$68,433
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$53,816
Other	\$13,274
<i>Support Subtotal</i>	<i>\$284,281</i>
Capital Improvements	
New Facility Construction	\$89,694
Facility Maintenance	\$311,312
<i>Capital Improvements Subtotal</i>	<i>\$401,006</i>
Visitor Services/Recreation	
Info/Education/Operations	\$60,032
<i>Visitor Services/Recreation Subtotal</i>	<i>\$60,032</i>
Law Enforcement	
Resources Protection	\$40,501
<i>Law Enforcement Subtotal</i>	<i>\$40,501</i>
FWC Projections Total	\$1,932,903

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Peace River

Managers

Since the Peace River site parcels are primarily less-than-fee, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of State Lands’ Office of Environmental Services (FDEP/DSL/OES) will monitor most of the lands acquired.



General Description

This portion is 39,977 (GIS) contiguous acres and is composed of 15 distinct natural communities and other landcover. It is primarily basin swamps, depression marshes, pine flatwoods, pastures, and other agricultural lands. Pine flatwoods are underrepresented in state conservation holdings. About 51 percent of the area is in natural condition, while 49 percent is disturbed (ruderal, improved and semi-improved pasture and about 400 acres of pine plantation). Geographically, it is between Dean Still Road and Interstate 4. It is bounded on its east, north, and west sides with the Hilochee Corridor and the Withlacoochee River Headwaters. State Road 33 bisects the proposal from north to south. Old Grade Road (County Road 557) serves as the area's eastern edge.

Hydrologically, the majority of the site is within the south Withlacoochee River watershed and drains northward. The land is mostly flat, ranging between 120 and 130 feet above mean sea level (MSL), though in the northwest corner, where the land slopes down towards the river, the elevation drops to 115 MSL. Most of the area (99 percent or more) meets the FF Evaluation's Measures for Surface Water Protection and Aquifer Recharge.

Historically, there are 15 archaeological sites, one historic structure, and one resource group listed in the Florida Master Site files. The hydrology and minimal elevation changes suggest a low potential for significant archaeological and historical sites that have not been discovered.

No rare species have been documented within this area. Based on habitat, there is potential for several rare species to occur here. About 98 percent of the area meets the Florida Forever Evaluation's Measures for Ecological Greenways; and 82 percent is within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

From an urban planning perspective, this portion has a moderate potential for being developed or subdivided, and a moderate-low potential for loss of significant natural attributes or open spaces. The current and future land uses are mostly agricultural and rural residential. It is a short drive from Lakeland, Polk City, Auburndale, and Lake Alfred.

A disjunct portion of Hilochee Wildlife Management Area (WMA/FWC) and some of General James A. Van Fleet State Trail (FDEP/Division of Recreation and Parks [DRP] Office of Greenways and Trails [OGT]) is within the boundary. It also includes FDEP Green Swamp Land Authority (GSLA) Land Protection Agreements, and Green Swamp Conservation Easements.

Management Policy Statement

Green Swamp lands acquired through alternatives to fee-simple should be managed to accomplish the following: conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern;



conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered or threatened species; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in a manner that enhances or protects significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Green Swamp is essential to a clean adequate water supply for Central Florida.

Manager

The landowner manages the property, with monitoring oversight provided by the Office of Environmental Services.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The intensity of management will be decided in the negotiation of the agreement or conservation easement.

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

The landowner will provide security and infrastructure protection.

Revenue-generating potential

There is no revenue-generating potential for this portion of the Green Swamp.

Management costs and sources of revenue

The OES is responsible for periodic monitoring of land use agreements and conservation easements.

Pine Island Recharge

Managers

Because this site within the overall Green Swamp project is proposed primarily as a less-than-fee acquisition, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands Office of Environmental Services (FDEP/DSL/OES) will monitor most of the lands acquired.

General Description

The Pine Island Recharge area has 13 distinct natural communities and other landcover types. Natural communities make up about half of the proposal; and various types of agricultural, rural residential, and mined lands make up the remainder. The natural communities are almost entirely wetlands. Several large lakes and numerous basin swamps and depression marshes are interspersed in a complex mosaic with the disturbed landcover types. Geographically, the Pine Island Recharge Area is south of SR 50, north of CR 474, and west of Lakes Minnehaha and



Louisa. Much like the Hilochee Corridor, it is bounded to the west, south and southeast by two other portions of the Green Swamp Florida Forever project (Green Swamp-Hilochee Corridor and Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters). Its boundary is contiguous with five publicly managed conservation areas. Hydrologically, it is split lengthwise (north-south) into two major drainage basins. Almost three-quarters of this area is in the Ocklawaha River watershed, draining east and northeast. The remaining quarter is the Withlacoochee River watershed which drains west. The northern portion of the Pine Island Recharge includes an area identified as the Groveland Karst Region; it is sandhill karst with solution basins, a region of the most active collapsed sinkhole development, and the principle recharge area of the Floridan aquifer. Most of the area (98 percent) meets the FF Evaluation's Measures for Aquifer Recharge.

Eight archaeological sites are listed in the Florida Master Site files within this area, but its extensive lakes and wetlands suggest a moderate to high potential for significant archaeological and historical sites that have not been discovered yet.

Few rare species have been documented within this area (see FNAI Elements). Based on habitat, there is potential for all 36 of the rare species identified for the original Green Swamp project to occur here.

About 94 percent of the area meets the FF Evaluation's Measure for Ecological Greenways and 10 percent is within a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Strategic Habitat Conservation Area.

From an urban planning perspective, the Pine Island Recharge has a moderate potential for being developed or subdivided or losing significant natural attributes or open spaces. It is a short drive from Clermont and the Disney World complex. Development potential is higher on the north side near Groveland and Clermont. It is located within an Area of Critical State Concern. The current and future land uses are mostly agricultural and low-density residential, but a portion of the area just south of Grove land is designated for one dwelling unit per five acres.

Management Policy Statement

The Green Swamp lands acquired through alternatives to fee-simple should be managed to accomplish the following: conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered/threatened species; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests in a



manner that enhances or protects significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Green Swamp-Pine Island Recharge Area land is essential to a clean, adequate water supply for Central Florida.

Manager

The landowner manages the property with monitoring oversight provided by the FDEP/DSL/OES.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The intensity of management will be decided in the negotiation of the agreement or easement.

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

The landowner will provide security and infrastructure protection.

Revenue-generating potential

There is no revenue-generating potential for the Pine Island Recharge area.

Management costs and sources of revenue

The OES is responsible for periodic monitoring of land use agreements and conservation easements.

Withlacoochee River Headwaters

Managers

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will be the primary manager for the majority of the site yet to be acquired. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks (FDEP/DRP) will be the primary manager for the portion that is within the optimum boundary of Colt Creek State Park. (See Acquisition Planning section for managers of land already acquired within the boundary.)

General Description

The Withlacoochee River Headwaters has 103,458 (GIS) acres, composed of 13 distinct natural communities and 4 other landcover types. The natural communities include pine flatwoods, scrub, and sandhill, which are underrepresented in state conservation holdings. About 61 percent of the area is in natural condition, while 39 percent is disturbed (most in improved and semi-improved pasture and smaller acreages in ruderal and pine plantation). Geographically, this area is located between SR 50 on the north and US 98 on the south. It is close to Lakeland and Clermont. Its northwestern boundary is contiguous with the Withlacoochee State Forest



and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)-managed Green Swamp land. To the east and the south are the other three sections of the Green Swamp Florida Forever project. The western two-thirds is characterized by low, rolling limestone plains. The land surface of the remaining third is comprised of sandhills and karst solution features with the Green Swamp region in the southeast being lower and closer to the water table. It is also a moderate distance to the Disney World complex.

Hydrographically, the majority of this portion of the overall Green Swamp Florida Forever is within the Withlacoochee River watershed. A small portion along the southern boundary is within the Hillsborough River watershed to the southwest. The Withlacoochee River bisects the area along the Lake-Polk County line; the river westward forms a significant portion of the western boundary. Elevations range from knolls greater than 140 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to less than 100 feet above MSL, but the majority of the area is below 115 feet MSL. Six rare plants and 17 rare animals are documented as occurring within this portion of the Green Swamp project, mostly associated with existing conservation lands in the southwestern part. (See FNAI Elements.)

From an urban planning perspective, the Withlacoochee River Headwaters has a moderate potential for being developed, subdivided, or losing significant natural attributes or open spaces. Development potential is higher on the south end, in the vicinity of Lakeland and Polk City. The Withlacoochee River Headwaters is within an Area of Critical State Concern.

Management Policy Statement

The Withlacoochee River Headwaters area will be managed to accomplish the following: conserve and protect lands within areas of critical state concern; conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered or threatened species; provide areas, including trails, for natural resource-based recreation; and conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests in a manner that enhances or protects significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish and wildlife resources that local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Withlacoochee River Headwaters has the size and wildlife resources to qualify as a wildlife management area (WMA). Its mosaic of land uses would help protect the Floridan Aquifer and the headwaters of several rivers that start in this region. It would preserve a large area for wildlife and provide areas for public recreation in a fast-growing region between Tampa and Orlando.



Manager

The FWC will manage most of the Withlacoochee River Headwaters remaining to be acquired (about 54,250 acres). The FDEP/DRP will manage a 488-acre parcel that is within the Colt Creek State Park optimum boundary. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) will manage an 11,963-acre parcel within the Withlacoochee State Forest optimum boundary. (See site management plans for lands already acquired.) Polk County has indicated willingness to be involved in acquisition and management when possible.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

For the FWC-managed lands, environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, and outstanding natural areas and wetlands, if acquired, would be identified, appropriately managed, and protected.

The Green Swamp-Withlacoochee River Headwaters includes natural areas requiring application of resource management methods, such as prescribed fire, where appropriate. Other areas may require restoring ground cover, controlling invasive species, and reforestation. Such resource management actions may be necessary to accomplish restoration to attain a specific-desired, future condition. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Due to the importance of landscape ecology, land use changes in the vicinity of a managed area may affect attainment of resource conservation goals for the area and the overall effectiveness of necessary resource management projects. Continued biotic monitoring is necessary for the accomplishment of natural resource management goals. Also, development of facilities is to be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources and compatible recreational experiences. To the extent possible, any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The FDEP/DRP's management costs will increase when parcels near Colt Creek State Park are acquired and will increase over time as work shifts from protection and restoration to broader public use. The FFS restoration efforts will focus on introducing prescribed fire; removing offsite pine species and exotic species; restoring native groundcovers and possibly wetlands.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure
If acquired, a management plan will be developed by the FWC describing the management goals and objectives necessary for resource management. The management plans will establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of rare and imperiled species. If acquired, quantified vegetation management objectives may be developed to guide management for actively managed natural communities. The FWC would assess the condition of wildlife



resources and provide planning support to enhance rare and imperiled species management and recovery of imperiled species within the land acquired within the Withlacoochee River Headwaters and managed by the FWC. Prescribed fire and other resource management activities will maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources. Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation if land within the Withlacoochee Headwaters is acquired. These potential public outdoor fish- and-wildlife-based recreational uses will enhance public understanding of the region while providing recreation. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be appropriate to allow public access and provide facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Florida Department of State, DHR. The DRP will develop short-term management goals of security, protection of resources, and resource inventory for its parcels. The FFS proposes to manage parcels within the optimum boundary of the Withlacoochee State Forest as a state forest. Burn goals of the FFS will be to eventually establish an all- season prescribed burning program.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from the FWC-managed conservation lands, such as an acquisition within the Withlacoochee River Headwaters for a WMA, could include selling permits and recreation fees, and ecotourism activities, if such activities could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. The long-term value of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are thought to be significant. The DRP expects no significant revenue immediately after acquisition. Future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use.

Cooperators in management activities

The FWC will cooperate with other governmental agencies including the SWFWMD; the SJRWMD (St. Johns River Water Management District); the FFS; and Lake, Pasco and Polk Counties in management of the property. The DRP plans to cooperate with state agencies in their management.

Management costs and sources of revenue*

Below is the FWC's estimate of costs to operate/manage the area yet to be acquired within the Green Swamp- Withlacoochee River Headwaters that is outside the Colt Creek State Park and the Withlacoochee State Forest optimal boundaries. Costs listed below are projected estimates necessary to fully implement management activities within the area and reflect an estimate of the potential annual operating budget.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC Projections</u>	<u>In US Dollars(2011)</u>
<u>Resource Management</u>	
Exotic Species Control	\$37,186
Prescribed Burning	\$111,221
Cultural Resource Management	\$1,794
Timber Management	\$7,176
Hydrological Manager	\$193,739
Other	\$805,332
<i>Resource Management Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1,156,447</i>
<u>Administration</u>	
General Administration	\$10,636
<i>Administration Subtotal</i>	<i>\$10,636</i>
<u>Support</u>	
Land Management Planning	\$103,285
Land Management Reviews	\$20,133
Training/Staff Development	\$5,339
Vehicle Purchase	\$68,433
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$53,816
Other	\$13,274
<i>Support Subtotal</i>	<i>\$284,281</i>
<u>Capital Improvements</u>	
New Facility Construction	\$89,694
Facility Maintenance	\$311,312
<i>Capital Improvements Subtotal</i>	<i>\$401,006</i>
<u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u>	
Info/Education/Operations	\$60,032
Visitor Services/Recreation Subtotal	\$60,032
<u>Law Enforcement</u>	
Resources Protection	\$40,501
<i>Law Enforcement Subtotal</i>	<i>\$40,501</i>
FWC Projections Total	\$1,932,90

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Management Cost Summary

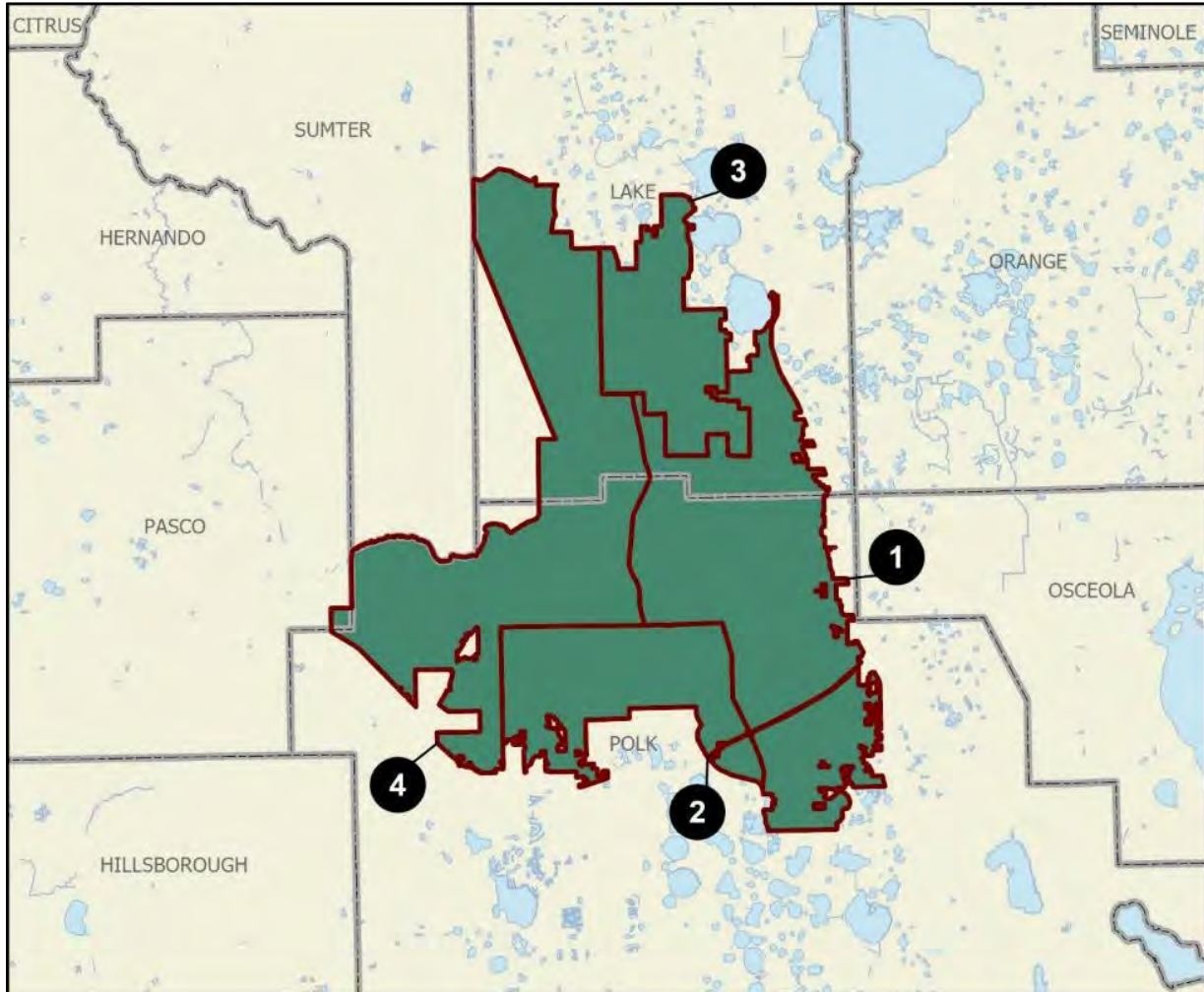
<u>FDEP/DRP</u>	<u>In US Dollars (2011)</u>
Salary (1 FTE position)	\$33,000
Expense	\$10,000
Operating Capital Outlay	\$25,000
Outsourcing	\$0
FDEP/DRP Projections	\$68,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS Costs</u>	<u>In US Dollars (2011)</u>
Salary (4 FTE positions)	\$132,141
Expense	\$315,000
Operation Capital Outlay	\$188,600
FFS Projections	\$635,741

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



GREEN SWAMP: OVERVIEW

LAKE, PASCO, AND POLK COUNTIES

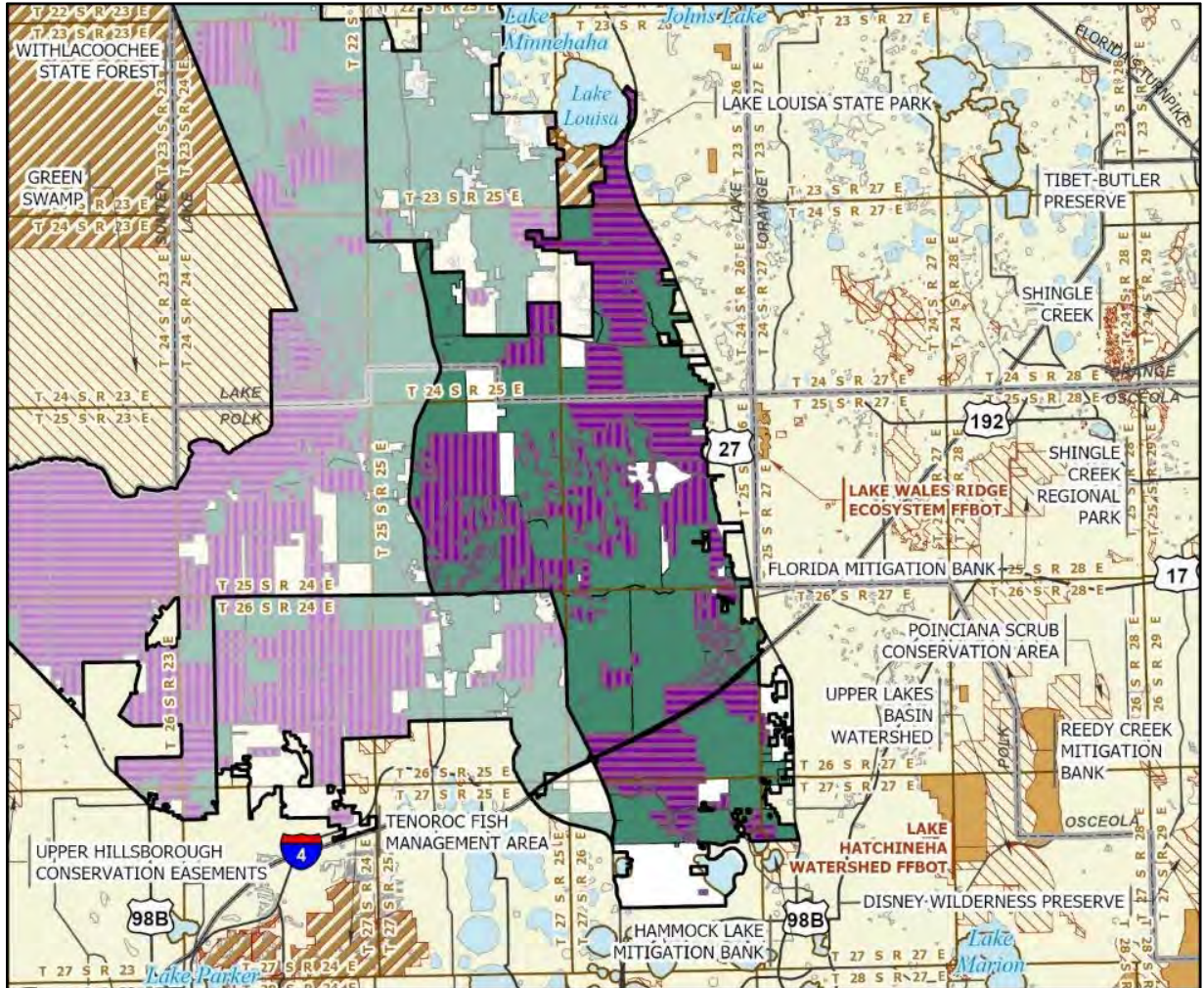
- Map 1 Hilochee Corridor
- Map 2 Peace River Headwaters
- Map 3 Pine Island Recharge Area
- Map 4 Withlacoochee River Headwaters



JANUARY 2020



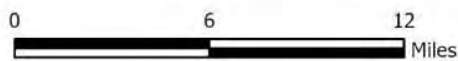
Map 106 : FNAI, January 2021



GREEN SWAMP: MAP 1 (HILOCHEE CORRIDOR)

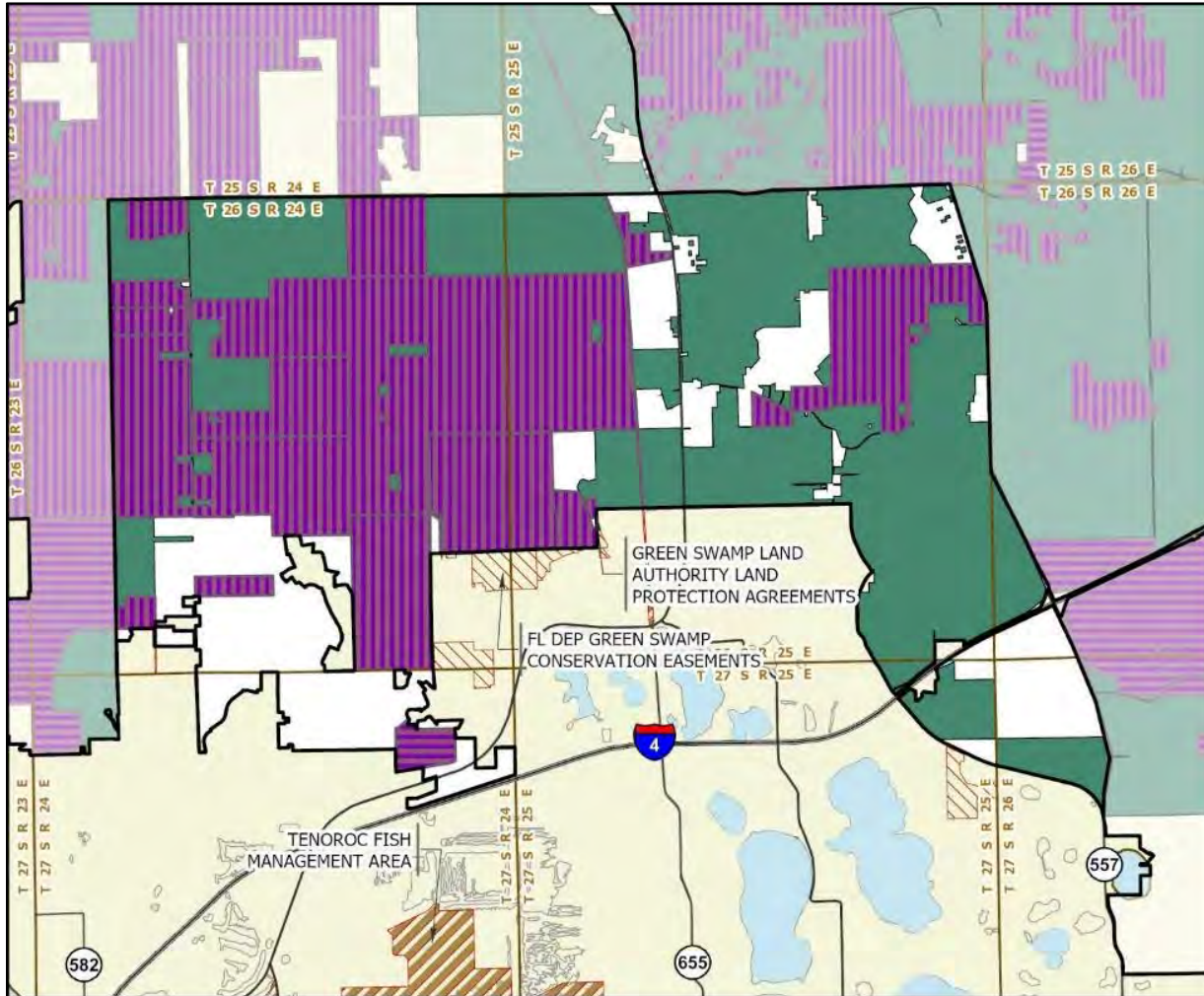
LAKE AND POLK COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020

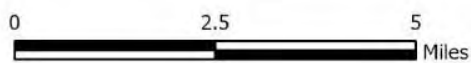
Map 107 : FNAI, January 2021



GREEN SWAMP: MAP 2 (PEACE RIVER HEADWATERS)

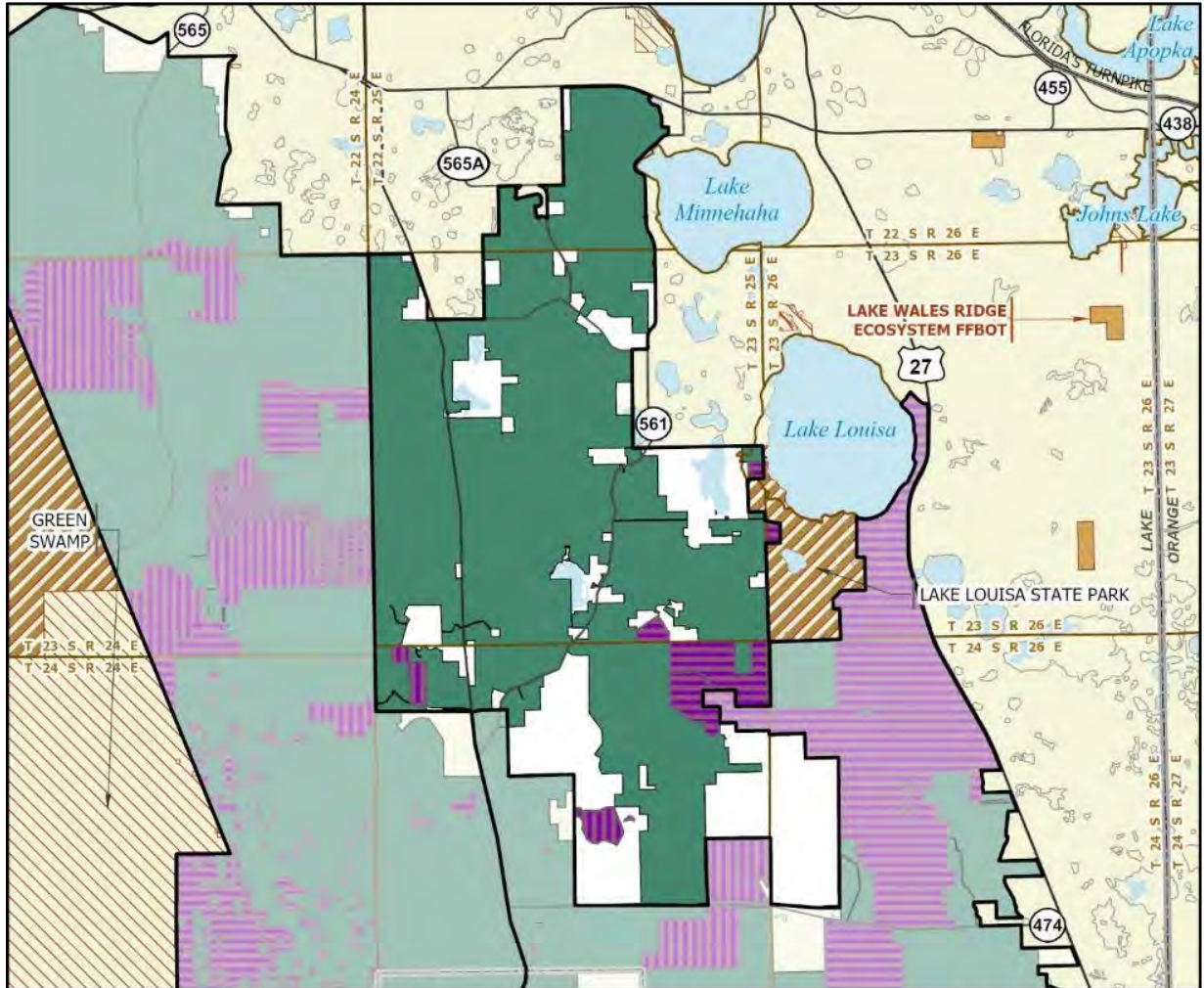
POLK COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020

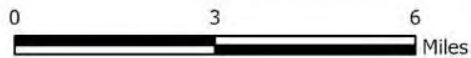
Map 108 : FNAI, January 2021



GREEN SWAMP: MAP 3 (PINE ISLAND RECHARGE AREA)

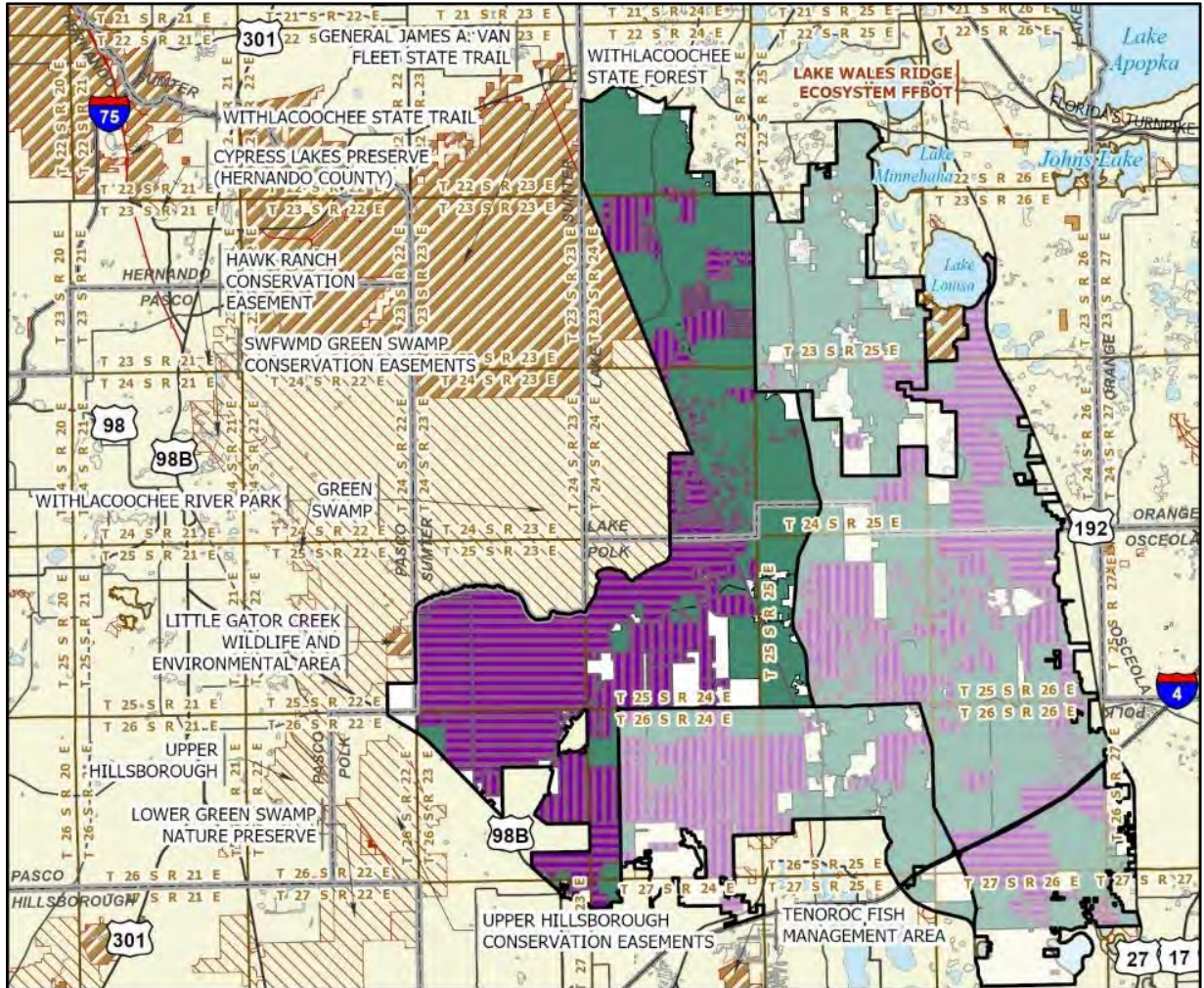
LAKE COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020

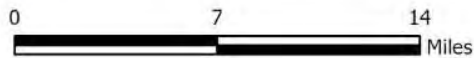
Map 109 : FNAI, January 2021



GREEN SWAMP: MAP 4 (WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER HEADWATERS)

LAKE, PASCO, POLK, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020

Map 110 : FNAI, January 2021



Gulf Hammock

Less-Than-Fee Project

Levy

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2004
Project Acres	25,611
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	25,611
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$35,250,959

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gulf Hammock Florida Forever proposal is designed to protect a large forested system with a watershed draining into an aquatic preserve. Acquiring this project meets the Florida Forever goals of increasing biodiversity by protecting nesting habitats for swallow tailed kites and bald eagles; 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(s)

Most of the project (25,611 GIS acres) will be managed under a conservation easement (CE) by the Office of Environmental Services (OES), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). 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 (3,652 acres); located at the west end of the property, and being more intact both hydrologically and environmentally it would be an addition to, or buffer for the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park. The FWC currently manages most of the project area as the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area.



General Description

The Gulf Hammock project consists of some 25,611 acres (GIS) in southwest Levy County, of which approximately 3,652 acres are proposed for full-fee sale and the remainder would be protected by 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 FWC as Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area, the State’s oldest wildlife management area, established in 1948.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>variable-leaved indian-plantain</i>	G2/S2
<i>wood spurge</i>	G5/S2
Eastern kingsnake	G5/S2S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

10 rare species are associated with the project

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 DEP 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.

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 area proposed for full fee purchase. As with the conservation area, the extent of public use will greatly depend on the wet and dry conditions of the property.

Acquisition Planning

2004

Of this project, 21,959 acres (86 percent) 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 is being



offered in fee, located at the west end of the property, is more hydrologically and environmentally intact, and would be 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. In 2004, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$11,524,000.

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the B List of Florida Forever projects.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Florida Forest Service/FFS (the former Florida Division of Forestry/DOF) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in management of the property.

Management Policy Statement

Since principal purposes of the project include protecting biodiversity and providing resource-based public recreation and education opportunities, programs would be oriented toward conserving and protecting wildlife species, and to carefully control public use. Conserving and protecting environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled and rare species, should be an important management goal for the project. 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.

Management Prospectus

The OES, or its successor, is designated to ensure oversight of the proposed conservation easement for this project. 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. FWC submitted the following management plans for any full-fee purchases in this project:

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. The FWC indicates that 43 percent (11,105 acres) of the project area includes at least seven focal species. 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.

Manager

OES for the CE; FWC for any full-fee purchases

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. Additional methods may 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 conserving habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods for perpetuation of the less disturbed natural communities might involve, for example, reintroducing prescribed fire and control of human uses in certain management units. Surveillance for, and removal of infestations of exotic invasive plant species will be done. Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of planned development and implementation, because imperiled or rare species are expected to occur on the project. 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.

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 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. 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. Growing season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives. Management activities would strive to manage natural plant communities to benefit native wildlife resources. 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). The DHR lists two of these sites in the project area.

Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas and wetlands, would be identified and appropriate protective measures would be implemented on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. Other existing infrastructure would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum required to allow public access, provide facilities for the public, and provide security and management of the project area.

Revenue-generating potential

Substantial revenue from forest products production, as currently occurs, should continue. Management would seek to improve the other revenue-generating potential in 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 and 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.

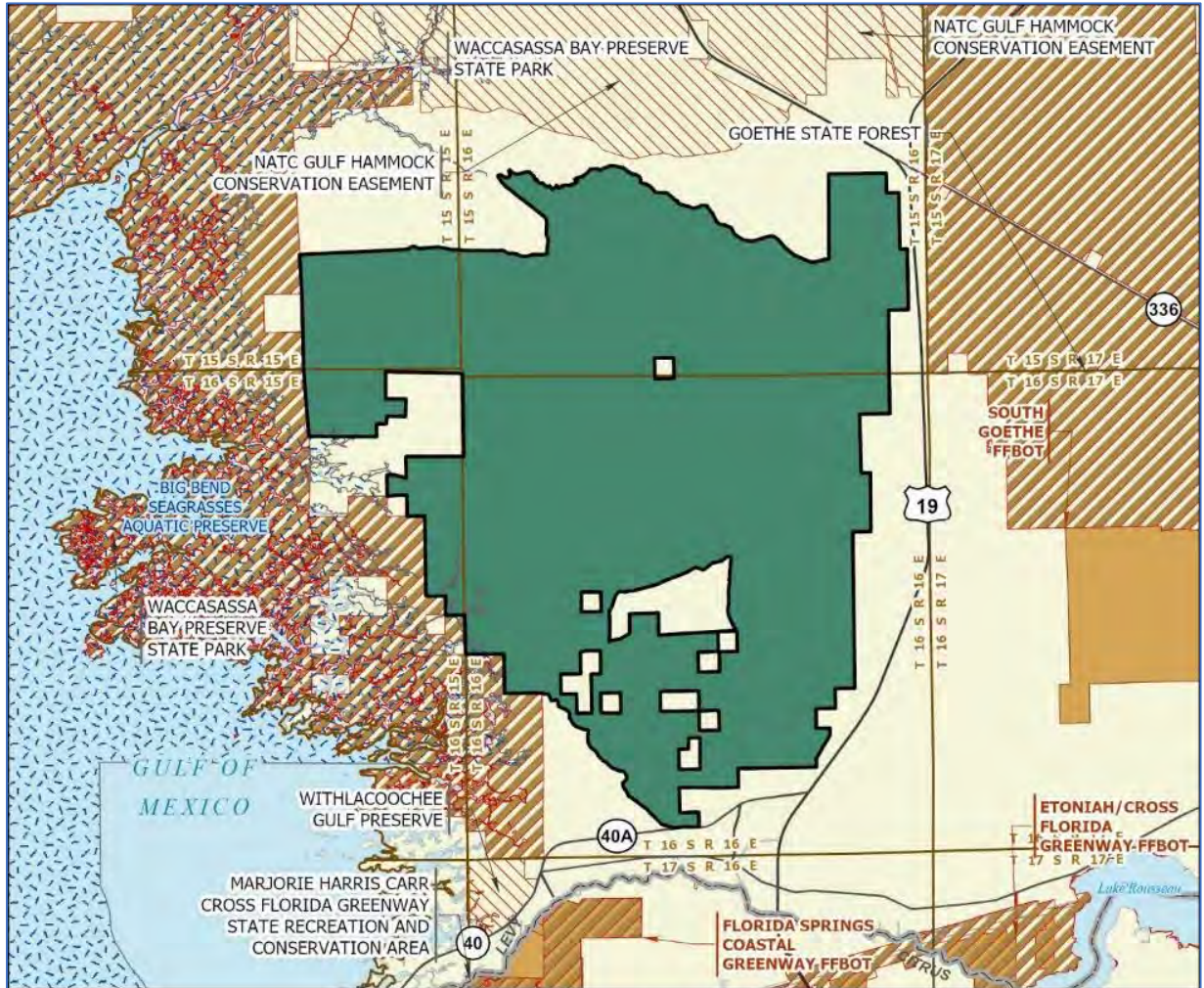
Cooperators in management activities

The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the FFS and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	State and/or federal	State and/or federal
Resource Management	\$91,369	\$72,532
Administration	\$ 75,494	\$ 25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$ 31,566
Capital Improvements	\$185,583	\$ 25,347
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$ 1,285	\$ 141
Law Enforcement	\$ 2,534	\$ 2,534
TOTAL	\$505,344	\$157,252

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



GULF HAMMOCK

LEVY COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 111 : FNAI, January 2021



Half Circle L Ranch

Critical Natural Lands Project
Collier, Hendry

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2003
Project Acres	11,182
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	11,182
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$37,622,224

Purpose for State Acquisition

Located within primary habitat zones for both the Florida panther and the Florida Black bear the project complements 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(s)

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 11,182 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. Nearly all 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>narrow-leaved strap fern</i>	G4G5/S1
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
White ibis	G5/S4

9 rare species are associated with the project

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 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

2002

The project consists of some 11,182 (GIS) acres, multiple parcels and two owners. The 2002 tax assessed/taxable value is estimated at \$2,811,833.00.

2003

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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

This project is adjacent to Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (approximately 32,039 acres) and 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 make it desirable for use and management as part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, or 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.

Manager

FWC



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 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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

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 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.

Florida Forever capital project expenditures will 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 funding will come from the CARL trust fund or its successor.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (2 FTE)	\$70,751	not provided
Expense	\$261,372	not provided
OCO	\$300,600	not provided
TOTAL	\$632,723	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



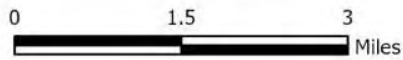
HALF CIRCLE L RANCH

COLLIER AND HENDRY COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 112 : FNAI, January 2021



Hall Ranch

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Charlotte

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1997
Project Acres	8,519
Acquired Acres	1,015
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	7,504
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$12,647,295

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(s)

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. It would contribute significantly to the wildlife corridor coming from the WMA.



No archaeological sites are known. The area is vulnerable to development and conversion to intensive agriculture; since development pressures are low, endangerment is moderate.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

4 rare species are associated with the project

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

1996

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.

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Council transferred this project to the “B” Grouping.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

2018

In 2018, a 592-acre easement was acquired through the Grassland Reserve Program (federal). The 1,000-acre increase noted for 2018 also includes a 409-acre adjustment that was made to GIS data layer and maps for acreage acquired in the project, where the Babcock/Webb WMA boundary line overlaps this project boundary.

Coordination

The FWC is considered an acquisition partner on this project.



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. 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 the 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 nonnative 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 provide 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 percent), cypress domes/strands (4 percent) and xeric hammock (2 percent). Where appropriate and practical, these resources will be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices as recommended by the Florida Forest Service. 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 percent 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.



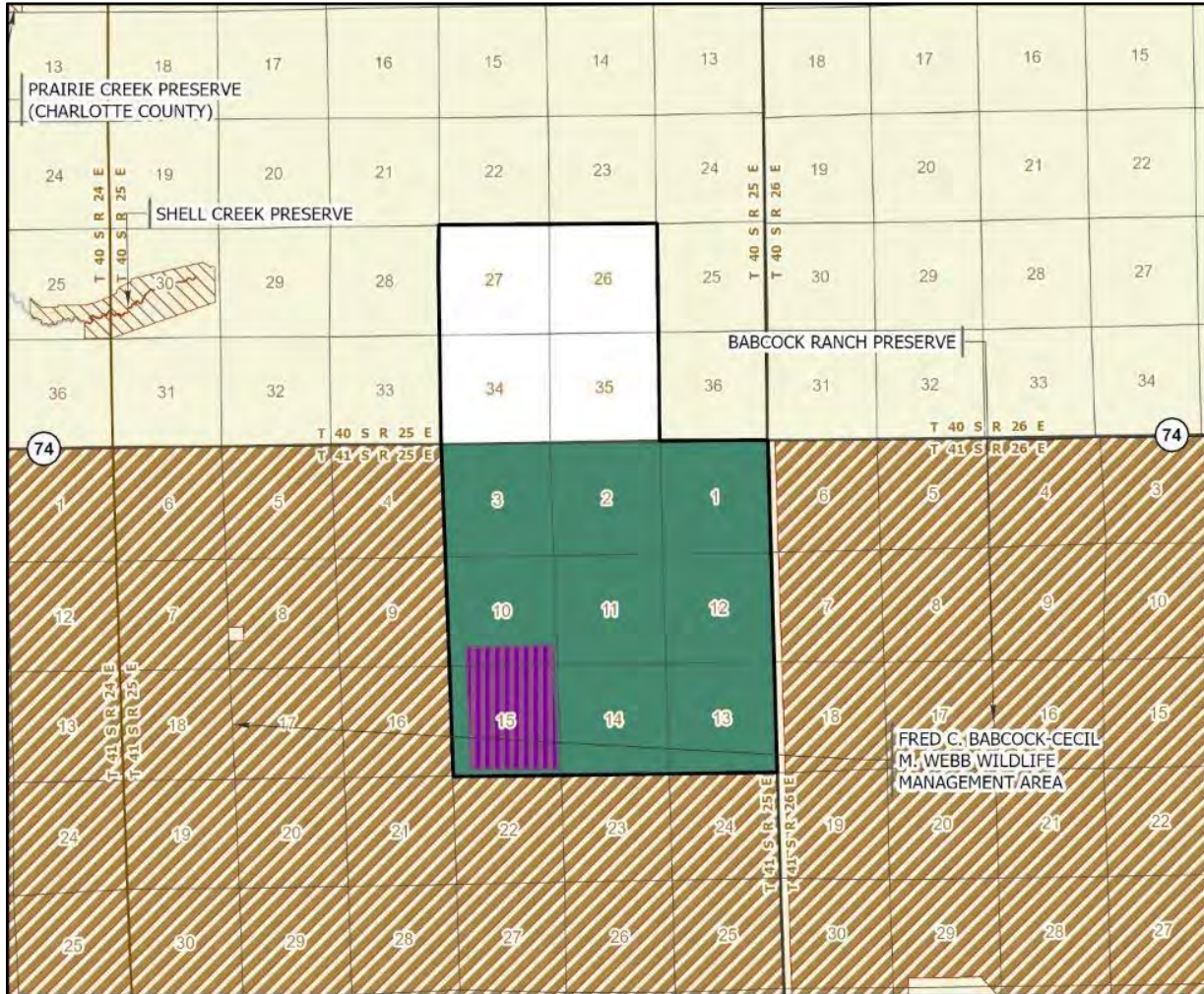
Cooperators in management activities

The FWC will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

<i>FWC</i>	<i>Startup</i>	<i>Recurring</i>
Source of Funds	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
TOTAL	\$139,543	\$86,415

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



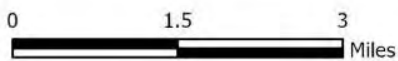
HALL RANCH

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020



Map 113 : FNAI, January 2021



Hardee Flatwoods

Less-Than-Fee Project

Hardee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2017
Project Acres	1,676
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	1,676
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$4,817,850

Purpose for State Acquisition

Hardee Flatwoods is proposed for the following public purposes: Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; 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; Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; Increase the amount of forest land available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Manager(s)

As a less-than-fee purchase, or conservation easement, this area would be managed by the landowner by a signed agreement to maintain the land for its natural assets. Periodic monitoring provided by the Division of State Lands of DEP would ensure that conditions of the easement are being met.

General Description

The Hardee Flatwoods project is a single tract of 1,678 GIS acres about 11 miles northeast of the town of Zolfo Springs in eastern Hardee County and bordering the Highlands County line. It



is held by a single owner and is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. This land includes most of the headwaters of Bee Branch, a tributary of Charlie Creek, which itself is a principal headwater of the Peace River.

Hardee Flatwoods is the only land along Bee Branch that remains in a natural state and provides a continuous natural link to conservation lands to the east. In contrast to the surrounding agricultural lands, most of the tract has had low to moderate disturbance. About 91 percent of Hardee Flatwoods is in varying degrees of natural condition. Although there are no major structural additions, the property is fenced and cross-fenced. About 100 head of cattle graze the improved pasture in the western third of the property under a lease. A few small cattle ponds are scattered over the property.

Mesic flatwoods cover most of the eastern half and generally are in good condition. Scrubby flatwoods mixed with xeric hammock, about 1 percent of the project, occur on small elevated mounds and ridges of white sand at the west end of the site. High quality hydric hammock covers 22 percent of the site along the Bee Branch blackwater stream corridors. Mature laurel oak, live oak, and cabbage palm dominate the closed canopy.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project is to be a less-than-fee acquisition, which would limit the ability of the state to provide public use.

Acquisition Planning

2017

On June 16, 2017, the Hardee Flatwoods proposal was considered by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) as a possible conservation land project and advanced for in-depth review.

On October 20, 2017, ARC voted to add this as a Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$106,126.



2020

On December 11, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 160-acres in Hardee County to the project boundary.

Coordination

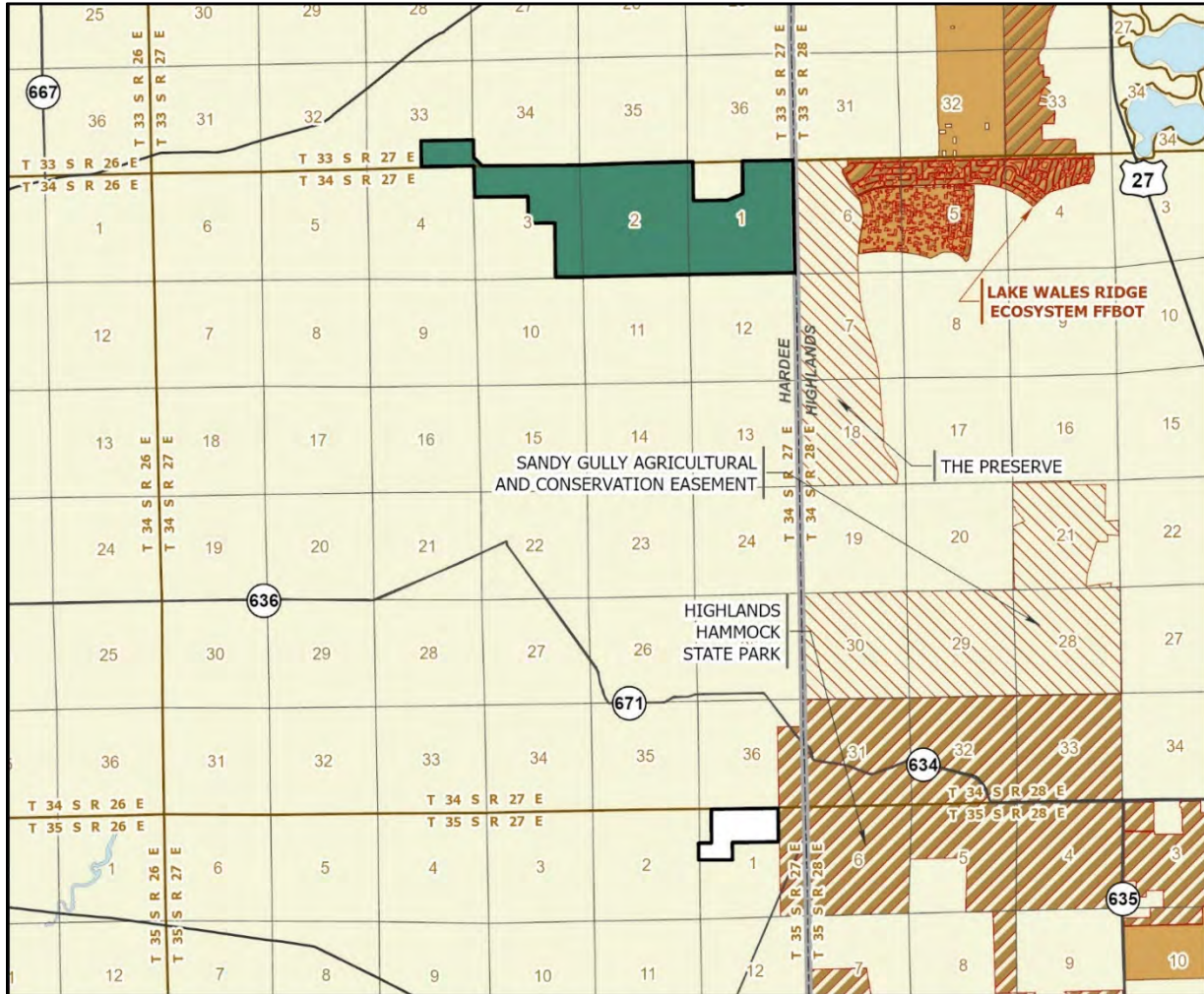
This project abuts Highlands County's Sun`N Lake Preserve, is within three miles of the Old Town Creek Watershed project and parts of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever project. As a less-than-fee acquisition, there would be no direct governmental management of the site.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Hardee Flatwoods project would continue to be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida DEP would coordinate the periodic monitoring of the conservation easement.



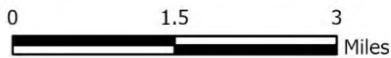
HARDEE FLATWOODS

HARDEE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2021



Map 114 : FNAI, January 2021



Heather Island/Ocklawaha River

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Marion

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	19,953
Acquired Acres	6,290
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,165,000
Remaining Project Acres	13,663
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$35,712,575

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project offers important ecological benefits. Foremost among those benefits are links 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 project has 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(s)

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the 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, will be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) (portions between Sharpes Ferry Road and the Silver River) and the Florida Forest Service/FFS.



General Description

The Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project consists of approximately 19,920 (GIS) 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. 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 (SJRWMD). To date the SJRWMD has acquired approximately 4,465 acres within the original CARL project boundaries.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>pinkroot</i>	G2Q/S2

3 rare species are associated with the project

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, horseback 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

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2003 Priority list. This fee-simple project, sponsored by Office and Greenway Trails (OGT) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), consisted of approximately 19,949 GIS acres, two landowners, the Rayonier Timberland Corp. and the Alawest-AI LLC, and a 2001 taxable value of



\$32,234,776. The essential parcels were identified as the Rayonier ownership. These should be mapped and appraised first.

2005

On January 25, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Initiatives category.

On January 11, 2011, about 400 acres (TNC/Rayonier Forest Resources LP--\$1,165,000) were purchased by DRP to be managed by DRP as the Silver River Addition.

Coordination

This project will be acquired in partnership with SJRWMD, with a mixture of state and WMD funding. Contribution percentages have not been determined.

Management Policy Statement

Priority will be given to conserving and protecting 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 conserving and protecting these species and carefully managing 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 this Heather Island/Ocklawaha River proposal indicates that the FWC is the suitable lead manager for most of the southern two parcels (approximately 5,200 acres in Marshall Swamp and Cow Hammock), with the remaining parcels (approximately 12,700 acres between Sharpes Ferry Road and the Silver River) to be managed DRP and FFS.

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 to preserve the less disturbed natural communities will involve introducing prescribed fire and carefully managing 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 on site security, posting boundaries, public access, fire management, resource inventory and removing refuse. A conceptual management plan will be developed by the FWC describing management goals and specific objectives to implement future resource management. Long-range plans will emphasize restoring and maintaining ecosystem functions; restoring native wildlife populations and wildlife diversity, including protecting and managing 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.

Revenue-generating potential

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. However, if certain activities are privatized, it would reduce the number of FTEs required. Funding for natural resource management and public use administration would come from the CARL Trust Fund. See the anticipated costs below. Revenue sources would likely include public use fees and timber harvests.

Cooperators in management activities

The FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), FFS and the SJRWMD in managing the area.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Resource Management	\$271,345	not provided
Administration	\$75,494	not provided
Support	\$149,080	not provided
Capital Improvements	\$1,130,236	not provided
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$2,361	not provided
Law Enforcement	\$13,874	not provided
TOTAL	\$1,642,389	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>
Salary (2FTE)	\$80,870
Expense	\$117,500
OCO	\$225,600
TOTAL	\$423,970

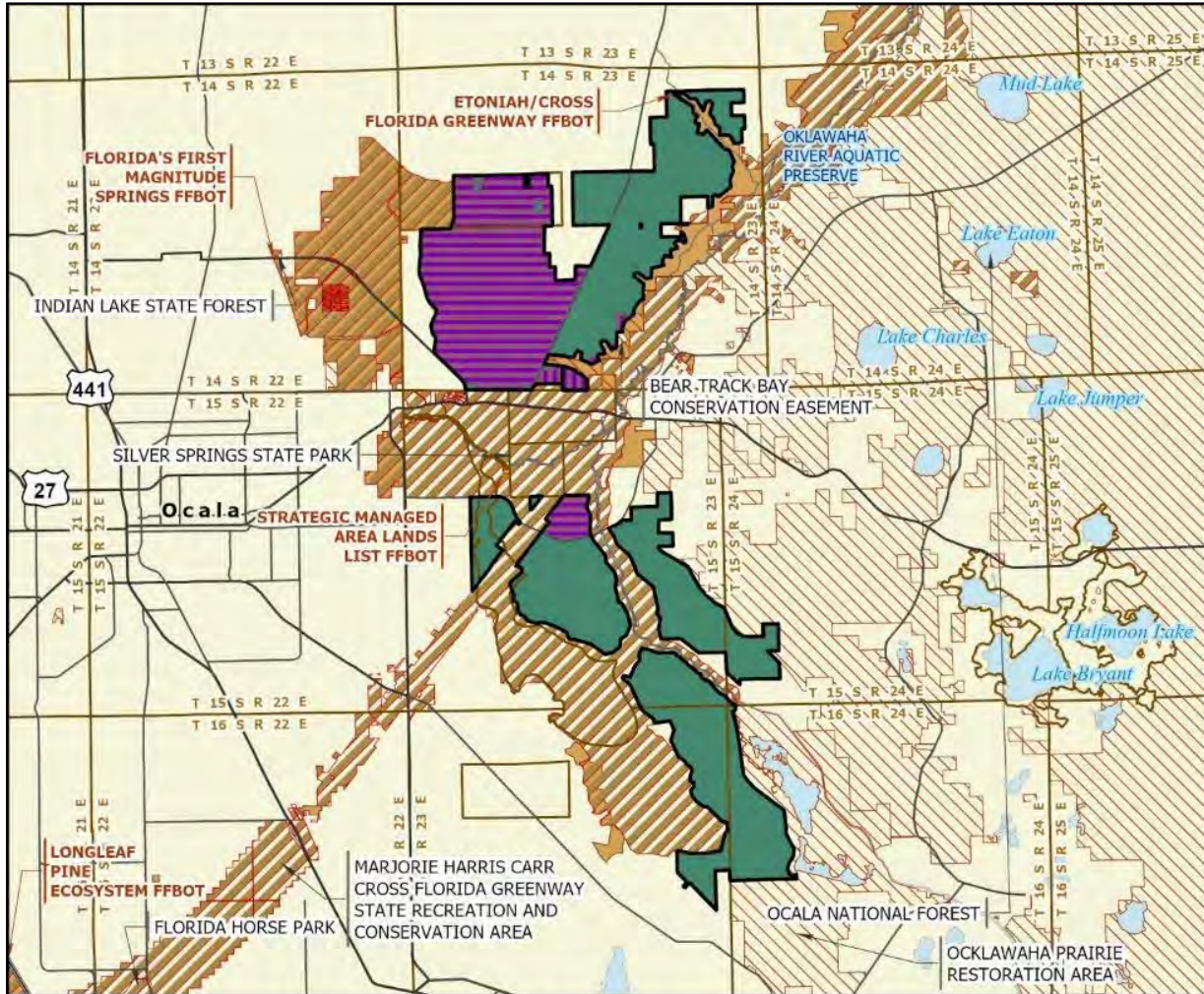
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>
Expense	\$0
FCO	\$268,000
TOTAL	\$268,000

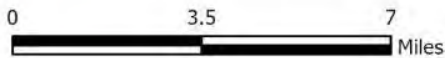
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



HEATHER ISLAND/OCKLAWAHA RIVER

MARION COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 115 : FNAI, January 2021



Hixtown Swamp

Critical Natural Lands Project
Madison

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1993
Project Acres	24,479
Acquired Acres	2,081
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$200,331
Remaining Project Acres	22,398
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$27,715,901

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(s)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

General Description

Hixtown Swamp is 24,449 acres and 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 percent), as well as shrub swamp (20 percent), 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
bird rookery	G5/SNR
<i>incised groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

7 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hiking, picnicking, camping and wildlife observation.

Acquisition Planning

1993

Phase I (essential): Mitchell (aka Musselwhite), GandG, Miller, Collins, Genecer, Muggee and Gillman (contingent upon 50 percent donation). In 1993, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$9,542,800.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) 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.

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 wetland system now generally requires basic resource management and protection, but it 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 subsequent 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

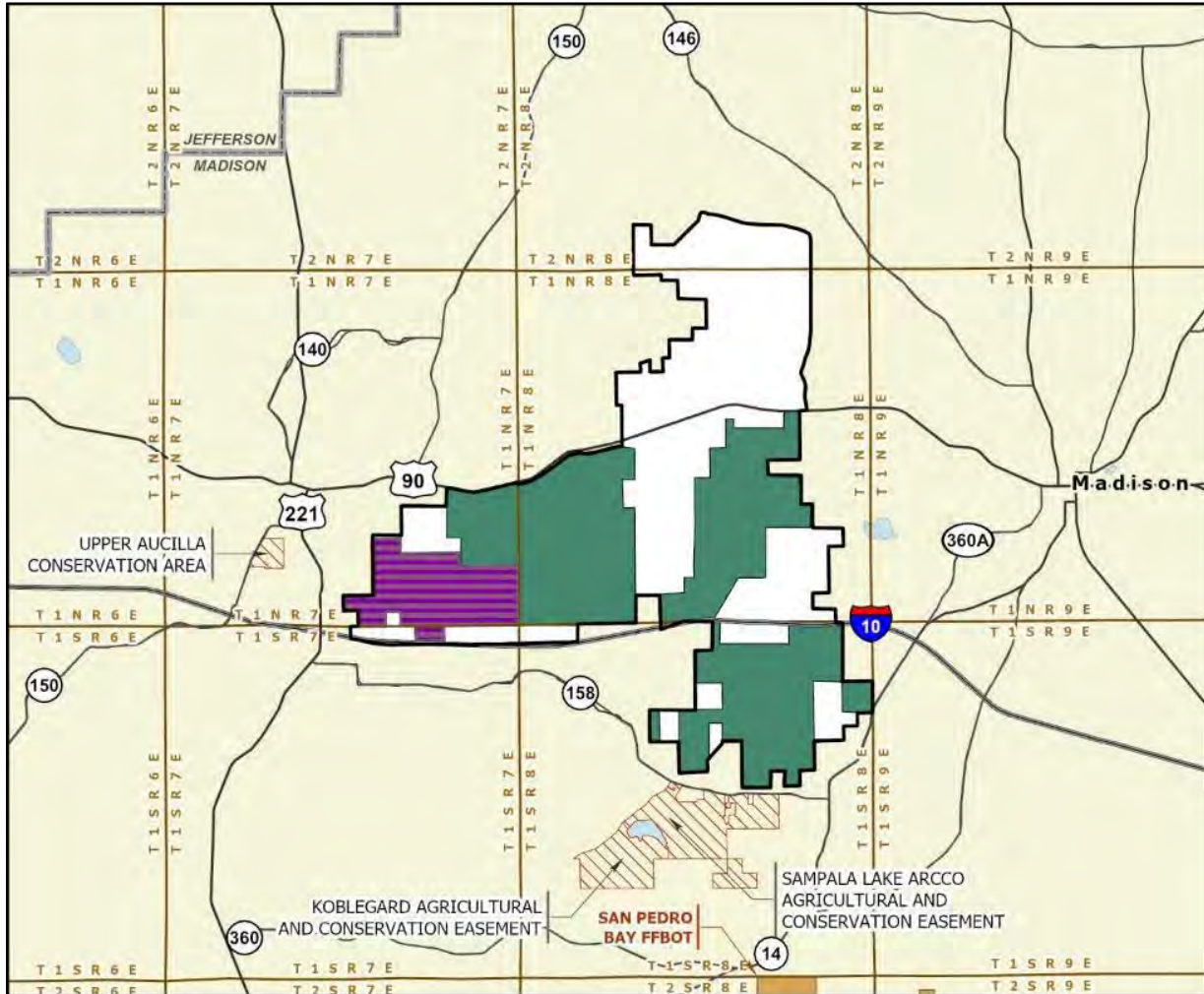
The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is recommended as a cooperator to assist in reforestation of the upland areas.



Management Cost Summary



<i>FWC</i>	<i>Startup</i>	<i>Recurring</i>
Source of Funds	CARL or successor	CARL or successor
Salary	\$180,000	\$180,000
OPS	\$5,500	\$5,500
Expense	\$45,500	\$40,000
OCO	\$124,800	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$355,800	\$236,500

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



HIXTOWN SWAMP

MADISON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 116 : FNAI, January 2021



Horse Creek Ranch

Less-Than-Fee Project
DeSoto, Hardee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	16,316
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	16,316
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$40,215,587

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Propose for State Acquisition of this conservation easement is to provide a buffer for Horse Creek, a high water-quality tributary of the Peace River; provide for habitat protection and enhancement of numerous rare species and imperiled natural communities; and afford additional resource protection for the Peace River waters and riverine wetlands within the boundaries of the Peaceful Horse Ranch and Peace River Refuge Florida Forever projects, the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary, and the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

Manager(s)

The owner has expressed interest in preserving this land with a conservation easement, which would be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands or its successor.

General Description

The Horse Creek Ranch project is approximately 16,316 (GIS) acres in size and its tax assessed just value is \$35.5 million. It is in southwestern Hardee County and northwestern DeSoto County, southwest of the town of Wauchula. It is held by a single. The county line divides the



ranch about midway north- south. County Roads (CR) 663 and 661 form the eastern boundary in a portion of the north and south, respectively, and CR 665 traverses the northern third of the property east-west. Approximately 52 percent of the project is in natural condition. Relatively little area is occupied by invasive exotic plants. The natural communities include mesic and wet flatwoods, bottomland forest, depression and basin marshes, mesic hammock, scrubby flatwoods, baygall, and blackwater streams. The natural uplands are principally longleaf-pine-dominated mesic flatwoods with pockets of scrubby flatwoods on the highest elevations and more hydric wet flatwoods in the ecotone between the uplands and the Horse Creek floodplain.

A large block of high-quality mesic flatwoods extends from the eastern floodplain of Horse Creek to the eastern boundary of the property in the southern part of the project. The groundcover in these flatwoods is in excellent condition and is well managed with prescribed fire. There is a lush, diverse mixture of low shrubs, grasses and other vegetation, all less than one meter in height.

Smaller pockets of flatwoods occur to the north and to the west of Horse Creek. Extensive stands of old growth longleaf pines occur in the southern portions of the property. Smaller patches of flatwoods that support a mix of South Florida slash pine and longleaf pine can be found in the northeastern portion of the project. Hurricane Charley in 2004 severely damaged large, mature stands of slash and longleaf pines (up to 80 percent according to the applicant). The canopy is now very sparse, and regeneration is patchy, although some regeneration may not be visible, not yet taller than the groundcover. The owner has left many snags that greatly benefit cavity nesting birds. The majority of the remainder of the property is extensive areas of improved pastures and old agricultural fields (approximately 46 percent) that are distributed throughout. The property is a working cattle ranch, and there are some small areas of row crops and sod fields. Horse Creek and Limestone Creek are blackwater streams, as is typical of most creeks in the area. A small tributary to Horse Creek on the western side of the property, called "Sand Gully" by the property owner, appears to be, at least in part, a seepage stream. The segment of this tributary that was visited ran clear and shallow over white sand, at the base of a sandy slope. The tributary may have been channelized in the past; the owner stated that it is "flashy" i.e., water quickly rises during heavy rains and quickly subsides afterwards. Limestone Creek has been channelized throughout its length on the property. Horse Creek appears to be in good, relatively unaltered condition.

A 5.3-mile stretch of the middle reaches of Horse Creek, a major tributary to the Peace River, runs south through the project. The surrounding area is largely pastureland and citrus groves, and the property is not contiguous with any existing conservation lands. An approximately 243-



acre inholding (citrus grove) straddles CR 665 in the northern portion of the project. Along the Peace River, DeSoto County’s Morgan Park is four miles south and the Southwest Florida Water Management District’s Lower Peace River Corridor is 16 miles south of the project. With the exception of the 520-acre Altman Tract Conservation Easement at the headwaters of Horse Creek in Manatee County, no other conservation lands are along this important tributary.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

6 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

While there is the possibility that some kind of limited public access could be negotiated for research or school groups for educational purposes, as a working cattle ranch, any form of unrestricted or otherwise unsupervised access that could interfere with the property’s economic uses or increase liability would not be acceptable to the landowner. Canoers and kayakers would observe its riverbanks passing through from the headwaters of Horse Creek to conservation areas such as Desoto County’s Morgan Park.

Acquisition Planning

2010

At the December 10, 2010 meeting, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended that this less-than-fee project be added to the list. In 2010, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$9,893,163.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category.

Coordination

As a co-applicant, The Nature Conservancy is a partner on this project; however, they do not have funding available for assistance with acquisition. Because this project buffers Horse Creek and ensures better water quality for Horse Creek and the Peace River, the water management district would be supportive of state acquisition of this parcel.



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 the development rights, the prohibition of the further conversion of existing natural areas to more intensive uses will likely be the primary focus of the conservation easement.

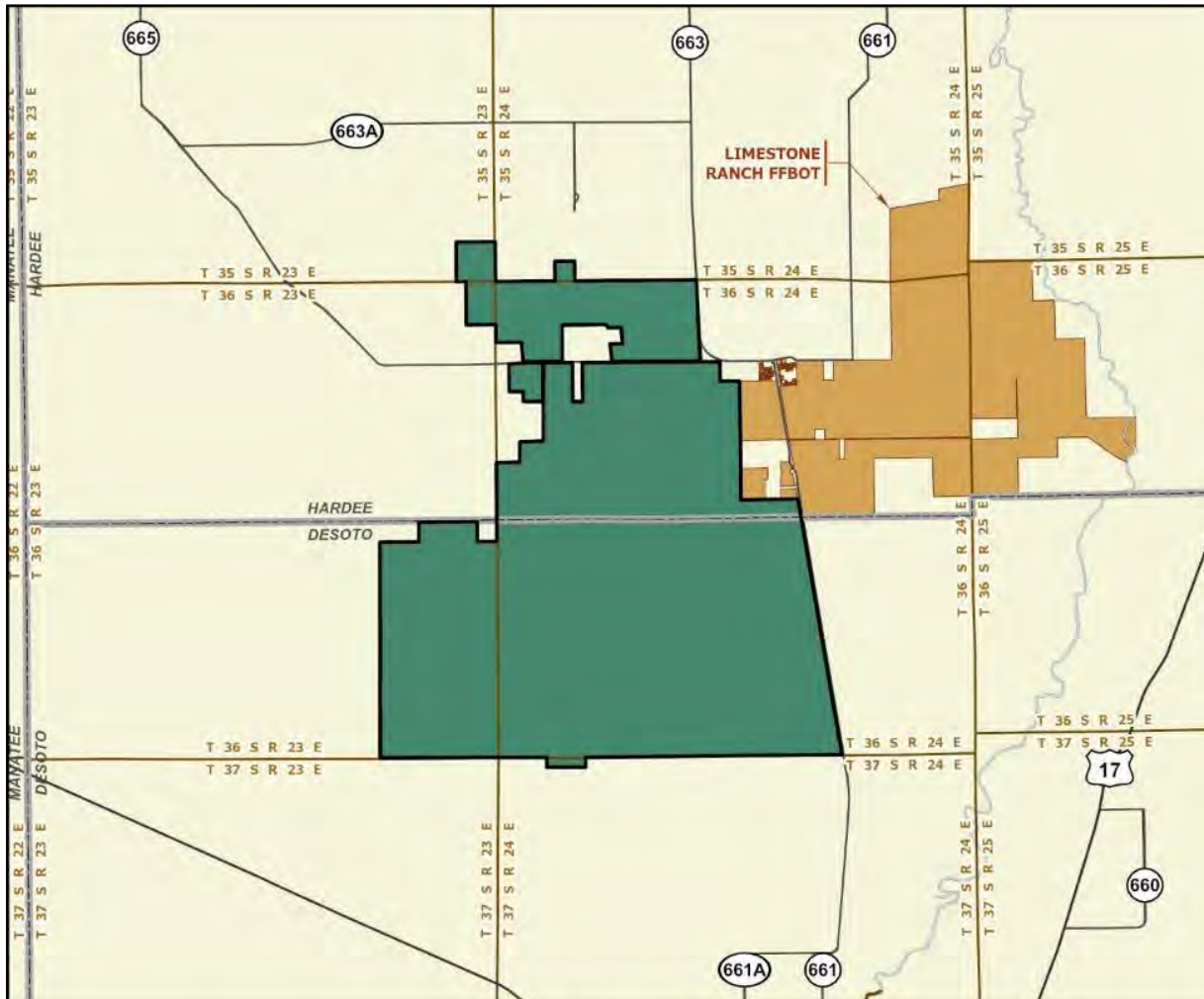
Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

This project meets the following public purposes: Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; 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; Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state ; Increase natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities; Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and, Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.




Manager

The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement unless otherwise noted.



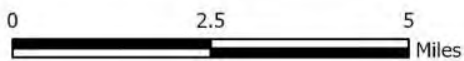
HORSE CREEK RANCH

DESOTO AND HARDEE COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 117 : FNAI, January 2021



Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone

Less-Than-Fee Project

Gadsden, Liberty

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	6,923
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	6,923
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$10,942,665

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(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor any conservation easements.



General Description

The original boundary of 3,262 acres extended 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 two 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.

On October 24, 2002, 3,648 more acres were added to the project, creating a connection from Lake Talquin to Apalachicola National Forest, and bringing the project GIS-acre total to 6,923 GIS acres.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Chapman's rhododendron</i>	G1/S1
<i>zigzag silkgrass</i>	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3

4 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The degree of public use that could be enjoyed will be determined by the degree of ownership and public access acquired. Much 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 birdwatching, environmental education, hiking, horseback riding, off- road bicycling, hunting, nature study and photography.

Acquisition Planning

2002

The Hosford Chapman’s Rhododendron Protection Zone Florida Forever project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the June meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration



Council (ARC) as a Group B project. The essential parcel is the St. Joe Timberlands and Blairwoods tract which makes the connection to the Lake Talquin State Forest (3,249 acres).

On October 24, 2002, ARC approved the addition of 3,648 acres to the project boundary. This addition formed the connection from the Lake Talquin State Forest to the Apalachicola National Forest

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) are considered acquisition partners. No alternative funding sources have been identified for the project.

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 FFS 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 FFS 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

FFS/DACS proposes to manage this site as part of the Lake Talquin State Forest with Tallahassee District Headquarters personnel.



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-than-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.

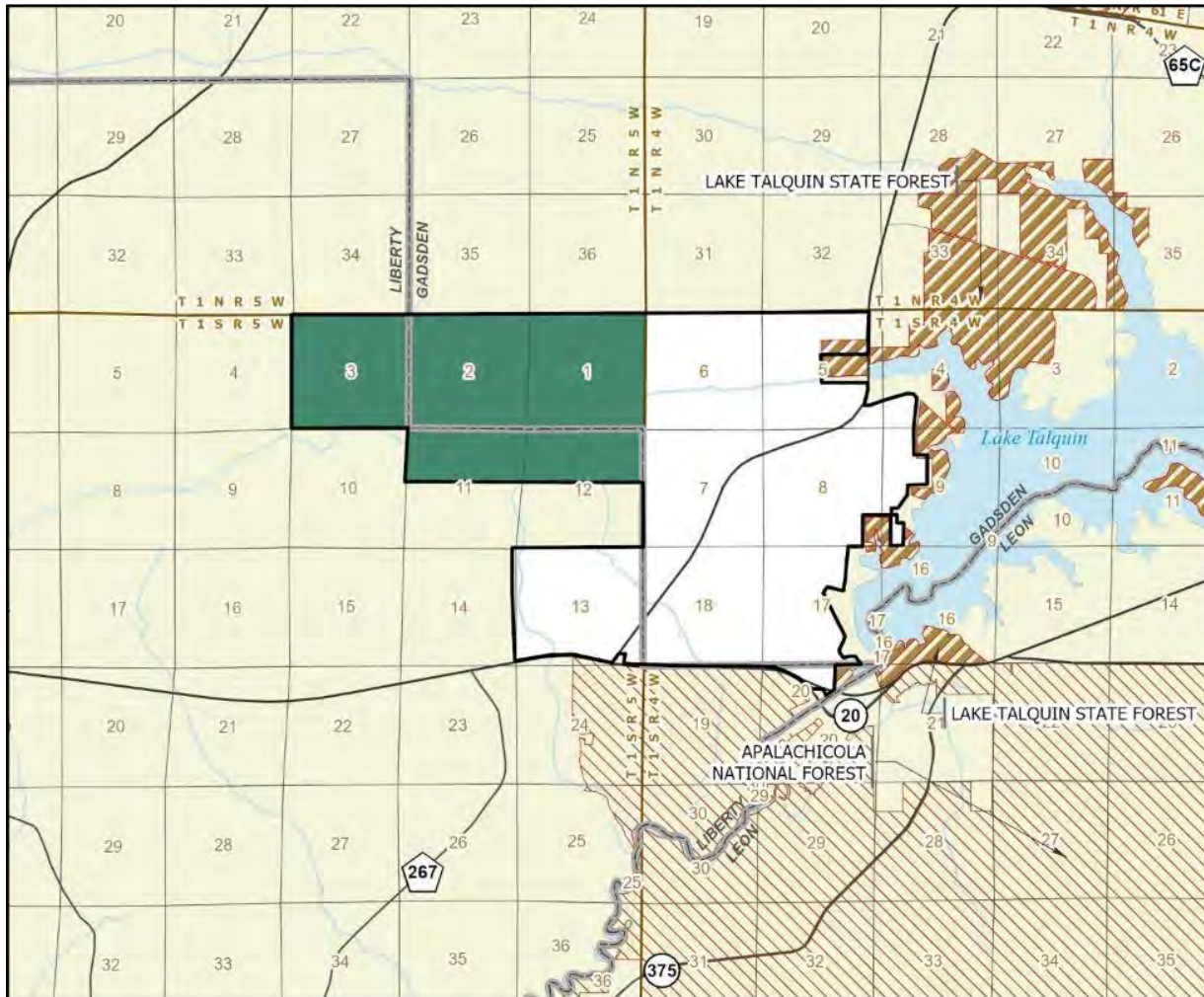
Cooperators in management activities

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

Management Cost Summary





<i>FFS</i>	<i>Recurring</i>
Salary (1 FTE)	\$29,000
OCO	\$40,900

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



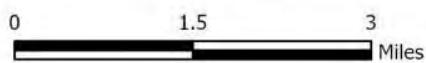
HOSFORD CHAPMAN'S RHODODENDRON PROTECTION ZONE

GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 118 : FNAI, January 2021



Ichetucknee Trace

Critical Natural Lands Project
Columbia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1997
Project Acres	2,786
Acquired Acres	1,069
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$33,950,174
Remaining Project Acres	1,717
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$11,544,476

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. Acquiring the nine project sites will help protect 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(s)

Recommended managers include Columbia County, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) 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. More than 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G2/S2
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Hobbs's cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Pallid cave crayfish	G2G3/S2S3

7 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This project qualifies as a fish management area, recreation park, 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.

1999

On July 29, 1999, the Council added 636 acres: Rose Sink (since acquired); Saylor Sink (acquired); and Clay Hole Creek.

2000

On July 18, 2000, the Council added 200 acres to the project.



2002

On August 9, 2002, the Trust for Public Land donated the 2-acre parcel around Rose Sink to the State of Florida.

2006

On December 8, 2006, ARC approved moving the project from Group B to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) Priority list. 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 and Trails (OGT) will manage this essential parcel.

2007

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 added parcels have been designated as essential.

2010

On December 29, 2010, 12.96 acres in Rose Sink (Kirby Mine Area) valued at \$214,372 were donated by TPL. The DRP will manage this.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands (CNL) category.

Coordination

Columbia County is considered an acquisition partner for this project. 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 (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. Considerable mining refuse

is anticipated to 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 there is no valuable habitat here to manage, succession is the appropriate strategy. Earthmoving will allow work on planned vehicle access and parking in areas where eventual erosion to lakes can be precluded. Some fencing to prohibit or 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.

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

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be 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 DEP and local government agencies in managing the area.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL/SGTF	CARL/SGTF
Salary	\$40,000	\$75,000
OPS	\$10,000	\$10,000
Expense	\$20,000	\$200,000
OCO	\$35,000	\$20,000
FCO	\$0	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$105,000	\$325,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



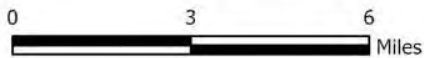
ICHETUCKNEE TRACE

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 119 : FNAI, January 2021



Indian River Lagoon Blueway

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Volusia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1998
Project Acres	28,060
Acquired Acres	9,804
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$45,794,168
Remaining Project Acres	18,256
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$473,467,525

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(s)

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) management centers around the Mullet Creek area. The former, 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 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 FWC 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.

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) will manage the Harbor Branch sites. Management of lands previously owned by the 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 of the project is 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 control 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.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Manatee	G2G3/S2
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Atlantic Coast Florida lantana</i>	G2T1/S1
<i>Lakela's balm</i>	G1T1/S1
Atlantic salt marsh snake	G4T1Q/S1
<i>Burrowing four-o'clock</i>	G3?/S2
Florida scrub lizard	G2G3/S2S3
<i>coastal vervain</i>	G3/S3
<i>large-flowered rosemary</i>	G3/S3

18 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Parcels in 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

1997

On December 12, 1997, the LAAC added the Indian River Lagoon Blueway project to the CARL1998 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.

1999

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.

2000

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 Jupiter 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.

2001

On April 16, 2001, ARC established Groups A and B and moved this project to Group B of the 2001 Florida Forever Priority list.

2002

On December 5, 2002, the 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 and Environmental Systems, consisted of one owner, Indian River No. 1 Developer, and a 2002 taxable value of \$685,170.

2005

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.

2007

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 National Wildlife Refuge is the recommended manager of this essential parcel.



Approximately half an acre of the parcel overlaps the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge site in Indian River County.

2008

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 from 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, part of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic campus. The proposal was submitted as a stand-alone project and designated as essential, then immediately added to the project boundary.

2010

On March 10, 2010, two parcels - about 384 acres (136/DSL plus 248/DCA) - were purchased from Harbor Branch (HB) for \$24,040,488 funding from FF-HB-Other. These parcels are to be managed by FAU.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

Coordination

Acquisition of this project will be a coordinated effort between directly involved local governments, 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 is in place over 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 manage.

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, and 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 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, 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 directly 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

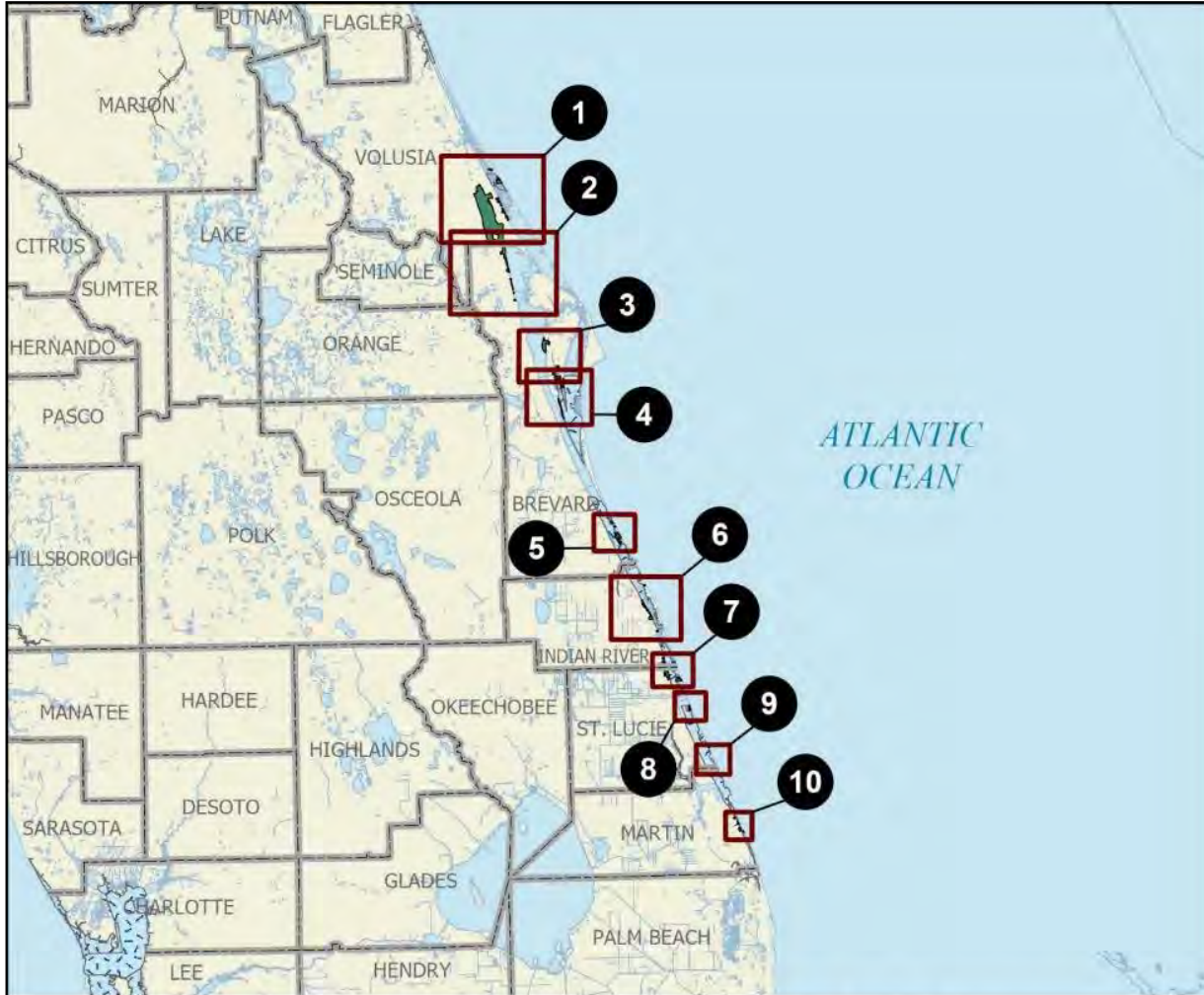


SJRWMD and the SFWMD, Volusia/Brevard/Indian River/St. Lucie/Martin Counties, and Mosquito Control Districts have all expressed interest in some form of cooperative management of portions of the project. This level of cooperation is needed if the project is to successfully serve the multiple purposes 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.

Management Cost Summary

<i>DRP</i>	<i>Startup</i>	<i>Recurring</i>
<i>Salary</i>	<i>\$64,805</i>	<i>not provided</i>
<i>OPS</i>	<i>\$36,100</i>	<i>not provided</i>
<i>Expense</i>	<i>\$16,146</i>	<i>not provided</i>
<i>OCO</i>	<i>\$27,692</i>	<i>not provided</i>
<i>Special</i>	<i>\$20,311</i>	<i>not provided</i>
<i>FCO</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>not provided</i>
<i>Grant</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>not provided</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$180,054</i>	<i>not provided</i>

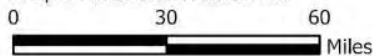
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

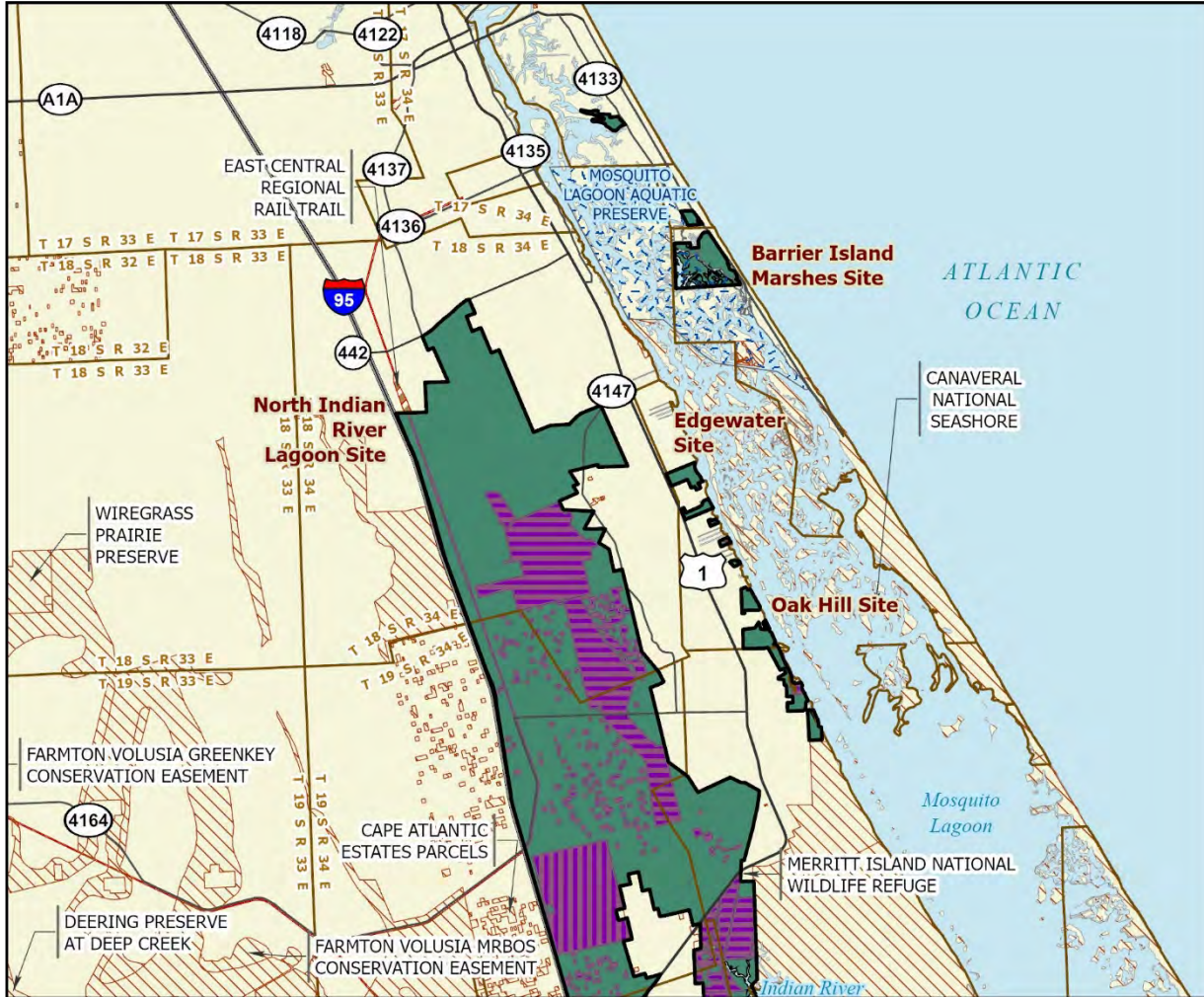
BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND VOLUSIA, COUNTIES

- Map 1 Barrier Island Marshes Site
- Map 1 Edgewater Site
- Map 1 North Indian River Lagoon Site
- Map 1 Oak Hill Site
- Map 2 North Indian River Lagoon Site
- Map 2 North Titusville Site
- Map 3 Pine Island Site
- Map 3 Sykes Creek Site
- Map 4 East Merritt Island Impoundment Sites
- Map 5 Hog Point Site
- Map 5 Mullet Creek Site
- Map 5 Old Oak Lodge Preserve Site
- Map 5 Snagg Point Site
- Map 5 Washburn Cove Site
- Map 6 Morgan's Impoundment Site
- Map 6 Pelican Island Addition Site
- Map 6 Vossinbury Site
- Map 6 Winter Beach Marsh Site
- Map 7 Avalon Site
- Map 7 Diamond Site
- Map 7 Harbor Branch Site
- Map 7 Martin Site
- Map 7 Oyster Bar Impoundment Site
- Map 7 Pappas Site
- Map 7 Queens Island Site
- Map 8 Bear Point Site
- Map 9 Hutchinson Island Addition Site
- Map 9 Jensen Site
- Map 10 Corset Sound Site
- Map 10 Gomez Site
- Map 10 Hobe Sound Site
- Map 10 Palmer Sound Site



JANUARY 2020

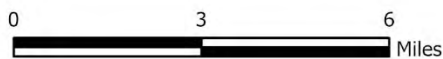
Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



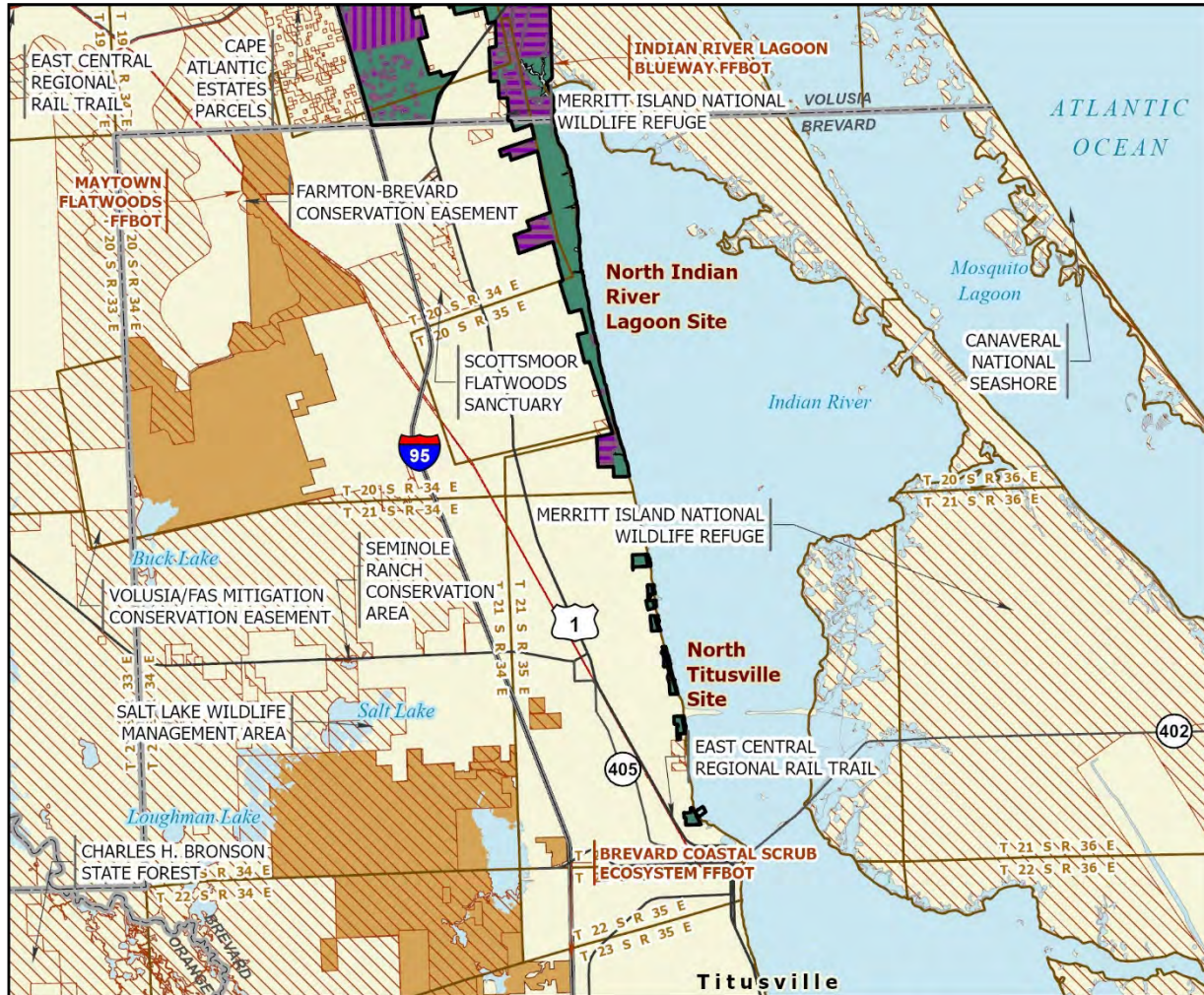
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 1

VOLUSIA COUNTY

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



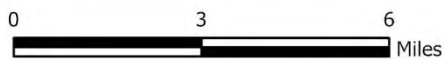
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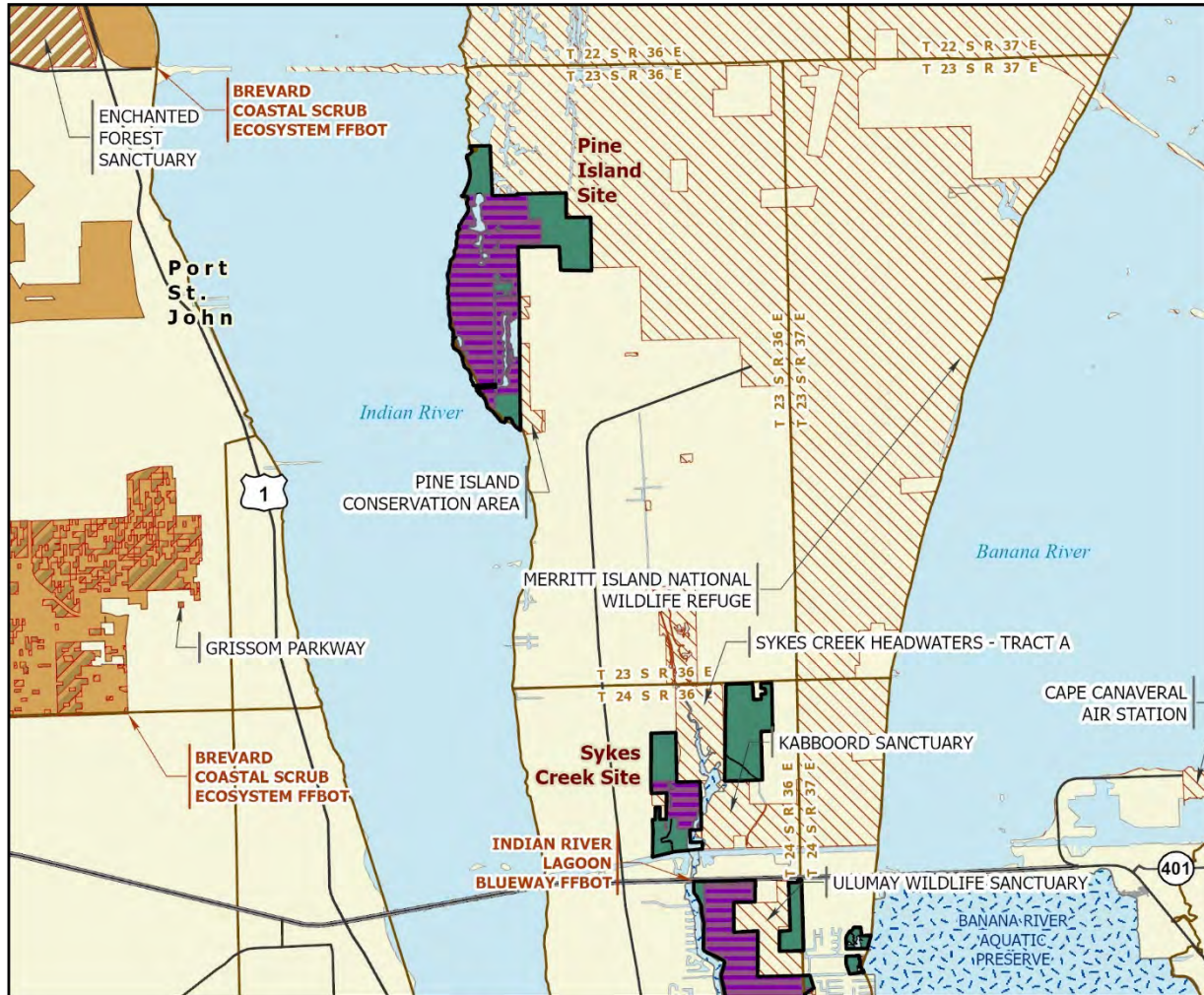
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 2

BREVARD AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



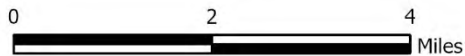
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INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 3

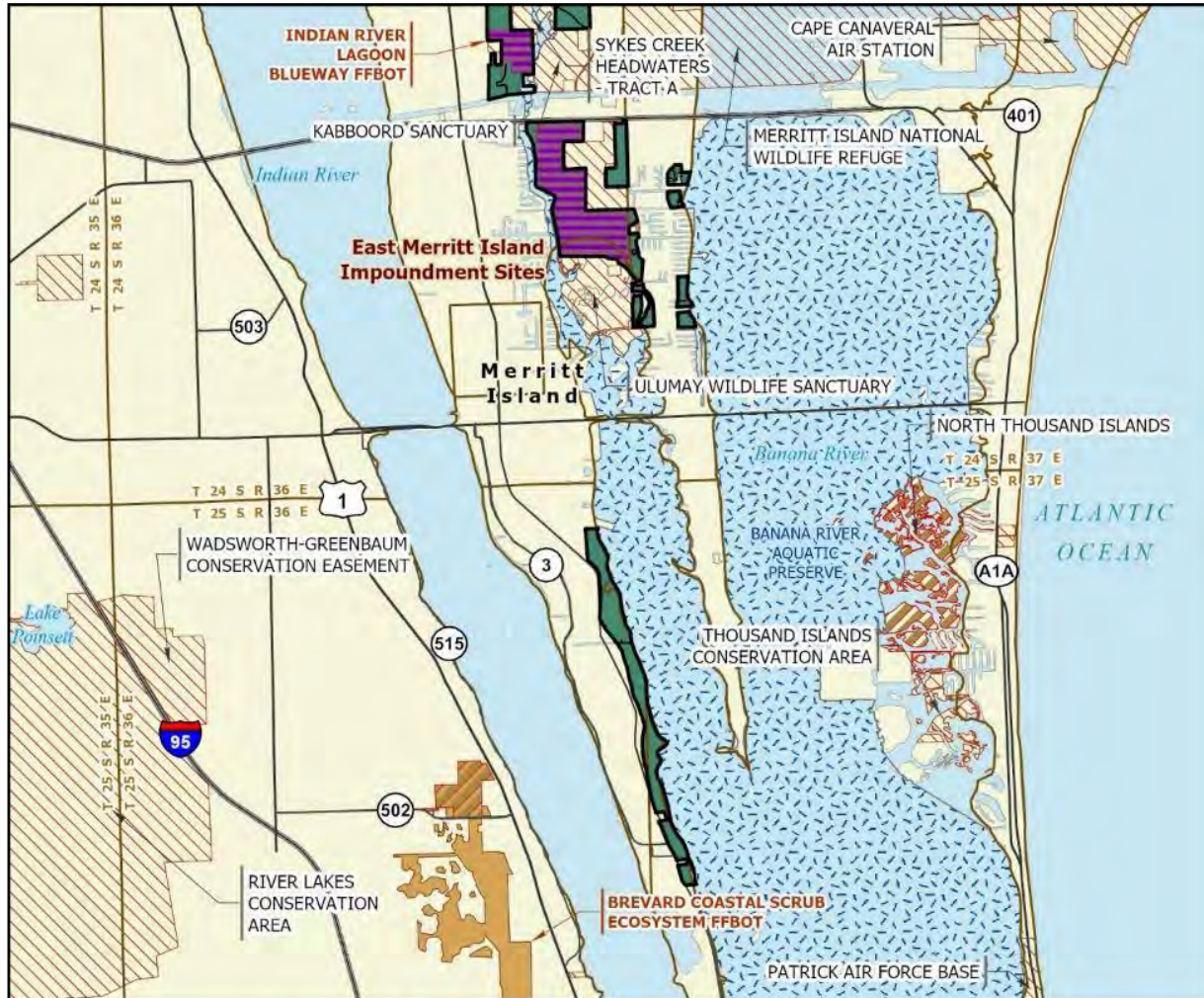
BREVARD COUNTY

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



JUNE 2020

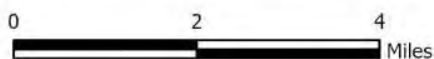
Map 4 : FNAI, January 2021



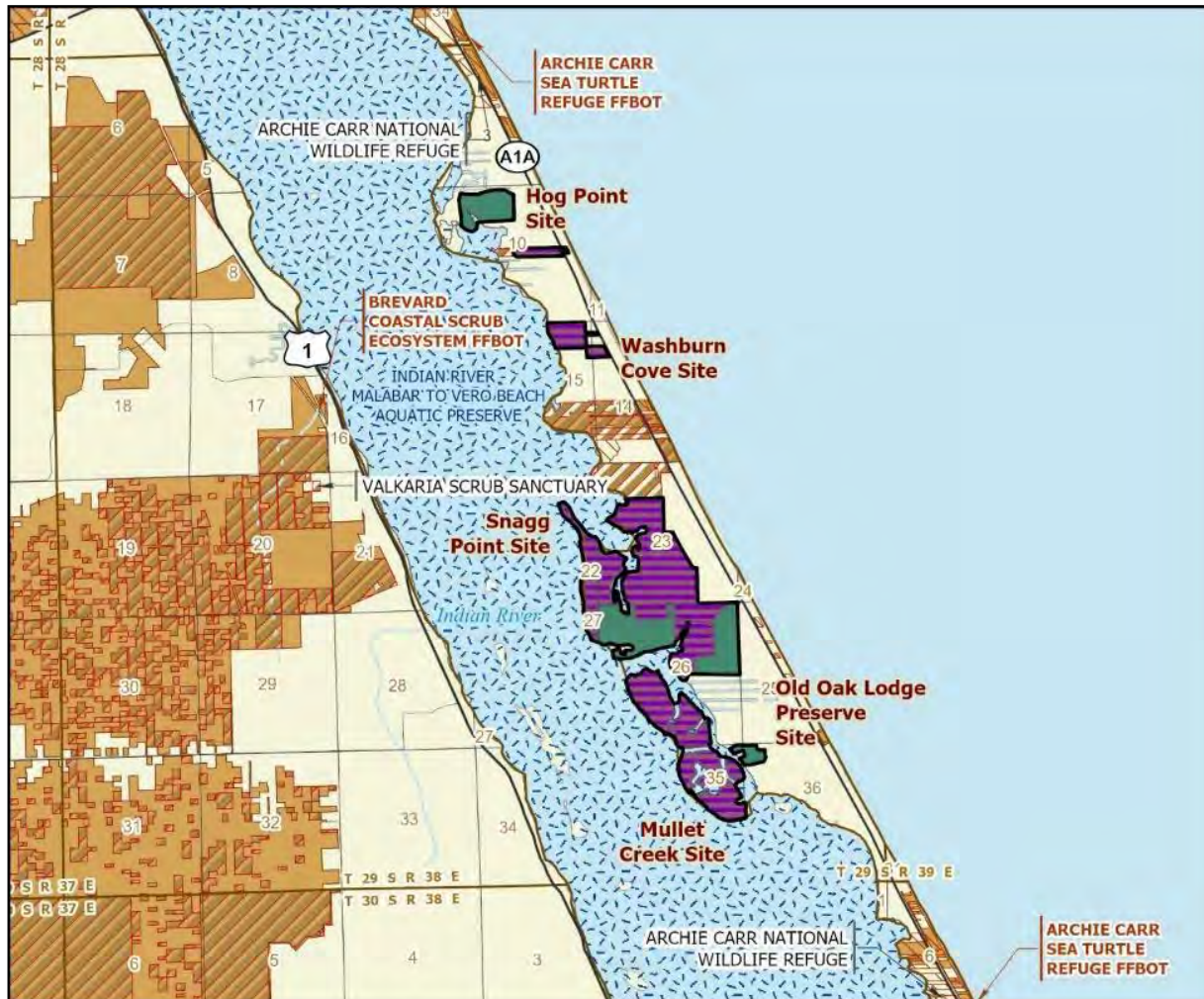
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 4

BREVARD COUNTY

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



Map 5 : FNAI, January 2021



INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 5

BREVARD COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

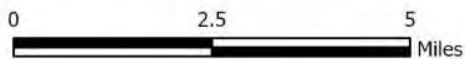
Map 6 : FNAI, January 2021



INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 6

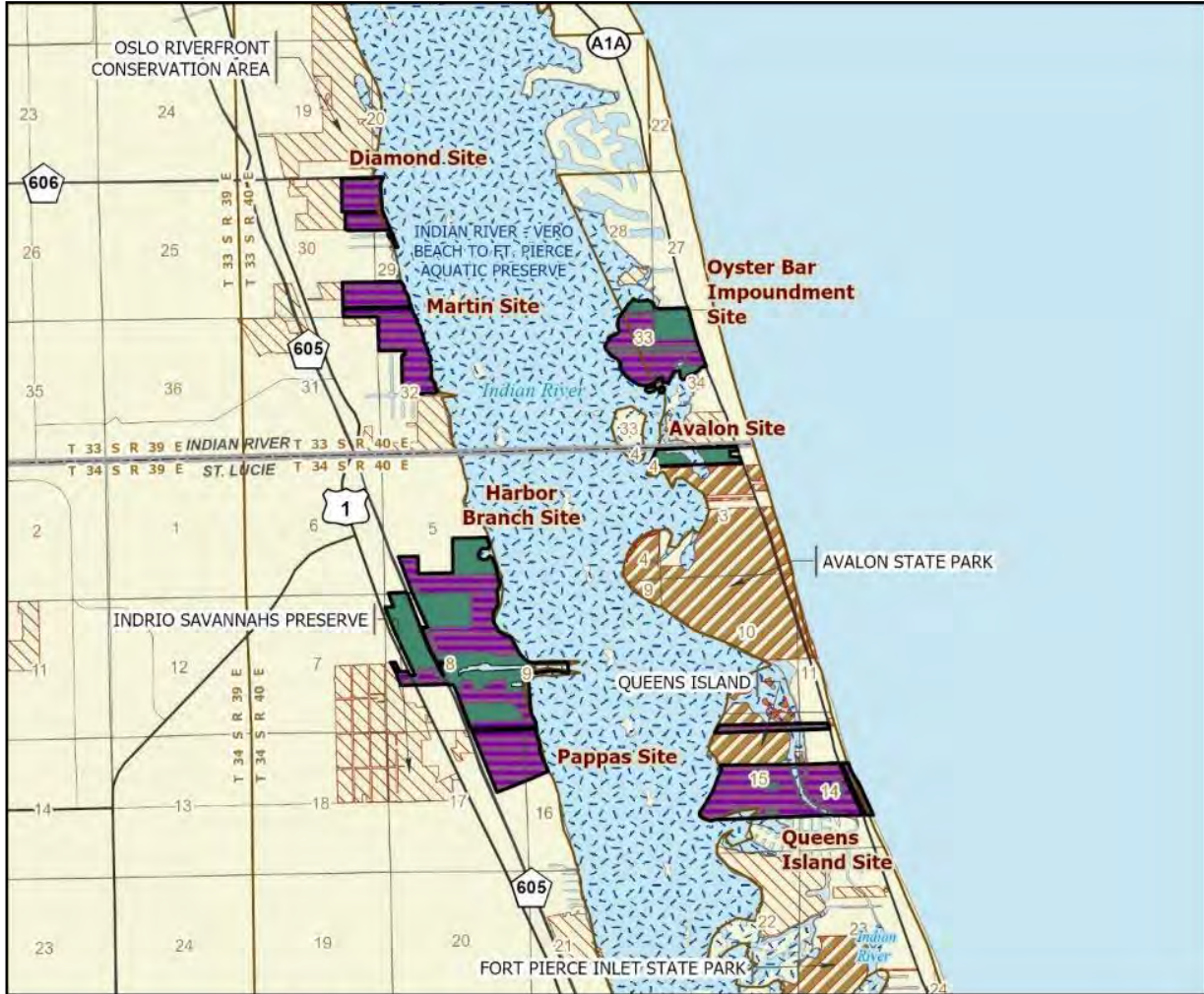
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 7 : FNAI, January 2021



INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 7

INDIAN RIVER AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

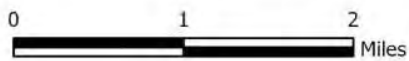
Map 8 : FNAI, January 2021



INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 8

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 9 : FNAI, January 2021



INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 9

MARTIN AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 10 : FNAI, January 2021



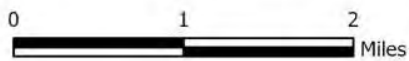
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BLUEWAY: MAP 10

MARTIN COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 11 : FNAI, January 2021



Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector

Less-Than-Fee Project
Indian River, Okeechobee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	40,795
Acquired Acres	2,865
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$11,095,000
Remaining Project Acres	37,930
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$113,607,266

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 are a large portion of the project lands. Acquiring and managing lands in this project is particularly important to the long-term welfare of the wildlife species described above, as well as also being important habitats for the red- cockaded woodpecker and wading birds. Acquiring 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(s)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the lead manager with cooperation from Florida Forest Service/FFS of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). Indian River County will monitor any conservation easement they purchase.

General Description

The 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 fragmented 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S2
<i>large-flowered rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4

12 rare species are associated with the project

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. Recreation activity might include bird watching, environmental education, hiking, horseback riding, off-road bicycling, hunting, nature study and photography.



Acquisition Planning

2001

The Kissimmee-St. Johns Connector project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list as a Group A project at the December 6, 2001 meeting of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC). 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.

2007

On December 12, 2007, and December 19, 2007, Indian River County closed on two easements on two adjacent ranches (Triple S Land Company/728 acres for \$5,096,000 and Padgett Creek LLC/857 acres for \$5,999,000). The combined purchases totaling 1,585 acres for \$11,095,000 are known as the Padgett Branch Conservation Easement.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.

2013

At the December 13, 2013, ARC meeting the project was placed on the list of Less-Than-Fee projects.

2016

On April 22, 2016, after voting to add the Lewis Friend Farm proposal to the Florida Forever list, ARC voted to increase the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project in size by adding the Lewis Friends Farms land into the boundary of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector. This 1,088-acre wedge-shaped property is in western Indian River County alongside State Road 60 and the Turnpike. It has planted longleaf pine and natural upland and wetland forest and is next to the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector less-than-fee Florida Forever project.

2020

On October 9, 2020, the ARC approved the Abington Ranch addition of 3,656-acres in Okeechobee County to the project boundary.

Coordination

TNC is partnering with the Division of State Lands on this project.



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 off-road bicycle trails, horseback riding, camping, and wildlife observation. The project encompasses nearly 57 square miles.

Manager

FWC is recommended to be the lead managing agency, with cooperation from FFS and the SJRWMD.

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 is planned. 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

During 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 found in the future with ecotourism activity, if such projects could be economically developed.

Cooperators in management activities

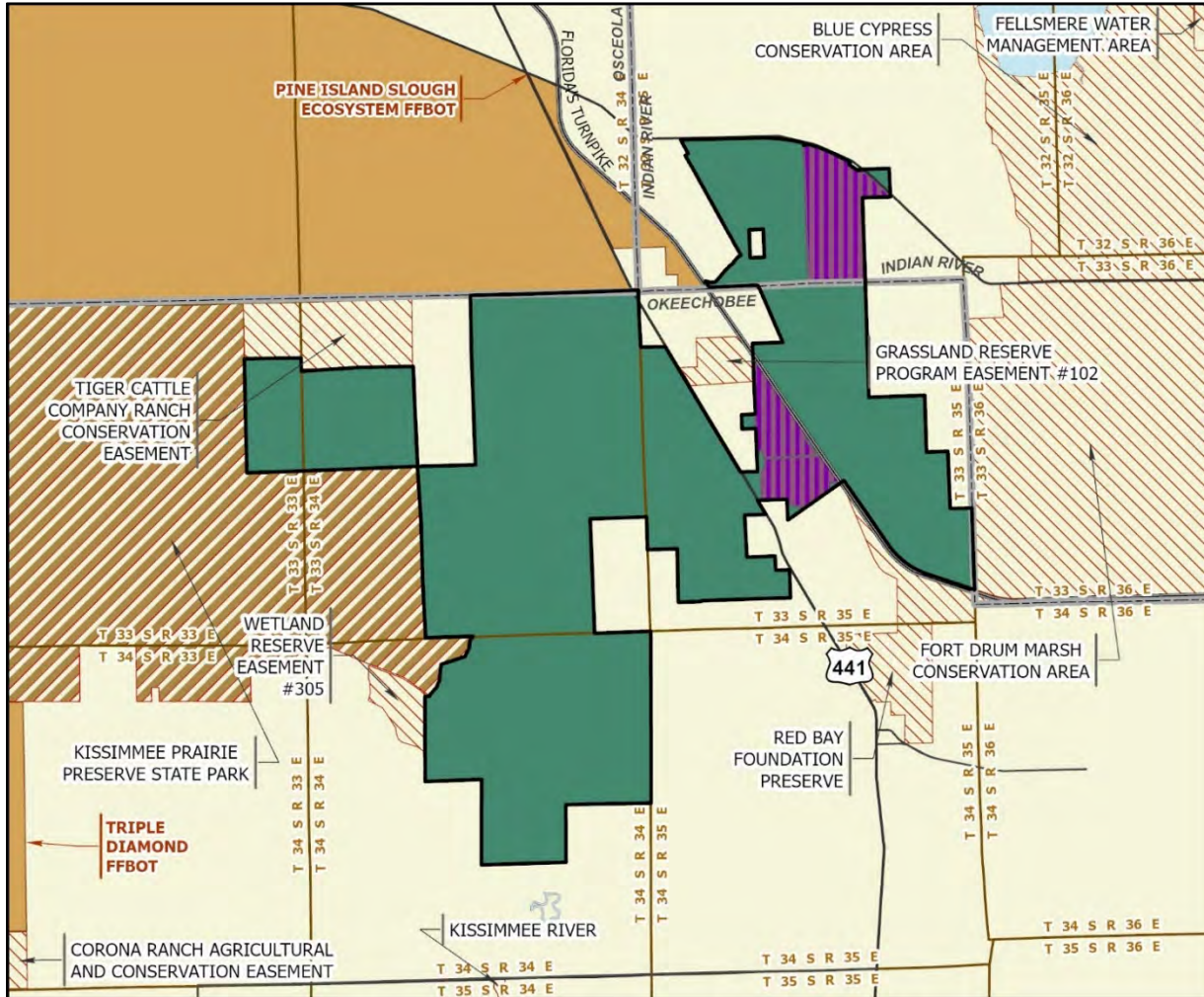
The FWC will cooperate with other state and local government agencies, including the FFS and the SJRWMD.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
<u>Resource Management</u>		
Exotic Species Control	\$23,758	\$47,516
Prescribed Burning	\$7,247	\$14,494
Hydrological Management	\$80,000	\$6,000
Other	\$88,364	\$88,364
Subtotal	\$199,369	\$156,374
<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	\$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
Subtotal	\$119,080	\$119,080
<u>Capital Improvements</u>		
New Facility Construction	\$426,766	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$60,215
Subtotal	\$426,766	\$60,251
<u>Visitor Services/Recreation</u>		
Operations	\$1,405	\$141
Subtotal	\$1,405	\$141
<u>Law</u>		
All Activities	\$8,315	\$8,315
Total	\$830,429	\$369,294

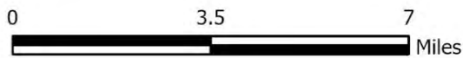
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



KISSIMMEE-ST. JOHNS RIVER CONNECTOR

INDIAN RIVER AND OKEECHOBEE COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2021

Map 120 : FNAI, January 2021



Lafayette Forest

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Lafayette

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2004
Project Acres	13,176
Acquired Acres	2,923
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,312,224
Remaining Project Acres	10,253
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$9,211,500

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(s)

The Florida Forest Service/FFS is recommended as the lead manager.



General Description

The Lafayette Forest proposal consists of approximately 13,168 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 in eastern Lafayette County on the western side of the Suwannee River and extends south to the Levy County line.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4

5 rare species are associated with the project

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 ensure 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

2004

On June 4, 2004, the Acquisition and 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 FFS, consisted of approximately 13,176 (GIS) 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.



2005

On January 25, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the Florida Forever 2005 Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) acquired 820 acres in 2007.

Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goals for managing the tract are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; integrate compatible human use; and ensure long-term viability of populations and species that are 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

Much 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 62 percent of the project area has been converted to planted pines. The tract has been managed for silviculture production for several years. The current silviculture objectives are pulpwood and chip-n-saw production, and range in age from 1 to 25 years. With thinning, introducing prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silviculture to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits.

Manager

FFS 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 silviculture operations and will require restoration. Areas where timber species are off-site may require thinning or removal to promote the re-generation of native ground covers and canopy.

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

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a State Forest and will manage activities and coordinate public access and use. Initial and intermediate management 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, its 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 so the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

Revenue-generating potential

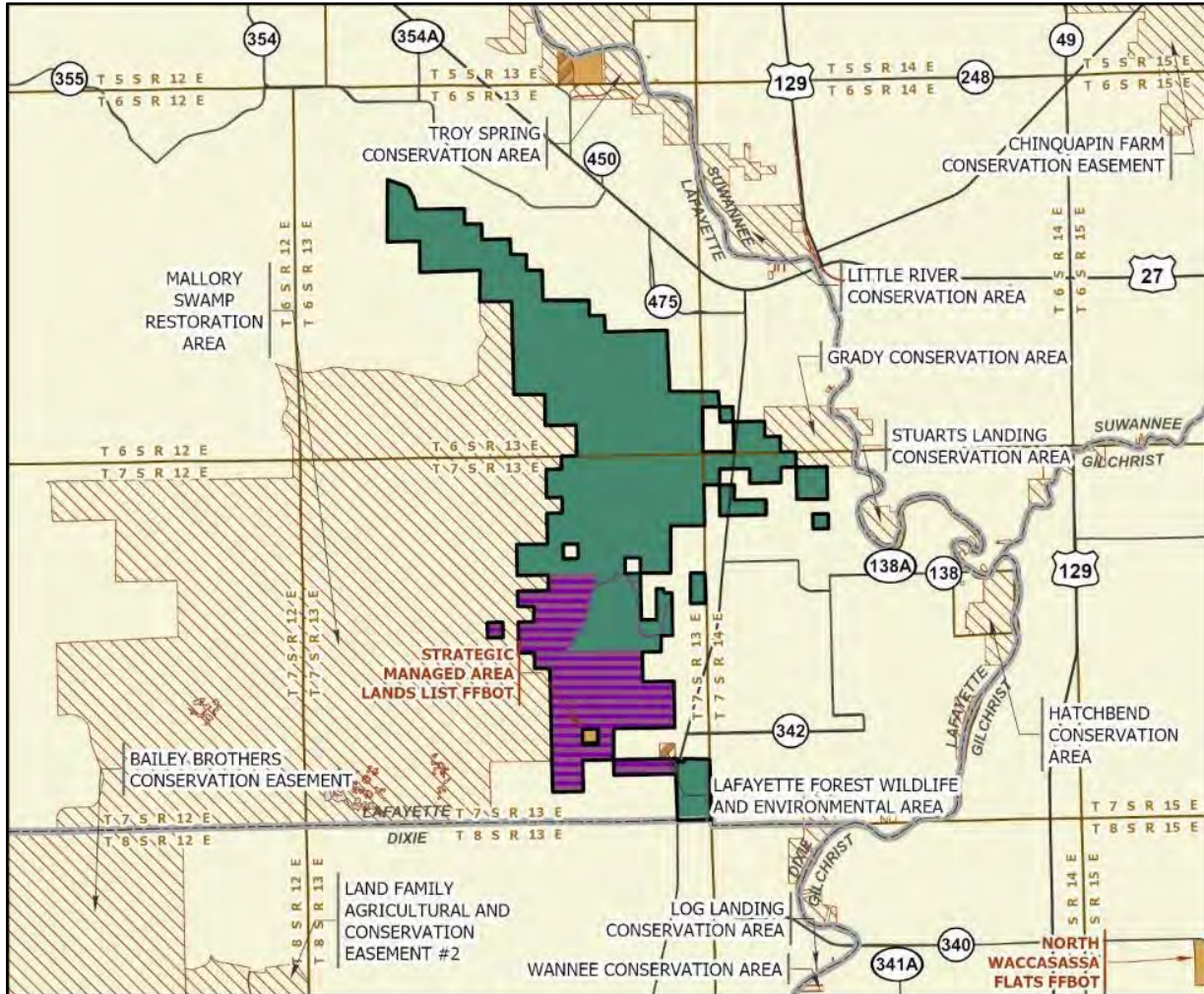
As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume 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, 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 FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (3 FTE)	\$77,035	not provided
Expense	\$123,300	not provided
OCO	\$423,725	not provided
TOTAL	\$624,060	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



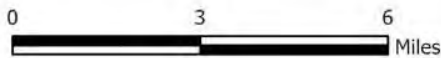
LAFAYETTE FOREST

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 121 : FNAI, January 2021



Lake Hatchineha Watershed

Critical Natural Lands Project
Osceola, Polk

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	5,473
Acquired Acres	1,881
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	3,592
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$42,066,860

Purpose for State Acquisition

This project consists of about 5,473 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’s acquisition may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide nonmotorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites. The trail is a congressionally designated national scenic trail.

Manager(s)

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

6 rare species are associated with the project

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

2002

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.

2003

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



2010

On October 15, 2010, ARC approved a 994-acre (\$158,208,631 just value) boundary reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure developments.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is considered an acquisition partner on this project. No alternative funding resources have been identified.

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 off-road bicycle trails, horseback riding, camping and wildlife observation.

Manager

FWC 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

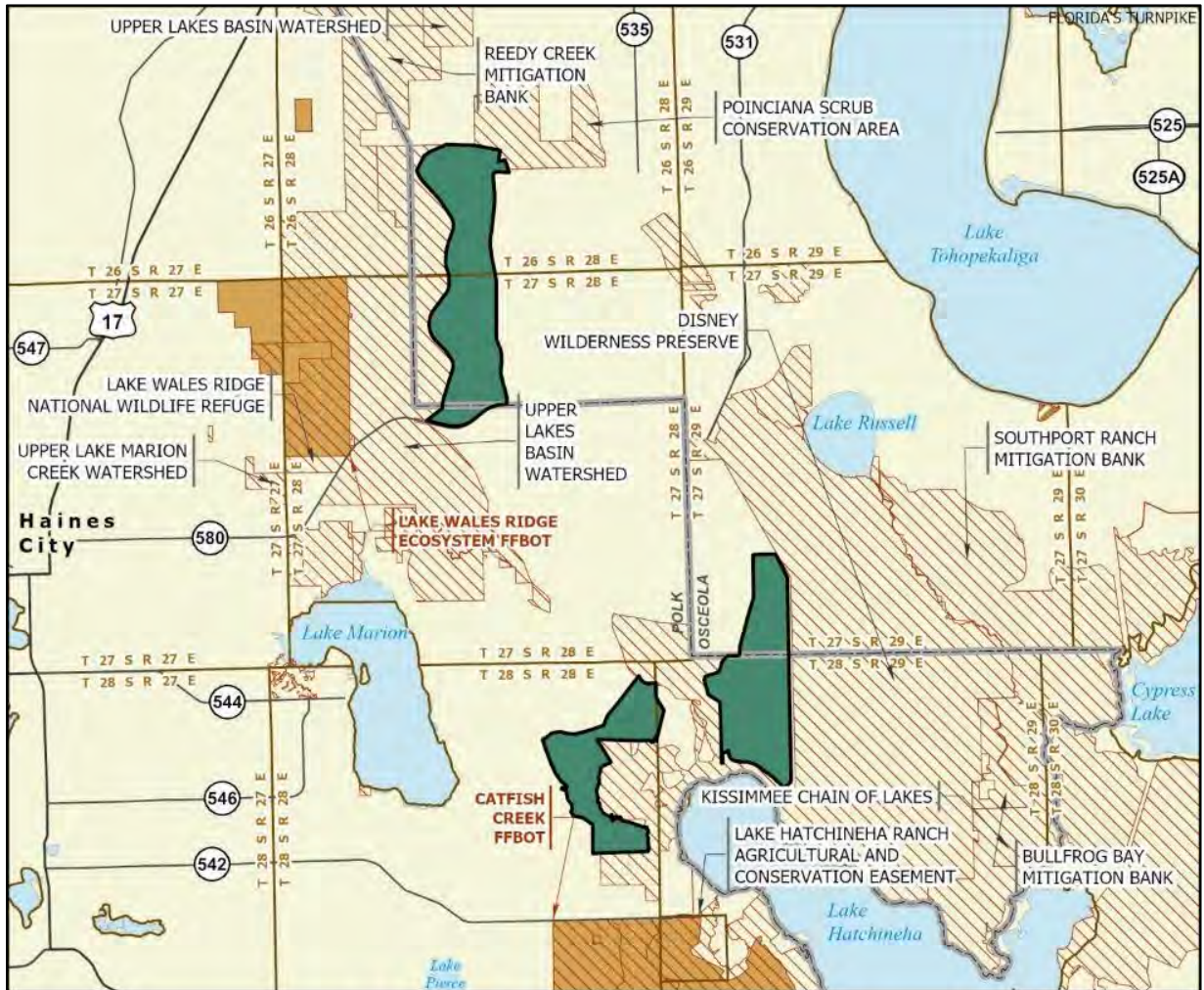
The cooperators in management activities on this project include the DEP Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and the SFWMD.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
<u>Resource Management:</u>		
Exotic Species Control	\$25,748	\$51,496
Prescribed Burning	\$3,927	\$7,854
Hydrological Management	\$40,000	\$4,475
Other	\$52,991	\$52,991
Subtotal	\$122,666	\$116,816
<u>Administration:</u>		
Central Office/Headquarters	\$57,642	\$23,151
Districts/Regions	\$24,704	\$9,922
Subtotal	\$82,345	\$33,072
<u>Support:</u>		
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
Subtotal	\$122,130	\$26,716
<u>Capital Improvements:</u>		
New Facility Construction	\$498,865	\$0
Facility Maintenance	\$0	\$47,481
Subtotal	\$498,865	\$0
<u>Visitor Services/Recreation:</u>		
Operations	\$1,625	\$178
Subtotal	\$1,625	\$178
<u>Law Enforcement</u>		
All Activities	\$4,506	\$4,506
TOTAL	\$832,137	\$228,768

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LAKE HATCHINEHA WATERSHED

OSCEOLA AND POLK COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 122 : FNAI, January 2021



Lake Santa Fe

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Alachua, Bradford

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2004
Project Acres	10,529
Acquired Acres	910
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,721,516
Remaining Project Acres	9,619
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$30,596,935

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring this project will achieve 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, 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 by maintaining water quality and preventing 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. This project will assist with the completion of the Florida National Scenic Trail, a cross-Florida hiking and non-motorized trail designated by the U.S. Congress.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) 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. County and WMD purchases will be managed by those entities.

General Description

The Lake Santa Fe project includes 14 tracts in the Lake Santa Fe vicinity with a total of 10,379 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 (SRWMD) 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 by lakefront residential development, limiting the lake edge protection and recreational opportunities.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

8 rare species are associated with the project

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. The Lake Santa Fe project is in northeastern Alachua County and southeastern Bradford County, centered on Lake Santa Fe. It is fragmented by residential development. Balu Forest (Alachua County) and Austin Cary Memorial Forest are within three miles to the west of the general project area; Camp Blanding Military Reservation is three miles to the northeast; the (Ordway-) Swisher Memorial Nature Preserve is 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.



Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lake Santa Fe project to 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 10,574 (GIS) 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the ARC removed 174.5 acres from the project at the landowner's request.

Coordination

SRWMD and Alachua County are acquisition partners. Originally the SRWMD had expressed an interest in buffering the Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals for the Lake Santa Fe project are to protect Florida's surface water quality; to protect 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.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

This project is proposed for a unified Management Prospectus. Several parcels are adjacent to, and would provide buffer for, the SRWMD's Santa Fe Swamp Conservation Area, 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, by protecting shoreline, and 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 percent, or 3,429 acres), and provides protection for surface water (67 percent, or 7,247 acres of project area) and natural floodplain function (26 percent, or 2,817 acres of project area). Part of the project area (25 percent, or 2,635 acres) recharges the Floridan aquifer. This project is also significant as an ecological greenway, with 92 percent (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.

About 70 percent of the project is upland natural plant communities. Most uplands are pine plantation (6,136 acres), while remaining cover types (570 acres) include upland mixed forest and mesic flatwoods, which together make about 570 acres. Most of the uplands are pine plantation, which is 6,136 acres of flatwoods. About 775 acres of uplands are in agricultural use, most 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 percent (677 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities. The flatwoods salamander is an imperiled animal species documented at a breeding location in the proposed project. Focal species, which are indicators of natural communities and suitable habitat conditions for other species of wildlife, occur widely in the project area. FWC reports that more than 25 percent (2,725 acres) of the project area includes at least seven focal species. Another 55 percent (5,876 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI.

The FFS and the FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Lake Santa Fe under the unified management concept that both agencies are developing. Under unified management, 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 protecting biodiversity and providing 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 converting wetlands to silviculture have contributed to the decline of this species throughout its range. 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 percent (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 selected goals listed in the Florida Forever Act, 259.105(4), Florida Statutes, as follows:

- (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; and
- (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Manager

The FFS 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. County and WMD purchases will be managed by those entities.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Most of the project is a medium-need tract that will require up-front resource management, including frequent prescribed fire where appropriate. About 60 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance due to past silviculture. Consequently, additional effort will be required to restore to a desired future condition. The FFS 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 restoring flatwoods previously managed for timber production, removing off-site species, practices that promote regeneration of native ground cover, and reforesting ruderal and recently harvested areas. As part of the unified management approach, the managing agencies will conduct an historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions and identify appropriate restoration methods and tools. This effort will help conserve habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Other unified management priorities include protecting and restoring 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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

During the first year after full acquisition, both agencies operating under the unified management approach will emphasize site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removing 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 Combined Management Plan 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 restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting 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. 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 to develop a road plan that identifies the roads to be used for access by the public, and roads that are required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be restored as practical. The road plan would ensure 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.

Revenue-generating potential

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions, under a multiple-use management concept. Additional revenue would be generated from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits, and other special hunting permits. Future revenues might be realized in the future from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects can be economically developed. Fifteen percent of all gross revenues will be returned to the county from which funds were generated.

Cooperators in management activities

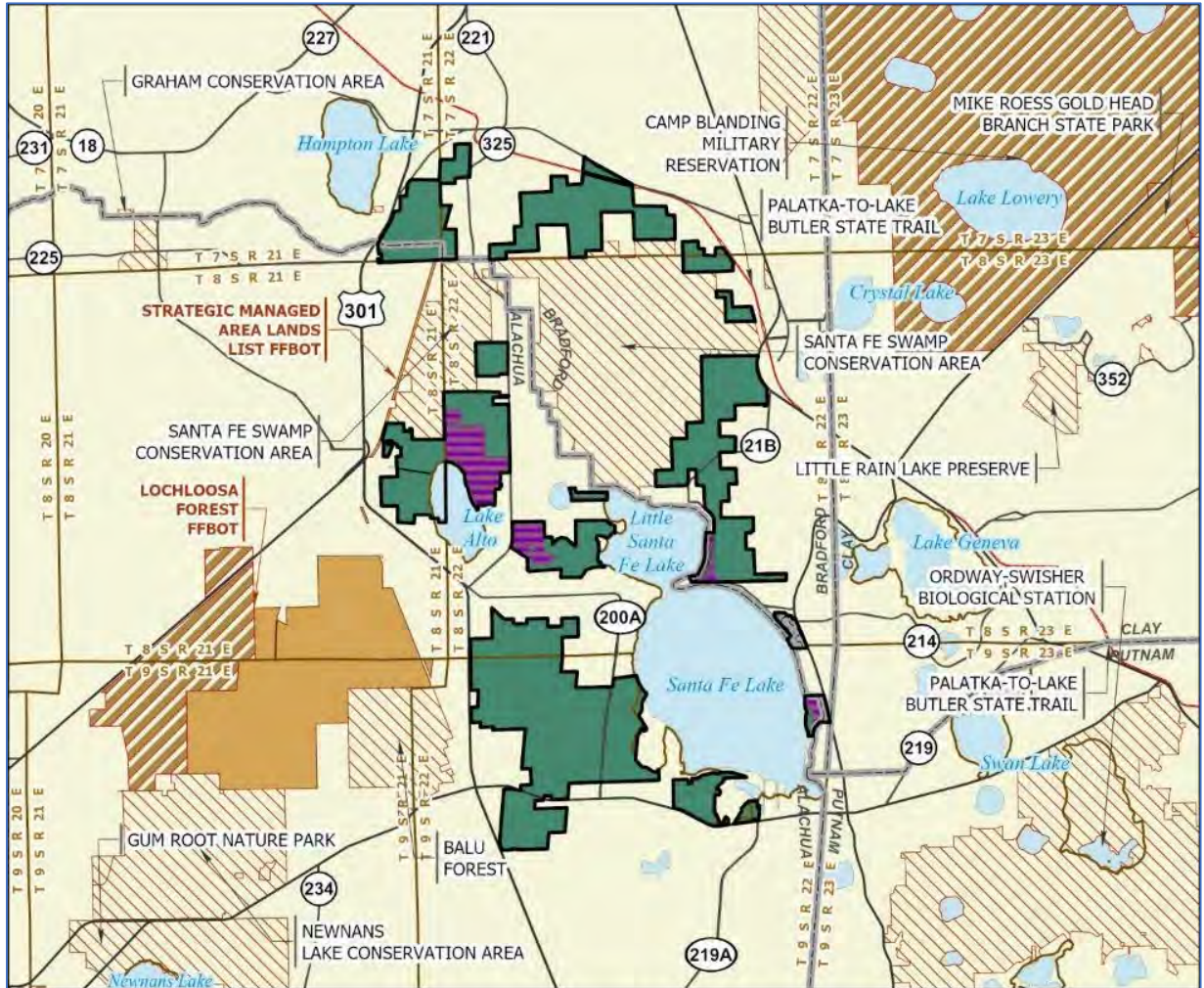
The unified managers (FFS and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Suwannee River Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS and FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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/Recreation	\$2,404	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$7,518	\$7,158
TOTAL	\$1,817,877	\$373,568

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LAKE SANTA FE

ALACHUA AND BRADFORD COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 123 : FNAI, January 2021



Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands
Project Highlands, Lake,
Osceola, Polk

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1992
Project Acres	67,167
Acquired Acres	37,600
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$94,107,965
Remaining Project Acres	29,567
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$83,620,401

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.



Manager(s)

Managers include Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Lake June West); Florida Forest Service, 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 FFS will monitor the less-than-fee portion. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor some Conservation Easements.

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 animal on the Lake Wales Ridge, many in jeopardy of extinction. Seventy-five rare elements are found in this diverse ecosystem (62 cited by FNAI), 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, and vulnerable to mismanagement and disturbance. They are also seriously threatened by conversion to citrus groves or immediate development pressure.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>clasping warea</i>	G1/S1
<i>Garrett's scrub balm</i>	G1/S1
<i>scrub ziziphus</i>	G1/S1
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Avon Park rabbit-bells</i>	G1/S1
<i>blushing scrub balm</i>	G1/S1



Carter's warea

G1/S1

110 rare species are associated with the project

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.

The Boy Scouts and Morgan less-than-fee parcels would 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 most 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 Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) 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): SFWMD 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 (SJRWMD). 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): most 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 Apthorpe (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 and less-than-fee acquisition, sponsored by 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 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 (343 acres). The SFWMD acquired 1,309 acres within the Henscratch Road/Jack Creek site for \$1,540,000.

1993

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) and Michael Rider (1 parcel), with a taxable value of

\$313,910. On September 20, 1993, the LAAC approved a 16-acre addition to the Mountain LakeCutoff 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.

1994

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 TNC with 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.

In July 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, with a taxable value of \$95,180. The landowner has holdings within the current boundary and is unwilling to sell only a part of his holdings. The Council recommended that the addition be sold or exchanged if it is not needed for resource protection or management purposes.

In November 1994, the LAAC combined the Warea Archipelago project (1,021 acres/taxable value \$4,552,797/Lake and 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 with a taxable value of \$2,201,330. The breakdown follows: 400 acres to the Silver Lake site, 76 acres to the Gould Road site, and the 1,860-acre McJunkin Ranch was added.

1995

On July 14, 1995, the LAAC approved an 850-acre (sponsored by TNC; taxable value of



\$2,035,980 addition in Highlands County to the project boundary, 70 acres to the Holmes Avenue site and 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 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.

1996

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 Polk Co. ownerships, total 2,407 acres and a taxable value of \$2,407,000.

1997

On December 7, 1997, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) approved a 3,724-acre deletion (sponsored by TNC) to the project boundary. The deletion affected 10 sites, with a taxable value of \$5,036,700. The breakdown of the deletions 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 McJunkin Ranch (1,110 acres).

1998

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC approved a 580-acre addition to the project boundary, sponsored by TNC. It totaled 1,414 parcels (1,132 landowners) with 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 and Highlands counties 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.

2001

July 12, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 2,512-acre addition (Royce Ranch next to Lake Apthorpe site) to the project boundary, sponsored by the FWC, it consisted of one landowner owner, Raymond Royce, with a taxable value of \$1,230,591. The FWC will manage the addition.

2002

On November 11, 2002, 1.25 acres were bought in Carter Creek (Benvenuti--\$3,800) to be managed by FWC.

On October 17, 2003, the ARC approved a less-than-fee 2,330-acre addition (Henscratch Ranch-Highlands Co.--taxable value of \$352,419) to the project boundary. Sponsored by a representative for the landowner, Highlands Farms, Inc. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) will monitor the easement.

2004

On August 20, 2004, the ARC approved a less-than-fee, 520-acre addition (Lake Josephine--Highlands Co.-- taxable value of \$17,063) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by representatives of the landowner, E. P. Jones Jr. The OES will monitor the easement.

2006

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple and less-than-fee, 11,444-acre addition (Crooked Lake West) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Polk County, FWC, and the SFWMD. The addition, in Polk County, consisted of 1,430 parcels; 1,120 landowners; a taxable value of \$6,612,464. The parcels have been designated as essential.

2008

In June 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 was 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--all in the Carter Creek area

FWC will manage.

In October 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).

On 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 2008, the following acreages (ownerships) were purchased with DSL FF funds:

1.3 acres (Roselle) for \$11,500;

1. 1.3 acres (Stockard) for \$11,500;
2. 1.4 acres (Barbuto) for \$11,500;
3. 1.3 acres (Schaffner) for \$11,500; and
4. 1.1 acres (Smith) for \$11,500.

Again, FWC will manage these sites.

2009

From December 2008 through May 2009, 46 acres were purchased for \$445,161.

In January 2009, SWFWMD and Polk Co. acquired 3510 acres (Crooked Lake West site) for \$5,369,950 from SWFWMD; \$2,000,000 from Polk Co.; and \$12,239,500 from NRCS. In June 2009, 5 acres were purchased in Carter Creek site for \$46,000.

In July 2009, another acre was received as a donation from C.L./Vera Stegmaier in Lake Apthorpe. In October 2009, a little over 2 acres were purchased for \$24,000 in Carter Creeksite. All of these are to be managed by FWC.



On December 29, 2009, 1.1 acres were purchased by DSL for \$11,500. FWC will manage this.

2011

On March 29, 2011, 1/2 acre on Holmes Ave. was donated (Dorothy A. Sanders Revocable Trust--\$2,000), FWC managing.

On April 5, 2011, 16.21 acres were purchased (TNC/Lawson--\$97,000). FFS will manage this.

On April 15, 2011, ARC recommended a 2,071-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/rural/commercial development.

On July 20, 2011, DSL purchased 1.87 acres on Holmes Avenue for \$8,422.

In August 2011, DSL bought 13.53 acres on Holmes Avenue via tax deed sales for \$40,429. On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands (CNL) category. *2017*

In calendar year 2017, 21.49 acres in this project were acquired with Florida Forever program funding.

2020

On June 12, 2020, the ARC approved the Hendrie Ranch addition of 7,229-acres in Highlands County to the project boundary.

On October 9, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 79.63-acres in Polk County to the project boundary.

On October 9, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 221-acres in Highlands County to the project boundary.

On October 9, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 354-acres in Highlands County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The Lake Wales Ridge sites are included within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge which is the top priority endangered species project of the Service. The Service will also participate in management. TNC is an intermediary for non-mega parcel sites on this project.



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 (WEA) 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. The small parcels sites of the Lake Wales Ridge project qualify as single-use WEA 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

DRP (Lake June West); FFS (Lake Walk-in-Water, Hesperides and five Warea sites) and FWC (remaining sites). FFS will monitor the less-than-fee portion.

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 near 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 TNC serve as cooperators in managing some of the sites.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	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

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS (Warea)	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

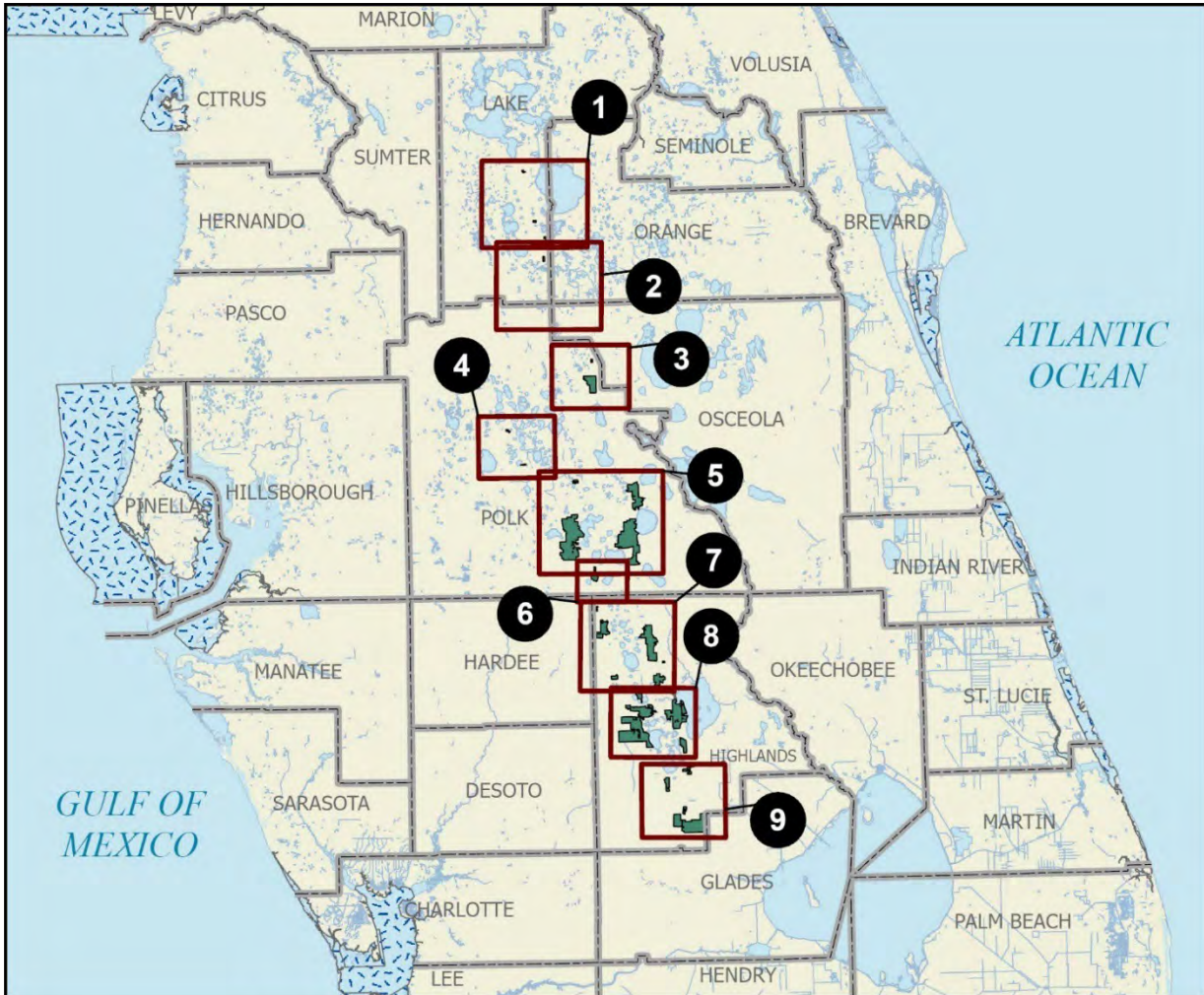
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary



FFS (Hesperides)	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
TOTAL	\$195,140	\$90,440

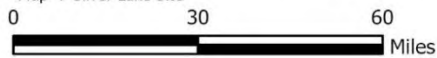
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

HIGHLANDS, LAKE, OSCEOLA, AND POLK COUNTIES

- Map 1 Castle Hill Site
- Map 1 Flat Lake Site
- Map 1 Sugarloaf Mountain Site
- Map 2 Lake Davenport Site
- Map 2 Schofield Sandhill Site
- Map 3 Horse Creek Scrub Site
- Map 3 Ridge Scrub Site
- Map 4 Lake Blue Site
- Map 4 Lake McLeod Site
- Map 5 Crooked Lake West Site
- Map 5 Hesperides Site
- Map 5 Lake Walk-in-the-Water Site
- Map 5 Mountain Lake Cutoff Site
- Map 6 Sunray/Hickory Lake South Site
- Map 6 Trout Lake Site
- Map 7 Avon Park Lakes Site
- Map 7 Silver Lake Site
- Map 7 Carter Creek Site
- Map 7 Flamingo Villas Site
- Map 7 Miller Tract Site
- Map 8 Henscratch Ranch Site
- Map 8 Henscratch Road/Jack Creek Site
- Map 8 Highlands Ridge Site
- Map 8 Holmes Avenue Site
- Map 8 Lake Apthorpe Site
- Map 8 Lake Josephine Site
- Map 8 Lake June West Site
- Map 8 Larson Ranch Site
- Map 8 Royce Ranch Addition Site
- Map 9 Gould Road Site
- Map 9 Hendrie Ranch Site
- Map 9 McJunkin Ranch Site
- Map 9 Sun N Lakes South Site



JANUARY 2021

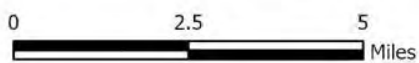
Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



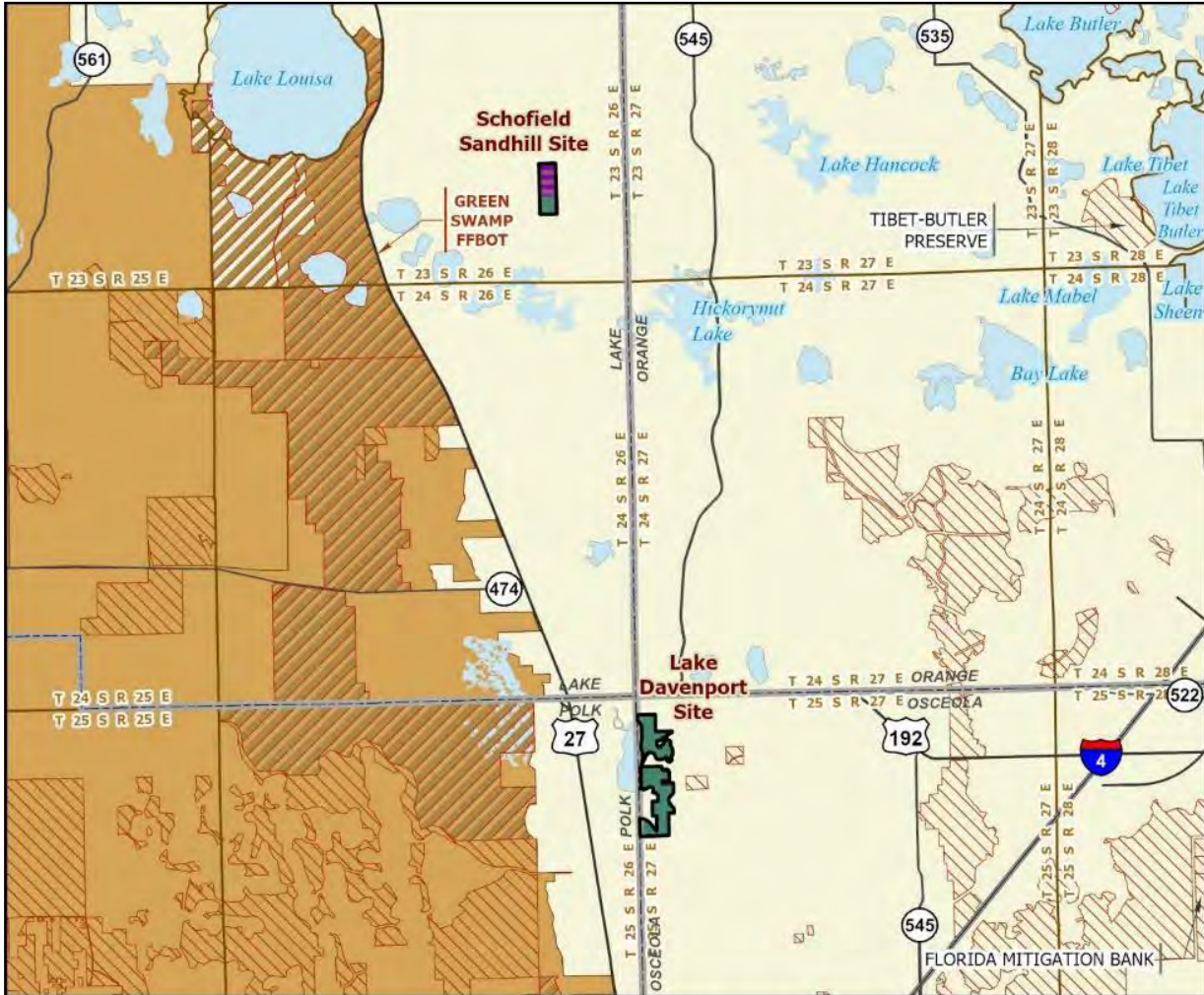
LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

LAKE COUNTY

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



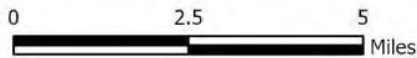
JANUARY 2020



LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

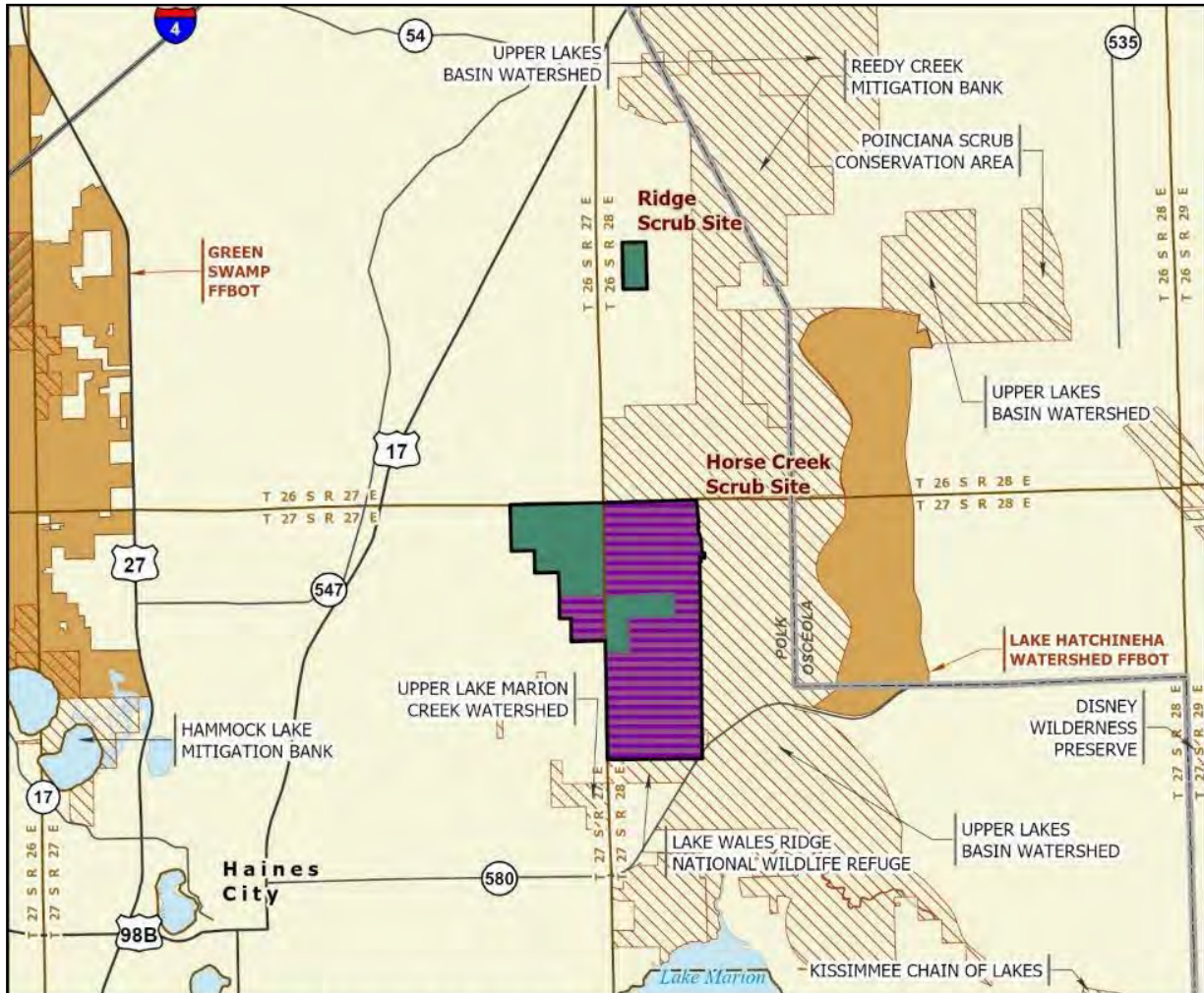
LAKE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 3 : FNAI, January 2021



LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

POLK COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 4 : FNAI, January 2021



LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

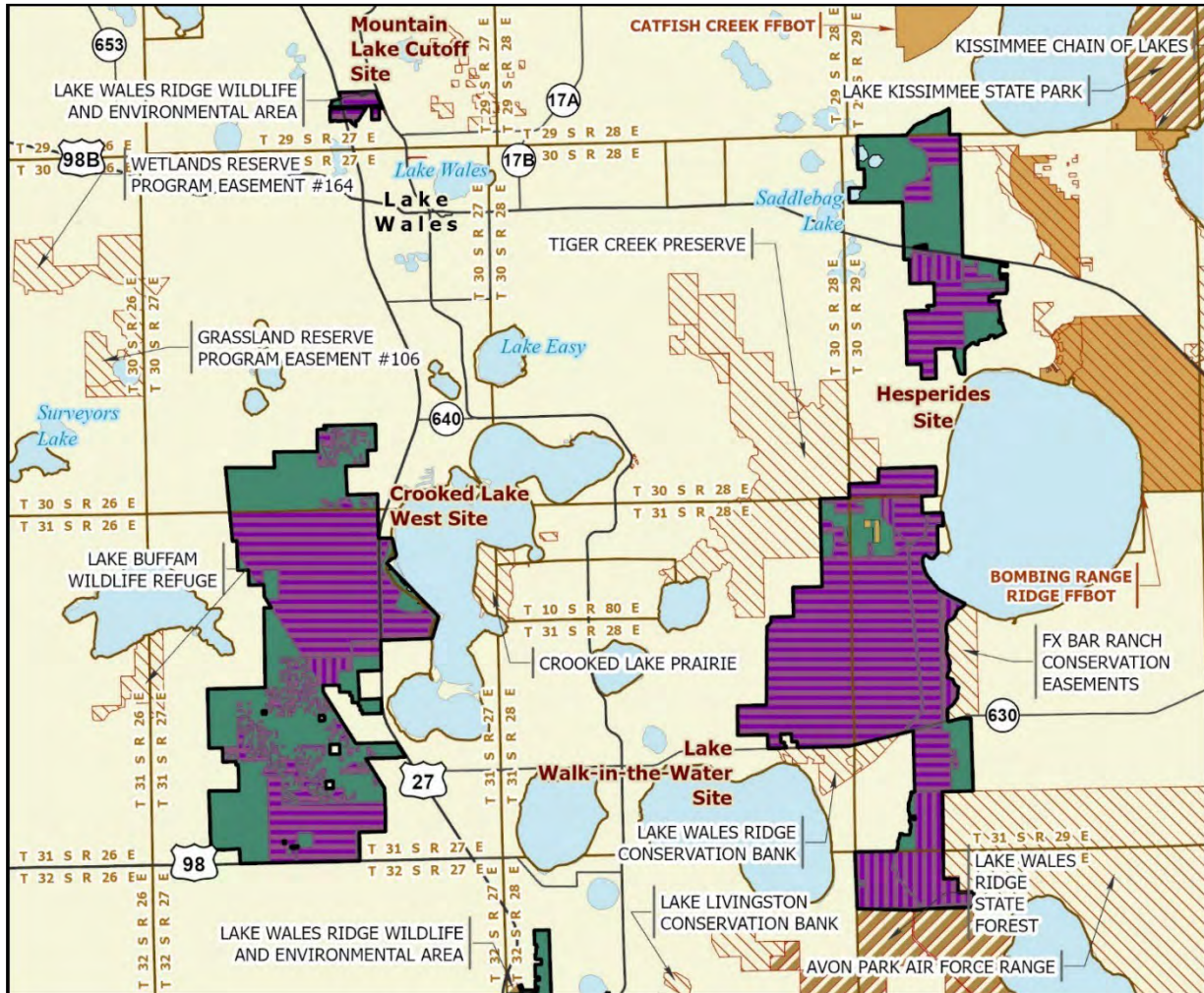
POLK COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 5 : FNAI, January 2021

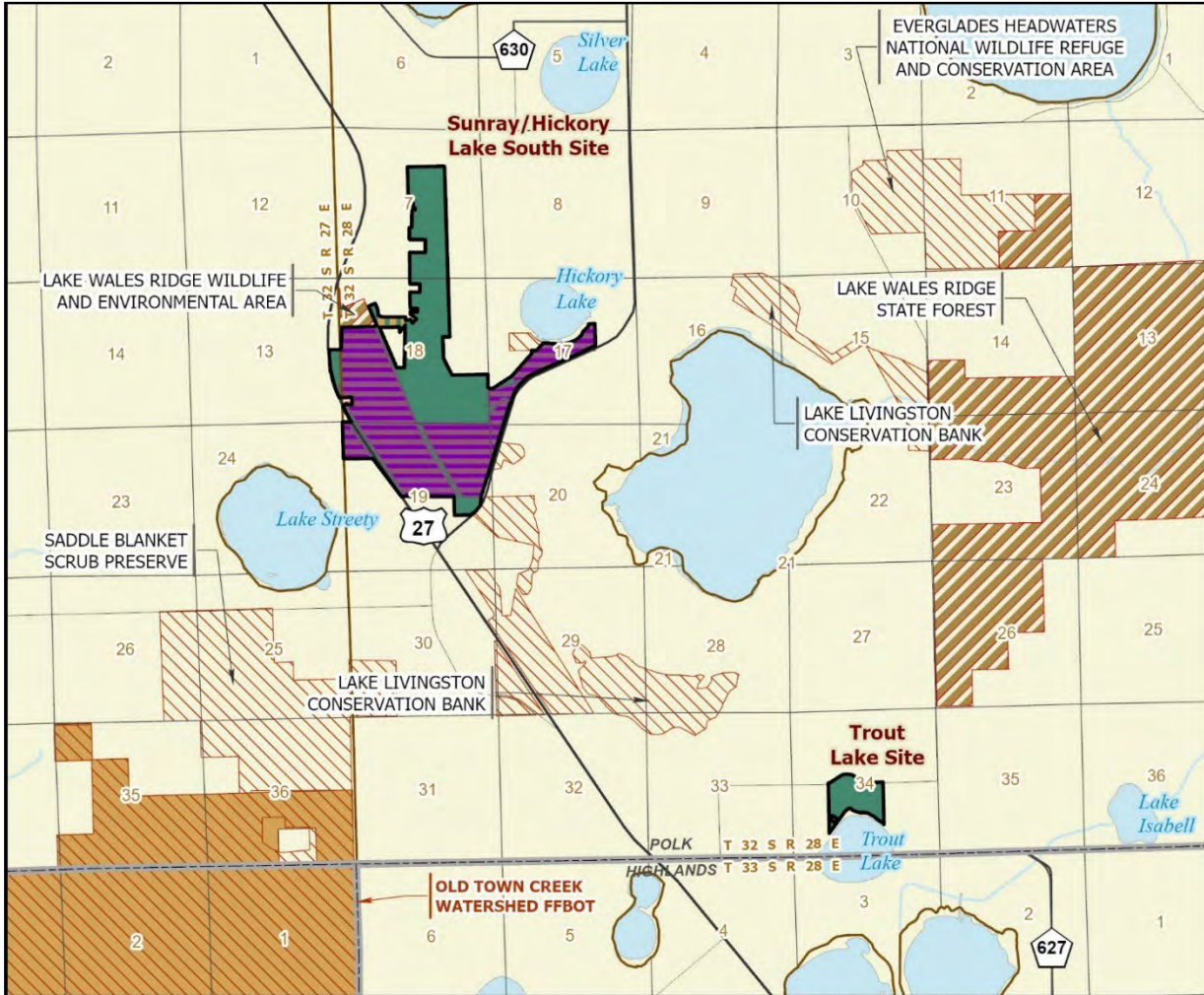


LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

POLK COUNTY

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

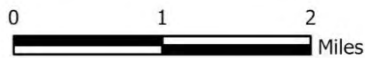




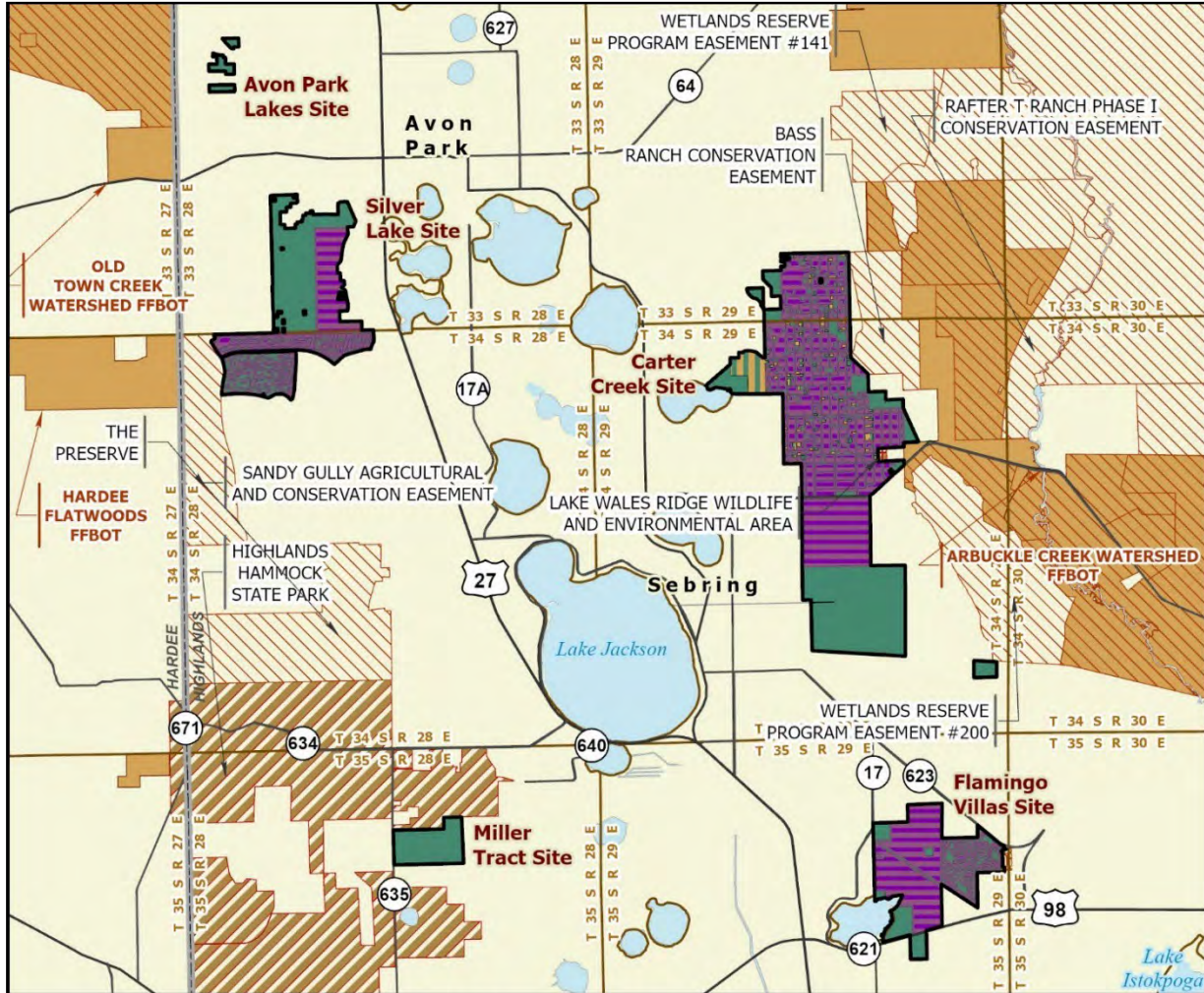
LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 6

POLK COUNTY

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



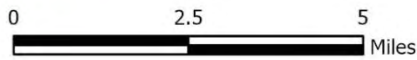
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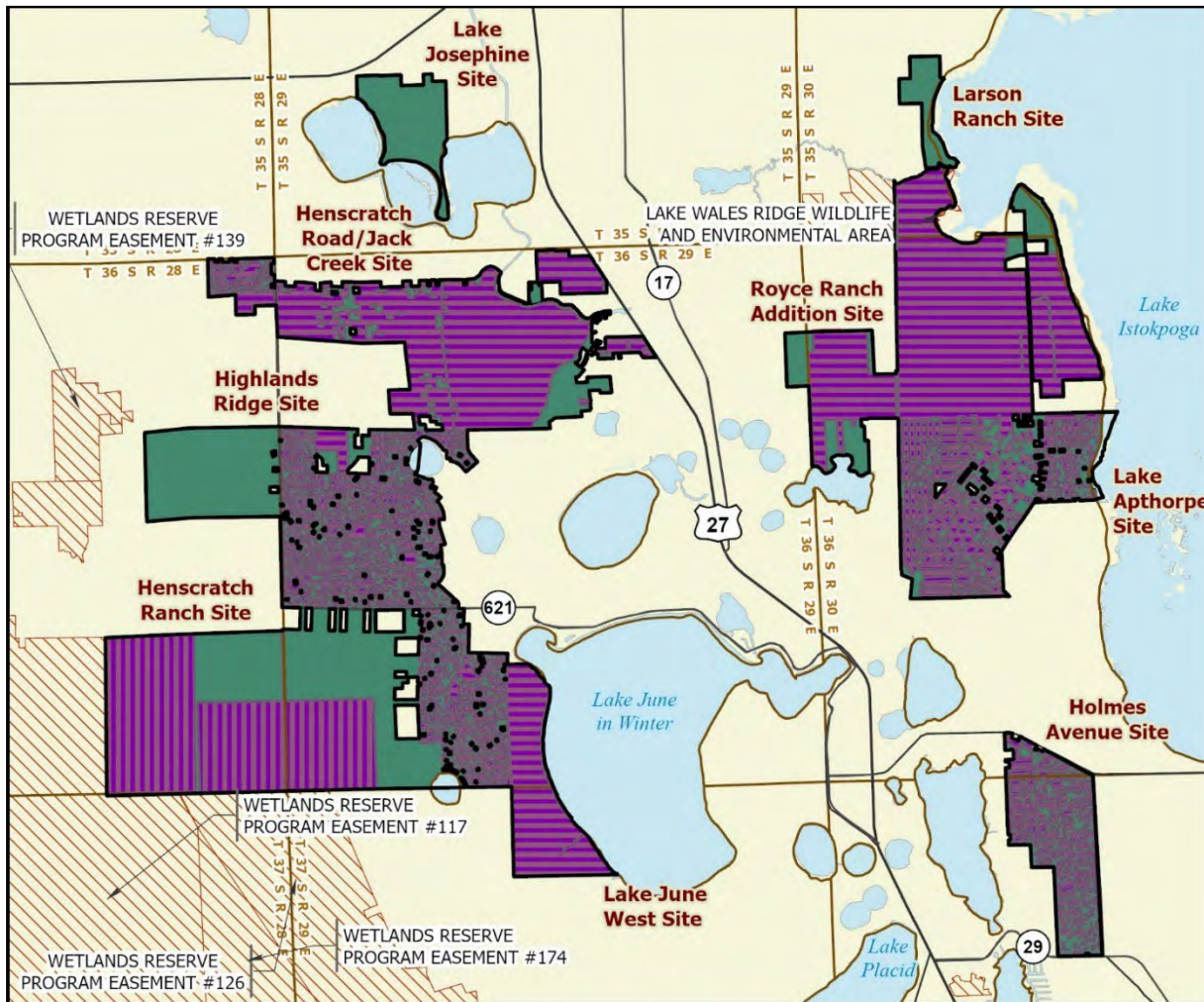
LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 7

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

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



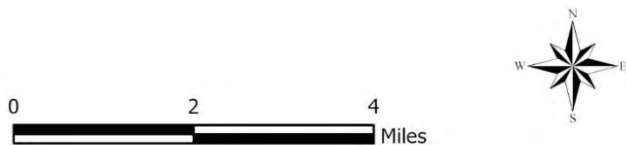
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LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 8

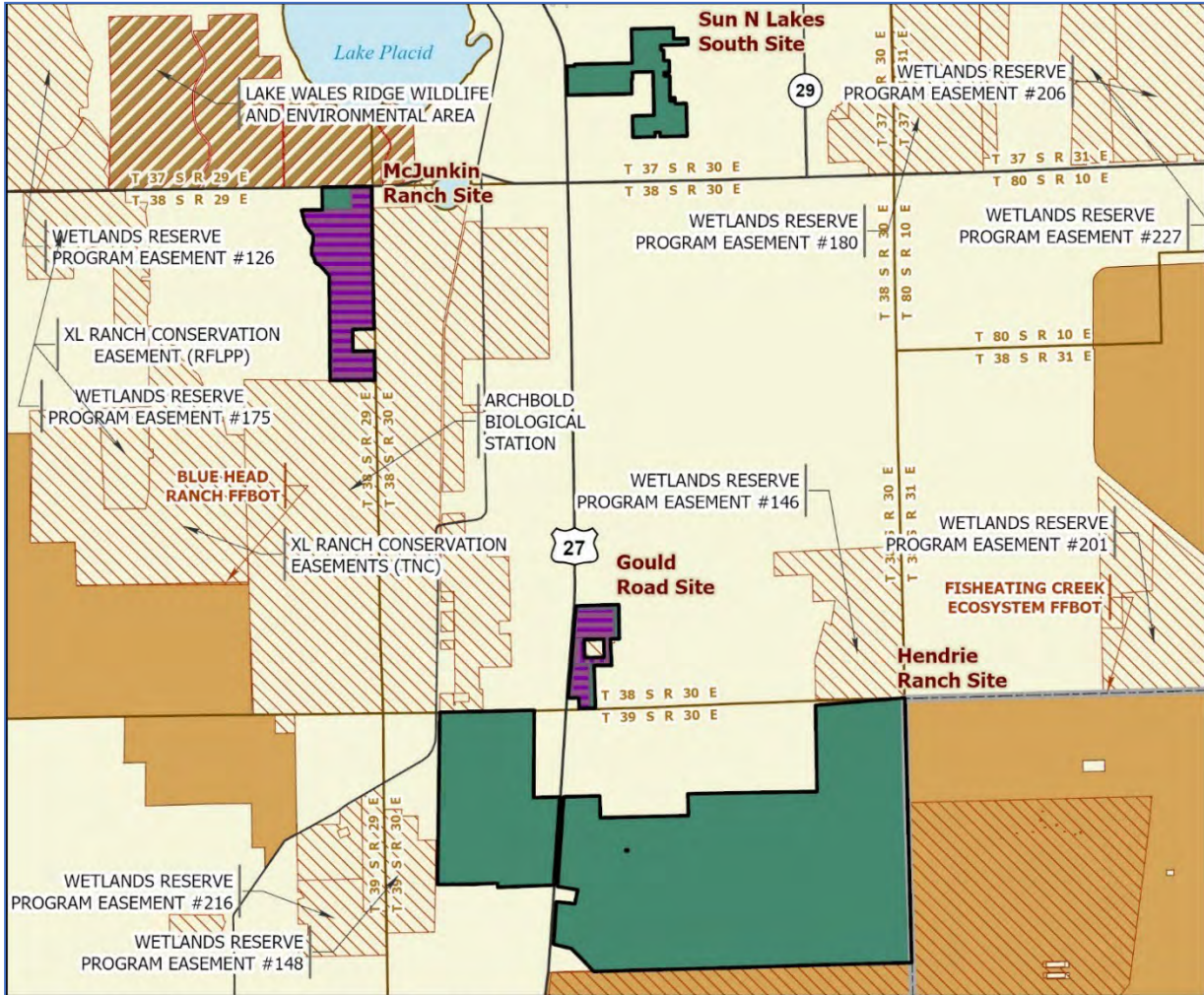
HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2021

Map 9 : FNAI, January 2021



LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 9

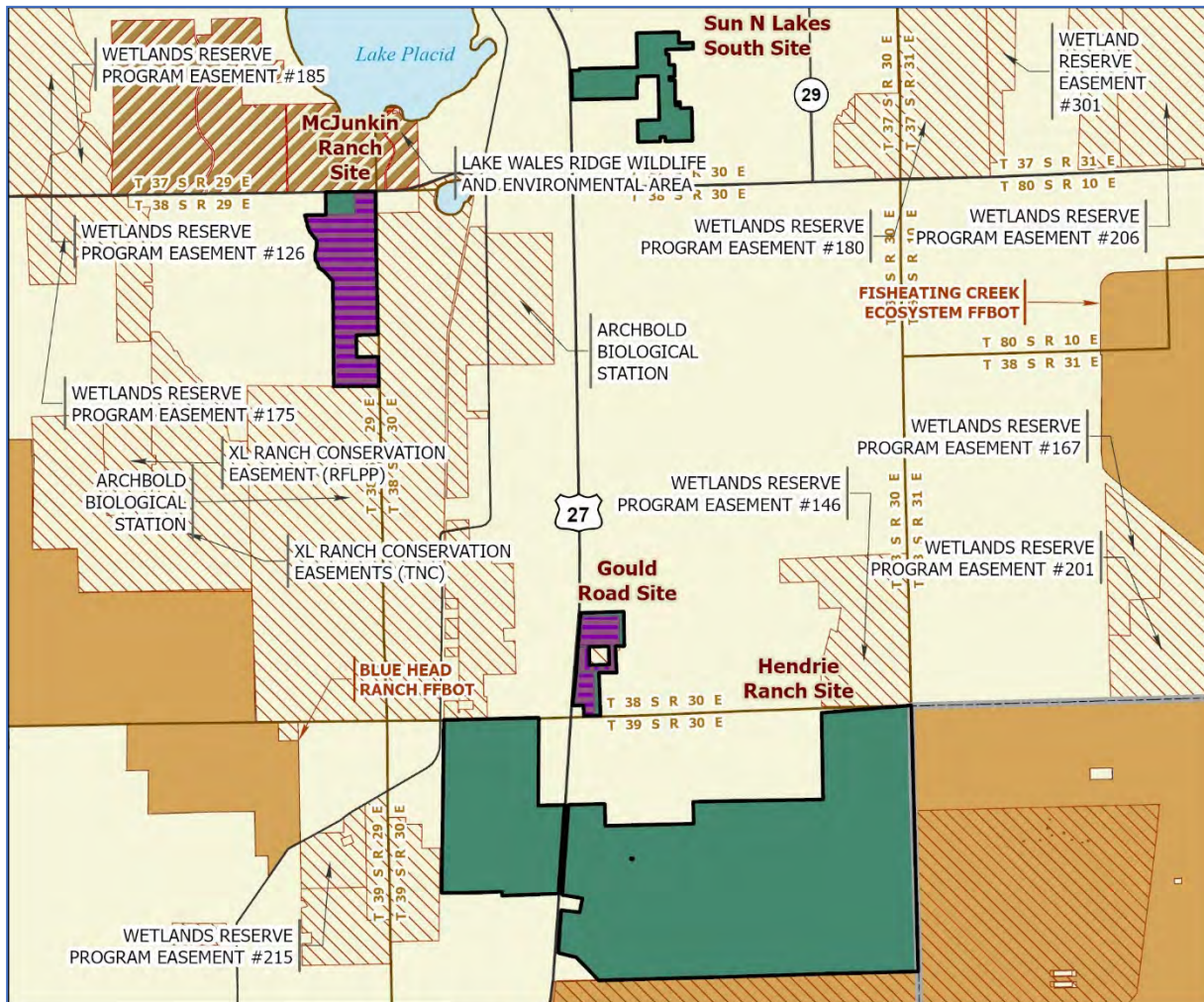
HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2021

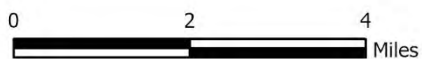
Map 10 : FNAI, January 2021



LAKE WALES RIDGE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 10

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JULY 2020



Limestone Ranch

Less-Than-Fee Project

Hardee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2012
Project Acres	6,382
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	6,382
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$19,397,980

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of the Limestone Ranch conservation easement will provide a buffer for Limestone Creek (a tributary of the Peace River with high water quality), provide habitat protection and enhancement of numerous rare species and imperiled natural communities, and afford additional resource protection for the Peace River waters and riverine wetlands within the boundaries of the Peace River State Forest, and the Horse Ranch, Horse Creek Ranch and Peace River Refuge Florida Forever projects, the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary, and the Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

This project meets Florida Forever goals of protecting Florida’s biodiversity by preserving 1,500 acres of Strategic Habitat Conservation Area, preserving acreage for such species as the swallow-tail kite and the Cooper’s Hawk, the Eastern indigo snake and the Florida sandhill crane. The uplands buffering the Peace River also help protect manatees in the river. This project also meets Florida Forever goal of preserving linked landscapes by connecting with the Horse Creek Ranch, Peace River Refuge and the Peaceful Horse Ranch. The project advances the Florida Forever goal of protecting, restoring and maintaining water and wetlands by protecting 762 acres of floodplain. The entire project provides for aquifer recharge. Finally, about 4,219 acres of the project are suitable for sustainable forest management.



Manager(s)

The property would continue to be managed by the current owner, with periodic management oversight by the Division of State Lands' Office of Environmental Services to confirm compliance with agreed- upon easement conditions.

General Description

Limestone Ranch is about 6,382 acres. Most of the project is just west of the Peace River, with the southeast corner straddling a half mile section of the river. The property is bisected by Limestone Creek which flows eastward into the Peace River. The proposed project is adjacent to the northeastern corner of the Horse Creek Ranch Florida Forever Board of Trustees (BOT) project approved in 2010. Morgan Park (De Soto County) and the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever BOT project are approximately seven miles south of Limestone Ranch. The surrounding area is largely cattle pasture and citrus groves with remnant flatwoods adjacent to the mostly natural forested wetland corridor along the Peace River.

County Road 663 runs through the western portion of the property. Access to the property is east from the community of Limestone off CR 663.

Limestone Ranch is a mosaic of flatwoods, forested wetlands and pastures. Major natural communities include mesic and scrubby flatwoods, bottomland forest, and widely scattered depression marshes. The natural communities cover approximately 3,774 acres of the tract and appear to be in good to very good condition. The canopy cover varies widely, with many areas nearly treeless to a more normal multi-aged stand of the dominant longleaf pine. Many mature pine trees were lost during Hurricane Charlie (2005), however, sparse pine regeneration was observed even in nearly treeless areas. Recent prescribed fire was evident during the site visit as many pines had scorched trunks. The land is home to two under- represented natural community types -- 1,919 acres of pine flatwoods, and 42 acres of scrubby flatwoods. Approximately 1,500 acres of the site are identified as a strategic habitat conservation area.

The disturbed or worked portion of the land comprises improved pastures and agricultural fields. For the ranch's cow-calf operation, cattle-grazing is the primary use of the improved pasture. There is a 92-acre citrus grove out-parcel in the southeast section of the property, at the end of Jim Williams Road.

Invasive exotic plants are relatively infrequent on the property. The western boundary is adjacent to the Horse Creek Ranch Florida Forever project.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The owner intends to sell the land as a conservation easement and continue managing it for ranching and sod farming. There would be no general public access, nor would the easement be open for recreational uses. However, the owner has hosted FWC-coordinated youth hunts annually on the property and expressed interest in continuing to offer that periodic recreational opportunity.

Acquisition Planning

2012

The Limestone Ranch project in Hardee County was submitted as a conservation easement by the landowner, Mr. David M. Durando. On June 15, 2012, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the Florida Forever Priority List as a Less-than-Fee project. In 2012, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$18,830,416.

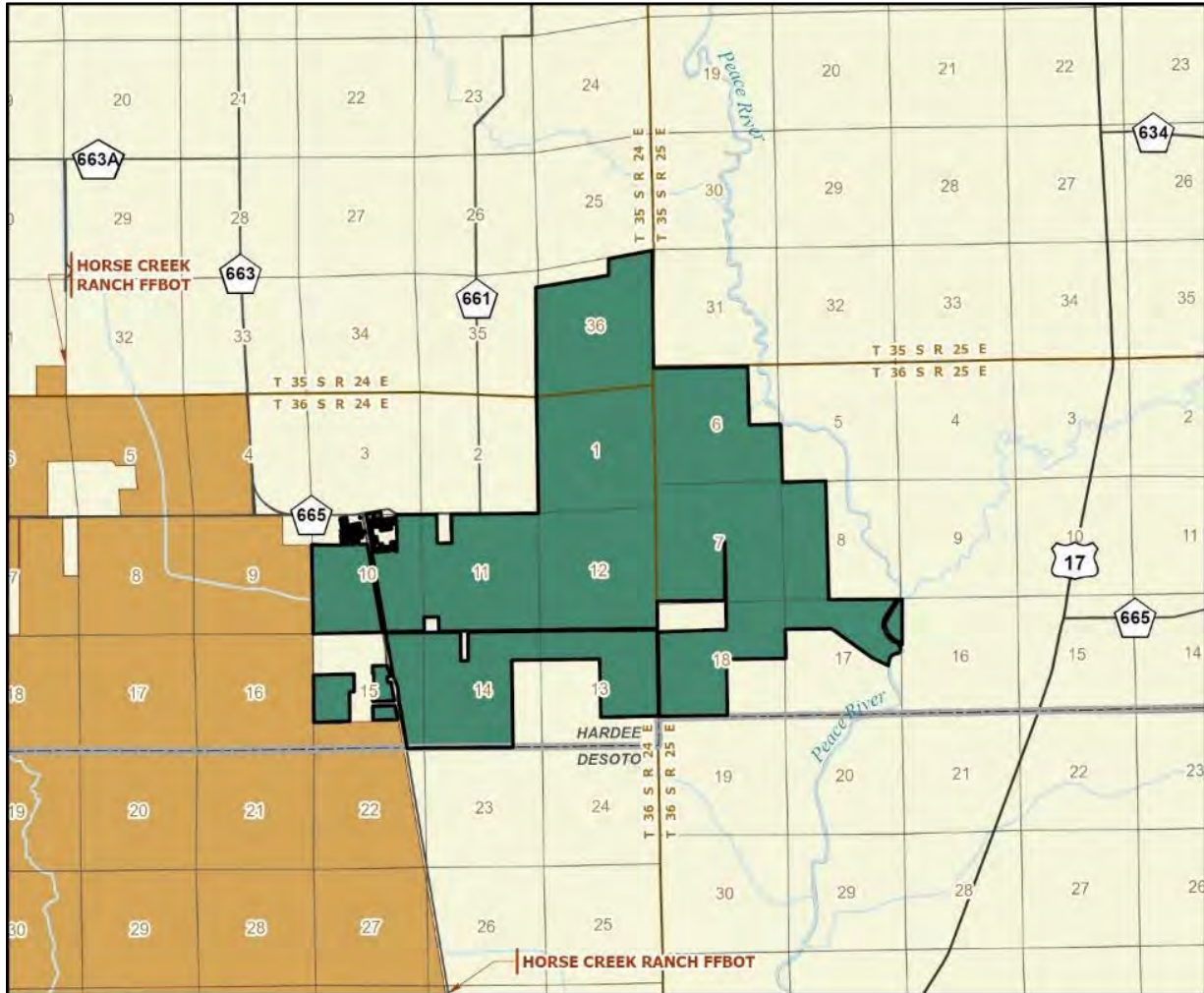
This is one ownership, and the owner is anticipating selling it in one transaction. Though adjacent to Horse Creek Ranch, the Acquisition and Restoration Council wanted this to be a stand-alone project.

Coordination

In 2012, no acquisition partners were identified. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) reviewed the project and responded that the SWFWMD would not be an appropriate partner for acquisition of this property.




Management Policy Statement

Acquiring Limestone Ranch in less-than-fee will help protect Limestone Creek and the Peace River as well as Charlotte Harbor, which receives most of its fresh water from the Peace River. The project will be managed by the private landowner in compliance with agreed-upon conditions, and will be periodically monitored by the state, The conservation easement will likely focus on purchasing the development rights, and on prohibiting conversion of existing natural area to more intensive uses.



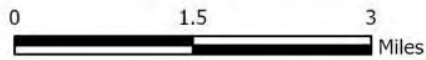
LIMESTONE RANCH

HARDEE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 124 : FNAI, January 2021



Little River Conservation Area

Less-Than-Fee Project

Gadsden

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2004
Project Acres	2,085
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	2,085
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$5,689,604

Purpose for State Acquisition

Purchase of a less-than-fee-simple interest in the Little River Conservation Area would 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 provide support for the owner’s ongoing efforts to restore the property to a natural longleaf pine community. This would fulfill 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, acquiring a conservation easement would also enhance coordinating and completing other land acquisition projects.

Manager(s)

The Office of Environmental Services (OES) is designated to monitor the easement.



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 of the total area. The original upland natural community was probably either upland pine forest, or sandhill, or the site are in pine plantation, approximately 63 percent at the south end of the property. Most of the uplands on 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>pyramid magnolia</i>	G4/S3
<i>mountain laurel</i>	G5/S3

3 rare species are associated with the project

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

2004

The project has 2,057 (GIS) 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 Appraiser's office lists the tax assessed value of the entire project as \$355,820 in 2004. The easement would be a single purchase.



2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

There are no acquisition partnerships.

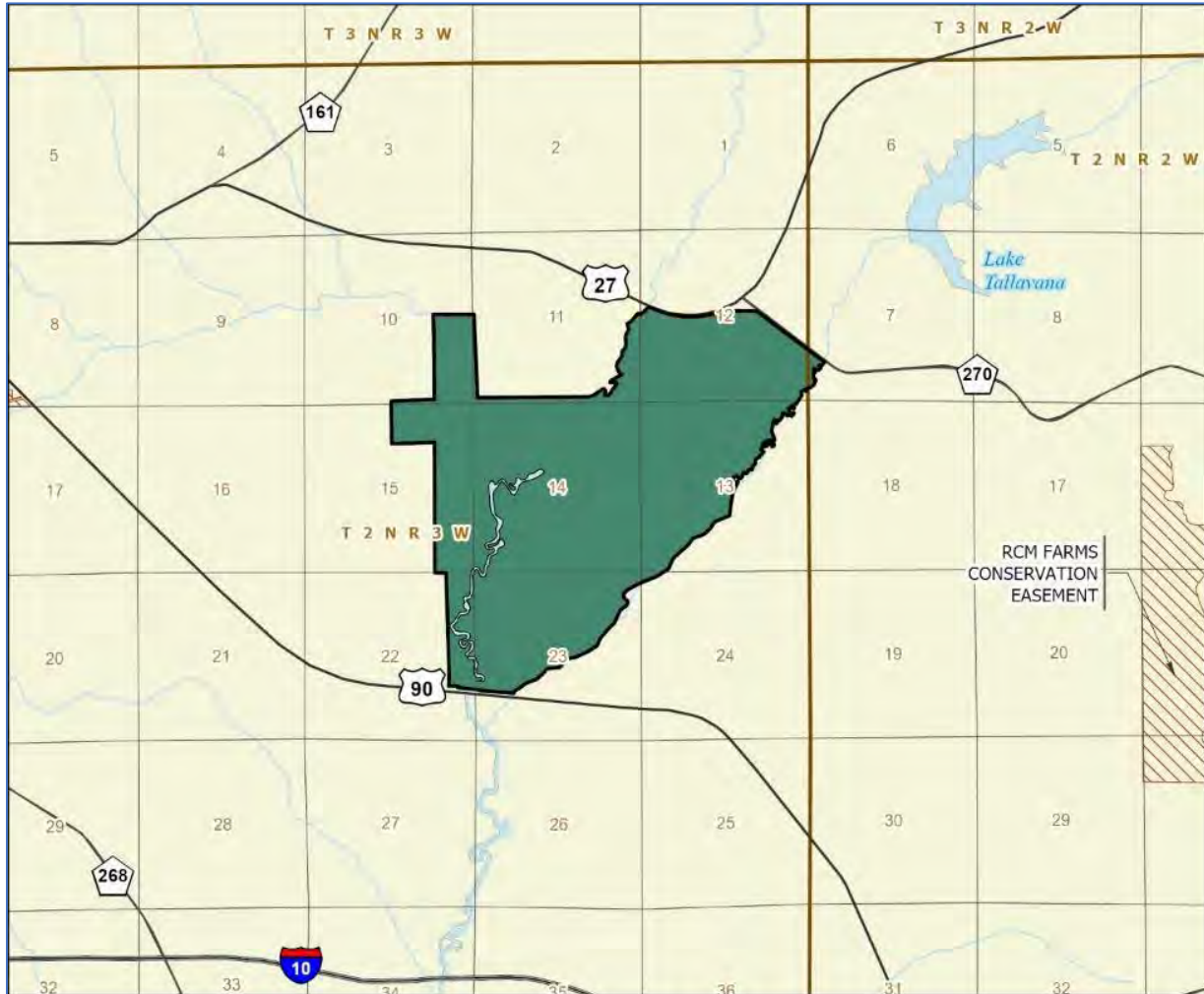
Management Policy Statement

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




Qualifications for state designation

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 ensure 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.



LITTLE RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

GADSDEN COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 125 : FNAI, January 2021



Lochloosa Forest

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Alachua

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2016
Project Acres	4,693
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	4,693
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$5,227,586

Purpose for State Acquisition

Lochloosa Forest is part of a long-term effort to establish a wildlife and forested regional habitat along the eastern lakes portion of Alachua County, linking these landscapes to the Camp Blanding and Lake Santa Fe Florida Forever projects to the northeast. It fills the area between the Austin Carey Memorial Forest managed by the University of Florida and the Balu County Park managed by Alachua County, between Gainesville and Waldo. This project would contribute to the Florida Forever goals of protecting surface-water supplies, protecting groundwater recharge areas to ensure the groundwater supply of the state, restoring natural functions of land and water by curtailing commercial forestry chemicals and restoring natural groundwater flow, and increasing the protection of wildlife species by increasing the acreage of their habitat. One hundred percent of the proposal is within the Surface Water Protection layer of the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation. Protecting these wetlands from further cutting and disturbance will improve the quality of water entering adjoining conservation lands on the south and to Newnans Lake.

Manager(s)

The University of Florida’s Austin Carey Memorial Forest will manage the site as part of their forest, with emphasis on wildlands education and training. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) has

offered to participate in the management of this forest, if necessary, possibly managing it as part of the Newnan's Lake State Forest. The property is under a timber lease until 2023.

General Description

Lochloosa Forest is an area of upland terraces, where flatwoods, swamps and marshes predominate. The land is from 95 to 150 feet above sea level and has two creeks flowing through it - Hatchet Creek from northwest to southeast, and Bee Tree Creek running north to south through the eastern part of the property.

Historically, most of the plantation areas supported a mosaic of mesic and wet flatwoods and a few small pockets of sandhill. Wetlands associated with the creek system and scattered dome swamps throughout the plantation make up approximately 19 percent of the site. Bee Tree Creek has several large floodplain swamp wetlands in the eastern part of Lochloosa Forest, the largest being just north of where Bee Tree Creek enters Balu Forest. A big swath of the western side of this swamp and smaller areas north and south, totaling nearly 100 acres, have been logged in the past for cypress and, to a lesser extent, hardwoods.

Structure and species composition vary considerably between timber stands and generally reflects the amount of heavy shading or severe soil and vegetation disturbances associated with forestry operations. Very little natural groundcover remains in the pine plantations although many are dominated by native shrubs indicative of the natural communities the pines were planted on. This is especially true of the older stands; younger stands have a very sparse shrub layer as well as a needle-dominated groundcover. One area, located on former sandhill, has retained some native groundcover and would greatly benefit from the reintroduction of fire.

Forested wetlands make up most of the existing natural communities on the property.

Bottomland forest is the predominant natural community that borders Hatchet Creek and its tributaries and the narrower parts of Bee Tree Creek. Floodplain swamp is present in the larger wetlands associated with Bee Tree Creek, where the canopy is dominated by cypress (*Taxodium* sp.).

Numerous dome swamps are scattered throughout the pine plantations. Cypress and hardwoods have been heavily harvested from many of the dome and floodplain swamp natural communities and scattered large stumps can be seen in the bottomland forest, indicative of past logging. Hydrology has been disrupted in some wetlands by ditches that drain formerly isolated dome swamps into the larger creeks.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

2 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Because more than 80 percent of this area has been managed over the years as a pine plantation, the fire dependent character of the Lochloosa Forest and the potential for ongoing silviculture may preclude development of recreation access or interpretive facilities. The altered landcover sites may be best suited for restoration, operational support or small-scale education facilities. The ridgeline ecotone and creek system are scenic features of the proposal and offer significant conservation value. Hatchet Creek yields a scenic bottomland forest and basin swamp, which would be well-protected under forest-wide management as an educational “outdoor classroom/laboratory” comparable to the University of Florida’s adjacent Austin Cary Forest. The Austin Cary Forest currently performs the conservation and education functions, which could be fittingly extended to the Lochloosa Forest.

Florida’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) does not identify any categories of resource-based recreation access lacking in the North Central Region that could be addressed by management of the Lochloosa Forest. Significant recreational opportunities that may be offered by the acquisition would include hiking, nature interpretation, and primitive camping. Integration of teaching opportunities may be feasible with trail development and sustainable recreation management.

Also, managers at UF’s Austin Cary Memorial Forest noted that hunting may be an appropriate compatible multiple use on the tract. The university forest manager’s suggestion was to use the activity as part of an educational opportunity for wildlife management studies, and the Florida Forest Service noted that it could also be a site for Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF) hunts.

Acquisition Planning

2016

Lochloosa Forest was submitted as a much larger project comprising parcels across eastern Alachua County, but was redesigned to its current acreage once the perpetual conservation easements already acquired, and the Weyerhaeuser property, were eliminated from the boundary. It was approved as a 4,693-acre project adjoining the Austin Carey Memorial Forest. It was introduced to the Acquisition and Restoration Council for evaluation at the June 17, 2016



meeting, and advanced to the next phase of review. On October 21st, ARC voted to add this proposal to the list of Florida Forever projects. It had a 2016 tax assessed value of \$894,300.

Coordination

Partners in funding and in acquiring the Lochloosa Forest are likely to include Alachua County, the Alachua Conservation Trust, and the University of Florida's Austin Carey Memorial Forest.

Management Policy Statement

The goals of managing the Lochloosa Forest are to establish a connectivity of managed lands among conservation lands in North Florida that include the Balu Forest, the Ocala National Forest and Camp Blanding. Lochloosa Forest represents a missing piece needed to create a conservation land corridor in northeast Florida. State acquisition of this site would also allow regional watershed protection and continuation of wildlife corridors, revenue from timber harvests, and recreation.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Lochloosa Forest would support the education, research and public outreach role of the University of Florida. This includes developing diverse conditions for students and land-management professionals learning land-management techniques, researchers studying impacts of different land-management techniques on hydrology, wildlife, recreation, ecotourism and financial outcomes of management; and for the public to learn about scientific and systematic resource management.

Manager

Lochloosa Forest will be managed by the University of Florida as part of the Austin Cary Memorial Forest to support the education, research and public outreach role of the University of Florida.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Management of the property will be limited through the year 2023 by the existing timber and hunting leases in force with the owner of the property. Management intensity can be expected to increase gradually toward the termination of the leases. In keeping with sustainable forestry practices, the pines will be replanted before the lessee cedes the site.



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

The first step of this project, starting in 2018, would be to develop a management plan among acquisition partners Alachua County and the University of Florida that would meet teaching, research and outreach goals, and guide coordination with the current owner of the land to the termination of the timber leases. The second step would be adjusting reforestation under access limited by the timber leases, from 2018 to 2023. The third step would be to fully implement a land-management plan with specific activities to support teaching, research and public access. Because the project is adjacent to Austin Cary Memorial Forest, it is anticipated to be secured.

Revenue-generating potential

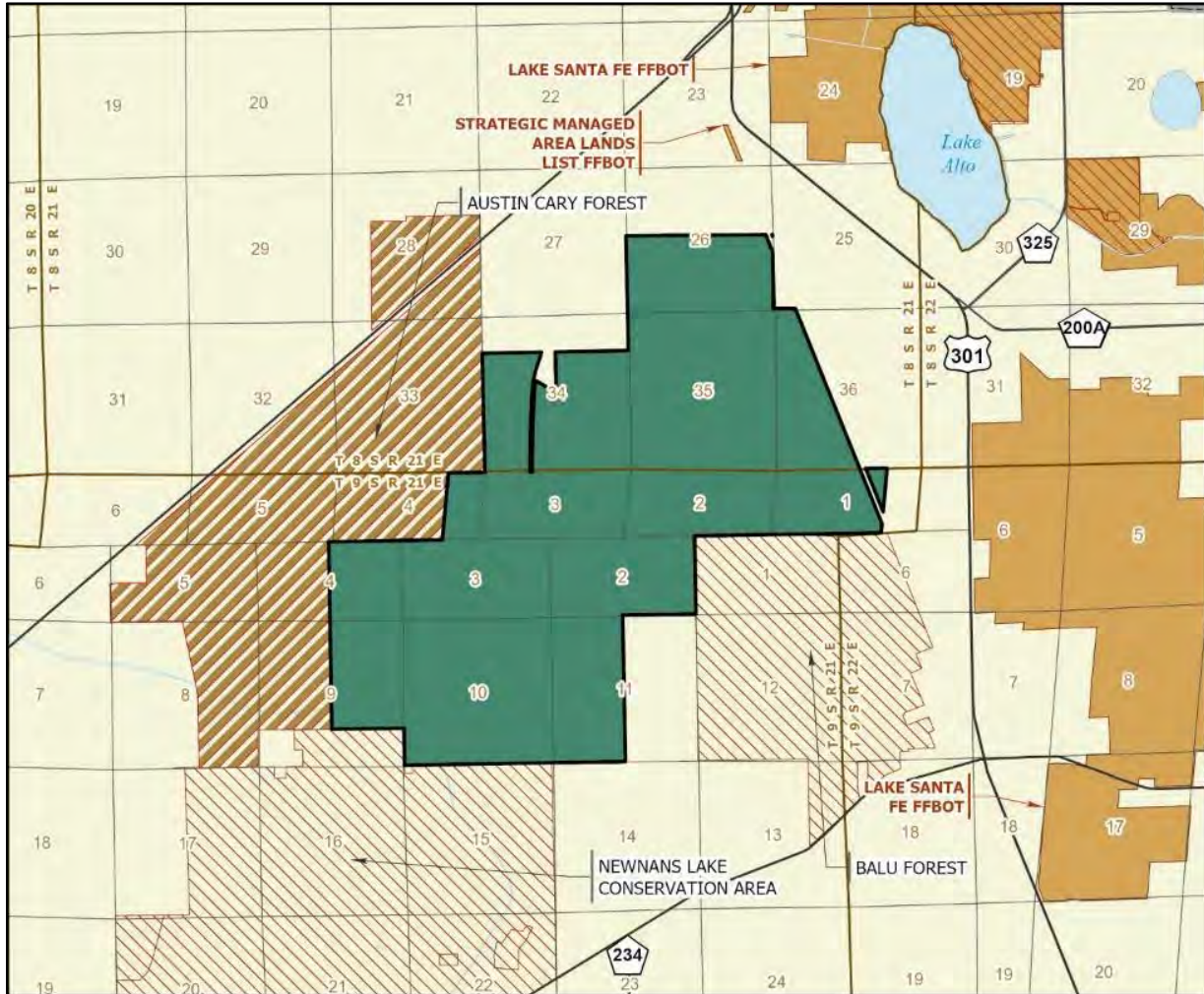
The prospective managers estimate that when the existing leases expire in 2023, about 30 percent of the property will have been clear-cut and will need reforestation. Another 30 percent will have timber from 10 to 14 years old, which could provide revenue over the subsequent five years. The remaining 40 percent of the property will have trees less than three years old, and not yet of harvestable size.

Otherwise, the addition of the Lochloosa Forest to the Austin Cary Forest is expected to require one additional technical staff member at an estimated \$40,000 yearly and three to five student employees at \$15,000 to \$26,000 yearly. The staff would also need about \$10,000 yearly in fuel, equipment and operations expenses. The University of Florida would be responsible for these costs, which would be periodically offset with such revenue as timber sales, hunting leases, pine straw harvesting and other sales.

Management Cost Summary

<u>UF/IFAS</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Source of Funds	UF/IFAS
Salary	\$40,000
Student employees/OPS	\$15,000 - \$26,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LOCHLOOSA FOREST

ALACHUA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 126 : FNAI, January 2021



Lochloosa Wildlife

Substantially Complete Project
Alachua

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1994
Project Acres	37,773
Acquired Acres	33,327
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$11,379,952
Remaining Project Acres	4,446
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$7,480,973

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 found in the lakes, streams, and marshes here; and providing a scenic natural area for people to boat, fish, hike, or hunt in.

Manager(s)

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, 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 (OFW) in the vicinity.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Freemouth hydrobe snail	G1/S1
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Blackbanded sunfish	G3G4/S1S3
mud sunfish	G4G5/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

16 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project would be designated as a wildlife management area.

Acquisition Planning

2011

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.

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Substantially Complete list of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is an acquisition partner.

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 manager.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The Lochloosa Wildlife project 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

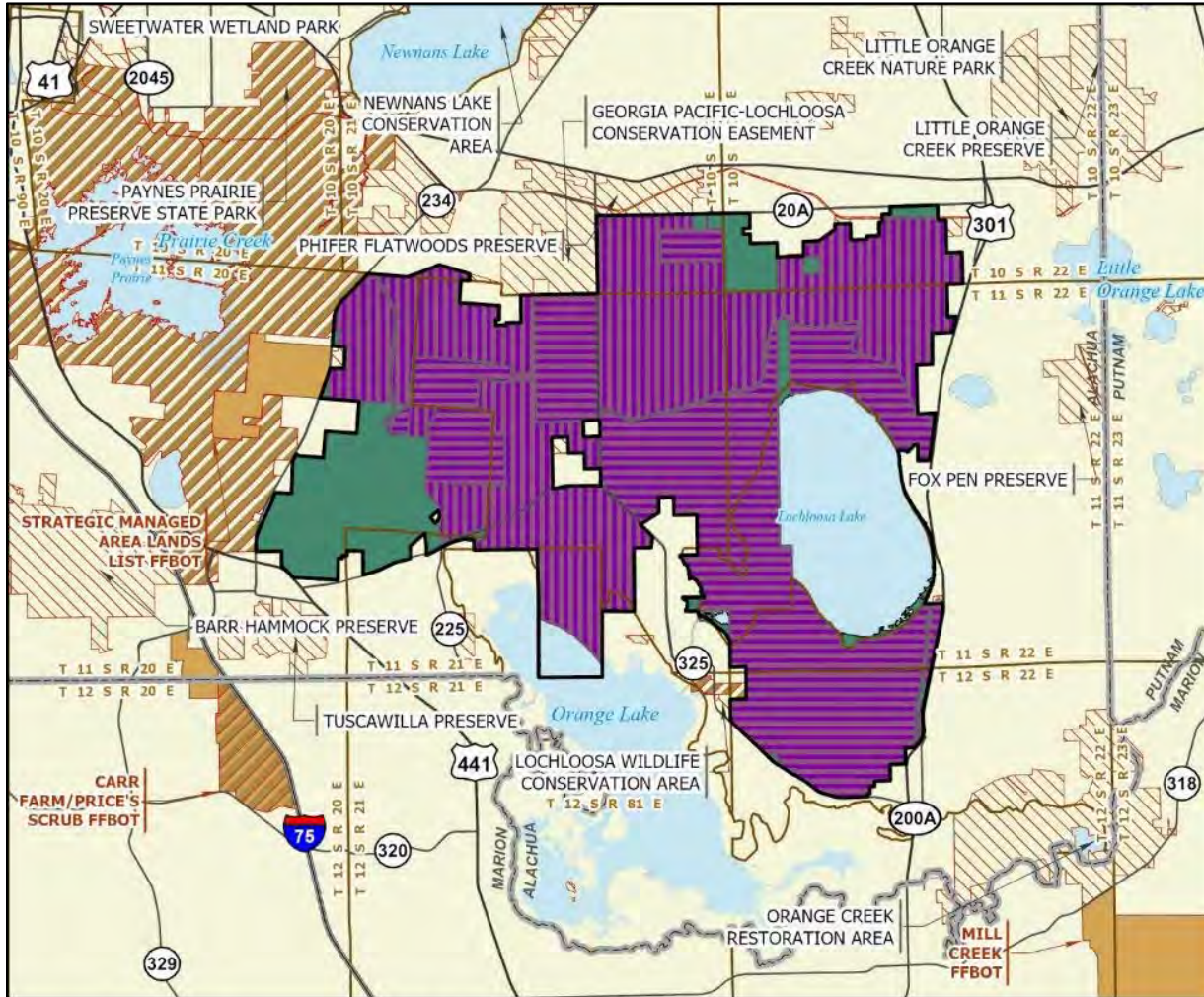
Within the first year after acquisition, management will concentrate on site security, natural resource management and conceptual planning. Public-use facilities will be developed in succeeding years.

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 Florida Forest Service (FFS) is recommended as a cooperator to assist with forest management.



LOCHLOOSA WILDLIFE

ALACHUA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020

Map 127 : FNAI, January 2021



Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands Project
Gilchrist, Hamilton, Marion, Volusia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1993
Project Acres	23,424
Acquired Acres	13,737
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$30,408,180
Remaining Project Acres	9,687
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$46,366,066

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 nonmotorized trail that crosses several 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 rare species. 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(s)

Florida Forest Service/FFS, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will manage the Ross Prairie sites, except the ones that are part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway portion and are under an approved management lease to the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and , Blue Spring Longleaf site, Bell Ridge site, and Deland Ridge site). The FFS will manage Bell Ridge under a multiple-use management regime.

General Description

The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project sites (Ross Prairie Sandhill, Ross Prairie Addition, Bell Ridge, Blue Spring Longleaf, and Deland Ridge) 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 percent 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 to occur in the Ross Prairie tract. These sites are vulnerable to logging and fire suppression as well as development.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Orange Lake cave crayfish	G1/S1
Equal-clawed gopher tortoise hister beetle	G1G2/S1S2
<i>longspurred mint</i>	G2/S2
<i>sand butterfly pea</i>	G2Q/S2
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Southern hognose snake	G2/S2S3
<i>incised groove-bur</i>	G3/S2

34 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project will be state forest, with opportunities for hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

The 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. The Blue Spring (1,978 acres) site consists of one owner (acquired, through TNC).

1998

On December 3, 1998, LAMAC transferred the Deland Ridge and Chassahowitzka Sandhill sites to the Negotiation Impasse group. On July 29, 1999, the Council added the 3,040-acre Ross Prairie Addition project to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project (Priority Group).

On December 9, 1999 the Council approved the Bell Ridge project to be added to the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem project.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 3,612-acre (\$528,396,412 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure disturbances.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC designated this project as a Critical Natural Lands (CNL) project. On July 3, 2012 BOT acquired 5.16 acres in the Ross Prairie area for \$8,000.

2013

On April 19, 2013, ARC approved changing the boundary of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Florida Forever project in Madison County, adding the 986- acre Ellaville Sandhill Tract that was approved in the February ARC meeting to the project boundary, bringing the total project acreage to 22,299.

Coordination

TNC, the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), and the Florida Audubon Society are acquisition partners on this project.

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

adequately protect. 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 recreation 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 to mimic natural lightning-season fires, using existing fire lines, natural firebreaks, existing roads, or foam lines for control; strictly limit timber harvesting in mature stands; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are conserving resources. Managers will limit the number and size of recreation facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project 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. The Bell Ridge Sandhill is about 3,500 acres in Gilchrist, Florida. The site is located some 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 FFS 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 FFS 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. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS management activities on this project.

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. Bell Ridge: The major community represented on this project is sandhill. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a State Forest. Management by the FFS 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.



Manager

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is to manage Blue Spring Longleaf, as well as the acreage within Bell Ridge and Deland Ridge, and Ross Prairie sites which are not already a portion of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and under the DRP's approved management plan.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

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.

Bell Ridge

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.

Residential Developments

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. 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 was scheduled to expire in 2005, with no anticipation that the lease would 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 renovation. 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 the existing roads will be used as multi-use trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road biking. As such, visitor services in the disturbed area will be provided.

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

The Blue Spring Longleaf tract and part of the Ross Prairie Sandhills tract have been acquired (the OGT manages the MHC Cross Florida Greenway portion). The FFS 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 FFS will provide public access 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 will address 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 in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The FFS will promote environmental education. Bell Ridge: Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the DOF, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. The FFS 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 FFS 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 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 ensure 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 provide a 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. Offsite 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 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 of 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 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 FFS 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, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

If acquired, Florida Forever Performance Measures



- G (Acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management),
- G2 (Acres of state-owned forestland managed for economic return in accordance with current Best Management Practices), and
- G4 (Percentage and number of acres identified for restoration restored by reforestation)

would apply.

There is the possibility that other measures apply, however, that may be determined after acquisition and an inventory of the resources on the project.

Revenue-generating potential

The FFS 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. Bell Ridge: 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. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund or its successor.

Cooperators in management activities

The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested agencies.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS (Bell Ridge)</u>	<u>1995/96</u>	<u>1996/97</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$31,080	\$41,013
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,505	\$11,302
OCO	\$40,626	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$97,211	\$52,315

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS (Deland Ridge)</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$7,000	\$5,000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$7,000	\$5,000

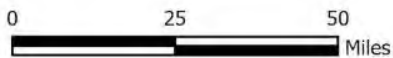
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: OVERVIEW

GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, MADISON, MARION AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Map 1 Blue Spring Longleaf Site
- Map 2 Ellaville Sandhill Site
- Map 3 Bell Ridge Sandhills Site
- Map 4 DeLand Ridge Sandhill Site
- Map 5 Ross Prairie Addition Site
- Map 5 Ross Prairie Sandhill Site



JANUARY 2020

Map 128 : FNAI, January 2021



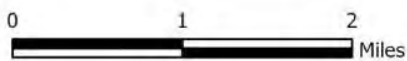
LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 1

HAMILTON COUNTY

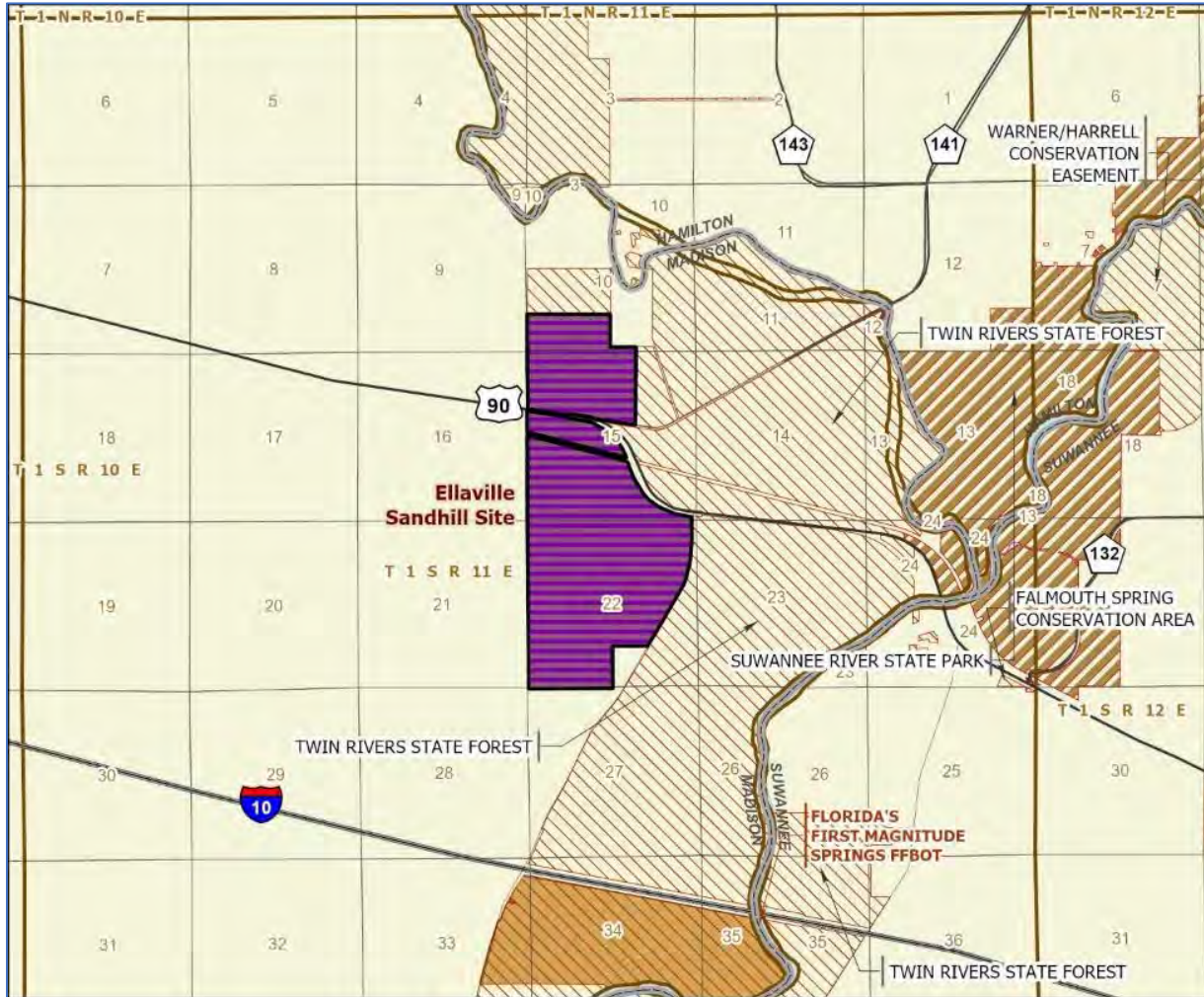
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 129 : FNAI, January 2021



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 2

MADISON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 130 : FNAI, January 2021



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 3

GILCHRIST COUNTY

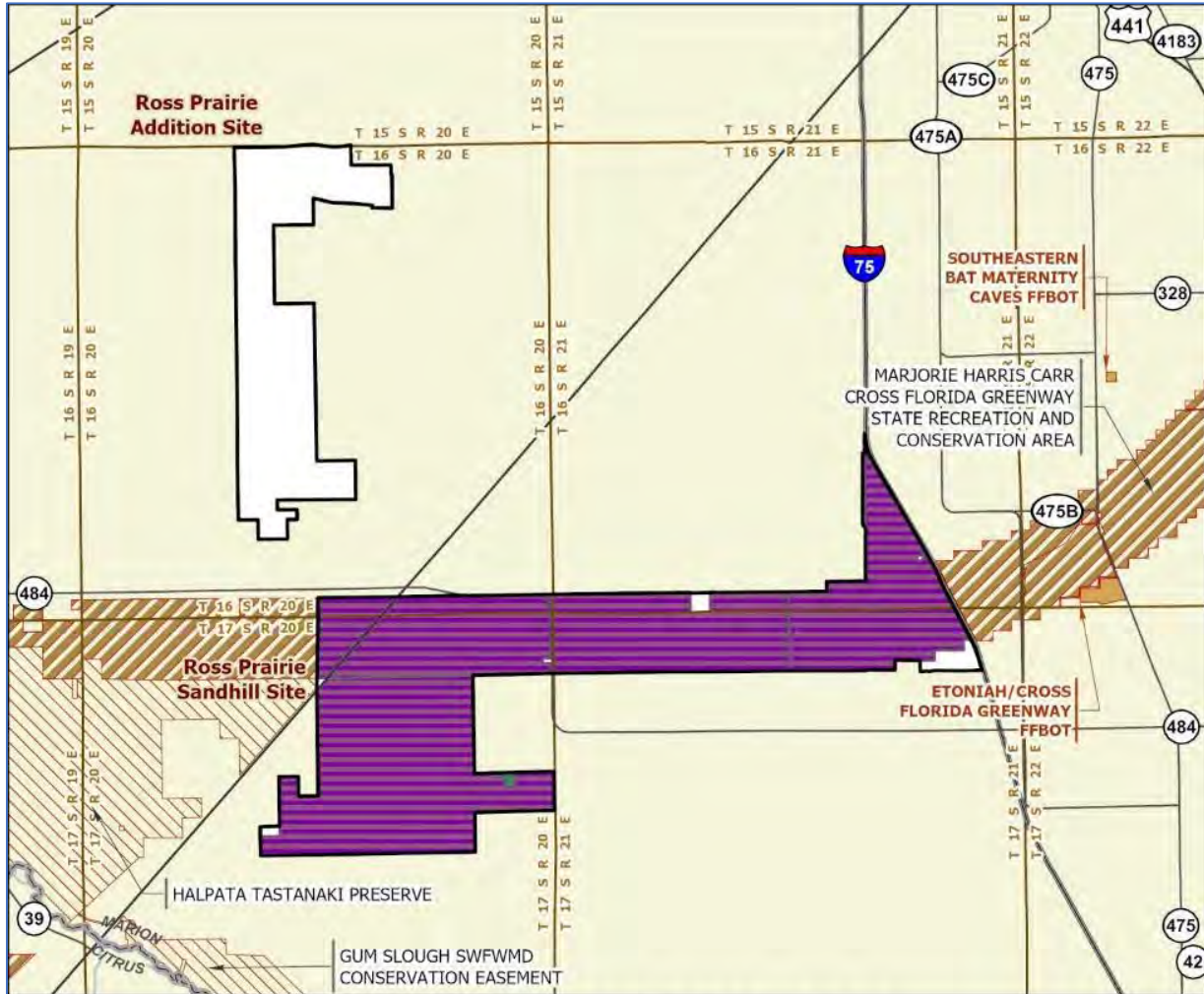
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 131 : FNAI, January 2021



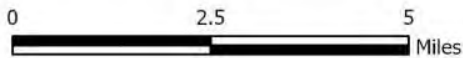
LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY

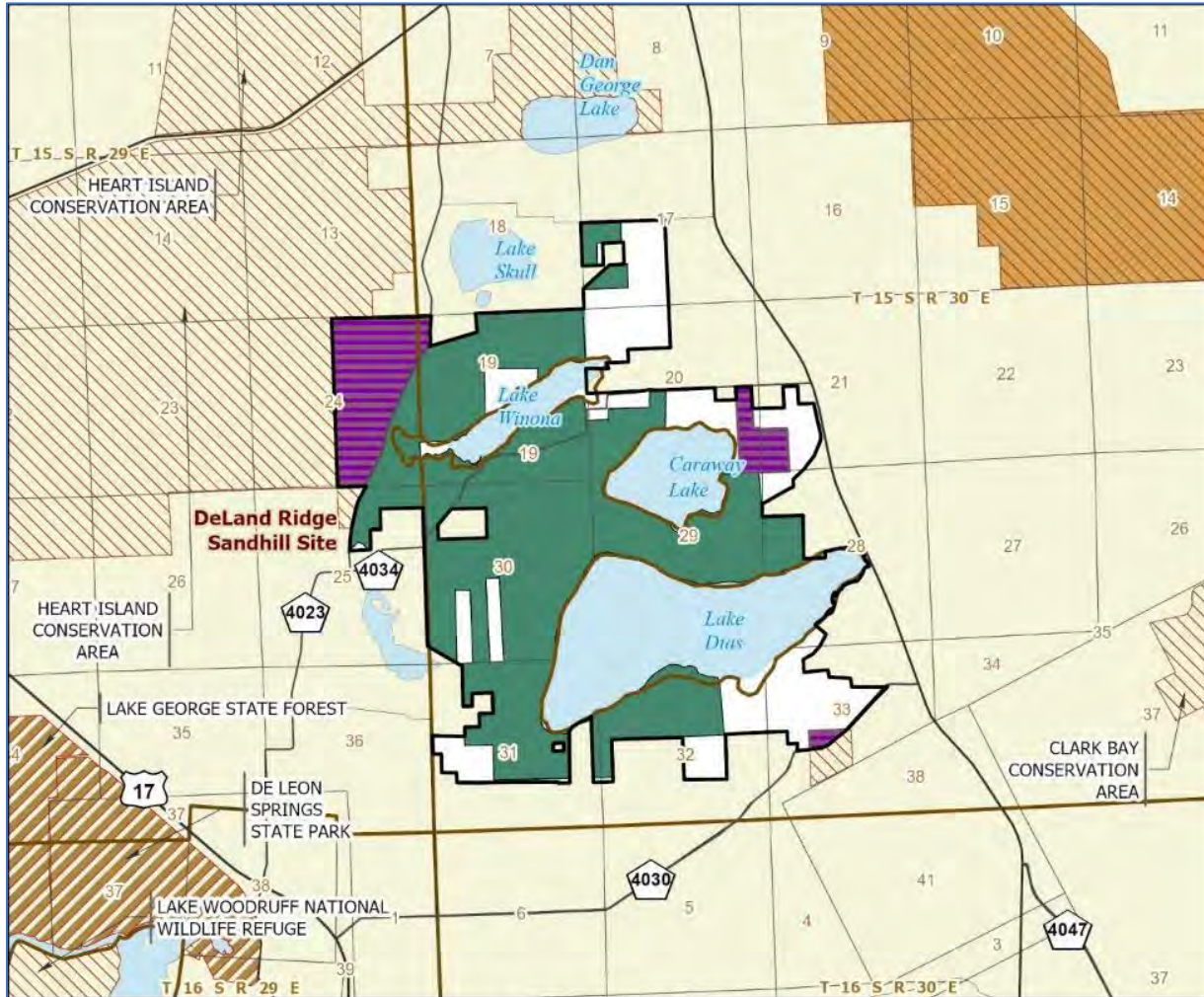
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 132 : FNAI, January 2021



LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM: MAP 5

VOLUSIA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 133 : FNAI, January 2021



Lower Perdido River Buffer

Less-Than-Fee Project

Escambia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	7,728
Acquired Acres	5,390
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$12,085,069
Remaining Project Acres	2,338
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$6,663,604

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 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 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(s)

Escambia County will manage the access points once they are determined. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will 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 bends upstream that created large and medium-size sandbars – suitable for camping - along many of the river’s inner 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Louisiana yellow-eyed grass</i>	G2G3/S1
Escambia crayfish	G2/S2
<i>West Florida cowlily</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>Curtiss' sandgrass</i>	G3/S3
Rusty grave digger	G3/S3
<i>primrose-flowered butterwort</i>	G3G4/S3

14 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The potential for public-resource recreation for this project is limited; the owner of the property was not interested in allowing general public access. However, the owner is willing to sell limited access points to the Perdido River. This would allow river access for launching and landing canoes and small boats.



Acquisition Planning

2002

The Lower Perdido River Buffer Florida Forever project was added to the 2002 Florida Forever project list at the June 6, 2002 ARC meeting as a Group A project. At that time, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$217,336.

The project property was entirely owned by International Paper when the project was added to the list. The specific locations of the small access sites along the river for fee-simple will be determined during the negotiation process.

2006

On May 31, 2006, the Northwest Florida WMD purchased 5,456 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

2011

The project was designated a less-than-fee project in 2002 and was placed in the Less-Than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects on December 9, 2011.

Coordination

The Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services (OES) will oversee monitoring of the easement. Escambia County will manage the access points on fee-simple portions of the project 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 public access to the river is minimal.

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 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. Management Costs will be formulated by Escambia County, as manager of the project site. 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

Revenue generation potential is minimal since the Lower Perdido River Buffer project is for a conservation easement. The small areas for river access to be acquired in fee simple would not be expected to generate revenue.

Cooperators in management activities

Escambia County would manage the access points to the river.



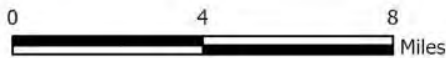
LOWER PERDIDO RIVER BUFFER

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 134 : FNAI, January 2021



Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed

Less-Than-Fee Project

Dixie

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2019
Project Acres	58,543
Acquired Acres	27,838
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$12,578,700
Remaining Project Acres	30,705
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$43,197,005

Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for state acquisition of the project is to enhance management practices of the ongoing timbering operation, to protect and enhance water quality, and wetland communities, wildlife habitat and archaeological sites found within the proposal boundary. Purchase of a conservation easement over the property would buffer and protect the natural resources of the Suwannee River and the Gulf of Mexico and provide habitat and corridors for rare plants and animals over a wide swath of undeveloped public lands, including the neighboring Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, water management district conservation areas, and the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve (BBSAP).

The Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project meets the Florida Forever measures and public purposes of enhancing the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, using alternatives to fee-simple; increasing the 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; ensuring that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; increasing natural resource- based public recreation or educational opportunities; preserving significant archaeological or historic sites; and increasing the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.



Manager(s)

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) would manage this conservation easement and 10 acres in fee-simple that provide access to California Lake. The SRWMD already holds a conservation easement on the adjacent 32,000 acres. This Forest Systems Conservation Easement or “California Lake” easement was purchased in 2001.

General Description

This project consists of four large undeveloped, forested less-than-fee tracts in Dixie County. It is a total of 58,540 (GIS) acres. The parcels range in size from 5,800 to 19,200 acres and include a 10-acre tract proposed for fee-simple acquisition. The 10-acre parcel will guarantee continued public access to California Lake, a traditional use located within the SRWMD’s adjacent conservation easement area.

The California Lake water body appears to be a wide segment of California Creek rather than a true lake. The proposal area is located between County Road (CR) 358 to the north and CR 349 to the south, about 6 to 10 miles south-southwest of U.S. 19/98, and 1 to 7 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico shoreline. The BBSAP encompasses the submerged lands in this region. Hunting leases are in place over much of the property. Timber harvesting will be prohibited in the hardwood and cypress swamps under the proposed easement, as it is in the adjacent California Lake easement. Considering the importance of the hardwood and cypress swamps to many wildlife species, this would provide substantial wildlife conservation benefits. This is also secondary habitat for the Florida black bear. The vast natural wetlands on the proposal lands serve to funnel and filter water from the upland areas toward the Suwannee River and/or Gulf of Mexico as well as buffer several small stream systems that meander through the proposal. The topography of the three westernmost properties ranges from 20 to 5 feet above mean sea level (MSL), gradually sloping downward toward the Gulf, forming numerous braided, intermittent stream systems that empty into the marshlands and tidal creeks of the Gulf. The topography of the easternmost tract ranges from 25 to 5 feet above MSL. About half of this tract drains westward into the California Creek basin, a flat, highly braided stream system that is mostly outside the boundary of this tract, and that empties into the Gulf. Waters on the other half of this tract drain southward, bounded by higher ground along CR 349, and then eastward to the Suwannee River. A portion of the easternmost tract is within the Fanning/Manatee Springshed.

For the last century, approximately half of the project area has been managed for silviculture. Before, the site would have supported a mosaic of mesic and wet flatwoods, hydric hammocks,



and swamp, interspersed with many small depression marshes and ponds. Although deep bedding has significantly altered the groundcover, many stands of pines and even recently planted areas seen on site retain good remnant flatwoods vegetation. The proposal property is managed under guidelines of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative to protect water quality, biodiversity, and species at risk.

Hydric hammocks make up the bulk of the natural community acreage on the property. There are several large hammocks in excellent condition with canopies of large hardwood trees. Species composition is typical of good quality hammocks with limestone near the soil surface. Basin and floodplain swamps within the larger hammocks are in excellent condition. Canopy trees are large and dominated by pond cypress, with a mix of hardwoods. Smaller dome swamps are common throughout the pine plantations.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida olive hairstreak	G5T2/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Pine snake	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
White ibis	G5/S4

7 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The parcels adjacent to the SRWMD’s California Lake conservation easement will not be open to the public. The managers have leased the property for hunting for hunt clubs, but no general public access is contemplated.

For the 10-acre fee-simple parcel that is within the boundary of the SRWMD easement, the project would guarantee opportunities for public recreational activities and public access to California Lake.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On December 10, 2010 the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project to the Florida Forever list in the Less-Than-Fee category, ranking it as number 6 of 25 projects considered in that category.



This less-than-fee project was sponsored by The Conservation Fund and the SRWMD in a proposal submitted on June 30, 2010. It is approximately 46,441 acres in one ownership with a 2010 market value of \$94,249,477. The 10 acres on the SRWMD's California Lake conservation easement is for fee simple acquisition.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Less-than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.

2015

On October 16, 2015, the ARC voted to add the 12,023-acre Otter Sinks proposal in Dixie County to the Florida Forever list, and then to make it an addition to the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project. This is a rectangular area west of County Road 349, adjacent to the existing project.

2016

On September 13, 2016, a conservation easement over 8,075 acres of the Lyme Timber Company was acquired in this project at a cost of \$4,178,700. The easement will be managed by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Coordination

The SRWMD is a partner in this project. Since the SRWMD holds the easement for the California Lake parcel, it may be more appropriate for them to pursue the fee simple acquisition of the 10-acre parcel providing access to California Lake.

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 under the agreement. 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, similar to that established for the adjacent SRWMD easement with the same landowner. The 10-acre fee simple interest parcel in this project will be managed by the SRWMD. The primary management objective will be focused on recreational opportunities associated with the boat ramp. The property will be managed at the District's base level of recreational development which will include a designated, stabilized parking area for vehicles and trailers using the existing boat ramp. The parking area will be enclosed by a rail fence. A



kiosk with information about the site and its recreational use is also planned. Maintenance of the boat ramp and general oversight of the property will also take place.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The less-than-fee portion of the Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed project meets Florida Forever measures of using alternatives to fee-simple acquisitions, protecting Strategic Habitats, natural floodplains and significant surface waters. The proposed 10-acre fee-simple-title site meets Florida Forever measures of protecting Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, natural floodplains and significant surface waters.

Manager

The landowner would manage the site. The SRWMD, or its successor, would oversee the conservation easement. The SRWMD will manage the 10-acres to be acquired in fee-simple.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

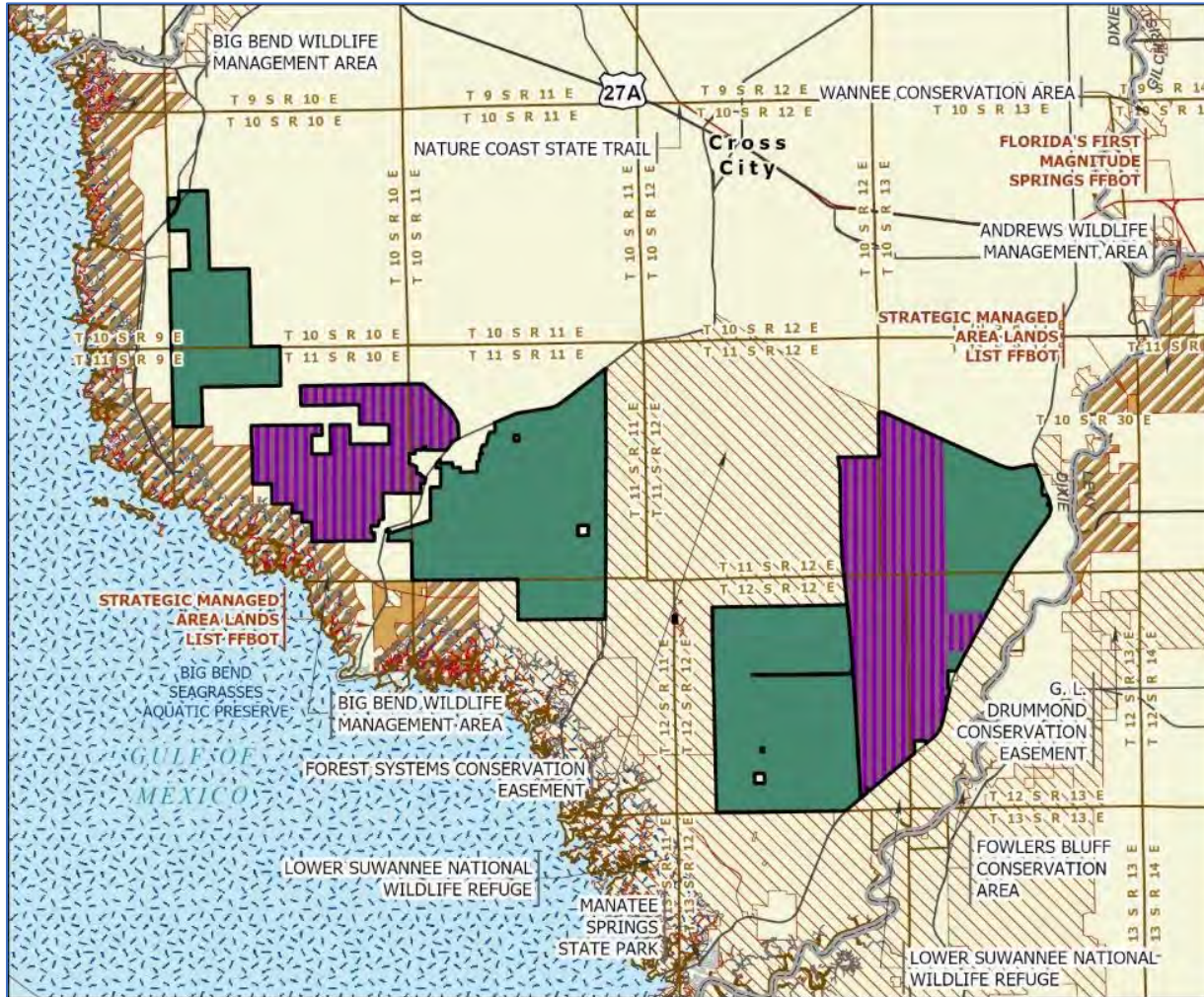
Half of this property has been managed for silviculture for the last century. Sustainable timber management practices have evolved over the years and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative bolsters conservation practices such as providing for buffers around wetlands. The overall historic management of the property has been for wood and wood products using sustainable timber management practices. The 10-acre site includes a mixture of natural pine and bottomland hardwood tree species as well as an access road and boat ramp. SRWMD does not expect to harvest timber on the site for commercial purposes but may need to remove underbrush or selected individual trees to maintain a healthy ecosystem. The cost of the monitoring by SRWMD staff could add to the administrative costs of the easement. No sources of revenue are known at this time, nor are there any startup costs involved.

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

Management implementation will begin immediately after fee simple title is taken on the 10-acre site to keep the boat ramp available for public use. Other improvements on the 10-acre site will begin within one year. Security will be provided through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission as well as other existing contractors for maintenance of infrastructure.

Revenue-generating potential

This project has no direct revenue-generating potential under a conservation easement, nor is any revenue expected from the fee simple acquisition of the 10-acre site.



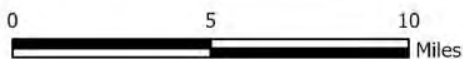
LOWER SUWANNEE RIVER AND GULF WATERSHED

DIXIE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 135 : FNAI, January 2021



Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor

Less-Than-Fee Project

Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2016
Project Acres	103,076
Acquired Acres	4,043
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	99,033
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$163,030,552

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring a less-than-fee interest over the 102,987 acres of the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor would enhance the connections of at least 15 conservation lands and conservation easements in this region of Florida, preserve natural areas for wildlife biodiversity, and protect surface waters and wetlands in this area, ensuring an adequate water supply for the current and the future needs of the natural systems and for the citizens of the state. Much of this land is silvicultural land, and this corridor would preserve these lands in an agricultural use. As a wildlife corridor among other conservation lands, the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor would help the long-term survival of larger and wide-ranging wildlife such as the Florida black bear and other wildlife species, both rare and common.

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation identifies how much of the area would contribute to the Florida Forever goals, with 100 percent of the area contributing to surface-water protection. Some 99 percent of the area would help aquifer recharge, 45 percent of the area would preserve functional wetlands, 40 percent of the area would preserve natural floodplain functions, and 97 percent of the area would preserve ecological greenways. When placed on the Florida Forever list, there were two approved Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), totaling 10,000 acres, and eight other developments, totaling 20,000 acres, within the boundary of this conservation corridor. Development of these projects with their related roads



and infrastructure would impact the ability of the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor to function as a viable wildlife corridor.

Manager(s)

As a less-than-fee property, the land would be managed by the landowners with periodic visits from the staff of the Division of State Lands to ensure compliance with the agreed-upon easement conditions.

There is a possibility that some of the parts of this area could be acquired in fee simple.

General Description

The Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor has 19 different landowners in Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties. It is in the Eastern Flatwoods physiographic district described as coastal lowlands, with flatwoods and swamps on silty sand soils. The land stretches from State Road 100 in Flagler and Putnam counties on the southwest end, east to US Highway 1 in St. Johns County and to Interstate Highway 95 on the northeast side. It is basically one contiguous piece with several outparcels. There are several public conservation lands on the boundaries of this project, including the Matanzas State Forest, the Faver-Dykes State Park, the Pellicer Creek Conservation Area, and at the southern end, the Haw Creek Preserve State Park. The Pringle Creek Forest Florida Forever project and the Northeast Florida Blueway Florida Forever project also abut this project, on the eastern side.

Historically this was a mix of mesic and wet pine flatwoods. Currently the trees on this land are mainly stands of slash pine up to 40 years old, with understory that ranges from heavily wooded with shrubs to no understory in areas where the pines are bedded. Commercial pine plantations account for about half of the acreage. Natural uplands are about 5 percent of the project, with small patches of wet and mesic flatwoods.

Other areas have scrub, scrubby flatwoods and sandhill terrain.

Wetland communities make up most of the natural communities on the property, about 40 percent of the area. Vegetation is generally dominated by bald cypress or swamp tupelo, with other wetland trees and shrubs. Isolated wetlands are abundant throughout the property. Dome swamps dominated by pond cypress and open depression marshes are common within the pine plantation and flatwoods uplands.

Several natural lakes occur on the property: They are Speckled Perch Lake, Black Lake, and Tank Lake. They are located in a higher, more xeric portion of the property. Baygall vegetation



dominated by loblolly bay and slash pine surrounding these lakes indicates the increased seepage originating from the xeric uplands.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>Florida beargrass</i>	G3/S3
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
<i>Florida mountain-mint</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

9 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project is planned to be a less-than-fee acquisition, which would limit the ability of the state to provide public use. However, the project proposal has suggested recreational uses coordinated and hosted by the landowners once the state acquires the project area. The easement would preclude more intensive uses of the property. Some parts of the property could be acquired in fee-simple to augment the adjoining and existing public lands. Fee simple acquisitions would be managed by the adjacent state conservation land manager.

Acquisition Planning

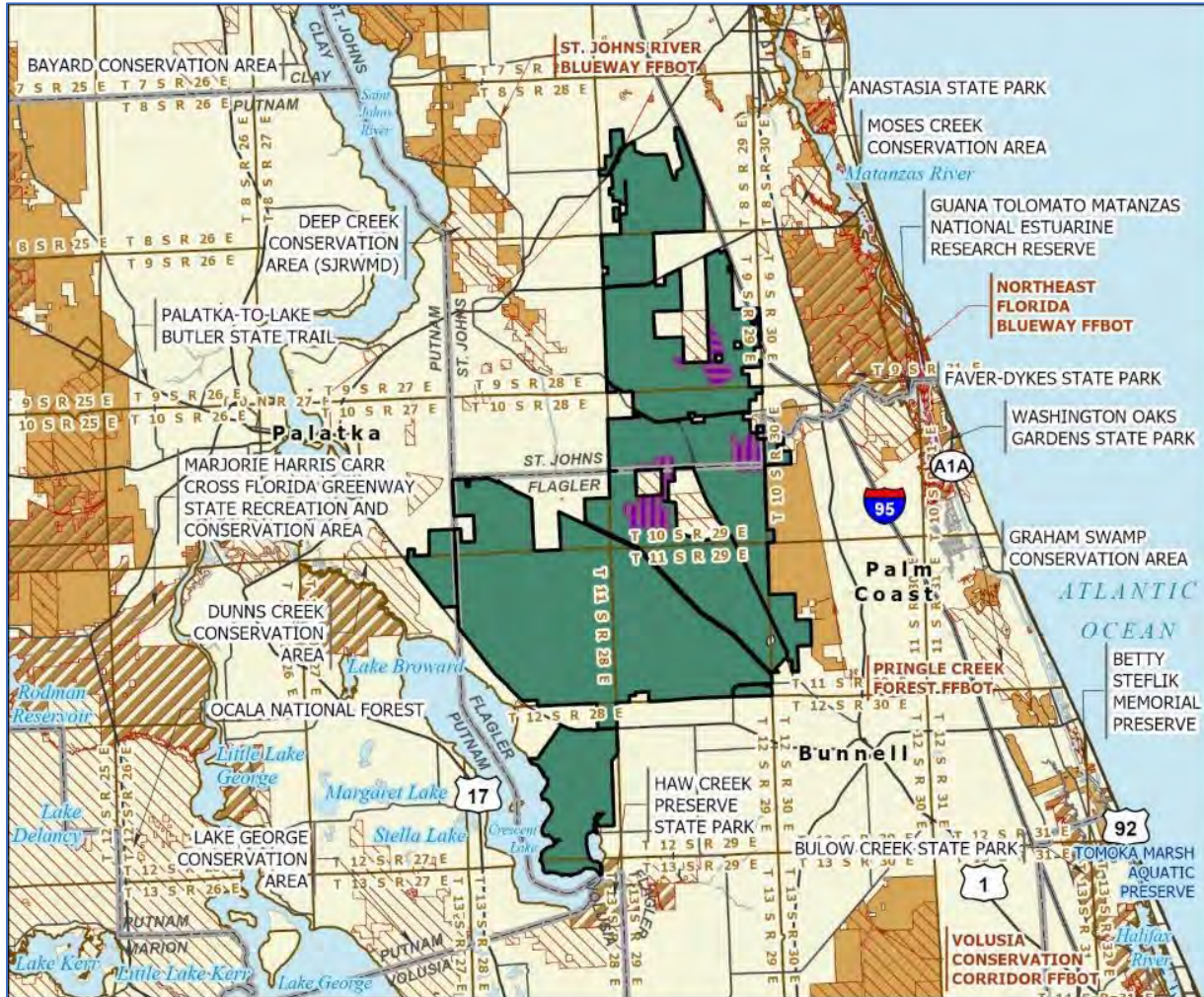
This project was sponsored in a proposal by the Conservation Trust of Florida and was presented to the Acquisition and Restoration Council at the October 16, 2015 meeting.

Coordination

No partners in the acquisition were identified for this project.

Management Prospectus

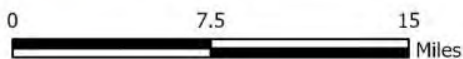
The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands is tasked with ensuring the oversight of the conservation easement on this project. If any of the lands in this project are acquired in fee-simple, they would be managed according to the management plans of the associated public conservation land.



MATANZAS TO OCALA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

FLAGLER, PUTNAM, AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 136 : FNAI, January 2021



Maytown Flatwoods

Less-Than-Fee Project

Brevard

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	7,283
Acquired Acres	2,262
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	5,021
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$2,598,614

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring a conservation easement over the Maytown Flatwoods would advance several major Florida Forever goals: preserving 3,060 acres of strategic habitat; 1,189 acres of rare species habitat for wood storks and the Florida sandhill crane; 7,598 acres of land for creating ecological greenways; 2,080 acres of natural floodplain; and various priorities of land that contribute to surface-water protection. A conservation easement would also protect thousands of acres of water-recharge land for springs, sinks, and the aquifer.

Manager(s)

The owner has expressed interest in preserving this land with a conservation easement, which would be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands.

General Description

The Maytown Flatwoods project is about 7,156 acres. All but 379 acres are owned by either the Miami Corporation or Swallowtail LLC. The Swallowtail property was purchased by Miami Corporation to assist Brevard County with county conservation goals.



The project is in northern Brevard County, adjacent to the Buck Lake Conservation Area which is managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Other conservation properties in the area include the Charles H. Bronson State Forest, Little Big Econ State Forest, Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area and the Seminole Ranch Conservation Area. Currently the property is under a long- rotation silvicultural management regime. The project is being offered as a less-than-fee acquisition.

Natural communities located within the project include wet prairie, depression marsh, basin marsh and swamp, hydric hammock, dome swamp, and pine plantation. Several listed species are likely to occur on the tract. These include the Florida black bear, American alligator, little blue heron, gopher tortoise, and white ibis.

In 1998, the project area was devastated by wildfires that consumed most of the timber on the tract. Following the 1998 wildfires, the tract was aerially seeded with slash pine creating an even-age stand that is approximately 10 years in age. Mechanical treatments to control the understory have been used in lieu of prescribed fire. Scattered across the tract are numerous dome swamps in various conditions.

Cypress trees in some of the domes are being harvested.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
<i>pine pinweed</i>	G2/S2

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

With a less-than-fee acquisition, there will likely not be any public access granted under the terms of the easement, except the already-established Rails-to-Trails project that runs along an abandoned Florida East Coast Railway right-of-way.

Acquisition Planning

2009

On December 11, 2009, ARC recommended that this project be added to the 2010 Florida Forever list as a Less-than-Fee project. At the time, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$7,189,500.



A 4,800-acre conservation easement was donated to the St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Audubon and Brevard County by Swallowtail LLC (a subsidiary of Miami Corp) to satisfy the Farnton Local Plan Agreement. Approximately 2,250 acres of that easement is within the boundary of Maytown Flatwoods. The property owner still manages the property and Brevard County, The Audubon Society and the St Johns River Water Management are co-grantees with shared monitoring rights.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy is considered a partner on this project. Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program may participate in the acquisition and management of the Swallowtail or Membrey parcel.

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 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.

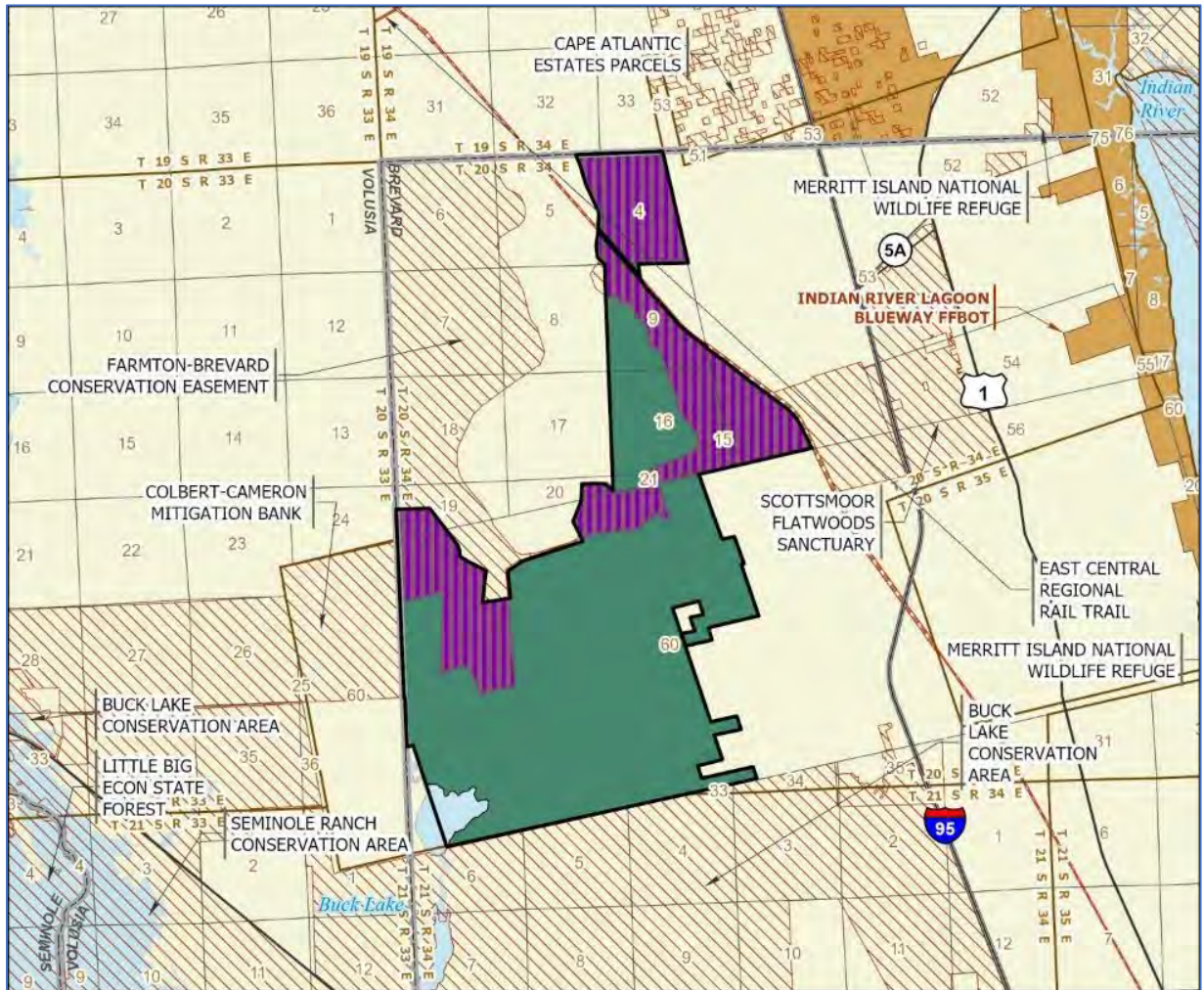
Management Prospectus

Manager

The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions imposed by a negotiated conservation easement. The OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement unless otherwise noted.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Currently the property is under a long rotation silvicultural management regime. In 1998, the project area was devastated by wildfires that consumed most of the timber on the tract. Following the 1998 wildfires, the tract was aerially seeded with slash pine creating an even-age stand approximately 10 years in age. To control the understory mechanical treatment have been used in lieu of prescribed fire.



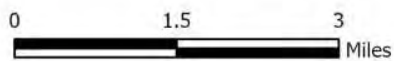
MAYTOWN FLATWOODS

BREVARD COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 137 : FNAI, January 2021



Middle Chipola River

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Calhoun, Jackson

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1996
Project Acres	14,710
Acquired Acres	2,406
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$828,600
Remaining Project Acres	12,304
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$34,528,682

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(s)

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.” Any conservation easements acquired in this project will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands (DSL).



The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) will manage the properties to which they hold title.

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, 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Chipola slabshell	G1/S1
<i>ciliate-leaf tickseed</i>	G1G2/S1
Gulf moccasinshell	G2/S1
Miccosukee mayfly	G1G2/S1S2
Southern snaketail	G1G2/S1S2
Oval pigtoe	G2/S1S2
Shiny-rayed pocketbook	G2/S1S2
Rayed creekshell	G2G3/S1
Apalachicolan cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2
<i>Florida merrybells</i>	G3/S1
Georgia blind salamander	G2/S2

44 rare species are associated with the project

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

1996

Middle Chipola 1996: Essential tracts are Land (acquired), Trammell (impasse), and Florida Public Utilities Co. (acquired). Waddell's 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 Waddell's 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.

1999

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.

2005

In 2005, ARC moved the project to the Group B list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the Middle Chipola River project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

2017

On October 20, 2017, ARC amended the boundary of the project near US Highway 90, adding 6 acres, placing a single-ownership parcel near a popular access to the river completely within the boundary for future acquisition.



2018

On August 24, 2018, ARC members voted to add four parcels totaling 156 acres in Jackson County (81.2 acres, 23 acres, 32.5 acres and 19.5 acres), to the project. This surrounds the Peacock Bridge boat ramp. FNAI reports that this addition contributes to Ecological Greenways, Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Natural Floodplain Function, Surface Water Protection, and Aquifer Recharge. More than half 85 percent contributes to FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities and Sustainable Forestry.

2020

On December 11, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 49.41-acres in Jackson County to the project boundary.

Coordination

The NFWFMD has acquired portions of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York (Waddell's Mill Pond)), 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.

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 recreation access to the river. Achieving these 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 has the configuration, location, and size to achieve its primary objectives.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The portion of the Middle Chipola River project lying between Florida Caverns State Park and the State Road 167 bridge downriver 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 DRP 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. The primary focus of any negotiated conservation easements will be protection of the floodplain along the Chipola River, maintenance of natural areas and control of invasive exotic plants.

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.” Any conservation easements acquired by the DSL in this project will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services. NFWFMD will manage any purchases to which they hold title.

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.

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



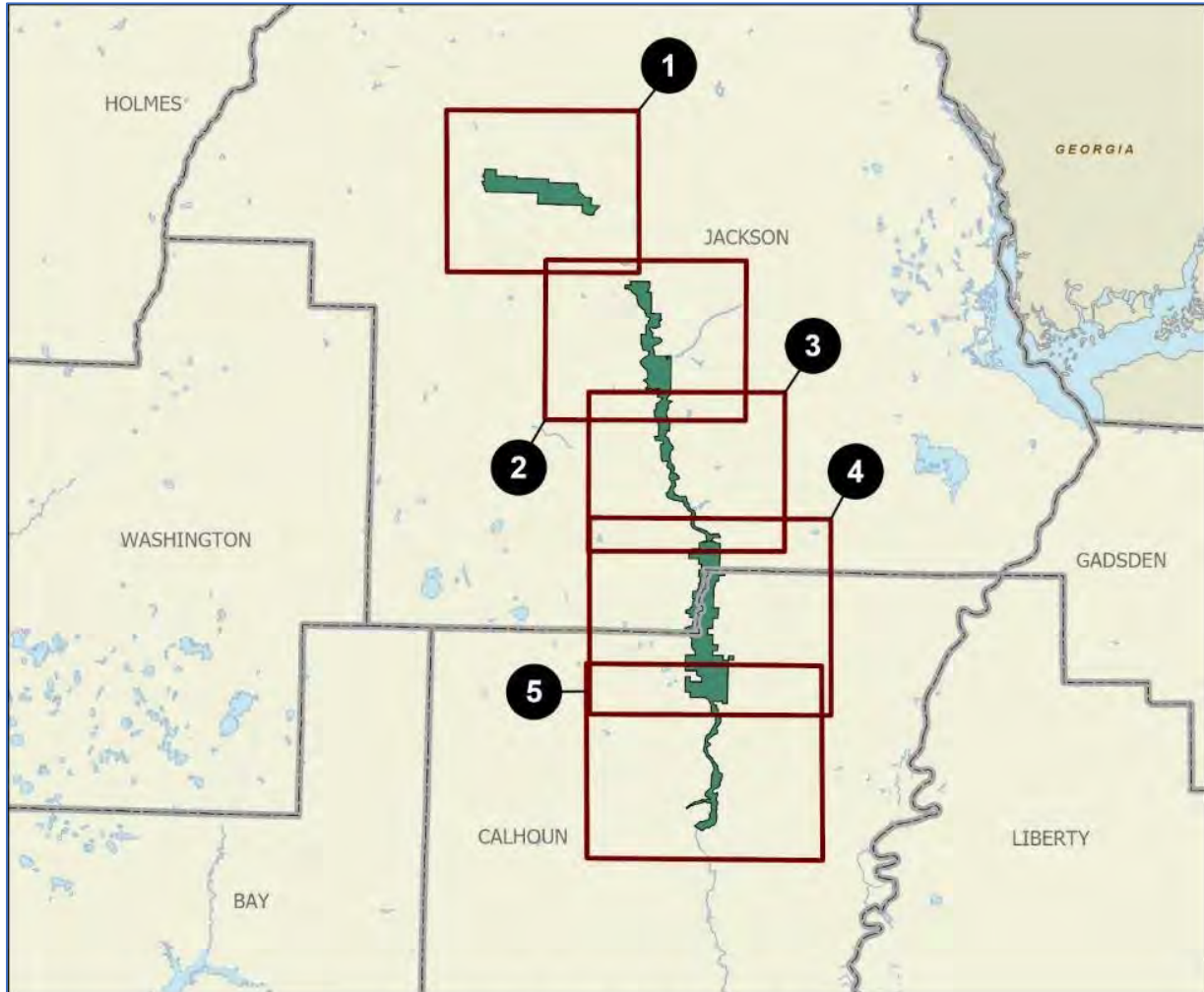
security, control of vehicular access and the development of a resource inventory and public-use plan. Public use will be allowed for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities in the short term.

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.

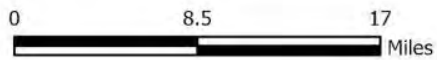
Cooperators in management activities

No cooperators are recommended for this tract. However, consultation with the NFWMD on water-related matters and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on wildlife issues will be enlisted as needed.



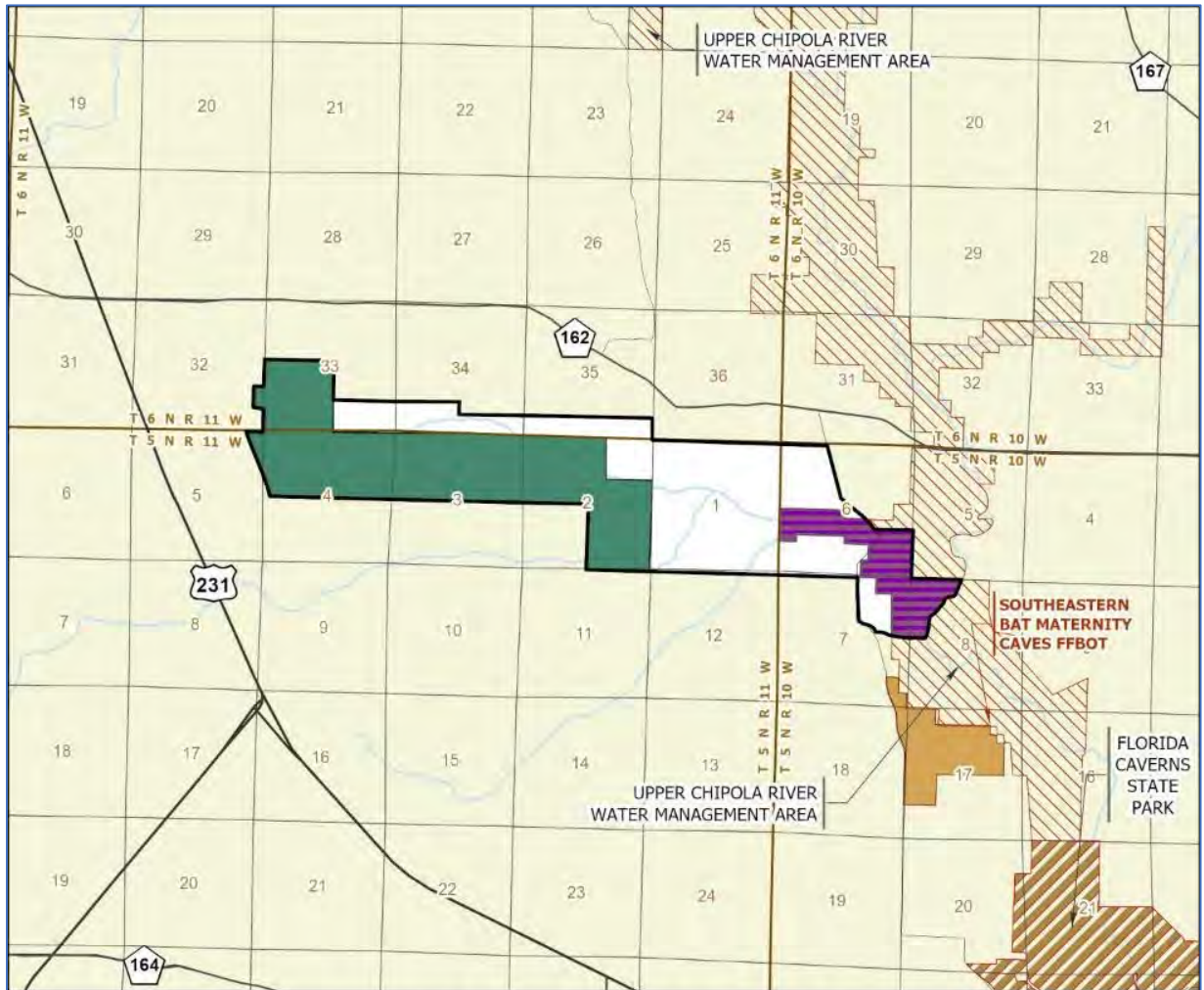
MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: OVERVIEW

CALHOUN AND JACKSON COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

Map 138 : FNAI, January 2021



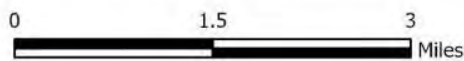
MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 1

JACKSON COUNTY

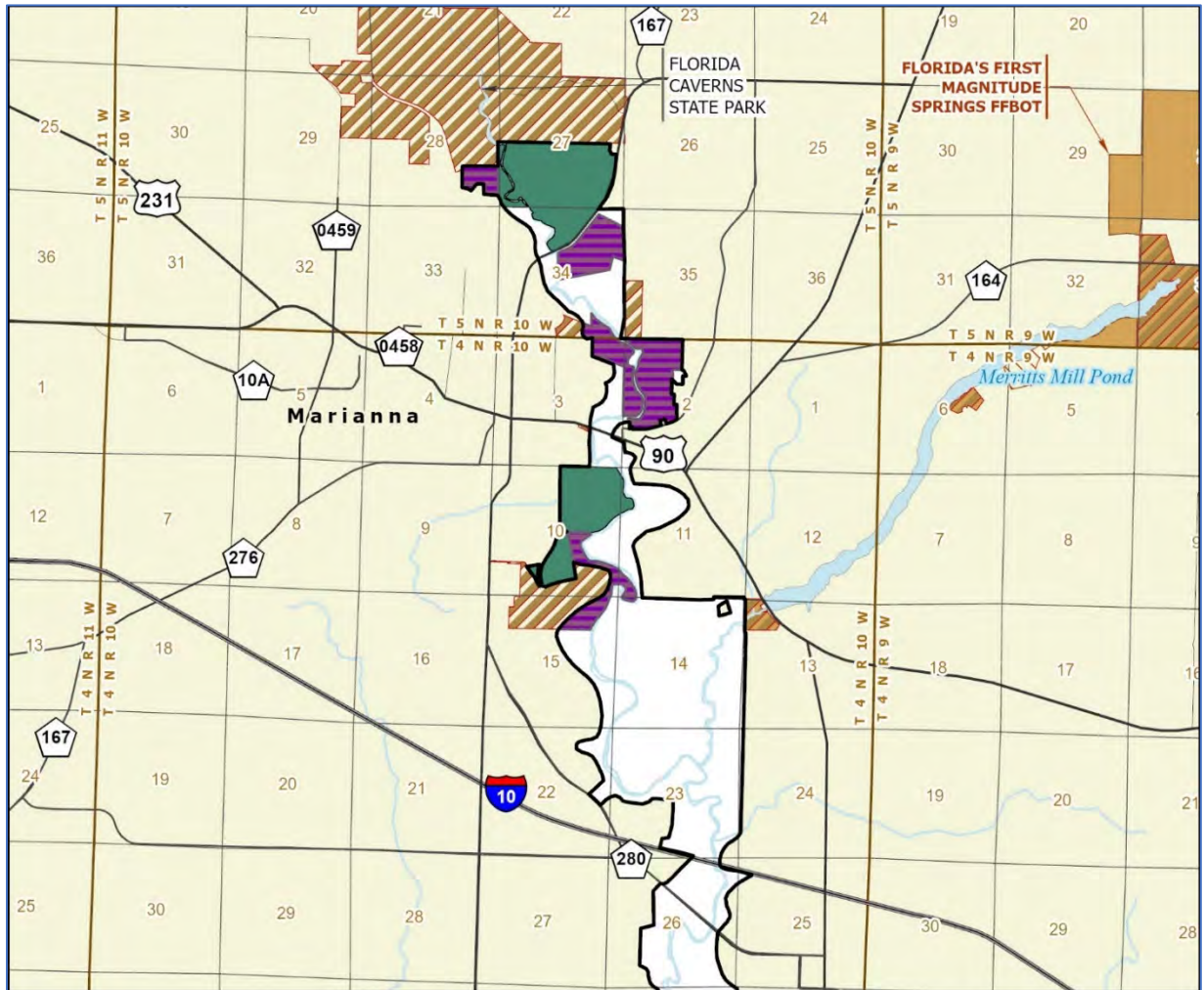
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



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Map 139 : FNAI, January 2021



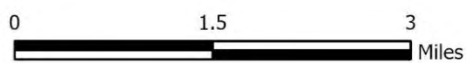
MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 2

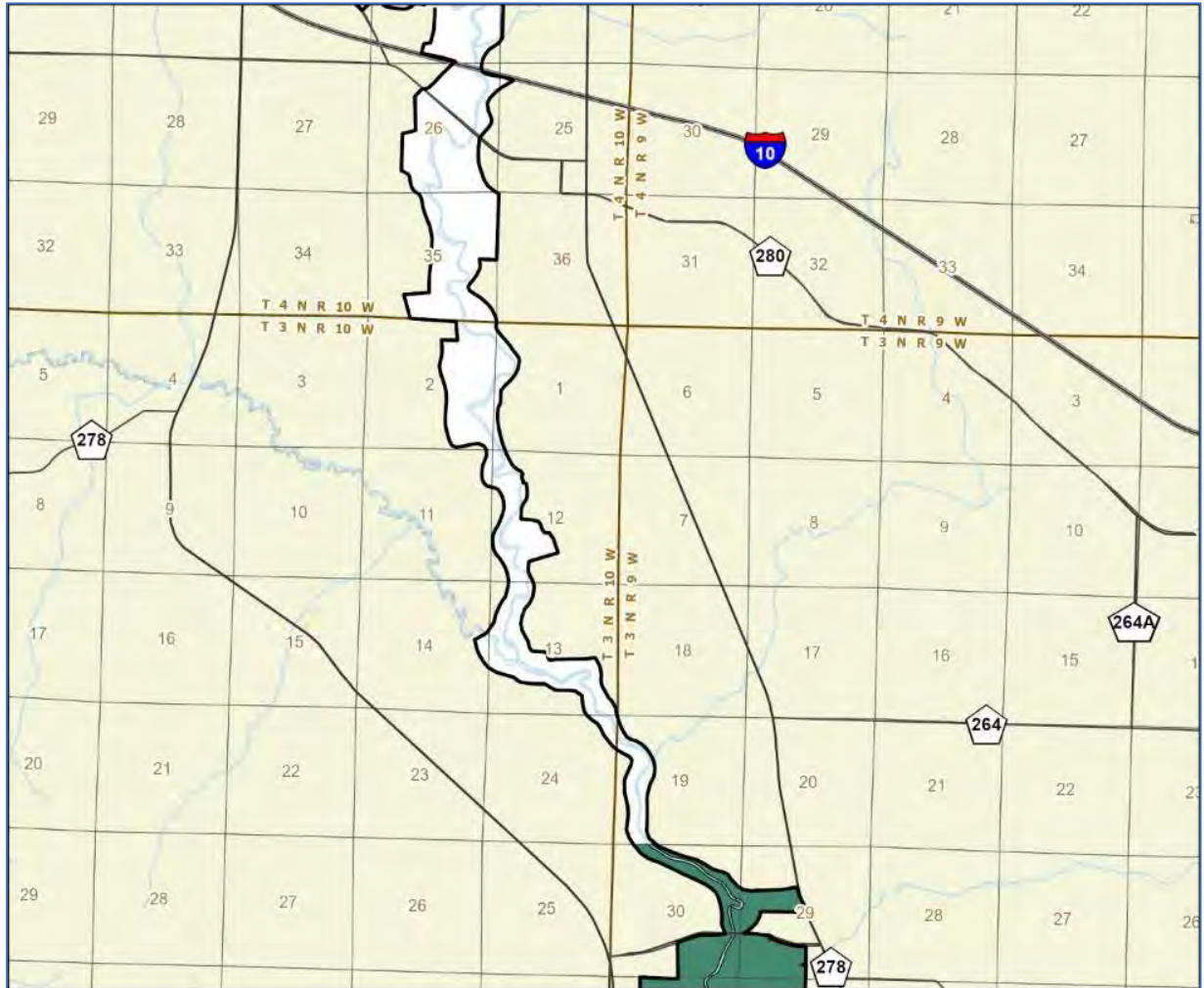
JACKSON COUNTY

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






JANUARY 2021





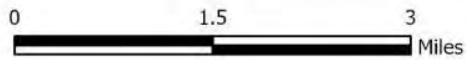
MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 3

JACKSON COUNTY

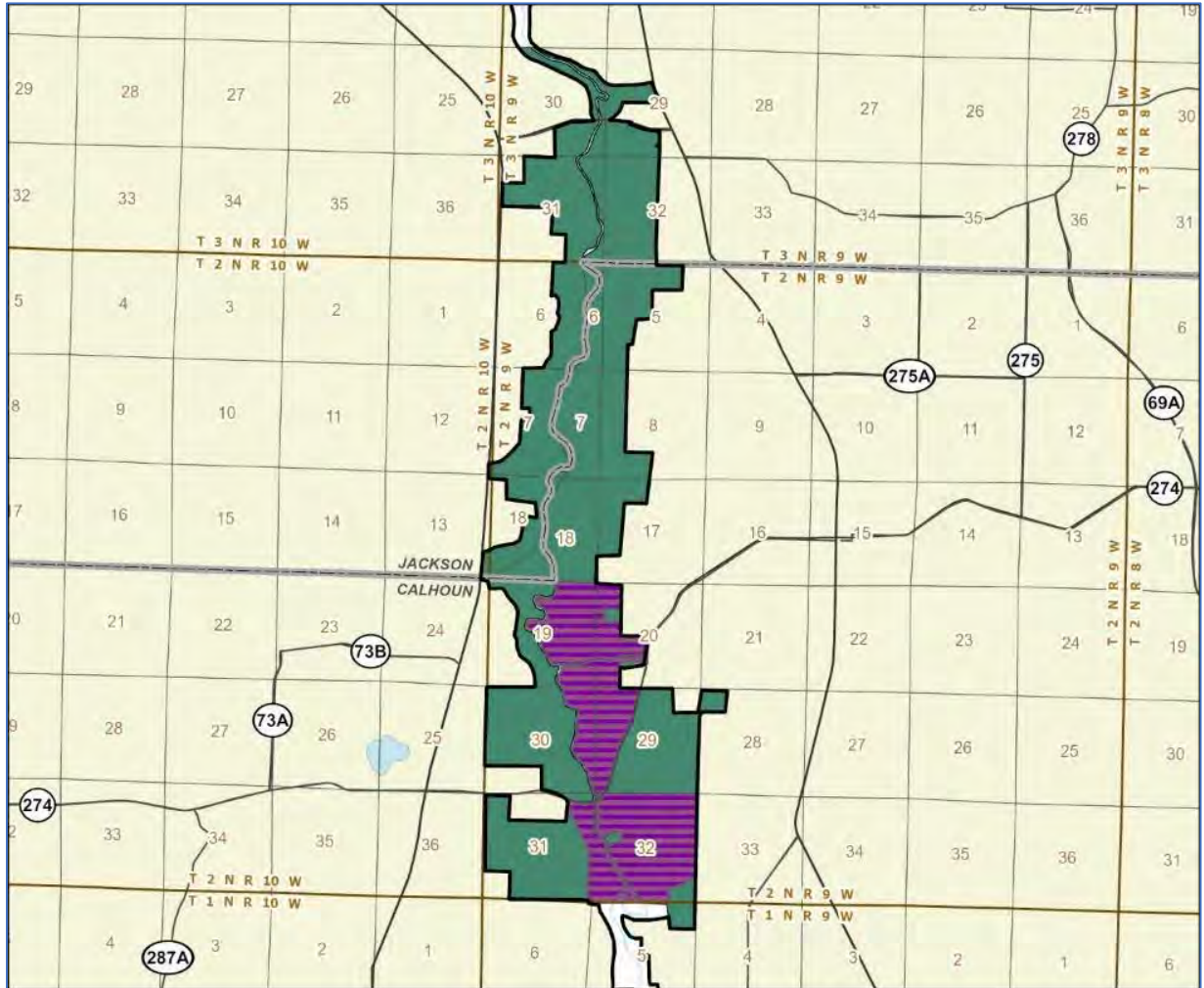
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2020







Map 141 : FNAI, January 2021



MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 4

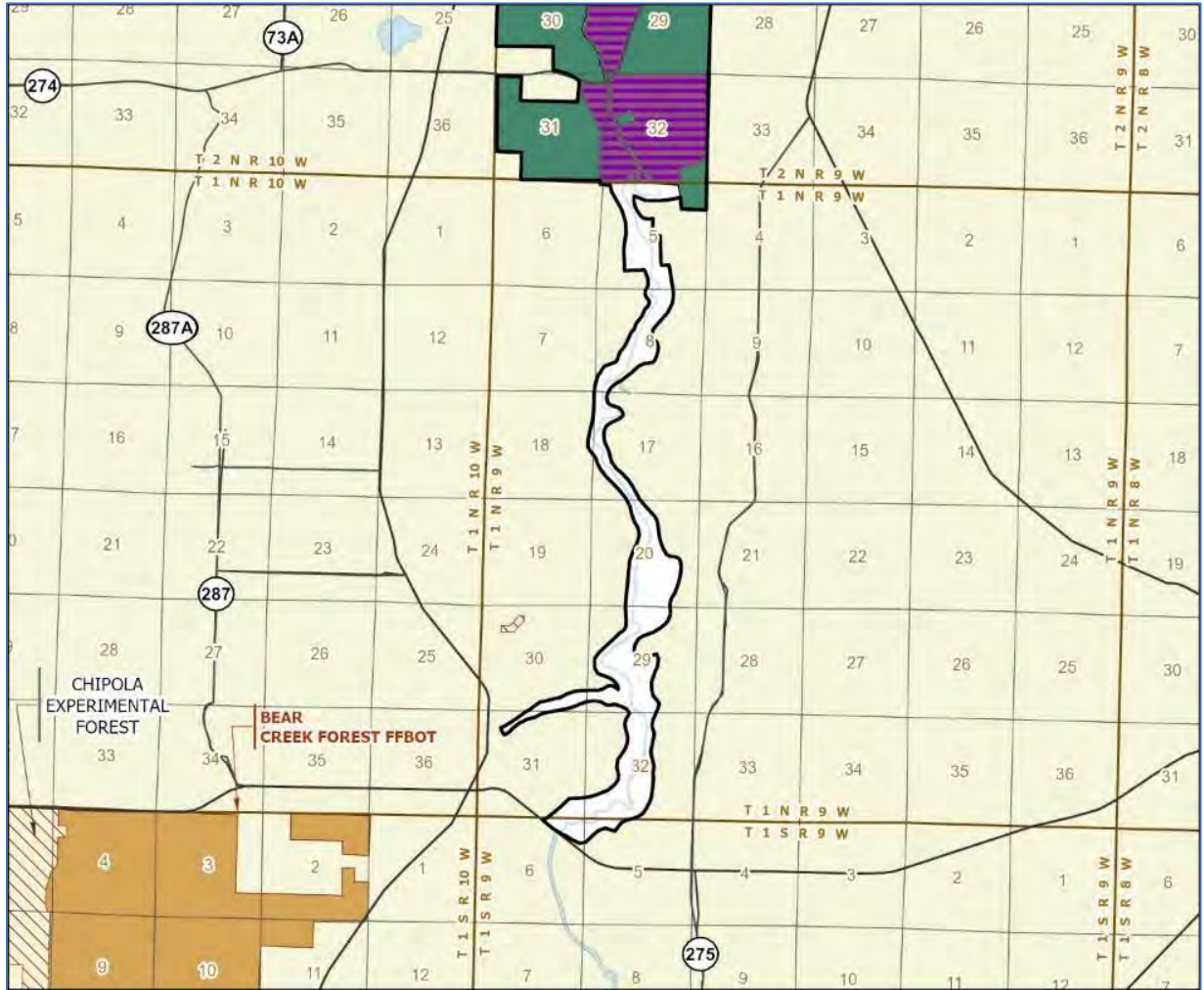
CALHOUN AND JACKSON COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020





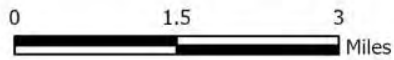
MIDDLE CHIPOLA RIVER: MAP 5

CALHOUN COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020





Mill Creek

Less-Than-Fee Project

Marion

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2003
Project Acres	12,293
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	12,293
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$22,088,515

Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project in the form of a conservation easement will contribute to the following Florida Forever goals:

- 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.
- Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources – approximately 49 percent 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;
- 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(s)

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 different entities, but it is 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

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

6 rare species are associated with the project

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 general public access for hunting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) advises that the hunting potential for this project is low.



Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and 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 tax assessed value of \$13,694,672.

2005

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.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move the Mill Creek project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever priority list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the Mill Creek project in the Less-than-Fee category of projects.

Coordination

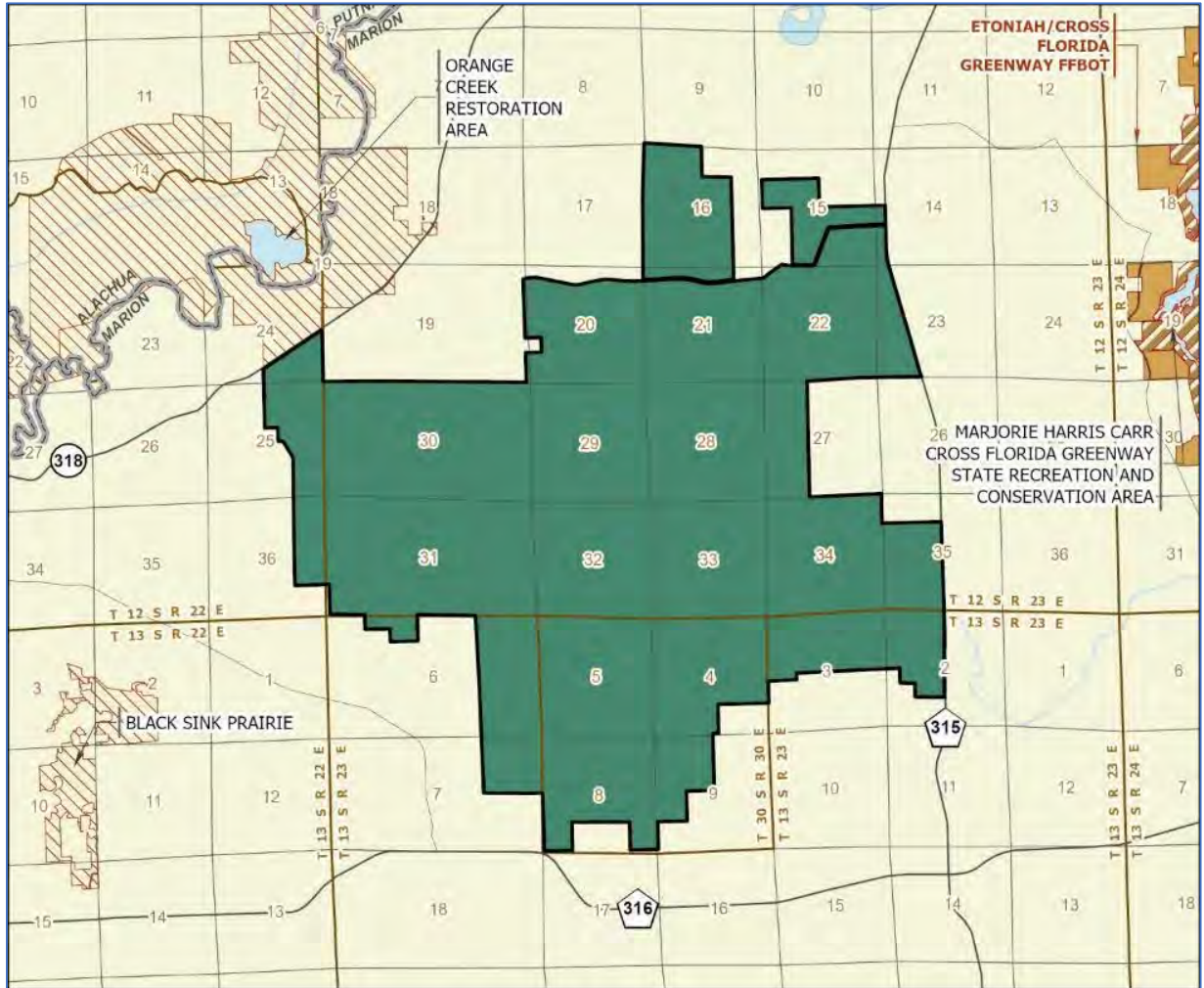
There are no acquisition partners at this time.

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.



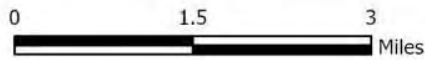
MILL CREEK

MARION COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 144 : FNAI, January 2021



Millstone Plantation

Less-Than-Fee Project

Leon

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	176
Acquired Acres	92
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$862,000
Remaining Project Acres	84
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$2,108,414

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(s)

The Apalachee Land Conservancy would be responsible for the monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement.

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 are 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

2 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Public use 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

2001

The project consists of approximately 134 acres and one owner. In 2001, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$69,970. 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-than-Fee category of projects.

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.

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 is sought to 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.

Management Prospectus

The Millstone Plantation Florida Forever project encompasses nearly 134 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 showing 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 19th century Colonial revival architecture, and related structures and out-buildings, are also of great historical significance, eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Sites. The Millstone project 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. Also, 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 was identified for monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement. The primary management goal of Millstone Plantation is continued protection, preservation, investigation, and interpretation of the property's rich archaeological resources

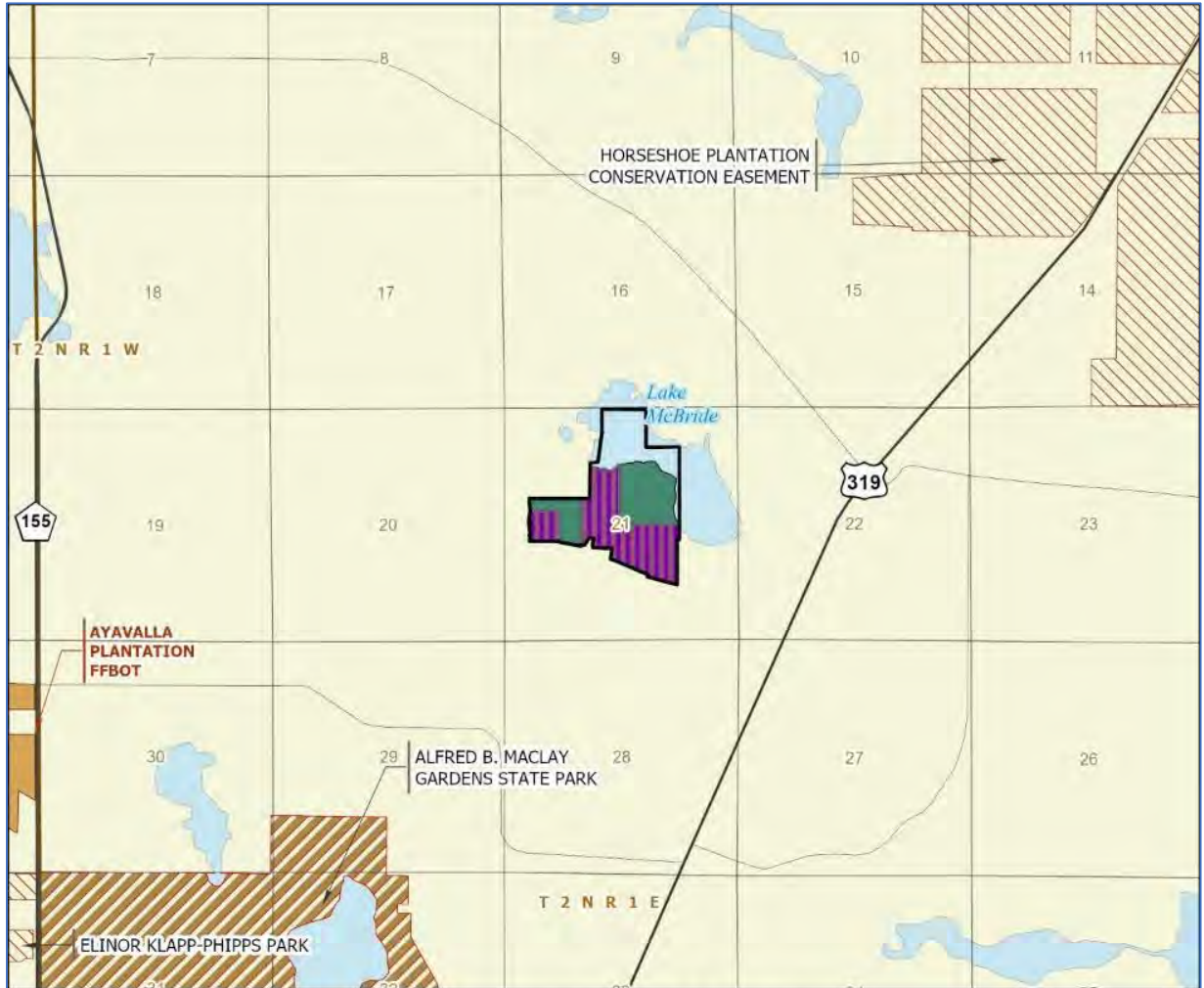
and stabilization, preservation, and restoration of the Millstone Plantation House and related structures. The Institute will also continue efforts to foster the protection of the water quality of Lake McBride and Millstone Creek and continue aquatic research, as well as begin restoration of the project's natural upland communities. Central to 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. The Millstone Institute will seek funding through both public and private (foundations, corporations, and individuals) grant sources to support management 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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

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.



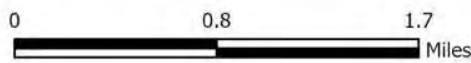
MILLSTONE PLANTATION

LEON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 145 : FNAI, January 2021



Myakka Ranchlands

Less-Than-Fee Project
DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2007
Project Acres	47,414
Acquired Acres	16,841
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$21,121,100
Remaining Project Acres	30,573
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$152,903,490

Purpose for State Acquisition

This project has multiple areas, on opposite sides of the Myakka River State Park, that protect a system of conservation areas, making a 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 (24,493 acres) and help build 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 known to have rare plants and animals and protect waters of the state and functional wetlands. The Myakka Island Conservation Corridor ranches would build a landscape-sized protection area in the Myakka River and upstream of the Charlotte Harbor Estuary.

Manager(s)

Sarasota County Natural Resources, a division of the Sarasota County government, is recommended as the manager of 802 acres of the project once it is acquired, with assistance and cooperation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Myakka River State Park. The rest of the proposed project is recommended for less-than-fee



acquisitions and therefore would be monitored through the Office of Environmental Services (OES), Division of State Lands (DSL).

General Description

The original Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project had 18,737 (GIS) acres, consisting of three ownerships in two disjunct tracts: Hi Hat Ranch in the northwest (10,770 acres) and the combined Walton and Longino Ranches in the southeast (7,969 acres).

On June 27, 2014, ARC added the proposed Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector, which abuts it on the east side, as an amendment to the Myakka Ranchlands, adding 5,552 acres.

When ARC added the 7,564-acre Myakka Island Conservation Corridor proposal to the Myakka Ranchlands on December 12, 2014, that brought the total to 31,853 GIS acres.

The Hi Hat tract is about five miles east of the city limits of Sarasota in the northern part of Sarasota County. 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. The eastern edge of the tract abuts the Lewis Longino Preserve, a 3,895-acre conservation easement purchased by Sarasota County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to protect regional water supplies. The Myakka Island Conservation Corridor consists of three ranches. Triangle Ranch (1,067 acres) and Sheps Island Ranch (723 acres) are along the Manatee River where Sarasota and Manatee counties join. Orange Hammock Ranch (5,774 acres) borders existing conservation lands on the DeSoto County line. The working ranches have cattle operations, sod farms, row crops, citrus groves, pine and cabbage palm harvesting, and hunting. About 90 percent of the land for the Myakka Island Conservation Corridor parcels is in various degrees of natural condition, with some improved pasture. 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. The properties are crisscrossed with internal roads, access ways and ditches associated with ranch and farming operations. About half of the Hi Hat, Longino and Walton ranches 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 support a mosaic of mesic flatwoods, depression and basin marshes, prairie and hydric hammocks. About 70 percent of the Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector ranches are in natural condition. The quality of these natural communities is variable, depending upon the fire history and levels of physical disturbances or invasive exotic plant encroachments.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/S3
Black-crowned night-heron	G5/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3

15 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

In the 802 acres within the Hi Hat Ranch to be managed by Sarasota County, some existing roads and trails may become multi-use trails for hiking and horseback riding. Such uses as camping, picnicking, hiking, and boating will be compatible with the protection of the area. Longino Ranch and Walton Ranch, the remainder of Hi Hat Ranch, and the ranches of the Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector and the Myakka Island Conservation Corridor will likely not have any public access under the terms of their conservation easements. Without access there will not be any public resource based outdoor recreation potential in these areas.

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 FFS), 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.

1995

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

2007

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.



2010

On July 15, 2010, Sarasota County and SWFWMD in partnership purchased for \$22,559,100 fee simple (\$9,023,640) and as a conservation easement (\$13,535,460) 3,760 acres known as Walton Ranch. The partnership ownership interests are 100 percent fee and 10 percent CE for the County, and 90 percent CE for SWFWMD.

On August 19, 2010, SWFWMD and Sarasota County in partnership acquired Longino Ranch Conservation Easement (3,981 acres) for \$14,559,000 (Conservation Easement is held jointly by the District and County). This easement has a provision for public access to a recreational trail along the southern property boundary that if developed would connect public ownerships from the Myakka River to the Peace River. On September 27, 2011, SWFWMD and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership purchased a CE (1,237 acres known as Horton Ranch) for \$2,230,000. In 2014, ARC voted to combine the proposed Myakka-Peace River Watershed Connector with the Myakka Ranchlands project.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of projects.

2014

On December 12, 2014, ARC added the proposed Myakka Island Conservation Corridor as an addition to the Myakka Ranchlands, making the project a total of 31,853 GIS acres.

2015

At the August 2015 ARC meeting, the 543-acre Murphy Marsh parcel was added to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project.

At the October 2015 meeting, upon completion of full proposal reviews, ARC formally added the 1,356-acre Myakka Addition Lands in Sarasota County and the 2,659-acre Upper Myakka Watershed in Manatee County to the Florida Forever project list, then by motion, added the acreage within the boundaries of those two projects into the existing Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project to include.

2016

At the December 2016 ARC meeting, the 4,530-acre Blackbeard's Ranch proposal in southern Manatee County was approved for the Florida Forever list, then added to the Myakka Ranchlands project for its water protection benefits and for its high potential for restoration. The Blackbeard's Ranch addition adjoins Myakka River State Park and is about 10 miles east of Sarasota within the Myakka watershed. It includes the headwaters of two important sloughs in



the watershed—Deer Prairie Slough and Mud Slough—that both run south through adjacent conservation lands. This area is home to the Florida black bear, the burrowing owl, the eastern indigo snake and the roseate spoonbill.

2019

On April 19, 2019, the ARC approved adding the 4,044-acre (GIS) BR Ranch project proposed for less-than-fee acquisition in DeSoto County to the 2020 Florida Forever Priority List, then moved to incorporate the lands within the BR Ranch project boundary into the Myakka Ranchlands project boundary. The proposal had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$11,700,000. This addition would contribute to the natural and hydrological resources as well as increase connectivity with existing conservation lands. BR Ranch will also contribute to the larger landscape that includes Myakka River State Park, Lewis Longino Preserve and T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve. The land within the approved boundary was designated as essential. It would be managed with Division of State Lands oversight if acquired.

On October 18, 2019, the ARC approved adding the 2,393-acre (GIS) MJ Ranch project proposed for less-than-fee acquisition in Manatee County to the 2020 Florida Forever Priority List, then moved to incorporate the lands within the MJ Ranch into the Myakka Ranchlands project boundary. The proposal had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$5,800,632. This addition would contribute to the natural and hydrological resources and increase connectivity with existing conservation lands. The MJ Ranch’s northwestern boundary is a 3-mile stretch along the Myakka River Watershed, which drains to the Charlotte Harbor. The land within the approved boundary was designated as essential. It would be managed by Division of State Lands for oversight if acquired.

Coordination

Acquisition of the Myakka Ranchlands would be a shared acquisition along with Sarasota County and the SWFWMD. It is already part of the SWFWMD Florida Forever Work Plan. It abuts the Myakka River State Park. The rest of the project is recommended for less-than-fee acquisitions and therefore would be monitored through the Office of Environmental Services (OES), Division of State Lands (DSL).

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 ensure 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 and its pastures are 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 (Hi Hat) to be purchased in full once it is acquired, with assistance and cooperation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Myakka River State Park. The rest of the project, 31,051 acres in five 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 be fenced and the aboveground spray-irrigation equipment will be removed by the landowner. Hydrological alterations in the form of ditches will be analyzed for potential restoration. Such areas may be restored with native ground cover 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. 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

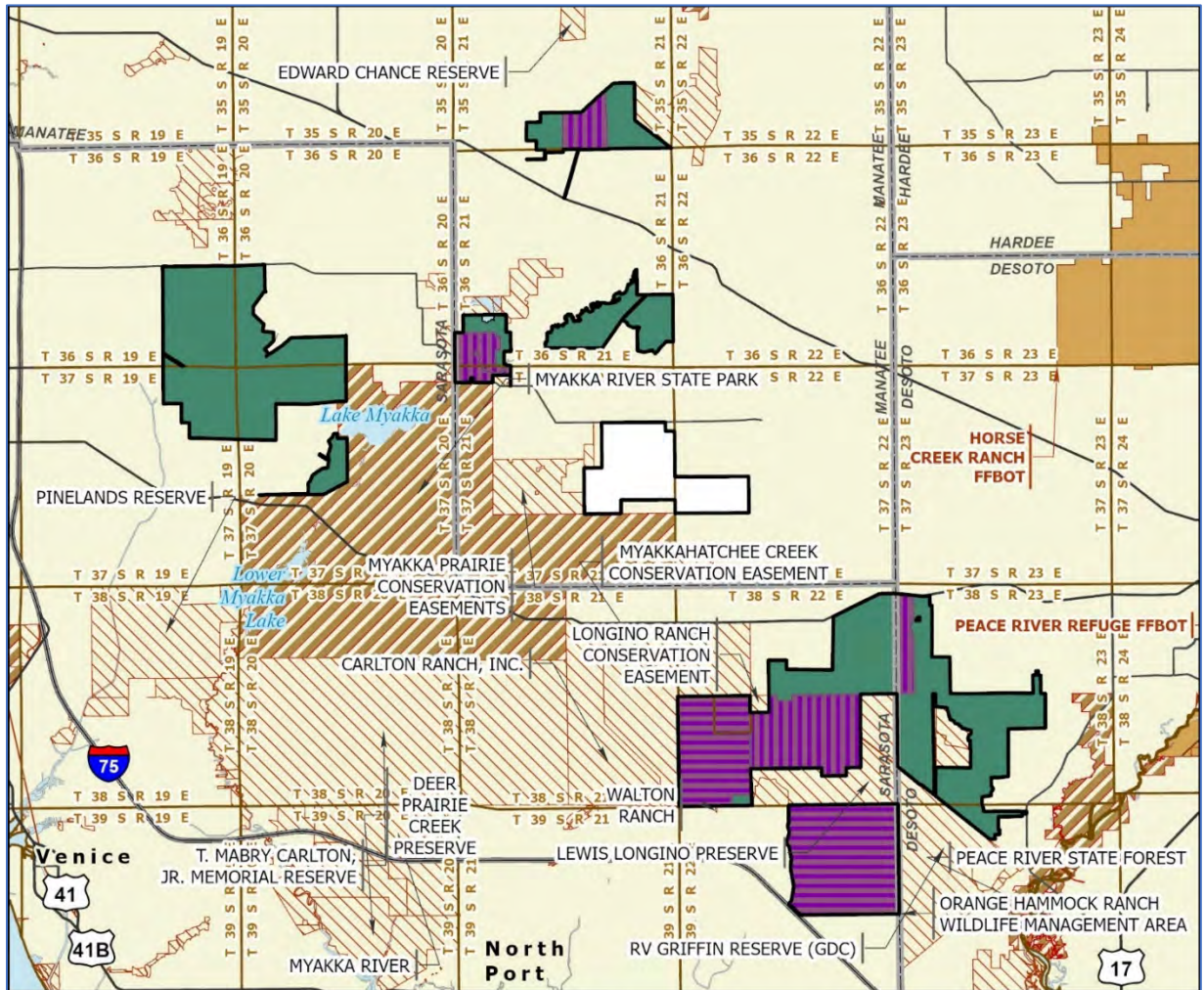
Once the fee-simple portion of the project is acquired and assigned for management to Sarasota County, existing trails will be evaluated for nature-based recreation use. After the installation of the fence and removal of the above ground spray irrigation equipment by Hi Hat Ranch at no cost to the project 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, its 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 ensure 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 future revenues might come from recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. No capital project expenditures will be needed on the full-fee 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.

Cooperators in management activities

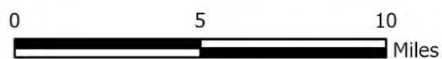
Sarasota County proposes to manage the 802-acre section of the project like the adjacent state park and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. Sarasota County will cooperate with and seek the assistance of Myakka River State Park, the SWFWMD and interested parties as appropriate.



MYAKKA RANGLANDS

DESOTO, MANATEE, AND SARASOTA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 146 : FNAI, January 2021



Natural Bridge Creek

Critical Natural Lands Project

Walton

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2012
Project Acres	1,967
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	1,967
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$2,312,552

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition would provide a buffer for Natural Bridge Creek, protect surface water, functional wetlands and aquifer recharge, and preserve underrepresented natural communities. The local community used the creek as a recreational site until recently, when the landowner became concerned about liability issues.

The county would like to manage the area around the creek as a county park, compatible with conservation purposes.

This proposal meets the following public purposes as identified in 259.032(3) Florida Statutes, to varying degrees:

- (d) 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, groundwater, coastal, recreational, timber, or fish or wildlife resources which cannot otherwise be accomplished through local and state regulatory programs;
- (e) To promote water resource development that benefits natural systems and citizens of the state;
- (g) To provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource based recreation and other outdoor recreation on any part of any site compatible with conservation purposes; and,
- (h) To preserve significant archaeological or historic sites.



Manager(s)

The 62-acre creek area would be managed by Walton County if acquired in fee. The balance of the property, 1,735 acres, would be managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), perhaps as a gopher tortoise preserve.

General Description

The project boundary includes 1,797 acres (calculated through GIS; 1,812 as reported in the initial proposal) in northern Walton County along the Alabama state line. It is mostly a contiguous piece of property with one outlying tract about 885 feet away. The property is situated roughly mid-way between the Yellow and Choctawhatchee rivers.

Natural Bridge Creek, a sand-bottomed seepage stream, flows northeastward across the property before entering Alabama. Much of its tributary seepage arises within the property, although two streams drain from uplands just to the south. The stream temporarily sinks at Natural Bridge in the northeastern disjunct tract, and then rises as a small “spring” reported to be the westernmost sink/rise formation in the Floridan Aquifer. The rise is a locally popular recreational site (currently closed for liability reasons) but also was used by both Native American and 19th century historic cultures.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>2 rare species are associated with the project</i>	

Public Use

Walton County has provided a management prospectus for 62 acres of this site for recreation if it is acquired in fee simple. FWC has prepared a management prospectus for the more than 1,700 acres in pinelands.

Acquisition Planning

The project was submitted for acquisition in fee or conservation easement by the landowners, Mr. Benton Hester and Ms. Judith Hester. Their family has managed it as pinelands since World War II.



2012

On August 17, 2012, the current project was presented to ARC and accepted for review. It was added to the Florida Forever list in the Critical Natural Lands category on December 14, 2012.

2020

On June 12, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 170-acres in Walton County to the project boundary.

Coordination

Walton County may provide some of the funding toward the acquisition of the Natural Bridge Creek Park. At the time of this project's approval however, the Board of County Commissioners committed only to using revenue set aside for the park's development, once acquired. There has also been discussion of participation from the federally funded Forest Legacy program.

Management Policy Statement

The primary management goals for the portion managed by the county as the Natural Bridge Park include restoring and protecting the spring and creek, providing public access and limited facilities for recreation, managing and controlling exotic invasive species, protecting any existing cultural or historical resources and protecting habitat for imperiled species. Other recreational activities that could take place on this parcel to a limited degree are hiking, nature studies, picnicking and interpretation of archaeological and historic sites. (Evidence of an old creekside grist mill and historic turpentine activities are present.)

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

As well as its recreational value, much of the site retains the "park-like" characteristic of longleaf pine forest with an abundance of native ground cover. Many rare, imperiled and species of special concern have been documented on site including gopher tortoise and bluenose shiner. While specific species densities are unknown, the property could potentially serve as a gopher tortoise recipient or mitigation site due to its high-quality habitat.

Manager

As approved in 2012, Walton County would manage the Natural Bridge Creek area, and FWC would manage the remaining acreage.



Conditions affecting intensity of management

Most of the property has never been converted to cropland or undergone commercial forestry type rotations with clear-cut, site preparation, and herbicide applications. The sink/rise formation of Natural Bridge Creek has been disturbed for many years due to its popularity as a local swimming hole and the road that crosses the natural bridge itself. A spring stabilization report (NFWFMD 2008) lists previous agricultural practices and road erosion as sources of sediment in the creek system.

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

A management plan would be developed by FWC describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management. The management plan would establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of focal, species of special concern, rare and imperiled species. Historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted if deemed necessary. Quantified vegetation management objectives shall be developed. The FWC shall assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of focal species and recovery of imperiled species on the NBCFFP. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities have been implemented by the landowner to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from conservation lands can include sales of various permits and recreational user fees, and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. If needed, thinning operations within the longleaf pine forests to improve or reset the basal area consistent with the target for this forest community type and the species that occur there may generate additional revenues. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees and regulations. The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up costs for the pinelands of the NBCFFP are estimated to be \$289,920.00, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management. Optimal management of the area would require one fulltime equivalent (FTE) position to optimally manage the area. Salary requirements for these FTE positions, as well as those of other needed FWC staff, and costs to operate and manage the project are reflected in the following cost estimate. All land legislative appropriations management funding is dependent upon annual.



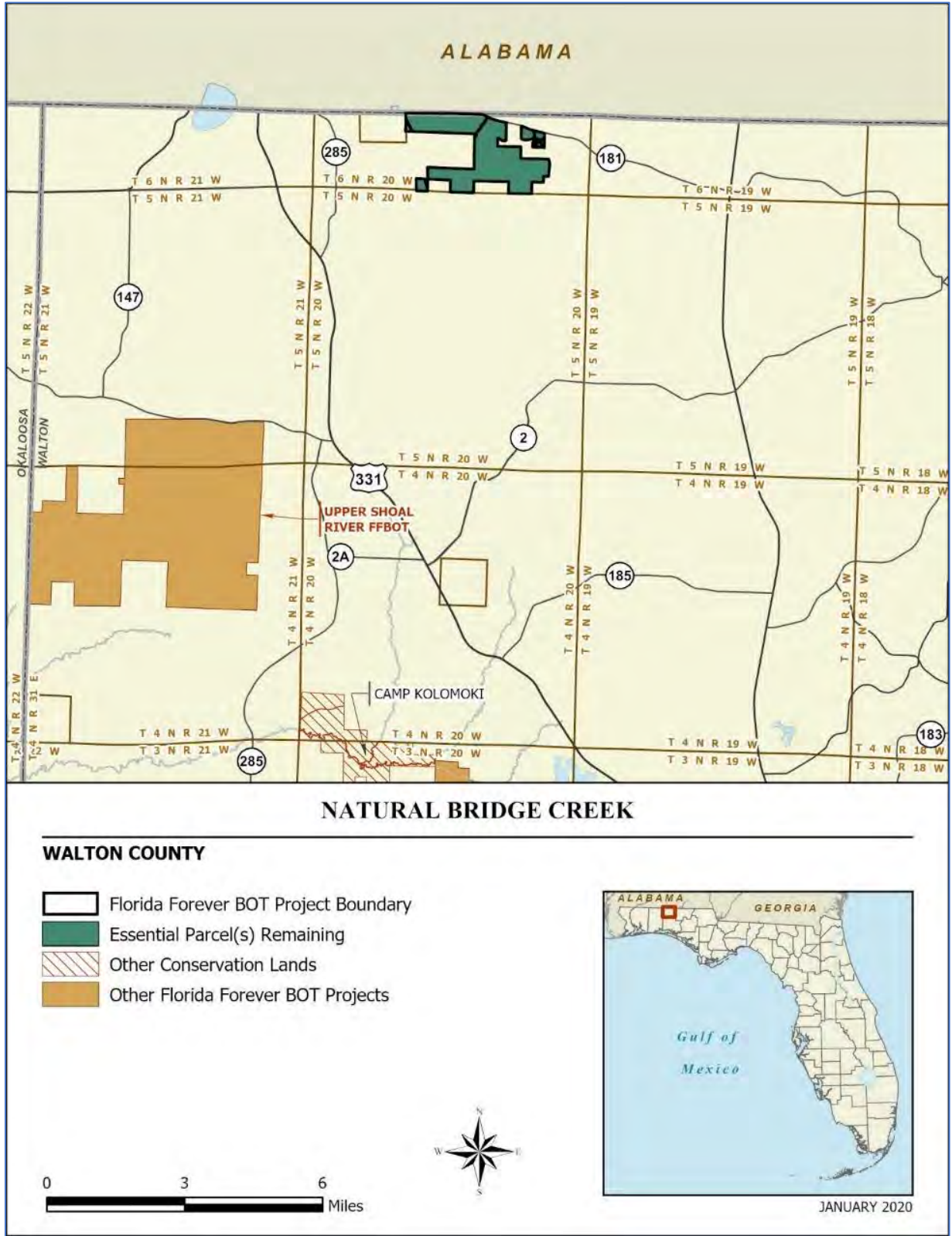
Cooperators in management activities

If this project is acquired and leased to FWC for management, FWC will cooperate with other Federal, State and local governmental agencies including Walton County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Forest Service, Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest Florida Water Management District, and others in management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

<i>FWC</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Priority</i>
<u>Resource Management:</u>		
Exotic Species Control	\$4,476	(1)
Prescribed Burning	\$9,585	(1)
Cultural Resource Management	\$399	(1)
Timber Management	\$616	(1)
Hydrological Management	\$4,059	(1)
Other (Restoration, Enhancement, Surveys, Monitoring, etc.)	\$50,120	(1)
Subtotal	\$69,255	
<u>Administration:</u>		
General Administration	\$1,504	(1)
<u>Support:</u>		
Land Management Planning	\$2,446	(1)
Land Management Reviews	\$362	(3)
Training/Staff Development	\$435	(1)
Vehicle Purchase	\$7,556	(2)
Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	\$4,458	(1)
Other (Technical Reports, Data Management, etc.)	\$4,113	(1)
Subtotal	\$19,370	
<u>Capital Improvements:</u>		
Facility Maintenance	\$10,546	(1)
<u>Visitor Services/Recreation:</u>		
Information/Education/Operations	\$6,650	(1)
<u>Law Enforcement:</u>		
Resource Protection	\$1,395	(1)
TOTAL	\$108,720	

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Map 147 : FNAI, January 2021



Northeast Florida Blueway

Climate Change Lands
Project Duval, Flagler, St.
Johns

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	32,591
Acquired Acres	20,671
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$32,438,430
Remaining Project Acres	11,920
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$483,156,590

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 and 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(s)

The City of Jacksonville, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) 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 publicly 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Manatee	G2G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>coastal vervain</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
<i>yellow hibiscus</i>	G4G5/S2
American oystercatcher	G5/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Least tern	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

17 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This project would support primitive camping opportunities 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 DRP proposes to manage the St. Johns County portion north of Faver-Dykes State Park and south of a haul road between US Highway 1 and a spoil site on the Matanzas River. This section of the project 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 FFS 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 protecting archeological and historic sites.

Acquisition Planning

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and 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 proposal, 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 and 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 and Matanzas Rivers, to the project boundary. The fee-simple addition in St. Johns County consisted of approximately 27,929 acres, multiple owners (private and 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.

2003

On August 15, 2003, the ARC approved two additions to the project boundary. The Office of Coastal and 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 tax assessed value of \$8,400,000. This fee-simple addition is in Flagler County.

2006

On October 13, 2006, the ARC approved a redesign of the project boundary. A total of 2,000 acres no longer suitable for conservation 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands list of projects.

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

This project would be managed 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, to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources, and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The lands approved in Phase I of this project 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 of the project is of a size and diversity that makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the FFS as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring fee simple title to the parcels of interest to FFS. 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 the portion of the project within Duval County. The DRP 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 Florida Forest Service (FFS) 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 (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, removing trash, and having limited public access to the property. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously protecting 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 FFS 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 first inventory natural resources and develop a plan to protect and restore resources, including removing 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. First year management will concentrate on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and developing a plan for long-term public use and resource management.

The FFS 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 FFS 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 removing trash.

Revenue-generating potential

Phase II, the portion to be added to Faver-Dykes State Park, will not initially make any significant revenue for the DRP. After acquiring and adding the land to Faver-Dykes State Park, it will probably be several years before significant public use facilities are developed. The amount of revenue generated will depend on the nature and extent of public use and facilities developed. The FFS 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 developing the property for state park purposes. FFS plans to cooperate with, and seek the assistance of, local government entities, interested parties as appropriate and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. The FFS 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 FFS 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 project also includes a substantial amount of property owned by other government agencies. It is not the intent that the City or State acquire 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 Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$29,000
OPS	\$25,000	\$8,000
Expense	\$18,000	\$12,000
OCO	\$28,000	\$0
FCO	\$20,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$81,000	\$49,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

FFS	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (3 FTEs)	\$79,518	not provided
Expense	\$215,000	not provided
OCO	\$37,800	not provided
TOTAL	\$333,318	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

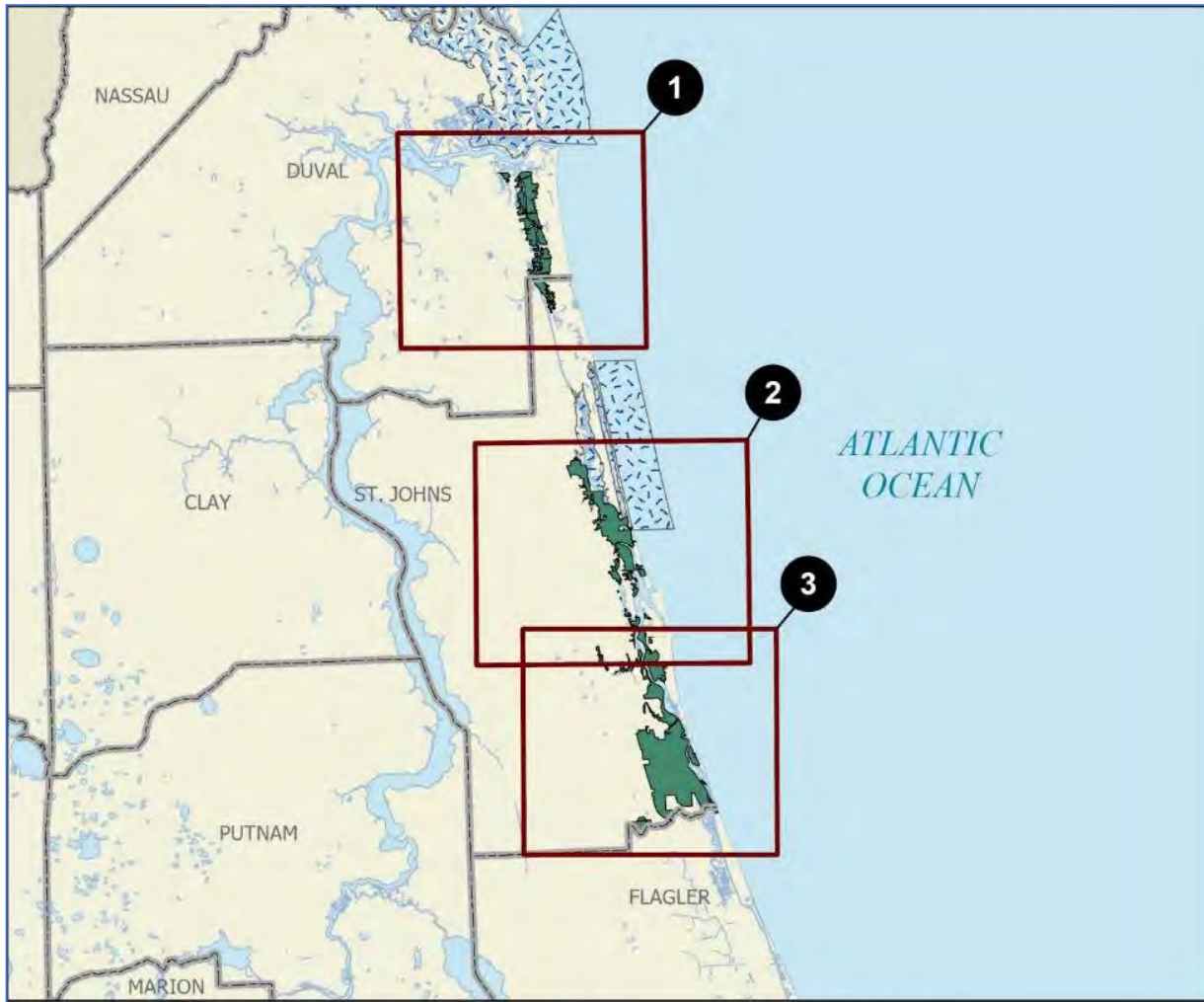
DEP	Administration
Management Plans	\$200,000
Security	\$25,000
Invasion/exotics control	\$25,000



One-time capital outlay
TOTAL

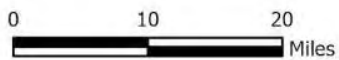
\$2,500,000
\$2,750,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 1

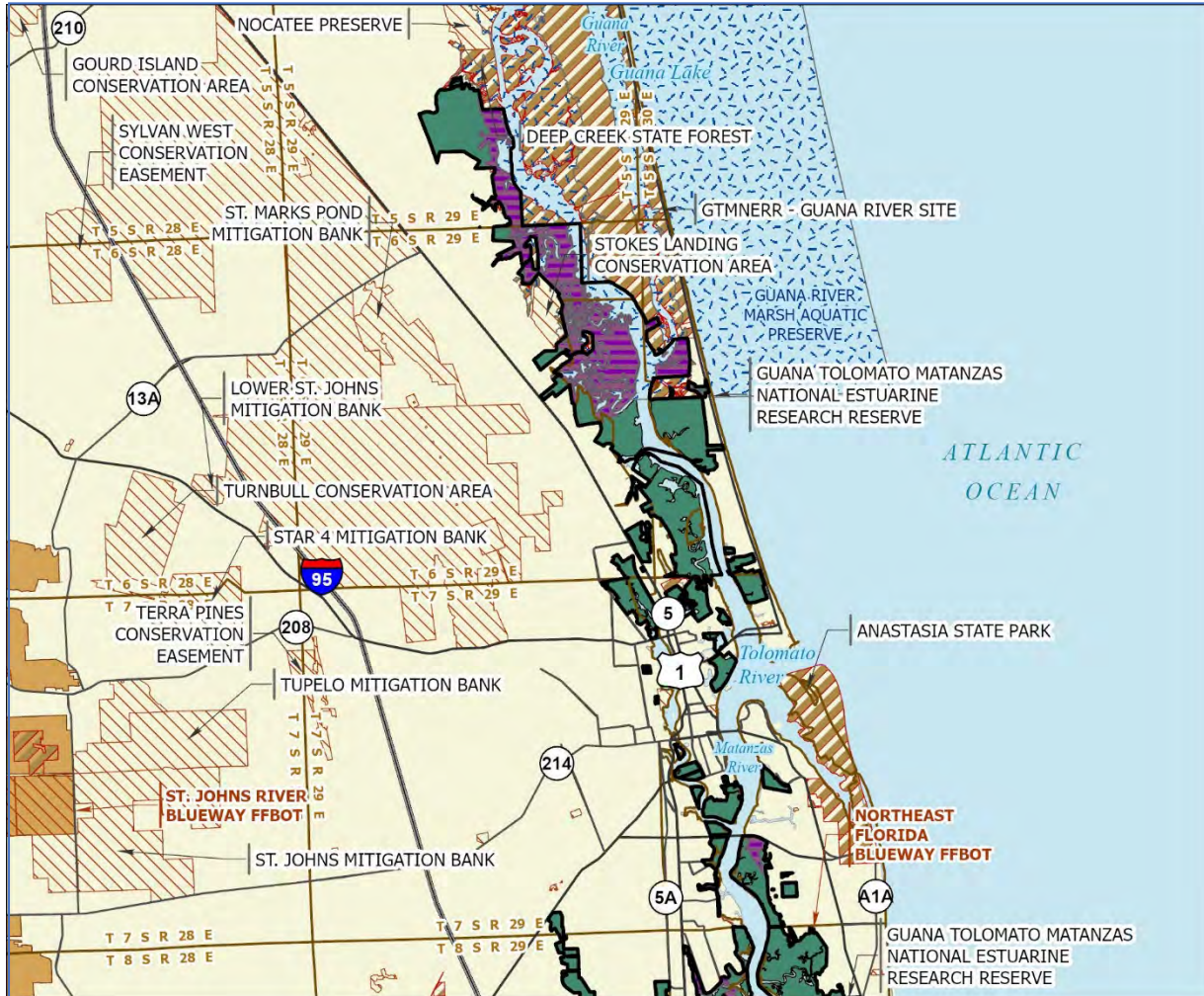
DUVAL AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

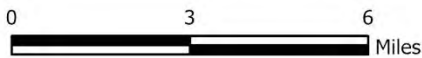
Map 2 : FNAI, January 2021



NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 2

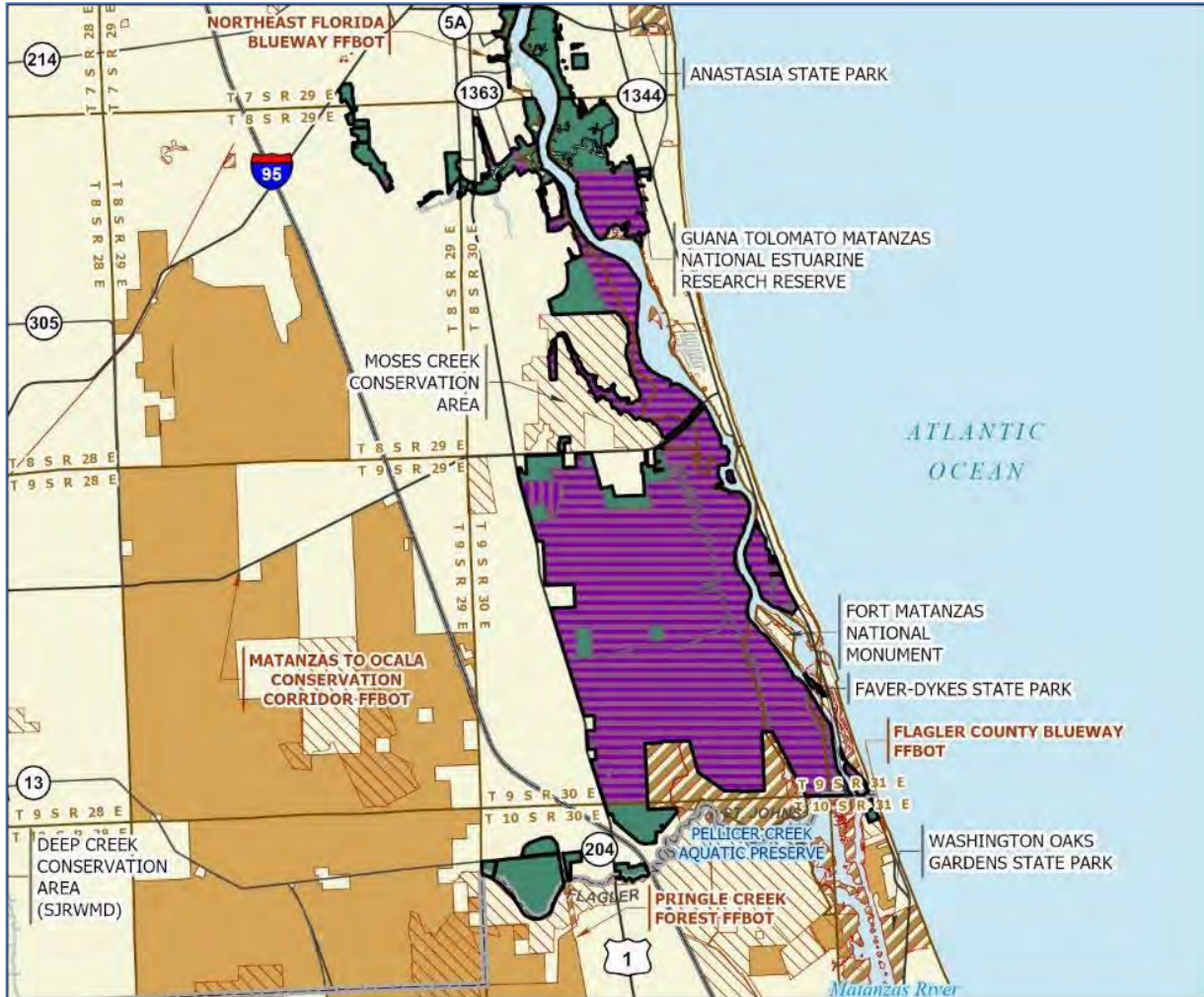
ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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



JUNE 2020

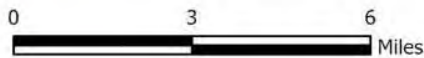
Map 3 : FNAI, January 2021



NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY: MAP 3

FLAGLER AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 4 : FNAI, January 2021



Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Clay, Duval, Nassau

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	147,431
Acquired Acres	71,004
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$141,546,558
Remaining Project Acres	76,427
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$1,106,101,849

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 percent of land is disturbed with restoration a primary objective.

Manager(s)

Florida Forest Service/FFS of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida toothache grass</i>	G2/S2
<i>variable-leaf crownbeard</i>	G2/S2
<i>hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>Thorne's beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2
Painted Bunting, eastern population	G5T3/S1S2
<i>Bartram's ixia</i>	G2G3/S2S3

23 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The FFS 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

2001

On December 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommended the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve project for Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2002 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 the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), consisted of approximately 132,450 acres, more than 150 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, 1st Bank and 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 and Roberts, Grey, Sythe, Pharr, Wilkinson, and Helmer.

2003

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.

2004

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.

2006

On June 30, 2006, the Board of Trustees purchased 1,651 acres within the Florida Forever project boundary.

2007

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 FFS will manage these essential parcels

2010

On November 5, 2010, DSL purchased 15 acres (Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P.--\$18,108 with FF funds) for FFS to manage.



2011

On April 25, 2011, 3.95 acres in Four Creeks State Forest/Pacett) were donated. FFS will manage.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

2018

On February 16, 2018, ARC voted to expand the boundary of the project to include approximately 300 acres in Nassau County (Studdard Tract), a partial inholding within the Four Creeks State Forest.

ARC also voted to add a parcel to the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve during the August 2018 meeting. This 52-acre parcel in Nassau County is an inholding in the Four Creeks State Forest, near Highway A1A.

Coordination

In 1992, the 172-acre Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail was acquired with Florida Greenways and Trails funds. This trail which meanders through the project is managed by the City of Jacksonville. 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. TNC, City of Jacksonville, Duval County, FCT, and the U.S. Navy are considered partners in this project.

Management Policy Statement

The FFS proposes to manage the project under a multiple-use management regime consistent with the FFS 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 archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources.



Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the FFS 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

FFS 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 FFS, initial public access will be provided for diverse, low-intensity 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. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund.

Cooperators in management activities

The FFS 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

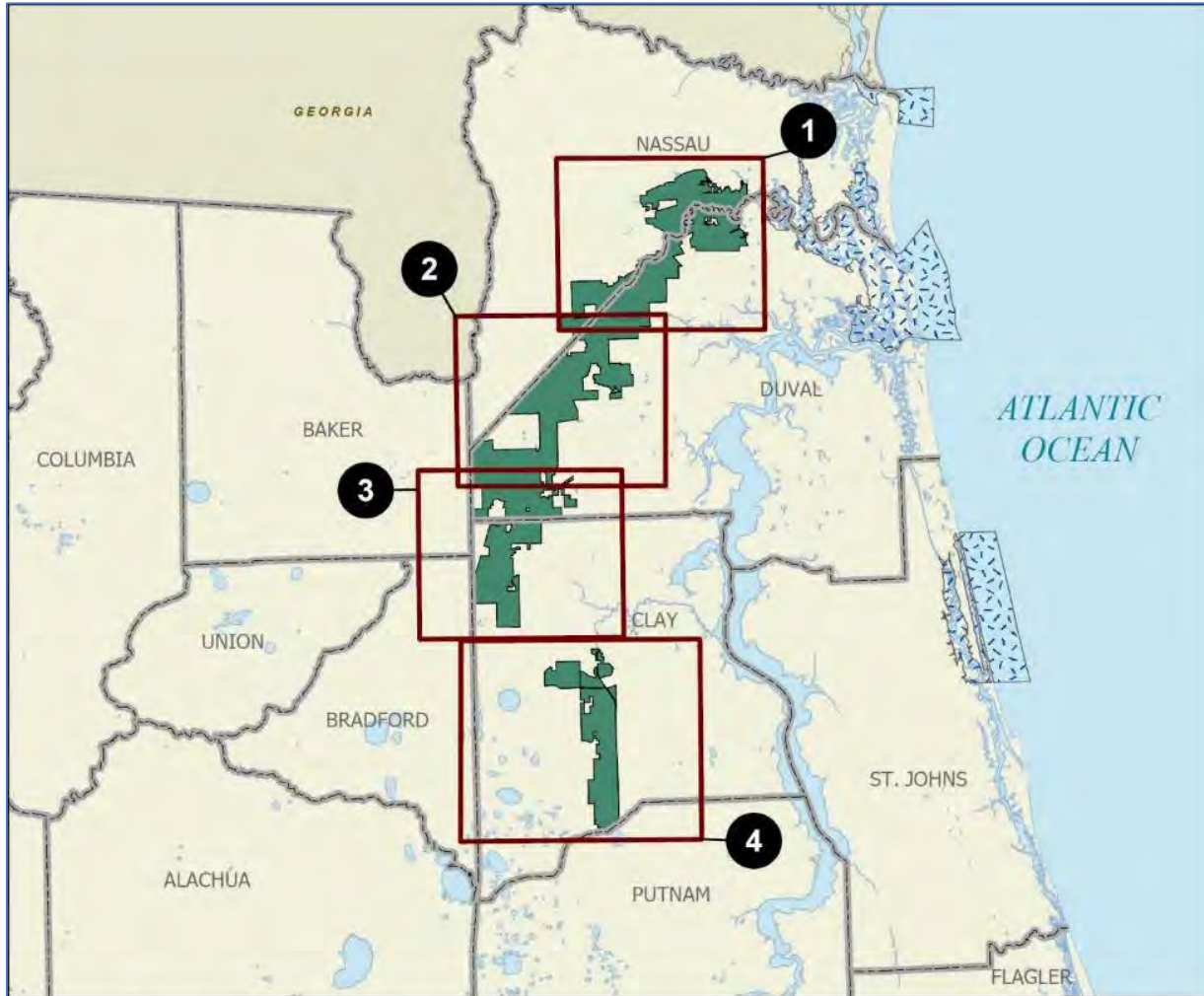


(FNAI). The FFS intends to coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regarding game and non-game management activity and related public use of the property.

Management Cost Summary

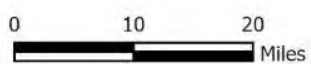
<u>FWC</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Source of Funds	CARL
Salary (4 FTEs)	\$154,357
Expense	\$620,000
OCO	\$148,075
TOTAL	\$887,007

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



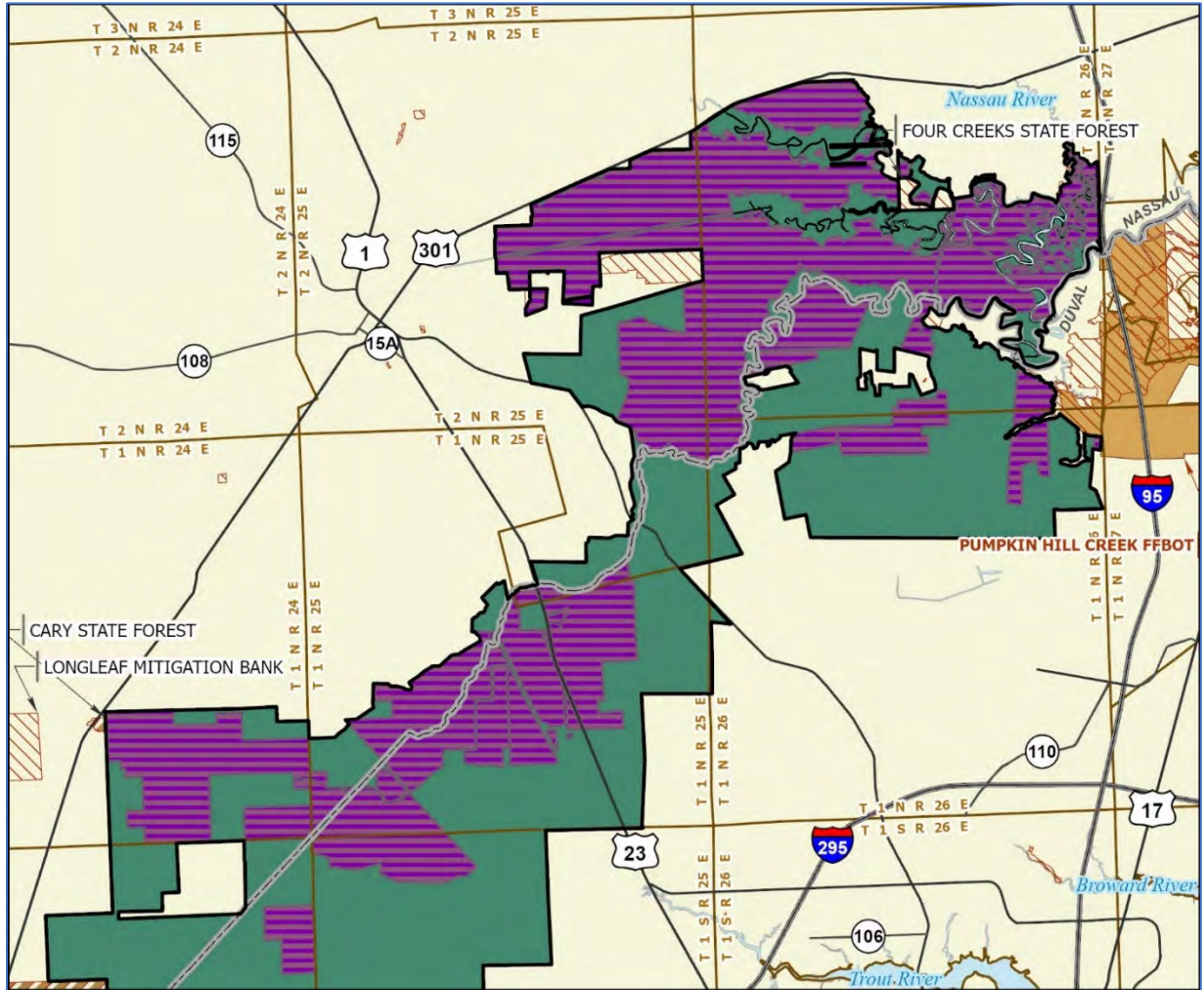
NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: OVERVIEW

CLAY, DUVAL, AND NASSAU COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

Map 148 : FNAI, January 2021



NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 1

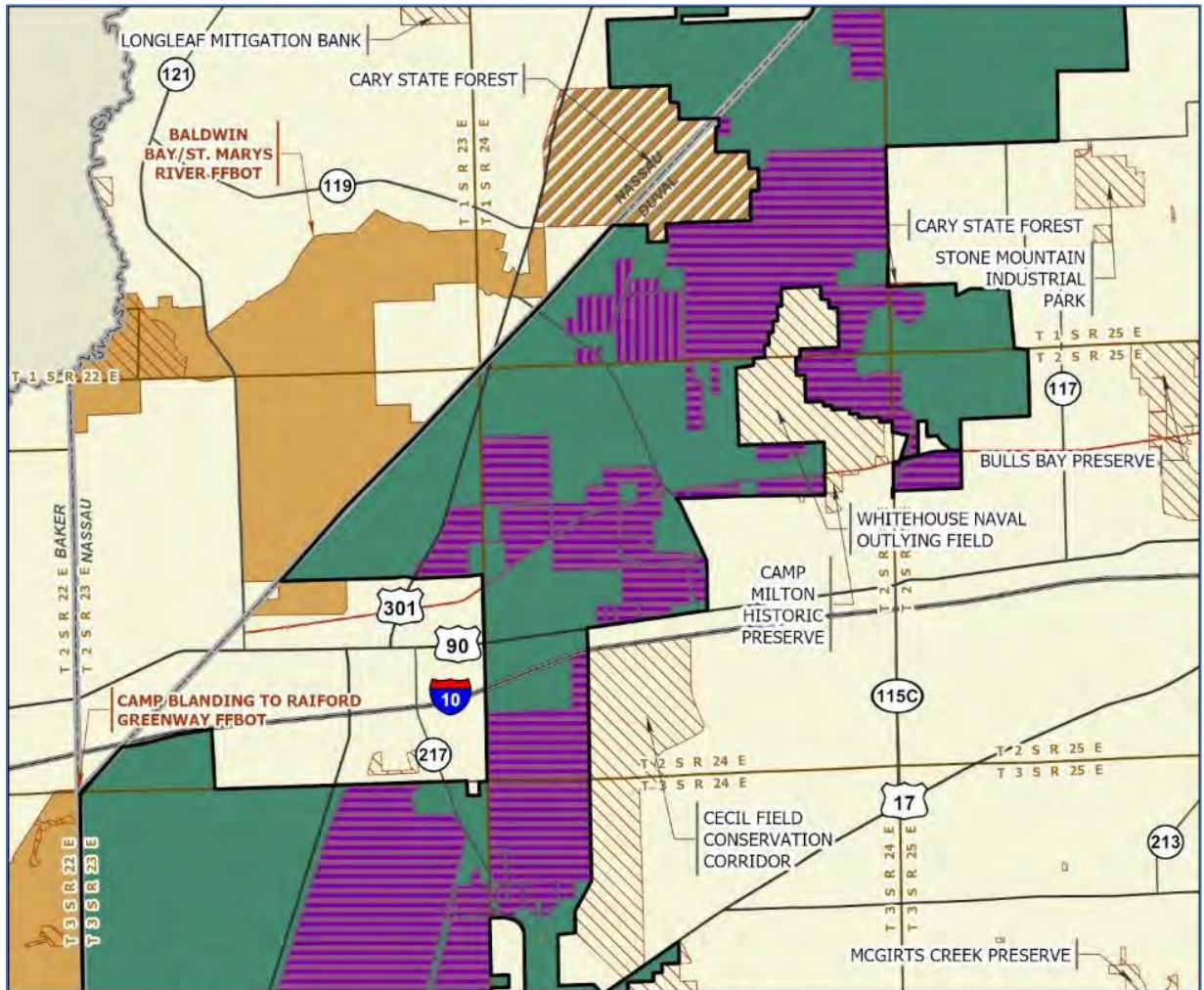
DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



FEBRUARY 2021

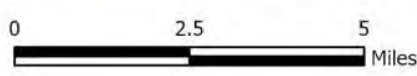




NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 2

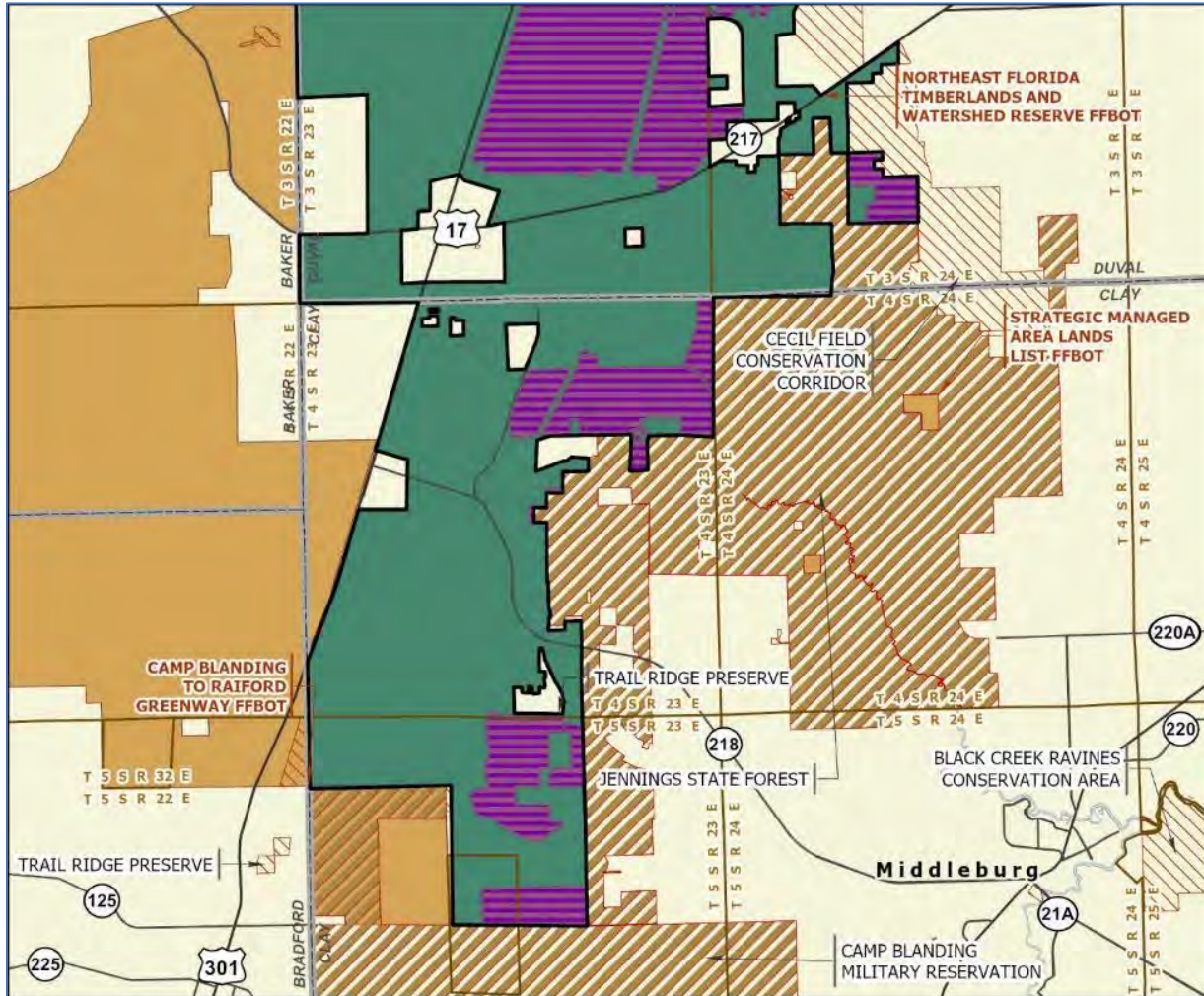
DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



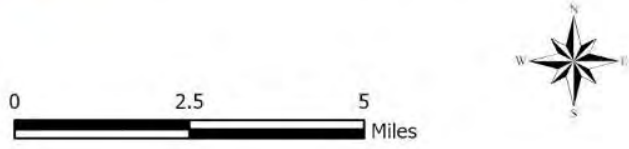
JANUARY 2020

Map 150 : FNAI, January 2021



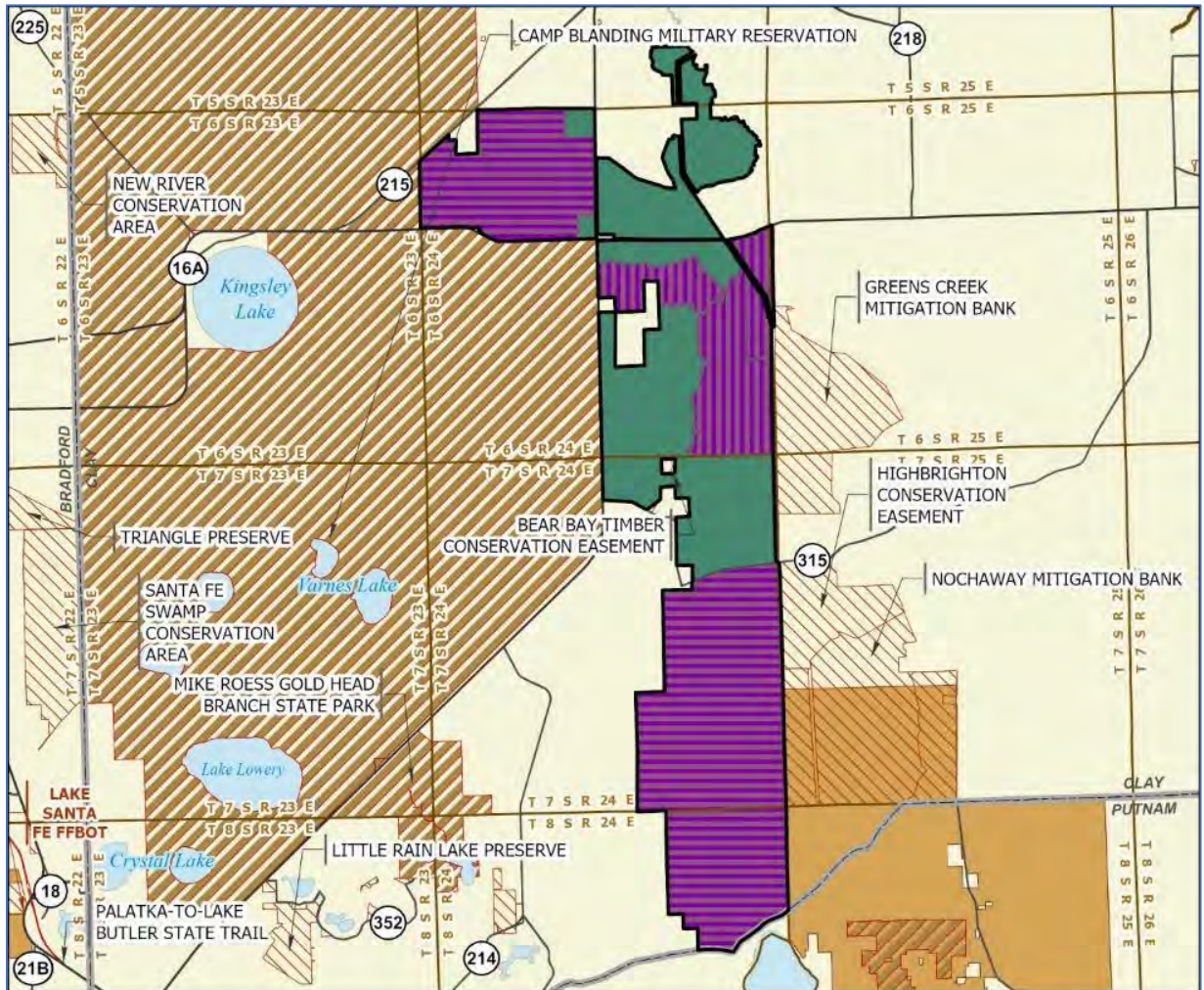
NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 3
CLAY AND DUVAL COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

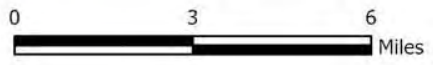
Map 151 : FNAI, January 2021



NORTHEAST FLORIDA TIMBERLANDS AND WATERSHED RESERVE: MAP 4

CLAY COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020

Map 152 : FNAI, January 2021



North Waccasassa Flats

Less-Than-Fee Project

Gilchrist

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2018
Project Acres	14,153
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	14,153
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$35,600,158

Purpose for State Acquisition

Setting up a conservation easement over the 14,153 acres of the North Waccasassa Flats in Gilchrist County would boost the Florida Forever goals of preserving strategic habitat and rare-species habitat, protect the headwaters of a tributary to the Santa Fe River, protect the natural floodplain function of 9,585 acres in this area and protect some 7,358 acres of functioning wetland systems. The entire 14,153- acre project is a groundwater-recharge area.

Manager(s)

The Lyme Timber Company has expressed interest in preserving this land with a conservation easement, which would be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands. The periodic monitoring would confirm continued compliance with the goals of the conservation easement. Other monitoring options may be available if, in the future, acquisition partners are found.

General Description

The North Waccasassa Flats property is a Florida Forever “less than-fee” proposal of 14,153 acres in Gilchrist County. The property is owned by the Lyme Timber Company and is bordered on the north by Loncala, Inc. and other silviculture and agriculture-oriented landowners. The



east and west boundaries consist of numerous rural residential and agricultural properties. The southern boundary is a livestock operation on the west side and County Road 232 along the east half. The property is also bisected by County Road 340. Important established conservation areas nearby include Fort White Wildlife and Environmental Area to the north and Bell Ridge Longleaf Wildlife and Environmental Area to the west. There are also numerous State Parks, County Parks, and private conservation easements along the Santa Fe River to the north and the Suwannee River to the west. Most of the project area is completely undeveloped though there are many miles of unpaved roads servicing forestry and hunting activities.

The project area is also crossed by a highway, a former rail line, one newly constructed pipeline and by utility transmission corridors.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2

2 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

As a conservation easement, this provides for no additional public recreational and educational opportunities, and it would not assist in the completion of the Florida National Scenic Trail. It does not increase the number of archeological sites protected or preserved for public use because the sites would not be preserved for public use, but the easement would increase the number of sites under state oversight.

Acquisition Planning

This area has been considered for conservation projects in the past, including a 1980s proposal under the CARL program for a 56,000-acre State Forest. At that time the landowner did not want to sell in a phased schedule. The Suwannee River Water Management District also proposed a planned 34,000-acre project overlapping this area.

2017

On October 31, 2017 the Conservation Fund sponsored the 14,153-acre proposal for the North Waccasassa Flats.

On April 20, 2018, ARC voted to add this proposal to the Florida Forever list.



Coordination

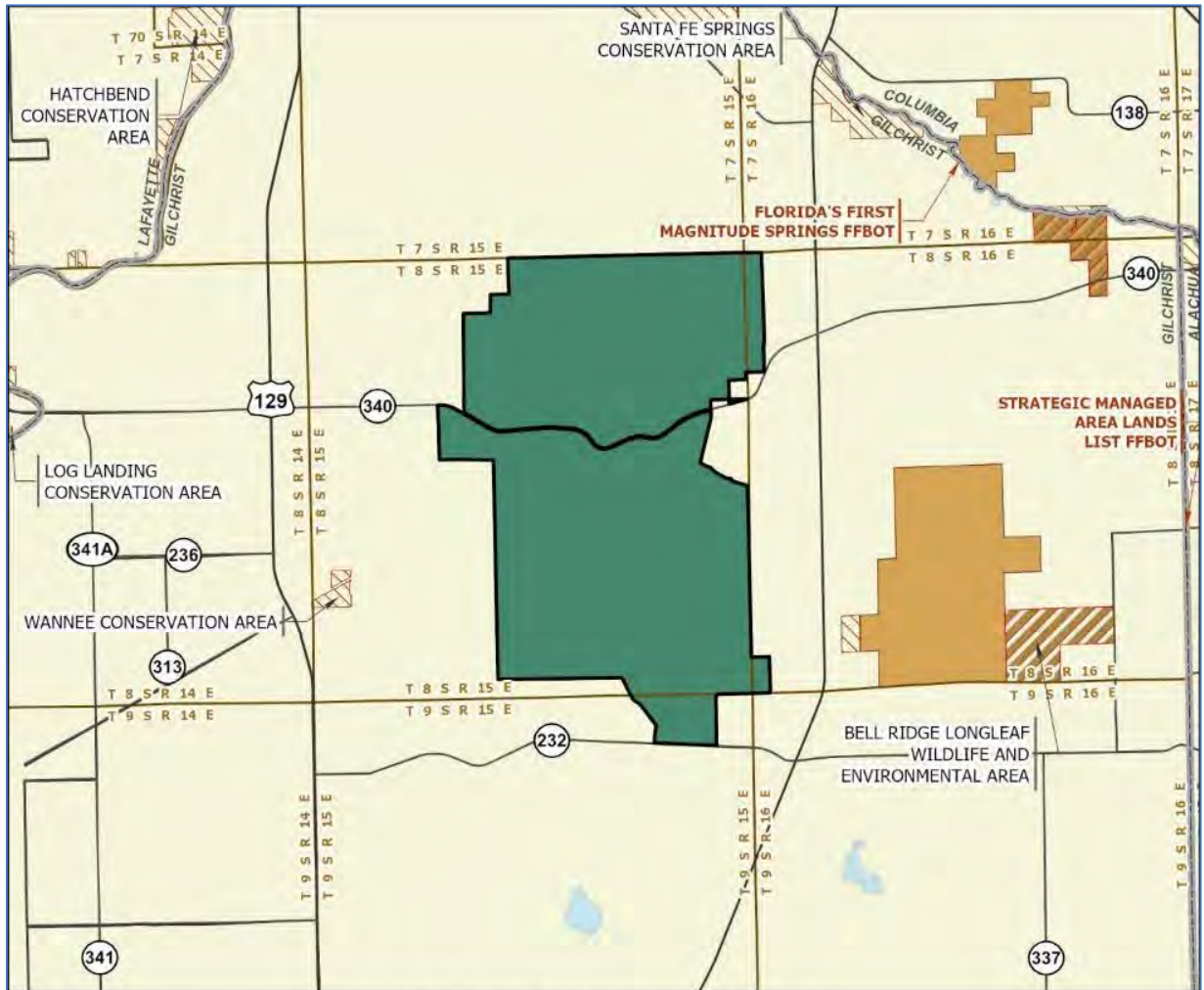
This area has also been considered for acquisition through the Rural and Family Lands program and by the St. Johns River Water Management District, which means there may be partnership opportunities.

Management Policy Statement

This project would be managed by the landowner as a conservation easement. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the easement would be coordinated by the Florida DEP Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services, though other monitoring options may become available if partnerships develop for acquisition.

Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands would be responsible for periodic monitoring of the property to ensure compliance with the conditions of the conservation easement.



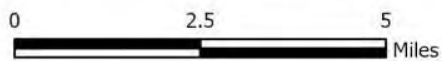
NORTH WACCASASSA FLATS

GILCHRIST COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 153 : FNAI, January 2021



Ochlockonee River Conservation Area

Less-Than-Fee Project

Gadsden, Leon

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2005
Project Acres	4,994
Acquired Acres	1,113
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	3,881
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$20,970,529

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(s)

The Office of Environmental Services will serve as the easement monitor unless otherwise noted. The Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (TTRSandLC) monitors the conservation easements they acquired through 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 and Land Conservancy (TTRSandLC)-



contiguous to the east with the Foshalee Plantation conservation easement--by a narrow strip 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Flyr's brickell-bush</i>	G3/S2
<i>Turk's cap lily</i>	G5/S1
White-breasted nuthatch	G5/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4
bird rookery	G5/SNR

8 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The majority of the project is being offered as a less-than-fee purchase without public access which does not satisfy any of the year 2005 needs reflected in the 2000 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The boundary modification approved by ARC on February 09, 2010 is committed to public access by the landowner, Mr. James Dahl, who has designed a public park on the north boundary to support river access for canoes, kayaks, and small boats at Highway 12 and picnic and play areas for families and a primitive camp area near



oxbow lake, private island. Hiking and off-road and paved bike trails are proposed. Also, an environmental education program/facility is in the planning stages.

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

2005

On January 25, 2005, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) voted to add 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.

2006

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 and Leon counties and are designated as essential.

2010

On February 19, 2010, ARC added to the boundary an approximately 31-acre linear conservation easement (comprising portions of two parcels owned by James Dahl, valued at \$93,935) to the boundary.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of projects.

2016

In December 2016, ARC approved a boundary amendment that deletes the disjunct 63 acres in Gadsden County, west of the Ochlockonee River, and adds 664 acres east of the Ochlockonee River in Leon County, a net gain of 601 acres. The added acreage has a tax-assessed value of \$844,328. The 31-acre linear easement added in February 2010 remains in the boundary, but this 2016 change to the boundary also included a notice from the landowner rescinding their earlier (2010) commitment to public access.



Coordination

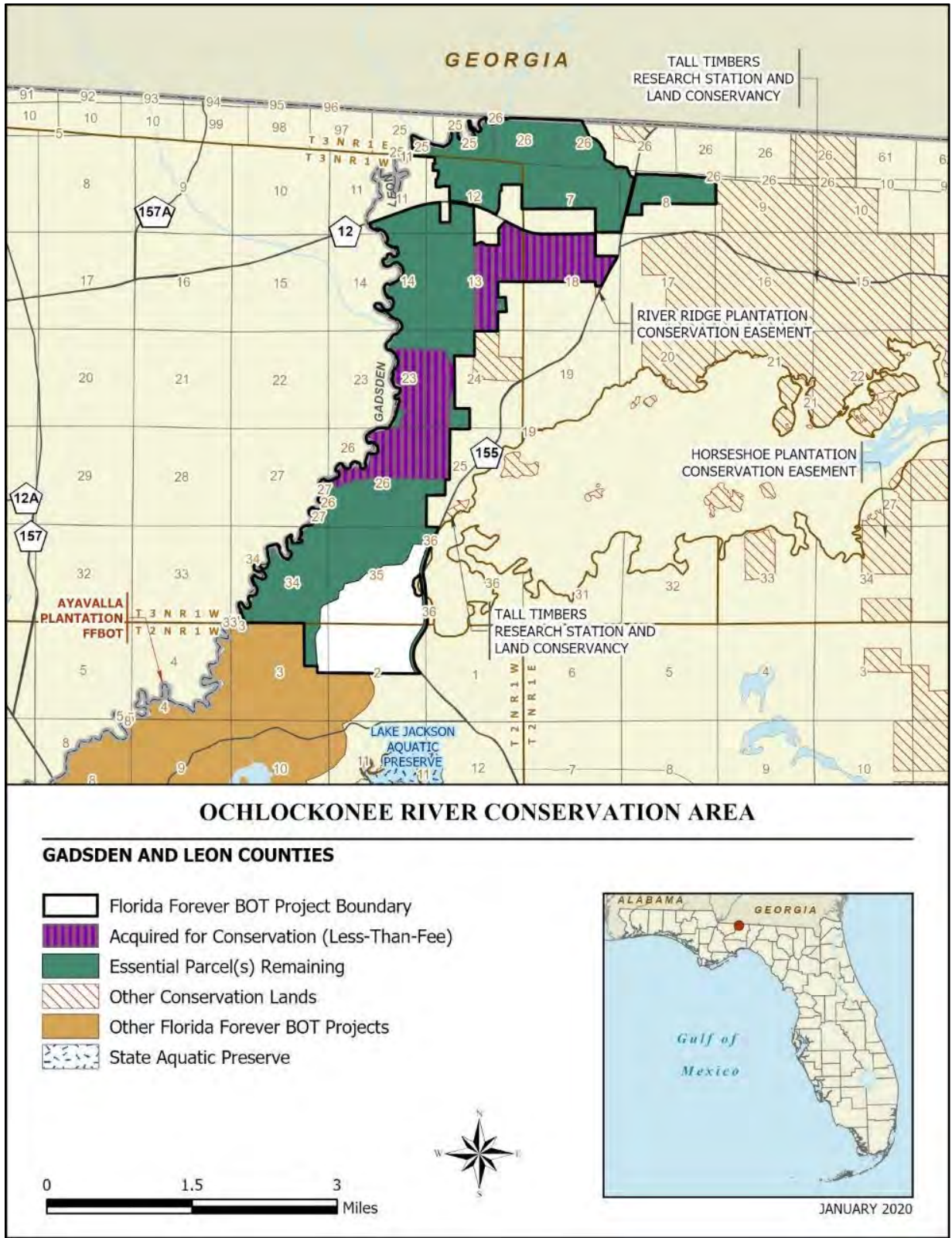
Acquisition of this project will be coordinated with the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy. This organization acquired a 497-acre conservation easement through a donation in 2005. Another 615 acres was donated to Tall Timbers in 2007 as part of the River Ridge Plantation Conservation Easement.

Management Policy Statement

As a conservation easement or less-than-fee interest, the majority of the project will be managed by the private landowner with restrictions imposed by the CE agreement. 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 most of the agreement. The conservation easements donated and will be manage/monitored by that group. The boundary modification known as River Ridge Plantation has planned amenities for public access.

Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services is to ensure oversight of the conservation easements on most of this project. The Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy will monitor the River Ridge Plantation easements purchased by or donated to them.



Map 1: FNAI, January 2021



Old Town Creek Watershed

Less-Than-Fee Project

Hardee, Polk

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	7,303
Acquired Acres	6,039
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$9,790,000
Remaining Project Acres	1,264
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$4,276,872

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Old Town Creek Watershed proposal is proposed as a less-than-fee-acquisition to support the conservation of the natural habitats and improved/working landscapes that constitute the Old Town Watershed.

Manager(s)

The conservation easement will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services (OES).

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 which are 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.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>hartwrightia</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>pygmy fringe tree</i>	G2/S2S3
Florida scrub lizard	G2G3/S2S3
<i>cutthroatgrass</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Southeastern American kestrel	G5T4/S3

9 rare species are associated with the project

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 Crews Ranch 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 (TNC) 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 parcels are contained within Crews Ranch. Mallory Ranch (2 noncontiguous tracts) is the other ownership in this project boundary. The estimated tax value for the project in 2001 was \$788,200.

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council placed this project on the Florida Forever list. On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-than-Fee list of projects.

On December 19, 2017, the Board of Trustees closed on the 6,047-acre Crews Ranch conservation easement in the project.

Coordination

This project has been submitted to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for a Save Our Rivers proposal. SWFWMD is a potential acquisition partner.



Management Policy Statement

Specific management activities and public access to the Old Town Creek Watershed would be limited by the terms of the purchase. Management objectives should be directed to conserve the mosaic of natural habitats and improved/working landscapes that constitute the Old Town Creek Watershed and protect significant habitat for native species or rare species and integrate carefully controlled uses.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Protecting this area will benefit the public in at least three major ways:

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;

Protecting the watershed and natural habitats surrounding Old Town Creek, which feeds into Charlie Creek and ultimately into the Peace River, from conversion to more intensive uses, particularly dairies or residential development, will help protect the water quality within the region; and 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

The landowner would manage the site and the Office of Environmental Services will periodically monitor the site for compliance with the conditions in the agreed-upon easement.

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 landowner. 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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

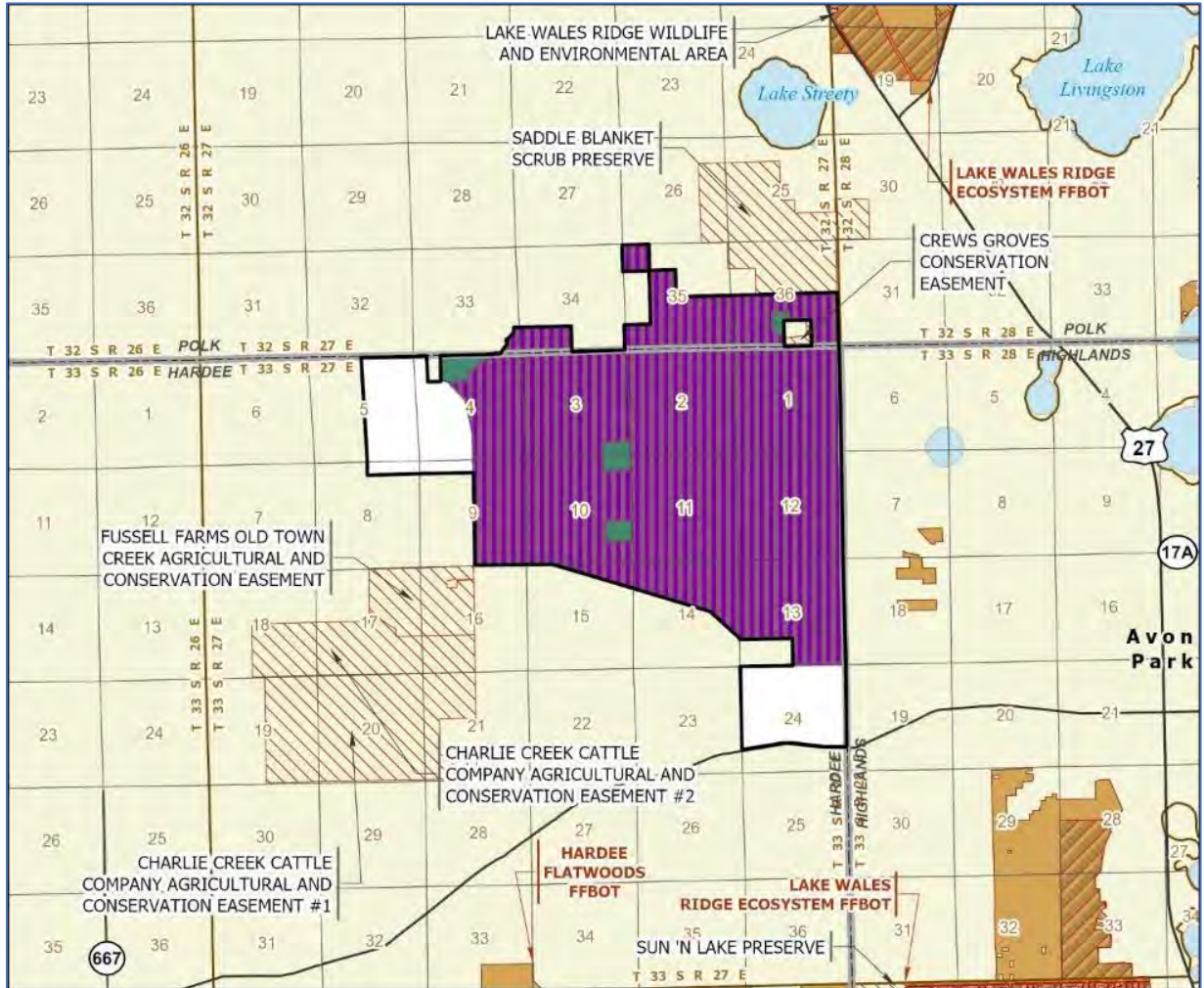
During the first year after acquisition, management activities will focus on securing and posting the property and developing a management plan. Existing management activities will continue throughout the management planning process. The property owner will develop a management plan which will include 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 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

No revenue will be generated from this easement.

Cooperators in management activities

No cooperators are recommended for this site. However, consultation with the SWFWMD, TNC and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) could be helpful to the landowner.



OLD TOWN CREEK WATERSHED

HARDEE AND POLK COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 2: FNAI, January 2021



Osceola Pine Savannas

Critical Natural Lands Project

Osceola

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	46,628
Acquired Acres	19,125
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$46,260,334
Remaining Project Acres	27,503
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$106,130,291

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(s)

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>scrub bluestem</i>	G1G2/S1S2
Arogos skipper	G2G3T1T2/S1
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
Berry's skipper	G2/S2
Loammi skipper	G2/S2?

29 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project will be designated as a wildlife management area, with such uses as hiking, wildlife observation and hunting.

Acquisition Planning

1994

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 when Dr. Broussard consolidated a significant number of parcels.

1998

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.

2002

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.

2006

The FWC acquired 904 acres of this property in 2006.

On August 11, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple and less-than-fee, 5,529-acre addition (aka Lucky L Ranch) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC and FWC, consisted of 5 ownerships, 25 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$1,504,685. The parcels have been designated as essential.

2007

In October 2007, the BOT acquired 1,430 acres from William Broussard that is to be managed as a conservation easement.

2008

In June 2008, 1,649.8 acres were purchased in FWC's 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.

2010

On October 15, 2010, ARC approved a 557-acre (\$6,691,997 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands list of projects.



Coordination

St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) 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 would 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 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. The Division of State Lands' Office of Environmental Services will monitor 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 recreational uses will also be implemented. A burn management plan will be developed and implemented using conventional and biologically acceptable providing multiple 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 Florida Forest Service/FFS (aka Division of Forestry/ DOF). A resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection, or management.

Unnecessary roads, fire lines 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 be 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

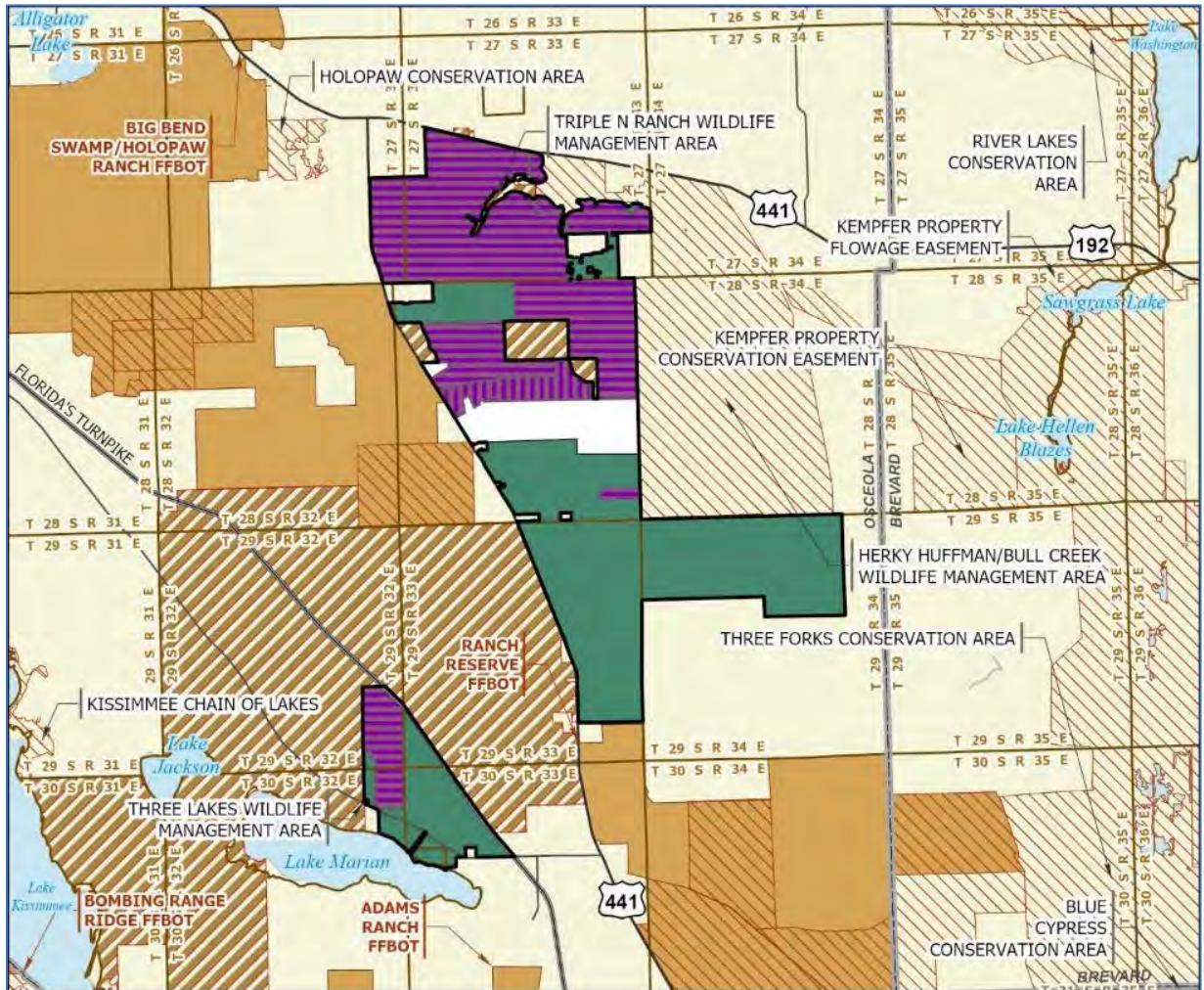
The SJRWMD and the FFS are recommended as cooperating managers.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$74,645	\$114,485
OPS	\$0	\$30,500
Expense	\$55,473	\$131,525
OCO	\$0	\$308,148
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$130,118	\$584,658

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



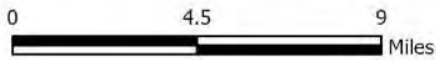
OSCEOLA PINE SAVANNAS

OSCEOLA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 3: FNAI, January 2021



Pal-Mar

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Palm Beach, Martin

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1992
Project Acres	36,229
Acquired Acres	26,665
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$16,044,487
Remaining Project Acres	9,564
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$20,506,929

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 ensure habitat for the rare species listed below, will preserve natural lands linking the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with Jonathan Dickinson State Park and other conservation lands, as well as 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(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road (Hungryland WEA [Wildlife and Environmental Area]). The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) manages east of I-95. Palm Beach County (PBC) manages south of Indiantown Road.



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 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, red-cockaded woodpecker, and wood stork. It includes the Pine Glades Natural Area, is contiguous with the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (WMA), the private Pratt-Whitney Preserve and the Cypress Creek lands owned by South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and includes a mile-wide connector to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The project has low archaeological or historic value, except for a segment of the historic Jupiter-Indiantown Road. Urbanization is rapidly isolating the State Park and growth pressures on the uplands in this project are intense.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Snail kite	G4G5/S2
<i>meadow jointvetch</i>	G4T1/S1
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
<i>many-flowered grass-pink</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>Piedmont Jointgrass</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3

16 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Most of this project has been designated for use as a wildlife management area. Plans are for the easternmost portion of the project area to be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Public uses will include hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and nature appreciation. The project area south of Indiantown Road is the Pine Glades Natural Area, managed by PBC. Hunting is not allowed on that site.

Acquisition Planning

Phase I of this project consisted of approximately five larger ownerships, including tracts adjacent to J.W. Corbett WMA, FDIC (acquired by SFWMD and Martin County), MacArthur



(acquired by PBC), Pal-Mar Water Control District (acquired), Lara (acquired by PBC) and Florida National Bank. The MacArthur lands north of Indiantown Road were sold to the State by PBC. 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 SFWMD have acquired most of 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 John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland WEA.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever.

Coordination

SFWMD, PBC and Martin County are acquisition partners in this project. Most of the larger ownerships have been acquired. PBC has acquired a number of the smaller parcels, totaling 223.63 acres that are located north of Indiantown Road.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Pal-Mar Florida Forever 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 WMA on the west with the SFWMD and PBC Cypress Creek lands and Jonathan Dickinson State Park on the east. The size, quality of wildlife resources and location next to the Corbett WMA of the



northwestern part qualify it as a WMA. The part that lies south of Indiantown Road is part of the PBC Pine Glades Natural 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 manager for the area west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road (Hungryland WEA). The DRP of DEP is the manager for the area east of I-95; PBC is the manager for the area south of Indiantown Road and a few small areas north of Indiantown Road.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

For the project area west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road, no known conditions 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. The portion of the project south of Indiantown Road is being managed by PBC, which is conducting a multi-year restoration program on the site.

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

Initial management of the area west of I-95 involved 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. Subsequent resource and recreation management have occurred since the portion of the project north of Indiantown Road has been added to an existing WEA (Hungryland). Management activities, after acquisition of the eastern part, were concentrated on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management. Most of the remaining lands to be acquired would represent an addition to an existing WMA (J.W. Corbett) or an existing WEA (Hungryland).

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue potential for the western part (excluding the lands owned by PBC) 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 will be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. No significant revenue is expected to be generated by these lands on their own.



Cooperators in management activities

PBC manages the property south of the Indiantown Road, which is called the Pine Glades Natural Area.

Management Cost Summary

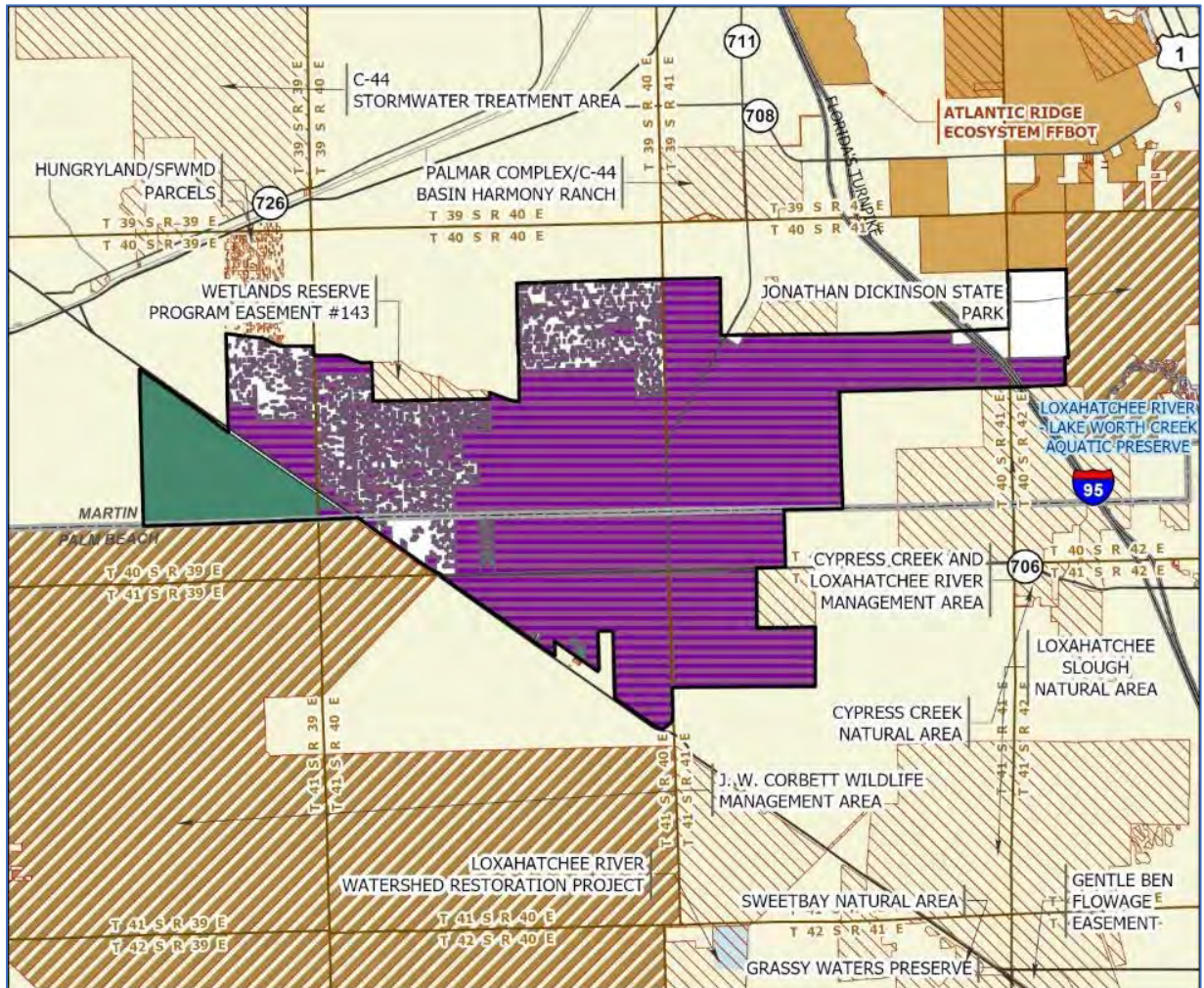
<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$45,000	\$100,000
OPS	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$30,000	\$65,000
OCO	\$30,000	\$15,000
FCO	\$0	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$110,000	\$225,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$12,000	\$12,000
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$20,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$60,000	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$92,000	\$18,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



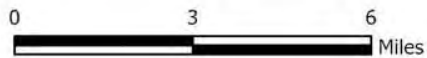
PAL-MAR

MARTIN AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 154 : FNAI, January 2021



Panther Glades

Critical Natural Lands Project
Hendry

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	64,810
Acquired Acres	25,427
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$40,564,708
Remaining Project Acres	39,383
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$166,944,235

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(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as the manager. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service/FFS 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>redmargin zephyrlily</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>hand fern</i>	G4/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3

15 rare species are associated with the project

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

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Panther Glades project to Group A of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple and 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, 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.

2002

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.

2003

On June 6, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 3,711-acre addition (aka Crow's 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.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move the Panther Glades project to Group B list of the FF priority list.

2008

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.

2009

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 project (full fee), including the Green Glades/Bergeron (less-than-fee) property, to this Panther Glades project. This proposal was initially submitted as a stand-alone project, the lands were designated as essential, ARC added it to the Florida Forever list, then approved amending the acreage into the Panther Glades boundary.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands list of projects.



Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner. Efforts will be made to coordinate state and local governmental agencies including the FFS, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in management of the property.

Management Policy Statement

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, multiple 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

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.

Qualifications for state designation

The Panther Glades project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife and environmental area.

Manager

FWC is recommended as the manager. FFS is recommended as a cooperating agency.

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 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 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.

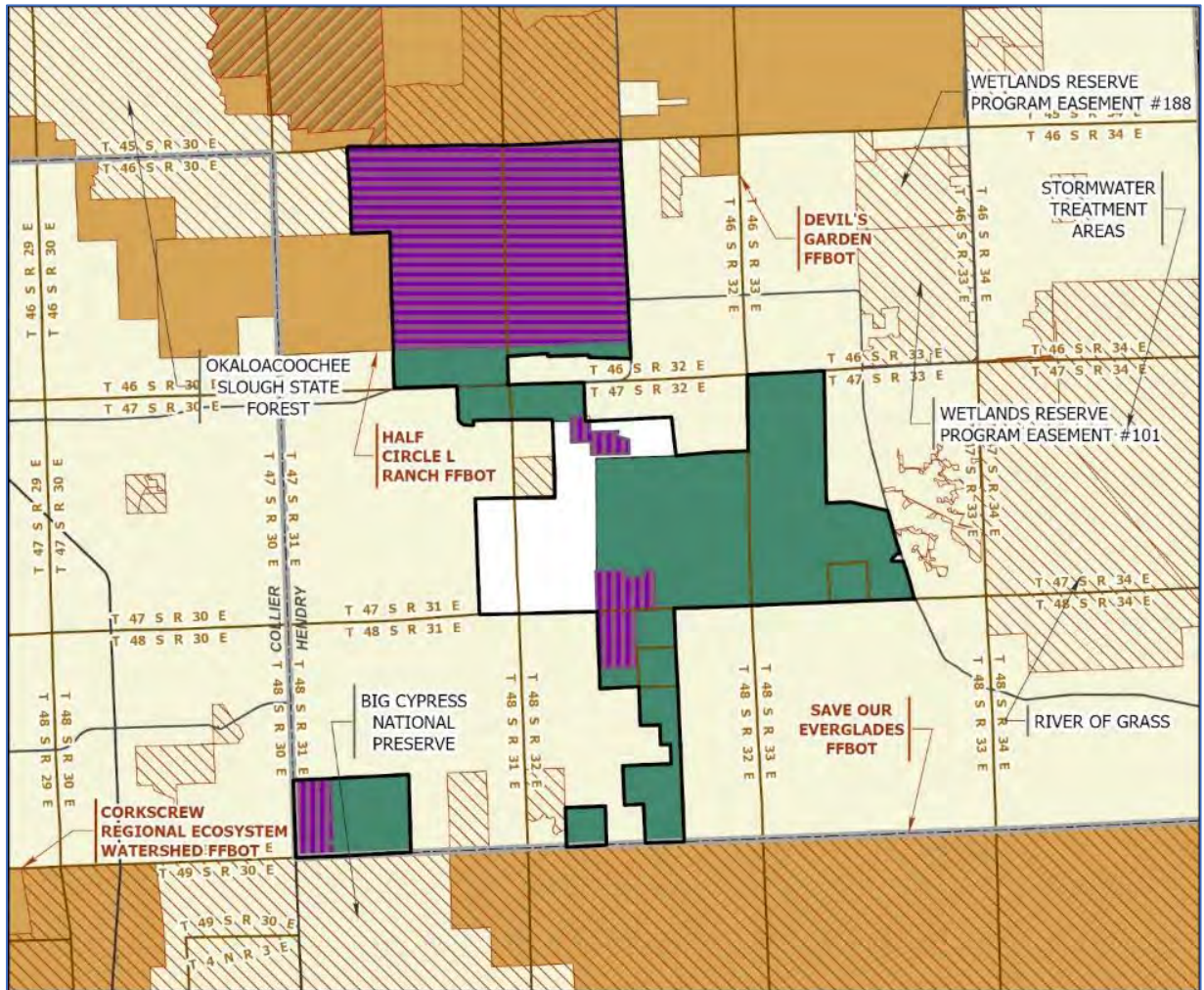
Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified, and appropriate protective measures will be implemented on those areas. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Minimal infrastructure development will be required to allow public access, 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). FWC should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies including FFS, DEP, and SFWMD in management of the property.



Revenue-generating potential

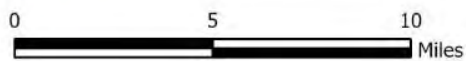
The revenue generating potential is not known and will depend upon future uses to be approved in the management plan. Since very little of the project is currently appropriate for forest products production, future revenue from timber resources will depend on successful reforestation and management of 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 if the Legislature appropriates funds for land management.



PANTHER GLADES

HENDRY COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



Peace River Refuge

Less-Than-Fee Project

DeSoto

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	3,878
Acquired Acres	73
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	3,805
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$10,696,848

Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for the proposed acquisition is to buffer and preserve the water quality and habitat of the Peace River and its creeks; to protect the water quality for the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary; to protect aquatic and upland wildlife associated with the floodplains, rivers, creeks and estuary; and to provide for a diverse array of natural-resource-based recreational opportunities for Florida residents and visitors if any of the fee-simple parcels are offered for purchase.

The Peace River Refuge project meets Florida Forever measures of using alternatives to fee-simple acquisitions; of protecting strategic habitats, natural floodplains and significant surface waters.

Manager(s)

Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands (DSL), or its successor, would serve as the conservation-easement monitor unless otherwise noted.

General Description

The Peace River Refuge Florida Forever proposal is in central DeSoto County, southwest of the city of Arcadia. Beginning at SR 70 in Arcadia, the proposal extends a total of approximately



seven miles south, flanking the Peace River on both sides for six river miles and then bordering only the east side of the river for four more river miles south of CR 760. Additionally, the eastern portion of the proposal contains frontage along Joshua Creek, a Peace River tributary. Most of the proposal’s eastern boundary is formed by an abandoned railroad grade located less than one mile west of US 17. Although the proposal is mainly contiguous, it contains inholdings consisting of a six-acre parcel fronting the east side of the river and many smaller lots on the western half of the property. Overall, the site is primarily hardwood forested uplands; however, bottomland forests and open point bars are associated with the river and old meander features of the floodplain. Approximately 88 percent of the proposal can be classified as natural communities.

Most uplands on the proposal are mesic hammock with a live oak canopy over a predominantly saw palmetto understory. While flooding from the Peace River likely inundates many of these hammocks occasionally or even annually, the land is dry for most of the year.

Much of the land on the northeastern portion of the proposal has been converted to improved pastures. Scattered oaks are common throughout these pastures. Various other clearings are scattered on the property, including areas with standing structures (hunt camps, bridges, and remnants of old buildings such as a sawmill on the western side of the property).

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Little blue heron	G5/S4

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

If acquired as a less-than-fee property, public access would depend on the terms of access permitted by the owner as part of the conservation easement agreement. The landowners have indicated that they are open to some portions of their property being acquired in fee simple.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Peace River Refuge project to the Florida Forever list in the Less-Than-Fee category. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$12,567,267.



Coordination

There are no known 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 under the agreement. 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. Purchase of a conservation easement over the property would be most beneficial for protecting the Peace River and for providing habitat for rare plants and animals. The cost of the monitoring contractor plus staff time in the OES would add to the administrative costs of the easement. No sources of revenue are known at this time.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Peace River Refuge project meets Florida Forever measures of using alternatives to fee-simple acquisitions and of protecting Strategic Habitat Areas, natural floodplains and significant surface waters. It is important to buffer and preserve the water quality and habitat of the Peace River and its creeks and to protect the water quality for the downstream Charlotte Harbor Estuary.

Manager

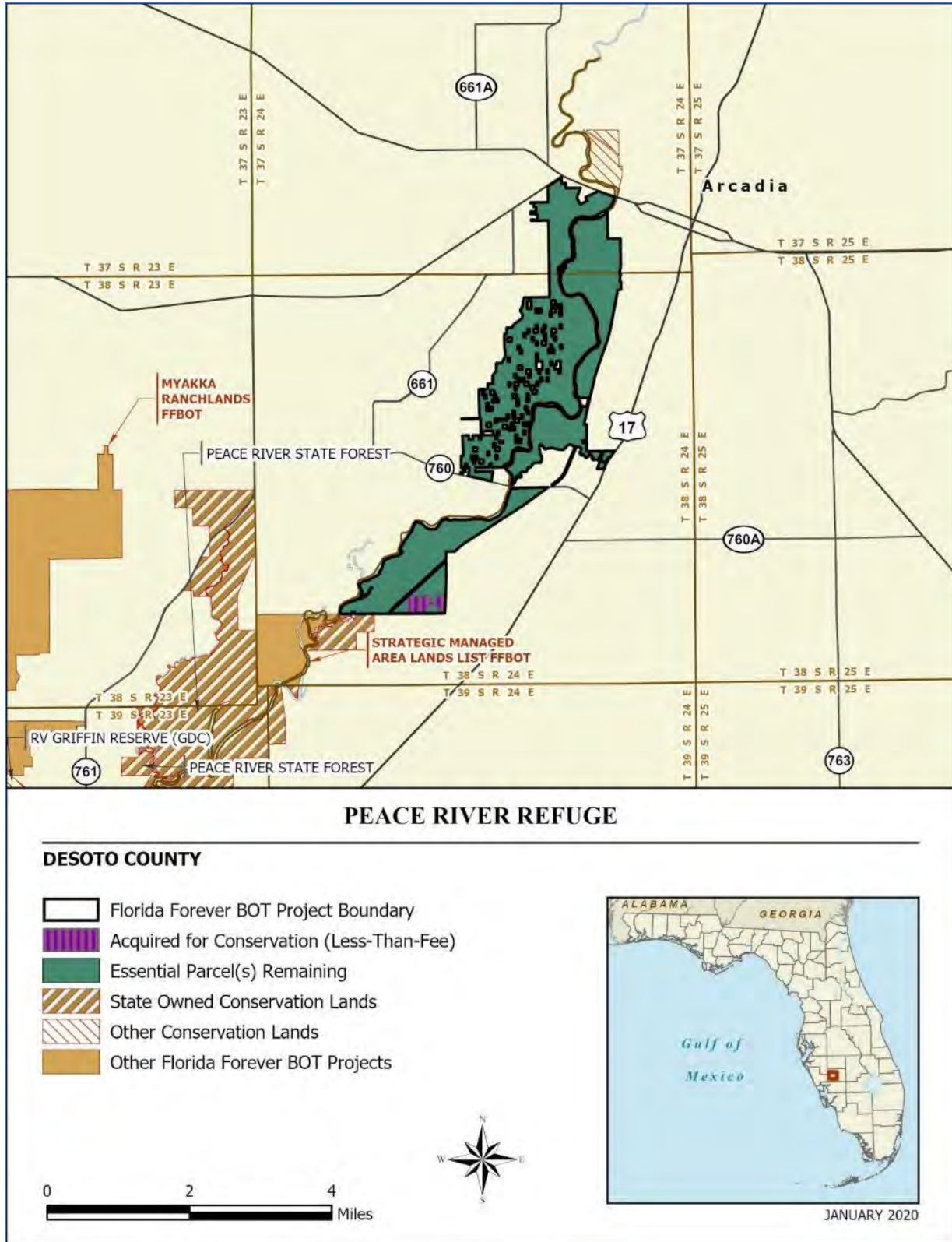
Landowner with the OES, or its successor, would serve as the conservation easement monitor.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Property is impacted by historical phosphate mining in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and logging operations and agriculture and wildlife game farming fire have left the historically mixed-pine hardwood forest devoid of any pines.

Cooperators in management activities

The property will continue to be managed by the landowner with restrictions defined in a negotiated conservation easement. OES will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement.



Map 155 : FNAI, January 2021



Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie

Critical Natural Lands Project
Escambia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	6,880
Acquired Acres	4,491
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$27,299,939
Remaining Project Acres	2,389
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$17,272,850

Purpose for State Acquisition

The pine flatwoods and swamps west of Pensacola are interspersed with 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(s)

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Wherry's redflower pitcherplant</i>	G3T3/S3
Escambia crayfish	G2/S2
<i>large-leaved jointweed</i>	G3/S3

4 rare species are associated with the project

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

1994

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 proposal, 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.

1998

On October 15, 1998, LAAC redefined the essential parcels.

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 to be acquired, along with several 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.



2010

In April 2010, ARC voted to remove 658 acres because of existing residential, commercial and infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands list of projects.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy, as an intermediary in this project, is considered a partner as well as the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD).

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.

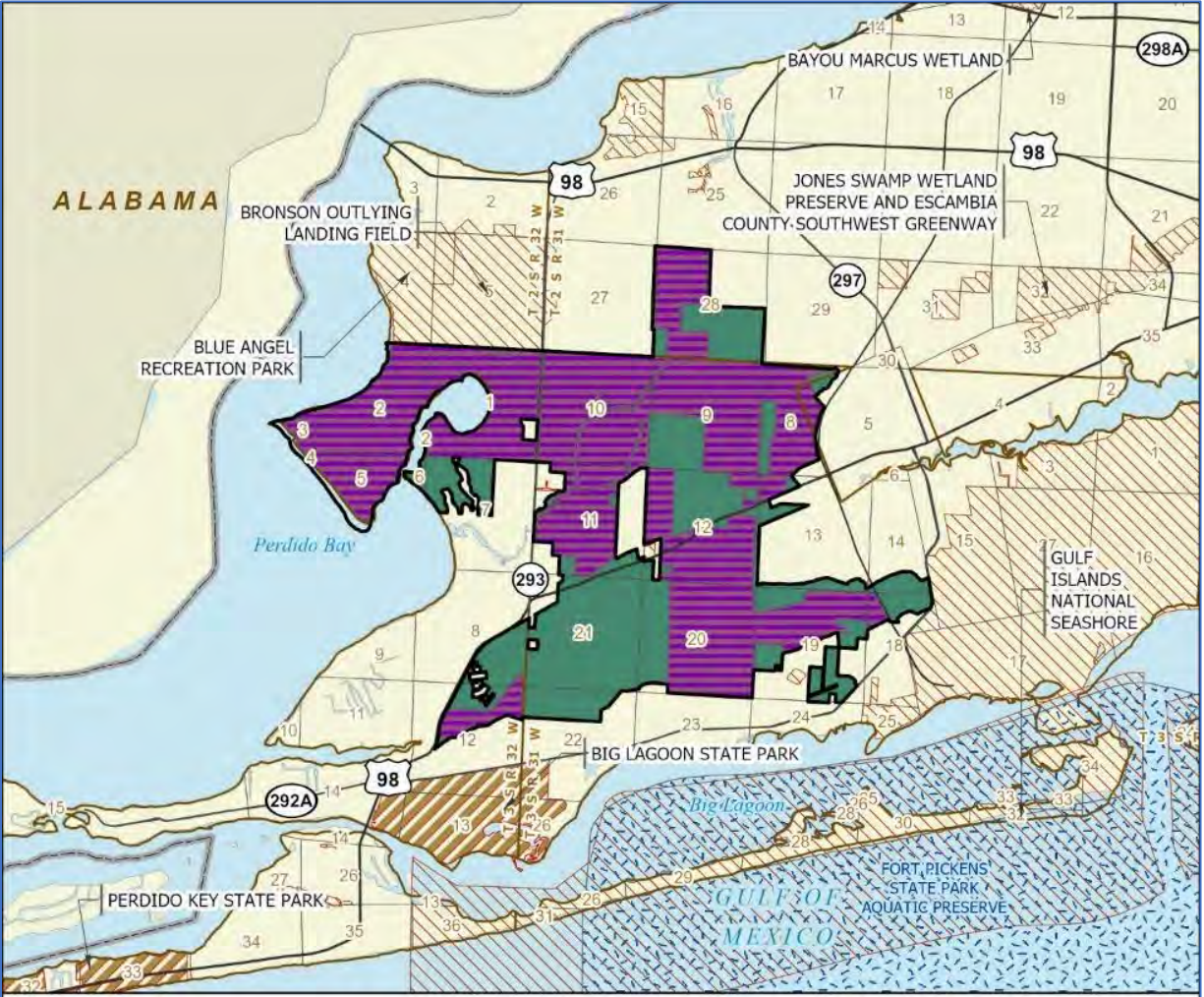
Cooperators in management activities

No local governments or others are recommended for management of this project.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
TOTAL	\$405,822	\$122,822

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PERDIDO PITCHER PLANT PRAIRIE

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 156 : FNAI, January 2021



Pierce Mound Complex

Critical Historical Resources Project
Franklin

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1994
Project Acres	650
Acquired Acres	88
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$810,000
Remaining Project Acres	562
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$5,397,566

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 historical 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(s)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Florida Coastal Office (formerly CAMA, Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas). The DEP's Division of Recreation and 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3
<i>1 rare species is associated with the project</i>	

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.

Acquisition Planning

1994

On December 7, 1994, the Land Acquisition and Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Pierce Mound Complex project to the Conservation and 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.

2000

On June 27, 2000, the Acquisition and 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.

2006

On June 9, 2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever (FF) Priority list.



2010

On December 10, 2010, ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, “Critical Historical Resources.”

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 Florida Coastal Office 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 Florida Coastal Office 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.

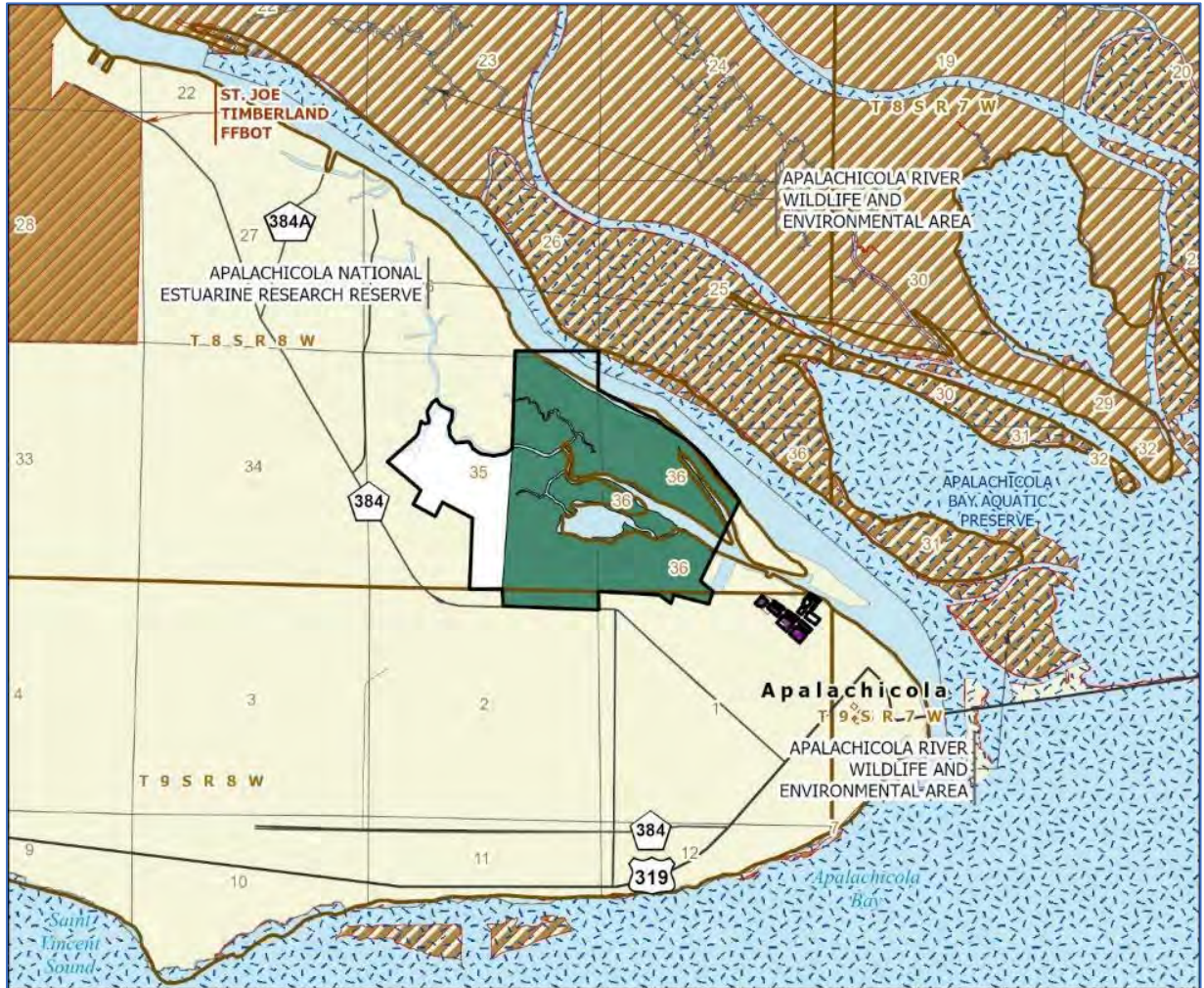
Cooperators in management activities

The Division of Historical Resources will cooperate in managing the archaeological resources of the site.

Management Cost Summary

<u>CAMA</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$8,000
OPS	\$14,500	\$6,500
Expense	\$0	\$6,500
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$50,000	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$64,500	\$21,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



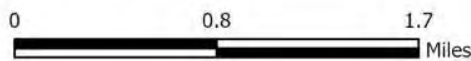
PIERCE MOUND COMPLEX

FRANKLIN COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 157 : FNAI, January 2021



Pine Island Slough Ecosystem

Critical Natural Lands Project
Osceola

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2004
Project Acres	48,973
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	48,973
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$198,651,021

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, and horseback 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(s)

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has been designated as the lead manager.

General Description

The Pine Island Slough Ecosystem project consists of approximately 48,973 (GIS) acres in Osceola and Indian River Counties. This landscape of 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida grasshopper sparrow	G5T1/S1
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>large-flowered rosemary</i>	G3/S3
<i>nodding pinweed</i>	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2

8 rare species are associated with the project

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 offers potential for 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 its principal purposes 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, with careful control of public uses.

Development of facilities, as on all wildlife management areas, would be the minimal amount necessary to assure a high-quality recreational experience. Development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

Acquisition Planning

2004

On August 20, 2004, the Acquisition and 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, by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 49,583 acres, a single owner, Latt Maxcy Corp., and a 2003 estimated tax assessed value of \$13,144,221.



2005

On June 5, 2005, ARC moved Pine Island Slough Ecosystem to the Group B list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands list of projects.

Coordination

The Office of Environmental Services is pursuing partnerships with South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the counties. TNC is considered a partner on this project.

Management Policy Statement

The FWC proposes to manage the Pine Island Slough project for protection 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 existing disturbed areas. Public and private uses that 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.

Manager

FWC has been designated as the lead manager.

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 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 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. After the inventory of the plant community and historic vegetation is finished, quantified vegetation management objectives would be developed using 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. Natural plant communities would be managed to benefit native wildlife resources. Growing season prescribed burning would be used where appropriate to best achieve management objectives.



These resources would be managed using acceptable silvicultural practices where appropriate, practical, and in pursuit of wildlife habitat objectives. Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Division of Historical Resources (DHR). Potential for these sites to occur in the project area is moderate.

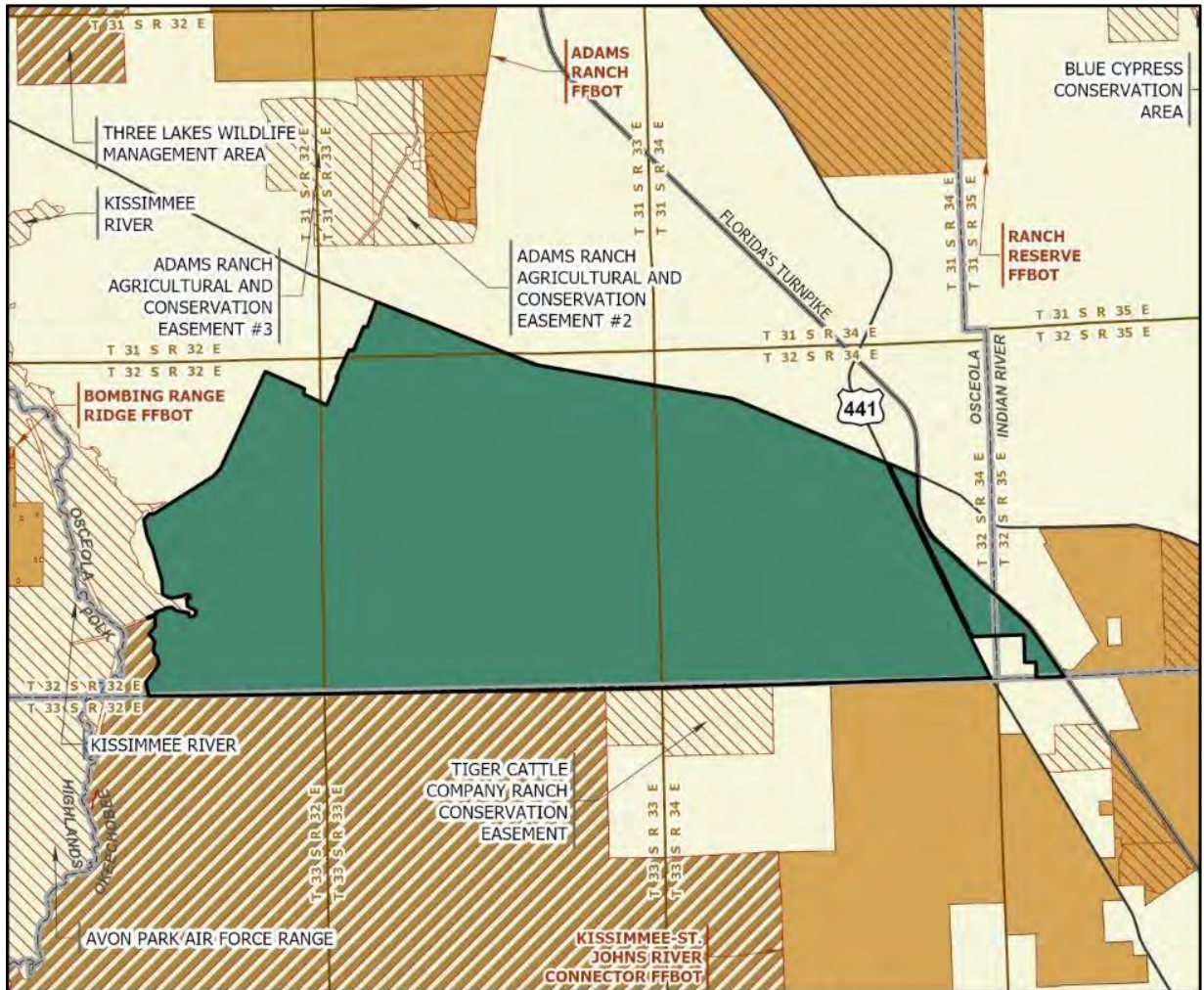
Revenue-generating potential

Management would seek to improve the revenue-generating potential of areas currently in 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.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$598,900	\$790,661
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$1,091,187	\$137,415
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$1,888	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$34,511	\$34,511
TOTAL	\$1,951,060	\$1,019,426

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



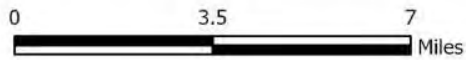
PINE ISLAND SLOUGH ECOSYSTEM

INDIAN RIVER AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 158 : FNAI, January 2021



Pineland Site Complex

Critical Historical Resources Project

Lee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1996
Project Acres	211
Acquired Acres	63
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,355,000
Remaining Project Acres	148
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$11,559,467

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 archeologically 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(s)

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 pastureland. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

no rare species are associated with the project

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 atop 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. After the time of the most recent addition in 1996, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$1,308,148.

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC revised the designation of the following parcels to essential: The Cloisters and Jessy Chris. On December 10, 2010, the ARC voted to move this project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category called, "Critical Historical Resources".

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Historical Resources list of projects.

Coordination

The Archeological Conservancy was an intermediary in the acquisition of the acreage that has been acquired. In addition, the University of Florida Foundation, Lee County, and Calusa Land Trust are considered partners on this project.



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 scientific research on this site and give the public 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 site's archaeological resources. 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 will be in place to guide a phased development process leading to a permanent research/education center open regularly to the public within



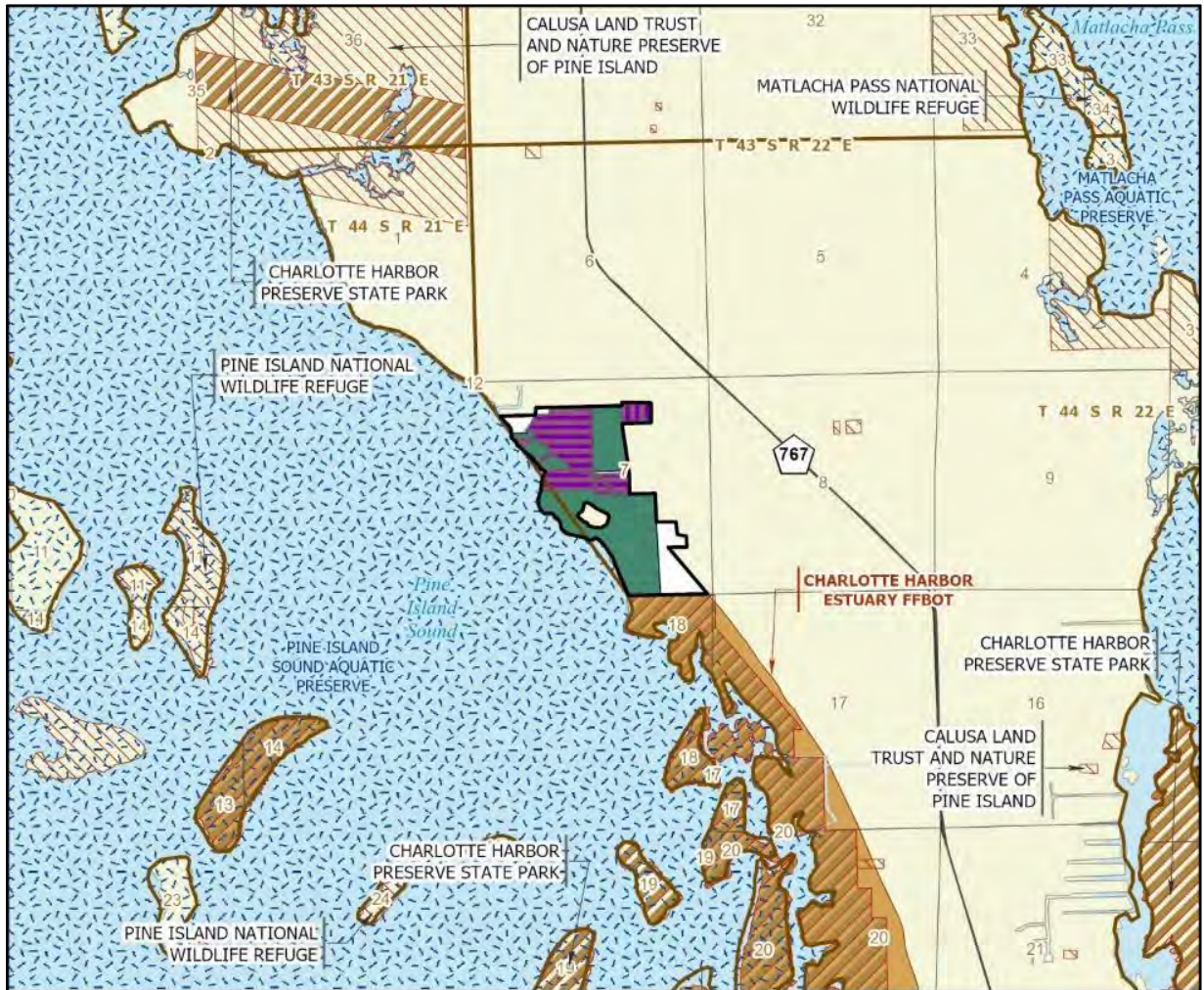
five years. Initial development will concentrate on public safety, security, and resources assessment, including inventory of endangered and threatened species. A plan for conservation and enhancement of significant habitats identified in this process will be developed.

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 bookstore 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

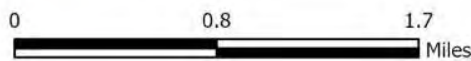
Activities to enhance natural resources will be undertaken in consultation with qualified conservation personnel, including staff from the Lee County Division of Environmental Sciences and the cooperating manager, the DEP Aquatic Preserve and State Buffer Preserve.



PINELAND SITE COMPLEX

LEE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 159 : FNAI, January 2021



Pinhook Swamp

Critical Natural Lands Project

Baker, Columbia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1992
Project Acres	183,811
Acquired Acres	130,210
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$65,183,376
Remaining Project Acres	53,601
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$64,970,312

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(s)

Pinhook Swamp: United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Florida Forest Service/FFS, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Suwannee Buffers/southern Deep Creek); the FFS (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 Park, and Suwannee River Water Management District lands along the River.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
<i>large rosebud orchid</i>	G4/S1
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
Carpenter frog	G4/S1
Many-lined salamander	G5/S1
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Blackbanded sunfish	G3G4/S1S3
Spotted turtle	G5/S2S3
Timber rattlesnake	G4/S3

18 rare species are associated with the project

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 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.

1996

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.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council added 25,000 acres to the Pinhook Swamp project boundary.

2001

At the April 6, 2001, Council meeting, the Suwannee Buffers, Deep Creek Site was combined with the Pinhook Swamp project boundary.

2002

On October 24, 2002, the Council added 4,585 acres to the project boundaries.

2004

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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the category of Critical Natural Lands.



2020

On December 11, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 147.5-acres in Hamilton County to the project boundary.

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. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is also considered a partner.

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

Qualifications for state designation

The Pinhook Swamp is a large area of timbered flatwoods and 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

The FFS 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 (FWC), this area may one day provide revenues from quota hunts. The Forest Service and FFS will soon be working with FWC 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 and Wildlife Service, which manages the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to Pinhook's northern boundary, will be cooperators in managing the area.

Suwannee Buffers: Management Prospectus

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 make it highly desirable for use and management as a state forest.

Manager

The DRP is recommended to manage Deep Creek's southern portion. The FFS is recommended to manage 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 FFS 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 DRP, 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 FFS 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 FFS 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 FFS 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 FFS will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating potential

The DRP 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 FFS 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

None.



Management Cost Summary

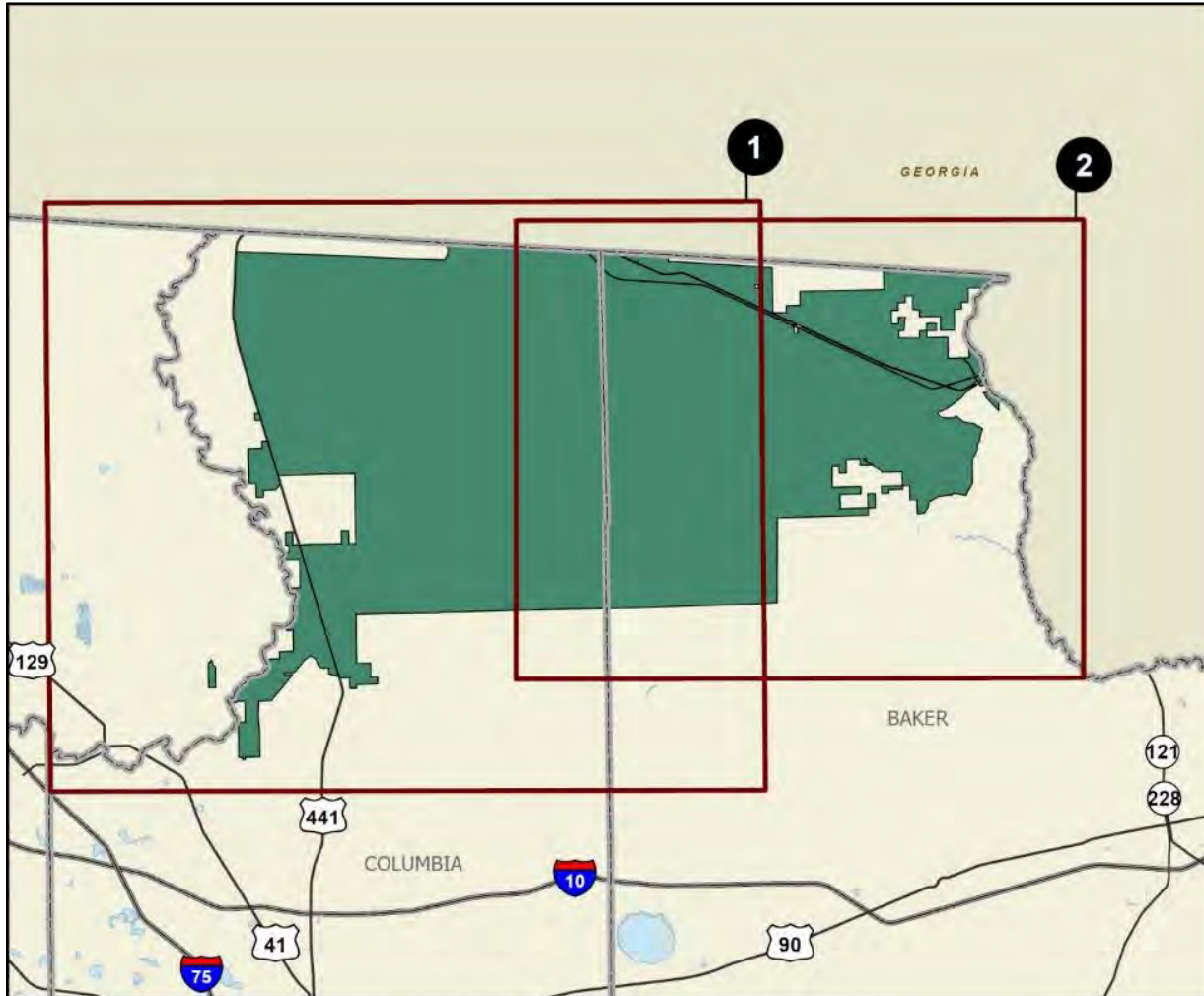
<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$22,167	\$22,167
OPS	\$14,560	\$14,560
Expense	\$11,400	\$11,400
OCO	\$55,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$85,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$188,127	\$49,127

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$28,140	\$28,140
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$13,000	\$5,000
OCO	\$81,100	\$2,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$122,140	\$35,140

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



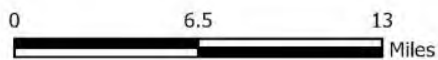
PINHOOK SWAMP: OVERVIEW

BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES

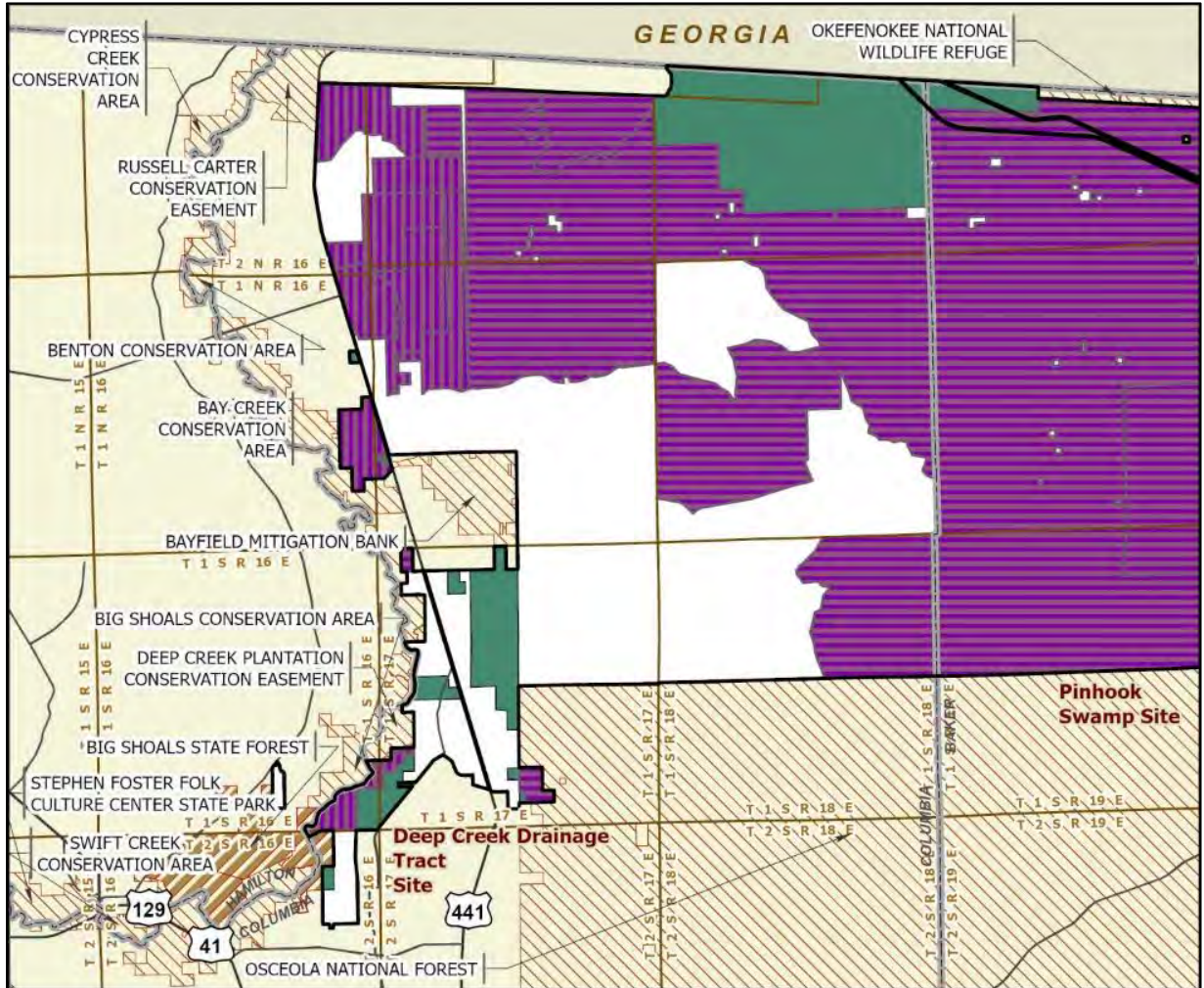
- Map 1 Deep Creek Drainage Tract Site
- Map 1 Pinhook Swamp Site
- Map 2 Pinhook Swamp Site



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 160 : FNAI, January 2021



PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 1

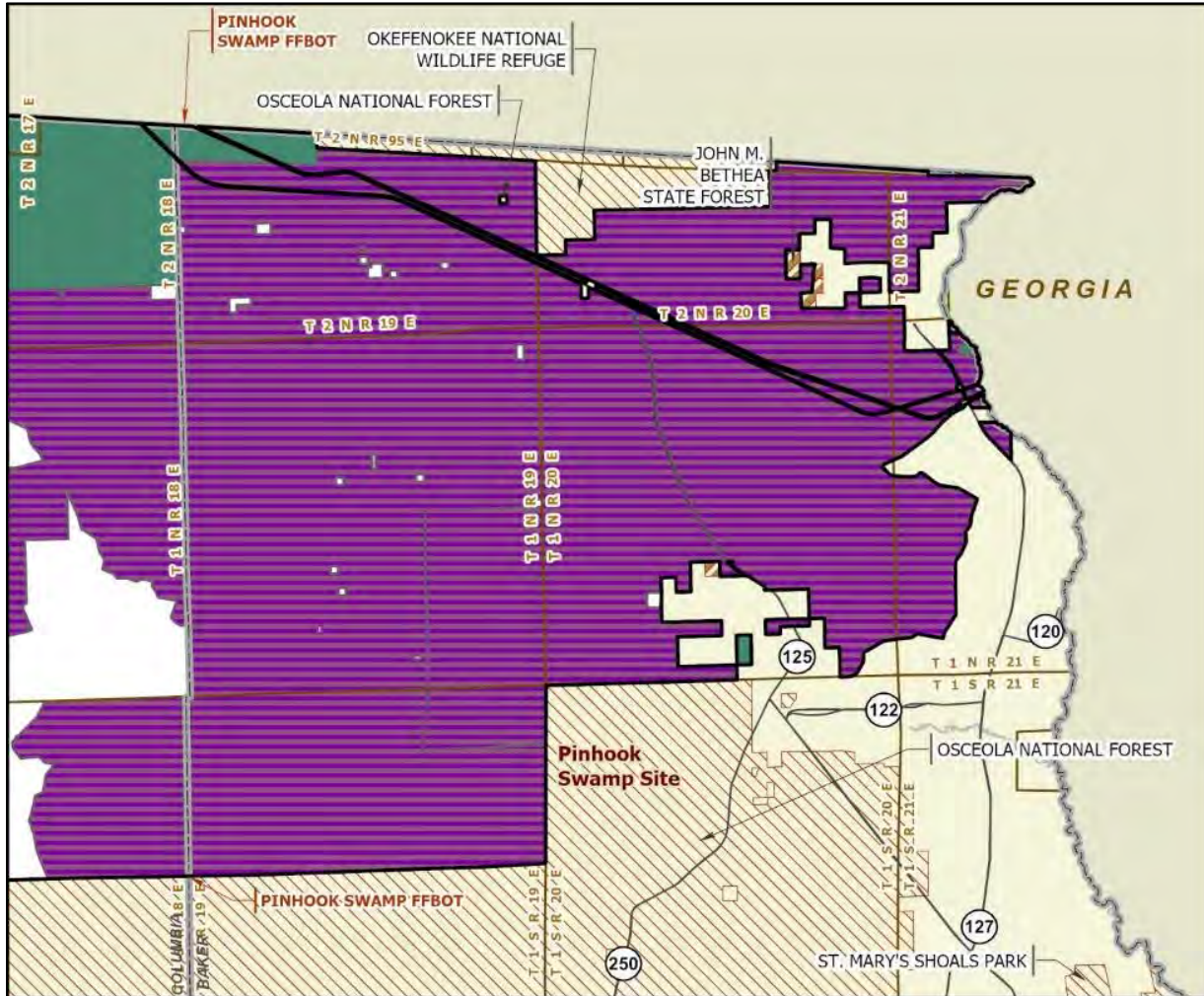
BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



JANUARY 2021

Map 161 : FNAI, January 2021



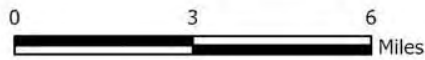
PINHOOK SWAMP: MAP 2

BAKER AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020





Pringle Creek Forest

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Flagler

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2012
Project Acres	8,446
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	8,446
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$12,999,464

Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose for acquisition would be to enhance the landscape mosaic of conservation lands that provides protection of the Pellicer Creek watershed and its tributaries. It would also retain functioning natural systems that reduce the possibilities of flood damage and water supply shortages, provide habitat protection and enhance numerous rare species and imperiled natural communities, and ensure and improve upon the ecosystem services this property provides for capturing, storing, filtering, and slowly releasing clean water to Pellicer Creek and its significant downstream estuary.

Manager(s)

Flagler County

General Description

Pringle Creek originates in the northern portion of the project and flows north into Pellicer Creek which then flows eastward into the estuarine waters of the Matanzas River. In the proposal site, Pringle Creek is surrounded by a mostly natural forested wetland corridor. Acquiring the proposal would contribute to surface water protection of Pringle and Pellicer



creeks as well as the Matanzas River. Aquifer recharge is thought to be high on this site due to the functional wetlands.

Over one-half (56 percent) of Pringle Creek Forest consists of pine plantations planted on former mesic and wet flatwoods communities. They are North Florida slash pine and almost all the trees 12 to 14 years old because of the 1998 wildfire. Slightly more than one-third (38 percent) is represented by dome and basin swamps impacted by logging of cypress. Less than 6 percent is categorized as baygall, blackwater stream, hydric hammock, mesic/wet flatwoods, floodplain swamp, marsh/prairie, scrubby flatwoods, and mesic hammock natural communities.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2

2 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Regarding recreational opportunities, the property has potential for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking, primitive camping, nature interpretive trails and geocaching. At this time, some of these activities could be offered on existing woods roads without the need for major development. The current roads could serve as trails suitable for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Currently, there is a hunting lease on the property.

Acquisition Planning

Pringle Creek Forest was submitted by Flagler County and DEP’s Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR). Being on the Florida Forever priority list is a requirement for getting acquisition grant funding with the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). Flagler County and the GTMNERR plan to pursue CELCP funding for this project. This project was placed on the Florida Forever list as a Partnerships and Regional Incentives project.

Coordination

Flagler County is anticipating being an acquisition partner on this site, but with NOAA rather than the State of Florida. The St. Johns River Water Management District is supportive of this project. However, they have not committed to any assistance with funding of the acquisition.



Management Policy Statement

This proposal meets the following public purposes as identified in 259.032(3), Florida Statutes, to varying degrees:

- (d) 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, groundwater, coastal, recreational, timber, or fish or wildlife resources which cannot otherwise be accomplished through local and state regulatory programs;
- (e) To promote water resource development that benefits natural systems and citizens of the state;
- (g) To provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource based recreation and other outdoor recreation on any part of any site compatible with conservation purposes; and
- (i) To conserve open spaces suitable for greenways or outdoor recreation which are compatible with conservation purposes.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The vast majority of the property (77 percent) is wetlands, with most uplands in silviculture and about 2,500 acres of the jurisdictional wetlands also in silviculture production. Flagler County plans to, over time, convert silviculture areas back to their historic natural communities.

Pringle Creek Forest is within the CELCP targeted watershed boundary. This will qualify the parcel for federal acquisition funding under the CELCP. The CELCP reserves fifteen percent of its appropriated funds for acquisitions within National Estuarine Research Reserve targeted watersheds. The Florida Forever listing is a prerequisite for funding through CELCP. Additional management obligations and details will be presented in a later comprehensive land management plan.

Manager

Flagler County will assume responsibility for managing the park using existing staff.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Managing this property is not anticipated to require intense management due to the proposed activities.

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

Implementing the intended uses of this property would begin immediately upon acquisition. It is anticipated that environmental studies and archaeological and cultural resource surveys



would be initiated as part of or immediately following the acquisition process. The development of passive recreation plans, permitting and construction of the improvements would have a goal of initiation within 5 years.

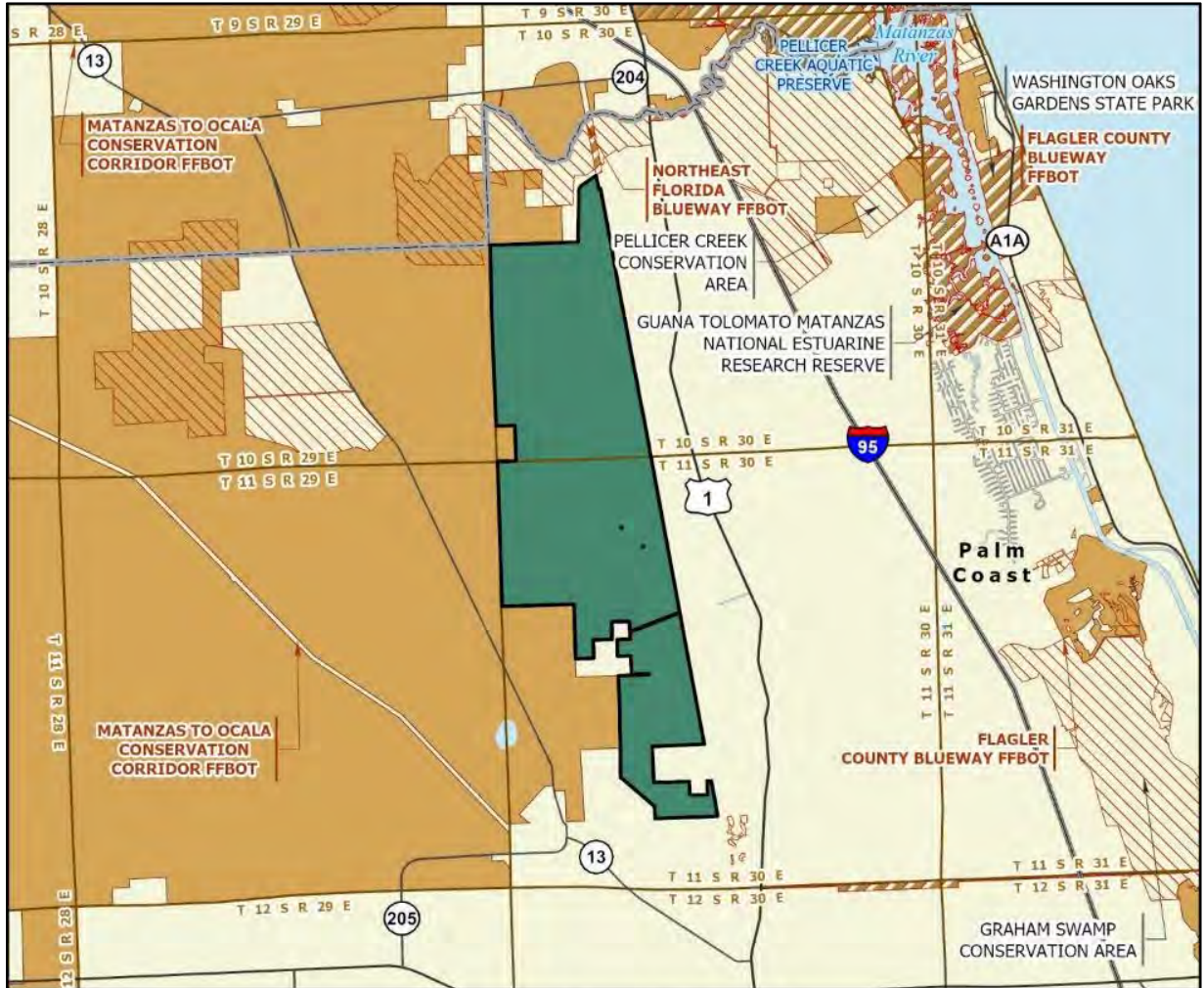
No infrastructure other than pumphouses for the wells is presently on the property. Planned infrastructure includes the installation of restroom facilities and a parking facility, picnic tables, limited camping facilities, and nature trails with bird watching stations. Flagler County Parks and Recreation will perform grounds keeping and maintenance on the facilities and improvements. Flagler County Land Management will oversee the natural community restoration and maintenance. Security will be provided by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office.

Revenue-generating potential

The revenue generating potential is limited to the harvesting of existing silviculture stands. It is premature to speculate on the revenue potential as it is unknown whether the current owner intends to harvest merchantable timber as part of the purchase and sale terms. Development, operation, and maintenance costs for natural communities, activities, passive recreation and camping will be provided by Flagler County via grants and general revenue funding. The county will assume responsibility for managing the park utilizing existing staff. County Parks and Recreation personnel will maintain the park features and facilities and the Land Management Department will monitor and conduct natural resource activities. Volunteer and educational groups will be welcomed and encouraged to become involved in the management and care of the park.

Cooperators in management activities

Currently the GTMNERR is an anticipated co-manager of the Pringle Creek Forest property, however, these obligations and restrictions may shape future management activities and partnerships.



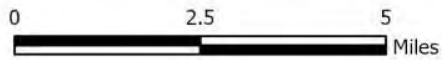
PRINGLE CREEK FOREST

FLAGLER COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 163 : FNAI, January 2021



Pumpkin Hill Creek

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Duval

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1994
Project Acres	24,757
Acquired Acres	12,413
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$9,868,766
Remaining Project Acres	12,344
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$181,069,463

Purpose for State Acquisition

The growth of the city of Jacksonville and its outlying developed areas has reduced 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 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 opportunities to fish, hunt, hike, and canoe.

Manager(s)

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Piping plover	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
bird rookery	G5/SNR
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
Worthington's marsh wren	G5T3/S2
Macgillivray's seaside sparrow	G4T3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Atlantic salt marsh mink	G5T3/S3
Least tern	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

15 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve.

Acquisition Planning

1993

On December 9, 1993, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added Pumpkin Hill Creek to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and the SJRMD, is 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).

1997

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 and parcels, and a 1996 taxable value of \$995,638.



1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition Management Advisory Council (LAMAC) designated an additional 1,419 acres as essential including Sample Swamp, City National, Beasley, Wingate, and two small connecting parcels.

2000

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 Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) 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 AandE Ltd, and Squires (36 acres), 5 parcels, and a 2002 taxable value of \$399,726.

2003

On December 5, 2003, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority list.

2004

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.

2005

On December 9, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority list.

2006

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 and 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.



Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an intermediary in the project. Resolutions in support of this project include SJRWMD in support of a shared acquisition. SJRWMD, the Florida Coastal Office (formerly CAMA), the Florida Communities Trust (FCT), 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

Pumpkin Hill Creek 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

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.

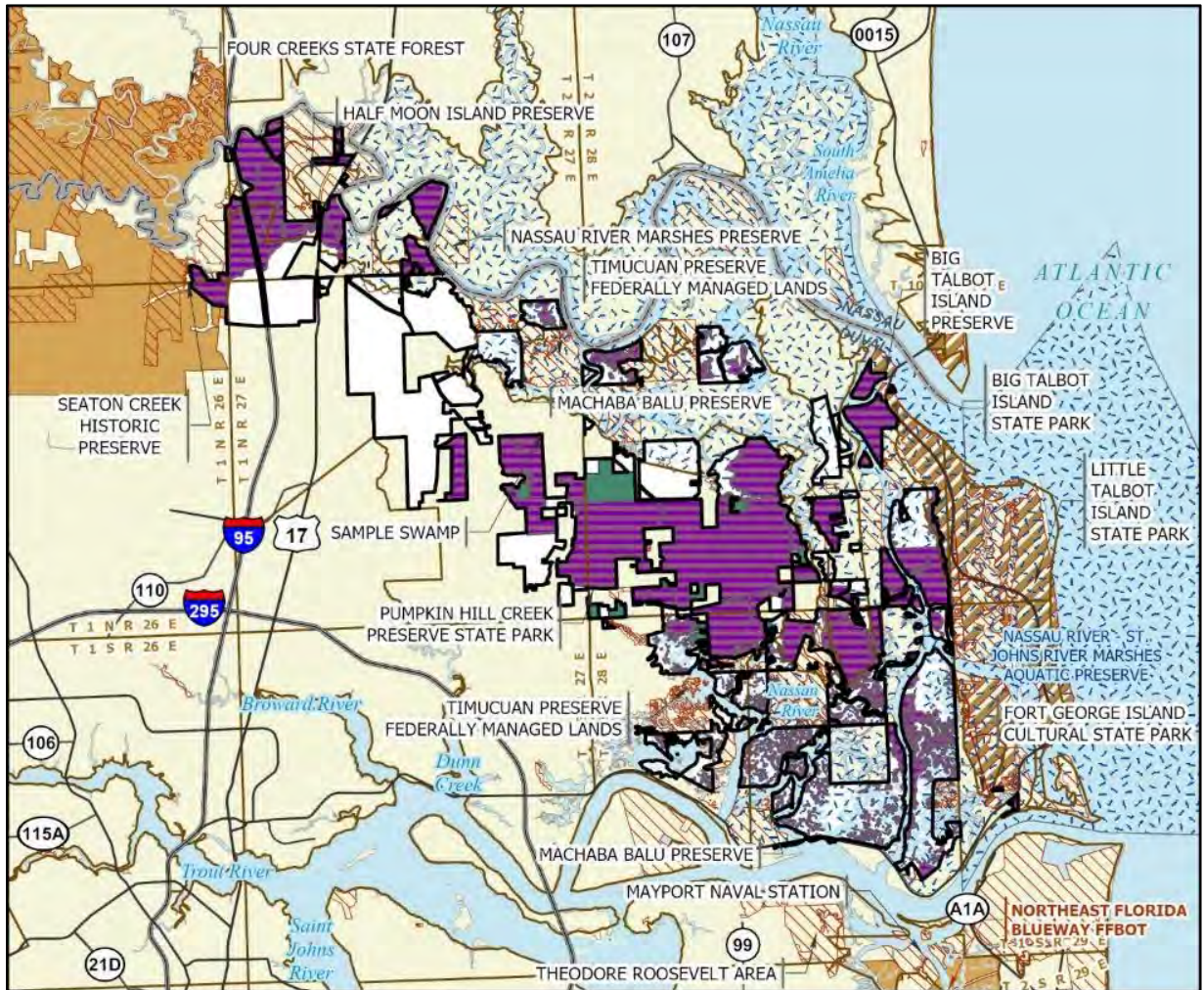
Cooperators in management activities

The SJRWMD will cooperate in managing the project.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL/LATF	not provided
Salary	\$62,079.65	not provided
OPS	\$28,631.85	not provided
Expense	\$24,762.68	not provided
OCO	\$0	not provided
Special	\$0	not provided
FCO	\$50,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$165,474.18	not provided

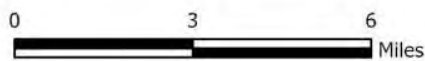
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



PUMPKIN HILL CREEK

DUVAL COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 164 : FNAI, January 2021



Raiford to Osceola Greenway

Less-Than-Fee Project

Baker, Union

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	67,702
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	67,702
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$96,840,123

Purpose for State Acquisition

Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG) Florida Forever Project, created at the request of the Office of Greenways and Trails to divide the Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway into two projects. The R-OG project is a 67,702-acre portion of the 2003 Camp Blanding to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever project. Public acquisition of the R-OG 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-Raiford Greenway project on the east which connects to the Northeast Florida Timberlands further east, the Raiford Wildlife Management Area (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, many of these areas 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(s)

The Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Office of Environmental Services (OES) monitors conservation easements unless otherwise noted. The Florida Forest Service/FFS and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) offered a management statement on the original project, Camp Blanding-Osceola Florida Forever Greenway.

General Description

The Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway project was subdivided to create two projects: Camp Blanding- Raiford Greenway (CB-RG) and Raiford-Osceola Greenway (R-OG). The Raiford-Osceola Greenway project consists of land abutting the Camp Blanding- Raiford Greenway project on the east to the southeast boundary of the Osceola National Forest. It connects several managed areas in Baker and Union Counties, resulting in a potential contiguous area of more than half a million acres of publicly owned, managed, or planned to own/managed lands in north-central Florida. Physiographic features of interest include: The Trail Ridge, the eastern portions of the Cody Scarp, and several large wetlands that have been ecologically devalued by silvicultural activities or mining.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Chapman's fringed orchid</i>	G2/S2
Many-lined salamander	G5/S1
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Timber rattlesnake	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4

10 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The R-OG project is an expansive area that could have significant natural resource-based potential if portions of the project were available to the public. Particularly significant is the block of land west of SR 231 containing Palestine Lake. This project is being offered as less-than-fee with limited public access. Through discussion, 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 have potential for being multiple-use trails with hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. Of the activities mentioned, the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive



Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies hunting within the Union County portion of the project as having a high need for the year 2005 for the region in which these counties are located.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and 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 and Trails (OGT) and the Conservation Trust of Florida (CTF), consisted of approximately 153,000 acres, multiple ownerships, and a 2002 taxable value of \$28,508,089. The essential parcels were identified as the Plum Creek and Wachovia ownerships.

2006

On October 13, 2006, the ARC adopted a redesign of the essential parcels within the original project. The number and acreage of essential parcels was revised by removing 106 parcels (64,250 acres) and adding 52 parcels (10,180 acres). The result of this was that a total of 54,020 acres remaining within the boundary were longer designated as essential. The new essential parcel configuration will connect Camp Blanding to the Raiford WMA, then to the Osceola National Forest.

2010

On June 11, 2010 the ARC adopted a redesign to the Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway project that identified 67,457 acres in the Raiford-Osceola Greenway as well as 33,977 acres in the Camp Blanding- Raiford Greenway. After the most recent project redesign in 2010, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$193,255,020.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category in the Florida Forever list.

Coordination

CTF and OGT are considered acquisition partners on this project.

Management Policy Statement

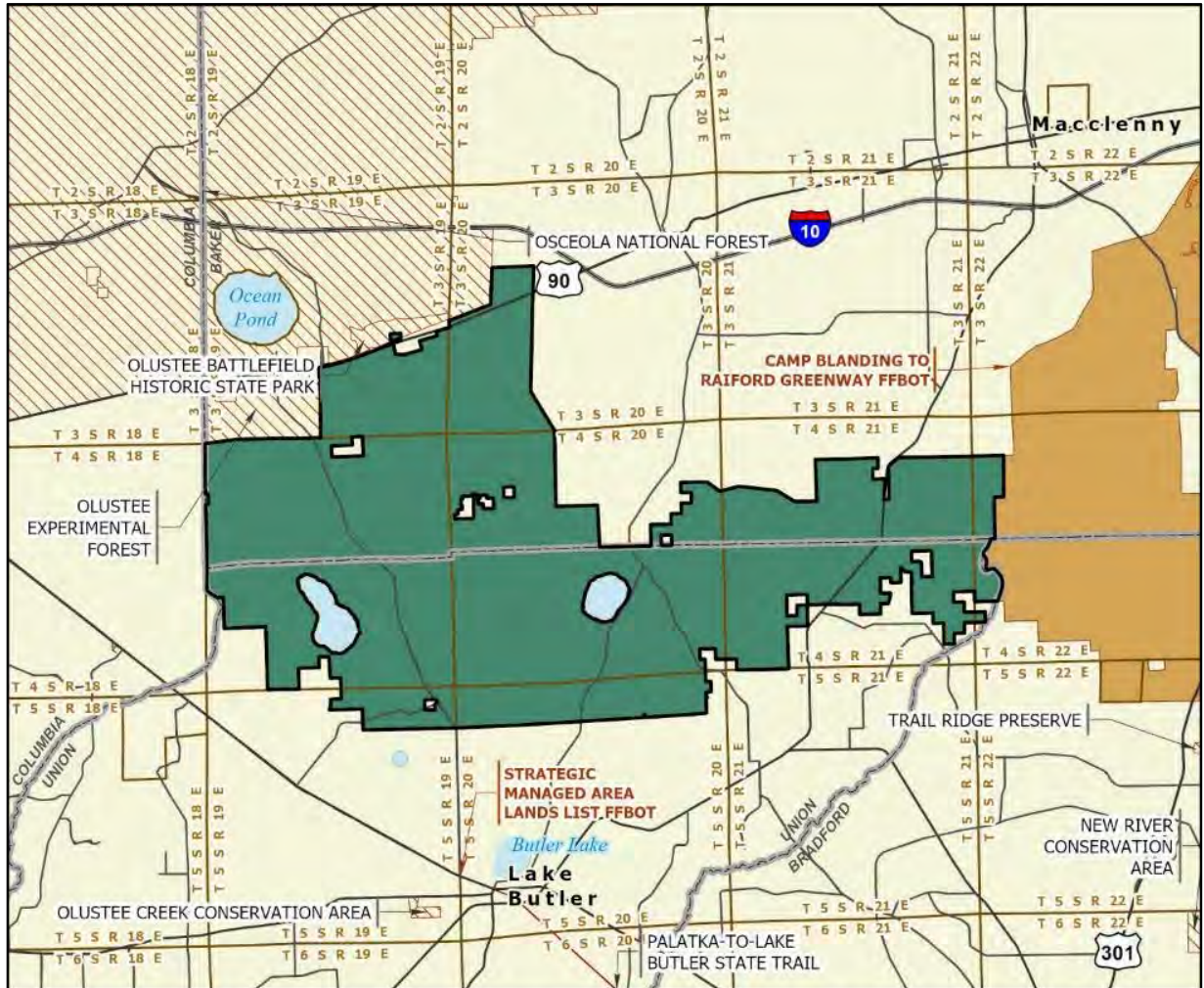
The owners of the property have indicated they want to continue the operation of their property under the protection and guidance of a conservation easement. Should this request



change to a full-fee purchase, FFS and FWC have agreed to be cooperating managers. The Division of Historical Resources reports the new configuration of the R-OG project holds 92 archaeological sites and 2 historical sites with no historical cemeteries.

Management Prospectus

This project is being offered as less-than-fee with limited public access. The property is currently managed as a commercial timber operation, and it will continue to be managed as such if a conservation easement over the property is purchased. Representatives of the landowner have indicated that they will consider allowing continued limited public uses that are being allowed today. Details of the level of public access would be negotiated with the landowner during the development of a conservation easement. The Office of Environmental Services will be responsible for monitoring the property to ensure that the terms of the conservation easement are met.



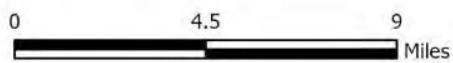
RAIFORD TO OSCEOLA GREENWAY

BAKER AND UNION COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 165 : FNAI, January 2021



Rainbow River Corridor

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Citrus, Marion

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2007
Project Acres	1,178
Acquired Acres	49
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$2,926,164
Remaining Project Acres	1,129
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$10,072,734

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(s)

The property is proposed to be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP). 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, 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 worldwide. 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 Marjorie Harris Carr Cross 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 several 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 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
<i>2 rare species are associated with the project</i>	

Public Use

Much of this is identified for 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. 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, birdwatching, 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

2007

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.



2008

On March 28, 2008, the City of Dunnellon acquired 32.4 acres of this project for a riverside park on the south side of Highway 484 (the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property). Funds came from the City (\$320,000) and a grant from the Florida Communities Trust (\$2,606,164). The city manages this site.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category in the Florida Forever list.

2017

In calendar year 2017, a total of 5.09 acres in this project were acquired fee-simple using Florida Forever program funding.

Coordination

Rainbow River Conservation Inc. worked with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and submitted the application to the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) for acquiring the Cunningham/Nelson Tuber Exit Property. The Division of State Lands has been pursuing a portion of this area that is within the park optimum boundary, on behalf of the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

Management Policy Statement

DRP will manage its property under a single-use concept as part of Rainbow River State Park. and 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.

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. 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.

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. 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 expects 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.



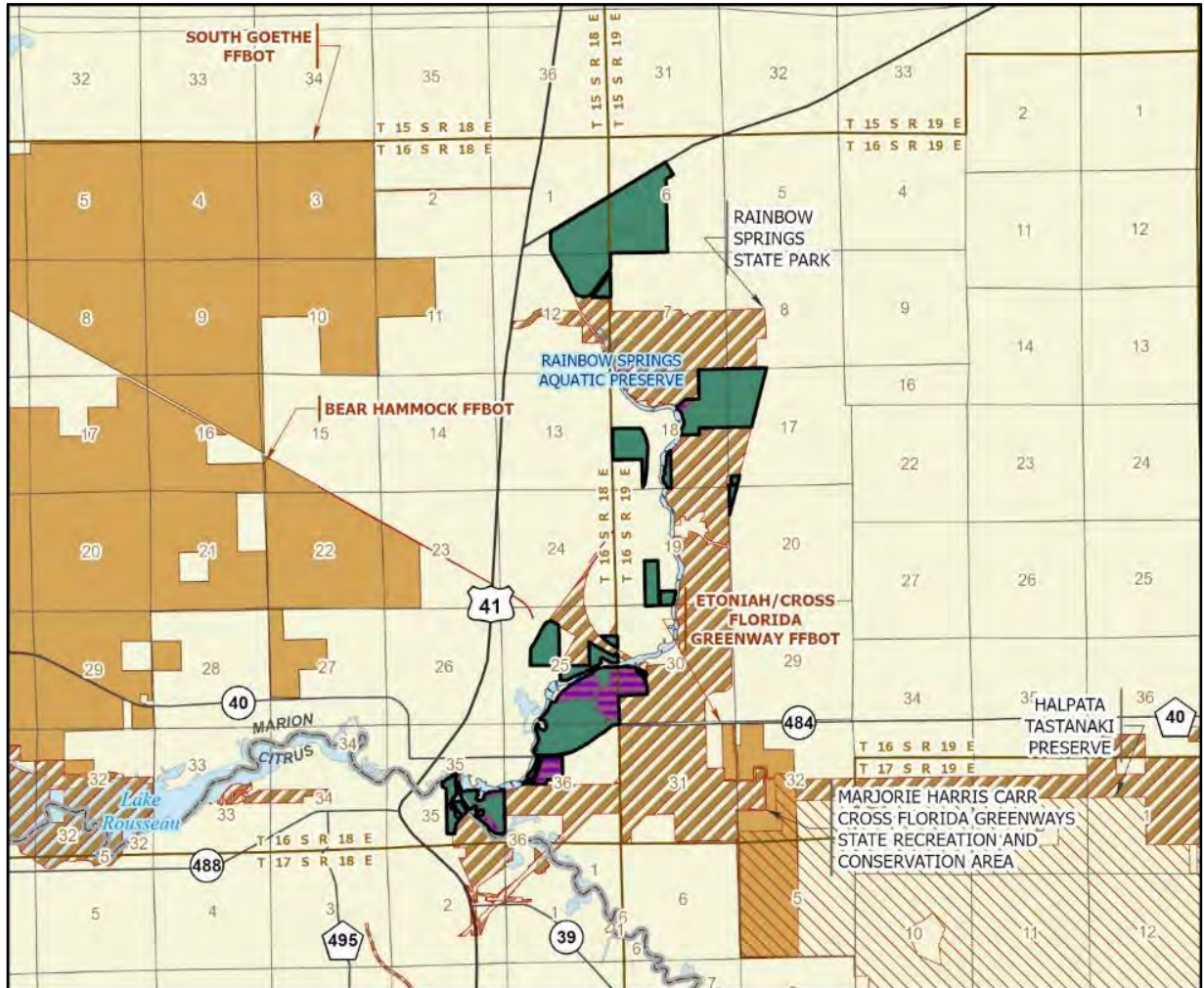
Cooperators in management activities

The DRP 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	Startup	Recurring
Salary	\$0	not provided
OPS	\$45,000	not provided
Expense	\$10,000	not provided
OCO	\$46,000	not provided
FCO	\$10,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$111,000	not provided

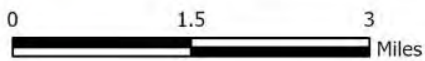
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted by DRP and OGT



RAINBOW RIVER CORRIDOR

CITRUS AND MARION COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 166 : FNAI, January 2021



Ranch Reserve

Less-Than-Fee Project

Brevard, Indian River, Osceola

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1997
Project Acres	36,410
Acquired Acres	23,895
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$10,773,500
Remaining Project Acres	12,515
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$50,806,883

Purpose for State Acquisition

Large cattle ranches in Osceola County occupy 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(s)

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) 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 percent of the project area. Swamps and hammocks make up much of the remaining natural communities. Improved pastures cover about 30 percent of the area. At least 24 Florida Natural Areas



Inventory (FNAI)-listed animals are known or reported from the project, including red-cockaded woodpeckers and one of the largest populations of sandhill cranes in Florida. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has released whooping cranes on the SJRWMD’s 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Whooping crane	G1/SNR
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

10 rare species are associated with the project

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

1996

On October 30, 1996, Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council (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. The SJRWMD has acquired a conservation easement over the large central tract—Escape Ranch.



2000

In 2000, the Board of Trustees acquired a conservation easement over the Mills Ranch.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-than-Fee category in the Florida Forever list.

Coordination

SJRWMD is an acquisition partner with the state and has acquired substantial acreage within the project area. TNC is an acquisition partner also.

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-cockaded 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 SJRWMD 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

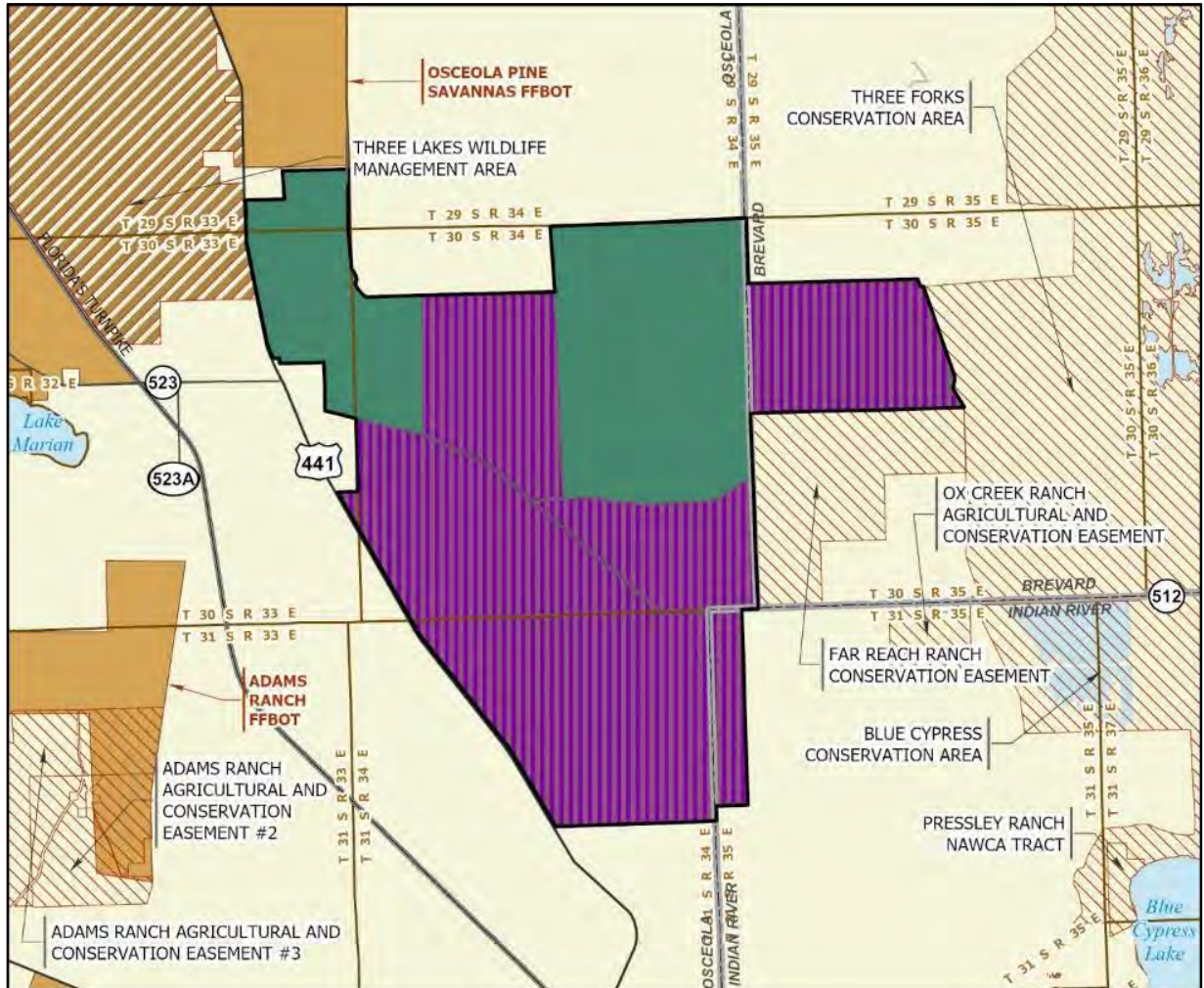
Within the first year after acquisition, the District will take aerial photographs to record the condition of each ranch and begin to inventory natural resources on site. Landowners will develop management and monitoring plans to address site security, monitor and control public access, and implement 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 Florida Forest Service. 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 SJRWMD will cooperate with other state and local government agencies in monitoring land in the project.



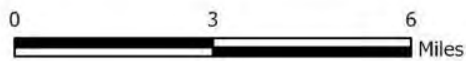
RANCH RESERVE

BREVARD, INDIAN RIVER, AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 167 : FNAI, January 2021



Red Hills Conservation

Less-Than-Fee Project

Jefferson, Leon

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2019
Project Acres	16,951
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	16,951
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$56,470,899

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Red Hills Conservation Lands would 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 Red Hills region; ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of the natural systems and of the citizens of the state; preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and increase the amount of forest land available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Manager

This site would be managed by the landowner, and periodically monitored by DEP's Division of State Lands (DSL) for compliance with the approved perpetual conservation terms. The Board of Trustees would hold the easement. Each time the land transfers to another ownership, the perpetual easement and its conditions run with the title. The Board of Trustees is granted the opportunity to exercise its right of first refusal to buy the land outright each time the ownership changes.

General Description

The Red Hills Conservation Lands (RHC) project include lands in three plantations. In western Leon County, Cherokee Plantation is located 6.3 miles north of Bradfordville along U.S. Highway 319. The 5,536-acre property extends from Lake Iamonia eastward 4.5 miles to Old Centerville Road. Ring Oak Plantation, 5,322 acres, is also in Leon County, about 0.25 miles east of the town of Miccosukee. All the property is on the eastern side of State Road 59, and the entire eastern border is the shore of Lake Miccosukee. The third property, Norias Hunt Club includes 5,976.4 acres and is located 2.4 miles northeast of the town of Miccosukee along T. S. Green/Lake Roads.

Conservation easements near the project lands include a 48-acre conservation easement on U.S. Highway 319, protecting the scenic byway from any future development. A second 47-acre conservation easement was completed in 2014 on the only outlet for Lake Iamonia, protecting a vital waterway connection to Foshalee Slough. Additionally, another parcel of 1,752 acres adjacent to the proposal is protected with a conservation easement held by Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy.

The properties are in what is commonly termed as the Red Hills region, characterized by rolling, moderately well drained uplands with clay soils overlain by loamy sands, and isolated lakes and depressional wetlands. Upland vegetation primarily resembles the upland pine natural community, although much of this was altered historically to support agriculture, chiefly cotton. The “upland pine” now growing on former old fields generally supports a flora lacking some key native components including wiregrass. Although longleaf pine historically dominated the canopy, these sites are now dominated by loblolly, shortleaf, and slash pine, with occasional small pockets of mature longleaf pine. There are numerous agricultural food plots and a grid of chopped or mowed lanes to aid hunting activities within these open canopied pinelands. The pinelands are generally managed with chopping, mowing, and prescribed fire.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>hyssopleaf hedgenettle</i>	G5T1Q/S1
<i>Turk's cap lily</i>	G5/S1
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

7 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The purpose for the acquisition of this project is to maintain surface wetlands and groundwater recharge functions, provide for wildlife habitat, sustainable forestry and wildlife corridors.

Since this is proposed as a conservation easement acquisition, no increase in natural resource-based recreational and educational opportunities will directly result. But the Tallahassee Astronomical Society supports the acquisition of RHC because its continued operation as plantation protects the area from light pollution that comes with residential and commercial development. While the less-than-fee project will not provide opportunities for public recreation on the property itself, the protection to water quality afforded by an easement will indirectly protect public recreation sites.

The landowner, Gem Land Company, has demonstrated a willingness to ensure public access to Lake Miccosukee by selling land to Leon County to create Cypress Landing and allowing the public to use its road to access Hopkins Landing. There are several existing conservation easements surrounding these lakes and this project would fill gaps in resource protection in an area of Leon County with high development pressure.

Acquisition Planning

The application for this project was submitted by Mr. Shane Wellendorf of Tall Timbers Research Station at the request of the landowner.

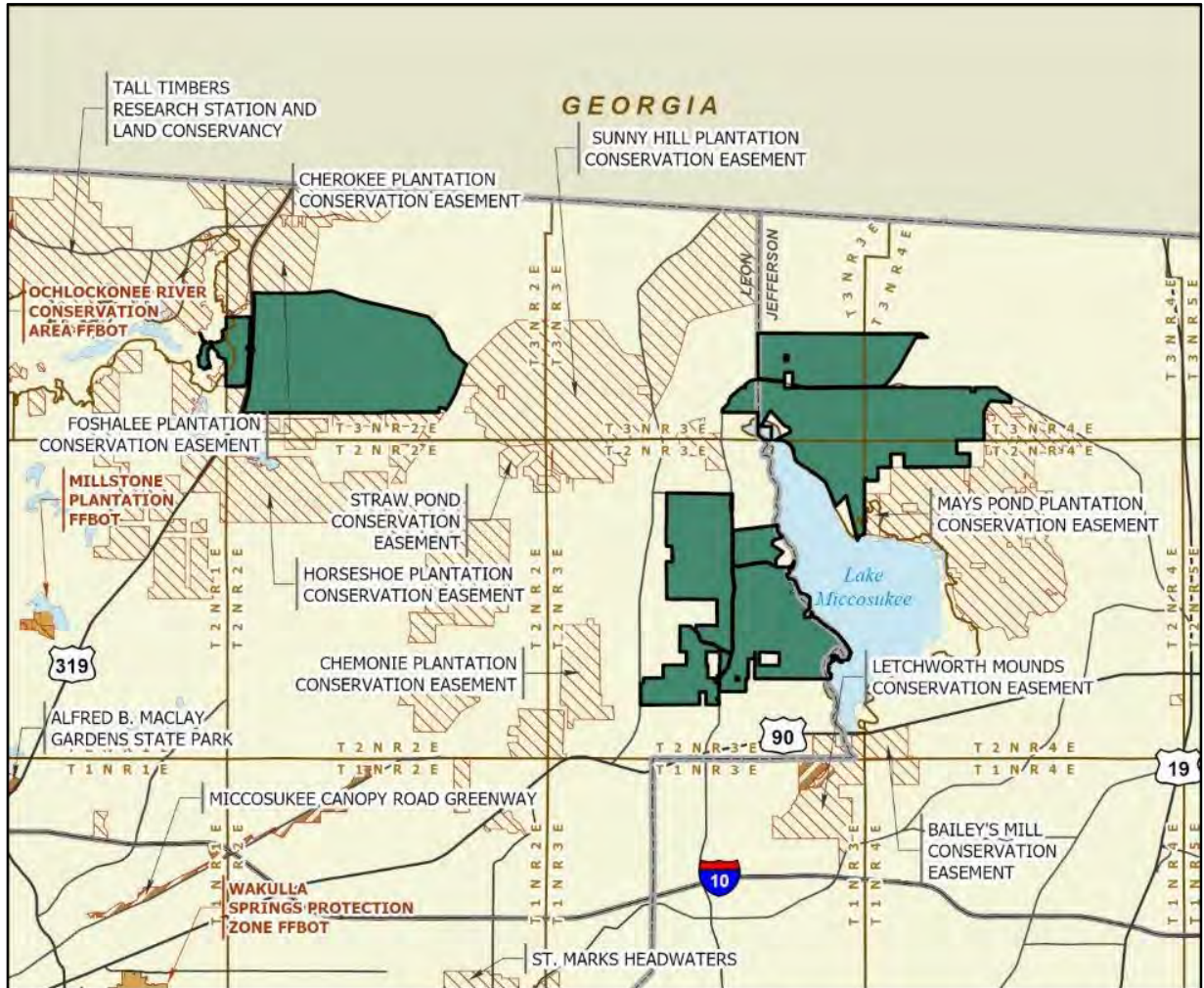
Coordination

Establishing the property as an easement would help achieve objectives in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Gopher Tortoise Management Plan that pertain to increasing the amount of protected tortoise habitat on private lands.



Management Policy Statement

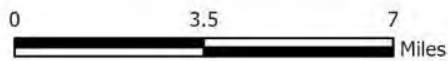
The Red Hills Conservation project could add to the number of acres acquired through the state's land acquisition programs that contribute to the enhancement of essential natural resources, ecosystem service parcels, and connecting linkage corridors because it encompasses 16,909 mostly undeveloped acreage in Leon and Jefferson counties, roughly three to five miles south of the Georgia state line; two of the tracts border Lake Miccosukee along the boundary between the counties (one on each side), and the third is approximately five miles to the west in Leon County within the Lake Iamonia basin (specifically along its primary outlet, Foshalee Slough and Lake).



RED HILLS CONSERVATION

JEFFERSON AND LEON COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 168 : FNAI, January 2021



Sand Mountain

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Bay, Washington

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1994
Project Acres	34,361
Acquired Acres	19,828
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$26,637,412
Remaining Project Acres	14,533
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$27,778,967

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 recreation activities, from hiking to hunting. This project may also help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses several Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

Florida Forest Service/FFS, 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Gholson's blazing star</i>	G1/S1
<i>quillwort yellow-eyed grass</i>	G1/S1
<i>Crystal Lake nailwort</i>	G3T1/S1
Shaggy ghostsnail	G1/S1
Oval pigtoe	G2/S1S2
Apalachicolan cave isopod	G1G3/S1S2
<i>smoothbark St. John's wort</i>	G2/S2
<i>Panhandle meadowbeauty</i>	G2/S2
<i>thread-leaf sundew</i>	G4/S1
Dougherty Plain cave crayfish	G2G3/S2

35 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

This project would be designated as a state forest with such uses as hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, camping and environmental education.

Acquisition Planning

1995

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 (NFWMD) has acquired the Rosewood ownership in Phase II and a portion of the Deltona ownership. In 1994, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$10,363,475.



2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category in the Florida Forever list.

Coordination

The NFWFMD 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 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 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 project make it desirable for management as a state forest.

Manager

The FFS 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 FFS 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 FFS 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. 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 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 FFS will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating potential

The FFS 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.

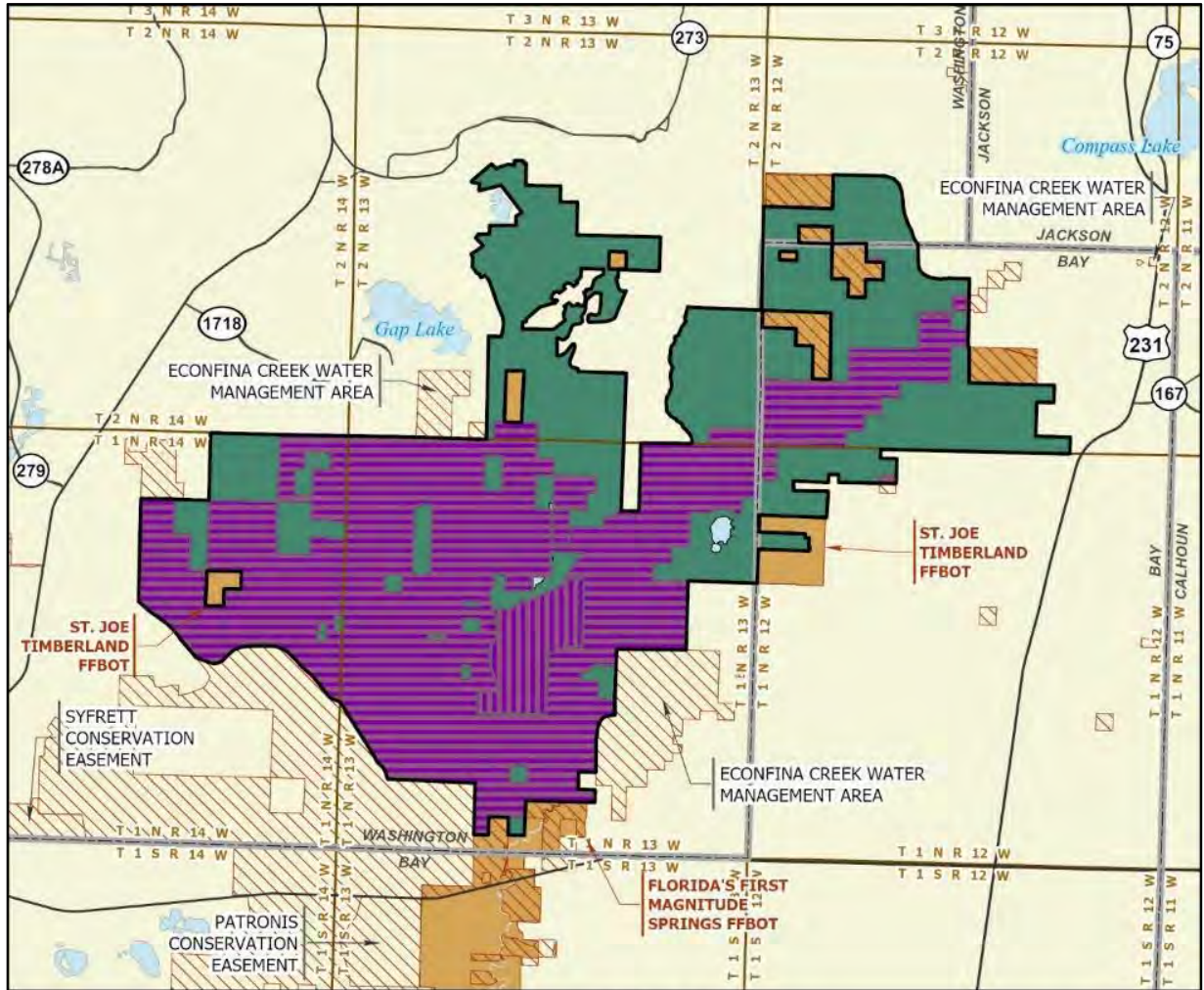
Cooperators in management activities

The NFWFMD has purchased land along Econfina Creek within the project boundary. The District will cooperate with the FFS in the management of this corridor. The FFS will also cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and other interested parties as appropriate.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$148,370	\$148,370
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$70,000	\$50,000
OCO	\$234,900	\$15,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$453,270	\$213,370

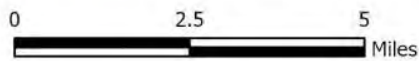
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SAND MOUNTAIN

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020

Map 169 : FNAI, January 2021



San Felasco Conservation Corridor

Less-Than-Fee Project

Alachua

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2003
Project Acres	376
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	376
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$919,944

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(s)

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. While these three parcels do not create a viable project, the importance of these tracts can be seen when they are combined with a larger Conservation Corridor project. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

no rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Its small size, separation into three disjunct parcels, limited uplands and status as 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, limited fishing and nature appreciation could possibly 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

2003

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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of Florida Forever projects.



Coordination

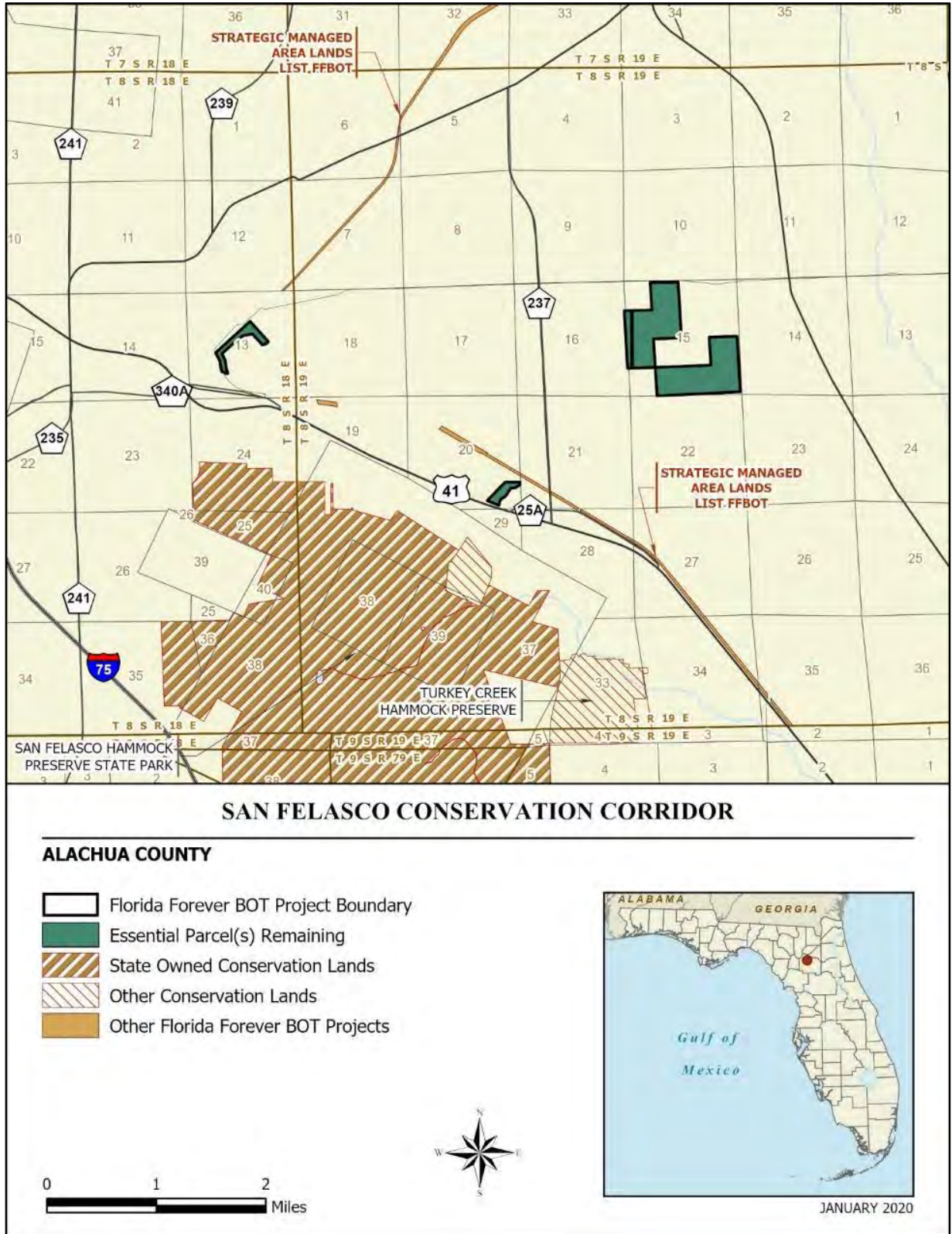
The San Felasco Land Trust has created a large 25,000-acre Corridor project and brought together the Department of Environmental Protection, the Suwannee River Water Management District, The Florida Communities Trust, and the Alachua Forever land acquisition program to cooperatively acquire the Conservation 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.



Map 170 : FNAI, January 2021



San Pedro Bay

Critical Natural Lands Project
Madison, Taylor

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2003
Project Acres	44,999
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	44,999
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$33,449,674

Propose for State Acquisition

This project is located near the northern end of San Pedro Bay, a large low area between the Suwannee and Econfina rivers and contains pine plantations interspersed with basin swamps and baygalls. A large part of this project is within the existing San Pedro Bay Wildlife Management Area. Acquisition would expand hunting opportunities and may help complete the Florida National Scenic Trail, a statewide non-motorized trail that crosses a number of Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 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 near the proposal include the Hixtown Swamp Florida Forever project and



several conservation areas of the Suwannee River Water Management District’s conservation areas.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>1 rare species is associated with the project</i>	

Public Use

The consumptive recreational uses on the area consist 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.

Outdoor recreation that can be done 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 44,999 (GIS) acres in tracts in Madison and Taylor counties. The Wachovia ownership includes the Madison tract (about 19,742 acres) and the Taylor tract (about 3,120 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 for the two ownerships. The Wachovia tract was acquired from the Gilman Trust in 1999 and has historically managed the pine timber for chip and saw rotations. The Foley tract is adjacent to the Wachovia Madison tract on the western border. Currently the FWC has a lease over this area for a Wildlife Management Area. The tax-assessed value is \$7,898,471.



2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the project to the Florida Forever project list. The project had an estimated tax assessed value in 2003 of \$7,898,471.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

FWC and FFS are acquisition partners on this project.

Management Policy Statement

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 is 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 has 3,121 acres located in Taylor County, two 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 about five miles south of Madison, seven 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 percent of the San Pedro Bay proposal; the remaining 51 percent is in silviculture. 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, is 5,653 acres of the project, and appears to be largely in a natural condition. Wet flatwoods comprise 22,822 acres interspersed with 16,252 acres of baygall and dome swamp. In the area where silviculture occurs, 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 Florida Natural Areas Inventory's (FNAI) Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 20 percent (8,756 acres) of the project area is under-represented natural communities.

Imperiled or rare animal species documented to occur on the project include the Florida black bear, great egret, the little blue heron, snowy egret, white ibis, and wood stork. Other imperiled or rare animal species that are expected to occur in the project include Bachman's sparrow, eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, and swallow-tailed kite. The American alligator has also been observed on the project.

Game species are present in relatively low densities among scattered habitat for white-tailed deer and wild turkey. Other game species having been observed on the area include the common snipe, eastern gray squirrel, mourning dove, and rabbits.

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 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 three miles northeast of the project; Twin Rivers State Forest along the Suwannee River, six miles to the east; and the Econfina Conservation Area along the Econfina River, miles to the west. The rare plant species occurring in the project area include pitcher plants in 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, 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 Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

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. 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 groundcover development and enhancement of wildlife. This would provide habitat for the full spectrum of species found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity. The project area will be managed to provide recreation opportunities 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 identified in the Florida Forever Act (259.105(4), F.S.): 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; Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities; Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Manager

FWC and FFS will be unified managers of the fee simple portions of the project that are acquired.

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, FFS

and FWC will utilize in-house expertise in plant community restoration to develop long-term hydrologic goals and objectives in the conceptual management plan (CMP). 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. Managing agencies would conduct historic vegetation analysis to determine appropriate desired future conditions, and restoration methods and tools. This is especially important for conserving habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. The primary methods and tools for perpetuating less disturbed natural communities might include introducing prescribed fire, controlling human uses and removing 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. Facilities for public use and administration would feature rustic facilities and be kept to the minimum necessary to assure a high-quality recreational experience. Such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance.

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

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies under the unified management approach will emphasize site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removing 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. Goals for the long term would emphasize multiple use management and conserving the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting imperiled or rare species of flora and fauna. Because of past drainage and dewatering activities for silviculture, an extensive hydrologic analysis will be performed to guide long-term restoration strategies. Other concurrent assessments will include completing a plant community inventory and historic vegetation analysis. Where practical, disturbed sites would be restored to conditions expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Essential roads would be stabilized to provide all-weather public access and management operations. Programs providing recreational uses would also be implemented. An all-season prescribed burning management plan would be developed and implemented. Timber resources will be managed using acceptable silviculture practices. Thinning of timber 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. Infrastructure for management would be protected to the extent possible. Infrastructure development would be the minimum to serve needs of the public and would include facilities for the security and management of the project area.

Revenue-generating potential

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable 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. 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 FFS and FWC.

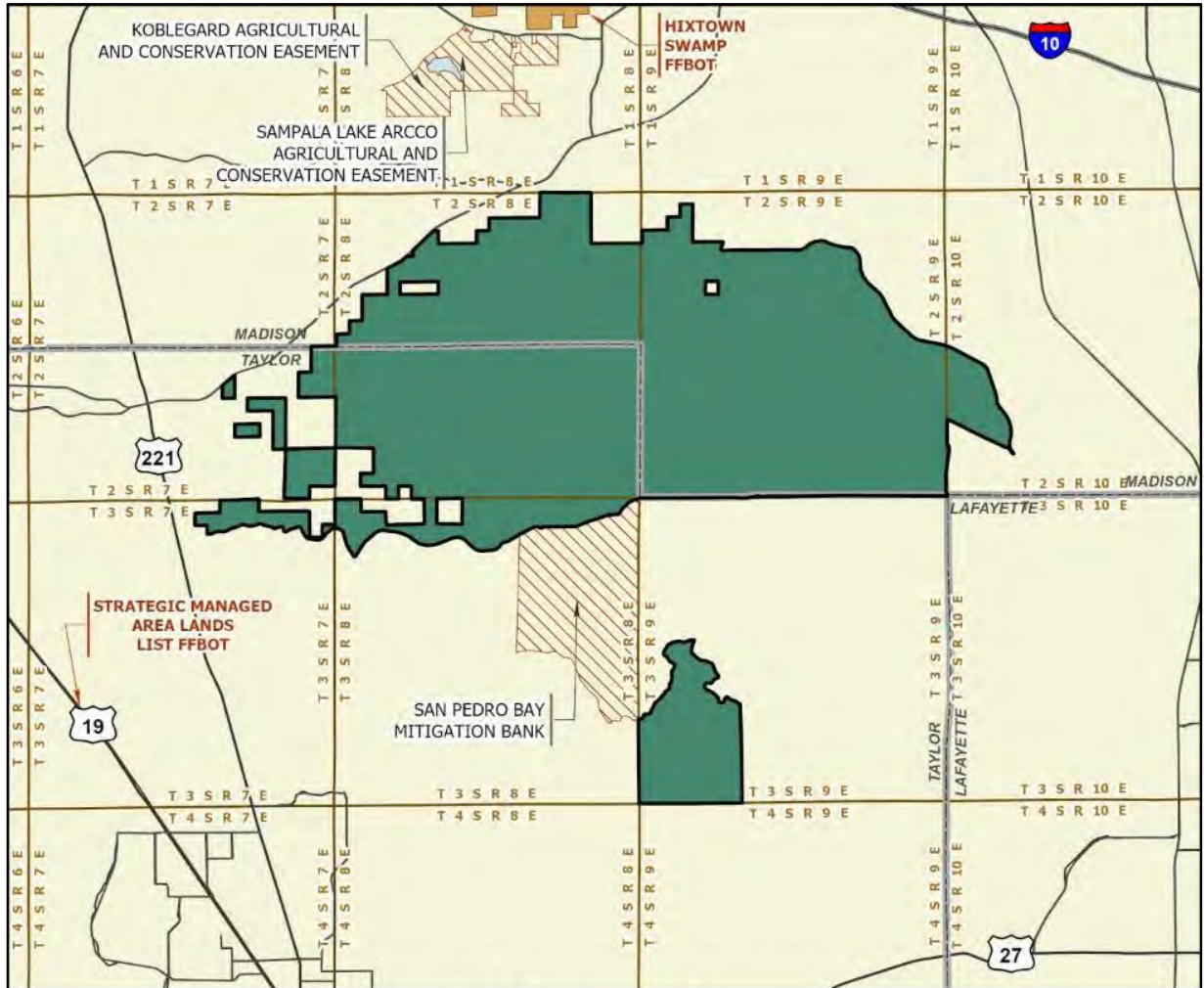
Cooperators in management activities

The unified managers (FFS 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.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC and FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$548,732	\$719,677
Administration	\$75,494	\$25,133
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$2,187,189	\$316,190
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$3,756	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$31,351	\$31,351
TOTAL	\$2,995,601*	\$1,124,056

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SAN PEDRO BAY

MADISON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 171 : FNAI, January 2021



Save Our Everglades

Substantially Complete Project
Collier

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1984
Project Acres	217,680
Acquired Acres	217,656
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$132,018,455
Remaining Project Acres	24
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$91,242

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Save Our Everglades project will conserve three large pieces of 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, thereby 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(s)

National Park Service (NPS) will manage Big Cypress Addition; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will manage Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Florida Forest Service/FFS will manage all of the Golden Gate Estates South - less that portion east of the Fakaunion Canal to be managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP); and DRP will manage 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. 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida bonneted bat	G1/S1
<i>Tampa vervain</i>	G2/S2
<i>Small's flax</i>	G2T2/S2
<i>pineland jacquemontia</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>Florida royal palm</i>	G2G3/S2
<i>narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem</i>	G4T2/S2
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	G3G4/S1

35 rare species are associated with the project

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

1996

Completing 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.



2003

On April 18, 2003, ARC transferred 1,615 acres in Hendry County to the Panther Glades Florida Forever project.

2006

In 2006, ARC moved this project from the A, Small Parcels list for acquisition to the B, Small Parcels list.

The NPS continues to pursue consolidation efforts in the Big Cypress Preserve Addition. The Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program continues to focus on acquiring land in Golden Gate Estates South. The USFWS 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 the acreage in this project is considered essential. In June 2009, approximately 3 platted acres were purchased for \$8,276.

2011

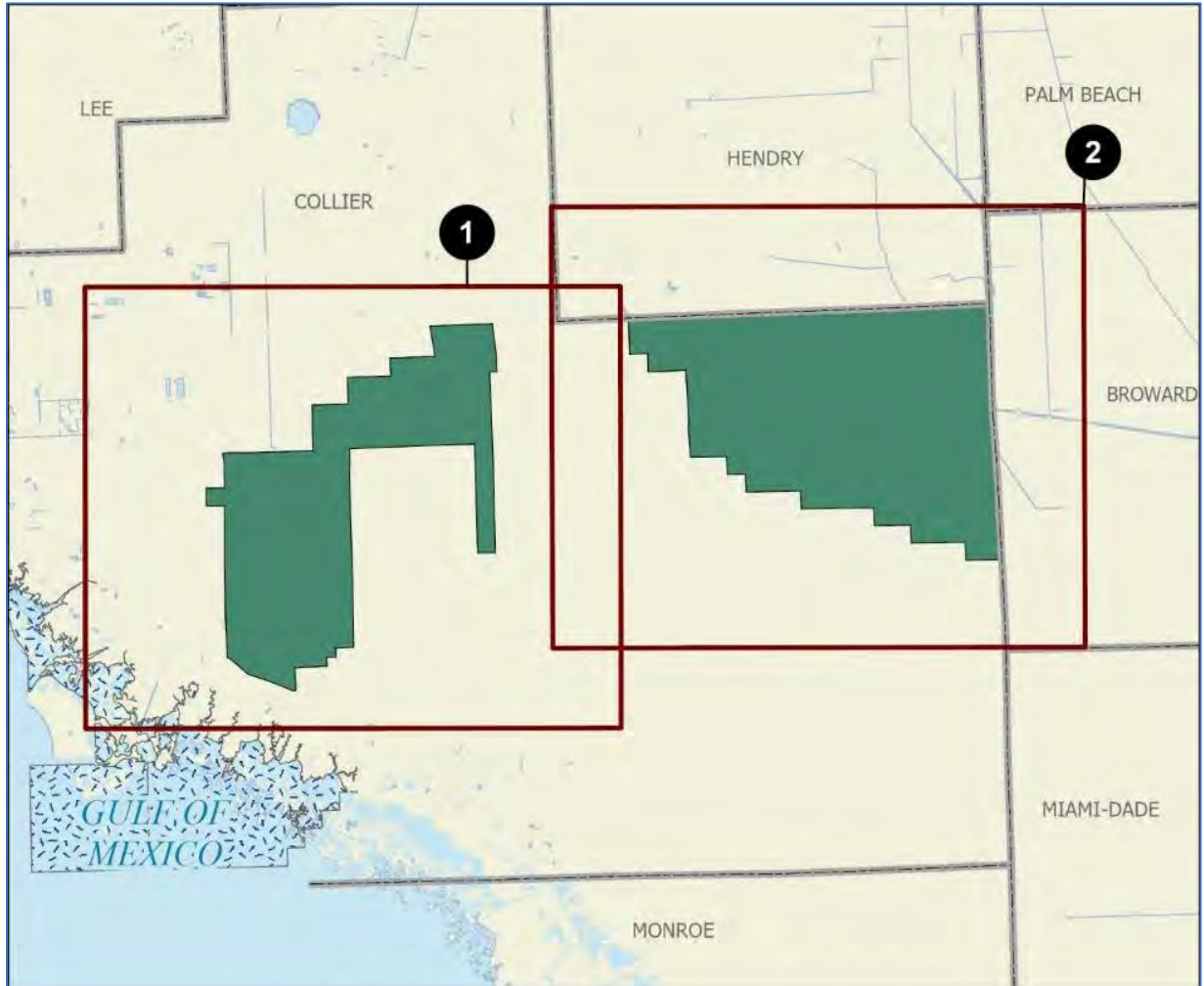
On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the new Substantially Complete category of Florida Forever projects. This project will remain on the Florida Forever List until all court settlements are resolved.

Coordination

The NPS, USFWS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and DOT 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.

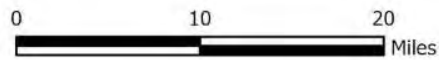
Management Policy Statement

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 to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect.



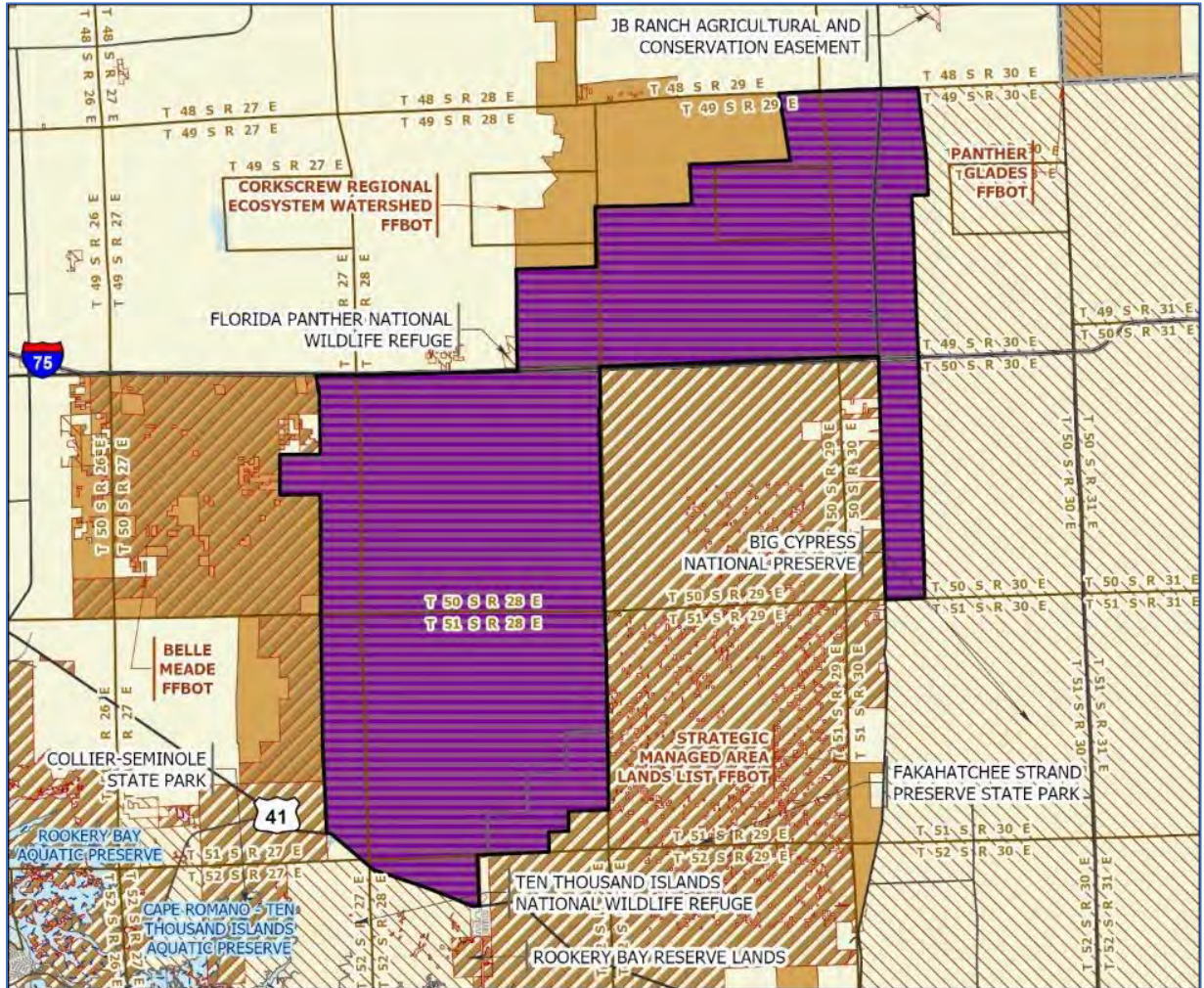
SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: OVERVIEW

COLLIER COUNTY



JANUARY 2020

Map 1 : FNAI, January 2021



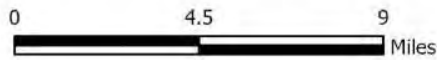
SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 1

COLLIER COUNTY

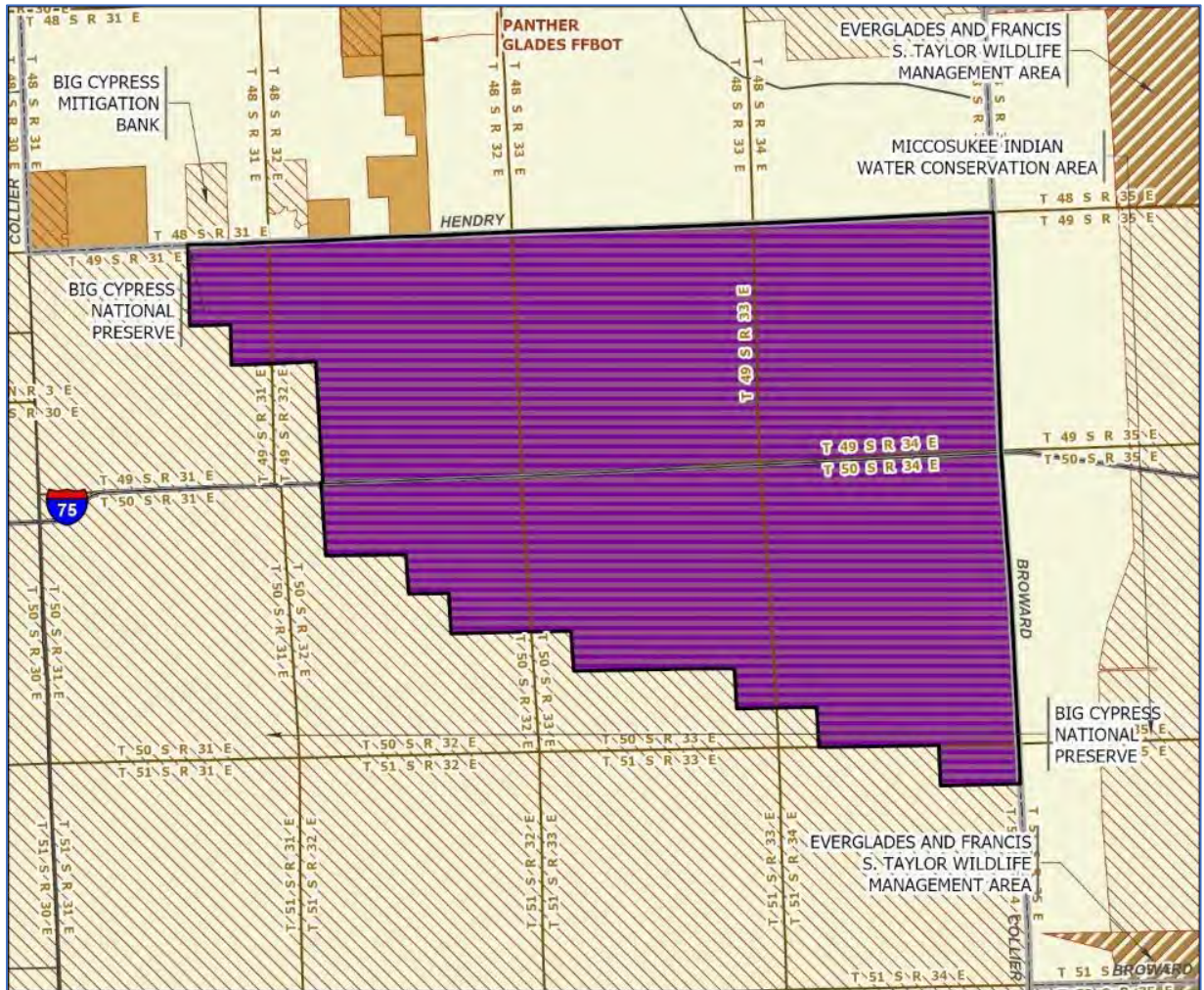
- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020



Map 2 : FNAI, January 2021



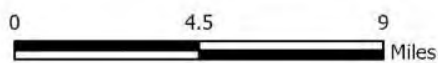
SAVE OUR EVERGLADES: MAP 2

COLLIER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



Map 3 : FNAI, January 2021



Seven Runs Creek Final Phase

Less-Than-Fee Project
Walton, Washington

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2017
Project Acres	7,441
Acquired Acres	4,615
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,013,400
Remaining Project Acres	2,826
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$3,855,611

Purpose for State Acquisition

The distributed parcels that make up this project are integral to completing the Northwest Florida Greenway, a state-federal-private cooperative effort (formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement) to establish a series of protected lands of hundreds of thousands of acres from Eglin Air Force Base to Apalachicola National Forest. The property is offered to the state for perpetual conservation easement, comparable to protection already secured for other lands within Nokuse Plantation. Seven Runs Creek Final Phase is proposed for the following public purposes: Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; 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; Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; Increase natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities; Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and Increase the amount of forest land available for sustainable management of natural resources.



Manager(s)

This project is proposed to be a less-than-fee purchase, or conservation easement. As a result, this area would be managed by the landowner by a signed agreement to maintain the land for its natural assets. Periodic visits coordinated by the Division of State Lands of DEP would ensure that the conditions the landowner agreed to are being met.

General Description

Seven Runs Creek Final Phase covers 6,228 GIS acres in the upland part of Walton County and has a parcel in Washington County, east of the Choctawhatchee River. The southernmost parcel is adjacent to Black Creek for just over three river miles, and the southeastern parcels border the Choctawhatchee River and Pine Log Creek for about 1.4 and 0.3 miles, respectively. It is a series of disjunct parcels that fill in gaps in the existing 53,505-acre Nokuse Plantation conservation area, all of them contiguous with conservation easements or existing state lands.

Elevations on the site grade from approximately 150 feet in the north to as low as five feet along Black Creek. Although the canopy is introduced slash pine, the stand is of widely spaced trees and has not been disturbed for several decades. The vegetation composition remains natural – a mix of pines with an understory that includes turkey oak, wiregrass, and a mix of herbs such as dogtongue wild buckwheat and milkpea. Invasive exotic plants are relatively infrequent. Wildlife that has been documented on the site includes the Florida black bear, the gopher tortoise, the eastern diamondback rattlesnake and the pine snake.

About 68 percent of the project has been planted in slash pine plantations, and another 16 percent is bottomland forests. Other natural communities are successional hardwood forests, floodplain swamps, dome swamp, and mesic/wet flatwoods. About one-third of the project provides natural floodplain function. Non-natural areas include a few acres of artificial pond, improved pasture, and developed areas. Roads are generally small ORV trails. However, the largest parcel was slated for development before the 2008 recession, and wide roadways were cleared, but not paved.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Ashe's magnolia</i>	G3/S2
<i>Florida flame azalea</i>	G3/S3
<i>wiregrass gentian</i>	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Pine snake	G4/S3
Pine barrens treefrog	G4/S3
Eastern river cooter	G5T5/S3

9 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

As a less-than-fee acquisition proposal, public resource-based recreation potential is highly limited and, therefore, the overall recreation potential is considered low. The greatest recreational value of the proposal is the support it would provide to maintaining the ecological values of the region. Research by FNAI shows the site does have 7.7 miles of recreational trails.

Acquisition Planning

2017

On October 20, 2017, ARC voted to add this proposal to the Florida Forever project list in the Less- Than-Fee category. The parcel would most likely be acquired in one purchase, as a single conservation easement. The entire parcel would be designated as essential.

2018

At the April 20, 2018, meeting, ARC members added a 660.6-acre less-than-fee addition that abuts State Road 3280. The purpose is to provide long-term protection of land in the Stella Davis Trust from development. The land also augments to buffer area around the Eglin Air Force Base.

2019

On December 12, 2019, the ARC approved the addition of 619 acres (GIS) in Washington County to the Seven Runs Creek Final Phase Florida Forever project. The proposal had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$692,149. The addition was proposed by Washington Crossing LLC and is adjacent to Pine Log State Forest. If acquired the proposal would be managed by Florida Forestry Service and would expand opportunities for public access and recreation. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. It would be managed by the Florida Forest Service if acquired.



2020

In 2020, multiple parcels (Dever parcels, Stella Davis 2015 Plantation Trust parcels, Nokuse Education, Inc. parcels) were acquired less-than-fee containing a total of 2,029.71 acres at a cost of \$1,013,400. The conservation easement will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services as part of the larger Seven Runs Creek/Nokuse conservation easement monitoring schedule.

Coordination

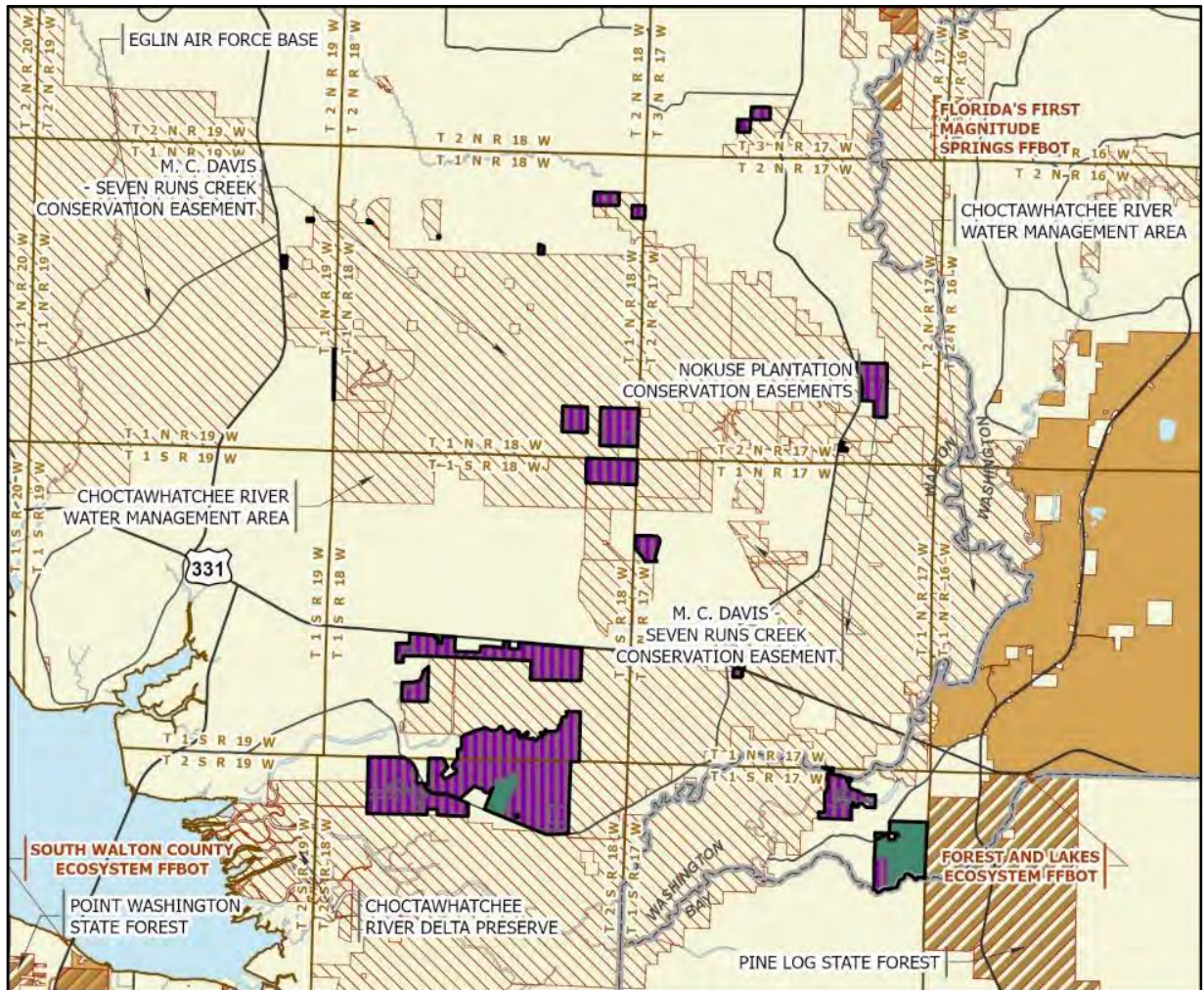
The parcels in the Seven Runs Creek Final Phase project juxtapose and/or are contiguous with both the North Nokuse Plantation and Seven Runs Creek Florida Forever projects. These would enhance this wildlife connectivity across this portion of the Panhandle landscape. This is in keeping with the greatest recreational value of the proposal, the support it would provide to maintaining the ecological values of the region.

Management Policy Statement

Because the Seven Runs Creek Final Phase project is a less-than-fee project, the land would continue to be managed by its owner under a conservation easement, in compliance with the terms and management conditions in the agreement. The likely elements of such an agreement could include purchasing the development rights, prohibiting turning more natural areas into intensive use areas, and managing the property for wildlife habitat.

Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services of the Division of State Lands would coordinate monitoring of management compliance with the conservation easement of this project.



SEVEN RUNS CREEK FINAL PHASE

WALTON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 172: FNAI, January 2021



Shoal River Buffer

Critical Natural Lands Project
Okaloosa

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	2,188
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	2,188
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$3,420,040

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Shoal River Buffer project would advance Florida Forever goals of increasing biodiversity; preserving landscape linkages, habitat for rare species, and water and wetland systems of the state by protecting 1,768 acres of rare species habitat; 2,062 acres of ecological greenways; 1,419 acres of surface waters; 1,443 acres of functional wetlands, and land that has a record of supporting black bears, alligator snapping turtles, sweet pitcher plants and hairy indigo. Acquiring this property would contribute to protecting the water quality of the Shoal River drainage area which harbors rare plant and animal species; to sustain wildlife in the area, particularly to provide long-term benefits to imperiled species; and to provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities. The Shoal River is an Outstanding Florida Water.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the recommended manager for lands within this project acquired by both the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD). NFWFMD has indicated it will convey any lands the agency acquires within this project to the BOT at no cost.



General Description

The Shoal River Buffer Florida Forever project is offered for fee simple acquisition of 2,097 (GIS) acres in eastern Okaloosa County. The tract is divided into two distinct parcels east and west of the Shoal River and 5.5 miles from the convergence of the Yellow River. It is bisected by land owned by Okaloosa County that consists of the immediate floodplain bordering the Shoal River. A portion of the western tract is adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) to the south and the city of Crestview to the west. The eastern portion is bordered by Titi Creek to the south and agricultural lands to the north. Natural communities located within the project include upland hardwood forest, sandhills, mesic/wet flatwoods, floodplain forest, basin swamp, and blackwater stream. The site also has intact seepage slopes. The wetland types on both tracts have intact forest cover and are typical for the region. Timber species include oaks, cypress, Atlantic White Cedar, maple, and titi. The upland areas vary from excessively well drained to poorly drained sites. The extremely xeric sites are predominately longleaf pine with scattered sand pine. Understory tree species include typical xeric oaks and shrubs. Mesic sites contain slash, longleaf and loblolly pines with oaks, sweetgum and maple intermixed. Slash pine is the predominant pine species on the mesic sites. Desirable groundcover species were noticed in all types; however, the absence of prescribed fire has severely suppressed their development. The tract provides the AFB with a critical buffer for both military operations and smoke generated from burning operations on base. The property has potential for some varied resource-based recreation; however, access to the property is through a series of obscure private woods roads that are difficult to follow. The Shoal River Paddling Trail (designated by the Office of Greenways and Trails) stretches nine and half miles through the property with access points north (Ray Barnes Boat Ramp) and southwest (Bill Duggar Jr. Park) of the property. The property has potential for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking, primitive camping, nature interpretive trails and geocaching.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Gulf Coast redflower pitcherplant</i>	G3G4T2/S2
<i>hairy wild indigo</i>	G3T3/S3
Lavender burrowing crayfish	G4/S2

5 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

As on all FWC-managed areas, development of facilities would be kept to the minimum level necessary to assure protection of the resources, while providing for compatible recreation



opportunities. Any such minimal development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. The tract is currently leased to hunt clubs.

Acquisition Planning

2009

The project is owned by the Haiseal Timber company and is proposed for fee-simple acquisition. On December 11, 2009, ARC voted to add this project with a 2009 tax assessed value of \$3,841,189 to the March 2010 Florida Forever list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of projects.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the ARC added 80 acres to the project that had been authorized for sale as surplus by the US Forest Service.

Coordination

The Department of Defense (DOD) expressed interest in partnering with the state in acquiring this land. Furthermore, the NFWFMD has expressed to the DOD that it has interest in 500 acres or more of the property located along the county's riverfront ownership.

Management Policy Statement

The purpose for acquisition would be to protect the water quality of the Shoal River drainage area which harbors rare plant and animal species; to sustain wildlife in the area, particularly to provide long-term benefits to imperiled species; and to provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

Conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats, and imperiled and rare species, will be important management goals for the project. A prescribed fire management regime would likely be a primary management goal. Dense stands of regenerated pines will probably need to be thinned before introducing fire.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

About 68 percent of the project is habitat for a range of at least 3-7 or more focal species (imperiled or rare wildlife). About 76 percent of the Shoal River Buffer tract lies within a



designated FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) for the Florida black bear, listed as threatened by the State. In addition, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory's 2008 GIS data indicates potential habitat for blackmouth shiner, Gulf sturgeon, Eastern indigo snake, Escambia map turtle, Florida black bear, and red-cockaded woodpecker. The eastern tract consists mainly of a sandhill and pineland habitat dominated by longleaf with scattered sand pine. The understory consists mainly of xeric oaks and shrubs. Several listed species could potentially benefit from ongoing restoration of historic and current sandhill habitats on the proposed lands. The State listed species of special concern the fox squirrel and the State threatened southeastern American kestrel use sandhill habitats, as do red-cockaded woodpeckers, a federally endangered species. Sandhills also support populations of gopher tortoises, which are listed by the State of Florida as threatened. Bears have been documented utilizing riparian corridors of the Shoal River and its tributaries in Okaloosa County and are well documented on Eglin AFB, a primary breeding range for bears in the state.

Manager

The FWC is the manager of record for this property.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The Shoal River Buffer project includes natural areas likely requiring application of resource management activities, such as ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive and exotic species, reforestation, and prescribed fire where appropriate. Such activities may be necessary to accomplish management objectives to attain the desired future condition for the area. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape-scale ecology and management concerns may also need to be considered.

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

During the first year following acquisition, emphasis will be placed on site security, posting boundaries, public access, prescribed fire management, resource inventory, exotic species control, and removal of refuse. Within one year, a 10-year management plan will be developed by FWC describing short-term and long-term management goals, and measurable inventory, exotic species control, and removal of refuse. Within one year, a 10-year management plan will be developed by FWC describing short-term objectives with associated timelines for completion.



Revenue-generating potential

The revenue generating potential of the Shoal River Buffer is not known and will depend upon future uses to be approved in the management plan. However, revenue from such environmental lands might include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities if such projects could be economically developed.

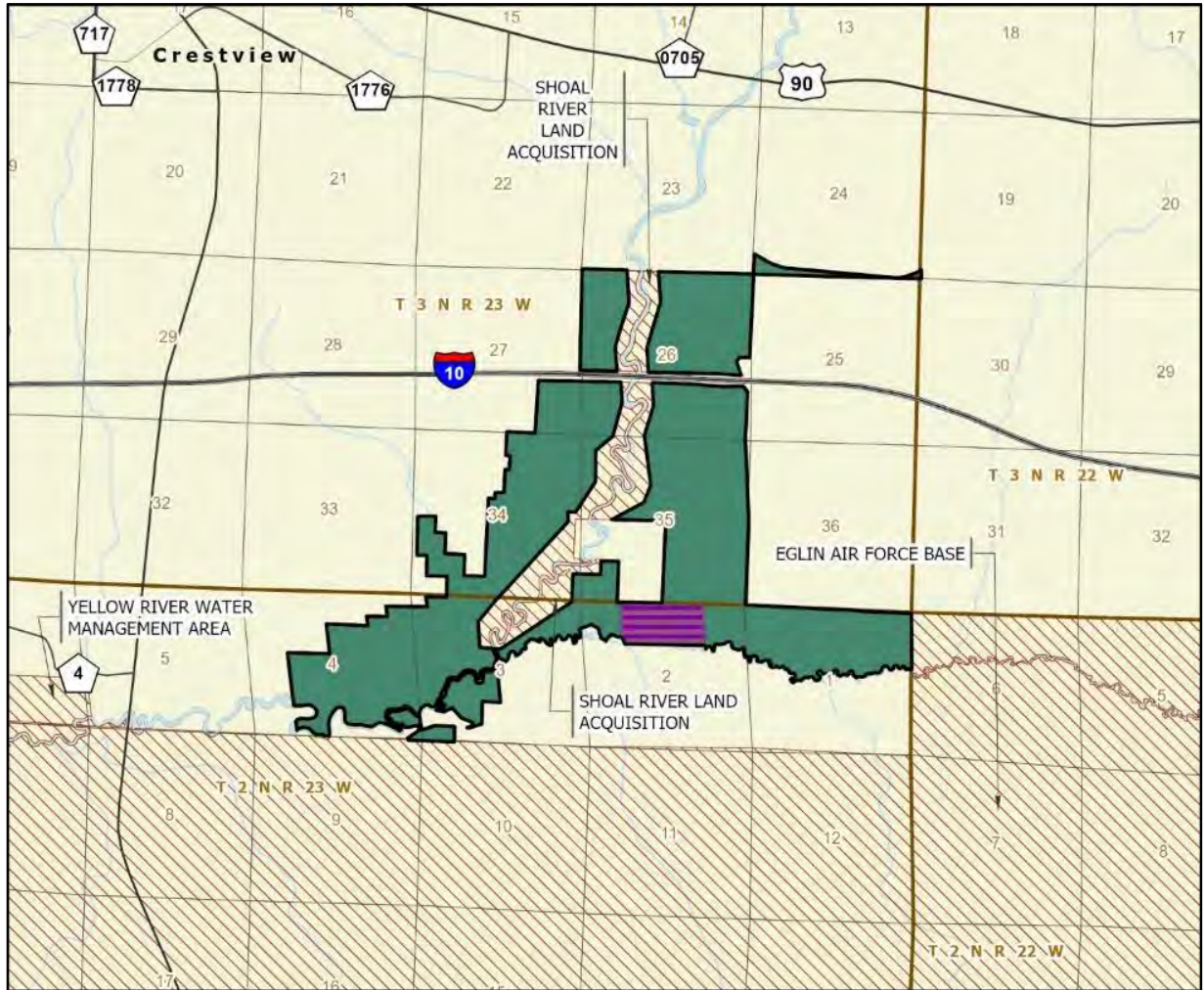
Cooperators in management activities

FWC may partner and cooperate with other State and local governmental agencies including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); the Florida Forest Service/FFS; the NFWFMD; DOD (Eglin AFB); and Okaloosa County in management of the property.

Management Cost Summary





<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Resource Management	\$74,548	\$48,848
Administration	\$82,345	\$33,072
Support	\$149,080	\$31,566
Capital Improvements	\$45,000	\$38,689
Visitor Services/Recreation	\$1,452	\$141
Law Enforcement	\$1,474	\$1,474

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



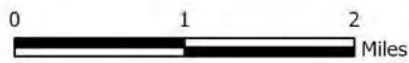
SHOAL RIVER BUFFER

OKALOOSA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 173: FNAI, January 2021



Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves

Critical Natural Lands Project
Alachua, Citrus, Jackson, Marion, Sumter

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1994
Project Acres	598
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	598
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$3,306,799

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(s)

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 cases 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’s Cave site has intact sandhill, and the Sneads Cave site supports good floodplain forest and floodplain 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gray bat	G4/S1
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida cave isopod	G1G2/S1S2
Light-fleeing cave crayfish	G2/S2
North Florida spider cave crayfish	G2/S2
Dougherty Plain cave crayfish	G2G3/S2
<i>False Rue-anemone</i>	G5/S1
Florida cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Hobbs's cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Southeastern bat	G4/S3

10 rare species are associated with the project

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’s Cave—Vacant.

1996

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.

On December 5, 1996, LAMAC transferred Grant’s Cave, consisting of two ownerships, to the Less- Than- Fee category.



2002

On June 6, 2002, the Council combined the Less-Than-Fee project to the Group B Full Fee project. It included the following:

1. Sweet Gum Cave (Citrus County)—the site consists of approximately 10 acres,
2. 1 parcel and 1 owner. Gerome’s Cave (Jackson County)—the site consists of approximately 160 acres, 5 parcels, and 4 owners.
3. Sneads Cave (Jackson County)—the site consists of approximately 80 acres, 1 parcel, and 1 owner.
4. Catacombs Cave (Marion County)—the site consists of approximately 10 acres, 2 parcels, and 2 owners.
5. Jennings’ Cave (Marion County)—the site consists of approximately 89 acres, 79 parcels, and 70 owners.
6. Sumter County Cave (Sumter County)—the site consists of approximately 362 acres, 4 parcels, and 3 owners.

2003

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

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of projects.

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 is the recommended manager.



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 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

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$14,784	\$14,784
Expense	\$4,725	\$4,725
OCO	\$30,240	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$49,749	\$19,509

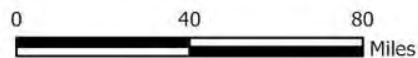
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: OVERVIEW

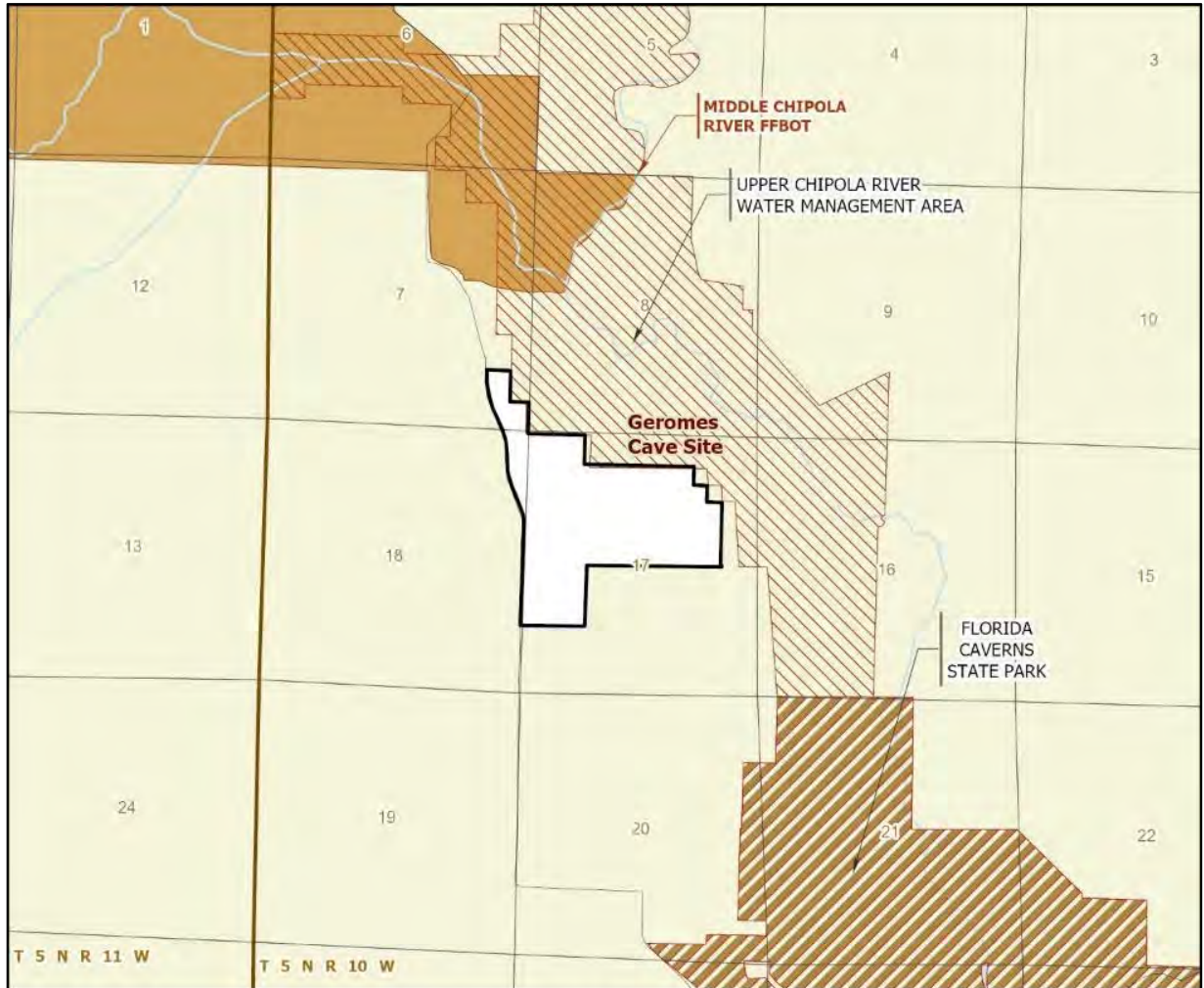
ALACHUA, CITRUS, JACKSON, MARION, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

- Map 1 Geromes Cave Site
- Map 2 Sneads Cave Site
- Map 3 Grants Cave Site
- Map 4 Jennings Cave Site
- Map 5 Catacombs Cave Site
- Map 6 Sweet Gum Cave Site
- Map 7 Sumter County Cave Site



JANUARY 2020

Map 174: FNAI, January 2021



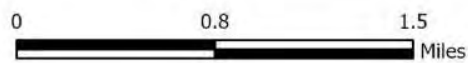
SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 1

JACKSON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 175: FNAI, January 2021



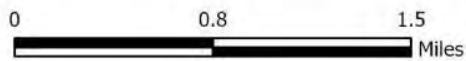
SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 2

JACKSON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020






Map 176: FNAI, January 2021



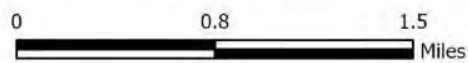
SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 3

ALACHUA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020




Map 177: FNAI, January 2021



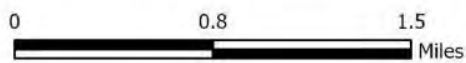
SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 4

MARION COUNTY

 Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary



JANUARY 2020






Map 178: FNAI, January 2021



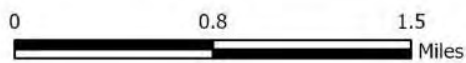
SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 5

MARION COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020






Map 179: FNAI, January 2021



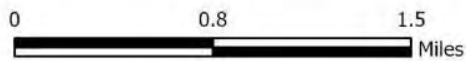
SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 6

CITRUS COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 180: FNAI, January 2021



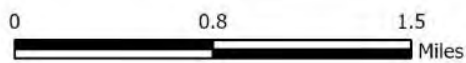
SOUTHEASTERN BAT MATERNITY CAVES: MAP 7

SUMTER COUNTY

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



MARCH 2021



Map 181: FNAI, January 2021



South Goethe

Critical Natural Lands Project

Levy, Marion

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2006
Project Acres	11,706
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	11,706
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$20,385,020

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 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 providing a significant buffer along the southern boundary of the forest while eventually enhancing the forest and its associated habitat through restoration.

Manager(s)

The property is proposed to be managed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service (FFS).

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>longspurred mint</i>	G2/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

5 rare species are associated with the project

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 are 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. 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.

The FFS 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, FFS 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

2006

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 FFS. The project has 6,152 acres and a tax-assessed value of \$1,157,483.

2007

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. FFS is the recommended manager. The parcels have been designated essential.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

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



ensure 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 make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Most 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.

Manager

The FFS.

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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

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. Because of the numerous roads throughout the property, a plan will be needed to identify which ones will be needed for



vehicular access by the public and which ones will be needed for administrative use, and which are unnecessary for management or access and 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. FFS 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 DOF 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, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Revenue-generating potential

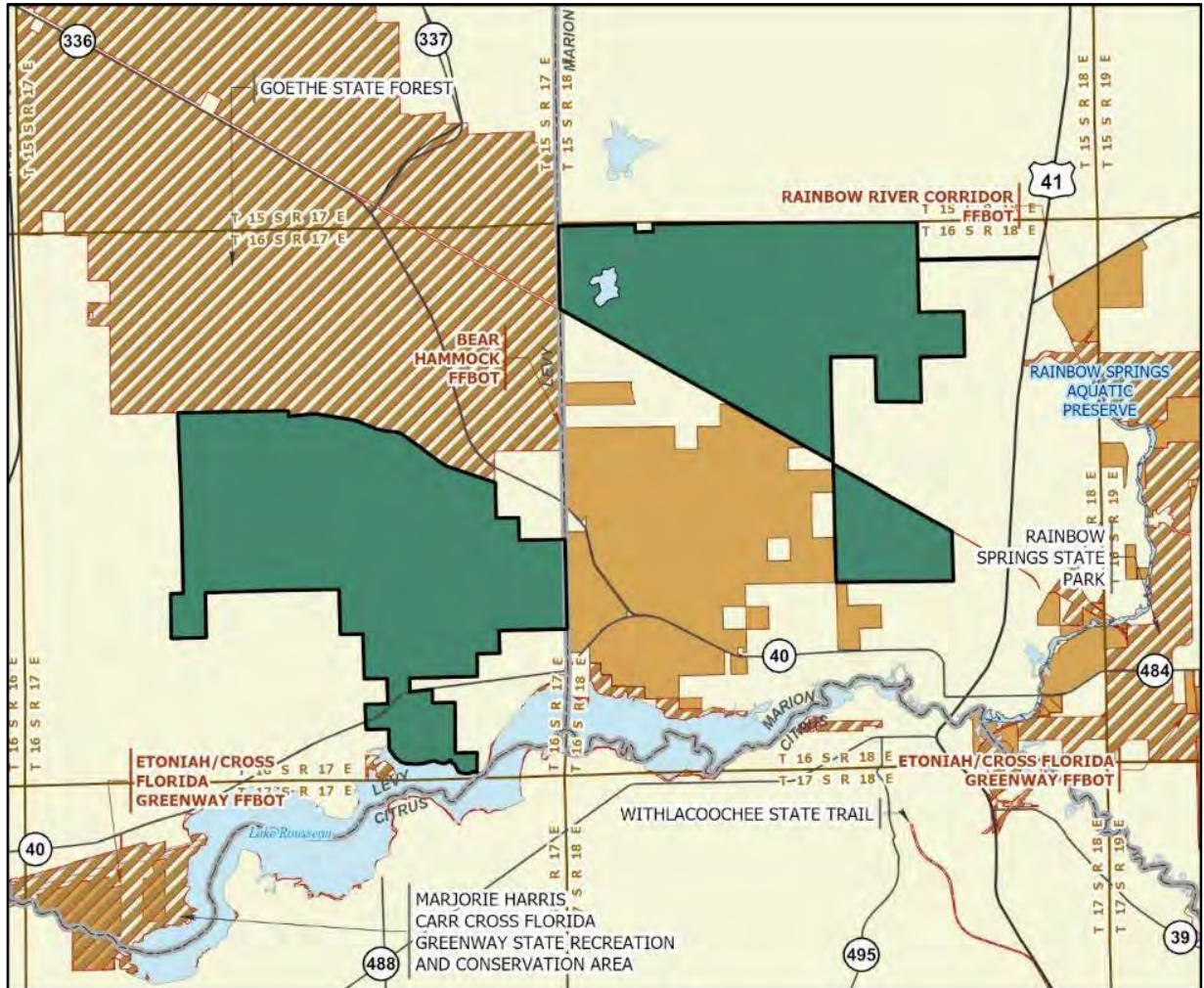
Timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources 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. Revenue. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund. 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, 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 FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Interim cost</u>
Source of Funds	CARL (or successor)
Salary (2 FTE)	\$72,104
Expense	\$263,000
OCO	\$593,720
TOTAL	\$928,824

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SOUTH GOETHE

LEVY AND MARION COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 182: FNAI, January 2021



South Walton County Ecosystem

Substantially Complete Project

Walton

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	23,281
Acquired Acres	20,623
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$189,388,710
Remaining Project Acres	2,658
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$812,980,224

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.

Manager(s)

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Topsail Hill, Grayton Beach and Deer Lake State Parks), and Florida Forest Service (Point Washington State Forest).

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Choctawhatchee beach mouse	G5T1/S1
Snowy plover	G3/S1
Green sea turtle	G3/S2S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Loggerhead sea turtle	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Gulf Coast solitary bee	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Godfrey's goldenaster</i>	G2/S2
<i>Henry's spiderlily</i>	G2TNR/S2
<i>Panhandle meadowbeauty</i>	G2/S2
<i>southern milkweed</i>	G2/S2
<i>Cruise's goldenaster</i>	G5T2/S2

26 rare species are associated with the project

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 recreation opportunities, including hiking, hunting, freshwater and saltwater fishing, camping, picnicking, nature appreciation, and beach activities.

Acquisition Planning

1996

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 and 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 approximately 41 acres and removing 820 acres from the project boundary.

Point Washington: Inholdings (approximately 1,150 acres) within the State forest (SF) 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 in the 1990's.

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 are the acres acquired (1,129) and funds spent (\$38,709,943) for the acquisition of the state recreation area.

1999

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.

2002

On August 15, 2002, the Council added 75 acres (the Coldway Tract) to the project boundaries.

On October 24, 2002, the Council added 90 acres (the Davie Tract) to the project boundaries.

2008

In December 2008, FFS purchased 38.99 acres for \$2,600,000 to add to the Point Washington SF.

2009

In June 2009, a 2-parcel donation (39 acres) from the Department of Transportation was accepted in Pt. Washington SF.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the South Walton County Ecosystem project in the Substantially Complete category of Florida Forever projects.



2012

On December 27, 2012, the BOT acquired 9.43 acres for \$85,000 to be managed by the FFS as part of the Point Washington State Forest.

2017

On October 11, 2017, the State completed a land swap with an adjoining owner of 28.5 acres of state land for 39 acres, thereby increasing the project size by 10.5 acres and adding 39 acres of acquired land.

2020

In June 2020, a 4.48-acre parcel was acquired at a cost of \$882,500 and will be managed as an addition to Topsail Hill Preserve State Park.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was an intermediary in the acquisition of the 100-acre tract in Topsail Hill held by the Resolution Trust Corporation.

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, recreation, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot; and to provide areas, including recreation 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

FFS is managing most of the project. 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 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 FFS is providing public access for low-intensity, non-facility-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 thinning's 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 FFS 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 FFS 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

FFS 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

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
TOTAL	\$137,271	\$195,277

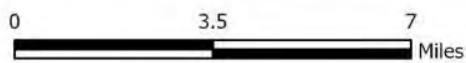
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SOUTH WALTON COUNTY ECOSYSTEM

WALTON COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020

Map 183: FNAI, January 2021



Spruce Creek

Substantially Complete Project

Volusia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1990
Project Acres	2,841
Acquired Acres	2,475
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$19,118,050
Remaining Project Acres	366
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$6,313,774

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 recreation area where people can do anything from hiking and fishing to simply learning about the plants and animals of this scenic landscape.

Manager(s)

Volusia County is the recommended manager.

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 Florida Waters, and the aquatic resources are important to both recreation 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida beargrass	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

5 rare species are associated with the project

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

1989

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.

1990

On December 7, 1990, an owner-sponsored 54-acre parcel was added to the boundary.

1992

The project was removed on December 10, 1992 due to unwilling sellers. At that time, it was less than 90 percent complete.



1994

On December 6, 1994, LAAC added the current Spruce Creek project to the 1995 CARL Priority list. This fee-simple proposal was sponsored by Volusia County, as the previous one had been, and had the same name, but consisted of 524 acres - a 208-acre portion of the original project and a 316-acre addition and had a 1993 taxable value of \$2,124,141. The project boundary, as approved by LAAC, however, included the portions of the 1989 project that had already been acquired. The resulting project acreage equaled 1,593 acres with a taxable value of \$3,406,991.

2002

On October 24, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 648-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Volusia County and consisted of five owners.

2009

On October 9, 2009, ARC voted to remove 6 sites with 54 individual parcels (97 acres) containing residential and commercial buildings or infrastructure. The total acreage removed had a just value of \$9,166,381.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Substantially Complete category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

Volusia County is a partner in the acquisition of this project as well as being identified as the manager. SJRWMD and City of Port Orange are acquisition partners also.

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, recreation, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreation 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 recreation 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, recreation 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 recreation 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

This 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 as well. It will be several years before potential revenue sources could be fully developed.



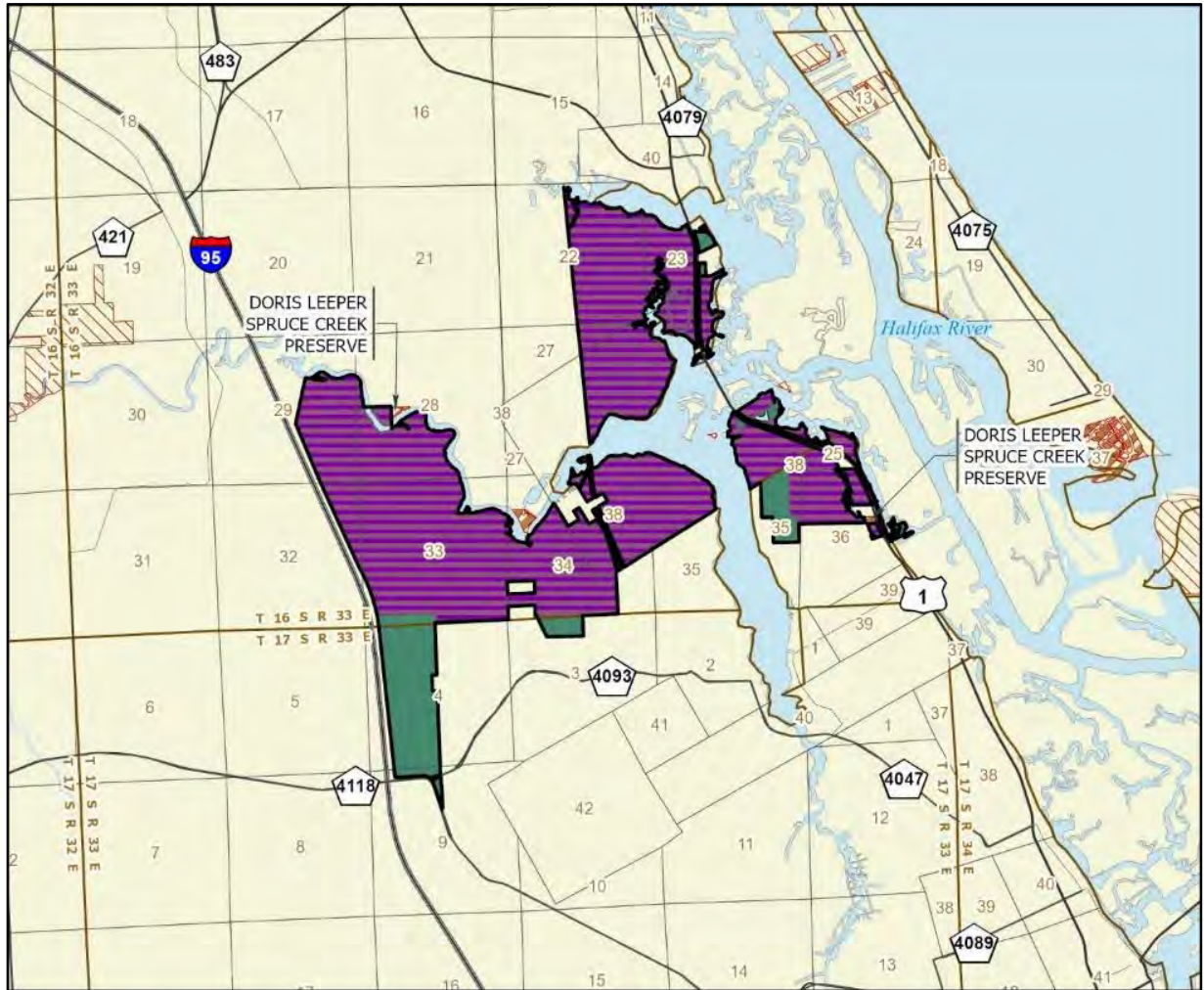
Cooperators in management activities

Port Orange and New Smyrna Beach both will be involved in the planning of the project. 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 including 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 the site.

Management Cost Summary

<u>Volusia County</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	Volusia County	Volusia County
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$6,240	\$6,240

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



SPRUCE CREEK

VOLUSIA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 184: FNAI, January 2021



St. Joe Timberland

Climate Change Lands Project

Bay, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, Washington

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2000
Project Acres	160,575
Acquired Acres	104,299
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$76,574,595
Remaining Project Acres	56,276
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$103,090,633

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 several Florida Forever project sites.

Manager(s)

The sites will be managed by various agencies. See the summaries for the projects listed below.

General Description

The St. Joe Timberland 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; Tate’s 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
<i>Florida torreya</i>	G1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Apalachicola rosemary</i>	G1/S1
<i>Chapman's rhododendron</i>	G1/S1
<i>Curtiss' loosestrife</i>	G1/S1
<i>Gholson's blazing star</i>	G1/S1
<i>pinewoods aster</i>	G1/S1
<i>quillwort yellow-eyed grass</i>	G1/S1
<i>telephus spurge</i>	G1/S1
Big Blue Spring cave crayfish	G1/S1

95 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The sites are designated for various public uses. See the summaries for the projects listed above.

Acquisition Planning

1999

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 Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Priority list. The project was sponsored by the St. Joe Company, Division of State Lands (DSL), and The Nature Conservancy (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. The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) has acquired the majority of the Sand Mountain site.

2000

On August 22, 2000, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple, 12,360-acre addition, known as Lake Wimico site in Gulf County, to the project boundary. It was



sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

Also, 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.

2001

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. About 19,445 acres are located in Jefferson County, the remainder in Taylor County. Also, at that meeting, 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. The property is located in Gulf County.

2002

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 and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

Also, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 1,656-acre addition, known as Crooked Creek (1,365 acres, Gadsden/Liberty Counties) and Short Creek (291 acres, Liberty County), to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

2003

On June 6, 2003, ARC approved a fee-simple, 49,565-acre addition, known as St. Vincent Sound to Lake Wimico, to the project boundary in Gulf and Franklin counties. It was sponsored by the TNC, consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

2004

On June 4, 2004, ARC approved a fee-simple, 10,444-acre addition in Jefferson County, known as the Flint Rock tract, to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the TNC and consisted of one owner, the St. Joe Company.

2008

In January 2008, TNC acquired 10,905 acres known as Flint Rock.

2010

On April 6, 2010, the FWC acquired from TNC approximately 2,836 acres of the Flint Rock site for \$5,246,371.



2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC voted to place this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever.

2012

On April 20, 2012, ARC approved transferring the Flint Rock tract to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Florida Forever project, as this was no longer in St. Joe ownership.

2016

In October 2016, ARC transferred 2,456 acres of land from the Franklin County sites of this project to the Dickerson Bay/Bald Point project, as part of the consideration for the Bluffs of St. Teresa Florida Forever proposal.

2017

On April 21, 2017, ARC voted to add 879.5 acres of St. Joe land in two parcels in south Leon County to the project, with a tax assessed value of \$186,620. This addition was proposed by the Office of Park Planning. DRP will manage the western parcel as part of Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park and the Florida Forest Service (FFS) will manage the eastern parcel as part of Wakulla State Forest.

On August 18, 2017 ARC voted to add an 18-acre inholding in Franklin County within the Box-R Wildlife Management Area, surrounded by BOT-owned managed conservation lands, to the project. The addition had a tax assessed value of \$83,800. This fee-simple boundary amendment was submitted by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

In 2017, 10,445 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2019

On October 18, 2019, ARC approved the addition of 564 acres (GIS) in Franklin County to the St. Joe Timberland Florida Forever Project. If acquired, it would be managed by FWC as part of the Apalachicola River WEA.

2020

September 2020, two parcels containing 578.23 acres were acquired at a cost of \$720,000, of which \$200,000 was provided by the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida. The land will be managed by FWC as part of the Apalachicola River WEA.

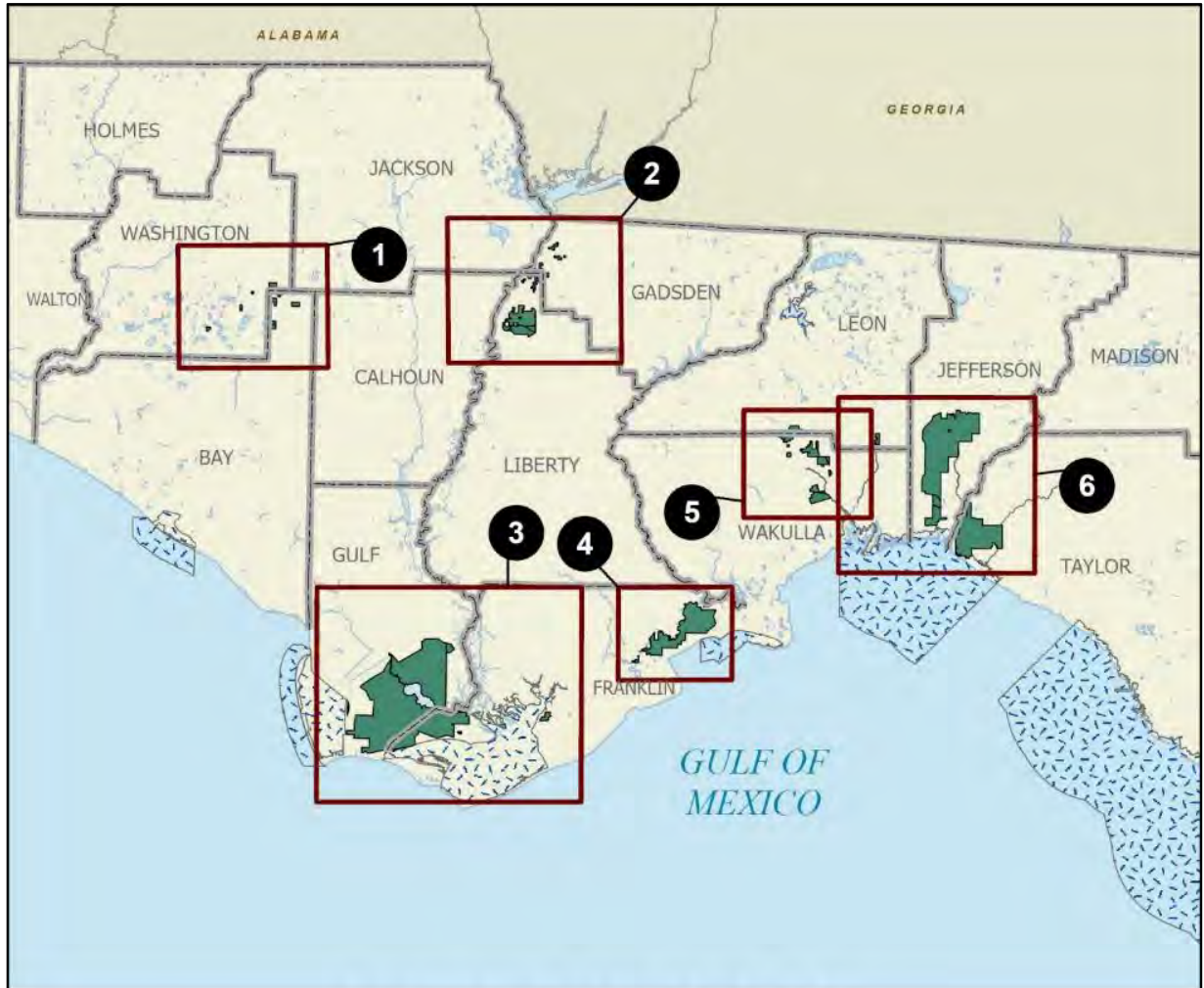
The 20,146-acre Lake Wimico addition was acquired via donation from The Nature Conservancy who acquired the property with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



(NFWF). Approximately 13,945 acres was added to the Apalachicola River WEA, and the remaining acres (6,194) was added to Box-R WMA which are managed by FWC.

Coordination

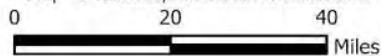
TNC has been an acquisition intermediary for this project.



ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: OVERVIEW

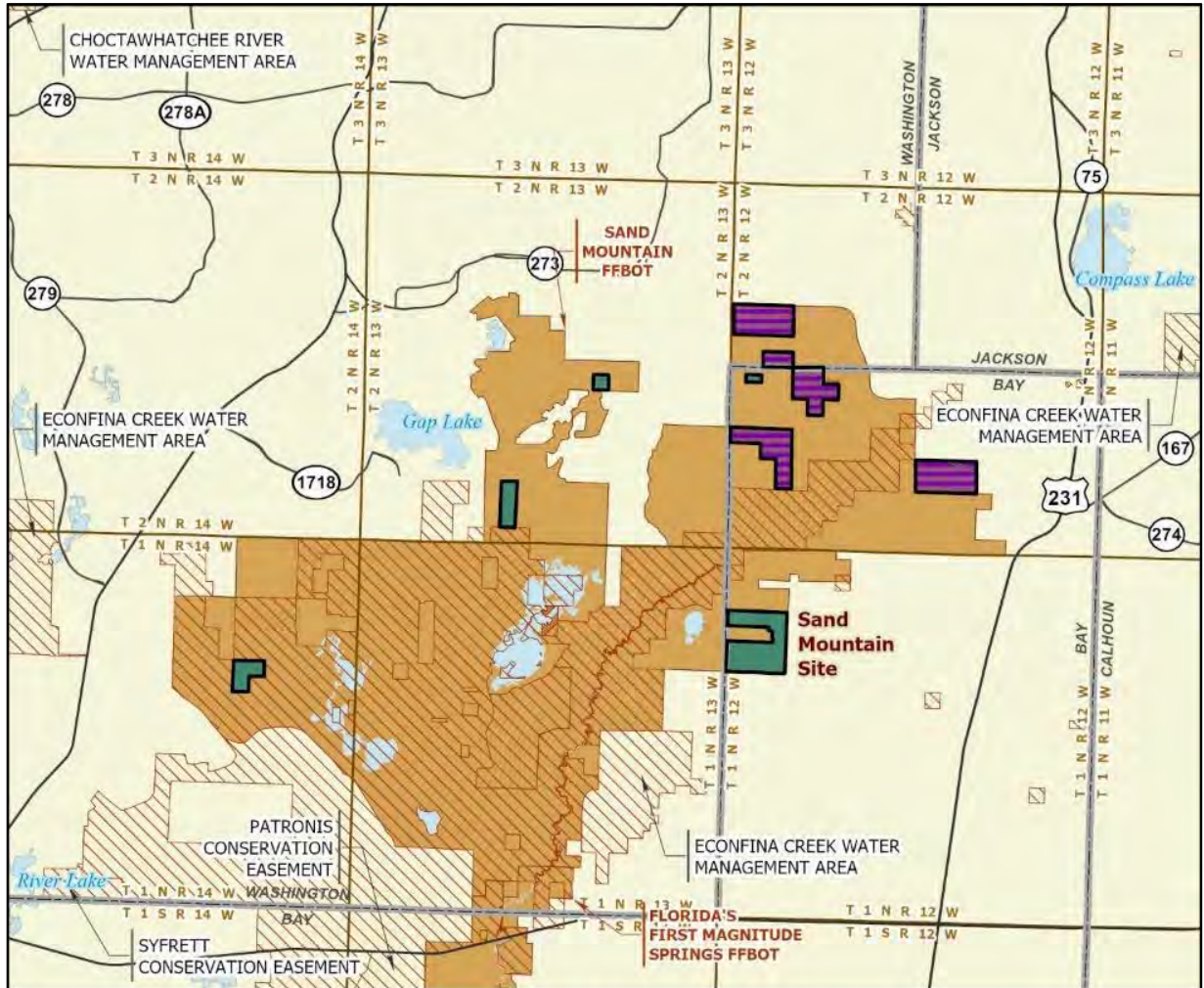
BAY, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, GULF, JEFFERSON, LEON, LIBERTY, TAYLOR, WAKULLA, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- Map 1 Sand Mountain Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Aspalaga Landing Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Crooked/Short Creek Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Gadsden Glades Site
- Map 2 Apalachicola River - Sweetwater Creek Site
- Map 3 Holt Trustee Tract Site
- Map 3 Lake Wimico Site
- Map 3 St. Joseph Bay Buffer Site
- Map 3 St. Vincent Sound-to-Lake Wimico Ecosystem Site
- Map 4 Tates Hell/Carrabelle Tract Site
- Map 5 River Sink Spring Site
- Map 5 Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Site
- Map 6 St. Marks Springs Site
- Map 6 Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Site



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 185: FNAI, January 2021



ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 1

BAY AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

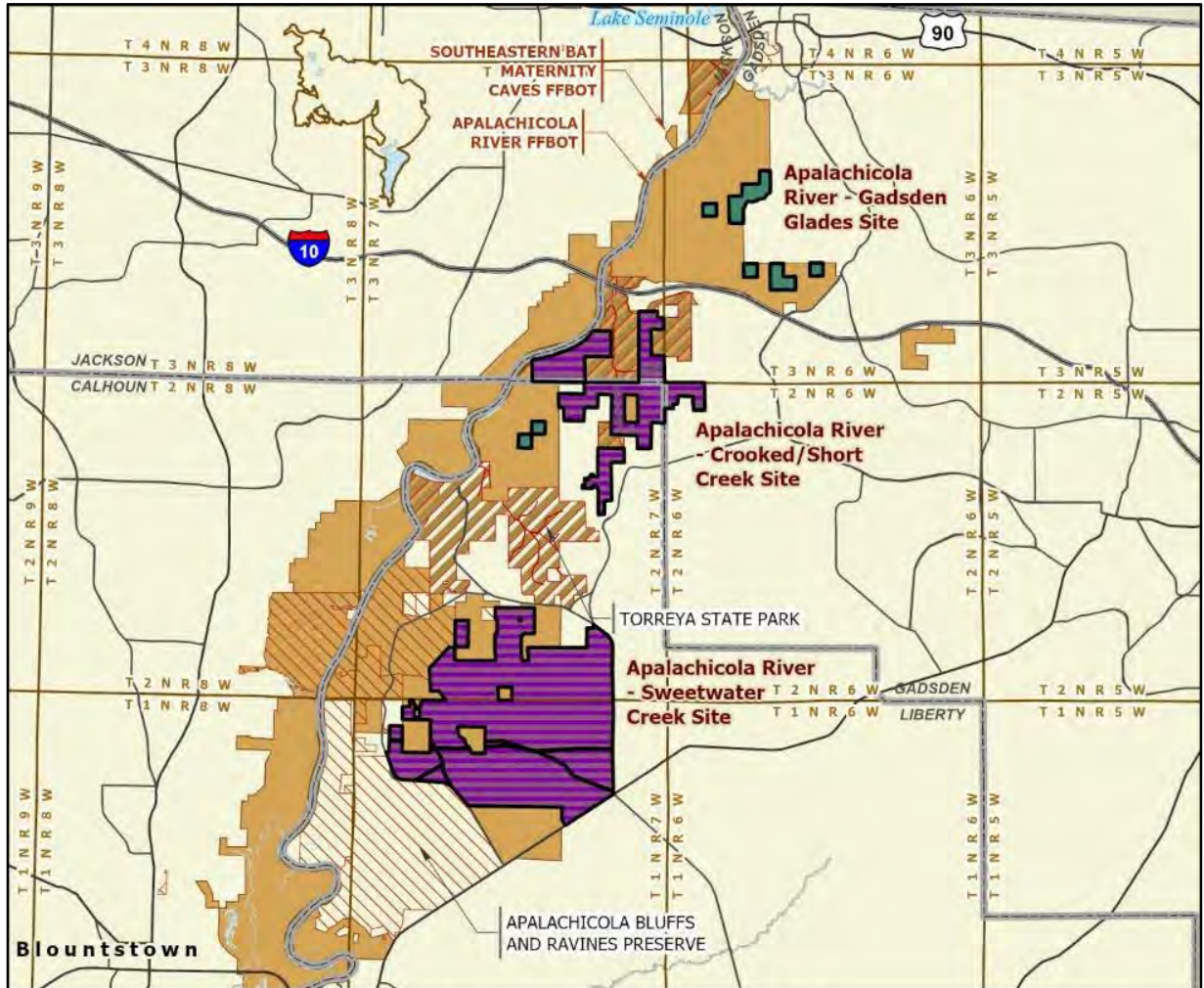
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JANUARY 2020



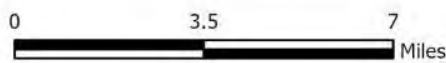
Map 186: FNAI, January 2021



ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 2

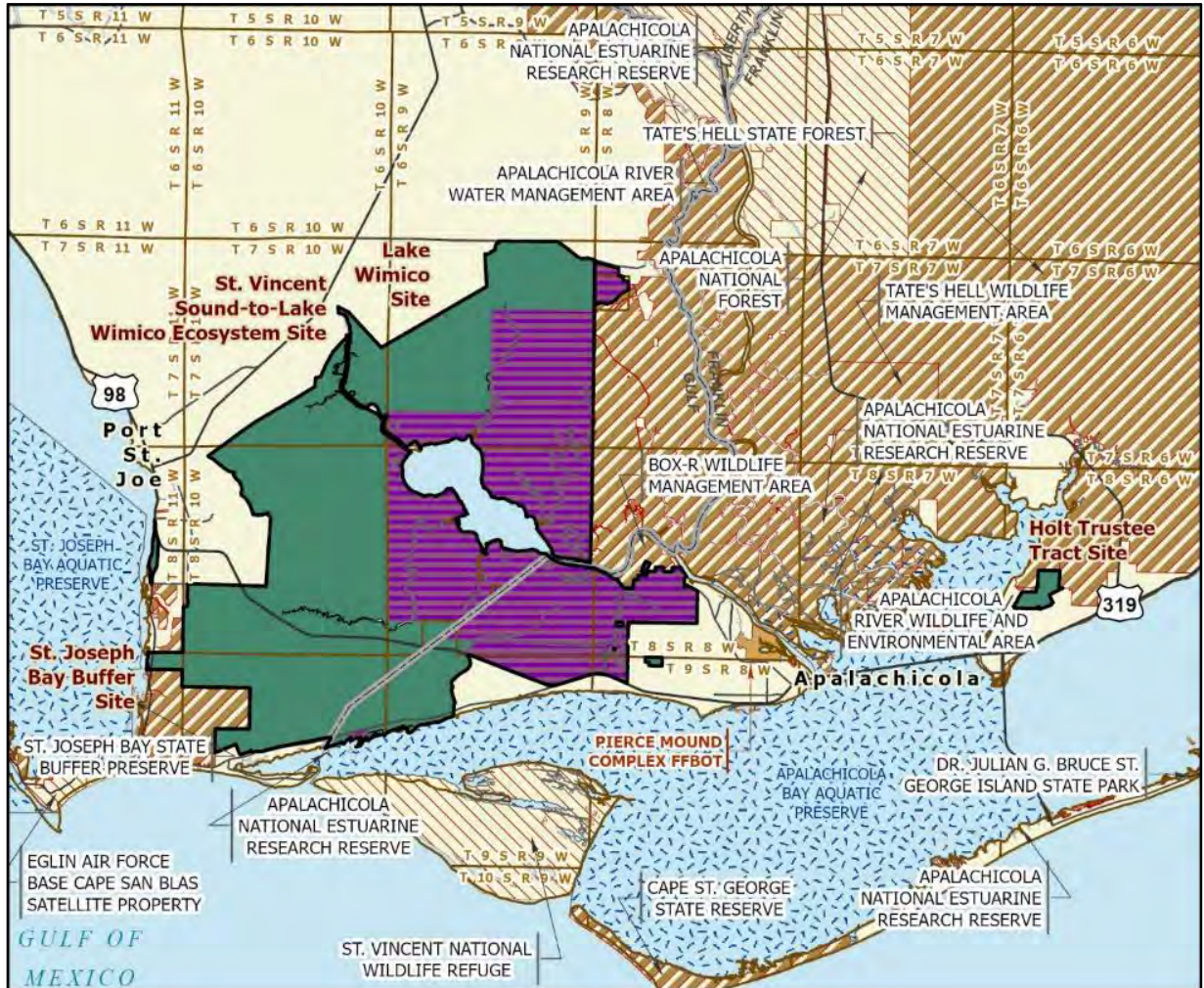
GADSDEN AND LIBERTY COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

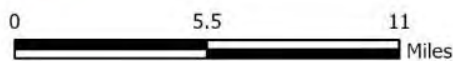
Map 187: FNAI, January 2021



ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 3

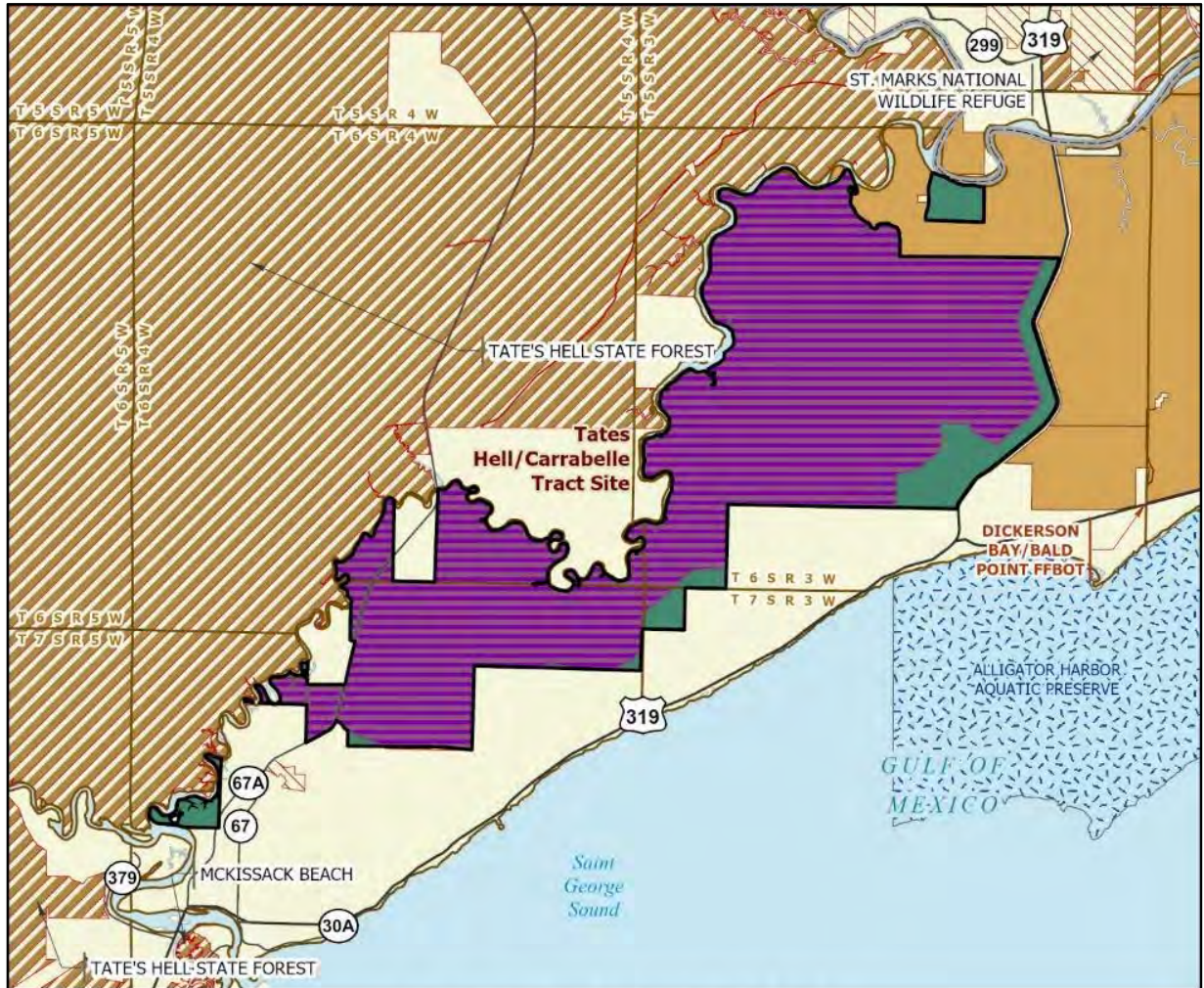
FRANKLIN AND GULF COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2021

Map 188: FNAI, January 2021



ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 4

FRANKLIN COUNTY

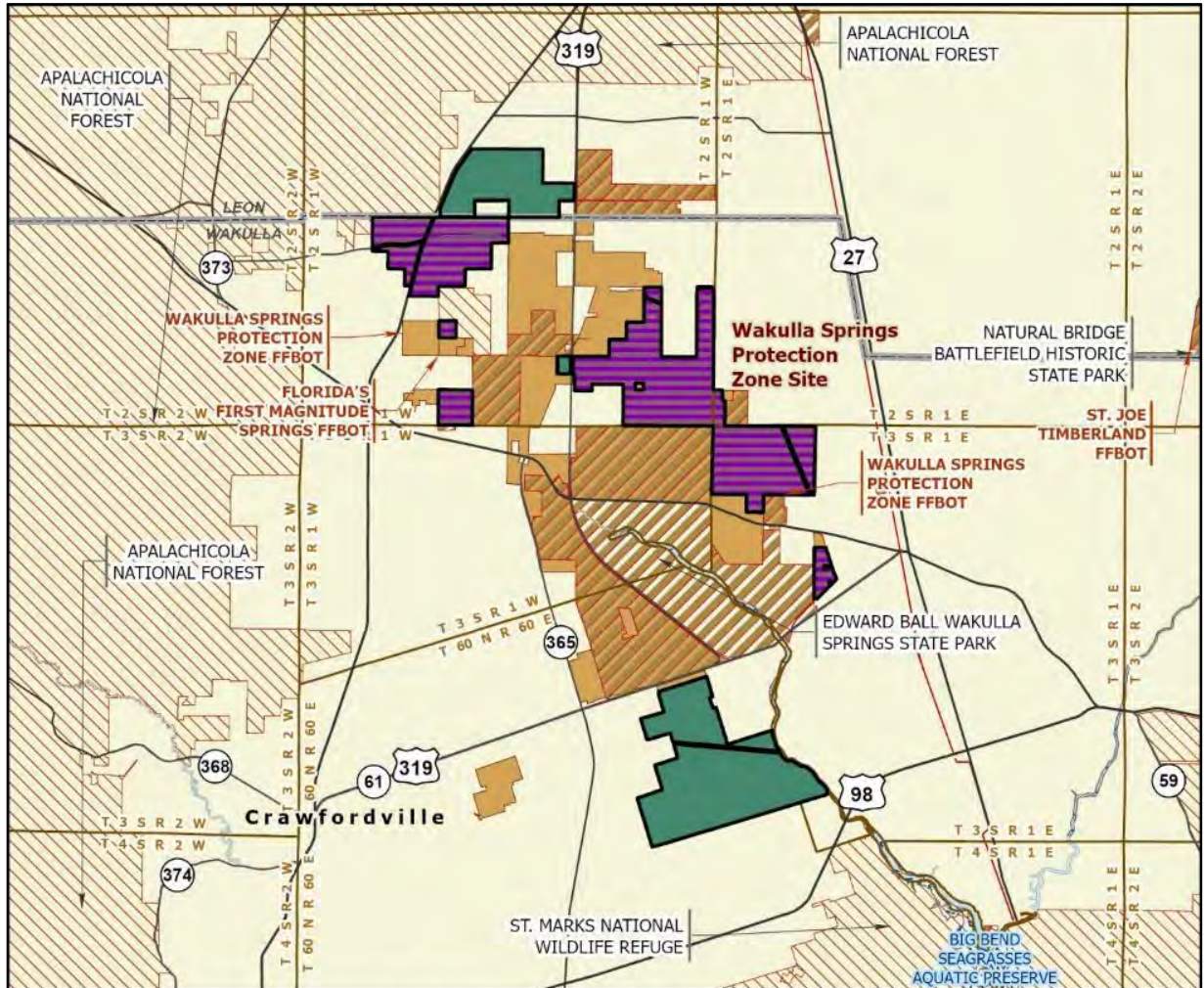
-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020



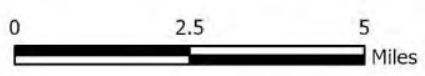
Map 189: FNAI, January 2021



ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 5

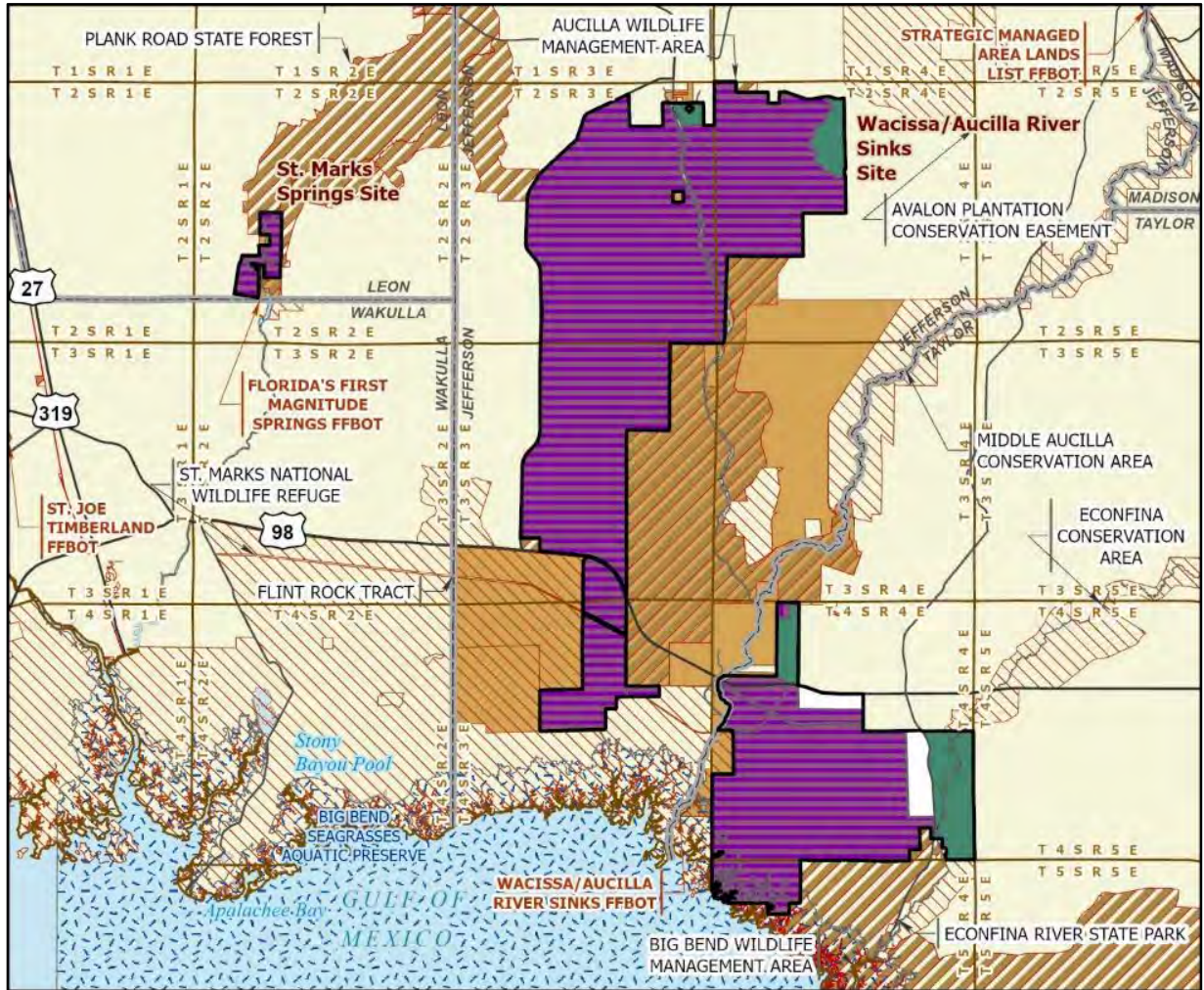
WAKULLA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2021

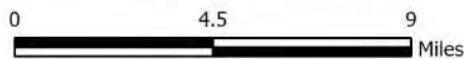
Map 190: FNAI, January 2021



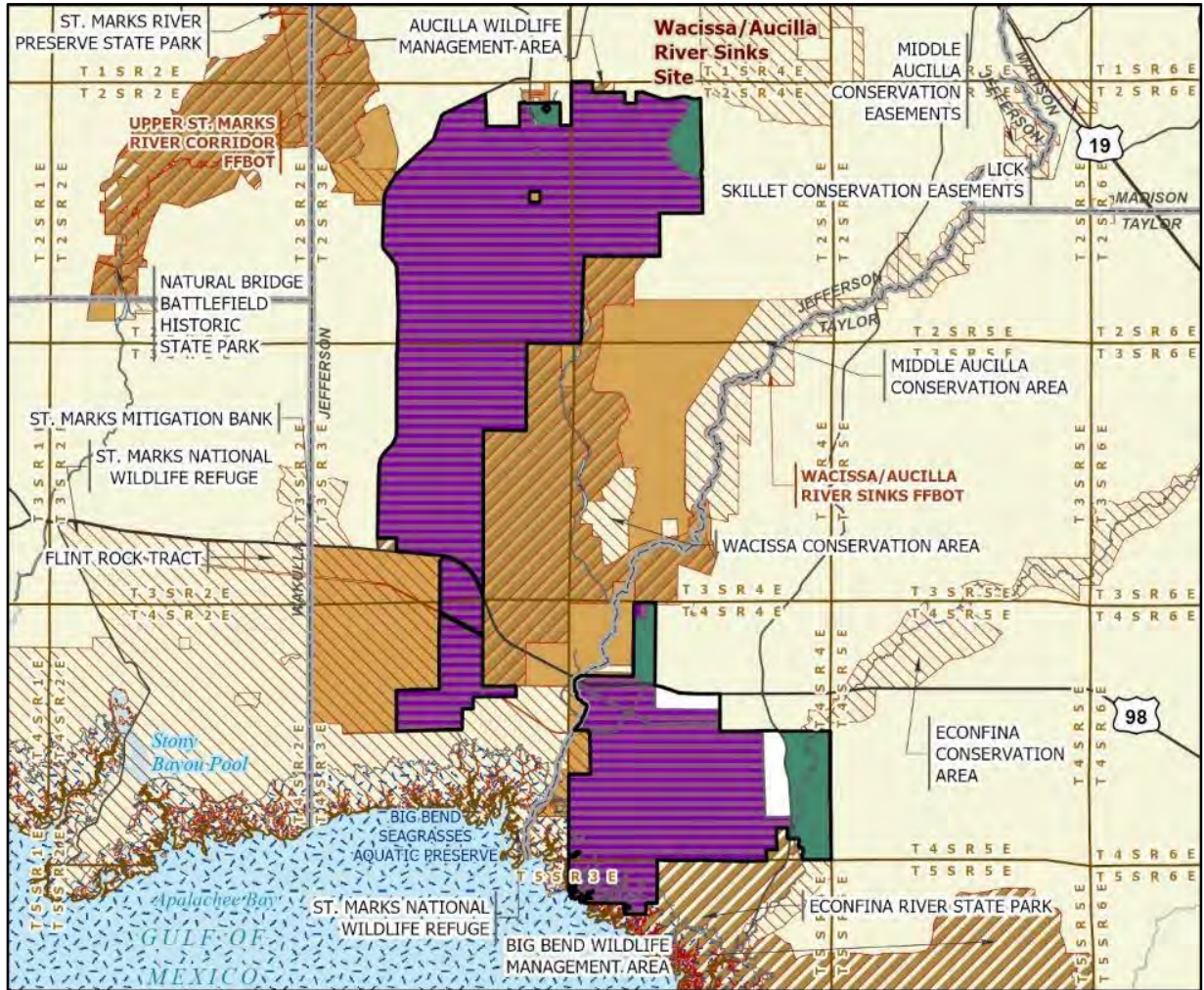
ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 6

JEFFERSON, LEON, AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

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



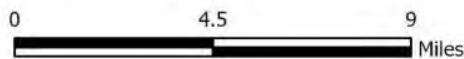
FEBRUARY 2021



ST. JOE TIMBERLAND: MAP 7

JEFFERSON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 192: FNAI, January 2021



St. Johns River Blueway

Climate Change Lands

ProjectClay, St. Johns

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2002
Project Acres	26,357
Acquired Acres	9,287
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$3,112,640
Remaining Project Acres	17,070
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$379,728,375

Purpose for State Acquisition

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, with the potential for more.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) proposes managing part of the site as part of Watson Island State Forest, and the rest as a new state forest. Bunnell District personnel will manage the site 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.



FNAI Element Occurrence

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Curtiss' loosestrife</i>	G1/S1
<i>Canby's wild indigo</i>	G3T1/S1
Creek siltsnail	G2/S2
<i>Thorne's beaksedge</i>	G3/S1S2
<i>Bartram's ixia</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4

10 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The degree of ownership acquired and whether there are usable uplands to have resource-based recreation 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 preservation of the quality recreation experience that presently exists. If upland sites along these waterways are acquired, these uplands could have 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 have 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 recreation experience of those public areas.

Acquisition Planning

2002

On December 5, 2002, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the St. Johns River 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 and 290 landowners. 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.

2005

On June 16, 2005, the Board of Trustees (BOT) approved buying 231.8 acres (Warner). The BOT also acquired 736 acres (Lambert) in August 2005.

2010

On June 11, 2010, the ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category for the August priority list.

2011

On December 9, 2011 the ARC recommended a 1656-acre reduction to the project, removing residential development, commercial buildings or infrastructure from the boundary.

2016

On August 16, 2016, the 5,237-acre Meldrim ownership was acquired as a perpetualconservation easement at a cost of \$5,991,803.

2020

On December 11, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 112-acres in Clay County to the project boundary.

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 mayinclude local and state funding sources. Contribution percentages have not been determined.

Management Policy Statement

The FFS proposes managing the project under a multiple use management regime for the StateForest 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 FFS 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 FFS's management activities on this project. Perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species consideredrare. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS'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 stateforest. 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 FFS 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 manage the site 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. Natural communities that have been converted to pine plantation will require removal of off-site species and reforestation with native species. Protecting and restoring wetland communities will be a priority for the FFS. Restoration efforts will concentrate on removing and filling 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 FFS, public access will be provided for low intensity outdoor recreation activities. Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoring and reforesting areas where harvesting has occurred, hydrologic 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. It is anticipated that management funding will come from the CARL trust fund.



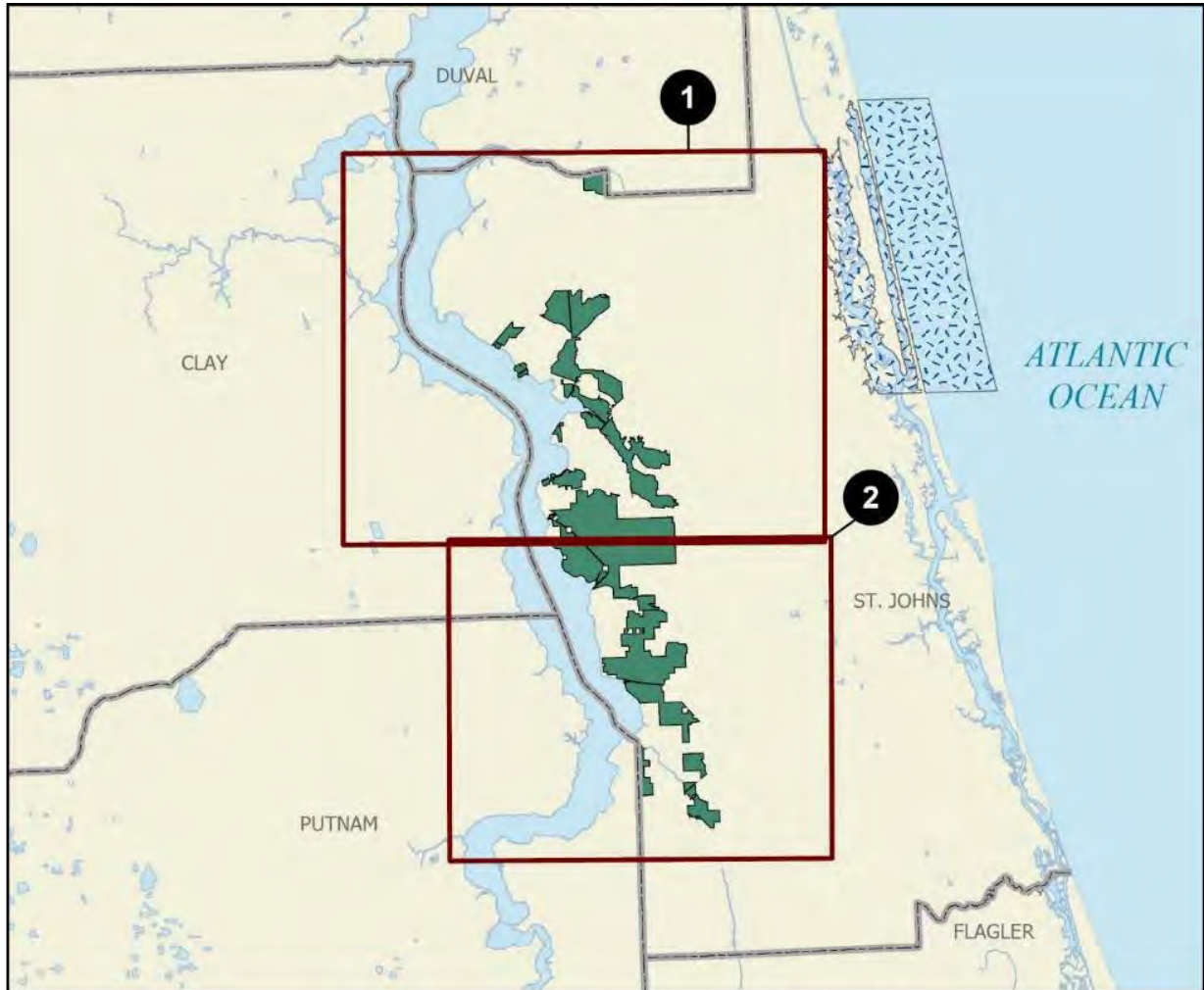
Cooperators in management activities

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

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (X FTE)	\$173,346	not provided
Expense	\$125,000	not provided
OCO	\$361,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$659,346	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



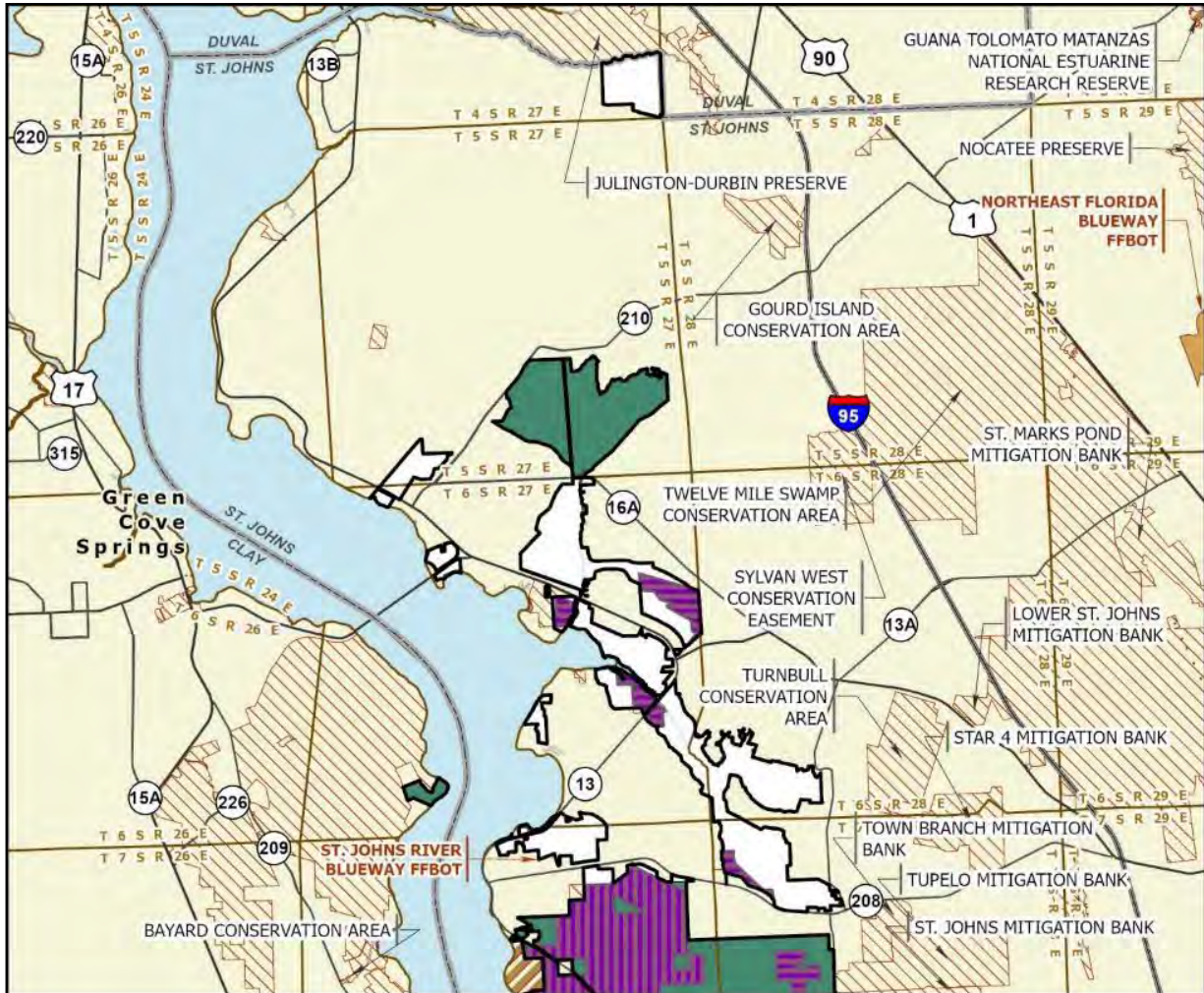
ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: OVERVIEW

ST. JOHNS COUNTY



JANUARY 2020

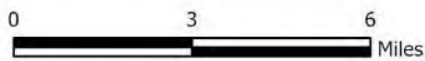
Map 1: FNAI, January 2021



ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 1

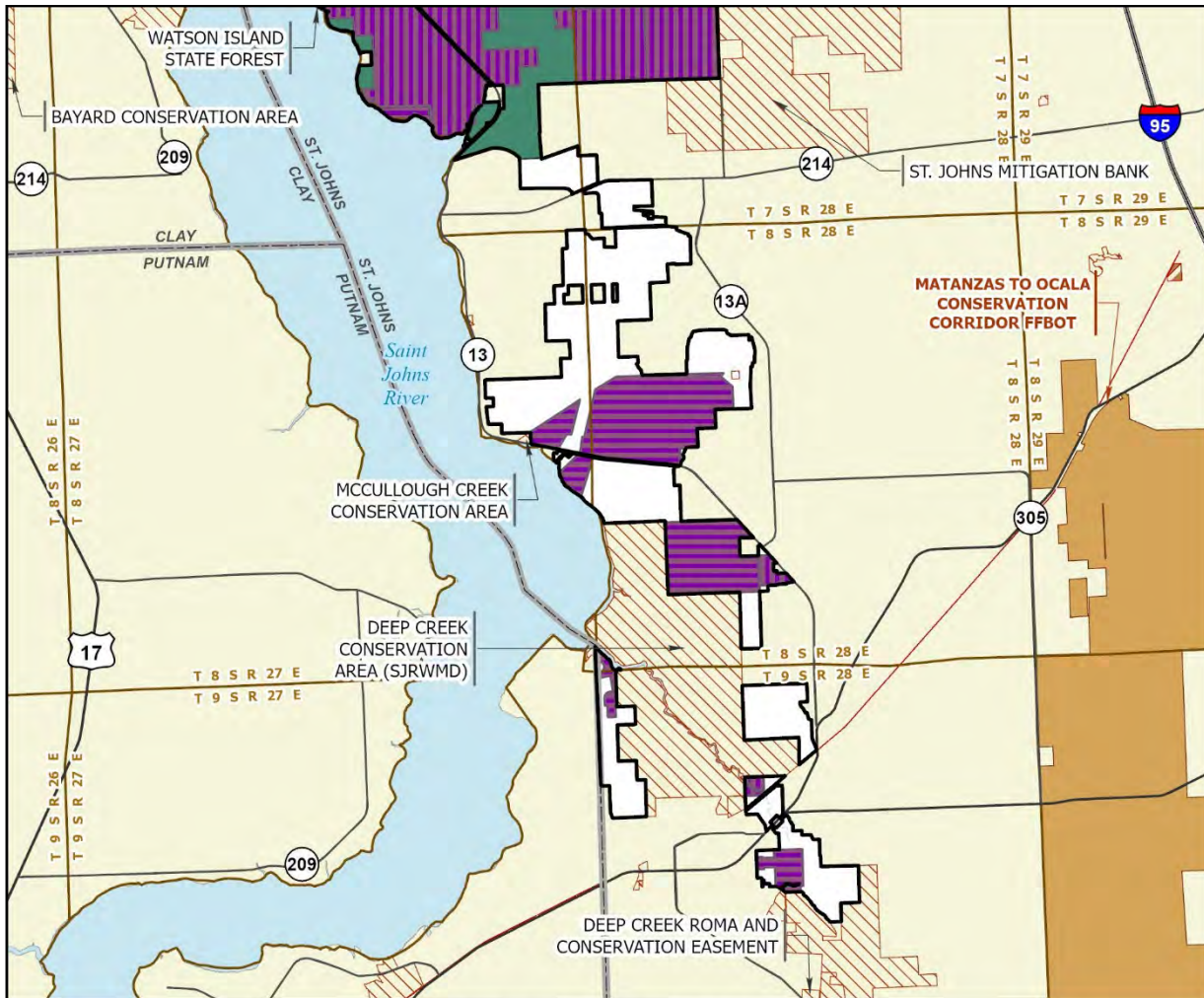
ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2021

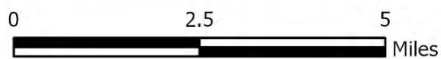
Map 2: FNAI, January 2021



ST. JOHNS RIVER BLUEWAY: MAP 2

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects



JUNE 2020

Map 3: FNAI, January 2021



Strategic Managed Area Lands List

Critical Natural Lands Project

Alachua, Bay, Broward, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Washington

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2018
Project Acres	11,898
Acquired Acres	326
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$1,941,265
Remaining Project Acres	11,572
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$51,010,162

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquisition of these specific inholding parcels would enhance or facilitate management of properties already under public ownership. Collectively, acquisition of these fee simple parcels will meet the Florida Forever goal of enhancing the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects (essential natural resources, ecosystem service parcels, and connecting linkage corridors as identified and developed by the best available scientific analysis).

Manager(s)

Each parcel would be managed by the applicable state agency manager as part of the site they are adjacent to. The managing agencies would be the Florida Forest Service (FFS), the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and the Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) which includes Greenways and Trails.

General Description

The Strategic Managed Areas Lands List, sponsored by the DEP Division of Recreation and Parks, the DEP Office of Greenways and Trails, the DACS Florida Forest Service, and the Florida Fish



and Wildlife Conservation Commission, is a collection of one-owner parcels statewide that would augment or improve management of existing state-managed conservation lands, if acquired. The parcels included have been identified as part of the optimum management boundary within the approved management plans of ten state parks, seven trail corridors, ten state forests, and seven wildlife management/environmental areas. None of these parcels are located within the boundary of another Florida Forever project on the priority list. The largest parcel in this project would become part of the 77.8-thousand-acre Fakahatchee Strand State Park in Collier County, if acquired. The smallest is 2 acres of beachfront land on the Atlantic Ocean that would become part of the Mizell Johnson State Park in Broward County. The total GIS acres for all parcels in the project is 11,706, with a reported Tax Assessed Value of \$30,393,382. About 7,038 acres of these proposals are in Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas.

The properties identified for better management for the DRP are properties adjoining existing state parks or railroad rights of way identified by OGT that would extend or further connect existing recreation trails such as the existing Palatka to Lake City Corridor or the new Georgia to Cross City Corridor.

Properties chosen for better management by the FFS augment existing state forests such as the Blackwater River State Forest or the Peace River State Forest. Properties that would augment FWC lands would improve the management of such areas as the Andrews Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Levy County or the Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) in Lafayette County.

Listed species element occurrences were reported by FNAI by parcel. A total of 48 listed species were identified overall, but some species may be counted more than once, as this is a statewide, multi-parcel, multi-county project. The maximum number of listed species at one site was 7.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>fragrant prickly apple</i>	G1/S1
A mayfly	G1G2/S1S2
<i>Godfrey's goldenaster</i>	G2/S2
<i>pinewoods dainties</i>	G4T2/S2
<i>narrowleaf naiad</i>	G3/S2
<i>Florida goldenaster</i>	G3/S3

14 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Because these lands are to be acquired in full fee, they would increase the size of conservation or recreation areas and enhance the experience of such lands for members of the public. The public use would be predicated on the existing management of the adjoining areas. The parcels in this list all help to enhance essential natural resources, providing better operational or environmental management. The resource-based potential public use of the project is generally high, as the various parcels acquired in fee title can accommodate such activities as hiking, natural resource appreciation and education, picnicking, camping, bicycling, and horseback riding. Depending on management emphasis, fishing and hunting is also supportable.

Acquisition Planning

As the application requires, the owners of parcels in this project were notified by mail that the Acquisition and Restoration Council would be considering a Florida Forever proposal that included their parcel in the boundary. This would mean that, if or when they wished to sell their parcel, state acquisition could be possible using Florida Forever funding. They were also made aware that they could remove their parcels from the project’s boundary at any time, but that removing the parcel from the boundary would make it ineligible for state acquisition through the Florida Forever program. Florida statute requires that they send a certified letter requesting removal to the Division of State Lands.

2018

This project was approved by the ARC in October of 2018. All the parcels within the boundary are considered essential. The parcels are proposed for fee simple acquisition.



2019

In September 2019, ten parcels under a single ownership containing 120.19-acres (FWC Parcel One/FWC-1) was acquired in fee from Zemel Family Ventures, LLC with funding from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (79%) and Florida Forever funding (21%). The property will be managed by FWC as part of Fred C. Babcock-Cecil M. Webb WMA.

2020

On August 21, 2020, the ARC approved an FWC addition of 249.5 acres in Hernando (Chassahowitzka WMA) and Palm Beach County (Francis S. Taylor) to the project boundary.

The ARC also approved an FFS addition of 41 acres in Lake County (Seminole State Forest) to the project boundary. One parcel was simultaneously removed (FFS Parcel Seven - HAU II LLC, 473.28 acres) to maintain a list of 10 agency parcels.

In 2020, DRP Parcels Four, Five and Eight containing a total of 66.34 acres were acquired. Parcel Four (River Rise State Park) contains 17.10 acres, Parcel Five (Silver Springs State Park) contains 9.86 acres and Parcel Eight (Dade Battlefield Historic State Park) contains 39.38 acres and will all be managed by DRP as part of the adjacent managed areas.

Coordination

These parcels are eligible for Florida Forever program funding. While opportunities for partnerships may present themselves in the years ahead, Florida Forever is the primary funding source.

Management Policy Statement

These acquisitions would fall under the management plan of the existing conservation lands and projects they would be attached to. These are parcels that will improve resource management of state conservation lands.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

What qualifies this fee simple project for state designation is the intent is to improve management efficiency and effectiveness of state-managed conservation lands for citizens, visitors, natural systems and wildlife by adding strategic parcels or ownerships to the management units. These additions will make for more seamless operation and maintenance at the various sites.



Manager

The Division of Recreation and Parks, the Florida Forest Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would incorporate responsibilities for the relevant lands acquired into the appropriate units under their management.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The conditions affecting intensity of management would vary by parcel, but would reflect those of the conservation land management unit contiguous with each parcel

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

The Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure would become part of the general management of the larger management unit upon acquisition.

Revenue-generating potential

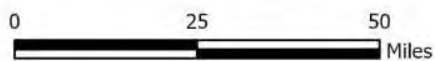
Revenue-generating potential for each parcel would vary, but management efficiencies from these acquisitions could result in a reduction of some management costs.



STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 1

BAY, GADSDEN, SANTA ROSA, WAKULLA, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 193: FNAI, January 2021



STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 2

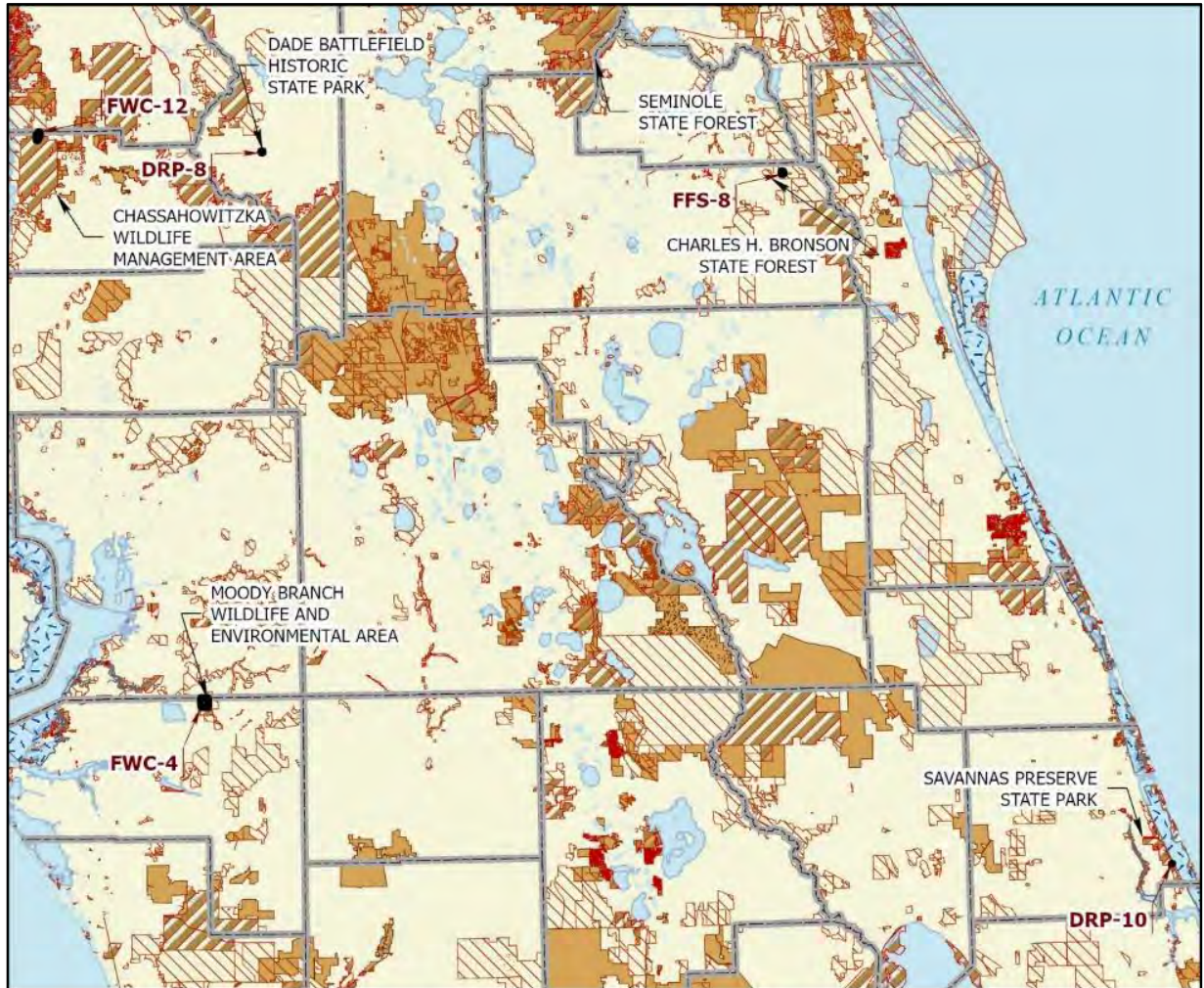
ALACHUA, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DIXIE, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, JEFFERSON, LAFAYETTE, LAKE, LEVY, MARION, PUTNAM, TAYLOR, UNION, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2021

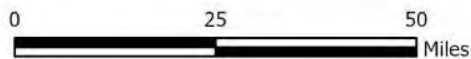
Map 194: FNAI, January 2021



STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 3

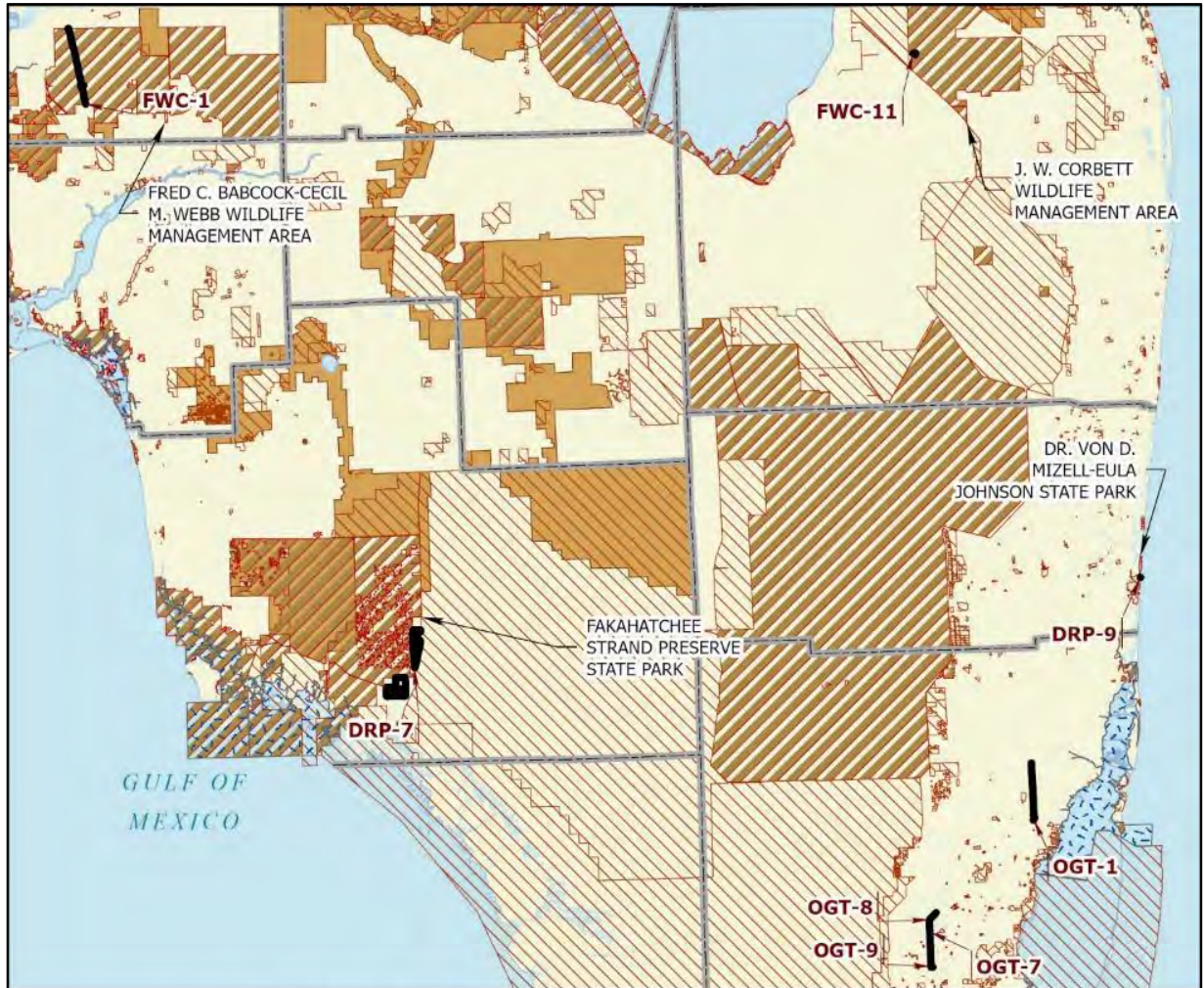
HERNANDO, MANATEE, ORANGE, ST. LUCIE, AND SUMTER COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2021

Map 195: FNAI, January 2021



STRATEGIC MANAGED AREA LANDS LIST: MAP 4

BROWARD, CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, MIAMI-DADE, AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2021

Map 196: FNAI, January 2021



Suwannee County Preservation

Less-Than-Fee Project

Suwannee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	1,254
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	1,254
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$5,266,631

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Less-Than-Fee Suwannee County Preservation project will protect the water quality of the Suwannee River drainage area that harbors a number of rare plant and animal species; provide continued protection of Rocky Creek; sustain wildlife in the area, provide long-term benefits to imperiled species; and perhaps also provide natural resource-based recreational opportunities. The project will provide land area for Florida black bear movement.

Acquiring the Suwannee County Preservation project fulfills Florida Forever goals of acquiring conservation land with means other than fee-simple purchase, of acquiring significant strategic habitat conservation areas, of protecting floodplains in the Rocky Creek and in the Suwannee River areas, and of protecting the surface waters of the state. The landowner is open to fee simple purchase as well.

Manager(s)

The Office of Environmental Services (OES) of the Division of State Lands (DSL), or its successor, would serve as the conservation easement monitor.



General Description

Located in northeastern Suwannee County, just east of Live Oak and north of the Houston community, the Suwannee County Preservation project is a range of parcels in two primary locations—one parcel on the Suwannee River, and a cluster of parcels east of Live Oak, on both sides of Interstate 10. All are considered essential parcels. Rocky Creek, a perennial stream, crosses two of the largest parcels in the larger tract, then flows north for just over three miles before its confluence with the Suwannee River. The last stretch of Rocky Creek crosses through the Suwannee River Water Management District’s (SRWMD’s) Rocky Creek tract, which adjoins the Suwannee River.

The larger tract and three nearby parcels are just south of secondary habitat for Florida black bear. A significant population of black bears exists approximately 20 miles east of the area within the Osceola National Forest. The Suwannee River, just north of the Rocky Creek Tract, is a known corridor for the black bear. In addition, black bears have been observed just a few miles south of the area near the town of Wellborn.

The Eastern Tracts consist principally of disturbed uplands and more naturally vegetated bottomland along the Rocky Creek system, which flows northward through the property on its way to the Suwannee River. Most of the better-drained uplands have been converted to pine plantation or have been timbered.

The 139-acre River Tract on Suwannee River is undeveloped, other than a decrepit shed, a cement boat ramp covered with sediment at the lower end, and the existence of electrical power and a well. Rising abruptly from the river’s eastern bank is a natural levee, behind which is a broader band of bottomland forest supporting a variety of hardwoods. Inland of this, the upland portion of the tract, about 99 acres, is mostly pine plantation.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3

1 rare species is associated with the project

Public Use

If acquired as a less-than-fee property, public access would depend on the terms of access permitted by the owner as part of the conservation easement. The landowners indicated that they could be willing to sell their property in fee simple. If acquired in fee-simple, the eastern tract bisected by Interstate 10 could provide many trail opportunities for hiking, off road biking, horseback riding, nature/interpretive and off-highway vehicle riding. The project could also



provide picnicking, primitive camping, hunting and geocaching. The river tract located on the Suwannee River could provide, in addition to the activities listed above, freshwater boating, fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Suwannee County Preservation project to the Florida Forever priority list in the Less-Than-Fee category. In 2010, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$2,995,178.

Coordination

No acquisition partners identified.

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. Purchasing development rights, prohibiting further conversion of existing natural areas to agriculture, and limited public access to some sites will likely be the primary foci of the conservation easement. The current use of the property is mostly production of pine trees and pine straw. Purchasing a conservation easement over the property would allow continuation of these activities while allowing for continued maintenance of natural areas on the property. A conservation easement over the tract bordering the Suwannee River would protect natural areas along the river and prevent development from contributing to the degradation of the river.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Acquiring the Suwannee County Preservation project fulfills the Florida Forever goals of acquiring conservation land with means other than fee-simple purchase, of acquiring significant strategic habitat conservation areas, of protecting floodplains in the Rocky Creek and in the Suwannee River areas and protecting the surface waters of the state.

Manager

Landowner with the OES, or its successor, is designated to manage and ensure oversight of the conservation easement on this project.



Conditions affecting intensity of management

Disturbed acreage includes pine plantation and associated facilities, power line rights-of-way, roads, and ruderal sites, some of which now support successional hardwood forest and row crops. Despite the high level of disturbance to uplands throughout the site, no exotic species listed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council were observed. Restoration of natural habitat would be extensive and prolonged due to the current land use. The small size and proximity of the tract to I-10 excludes the use of prescribed fire as a habitat management tool. Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) notes that the upland pine (sandhill or upland pine forest) natural community (and perhaps some mesic flatwoods) that usually occupy most of the higher, well drained uplands on site has been all but eliminated by silviculture and fire exclusion.

Restoration to historic conditions would require removal of off-site pine, replanting with longleaf pine, and attempting to restore native groundcover and shrubby vegetation by seeding or planting. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) notes that substantial and prolonged habitat restoration would be necessary for the area to become beneficial to a more diverse variety of wildlife.

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

This is not applicable to a Conservation Easement.

Revenue-generating potential

None available under the conservation easement.

Cooperators in management activities

The landowner and the Division of State Lands' Office of Environmental Services (OES).



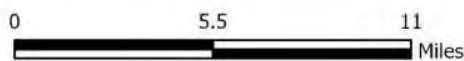
SUWANNEE COUNTY PRESERVATION

SUWANNEE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 197: FNAI, January 2021



Taylor Sweetwater Creek

Climate Change Lands Project

Taylor

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2017
Project Acres	3,742
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	3,742
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$25,704,147

Purpose for State Acquisition

The public purposes for acquisition include the following: Increasing the 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; Ensuring that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state; Increasing natural-based public recreation or educational opportunities; Preserving significant archaeological or historic sites; and, Increasing the amount of forest land available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Manager(s)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

General Description

Taylor Sweetwater Creek encompasses 3,702 acres in coastal Taylor County near Dekle Beach, about 20 miles south of Perry. It is a mostly contiguous tract of many parcels, split by CR-361 (Keaton Beach Road), with about two-thirds of the acreage west of the highway. Straight-line Gulf frontage is about 2.3 miles. The proposed property is located between the Spring Creek



Unit and Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, which lie 3 miles to the north and 2 miles to the south, respectively.

The small (5 acres) Spring Warrior Creek Conservation Area (Suwannee River Water Management District) is nestled within the general perimeter of the proposal. Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve lies just offshore of the entire site.

This land is mostly undeveloped coastline, with limestone at or near the surface overlain by sandy flats and rolling hills. The dominant natural communities on site are hydric hammock, saltmarsh, sandhill, wet flatwoods and mesic flatwoods. The hydric hammock, a densely forested canopy and sub-canopy, is the most extensive natural community on the Taylor Sweetwater Creek proposal. Salt marsh is the second most extensive community within the Taylor Sweetwater Creek proposal, with needle rush and saltmeadow cordgrass along the many tidal creeks. Sandhill is the most extensive upland natural community on the Taylor Sweetwater Creek proposal. Other land types are wet flatwoods, mesic flatwoods and small areas of xeric hammock, depression marshes, successional hardwood forest, improved pasture, and sandhill planted with pine.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida willow</i>	G2/S2
Bald eagle	G5/S3

3 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The scenic qualities of this project could be excellent. Areas of previous disturbance such as former pasture might support development of camping opportunities. Considering these factors, the recreational potential of the proposal is considered medium to high. The scenic qualities and recreational potential of the proposal could be confirmed through field survey. The proposal meets initial criteria to consider management of this tract as a component of the Florida State Park System, although the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) is also a possible manager. The property may be ideal for recreational scenic hiking trails, equestrian trails on the upland sandhill areas, primitive camping, and water-based activities. The land would benefit recreation and open space use in Taylor County and the unincorporated areas of Keaton Beach and Dekle Beach (popular scalloping sites). In the Taylor County Comprehensive Plan, acquiring the property strengthens a coastal wildlife corridor linkage and improves opportunities for wildlife appreciation with low-intensity recreation such as bird watching,



hiking, boating, snorkeling and managed hunting. The property does not currently have sites on the National Register, but the likelihood that it holds significant archaeological or historic sites is high.

Acquisition Planning

2017

On June 16, 2017, Taylor Sweetwater Creek was accepted by ARC for in-depth review.

On October 20, 2017, ARC voted to add this proposal as a Florida Forever project.

Coordination

The proposed property is located between the Spring Creek Unit and Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, which lie 3 miles to the north and 2 miles to the south, respectively. The small (5 acre) Spring Warrior Creek Conservation Area (Suwannee River Water Management District) is nestled within the general perimeter of the proposal. Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve lies just offshore of the entire site.

Management Policy Statement

Primary management goals for the Taylor Sweetwater Creek are to increase protection of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, acquire landscapes that link other conservation corridors and landscapes, protect water resources of the State, support public resource-based recreation and increase the amount of forestland for sustainable natural-resource management.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The Taylor Sweetwater Creek project adds an extremely valuable link along the west coast of Florida between two very large wildlife management areas that have Gulf of Mexico frontage. If acquired, this would conserve, protect, manage and restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests, as well as protect significant surface-water coastal, recreation, timber and fish and wildlife resources. It would provide opportunities for fishing and wildlife based public recreation.

Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).



Conditions affecting intensity of management

Some areas may require ecological restoration of ground cover, control of invasive species, and either thinning or reforestation. Such resource management projects may be necessary to accomplish restoration objectives and attain the desired future conditions for communities on the area. This is especially important for conservation of habitats and populations of imperiled or rare species. Landscape ecology is also important, as land use changes in the area, such as intensive residential, commercial, and industrial developments and the roads that often accompany them, may also affect the attainment of resource conservation goals for the area and the effectiveness of necessary resource management projects.

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

If acquired and leased to the FWC for management, a management plan will be developed by FWC describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on the area. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of focal, rare, and imperiled species. Historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted on the area if deemed necessary and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. FWC would assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of focal species and recovery of imperiled species on the TSCFFP. Prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation. These recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for public outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with the DHR.



Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from the Taylor Sweetwater Creek can include sale of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of offsite plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of FWC’s Apiary Policy. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant. The Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The initial first-year startup cost is estimated to be \$604,480, including public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Below is an estimate of the recurring, annual operating costs to operate and manage the TSCFFP. Optimal management of the area would require one (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) position. Salary requirements for these FTE positions, as well as those of other needed FWC staff, and costs to operate and manage the TSCFFP are reflected in the cost estimate below. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Cooperators in management activities

If the Taylor Sweetwater Creek project is acquired and leased to the FWC for management, FWC will cooperate with other Federal, State and local governmental agencies including the USFWS, USDA, Florida Forest Service, DEP, DHR, SRWMD, and Taylor County, among others, in the management of the property.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Resource Management</u>
Exotic Species Control	\$9,332
Prescribed Burning	\$19,986
Cultural Resource Management	\$831
Timber Management	\$1,285
Hydrological Management	\$8,463
Other (restoration, enhancement, surveys, monitoring, etc.)	\$104,499
TOTAL	\$144,395

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Management Cost Summary

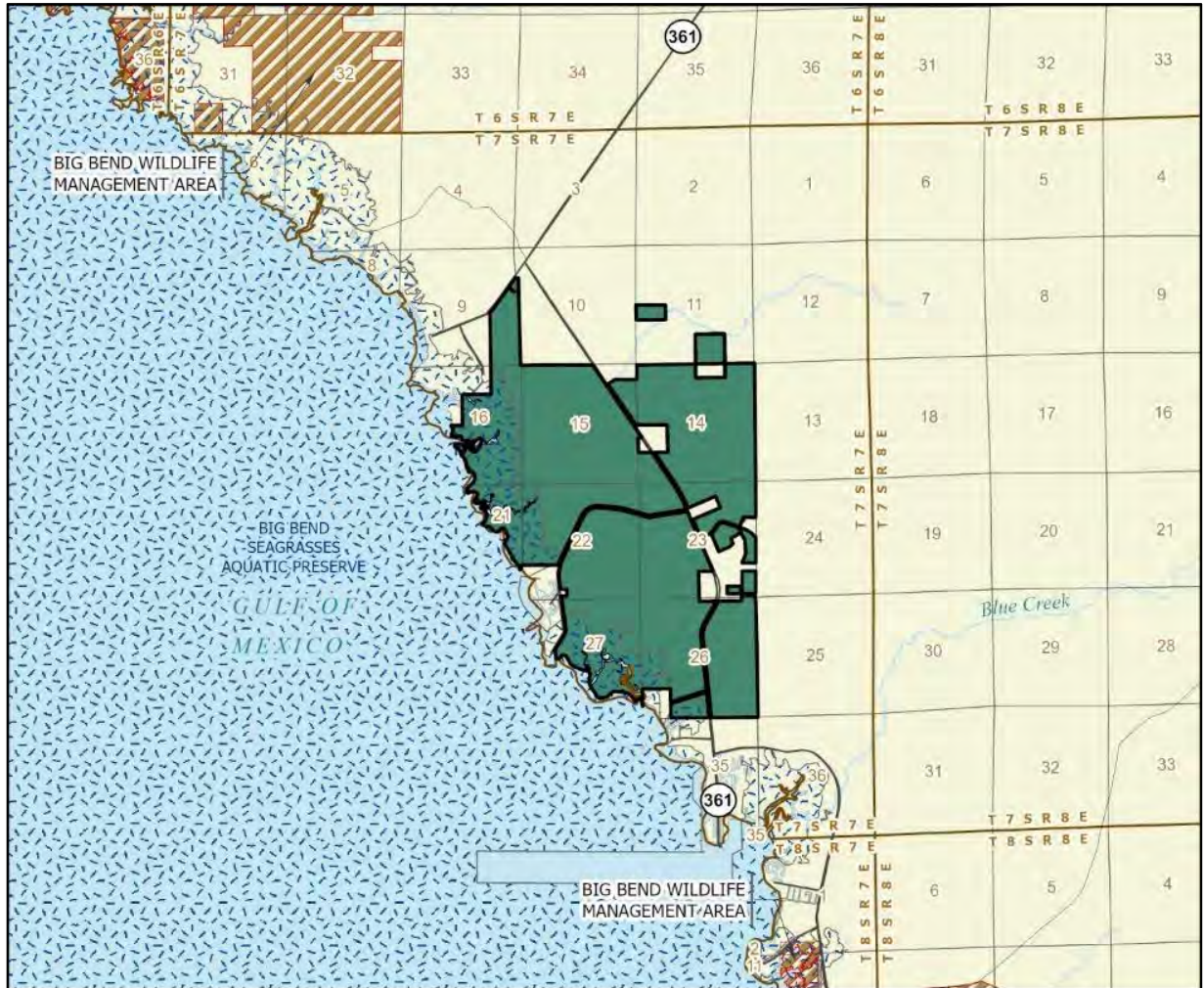
<u>FWC</u>	<u>Support</u>
Land Management Planning	\$5,100
Land Management Reviews	\$756
Training/Staff Development	\$907
Vehicle Purchase	\$15,754
Vehicle Operation/Maintenance	\$9,294
Other	\$8,576
TOTAL	\$40,387

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Administration</u>
General administration	\$3,136
Facility maintenance	\$21,988
Information/Education/Operations	\$13,865
Resource Protection	\$2,909
TOTAL	\$41,898

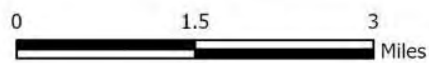
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



TAYLOR SWEETWATER CREEK

TAYLOR COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020

Map 198: FNAI, January 2021



Telogia Creek

Critical Natural Lands Project

Liberty

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2019
Project Acres	12,428
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	12,428
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$11,000,177

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Telogia Creek project would provide ecological diversity and manage habitat for both imperiled and common wildlife, and fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational opportunities for the public, while providing for water quality and quantity needs of the region. It would also conserve and protect significant landscape-scale habitat and provide wildlife corridors for rare and imperiled species and increasing linkages and corridors between public land and private conservation easements in the region. Its acquisition would help meet Florida Forever goals of increasing the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels (Goal B); protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state (Goal C); ensure sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state (Goal D); and would increase natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities (Goal E).

Manager

This property would be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).



General Description

The proposal is on the south side of State Road 20 between Briston and Hosford. It provides the western boundary for three linear miles and its southern boundary for approximately five miles. It is 12 miles upstream of Telogia Creek's confluence with the Ochlockonee River. Conservation lands within five miles of the proposal area include Apalachicola National Forest, Torreya State Park, Apalachee River Water Management Area, and Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines. Nearby Florida Forever projects are the Apalachicola River project, and the Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone project.

This area seemed to have been spared the full effect of Hurricane Michael, though some of the sections of pine stand lean. The streamside communities are generally intact, but the uplands have been altered by silviculture. Freshwater forested wetland covers 23 percent of the property and pine plantation (longleaf, loblolly, and slash pine) is found over 65 percent of the proposal area. Floodplain swamp natural community is the third highest percentage of landcover, at five percent. Invasive exotics are not common on the property, and no feral hogs were reported to be seen on the property.

The site and its natural communities provide many ecosystem services. Almost all of the site provides for the protection of surface water and for groundwater recharge areas, and 36 percent of the site providing for the protection of natural floodplain function. Restoration of habitat structure and composition would require a long-term commitment and would include prescribed fire and the planting of longleaf pine and suitable groundcover species such as wiregrass.

Florida pine snakes and Florida black bears use this property. Other species using the creek and associated streams include the rare Apalachicola alligator snapping turtle and a variety of species of wading birds. The rare swallow-tailed kite is likely to use this area.

The historical aspect of the property is not documented in the Master Site file maintained by the Division of Historical Resources. Based on location, there is a medium to high likelihood it has evidence of native habitation, but the effects of silvicultural plantings may have reduced the likelihood of such findings. There are remnants of an old bridge on the creek; only the posts remain.

Telogia Creek was under lease for hunting at the time the project was added. The limits and area of the jurisdictional wetlands and uplands would be determined during the appraisal mapping, however the project acreage in its entirety is designated as essential.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>toothed savory</i>	G3/S3

3 rare species are associated with the project

Acquisition Planning

2019

On October 18, 2019, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added Telogia Creek to the Florida Forever project list as a fee simple project. The project had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$12,900,000. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential and would be managed by the FWC as a wildlife management area if acquired in fee.

Coordination

Other managers in this area include Florida Forest Service, Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Liberty County, and other private conservation organizations. The FWC would work with these agencies in their management of the property.

Management Policy Statement

Telogia Creek could be managed by FWC as a Wildlife Management Area, and in a manner that best meets the goals and objectives of the newly acquired area. As a WMA, the FWC would manage Telogia Creek WMA under the multiple-use concept. Telogia Creek will provide resource-based public outdoor recreation and educations opportunities, while protecting the natural and historical resources. If acquired, all requirements of the Management Procedures document from the Division of Historical Resources will be followed with regard to any potential ground disturbing activities. All Telogia Creek’s natural and historical resources would be managed for the purposes of acquisition included within the Florida Forever Act and Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes, under a management plan approved the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Telogia Creek meets numerous Florida Forever goals, performance measures, and criteria as outlined in F.S. 259.105. This project would help meet Florida Forever goals including enhancing



the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; increasing 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; ensure sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state and would increase natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities.

Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Resources described in this Management Prospectus indicate conditions affecting intensity of management. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance, and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands will be identified, appropriately managed, and protected.

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

If acquired and leased to the FWC for management, a Management Plan will be developed by FWC describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on Telogia Creek. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of locally important, rare, and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, if deemed necessary, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. The FWC would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species on the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation following acquisition. These potential recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather



public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with DHR.

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from conservation lands can include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of the FWC’s Apiary Policy. In addition, the Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in management activities

The FWC will cooperate with other federal, state, and local governmental agencies including the Florida Forest Service, Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Liberty County, and other private conservation organizations in the continuing management of the property.

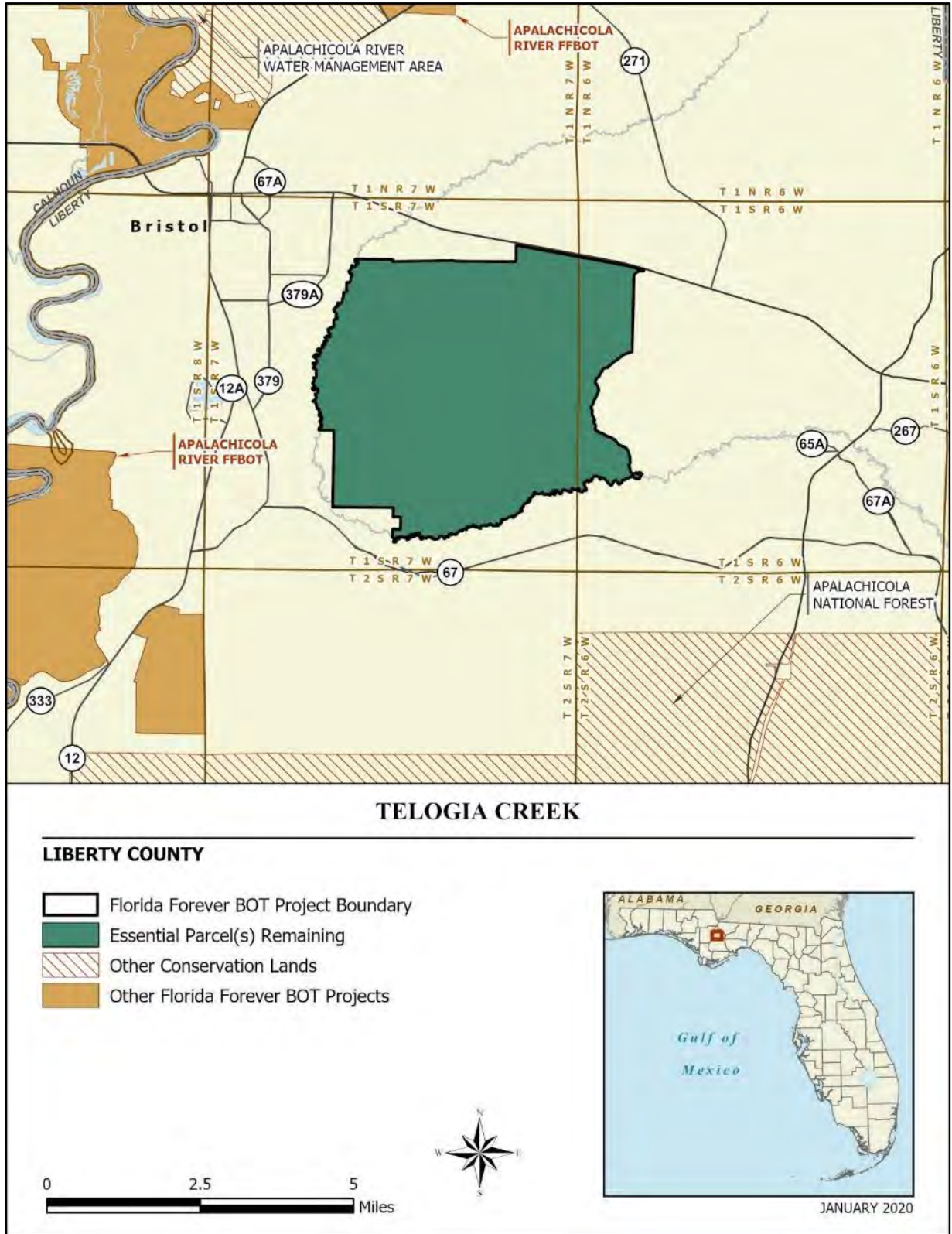
Management costs and sources of revenue

The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for Telogia Creek is estimated to be \$1,975,520, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Optimal management would require two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Management Cost Summary

FWC	Recurring	Non-recurring	Notes
Source of funds			State of Florida Permits, User fees
Salary	\$54,228		for 2 FTE positions
Expense	\$10,248		
OCO	\$658,712		
FCO	\$71,860	\$1,975,520	

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Map 199: FNAI, January 2021



Terra Ceia

Climate Change Lands Project
Manatee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1996
Project Acres	4,724
Acquired Acres	2,432
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$4,962,500
Remaining Project Acres	2,292
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$27,025,584

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(s)

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 that agency.

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Manatee	G2G3/S2
<i>hairy beach sunflower</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3

3 rare species are associated with the project

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

1996

On December 5, 1996, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the Terra Ceia project to the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserve, consisted of some 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. Before the project’s addition to the CARL list, the state’s 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.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the LAAC designated an additional 843 acres as essential.

2007

On June 15, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 395-acre addition (aka Frog and McMullen Creek Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by the DEP’s Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) and the DRP and the SWFWMD. The addition consisted of 33 landowners and 61 parcels. 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.



2009

In June 2009, a donation of 40.06 acres was received from SWFWMD.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 251-acre (\$51,544,946 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

SWFWMD is an acquisition partner. DEP received a grant of \$504,731 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to acquire 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 protecting and restoring 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 preserving 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

This project qualifies as a state buffer preserve to protect the resources of the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve.

Manager

The 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. 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. preserve and protect significant endangered and threatened species including the West Indian manatee, Roseate Spoonbill, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Least Tern, Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret, and American Oystercatcher;
3. preserve and protect significant archaeological sites;
4. restore islands to a natural state which will include removal of exotic vegetation and habitat restoration activities; and
5. establish a self-guided canoe trail between the islands for use by the general public.

Within the first year after acquisition, 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 to remove exotic plants, restore disturbed areas and to perpetuate and maintain 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

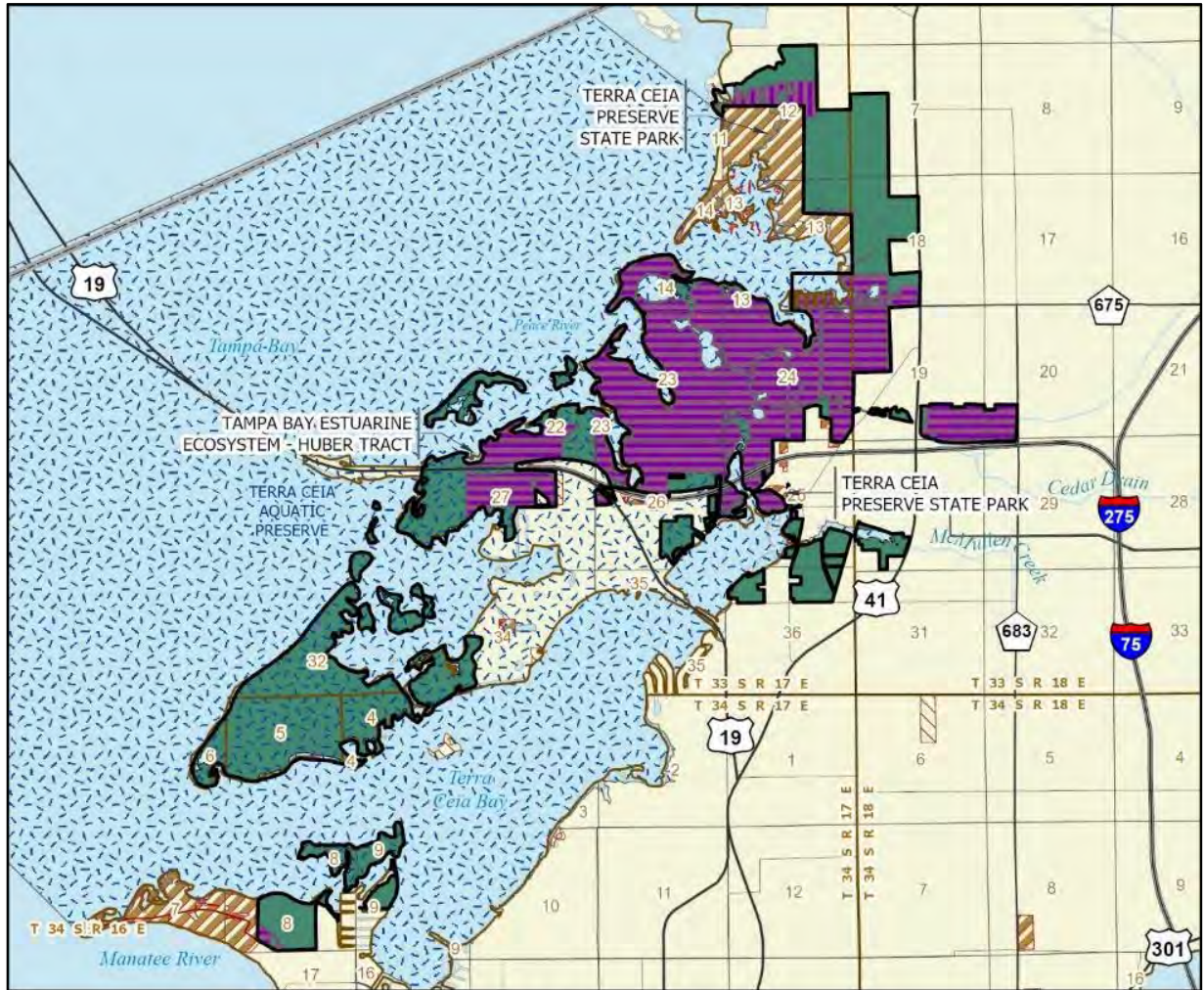
No revenue is expected to be generated from this property.



Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Salary (2 FTE)	\$62,000	not provided
Expense	\$10,000	not provided
OCO	\$100,000	not provided
FCO	\$500,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$672,000	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



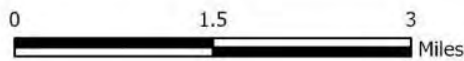
TERRA CEIA

MANATEE COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 200: FNAI, January 2021



Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island

Climate Change Lands Project

Nassau

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	1,463
Acquired Acres	322
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$4,184,000
Remaining Project Acres	1,141
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$109,193

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Tiger and Little Tiger Islands would connect 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(s)

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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Piping plover	G3/S2
Manatee	G2G3/S2
Worthington's marsh wren	G5T3/S2
Macgillivray's seaside sparrow	G4T3/S2
Painted bunting, Eastern population	G5T3/S1S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Atlantic salt marsh mink	G5T3/S3
American oystercatcher	G5/S2
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
White ibis	G5/S4

11 rare species are associated with the project

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

2001

On January 21, 2001, the Acquisition and 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 project, sponsored by the owners' representative, Jacobs and Associates PA, consisted of approximately 1,280 acres and multiple owners. 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 2001, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$3,598,894.

2002

In June of 2002, the project was moved to Group A of the Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category.

Coordination

The City of Fernandina voted April 10, 2001 to approve a \$6 million bond initiative for conservation lands. Nassau County had a November 2001 initiative for \$3 million a year bond issue for conservation land acquisition. Both city and county could have been able to contribute some funding for the acquisition of this project.

Management Policy Statement

The land in this project will, when acquired, be managed to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands. These lands 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. Another goal is to conserve significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species. This project will also conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources. A final goal is to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The project is composed of a number of islands interspersed within a salt marsh system just west of Fort Clinch State Park and partially adjacent to Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve. It 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.

Manager

The DRP would manage the project if acquired.



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 and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

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 recreation 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.

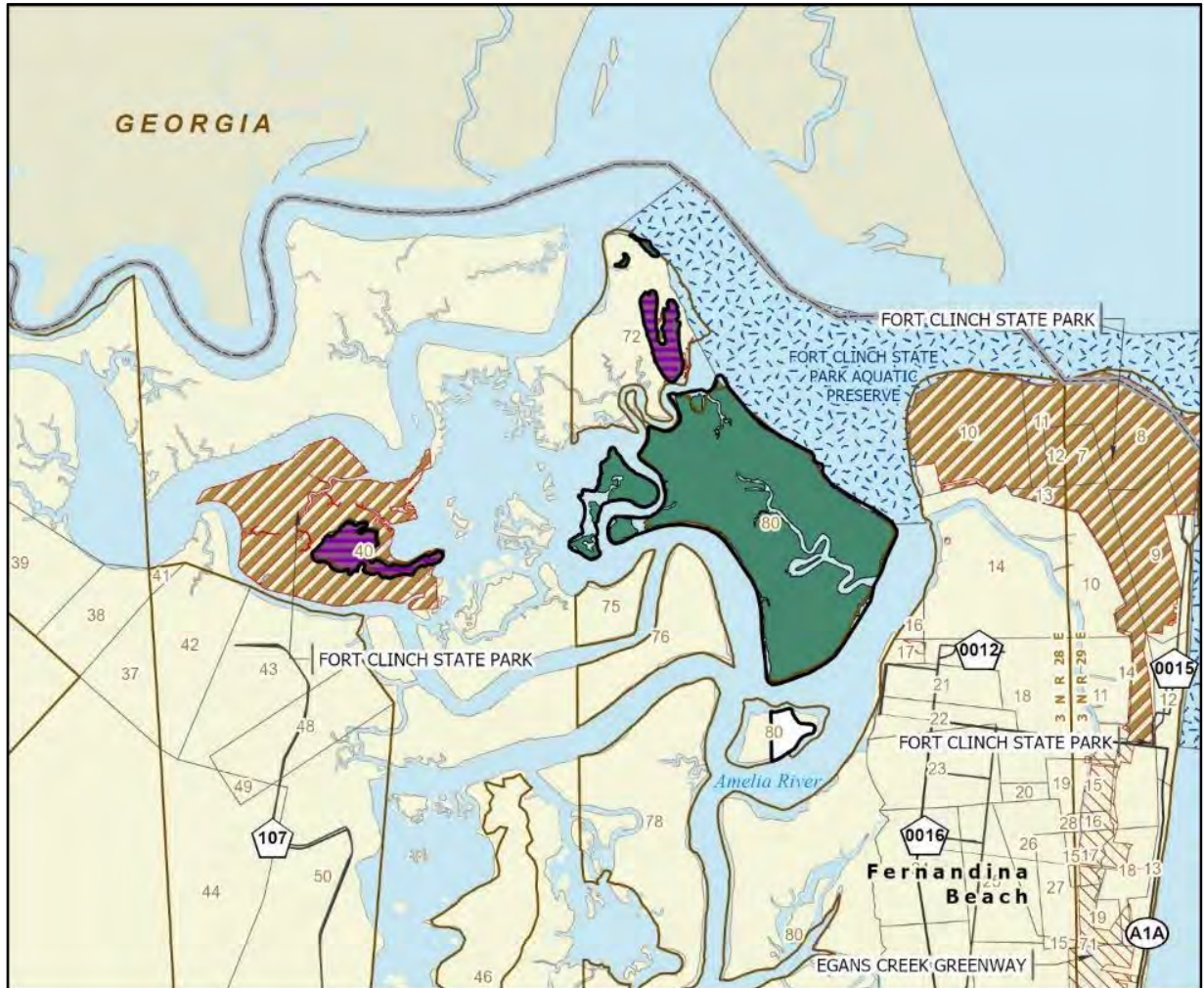
Cooperators in management activities

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.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Expense	\$20,000	\$25,000
OCO	\$50,000	\$22,000
OPS	\$4,500	\$32,500
TOTAL	\$79,500	\$32,500

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



TIGER ISLAND/LITTLE TIGER ISLAND

NASSAU COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 201: FNAI, January 2021



Triple Diamond

Critical Natural Lands Project
Okeechobee

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2009
Project Acres	7,998
Acquired Acres	2,662
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$4,200,000
Remaining Project Acres	5,336
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$16,422,889

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 seven 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(s)

The Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is the recommended to manage this site as part of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.



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 federally listed animal species such as gopher tortoise, Florida grasshopper sparrow and crested caracara. Together dry and wet prairies make up approximately 42 percent 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 in the northeastern portion of the project. The canopy is dominated by mature pond cypress surrounding a small disturbed pond. A large, modern two- story home is in the southwestern part of the site as part of a complex of management facilities that also includes an equipment barn and horse stables.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Crested caracara	G5/S2

4 rare species are associated with the project

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 appreciation and wildlife observation as well as both primitive and facility camping could be supported. 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

2009

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. In 2009, the project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$23,007,107.

2010

On June 11, 2010, the ARC placed this project into the Critical Natural Lands category.

Coordination

TNC is considered an acquisition partner on this project.

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 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 recreation experience.

Manager

The DRP is recommended as the manager of this site.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The property should not require intense management 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 substantial 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 DRP, 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 using established infrastructure.

Revenue-generating potential

No significant revenue is expected to be initially generated. The future revenue will depend on the nature and extent of public use and the use of the facilities already on the property. Vendors for future operation of the equestrian facility and two-story house will be considered.

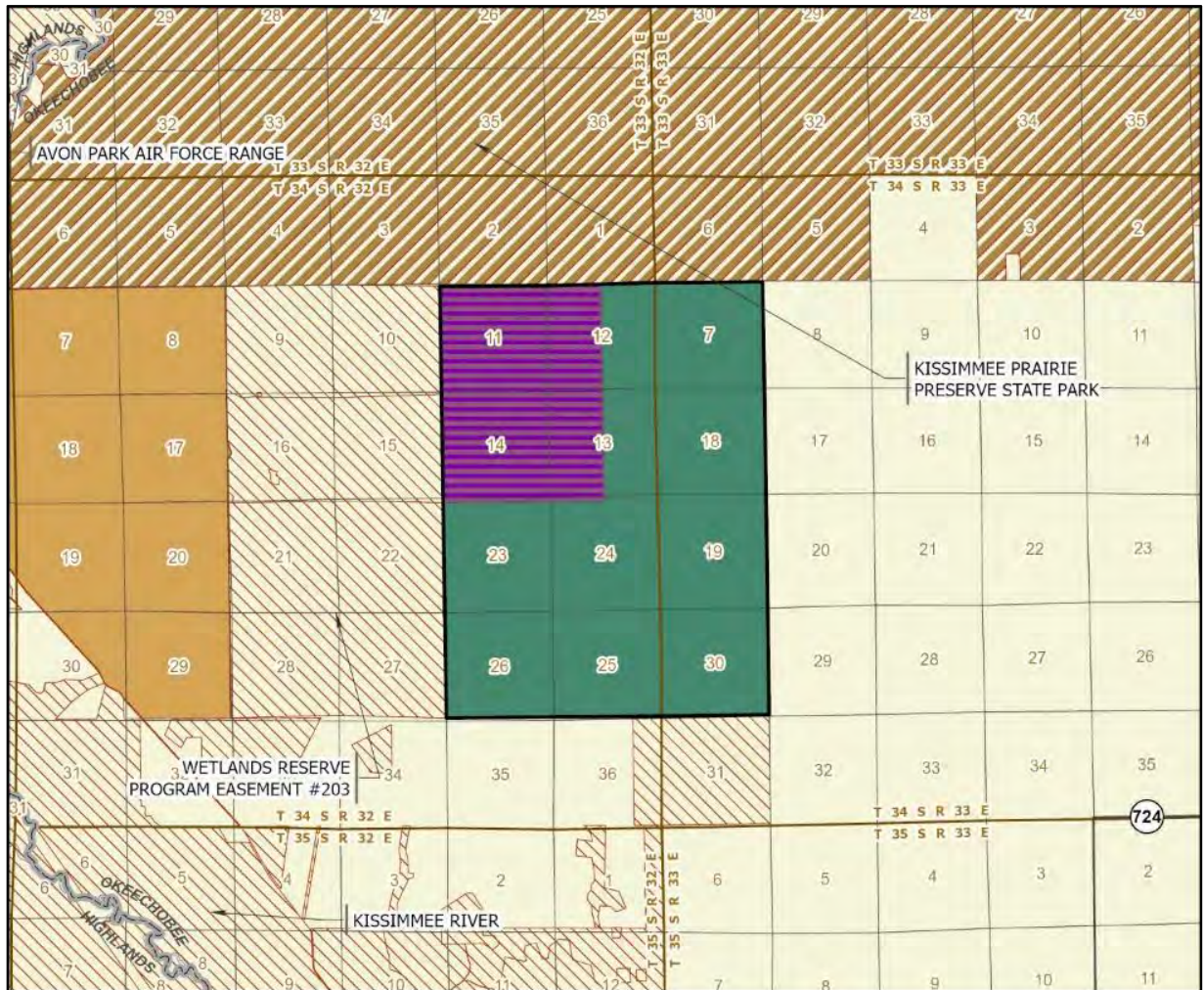
Cooperators in management activities

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

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>
Salary (1 FTE, 1 OPS)	\$52,000
Expense	\$50,000
OCO	\$150,000
Outsourcing	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$272,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



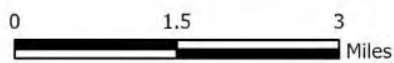
TRIPLE DIAMOND

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 202: FNAI, January 2021



Twelvemile Slough

Critical Natural Lands Project
Hendry

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	15,968
Acquired Acres	7,840
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$11,000,000
Remaining Project Acres	8,128
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$54,932,548

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Twelvemile Slough project is important to many wildlife species, particularly those that require extensive areas of habitat to maintain viable populations. 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.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is recommended as lead manager. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service/FFS 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 (SFWMD) and the FFS. The Okaloacoochee Slough and its associated watershed ultimately flow into the Fakahatchee Strand.



FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida panther	G5T1/S1
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida spiny-pod</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>redmargin zephyrlily</i>	G2G3/S2S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Florida burrowing owl	G4T3/S3
Crested caracara	G5/S2
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3

14 rare species are associated with the project

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 that could enhance management and public use programs without causing damage or disruption. Other possible natural resource-based recreation includes 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

2001

On April 6, 2001, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Twelvemile Slough project to Group B of the Florida Forever (FF) 2001 Priority list. This fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition project, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), consisted of approximately 14,419 acres, multiple parcels and four landowners (AandM of Hendry County LTD, Richard H. Roberts, Alico Inc., and McClure Properties LTD). The Roberts and Albritton parcels were designated as essential.



2002

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, and four parcels. The landowner, with property already in the original boundary, requested the remainder of his ownership be added.

In June 2002, the State of Florida acquired 7,486 acres (Albritton tract) with Florida Forever Land Acquisition Program funds of \$11 million, which will be managed by FWC as the Spirit of the Wild Wildlife Management Area (SWWMA).

2003

An additional 160-acre northern tract was acquired in December 2003.

2008

In May 2008, the 2003 acquisition was incorporated into the established boundary of the SWWMA in May 2008.

2006

On June 9, 2006, ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 FF Priority list.

2008

In May 2008, while reviewing the project, a correction to the boundary was warranted, and the 160 acres of land purchased in 2003 was officially incorporated into the SWWMA boundary.

2011

On May 27, 2011, panther mitigation added 310.08 acres from AGBLLC of Florida. FFS will manage as part of Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest. This was a donation.

On April 15, 2011, ARC recommended an 87-acre boundary reduction for land occupied by residential development, commercial buildings, or infrastructure.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

There is some potential for cost sharing with the District, as well as with TNC.



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 hydrologic 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 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 is contiguous with the 32,162-acre Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest/Wildlife Management Area. The following purposes should guide development of management goals: (1) assessing current land use and natural resources to determine existing conditions and future requirements for inventory and monitoring; conserving, , protecting, and restoring cultural resources, landscapes, forests, water resources, and other elements important to ecosystem functions; (3) conserving, protecting and restoring characteristic biological diversity original to natural communities, including protecting, maintaining, or enhancing conditions for rare, threatened and endangered species; (4) developing and adapting project plans, procedures and techniques for improved success in meeting management goals, including the Florida Panther Habitat Preservation Plan; and (5) establishing multiple-use natural resource-based recreation opportunities that are compatible, and which are consistent with the other resource conservation purposes and management goals for the area.

Qualifications for state designation

The Twelvemile Slough project has the resource diversity to qualify as a wildlife management/ and environmental area. (In 2002, a portion acquired became the Spirit of the Wild Wildlife Management Area.)

Manager

FWC is recommended as lead managing agency. FFS is recommended as a cooperating agency.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Biotic surveys should be a priority, since there are potentially many 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 appropriate. However, because 57 percent 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- establishing native groundcover, exotic vegetation control, prescribed fire and control of conservation- compatible access by the user community. Proposed uses of the area include opportunities for hunting, camping, hiking, environmental and cultural resource education, and other natural resource-based recreation 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 would be guided by established procedures and techniques, improved through adaptive management themes, and will emphasize re-establishing native plant communities on pasture 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 within the area. There will be efforts to eradicate or control the infestations to reduce the potential for further spread.

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

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be on site security, posting boundaries, relationships with stakeholders, public-use assessments, fire management, resource inventories, exotic species control and removing refuse. A conceptual management plan,



developed by the FWC with a stakeholder-based management advisory group, will specify management goals and objectives. Longer- range activities would focus on meeting goals and objectives in the conceptual management plan. They include, at a minimum: prescribed fire, habitat restoration, protecting or propagating critical habitat for listed species, and expanding recreation opportunities. Essential roads would be stabilized and maintained for public and management access. Floral and faunal inventories and evaluations of the 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. To meet wildlife habitat management objectives, sustainable timber harvests will be conducted using acceptable silviculture practices in consultation with the FFS. 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 from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area stamps and other special hunting stamps. Some future revenues might be from other nature-based recreation opportunities, and cattle- grazing contracts. About 13 percent of the Twelvemile Slough Acquisition Project is pine flatwoods that could be managed to offset operational costs. But future revenue from timber resources will depend on appropriate plant-community and hydrologic restoration. Recommendations as to other governmental agency involvement The FWC will cooperate with federal, state, and local government agencies, and non-government organizations, to the greatest extent possible. It is anticipated that the FWC will need the most assistance and cooperation from the following: (1) The FWC will require three full-time positions (FTEs) to manage this area and will contract with various private entities to procure services and materials to conduct resource management, capital improvements and visitor services on the area.

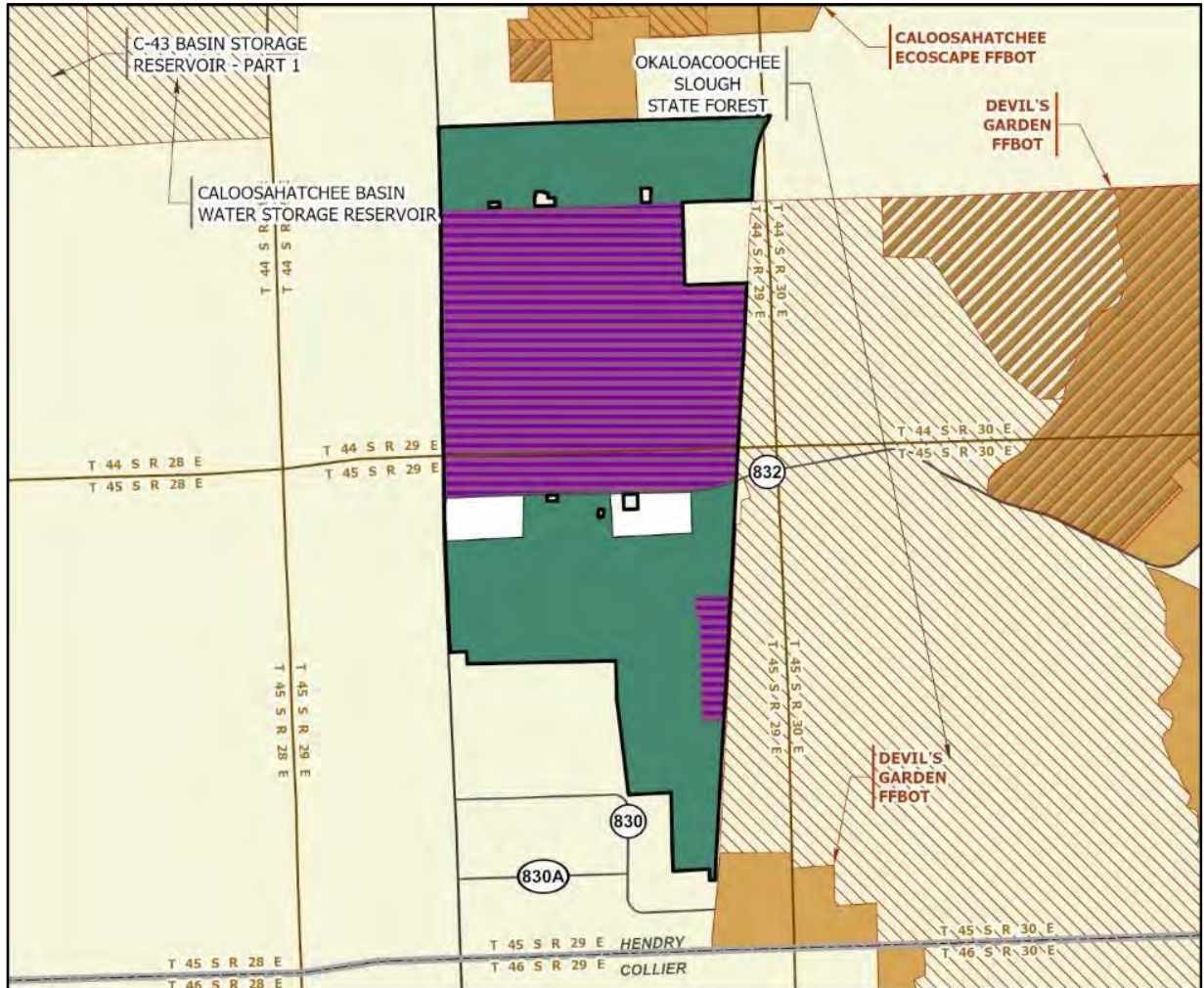
Funding sources include the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund and Florida Forever Trust Fund.



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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	\$9,350	\$9,350
TOTAL	\$1,272,936	\$551,002

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



TWELVEMILE SLOUGH

HENDRY COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 203: FNAI, January 2021



Upper Shoal River

Critical Natural Lands Project

Walton

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2003
Project Acres	12,035
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	12,035
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$18,489,923

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. Both of these sites within the project boundary 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(s)

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Forest Service/FFS of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be co-managers. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) of the Department of Environmental Protection (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 9,727 (GIS) acres. The remaining 2,300 acres are included in the Gum Creek tract (GC), which is about 5 miles southeast of the Pine Log Creek 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Arkansas oak	G3/S3
Wherry's redflower pitcherplant	G3T3/S3
Pine barrens treefrog	G4/S3
mountain laurel	G5/S3

6 rare species are associated with the project

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 PLC tract than will be needed for the GC tract. As the resources recover, 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 PLC. Depending on management emphasis, hunting would be suitable on the PLC tract. The smaller GC tract is closer to residential areas and would not be as suitable for this activity. Other activities supportable by both tracts could include natural resource appreciation and camping. Two small man-made



ponds exist on the GC tract that could provide limited fishing in addition to the properties' main creeks. Neither tract is expected to provide extensive opportunities for this activity.

The 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan states that more opportunities for bicycling, hiking and natural resource appreciation through short nature hikes (nature study) are needed in this region.

Acquisition Planning

This project is planned for fee-simple acquisition. This project consists of two owners with multiple parcels totaling 12,035 acres (12,027 in GIS).

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project on the Florida Forever project list.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Critical Natural Lands category of projects.

Coordination

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD) are acquisition partners for this project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary land management goal for the FFS 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. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS's management activities on this project.

Management Prospectus

The FFS and the FWC are prepared to share all management responsibilities for Upper Shoal River under the unified management concept that both agencies are currently developing. 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 protecting biodiversity and providing natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, programs would be developed that serve to manage ecosystems for multiple use. 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, timber stands would be managed using even aged 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 near many 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 percent (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 lettered measures in the Florida Forever Act (See 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.

Qualifications for state designation

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 include headwater streams and creeks connected to the Shoal River system and are entirely within its watershed. The DEP’s DRP has expressed a strong interest in managing the Gum Creek tract. The FFS and the FWC will enter into discussions with DRP to manage these 2,300 acres as a State Park. The project is located about 10 miles northeast of Crestview, where the Pine Log Creek tract borders the Okaloosa County line. The project area is distributed across about 15 miles because of the two tracts. Other conservation lands near the project include those on nearby Eglin Air Force Base, and the Yellow River Water Management Area and Upper Yellow River Florida Forever project. This project is significant for ecological greenways, with 99 percent 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 percent of the project area has been converted to silviculture. 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. Forested wetlands have 1,550 acres of baygall, floodplain or bottomland forest. The actual seepage stream communities are about 10 acres.

About 75 acres have been classified as disturbed. The FNAI indicates that 22 percent (3,202 acres) of the project area are under-represented natural communities. Functional wetlands comprise 8 percent (1,216 acres) of the project area and help conserve areas for aquifer recharge (35 percent, or 5,148 acres of project area), provide fish and wildlife habitat, and provide for natural floodplain function (13 percent, or 1,895 acres of project area). The FNAI Florida Forever Measures Evaluation also indicates that the entire project area (100 percent, or 14,483 acres) provides surface-water protection. Both tracts have been managed for silviculture operations. Neither tract shows evidence of intensive management activities. Scattered longleaf pine 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, longleaf pine, and slash pine has occurred throughout both parcels. 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. Imperiled or rare animal species either occurring or likely to occur within the project, include the blackmouth shiner, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, eastern indigo snake, Florida black bear, gopher frog, gopher tortoise, little blue heron, pine barrens treefrog, Sherman's fox squirrel, southern pine snake, and white ibis. 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 several listed plant and animal species, such as the pine barrens tree frog, which has been documented to occur in the project area. Game species observed, or for which sign was available in the project area, included mourning dove, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey. 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, mountain laurel, red pitcher plant, and white-top pitcher plant. Other imperiled or rare plant species known to occur nearby that may occur in the proposed project include bog button, Florida flame azalea,



hairy wild indigo, Harper's yellow-eyed grass, panhandle lily, sandhill sedge, silky camellia, umbrella magnolia, and yellow fringeless orchid. According to the FWC, approximately 349 acres (2 percent) 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 percent (9,512 acres) of the project includes at least seven focal species. Another 6 percent (849 acres) of the project is a habitat conservation priority for rare species with the greatest conservation need, according to the FNAI. Management goals for this site should take into account habitat management to protect and enhance focal species habitat. Additionally, large tracts of habitat are important to conserve 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.

Manager

The FWC and the FFS will be co-managers. DRP will manage the Gum Creek tract.

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 percent of the project area has been subjected to ground cover disturbance from past silvicultural activity, consequently additional effort will be required to accomplish objectives for restoration to a desired future condition. The FFS 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. 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.

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

It is anticipated that during the first year after acquisition, both agencies will emphasize on site security, posting boundaries, public access for low-intensity outdoor recreation, fire management, resource inventory, and removing refuse. The 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 management and the conservation of the site's natural resources including timber, fish and wildlife, and water. These goals would include restoring habitat and hydrology and conserving and protecting 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. 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.

Archaeological and historic sites would be managed in coordination with the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. Both agencies will work to develop a plan identifying road for vehicular access by the public, and roads required for administrative use. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes and hydrological disturbances would be abandoned or restored as practical. 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.

Revenue-generating potential

Timber sales would be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. The FNAI indicates that 76 percent (11,054 acres) of the project area is available as priorities 1, 2, 3, and 5 for sustainable forestry, and that 19 percent (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 from sales of hunting licenses, fishing licenses, wildlife management area permits and other special hunting permits. Some revenues might come 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. 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 FFS and the FWC.

Cooperators in management activities

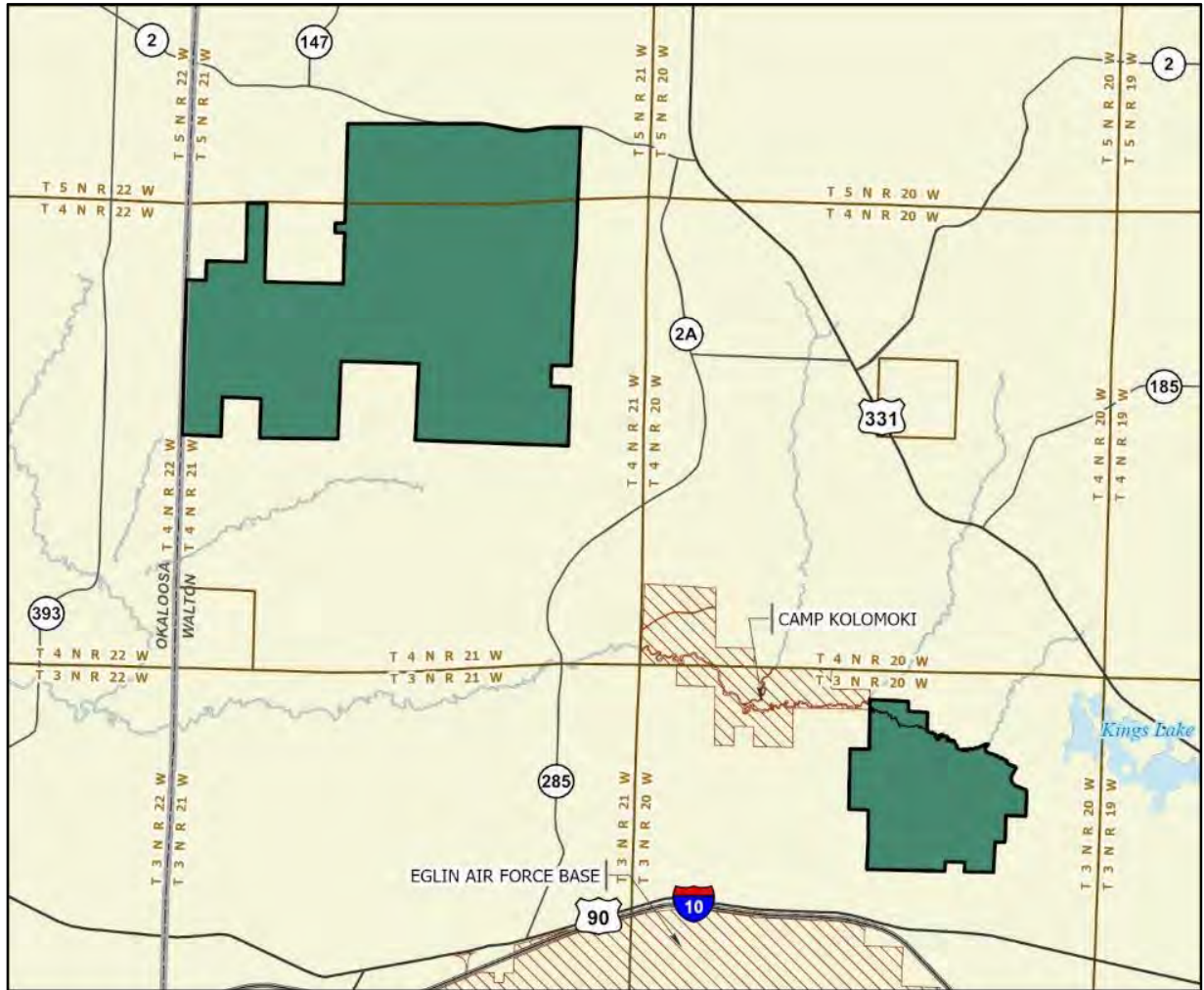
The unified managers (FFS and FWC) should cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies, including the Northwest Florida Water Management District, to manage the project area. The project should be designated as a state forest and wildlife management area.



Management Cost Summary




<u>FFS and FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	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	\$10,191	\$10,191
TOTAL	\$2,643,331	\$377,628

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



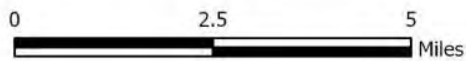
UPPER SHOAL RIVER

WALTON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 204: FNAI, January 2021



Volusia Conservation Corridor

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Flagler, Volusia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2001
Project Acres	79,074
Acquired Acres	61,242
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$76,566,247
Remaining Project Acres	17,832
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$55,292,276

Purpose for State Acquisition

Public acquisition of this project sponsored by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) will increase the protection of Florida’s biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels and provide 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, education opportunities, and potential for recreation or other public uses on the fee-simple acquisition lands. This project will help ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet 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 rainfall.

Manager(s)

SJRWMD and Volusia County are the recommended managers.

General Description

The property is 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 on the eastern edge of the DeLand Ridge. It includes the parallel, southward-flowing drainages of DeepCreek 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Rugel's pawpaw</i>	G1/S1
<i>lake-side sunflower</i>	G1G2/S1S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
<i>large-flowered rosemary</i>	G3/S3
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

8 rare species are associated with the project

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

2001

On January 25, 2001, the Acquisition and 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 and multiple owners. 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.

2002

On June 6, 2002, the 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, sponsored by the SJRWMD, consisted of two owners, Plum Creek and Rayonier.

2003

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.

2004

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.

2007

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.

On December 15, 2010, Volusia County closed on the 4,806-acre Leffler Ranch. The County will manage this property.

2011

On November 22, 2011, SJRWMD purchased the Lukas Ranch Conservation Easement (1,093 acres) from Jonathan S. Lukas, as Trustee of the Jonathan S. Lukas Trust Agreement for \$1,912,697.50, comprised of a donation of value (\$478,174.38) from the Seller, \$956,348.75 from a USDA/NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program grant, and \$478,174.38 from SJRWMD.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

The SJRWMD, the Florida Forest Service (FFS) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Volusia County and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are 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, 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 impacted properties within 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 site'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 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.

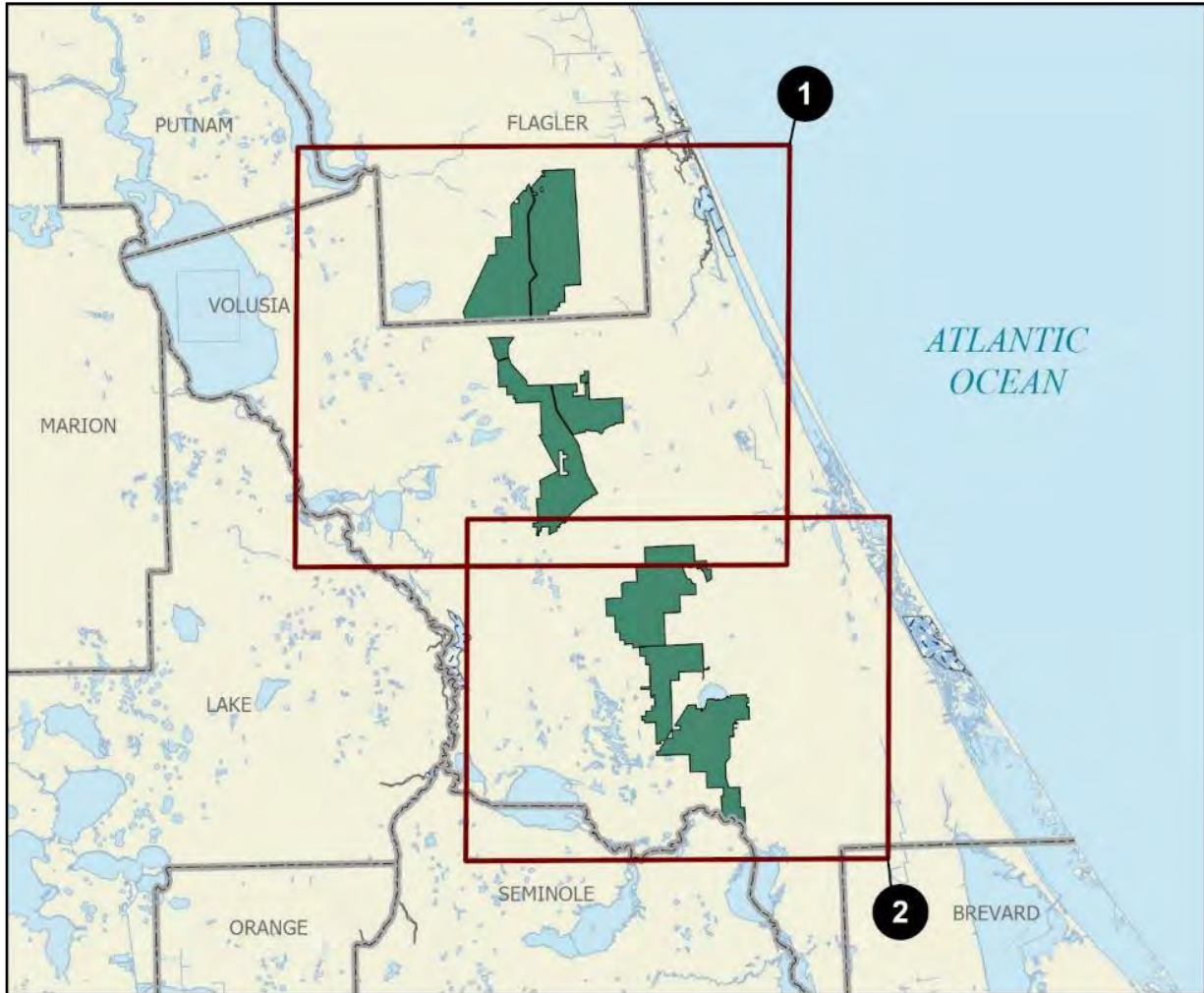
Cooperators in management activities

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

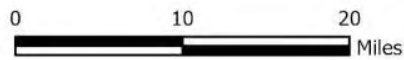
SJRWMD	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	WMLTF	WMLTF
Salary	\$45,000	\$45,000
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$80,000	\$80,000
OCO	\$20,000	\$60,000
FCO	\$100,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$345,000	\$185,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



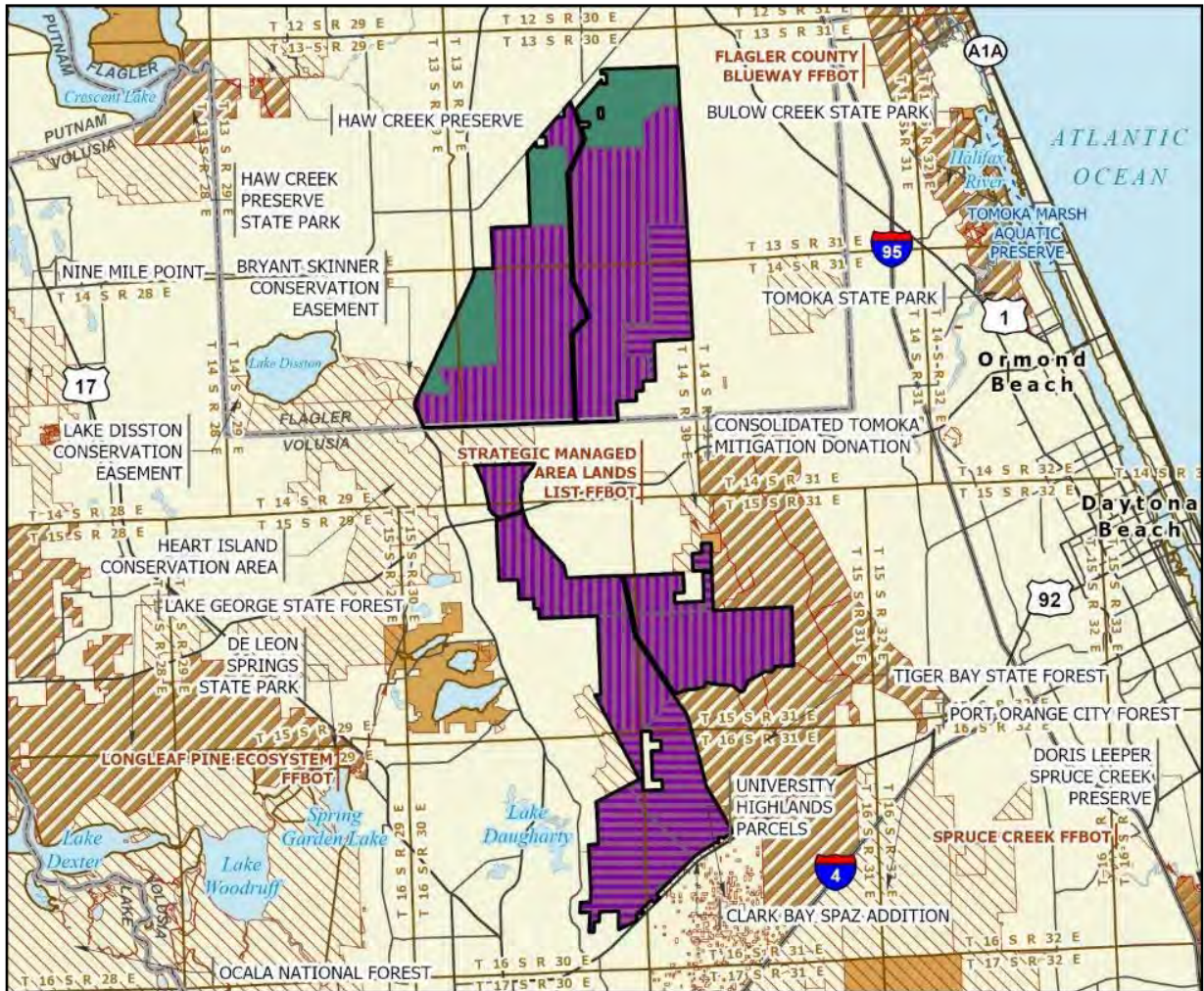
VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: OVERVIEW

FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES



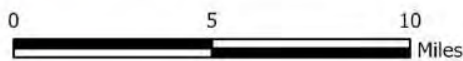
JANUARY 2020

Map 1: FNAI, January 2021



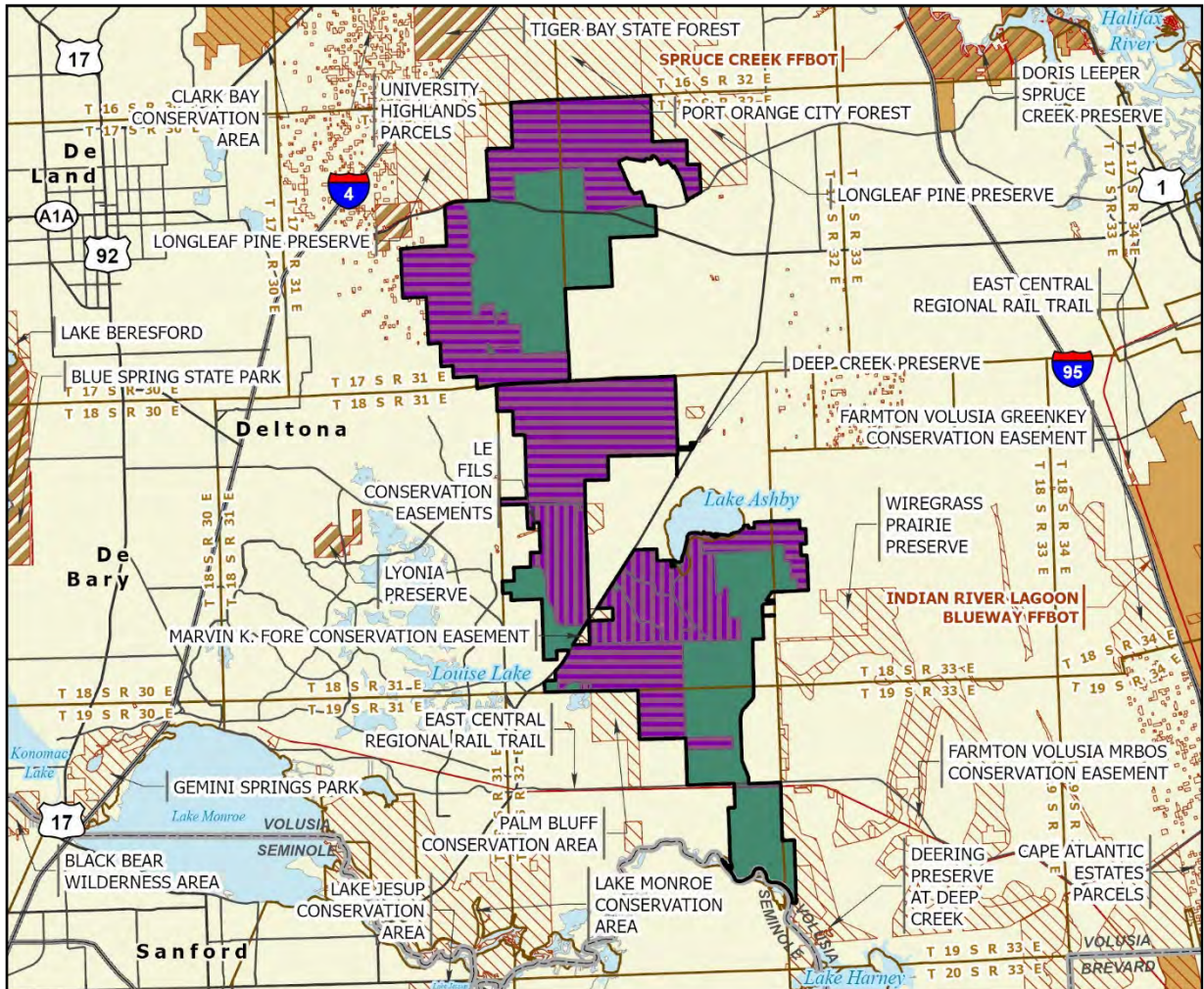
FLAGLER AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

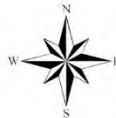
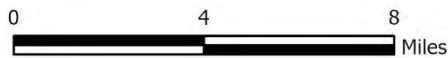
Map 2: FNAI, January 2021



VOLUSIA CONSERVATION CORRIDOR: MAP 2

VOLUSIA COUNTY

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



JUNE 2020

Map 3: FNAI, January 2021



Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks

Critical Natural Lands Project

Jefferson, Taylor

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1985
Project Acres	33,081
Acquired Acres	18,173
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$5,886,137
Remaining Project Acres	14,908
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$20,628,522

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(s)

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 communities 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 riverfront development.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Frosted flatwoods salamander	G2/S1
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Florida willow</i>	G2/S2
Barbour's map turtle	G2/S2
Florida olive hairstreak	G5T2/S2
<i>Chapman's sedge</i>	G3/S3
<i>corkwood</i>	G3/S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3

16 rare species are associated with the project

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

1985

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, and three major ownerships (the largest with 13,000 acres).

1986

On March 21, 1986, the LASC approved the project design for 20,258 acres that includes the original proposal and additional acreage.



1989

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 addition consisted of one landowner, St. Joe Land and Development Co. The landowner already has property 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 and Gamble Cellulose. 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.

1999

On March 26, 1999, the Land Acquisition and 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. The landowner is already in the boundary. This addition would provide connectivity with the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

2000

In 2000, the Acquisition and 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.

2001

On October 25, 2001, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 7,068-acre addition to the project boundary. It was by the FWC, consisted of one landowner, the Foley Land and Timber Company. 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.

Also, 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. 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this Florida Forever project in the Critical Natural Lands category.

2012

On April 20, 2012, the 2,836-acre Flint Rock tract was transferred to the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks Florida Forever project from the St. Joe Timberland project. After this most recent boundary change in 2012, the project had a combined, historic, estimated tax assessed value of \$3,413,439.

Coordination

TNC, the FWC, and the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) will be acquisition partners for this project.

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 indicate 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, despite high recreation values. If a method for charging canoeists, nature enthusiasts, fishermen and hikers could be devised, the revenue potential would be moderate.

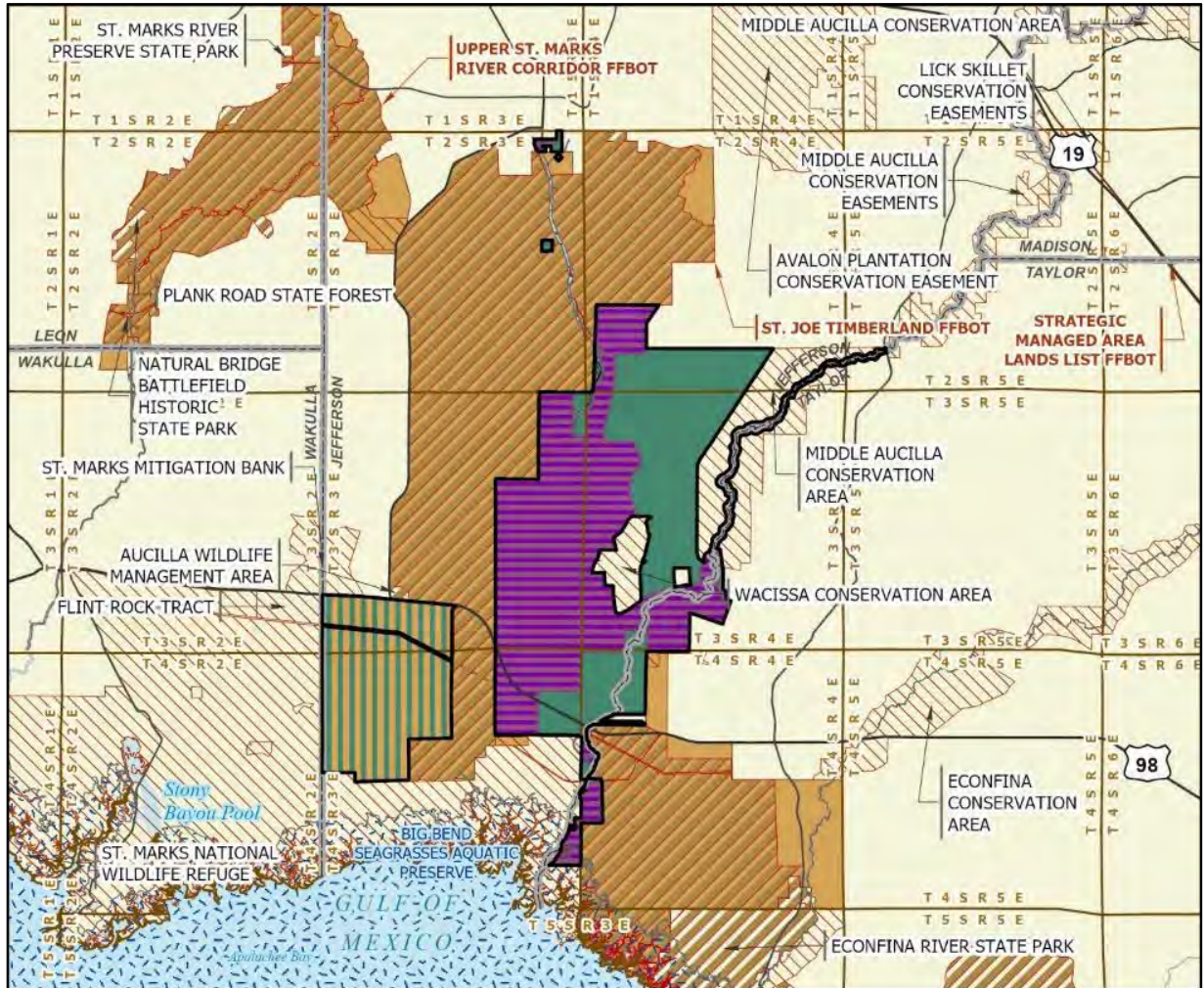
Cooperators in management activities

The DHR and the FFS 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.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$11,133
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$126	\$2000
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$126	\$13,133

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



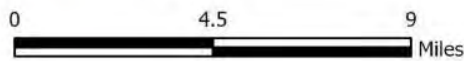
WACISSA/AUCILLA RIVER SINKS

JEFFERSON AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 205: FNAI, January 2021



Wakulla Springs Protection Zone

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Leon, Wakulla

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1997
Project Acres	8,890
Acquired Acres	4,919
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$7,372,678
Remaining Project Acres	3,971
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$27,545,400

Purpose for State Acquisition

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 land above the conduits that feed it, connect the state park with the Apalachicola National Forest, and provide public areas for camping, hiking, and hunting. East of Tallahassee the Upper Lake Lafayette Aquifer Protection addition to the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone will protect the sinkholes and seepages that also connect to Wakulla Springs and create a 373-acre passive recreation area.

Manager(s)

Managers include the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Forest Service (FFS), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The Upper Lake Lafayette Aquifer Protection Area site added to the project in 2014 may also be managed with the help of the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF).



General Description

Most of the project is in intensive silviculture or pasture. The Upper Lake Lafayette portion of the project is mixed pines and hardwoods on hills sloping down to Lake Lafayette. Remnant natural areas include floodplain swamps and 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, which 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Woodville karst cave crayfish	G1/S1
<i>incised groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Florida cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Hobbs's cave amphipod	G2G3/S2S3
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G3/S3
Pine snake	G4/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3

11 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

Portions of the project qualify as state park, state forest, and wildlife management area. Hiking or bicycling trails could link the park through this area with the Apalachicola National Forest, and the project could also be suitable for camping, horseback riding, and perhaps hunting. The Upper Lake Lafayette land could be linked to such areas as the Lafayette Heritage Trail Park, the Fallschase Greenway and the L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area.

Acquisition Planning

1996

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 DRP, consisted of approximately 10,243 acres and multiple owners. 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.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC designated as essential approximately 1,004 acres that would connect the Ferrell tract with the Apalachicola National Forest.

2006

On June 9, 2006, the Acquisition and 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the new Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever.

2014

In 2014, a Tallahassee citizens' group, the Buck Lake Alliance, proposed making the 373-acre Upper Lake Lafayette Aquifer Protection Proposal a Florida Forever project. The project had an estimated tax assessed value of \$3,599,447.

On December 12, 2014, ARC voted to add this area to the Florida Forever list and then incorporated its boundary into the boundary of this Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project.

2019

On December 12, 2019, the ARC approved the addition of 801 acres (GIS) in Wakulla County to the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Florida Forever project boundary for fee simple acquisition. The proposal had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$1,925,754. The Florida Forest Service is the recommended manager and the lands would be managed as part of Wakulla State Forest. The addition would contribute to landscape linkage between existing public lands, provide aquifer protection for Wakulla Springs and enhance wildlife habitat as well as public recreation. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential. It would be managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) if acquired.



Coordination

Considering this project's linkages and connections above and below ground, coordination would be among the FWC, local governments, the Division of Recreation and Parks, the Florida Forest Service, the Florida Wildlife Federation and other nonprofit conservation groups, the Florida Geological Survey, and the US Forest Service.

Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone project is to preserve the water quality of Wakulla Springs 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. Management activities should be directed toward the protection of surface-water and groundwater quality. 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; inventory resources; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are 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 less-than-fee purchases are made within the project, 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. In areas managed by FFS, the primary land management goal 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. This ecosystem approach will guide the FFS's management activities on this project. For areas managed by FWC, priority will be given to the conservation and protection of environmentally unique native habitats and threatened and endangered species. Under FWC management, the tract will also provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking, and other natural resource-based recreational activities.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The 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 as a state forest is contingent upon the state acquiring fee-simple title to the core parcels.

Manager

The DRP is recommended to 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 and the 152-acre boundary addition. The FWC is recommended as lead manager for the 120-acre portion of the Ferrell property described above. The FFS is recommended as lead manager for the remainder of the project except for the most recent addition. The Florida Wildlife Federation has been identified as manager for the Upper Lake Lafayette Aquifer Protection property.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

DRP

Under fee title acquisition, the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone will be a high-need management area. 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. 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 by users 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. This concept also applies to other areas of the project managed by the DRP where the natural regime has been disturbed by silviculture and other land uses.

FFS

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.

FWC

The proposal generally includes lands that are low-need tracts requiring basic resource management, including the frequent use of prescribed fire. 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. 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 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.

FWF

This property is adjacent to commercial and residential development on the urban fringe. There is a platform mound on the property, which is incompletely fenced, and completed fencing will be needed. There are invasive plant species on the property, which will have to be managed. Managing the site for soil protection and for vegetative cover will offer the best protection for Upper Lake Lafayette.

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

DRP

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. 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.

FFS

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, 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 FFS'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 ensure 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. Any 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, 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 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. 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.

Recreation and environmental education in the natural environment by the FFS, though no recreational facilities are planned. However, if it is later 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, fire-lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

FWC

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 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 FFS. These practices will include reforestation of cleared pinelands and natural regeneration of pine plantations.

FWF

It will take a minimum of one year to develop a management plan for the Upper Lake Lafayette acreage after this area is acquired. Fencing the east and west boundaries will be necessary to create limited access points. Cultural resource sites will have to be identified and fenced off from general access.

Revenue-generating potential

DRP

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.

FFS

FFS 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.



FWC

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.

FWF

FWF does not expect the Upper Lake Lafayette property to generate revenue from admissions but it will contribute to the local economy by spurring sales of outdoor goods and services.

Cooperators in management activities

DRP

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.

FFS and FWC

FFS and the FWC will also cooperate with other state and local governmental agencies in managing the area.

FWF

FWF developed a Management Prospectus for the Upper Lake Lafayette portion of the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone and suggests that its volunteers can help see that trails are properly maintained.

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$48,840	\$48,840
OPS	\$10,000	\$10,000
Expense	\$86,342	\$6,342
OCO	\$58,956	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$204,138	\$65,142

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Management Cost Summary

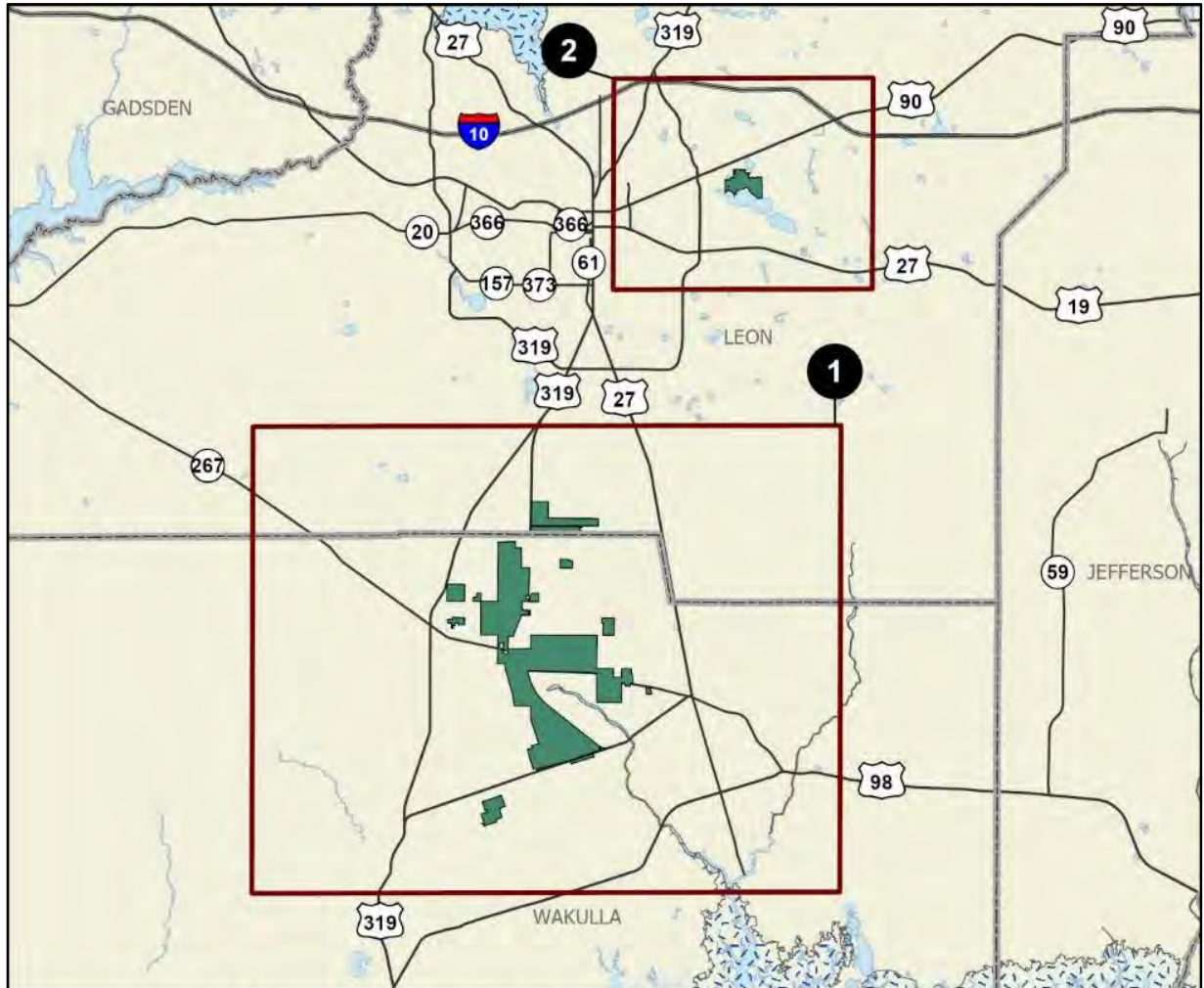
<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary	\$65,343	not provided
OPS	\$0	not provided
Expense	\$90,000	not provided
OCO	\$129,000	not provided
FCO	\$0	not provided
TOTAL	\$202,670	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

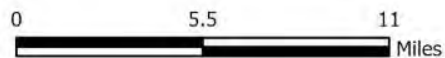
<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$37,170	\$74,340
OPS	\$7,000	\$7,000
Expense	\$45,000	\$60,000
OCO	\$38,500	\$38,500
FCO	\$75,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$202,670	\$179,840

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



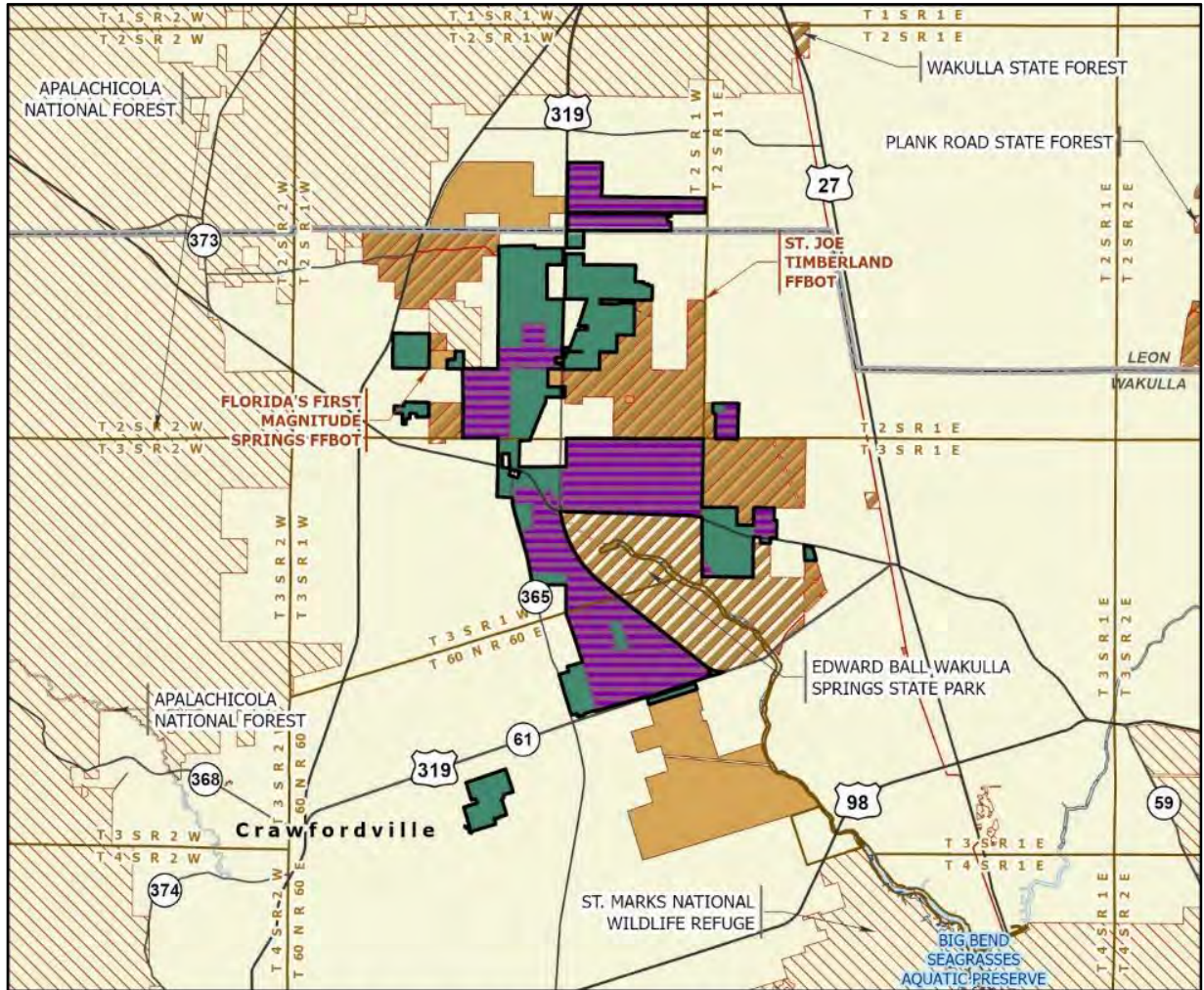
WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: OVERVIEW

LEON AND WAKULLA COUNTIES



JANUARY 2020

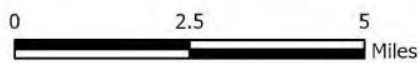
Map 206: FNAI, January 2021



WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: MAP 1

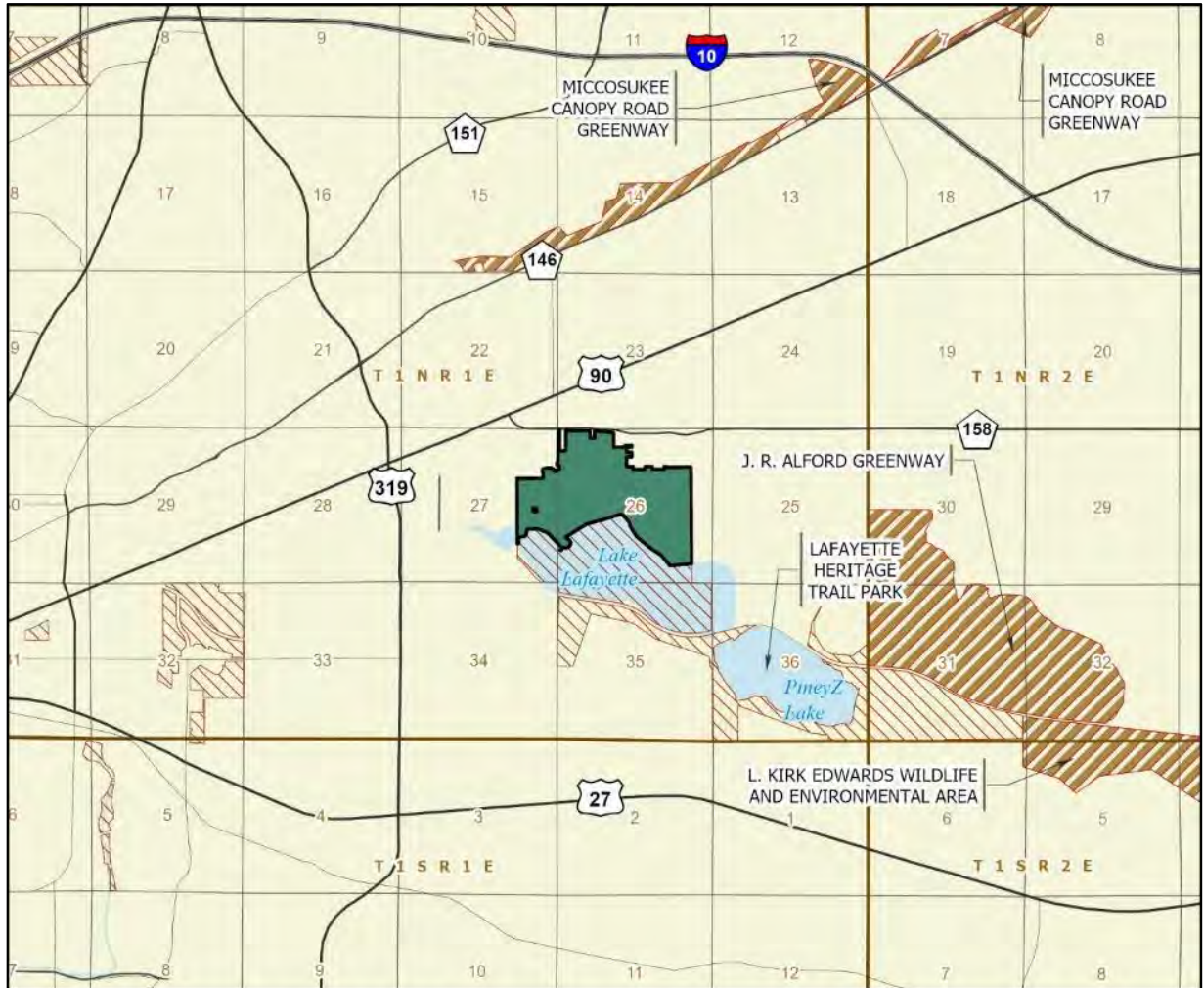
LEON AND WAKULLA COUNTIES

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



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 207: FNAI, January 2021



WAKULLA SPRINGS PROTECTION ZONE: MAP 2

LEON COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2020



Map 208: FNAI, January 2021



Watermelon Pond

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project
Alachua, Levy

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1994
Project Acres	12,542
Acquired Acres	6,680
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$8,707,029
Remaining Project Acres	5,862
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$16,788,124

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 cranes 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(s)

Florida Forest Service/FFS, 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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5/S3
Skelley's june beetle	G2/S2
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Southern hognose snake	G2/S2S3
<i>incised groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Gopher frog	G2G3/S3
<i>scrub stylisma</i>	G3/S3

28 rare species are associated with the project

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.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Council designated the non-subdivided portion of section 36 and 11 other “corridor” parcels as essential.

2003

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.

2007

In April 2007, the FWC acquired 1,288 acres, identified as Barry Ranch. Of these acres, 607 are within the Watermelon Pond Florida Forever project boundary.



2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 3,161-acre reduction in the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

FWC and Alachua County are acquisition partners for this project. On April 11, 2012, Alachua County purchased 640 acres in an adjoining area, which will help buffer the project.

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 FFS 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 FFS 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 FFS 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 in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. FFS will promote environmental education.

Revenue-generating potential

The FFS 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.

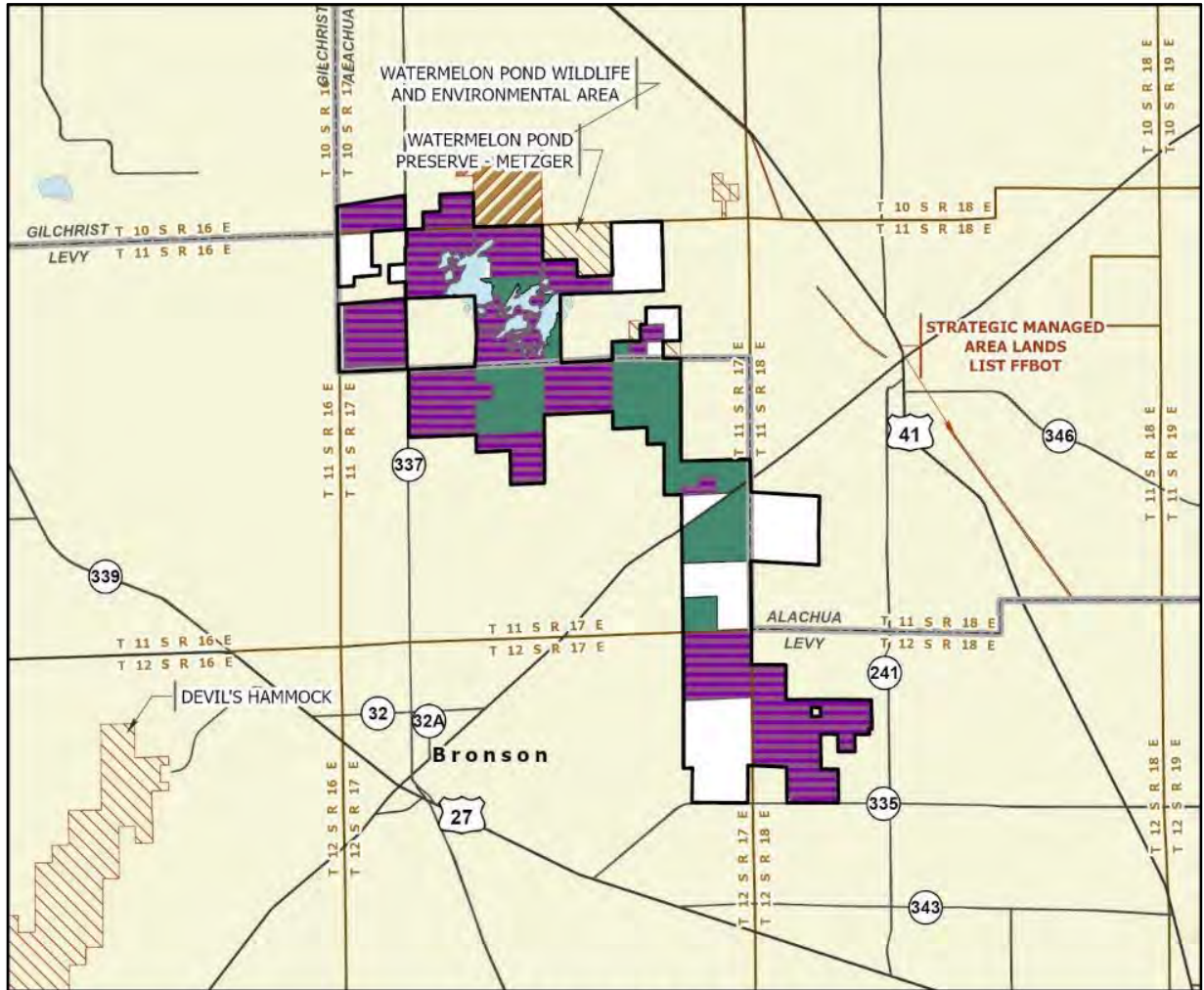
Cooperators in management activities

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

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$80,530	\$80,530
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$30,000	\$20,000
OCO	\$112,500	\$6,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$223,030	\$106,530

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



WATERMELON POND

ALACHUA AND LEVY COUNTIES

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



MARCH 2021



Map 209: FNAI, January 2021



Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

Critical Natural Lands Project
Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	1995
Project Acres	81,975
Acquired Acres	59,707
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$184,290,225
Remaining Project Acres	22,268
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$153,012,398

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.

Manager(s)

Division of Recreation and Parks (BMK Ranch, Seminole Springs, St. Johns River and portions of the Wekiva-Ocala Connector); Florida Forest Service (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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida scrub-jay	G2?/S2
Swallow-tailed kite	G5/S2
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>Okeechobee gourd</i>	G1/S1
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3
<i>Florida hasteola</i>	G1/S1
Seminole Spring siltsnail	G1/S1
<i>Florida willow</i>	G2/S2

32 rare species are associated with the project

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

1994

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 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 and consisted of multiple landowners and parcels. 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) and 12 parcels. 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.

1997

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. Any portion of the addition that is not needed for resource protection or management will be surplus.

1998

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. 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 12/19/2006. The total acquisition area contained 1,584 acres.

2001

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, and 13 tracts.



2004

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. The boundary amendment was sponsored by the owner's representative, Roland Pacetti Realty.

2006

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). 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 FFS as part of the Seminole State Forest.

2007

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 and four landowners. The Division of Recreation and Parks agreed to manage the parcels. The parcels have been designated essential. Approximately 421 acres of this addition have been purchased and are being managed as part of the Greenway.

2008

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 the Division of State Lands (DSL) Florida Forever funds a 345-acre parcel was purchased from Palmer ownership in Pine Plantation for \$24,930,304 (About 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. DRP will manage this site.



2009

On March 27, 2009, 307.17 acres were purchased from the OOCEA for BARN, LLP parcel (reimbursement of \$10M paid by the Authority—Neighborhood Lakes, Phase II).

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the category of Critical Natural Lands.

In calendar year 2017, a total of 236.26 acres in this project were acquired using Florida Forever program funding.

2020

On December 11, 2020, the ARC approved an addition of 9 acres (Wekiva River Islands) in Seminole County and a 170-acre parcel (St. Johns Riverbend) in Volusia County to the project boundary.

The 4.6-acre “Arnold” parcel was acquired in September 2020 at a cost of \$253,300 and will be managed by the FFS as part of Seminole State Forest.

Coordination

Florida Communities Trust (FCT), Lake County Water Authority, SJRWMD, DOT, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, and TNC are all acquisition partners in this project.

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 FFS 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 later if it is purchased.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

On the portion to be managed by the FFS, 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. The portion to be managed by the DRP, the BMK Ranch (acquired), 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 is expected to have a higher level of recreational use and development compatible with resource management than 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 SJRWMD and have been assigned to the FFS for management as the Seminole State Forest (SSF). The FFS 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, wherever 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 in disturbed areas and will be the minimum required for management and public access. The DRP 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 FFS 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 DRP 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 FFS 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

<u>DRP</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
Source of Funds	SPTF/LATF/CARL	SPTF/LATF/CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$425	\$425
Expense	\$5,739	\$5,739
OCO	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$38,798	\$0
TOTAL	\$44,962	\$6,164

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS (Seminole State Forest)</u>	<u>1995/96</u>	<u>1996/97</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$35,440	\$64,440
OPS	\$0	\$4,500
Expense	\$22,600	\$40,225
OCO	\$0	\$29,270
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$58,040	\$138,435

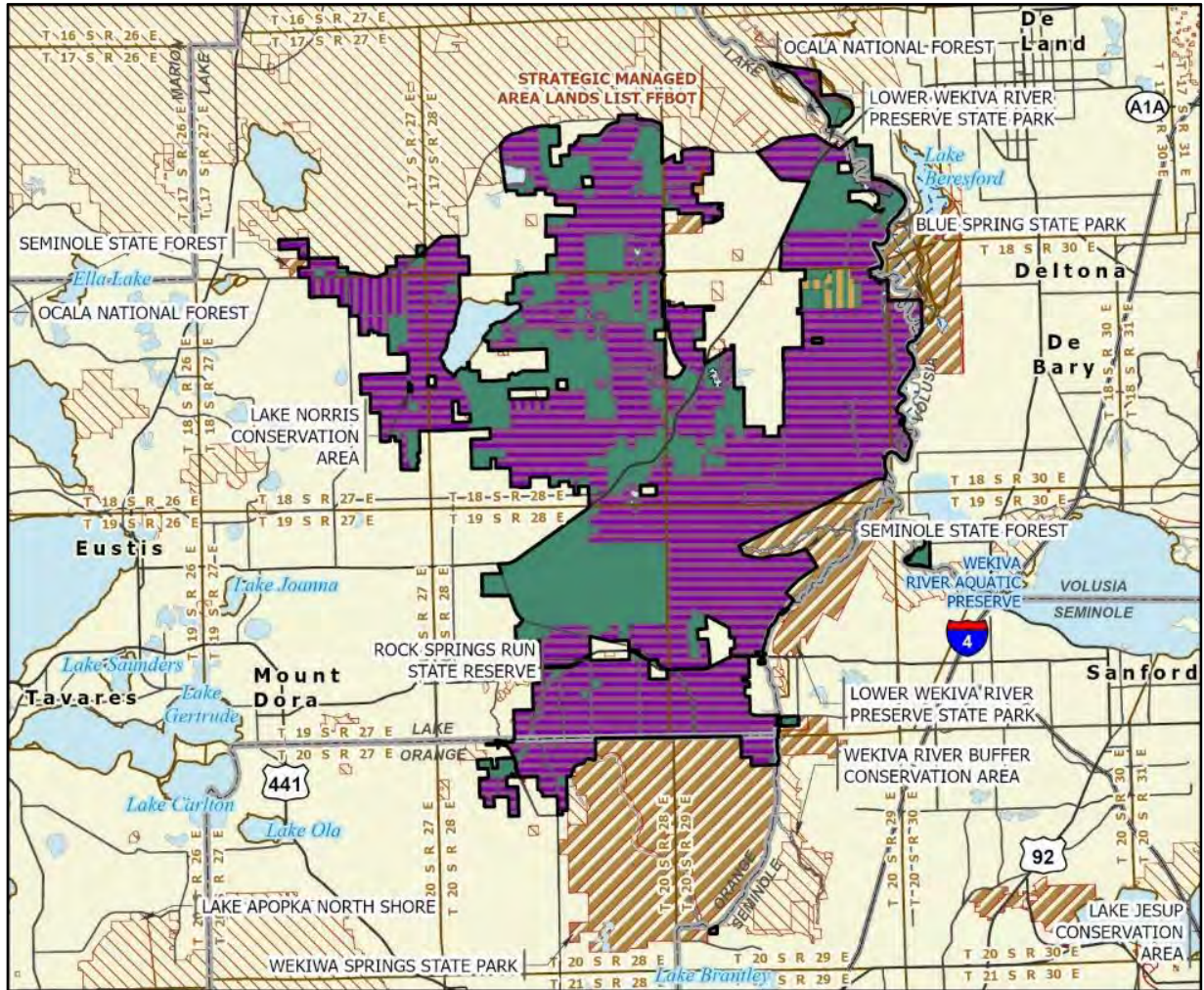
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS (Wekiva-Ocala Connector: West Corridor)</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
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
TOTAL	\$138,540	\$47,640

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



WEKIVA-OCALA GREENWAY

LAKE, ORANGE, SEMINOLE, AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
- TNC Owned Lands Within Project
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- State Owned Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Aquatic Preserve



MARCH 2021

Map 210: FNAI, January 2021



Welannee Watershed Forest

Partnerships & Regional Incentives Project

Okaloosa

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2020
Project Acres	8,378
Acquired Acres	56
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	8,322
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$10,637,335

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Welannee Watershed Forest is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition and is comprised of two ownerships along the eastern and western banks of the Upper Yellow River, ranging from the north boundary of the Yellow River Water Management Area northward to the Florida-Alabama border and east of Blackwater River State Forest. Protection of this upper stretch of the Yellow River is critical to various plans associated with the protection of the major rivers in panhandle Florida. Additionally, this project will benefit important freshwater species like the Gulf sturgeon. The southern boundary of the property is adjacent to the northern limits of the Yellow River Water Management Area, which provides a landscape linkage with Eglin Air Force Base. The north boundary of the project is adjacent to the boundary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conecuh National Forest.

Manager

The Office of Environmental Services within the Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement over the property while the primary management will be by the private property owner.



General Description

The Welanee Watershed Forest proposal includes approximately 8,370 acres (8,375 GIS acres) of floodplain and adjacent upland habitat along the Yellow River, from the Florida-Alabama state line extending downstream for approximately 11.5 straight-line miles (estimated 15–16 river miles). The project contains two large timber tracts: the first is approximately 7,193 acres owned by H.T.L. Family Limited Partnership (HTL) that stretches along both sides of the Yellow River from the north boundary of the Yellow River Water Management Area to the Alabama state line. The second tract contains approximately 1,177 acres owned by U.I.L. Family Limited Partnership (UIL) that is located on the east side of the Yellow River which it borders for 3.6 miles. There is a small discontinuity within the northern tract at highway SR-2. Blackwater River State Forest lies generally 0.5 to 2 miles west of the northern tract, which encompasses both banks of the river, although the Forest and proposal share a small common border. The Yellow River Water Management Area lies immediately downstream of the northern tract (sharing a short common border) and directly across the river from the southern tract, which itself is restricted to the eastern side of the river.

The project is comprised of approximately 30% floodplain forest and wetlands, and 70% uplands, most of which is planted pine plantation that has been historically planted with loblolly pine. The project contains more than 500 acres of longleaf pine and, as loblolly pine is harvested, the owners are transitioning suitable uplands to longleaf pine. The project is managed under a very active prescribed fire regime, with the longleaf burned on a two-year rotation and other upland areas burned on a three-year rotation. The facilities and equipment for the management of the project's forest resources are located on-site. The project is managed not only for its timber resources, but also with the purpose of restoring longleaf pine habitat, particularly groundcover for wildlife. The property is managed to promote healthy populations of game wildlife such as whitetail deer and turkey.

Welanee Watershed Forest includes the same properties as the original Upper Yellow River Florida Forever project which was removed from the priority list in 2011 when the land was no longer available for acquisition.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gulf sturgeon	G3T2T3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Narrow pigtoe	G2/S1S2
Choctaw bean	G2G3/S1S2
Escambia map turtle	G2/S2
Alligator snapping turtle	G3/S3
Eastern chipmunk	G5/S2
Pine barrens treefrog	G4/S3
<i>little brown jug</i>	G5/S3

11 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

As the project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition, general public access is not available. However, upon coordination with the landowner, the Florida Forest Service could provide Operation Outdoor Freedom events and/or FWC could organize youth hunting opportunities.

Acquisition Planning

In October 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Welannee Watershed Forest project to the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. This less-than-fee project was proposed by Conservation Florida and consists of eleven parcels among two ownerships.

Coordination

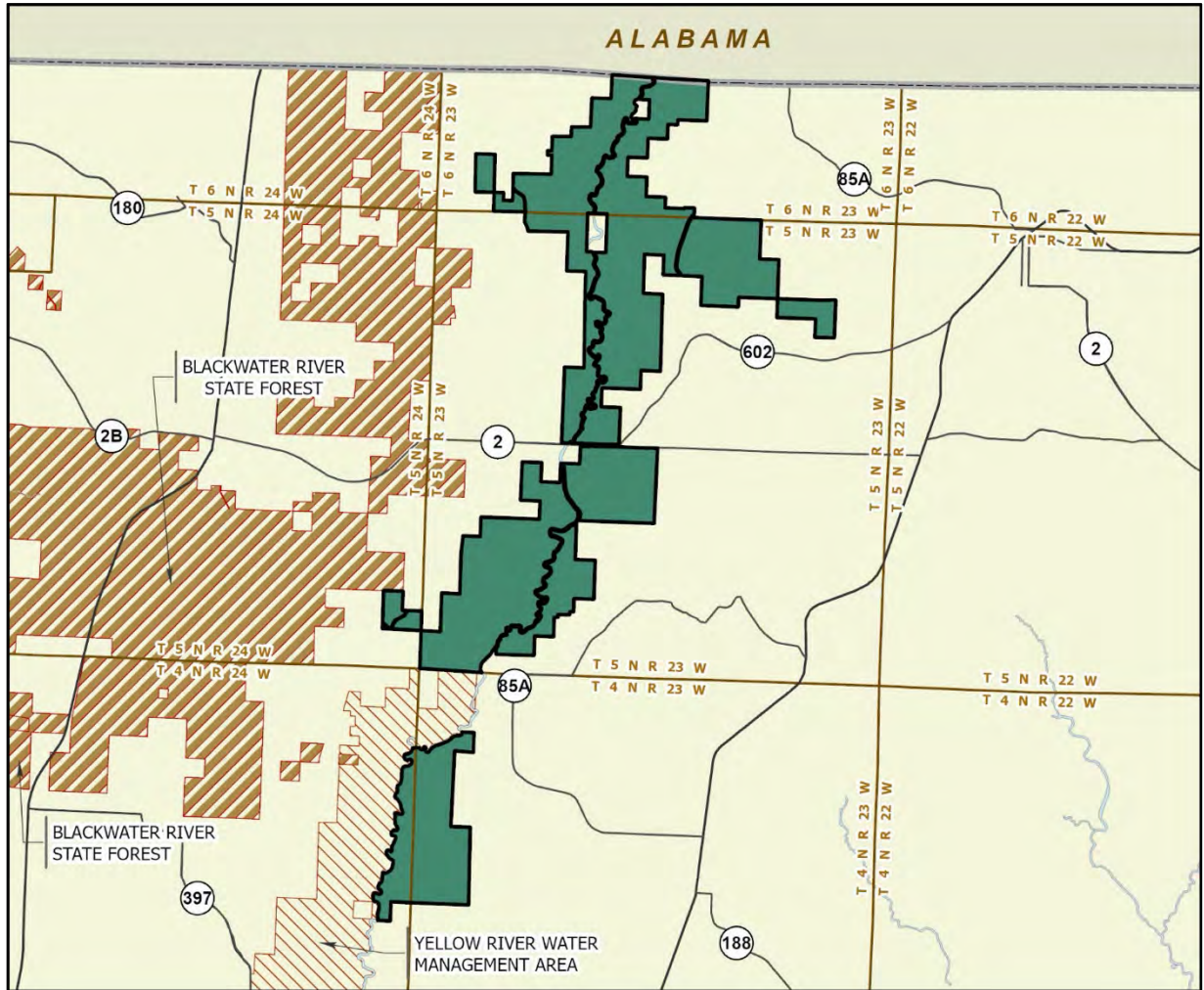
Additional funding to assist with acquisition has been secured through federal grants from the Forest Legacy Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The Forest Legacy Program requires a non-federal match of 25% which could be met with Florida Forever funds.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Welannee Watershed Forest project would continue to be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services within the Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement over the property while the primary management will be by the private property owner.



WELANNEE WATERSHED FOREST

OKALOOSA COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2021

Map 211: FNAI, January 2021



West Aucilla River Buffer

Less-Than-Fee Project

Jefferson

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2007
Project Acres	710
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	710
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$2,376,770

Purpose for State Acquisition

The West Aucilla River Buffer Florida Forever project is a single ownership of 710 acres to be a 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(s)

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

General Description

The 710-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.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4

1 rare species is associated with the project

Public Use

The project is a less-than-fee purchase with public access for hunting being offered to the handicapped. The landowner has committed to allowing handicap-access hunting as the only form of public access.



Acquisition Planning

2007

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 2007, the 721-acre project had a tax assessed 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.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Less-Than-Fee category of projects.

Coordination

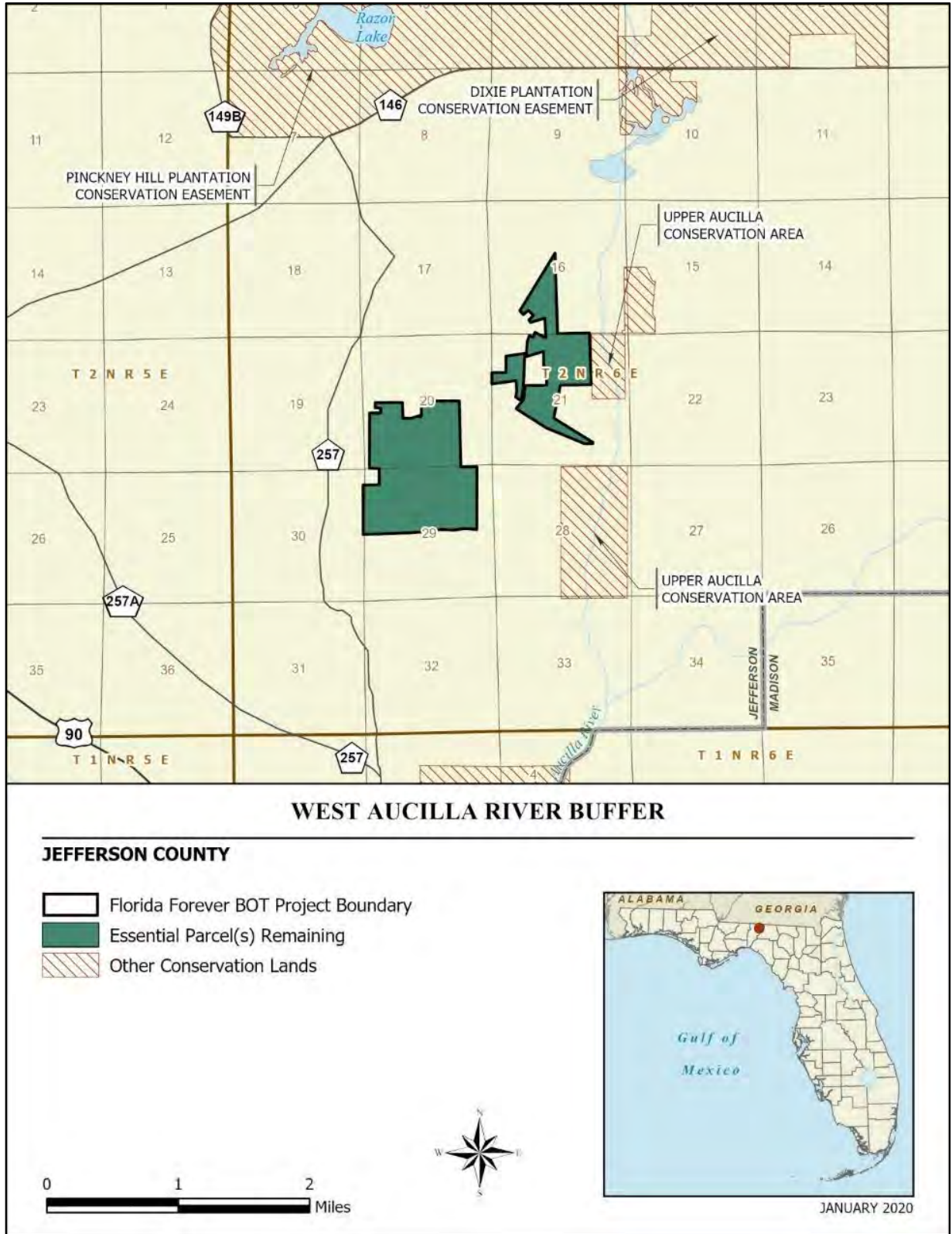
No partnerships for acquisition have been proposed. The SRWMD is not interested because it has no river frontage.

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 considered in the negotiation of the perpetual conservation easement.

Management Prospectus

Any conservation easements acquired in this project will be monitored by the Office of Environmental Services. The primary focus of any negotiated conservation easements will be maintenance of intact natural areas, low intensity silviculture and control of invasive exotic plants. The landowner has committed to allowing handicap access hunting as a form of public access.



Map 212: FNAI, January 2021



West Bay Preservation Area

Climate Change Lands Project

Bay

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2012
Project Acres	4,511
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	4,511
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$2,862,669

Purpose for State Acquisition

The purpose of State acquisition is to protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of the land, water, and wetlands systems and to increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities. Acquiring the project area, whether in fee or less-than-fee, would contribute to the protection of the natural shoreline, water quality, and aquatic resources of West Bay as well as Crooked Creek and Burnt Mill Creek.

Manager(s)

Bay County would manage the project if acquired in fee. If acquired in less-than-fee, the easement would be monitored by the Division of State Lands/Office of Environmental Services (OES).

General Description

The West Bay Preservation Area includes approximately 4,347 acres (FNAI GIS) of St. Joe Company property in Southwestern Bay County. The three parcels border the 9,600-acre Panama City Airport Conservation Easement managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It is bounded on the north by CR 388, on the south by West



Bay and CR 2300, on the west by Crooked Creek, and on the east by North Bay and the west boundary of the Fanning Creek Water Basin. The entire project area is undeveloped.

West Bay Preservation Area encompasses about 6 miles of frontage on West Bay and 1.7 miles on North Bay. It includes 6.1 miles of creek bank of Crooked and Burnt Mill Creeks. Both creeks are major sources of fresh water draining into West Bay. Protection of the project lands, when added to the Panama City Airport Conservation Easement and Breakfast Point Mitigation Bank lands, would preserve in natural condition a total of roughly 14.4 miles of the 30-mile West Bay shorefront.

About 40 percent of the project is in natural condition and the rest is in pine plantation. Most of the land in natural condition is concentrated near the coast and along the creek shores. The remainder is in inland freshwater wetlands and embedded pine plantation. Of the natural communities, salt marsh makes up the largest acreage. Extensive tidal flats are found in the upper portion of the salt marshes, and an approximately 100-foot-wide band of seagrasses was observed in 2011 between Burnt Mill and Crooked Creeks. Archaeologically, there are 17 sites on the Florida Master Site File located within the project boundary.

Approximately 96 percent of the proposal is habitat for between three and seven focal species (imperiled or rare wildlife). Approximately 60 percent of the West Bay Preservation Area lies within a designated FWC Species Habitat Conservation Area for the America swallow-tailed kite Coopers hawk, and Gulf salt marsh snake.

There are hunting leases and timbering agreements on the property. Numerous dirt roads provide access to the project parcels; however, easement rights would be needed to cross St. Joe Company land and access the project parcels. Gulf Power owns the entire 200-foot-wide utility corridor extending in a westerly direction from their nearby power plant. It divides the three portions of the project and establishes the northerly boundaries for several of the project parcels. These lands have been designated by the County to have a Future Land Use of Conservation and are bound by a Stipulated Settlement Agreement requiring St. Joe Company to make the properties available for purchase for preservation, and to assist Bay County with the acquisition for preservation.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bald eagle	G5/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Florida clapper rail	G5T3?/S3?
Royal tern	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4

7 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The management prospectus prepared by Bay County states that, if the property is acquired in fee, the primary management purpose will be protection of West Bay and restoration of the natural communities, while encouraging natural resource-based recreation that does not detract or interfere with that purpose. With easements and public access to the different areas, the resource-based recreation activities that were identified to be most suitable for the project would be hiking, off road bicycling, picnicking, primitive camping, nature study trails, canoe/kayaking, geocaching, and horseback riding trails.

Acquisition Planning

2011

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added this project to the Florida Forever priority list in the Less-than-Fee category. This is a one ownership project, and the owner is anticipating selling it in one transaction. When this project was approved in 2011, it had a tax assessed value of \$6,300,000.

Coordination

There is potential for partnerships both in funding and in management. The Department of Defense (DOD) has expressed support for this project and will apply for federal acquisition dollars to partner in its purchase. The County has also expressed interest in partnering with the Gulf Coast State College for management and use of the part of the property (easternmost segment) for natural resource appreciation, education, and restoration.

Management Policy Statement

This project will be managed to buffer and enhance West Bay, while providing compatible recreational and educational opportunities.



Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

This project meets the following goals for Florida Forever projects as required in statute:

- (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 level;
- (c) Protect, restore and maintain the quality of 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;
- (f) Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites; and
- (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

There could be the possibility of matching funds for this proposal through a Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) grant from the DOD. This project overlaps with the military’s need to protect lands, water, and habitat to ensure the sustainability of military missions, protecting areas underlying low-level military operating areas, described in 259.105(10)(b), Florida Statutes.

Manager

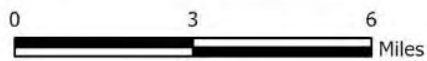
Bay County could manage the project area if it were acquired fee simple, or current landowner would manage, with Division of State Land providing for periodic monitoring of conservation easement.



WEST BAY PRESERVATION AREA

BAY COUNTY

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



FEBRUARY 2021

Map 213: FNAI, January 2021



Withlacoochee River Corridor

Less-Than-Fee Project

Citrus, Hernando

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2020
Project Acres	3,286
Acquired Acres	0
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	3,286
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$7,651,347

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Withlacoochee River Corridor project will create a conservation corridor along the Withlacoochee River between existing state-owned conservation lands. The project will: (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; and, (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.

Manager(s)

If acquired as a perpetual conservation easement, primary management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the easement would be coordinated by the Florida DEP, Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services.

General Description

The Withlacoochee River Corridor represents a total of 3,359 acres in Citrus and Hernando counties owned by Triple S. Ranch LLC and Mr. Scott Adams (1, 714 acres), Trustees of the Richard J. Miller Revocable Trust (378 acres), Terrence Cronin, Jr. (97 acres), JEM Investments Ltd. (52 acres), Cosmic Mortgage Corporation (544 acres), and Ray W. Stevenson (574 acres).



The project is characterized by uplands in vary degrees of natural condition that lie within a vast complex of wetlands such as basin swamps and willow marshes associated with the floodplain along the Withlacoochee River. This district is generally referred to as the Lime Sink Region, characterized by low rolling limestone plains overlain by thin sands supporting a maze of swamps, marshes, and lakes in a matrix of flatwoods and oak hammocks.

The project's most outstanding natural features area the limestone caves and canyons often referred to as "fern grottos." The project contains several terrestrial cave entrances and includes a portion of the Pineola Fern Grotto Cave Complex. Rich upland hardwood forests are found in the immediate vicinity of these unique karst features and together they provide valuable habitat for rare flora and fauna; including copious numbers of rare ferns and two rare species of bat. The striking assemblage of hardwood forests and rare geological formations has been the subject of interest for botanists for over 100 years. Significant cultural sites from from Florida's prehistoric and historic periods, are documented throughout the project.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Eastern indigo snake	G3/S2?
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
<i>modest spleenwort</i>	G1/S1
<i>Curtiss' spleenwort</i>	GNA/S1
<i>creeping maiden fern</i>	G5/S2
<i>plume polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>widespread polypody</i>	G5/S2
<i>brittle maidenhair fern</i>	G5/S3
Southeastern bat	G4/S3
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Osprey	G5/S3S4
Little blue heron	G5/S4

14 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The Withlacoochee River Corridor project is proposed for less-than-fee with no public access. However, the project will protect the scenic resources of the Withlacoochee State Trail located on the westernmost boundary of the project. The project will provide additional public benefit through imperiled species protection, protection of unique geological formations, rural landscape conservation, and a wildlife corridor.

Acquisition Planning

2020

In June 2020, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the 1,714-acre Withlacoochee River Corridor project to the Less-Than-Fee category of the 2021 Florida Forever



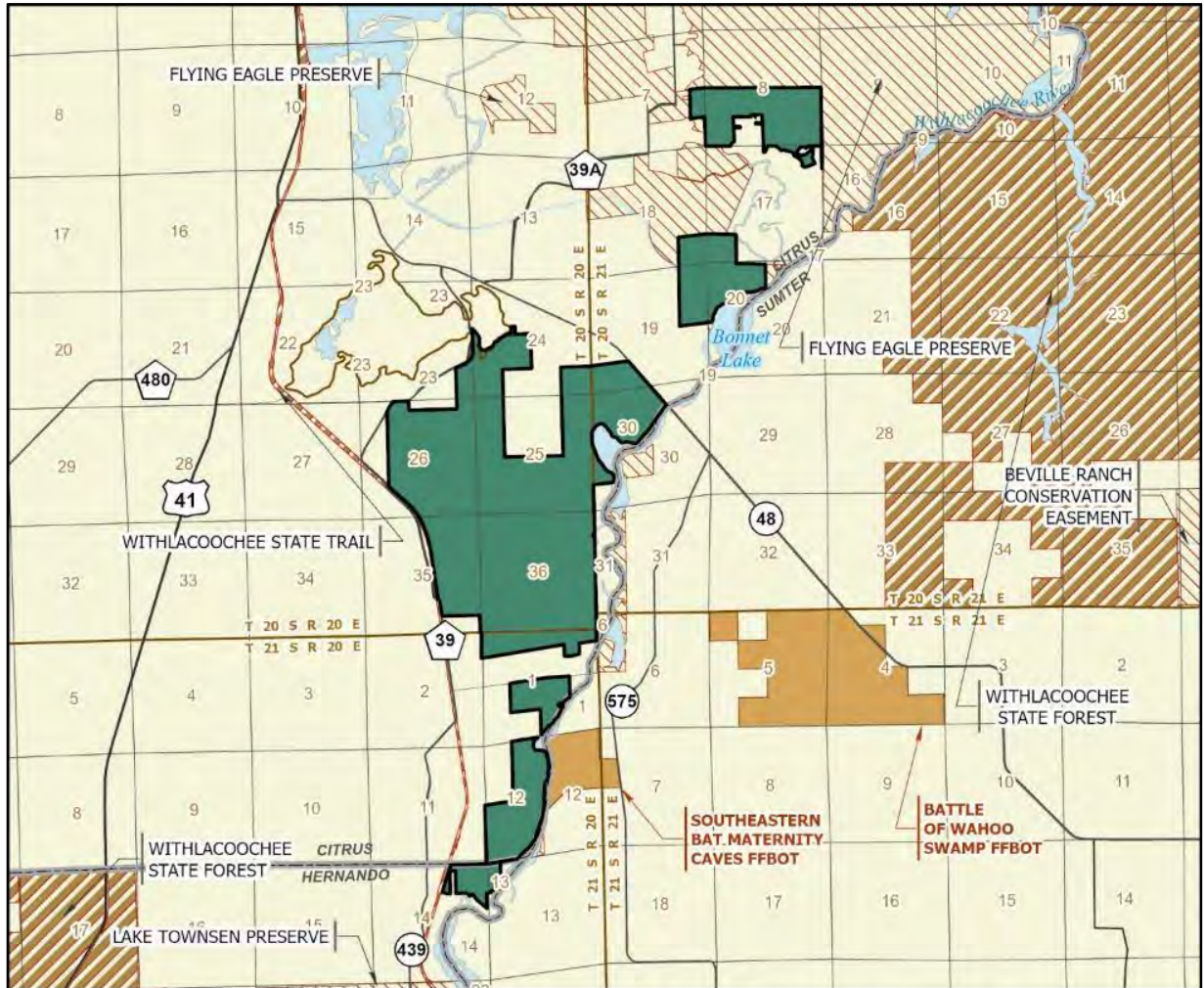
Priority List. This less-than-fee project was proposed by Conservation Florida and consists of multiple parcels among two ownerships.

In October 2020 ARC the 1,645-acre Withlacoochee River Addition was approved by ARC and added to the project. It was comprised of an additional five ownerships containing acres along the west shoreline of the Withlacoochee River, and was the result of feedback received during an assessment team site visit in February 2020 to the Withlacoochee River Corridor project.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Withlacoochee River Corridor project would continue to be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement Management Prospectus

The Office of Environmental Services within the Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement over the property while the primary management will be by the private property owner.



WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER CORRIDOR

CITRUS COUNTY

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



JANUARY 2021



Map 214: FNAI, January 2021



Wolfe Creek Forest

Critical Natural Lands Project
Santa Rosa

Project-at-a-Glance

Year Added to Priority List	2010
Project Acres	10,139
Acquired Acres	1,452
Cost of Acquired Acres	\$0
Remaining Project Acres	8,687
2019 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres	\$10,358,199

Purpose for State Acquisition

Acquiring the Wolfe Creek Forest project will conserve and protect wildlife species and protect and provide opportunities for carefully controlled public uses, including sustainably managed silvicultural practices. Purposes of acquisition include protection of the biodiversity, protection of the quality and natural functions of the land and water systems, protection of the surface waters of the state, provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, and provision of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.

Conservation of lands within the project would afford protection to numerous seepages and blackwater stream systems that are contiguous with these conservation lands and the Blackwater River. These stream systems support numerous rare aquatic flora and fauna and are considered a focal habitat of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Twelve archaeological sites, two of which are historic and ten of which are prehistoric, one of which is Wolfe Creek Mill, are within the project.

Manager(s)

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is recommended as manager of the project.



General Description

The Wolfe Creek Forest project for fee-simple acquisition includes approximately 10,058 (GIS) acres in central Santa Rosa County, between Blackwater River State Forest (Forest) to the east, and Whiting Field Naval Air Station to the southwest. It has a tax-assessed value of \$14,080,729, all of which are essential parcels. This project shares 5.7 miles of its southern boundary with two disjunct tracts of the state forest, forming a connection between all three tracts. Within it run 35 miles of streams that feed into Big Coldwater Creek and Big Juniper Creek, two major tributaries of the Blackwater River. The nearest city is Milton, Florida. The property is owned by Conservation Forestry of Florida, LLC, and is managed by American Forest Management.

Most of the site (82 percent) is in various stages of intensively managed pine plantation in areas that historically supported upland pine forest and sandhills. Approximately 18 percent of the site can be readily classified into natural communities. The most prominent and those in the best condition are wetlands that include seepage and blackwater streams, and associated bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, and baygall. A few dome swamps occur with the plantations. Upland natural communities include a few small areas of mesic flatwoods and mesic hammock. The highest elevations, 220 feet above mean sea level, occur in the northernmost portion of the project (upper Wolfe Creek), and on either side of County Road 191 in the easternmost portion. The lowest elevations, around 30 feet above sea level, are in the Coldwater Creek floodplain in the western part of the proposal. From CR 191 the terrain generally slopes downward to the east, toward Big Juniper Creek. West of the road, and from north to south, the terrain slopes downward in a southwesterly direction toward Coldwater Creek.

The project is within a large gap in conservation lands between Whiting Field, outparcels of Blackwater River State Forest, and the main tract of the Forest. The Wolfe Creek Forest tract, according to the Florida Master Site File, holds 12 archaeological sites, two of which are historic. Ten of these are prehistoric, and one of those is Wolfe Creek Mill.



FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>hairy-peduncled beaksedge</i>	G3/S3
Southeastern weasel	G5T4/S3?
Little blue heron	G5/S4

7 rare species are associated with the project

Public Use

The project has potential for a variety of forest related recreational activities including activities such as canoeing, bird watching, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, biking, environmental education, nature study and photography. Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor resource-based recreation activities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing.

Acquisition Planning

2010

On June 11, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Wolfe Creek Forest project to the Florida Forever priority list in the Critical Natural Lands category. After the most recent boundary change in 2010, the project had a combined, historic, estimated tax value of \$14,080,729.

2016

On November 3, 2016, the DEP Bureau of Real Estate Service closed on a 626.-acre restrictive easement to protect flight operations at nearby Whiting Field. The FFS will manage the easement to restore and maintain native ecosystems.

Coordination

The Department of Defense (DOD) has been interested in partnering with the state for nearby lands, however, they have not expressed a specific interest in assisting in the acquisition of this tract. Furthermore, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWM) does not have interest in acquisition of this tract.

Management Policy Statement

The FFS has submitted a management prospectus for this project, with the primary land management goals of restoration, maintenance and protection in perpetuity of all native



ecosystems; integration of compatible human uses; and insurance of long-term viability of populations and species considered rare.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

The tract is dominated by silviculture, but many of the plantations have retained some of the understory including wiregrass, bluestem grass, and gallberry and yaupon holly. With thinning, prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silviculture to an area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits. With the removal of offsite pine species, replanting of longleaf pines, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, and this project could be restored to a more natural state. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest.

Manager

The FFS is recommended as manager.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Much of the project's upland pine and sandhill areas have been altered by silvicultural operations and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber species are off-site species will necessitate removal as well as the restoration of native ground covers and canopy. Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development and implementation, because several rare or listed species are expected to occur in the project. Development of facilities, as on all conservation lands, would be kept to a level necessary to assure a high-quality experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration efforts will focus on introduction of prescribed fire, removal of offsite pine species, exotic species treatment, facilitating the restoration of native groundcovers, and possibly wetland restoration. The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be moderate to high initially 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.

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

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to the FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor resource-based recreation activities such as hiking, hunting



and fishing. The FFS 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, 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 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 ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project are conceptual in nature. 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 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 identify areas that are appropriate 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 FFS 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. High impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the



natural environment. Unnecessary roads, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Please note that capital project expenditures are needed on this tract 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, 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 FFS intends to apply for capital project funds.

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 moderately high.

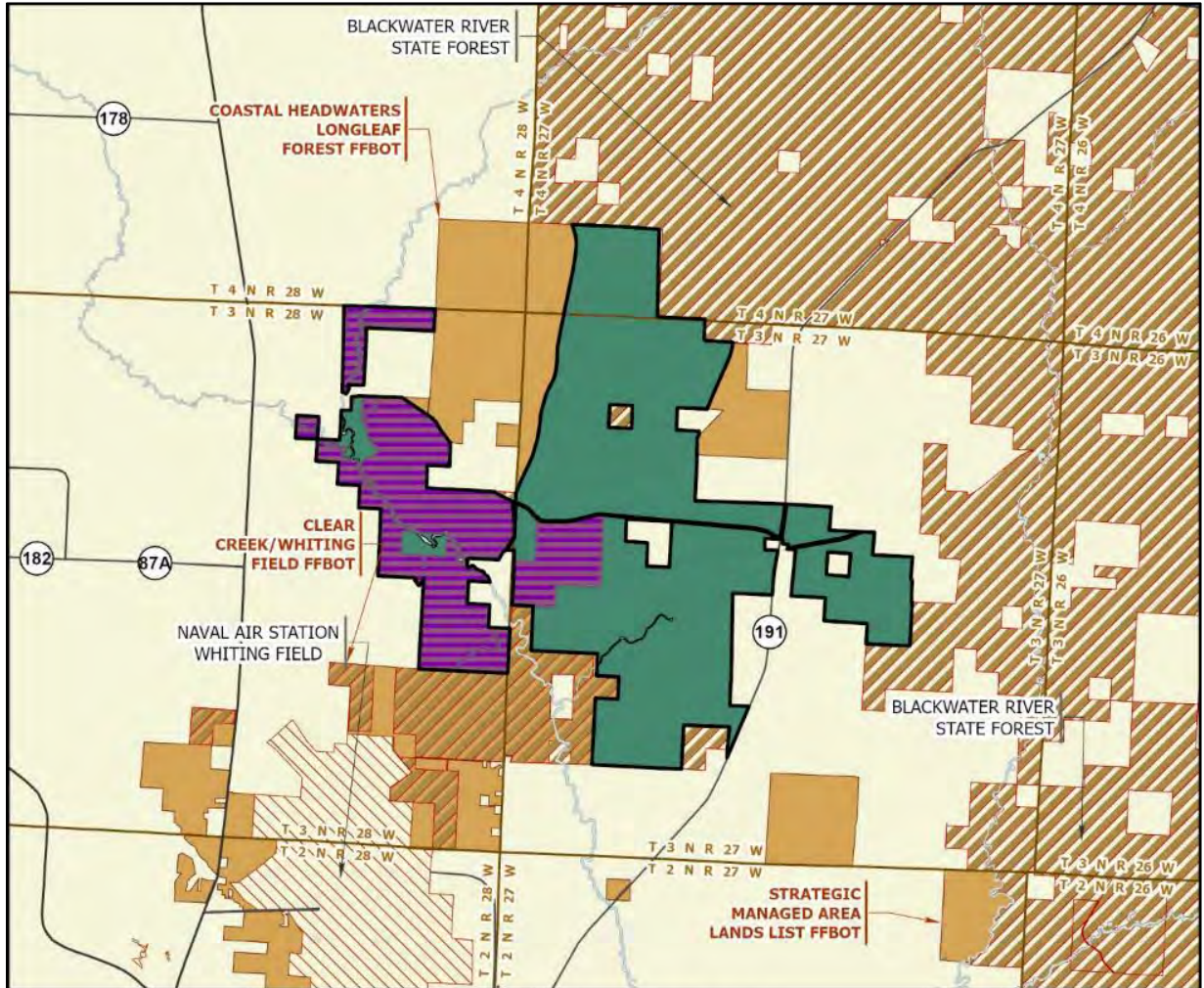
Cooperators in management activities

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

Management Cost Summary

<u>FFS</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	not provided
Salary (4 FTE)	\$132,141	not provided
Expense	\$315,000	not provided
OCO	\$188,600	not provided
TOTAL	\$635,741	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



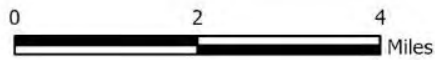
WOLFE CREEK FOREST

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

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



FEBRUARY 2021



Map 215: FNAI, January 2021



Florida Forever Project Prioritization History

	Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Adams Ranch	2007	Less-Than-Fee Projects	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
2	Annutteliga Hammock	1995	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	8	7	7	9	7	7	8	8	11	10
3	Apalachicola River	1991	Critical Natural Lands Projects	4	5	4	2	3	1	1	1	1	1
4	Arbuckle Creek Watershed	2014	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	0	16	16	14	14	14	12	11	9
5	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	1991	Climate Change Lands Projects	10	10	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	5
6	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	1995	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	20	16	23	21	21	23	22	22	26	29
7	Ayavalla Plantation	2008	Less-Than-Fee Projects	5	7	11	9	9	11	10	10	12	14
8	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	27	26	26	30	26	26	28	28	28	30
9	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	2002	Critical Historical Resources Projects	5	5	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
10	Bear Creek Forest	2004	Critical Natural Lands Projects	21	22	20	19	19	19	19	20	22	23
11	Bear Hammock	2008	Critical Natural Lands Projects	22	27	23	27	25	22	21	23	28	27
12	Belle Meade	1993	Critical Natural Lands Projects	9	10	15	15	14	13	9	10	11	12
13	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	2000	Less-Than-Fee Projects	8	8	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	13
14	Blue Head Ranch	2012	Critical Natural Lands Projects	0	4	6	6	6	6	7	7	4	6
15	Bluefield to Cow Creek	2020	Less-than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
16	Bombing Range Ridge	1998	Critical Natural Lands Projects	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	3	4
17	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	1993	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	8
18	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	1998	Critical Natural Lands Projects	12	21	19	17	21	18	17	18	20	21
19	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	2010	Critical Natural Lands Projects	18	16	21	20	20	20	20	21	24	25
20	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	2001	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	29	27	29	29	28	29	29	29	29	31
21	Catfish Creek	1990	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	18	22	22	22	22	22	23	23	24	24
22	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	1972	Substantially Complete Projects	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
23	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	1992	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	18	19	18	16	12	13	14	13	10	9
24	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	7	8	8	7	8	6	6	7	7	6
25	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	2014	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	0	15	15	10	5	4	3	3	3
26	Conlin Lake X	2015	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	0	0	0	4	4	6	5	5	4



	Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
27	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	1991	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	6	9	6	6	6	8	7	5	5	5
28	Corrigan Ranch	2019	Critical Natural Lands Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17
29	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	1985	Climate Change Lands Projects	6	5	6	6	4	4	3	3	3	4
30	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2020	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
31	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	2007	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	24	24	24	26	23	28	25	26	27	28
32	Dade County Archipelago	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	14	13	14	13	14	20	18	19	17	22
33	Devil's Garden	2002	Critical Natural Lands Projects	15	15	16	14	16	15	15	12	16	15
34	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	1996	Climate Change Lands Projects	11	7	7	7	7	6	4	2	4	3
35	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	2013	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	16	16	17	18	18	19	20	19	20
36	Econfina Timberlands	2019	Critical Natural Lands Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	33
37	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	1995	Critical Natural Lands Projects	10	12	7	13	10	10	10	11	10	10
38	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	2000	Less-Than-Fee Projects	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
39	Flagler County Blueway	2003	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	13	15	12	12	13	12	13	12	13	14
40	Florida Keys Ecosystem	1992	Climate Change Lands Projects	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
41	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	1995	Climate Change Lands Projects	8	6	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	4
42	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	1991	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
43	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	2019	Critical Natural Lands Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
44	Garcon Ecosystem	1995	Climate Change Lands Projects	13	12	13	13	11	11	12	11	10	7
45	Green Swamp	2015	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	11	12	12
46	Gulf Hammock	2004	Less-Than-Fee Projects	12	11	9	8	7	7	7	8	10	11
47	Half Circle L Ranch	2003	Critical Natural Lands Projects	19	18	18	22	18	11	8	9	12	13
48	Hall Ranch	1997	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	30	30	27	28	25	25	24	24	25	27
49	Hardee Flatwoods	2017	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	0	0	0	0	18	18	23	23	23
50	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	12	12	11	8	9	9	10	10	9	13
51	Hixtown Swamp	1993	Critical Natural Lands Projects	31	34	33	33	33	33	31	31	34	34
52	Horse Creek Ranch	2010	Less-Than-Fee Projects	24	25	25	28	26	25	25	21	21	22
53	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	2002	Less-Than-Fee Projects	16	16	15	18	17	16	17	17	20	19



	Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
54	Ichetucknee Trace	1997	Critical Natural Lands Projects	32	33	30	32	32	32	32	33	35	36
55	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	1998	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	4
56	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	2002	Less-Than-Fee Projects	20	20	8	10	11	10	8	7	7	8
57	Lafayette Forest	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	28	29	28	27	27	27	26	25	21	21
58	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	2002	Critical Natural Lands Projects	24	29	26	25	27	26	26	28	29	29
59	Lake Santa Fe	2004	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	21	20	17	15	15	15	15	15	22	20
60	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	1992	Critical Natural Lands Projects	1	1	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	2
61	Limestone Ranch	2012	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	23	24	25	25	26	28	29	30	32
62	Little River Conservation Area	2004	Less-Than-Fee Projects	22	24	26	27	28	27	26	27	29	29
63	Lochloosa Forest	2016	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	0	0	0	0	14	12	12	14	14	15
64	Lochloosa Wildlife	1994	Substantially Complete Projects	6	5	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	6
65	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	1993	Critical Natural Lands Projects	11	13	13	9	11	9	11	13	14	11
66	Lower Perdido River Buffer	2002	Less-Than-Fee Projects	18	18	20	21	23	22	24	26	26	30
67	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	2019	Less-Than-Fee Projects	6	3	3	4	3	3	5	6	6	7
68	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	2016	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	0	0	0	15	12	11	11	13	12
69	Maytown Flatwoods	2010	Less-Than-Fee Projects	20	21	21	22	20	17	20	22	24	24
70	Middle Chipola River	1996	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	17	21	21	23	17	16	17	17	16	16
71	Mill Creek	2003	Less-Than-Fee Projects	17	17	18	19	19	20	22	24	25	25
72	Millstone Plantation	2001	Less-Than-Fee Projects	27	28	29	31	30	29	31	32	34	35
73	Myakka Ranchlands	2007	Less-Than-Fee Projects	7	5	5	5	5	6	3	4	4	5
74	Natural Bridge Creek	2012	Critical Natural Lands Projects	0	25	28	21	24	27	27	25	26	26
75	North Waccasassa Flats	2018	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	30	27	27
76	Northeast Florida Blueway	2001	Climate Change Lands Projects	4	3	2	2	2	3	5	5	5	3
77	Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	2002	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
78	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	2005	Less-Than-Fee Projects	4	7	9	6	6	8	9	9	15	10
79	Old Town Creek Watershed	2001	Less-Than-Fee Projects	21	22	23	26	27	24	27	28	31	33
80	Osceola Pine Savannas	1995	Critical Natural Lands Projects	14	11	9	12	13	14	14	16	18	18



	Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
81	Pal-Mar	1992	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	22	18	16	17	16	17	16	16	15	17
82	Panther Glades	2001	Critical Natural Lands Projects	5	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	7
83	Peace River Refuge	2010	Less-Than-Fee Projects	19	19	19	23	21	19	21	19	22	21
84	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	1995	Critical Natural Lands Projects	17	23	24	24	23	24	24	24	27	28
85	Pierce Mound Complex	1994	Critical Historical Resources Projects	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
86	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	2004	Critical Natural Lands Projects	13	14	12	11	12	12	13	14	15	16
87	Pineland Site Complex	1996	Critical Historical Resources Projects	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3
88	Pinhook Swamp	1992	Critical Natural Lands Projects	26	24	22	23	22	21	22	22	25	24
89	Pringle Creek Forest	2012	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	0	31	30	30	29	30	30	30	30	32
90	Pumpkin Hill Creek	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	26	25	25	25	24	24	27	27	23	25
91	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	2010	Less-Than-Fee Projects	14	14	13	14	12	13	16	16	17	15
92	Rainbow River Corridor	2007	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	23	23	20	19	19	19	20	18	19	18
93	Ranch Reserve	1997	Less-Than-Fee Projects	11	13	14	12	16	15	15	15	16	17
94	Red Hills Conservation	2019	Less-Than-Fee Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6
95	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	2003	Less-Than-Fee Projects	23	20	22	24	22	21	23	25	28	28
96	San Pedro Bay	2003	Critical Natural Lands Projects	27	28	27	28	28	28	25	27	30	30
97	Sand Mountain	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	25	28	13	20	20	21	21	21	20	23
98	Save Our Everglades	1984	Substantially Complete Projects	5	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	7	7
99	Seven Runs Creek Final Phase	2017	Less-Than-Fee Projects	3	4	0	0	0	13	13	14	9	16
100	Shoal River Buffer	2010	Critical Natural Lands Projects	29	32	29	29	29	29	28	29	31	31
101	South Goethe	2006	Critical Natural Lands Projects	23	19	14	16	15	16	18	19	19	20
102	South Walton County Ecosystem	1995	Substantially Complete Projects	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	2
103	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	1994	Critical Natural Lands Projects	28	30	31	30	30	30	29	30	32	32
104	Spruce Creek	1990	Substantially Complete Projects	3	3	5	5	5	6	6	7	6	5
105	St. Joe Timberland	2000	Climate Change Lands Projects	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	2	2
106	St. Johns River Blueway	2002	Climate Change Lands Projects	7	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	6
107	Strategic Managed Area Lands List	2018	Critical Natural Lands Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	8	8



	Project Name	First Year Listed	Project Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
108	Suwannee County Preservation	2010	Less-Than-Fee Projects	25	26	27	30	29	28	29	33	33	34
109	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	2017	Climate Change Lands Projects	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	11	8
110	Telogia Creek	2019	Critical Natural Lands Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	37
111	Terra Ceia	1996	Climate Change Lands Projects	9	9	11	11	12	12	14	13	13	11
112	Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island	2001	Climate Change Lands Projects	15	13	12	12	13	13	13	14	14	10
113	Triple Diamond	2009	Critical Natural Lands Projects	7	9	10	7	8	8	12	15	0	14
114	Twelvemile Slough	2001	Critical Natural Lands Projects	16	17	17	18	17	17	16	17	21	22
115	Upper Shoal River	2003	Critical Natural Lands Projects	30	31	32	31	31	31	30	32	36	35
116	Volusia Conservation Corridor	2001	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	10	6	9	10	10	10	9	9	8	7
117	Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks	1985	Critical Natural Lands Projects	6	7	8	8	7	7	6	6	7	5
118	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	1997	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	9	10	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	3
119	Watermelon Pond	1994	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	15	17	19	18	18	18	19	20	18	19
120	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	1995	Critical Natural Lands Projects	3	3	2	4	4	4	5	5	6	3
121	Welannee Watershed Forest	2020	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
122	West Aucilla River Buffer	2007	Less-Than-Fee Projects	26	27	28	29	24	30	30	31	32	31
123	West Bay Preservation Area	2012	Climate Change Lands Projects	12	11	10	10	10	10	11	12	12	9
124	Withlacoochee River Corridor	2020	Less-than-Fee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
125	Wolfe Creek Forest	2010	Critical Natural Lands Projects	25	26	25	26	26	25	23	26	23	19



Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries of Hearings/Meetings January - December 2020

Council Meeting, Friday, February 14, 2020

After hearing announcements (Interim Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation Mr. Shawn Hamilton announcing Deputy Secretary Ms. Barbara Goodman’s retirement, recognizing Mr. Jim Karels retirement with 12 years of service to the council and 35-year career with the Florida Forest Service[FFS], incoming FFS Director Mr. Erin Albury and Assistant Director Mr. Johnny Sabo) and approving the meeting summaries for December 12 and 13, 2019, the ARC approved the following:

- the fiscal year 2020-2021 Division of State Lands [DSL] Annual Florida Forever workplan for presentation to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund;
- a 1.07-acre reduction from the boundary of the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever Project (Monroe);
- a 0.94-acre reduction from the boundary of the Bombing Ridge Range Florida Forever Project (Polk);
- a 22.29-acre public transportation easement to the Florida Department of Transportation within Withlacoochee State Forest (FFS, Hernando/Sumter)(Linear Facilities Policy [LFP]);
- a 10-year management plan for Plank Road State Forest (FFS, Leon/Jefferson); and
- a 10-year management plan for Ruth B. Kirby Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park (Florida Park Service [FPS], Gilchrist).

ARC reviewed one minor management plan amendment; Goethe State Forest for an Operation Outdoor Freedom Hunt Camp (FFS, Levy). The ARC also considered the land management review reports from July to December 2019. The ARC also welcomed Ms. Deborah Burr, Office of Environmental Services Program Administrator and reviewed improvements to the ARC webpage.

Public Hearing, Wednesday, May 20, 2020

After hearing announcements, public comments were received for the Amtel Farms, Buck Island Ranch, Hendrie Ranch and Withlacoochee River Corridor Cycle 1 proposals. Ms. Glady Delgadillo (Conservancy of Southwest Florida) spoke in support of Amtel Farms, Dr. Hillary Swain (Archbold Biological Station) spoke in favor of Buck Island Ranch and Mr. Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife) spoke in favor of all four proposals.



Council Meeting, Friday, June 12, 2020

After hearing announcements (welcoming new member Mr. Erin Albury, Director of the Florida Forest Service and acknowledging Paula Allen's retirement from 34 years of service to the state including 15 years with the Florida Forever program), revisions to agenda items 2, 12, 15 and 16 and approving the meeting summaries for February and May, the ARC approved the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for Hillsborough River State Park (FPS, Hillsborough);
- a 10-year management plan update for Lake Talquin State Park (FPS, Leon);
- a 10-year management plan update for Picayune State Forest (FFS, Collier);
- a management plan for Fort Pickens State Park Aquatic Preserve (Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection [ORCP], Escambia/Santa Rosa);
- a 10-year management plan update for Silver Springs Conservation Area (Marion County, Marion);
- a management plan for Silver Springs Sandhill (Marion County, Marion);
- a 2.53-acre reduction from the boundary of the Bombing Ridge Range Florida Forever Project (Polk);
- a 995.0-acre addition to the boundary of the Bombing Ridge Range Florida Forever Project (Polk);
- a 170-acre addition to the boundary of the Natural Bridge Creek Florida Forever Project (Walton);
- a 149-acre addition to the boundary of the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Florida Forever Project (Citrus);
- a 2.45-acre public road right-of-way easement to Walton County within Eden Gardens State Park (FPS, Walton, LFP);
- a 3.62-acre private easement to Duke Energy within Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (FPS, Alachua, LFP);
- a 0.77-acre public right-of-way easement to FDOT within the East Coast Buffer (DSL, Miami-Dade, LFP);
- a 0.68-acre private single-family access easement to Mr. and Mrs. Harrell within Withlacoochee State Forest (FFS, Sumter, LFP);
- a 3.019-acre private access easement to Mr. Thomas Gaskins within Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area (FWC, Glades, LFP); and
- a 1.35-acre right-of-way easement to the City of Miramar within conservation lands managed by the South Florida Water Management District [SFWMD] (Miami-Dade, LFP).

The ARC received public testimony and voted unanimously to approve the Project Evaluation Reports for Amtel Farms (Glades/Hendry), Buck Island Ranch (Highlands), Hendrie Ranch (Highlands) and Withlacoochee River Corridor (Citrus) Cycle 1 Florida Forever Projects. The ARC unanimously approved the Withlacoochee River Corridor proposal as a stand-alone project. ARC approved the addition of Amtel Farms to the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Project boundary, Hendrie Ranch to the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Project boundary and Buck Island Ranch to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem Project boundary by unanimous vote.

The ARC received public testimony on Abington Ranch (Okeechobee), Bluefield to Cow Creek (St. Lucie/Okeechobee), Crayfish Habitat Restoration (Bay), Welannee Watershed Forest (Okaloosa) and Withlacoochee River Addition (Citrus/Hernando) Cycle 2 proposals and voted unanimously by seven members to further evaluate the proposals.



ARC reviewed one minor management plan amendment, Tenoroc public use are; two management plans for areas less than 160 acres, Erna Nixon Park and Suwannee River Greenway at Bradford; and four incompatible use requests for private easements within Blackwater River State Forest and underground utility easement across West Orange Trail.

Council Meeting, Friday, August 21, 2020

After hearing announcements and approving the meeting summary from June 12, 2020, the ARC approved the following:

- a 30.147-acre private electric transmission line easement across Torreya State Park, Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area, Lake Talquin State Forest, Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail, Wakulla State Forest and Plank Road State Forest (FPS/WMD/FFS, Gadsden/Leon/Jefferson, LFP);
- a 10-year management plan update for Bell Ridge Longleaf Wildlife and Environmental Area (FWC, Gilchrist);
- an amendment to the management plan for Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area (FWC, Franklin/Gulf);
- an amendment to the management plan for Box-R Wildlife Management Area (FWC, Franklin/Gulf);
- an amendment to the management plan for Charles H. Bronson State Forest (FFS, Orange/Seminole);
- a 10-year management plan update for Hugh Taylor Birch State Park (FFS, Broward);
- a 10-year management plan update for John D. MacArthur State Park (FFS, Palm Beach);
- a 347-acre addition to the boundary of the Apalachicola River Florida Forever Project (Gulf);
- a 249.5-acre addition to the boundary of the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever Project for the FWC (Hernando/Palm Beach); and
- a 41-acre addition to the boundary of the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever Project for the FFS (Lake).

ARC reviewed four minor management plan amendments, Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park for equipment storage facility, St. Andrews State Park for multipurpose pavilion, Twin Rivers State Park for vehicle access and parking, and Myakka State Forest for water quality and drainage improvements; one management plan for properties less than 160 acres for Pine Island Ridge; and one private easement across the East Central Regional Rail Trail.

Public Hearing, Tuesday, September 1, 2020

After hearing announcements, public comment was received on the Abington Ranch, Bluefield to Cow Creek, Crayfish Habitat Restoration, Welannee Watershed Forest and Withlacoochee River Addition Cycle 2 proposals. Mr. Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife) spoke in favor of the Abington Ranch, Bluefield to Cow Creek and Withlacoochee River Addition proposals.

Public Hearing, Wednesday, September 2, 2020

After hearing announcements, public comment was received on the Abington Ranch, Bluefield to Cow Creek, Crayfish Habitat Restoration, Welannee Watershed Forest and Withlacoochee River Addition Cycle 2 proposals. Mr. Kent



Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife) spoke in favor of the Crayfish Habitat Restoration and Welannee Watershed Forest proposals.

Council Meeting, Friday, October 9, 2020

After hearing announcements and approving the meeting summary from August 21, 2020, and regional hearing summaries from September 1 and 2, 2020, the ARC approved the following:

- removal of Tippen Bay Ranch, Caber Coastal Connector, Estero Bay and Upper St. Marks River Corridor projects from the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List;
- a 37.6-acre addition to the boundary of the Florida's First Magnitude Springs Florida Forever Project (Hernando);
- a 79.63-acre addition to the boundary of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever Project (Polk);
- a 221-acre addition to the boundary of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever Project (Highlands);
- a 354-acre addition to the boundary of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever Project (Highlands);
- surplus of a 0.98-acre parcel managed by the City of Doral to the City of Doral (Miami-Dade);
- surplus of a 0.29-acre parcel in the Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area in exchange for 1.01 acres of private property (FWC, Monroe);
- a 10-year management plan update for Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (FWC, Osceola); and
- a 10-year management plan update for Half Moon Wildlife Management Area (FWC, Sumter).

The ARC received public testimony and voted unanimously to approve the Project Evaluation Reports for Abington Ranch (Okeechobee), Bluefield to Cow Creek (St. Lucie/Okeechobee), Crayfish Habitat Restoration (Bay), Welannee Watershed Forest (Okaloosa) and Withlacoochee River Addition (Citrus/Hernando) Cycle 2 Florida Forever Projects. The ARC unanimously approved the Bluefield to Cow Creek, Crayfish Habitat Restoration and Welannee Watershed Forest proposals as stand-alone projects. ARC approved the addition of Abington Ranch to the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector boundary and the Withlacoochee River Addition to the Withlacoochee River Corridor boundary by a unanimous vote.

ARC reviewed one minor management plan amendment for a property less than 160 acres to develop a new trailhead at the Mosquito Lagoon Marine Enhancement Center and one incompatible use request for a public utility easement at the Withlacoochee State Trail. ARC also reviewed the DSL Annual Conservation Easement Monitoring update, the Annual Land Management Review Report, the Annual and Biennial Land Management Uniform Accounting Council Reports and received a presentation on the DSL acquisition program.

Public Hearing, Thursday, December 10, 2020

After hearing announcements, ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2021 Cycle 1 proposals for Big Pine Preserve by Ms. Susan Carr (North Florida Land Trust [NFLT]) and Wilson Ranch Property by Mr. Andrew Ketchel (Capital City Consulting).

ARC also heard presentations on boundary amendments for St. Johns River Blueway by Ms. Cherise Stewart (NFLT), Annutteliga Hammock by Ms. Laramie Ferry (FWC), Pinhook Swamp by Ms. Susan Carr (NFLT), Middle Chipola River by Mr. Jamie Streetman (representing the owner), Wekiva-Ocala Greenway by Mr. Carmen Rosamonda (City of DeBary),



Hardee Flatwoods by Mr. David Lott (representing the owner) and Wekiva-Ocala Greenway by Mr. Charles Power (owner).

ARC received public comments on the Florida Forever 2021 Cycle 1 Proposals and Florida Forever Project Boundary Amendments and other Florida Forever Projects.

Council Meeting, Friday, December 11, 2020

After hearing announcements and approving the meeting summary for October 9, 2020, ARC approved the following:

- 2021 ARC meeting calendar;
- 2021 Florida Forever priority list;
- A 2,213-acre reduction to the boundary of the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Florida Forever Project (Glades/Hendry);
- by seven yes-votes to further evaluate Big Pine Preserve (Marion) and Wilson Ranch (Polk) 2021 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals;
- a 112-acre addition to the boundary of the St. Johns River Blueway Florida Forever Project (Clay);
- a 48.3-acre addition to the boundary of the Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever Project (Hernando);
- a 147.5-acre addition to the boundary of the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever Project (Hamilton);
- a 49.41-acre addition to the boundary of the Middle Chipola River Florida Forever Project (Jackson);
- a 9-acre addition to the boundary of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Florida Forever Project (Seminole);
- a 170-acre addition to the boundary of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Florida Forever Project (Volusia);
- a 160-acre addition to the boundary of the Hardee Flatwoods Florida Forever Project (Hardee);
- a 10-year management plan update for the L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area (FWC, Leon);
- a 10-year management plan update for the Belmore State Forest (FFS, Clay);
- a 10-year management plan update for the Bahia Honda State Park (FPS, Monroe);
- surplus of an 8-acre parcel in the Blackwater River State Forest in exchange for 16 acres of private property (FFS, Okaloosa); and
- a 0.68-acre private single-family access easement within the Blackwater River State Forest (FFS, Santa Rosa, LFP).

ARC reviewed one management plan amendment for John M. Bethea State Forest for a new recreation area and equestrian trailhead improvements, two management plans updates for properties less than 160 acres: Arch Creek Park and Sunny Isles Beach and two public utility easement requests for Coupon Bight/Key Deer and Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail were approved via the negative response process.

2021 Florida Forever Projects by County

County	Project
Alachua	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub, Lake Santa Fe, Lochloosa Forest, Lochloosa Wildlife, San Felasco Conservation Corridor, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Watermelon Pond
Baker	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Pinhook Swamp, Raiford to Osceola Greenway
Bay	Bear Creek Forest, Crayfish Habitat Restoration, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Forest and Lakes Ecosystem, Sand Mountain, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, West Bay Preservation Area
Bradford	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Lake Santa Fe
Brevard	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Maytown Flatwoods, Ranch Reserve
Broward	Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Calhoun	Apalachicola River, Bear Creek Forest, Middle Chipola River
Charlotte	Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods, Hall Ranch
Citrus	Annutteliga Hammock, Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Florida Springs Coastal Greenway, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Rainbow River Corridor, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves, Withlacoochee River Corridor
Clay	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve, St. Johns River Blueway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Collier	Belle Meade, Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, Devil's Garden, Half Circle L Ranch, Save Our Everglades, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Columbia	Ichetucknee Trace, Pinhook Swamp, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
DeSoto	Horse Creek Ranch, Myakka Ranchlands, Peace River Refuge
Dixie	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Duval	Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's River, Northeast Florida Blueway, Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve, Pumpkin Hill Creek
Escambia	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest, Lower Perdido River Buffer, Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie



County	Project
Flagler	Flagler County Blueway, Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor, Northeast Florida Blueway, Pringle Creek Forest, Volusia Conservation Corridor
Franklin	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Pierce Mound Complex, St. Joe Timberland
Gadsden	Apalachicola River, Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone, Little River Conservation Area, Ochlockonee River Conservation Area, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Gilchrist	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, North Waccasassa Flats, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Glades	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape, Fisheating Creek Ecosystem
Gulf	Apalachicola River, Bear Creek Forest, St. Joe Timberland
Hamilton	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Hardee	Hardee Flatwoods, Horse Creek Ranch, Limestone Ranch, Old Town Creek Watershed
Hendry	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape, Devil's Garden, Half Circle L Ranch, Panther Glades, Twelvemile Slough
Hernando	Annutteliga Hammock, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Withlacoochee River Corridor
Highlands	Arbuckle Creek Watershed, Blue Head Ranch, Bombing Range Ridge, Eastern Scarp Ranchlands, Fisheating Creek Ecosystem, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem
Hillsborough	not applicable
Holmes	not applicable
Indian River	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector, Ranch Reserve
Jackson	Apalachicola River, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Middle Chipola River, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves
Jefferson	Econfina Timberlands, Red Hills Conservation, St. Joe Timberland, Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks, West Aucilla River Buffer
Lafayette	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Lafayette Forest, Strategic Managed Area Lands List



County	Project
Lake	Green Swamp, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
Lee	Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods, Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, Pineland Site Complex
Leon	Ayavalla Plantation, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Millstone Plantation, Ochlockonee River Conservation Area, Red Hills Conservation, St. Joe Timberland, Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
Levy	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Gulf Hammock, South Goethe, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Watermelon Pond
Liberty	Apalachicola River, Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone, St. Joe Timberland, Telogia Creek
Madison	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Hixtown Swamp, San Pedro Bay
Manatee	Myakka Ranchlands, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Terra Ceia
Marion	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, South Goethe, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves
Martin	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Pal-Mar
Miami-Dade	Dade County Archipelago, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Monroe	Coupon Bight/Key Deer, Florida Keys Ecosystem
Nassau	Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's River, Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve, Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island
Okaloosa	Shoal River Buffer, Welannee Watershed Forest
Okeechobee	Bluefield to Cow Creek, Corrigan Ranch, Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector, Triple Diamond
Orange	Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
Osceola	Adams Ranch, Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch, Bombing Range Ridge, Conlin Lake X, Lake Hatchineha Watershed, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Osceola Pine Savannas, Pine Island Slough Ecosystem, Ranch Reserve
Palm Beach	Pal-Mar, Strategic Managed Area Lands List



County	Project
Pasco	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch, Green Swamp
Pinellas	not applicable
Polk	Bombing Range Ridge, Catfish Creek, Green Swamp, Lake Hatchineha Watershed, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Old Town Creek Watershed
Putnam	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway, Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Santa Rosa	Clear Creek/Whiting Field, Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest, Garcon Ecosystem, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wolfe Creek Forest
Sarasota	Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Myakka Ranchlands
Seminole	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
St. Johns	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor, Northeast Florida Blueway, St. Johns River Blueway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
St. Lucie	Bluefield to Cow Creek, Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Sumter	Battle of Wahoo Swamp, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves
Suwannee	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Suwannee County Preservation
Taylor	San Pedro Bay, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Taylor Sweetwater Creek, Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks
Union	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway, Raiford to Osceola Greenway, Strategic Managed Area Lands List
Volusia	Indian River Lagoon Blueway, Longleaf Pine Ecosystem, Spruce Creek, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Volusia Conservation Corridor, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
Wakulla	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List, Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
Walton	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Natural Bridge Creek, Seven Runs Creek Final Phase, South Walton County Ecosystem, St. Joe Timberland, Upper Shoal River
Washington	Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Forest and Lakes Ecosystem, Sand Mountain, Seven Runs Creek Final Phase, St. Joe Timberland, Strategic Managed Area Lands List