



APPENDIX B

Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries of Hearings/Meetings

January through December 2023

Council Meeting, February 10, 2023

There were no announcements. After approving the meeting summaries for December 8-9, 2022, the ARC approved the following:

- the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Division of State Lands (DSL) Annual Florida Forever work plan for presentation to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- an owner-requested deletion of 0.12 acres from the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Monroe).
- a 40-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Santa Rosa).
- a 10-year management plan update for the Deep Creek Conservation Area (SJRWMD/St. Johns and Putnam).
- a 10-year management plan update for the Ochlockonee River State Park (DRP/Wakulla).
- a 10-year management plan update for the Bald Point State Park (DRP/Franklin).
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The ARC considered the land management review reports from July to December 2022 without comment and an acquisition update from Mr. Robbie Parish (DSL Bureau of Real Estate Services). No comments were offered during the public comment period. The ARC heard presentations on the FNAI Florida Forever Progress Report and the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability.

Regional Hearing, March 13, 2023

After the hearing an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Commissioner Jeff Bower (Volusia County Commission Chair) and Ms. Suzanne Scheiber (Volusia County Forever) spoke in favor of the Carter Quail Ranch proposal.

Regional Hearing, March 14, 2023

After the hearing an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Mr. Harold Baxter (Creek Ranch, LLC), Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler), Mr. Jason Totoin (Center for Biological Diversity), and Ms. Gaye Sharpe (Polk County) all spoke in favor of the Creek Ranch proposal.





Regional Hearing and Council Meeting, April 14, 2023

The regional hearing began with the introduction of Mr. Rick Dolan as new FFS Director and new OES staff members George Frisby and Matthew Norton. After the hearing an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Mara Gambineri (DEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation) called for public comment.

The ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 project proposals for Avalon Phase II by Mr. Peter Kleinhenz (Tall Timbers). Carter-Quail Ranch by Mr. Tim Telfer (Volusia County). Creek Ranch by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (Saunders Ralston Dantzler Real Estate). Floyd's Mound by Mr. Shane Wellendorf (Tall Timbers). Quail Creek Ranch and Williamson Cattle Company by Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group).

The ARC received public comments on the Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 1 project proposals. Mr. Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife and Coordinator for the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape) spoke in favor of all six proposals.

After a brief recess, the business meeting began with the announcement that the Floyd's Marsh proposal had been changed to fee-simple with the Division of Historical Resources as manager. After approving the summaries for the February 10, March 13, and March 14 meetings, the ARC approved the following:

- a revision to the Interim Management Guidelines.
- a 0.49-acre private utility easement to Solar FL 2018, LLC, within the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area (DRP/Citrus).
- a 9.30-acre private utility easement to Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc., within the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area (DRP/Marion).
- a 31.29-acre private utility easement to Duke Energy within the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area (FWC/Polk and Lake) and the Tenoroc Public Use Area (FWC/Polk).
- a 10-year management plan update for Watson Island State Forest (FFS/St. Johns).
- a 10-year management plan update for Juno Dunes Natural Area (Palm Beach County/Palm Beach).

The ARC deferred a request by the Division of Recreation and Park to declare a 5-acre portion of Anastasia State Park as no longer needed for conservation purposes.

The ARC voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for Avalon Phase II (Jefferson), Carter Quail Ranch (Volusia), Creek Ranch (Polk), Floyd's Mound (Madison), Quail Creek Ranch (Hardee), and Williamson Cattle Company (Okeechobee) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 project proposals.

The ARC approved all six projects to be added to the priority list by six votes for Avalon Phase II and Floyd's Mound with Dr. Palmer recusing himself and by seven votes for the remaining projects. Floyd's Mound (40 acres) and Williamson Cattle Company (7,419 acres) were approved





as stand-alone projects. The ARC voted unanimously to add Avalon Phase II (1,384 acres) to the boundary of the Avalon project, Carter Quail Ranch (1,344 acres) to the boundary of the Volusia Conservation Corridor project, Creek Ranch (1,295 acres) to the boundary of the Lake Hatchineha project, and Quail Creek Ranch (2,698 acres) to the boundary of the Myakka Ranchlands project.

The ARC reviewed four items via the online negative response process. Two management plan amendments for Point Washington State Forest and Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Two incompatible use requests for easements within the Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail and the Nature Coast State Trail.

The ARC heard an update on the Florida Communities Trust Program.

Council Meeting, June 9, 2023

After hearing announcements (Florida Forever Plan executive summary on the DEP website and success of the Florida Landscape Summit), the ARC approved the meeting summary for April 14, and the following:

- a 20-acre conservation easement to Nora and Jeffrey Hanson fulfilled a clearly delineated state conservation policy and yielded a significant public benefit (Putnam).
- a 1.87-acre public utility easement amendment to the City of Tallahassee within the J.R. Alford Greenway (City of Tallahassee/Leon).
- a 0.53-acre public utility easement to Lee County within the Koreshan State Park (DRP/Lee).
- a 10-year management plan update for River Lakes Conservation Area (SJRWMD/Brevard and Osceola).
- a 10-year management plan update for Indian Lakes State Forest (FFS/Marion).
- a 10-year management plan update for Myakka State Forest (FFS/Sarasota).
- a 424-acre amendment to the Apalachicola River Florida Forever project boundary (Calhoun).
- a 249-acre amendment to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (St. Lucie and Wakulla).

The ARC received presentations on boundary amendments for the Apalachicola River project by Mr. Adam Bass (Conservation Florida) and the SMALL project by Mr. John McKenzie (DEP/DRP).

The ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals for Chunky Pond by Ms. Grace Howell (Alachua Conservation Trust); Deer Creek Ranch, Little Pine Ranch, Waccasassa Bay Watershed, and Myakka Ranch by Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group); English Forest Preserve by Mr. Mark Okasako (Save the English Forest Preserve); Ford Marsh by Mr. Jason DePue (Florida Park Service); Lake Powell North by Ms. Courtney Parker (Friends of Camp Helen); Trailhead Blue Springs by Mr. Jimmy Hancock (Trailhead, LLC); Venus





Project by landowner Mr. Van Peeples; Welles Ranch by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler); and Yarborough Ranch by Mr. Richard Durr (Seminole County).

The ARC received written public comments in support of the Hanson Less Than 40 Acre Conservation Easement; the Yarborough Ranch, English Forest Preserve, Ford Marsh, and Lake Powell North 2023 Cycle 2 Florida Forever Proposals; and the Apalachicola River and SMALL Florida Forever project boundary amendments.

ARC voted unanimously by seven votes to approve further evaluation of the (Levy), Deer Creek Ranch (DeSoto), Ford Marsh (Volusia), Lake Powell North (Walton), Little Pine Ranch (Levy), Myakka Ranch (Manatee), Trailhead Blue Springs (Levy), Venus Project (Highlands), Waccasassa Bay Headwaters (Levy), Welles Ranch (Charlotte), and Yarborough Ranch (Seminole) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals.

The ARC reviewed eleven items via the online negative response process. Three management plan amendments for John M. Bethea State Forest, Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, and Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. Six less than 160-acre management plans for Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve, Pepper Beach Park, Stan Blum Memorial Boat Ramp, Racoon Island/Wesley's Island, Lake Ariana Park/Macs Beach, and Tequesta Park. Two incompatible use requests for easements within the Cross Seminole Trail and Point Washington State Forest.

Regional Hearing, August 8, 2023

After the hearing an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Mr. Mark Messerly (Walton County Dune Lake Advisory Board), Ms. Carolyn Zonig (Citizen), Ms. Lynn Cherry (Florida State Parks Foundation/Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation), Ms. Patrice Couch (Beach to Bay Connection, Inc.), Ms. Celeste Cobena (Beach to Bay Connection, Mr. Norman Capra (Lake Powell Community Alliance) Inc.), and Ms. Candis Harbison (Bay County Audubon Society) all spoke in favor of the Lake Powell North proposal.

Council Meeting, August 11, 2023

After hearing announcements (welcoming Hank Vinson as the new ARC agenda coordinator), the ARC approved the meeting summary for June 9, and the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for the Everglades Complex of Wildlife Management Areas (FWC/Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade).
- a 94-acre addition to the Carr Farm Price's Scrub Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- a 72-acre addition to the Lower Suwannee and Gulf Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).
- a 9-acre addition to the Osceola Pine Savannas Florida Forever project boundary (Osceola).





The ARC received presentations on the boundary amendments for Carr Farm/Price's Scrub by Mr. Adam Bass (Conservation Florida), Lower Suwannee and Gulf Watershed by Ms. Katie Ates (31 South Realty), and Osceola Pine Savannas by Ms. Susie Nutall (FWC).

The ARC reviewed two items via the online negative response process. One management plan for a property containing fewer than 160 acres Spring Hammock Preserve and one management plan amendment for Dunns Creek State Park.

Mr. Robbie Parrish (DSL/Bureau of Public Lands Administration) presented an acquisition update.

Regional Hearing, August 14, 2023

After the hearing an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Mr. J.D. Holmes (Landowner), Ms. Jan Hancock (Landowner), and Ms. Grace Howell (Alachua Conservation Trust) all spoke for the Chunky Pond proposal. Mr. John Nash (Landowner) spoke in support for the Waccasassa Bay Headwaters proposal.

Regional Hearing, October 4, 2023

No comments were received during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, October 5, 2023

After the hearing an orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment.

Commissioner Bob Delbari (Seminole County BOCC), Commissioner Andrea Hurr (Seminole County BOCC), Ms. Brynn Newton (Citizen), Ms. Nancy Harman (Citizen), Mr. Paul Rebmann (Citizen), Mr. Don Epps (Citizen), Ms. Phyllis Hall (Citizen), Mr. Joe Humphreys (Friends of the Wekiva River), Ms. Gabrielle Milch (Seminole County Soil and Water Conservation District) all spoke in support of the Yarborough Ranch proposal. Mr. David Hartgrove (Environmental Council of Volusia and Seminole County) spoke in support of the Ford Marsh proposal. Ms. Melissa Lemmers (Volusia Audubon) spoke in support of the Ford Marsh and Yarborough Ranch proposals.

Council Meeting, October 13, 2023

After hearing announcements (Ms. Jennifer Goff (FWC) representing the agency at ARC), and approving the meeting summaries for August 8, August 11, August 14, October 4, and October 5, ARC approved the following:





- the 2024 ARC calendar.
- a 10-year management plan update for Guana River Wildlife Management Area (FWC/St. Johns).
- a management plan amendment for the Withlacoochee State Forest (FFS/Citrus).
- that 19 acres of state-owned land within Point Washington State Forest was no longer needed for conservation purpose and exchanged for 50 acres owned by the Walton County School Board.
- an owner-request to remove 8,991 acres from the Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor project and 613 acres from the Northeast Florida Blueway project.
- a 129-acre addition to the Pumpkin Hill Creek project (Nassau).
- a 30-acre addition to the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project (Jefferson).
- a 523-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp project (Columbia).
- a 456-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp project (Columbia).
- a 665-acre addition to the Apalachicola River project (Jackson).
- a 16-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List project (Pasco).
- boundary reductions to the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Belle Meade, Catfish Creek, Coupon Bight/Key Deer, Dade County Archipelago, Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Lochloosa Wildlife, South Walton County Ecosystem, and Spruce Creek projects ().

The ARC voted unanimously to remove the Arbuckle Creek Watershed (Highlands), Charlotte Harbor Estuary (Charlotte/Lee/Sarasota), Horse Creek Ranch (DeSoto/Hardee), River Property (Highlands), South Walton County Ecosystem (Walton), Telogia Creek (Liberty), Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island (Nassau), and Tripe Diamond (Okeechobee) projects from the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List.

The ARC voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for the Chunky Pond (Levy), Deer Creek Ranch (DeSoto), Ford Marsh (Volusia), Lake Powell North (Walton), Little Pine Ranch (Levy), Myakka Ranch (Manatee), Trailhead Blue Springs (Levy), Venus Project (Highlands), Waccasassa Bay Headwaters (Levy), Welles Ranch (Charlotte), and Yarborough Ranch (Seminole) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals.

The ARC received public testimony from Ms. Susan Carr (Alachua Conservation Trust) for the Chunky Pond project; Mr. Michael Deliz (Florida Park Service) for the Ford Marsh project; Ms. Courtney Harper (Friends of Camp Helen State Park) for the Lake Powell North project; Mr. Van Peebles (Landowner) for the Venus Project; Mr. Richard Durr (Seminole County) for the Yarborough Ranch project; Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group) for the Deer Creek Ranch, Myakka Ranch, Little Pine Ranch, and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters projects; Ms. Jan Hancock (Landowner) for the Chunky Pond project; Ms. Candice Harbison (Bay County Audubon) for the Lake Powell North project; Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzer) for the Welles Family Ranch project; and Mr. Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife/Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape) for proposals located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and Northwest Florida and Avon Park Sentinel Landscapes.





The ARC voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for the Chunky Pond (Levy), Deer Creek Ranch (DeSoto), Ford Marsh (Volusia), Lake Powell North (Walton), Little Pine Ranch (Levy), Myakka Ranch (Manatee), Trailhead Blue Springs (Levy), Venus Project (Highlands), Waccasassa Bay Headwaters (Levy), Welles Ranch (Charlotte), and Yarborough Ranch (Seminole) Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 2 project proposals.

The ARC approved by unanimous vote to add all 2023 Cycle 2 proposals to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. The Deer Creek Ranch (5,853 acres), Ford Marsh (1,204 acres), Welles Ranch (1,171 acres), and Yarborough Ranch (1,361 acres) proposals were added as stand-alone projects. The Chunky Pond (2,430 acres), Little Pine Ranch (907 acres), Trailhead Blue Springs (11,979 acres), and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters (5,101 acres) proposals were combined into the new Waccasassa Watershed project. The Lake Powell North proposal (103 acres) was added to the boundary of the Strategic Managed Area Lands List project. The Myakka Ranch proposal (998 acres) was added to the boundary of the Myakka Ranchlands project. The Venus Project proposal (1,110 acres) was added to the boundary of the Fisheating Creek project.

The ARC heard presentations and received public comments on boundary amendments for the Pumpkin Hill Creek project by Mr. Jimmy Tomazinis (DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection), the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed project by Mr. Nelson Ball (Tall Timbers), the Pinhook Swamp project (Green West property) by Ms. Susan Carr (ACT), the Pinhook Swamp project (Thomas property) by Mr. Justice Diamond (ACT), the Apalachicola River project by Mr. Bill Keene (Landowner), and the Strategic Managed Area Lands List project by Mr. Alan Davis (FFS).

Ms. Deborah Burr (DEP/DSL) presented the reductions to the Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge, Belle Meade, Catfish Creek, Coupon Bight/Key Deer, Dade County Archipelago, Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, Lochloosa Wildlife, South Walton County Ecosystem, and Spruce Creek projects.

The ARC reviewed four items via the online negative response process. Two management plan amendments for Blind Creek Beach Park and Dudley Farm Historic State Park. One management plan for a property containing fewer than 160 acres for Ravine Gardens State Park. One incompatible use request for an easement within Savannas Preserve State Park.

The ARC also received the FY 2022-23 conservation easement monitoring program report, land management review team findings, and the land management uniform accounting council annual and biennial reports.

Public Hearing December 7, 2023

After hearing announcements (Ms. Larame Ferry (FWC) representing the agency at ARC), the ARC heard presentations on the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor by Mr. Ramesh Buch (North Florida Land Trust) and Ms. Brandi Carvallo (Nassau County); Big Bend Forest and Tupelo Honey Timberlands by Ms. Rebecca Perry (The Conservation Fund); Finca Vigia by Mr. Patrick Iler (Family Lands Remembered); Lake Harney by Mr. Tim Telfer (Volusia County);





Suttlemyre Forest by Mr. Willie the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy); Larkin Ranch by Ms. Suzanne Larkin (Landowner); and Dark Hammock, Lytal Conservation Area, and Wooten Timberlands by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler Real Estate).

The ARC also heard presentations on proposed boundary amendments for the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub project by Ms. Heather Obara (Alachua Conservation Trust); Pinhook Swamp project by Mr. Justice Diamond (Alachua Conservation Trust); Heather Island/ Ocklawaha River project by Ms. Susan Carr (Alachua Conservation Trust); Florida's First Magnitude Springs project by Mr. Jay Vogel (Natural Resource Planning Services); Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem project by Ms. Catie Welch (Florida Conservation Group); Peace River Refuge project by Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group); Osceola Pine Savannas project by Ms. Susie Nutall (FWC); Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor and Strategic Managed Area Lands List projects by Ms. Angel Granger (DEP/DRP); and the Myakka Ranchlands, Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, and Welannee Watershed projects by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Dantzler).

The ARC received public testimony in favor of the SMALL boundary amendment from Mr. Patrick Iler (Family Lands Remembered), the Lochloosa project from Mr. Charlie Houser (University of Florida), the Yarborough Ranch proposal from Mr. Richard Durr (Seminole County), the Yarborough Ranch proposal from Ms. Katrina Shadix (Bear Warriors United), the Wooten Timberlands and Tupelo Honey Forest 2024 Cycle 1 proposals and Welannee Plantation boundary amendment by Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife/Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape), SMALL boundary amendment by Mr. Bruce Brockhouse (Land Trust of Dade County), project within the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway and Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor by Mr. Willie the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy), Vinca Vigia 2024 Cycle 1 proposal by Mr. Nick Estrella (Landowner), and the Big Bend Forest 2024 Cycle 1 proposal by Mr. Kevin St. Laurent (Campell Global, Inc.).

Council Meeting, December 8, 2023

There were no announcements. The ARC approved the October 14 meeting summary and the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for Golden Aster Scrub Nature Preserve (Hillsborough County).
- a determination that 1.35 acres of State-owned land within the Cross Seminole Trail was no longer needed for conservation purposes.
- the 2024 Priority List.
- a 422-acre addition to the Matanzas to Ocala Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam).
- a 21-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (DRP/Charlotte, Lee, and Miami-Dade).
- a 4-acre addition to the Osceola Pine Savannas Florida Forever project boundary (Osceola).





- a 7-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (FWC/Brevard).
- a 46-acre addition to the Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- a 310-acre addition to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).
- a 149-acre addition to the Heather Island/Ocklawaha River Florida Forever project boundary (Marion).
- a 285-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- a 433-acre addition to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project boundary (Manatee).
- a 149-acre addition to the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project boundary (DeSoto).
- a 996-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever project boundary (Columbia).
- a 142-acre addition to the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Lake).
- a 830-acre addition to the Welannee Watershed Florida Forever project boundary (Okaloosa).

The ARC did not approve a determination that 5.40 acres of State-owned land within Anastasia State Park was no longer needed for conservation purposes.

The ARC unanimously approved further evaluation of the Atlantic to Ocala Conservation Corridor (Nassau), Big Bend Forest (Dixie), Dark Hammock Ranch (Okeechobee), Finca Vigia (Hendry), Lake Harney (Volusia), Larkin Ranch (Pasco), Lytal Conservation Area (Osceola), Suttlemyre Forest (Putnam), Tupelo Honey Timberlands (Gulf), and Wooten Timberlands (Jefferson) Florida Forever 2024 Cycle 1 proposals.

The ARC reviewed four items via the online negative response process. A management plan for a property containing fewer than 160 acres for Holopaw State Forest. Three incompatible use requests for easements within the West Orange Trail, Tate's Hell State Forest, and the Lehigh Greenway Trail.

The ARC heard a presentation from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP) on the 2023 RFLPP Priority List.

