



APPENDIX B

Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) Summaries of Hearings/Meetings January through December 2022

Council Meeting, February 11, 2022

After hearing announcements (Florida Forever 20th Anniversary commemorative gavel and block, March FWC Landscape Conservation Panel featuring Callie DeHaven, Jennifer Goff, Jon Oetting, Jim Strickland, Jason Lauritsen and Greg Knecht, film screening for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, new personnel with Frank Price as Director of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Florida Forever program assistant Hannah Turbiville, and December-January acquisition closings, 14,500 acres for \$39.7 million dollars) and approving the meeting summaries for December 9-10, ARC approved the following:

- the Fiscal Year 2022-23 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 0.28 acres from the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Monroe).
- an owner-requested deletion of 16.38 acres from the Bombing Range Ridge Florida Forever project boundary (Polk).
- a 2.63-acre private ingress/egress easement to the Quinn Family within the Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek State Park (Division of Recreation and Parks [DRP]/Polk) (Incompatible Use Policy [IUP]).
- a 25.245-acre transmission line easement to Florida Power and Light within the Fred C. Babcock/Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission [FWC]/Charlotte) (Linear Facilities Policy [LFP]).
- a management plan amendment for T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park (DRP/Gulf).
- a management plan for the Orange Hammock Wildlife Management Area (FWC/Sarasota/DeSoto).
- an update to the management plan for St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve (Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection [RCP]/Gulf).
- a 10-year management plan update for Jupiter Ridge Natural Area (Palm Beach County/Palm Beach).
- a 10-year management plan update for Chipola River Greenway (City of Marianna/Jackson).
- a 10-year management plan update for Caladesi Island State Park (DRP/Pinellas).
- a 10-year management plan update for Honeymoon Island State Park (DRP/Pinellas).
- a 10-year management plan update for Four Creeks State Forest (Florida Forest Service [FFS]/Nassau).
- a 10-year management plan update for Pine Log State Forest (FFS/Bay/Washington).





Ms. Lynn McGonagill (Allen Broussard Conservancy) spoke during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, March 1, 2022

No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, March 2, 2022

No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, March 8, 2022

No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing and Council Meeting, April 8, 2022

After the hearing orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Callie DeHaven (DSL Director) called for public comment. The ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 1 project proposals for Aucilla Corridor by Mr. Peter Kleinhenz (Tall Timbers [TT]). Bar-B Ranch by Mr. John Maehl (Martin County). Eight Mile by Mr. Carl Salafrio (Environmental Consulting & Design). Foshalee Slough by Mr. Shane Wellendorf (TT). Lake Sampala Timber and Land by landowner Mr. James Hancock; South Prong of the St. Mary's River by Mr. Ramesh Bush (North Florida Land Trust) and landowner Mr. Doug Moore; and Charlie Creek and River Property by Ms. Julie Morris (National Wildlife Refuge Association [NWRA]).

The ARC received public comments on the Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 1 project proposals. Ms. Jackie Thurlow-Lippish (South Florida Water Management District Governing Board) spoke in favor of the Bar-B Ranch proposal. Commissioner Doug Smith (Martin County) spoke in favor of the Bar-B Ranch and the County's commitment to financially contributing to its acquisition. Mr. Kent Wimmer (Defenders of Wildlife [DOW] and Coordinator for the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape [NFSL]) spoke in favor of all nine proposals. The ARC received a packet of support letters.

After a brief recess, the business meeting began with announcements. The ARC approved the February 11 meeting summary and March 1, 2, and 8, regional hearing summaries and the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for Rainbow Springs State Park (DRP/Marion).
- a 10-year management plan update for Weeki Wachee Springs State Park (DRP/Hernando).
- a 486-acre addition to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs Florida Forever project boundary (Levy).

The ARC voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for Aucilla River Corridor (Jefferson/Madison/Taylor), Bar-B Ranch (Martin), Charlie Creek (Hardee), Eight Mile Property (Dixie), Foshalee Slough (Leon), Johnson Homestead (DeSoto), Lake Sampala Timber & Land





(Madison), River Property (Highlands), and South Prong of the St. Mary's River (Baker) Florida Forever Cycle 1 project proposals.

The ARC approved all nine projects to be added to the priority list by six votes with Dr. Palmer recusal from the vote. Aucilla River Corridor (18,575 acres), Bar-B Ranch (1,899 acres), Eight Mile Property (5,706 acres), and River Property (2,975 acres) were approved as stand-alone projects. The ARC voted unanimously to add Charlie Creek (1,547 acres) to the boundary of the Old Town Creek Watershed project, Foshalee Slough (945 acres) to the boundary of the Red Hills Conservation project, Johnson Homestead (699 acres) to the boundary of the Peace River Refuge project, Lake Sampala Timber & Land (1,317 acres) to the boundary of the San Pedro Bay project, and South Prong of the St. Mary's River (1,146 acres) to the boundary of the Raiford to Osceola Greenway project.

The ARC heard a presentation on the boundary amendment for Florida's First Magnitude Springs from Ms. Joanna Reilly-Brown (Alachua Conservation Trust [ACT]).

The ARC reviewed two management plan amendments for Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area and Lake Wales Ridge State Forest; three management plans for properties less than 160 acres, Key Vista Nature Park, Pillsbury Temple Mound and Shingle Creek Regional Park – Yates/Koger Connector; and two incompatible use requests for Withlacoochee State Trail and Withlacoochee State Forest, and Cross Seminole Trail. No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Council Meeting, June 10, 2022

After hearing announcements (the Public Lands Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference scheduled for November, new Florida Forever logo and wordmark, posting of the annual update, and revisions to the preliminary evaluation for Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II in Item 10), and approving the meeting summary for April 8, the ARC approved the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for Weedon Island Preserve (Pinellas County/Pinellas).
- a management plan for Lignumvitae Key Aquatic Preserve (RCP/Monroe).
- a management plan amendment for Florida Caverns State Park (DRP/Jackson).

The ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 2 project proposals for CNC Ranch by landowner Dr. Nicholas Alvarez, Double G. Legacy by landowner Mr. Travis Halley, Gardner Marsh by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN Saunders Ralston Danzler Real Estate [SVN]), Gilchrist Club by Mr. Adam Bass (Conservation Florida [CF]), Goodno Ranch by Mr. Keith Fountain (Keith Fountain Law [KFL]), Heartland Wildlife Corridor by Mr. Keith Fountain and Mr. Rick Dantzler (KFL), Keen Ranch and Natural Bridge Timberlands by Julie Morris (NWRRA), Rosewood-Avalon by Mr. Peter Kleinhenz (TT), and Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II by Mr. Douglas Hattaway (Trust for Public Land [TPL]). The ARC received letters of support from the Sierra Club in favor of Double G. Legacy, Heartland Wildlife Corridor and Keen Ranch and the DOW.





The ARC received public comments from Mr. Kent Wimmer (DOW) in favor of all ten proposals and landowner Mr. Beau Turner in favor of the Rosewood-Avalon proposal. ARC voted unanimously to approve further evaluation of CNC Ranch, Double G Legacy, Gardner Marsh, Gilchrist Club Wacasassa River, Goodno Ranch, Heartland Wildlife Corridor, Keen Ranch, Natural Bridge Timberlands, and Rosewood-Avalon proposals. Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II was approved by six votes with Ms. Peppers' recusal from the vote.

The ARC reviewed two management plan amendments for Withlacoochee State Forest and T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park; and one incompatible use request for Winter Haven to Lake Alfred Trail. The ARC considered the land management review reports from October to December 2021 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.

Regional Hearing and Council Meeting, August 12, 2022

After the hearing orientation and overview of the Florida Forever proposal selection process, Chair Mara Gambineri called for presentations from the applicants. The ARC heard a presentation on the Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 2 project proposal for Rosewood-Avalon by Mr. Peter Kleinhenz (TT) and public comment from Mr. Dean Saunders (SVN) in favor of the Rosewood-Avalon amendment. The council meeting immediately followed with announcements (Dr. Eason recognized Ms. Larame Ferry as the new Land Conservation and Planning Administrator and the recent addition of 150 acres to the Seminole State Forest). The ARC approved the June 10 meeting summary and the following:

- a 26.14-acre conservation easement that fulfills a clearly delineated state conservation policy and yields a significant public benefit (Belle Terre Land Partners, LLC/Jefferson).
- a 1.61-acre public utility easement to the Florida Government Utility Authority within the Rainbow Springs State Park and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area (DRP/Marion) (LFP).
- a 5.199-acre public transportation easement to the Florida Department of Transportation within the Withlacoochee State Forest Whispering Pines Park (FFS/Citrus) (LFP).
- a 10-year management plan update for Janet Butterfield Brooks Wildlife and Environmental Area (FWC/Hernando).
- a 10-year management plan update for Oleta River State Park (DRP/Miami-Dade).
- a 10-year management plan update for Yellow River Marsh Preserve State Park (DRP/Santa Rosa).
- a 161-acre addition from FWC to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (Franklin/Glades).
- an 87.9-acre addition to the West Bay Area Florida Forever project boundary (Bay).

The ARC received public testimony and voted unanimously to combine the Aucilla River Corridor (18,575 acres), Econfina Timberlands (1,665 acres), West Aucilla River Buffer (710





acres), Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks (33,081 acres) Florida Forever projects, and the Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks tracts (47,645 acres) of the St. Joe Timberlands Florida Forever project to create a new Florida Forever project named the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed (101,260 acres/Jefferson/Taylor/Madison) and to add it to the Partnership and Regional Incentives Category on the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List. Mr. Peter Kleinhenz (TT) spoke in favor of the proposal.

The ARC received presentations on the boundary amendments for the Strategic Managed Area Lands List by Ms. Susie Nuttall (FWC) and West Bay Preservation Area by Ms. Maranda Barnes (Beachy Beach Real Estate).

The ARC reviewed one management plan for Spring Hammock Preserve and one incompatible use request for Blackwater River State Forest. Presentations on the Strategic Managed Area Lands List were provided by Ms. Sine Murray (DSL Office of Environmental Services [OES]), and Sentinel Landscapes in Florida by Mr. Kent Wimmer (NFSL Coordinator). No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, August 29, 2022

No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Regional Hearing, August 30, 2022

Mr. Rick Dantzler (KFL) spoke in favor of the Heartland Wildlife Corridor proposal and an update to remove the Bentley Ranch from the proposal.

Regional Hearing, September 6, 2022

Mr. Doug Hattaway (TPL) and Mr. Vernon Compton (The Longleaf Alliance and Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership) spoke in favor of the Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II proposal.

Council Meeting, October 14, 2022

After hearing announcements (agency efforts in the Hurricane Ian rescue and recovery efforts in southwest, central, and northeast Florida, and Ms. Deborah Burr's (DSL OES) participation in the 2022 Apalachicola River Trek), and approving the August 12 meeting and August 29, 30, and September 6 regional hearing summaries, ARC approved the following:

- the 2023 ARC calendar.
- a 1.55-acre private utility easement to the Lee County Electric Cooperative within Fred C. Babcock-Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area (FWC/Lee) (LFP).
- removal of the Corrigan Ranch project (Okeechobee) as considered complete and the Hardee Flatwoods project (Hardee) as greater than 90% complete.
- a 742-acre addition to the Florida's First Magnitude Springs Florida Forever project boundary (Suwannee/Lafayette).





- a 950.5-acre addition to the Pinhook Swamp Florida Forever project boundary (Columbia).
- a management plan amendment for the T. H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park (DRP/Gulf).
- a 10-year management plan update for McKissack Beach and Marsh (City of Carrabelle/Franklin).
- a 10-year management plan update for Doris Leeper Spruce Preserve (Volusia County/Volusia).
- a 10-year management plan update for Little Gator Creek Wildlife and Environmental Area (FWC/Pasco).
- a 10-year management plan update for Hontoon Island State Park (DRP/Volusia).
- a 10-year management plan update for Blue Spring State Park (DRP/Volusia).
- a management plan for Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve which includes rookery Bay Aquatic Preserve and Cape Romano-Ten Thousand Islands Aquatic Preserve (RCP/Collier).
- a 10-year management plan update for Tiger Bay State Forest (FFS/Volusia).

The ARC voted to defer two items, a proposed revision to the interim management guidelines for gopher tortoise relocation or release at recipient sites, and a 10-year management plan update for Blue Spring State Park (DRP/Volusia). The ARC received public testimony on Blue Springs State Park from Ms. Jennifer Brown (Epic Paddle Adventure), Ms. Rebecca Maish (resident), Mr. David Lamott (resident and kayak guide), Ms. Astrid Jackson (Venture Outdoors), and Mr. Parks Small (DRP Assistant Director).

The ARC received public testimony and voted unanimously to approve the project evaluation reports for the CNC Ranch (Okeechobee), Double G Legacy (Sumter), Gardner Marsh (Osceola), Gilchrist Club (Gilchrist), Goodno Ranch (Glades), Heartland Wildlife Corridor (Hardee/Highlands), Keen Ranch (DeSoto), Natural Bridge Timberlands (Leon/Jefferson), Avalon (Jefferson) and Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II (Santa Rosa) Florida Forever 2022 Cycle 2 project proposals.

The ARC heard comments in favor of the Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest project from Mr. Jimmy Bullock, Avalon and Gardner Marsh from Mr. Dean Saunders (SVN), Avalon from Mr. Shane Wellendorf (TT), Heartland Wildlife Corridor from Mr. Rick Dantzler (KFL) and Mr. Keith Fountain (KFL) who also spoke in favor of Goodno Ranch, Natural Bridge Timberlands and Keen Ranch from Ms. Julie Morris (Florida Conservation Group [FCG]), Gilchrist Club from Mr. Adam Bass (CF), and Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II from Mr. Doug Hattaway (TPL). Mr. Kent Wimmer (DOW and NFSL Coordinator) spoke in favor of all ten proposals and the Apalachicola River, Bear Creek Forest, Forest and Lakes Ecosystem, Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks, Wolfe Creek Forest, Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest, Clear Creek/Whiting Field, Florida's First Magnitude Springs – Gainer Springs, Sand Mountain, Dickerson Bay/Bald Point, and St. Joe Timberland projects.





The ARC approved by unanimous vote to add CNC Ranch, Double G Legacy, Gardner Marsh, Gilchrist Club, Goodno Ranch, Heartland Wildlife Corridor, Keen Ranch, Natural Bridge Timberlands, and Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II proposals to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List. Avalon was approved by six votes with Dr. Palmer's recusal from the vote. Avalon (13,272 acres), Gardner Marsh (5,956 acres), Gilchrist Club (23,255 acres), Heartland Wildlife Corridor (9,575 acres), and Natural Bridge Timberlands (5,740 acres) were added as stand-alone projects. The ARC voted unanimously to add CNC Ranch (3,557 acres) to the boundary of the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector project, Double G Legacy (680 acres) to the boundary of the Battle of Wahoo Swamp project, Goodno Ranch (1,185 acres) to the boundary of the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project, Keen Ranch (995 acres) to the boundary of the Myakka Ranchlands project, and Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II (3,423 acres) to the boundary of the Wolfe Creek Forest project.

The ARC heard presentations and received public comment on boundary amendments for Florida's First Magnitude Springs by Ms. Joanna Reilly-Brown (ACT) and landowner Ms. Georgina Drew, and Pinhook Swamp by Ms. Susan Carr (ACT), landowner Ms. Audrey Green, and a letter from Ms. Judy Orcutt.

The ARC reviewed one management plan amendment for Fort Mose Historic State Park and one management plan for properties less than 160 acres for the Cross Seminole Trail. The ARC also received the FY2021-22 conservation easement monitoring program report, land management review team findings and the land management uniform accounting council annual and biennial reports. Dr. Eason and Dr. Palmer commented on the land management review report. The ARC received a presentation on Florida Panther Recovery from Mr. Ron Mezich (FWC). No comments were offered during the public comment period.

Public Hearing December 8, 2022

After hearing announcements (Ms. Griner received the Agricultural Leadership Award and Item 19 was pulled from consideration by the applicant), the ARC heard presentations on the Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 proposals for Avalon Phase II and Floyd's Mound by Mr. Peter Kleinhenz (TT), Carter-Quail Ranch by Mr. Tim Telfer (Volusia County), Creek Ranch by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN), Owen Creek Highlands by Ms. Christine Johnson, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, Quail Creek Ranch and Williamson Cattle Company by Ms. Julie Morris (FCG). The ARC also heard presentations on proposed boundary amendments for the Strategic Managed Area Lands List by Ms. Susie Nuttall (FWC), North Waccasassa Flats by Ms. Susan Carr (ACT), Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem and Myakka Ranchlands by Ms. Julie Morris (FCG), and Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway by Mr. Jeremiah Thompson (SVN) and Mr. Willy the Losen (Putnam Land Conservancy [PLC]).

Public testimony was received in favor of the Owen Creek Highlands proposal from Ms. Debora Woihte and Mr. Charlie Hunsicker (Manatee County), Red Hills Conservation, Avalon and Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed from Mr. Shane Wellendorf (TT), Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway from Mr. Willy the Losen (PLC), Creek Ranch proposal from Ms. Marian Rayan (Sierra Club of





Florida, Ancient Islands Group), North Waccasassa Flats from landowner Ms. Lori Carroll, Pinhook Swamp from Ms. Susan Carr (ACT), Garner Marsh and Avalon proposals from Mr. Dean Saunders (SVN) and all project proposals and the Strategic Managed Area Lands List from Mr. Kent Wimmer (DOW and NFSL Coordinator).

The ARC received correspondence in favor of new Florida Forever Project Proposals: DOW for FF 2023-1 Project Proposals, NFSL and Apalachee Audubon Society for Avalon Phase II Proposal, DOW, Jeremy Knowles and Audubon of Florida for Creek Ranch Proposal, DOW, Aucilla Research Institute, Drs. Hays Cummins and Donna McCollum, and Apalachee Audubon Society for Floyd's Mound Proposal, Audubon of Florida for Quail Creek Ranch Proposal; Florida Forever Boundary Amendments: John Miller for Etoniah/Cross FL Greenway BA (J-Mil). and Florida Forever Priority List: Big Bend Group Sierra Club for Priority Recommendations for the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List (Apalachicola River, Wakulla Springs Protection Zone, Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed, Natural Bridge Timberlands, Avalon, St. Joe Timberlands, Florida's First Magnitude Springs, Red Hills Conservation Area, Strategic Area Managed Lands, Ayavalla), ACT for Priority Ranking of Carr Farm/Price's Scrub Project, KFL for Priority Ranking of Heartland Wildlife Corridor, ACT for Priority Ranking of Pinhook Swamp Project, Florida Forest Service, ACT, and Alachua County Land Conservation Program for Priority Ranking of Watermelon Pond Project, Friends of the Wekiva River for Priority Ranking of Wekiva to Ocala Greenway Project.

Council Meeting, December 9, 2022

After hearing announcements, ARC approved the October 14 meeting summary and the following:

- a 10-year management plan update for Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park (DRP/Wakulla).
- a management plan for Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve (RCP/Citrus/Hernando/Pasco).
- exchange of a two-acre parcel in the Blackwater River State Forest for 10 acres of private land (FFS/Santa Rosa/Okaloosa).
- the 2023 Priority List.
- a 297-acre addition to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever project boundary (FWC/Gadsden).
- a 562-acre addition to the North Waccasassa Flats Florida Forever project boundary (Gilchrist).
- a 431-acre addition to the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary (Highlands).
- a 748-acre addition to the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project boundary (DeSoto/Manatee).
- a 906-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam).
- a 563-acre addition to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary (Putnam).





The ARC unanimously approved further evaluation of the Carter-Quail Ranch, Creek Ranch, Owen Creek Highlands, Quail Creek Ranch, and Williamson Cattle Company proposals. Avalon Phase II and Floyd's Mound were approved by six votes with Dr. Palmer's recusal from the vote. ARC reviewed one incompatible use request for the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve. No comments were offered during the public comment period.

