

## Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve

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**Planning Region:** Gulf Coast

**County:** Levy

**Lease/Management Agreement Number:** 4523

### Overview

Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve protects numerous natural communities, including scrub, sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, mangrove swamp, and saltmarsh. Imperiled species such as the gopher tortoise, scrub jay, and various wading birds are often observed by hikers, cyclists, and equestrians while enjoying the reserve's 12 miles of trails. As a state reserve, hunting opportunities are provided during the annual hunting season.

**Total Acreage:** 6,784.31

<b>Natural Communities</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Mesic Flatwood	879.87
Sandhill	4.30
Scrub	136.84
Scrubby Flatwoods	837.75
Basin Marsh	786.15
Basin Swamp	523.73
Depression Marsh	95.95
Hydric Hammock	531.38
Mangrove Swamp	5.64
Salt Marsh	1599.26
Blackwater Stream	0.27
Estuarine Composite Substrate	791.60
Estuarine Mollusk Reef	39.86

  

<b>Altered Land Cover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Artificial Pond	4.90
Canal/Ditch	0.68
Clearing/Regeneration	1.58
Developed	4.35
Pine Plantation	432.22
Spoil Area	1.89

**Acquisition:** Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve was initially acquired on December 27, 1978 with funds from Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program. Currently, the reserve comprises 6,784.31 acres.

## **Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve**

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### **Resource Management Component Objectives**

#### **Hydrology**

- Assess the reserve's hydrological restoration needs.
- Restore hydrological conditions to approximately 1,217 acres combined acres of hydric hammock, basin swamp, and salt marsh.

#### **Natural Communities**

- Maintain 2,500 acres within the optimum fire return interval.
- Conduct natural community restoration activities on 432 acres.
- Conduct natural community improvement activities on 500 acres.
- Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 106 acres of clearcut pine plantation.

#### **Imperiled Species**

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list
- Monitor and document 6 selected imperiled animal species in the park.
  - scrub-jay, indigo snake, gopher tortoise, salt marsh vole, Scott's seaside sparrow and Marian's marsh wren.
- Monitor and document 1 selected imperiled plant species in the park.

#### **Invasive and Nuisance Species**

- Annually treat 4 gross acres of invasive plant species.
- Implement control measures on 1 invasive animal species.
  - Feral hogs

#### **Cultural Resources**

- Assess 10 of 11 recorded cultural resources.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources.
- Bring 1 of 10 recorded cultural resources into good condition.

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## Land Use Component Objectives

### Conceptual Land Use

#### State Road 24 Trailhead

- Remove defunct restroom
- Resurface parking area using pervious parking materials
- Install double sided sign
- Change sign designation from Park to "Reserve"
- Update Interpretive kiosk
- Install low water crossing warning

#### County Road 347 Trailhead

- Stabilize parking with pervious materials
- Change designation on entrance sign
- Improve kiosk
- Install low water crossings warning

#### Trail System

- Reconfigure trail system
- Improve wayfinding with trail markers
- Revise trail maps
- Install low water crossing warning
- Discuss the visual and immersive appeal of trails

#### Panther Ridge South Entrance (Trailhead)

- Highlight a natural buffer to separate hunting area from private properties
- Add checkpoint
- Develop parking

#### Panther Ridge Trail System

- Design and develop a 6-mile singletrack trail system
- Install Interpretive kiosk
- Establish wayfinding

#### Support Area

- Renovate or update existing residences
- Build new pole barn
- Remove unused structures as needed

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### **Optimum Boundary**

The optimum boundary for Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve encompasses several areas. Uplands along State Road 24 were initially purchased with plans for development are now included within the Gulf Coast Mitigation Bank. After restoration, credits can be sold and transferred into public ownership. Inholdings are home to several natural communities which include scrubby flatwoods, hydric hammock, and salt marsh. Complete incorporation of these parcels would permit a nearly continuous band of protected land spanning from the Big Bend region of the Gulf Coast to Yankeetown. Furthermore, imperiled species such as the salt marsh vole and scrub jays would receive greater protection upon potential acquisition.