

ITEM 2:

Consider the December 8-9, 2022 meeting summary.

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

None

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the meeting summary.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS: _____

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER: _____

Acquisition and Restoration Council Meeting Summary

Public Hearing: December 8, 2022

Time: 1 p.m.

Council Meeting: December 9, 2022

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Department of Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
Conference Room 137
3900 Commonwealth Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399

And via Webinar

DECEMBER 8, 2022

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Alissa Lotane, DHR
Mr. Erin Albury, FFS
Ms. Lynetta Griner, Citizen Member
Ms. Laramie Ferry, FWC for Dr. Thomas Eason
Dr. Bill Palmer, Citizen Member
Ms. Elva Peppers, Citizen Member
Ms. Mara Gambineri, ARC Chair, DEP

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

Item 1: Call to order at 1 p.m.

DEP Deputy Secretary of Land and Recreation, Mara Gambineri, called the hearing to order and asked council members to introduce themselves. She also congratulated Ms. Griner on receiving the Agricultural Leadership Award in recognition of her efforts related to environmentally innovative farming practices. There were no additional council announcements. ARC Staff Director, Shauna Allen announced Item 19, the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Rayonier Amendment was pulled from further consideration by the applicant followed by housekeeping announcements.

Item 2: Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 Proposal Presentations for the Avalon Phase II, Carter-Quail Ranch, Creek Ranch, Floyd's Mound, Owen Creek Highlands, Quail Creek Ranch, and Williamson Cattle Company proposals.

Discussion: Mr. Peter Kleinhenz, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (TT), presented the Avalon Phase II proposal in Jefferson County. The 1,384-acre property proposed

for less-than-fee acquisition is adjacent to proposed and current Florida Forever projects along Hwy 27. Consisting of longleaf and loblolly pine fire-maintained uplands the property features seven sites in the master site files including historic churches and their associated cemeteries. The uplands with abundant wiregrass and native groundcover provide habitat for sandhill species like the gopher tortoise and pocket gopher. Wetlands include seepages that provide habitat for salamanders including the dwarf salamander and one-toed amphiuma. There are scenic views of the property along five miles of public roads. With 60% of the property in the Wakulla Springs priority focus area, the property also provides recharge and water quality protection.

Mr. Kleinhenz, TT, also presented the Floyd's Mound proposal in Madison County. The 40-acre parcel proposed for less-than-fee acquisition is adjacent to a Natural Resource Conservation Service easement protecting a large wetland complex. The property protects a significant cultural resource site associated with the Apalachee and Timucuan village noted by Hernando DeSoto. It also includes forested wetlands and mature cypress along an Econfina River tributary.

Ms. Griner asked if the property was proposed for less-than-fee and what the landowners using it for. Mr. Kleinhenz responded that TT acquired the property to keep it from being developed with the goal to get it under a conservation easement. The property was previously timbered and has some planted pine and fields. Ms. Lotane commented she did her master's thesis on a similar site two miles away across the river and was excited to see this come in as a potential acquisition. Ms. Peppers asked who would buy the property. Mr. Kleinhenz responded they are still exploring the option for state acquisition, however the key is to protect the cultural resources. Ms. Peppers commented on the risk for the next owner and if an easement would allow people to come in and study the site. Mr. Kleinhenz agreed that those terms could be included in the easement through negotiation. Dr. Palmer added the acquisition was to prevent the property from being sold without an easement. The hope is that some educational or research organization would acquire it. TT is not in the business of holding lands long term. Ms. Peppers asked if it would be suited for fee simple acquisition. Ms. Callie DeHaven, DSL, responded that during the project evaluation process there will be an opportunity to determine if fee simple is an option.

Mr. Tim Telfer, Volusia County Volusia Forever, presented the Carter-Quail Ranch proposal. Mr. Telfer provided an overview of the land acquisition efforts in Volusia County beginning with the 1986 Endangered Lands Program, the first voter-approved county land buying initiative in the nation. In 2000, the Volusia Forever Program was approved. It was renewed by the voters for another 20 years in November 2020. The county in partnership with others has conserved over 55,000 acres and currently manages 38,000 acres. The county is a willing financial partner and land manager. The proposal consists of 1,339 acres and abuts the Deep Creek Preserve. The county is the proposed land manager of the Priority 1 property in the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN). The proposal would expand over 65,000 acres of the Volusia Conservation Corridor protecting water quantity and quality, biodiversity and public recreation. There are 890 acres of uplands including southern pines and mature longleaf pine, scrub and improved pasture. The borrow pits provide recreational opportunities. The county's longleaf pine restoration efforts would be extended to this property creating a protected corridor from the St. Johns River to the Ocala National Forest.

Mr. Jeremiah Thompson, SVN, presented the Creek Ranch proposal in Polk County. The property comprising 1,300 acres in the Kissimmee Valley, has frontage on Deer Lake and Lake Hatchineha and is a FEGN Priority 2 area. Connecting nearby conservation areas including the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Catfish Creek Preserve State Park, the working cattle ranch and horse farm has considerable developed infrastructure and potential recreational opportunities. The pasture and woodlands provide wildlife habitat within the range of the Florida black bear and protects water quality and water quantity. As a less-than-fee acquisition, the landowners would continue hunting, fishing, cattle, equestrian activities and silviculture.

Ms. Griner asked if the property is in Polk County referring to the Orlando reference. Mr. Thompson confirmed it is and the population growth of the larger Orlando metropolitan area. Chair Gambineri asked if the property was offered as fee or less-than-fee regarding the mention of the structures. Mr. Thompson responded it is proposed as less-than-fee and the structures are in excellent condition as the property did just sell. The structures could be used by a managing agency. Ms. Peppers asked if any portion has been sold. Mr. Thompson clarified the property sold in the past year and the new owners have a conservation approach. They are open to a fee acquisition. Ms. Lotane asked about the age of the structures. Mr. Thompson noted that it varies through the property and should be included in the application materials.

Ms. Christine Johnson, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast (CFGC), presented the Owen Creek Highlands proposal in Manatee County. The 936-acre property would be an addition to the Myakka Ranchland Florida Forever project. The CFGC is looking forward to partnering with DEP. The property is proposed for fee simple acquisition with Manatee as a cost-sharing and managing partner. The property is in FEGN Priority 3 and two-thirds of the property is considered priority natural communities. With a small cattle operation, the property is managed with frequent prescribed fire. One mile of Owen Creek passes through the property which contributes to water quality protection in the Myakka River watershed and provides panther habitat.

Ms. Julie Morris, Florida Conservation Group (FCG), presented the Quail Creek Ranch proposal in Hardee County. Ms. Morris acknowledged Carlton Ward for the photographs in her presentations. The 2,700-acre less-than-fee proposal contains the headwaters of Owen Creek flowing into the Myakka River and Osborn Branch flowing into Horse Creek. The property provides a linkage between the Myakka and Peace river watersheds and expands the corridor of protected lands providing a buffer against phosphate mining in the region. The proposal provides the best remaining opportunity to provide a wildlife corridor at the intersection of Hardee, Manatee and DeSoto counties.

Ms. Morris, FCG, also presented the Williamson Cattle Company proposal in Okeechobee County. The 11,103-acre cow-calf operation currently has three USDA Wetland Reserve Easements. The proposal is to bring the remaining 7,419 acres into a less-than-fee acquisition. The property is adjacent to the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Conservation Area and Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area to the west and SJRWMD easements to the east. Comprised

of pastures, forest and marshes, the property was historically dry prairie and continues to provide habitat for a diversity of native species. The property is important for water quality in Lake Okeechobee via both Taylor and Mosquito creeks. The eastern third is FEGN Priority 2 and is a north-south corridor linking Corbett and Dupuis management areas and the St. Johns River headwaters.

There were no further comments.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 3: Florida Forever Project Boundary Amendment presentations for the Strategic Managed Area Lands List, North Waccasassa Flats, Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem, Myakka Ranchlands, and Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway projects.

Discussion: Ms. Susie Nuttall, FWC, presented the Strategic Managed Area Lands List (SMALL) boundary amendment for the Mine Road property consisting of seven contiguous parcels as an addition to the Joe Bud Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The proposed property would be managed by the FWC as part of the cooperative management area with the Florida Forest Service. The 354-acre property provides potential for the Florida black bear and is next to one of the main WMA entrances. Joe Bud WMA had an annual visitation of over 50,000 visitors in FY 2021-22 and an estimated economic impact of 9.8 million. The benefits of acquisition would provide greater access to recreational activities on the WMA, wildlife habitat, water resources, prescribed fire management and restoration of longleaf pine.

Ms. Susan Carr, Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT), presented the North Waccasassa Flats boundary amendment for the Carroll property in Gilchrist County. The single owner property consisting of 562 acres in five parcels is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition. The property lies within the Santa Fe River watershed critical wetlands abutting Cow Creek in a matrix of natural wetlands and uplands. The forested floodplain of Cow Creek and isolated depressional wetlands is a unique feature of this property and provides critical breeding habitat for amphibians. The dry uplands are being restored to longleaf pine by the landowners who have also begun a prescribed fire program with groundcover restoration. A conservation easement is part of their overall strategy for restoration and permanent protection. The owners also participate in the FWC landowner assistance program and the USFWS partners for wildlife program.

Ms. Griner asked if there was an outparcel. Ms. Carr confirmed there is an outparcel not owned by the Carroll's as shown on the map.

Ms. Julie Morris, FCG, presented the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem boundary amendment for the Ridgeland property in Highlands County. The 431-acre property is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and lies along 1.75 miles of Josephine Creek. The property provides an important corridor for panthers and bears connecting the eastern and western portions of the ridge. 98% of the property is within FEGN Priority 2.

Ms. Morris, FCG, also presented the Myakka Ranchlands boundary amendment for the Flint

Ranch property in Myakka and DeSoto counties. The 748-acre property is adjacent to lands currently being pursued by DSL and Sarasota County. Big Slough canal runs through the property and flows in the Myakka River and Charlotte Harbor. The primarily improved pasture, mixed wetlands, hardwood and marshes property and surrounding area was inundated during Hurricane Ian. The property buffers important conservation areas from future mining with phosphate lands to the north and east of the property.

Mr. Jeremiah Thompson, SVN, presented the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway boundary amendment for the Interlachen Timberland property in Putnam County. The 906-acre property is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and is within FEGN Priority 2. Pine flatwoods on the property provides habitat for the black bear, Red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise. The owner will continue the historic use as a working forest and recreational tract preserving ecological services. The proposal will prevent expanding habitat fragmentation from development like the bordering property.

Mr. Willy the Losen, Putnam Land Conservancy (PLC), presented the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway boundary amendment for the J.Mil property in Putnam County. The 536-acre property comprised of 10 parcels has been in the Miller family for three generations. Proposed for less-than-fee acquisition, the proposal strengthens connectivity to the western greenway. There is potential for more additions with interested landowners to the west and south on over 2,000 acres. The property is within the Ocala-to-Osceola (O2O) portion of the Florida Wildlife Corridor and FEGN Priority 2. The property provides habitat for the Florida black bear and wetlands drain into the Ocklawaha River, an outstanding Florida water.

There were no further comments.

ARC Action: No action required.

Item 4: Take Public Testimony on the Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 Proposals, Florida Forever Project Boundary Amendments and other Florida Forever Projects.

Discussion: Ms. Debora Woithe and Mr. Charlie Hunsicker, Manatee County, spoke in favor of the Owen Creek Highlands project proposal. Manatee County and the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast partnership is committed cost sharing the acquisition of this property and view this unique opportunity to create a regional hub for connectivity across existing and proposed conservation lands. The property has outstanding habitat rarity and quality with a history of hunting and cattle and only 20% improved pasture. The Manatee County Natural Resources Department has expertise in preservation, restoration and management of over 30,000 acres and is prepared and enabled to maintain the property. The proposal will complement the existing partnership with Emerson Point and is in an ideal location to protect what is unique in Florida.

Mr. Shane Wellendorf, TT, spoke in favor of three Red Hills region projects, Red Hills Conservation, Avalon, and Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed. Mr. Wellendorf highlighted the successful acquisition of a less-than-fee property on Lake Miccosukee and two forest legacy

applications with the Florida Forest Service for Avalon and Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed projects. The natural resources include uplands managed with frequent fire and intact and diverse wetlands providing habitat for an array of game and non-game species. The projects support water resource protection and provide direct and indirect public benefits.

Mr. Willie the Losen, PLC, spoke in favor of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project. The focus of the PLC is the deep creek corridor priority one lands that include the Central Florida Atlantic white cedar hydric hammock, one of just a few known examples. The Miller Thomas addition is 1.5 miles of the deep corridor with 200 acres under contract. This acquisition will help the Office of Greenways and Trails with access issues to existing areas. Another property owned by the Thomas Family is being pursued in partnership with DSL and the water management district. The J.Mil boundary amendment is in FEGN priority 2. The North Florida Land Trust is also working on a Natural Resource Conservation Service easement on 1,100 acres. Lastly the Mondex property, 900-acres of undeveloped subdivision, is progressing with efforts to consolidate and submit as a boundary amendment.

Ms. Marian Ryan, Sierra Club Florida – Ancient Islands Group, spoke in favor of the Creek Ranch proposal. The boundaries of the Ancient Islands Group include Polk, Highlands, Hardee, DeSoto, and Sumter counties. Within this boundary lies significant portions of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The Creek Ranch proposal is a key link in connecting significant conservation lands. Documented use by the Florida black bear and panther demonstrates its value for wide ranging species.

Ms. Lori Carroll, landowner, spoke in favor of the North Waccasassa Flats boundary amendment for the Carroll property. The 562-acre proposal began with the first 40-acre parcel in 2012 where they put a few cows. They discovered a covey of quail and learned that cows and quail don't have the same habitat needs. They removed the cows in hopes that the quail would return. They appreciate the guidance of the FWC and federal wildlife biologists, county and ACT foresters and the North Florida Prescribe Burn Association. To make the land more hospitable, they removed the sand pines and began restring longleaf pine, wiregrass and implement prescribed fire in hopes that one day it would look like a natural pine forest. The Carroll's received the FWC Wildlife Habitat Recognition Award and have proudly posted it on their fence. A few weeks ago they were walking in an area that was burned for the first time in January and flushed a healthy covey of quail. Their plan is to make the property beautiful and contribute to the preservation of plant and animal diversity with hopes to preserve the land indefinitely.

Ms. Susan Carr, ACT, spoke in favor of raising the rank of the Pinhook Swamp project located in Columbia and Baker counties. The project is currently ranked 23 on the Critical Natural Lands list. Reasons for raising the rank include one of the largest remaining natural landscapes with ecological significance and hydrological importance for the upper Suwannee River corridor and watershed. It is also part of the Osceola to Okefenokee area that has great potential for being one of the country's largest eastern natural connected landscapes. Most of the property is in FEGN priority 1 and 2 and is critical to protect the Suwannee River and surrounding lands. There is potential for acquisition with willing sellers of large ownerships and family land in the primarily

rural area with little development pressure. ACT and partners are working with several of these families. The recent fee acquisition of 142 acres added to the Big Shoal State Forest in Hamilton County shows the opportunity. The combination of an important landscape, opportunities with willing sellers and recent developments warrants higher ranking.

Mr. Dean Saunders, SVN spoke in favor of the Gardner Marsh and Avalon projects. Along with TT and the Turner Family he encouraged a high enough ranking to allow the Avalon acquisition to move forward quickly. The Gardner Marsh property is a 6,000-acre ranch with a FWC Florida Landscape Assessment Model category eight or better on 75% of the property demonstrating the diversity of habitats. The Bronson Family owns the property and are interested in a conservation easement to protect what they love from encroaching development.

Mr. Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife and Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape (NWFSL) Coordinator, spoke in favor of the new project proposals and the SMALL boundary amendment. All proposals are either in the Florida Wildlife Corridor or FEGN or adjacent to existing Conservation lands. Mr. Wimmer noted Avalon Phase II and the Mine Road addition are also in the NWFSL.

Ms. Allen noted for the record the receipt of letters in support of the project proposals, boundary amendments and priority ranking for the priority list as follows:

New Florida Forever Project Proposals: Defenders of Wildlife – FF 2023-1 Project Proposals, NWFSL and Apalachee Audubon Society – Avalon Phase II Proposal, Defenders of Wildlife, Jeremy Knowles and Audubon of Florida – Creek Ranch Proposal, Defenders of Wildlife, Aucilla Research Institute, Drs. Hays Cummins and Donna McCollum, and Apalachee Audubon Society – Floyd’s Mound Proposal, Audubon of Florida – Quail Creek Ranch Proposal;

Florida Forever Boundary Amendments: John Miller – Etoniah/Cross FL Greenway BA (J-Mil);

Florida Forever Priority List: Big Bend Group Sierra Club – 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), Alachua Conservation Trust – Priority Ranking of Carr Farm/Price’s Scrub Project, Keith Fountain Law – Priority Ranking of Heartland Wildlife Corridor, Alachua Conservation Trust – Priority Ranking of Pinhook Swamp Project, Florida Forest Service, Alachua Conservation Trust, and Alachua County Land Conservation Program – Priority Ranking of Watermelon Pond Project, Friends of the Wekiva River – Priority Ranking of Wekiva to Ocala Greenway Project.

There were no further comments.

ARC Action: No action required.

Chair Gambineri recognized the efforts of the applicants highlighting the significant features and resources of the properties. There were no further comments. The hearing was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 9, 2022

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Alissa Lotane, DHR
Mr. Erin Albury, FFS
Ms. Lynetta Griner, Citizen Member
Dr. Thomas Eason, FWC
Dr. Bill Palmer, Citizen Member
Ms. Elva Peppers, Citizen Member
Ms. Mara Gambineri, ARC Chair, DEP

ARC Staff Director: Ms. Shauna Allen, DEP

Item 5: Call to Order at 9 a.m.

DEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Mara Gambineri, called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Lotane to lead the pledge of allegiance. Chair Gambineri thanked staff for their efforts culminating this year with meaningful work on the ground with sponsors and landowners. Since the Wildlife Corridor Act of 2021, ARC has approved 19 new projects and five boundary amendments resulting in 104,847 acres added to the priority list. This is the most proposals received and processed in a 12-month period since the start of Florida Forever. Hearing there were no announcements from council members, she asked ARC Staff Director, Ms. Shauna Allen, to conduct the roll call. The quorum was established with seven members in attendance. Ms. Allen noted corrections to agenda Item 6 and the removal of Item 19 and provided housekeeping instructions and information for public comments.

Item 6: Consider the October 14, 2022, meeting summary.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the meeting summary.

DSL Staff Remarks: None

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the summary with Mr. Albury seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

ARC STAFF REPORTS

Item 7: Items approved by the Division of State Lands via the online negative response process since the October 2022 ARC meeting.

DSL Staff Remarks: Ms. Allen stated one incompatible use request for an easement across St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve was approved via the negative response process.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: No action required.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Item 8: Consider a 10-year update to the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park Management Plan (Lease No. 3463).

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. James Gaddis, Division of Recreation and Parks, provided an overview of this flagship unit of the agency providing a major outdoor recreation destination just south of Tallahassee. The 6,786-acre area acquired in 1986 with CARL funding has a documented 15,000-year history of human habitation. Natural communities feature upland pine, upland hardwood forest, floodplain swamp, basin swamp, alluvial forest and the central feature, 127 acres of spring-run stream. Resource management objectives include protecting 26 imperiled animal, 4 imperiled plants, and 89 recorded cultural sites containing diagnostic artifacts for every period of human habitation in the region. Recreational activities include hiking, equestrian, wildlife viewing, swimming and boat tours with an annual attendance in FY 2020-21 of 139,000. Hydrological objectives include water quality and quantity monitoring and shoreline erosion management on the main springhead, spring run and Cherokee Sink. The conceptual land use plan includes improvements to infrastructure and visitor amenities, entrance and exit area improvements, new trails and trailheads and a new interpretive center. The optimum boundary prioritizes springshed protection.

Chair Gambineri announced Mr. Daniel Alsentzer was recently promoted to Chief of the Office of Park Planning. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the management plan update with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Item 9: Consider a Management Plan for Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the management plan.

Discussion: Mr. Tim Jones, Office of Resiliency and Coastal Protection (RCP), provided an overview of the management plan for the newest preserve, established in 2020. The preserve spanning more than 455,000 acres is 75% seagrass beds. A unique karstic geology includes offshore and nearshore spring vents in this transition zone between mangroves and salt marsh. The preserve is bordered to the north by Big Bend Seagrass Aquatic Preserve and Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve to the south. It provides key habitat for the largest population of

juvenile and sub-adult sea turtles in Florida and hosts a large population of sea scallops, shorebirds, wading birds, commercial and sport fish. The management plan identifies water quality, protection and management of submerged resources, resiliency to climate change and human dimensions as interconnected issues to be addressed with specific management objectives including partnering with adjacent landowners, managers and adaptive management to reduce impacts.

Ms. Griner asked about the map indicating the preserve didn't touch land on the north end. Mr. Earl Pearson, RCP, responded the St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve is one area and the other may include the nuclear power plant area. Dr. Eason expressed his appreciation for the people behind the scenes developing the management plans and noted when there are no questions, especially from the public, the managers have done a good job. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the management plan update with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

Recess: At 9:27 a.m. there was a power interruption that triggered a recess for the meeting. The meeting was resumed at 9:36 a.m. with all members present.

LAND ADMINISTRATION

Item 10: Consider whether an approximately two-acre parcel of state-owned land, managed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service Florida Forest Service as part of the Blackwater River State Forest, is no longer needed for conservation purposes in exchange for approximately 10 acres of private property.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Approve the proposed exchange.

Discussion: Ms. Diane McKenzie, Bureau of Real Estate Services, presented the request to exchange two acres in Santa Rosa County for 10 acres of privately owned land in Okaloosa County. The state-owned parcel is occupied by an active church. A portion was deeded by the United States in 1955 pursuant to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and the other was conveyed from a private individual in 1966. The exchange net positive conservation benefit of eight acres of undisturbed conservation land includes bottomland forest and upland pine adjacent to the forest. The FFS is supportive and DHR has determined no adverse effects. Dr. Eason commended the better than 1:1 replacement land.

Chair Gambineri announced there was an acquisition closing on the Wolfe Creek project this morning for 768 acres at \$2 million, to be managed by the FFS as part of the Blackwater River State Forest. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: Ms. Lotane made the motion to approve the exchange request with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously.

FLORIDA FOREVER

Item 11: Develop the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Ms. Allen stated, there are 129 projects on the list to be ranked and prioritized. ARC members have submitted their vote sheets and we will now develop the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List. The process contains three parts: ranking, breaking any ties, and approving the final list.

Ranking Step: Each ARC member submitted their ranking numbers for each project within categories. These numbers were revealed for members by category. Members confirmed their numbers were correct for projects in each category.

Tie breaker Step:

Critical Natural Lands Category: Pine Island Slough and Wolfe Creek Forest, Ms. Peppers moved to rank Wolfe Creek Forest higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Critical Natural Lands Category: Ichetucknee Trace and Telogia Creek. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Telogia Creek higher, Dr. Eason seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category: Lochloosa Forest and Sand Mountain. Mr. Albury moved to rank Sand Mountain higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category: Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch and Welannee Watershed Forest. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Welannee Watershed Forest higher, Dr. Eason seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category: Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's River and Crayfish Habitat Restoration. Ms. Peppers moved to rank Baldwin Bay/St. Mary's River higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Less-Than-Fee Category: Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest and Myakka Ranchlands. Mr. Albury moved to rank Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest higher, Ms. Griner seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Less-Than-Fee Category: Ayavalla Plantation and Conlin Lake X. Ms. Griner moved to rank Conlin Lake X higher, Mr. Albury seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Less-Than-Fee Category: Horse Creek Ranch and North Waccasassa Flats. Dr. Eason moved to rank North Waccasassa Flats higher, Dr. Palmer seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Climate Change Lands Category: Taylor Sweetwater Creek and West Bay Preservation Area. Mr. Albury moved to rank West Bay Preservation Area higher, Ms. Peppers seconded, and ARC approved the motion unanimously.

Discussion: Dr. Eason commented some people agonize over the list, but in the grand scheme of things as the FWC performed their extensive analysis and some projects to rise to the top, the majority are less than two points apart. Dr. Eason shared his love of soccer and made an analogy with the World Cup and the world class soccer players to the priority list. DSL is like the coach that must decide which projects comprise the right mix to move conservation forward in Florida. He stated the staff did a great job on the process making it more efficient. Chair Gambineri also thanked FNAI for their work in establishing a baseline.

Ms. Lotane asked how the results would be distributed. Ms. Allen responded they will be sent to the ARC mailing list after adjustments for the acreage added with the boundary amendments under consideration. Dr. Eason asked for a description of the high, medium, low workplan priority groups. Ms. Deb Burr, DSL, responded that determines what projects are added to the workplan that will be brought to the February meeting for approval. The groups are spelled out in rule based on total cumulative acres in each category. The high group is the top third based on cumulative acres, high/medium includes the project that falls within both the high and medium groups based on acreage and so on. Dr. Eason asked if there was anything that would preclude DEP from moving on an acquisition in the low group if it were the right project. Chair Gambineri responded the most important thing is that the property is on the list which gives us the ability to acquire from a willing seller. There were no further comments.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve 2023 Florida Forever Priority List with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC approved the item unanimously. The approved list is attached to this summary.

Item 12: Vote on whether the Avalon Phase II, Carter-Quail Ranch, Creek Ranch, Floyd's Mound, Owen Creek Highlands, Quail Creek Ranch, and Williamson Cattle Company Florida Forever 2023 Cycle 1 Florida Forever proposals will proceed through the project evaluation process for potential addition to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposals.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: ARC members voted unanimously by seven votes to initiate a full review of the Carter-Quail Ranch, Creek Ranch, Owen Creek Highlands, Quail Creek Ranch, and Williamson Cattle Company proposals. Dr. Palmer recused himself from the votes on Avalon Phase II and Floyd's Mound and six members voted to initiate a full review of those proposals.

Item 13: Vote on whether to amend the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever Project Boundary for the FWC to add seven parcels totaling approximately 297 acres in Gadsden County with a tax assessed market value of \$944,940.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Ms. Peppers made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Mr. Albury seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 14: Vote on whether to amend the North Waccasassa Flats Florida Forever Project Boundary to add five parcels totaling approximately 562 acres in Gilchrist County with a tax assessed market value of \$1,405,936.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 15: Vote on whether to amend the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever Project Boundary to add four parcels totaling approximately 431 acres in Highlands County with a tax assessed market value of \$136,352.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 16: Vote on whether to amend the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever Project Boundary to add three parcels totaling approximately 748 acres in DeSoto and Manatee counties with a tax assessed value of \$1,314,040.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Peppers seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 17: Vote on whether to amend the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever Project Boundary to add four parcels totaling approximately 906 acres in Putnam County with a tax assessed market value of \$1,994,086.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Mr. Albury made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Ms. Griner seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 18: Vote on whether to amend the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever Project Boundary to add ten parcels totaling approximately 563 acres in Putnam County with a tax assessed market value of \$1,457,600.

DSL Staff Recommendation: Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

Discussion: None.

ARC Action: Dr. Eason made the motion to approve the boundary amendment with Dr. Palmer seconding. ARC voted unanimously by seven members to approve the amendment.

Item 19: This item was removed by the applicant.

CLOSING COMMENTS

ARC Announcements: Chair Gambineri announced the next ARC meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2023, at 9 a.m. and the FCT meeting would be held on February 15, 2023, at 10 a.m. both in Tallahassee. Dr. Eason wished everyone happy holidays. There were no further comments.

Ms. Peppers made the motion to adjourn with Mr. Albury seconding. ARC unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

ARC Recommended 2023 Florida Forever Priority List

Rank	Critical Natural Lands Projects	Rem. Acres	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	DEP	FWC	Bill Palmer	Eiva Peppers	TOTAL ²	Cum. Acres ³	WP Priority ⁴
1	Apalachicola River	48,860	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	48,860	High
2	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	29,285	2	2	5	1	3	3	2	18	78,145	High
3	Bombing Range Ridge	29,716	11	3	4	5	2	2	3	30	107,861	High
4	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	22,225	5	6	2	4	10	6	4	37	130,086	High
5	Panther Glades	39,382	8	5	10	7	5	4	5	44	169,468	High
6	Blue Head Ranch	43,051	6	4	3	25	4	5	6	53	212,519	High
7	Strategic Managed Area Lands List	11,802	12	7	7	6	8	9	7	56	224,321	High
8	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	54,027	4	9	19	3	12	10	8	65	278,348	High/Med
9	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	54,862	15	11	6	16	18	11	12	89	333,211	Medium
10	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	9,915	7	10	24	19	11	12	9	92	343,125	Medium
11	Osceola Pine Savannas	23,238	3	17	23	8	6	20	16	93	366,363	Medium
12	Gardner Marsh	5,918	21	8	17	17	7	7	22	99	372,282	Medium
13	Belle Meade	4,919	18	14	15	13	26	15	11	112	377,201	Medium
14	Half Circle L Ranch	11,182	16	16	8	33	14	16	13	116	388,382	Medium
15	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	10,763	9	21	31	10	9	22	19	121	399,145	Medium
16	Wolfe Creek Forest	4,254	26	18	9	15	19	17	18	121.8	403,399	Medium
17	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	21,895	25	15	18	20	16	14	14	122	425,294	Medium
18	Triple Diamond	2,690	27	13	11	23	31	13	10	128	427,983	Medium
19	South Goethe	11,355	13	22	20	12	29	21	17	134	439,338	Medium
20	Avalon	13,250	20	19	13	29	20	8	26	135	452,588	Medium
21	Twelvemile Slough	8,036	10	25	32	11	22	23	15	138	460,624	Medium
22	Natural Bridge Timberlands	5,442	22	12	14	21	23	19	32	143	466,065	Medium
23	Bear Creek Forest	97,434	17	23	16	14	25	26	23	144	563,499	Med/Low
24	Devil's Garden	47,641	28	20	22	18	21	18	21	148	611,140	Low
25	Pinhook Swamp	54,689	23	24	29	27	13	24	24	164	665,828	Low
26	Bear Hammock	4,689	14	28	33	9	27	28	27	166	670,517	Low
27	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	3,592	19	29	30	24	17	29	28	176	674,109	Low
28	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	32,283	29	27	26	22	28	25	20	177	706,392	Low
29	San Pedro Bay	46,345	24	31	12	31	34	32	33	197	752,737	Low
30	Natural Bridge Creek	1,967	35	26	21	32	30	27	30	201	754,704	Low
31	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	2,389	30	30	27	26	35	30	29	207	757,093	Low
32	Bar B Ranch	1,910	37	37	37	30	15	31	25	212	759,004	Low
33	Shoal River Buffer	2,188	32	32	35	34	24	33	31	221	761,191	Low
34	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	598	33	33	28	36	33	35	34	232	761,789	Low
35	Hixtown Swamp	21,998	31	34	38	28	36	36	36	239	783,787	Low
36	Upper Shoal River	12,035	36	35	25	37	37	34	38	242	795,822	Low
37	Telogia Creek	12,428	38	38	36	35	32	37	37	252.8	808,250	Low
38	Ichetucknee Trace	1,717	34	36	34	38	38	38	35	253	809,967	Low
OK	Subtotal: 38 Projects	809,967	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			

ARC Recommended 2023 Florida Forever Priority List

Rank	Partnerships & Regional Incentives Projects	Rem. Acres	DHR	FFS	L.G.	DEP	FWC	B.P.	E.P.	TOTAL ²	Cum. Acres ³	WP Priority ⁴
1	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	7,104	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	9	7,104	High
2	Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	74,314	5	3	1	2	5	5	2	23	81,417	High
3	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	3,305	12	2	5	9	6	1	3	38	84,722	High
4	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	31,188	2	8	13	5	3	4	5	40	115,910	High
5	Volusia Conservation Corridor	17,819	6	7	8	3	9	7	11	51	133,729	High
6	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	18,118	8	4	9	8	7	12	4	52	151,847	High
7	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	40,240	4	12	15	10	4	3	6	54	192,087	High/Med
8	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	20,520	9	6	7	7	15	6	7	57	212,607	Medium
9	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	2,867	18	5	6	11	12	8	12	72	215,474	Medium
10	Annutteliga Hammock	8,796	3	13	17	6	17	9	8	73	224,270	Medium
11	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	6,577	10	9	19	16	2	11	10	77	230,847	Medium
12	Green Swamp	161,238	13	11	23	4	10	13	9	83	392,085	Med/Low
13	Pal-Mar	9,333	16	16	22	15	8	10	13	100	401,418	Low
14	Middle Chipola River	12,265	11	19	28	12	11	20	15	116	413,682	Low
15	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	13,647	23	33	10	13	14	17	16	126	427,329	Low
16	Lochloosa Forest	4,693	30	17	3	29	21	14	18	131.8	432,023	Low
17	Sand Mountain	14,534	7	23	32	19	16	15	20	132	446,556	Low
18	Rainbow River Corridor	1,058	17	26	14	17	25	18	21	138	447,614	Low
19	Watermelon Pond	5,238	20	15	26	23	18	16	23	141	452,852	Low
20	Flagler County Blueway	3,891	19	14	24	25	27	19	14	142	456,743	Low
21	Dade County Archipelago	303	21	25	12	18	32	21	17	146	457,046	Low
22	Lafayette Forest	10,253	26	10	20	22	19	24	26	147	467,299	Low
23	Catfish Creek	3,231	14	20	25	14	22	28	27	150	470,530	Low
24	Lake Santa Fe	8,875	28	18	11	21	26	25	22	151	479,405	Low
25	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	8,175	29	21	18	24	20	23	29	164	487,580	Low
26	Hall Ranch	7,503	15	28	31	34	13	30	25	176	495,083	Low
27	Welanee Watershed Forest	8,378	34	34	4	31	34	22	24	182.8	503,461	Low
28	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	12,440	22	24	21	27	28	31	30	183	515,901	Low
29	Pumpkin Hill Creek	6,709	27	27	30	26	29	29	19	187	522,609	Low
30	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	8,397	32	30	16	28	30	33	28	196.8	531,006	Low
31	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2,348	33	22	27	33	23	26	33	197	533,354	Low
32	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	428	31	29	29	20	31	27	31	198	533,782	Low
33	Pringle Creek Forest	8,446	25	31	33	32	24	32	32	209	542,228	Low
34	Wilson Ranch	451	24	32	34	30	33	34	34	221	542,678	Low
OK	Subtotal: 34 Projects	542,678	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			

ARC Recommended 2023 Florida Forever Priority List

Rank	Less-Than-Fee Projects	Rem. Acres	DHR	FFS	L.G.	DEP	FWC	B.P.	E.P.	TOTAL ²	Cum. Acres ³	WP Priority ⁴
1	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	119,329	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	11	119,329	High
2	Adams Ranch	32,990	8	2	1	4	4	2	2	23	152,319	High
3	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	97,456	14	3	2	16	3	4	3	44.8	249,775	High/Med
4	Myakka Ranchlands	32,387	12	4	8	5	7	5	4	45	282,162	Medium
5	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	35,543	4	7	12	3	5	9	8	48	317,705	Medium
6	Red Hills Conservation	13,701	6	5	11	12	6	3	7	50	331,406	Medium
7	Arbuckle Creek Watershed	2,353	3	8	6	11	11	8	11	58	333,759	Medium
8	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	40,858	1	11	28	2	2	12	15	71	374,617	Medium
9	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	3,881	13	10	9	20	12	10	13	87	378,498	Medium
10	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	96,707	17	12	5	8	17	13	18	90	475,205	Medium
11	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	25,339	10	9	7	32	18	11	6	93	500,543	Med/Low
12	Gulf Hammock	25,611	20	15	14	13	10	17	10	99	526,154	Low
13	Conlin Lake X	3,522	11	6	3	35	35	7	5	101.8	529,677	Low
14	Ayavalla Plantation	6,098	27	16	10	7	14	16	12	102	535,775	Low
15	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	68,825	5	17	29	9	13	18	16	107	604,599	Low
16	Heartland Wildlife Corridor	9,579	9	21	23	15	9	6	26	109	614,179	Low
17	Ranch Reserve	12,519	7	18	30	14	8	19	14	110	626,697	Low
18	Gilchrist Club	23,298	21	22	24	6	21	23	9	126	649,995	Low
19	Withlacoochee River Corridor	3,286	23	20	17	18	16	14	23	131	653,281	Low
20	Peace River Refuge	3,736	16	24	31	10	20	15	17	133	657,017	Low
21	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	6,890	15	23	19	17	19	21	20	134	663,908	Low
22	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	2,214	24	19	22	26	15	20	19	145	666,122	Low
23	Mill Creek	10,135	25	27	15	19	25	25	25	161	676,257	Low
24	Eight Mile Property	5,717	26	14	13	22	26	30	33	164	681,973	Low
25	River Property	3,068	29	13	16	30	29	22	35	174	685,041	Low
26	Maytown Flatwoods	1,613	19	28	25	25	30	27	24	178	686,654	Low
27	Bluefield to Cow Creek	7,731	35	26	27	27	23	24	21	183	694,385	Low
28	Old Town Creek Watershed	2,291	18	29	33	24	22	28	32	186	696,677	Low
29	North Waccasassa Flats	14,715	22	30	34	21	24	29	29	188.8	711,392	Low
30	Horse Creek Ranch	16,316	34	25	20	28	34	26	22	189	727,708	Low
31	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	376	28	32	18	33	31	35	28	205	728,083	Low
32	Lower Perdido River Buffer	2,338	31	31	26	34	27	31	27	207	730,422	Low
33	Little River Conservation Area	2,293	33	33	21	29	28	33	36	213	732,715	Low
34	Suwannee County Preservation	1,254	30	35	36	23	32	32	31	219	733,969	Low
35	Limestone Ranch	6,382	32	34	32	31	36	36	30	231	740,351	Low
36	Millstone Plantation	83	36	36	35	36	33	34	34	244	740,434	Low
OK	Subtotal: 36 Projects	740,434	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			

ARC Recommended 2023 Florida Forever Priority List

Rank	Climate Change Lands Projects	Rem. Acres	DHR	FFS	L.G.	DEP	FWC	B.P.	E.P.	TOTAL ²	Cum. Acres ³	WP Priority ⁴
1	Florida Keys Ecosystem	5,668	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	8	5,668	High
2	St. Joe Timberland	52,191	2	4	4	2	1	2	2	17	57,859	High/Med
3	Northeast Florida Blueway	10,970	3	2	2	3	5	6	4	25	68,829	Med/Low
4	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	985	4	3	6	4	3	3	5	28	69,814	Low
5	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	171	6	5	8	5	10	4	3	41	69,985	Low
6	St. Johns River Blueway	17,151	7	7	5	10	6	7	6	48	87,135	Low
7	Garcon Ecosystem	3,248	11	6	9	8	7	5	7	53	90,384	Low
8	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	3,742	8	8	11	9	4	8	8	55.8	94,126	Low
9	West Bay Preservation Area	4,598	5	10	3	11	9	9	9	56	98,724	Low
10	Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island	647	9	9	10	6	8	10	11	63	99,371	Low
11	Terra Ceia	2,292	10	11	7	7	11	11	10	67	101,663	Low
OK	Subtotal: 11 Projects	101,663	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			
Rank	Substantially Complete Projects	Remaining Acres	DHR	FFS	L.G.	DEP	FWC	B.P.	E.P.	TOTAL ²	Cumulative Acres ³	Work Plan Priority ⁴
1	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	3,076	1	6	3	1	1	1	2	15	3,076	High
2	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	5,403	2	3	2	4	3	2	1	17	8,479	High/Med
3	South Walton County Ecosystem	2,583	5	1	1	5	4	3	3	22	11,062	Medium
4	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	8,786	3	2	6	3	2	4	5	25	19,847	Med/Low
5	Spruce Creek	358	6	5	5	6	6	5	4	37	20,206	Low
6	Lochloosa Wildlife	4,446	7	4	4	7	5	6	6	39	24,652	Low
7	Save Our Everglades	24	4	7	7	2	7	7	7	41	24,676	Low
OK	Subtotal: 7 Projects	24,676	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			
Rank	Critical Historical Resources Projects	Rem. Acres	DHR	FFS	L.G.	DEP	FWC	B.P.	E.P.	TOTAL ²	Cum. Acres ³	WP Priority ⁴
1	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	1,623	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	11	1,623	High/Med
2	Pierce Mound Complex	562	3	3	1	1	3	1	1	13	2,185	Low
3	Pineland Site Complex	144	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	18	2,329	Low
OK	Subtotal: 3 Projects	2,329	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			
OK	TOTAL ACRES OF ALL 129 PROJECTS	2,221,747										

¹ Counties with no remaining acreage to acquire in a project not listed here – see project summaries for counties in which acquisitions completed.

² Total of ranking votes, except higher ranked of tied projects has decimal amount subtracted from total.

³ Cumulative acres used to calculate in which Priority Group of the Acquisition Work Plan each project will qualify.

⁴ Work Plan Priority Groups pursuant to Rule 18-24.006(6):

High/Med = Portion of project in High Priority Group & portion in Medium Priority Group

Med/Low = Portion of project in Medium Priority Group & portion in Low Priority Group

High Priority Group = top 1/3 acreage within each Category

Medium Priority Group = middle 1/3 acreage within each Category

Low Priority Group = bottom 1/3 acreage within each Category