

Florida Forever Project Evaluation Report

Floyd's Mound Madison County



Acquisition Type: Less-Than-Fee

Acres: 40

Just Value: \$48,000

Application Date: October 31, 2022

Project Sponsors: Tall Timbers Research Inc.

Prepared By:

Division of State Lands

Office of Environmental Services



Submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council

April 14, 2023

Executive Summary

The proposed Floyd's Mound Florida Forever project contains one 40-acre parcel in southwest Madison County. Floyd's Mound is west of SR 19 and near the border with Jefferson County. It is owned by Tall Timber Research, Inc. The project is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition and has a tax assessed value of \$48,000.

The Floyd's Mound Florida Forever project is entirely within the boundary of archaeological site MD06 (Floyd's Mound), for which it is named. Floyd's Mound is one of the first archaeological sites recorded in Madison County (1961), and is notable for its primary surficial feature, a platform mound which is likely the largest in the Aucilla/Wacissa watershed. Research indicates that the site could potentially be the indigenous town of Asile, the namesake of the Aucilla river and seat of the Asile chiefdom, which was visited by Hernando De Soto's expedition in September of 1539. The State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) evaluation determined Floyd's Mound as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, a status reserved for Florida's most precious and important sites.

Due to the significant cultural and historical resources on the site, consideration of a fee purchase is recommended, pending a management commitment from an appropriate state management agency. Should this property be acquired in fee and preserved for public benefit, the proposed project would increase the number and percentage of historic and archaeological properties listed in the Florida Master Site File or National Register of Historic Places.

The project proposal is most noteworthy for its cultural resources but also offers an opportunity to protect forested wetlands with high aesthetic and ecological value that are connected to the Aucilla River system. Most of the uplands have been converted to pine plantation or agricultural fields. The proposed project is located within Priority 5 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN).

An interagency team conducted a site visit to the project site on January 18, 2023. Information included in this project evaluation report is a result of this site visit.

If approved for addition to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List, the project should be added as a standalone project in the Critical Historical Resources category. The entire property is considered essential due to the resources documented on on-site (see Appendix C).

PURPOSE FOR ACQUISITION

If acquired, the Floyd's Mound project will provide protection for a significant cultural and archaeological site that is the only known site where Ft. Walton and Suwanee Valley Culture artifacts co-occur. Conservation of the ecological resources found within the project will also contribute to the protection and enhancement of the water quality of the Aucilla/Wacissa watershed and protect habitat for wildlife and plant species.

Acquisition of this project would serve to:

- increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels
- preserve significant archaeological or historic sites
- provide surface and groundwater protection and protect natural floodplain functions
- protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems

LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO OTHER MANAGED AREAS

The Floyd's Mound proposal includes a single 40-acre parcel (per proposal; 41.2 acres as determined in GIS) approximately 5 miles southeast of Lamont in rural Madison County approximately 1 mile east of the Aucilla River. SW Mt. Olive Church Road borders nearly the entire western edge of the proposed project and divides a small portion of the southwestern corner from the remainder of the proposed project. Bordering the entire eastern edge of the site is a 50-acre Wetland Reserve easement held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. An additional 124-acre conservation easement lies less than a mile south of the proposed project. While there is relatively little managed acreage directly adjacent to the site, only 0.7 mile west of the site lies the Middle Aucilla Conservation area, which along with associated easements provides continuous protected lands extending to the Gulf Coast

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, 1999, 2004, and 2010 aerial photography, US Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Florida Cooperative Landcover data (FL FWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.4), and information in the FNAI database. A field survey was conducted on January 18, 2023 by FNAI biologists Amy Jenkins and Dan Hipes, along with the Acquisition and Restoration Council liaison staff. The Floyd's Mound site is most noteworthy for its cultural resources but offers an opportunity to protect forested wetlands connected to the Aucilla River system, which make up approximately half of the site's acreage. Although most of the uplands have been converted to pine plantation or agricultural fields, the field assessment revealed some intact wetlands with high aesthetic as well as ecological value.

Basin swamp encompasses the vast majority of the wetland acreage accounting for approximately 41 percent of the property. There is a closed canopy composed of sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), swamp laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), and pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*). There is a moderately dense subcanopy of American holly (*Ilex opaca*), sweetgum, sweetbay, swamp tupelo, swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), and white oak (*Quercus alba*). A sparse shrub layer that includes switchcane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), swamp doghobble (*Eubotrys racemosus*), and Carolina laurelcherry (*Prunus caroliniana*) is also present. The herbaceous cover is sparse to moderately dense with occasional dense patches. Dominant species are duckweed (*Lemna sp.*), floatingheart (*Nymphoides sp.*), iris (*Iris sp.*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis*), Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*), goldenclub (*Orontium aquaticum*), and netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*). Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*) was a common woody vine. No disturbances were evident in the basin swamp. A small seepage or possibly springrun stream flows through a portion of the basin swamp exiting the property near the southeastern corner. The source may be on the property adjacent to the east.

Bottomland forest occurs as a narrow transition between the basin swamp and the surrounding uplands. Areas visited have a canopy of swamp laurel oak, swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). There is a sparse shrub layer represented by American holly and a moderately dense herbaceous layer composed of sedges (*Carex spp.*), woodoats (*Chasmanthium sp.*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), netted chain fern and Virginia chain fern. Upper edges of the bottomland forest transition into successional hardwood forest. Because the community is present as a narrow band that is indistinct on aerial photography, the acreage is included with the basin swamp.

A small (<1/2 acre) depression marsh is present on the southern boundary of the property, extending on to the neighboring property. There is a moderately dense outer ring of common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and sweetgum. Various greenbrier species (*Smilax spp.*) are intertwined

within this somewhat tall shrub layer. The deeper interior is dominated by herbaceous species including primrosewillow (*Ludwigia* sp.) floatingheart and panicgrass (*Panicum* sp.).

Pine plantation is present on approximately a quarter of the property. The loblolly pine appears to be approximately 20 years old and are moderately dense. There are a few scattered southern magnolia and laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*) in the canopy and midstory. Scattered young laurel oak also occur in the shrub layers along with sand blackberry (*Rubus cuneifolius*). Vines are common, including yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), earleaf greenbrier (*Smilax auriculata*), cat greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*), and the invasive Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).

Successional hardwood forest is present in upland areas that have not been maintained in plantation or agricultural use. This includes the area where the mound is present and the upper edges of transitions to wetlands. There is a mature, mostly closed canopy of loblolly pine, laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), water oak, and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). A subcanopy of pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), sweetgum, southern magnolia, southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), laurel oak, and water oak fills most of the canopy gaps. There is a moderately dense tall shrub layer composed of sweetgum, southern magnolia, loblolly pine, southern red oak, and laurel oak. The patchy short shrub layer is mostly composed of young sweetgum, laurel oak, and swamp laurel oak; switchcane is common. Herbaceous cover is sparse; dominant species are ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), sedge, and woodoats. Woody vines are abundant, mostly represented by saw greenbrier (*Smilax bona-nox*), and lanceleaf greenbrier (*Smilax smallii*).

The area mapped as clearing had been disked recently prior to the field assessment, and thus was mostly bare loamy sand. There were a few scattered short shrub including sand blackberry (*Rubus cuneifolius*) and some weedy herbaceous species including broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), yankeeweed (*Eupatorium compositifolium*), orangegrass (*Hypericum gentianoides*), hairy indigo (*Indigofera hirsuta*), bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*), and rustweed (*Polypreum procumbens*) persisting in areas of the clearing that had not been disked.

A small (2 acres) abandoned field is present in the northeastern corner of the property. There is an open canopy of young loblolly pine, the oldest of which may be ten or so years old. There is occasional live oak in the tall shrub layer and a sparse short shrub layer of sweetgum and sand blackberry. Herbaceous plants were moderately dense and included broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), showy rattlebox (*Crotalaria spectabilis*), thoroughwort (*Eupatorium* sp.), orangegrass, bahiagrass, and purpletop tridens (*Tridens flavus*).

A small, but apparently deep artificial pond is present on the site. The perimeter has a tall shrub layer of sweetgum, southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), loblolly pine, and water oak. Herbaceous species are moderately dense along the perimeter and were dominated by lesser creeping rush (*Juncus repens*), which also grew as a floating aquatic plant into the pond.

Table 1. Natural communities and landcover types within Florida Forever proposal

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
basin swamp	19	46
depression marsh	<1	1
clearing	4	11
pine plantation	10	26
successional hardwood forest	5	12
abandoned field/abandoned pasture	2	5

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
artificial pond	<1	1

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

This resource assessment of the Floyd’s Mound Florida Forever project proposal is based on a field tour and GIS analysis. The property is immediately adjacent to the Cummins and McCollum Conservation Easement and less than a mile east of the Aucilla River and the Middle Aucilla River Conservation Area managed by the Suwannee River Water Management District. The acquisition of this property would further add to conservation lands under protection within the Aucilla River region, including connections with existing conservation lands that would be important for a diverse array of wildlife species such as the wide-ranging Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*).

More than half of the property is occupied by wetlands and bottomlands, including a manmade pond and a shallow perennial stream that appears to drain a large wetland complex located east of the property. The bottomlands observed during the field tour appeared to be in good condition. Although small in acreage, if the Floyd’s Mound property was established as a conservation area, it would further protect a portion of the Aucilla River watershed. These wetland habitats would be important for a variety of wetland-dependent wildlife species and could potentially benefit the ironcolor shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*), which is considered a rare fish species.

Most of the uplands on the property have been highly altered by pine plantations, fire exclusion, and conversion to open fields. The landowner has begun the process of returning prescribed fire to the upland communities. Approximately seven acres have been planted with slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*), and these areas will likely require thinning and a continued prescribed burning regime. Approximately seven acres have been converted to fields that are now fallow and dominated by undesirable dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillofolium*) and a variety of grasses. Future management of the fields could include restoring the native trees and ground cover and/or maintaining them as early successional openings and improving their value for wildlife. Overall, the protection and management of the upland communities on this property would be beneficial to numerous game and nongame wildlife species endemic to this area.

Although the Florida black bear has not been documented on this property it is common in the area. Protection of this property would contribute to the Aucilla River corridor and expansion of the bear population in this region. Wetlands on the property offer potential foraging habitat for wading birds that occupy a nearby rookery, located 0.7 mile to the south. The stream corridor also likely provides habitat for the one-toed amphiuma (*Amphiuma pholeter*), which has been documented on nearby properties and is listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan. Also, numerous winter resident bird species were observed during the field tour, including golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), barred owl (*Strix varia*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), and blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). While the property does not have high potential for imperiled species, 58% of the property is described as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) for American swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) and Cooper’s hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*).

The bottomlands on this property appear to provide good wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) habitat and in fact a wood duck was observed during the field tour. Other game species occurring on the property include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*). While this property is likely too small to be suitable for public hunting, it could provide other nature-based recreational opportunities, including wildlife viewing, nature study, bicycling, and hiking.

A portion of the property, 58%, is identified as priority 2 for the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project. The FWC GIS analysis of the Cooperative Land Cover v3.6 indicates that Floyd’s Mound

comprises a mixture of many different community types including freshwater forested wetlands (35%), mixed hardwood-coniferous (22%), and tree nurseries (18%). Additionally, the entire property provides water protection for the Aucilla River and Natural Well Branch stream, which are both Class 3F surface waters. Approximately 64% of the property shows a species richness for 5-8 imperiled species. The entire property is considered common Florida black bear range and 99% is listed as imperiled waters for the ironcolor shiner.

In conclusion, the Floyd's Mound property in its current condition will provide conservation value as a less-than-fee acquisition for the State of Florida. While the primary benefit would be the protection and research potential of the significant cultural resources, the wetlands and bottomlands on the property would contribute to the conservation of lands in the Aucilla River corridor and benefit a wide array of wetland-dependent species. In addition, the protection and management of uplands to restore them to a more natural condition, would be beneficial to a multitude of upland wildlife species.

GOALS, MEASURES AND CRITERIA

GOAL B:

INCREASE THE PROTECTION OF FLORIDA'S BIODIVERSITY AT THE SPECIES, NATURAL COMMUNITY, AND LANDSCAPE LEVELS

Measure B1:

The number of acres acquired of significant Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas.

The SHCA Florida Forever Conservation Needs layer identifies important remaining habitat conservation needs for 62 terrestrial vertebrates on private lands. Priority 1 and 2 represent habitat for species considered imperiled or critically imperiled in Florida. The Florida Forever Measure Evaluation (FFME) table reports the site contains approximately 38.8 acres (95% of site) of SHCAs. This is primarily within Priority 3 (54% of site) and Priority 5 (39%) with the remainder in Priority 2 (1%).

Measure B2:

The number of acres acquired of highest priority conservation areas for Florida's rarest species.

Habitat conservation priorities for 634 of Florida's rarest species were mapped and divided into six priority classes. The FFME reports the proposed project contains no rare species habitat.

Measure B3:

The number of acres acquired of significant landscapes, landscape linkages, and conservation corridors, giving priority to completing linkages

The FFME reports approximately 40.3 acres (98%) of the proposed project contributes to protection of ecological greenways, all of which falls within Priority 5 areas. Prioritization is based on such factors as importance for wide-ranging species like Florida panther and Florida black bear, importance for maintaining a connected reserve network, and riparian corridors.

Measure B4:

The number of acres acquired of under-represented native ecosystems.

The Florida Forever natural community analysis includes only those communities that are under-represented on existing conservation lands. This analysis provides a conservative estimate of the extent of these communities, because it identifies only relatively undisturbed portions of these communities that occur within their historic range. The FFME lists the acreages of under-represented natural communities found on the site. Based on this analysis, the Floyd's Mound proposal contains no under-represented natural communities.

Measure B6:

The percentage increase in the number of occurrences of imperiled species on publicly managed conservation areas.

Floyd’s Mound is within a general region of the state where the Florida black bear is considered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to be abundant. There are currently no other records of rare species in the FNAI database; however, the applicant has conducted ecological surveys on site and reported cardinal flower and southern plains bumblebee on site. These species could not be confirmed during the agency field assessment which occurred during a dormant period for both of these species. The table below lists rare plant and animal species known or reported to occur on site along with their rarity ranks and protection status.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the proposed project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on site by applicant					
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	G5*	SNR	N	T
Rare animals documented on site					
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Additional rare animals reported on site by applicant					
<i>Bombus fraternus</i>	southern plains bumblebee	G2G4	S3	N	N

Table Caption or Footnote

GOAL C:

PROTECT, RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF NATURAL FUNCTIONS OF LAND, WATER, AND WETLAND SYSTEMS OF THE STATE

Measure C1:

The number of acres of publicly-owned land identified as needing restoration; enhancement, and management, acres undergoing restoration or enhancement; acres with restoration activities completed, and acres managed to maintain such restored or enhanced conditions; the number of acres which represent actual or potential imperiled species habitat; the number of acres which are available pursuant to a management plan to restore, enhance, repopulate, and manage imperiled species habitat; and the number of acres of imperiled species habitat managed, restored, and enhanced, repopulated, or acquired.

The opportunity for restoration of natural systems on Floyd’s Mound is dependent upon acquisition type and limited to the small acreage of altered systems on the site. There is the potential to restore the 10 acres of pine plantation to a more natural condition by thinning and the application of prescribed fire. There are spotty occurrences of Japanese climbing fern that should be treated to prevent further spread on the site.

Measure C4:

The number of acres acquired that protect natural floodplain functions.

The FFME reports approximately 26.7 acres (65%) of the proposed project may contribute to the protection of natural floodplain function. This area is mostly within Priority 3 (64% of site), with the remainder in Priority 4 (1% of site). Priority 1 areas are the most natural with the lowest intensity land uses.

Measure C5:

The number of acres acquired that protect surface waters of the State.

The FFME reports approximately 40.0 acres (98%) of the proposed project could provide protection for those surface waters of the State that currently remain in good condition. This area is entirely in Priority 3. These areas represent acreage that contributes to the protection of state-designated Outstanding Florida Waters, springs, rare fish habitat, or other surface waters.

Measure C8:

The number of acres of functional wetland systems protected.

The FFME reports approximately 17.4 acres (42%) of the proposed project would provide protection for functional wetland systems. This area is primarily in Priority 3 (41% of site), with the remainder in Priority 4 (1%). Priority 1 areas are the most natural with the lowest intensity land uses.

GOAL D:

ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF WATER ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF NATURAL SYSTEMS AND THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE

Measure D1:

The number of acres acquired which provide retention and storage of surface water in naturally occurring storage areas, such as lakes and wetlands, consistent with the maintenance of water resources or water supplies and consistent with district water supply plans.

This project is somewhat small for a conservation easement. The project is on the edge of the Aucilla and Econfina-Fenholloway watersheds, with the majority in the Econfina-Fenholloway basin. The project appears to have little to no development within or around the project area, appearing to be mostly timber and wetlands. The lower portion of the property is in a flood zone. The project currently provides some water retention and storage in wetlands and springs and a pond. The presence of cultural resources would require careful consideration and would make any development for water resources difficult enough that it would not be worth the investment.

Measure D2:

The quantity of water made available through the water resource development component of a district water supply plan for which a water management district is responsible.

This project is not in a District water supply plan.

Measure D3:

The number of acres acquired of groundwater recharge areas critical to springs, sinks, aquifers, other natural systems, or water supply.

The FFME reports approximately 41 acres (100%) of the proposed project would provide protection for groundwater recharge areas. This area is divided between Priority 3 (68% of site) and Priority 2 (32%). Prioritization is based on features that contribute to aquifer vulnerability such as swallets, thickness of

the intermediate aquifer confining unit and closed topographical depressions, as well as areas within springshed protection zones and in proximity to public water supply wells.

Table 3. Spatial Analysis for Potential Water Quality Benefits of Floyd's Mound

Categories	Scoring Criteria	Project Score
DEP High Profile Springs (In 1,2,3 or > spring sheds)	12, 24, 36	0
DEP Select Agricultural Land Use (0-30%, >30-65%, >65%)	4,8,12	0
DEP Florida Aquifer Vulnerability (FAVA)	4,7,10	10
DEP Special Nutrient Impaired WBIDs	9	9
DEP Distance to Major Lakes (100, 500, 1000 meters)	8,7,6	0
DEP Springsheds or within 5 miles	10, 7	0
DEP BMAPs	10	0
DEP Distance to Major Rivers (100, 500, 1000 meters)	6,5,4	0
Total Possible	101	19

GIS Evaluation score is converted to a 1 to 5 value (low to high).

FINAL DEAR SCORE = 2 medium/low water quality protection benefits

GOAL E:

INCREASE NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED PUBLIC RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Measure E1-E3

The number of acres acquired that are available for natural resource-based public recreation or education.

The Floyd's Mound project is currently proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access. However, if purchased -fee-simple approximately 40 acres of the site would provide opportunities for natural and cultural resource interpretation.

GOAL F:

PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC SITES

Measure F1:

The increase in the number of and percentage of historic and archaeological properties listed in the Florida Master Site File or National Register of Historic Places which are protected or preserved for public use.

As a less-than-fee project, the Floyd's Mound Florida Forever project would not increase the number of, and percentage of historic and archaeological properties listed in the Florida Master Site File or National Register of Historic Places which are preserved for public use. However, through a conservation easement agreement that stipulates cultural resource protection, the Floyd's Mound Florida Forever project would protect cultural resources that are listed in the Florida Master Site File.

Measure F2:

The increase in the number and percentage of historic and archaeological properties that are in state ownership.

As a Less-Than-Fee project, Floyd's Mound would not meet Measure F2, as the number and percentage of historic and archaeological properties on the project would remain privately owned.

There is consideration being made for acquisition in fee, pending a management commitment from an agency. Should this property be acquired in fee and preserved for public benefit, the proposed project would increase the number of, and percentage of historic and archaeological properties listed in the Florida Master Site File or National Register of Historic Places.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The Floyd's Mound Florida Forever project is entirely within the boundary of archaeological site MD06 (Floyd's Mound), for which it is named. One of the first archaeological sites recorded in Madison County (1961), Floyd's Mound is notable for its primary surficial feature, a platform mound which is likely the largest in the Aucilla/Wacissa watershed. Although the mound proper stands as the most prominent feature of the site, recent (2020) testing of surrounding areas revealed that physical evidence of indigenous occupation of the area surrounding Floyd's Mound is intact, underscoring the entire project area as a cultural landscape whose scientific and conservation value is immense. This testing, conducted by the Aucilla Research Institute (ARI), revealed Floyd's Mound to be the only known site where Ft. Walton and Suwanee Valley Culture artifacts co-occur.

This discovery is important because the western extent of the Timucuan chiefdoms (Suwanee Valley Culture) during the early contact through mission periods of Florida history has previously been unknown. The presence of Suwanee Valley material culture at the Floyd's Mound site not only provides an important new understanding of the geographic and cultural distribution of the Timucuan chiefdoms, but also the complex interactions between the Timucuan and the Apalachee (Ft. Walton Culture), whose material footprint exists largely west of the Aucilla river.

The presence of both Ft. Walton and Suwanee Valley Culture at Floyd's Mound evidences this site as an important interaction zone between these two populations, providing with it an opportunity to explore new research questions pertinent to our understanding of Florida's past. Moreover, ARI believes that the artifact assemblage recorded at Floyd's Mound, in association with the mound's morphology and geographic context, along with insights derived from the archival record, make it a likely candidate for the indigenous town of Asile, the namesake of the Aucilla river and seat of the Asile chiefdom, which was visited by Hernando De Soto's expedition in September of 1539. While there is still more archaeological work needed to confirm this hypothesis, the material culture recorded at Floyd's Mound, in concert with the mound's impressive morphological characteristics, have resulted in the SHPO evaluation of Floyd's Mound as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, a status reserved for Florida's most precious and important sites.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS:

The field evaluation of the Floyd's Mound project, was attended by SHPO and ARC member Alissa Lotane, along with Dr. Rochelle Marrinan of the Florida State University Department of Anthropology and DHR staff. The entirety of the Floyd's Mound site was revealed to be in good condition. The DHR contingency collectively feels that this project is worthwhile and that the opportunity to conserve a broader cultural landscape associated with a physical mound site is of paramount importance to achieving the state's conservation goals in regard to cultural resources.

GOAL G:

INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FORESTLAND AVAILABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Measure G1:

The number of acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management.

The FFME reports approximately 14.3 acres (35% of site) could be available for sustainable forest management, entirely in Priority 5. Prioritization is based on 4 criteria set by the Florida Forest Service: whether trees are natural or planted, size of tract, distance to market, and hydrology. Priority 5 areas are considered "potential" pinelands; agricultural areas that could be restored to pineland.

Measure G2:

The number of acres of state owned forestland managed for economic return in accordance with current best management practices.

There are approximately 24 acres of forestland that can be managed for economic return.

Measure G4:

The percentage and number of acres identified for restoration actually restored by reforestation.

Approximately twelve acres were reforested with loblolly pine. Restoration is not needed over much of the site, as prescribed fire occurs regularly. Longleaf pine could be planted on higher areas, and slash/loblolly pine on the wetter areas if desired.

FLORIDA FOREVER CRITERIA

The proposed project meets the following Florida Forever criteria (§ 259.105, F.S.)

- The project meets multiple goals.
- The project has significant archaeological or historic value
- The project may be acquired, in whole or in part, using alternatives to fee simple.

The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall give increased priority to:

- Projects that can be acquired in less than fee ownership, such as a permanent conservation easement.

MANAGEMENT

If acquired as a perpetual conservation easement, primary management responsibility would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management would occur to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of the easement. Monitoring would be coordinated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of State Lands (DSL), Office of Environmental Services (OES).

FUNDING SOURCES

Florida Forever

OWNERSHIP PATTERN AND ACQUISITION PLANNING

Title and Legal Access, Jurisdictional and Sovereignty Lands, Legal Issues

Record of title, a designation of jurisdictional and sovereignty lands and any other legal Issues will be determined at the time of acquisition and are not known at this time.

Known Encumbrances (easement, long-term leases, restrictive covenants, etc.)

The easements and encumbrances of record would be determined during the appraisal mapping. A current title insurance commitment would be obtained, or the owner's title insurance policy would be reviewed if the policy is available. The easements and encumbrances would be depicted or noted on the appraisal map.

Description and location of hazardous waste sites, dumps, borrow pits

There are no apparent contamination sites within the project based on the application form.

Estimated Cost of Appraisal and Mapping

DEP Bureau of Appraisal estimates \$10,000 to \$20,000 in appraisal fees.

Acquisition Phases

Subject to funding, the Floyd's Mound Florida Forever project will be acquired in one phase.

GOVERNMENT PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

Florida Forever Proposal for the "Floyd's Mound Property" is approximately 40 acres and located in the southwestern portion of unincorporated Madison County, approximately five miles southeast of Lamont. The project is located within the Aucilla River watershed and Econfina-Steinhatchee watershed and is approximately one mile east of the Aucilla River itself. The surrounding landscape is mostly defined by forested lands, including both pine flatwoods habitat and planted pine stands. SW Mt. Olive Church Road borders nearly the entire western edge of the proposed project and splits one small unit in the southwest corner of the proposed project. Highway 19 is located 0.3 miles northeast of the property.

The proposed project is adjacent to the 50-acre Cummins and McCollum Conservation Easement, a Wetland Reserve Easement held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The same landowners who own the Cummins and McCollum Conservation Easement own 124 acres 0.7 miles south of the proposed project that is under a conservation easement held by Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy. A portion of the Suwannee River Water Management District's Mt. Gilead Tract is situated 0.7 miles west of the proposed project.

Contribution to Recreation and Open Space Needs

The proposal has a moderate to high potential for contributing to recreation and open space needs. The proposal is for a conservation easement or fee simple acquisition. According to the application, the property has already hosted a visit by members of the community and members of the Apalachee Tribe. The current landowner, will likely host guided visits in collaboration with the ARI, to allow members of the public to experience the site. In the past, the ARI has facilitated visits to the site, including to members of the Apalachee Tribe.

The proposed project has been discussed as appropriate for state ownership. If it enters state ownership the project could provide an excellent interpretive opportunity for members of the public. Finally, the project would offer 0.2 miles of scenic viewshed along SW Mt. Olive Church Road, providing views of its natural habitats along a rural, shaded road in close proximity to a major state highway.

Potential for Losing Significant Natural Attributes or Recreational Open Spaces

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the property contains approximately 22.70 (57%) acres of FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, and one archaeological site listed in the Florida Master Site File occurs on the proposed project area. The site consists of the platform mound and associated village site. The Division of Historical Resources has

provided a letter that outlines the significance of the site, and which states that listing on the National Register of Historic Places is warranted.

Low Potential: The potential for losing significant natural attributes located on the property due to urban development is low because the tract is limited to recreation, open space and conservation uses.

Potential for Being Subdivided

Low Potential: The future land use designation is Agriculture 2, which would allow for up to four dwelling units on site. The subject property has a low potential for being subdivided due to the property being smaller in size and almost half it contains wetlands.

Existing Land Uses and Future Land Use Designations

Existing Land Uses: The subject property is classified with the following land use/land cover with a variety of natural communities: basin swamp (17.0 acres); pine plantation (11.0 acres); successional hardwood forest (7.0 acres); clearing {4.0 acres}; abandoned field/pasture {2.0 acres}; depression marsh (0.1 acres); and artificial pond (0.1 acres).

Future Land Uses: The subject property is designated as "Agriculture 2" on the Madison County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) (see Map B). Based on the Madison County future land use designation, Agriculture 2 (one dwelling unit per ten acres), the subject property has a residential development potential of four dwelling units. According to Madison County planning staff, the future land use designations and zoning classifications are the same, which would classify zoning for the property as Agriculture 2.

Development Potential

Based on the Madison County Comprehensive Plan future land use designation, Agriculture 2 (one dwelling unit per ten acres), the subject property has a residential development potential of four dwelling units.

Transportation Planning Issues

This project falls within Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2, and is located near US 19, a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facility. It is located within two miles of US 19 and State Highway 14, which are both designated as evacuation routes. While the Department finds no adverse impact to this proposed project, there should be coordination with the appropriate FDOT District staff during the acquisition process to ensure that issues related to the transportation system and partnering opportunities are addressed and incorporated into the management plan as appropriate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Staff in DEP's Division of State Lands (DSL) and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory determined the final project recommendations. Sine Murray and Deborah Burr in DSL's Office of Environmental Services was responsible for the overall coordination of this report, with contributions from the following:

- Division of Historical Resources – Brandon Ackerman, Jason O'Donoghue
- Florida Forest Service – Cat Ingram, Zachary Butler
- Department of Economic Opportunity – Barbara Powell
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Susie Nuttall, Sharon Hester, David Nicholson
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory – Daniel Hipes, Amy Jenkins, Nathan Pasco
- DEP Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration – Ken Weaver
- Florida Department of Transportation – Ben Naselius

- Florida State University - Dr. Rochelle Marrinan

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

Final FF measures table: Report requirement 259.105 (15)d, prepared by Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Floyd's Mound: Florida Forever Measures Evaluation 20230224

GIS ACRES = 41.2

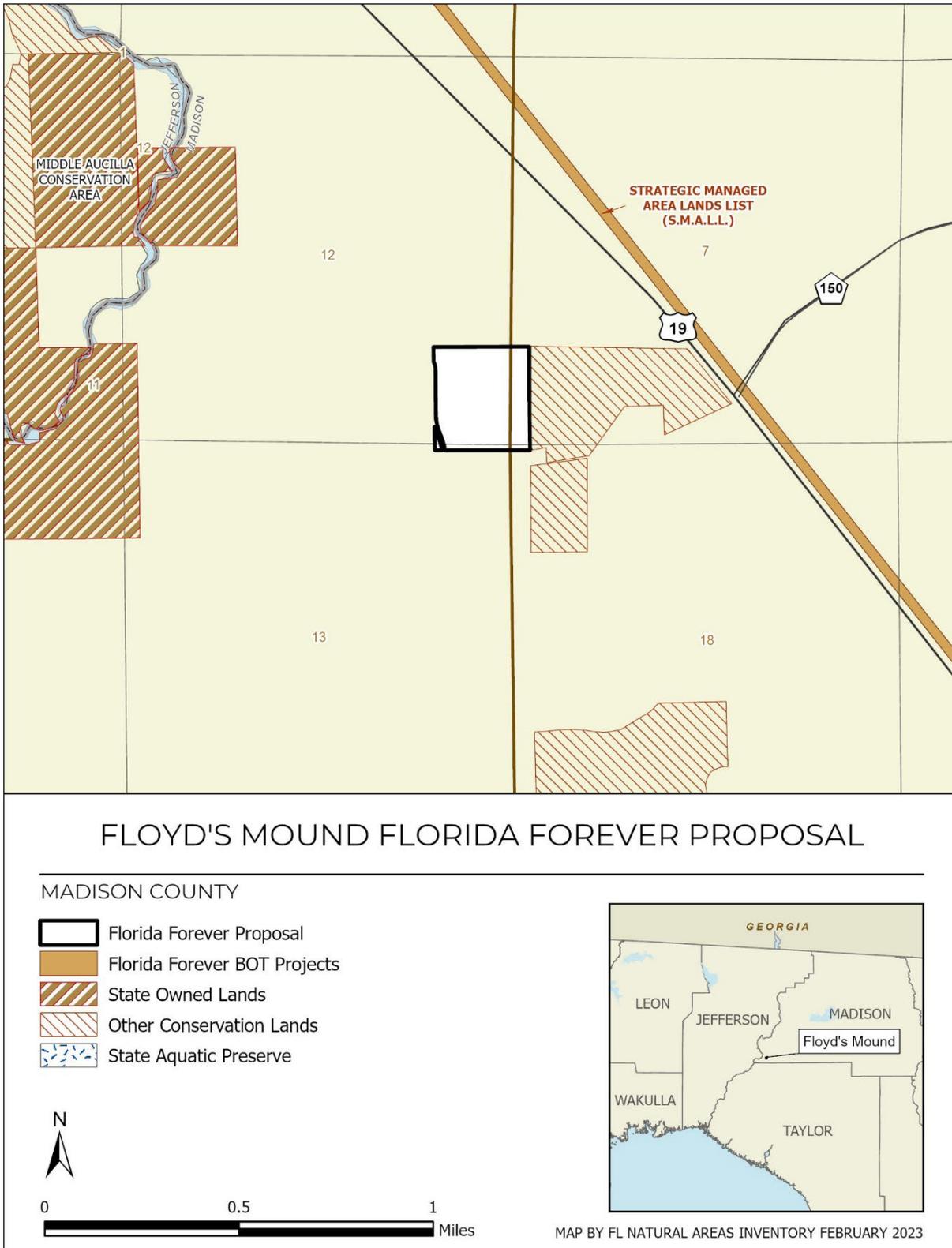
MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.4	1%
Priority 3	22.3	54%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	16.0	39%
Total Acres	38.8	95%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.0	0%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	40.3	98%
Total Acres	40.3	98%
B4: Under-represented Natural Communities		
Upland Glade (G1)	0.0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0.0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0.0	0%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0.0	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0.0	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0.0	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0.0	0%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0.0	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0.0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	0.0	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.0	0%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species		
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	1	
G5	0	
Total	1	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	26.2	64%
Priority 4	0.6	1%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	26.7	65%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	40.0	98%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Priority 7	0.0	0%
Total Acres	40.0	98%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0.0	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0.0	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0.0	0%
Total Acres	0.0	0%
C8: Functional Wetlands		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	16.9	41%
Priority 4	0.5	1%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	17.4	42%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	13.2	32%
Priority 3	27.7	68%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5	0.0	0%
Priority 6	0.0	0%
Total Acres	41.0	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
<small>(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails & Univ. Florida)</small>		
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)		
		1 sites
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0.0	0%
Priority 2	0.0	0%
Priority 3	0.0	0%
Priority 4	0.0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	14.3	35%
Total Acres	14.3	35%
G3: Forestland for Recharge		
	0.0	0%

^aAcres of each resource in the project and percentage of project represented by each resource are listed except where noted. This analysis converts site boundary into pixels, which causes slight differences from GIS acres; this effect is most noticeable on small sites.

Appendix B:

Final FF proposal boundary maps: Report requirement 259.105 (15)k, prepared by Florida Natural Areas Inventory



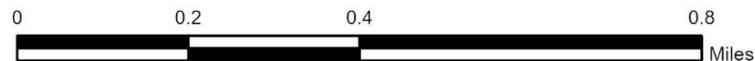
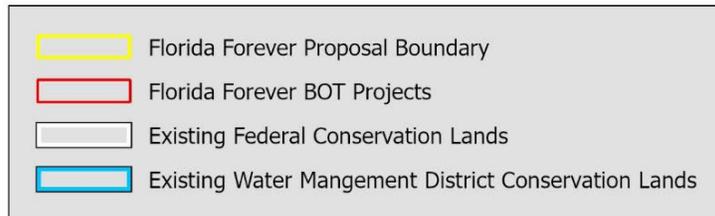
Floyd's Mound Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF FEBRUARY 2023



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, February 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter



Appendix C:

PROPERTY ID #'S FOR FINAL RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY

COUNTY	PARCEL ID	OWNER	ACRES PER TAX CARD	JUST VALUE	ASSESSED VALUE	PARCEL DESIGNATION
Madison	12-2S-05- 0048-000- 000	Red Hills Land Conservation LLC	40.00	\$48,000.00	\$7,645.00	Essential
			40.00	\$48,000.00	\$7,645.00	

Appendix D:**Imperiled Species FNAI Ranking Definitions**

FNAI
Definitions of imperiled species ranks and conservation status

Using a ranking system developed by NatureServe and the Natural Heritage Program Network, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory assigns two ranks for each element. The global rank is based on an element's worldwide status; the state rank is based on the status of the element in Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, the most important ones being estimated number of Element Occurrences (EOs), estimated abundance (number of individuals for species; area for natural communities), geographic range, estimated number of adequately protected EOs, relative threat of destruction, and ecological fragility.

FNAI GLOBAL ELEMENT RANK

- G1** = Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
G2 = Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
G4 = Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
G5 = Demonstrably secure globally.
GH = Of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
GX = Believed to be extinct throughout range.
GXC = Extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation.
G#? = Tentative rank (e.g., G2?).
G#G# = Range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3).
G#T# = Rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1).
G#Q = Rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q).
G#T#Q = Same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
GU = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
GNA = Ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
GNR = Element not yet ranked (temporary).
GNRTNR = Neither the element nor the taxonomic subgroup has yet been ranked.

FNAI STATE ELEMENT RANK

- S1** = Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S2 = Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S3 = Either very rare and local in Florida (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
S4 = Apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range).
S5 = Demonstrably secure in Florida.
SH = Of historical occurrence in Florida, possibly extirpated, but may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker).
SX = Believed to be extirpated throughout Florida.
SU = Unrankable; due to a lack of information no rank or range can be assigned.
SNA = State ranking is not applicable because the element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. a hybrid species).
SNR = Element not yet ranked (temporary).

FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS

Legal status information provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant federal agency.

Definitions derived from U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, Sec. 3. Note that the federal status given by FNAI refers only to Florida

2019-04-19

Page 2

FNAI
Definitions of imperiled species ranks and conservation status

populations and that federal status may differ elsewhere.

C = Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened.

E = Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

E, T = Species currently listed endangered in a portion of its range but only listed as threatened in other areas

E, PDL = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for delisting.

E, PT = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for listing as threatened.

E, XN = Species currently listed endangered but tracked population is a non-essential experimental population.

T = Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

PE = Species proposed for listing as endangered

PS = Partial status: some but not all of the species' infraspecific taxa have federal

PT = Species proposed for listing as threatened

SAT = Treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed such that enforcement personnel have difficulty in attempting to differentiate between the listed and unlisted species.

SC = Not currently listed, but considered a "species of concern" to USFWS.

STATE LEGAL STATUS

Provided by FNAI for information only. For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant state agency.

Animals: Definitions derived from "Florida's Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern, Official Lists" published by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 August 1997, and subsequent updates.

C = Candidate for listing at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FE = Listed as Endangered Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FT = Listed as Threatened Species at the Federal level by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FXN = Federal listed as an experimental population in Florida

FT(S/A) = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance

ST = State population listed as Threatened by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.

SSC = Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species. (SSC* for *Pandion haliaetus* (Osprey) indicates that this status applies in Monroe county only.)

N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Plants: Definitions derived from Sections 581.011 and 581.185(2), Florida Statutes, and the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act, 5B-40.001. FNAI does not track all state-regulated plant species; for a complete list of state-regulated plant species, call Florida Division of Plant Industry, 352-372-3505 or see: <<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/>>.

E = Endangered: species of plants native to Florida that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue; includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

T = Threatened: species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in number as to cause them to be Endangered.

N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Appendix E:

Site Visit Photos



Native American Platform Mound within successional hardwood forest



Pine plantation

April 14, 2023



Depression Marsh



Basin Swamp



Narrow band of Bottomland Hardwood Forest



Artificial Pond



Field