

Eight Mile Property
Dixie County

Florida Forever Project Evaluation Report

Prepared by:
Division of State Lands
Office of Environmental Services

Submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council
April 8, 2022



Acquisition Type: Less-than-Fee
Acres: 5,706
Just Value: \$7,871,610
Application Date: October 31, 2021
Project Sponsor: Environmental Consulting & Design, Inc.

Executive Summary

The proposed Eight Mile Property Florida Forever project contains 10 parcels totaling 5,706 acres in Dixie County. The project borders County Road 357 (CR 357) to the west and the Lafayette-Dixie county line to the north. The project also borders the Bailey Brothers conservation easement managed by the Suwanee River Water Management District (SRWMD). Cities nearby include Cross City and Salem. According to the property tax appraiser, the project has a total tax assessed value of \$7,871,610. The Eight Mile Property project is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition.

The predominant land use on the property is forestry, and extensive areas of the property consist of planted pine, or pine plantations that have been recently harvested. However, despite past use of the uplands for silviculture, the wetland areas of the Eight Mile Property appear to be in relatively natural condition. The project area is a part of the Steinhatchee headwaters system and contains Eightmile Creek, a significant blackwater stream that flows across the property from the northeast corner to the southwest for approximately 3 miles. Along this length, Eightmile Creek is surrounded by a mature floodplain swamp. The most common wetland community on the property is basin swamp, which makes up most of the eastern third of the property. A large mostly undisturbed bottomland forest is located at the center of the property. The application indicates that the creation of a private mitigation bank is being considered for approximately 70% of the proposed project.

Rare animals documented or reported within the proposed project area include white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). In addition, five archaeological sites have been recorded within the project area. The project is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN).

If approved for addition to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List, 1,523 of the 5,706 acres proposed are considered essential, due to the resources documented on the property, and 4,182 acres are considered non-essential due to the potential for this portion of the project to become a commercial wetland mitigation bank (see Appendix C). Pursuant to Rule 62-342.650, F.A.C. a mitigation bank shall ultimately convey either fee simple interest to the Board of Trustees or record a conservation easement to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the relevant Water Management District. Additionally, the purpose of mitigation bank credits, known as "functional gain," ensures that mitigation banks provide viable and sustainable ecological and hydrological functions for the service area that are to be managed in perpetuity. Therefore, less-than-fee acquisition for the portions of the project being considered for a mitigation bank could become unnecessary.

An interagency team conducted a site visit to the project site on January 26, 2022. Information included in this project evaluation report is a result of this site visit.

PURPOSE FOR ACQUISITION

Protection of the Eight Mile Property would help to connect existing conservation lands around Mallory Swamp and the Steinhatchee River. Adding to the complex of protected lands in the Steinhatchee watershed will protect the water quality in the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve (BBSAP) and provide a critical habitat corridor for a diverse array of wildlife species.

If acquired, the Eight Mile Property project would serve to:

- Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state.
- Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.
- Conserve and protect a portion of Florida's rural landscape in order to provide and enhance wildlife corridors for rare and imperiled species.

LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO OTHER MANAGED AREAS

The Eight Mile Property proposal comprises 5,717 acres (per GIS) in north-central Dixie County at its boundary with Lafayette County, approximately 13 miles northeast of the town of Steinhatchee. The proposed property is adjacent to the northwest border of the large Bailey Brothers conservation easement monitored by SRWMD, and extends west nearly 4 miles to CR 357. The Upper Steinhatchee Conservation Area and Mallory Swamp Restoration Area (both owned by SRWMD) are about 5 miles west and 2.5 miles northeast of the proposal, respectively. Lafayette Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission [FWC]) is approximately 10 miles east-northeast of the Eight Mile Property, adjacent to Mallory Swamp on the east side and part of the Lafayette Forest Florida Forever project. Eightmile Creek, a tributary of the Steinhatchee River, begins on the adjacent conservation easement and traverses the proposal area westward. The property fronts CR 357 for a distance of approximately 2.7 miles. Timber production is currently the primary use of the property.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) database, aerial photography from 1995-2018, US Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, and Cooperative Land Cover data (FNAI, Florida Cooperative Landcover Map, version 3.4). A field survey was conducted on January 26, 2022, by FNAI biologists Geoffrey Parks and Geena Hill, along with the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) liaison staff.

The proposal property is situated in the Mallory Swamp province of the Ocala Uplift District, a region of low rolling limestone plains between the Suwannee River Valley and the lower gulf coastal plain. Elevations on the proposal property range from 55 feet above mean sea level (msl) on the eastern third of the property to approximately 37 feet above msl at the west boundary where Eightmile Creek flows off the property.

Eightmile Creek flows into the Steinhatchee River approximately 5 miles west of the proposed project area. Approximately 12 miles downstream, the Steinhatchee River empties into the Gulf of Mexico in the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve (BBSAP), the second largest contiguous area of seagrass habitat in the eastern gulf. Protection of the Eight Mile Property would help close a gap between protected areas around Mallory Swamp and those surrounding the Steinhatchee River, adding to a complex of protected lands in the Steinhatchee watershed that help protect water quality in the BBSAP.

Slightly less than half of the Eight Mile Property appears to be in relatively natural condition. The most common natural community type on the property is basin swamp, which makes up most of the eastern third of the property, and also occurs less commonly further west. These basin swamps have a canopy of black gum (*Nyssa biflora*) and pondcypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), with red maple (*Acer rubrum*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*) as occasional components. A well-developed shrub layer is often present, consisting of fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), swamp doghobble (*Eubotrys racemosus*), swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*), and wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*). Various herbaceous plants occur, ranging from lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), beaksedges (*Rhynchospora spp.*), frogbit (*Limnobium spongia*), Florida midmidget (*Wolffiella gladiata*), and arrowhead (*Sagittaria sp.*) in flooded areas to panicgrass (*Coleataenia sp.*) and Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*) in slightly drier areas. Although basin swamps visited during the site assessment were in good condition, aerial photos show that the swamps in a large part of the eastern project area were logged in the mid-1990s, and these were not seen during the site visit.

A large area of wet forest in the center of the property appears to be mostly bottomland forest with some basin swamp included. Other areas of bottomland forest are present along the edges of

floodplain swamps that fringe Eightmile Creek and its tributaries. These infrequently-flooded forests are generally open, mature, and diverse, with a canopy of mixed upland and wetland trees including red maple, pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), laurel oak, sweetgum, pondcypress, sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*). Herbaceous species include common blue violet (*Viola palmata*), woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*), variable witchgrass (*Diachanthelium commutatum*), beaksedges, tall nutgrass (*Scleria triglomerata*), sarsaparilla vine (*Smilax pumila*). The midstory is minimal but saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) and cabbage palm occasionally occurs throughout the area. An elevated limerock roadbed extends into the center of the large bottomland basin, which provides habitat for shield fern (*Thelypteris sp.*) and climbing buckthorn (*Sageretia minutiflora*) which were not encountered elsewhere during the site visit. Some hydric hammock may be present in areas mapped as bottomland forest, as these two communities appear similar in aerial photos.

Dome swamps are common throughout the property, most frequently as isolated round depressions within the pine plantations on the project's western half. These swamps are generally dominated by pond cypress, with varying amounts of black gum, red maple, and sweetgum in the canopy, and occasional slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*). Shrubs are often dense, and include fetterbush and wax myrtle. Herbaceous plants such as rushes (*Juncus sp.*), sedges (*Carex sp.*) occur sparingly on elevated hummocks, and lizard's tail and primrosewillow (*Ludwigia sp.*) grow in shallow standing water.

Two significant blackwater streams, which are tannin-laden creeks that originate in lowland swamps, are found on the property. Eightmile Creek crosses the property along an approximately 3-mile path, entering the north boundary of the property approximately a mile from the northeast corner, and flowing southwest. The creek leaves the site near the middle of the west boundary, under a bridge on CR 357. An unnamed tributary originates on the Bailey Brothers conservation easement and flows onto the Eight Mile project area at its southern boundary, flowing about 1.5 miles, eventually meeting Eightmile Creek near the property's western boundary. These streams are generally surrounded by a band of floodplain swamp or bottomland forest, depending on the elevations of the surrounding lands.

Floodplain swamp occurs along Eightmile Creek and its tributary. These are mature forests in good condition. Canopy species include baldcypress, black gum, laurel oak, and red maple; sedges (particularly millet beaksedge, *Rhynchospora miliacea*), vines (coral greenbriar, *Smilax walteri* and swamp leather-flower, *Clematis crispa*) are among the other species found in these frequently flooded areas.

Areas of shrub bog occur amid the pine plantations east of the large bottomland basin. These are dense stands of titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), heavily blanketed with laurel greenbriar (*Smilax laurifolia*), with a few other trees present, including sweetbay magnolia, dahoon holly, and sparsely scattered emergent slash pine. The interior of these communities mostly lacks herbaceous plants, and the forest floor consists of deep peat with areas of standing water.

A few small patches of mesic hammock occur, although they are not frequent or widespread on the property. These habitats generally occur at the edges of pine plantations in slight rises above adjacent swamps or bottomlands, and are characterized by the presence of live oak, pignut hickory, and saw palmetto.

A single depression marsh, about 4 acres in size, lies east of Eightmile Creek surrounded by pine plantation. Most of the marsh is heavily vegetated with maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) and sedges. Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) dominates the deepest zone in the center of the marsh. Black gum and myrtleleaf St. John's wort (*Hypericum myrtifolium*) occur sparingly at its outer margin.

Aerial photos of the site show a few patches of forested wetlands that have a mostly evergreen canopy and are likely to be baygalls. These occur in several locations making up a total of about 2 percent of the project area, most commonly in the eastern reaches of the property. These were not visited during

the field assessment, but are likely to be dominated by evergreen hardwoods such as sweetbay magnolia, swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), and loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*).

The predominant land use on the property is forestry, and extensive areas (approximately 50%) of the property consist of planted loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) and slash pine, or pine plantations that have been recently harvested. The majority of pine plantation seen on the site visit was young bedded slash pine. Plants growing among the pines in these stands include bluestems (*Andropogon spp.*), blackberry (*Rubus sp.*), maidencane, with occasional wetland species such as mermaidweed (*Proserpinaca sp.*) and pennywort (*Hydrocotyle*). Hog rooting was common and extensive along road edges through wet pine plantations.

Artificial ponds are arrayed at regular intervals along the western edge of the property near CR 357, and may be borrow pits from the construction of the highway. Other than their rectangular shape, these resemble natural marshes, with areas of water lilies (*Nymphaea sp.*) and other floating aquatic plants, expansive areas of emergent plants such as maidencane and rushes, and occasional buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and pondcypress. Several species of wading birds were seen using these ponds during the site visit. Table 1 provides a list of the landcover types identified on the proposal and their approximate acreages.

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

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
basin swamp	1031	18%
bottomland forest	592	10%
floodplain swamp	498	9%
dome swamp	332	6%
baygall	135	2%
shrub bog	51	<1%
mesic hammock	6	<1%
depression marsh	4	<1%
pine plantation	2591	45%
clear-cut pine plantation	281	5%
road	170	3%
artificial pond	23	<1%
developed	2	<1%
Totals	5717	100%

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

The project is proposed as a less-than-fee acquisition, with 4,182.6 acres of the subject property concurrently under consideration as a wetland mitigation bank (excluding ~1,523 ac. of the northwest and southwest portions of the property). The less-than-fee acquisition of this property would further add to conservation lands under protection within this region to include connections with existing conservation lands that would be important for a diverse array of wildlife species but most notably for wider ranging species such as the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) in an area of the state that is primarily industrial timberland.

The property is almost equally divided between upland and wetland habitats. Almost all uplands on the property have been converted to slash pine plantations for timber production with many of the stands being bedded. If the 4,182.6-acre portion of the property is approved as a wetland mitigation bank, then extensive restoration is planned to restore natural function to the wetland mitigation portion of property. Planned restoration would include discontinuance of most timber operations, implementation of prescribed fire, and the subsequent restoration of native trees and groundcover. This restoration would

also include hydrologic restoration that would result in the conversion of areas of pine plantation to wetland habitat as appropriate. If the mitigation bank is not approved and/or within those areas not included in the mitigation bank, the owners appear to be amenable to some improvements to upland communities but are likely to continue some level of timber production. Both the protection and further management of this property would be beneficial to a host of non-game species endemic to this area.

The wetland portion of the property includes mixed wetland hardwoods (~2,103 ac.), mixed scrub/shrub wetland (~371 ac.), mixed hardwood coniferous swamp (~118 ac.), cypress (~66 ac.), and other types (see the attached FWC GIS Environmental Resources Analysis for more detail). Portions of the bottomlands observed during the field tour appeared to be in good condition and relatively undisturbed by timber operations, some with a well-developed and unique herbaceous understory. If the Eight Mile Property was established as a conservation easement, it would protect a significant area of the Eightmile Creek watershed and other drainage basins. These wetland habitats would be important for a number of wetland-dependent species and would potentially include the ironcolor shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*), which is listed as a rare fish species.

While the Florida black bear is described as occasional for this area, the number of reports and roadkill suggests the population is increasing within this region. Bear habitat on the property appears to be suitable and the protection of the Eightmile Creek drainage basin, which connects with the Steinhatchee River about five miles to the west and continues east from the property towards the Suwannee River, would be an important corridor to allow for further expansion of the bear population in this region. While the property does not have high potential for other imperiled species, portions of the property are described as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for American swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), in addition to the black bear. Also, during the field tour, wood storks (*Mycteria americana*) and various wading birds were observed in one of the artificial ponds on the property.

Game species occurring on the property include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), Florida wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo osceola*), and likely waterfowl given the number of wetlands and ~23 ac. of man-made ponds. While the property would not be open to public hunting, it would have potential for a hunting lease and thus could contribute to some level of fee-based recreational hunting.

Although no significant damage from feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) was observed during the field tour, sign of feral hogs was observed and the landowners acknowledged damage had been observed, so some level of control of feral hogs would be recommended. While invasive plants were not observed during the field tour, given past land-use there are likely some present which should be controlled when observed.

The FWC Florida Landscape Assessment Model (FLAM) is a GIS model that determines the landscape value based on natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat. The FLAM ranks habitat from a 0-10; a rank of 10 being of greatest value. The mean FLAM score for this property is 6.5. Approximately 49% is identified as Priority 1 or 2 (of 5) for the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project. Most of the area is within Priority 2 (of 5) of the FEGN. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data shows 45% classified as wetlands. The FWC GIS Environmental Resources Analysis containing more detailed information concerning the FWC's FLAM analysis, focal species data, SHCA data, wildlife observation data, etc. is provided as an addendum to this assessment.

In conclusion, the Eight Mile Property in its current condition will provide conservation value as a less-than-fee acquisition for the State of Florida. The primary benefit would be the future protection of a significant number of wetlands in the Eightmile Creek watershed, which could increase the potential for Florida black bear expansion in this region. In addition, the future protection of the many wetlands on the property would be highly beneficial for a diverse array of wetland-dependent species. The protection and increased management of uplands to restore to more natural conditions would be

beneficial to a multitude of upland wildlife species in an area of the state dominated by high-intensity commercial timber production.

GOALS, MEASURES AND CRITERIA

GOAL A:

ENHANCE THE COORDINATION AND COMPLETION OF LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Measure A1:

The number of acres acquired through the state’s land acquisition programs that contribute to the enhancement of essential natural resources, ecosystem service parcels, and connecting linkage corridors as identified and developed by the best available scientific data.

If interest is acquired, 5,706 acres would contribute to the enhancement of essential natural resources, ecosystem service parcels, and connecting linkage corridors.

Measure A2:

The number of acres protected through the use of alternatives to fee simple acquisition.

If interest is acquired, 5,706 acres would be protected through the use of alternatives to fee simple acquisition.

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 33 wildlife species on private lands. Priority 1 and 2 represent habitat for species considered imperiled or critically imperiled in Florida. The Florida Forever Measure Evaluation (FFME) (Appendix A) reports the site contains approximately 5,431 acres (95% of site) of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas. This is divided between Priority 3 (53% of site) and Priority 5 (42% of site) areas.

Measure B2:

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

An analysis of priority conservation areas based on Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment data may be found in the FFME. Habitat conservation priorities for 281 of Florida’s rarest species were mapped and divided into six priority classes. Table 2 lists the acres of habitat for each species that may be found on the site, based on the FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities. The FFME shows that no acres of rare species habitat were found on the Eight Mile Property proposed project.

*Table 2. Rare species habitat based on FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	Acres
none	none	N/A	N/A

**For 281 species with the greatest conservation need.*

Measure B3:

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

The FFME reports approximately 5,717 acres (100%) of the proposed project contributes to protection of ecological greenways with nearly all acreage falling within Priority 2 areas (99% of site). Priority 2 areas represent a significant opportunity to maintain the large connected landscape needed to conserve viable populations of Florida’s flagship animal species such as the Florida panther and Florida black bear.

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 Eight Mile Property proposal contains 2 acres of mesic flatwoods (<1% of site).

Measure B5:

The number of landscape-sized protection areas of at least 50,000 acres that exhibit a mosaic of predominantly intact or restorable natural communities established through new acquisition projects, or augmentations to previous projects.

The Eight Mile Property proposal, along with adjacent conservation lands that include Bailey Brothers Conservation Easement (held by SRWMD) and Mallory Swamp Restoration Area (managed by SRWMD), would contribute to a contiguous landscape-sized protection area of >58,000 acres.

Measure B6:

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

FNAI’s database contains no specific records of rare species of animals or plants within the proposed area; this may reflect lack of biological surveys and the absence of submission of data by others. The Florida black bear is considered occasional in the region of the property by the FWC 2018 range estimate. The FNAI database and the Breeding Bird Atlas indicate the presence of numerous wading birds within 10 km of the site as well as osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*; G5*, S3S4, N, N), swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*; G5, S2, N, N). American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*; (G5, S4, SAT, FT(S/A)), and Eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*; G4, S3, N, N). White ibis (G5, S4, N, N) and wood stork (G4, S2, T, FT) were observed during the site visit. Potential rare plants in the region that could be expected onsite include corkwood (*Leitneria floridana*; C3, S3, N, T) and pinewood dainties (*Phyllanthus liebmannianus* ssp. *platylepis*; G4T2, S2, N, E). It is possible that additional rare plants or animals could be documented with additional survey effort.

Table 3 contains species falling into any of these observational categories, as well as species gleaned from other sources (e.g., Florida Breeding Bird Atlas) with different degrees of locational precision. Rarity rankings are listed in the following order: FNAI global (G, T) and state (S) ranks, federal status, state status. Species ranks and conservation status are described in Appendix D.

Table 3. 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 or reported on site					
none					

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
Rare animals documented on site					
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	white ibis	G5	S4	N	N
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	wood stork	G4	S2	T	FT
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Additional rare animals reported on site by applicant					
none					

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 property is offered for less-than-fee acquisition, with existing forestry activities expected to continue. Much of the extensive area of forested wetlands, particularly the floodplain swamp and bottomland forest, are in excellent condition, and would appear to require little management in order to maintain their structure, composition, and function. Control of feral hogs is likely to be necessary, however, to prevent impacts to water quality and plant and animal diversity. Over 2800 acres of pine plantation on the property have been heavily altered, and would require extensive and long-term investment to adequately restore to natural communities. This is likely to be well beyond the scope of what could reasonably be expected under a less-than-fee acquisition.

Based on the absence of invasive plants observed during the site visit, control needs on the property appear to be relatively minor, although the entire site was not assessed. A baseline assessment to determine the full extent of any invasive plant infestations is warranted if an easement over this property is to be acquired.

Measure C4:

The number of acres acquired that protect natural floodplain functions.

The FFME reports approximately 5,212 acres (91%) of the proposed project may contribute to the protection of natural floodplain function including 2,649 acres within priority 3. Priority 3 areas are ecologically viable tracts of land with semi-natural land uses.

Measure C5:

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

The FFME reports approximately 27,242 acres (99%) of the proposed project could provide protection for those surface waters of the State that currently remain in good condition. This includes 2,887 acres within priority 2. Priority 2 areas represent acreage that contributes to the protection of state-designated Outstanding Florida Waters, springs or rare fish habitat.

Measure C8:

The number of acres of functional wetland systems protected.

The FFME reports approximately 4,544 acres (17%) of the proposed project would provide protection for functional wetland systems. This includes 1,865 acres within priority 3 for protecting functional wetland systems. Priority 3 areas are considered wetlands in a natural state within semi-natural land uses.

Measure C11:

The number of acres of public conservation lands in which upland invasive, exotic plants are under maintenance control.

No invasive plant issues were observed.

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.

The project is within the Steinhatchee River Basin and is comprised of property that appears to have little to no development within or around the project area. Eightmile Creek runs through the property entering on the north side and exiting on the west side of the property. All but a small portion (<10%) is in a Zone A flood plain and a good portion of the project is timberland. The owner wishes to retain timber rights on an approximately 1500 acres. The application states that the owner may consider a mitigation bank over more than 70% of the property. Although mitigation banks are a restorative action, having an easement over a mitigation bank is redundant as it would place an easement over property that must remain in a natural state in perpetuity as part of the mitigation bank. The estimated area available for natural retention is approximately 3/4 of the property, however, all of it is within the proposed mitigation area.

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.

The project is not in a District water supply plan. The property owner had preliminary discussion with District staff about acquisition. The proposed action did not move past discussions.

Measure D3:

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

The property is not in a restoration plan area, but the property would provide surface and ground water protection.

Table 4. Spatial Analysis for Potential Water Quality Benefits of Eight Mile Property.

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	4

Categories	Scoring Criteria	Project Score
DEP Florida Aquifer Vulnerability (FAVA)	4,7,10	10
DEP Special Nutrient Impaired WBIDs	9	0
DEP Distance to Major Lakes (100, 500, 1000 meters)	8,7,6	0
DEP Springsheds or within 5 miles	10, 7	7
DEP BMAPs	10	0
DEP Distance to Major Rivers (100, 500, 1000 meters)	6,5,4	0
Total Possible	101	21

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

Measures E1-E3

The Eight Mile Property project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

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 Eight Mile 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 protected or preserved for public use; however, through the conservation easement agreement, Eight Mile would preserve and protect a number of very significant historic and archaeological sites that are listed in the Florida Master Site File and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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, Eight Mile would not meet Measure F2, as the number and percentage of historic and archaeological properties on the project would remain privately owned.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

There are five recorded archaeological sites on the Eight Mile Florida Forever project: DI81, DI182, DI183, DI188, and DI189. DI81 was recorded in 1986 by a group of students from Washington State University as part of an archaeological reconnaissance survey of Dixie and Taylor Counties. DI81, also known as Tiger Ridge, was made known to the researchers by local artifact collectors, who had amassed large collections of projectile points from the sites. The site likely dates to the pre-ceramic Archaic period, given the lack of ceramics and the type of projectile points that have been found.

DI182, DI183, DI188, and DI189: These sites were recorded by CARL staff in 1993 based upon information from obtained from an artifact collector who excavated extensively in the Big Bend region. These sites were recorded as having a lithic and ceramic component, although none were assigned to a specific time period or archaeological culture.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS:

With the exception of the wetland areas surrounding Eightmile Creek, the majority of the Eight Mile Florida Forever project has been heavily impacted by practices employed in timber production. Much of the planted timber stands have been bedded resulting in extensive ground disturbance. This disturbance is not recent, the land having been in timber production for some time. It is this type of ground disturbance which likely uncovered the recorded sites and made them available to artifact collectors in the past. Only one of the sites, DI81, is located within the relatively intact portions of land adjacent to Eightmile Creek. The project area has never been subject to a systematic archaeological survey, and the potential exists for more as-yet-unrecorded archaeological sites to exist on the project parcels.

The dangers to all archaeological resources on the project come in the form of ground disturbance from silvicultural practices and artifact collecting. Should this project be acquired as Less-Than-Fee, it is recommended that all known and currently unrecorded cultural resources are recorded in the Florida Master Site File noting their current condition and for conservation easement land owners to be made aware of their responsibility to not willingly disturb or destroy those resources protected on their property. Should any artifacts be discovered on the project in the future, the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) recommends leaving them in place and contacting one of DHR’s archaeologists.

Table 5. Recorded Historical Resources for Eight Mile Property Florida Forever Project

Site Name	Site Number	FMSF Category	Site Type
Tiger Ridge	8DI81	Archaeological Site	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter
Eightmile Creek on Hines Road	8DI182	Archaeological Site	Prehistoric
Saw Mill	8DI183	Archaeological Site	Campsite (prehistoric)
Cow Pen, Eight Mile	8DI188	Archaeological Site	Prehistoric
Cow Pen East	8DI189	Archaeological Site	Prehistoric

Florida Master Site File 2022

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 3,000 acres (52% of site) could be available for sustainable forest management, divided between Priority 4 (2,006 acres), Priority 5 (1,436 acres), and Priority 3 (1,047 acres), with the remainder in Priority 2 (44 acres). 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 G3:

The number of acres of forestland acquired that will serve to maintain natural groundwater recharge functions.

The FFME reports approximately 638 acres (11%) would provide forestland to maintain natural groundwater recharge functions.

Measure G4:

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

All areas of reforestation have been currently forested or just planted. There are no areas that can be reforested. Slash pine, currently planted onsite, is the pine species with the highest site index for the type of soils on this property.

FLORIDA FOREVER CRITERIA

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

- The project may be acquired, in whole or in part, using alternatives to fee simple, including but not limited to, tax incentives, mitigation funds, or other revenues, the purchase of development rights, hunting rights, agricultural or silvicultural rights, or mineral rights or obtaining conservation easements or flowage easements.

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.
- Projects that contribute to improving the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater.

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 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

The property is accessible from a public road. 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 Eight Mile Property Florida Forever project will be phased based upon price.

GOVERNMENT PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT**Contribution to Recreation and Open Space Needs**

Low Potential: The Eight Mile Property contains 5,706 acres in the Coastal Rivers and Suwannee River Basin. Currently the property contains both upland and wetland habitats including 10 distinct land use types. Vegetative communities can be summarized as $\pm 2,044$ acres of forested wetlands, $\pm 3,630$ acres of uplands and ± 31 acres of open water/herbaceous wetland.

Wetland and upland habitat potentially support wildlife populations including Grey Squirrel, Marsh Rabbit, raccoon, turkey, Gray Fox, armadillo, Florida Cottonmouth Snake, Florida Box Turtle, the protected American Alligator, cranes, herons, woodpeckers, and White-Tailed Deer. Wild boar damage has been observed, and management is needed to remove individuals from the site.

The landowner is currently in the process of securing permits from the Army Corps of Engineers for the operation of a commercial wetland mitigation bank. Because of the degree of disturbance between uplands and wetlands as a result of silvicultural practices, Eight Mile is a candidate for mitigation. The proposed mitigation bank therefore totals $\pm 4,182$ acres but as a proposed Florida Forever project ($\pm 5,706$ acres), an additional $\pm 1,523$ acres will be conserved.

Acquisition of the Eight Mile Property is expected to meet several goals. The less-than-fee acquisition is an alternative to fee simple acquisition for the conservation of 5,706 acres; contributing to natural resource enhancement and both local and landscape-level connectivity.

A conservation easement for Eight Mile expands the region's landscape-size protection areas and extends an existing protection corridor consisting of the Lafayette Forest, Mallory Swamp Restoration Area, Bailey Brothers Conservation Easement, and several other smaller conservation lands.

A significant segment of Eight Mile's habitats retains their natural functions while the remaining land is utilized for silviculture, supporting wildlife communities and enabling groundwater recharge. Through the restoration, enhancement, and perpetual management provided by a mitigation bank, ecological function could be restored across all habitats.

The Steinhatchee River, begins in Lafayette County rising from Mallory Swamp to the north of Eight Mile, flows approximately 35 miles and discharges into the Gulf of Mexico. As part of the Steinhatchee headwaters system, water quality and quantity originating from Eightmile Creek and associated swamps within the property can have far reaching impacts on commercial fisheries, the sport fishing industry, water-based recreation and tourism, and aquatic wildlife of the estuaries and inshore grass beds. In the future, the expansion of intense agricultural and urban land uses, such as the Suncoast Corridor, will put pressure on water resources and existing natural systems. Conservation and enhancement of natural systems within projects similar to the proposed Eight Mile project are needed to prevent further habitat loss and water degradation within these areas seeing rapid increases in anthropogenic regional impacts.

Potential for Losing Significant Natural Attributes or Recreational Open Spaces

Low Potential: Much of the site has been disturbed through silviculture, containing extensive swathes of high-density timberlands concentrated in upland areas.

Potential for Being Subdivided

Low Potential: There are no paved roads near the site. The project site is not in proximity to any major roads or intersections. The project site does not have proximal access to urban services.

Zoning and Densities within the Project Boundaries

The zoning designation for the project site is Environmentally Sensitive Areas I. The comprehensive plan density for this property would allow for 142 dwelling units, the zoning and land development regulations further restrict development by restricting the minimum lot area to 100 acre or 57 dwelling units.

Existing Land Uses and Future Land Use Designations

Existing Land Use Designation: The past and current uses are limited to silviculture.

Future Land Use Designation: Environmentally Sensitive Areas - Very Low Density (1 dwelling units per 40 acres).

Development Potential

Low Potential: The combination of its isolated location, requirement of large lot sizes, and the lack of access by paved roads; the site has very low development potential.

Transportation Planning Issues

The proposed project is located in the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) District 2 (Dixie County). FDOT finds no adverse impacts from this proposal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Staff in DEPs DSL and FNAI determined the final project recommendations. Sine Murray and Hannah Turbiville in DSL's OES were responsible for the overall coordination of this report, with contributions from the following:

- Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources – Joshua Goodwin
- Florida Forest Service – Cat Ingram & Jared Beauchamp
- Department of Economic Opportunity – Barbara Powell
- DEP Division of State Lands, Bureau of Appraisal – Jay Scott & Amy Phillips
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Laramie Ferry, David Nicholson, & Sharon Hester
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory – Geoffrey Parks, Amy Jenkins & Nathan Pasco
- DEP Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration – Kevin Coyne
- Florida Department of Transportation – Jennifer Carver
- Suwanee River Water Management District – Steven Carpenter & William McKinstry

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

Final FF measures table: Report requirement 259.105 (15)d, prepared by FNAI

Eight Mile Property: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20220223

GIS ACRES = 5,717

MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	3,029	53%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	2,402	42%
Total Acres	5,431	95%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	5,671	99%
Priority 3	46	< 1%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	5,717	100%
B4: Under-represented Natural Communities		
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0	0%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0	0%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	2	< 1%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	2	< 1%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species		
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	0	
G5	0	
Total	0	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	1,867	33%
Priority 4	3,346	59%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	5,212	91%

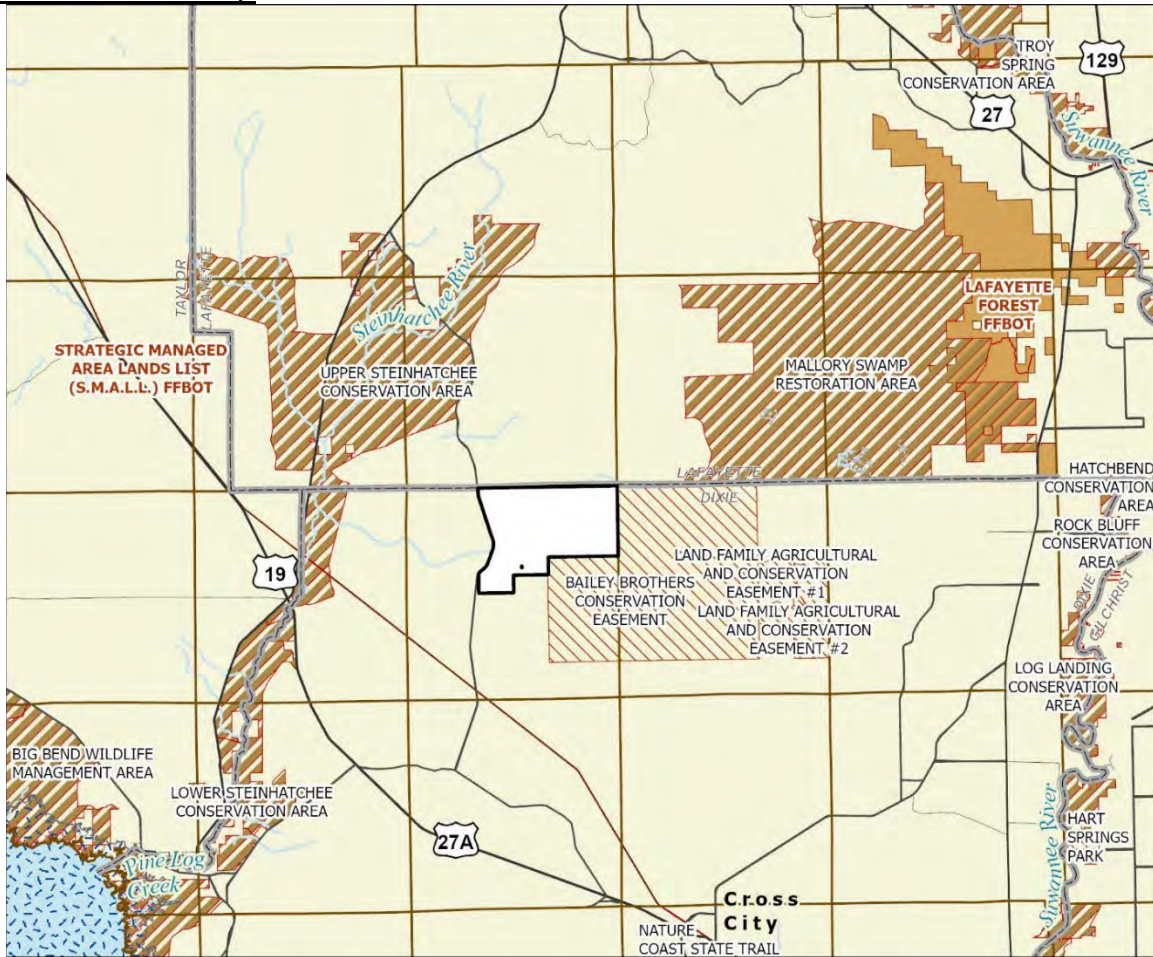
MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	812	14%
Priority 3	402	7%
Priority 4	2,200	38%
Priority 5	1,296	23%
Priority 6	131	2%
Priority 7	696	12%
Total Acres	5,537	97%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
C8: Functional Wetlands		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	1,667	29%
Priority 4	1,218	21%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	2,885	50%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	44	< 1%
Priority 3	1,047	18%
Priority 4	2,006	35%
Priority 5	1,436	25%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	4,533	79%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
<small>(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails & UFW, Florida)</small>		
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)		
5 sites		
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	1,289	23%
Priority 2	119	2%
Priority 3	1,571	27%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	21	< 1%
Total Acres	3,000	52%
G3: Forestland for Recharge		
	638	11%

^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 FNAI

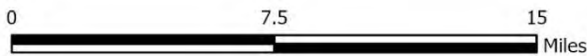
B1: Florida Forever map



EIGHT MILE PROPERTY FLORIDA FOREVER PROPOSAL

DIXIE COUNTY

-  Proposed Florida Forever BOT Project
-  Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve

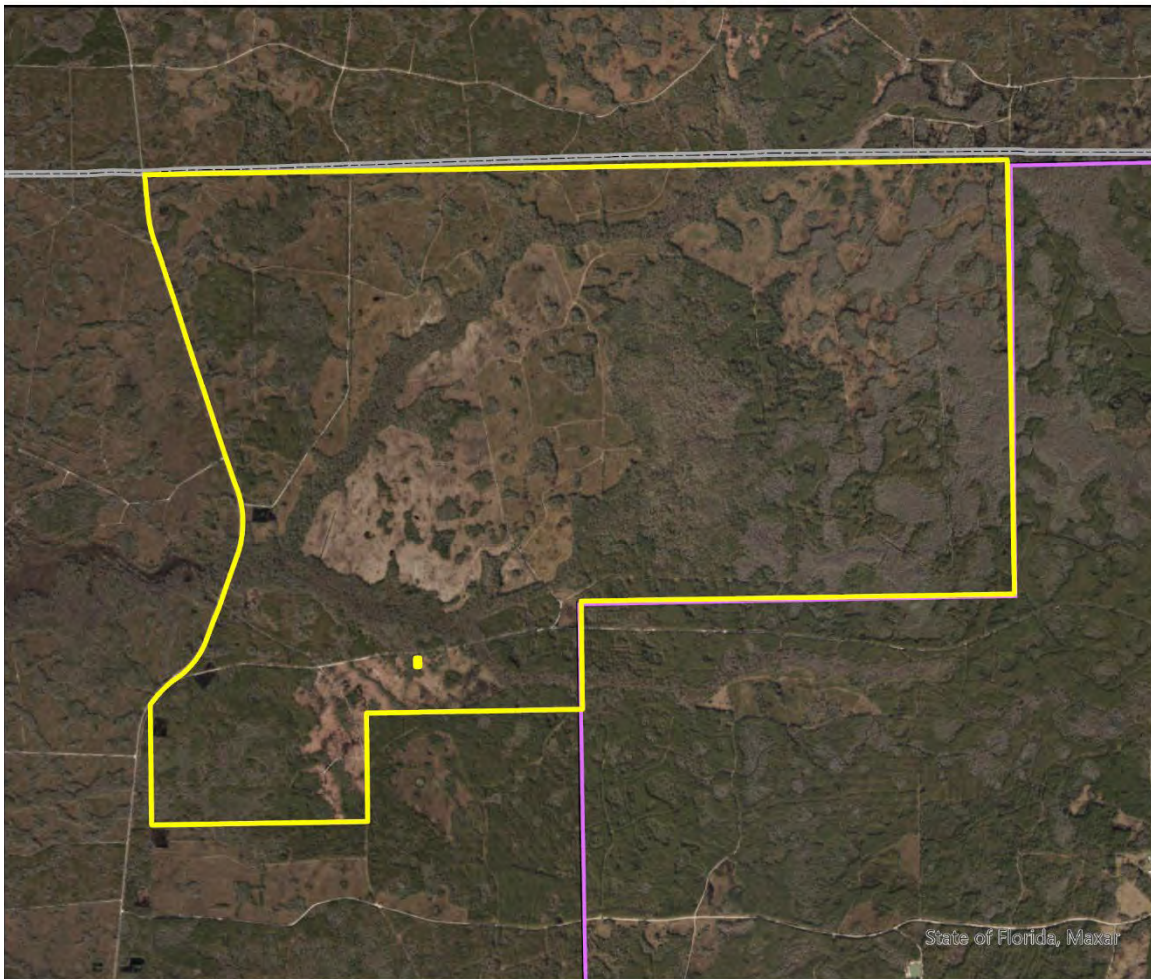


FEBRUARY 2022

B2: Aerial map

Eight Mile Property Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF FEBRUARY 2022





Map Produced by: N. Pasco, February 2022

Background: World Imagery Resolution = 0.3 meter



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	Florida Forever Proposal Boundary
	Existing Private Conservation Lands



Appendix C:

PROPERTY ID #'S FOR FINAL RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY

DIXIE COUNTY

COUNTY	PARCEL ID	OWNER	ACRES PER TAX CARD	JUST VALUE	ASSESSED VALUE	PARCEL DESIGNATION
Dixie	04-08-11-0000-0978-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	550	\$759,763.00	\$64,750.00	Essential
Dixie	03-08-11-0000-0977-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	640	\$879,463.00	\$144,180.00	Non-essential
Dixie	02-08-11-0000-0976-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	640	\$879,463.00	\$74,440.00	Non-essential
Dixie	01-08-11-0000-0975-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	640	\$879,463.00	\$73,550.00	Non-essential
Dixie	12-08-11-0000-0986-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	640	\$879,463.00	\$63,650.00	Non-essential
Dixie	11-08-11-0000-0985-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	640	\$879,463.00	\$65,080.00	Non-essential
Dixie	10-08-11-0000-0984-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	640	\$879,463.00	\$134,480.00	Non-essential
Dixie	09-08-11-0000-0983-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	412	\$576,223.00	\$79,465.00	Non-essential
Dixie	16-08-11-0000-0992-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	584	\$804,983.00	\$82,300.00	Essential
Dixie	15-08-11-0000-0990-0000	Eight Mile Properties LLC	320	\$453,863.00	\$43,930.00	Essential
TOTALS			5706	\$7,871,610.00		

Appendix D:**Imperiled Species FNAI Rankings****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

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(SIA) = 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



1. Floodplain swamp and Eightmile Creek



2. Floodplain swamp with mature canopy



3. *Bottomland forest*



4. *Depression marsh within pine plantation*



5. Recent clear cut within pine plantation