

**ITEM 9:**

Vote on whether to add five 2020 Cycle 2 Florida Forever proposals to the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

**DSL STAFF REMARKS:**

In May 2020, the Division of State Lands (DSL) received five Florida Forever project proposals for Abington Ranch, Bluefield to Cow Creek, Crayfish Habitat Restoration, Welannee Watershed Forest (renamed Upper Yellow River) and Withlacoochee River Addition. Council members and staff reviewed the applications and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) preliminary resource information and heard public testimony at the June 12, 2020 public hearing. ARC voted to move all five proposals to full review on June 12, 2020.

Florida Forever assessment teams visited the five proposal areas in July and August. The DSL staff then prepared project evaluation reports based on the information provided by the ARC member agencies, FNAI and other agency contributors. FWC has also provided a resource analysis of each proposal that has been transmitted to ARC. Regional public hearings on the proposals were held (virtually) on September 1 and 2, 2020 and preceding this item at the October 9, 2020 ARC meeting. The meeting summaries for the September regional hearings are provided in Item 2.

<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
Abington Ranch	Okeechobee	Fee Simple	3,656
Bluefield to Cow Creek	St. Lucie/Okeechobee	Less-than-fee	10,942
Crayfish Habitat Restoration	Bay	Fee Simple	2,348
Upper Yellow River	Okaloosa	Less-than-fee	8,370
Withlacoochee River Addition	Citrus/Hernando	Less-than-fee	1,645

**DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Vote on proposals to be added as projects to the 2021 Florida Forever priority list.

Consider, if approved by a roll call vote as a Florida Forever project, adding Abington Ranch fee-simple project to the Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector Florida Forever project boundary by a second roll call vote of ARC.

Consider, if approved by a roll call vote as a Florida Forever project, adding the Withlacoochee River Addition less-than-fee project to the Withlacoochee River Corridor Florida Forever project boundary by a second roll call vote of ARC.

**ARC RECOMMENDATION:**

Vote to approve the Florida Forever project proposals.

<b>Project</b>	<b>DHR</b>	<b>FFS</b>	<b>Lynetta Griner</b>	<b>FWC</b>	<b>Bill Palmer</b>	<b>Elva Peppers</b>	<b>DEP</b>	<b>Selected</b>
Abington Ranch								
Bluefield to Cow Creek								
Crayfish Habitat Restoration								
Upper Yellow River								
Withlacoochee River Addition								

Vote to amend existing Florida Forever project boundaries to include new project lands.

<b>Project</b>	<b>DHR</b>	<b>FFS</b>	<b>Lynetta Griner</b>	<b>FWC</b>	<b>Bill Palmer</b>	<b>Elva Peppers</b>	<b>DEP</b>	<b>Selected</b>
Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector: Abington Ranch								
Withlacoochee River Corridor: Withlacoochee River Addition								