Florida Forever Project Evaluation Report

Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II

Santa Rosa County

Acquisition Type: Fee Simple
Acres: 3,173
Just Value: $3,860,645
Application Date: April 30, 2022
Project Sponsor: Trust for Public Land

Prepared By:
Division of State Lands
Office of Environmental Services

FLORIDA FOREVER
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Submitted to the Acquisition and Restoration Council
October 14, 2022

Executive Summary

The proposed Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II Florida Forever project contains 12 parcels totaling 3,173 acres in Santa Rosa County. The project is bordered by US 27 along its southern boundary and US 19/State Road 57 along its western boundary. The project's northern boundary abuts the Blackwater River State Forest (BRSF), the Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever project and the Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Florida Forever project. The closest city is Milton. The project is proposed as a fee simple acquisition to be managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) as part BRSF. The project has a total tax assessed value of $3,860,645.

Historically, the proposed project area has been used for timber harvesting. Commercial timberland is the dominant land use within the project proposal. Planted pines grow in areas that once supported sandhill, upland pine, mesic flatwoods, and mesic hardwood communities. Native species persist in many areas and reflect their natural community of origin. The remainder of the project is largely wetlands including bottomland forest, baygall, and floodplain swamp and their related blackwater streams and creek systems including Big Coldwater Creek, and Big Juniper Creek both tributaries of the Blackwater River, an Outstanding Florida Water.

The project is located within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape and the associated Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program Partnership Opportunity Area for Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field. Additional parcels adjacent to Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project proposal are being considered for acquisition through the US Forest Legacy program. The project, along with adjacent conservation lands that include BRSF, Eglin Air Force Base, M. C. Davis – Seven Runs Creek Conservation Easement, and the Nokuse Plantation Conservation Easements, would contribute to a contiguous landscape-sized protection area of nearly 1 million acres

Adjacent conservation lands are considered important habitat for the Florida pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*; State-designated Threatened) and the Pine Barrens treefrog (*Hyla andersonii*). Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) tracks were observed during the site visit, and this project would provide an additional protected corridor for Florida black bears from NAS Whiting Field to the state line. A majority of the project is within Priority 1 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN). No known cultural or archaeological resources were noted to occur within the project area.

If approved for addition to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List, the project should be considered as an amendment to the Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever project boundary in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives Category. All 3,173 acres proposed for acquisition are considered essential due to the resources documented on the property (see Appendix C). An interagency team conducted a site visit to the project site on July 12, 2022. Information included in this project evaluation report is a result of this site visit.

PURPOSE FOR ACQUISITION

The Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project will protect the numerous seepages and blackwater stream systems that are contiguous with the Blackwater River, Big Coldwater Creek, and BRSF. The project will contribute to the completion of a wildlife corridor, promote ecological connectivity, and provide valuable habitat for rare wildlife and plant species. The project will provide for the expansion of public resource-based recreational opportunities and support the continuation of sustainably managed silviculture practices.

Acquisition of this project would serve to:

- enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects
- increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels

- increase natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities
- provide and enhance wildlife corridors and valuable habitat for rare and imperiled species
- 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
- increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources

LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO OTHER MANAGED AREAS

The Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II proposal comprises 3,173 acres (per application; 3,170 GIS acres) in central Santa Rosa County. The property consists of two parcels in Santa Rosa County. The first parcel contains 1,546 acres located east of Hwy 191, north of Will Sexton Rd, and south of Ellis Creek; it is adjacent to BRSF. The second parcel is located south of Hutchins Rd extending to just north of Pat Brown Rd and contains 1,627 acres. The second parcel contains over three miles of Big Coldwater Creek riparian area. It is also contiguous with the existing BRSF property and within one mile of NAS Whiting Field. County Road 191 runs diagonally southwest-northeast through the southern third of the Paddle Trail tract and is the westernmost boundary of the Ellis Creek tract. Commercial timberland dominates the landscape between the two properties.. The northern tract is contiguous with Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest Florida Forever project, while the southern tract is contiguous with Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever project.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal application, aerial photography from 1994 to 2020, U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (Florida Natural Areas Inventory [FNAI], Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.5), and information in the FNAI database. A field survey was conducted on July 12, 2022, by FNAI staff Dan Hipes and Katy NeSmith, along with the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) liaison staff, Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD), and representatives for the landowners.

The northern Ellis Creek tract lies within the southwestern portion of the Blackwater Hills Physiographic Province (Brooks 1981), which is characterized by sand, silt and clay uplands of Miocene origins sculpted by south-southwestward flowing streams. The southern Paddle Trail tract lies on the southeastern edge of the Escambia Terraced Lands Province (Brooks 1981), which is similar to the Blackwater Hills but has less eroded uplands and less silt and clay in the soils. Both properties exhibit a gently rolling topography dissected by numerous stream/creek systems. The highest elevations, 212 feet and 170 feet above mean sea level,occur in the western part of the Ellis Creek tract and the eastern portion of the Paddle Trail tract, respectively. The lowest elevations occur adjacent to Big Coldwater Creek on the Paddle Trail tract at 12' above msl and 78' above msl near Ellis Creek on the northern tract.

Big Coldwater Creek, a major tributary of the Blackwater River, passes through the middle of the southern Paddle Trail tract from north to south. Its floodplain occupies a substantial portion of the tract. Several gradual drainage ravines enter the eastern floodplain, with the most pronounced being in the tract's northeast. Uplands penetrate between the ravines and drains. Most of the uplands, even downslope, now support pine plantation.

Big Juniper Creek, also a tributary to the Blackwater River, passes just east of the northern Ellis Creek tract; the headwaters of two of its smaller tributaries, Ellis Creek and Maria Branch, form in the northern tract and provide substantial topography via a series of gradual ravines. Again, uplands penetrate

between the ravines and drains, with the major ridge crossing the tract roughly from west to east and separating the two streams. Nearly all uplands, even downslope, now support pine plantation.

Both tracts are mostly undeveloped, with virtually all uplands converted for commercial timber harvest, making up 68% of the proposal. The Paddle Trail tract has approximately 12 acres of grassy lawn with two house trailers and a barn, and a 9-acre area with extensive excavation and an artificial pond. Logging roads penetrate the tracts. Planted pines grow in areas that once supported sandhill, upland pine, mesic flatwoods, and mesic hardwood communities. Native species persist in many areas and reflect their natural community of origin. The pine plantations most likely have undergone several rotations of planting and vary from those recently cut to those having a dense, mature pine cover. All plantations appear to be planted in loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Recently cut plantations appear to have been treated with herbicide resulting in extensive areas with brown vegetation. A generally sparse subcanopy may include Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and swamp laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*). Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) is a common shrub species and can occur as thickets beneath the pines. Other shrub species or shrub-stature tree species include gopherweed (*Baptisia lanceolata*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), woody goldenrod (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), southern bayberry (*Morella cerifera*), southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), swamp laurel oak, water oak (*Quercus nigra*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), blackberry (*Rubus sp.*), and Elliott's blueberry (*Vaccinium elliottii*). The herbaceous layer is sparse in the denser plantations, but moderate abundant in others. Herbaceous vegetation includes broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), witchgrass (*Dichanthelium sp.*), poor joe (*Diodia teres*), dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), comfortroot (*Hibiscus aculeatus*), crowngrass (*Paspalum sp.*), rustweed (*Polypremum procumbens*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and beaksedge (*Rhynchospora sp.*). Vines, especially Smilax (*Smilax spp.*), may form a dense cover over shrubs. Yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), cat greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*), and laurel greenbrier (*Smilax laurifolia*) are occasional to abundant.

Successional hardwood forest occurs in small pockets on the proposal, likely in areas that were cleared and subsequently allowed to succeed to forest. Linear strips of forest are along the southern fence line on the Ellis Tract and about 17 acres lie between the excavated area and housing area on the Paddle Trail tract. Mature sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), laurel oak, and water oak are dominant canopy trees with shrubs of common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), yaupon, and winged sumac common.

Approximately 29% of the proposal can be classified into natural communities. The most prominent of these are wetlands that include bottomland forest, baygall, and floodplain swamp and their related blackwater streams and creek systems. Big Coldwater Creek, a blackwater stream, runs the length of the Paddle Trail tract, flowing south from BRSF, and eventually merging with the Blackwater River, an Outstanding Florida Water (403.061[27] F.S.). It is popular with recreational boaters and exhibits white sandbars and a wide, shallow, sandy streambed. Ellis Creek and Maria Branch on the Ellis Creek tract feed into Big Juniper Creek off-site to the east, which in turn flows south to the Blackwater River. Although, not seen during the site visit, a few seepage streams, where seepage is relatively constant, flow from the high topography of the eastern side of the Paddle Trail tract into Big Coldwater Creek.

Although the streams and creeks appear to be in good condition, evidence of moderate to severe erosion is present in several locations within both of the proposed tracts. The high level of topographic relief exacerbates road stream crossings and roadbed erosion/washouts. The excavated area on the Paddle Trail tract is also undergoing severe erosion, most of which may be washing into the borrow area, but some of which washes toward the floodplain.

Baygall, comprising about 370 (12%) total acres, borders Ellis Creek and Maria Branch on the Ellis Creek tract. A large baygall occurs on the western side of Big Coldwater Creek and borders seepage streams on the Paddle Trail tract. The canopy includes Atlantic white cedar, tuliptree (*Liriodendron*

tulipifera), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), and water oak. The understory is generally a dense tangle of titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), sweetbay, swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Florida anise (*Illicium floridanum*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), large gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), yaupon, fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), southern bayberry, swamp laurel oak, water oak, highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), and Elliott's blueberry. The groundcover includes primarily sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum sp.*) but also Indian-plantain (*Arnoglossum sp.*), switchcane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), beaksedge, and Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*). Laurel greenbrier is common.

Well-developed bottomland forest (331 acres, 10%) appears to be in good condition and occurs on slightly higher ground within the Big Coldwater Creek floodplain. A mature, closed canopy consists of sweetbay, swamp tupelo, loblolly pine, and some large bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). The diverse midstory and shrub layers include red maple, Atlantic white cedar, titi, swamp tupelo, swamp bay, Elliott's blueberry, coastal doghobble (*Leucothoe axillaris*), and fetterbush. The herbaceous component varies from relatively sparse to dense and includes southern bluethread (*Burmannia capitata*), woodoats (*Chasmanthium sp.*), partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis*), netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), and Virginia chain fern. Two plants of the Panhandle lily (*Lilium iridollae*; State-listed Endangered) were found in one area visited, east of the creek. Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), cat greenbrier, and eastern poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) are occasional.

Floodplain swamp (168 acres; 5%) occurs in small depressions in the bottomland forest on the northern third of the Paddle Trail tract and is the prominent natural community on both sides of the creek in the southern two-thirds of the property as it nears the Blackwater River. Most swamps were difficult to access although one area was viewed from the CR 191 bridge. Pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), sweet bay, and swamp tupelo are the most common canopy trees. The understory shrubs and herbs are patchy owing to frequent inundation. These include shrub-stature red maple, and hazel alder (*Alnus serrulata*), southern bayberry, peelbark St. John's wort (*Hypericum fasciculatum*), swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*), and possumhaw (*Viburnum nudum*). The herbaceous layer includes goldenclub (*Orontium aquaticum*), royal fern, yellow fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*; State-Threatened), and netted chain fern. Several clumps of non-native Guinea grass (Urochloa maxima) are also present. Aerial photography shows a small (<1 acre) area of open water within the swamp that is classified as river floodplain lake, perhaps originating from a former creek channel and oxbow of Big Coldwater Creek.

Upland hardwood forest represents a small (ca. 23 acres, 1%), but interesting component of the Paddle Trail tract. The area observed is situated on the eastern side of Big Coldwater Creek along the upper slope of a seepage stream, and down slope to bottomland forest in the floodplain. This closed-canopy forest has a mature canopy of sweetgum, laurel oak, and water oak. The understory is composed of younger canopy trees, and small trees and shrubs that include chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*), American holly, large gallberry, swamp bay, horse sugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*), and Elliott's blueberry. Broomsedge bluestem and bracken fern are present in the sparse herbaceous layer. Sarsaparilla vine (*Smilax pumila*) and muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia*) are occasional.

A narrow strip of wet flatwoods, or possibly baygall, was delineated from aerial photography, between pine plantation and bottomland forest on the northwest side of Paddle Trail tract. This area was not visited but is likely dominated by slash pine and a dense understory of titi, large gallberry, and fetterbush.

Invasive exotic species are notably very few and sparse. Two small areas of Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*; Florida Invasive Species Council [FISC] Category I) and one mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*; FISC Category I) were observed, both on the Paddle Trail tract.

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

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
baygall	369	12%
bottomland forest	331	10%
floodplain swamp	168	5%
blackwater stream & seepage stream	39	1%
upland hardwood forest	23	1%
wet flatwoods	11	<1%
river floodplain lake	<1	<1%
pine plantation	2169	68%
road	21	1%
developed	20	1%
successional hardwood forest	17	1%
artificial pond	<1	<1%
Totals	**3,170**	**100%**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

This summary provides a resource assessment of the Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II (Wolfe Creek) Florida Forever proposal based on field observations during the July 12, 2022 tour and results of the GIS analysis.

The project is proposed as a fee-simple acquisition, with the property to be managed by FFS as part of BRSF. Approximately 68% of the property consists of pine plantations that were planted mainly with loblolly pine by the previous landowner; however, a majority of the stands have been clearcut and treated with herbicide. Approximately 150 acres of historic wet flatwoods, currently in baygall, exists on the southern portion of the second parcel. Another 17% of the property contains freshwater forested wetland communities. For a complete list of natural community types present, see the attached FWC GIS analysis for more detailed information.

A significant portion of the first parcel contains soil types conducive for gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*; State-designated Threatened) habitation. Several forage species including grasses, forbs, sedges (*Smilax spp.*, *Vitaceae* spp., and *Ilex* spp.) were present in the cutover areas. Conversion to a longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and wiregrass ecosystem would greatly benefit gopher tortoises as well. Establishing the area within BRSF would align with objectives in FWC's Gopher Tortoise Management Plan to increase the amount of protected habitat for this species.

Establishing Wolfe Creek as part of BRSF would protect and buffer more than three miles of the Big Coldwater Creek as well as Ellis Creek and Maria Creek, thus benefitting the many imperiled fish and wildlife species that inhabit and forage in the riverine systems. Species identified by an Environmental Resource Analysis for the riverine systems within the project boundary include the cypress minnow (*Hybogantus hayi*), the ironcolor shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*), and the western starhead topminnow (*Fundulus blairae*). Additionally, the Florida panhandle lily (State-designated Endangered) was seen along the freshwater forested wetlands of the project area.

BRSF is an important area for conservation of the Florida pine snake (State-designated Threatened), and it is highly probable that the species occurs on Wolfe Creek given its close proximity. BRSF is also important for conservation of the Pine Barrens treefrog, which is included in FWC's Imperiled Species Management Plan. The area's seeps and streams, which appear in good condition, potentially contain Pine Barrens treefrog. Florida black bear tracks were observed in the second parcel, and both parcels

provide quality bear habitat. Establishing Wolfe Creek as part of the BRSF would provide an additional protected corridor for Florida black bears from NAS Whiting Field to the state line.

Game species likely occurring on the property include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). Numerous deer stands and wildlife feeders were seen on the parcels, and private hunting currently exists. Inclusion within the BRSF and the Wildlife Management Area would further increase hunting opportunities to the public as well as provide additional recreational opportunities with multiple access points to Big Coldwater Creek.

A small amount of climbing fern and Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) was observed on the tour, but invasive plants do not appear to be a major issue on the property.

The FNAI Element Occurrence database shows eight records for rare wildlife or plant species including a mayfly (*Dannella simplex*), alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), hairy-peduncled beaksedge (*Rhynchospora crinipes*), small-flowered meadowbeauty (*Rhexia parviflora*), Southeastern weasel (*Mustela frenata olivacea*), spiny softshell (*Apalone spinifera*), West Florida cowlily (Nuphar advena ssp. ulvacea), and Westfall's clubtail (*Phanogomphus westfalli*). The GIS model shows the property as Potential Habitat for Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), Florida black bear and red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*).

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 7.3. Approximately 87% is identified as Priority 1 or 2 (of 5) for the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project. The National Wetlands Inventory data shows 24% classified as wetlands. A majority of the property is within Priority 1 of the FEGN, or Florida Wildlife Corridor. 51% of the property is considered frequent Florida black bear range and 96% of the property shows an imperiled species richness for 5-7 imperiled species.

Approximately 90% lies within a designated FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) for species including Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Florida black bear, American swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*), and Pine Barrens treefrog. The GIS analysis contains more detailed information.

In summary, the proposal presents an opportunity to protect a significant portion of the Big Coldwater Creek and provide connectivity to existing conservation lands that will benefit numerous fish and wildlife species. Furthermore, benefits to nearby Department of Defense lands include mitigating land use concerns, water quality impacts, and encroachment threats near NAS Whiting Field.

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 acquired, all 3,173 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.

The entirety of the project (3,173 acres) is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition via conservation easement.

Measure A3:

The number of shared acquisition projects among Florida Forever funding partners and partners with other funding sources, including local governments and the federal government.

No funding partners have been identified for this project. The project is located within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape and the associated REPI Partnership Opportunity Area for NAS Whiting Field. Additional parcels adjacent to Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project proposal are being considered for acquisition through the US Forest Legacy program.

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 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 (Appendix B) reports the site contains approximately 3,083 acres (97% of site) of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas. This is primarily within Priority 3 (65% of site) and Priority 5 (32%) with the remainder in Priorities 2 and 4 (< 1%).

Measure B2:

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

Habitat conservation priorities for 281 of Florida's rarest species were mapped and divided into six priority classes. The FFME reports the proposed project contains approximately 2,533 acres (80% of site) of rare species habitat. The habitat is mostly divided between Priority 4 (51% of site) and Priority 5 (27%), with the remainder in Priority 3 (1%).

The following table lists the acres of habitat for each species that may be found on the site, based on the FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities. Please note that habitats for these species overlap, so that the sum total of habitat for all species is more than the total acreage of the priority conservation areas. Acreage for aquatic species includes a terrestrial buffer.

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

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	Acres
Drymarchon couperi	eastern indigo snake	G3	2,534
Dryobates borealis	red-cockaded woodpecker	G3	1
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	1,668

Measure B3:

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

The FFME reports approximately 3,172 acres (100%) of the proposed project contributes to protection of ecological greenways with 94% of the site falling within Priority 1 areas, and 6% in Priority 5. 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 table lists the acreages of under-represented natural communities found on the site. Based on this analysis, the Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II proposal contains 23 acres of upland hardwood forest (<1% of site), and 11 acres of wet flatwoods (<1%).

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 Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II proposal, along with adjacent conservation lands that include BRSF, Eglin Air Force Base, M. C. Davis – Seven Runs Creek Conservation Easement, and the Nokuse Plantation Conservation Easements, would contribute to a contiguous landscape-sized protection area of >815,000 acres

Measure B6:

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

The table below lists the rare species documented by FNAI and reported by the applicant to be on the property. During the site review, Panhandle lily, was found in bottomland forest on the Paddle Trail tract. The rare plants West Florida cow lily and hairy-peduncled beaksedge and the FNAI-tracked rare animals listed in the table are all previously documented species from waters of Big Coldwater Creek. The small-flowered meadowbeauty (is documented from the Ellis Creek tract. The two properties are within a region where FWC considers Florida black bear use to be common (Ellis Creek tract) and frequent (Paddle Trail tract).

Pine snake (G4, S3, N, ST) is known from nearby the Ellis Creek tract and several eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*; G5, S3, N, N) records are close to both tracts. Additional listed animals and plants potentially occur in the seepage and blackwater streams within, and downstream of the tracts. The state endangered blackmouth shiner (*Notropis melanostomus*; G2, S1, N, ST), which is documented in the Blackwater River south of Big Coldwater Creek, may potentially occur on the Paddle Trail tract. The Blackwater River, south of its confluence with Big Coldwater Creek and downstream to its discharge into Blackwater Bay is included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Critical Habitat for the federally threatened Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*; G3T2T3, S2?, T, FT). Acquisition of the proposal would help protect water quality in this overall extensive seepage/blackwater stream system, which supports numerous other rare vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants.

Rare plants documented in the vicinity of both tracts and that have potential to occur along the seepage streams include hummingbird flower (*Macranthera flammea*; G3, S2, N, E), dwarf witch-alder (*Fothergilla gardenii*; G3G4, S1, N, E), Gulf Coast redflower pitcherplant (*Sarracenia rubra ssp. gulfensis*; G3G4T2T3, S2S3, N, T), and serviceberry holly (*Ilex amelanchier*; G4, S2, N, T). These species would be good candidates for searches if botanical surveys are conducted on site.

The FFME table lists the number of Element Occurrences by Global Rank (G-rank) that are found on the proposal. Note that the number of occurrences does not necessarily match the number of species in the following table because a) some species may have more than one occurrence on the proposal site, or b) some species observed on site do not meet the criteria for addition to the FNAI database at this time. The table below 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 listed are 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 on site					
Lilium iridollae	Panhandle lily	G3	S3	N	E
Nuphar advena ssp. *ulvacea*	West Florida cow lily	G5T2	S2	N	N
Rhexia parviflora	small-flowered meadowbeauty	G2G3	S2	N	E
Rhynchospora crinipes	hairy-peduncled beaksedge				
additional rare plants reported on site					
none					
rare animals documented on site					
Dannella simplex	mayfly	G5	S2	N	N
Phanogomphus westfalli	Westfall's clubtail	G2	S2	N	N
Apalone spinifera	spiny softshell	G5	S3	N	N
Macrochelys temminckii	alligator snapping turtle	G3	S3	PT	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
additional rare animals reported on site					
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.

Most of the uplands (ca. 2,170 acres, 68%) on the two tracts are historically upland pine forest and sandhills that have been converted to intensively managed pine plantations. It appears that these areas have been mechanically site prepared, perhaps through several rotations, and at least in some areas, herbicides used before and/or after planting. These treatments, combined with dense shading from the pines as they grow, have greatly diminished the native plant diversity. Restoration would include removal of off-site pine species and replanting with longleaf pine. Restoration of native groundcover may require planting or seeding of native species in areas where they have been severely reduced, in addition to implementation of a frequent prescribed fire program over all the pinelands.

The streams and some of their associated wetlands have incurred sedimentation from erosion in several locations on both the Ellis Creek tract and the Paddle Trail tract. Restoration, or at least abatement, seems very possible. To protect the stream systems and water quality, an assessment of the hydrological and ecological protection and restoration needs related to the streams on site is warranted.

Measure C3:

The percentage completion of targeted capital improvements in surface water improvement and management plans created under s. 373.453 (2), regional or master stormwater management system plans, or other adopted restoration plans.

The project area is within the Pensacola Bay Watershed as identified in the Pensacola Bay System Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan. The SWIM plan does not identify specific capital improvements for the watershed; thus, the measure value is not applicable. The Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project is, however, consistent with the “Strategic Land Conservation” project identified in the plan. The project does not address capital improvements identified in regional stormwater plans or other restoration plans.

Measure C4:

The number of acres acquired that protect natural floodplain functions.

The FFME reports approximately 658 acres (21%) of the proposed project may contribute to the protection of natural floodplain function. This area is mostly divided between Priority 2 (16% of site), Priority 3 (4%), and Priority 4 (1%). 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 3,108 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 divided between Priority 2 (49% of site), Priority 4 (40%), and Priority 3 (8% of site), with the remainder in Priority 1 (<1%). 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 869 acres (27%) of the proposed project would provide protection for functional wetland systems. This area is divided between Priority 2 (13% of site), Priority 3 (7%), and Priority 4 (7%). Priority 1 areas are the most natural with the lowest intensity land uses.

Measure C11:

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

Invasive exotic species appear to be infrequent. Two small occurrence of Japanese climbing fern and one occurrence of mimosa were observed. Given the high level of soil disturbance on the property, however, an invasive exotic plant monitoring and control program is warranted.

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 would protect approximately 870 acres of wetlands (FLUCCS). These provide a number of functions, including water storage and recharge, water quality protection, nutrient cycling, flood protection, and fish and wildlife habitat. NWFWMD has developed a regional water supply plan (RWSP) for Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties (Northwest Florida Region II). Protecting water quality and recharge within the region is consistent with the Region II RWSP, as well as with the Pensacola Bay System Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plan (NWFWMD 2017).

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 subject parcel is within the planning region for the District's Region II Regional Water Supply Plan. This specific property is not incorporated within a current water resource development project. Protection of upland, wetland, and riparian habitats, however, do help to sustain recharge and water quality for water resources.

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 Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II

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	7
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	6
Total Possible	**101**	**22**

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:

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

There are 3,510 acres in this acquisition that are available for natural resource-based public recreation or education at BRSF.

Measure E2:

The miles of trails that are available for public recreation, giving priority to those that provide significant connections including those that will assist in completing the Florida National Scenic Trail.

According to the FFME the project contains approximately 3.4 miles of potential recreational trails. The Highway 191 Corridor is a proposed multiuse trail that runs along County Road (CR) 191 (Munson Highway) and is identified as a future component of the SUN Trail Network. CR 191 bisects the southern Paddle Trail tract included within the project proposal.

Measure E3:

The number of new resource-based recreation facilities, by type, made available on public land.

This acquisition would have the potential to facilitate creation of resource-based recreation facilities to add to management of BRSF regarding numerous activities, including hunting, archery, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, camping, wildlife viewing and apiary leasing. The Paddle Trail Tract (southern tract) is perfectly suited for a canoeing and kayaking access point to Coldwater Creek.

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.

The Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II Florida Forever project would not meet Measure F1 as the project contains no recorded archaeological or historic sites.

Measure F2:

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

As a Fee-Simple project, Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II would meet Measure F2. While the Florida Master Site File does not contain any recorded historic or archaeological resources within the project area, there is a high likelihood of unrecorded resources, which would fall come under state ownership following acquisition.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

There are no cultural resources recorded or known to exist on this Florida Forever project. To date, no portion of this property has been professionally surveyed for archaeological and/or historical sites. However, numerous cultural resources are recorded within a close proximity of the Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II Florida Forever Project.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS:

The field review of this project did not reveal any direct observations of cultural resources. However, multiple locales were noted for their potential to yield subsurface archaeological materials. Given the fact that the Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project area has never been subject to a professional archaeological survey, there is a high potential for unrecorded sites to exist within the project boundary. Should any artifacts be discovered on the project in the future, DHR recommends leaving them in place and contacting DHR's Public Lands Archaeology program.

GOAL G:

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

Acquire additional landholdings surrounding BRSF so as to create continuous natural ecosystem corridors, increased wildlife habitat, and public recreational opportunities

Measure G1:

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

The FFME reports approximately 2,398 acres (76% of site) could be available for sustainable forest management, divided between Priority 2 (1,796 acres), Priority 3 (431 acres), Priority 1 (126 acres), and Priority 5 (45 acres). Prioritization is based on 4 criteria set by FFS: 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.

The majority of uplands on the Ellis Creek Tract (northern tract) is a mostly a harvested area of loblolly pine. Areas not already cutover are sub-merchantable timber at this time.

Measure G3:

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

The FFME reports approximately 30 acres (< 1%) would provide forestland to maintain natural groundwater recharge functions.

Measure G4:

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

The northern tract (Ellis Creek) should be restored to native longleaf pine after harvesting all remaining loblolly pine once it becomes merchantable. If the current landowners plant loblolly seedlings prior to acquisition, the loblolly should be allowed to grow until such time as it becomes merchantable. Once longleaf pine has been restored or the loblolly pine has reached the point of having thick-enough bark to withstand fire, prescribed burning should be implemented. Since there are some remnants of the natural longleaf pine ecosystem, restoration of this tract will not be difficult, just time-consuming.

The southern tract (Paddle Trail) should be restored to the native longleaf pine. Since this is a sandhill, planted in loblolly pine, not well-suited for sandy soils, it will most likely need to be harvested prior to being merchantable size. One option would be chipping the timber instead of milling it. Once longleaf pine has been restored, prescribed burning should be implemented.

FLORIDA FOREVER CRITERIA

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

- the project meets multiple goals
- the project is part of an ongoing governmental effort to restore, protect, or develop land areas or water resources
- the project enhances or facilitates management of properties already under public ownership
- the project has a significant portion of its land area in imminent danger of development, in imminent danger of losing its significant natural attributes or recreational open space, or in imminent danger of subdivision which would result in multiple ownership and make acquisition of the project costly or less likely to be accomplished.
- the project is a joint acquisition, either among public agencies, nonprofit organizations, or private entities, or by a public-private partnership.

The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall give increased priority to:

- projects where the state's land conservation plans overlap with the military's need to protect lands, water, and habitat to ensure the sustainability of military missions

MANAGEMENT

FFS is the proposed manager for the Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project. Please see Appendix D for the Management Prospectus.

FUNDING SOURCES

Florida Forever would be the funding source. The project is also located within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape and the associated REPI Partnership Opportunity Area for NAS Whiting Field. Additional parcels adjacent to Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project proposal are being considered for acquisition through the US Forest Legacy program.

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 Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II Florida Forever project will be phased based upon price.

GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Contribution to Recreation and Open Space Needs

Moderate Potential**:** The outright fee-simple purchase of the property by FFS will provide greater opportunity for using the land for recreational pursuits such as hiking and paddling. The tracts proposed in this application are contiguous with BRSF, the Wolfe Creek State Forest, and the Clear Creek/Whiting Field and the purchase will provide unique opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Potential for Losing Significant Natural Attributes or Recreational Open Spaces

High Potential: The project will act as a buffer for Big Coldwater Creek and Ellis Creek and protect these water bodies and their adjacent wetlands. The project will provide protection of water quality for Big Juniper Creek and the Black Water River. The project will add to the existing Wolfe Creek Forest boundary within areas identified as priority 1 of the FEGN. The property has the added benefit of acting as buffer for development encroachment of NAS Whiting Field. The Paddle Creek property contain approximately 721 acres of wetlands. The Ellis Creek tract contains approximately 45 acres of wetlands. On both tracts the uplands are planted pines and consist mainly of sandhill, pine scrub, and pine flatwoods. The subject properties are within a wildlife corridor established by the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act of 2021. Based on FNAI information, the eastern indigo snake and Boykins Lobelia flower are likely to be found on site. According to information provided by USFWS the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork and reticulated flatwoods salamander have the potential to be impacted by development activities in the project area. In total, the information provided

with the application identifies more than 30 species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants as potentially occurring on-site.

Potential for Being Subdivided

High Potential: Santa Rosa County has experienced a very rapid growth rate within the last 12 years. It is one of the fastest growing counties in the state (9th). The County has a current population of 191,911 residents, this is up from a population of 152,908 in 2010. According to the U.S. census the growth rate within the county in the last seven years has ranged between 2.19 and 3.01 percent annually. Much of this growth has been generally in central and south Santa Rosa County. The nearby City of Milton currently has a population of 10,471 residents and has grown annually since 2010, at a growth rate of 2.69 percent. The western boundary of the Paddle Trail Tract comes to within several thousand feet of the Naval Air Station Whiting Field which is a major source of employment within the area. Most of the acreage in this application is within the Agricultural Rural Residential Category, which is a transitional land use that allows residential development at up to one unit per acre. Without any land use change, an intensive amount of residential development could be built on these sites. The County in recent years has seen a number of large-scale amount amendments converting acreage from agriculture to low density residential use, particularly in the east Milton area.

Existing Land Uses and Future Land Use Designations

Existing Land Uses: According to the Existing Land Use Map in the comprehensive plan, the property at both sites is generally depicted as silviculture. The tax parcel information in the application lists the existing land uses as timber, general agriculture, marsh and swamp, and residential. The residential use relates primarily to scattered farmhouses.

Future Land Uses: The property is located within areas designated as Agriculture (AG) which allows residential density at up to 1 unit/15 acres. This category is intended to provide areas for agriculture and silviculture activities. Uses within this category include structures and facilities customarily found on farms and used for activities conducted in connection with farming operations such as agriculture, poultry and livestock raising.

The Agriculture/Rural Residential land use allows residential development at up to 1 unit/acre. Detached single family homes and structures are allowed within this land use. The land use allows activities in connection with farming operations such as commercial and non-commercial related agriculture, poultry, and raising of livestock.

Development Potential

Based on existing Land Uses, the highest development potential the property can be developed at is 1unit/5 acres and 1 unit/15 acres, depending on the land use.

Transportation Planning Issues

The proposed project falls within Floirda Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 3, and the southern portion of the property is bisected by the SUN Trail Network. 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.

Ongoing Governmental Efforts

The project is consistent with the Pensacola Bay system Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan.

REFERENCES CITED

Brooks. 1981. *Guide to the physiographic divisions of Florida.* Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, University of Florida).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Staff in the DEP's Division of State Lands (DSL) and FNAI determined the final project recommendations. Sine Murray and Hannah Turbiville in DSL's Office of Environmental Services were responsible for the overall coordination of this report, with contributions from the following:

- Florida Natural Areas Inventory – Dan Hipes & Katy NeSmith
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Larame Ferry & Barbara Almario
- Florida Forest Service – Catherine Ingram & Julie Wood
- Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources – Jason O'Donoughue & Brandon Ackermann
- Northwest Florida Water Management District – Linda Chaisson
- Florida Department of Transportation – Ben Naselius
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity – Barbara Powell
- DEP, Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration – Kevin Coyne
- DEP DSL, Bureau of Appraisal

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

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

Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20220802

GIS ACRES = 3,170

MEASURES	Resource Acres[a]	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	1	< 1%
Priority 3	2,073	65%
Priority 4	7	< 1%
Priority 5	1,002	32%
Total Acres	3,083	97%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	602	19%
Priority 3	424	13%
Priority 4	217	7%
Priority 5	880	28%
Priority 6	45	1%
Total Acres	2,168	68%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	2,979	94%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	193	6%
Total Acres	3,172	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)	11	< 1%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	23	< 1%
Total Acres	34	1%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species		
G1	0	
G2	2	
G3	2	
G4	1	
G5	1	
Total	6	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	493	16%
Priority 3	127	4%
Priority 4	38	1%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	658	21%

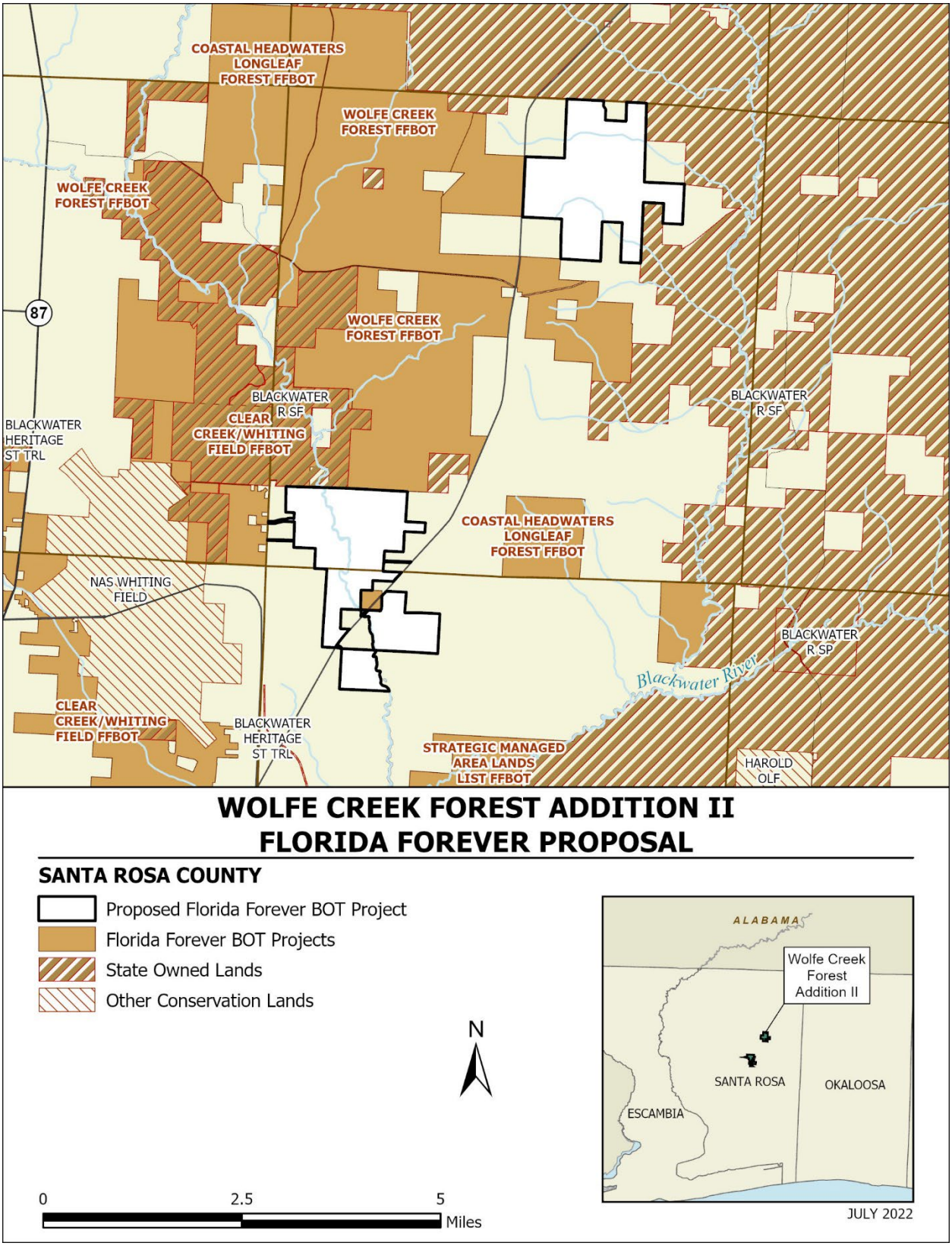
MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres[a]	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	26	< 1%
Priority 2	1,562	49%
Priority 3	267	8%
Priority 4	1,253	40%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	3,108	98%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
C8: Functional Wetlands		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	418	13%
Priority 3	236	7%
Priority 4	215	7%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	869	27%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	22	< 1%
Priority 3	22	< 1%
Priority 4	216	7%
Priority 5	622	20%
Priority 6	2,289	72%
Total Acres	3,172	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails & Univ. Florida)		
Land Trail Priorities	3.4	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	3.4	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)	0 sites	
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	126	4%
Priority 2	1,796	57%
Priority 3	431	14%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	45	1%
Total Acres	2,398	76%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	30	< 1%

[a]Acres 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

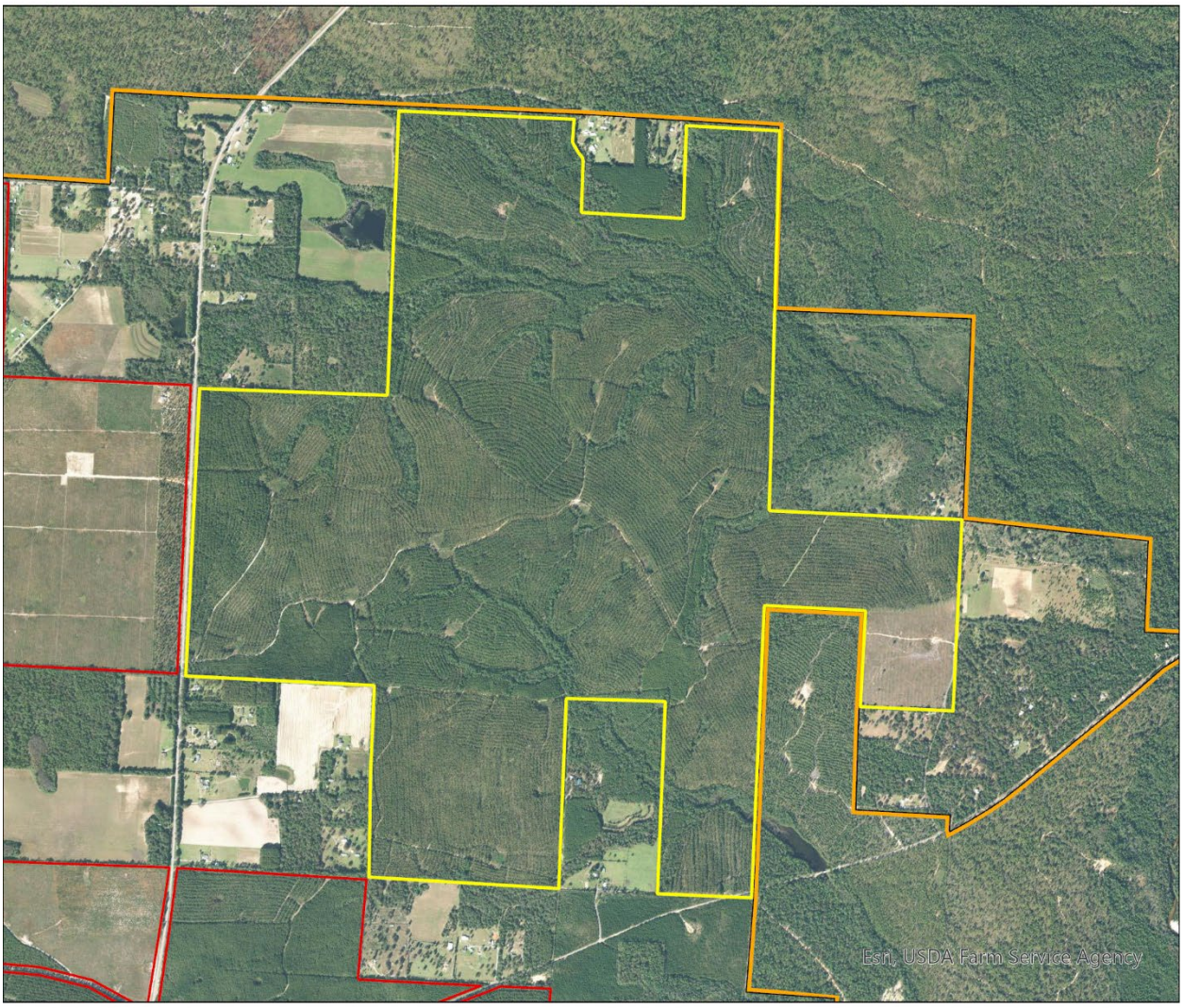
B1: Florida Forever map



B2: Aerial map

Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II Florida Forever Proposal - Map 1

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



Map Produced by: N. Pasco, July 2022

Background: USA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter

Florida Forever Proposal Boundary
Florida Forever BOT Projects
Existing State Conservation Lands

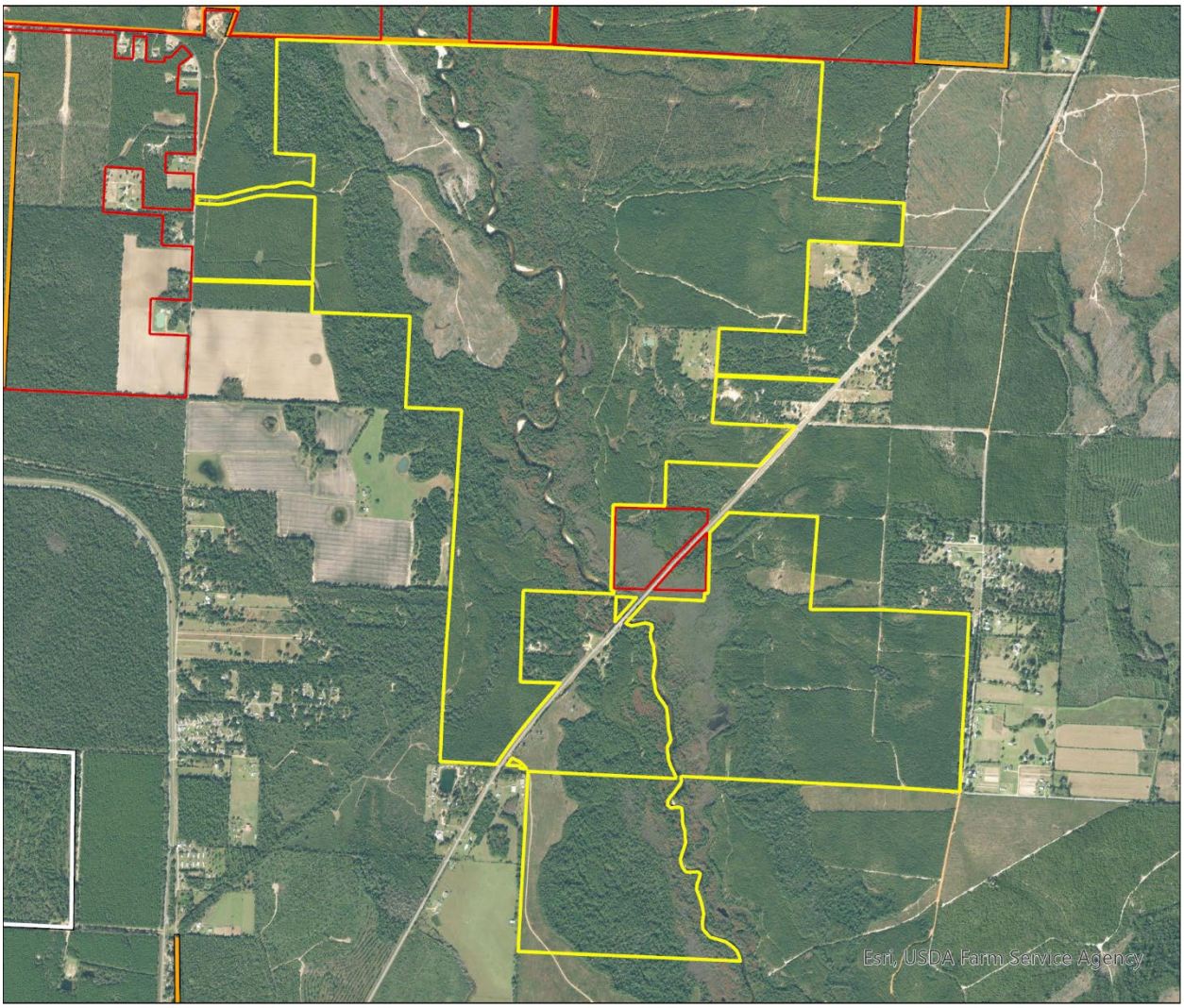
FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY
1018 Thomasville Road
Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
850-224-8207
fax 850-681-9364
www.fnai.org

N

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II Florida Forever Proposal - Map 2

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



Map Produced by: N. Pasco, July 2022

Background: USA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter

FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY

1018 Thomasville Road
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- Florida Forever Proposal Boundary
- Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Existing Federal Conservation Lands
- Existing State Conservation Lands

N

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Appendix C:

PROPERTY ID #'S FOR FINAL RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY

COUNTY	PARCEL ID	OWNER	ACRES PER TAX CARD	JUST VALUE	ASSESSED VALUE	PARCEL DESIGNATION
Santa Rosa	31-3N-27-0000-00100-0000*	ETO II TRS LLC	540	$480,000	$76,200	Essential
Santa Rosa	32-3N-27-0000-00200-0000*	ETO II TRS LLC	366.4	$492,000	$74,100	Essential
Santa Rosa	06-2N-27-0000-00100-0000	ETO II TRS LLC	160	$195,000	$15,800	Essential
Santa Rosa	05-2N-27-0000-00100-0000	ETO II TRS LLC	484.49	$648,000	$70,800	Essential
Santa Rosa	08-2N-27-0000-00101-0000	ETO II TRS LLC	156	$122,040	$9,154	Essential
Santa Rosa	04-2N-27-0000-00500-0000	ETO II TRS LLC	101.12	$384,000	$28,800	Essential
Santa Rosa	32-3N-27-0000-00311-0000	Pridgen Bob & Sherry	42.71	$147,600	$91,740	Non-essential
Santa Rosa	32-3N-27-0000-00201-0000*	Pridgen Bob & Sherry	53.6	$0	$0	Essential
Santa Rosa	03-3N-27-0000-00100-0000	Twin Creeks Timber LLC	398.47	$331,205	$59,724	Essential
Santa Rosa	02-3N-27-0000-00200-0000	Twin Creeks Timber LLC	280	$260,000	$45,900	Essential
Santa Rosa	10-3N-27-0000-00100-0000	Twin Creeks Timber LLC	480	$457,600	$80,400	Essential
Santa Rosa	11-3N-27-0000-00100-0000	Twin Creeks Timber LLC	360	$343,200	$60,300	Essential
			3422.79	**$3,860,645**	**$612,918**	

**Acreages/ values reported by property appraiser not updated at time of application submission; prorated values not reported by applicant.*

Appendix D:

Management Prospectus for Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II, a fee simple proposal.

Introduction

The Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II project is approximately 3,173 acres located in Santa Rosa County. It is bordered by US 27 along its southern boundary and US 19/State Road 57 along its western boundary. The project's northern boundary meets BRSF, Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever project and Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Florida Forever project.

A majority of the project area has been converted to an active silvicultural operation consisting of loblolly pines. Upland communities include upland pine forest, sandhill, mesic flatwoods, and upland hardwood forest. Forested wetlands include dome swamp, bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, seepage slope and baygall. Listed, rare and imperiled species, either occurring or likely to occur within the project, include the gopher tortoise and Florida black bear. The majority of the site appears to have been upland pine forest and sandhills with creeks and seepage slopes prior to the initiation of the current silvicultural operation. The FFS is the recommended manager for the project.

Management Goals

The project area provides important habitat for several unique species and environments. Since the principal purposes of the project include protection of biodiversity, protection of the quality and natural functions of the land and water systems, protection of the surface waters of the state, provision of resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, and provide forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources, programs would be oriented towards conservation and protection of wildlife species, and to carefully control public uses.

The primary land management goals for the management of the tract are to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to ensure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This ecosystem and multiple use approach will guide the management activities on this project. Multiple use is defined as a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment. Management would be designed to accomplish the goals and measures for this project. These goals and measures are hereby incorporated by reference.

Qualifications for State Designation

The majority of the acreage of this project consists of an active silvicultural operation. While the tract is dominated by the silvicultural operation, many of the plantations have retained some of the understory components including wiregrass, bluestem grass, gallberry, and yaupon holly. With thinning, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, the project could be quickly transformed from management for silvicultural values to and area managed for its ecological and recreational benefits. With the removal of offsite pine species, replanting of longleaf pines, introduction of prescribed fire, and sustainable forestry management practices, this project could be restored to a more natural state. The project's size and diversity make it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the FFS and, more specifically, designation as a state forest is contingent upon acquiring fee simple title to the property.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Much of the project's upland pine and sandhill areas have been altered by silvicultural operations and will require restoration efforts. Areas where timber species are off-site species will necessitate removal as well as the restoration of native ground covers and canopy.

Biotic surveys would be important to accomplish during the early part of plan development and implementation, because several rare or listed species are expected to occur in the project.

Development of facilities, as on all conservation lands, would be kept to a level necessary to assure a high quality experience, and any such development would be confined to areas of previous disturbance. Restoration efforts will focus on introduction of prescribed fire, removal of offsite pine species, exotic species treatment, facilitating the restoration of native groundcovers, and possibly wetland restoration.

The level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be moderate to high initially to obtain the necessary information and resources to restore and manage this system as a State Forest. Once this information is obtained and the resources are available, long-term management costs are expected to be moderate to maintain this area as a State Forest.

Timetable for Implementing Management

Once the project area is acquired and assigned to FFS, public access will be immediately provided for low intensity outdoor resource based recreation activities such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. The FFS proposes to manage the site as a State Forest and will carry out management activities and coordinate public access and use. The FFS will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Initial and intermediate management efforts will concentrate on resource inventory, restoration, and reforestation of areas where harvesting has occurred, providing site security, and assessing public and fire management access. Inventories of the site's natural resources, threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide a basis for the formulation of a management plan. The roads throughout the property necessitate the development of a road plan to identify those roads to be utilized for vehicular access by the public, those roads that are required for administrative use, and roads that are determined to be unnecessary for management or access should be closed. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project are conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas, maintenance of natural communities, and responsible public access. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Off-site species will eventually be replaced with species that would be expected to occur naturally on those specific sites.

Burning goals for this project will be to eventually establish an all season prescribed burning program on all of the fire dependent community types. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of re-introducing longleaf pines, restoration harvests and improvement cuts aimed at restoring and perpetuating native ground covers. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment and enhance and maintain biodiversity.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to identify areas that are appropriate for responsible recreational or administrative facilities. Recreation and administrative infrastructure development will be primarily located in disturbed areas and will be at a minimum required to allow suitable public access, provide facilities for public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. It is anticipated that interpretative and user services recreation facilities will be developed and the use of low impact, rustic facilities will be stressed. High-impact organized recreation areas are not planned due to possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, fire lines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Revenue Generating Potential

As mentioned above, timber sales will be conducted as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. These sales will primarily take place in planted pine stands and will provide a variable source of revenue dependent upon a variety of factors. Due to the existing condition and volume of the timber resources on the property, revenue generating potential of this project is expected to be moderately high.

Management Costs and Sources of Revenue

Estimated budget needs for interim management are as follows:

Salary (6 FTE)	$282,768
Expense	$840,000
OCO	$602,300
Total*	**$1,725,068**

**Estimated budget costs above include both the original Wolfe Creek Forest and proposed Wolfe Creek Forest Addition II acreages.*

Appendix E:

Imperiled Species FNAI Ranking Definitions

FNAI
Definitions of imperiled species ranks and conservation status

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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(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 F:

Site Visit Photos

1. Uplands Ellis Tract

2. Ecotone between planted pine stand and floodplain of Big Coldwater Creek

3. Big Coldwater Creek Paddle Trail Tract

4. *Bear sign Paddle Trail Tract*

6. Basin swamp Ellis Tract

7. Planted pine on former sandhill Paddle Trail Tract