

**ITEM 12:**

Vote on whether to amend the Strategic Managed Area Lands List Florida Forever Project Boundary for the DRP to add five properties totaling approximately 184 acres in Columbia and Sumter counties with a tax assessed market value of \$707,769 and remove one parcel totaling approximately 91 acres in Washington County.

**LOCATION:**

Columbia, Sumter, and Washington counties

**DSL STAFF REMARKS:**

The proposed amendment represents one new property proposed by the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and four properties proposed for fee-simple acquisition by DRP and the Alachua Conservation Trust; a total of five properties in Columbia and Sumter counties that will add approximately 184 acres to the Strategic Managed Area Lands List (SMALL) Florida Forever project. These properties have a combined tax assessed value of \$707,769.

According to the 2018 ARC-approved SMALL Florida Forever project, "Once a strategic parcel is acquired or recommended by the identifying agency for removal from the project, the agency may submit a boundary amendment application to add another owners' parcel in its place. This will ensure that ten parcels remain on each agency's list." DRP currently has six parcels in this project. Four parcels were successfully acquired (Carter, Brayer, Hamilton, Fitzgerald). Negotiations on one additional parcel, Chipley Course, LLC, are at an impasse and this parcel is to be removed from the SMALL project. The proposed amendment will ensure that the DRP has 10 parcels on the SMALL list.

*River Rise Preserve State Park (RRPSP):*

The River Rise Addition, owned by the Fowler, Martin, Porter and Revels families, is comprised of nine parcels that create a nearly 160-acre inholding within the RRPSP boundary in Columbia County. The undeveloped property is proposed for fee simple acquisition. The landowners have been contacted and are willing sellers. The DRP has confirmed that the property would be managed as part of the RRPSP. The property was recently timbered and is currently listed for sale. The property is surrounded by fire dependent communities resulting from decades of sandhill restoration efforts. If acquired, the property would contribute to the expansion of sandhill habitat, benefit wildlife species through restoration of the recently cleared timber, ensure cohesive and continued land management and recreational use of the RRPSP.

*Dade Battlefield Historic State Park (DBSP):*

The Hamilton Parcel is a 24-acre parcel proposed as an addition to the DBSP in Sumter County. The undeveloped property is proposed for fee simple acquisition. The landowner has been contacted and is a willing seller. The DRP has confirmed that the property would be managed as part of the DBSP. The property is currently listed for sale and is within the optimum boundary of DBSP. The undeveloped parcel encompasses a portion of the original site of Dade's Battle of 1835, a landmark event in Florida history that marked the start of the Second Seminole War. Natural features include the eastern half of a freshwater pond and wetlands acquired by the state and added to the park in 2020. If acquired, the property would enhance the protection and interpretation significant cultural resources of the DBSP, increase visibility and accessibility with frontage on U.S. Highway 301, provide wildlife habitat, and expand recreational opportunities.

*Boundary Amendment Criteria:*

The proposal meets the criteria to be submitted as a boundary amendment. The parcels total less than 1,000 acres, have a tax assessed value of less than \$2 million, and are less than 10% of the size of the overall project to which it is being added. The proposal areas should be designated as essential.

*Project History:*

In October 2018, ARC approved the SMALL project. Sponsored by the DEP Division of Recreation and Parks, the DEP Office of Greenways and Trails, the DACS Florida Forest Service, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, SMALL is a collection of single ownerships statewide that would augment or improve management of existing state-managed conservation lands, if acquired. The parcels included have been identified as part of the optimum management boundary within the approved management plans of the respective managed area. None of these parcels are located within the boundary of another Florida Forever project on the priority list.

The SMALL project includes over 11,898 acres with 11,572 acres remaining and is ranked number eight in the Critical Natural Lands category on the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List. The tax assessed value for the remaining acres to be acquired in this project per property appraiser information (2019) is \$51,010,162.

*FNAI Review:*

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), Florida Forever Measures Evaluation, 100% of the combined parcels of the proposed River Rise addition contributes to FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities, Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, Aquifer Recharge, Sustainable Forestry and Forestland for Recharge.

The Dade Battlefield addition contributes 98% to Surface Water Protection and 100% to Aquifer recharge. The site also contributes to Natural Floodplain Function and Functional Wetlands.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

**ARC RECOMMENDATION:**

<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>
Strategic Managed Areas Lands List DRP: add River Rise and Dade Battlefield; remove Chipley Course, LLC								



To: Deborah Burr, DEP/OES  
 From: Dale R. Jackson, FNAI  
 Date: March 8, 2021  
 Subject: Proposed boundary modification (addition) to Florida Forever BOT  
 Project: **Strategic Managed Areas Lands List (SMALL)** – River  
 Rise Preserve State Park: Fowler, Porter, Martin, and Revels properties,  
 Columbia County

The major goals of the Strategic Managed Areas Lands List Florida Forever (FF) Project are to enhance protection of natural resources on existing public lands and to facilitate their management. This multi-owner proposed addition to River Rise Preserve State Park in southern Columbia County is intended to meet these goals.

The combined property comprises a 160-acre inholding near the western end of the 3,827-acre park and lies on the northern side of (but does not touch) the Santa Fe River. The addition includes four ownerships (Fowler, 40 acres; Porter, 53.34 ac.; Martin, 53.34 ac.; Revels, 13.34 ac.). The land is available for fee-simple acquisition; most if not all is currently being marketed.

The properties are undeveloped and until recently supported pine plantation (slash pine likely on former longleaf-pine sandhill). Just prior to this application, in December 2020, all merchantable timber (hardwood and slash pine) was removed from much of the property, rendering it suitable for immediate efforts to commence restoration with native upland species, including longleaf pine and wiregrass. The entire property lies within fire-dependent natural communities and is therefore considered critical by park staff to use of prescribed fire in surrounding state lands.

The Revels parcel in the southwestern corner of the proposal supports wetland features. A second potential wetland feature occurs midway along the eastern boundary at the junction of the Martin and Fowler properties. These probably are of karst origin and represent shallow sinkhole-type features.

The FNAI database contains no record of rare species on site, which is not surprising given the almost complete conversion to pine plantation. However, park lands support a variety of species characteristic of wetland and sandhill natural communities; these include gopher tortoise, fox squirrel, and southeastern kestrel, as well as riverine species such as the Suwannee alligator snapping turtle and Suwannee cooter.

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) at the end of this memo is based on the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment developed by FNAI. The data used in that analysis represent a standardized, statewide perspective of natural community distributions based primarily on data from the Cooperative Land Cover Map. The proposed addition contributes substantially to protection of Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, and Aquifer Recharge, with long-term potential to support Sustainable Forestry.

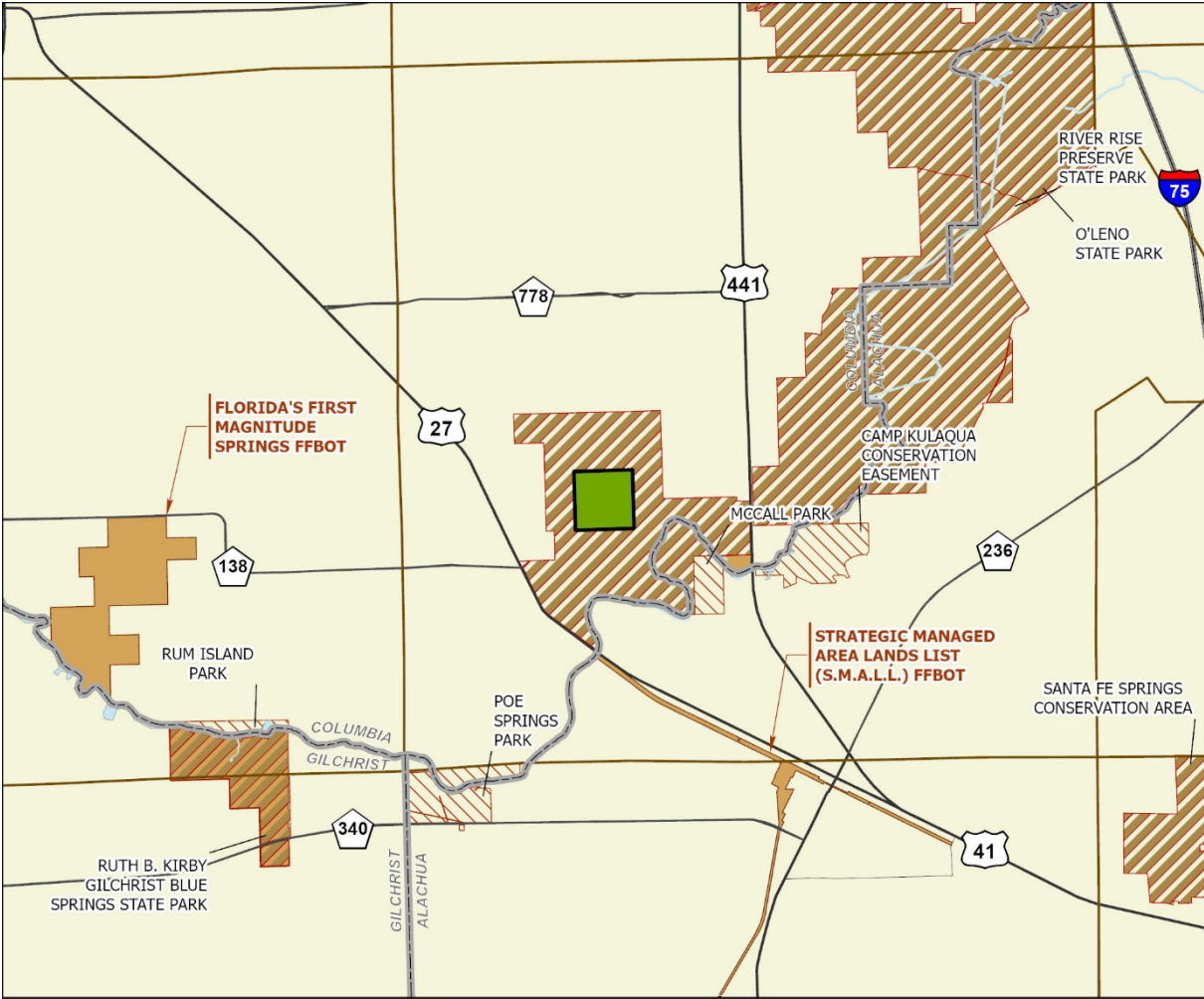
S.M.A.L.L. Addition (River Rise Preserve): Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20210305

GIS ACRES = 160.01

MEASURES	Resource Acres <sup>a</sup>	% of project
<b>B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	2.11	1%
Priority 3	66.66	42%
Priority 4	0.44	< 1%
Priority 5	0.89	< 1%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>70.11</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	159.90	100%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>159.90</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>B3: Ecological Greenways</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	159.90	100%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>159.90</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>B4: Under-represented Natural Communities</b>		
Upland Glade (G1)	0.00	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0.00	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0.00	0%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0.00	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0.00	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0.00	0%
Sandhill (G3)	1.11	< 1%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0.00	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0.00	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	0.00	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species</b>		
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	0	
G5	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>C4: Natural Floodplain Function</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres <sup>a</sup>	% of project
<b>C5: Surface Water Protection</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	19.63	12%
Priority 4	140.27	88%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Priority 7	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>159.90</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>C7: Fragile Coastal Resources</b>		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0.00	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0.00	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>C8: Functional Wetlands</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	5.34	3%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>D3: Aquifer Recharge</b>		
Priority 1	76.11	48%
Priority 2	83.79	52%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>159.90</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>E2: Recreational Trails (miles)</b>		
<small>(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails &amp; Univ. Florida)</small>		
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
<b>F2: Arch. &amp; Historical Sites (number)</b>		
<b>0 sites</b>		
<b>G1: Sustainable Forestry</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	159.90	100%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0.00	0%
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>159.90</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>G3: Forestland for Recharge</b>		
	159.90	100%

<sup>a</sup>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.



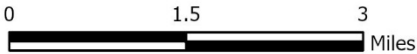
**S.M.A.L.L. PROPOSED ADDITION (RIVER RISE PRESERVE)**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY**

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



MARCH 2021





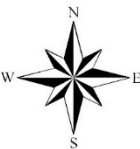
# S.M.A.L.L. Proposed Addition (River River Preserve)

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF MARCH 2021



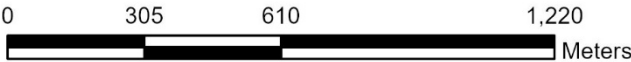
Map Produced by: N. Pasco, March 2021

Background: World Imagery Resolution = 0.3 meter



	Florida Forever Proposal Boundary
	Existing State Conservation Lands
	Existing Local Conservation Lands

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To: Deborah Burr, DEP/OES  
 From: Dale R. Jackson, FNAI  
 Date: March 5, 2021  
 Subject: Proposed boundary modification (addition) to Florida Forever BOT  
 Project: **Strategic Managed Areas Lands List (SMALL)** – Dade  
 Battlefield Historic State Park: Hamilton property, Sumter County

The major goals of the Strategic Managed Areas Lands List Florida Forever (FF) Project are to enhance protection of natural resources on existing public lands and to facilitate their management. Addition of the Hamilton property to Dade Battlefield Historic State Park is intended to meet these goals.

The proposed addition in west-central Sumter County, just south of Bushnell, includes 24.11 acres contiguous with the eastern border of the park and extending to US-301; Interstate 75 lies ca. 2 miles to the west. The property owner has posted the parcel for sale for potential development and offers it for fee simple acquisition. The parcel is included within the park's 2017 Optimum Boundary in its Unit Management Plan. Residential development borders the park both to the north and south.

According to the application, the Hamilton parcel encompasses part of the original site of Dade's Battle of 1835, which marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War, this nation's longest and most costly war with Native Americans. There are no historic structures or current buildings on site.

About two-thirds of the property comprises the remaining portions (eastern half) of a freshwater pond and wetland system that were partially acquired by the State in 2020 (per application). Adequately securing this system would benefit from full State ownership. Terrestrial features comprising the remaining third of the property are predominantly improved pasture, some of which supports an overstory of large live oaks (woodland pasture).

The FNAI database contains no records of rare species for the Hamilton parcel, but there likely have been no biological surveys on site. The parcel's owner reports the presence of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*, G3S3, C, ST) and nesting Florida sandhill cranes (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*, G5T2S2, N, ST).

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) at the end of this memo is based on the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment developed by FNAI. The data used in that analysis represent a standardized, statewide perspective of natural community distributions based primarily on data from the Cooperative Land Cover Map. The proposed addition contributes substantially (by percent of site, not total acreage) to Aquifer Recharge and Surface Water Protection, with lesser contribution to Natural Floodplain Protection and Functional Wetlands.

S.M.A.L.L. Addition (Hamilton): Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20210305

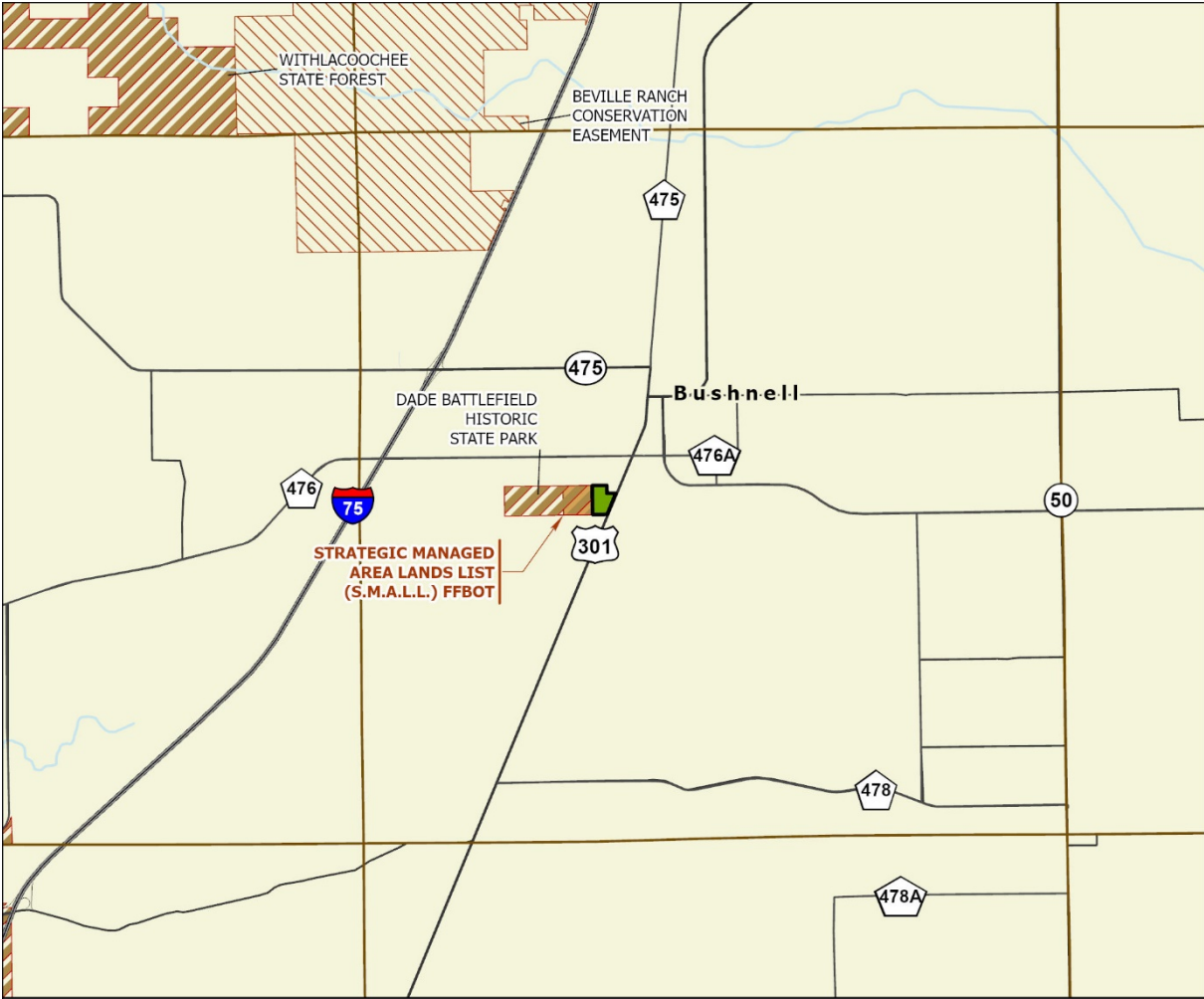
GIS ACRES = 24.11

MEASURES	Resource Acres <sup>a</sup>	% of project
<b>B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
<b>B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	12.73	52%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Total Acres	12.73	52%
<b>B3: Ecological Greenways</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
<b>B4: Under-represented Natural Communities</b>		
Upland Glade (G1)	0.00	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0.00	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0.00	0%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0.00	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0.00	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0.00	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0.00	0%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0.00	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0.00	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	0.00	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
<b>B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species</b>		
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	0	
G5	0	
Total	0	
<b>C4: Natural Floodplain Function</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	4.17	17%
Priority 6	9.95	41%
Total Acres	14.12	58%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres <sup>a</sup>	% of project
<b>C5: Surface Water Protection</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	23.85	98%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Priority 7	0.00	0%
Total Acres	23.85	98%
<b>C7: Fragile Coastal Resources</b>		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0.00	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0.00	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0.00	0%
Total Acres	0.00	0%
<b>C8: Functional Wetlands</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	4.11	17%
Priority 6	8.51	35%
Total Acres	12.62	52%
<b>D3: Aquifer Recharge</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	24.41	100%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5	0.00	0%
Priority 6	0.00	0%
Total Acres	24.41	100%
<b>E2: Recreational Trails (miles)</b>		
<small>(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails &amp; Univ. Florida)</small>		
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
<b>F2: Arch. &amp; Historical Sites (number)</b>		
	0 sites	
<b>G1: Sustainable Forestry</b>		
Priority 1	0.00	0%
Priority 2	0.00	0%
Priority 3	0.00	0%
Priority 4	0.00	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	9.56	39%
Total Acres	9.56	39%
<b>G3: Forestland for Recharge</b>		
	0.00	0%

<sup>a</sup>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.





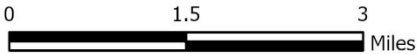
**S.M.A.L.L. PROPOSED ADDITION (HAMILTON)**

**SUMTER COUNTY**

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



MARCH 2021



### S.M.A.L.L. Proposed Addition (Hamilton)

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF MARCH 2021



GeoEye, Maxar, Microsoft

Map Produced by: N. Pasco, March 2021

Background: World Imagery Resolution = 0.3 meter



	Florida Forever Proposal Boundary
	Florida Forever BOT Projects

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