

ITEM 13:

Vote on whether to add four 2020 Cycle 1 Florida Forever Proposals to the 2021 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

In October 2019, the Division of State Lands received the four Florida Forever project proposals of Amtel Farms, Buck Island Ranch, Hendrie Ranch and Withlacoochee River Corridor. Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) members and staff reviewed the four applications and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) preliminary resource information and heard public testimony at the December 12, 2019 public hearing. ARC voted to move all four proposals to full review on December 13, 2019.

The Florida Forever assessment team visited each of the four proposal areas in February 2020. The DSL staff then prepared project evaluation reports based on the information provided by the ARC member agencies, FNAI and other agency contributors. FWC has also provided a resource analysis of each proposal that has been transmitted to ARC. The DSL held public hearings on the proposals on May 20, 2020 and preceding this item at the June 14, 2020 ARC meeting. The meeting summary for the March regional hearing is provided in Item 2.

PROPOSAL	COUNTY	CATEGORY	ACRES
Amtel Farms	Glades/Hendry	Fee Simple	2,207
Buck Island Ranch	Highlands	Less-Than-Fee	6,560
Hendrie Ranch	Highlands	Less-Than-Fee	7,229
Withlacoochee River Corridor	Citrus	Less-Than-Fee	1,714

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

Consider, if approved by a roll call vote as a Florida Forever project, adding the Amtel Farms fee-simple project to the Calooshatchee Ecoscape Florida Forever project boundary by a second roll call vote of ARC.

Consider, if approved by a roll call vote as a Florida Forever project, adding the Hendrie Ranch less-than-fee project to the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Florida Forever project boundary by a second roll call vote of ARC.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

Vote to approve the Florida Forever project proposals.

Project	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	DEP	Selected
Amtel Farms								
Buck Island Ranch								
Hendrie Ranch								
Withlacoochee River Corridor								

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

Project	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	DEP	Selected
Calooshatchee Ecoscape: Amtel Farms								
Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem: Hendrie Ranch								