

## **Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park**

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**Agency:** Dept. of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks

**Planning Region:** North Florida Highlands

**County:** Baker

**Lease/Management Agreement Number:** 3639

### **Overview**

Classified as a State Special Feature Site, Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park protects the site of Florida's largest and most significant battle of the Civil War, which occurred on February 20, 1864. The majority of the park is co-managed with the U.S. Forest Service; significant stands of mesic flatwoods and scattered basin swamps are found within the park boundary.

**Total Acreage:** 67.24

<b>Natural Communities</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Mesic Flatwoods	549.89
Basin Swamp	12.51

**Acquisition:** The core three acres of Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park were initially acquired by the State of Florida on September 27, 1909. On July 31, 1978, the State of Florida's Department of Natural Resources (predecessor in interest to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection), Division of Recreation and Parks (Division) obtained Special Use Permit from the United States Department of Agriculture and Forest Service (USDAFS) to manage a 267-acre property as part of Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park. Over time, this special use permit evolved into a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Presently, the division co-manages a 688-acre property owned by USDAFS under a 20-year MOU. This MOU will expire on Sept. 18, 2025.

### **Resource Management Component Objectives**

#### **Hydrology**

- Assess the park's hydrological restoration needs.
- Continue to monitor, review and comment on proposed land use or zoning changes within lands bordering the park.

#### **Natural Communities**

- No natural community restoration is planned for this park. The U.S. Forest Service conducts all resource management activities on property leased to the Division by the U.S. Forest Service.

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### **Imperiled Species**

- Continue to record any occurrences of imperiled species observed within the park.
- Coordinate with the USFS to protect imperiled species during the annual reenactment and other events on site.

### **Invasive and Nuisance Species**

- Annually treat 0.1 infested acres of invasive plant species pursuant to an annual plant management work plan.
- Implement control measures on nuisance species on an as needed basis. Collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service as needed.

### **Cultural Resources**

- Assess and evaluate 32 of 32 recorded cultural resources in the park.
- Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological resources by updating the Florida Master Site file, developing and adopting a Scope of Collections Statement, and conducting oral history interviews
- Bring 32 of 32 recorded cultural resources into good condition.

## **Land Use Component Objectives**

### **Conceptual Land Use**

#### Interpretive Center/Museum

- Remove the existing museum and construct a new interpretive center

#### Support Area

- Remove the existing park residence and shop
- Construct a new park residence and shop in one of two new locations, including one that is currently within the park optimum boundary.

#### Parking Area

- Expand parking capacity along the park entrance road

#### Eastern Loop Trail

- Construct interpretive loop trail through the eastern portion of the park.

#### Western Service Road Network

- Work with the U.S. Forest Service to reduce the number of service and management roads within the western portions of the park.

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### **Optimum Boundary**

The current optimum boundary for Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park consists of a single 70-acre triangular parcel on the south side of U.S. Highway 90, immediately south of the park entrance. This parcel is a potential location for a new park residence and shop, should the relocation of those two facilities become necessary due to the construction of a new interpretive center.