PRELIMINARY EVALUATIONS OF THE NOVEMBER 2023 FLORIDA FOREVER PROPOSALS

Prepared by

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

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The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) is dedicated to gathering, interpreting, and disseminating information critical to the conservation of Florida's biological resources. The Inventory was founded in 1981 as a member of The Nature Conservancy's international network of natural heritage programs, and it is now part of Florida State University's Institute of Science and Public Affairs. Funding for FNAI is provided through contracts, which currently include work for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Florida's Water Management Districts.

FNAI staff builds and maintains a comprehensive statewide database that now includes more than 35,000 occurrences of rare plant and animal species and high-quality natural communities. The database also contains information on more than 2,800 lands managed wholly or in part for conservation. This database includes national forests, parks and wildlife refuges; state parks, forests, aquatic preserves, and wildlife management areas; water management district lands; county and municipal parks; private preserves; and military installations with substantial natural areas. Boundaries of state land acquisition projects are also represented.

As part of an agreement with DEP, FNAI provides data and expertise to assist with the multi-step process of evaluating lands proposed for acquisition through the Florida Forever Program. This document presents our preliminary review of the following proposals submitted for the cycle beginning November 2023: Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor, Big Bend Forest, Dark Hammock Ranch, Finca Vigia, Lake Harney, Larkin Ranch, Lytal Conservation Area, Suttlemyre Forest, Tupelo Honey Timberlands, and Wooten Timberlands. This review includes the following for each proposal: Natural Resource Description; tables listing natural communities and rare species on the site; a tabular evaluation of selected Florida Forever Measures; and maps of the proposed site. Recreational and archeological values are not considered in this evaluation.

Note: In previous years FNAI has summarized our overall preliminary assessment of the proposals as a "Biological Conservation Priority" for each site. This rank represented our initial assessment of a proposal's contribution to the protection of significant ecological resources from a **statewide perspective**. These ranks reflected the FNAI scientific staff's best judgment based on information available at the time of the evaluation. **Because further assessment is generally needed to fully determine the biological importance of a site and many conservation factors may not be simply summarized, we no longer provide this subjective rank.**

Natural Resource Description: The description of the natural resources presented for each proposal is developed from information provided in the proposal application, the FNAI database, FNAI staff comments, and aerial photographs. The natural communities listed in this evaluation and the percentage of the total area that each comprises were derived principally from aerial photographs as interpreted by FNAI staff and by landcover information from the Water Management Districts. These data were supplemented by FNAI natural community occurrence data where available. These sources were also used to determine the extent of disturbed lands that no longer support natural communities (agriculture areas, developed areas, mines, etc.). Acreages of communities and disturbances are approximate, but provide a reasonable estimate for this stage of the evaluation process. More precise landcover information is gathered during the project assessment phase for those proposals selected for further evaluation.

Acreages of natural communities, particularly mesic and wet flatwoods, may differ from acreages given in the Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) evaluation table (described below). The FFME relies on statewide remotely sensed data where on the ground information is lacking. Using current high resolution aerial photography, FNAI scientists sometimes identify different acreage of certain landcover types, for example, pine plantation or flatwoods, than is identified through remotely sensed data.

Rare species on the proposed areas are listed in each evaluation. Species recorded in the FNAI database and those reported in the application are listed separately in the table. Potential rare species may be discussed in the evaluation text. FNAI Global and State ranks and Federal and State legal statuses are given for each species in the table. Rank and statuses provided in the text are listed in the same order after the scientific species name. A rank/status explanation sheet is included at the end of this document.

Florida Forever Measures Evaluation: Accompanying each evaluation is a table illustrating to what extent each proposed site meets 14 Florida Forever performance measures. These 14 measures were selected because they are resource-based criteria that can be used to set acquisition priorities. For each measure, we report the acres of the resource found on the proposed site and the percentage of the site containing the resource. The data in this assessment represent a highly standardized, statewide perspective of natural resource distributions. More detailed information may be gathered during the Project Assessment phase for those proposals voted upon for further evaluation. The data used in this evaluation are described in detail in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Summary Report and Technical Report, available at www.fnai.org.

Maps: This report provides two maps of each proposed site. The first is a small-scale map showing the proposed site in the context of surrounding conservation lands and land protection projects. The second map is of larger scale and uses recent aerial imagery that provides a view of the overall landcover of each site.

ATLANTIC TO OKEFENOKEE CONSERVATION CORRIDOR (NASSAU COUNTY)

Acquisition Type: Combination Fee-Simple and Less-Than-Fee

Preliminary Evaluation

The Atlantic-to-Okefenokee Conservation Corridor proposal includes approximately 55,864 acres (per application; 55,861.5 acres per GIS) of nearly-contiguous lands that span the northern edge of Nassau County, stretching from near the community of Boulogne to the mouth of the St. Marys River at the Atlantic Ocean. These parcels provide an opportunity to protect a corridor between the Okefenokee Swamp to the Atlantic, while protecting water quality for the Saint Marys and Nassau Rivers along with their tributaries and estuaries. The properties are under multiple ownerships, and are proposed for a combination of fee-simple and less-than-fee acquisition.

The St. Marys River forms Florida's north border with Georgia. From its origins at the convergence of the North Prong St. Marys and the Middle Prong St Marys, the river initially follows a curving route, first flowing 5 miles south, about 7 miles east, and then flowing north about 30 miles before turning to take its final ca. 30-mile path generally east. This proposed project extends from north-flowing section of the St Marys River about 2 miles east of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and generally parallels the path of the river eastward to the Atlantic. The proposal has an estimated 27 miles (within several tracts) of frontage on the St Marys. Where the boundary is set back from the river, project tracts generally vary from and between 0.5 and 4 miles away. In relation to nearby communities, parts of the project lie ca. 1.25 miles north and 1.25 miles east of Hilliard, 0.4 miles southwest of Kings Ferry, and 1.5 miles north of Yulee; the disjunct easternmost portion of the corridor on Amelia Island consists of parcels within and adjacent to developed parts of Fernandina Beach. The proposal is crossed by several significant roads: highways crossing from north south include FL-121, US 301, US 17, and I-95; Nassau County Highway 108 crosses the corridor from east to west.

This project adjoins significant acreages of managed land at its eastern and western end, but currently there is very little conservation land along the St. Marys River in the middle portions of this proposal. Project lands at the west end of this corridor adjoin the north and south edges of the St. Marys River Ranch Conservation Easements as well as Ralph E. Simmons State Forest; both of these managed areas would be integral parts of the corridor. Less than 2 miles from the west end of the corridor is Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Conservation Fund's Trail Ridge Tract is within 3 miles.

The central portion of the corridor is both narrower and less complete than most other sections of the corridor; the Mizell Family Preserve Conservation Easement, only 0.1 miles from one of the tracts near Kings Ferry, is the nearest conservation land in this region. Other conservation lands within 5 miles of this portion of the proposal are Twin Rivers State Forest and Timucuan Preserve Federally Managed Lands to the south, and Saltilla River Forest and Camden Bright Easement to the north in Georgia.

At the east end of the proposal, portions of Fort Clinch State Park partially fill in a ca. 5-mile gap in the continuity of the project, and the main tract of the park adjoins the easternmost parcel of the proposal. Cumberland Island National Seashore, Egans Creek Greenway and Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park are within one mile of the lands at the Atlantic end of the corridor, and Kings Bay Naval Base is within 3 miles.

Natural Resources Description:

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), the FNAI Natural Heritage Database, and other publicly available GIS data sources.

Geologically, the proposal extends through 3 distinct regions, which is reflected in strong variation in topography, soils, and drainage. The western portion of the proposal lies on the Duval Uplands district, a mid-elevation terrace dissected by tributaries of the St Marys River. Progressing eastward, the proposal encompasses a portion of the St. Marys Plain province, which is mainly low-lying and swampy. Nearest the coast, lands of the proposal are part of the sea islands district, characterized by barrier island ridges, with low wet areas separating them from similar inland sandy ridges parallel to the coast. The proposal encompasses this range of variation, with the dissected highlands at the west end of the corridor rising to 50-100 feet above MSL. Low elevations (mostly below 25 ft MSL) lie in the middle sections of the corridor; there is varied topography near the coast, including marshes at sea level, barrier islands and inland bluffs rising to 40 feet. The geological setting is one in which karst features are uncommon. However, a steep-sided depression just south of the Little St. Marys River is as a possible sinkhole and may have conservation value.

While most of the land in the proposal drains to the St. Marys River, some areas are within the Nassau River watershed, draining south to the upper and lower Nassau River. Swamps and wetlands on the tracts form significant portions of the headwaters of several streams that contribute to both these waterways.

Like much of north Florida, many of the lands in the proposal have been used extensively for pine production. The chief land use across the proposal (about 54% of the acreage; Table 1) is current or recently-harvested pine plantation. About 2% of the land is in improved pasture, and roughly equivalent share of the land is covered by successional hardwood forest and by clearings. Other altered landcover types—small areas of various types of development, agriculture, artificial ponds and borrow pits, and utility corridors—each make up less than 1% of the proposal acreage.

Where relatively undisturbed natural communities persist, most are forested wetlands. Large and small expanses of mixed hardwood swamps—likely a mix of baygall and bottomland forest—make up the largest fraction of the proposal lands that are in natural vegetation. These are located throughout the properties, often at a transition between floodplain swamps or floodplain marshes and upland areas, but also as the main vegetation in smaller drainages. These isolated swamps are also common in low areas within pine plantations.

Floodplain swamp associated with the St. Mary's and its tributaries takes up a slightly smaller extent (9%) of the proposal in several locations. Extensive areas of floodplain swamp occur in the west-central part of the proposal northeast of Hilliard; these swamps surround Cabbage Creek and the Little St. Marys River as well as smaller drainages. In eastern portions of the proposal, patches of this community lie on the edge of the marshes in the floodplain of the St. Marys, and also surround McQueen Creek. These swamps are often directly downslope from pine plantations, but in many cases they are surrounded by and intergrade with baygall and/or bottomland forest.

Forested swamps that are not associated with streams are also widespread on the proposal. Basin swamps total nearly 2,000 acres throughout the corridor; generally these are portions of the headwaters in the upper basins of creeks that flow to the St. Marys, although significant areas of these swamps in the southern portion of the corridor are headwaters of Nassau River tributaries (mainly Lofton Creek, McQueen Creek, and Plummer Swamp). A few of the Basin Swamps are in isolated basins not associated with any streams.

Small, isolated dome swamps are nearly ubiquitous throughout the corridor, except along waterways and in the coastal tracts nearest Fernandina Beach. These are most typically 1-2 acres in size, although a few range up to nearly 12 acres. The vast majority are surrounded by pine plantations, with some in a matrix of remnant flatwoods or improved pasture.

Salt marsh is extensive in the lower St. Marys River near the river mouth. Two areas of floodplain marsh—one farther upstream along the St Marys River and one along the little St. Marys—are also apparent. Basin marshes are a minor component of the proposal as well; these are scattered as small treeless inclusions in forested wetlands, but also are found as occasional as isolated features. About half of Hampton Lake is within the proposal and is mapped as basin marsh; just east of Boulogne, Hampton Lake was once open water, but recent aerial photos show it to be fully vegetated.

A few remnant areas of sandhill are found on these sandy ridges in three general locations in the proposal. The largest concentration of remnant sandhill is in multiple disjunct patches on the western edge of the proposal surrounding Boulogne and Hampton Lake. Another concentration of remnant sandhill is on an ancient dune ridge just inland from an expanse of salt marsh surrounding the St. Marys River, across from the community of St. Marys, Georgia. The smallest area of sandhill is on an isolated ridge about 3 miles west of I-95, where two small stands of sandhill are found north and south of CR 108. Sandhill areas in the proposal are typically adjacent to pine plantations or cleared areas. They also often also grade into areas of upland hardwood forest or successional hardwood forest.

On slopes above floodplains, areas likely to be upland hardwood forests occur. These are found in scattered areas along the upper reaches of the Saint Marys River and Dunn Creek, as well as nearer the coast, on the bluffs across from St. Marys, GA.

Pine stands mapped as mesic flatwoods are scattered nearly throughout the proposal area, often intermixed with pine plantation or at an intergrade between uplands and swamps or wet flatwoods. Some are difficult to distinguish from pine plantations and may prove to be planted rather than natural stands. However, based on aerial photos, some areas—particularly in the western portion of the proposed corridor—may be relatively healthy and undisturbed.

Blackwater streams are common, including the St. Marys River as well as numerous other named and unnamed streams that cross or border many of the proposal's tracts. In addition to ca. 27 miles of frontage on the St. Marys River, the proposal is traversed by an estimated 65 miles of waterways. Portions of the following named creeks pass through the lands of the proposal: Blounts Branch, Brush Creek, Cabbage Creek, Dunn Creek, Little Dunn Creek, the Little Saint Marys River, Lower Sister Creek, McQueen Creek, Pigeon Creek, Upper Sister Creek, and Wilder Swamp. These are presumed to be blackwater streams with flow mainly of tannic water derived from swamps. However, where topography is more pronounced, some of the smaller streams (or portions thereof) may be seepage streams that instead receive their base flow from seepage of shallow groundwater.

The easternmost tracts in the proposal (Map 26) are on Amelia Island; these are disjunct and contain some natural communities not found elsewhere in the proposal. These lands consist of one large and 2 smaller blocks in and near Fernandina Beach. The largest is an elongate tract east of Egans Creek that separates developed areas of Fernandina Beach from Fort Clinch State Park. This is mainly an area of salt marsh, but on its east edge where it is adjacent to Fort Clinch State Park, it contains some small areas of maritime hammock. Another smaller block of land is within Fernandina Beach and is surrounded by residential development on its east and south, and industrial areas to its north. This block is made up of several smaller parcels separated by rights-of-way. It surrounds a drainage that flows to the Amelia River, and appears to consist mainly of mesic hammock on slopes above the drainage and hydric hammock in the drainage itself.

The mesic and wet flatwoods, sandhill, and upland hardwood forests on these tracts are considered underrepresented natural communities (i.e., communities that are insufficiently represented in managed areas in Florida).

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal	
baygall/bottomland forest	6,693	12	
floodplain swamp	5,027	9	
basin swamp	1,949	3	
salt marsh	1,924	3	
wet flatwoods	1,694	3	
upland hardwood forest	989	2	
mesic flatwoods	927	2	
sandhill	864	2	
dome swamp	567	1	
hydric hammock	241	<1	
floodplain marsh	181	<1	
basin marsh	157	<1	
depression marsh	64	<1	
mesic hammock	24	<1	
blackwater stream	20	<1	
maritime hammock	11	<1	
unconsolidated substrate	9	<1	
sinkhole	<1	<1	

Table 1. Natural communities and landcover types within the Atlantic toOkefenokee Conservation Corridor Florida Forever proposal.

river floodplain lake	<1	<1
pine plantation	30,354	54
pasture—improved	1,184	2
successional hardwood forest	996	2
clearing	847	2
road	672	1
developed	151	<1
artificial pond/impoundment	131	<1
agriculture	104	<1
utility corridor	80	<1
Total	55,861	100

Several listed and/or rare species are documented on site (Table 2). These include 3 state-listed plants, 6 species of invertebrates (5 beetles and 1 spider), 2 species of reptiles, and 3 species of birds. Additionally, the main stem of the St. Marys River from the confluence of the Middle Prong St. Marys to the river mouth are federally-designated critical habitat for the Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhinchus*). The salt marshes and freshwater wetlands are likely to be used by several species of concern and given the extensive acreage and diverse geography of the proposal, a variety additional rare species are possible. The attached Florida Forever Measures Evaluation indicates that 93% of the proposal lands contribute Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (mostly Priority 3 and Priority 5, but with >2,000 acres of Priority 2). Although only 22% of the site is mapped as FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities, this does include >400 acres in Priority 2 and >1,300 acres in Priority 3.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor Florida Forever proposal. Rank and Status explanations are attached.

		Global	State	Federal	State
Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status	Status
Rare plants documented on site					
Coreopsis integrifolia	ciliate-leaf tickseed	G1G2	S2	UR	E
Ctenium floridanum	Florida toothache grass	G2	S2	N	E
Hexastylis arifolia	little brown jug	G5	S3	N	Т
Additional rare plants reported on					
site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
Aphodius aegrotus	small pocket gopher	G3G4	S3?	N	N
	Aphodius beetle				
Aphodius dyspistus	surprising pocket gopher	G3G4	S3?	N	N
	aphodius beetle				
Aphodius hubbelli	Hubbell's pocket gopher	GNR	S3?	N	N
	Aphodius beetle				
Aphodius laevigatus	large pocket gopher	G3G4	S3?	N	N
	Aphodius beetle				
Ptomaphagus schwarzi	Schwarz' pocket gopher	G3	S3	N	N
	Ptomaphagus beetle				
Sphodros rufipes	red-legged purse-web	G4	S3	N	N
	spider				
Drymarchon couperi	eastern indigo snake	G3	S2?	Т	FT
Gopherus polyphemus	gopher tortoise	G3	S3	N	Т
Eudociumus albus	white ibis	G5	S4	N	N
Passerina ciris pop.1	painted bunting (eastern	G5T3Q	S1S2	N	N
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's sparrow	G3	\$3	N	N
Additional rare animals reported on					
site by applicant					
Dryobates borealis	red-cockaded woodpecker	G3	S2	E,PT	FE
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	G5	\$3	N	N

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 resources based primarily on the Cooperative Land Cover data (FL FWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6); the statewide scale of that analysis accounts for any differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. According to the FFME, in addition to the measures mentioned above, nearly the entire property (94-100%) in this proposal contributes to Ecological Greenways (Priority 4) and Surface Water Protection (mainly Priorities 3 and 5, but including >3,000 acres of Priority 1). Areas suitable for Sustainable Forestry occupy about 65% of the proposal, or more than 35,000 acres. About 54% of the proposal (>34,000 acres) contribute to Aquifer Recharge (mostly Priority 6). Functional Wetlands make up about 33% of the proposal. A small proportion of the proposal (<10%) is made up of Under-Represented Natural Communities and Fragile Coastal Resources.

GIS ACRES = 55,80	52	
	Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation	on Areas	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	2,153	4%
Priority 3	25,770	46%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	24,251	43%
Total Acres	52,174	93%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation P	riorities	100.000.000
Priority 1	2	< 1%
Priority 2	433	< 1%
Priority 3	1,369	2%
Priority 4	113	< 1%
Priority 5	1,069	2%
Priority 6	9,161	16%
Total Acres	12,147	22%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	52,293	94%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	52,293	94%
B4: Under-represented Natural C	ommunities	
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	20	< 1%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0	0%
Dry Praine (G2)	0	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0	0%
Sandhill (G3)	863	2%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	2,172	4%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	487	< 1%
Total Acres	3,542	6%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked	a species	
GI	1	
62	1	
03	14	
G4	1	
G5	2	
100al	19	
Drigity 1	2 240	40/
Priority 1	2,219	4%
Priority 2	2,744	5%
Priority 3	10,4349	13%
Filolity 4	10,424	19%
Priority 5	6	< 1%
Priority 6	18	< 1%
Total Acres	22,760	41%

	Resource	% of
MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	3,084	6%
Priority 2	503	< 1%
Priority 3	22,947	41%
Priority 4	3,388	6%
Priority 5	18,875	34%
Priority 6	1,265	2%
Priority 7	5,627	10%
Total Acres	55,690	100%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	6	< 1%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0	0%
Coastal Wetlands	1,701	3%
Total Acres	1,707	3%
C8: Functional Wetlands	25.22	
Priority 1	2,134	4%
Priority 2	3,107	6%
Priority 3	7,009	13%
Priority 4	5,882	11%
Priority 5	7	< 1%
Priority 6	19	< 1%
Total Acres	18,158	33%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	44	< 1%
Priority 3	865	2%
Priority 4	3,918	7%
Priority 5	5,244	9%
Priority 6	19,998	36%
Total Acres	30,069	54%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	niv. Fiorida)
Land Trail Priorities	8.1	
Land Trail Opportunities	25.8	
Total Miles	33.9	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number) 15	sites
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	5,443	10%
Priority 3	28,332	51%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	2,465	4%
Total Acres	36,240	65%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	618	1%

*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.



FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023



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Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter





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Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor Florida Forever Proposal - Map 25

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



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Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter



Florida Forever Proposal Boundary



Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor Florida Forever Proposal - Map 26

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter







BIG BEND FOREST (DIXIE COUNTY)

Acquisition Type: Less Than Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

The Big Bend Forest proposal includes approximately 53,445.7 acres (per application; 53,509.5 acres per GIS) in west-central Dixie County immediately west of Cross City extending to about 2.7 miles east of Steinhatchee. The property is a single contiguous tract proposed for less-than-fee acquisition through a conservation easement. this proposal is an opportunity to protect a large, contiguous area of working forest with wetlands that contribute fresh water to a broad swath of the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve.

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database. The property is irregularly shaped and measures ca. 12.5 miles north to south, and ca. 11.5 miles east to west. Almost all of the south edge of the tract borders conservation lands, including (from west to east) the Lyme Cross City Forest Company LLC Conservation Easement, the Lyme Cross City Conservation Easement (NRCS), and the Forest Systems Conservation Easement, through which the property connects to the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, and a network of conservation lands along the Suwannee River, as well as Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, which extends northward along the gulf coast. The northwestern corner of the proposal is less than 0.2 miles from the Lower Steinhatchee Conservation Area.

The tract lies in a low, poorly drained, relatively level region with limestone near the surface, at a transition between the Perry Karst Plain and the Chiefland Karst Plain geomorphological districts. There is very little topographic relief on the property, other than a gentle slope from higher elevations of about 35 ft above mean sea level (MSL) at the eastern portion of the tract to about 20 ft MSL to the west.

Natural Resources Description: The predominant land use on the site is pine plantation, generally improved slash pine, which occupies an estimated 56% of the property. Pine plantation makes up virtually all of the uplands, with remnant upland natural communities (mesic flatwoods, upland hardwood forest, and mesic hammock) estimated to make up less than 1% of the site.

Interdigitated through the pine plantations, a network of wetland drainages makes up a substantial portion of the site. About 22% of the site is estimated to consist of relatively natural swamps which are mapped as freshwater forested wetlands; these are reported to consist predominantly of hydric hammock, but include areas of basin swamp and baygall as well. Aerial photos show that widespread logging (at least selective logging) took place in most of these forested wetlands in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Since then, they appear to have reforested, and the application reports that current management is to maintain buffers around wetlands during timber harvests. However, changes in canopy composition due to logging makes delineating the specific forest communities difficult.

Well-defined drainageways occur in some of the areas of freshwater forested wetlands, and these are sometimes fringed with cypress-dominated floodplain swamps, which are estimated to make up less than 1% of the property. The forested wetlands on this property form the headwaters or buffers of several streams that flow to the gulf over a broad area, contributing fresh water to a 25-mile stretch of the Gulf of Mexico from the mouth of the Steinhatchee south to past Horseshoe Beach. The swamps in the southwestern part of the tract are the headwaters for Lilly creek, which flows to swamps in the Lyme City Conservation Easement and Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, which then drain to the Gulf at Horseshoe Cove; an unnamed stream originating near the southwest of the property flows southwest a short distance to larger swamps in Big Bend WMA, which then drains to the coast near Grassy Island. Sand Hill Creek, which flows to the Steinhatchee River, originates about 3-4 miles east of the property, and flows in a ditched channel across the property drain generally eastward and south as part of the Rocky Creek-Bumblebee Creek watershed, passing through a series of swampy areas before draining to the Gulf of Mexico in the vicinity of Bumblebee and Sanders Creeks.

Dome swamps—isolated, generally cypress-dominated forested wetlands—are scattered abundantly throughout the pine plantations. Although they are typically small, due to their abundance they collectively account for about 2% of the proposal. Some very small dome swamps are included in the areas mapped as pine plantation. Like the other forested wetlands on the property, many have been subject to logging in recent decades.

Wet flatwoods make up about 1% of the proposal; these pinelands are found in slight rises within wetlands, or at the intergrade between swamps and pine plantation. A few areas of mesic flatwoods may be present as well near the west edge of the property, but most have been replaced by pine plantations.

Herbaceous wetlands make up a small portion of the proposal; these include depression marshes, basin marshes, and wet prairies. Depression marshes are found as occasional herbaceous areas surrounded by pine plantations. These wetlands may have once been more abundant on the property, as some of the areas mapped as dome swamps may have been depression marshes that over time were invaded by woody species, and some small depression marshes may be included in areas mapped as pine plantation. One small area of basin marsh lies within a swamp in the eastern edge of the property. Wet prairies may have once been common on the tract at the intergrade between forested wetlands and adjacent flatwoods. They are now only occasional; areas of this community are mapped at the edges of only a few wetlands in the western and southern portions of the proposal. Patches of this community too small to map may occur elsewhere.

In addition to pine plantations and remnant natural communities, a large amount of the tract consists of what is best described as successional hydric forest. These are mostly portions of the former swamps (basin swamps, dome swamps, floodplain swamps, hydric hammocks, bottomlands, and baygalls) that were clearcut in the last 30 years. The canopy has generally recovered or partially recovered, but it is unclear to what extent these resemble the communities that were present before logging. This category also includes former wet prairie or marsh areas that have become forested over time due to lack of fire or hydrological alteration.

Other than a network of unpaved access roads, there is little developed infrastructure on the property. The application reports that there are small hunt camps associated with 4 hunting leases, and small quarry sites for road materials. Additionally, a portion of the site is leased for cattle grazing, but no improvements associated with that use are noted.

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
freshwater forested wetland	11,906	22
dome swamp	1,178	2
wet flatwoods	771	1
floodplain swamp	193	<1
mesic flatwoods	49	<1
upland hardwood forest	44	<1
depression marsh	16	<1
basin marsh	5	<1
wet prairie	5	<1
mesic hammock	2	<1
pine plantation	29,911	56
successional hydric forest	8,166	15
road	1,043	2
artificial pond	98	<1
clearcut pine plantation	86	<1
developed	33	<1
impoundment	1	<1
utilities	1	<1
Total	53,510	100

Table 1. Natural communities and landcover types within the Big Bend ForestFlorida Forever proposal.

One rare species, the Florida olive hairstreak, is documented on the proposal site (Table 2). There is no documentation of additional rare or imperiled species, although this is likely due to lack of surveys. Various wildlife species of concern have been observed by the landowner, as detailed in Table 2. Other listed or rare species are likely to occur; the attached Florida Forever Measures Evaluation notes that 91% of the tract is considered Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (mostly Priority 3), although only 4% of the proposal falls within areas ranked as FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Big Bend Forest Florida Forever proposal. Rank and Status explanations are attached.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
Baro plants documented on site		Nank	Nank	Status	Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on					
site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
Callophrys gryneus sweadneri	Florida olive hairstreak	G5T2	S2	N	N
Additional rare animals reported on					
site by applicant					
Gopherus polyphemus	gopher tortoise	G3	S3	N	LT
Elanoides forficatus	swallow-tailed kite	G5	S2	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N

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 resources based primarily on the Cooperative Land Cover data (FL FWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6); the statewide scale of this analysis accounts for any differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. According to the FFME, in addition to the measures mentioned above, 100% of this proposal contributes to Ecological Greenways (mostly Priority 3, but including over 8,000 acres of Priority 1), Surface Water Protection (mainly Priority 6, but with over 2.400 acres of Priority 1), and Aquifer Recharge (mainly Priorities 3 and 4). A large proportion of the tract (70%) helps protect Natural Floodplain Function (mostly Priority 4); slightly more than half contributes to Functional Wetlands and Sustainable Forestry.

Big Bend Forest: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107

GIS ACRES = 53 510

	Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation	Areas	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	4,316	8%
Priority 3	33,128	62%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	11,062	21%
Total Acres	48,505	91%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Price	orities	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	1,963	4%
Total Acres	1,963	4%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	8,691	16%
Priority 2	3,711	7%
Priority 3	21,911	41%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	19,167	36%
Total Acres	53,480	100%
B4: Under-represented Natural Cor	nmunities	9
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)	718	1%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	43	< 1%
Total Acres	761	1%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked	Species	
G1	0	
G2	1	
G3	0	
G4	0	
G5	0	
lotal	1	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function	7.10	101
Priority 1	/40	1%
Priority 2	4,350	8%
Priority 3	10,531	20%
Phonty 4	21,543	40%
Priority 5	42	< 1%
Priority 6	2	< 1%
Total Acres	37,209	70%

	Resource	% of
MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	2,459	5%
Priority 2	581	1%
Priority 3	14	< 1%
Priority 4	12,794	24%
Priority 5	195	< 1%
Priority 6	37,463	70%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	53,506	100%
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	746	1%
Priority 2	4,109	8%
Priority 3	8,960	17%
Priority 4	13,783	26%
Priority 5	16	< 1%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	27,614	52%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	1,980	4%
Priority 3	21,344	40%
Priority 4	23,236	43%
Priority 5	6,942	13%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	53,503	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways	s and Trails & U	iniv. Fiorida)
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	10210-0420-043
Land Trail Opportunities	5.4	
Total Miles	5.4	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)	es (number) 3 sites	
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	16,130	30%
Priority 2	3,850	7%
Priority 3	10,727	20%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	26	< 1%
Total Acres	30,733	57%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	14,055	26%

*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.





Big Bend Forest Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023







DARK HAMMOCK RANCH (OKECHOBEE COUNTY)

Acquisition Type: Less Than Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

The Dark Hammock Ranch proposal includes 2,166.4 acres (per application; 2168.7 acres per GIS) in eastern Okechobee County about 9 miles northeast of the town of Okechobee. The property is a single contiguous tract that is roughly rectangular, with a narrow, 1.1 mile long projection to the west that provides road access from NE 144th St. The property is proposed by the owners for less-than-fee acquisition through a conservation easement.

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database. The property is situated near the eastern edge of Okechobee County about 9 miles northeast of the town of Okechobee. The Triple S Agriculture and Conservation Easement is adjacent to the property to the north, and the Cow Creek Agriculture and conservation easement, part of the Bluefield to Cow Creek Florida Forever BOT project, adjoins the property to the east. Other nearby FFBOT projects are the Adams Ranch project, less than 2 miles east, and the Williamson Cattle Company FFBOT project, a similar distance to the southwest.

Geologically, the proposed project lies near the southern end of the Osceola Plain, along a narrow projection of higher elevations separating the lower Okechobee Plain to the west and the Upper St. Johns and Atlantic Coastal complex to the east. The tract is generally level at about 60 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL), approaching 65' MSL at the northwestern edge and 55' on the eastern boundary.

Natural Resources Description: Although the property is a working cattle ranch, the majority of the land appears to be in a natural or near-natural condition. Extensive areas of mesic flatwoods (some of which have areas of interspersed pasture grasses and may be considered semi-improved pasture) make up nearly half of the property by acreage. Significant areas of scrub and/or scrubby flatwoods occur at higher elevations, mainly in the northern portions of the property. Mesic hammock is concentrated in in the southern part of the property, most notably the large patch of hammock surrounding a forested wetland, which gives the ranch its name.

Jernigans Pond, a marsh lake, occupies about 127 acres near the center of the property. Other wetlands include basin swamp (mainly in the southwestern part of the tract), several small to large depression marshes, and basin marsh inclusions within some of the swamps. Cow Creek, a blackwater stream, originates on the southern part of the property, where it winds for about 1.5 miles before exiting to the west and re-entering to flow across the northwestern corner for about 0.5 miles. An unnamed ditched creek flows west to east for about 1.6 miles across the southeastern portion of the tract. Drainage on the property is east towards the North Fork St. Lucie River and ultimately to the North Fork St. Lucie Inlet Aquatic Preserve.

Despite the ranch's use as a cattle operation, the extent of improved pasture is relatively limited and patchy, making up about 12% of the property. A small additional amount of land is semi-improved

pasture that appears to retain a significant component of native vegetation; as mentioned above, some of the area mapped as flatwoods may be better considered semi-improved pasture. Various improvements related to the land's use as a cattle ranch (including two residences, an office, equipment storage, and outbuildings) make up a complex of structures near the western entrance. There is also a gun range and sporting clay area. A network of unpaved roads provides access throughout the property.

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
mesic flatwoods	987	46
scrub	301	14
basin swamp	127	6
marsh lake	127	6
mesic hammock	119	5
depression marsh	77	4
floodplain swamp	28	1
baygall	27	1
basin marsh	21	1
hydric hammock	7	0
wet prairie	3	0
dome swamp	1	0
pasture - improved	268	12
pasture - semi-improved	66	3
developed	10	0
Total	2,169	100

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

FNAI has no documentation of rare or imperiled species on the site, although this is likely due to lack of surveys. Various wildlife species of concern have been observed by the landowner, as detailed in Table 2. Other listed or rare species are very likely to occur; the attached Florida Forever Measures Evaluation notes that 96% of the tract contributes to Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (mostly priority 3), and the entire proposal area falls within areas ranked as FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (largely priority 4, with lesser amounts of priority 5 and priority 3). These contributions strongly suggest that the land could be important to numerous species of concern.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Dark Hammock Ranch Florida Forever proposal. Rank and Status explanations are attached.

		Global	State	Federal	State
Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status	Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
none					
Additional rare animals reported on site by applicant					
Gopherus polyphemus	gopher tortoise	G3	S3	N	LT
Elanoides forficatus	swallow-tailed kite	G5	S2	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N

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 resourcess based primarily on the Cooperative Land Cover data (FL FWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), which explains any differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. According to the FFME, in addition to the measures mentioned above, 100% of this proposal contributes to Ecological Greenways (Priority 2), Surface Water Protection (Priority 5), and Aquifer Recharge (mainly Priorities 4 and 5). Two thirds of the property contributes to Sustainable Forestry. Small amounts (30% or less) of the tract contribute to Natural Floodplain Function, Functional Wetlands, and Forestland for Recharge.

	Dark Hammock Ranch:	Florida Forever	Measure Evaluation	20231107
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GIS ACRES =	2,169	
	Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conserv	ation Areas	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	129	6%
Priority 3	1,437	66%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	522	24%
Total Acres	2,088	96%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservatio	n Priorities	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	508	23%
Priority 4	952	44%
Priority 5	686	32%
Priority 6	14	< 1%
Total Acres	2,160	100%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	2,169	100%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	2,169	100%
B4: Under-represented Natura	al Communities	9
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2) 364	17%
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)	502	23%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	866	40%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Trac	ked Species	
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	0	
G5	0	
Total	0	
C4: Natural Floodplain Functi	on	
Priority 1	1	< 1%
Priority 2	54	2%
Priority 3	521	24%
Priority 4	75	3%
Priority 5	8	< 1%
Priority 6	0	00/
	0	0%
Total Acres	658	30%

	Resource	% of
MEASURES (continued)	Acres [*]	project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	2,169	100%
Priority 6	1	< 1%
Priority /	0	0%
Total Acres	2,169	100%
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		- 40/
Priority 1	470	< 1%
Priority 2	1/8	8%
Priority 3	209	12%
Priority 4	1/	< 1%
Priority 5	1	< 1%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	467	22%
Discrity 1	0	004
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 2	400	10%
Priority 4	409	1570
Priority 5	744	2/10/
Priority 6	144	3470
Total Acres	2 169	100%
F2: Recreational Trails (miles)	2,103	10070
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	niv Florida)
I and Trail Priorities	0.0	in the industry
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number	0	sites
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	Ő	0%
Priority 3	578	27%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	848	39%
Total Acres	1.426	66%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	154	7%

*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.



Dark Hammock Ranch Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter







FINCA VIGIA (HENDRY COUNTY)

Less-Than-Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

Natural Resources Description: The ca. 1,886.2-acre Finca Vigia Florida Forever proposal (1,851.1 acres per GIS) comprises most of three contiguous sections of land one mile south of CR-846 in southern Hendry County. Panther Glades Florida Forever BOT project borders one section on the north, one on the south, and one on the north and east. Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #171 (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) also borders two of the sections on their southern and eastern edges. The western border of the proposal abuts private lands. Conservation lands within 3 miles include Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area (north), BR Bar Ranch Conservation Easement (east), and Florida Panther Conservation Bank Conservation Easement (southeast). The proposal is submitted for less-than-fee simple protection without public access. Finca Vigia is ranked #90 on the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program 2023 Acquisition LIst

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal application, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database.

Finca Vigia is an active cattle (cow/calf) ranch. Most of the site is in improved pasture (possibly with remnant native grasses and wildflowers) with scattered forested inclusions (chiefly dome swamp but also other wetlands, live oak stands, and cabbage palm). Much of the pasture lies on land that likely once supported mesic flatwoods. Unpaved roads provide access to much of the tract, and ditches provide drainage to parts. Developed areas with buildings and an artificial pond have been excised from the boundaries.

Table 1 provides an approximation of landcover types and their relative representation within the proposal.

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
dome swamp	176	9
basin swamp	37	2
depression marsh	12	<1
mesic hammock	11	<1
pasture - improved	1,343	73
pasture – semi-improved	264	14
canal/ditch	3	<1

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

road	2	<1
developed	2	<1
artificial pond	<1	<1
Total	1,851	100

Table 2 lists rare plant and animal species known or reported to occur onsite. The Florida black bear is considered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to be common in the region (hence, included in Table 2). The FNAI database contains no additional records of rare species on the proposal, but this may reflect lack of surveys. The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) at the end of this memo indicates that 60–67% of the site includes Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas and FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities; this suggests the potential for use by additional rare animals (particularly birds but even Florida panther). A report included within the application notes small numbers of several wetland bird species that are not included in the table below.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Finca Vigia Florida Forever proposal. Statuses and rarity rankings are given in the following order: FNAI global and state ranks, federal status, state status (rank explanations attached separately).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	Ν
Additional rare animals reported on site by applicant					
Caracara cheriway	crested caracara	G5	S2	Т	FT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	G5	S3	N	N
Platalea ajaja	roseate spoonbill	G5	S2	N	ST
Puma concolor coryi	Florida panther	G5T1	S1	E	FE

The FFME is based on the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment developed by FNAI. The data used in that analysis represents a standardized, statewide perspective of natural resources based primarily on the Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, which explains differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. The entire proposal contributes to Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, Aquifer Recharge, and Natural Floodplain Function. Functional Wetlands make up 27% of the site.

Finca Vigia: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107

GIS ACRES =	1,851	
	Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conserv	ation Areas	
Priority 1	1,092	59%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	17	< 1%
Total Acres	1,109	60%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation	n Priorities	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	250	14%
Priority 4	785	42%
Priority 5	176	10%
Priority 6	26	1%
Total Acres	1,237	67%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	1,847	100%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	1.847	100%
B4: Under-represented Natura	I 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)	0	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Trac	ked Species	
G1	. 0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	1	
G5	0	
Total	1	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function	on	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	17	< 1%
Priority 4	186	10%
Priority 5	1 077	58%
Priority 6	567	3104
Total Aaroo	4.047	4000
Total Acres	1,847	100%

	Resource	% of
MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	407	22%
Priority 5	1,439	78%
Priority 6	1	< 1%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	1,847	100%
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	0	0%
Priority 3	15	< 1%
Priority 4	121	7%
Priority 5	349	19%
Priority 6	21	1%
Total Acres	507	27%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	40	2%
Priority 5	567	31%
Priority 6	1,243	67%
Total Acres	1,851	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	iniv. Fiorida)
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)	0	sites
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	0	0%

*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.



Finca Vigia Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter







LAKE HARNEY (VOLUSIA COUNTY)

Acquisition Type: Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

The Lake Harney proposal includes 5,424.2 acres (per application; 5,579.2 acres per GIS) in Osteen in southern Volusia County. The property is proposed by the owners for fee-simple acquisition, with the intent that that it be managed by Volusia County.

The property is a roughly U-shaped, mostly contiguous block of land, with five small, isolated properties within the center of the U also included in the proposal. The western boundary of the main portion of the property follows the curve of Lake Harney along the St. Johns River. The tract extends between about 3 to 4.5 miles east, and mostly measures about 3 miles north to south.

The property would broaden a long north-south corridor of managed lands along the St. Johns River which potentially connects managed coastal lands near Cape Canaveral to the Ocala National Forest as well. The proposal is extensively bordered by conservation lands. The Farmton Volusia Greenkey Conservation Easement borders the entire tract to the east and along some of the north boundary as well; the remaining extent of the northern boundary borders the Farmton Mitigation Bank and the Deering Preserve at Deep Creek. The portion of the proposal fronting the St. Johns River lies across the river from the Lake Harney Wilderness Area.

Natural Resources Description: This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database. The proposal is varied topographically; the western portion of the main tract borders the lake and St Johns River and consists largely of wetlands less than 5 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL); Stone Island, a slightly higher area inland of the river is isolated by a large area of swamp and marshland that curves around to its east known as Gopher Swamp. Away from the river, elevations of the eastern branch of the tract are higher, mostly between 20-25 feet MSL except near Gopher Swamp. This portion of the tract contains a higher proportion of altered landcover types.

Overall, the property consists mainly of natural vegetation. Mesic flatwoods make up the most acreage on the tract, occupying sizable areas in the eastern third of the property, and covers much of the upland area near the river. Floodplain marsh occupies about 16% of the tract, mainly in extensive low areas at the north end of the shoreline along Lake Harney and the river, where it also surrounds two large areas of marsh lake. Basin swamp is also extensive, making up a broad swath of Gopher Swamp, as well as a portion of a large swamp that extends onto the property to the east, and drains to Gopher Swamp via a short creek. An open area of basin marsh lies deep in the center of the Gopher Swamp. Wet flatwoods is found in large and small patches, mostly at intermediate elevations of the property and at transitions between upland and wetland communities. Hydric hammock is found on Stone Island, mainly on the low bluff along the river. Dome swamps are scattered throughout the eastern third of the property at higher elevations.

Areas where the landcover has been heavily altered by human use are mainly concentrated in the uplands of the eastern third of the property, and make up only about 12% of the proposal. Pine plantations and improved pasture make up similar proportions of the tract (6% and 5% respectively). The pasture is found in a single contiguous block, north of which stands of planted pine are interspersed with apparently natural flatwoods. A network of unpaved roads provides access, particularly in the eastern part of the tract, but the land is otherwise largely undeveloped; the only buildings noted in the application are a single pole barn and a vacant mobile home.

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of
	Acres	Proposal
mesic flatwoods	1,900	34
floodplain marsh	897	16
basin swamp	888	16
wet flatwoods	425	8
hydric hammock	301	5
dome swamp	144	3
marsh lake	141	3
basin marsh	76	1
mesic hammock	44	<1
depression marsh	37	<1
wet prairie	23	<1
bottomland forest	11	<1
xeric hammock	4	<1
floodplain swamp	2	<1
pine plantation	351	6
pasture – improved	278	5
road	37	<1
developed	15	<1
clearing/regeneration	4	<1
spoil area	2	<1
artificial pond	<1	<1
Total	5,579	100

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

Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and multiple occurrences of bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are both documented from the property in the FNAI database. Other rare or listed

species are known to occur nearby and could be present on the property, but extensive surveys have not been conducted. The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) below indicates that large portions of the land are within areas mapped as Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas and FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (92% and 97% of the property, respectively). The subject property is therefore likely to have some importance for conserving additional as-yet undocumented species of concern.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Lake Harney Florida Forever proposal. Rank and Status explanations are attached.

		Global	State	Federal	State
Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status	Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on					
site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	G5	S3	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Additional rare animals reported on					
site by applicant					
none					

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 resources based primarily on the Cooperative Land Cover data; the statewide scale of this analysis accounts for any differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. According to the FFME, in addition to the measures mentioned above, 100% of this proposal contributes to Priority 1 Ecological Greenways and 97% contributes to Surface Water Protection. A high proportion of the land also contributes to Aquifer Recharge (80%), Natural Floodplain Function (72%, mostly priority 1), and Functional Wetlands (59%, mostly priority 1).

Lake Harney: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107

GIS ACRES = 5,579

	Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation	Areas	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	3,661	66%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	1,457	26%
Total Acres	5,118	92%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Price	orities	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	538	10%
Priority 5	2,285	41%
Priority 6	2,610	47%
Total Acres	5,432	97%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	5,578	100%
Priority 2	1	< 1%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	5,580	100%
B4: Under-represented Natural Cor	mmunities	9
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)	1.802	32%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	1,802	32%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked	Species	
G1	. 0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	1	
G5	2	
Total	3	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	2.570	46%
Priority 2	1.225	22%
Priority 3	117	2%
Priority 4	102	2%
Priority 5	0	0%
Drighty 6	0	0.0
	U	0%
Total Acres	4,014	72%

	Resource	% of
MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	1,493	27%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	1,408	25%
Priority 5	190	3%
Priority 6	2,336	42%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	5,427	97%
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	1,908	34%
Priority 2	1,272	23%
Priority 3	112	2%
Priority 4	14	< 1%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	3,305	59%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	23	< 1%
Priority 3	1,209	22%
Priority 4	1,062	19%
Priority 5	606	11%
Priority 6	1,560	28%
Total Acres	4,459	80%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	iniv. Fiorida)
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	4.7	
Total Miles	4.7	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)	1	sites
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	869	16%
Priority 3	753	13%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	824	15%
Total Acres	2,447	44%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	427	8%

*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.



Lake Harney Florida Forever Proposal



FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter







LARKIN RANCH (Pasco County)

Less-Than-Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

Natural Resources Description: The ca. 1,067.4-acre (per application; 1,074.7 GIS acres) Larkin Ranch Florida Forever proposal comprises a single tract overlapping parts of several contiguous sections of land in eastern Pasco County, ca. 1 mile west of Dade City. CR-35A parallels the tract's western boundary. Although not adjacent to any conservation lands or projects, the tract lies 1–2 miles west of Green Swamp and SWFWMD Green Swamp Conservation Easements. The proposal is submitted for less-thanfee simple protection.

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal application, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and Florida Natural Areas Inventory [FNAI], Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database.

The property lies near the southern end of the Brooksville Ridge. Most of the proposal's low-relief uplands, which may once have supported mesic flatwoods, have been converted to improved pasture. The applicant notes ca. 450 acres of pastureland/cropland, 40 acres of hardwoods, 25 acres of tree plantation, and 4 acres of residential development. Several open-water bodies, including eight named lakes (most impacted by cattle), occur on-site, the largest being Sandbar Lake just north of the center. Vegetation surrounding the lake is more natural and reflective of marshy communities on saturated soils. Drainage is toward the Withlacoochee River. Disturbances include several buildings (possibly to be excluded from easement) and a series of unpaved roads.

Table 1 provides an approximation of landcover types and their relative representation within the proposal.

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
basin marsh	330	31
marsh lake	105	10
mesic hammock	32	3
xeric hammock	3	<1
pasture – improved	509	47
developed	34	3
pasture – semi-improved	26	2
pine plantation	23	2
road	7	<1

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

impoundment	4	<1
canal/ditch	2	<1
Total	1,075	100

Table 2 lists rare plant and animal species known or reported to occur onsite. The FNAI database contains no records of rare species on the proposal, but this is likely due to a lack of surveys. The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) at the end of this memo indicates that >50% of the site includes Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (52%, mostly Priority 5) and FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (83%, mostly Priority 6); this suggests at least low potential use by some rare animals.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Larkin Ranch Florida Forever proposal. Statuses and rarity rankings are given in the following order: FNAI global and state ranks, federal status, state status (rank explanations attached separately).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
none					
Additional rare animals reported on site by applicant					
Alligator mississippiensis	American alligator	G5	S4	SAT	FT(S/A)
Gopherus polyphemus	gopher tortoise	G3	S3	Ν	ST
Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida sandhill crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Egretta caerulea	little blue heron	G5	S4	N	ST
Egretta tricolor	tricolored heron	G5	S4	N	ST
Elanoides forficatus	swallow-tailed kite	G5	S2	N	N
Eudocimus albus	white ibis	G5	S4	N	N
Mycteria americana	wood stork	G4	S2	Т	FT
Sciurus niger niger	southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N

The FFME 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 resources based primarily on the Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, which explains differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. This proposal contributes most notably to Surface Water Protection (94%, Priorities 6 and 7), Aquifer Recharge (100%), and Natural Floodplain Function (73%, Priorities 4 and 5). Functional Wetlands (Priorities 4 and 5) make up 47% of the proposal.

Larkin Ranch: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107 GIS ACRES = 1075

0%

0%

0%

< 1%

< 1%

40%

53%

94%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

25%

21%

< 1%

47%

11%

57% 32%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

3%

0%

0%

3%

3%

100%

	Resource	% of		Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project	MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservat	ion Areas		C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%	Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	64	6%	Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	78	7%	Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%	Priority 4	3	< 1%
Priority 5	413	38%	Priority 5	1	< 1%
Total Acres	554	52%	Priority 6	433	40%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation I	Priorities		Priority 7	569	53%
Priority 1	0	0%	Total Acres	1,007	94%
Priority 2	0	0%	C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Priority 3	0	0%	Fragile Coastal Uplands	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%	Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0	0%
Priority 5	57	5%	Coastal Wetlands	0	0%
Priority 6	839	78%	Total Acres	0	0%
Total Acres	896	83%	C8: Functional Wetlands		
B3: Ecological Greenways			Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 1	0	0%	Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%	Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%	Priority 4	269	25%
Priority 4	0	0%	Priority 5	226	219
Priority 5	0	0%	Priority 6	8	< 1%
Total Acres	0	0%	Total Acres	503	47%
B4: Under-represented Natural (Communities	0.0	D3: Aquifer Recharge	000	11.7
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%	Priority 1	113	11%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%	Priority 2	616	57%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2	2) 0	0%	Priority 3	346	32%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0	0%	Priority 4	0	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0	0%	Priority 5	0	0%
Seenage Slope (G2)	0	0%	Priority 6	ő	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0	0%	Total Acres	1 075	100%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	ő	0%	F2: Recreational Trails (miles)	1,010	1007
Upland Pine (G3)	0	0%	(inderifized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & L	iniv Fiorida)
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	6	1%	I and Trail Priorities	0.0	and the second sec
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%	Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Acres	6	1%	Total Miles	0.0	
B6: Occurrences of ENAL Tracke	ed Species	170	F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number	- 0	sites
G1	0		G1: Sustainable Forestry	/ 0	01100
G2	0		Priority 1	0	0%
G3	ő		Priority 2	0	0%
G4	0		Priority 3	30	3%
G5	0		Priority 4	0	0%
Total	0		Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0	0%
C4: Natural Eloodolain Eunction			Total Acres	30	30/
Priority 1	0	004	G3: Ecrostland for Decharge	20	20/
Priority 2	0	0%	Use of the stand for Recharge	- 30	37
Priority 2	0	0%			
Priority 4	362	2/10/-			
Defective 5	302	070			
Priority 5	394	3/%			
Priority 6	26	2%			
Total Acres	782	73%			

*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.



FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

Larkin Ranch Florida Forever Proposal

Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter







LYTAL CONSERVATION AREA (Osceola County)

Less-Than-Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

Natural Resources Description: The 1,578.7-acre (per applicaion; 1578.8 acres per GIS) Lytal Conservation Area Forever proposal in central Osceola County consists of an irregularly shaped area bisected into northern and southern portions by Florida's Turnpike (SR-91; but connected by a cattle crossing beneath the highway). The somewhat smaller southern portion is bounded on its west by highway CR-523. Although most of the proposal is bordered by private lands (in more intensive agriculture or sod farms), the southeastern section of the site (on both sides of the turnpike) abuts Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch (BBS/HR), which itself is adjacent to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and Wetlands Reserve Program Easement #231 (contiguous with a series of other conservation lands that approach the proposal on the north within 0.4 mile). The proposal is submitted for less-thanfee simple protection. Lytal Conservation Area is ranked #110 on the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program 2023 Acquisition List.

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal application, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and Florida Natural Areas Inventory [FNAI], Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database.

Most of the site likely once would have supported mesic flatwoods with scattered cypress (dome and basin swamp) inclusions. The application reports 88% upland and 12% wetland landcover. Nearly three-fourths of former flatwoods has been converted to pasture and pine plantation (reported as 234 acres of 15-20-year old pine), primarily to facilitate cattle ranching supplemented by silviculture. The site is largely undeveloped but supports one residence, unpaved roads, and fencing. A large ditch is evident in the portion south of the turnpike, just north of the largest basin swamp on site (which overlaps BBS/HR).

Table 1 provides an approximation of landcover types and their relative representation within the proposal.

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
mesic flatwoods	305	19
dome swamp	99	6
basin swamp	68	4
depression marsh	23	1
wet prairie	4	<1
pasture – semi-improved	628	40
pasture – improved	218	14
pine plantation	215	14

Table 1. Natural communities and landcover types within the Lytal Conservation Area Florida Forever proposal.

road	8	<1
clearing/regeneration	8	<1
developed	2	<1
artificial pond	<1	<1
Total	1,579	100

Table 2 lists rare plant and animal species known or reported to occur onsite; none have been documented by FNAI, but this may partly reflect a lack of surveys. The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) at the end of this memo indicates that >70% of the site includes Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (71%) and FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (99%); this suggests the potential for use by at least some rare animals.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Lytal Conservation Area Florida Forever proposal. Statuses and rarity rankings are given in the following order: FNAI global and state ranks, federal status, state status (rank explanations attached separately).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
none					
Additional rare animals reported on site by applicant					
Antigone canadensis pratensis	Florida sandhill crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
Elanoides forficatus	swallow-tailed kite	G5	S2	N	N
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	G5	S3	N	N

The FFME 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 resources based primarily on the Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, which explains differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. This proposal contributes most notably (> 90% of acreage) to Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection, and Aquifer Recharge, but also substantially (75%) to Sustainable Forestry.

Lytal Conservation Area: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107

Resource % of Acres ³ project B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas Priority 1 1,065 67% Priority 1 1,065 67% 9% Priority 2 0 0% Priority 3 49 3% Priority 4 0 0% Priority 5 5 <1% Total Acres 1,120 71% B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities Priority 1 0 Priority 1 0 0% Priority 3 73 5% Priority 4 405 26% Priority 5 762 48% Priority 6 308 20% Total Acres 1,558 99% B3: Ecological Greenways Priority 1 520 33% Priority 1 520 33% Priority 2 913 58% Priority 3 0 0% 0% 0% Priority 4 0 0% Priority 1 0 0% 0% <t< th=""><th>GIS ACRES =</th><th>1,579</th><th></th></t<>	GIS ACRES =	1,579	
MEASURES Acres ³ project B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas Priority 1 1,065 67% Priority 2 0 0% 9%		Resource	% of
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas Priority 1 1,065 67% Priority 2 0 0% Priority 3 49 3% Priority 4 0 0% Priority 5 5 <1%	MEASURES	Acres ^a	project
Priority 1 1,065 67% Priority 2 0 0% Priority 3 49 3% Priority 4 0 0% Priority 5 5 <1%	B1: Strategic Habitat Conserv	ation Areas	
Priority 2 0 0% Priority 3 49 3% Priority 4 0 0% Priority 5 5 <1%	Priority 1	1,065	67%
Priority 3 49 3% Priority 4 0 0% Priority 5 5 <1%	Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 4 0 0% Priority 5 5 < 1%	Priority 3	49	3%
Priority 5 5 < 1% Total Acres 1,120 71% B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 20 1% Priority 3 73 5% Priority 4 405 26% Priority 5 762 48% Priority 6 308 20% Total Acres 1,568 99% B3: Ecological Greenways Priority 1 520 33% Priority 1 520 33% Priority 3 0 0% Priority 2 913 58% 99% 158% 99% B2: Ecological Greenways 913 58% 91% 158% 91% 158% 91% 158% 91% 158% 91% 158% 91% 158% 91% 91% 158% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91% 91%	Priority 4	0	0%
Total Acres 1,120 71% B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities Priority 1 0 0% Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 1% Priority 2 20 1% Priority 2 1% Priority 3 73 5% Priority 4 405 26% Priority 5 762 48% Priority 6 308 20% Total Acres 1,568 99% B3: Ecological Greenways Priority 1 520 33% Priority 1 520 33% Priority 2 913 58% Priority 2 913 58% Priority 3 0 0% Priority 3 0 0% 0% Priority 5 0 0% Total Acres 1,433 91% B4: Under-represented Natural Communities Upland Glade (G1) 0 0% Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2) 0 0% Scandhill (G3) 0 0% Sandhill Upland Lake (G3) 0 0% Sandhill Upland Lake (G3	Priority 5	5	< 1%
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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% Upland Hardwood Forest (G5) 0 0% Total Acres 188 12% B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species 0 0 G1 0 0 0 G2 0 0 0 G3 0 0 0 G4 0 0 G5 0 0 0% 0 Priority 1 0 0% 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	Total Acres	1,433	91%
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Seepage Slope (G2) 0 0% Sandhill (G3) 0 0% Sandhill Upland Lake (G3) 0 0% Upland Pine (G3) 0 0% Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4) 188 12% Upland Hardwood Forest (G5) 0 0% Total Acres 188 12% B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species 61 0 G2 0 0 64 G5 0 0 0% Total 0 0 0% Priority 1 0 0% 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	Dry Prairie (G2)	0	0%
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Upland Pine (G3) 0 0% Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4) 188 12% Upland Hardwood Forest (G5) 0 0% Total Acres 188 12% B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species 0 0 G1 0 0 0 G2 0 0 0 0 G3 0 0 0 0 0 G4 0 <	Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4) 188 12% Upland Hardwood Forest (G5) 0 0% Total Acres 188 12% B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species 0 0 G1 0 0 0 G2 0 0 0 0 G3 0 0 0 0 0 G4 0	Upland Pine (G3)	0	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5) 0 0% Total Acres 188 12% B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species 0 0 G1 0 0 0 G2 0 0 0 0 G3 0 </td <td>Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)</td> <td>188</td> <td>12%</td>	Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	188	12%
Total Acres 188 12% B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species 61 0 G1 0 0 G2 0 0 G3 0 0 G4 0 0 G5 0 0 Total 0 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function 0 0% Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species G1 0 G2 0 G3 0 G4 0 G5 0 Total 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function 0 Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 < 1%	Total Acres	188	12%
G1 0 G2 0 G3 0 G4 0 G5 0 Total 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function 0 Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tra	cked Species	
G2 0 G3 0 G4 0 G5 0 Total 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	G1	0	
G3 0 G4 0 G5 0 Total 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function 0 Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	G2	0	
G4 0 G5 0 Total 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function 0 Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 < 1% Priority 3 62 4% Priority 4 144 9% Priority 5 152 10% Priority 6 171 11% Total Acres 533 34%	G3	0	
G5 0 Total 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function 0 0% Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 < 1% Priority 3 62 4% Priority 4 144 9% Priority 5 152 10% Priority 6 171 11% Total Acres 533 34%	G4	0	
Total 0 C4: Natural Floodplain Function 0 0% Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 < 1%	G5	0	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	Total	0	
Priority 1 0 0% Priority 2 4 <1%	C4: Natural Floodplain Functi	on	
Priority 2 4 < 1% Priority 3 62 4% Priority 4 144 9% Priority 5 152 10% Priority 6 171 11% Total Acres 533 34%	Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 3 62 4% Priority 4 144 9% Priority 5 152 10% Priority 6 171 11% Total Acres 533 34%	Priority 2	4	< 1%
Priority 4 144 9% Priority 5 152 10% Priority 6 171 11% Total Acres 533 34%	Priority 3	62	4%
Priority 5 152 10% Priority 6 171 11% Total Acres 533 34%	Priority 4	144	9%
Priority 6 171 11% Total Acres 533 34%	Priority 5	152	10%
Total Acres 533 34%	Priority 6	171	11%
	Total Acres	522	34%

	Resource	% of	
MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project	
C5: Surface Water Protection			
Priority 1	0	0%	
Priority 2	142	9%	
Priority 3	0	0%	
Priority 4	1,411	89%	
Priority 5	0	0%	
Priority 6	26	2%	
Priority 7	0	0%	
Total Acres	1,578	100%	
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	3	< 1%	
Priority 3	44	3%	
Priority 4	103	7%	
Priority 5	20	1%	
Priority 6	30	2%	
Total Acres	200	13%	
D3: Aquifer Recharge			
Priority 1	0	0%	
Priority 2	24	2%	
Priority 3	94	6%	
Priority 4	830	53%	
Priority 5	577	37%	
Priority 6	53	3%	
Total Acres	1,578	100%	
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)			
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	iniv. Fiorida)	
Land Trail Priorities	1.1		
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0		
Total Miles	1.1		
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number) 0	0 sites	
G1: Sustainable Forestry			
Priority 1	0	0%	
Priority 2	0	0%	
Priority 3	19	1%	
Priority 4	239	15%	
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	927	59%	
Total Acres	1,185	75%	
G3: Forestland for Recharge	8	< 1%	

*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.





Lytal Conservation Area Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter


SUTTLEMYRE FOREST (PUTNAM COUNTY)

Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

The Suttlemyre Forest proposal includes 1,513.3 acres (per proposal; 1,505.3 acres per GIS) near Interlachen in Putnam County. It consists of three irregularly shaped tracts extending north about 3.25 miles from the edge of Rodman Reservoir. The property is proposed for fee simple acquisition with the expectation that it would be managed by the Florida Forest Service.

The tracts lie within the O2O corridor, in a transition between an expanse of connected managed lands to the south and unacquired FFBOT projects that provide connectivity northward. It would largely fill in a gap in the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway FFBOT project, which adjoins significant portions of the proposal boundary to the north, east, and west. The Marjory Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway borders the south edge of the southern tract. Extensive areas of managed land occur within 5 miles, mainly the Ocala National Forest and associated tracts to the south and east, as well as lands to the west along the Ocklawaha associated with the BJ Bar Ranch Conservation Easement. The northern tract has 0.8 miles of frontage along Cousintown Road, while the central and southern tracts front County Road 315 (each for about 0.3 miles).

Natural Resources Description:

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database.

These properties lie on a dome-shaped rise north of the Ocklawaha River/Rodman Reservoir, separated from highlands to the north by the curving paths of Cabbage Creek and Deep Creek. The tracts making up this proposal span a range in elevations from about 90 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL) in the northernmost and central blocks to below 25' MSL on the southern tract at the point where the tract's wetlands drain to the Ocklawaha. Drainage of all three tracts is to the Ocklawaha/Rodman Reservoir.

Much of the land has been converted to pine plantation, with about 35% of the acreage remaining in upland and wetland natural communities. Basin swamp is the most extensive natural community on the properties, making up about 10% of the total proposal acreage. These cypress-dominated swamps are mainly in relatively large patches on the southern tract, where their outflow directly feeds the Ocklawaha, and in the northern tract; in the central tract, two smaller areas of basin swamp occur, one embedded in a larger forested wetland and one fringing a marsh/lake. Virtually all of the basin swamps show signs of logging. The main wetland feature of the central tract is a crescent-shaped wet forest in a low area with no well-defined outlet; this appears to consist mainly of baygall, fed by seepage from the adjacent uplands. Smaller isolated wetlands in the form of dome swamps and depression marshes also occur, mainly in the northern tract where they are frequent throughout the pine plantations.

Upland natural communities are limited but varied; on the northern tract these are mainly small areas of wet flatwoods fringing some wetlands, whereas the central tract has 2 blocks of what appears to be sandhill and 2 patches of remnant scrub at its southwestern corner. The southernmost tract has several areas of remnant mesic flatwoods, as well as some wet flatwoods.

The dominant land use on all three tracts (60% of the proposal area overall) is pine plantation, which consists of a variety of stand ages and occurs on a variety of soil types. The application indicates that these areas retain native groundcover although specific detail is not provided. If these areas do retain significant amounts of the grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs typical of the original pinelands, this would greatly increase their biodiversity value relative to more intensively managed pine plantations.

Community or Landcover	Acres	Percent of Proposal
basin swamp	175	12
wet flatwoods	67	5
bottomland forest	63	4
scrub	52	3
sandhill	44	3
mesic flatwoods	31	2
dome swamp	31	2
depression marsh	27	2
baygall	15	1
mesic hammock	10	<1
xeric hammock	8	<1
swamp lake	7	<1
basin marsh	7	<1
sandhill upland lake	2	<1
flatwoods lake	2	<1
marsh lake	<1	<1
pine plantation	895	60
road	39	3
utility corridor	28	2
successional hardwood forest	1	<1
clearing/regeneration	<1	<1
Total	1,505	100

Table 1. Natural communities and landcover types within the Suttlemyre ForestFlorida Forever proposal.

The proposal is in a region where FWC classifies Florida black bear as frequent; otherwise, no rare or imperiled species are documented from the property, but no detailed surveys are known to have been conducted. Soils on portions of the site are likely to be suitable for gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); this species and possibly other pineland species may be present. Wading birds likely use the wetlands. The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) below indicates that 89% of the proposal

is mapped as Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (mostly Priority 3 with smaller areas of Priority 2 and 5), and 55% of the property is within FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (Priorities 3-6); this indicates that the land is likely to be suitable for a variety of plants and animals of conservation concern.

		Global	State	Federal	State
Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status	Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on					
site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	Ν	N
Additional rare animals reported on					
site by applicant					
none					

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Suttlemyre Forest Florida Forever proposal.*

*Rank explanations attached.

The FFME that follows 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 resources based primarily on Cooperative Land Cover data. The statewide scope of that analysis explains any differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. In addition to the measures discussed above, the near entirety (98% or greater) of this proposal contributes to the following measures: Ecological Greenways (Priority 2), Surface Water Protection (mostly Priorities 2 and 4), and Aquifer Recharge (Priorities 1-4; mainly 3). More than half of the site contributes to Sustainable Forestry and Forestland for Recharge, and the land also contains a smaller percentage of Functional Wetlands and areas that would protect Natural Floodplain Function.

Suttlemyre Forest: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107

GIS ACRES =	1,505	
	Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conserv	ation Areas	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	223	15%
Priority 3	842	56%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	277	18%
Total Acres	1,342	89%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation	n Priorities	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	57	4%
Priority 4	243	16%
Priority 5	126	8%
Priority 6	403	27%
Total Acres	828	55%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	10	< 1%
Priority 2	1,469	98%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	1,479	98%
B4: Under-represented Natura	al Communities	
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2) 52	3%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0	0%
Sandhill (G3)	44	3%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	98	7%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	194	13%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Trac	ked Species	
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	1	
G5	0	
Total	1	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function	on	1000-01
Priority 1	5	< 1%
Priority 2	46	3%
Priority 3	264	18%
Priority 4	406	27%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	721	48%
	121	4070

	Resource	% of
MEASURES (continued)	Acres	project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	703	47%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	731	49%
Priority 5	1	< 1%
Priority 6	27	2%
Priority 7	16	1%
Total Acres	1,479	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	1	< 1%
Priority 2	19	1%
Priority 3	154	10%
Priority 4	212	14%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	386	26%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	159	11%
Priority 2	452	30%
Priority 3	780	52%
Priority 4	113	8%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	1,504	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	niv. Florida)
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)	0	sites
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	1,032	69%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	22	1%
Total Acres	1,054	70%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	942	63%

*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.





Suttlemyre Forest Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023







TUPELO HONEY TIMBERLANDS (GULF COUNTY)

Less Than Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

The Tupelo Honey Timberlands proposal comprises ca. 2214.6 acres (per application; 2178.6 acres per GIS) in northeastern Gulf County adjacent to the western boundary of the City of Wewahitchka. Approximately 224 acres of the proposal fall within the city limits of Wewahitchka and have a designated future land use of Agricultural – Mixed Residential. The proposed property is irregularly shaped, with low-density residential housing adjacent to the eastern and northeastern boundaries and timberlands adjacent to the southern and western boundaries. Portions of the northeastern property boundary front State Road 22 for ca. 0.2 miles and a section of the southeastern boundary abuts a multi-use recreation park. The proposed property is situated ca. 0.9 miles west of the Apalachicola River Florida FFBOT project and ca. 1.5 miles west of the Apalachicola River Water Management Area, managed by the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD). Two nearby conservation lands are located ca. 1.5 miles northeast of the property and include Dead Lakes Park (Gulf County) and the Gaskin et al. Conservation Easement (NWFWMD). The property underlies the Tyndall Air Force Base military operating area and is within the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape.

This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database. The proposal is submitted for less-than-fee simple protection.

Natural Resources Description: Tupelo Honey Timberlands is predominantly comprised of working forests, with 68% of the property identified as pine plantation. Planted pines include both longleaf (*Pinus palustris*) and slash (*P. elliotti*), where the oldest stands on site were planted in 2016 and approximately 330,000 longleaf were planted from 2022 to present. It is noted within the proposal that much of the pine stands retain native groundcover in the understory. Pine stands are intersected by a network of unpaved trails (ca. 46 acres) and a single utility corridor (ca. 22 acres). The property is near entirely undeveloped (<1%), and a single barn is present on site. The proposal indicates the landowner's management goals include improving biodiversity, reforestation with longleaf pine, and enhanced carbon sequestration. The property's preceding land uses included row crops, center pivot agriculture, and cattle ranching, though the property has been forested since the 1980s. Historic natural communities likely consisted of wet flatwoods, wet prairie, upland pine, and mesic flatwoods.

In addition to pine plantations, a matrix of natural communities is present on site. The dominant natural community, wet flatwoods, covers ca. 413 acres (19%) of the property's land area and the second most common natural community, mesic flatwoods, covers ca. 55 acres (3%). The proposal notes native wet flatwoods are uncommon on site, and this community has a sparse to moderate canopy of longleaf, slash, loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), or a combination of these species. Natural wetland communities make up only a small proportion of property's land area (about 2 %), and include dome swamp, shrub bog, and depression marsh. However, more extensive human-created wet features in the form of impoundments and canals/ditches are reported to be consistently used by wading birds and waterfowl, while Florida black bears have been documented in a cypress island in the impoundment.

The subject property spans both the Chipola River and Saint Andrew – Saint Joseph Bay watersheds and has ca. 5.7 miles of creeks and canals. Water flow enters the property from the northeast corner through Guardhouse Branch and Stone Mill Creek. The wetlands on site drain to Little Creek, which ultimately drains to the east bay section of Saint Andrews Bay, approximately 9 miles southwest of the property.

Community or Landcover	Acros	Percent of	
community of Landcover	Acres	Proposal	
wet flatwoods	413	19	
mesic flatwoods	55	3	
dome swamp	29	1	
shrub bog	13	<1	
upland hardwood forest	6	<1	
basin swamp	3	<1	
depression marsh	<1	<1	
pine plantation	1,478	68	
impoundment	59	3	
canal/ditch	50	2	
road	46	2	
utilities	22	1	
developed	4	<1	
Total	2,179	100	

Table 1. Natural communities and landcover types within the Tupelo Honey Timberlands Florida Forever Proposal.

The FNAI database contains no specific records of rare species of animals or plants within the proposed area. This may reflect a lack of biological surveys or the absence of data submission by others. The Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus; G5T4, S4, N, N**) is considered frequent in the region of the property by the 2018 FWC range estimate. The proposal reports that both the Florida black bear and Swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus; G5, S2, N, N*) have been observed on site (Table 2). Several rare species have been documented nearby, including mock pennyroyal (*Stachydeoma graveolens;* G2G3, S2S3, N, E), gopher frog (*Lithobates capito;* G2G3, S3, UR, N), pinewoods aster (*Eurybia spinulosa;* G1?, S1?, N, E), giant water cowbane (*Tiedemannia filiformis ssp. greenmanii;* G3, S3, N, E), and southern milkweed (*Asclepias viridula;* G2, S2, N, T).

* Rarity rankings in the following order: FNAI (global and state ranks), federal status, state status. Rank explanations attached.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within Tupelo HoneyTimberlands Florida Forever proposal.

		Global	State	Federal	State
Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status	Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on					
site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
none					
Additional rare animals reported on					
site by applicant					
Elanoides forficatus	swallow-tailed kite	G5	S2	N	N
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N

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 resources based primarily on the Cooperative Land Cover data, which explains any differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. Nearly 100% of the proposal contributes to Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (mostly Priority 3), Ecological Greenways (mostly Priority 2), and Surface Water Protection (predominantly Priority 3 and 5). The project contributes fully to Aquifer Recharge (mostly priority 6 with small contributions to priority 5 and 4). The majority of the property contributes to Sustainable Forestry (mostly Priority 1) and small amounts of the tract (<50%) contribute to Natural Floodplain Function, FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities, and Functional Wetlands.

Tupelo Honey Timberlands: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107

GIS ACRES = 2,179

	Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation	Areas	
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	1,904	87%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	108	5%
Total Acres	2,011	92%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Price	orities	
Priority 1	134	6%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	14	< 1%
Priority 4	336	15%
Priority 5	10	< 1%
Priority 6	7	< 1%
Total Acres	501	23%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	43	2%
Priority 2	2,085	96%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	2,128	98%
B4: Under-represented Natural Con	mmunities	
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)	129	6%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	5	< 1%
Total Acres	134	6%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked	Species	
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	1	
G5	0	
Total	1	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	232	11%
Priority 4	649	30%
Priority 5	17	< 1%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Assoc	007	44.04
Total Acres	897	41%

	Resource	% of
MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	126	6%
Priority 3	923	42%
Priority 4	36	2%
Priority 5	1,003	46%
Priority 6	2	< 1%
Priority 7	61	3%
Total Acres	2,151	99%
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	0	0%
Priority 3	245	11%
Priority 4	340	16%
Priority 5	21	< 1%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	607	28%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	158	7%
Priority 5	568	26%
Priority 6	1,451	67%
Total Acres	2,176	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (mles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	hiv. Fiorida)
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number	0	sites
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Prionty 1	1,189	55%
Priority 2	284	13%
Priority 3	150	/%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	9	< 1%
Total Acres	1,631	75%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	0	0%

*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.



Tupelo Honey Timberlands Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter







WOOTEN TIMBERLANDS (JEFFERSON COUNTY)

Less-Than-Fee Simple

Preliminary Evaluation

The ca. 3,049.6-acre Wooten Timberlands Florida Forever proposal (per application; 3,089.3 acres per GIS) is approximately 5 miles southeast of Monticello in eastern Jefferson County. The tract lines both sides of I-10 for approximately 2 miles, with about 2,393 acres north of the interstate and an additional 697 south of the interstate. The northern portion is further divided by a CSX railway, which passes through the property for 0.5 miles, dividing 71 acres from the remainder. The northern boundary of the proposal fronts Aucilla Road for about 0.3 miles; Turkey Scratch Road runs along the western boundary for a distance of 0.8 miles, both north and south of I-10. The proposal is submitted for less-than-fee simple protection.

Natural Resources Description: This evaluation is based on information gathered from the proposal application, aerial photography, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' topographic maps, Cooperative Land Cover data (FFWCC and FNAI, Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map, version 3.6), and the FNAI Natural Heritage Database.

The tract is not adjacent to any managed areas. The Upper Aucilla Conservation Area is 1.8-2 miles to the east, and the Turkey Scratch Plantation Conservation Easement is 1.3 miles to the south. A large block of unacquired land in the Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed Florida Forever project south of the tract adjoins its boundary for 2 miles. The tract lies about 2.8 miles west of the Aucilla River in a region where dissolution of the underlying limestone, as well as riverine processes have resulted in a lower, more level topography than in the more hilly region to the west. The tract consists mainly of Gress Swamp, a broad area of wetlands just below 80 feet above Mean Sea Level (MSL), and topography varies little except near the northwest corner, where hills extend onto the property and elevation rises to greater than 130 above MSL.

The dominant natural feature on the property is Gress Swamp, which occupies the majority of the northern tract. Aerial photos show that large expanses of this swamp have been heavily impacted by logging in recent decades; what remains relatively intact appears to have a canopy of mainly cypress (*Taxodium* sp.) and is likely basin swamp. Basin swamp is consequently the most prevalent natural community on the site, occupying about 32% of the proposal. Wet flatwoods make up about 9% of the site, mainly as small patches intermixed with basin swamps at the eastern, northern, and southern margins of the tract; a few areas of mesic flatwoods are located in the same general areas. Isolated dome swamps are frequent in the upland areas at the margins of the site, where they are found within remnant flatwoods, pine plantations, and clearcut stands. Other natural communities that make up minimal portions of the site include bottomland forest associated with basin swamps, possible upland hardwood forest just south of I-10, and small areas of baygall, basin marsh, and depression marsh.

Slightly more than half of the property is in an altered condition. Large swaths of Gress Swamp that have been logged of much of their canopy trees are now best considered successional hydric forest. These are the largest single landcover type on the site, making up an estimated 37% of the proposal. A significant area of recently-logged pine plantation (listed in Table 1 as clearing/regeneration) makes up about 9% of the site, mainly in the higher elevations of the northwestern portion of the site. Some areas in the uplands that were cleared in recent decades and have since naturally regenerated are scattered, mostly in the eastern and southern margins of the site; these are likely best considered successional hardwood forests. Small portions of the site are occupied by a network of access roads, a few small artificial ponds or borrow pits, and small areas of pine plantation. Collectively these and other minor uses make up less than 5% of the site.

Community or Landcover	Acros	Percent of
	Acres	Proposal
basin swamp	989	32
wet flatwoods	271	9
mesic flatwoods	67	2
dome swamp	65	2
bottomland forest	36	1
upland hardwood forest	14	<1
baygall	2	<1
basin marsh	2	<1
depression marsh	<1	<1
successional hydric forest	1,133	37
clearing/regeneration	264	9
successional hardwood forest	142	5
pine plantation	45	1
artificial pond	24	<1
canal/ditch	21	<1
developed	8	<1
road	6	<1
spoil area	<1	<1
Total	3,089	100

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

Table 2 lists rare plant and animal species known or reported to occur onsite. The Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*; G5T4, S4, N, N*) is classified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as frequent in the region. The FNAI database contains an old record of a wading bird rookery that included little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*; G5, S4, N, ST) in Gress Swamp; wood stork (*Mycteria americana*; G4, S2, DL, FT) reportedly has nested nearby as well. The application notes that the landowner has observed fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger niger*; G5T5, S3, N, N) onsite. The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) at the end of this memo indicates that 91% of the site is within Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (Priorities 5 and 3) and 77% is within areas mapped as FNAI Habitat

Conservation Priorities (all Priority 6); this suggests the property has some potential to be used by additional rare or listed species.

* Rarity rankings in the following order: FNAI (global and state ranks), federal status, state status. Rank explanations attached.

Table 2. Rare plants and animals documented or reported to occur within the Wooten Timberlands Florida Forever proposal.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status
Rare plants documented on site					
none					
Additional rare plants reported on site by applicant					
none					
Rare animals documented on site					
Egretta caerulea	little blue heron	G5	S4	N	ST
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	G5T4	S4	N	N
Additional rare animals reported on site by applicant					
Sciurus niger niger	southeastern fox squirrel	G5T5	S3	N	N

The FFME below 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 resources based primarily on the Florida Cooperative Land Cover Map. The statewide scale of this analysis explains any differences in natural community acreages between Table 1 and the FFME. The entire proposal contributes to priority 2 Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection (mostly Priority 5 and 6), and Aquifer Recharge (mostly Priority 3). Substantial portions of the site (86%) would contribute to Natural Floodplain Function (predominantly Priority 1) and Functional Wetlands (mostly Priority 1).

Wooten Timberlands: Florida Forever Measure Evaluation 20231107

GIS ACRES = 3,089

	Resource	% of		Resource	% of
MEASURES	Acres ^a	project	MEASURES (continued)	Acres ^a	project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation	Areas		C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%	Priority 1	0	0
Priority 2	0	0%	Priority 2	0	0
Priority 3	717	23%	Priority 3	0	0
Priority 4	0	0%	Priority 4	313	10
Priority 5	2,081	67%	Priority 5	1,406	46
Total Acres	2,798	91%	Priority 6	1,367	44
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Pri	orities		Priority 7	0	0
Priority 1	0	0%	Total Acres	3,086	100
Priority 2	0	0%	C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Priority 3	0	0%	Fragile Coastal Uplands	0	0
Priority 4	0	0%	Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0	0
Priority 5	0	0%	Coastal Wetlands	0	0
Priority 6	2 389	77%	Total Acres	0	0
Total Acres	2,389	77%	C8: Functional Wetlands		
B3: Ecological Greenways			Priority 1	1.808	59
Priority 1	0	0%	Priority 2	792	26
Priority 2	2 845	92%	Priority 3	49	2
Priority 3	2,040	0%	Priority 4	-5	< 1
Priority A	0	0%	Priority 5	0	0
Priority 5	2/1	0%	Priority 6	0	0
Total Acres	2.096	100%	Total Acres	2 655	99
B4: Under-represented Natural Co	mmunities	10070	D3: Aquifer Recharge	2,000	00
Inland Glade (G1)	0	0%	Priority 1	0	0
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%	Priority 2	179	6
Scrub and Scrubby Elatwoods (G2)	0	0%	Priority 3	2 001	65
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0	0%	Priority 4	2,001	20
Dov Proirio (G2)	0	0%	Priority 5	10	- 1
Soonado Slono (G2)	0	0%	Priority 6	15	0
Seepage Slope (02)	0	0%	Total Acres	2 000	100
Sandhill Linland Lake (G2)	0	0%	E2: Decreational Trails (miles)	3,009	100
Janu Lake (03)	0	0%	Ez. Recreational finals (miles)		
Opialiu File (03)	24	- 10/	(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenway	s and Trails & U	JNV. FIONG
Wesic/wei Flatwood Second (CE)	24	S 1%	Land Trail Opportunition	0.0	
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	2	< 1%	Tatal Miles	0.0	
Total Acres	20	1%	Total Miles	0.0	-14
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked	species		F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number) 2	sites
G1	0		G1: Sustainable Forestry		
62	0		Priority 1	0	0
G3	0		Priority 2	0	0
G4	1		Priority 3	1/5	6
G5	1		Priority 4	0	0
Total	2		Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	25	< 1
C4: Natural Floodplain Function			Total Acres	200	6
Priority 1	1,768	57%	G3: Forestland for Recharge	145	5
Priority 2	816	26%	20		
Priority 3	73	2%			
Priority 4	7	< 1%			
Priority 5	0	0%			
Priority 6	0	0%			
Total Aaroo	2 664	0.00			
lotal Acres	2.664	86%			

> 0% 0% 0% 10% 46% 44% 0% 100%

> > 0% 0% 0% 0%

59% 26% 2% < 1% 0% 0% 86%

0% 6% 65% 29% < 1% 0% 100%

> 0% 0% 6% 0% < 1% 6% 5%

*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.



Wooten Timberlands Florida Forever Proposal

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSAL BOUNDARY AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, November 2023

Background: USDA NAIP Imagery Resolution = 1.0 meter







Elements and Element Occurrences

An **element** is any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave, or other ecological feature.

An **element occurrence (EO)** is an area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is, or was, present. An EO should have practical conservation value for the Element as evidenced by potential continued (or historical) presence and/or regular recurrence at a given location.

Element Ranking and Legal Status

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 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.

 \mathbf{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 = -An infraspecific taxon or population has federal status but the entire species does not - status is in only a portion of the species range.

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.

DL = Delisted.

UR = Under review.

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, 581.185 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: https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5B-40.

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.

 \mathbf{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.

CE = Commercially exploited: species native to the state which are subject to being removed in significant numbers from native habitats in the state and sold or transported for sale.

N = Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Element Occurrence Ranking

FNAI ranks of quality of the element occurrence in terms of its viability (EORANK). Viability is estimated using a combination of factors that contribute to continued survival of the element at the location. Among these are the size of the EO, general condition of the EO at the site, and the conditions of the landscape surrounding the EO (e.g. an immediate threat to an EO by local development pressure could lower an EO rank).

- **A** = Excellent estimated viability
- **A?** = Possibly excellent estimated viability
- **AB** = Excellent or good estimated viability
- **AC** = Excellent, good, or fair estimated viability
- **B** = Good estimated viability
- **B?** = Possibly good estimated viability
- **BC** = Good or fair estimated viability
- **BD** = Good, fair, or poor estimated viability
- **C** = Fair estimated viability
- **C?** = Possibly fair estimated viability
- **CD** = Fair or poor estimated viability
- **D** = Poor estimated viability
- **D?** = Possibly poor estimated viability
- **E** = Verified extant (viability not assessed)
- **F** = Failed to find
- H = Historical
- **NR** = Not ranked, a placeholder when an EO is not (yet) ranked.
- **U** = Unrankable
- \mathbf{X} = Extirpated

*For additional detail on the above ranks see: http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/eorankguide.htm

FNAI also uses the following EO ranks:

- **H?** = Possibly historical
- F? = Possibly failed to find
- X? = Possibly extirpated

The following offers further explanation of the H and X ranks as they are used by FNAI:

The rank of H is used when there is a lack of recent field information verifying the continued existence of an EO, such as (a) when an EO is based only on historical collections data; or (b) when an EO was ranked A, B, C, D, or E at one time and is later, without field survey work, considered to be possibly extirpated due to general habitat loss or degradation of the environment in the area. This definition of the H rank is dependent on an interpretation of what constitutes "recent" field information. Generally, if there is no known survey of an EO within the last 20 to 40 years, it should be assigned an H rank. While these time frames represent suggested maximum limits, the actual time period for historical EOs may vary according to the biology of the element and the specific landscape context of each occurrence (including anthropogenic alteration of the environment). Thus, an H rank may be assigned to an EO before the maximum time frames have lapsed. Occurrences that have not been surveyed for periods exceeding these time frames should not be ranked A, B, C, or D. The higher maximum limit for plants and communities (i.e., ranging from 20 to 40 years) is based upon the assumption that occurrences of these elements generally have the potential to persist at a given location for longer periods of time. This greater potential is a reflection of plant biology and community dynamics. However, landscape factors must also be considered. Thus, areas with more anthropogenic impacts on the environment (e.g., development) will be at the lower end of the range, and less-impacted areas will be at the higher end.

The rank of X is assigned to EOs for which there is documented destruction of habitat or environment, or persuasive evidence of eradication based on adequate survey (i.e., thorough or repeated survey efforts by one or more experienced observers at times and under conditions appropriate for the Element at that location).