

Telogia Creek

Critical Natural Lands

Liberty

| | |
|---|--------------|
| <i>Year Added to Priority List</i> | 2019 |
| <i>Project Acres</i> | 12,428 |
| <i>Acquired Acres</i> | 0 |
| <i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i> | \$0 |
| <i>Remaining Project Acres</i> | 12,428 |
| <i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i> | \$10,867,543 |

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Telogia Creek project will protect forested wetlands, pine plantations, and habitat for rare and imperiled species unique to the North Florida region. The project has the potential to provide landscape connectivity to other conservation areas near the site including the Apalachicola National Forest, Torreya State Park, Apalachee River WMA, Hosford Chapman’s Rhododendron Protection Zone, and the Apalachicola River Florida Forever project. The project will support natural floodplain function, protect surface waters, and preserve groundwater recharge areas. Telogia Creek provides habitat for species such as Florida black bears, the Apalachicola alligator snapping turtle and wading birds. The project will provide the public with opportunities for resource-based recreation.

General Description

The proposal is on the south side of State Road 20 between Bristol and Hosford. The project is 12 miles upstream of Telogia Creek’s confluence with the Ochlockonee River. Conservation lands within five miles of the proposal area include Apalachicola National Forest, Torreya State Park, Apalachee River WMA, and Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines. Nearby Florida Forever projects include the Apalachicola River project, and the Hosford Chapman’s Rhododendron Protection Zone project.

The streamside communities are generally intact, but the uplands have been altered by silviculture. Freshwater forested wetland covers 23 percent of the property and pine plantation (longleaf, loblolly, and slash pine) is found over 65 percent of the proposal area. Floodplain swamps are the third highest percentage of landcover, at five percent. Invasive exotics are not common on the property, and no feral hogs were reported to be seen on the property.

The site and its natural communities provide many ecosystem services. Almost all of the site provides for the protection of surface water and for groundwater recharge areas, and 36 percent of the site provides for the protection of natural floodplain function. Florida pine snakes and Florida black bears use this property. Other species using the creek and associated streams include the rare Apalachicola

alligator snapping turtle and a variety of species of wading birds. The rare swallow-tailed kite is likely to use this area.

Based on location, there is a medium to high likelihood it has evidence of native habitation, but the effects of silvicultural plantings may have reduced the likelihood of such findings. There are remnants of an old bridge on the creek; only the posts remain. Telogia Creek was under lease for hunting at the time the project was added.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

| FNAI Elements | Score |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Swallow-tailed kite | G5/S2 |
| Florida black bear | G5T4/S4 |
| <i>toothed savory</i> | G3/S3 |

Acquisition Planning

2019

On October 18, 2019, the ARC added Telogia Creek to the Florida Forever project list as a fee simple project. The project had a 2019 tax assessed value of \$12,900,000. The land within the approved boundary was designated essential and would be managed by FWC as a wildlife management area if acquired in fee.

Coordination

Other managers in this area include FFS, DEP, NFWFMD, Liberty County, and other private conservation organizations. FWC would work with these agencies in their management of the property.

Management Policy Statement

Telogia Creek could be managed by FWC as a WMA, and in a manner that best meets the goals and objectives of the newly acquired area. As a WMA, FWC would manage Telogia Creek WMA under the multiple-use concept. Telogia Creek will provide resource-based public outdoor recreation and education opportunities, while protecting the natural and historical resources. If acquired, all requirements of the Management Procedures document from the Division of Historical Resources will be followed with regard to any potential ground disturbing activities. All Telogia Creek's natural and historical resources would be managed for the purposes of acquisition included within the Florida Forever Act and Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes, under a management plan approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

Manager(s)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)



Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Telogia Creek meets numerous Florida Forever goals, performance measures, and criteria as outlined in F.S. 259.105. This project would help meet Florida Forever goals including enhancing the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects; increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels; protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state; ensure sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state and would increase natural resource-based public recreation and education opportunities.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Resources described in this Management Prospectus indicate conditions affecting intensity of management. These include natural community types, topography and soils, surface and ground water conditions, extent of historic disturbance, and already existing improvements. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as erosion-prone sites, important habitats, outstanding natural areas, and wetlands will be identified, appropriately managed, and protected.

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure

If acquired and leased to FWC for management, a Management Plan will be developed by FWC describing the management goals and objectives necessary to implement future resource management programs on Telogia Creek. The management plan will also establish the current and future roles of cooperating entities including governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Long-range plans would stress ecosystem management and the protection and management of locally important, rare, and imperiled species. If acquired, historic analysis of natural communities and vegetation types may be conducted, if deemed necessary, and quantified vegetation management objectives will be developed. The FWC would also assess the condition of wildlife resources and provide planning support to enhance management of locally important species and recovery of imperiled species on the area. Use of prescribed fire and other essential resource management activities will be implemented to maintain and restore natural communities and vegetation types to benefit native wildlife resources.

Programs providing multiple fish and wildlife-based public outdoor recreational uses will be considered for implementation following acquisition. These potential recreational uses will enhance the public's understanding of the region while providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreational enjoyment. Essential roads will be maintained to provide all weather public access and management operations. Unnecessary roads, fire lanes, and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as practical. Infrastructure development will be limited to only that which is necessary to allow public access and to provide for the necessary facilities, security, and management of the property. Archaeological and historical sites will be managed in coordination with DHR.



Revenue-generating potential

Revenue from conservation lands can include sales of various permits and recreational user fees and ecotourism activities, if such projects could be economically developed. Area regulations would be developed to identify the necessary and required permits, fees, and regulations. Timber sales from thinning operations or restoration of off-site plantations may also yield additional revenue. Apiary leases will be considered as a revenue source depending on whether the area meets the criteria of FWC’s Apiary Policy. In addition, the Florida Legislature appropriates funds for land management. The long-term values of ecosystem services to local and regional land and water resources, and to human health, are expected to be significant.

Cooperators in management activities

FWC will cooperate with other federal, state, and local governmental agencies including FFS, DEP, NFWFMD, Liberty County, and other private conservation organizations in the continuing management of the property.

Management costs and sources of revenue

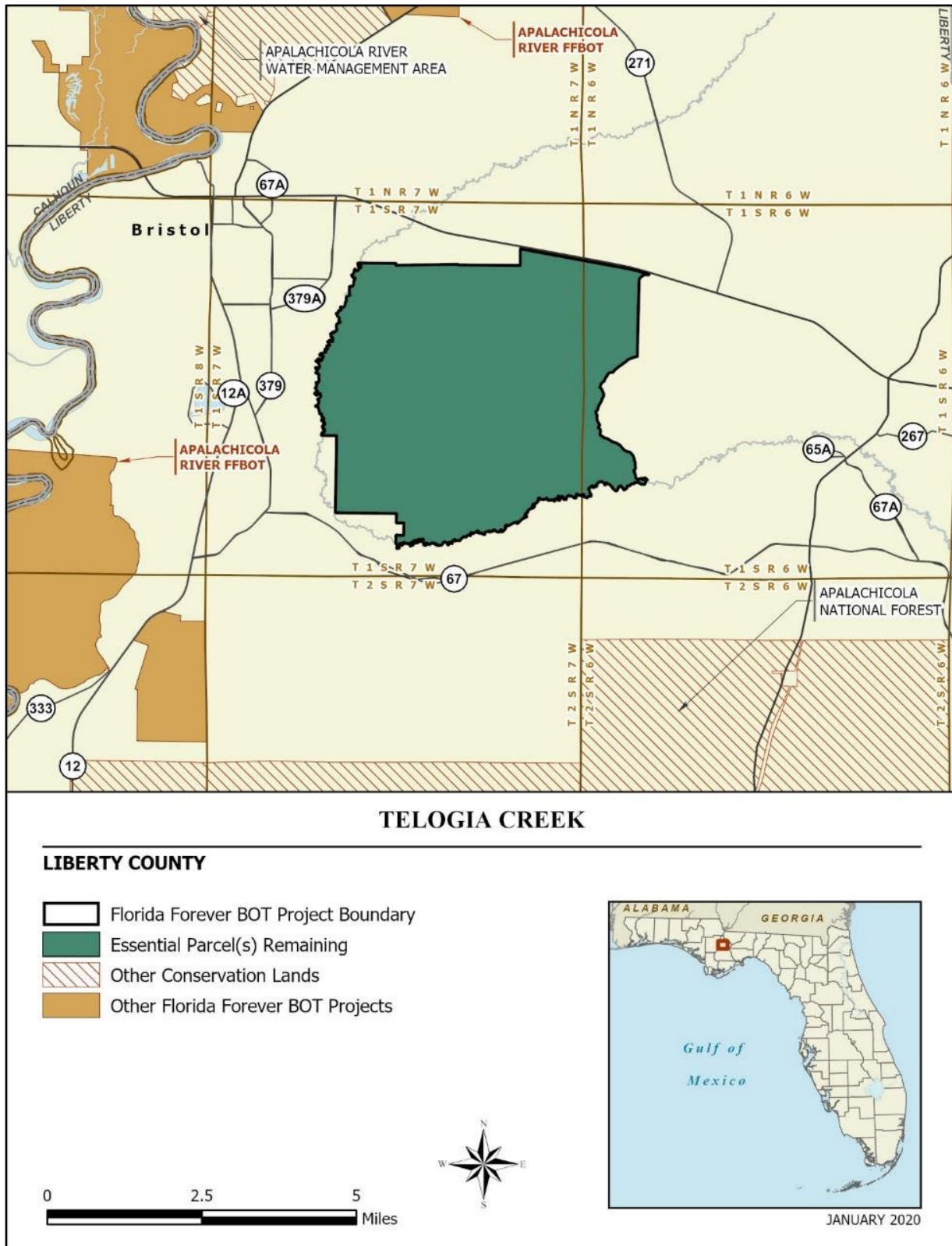
The initial non-recurring (first year only) start-up cost for Telogia Creek is estimated to be \$1,975,520, which includes public access and infrastructure and fixed capital outlays necessary for management of the area. Optimal management would require two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. All land management funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

Management Cost Summary

| <u>FWC</u> | <u>Recurring</u> | <u>Non-recurring</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Source of funds | | | State of Florida Permits, User fees |
| Salary | \$54,228 | | for 2 FTE positions |
| Expense | \$10,248 | | |
| OCO | \$658,712 | | |
| FCO | \$71,860 | \$1,975,520 | |

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





Map 1: FNAI, January 2020