

Florida Forest Service  
Unit Narratives



# Florida Forest Service

## 2022-2024 L.M.U.A.C. Biennial Operational Report Executive Summary

### Mission Statement

Protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage Florida's forest resources through a stewardship ethic to ensure that these resources are available for future generations.

### Management Philosophy

- Practice sustainable forest management for the efficient generation of revenue and in support of state forest management objectives;
- Provide for resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities for multiple interests;
- Restore and manage healthy forests and native ecosystems ensuring the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened, or rare, and other components of biological diversity including game and nongame wildlife and plants;
- Protect known archaeological, historical, cultural, and paleontological resources;
- Restore, maintain, and protect hydrological functions, related water resources and the health of associated wetland and aquatic communities.

### Vital Stats

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) has been in existence since the 1920s. FFS's State Forest management was first established in 1936, with the establishment of the 6,911-acre Pine Log State Forest in Washington County and Bay County. Additional acquisitions brought the total State Forest system acreage to 305,625 by the late 1950s.

Since the inception of the Preservation 2000 program in 1990, the State Forest system has expanded from 11 State Forests totaling 349,465 acres to 38 state forests and a working cattle ranch totaling 1,185,663 acres. The FFS's expertise in prescribed burning, silvicultural management, and resource-based recreation has prepared the agency to assume management responsibilities for newly acquired properties. FFS receives management funds primarily from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for the implementation of management activities including silvicultural management, prescribed burning, re-forestation, development and maintenance of infrastructure, and the promotion of responsible public access and recreation.

In an effort to standardize the land management planning and reporting methods implemented by all state land managers, the LMUAC has established eight common management goals and 32 quantitative measures that should be addressed by all management plans, where they apply to the specific purposes and mission of each management unit. The FFS's progress towards achieving the common goals and applicable core objectives, as well as additional State Forest-specific objectives since Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) approval of the management plan, is described within each State Forest-specific narrative below, and in quantitative terms on Tables 1-8. Where applicable, outstanding accomplishments, deficiencies, and corrective actions, and other important or clarifying information is provided for each of the LMUAC management goals.

**The following is a compilation of accomplishments that the Florida Forest Service has achieved during this two-year reporting period**

- The FFS manages 38 State Forests and a working cattle ranch that are comprised of approximately 1,185,633 acres of diverse natural lands.
- Of the 1,185,633 acres managed by FFS, approximately 803,678 acres are maintained with prescribed fire. During this reporting period the FFS conducted prescribed burns state-wide on approximately 409,446 acres, or approximately 51% of the fire maintained natural communities.
- 96% of the state forest acres are open to hunting.
- The FFS has identified approximately 379,870 managed upland acres that are in need of environmental restoration. During this reporting period the FFS has completed restoration activities on approximately 18,080 acres and has restoration activities underway on 256,410 acres.
- The average daily use of the State Forests decreased, with a total of approximately 34,265,550 visitors during the reporting period. FFS staff conducted 287 interpretive, informational, or educational programs.
- Approximately 80,462 acres of forestland have been impacted by invasive exotic plants statewide. FFS staff has treated approximately 30,145 acres.
- Within the 38 State Forests and working cattle ranch, FFS staff maintained 1,131 facilities, 4,730 miles of road, and 2,720 miles of recreational trails.
- FFS administered 146 Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF) events, of which 70 were held on State Forests.
- FFS staff monitored 613 cultural or historical sites.
- FNAI has identified 1,287 rare species statewide. The FFS has a significant number of threatened and endangered species on State Forests. Monitoring protocols for imperiled species are developed by the state and other partners. Whenever possible and available, FFS will establish and follow the monitoring protocols and will work with other agencies to protect imperiled species on the State Forests. Additionally, FNAI has identified 81 natural communities in Florida. The FFS has identified at least 43 natural communities on State Forest lands.

**Unit Name:** Babcock Ranch Preserve

**Acres:** 67,620

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** April 22, 2016

**County/ies:** Charlotte

### **Description/Narrative**

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) manages Babcock Ranch Preserve (BRP, or the Preserve). BRP is located in southeast Charlotte County, approximately 17.5 miles east of Punta Gorda and 34 miles west of Lake Okeechobee. It represents one of the single largest purchases of conservation land in the State of Florida's history and is the first parcel purchased to operate as a working ranch that preserves Florida's cattle heritage. The BRP protects regionally important water resources, diverse natural habitats, scenic landscapes, and historic and cultural resources in the rapidly developing southwestern Florida corridor.

Located within the Caloosahatchee River Basin, BRP anchors a conservation corridor of public and private land that stretches from Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf of Mexico. The property spans a diverse mosaic of pinelands, including both wet and mesic pine flatwoods, and dry prairie ecosystems interspersed with cypress domes and cypress swamps. A dominant feature on the landscape is the north-south oriented Telegraph Swamp, a cypress strand swamp located in the western half of the property. BRP's wetlands contribute to aquifer recharge for southwestern Florida and help maintain the health of the western Everglades ecosystem, particularly the Caloosahatchee River and Charlotte Harbor Estuary.

Together with nearby conservation lands, BRP provides habitat for wide-ranging species such as the Florida black bear and Florida panther and is home to the Osceola subspecies of native wild turkey, which is found only in peninsular Florida. In addition to abundant populations of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and northern bobwhite quail, 13 wildlife species that are listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern have been documented to occur within the BRP boundaries. The list includes crested caracara, gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker, eastern indigo snake, Florida burrowing owl and Florida panther.

The BRP is managed as a working ranch while providing public recreational opportunities compatible with agricultural operations. Public recreational opportunities may include, but are not limited to: hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, bicycling, fishing, camping, Operation Outdoor Freedom (OOF)-related events and horseback riding.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 4,252 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 7,598 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 0 tons harvested FY 2022-23; and 0 tons harvested in FY 2023-24.
- 10,502 acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed in FY 2022-23; and 9,838 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 0 acres of forest inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 819 acres in FY 2023-2024.
- 2,455 beef cattle run in FY 2022-23; and 2,318 beef cattle run in FY 2023-24.

- 939 acres were in farm production in FY 2022-23; and 1,699 acres were in farm production in FY 2023-24.
- 1,066 acres Bahia grass sod harvested in FY 2021-22; and 605 acres Bahia grass sod harvested in FY 2023-24.
- No major fence repaired FY 2022-23; and no major fence repaired in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 20.77 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022-2023; and 20.77 miles of roads maintained in FY 2023-24.
- (Equine) 17.1 and (hiking) 2.3 miles of trails maintained in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- 0 equine permits issued in FY 2022-23 and 0 equine permits issued in FY 2023-24.
- 47,952 ecotour visitors in FY 2022-23; and 53,393 ecotour visitors in FY 2023-24.
- One OOF hunt in FY 2022-23; and one OOF hunt FY 2023-24.

#### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Belmore State Forest

**Acres:** 12,262

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** December 11, 2020

**County/ies:** Clay

#### **Description/Narrative**

The Belmore State Forest (BSF) was purchased with Florida Forever funds under the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Project. Two hundred acres of BSF was partially funded through a cooperative agreement between the Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida National Guard, pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act. The Satsuma Tract of BSF is comprised of approximately 3,528 acres in western Clay County and is directly north and east of the Camp Blanding Military Reservation. The Satsuma Tract was acquired in the fall of 2007 by the St. Johns River Water Management District using Forest Legacy Stewardship funds. The Tract is part of the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Project and is managed by the FFS as part of BSF. BSF provides protection of water resources and wetland functions within the Upper Black Creek basin and buffers military activities at Camp Blanding.

The FFS manages BSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. The Forest is open during daylight hours for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing. All recreation areas have received continued maintenance while initial planning and surveying

work has been done for site improvements and new trails. Forest education remains a top priority. OOF has become a regular event on the Satsuma Tract of BSF.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 992 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 1,859 acres burned in FY 2023/24.
- 12,473 tons of timber harvested in FY 2022/23; and 8,506 tons of timber harvested in FY 2023/24.
- Zero acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed in FY 2022/23; and One acre of non-native invasive plants treated or removed in FY 2023/24.
- 1,233 acres of forest inventoried in FY 2022/23; and 1,573 acres of forest inventoried in FY 2023/24.

### Visitor Services

- Zero miles of roads maintained in FY 2022/23; and Six miles of roads maintained in FY 2023/24.
- Zero culverts were replaced in FY 2022/23. One culvert was replaced in FY 2023/24
- Zero bridge was replaced in FY 2022/23; and Zero bridges were replaced in FY 2023/24.
- One tour was given in FY 2022/23; and one tour was given in FY 2023/24.
- Three OOF hunts were done in FY 2022/23 (one turkey and two deer); and six OOF hunts were done in FY 2023/24 (Two turkey and four deer).
- 26 volunteer hours recorded in FY 2022/23; and 36 volunteer hours recorded in FY 2023/24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 2: Assess additional public access and recreational opportunities.
  - Status: Completed

**Unit Name:** Big Shoals State Forest

**Acres:** 1,814

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 10, 2005

**County/ies:** Hamilton

## **Description/Narrative**

The Big Shoals State Forest (BSSF) comprises 1,673 acres of the 3,919-acre Big Shoals Public Lands (BSPL). The BSPL is managed jointly by the FFS, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). This property was purchased from the Nature Conservancy by the State of Florida in 1986 through the Conservation and Recreation Lands program to protect in perpetuity “the Big Shoals”, the largest whitewater rapids in Florida. The acquisition further protects unique vistas and upland areas, historic sites along the Suwannee River, as well as the river floodplain. The BSSF portion is located on the northern side of the BSPL and was designated as a State Forest in March of 1989.

The FFS manages BSSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. While the BSPL is noted for its whitewater rapids associated with the Big and Little Shoals on the Suwannee River at certain river levels, the BSSF portion has multiple recreational opportunities as well. These include nature study, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting. The hiking trail and horseback riding trail are included in the FFS’s Trailwalker and Trailtrotter Programs. Bicyclists can utilize the paved eight foot-wide, four-mile-long Woodpecker Trail. A canoe launch is located on the northern section of the river, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has designated a portion of the BSPL as a Type I Wildlife Management Area for hunting.

The 15 natural community types within BSSF include mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, sandhill, upland hardwood forest, upland mixed woodland, upland pine, xeric hammock, alluvial forest, basin swamp, baygall, bottomland forest, dome swamp, floodplain swamp, blackwater stream and seepage stream. The following imperiled species can be found on BSPL: little blue heron, wood stork, white ibis, swallow-tailed kite, gopher tortoise, American alligator, Suwannee alligator snapping turtle, Suwannee cooter, gopher frog, Gulf sturgeon, Florida toothache grass, hooded pitcher plant, Chapman’s sedge, cardinal flower, butterwort, and rainlily. A perennial stream, Four Mile Branch, flows through BSPL and into the Suwannee River. The Suwannee River, an Outstanding Florida Water, flows along the entire southern boundary of BSPL.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 146 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 608 acres in FY 2023/2024.
- Timber harvest(s): Zero tons in FY 2022-23; and zero tons in FY 2023/2024.
- One acres of invasive plant species were treated in FY 2022-23; and two acres of invasive plant species were treated in FY 2023/2024.
- Zero acres of longleaf were restored on the Big Shoals Tract in FY 2022/2023; and Zero acres in FY 2023/2024.
- 55 acres of forest inventoried in FY 2022/2023; and zero acres in FY 2023/2024.
- 6 miles of boundary line marked in FY 2022/2023 and 3 miles of boundary line marked in 2023/2024
- 7 miles of firelines maintained in FY 2022/2023 and 7 miles of firelines maintained in FY 2023/2024

### Visitor Services

- 19 miles of roads harrowed and/or mowed in FY 2022-23; and zero miles in FY 2023/2024.

- Zero miles of trails maintained in FY 2022-23; and zero miles in FY 2023-2024.

13,017 estimated day use visitors in FY 2022-23; and 14,348 in FY 2023-24.

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Blackwater River State Forest

**Acres:** 226,509

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** December 13, 2013

**County/ies:** Okaloosa & Santa Rosa

### **Description/Narrative**

The Blackwater River State Forest (BRSF) is comprised of more than 225,000 acres of forests, rivers, and lakes. It is named for the Blackwater River, an Outstanding Florida Water, and is one of the last remaining shifting sand bottom streams. The land that was to become the BRSF was acquired by the Federal Government in the 1930s to re-vegetate, resettle, and protect the area following extensive deforestation by land and timber companies in the early 1900s. In the late 1930s at the request of Florida's Governor, the land was leased to the State and the restoration process continued. Over the years, through the Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever Programs, along with the acquisition of inholdings and additions, BRSF has grown from the original 183,184 acres to 217,323 acres. BRSF is known for its longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem, which, in combination with the Conecuh National Forest to the north and Eglin Air Force Base to the south, is the largest contiguous ecological community of this type in the world. The maintenance of the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem along with the restoration of slash pine, sand pine, and loblolly pine plantations back to longleaf pine, and recovery of the red cockaded woodpecker is the main natural resource focus for BRSF.

The FFS manages BRSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Major recreational activities enjoyed at BRSF include canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, camping, fishing, swimming, hunting, off-highway vehicle riding, and mountain biking. Species known to occur within BRSF include white tailed deer, wild turkey, red fox, bobcat, eastern tiger salamander, bobwhite quail, and eastern diamondback rattlesnake. Significant species on BRSF include the bald eagle, red cockaded woodpecker (RCW), gopher tortoise, and reticulated flatwoods salamander. The timber management practices on BRSF are important in the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of benefits to Floridians. FFS staff also work to improve the quality of longleaf, slash, and sand pine seedlings available to public and private landowners through the tree improvement section. The BRSF seed orchards as well as the forest provide an excellent seed source for public and private nurseries. Once a year, FFS employees, as well as members of the Francis M. Weston Audubon Society, perform a bird count on BRSF.



BRSF has been certified into the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The SFI program promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 principals, 15 objectives, and 37 performance measures. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Through the SFI program, BRSF is committed to continuously improve responsible forest management by meeting or exceeding applicable water quality laws and regulations, with measures to manage and protect water, wetlands, and riparian zones. Additionally, BRSF will continually evaluate habitat and biodiversity impacts from forest activities.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- Prescribed Burning: 35,197 acres in FY 2022-23; and 94,867 acres in FY 2023-24.
- Reforestation FY 2022-23: 79 acres longleaf pine planted; Reforestation FY 2023/-24: 645 acres longleaf seed planted.
- Timber Harvest: 38,790 tons in FY 2022-23; and 50,179 tons in FY 2023-24.
- Invasives Treated: 997 acres in FY 2022-23; and 1634 acres in FY 2023-24.
- Inventory: FY2022/23: 22,278 acres including seedling survival.
- Inventory: FY2023/24: 13,695 acres including seedling survival.

### Visitor Services

- Major Road Repairs: 35 miles in FY 2022-23; and 2miles in FY 2023-24.
- Road Grading: 621 miles in FY 2022-23; and 836 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Bridges Built: 1in FY 2022-23; and 0in FY 2023-24.
- Major Bridge Repairs: 0in FY 2022-23; and 5 in FY 2023-24.
- Culverts/Low Water Crossings installed: 9 in FY 2022-23; and 1in FY 2023-24.
- Miles of trail maintained: 190 miles in FY 2022-23; and 192 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Day use visitors: 4,456,738 in FY 2022-23; and 3,086,825 in FY 2023-24.
- Improved camping visitors: 94,267 in FY 2022-22; and 96,041 in FY 2022-24.
- Primitive camping visitors: 7,815 in FY2022/23; and 8,923 in FY2023/24.
- Operation Outdoor Freedom: four deer hunts, one turkey hunt with a total of 20 hunters in FY 2022-23; and four deer hunts, one turkey hunt with a total of 20 hunters in FY 2023-24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Carl Duval Moore State Forest

**Acres:** 335

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** August 13, 2021

**County/ies:** Putnam

### **Description/Narrative**

Carl Duval Moore State Forest (CDMSF) is comprised of forests and lakes in Putnam County. The FFS received title to the original 306 acres of forestland in 1993 and 1994 as a donation, contained in the will of the property's namesake, Mr. Carl Duval Moore. As a condition of the deed, the land must be used for the production of timber, game management, or environmental education for forestry management methods. In 2010, the FFS acquired an additional 29 acres from Plum Creek Timber Company through the Florida Forever In-Holdings and Additions program. The forest is composed of two non-contiguous tracts (the North Tract and the South Tract). CDMSF contains one notable watercourse, Alligator Creek, which flows through the South Tract. Natural communities found on the forest include sandhill, mesic flatwoods, baygall, and scrubby flatwoods. Imperiled species documented during an FNAI survey of the forest include gopher tortoise, bald eagle, Florida black bear and the state-listed plant garberia. Public access to the North Tract is provided by two small parking areas. These provide access to a short nature loop trail that includes educational signs, a boardwalk and observation platform on the west side of Up-and-Down Lake. Hiking, fishing, and nature study are the primary recreational activities. The South Tract has one parking area that provides access to this part of the forest. The South Tract features a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile trail that provides access to Hardesty Lake. The FFS manages the forest under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational, and resource use needs.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 71 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 48 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 0 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 7 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2023-24.
- 23 acres of forest were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 36.1 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 1.17 miles of boundary maintenance was completed in FY 2022-23; and .69 mile of boundary maintenance was completed in FY 2023-24.
- The Up and Down Lake dock has been removed due to safety concerns and scheduled to be replaced in FY 24-25.
- A picnic table was placed at the end of the trail on the south tract next to Lake Hardesty.

#### Visitor Services

- Two miles of hiking trails on CDMSF have been maintained multiple times over the past two years, by mowing, trimming and herbicide applications.
- There were an estimated 400 visitors in FY 2022-23; and 425 visitors in FY 2023-24.
- Kiosk maps have been updated and replaced on both tracts.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 2: Evaluate additional public access and recreational opportunities that are compatible with multiple-use management.
    - Status: Completed. New fishing docks with canoe/kayak access have approved funding and are planned to be constructed in FY 24-25 on both the north and south tracts.
  
- GOAL 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective 3: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrology restoration needs.
    - Status: Not completed

**Unit Name:** Cary State Forest

**Acres:** 13,385

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 10, 2024

**County/ies:** Duval and Nassau

### **Description/Narrative**

The original 3,413-acre Cary State Forest (CSF) property was acquired by purchasing multiple parcels between 1935 and 1942. The remaining tracts were acquired through the Florida Forever's Northeast Florida Timberlands Project and Watershed Reserve Project, Save Our Rivers, and funds provided by the US Navy and the City of Jacksonville. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) owns a 50% undivided interest of 2,169 acres of the Thomas Creek Tract. Natural communities include mesic and wet flatwoods, basin swamp, sandhill, bottomland and floodplain forest, dome swamp, baygall, and depression marsh. The diverse natural communities on CSF provide important habitat for several rare and threatened species such as Sherman's fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, hooded pitcher plant, many-flowered grass pink and Florida toothache grass. There are 28 threatened, endangered, and rare plant species and 17 animal or insect species documented on CSF.

Access to the forest is provided at several trailhead parking/walk-in areas, and by a network of forest roads in the Cary, Monticello, and Thomas Creek Tracts. Recreational opportunities on CSF include camping, bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and photography. Renovations to camping facilities have resulted in a total of six full-service RV campsites and a camp host site. In addition, the forest is designated as an FWC wildlife management area, offering a variety of quota and small game hunting opportunities.

### **Accomplishments**

## Resource Management

- 1,927 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022/23; and 751 acres in FY 2023/24.
- One wildfire for a total of 27 acres in FY 2022/23; and zero wildfire in FY 2023/24.
- 125 acres of timber harvested in FY 2022/23 and ten acres in FY 2023/24.
- One acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed in FY 2022/23; and one acre in FY 2023/24.
- 2,064 acres inventoried in FY 2022/23 and 1,432 acres in FY 2023/24.
- 15 apiary sites in FY 2022/23 and 15 sites in FY 2023/24.
- 12 miles of boundary maintenance/markings in FY 2022/23; and zero miles in FY 2023/24.
- Two culverts installed in FY 2022/23; and zero installed in FY 2023/24.
- 23 miles of fire lines maintained in FY 2022/23; and 70 miles in FY 2023/24.
- Eight hazardous trees removed in FY 2022/23; and zero in FY 2023/24.
- 12 gates installed/replaced in FY 2022/23; and zero in FY 2023/24.

## Visitor Services

- 56 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022/23; and 119 miles in FY 2023/24.
- Six miles of trails maintained in FY 2022/23; and 35 miles in FY 2023/24.
- 991,414 estimated people for day-use in FY 2022/23; and 551,747 estimated in FY 2023/24.
- 1,447 people for primitive camping in FY 2022/23; and 1,495 people in FY 2023/24.
- 4,389 people for full facility camping in FY 2022/23; and 4,389 people in FY 2023/24.
- Three programs/tours were conducted in FY 2022/23; and four programs/tours in FY 2023/24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 2: Evaluate the potential for additional public access and recreational areas on FCSF that are compatible with multiple-use management.
    - Status: Completed
- Goal 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective 3: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs.
    - Status: Completed

**Unit Name:** Charles H. Bronson State Forest

**Acres:** 11,246

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** August 13, 2021

**County/ies:** Seminole and Orange

### **Description/Narrative**

The Charles H. Bronson State Forest (CHBSF) is named after Charles H. Bronson, who served as the ninth Commissioner for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from 2001 to 2011. The Forest contains three Tracts: Joshua Creek, Turkey Creek, and the Clonts Tract.

CHBSF's most notable feature is the St. Johns River, an Outstanding Florida Water, which flows along a section of the eastern boundary. The CHBSF adds to other conservation lands along the St. Johns River, preserving habitat for the bald eagle, Florida black bear, as well as rare aquatic bird and plant species and preserving several archaeological sites.

The FFS manages CHBSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Natural communities on CHBSF include mesic and wet flatwoods, marsh, and a variety of hydric forest types. Threatened or endangered species on CHBSF include the bald eagle, American kestrel, osprey, sandhill crane, and sand butterfly pea. Habitat for these species will be maintained through a regular burn program. Restoration of degraded ecosystems and abandoned agriculture fields is the main focus for CHBSF. Recreational activities on CHBSF include hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, and camping. Hunting is allowed on the Charles H. Bronson Wildlife Management Area (Joshua Creek, Clonts, and Turkey Creek Tracts) which is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under the specific regulations of a Wildlife Management Area.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 1,568 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; 691 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 1 wildfire for a total of 381 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 16 miles of fire lines were disked in FY 2022-23; 5 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 12 acres of fields were mowed in FY 2022-23.
- 72 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; 30.5 acres in FY 2023-24.

- 123.4 acres inventoried in FY 2022-23; 94.5 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 43 hogs were trapped and removed in FY 2022-23; 19 hogs in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 30 miles of roads were mowed in FY 2022-23; 44 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 38.8 miles of trails were maintained in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24.
- One mile of road was rebuilt in FY 2022-23
- One mile of road was graded in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24.
- Two culverts were installed in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24.
- 9,003 estimated people for day use in FY 2022-23; 9,543 in FY 2023-24.
- 384 people went primitive camping in FY 2022-23; 415 people in FY 2023-24.
- One hiking bridge was replaced in FY 2023-24.
- One water well with pitcher pump was installed for horses at the Joshua Creek tract trailhead in FY 2022-23.
- 7 miles of horse trail signs were replaced in FY 2023-24.
- Two vehicle bridges were treated with water sealant in FY 2022-23.

#### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 2: Evaluate additional public access and recreational opportunities that are compatible with multiple-use management (short-term objective).
    - Performance Measure: Number of additional visitor opportunities evaluated
    - Status: Completed
- GOAL 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective 3: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs (short-term objective).
    - Performance Measure: Assessment conducted
    - Status: Completed

**Unit Name:** Deep Creek State Forest

**Acres:** 380

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** October 12, 2012

**County/ies:** St. Johns

### **Description/Narrative**

The Deep Creek State Forest (DCSF) is located St. Johns County and was acquired prior to the initiation of state acquisition programs. The Forest is comprised of one tract, of which 259.8 acres are considered sovereign submerged land, and the remaining 120 acres do not have public access. DCSF is also encumbered by an easement to the Florida Inland Navigation District for the placement of spoil. Natural communities on the Forest include scrubby flatwoods and saltwater marsh. The Intracoastal Waterway shoreline is a unique feature on the DCSF. The primary mission of the FFS in managing DCSF is to protect and manage the unique resources of the forest through a stewardship ethic to assure these resources will be available for future generations. The DCSF provides important habitat for whitetail deer, American osprey, pileated woodpecker, and wood ducks. Listed species located on the forest include the Florida black bear and Florida manatee.

There are no listed archaeological or historical resources on the Forest. With the remote location, lack of public access, and resource conditions, only monitoring activities are conducted on DCSF.

### **Accomplishments**

Resource Management

- N/A.

Visitor Services

1 gate was replaced in FY 2022-23

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Etoniah Creek State Forest

**Acres:** 8,982

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** July 9, 2015

**County/ies:** Putnam

### **Description/Narrative**

The Etoniah Creek State Forest (ECSF) was acquired as part of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Conservation and Recreation Lands project with Preservation 2000 funds. The primary goals for purchasing the Forest include: 1) conserve and protect native species habitat or endangered or threatened species, 2) conserve, protect, and restore important ecosystems, landscapes and forests, and 3) preserve archaeological or historical sites. ECSF is named after Etoniah Creek, a stream which travels 2.5 miles through the eastern portion of the forest. Several other streams are found on ECSF, including Rice Creek and Falling Branch. Major natural communities located on the forest include mesic flatwoods, sand hills, baygall, floodplain swamp, xeric hammocks, and scrub. Unique natural features on ECSF include the Etonia and Falling Branch Creeks, and scrub communities which contain the federally listed Etonia rosemary.

ECSF is home to a variety of wildlife and is part of a wildlife corridor that offers the black bear a vast roaming area. Other types of wildlife commonly found on the forest include white-tailed deer, bobcat, fox squirrel, wild turkey, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, and barred owl. Species found on ECSF that are listed as endangered or threatened include eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, Florida scrub jay, and Etonia rosemary. Etonia rosemary is a federally endangered plant found only on ECSF scrub. Population surveys of Etonia rosemary are conducted annually.

The FFS manages ECSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Recreational activities on ECSF include hiking, fishing, horseback riding, hunting, nature study, wildlife viewing and photography. ECSF is managed as a Wildlife Management Area by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Florida National Scenic Trail crosses the forest, and the Palatka Lake Butler Rail Trail adjoins the south boundary.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 1,225 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 1,857 acres were burned in FY 2023-24.
- 75,504 longleaf pine seedlings were planted across 104 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 9 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 20 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2023-24.
- 839.9 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 933 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2023-24.
- Completed 0 acres of timber stand improvement work in FY 2022-23; and completed 118.4 acres of timber stand improvement work in FY 2023-24.
- 15 miles of forest boundary were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 3 miles of forest boundary were maintained in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services



- 2.3 miles of open roads were rebuilt and maintained in FY 2022-23; and 1.3 miles of open roads were rebuilt and maintained in FY 2023-24.
- 1 culvert was installed in FY 2022-23.
- Six miles of hiking trails and 12 miles of multi-use trails on ECSF have been maintained multiple times over the past two years, by mowing, trimming and herbicide applications. In addition, there are 3.5 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail on ECSF which is maintained by the Florida Trail Association. A new 2.04-mile trail was also constructed.
- There were an estimated 66,823 visitors in FY 2022-23; and 69,218 visitors in FY 2023-24.
- Primitive camping passes were issued to 36 people in FY 2022-23 and 128 people in FY 2023/24.

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Four Creeks State Forest

**Acres:** 13,658

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 11, 2022

**County/ies:** Nassau

**Description/Narrative**

Four Creeks State Forest (FCSF) is comprised of about 13,658 acres, of which 2,926 acres are considered sovereign submerged lands. The land is held jointly with 50/50 title with the SJRWMD. Natural communities found on the forest include wet flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, floodplain swamp, tidal marsh, strand swamp, dome swamp and baygall. Prior to state ownership, the upland communities were managed for timber production by industrial timberland companies, using intensive silvicultural practices. As a result of these techniques, much of the native vegetation and groundcover species were lost or reduced in number and/or quality. In the past, the timber companies also leased the area for game species hunting. There is one known imperiled species on

the forest. The FCSF staff has been proactive in the treatment of invasive plants including Chinese tallow and utilizes grant monies from SJRWMD and FCO funding to allow for treatments.

Vehicle access to the forest's network of open roads is provided at two entrance points. Bicyclists and equestrians can access these same open roads. Hikers can also use the service roads closed to public vehicles, as well as numerous fire lines. There are also several historical river "landings" at which the public can land or launch canoes. The forest has also been designated as an FWC wildlife management area, offering a variety of fishing, quota, and small game hunting activities.

The prescribed fire program on FCSF greatly enhances the habitat of native fauna and flora living on the forest. Timber management practices on FCSF are important in the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of socioeconomic benefits to Floridians.

The FFS manages the Forest under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Hunting has proven to be a popular activity on FCSF. In partnership with NWTF, a network of 12 food plots is maintained on the north side of FCSF to improve turkey habitat.

FCSF has been certified into the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The SFI program promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 principals, 15 objectives and 37 performance measures. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Through the SFI program, FCSF is committed to continuously improve responsible forest management by meeting or exceeding applicable water quality laws and regulations, with measures to manage and protect water, wetlands, and riparian zones. Additionally, FCSF will continually evaluate habitat and biodiversity impacts from forest activities.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 1,248 acres prescribe burned in FY 2022-23; and 951 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 4,910 tons of timber harvested in FY 2022-23; and 7,095 tons in FY 2023-24.
- 0.10 of acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed in FY 2022-23; and one acre in FY 2023-24.
- 1,182 acres of forest inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 1,710 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 156 acres herbicide in FY 2022-23; and zero in FY 2023-24.
- 20 apiary sites in FY 2022-23; and 12 in FY 2023-24.
- Zero boundaries were maintained/marked in FY2022-23; and zero in FY 20223-24.

### Visitor Services

- 14.5 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022-23; and 3.5 miles in FY 2023-24.

- Two culvert was installed in FY 2022-23; and seven culverts were installed in FY 2023-24.
- 132 hours of volunteer work in FY 2022-23; and 94 hours of volunteer work in FY 2023-24.

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 2: Evaluate the potential for additional public access and recreational areas on FCSF that are compatible with multiple-use management.
    - Status: Completed
- Goal 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective 3: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs.
    - Status: Completed

**Unit Name:** Goethe State Forest

**Acres:** 54,451

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 25, 2013

**County/ies:** Alachua & Levy

**Description/Narrative**

The Goethe State Forest (GSF) is comprised of over 54,000 acres of forests, ponds, and streams. It is named for Mr. J.T. Goethe, from whom most of the land was purchased under Florida's C.A.R.L. Program in 1992 for purposes of conserving and protecting quickly disappearing native flatwoods ecosystems and their flora and fauna and to provide areas for natural resource-based public recreation. A smaller area of GSF, the Watermelon Pond unit (acquired in 1997), is separate from the main tract and is located in Levy and Alachua Counties. It is largely composed of sandhill and scrub habitat, much of which requires regular burning and hardwood control in order to enhance the native groundcover. Natural communities on GSF include mesic flatwoods, dome swamp, sandhill, basin marsh, hydric hammock, and basin swamp. GSF flatwoods have some old growth longleaf pines and a population of red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW). Other rare animal

species found on the forest include the Florida black bear, gopher tortoise, gopher frog, striped newt, indigo snake, Sherman's fox squirrel and bald eagle. Rare plants include variable-leaved Indian-plantain, bearded grass-pink, pinewood dainties, small ladies'-tresses, lacelip ladies'-tresses, Florida hasteola, spoonleaved sundew, and hooded pitcherplant. Recreation opportunities abound with an extensive system of equestrian and hiking trails, overnight primitive camping (by permit), hunting (Goethe WMA and Watermelon Pond WEA) and picnicking sites. Goethe State Forest is included in The Great Florida Birding Trail, The Trail Walker, and the Trail Trotter programs. GSF is managed as a Wildlife Management Area by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 1,26 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 6,289 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 10 acres of wiregrass mix seed was harvested and planted in FY 2022-23; and 6 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 12,161 tons of timber were harvested in FY 2022-2023; and 4,931 tons in FY 2023-24.
- Zero acres received a mid-rotation herbicide application in FY 2022-23; and 132 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 26 acres of invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-2023; and 30.5 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 7,517 acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 5,612 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 29 miles of boundary marked in FY 2022-23; and 24 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 46 hogs removed in FY 2022-23; and 59 in FY 2023-24.
- Maintained active RCW clusters 78, Breeding Groups 71 in FY 2022-23; and 83 clusters and 74 breeding groups in FY 2023-24

#### Visitor Services

- 19 miles of forest roads were maintained/improved in FY 2022-23; and 12 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 3 culverts and low water crossings installed in FY 2022-23; and 7 in FY 2023-24.
- 29 miles of boundary maintenance in FY 2022-23; and 24 miles in FY 2023-24
- Four programs/tours conducted in FY 2022-23; and two in FY 2023-24.
- 82 miles of multi-use trails and two miles of hiking only trails were maintained in FY 2022-23 and 2023-24

- Big Cypress Boardwalk was re-decked in FY 2022-23
- 427,351 visitors in FY 2022-23; and 427,057 visitors in FY 2023-24
- Primitive camping passes were issued to 2,345 people in FY 2022-23; and 2,345 people in FY 2023-24.

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Holopaw State Forest

**Acres:** 58

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** November 28, 2023

**County/ies:** Osceola

**Description/Narrative**

Holopaw State Forest (HSF) was acquired in 1961 and is designated as a multiple-use management area by the FFS. The HSF was acquired by the Florida Development Commission in 1961. The Tract was purchased by the Florida Development Commission from Consolidated Naval Stores Company. The Commission bought the land for approximately \$300, less the mineral rights which were owned by Sun Oil Company. Terms of the OGM lease with Sun Oil Company were for ten years. Under a provision of the OGM lease, it appears to have expired ten years after issuance since no utilization of the minerals occurred. The FFS took this property under management from the Department of Natural Resources on August 14, 1979. At the time of acquisition there were no stated acquisition goals and objectives.

Due to its small size, relative isolation, and lack of outstanding natural features, the HSF is not considered suitable for any type of recreation or hunting. The small size of HSF challenges effective management as a State Forest for all multiple-use purposes and is being considered for surplus. There is no equipment or personnel dedicated to HSF. Structures consist of two abandoned concrete block buildings that are not used or maintained. Other improvements consist of an asphalt driveway, radar walkway and boundary fence.

Existing and planned uses of the property consist of managing the property as a forestry demonstration area. HSF is used by the FFS to show local landowners and other interested people the various types of site preparation, tree spacing, species selection and other forestry practices

that can be used to manage a typical Florida flatwoods site for timber production. HSF contains one stand of South Florida slash pine and three stands of improved slash pine. According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, no listed species are known to exist on HSF. The Florida sandhill crane has been mapped in the vicinity of the forest and is listed as threatened by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 2.5 miles of fire lines were disked in FY 2023-2024.
- 44 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- N/A

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Indian Lake State Forest

**Acres:** 5,037

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 22, 2023

**County/ies:** Marion

### **Description/Narrative**

Indian Lake State Forest (ILSF) is comprised of over 4,400 acres in Marion County, north of Silver Springs. The property was acquired in 2007 and 2008 by the state with assistance from The Nature Conservancy and Marion County. In 2022, an additional 102 acres was acquired by the St. Johns River Water Management District and was added to the forest. Natural community types found on the forest include sandhill, basin marsh, sinkholes, depression marshes, and mesic flatwoods. The string of “hat-rack” cypress growing between Indian Lake Prairie and Indian Lake is a stirring reminder of old Florida. Sandhill soils on a sinkhole rich, karst topography, dominate the property. Two-thirds of the historical sandhill, however, was converted to till agriculture or improved pasture. Most of this land has subsequently been planted with longleaf pine. One of the major goals of the Florida Forever purchase was to restore these altered areas and eliminate any adverse

impacts these alterations might have upon the Silver Springs system for water flow, water quality, and nitrogen loading. In addition, a focus of management will be to design and implement a balanced program of public access that includes recreational opportunities such as day use and picnicking areas, interpretive kiosks, hiking and equestrian trails and primitive campsites. Seven imperiled animals are documented currently as occurring on the forest, including Florida black bear, Sherman's fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, southeastern American kestrel, and bald eagle. The prescribed fire program on ILSF will enhance the habitat of native fauna and flora.

The FFS manages the forest under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Recreational activities on ILSF include hiking, horseback riding, birding, nature study and picnicking. Group events can be arranged by permit through the field office in Ocala. No hunting is permitted at this time.

In FY 2015-16, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) purchased new conservation land on the east side of ILSF, the Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area. FFS staff collaborated with SJRWMD to collocate an equestrian trail for the new property. Construction of a new Marion County FFS work center and forest headquarters on SW 40th Avenue Road was completed in 2017.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 522 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 567 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 140 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 68 acres were treated in FY 2023-24.
- 156 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 558 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2023-24.

### Visitor Services

- The 12.5 miles of equestrian trails and 2.7 miles of hiking trails have been maintained multiple times over the past two years, by mowing, trimming and herbicide applications. Trails are remarked annually with additional markers to address confusion areas and/or missing trail markers.
- There were an estimated 47,761 visitors and 1,615 campers in FY 2022-23; and 55,894 visitors and 3,173 campers in FY 2023-24.
- Six RV sites with water and electric, one host site, a four-stall bathhouse, and a dump station have been added. The full-service campground opened to the public in February 2024.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 5: Evaluate the potential for additional public access and recreation areas on ILSF that are compatible with multiple-use management. Recreation opportunities will fall under the scope of multiple-use management in accordance with watershed protection, conservation, and ecosystem restoration; and as detailed in the purpose for acquisition. (Short-term objective)
    - Status: Completed. Full-service campground opened in 2024. Number of sites were kept to a minimum to balance resource protection with recreation. And an additional 1.5 miles of hiking trails were added to the existing Bear-N-Oak hiking trail loop. This new addition provides campers and the public more opportunity to hike the forest as well as connecting to existing trails on St. Johns River Water Management property.

**Unit Name:** Jennings State Forest

**Acres:** 25,152

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** October 19, 2018

**County/ies:** Clay / Duval

### **Description/Narrative**

Jennings State Forest (JSF) was acquired under the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL), Save Our Rivers (SOR), Preservation 2000 and the St. Johns River Water Management District ad valorem funds to protect the watershed of the Upper Black Creek. Natural communities found on JSF include sandhill, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, dome swamp, bottomland forest, and blackwater stream. Several ravines can be found on JSF, representing the slow but never-ending process of erosion by the force of water. Many small feeder streams are visible when canoeing between recreational landings on the forest. JSF is divided by the North Fork of Black Creek, Yellow Water and Longbranch Creeks. Visitor access is managed through eight vehicle access points that lead into 65 miles of open road. The forest is open during daylight hours for hiking, bicycling, canoeing, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing. There are currently 13 recreational areas on the forest and all recreation areas have received continued maintenance. In this period 62 miles of forest trail were maintained in 2022/2023 and 63 miles in 2023/2024. JSF takes advantage



of an active volunteer program where 5,287 hours have been logged. Twenty-four annual passes and eleven special event permits have been sold.

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) manages JSF under the multiple-use concept balancing recreational and resource use needs. The Ten-Year Land Management Plan was completed and approved by ARC on October 19, 2018. There have been three wildfires on JSF accounting for 59 acres.

JSF has been certified into the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The SFI program promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 principals, 17 objectives, 41 performance measures and 114 indicators. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Through the SFI program JSF is committed to continuously improve responsible forest management by meeting or exceeding applicable water quality laws and regulations, with measures to manage and protect water, wetlands, and riparian zones. Additionally, JSF will continually evaluate habitat and biodiversity impacts from forest activities.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 3,584 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022/23; and 3,395 acres in FY 2023/24.
- One wildfire on 17 acres in FY 2022/23. Two wildfires on 42 acres in FY 2023/24.
- 5,400 tons of timber harvested in FY 2022/23; and 6,109 tons of timber harvested in FY 2023/24.
- One acre of non-native invasive plants treated in FY 2022/23; and 2.1 acres treated in FY 2023/24.
- 2,611 acres of forest inventoried in FY 2022/23; and 2,552 acres inventoried in FY 2023/24.

### Visitor Services

- 22 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022/23; and 30 miles maintained in FY 2023/24.
- 62 miles of trails maintained in FY 2022/23; and 63 miles of trail maintained in FY 2022/23.
- Approximately 436,556-day use visitors in FY 2022/23; and approximately 425,362-day use visitors in FY 2023/24.
- 3,878 primitive overnight camping passes were issued in FY 2022/23; and 3,693 in FY 2023/24.

- Two annual passes/Three special event permits were sold in FY 2022/23. 22 annual passes/Eight special event permits were sold in FY 2023/24
- Zero culverts were installed in FY 2022/23 and FY 2023/24.
- Eleven programs and tours were given in FY 2022/23. Eight programs and tours were given in FY 2023/24.
- Four education/research projects were completed in FY 2022/23. Seven education/research projects were completed in FY 2023/24.
- 2,949 volunteer hours were recorded in FY 2022/23; and 2,338 volunteer hours were recorded in FY 2023/24.
- One OOF Event (Pioneer Trail Hike/Camp Event) in FY 2022/23. One OOF Event (Pioneer Trail Hike/Camp Event) in FY 2023/24.

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 5: Assess the development of creekside recreational areas accessible from the Old Jennings and Long Branch Tracts.
    - Status: Forest staff has identified one route within each tract that would provide public access for additional creek-based recreational activities. Both routes will take advantage of existing administrative roads to keep forest impacts at a minimum. The Old Jennings Tract addition is currently listed within our five-year recreation and road plans.

**Unit Name:** John M. Bethea State Forest

**Acres:** 37,735

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 19, 2016

**County/ies:** Baker

### **Description/Narrative**

The John M. Bethea State Forest (JMBSF) is comprised of 37,735 acres in Baker County. This property was acquired under the C.A.R.L. program and the Save Our Rivers program. This State Forest is named in honor of John M. Bethea, a former State Forester for over 17 years. Natural communities found on the forest include mesic flatwoods, basin swamp, dome swamp, wet flatwoods, floodplain forest, and basin marsh. Approximately 48% of JMBSF was intensely managed by several previous forest industry companies. Since state acquisition in 2001, JMBSF suffered catastrophic wildfires which impacted over 80% of the State Forest. In order to address the impacts to the Forest from recent wildfires, reforestation activities are being utilized at JMBSF to enable the forest to be more resilient to the effects of wildfire. Over time the forest will recover and continue to fulfill resource, environmental, and recreational needs. Unique features located on the Forest include 2.9 miles of river frontage on the St. Mary's River with some associated floodplain swamp which is ecologically important and provides river access-based recreation, and the Forest is located between the Osceola National Forest and Okefenokee Swamp, which provides a large-scale wildlife corridor for listed species such as black bear.

The FFS manages JMBSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. The following rare, threatened, endangered, or species of special concern are known to exist on the JMBSF: large rosebud orchid, hartwrightia, spotted turtle, gopher tortoise, Carolina gopher frog, Okefenokee zale moth, little-entrance oxyethiran microcaddisfly, great egret, little blue heron, wood stork, blackbanded sunfish, and mud sunfish. Prescribed burning is one of the most important and cost-effective forest management tools used on JMBSF. It not only helps protect the forest from future devastating wildfires but also creates improved wildlife habitat and healthy ecosystems.

JMBSF has been certified into the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The SFI program promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 principals, 15 objectives, and 37 performance measures. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Through the SFI program JMBSF is committed to continuously improve responsible forest management by meeting or exceeding applicable water quality laws and regulations, with measures to manage and protect water, wetlands, and riparian zones. Additionally, JMBSF will continually evaluate habitat and biodiversity impacts from forest activities.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 815 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 8,385 acres in FY 2023-24.

- 25,441.77 tons were harvested in FY 2022-23; and 0 tons in FY 2023-24.
- 59 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY2022-23; and 20 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 3,830 acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 3,810 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 142 acres received mechanical fuel treatments in FY 2022-23 and 48 acres in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 12 miles of roads were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 14 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 12.5 miles of trails were maintained in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- An estimated 158,742-day use visitors utilized the forest in FY 2022-23; and 181,418 visited in FY 2023-24.
- 2 hunt camp permits were issued in FY 2022-23; and 0 were issued in FY 2023-24.
- 207 primitive campsite visitors were issued permits in FY2022-23; and 294 issued in FY 2023-24.
- 1 bridge was repaired in FY 2022-23; and 0 bridges were repaired in FY 2023-24.
- 4 culverts were installed in FY2022-23; and 0 culverts were installed in FY 2023-24.

#### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Kissimmee Bend State Forest

**Acres:** 1,992.12

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** New acquisition in 2020, LMP is in development.

**County/ies:** Okeechobee

#### **Description/Narrative**

Kissimmee Bend State Forest contains 1992.12 acres composed of dry prairie divided by sloughs that support mesic and hydric hammock. FFS will manage KBSF to preserve the water quality of the region and provide for a diverse array of resource-based recreational opportunities. The FFS will seek to maintain the property by preserving the Florida ranch type atmosphere, removing invasive species, maintaining some improved pastures, and possibly continuing the grazing operations. This property is not envisioned as a productive timber tract and will not be managed as such.

The primary objective of the management of KBSF is to preserve the water quality in the region and ensure that the resource-based outdoor recreational opportunities of the property will continue to be enjoyed by youth groups, disabled American veterans through the FFS-administered Operation Outdoor Freedom program, and others in the public. KBSF will be managed with an emphasis toward protecting and restoring native flora and fauna. FFS may continue an emphasis on Florida Heritage ranching, and possibly continue and expand the existing cattle grazing operations.

The property should not require intensive management in the short-term. Over the long term, the intensity of management and related costs will significantly increase as management emphasis shifts from protection and planning to restoration efforts and expanded public use opportunities.

The FFS expects no significant revenue from the management of this property. The amount of future revenue will depend on the acreage that may be grazed, and nature and extent of public use. Consideration will be given in the management planning process to accommodate recreational use development. The magnitude and diversity of future resource-based recreation opportunities offered will depend on establishment of a management plan for the property, funding for positions and using established infrastructure.

KBSF lends itself to diverse recreational opportunities, including but not limited to hiking, primitive camping, equestrian uses, group recreational opportunities, and a very strong component featuring specialty hunts for Operation Outdoor Freedom and youth hunts. Existing roads may be utilized for trails throughout the property providing off-road bicycling, hiking, horseback riding and access to beautiful vistas throughout the landscape.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- No acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 500 acres in FY 2023-2024
- No roads were maintained in FY 2022-23; and .25 miles in FY 2023-24
- No boundary lines were marked in FY 2022-23; and .25 miles in FY 2023-24
- There was no OOF hunts in FY 2022-23; and none FY 2023-2024
- No non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022/23 None were treated in FY 2023/24

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Ten-year LMP in development.
- Repair culvert and repair 1 mile of road
- FY2024/2025 burn 1000 acres FY2025/2026 -912 acres

**Unit Name:** Lake George State Forest

**Acres:** 21,473

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** April 17, 2015

**County/ies:** Volusia

### **Description/Narrative**

Lake George State Forest (LGSF) was acquired under the P2000 and C.A.R.L. programs. Natural communities include mesic flatwoods, floodplain wetlands, sand hills and inter-dispersed cypress and bay depressions. The Forest is one of several publicly owned lands that encompass Lake George, the state's second largest lake. Past uses of LGSF include timber management, naval stores production, grazing and hunting. In 1998 nearly half the acreage of LGSF was damaged during the Firestorm wildfires. Restoration efforts included harvesting salvage timber and reforestation with longleaf pine and slash pine.

FNAI records for LGSF indicate three listed animal species occurring on LGSF: gopher tortoise, Florida black bear, and Florida sandhill crane. The only listed plant species recently identified to occur on LGSF are the celestial lily and the hooded pitcher plant. Other animal species that have been observed on LGSF include Sherman's fox squirrel, and bald eagle. Wildlife inhabiting the forest includes white-tail deer, wild turkey, bobcat, and mourning dove. Hunting is allowed on the Lake George Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Lake George WMA - Dexter/Mary Farms Unit. Other forms of recreation on the forest includes fishing, hiking, primitive camping, horseback riding, bicycle riding, and nature study.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 3,510 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 4,891 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 3,510 tons of timber were harvested in FY 2022-23; and 9,139 tons in FY 2023-24.
- 37 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 128 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 2,400 acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 2,116 acres in FY 2023-24.
- Three wildfires on 54 acres were suppressed in FY 2023-24.
- 46 acres of fuel reduction mowing in FY 2022-23; and 364 acres in FY 2023-24.

### Visitor Services

- 3.5 miles of roads were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 8 miles in FY 2023-24
- Four miles of road were repaired in FY 2020-21.
- 30 miles of roads were mowed in FY 2022-23; and 68.5 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 0.75 miles of trail were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 0.75 miles in FY 2023-24.
- A 0.84-mile trail was installed in FY 2023-24
- An estimated 280,634-day use visitors utilized the forest in FY 2022-23; and 282,352 visited in FY 2023-24.
- 2,767 primitive camping permits were issued in FY 2022-23; and 3,510 in FY 2023-24.
- Sixteen culverts were installed in FY 2022-23; and one in FY 2023-24.
- Two low water crossing was constructed in FY 2023-24.
- Five commercial vendor permits were issued in FY 2022-23; and five in FY 2023-24.
- Six public information programs were conducted in FY 2022-23; and Two in FY 2023-24.
- 7.4 miles of perimeter fire break maintenance was completed in FY 2023-24

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Lake Talquin State Forest

**Acres:** 19,174

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 24, 2011

**County/ies:** Gadsden, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla

### **Description/Narrative**

Lake Talquin State Forest (LTSF) has the distinction of having two Outstanding Florida Waters: The Ochlockonee River and Lake Talquin. The majority of the forest is adjacent to Lake Talquin, and the 595-acre Searcy Tract in Wakulla County is located nine miles south of Bloxham on the Ochlockonee River. In 1977, the Florida Power Corporation donated 13,553 acres to the State of Florida. Subsequent additions include 5,240 acres of land purchased with Preservation 2000 & Florida Forever funds; the 492-acre Bear Creek Tract, purchased via the Land Acquisition Trust Fund; the 62-acre Wainwright Tract, acquired through mitigation; and a 40-acre parcel from an FGT donation. Since taking over management, the FFS has managed for reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and outdoor recreation. Portions of the property have been subleased to the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Talquin Electric, Leon County Parks and Recreation Department, and Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Department.

Natural communities on the forest include upland pine forest, sandhill, upland hardwood forest, floodplain forest and swamp, slope and ravine forest communities and mesic flatwoods. Species found on LTSF include the red-shouldered hawk, bobcat, osprey, white-tailed deer, fox squirrel, turkey, and mourning dove. Species of special concern, such as the bald eagle and gopher tortoise, can also be found on the forest. Prescribed fire is an important management tool and is used on portions of the forest in a two- to three-year rotation. Prior to state ownership, much of LTSF's timber was removed under a long-term timber contract. Native ground cover species and natural stands of longleaf pine are largely absent. Restoration of these communities has been and will continue to be one of the focal points of management.

The FFS manages LTSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Hiking, camping, horseback riding, biking, picnicking, birding, and nature study can be enjoyed using existing service roads, old roadbeds, and established trails. Canoes, kayaks, and power boats provide access to the lake for water-based recreation. Located within the LTSF, Bear Creek Educational Forest offers free environmental educational programs for all age groups where students learn from activities correlated to various current academic standards.

### **Accomplishments**



## Resource Management

- 3,249 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 3,958 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 36.8 acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed in FY 2022-23; and 57.7 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 3018 forest acres inventoried in FY 2022-23 and 2,528 acres inventoried in FY 2023-2024

## Visitor Services

- 66 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022-23; and 150 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 760,754 estimated people for day use in FY 2022-23; and 724,525 estimated in FY 2023-24.
- 1,731 people for primitive camping in FY 2022-23; and 2,022 people in FY 2023-24.
- 272 miles of trails were maintained in FY 2022-23; 107 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 14 miles in state forest boundaries maintained in FY 2022-23; and 16 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 27 programs/tours were conducted in FY 2022-23; and 16 programs/tours in FY 2023-24.
- Two OOF hunts (deer) in FY 2022-23; and two OOF hunts (deer) in FY 2023-24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Objective 2: Conduct or obtain a site assessment / study to identify potential hydrological and restoration needs.

Objective 5: Evaluate the potential for additional public access and Recreation areas on LTSF that are compatible with multiple-use management. Recreation opportunities will fall under the scope of multi-use management in accordance with watershed protection, conservation, and ecosystem restoration; and as detailed in the purpose for acquisition. (Short-term objective)

**Unit Name:** Lake Wales Ridge State Forest

**Acres:** 26,741

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** August 24, 2018

**County/ies:** Polk

### **Description/Narrative**

The Lake Wales Ridge State Forest (LWRSF) is located on or near the ancient Lake Wales Ridge. Today the scrub ecosystem that thrives on the ridge may have the highest concentration of rare and endangered plants in the continental United States. This over 26,700-acre State Forest is part of the largest undeveloped piece of land on the Lake Wales Ridge. The LWRSF was acquired through several different purchases. The majority of the Arbuckle Tract (13,531 acres) was purchased under the Conservation and Recreation Lands program between 1984 and July 1986. In July 1994, Preservation 2000 funds were used to purchase an adjacent 20 acres containing the endangered plant, scrub ziziphus. This species, once believed to be extinct, only occurs in 19 known locations. LWRSF was the first public parcel hosting this species and it now has three separate populations. The Walk-in-the-Water Tract was purchased under the CARL program in June 1995 and November 1996. The Boy Scout, Underwood, and Dawson Parcels were all purchased in 2002 and the Prairie Tract in 2003 under the Florida Forever program.

The LWRSF provides habitat for 39 plants and 36 animals that are currently under federal or state status as threatened or endangered. This list includes the Florida scrub jay and the sand skink. Florida scrub-jay census and habitat monitoring are conducted quarterly by FFWCC. Rare and endangered plants include the pygmy fringe tree, scrub plum, Carter's mustard, scrub-blazing star, and scrub bear grass. Multiple sandhill, scrub, xeric hammock, wet/mesic flatwoods (contain cutthroat grass ecosystems) and scrub restoration projects are ongoing on the forest.

Popular outdoor recreation activities include hunting, , camping, paddling, picnicking, hiking, bird watching, horseback riding , geocache, nature/wildlife photography, and wildlife viewing.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 4,034 acres prescribed burned in FY 2022-23; and 8,337 acres in FY 2023-24.
- No wildfires on LWRSF in FY 2022-23 and no wildfires on LWRSF in 2023/24.
- No timber sales at LWRSF in FY 2022-23 or 2023-2024.
- 90 acres of mechanical oak reduction in sandhill/xeric hammock on Walk in the Water Tract in FY 2022-23. 353 acres of mechanical oak reduction in sandhill/xeric hammock and scrub areas on Walk in the Water Tract in FY 2023-24.

- 410 acres of non-native invasive plants treated and roughly 130 hogs removed in FY 2022-23; and 291 acres of invasive plants treated, and 87 hogs removed in FY 2023-24.
- 2,473 forest acres inventoried in FY 2022-2023; and 1,826 forest acres in FY 2023-24.
- 236 acres of reforestation with 60,000 native South Florida slash and 70,000 longleaf pine seedlings on Arbuckle Tract in FY 2022-23. 384 acres of reforestation with 79,000 South Florida slash and 154,000 longleaf pine seedlings on Arbuckle and Walk in the Water Tracts in FY 2023-24.
- Florida scrub jay surveys on Arbuckle and Walk in the Water Tracts completed by FWC local Biologist and LWRSF staff for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- Monitored all 13 archaeological sites in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24. Plant Conservation Program Biologist plant monitoring of federally listed plant species at Level I, II and/or III for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- 210 total acres surveyed for rare plant species on in FY 2022-23. 270 acres were surveyed for rare plant species in FY 2023-24.
- Approximately 250 bare root cypress were planted on 24 acres in Walk in Water and Prairie Tracts. Approximately 1 acre was planted with *Warea carteri* and wiregrass on Walk in Water Tract in FY 2022/23.
- Annual sand pine Christmas tree sale on Arbuckle Tract sold 46 sand pines for a total revenue of \$460 in FY 2022-23; and 78 sand pines were sold for a total revenue of \$780 in FY 2022-23. LWRSF brought back the Family Fun Day at the McLean Cabin with an attendance of approximately 90 people.
- Continued three grazing/cattle lease agreements for a total of 4,286 acres on Prairie Tract during FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- Continued one citrus grove lease agreement for a total of 371.1 acres on Prairie Tract during FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24;

#### Visitor Services

- 39 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022-23; and 42 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Four 1 Mile of roads rebuilt/repared in FY 2022-23; and 18 of roads rebuilt/repared in FY 2023-24.
- One bridge inspected and 39 miles of roads mowed in FY 2022-23. 69 miles of roads mowed in FY 2023-24.
- 74 miles of trails maintained on Arbuckle and Walk in the Water Tracts in FY 2022-23; and 65 miles of trails maintained on Arbuckle and Walk in the Water Tracts in FY 2023-24.

- 84,443 estimated day use visitors in FY 2022-23; and 101,957 estimated in FY 2023-24.
- 1,746 primitive camping visitors on Arbuckle and Walk in the Water Tracts in FY 2022-23.
- 1,862 primitive camping visitors on Arbuckle and Walk in the Water Tracts in FY 2023-24.
- Two people issued annual pass in FY 2022-23 and two people issued annual passes in 2023/2024.
- Recreation projects completed for FY 2022-23 included: Repair of campground picnic tables, installation of bear proof trash can at Reedy Creek Campground, Updated signage for trails and campgrounds, Native potted trees were purchased and planted at Reedy Creek Campground and Livingston Creek Campground (Formerly Reedy Creek II Hunt Camp)
- Recreation projects completed for the FY 2023-24 included: Livingston Creek Well Signage and Gravel installation, re-formatting the public well access, improvements to the wellhouse, Improvements to the Lake Godwin Day Use area including rebuilding the dock railing and deck surface and adding a fishing line recycling container, installing a pavilion and new heavy duty picnic table and bear proof trash can. Installing new signage along trails on Arbuckle, Walk in the Water and Babson, installation of a new interpretive sign for the McLean Cabin Historic Site, installation of three new hike-in sites along the Arbuckle Loop Trail, installation of several new benches and hiking bridges along the hiking and horse trails on Arbuckle and Walk in the Water, improvements to trailheads for Walk in the Water Big Bay and Scrub Jay trails, and planting of potted shade trees and buffer trees in Livingston Creek Campground.
- 33 miles in state forest boundaries maintained in FY 2022-23; 20 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Two programs/tours were conducted in FY 2022-23; One program/tour was completed in FY 2023-24.
- 366 total volunteer hours were conducted in FY 2022-23; and 200 in FY 2023-24.
- Three OOF hunt/events (one hog/deer, one Spec fishing and one Spring turkey) in FY 2022-23; and three OOF hunts/events (one hog/deer, one Spec fishing and one Spring turkey) in FY 2023-24.

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- **GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities**
  - Objective 8: Evaluate possible recreational opportunities on the Hesperides Tract.
    - Status: Opportunities evaluated (Short-Term Objective)

Babson/Dinner Lake on Hesperides Tract has been evaluated for recreation opportunities and access by the public. Previously, two primitive campsites/day use areas with picnic tables and fire rings were located on Babson by Dinner Lake. They have since been removed due to continued illegal access, dumping and law enforcement reported issues. Currently, hiking, horseback riding, day use, and public parking at the main parking area is permitted. A special use permit is required for gate access on the Babson parcel. In the past few years, road maintenance and improvements have been made to the access road around Dinner Lake on Babson. A new fence was installed in the FY2019/20 on the south boundary of the Babson parcel on Hesperides Tract which has minimized illegal entry and access. A new kiosk, fee area sign and parking area improvement have been completed in past few years on Babson/Dinner Lake on Hesperides tract.

In the 2023/2024 FY a marked trail around dinner lake was added along the service road surrounding the lake. LWRSF Park Rangers check this site for illegal access and dumping periodically. Babson is a popular spot for illegal palmetto berry pickers and the addition of a marked trail will hopefully add more recreation users and discourage illegal access and use.

The Boy Scout parcel on Hesperides Tract contains many listed plants and animals related to interior service roads, therefore, the public access on vulnerable roads is limited. The FFS currently has no future plans to develop recreational facilities on the Boy Scout parcel. There has been interior access road maintenance and improvement on several portions of the Boy Scout Tract.

**Unit Name:** Little Big Econ State Forest

**Acres:** 10,336

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 12, 2021

**County/ies:** Seminole

### **Description/Narrative**

The Little Big Econ State Forest (LBESF) is made up of eight tracts: Demetree, Jones West, Jones East, Spencer Leeper, Rivers Edge, Kilbee, Bothers, and Yarborough Tracts. The majority of the LBESF was acquired as part of the Lower Econlockhatchee Conservation and Recreation Lands Project and by St. Johns River Water Management District under the Save Our Rivers program. Natural communities located on the forest include mesic and wet flatwoods, marsh, and numerous

hydric forest types. The forest's most notable feature is the Econlockhatchee River, which flows through the property and the St. John's River, which makes up the eastern boundary, portions of both rivers are designated as Outstanding Florida Waters. LBESF is historically significant since it contains the first means of crossing the Econlockhatchee River. At one time, the Florida East Coast Railway traversed the property, and that alignment is now used as a recreation trail, managed by Seminole County and maintained by the Florida Trail Association. A large portion of the Demetree, Yarborough and parts of the Kilbee and Bothers Tract were cleared and planted with improved pasture grasses. Cattle operations were active on these parcels prior to St. Johns River Water Management District and State acquisition. Bahia sod and timber were harvested from the property. No other previous agricultural or silvicultural uses are known.

Recreational activities enjoyed at LBESF include canoeing, fishing, hiking, camping, horseback riding, bird watching and mountain bike riding. Hunting is allowed on the Little Big Econ Wildlife Management Area (Kilbee and Yarborough Tracts) which is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under the specific regulations of a Wildlife Management Area.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 283 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; 1,565 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 1 wildfire for a total of 30 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 19 miles of fire lines were disked in FY 2022-23; 21 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 14.4 acres mowed for wildfire mitigation in FY 2022-23.
- 108 acres of fields were mowed in FY 2022-23 and 83 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 27.5 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; 108 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 172.1 acres inventoried in FY 2022-23; 156.6 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 81 hogs were trapped and removed in FY 2022-23; 52 hogs in FY 2023-24.
- 1 archaeology site was monitored in FY 2023-24.
- 4,289 cabbage palms were harvested on the Kilbee and Yarborough tracts in FY 2022-23, for a total revenue of \$64,465.39; 678 cabbage palms were harvested on the Kilbee tract in FY 2023-24, for a total revenue of \$10,170.00.

### Visitor Services

- 30 miles of roads were mowed in FY 2022-23; 49 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 39.8 miles of trails were maintained in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24.

- One mile of road was rebuilt in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24.
- One low water crossing was installed in FY 2022-23.
- Two low water crossings had rock added to them for maintenance in FY 2022-23.
- Three culverts were installed in FY 2023-24.
- 1.4 miles of state forest boundary was maintained in FY 2023-24.
- 7,663 estimated people for day use in FY 2022-23; 82,560 in FY 2023-24.
- 1,724 people went primitive camping in FY 2022-23; 2,198 people in FY 2023-24.
- One hiking bridge was replaced in FY 2022-23; Four hiking bridges replaced in FY 2023-24.
- One bike bridge was replaced in FY 2022-23; Two bike bridges replaced in FY 2023-24.
- 10 miles of bike trail signs were replaced in FY 2022-23.
- 360 Square feet of erosion was fixed on the bike trail in FY 2022-23.
- One water well with pitcher pump was installed for horses at the Brumley road trailhead in FY 2022-23.
- One trailhead was installed in FY 2023-24.
- 11 miles of horse trail signs were replaced in FY 2023-24.
- Two vehicle bridges were treated with water sealant in FY 2022-23.
- Two tours were given in FY 2022-23.
- Installed cement pad in front of the shop building in FY 2023-24.
- Installed a mechanic shed at the state forest shop in FY 2023-24.
- Replaced air conditioner at the state forest headquarters in FY 2023-24.
- Painted state forest headquarters in FY 2023-24.
- Asphalted the state forest headquarters road and parking in FY 2023-24.
- Installed electric roll-up doors for the shop in FY 2022-23.

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 2: Evaluate additional public access and recreational opportunities that are compatible with multiple-use management. (Short-term objective)

- Performance Measure: Number of additional visitor opportunities evaluated.
  - Status: Completed
- GOAL 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective 3: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs. (Short-term objective)
    - Performance Measure: Assessment conducted.
    - Status: Completed

**Unit Name:** Matanzas State Forest

**Acres:** 4,700

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** August 24, 2018

**County/ies:** St. Johns

### **Description/Narrative**

Matanzas State Forest (MaSF) protects the last remaining undisturbed salt marsh within the Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. MaSF is part of a 16,000-acre continuous conservation corridor beginning with Moses Creek, managed by the St. John's River Water Management District, and continuing south through the forest into Faver-Dykes State Park managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Pellicer Creek Conservation Area and Flagler County's Princess Place Preserve. The MaSF was acquired with Florida Forever and St. Johns River Water Management District funds.

Natural community types found on the Forest include basin swamps, depression marshes, dome swamps, estuarine tidal marshes, maritime hammocks, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammocks, scrubby flatwoods, wet flatwoods, and wet prairies.

Significant species on the forest include the wood stork, bald eagle, gopher tortoise, and sandhill crane. About 75% of the forest is upland and made up of pine plantations. There is an archaeological record of possible Native American settlements in the area. Recreational activities on MaSF include picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, off road bicycling, hunting, fishing, and wildlife and birding observations.

### **Accomplishments**



## Resource Management

- 185 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 466 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 16,121 tons of timber were harvested in FY 2022-23; and 6,731 tons in FY 2023-24.
- Sixteen acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 49 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 333 acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 276 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 114 acres of mid rotation herbicide treatment were completed in FY 2022-23; and 107 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 217 acres of fuel reduction chopping was completed in FY 2022-23; and 73 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 122 acres of fuel reduction mowing was completed in FY 2023-24.

## Visitor Services

- An estimated 81,516-day use visitors utilized the forest in FY 2022-23; and 89,807 visited in FY 2023-24.
- 2,349 primitive camping permits were issued in FY 2022-23; and 1,852 in FY 2023-24.
- 3.7 miles of trails were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 3.7 miles in FY 2023-24.
- One culvert was replaced in FY 2022-23; and four in FY 2023-24.
- 64 miles of roads were mowed in FY 2022-23; and 87 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 2.6 miles of roads were repaired in FY 2022-23; and 6 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 5.1 miles of perimeter fire break maintenance was completed in FY 2022-23; and 2.4 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Four public information events were conducted in FY 2022-23; and 2 in FY 2023-24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- **GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreation Opportunities**
  - Objective 2: Continue to assess more recreational opportunities on MaSF.
    - Status: Opportunities assessed (Short-term Objective)  
A 3.1-mile hiking trail was installed along with a parking area and kiosk.  
The second phase of the trail was constructed during FY2020/21.
  - Objective 6: Asses the need for equestrian trails and additional equestrian parking areas.
    - Status: Equestrian trails and parking evaluated. (Short-Term Objective)  
The MaSF staff is continuing to monitor equestrian usage on MaSF.  
Equestrian usage has been consistently low. MaSF staff will continue to track usage.

**Unit Name:** Myakka State Forest

**Acres:** 8,593

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 09, 2023

**County/ies:** Sarasota

**Description/Narrative**

The Myakka State Forest (MSF) is ecologically diverse with mesic flatwoods and numerous depression marshes being the predominant vegetative community types. The Myakka River, designated as an Outstanding Florida Water, flows through the northeast portion of MSF, dividing the forest into two tracts - the larger tract to the west of the river and the smaller tract to the east. The MSF was purchased in 1995 from Atlantic Gulf Communities Corporation (AGCC) as part of the Myakka Estuary Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) project. It was acquired using Preservation 2000 bond funds from the CARL program and from the Save Our Rivers Program. The western portions of the AGCC property, Tracts 21-708- 101A, 21-708-101B and 21-708-106, comprising 8,532 acres, are managed by the FFS as the MSF. In 2000, an additional 61 acres to the north of the present MSF Winchester Tract were acquired, and this piece is now under management by the FFS in cooperation with DEP.

The FFS manages the MSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Outdoor recreational activities available on the forest include hiking, camping, off-road biking, horseback riding, as well as small game hunting opportunities that include wild hog and a limited amount of fishing on the Myakka River. Hunting and fishing activities are regulated by FWC on the Public Small Game Hunting Area of MSF. Game animals include wild hogs and small game as outlined in the management area guidelines. The utilization of black powder was added to types of hunting permitted during Small Game Season. In an effort to control wild hogs on the forest a licensed trapper has been acquired.

Significant wildlife species found on MSF include gopher tortoise, Eastern indigo snake, bald eagle, Florida sandhill crane and wood stork. Florida scrub jays have not been found in the historic natural scrub communities on MSF but have been identified in an area of treeless mesic flatwoods on the southern portion of the Winchester Tract and are monitored annually by FFS personnel. Forest stands on MSF are mixed South Florida slash and Longleaf pine. A complete timber inventory on MSF was completed in 2010. One tenth of the forest is inventoried annually and is on schedule to complete by the end of ten-year inventory cycle. Wildfire mitigation is being accomplished by the ongoing process of controlled burns and roller chopping. Invasive exotic plant species have a moderate occurrence level on MSF. They include cogongrass (*Imperata*

*cylindrica*), Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Old-World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*).

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 3,158 tons of timber were harvested in FY2023-24.
- No planting occurred on MSF in FY2022-23 or 2023-24.
- 0 acres of site prep chopping in the last 2 years.
- Treated 719 acres with prescribed fire in FY2022-23; and 135 acres in FY2023-24.
- Treated 41 acres invasive species in FY2022-23; and 117 acres FY2023-24.
- Completed 921 acres forest inventory in FY2022-23; and 887 acres in FY2023-24.
- Trapped 30 hogs in FY2022-23; and trapped 11 hogs in FY2023-24.
- 36 Hogs were taken in hunts in FY2022-23; and 39 hogs were taken in hunts in FY 2023-24.
- 10 Apiary sites in FY2022-23; and 10 apiary sites in FY2023-24.

### Visitor Services

- Maintained three-mile road in FY2022-23 and FY2023-24.
- Maintained 31 miles trails in FY2022-23 and FY 2023-24.
- Maintained/marked five miles of boundary FY2022-23; and maintained/marked zero miles of boundary FY2023-24.
- 29,514-day use visitors in FY2022-23; and 32,540 in FY 2023-24.
- 2,614 overnight primitive camping FY2022-23; and 1,271 overnight primitive camping in FY2023-24.
- Zero educational programs conducted in FY2022-23 and one educational program conducted in FY2023-24.
- Zero Eagle Scout project was conducted in FY2022-23 or 2023-24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Conduct or obtain a site assessment / study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs.

- Status Complete

Assessments were conducted by SWFWMD on several projects throughout the last ten years with the most recent project completion ending in 2019.

**Unit Name:** Newnans Lake State Forest

**Acres:** 1,109

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 15, 2018

**County/ies:** Alachua

### **Description/Narrative**

Newnans Lake State Forest (NLSF) is located just east of Gainesville in Alachua County. This property has been in state ownership since 1921 when 3,000 acres were acquired to establish a residential farm community for Floridians with developmental disabilities. Over the years, parts of the 3,000-acre property were transferred to other state and local agencies. In January 2015, 1,005 acres of undeveloped land were assigned to the Florida Forest Service to manage as a state forest. NLSF is named after Newnans Lake which lies just east of the forest. Although shallow, this 6,000-acre lake is approximately two miles wide and four miles long.

The FFS manages the forest under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. The ten-year Land Management Plan was completed and approved by ARC on June 15, 2018.

Historically, natural communities on NLSF included mesic and wet flatwoods, sandhill, basin swamp, and bottomland forest. While many of the wetland communities remain in good natural condition, most of the upland communities have been altered by agricultural practices. The first steps of restoration on NLSF have focused on planting longleaf pine seedlings, beginning a prescribed fire program, and removing invasive exotic plants. Rare animal species found on the forest include gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel, and bald eagle. Rare plants include Florida spiny pod and cardinal flower.

Two trailheads are established on NLSF; a short 1.5-mile-long hiking trail is accessible from the West Trailhead; a 5.5-mile-long mountain bike trail and a 2.5-mile-long hiking trail are accessible from the Lake Pithlachocco Trailhead. Although there are currently no launch sites on the property, canoeists and kayakers can paddle along the lakeshore and into the swamps and streams of the forest. Newnans Lake State Forest also provides recreational opportunities to wounded

veterans through the FFS OOF program. Several deer and turkey hunts have been conducted on the forest and have been greatly enjoyed by the veterans.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 7 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 325 acres in FY 2023-24.
- No planting took place during the reporting period.
- 198 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 43 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 278 acres of forest were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 162 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 8,068 tons of timber were harvested in FY 2022-23; and zero tons in FY 2023-24.

### Visitor Services

- The .3 miles of hiking trails and 5.5 miles of bicycle trails on NLSF have been maintained multiple times over the past two years, by mowing, trimming and herbicide applications. All the trails were walked and remarked as needed with new trail markers in FY 2022-23.
- There were an estimated 5,933 visitors in FY 2022-23; and 6,143 visitors in FY 2023-24.
- Four program/tours and 2 ed./research projects occurred in FY 2022-23. Two program/tours and one ed./research project occurred in FY 2023-24.
- Three OOF hunts took place during the reporting period.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal: Evaluate possible additional recreational opportunities, such as an access point for the Potano Paddling Trail, or the circum-Newnans Lake hiking/biking trail.
  - Status: Opportunities evaluated  
Ongoing: Discussion among WaFC staff continues. An observation dock is being planned that would serve as a key connector along the Potano Paddling Trail. A circum-Newnans Lake hiking/biking trail would involve many other property owners.

**Unit Name:** Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest

**Acres:** 32,370

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** December 14, 2012

**County/ies:** Collier & Hendry

### **Description/Narrative**

The Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (OSSF) was purchased with CARL, Save Our Rivers, and P2000 acquisition funds. The area of OSSF was heavily logged in the early 1900s, as the timber was ideal for making railroad crossties for a growing railroad system that was developing in southern Florida. During this time, sawmills began to spring up producing small towns dependent on these sawmills. During that same time period, the Atlantic Land Improvement Company, Inc continued harvesting operations by utilizing two portable sawmills, which were referred to as the Twin Mills. Although the sawmills no longer exist on the forest, remnants of sawdust piles can be found near Twin Mills Grade. Management activities and uses on the property will primarily center on ecosystem restoration, silvicultural management, recreation, wildlife management, hunting, archaeological and cultural resource management, environmental education, and watershed management.

In November 2007, FFS took over management of a 20-acre parcel in Collier County. A 310.08-acre parcel was amended into the FFS lease in July 2013. The Twelve Mile Slough–Panther Mitigation parcel was acquired by the State of Florida in 2011.

Ten natural communities are currently identified on OSSF with mesic flatwoods and swale making up approximately 67 percent of the habitat. The natural systems of the Fakahatchee Strand and Big Cypress Preserve are dependent on the water supplied by the Okaloacoochee Slough. The Okaloacoochee Slough is one of the few places in south Florida in which the pre-Columbian landscape, north of the Everglades or Big Cypress National Preserve, can be observed. This unique natural system provides a large roaming area of contiguous habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The Forest is home to listed, threatened, and endangered species such as the Florida panther, Florida black bear, sandhill crane, wood stork, and gopher tortoise.

Hunting is popular and accomplished on a quota system to include spring gobbler hunt, archery hunt, muzzle loader, and general gun. There is also a small game hunt during which a quota is not required, and feral hogs can also be harvested during this hunt. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission coordinates all hunting activities held on the forest. OSSF offers many miles of open forest roads for hiking and bicycling, and fishing opportunities are plentiful in the numerous canals, ponds, and ditches that are accessible by vehicle.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 118 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 556 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 4 acres of pine flatwoods were brush mowed in FY 2022-23 and zero in FY2023-24; and 77 acres were brush mowed and 77 acres were single pass roller chopped in FY 2022-23 and zero acres in FY 2023-24.
- Over 574 acres of non-native plants were treated in FY 2022-23; Over 710 acres in FY 2023-24, including continued actions to treat early detection and rapid response on a newly found aquatic *Scleria* sp.
- 713 acres of the forest were inventoried in FY 2022-23, and 1182 acres were inventoried in FY 2023-24.
- 85 miles of fireline preparation occurred in FY 2022-23 and 06 miles in FY 2023-24.

### Visitor Services

- In FY 2022-23, 52 miles of road were graded, 2 miles of road were constructed, 9 miles of road were repaired, and 3 low water crossings installed; in FY 2023-24, 20 miles of road were graded.
- In FY 2022-23, 38 miles of trail were maintained; and 1 small parking area was built at a trailhead. In FY 2023-24, 5 miles of trails were maintained.
- In FY 2022-23, 226,922 people visited the forest; and in FY 2023-24, 240,827 people visited the forest.
- In FY 2022-23, 2,832 campers utilized campgrounds; and 4,391 campers utilized the campgrounds in FY 2023-24.
- In FY 2022-23, 8 miles of boundary were marked; and zero miles were marked in FY 2023-24.
- In FY 2022-23, zero OOF hunt was held; and in FY 2023-24, zero OOF hunt was held.
- In FY 2022-23, one educational program was held; and in FY 2023-24, three educational programs were held.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Peace River State Forest

**Acres:** 5,048

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 14, 2019

**County/ies:** DeSoto

### **Description/Narrative**

The primary tract of the Peace River State Forest was acquired through donation by the Mosaic Company in October 2014 with a lease agreement date of February 2015. Additional swamp and overflow lands were obtained in June 2015 completing the total acreage. The Florida Forest Service has management responsibility for Peace River State Forest. The property has a rich history of agricultural use, including serving as a home for rhinos, hippos, giraffes, and other exotic “hoofstock” for nearly a decade. The management plan of the Florida Forest Service guides the grazing, outdoor recreation, timber, wildlife, and ecological restoration on the forest using the multiple-use concept. This forest was dedicated to our Nation’s disabled veterans, as well as the Operation Outdoor Freedom program, administered through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service. The 10-year Land Management Plan was completed and approved by ARC on June 14, 2019.

Peace River State Forest includes a variety of improved range and natural communities, including floodplain forest, cypress, mixed hammock, and remnants of pine flatwoods. Several miles of largely undisturbed frontage along Horse Creek and the Peace River provides abundant wildlife habitat.

Recreational opportunities include hiking trails, an equestrian trail, and hunting as part of the Operation Outdoor Freedom program. Additional opportunities are currently under evaluation, including primitive youth camping and canoeing/kayaking.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- Prescribed burn 0 acres FY 2022-23; and prescribed burn 86 acres in FY 2023-24.
- Treated 30 acres of invasive plant species in FY 2022-23; and treated 63 acres invasive plant species in FY 2023-24.
- 580 acres of the forest were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 530 acres in FY 2023-24.



- Conducted 28 acres of mechanical treatment (mowing/mulching) in FY 2022-23, 51 acres of mechanical treatment (mowing/mulching) in FY 2023-24.
- 45 acres of site prep burn were conducted in FY 2023-24.
- 1,000 Slash pine seedlings were planted on 25 acres in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- Maintained three miles of road in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24.
- Maintained eight miles of trail in FY 2022-23 and in FY 2023-24.
- 9,387-day use visitors in FY 2022-23, 9,958-day use visitors in FY 2023-24.
- 0 hogs were removed by trap in FY 2022-23, 4 Hogs were removed by trap in FY 2023-24.
- 18 hogs were removed by hunting in FY 2022-23, 91 hogs were removed by hunting in FY 2023-24.
- Three OOF hunt in FY 2022-23; and eight OOF hunts (deer/hog, hog, turkey) in FY 2023-24.
- One Boy scout project in FY 2023-2024.

#### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal: Evaluate possible additional recreational opportunities.

- Performance measure:

Opportunities evaluated.

Status: Complete

1. A parking area for a fishing/canoe/ kayak launch on county road 769 by Horse Creek has been evaluated.
2. Evaluation of the hunt camp structure, within the walking trail boundary, as a possible primitive youth camp is still ongoing.
3. The addition of a primitive campsite along Horse Creek has been evaluated.

**Unit Name:** Picayune Strand State Forest

**Acres:** 74,143

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 12, 2020

**County/ies:** Collier

### **Description/Narrative**

The Picayune Strand State Forest (PSSF) is made up of two tracts, the South Golden Gate Estates Tract, and the Belle Meade Tract, both of which are Florida Forever projects. Most of the land within the Forest boundaries was purchased under the Save Our Everglades, Conservation and Recreation Lands, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever programs at a cost of over \$131 million dollars. The property was acquired to restore the sheet flow of freshwater through the strand, which is necessary for the continued existence of the ecologically sensitive Ten Thousand Islands and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. PSSF is in the heart of an ecosystem called the Big Cypress Basin. The majority of this hydric forest is under water during periods of considerable rainfall. The forest is comprised of cypress strands, wet prairie, and pine flatwoods in the lowlands and subtropical hardwood hammocks in the uplands. The northern section of the Belle Meade Tract contains many second growth South Florida slash pine, with some remnant trees being over 100 years old. The South Golden Gate Estates Tract comprises the majority of the forest. The land which is currently PSSF was originally logged for cypress trees in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s, a developer purchased over 57,000 acres to create the largest subdivision in America to be called "Golden Gate Estates." A massive system of canals and roads was built and thus began the infamous "swampland in Florida" scam. In 1985, a plan was put into place to purchase SGGE using CARL funds under the "Save Our Everglades" program. Restoration activities started with the Prairie Canal being plugged and a tieback levee completed between two of the three planned pump stations. All three pump stations have been completed. Construction of the Merritt Pump Station was completed in 2015, with the other two pump stations coming online in 2017 and 2018. At the conclusion of this project, 45 miles of canals will be plugged and 227 miles of asphalt on roads will be removed that were constructed by land developers in the 1960s.

Multiple acquisitions took place between 2011 and 2013 bringing over 397 acres into FFS management at PSSF. Two were donations of property, four were settlement agreements, and one was a final judgment.

Major community groups represented on the forest include mesic and wet flatwoods, wet prairie, strand swamp and dwarf cypress savanna. Significant species on the forest include the Florida panther, Florida black bear, red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle, eastern indigo snake, Big Cypress fox squirrel, wood stork, gopher tortoise and sandhill crane. Recreational activities enjoyed at PSSF include fishing, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding. PSSF has an annual Picayune Strand State Forest Day titled "Festival in the Woods."

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- In FY 2022-23, 4,865 acres were treated with prescribed fire and there were six wildfires that burned 95 acres; and 12,928 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2023-24, and there were two wildfires that burned 65 acres.
- In FY 2022-23, 38,000 acres were considered restored due to hydrologic restoration of drained areas; and in FY 2023-24, 40,000 acres were considered hydrologically restored.
- In FY 2022-23, 318 acres were brush mowed for the protection of existing south Florida slash pine forests and to promote additional prescribed fire next to the I-75 corridor, and 61 acres of cabbage palms were brush mowed and chemically treated for a seed tree treatment; and in FY 2023-24 approximately 291 acres were treated through forestry mowing or herbicide to reduce overcrowding of cabbage palms to allow for less intense prescribed burns and to protect the existing south Florida slash pine overstory.
- Palm fronds were harvested from 1,269 acres in FY 2022-23, and 1,299 acres in FY 2023-24.
- In FY 2022-23, 236 acres were treated for non-native invasive plants; and 538 acres in were treated in FY 2023-24.
- In FY 2022-23, 7,667 acres were inventoried; and in FY 2023-24, 8,553 acres were inventoried.
- Continued to coordinate with the Everglades Restoration Project known as the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, managed by the South Florida Water Management District.

### Visitor Services

- In FY 2022-23, 66 miles of road were maintained and 14 miles of road repaired; and in FY 2023-24, 89 miles of road were maintained, and seven miles of road were repaired.
- In FY 2022/23, 44 miles of trail were maintained with the addition of 2.5 miles of bike trail; and in FY 2023-24, 44 miles of trail were maintained.
- In FY 2022-23 760,668 people visited the forest; and in FY 2023-24, 776,566 people visited.
- The forest held four educational programs and tours in FY 2022-23, and eight educational programs and tours in FY 2023-24.
- In FY 2022-23, 4,147 campers utilized the campgrounds; and 3,692 campers utilized the campgrounds in FY 2023-24.
- In FY 2022-23, 10 miles of boundary were marked; and zero miles were marked in FY 2023-24.
- In FY 2022-23, one OOF hunt was held; and two hunts were held in FY 2023-24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal 2: Public Access and Recreation
- Objective 3: Assess additional public access and recreational opportunities.

- Status: Achieved

Additional opportunities were created with points of interest, interpretive signage on trails, newsletters in kiosks, and a network was created using volunteers and frequent users of the forest to update forest conditions via email or other social media. The two annual, private special events were increased to four.

**Unit Name:** Pine Log State Forest

**Acres:** 8,036.82

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 11, 2022

**County/ies:** Bay and Washington

**Description/Narrative**

Florida's State Forest system began in the mid-1930s with the establishment of Cary and Pine Log State Forests. These State Forests were the outcome of a federal work program called the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The mission of the CCC was to put young men to work in conservation jobs during the time of the great depression. Pine Log State Forest (PLSF), Florida's first State Forest, was obtained in 1936. At the time of acquisition (1936-1938), the property was largely cut over and had been subjected to annual fires. Considerable tree planting occurred during 1943-1950 and again during 1958-1961. During these periods most of the plantable land on the property was reforested with "off-site" planting of slash pine. Some of the "off-site" areas have been restored (primarily to longleaf pine) and plans call for additional restoration. In October of 2010, a 126.41-acre piece was acquired through mitigation. The lease amendment was executed in August of 2012. In April of 2019, 322.00-acres was donated from FDOT. In November of 2020, the Washington Crossing Tract consisting of 624.70 acres was added through the Florida Forever Program. Natural communities found on the forest include sand hill, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, sand hill ponds, basin swamps, and bottomland forests. Pine Log Creek runs through the northern portion of the forest. PLSF is home to a diverse mixture of animal and plant species. Those animals and plants currently listed as or endangered, threatened that have been found on the forest include flatwoods salamander, gopher tortoise, southern milkweed, white-top pitcher-plant and Chapman's crownbeard. Recreational activities on PLSF include fishing, hunting, swimming, picnicking, hiking, off-road bicycling, camping, and nature study. The Campground Loop and Dutch Tiemann Loop Trails are part of the FFS's Trailwalker Program. A boat ramp and parking lot are available on Pine Log Creek, and a canoe trail runs approximately 12 miles to the Choctawhatchee River. The PLSF Recreation Area contains a covered pavilion, restroom building, well and pump house, sanitary dump station, four primitive campsites, two group camping areas, and the 20-site RV campground. These RV sites are all equipped with both electric and water hook-ups. Timber management practices are important in the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of socioeconomic benefits to Floridians. The revenue generated

from timber sales on PLSF has totaled over \$1 million during the last 20 years. The FFS returns 15 percent of the revenue obtained from timber harvests, recreation, and other income-producing services to Washington County.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 2,852 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 2,405 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 12 acres of invasive species treated in FY 2022-23; and 34 acres in FY 2023-24.
- Four miles of boundary maintained in FY 2022-23; and four miles in FY 2023-24.
- 42 acres of wildlife habitat enhanced in FY 2022-23; and 86 acres in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 13 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022-23; and 13 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 48 miles of trails maintained in FY 2022-23; and 47 miles of trails in FY 2023-24.
- 504,150-day users in FY 2022-23; and 505,934 in FY 2023-24.
- 26,780 overnight full facility users in FY 2022-23; 24,980 in FY 2023-24.
- 5,905 primitive camping users in FY 2022-23; and 5,550 in FY 2023-24.

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Evaluate the potential for additional public access and recreational areas on PLSF that are compatible with multiple-use management. Recreational opportunities will fall under the scope of multiple-use management in accordance with watershed protection, conservation, ecosystem restoration; and as detailed in the purpose for acquisition. (Short-term objective).
  - Performance Measure: List of viable access points and visitor opportunities for consideration.
    - Status: Ongoing
- A new public parking area has been established to provide access to the Sand Pond Recreation Area. Additional options are being considered Conduct or obtain a site assessment / study to identify potential hydrology restoration needs. (Short-term objective).

**Performance Measure:** Assessment conducted. Ongoing: PLSF personnel are working with the hydrology section to coordinate an assessment.

**Unit Name:** Plank Road State Forest

**Acres:** 15,837

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 2020

**County/ies:** Jefferson & Leon

### **Description/Narrative**

Plank Road State Forest (PRdSF) consists of 10,380 acres along the upper St. Marks River corridor in Leon and Jefferson Counties. Its name is derived from the historic wood plank road which was constructed in the mid-1800's with the purpose of transporting cotton and other goods from Newport, where the St. Marks River ceases to be reasonably navigable, to the Georgia line. The road was never finished and only made it to what is currently US 27, west of Tallahassee. Although there are no signs of the original plank road, what is now a paved portion of Old Plank Road makes up part of the PRdSF boundary on the west.

The St. Marks River is the dominant feature flowing through the forest toward Natural Bridge. The intact forested wetlands of PRdSF provide a water quality buffer for this Outstanding Florida Water, as well as protection of numerous springs, including the second magnitude Horn Spring located on the boundary of the adjacent State Park, and further south to the first magnitude St. Marks Spring. The property is habitat for an abundance of wildlife, and serves as a corridor between the St. Marks Headwaters, L. Kirk Edwards to the Aucilla WMA, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and the Gulf of Mexico.

### **Accomplishments**

Resource Management

- 1,774 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 1,820 acres in FY 2023-24.

- 979 forest acres inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 3,480 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 7 acres of invasive exotics were treated in FY 2022-23; and 19 acres of invasive exotics were treated in FY 2023-24
- 10 miles of boundaries marked in FY 2022-23; and 10.1 miles in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 13 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022-23; and 32 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Eight miles of roads repaired in FY 2023-24.
- 58 miles of roads mowed in FY 2022-23; and 75 miles of roads mowed in FY 2023-24.
- Three culverts installed in FY 2022-23; and two culverts installed in FY 2023-24.
- Three low water crossings installed in FY 2022-23 and five installed in FY 2023-2024.
- One OOF hunt on the Old Plank Tract in FY 2022-23; One OOF hunt in FY 2023-24.

#### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal 2:
  - Objective 4: Solicit and organize a liaison committee. The committee should consist of a mix of local residents, community leaders and special interest group representatives (canoe vendors, hunters, trail hikers, military, organized equestrian groups, etc.), environmental groups, and other public/private entities to establish communication and seek constructive feedback regarding the management of PRdSF”. (Short-term Goal)
    - Performance Measures:
      - Liaison group is organized. (Completed)
      - Meetings are held. (Completed)

**Unit Name:** Point Washington State Forest

**Acres:** 15,363

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** August 19, 2016

**County/ies:** Walton

**Description/Narrative**

Point Washington State Forest (PWSF) was acquired as part of the South Walton County Ecosystem Conservation and Recreation Lands project. St. Joe Paper Company owned the entire property since the 1930s and managed it for timber production. In 1986, the property was sold to a development corporation. After purchase by the development corporation, extensive timber harvesting occurred. Little or no effort was put into regeneration. A hunting club managed the property for quail and deer hunting and conducted some prescribed burning. Several of those burns escaped and caused damage to the remaining natural timber and understory. A 9.43-acre parcel was acquired in December 2012 and subsequently leased to FFS. The parcel was purchased using FFS and Florida Forever funds.

Major natural communities found on PWSF include sand hill, mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, basin swamp, wet prairie, dome swamp, coastal scrub, scrubby flatwoods and blackwater stream. Several plants and animals are listed as threatened, endangered or species of special concern on PWSF: American kestrel, gopher tortoise, flatwoods salamander, white-topped pitcher plant and the world's largest population of Curtiss sandgrass. The use of controlled fire in managing timber, wildlife, and ecological resources on PWSF is necessary for the FFS to fulfill its goal of protecting and managing Florida's forest resources. Objectives of the prescribed burning program include reducing fuel loads, diminishing hazardous conditions, and maintaining biodiversity.

PWSF is available to the public for various types of natural resource based outdoor recreation. The forest is widely used for hunting, off-road bicycling, and hiking. PWSF is part of the Point Washington Wildlife Management Area and regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Eastern Lake Trail System consists of three double track loop trails of 3.5, five or 10-mile loops and is included in the FFS's Trailwalker Hiking Program. The Longleaf Greenway trail system crossing the forest has also been established. Future opportunities include providing connections to Grayton Beach State Park, Deer Lake State Park, Topsail Hill State Preserve, Butler Elementary School, and numerous residential developments. An equestrian trail is also established on the north end of the forest providing a unique experience for multiple-use travel. Four primitive camp sites have been added at the head of Eastern Lake. These sites provide guests with a raised camping pad, lantern holder, picnic table, and community latrine.

**Accomplishments**

**Resource Management**

- 1,091 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 3,002 acres in FY 2023-24.
- Zero acres restored in FY 2022-23; and zero acres restored in FY 2023-24.
- 0 acres of timber harvested in FY 2022-23; and 0 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 2,454 acres inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 1,726 acres in FY 2023-24.



- Six acres of invasive exotics were treated in FY 2022-23; and 46 acres in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 70 miles of road maintained in FY 2022-23; and 31 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 19 miles of boundary marked in FY 2022-23; and 22 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Approximately 574,577 visitors to the forest in FY 2022-23; and approximately 593,779 in FY 2023-24.
- 8,225 primitive campers in FY 2022-23; and 6,985 in FY 2023-24.
- Annual OOF Trail Run with three, five, six, and 11-mile trail options.

#### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal: Build 30A Trailhead  
Performance Measures:  
1) Completion of trailhead and parking lot.  
Completed: FY 2023-24
- Goal: Close, rehabilitate, or restore those roads and trails that have evidence of erosion into surrounding water bodies causing alterations to the hydrology.  
Performance Measures:  
1) Total number of roads and trails closed, rehabilitated, or restored.  
Ongoing: Started August 19, 2018
- Goal: McQuage Bayou Fence and Pole barn roof replacement.  
Performance Measures:  
1) Installation of new fencing and roofing material.  
Status: Ongoing
- Goal: Add interpretive signs to each trail system  
Performance Measures:  
1) Installation of interpretive signage on each trail system  
Status: Ongoing

**Unit Name:** Ralph E. Simmons Memorial State Forest

**Acres:** 3,638

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** March 8, 2016

**County/ies:** Nassau

### **Description/Narrative**

Ralph E. Simmons Memorial State Forest (RESMSF) is currently comprised of 3,638 acres located in northwestern Nassau County. RESMSF (previously known as St. Mary's State Forest) was renamed in 1996 as a memorial to a former St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board Member who was instrumental in the purchase of the forest. The St. Johns River Water Management District purchased the parcel with funds from the P2000 and the Save Our Rivers Programs. The FFS currently manages the property through a management agreement established in 1992 with the St. Johns River Water Management District. Major natural communities include ravine bottomland forest, mesic flatwoods, sand hills, and upland hardwoods. The forest has 6.7 miles of river frontage on the St. Mary's River. The river and two oxbow lakes along with numerous cypress stands, ponds and swamps provide an abundance of fish as well as a water source for the many types of wildlife that live on the forest. Many species of wildlife are found residing on the forest. Wildlife that is frequently seen include white-tailed deer, fox, wild turkey, bobcat, gopher tortoise and otter. Timber management practices on RESMSF are important to the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of socioeconomic benefits to Floridians. Longleaf pine is being reintroduced in an effort to restore the forest for the enjoyment of future generations.

The prescribed fire program on RESMSF greatly enhances the habitat of native fauna and flora living on the forest. It is important to not exclude fire from the management practices on the forest as two rare plants, parrot pitcher plant (*Sarracenia psittacina*) and Longspike Tridens (*Tridens strictus*), are found on the forest and both are fire dependent. Hiking and horseback riding are popular recreation activities on the forest as vehicle access is not allowed on RESMSF except during hunting periods.

### **Accomplishments**

Resource Management

- 1,311 acres treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 2,288 acres in FY 2023-24.

- 0.10 acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed in FY 2022-23; and 2 acres in FY 2023/24.
- Zero acres of forest inventoried were conducted in FY 2022-23; and 595 acres in FY 2023/24.
- Zero miles of boundary maintenance in FY 2022-23; and zero miles in FY 2023-24.

Visitor Services

- 10 miles of trails maintained in FY 2022-23; and 10 miles maintained in FY 2023-24.
- 254 primitive overnight campers visited the forest in FY 2022-23; and 65 in FY 2023-24.
- Three program/tours were given in FY 2022-23; and Two were given in FY 2023-24.
- One research/education project was done in FY 2022-23; and zero in FY 2023-24.
- 17,568 day use visitors came to the forest in FY 2022-23; and 13,721 came in FY 2023-24.
- One athletic event took place in the forest in FY 2022-23; and zero in FY 2023-24.
- 497 hours of volunteer work in FY 2022-23; and 250 hours of volunteer work in FY 2023-24.

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Ross Prairie State Forest

**Acres:** 3,541

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** October 18, 2019

**County/ies:** Marion

**Description/Narrative**

Ross Prairie State Forest (RPSF) is located in southwest Marion County, approximately 18 miles southwest of Ocala and about one mile south of the intersection of SR 200 and CR 484. The

northwest tip of RPSF is bounded by SR 200. This property was acquired in 1995 under the P2000, Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program, specifically, the Longleaf Pine Uplands Project. The forest's diverse ecological communities include sandhills, depression marshes, mesic flatwoods, and scrubby flatwoods. RPSF shares a two-mile common boundary to the north with the publicly owned Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and is named after the basin marsh that spans both properties. The primary mission of the FFS in managing RPSF is to protect and manage the unique resources of the forest through a stewardship ethic to assure these resources will be available for future generations. This will be accomplished by implementing sound multiple-use management principles. In 2012, a 5.16-acre parcel was acquired using FFS in-holdings and acquisitions funds.

The FFS utilizes a total fire management program on state forests that includes wildfire prevention, detection, suppression, and an aggressive prescribed fire program for fuel reduction and ecological management.

Recreational activities on RPSF include hiking, horseback riding, limited hunting, birding, nature study and primitive camping. Hiking and horseback riding are the most frequent recreational activities due to the adjacent property (Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway) where these activities are increasing.

Natural communities on the forest are mainly sandhills with scrubby flatwoods and xeric hammock surrounding basin marsh. The following listed plant and animal species are present on RPSF: garberia, sandhill spiny-pod, three-birds orchid, gopher tortoise, gopher frog, Florida mouse, indigo snake, and Florida scrub jay. Monitoring of scrub jays continues. The scrub jay population on RPSF has decreased to zero families. Habitat restoration continues in an effort to bring back neighboring jays back onto the forest.

## **Accomplishments**

### Resource Management

- 761 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 1,462 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2023-24.
- 55 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 13 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 196 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 406 forested acres were inventoried in FY 2023-24.

### Visitor Services

- Regular mowing and disking of fire lines.
- 14.9 miles of equestrian trails and 2.3 miles of hiking trails have been maintained multiple times over the past two years by mowing, trimming and herbicide applications.

- There were an estimated 3,918 visitors and 151 primitive campers in FY 2022-23; and 3,316 visitors and 81 primitive campers in FY 2023-24.

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal: Public Access and Recreational Opportunity
  - Objective: Assess additional public access and recreational opportunities.
    - Performance Measure: Number of additional visitor opportunities per day. Visitor use and impacts are monitored annually. Current visitor use on the forest is not having a measurable impact on the forest resources. With another state agency's lands located adjacent to this property, public use is dispersed between the two agencies' properties. Visitors use numbers and impacts will continue to be monitored.

**Unit Name:** Seminole State Forest

**Acres:** 30,178

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** June 17, 2024

**County/ies:** Lake

### **Description/Narrative**

Seminole State Forest (SSF) is comprised of 30,169.25-acres in two separate tracts. The Seminole Tract is within the Wekiva River Basin in eastern Lake County, approximately 9 miles west of Sanford, Florida. The Warea Tract is on the northern end of the Lake Wales Ridge in southern Lake County, approximately six miles east-southeast of Clermont, Florida. The distinctive character of SSF is its ecological diversity, which includes nearly all of the naturally occurring vegetation communities found in Central Florida. Some of the major natural communities found on the forest include mesic flatwoods, hydric hammocks, scrub, and sandhill. Other unique features include 19 named springs, and portions of two of the three waterways that make up a federally dedicated National Wild and Scenic River System.

Together with other adjacent public and private lands, the forest provides a vital wildlife corridor between the Wekiva Basin and the Ocala National Forest. This corridor has an abundance of wildlife including the Florida black bear. The forest provides habitat for one of the largest populations of the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay on any state-owned land and is one of the few areas with a stable population. The Florida scrub-jay is the only bird species found exclusively in Florida and can be seen in several areas across SSF.

The first of over 90 individual parcels that comprise the forest was acquired beginning in 1990. These properties were acquired under the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL), Save Our Rivers (SOR), Preservation 2000 (P2000), FFS in-holdings and additions programs, and Florida Forever to protect significant habitat for endangered species. The majority of the 30,169.25-acre Seminole Tract was acquired as part of the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway CARL Project, formerly known as the Wekiva-Ocala Connector. The 120-acre Warea Tract was acquired as part of the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem CARL Project.

There are over 32 miles of hiking and 26 miles of equestrian trails. A portion of the hiking trails is part of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Bicyclists can access over 25 miles of open roads. Access for canoeists to Black Water Creek is provided through a day use/boat launch area. [There are five reservation-only, drive-up primitive campsites, which include three group sites, and another three reservation-only hike-in primitive campsites. Two of the reservation campsites are accessible by paddling on Black Water Creek. In addition, three camp zones are located along the Florida National Scenic Trail. Portions of the forest are designated as FWC wildlife management areas, offering a variety fishing opportunities and quota and small game hunting.

### **Accomplishments**

Resource Management: FY 2022-23

- 1,580 acres prescribed burned
- 222 acres of scrub restoration
- 150 acres of sandhill hardwood removal
- 9,308 tons of timber harvested
- 19 invasive feral hogs removed
- 43 acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed
- 2,395 forest acres inventoried

Resource Management: FY 2023-24

- 3,118 acres prescribed burned
- 364 acres of scrub restoration
- 51 invasive feral hogs removed

- 52 acres of non-native invasive plants treated or removed
- 575 forest acres inventoried
- 13 miles of boundary maintenance

Visitor Services: FY 2022-23

- 52 miles of trails maintained
- 525,544-days of visitor use
- 3,342 primitive camping visitor's days used

Visitor Services: FY 2023-24

- Six miles of roads maintained
- 52 miles of trails maintained
- 532,312-days of visitor use
- 2,593 primitive camping visitor's days used

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal: Public Access and Recreation Opportunities
  - Objective: Evaluate the potential for additional public access and recreation areas on SSF that are compatible with multiple-use management. Recreation opportunities will fall under the scope of multi-use management in accordance with watershed protection, conservation, and ecosystem restoration; and as detailed in the purpose for acquisition.
    - Performance Measure: List of viable access points and visitor opportunities for consideration.
      - Status: Not completed.
- Goal: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs.
    - Performance Measure: Assessment conducted
      - Status: Not completed.

**Unit Name:** Tate's Hell State Forest

**Acres:** 212,645

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** October 18, 2019

**County/ies:** Franklin, Liberty, and Wakulla

### **Description/Narrative**

Tate's Hell State Forest (THSF) was purchased under the CARL and Florida Forever Programs. Portions of the forest were also purchased with P2000 and Florida Forever funds. During the 1960s and 1970s, the hydrology was substantially altered with the construction of roads and associated ditches in an attempt to establish extensive tracts of pine plantations and enhance the production of pine timber. The roads and ditches have impacted historic hydrological functions to various degrees, and the pine plantations have replaced or displaced historic vegetation in many areas.

The FFS manages THSF under the multiple-use mandate balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. The FFS sustainably thins approximately 3,000 acres of pine plantations yearly as part of long-term forest management, generating revenue for the state and supporting the rural economy in north Florida. THSF is also a Wildlife Management Area and is open to regulated hunting under the direction of the FWC.

Since 2015, THSF has been certified into the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The SFI program promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 principals, 17 objectives, and 41 performance measures. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Through the SFI program, THSF is committed to continuously improve responsible forest management by meeting or exceeding applicable water quality laws and regulations, with measures to manage and protect water, wetlands, and riparian zones. Additionally, THSF will continually evaluate habitat and biodiversity impacts from forest activities.

Currently, THSF contains approximately 107,300 acres of hydric communities such as wet prairie, wet flatwoods, strand swamp, bottomland forest, baygall, and floodplain swamp. The restoration of these ecosystems is a primary objective of the FFS. The predominant hydrologic feature within the state forest is Tate's Hell Swamp. The Apalachicola River and Bay are designated as Outstanding Florida Waters. The New, Ochlockonee, and Crooked Rivers are major rivers that adjoin the state forest, and numerous other creeks flow throughout the forest. In 2010, The NFWMD completed a Hydrologic Restoration Plan for the entire THSF. There are 29 identified surface water drainage basins prioritized into 15 project areas to restore historic drainage patterns. Nine hydrologic restoration projects have been previously completed on 52,355 acres. The latest restoration project completed was the Cash Creek basin, impacting 8,783 acres, finished in November 2015. Twelve high-priority basins were approved for a five-year restoration plan under Florida's RESTORE program in 2017, which is currently underway.



Thirty-one rare animal and 24 plant species have been identified as having potential habitat areas on THSF. Important wildlife species commonly sighted on THSF include the bald eagle, Florida black bear, gopher tortoise, and red-cockaded woodpecker. Rare plant species on the forest include thick-leaved water-willow, white birds-in-a-nest, Florida bear grass, Chapman's butterwort, and small-flowered meadow beauty. New colonies of Chapman's butterwort were found in 2014 and continue to attract research from university botanists. Unique stands of dwarf or "hat-rack" cypress also occur on the forest. Reputedly some trees are over 150 years old with a mature height of only 15 feet. Based on a small dendrochronology sample taken in September 2015, ages range from 171 to 280 years old. Other research interests on Tate's Hell include dendrochronology of Atlantic White Cedar, FWC demographics on black bears, tracking migratory birds, ants, milkweed plant genetics, ornate chorus frogs, and several federally listed rare plants.

Over fifty miles of rivers, streams and creeks are available for canoeing, boating, and fishing. A concrete boat launch is located at Cash Creek and Rock Landing, with additional launch sites available at locations throughout the forest. Primitive campsites are dispersed throughout the forest. Most sites are on the riverbanks with canoe/kayak/small boat access.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 28,253 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 55,257 acres in FY 2023-24 for a total of 83,510 acres.
- 189 acres of longleaf were restored in FY 2022-23; and 0 acres of longleaf pine were restored in FY 2023-24 for a total of 189 acres restored.
- 10,339 tons of timber were harvested in FY 2022-23; 91,862 tons in FY 2023-24 for a total of 102,201 tons harvested.
- 1,404 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated or removed in FY 2022-23; and 143 acres in FY 2023-24 for a total of 1,547 acres.
- 21,860 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 20,797 forest acres in FY 2022-23 for a total of 42,657 acres.
- THSF responded to 5 acres of wildfire in FY 2022-23; and 80 acres in FY 2023-24 for a total of 85 acres.
- THSF participated in no education/research project in FY 2022-23; and one in FY 2023-24, for a total of 1 project.
- 68 miles of state forest boundary was marked in FY 2022-23; and 49 miles in FY 2023-24 for a total of 117 miles.

#### Visitor Services

- 709 miles of roads were maintained (graded, rebuilt, and repaired) in FY 2022-23 and 576 miles in FY 2023-24 for a total of 1,285 miles.
- Nine miles of hiking trails and 150 miles of OHV trails were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 12 miles of hiking trails and 150 miles of OHV trails were maintained in FY 2023-24 for a total of 321 miles.
- 2,858,114 visitors were recorded in FY 2022-23 and 2,043,911 visitors in FY 2023-24 for a total of 4,902,025 visitors.
- 160 OHV day use passes were issued in FY 2022-23; and 176 were issued in FY 2023-24 for a total of 336 passes.
- 38 annual OHV use passes were issued in FY 2022-23; and 29 were issued in FY 2023-24 for a total of 67 passes.
- 15,830 camping passes were issued in FY 2022-23; and 16,261 were issued in FY 2023-24 for a total of 32,091 passes issued.
- 17 culverts/low water crossings were installed in FY 2022-23; and 9 in FY 2023-24 for a total of 26.

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal: Public Access and Recreational Activities-Assess additional public access and recreational opportunities. (Short-term Goal)
  - Performance Measure: Number of additional visitor opportunities.
    - Status: In FY 2022-23, THSF completed expanding the Cash Creek Campground to include a new bath house and 11 new sites with electricity. In FY 2022-23, THSF added 3 miles of hiking trails to the Cash Creek Campground.

**Unit Name:** Tiger Bay State Forest

**Acres:** 28,055

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** October 21, 2010

**County/ies:** Volusia

### **Description/Narrative**

The Tiger Bay State Forest (TBSF) is comprised of more than 28,000 acres. The purchase of this forest began in 1977 under the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, with additional major acquisitions made in 1994 and 2004. In late 1997, the 11,000-acre Rima Ridge Tract was acquired jointly with the St. Johns River WMD using Save Our Rivers funding. Easements to the Cities of Ormond Beach and Daytona Beach for multiple supply wells and pumping stations exist on the Rima Ridge Tract. Gopher tortoise is commonly observed in the scrubby flatwoods areas of the forest. Several listed plants have been identified on the forest, including the federally listed Rugel's false pawpaw, the state-listed celestial lily, large-flowered rosemary, hooded pitcher plant, Catesby's lily and garberia.

Recreational activities enjoyed at TBSF include picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, primitive camping, fishing, hunting, nature study, photography, and mountain bike riding. TBSF is open to hunting, managed by FWC as the Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area (TBWMA) and the Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area-Rima Ridge Unit.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 345 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 626 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 12,395 tons of timber were harvested in FY 2022-23; and 10,208 in FY 2023-24.
- 25 acres of non-native invasive plant species were treated in FY 2022-23; and 69 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 3,002 acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 2,145 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 144 acres of fuel reduction mowing was completed in FY 2022-23; and 154 acres in FY 2023-24.
- Six wildfires totaling 834 acres were suppressed in FY 2022-23; and four wildfires totaling 14 acres were suppressed in FY 2023-24.
- 97 acres of mid-rotation herbicide were completed in FY 2022-2023.

## Visitor Services

- 81 miles of roads were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 34 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 6.5 miles of roads were repaired in FY 2022-23; and 3 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Fourteen miles of trails were maintained in FY 2022-23; and fourteen miles in FY 2023-24.
- An estimated 436,093-day use visitors utilized the forest in FY 2022-23; and 485,935 in FY 2023-24.
- 6,319 primitive camping permits were issued in FY 2022-23; and 6,418 in FY 2023-24.
- 54 miles of roads were mowed in FY 2022-23; and 30 miles in FY 2023-24.
- Three public information programs were conducted in FY 2022-23; and two programs in FY 2023-24.
- Five culverts were replaced in FY 2022-23.
- One bridge was repaired in FY 2022-23; and one in FY 2023-24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 5: Evaluate the potential for additional public access and recreational areas on TBSF that are compatible with multiple-use management. Recreational opportunities will fall under the scope of multi-use management in accordance with watershed protection, conservation, and ecosystem restoration; and as detailed in the purpose for acquisition. (Short Term Objective)
- Status: Additional public access and recreational areas evaluated. No additional access points were determined during the evaluation. A list of additional visitor opportunities considered was generated, and these opportunities were included in the 5-Year Recreation Plan.
- GOAL 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective 2: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrological restoration needs. (Short Term Objective)
  - Status: Hydrological restoration needs assessment was completed in-house and those needs have been included in the Annual Operations and 5-Year Action Plans.

**Unit Name:** Twin Rivers State Forest

**Acres:** 15,803

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** April 22, 2016

**County/ies:** Hamilton, Madison & Suwannee

### **Description/Narrative**

The Twin Rivers State Forest (TRSF) is comprised of 16 non-contiguous tracts. These lands were purchased with funds from the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program, created by the Florida State Legislature in 1981, the P2000 program, established in 1990 by the Florida State Legislature, and the CARL program. Historically, the junction of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers was an important point of commerce and the largest sawmill in Florida was present at this location during the late 1800s. Also, both rivers were used as major commercial routes; steamboats were a common sight as they carried passengers, freight, and mail on the rivers. Today, most of the forest lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers. In 1995, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, FFS, was given lead management responsibility for TRSF, under a special lease agreement with the Suwannee River Water Management District. The Damascus Peanut Company Tract was purchased in 2013 using Florida Forever and CARL funds. This 599.45-acre parcel is located on the Suwannee River in Madison County. More recently, the Hardee Springs Tract, formerly known as River Error Farms, Inc., was purchased with Florida Forever funds from the Hardee family in 2018. This 304.5-acre parcel is located on the Withlacoochee River in Hamilton County and features a first magnitude spring.

Natural communities within the TRSF include sandhills, floodplain forest, upland pine forest, bottomland forest, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, upland hardwood forest, xeric hammock, and sinkhole communities. In addition, springs are located on the Anderson Springs and Pot Springs Tracts. Wildlife, such as white-tailed deer, bobwhite quail, bobcat, otter, beaver, alligator, and wild turkey are frequently seen on TRSF. The FFS manages TRSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Each of the tracts on TRSF offers many recreational opportunities including nature study, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. Twin Rivers State Forest contains two hiking trails (Ellaville and Anderson Springs) that are included in the FFS's Trailwalker Hiking Program, and one horse trail (Blue Springs) included in the FFS's Trailtrotter Program. FWC has designated several tracts as a type I Wildlife Management Area for hunting. Full facility camping is not available on the forest; however, six primitive camp sites are located along the rivers. These campsites are available to paddlers, and two campsites are available to through-hikers traversing the Florida National Scenic Trail. Permits are required for special or group recreational activities and can be obtained from the TRSF office at no charge.

### **Accomplishments**

## Resource Management

- 1,749 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 1,192 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 73 acres of longleaf restored in FY 2023-24 124 acres of timber were harvested in FY 2022-23; and 374 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 287 acres were surveyed, and spot treated in-house by an OPS Park Ranger in FY 2022-23; and 179 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 1356 acres forest inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 1654 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 102 miles of road were mowed in FY2022/2023 and 104 miles of road was mowed in FY 2023-24
- 38 miles of firelines were maintained in FY 2022/2023 and 141 miles of firelines were maintained in FY 2023-24
- 39 miles of roads where daylighted in FY 2022-23 and zero miles of roads where daylighted in FY 2023-24
- 8 miles of boundary lines were maintained in FY 2023-24

## Visitor Services

- 3 miles of roads maintained in FY 2022-23; and 55 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 22 acres of trails maintained in FY 2022-23; and 87 in FY 2023-24.
- 143,288 estimated day use visitors in FY 2022-23; and 149,557 in FY 202-24.
- 172 reservations for primitive campsites were made in FY 2022-23 and 163 reservations for primitive campsites were made in FY 2023-24.
- 16 Special use permits were issued in FY 2022-23 and 18 special use permits were issued in FY 2023-24.
- One OOF hunt (deer) in FY 2022-23; and zero OOF hunt (deer) in FY 2023-24.
- Kiosks were maintained 24 times in FY 2022-23 and 51 times in FY 2023-24
- 6 signs were replaced in FY 2022-23 and 6 signs where replaces in FY 2023-24

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Wakulla State Forest

**Acres:** 5,303

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** April 21, 2017

**County/ies:** Leon & Wakulla

### **Description/Narrative**

The majority of Wakulla State Forest (WaSF) is located in northeastern Wakulla County. Additionally, the Eight Mile and Woodville Tracts are located in southeastern Leon County. Most of the forest was acquired under the CARL, P2000, and Florida Forever acquisition programs in the early 2000s, with the exception of the Woodville Tract which was acquired through a tax deed in 1947. The Eight Mile Tract in Leon County was purchased using Florida Forever Funds in 2013. The forest serves as critical watershed protection, and a portion of the forest is part of the groundwater recharge area for Wakulla Springs, one of the largest single vent freshwater springs in the world.

Natural community types found on the forest include upland mixed woodland, sandhill, upland pine, upland hardwood, bottomland forest, and floodplain swamps. The Woodville Tract (73.3 acres) is an outstanding example of an intact longleaf pine-wiregrass community. WaSF has a karst geology and numerous sinkholes occur throughout the forest. Although management practices prior to state ownership have disrupted the function of the natural ecosystems on WaSF, the restoration of these ecosystems has been a primary objective of the FFS.

The FFS manages WaSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs, such as timber management, the preservation of water quality, ecosystem restoration, and outdoor recreation. Recreational opportunities include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, biking, picnicking, birding, and nature study.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 1,613 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 1,720 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 9 acres of non-native plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 6 acres in FY 2023-24.
- 516 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 549 forest acres in FY 2023-24.
- 118 acres of timber was harvested in FY 2022-23.

## Visitor Services

- 18 miles of roads were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 16 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 20 miles of trails were maintained in FY 2022-23; and 21 miles in FY 2023-24.
- 27,391 visitors to the forest in FY 2022-23; and 28,822 in FY 2023-24.

## **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- Goal: Evaluate possible recreational opportunities on Eight Mile tract
  - 1) Performance Measure: Opportunities evaluated  
Ongoing: To be performed

**Unit Name:** Watson Island State Forest

**Acres:** 506

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** July 20, 2010

**County/ies:** St. Johns

## **Description/Narrative**

The Watson Island State Forest (WISF) is made up of two non-contiguous parcels in west central St. Johns County. The 276-acre Watson Island Tract, located along one mile of the St. Johns River, was donated to the State of Florida in 1976 through a special warranty deed. The Warner Tract, a few miles to the east, was purchased in 2005 through Florida Forever funding as part of the St Johns River Blueway project for purposes of protecting the shoreline and tributaries of this major Florida River. Due to the remote location of both tracts, the presence of only old logging trails, and generally wet conditions, public access is limited currently to boats coming off the river and/or hiking in from nearby highways. Several listed species have been identified near the forest however only the bald eagle has been identified actually on the forest with an active nest on the Watson Island Tract last observed in 2008.

The FFS manages this State Forest under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. Timber management practices on WISF are important in the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of socioeconomic benefits



to Floridians. Prescribed burning on WISF enhances the habitat of native fauna and flora living on the forest. WISF has established goals to enhance burning accomplishments and increase the amount of wet and mesic flatwoods habitat that is brought into a fire maintenance condition.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 20 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 0.7 miles of perimeter firebreak maintenance was completed in FY 2022-23; and 2.7 miles in FY 2023-24.
- One trailhead parking lot, kiosk, and 0.75-mile hiking trail was installed in FY 2023-2024.

### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- GOAL 2: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities
  - Objective 1: Establish public access and recreation activities that are compatible with multiple-use management. (Short Term Goal)
    - Status: Established trailhead parking lot and 0.75 mile hiking trail.

Objective 4: Evaluate the potential for public access and recreation opportunities that are compatible with multi-use management. Status: Ongoing. Staff is continuing to evaluate the potential for public access and recreation opportunities that are compatible with multi-use management.

- Goal 7: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration
  - Objective 3: Conduct or obtain a site assessment/study to identify potential hydrology restoration needs.
  - Status: Ongoing. Staff is continuing to conduct site assessment to identify potential hydrology restoration needs.

**Unit Name:** Welaka State Forest

**Acres:** 2,287

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** August 19, 2014

**County/ies:** Putnam

### **Description/Narrative**

The Welaka State Forest (WeSF) is located along the east bank of the beautiful and historic St. Johns River. The FFS maintains the integrity of the natural systems while allowing outdoor recreational use and environmental education, especially in the areas of forestry, botany, soils, and wildlife ecology. In 1935, under the Federal Resettlement Administration, the United States government started the Welaka Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Project, on a State of Florida fish hatchery site. The Welaka property was later transferred to the University of Florida as a Florida Conservation Reserve for the study of forestry and outdoor wildlife. WeSF was acquired for management by the FFS in 1992 through a transfer of a lease from the University of Florida.

Natural communities on the forest include depression marsh, wet and mesic flatwoods, hydric and xeric hammocks, sandhills, floodplain swamp, floodplain marsh, flatwoods/prairie lake, wet prairie, scrubby flatwoods, and baygall. A large variety of trees and plant life flourish along the river swamps of the St. Johns River. Mud Spring empties 13,750 gallons per hour of clear, spring water into a half-mile spring run that flows into the St. Johns River.

The FFS manages WeSF under the multiple-use concept balancing environmental, recreational and resource use needs. A series of foot trails offers the public an opportunity to walk and observe wildlife like gopher tortoise or bald eagle. The Mud Spring trail leads visitors on a two-mile, self-guided loop walk to Mud Spring picnic area, while the John's Landing trail meanders along old roadbeds to the St. Johns River. The five-mile Sandhill Horse trail was established for equestrian use, as well as hiking. Other recreational opportunities available on the WeSF are a 48-horse stable, a training arena, a show horse arena, five RV campsites, six semi-primitive campsites, and two primitive campsites available for rental.

### **Accomplishments**

#### Resource Management

- 133 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2022-23; and 625 acres were treated with prescribed fire in FY 2023-24.
- 66 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated in FY 2022-23; and 31 acres in FY 2023-24.

- 0 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2022-23; and 285 forest acres were inventoried in FY 2023-24.
- 28 acres site preparation herbicide applied in FY 2022-23.
- 25,410 slash pine seedlings were planted across 35 acres in FY 2022-23.
- 8 acres of timber stand improvement was completed in FY 2023-24.
- 1 mile of boundary line was maintained in FY 2022-23; and 1.7 miles were maintained in FY 2023-24.

#### Visitor Services

- 2.7 miles of roads were repaired or maintained, and one culvert was replaced in FY 2023-24.
- Five miles of equestrian trails and 7.7 miles of hiking trails have been maintained multiple times over the past two years, by mowing, trimming and herbicide applications.
- There were an estimated 16,253 visitors in FY 2022-23; and there were an estimated 17,234 visitors in FY 2023-24.
- There were 1,645 campers that used full facilities in FY 2022-23; and there were 1,915 campers that used full facilities in FY 2023-24.
- There were 873 campers that used primitive sites on FY 2022-23, and there were 766 campers that used primitive sites in FY 2023-24.
- One commercial vendor permit was issued in FY 2023-24
- Education trail dock was rebuilt in FY 2022-23.
- Made improvements to two horse stalls in FY 2023-24.

#### **Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

**Unit Name:** Withlacoochee State Forest

**Acres:** 160,130

**Managing Agency:** FFS

**Management Plan Approval Date:** February 13, 2015

**County/ies:** Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Lake and Sumter

**Description/Narrative**

The Withlacoochee State Forest (WSF), currently the third largest State Forest, extends across five counties-Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Pasco, and Sumter. WSF was acquired by the federal government from private landowners in the 1930s and was managed by the U.S. Forest Service until the property was transferred to the Florida Board of Forestry in 1958. The State of Florida received title to WSF (113,172 acres) in February 1983. Lands acquired through the Environmentally Endangered Lands program, CARL, Florida Forever, P2000 in-holdings and additions, and Save Our Rivers have been added to WSF over the years bringing the acreage over 160,000 acres. The Withlacoochee River, Little Withlacoochee River and Jumper Creek, all Outstanding Florida Waters, flow through portions of the property. Prior to purchase by the federal government, the properties were used for farming, cattle grazing, logging, phosphate mining, limerock mining, and hunting. While under federal ownership, the land was primarily managed for forestry, hunting, and cattle grazing purposes. Since the FFS took over management in the mid-1950s, uses have consisted mainly of timber, recreation, and wildlife (ecosystem) management.

During the last two fiscal years, the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) populations on both the Citrus Tract and the Croom Tract have increased to modern record levels. RCWs were introduced to the Headquarters Tract, and Sugarmill Woods Unit. Combined, there are 152 breeding pairs. The Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project (UERP) for the northern bobwhite has continued in the Citrus Tract. The burn program remains more favorable for the quail in this area. Associated census data is being collected in new ways in the last year to reflect true population numbers more accurately. Recreational opportunities available on WSF include hiking, bicycling, bird watching, geocaching, ATV, and dirt bike riding (designated area only), horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, hunting, as well as primitive and group camping.

**Accomplishments**

Resource Management: FY 2023-24

- 43,125 acres burned
- 891 acres in the restoration process
- 40,998 Tons of timber harvested
- 945 acres of invasive plants treated, 298 acres of invasives previously treated, not found
- 22,589 Forest acres inventoried
- 981 Inventory plots completed
- 9 miles of boundary maintained/marked
- 9 Educational/research projects
- 127 Hogs trapped
- 10 RCW clusters created, 114 improved
- 3 Bushel of cones collected

#### Resource Management: FY 2022-23

- 19,890 acres burned
- 891 acres in restoration process
- 18,957 Tons of timber harvested
- 928 Acres invasive plants treated, 218 acres of invasives previously treated, not found
- 11,611 Forest acres inventoried
- 682 Inventory plots completed
- 59 miles of boundary maintained/marked
- 13 Educational/research projects
- 41 Hogs trapped
- 12 RCW clusters created (six in Headquarters Tract) 114 improved
- 3 Bushels of cones collected

#### Visitor Services: FY 2023-24

- 109.3 miles of roads maintained, including:
  - 106 miles of roads graded
  - 0 mile of road constructed
  - 1 Mile of roads rebuilt/repared
- 85 miles of trails maintained
- 4,710,690 visitors to the forest
- 120,276 people were issued overnight full facility camping passes
- 257,333 people were issued primitive camping passes
- 6930 annual OHV/motorcycle passes issued
- 13,434 day/3-day OHV/motorcycle passes issued
- 175 commercial vendor permits issued
- 9 programs/tours
- Four OOF hunts

#### Visitor Services: FY 2022-23

- 220 Miles of roads maintained, including:
  - 138 miles of roads graded
  - 0 miles of road constructed
  - 18 miles of roads rebuilt/repared
- 85 miles of trails maintained
- 4,710,690 visitors to the forest
- 120,945 people were issued overnight full facility camping passes
- 269,042 people were issued primitive camping passes
- Annual passes now calculated state-wide by Reserve America
- 6,781 annual OHV/motorcycle passes issued
- 13,210 day/three-day OHV/motorcycle passes issued
- 132 commercial vendor permits issued

- 12 programs/tours
- 4 OOF hunts

**Short-Term Goals (LMPs approved after July 2016)**

- N/A

GOAL: Cultural and Historical Resources - Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.								
Mgr Order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Total cultural or historical sites recorded (reference data)	Number of sites identified for monitoring	Number of sites monitored	Number of sites planned to be improved to good condition	Number of sites in good condition (monitored sites)	OES order
0	FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE							FFS000
	Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FFS001
	Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	4	4	4	1	3	FFS002
	Big Shoals State Forest	2005-2015	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	FFS003
	Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	242	242	40	0	33	FFS004
	Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FFS005
	Cary State Forest	2024-2034	4	4	3	0	4	FFS006
	Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	15	10	0	0	10	FFS007
	Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FFS008
	Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	12	12	12	0	12	FFS009
	Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	0	0	0	0	0	FFS010
	Goethe State Forest	2013-2023	107	107	107	0	107	FFS011
	Holopaw State Forest	2023-2033	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FFS012
	Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	13	12	12	0	12	FFS013
	Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	27	27	27	0	27	FFS014
	John M. Bethea State Forest	2016-2026	22	22	N/A	0	N/A	FFS015

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<i>Mgr Order</i>	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Total cultural or historical sites recorded (reference data)	Number of sites identified for monitoring	Number of sites monitored	Number of sites planned to be improved to good condition	Number of sites in good condition (monitored sites)	<i>OES order</i>
	Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	FFS016
	Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	11	11	11	0	11	FFS017
	Lake Talquin State Forest	2024-2034	42	42	42	0	42	FFS018
	Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	13	13	13	1	11	FFS019
	Little Big Econ State Forest	2021-2031	17	11	1	0	11	FFS020
	Matanzas State Forest	2018-2028	5	5	5	0	5	FFS021
	Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	4	4	4	0	4	FFS022
	Newnans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	9	8	8	1	7	FFS023
	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	5	3	3	0	3	FFS024
	Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	1	1	1	0	1	FFS025
	Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	85	60	34	0	34	FFS026
	Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	4	2	2	0	2	FFS027
	Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	11	11	11	0	11	FFS028
	Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	9	9	9	N/A	N/A	FFS029
	Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	1	1	0	0	1	FFS030
	Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	17	2	2	0	2	FFS031
	Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	31	30	30	0	16	FFS032

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<i>Mgr Order</i>	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Total cultural or historical sites recorded (reference data)	Number of sites identified for monitoring	Number of sites monitored	Number of sites planned to be improved to good condition	Number of sites in good condition (monitored sites)	<i>OES order</i>
	Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	42	41	41	0	35	FFS033
	Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	12	12	12	0	12	FFS034
	Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	85	85	85	N/A	N/A	FFS035
	Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	4	4	4	0	4	FFS036
	Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FFS037
	Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	25	16	16	1	15	FFS038
	Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	240	40	25	0	39	FFS039

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GOAL: Capital Facilities and Infrastructure - Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.															
Mgr Order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Number of facilities				Miles of roads				Miles of trails				OES order
			New facilities contemplated in plan	Maintained		Improved in FYs 2022-24	New roads contemplated in plan	Maintained		Improved in FYs 2022-24	New trails contemplated in plan	Maintained		Improved in FYs 2022-24	
				2022-23	2023-24			2022-23	2023-24			2022-23	2023-24		
0	FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE														FFS000
	Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	0	24	24	2	0	50	50	0	0	19	19	0	FFS001
	Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	10	13	13	1	0	1	4	2	4	0	25	25	FFS002
	Big Shoals State Forest	2005-2015	0	2	2	0	0	6	8	0	7	5	7	0	FFS003
	Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	0	126	123	1	0	621	836	40	55	190	192	1	FFS004
	Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	0	0	0	0	0	0.64	0.64	0	1.5	2.69	2.69	0	FFS005
	Cary State Forest	2024-2034	10	26	29	3	0	7	8	17.75	0	22	22	0	FFS006
	Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	1	17	17	2	0	30	30	3	0	38.8	38.8	7	FFS007
	Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	FFS008
	Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	0	12	12	0	0	56.47	56.47	10.3	0	16.6	16.6	2.04	FFS009
	Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	6	10	10	4	0	13	2	17.5	0	3	3	0	FFS010
	Goethe State Forest	2013-2023	0	14	14	4	0	290	290	14	0	85	85	1	FFS011
	Hokopaw State Forest	2023-2033	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FFS012
	Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	6	8	9	1	1	1	1	0	17	14	15.5	1.5	FFS013
	Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	7	17	18	5	3	18	25	9	25	18	25	15	FFS014
	John M. Betha State Forest	2016-2026	0	5	5	5	0	12	14	26	13	12.5	12.5	12.5	FFS015
	Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	FFS016
	Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	0	12	12	1	0	33.5	76.6	11.1	0	0.87	0.87	1.71	FFS017
	Lake Taiquin State Forest	2024-2034	0	22	22	1	0	66	150	0	0	31.2	31.2	0	FFS018
	Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	7	96	99	11	5	39	69	37	1	57	97	33	FFS019
	Little Big Econ State Forest	2021-2031	6	24	24	5	0	30	49	2	9	39.8	39.8	22	FFS020
	Matanzas State Forest	2018-2028	1	6	8	2	0	64	87	8.6	3.68	3.68	3.68	3.68	FFS021
	Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	2	20	20	5	0	3	3	0	0	20	20	1.6	FFS022
	Newnans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	2	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	9.8	9.8	0	FFS023
	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	5	54	54	5	1	52	20	11	0	27	27	0	FFS024
	Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	1	8	8	0	0	3	3	0	0	8	8	0	FFS025
	Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	6	56	56	5	0	66	89	21	53	41	44	3	FFS026
	Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	0	9	9	4	0	13	13	0	0	48	47	0	FFS027
	Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	1	2	3	2	0	13	40	6	0	0	0	0	FFS028
	Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	3	9	9	0	0	70	31	0	0	61	44	0	FFS029
	Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	5	12	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	FFS030
	Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	30	30	30	0	FFS031
	Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	3	25	25	4	0	0	2	4	8	52.1	52.1	1	FFS032
	Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	1	10	11	6	0	452	382	85	1	160	160	0	FFS033
	Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	0	16	16	2	0	135.79	63.5	9.5	2.2	14	14	0	FFS034
	Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	0	0	0	0	1	46	40	2	0	21	31	1	FFS035
	Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	0	4	4	0	0	18	16	4	0	20	21	0	FFS036
	Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.75	FFS037
	Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	0	19	19	3	0	14.41	14.41	0	0	13.29	13.29	0	FFS038
	Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	2	265	265	79	0	568	145	263	0	85	85	0	FFS039

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GOAL: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities - <i>Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.</i>											
Mgr Order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Average visitors per day		Daily carrying capacity			Number of interpretive, informational, or educational programs			OES order
			2022-23	2023-24	Optimal	2022-23	2023-24	Contemplated in plan	2022-23	2023-24	
0	FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE										FFS000
	Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	707	731	TBD	TBD	TBD	2	2	2	FFS001
	Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	349	369	375	375	375	0	1	1	FFS002
	Big Shoals State Forest	2005-2015	30	34	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	0	0	FFS003
	Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	12,489	8,745	850	850	850	50	64	80	FFS004
	Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	1	1	100	160	160	0	0	0	FFS005
	Cary State Forest	2024-2034	2716	1512	535	600	600	1	6	4	FFS006
	Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	25	26	40	40	40	0	0	0	FFS007
	Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	0	0	TBD	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	FFS008
	Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	183	189	217	217	217	1	1	0	FFS009
	Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	283	287	210	400	400	1	0	0	FFS010
	Goethe State Forest	2013-2023	1170	1170	500	500	500	5	2	2	FFS011
	Holopaw State Forest	2023-2033	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	FFS012
	Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	130	153	276	212	224	1	2	0	FFS013
	Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	1206	1175	1200	1200	1200	1	11	8	FFS014
	John M. Bethea State Forest	2016-2026	435	497	160	160	160	4	0	0	FFS015
	Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A	0	0	TBD	TBD	TBD	0	0	0	FFS016
	Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	769	764	399	399	399	2	6	2	FFS017
	Lake Talquin State Forest	2024-2034	2,089	2,167	377	377	377	0	27	1	FFS018
	Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	236	284	500	550	550	2	2	4	FFS019
	Little Big Econ State Forest	2021-2031	21	226	300	300	300	0	0	2	FFS020
	Matanzas State Forest	2018-2028	224	246	TBD	TBD	TBD	2	4	2	FFS021
	Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	88	93	604	274	274	5	0	1	FFS022
	Newnans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	16	17	160	160	160	1	2	1	FFS023
	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	621	659	350	300	300	0	1	3	FFS024
	Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	26	27	144	144	144	1	0	0	FFS025
	Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	2084	2130	700	550	580	1	4	8	FFS026

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GOAL: Public Access and Recreational Opportunities - <i>Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.</i>											
Mgr Order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Average visitors per day		Daily carrying capacity			Number of interpretive, informational, or educational programs			OES order
			2022-23	2023-24	Optimal	2022-23	2023-24	Contemplated in plan	2022-23	2023-24	
	Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	1381	1386	TBD	TBD	TBD	0	7	9	FFS027
	Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	102	76	150	150	150	0	0	0	FFS028
	Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	1032	1047	350	350	350	4	4	4	FFS029
	Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	48	38	158	150	150	1	4	2	FFS030
	Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	10	9	124	124	124	0	0	0	FFS031
	Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	1440	1458	TBD	TBD	TBD	1	4	4	FFS032
	Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	7,873	5,677	9589	10481	11253	31	0	5	FFS033
	Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	1195	1332	TBD	TBD	TBD	0	3	2	FFS034
	Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	342	394	TBD	TBD	TBD	0	1	1	FFS035
	Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	75	79	TBD	TBD	TBD	0	0	0	FFS036
	Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	0	0	TBD	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	FFS037
	Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	45	47	367	367	367	1	0	0	FFS038
	Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	12,906	7,235	TBD	TBD	TBD	80	22	14	FFS039

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GOAL: Imperiled Species Habitat Maintenance, Enhancement, Restoration, or Population Restoration - Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.								
Mgr Order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Imperiled species				OES order	
			Occurrence list completed (y/n)	Total number (reference data)	Number of monitoring protocols developed	Number of monitoring protocols implemented		
0	FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE						FFS000	
	Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	Y	46	46	2	FFS001	x
	Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	Y	16	16	2	FFS002	x
	Big Shoals State Forest	2005-2015	Y	15	15	N/A	FFS003	x
	Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	Y	116	21	20	FFS004	x
	Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	Y	7	2	2	FFS005	x
	Cary State Forest	2024-2034	Y	36	7	7	FFS006	x
	Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	Y	43	0	0	FFS007	x
	Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	Y	N/A	0	0	FFS008	x
	Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	Y	17	5	5	FFS009	x
	Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	Y	5	0	0	FFS010	x
	Goethe State Forest	2023-2033	Y	66	28	28	FFS011	x
	Holopaw State Forest	2023-2033	N	0	N/A	N/A	FFS012	x
	Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	Y	6	3	3	FFS013	x
	Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	Y	54	15	15	FFS014	x

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<i>Mgr Order</i>	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Occurrence list completed (y/n)	Total number (reference data)	Number of monitoring protocols developed	Number of monitoring protocols implemented	<i>OES order</i>
	John M. Bethea State Forest	2016-2026	Y	13	1	1	FFS015
	Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A					FFS016
	Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	Y	9	3	3	FFS017
	Lake Talquin State Forest	2024-2034	Y	30	14	14	FFS018
	Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	Y	108	42	42	FFS019
	Little Big Econ State Forest	2021-2031	Y	48	18	18	FFS020
	Matanzas State Forest	2018-2028	Y	5	4	4	FFS021
	Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	Y	15	11	11	FFS022
	Newnans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	Y	5	2	2	FFS023
	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	Y	35	1	1	FFS024
	Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	Y	8	0	0	FFS025
	Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	Y	44	44	44	FFS026
	Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	Y	26	7	7	FFS027
	Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	Y	7	1	1	FFS028
	Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	Y	24	3	3	FFS029
	Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	Y	28	0	0	FFS030

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<i>Mgr Order</i>	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Occurrence list completed (y/n)	Total number (reference data)	Number of monitoring protocols developed	Number of monitoring protocols implemented	OES order	
	Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	Y	11	3	2	FFS031	x
	Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	Y	45	10	10	FFS032	x
	Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	Y	62	15	15	FFS033	x
	Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	Y	9	4	4	FFS034	x
	Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	Y	33	0	0	FFS035	x
	Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	Y	25	0	0	FFS036	x
	Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	N	4	0	0	FFS037	x
	Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	Y	10	3	3	FFS038	x
	Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	Y	52	13	13	FFS039	x

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GOAL: Sustainable Forest Management - Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.								
FFS order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Silvicultural management plan complete (y/n)	Forest inventory conducted (y/n)	GIS database/reinventory every 3 - 5 years	Acres of forest inventoried annually		OES order
						2022-23	2023-2024	
						FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE		
	Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	Y	Y	Y	1118	366	FFS000
	Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	Y	Y	Y	1357	1389	FFS001
	Big Shoals State Forest	2005-2015	Y	Y	Y	0	9	FFS002
	Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	Y	Y	Y	25543	11473	FFS003
	Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	Y	Y	Y	23	36	FFS004
	Cary State Forest	2024-2034	Y	Y	Y	1333	1327	FFS005
	Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	Y	Y	Y	87	95	FFS006
	Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	Y	N	Y	0	0	FFS007
	Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	Y	Y	Y	693	897	FFS008
	Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	Y	Y	Y	1429	1504	FFS009
	Goethe State Forest	2013-2023	Y	Y	Y	5654	5741	FFS010
	Holopaw State Forest	2023-2033	Y	N	Y	0	0	FFS011
	Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	Y	Y	Y	156	562	FFS012
	Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	Y	Y	Y	3334	2365	FFS013
	John M. Bethea State Forest	2016-2026	Y	Y	Y	3334	5485	FFS014
	Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A		N		0	0	FFS015
	Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	Y	Y	Y	1773	2116	FFS016
	Lake Talquin State Forest	2024-2034	Y	Y	Y	2912	2742	FFS017
	Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	Y	Y	Y	2482	1826	FFS018
	Little Big Eon State Forest	2021-2031	Y	Y	Y	172	157	FFS019
	Matanzas State Forest	2018-2028	Y	Y	Y	41	213	FFS020
	Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	Y	Y	Y	38	1349	FFS021
	Newmans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	Y	Y	Y	128	0	FFS022
	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	Y	Y	Y	16321	1277	FFS023
	Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	Y	Y	Y	142	398	FFS024
	Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	Y	Y	Y	10896	10549	FFS025
	Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	Y	Y	Y	546	703	FFS026
	Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	Y	Y	Y	1120	3480	FFS027
	Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	Y	Y	Y	1282	1729	FFS028
	Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	Y	Y	Y	48	595	FFS029
	Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	Y	Y	Y	42	414	FFS030
	Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	Y	Y	Y	2386	598	FFS031
	Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	Y	Y	Y	21860	16755	FFS032
	Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	Y	Y	Y	2714	2123	FFS033
	Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	Y	Y	Y	2770	1696	FFS034
	Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	Y	Y	Y	210	408	FFS035
	Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	Y	Y	Y	0	0	FFS036
	Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	Y	Y	Y	131	285	FFS037
	Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	Y	Y	Y	15132	22589	FFS038

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FFS order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Silvicultural management plan complete (y/n)	Forest inventory conducted (y/n)	GIS database/reinventory every 3 - 5 years	Acres of forest inventoried annually		OES order
						2022-23	2023-2024	

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FFS order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Silvicultural management plan complete (y/n)	Forest inventory conducted (y/n)	GIS database/reinventory every 3 - 5 years	Acres of forest inventoried annually		OES order
						2022-23	2023-2024	

CAMA001  
CAMA002  
CAMA003

Belmore State Forest	FFS001
Big Shoals State Forest	FFS002
Blackwater River State Forest	FFS003
Carl Duval Moore State Forest	FFS004
Cary State Forest	FFS005
Charles H. Bronson State Forest	FFS006
Cottage Hill State Forest	FFS007
Deep Creek State Forest	FFS008
Etowah Creek State Forest	FFS009
Four Creeks State Forest	FFS010
Goethe State Forest	FFS011
Holopaw State Forest	FFS012
Indian Lake State Forest	FFS013
Jennings State Forest	FFS014
John M. Bethea State Forest	FFS015
Lake George State Forest	FFS016
Lake Talquin State Forest	FFS017
Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	FFS018
Little Big Eon State Forest	FFS019
Matanzas State Forest	FFS020
Miyakka State Forest	FFS021
Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	FFS022
Picayune Strand State Forest	FFS023

FFS order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Silvicultural management plan complete (y/n)	Forest inventory conducted (y/n)	GIS database/reinventory every 3 - 5 years	Acres of forest inventoried annually		CES order
						2022-23	2023-2024	

Pine Log State Forest	FFS024
Point Washington State Forest	FFS025
Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	FFS026
Ross Prairie State Forest	FFS027
Seminole State Forest	FFS028
Tate's Hill State Forest	FFS029
Tiger Bay State Forest	FFS030
Twin Rivers State Forest	FFS031
Wakulla State Forest	FFS032
Watson Island State Forest	FFS033
Weleka State Forest	FFS034
Withlacoochee State Forest	FFS035

- Andrews Wildlife Management Area
- Apalachee Wildlife Management Area
- Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area
- Aucilla Wildlife Management Area
- Big Bend Wildlife Management Area
- Box-R Wildlife Management Area
  
- Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area
- Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area
- Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area
- Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area
- Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area
- Fred C. Babcock-Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area
- Guana River Wildlife Management Area
- Half Moon Wildlife Management Area
  
- Herky Huffman/Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area
- Hlochee Wildlife Management Area
- Holey Land Wildlife Management Area
- J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area
- Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area
- John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area
- Judges Cave Wildlife and Environmental Area
- L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area
- Lake Stone Fish Management Area
- Lake Tohopekaliga - Makinson Island (Cypress Island)
- Lake Tohopekaliga - Paradise Island
- Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area
- Little Gator Creek Wildlife and Environmental Area
- Okaloocoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area
- Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area
- Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area
- Spirit of the Wild Wildlife Management Area
- T. M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area
- Tate's Hill Wildlife Management Area
- Tenoroc Fish Management Area
- Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area
- Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area
- Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- Yellow River Wildlife Management Area - Escribano Point
- Bell Ridge Longleaf Pine Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Branan Field Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Bullfrog Creek Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Crooked Lake Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Fort White Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Hickey Creek Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Janet Butterfield Brooks Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Lafayette Forest Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Moody Branch Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Perry Oldenburg Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Platt Branch Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Split Oak Forest Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Suwannee Ridge Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area
- Watermelon Pond Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area

GOAL: Habitat Restoration and Improvement - Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.											
Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Prescribed Fire					Habitat Restoration				OES order
		Total burnable acres (reference data)	Acres burned per year		Acres within fire return interval		Total acres requiring restoration (reference data)	Acres with habitat restoration underway	Acres with habitat restoration completed	Acres of timber harvested for restoration purposes	
			2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24					
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE											FFS000
Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	57,176	4,252	7,598	14,531	11,850	0	0	0	0	FFS001
Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	8,842	992	1,859	2,711	2,851	4,073	2,230	192	490	FFS002
Big Shoals State Forest	2005-2015	1,672	146	608	590	754	467	467	0	302	FFS003
Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	181,084	35,197	94,867	76,247	130,064	17,424	4,513	2,240	4,607	FFS004
Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	240	0	48	42	48	179	158	0	0	FFS005
Cary State Forest	2024-2034	8,781	1,927	751	3,717	2,678	4,845	137	136	136	FFS006
Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	3,752	1,568	691	1,874	2,259	1,692	136	0	0	FFS007
Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	43	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	FFS008
Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	8,195	1,225	1,857	3,514	3,082	5,731	185	104	0	FFS009
Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	6,857	1,248	951	3,066	2,199	6,389	197	196	196	FFS010
Goethe State Forest	2023-2033	43,182	1,826	6,289	4,788	8,115	11,382	4,976	0	245	FFS011
Holopaw State Forest	2023-2033	47	0	44	44	44	0	0	0	0	FFS012
Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	4,200	522	567	1,101	1,089	1,436	1,436	0	0	FFS013
Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	18,110	3,584	3,395	5,698	6,979	3,535	1,123	134	284	FFS014
John M. Bethea State Forest	2016-2026	18,800	803	8,385	4,106	9,188	4,245	2,039	0	827	FFS015
Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A	2,000	0	0	1,284	0	TBD	0	0	0	FFS016
Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	14,922	3,510	4,891	9,814	8,401	9,402	12	1,655	556	FFS017
Lake Talquin State Forest	2024-2034	9,600	3,249	3,958	6,323	7,207	3,753	142	142	131	FFS018
Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	24,300	4,034	8,337	6,796	12,371	8,357	7,391	567	0	FFS019
Little Big Econ State Forest	2021-2031	6,333	283	1565	927	1,848	2,846	1,219	0	1,219	FFS020
Malanzas State Forest	2018-2028	3,097	185	466	890	651	2,922	1,683	966	685	FFS021
Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	6,860	719	135	1,287	854	722	250	0	250	FFS022
Newmans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	629	7	325	273	332	441	401	0	107	FFS023
Okaloocoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	31,286	118	556	174	674	10000	4,000	200	0	FFS024
Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	1,818	0	86	190	86	381	201	0	0	FFS025
Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	29,726	4,865	12,928	8,150	17,793	63,000	55,000	3,491	0	FFS026
Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	5,821	2,852	2,405	6,139	5,257	29	0	29	0	FFS027
Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	2,459	1,774	1,820	4,562	3,594	10379.82	0	0	0	FFS028
Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	11,800	1,091	3,002	3,715	4,093	274	103	0	171	FFS029
Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	2,587	1311	2,288	2,242	3,599	2029	307	305	305	FFS030
Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	3,400	761	1,462	1,695	2,223	771	771	0	0	FFS031
Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	16,184	1,580	3,118	4,827	4,698	9,186	1,298	586	208	FFS032
Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	116,000	28,253	55,257	63,066	83,510	95,275	87,355	5,926	4,233	FFS033

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GOAL: Habitat Restoration and Improvement - Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.											
	10 Year	Prescribed Fire					Habitat Restoration				Order
		Total burnable	Acres burned per year		Acres within fire return interval		Total acres requiring		Acres with habitat		
Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	20,692	345	626	2,410	971	8,720	1,867	621	537	FFS034
Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	11,300	1,722	1,192	4,253	2,914	6,888	1,500	472	797	FFS035
Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	4,099	1,613	1,721	4,020	3,334	3,463	891	118	118	FFS036
Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	223	0	20	0	20	480	0	0	0	FFS037
Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	1,588	83	625	770	708	1,001	790	0	0	FFS038
Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	116,057	19,890	43,125	55,549	63,015	10,079	1,643	68,000	0	FFS039

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GOAL: Hydrological Preservation and Restoration - Information contained herein reflects both initial or planned conditions (reference data) and management opportunities that were initiated, conducted or completed during the designated reporting period.							
Mgr Order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Hydrological assessment conducted (y/n)	Acres requiring hydrology restoration (reference data)	Acres with hydrological restoration underway	Acres with hydrological restoration completed	QES order
0	FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE						FFS000
	Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	N	0	0	0	FFS001
	Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	N	0	0	0	FFS002
	Big Shoals State Forest	2005-2015	N	27	0	0	FFS003
	Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	N	3,161	0	0	FFS004
	Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	N	1	0	0	FFS005
	Cary State Forest	2024-2034	Y	6.5	6.5	1.4	FFS006
	Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	Y	1	0	1	FFS007
	Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	N	TBD	0	0	FFS008
	Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	Y	36	0	0	FFS009
	Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	Y	3.2	1.6	1.6	FFS010
	Goethe State Forest	2013-2023	N	0	0	0	FFS011
	Holopaw State Forest	2023-2033	N/A	0	0	0	FFS012
	Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	N	0	0	0	FFS013
	Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	Y	10	0	0	FFS014
	John M. Bethea State Forest	2016-2026	N	300	0	0	FFS015
	Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A	N	TBD	0	0	FFS016
	Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	N	TBD	0	0	FFS017
	Lake Talquin State Forest	2024-2034	N	0	0	0	FFS018
	Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	Y	572	371	0	FFS019
	Little Big Econ State Forest	2021-2031	Y	3	1	2	FFS020
	Matanzas State Forest	2018-2028	N	TBD	0	0	FFS021
	Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	Y	295	0	0	FFS022
	Newnans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	N	0	0	0	FFS023
	Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	N	0	0	0	FFS024
	Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	N	TBD	0	0	FFS025
	Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	Partial	59000	3,000	4400	FFS026
	Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	Y	TBD	0	0	FFS027
	Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	N	0	0	0	FFS028
	Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	N	TBD	0	0	FFS029
	Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	N	6	0.5	0.5	FFS030
	Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	N	0	0	0	FFS031
	Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	Y	9	2	1	FFS032
	Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	Y	212,269	22,833	22,833	FFS033
	Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	Y	414	276	185	FFS034
	Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	N	0	0	0	FFS035

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Mgr Order	Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Hydrological assessment conducted (y/n)	Acres requiring hydrology restoration (reference data)	Acres with hydrological restoration underway	Acres with hydrological restoration completed	OES order
	Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	N	0	0	0	FFS036
	Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	N	TBD	0	0	FFS037
	Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	Y	46	20	0	FFS038
	Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	N	1,676	0	0	FFS039

Managed Area Name	10 Year Planning Period	Invasive exotic plant species			Exotic animal species		BES Order
		Total acres infested (reference data)	Acres treated		Total number (reference data)	Number with control measures implemented	
			2022-23	2023-24			
<b>FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE</b>							FFS000
Babcock Ranch Preserve	2016-2026	25,000	10,472	9,838	1	1	FFS001 x
Belmore State Forest	2020-2030	30	0	1	1	1	FFS002 x
Big Shoals State Forest	2006-2015	2	2	2	1	1	FFS003 x
Blackwater River State Forest	2013-2023	4,557	997	1,634	1	1	FFS004 x
Carl Duval Moore State Forest and Park	2021-2031	8	0	7	1	0	FFS005 x
Cary State Forest	2024-2034	14	1	1	1	1	FFS006 x
Charles H. Bronson State Forest	2021-2031	291	72	30	1	1	FFS007 x
Deep Creek State Forest	2012-2022	0	0	0	0	0	FFS008 x
Etoniah Creek State Forest	2015-2025	30	9	20	3	1	FFS009 x
Four Creeks State Forest	2022-2032	1,500	0	1	1	1	FFS010 x
Goethe State Forest	2023-2033	85	36	31	1	1	FFS011 x
Holopaw State Forest	2023-2033	1	0	0	1	0	FFS012 x
Indian Lake State Forest	2023-2033	770	101	74	1	0	FFS013 x
Jennings State Forest	2018-2028	17	1	3	4	1	FFS014 x
John M. Bethea State Forest	2016-2026	35	58	20	1	0	FFS015 x
Kissimmee Bend State Forest	N/A	5	5	0	1		FFS016 x
Lake George State Forest	2015-2025	84	37	128	1	0	FFS017 x
Lake Talquin State Forest	2024-2034	80	37	58	1	1	FFS018 x
Lake Wales Ridge State Forest	2018-2028	1,250	410	291	4	1	FFS019 x
Little Big Ecan State Forest	2021-2031	3,600	16	108	1	1	FFS020 x
Malanzas State Forest	2018-2028	38	16	49	1	0	FFS021 x
Myakka State Forest	2023-2033	3,000	39	126	3	2	FFS022 x
Newmans Lake State Forest	2018-2028	82	198	42	1	0	FFS023 x
Okaloocoochee Slough State Forest	2012-2022	10,000	574	710	11	2	FFS024 x
Peace River State Forest	2019-2029	127	30	63	1	1	FFS025 x
Picayune Strand State Forest	2020-2030	25,690	234	539	7	2	FFS026 x
Pine Log State Forest	2022-2032	9	12	34	1	1	FFS027 x
Plank Road State Forest	2020-2030	7	7	19	1	0	FFS028 x
Point Washington State Forest	2016-2026	24	6	46	1	1	FFS029 x
Ralph E. Simmons State Forest	2016-2026	6	0	3	1	1	FFS030 x
Ross Prairie State Forest	2019-2029	31	37	13	1	0	FFS031 x
Seminole State Forest	2024-2034	1,759	43	52	1	1	FFS032 x
Tate's Hell State Forest	2019-2029	205	155	157	0	0	FFS033 x
Tiger Bay State Forest	2022-2032	82	25	69	1	0	FFS034 x
Twin Rivers State Forest	2016-2026	2,522	290	179	1	1	FFS035 x
Wakulla State Forest	2017-2027	22	9	6	0	0	FFS036 x
Watson Island State Forest	2023-2033	0	0	0	0	0	FFS037 x
Welaka State Forest	2014-2024	70	64	31	3	0	FFS038 x
Withlacoochee State Forest	2015-2025	2,159	935	911	8	1	FFS039 x