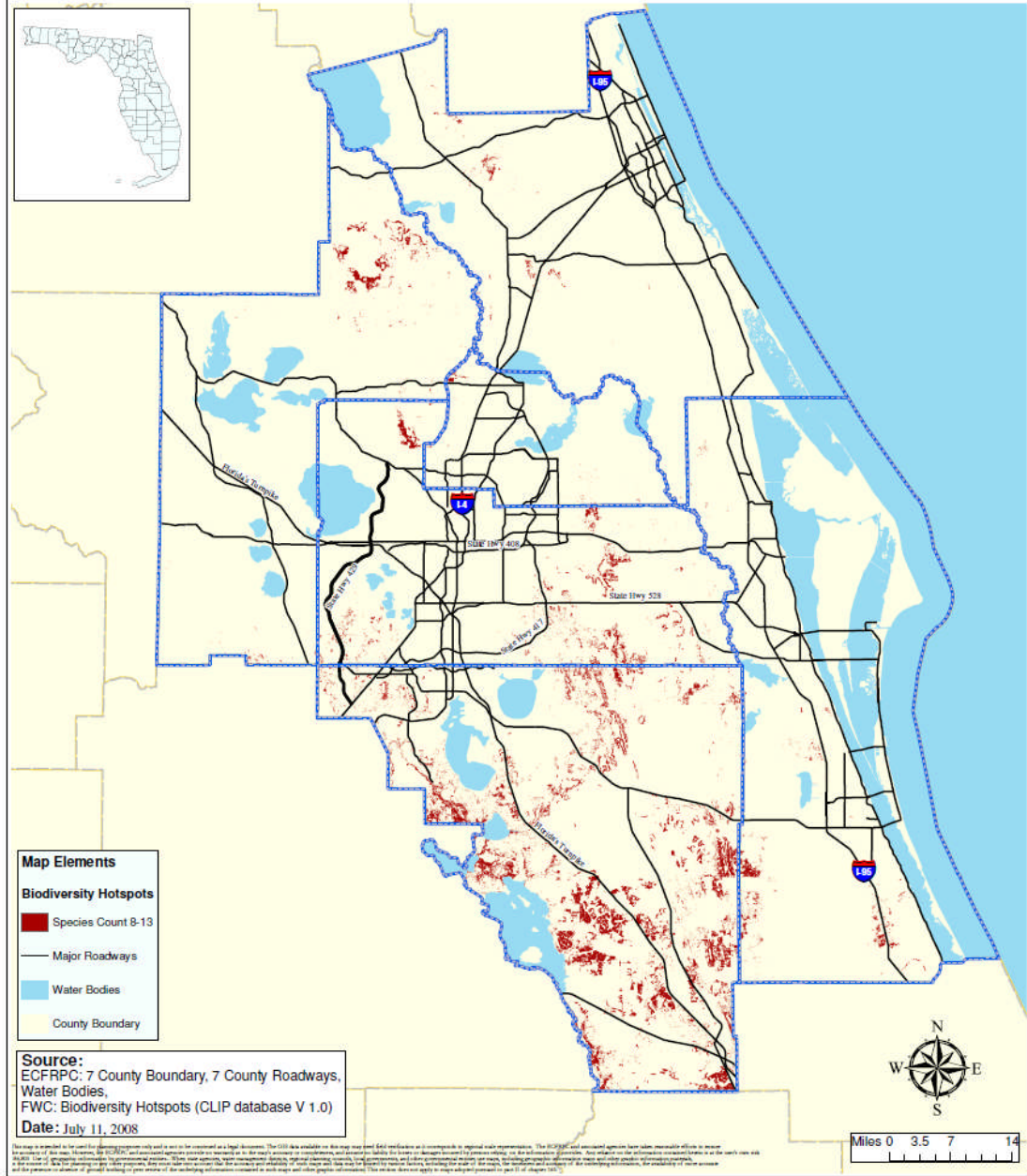




# Biodiversity Hotspots

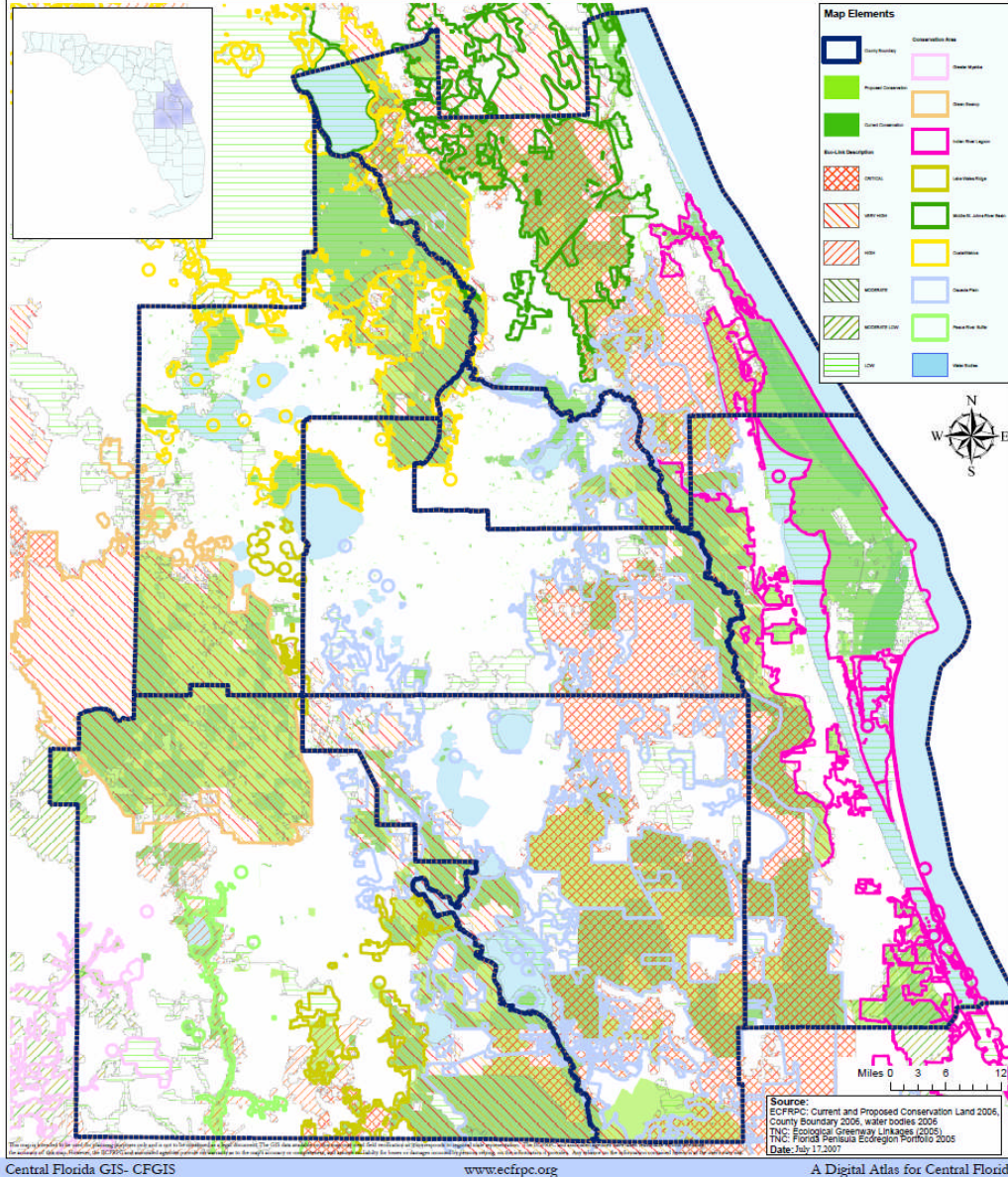
(See metadata for layer details)





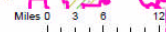
# Nature Conservancy Portfolio

Florida Peninsula Portfolio with 2005 Ecological Greenway Linkages



**Map Elements**

[Blue outline]	County Boundary	[Pink outline]	Conservation Area
[Light Green fill]	Land Conservation	[Yellow outline]	State Parks
[Dark Green fill]	Water Conservation	[Orange outline]	State Parks
[Diagonal Green/White pattern]	Ecological Greenway	[Pink outline]	State Parks
[Red/White grid pattern]	CRITICAL	[Yellow outline]	State Parks
[Blue/White grid pattern]	State Parks	[Yellow outline]	State Parks
[Green/White grid pattern]	State Parks	[Green outline]	State Parks
[Diagonal Blue/White pattern]	State Parks	[Blue outline]	State Parks
[Diagonal Green/White pattern]	State Parks	[Light Green outline]	State Parks
[Green/White grid pattern]	State Parks	[Blue outline]	State Parks
[Green/White grid pattern]	State Parks	[Blue outline]	State Parks



**Source:**  
 ECFRFC: Current and Proposed Conservation Land 2006,  
 County Boundary 2006, water bodies 2006  
 TNC: Ecological Greenway Linkages (2005)  
 TNC: Florida Peninsula Ecoregion Portfolio 2005  
 Date: July 17, 2007

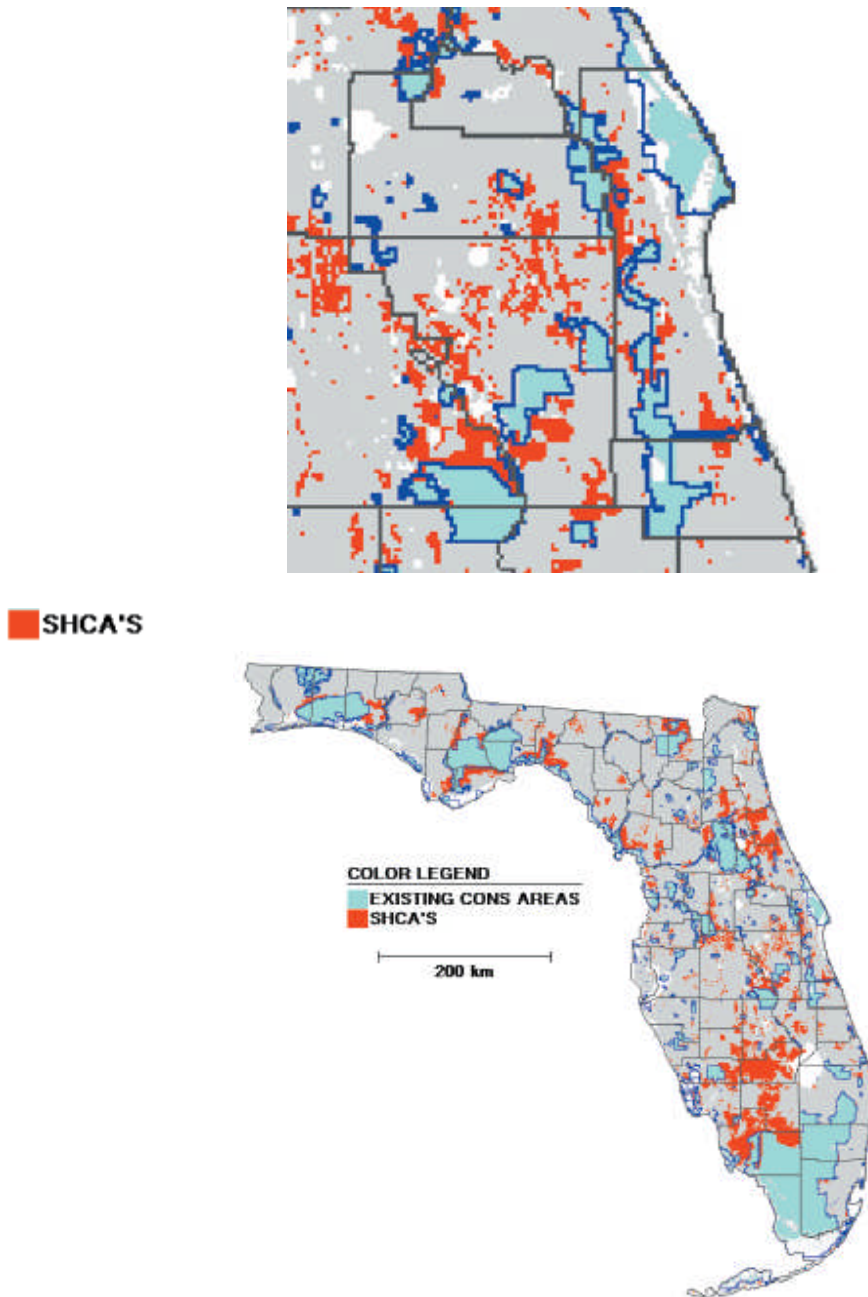
## Eco-Link Description



**CRITICAL**

CLOSING THE GAPS IN FLORIDA'S WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION SYSTEM

Figure 1. Proposed Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas for Florida



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes habitat areas in Florida that should be conserved if key components of the state's biological diversity are to be maintained. The project employed a computerized Geographic Information System to manipulate geographic data sets and create distribution maps for selected species of wildlife, threatened species of plants, and rare plant communities. The geographic data sets used in the project included a statewide land-cover map derived from Landsat satellite imagery; over 25,000 geographically referenced points documenting known occurrences of rare animals, plants, and communities; digitized maps of public and private lands devoted to some extent to conservation; a digitized general soils map; a digitized map of the statewide road network; a digitized map of selected private lands; and a digitized map of county boundaries.

Drawing from techniques recently developed in the fields of wildlife management and conservation biology, the Geographic Information System was used to assess the degree of security provided to rare species by the current system of conservation lands and to identify important habitat areas not currently protected. The lands recommended in the report for additional protection are referred to as **Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas** and are displayed in Figure 1. Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas depict lands needed to meet minimum conservation goals for the following:

- \* 30 species of wildlife inadequately protected by the current system of conservation lands,
- \* high quality sandhill sites,
- \* high quality scrub sites,
- \* high quality pine rocklands sites,
- \* high quality examples of tropical hardwood hammocks,
- \* bat maternity caves and winter roost caves,
- \* wetlands important to the breeding success of eight species of wading birds, and
- \* lands important to the long-term survival of 105 globally rare species of plants.

## CLOSING THE GAPS IN FLORIDA'S WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION SYSTEM

During the course of this project, a large database of known locations of many animals, plants, and natural communities was assembled. A separate set of maps, referred to as **Regional Biodiversity Hot Spots** maps, was created to display as much of this information as possible within each of the 11 Regional Planning Council regions of Florida. The Regional Biodiversity Hot Spots maps display the following information:

- \* areas where large numbers of 52 selected species co-occur,
- \* areas supporting rare plant and wildlife communities,
- \* over 25,000 known locations of rare plants, animals, and natural communities,
- \* county boundaries and conservation land boundaries, and
- \* coastal areas that support key components of biological diversity.

Each regional map is accompanied with a description of the biological resources occurring in key areas within each region. The purpose of the Regional Biodiversity Hot Spots maps is to convey more detailed information on the known locations of as many components of biological diversity as possible, regardless of whether or not they fall within proposed Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, to help meet the need for conservation information at regional and local levels.

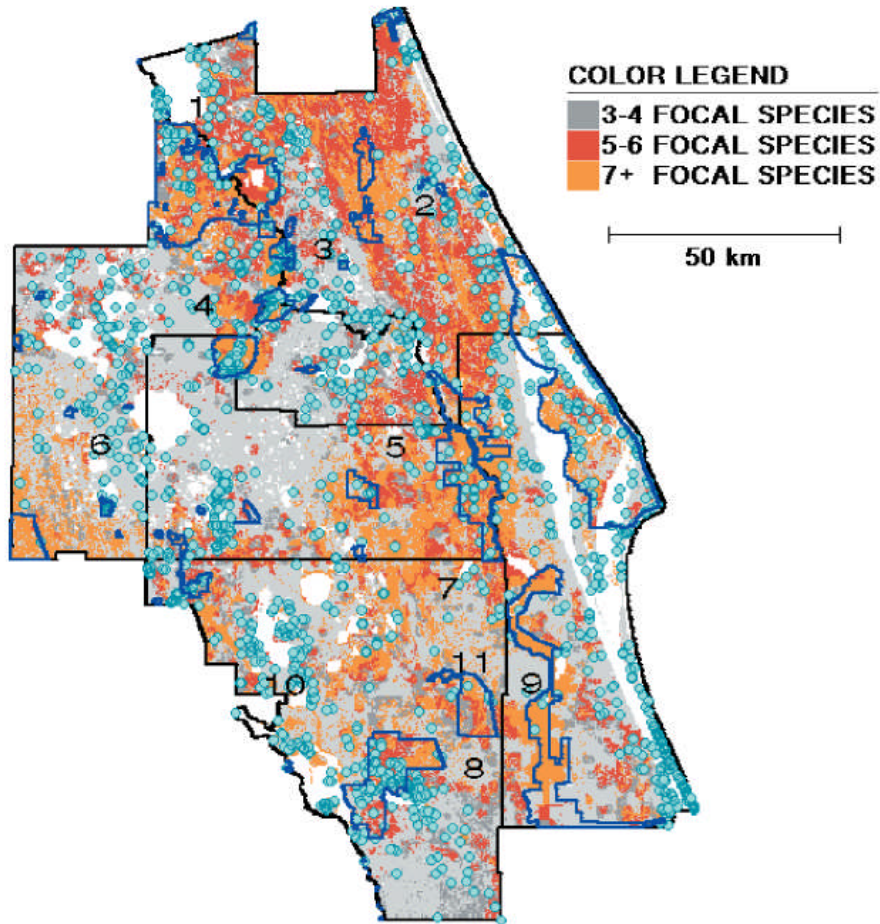


Figure 166c. Hot spots of biological resources and rare species occurrence records.

**Area 7.** North central Osceola and south central Orange counties, east of St. Cloud (Econlockhatchee River Swamp and surroundings, including Big Bend Swamp, Lake Conlin, and Four-mile Swamp). Portions of the area make up a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area for Audubon's crested caracara, Florida sandhill crane, red-cockaded woodpecker, mottled duck, wood stork, and other colonial wading birds. Additional rare species recorded in the area include bobcat, southern bald eagle, American swallow-tailed kite, southeastern American kestrel, limpkin, little blue heron (rookery), snowy egret (rookery), white ibis (rookery), great egret (rookery), wild turkey, eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, and nodding pinweed.

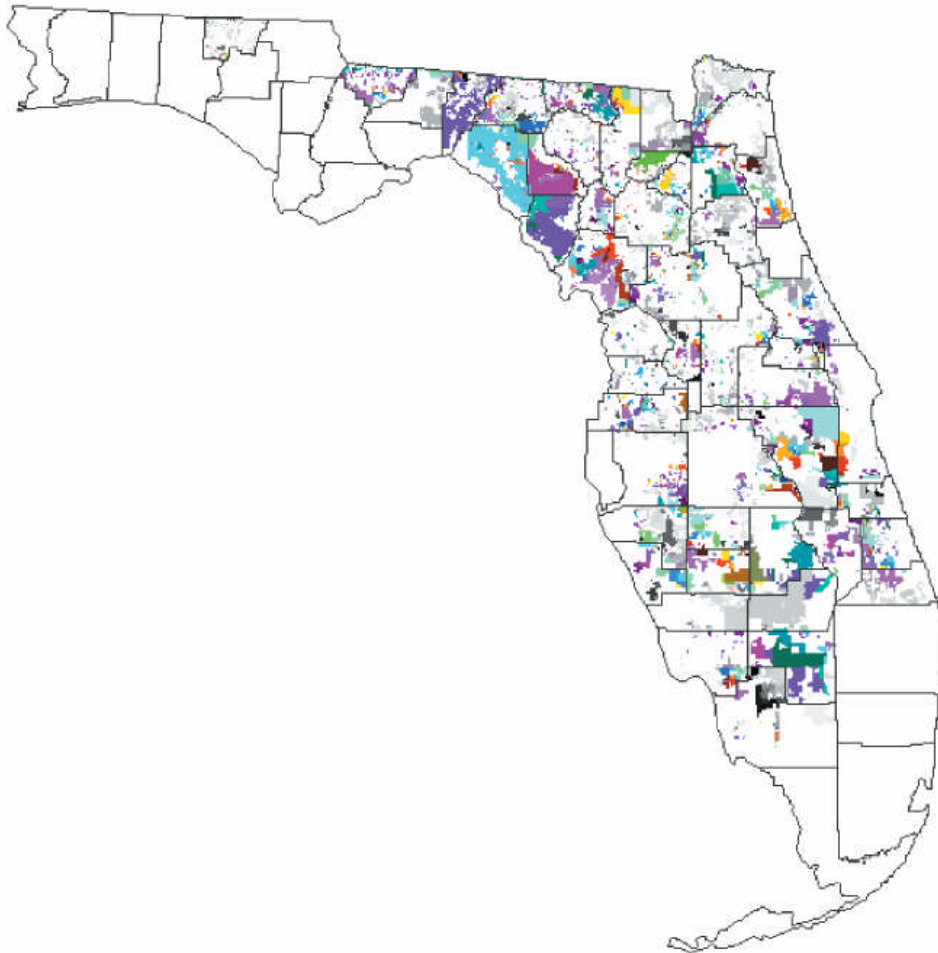


Figure 18. Private land parcels larger than 130 ha (320 acres) were digitized for all but 18 counties using plat directories.

We created a map of privately owned parcels larger than 130 ha (320 acres) using plat directories dated 1987-1990 (Florida Plats, 1289 Bowan Blvd., Clermont, Florida). The boundaries of individual parcels were transferred onto 1:126,720 scale county road maps prepared by the Florida Department of Transportation and digitized for all but 18 counties (for which no plat maps have been published). The resulting map (Figure 18) is helpful in identifying lands that might be more easily conserved through one of a variety of land-conservation techniques.

## Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP)

### Cooperative Effort

- Century Commission for Sustainable Florida
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida State University
- GeoPlan Center, University of Florida
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
- Statewide natural resource spatial database
- Prioritizes Biodiversity, Landscapes, & Water
- Identifies Florida's "Green Infrastructure":
  - ecosystem function, biodiversity, and the health of human communities are linked.

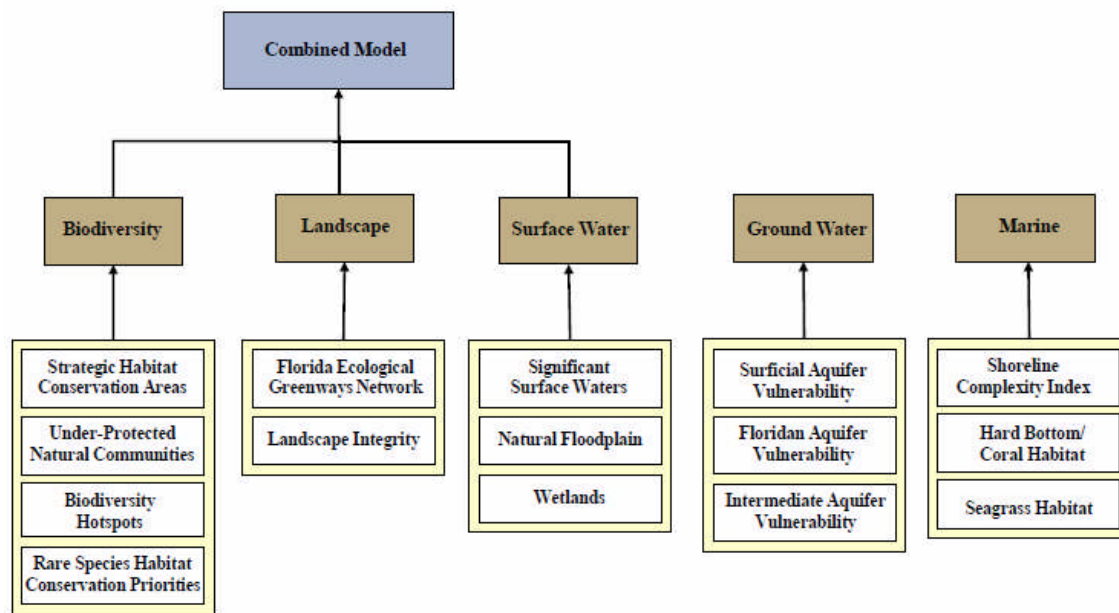
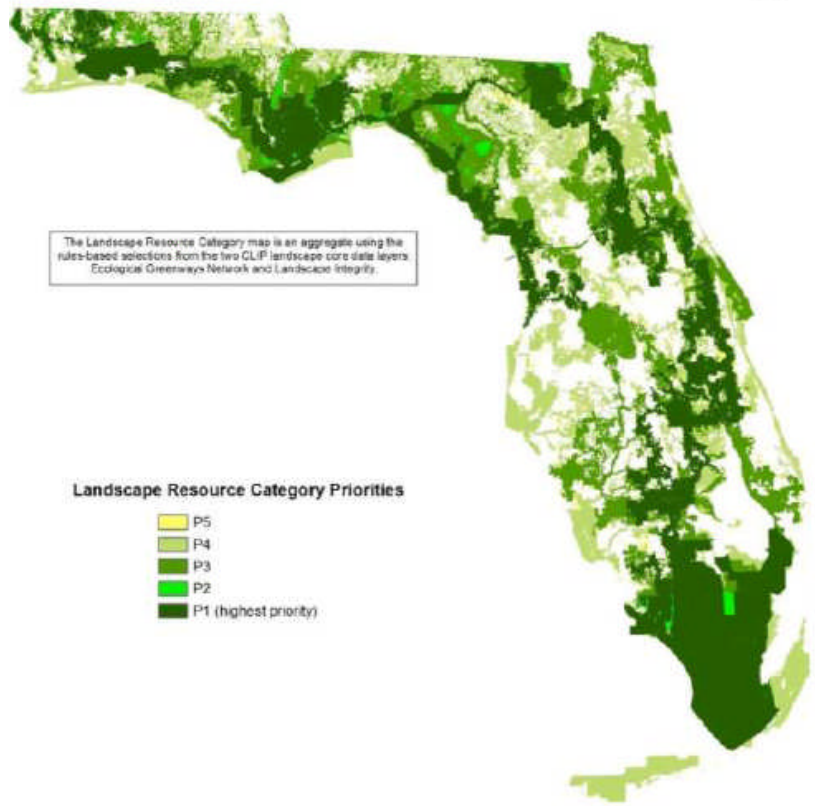
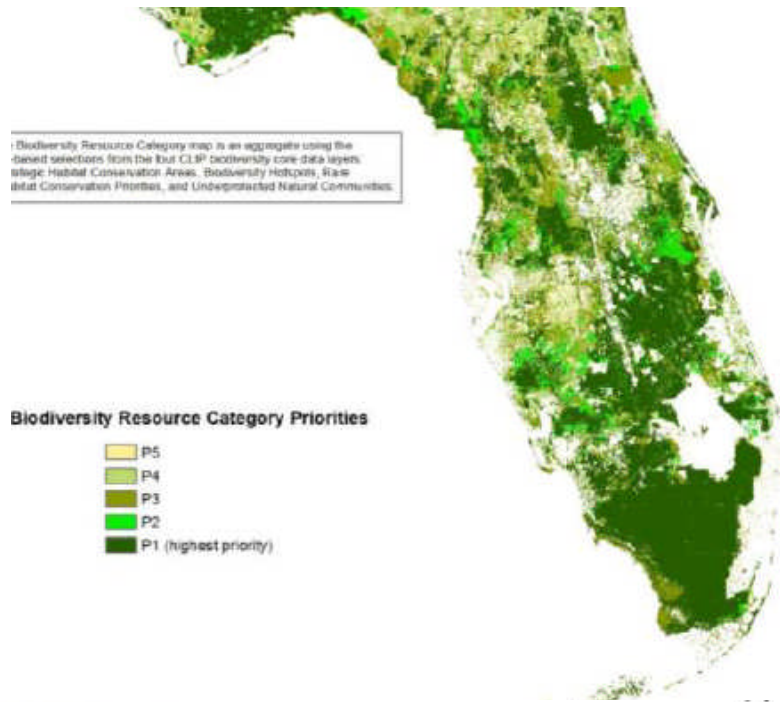
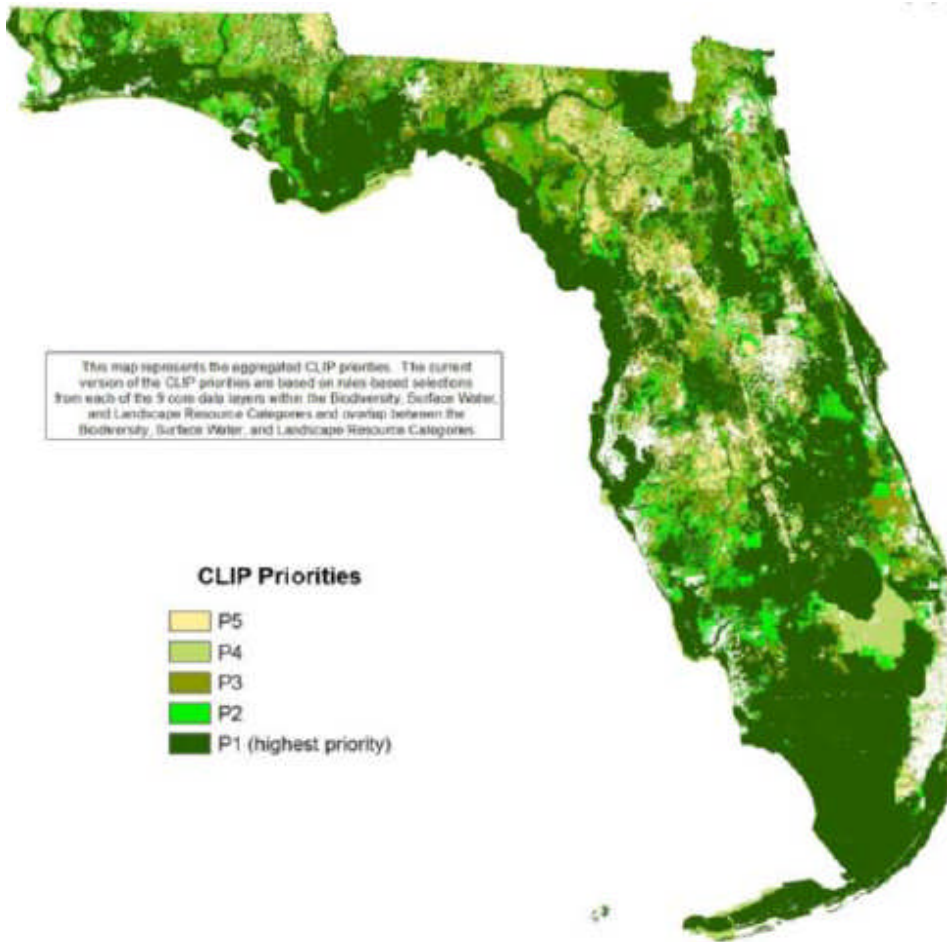


Figure 16. There are 15 core data layers that are organized into 5 resource categories: Biodiversity, Surface Water, Landscape, Marine, and Groundwater. Then, the aggregated CLIP Priorities are selected using a combination of rules-based selections and overlap between core data layers in the Biodiversity, Surface Water, and Landscape categories. In the CLIP Database Version 1.0, the Marine and Groundwater resource categories and core data are considered "placeholder" information that will continue to be developed to be integrated with the other resource categories in future iterations of CLIP.



# Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP)





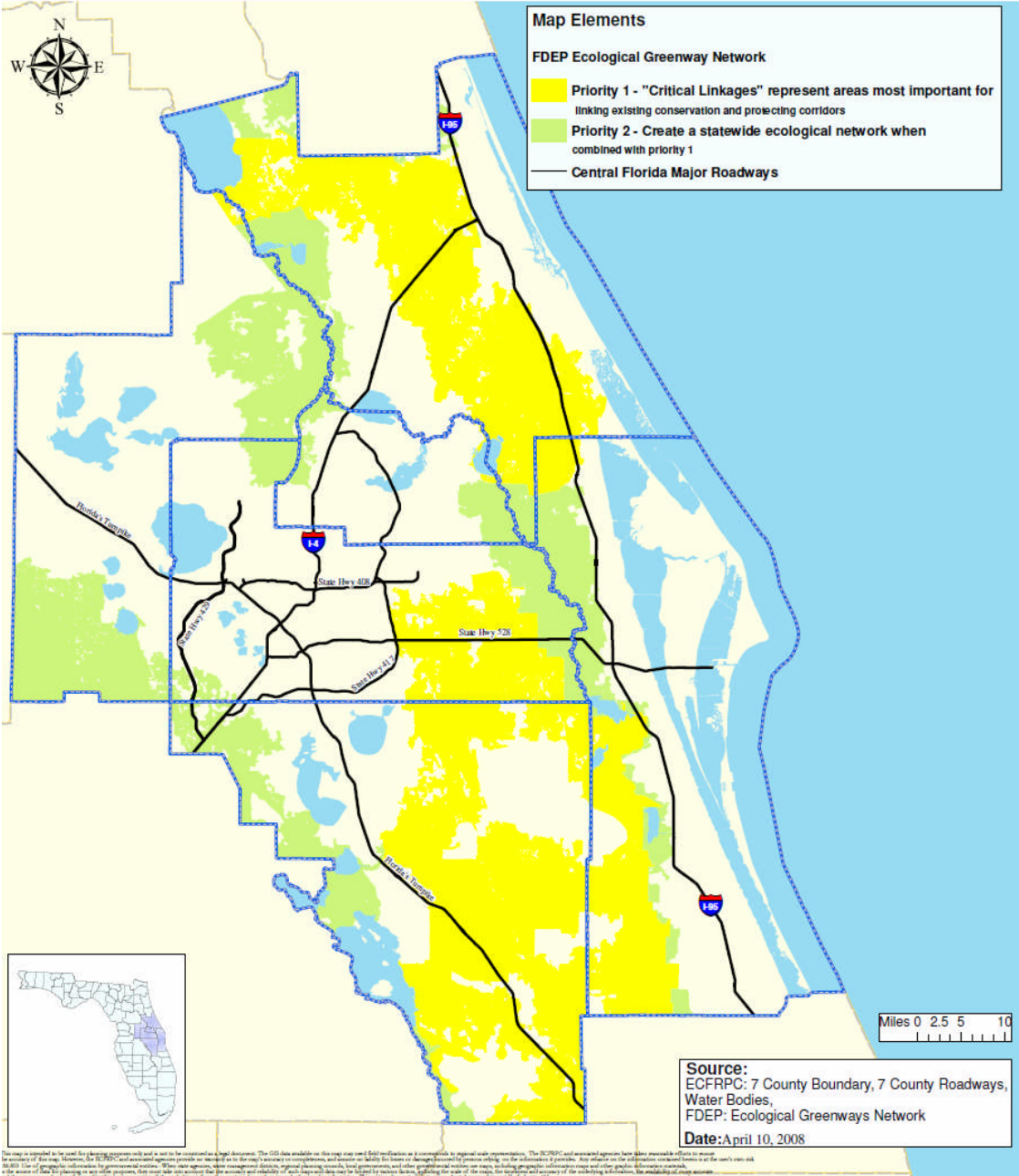
## Consensus All CLIP Priorities

ACRES	All	Private Land
P1	17,218,379	7,851,530
P2	3,352,322	3,141,509
P3	5,185,983	5,044,738
P4	3,669,599	3,635,669
P5	877,450	876,531



# FDEP Ecological Greenways Network

(See Metadata for details)



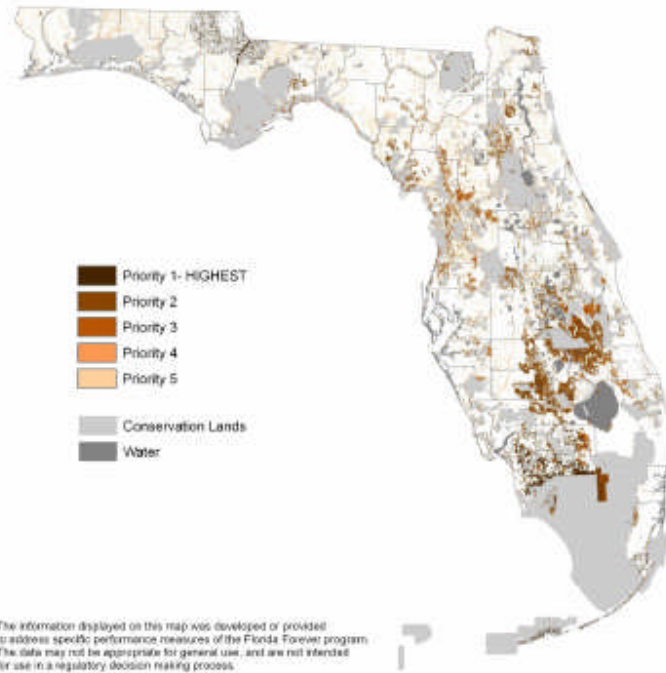
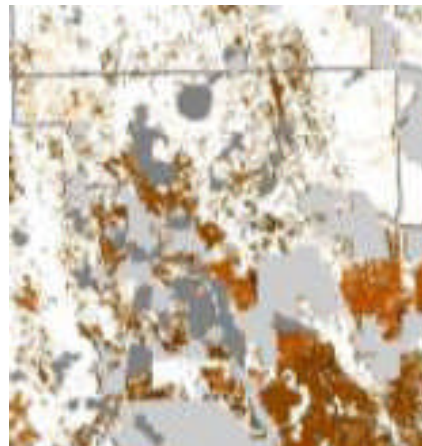
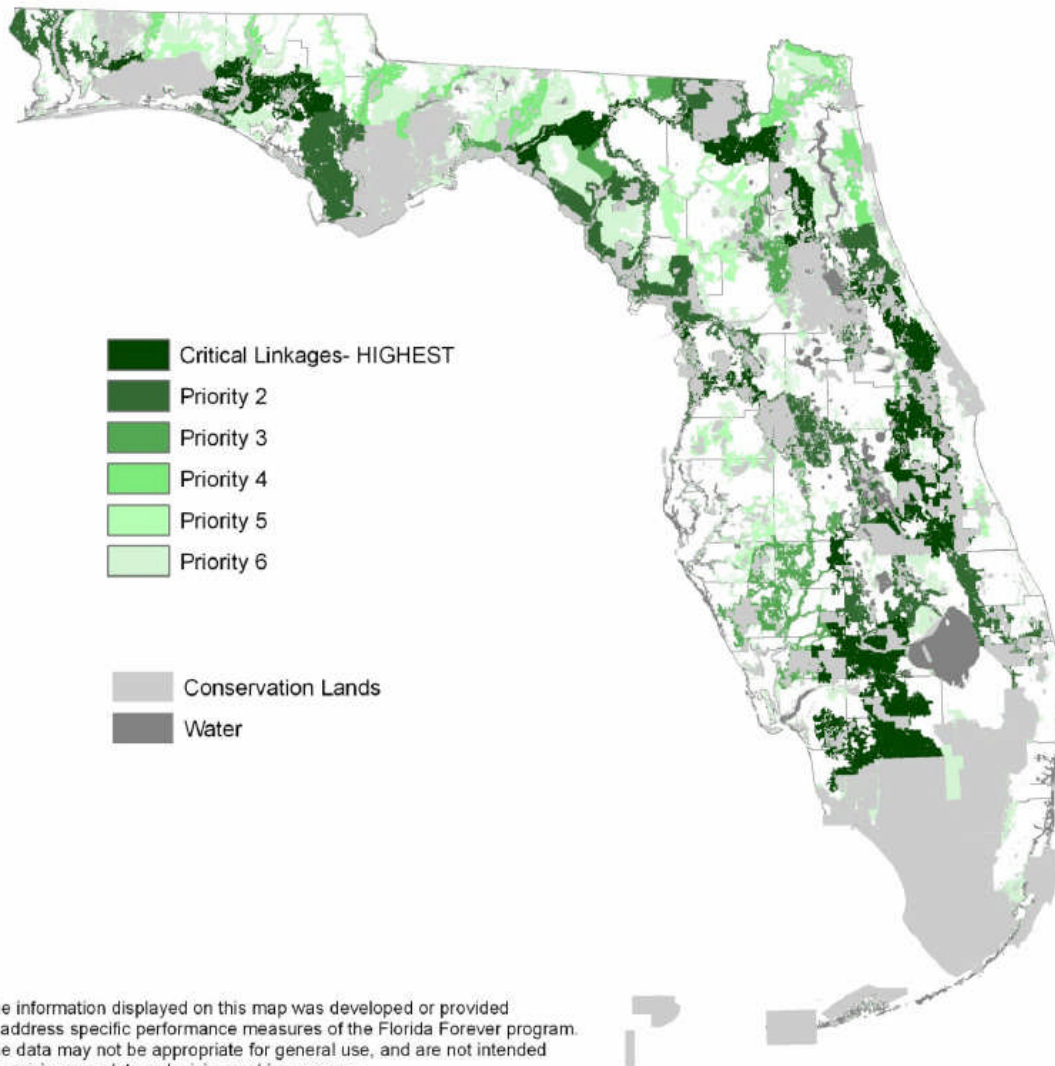


Figure 1-1. Prioritized Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas

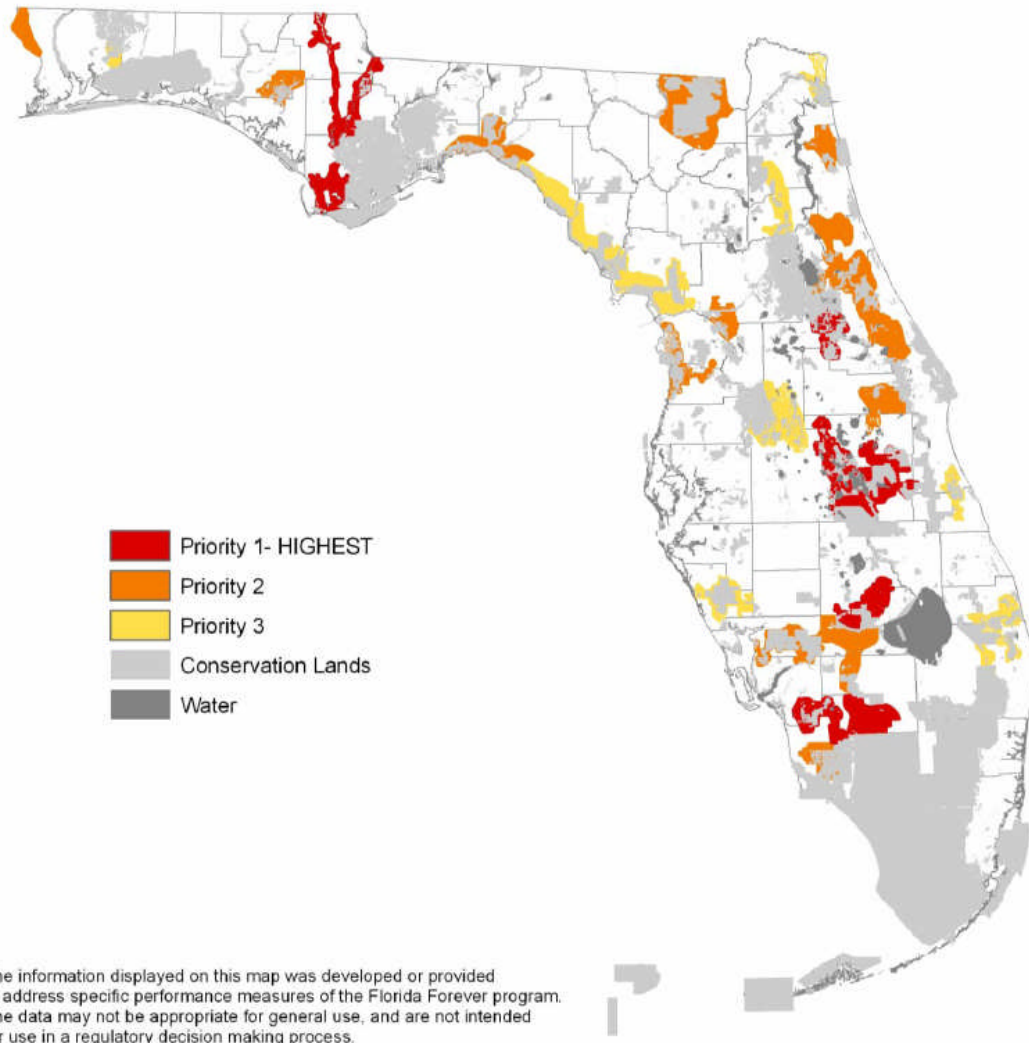
Source: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission





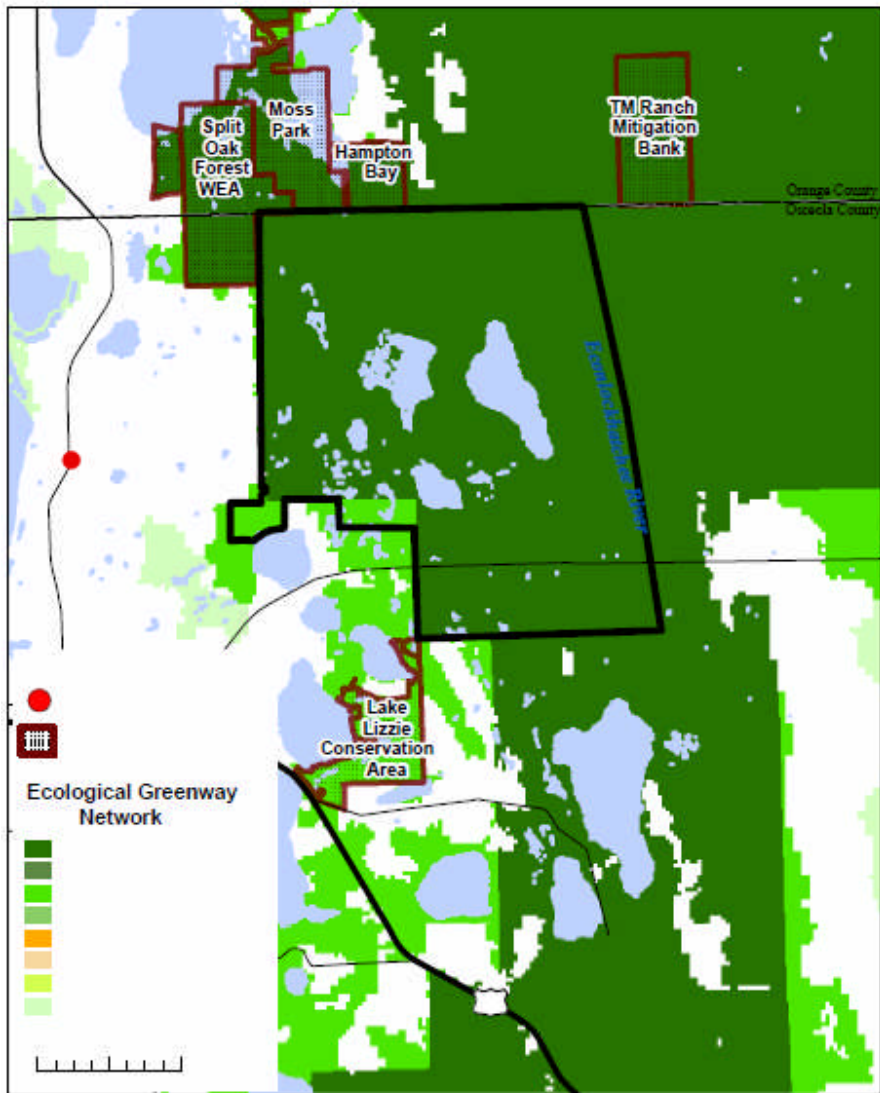
**Figure 3-1. Significant Landscapes, Linkages and Conservation Corridors (Ecological Greenways Network)**

Source: University of Florida Geoplan Center and Department of Environmental Protection/Office of Greenways and Trails



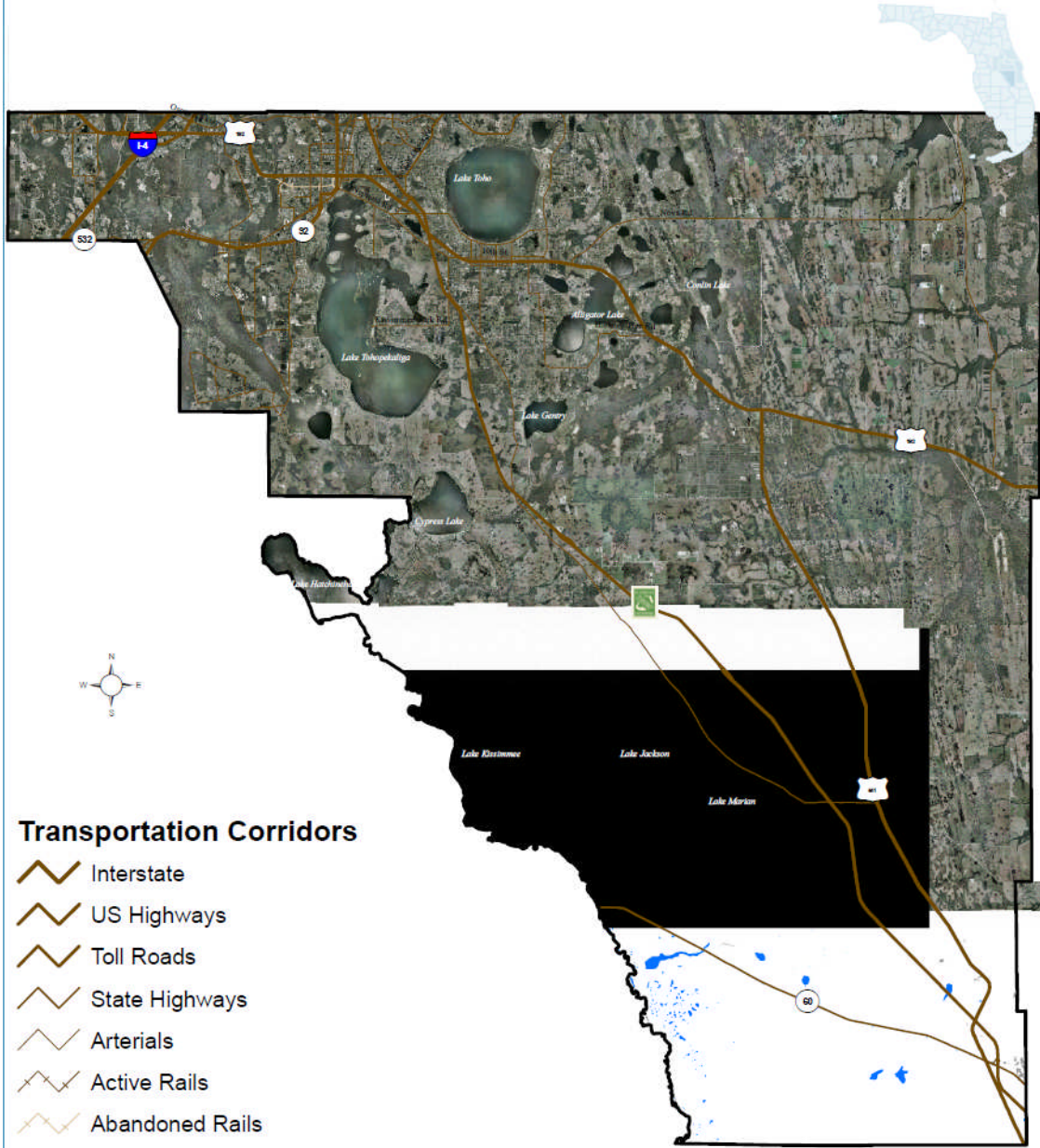
**Figure 5-1. Landscape-sized Protection Areas**

Source: Natural resource experts from Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and University of Florida



# EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION

*Aerial Photograph Overview, Osceola County*



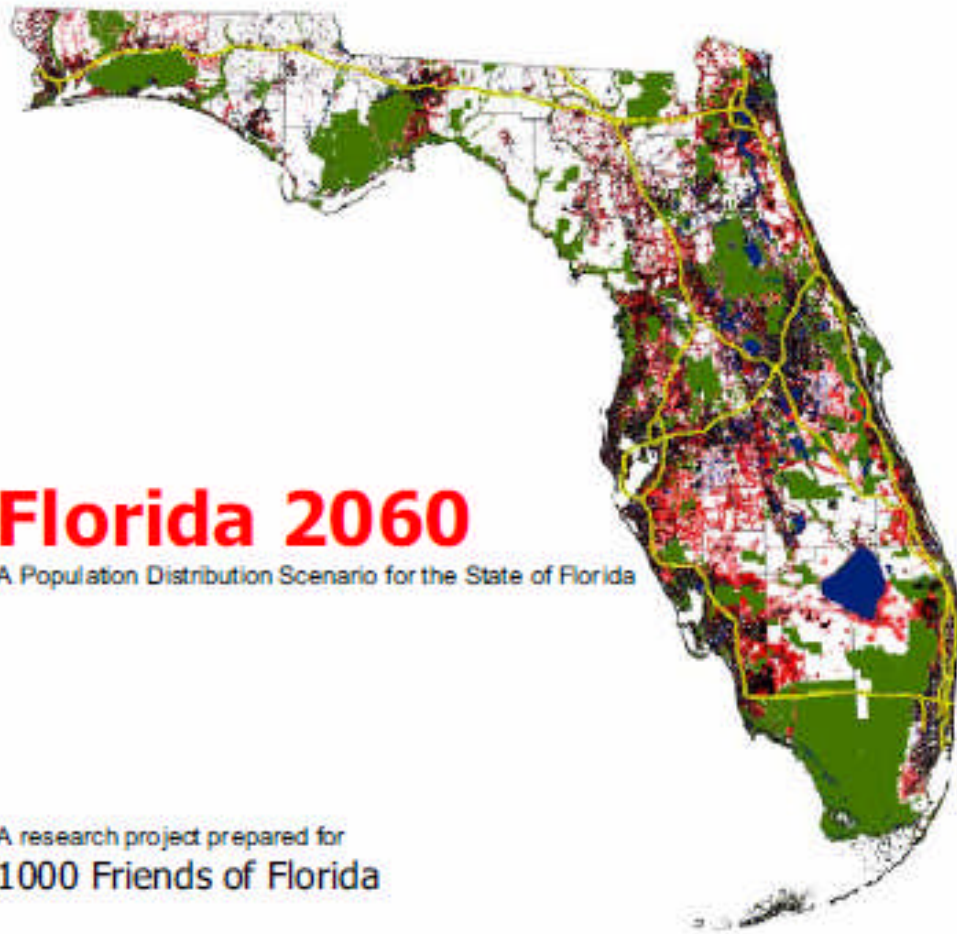
## Transportation Corridors

-  Interstate
-  US Highways
-  Toll Roads
-  State Highways
-  Arterials
-  Active Rails
-  Abandoned Rails

**Source:**  
 Official County Boundary: ECFRPC  
 Aerial Photograph: Feb 2005 Aerials Express / ECFRPC  
 Transportation Corridors: US Census TIGER and 2000  
 Florida Rail Network FGDL  
**Date:** June 01, 2008

0 4 8 16 24 Miles





# Florida 2060

A Population Distribution Scenario for the State of Florida

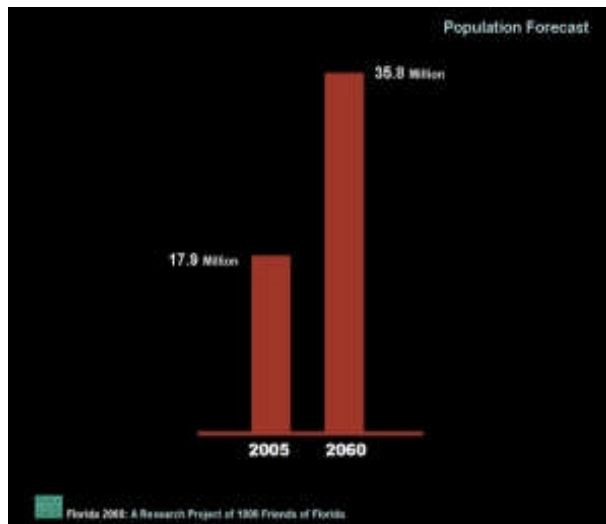
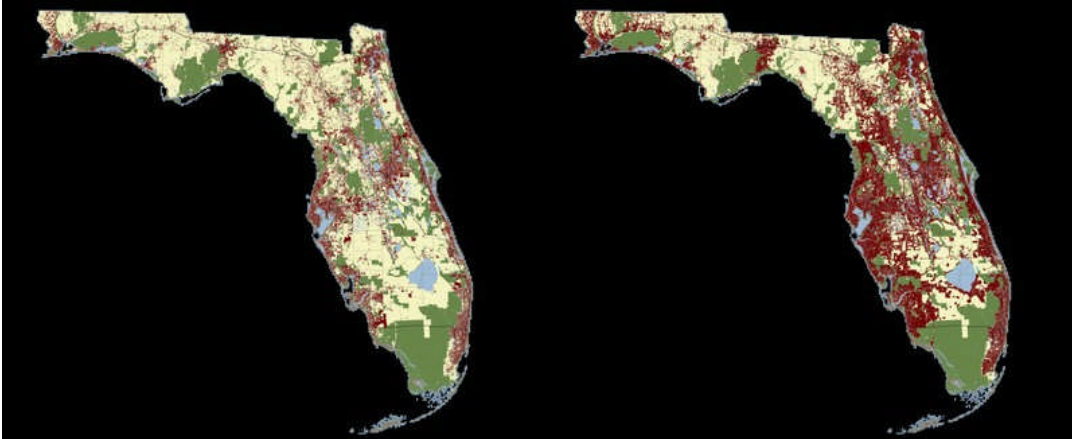
A research project prepared for  
**1000 Friends of Florida**

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By the  
**GeoPlan Center**  
At the University of Florida

Paul D. Zwick  
Margaret H. Carr

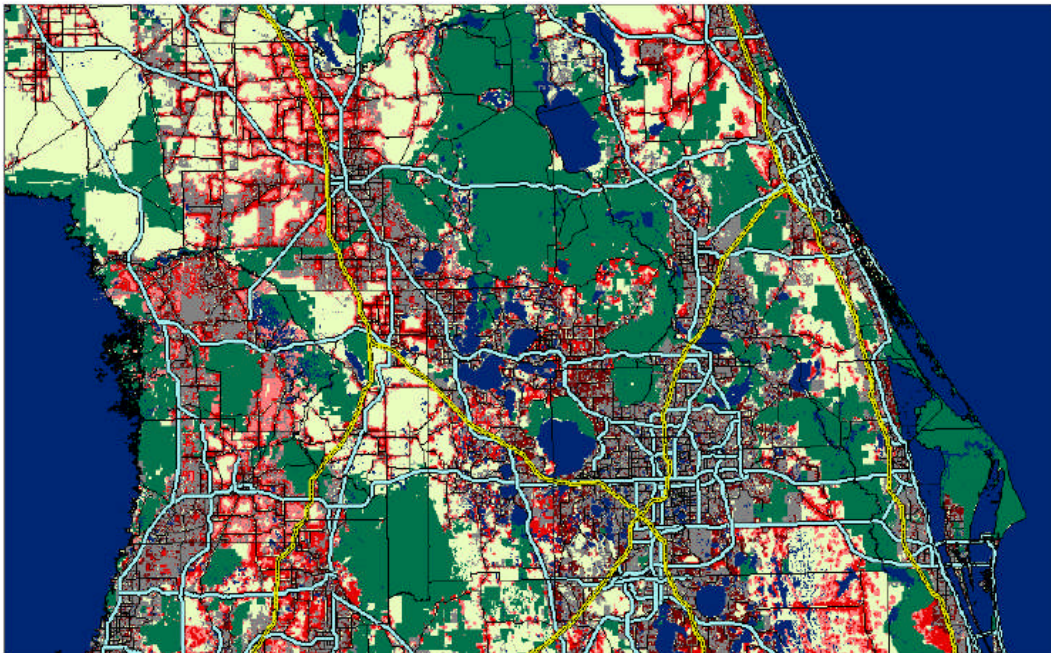
August 15, 2006



If the historic patterns of development continue over the next 50 years, Florida could stand to convert 7 million acres of additional land from rural to urban uses, including 2.7 million acres of native habitat.

*Before & After - [Florida 2060: A Research Project of 1000 Friends of Florida](#)*

Figure 6. Population distribution for 2020, 2040 and 2060 in central Florida.



#### Legend

- 2020 Population Distribution
- 2040 Population Distribution
- 2060 Population Distribution
- 2005 Existing Urban Lands
- 2005 Existing Conservation Lands
- 2060 Remaining Undeveloped Lands  
Including Agriculture & Pristine Areas
- Open Water
- Limited Access Highways
- Major Roads

### IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEM “SERVICES” OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Sustain biodiversity.
- Protect areas from impacts of flooding, storm damage or drought.
- Protect stream and river channels and coastal shores from erosion.
- Provide a carbon sink. As an example, 100 acres of woodland can absorb emissions equivalent to 100 family cars.

- Offer pollution control. Vegetation has a significant capacity to attenuate noise and filter air pollution from motor vehicles. Wetland ecosystems are also effective in filtering polluted run-off and sewage.
- Provide natural “air conditioning.” A single large tree can be equivalent to five room air conditioners and will supply enough oxygen for ten people.
- Provide microclimate control by providing shade, hold in humidity and blocking winds and air currents.
- Protect people from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays.
- Cycle and move nutrients and detoxify and decompose wastes.
- Control agricultural pests and regulate disease carrying organisms.
- Generate and preserve soils and renew their fertility.
- Disperse seeds and pollinate crops and natural vegetation.
- Contribute to the health and wellbeing of our citizens. Accessible green space and natural habitats create opportunities for recreation and exercise, and studies have shown that this increases our creative play, social skills and concentration span.
- Contribute to a community’s social cohesion. The active use of greenspaces, including streets and communal spaces, can encourage greater social interaction and contribute to a lively public realm. Participation in the design and stewardship of green space can help strengthen communities.
- Enhance economic value. Natural greenspaces can increase property values, reduce management overheads, and reduce healthcare costs.

*Adapted from: Ecosystem Services, Ecological Society of America, 2000, at [www.esa.org](http://www.esa.org); and, Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities, Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), England, 2004.*

Appendix 3. Urban suitability criteria, rationale for use, and assigned weights.

Urban Suitability Criterion	Rationale for Use	Weight
Proximity to existing urban areas	New urban development tends to occur in close proximity to existing urban development.	29%
Presence/absence of wetlands	The presence of wetlands tends to increase the cost of urban development.	18%
Road density	New urban development tends to occur in areas of relatively higher road density.	14%
Proximity to coastline	The coast has historically been an attractor for urban development.	11%
Developments of Regional Impact (other than urban infrastructure projects like airports) and the West Bay Detailed Specific Area Plan (less the approved airport site)	Areas within approved DRIs and DSAPs are highly likely to develop. The only DSAP that was used, however, was West Bay in Bay County, because the other existing DSAPs fell in the path and pattern of new urban development and their boundaries did not affect the pattern or timing of new urban development.	10%
Proximity to major roads	Roads facilitate new urban development.	7%
Proximity to centroids of major urban areas (population greater than 30,000)	Major urban areas tend to accommodate more additional population than do smaller urban areas	7%
Proximity to open water	Access to the view of water has historically been an attractor for development.	4%

## **A TIERED APPROACH TO CONSERVATION**

Over the past few decades, a three-tiered approach to land conservation has evolved in Florida. The top tier includes large statewide and regional land acquisition and protection efforts intended to establish “islands” of protected and relatively intact habitats which are linked, where possible, by ecological greenways. These efforts have laid the foundation for a statewide green infrastructure in Florida.

The bottom tier includes programs directed at protecting habitats within neighborhoods and in backyards. Often grassroots in nature, these include the University of Florida’s Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program and the National Wildlife Federation’s Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, both of which are targeted at individual citizens, families, and/or neighborhoods.

The middle tier focuses on creating regional and communitywide green infrastructure to promote conservation within large landholdings, large developments, and neighborhoods. This tier is perhaps the least evolved of the three, but includes better land use planning, development design, and best management practices by both the public and private sectors. It is the middle tier at which most development approvals are issued. This tier offers the greatest potential for better integration of human and wildlife habitat.

### **THE TOP TIER: TOWARD A STATEWIDE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN FLORIDA**

Before the phrase “green infrastructure” had even been coined, Florida launched an ambitious series of land acquisition and conservation planning projects which laid the foundation for creating Florida’s existing green infrastructure. Building on earlier state land acquisition programs, in 1990 Florida established the Preservation 2000 program. This 10-year program raised \$3 billion, and protected 1,781,489 acres of environmentally sensitive land. In 1999, the Florida Legislature created Florida Forever, also designed to dedicate \$3 billion to land acquisition over the following decade. As of December 2006, another 535,643 acres of environmentally sensitive land had been protected through this effort.

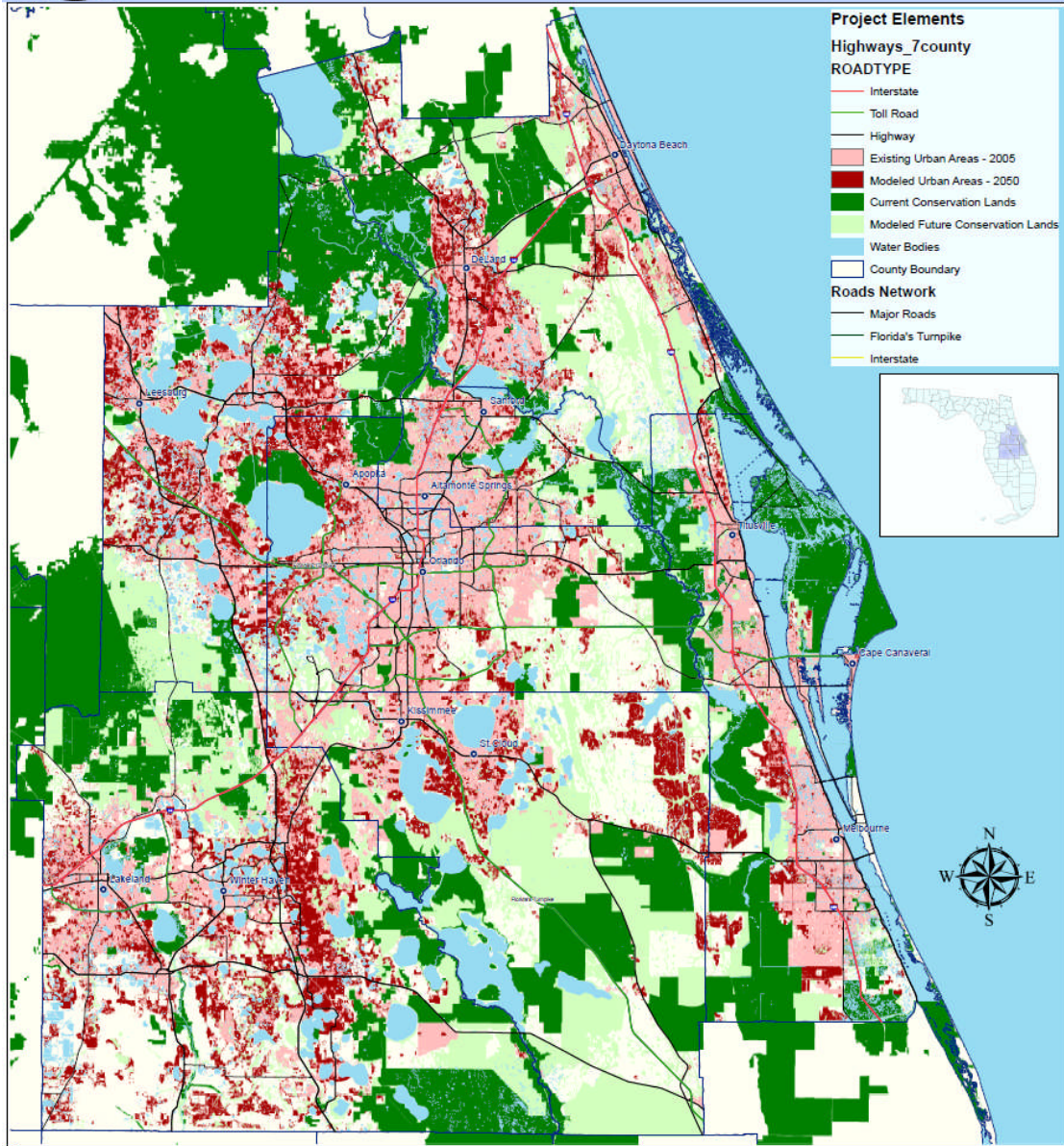
As these major land acquisition programs evolved, there was a growing awareness of the need to be more strategic in land acquisition, and a series of efforts were launched in the 1990s. In 1994, researchers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) completed a very important report, Closing the Gaps in Florida's Wildlife Habitat Conservation. This cornerstone report used a geographic information system approach to identify key habitat areas to conserve in order to maintain key components of the state’s biological diversity. These areas, known as Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCA), continue to serve as a foundation for conservation planning in Florida.

<http://www.floridahabitat.org/wildlife-manual/wildlife-friendly-communities>



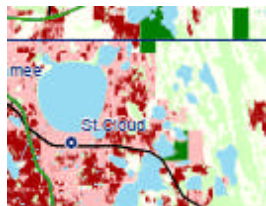
# How Shall We Grow? - Green Areas Scenario

## East Central Florida Region: Regional Visioning Process



Source:  
 Data Provided by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, University of Florida and Renaissance Planning Group  
 Date: June 15, 2007

This map is intended to be used for planning purposes only and is not to be construed as legal documents. The GIS data available on this map may need full verification and interpretation against local regulations. The RCPFC and associated agencies have been made available for review. The use of this map, however, by RCPFC and associated agencies is not intended to be construed as a guarantee of accuracy. The RCPFC and associated agencies have been made available for review. The use of this map, however, by RCPFC and associated agencies is not intended to be construed as a guarantee of accuracy. The RCPFC and associated agencies have been made available for review. The use of this map, however, by RCPFC and associated agencies is not intended to be construed as a guarantee of accuracy.



# Economic Benefits of Land Conservation



## Ecosystem Services

Many economic benefits are considered “ecosystem services.” These include necessities such as drinking water and food production; erosion control, flood regulation and storm protection; the holding and storage of carbon in forests; and values of open space for recreation and personal enjoyment.

Historically, ecosystem services have been considered “free” to individuals and society. No monetary price was paid for them because they were presumably available to everyone.

In the mid 1980s, one of the earliest studies on ecosystem services estimated an average value of \$33 trillion per year for services provided by various ecosystems worldwide. This included \$17 trillion for the storage, processing and cycling of nutrients; \$2.3 trillion for water purification and pollutant removal; and \$1.8 trillion for flood control and storm protection.<sup>30</sup>

In Florida, Defenders of Wildlife calculated in 2008 the economic impacts of 10 areas protected through Florida Forever and other state acquisition programs. **The total value of ecosystem services was estimated to be more than \$1.8 billion per year.** “Greater economic value can be gained from conservation areas that are well-managed and restored and by preventing overly intensive uses that diminish the natural and economic values,” according to the report.<sup>31</sup> Furthermore, the report found that, value of these services will increase in the future as fewer natural areas are available for protection.

Defenders of Wildlife completed another 2008 study that examined the economic values provided by an 825-acre area in Collier County near Big Cypress National Preserve and Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. The study concluded that the economic value of the **benefits flowing from these natural lands that accrue to humans in a given year** (e.g. carbon sequestration, water supply, recreation, scenic views, etc.) **ranged from \$145 million to \$315 million** (values expressed in 2004 dollars).<sup>32</sup> The highest values were determined to come from water provision (via recharge, through infiltration and percolation of rainwater that provide a large share of the public water supply in the area), followed by carbon sequestration.

A 2006 Indian River County assessment found that **the annual value of ecosystem services derived from lands purchased by the county amounted to \$23.4 million**, including \$19 million derived from freshwater wetlands, \$3 million from coastal strand and \$600,000 from forests and scrub. **The annual value of services from all county public lands amounted to \$768 million.** The economic value of 14 ecosystem services from 12 ecosystem types was estimated based on published studies and original calculations using county environmental lands acreages and program expenditures data. The study concluded that of the \$67 million invested in the county environmental program for the preceding 15 years, the county lands paid for themselves in fewer than three years.<sup>33</sup>



# EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION

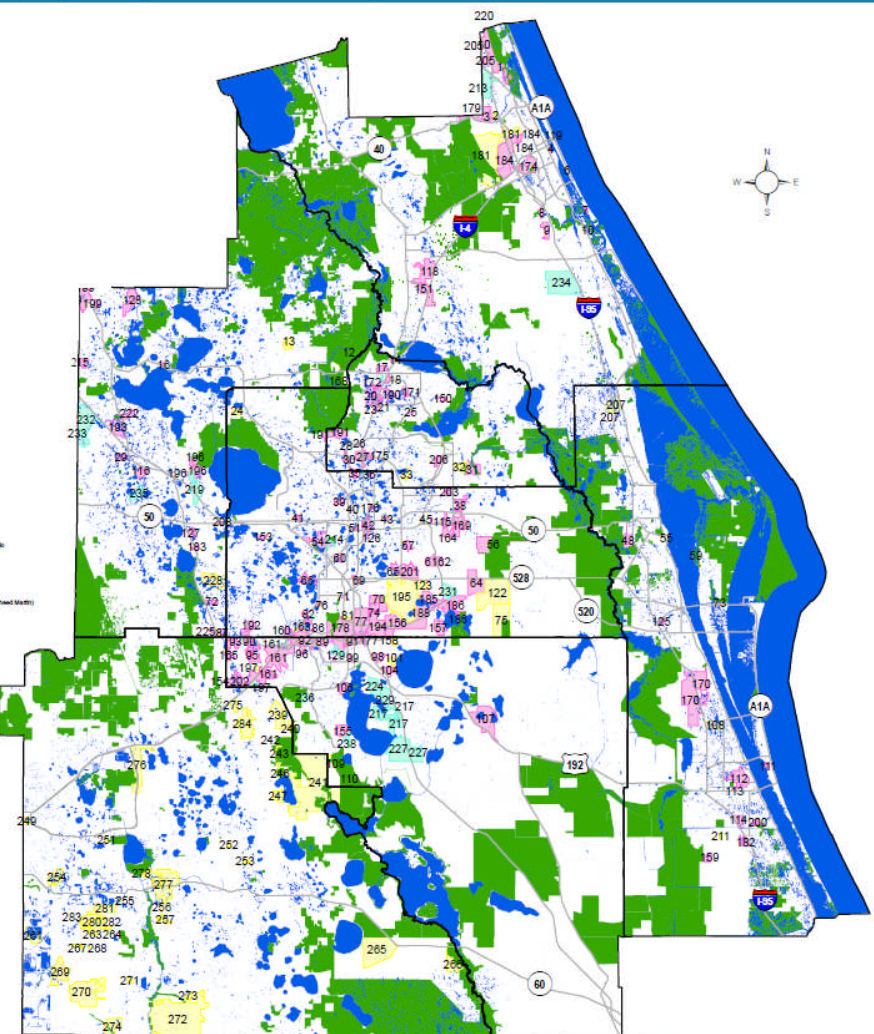
Development of Regional Impact - Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and Volusia Counties



- Major Highways
- Current Conservation 2006
- Water Bodies
- DRI Status**
- Other Status
- Approved
- Proposed

**ID, DIR\_NAME**

- |                                           |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 0. Health Pavilion                        | 70. Airport Industrial Park - Orlando        |
| 1. National Gardens                       | 71. Southpark Center                         |
| 2. Chimey Hill                            | 72. Greater Lakes PUD                        |
| 3. Bessiekey Falls                        | 73. Harbor Row Marina                        |
| 4. Health Harbor Marina                   | 74. Orlando Airport                          |
| 5. Airport Executive Park                 | 75. Osceola County Test Site (Lundberg Mtns) |
| 6. The Grove                              | 76. Interstate 4 Plaza                       |
| 7. Piney Point                            | 77. Southshore                               |
| 8. Spruce Creek                           | 78. Vista Center                             |
| 9. Spruce Creek Village                   | 79. Wings at Express Point                   |
| 10. New Smyrna Beach Hotel                | 80. Suwannee West Hotel                      |
| 11. Water Oak Estates                     | 81. World                                    |
| 12. Three Rivers                          | 82. Lake Lake Spain                          |
| 13. Villages XII                          | 83. Lake Bryan                               |
| 14. Hidden Harbor Marina                  | 84. Holiday Inn Lake Shalena Vista           |
| 15. Peeterson                             | 85. Midway                                   |
| 16. Lake Square Mall                      | 86. Nixson Towers                            |
| 17. Lake Forest                           | 87. Summer Bay                               |
| 18. Sandhollow Trade Center               | 88. Terra Land                               |
| 19. Healthcare Town Center                | 89. Legacy Resort                            |
| 20. Healthcare                            | 90. Rolling Oaks                             |
| 21. Phoenix                               | 91. Osceola Corporate Center                 |
| 22. Lake Mary Shopping Center             | 92. Lake Mary Corporate                      |
| 23. North Point                           | 93. Lindfield                                |
| 24. Lake Oa                               | 94. Rio Vista Mobile Homes                   |
| 25. Park World                            | 95. Fortuna Gardens                          |
| 26. Sandhollow Office Park                | 96. Fairlane                                 |
| 27. Alachua Springs Convention            | 97. Fantasy Heights                          |
| 28. The Landing                           | 98. Lakeside Estates                         |
| 29. Royal Highlands                       | 99. Woodloch                                 |
| 30. West Town Center                      | 100. Osceola Square Mall                     |
| 31. Twin Rivers                           | 101. O. F. Lee                               |
| 32. Ashby Woods                           | 102. Tish Development                        |
| 33. Oak Point                             | 103. Maple Oaks                              |
| 34. Landmark Wilson John Venture          | 104. Remington                               |
| 35. The Summit                            | 105. Healthcare Center                       |
| 36. Medical Center                        | 106. The Oaks                                |
| 37. Lakeside Eastern Access Road          | 107. Harmony FOD                             |
| 38. Central Florida Research Park         | 108. Sand Hill Point                         |
| 39. Center of Commerce at Orlando         | 109. Pleasant Hill Point                     |
| 40. Prosper Park                          | 110. Johnson/Walker Ranch                    |
| 41. West Oaks Mall                        | 111. Pine Hills                              |
| 42. Downtown Orlando                      | 112. Melbourne Regional Airport              |
| 43. Orlando Fashion Square                | 113. Melbourne Square Mall                   |
| 44. Gateway Center                        | 114. Delwood Village                         |
| 45. Valencia Community College            | 115. High Point of Orlando                   |
| 46. One Orlando Center                    | 116. Orlando (O. F. Lee) Center Park         |
| 47. Orlando Arena                         | 117. New Century Park                        |
| 48. Great Outdoors                        | 118. Medical Park                            |
| 49. Depot Center                          | 119. Adams Park                              |
| 50. Orange County Regional Service Center | 120. Walden Promenade                        |
| 51. Pueblo City Square                    | 121. Coppens Park                            |
| 52. Jaymont                               | 122. Magnolia Ranch                          |
| 53. Sun Beach Center                      | 123. St. James Park                          |
| 54. Mesa West                             | 124. Highgate Green (Terminal)               |
| 55. Victor Space                          | 125. Seaward Courtage                        |
| 56. Aviston Park                          | 126. OPR                                     |
| 57. Lakeside Park                         | 127. Lake Lake Shalena                       |
| 58. Mough Properties                      | 128. Harbor Hills                            |
| 59. Pine Island                           | 129. Flora Ridge                             |
| 60. Miraval                               | 130. Sunset Point                            |
| 61. Coonrock Lakes                        | 131. Malabar Shores                          |
| 62. Sebelly Commerce Center               | 132. Grand Haven                             |
| 63. Osceola Corporate Center              | 133. Village of Sunrise                      |
| 64. International Corporate Park          | 134. Village of Horizon FOD                  |
| 65. Seawall Commerce Center               | 135. Spruce Creek South                      |
| 66. Granada                               | 136. Stranost                                |
| 67. Airport Lakes                         | 137. Clear Springs Ridge                     |
| 68. Clarendon Executive Park              | 138. Village of Shadow Springs               |
| 69. Florida Mall                          | 139. Palms Park                              |
| 70. Airport Industrial Park - Orlando     | 140. Oak Park                                |



- |                                             |                                  |                                                |                                                   |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 141. On Top of the World                    | 170. Vista                       | 199. The Palms                                 | 228. Capen Crossing FOD                           | 265. Indian Lakes Estates                                  |
| 142. Woodbrook                              | 171. Chase Groves                | 198. The Country Villages                      | 229. D.R. Horton                                  | 266. River Ranch                                           |
| 143. Oakwood Municipal Airport              | 172. Colonial Center Healthcare  | 200. Sandy Plains                              | 230. Clear Island                                 | 267. Neway/Phosphoria Mine                                 |
| 144. Oaks Hills                             | 173. Crescent Gateway            | 201. Law View Center                           | 231. Karbon                                       | 268. Haysworth Mine Extension                              |
| 145. Gold Springs Village FOD               | 174. Daytona Beach Int'l Airport | 202. Champions Gate                            | 232. Matthews Cove                                | 269. Haulover Park/Parish/Taco                             |
| 146. Gateway                                | 175. Florida Health Alliance     | 203. Oakbridge                                 | 233. Sable Dale                                   | 270. US Agri-Chemicals System Stack                        |
| 147. Spruce Creek Country Club FOD          | 176. Florida Hospital Orlando    | 204. Park Equus                                | 234. Innovation Phase                             | 271. US South Flat Beach Mine/Cargill                      |
| 148. Pastos Park                            | 177. Gateway Center              | 205. Parkside Bay                              | 235. Social Pranks                                | 272. South Tolland Mine Agri                               |
| 149. Orlando-Sanford Airport                | 178. Horizon's Creek             | 206. Crown Metallpark                          | 236. Renaissance Trails                           | 273. Citrus World/Bassett and Bassett Victor Power City Co |
| 150. Town Center at Palm Coast              | 179. Horizon Ridge               | 207. Michael High/Midwestern Platinium         | 237. Renaissance Creek                            | 274. Park Commerce Center                                  |
| 151. 1-49247 Activity Center                | 180. E.I. Int'l Exchange Center  | 208. Plaza Colina                              | 238. Oak Hills Estates                            | 275. Clear Springs Mine                                    |
| 152. Winter Garden Village at Foster Groves | 181. Indigo                      | 209. Stratus Property                          | 239. Sunlandia                                    | 276. 200, 201, 202 Neway/Phosphoria Mine                   |
| 153. Shadybrook South                       | 182. Interchange Front           | 210. S.R. 100 Property                         | 240. Leeward Sun Resort & Spa                     | 277. 275 Clear Springs Mine                                |
| 154. Dale Laga                              | 183. Village Ridge               | 211. The Phoenix Gallery                       | 241. Transability                                 | 278. Cargill/Fisher System Stack Expansion                 |
| 155. Glen Property                          | 184. USGA                        | 212. Palm Coast Park                           | 242. Clear Springs Mine                           | 279. Wealdie (in both Osceola & Polk Counties)             |
| 156. Eagle Creek                            | 185. Lake Vista Park             | 213. Clear Springs FOD                         | 243. 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247 Phosphoria |                                                            |
| 157. Bunker                                 | 186. Lake Vista Center           | 214. Orlando International Center              | 244. 146-150 Inter-Authortive                     |                                                            |
| 158. Bunker                                 | 187. Lake Vista                  | 215. International Parkway Business Center PCA | 251. POC/LIFE                                     |                                                            |
| 159. Bunker                                 | 188. Lake Vista Village          | 216. Star Hand Resort                          | 252. State Farm Regional Office                   |                                                            |
| 160. Sunset Creek Resort                    | 189. The Palms                   | 217. Edgewater                                 | 253. Eagle Ridge Mall (owned by Lake Wales)       |                                                            |
| 161. Columbus                               |                                  | 218. Hills of Minnesota                        | 254. Inverloch Lakes                              |                                                            |
| 162. Suncoast                               |                                  | 219. Suncoast                                  | 255. Neway/Phosphoria Mine Extension              |                                                            |
| 163. World Gateway                          |                                  | 220. Suncoast                                  | 256. Clear Springs Mine                           |                                                            |
| 164. Woodland Lakes                         |                                  | 221. All-in Gold Coast                         | 257. Clear Springs Mine                           |                                                            |
| 165. Wealdie                                |                                  | 222. Highland Lakes                            | 258. Clear Springs Mine                           |                                                            |
| 166. Wealdie                                |                                  | 223. Florida Veterans Park                     | 259. 280 Neway/Phosphoria Mine                    |                                                            |
| 167. Wealdie                                |                                  | 224. Wealdie Cove                              | 260. US Agri-Chemicals System Stack Expansion     |                                                            |
| 168. Wealdie                                |                                  | 225. Capen Crossing FOD                        | 261. 260, 261 Neway/Phosphoria Mine               |                                                            |
| 169. Wealdie                                |                                  | 226. Capen Crossing FOD                        |                                                   |                                                            |
| 170. Vista                                  |                                  | 227. Capen Crossing FOD                        |                                                   |                                                            |

Status information for Polk County DRI was not available at the time this map was created.

Source: County Boundaries, 2006 Conservation Lands, 2006 DRI, ECFRPC  
 Streets: POOT 2004 R2  
 Date: September 07, 2006

**Upper Econ Mosaic - Group B/Full Fee**

**Upper Econ Mosaic**

**Osceola and Orange Counties**

**Group B  
Full Fee**

**Purpose for State Acquisition**

A broad expanse of flatwoods, scrub, swamps, marshes, and lakes east of St. Cloud is important for the survival of such wildlife as scrub jays, caracara, sandhill crane, and wading birds. The Upper Econ Mosaic project, by protecting much of this land, will preserve natural lands around existing conservation areas, maintain habitat that the diverse wildlife here needs to survive, and ensure that the public will still be able to enjoy this natural landscape as Orlando and St. Cloud continue their rapid growth.

**Manager**

Division of Forestry (DOF), Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**General Description**

This project, together with Split Oak Mitigation Park and Moss Park, will protect about 35,000 acres in a region facing overwhelming threats from residential and commercial growth. It is a large expanse of habitat in the upper Kissimmee Basin region supporting a mosaic of high quality natural communities. The project encompasses the Econlockhatchee River Swamp, an Outstanding Florida Water and headwaters of the Econlockhatchee River, which flows north and east into the St. Johns through Orange and Seminole Counties. West of the river swamp the project includes all of four large lakes and has frontage on six others. The project is the site of several plants of conservation concern including scrub bay, nodding pinweed and Florida bear-grass. Rare animals include red-cockaded woodpecker, Sherman's fox squirrel, Florida sandhill crane, Florida scrub jay, and a large population of gopher tortoise.

One non-significant archaeological site is known from the project. Development is the greatest long-term threat to the area.

**Public Use**

The project will be managed as a state forest, offering opportunities for fishing, boating, hunting, hiking and camping.

**Acquisition Planning and Status**

The essential parcels are the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and Holland Properties.

**Coordination**

The Donovan (972 acres) property in the project at the southwestern boundary is a Florida Communities Trust project selected for funding during cycle 5A/6A.

**Management Policy Statement**

The primary objectives of management of the Upper Econ Mosaic project are to maintain and restore the mosaic of natural communities, ranging from scrub to flatwoods and marshes, along the upper reaches of the Econlockhatchee River basin and to provide natural-resource-based recreation to the public in the rapidly-growing Orlando area. Preserving the natural communities of the area will preserve one of the largest populations of red-cockaded woodpeckers in Florida, as well as other threatened wildlife such as Sherman's fox squirrels, and will enhance the conservation and recreation value of the adjacent Split Oak Mitigation Park and Moss Park.

FNAI Elements	
SCRUB	G2/S2
Sherman's fox squirrel	G5T2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2T3/S2S3
Florida scrub jay	G5T3/S3
Red-cockaded woodpecker	G3/S2
Scrub bay	G3/S3
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Nodding pinweed	G3/S3
19 elements known from project	

Placed on list	1996
Project Area (Acres)	32,140
Acres Acquired	928*
at a Cost of	\$2,817,895*
Acres Remaining	31,212
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$34,993,257

\*Acquisitions by local government and Florida Communities Trust

## Upper Econ Mosaic - Group B/Full Fee

The project should be managed under the multiple-use concept: management activities should be directed first toward preservation of resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as hunting and logging. Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; burn fire-dependent communities such as pine flatwoods and scrub in a pattern mimicking natural lightning-season fires, using natural firebreaks or existing roads for control; where appropriate, reforest pastures and pine plantations in the project area with original species; strictly limit timbering in old-growth stands and the hardwood swamps; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving resources. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project, which is 20 miles or less from Orlando and Kissimmee, includes most of the higher-quality undeveloped land from the Econlockhatchee River Swamp south and west to U.S. Highway 441, and is adjacent to an existing county park. It therefore has the size, configuration, and location to fulfill its primary objectives.

### Management Prospectus

*Qualifications for state designation* Major communities represented on this project include mesic and wet flatwoods, strand swamp, dome swamp, depression marsh, basin marsh, scrub, scrubby flatwoods, flatwoods lake, xeric hammock, and blackwater stream. The project's size and diversity makes it desirable for use and management as a state forest. Management by the Division of Forestry as a state forest is contingent upon the state obtaining legal public access to the site and acquiring fee simple title to the core parcels.

*Conditions affecting intensity of management* There are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so the level of management intensity and related management costs is expected to be typical for a state forest.

*Timetable for Implementing Management* Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the Division of Forestry for management, public access will be provided for non-facilities related, low intensity outdoor recreation activities. Until specific positions are provided for the project, public access will be coordinated through the Division of Forestry's Orlando District Headquarters and management activities will be con-

ducted utilizing district personnel. The Division of Forestry will cooperate with and seek the assistance of other state agencies, local government entities and interested parties as appropriate.

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removal of existing trash. Steps will be taken to insure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously affording protection of sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulation of a management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project can only be conceptual in nature. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species.

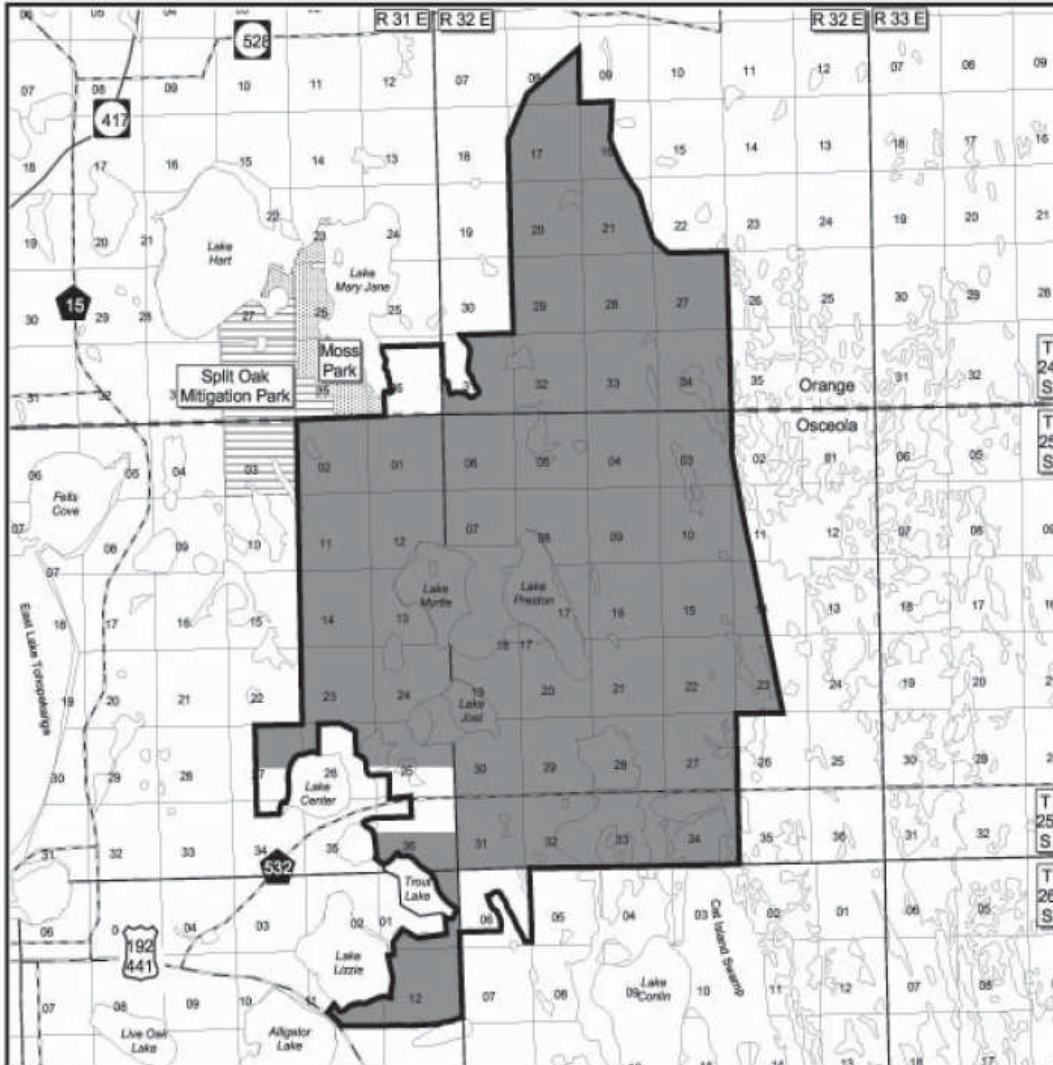
An all season burning program will be established utilizing practices that incorporate recent research findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be utilized to contain and control prescribed and natural fires.

Timber management activities will primarily consist of improvement thinnings and regeneration harvests aimed at maintaining and perpetuating forest ecosystems. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property.

The Division will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. Due to the

## Upper Econ Mosaic - Group B/Full Fee



### Upper Econ Mosaic

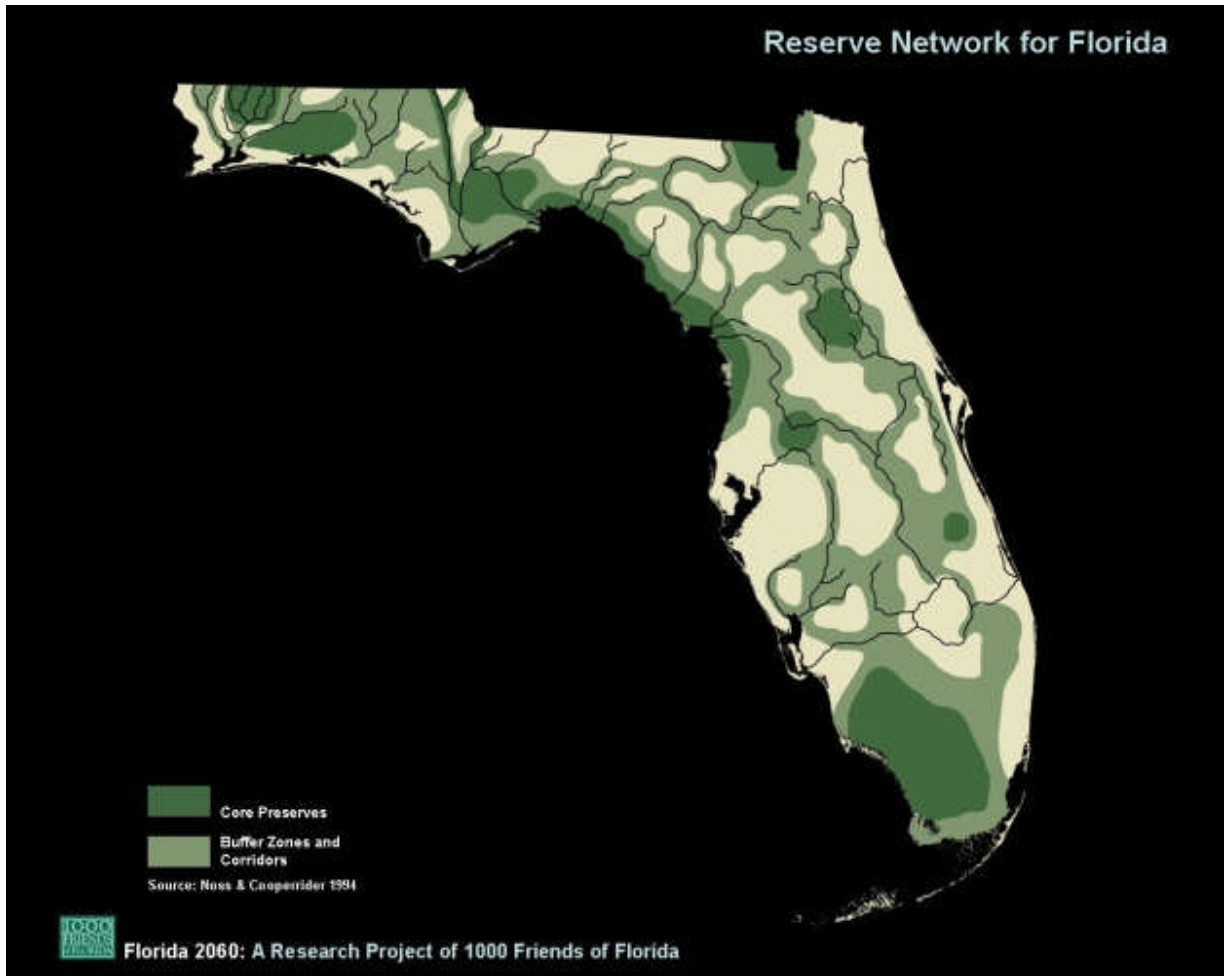
#### ORANGE, OSCEOLA COUNTIES

-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  CARL Project Boundary
-  Federal Land
-  Local or Private Managed Area
-  State Land
-  State Aquatic Preserve
-  Other CARL Project

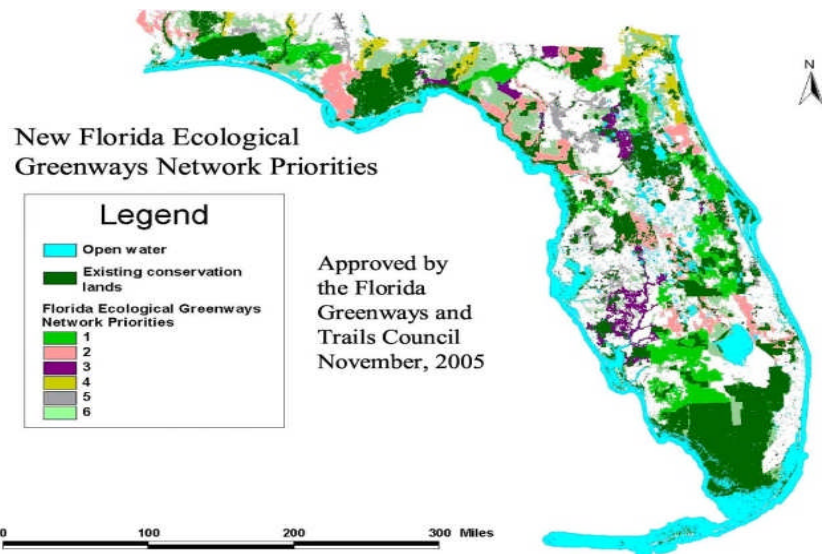


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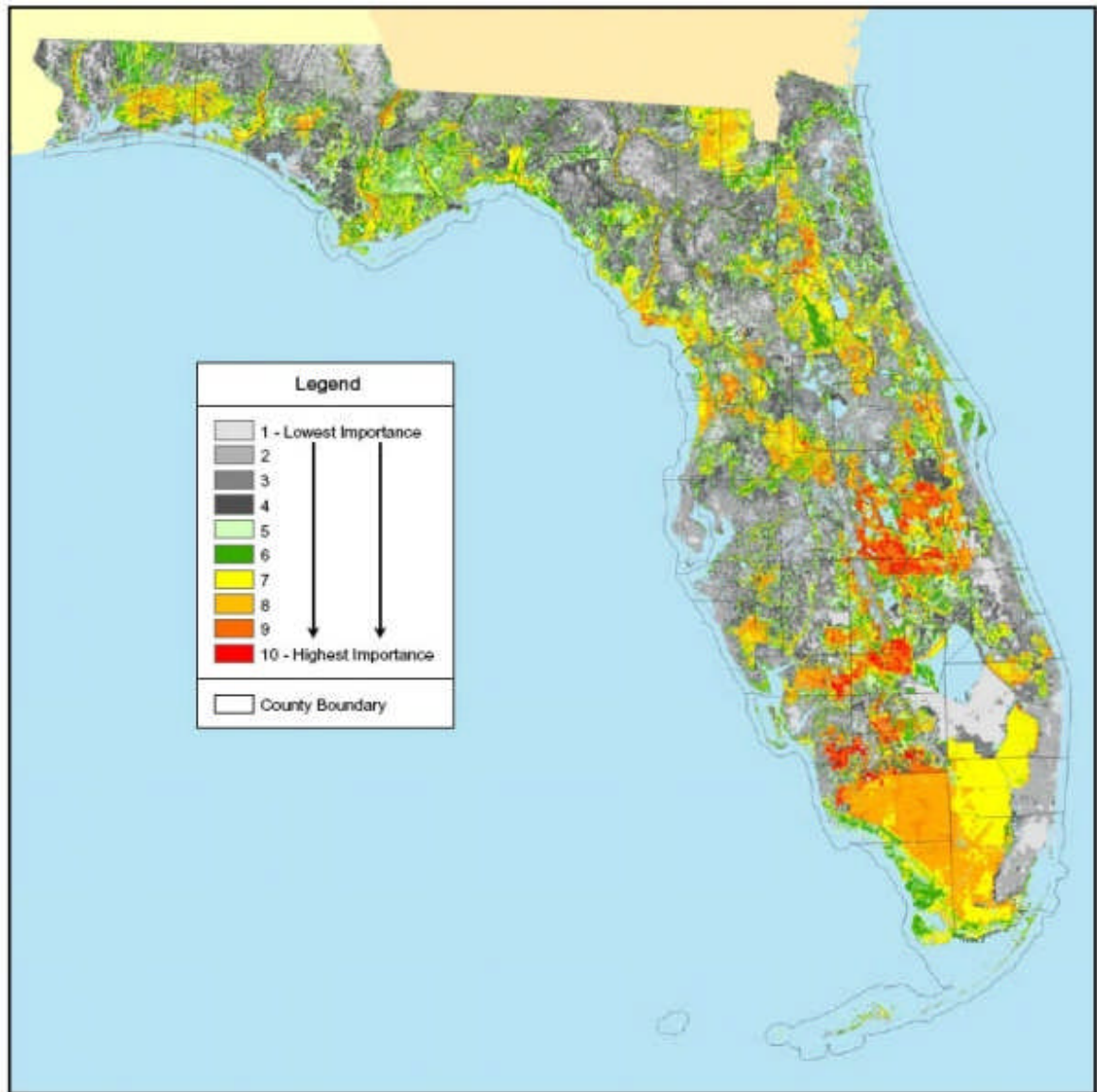




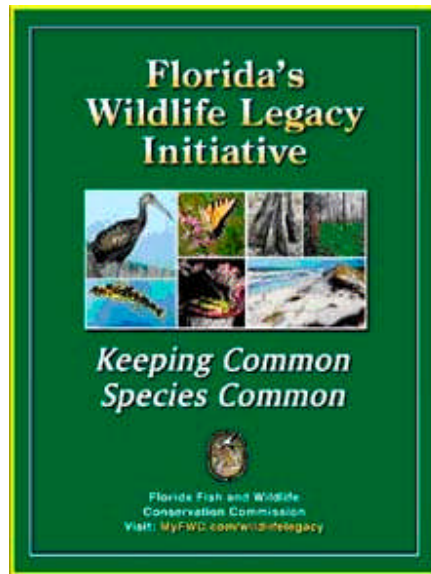
*Photo Courtesy of GeoPlan Center Graphic Courtesy of Noss & Cooperrider, 1994*



*Florida Ecological Greenway Network. Courtesy of GeoPlan Center, UF*



*The Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System, 2007. Photo courtesy Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.*



One outgrowth of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy is the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida and Defenders of Wildlife are providing leadership on this project, the goal of which is to build agreement between government and private interests on using common priorities as the basis for state-wide land use decisions. When completed, it will include a fully unified set of Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers of conservation and development lands that will be available to all Floridians, and a package of recommended landowner incentives to apply the strategies statewide.