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Florida  
Natural Areas  
Inventory

# SUMMARY OF FLORIDA CONSERVATION LANDS

## Including Less-than-fee Conservation Lands

January 2024

prepared by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory

with funding provided by Florida Department of Environmental Protection

	Fee simple Acres <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Less-than- fee Acres <sup>4,5</sup>
<b>FEDERAL CONSERVATION LANDS</b>		
USDA Forest Service	1,209,333	1,719
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service <sup>6</sup>	0	150,711
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	501,180	13,261
USDI National Park Service	1,732,018	1,337
US Dept. of Defense	658,760	0
US Other	976	0
<b>TOTAL FEDERALLY MANAGED non-submerged lands</b>	<b>4,102,267</b>	<b>167,029</b>
<b>STATE CONSERVATION LANDS</b>		
DACS Florida Forest Service	1,181,929	0
DACS Rural and Family Lands Protection Program	0	81,533
DEP Division of Recreation and Parks	698,072	0
DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection	75,356	5
DEP Division of State Lands	0	241,734
DEP Northwest District	0	13,070
DEP Mining and Mitigation Program	7,152	14,669
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,565,452	58,075
Dept. of Military Affairs	70,867	0
Dept. of Management Services	84	0
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	98	0
State Universities	15,205	27,057
Water Management Districts	1,463,220	477,878
<i>Undesignated State Lands</i> <sup>7</sup>	4,668	0
<b>TOTAL STATE MANAGED non-submerged lands</b>	<b>5,082,103</b>	<b>914,021</b>
<b>LOCAL (COUNTY &amp; MUNICIPAL) CONSERVATION LANDS</b>	<b>521,715</b>	<b>23,506</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL non-submerged lands</b>	<b>9,706,085</b>	<b>1,104,556</b>
Private Conservation Lands	126,580	80,229
Private Mitigation Banks	137,144	0
LAND AREA OF STATE OF FLORIDA: 34,721,280 acres <sup>8</sup>		
PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN FEDERALLY MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	11.8%	0.5%
PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN STATE-MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	14.6%	2.6%
PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN LOCALLY MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	1.5%	0.07%

<sup>1</sup>Acres may be different from previous years earlier than 2021 due to introduction of GIS acres being used to determine land and submerged acres.

<sup>2</sup>Acres are counted once under the primary managing agency even though there may be several owners and/or managers. For this reason, total acres for some agencies may be higher than the acres to which they hold title and others may be lower.

<sup>3</sup>Acres listed include terrestrial wetlands such as the Everglades but exclude 4,315,950 acres of submerged marine, lake, or river bottom (such as state aquatic preserves or Florida Bay) that are part of certain managed areas.

<sup>4</sup>Numbers include a total of 1,184,784 acres less-than-fee properties (11% of total conservation lands).

<sup>5</sup>Represents the less-than-fee lands included in the FNAI conservation lands database as of 1 January 2024, with the exception of mitigation banks. Almost all properties are owned and managed by private individuals or private foundations or corporations. Lands are classified by the agency or organization that monitors the easement on the property. The same agency or organization usually holds title to the easement, but there are a few exceptions.

<sup>6</sup>Acres total includes all permanent easements (WRP, GRP, and Wetland Reserve Easements) held by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

<sup>7</sup>Lands owned by the State that are not currently leased to a governmental agency.

<sup>8</sup>Source: Atlas of Florida, 1996. E. A. Fernald and E. D. Purdum, eds., University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL

## SUMMARY OF MANAGED CONSERVATION AREA ACREAGES January 2023

tracked by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Acreage figures are calculated from GIS boundary files. The acreage of each managed area may include some lands that are managed for purposes other than conservation. Non-submerged acres are the only acres considered in the previous fee simple/less-than-fee summary table.

<b>FEDERAL</b>	<b>combined acres</b>	<b>submerged acres</b>	<b>non-submerged acres</b>
Dept. of Agriculture: Forest Service	1,216,783	5,731	1,211,052
Dept. of Agriculture: NRCS	150,711	0	150,711
Fish and Wildlife Service <sup>1</sup>	983,358	468,916	514,442
National Park Service <sup>2,3</sup>	2,597,275	863,919	1,733,355
Dept. of Defense: Air Force, Navy, Marine	663,093	4,333	658,760
Dept. of Agriculture (other)	368	-	368
Dept. of Commerce: NOAA	9	-	9
Dept. of Transportation: Coast Guard	277	-	277
Bureau of Land Management	325	3	322
	<b>5,612,198</b>	<b>1,342,902</b>	<b>4,269,296</b>
<b>STATE</b>			
DACS Florida Forest Service	1,183,791	1,862	1,181,929
DACS Rural and Family Lands Prot. Program	81,534	2	81,533
DEP Division of Recreation & Parks	783,781	85,709	698,072
DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Prot. <sup>4</sup>	2,884,030	2,808,669	75,361
DEP Division of State Lands <sup>5</sup>	241,742	8	241,734
DEP Northwest District <sup>5</sup>	13,388	317	13,070
DEP Mining and Mitigation Program	21,821	0	21,821
Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,667,615	44,089	1,623,526
Dept. of Military Affairs	73,143	2,276	70,867
Dept. of Management Services	84	-	84
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	113	14	98
Universities	42,566	305	42,262
	<b>6,993,607</b>	<b>2,943,249</b>	<b>4,050,358</b>

<b>WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS</b>	<b>total acres</b>
Northwest Florida WMD	222,222
St. Johns River WMD	554,301
South Florida WMD	526,101
Southwest Florida WMD	361,674
Suwannee River WMD	276,801
	<b>1,941,099</b>
<b>STATE AND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS (total non-submerged acres)</b>	<b>5,991,456</b>
<b>LOCAL (COUNTY &amp; MUNICIPAL) GOVERNMENTS (total non-submerged acres)</b>	<b>545,221</b>
<b>PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS (total non-submerged acres)</b>	<b>206,809</b>
<b>PRIVATE MITIGATION BANKS (total non-submerged acres)</b>	<b>137,144</b>

<sup>1</sup>Submerged acres include, but are not exclusive to Key West NWR (207,963 acres), Great White Heron NWR/National Key Deer Refuge (198,710 acres), Merritt Island NWR (56,195 acres) and Chassahowitzka NWR (1,191 acres). Acreage total excludes lands within Merritt Island NWR that are managed solely by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

<sup>2</sup>Totals may include private properties within official federally designated boundaries of National Park Service lands.

<sup>3</sup>Submerged acres include Everglades National Park (570,515 acres), Biscayne National Park (165,721 acres), Dry Tortugas National Park (64,667 acres), Gulf Islands National Seashore (45,975 acres), and Canaveral National Seashore (16,614 acres).

<sup>4</sup>Includes state aquatic preserves and national estuarine research reserves but not Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

<sup>5</sup>DEP Division of State Lands is the monitoring agency for most conservation easements (less-than-fee lands) held by the State of Florida. DEP Northwest District is responsible for monitoring several large state-held conservation easements in the Florida Panhandle.