



Florida Forever Project Evaluation - Comparative Analysis

November 2021

This report is produced annually by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to provide scientific support to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) in advance of their vote on Florida Forever land acquisition projects. The Comparative Analysis provides a concise overview of the natural resource values of each existing and proposed Florida Forever project. A Single Resource Evaluation is provided for each of eleven resource types outlined in the Florida Forever Act. The F-TRAC Scenarios show which projects offer the greatest return in resource protection given the estimated acreage likely to be acquired by Florida Forever. As resources are acquired statewide, the protection needs of remaining resources change. The F-TRAC analysis is dynamic in that it identifies the places that best meet those changing protection needs in each evaluation cycle.

Data Updates

This evaluation is based on Version 4.6 of the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment (FFCNA) data layers. FFCNA resource data are continually updated as new information becomes available. Version 4.6 includes updates for Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Florida Ecological Greenways Network, and Under-represented Natural Communities. Details are described in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report, v4.6 and the Ranking Support Analyses Documentation for November 2021.

Acreage Threshold

The F-TRAC scenarios evaluate conservation value based on a set amount of acreage to be acquired. The closer this acreage threshold is set to the amount of land likely to be acquired by the Florida Forever program, the more relevant F-TRAC scores will be for project comparison. Early in the program, DEP staff estimated that approximately 824,600 acres could be acquired through the FFBOT program through 2020, assuming full Florida Forever funding throughout that time. Of that total, about 515,477 acres have been acquired (July 2001 – Sep 2021). Due to the current open-ended duration of the program, a threshold of 500,000 acres was used as the amount of land to be identified by the current F-TRAC (2020) Scenarios.

F-TRAC 2020 Statewide Scenario

This F-TRAC scenario is a statewide analysis to identify the best opportunities to acquire multiple resources in the same location. Of the 500,000 acres allocated, 75% occur on projects; the remaining 25% occur elsewhere in the state on other unprotected lands. This score is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context and might best be used to help determine if new proposals should be added to the list or existing projects should be removed.

F-TRAC 2020 on Florida Forever Projects

This scenario evaluates only within existing and proposed Florida Forever-BOT projects for the best opportunities to acquire multiple resources in the same location. That is, the 500,000 acres likely to be acquired by Florida Forever-BOT is allocated completely within the remaining acres of projects. This score compares projects relative to each other, essentially grading projects on a curve, rather than providing information about the larger statewide context. Each project's score may change based on number, size, or resource value of other projects on the list. This score might best be used to help inform project ranking.

Complete documentation for Ranking Support Analyses (Single Resource Evaluation, F-TRAC analysis and Ranking Support Data Layers), as well as other formats of the *Comparative Analysis* may be downloaded from the FNAI website at <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.

Category*	Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	F-TRAC 2020 Statewide	F-TRAC 2020 on FL Forever Projects	Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands & Floodplain	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Archaeological	Historic	Trails Network	FL Natl Scenic Trail corridor	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change Sea Level Rise
LTF	37,851	7%	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	3	3	5	2	3	2	2	3	5	3	2	1		5	1
LTF	6,382	0%	Limestone Ranch	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	2	2		4	1
LTF	2,293	0%	Little River Conservation Area	1	1	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	3	1	2		1	1
LTF	2,338	70%	Lower Perdido River Buffer	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	3	1	1		1	1
LTF	25,339	57%	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	5	4	3	1	3	3	3	3	4	3	1	2		2	5
LTF	96,707	6%	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	5	2	2	3		3	5
LTF	1,064	85%	Maytown Flatwoods	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	2	2	1		3	1
LTF	10,135	18%	Mill Creek	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	4	2	1	1		4	1
LTF	83	53%	Millstone Plantation	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	3	1		1	1
LTF	30,057	38%	Myakka Ranchlands	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3		4	1
LTF	14,153	0%	North Waccasassa Flats	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	4	2	5	1	1		2	1
LTF	3,881	22%	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	1	2	5	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	3		1	1
LTF	1,264	83%	Old Town Creek Watershed	3	5	5	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	1		5	1
LTF	3,033	22%	Peace River Refuge	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	3	4	2	3		4	1
LTF	67,678	0%	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	2	2	2	1	2	2	5	3	5	3	1	4	x	2	1
LTF	12,519	66%	Ranch Reserve	1	3	4	2	4	2	2	3	5	2	1	1		4	1
LTF	16,916	0%	Red Hills Conservation	1	4	2	5	2	2	3	3	3	5	5	1		1	1
LTF	376	0%	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	3	1	2		2	1
LTF	1,254	0%	Suwannee County Preservation	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	4	1	1		2	1
LTF	710	0%	West Aucilla River Buffer	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	4	1	1		1	1
LTF	3,286	0%	Withlacoochee River Corridor	1	1	3	1	3	3	2	4	3	2	1	3		4	1
CCL	174	84%	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	4	5	4	4	2	3	1	1	1	3	1	5		3	2
CCL	1,157	63%	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	5	4	5	3	4	3	1	1	1	2	2	3		2	1
CCL	5,817	57%	Florida Keys Ecosystem	5	4	5	3	3	4	1	1	2	4	2	5		3	2
CCL	3,252	56%	Garcon Ecosystem	1	1	3	2	5	4	2	1	2	4	1	4		2	3
CCL	10,971	66%	Northeast Florida Blueway	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	1	2	4	2	4		3	2
CCL	56,242	65%	St. Joe Timberland	4	4	3	2	4	3	4	2	5	3	2	4	x	2	4
CCL	17,194	35%	St. Johns River Blueway	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	3		3	3
CCL	3,742	0%	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	5	5	3	3	3	4	2	3	4	4	2	3	x	2	4
CCL	2,292	51%	Terra Ceia	1	2	2	2	4	4	1	1	1	4	1	1		4	2
CCL	655	55%	Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island	1	1	4	1	3	5	1	1	2	4	1	1		2	1
CCL	4,511	0%	West Bay Preservation Area	1	1	3	2	4	3	3	2	2	3	1	3		2	3
SC	5,886	88%	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	2	3	2	2	4	4	2	1	3	4	2	4		3	3
SC	3,077	88%	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	5	5	4	3	5	5	3	1	4	4	1	4		1	3
SC	8,885	85%	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	4	3	3	2	3	4	1	1	4	4	2	3		4	1
SC	4,446	88%	Lochloosa Wildlife	1	2	2	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	3	3		4	1
SC	24	100%	Save Our Everglades	1	3	5	1	4	4	2	3	1	3	2	1		4	1
SC	2,657	89%	South Walton County Ecosystem	2	5	2	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	1	4		2	2
SC	358	87%	Spruce Creek	1	2	3	5	3	2	3	3	1	4	4	2		3	2
CHR	853	0%	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	1	1	3	1	2	4	1	3	2	5	1	1		4	1
CHR	562	13%	Pierce Mound Complex	1	1	5	1	3	3	2	1	2	5	2	1		1	2
CHR	144	32%	Pineland Site Complex	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	5	3	1		2	1

*CNL - Critical Natural Lands; PRI = Partnerships & Regional Incentives; LTF = Less-Than-Fee; CCL = Climate Change Lands; SC = Substantially Complete; CHR = Critical Historical Resources

Archaeological and Historic resource values were provided by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources. Remaining acres and Percent Complete based on FF_acquired and FNAI managed areas databases as of 15 October 2021.

F-TRAC Scenarios

There are more resources in Florida worthy of acquisition than can be acquired by the Florida Forever program.

The **F-TRAC 2020 Statewide** scenario looks statewide for the best 500,000 acres of unprotected resources – not necessarily on current projects.

- Projects are scored relative to the entire state. A project's score is not influenced by the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context, and can help inform decisions on adding or removing projects from the FFBOT list.

The **F-TRAC 2020 on FFBOT Projects** scenario looks only at the list of existing and proposed projects for the best 500,000 acres of resources.

- Projects are scored relative to one another – they are "graded on a curve". Each project's score may change based on the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for comparing projects to each other, and can help inform decisions on project ranking.

Category	Remaining Acres
Critical Natural Lands	805,180
Partnerships & Reg. Incentives	503,062
Less-Than-Fee	707,350
Climate Change Lands	106,006
Substantially Complete	25,334
Critical Historical Resources	1,559
Total	2,148,492

Key

5	Very High
4	High
3	Medium
2	Medium-Low
1	Low

