Florida Forever Project Evaluation - Comparative Analysis

November 2023

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 5.1 of the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment (FFCNA) data layers. FFCNA resource data are continually updated as new information becomes available. Version 5.1 includes updates for Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities, Under-represented Natural Communities, Ecological Greenways, Significant Surface Waters, and Recreational Trails. Details are described in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report, v5.1 and the Ranking Support Analyses Documentation for November 2023.

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 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. Given the open-ended duration and dynamic funding of the program, a precise estimate of acreage to be acquired is not practical. Starting in 2022, for the purposes of this evaluation, a threshold of half of the remaining area of proposed projects (ca. 1,105,000 acres for 2023) was deemed a reasonable projection of acquisitions over time and used as the amount of land targeted in the current F-TRAC Scenarios.

F-TRAC Statewide Scenario
This scenario is a statewide analysis to identify the best opportunities to acquire multiple resources in the same location. Of the approximately 1,105,000 acres allocated, 75% occur on projects; the remaining 25% occur elsewhere in the state on 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 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 approximately 1,105,000 acres projected to be acquired by Florida Forever-BOT are 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.
This table evaluates ONLY the remaining acres of projects according to the numerical performance measures listed. Other considerations such as willing sellers, active negotiations, completing projects, development threat, etc., are always part of any decision regarding project status. All values are assigned based on F-TRAC and single resource analyses without regard to Acquisition categories. Several resource types are included in F-TRAC scenarios: Species, Communities, Surface Waters, Wetlands & Floodplains, Sustainable Forestry, Aquifer Recharge and Landscapes. Other resources and measures shown in the table are not included in F-TRAC scenarios. Values indicate how well a project scores for each resource, from high (5) to low (1).

| Project Name                                      | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI | CNL | NTL | PRI |CNL | NTL | PRI |
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### TRAC Scenarios

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 for comparing projects to each other, and can help inform decisions on project ranking.**

### F-TRAC Statewide

- **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 FFBO list.

### F-TRAC on FFBOT Projects

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 for comparing projects to each other, and can help inform decisions on project ranking.**

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### Remaining areas and Percent Complete based on FF_acquired and FNAI managed areas databases as of 15 October 2023.