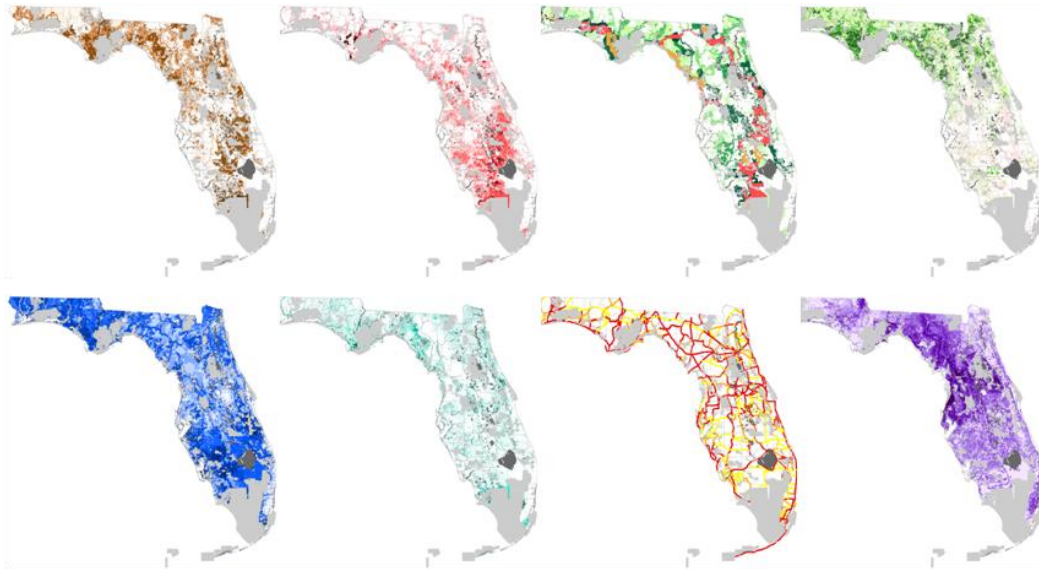


# Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Overview Maps

Prepared by Florida Natural Areas Inventory, November 2025

The maps in this document are derived from the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment, an analysis of the geographic distribution of certain natural resources and resource-based land uses that have been identified in the Florida Forever Act (F.S. 259.105) as needing increased conservation attention. Data for the Needs Assessment are maintained and updated by Florida Natural Areas Inventory under contract to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and in collaboration with many partners. The data represent a statewide view of resource distributions and are intended to inform state conservation priorities and measure progress of the Florida Forever program in protecting these resources.



## Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Overview Maps

### Conservation Needs Assessment Maps

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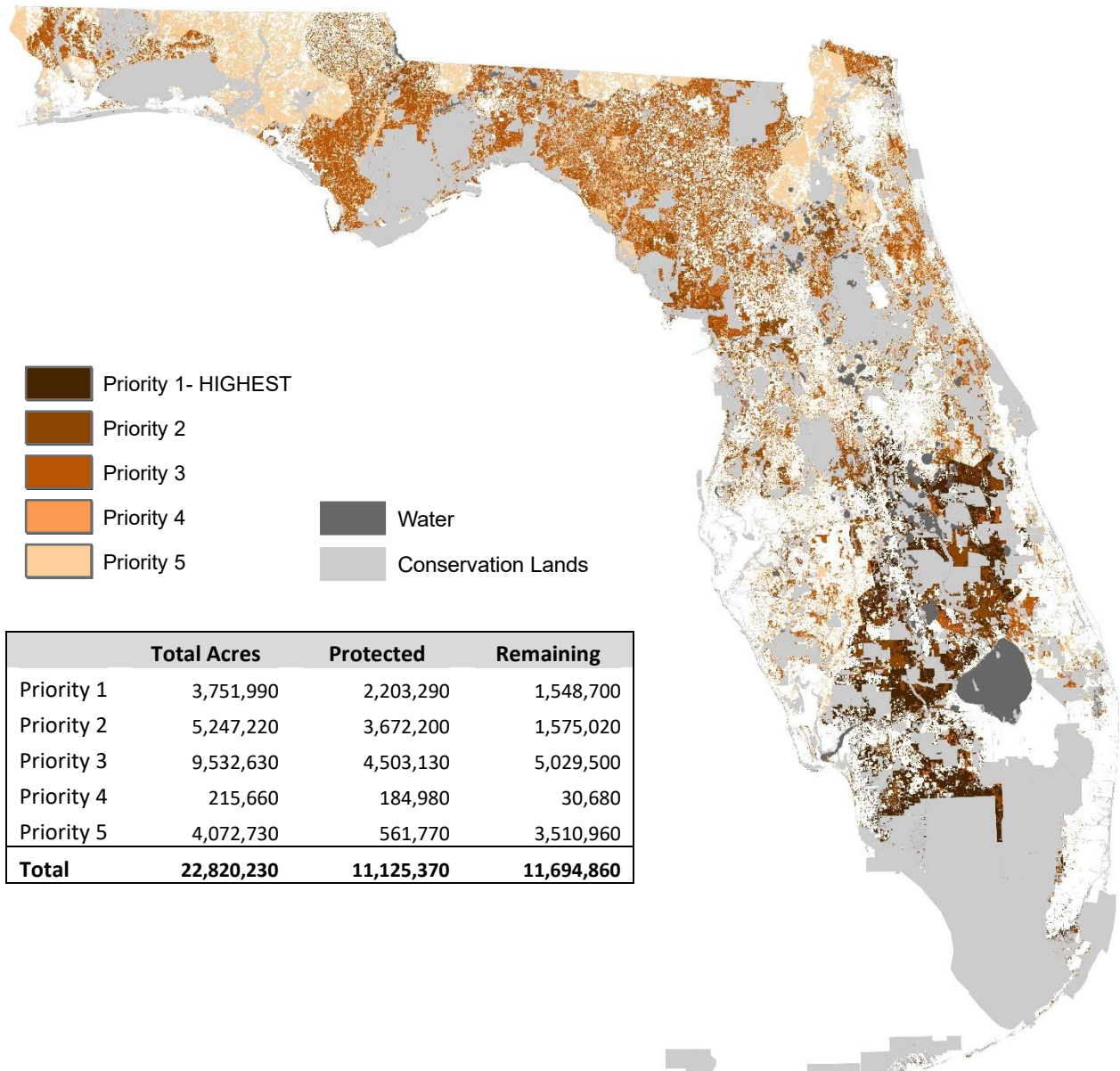
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## Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (modified for Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment)



The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

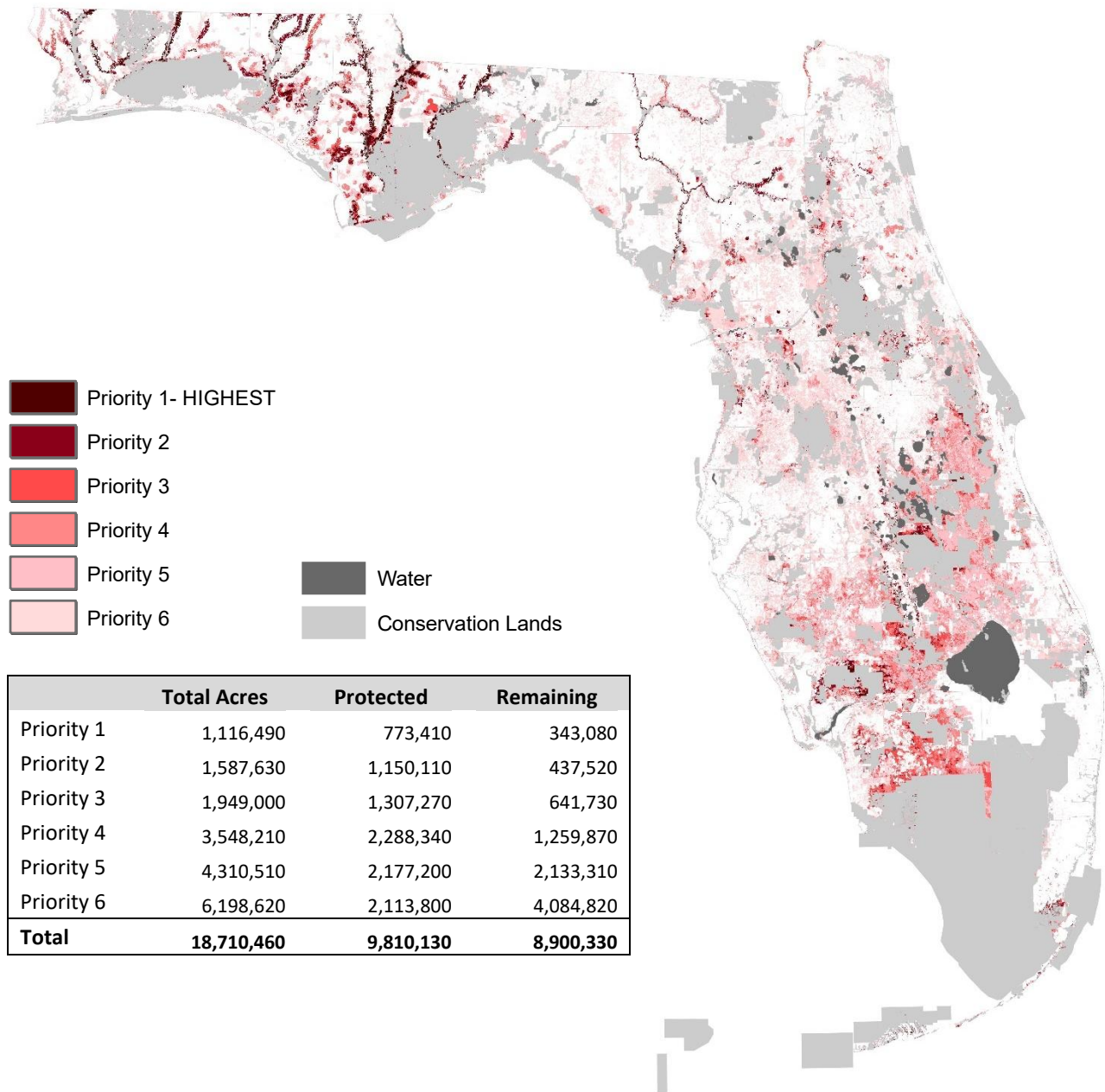
November 2025

Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Description:** The 2009 SHCAs, developed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), identify areas of habitat on private lands that are essential to sustain a minimum viable population for focal species of terrestrial vertebrates that are not adequately protected on existing conservation lands. In 2020, FNAI worked with FWC to update the SHCAs based on more recent habitat models developed by FWC since 2009, including the addition of potential habitat within existing conservation lands for all 62 focal species. The 2020 SHCAs include habitat data for 62 terrestrial vertebrate species and are prioritized into five priority classes based on rarity (FNAI State and Global ranks). For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report:

<https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>

## Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities



November 2025

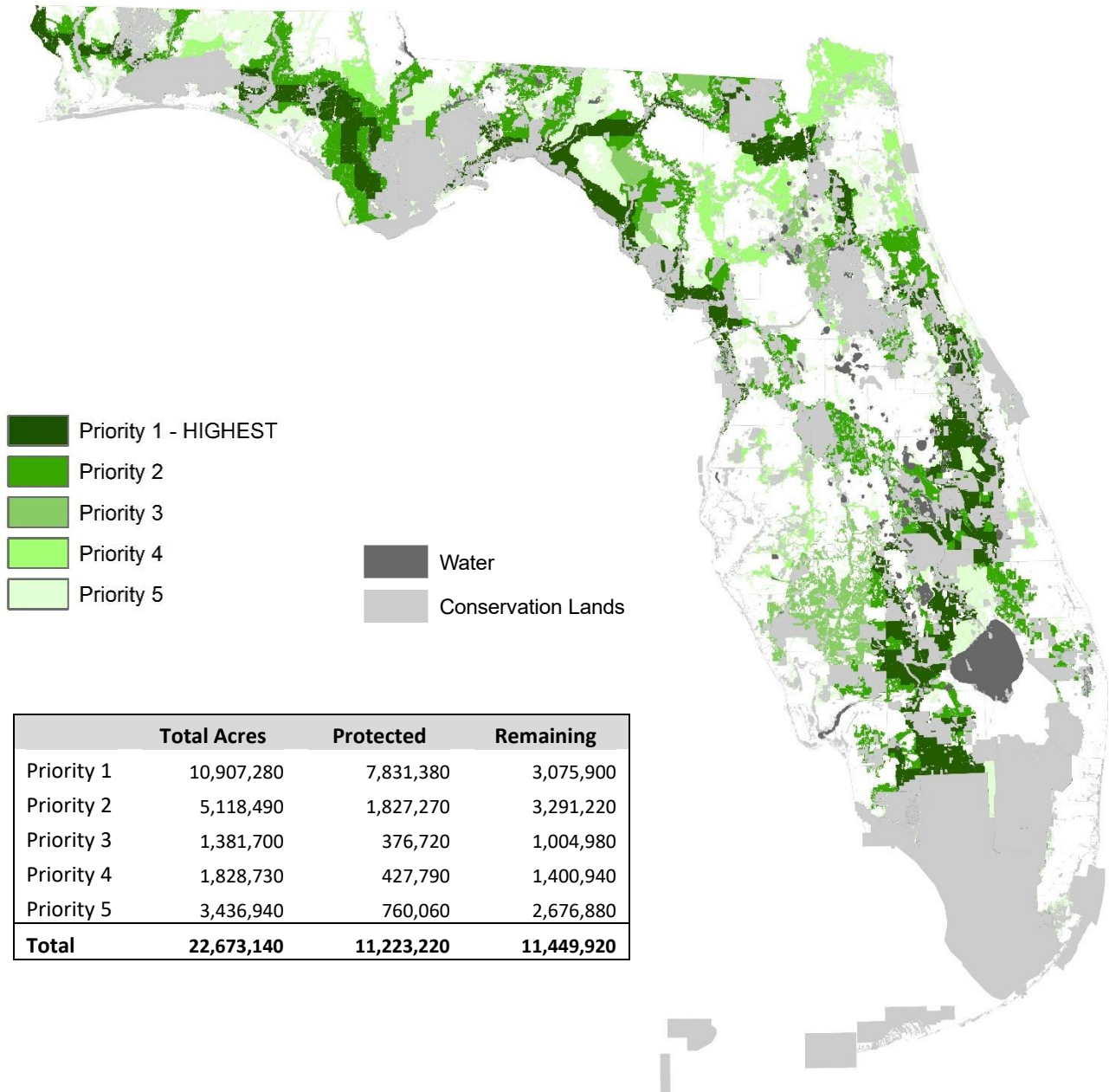
The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: The Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities data layer includes occurrence-based habitat for 634 species with a high conservation need including plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. Individual species maps are weighted according to conservation need and overlaid to reflect values for both rarity and richness. The final layer prioritizes places on the landscape that would protect both the greatest number of rare species and those species with the greatest conservation need. For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.



## Landscape Linkage



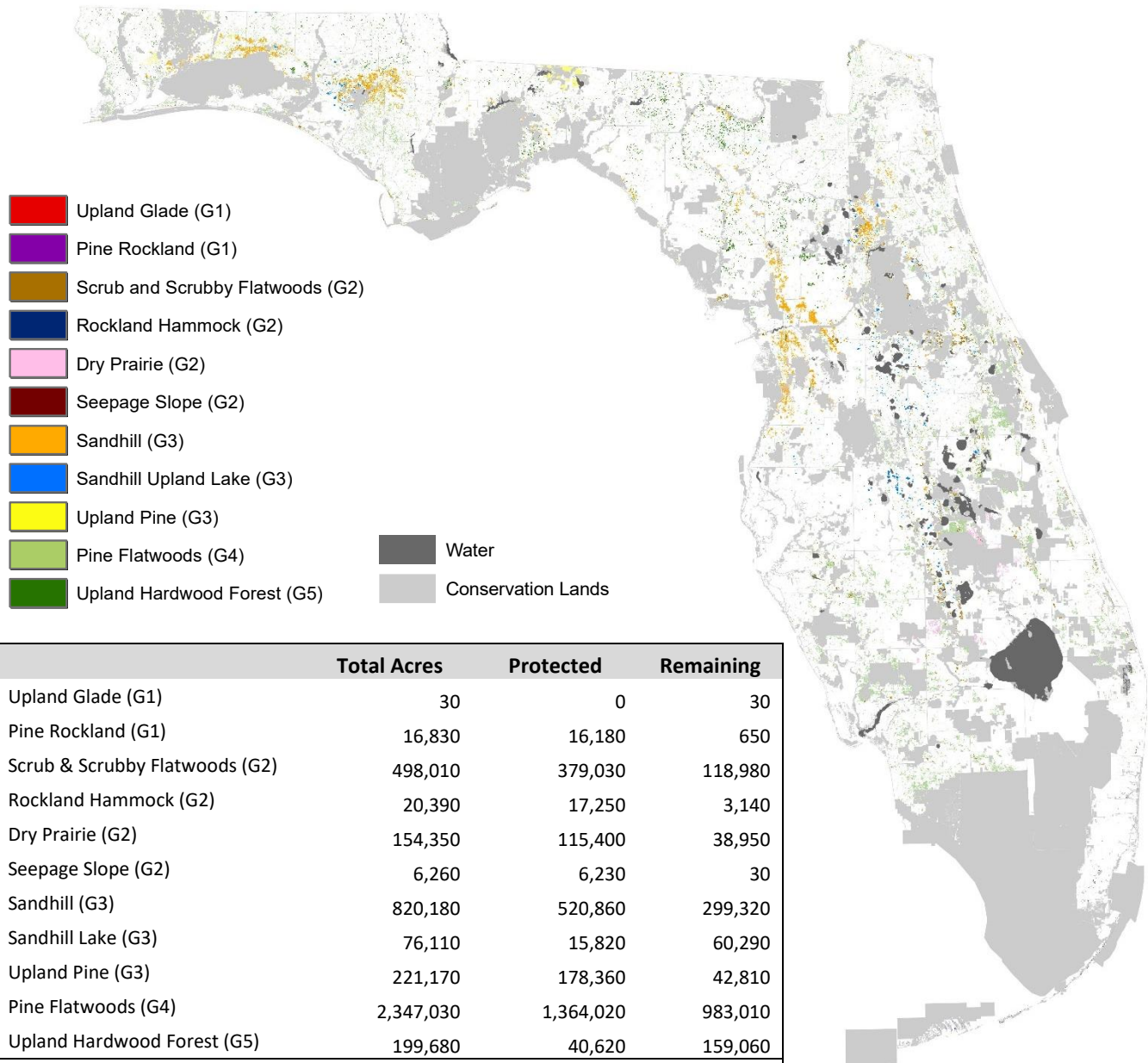
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November 2025

Primary Source: University of Florida; FDEP/Office of Greenways and Trails

Description: Landscape Linkages is represented by the Florida Ecological Greenways Network as revised in 2021, a statewide system of landscape hubs, linkages, and conservation corridors. Prioritization is based on factors such as importance for wide-ranging species, importance for maintaining a connected reserve network, and riparian corridors. Priority 1 areas are considered most important for completing a statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands.

## Under-represented Ecosystems



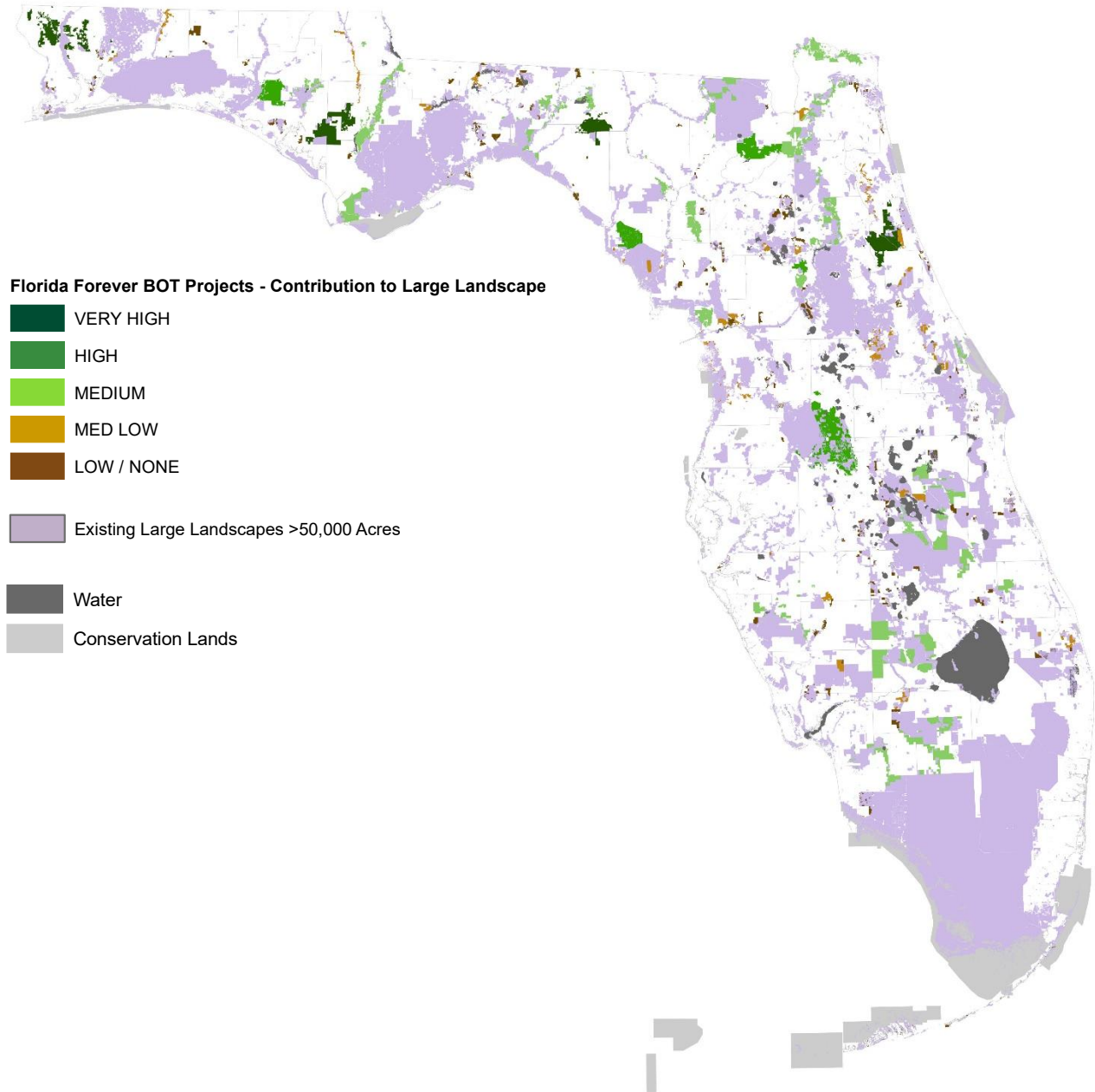
November 2025

The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: This data layer includes natural communities that are inadequately represented on conservation lands. A natural community generally is considered under-represented if less than 15% of the original extent of that community in Florida is currently found on existing conservation lands. The natural communities are prioritized by rarity (FNAI Global rank). For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.

## Large Landscapes



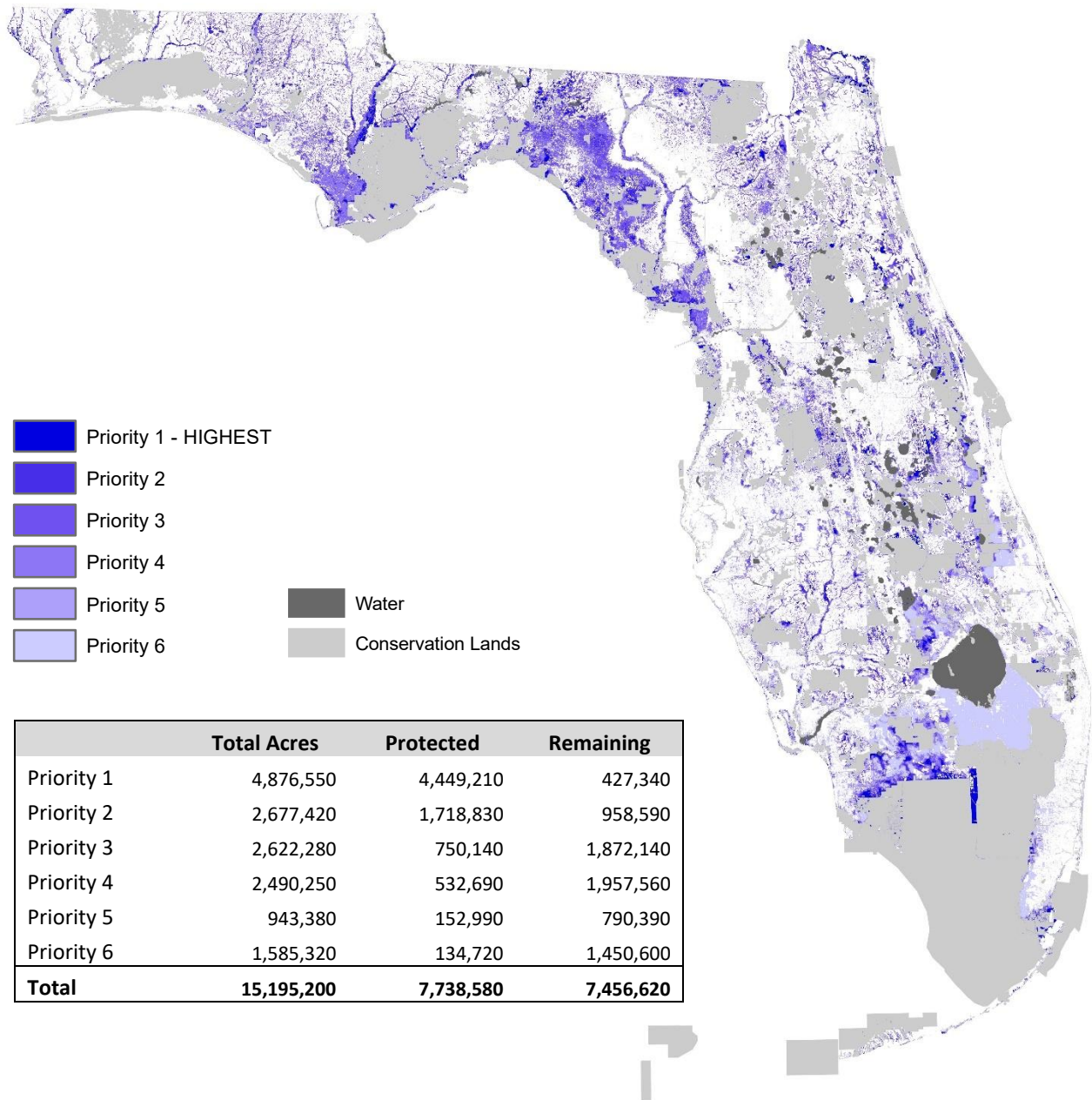
November 2025

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Primary Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: The Large Landscapes dataset depicts existing conservation land complexes that comprise contiguous areas of >50,000 acres. Current Florida Forever BOT Projects are prioritized based on their potential contribution to large landscapes >50,000 acres. Protection of these areas would contribute to maintenance of ecosystem processes on a landscape level. For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.

## Natural Floodplain Function



November 2025

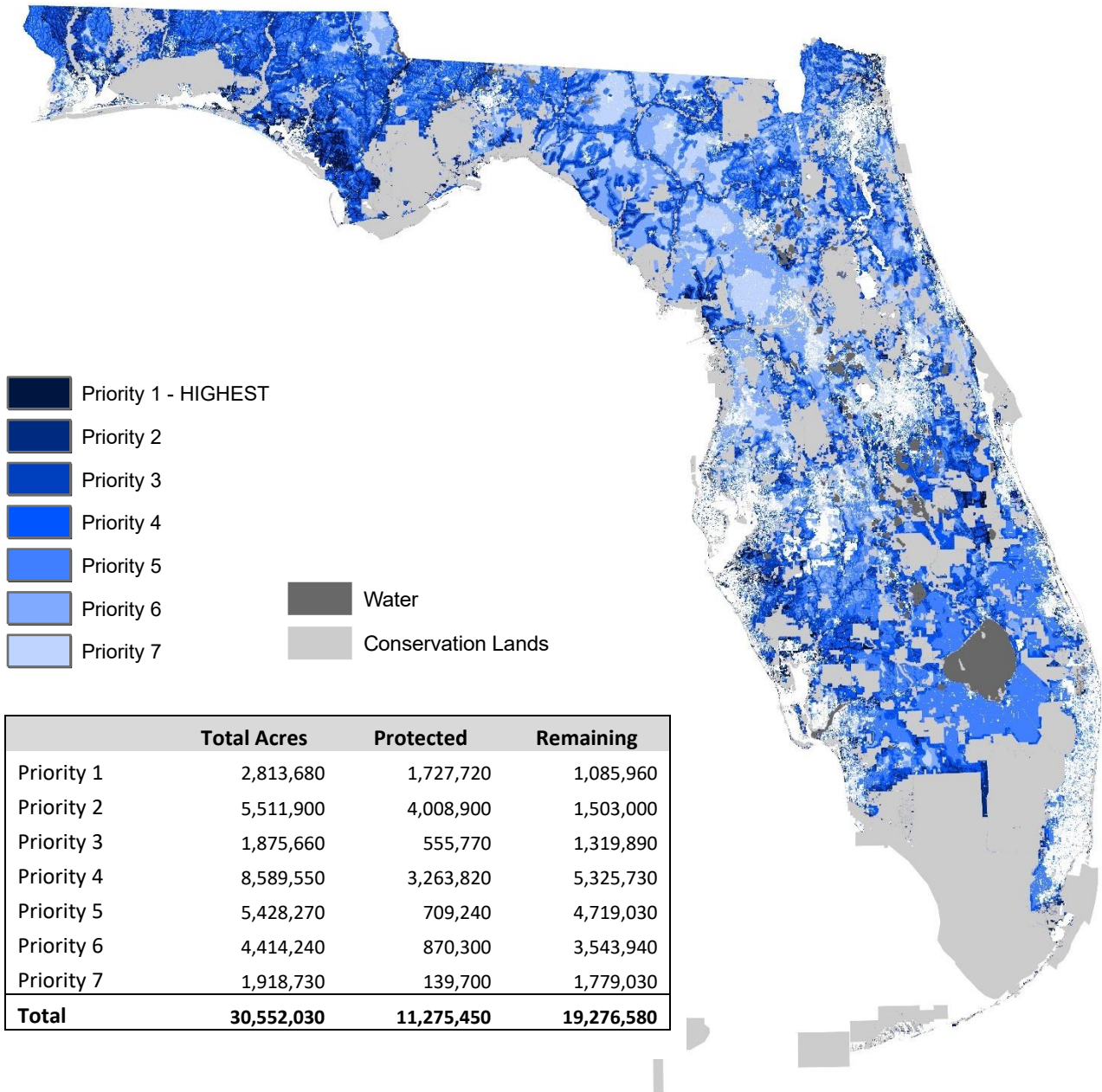
The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: This data layer identifies natural features within the 100-year floodplain as determined by from three primary sources: 1) FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map database 2001-2017 (DFIRM) for 63 counties; 2) FEMA Digital Q3 Flood Data 1996 for 4 counties; and 3) a surrogate floodplain dataset based on overlap of wetlands and hydric soils for gaps in FEMA data. The data were prioritized based on the degree of “naturalness” of the floodplain, which was estimated based on overlap with Land Use Intensity index and FNAI Potential Natural Areas. For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.



## Surface Water Protection



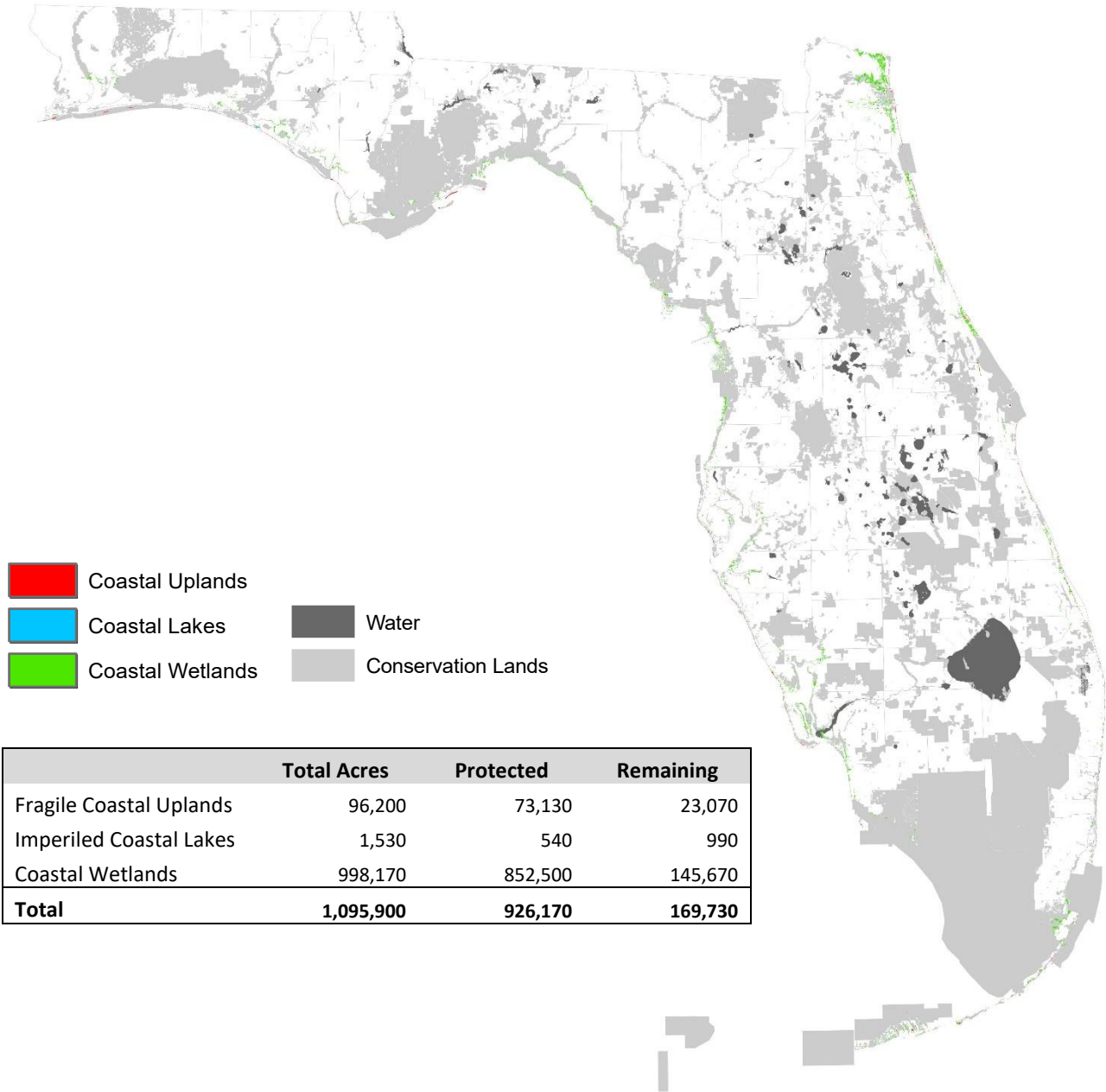
November 2025

The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory in collaboration with water resource experts

Description: The surface water data identifies significant high quality surface waters of the state, which include the following: Outstanding Florida Waters, National Scenic Waters and National Estuaries, shellfish harvesting areas, seagrass beds, springs, water supply and waters important for imperiled fish. The data are prioritized based on proximity to a water body, stream order, downstream length, basin size and other factors. For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.

## Fragile Coastal Resources



November 2025

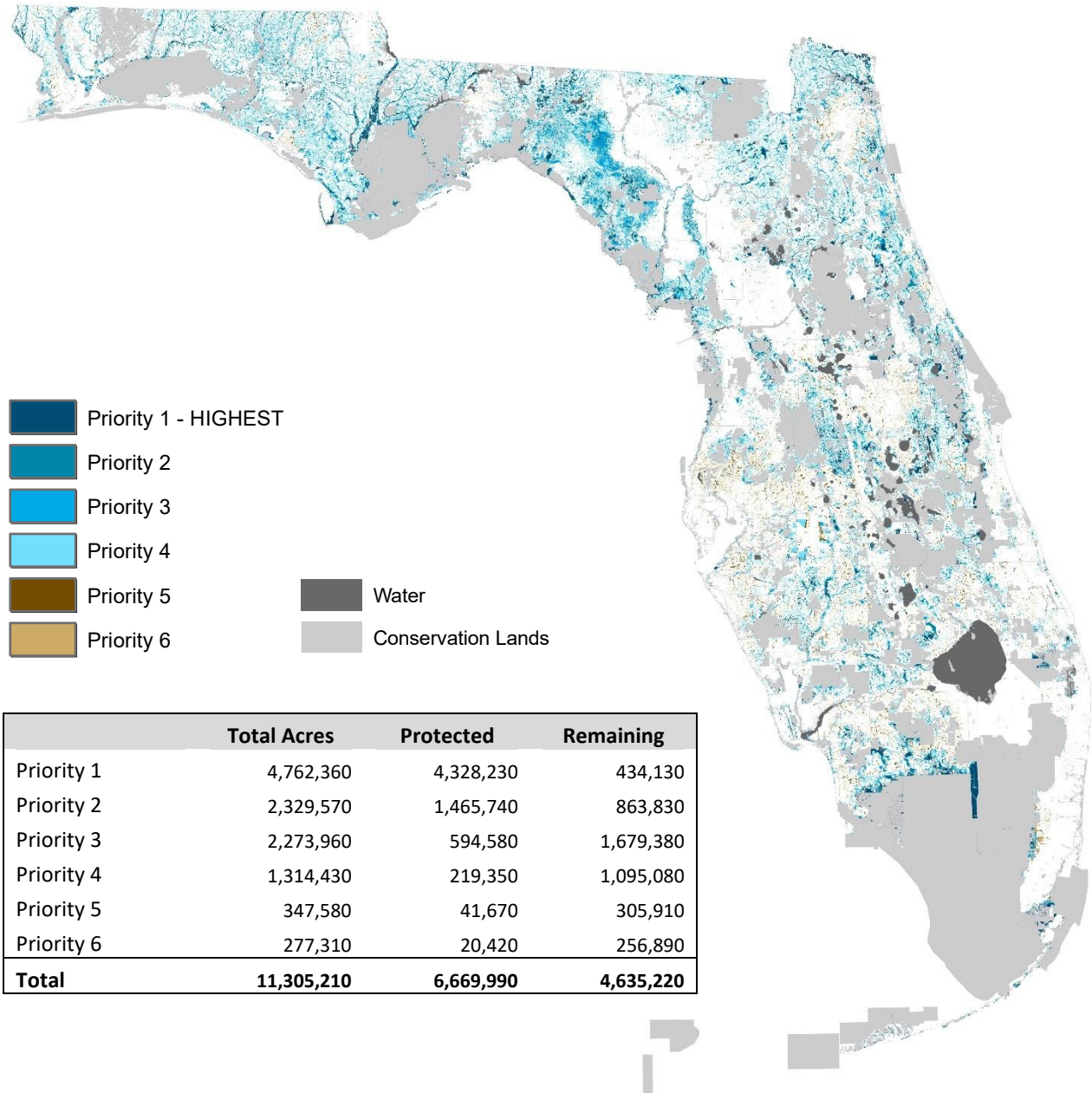
The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: The fragile coastal resources data layer identifies natural communities within one mile of the coast that are most vulnerable to disturbance or development including beach dune (G3), coastal scrub (G2), coastal grasslands (G3), coastal strand (G2), maritime hammock (G3), shell mound (G2), coastal dune lake (G2), coastal rockland lake (G2), mangrove wetlands (G5) and salt marsh (G5). For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report:

<https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.

## Functional Wetlands



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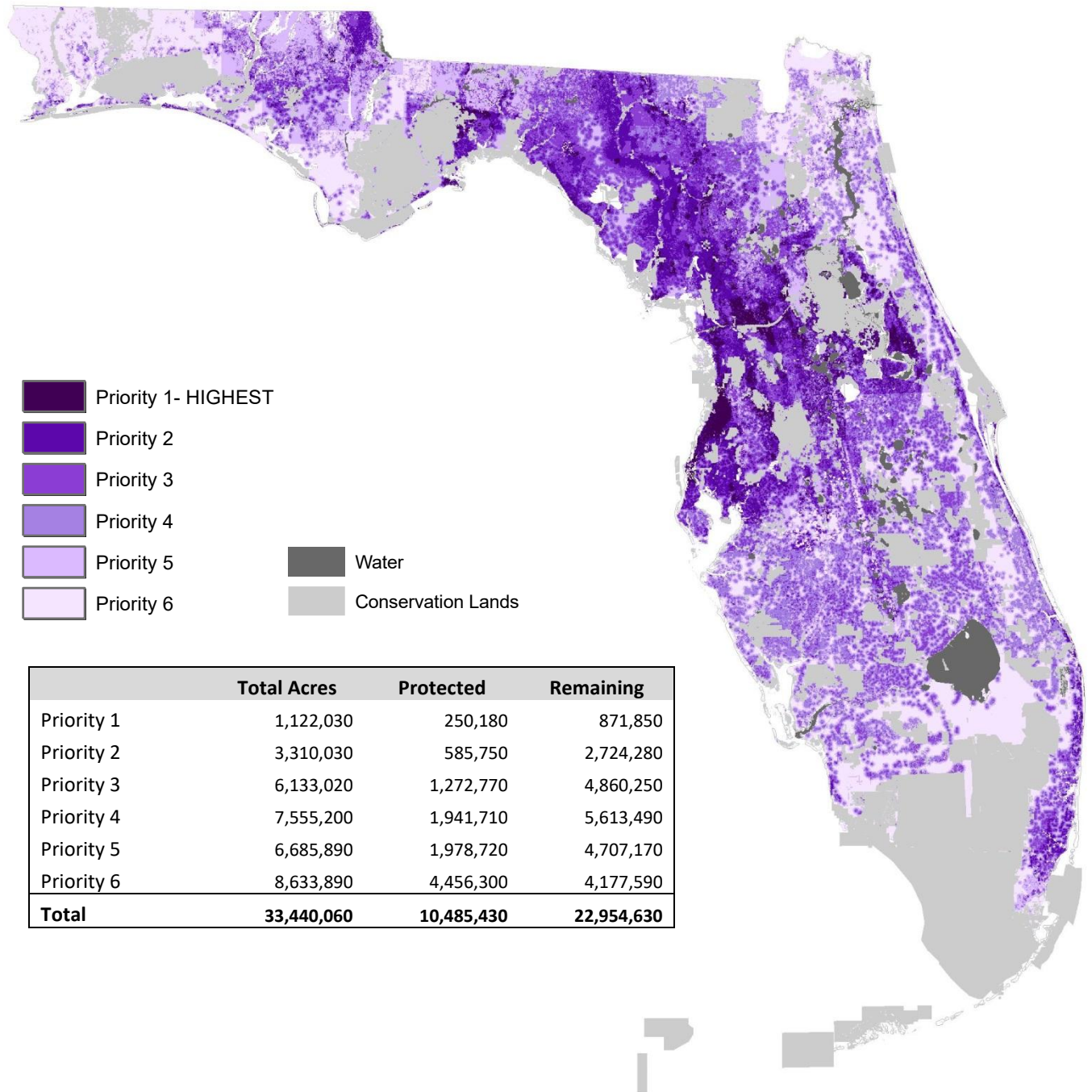
November 2025

Primary Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: The Functional Wetlands data layer is based on wetlands identified in the Cooperative Land Cover Map v3. Functional wetlands are defined as those in a more natural state and the prioritization is based on overlap with Land Use Intensity index and FNAI Potential Natural Areas. For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.



## Groundwater Recharge



November 2025

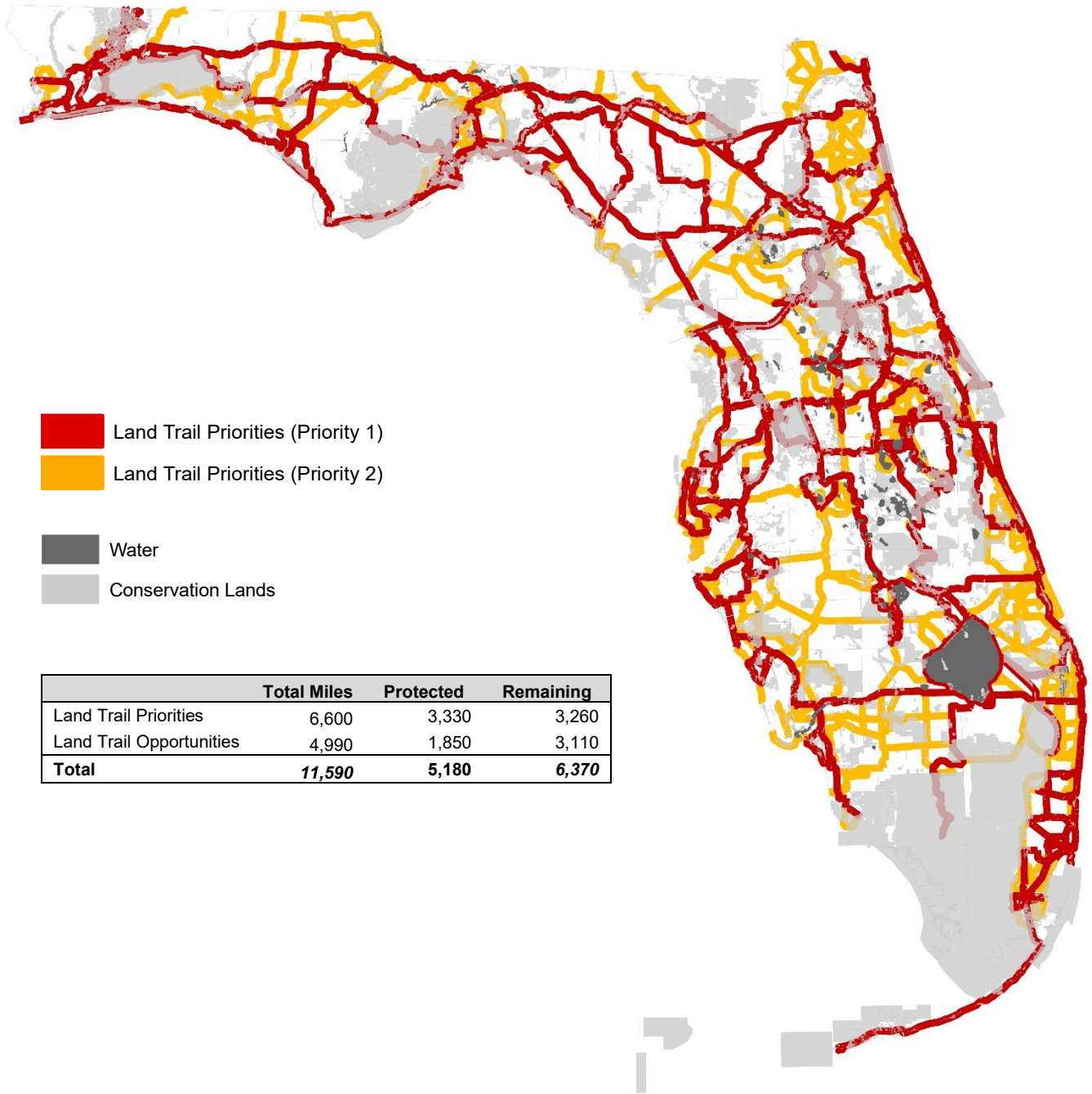
The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: Advanced Geospatial, Inc; Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: The ground water recharge data layer identifies areas of potential recharge important for natural systems and human use. The data are prioritized based on features that contribute to aquifer vulnerability such as swallets, thickness of the intermediate aquifer confining unit and closed topographical depressions, as well as areas within springshed protection zones and in proximity to public water supply wells. For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.



## Recreational Trails



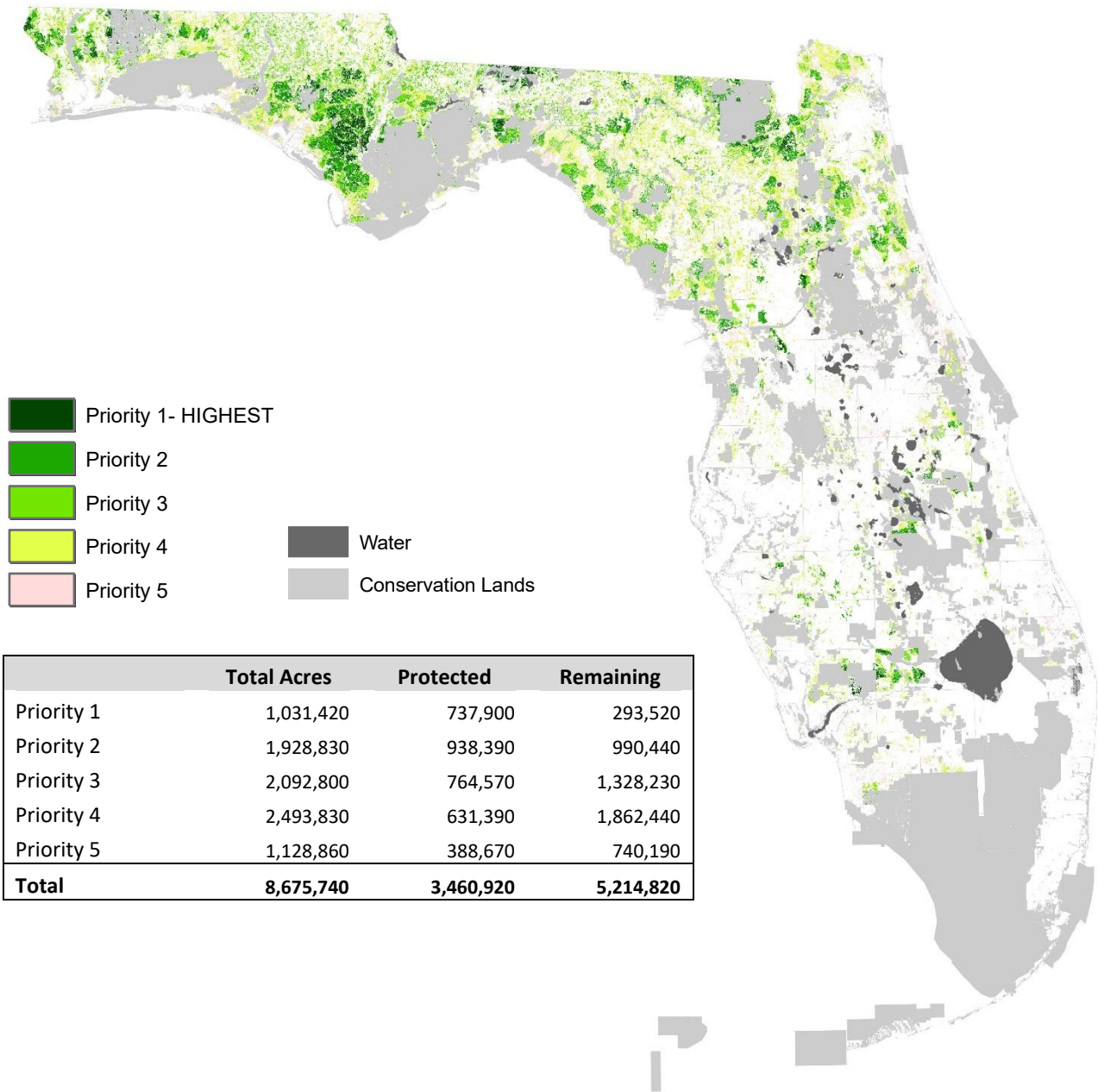
November 2025

The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: DEP/Office of Greenways and Trails

Description: The Recreational Trails data layer is based on land trail priorities and opportunities, including those for the Florida National Scenic Trail, identified in the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan (2018 update). These trails are made up of existing, planned and conceptual non-motorized trails that form a connected set of linear recreational opportunities statewide. For more information: [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS\\_Plan/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS_Plan/default.htm).

## Sustainable Forestry



November 2024

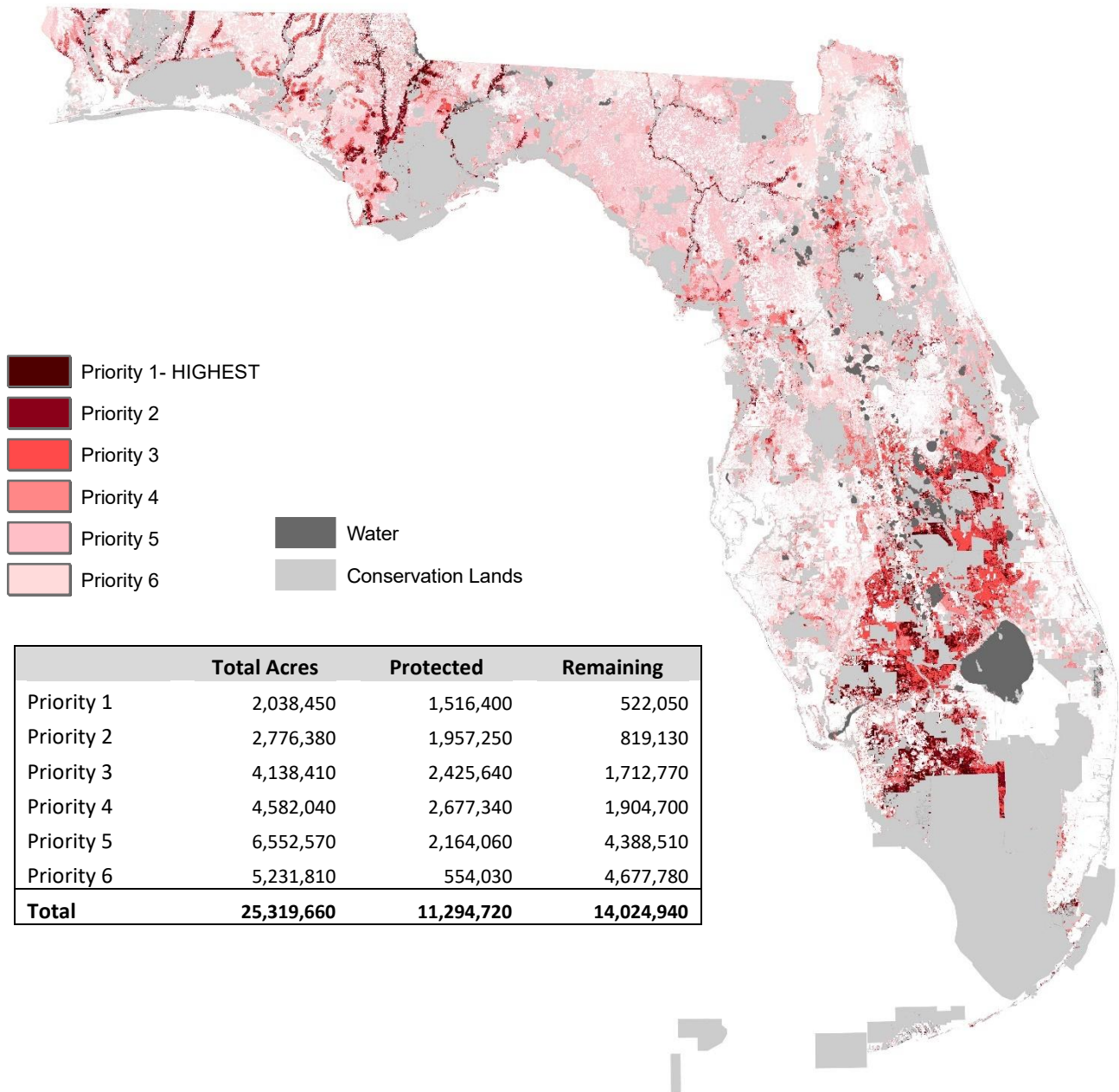
The information displayed on this map was developed or provided to address specific performance measures of the Florida Forever program. The data may not be appropriate for general use and are not intended for use in a regulatory decision-making process.

Primary Source: Florida Forest Service; Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: The Sustainable Forestry data layer identifies existing pinelands that are potentially available for forest management. Prioritization is based on 8 criteria set by the Florida Forest Service: whether trees are natural or planted, size of tract, distance to market, site index (average total height that dominant and codominant pine trees obtain), access and operability, burn frequency, years since last burn, and landscape integrity. For more information see the Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report: <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.

## Species

### Combined Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas and Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities



November 2025

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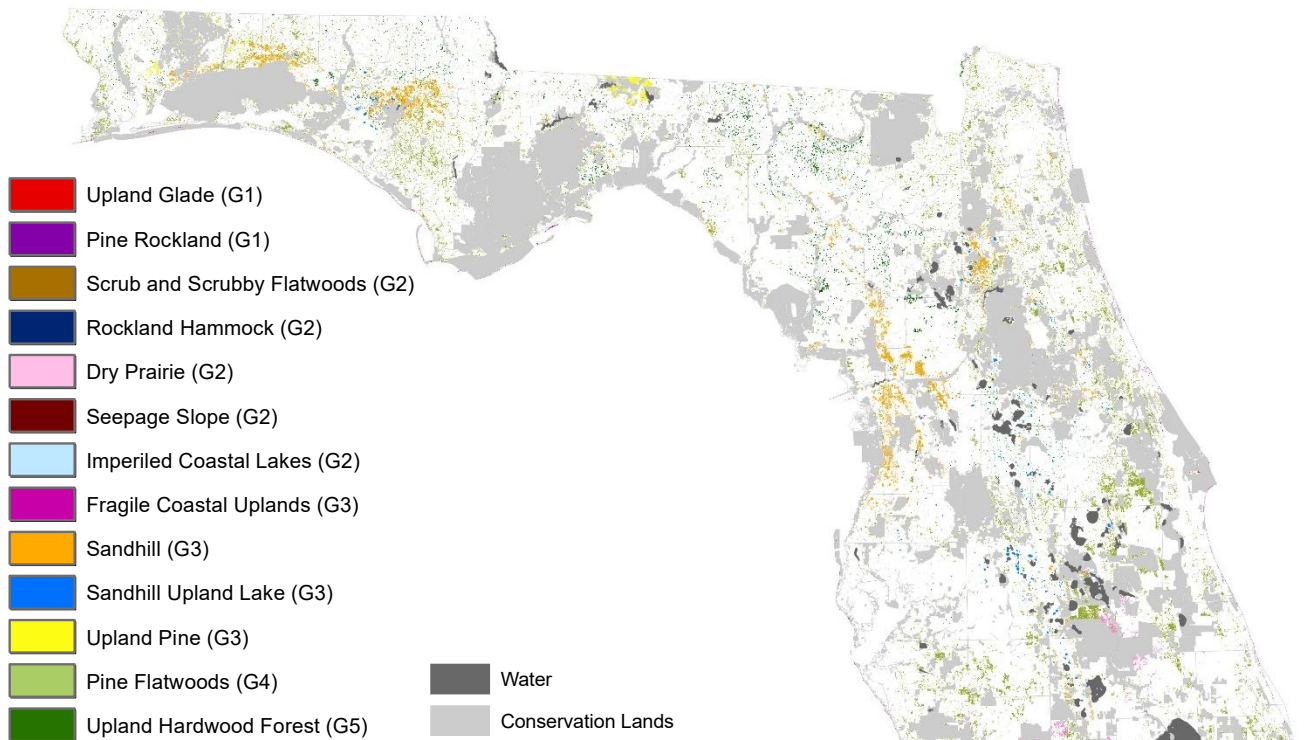
Primary Sources: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Description: The Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas for Florida Forever and FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities identify habitat for some of the same species. Twenty-eight species were included in both the final SHCA and FNAI habitat analyses. In order to minimize this redundancy, the Species data layer combines information from these two layers. Please refer to the Decision Support Data Documentation (<https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>) for an explanation of how priority classes were assigned in the combination of the two data layers.



## Natural Communities

### Combined Under-represented Ecosystems and Fragile Coastal Resources (Uplands)



	Total Acres	Protected	Remaining
Upland Glade (G1)	30	0	30
Pine Rockland (G1)	16,840	16,190	650
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	498,010	379,040	118,970
Rockland Hammock (G2)	20,390	17,250	3,140
Dry Prairie (G2)	154,350	115,390	38,960
Seepage Slope (G2)	6,260	6,230	30
Imperiled Coastal Lakes (G2)	1,530	540	990
Fragile Coastal Uplands (G3)	72,340	52,840	19,500
Sandhill (G3)	820,180	520,870	299,310
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	76,110	15,840	60,270
Upland Pine (G3)	221,170	178,370	42,800
Pine Flatwoods (G4)	2,347,050	1,364,010	983,040
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	199,680	40,620	159,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,433,940</b>	<b>2,707,190</b>	<b>1,726,750</b>

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November 2025

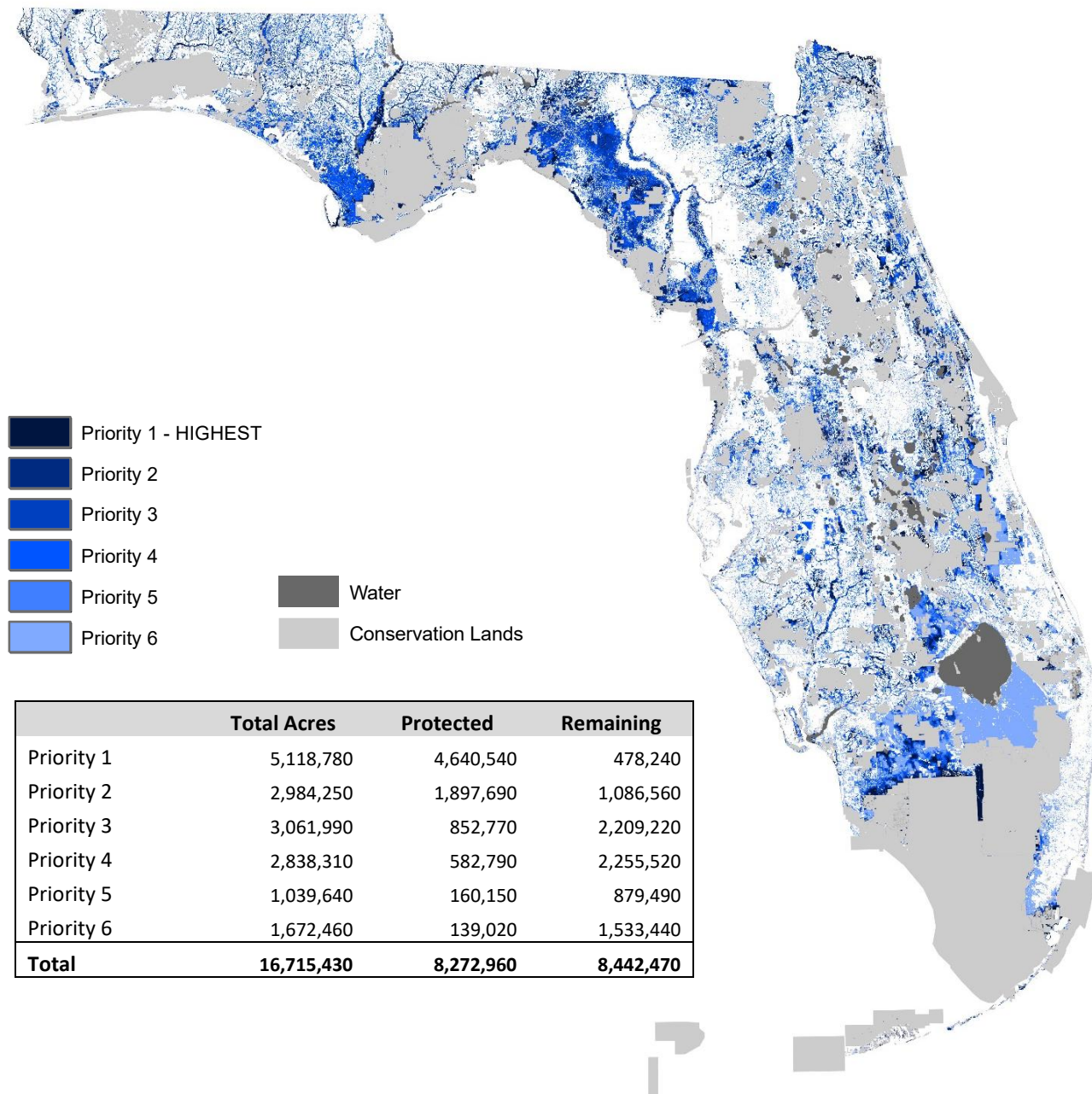
Primary Source: FNAI

Description: The Natural Community data layer is made up of natural communities under-represented on conservation lands, and fragile coastal resources, which include fragile coastal uplands and imperiled coastal lakes. Mangrove and Salt Marsh (G5) are included in the Functional Wetlands data layer. This data layer is prioritized based on the Global Rank of the natural communities. Please refer to the Decision Support Data Documentation (<https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>) for an explanation of how this dataset is used in Florida Forever analyses.



## Wetlands/Floodplain

### Combined Functional Wetlands and Natural Floodplain



	Total Acres	Protected	Remaining
Priority 1	5,118,780	4,640,540	478,240
Priority 2	2,984,250	1,897,690	1,086,560
Priority 3	3,061,990	852,770	2,209,220
Priority 4	2,838,310	582,790	2,255,520
Priority 5	1,039,640	160,150	879,490
Priority 6	1,672,460	139,020	1,533,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,715,430</b>	<b>8,272,960</b>	<b>8,442,470</b>

November 2025

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Primary Source: FNAI

Description: The Wetlands/Floodplain data layer identifies lands that protect both functional wetlands and natural floodplain. Prioritization is based on overlap with Land Use Intensity index and FNAI Potential Natural Areas. Please refer to the Decision Support Data Documentation (<https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>) for more detailed explanation of how priority classes were assigned in the combination of the wetlands and floodplain layers.