



Florida
Natural Areas
Inventory

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SUMMARY OF FLORIDA CONSERVATION LANDS Including Less-than-fee Conservation Lands

January 2023

prepared by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory

with funding provided by Florida Department of Environmental Protection

	Fee simple Acres ^{1,2,3}	Less-than- fee Acres ^{4,5}
FEDERAL CONSERVATION LANDS		
USDA Forest Service	1,192,781	1,719
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service ⁶	0	125,407
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	496,225	17,634
USDI National Park Service	1,724,774	1,337
US Dept. of Defense	658,757	0
US Other	976	0
TOTAL FEDERALLY MANAGED non-submerged lands	4,073,513	146,097
STATE CONSERVATION LANDS		
DACS Florida Forest Service	1,170,013	65,828
DEP Division of Recreation and Parks	695,305	0
DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection	76,195	484
DEP Division of State Lands	0	177,567
DEP Northwest District	0	13,070
DEP Mining and Mitigation Program	7,152	14,669
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,553,141	58,075
Dept. of Military Affairs	70,867	0
Dept. of Management Services	84	0
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	97	0
State Universities	15,204	27,057
Water Management Districts	1,470,276	463,233
<i>Undesignated State Lands⁷</i>	4,668	0
TOTAL STATE MANAGED non-submerged lands	5,063,003	819,983
LOCAL (COUNTY & MUNICIPAL) CONSERVATION LANDS	514,585	18,740
<i>TOTAL STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL non-submerged lands</i>	9,651,101	984,819
Private Conservation Lands	128,028	76,928
Private Mitigation Banks	137,011	0

LAND AREA OF STATE OF FLORIDA: 34,721,280 acres⁸

PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN FEDERALLY MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	11.7%	0.4%
PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN STATE-MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	14.6%	2.4%
PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN LOCALLY MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	1.5%	0.05%

¹ Acreages may be different from previous years earlier than 2021 due to introduction of GIS acres being used to determine land and submerged acres.

² Acreages 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.

³ Acreages listed include terrestrial wetlands such as the Everglades but exclude 4,310,471 acres of submerged marine, lake, or river bottom (such as state aquatic preserves or Florida Bay) that are part of certain managed areas.

⁴ Numbers include a total of 1,138,675 acres less-than-fee properties (10% of total conservation lands).

⁵ Represents the less-than-fee lands included in the FNAI conservation lands database as of 1 January 2023, 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.

⁶ Acreage total includes all permanent easements (WRP, GRP, and Wetland Reserve Easements) held by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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

⁸ 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.

<u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>combined acres</u>	<u>submerged acres</u>	<u>non-submerged acres</u>
Dept. of Agriculture: Forest Service	1,202,009	7,508	1,194,500
Dept. of Agriculture: NRCS	125,407	0	125,407
Fish and Wildlife Service ¹	1,006,353	492,495	513,858
National Park Service ^{2,3}	2,590,021	863,909	1,726,111
Dept. of Defense: Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps	663,090	4,333	658,757
Dept. of Agriculture (other)	368	0	368
Dept. of Commerce: NOAA	9	0	9
Dept. of Transportation: Coast Guard	277	0	277
Bureau of Land Management	325	3	322
	5,587,859	1,368,249	4,219,610
<u>STATE</u>			
DACS Florida Forest Service	1,237,827	1,986	1,235,841
DEP Division of Recreation & Parks	806,353	111,048	695,305
DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Prot. ⁴	2,826,873	2,750,194	76,678
DEP Division of State Lands ⁵	177,573	6	177,567
DEP Northwest District ⁵	13,388	317	13,070
DEP Mining and Mitigation Program	21,821	0	21,821
Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,657,518	46,302	1,611,216
Dept. of Military Affairs	73,142	2,276	70,867
Dept. of Management Services	84	0	84
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	111	14	97
Universities	42,566	305	42,261
	6,857,257	2,912,448	3,944,809
<u>WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS</u>			<u>total acres</u>
Northwest Florida WMD			223,339
St. Johns River WMD			553,784
South Florida WMD			524,365
Southwest Florida WMD			355,172
Suwannee River WMD			276,848
			1,933,508
<u>STATE AND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS (total non-submerged acres)</u>			5,878,317
<u>LOCAL (COUNTY & MUNICIPAL) GOVERNMENTS (total non-submerged acres)</u>			533,325
<u>PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS (total non-submerged acres)</u>			204,956
<u>PRIVATE MITIGATION BANKS (total non-submerged acres)</u>			137,011

¹Submerged acres include, but are not exclusive to Key West NWR (207,963 acres), Great White Heron NWR/National Key Deer Refuge (197,931 acres), Merritt Island NWR (56,195 acres) and Chassahowitzka NWR (21,839 acres). Acreage total excludes lands within Merritt Island NWR that are managed solely by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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

³Submerged 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 (45,699 acres), and Canaveral National Seashore (16,614 acres).

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

⁵DEP 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.