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SUMMARY OF FLORIDA CONSERVATION LANDS

Including Less-than-free Conservation Lands

January 2026

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	1,209,843	1,719
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service ⁶	0	150,343
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	501,043	13,482
USDI National Park Service	1,732,334	1,337
US Dept. of Defense	658,776	0
US Other	976	0
TOTAL FEDERALLY MANAGED non-submerged lands	4,102,972	166,882
STATE CONSERVATION LANDS		
DACS Florida Forest Service	1,200,484	0
DACS Rural and Family Lands Protection Program	0	206,883
DEP Division of Recreation and Parks	703,223	0
DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection	201,016	0
DEP Division of State Lands	402	306,232
DEP Northwest District	0	13,115
DEP Mining and Mitigation Program	7,152	14,228
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,583,554	58,044
Dept. of Military Affairs	70,867	0
Dept. of Management Services	84	0
Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources	41	0
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	98	0
State Universities	15,905	27,057
Water Management Districts	1,494,698	475,639
<i>Undesignated State Lands⁷</i>	4,627	0
TOTAL STATE MANAGED non-submerged lands	5,282,152	1,101,198
LOCAL (COUNTY & MUNICIPAL) CONSERVATION LANDS	529,051	28,457
<i>TOTAL STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL non-submerged lands</i>	9,914,175	1,296,537
Private Conservation Lands	131,043	96,603
Private Mitigation Banks	137,131	0

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

PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN FEDERALLY MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	11.8%	0.5%
PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN STATE-MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	15.2%	3.2%
PERCENT OF FLORIDA IN LOCALLY MANAGED CONSERVATION LANDS	1.5%	0.08%

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

²Acres 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.

³Acres listed include terrestrial wetlands such as the Everglades but exclude 4,272,505 acres of submerged marine, lake, or river bottom (such as state aquatic preserves or Florida Bay) that are part of certain managed areas.

⁴Numbers include a total of 1,393,140 acres less-than-free properties (12% of total conservation lands).

⁵Represents the less-than-free lands included in the FNAI conservation lands database as of 1 January 2026, 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.

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

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

⁸Source: 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 2026

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.

FEDERAL	combined acres	submerged acres	non-submerged acres
Dept. of Agriculture: Forest Service	1,217,273	5,711	1,211,562
Dept. of Agriculture: NRCS	150,344	0	150,343
Fish and Wildlife Service ¹	983,206	468,681	514,525
National Park Service ^{2,3}	2,599,344	865,672	1,733,672
Dept. of Defense: Air Force, Navy, Marine, Space Force	663,107	4,331	658,776
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
	5,614,252	1,344,398	4,269,854
STATE			
DACS Florida Forest Service	1,202,348	1,864	1,200,484
DACS Rural and Family Lands Protection Program	206,884	2	206,883
DEP Division of Recreation & Parks	788,397	85,174	703,223
DEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Prot. ⁴	2,946,431	2,745,414	201,016
DEP Division of State Lands ⁵	306,673	40	306,634
DEP Northwest District ⁵	13,433	317	13,115
DEP Mining and Mitigation Program	21,380	0	21,380
Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,686,679	45,080	1,641,599
Dept. of Military Affairs	73,143	2,276	70,867
Dept. of Management Services	84	-	84
Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources	41	-	41
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	113	14	98
Universities	43,284	322	42,962
	7,288,889	2,880,503	4,408,386
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS			
Northwest Florida WMD	230,699	6,675	224,024
St. Johns River WMD	581,872	19,994	561,878
South Florida WMD	547,581	1,700	545,881
Southwest Florida WMD	363,123	1,418	361,705
Suwannee River WMD	277,176	327	276,849
	2,000,451	30,114	1,970,337

STATE AND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS (total non-submerged acres)	6,378,723
LOCAL (COUNTY & MUNICIPAL) GOVERNMENTS (total non-submerged acres)	557,508
PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS (total non-submerged acres)	227,646
PRIVATE MITIGATION BANKS (total non-submerged acres)	137,131

¹Submerged acres include but are not exclusive to Key West NWR (207,963 acres), Great White Heron NWR/National Key Deer Refuge (197,886 acres), Merritt Island NWR (56,155 acres) Ten Thousand Islands NWR (1,228 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.

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

³Submerged acres include Everglades National Park (572,063 acres), Biscayne National Park (165,721 acres), Dry Tortugas National Park (64,667 acres), Gulf Islands National Seashore (45,970 acres), and Canaveral National Seashore (16,545 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.