

Annutteliga Hammock

Citrus and Hernando Counties

Partnerships

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Brooksville Ridge in west-central Florida supports some of the last large tracts of longleaf-pine sandhills in Florida, unique forests of northern hardwood trees, and many archaeological sites. The Annutteliga Hammock project will conserve the remaining fragments of the forests between the Withlacoochee State Forest and the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area. This will protect habitat for black bear and many sandhill-dwelling plants and animals and give the public a large area for recreation in the original landscape of this fast-growing region.

Managers

Florida Forest Service/FFS (northeastern and southeastern parts) and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (western part).

General Description

This project is defined by its excellent quality sandhill and very good upland hardwood forest natural communities (there is little upland hardwood forest protected in this ecoregion). Remnants of Annutteliga Hammock on steep-sided hills and in small valleys cover 15 percent of the project area. This hardwood forest resembles forests far to the north; in fact, several northern trees reach their southern limits near this area. Westward the hardwoods give way to drier

longleaf-pine sandhills on slightly lower and more level terrain. Remnants of these sandhill forests cover 64 percent of the project. It is an excellent habitat for many rare vertebrates adapted to xeric communities and several rare plant species. Twenty archaeological sites attest to the long history of Native American occupation here. Limerock mines, golf courses, and residential developments are now seriously fragmenting these natural areas, but excellent examples of the original vegetation and wildlife, including the Florida black bear, remain. The Suncoast Parkway is planned to run through this project.

The Lecanto Sandhills is 2,029 acres of sandhills, xeric hammocks, and depression marshes that was combined with the Annutteliga Hammock in 1999.

Public Use

This project is designated for use as a state forest and wildlife management area. Such uses as camping, picnicking, hiking, and boating will be compatible with the protection of the area.

Acquisition Planning

This project consists of several large tracts as well as large subdivided areas. Essential parcels include Sugarmill Woods (acquired), World Woods (acquired by the FFS), Florida Crushed Stone, Orange Meadow Corp./Seville (acquired), Blackwell (westernmost tract—acquired by the SWFWMD), Tooke's Lake Joint Venture, and other large hammock and sandhill parcels.

On March 10, 1995, the LAMAC approved the addition of 990 acres to the project boundary. On July 29, 1999, the Council combined Lecanto Sandhills (2,029 acres)

Annutteliga Hammock FNAI Elements	
Florida Black Bear	G5T2/S2
Eastern Indigo Snake	G3Q/S3
Florida Mouse	G3/S3
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Swallow-tailed Kite	G5/S2
<i>Cooley's water-willow</i>	G2Q/S2
Southern Hognose Snake	G2/S2
<i>giant orchid</i>	G2G3/S2
Bachman's Sparrow	G3/S3
<i>Chapman's skeletongrass</i>	G3/S3
Gopher Frog	G3/S3
<i>scrub stylisma</i>	G3/S3
22 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1995
Project Area (GIS Acres)	19,424
Acres Acquired (GIS)	11,030
at a Cost of	\$35,925,705
Acres Remaining (GIS)	8,394
with Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$24,837,775

in Citrus County with the Annutteliga Hammock project. Lecanto Sandhills was acquired in 2001 by the Division of State Lands to be managed by FFS/FWC.

On April 15, 2011 ARC recommended a 6,211-acre reduction to the project boundary due to residential/rural/commercial/development.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project into the Florida Forever category of Partnerships projects.

On June 17, 2016 the boundaries of the Annutteliga Hammock were reduced by 5,348 acres because many of the properties have been developed. ARC removed sites in 10 areas that had a total of 4,125 parcels.

Coordination

On August 3, 1998 a Memorandum of Understanding between FDOT and DEP for the future conveyance of a portion of the Annutteliga Hammock project within the proposed alignment for the Suncoast Parkway was signed. This project is also included within SWFWMD's Five-Year Plan. Hernando County is an acquisition and management partner.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Annutteliga Hammock project are: to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource-based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation The project has the size and resource diversity to qualify as a Wildlife Management Area and a State Forest.

Manager The FFS proposes to manage approximately 14,336 acres in the northeastern and southeastern portions of the project. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is recommended to be lead manager on the southwestern 14,048 acres next to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

A. *Florida Forest Service* There are no known major disturbances that will require extraordinary attention so the level of management intensity is expected to be typical for a state forest

B. *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission* Annutteliga Hammock lies within 40 miles of the St. Petersburg/Tampa metropolitan area and is expected to be heavily used for wildlife-oriented recreation. The demand for hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding and nature study is expected to be high. Additionally, the sandhill community will need the frequent application of fire to rejuvenate itself.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

A. Florida Forest Service

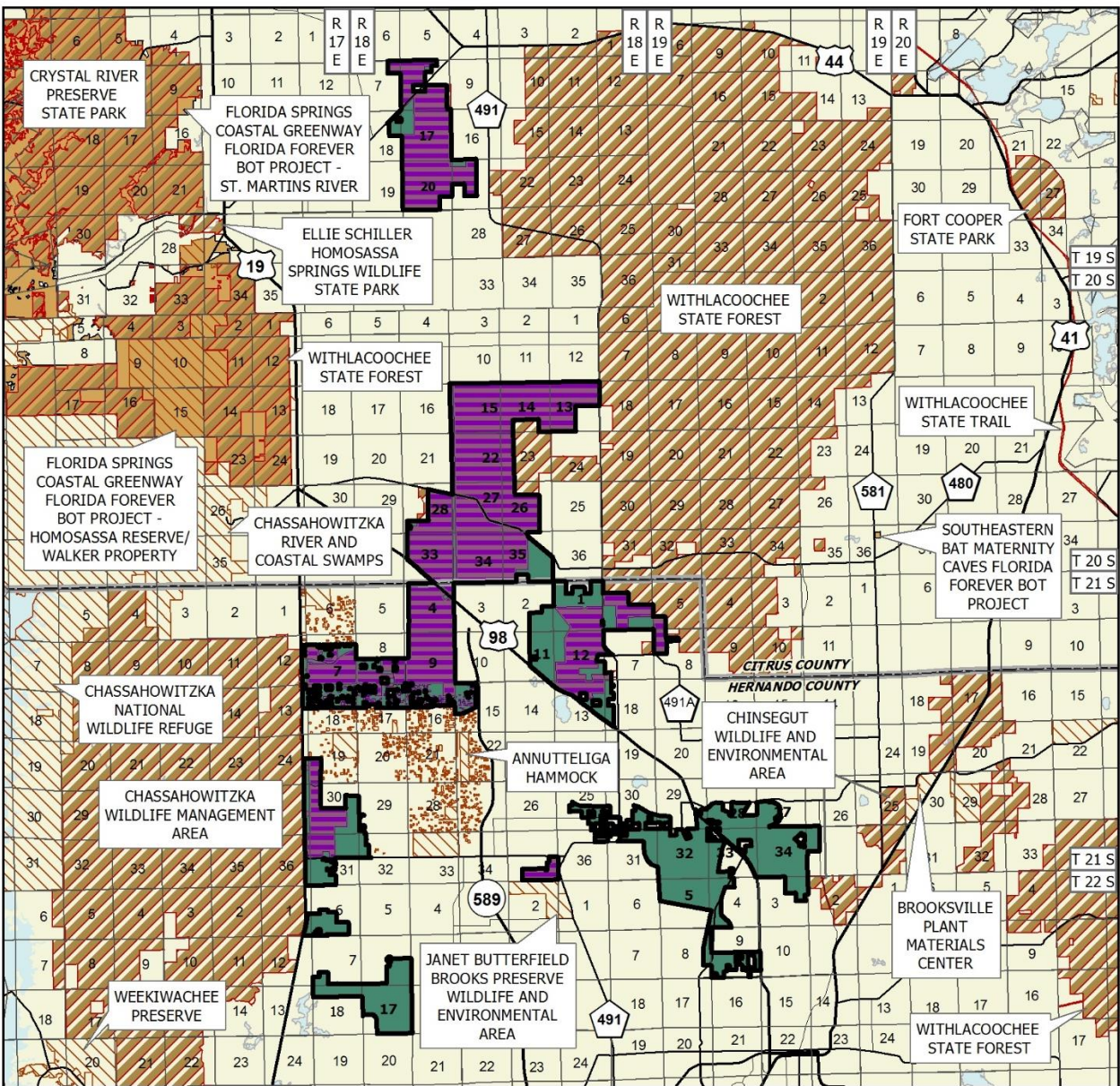
The primary land management goal for the FFS is to restore, maintain and protect in perpetuity all native ecosystems; to integrate compatible human use; and to insure long-term viability of populations and species considered rare. This total resource concept will guide the FFS's management activities on this project.

Once the core area is acquired and assigned to the FFS for management, public access will be provided for low intensity, non-facility related outdoor recreation activities. Until specific positions are provided for the project, public access will be coordinated through Withlacoochee Forestry Center (WFC) Headquarters and management activities will be conducted using WFC personnel.

Initial or intermediate management efforts will concentrate on site security, public and fire management access, resource inventory, and removing existing trash. Steps will be taken to ensure that the public is provided appropriate access while simultaneously protecting sensitive resources. Vehicular use by the public will be confined to designated roads and unnecessary access points will be closed. An inventory of the site's natural resources and threatened and endangered flora and fauna will be conducted to provide the basis for formulating a management plan.

Prior to collection of necessary resource information, management proposals for this project is conceptual. Long-range plans for this property will generally be directed toward the restoration of disturbed areas and maintenance of natural communities. To the greatest extent practical, disturbed sites will be restored to conditions that would be expected to occur in naturally functioning ecosystems. Management activities will also stress enhancement of the abundance and spatial distribution of threatened and endangered species.

An all season burning program will be established using practices that incorporate recent research



ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK

CITRUS AND HERNANDO COUNTIES

- Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
- Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
- Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
- Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands



0 2 4 8 Miles



DECEMBER 2016

findings. Whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks will be used to contain and control prescribed and natural fires. Timber activities will primarily consist of improvement thinning and regeneration harvests to maintain and perpetuate forest ecosystems. Plantations will be thinned to achieve a more natural appearance and, where appropriate, will be reforested with species that would typically be found in a naturally functioning ecosystem. Stands will not have a targeted rotation age but will be managed to maintain a broad diversity of age classes ranging from young stands to areas with old growth characteristics. This will provide habitat for the full spectrum of species that would be found in the natural environment.

The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management, and to locate areas that are appropriate for any recreational or administrative facilities. Infrastructure development will primarily be located in already disturbed areas and will be the absolute minimum required to allow public access for the uses mentioned above, to provide facilities to accommodate public use, and to administer and manage the property. The FFS will promote recreation and environmental education in the natural environment. As a general practice, if it is determined that a new recreation area is needed, low impact, rustic facilities will be the only kind developed. High-impact, organized recreation areas will be discouraged because of possible adverse effects on the natural environment. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and restored to the greatest extent practical.

B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

During the first year after acquisition, emphasis will be placed on securing and posting boundaries, assuring public access to the tract, surveying wildlife and plant communities, and restoring fire as a viable component of the ecosystem. A management plan for the tract will be prepared.

Longer-range plans for the property include securing and stabilizing necessary roads for public access, developing camping and nature interpretive facilities and developing hiking and horseback riding trails. All-weather access roads will be developed and maintained for use by the public and for management operations. An all-season prescribed burning program will be established using both aerial and ground ignition techniques. Whenever possible existing roads, trails and firebreaks will be used to control both prescribed and natural fires. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned or restored as appropriate. Environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and appropriate protective measures will be implemented to assure the areas are protected from abuse.

Revenue-generating potential

A. Florida Forest Service

The FFS will sell timber as needed to improve or maintain desirable ecosystem conditions. Revenue from these sales will vary, but the revenue-generating potential of this project is expected to be low to moderate.

B. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Harvest of pinelands could help offset operational costs. Any estimate of revenue from harvest of the pinelands will depend on a detailed timber cruise. Revenue may also be generated from the sale of Wildlife Management Area stamps to recreational users of the property.

Updated January 31, 2018

Management Cost Summary/FFS

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$85,020	\$85,020
OPS	\$0	\$0
Expense	\$25,000	\$25,000
OCO	\$116,800	\$10,000
FCO	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$226,820	\$120,020

Management Cost Summary/FWC

Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$78,353	\$78,353
OPS	\$10,500	\$5,250
Expense	\$52,500	\$42,000
OCO	\$124,000	\$10,000
FCO	\$150,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$404,958	\$135,603