ITEM 17:

Vote on whether to add eight 2024 Cycle 2 Florida Forever proposals to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

In April 2024, the Division of State Lands (DSL) received eight Florida Forever project proposals for the Baker County Timberlands, Bowlegs Creek Watershed, Fair Bluff, Highlands Hammock Corridor, Lettuce Creek Cattle Company, Little Orange Creek Corridor, Rock Bend Ranch and Waccasassa Flatwoods. On June 7, 2024, ARC voted to move all eight projects on for more detailed review.

The Florida Forever assessment team visited each of the proposed sites in June and July of 2024. DSL staff then prepared project evaluation reports based on the information provided by the ARC member agencies, FNAI, and other agency contributors. DSL held regional public hearings on the proposals on August 26, 2024, in Gainesville and August 29, 2024, in Sebring.

PROPOSAL	GIS ACRES	CATEGORY	COUNTY
Baker County Timberlands	1,154	Less-Than-Fee	Baker
Bowlegs Creek Watershed	1,015	Less-Than-Fee	Polk
Fair Bluff	639	Less-Than-Fee	Martin
Highlands Hammock Corridor	960	Less-Than-Fee	Highlands
Lettuce Creek Cattle Company	377	Less-Than-Fee	Highlands
Little Orange Creek Corridor	3,925	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	Alachua & Putnam
Rock Bend Ranch	658	Less-Than-Fee	DeSoto
Waccasassa Flatwoods	21,664	Partnerships & Regional Incentives	Levy

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote to add proposals to the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

Vote to approve the Florida Forever project proposals.

Project	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	DEP	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	Selected
Baker County Timberlands	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bowlegs Creek Watershed								
Fair Bluff								
Highlands Hammock Corridor								
Lettuce Creek Cattle Company								
Little Orange Creek Corridor								
Rock Bend Ranch								
Waccasassa Flatwoods								

Consider adding the Highlands Hammock Corridor project to the Heartland Wildlife Corridor.

Consider adding the Rock Bend Ranch project to the Peace River Refuge Florida Forever project boundary.

Consider adding the Waccasassa Flatwoods project to the Waccasassa Watershed Florida Forever project boundary.

Project	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	DEP	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	Selected
Heartland Wildlife Corridor: Highlands Hammock Corridor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Peace River Refuge: Rock Bend Ranch								
Waccasassa Watershed: Waccasassa Flatwoods								