ITEM 18:

Consider a staff recommendation to remove Natural Bridge Creek, Natural Bridge Timberlands, Wolfe Creek Forest, and Yarborough Ranch projects from the 2025 Florida Forever Priority List

LOCATION:

Jefferson, Leon, Santa Rosa, Seminole and Walton Counties

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

Pursuant to section 259.105(14), F.S., which states that the board of trustees may remove projects from the list, staff has identified four projects that should be considered for removal from the Florida Forever priority list.

Natural Bridge Creek

The Natural Bridge Creek Florida Forever project located in Walton County contained 1,967 acres and was added to the priority list in 2012. In 2023, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services acquired 1,917 acres as a conservation easement. This project is now 97% complete. Removing this project from the Priority List does not prevent Florida Forever funds from being used to purchase the remaining property within this project pursuant to section 259.032(6), F.S. which states, "When at least 90 percent of the acreage of a project has been purchased pursuant to the chapter, the project may be removed from the list and the remaining acreage may continue to be purchased." Furthermore, Rule 18-24.002(2)(b) Public Purposes and Categories of Projects Qualifying for Funding provides that acres within projects that are no longer on the priority list still qualify for funding.

Natural Bridge Timberlands

The Natural Bridge Timberlands Florida Forever project located in Jefferson and Leon Counties contained 5,442 acres and was added to the priority list in 2022. In 2023, DEP acquired approximately 5,457.63 acres fee simple with Florida Forever funding. Acquired lands are to be managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Plank Road State Forest. This project is now 100% complete. DSL staff recommends removing this project from the priority list as the goal of this project has been accomplished

Wolfe Creek Forest

The Wolf Creek Forest Florida Forever project located in Santa Rosa County contained 14,989 acres and was added to the priority list in 2014. Approximately 13,739 acres were acquired in fee and less-than-fee by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and The Trust for Public Land. Most of the acquired lands are now managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Blackwater River State Forest. This project is now 97% complete. Removing this project from the Priority List does not prevent Florida Forever funds from being used to purchase the remaining property within this project pursuant to section 259.032(6), F.S.,which states, "When at least 90 percent of the acreage of a project has been purchased pursuant to the chapter, the project may be removed from the list and the remaining acreage may continue to be purchased." Furthermore, Rule 18-24.002(2)(b) Public Purposes and Categories of Projects Qualifying for Funding provides that acres within projects that are no longer on the priority list still qualify for funding.

Yarborough Ranch

The Yarborough Ranch Florida Forever project located in Seminole County contained 1,361 acres and was added to the priority list in 2023. In 2024, DEP acquired approximately 1,361 acres fee simple with Florida Forever funding. Acquired lands are to be managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Little Big Econ State Forest. This project is now 100% complete. DSL staff recommends removing this project from the priority list as the goal of this project has been accomplished

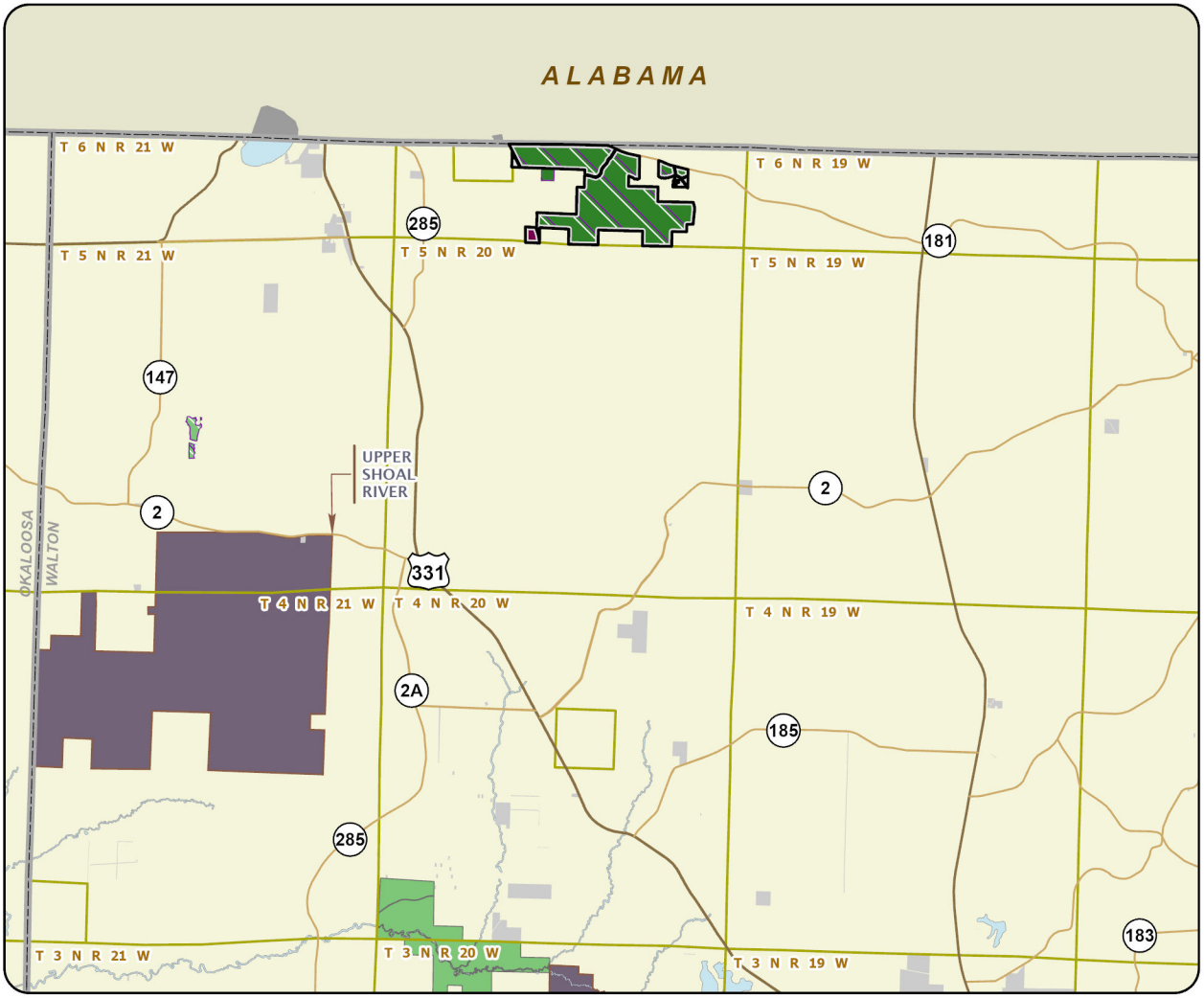
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the removal of the Natural Bridge Timberlands and Yarborough Ranch projects from the priority list as considered complete and the goal of this project has been accomplished.

Staff recommends the removal of the Natural Bridge Creek and Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever projects from the priority list because it is at least 90% complete:

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

Project	DHR	FFS	Lynetta Griner	DEP	FWC	Bill Palmer	Elva Peppers	Selected
Natural Bridge Creek	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Natural Bridge Timberlands	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wolfe Creek Forest	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Yarborough Ranch	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y



NATURAL BRIDGE CREEK

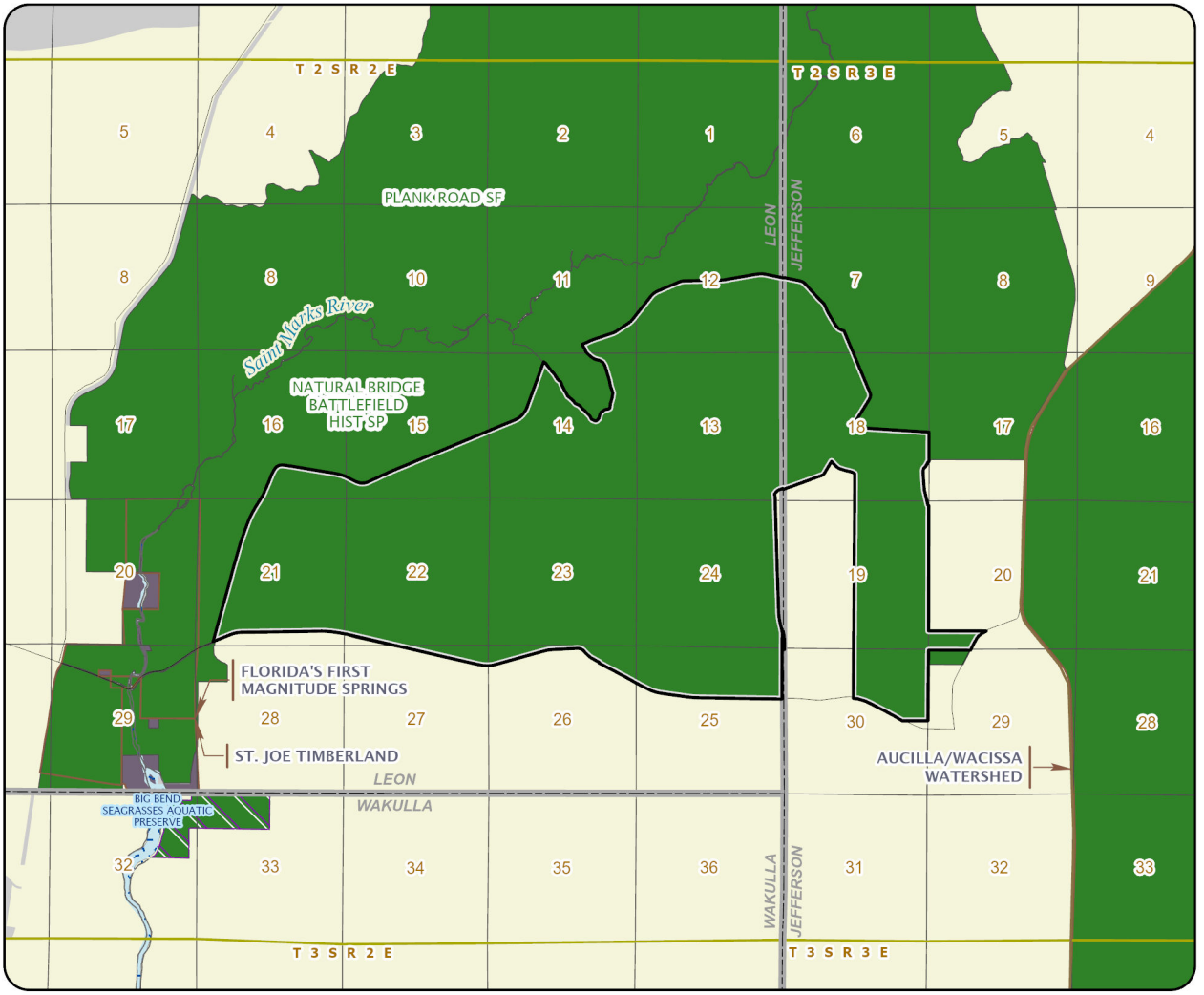
WALTON COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



N

0 4 8 Miles



NATURAL BRIDGE TIMBERLANDS

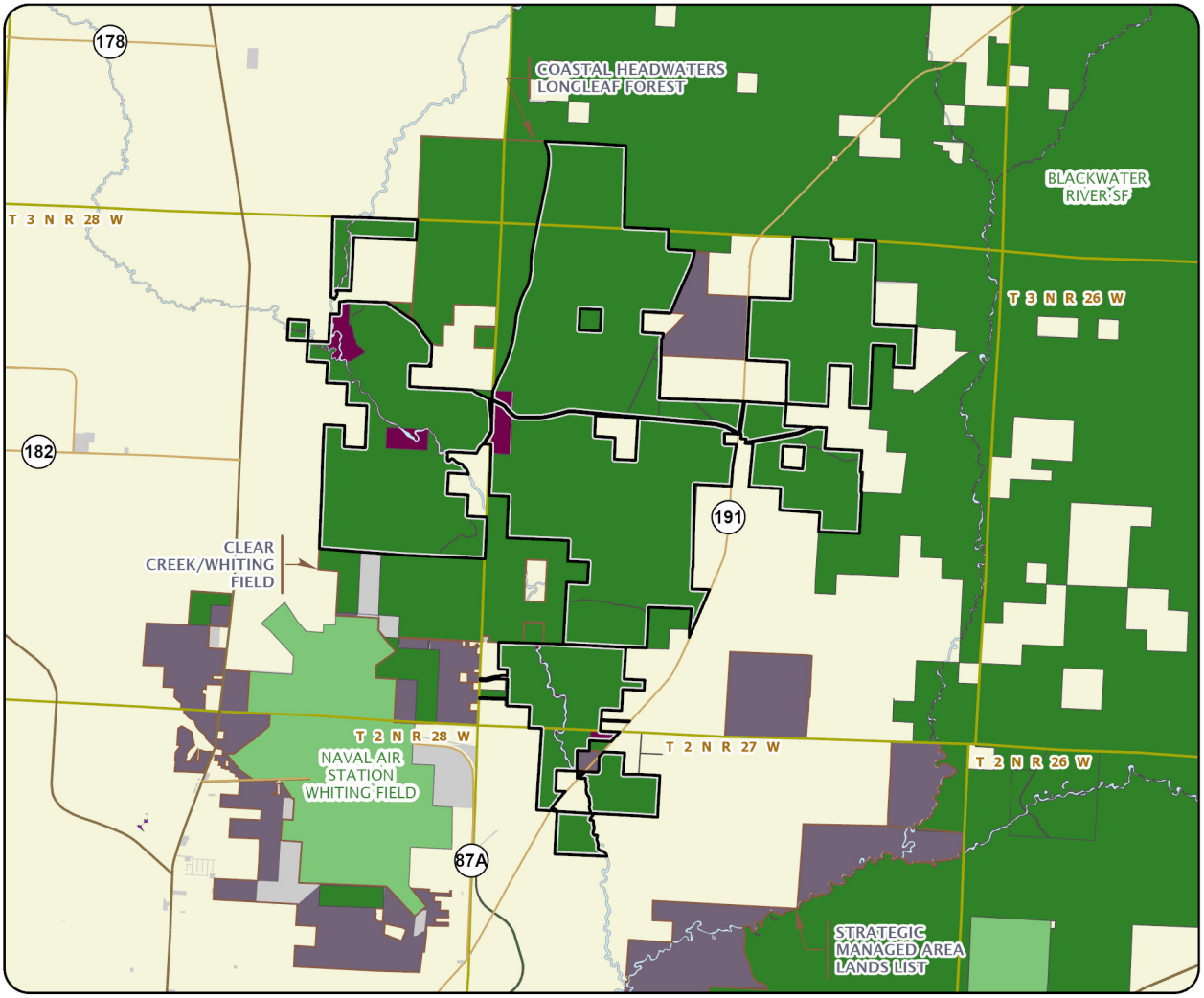
JEFFERSON AND LEON COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition
- State Aquatic Preserve



N

0 1.5 3 Miles



WOLFE CREEK FOREST

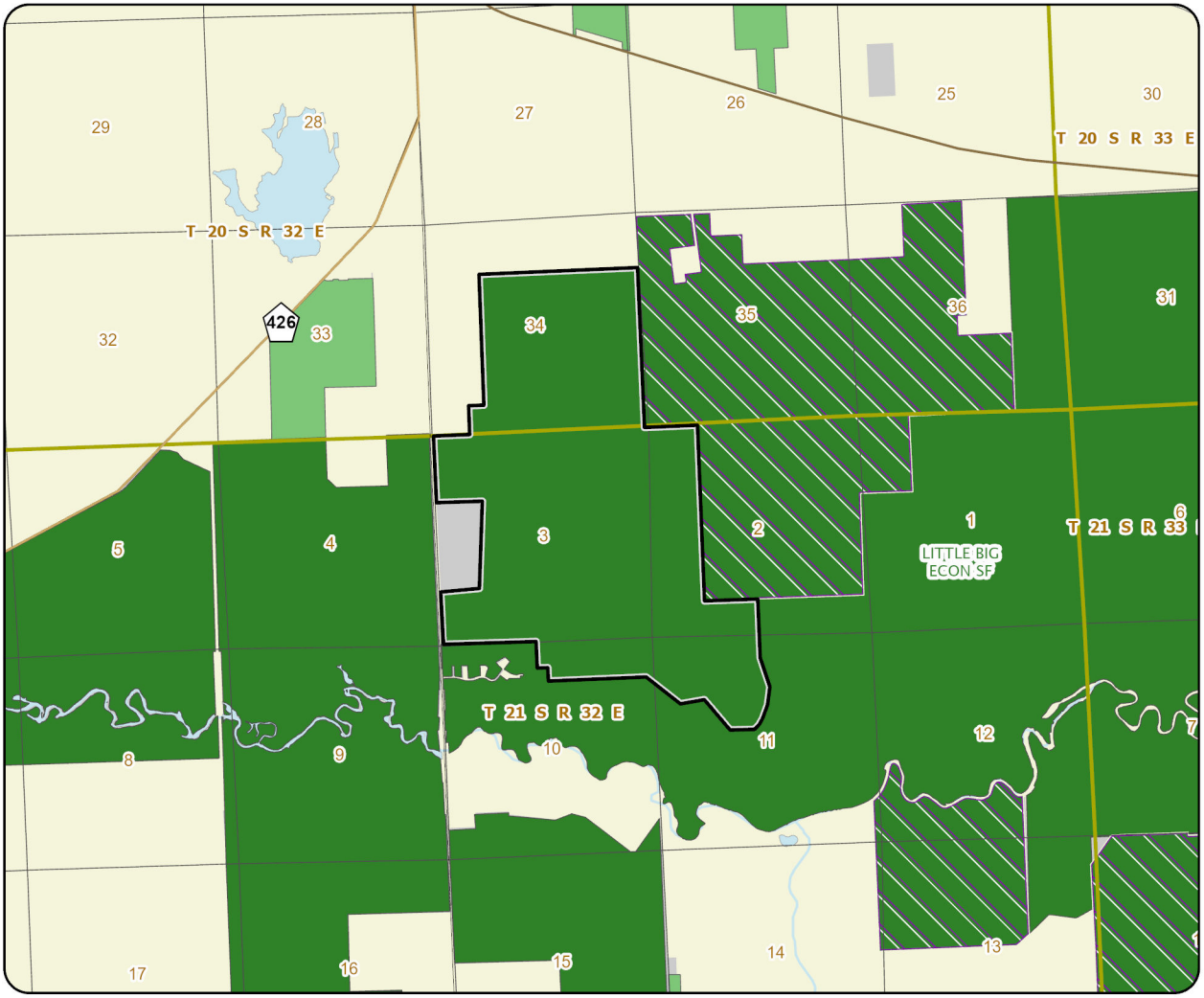
SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- Other Florida Forever Projects
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



N

0 2.5 5 Miles



YARBOROUGH RANCH

SEMINOLE COUNTY

- Florida Forever Project Boundary
- Essential Parcels Remaining
- State Conservation Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Less-Than-Fee Acquisition



N

0 1 2 Miles