ITEM 20:

Vote on whether to amend the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever Project Boundary to add two parcels totaling approximately 28.86 GIS acres in Marion and Putnam Counties with a tax assessed market value of $215,290.

LOCATION:

Marion and Putnam Counties

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

The Cross Florida Greenway Additions amendment proposed by the Putnam Land Conservancy adds two parcels in Marion and Putnam Counties totaling approximately 28.86 GIS acres to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project. The proposal consists of two small, widely separated tracts; 1 northern parcel in Putnam County owned by the Putnam Land Conservancy, and a southern parcel in Marion County owned by Keith Herndon. The two parcels have a combined tax assessed value of $215,290.

The northern tract is located within Priority 2 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network and 2.5 miles north of Oklawaha Lake in southern Putnam County. It is western adjacent to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project and shares its eastern boundary with the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area (MHCCFG). The southern tract lies along the eastern floodplain of the Oklawaha River. It is a private inholding within MHCCFG and locally surrounded by the Ocala National Forest. Both tracts are located within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor and are proposed for fee simple acquisition. All landowners have been contacted and are willing sellers. The Division of Recreation and Parks has confirmed the parcels would be managed as part of the MHCCFG. If acquired, the tracts would enhance ecological connections and expand recreational opportunities within the MHCCFG.

The proposal meets the criteria to be submitted as a boundary amendment. The parcels have a tax assessed value of less than $5 million. The proposal area should be designated as essential.

Project History:

The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project in Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion and Putnam Counties was approved on the CARL list in 1995. Stretching from central Putnam County to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (CFG) along the Ocklawaha River, this project protects large expanses of flatwoods, sandhills, and scrub. The project is designed to fill gaps in and expand outdoor resource-based recreation along the CFG, a unique project stretching from the Withlacoochee River to the St. Johns River that provides opportunities for long-distance hiking, fishing, camping, and hunting.

The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project includes over 94,104 acres with 49,924 acres remaining and is ranked number 8 in the Critical Natural Lands category on the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List. The tax assessed value for the remaining acres to be acquired in this project per property appraiser information (2023) is $204,249,562.

FNAI Review:

According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), 100% of the proposal contributes to Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Ecological Greenways, Surface Water Protection and

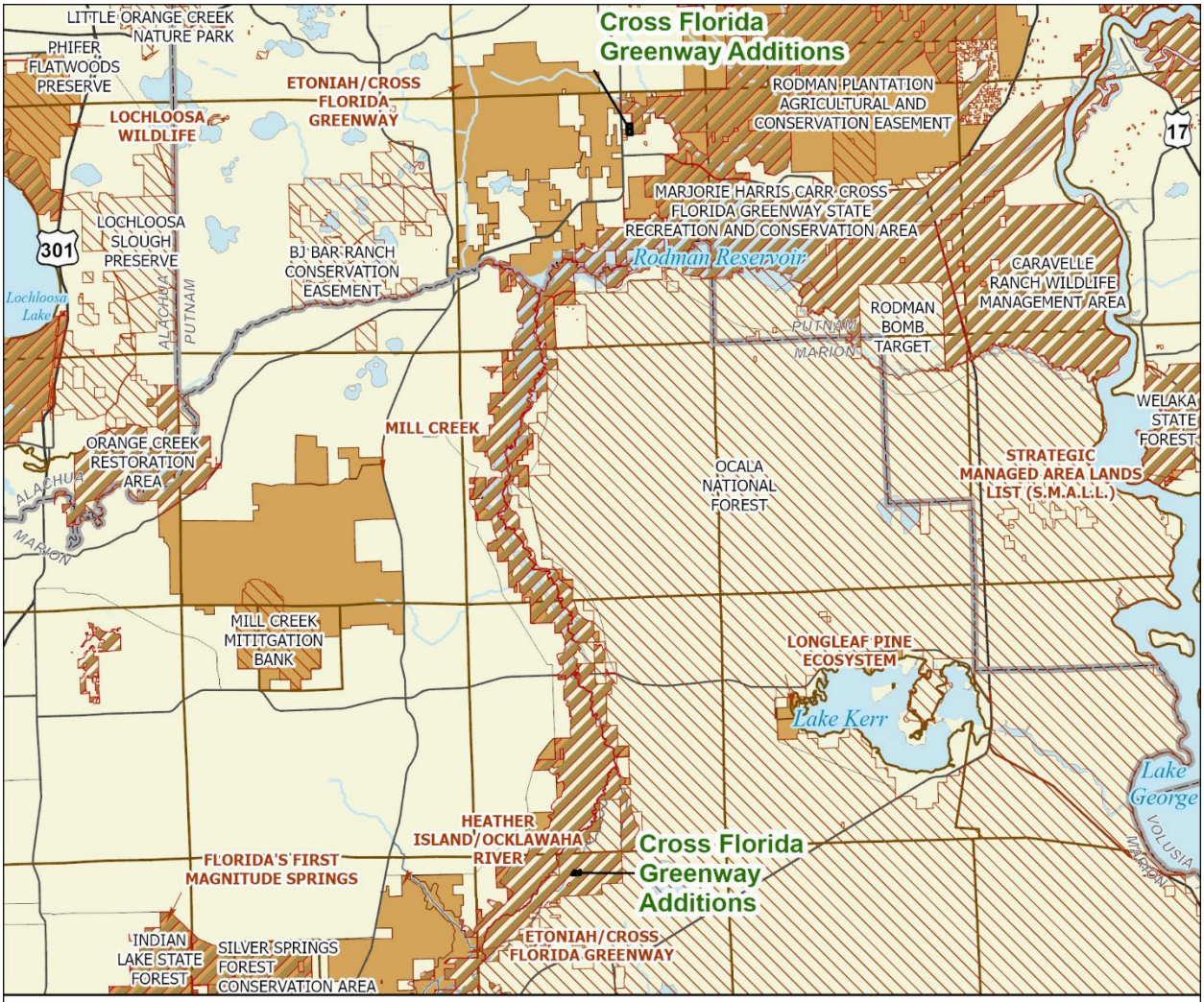
Aquifer Recharge. 92% of the proposal contributes to FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities. 34% of the proposal contains under-represented natural communities including scrub and scrubby flatwoods and mesic/wet flatwoods. The proposal contains one documented archeological & historical site.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

Project	**DHR**	**FFS**	**Lynetta Griner**	**DEP**	**FWC**	**Bill Palmer**	**Elva Peppers**	**Selected**
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway: Cross Florida Greenway Additions								



ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY PROPOSED ADDITION (CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY ADDITIONS)

PUTNAM AND MARION COUNTIES

- Florida Forever Proposed Addition
- Florida Forever BOT Projects
- State Owned Lands
- Other Conservation Lands
- State Aquatic Preserve



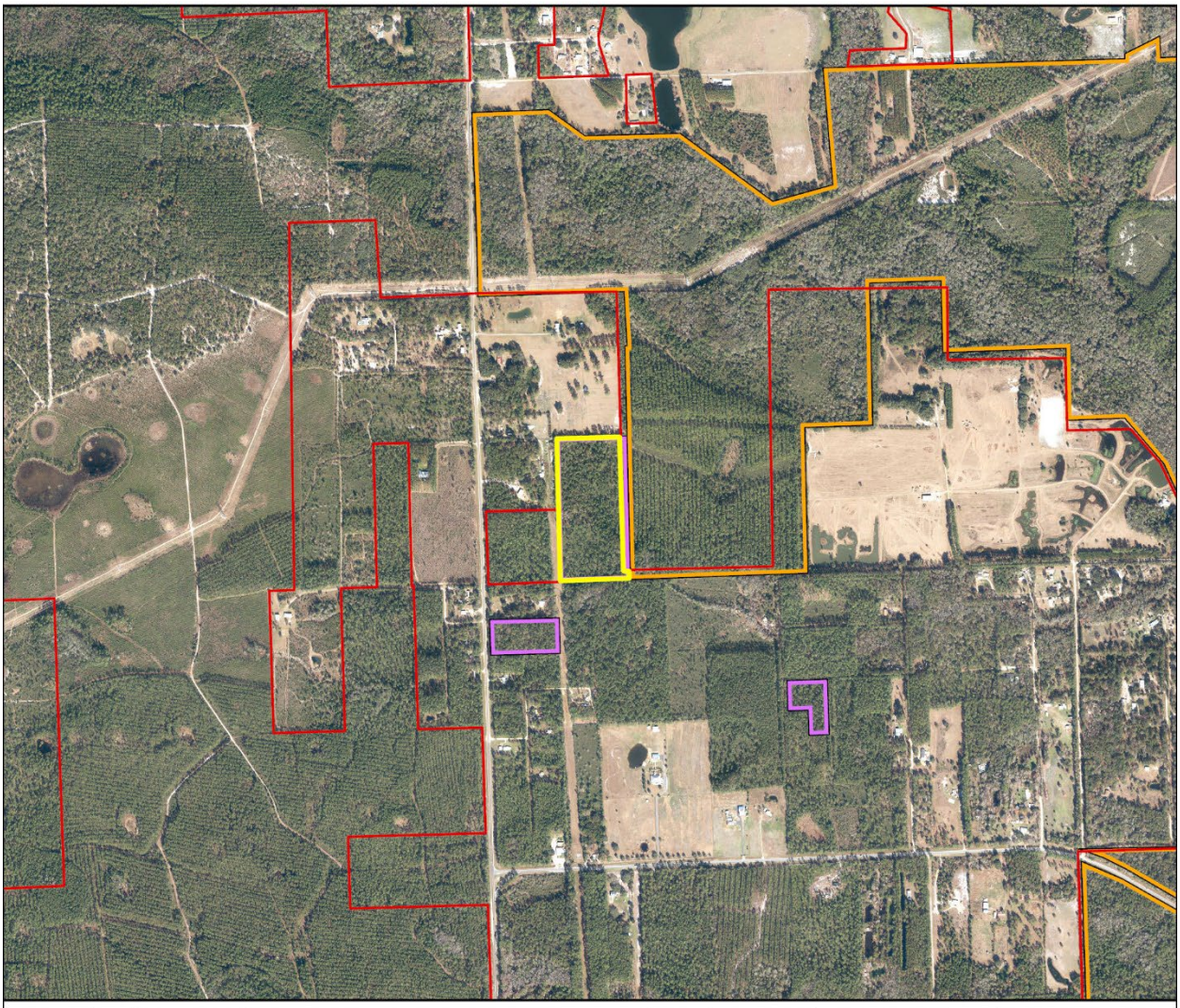
N

0 6 12 Miles

MAP BY FL NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY AUGUST 2024

Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Proposed Addition
(Cross Florida Greenway Additions - North Parcel)

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSED ADDITION AS OF AUGUST 2024



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, August 2024 Background: County Ortho Imagery 2023 Resolution = 0.15 meter

FNAI

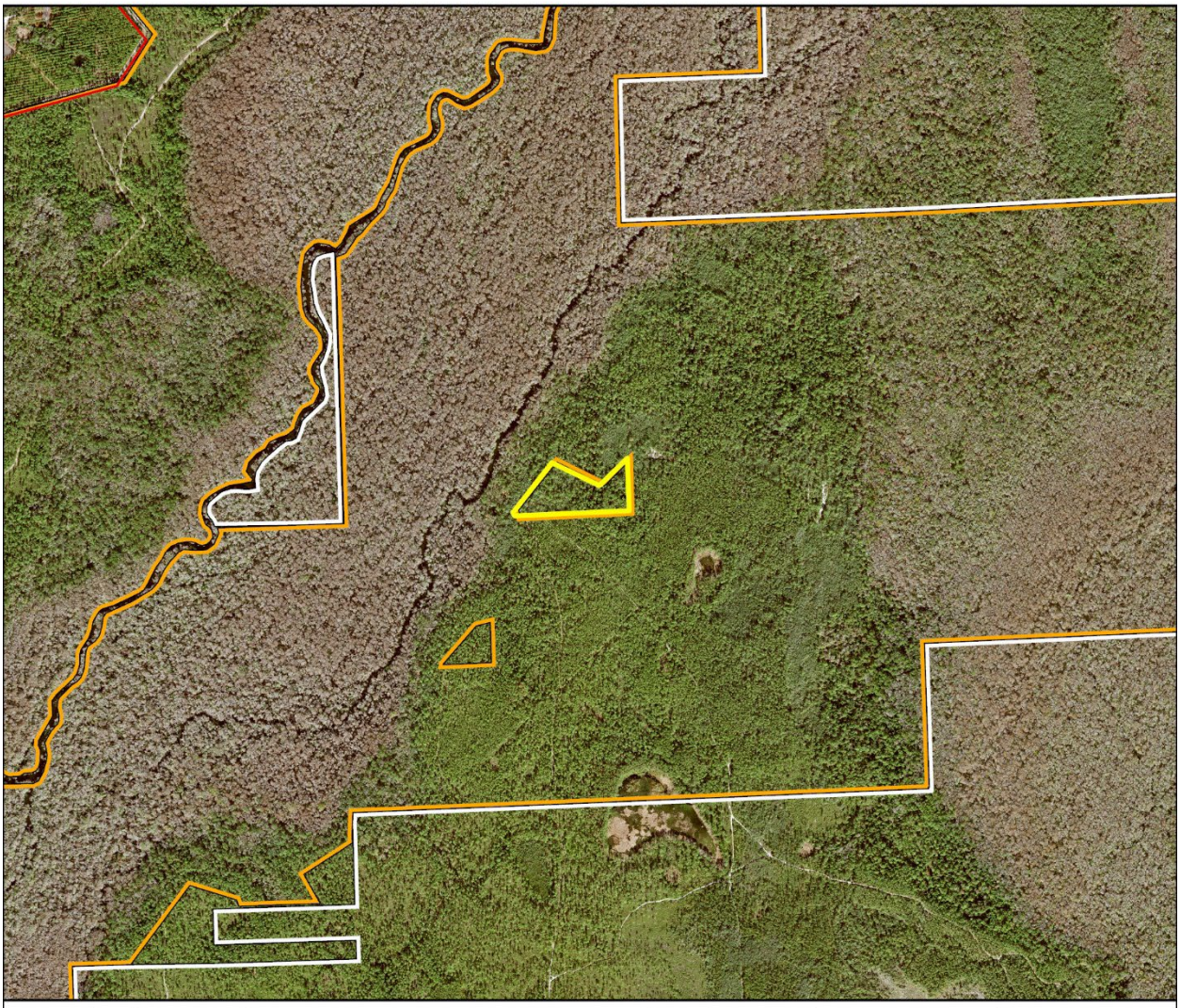
- Florida Forever Proposed Addition
- Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Existing State Conservation Lands
- Existing Private Conservation Lands

N

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Proposed Addition
(Cross Florida Greenway Additions - South Parcel)

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSED ADDITION AS OF AUGUST 2024



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, August 2024 Background: County Ortho Imagery 2023 Resolution = 0.15 meter

FNAI

- Florida Forever Proposed Addition
- Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Existing Federal Conservation Lands
- Existing State Conservation Lands

N

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Etoniah/CFG Addition (Cross Florida Greenway Additions): Florida Forever Measures Evaluation 20240821

GIS ACRES = 27.3

MEASURES	Resource Acres[a]	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	1.0	4%
Priority 3	24.1	88%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	2.2	8%
Total Acres	27.3	100%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	7.7	28%
Priority 5	3.1	11%
Priority 6	14.4	53%
Total Acres	25.2	92%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0.6	2%
Priority 2	18.5	68%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	8.2	30%
Total Acres	27.3	100%
B4: Under-represented Natural Communities		
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	1.4	5%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	0	0%
Dry Prairie (G2)	0	0%
Seepage Slope (G2)	0	0%
Sandhill (G3)	0	0%
Sandhill Upland Lake (G3)	0	0%
Upland Pine (G3)	0	0%
Mesic/Wet Flatwoods (G4)	7.7	28%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	9.2	34%
B6: Occurrences of FNAI Tracked Species		
G1	0	
G2	0	
G3	0	
G4	1	
G5	0	
Total	1	
C4: Natural Floodplain Function		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	4.0	15%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	4.0	15%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres[a]	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	7.7	28%
Priority 2	14.9	55%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	4.7	17%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	27.3	100%
C7: Fragile Coastal Resources		
Fragile Coastal Uplands	0	0%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	0	0%
Coastal Wetlands	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
C8: Functional Wetlands		
Priority 1	0.1	< 1%
Priority 2	0.8	3%
Priority 3	6.4	23%
Priority 4	1.6	6%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	8.9	33%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	25.2	92%
Priority 5	2.1	8%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	27.3	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails & Univ. Florida)		
Land Trail Priorities	0.6	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.6	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)	1 sites	
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	6.5	24%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5 - Potential Pinelands	0.3	1%
Total Acres	6.8	25%
G3: Forestland for Recharge	0	0%

[a]Acres of each resource in the project and percentage of project represented by each resource are listed except where noted. This analysis converts site boundary into pixels, which causes slight differences from GIS acres; this effect is most noticeable on small sites.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

To: Meghan Lauer, DEP/OES
From: Dale R. Jackson, Ph.D., FNAI
Date: August 30, 2024
Subject: Proposed Boundary Modification to Florida Forever BOT Project: Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway – Cross Florida Greenway Additions (Marion and Putnam counties)

The primary goal of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever Project is to protect a corridor of forested land and water to provide recreational opportunities and natural resource protection in northern peninsular Florida. The 29.0-acre Cross Florida Greenway Additions property is proposed as an addition to the project. The property is proposed for fee simple acquisition.

The proposal includes two small, widely separated tracts, one each in Marion (south, 9.6 ac. per parcel data) and Putnam (north, 20.91 ac. per parcel data) counties. The northern tract lies ca. 2.5 miles north of Ocklawaha Lake (Rodman Reservoir) in southern Putnam County. It is contiguous on both its east and west with Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever BOT Project – Caravelle Ranch, although that portion on the east is now within Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area. The proposed site itself is one of three local parcels making up Putnam Land Conservancy Putnam Parcels.

The southern tract lies along the eastern floodplain of the Ocklawaha River ca. 2 miles north of Cedar Creek and 6 miles southeast of Ft. McCoy. It is a private inholding within Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, which locally is surrounded by Ocala National Forest. The nearest Florida Forever project is a tract of Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever BOT Project - Cross Florida Greenway FPL Additions, which lies 1 mile to the northwest across the river.

The northern tract appears to support pine forest (mesic flatwoods?), while the southern tract is fully forested with a closed canopy that appears to contain both hardwood and pine elements. Remote analysis identifies 28% of the combined tracts as mesic/wet flatwoods, and 5% as scrub/scrubby flatwoods. What appears to be a very small cypress stand along the western border of the northern tract may indicate a small wetland. Portions of the southern tract may contain wetland elements, but these are not obvious in aerial photography. There are no signs sign of development or conspicuous disturbance on either tract.

Both tracts lie within a region in which the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission considers the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*; G5T4/S4, N, N) to be frequent. No other rare species are documented on the proposed properties in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory database, but this may reflect lack of biological surveys.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory – 1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C – Tallahassee, FL 32303 – 850-224-8207 – www.fnai.org
Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center – Institute of Science and Public Affairs
The Florida State University
FSU | FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Florida Forever Measures Evaluation (FFME) below is based on the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment developed by FNAI. The data used in that analysis represent a standardized, statewide perspective of natural resources. According to the FFME, at least 90% of the proposal (combined tracts) supports Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (100%, mostly Priority 3), FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (92%, Priorities 4-6), Ecological Greenways (100%, mostly Priorities 2 and 5), Surface Water Protection (100%, Priorities 1, 2, and 4), and Aquifer Recharge (100%, chiefly Priority 4). Approximately one-fourth to one-third of the proposal contributes to Under-represented Natural Communities (34%: mesic/wet flatwoods 28%, scrub/scrubby flatwoods 5%), Functional Wetlands (Priorities 2-4), and Sustainable Forestry (Priority 3).