

ITEM 12:

Vote on whether to add the Buzzard Roost, Chamonix, Levys Prairie, New River Watershed, Oak Creek Flatwoods, Ocklawaha Bufferlands, Putnam Clay Timberlands, and Raiford to Osceola Greenway Extension 2026 Cycle 2 Florida Forever proposals to the 2027 Florida Forever Priority List.

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS STAFF REMARKS:

On April 15, 2026, the Division of State Lands received the Buzzard Roost, Chamonix, Levys Prairie, New River Watershed, Oak Creek Flatwoods, Ocklawaha Bufferlands, Putnam Clay Timberlands, and Raiford to Osceola Greenway Extension 2026 Cycle 2 Florida Forever project proposals. At the June 2026 Acquisition and Restoration Council meeting, the Council voted to move all eight proposals on for full review.

The Florida Forever assessment team visited each site in June and July 2026. Division of State Lands staff then prepared project evaluation reports based on information provided by Acquisition and Restoration Council member agencies, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and other agency contributors. Division of State Lands staff held the required regional public hearings on August 26, 2026, in Palatka; September 2, 2026, in Arcadia; and October 9, 2026, in Tallahassee.

This item contains two Acquisition and Restoration Council actions. The Council will (1) vote on whether to add the 2026 Cycle 2 proposals to the 2027 Florida Forever Priority List, and then (2) consider whether to amend existing Florida Forever projects to include seven of the new proposals, based on resource or regional similarities.

PROPOSAL	COUNTY	CATEGORY	ACRES
Buzzard Roost	DeSoto and Hardee	Less-Than-Fee	7,059
Chamonix	Leon	Less-Than-Fee	961
Levys Prairie	Putnam	Partnerships and Regional Incentives	2,272
New River Watershed	Union	Critical Natural Lands	1,370
Oak Creek Flatwoods	Hardee	Less-Than-Fee	3,196
Ocklawaha Bufferlands	Marion	Partnerships and Regional Incentives	3,294
Putnam Clay Timberlands	Clay and Putnam	Partnerships and Regional Incentives	6,977
Raiford to Osceola Greenway Extension	Columbia	Less-Than-Fee	5,051

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote to add projects to the 2027 Florida Forever Priority List. Then vote whether to add Buzzard Roost to Myakka Ranchlands, Chamonix to Red Hills Conservation, Levys Prairie to Little Orange Creek Corridor, Oak Creek Flatwoods to Peace River Refuge, Ocklawaha Bufferlands to Heather Island/Ocklawaha River, Putnam Clay Timberlands to Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve, and Raiford to Osceola Greenway Extension to Raiford to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever projects.

ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

Vote to approve the Florida Forever project proposals.

Project	Watts	DHR	FFS	Griner	DEP	FWC	Palmer	Peppers	Gamblin	Selected
Buzzard Roost										
Chamonix										
Levys Prairie										
New River Watershed										
Oak Creek Flatwoods										
Ocklawaha Bufferlands										
Putnam Clay Timberlands										
Raiford to Osceola Greenway Extension										

Vote to amend existing Florida Forever Project boundaries to include new project lands.

Project	Watts	DHR	FFS	Griner	DEP	FWC	Palmer	Peppers	Gamblin	Selected
Buzzard Roost to Myakka Ranchlands										
Chamonix to Red Hills Conservation										
Levys Prairie to Little Orange Creek Corridor										

Project	Watts	DHR	FFS	Griner	DEP	FWC	Palmer	Peppers	Gamblin	Selected
Oak Creek Flatwoods to Peace River Refuge										
Ocklawaha Bufferlands to Heather Island/Ocklawaha River										
Putnam Clay Timberlands to Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve										
Raiford to Osceola Greenway Extension to Raiford to Osceola Greenway										