

ITEM 15:

Vote on whether to amend the Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever project boundary to add one parcel totaling ±5.06 acres in Hernando County with a tax assessed value of \$159,712.

LOCATION:

Hernando County

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS STAFF REMARKS:

The Fraize amendment, proposed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, adds one parcel in Hernando County totaling ±5.06 acres to the Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever project. The parcel is owned by James and Donald Fraize. The landowner has been contacted and is a willing seller. The parcel has a combined tax assessed value of \$159,712 and is proposed for fee-simple acquisition. If acquired, the property would be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as an addition to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The proposed addition is an inholding within the Chassahowitzka WMA and is less than a mile from a section of the Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever project. Nearby conservation lands include the Weekiwachee Preserve, Weekiwachee WMA, and Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. Additionally, the property is within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and within an instrument route corridor, a type of military training route. As an inholding in the Chassahowitzka WMA, the site has the potential to support several rare and imperiled species like the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), short-tailed hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*), and swallow-tailed kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). Approximately half of the property consists of forested wetlands and a man-made pond located in the middle of the property, while the other half consists of improvements and cleared areas. Improvements on the property include a general-purpose barn, a single-family residence, and several small outbuildings. If acquired, the property would facilitate a variety of recreational opportunities for the public and facilitate management of the Chassahowitzka WMA, one of many conservation lands that form a corridor along the west coast of Florida.

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

Project History:

The Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever project in Citrus and Hernando counties was added to the priority list in 1995. The project will conserve the remaining forestland between the Withlacoochee State Forest and Chassahowitzka WMA. 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. This project will protect habitat for a variety of rare and imperiled wildlife and many sandhill-dwelling plants including giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*). The project will also provide the public with a large area for outdoor recreation in this fast-growing region.

The Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever project includes 19,023 acres with 7,565 acres remaining and is ranked number nine in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category on the 2026 Florida Forever Priority List. The tax assessed value for the remaining acres to be acquired in this project per property appraiser information (2025) is \$165,505,578.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Review:

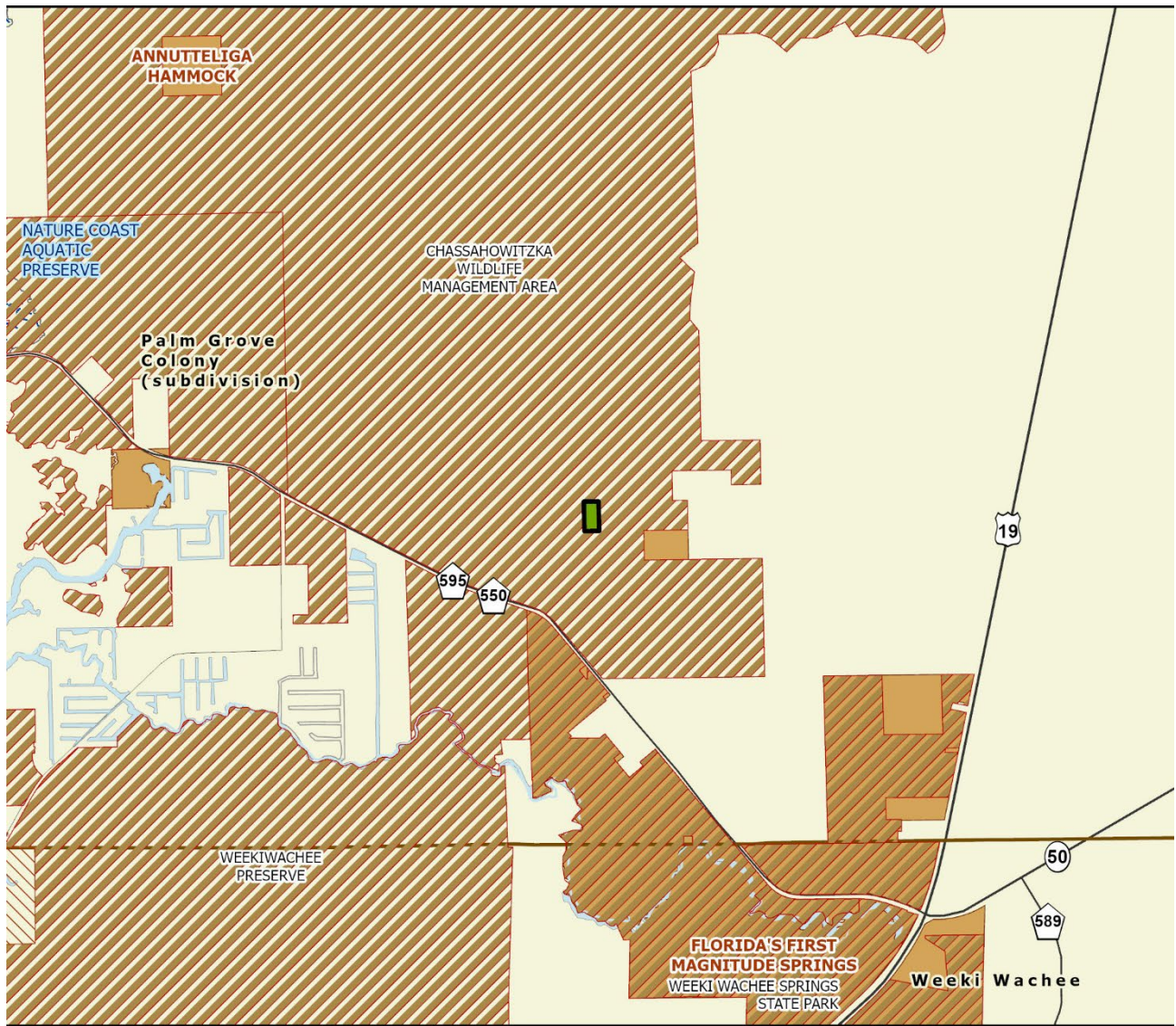
According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 100% of the site contributes to Ecological Greenways (Priority 1) and Aquifer Recharge (Priority 2). The site lies within a region in which the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission classifies the Florida black bear as frequent.

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

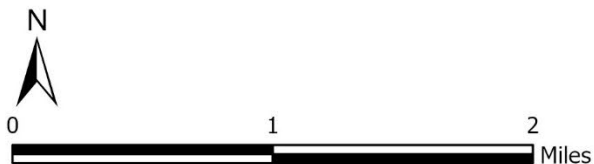
Project	Watts	DHR	FFS	Griner	DEP	FWC	Palmer	Peppers	Gamblin	Select
Annutteliga Hammock: Fraize										



ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK FLORIDA FOREVER PROJECT FRAIZE PROPERTY BOUNDARY AMENDMENT

HERNANDO COUNTY

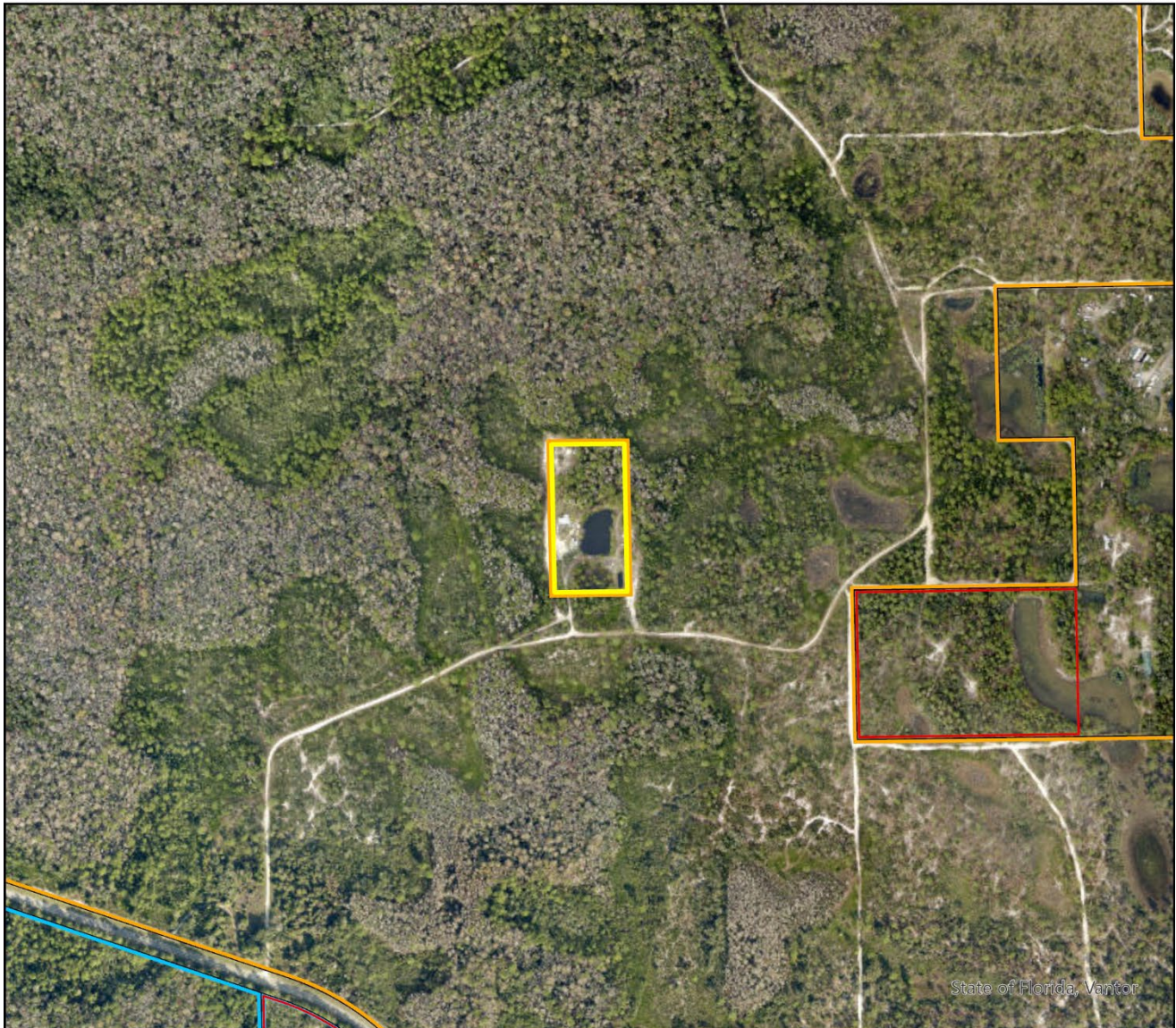
-  Florida Forever Proposed Addition
-  Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



MAP BY FL NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY AUGUST 2026

ANNUTTELIGA HAMMOCK FLORIDA FOREVER PROJECT FRAIZE PROPERTY BOUNDARY AMENDMENT

FLORIDA FOREVER BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROJECT PROPOSED ADDITION AS OF AUGUST 2026



Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, August 2026

Background: ESRI World Imagery



- Florida Forever Proposed Addition
- Florida Forever BOT Projects
- Existing State Conservation Lands
- Existing Water Mangement District Conservation Lands



0 0.15 0.3 0.6
Miles

Annutteliga Hammock (Fraize Property): Florida Forever Measures Evaluation 20260817

GIS ACRES = 5.1

MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0.8	17%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0.2	5%
Total Acres	1.0	22%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0.9	20%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	0.9	20%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	4.6	100%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	4.6	100%
B4: Under-represented Natural Communities		
Upland Glade (G1)	0	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	0	0%
Scrub and Scrubby Flatwoods (G2)	0	0%
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)	0	0%
Upland Hardwood Forest (G5)	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
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	0.9	21%
Priority 3	0.6	13%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	1.6	34%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	1.6	34%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	1.6	34%
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	0%
Priority 2	0.9	20%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	0.9	20%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	4.6	100%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	4.6	100%
E2: Recreational Trails (miles)		
(prioritized trail opportunities from Office of Greenways and Trails & Univ. Florida)		
Land Trail Priorities	0.0	
Land Trail Opportunities	0.0	
Total Miles	0.0	
F2: Arch. & Historical Sites (number)		
	0 sites	
G1: Sustainable Forestry		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0.1	2%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	0.1	2%
G3: Forestland for Recharge		
	0.1	2%

^aAcres 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.



To: Diana Pepe, DEP/OES
From: Dale R. Jackson, FNAI
Date: September 3, 2026
Subject: Proposed Boundary Modification to Florida Forever BOT Project: Annutteliga Hammock– Fraize Property (Hernando County)

The major goal of the Annutteliga Hammock Florida Forever Project (AH) is to conserve the remaining forestland between the Withlacoochee State Forest and Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area. This will help to preserve some of the last large tracts of longleaf pine sandhills in Florida as well as many archaeological sites; protect habitat for a variety of rare and imperiled wildlife and many sandhill-dwelling plants including giant orchid; and provide the public with a large area for outdoor recreation in this fast-growing region. The ca. 5.1-acre Fraize property in western Hernando County is proposed as an addition to the project, to be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area. The property is proposed for fee simple acquisition.

The Fraize property, located ca. 2 miles northwest of Weeki Wachee, is an inholding within the southern end of the 28,000-acre Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The WMA is part of a corridor of conservation lands and Florida Forever projects that include Weekiwachee Preserve, Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, Withlacoochee State Forest, and the Florida Springs Coastal Greenway Florida Forever Project. A small parcel within AH lies within 0.2 mile to the east-southeast. Several additional parcels nested within or contiguous with the aforementioned conservation lands lie within 2.5 miles.

About half of the small site supports forested wetlands and a pond that, based on its sub-rectangular outline, was obviously created or enhanced. Surrounding the pond in a generally cleared area are a small single-family residence, a barn, and several small outbuildings.

The entire site is 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. The application notes the occurrence of other rare species (e.g., short-tailed hawk [*Buteo brachyurus*] and swallow-tailed kite [*Elanoides forficatus*]) within the WMA in general, as well as several others that may possibly exist there. FNAI documents gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*, G3/S3, N, ST) on slightly higher soils adjacent to the proposal near its southern end.

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. The entire proposal contributes to Ecological Greenways (priority 1) and Aquifer Recharge (priority 2), although because the property is small, these contributions are minimal from a statewide perspective. Less than 35% of the proposal contributes to other FFME measures.