

ITEM 16:

Vote on whether to amend the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project boundary to add one parcel totaling ±40.28 acres in Marion County with a tax assessed value of \$255,055.

LOCATION:

Marion County

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS STAFF REMARKS:

The Tindell amendment, proposed by The North Florida Land Trust, adds one parcel in Marion County totaling ±40.28 acres to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project. The parcel is owned by Lavon Tindell. The landowner has been contacted and is a willing seller. The parcel has a combined tax assessed value of \$255,055 and is proposed for fee-simple acquisition. If acquired, the property would be managed by the Division of Recreation and Parks as an addition to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (MHCCFG).

The proposed addition is located 4 miles away the city of Fort McCoy and is adjacent to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project, now the MHCCFG. The site is approximately 1 mile from the Ocklawaha River and Cross Florida Barge Canal. The property is within the Ocala to Osceola section of the Florida Wildlife Corridor and within the MHCCFG's optimum boundary. The entire property is comprised of sandhill, an underrepresented natural community. The sandhill is in an area that is fire suppressed, but with proper management, it can be restored. The site lies within a region in which the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission classifies the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) as frequent. According to the application, arrowheads assumed to be from the Seminole Tribe were found on the property. There are no improvements on site. If acquired, the property would facilitate management of the MHCCFG, provide recreational opportunities to the public and provide a buffer for the Ocklawaha River, an Outstanding Florida Waterway.

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 Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project in Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion and Putnam counties was added to the priority list in 1995. The project will protect large expanses of flatwoods, sandhills and scrub in central Putnam County, extending to the MHCCFG along the Ocklawaha River. The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway project will fill gaps in the greenway and guarantee habitat for species like the Florida black bear, Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) and Etoniah rosemary (*Conradina etonia*). The project will support the expansion of outdoor resource-based recreation along the greenway, which is a unique piece of public conservation land that crosses the entire Florida peninsula from the Withlacoochee River to the St. Johns River and provides opportunities for long-distance hiking, fishing, camping and hunting.

The Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever project includes 98,290 acres with 48,933 acres remaining and is ranked number nine in the Critical Natural Lands 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 \$214,407,666.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Review:

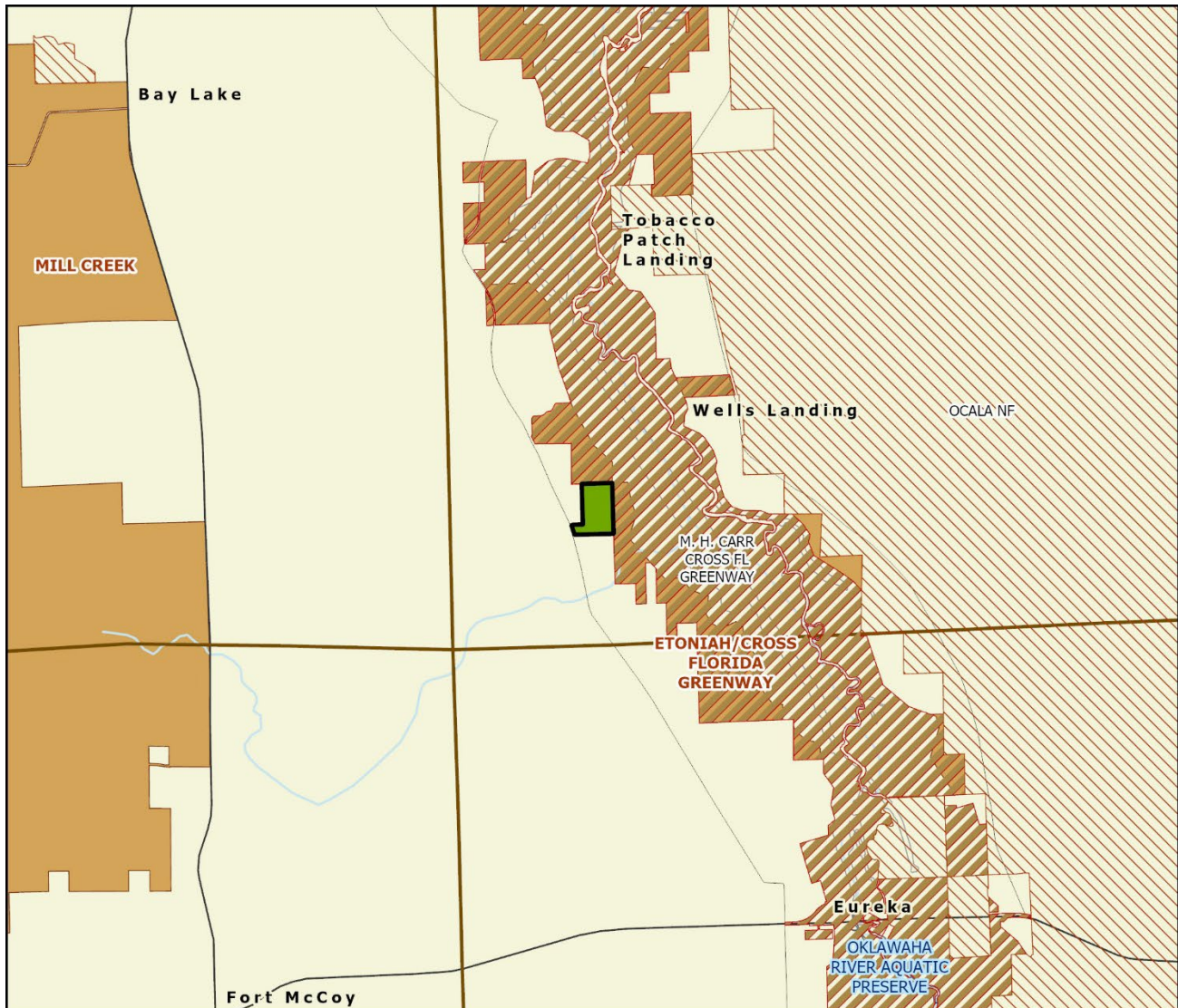
According to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 100% of the site contributes to Ecological Greenways (Priority 3), Surface Water Protection (mainly Priority 3), Aquifer Recharge (mainly Priority 5), Habitat Conservation Priorities (mainly Priority 5), and Sustainable Forestry (mostly Priority 4). Additionally, 96% contributes to Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (mainly Priority 2). The entire property (±40 acres) contains under-represented sandhill.

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Vote on the proposed boundary amendment.

ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

	Watts	DHR	FFS	Griner	DEP	FWC	Palmer	Peppers	Gamblin	Select
Project										
Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway: Tindell										



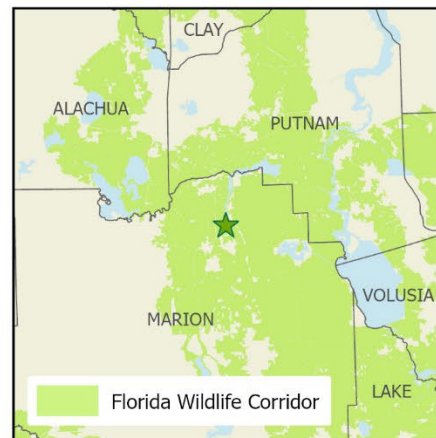
ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY FLORIDA FOREVER PROJECT TINDELL PROPERTY BOUNDARY AMENDMENT

MARION COUNTY

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



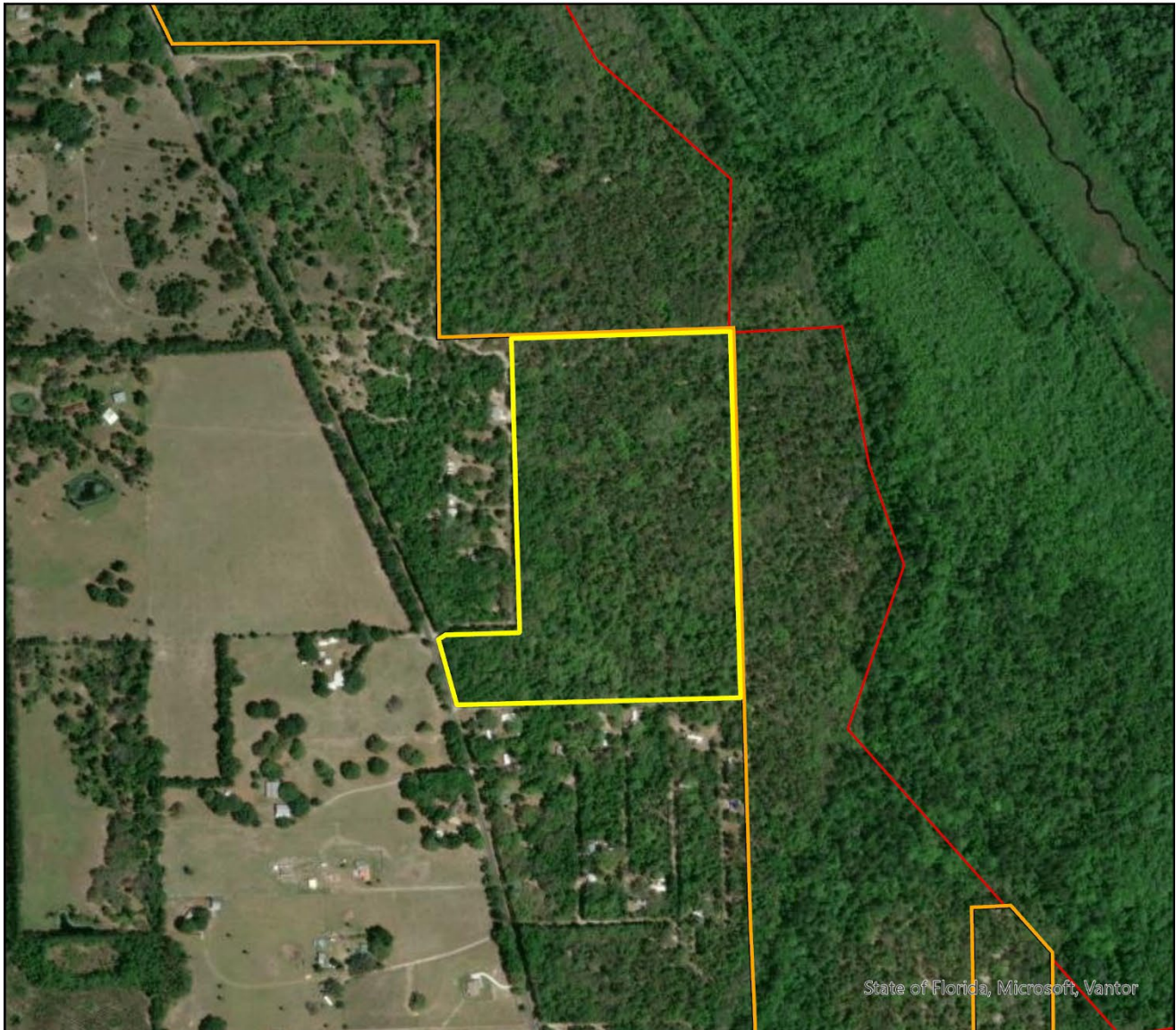
0 1.5 3 Miles



MAP BY FL NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY AUGUST 2026

ETONIAH/CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY FLORIDA FOREVER PROJECT TINDELL PROPERTY BOUNDARY AMENDMENT

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

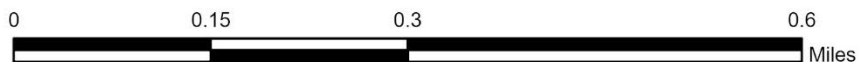


Map Produced by: FL Natural Areas Inventory, N. Pasco, August 2026

Background: ESRI World Imagery



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



Item 16: Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Boundary Amendment: Tindell

Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway (Tindell Property): Florida Forever Measures Evaluation 20260817

GIS ACRES = 40

MEASURES	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	37	94%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	1	2%
Total Acres	38	96%
B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	38	95%
Priority 6	2	4%
Total Acres	40	100%
B3: Ecological Greenways		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	40	100%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	40	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)	40	100%
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	40	100%
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	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%

MEASURES (continued)	Resource Acres ^a	% of project
C5: Surface Water Protection		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	1	2%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	39	98%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Priority 7	0	0%
Total Acres	40	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	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	0	0%
Priority 4	0	0%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	0	0%
D3: Aquifer Recharge		
Priority 1	0	0%
Priority 2	0	0%
Priority 3	1	2%
Priority 4	39	98%
Priority 5	0	0%
Priority 6	0	0%
Total Acres	40	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	14	35%
Priority 3	2	5%
Priority 4	24	60%
Priority 5	0	0%
Total Acres	40	100%
G3: Forestland for Recharge		
	0	0%

^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: Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway– Tindell Property (Marion County)

The primary goal of the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever BOT Project is to protect a corridor of forested land and water to provide recreational opportunities and natural resource protection in northern peninsular Florida. The 40.3-acre Tindell property in northeastern Marion County is proposed as an addition to the project. The property is proposed for fee simple acquisition. The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks has agreed to manage the property, if acquired, as part of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (MHCCFG).

The Tindell property is along NE 148th Terrace Road, ca. 0.5 mile west of the Ocklawaha River and 2.4 miles north-northwest of Eureka. The tract's northern and eastern boundaries are adjacent to MHCCFG. The application notes that the site lies within the MHCCFG's optimum boundary. Ocala National Forest lies to the east, across the river.

The undeveloped, fully forested parcel appears to support fire-suppressed sandhill that may succeed to oak hammock in the absence of more active management, including prescribed fire. The property is contiguous with undeveloped lands on the north and east, and bordered by residential development on the west and south.

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. In addition to bear, the applicant notes that the tract also supports gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, and Florida scrub jay; however, given the relatively dense forest canopy, presence of these species needs to be confirmed by experts.

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. All or most (96–100%) of the proposal contributes to Ecological Greenways (priority 3), Aquifer Recharge (mostly priority 4), Surface Water Protection (mostly priority 4), Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (mostly priority 2), FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities (mostly priority 5), Under-represented Natural Communities (sandhill, 100%), and Sustainable Forestry (chiefly priorities 2 and 4).