

Hixtown Swamp

Madison County

Critical Natural Lands

Purpose for State Acquisition

The complex of cypress swamps, marshes, and ponds called Hixtown Swamp, an important overwintering and nesting site for wading birds, has been spared the intensive tree-farming practices of the surrounding uplands. The Hixtown Swamp project will conserve these swamps and marshes, thereby protecting wading-bird rookeries and wildlife habitat as well as a possible Spanish mission site and other important archeological remains, and giving the public a large area in which to hunt, hike, or simply observe wildlife.

Manager

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

General Description

Hixtown Swamp is one of the largest cypress-dominated basin swamps in northern Florida. The moderately disturbed core swamp is a mixture of cypress swamp, freshwater marsh, and open marsh ponds (50 percent), as well as shrub swamp (20 percent), and disturbed uplands, which are mostly silvicultural/agricultural land. There are no well-defined channels or streams associated with the swamp. At least during high water, the waters of Hixtown Swamp flow slowly southward, and the swamp is functionally a part of the much larger San Pedro Bay ecosystem. Hixtown Swamp is regionally significant as habitat for both game and nongame wildlife. It is particularly important as an overwintering area for waterfowl. It supports large numbers of sandhill cranes, some perhaps residents. Twenty-one archaeological or historical sites have been recorded within this project,

including perhaps a Spanish mission site. The project has high cultural-resource value. Timber harvesting is the greatest current threat to the area.

Public Use

This project is designated as a wildlife management area, with uses such as hiking, picnicking, camping and wildlife observation.

Acquisition Planning

Phase I (essential): Mitchell (aka Musselwhite), G&G, Miller, Collins, Genecer, Muggee and Gillman (contingent upon 50 percent donation).

On December 9, 2011, this project was placed in the Critical Natural Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) is an acquisition partner.

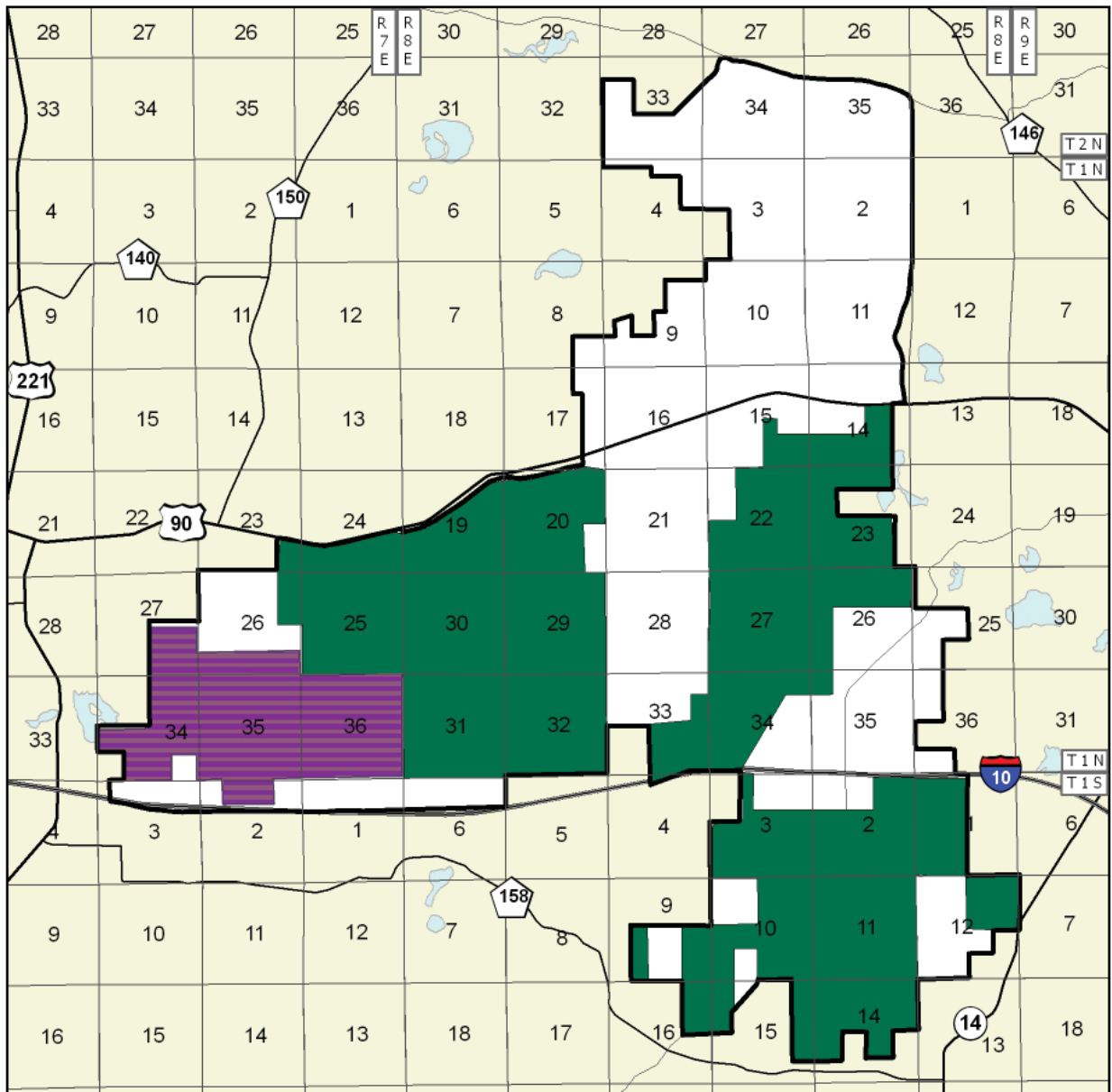
Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Hixtown Swamp project are: to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Hixtown Swamp FNAI Elements	
Bird Rookery	G5/SNR
<i>Incised Groove-bur</i>	G3/S2
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4/S3
Little Blue Heron	G5/S4
White Ibis	G5/S4
6 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1993
Project Area (GIS Acres)	24,479
Acres Acquired (GIS)	2,081*
at a Cost of	\$200,331
Acres Remaining (GIS)	22,399
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$9,542,800

*Acquired by SRWMD



-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



0 0.5 1 2
 Miles



AUGUST 2006

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation The size of the Hixtown Swamp project, and its importance to wildlife, particularly its value as an over-wintering area for waterfowl, qualify it as a wildlife management area.

Manager The FWC will manage the project.

Conditions affecting intensity of management This natural wetlands system now generally requires basic resource management and protection, but is in danger of being modified hydrologically in order to drain the area for timber and agricultural production. Pine plantations and agricultural areas on the uplands will require restoration. Depending on the nature and extent of public recreational use determined by the management planning process, there may be additional needs for management of public-use facilities.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security, natural resource management and conceptual planning. Public-use facilities will be developed in succeeding years.

Revenue-generating potential No significant revenue is expected to be generated initially. As public use increases, modest revenue may be generated.

Cooperators in management activities The Florida Forest Service (FFS) of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) is recommended as a cooperator to assist in reforestation of the upland areas.

Edited February 8, 2016

Management Cost Summary/FWC		
Category Source of Funds	Startup CARL	Recurring CARL
Salary	\$180,000	\$180,000
OPS	\$5,500	\$5,500
Expense	\$45,500	\$40,000
OCO	\$124,800	\$10,000
FCO\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$355,800	\$236,500

