

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Land Conservation and Planning
Big Bend Forest Florida Forever Project Analysis
December 2024



This document contains the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Geographic Information System (GIS) data analysis of the area yet to be acquired within the **Big Bend Forest** Florida Forever project. This analysis was performed to provide FWC and others with important fish and wildlife resource information to be used in evaluating and ranking Florida Forever projects. The data selected for analysis are those considered by FWC to spatially reflect important fish and wildlife habitat and life history requirements.

In addition, FWC has completed a field review and associated assessment report for this project/proposal that is incorporated within the Acquisition and Restoration Council Florida Forever Project Evaluation Report. This report is available upon request.

GIS Data

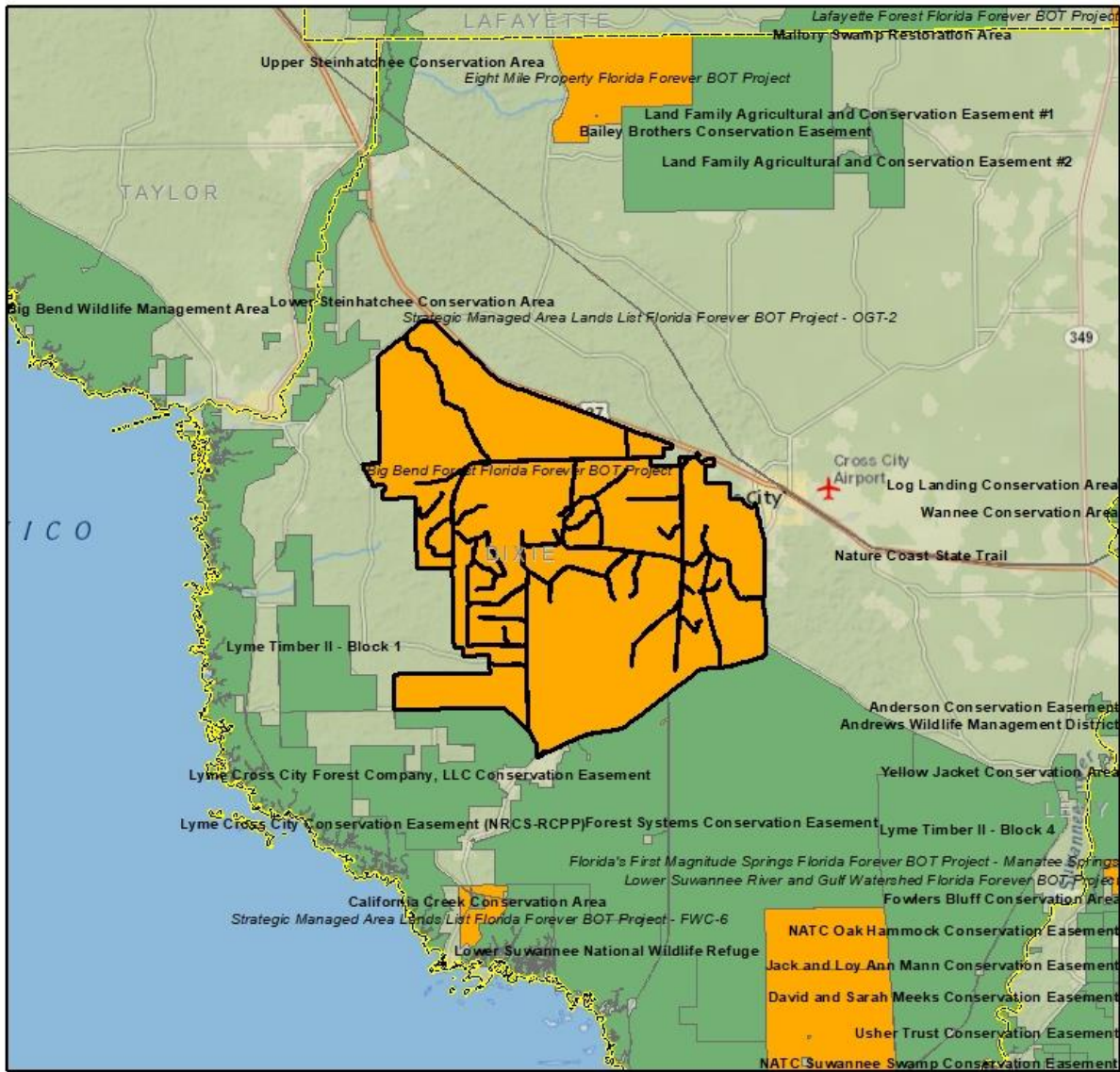
The FWC utilizes the Florida Cooperative Land Cover (CLC) GIS data layer for identification and mapping of land cover. The CLC is a cooperative effort between the FWC and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) to develop ecologically-based statewide land cover from existing sources and expert review of aerial photography. Land cover acreage estimates found in this document are based on GIS analysis of these data.

The FWC Florida Landscape Assessment Model (FLAM)¹ is a GIS model that determines the landscape value based on natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat. The FLAM ranks habitat from a 0-10; a rank of 10 being of greatest value.

Important fish and wildlife resource GIS data were queried using Environmental Resource Analysis GIS computer software. These data include the following GIS layers:

- FWC-FNAI Florida Cooperative Land Cover
- FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas – Priority and Species
- Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) – Priority 1 and 2 – Terrestrial and Water
- CLIP – Landscape, Biodiversity, and Floodplain Resources
- Panther Location
- Panther Mortality
- Florida Panther Priority Habitat (Primary, Secondary, and Dispersal)
- Black Bear Range
- Rare Fish Locations/ Imperiled Waters
- Southern Bald Eagle Nest
- FWC Imperiled Species Richness

- FNAI Element Occurrences
- FNAI Suitable Habitat that Supports Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection Surface Water Classification
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) - National Wetlands Inventory
- USFWS Critical Habitat
- Florida Geological Survey Springs
- Outstanding Florida Waters
- Areas of Critical State Concern



**Big Bend Forest
Florida Forever Project**
Dixie County
53,510 Remaining Acres

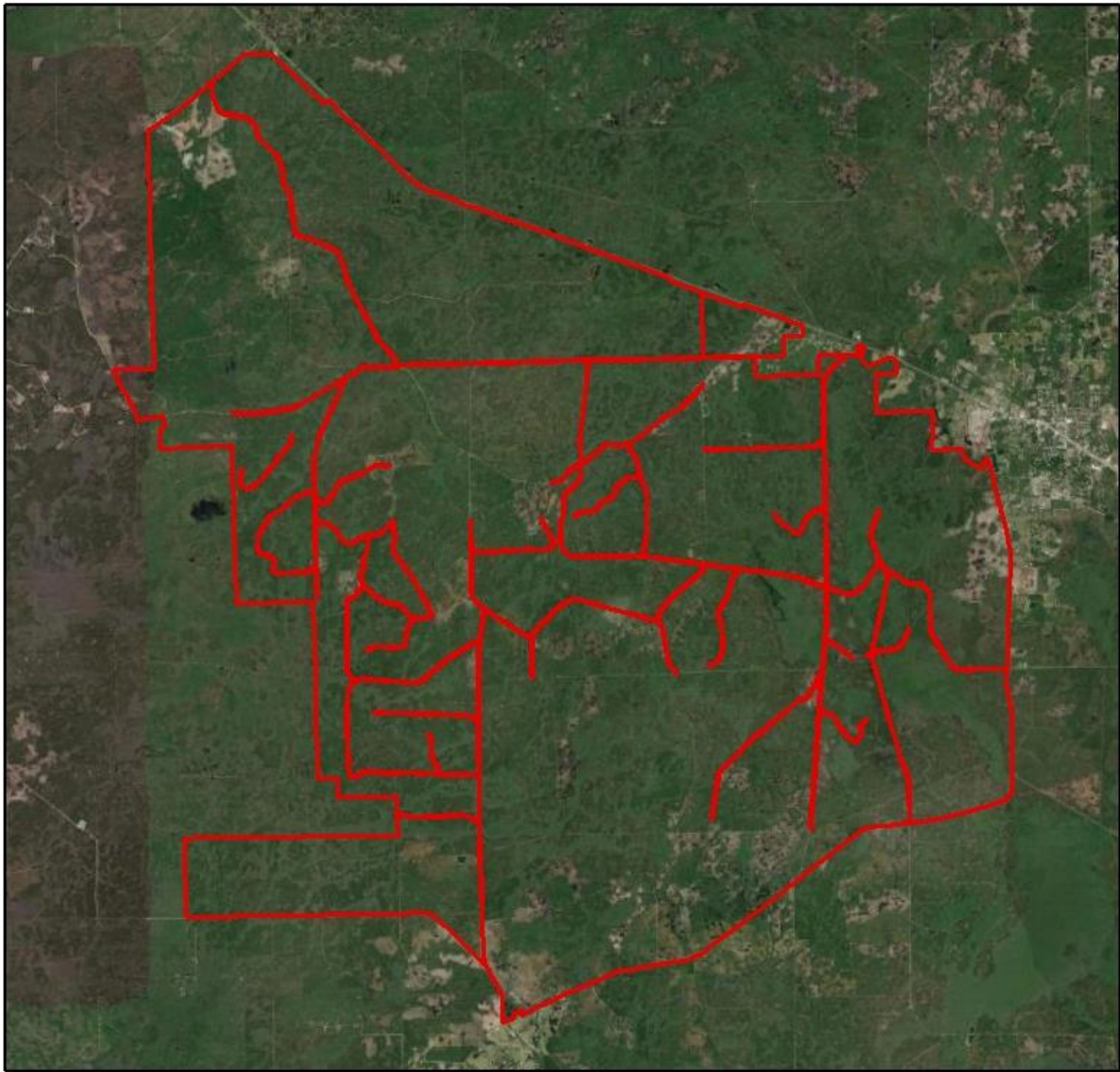


0 4 8 12 16 Miles

Created in ArcGIS 10.8 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission December 2024

Vicinity Map

- Big Bend Forest Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Conservation Lands
- Florida Forever Projects



Big Bend Forest
Florida Forever Project
Dixie County
53,510 Remaining Acres



0 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

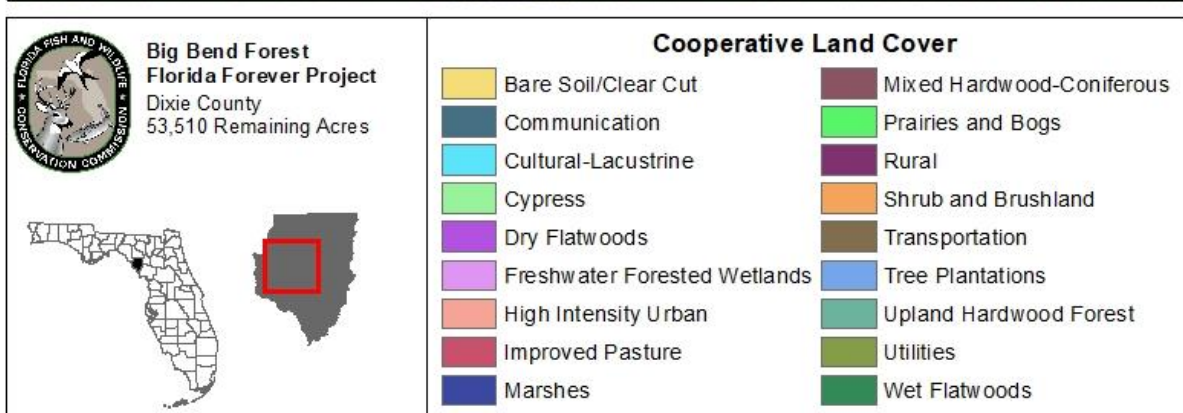
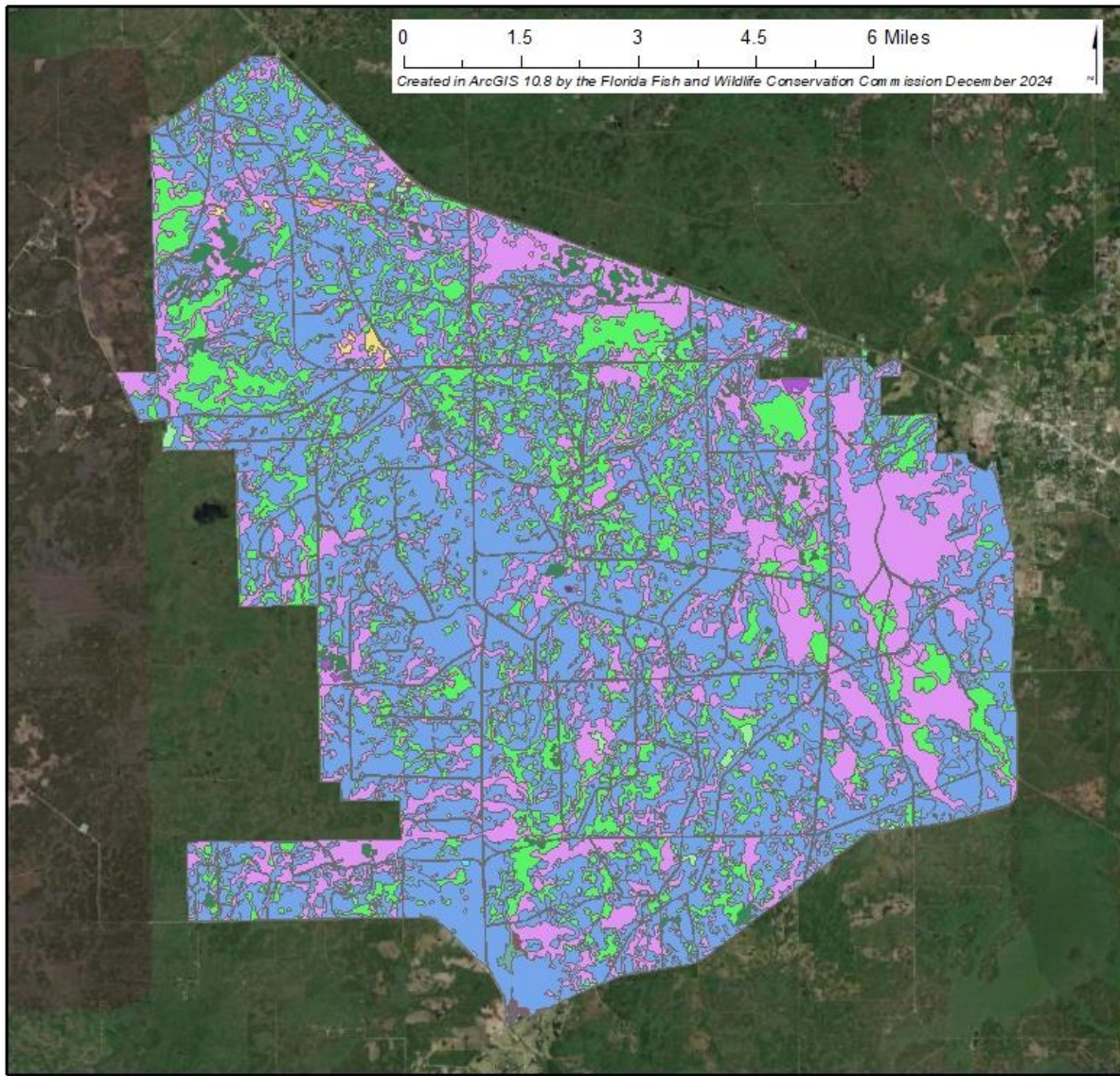
Created in ArcGIS 10.8 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission December 2024

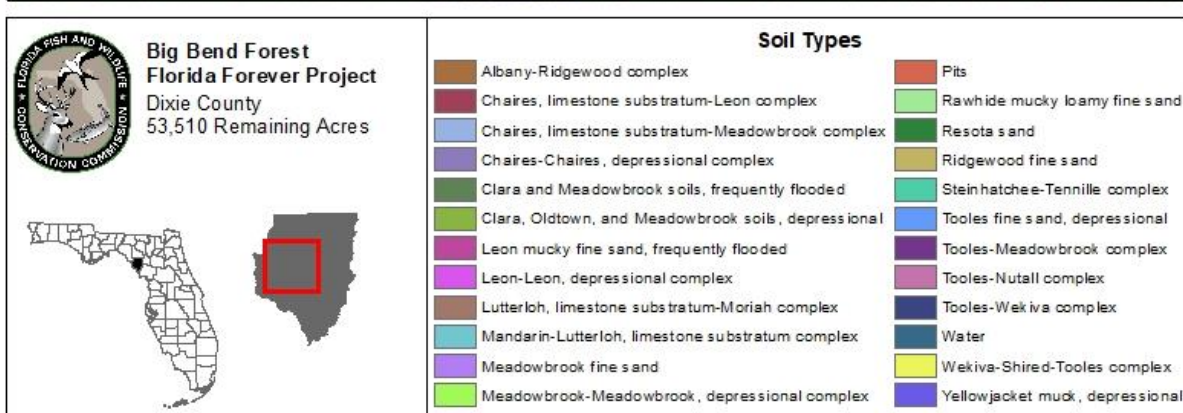
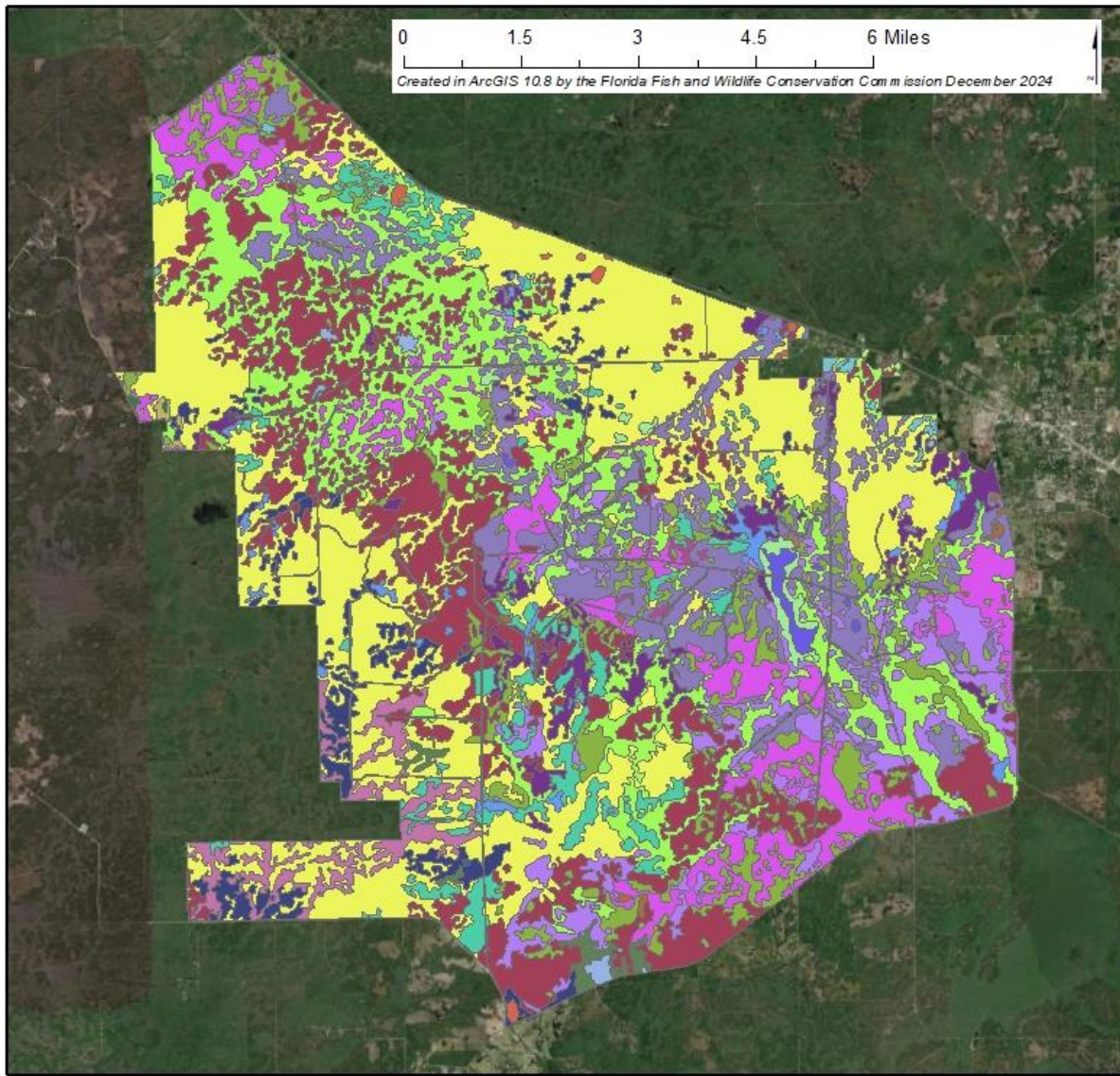


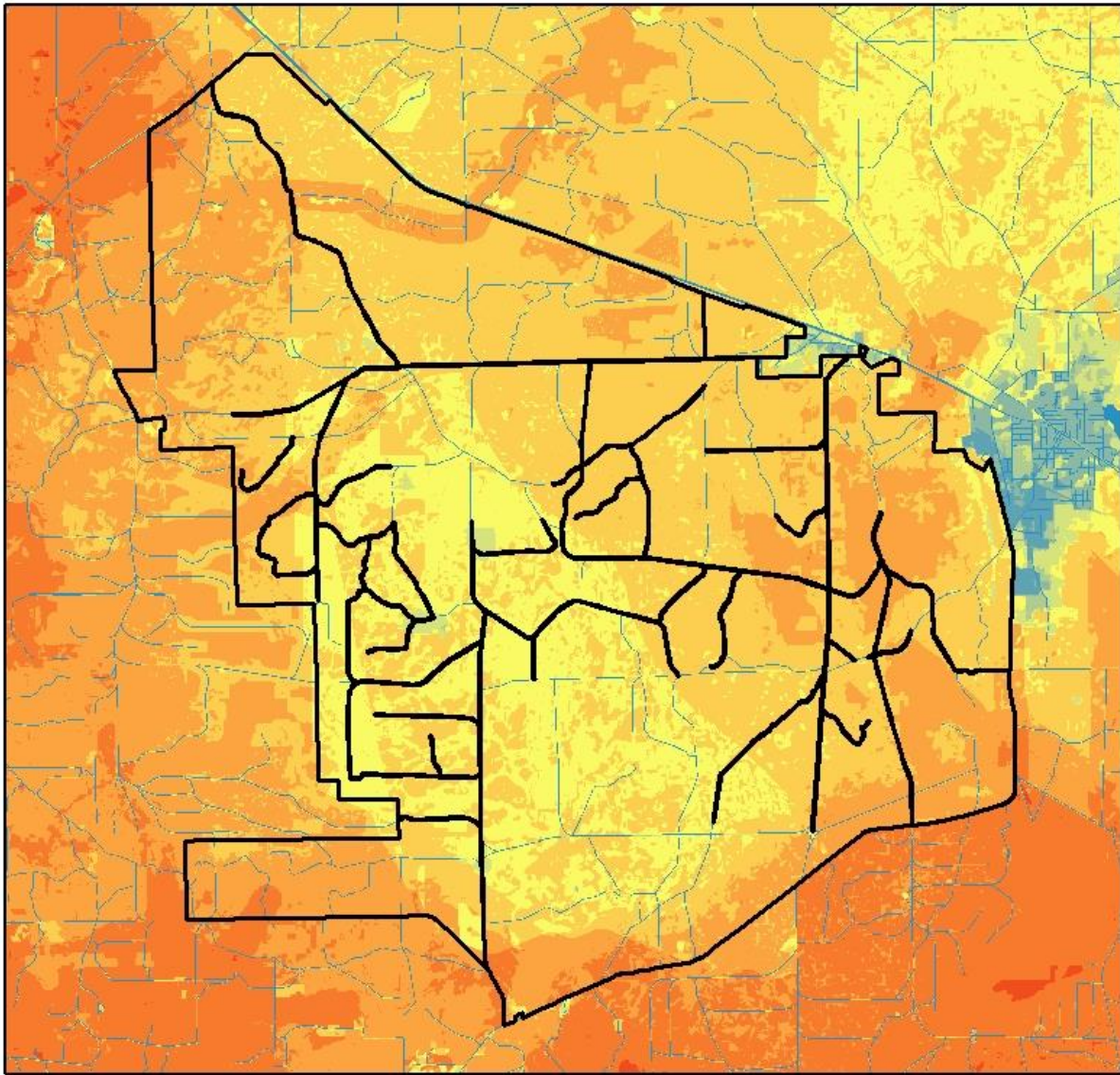
Aerial Imagery



Big Bend Forest Boundary







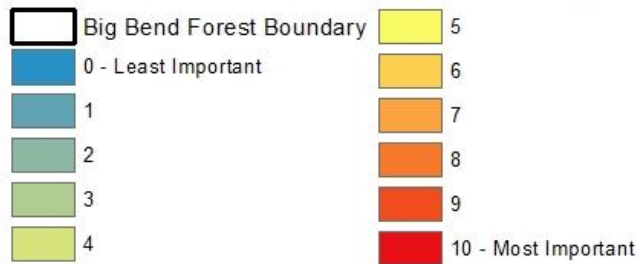
**Big Bend Forest
Florida Forever Project**
Dixie County
53,510 Remaining Acres



0 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Created in ArcGIS 10.8 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission December 2024

Florida Landscape Assessment Model



FWC Florida Landscape Assessment Model 2023		
	Value	Acres
	0	18.1
	1	0.0
	2	0.1
	3	1.6
	4	7.8
	5	33.3
	6	273.5
	7	525.0
	8	285.7
	9	9.6
	10	0.0
Mean FLAM value =	6.8	

Comments:

¹ FWC has developed a GIS-based assessment tool that incorporates a wide variety of land cover and wildlife species data. These wildlife species include imperiled species and locally important species. Application of this model assists in the identification and conservation of important wildlife habitats. The FLAM ranks the Florida landscape based upon important natural resources and habitat needs of wildlife as a way to identify ecologically significant lands in the state, and to assess the potential impacts of land development projects on wildlife populations. The FLAM is provided as part of the FWC's continuing technical assistance to various local, regional, state, and federal agencies, and entities interested in wildlife needs and conservation in order to: (1) determine ways to avoid or minimize project impacts by evaluating alternative placements, alignments, and transportation corridors during early planning stages, (2) assess direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts to habitat and wildlife resources, and (3) help identify appropriate parcels for land conservation, and for wetland and upland habitat mitigation.

Environmental Resource Analysis

FWC Land Conservation and Planning

Analysis Shape Type: Polygon

Analysis Timestamp: 01112024 07:53:38

Shape Name: Unnamed polygon centered at -83.231041 °, 29.615432 °

Boundary Area: 53509.66 acres

Buffer Area: 0 acres

Total Area: 53509.66 acres

FWC Wildlife Data and Models

Cooperative Land Cover v3.7

Name - State	Code - State	Name - Site	Code - Site	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
High Intensity Urban	1822	Residential, Med. Density - 2-5 Dwelling Units/AC	18221	1.88	0 %
High Intensity Urban	1822	Commercial and Services	18223	0.14	0 %
High Intensity Urban	1822	Industrial	18224	1.27	0 %
Freshwater Forested Wetlands	2200	Mixed Wetland Hardwoods	2233	4,611.73	8.62 %
Freshwater Forested Wetlands	2200	Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous Swamps	2240	8,424.36	15.74 %
Cultural-Lacustrine	3200	Artificial Impoundment/Reservoir	3220	20.80	0.04 %
Tree Plantations	18333	Coniferous Plantations	183332	24,535.30	45.85 %
Tree Plantations	18333	Wet Coniferous Plantations	1833321	4,550.78	8.5 %
Transportation	1840	Transportation	1840	1,052.21	1.97 %
Wet Flatwoods	2221	Hydric Pine Flatwoods	22211	657.63	1.23 %
Improved Pasture	183313	Improved Pasture	183313	0.98	0 %
Rural	1830	Unimproved/Woodland Pasture	183314	7.14	0.01 %
Shrub and Brushland	1500	Shrub and Brushland	1500	15.07	0.03 %
Rural	1830	Rural Structures	1832	0.56	0 %
Communication	1850	Communication	1850	0.88	0 %
Upland Hardwood Forest	1110	Upland Hardwood Forest	1110	44.00	0.08 %
Dry Flatwoods	1310	Mesic Flatwoods	1311	52.28	0.1 %
Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous	1400	Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous	1400	82.74	0.15 %
Prairies and Bogs	2110	Mixed Scrub-Shrub Wetland	2112	8,844.12	16.53 %
Marshes	2120	Marshes	2120	15.15	0.03 %
Cypress	2211	Cypress	2211	164.10	0.31 %
Utilities	1860	Utilities	1860	1.04	0 %
Bare Soil/Clear Cut	1880	Bare Soil/Clear Cut	1880	89.14	0.17 %
Prairies and Bogs	2110	Wet Prairie	2111	336.37	0.63 %
TOTAL:				53,509.66	100 %

Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) Priority 1 and 2 - Terrestrial and Waters

CLIP Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
All other cells	22,080.66	41.26 %
CLIP P1 in submerged lands/state waters	12.17	0.02 %
CLIP P1 in terrestrial	20,761.40	38.8 %
CLIP P2 in submerged lands/state waters	28.96	0.05 %
CLIP P2 in terrestrial	10,561.76	19.74 %
TOTAL:	53,444.95	99.88 %

CLIP- Landscape Category

Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
0	6.33	0.01 %
2	620.82	1.16 %
3	43,469.07	81.24 %
4	885.71	1.66 %
5	8,527.74	15.94 %
TOTAL:	53,509.66	100 %

CLIP- Biodiversity Category

Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
0	5,792.45	10.83 %
1	5,291.55	9.89 %
2	8,703.52	16.27 %
3	22,330.29	41.73 %
4	11,391.85	21.29 %
TOTAL:	53,509.66	100 %

Priority FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas 2021

Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
0	16,856.17	31.5 %

2	11,040.40	20.63 %
3	23,079.63	43.13 %
5	2,533.47	4.73 %
TOTAL:	53,509.66	100 %

FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas 2009

Species 1	Species 2	Species 3	Species 4	Species 5	Species 6	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
American swallow-tailed kite						21,653.99	40.47 %
Cooper's hawk						2,525.37	4.72 %
Cooper's hawk	American swallow-tailed kite					1,351.05	2.52 %
Cooper's hawk	Short-tailed hawk					3,417.76	6.39 %
Cooper's hawk	Short-tailed hawk	American swallow-tailed kite				1,715.09	3.21 %
Short-tailed hawk						2,431.54	4.54 %
Short-tailed hawk	American swallow-tailed kite					3,057.51	5.71 %
Striped newt						162.62	0.3 %
Striped newt	American swallow-tailed kite					188.54	0.35 %
TOTAL:						36,503.48	68.22 %

Panther location

No Records Found

Panther mortality

No Records Found

Panther Priority Habitat

No Records Found

Bear Range

Bear Range	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Occasional	53,509.66	100 %
TOTAL:	53,509.66	100 %

Rare Fish

No Records Found

Rare Fish Imperiled Waters

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Ironcolor shiner	Notropis chalybaeus	13,943.13	26.06 %
TOTAL:		13,943.13	26.06 %

Southern bald eagle nest

No Records Found

Imperiled Species Richness

Number of Species	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
0	7,921.60	14.8 %
1	82.11	0.15 %
2	5.55	0.01 %
3	26,971.81	50.41 %
4	16,775.15	31.35 %
5	1,090.23	2.04 %
6	662.97	1.24 %
7	0.25	0 %
TOTAL:	53,509.66	100 %

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Data

Element Occurrences

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	FWC STATUS	FEDERAL STATUS	EO Rank	Last Observation	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
DATA SENSITIVE ELEMENT OCCURRENCE - contact FNAI for more information	DATA SENSITIVE ELEMENT OCCURRENCE - contact FNAI for more information	G5T2	S2	N	N	B?	2008-03-22	0.02	0 %
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	Crotalus adamanteus	G3	S3	N	UR	E	1991-02	471.10	0.88 %
Eastern Indigo Snake	Drymarchon couperi	G3	S2?	FT	T	H?	1970-ca.	535.23	1 %
Gopher Tortoise	Gopherus polyphemus	G3	S3	ST	N	CD	1992-06-13	6.37	0.01 %
pinewoods dainties	Phyllanthus liebmannianus ssp. platylepis	G4T2	S2	E	N	H	1941-05-13	324.88	0.61 %
pinewoods dainties	Phyllanthus liebmannianus ssp. platylepis	G4T2	S2	E	N	H	1983-03-25	13.48	0.03 %
TOTAL:								1,351.08	2.52 %

Suitable Habitat that Supports Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Florida Olive Hairstreak	Callophrys gryneus swadneri	0.33	0 %
Florida Sandhill Crane	Antigone canadensis pratensis	1,159.00	2.17 %
pinewoods dainties	Phyllanthus liebmannianus ssp. platylepis	801.41	1.5 %
TOTAL:		1,960.74	3.66 %

USFWS

Critical Habitat

No Records Found

Area of Critical State Concern

Apalachicola

No Records Found

Big Cypress

No Records Found

Green Swamp

No Records Found

Key West

No Records Found

Lower Keys

No Records Found

Upper Keys

No Records Found

Florida Ecological Greenways Network

Wildlife Corridor Classification

Priority Level	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
1	8,695.22	16.25 %
2	3,710.62	6.93 %
3	21,910.97	40.95 %
5	19,164.42	35.81 %
TOTAL:	53,481.22	99.95 %

Water Resources

FDEP Surface Water Classification

Waterbody Name	Water Type	Water Basin	Classification	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
STEINHATCHEE RIVER	STREAM	3573	3F	488.40	0.91 %
SAND HILL CREEK	STREAM	3674	3F	10,116.55	18.91 %
FISHBONE CREEK	STREAM	3686	3F	13,478.52	25.19 %
UNNAMED DITCH	STREAM	3692	3F	3.00	0.01 %
ROCKY CREEK	STREAM	3696	3F	8,589.78	16.05 %
DIRECT RUNOFF TO GULF	ESTUARY	3701A	3M	10,573.71	19.76 %
SANDERS CREEK	ESTUARY	3702	2	9.42	0.02 %
BUTLER CREEK (LILLY CREEK)	ESTUARY	3705	2	8,645.35	16.16 %
AMASON CREEK	ESTUARY	3706	2	1,604.95	3 %
TOTAL:				53,509.66	100 %

Outstanding Florida Waters

No Records Found

Florida Geological Survey Springs

No Records Found

National Wetlands Inventory

Wetland Type	Wetland Code	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1C	158.52	0.3 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/AB3Fx	3.81	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6C	207.85	0.39 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/3C	6,554.81	12.25 %
FRESHWATER POND	PUB/EM1Fx	8.92	0.02 %
RIVERINE	R5UBH	10.38	0.02 %
RIVERINE	R2UBHx	75.53	0.14 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1C	48.44	0.09 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/FO1F	0.86	0 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/SS6C	10.52	0.02 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/SS7C	8.42	0.02 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/FO6C	46.39	0.09 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/SS3C	2.79	0.01 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/UBFx	27.11	0.05 %

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1A	27.85	0.05 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/FO3C	1.71	0 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/FO4C	18.98	0.04 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/SS6F	5.96	0.01 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/SS1Fx	6.62	0.01 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/FO6A	28.75	0.05 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/FO1C	5.12	0.01 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1/SS4C	1.73	0 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1F	51.26	0.1 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1Cx	0.14	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO2F	59.87	0.11 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO3/6C	1.37	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO2/1F	3.69	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO3/1A	0.31	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1A	10.72	0.02 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1Fx	42.05	0.08 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1/2F	8.97	0.02 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1Fd	4.54	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1/4A	55.80	0.1 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/7C	293.53	0.55 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/4Cd	82.46	0.15 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/4C	88.67	0.17 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/3Cd	727.74	1.36 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6Fd	770.81	1.44 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4C	8.38	0.02 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4Ad	5.01	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4A	28.04	0.05 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4/EM1C	2.79	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4/6C	15.14	0.03 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4/1A	49.37	0.09 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6F	6,477.40	12.11 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6Cd	122.87	0.23 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/EM1C	6.89	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/SS6C	27.47	0.05 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/SS6F	11.20	0.02 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6/7Cd	1.99	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS7/EM1C	1,483.19	2.77 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS7C	24.87	0.05 %
FRESHWATER POND	PUBH	2.82	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS7/EM1A	2,092.11	3.91 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS6/EM1A	51.34	0.1 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS6F	1.76	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS6/EM1C	28.26	0.05 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS6C	0.50	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS6/FO4C	5.94	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO7/6C	3,803.66	7.11 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO7/6Cd	167.84	0.31 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS1F	1.75	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO7/6A	69.04	0.13 %
RIVERINE	R5UBFx	1.24	0 %
FRESHWATER POND	PUBHx	30.42	0.06 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS4Cd	1,225.10	2.29 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS4C	216.26	0.4 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1F	2,273.83	4.25 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS4Ad	752.29	1.41 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS4A	29.70	0.06 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1Cd	40.72	0.08 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4/1C	532.31	0.99 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS1C	1.93	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS1A	5.67	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4/1Ad	1.19	0 %
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1Cd	2.08	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS4/1Cd	34.22	0.06 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO3/1C	5.02	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS1Cd	21.62	0.04 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO2/1C	166.12	0.31 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4/1Cd	1.84	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO4/2Cd	4.17	0.01 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1/3Cd	18.18	0.03 %
RIVERINE	R2UBH	0.20	0 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PSS6/FO3C	30.75	0.06 %
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1Ad	57.52	0.11 %
	TOTAL:	29,404.98	54.95 %
Priority Floodplain Resources			
Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area	

0	16,331.64	30.52 %
4	20,712.17	38.71 %
3	11,738.08	21.94 %
2	4,234.36	7.91 %
1	450.69	0.84 %
6	1.40	0 %
5	41.32	0.08 %
TOTAL:	53,509.66	100 %