

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Land Conservation and Planning
Peace River Refuge Florida Forever Project Analysis
December 2025**



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 **Peace River Refuge** 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

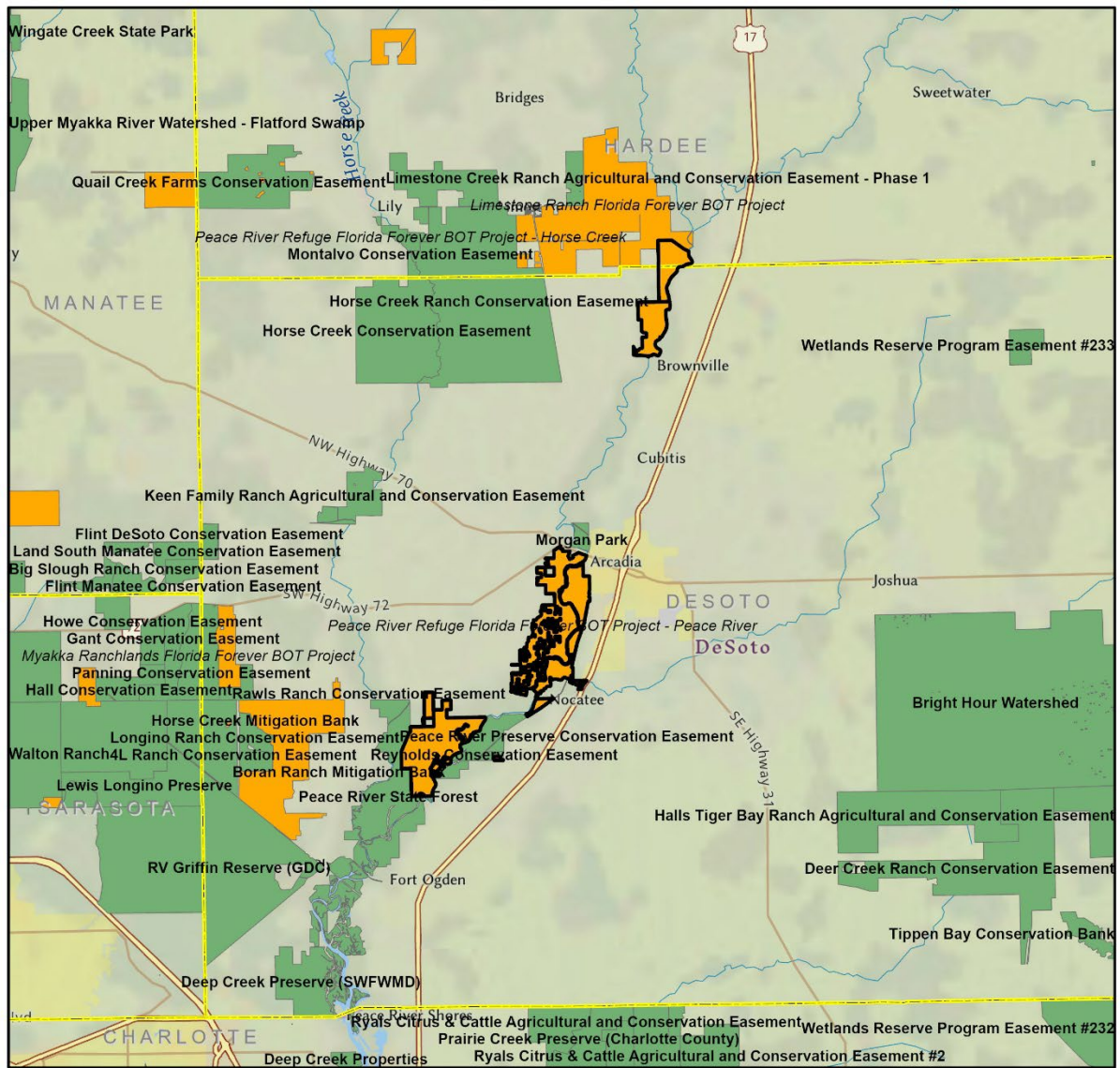
The FWC utilizes the Florida Cooperative Land Cover (CLC) GIS data layer for identification and mapping of land cover. The CLC is a cooperative effort between the FWC and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) to develop ecologically-based statewide land cover from existing sources and expert review 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) is 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 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. The FLAM ranks habitat from 0-10; a rank of 10 being of greatest value. **The FLAM score for this project is 6.87.**

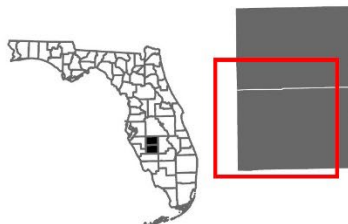
Important fish and wildlife resource GIS data were queried using Environmental Resource Analysis GIS computer software. These data include the following GIS layers:

- 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



**Peace River Refuge
Florida Forever Project**
Desoto and Hardee Counties
6,458 Remaining Acres

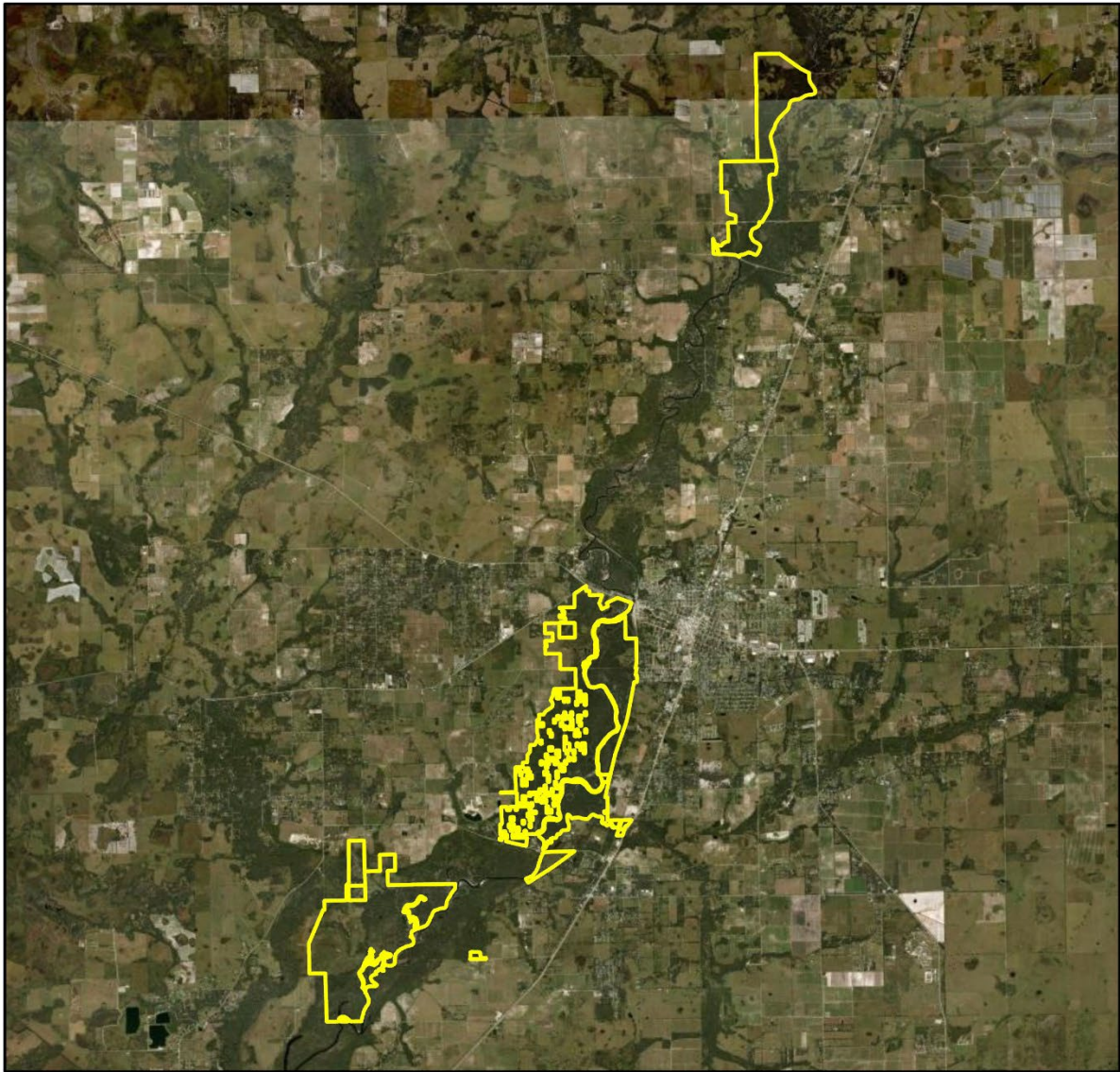


0 4 8 12 16 Miles

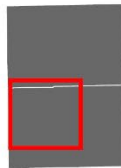
Created in ArcGIS 10.8 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission December 2025

Vicinity Map

-  Peace River Refuge Boundary
-  County Boundaries
-  Conservation Lands
-  Florida Forever Projects



**Peace River Refuge
Florida Forever Project**
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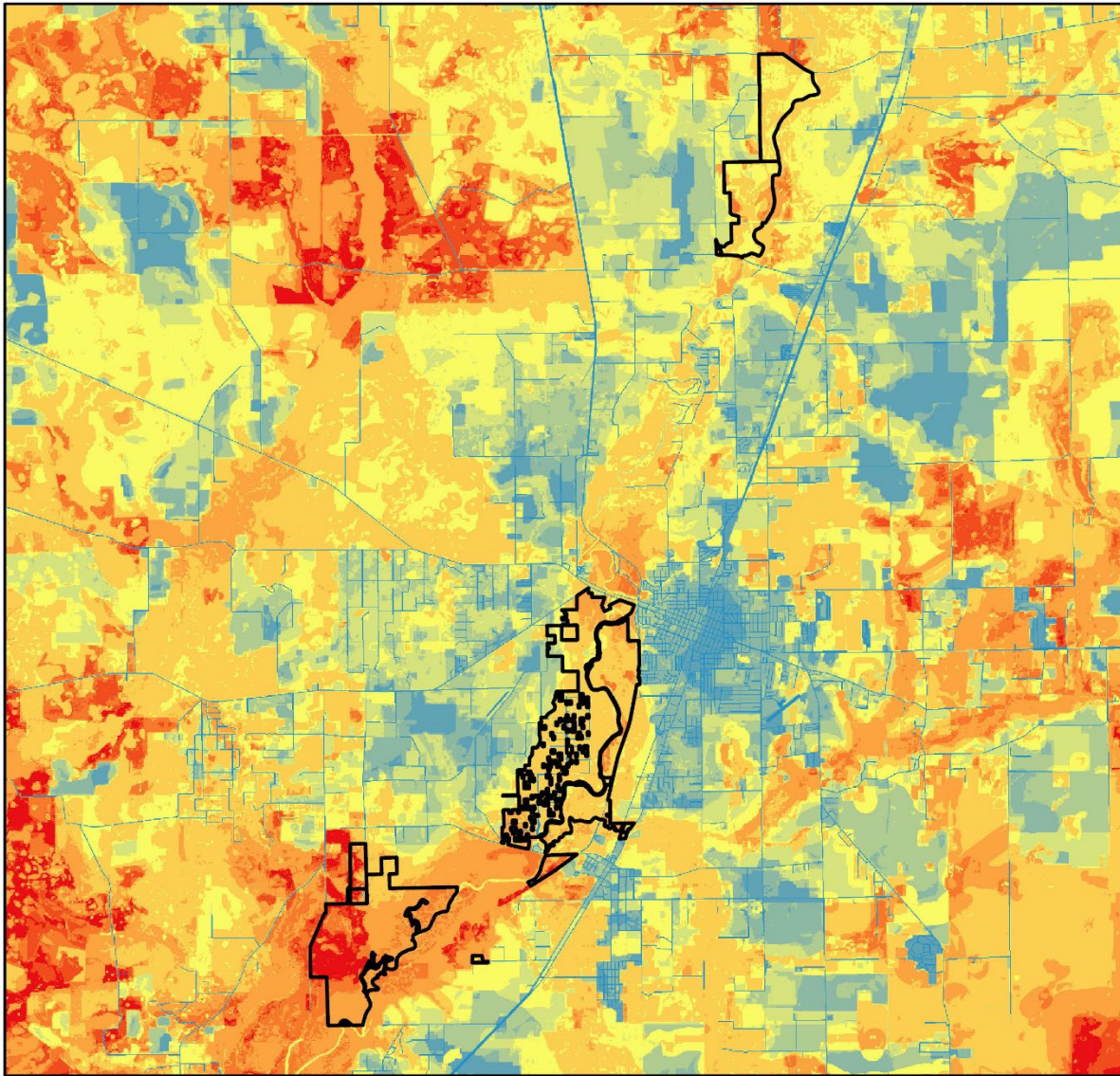


0 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

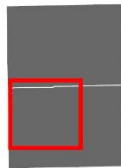
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Aerial Imagery

 Peace River Refuge Boundary



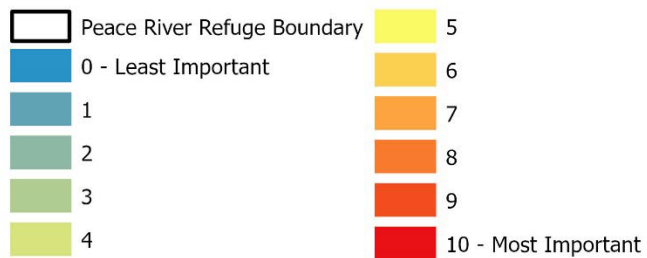
**Peace River Refuge
Florida Forever Project**
Desoto and Hardee Counties
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0 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

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Florida Landscape Assessment Model



Environmental Resource Analysis

FWC Land Conservation and Planning

Analysis Shape Type: Polygon

Analysis Timestamp: 10302025 12:02:57

Shape Name: Unnamed polygon centered at -81.89495 °, 27.236692 °

Boundary Area: 6457.55 acres

Buffer Area: 0 acres

Total Area: 6457.55 acres

FWC Wildlife Data and Models

Cooperative Land Cover v3.8

Name - State	Code - State	Name - State	Code - State	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Estuarine	5000	Estuarine	5000	1.81	0.03 %
Alluvial Stream	4100	Riverine Sandbar	4170	12.07	0.19 %
Low Intensity Urban	1821	Residential, Low Density	18212	0.00	0 %
High Intensity Urban	1822	Commercial and Services	18223	2.73	0.04 %
High Intensity Urban	1822	Residential, Med. Density - 2-5 Dwelling Units/AC	18221	0.00	0 %
Alluvial Stream	4100	Natural Rivers and Streams	4100	51.12	0.79 %
Freshwater Forested Wetlands	2200	Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous Swamps	2240	89.41	1.38 %
Freshwater Forested Wetlands	2200	Mixed Wetland Hardwoods	2233	855.18	13.24 %
Cultural-Lacustrine	3200	Cultural - Lacustrine	3200	16.47	0.26 %
Cultural-Lacustrine	3200	Artificial Impoundment/Reservoir	3220	0.64	0.01 %
Cultural-Lacustrine	3200	Artificial/Farm Pond	3210	0.64	0.01 %
Improved Pasture	183313	Improved Pasture	183313	439.03	6.8 %
Freshwater Forested Wetlands	2200	Bottomland Forest	22331	45.82	0.71 %
Rural	1830	Unimproved/Woodland Pasture	183314	187.47	2.9 %
Transportation	1840	Transportation	1840	114.05	1.77 %
Orchards/Groves	18332	Citrus	183321	1.02	0.02 %
Basin Swamp	22132	Basin Swamp	22132	140.28	2.17 %
Rural	1830	Rural Open Forested	18311	12.84	0.2 %
High Intensity Urban	1822	Industrial	18224	0.00	0 %
Orchards/Groves	18332	Orchards/Groves	18332	81.55	1.26 %
Isolated Freshwater Marsh	2121	Basin Marsh	21212	13.92	0.22 %
Isolated Freshwater Marsh	2121	Depression Marsh	21211	3.65	0.06 %
Low Intensity Urban	1821	Low Intensity Urban	1821	0.00	0 %
Shrub and Brushland	1500	Shrub and Brushland	1500	78.95	1.22 %
Rural	1830	Rural Open	1831	104.44	1.62 %
Utilities	1860	Utilities	1860	15.80	0.24 %
Rural	1830	Rural Structures	1832	3.57	0.06 %
Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous	1400	Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous	1400	144.31	2.23 %
Mesic Hammock	1120	Mesic Hammock	1120	1,088.65	16.86 %
Upland Hardwood Forest	1110	Mixed Hardwoods	1112	7.03	0.11 %
Scrub	1210	Scrub	1210	19.66	0.3 %
Scrubby Flatwoods	1310	Scrubby Flatwoods	1312	23.77	0.37 %
Mesic Flatwoods	1310	Mesic Flatwoods	1311	718.70	11.13 %
Isolated Freshwater Swamp	2213	Isolated Freshwater Swamp	2213	3.55	0.06 %
Freshwater Non-Forested Wetlands	2100	Floating/Emergent Aquatic Vegetation	2140	3.13	0.05 %
Floodplain Swamp	2215	Floodplain Swamp	2215	1,359.25	21.05 %
Hydric Hammock	2232	Hydric Hammock	2232	607.86	9.41 %
Other Coniferous Wetlands	2220	Other Coniferous Wetlands	2220	0.42	0.01 %
Floodplain Marsh	2123	Floodplain Marsh	2123	21.05	0.33 %
Bare Soil/Clear Cut	1880	Bare Soil/Clear Cut	1880	4.71	0.07 %
Extractive	1870	Extractive	1870	0.00	0 %
Prairies and Bogs	2110	Wet Prairie	2111	47.25	0.73 %
Marshes	2120	Marshes	2120	132.36	2.05 %
Prairies and Bogs	2110	Mixed Scrub-Shrub Wetland	2112	3.38	0.05 %
TOTAL:				6,457.55	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	1,810.41	28.04 %
CLIP P1 in submerged lands/state waters	21.65	0.34 %
CLIP P1 in terrestrial	790.34	12.24 %
CLIP P2 in submerged lands/state waters	20.83	0.32 %
CLIP P2 in terrestrial	3,790.17	58.69 %
TOTAL:	6,433.40	99.63 %

CLIP- Landscape Category											
Priority	Total Area (acres)								Percent of Area		
0	81.69								1.27 %		
1	87.66								1.36 %		
2	48.15								0.75 %		
3	6,240.05								96.63 %		
TOTAL:	6,457.55								100 %		
CLIP- Biodiversity Category											
Priority	Total Area (acres)								Percent of Area		
0	177.09								2.74 %		
1	97.05								1.5 %		
2	1,149.88								17.81 %		
3	1,050.69								16.27 %		
4	3,579.49								55.43 %		
5	403.35								6.25 %		
TOTAL:	6,457.55								100 %		
Priority FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas 2020											
Priority	Total Area (acres)								Percent of Area		
0	561.07								8.69 %		
2	0.16								0 %		
3	2,682.48								41.54 %		
5	3,213.84								49.77 %		
TOTAL:	6,457.55								100 %		
FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas 2024											
Species 1	Species 2	Species 3	Species 4	Species 5	Species 6	Species 7	Species 8	Species 9	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area	
Cooper's hawk									580.74	8.99 %	
Cooper's hawk	Florida black bear								1,202.84	18.63 %	
Cooper's hawk	Florida black bear	Florida mouse							13.76	0.21 %	
Cooper's hawk	Florida mouse								2.28	0.04 %	
Florida black bear									1,365.06	21.14 %	
Florida black bear	Florida mouse								3.68	0.06 %	
Florida burrowing owl									84.19	1.3 %	
Florida burrowing owl	Cooper's hawk								51.37	0.8 %	
Florida burrowing owl	Cooper's hawk	Florida black bear							3.45	0.05 %	
Florida burrowing owl	Florida black bear								11.90	0.18 %	
Florida mouse									0.62	0.01 %	
Swallow-tailed kite									99.44	1.54 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Cooper's hawk								163.66	2.53 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Cooper's hawk	Florida black bear							1,327.15	20.55 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Cooper's hawk	Florida black bear	Florida mouse						0.00	0 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Cooper's hawk	Florida mouse							0.02	0 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Florida black bear								1,049.19	16.25 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Florida burrowing owl								1.27	0.02 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Florida burrowing owl	Cooper's hawk							0.56	0.01 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Florida burrowing owl	Cooper's hawk	Florida black bear						5.83	0.09 %	
Swallow-tailed kite	Florida burrowing owl	Florida black bear							12.82	0.2 %	
									TOTAL: 5,979.83	92.6 %	
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	6,457.55								100 %		
TOTAL:	6,457.55								100 %		
Rare Fish											
No Records Found											
Rare Fish Imperiled Waters											
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME				Total Area (acres)				Percent of Area		

Ironcolor shiner	Notropis chalybaeus	306.04	4.74 %	
TOTAL:		306.04	4.74 %	
Southern bald eagle nest				
Nest Count	Earliest Survey Year	Latest Survey Year	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
1	2010	2017	19.03	0.29 %
2	1998	2006	24.50	0.38 %
		TOTAL:	43.53	0.67 %
Imperiled Species Richness				
Number of Species		Total Area (acres)		Percent of Area
0		155.78		2.41 %
1		3.40		0.05 %
3		141.67		2.19 %
4		1.15		0.02 %
5		1,221.39		18.91 %
6		2,959.33		45.83 %
7		1,285.54		19.91 %
8		651.99		10.1 %
9		37.28		0.58 %
TOTAL:		6,457.55		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
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	G5	S3	N	N	E	2003	17.09	0.26 %
Gopher Frog	Lithobates capito	G2G3	S3	N	UR	F	1963-01-30	13.80	0.21 %
Round-tailed Muskrat	Neofiber alleni	G2	S2	N	N	E	1962 -- 1979	1,198.52	18.56 %
Sleeping Beauty waterlily	Nymphaea jamesoniana	G5	S2S3	E	N	E	1989-09-16	249.21	3.86 %
Southwest Florida Mycotrupes Beetle	Mycotrupes pederster	G1G2	S1S2	N	N	E	1930	122.18	1.89 %
TOTAL:								1,600.81	24.79 %

Suitable Habitat that Supports Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Crested Caracara	Caracara plancus	1,952.28	30.23 %
Florida Long-tailed Weasel	Neogale frenata peninsulae	5,979.51	92.6 %
Florida Sandhill Crane	Antigone canadensis pratensis	1,453.42	22.51 %
lowland loosestrife	Lythrum flagellare	20.47	0.32 %
Round-tailed Muskrat	Neofiber alleni	2.18	0.03 %
Tawny Sanddragon	Progomphus alachuensis	38.90	0.6 %
Wood Stork	Mycteria americana	201.30	3.12 %
TOTAL:		9,648.05	149.41 %

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
3	6,454.51	99.95 %

TOTAL:		6,454.51	99.95 %		
Water Resources					
FDEP Surface Water Classification					
Waterbody Name	Water Type	Water Basin	Classification	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
PEACE RIVER ABOVE HORSE CREEK	STREAM	1623B	3F	2,332.80	36.13 %
PEACE RIVER ABOVE JOSHUA CREEK	STREAM	1623C	3F	3,550.74	54.99 %
PEACE RIVER ABOVE CHARLIE CREEK	STREAM	1623D	3F	25.65	0.4 %
HORSE CREEK	STREAM	1787A1	3F	127.40	1.97 %
BEAR BRANCH	STREAM	1948	3F	271.30	4.2 %
JOSHUA CREEK ABOVE PEACE RIVER	STREAM	1950A	3F	149.66	2.32 %
			TOTAL:	6,457.55	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 Pond	PAB4F	2.46		0.04 %	
Freshwater Pond	PAB4H	11.49		0.18 %	
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1A	75.42		1.17 %	
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1C	59.15		0.92 %	
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1Cd	5.00		0.08 %	
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1F	118.17		1.83 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1/3A	643.83		9.97 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1/3C	192.77		2.99 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1/3Cd	500.19		7.75 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1A	126.98		1.97 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1C	93.38		1.45 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1Cd	139.00		2.15 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO2/3C	13.60		0.21 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO2F	8.70		0.13 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO3/1A	3.25		0.05 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO3/1C	132.01		2.04 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO3C	7.65		0.12 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO4A	0.75		0.01 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO6C	601.17		9.31 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO6F	194.02		3 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO7A	10.27		0.16 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO7C	1.36		0.02 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PSS1C	4.59		0.07 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PSS1F	12.95		0.2 %	
Freshwater Pond	PUBH	10.27		0.16 %	
Freshwater Pond	PUBHx	26.72		0.41 %	
Riverine	R4SBC	5.89		0.09 %	
Riverine	R5UBFx	0.75		0.01 %	
Riverine	R5UBH	2.69		0.04 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1Fd	0.26		0 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1F	4.40		0.07 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PSS1/3A	96.52		1.49 %	
Riverine	R2UBH	88.17		1.37 %	
Freshwater Pond	PAB3G	3.76		0.06 %	
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO1/2F	15.57		0.24 %	
Riverine	R2AB4H	0.75		0.01 %	
Riverine	R2US2C	0.19		0 %	
		TOTAL:	3,214.10	49.77 %	
Priority Floodplain Resources					
Priority	Total Area (acres)		Percent of Area		
4	398.24		6.17 %		
0	1,403.07		21.73 %		
3	1,978.74		30.64 %		
2	1,544.63		23.92 %		
5	78.48		1.22 %		
6	17.65		0.27 %		
1	1,036.73		16.05 %		
TOTAL:	6,457.55		100 %		