

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Land Conservation and Planning
Wilson Ranch 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 **Wilson Ranch** 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.

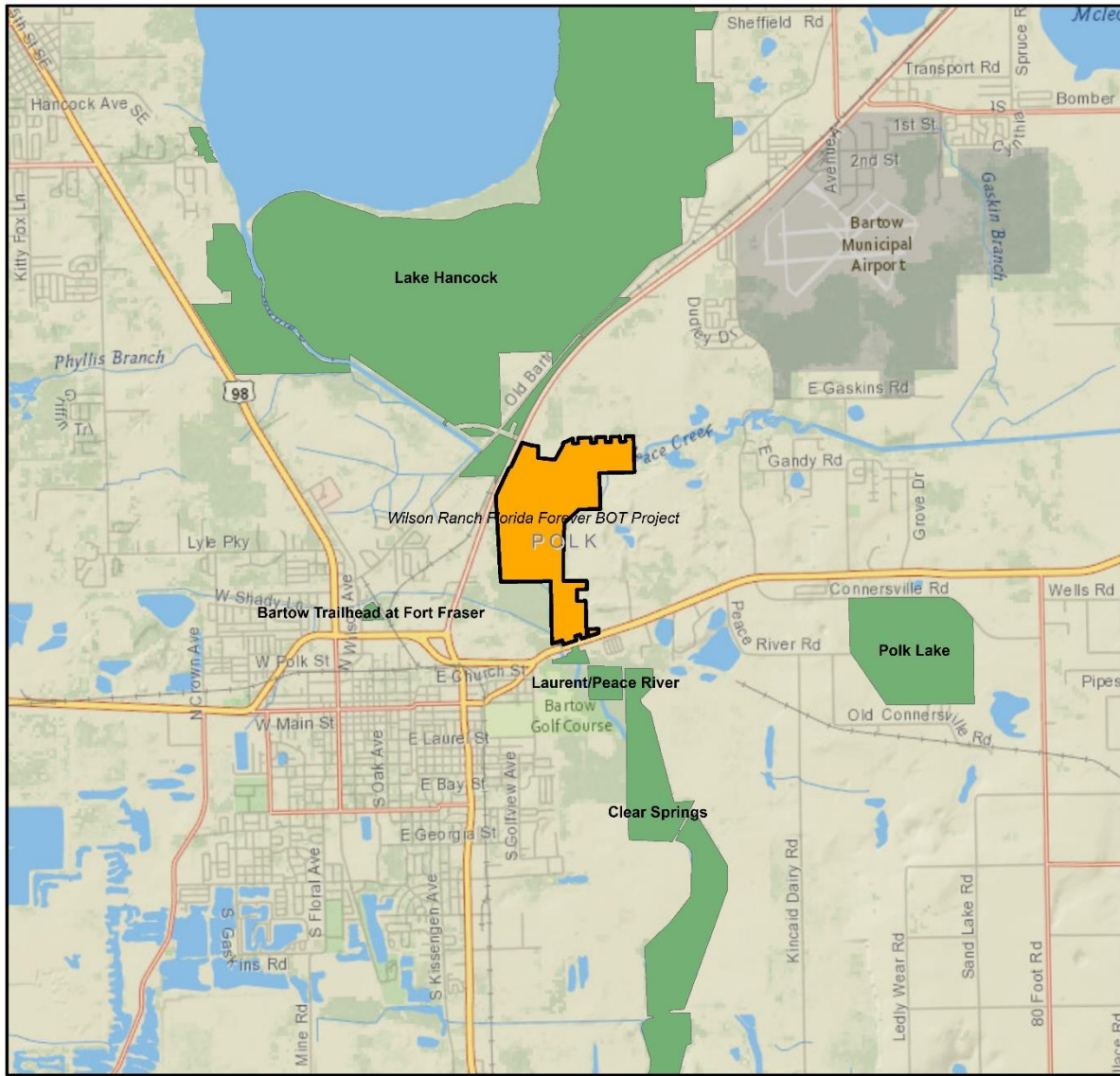
GIS Data

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.

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 2009² - 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 Potential Habitat 2008
- 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



**Wilson Ranch
Florida Forever Project**
Polk County
451 Remaining Acres

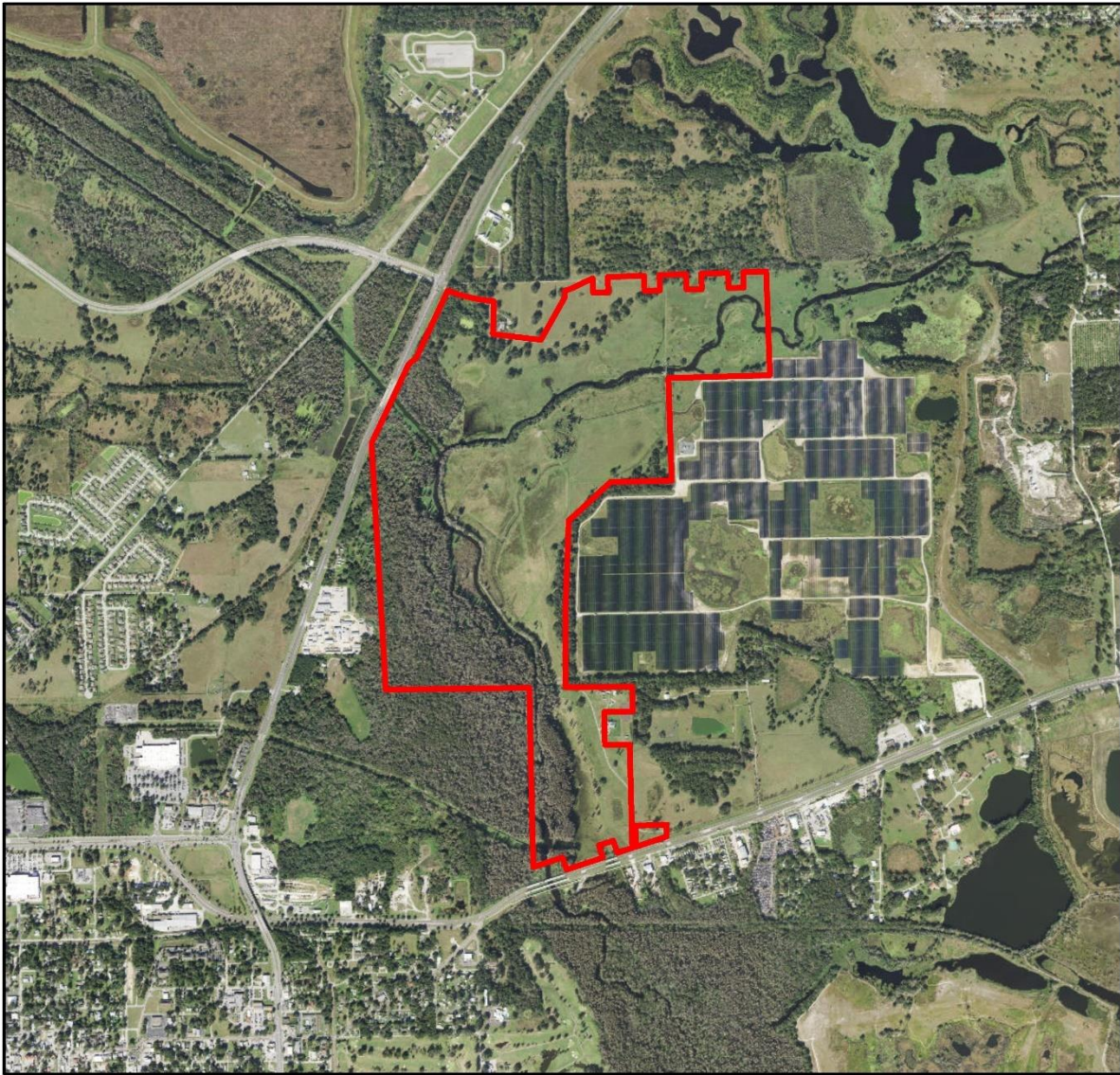


0 1 2 3 Miles

Created in ArcGIS 10.7 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission November 2021

General Location

- Wilson Ranch
- County
- Conservation Lands
- Florida Forever Projects



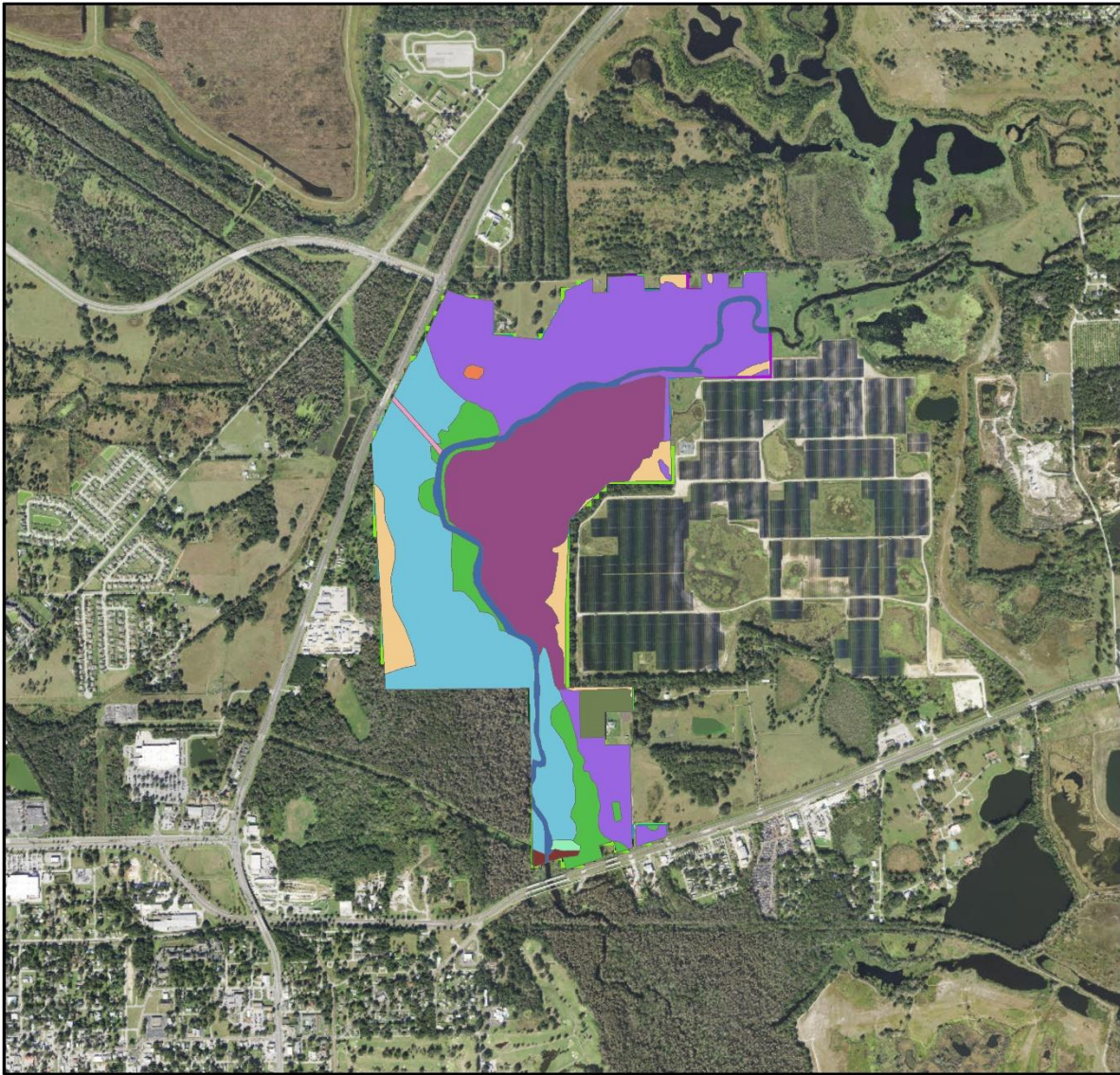
Wilson Ranch
Florida Forever Project
 Polk County
 451 Remaining Acres



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Created in ArcGIS 10.7 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission November 2021

Aerial Imagery
 Wilson Ranch



Wilson Ranch
Florida Forever Project
 Polk County
 451 Remaining Acres

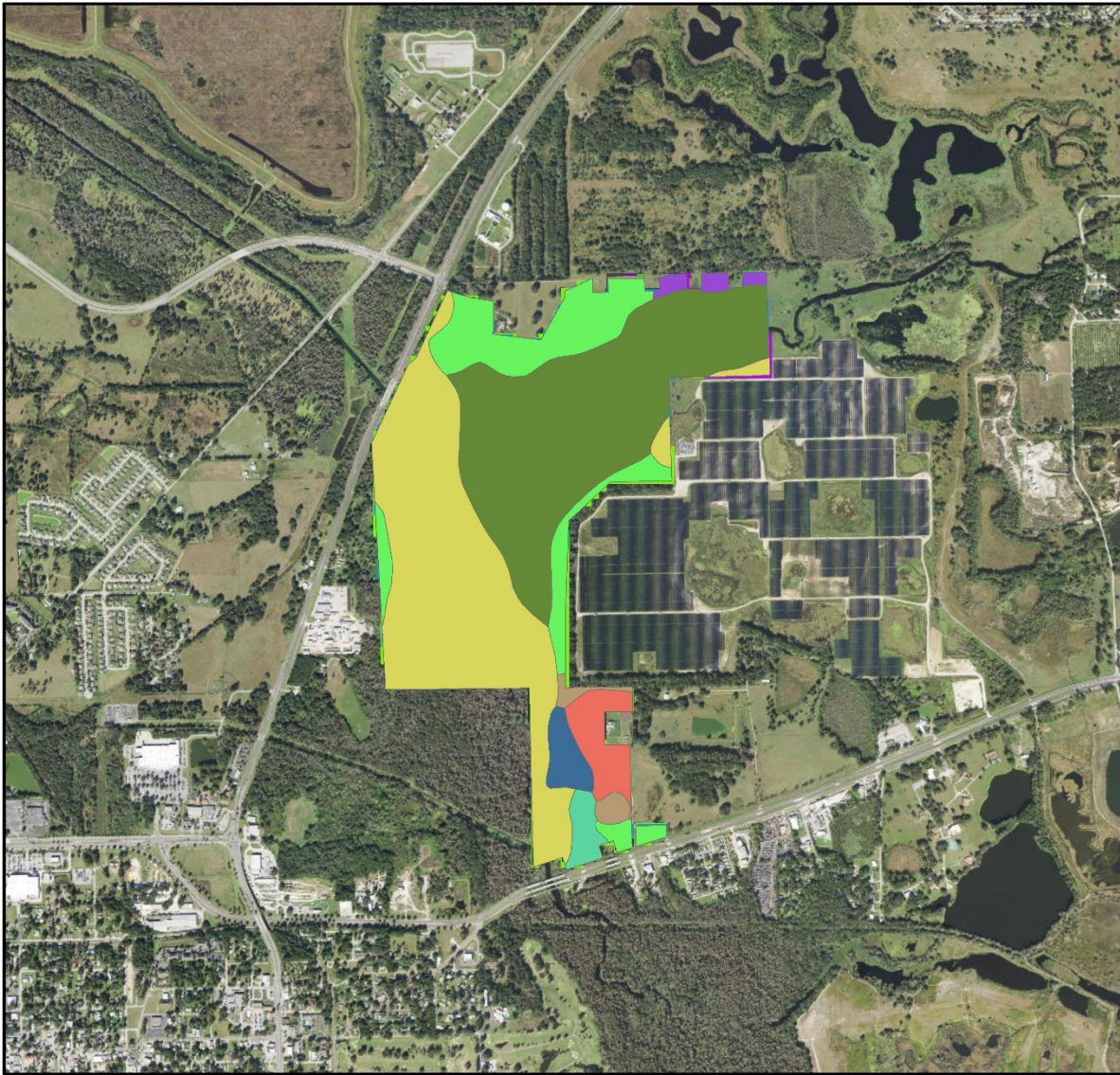


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Cooperative Land Cover

Cropland/Pasture	Marshes
Cultural - Riverine	Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous
Cypress	Natural Rivers and Streams
Freshwater Forested Wetlands	Prairies and Bogs
Improved Pasture	Rural
Low Intensity Urban	Transportation



Wilson Ranch
Florida Forever Project
 Polk County
 451 Remaining Acres

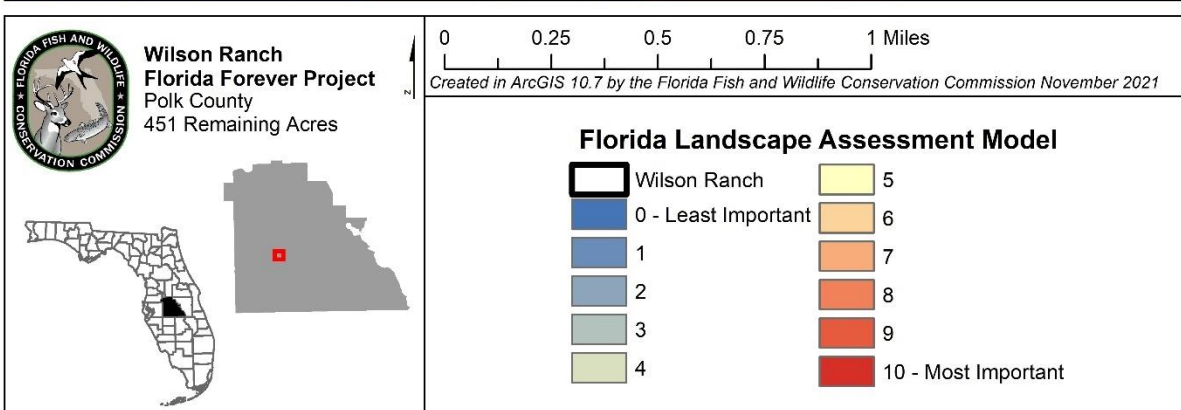
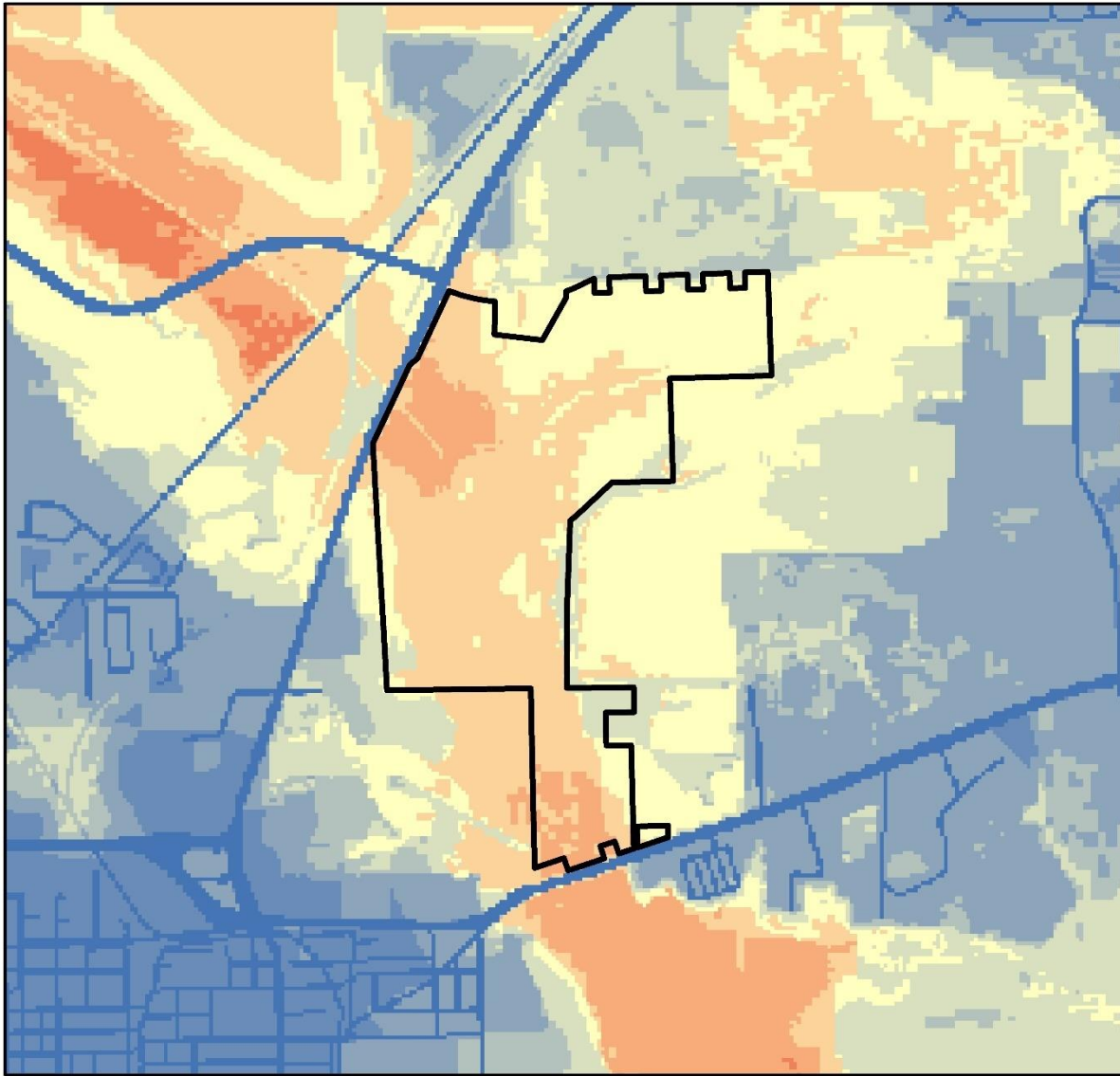


0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Created in ArcGIS 10.7 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission November 2021

Soil Types

Arents	Placid fine sand
Chobee fine sandy loam	Pomona fine sand
Felda fine sand	Smyrna and Myakka fine sands
Haplaquents clayey	Urban land
Nittaw sandy clay loam	



FWC Florida Landscape Assessment Model 2023		
	Value	Acres
	0	0.1
	1	0.0
	2	0.0
	3	0.2
	4	21.1
	5	143.1
	6	230.7
	7	54.0
	8	0.0
	9	0.0
	10	0.0
Mean FLAM value =	5.7	

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: 11052021 03:02:41

Shape Name: Unnamed polygon centered at -81.816555 °, 27.91343 °

Boundary Area: 450.5 acres

Buffer Area: 0 acres

Total Area: 450.5 acres

FWC Wildlife Data and Models

Cooperative Land Cover v3.4

Name - State	Code - State	Name - Site	Code - Site	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Low Intensity Urban	1821	Residential, Low Density	18212	7.09	1.57 %
Cultural - Riverine	4200	Canal	4210	1.27	0.28 %
Natural Rivers and Streams	4100	Natural Rivers and Streams	4100	18.75	4.16 %
Transportation	1840	Transportation	1840	0.08	0.02 %
Improved Pasture	183313	Improved Pasture	183313	137.96	30.62 %
Cropland/Pasture	18331	Field Crops	183312	113.31	25.15 %
Freshwater Forested Wetlands	2200	Mixed Wetland Hardwoods	2233	113.89	25.28 %
Prairies and Bogs	2110	Wet Prairie	2111	30.24	6.71 %
Rural	1830	Rural Open	1831	1.05	0.23 %
Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous	1400	Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous	1400	23.93	5.31 %
Cypress	2211	Cypress	2211	1.50	0.33 %
Marshes	2120	Marshes	2120	0.89	0.2 %
Prairies and Bogs	2110	Mixed Scrub-Shrub Wetland	2112	0.55	0.12 %
TOTAL:				450.50	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	173.94	38.61 %
CLIP P1 in submerged lands/state waters	0.65	0.14 %
CLIP P1 in terrestrial	250.56	55.62 %
CLIP P2 in terrestrial	24.70	5.48 %
TOTAL:	449.84	99.85 %

CLIP- Landscape Category

Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
0	1.64	0.36 %
3	448.86	99.64 %
TOTAL:	450.50	100 %

CLIP- Biodiversity Category

Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
0	0.67	0.15 %
1	2.15	0.48 %
2	101.18	22.46 %
3	150.48	33.4 %
4	196.03	43.51 %
TOTAL:	450.50	100 %

Priority FWC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas 2009

Priority_Class	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Priority 2	186.12	41.31 %
Priority 3	23.91	5.31 %
Priority 5	63.55	14.11 %
TOTAL:	273.58	60.73 %

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						14.52	3.22 %
Cooper's hawk						63.55	14.11 %
Cooper's hawk	American swallow-tailed kite					9.39	2.08 %
Florida snail kite						179.27	39.79 %
Florida snail kite	American swallow-tailed kite					6.85	1.52 %
TOTAL:						273.58	60.73 %

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	450.50	100 %
TOTAL:	450.50	100 %
Rare Fish		
No Records Found		
Rare Fish Imperiled Waters		
No Records Found		
Southern bald eagle nest		
No Records Found		
Imperiled Species Richness		
Number of Species	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
0	1.28	0.28 %
1	0.46	0.1 %
3	26.05	5.78 %
4	0.66	0.15 %
5	120.81	26.82 %
7	14.98	3.32 %
8	97.58	21.66 %
9	188.69	41.89 %
TOTAL:	450.50	100 %

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Data			
Element Occurrences			
No Records Found			
Potential Habitat 2008			
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
Florida Sandhill Crane	Grus canadensis pratensis	183.51	40.73 %
	TOTAL:	183.51	40.73 %

USFWS	
Critical Habitat	
No Records Found	

Water Resources					
FDEP Surface Water Classification					
Name	Type	Basin	Classification	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area
BEAR BRANCH	STREAM	BEAR BRANCH	3F	0.04	0.01 %
PEACE CREEK DRAINAGE CANAL	STREAM	PEACE CREEK DRAINAGE CANAL	3F	133.38	29.61 %
PEACE RIVER ABOVE BOWLEGS CREEK	STREAM	PEACE RIVER ABOVE BOWLEGS CREEK	3F	271.17	60.19 %
SADDLE CREEK BELOW LAKE HANCOCK	STREAM	SADDLE CREEK BELOW LAKE HANCOCK	3F	45.91	10.19 %
		TOTAL:		450.50	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	PEM1A	7.66	1.7 %		
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1Ad	105.45	23.41 %		
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1C	18.11	4.02 %		
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1Cd	1.85	0.41 %		
FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND	PEM1F	0.99	0.22 %		
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO1/3C	0.35	0.08 %		
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO2Ad	3.06	0.68 %		
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO2C	12.40	2.75 %		
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO2F	33.63	7.47 %		
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6C	19.52	4.33 %		
FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND	PFO6F	65.28	14.49 %		
FRESHWATER POND	PAB3Hx	0.59	0.13 %		
RIVERINE	R2UBH	1.55	0.34 %		

RIVERINE	R2UBHx	22.67	5.03 %
	TOTAL:	293.11	65.06 %
Priority Floodplain Resources			
Priority	Total Area (acres)	Percent of Area	
0	33.18	7.37 %	
3	74.01	16.43 %	
4	176.58	39.2 %	
5	164.21	36.45 %	
6	2.53	0.56 %	
TOTAL:	450.50	100 %	
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			