



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FLORIDA CHAPTER

**Adventure Coast Group**

April 17, 2025

Callie DeHaven, Director  
Division of State Lands  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 100  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Via email to: Callie DeHaven at [Callie.DeHaven@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Callie.DeHaven@dep.state.fl.us)

Re: Ridge Manor Conservation Corridor Project

Dear Ms. DeHaven:

The Adventure Coast Group of the Sierra Club (Group) includes Hernando and Citrus Counties in Florida. We have been briefed on the project being proposed by the Putnam Land Conservancy to establish the Ridge Manor Conservation Corridor on land located within Hernando County and support its addition to the Florida Forever project list.

The goal of the project is to preserve a functional corridor connection between the Croom and Richloam tracts of the Withlacoochee State Forest. This project would fill an important gap in the Florida Wildlife Corridor and provide increased access for wildlife to move freely between protected lands. Much of the land in the proposed project area is also extremely flood-prone, as was demonstrated by the flooding that resulted last year from Hurricane Milton, and very poorly suited for residential or commercial uses.

This is an overdue and much-needed land conservation project that will require the purchase of many small parcels. The Putnam Land Conservancy has demonstrated an ability to pursue such projects successfully, with the goal of aggregating the parcels into larger tracts with increased conservation value that would be eligible for purchase by the State of Florida if listed as part of an approved Florida Forever project.

The proposed Ridge Manor Conservation Corridor Project is consistent with our Group's conservation goals and we hereby express our full support for the proposed project. Please help facilitate its addition to the Florida Forever list and thank you for the important work you do to protect natural Florida.

Very truly yours,

*DeeVon Quirolo*

DeeVon Quirolo  
Chair, Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group