



Florida Forever Project Evaluation - Comparative Analysis

November 2024

This report is produced annually by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to provide scientific support to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) in advance of their vote on Florida Forever land acquisition projects. The Comparative Analysis provides a concise overview of the natural resource values of each existing and proposed Florida Forever project. A Single Resource Evaluation is provided for each of eleven resource types outlined in the Florida Forever Act. The F-TRAC Scenarios show which projects offer the greatest return in resource protection given the estimated acreage likely to be acquired by Florida Forever. As resources are acquired statewide, the protection needs of remaining resources change. The F-TRAC analysis is dynamic in that it identifies the places that best meet those changing protection needs in each evaluation cycle.

Data Updates

This evaluation is based on Version 5.2 of the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment (FFCNA) data layers. FFCNA resource data are continually updated as new information becomes available. Version 5.2 includes updates for Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities, Under-represented Natural Communities, and Sustainable Forestry. This version also reflects revisions to the F-TRAC methodology that were recommended by the Florida Forever Expert Working Group, which met several times in 2023-24 to review and guide this work. Details are described in the Florida Forever Conservation Needs Assessment Technical Report, v5.2 and the Ranking Support Analyses Documentation for November 2024.

Acreage Threshold

The F-TRAC scenarios evaluate conservation value based on a set amount of acreage to be acquired. The closer this acreage threshold is to the amount of land likely to be acquired by the Florida Forever program, the more relevant F-TRAC scores will be for project comparison. Given the open-ended duration and dynamic funding of the program, a precise estimate of acreage to be acquired is not practical. Starting in 2022, for the purposes of this evaluation, a threshold of half of the remaining area of proposed projects (ca. 1,086,000 acres for 2024) was deemed a reasonable projection of acquisitions over time and used as the amount of land targeted in the current F-TRAC Scenarios.

F-TRAC Statewide Scenario

This scenario is a statewide analysis to identify the best opportunities to acquire multiple resources in the same location. Of the approximately 1,086,000 acres allocated, 31% occur on projects; the remaining 69% occur elsewhere in the state on other unprotected lands. This score is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context and might best be used to help determine if new proposals should be added to the list or existing projects should be removed.

F-TRAC on Florida Forever Projects

This scenario evaluates only within existing and proposed Florida Forever-BOT projects for the best opportunities to acquire multiple resources in the same location. That is, the approximately 1,086,000 acres projected to be acquired by Florida Forever-BOT are allocated completely within the remaining acres of projects. This score compares projects relative to each other, essentially grading projects on a curve, rather than providing information about the larger statewide context. Each project's score may change based on number, size, or resource value of other projects on the list. This score might best be used to help inform project ranking.

Complete documentation for Ranking Support Analyses (Single Resource Evaluation, F-TRAC analysis and Ranking Support Data Layers), as well as other formats of the *Comparative Analysis* may be downloaded from the FNAI website at <https://www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever>.

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This table evaluates ONLY the remaining acres of projects according to the numerical performance measures listed. Other considerations such as willing sellers, active negotiations, completing projects, development threat, etc., are always part of any decision regarding project status. All values are assigned based on F-TRAC and single resource analyses without regard to Acquisition Categories. Seven resource types are included in F-TRAC scenarios: Species, Communities, Surface Waters, Wetlands & Floodplain, Sustainable Forestry, Aquifer Recharge and Landscapes. Other resources and measures shown in the table are not included in F-TRAC scenarios. Values indicate how well a project scores for each resource, from high (5) to low (1).

Category*	Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	F-TRAC		Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands & Floodplain	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Cultural Resources (Archaeol & Historic)	Trails Network	FL Natl Scenic Trail corridor	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change Sea Level Rise
				F-TRAC Statewide	F-TRAC on FL Forever Projects												
CNL	48,911	16%	Apalachicola River	2	3	5	2	5	5	2	1	3	4	3	x	1	4
CNL	2,957	80%	Avalon	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	3	3	4	1		1	1
CNL	1,910	0%	Bar-B Ranch	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	3	2	1		3	1
CNL	97,428	3%	Bear Creek Forest	2	2	2	2	4	2	5	2	5	2	3		1	1
CNL	4,689	0%	Bear Hammock	2	5	2	2	3	2	3	5	3	3	4		4	1
CNL	4,647	83%	Belle Meade	2	3	4	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1		3	1
CNL	41,746	3%	Blue Head Ranch	5	4	5	3	3	2	2	3	5	3	2		5	1
CNL	28,407	40%	Bombing Range Ridge	5	5	5	4	3	2	3	3	5	2	2	x	5	1
CNL	7,110	64%	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	5	5	5	2	3	2	2	2	5	3	3		4	1
CNL	26,841	6%	Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	5	2	2		2	1
CNL	29,954	64%	Devil's Garden	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	1	4	2	3	x	4	1
CNL	50,526	48%	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	5	3	4	x	4	2
CNL	54,862	0%	Forest and Lakes Ecosystem	3	3	3	2	3	2	4	3	4	5	5	x	1	1
CNL	5,913	1%	Gardner Marsh	5	5	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	1		5	1
CNL	11,182	0%	Half Circle L Ranch	3	4	5	2	4	3	2	2	4	3	1		4	1
CNL	21,966	10%	Hixtown Swamp	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	4		1	1
CNL	1,707	39%	Ichetucknee Trace	2	4	2	1	3	1	2	4	2	2	1		2	1
CNL	3,382	50%	Lake Hatchineha Watershed	3	3	5	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	1		5	1
CNL	28,302	59%	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	3	5	2	5		5	1
CNL	7,930	67%	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem	3	5	2	5	1	2	3	5	4	4	1		5	1
CNL	22,888	51%	Osceola Pine Savannas	4	5	5	2	4	2	2	3	5	2	2	x	5	1
CNL	41,850	38%	Panther Glades	2	3	5	2	3	3	2	2	5	2	3		4	1
CNL	2,227	68%	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	2	2	1	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	3		1	2
CNL	21,887	55%	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	4	3	2	x	5	1
CNL	40,990	78%	Pinhook Swamp	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	3	2	x	2	1
CNL	46,853	0%	San Pedro Bay	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	1	x	1	1
CNL	880	60%	Shoal River Buffer	2	3	2	3	4	4	2	1	2	2	1		1	1
CNL	11,350	3%	South Goethe	4	4	2	3	3	2	3	4	4	3	4		4	1
CNL	578	3%	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	3	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	1	3	2		5	1
CNL	9,878	7%	Strategic Managed Area Lands List ^f	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	4	5	5	x	5	3
CNL	8,020	50%	Twelvemile Slough	5	5	4	1	3	3	2	1	5	3	3		4	1
CNL	12,358	0%	Upper Shoal River	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	1	2	3	1		1	1
CNL	21,338	74%	Wekiva-Ocala Greenway	3	4	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	4	4	x	4	3
PRI	8,049	60%	Annutteliga Hammock	3	4	3	3	1	2	2	5	3	4	2		4	1
PRI	8,175	43%	Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	55,807	0%	Atlantic to Okefenokee Conservation Corridor	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	5	4	4		2	5
PRI	42,061	60%	Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	4	3	4	x	1	2
PRI	8,397	8%	Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	4	2	3		2	1
PRI	17,204	59%	Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	5		3	2
PRI	506	70%	Carr Farm/Price's Scrub	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	4	1		3	1
PRI	2,480	87%	Catfish Creek	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	1		5	1
PRI	6,406	73%	Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods	2	2	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	2,474	51%	Clear Creek/Whiting Field	4	4	2	3	4	1	3	1	3	3	3		1	1
PRI	30,606	57%	Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	3	4	5	2	4	4	2	2	5	2	2		4	1
PRI	2,348	0%	Crayfish Habitat Restoration	2	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3		1	1
PRI	12,432	0%	Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch	2	5	3	2	3	2	3	5	2	2	1		4	1
PRI	218	74%	Dade County Archipelago	5	4	4	5	2	1	1	3	1	3	2		3	1
PRI	2,834	33%	Flagler County Blueway	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	4	4		3	3
PRI	6,772	64%	Florida's First Magnitude Springs	4	3	2	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	3		5	2
PRI	153,615	43%	Green Swamp	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	4	4	3	4	x	5	1
PRI	7,415	13%	Hall Ranch	3	4	5	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	2		3	1
PRI	10,284	50%	Heather Island/Ocklawaha River	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	4	x	4	1
PRI	16,952	40%	Indian River Lagoon Blueway	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	4	5		5	4
PRI	10,218	22%	Lafayette Forest	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	4	3	3	1		2	1
PRI	8,461	20%	Lake Santa Fe	2	2	1	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	x	3	1
PRI	3,925	0%	Little Orange Creek Corridor	4	3	2	4	2	2	3	4	3	4	1		3	1
PRI	4,693	0%	Lochloosa Forest	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	3	2	1		3	1
PRI	12,115	18%	Middle Chipola River	2	2	5	1	4	2	3	2	2	4	3	x	1	1
PRI	68,493	54%	Northeast FL Timberlands and Watershed Reserve	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	1	5	2	3		3	4
PRI	8,794	76%	Pal-Mar	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	3	3	2	3		3	1
PRI	8,446	0%	Pringle Creek Forest	1	2	2	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	2		3	1
PRI	6,443	74%	Pumpkin Hill Creek	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	1	3	3	2		2	4
PRI	900	27%	Rainbow River Corridor	4	5	3	2	3	1	2	4	2	4	3	x	4	2
PRI	15,220	57%	Sand Mountain	4	5	2	4	3	2	4	4	4	3	3	x	1	1
PRI	22,708	74%	Volusia Conservation Corridor	5	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	5	5	3		4	3
PRI	44,893	0%	Waccasassa Watershed	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	4	3	5	4		3	1
PRI	3,296	63%	Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	3	5	2	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	3		1	1
PRI	5,197	59%	Watermelon Pond	3	5	3	4	1	2	3	5	2	2	2		3	1
PRI	9,207	0%	Welannee Watershed Forest	3	2	4	2	4	2	2	1	3	4	1		1	1
PRI	451	0%	Wilson Ranch	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	1	3	2		5	1
LTF	24,117	30%	Adams Ranch	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	5	2		5	1
LTF	5,699	7%	Ayavalla Plantation	1	2	4	1	3	2	2	3	2	4	3		1	1
LTF	1,142	1%	Baker County Timberlands	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	3	2	1		2	1
LTF	53,510	0%	Big Bend Forest	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	4	3	2		2	1
LTF	34,550	36%	Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	5	2	2	x	5	1
LTF	2,748	79%	Bluefield to Cow Creek	2	3	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	1		4	1
LTF	1,016	0%	Bowlegs Creek Watershed	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	1		5	1
LTF	93,897	6%	Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest	2	2	2	2	4	2	4	1	5	3	2		1	1
LTF	3,522	61%	Conlin Lake X	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		4	1
LTF	5,934	0%	Deer Creek Ranch	2	4	4	2	3	2	2	3	4	2	1		4	1
LTF	2,214	0%	Eastern Scarp Ranchlands	3	2	4	2	3	1	1	3	3	2	1		5	1
LTF	5,717	0%	Eight Mile Property	1	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	1		2	1
LTF	639	0%	Fair Bluff	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1		4	1

Category*	Remaining Project Acres	Percent Complete	Project Name	F-TRAC Statewide	F-TRAC on FL Forever Projects	Species	Communities	Surface Waters	Wetlands & Floodplain	Forestry	Aquifer Recharge	Landscapes	Cultural Resources (Archaeol & Historic)	Trails Network	FL Nat Scenic Trail corridor	Population w/in 100 mi	Climate Change Sea Level Rise
LTF	99,176	48%	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem [€]	4	4	5	2	3	2	3	3	5	3	2		5	1
LTF	23,298	0%	Gilchrist Club	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	4		3	1
LTF	25,611	0%	Gulf Hammock	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	1	4	3	1		4	5
LTF	9,116	15%	Heartland Wildlife Corridor	3	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	5	2		5	1
LTF	6,923	0%	Hosford Chapman's Rhododendron Protection Zone	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	4	2	2	1		1	1
LTF	29,931	33%	Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector	3	3	4	2	3	2	2	3	5	3	1		4	1
LTF	1,075	0%	Larkin Ranch	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	4	1	3	1		4	1
LTF	377	0%	Lettuce Creek Cattle Company	5	5	4	3	3	2	2	3	1	2	1		5	1
LTF	6,382	0%	Limestone Ranch	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	2		4	1
LTF	2,293	0%	Little River Conservation Area	1	1	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	3	2		1	1
LTF	2,271	71%	Lower Perdido River Buffer	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	3	1		1	1
LTF	13,305	78%	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed	2	3	2	1	2	3	3	3	4	3	2		3	5
LTF	88,691	7%	Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	5	2	3		3	5
LTF	1,613	79%	Maytown Flatwoods	4	5	3	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	1		3	1
LTF	10,132	18%	Mill Creek	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	4	2	1		3	1
LTF	83	53%	Millstone Plantation	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	1		1	1
LTF	27,739	49%	Myakka Ranchlands	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3		4	1
LTF	14,714	0%	North Waccasassa Flats	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	4	2	5	1		2	1
LTF	3,057	39%	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	3	2	4	2	5	3	3	2	3	3	3		1	1
LTF	4,791	15%	Peace River Refuge	2	5	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	3		4	2
LTF	67,535	2%	Raiford to Osceola Greenway	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	3	5	4	4	x	2	1
LTF	12,514	66%	Ranch Reserve	4	5	3	2	4	2	2	3	5	2	1		4	1
LTF	8,902	50%	Red Hills Conservation	5	5	2	4	3	2	4	3	3	4	1		1	1
LTF	376	0%	San Felasco Conservation Corridor	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	3	2		3	1
LTF	1,254	0%	Suwannee County Preservation	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	1	4	1		2	1
LTF	2,179	0%	Tupelo Honey Timberlands	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	1	3	2	1		1	1
LTF	1,183	0%	Welles Ranch	2	3	5	1	3	2	2	1	3	4	1		3	1
LTF	7,420	0%	Williamson Cattle Company	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	3	3	1		4	1
LTF	3,286	0%	Withlacoochee River Corridor	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	4	3	2	3		4	1
CCL	708	75%	Coupon Bight/Key Deer	4	3	4	3	3	4	1	1	1	2	3		1	1
CCL	5,384	60%	Florida Keys Ecosystem	3	5	5	3	3	4	1	1	1	5	5		3	2
CCL	1,172	2%	Ford Marsh	2	2	1	2	4	4	1	1	2	4	1		3	1
CCL	3,037	59%	Garcon Ecosystem	2	2	2	2	5	4	3	1	2	4	4		1	3
CCL	7,312	77%	Northeast Florida Blueway	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	1	2	4	4		3	2
CCL	51,536	55%	St. Joe Timberland	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	2	4	4	3		1	5
CCL	15,798	40%	St. Johns River Blueway	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	4		3	3
CCL	4,079	0%	Taylor Sweetwater Creek	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3		1	4
CCL	2,024	57%	Terra Ceia	2	2	1	2	4	4	1	1	1	4	1		3	2
CCL	4,562	1%	West Bay Preservation Area	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	5	3		1	3
SC	112	87%	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	5	4	4	4	3	4	1	1	1	3	4		3	2
SC	2,570	89%	Dickerson Bay/Bald Point	2	4	3	4	4	5	2	1	3	4	4		1	3
SC	8,410	86%	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	4	3	2	2	3	4	1	1	4	4	3		4	1
SC	3,812	88%	Lochloosa Wildlife	2	2	2	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	3		3	1
SC	1,264	86%	Old Town Creek Watershed	3	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	1		5	1
SC	12	100%	Save Our Everglades	3	3	4	1	4	4	1	3	1	3	1		3	1
SC	351	87%	Spruce Creek	3	5	2	5	3	2	1	3	1	4	2		3	2
CHR	1,154	29%	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	1	4	3	1	2	4	2	4	3	5	1		4	1
CHR	41	0%	Floyd's Mound	3	5	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	5	1		1	1
CHR	359	45%	Pierce Mound Complex	1	2	3	2	3	3	2	1	1	5	1		1	2
CHR	136	35%	Pineland Site Complex	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	5	1		3	1

*CNL - Critical Natural Lands; PRI = Partnerships & Regional Incentives; LTF = Less-Than-Fee; CCL = Climate Change Lands; SC = Substantially Complete; CHR = Critical Historical Resources

€ This analysis includes 125 acres within the S.M.A.L.L. project that are proposed for transfer to the Fisheating Creek Ecosystem project at the December 2024 ARC meeting.

Cultural resource values were provided by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources.

Remaining acres and Percent Complete based on FF_acquired and FNAI managed areas databases as of 15 October 2024.

F-TRAC Scenarios

There are more resources in Florida worthy of acquisition than can be acquired by the Florida Forever program. The F-TRAC scenarios identify a portfolio of sites that is best able to meet resource targets given an acreage that is approximately half of the remaining area of proposed projects (ca. 1,086,000 acres).

The **F-TRAC Statewide** scenario looks statewide, both on and off projects, for the best portfolio of sites to protect multiple resources.

- Projects are scored relative to the entire state. A project's score is not influenced by the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for viewing projects in a statewide context, and can help inform decisions on adding or removing projects from the FFBOT list.

The **F-TRAC on FFBOT Projects** scenario looks only within existing projects for the best the best portfolio of sites to protect multiple resources.

- Projects are scored relative to one another – they are "graded on a curve". Each project's score may change based on the number, size, or resource value of other projects on the FFBOT list.
- This scenario is useful for comparing projects to each other, and can help inform decisions on project ranking.

Category	Remaining Acres
Critical Natural Lands	721,468
Partnerships & Reg. Incentives	628,495
Less-Than-Fee	709,932
Climate Change Lands	95,611
Substantially Complete	16,530
Critical Historical Resources	1,690
Total	2,173,726

Key

5	Very High
4	High
3	Medium
2	Medium-Low
1	Low

