

FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

FACT SHEET v.1 09/08/21

CORRIDOR OVERVIEW¹⁻²

- The Florida Wildlife Corridor covers nearly 17.7 million acres of Florida.
 - 9.6 million acres of the Corridor are existing conserved lands, or 54% of the Corridor.
 - 8.1 million acres of the Corridor are considered as opportunity areas for future conservation, or 46% of the Corridor.

PROPOSED FLORIDA FOREVER & RFLPP PROJECTS IN THE CORRIDOR^{1,3-4}

- There are 1.8 million acres of proposed Florida Forever projects in the Corridor, which accounts for 22% of Corridor opportunity areas.
 - 82% of the area in proposed Florida Forever projects lie within the Corridor.
- There are 163,000 acres of proposed Tier I Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP) projects in the Corridor.
 - 86% of the area in proposed Tier I RFLPP projects lie within the Corridor.

WORKING LANDS – RANCH & TIMBERLANDS IN THE CORRIDOR^{1,5}

- There are 7 million acres of working lands (ranchlands and timberlands) in the Corridor, or 40% of the Corridor. Of these 7 million acres, 13% are conserved lands.
 - There are 3.2 million acres of ranchlands in the Corridor, or 18% of the Corridor. 18% of ranchlands are currently conserved lands.
 - There are 3.8 million acres of timberlands in the Corridor, or 22% of the Corridor. 9% of timberlands are currently conserved lands. Note – In this analysis, timberlands do not include land managed for timber in State or National Forests.
- Of the Corridor's 8.1 million acres of opportunity areas, 33% are ranchlands and 43% are timberlands.

RECREATION IN THE CORRIDOR^{1,6-11}

- There are 75 State Parks in the Corridor, or 42% of Florida's State Parks.
- There are 32 State Forests in the Corridor, or 84% of Florida's State Forests.
- There are 1,700 miles of paddling trails and 6,300 miles of recreational trails (such as hiking and equestrian trails) in the Corridor. This includes 1,100 miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail, also known as the Florida Trail.
- Florida's two official International Dark Sky Parks, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park and Big Cypress National Preserve, are in the Corridor.
- Canaveral National Seashore, Fort Matanzas National Monument, Everglades National Park, and Big Cypress National Preserve are within the Corridor.
- Apalachicola National Forest, Osceola National Forest, and Ocala National Forest are within the Corridor.

Data Sources: 1) Florida Wildlife Corridor (based on Florida Ecological Greenways Network Priorities 1-3 (2021), University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning (UF CLCP). 2) [Florida Conservation Lands](#) (As of May 2021), Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). 3) Proposed [Florida Forever](#) BOT Projects (As of April 2021), Florida Natural Areas Inventory. 4) Proposed Tier I Rural and Family Lands Protection Program ([RFLPP](#)) Projects (2018), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) 5) Florida Ranch and Timberlands Analysis, University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning and Florida Conservation Group 6) FL State Parks, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (2019) 7) FL State Forests, FDACS (2021) 8) FL Greenways and Trails – Existing Trails, FDEP (2019) 9) International Dark-Sky Association 10) FL National Parks, National Park Service (2021) 11) FL National Forests, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service (2021)

NOTE: All numbers in the fact sheet are rounded. For detailed information contact Archbold Biological Station.

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THE CORRIDOR & THE CONSERVATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT^{1,12-13}

- **Rare Species Habitat Conservation:** 69% of areas important for rare species conservation are located in the Corridor. 60% are conserved lands and 40% remain as opportunity areas. Per FNAI - These areas would protect both the greatest number of rare species and those species with the greatest conservation need.
- **Strategic Habitat Conservation:** 73% of areas important for strategic habitat conservation are located in the Corridor. 67% are conserved lands and 33% remain as opportunity areas. Per FNAI – These areas are the minimum amount of land needed in Florida to ensure long-term survival of key components to Florida’s biological diversity.
- **Under-Represented Ecosystems:** 74% of Florida’s under-represented ecosystems are located in the Corridor. 72% are conserved lands and 28% remain as opportunity areas. Per FNAI – These areas represent natural communities that are inadequately represented on existing conservation lands in Florida.
- **Functional Wetlands:** 72% of Florida’s functional wetlands are located in the Corridor. 69% are conserved lands and 31% remain as opportunity areas. Per FNAI – Functional wetlands are wetlands in a natural state.
- **Natural Floodplain:** 67% of Florida’s natural floodplain is located in the Corridor. 63% are conserved lands and 37% remain as opportunity areas. Per FNAI – The natural floodplain is represented by natural or semi-natural areas within FEMA’s 100-year floodplain.
- **Surface Water Protection:** 55% of areas integral for protecting Florida’s surface waters are located in the Corridor. 55% are conserved lands and 45% remain as opportunity areas.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** 49% of the areas important for Florida’s groundwater recharge are located in the Corridor. 53% of those areas are conserved lands and 47% remain as opportunity areas.
- **Sustainable Forestry:** 55% of areas available for forest management are located in the Corridor. 45% are conserved lands and 55% remain as opportunity areas.

WATER & THE CORRIDOR^{1,14-16}

- There are 171 1st and 2nd magnitude springs in the Corridor.
- Portions of 23 of Florida’s 30 Outstanding Florida Spring springsheds are in the Corridor.
- There are 1,300 named rivers and streams that are within or cross the Corridor.

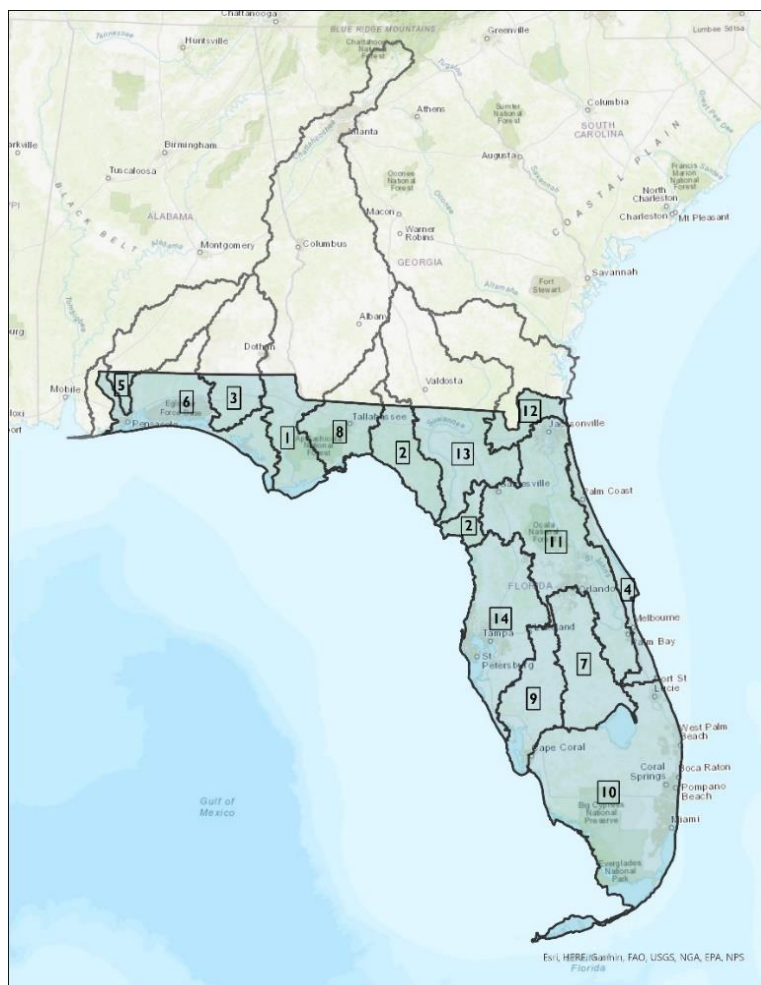
Data Sources: **12)** [Conservation Needs Assessment](#) - Version 4, Florida Natural Areas Inventory. **13)** [Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project](#) – Version 4, UF CLCP, FNAI, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. **14)** Florida Springs, FDEP (2016) **15)** Outstanding Florida Spring Springsheds, FDEP (2019) **16)** National Hydrography Dataset, U.S. Geological Survey.

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THE CORRIDOR & FLORIDA'S SURFACE WATER BASINS (HUC-6)^{1,17}



1. **Apalachicola*** – 13 million acre basin, of which 1.9 million acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 1 million are in the Corridor: 56% conserved lands / 44% opportunity areas.

2. **Aucilla-Waccasassa*** – 2.4 million acre basin, of which 2.2 million acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 1.4 million are in the Corridor: 32% conserved lands / 68% opportunity areas.

3. **Choctawhatchee*** – 3 million acre basin, of which 1 million acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 423,000 are in the Corridor: 27% conserved lands / 73% opportunity areas.

4. **East Florida Coastal** – 1.2 million acre basin. 283,000 acres are in the Corridor: 66% conserved lands / 34% opportunity areas.

5. **Escambia*** – 2.7 million acre basin, of which 260,000 acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 145,000 are in the Corridor: 25% conserved lands / 75% opportunity areas.

6. **Florida Panhandle Coastal*** – 3.9 million acre basin, of which 2.9 million acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 1.5 million are in the Corridor: 53% conserved lands / 47% opportunity areas.

7. **Kissimmee** – 2.6 million acre basin. 1.5 million acres are in the Corridor: 42% conserved lands / 58% opportunity areas.

8. **Ochlockonee*** – 2.3 million acre basin, of which 1.5 million acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 1 million are in the Corridor: 59% conserved lands / 41% opportunity areas.

9. **Peace** – 2.3 million acre basin. 1.1 million acres are in the Corridor: 27% conserved lands / 73% opportunity areas.

10. **Southern Florida** – 8.8 million acre basin. 4.4 million acres are in the Corridor: 79% conserved lands / 21% opportunity areas.

11. **St. Johns** – 6 million acre basin. 2.7 million acres are in the Corridor: 52% conserved lands / 48% opportunity areas.

12. **St. Marys-Satilla*** – 4 million acre basin, of which 895,000 acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 280,000 are in the Corridor: 54% conserved lands / 46% opportunity areas.

13. **Suwannee*** – 6.3 million acre basin, of which 2.7 million acres are in Florida. Of the acres in Florida, 1 million are in the Corridor: 32% conserved lands / 68% opportunity areas.

14. **Tampa Bay** – 4 million acre basin. 928,000 acres are in the Corridor: 60% conserved lands / 40% opportunity areas.

*Basin extends into Georgia or Alabama.

Data Sources: 17) Surface Water Basins Hydrologic Unit Code 6, U.S. Geological Survey.

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