

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Slopes and Bluffs

Lake Talquin State Forest covers approximately 19,400 acres in Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla and Liberty counties. The forest is composed of many tracts of land, most of which are adjacent to Lake Talquin and the Ochlockonee River.

Located in the southern extent of the Tallahassee Hills physiographic region of Florida, the topography at the forest can differ as much as 100 feet, in some cases. The ravine slopes and high river bluffs at the Ft. Braden Tract provide some of Florida's best trail experiences. The Bear Creek Educational Center and Forest provide an opportunity to learn about the local natural resources including plants and animals.

Love the state forests? So do we!

The Friends of Florida State Forests is a direct-support organization of the Florida Forest Service dedicated to ensuring Florida's State Forests are available for future generations to enjoy. Make a difference by joining today to help protect Florida's State Forests.

Membership dues go to the forests for conservation and improvement projects. To join Friends of Florida State Forests or for more information, visit:

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Florida's State Forests

The Florida Forest Service's mission is to protect and manage Florida's forest resources for the present and future enjoyment of all Floridians and visitors. Thank you for helping to conserve our forests.

- Please take all garbage with you when you leave.
- Overnight camping is allowed in designated areas. Sites are available at High Bluff campground, Ft. Braden, Bear Creek and Lines Tracts. Campsites can be reserved Through Reserve America at FloridaStateForests. ReserveAmerica.com or by calling 877-879-3859.
- Hunting is permitted in Wildlife Management Areas with appropriate licenses and permits during the designated hunting season. Hunting is regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- All forest visitors are encouraged to contact Lake Talquin State Forest headquarters for details on accessible trails, camping opportunities and for specific Wildlife Management Area regulations and season dates before visiting any tract of Lake Talquin State Forest.
- All Terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other unlicensed vehicles are not permitted on Lake Talquin State Forest.
- Visitors may be required to pay entrance or recreation use fees in designated areas. Day use or annual passes are available in the webstore at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.

For more information, visit:

www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

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Florida Forest Service

Lake Talquin State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

Lake Talquin itself was created by the installation of a hydro-electric dam on the Ochlockonee River. The majority of Lake Talquin State Forest's 19,347 acres were conveyed by the Florida Power Corporation to the state of Florida in 1977. The 492-acre Bear Creek Tract was purchased from a private land owner with state funds. An additional 4,075 acres were purchased by the Florida Forest Service for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund using Preservation 2000 funds.

Prior to state ownership, much of this land's timber was removed in the mid-1970's under a long-term timber contract. After taking over management, the Florida Forest Service's reforestation and restoration efforts have focused on re-establishing the Longleaf pine forest and prescribed burning, an essential component of forest health.

Forestry

Timber management practices on Lake Talquin State Forest provide a variety of socio-economic benefits for Floridians while enhancing, maintaining and restoring the ecosystems within the forest. Reforestation efforts take place where the natural ecological communities have been historically manipulated from their original state. Timber management activities adhere to the Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) established by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Prescribed fire is used as a tool by the Florida Forest Service as the most economical and preferred strategy to reduce the intensity and severity of wildfires; to promote health in fire dependant ecosystems; and to increase the biodiversity of flora and fauna.



Bear Creek Educational Center



Longleaf Pine and Wire Grass



Ravine view from Ft. Braden trail

For more information contact:
Lake Talquin State Forest Headquarters
865 Geddie Road Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850)681-5950
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

Lake Talquin State Forest contains a variety of canopy cover types. More than 50 percent of the forest is made up of a mixture of pine/hardwood cover. Natural communities consist of pine flatwoods, upland pine forest, swamp bottomlands, sandhill and temperate hardwood forests. Outstanding examples of the unique slope and ravine natural community can be found at the Ft. Braden, Rocky Comfort, Joe Budd and Bear Creek tracts.

The variety of tree species on the forest is made up of longleaf pine, slash pine, loblolly pine, laurel oak, live oak, hickory, red maple, sweetbay, swamp tupelo, bald cypress, flowering dogwood and turkey oak. The forest is home to a diverse array of wildlife including gopher tortoise, red shouldered hawk, bobcat, bald eagle, coyote, osprey, white-tailed deer, fox squirrel, and morning dove.

The Ochlockonee River and Lake Talquin are both recognized as "Outstanding Florida Waters". Both water bodies can be accessed from several locations in Lake Talquin State Forest.

Recreation

Lake Talquin State Forest offers a variety of recreational opportunities on its many diverse tracts of land. Hiking, camping, horseback riding, biking, picnicking, birding and nature study can be enjoyed using existing service roads, historic road beds and established trails. All tracts along State Road 20 are a part of the Big Bend Scenic Byway.

Hunting and fishing on the forest are regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Lake Talquin State Forest is broken down into three Wildlife Management Areas (WMA): the Ochlockonee River, Talquin, and Joe Budd Wildlife Management Areas. Fishing is permitted in all waterways of Lake Talquin State Forest, except for those on the Bear Creek Tract.