

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Magnificent Rivers

Twin Rivers State Forest gets its name from being located along the banks of Florida's Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers. Nine of the forest tracts are located on the Withlacoochee River and six are located on the historic Suwannee River.

These magnificent rivers flow out of Georgia and exhibit impressive limestone outcrops and bluffs in this area. As they wind their way through North Florida, they are fed by crystal-clear springs. Both of these rivers are appreciated by paddlers and anglers.

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 forests.

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

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Twin Rivers State Forest

- The forest is open during daylight hours only.
- Drive on designated roads only and do not make new roads or trails.
- All Terrain Vehicles and other unlicensed vehicles are not allowed.
- Foot traffic, bicycles and horses are welcome on designated trails, as well as forest roads. The Blue Springs and Withlacoochee Tracts restrict horse traffic to non-designated roads.
- Swim at your own risk. Rope swings and diving from trees, stream banks and bridges are prohibited.
- Please take all garbage with you when you leave the forest where containers are not provided.
- Please respect private property rights of our neighbors. All Twin Rivers State Forest property lines are marked with white banded trees or posts and yellow property signs.
- Hunting requires a permit and license. We encourage all visitors to check the Wildlife Management Area regulations and season dates before visiting the forest at www.MyFWC.com

For more information, visit:

www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

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Florida Forest Service

Twin Rivers State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

Historically, the junction of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee rivers was an important point of commerce. In the 1800s, both rivers were used as major commercial routes. Steamboats carried passengers, freight and mail up and down the rivers. Timber companies used the rivers to supply saw mills by floating logs downstream. One such saw mill, built by Florida's 12th governor, George Franklin Drew in the 1860s, was located along the Withlacoochee River on the now Ellaville Tract in eastern Madison County. The remnants of the Drew mansion and the town of Ellaville can be found along the Florida Trail north of US 90.

The acquisition of Twin Rivers State Forest lands were funded through several different programs established by the Florida Legislature: The Save Our Rivers Program, the Preservation 2000 Program, and the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program. The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) owns all Twin Rivers State Forest lands, except for the Blue Springs, Hardee Springs and Damascus Tracts. In 1995, The Florida Forest Service signed a special lease agreement with SRWMD giving them lead management responsibilities for Twin Rivers State Forest.

Forestry

The Florida Forest Service consists of dedicated employees with the mission to protect and manage the forest resources of Florida, ensuring that they are available for future generations. The Florida Forest Service manages more than one million acres of state forests for multiple public uses including timber, recreation and wildlife habitat. Timber management practices on Twin Rivers State Forest are important for the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of benefits to Floridians.

The use of prescribed fire is one of the most important management tools used on the forest. The prescribed fire program helps control hardwood tree invasion, stimulate the recovery of native herbaceous and grassy ground cover and promote the regeneration of native pines.



Blue Springs Longleaf Tract



Pot Springs



Paddling the Withlacoochee River

For more information contact:
Twin Rivers State Forest
7620 133rd Road
Live Oak, FL 32060
(386) 339-6472
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

Twin Rivers State Forest is comprised of 16 noncontiguous tracts located in eastern Madison, western Hamilton and northwestern Suwannee counties.

The majority of the forest lies within the 100 year floodplain. The forest contains many different natural communities. Among these are sandhill, upland pine, upland hardwood forest, bottomland forest and floodplain forest.

There is a wide variety of tree species found throughout the forest. American elm, river birch, sweetgum, hickory and bald cypress can be found in the floodplain. Located in the drier upland area are longleaf pine, turkey oak, post oak and live oak.

The natural communities found on the forest support a variety of wildlife, which includes white-tailed deer, bobwhite quail, bobcat, wild turkey, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, gopher tortoise and a wide variety of song birds.

Recreation

Twin Rivers State Forest offers many recreational opportunities. Some of the more popular activities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, bird watching and fishing. In addition, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has designated several tracts as part of the Wildlife Management Area for hunting.

Full facility camping and overnight vehicle parking are not available on the forest. However, a few primitive camp sites are located along the multiple-use trails and river banks. These are made available for thru hikers and paddlers coming in from the river and do not require a permit. You may contact the state forest for additional information.

Several trails in the forest are included in the Florida Forest Service Trailwalker and Trailtrotter Programs. Participants are recognized after hiking or riding a number of designated trails.