

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Outstanding Florida Water

The Little Big Econ State Forest's most notable feature is the narrow winding Econlockhatchee River which flows 17 miles through the forest and empties into the St. Johns River. The Econlockhatchee River is designated as an Outstanding Florida Waterway and is the second largest tributary to the St. Johns River.

The St. Johns River which makes up the eastern boundary of the Little Big Econ State Forest is designated as an American Heritage River and is the longest river in Florida at 310 miles long.

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 Little Big Econ State Forest

- Entrance fees are required in designated areas. Day or annual passes are available in the webstore at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com. Special Use Permits (required for any organized group activity) may be obtained by calling 407-971-3500.
- For primitive camping reservations at West Camp, visit FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.
- Leashed pets are allowed with a leash no more than 10 feet in length.
- Use trash receptacles or take trash with you when you leave.
- Rope swings and diving from trees, stream banks and bridges are prohibited.
- Vehicles, motorcycles and ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) are not allowed on the forest.
- Hiking, biking and horseback riding are welcome on trails designated for their use. Do not make new trails.
- All horses require proof of current negative Coggins test results.
- Hunting requires a license, management area permit and is allowed only in designated areas during appropriate seasons. We encourage all visitors to check the Wildlife Management Area regulations and hunting season dates before visiting the forest. For more information about the Little Big Econ Wildlife Management Area, visit MyFWC.com.



Florida Forest Service

Little Big Econ State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

The Little Big Econ State Forest was established on March 24, 1994 by the state Legislature. The forest's unusual name comes from combining the names of the little and larger Econlockhatchee Rivers.

The Muskogee word Econlockhatchee translates literally to "earth-mound stream," and means the "river of many mounds." Long ago, Native Americans named the river for the multitude of man-made earthen mounds along the waterway.

The forest had many uses throughout its time. It was used for forestry, turpentine, agriculture and cattle grazing. The Florida East Coast Railway even passed through the forest.

Forestry

The Florida Forest Service's mission is to protect and manage the forest resources of Florida, ensuring that they are available for future generations. The Florida Forest Service manages more than 1 million acres of state forests for multiple public uses including timber, recreation and wildlife habitat.

The role of forestry at the Little Big Econ State Forest is to restore and maintain native ecosystems, protect and manage species of plants and animals, protect archaeological and historical sites and practice sustainable forest management activities.

The use of prescribed fire by the Florida Forest Service is an effective tool to improve forest health, improve ecological functions and wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire is applied to mimic natural fires and helps to reduce the hazard of wildfires.



Mesic flatwoods



Econlockhatchee River



Florida National Scenic Trail

For more information contact:
Little Big Econ State Forest
1350 Snow Hill Road Geneva, FL 32732
(407) 971-3500
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

The Little Big Econ State Forest is located in the eastern portion of Seminole County, covers approximately 11,696 acres and is less than one hour drive from Orlando.

The forest provides a crucial source of protection for wetlands and associated natural communities within the floodplains of both the Econlockhatchee and St. Johns River. With 17 miles of river that flow through the forest it is important to protect the quality and health of the rivers and its wetlands. Other natural communities include wet prairie, pine flatwoods, sandhill and scrub.

The natural communities found on the forest support a variety of wildlife which includes: alligator, Sherman's fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, gopher frog, bald eagle, sandhill crane and wood stork.

Recreation

Little Big Econ State Forest is open during daylight hours for visitors to enjoy picnicking, canoeing, hiking, bicycling, fishing, wildlife viewing and horseback riding. Access to Little Big Econ State Forest's trails is available at four trailheads: Barr Street (Hiking), Equestrian (Horseback Riding), Jones East (Bicycle) and Brumley Road (Hiking and Horseback Riding). Overnight camping is allowed at West Camp Little Big Econ State Forest by reservations at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.

The Kolokee trail and the horseback riding trails are included in the Florida Forest Service's Trailwalker and Trailtrotter Programs. Participants in these programs are rewarded after hiking/horseback riding a number of designated trails.

The Kilbee and Yarborough Tracts of the Little Big Econ State Forest is open for hunting and are part of the Little Big Econ WMA. Fishing and hunting is regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. For more information about the Little Big Econ WMA, visit MyFWC.com.